

Report looks at hidden health costs of energy production

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Generating electricity by burning coal is responsible for about half of an estimated \$120 billion in yearly costs from early deaths and health damages to thousands of Americans from the use of fossil fuels, a federal advisory group said Monday.

A one-year study by the National Research Council looked at many costs of energy production and the use of fossil fuels that aren't reflected in the price of energy. The \$120 billion sum was the cost to human health from U.S. electricity production, transportation and heating in 2005, the latest year with full data.

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