

REPORT: Trump’s Pro-Pollution Agenda is Making America Sicker while He Increases Health Care Costs

May 2026

Donald Trump’s second term has been defined by a simple, devastating trade-off: more pollution, less health care. While Trump has systematically dismantled the protections that keep our air and water clean, he has simultaneously orchestrated a health care crisis—cutting coverage, closing hospitals, and gutting the agencies responsible for protecting public health. The result is a compounding crisis: more Americans getting sick from pollution they can’t avoid, with fewer resources to treat the illnesses it causes.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: TRUMP’S POLLUTION PROTECTION ROLLBACKS WILL MAKE AMERICANS SICKER	3
TRUMP’S CLEAN WATER ROLLBACKS ARE PUTTING FAMILIES AT RISK	5
TRUMP CUT OUR HEALTH CARE—RIGHT AS HE’S MAKING MORE PEOPLE SICK	6
STATE & LOCAL SNAPSHOTS: THE IMPACT OF TRUMP’S PRO-POLLUTION, ANTI-HEALTH CARE AGENDA	8
ARIZONA	8
CALIFORNIA	9
GEORGIA	10
ILLINOIS	11
IOWA	13
MICHIGAN	14
NEVADA	15
NEW JERSEY	16
NORTH CAROLINA	17
OHIO	18
PENNSYLVANIA	19
TEXAS	21
WISCONSIN	22

CLIMATE POWER x PROTECT OUR CARE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: TRUMP’S POLLUTION PROTECTION ROLLBACKS WILL MAKE AMERICANS SICKER

The scale of Trump’s pollution rollbacks is staggering. He gutted 31 pollution protections that, together, [were set to deliver](#) \$275 billion in benefits per year and prevent 30,000 deaths annually. He [repealed](#) the endangerment finding—the government’s core legal obligation to protect Americans from the pollution driving the climate crisis—a decision estimated to cost [\\$4.7 trillion](#) and cause [52 million additional](#) asthma attacks, [19 million](#) lost school and work days, [122,000](#) emergency room visits, and an additional [77,000 premature](#) deaths by 2055.

Repealing just [nine of those protections](#) could result in **220,000 premature deaths**, 300,000 emergency room visits, up to 42 million missed school and work days, and **117 million asthma cases by 2055**. Eight of them alone could trigger [more than 10,000 asthma attacks per day](#).

The table below shows what’s at stake—the asthma attacks that specific protections were preventing before Trump gutted them:

ASTHMA ATTACKS AVOIDED BY PROTECTION	
PROTECTION	ASTHMA ATTACKS AVOIDED THROUGH 2050
Air Quality Standards For Fine Particle Pollution (Soot)	15,200,000
Carbon Pollution Standards For Fossil Fuel-Fired Power Plants	5,168,800
Clean Car Rule	1,043,857
Clean Trucks Rule	48,769
Federal Good Neighbor Rule	33,124,000
Heavy Duty Vehicle Standards	43,790,000
Mercury and Air Toxic Standards	7,466
Oil & Gas Methane Rule	2,185,000
Total	100,567,892

[Environmental Protection Network, Accessed [5/5/26](#)]

Asthma is not an abstract policy problem. It affects nearly [25 million](#) Americans, including more than [3.6 million Latinos](#). It causes [nearly one million](#) emergency department visits per year, nearly [100,000](#) hospital stays, and more than [3,500 deaths](#). Latinos are [twice as likely](#) to visit an emergency room for asthma, and Latino children are twice as likely to die from asthma compared to white children.

CLIMATE POWER x PROTECT OUR CARE

Trump’s rollbacks fall hardest on the states with the most people at risk:

AMERICANS WITH ASTHMA: BY STATE		
STATE	# OF PEOPLE WITH ASTHMA	STATE POPULATION PERCENTAGE
CALIFORNIA	3.2 MILLION	7.8%
TEXAS	2.5 MILLION	8.2%
PENNSYLVANIA	1.3 MILLION	11.3%
OHIO	1.2 MILLION	10.8%
NORTH CAROLINA	1.1 MILLION	9.8%
ILLINOIS	1.1 MILLION	9.1%
GEORGIA	1 MILLION	9.6%
MICHIGAN	1.2 MILLION	12%
NEW JERSEY	884,000	9.3%
ARIZONA	796,000	10.5%
WISCONSIN	614,000	10.3%
NEVADA	268,000	8.2%
IOWA	279,000	8.6%

[American Lung Association – State of the Air, [April 2026](#)]

The specific rollbacks driving these risks are concrete and consequential. Trump [weakened](#) the Mercury and Air Toxics Standards, which were on track to generate \$430 million in health and climate [benefits](#), reduce toxic metal [emissions](#) by 67%, and cut exposure to carcinogens. He carved out exemptions for nearly 70 [coal-fired power plants](#)—nine [in communities](#) with significant Latino populations. He moved to [eliminate](#) stricter soot [protections](#) worth up to [\\$46 billion](#) in public health benefits and [4,500 premature deaths](#), and 800,000 asthma cases annually. And he [weakened limits](#) on nitrogen oxide pollution—a key driver of [ozone formation](#) and a direct trigger for asthma—at a time when more than [1,200 power plants](#) are already polluting our air with these toxic chemicals.

TOXIC POWER PLANTS ARE POLLUTING OUR AIR		
STATE	# OF NOx POLLUTING PLANTS	TOTAL METRIC TONS EMITTED (2024)
TEXAS	129	86,829
CALIFORNIA	107	2,157
PENNSYLVANIA	59	15,545
ILLINOIS	41	11,942
OHIO	37	23,435

CLIMATE POWER x PROTECT OUR CARE

WISCONSIN	33	9,986
GEORGIA	32	16,846
MICHIGAN	30	22,639
ARIZONA	26	11,470
NEW JERSEY	24	1,567
NORTH CAROLINA	24	26,987
IOWA	22	11,387
NEVADA	15	4,140

[U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Accessed [4/28/26](#)]

TRUMP’S POLLUTION PROTECTION ROLLEBACKS WILL HURT LATINOS

None of this is hitting Americans equally. Asthma affects more than [3.6 million Latinos](#), who are [twice as likely](#) to visit an emergency room for asthma, and whose children are twice as likely to die from asthma compared to white children.

