What is asthma?

Asthma is a lung disease that makes breathing difficult because of the narrowing or blocking of the lung airways. Asthma can be made worse by air pollution. Asthma attacks are higher in places with air pollution. Sources of air pollution can include cars, trucks, power plants, factories, oil and gas operations, and wildfires.

Why should African Americans care?

African American children have higher rates of asthma compared to other children. African Americans also are highly likely to live in an area with poor air quality and high pollution.

Air pollutants trigger asthma attacks

Several air pollutants can trigger asthma attacks, including particle pollution, nitrogen dioxide, and ground level ozone — also called smog. These pollutants can come from cars, trucks, power plants, factories, and other industrial sources. Smoke from wildfires also triggers asthma attacks.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, **11.6% of black children** have asthma, compared with 8.3% of white children.

African Americans live in areas with significantly more small particle pollution than the overall population. **They are exposed to 50% more** of this dangerous pollution.

**Black children are over 3 times more likely** to be admitted to the hospital for asthma, as compared to non-Hispanic white children.

Asthma affects **1 in 9** black children.
JOIN OUR EFFORTS

to educate, engage and empower members of your community to take action. Visit [www.momscleanairforce.org](http://www.momscleanairforce.org) to learn more and join the force.

HOST A “TABLE TALK”

with your family and friends to help them learn more about air pollution in your community.

LEARN MORE

about the air quality in your community. Visit [www.airnow.gov](http://www.airnow.gov) for information about your air.

CONTACT

your local, state, and federal officials asking them to take bold leadership to clean up the air. This is a matter of environmental health justice to protect our children, our families, and our community.