United States of America

Air pollution is the 8th leading risk factor for mortality, accounting for almost 4% of deaths (107,500) in the United States in 2017 alone.

Air pollution exposures, including exposure to outdoor particulate matter (PM$_{2.5}$), 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 the USA in 2017.**

- 23 percent of COPD deaths
- 13 percent of diabetes deaths
- 7 percent of ischemic heart disease deaths
- 5 percent of lung cancer deaths
- 5 percent of stroke deaths

**Key Facts**

- Air pollution is the 8th leading risk factor in the United States in 2017. Individually, outdoor air pollution is ranked as the 12th leading risk factor.
- All Americans live in areas with PM$_{2.5}$ concentrations below the WHO’s least-stringent target of 35 µg/m$^3$, and only 3% of Americans live in areas where PM$_{2.5}$ concentrations exceed the WHO’s Air Quality Guideline of 10 µg/m$^3$. In fact, the proportion of people living in areas with PM$_{2.5}$ exceeding the WHO Guideline plummeted from 50% in 1990 to about 40% in 2010 and then to just 3% in 2017.
- There were more than 85,000 deaths due to exposure to outdoor PM$_{2.5}$ and more than 24,000 deaths due to exposure to ambient ozone.
- Exposure to PM$_{2.5}$ accounted for a loss of 5 months in life expectancy.

**Leading risk factors for death and disability in the United States in 2017.**

For more details, please visit [www.stateofglobalair.org](http://www.stateofglobalair.org)

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