

# Types of Environmental Racism

Link your picture to one of these terms and describe its impact on Black, Brown and Indigenous communities in the United States? Think about your home, community, workplace and/or union.

## 1. Air Pollution

People of color and the poor in urban area, who are likely to lack health insurance, are exposed to elevated levels of air pollutants that may lead to greater health impacts from air pollution.

## 2. Lack of Access to Clean Water

Due to decrease funding on infrastructure and regulation, many communities of color are exposed to high level of contamination of their water sources. Lack of accountability leads to water pipes on low-income neighborhoods to be outdated and containing harmful substances.

## 3. Climate Migration (Climigration)

As temperature and sea levels have risen due to climate change, governments around the world are facing massive human displacement without any mechanism to address it.

## 4. Food Production

Low income families, who tend to be disproportionately people of color, are forced to spend a bigger proportion of their income on food than higher income families. Food chain contamination occurs through introduction of toxic substances into the environment.

## 5. Extreme Weather

Extreme weather events, such as heatwaves, extreme cold, droughts and flood are expected to increase in frequency and intensity due to climate change. Due to increase in the temperature, there is increased risk in cardiovascular deaths (with risks higher for African Americans). Low-income urban neighborhoods and communities of color are particularly vulnerable to because they are often segregated in the inner city, where dark-colored materials, such as asphalt, used for construction absorb heat and do not allow it to dissipate at the same rate as soil, grass, forests, and other less industrial materials. As heatwaves increase, low income families and people of color are less likely to have access to air-conditioning leading to disproportionate risk of heat-related illness and death.

## 6. Gentrification

Gentrification describes the movement of wealthier individuals and families (often White) into urban, working class neighborhoods. This results in an increase in property values and rents that often displaces low-income, black and brown inhabitants and businesses who are then forced to move to other neighborhoods where environmental degradation is worse.

## 7. Toxins in the Community and Workplace

The communities beset by hazardous pollution and toxins tend to be poor and disproportionately black, brown and indigenous communities. Due to entrenched segregation, many hazardous waste and toxic facilities end up in these communities, leading residents to experience health and wellness problems. Research describes the analysis of all permitted industrial facilities across the United States who that polluters, including commercial hazardous waste facilities, disproportionately expose communities of color and low-income populations to chemical releases.