People of color represent [54% of the population living in counties](#) with at least one failing air quality grade. Nearly half of Latinos in the U.S. [live in areas](#) that frequently violate ground-level ozone standards, and Latinos are more than [three times more likely](#) than white individuals to live in areas with failing air quality grades.

Latinos are also [more likely](#) to work in industries that are directly exposed to climate impacts—agriculture, manufacturing, construction—and farmworkers, who are predominantly Latino, [already face widespread exposure](#) to wildfire smoke, pesticides, and a lack of access to clean drinking water.

TRUMP’S CLEAN WATER ROLLEBACKS ARE PUTTING FAMILIES AT RISK

The threat isn’t limited to the air. Trump has made it easier for companies to poison our water. He pushed to [roll back](#) protections on four types of PFAS—the “forever chemicals” linked to cancer, thyroid disease, and developmental harm—and [withdrew](#) the rule requiring PFAS manufacturers to monitor and reduce their pollution. **At least 73 million Americans are served by water systems with at least one sample above the EPA’s PFAS threshold.**

Trump’s move to greenlight the use of PFAS in agriculture is a particular [threat](#) to Latino communities, who often live near industrial farms in California and the West that have already contaminated local water with nitrates and other chemicals. And his EPA [announced](#) a final rule delaying deadlines for [more than 1,000](#) toxic coal ash landfills to monitor groundwater contamination—despite coal ash [containing](#) chemicals such as

CLIMATE POWER x PROTECT OUR CARE

arsenic, selenium, lead, mercury, and boron, and other contaminants known to cause cancer, neurological damage, and heart problems.

TRUMP CUT OUR HEALTH CARE—RIGHT AS HE’S MAKING MORE PEOPLE SICK

Here’s the full cruelty of the situation: as Trump drives up the pollution that causes asthma attacks, cancer, and respiratory disease, he is simultaneously making it harder and more expensive for Americans to get the care they need to treat those conditions.

Last year, Trump and Republicans in Congress cut [over \\$1 trillion](#) from Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act. The damage is now playing out in communities across the country. More than [15 million](#) Americans are at risk of losing coverage. [More than 900](#) hospitals, clinics, nursing homes, and other critical providers are closing, cutting essential services, or are at risk of closing since the reconciliation bill passed. Already, [around one million](#) fewer Americans signed up for health care coverage through the ACA Marketplace, and [2.5 million](#) have lost Medicaid coverage since July 2025.

AMERICANS LOSING HEALTH CARE COVERAGE: BY STATE	
STATE	# OF PEOPLE LOSING MEDICAID OR ACA COVERAGE SINCE REPUBLICANS PASSED H.R. 1
CALIFORNIA	924,061
GEORGIA	554,488
NORTH CAROLINA	175,267
OHIO	185,318
ARIZONA	180,684
MICHIGAN	150,234
ILLINOIS	130,584*
TEXAS	129,543*
NEW JERSEY	91,336
PENNSYLVANIA	75,731
WISCONSIN	24,250
NEVADA	27,759
IOWA	10,733
U.S. NET COVERAGE LOSS	3,456,415

*Medicaid only [Protect Our Care—The GOP War on Health Care: Trump and Republicans’ Health Care Affordability Crisis Is Spiraling Across the Country, [May 2026](#)]

CLIMATE POWER x PROTECT OUR CARE

Making matters worse, Trump has gutted the Centers for Disease Control (CDC)—the agency responsible for tracking pollution exposure, monitoring disease outbreaks, and protecting public health.

In just the first year of his second term, the CDC endured the [firing of the experts](#) responsible for protecting us from pollution and asthma, an additional [three rounds of firings](#), a [traumatic shooting](#) met by [silence from HHS Secretary RFK Jr. and Trump](#), the [abrupt firing](#) of CDC director Susan Monarez, the [total replacement](#) of the CDC's top vaccine advisory panel, and a [slashed budget](#). In all, the Trump administration has [gutted the agency's expertise](#) and [slashed at least 500 jobs](#), leaving Americans more exposed and less protected at the exact moment they need the most help.

The math is brutal and straightforward: more pollution means more asthma attacks, more cancer, more respiratory illness. Fewer protections mean higher costs when families do get sick. And less health care coverage means those costs fall directly on families—or go untreated until they become emergencies. Trump has engineered all three at once.

STATE & LOCAL SNAPSHOTS: THE IMPACT OF TRUMP'S PRO-POLLUTION, ANTI-HEALTH CARE AGENDA

ARIZONA

Arizona is on the front lines of both the pollution and health care access crises. While [1.1 million Arizonans](#) are particularly vulnerable to air pollution, and in a state where more than [10.5%](#) of the population—including 25% of Latinos, the highest self-reported rate in the country—live with asthma, Trump's rollbacks couldn't come at a worse time. Since Republicans passed their reconciliation bill, [over 200,000](#) have lost Medicaid coverage and [over 52,000](#) fewer have signed up through the ACA Marketplace. Trump is making the air dirtier and the doctor's office harder to reach—at the same time.

Trump Attacked Arizona's Clean Air

Trump [granted](#) the Apache Generating Station near Cochise a [two-year exemption](#) from protections against mercury, arsenic, and benzene—the same plant that emitted more than 1,100 tons of nitrogen oxide in 2024 alone. Nitrogen oxide pollution [worsens](#) respiratory illnesses, including asthma, and is key to ozone formation. Statewide, [26 facilities](#) emitted nearly 11,500 tons of NOx that year. Trump's EPA also moved to [allow](#) Phoenix—one of the smoggiest cities in the country—to skip air pollution cleanup measures entirely. In 2024, three Arizona counties [exceeded](#) air quality standards for soot pollution: Pinal, Maricopa, and Santa Cruz, with Pinal [ranking](#) as the state's worst from 2019 to 2023. Poor air quality [increases](#) the risk of asthma, COPD, lung cancer, and other respiratory conditions. In Arizona, that's not abstract: in 2021, [89 people](#) died from asthma, and the total cost of treating asthma in the state is projected to increase by [\\$300 million](#) by 2030, and individuals can expect an estimated increase from \$5,200 to nearly \$5,900 annually from 2025 to 2030.

