

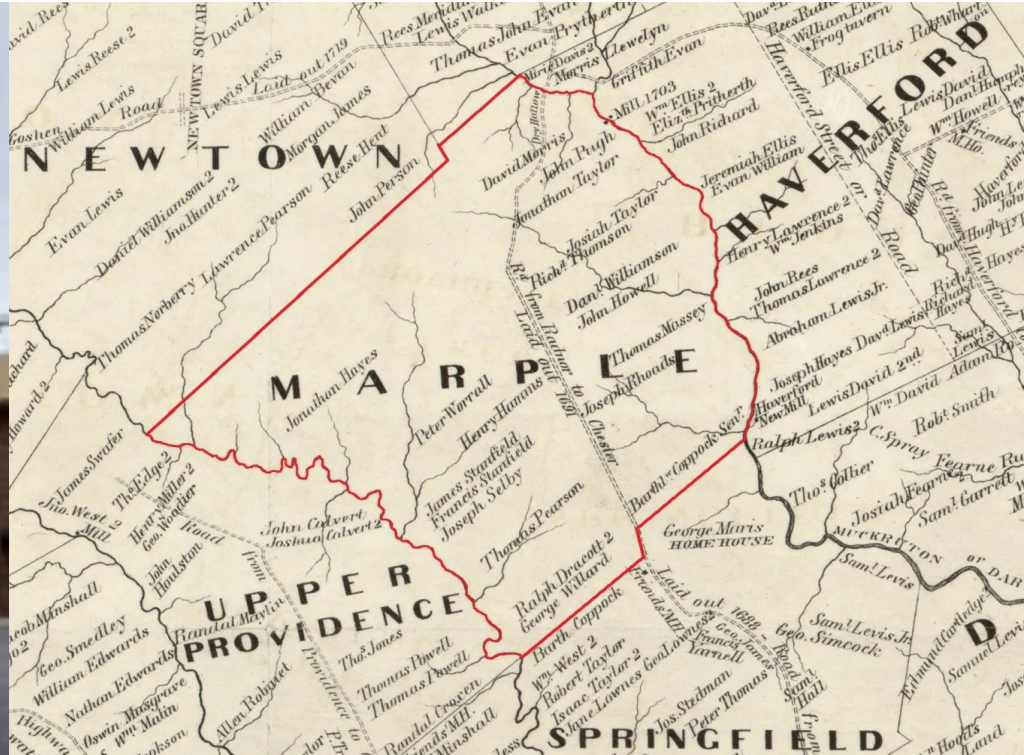
*Cancer is Not Our Destiny*

## The People's Cancer Incidence Screening Tool (PCIST)

*A Citizens' Project in Support of Dignity-Based Epidemiology in Pennsylvania*

### Community Cancer Incidence Report for Marple Township, PA

Prepared 25-June-2025; last updated on 15-August-2025. Available at: [www.pcist.net](http://www.pcist.net)



# People's Cancer Incidence Screening Tool (PCIST)

1

We calculate the average annual crude incidence of 23 different types of cancer over a 20-year (2002-2021) period in a PA town, borough or municipality

2

We compare the local cancer incidence numbers to the national, state and county numbers to identify significant "cancer signals" with elevated rates

3

We take the median age of onset of each type of cancer and compare it with the median age of the town, county, PA and US populations to assess the effect of differences in population age on the cancer rates

4

We investigate and address probable causes of elevated "cancer signals", including heavily polluting industries; infections associated with cancer development; and predatory marketing of addictive toxins to vulnerable EJ communities

| Cancer                 | U.S. Median Age of Onset |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| Brain and Nervous      | 61                       |
| Breast (F only)        | 62                       |
| Cervical               | 50                       |
| Colon and rectal       | 66                       |
| Esophageal             | 68                       |
| Hodgkin's Lymphoma     | 39 (bimodal, 20 and 55+) |
| Kidney and renal       | 65                       |
| Laryngeal              | 66                       |
| Leukemia               | 65-74, varies by type    |
| Liver and bile         | 62 (liver) and 70 (bile) |
| Lung and bronchial     | 71                       |
| Melanoma (skin)        | (skin, 66)               |
| Myeloma                | 60                       |
| Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma | 67                       |
| Oral and pharyngeal    | 64                       |
| Ovarian                | 63                       |
| Pancreatic             | 70                       |
| Prostate               | 66                       |
| Stomach                | 68                       |
| Testicular             | 33                       |
| Thyroid                | 51                       |
| Uterine                | 60                       |
| Urinary and bladder    | 73                       |

## Cancer Rates Vary By Age

The U.S. national, PA state, PA county, and municipal/township/borough cancer incidence rates used in PCIST are crude rates. We derive these by taking the total number of invasive cancer cases that occurred in a specific population (<20 yrs, <30 yrs, adults 20+, and All ages — total, females & males) in relation to the total number of people in that specific segment of the population. This produces a value that represents the amount of cancer in a community relative to its relevant population size. These values are then compared to generate incidence ratios. In our community reports, we flag municipal “cancer signals” with a percentage rate equal to or more than 10% higher than the US, PA and County numbers.

