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## Air Pollution Facts



Facts Chief   11 Jul 2016



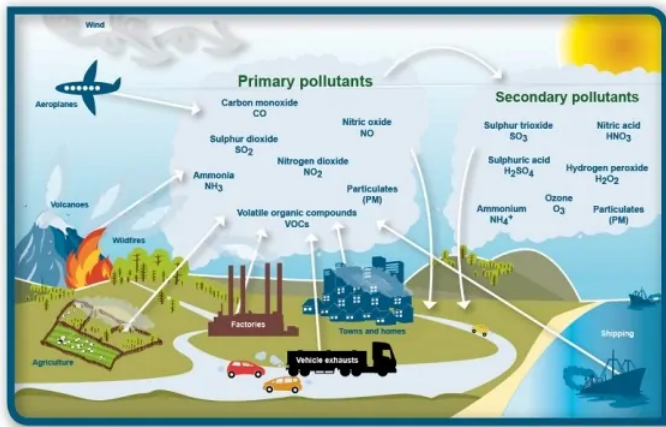


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## Air Pollution is Putting Poison in the Air



Air pollution facts teach us that contaminating

the air with any substance that is harmful is considered air pollution. The plain and simple truth is that air pollution is putting poison in the air.

There are many poisonous and harmful substances that contribute to air pollution. Air pollution facts show that most of these substances are released into the air by human activities. Carbon monoxide, sulphur dioxide, and other volatile organic compounds, or

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## Wood Stoves Cause Air Pollution in More Ways than One

When we look at indoor air pollution facts, we find that wood cook stoves used across the developing world are one of the main causes of indoor air pollution. These stoves cause many premature deaths and they impact air pollution in more ways than simply the smoke and ash they bellow out inside people's homes.

As resources grow scarce, the wood gathered for cook stoves is often taken from young and growing trees instead of old growth trees or dead limbs. As a result, trees that might reduce air pollution are cut down. The result is that as the cook stoves generate air pollution, there are fewer trees to help absorb that air pollution. Air pollution facts reveal a domino effect that is created which leads to more and more air pollution, inside and outside the home, in developing countries.

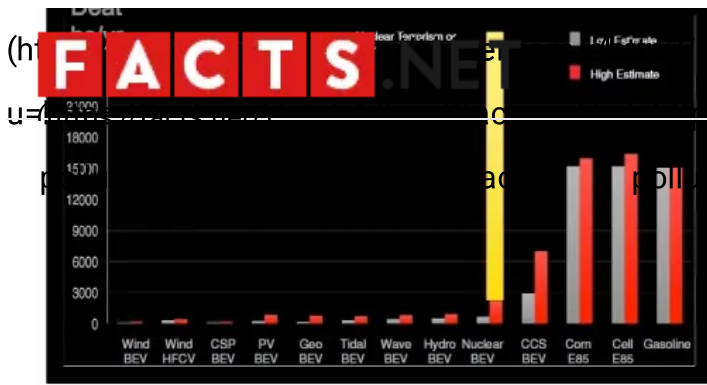
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## Burning Fossil Fuels is a Major Cause of Air Pollution



Low/High U.S. Air Pollution Deaths/yr For 2020  
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what causes air pollution, we find both direct and indirect causes of air pollution. When we use a car, we are causing direct air pollution through the burning of fossil fuels.

When we purchase goods that are transported and manufactured by burning fossil fuels, we are causing indirect air pollution. Adding these together, we find that fossil fuels contribute to air pollution in many ways than are obvious, and in some ways that we might not be aware of.

When people speak about the benefits of electric cars, air pollution facts show there is little benefit compared to burning gasoline when burning coal at a power plant is what generates the electricity used to charge the car. The next time your neighbour tells you that they are reducing air pollution by driving a shiny new electric car, ask them: where does the electricity for your car come from?

