

## WE ACT'S MISSION

Since 1988, we have worked to build healthy communities by ensuring that people of color and/or low income participate meaningfully in the creation of sound and fair environmental health and protection policies and practices.



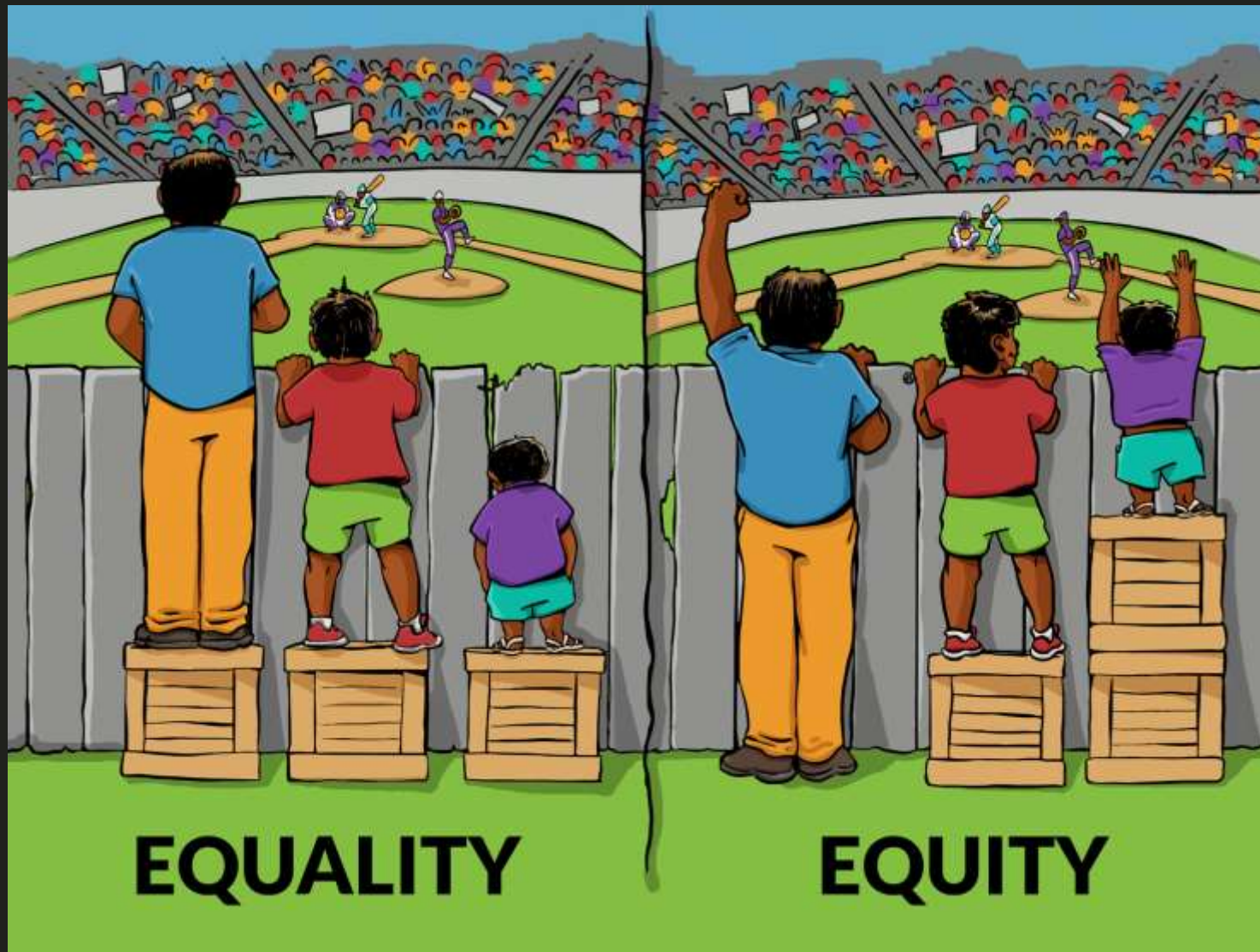
# WE ACT On The Updated PM NAAQS

*“While we commend the new soot pollution standard, we won’t stop fighting until we stamp out all forms of air pollution that make our communities sick and cut our lives short. Clean air is our right, and clean air is our fight. “*  
– Anastasia Gordon, federal policy director at WE ACT for Environmental Justice.

