

Impact of Soot Pollution on African-American Populations

In recent years, multiple research studies have found Black Americans are at a higher risk of dying from PM2.5 exposure than the general population of the nation. [An analysis](#) published by Industrial Economics, Incorporated found that “across the nation, Black Americans have the highest risk of dying from PM2.5 exposure on a per-person basis, with a rate more than triple that of white Americans.” [A study](#) published by Environmental Health Perspectives in December 2021 estimated that “the pollution-attributed premature mortality among older Black Americans accounted for as much as 25% of all PM2.5-attributable deaths” in populations over 65 years of age, despite older Black Americans accounting for only 9% of the total population. American Chemical Society published [a study](#) that estimated that Black Americans had the highest mortality rates from power plant PM2.5. In 2017, the New England Journal of Medicine published [a study](#) found that Black Americans who were eligible for Medicaid had a higher estimated risk of death from any cause in association with PM2.5 exposure than the general population.

Soot Pollution Disproportionately Harms Older Black Populations

- **Report: “Black Populations Aged 65+ Experience Three Times As Many PM2.5-Attributable Deaths Per Capita Compared To All Other Races.”** [IEC, Analysis of PM 2.5 -Related Health Burdens Under Current and Alternative NAAQS, [4/15/22](#)]
- **Washington Post: Older Americans At Heightened Risk From Exposure To Soot; People Of Color Disproportionately Higher Exposure To Soot Than Other Americans.”** [Washington Post, [1/6/23](#)]
- **Black Americans Experience More than Three Times As Many PM2.5-Attributable Deaths Per 100,000 Compared To All Other Races.** [IEC, Analysis of PM 2.5 -Related Health Burdens Under Current and Alternative NAAQS, [4/15/22](#)]
- **Study: “Across The Nation, Black Americans Have The Highest Risk Of Dying From PM2.5 Exposure On A Per-Person Basis, With A Rate More Than Triple That Of White Americans.”** [IEC, Analysis of PM 2.5 -Related Health Burdens Under Current and Alternative NAAQS, [4/15/22](#)]
- **Study: “We Find That Increased Per Person Risk Of PM Mortality Among Black Americans Is Found Consistently Throughout The United States.”** [IEC, Analysis of PM 2.5 -Related Health Burdens Under Current and Alternative NAAQS, [4/15/22](#)]
- **2021 Study Estimated That The Pollution-Attributed Premature Mortality Among Older Black Americans Accounted For As Much As 25% Of All PM2.5-Attributable Deaths In Populations Over 65 Years Of Age, Though Older Black Americans Make Up Only 9% Of The Total Population.** [Spiller et al, EHP, Vol. 129 No. 12, [12/8/21](#)]
- **Using Data From 2014 To Estimate Premature Deaths From Power Plant Emissions, American Chemical Society Researchers Found That African Americans Had The Highest Mortality Rates From Power Plant PM2.5 (6.6 Deaths Per 100,000 People).** [Press Release, ACS, [11/20/19](#)]
- **Study Estimated That Black Americans Who Were Eligible For Medicaid Had A Higher Estimated Risk Of Death From Any Cause In Association With PM2.5 Exposure Than The General Population.** [Di et al, New England Journal Of Medicine, [6/29/17](#)]
- **The Estimate Of Effect Size For PM2.5 Exposure Was Greatest Among Male, Black, And Medicaid-Eligible Persons.** [Di et al, New England Journal Of Medicine, [6/29/17](#)]