

Pollution linked to nine million deaths a year worldwide

1) *Pollution claimed the lives of nine million people in 2015, one in every six deaths that year, according to a report published on Friday.*

2) Almost all the deaths, 92 percent, happened in low- and middle-income countries, it said, with air pollution the main culprit, felling 6.5 million people.

3) Almost half of the total toll came from just two countries -- India and China -- researchers reported in The Lancet medical journal.

4) In rapidly-industrialising countries such as India, Pakistan, China, Bangladesh, Madagascar and Kenya, pollution can account for as many as one in four deaths, they added.

5) "Pollution and related diseases most often affect the world's poor and powerless, and victims are often the vulnerable and the voiceless," said co-author Karti Sandilya of Pure Earth, an anti-pollution NGO.

6) "As a result, pollution threatens fundamental human rights, such as the right to life, health, wellbeing, safe work, as well as protections of children and the most vulnerable."

7) With global welfare losses of about \$4.6 trillion (3.9 trillion euros) per year, the economic cost of pollution-related deaths and disease is also concentrated in the developing world.

8) "Proportionally, low-income countries pay 8.3 percent of their gross national income to pollution-related death and disease, while high-income countries pay 4.5 percent," said the researchers.

9) Aside from outright poisoning, pollution causes an array of deadly ailments such as heart disease, stroke, lung cancer and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

10) The deadliest form, responsible for more than two-thirds of deaths, was air pollution, they added.



A woman wearing a protective pollution mask walks on a street in Beijing ↑

11) This includes outdoor pollution from factory and car emissions, and indoor pollution from wood, charcoal, coal, dung or crop waste being burnt for heating and cooking.

12) After water pollution in second place with 1.8 million deaths, "workplace pollution including exposure to toxins and carcinogens was linked to 0.8 million deaths," said the report.

13) These included the lung disease pneumoconiosis in coal workers, bladder cancer in dye workers, and asbestosis and lung cancer in workers exposed to asbestos.

14) "Lead pollution was linked to 0.5 million deaths that resulted from high blood pressure, renal failure and cardiovascular disease," said the report.

15) In a separate comment, The Lancet editors Pamela Das and Richard Horton said the report came at a "worrisome time, when the US government's Environmental Protection Agency, headed by Scott Pruitt, is undermining established environmental regulations."

16) The latest findings, they added, should serve as a "call to action". 後略
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タイトル

claim (命を)奪う

2) culprit 犯人、原因

4) account for ~を占める

5) affect 影響する

vulnerable 弱い、傷つきやすい

co-author 共著者

6) threaten 脅かす

fundamental human right 基本的人権

wellbeing 幸福、福利

8) proportionally 比較的

gross national income 国民総所得

9) aside from ~ ~は別として

outright 全く

an array of ~ 数々の ~

ailment (慢性の) 病気

stroke 卒中、発作

lung cancer 肺がん

chronic 慢性の

obstructive pulmonary

disease 閉塞性肺疾患

11) emission 排気

dung 糞

12) exposure さらにされる事

toxin 毒素

carcinogen 発がん物質

13) pneumoconiosis 塵肺

bladder cancer 膀胱がん

14) lead 鉛

high blood pressure 高血圧

renal failure 腎不全

cardiovascular 心臓血管の

15) worrisome 面倒な

undermine 徐々に害する

findings 調査結果

★Breaker for active discussion

1. According to studies, pollution kills more people worldwide than war or smoking. What can you say about this?

2. How do you protect yourself from pollution?

3. What can countries do to lessen the pollution caused by industrialization?

4. Do you know any efforts companies make that are good for the environment?

5. Make sentences using the following words: culprit, vulnerable, exposure, worrisome and undermine.