



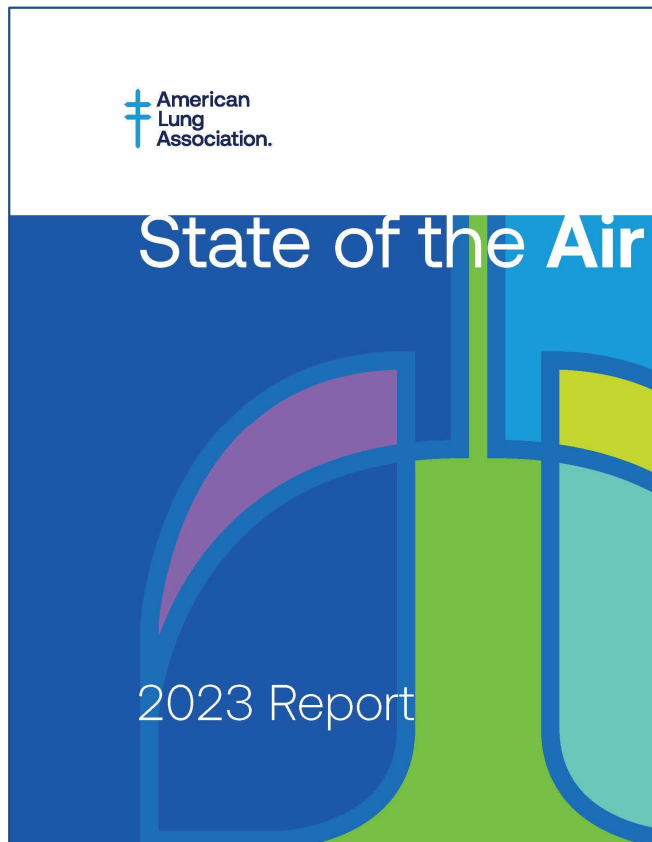
# State of the Air 2023

## Ozone in Colorado

Legislative Interim Committee on Ozone Air Quality

September 22, 2023

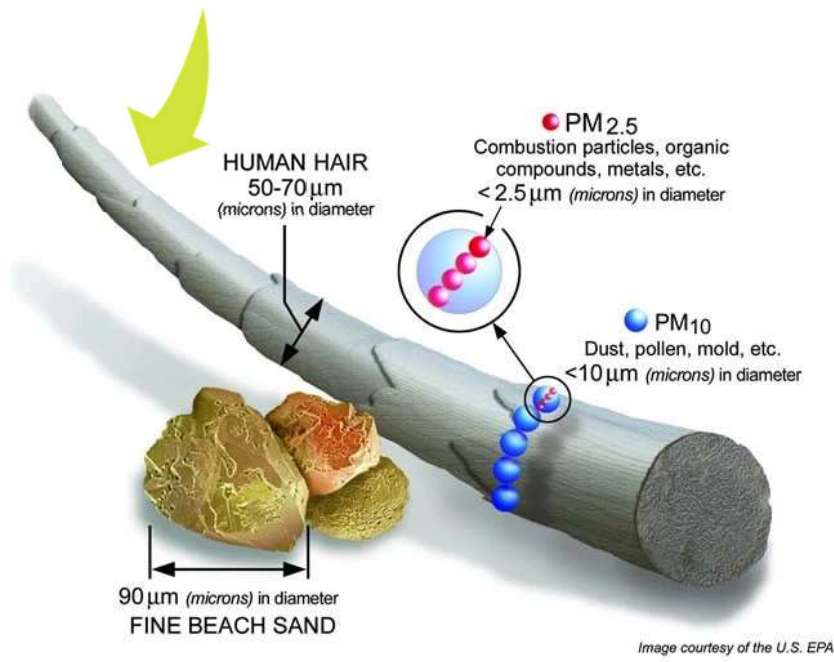
# Our 24th annual report



- Puts air pollution into everyday language
- National & local information
- Focused on particle pollution and ozone
- Grades 922 counties with monitors
- Ranks 25 metro areas for 3

# Particle pollution is a mixture of tiny solid and liquid particles, sometimes called “soot.”

looks like



comes from



Ozone pollution is an odorless, colorless gas that forms most on hot, sunny days, sometimes called “smog.”



