

Airborne Toxics and Control Measures

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Since the mid 1980's the California Air Resources Board (ARB) has been identifying toxic air contaminants (TACs) and adopting airborne toxic control measures (ATCMs) to reduce the exposure to these substances. Even though we have been able to reduce the risk by about 45% over the past 10 years from measured levels, the risk from TACs in many large urban areas continue to exceed levels considered to be health protective.

Today, almost 200 substances and compounds are formally identified in law as TACs, and five of these substances have scientific evidence that supports their special identification as making children more susceptible to illness. Control measures are in place that have reduced the exposures to many of these TACs, including the five specifically identified for children. Actions to reduce emissions of diesel particulate matter are a key component of the ARB's plan to further reduce the health risk from airborne toxics. This presentation will provide information on the identified TACs and those substances in the process, such as environmental tobacco smoke, and a review of the work underway to reduce exposures to the TACs presenting the most significant health risks to all Californians, especially children.