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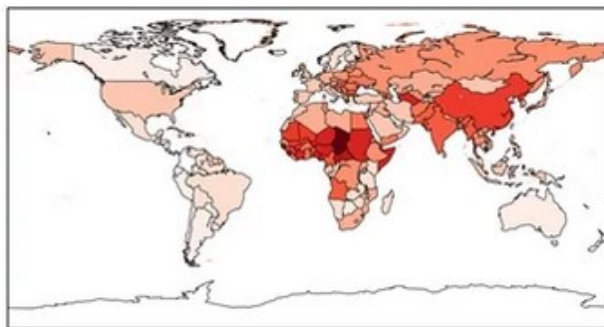
Air pollution is one of the world's most dangerous health risks

Researchers calculate that the effects of air pollution shorten the lives of people around the world by an average of almost three years

MARCH 03, 2020

[Chemistry \(E&C\)](#) [Medicine](#)

Polluted air is a public health hazard that cannot be evaded. It is widely known that long-term exposure to air pollution enhances the risks of cardiovascular and respiratory diseases. Scientists from the Max Planck Institute for Chemistry and the University Medical Center Mainz now calculated in a new study that the global, public loss of life expectancy caused by air pollution is higher than many other risk factors such as smoking, infectious diseases or violence.



Air pollution affects life expectancy worldwide. The darker a country is coloured, the more life expectancy decreases.... [\[more\]](#)
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Air pollution caused 8.8 million premature deaths worldwide in 2015. This corresponds to an average reduction in life expectancy per capita of 2.9 years. In comparison, tobacco smoking reduces the life expectancy by an average of 2.2 years (7.2 million deaths), HIV / AIDS by 0.7 years (1 million deaths), parasitic and vector-borne diseases such as malaria - by 0.6 years (600,000 deaths). "Air pollution exceeds malaria as a cause of premature death by a factor of 19; it exceeds violence by a factor of 17 and HIV / AIDS by a factor of 9. Given the huge impact on public health and the global population, one could say that our results indicate an air pollution pandemic", said Jos Lelieveld, director at Max Planck Institute for Chemistry and first author of the

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