Global Warming & Lung Health

Global warming is already affecting California and is projected to cause further damage and injury in decades to come. Rising temperatures and worsening air quality will threaten lung health in a number of ways, as mapped out in the diagram below:

**Vulnerable Populations**
(e.g. children, the elderly, low income communities, communities of color)
already most impacted by air pollution will face the greatest burden of global warming.

**Heat Waves**
will increase in length, frequency and intensity in California.

**Wildfires**
and smoke exposure (fine particulates) will increase as hotter, dryer conditions are more prevalent in California.

**Hospitalizations & Premature Deaths**
will increase as rising temperatures worsen California’s air quality and exacerbate respiratory conditions.

**Particulate Pollution**
emissions will rise with increased energy demand, while black carbon (soot) particles also significantly contribute to global warming.

**Ozone**
will pose a continuing health risk as higher temperatures lead to increased emissions and accelerate ozone formation.

**Asthma & Allergy**
sufferers will face higher levels of ozone and pollen over a longer span of the year.

**As a physician I know the value of prevention. Our strongest actions today are needed to reduce the threat of more extreme heat events, worsening air quality, increased wildfires and other serious public health impacts from climate change and to ensure a healthy tomorrow.**

- David Pepper, MD, Volunteer, American Lung Association
UCSF Associate Professor in Family and Community Medicine

For more information:
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