It is important to note that most cancer rates increase with age. To help interpret the effect of a population's age distribution on its crude incidence rates, the following is provided:

- 1) A reference table (at left) with the median age of onset of each type of cancer in the U.S. as per the American Cancer Society
- 2) The relevant median population age for each municipality/ township/borough, the county, PA state, and the US nation
- 3) A chart that shows the precise population age distribution in 5-year increments, derived from the 2010 US Census figures that are used in PCIST's 20-year calculations

When analyzing cancer signals, it is important to note that (with the exception of Hodgkin's lymphoma and testicular cancer) a younger population's crude cancer incidence rates will be under-represented when compared with an older population.

PCIST uses publicly available data sources from the American Cancer Society; the PA Cancer Registry via the PA Department of Health; the CDC SEER and WONDER databases; and the U.S. Census' American Community Survey. None of these providing institutions are responsible for PCIST calculations, interpretations and reports.

Please visit [www.pcist.net](http://www.pcist.net) or contact [PCIST@pm.me](mailto:PCIST@pm.me) for a detailed explanation of the PCIST project and more information about the People's Cancer Incidence Screening Tool.

## MORE Air & Water Pollution: OUR CONTEXT for RISING CANCER

In the community of Marple Township, residents have faced **elevated cancer rates for at least the past 20 years.**

### WHY? CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

Marple Township is a largely affluent suburban residential area located to the west of Springfield and Haverford and centered around Broomall. The heavily trafficked I-476, Rte 1, and Sproul road run through it. The town's lawns, golf courses, and facilities' grounds see heavy suburban pesticide and herbicide use. Many of Delaware County's drinking water sources are contaminated with PFAS. Marple township also has several pipelines, and it has been in a years-long appeal process to fight the construction of a PECO "reliability" station on Sproul road. The new station would receive natural gas from a new 11.5 mile, high-pressure pipeline and then step-down the pressure before distributing gas to local residents and business. The township is opposed due to environmental concerns, including the explosion risk and emissions of nitrogen dioxide, carbon monoxide and particulate matter. Additionally, Marple Township is located a short distance from superfund sites in Havertown and Lower Darby creek, as well as near many heavily polluting facilities in southeastern Delaware County, including oil and natural gas liquids refineries; the largest trash incinerator in the U.S; Delco's sewage treatment plant; multiple chemical plants; and the Philadelphia International Airport. More petrochemical plants and refineries to the east in Philly and across the Delaware river in NJ also contribute to air and water pollution. **The heavy pollution from all these industries compounds and travels, affecting residents.**

Additionally, Marple Township residents need medical screenings and treatments for **infections** that can contribute to cancer, such as **HPV** (cervical cancer), **EBV** (Hodgkin's lymphoma), **Hepatitis B and C** (liver cancer), **H. pylori** (stomach cancer), and **HIV** (many cancers). In pursuit of profit, companies also sell already vulnerable residents addictive products that contain carcinogenic substances, such as **tobacco** and **alcohol**.

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## TOTAL CANCER IN MARPLE

During **2002-2021 (20 years)**, the average annual crude cancer incidence rate among all ages of **Marple's** population is greater than the corresponding rate for the **US; PA; & Delaware Co by:**

| All Age Cancer in Marple | > US | > PA | > Delco |
|--------------------------|------|------|---------|
| Thyroid                  | 88%  | 33%  | 45%     |
| Melanoma                 | 69%  | 57%  | 46%     |
| Stomach                  | 67%  | 49%  | 54%     |
| Urinary and bladder      | 59%  | 17%  | 27%     |
| Colon and rectal         | 51%  | 24%  | 22%     |
| Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma   | 46%  | 21%  | 35%     |
| Lung and bronchial       | 40%  | 16%  | 18%     |
| Pancreatic               | 40%  | 14%  | 22%     |
| Brain and nervous        | 32%  | 15%  | 25%     |
| Hodgkin's lymphoma       | 30%  | 10%  | 14%     |
| Myeloma                  | 28%  | 16%  | 42%     |
| Laryngeal                | 23%  | 2%   | 5%      |
| Kidney and renal         | 17%  | 4%   | 7%      |
| Liver and bile           | 15%  | 6%   | 2%      |
| Leukemia                 | 11%  | -4%  | 29%     |

### 2010 Median Population Age:

Marple's population (45.6) is **significantly older than** the US (36.9), PA (39.8) & Delco (38.5).

