

# 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.**



## Adolescence

- Key developmental stage where exposure to fossil fuel pollutants can have lasting health effects.
- PAH exposure linked to **altered puberty timing**; overall risks likely underestimated due to limited adolescent-specific research.



## Adulthood

In addition to aforementioned fossil fuel harms, adults tend to take the most hazardous, high-exposure roles in the fossil fuel industry, with **long-term health consequences.**



## Elderly

Fossil fuel pollution worsens chronic diseases, raises **dementia and Parkinson's risk**, and contributes to **premature death.**