# **Air Pollution and Community Health**

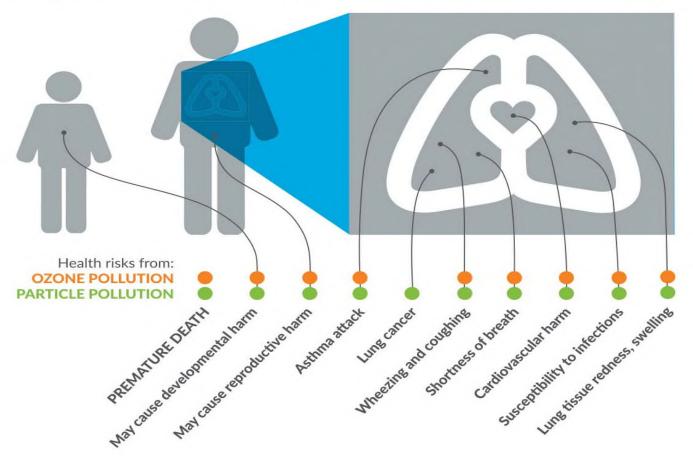
Bonnie Holmes-Gen





# Key Air Pollution Health Impacts

#### Air pollution can lead to illness and premature death.



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# Climate change: a top lung health concern



"Given the potential of climate change to reverse the health gains from economic development, and the health co-benefits that accrue from actions for a sustainable economy, tackling climate change could be the greatest global health opportunity of this century."

**Lancet Commission on Health and Climate Change, June 2015** 

Heat Increased Waves Ozone **Particle** Extreme Drought **Pollution Climate Change** Hospital & Historic Wildfires **ER** Visits Public Health **Asthma Premature** & Allergy Death Water **Vector Borne** Quality Illness

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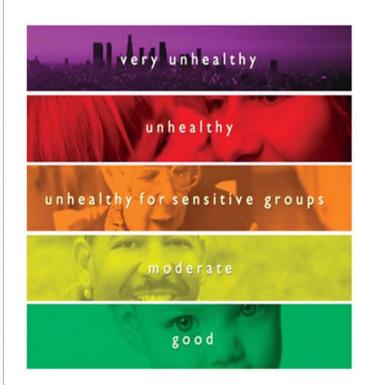
# **Climate Penalty**

# Climate Change Slows Air Quality Progress

- Extreme events include: drought, heat waves, wildfires
- Studies show increased emissions, more unhealthy days in Bay Area, Los Angeles, San Joaquin Valley



## State of the Air 2017



# OZONE POLLUTION

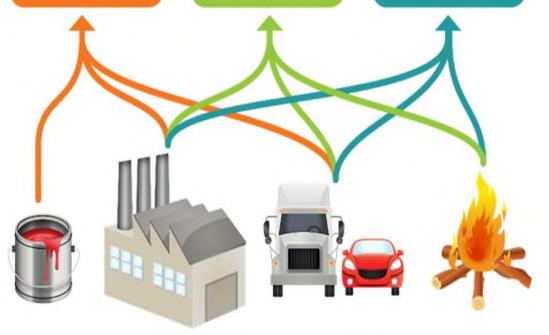
is smog, which is a highly irritating, but invisible gas.

#### YEAR ROUND PARTICLE

pollution is the avg. level of microscopic bits of solids and aerosols in the air.

#### SHORT TERM PARTICLE

pollution are days with spikes in those bits of pollution.



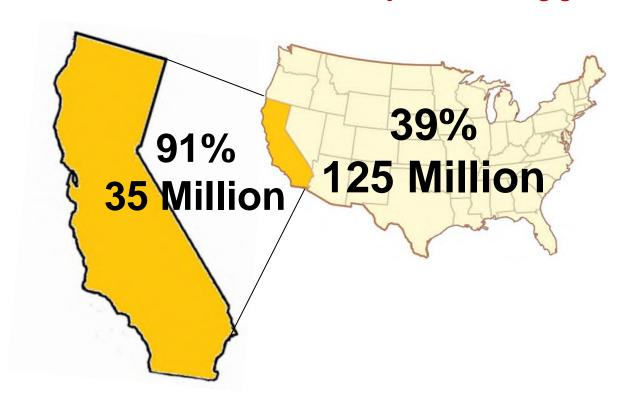
SOURCES OF POLLUTION

**+** AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION.

## State of the Air 2017

## Who is at risk?

91% of Californians live in a county with a failing grade



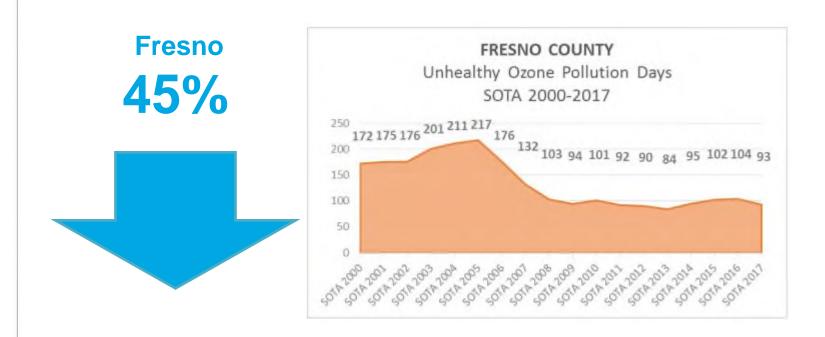
# Most Polluted US Cities:

