

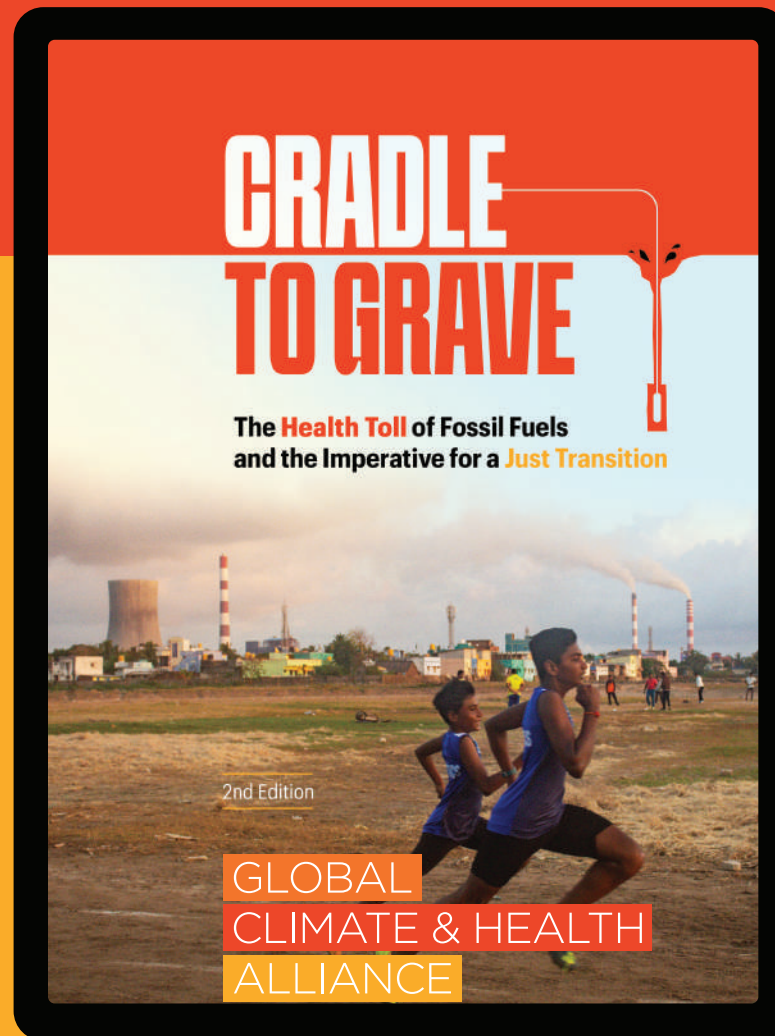


## GLOBAL CLIMATE & HEALTH ALLIANCE

The Global Climate and Health Alliance unites +200 organisations and partners, representing 46 million health workers (doctors, nurses, clinicians, therapists, health advocates, researchers, public health and policy experts) across +125 countries.

<https://climateandhealthalliance.org/>

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# LANDMARK GLOBAL REPORT

Combines a **global review of evidence** with **case studies** and **personal testimonies**

Reviewed by **15 experts** from **medicine, public health, toxicology, law, public policy and climate**

Scan the QR code to read the full report in

English



Español



Français



Português



More information



## FOSSIL FUEL HARMS BY AGE AND STAGE

### Childhood

- Risks of leukemia, asthma, and lasting lung damage.
- Can harm brain development, lowering IQ and affect mental health.
- Poorer and marginalized children face greater exposure and fewer protections.

### Pre-birth

- In pregnancy, fossil fuel harms raise the risk of miscarriage, preterm birth, low birth weight, and birth defects.
- Exposure to coal, oil, gas, traffic fumes, or benzene can harm fetal brain, heart, and lung development, and can increase childhood cancer risk.
- Pregnant people face higher rates of complications, including pre-eclampsia, gestational diabetes, and fertility problems.

## HEALTH HARMS OF FOSSIL FUEL FROM EXPLORATION TO CLOSURE

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At every stage of their lifecycle, fossil fuels cause severe health harms, many of which are long-lasting and bioaccumulative

### Extraction

Mining, drilling, fracking:  
Releases dust, methane, VOCs, heavy metals, radioactive materials

## FOSSIL FUEL HARMS ON THE HUMAN BODY

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### Brain and Nervous System

Cognitive decline, Developmental delays, Lower IQ, Dementia, Parkinson's disease, Depression



### Lungs and Airways

Asthma, COPD, Lung cancer, Reduced lung function, Chronic bronchitis



### Liver and Kidneys

Kidney disease, Liver toxicity, Organ damage



### Heart and Cardiovascular

Heart disease, Stroke, High blood pressure

### Reproductive System

**Male:**  
Reduced fertility, Hormonal disruption

**Female:**  
Infertility, Miscarriage, Preterm birth, Birth defects



### Blood / Bone Marrow

Leukemia, Lymphoma, other blood cancers

### Immune System

Weakened immunity, Higher infection risk



### Mental Health

Anxiety, Depression, PTSD (disasters, displacement), Developmental impacts

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## KEY FINDINGS

- Fossil fuel-related pollution **affects every stage of life, from fetal development to old age**
- Fossil fuel health harms are **unevenly and unjustly distributed in communities and across nations**
- Fossil fuels cause harm at **every stage of their life cycle** - from extraction and refining to transport, combustion and disposal
- Fossil fuels drive **wider societal health impacts and exacerbate other pre-existing health disparities in communities and between nations**
- Harm doesn't end with initial exposure: **the health impacts of fossil fuels are persistent and systemic**
- **Climate policy and health policies have largely ignored** these multidimensional health harms of fossil fuels