

## Platform Presentation

### **Children's Air Pollution Studies**

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The goal of the Air Resources Board is to help provide clean healthful air for all citizens of California. The ARB is particularly concerned about the health of children, who may be more vulnerable to the effects of air pollution due to their rapid development, faster breathing rates and longer periods of time spent out of doors. More information is needed on the unique effects of air pollution on children. Such studies are time and resource intensive, but vital to aid the ARB in setting standards that will adequately protect the health of California's children. The ARB has a comprehensive research program to study the effects of air pollution on children's health. Two of the largest studies in this program are the Children's Health Study (CHS) and the Fresno Asthmatic Children's Environment Study (FACES). The CHS, which began in 1992, has followed the health of 5500 children in 12 communities in southern California. This study has resulted in a number of new findings. Children in area of higher particulate pollution have reduced lung function growth, and children in high ozone communities who participate in sports are more likely to develop asthma. The main goal of the FACES study is to investigate the effect of air pollution on children with asthma. Asthma is the leading cause of hospitalization in young children and the growing rate of asthma development is a major concern. The FACES study will provide insights into the role of air pollution and the environment in the progression of asthma. These studies are part of an ongoing program by the ARB to learn more about the impacts of air pollution on children's health. Future results from these studies as well as additional research efforts will be used to provide regulations to reduce the risk of adverse health effects from air pollution on the children of California.