

Almost 2,000 children die every day from air pollution, report finds

Level 1: Elementary

1 Warmer

- a. What is your biggest concern about the environment? Discuss with a classmate. Then, compare with the class.

2 Key words

- a. Write the correct words from the wordpool to complete the definitions below. Then find and highlight them in the article to read them in context.

indoor

nutrition

outdoor

risk factor

suffer

1. A(n) _____ is something that increases the possibility of something bad or harmful happening.
2. A(n) _____ activity happens outside, not in a building.
3. A(n) _____ activity happens inside a building.
4. _____ is what you take into your body as food and the way that it influences your health.
5. To experience physical or mental pain is to _____.

climate crisis

ozone

protect

quality

reduce

6. When you _____ something, you make it smaller or less.
7. When you _____ someone or something, you keep it safe from injury, damage or loss.
8. The _____ is the serious problem of the world getting warmer as a result of human activity.
9. _____ is how good or bad something is.
10. A poisonous form of oxygen is called _____.

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b. Complete the sentences with words from the previous activity. You might have to change the form of the word.

1. The nurse gave the patient medicine for her pain, which stopped her _____.
2. Children's _____ is important so they can grow up healthy and strong.
3. Those shoes were terrible _____. They broke in a month!
4. Is there a way to _____ your phone bill? It's so high.
5. It's a parent's job to _____ their children.
6. When _____ is high up, it is helpful. When it is close to the ground, it is harmful.

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Fiona Harvey

18 June, 2024

- 1 Nearly 2,000 children under five die every day from air pollution. This is now the second biggest health risk factor for young children around the world.
- 2 More than 8 million deaths, of children and adults, were caused by air pollution in 2021, according to a new study. Both outdoor and indoor pollution hurt people's health.
- 3 Dirty air is now the second biggest killer around the world. It is bigger than tobacco and high blood pressure among adults. For children under five, poor nutrition is the biggest risk factor.
- 4 HEI published the first State of Global Air report in 2017. It was produced this year with UNICEF's help. It shows that children in low-income countries are suffering more. Deaths linked to air pollution in children under five are 100 times higher in most of Africa.
- 5 Tiny pieces called PM2.5 are smaller than 2.5 micrometres but cause more than 90 per cent of global air pollution deaths, the report found.
- 6 Kitty van der Heijden of UNICEF said that not acting is having serious health effects on children. She also said that it is very important for governments and businesses to act "to reduce air pollution and protect children's health."
- 7 The impacts of the climate crisis are also making air quality worse, according to the HEI. There is less rain and drier land, so there are more fires and dust storms. This means PM2.5 stays in the air for longer.
- 8 Higher summer temperatures can create ozone more quickly. Ozone is a harmful gas, and it caused nearly half a million deaths in 2021, the report found.
- 9 Reducing air pollution could also help the climate. About half a million children's deaths in 2021 were linked to dirty air indoors, mainly the result of cooking with dirty energy sources. Switching to cleaner ones would reduce PM2.5 and carbon dioxide.
- 10 About 2.3 billion people don't have clean energy sources to cook with. The International Energy Agency estimates that about \$4 billion a year is needed by 2030 to solve this in sub-Saharan Africa alone. Last month, \$2.2 billion was raised for clean-cooking energy projects.
- 11 Fatih Birol of the IEA said governments around the world need to understand how important it is. It impacts health, the climate, the economy and gender equality.
- 12 Previous reports have found that almost everyone breathes unhealthy levels of air pollution each day and that half a million babies are killed each year by dirty air.

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3 Comprehension check

a. Answer the questions using information from the article.

1. How many children under five die every day from air pollution?
2. What is the second biggest health risk factor for young children?
3. How many child and adult deaths were caused by air pollution in 2021?
4. What are the biggest risk factors for children under five?
5. When was the first State of Global Air report published?
6. What are the tiny pieces of pollution called, and why are they called that?
7. What percentage of global air pollution deaths happen because of that type of pollution?
8. Why is it “very important for governments and businesses to take action”?
9. What else is making air quality worse?
10. How do higher summer temperatures affect air pollution?
11. What is the main reason for dirty air indoors?

4 Key language

a. In the sentences below, underline the subject, double-underline the verb. If the doer is named, circle *by*.

1. More than 8 million deaths were caused by air pollution in 2021.
2. This year’s State of Global Air report was produced by the HEI and UNICEF.
3. About half a million children’s deaths in 2021 were linked to dirty air indoors by the report.
4. \$2.2 billion was raised last month for projects to help move people to cleaner methods.

b. Change the verbs above from the passive voice to the active voice.

5 Discussion

a. Discuss these statements.

- “Nearly every person breathes unhealthy levels of air pollution each day.”
- “Clean air and water are the most important things for good health.”

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6 In your own words

a. Do some research about air pollution or another type of pollution. Answer these questions.

- What is a big impact of this type of pollution?
- How many people and/or animals are hurt by it?
- What are some ways people are cleaning up this pollution?
- What are some changes that would help the situation?
- What is stopping these changes?
- What is your opinion?

b. Report your findings to the class and share the facts you learned and your opinions. Here are some phrases to help you make transitions during your report.

Contrast

However, ...

On the other hand, ...

Combination

In addition to, ...

Also, ...

Intensity

In fact, ...

Without a doubt, ...