Bangladesh

Air pollution is the 3rd leading risk factor for mortality in Bangladesh, accounting for almost 14% of deaths (123,000) in 2017 alone.

Air pollution exposures, including exposure to outdoor particulate matter (PM$_{2.5}$), household air pollution (HAP), and ozone, 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 ambient ozone is also linked to COPD.

Percentage of deaths by cause attributed to air pollution in Bangladesh.

Key Facts

- Air pollution is the 3rd leading risk factor for mortality in Bangladesh in 2017, after only dietary risks and high blood pressure. Individually, household air pollution and outdoor air pollution are ranked as the 4th and 8th leading risk factors.
- The entire population lives in areas with PM$_{2.5}$ concentrations above the WHO Air Quality Guideline for healthy air (10 $\mu$g/m$^3$). More than 99% lives in areas with PM$_{2.5}$ concentrations above the WHO’s least-stringent Interim Air Quality Target of 35 $\mu$g/m$^3$.
- More than 47,000 deaths have been attributed to exposure to outdoor PM$_{2.5}$, more than 70,000 deaths to HAP, and 9,000 to ozone.
- Exposure to outdoor PM accounted for a loss of nearly 1 year and 10 months of life expectancy, and exposure to HAP also accounted for a loss of nearly 1 year and 10 months.

Leading risk factors for death and disability in Bangladesh in 2017.