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Public Policy Memo: Environmental Justice

Environmental Justice: “Environmental justice is a social movement to address the unfair exposure of poor and marginalized communities to harms from hazardous waste, resource extraction, and other land uses.” **Environmental injustice** was created out of racism, classicism, and carelessness. As a result of this, children within vulnerable communities are born with asthma. The people within these vulnerable communities have been diagnosed with cancer, illnesses, and diseases. In 2021, an article was published by Hiroko Tabuchi and Nadja Popovich of The New York Times involving people of color, specifically Black, Hispanic, and Asian-Americans having exposure to more hazardous air compared to White Americans. An air quality model was used to expose these disparities in various POC communities via the Environmental Protection Agency as part of a 2014 emissions survey. Environmental justice is a subject that is just only beginning to surface and needs more policymaker attention. The article concludes that reducing these sources alone is not the answer. I argue that we must find alternative sources that do not negatively target and affect vulnerable populations. We must have the voice and the desire to put rules and regulations into place worldwide. It should be seen as a duty to defend and protect these vulnerable communities that are doing their best to survive in a world that shows them it was not made for them to thrive. These communities are vulnerable, but not defenseless. They take care of each other, and we should take care of them, too.