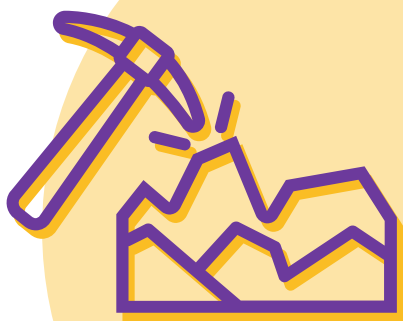




# COAL ENERGY

## LIFE CYCLE IMPACTS ON CHILDREN'S HEALTH



### Mining

Thousands of tons of tiny particles (particulates) are released into the air during mining, and also many tons of compounds that create smog pollution. Particulates can lodge deep in a child's lungs, and like smog, can worsen asthma or other respiratory illnesses. Coal mines also release 10% of all methane emissions in the U.S., contributing to climate change.

### Processing

After it is mined, coal gets processed (washed), leaving behind liquid waste called coal slurry. Coal slurry contains cancer causing chemicals and heavy metals, such as mercury, that harm children's brains. Improperly stored coal slurry can pollute water sources with these toxic substances.

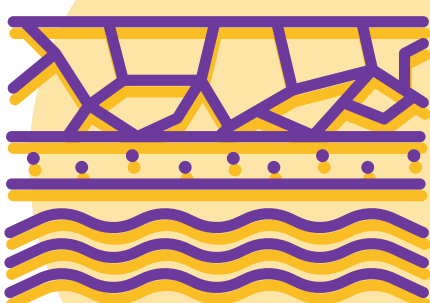


### Transport

Children living near rail- and roadways used for coal transport are exposed to high levels of diesel exhaust, which harms their lungs.

### Burning

After processing, coal is burned at a power plant to produce electricity. This produces particulate pollution, and other air pollutants, such as mercury and lead, which can harm children's brains. Burning coal also creates large amounts of carbon dioxide, contributing to climate change.



### Waste Disposal

The solid waste from coal mining, the slurry from coal processing, and the waste residue (ash) generated from burning coal can contaminate drinking water with heavy metals and cancer-causing chemicals when improperly stored or disposed of.