

The Fight for Clean Air in Columbus

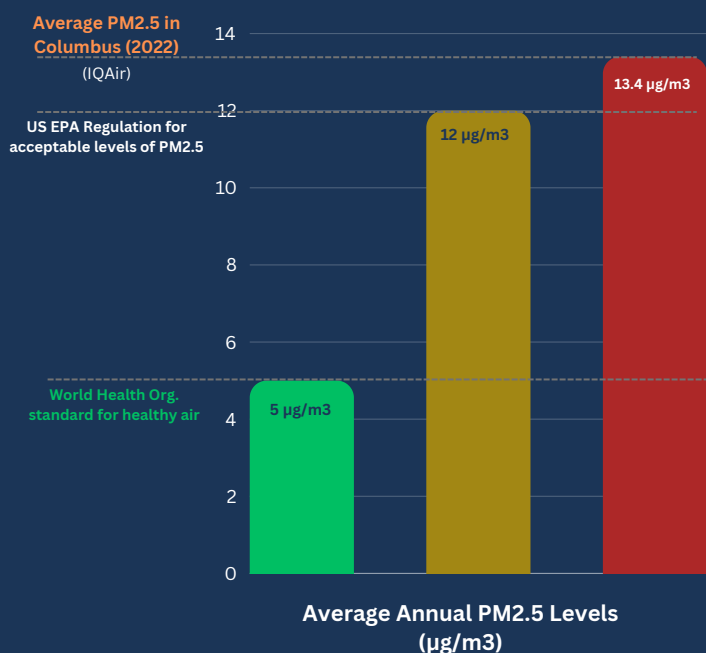
Columbus had the highest levels of fine particulate matter (PM2.5) pollution out of every major US city in 2022

(IQAir)

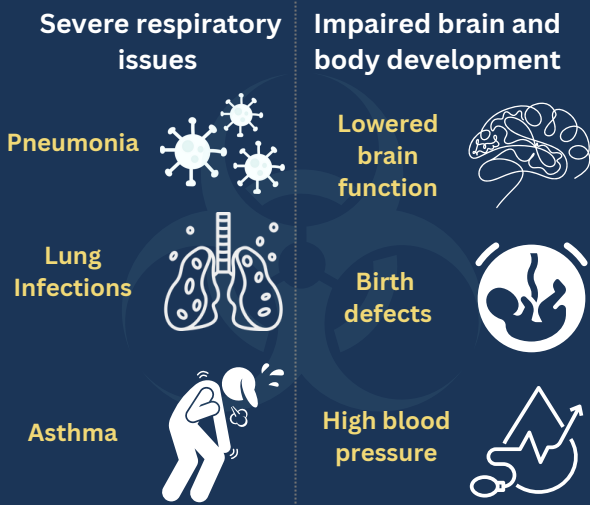
PM2.5 is the most dangerous kind of air pollution for people to inhale on a daily basis with a multitude of proven health consequences

(Veras et al.)

Columbus' Pollution Problem



Prolonged exposure to high levels of PM2.5 has been shown to lead to:



Two major sources of PM2.5 are fossil fuels and passenger vehicles



84% of Ohio's electricity production came from fossil fuels in 2022

1.4x the national average of 60%

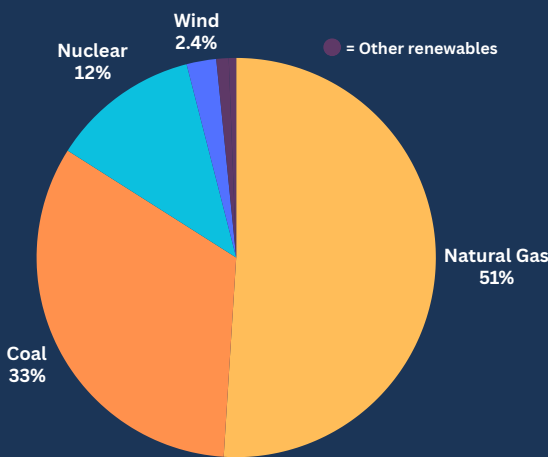


Ohio has nearly 8.5 million passenger cars on the road, which together release over

41,880,000 tons of emissions every year

(Ohio BMV) - # of vehicles
(EPA) - Average emissions per vehicle

Electricity Production in Ohio (2022)



Data courtesy of US EIA

Who is hit the hardest by PM2.5 pollution?

Children and infants suffer the most from PM2.5 pollution, even prenatal exposure can have lifelong consequences on neurological development:

(ALA)

Increased rates of ADHD and autism

Reduced white matter

Lower IQ scores

(Veras et al.)



Short term exposure in early childhood can have also devastating physical effects:

Increased rates of obesity

Severe cardiovascular problems

(Veras et al.)



What you can do as a Columbus resident to fight pollution

Recognize your individual responsibility to take action

Ride a bike or public transportation instead of driving



Find ways to minimize your electricity use. Remember that nearly all of it comes from fossil fuels

Turn down the heat
Unplug appliances
Anything else you can find!

Doing these things will save you money, too!



Make your voice heard!



Doing what you can on your own is important, but the biggest change happens when we come together

We must put pressure on the local and state governments to support **green energy** and **public transit**



Only You

can ensure a safe, clean future for Columbus

Works Cited

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