Cameroon

Air pollution is the 5th leading risk factor for premature death, accounting for nearly 7% of deaths — more than 13,000 — in Cameroon in 2017 alone.

Air pollution exposures, including exposure to outdoor particulate matter (PM$_{2.5}$), and household air pollution (HAP) have been linked to increased hospitalizations, disability, and early death from respiratory diseases, heart disease, stroke, lung cancer, and diabetes, as well as communicable diseases like pneumonia. Exposure to outdoor ozone is also linked to COPD.

**More than 13,000 deaths due to air pollution in 2017**

2 years and 5 months’ loss in life expectancy at birth due to air pollution exposure

73 µg/m$^3$ population-weighted average PM$_{2.5}$ concentration

65% of the population uses solid fuels

**Key Facts**

- Air pollution (total) is the 5th leading risk factor in Cameroon in 2017, after risk factors such as malnutrition, high blood pressure, and unsafe sex. Considered separately, household air pollution and outdoor air pollution are ranked as the 12th and 13th leading risk factors.
- The entire Cameroonian population lives in areas with PM$_{2.5}$ concentrations* above the WHO Air Quality Guideline for healthy air (10 µg/m$^3$).
- In 2017, there were 6,430 deaths attributable to exposure to outdoor PM$_{2.5}$, 6,720 deaths to HAP, and 263 to ozone.
- Exposure to outdoor PM$_{2.5}$ accounted for a loss of nearly 1 year and 6 months of life expectancy; and exposure to HAP accounted for a loss of nearly 1 year and 4 months.

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* Please note that PM$_{2.5}$ concentrations reported here are estimated using satellite data, ground air quality monitoring data, and chemical transport models. There can be uncertainty in these estimates in regions where ground monitoring data are not available compared with regions where more ground monitoring data are available. Our best estimate of the concentration for Cameroon is 73 µg/m$^3$, but given the lack of sufficient ground monitoring, it may range from 22 µg/m$^3$–168 µg/m$^3$. 

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**Leading risk factors for death and disability in Cameroon in 2017.**