


\$100,000 - Monthly Rates 10-Year Non-Tobacco Term Life	Issue Age	Male	Female	 <input type="button" value="CLICK HERE"/>
	30	\$7.09	\$6.56	
	40	\$8.40	\$7.79	
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Science - AP

Study: La. Pollution Higher Than Reported



Wed Jun 23, 12:28 PM ET  Add [Science - AP](#) to My Yahoo!

By *MELISSA DROSJACK*, Associated Press Writer

NEW ORLEANS - Louisiana has higher levels of cancer-causing pollutants than what the federal government tells the public, according to a study released Tuesday.

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The study, by two environmental advocacy groups, applied findings from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to nationwide data from 2001, which evaluates underreporting of certain toxic emissions.

"This is about real people with real illnesses," said Anne Rolfes, director of the Louisiana Bucket Brigade, an environmental action group. "We have long suspected that there is serious

underreporting."

Pollution can cause cancer, respiratory illness, asthma, problems with learning abilities and other health effects, Rolfes said.

But Louisiana has one of the top monitoring systems in the country and has its own system of data evaluation, said Linda Brown, an environmental scientist manager for the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality.

The study evaluated only 10 chemicals compared to the more than 600 chemicals evaluated by state and federal systems, Brown said.

The 2002 Louisiana Environmental Inventory Annual Report shows the state's toxic chemical emissions, as reported to the EPA, are declining.

"We're continuing to show a downward trend," Brown said.

Representatives from refineries and plants did not return phone calls.

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Each year, the Environmental Protection Agency ([news](#) - [web sites](#)) produces a Toxic Release Inventory, data from a reporting system that evaluates emission levels.

Supporters of the study say the federal system underreports emissions, which may be four or five times higher, said Kelly Haragan, spokeswoman for the Environmental Integrity Project, one of the groups which commissioned the study.

Estimates of emissions are left up to refineries and plants, using EPA standards, but those estimates are also underreported, Haragan said.

The groups that commissioned the study were the Environmental Integrity Project, based in Washington, which advocates better enforcement of environmental laws, and the Galveston Houston-Association for Smog Prevention, which aims to improve air quality.

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