Trump Attacked Arizona's Clean Water

Trump has made Arizona's water less safe, too. His EPA pushed to [roll back](#) PFAS protections and [delayed](#) deadlines for toxic coal ash landfills to track groundwater contamination. In 2024, 12% of sampled water systems in Arizona [exceeded](#) at least one PFAS maximum contaminant level—with Santa Cruz County [reporting](#) the highest percentage of systems above maximum PFAS levels at 44%. In June 2021, groundwater on Tucson's south side—a community that is [85% Latino](#)—was so [contaminated](#) with PFAS that a Tucson Water treatment plant had to be shut down. As of September 2025, Arizona had [five power plant sites storing coal ash](#), including Apache Station, where groundwater has been [contaminated](#) with unsafe levels of cobalt, lithium, and thallium—chemicals

CLIMATE POWER x PROTECT OUR CARE

[linked](#) to a range of harmful health impacts, including neurological and cardiovascular illnesses.

Trump Cut Arizonans' Health Care

As pollution rises, Arizona's health care safety net is fraying. Republicans slashed over \$1 trillion from Medicaid, and Arizonans are feeling it. [Over 200,000](#) have lost Medicaid coverage since the passage of Republicans' reconciliation bill. Republicans also took away ACA premium tax credits, leaving [over 370,000](#) Arizonans paying an average of [\\$639](#) more per year—and driving [over 52,000](#) out of the marketplace entirely. When people lose their health care, they [won't seek treatment](#) for their chronic conditions until they're severe and more costly to treat. This means more ER visits, more late-stage cancer diagnoses, and more complications from lack of preventive care. Since the reconciliation bill, [16](#) Arizona health care providers have closed or are at risk. For hundreds of thousands of Arizonans managing asthma and other pollution-linked illnesses, losing coverage doesn't mean going without a checkup—it means a manageable condition can become a [costly](#) emergency.

CALIFORNIA

California is ground zero for both the air quality and health care crises. More than [4.3 million Californians](#) are particularly vulnerable to air pollution—and in a state where nearly 8% of the population has asthma, the stakes of Trump's rollbacks are enormous. [Over 825,000](#) Californians have lost Medicaid coverage since Republicans passed their reconciliation bill, and [more than 150,000](#) fewer enrolled through the ACA Marketplace this year. Trump is making some of the worst air in the nation worse, while stripping away the coverage people need to treat what it causes.

Trump Attacked California's Clean Air

California's air pollution is among the worst in the country—and Trump is making it worse. In 2024, 107 [facilities](#) emitted 2,157 tons of nitrogen oxide statewide, and 18 California counties [exceeded](#) air quality standards for soot pollution, with [Kern County](#) ranking worst or second-worst every year since 2019. Twenty-two [counties](#) received failing grades for ozone pollution, and 18 [received](#) failing grades for particle pollution. The five [most ozone-polluted counties](#) in the entire nation are all in California—San Bernardino, Riverside, Los Angeles, Tulare, and Kern—and [all have majority Latino populations](#). Los Angeles and Bakersfield-Delano ranked as the [most polluted](#) cities in the country for ozone and particle pollution, respectively. [Over 16%](#) of Californians have been diagnosed with asthma at some point in their lives. In 2021, [352 people](#) died from it, and every year more than [40,000](#) Californians are hospitalized due to asthma. Predominantly

CLIMATE POWER x PROTECT OUR CARE

Latino neighborhoods see [twice](#) as many asthma-related ER visits as non-Latino white neighborhoods.

Trump Attacked California's Clean Water

Trump's [rollback](#) of PFAS protections is a serious threat to California's water supply. All but six of California's 52 congressional districts have [detected](#) PFAS concentrations above EPA limits, and drinking water sources serving up to [25 million Californians](#) are or have been contaminated with PFAS. Latino communities—many of whom [live near industrial farms](#) in the Central Valley that have already contaminated local water with nitrates—are particularly at risk from Trump's decision to greenlight PFAS use in agriculture.

Trump Cut Californians' Health Care

Republicans' \$1 trillion in cuts to Medicaid and the ACA are hitting California hard. [Over 825,000](#) Californians have lost Medicaid coverage since the reconciliation bill passed. Eliminating ACA premium tax credits has left [over 1.7 million](#) residents paying an average of [\\$1,000](#) more per year, pushing [more than 150,000](#) out of marketplace coverage entirely. Ninety-four California health care providers have closed or are at risk since the bill passed. When people lose coverage, they [delay care](#)—and conditions that could be managed with medication become expensive emergencies. In a state already facing some of the worst air quality in the nation, that delay has consequences.

GEORGIA

Georgia is on the front lines of both the pollution and health care crises. More than [1.6 million Georgians](#) are particularly vulnerable to air pollution, and [nearly 10%](#) of the state's population lives with asthma. Since Republicans passed their reconciliation bill, over [70,000](#) Georgians have lost Medicaid coverage and [more than 500,000](#) fewer have enrolled through the ACA Marketplace. As Trump makes Georgia's air and water more toxic, he's simultaneously making it harder for Georgians to access the care they need to treat what that pollution causes.

Trump Attacked Georgia's Clean Air

Trump [granted](#) two-year pollution [exemptions](#) to Georgia Power's Bowen and Scherer plants—two of the [deadliest](#) coal plants in the nation. A [2023 study](#) found Plant Bowen was likely responsible for 7,500 deaths, ranking it second most deadly in the country, while Plant Scherer ranked in the top 25. Both received [exemptions](#) from protections against mercury, arsenic, and benzene. Statewide, 32 Georgia [facilities](#) emitted 16,846

CLIMATE POWER x PROTECT OUR CARE

tons of nitrogen oxide in 2024. In that same year, seven Georgia counties—Muscogee, Bibb, Washington, Richmond, Fulton, Gwinnett, and Clayton—[exceeded](#) air quality standards for soot pollution, with Richmond County [ranking](#) worst in the state from 2019 to 2022. The 2026 American Lung Association report found failing grades for ozone pollution in [DeKalb, Fulton, and Henry](#) counties, and failing grades for particle pollution in [Dougherty and Muscogee](#) counties. Since the reconciliation bill passed, [11](#) Georgia health care providers have closed or are at risk—leaving asthma patients fewer places to turn when a manageable condition becomes a crisis.

