

Pollution

The Silent Killer of Millions in Poor Countries

Pollution is the leading cause of death in low- and middle-income countries. Exposure to polluted soil, water and air (both indoor and outdoor) resulted in 8.4 million deaths in 2012 in these countries. More than **one in seven deaths in the world are pollution-related.**

What is Pollution?



Pollution is contaminated water, soil, and air that is harmful or poisonous. Pollution comes in many forms, and each has a distinct set of solutions.

Particulates from power plants, cars and trucks pollute outdoor air.



Cookstoves contaminate indoor air.



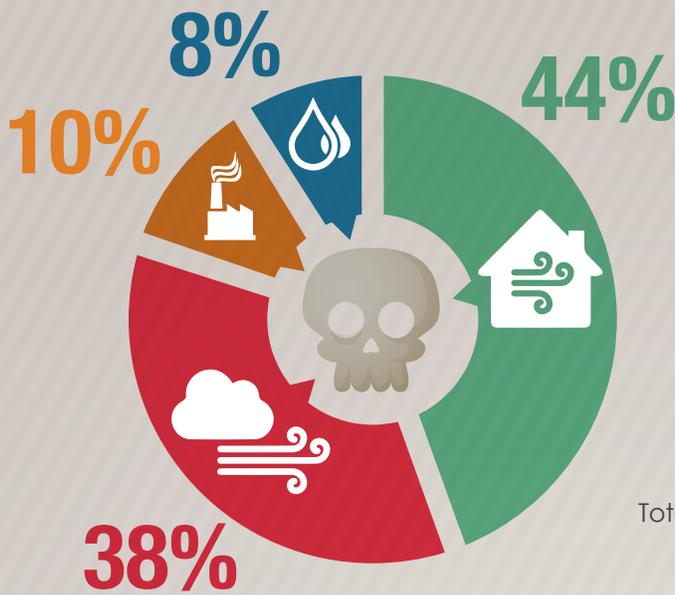
Mercury and other heavy metals from industry and mining contaminate soil, water and food.



Sewage and industrial wastewater pollute local water systems.



Pollution especially **harms children** and can cause **birth defects, developmental and neurological disabilities, immune system damage,** and many diseases. It also can severely hamper **economic growth** by degrading **human and natural resources.**



DEATHS CAUSED BY POLLUTION ^{1,2,3} (2012)

Low- and Middle-income Countries

- Household air pollution
- Ambient air pollution
- Contaminated sites
- Water, Sanitation & Hygiene

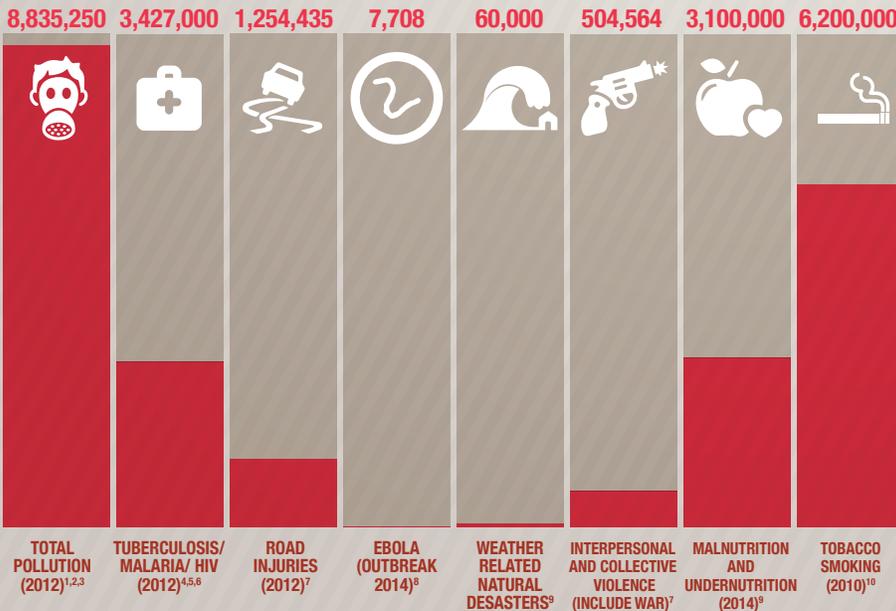
Total Deaths in Low- and Middle-income Countries = 8.4 Million
Total Global Deaths = 8.9 Million

How does pollution? Kill people



Pollution causes various cancers, heart diseases and lung diseases, to name just a few. Comparatively, death by pollution is larger than any other major cause. Clearly there is a need for attention, investment and prevention. Billions spent on sanitation, malaria, HIV and TB have had a major impact in improving health.

