

Air Pollution and Health

Key Facts

Air pollution is a major health danger for children and adults.

Health risks include

- premature death
 - low birth weight, pre-term birth
 - asthma attacks
 - lung cancer
 - shortness of breath, wheezing and coughing
 - cardiovascular harm (heart disease and stroke)
 - susceptibility to infections
- More than 131 million Americans -- over 40 percent of the nation's population -- live in areas with bad air.
- Roughly 30 percent of childhood asthma is due to environmental exposures, **costing the nation \$2 billion per year.** <http://www.nrdc.org/health/effects/fasthma.asp>



Traffic May Be Especially Dangerous for Breathing

- **Traffic pollution causes asthma attacks** in children, and may cause a wide range of other effects including:
- the onset of childhood asthma
 - impaired lung function
 - premature death
 - heart disease, stroke and other cardiovascular disease

<http://www.stateoftheair.org/2013/health-risks/health-risks-disparities.html>

- Air pollution from throughout the United States causes about **200,000 early deaths each year.**
- <http://lae.mit.edu/air-pollution-causes-200000-early-deaths-each-year-in-the-u-s/>



Air Pollution and Health in Springfield