Trump Attacked Georgia's Clean Water

Trump's rollbacks are threatening Georgia's water supply, too. His EPA pushed to [roll back](#) PFAS protections and [delayed](#) deadlines for coal ash landfills to monitor groundwater contamination. Data from 2023 and 2024 showed 48 public water systems in Georgia were [contaminated](#) by PFAS, including at least four with levels above EPA limits. In June 2025, [56% of drinking water](#) sampled in Northwest Georgia exceeded the EPA's PFAS limits—with the highest result found in a Chatsworth spring serving a community that is [more than one-third](#) Hispanic. As of September 2025, Georgia had [13 coal ash landfills](#), and monitoring data [showed](#) groundwater contaminated above both federal and state standards at all but one plant.

Trump Cut Georgians' Health Care

Republicans cut over \$1 trillion from Medicaid and the ACA, and Georgia is absorbing the damage. Over [70,000](#) Georgians have lost Medicaid coverage since the reconciliation bill passed. Eliminating ACA premium tax credits has left over [1.4 million](#) Georgians paying an average of [\\$539](#) more per year, pushing [more than 500,000](#) out of marketplace coverage. When coverage disappears, people [stop seeking care](#) for chronic conditions until they reach a crisis point—more ER visits, more late-stage diagnoses, more complications from conditions that could have been caught earlier.

ILLINOIS

Illinois is on the front lines of the pollution and health care crises. More than [1.7 million](#) Illinoisans are particularly vulnerable to air pollution, and [9%](#) of the state's population lives with asthma. Since Republicans passed their reconciliation bill, [nearly 200,000](#) Illinoisans have lost Medicaid coverage. Trump's pollution rollbacks are making a bad air quality situation worse—while his health care cuts ensure fewer Illinoisans can afford treatment for what the pollution causes.

Trump Attacked Illinois' Clean Air

Trump [granted](#) two-year exemptions from mercury, arsenic, and benzene pollution protections to [four](#) Illinois coal plants: Baldwin Power Plant, Newton Power Station, Kincaid Power Plant, and Powerton Electric Generation Station. Statewide, 41 Illinois [facilities](#) emitted 11,942 tons of nitrogen oxide in 2024. That same year, four counties—Cook, Kane, Madison, and St. Clair—[exceeded](#) air quality standards for soot pollution, with Cook County [ranking](#) worst in the state every year from 2019 to 2024. The 2026 American Lung Association report found [22](#) Illinois counties received failing grades for ozone pollution and [four](#) for particle pollution. The Chicago metropolitan area [ranked](#) 13th most polluted nationally for year-round particle pollution and 15th worst for ozone. In 2021, there were [nearly one million](#) ER visits for asthma attacks in Illinois—costing between \$600 and \$1,500 each—and nearly 100,000 turned into hospital stays. That same year, [124 people](#) died from asthma in Illinois.

Trump Attacked Illinois' Clean Water

Trump's EPA [pushed](#) to roll back PFAS protections and [delay](#) deadlines for coal ash, threatening Illinois water. In 2025, 47 community water systems serving more than 400,000 Illinois residents were found to have [elevated PFAS levels](#)—chemicals linked to kidney cancer, thyroid disease, and other serious illnesses. As of October 2025, Illinois had [26 coal ash landfills](#), with groundwater [contaminated](#) above both federal and state standards at all but two plants. Coal ash [contains](#) arsenic, lead, mercury, and boron—a toxic cocktail tied to cancer, neurological damage, and heart disease.

Trump Cut Illinoisans' Health Care

Republicans' cuts to Medicaid and the ACA are squeezing Illinois families. Nearly [200,000](#) have lost Medicaid coverage since the reconciliation bill passed. Eliminating ACA premium tax credits has left nearly [400,000](#) Illinois residents paying an average of [\\$727](#) more per year. Since the bill passed, [24](#) Illinois health care providers have closed or are at risk. For the [more than one million](#) Illinoisans managing asthma—a condition already driving [millions](#) in annual ER costs—losing coverage turns a treatable condition into a financial crisis.

IOWA

Iowa is on the front lines of the pollution and health care crises. More than [427,000](#) Iowans are particularly vulnerable to air pollution, and nearly [9%](#) of adults in the state live with asthma. Since Republicans passed their reconciliation bill, nearly [1,600](#) Iowans have lost Medicaid coverage and more than [9,000](#) fewer have enrolled through the ACA

CLIMATE POWER x PROTECT OUR CARE

Marketplace. Iowa also has some of the [most contaminated](#) water in the country—and Trump is making it worse.

Trump Attacked Iowa's Clean Air

In 2024, 22 Iowa [facilities](#) emitted nearly 11,400 tons of nitrogen oxide—a [key driver](#) of ozone formation and a direct trigger for asthma and other respiratory illnesses. The 2026 American Lung Association report found [six Iowa counties](#)—Bremer, Clinton, Harrison, Linn, Palo Alto, and Scott—received failing grades for ozone pollution, and [five counties](#) received "D" grades for particle pollution. In 2025, Des Moines [ranked](#) among the 100 worst cities in the country for people with asthma. In 2024, [nearly 7,900](#) Iowans visited the emergency department for asthma—including more than [2,500 children](#) age 14 and under. In 2021, [39](#) Iowans died from asthma. Since the reconciliation bill passed, [13](#) Iowa health care providers have closed or are at risk.

