



## The Health Risks of Breathing Oregon's Air

### FEDERAL NATIONAL AIR TOXICS ASSESSMENT DATA (NATA)

- Oregon has the third largest population in the country at extreme risk from toxic pollution. This level of toxic pollution corresponds with more than 100 in a million excess cancers, while the standard for “unreasonable risk” is 1 in a million.<sup>1</sup> The results of the most recent 2005 NATA show a similarly stark picture.
- No county in Oregon was below the unreasonable risk value.
- Approximately 3.2 million Oregonians live in counties with risk values twice the standard.
- This problem is even worse in urban areas: Lane, Marion, Jackson, Clackamas, Multnomah, and Washington counties: **approximately 2.2 million Oregonians, have an average cancer risk value four times the standard.**

### OREGON DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY DATA

- Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) as part of the Portland Air Toxics Solution (PATs) program estimates the toxic pollution throughout the metro area.
- DEQ found that for the metro area, 19 pollutants are above DEQ's benchmark values, which correspond with levels of unreasonable risk.
- In some instances, levels of single pollutants are 100 times these benchmark levels.
- In some neighborhoods, total toxic pollution corresponds with nearly 800 in a million excess cancers.

### 2008 SCHOOL AND INDUSTRIAL POLLUTION STUDY

- Scientists and researchers from the University of Massachusetts – Amherst, Johns Hopkins, and the University of Maryland School of Public Health.
- Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) data and modeling program to estimate toxic exposure. The study used schools to compare different areas of the country.
- No school in Portland ranked better than the bottom 30% in the country
- Throughout Oregon, 116 schools ranked in the bottom 10%.
- Title V sources were significant contributors to toxic pollution at 96, or 83%, of these schools.
- Title V sources were the most significant contributor at 37, or 32%, of these schools