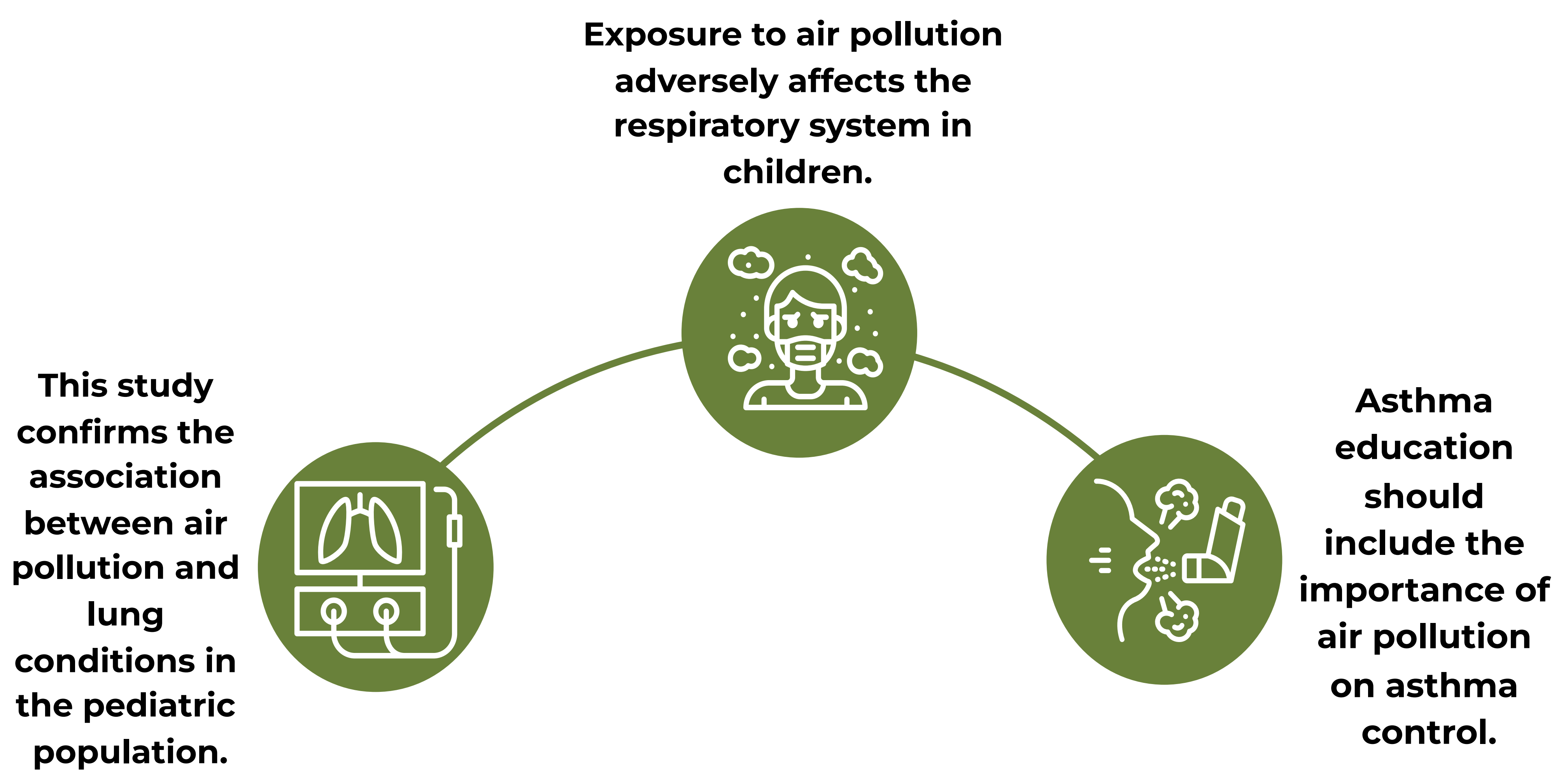


Air Pollution is Linked To More Hospital Days & Higher Cost of Care

Background

Hospital length of stay (LOS) is often used as a proxy for healthcare cost in the United States. This study investigates the association between outdoor air pollution and LOS among pediatric asthma patients. Air pollution data was collected from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Data on hospitalizations and air pollution were analyzed and show that air pollution was significantly associated with prolonged LOS.

