

**Client Deliverable**

**Walking to school is more than just a means of transportation— it is a step towards a healthier future for our children and our community**

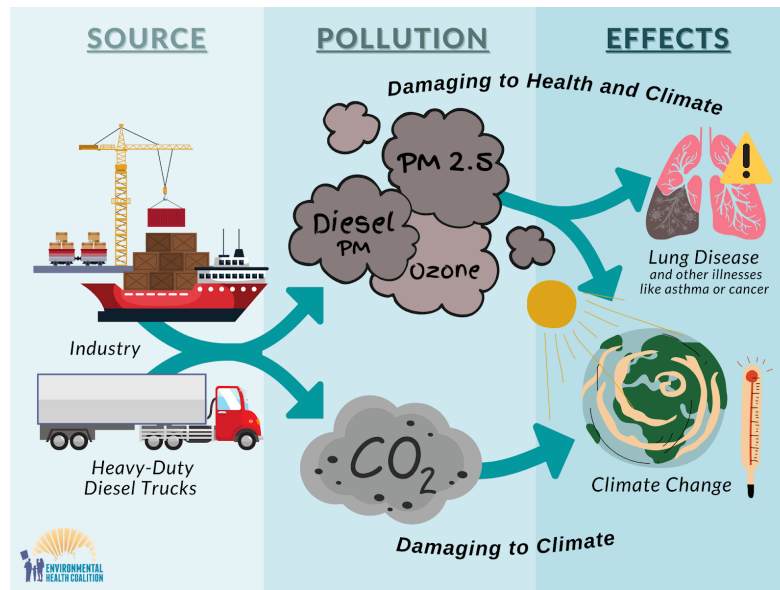


Image retrieved from *Environmental Health Coalition*.

School neighborhoods face air quality concerns attributed to vehicle emissions. In an attempt to find out the air quality outside or in the car perceived by children during their commute, a group of students from the University of Toronto have conducted an air quality assessment around Secord Elementary School for a period of four weeks. The results suggested that the outdoor ozone, fine particulate matter (2.5  $\mu\text{m}$ ), and carbon dioxide levels were not significantly worse during the drop-off hours compared to weekends without any car traffic outside the school. In addition, naphthalene, a possible carcinogenic compound, was higher in the air inside the car than outside. The increased traffic during drop-off hours caused elevated levels of naphthalene on weekdays compared to weekends. However, all the observed levels of naphthalene were well below standards for safety concerns, and are not a cause for alarm. Choosing to walk or bike to school not only prioritizes the well-being of the children but will also contribute to creating a cleaner, more vibrant neighborhood. Lace up those sneakers, grab your child's / children's hands, and take a collective stride towards a healthier, happier future!

Reference:

1. (2023, November 18). Environmental Health Coalition.

<https://www.environmentalhealth.org/>