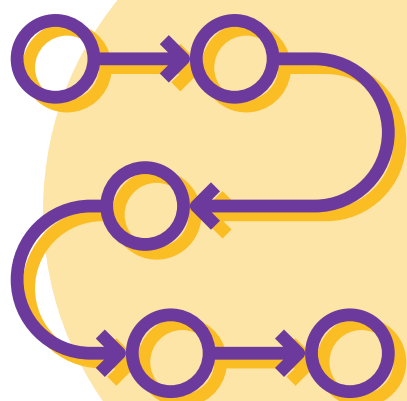




FOSSIL FUELS

HARM CHILDREN'S HEALTH



A Life Cycle of Harm

The use of fossil fuels (coal, natural gas, and oil) as energy sources creates pollution at every step of the process — from their underground removal, to their processing and transport, to their burning for energy, to the disposal of their waste products.

Air and Water Pollution

Along the way, pollutants are released into the air and drinking water. Children who drink and breathe in these pollutants, or who are exposed while in the womb, have a greater risk of cancer, birth defects, and developmental problems, and may experience worsened symptoms of their existing illnesses, such as asthma.



Climate Change

Greenhouse gases (carbon dioxide and methane) are also emitted into the air at every step. These gases trap heat, warm the earth, and cause climate change. Climate change presents serious threats to children's health and safety.

Environmental Injustice & Health Disparities

Black, Latinx, and Indigenous children, and children in low-wealth communities, are more likely than white and wealthier children to live near fossil fuel energy production processes. They have higher exposures to the pollution and are at increased risk for illness. They also suffer a greater burden of the harmful effects of climate change.

