

Article 1. How is Asthma Related to the Neighbourhood You Live In?

Do you have asthma? In the US, asthma is more common in **communities** of colour. But why is that? People of colour are more likely to live in **neighbourhoods** with worse air quality and more **poverty**. But this is only the start of the answer. Why are those neighbourhoods like that?

A discriminatory system from 85 years ago labelled Black and Hispanic neighbourhoods as worse (lower grade) than white neighbourhoods. This meant these neighbourhoods received less investment (money) than white neighbourhoods. Scientists wanted to find out if this grading system from the past might relate to asthma rates in these neighbourhoods today.

It was found that asthma emergencies are more common in those neighbourhoods that were once labelled low grade. So was air pollution, the percentage of people living in poverty, and the percentage of people of colour. A discriminatory plan from many years ago may be one of the underlying causes of asthma emergencies among people of colour today.

To fight asthma, we need to uplift all communities, especially those harmed by the lowgrade label. We also need to ensure that outlawed and outdated policies are not still harming people living in these places.



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