8.1 million total deaths due to air pollution in 2021

58% deaths from ambient PM$_{2.5}$

38% deaths from household air pollution

6% deaths from ozone

2021

2nd largest risk factor of deaths in 2021

Countries in South Asia and Africa face the highest burden of disease.

2nd largest risk factor of deaths in 2021

Since 2000

The disease burden for household air pollution (HAP) has decreased largely due to reductions in exposure in China and South Asia.

There has been a 36% decline in deaths from HAP.

Air pollution is responsible for

30% of deaths from lower respiratory infections.

28% of deaths from ischemic heart disease.

48% of deaths from chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

Lower respiratory infection deaths are decreasing across most regions.

Globally, ambient PM$_{2.5}$ levels are reducing or stabilizing in many regions.

31.3 µg/m$^3$ average global exposure of ambient PM$_{2.5}$

Populations from low- and middle-income countries are exposed to 1.3—4 times higher levels of ambient PM$_{2.5}$

Global Risk Factors for Death for Children Under 5 Years

1. Malnutrition
2. Air pollution
3. Water, sanitation, and hygiene
4. High or low temperature
5. Tobacco

Global Risk Factors for Death

1. High blood pressure
2. Air pollution
3. Tobacco
4. Diet
5. High fasting plasma glucose

Children Under 5

709,000 total deaths from air pollution in 2021.

The largest burden of disease is seen in Asia and Africa.

The Good News

The disease burden linked to air pollution in children under 5 has decreased by 35% since 2010, driven largely by reductions in HAP.

72% HAP

air pollution–related deaths by pollutant

28% PM$_{2.5}$