

Sample discussion questions following the screening. Customize based on your audience.

1. [5.5 million children and 19.2 million adults](#) living in the US have asthma. Does anyone here have asthma, or have a loved one with asthma? Could you describe what kinds of challenges you or your loved one(s) face living with asthma?
2. Air pollution can trigger asthma attacks, in addition to cause a range of other health issues – including heart attacks, strokes, lung cancer and even early death. Even though we know air pollution causes health issues, nearly half of Americans still breathe unhealthy air, and that burden isn't evenly shared. Low-income communities and communities of color – which represent most of the population of the South Bronx neighborhood featured in “Asthma Alley,” face disproportionate risks from air pollution and climate change. What can we do to help bring awareness to the fact that air pollution harms our health – particularly the health of low-income communities and communities of color?
3. Do you think it's commonly known that climate change harms our health in a number of ways – including by worsening air pollution and pollen season? What can be done to spread awareness about the ways that climate change worsens air quality and harms health?
4. Many communities of color and low-income communities face higher risks from air pollution due several key factors.
 - a. First, groups may face greater exposure to pollution for a number of reasons - ranging from racism to class bias to housing market dynamics and land costs. For example, pollution sources tend to be located near disadvantaged communities, increasing exposure to harmful pollutants.
 - b. Second, low socioeconomic status may make some groups more susceptible to health threats because of factors related to their disadvantage. Lack of access to health care, grocery stores and good jobs; poorer job opportunities; dirtier workplaces; and higher traffic exposure are among the factors that could handicap groups and increase the risk of harm.
 - c. Finally, existing health conditions, behaviors or traits may predispose some groups to greater risk. For example, African Americans, Mexican Americans and people living near a central city have higher incidence of diabetes, and people with diabetes are more vulnerable to the health harms of air pollution.
 - d. QUESTION: Have you experienced any of these factors making your community more vulnerable to air pollution? For example, do you live near a highway or power plant?
5. How can help ensure healthy air and a livable climate for all communities, especially those most at risk?
 - a. What can we do as a community?
 - b. What should decision-makers do?
6. Would anyone like to share about the efforts they are personally taking to help protect or fight for clean air and/or climate solutions?
7. *Note for the discussion organizer/moderator: Depending on the audience, consider ending the discussion by sharing one or some of these action opportunities.*



Raise your voice to protect health from air pollution and climate change with the American Lung Association. Ways you can make a difference today:

- Sign up to Stand Up for Clean Air at [Lung.org/air](https://lung.org/air) and we'll send you tips on how you can make a difference on healthy air and climate change.
- Sign this [petition](#) calling for stronger limits on ozone and particle pollution.
- [Tell Congress: Commit to keeping the Clean Air Act in place.](#)
- [Share your story](#) about how air pollution affects you.

If you are a health or medical professional interested in safeguarding healthy air for your patients, check out the American Lung Association's [Health Professionals for Clean Air and Climate Action website](#) to learn more about resources and opportunities specifically for health professionals looking to get involved!

Learn more about how air pollution and climate change affect health.

- [Check out our 10 Tips to Protect Yourself from Unhealthy Air.](#)
- Get more information about [outdoor air pollution](#).
- Get more information about [climate change & air pollution](#).
- [Get more information about communities and groups at a higher risk from the health impacts of air pollution.](#)

Find out about the quality of the air in your own community with the American Lung Association's [2020 "State of the Air" report](#).

To access tips and resources for hosting a healthy air film screening through the Healthy Air Activist Toolkit, visit [Lung.org/activist-toolkit](https://lung.org/activist-toolkit).