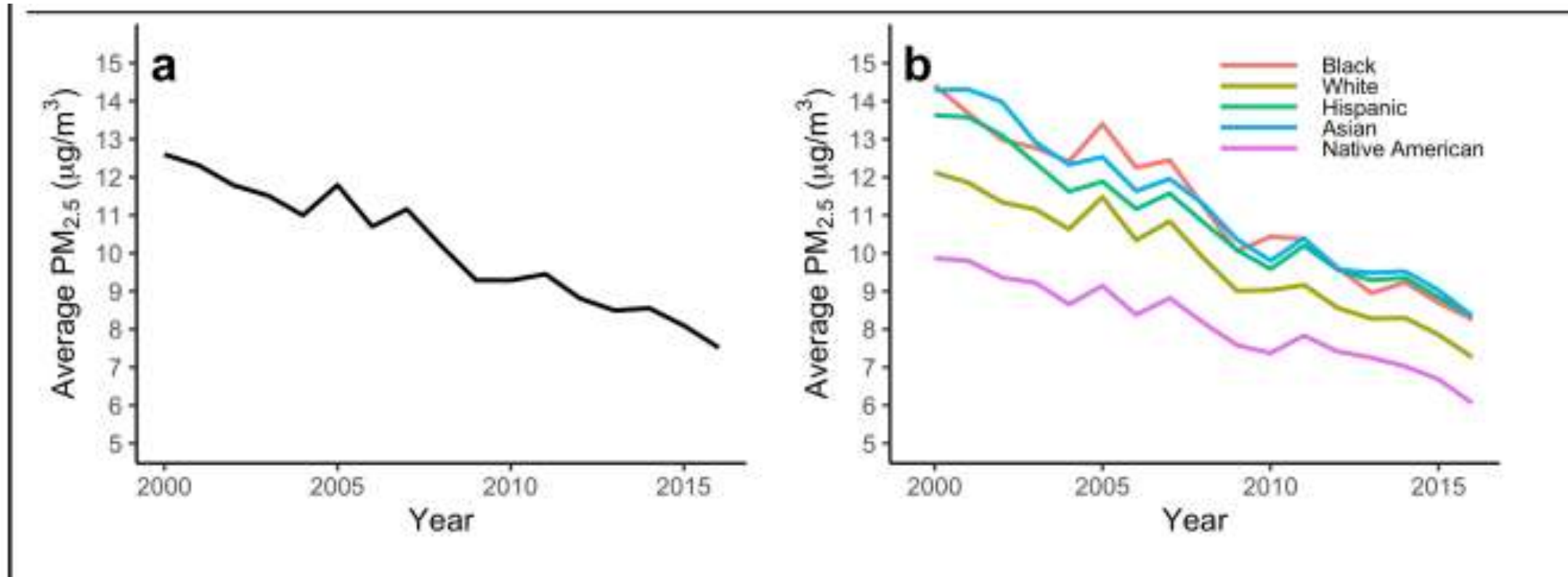
“Our members live, work and advocate in communities that are unequally and adversely impacted by particulate matter pollution, from rail hubs in Kansas City, incinerators in Louisiana, and hazardous industrial facilities and highways crisscrossing Black, Brown, immigrant, and working class neighborhoods across the country. This new rule will save thousands of lives, but science says the more stringent annual standard for Particulate Matter (PM) of 8 micrograms per cubic meter ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ) would save many more, especially in the most polluted communities of color.”

