

**MiCCA Statement regarding proposed
National Particle Pollution Standards
1/7/2023**

[Michigan Clinicians for Climate Action](#) (MiCCA) strongly encourages the EPA to strengthen the proposed SOOT standards to the level set by the Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee of 8 µg/m³ annually and a 24-hour range of 25 µg/m³ to ensure the health and well-being of citizens throughout the United States.

According to a report from the [Environmental Defense Fund](#), an annual standard of 8 ug/m³ could avoid 19,000 premature deaths annually within the US and prevent 46,000 emergency department visits for pediatric asthma, while strengthening the 24-hour standard, would protect against dangerous short-term spikes in air pollution

In addition to asthma related illness, fine particulate pollution has been correlated with [cognitive abnormalities](#) in older adults, an increased incidence of [preterm delivery, low birth weight, and still birth in the U.S.](#) and increased risk of [dying from COVID19](#) if infected.

Strengthening the proposed fine particle standards is critical to meeting President Biden's Environmental Justice goals because fine particle pollution disproportionately impacts populations of color living near polluting industries. According to a recent report from the [Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America](#), Black Americans are five times more likely to require an ER visit for asthma and three times more likely to die from asthma.

Michigan practitioners treat patients suffering the consequences of fine particulate pollution in our clinics and hospitals on a daily basis, especially among populations of color living in urban areas experiencing higher levels of fine particulate pollution.

For example, [the Michigan Department of Health & Human Services \(MDHHS\)](#) found that in Detroit the rate of hospitalizations for asthma was at least four times greater than the rest of the state and the rate of emergency department visits among children was twice as high when compared to the state as a whole. In 2019, Black residents in Detroit were three times more likely to be hospitalized for asthma when compared to white people.

In summary, as practitioners protecting the health of our patients, especially those disproportionately impacted by particulate pollution, [Michigan Clinicians for Climate](#)

[Action](#) (MiCCA) calls on the EPA to finalize the strongest possible standards, consistent with the consensus data provided above and elsewhere.