Ghana

Air pollution is the 6th leading risk factor for premature death, accounting about 7% of deaths — more than 15,000 — in Ghana 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.

Percentage of deaths by cause attributed to air pollution in Ghana in 2017.

39 percent of COPD deaths 
21 percent of diabetes deaths 
21 percent of ischemic heart disease deaths 
30 percent of lung cancer deaths 
15 percent of stroke deaths

Key Facts

• Air pollution (total) is the 6th leading risk factor in Ghana in 2017, after risk factors such as malnutrition, high blood pressure, and dietary risks. Considered separately, household air pollution and outdoor air pollution are ranked as the 7th and 17th leading risk factors.

• The entire Ghanaian population lives in areas with PM$_{2.5}$ concentrations* above the WHO Air Quality Guideline for healthy air (10µg/m$^3$). Further, 46% of the population lives in areas above the WHO’s least-stringent target of 35µg/m$^3$.

• In 2017, there were 5,190 deaths attributable to exposure to outdoor PM$_{2.5}$, 9,780 deaths to HAP, and 168 to ozone.

• Exposure to outdoor PM accounted for a loss of nearly 1 year and 1 month of life expectancy, and exposure to HAP also accounted for a loss of 1 year and 4 months.


Malnutrition 
High Blood Pressure 
Dietary Risks 
High Blood Sugar 
Alcohol Use 
Air Pollution 
Unsafe Sex 
High BMI 
WaSH 
High LDL 

Number of Deaths (thousands)

* 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 Ghana is 35µg/m$^3$, but given the lack of sufficient ground monitoring, it may range from 11µg/m$^3$–86µg/m$^3$. 

For more details, please visit www.stateofglobalair.org
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