Trump Attacked Iowa's Clean Water

Iowa already has some of the worst [water quality](#) in the nation—and Trump is rolling back the protections designed to fix it. His EPA [pushed](#) to roll back PFAS protections, [delayed](#) coal ash monitoring deadlines, and [rolled back](#) the agency's authority to manage wetlands and rivers. From 2023 to 2025, [three](#) of Iowa's four congressional districts had PFAS concentrations above federal thresholds, exposing at least [340,000](#) Iowans to chemicals [linked](#) to cancer, developmental delays, and immune system problems. Drinking water testing found PFAS in [41%](#) of public water samples statewide. Coal ash is stored at [19](#) power plant sites in Iowa, and every site with available data showed groundwater contamination above federal safe drinking water standards. A 2026 [analysis](#) tied Iowa's high pesticide, fertilizer, and PFAS exposure to the state's rising cancer rate—now the second highest in the nation. Central Iowa rivers [routinely exceed](#) federal nitrate standards, and a [2023 study](#) found harmful nitrate levels at one in twenty Iowa public drinking water systems.

Trump Cut Iowans' Health Care

Republicans' Medicaid and ACA cuts are landing hard in Iowa. Nearly [1,600](#) Iowans have lost Medicaid coverage since the reconciliation bill passed. Eliminating ACA premium tax credits has left nearly [118,000](#) Iowans paying an average of [\\$610](#) more per year, pushing more than [9,000](#) out of the marketplace. [Thirteen](#) health care providers have closed or are at risk. In a state where water contamination is [contributing](#) to one of the highest cancer rates in the country, stripping away health coverage isn't just a policy failure—it's a health catastrophe in the making.

MICHIGAN

Michigan is on the front lines of the pollution and health care crises. More than [1.9 million](#) Michiganders are particularly vulnerable to air pollution—and with [12%](#) of the state's population living with asthma, Michigan has one of the highest rates in the country. Since Republicans passed their reconciliation bill, over [180,000](#) Michiganders have lost Medicaid coverage and [around 14,800](#) fewer have enrolled through the ACA Marketplace. Detroit has already been named the [most challenging](#) city in America to live with asthma. Trump is making that worse.

Trump Attacked Michigan's Clean Air

Trump has repeatedly [intervened](#) to keep the toxic coal-fired J.H. Campbell power plant in West Olive open, costing taxpayers [millions](#). Statewide, 30 Michigan [facilities](#) emitted 22,639 tons of nitrogen oxide in 2024. Five Michigan counties—Kent, Washtenaw, Missaukee, Kalamazoo, and Wayne—[exceeded](#) air quality standards for soot pollution that year, with Wayne County [ranking](#) worst in the state from 2020 to 2024. The 2026 American Lung Association report found [11](#) Michigan counties received failing grades for ozone pollution and [four](#) for particle pollution. Detroit was named the [most challenging](#) place in the entire country to live with asthma in 2025—nearly [95,000](#) Detroit residents, 15% of the city, have asthma. In 2021, [94](#) Michiganders died from asthma. In 2023, there were nearly [40,000](#) asthma-related ER visits statewide. Since the reconciliation bill passed, [15](#) Michigan health care providers have closed or are at risk.

Trump Attacked Michigan's Clean Water

Michigan is facing a serious PFAS crisis—and Trump is making it worse. A 2024 study found that up to [3.2 million](#) Michiganders—one-third of the state—receive water from aquifers containing PFAS, [including](#) 1.8 million public water customers. Michigan has more than [11,000](#) sites potentially contaminated by PFAS, affecting the drinking water of nearly [two million](#) residents. Trump's EPA [pushed](#) to roll back PFAS protections and [delayed](#) coal ash monitoring deadlines. As of September 2025, Michigan had [18](#) coal ash landfills—and all but one of the plants with available monitoring data had groundwater contamination above federal safe drinking water standards.

Trump Cut Michiganders' Health Care

Republicans' Medicaid and ACA cuts are pushing Michigan families to the brink. Over [180,000](#) Michiganders have lost Medicaid coverage since the reconciliation bill passed. Eliminating ACA premium tax credits has left over [470,000](#) residents paying an average of [\\$710](#) more per year, driving [around 14,800](#) out of marketplace coverage. [Fifteen](#)

CLIMATE POWER x PROTECT OUR CARE

health care providers have closed or are at risk. In the city that ranks last in the country for livability with asthma, losing health coverage isn't a statistic—it's a death sentence for people who can no longer afford the inhalers and specialist visits keeping them out of the ER.

NEVADA

Nevada is on the front lines of the pollution and health care crises. More than [436,000](#) Nevadans are particularly vulnerable to air pollution, and nearly [9%](#) of the state's population lives with asthma. Since Republicans passed their reconciliation bill, over [40,000](#) Nevadans have lost Medicaid coverage and more than [3,900](#) fewer have enrolled through the ACA Marketplace. As Trump weakens the pollution standards protecting Nevada's air and water, he's simultaneously making it harder for Nevadans to afford the care they need.

Trump Attacked Nevada's Clean Air

In 2024, 15 Nevada [facilities](#) emitted 4,140 tons of nitrogen oxide, worsening air quality across the state. The 2026 American Lung Association report found that Clark County received a [failing](#) grade for ozone pollution, and Carson City, Clark, Douglas, and Washoe counties all received [failing](#) grades for particle pollution. The Las Vegas-Henderson metropolitan area [ranked](#) as the 11th most ozone-polluted in the country. Trump's rollbacks—including [weakened](#) limits on nitrogen oxide from power plants—are pushing Nevada's already-strained air quality in the wrong direction. In 2021, 28 Nevadans [died](#) from asthma. Since the reconciliation bill passed, at least [two](#) Nevada health care providers have closed or are at risk.

