

Air Quality and Your Health

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Introduction

The State of Michigan has a long history of housing discrimination that led to the segregation that we see today. Housing discrimination led to segregation because when people such as real-estate agents, banks and the government would only sell houses in certain neighborhoods to people of color. White Flight also had a major part. White Flight allowed white people to have a pollution advantage. They create more pollution than they have to breathe in. They do everything to keep their space clean and do not put effort into keeping the air clean outside their neighborhoods. People of color need to fight for environmental justice. Environmental Justice is when people fight for their own environment to be better.

Who Is Impacted?

One environmental issue impacting communities is Air Pollution. One of many spots suffering from air pollution is at Southwest Detroit, mainly zip codes 48217 and 48209 (Detroit Public TV) and (Omar Abdel-Baqui for The Latino Press). This started in 2007 when The Marathon Oil Refinery bought more land to expand. To explain, air pollution is when chemicals such as PM 2.5, sulfur dioxide and ozone are in the air. The main chemical causing harm is PM 2.5. This chemical kills up to 7000 people in Detroit. The people most impacted are black people and Latino people because they're the closest to The Marathon Oil Refinery, Ambassador Bridge and Garbage Incinerator.

Health Issue and Who Started

A health issue that is caused by air pollution is lung cancer (cancer.org). Studies show that the majority of air pollution is caused by white people because they purchase more consumer goods created in factories. Latinos and Black People are impacted the most, and the majority of the people that cause it don't care (USA TODAY). Air pollution "damages the immune system endocrine and reproductive systems." (epa.gov) It can also lead to asthma.

Where To Get Help

When you feel that you should be worried about air quality go to airnow.gov and type in your zip code. It will give you your zip codes PM 2.5 rate and other chemicals rate. A community organization you could use is getasthma-help.org. What they do is tell people with asthma education and how to fight it. You can help people with asthma by sharing this site with them. To contact them call Rita Nabor at (313)-819-4611 or visit their website at <http://getastmahelp.org>.

