

Chevron lags other oil firms on air quality

People living in poor communities deal with drug activity and violence constantly. Should air quality be another problem these people must live with?

Pollution that Chevron releases into Richmond is rapidly raising the rates of serious respiration problems such as asthma.

Some downplay this problem, but through my research I found shocking results. Ann Song, senior health education specialist for Community Wellness & Prevention Program's (CW&PP) Asthma Project said the average hospitalization rate in Contra Costa County due to asthma is higher than California's state average. It was very obvious to Song the reason the rates are so high is because of companies such as Chevron.

It's possible for Chevron to decrease its pollution output. Many other companies, such as Shell and Conoco Phillips, reduced their pollution output by 15-30 percent.

Just because we cannot charge Chevron with murder of the children and elderly who die yearly of pollution-caused asthma attacks doesn't mean Chevron's not guilty or shouldn't take responsibility.

Richmond residents, stop sitting around breathing in injustice. It's time to show you care by taking back our air!

**Dyani Main
Richmond**