Trump Attacked Nevada's Clean Water

PFAS contamination has [reached](#) Nevada's surface waters—and Trump's rollbacks are [removing](#) the guardrails designed to stop it from getting worse. In 2021, PFAS were [detected](#) in surface water and sediment samples along the Las Vegas Wash and in Lake Mead, as well as at eight sites along the Truckee River, Lake Tahoe, and Pyramid Lake. A [2023](#) study found PFAS "ubiquitous throughout the surface waters of the Great Basin." Trump [delayed](#) coal ash monitoring deadlines despite serious contamination: as of September 2025, [four](#) Nevada power plant sites stored coal ash, and all three with monitoring data reported groundwater contamination above federal safe drinking water standards. At NV Energy's retired Reid Gardner plant near Las Vegas, [2022 data showed](#) lithium levels 243 times greater and arsenic concentrations 121 times greater than EPA standards.

Trump Cut Nevadans' Health Care

Republicans' cuts to Medicaid and the ACA are leaving Nevadans exposed. Over [40,000](#) have lost Medicaid coverage since the reconciliation bill passed. Eliminating ACA premium tax credits has left nearly [95,000](#) residents paying an average of [\\$762](#) more per year, pushing over [3,900](#) out of marketplace coverage. For Nevadans managing asthma and other pollution-linked conditions, the loss of coverage means delayed care—and delayed care means higher costs, worse outcomes, and more pressure on an already strained health care system.

NEW JERSEY

New Jersey is on the front lines of the pollution and health care crises. More than [1.2 million](#) New Jerseyans are particularly vulnerable to air pollution, and more than [9%](#) of the state's population lives with asthma. Since Republicans passed their reconciliation bill, over [30,000](#) New Jerseyans have lost Medicaid coverage and [over 64,000](#) fewer have enrolled through the ACA Marketplace. With [nearly half](#) of New Jersey residents already living in areas with unhealthy air—and Trump making it worse—the state's health care safety net has never been more important, or more at risk.

Trump Attacked New Jersey's Clean Air

In 2024, 24 New Jersey [facilities](#) emitted 1,567 tons of nitrogen oxide. The 2026 American Lung Association report [found](#) Bergen, Gloucester, Mercer, Middlesex, and Ocean counties received failing grades for ozone pollution, and 11 counties [received](#) "D" grades for particle pollution. The New York-Newark metro area [ranked](#) 12th most polluted nationally for ozone. An April 2025 study [found](#) that at least 46% of New Jersey residents live in areas with unhealthy air pollution levels. [9%](#) of New Jerseyans have asthma. In 2021, [119](#) people died from it, and in 2024, over [5,500](#) were hospitalized. Since the reconciliation bill passed, [55](#) New Jersey health care providers—more than any other state in this report—have closed or are at risk.

Trump Attacked New Jersey's Clean Water

New Jersey is facing one of the most serious PFAS contamination crises in the country—and Trump has rolled back the protections designed to address it. As of 2025, 46 public water [systems](#) in New Jersey had PFAS levels over the EPA limit, with nine having levels "well over the limit." Livingston Township had the highest PFAS levels at 9.2 times the EPA standard. In October 2025, Middlesex Water Co. and 3M [settled](#) a class action lawsuit, paying \$4.9 million to 60,000 water customers for violating PFAS limits. In August 2025, the New Jersey Attorney General [announced](#) a \$2 billion settlement against

DuPont for PFAS contamination across multiple industrial sites. As of September 2025, New Jersey had [three](#) power plant sites that previously stored toxic coal ash, with groundwater contaminated at least two of them.

Trump Cut New Jerseyans' Health Care

Republicans' Medicaid and ACA cuts are compounding the health risks New Jerseyans already face. Over [30,000](#) have lost Medicaid coverage since the reconciliation bill passed. Eliminating ACA premium tax credits has left over [450,000](#) residents paying an average of [\\$853](#) more per year—the highest average annual increase of any state in this report—and pushing [over 64,000](#) out of marketplace coverage. With [55](#) health care providers closed or at risk, New Jersey families facing pollution-linked illness have fewer options and higher costs at every turn.

NORTH CAROLINA

North Carolina is on the front lines of the pollution and health care crises. More than [1.6 million](#) North Carolinians are particularly vulnerable to air pollution, and nearly [10%](#) of the state's population lives with asthma. Since Republicans passed their reconciliation bill, more than [162,000](#) fewer North Carolinians have enrolled through the ACA Marketplace. In a state where [nine of the ten](#) leading causes of death are caused or worsened by soot pollution, Trump's rollbacks aren't a distant threat—they're an accelerant.

Trump Attacked North Carolina's Clean Air

Trump's EPA [moved](#) to eliminate stricter air pollution protections for soot—the particulate matter [linked](#) to heart attacks, cancer, and premature death. In North Carolina, [nine of the ten](#) leading causes of death are caused or worsened by soot. In 2024, 24 North Carolina [facilities](#) emitted 26,987 tons of nitrogen oxide. Two counties—Davidson and Mecklenburg—had soot levels [above](#) EPA standards as of 2025, with Mecklenburg ranking in the [top two](#) worst counties in the state every year since 2020. In 2021, [108](#) North Carolinians died directly from asthma. Since the reconciliation bill passed, [19](#) North Carolina health care providers have closed or are at risk.

Trump Attacked North Carolina's Clean Water

North Carolina is facing a severe PFAS and coal ash contamination crisis. In 2024, [300 water systems](#) serving at least 3.4 million people had PFAS levels above federal limits. The state has [55 coal ash dump](#) sites leaking into groundwater—and at all but one site with available data, contamination exceeded federal standards. In 2024, an estimated

CLIMATE POWER x PROTECT OUR CARE

100,000 tons of coal ash were discovered [under a daycare](#) and business park located just eight miles from a Duke Energy coal-fired power plant. Trump's EPA pushed to [roll back](#) PFAS protections and [delayed](#) monitoring deadlines—leaving communities with contaminated water and shrinking options for accountability.

Trump Cut North Carolinians' Health Care

Republicans eliminated ACA premium tax credits, leaving nearly [900,000](#) North Carolina residents paying an average of [\\$626](#) more per year and pushing [more than 162,000](#) out of marketplace coverage. [Nineteen](#) health care providers have closed or are at risk since the bill passed. When coverage disappears, people [stop seeking treatment](#) for chronic conditions—and asthma attacks, cancer screenings, and cardiovascular events that could have been prevented become emergencies that cost far more to treat.

