

Metro Briefing | New York: E.P.A. Warns Of City's Air Quality

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People who live near congested highways and in large cities like New York face an increased risk of getting cancer from air pollution, according to a national study by the Environmental Protection Agency. The study was based on 1999 data, the most recent year available, and covers 177 toxins. But the study was criticized for excluding dioxins and the parts of diesel exhaust that are believed to cause cancer. Of all the states, New York has the most hazardous air, according to the study, and New York City has the most polluted air in the state. The agency said the study results should not be used to make state-by-state or city-by-city comparisons. Rather, like the results of an earlier study in 2002, they are intended to help state efforts to concentrate on and reduce pollutants.