

RESOURCES

American Lung Association's State of the Air County & State Report Card:

<https://www.lung.org/research/sota/city-rankings/states/pennsylvania>

The Center for Green Schools, US Building Council:

<https://www.usgbc.org/organizations/center-green-schools>

Moms Clean Air Force:

<https://www.momscleanairforce.org/issues/air-pollution/electric-school-buses/>

Generation 180:

<https://generation180.org/electrify-our-schools/pennsylvania/>



About Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments (ANHE)

The Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments (ANHE) is the leading global nursing organization focused on the intersection of human health and planetary health.

ANHE champions nurses as critical to promoting and protecting human health from environmental harm associated with degradation and disruption of Earth's natural systems, especially for populations that are disproportionately exposed and overburdened. ANHE leads in engaging, educating, and mobilizing nurses in support of environmental health, equity, and justice.

OUR MISSION:

Support nurses in promoting planetary health and equity globally by educating and leading the nursing profession, advancing research, incorporating planet-safe practice, and influencing policy.

OUR VISION:

Nurses around the world ensure the environmental health of all people, advance environmental justice, and heal our communities and Earth for present and future generations.



Alliance of Nurses for
Healthy Environments

envirn.org



Clearing the Air: Reducing Health Risks from Diesel Pollution

*A resource for health professionals,
parents, teachers, and children's
health advocates*



Elevated exposure to diesel exhaust in our environment is a serious concern for families and communities. Many of us worry that ongoing exposure will lead to negative health outcomes for the people we care about most.

Traffic Pollution & Health

Diesel fuel exhaust from medium- and heavy-duty trucks, generators, and other sources is a particularly dangerous mix of carcinogens, respiratory irritants and inflammatory agents, such as a fine particulate matter and nitrous oxides.

Children and infants are uniquely sensitive to air pollution. Children are more susceptible to pollution-related disease because they inhale and exhale more than adults do and their organs are still developing. Prevention is important for reducing chronic conditions that can persist into adulthood.

Air pollution remains a major danger to the health of children and adults.

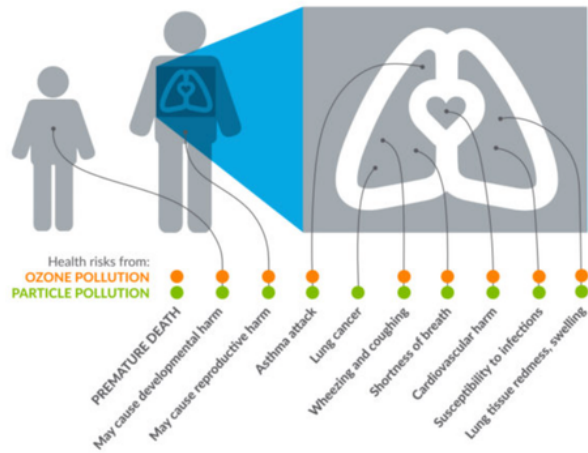


Image Source: American Lung Association

The health-harming impacts of tailpipe pollution disproportionately affect communities of color and lower wealth communities that have historically been burdened by pollution and other environmental hazards.

Pennsylvania Children At Risk from Diesel Pollution

Pennsylvania is #7 in the nation for elevated lifetime risk for cancer from diesel combustion-related particulate pollution. Of Pennsylvania's 67 counties, 17 are in the highest risk category for an increased risk of cancer from diesel soot.

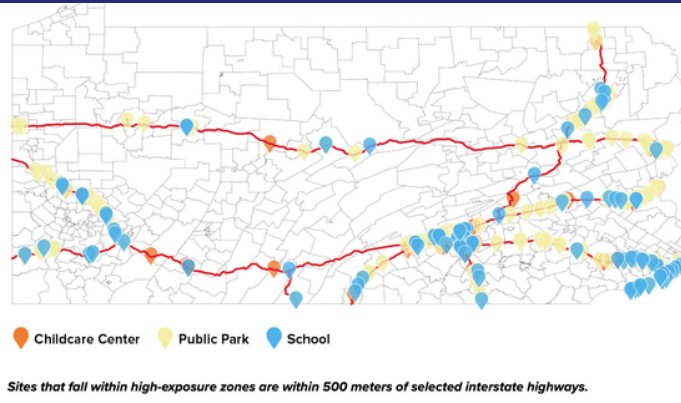


Image Source: Clean Trucks PA Coalition

Distance matters: Studies show that living, playing and going to school within 500 meters (0.3 miles) of at least one major roadway or trucking corridor is associated with acute and chronic health risks from toxic airborne pollutants in diesel exhaust.

Steps to reduce pollution exposure:

- Check daily air pollution forecasts in your area to see when the air is unhealthy airnow.gov.
- Avoid exercising outdoors and limit the amount of time a child spends playing outdoors when pollution levels are high. Avoid exercising or playing near high-traffic areas.
- Choose a cleaner commute: Share a ride to work or use public transportation. Combine trips when possible.
- Encourage your child's school to reduce exposure to school bus emissions.



Reducing Traffic Pollution at the Source

The most effective way to protect families is to reduce pollution where it starts—on our roads and around our schools. Parents and caregivers play an important role in pushing for cleaner, healthier environments.



In schools and communities you can speak up for:

- Limits on vehicle idling during drop-off and pick-up
- Creating "no-idling" zones near school entrances
- Encouraging walking, biking, and carpool programs
- Adjustments to traffic flow to reduce congestion near schools
- Planting trees and green barriers near busy roads
- Transitioning school buses to cleaner options (electric or low-emission)

Policy changes you can advocate for:

- Stronger vehicle emission standards to reduce pollution from cars, trucks, and buses
- Investments in clean transportation, including electric school buses and charging infrastructure
- Safe distances between schools and major roads
- Funding for cleaner, healthier neighborhoods, especially in high traffic areas

Cleaner air takes all of us—schools, communities, and policymakers working together for healthier kids.

Source: <https://envirn.org/clearing-the-air/>