

DIESEL AND PUBLIC HEALTH

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It is clear that uncontrolled diesel exhaust is hazardous to public health, causing or exacerbating asthma and other lung diseases, cancer, and even premature death. New emission controls for diesel show the potential to dramatically cut pollution, but these technologies have yet to demonstrate their effectiveness over the long run.

There have been several preliminary studies evaluating the various toxic and smog-forming emissions from natural gas and diesel transit buses, with and without controls. While these early studies are too limited in scope to make definitive conclusions, they do highlight the potential emissions reductions from diesel vehicles. But these limited studies also present a lopsided view of natural gas and diesel bus emissions, testing today's natural gas technologies against tomorrow's diesel. In addition, the tests do not demonstrate that the diesel emission control technologies will function over the range of real-world driving conditions.