## FEMALE CANCER IN MARPLE

During **2002-2021 (20 years)**, the average annual crude cancer incidence rate among females of all ages in **Marple** is greater than the corresponding rate for the **US; PA; & Delaware Co by:**

| All Age Female Cancer in Marple | > US | > PA | > Delco |
|---------------------------------|------|------|---------|
| Thyroid                         | 91%  | 36%  | 52%     |
| Melanoma (skin)                 | 90%  | 74%  | 60%     |
| Urinary and bladder             | 67%  | 21%  | 20%     |
| Uterine                         | 63%  | 19%  | 24%     |
| Ovarian                         | 61%  | 36%  | 36%     |
| Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma          | 60%  | 31%  | 48%     |
| Lung and bronchial              | 54%  | 28%  | 24%     |
| Colon and rectal                | 55%  | 24%  | 24%     |
| Stomach                         | 45%  | 35%  | 41%     |
| Breast                          | 39%  | 24%  | 22%     |
| Pancreatic                      | 39%  | 13%  | 23%     |
| Brain and nervous               | 38%  | 19%  | 33%     |
| Kidney and renal                | 37%  | 22%  | 33%     |
| Hodgkin's lymphoma              | 25%  | 3%   | 4%      |
| Myeloma                         | 21%  | 10%  | 25%     |
| Leukemia                        | 20%  | 4%   | 36%     |
| Oral and pharyngeal             | 7%   | -6%  | 10%     |

**2010 Median Female Age:** The total female Marple population (47.1) is **significantly older than** the US (38.1), PA (41.2) & Delco (40.0)

## MALE CANCER IN MARPLE

During **2002-2021 (20 years)**, the average annual crude cancer incidence rate among males of all ages in **Marple** is greater than the corresponding rate for the **US; PA; & Delaware Co by:**

| All Age Male Cancer in Marple | > US | > PA | > Delco |
|-------------------------------|------|------|---------|
| Thyroid                       | 82%  | 29%  | 37%     |
| Stomach                       | 81%  | 56%  | 58%     |
| Urinary and bladder           | 54%  | 14%  | 25%     |
| Melanoma                      | 53%  | 44%  | 34%     |
| Colon and rectal              | 48%  | 23%  | 20%     |
| Pancreatic                    | 39%  | 14%  | 22%     |
| Hodgkin's lymphoma            | 38%  | 15%  | 22%     |
| Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma        | 34%  | 12%  | 24%     |
| Myeloma                       | 32%  | 19%  | 58%     |
| Prostate                      | 32%  | 17%  | 17%     |
| Laryngeal                     | 31%  | 11%  | 11%     |
| Brain and nervous             | 28%  | 11%  | 17%     |
| Lung and bronchial            | 27%  | 5%   | 12%     |
| Liver and bile                | 19%  | 8%   | -0%     |
| Leukemia                      | 4%   | -10% | 22%     |

**2010 Median Male Age:** The total male Marple population (43.5) is **older than** the US (35.6); PA (38.3) & Delco (36.7).

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# CANCER IN MARPLE

## PEDIATRIC CANCER

During **2002-2021 (20 years)**, the average annual crude cancer incidence rate among **children aged 0-19 years** in **Marple** is greater than the corresponding rate for the **US; PA; & Delaware County** by:

| Pediatric Cancer in Marple<br>0-19 years of age | > US | > PA | > Delco |
|-------------------------------------------------|------|------|---------|
| Oral and pharyngeal                             | 377% | 218% | 218%    |
| Liver and bile                                  | 218% | 218% | 377%    |
| Hodgkin's lymphoma                              | 138% | 91%  | 115%    |
| Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma                          | 59%  | 73%  | 59%     |
| Leukemia                                        | 48%  | 55%  | 67%     |
| Brain and nervous                               | 19%  | -2%  | 2%      |

