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Your
research
topic

BIG IDEA

What is the impact of air pollution on children's lung health?

Subtopic

Air pollution

Subtopic

Children

Subtopic

Lung health

- What** What is most interesting/weird/intriguing to you about this topic?
I'm interested in this topic because it's something that affects everyone, often in ways that we're not aware of (and in some cases, in ways we don't yet fully understand). I'm also interested in household air pollution, which has been linked to cancer and other diseases, especially among women and children.
- Who** Who does this topic affect? Who cares about it?
Air pollution has the most extreme effect on the health of infants and small children, including mortality and respiratory disease. Research suggests that air pollution contributes to 6 % of mortality for everyone, not just children. This should concern public health officials, healthcare providers, and citizens.
- When** Is this topic a current issue, a past issue, or both? What effect will this topic have in the future?
This is both a current and past issue. In the US, the Clean Air Act has put some limitations in place. However, as the effects of climate change continue to grow globally, phenomena like heat waves, floods, droughts, and natural disasters will impact air quality and have ramifications for human health.
- Where** Is the topic related to a particular place?
This is a global issue and it affects a wide variety of people and places. A lot of research has explored the impact of air pollution in densely populated urban areas, but air pollution also impacts people in rural communities. So far, I have found research studies conducted in China, Nigeria, India, and the US.
- Why** Why did you pick this topic? Why does it matter to you?
I'm passionate about this topic because some of the most vulnerable populations, like children and the elderly, are impacted the most negatively by air pollution. I want to research the long-term health effects of encountering pollution as a child, including poor lung growth and chronic respiratory disease.



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THE UNIVERSITY
of NORTH CAROLINA
at CHAPEL HILL

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Keywords



GENERAL CONCEPTS

- health effects
- air pollution
- children's health
- lung health
- respiratory disease
- mortality

SYNONYMS

- respiratory disease: chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, COPD, asthma, bronchial asthma, lung cancer, lung function, pulmonary function
- pollution: tobacco, outdoor air pollution, traffic exhaust, ambient air pollution, biomass combustion fumes, airborne particulate matter

RELATED TERMS

- Clean Air Act
- climate change, global warming
- lung development
- public health
- epidemiology

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Peer-reviewed research articles

Title of relevant article:

“Air Pollution, Airway Inflammation, and Lung Function in a Cohort Study of Mexico City Schoolchildren”

Title of relevant article:

“Associations of Children's Lung Function with Ambient Air Pollution: Joint Effects of Regional and Near-Roadway Pollutants”