

# ASTHMA & OUTDOOR AIR POLLUTION

## IN THE LATINO COMMUNITY

Asthma is a serious respiratory condition that causes wheezing, chest tightening, and difficulty breathing, and it's on the rise among Latinos across the country. People with asthma are **abnormally sensitive to pollutants** released from cars, buses, heavy machinery, factories, and power plants – including **particulate matter** (soot), **ground-level ozone** (smog), **carbon monoxide**, **sulfur oxides**, **nitrogen oxides**, and **lead**.

### LATINOS ARE MORE LIKELY TO DIE FROM ASTHMA THAN NON-LATINO WHITES

Latinos are **165%** more likely to live in counties with **unhealthy levels of particulate matter pollution**

**51%** and are more likely to live in counties with **unhealthy levels of ozone** than are non-Latino whites

**48%** of Latinos in the US live in counties that frequently **violate ground-level ozone standards**

Puerto Ricans have the highest asthma death rate: **360%** higher than non-Latino whites

**39%** of Latinos live within **30 miles** of a power plant

**15%** of Latinos live within **10 miles** of a power plant



**Without proper treatment, asthma can be life threatening.**

Contact with a trigger like an air pollutant can cause the muscles around the airways to tighten, narrowing the breathing tubes and resulting in an asthma episode or attack.



Compared to non-Latino whites, Latinos with asthma are **less likely to be prescribed appropriate asthma medications** and **less likely to have access to asthma specialists**.



Those who have an asthma emergency that sends them to the ER or hospital are **less likely to receive follow-up care or an asthma action plan**.



Latinos are **less likely to have health insurance than any other racial or ethnic group**; nearly one in every three of Latinos lacks health insurance.

**Support EPA to clean up our air and limit the climate change pollution that increases the number of asthma attacks:**

[edf.org/LULACcleanair](http://edf.org/LULACcleanair)

# ASTHMA & INDOOR AIR POLLUTION IN THE LATINO COMMUNITY

Asthma is a serious respiratory condition that causes wheezing, chest tightening, and difficulty breathing, and it's on the rise among Latinos across the country. Many chemicals found at home and in the workplace – where we spend over 80% of our time – have been linked to the development of asthma and more severe symptoms or attacks.

## OVER 3.6 MILLION LATINOS LIVING IN THE US CURRENTLY HAVE ASTHMA

Latinos are **30%** more likely to visit the hospital for asthma than non-Latino whites



Latino children are **40%** more likely to die from asthma than non-Latino whites

Over **7%** of Latino adults currently suffer from asthma

**14%** of Latino children have been diagnosed with asthma

Puerto Rican Americans have **2x the asthma** rate compared to the overall Latino population

Numerous chemicals found in indoor environments have been classified as known or suspected “asthmagens,” environmental agents that cause or exacerbate asthma. These chemicals can be found in building materials and commonly-used household and personal care products. Exposure can occur during product manufacture, installation, and everyday use.

**FORMALDEHYDE**  
used in glues, insulation, and wood products

**PHthalATES**  
used in PVC plastics, vinyl flooring, glues, and personal care products

**ISOCYANATES**  
used in insulation, carpets, paints, and foam cushions



**DICHLORO BENZENE**  
used in mothballs and bathroom deodorizers

**ETHANOLAMINES**  
found in cleaning products, creams, and lotions

**BISPHENOL-A**  
found in plastic products, food can linings, receipt paper

**GLYCOL ETHERS**  
found in paints and cleaning products

Support reform to strengthen federal chemicals regulatory policies:  
[edf.org/LULACtoxics](http://edf.org/LULACtoxics)