OHIO

Ohio is on the front lines of the pollution and health care crises. More than [2 million](#) Ohioans are particularly vulnerable to air pollution, and nearly [11%](#) of the state's population—one of the highest rates in the country—lives with asthma. Since Republicans passed their reconciliation bill, nearly [124,000](#) Ohioans have lost Medicaid coverage and [nearly 92,000](#) fewer have enrolled through the ACA Marketplace. Trump's pollution rollbacks are hitting a state already bearing a disproportionate asthma burden—[particularly](#) among children of color.

Trump Attacked Ohio's Clean Air

Trump [granted](#) two-year exemptions from mercury, arsenic, and benzene pollution protections to [two](#) Ohio coal plants: the Miami Fort Power Plant in North Bend and Walleye Power – Bay Shore in Oregon. Statewide, 37 [facilities](#) emitted over 23,400 tons of nitrogen oxide in 2024. Four counties—Hamilton, Butler, Lucas, and Cuyahoga—[exceeded](#) air quality standards for soot pollution that year, with Cuyahoga [ranking](#) worst in the state since 2023. In 2023, [11%](#) of Ohio adults were diagnosed with asthma. Between 2013 and 2022, Ohio's average asthma mortality rate among children was roughly [seven times higher](#) for Black children than for white children. In 2021, [124](#) deaths were attributed to asthma. In 2022, there were over [5,500](#) asthma hospitalizations and nearly [42,000](#) asthma-related ER visits—with Cuyahoga County [leading](#) the state in both. Since the reconciliation bill passed, [32](#) Ohio health care providers have closed or are at risk.

Trump Attacked Ohio's Clean Water

Ohio's water contamination picture is serious—and getting worse under Trump. A 2021 Ohio EPA [report](#) found 106 water systems with detectable PFAS levels. In January 2024, Dayton [approved](#) a multi-million dollar plan to reduce PFAS after a 2023 investigation found at least 15 public water systems serving over 140,000 customers with PFAS levels [above](#) EPA limits. As of September 2025, coal ash was stored at [28](#) current and former power plant sites in Ohio—more locations than any other state—and groundwater contamination above federal standards was detected at every single plant that provided monitoring results.

Trump Cut Ohioans' Health Care

Republicans' Medicaid and ACA cuts are compounding Ohio's public health challenges. Nearly [124,000](#) Ohioans have lost Medicaid coverage since the reconciliation bill passed. Eliminating ACA premium tax credits has left over [513,000](#) residents paying an average of [\\$698](#) more per year and pushed [nearly 92,000](#) out of marketplace coverage. [Thirty-two](#) health care providers have closed or are at risk. In a state where asthma deaths among Black children are [seven times](#) higher than among white children, the combination of more pollution and less coverage isn't a policy abstraction—it's a racial health equity crisis.

PENNSYLVANIA

Pennsylvania is on the front lines of the pollution and health care crises. More than [2.2 million](#) Pennsylvanians are particularly vulnerable to air pollution—with over [10%](#) of the state's population living with asthma. Since Republicans passed their reconciliation bill, over [95,000](#) Pennsylvanians have lost Medicaid coverage and [nearly 20,000](#) have been pushed out of ACA coverage. Trump exempted more coal plants from pollution protections in Pennsylvania [than in any other state](#)—and the health consequences are already showing up.

Trump Attacked Pennsylvania's Clean Air

Trump [granted](#) two-year exemptions from mercury, arsenic, and benzene pollution protections to [12](#) Pennsylvania coal plants—[more than any other state](#)—including the Keystone and Conemaugh stations, which together [emitted](#) 14 million metric tons of greenhouse gases in 2021 and [ranked](#) as the top two polluters in the state. Statewide, [59 facilities](#) emitted 15,545 tons of nitrogen oxide in 2024. Five counties—Allegheny, Dauphin, Lancaster, Philadelphia, and Missaukee—[exceeded](#) soot air quality standards that year, with Allegheny County [ranking](#) worst in the state every year since 2020.

CLIMATE POWER x PROTECT OUR CARE

Allentown, Philadelphia, Harrisburg, Scranton, and Pittsburgh all [ranked](#) among the worst cities in the country for people with asthma—with Allentown and Philadelphia both in the [top five](#) nationally. In 2021, [143](#) Pennsylvanians died from asthma. In 2024, per 100,000 ER visits, asthma accounted for nearly [300](#)—with Black Pennsylvanians experiencing a rate more than [12 times higher](#) than white residents. Since the reconciliation bill passed, [33](#) Pennsylvania health care providers have closed or are at risk.

Trump Attacked Pennsylvania's Clean Water

Pennsylvania's water contamination problem is widespread. A 2023 study found 76% of Pennsylvania rivers and streams and 65% of private wells were [contaminated](#) by PFAS—and a July 2025 study [found](#) PFAS in 18% of private wells. As of September 2025, coal ash was stored at [26](#) current and former power plant sites, and all but one with available data were contaminating groundwater above federal standards. At the Newcastle Generating Station, a 2019 study [found](#) arsenic leaking into groundwater at 372 times the EPA standard.

Trump Cut Pennsylvanians' Health Care

Republicans' cuts to Medicaid and the ACA are leaving Pennsylvania families without coverage at the worst possible time. Over [95,000](#) Pennsylvanians have lost Medicaid since the reconciliation bill passed. Eliminating ACA premium tax credits has left over [420,000](#) residents paying an average of [\\$581](#) more per year and pushed [nearly 20,000](#) out of ACA coverage. [Thirty-three](#) health care providers have closed or are at risk. In a state where [five](#) of its largest cities rank among the worst in the country for asthma, and where Black residents are bearing the [heaviest](#) pollution burden, losing coverage is not an inconvenience—it is a compounding injustice.

TEXAS

Texas is on the front lines of the pollution and health care crises. More than [3.9 million](#) Texans are particularly vulnerable to air pollution—the largest at-risk population of any state in this report. In a state where over [8%](#) of adults have asthma and where seven counties, including the three most populous, [rank](#) among the top 25 worst in the country for air pollution, the scale of Trump's rollbacks is staggering. Nearly [130,000](#) Texans have lost Medicaid coverage since Republicans passed their reconciliation bill, and uncontrolled asthma alone already cost the state more than [\\$2.2 billion](#) in 2023.

