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Intro: Climate change has been a more pressing issue in recent years and has prominently impacted society in many ways. Air pollution is one of many factors contributing to climate change and its origins stem from human actions. I got interested in this question because it is a complex situation where humans create problems for their environment. Although the consequences are very apparent in society today, many people disbelieve and skepticize the reality of climate change. For example, the former president of the United States, Donald Trump, would publicly and proudly deny the truth about climate change and led many people to believe what he said to be true. I'm interested in this topic because I want to learn more about how air pollution has impacted modern society and the effects it has on communities globally. I expect to learn more about how air quality contributes to the declining health in low-income communities and I search for the answers to the question, **what are the effects air quality has on low-income communities?**

Citation and Source #1

Source: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nvH_sgnE268

Citation: “Air Pollution: Let’s Analyze, Clean, and Deliver | Matthew Johnson | TEDxWarwick.” *YouTube*, 19 Apr. 2018, www.youtube.com/watch?v=nvH_sgnE268.

Summary: To sum up, in this video, the speaker, Matthew Johnson covers the effects that air pollution has on communities. In his opening statement, he starts by listing the apparent ways in which air pollution has impacted people's health and continues by listing the more unnoticed ways in which air pollution can compromise someone's health in the long term. Following the effects of air pollution he discusses what he believes are the communities most impacted by worsening air quality. Finally, he expressed his views on the damage air pollution has on people and continued by explaining the reason why he believes there has been a decline in air quality in recent years. The video explained that there is a connection between people who are from low-income communities and the resulting health issues among these individuals being a result of air pollutants. The video explained the scientific explanation of air pollutants and further explained the ways that air quality can be an undetectable factor in declining health and listed the types of health issues that come with exposure to air pollution.

Reflection: While there are many issues around the world, I would say that the issue of air quality impacting low-income communities is one of the most important. For one, as explained in this article, air quality can impact the lives of children from raging ethnicities and races. Most importantly, these issues can be long-term issues that children can carry on with them into their adulthood. Many people don't realize that air quality affects everyone in a sense,

everyone breathes air to survive and as a result, exposure to air pollution can affect everyone's health, regardless of socioeconomic standing.

Quotation: In the video, the speaker Matthew Johnson stated “It causes lung cancer and causes respiratory infection but it also kills in less obvious ways it could lead to stroke or heart disease or chronic obstructive lung disease so you think where do these particles come from it could be the soot from the diesel cars or when things wear out they make little tiny particles it kills in these obvious ways.”

Citation and source #2:

Source:<https://blogs.worldbank.org/developmenttalk/air-pollution-kills-evidence-global-analysis-exposure-and-poverty>

Citation #1: “Air Pollution Kills – Evidence from a Global Analysis of Exposure and Poverty.” *World Bank Blogs*, blogs.worldbank.org/developmenttalk/air-pollution-kills-evidence-global-analysis-exposure-and-poverty. Accessed 24 Oct. 2023.

Summary: To summarize this text, the author used facts and data to support their claim that air pollution has had a lasting impact on impoverished communities on a global scale. The author makes correlations based on data from a recent study of the *World Health Organization's* using PM2.5 concentrations, PM2.5 concentrations are a way to measure the quality of air, by measuring particle pollution from fine particles. This data roughly links 716 million people living in poverty who have been exposed to dangerous levels of air pollutants and are at risk of air quality-based health issues due to higher PM2.5 concentrations. Through this data, this article can

use measured levels of pollutant concentration, to put things in perspective. Although the amount of air pollutants is hard to visualize, the article compares the amount of pollutant concentration in lower-income communities to higher-income communities.

Reflection: Based on the text, it is clear that many of the people who face air quality-based health issues are the ones living in low-income countries meaning that not only are they not the ones contributing to this problem. It is a result of people in higher-income countries deciding not to use alternative resources that can better the environment for themselves and others. Meanwhile, globally, there are very few opportunities for lower-income people, which leads to them not being able to get the right medical attention that they need, for a problem that they cannot avoid.

Quotation: The text, explained the gap between lower-income households and high-income households being impacted by pollutants, “For instance, fossil fuel subsidies are well documented to benefit richer households disproportionately, but the air pollution externalities associated with subsidized fossil fuel consumption are also a burden that can be borne disproportionately by poorer households.”

Citation and Source #3

Source: <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/hex.13776>

Citation #2: Sprague, N. L., Zonneville, H. M., Hall, L. J., Williams, R., Dains, H., Liang, D., & Ekenge, C. C. (2023). Environmental health perceptions of urban youth from low-income communities: A qualitative photovoice study and framework. *Health Expectations*, 26(5), 1832-1842. <https://doi.org/10.1111/hex.13776>

Summary: In summary of the text, the reading specified that children, specifically Black, Hispanic, or children that come from low-income communities, are among the most susceptible to exposure to hazardous environmental factors. In the text, it goes on to claim that this research is drastically understudied but some data proves that there are correlations that connect health disparities to wealth disparities. Throughout this text, it explains that there are worse conditions in low-income communities than in higher-income communities. Which, is the majority populated by minorities, it is apparent how this issue has come to arise, and one thing is for sure, minorities are among the most impacted by environmental impacts such as air quality. Consequently, there has been a health decline in recent data that shows that children who live in low-income communities are the ones being affected the most.

Reflection: Based on the information provided by the text, it is clear that poor air quality has a major impact on people, and the data proves that people who come from low-income backgrounds are being harmed because of exposure to hazardous environmental factors, such as pollution. Generations of people are getting sick and facing health issues as a consequence of decades worth of environmental damage. Ultimately there's a pattern in which low-income people are the ones being faced with issues concerning air quality and for many people, these health issues start from a young age. Although it is unknown at what age air quality starts impacting people, it is clear that pollution is having a visible effect on current and future generations.

Quotation: In the text, the author explains, “Specifically, compared to their White, non-Hispanic, or high-income counterparts, Black, Hispanic, or children from low-income communities consistently experience higher exposure to environmental hazards and lower exposures to health-promotive environmental facets.^{4, 5} Such environmental hazards include exposure to lead-based paint, tobacco smoke, ambient and traffic-related air pollution, and living in closer proximity to hazardous waste”

Conclusion: To conclude, from the research I've conducted on the impacts of air quality on low-income communities, I've found that pollution can impact just about any community. However, lower-income communities often suffer the most from worsening air quality because of the lack of research done about this issue. Also, in lower-income communities, the disparity in health care often causes these health issues caused by air quality to be overlooked. Knowing about the dangers of air pollution can help spread awareness towards a better and healthier environment. Being aware of this issue can lead to more initiative from people being impacted by this issue, and can lead to support from others demanding that there be change. Environmental impacts such as pollution causing a decline in air quality are ultimately a result of human activity and people who want to incite change can ultimately find alternative aspects in their lives to decrease their contributions to this issue.

Communities all over the world are currently and will continuously face the consequences of climate change because of the lack of knowledge of climate change. Worsening air quality is a man-made issue that has been noted as an increasingly viable threat to communities all over the world. Overall, the people doing the most damage to the world's climate are people from the United States. Consequentially the people who have the power to impact the environment on a global scale are people from the United States. In many parts of the world, there are high carbon emissions but overall, the ones benefiting from this damage are the people in charge of corporations that contribute to air pollution. Furthermore, politicians who claim to want to help the environment should be the ones to know that climate change is a real and increasing problem and should want to actually do something about this issue instead of turning a blind eye toward the issue.