STATE OF
GLOBAL AIR /2020

Kenya

Air pollution was the 3rd leading risk factor for premature death in Kenya in 2019, accounting for more than 9% of all deaths (more than 27,500). Considered separately, ambient particulate matter ($PM_{2.5}$) ranked as the 17th leading risk factor, and household air pollution (HAP) ranked 3rd. Ozone was not in the top 20 risk factors.

Key Statistics at a Glance

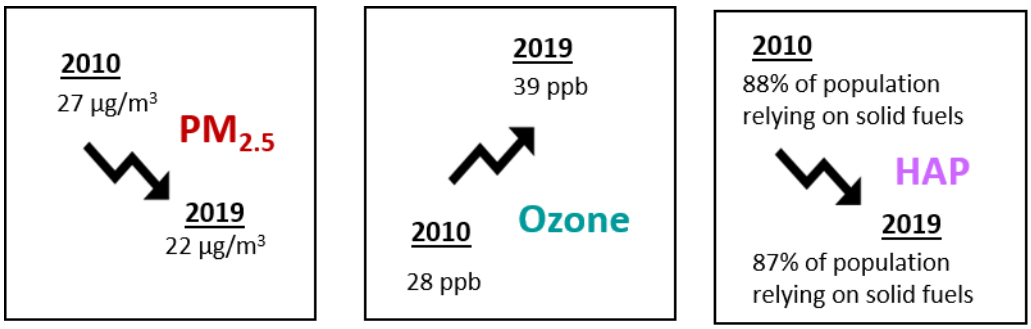
More than 27,500 deaths due to air pollution in 2019.	**22 µg/m³ population-weighted annual average $PM_{2.5}$ concentration.***	**87% of the population used solid fuels for cooking.**
Nearly 22% of infant deaths attributable to air pollution.	**Nearly 5,500 deaths attributable to exposure to outdoor $PM_{2.5}$.**	**More than 22 000 deaths attributable to exposure to HAP.**

Key Exposure Facts

100% of Kenya's population lives in areas where $PM_{2.5}$ levels are above the WHO guideline for healthy air (10 µg/m³).**

- Between 2010 and 2019, exposures to $PM_{2.5}$ declined, but exposures to ozone increased, and exposures to HAP remained the same.
- Among the 47 countries in the Sub-Saharan Africa region, Kenya ranks 41st in $PM_{2.5}$ exposure.

How Have Pollutant Exposures Changed Between 2010 and 2019?



* Please note that $PM_{2.5}$ concentrations reported here are estimated using a combination of satellite data, ground air quality monitoring data, and chemical transport models. These estimates can be more uncertain in regions where ground monitoring data are limited or not available. In Kenya, the best estimate of the annual average exposure is 22 µg/m³, but it may range from 15 µg/m³ to 31 µg/m³.

** WHO provides an Air Quality Guideline of 10 µg/m³ for $PM_{2.5}$ to minimize health risks to populations, as well as three interim targets (35 µg/m³, 25 µg/m³, and 15 µg/m³) as incremental steps toward the progressive reduction of air pollution.

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Air Pollution Accounts for a Substantial Percentage of Global Deaths from Specific Causes.

Air pollution exposures, including exposure to outdoor $PM_{2.5}$ and 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 ozone is linked to chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), and in children, especially those under the age of 5, increases susceptibility to lower respiratory tract infections. Exposure to $PM_{2.5}$ also puts mothers at risk of delivering babies too early and smaller than normal, and such babies are more susceptible to dying from a range of diseases.

Percentage of Deaths (by Cause) Attributed to Air Pollution in Kenya in 2019

46 percent of COPD deaths

23 percent of diabetes deaths

30 percent of ischemic heart disease deaths

29 percent of lung cancer deaths

33 percent of stroke deaths

39 percent of lower respiratory infection deaths

22 percent of neonatal deaths

Key Health Facts

- Air pollution is the 3rd leading risk factor for premature death in Kenya. Leading causes of death in Kenya include HIV/AIDS, lower respiratory infection, diarrheal diseases, drug-susceptible tuberculosis, and ischemic heart disease, while leading risk factors include high blood pressure, tobacco, poor diet, and high blood sugar.
- There are 124 deaths per 100,000 people attributable to air pollution in Kenya compared with 86 deaths globally, adjusted for differences in age.
- 14% of total air-pollution-attributable deaths in Kenya are in children under 5, and 14% are in people over 70.

GOOD NEWS: Deaths attributable to HAP decreased by 26% since 2010. Kenya released its National Clean Air Programme in 2019 with a view to reducing outdoor $PM_{2.5}$ levels by 2024. In April 2020, the country initiated a switch to Bharat Stage VI (BS-VI) emission standards, which is likely to bring benefits over the next few years.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

For the full report and additional data, please visit www.stateofglobalair.org.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

For open-access, real-time air quality data, visit OpenAQ

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For more details, please visit
www.stateofglobalair.org
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The State of Global Air website is a collaboration between the Health Effects Institute and the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation, with expert input from the University of British Columbia.