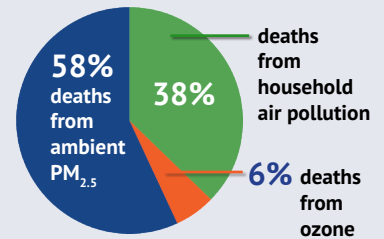


STATE OF GLOBAL AIR / 2024

8.1 million total deaths due to air pollution in 2021



2nd

largest risk factor of deaths in 2021

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

Global Risk Factors for Death

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

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.

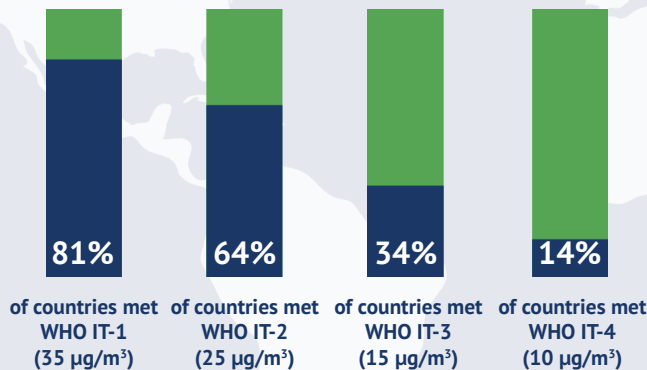


28% of deaths from ischemic heart disease.



48% of deaths from chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

Lower respiratory infection deaths are decreasing across most regions.



The interim targets (ITs) were developed based on current scientific evidence and are intended to be used in diverse conditions to support air quality management.

For more, see the WHO air quality guidelines.

↓ Globally, ambient PM_{2.5} levels are reducing or stabilizing in many regions.

31.3 µg/m³ 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}.



Children Under 5

709,000 total deaths from air pollution in 2021. The largest burden of disease is seen in Asia and Africa.



72% HAP

28% PM_{2.5}

air pollution-related deaths by pollutant

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.

2nd

largest risk factor of deaths in 2021

In South Asia and East, West, Central and Southern Africa, air pollution accounts for nearly 30% of all deaths in the first month after birth.

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