# ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH FACTORS

### Things like dust, mold, smoke, and chemicals inside the home or office can cause poor indoor air quality. In the past 12 months have you had an illness or symptom that you think was caused by something in the air inside a home, office, or other building?

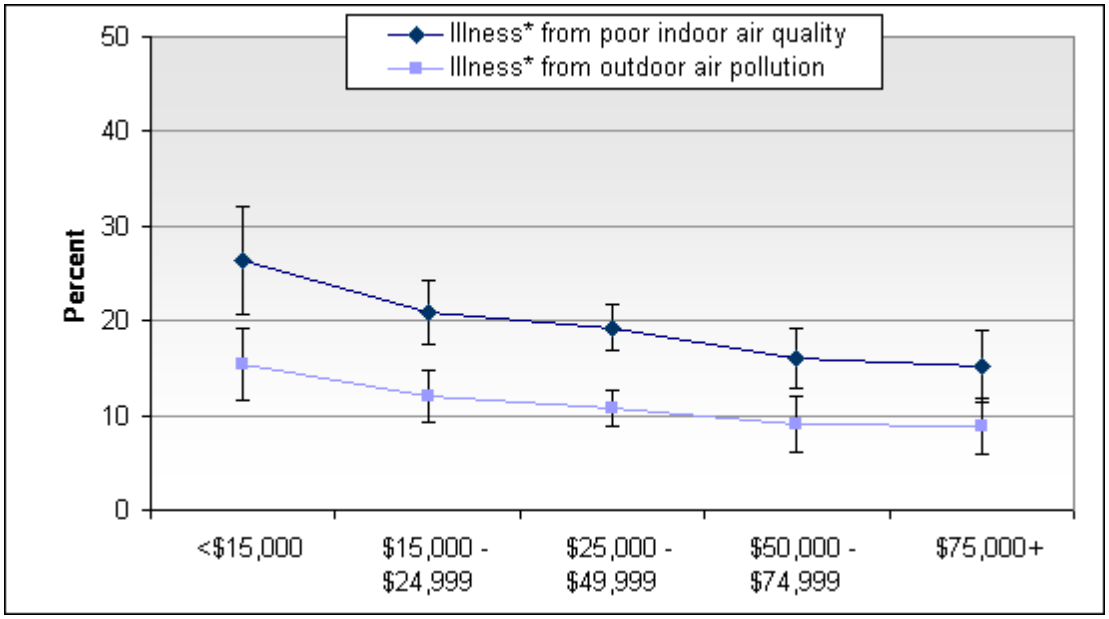
- Overall, 19 percent of adult Montanans reported an illness or symptom from poor indoor air quality during the past year in 2004.
- Significantly more females (22%) than males (15%) reported such symptoms or illness.
- There was little difference in the association between illness from poor indoor air quality and age until the respondents reported being 65 and older; then, the percent of indoor air quality related illnesses dropped by half, from 18-22 percent for younger age groups to11 percent for persons 65 and older.
- Household income levels of Montana adults were negatively associated with illness from poor indoor air quality; that is, the lower the income, the higher the percent of illness or symptoms caused by indoor air quality. Adults with household incomes less than $15,000 per year (26%) were significantly more likely to report illness from poor indoor air quality than adults living in households with incomes of $50,000 or higher per year (≤16%).
- American Indian/Alaska Native Montana adults (29%) were more likely to report illness from poor indoor air quality than White, non-Hispanic adults (18%).
- Adults with disability (30%) were almost twice as likely to report illness from poor indoor air quality than Montana adults without disability (16%).
- There was little regional difference in the prevalence of Montana adult reported illness from poor indoor air quality throughout the state.

### Things like smog, automobile exhaust, and chemicals can cause outdoor air pollution. In the past 12 months have you had an illness or symptoms that you think was caused by pollution in the air outdoors?

- Overall, an estimated 11 percent of Montana adults reported that they had an illness or symptom they thought was caused by pollution in the air outdoors in the last twelve months.
- Women (12%) were somewhat more likely than men (9%) to report an illness caused by outdoor air pollution, though not significantly so.
- There was little variation in the prevalence of illness from outdoor air pollution associated with educational levels.
- Income tended to be negatively associated with illness or symptoms from outdoor air pollution, that is, the less the income, the greater the report of such illness or symptoms.
- Adults with disability (19%) were significantly more likely to report illness from outdoor air pollution than Montana adults without disability (9%).
- Adult Montanans living in the Northwest health planning region (13%) had a higher prevalence of illness or symptoms from outdoor air pollution than adults living in the Eastern health planning region (8%).

**[Table 11. Environmental Health Factors, Montana Adults, 2004]**

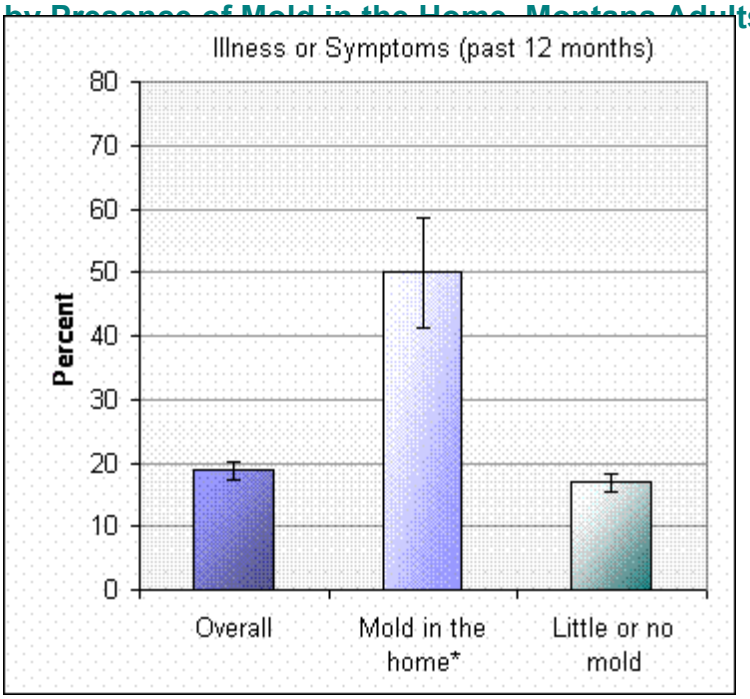
## [Figure 11-a. Percent Reporting Illness or Symptoms from Poor Air Quality by Income, Montana Adults, 2004]




* In the past 12 months

**Figure 11-a. Percent Reporting Illness or Symptoms from Poor Air Quality by Income, Montana Adults, 2004.**

## [Figure 11-b. Percent Reporting Illness or Symptoms from Poor Indoor Air Quality by Presence of Mold in the Home, Montana Adults, 2004]




* Mold on an area greater than the size of a dollar bill

**Figure 11-b. Percent Reporting Illness or Symptoms from Poor Indoor Air Quality by Presence of Mold in the Home, Montana Adults, 2004.**