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## YOUTH CANCER

During **2002-2021 (20 years)**, the average annual crude cancer incidence rate among **youth aged 0-29 years** in **Marple** is greater than the corresponding rate for the **US; PA; & Delaware County** by:

| Youth Cancer in Marple<br>0-29 years of age | > US | > PA | > Delco |
|---------------------------------------------|------|------|---------|
| Oral and pharyngeal                         | 391% | 293% | 237%    |
| Ovarian                                     | 162% | 162% | 145%    |
| Liver and bile                              | 118% | 118% | 225%    |
| Leukemia                                    | 102% | 107% | 115%    |
| Hodgkin's lymphoma                          | 99%  | 64%  | 86%     |
| Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma                      | 46%  | 46%  | 33%     |
| Breast                                      | 44%  | 37%  | 25%     |
| Cervical                                    | 31%  | 31%  | 87%     |

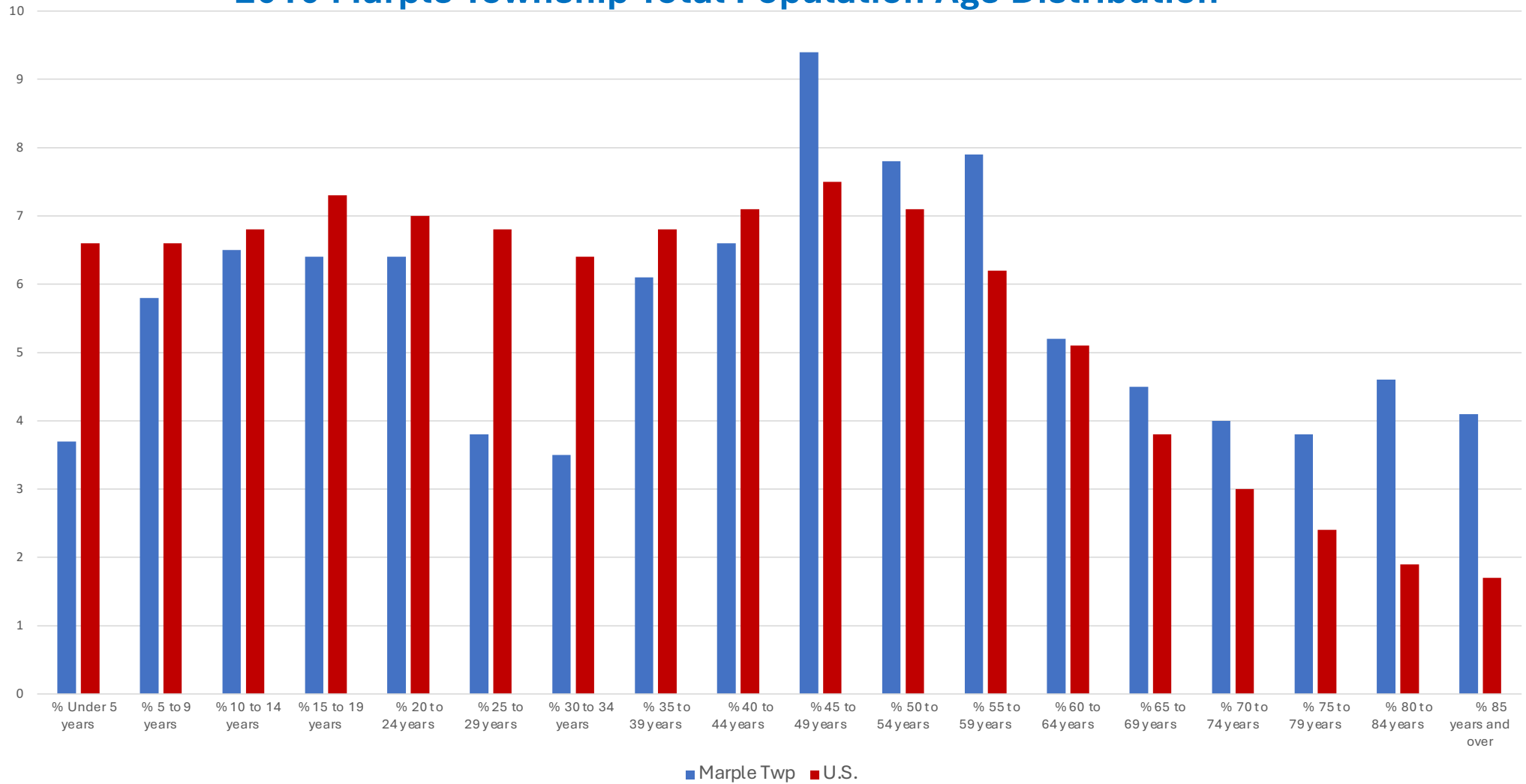
♦ Marple is located in the same county as an environmental justice region that centers around Tinicum, Eddystone, Chester city, Trainer and Marcus Hook – a heavily industrialized and polluted residential area along the Delaware river.

