



**MOMS**  
*clean air*  
**FORCE**  
FIGHTING FOR  
OUR KIDS' HEALTH



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **EPA Confirms What San Antonio Families Have Always Known: City's Poor Air Quality Fails to Meet Federal Smog Standards**

*Statement from DeeDee Belmares, Texas Field Consultant for Moms Clean Air Force*

(SAN ANTONIO, TX – July 18, 2018) Today the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has announced that in Bexar County levels of ozone (commonly known as smog) that irritates the lungs and exacerbates asthma and respiratory diseases are considered to be in non-attainment of our nation's federal standard for air quality as established in the Clean Air Act.

Despite [Governor Abbott's efforts](#) to delay this long-overdue designation, residents in Bexar County and neighboring communities now have more public information about dangerous ozone pollution in their communities and the state of Texas is compelled to take action.

"This critical determination is a much needed wake-up call for our community to get to work on cleaning up our air. That San Antonio ozone levels continue to exceed the health-based standards should be concerning to everyone who breathes the air here. That means everyone, but especially those most vulnerable to the impacts of air pollution including the [more than 39,000 children](#) who suffer from pediatric asthma in Bexar County," **said DeeDee Belmares.**

"As parents, we are calling on our state and local leaders to join hands in working even harder to protect San Antonio communities from polluted air that results in asthma attacks, hospital visits and premature deaths. The cost of inaction is too high for our families' health. For those who care, now is the time to prove it. And while the designation is a first step in the right direction by clearly acknowledging the problem, let's not forget that Trump's EPA is trying to systematically weaken bedrock clean air protections. By weakening our nation's clean car standards and existing air emissions rules on oil and gas operations, for example, Trump's EPA is poised to make it that much harder for San Antonians to breathe easy, quite literally," **continued DeeDee Belmares.**

#### **ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:**

"Health outcomes attributable to air pollution in San Antonio, TX": An estimated **52 preventable deaths occur each year in the San Antonio metro area** because of ozone levels that exceed safe levels, according to a [report](#) by New York University and the American Thoracic Society."

See related news coverage [here](#).

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*Moms Clean Air Force has some 40,000 members in the state of Texas alone that make up our more than 1 million members across the country. We are a community of moms and dads united against air pollution – including the urgent crisis of our changing climate – to protect our children's health. Learn more at <https://www.momscleanairforce.org>*