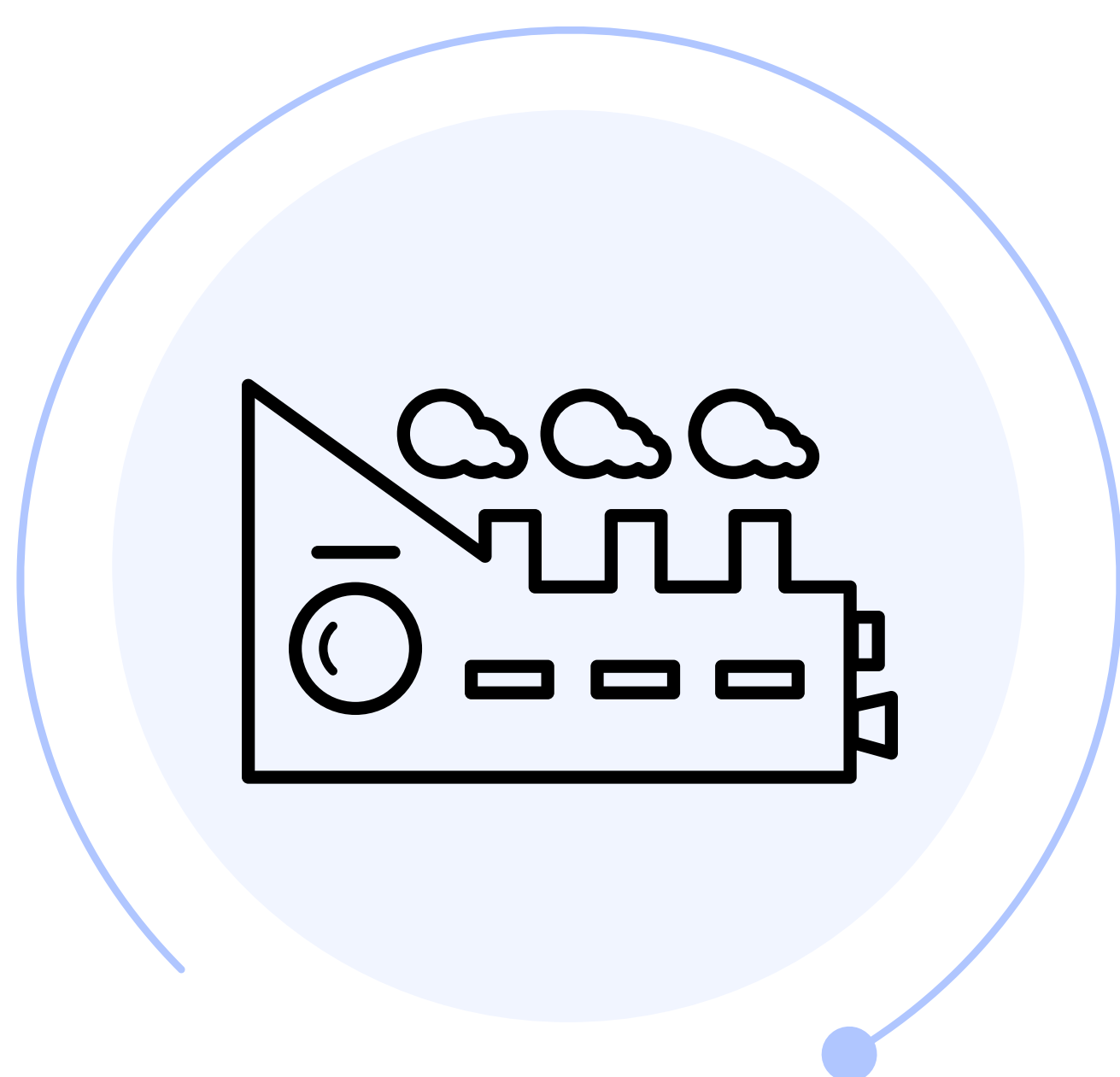
Key Takeaways



Impact

Air pollution can increase **LOS** by about

2-3 days



The **average cost** of a 3-day hospital stay is about

\$30,000



Efforts by industry and policy makers to reduce air pollution will have a positive effect on the health of children with asthma and can reduce expensive hospitalizations.