

EPA Fails to Protect Americans from Particle Pollution: American Thoracic Society

Dec. 8, 2020 - Today, the EPA chose to ignore the mounting evidence of the adverse health effects of particulate matter pollution and announced that the Agency will retain the current exposure standard.

“As a scientist who studies air pollution and as a doctor who treats patients with asthma and COPD who are especially susceptible to air pollution, I am deeply disappointed in the EPA’s decision to retain the current standard,” said ATS Environmental Health Policy Committee Chair Mary B Rice, MD MPH. “The evidence clearly shows adverse health effects, including premature death, at levels below the current standard. In retaining the current standard, EPA has ignored this evidence and failed to meet its statutory obligation to protect the health of Americans, especially the elderly and those with chronic diseases, from the dangers of air pollution.”

“While air pollution affects everyone, it is an acute threat for minority, urban and low-income communities,” noted ATS Health Equality and Diversity Committee Chair Neeta Thakur, MD. “Setting a more protective EPA particulate matter air pollution standard is one of the many steps the incoming Biden Administration must take to address the persistent racial health inequalities in America.”

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