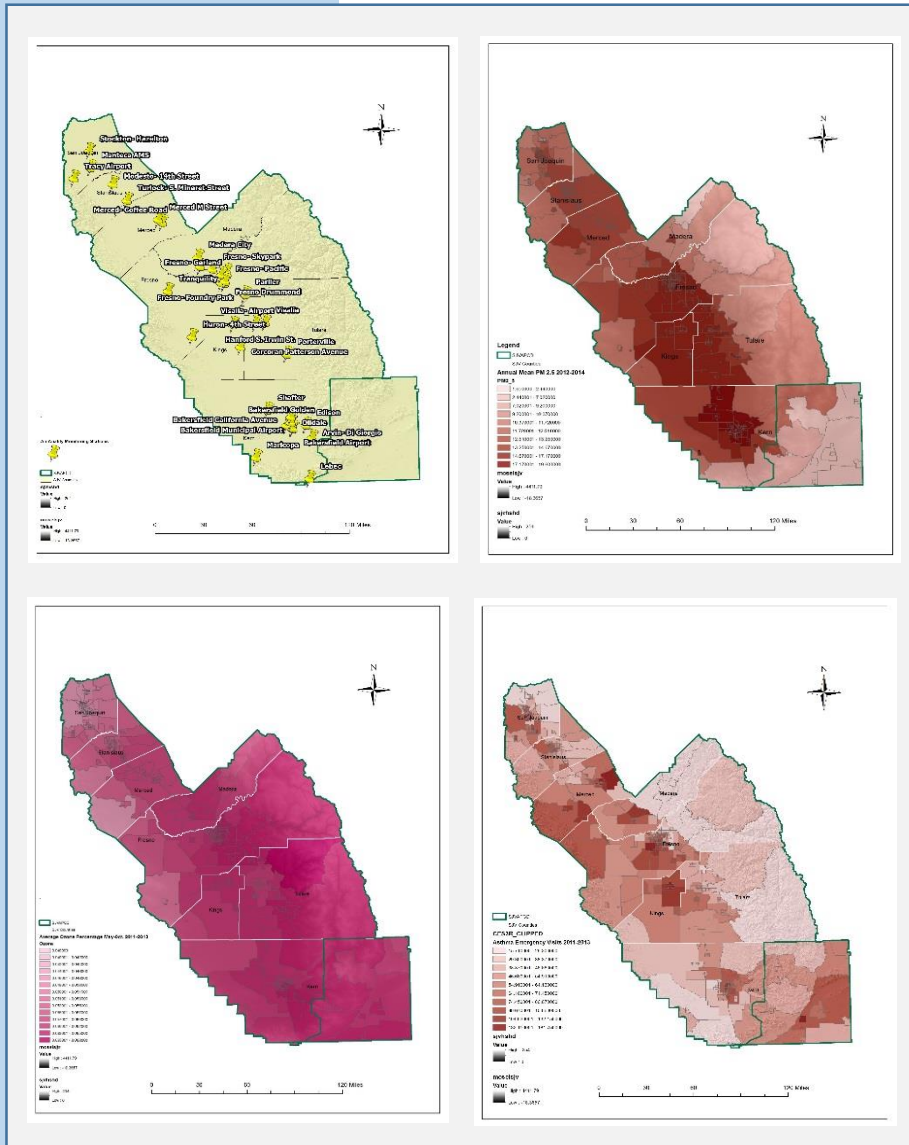


Air Pollution in the San Joaquin Valley



The San Joaquin Valley has some of the most polluted air and accounts for the second worst air quality region in the United States. In the San Joaquin Valley, the mountain ranges trap air pollution in, where an inversion layer forms while keeping air contaminants confined and in high concentrations, especially on warm and hot summer days. Some of the main contributors to air pollution are agriculture, oil drilling operations, large industries, and traffic along interstate 5, and highway 99. There are roughly 3.9 million people in the San Joaquin Valley that are exposed to some of the nation's most polluted air. For example, fine particulate matter known as PM 2.5 causes health problems such as asthma to premature deaths. Also, breathing in ground level ozone is dangerous as it can trigger a variety of health problems like throat irritation, chest pain, and congestion, and can lead to severe lung damage making infants, and the elderly more vulnerable to health effects.



A smoggy day in California's Central Valley in January-2015, Earth Justice



Oil drilling operation in Bakersfield, California- SF Chronicle, 2017

People at Risk In 25 U.S. Cities Most Polluted by Short-term Particle Pollution (24-hour PM_{2.5})

2015 Rank ¹	Metropolitan Statistical Areas	Total Population ²	Under 18 ³	65 and Over ⁴	Pediatric Asthma ^{5A}	Adult Asthma ^{5A}	COPD ⁶	CV Disease ⁸	Diabetes ⁹	Poverty ¹⁰
1	Fresno-Madera, CA	1,107,661	320,969	122,769	28,434	68,326	35,215	50,742	76,410	302,747
2	Bakersfield, CA	864,124	256,286	83,355	22,704	52,702	26,422	37,419	57,022	189,029
3	Visalia-Porterville-Hanford, CA	605,103	186,336	59,173	16,507	36,242	18,179	25,830	39,162	161,927
4	Modesto-Merced, CA	788,719	225,161	88,537	19,947	49,080	25,498	36,795	55,529	176,917
5	Los Angeles-Long Beach, CA	18,351,929	4,449,763	2,197,260	394,199	1,212,912	633,626	915,447	1,383,294	3,173,150
6	San Jose-San Francisco-Oakland, CA	8,469,854	1,870,604	1,119,507	165,714	578,767	310,320	453,045	682,920	1,014,067
7	Salt Lake City-Provo-Orem, UT	2,389,225	743,554	213,920	45,611	148,651	64,220	99,124	113,349	284,263
8	Logan, UT-ID	129,763	40,841	11,495	2,622	7,895	3,295	5,091	5,762	17,613
9	Fairbanks, AK	100,436	24,790	7,558	2,180	7,074	3,810	4,402	4,592	8,497
10	Pittsburgh-New Castle-Weirton, PA-OH-WV	2,659,937	517,286	481,225	52,576	203,830	159,280	223,889	225,070	336,867