#### State of the Air 2017

Unhealthy Ozone Days	5	Unhealthy Particle Days		Annual Particle Levels	
Los Angeles-Long Beach, CA	1	Bakersfield, CA	1	Visalia-Porterville-Hanford, CA	1
Bakersfield, CA	2	Fresno-Madera, CA	2 (t)	Bakersfield, CA	2
Fresno-Madera, CA	3	Visalia-Porterville-Hanford, CA	2 (t)	Fresno-Madera, CA	3
Visalia-Porterville-Hanford, CA	4	Modesto-Merced, CA	4	San Jose-San Francisco-Oakland, CA	4
Phoenix-Mesa-Scottsdale, AZ	5	Fairbanks, AK	5	Los Angeles-Long Beach, CA	5
Modesto-Merced, CA	6	San Jose-San Francisco-Oakland, CA	6	Modesto-Merced, CA	6
San Diego, CA	7	Salt Lake City-Provo-Orem, UT	7	El Centro, CA	7
Sacramento-Roseville, CA	8	Logan, UT-ID	8	Pittsburgh, PA-OH-WV	8
New York-Newark, NY-NJ-CT-PA	9	Los Angeles-Long Beach, CA	9	Cleveland-Akron-Canton, OH	9
Las Vegas-Henderson, NV-AZ	10	Reno-Carson City-Fernley, NV	10	San Luis Obispo-Paso Robles, CA	10



#### **Reduced Smoggy Days**



2017: Weighted average of 93 bad air days

# Soot Challenges Bakersfield

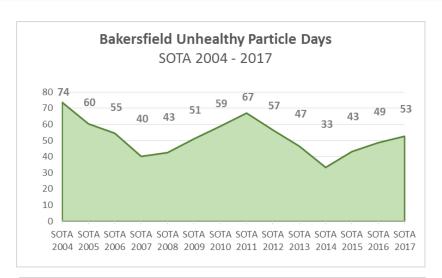
#### **Local Sources**

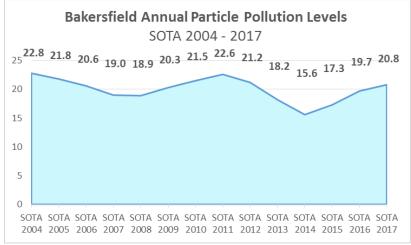
- Diesel Trucks
- AG Equipment
- Oil and Gas
- Wood Smoke

#### Climate Impacts

- Drought
- Wildfires

2017: 53 unhealthy days





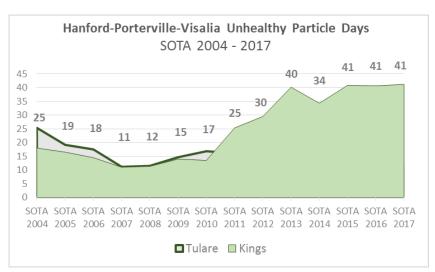
# San Joaquin Valley Soot Challenges Hanford/Modesto

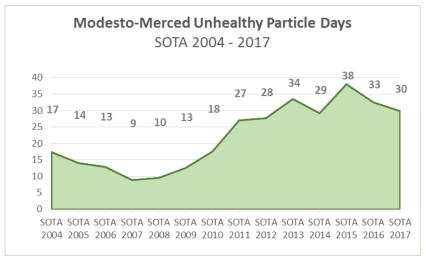
#### **Local Sources**

- Diesel Trucks
- AG Equipment
- Oil and Gas
- Wood Smoke

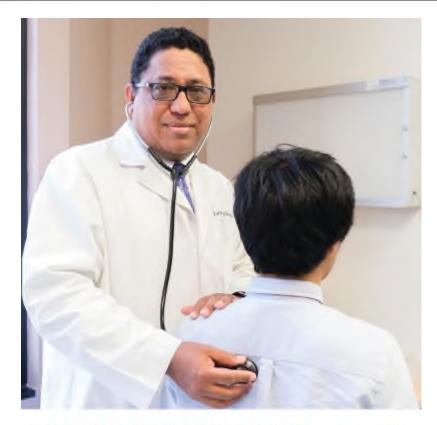
#### Climate Impacts

- Drought
- 201/ilafir@6healthy days





# What do we need to breathe easy?



#### STAND WITH DOCTORS

to Fight Super Pollutants and Climate Change

doctorsforclimatehealth.org

lung.org/california

#ClimateHealth

# Cut Short-Lived Climate Pollutants

Black Carbon 50% by 2030

Methane 40% by 2030

F-Gases 40% by 2030



### **Zero Emission**

Vehicles (Electric/Hydrogen)
Transit and School Buses
Freight and Logistics

## **Community Measures**

Facility Controls
Short-lived Climate Pollutants
Cap and Trade Investments

## Clean Air

**Healthy Climate** 

## Clean, Renewable Power

Solar/Wind Efficiency/storage

## **Land Use/Transportation**

Walking/Biking/Transit
Less Sprawl and Driving
Coordinate state/local efforts

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# How do we get to clean air?

- Move away from fossil fuels
- Increase zero emission transportation and renewable energy.
- Strengthen diesel clean up requirements
- Reduce "super pollutants" like black carbon and methane.
- Avoid residential wood burning; support investment in the cleanest heating options.
- Link local controls on criteria pollutants and toxics to cap and trade program.





www.stateoftheair.org/California2017

Bonnie Holmes-Gen, <u>Bonnie.Holmes-Gen@lung.org</u> Will Barrett, <u>William.Barrett@lung.org</u>

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