# Where “State of the Air” Data Comes From

States Collect Air Pollution Data in  
2019, 2020 & 2021



EPA Reviews & Posts Data Online



We Download Data from EPA



We Calculate Grades & Rankings

# No Monitors = No Data = No Grades

No monitors = no grades. Fewer than 1/3 of counties nationally have monitors

- Not all counties with monitors have both ozone & particle monitors
- EPA & states decide which counties get monitors
- No data = no grades. Some counties with monitors have problems reporting data
- 19 of 64 Colorado counties reported ozone data

# What do “State of the Air” grades mean?

**A** = 0 days with unhealthy levels over 3 years

**B** = 1 to 2 unhealthy days

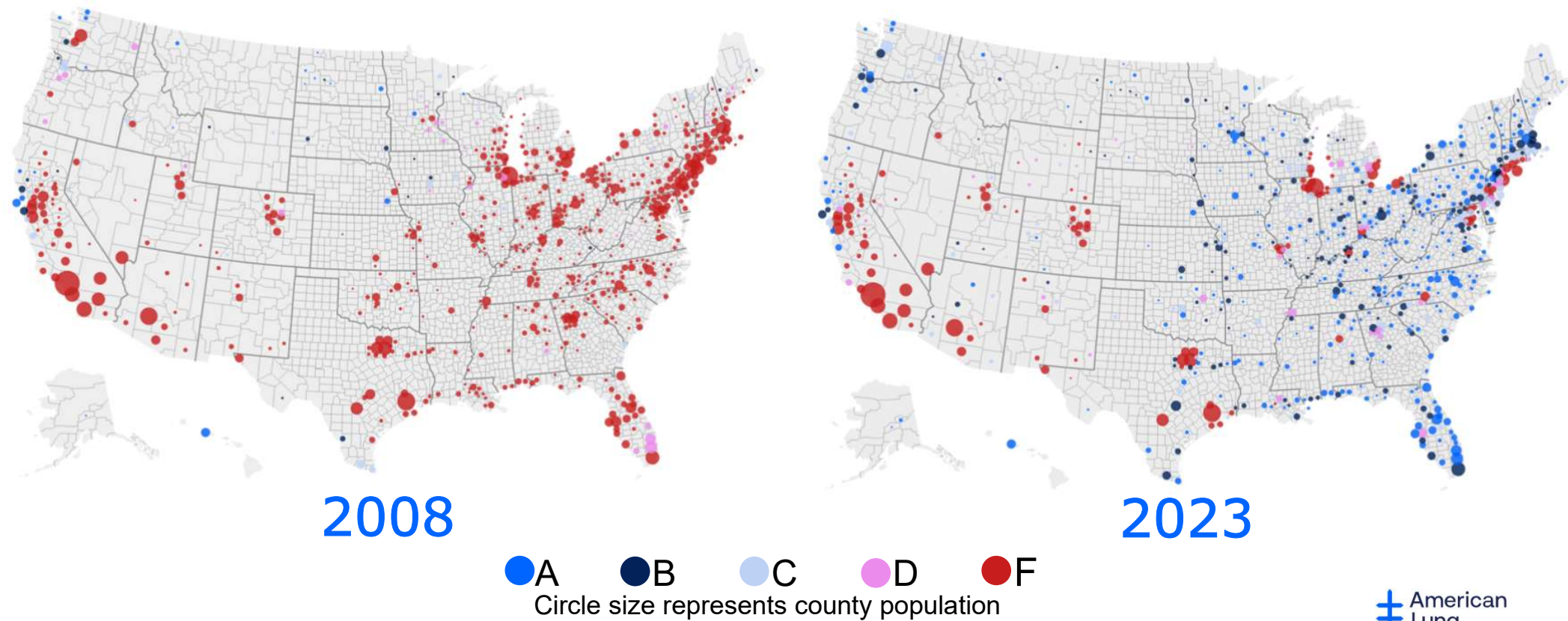