- Clean Air for The Long Haul PM NAAQS Statement

# THE IMPORTANCE OF EQUITY

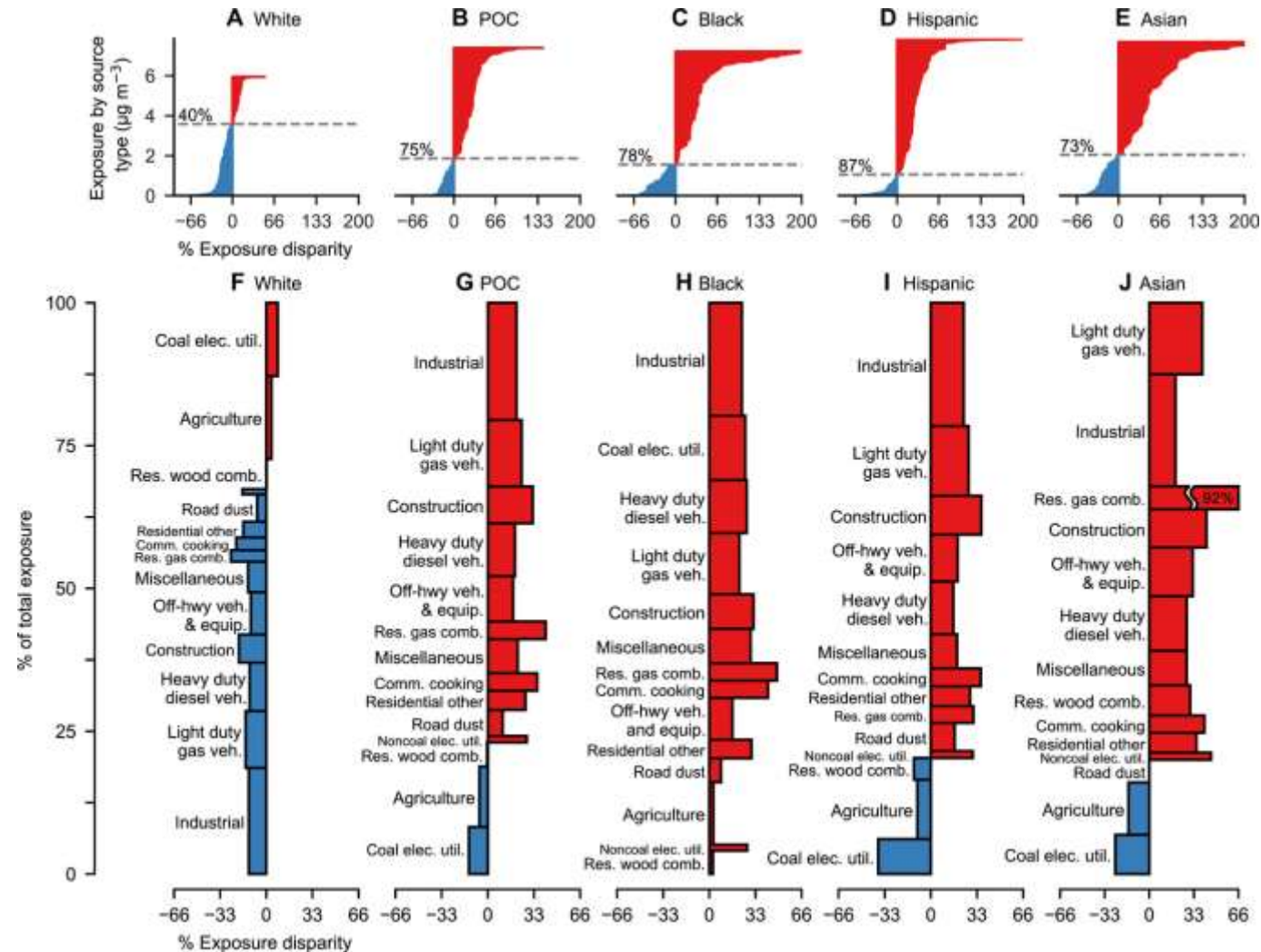


# Racial Disparities in Air Pollution



Jbaily, A., Zhou, X., Liu, J. *et al.* Air pollution exposure disparities across US population and income groups. *Nature* **601**, 228–233 (2022).

# Location Matters



Tessum, C. W., Paoella, D. A., Chambliss, S. E., Apte, J. S., Hill, J. D., & Marshall, J. D. (2021). PM2.5 pollutants disproportionately and systemically affect people of color in the United States. *Science Advances*, 7(18), eabf4491.