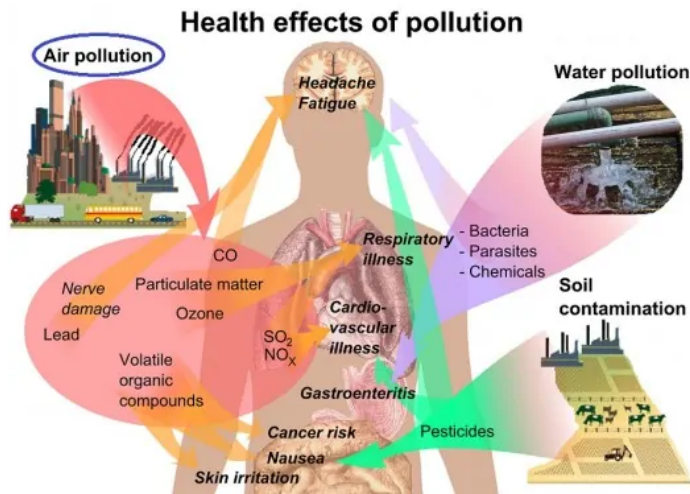
## There's Air Pollution in US National Parks

One of the major issues with air pollution is that air pollution created in one area can impact another area when air pollution is carried downwind by the weather. The United States Environmental Protection Agency warns that even pristine National Parks in the United States have air pollution which has been carried there from other areas. ^

## Air Pollution is the Largest Environmental Health Risk

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Looking at the threats to human health across

the world, air pollution facts reveal the surprising truth that air pollution is the biggest environmental health risk to people. When we consider the impact of outdoor and indoor air pollution, recent studies show there is a greater link between air pollution and disease than previously thought, resulting in 7 million premature deaths each year.

Examining global air pollution facts more closely, we find that the South-East Asia and Western Pacific Regions of the world have the largest numbers of deaths related to indoor air pollution. Combined, the deaths in these regions total 5.9 million, the vast majority of premature deaths from air pollution worldwide.

Some of the saddest air pollution facts reveal that women and children are often the most impacted by indoor air pollution exposure. The smoke, soot, and coal from wooden cook stoves in homes has a tremendous impact on women and children who are centred around the home, and hence the hearth, in developing countries.

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Worldwide air pollution is a big problem. Many

people have come to associate China with the worst air pollution in the world. Recent studies show that India now has the city with the worst air pollution.

In New Delhi, India the air pollution is so bad, that foreign embassies are installing air filtration systems on their buildings to protect the health of their staff. The practice has now spread to elite members of Indian society who purchase expensive filtration systems for their homes in Delhi.

Some of the most toxic chemicals in the air in New Delhi are very small, less than 2.5 micrometers in diameter, and are able to penetrate deep into the lungs. In Beijing, China, levels of 95 micrograms per cubic meter for these fine particles were reported in the winter. During the same time period, levels in New Delhi were 226 micrograms per cubic meter, making it more than twice as polluted as Beijing!



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“The Smog Covers the City Like a Tablecloth” in LA

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We typically think of man-made air pollution, however nature also creates air pollution. When volcanoes erupt, they release sulphur dioxide into the air. The toxic chemicals and gasses released by volcanoes give us a picture of the early atmosphere of the Earth.

Life as we know it couldn't exist on the early Earth with its atmosphere of toxic sulphur and other gasses. The plants which absorbed these chemicals and made life possible on Earth continue to play an important part in cleaning the air pollution we create now.

## Las Vegas Has More Air Pollution Than New York City!

New York City has a bad reputation for having a lot of air pollution. Perhaps it's not fair, considering some other cities are worse! It's true that the New York City and Newark, New Jersey area is number 12 on the latest list of the cities with the worst air pollution.

However, some cities such as Las Vegas, Phoenix, Houston, and even Washington, D.C. and Baltimore, have worse air pollution than New York City. So New Yorkers, you can breathe easy, or at least breathe a little easier knowing New York is not the worse city in the US for air pollution.

## Air Pollution Can Rain Down and Become Water Pollution

All aspects of the environment are connected and this is especially true for the water cycle. As moisture evaporates, cloud form and air pollution is intermingled in the process; air pollution can rain down and create water pollution or simply pollute the land. ^

Pollutants in the air are typically very fine particles. When they rain down, the toxic chemicals persist in our water supply. To put it another way, when we release toxic chemicals into the air, we're really putting our health up in smoke.

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