**C** = 3 to 6 unhealthy days

**D** = 7 to 9 unhealthy days

**F** = 9 or more unhealthy days

# National Ozone Trends 2008 to 2023

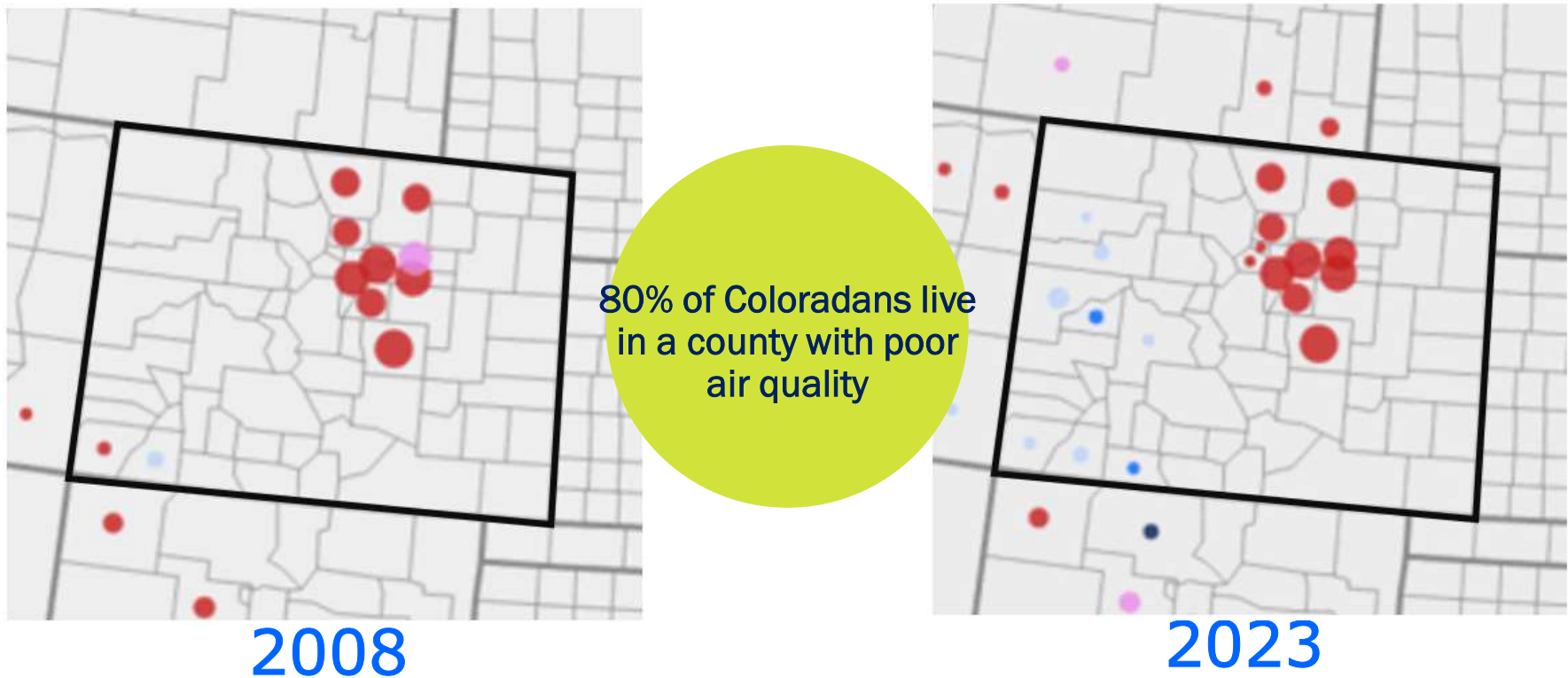
Population by County & Ozone Grade





# Colorado Ozone Trends 2008 to 2023

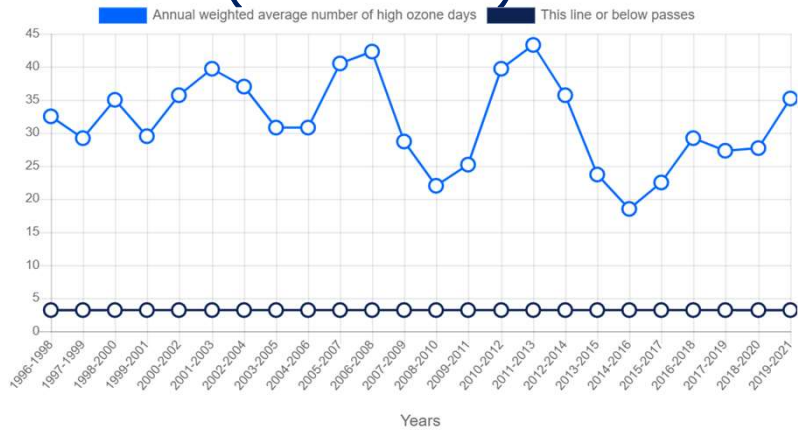
## Population by County & Ozone Grade



● A ● B ● C ● D ● F  
Circle size represents county population

# SOTA 2023 Colorado Ozone Trends

## DENVER (6<sup>TH</sup> WORST)

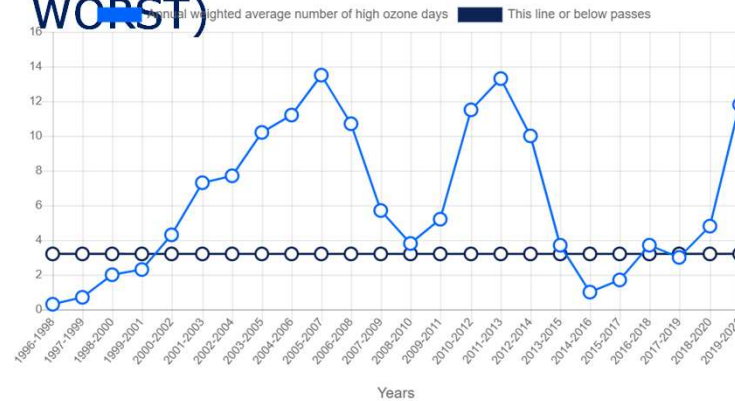


3 Colorado Cities Ranked Among "Smoggiest Cities"

## FORT COLLINS (15<sup>TH</sup> WORST)



## COLORADO SPRINGS (20<sup>TH</sup> WORST)



# SOTA 2023 County-Level Ozone Grades

County	Grade	Wgt. Avg.	Orange Days	Red Days	Purple Days