# EPA Modeling

Population Groups	Populations (Ages)	12/35	10/35	10/30	9/35	8/35
Reference	All (0-99)	7.2	7.1	7.1	7.0	6.9
Race	White (0-99)	7.1	7.0	7.0	7.0	6.8
	American Indian (0-99)	6.7	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.5
	Asian (0-99)	7.7	7.6	7.5	7.4	7.2
	Black (0-99)	7.4	7.4	7.4	7.3	7.1
Ethnicity	Non-Hispanic (0-99)	7.0	6.9	6.9	6.9	6.7
	Hispanic (0-99)	7.9	7.7	7.7	7.6	7.5
Poverty Status	Above the poverty line (0-99)	7.2	7.1	7.1	7.0	6.9
	Below poverty line (0-99)	7.2	7.2	7.2	7.1	7.0
Educational Attainment	More educated (HS or more) (25-99)	7.1	7.1	7.0	7.0	6.8
	Less educated (no HS) (25-99)	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.2	7.0
Age	Children (0-17)	7.2	7.2	7.2	7.1	6.9
	Adults (18-64)	7.2	7.2	7.2	7.1	6.9
	Older Adults (64-99)	7.0	6.9	6.9	6.9	6.7
Sex	Females (0-99)	7.2	7.1	7.1	7.1	6.9
	Males (0-99)	7.2	7.1	7.1	7.0	6.9

**Figure 6-1 Heat Map of National Average Annual PM<sub>2.5</sub> Concentrations (µg/m<sup>3</sup>) by Demographic for Current and Alternative PM NAAQS Levels (10/35, 10/30, 9/35, and 8/35) After Application of Controls**

# EPA Modeling

Population Groups	Populations (Ages)	12/35-10/35	12/35-10/30	12/35-9/35	12/35-8/35
Reference	All (0-99)	0.05	0.06	0.12	0.27
Race	White (0-99)	0.05	0.06	0.12	0.25
	American Indian (0-99)	0.05	0.06	0.10	0.21
	Asian (0-99)	0.11	0.12	0.23	0.42
	Black (0-99)	0.04	0.04	0.13	0.29
Ethnicity	Non-Hispanic (0-99)	0.03	0.04	0.10	0.24
	Hispanic (0-99)	0.12	0.12	0.21	0.38
Poverty Status	Above the poverty line (0-99)	0.05	0.06	0.12	0.27
	Below poverty line (0-99)	0.06	0.06	0.13	0.27
Educational Attainment	More educated (HS or more) (25-99)	0.05	0.06	0.12	0.26
	Less educated (no HS) (25-99)	0.08	0.09	0.16	0.30
Age	Children (0-17)	0.05	0.06	0.13	0.27
	Adults (18-64)	0.06	0.06	0.13	0.28
	Older Adults (64-99)	0.05	0.05	0.11	0.24
Sex	Females (0-99)	0.05	0.06	0.13	0.27
	Males (0-99)	0.05	0.06	0.12	0.27

**Figure 6-5 Heat Map of National Reductions in Average Annual PM<sub>2.5</sub> Concentrations ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ) for Demographic Groups When Moving from Current to Alternative PM NAAQS Levels After Application of Controls**

# EPA Modeling

		12/35	10/35	10/30	9/35	8/35
Race/Ethnicity	White	186	185	185	184	181
	American Indian	190	188	188	187	185
	Asian	165	160	160	158	154
	Black	581	579	578	572	559
	Non-Hispanic	217	215	215	214	210
	Hispanic	236	232	232	230	226

**Figure 6-11 Heat Map of National Average Annual Total Mortality Rates (per 100K) for Demographic Groups for Current and Alternative PM NAAQS Levels After Application of Controls**

		12/35-10/35	12/35-10/30	12/35-9/35	12/35-8/35
Race/Ethnicity	White	1.0	1.2	2.6	6.0
	American Indian	1.4	1.6	2.6	5.2
	Asian	4.8	5.0	7.5	11.9
	Black	3.4	3.6	11.5	25.6
	Non-Hispanic	1.2	1.3	3.2	7.3
	Hispanic	4.1	4.3	6.5	11.0

**Figure 6-15 Heat Map of National Average Annual Mortality Rate Reductions (per 100k) for Demographic Groups When Moving from Current to Alternative PM NAAQS Levels After Application of Controls**



# Summary

- People of color face higher levels of air pollution across the board.
  - Air pollution mitigation strategies have lowered this across the board, but racial disparities remain
- New PM standards will save large number of lives and lead to better health outcomes for communities of color.
  - It's not good enough! Environmental justice communities deal with incredible cumulative burdens from environmental racism that require bold and strong actions to address.
  - Equality vs Equity
- Upcoming rulemakings can also help PM pollution
  - Light Duty Vehicle rules
  - Mercury and Air Toxics
  - Clear Air Act Power Plant Rules

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