



# Environmental Justice and Health Air Pollution

Air pollution is one problem in the environment that needs change. An air pollutant is defined as “ any substance which may harm humans, animals, vegetation or material” (Kampa & Castanas, 2007). Air pollution causes serious environmental and health complications and usually stems from gaseous pollutants.

## Data 1: Statistics

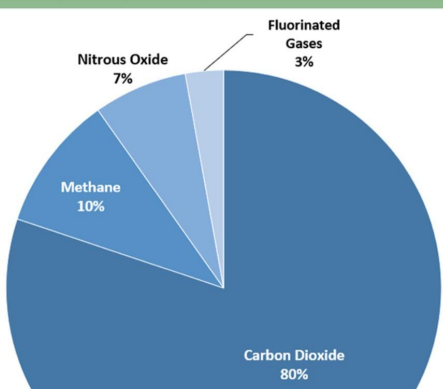
7 million premature deaths per year are caused by indoor and outdoor pollutants. A projected 250,000 deaths are predicted from 2030-2050 due to effects of air pollutants.



## Data 2: Health Trajectory

Together with the U.S healthcare system, GHG emissions will cause a combined 123,000 to 381,000 years of future health damages and disabilities with malnutrition being the most damaging effect.

Overview of U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions in 2019

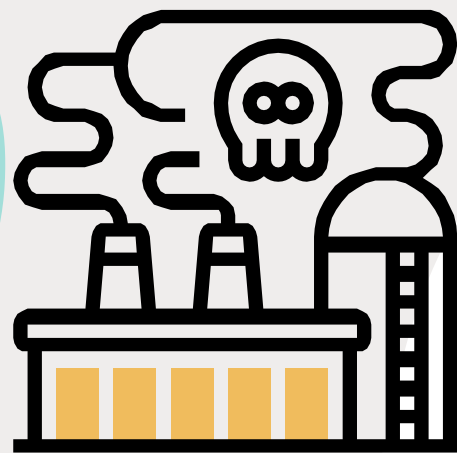


<https://www.epa.gov/ghgemissions/overview-greenhouse-gases>



<https://public.wmo.int/en/media/press-release/climate-change-and-impacts-accelerate> body text

Cocktails containing nitrates, sulfates, sea salt, toxic metals, smogs, soil and road dust negatively affect our central nervous system, vital organs, brain functioning and decrease cognitive levels.



## Supporting Details

- Climate change increases the global temperature which allows for the spread of diseases such as malaria, respiratory disease from allergens, diarrhea, malnutrition, cardiovascular disease, etc.

- Environmental inequalities affect the disadvantaged and people of color. These effects include higher rates of mortality, morbidity, and disability when compared to white counterparts of higher socioeconomic status.

## Data 3: Social Actions

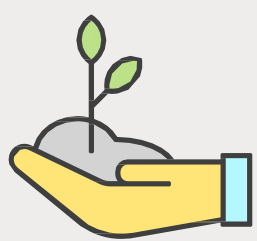
Policy changes addressing environmental health on a macro level will improve issues within housing, segregation, transportation, and energy policies. Improving the equity in health should be the ultimate goal for improving environmental health.



## Related Illustrations

Preserving trees can reduce air pollutants by absorbing CO2 from the atmosphere.

## References



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