Jefferson	F	35.2	83	15	0
Douglas	F	23.3	55	10	0
Arapahoe	F	18.8	49	5	0
Larimer	F	16.2	44	3	0
Boulder	F	15.0	42	2	0
Denver	F	13.7	38	2	0
Weld	F	12.8	37	1	0
El Paso	F	11.8	34	1	0
Adams	F	10.8	31	1	0
Gilpin	F	9.8	28	1	0
Clear Creek	F	5.3	16	0	0

Jefferson County  
Ranked 8<sup>th</sup> Worst  
Nationally

↑  
‡28%  
‡98%  
‡46%  
184%

# SOTA 2023 County-Level Ozone Grades

3 Counties Had Better Ozone Grades in 2023

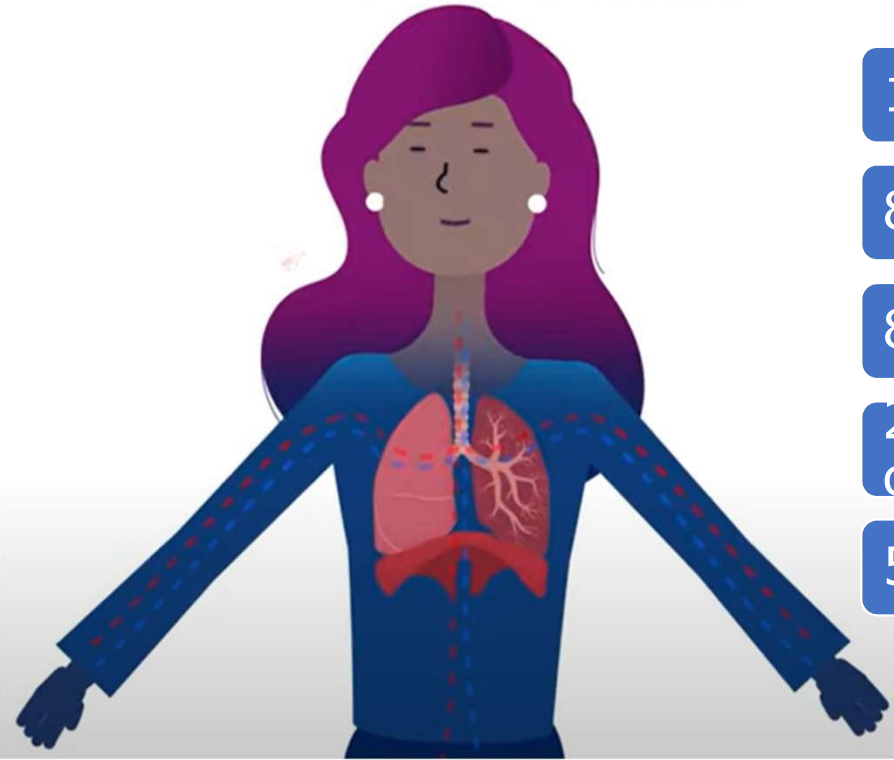
County	Grade	Wgt. Avg.	Orange Days	Red Days	Purple Days
Rio Blanco	C	1.7	5	0	0
Montezuma	C	1.3	4	0	0
Garfield	C	1.0	3	0	0
Gunnison	C	1.0	3	0	0
La Plata	C	1.0	3	0	0
Mesa	C	1.0	3	0	0
Archuleta	A	0.0	0	0	0
Delta	A	0.0	0	0	0

