STATE OF GLOBAL AIR /2019

107,500 deaths due to air pollution in 2017

5 months' loss in life expectancy at birth due to air pollution exposure

7.4 µg/m³ population-weighted average $PM_{2.5}$ concentration

59 ppb population-weighted seasonal average ozone

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

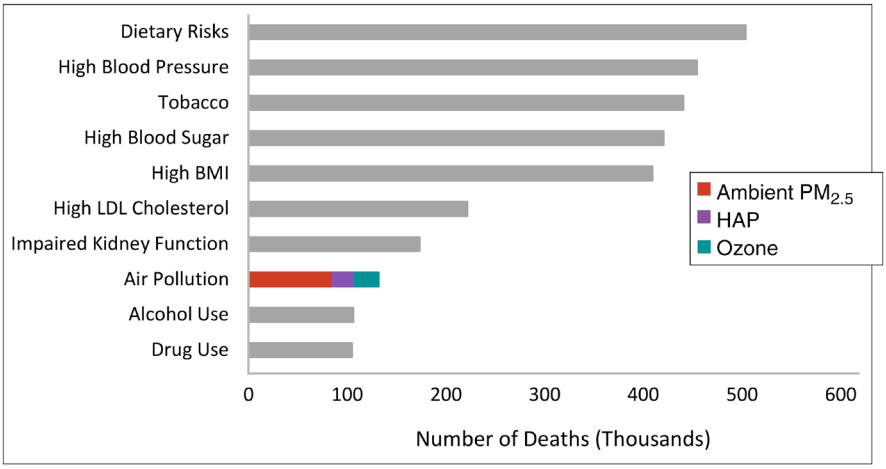
5 percent of lung cancer deaths

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/m³, and only 3% of Americans live in areas where $PM_{2.5}$ concentrations exceed the WHO's Air Quality Guideline of 10 µg/m³. 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.



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For more details, please visit
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The State of Global Air website is a collaboration between the Health Effects Institute and the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation, with expert input from the University of British Columbia