Eighth Virtual North American Student Congress

Toxic Zoning and Tribal Health: Environmental Justice as the Foundation of Healthcare Equity



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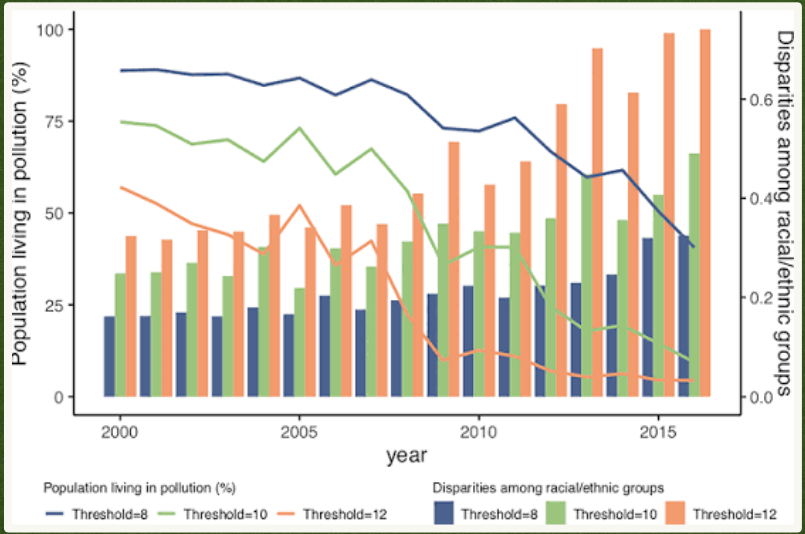
The Policy Map



(Jbaily et al., 2022)

Navajo Nation (Utah and New Mexico Only)	Percent of Population in a ½ Mile Radius	Percent of Population Below Poverty Line
Native American Population on Tribal land	7%	42%
Total State Population - Utah and New Mexico	3%	15%

(Clean Air Task Force, 2018)

Environmental Injustice → Clinical Implications



(01) Industrial zoning introduces fine particulate matter (PM2.5) and industrial runoff into community air and local aquifers (B.S. in Environmental Science, Institute of Environment and Sustainability, 2021).

(02) Toxic exposure directly increases local rates of pediatric asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), and specialized cancer.

(03) Traditional healthcare treats these clinical symptoms with medication but the systemic and legislative injustice remains buried.



Can True Healthcare Equity Exist Without Legislative Justice?

Achieving clinical inclusion requires addressing environmental racism at its roots. Future leaders in STEM, medicine, and government must unite not only to recognize but to realize that the air we breathe and the land we luve on are the absolute foundations of global health equity.

References

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Thank you for your attention!

Do you have any questions?



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