India

Air pollution is the 3rd leading risk factor for mortality, accounting for almost 13% of deaths (1.2 million) in India 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. Exposure to ambient ozone is linked to COPD.

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

91 µg/m$^3$ population-weighted average PM$_{2.5}$ concentration

60% of the population uses solid fuels

1.2 million deaths due to air pollution in 2017

2 years and 6 months’ loss in life expectancy at birth due to air pollution exposure

Key Facts
• Air pollution is the 3rd leading risk factor in India in 2017, after only dietary risks and high blood pressure. Individually, outdoor air pollution and household air pollution are ranked as the 4th and 10th leading risk factors.
• The entire Indian population lives in areas with PM$_{2.5}$ concentrations above the WHO Air Quality Guideline of 10 µg/m$^3$, and only about 15% of the population lives in areas with PM$_{2.5}$ concentrations below the WHO’s least-stringent target of 35 µg/m$^3$.
• There were 673,100 deaths due to exposure to outdoor PM$_{2.5}$, and more than 481,700 deaths due to exposure to HAP.
• Exposure to outdoor PM accounted for a loss of nearly 1 year and 6 months in life expectancy, and exposure to HAP accounted for a loss of nearly 1 year and 2 months.

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