

Fall Semester 2021 Research

Dear Future Students, Researchers and Community Members,

We'd like to leave this research to you with the humble acceptance that much more needs to be done in order to save lives, spread a message and help people avoid the deadly chemicals in their environment. But obviously, steps need to be taken to counteract and stop chemical companies in Rubbertown from hurting people. Until those steps can be taken, all we can do is leave you with our research and the hope that eventually the poisoning of the west end can be stopped.

With hope,

McKenzie & Kayla

Spreadsheet by McKenzie Vaughn & Kayla Pucek: [Rubbertown Chemical Spreadsheet](#)

CDC Chemical Guide to Hazardous Materials [NIOSH Pocket Guide to Chemical Hazards \(2005-149\)](#)
[3rd printing](#)

The symptoms of lung cancer include:

- Chest pain that worsens when you breathe deeply, laugh, or a cough.
- Hoarseness
- A lingering or worsening cough
- Shortness of breath
- Wheezing
- Weakness and fatigue
- Loss of appetite and weight Loss
- Coughing up phlegm or blood
- Muscle Weakness
- Nausea
- Vomiting
- High blood pressure
- High blood sugar
- Confusion
- Seizures
- Coma

Things you can do to reduce your chances of getting lung cancer:

- Get home tested for radon levels
- Stick to a healthy weight
- Minimize alcohol consumption
- Minimize exposure to daily toxins
- Follow an anti-inflammatory diet
- Manage your blood sugar levels
- Minimize or quit smoking
- Reduce stress and get enough sleep
- Eat enough vitamin D
- Drinking matcha or green tea
- Talk to your doctor

Symptoms of asthma vary from person to person. There could be sudden outbursts of symptoms. Most common symptoms of asthma are:

- Dyspnea or difficult breathing
- Wheezing
- Chest tightness
- Persistent coughing, more commonly at night. Most commonly cough with mucus or phlegm

During Asthma attack, the patient presents below symptoms:

- Very low blood pressure
- Abnormally rapid breathing
- Wheezing sounds may accompany both inspiration and expiration or expiration alone

If the person is suffering from asthma for a prolonged period, Respiratory failure, a syndrome when the blood vessels around the air sacs fail to exchange gases of carbon dioxide and oxygen efficiently, may occur. The symptoms of Respiratory failure include:

- Hyperinflation: Patients with long standing uncontrolled asthma may have a barrel-shaped chest caused by hyperinflation of lungs
- Loss of consciousness
- Skin and mucous membrane turning to blue in color
- Low blood pressure, which could lead to heart attack
- Oxygen saturation dropping less than 90%

Things you can do to reduce your chances of getting asthma:

- Non-smoking
- Lowering chances of obesity
- living / staying away from air pollution
- Watching exposure to harsh chemicals
- Avoid allergic triggers
- Decrease chances of getting a respiratory infection

Some strategies to help prevent asthma symptoms include:

- stopping smoking and refraining from smoking around others, especially children
- avoiding public places where cigarette smoking occurs
- limiting outdoor exposure on days with heavy smog or smoke encouraging a diet high in fruit, vegetables, whole grains, and
- lean protein encouraging childhood vaccinations that can prevent common
- respiratory infections that could lead to worsening asthma symptoms avoiding allergens that trigger asthma attacks, such as pet
- dander, dust mites, mold, and pollen



[Rubbertown Air Toxics Risk Assessment | LouisvilleKY.gov](http://LouisvilleKY.gov)

	Non-Rubbertown			Rubbertown			Overall		
	Rate	95% Confidence Interval		Rate	95% Confidence Interval		Rate	95% Confidence Interval	
Bladder Cancer	9.32	6.80	12.48	10.53	7.43	14.54	9.85	7.84	12.22
CNS Tumors	6.24	4.21	8.92	3.42	1.75	6.05	5.20	3.74	7.03
Leukemia & Lymphoma	28.73	24.14	33.94	27.24	21.99	33.40	28.11	24.61	31.97
Lung	82.90	74.97	91.45	111.62	100.98	123.11	95.15	88.70	101.95
Colorectal	49.95	43.85	56.67	65.37	57.20	74.42	56.28	51.33	61.59

[Lung, Colon Cancer Rates Higher Near Rubbertown Than Other Louisville Neighborhoods – 89.3 WFPL News Louisville](http://89.3 WFPL News Louisville)

The Strategic Toxic Air Reduction Program (STAR) is a regulatory program to reduce harmful contaminants in the air we breathe, to better protect the health of our citizens, and enhance the quality of life. Since the Air Pollution Control District first implemented STAR in 2005, emissions of toxic chemicals have dropped almost 70 percent in Louisville/Jefferson County.

The STAR program was created in response to several studies which showed that Louisville had [unacceptably high levels of toxic chemicals](#) in the air, particularly in the neighborhoods around a cluster of chemical plants known as Rubbertown. A monitoring study in 2000-01 documented that there were high concentrations of harmful air toxics, including cancer-causing chemicals, in specific neighborhoods. A study by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, which included modeling of reported emissions, concluded that our air had the highest potential risk for adverse effects of all of the counties in the eight southeastern states.

More detailed explanation of what STAR is doing: [west lou risk mang plan revised by Donna & Bry \(louisvilleky.gov\)](#)

More details on the toxic chemicals and what Metro Louisville Air Pollution Control District and West Jefferson County Community Task Force has found: [West Louisville Air Toxics Study Final Risk Assessment Report \(louisvilleky.gov\)](#)

Chemical List- <http://www.rubbertowncac.org/products.html>

List of Companies & Contacts: <http://www.rubbertowncac.org/companies.htm>
<http://www.rubbertowncac.org/files/RubbertownMap.pdf>

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