Trump Attacked Texas' Clean Air

Trump [exempted](#) six Texas coal plants from pollution protections against mercury, arsenic, and benzene—chemicals that cause brain damage, birth defects, and [cancer](#). Among [them](#): Luminant's Martin Lake Steam Electric Station in Tatum, [responsible](#) for 77 excess deaths, 17 heart attacks, and nearly 3,300 lost work days every year. Five Southern Company plants also [received](#) exemptions. Statewide, 129 Texas [facilities](#)—more than any other state in this report—emitted nearly 86,829 tons of nitrogen oxide in 2024. The 2026 American Lung Association report [found](#) 19 Texas counties received failing ozone grades and 16 [received](#) failing particle pollution grades. The Brownsville-Harlingen-Raymondville area [ranked](#) as the second most polluted in the country for annual particle pollution. In 2023, uncontrolled asthma contributed to over [109,000](#) ER visits and [8,500](#) hospitalizations, costing Texans more than [\\$2.2 billion](#). In 2021, [295](#) people died from asthma—more than any other state in this report. Since the reconciliation bill passed, [29](#) Texas health care providers have closed or are at risk.

Trump Attacked Texas' Clean Water

Trump's water rollbacks are threatening Texas communities. In 2025, EPA data showed that at least [50](#) public water systems in Texas exceeded federal PFAS limits. In February 2025, Johnson County [declared](#) a state of disaster after PFAS was found in soil, groundwater, surface water, and animal tissue at levels [hundreds of times](#) above EPA standards. As of September 2025, coal ash was stored at [19](#) Texas power plant sites, and all but one with available data were contaminating groundwater above federal standards. In November 2025, Trump's EPA proposed giving [11](#) coal-fired plants—including [two](#) in Texas—an additional three years to continue disposing of coal ash in unlined ponds. The San Miguel Electric Plant south of San Antonio [ranked](#) as the most contaminated coal ash site in the entire country in 2022.

Trump Cut Texans' Health Care

Republicans' cuts to Medicaid and the ACA are leaving millions of Texans worse off. Nearly [130,000](#) have lost Medicaid coverage since the reconciliation bill passed. Eliminating ACA premium tax credits has left over [3.7 million](#) Texas residents—by far the largest number of any state in this report—paying an average of [\\$459](#) more per year. [Twenty-nine](#) health care providers have closed or are at risk. In the state with the highest number of at-risk residents, the most NOx-polluting facilities, and the highest asthma death toll in this report, the gutting of health care coverage is not a policy footnote—it is a public health emergency.

WISCONSIN

Wisconsin is on the front lines of the pollution and health care crises. More than [935,000](#) Wisconsinites are particularly vulnerable to air pollution, and more than [9%](#) of the state's adult population lives with asthma. Since Republicans passed their reconciliation bill, over [12,000](#) Wisconsinites have lost Medicaid coverage and more than [11,000](#) fewer have enrolled through the ACA Marketplace. Milwaukee has already been [named](#) the worst city in the country for asthma-related ER visits—and Trump's rollbacks are making the underlying conditions worse.

Trump Attacked Wisconsin's Clean Air

In 2024, 33 Wisconsin [facilities](#) emitted 9,986 tons of nitrogen oxide. The 2026 American Lung Association report found 16 Wisconsin counties—including Milwaukee, Dane, and Waukesha—received [failing grades](#) for ozone pollution, and nine—including Milwaukee, Dane, and Eau Claire—received [failing grades](#) for particle pollution. Milwaukee and Madison [ranked](#) among the top five cities nationally for asthma-related ER visits, with Milwaukee ranking dead last in the country. A 2022 study [found](#) Wisconsin has the third-largest racial disparity in air pollution [exposure](#) in the nation: people of color are [exposed](#) to 44% more particulate matter from industrial sources than white residents, with Black residents facing 67% more exposure. Adults in the lowest income group have nearly [2.5 times](#) the asthma rate of the highest-income group. In 2021, [67](#) Wisconsinites died from asthma. In 2024, there were more than [16,200](#) asthma-related ER visits and over 1,200 hospitalizations statewide. Since the reconciliation bill passed, [8](#) Wisconsin health care providers have closed or are at risk.

Trump Attacked Wisconsin's Clean Water

Wisconsin is facing a widespread PFAS contamination crisis. Nearly 100 public water systems have PFAS levels [above federal standards](#). PFAS has been detected in Eau Claire, Wausau, Madison, La Crosse, and in private wells across multiple communities. In Madison's 2024 water quality report, half the city's wells [tested positive](#) for at least one PFAS chemical. Eau Claire, Rhinelander, Madison, and La Crosse have all [shut down](#) municipal wells due to PFAS contamination. As of September 2025, coal ash was stored at [14](#) Wisconsin power plant sites, and all but one with available data were contaminating groundwater above federal standards. Industry data from 2019 [showed](#) unsafe levels of arsenic, boron, cobalt, lithium, and molybdenum at six Wisconsin coal plants—with contaminants found at levels up to 55 times higher than safe drinking water standards in Milwaukee, Kenosha, Sheboygan, and other communities.

CLIMATE POWER x PROTECT OUR CARE

Trump Cut Wisconsin's Health Care

Republicans' Medicaid and ACA cuts are hitting Wisconsin at a moment when its residents need coverage the most. Over [12,000](#) Wisconsin residents have lost Medicaid coverage since the reconciliation bill passed. Eliminating ACA premium tax credits has left over [270,000](#) residents paying an average of [\\$593](#) more per year, pushing more than [11,000](#) out of the marketplace. [Eight](#) health care providers have closed or are at risk. In the city that [ranks worst](#) in the entire country for asthma ER visits, stripping away health coverage is a direct threat to people's lives—not a side effect of policy, but a predictable and preventable consequence of the choices Trump and Republicans made.