

# Act Now to Protect the Health of Virginians

Virginia Clinicians for Climate Action's (VCCA) Report on Transportation Emissions in the Commonwealth finds vehicle emissions are contributing to serious health impacts in the Commonwealth. VCCA's over 400 doctors, nurses and allied health professionals recommend policy reform to improve Virginia's air quality by reducing transportation pollution.

## The Annual Health Costs of Transportation Pollution in Virginia:

92

Premature Deaths

71

Non-Fatal Heart Attacks

220

New Cases of Asthma

2,600

Asthma Attacks in Children

3,310

Cases of Bronchitis & Respiratory Symptoms in Children

10,000

Lost Work Days

\$750 mil

Annual Health Cost

*\*These figures more than double when also factoring in transportation pollution coming from out of state*

## Transportation Pollution Harms the Most Vulnerable Among Us



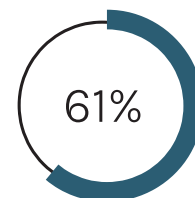
**CHILDREN:** Air pollution is particularly harmful to children, whose lungs, hearts and brains are still developing. Exposure to air pollution is associated with increased child asthma attacks and new-onset asthma, as well as harm to brain development, potentially harming children's long term cognitive function.



**OLDER ADULTS:** Air pollution increases the risk of heart and lung disease in adults, including exacerbations of asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) as well as heart attacks and stroke.



**PREGNANT PEOPLE:** Air pollution exposure has been associated with pregnancy complications, including babies being born too early and too small.

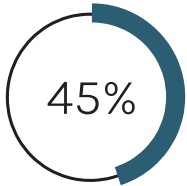


Socially vulnerable communities, which includes those in minority groups, lower wealth and non-English speaking populations, experience **61% higher death rates** in Virginia due to air pollution.



Virginia Clinicians for Climate Action

Virginia should join 14 other states to adopt stronger clean car standards. By setting bold, attainable targets for low and zero emission-electric vehicles, we can reduce our vehicle pollution, save lives and protect our children's future.



While Virginia has enacted bold policy to reduce global warming from power plants, the transportation sector is the number one source of carbon pollution in the Commonwealth, accounting for more than **45% of total emissions**.

By switching to cleaner cars and incentivizing the use of more electric vehicles in the Commonwealth, we can dramatically improve health, protect the environment and save tax-payer dollars, including:

**\$102 mil**

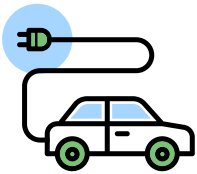
saved annually in health costs by 2035

**13%**

decrease in vehicle greenhouse gas pollution in 2035

**\$120-\$520 mil**

saved in benefits from reduced carbon pollution



Electrification  
of vehicles



Decreasing  
traffic related  
air pollution



Cleaner air



**Better health**  
for all Virginians



*By increasing public transportation, walking and biking, we can reduce pollution, leaving a better world for our children and grandchildren.*

Visit [virginiaclinicians.org/transportation](https://virginiaclinicians.org/transportation) for more information.