AIR POLLUTION AND COVID-19

EXPOSURE TO AIR POLLUTION EXACERBATES COVID-19

Increased exposure to fine particle pollution (PM2.5) and nitrous oxide (NO2) has been associated with increased risk of COVID-19 severity, hospitalization, complications, and death.

North Carolina has confirmed almost 3 million cases and over 25,000 deaths from COVID-19 as of July 2022.

THE EFFECTS OF AIR POLLUTION EXPOSURE ARE NOT FELT EQUALLY

BIPOC and low-income communities are more likely to be exposed to air pollution due to systemic racism and inequitable policies, fueling health disparities.

This drives disproportionally high rates of COVID-19 infection, hospitalization, and even death.

African Americans are 75% more likely than others to live near facilities that produce hazardous air pollution.

WAYS TO REDUCE AIR POLLUTION EXPOSURE:

- Engage with the NC Carbon Plan
- Advocate for equitable air monitoring
- Stay inside on bad air quality days
- Carpool
- Bike or use public transport
- Drive low emission vehicles

Air pollution contributed to 18% of COVID-19 deaths in the United States.

2 10 of US counties are disproportionately black* but make up:

5 10 of COVID-19 diagnoses and
6 10 of COVID-19 deaths

* disproportionately black = greater than 13% black

For more information, please contact our Health Manager, Kirsten Minor. kirsten@cleanairenc.org