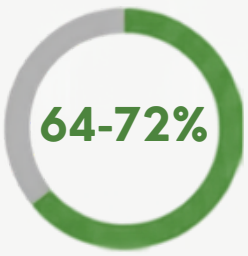
ILLINOIS CLINICIANS for Climate Action

FACT SHEET

August 2026

Data Centers and Public Health in Illinois

Illinois Clinicians for Climate Action supports responsible data center development that protects health, keeps utility bills affordable, safeguards water, and strengthens Illinois' clean-energy future.



64-72%

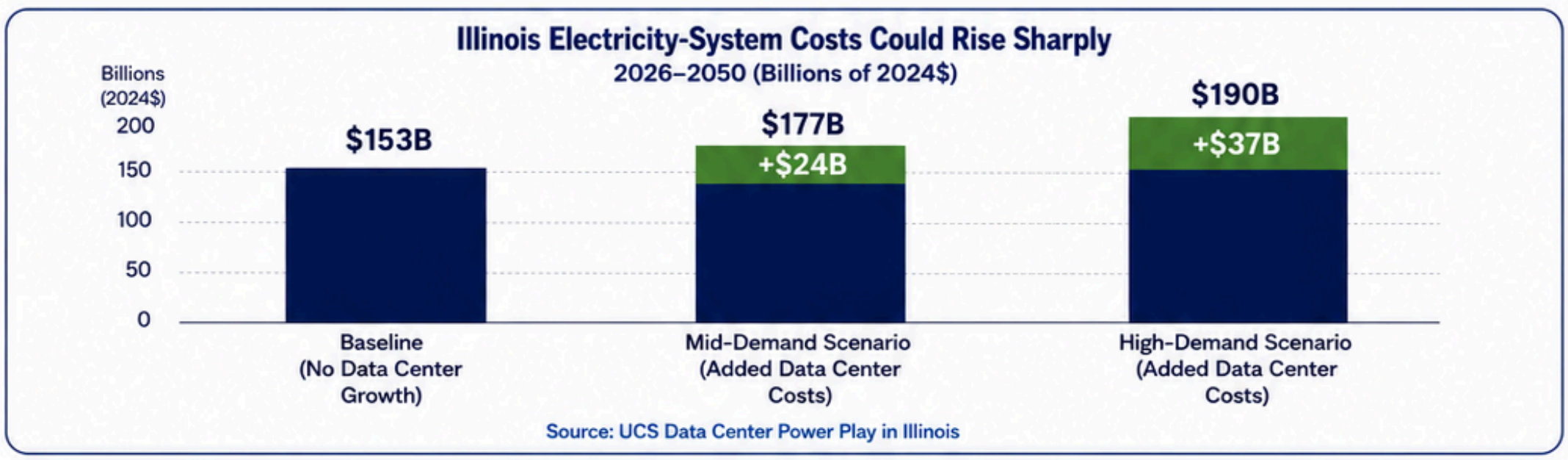
of Illinois electricity-demand growth from 2025–2030 could come from data centers.

$24-$37B

in added Illinois electricity-system costs from data-center load growth, 2026–2050.

$1.23-$2.07B

in added health costs from power-sector pollution attributable to data-center load growth, 2026–2050.



Why this matters for health

Air pollution increases health risks.
NOx and SO_2 emissions rise with data center demand, along with unhealthy particulate pollution.

Backup diesel generators add local pollution.
About 80% of data centers use diesel backup generators.

Water demand can strain local supplies.
Data centers can use up to 5 million gallons of water per day for cooling.

Affordability is a health issue.
Higher utility bills can force families to cut spending on essentials.

How the POWER Act responds

1. **Protect ratepayers.**
Ensure data centers pay their fair share.
2. **Bring new clean power.**
Require new clean energy, storage, and efficiency to meet new demand.
3. **Limit diesel pollution.**
Limit backup diesel generators to true emergencies and encourage cleaner backup.
4. **Increase transparency and cumulative-impact review.**
Require public reporting and review of projects likely to cause cumulative impacts.
5. **Protect water resources and support clean-energy jobs.**
Safeguard water, strengthen accountability, and support good clean-energy jobs.