↓ 84%

↓ 60%

↓ 57%

# Who is most at risk in Colorado?



1.2 million children

880,000 adults over the age of 65

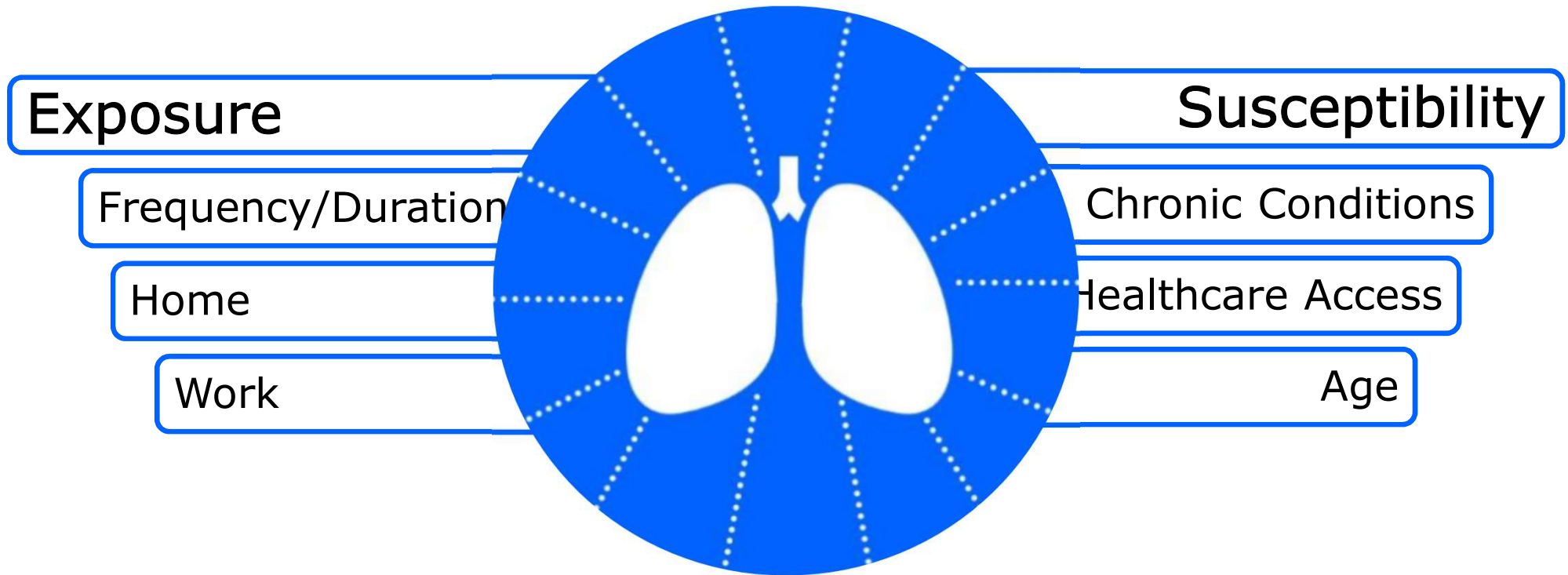
82,000 children and teens with asthma

257,000 adults with cardiovascular disease

554,000 people living in poverty

Everyone knows someone at risk from air pollution.

# Ozone Risk Considerations



Everyone knows someone at risk from air pollution.

# Disproportionate Impacts of Air Pollution



People of color are more likely to be exposed to air pollution and more likely to suffer harm to their health from air pollution than white people.






**3.7X**

People of color were **3.7 times as likely** as white people to live in a county with 3 failing grades.








# Health Impact of Ozone Pollution Exposure



## Immediate

-  Chest tightness & coughing
-  Shortness of breath
-  Asthma attacks
-  ER visits & hospitalizations
-  Susceptibility to infections

## Long-Term

-  New asthma cases in children
-  Airway damage & COPD
-  Metabolic disorders
-  Cognitive decline
-  Preterm birth & low birth weight
-  Reduced fertility
-  Premature death



# Lung.org/SOTA

The screenshot shows the top section of the American Lung Association's State of the Air 2023 report page. The header includes the organization's logo and name, the year '2023', and a navigation menu with links for 'Report Cards', 'Key Findings', 'Health Impact', 'Recommendations', and 'For The Media'. A 'TRANSLATE' button and a location pin icon are also present. The main content area features the title 'State of the Air' and a paragraph explaining the report's purpose. Below the text are social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, email, and print. A large, colorful graphic of a stylized lung is visible on the right side of the page.

**American Lung Association.**  
State of the Air

2023

[Report Cards](#) [Key Findings](#) [Health Impact](#) [Recommendations](#) [For The Media](#)

[Back to Lung.org](#) [TRANSLATE](#)

## State of the Air

For 24 years, the American Lung Association has analyzed data from official air quality monitors to compile the State of the Air report. The more you learn about the air you breathe, the more you can protect your health and take steps to make the air cleaner and healthier.

American Lung Association.