POLLUTION DEATHS VS. OTHER MAJOR CAUSES-WORLD



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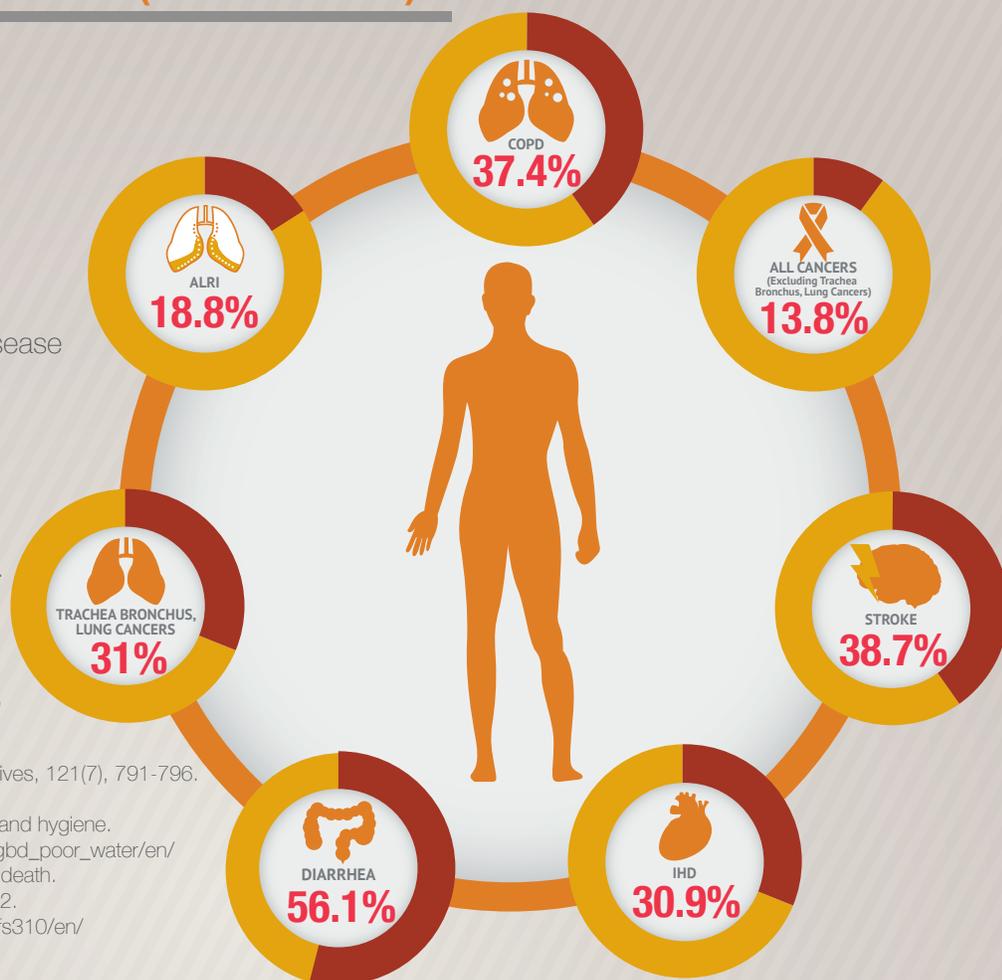
LEADING CAUSES OF DEATHS⁽¹⁻⁶⁾ AND PORTION CAUSED BY POLLUTION (WORLD—2012)

 Total deaths
 Pollution-attributable Deaths

ALRI: Acute Lower Respiratory Disease
COPD: Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease
IHD: Ischaemic Heart Disease

References

- 1: World Health Organization. (2014). Burden of disease from ambient and household air pollution. Air pollution estimates. Retrieved from http://www.who.int/phe/health_topics/outdoorair/databases/en/
2. Contaminated sites data extrapolated from GAHP database. Main reference: Chatham-Stephens, K., Caravanos, J., Ericson, B., Sunga-Amparo, J., Susilorini, B., Sharma, P. Landrigan, P.J., Fuller, R. (2013). Burden of disease from toxic waste sites in India, Indonesia, and the Philippines in 2010. *Environmental Health Perspectives*, 121(7), 791-796.
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THE POISONED POOR

94%

of the burden of disease from pollution falls on low- and middle-income countries, who are least equipped to deal with the problem.



Learn more - visit gahp.net

Poor people in developing countries



ESPECIALLY WOMEN AND CHILDREN

continue to be poisoned, suffer lifelong disabilities, and die prematurely from pollution.

Why should Wealthy Countries Care?



1
Our economy is global and so are the pollutants.



2
Contaminated air from newly industrialized countries pose a threat to neighboring countries



3
Mercury from gold mining and coal plants can be found in fish everywhere



4
Arsenic and other toxins are found in rice and other foods exported around the world.



5
Many highly polluting industries have moved overseas to poor countries lacking environmental regulations and technology.



6
Clean technologies and green growth are possible for emerging economies.



7
Western nations have had success in cleaning up their toxic and legacy pollution



8
And can now transfer technology and funding to low- and middle-income countries.

How can we Fix the problem?



Prioritizing the prevention and clean-up of toxic pollution will mitigate climate change, reduce threats to biodiversity, and



SAVE LIVES RIGHT NOW.

GAHP

GLOBAL ALLIANCE ON
HEALTH AND POLLUTION

Partnering to rid the world of toxic hotspots

The Global Alliance on Health and Pollution (GAHP) galvanizes resources to assist low- and middle-income countries address priority pollution problems. As well as educating on all forms of pollution, GAHP helps countries



Identify and assess toxic pollutant threats, especially for contaminated sites;



Create a planning process to prioritize action for problems posing the greatest risk to human health;



Implement solutions to save lives.

Pollution is not inevitable.

IT IS A PROBLEM THAT IS SOLVABLE IN OUR LIFETIME.

Learn more - visit gahp.net