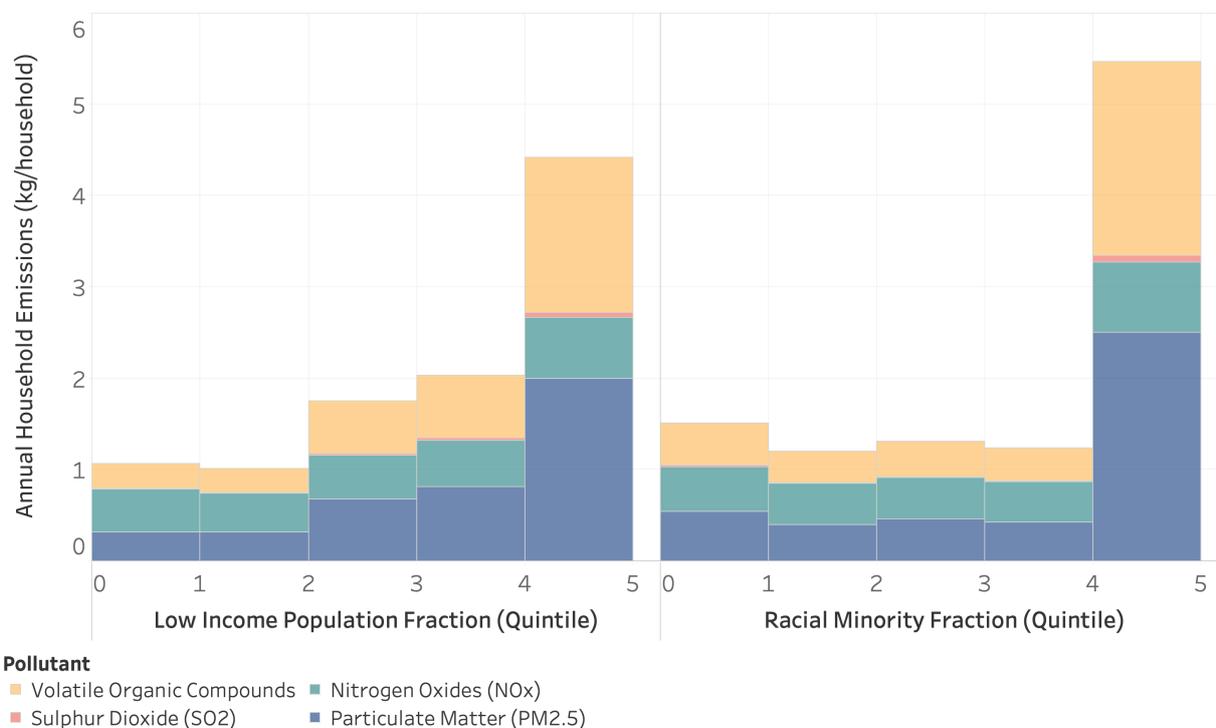


## Indoor Air Pollution

Burning wood, propane, and gas for heating and cooking produces health-damaging air pollutants and can contribute to poor indoor air quality. In New Mexico, reliance on wood—which typically has the highest air pollutant emissions—is highest among low-income communities and communities of color, especially in rural settings.



**New Mexico residential air pollutant emissions and demographics.** Census tracts with a larger fraction of low-income residents and populations of color (rightmost bar) have higher average indoor air emissions.

Approximately 50,000 New Mexico households (one in 15) use wood as their primary heating source. These households are disproportionately located on tribal lands; and nearly one in two households in majority Native American areas uses wood as their primary heating fuel. Wood burning emits more criteria air pollutants per unit of energy generated than other common home heating fuels.

- **Wood-burning households, which are disproportionately located in communities of color and rural areas, have higher emissions of health-damaging fine particulate matter.** Provision of cleaner alternatives through expanded electrification and solar access, or cleaner-burning wood stove designs, may particularly benefit these households.
- **Electrification of gas and propane appliances, such as space and water heating and cooking, can reduce indoor exposure** to nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxide, and other pollutants, which can particularly affect children, the elderly, and other sensitive populations.
- Gas and propane appliance electrification can also benefit the climate by reducing emissions of greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide and methane, in addition to reducing indoor air pollution.

For more information, visit:

[www.psehealthyenergy.org/our-work/western-states-deep-decarbonization/](http://www.psehealthyenergy.org/our-work/western-states-deep-decarbonization/)