## ADULT CANCER

During **2002-2021 (20 years)**, the average annual crude cancer incidence rate among **adults aged 20+** in **Marple** is greater than the corresponding rate for the **US; PA; & Delaware County** by:

| Adult Cancer in Marple<br>20+ years of age | > US | > PA | > Delco |
|--------------------------------------------|------|------|---------|
| Thyroid                                    | 81%  | 32%  | 39%     |
| Melanoma (skin)                            | 61%  | 55%  | 38%     |
| Stomach                                    | 59%  | 44%  | 45%     |
| Ovarian                                    | 54%  | 33%  | 27%     |
| Uterine                                    | 54%  | 11%  | 15%     |
| Urinary and bladder                        | 50%  | 13%  | 19%     |
| Colon and rectal                           | 43%  | 19%  | 15%     |
| Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma                     | 40%  | 20%  | 28%     |
| Lung and bronchial                         | 34%  | 13%  | 12%     |
| Pancreatic                                 | 32%  | 10%  | 15%     |
| Breast                                     | 31%  | 19%  | 13%     |
| Brain and nervous                          | 29%  | 16%  | 0%      |
| Prostate                                   | 26%  | 18%  | 12%     |
| Myeloma                                    | 21%  | 17%  | 34%     |
| Laryngeal                                  | 17%  | -1%  | -1%     |
| Hodgkin's lymphoma                         | 17%  | -2%  | -1%     |
| Kidney and renal                           | 12%  | 2%   | 2%      |
| Liver and bile                             | 10%  | 4%   | -4%     |
| Leukemia                                   | 3%   | -1%  | 20%     |

## 2010 Marple Township Total Population Age Distribution



# PCIST's TIPS to Help Protect Our Families

**1. RUN AIR PURIFIERS IN OUR HOMES.** These machines [remove toxic particles](#) so that we don't inhale them into our lungs. This helps to prevent both cancer and asthma. The best ones have an [activated carbon filter](#) that also removes VOCs (volatile organic compounds). An air purifier handles a set amount of space, so we may need more than one (or to move the one we have when we go to bed). Found on Amazon and Walmart, Lowes, and Home Depot.

**DID YOU KNOW?** We can inexpensively build our own air purifier with a box fan and furnace filters. Google "How to make a Corsi-Rosenthal box" for directions. Try to use MERV activated carbon filters, which are available on Amazon and at Lowes and Home Depot.

**2. REPLACE GAS STOVES WITH ELECTRIC ONES.** Natural gas and propane stoves release invisible, odorless and toxic gases (including radon, benzene, nitrogen dioxide and methane) into our homes. These gases affect air quality throughout our homes, including in the bedrooms, and are known to cause asthma and cancer. It is much safer to cook with an electric stove.

**3. USE A WATER FILTER, ESPECIALLY IN THE KITCHEN.** These filters [remove harmful particles and toxic chemicals from our drinking and cooking water](#). Some come as a pitcher that we fill with water from the tap, while others attach directly to the faucet. The [best filters also remove PFAS/PFOS – forever chemicals](#) – that are known to be in Delaware County's water supply. Found on Amazon and in a wide range of department and home supply stores.

**4. AVOID ADDITIONAL FACTORS** that put addictive toxins in our bodies and increase cancer risk, such as [smoking](#); breathing [second-hand smoke](#); and [drinking alcohol](#). Some [infections also contribute to causing cancer](#) such as [HPV](#) (cervical cancer), [EBV](#) (Hodgkin's lymphoma), [Hepatitis B and C](#) (liver cancer), [H. pylori](#) (stomach cancer), and [HIV](#) (many cancers). If you were exposed or have symptoms, ask a doctor for [testing and proper treatment](#). All girls and women can also [get vaccinated against HPV](#) between the ages of 9 and 45.

**5. FIND AND JOIN ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE GROUPS IN YOUR COMMUNITY TO LEARN HOW TO FIGHT BACK** against the polluters that are killing us with asthma and cancer, among other diseases. Take a few minutes to [call local political leaders](#) and tell them that we [need clean air and clean water](#). Use your voice to speak up – together we are very strong and loud!

See links on [www.pcist.net](http://www.pcist.net) for suggested environmental health organizations that you can join [to get connected and learn more](#).