

Air pollution

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Author Note

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The article is entitled *Air Pollution Kills 3.3 Million Worldwide, May Double* by The Associated Press (2015). The article assesses the issue of air pollution worldwide. It analyzes the different factors that contribute to air pollution. The article summarizes data that was calculated by a group of scientists from different countries on the amount of air pollution. The authors also analyzed the different factors that lead to air pollution. The study was published in the journal *Nature* and utilized computer models and health statistics to attain information. In essence, the data illustrates that air pollution causes more death than malaria and HIV. The highest level of pollution is in China and is responsible for approximately 1.4 million deaths. The next countries in terms of pollution are India and Pakistan. However, some authors disputed the projection methods that were used in the study, which stated that by 2050, there would be approximately six million deaths because of air pollution.

The names and qualifications of all the individuals responsible for the study were not mentioned in the article. The only information about the authors was that of Jos Lelieveld who works at the Max Planck Institute for Chemistry in Germany. The information about the other authors is just their country of origin. The authors were from Cyprus, Germany, United States and Saudi Arabia. Some experts were also mentioned in the study as they provided their opinions on the matter. Among the experts were Jason West, an environmental sciences professor at University of North Carolina, and Allen Robinson, an engineering professor at Carnegie Mellon University.

However, the article does not provide any tables illustrating the figures that were found in the study. The writers' attitude towards the issue was one of concern. The attitude of the writers can be identified through their illustration of the problem of pollution and the way they illustrate the potential consequences if the issue is not resolved. The writers also utilize the death rate to illustrate the seriousness of the issue. The authors were one-sided in their argument presentation. They were direct in illustrating the different industries that cause pollution and did not illustrate the necessity or importance of these industries in the community. In addition, they did not illustrate any other alternatives for these industries to function without polluting the air. The article was biased in the sense that it only illustrated the issue of air pollution and the negative attributes of this aspect and industries that are responsible. The authors illustrated the death rates from air pollution and did not illustrate other factors that may contribute to the death. In fact, the data on the death rate was poorly presented, as the authors did not illustrate the methods used to connect the death and air pollution.

In summation, the article was well written from the point of illustrating the need to reduce air pollution. However, it did not change my opinion on the issue as the data and information was poorly represented. The authors should have been more detailed in illustrating the relationship between the air pollution and the death. However, I acknowledge the fact that the article created awareness on the matter. I was more aware of the seriousness of air pollution by the presentation of the number of deaths.

References

The Associated Press. (2015). Study: Air Pollution Kills 3.3 Million Worldwide, May Double. *The New York Times*

Article

Study: Air Pollution Kills 3.3 Million Worldwide, May Double

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS SEPT. 16, 2015, 1:07 P.M. E.D.T.

WASHINGTON — Air pollution is killing 3.3 million people a year worldwide, according to a new study that includes this surprise: Farming plays a large role in smog and soot deaths in industrial nations.

Scientists in Germany, Cyprus, Saudi Arabia and Harvard University calculated the most detailed estimates yet of the toll of air pollution, looking at what caused it. The study also projects that if trends don't change, the yearly death total will double to about 6.6 million a year by 2050.

The study, published Wednesday in the journal *Nature*, used health statistics and computer models. About three quarters of the deaths are from strokes and heart attacks, said lead author Jos Lelieveld at the Max Planck Institute for Chemistry in Germany.

The findings are similar to other less detailed pollution death estimates, outside experts said.

"About 6 percent of all global deaths each year occur prematurely due to exposure to ambient air pollution. This number is higher than most experts would have expected, say, 10 years ago," said Jason West, a University of North Carolina environmental sciences professor who wasn't part of the study but praised it.

Air pollution kills more than [HIV](#) and [malaria](#) combined, Lelieveld said.

With nearly 1.4 million deaths a year, China has the most air pollution fatalities, followed by India with 645,000 and Pakistan with 110,000.

The United States, with 54,905 deaths in 2010 from soot and smog, ranks seventh highest for air pollution deaths. What's unusual is that the study says that agriculture caused 16,221 of those deaths, second only to 16,929 deaths blamed on power plants.

In the U.S. Northeast, all of Europe, Russia, Japan and South Korea, agriculture is the No. 1 cause of the soot and smog deaths, according to the study. Worldwide, agriculture is the No. 2 cause with 664,100 deaths, behind the more than 1 million deaths from in-home heating and cooking done with wood and other biofuels in developing world.

The problem with farms is ammonia from fertilizer and animal waste, Lelieveld said. That ammonia then combines with sulfates from coal-fired power plants and nitrates from car exhaust to form the soot particles that are the big air pollution killers, he said. In London, for example, the pollution from traffic takes time to be converted into soot, and then it is mixed with ammonia and transported downwind to the next city, he said.

"We were very surprised, but in the end it makes sense," Lelieveld said. He said the scientists had assumed that traffic and power plants would be the biggest cause of deadly soot and smog.

Agricultural emissions are becoming increasingly important but are not regulated, said Allen Robinson, an engineering professor at Carnegie Mellon University, who wasn't part of the study but praised it.

Ammonia air pollution from farms can be reduced "at relatively low costs," Robinson said. "Maybe this will help bring more attention to the issue."

In the central United States, the main cause of soot and smog premature deaths is power plants; in much of the West, it's traffic emissions.

Jason West and other outside scientists did dispute the study's projections that deaths would double by 2050. That's based on no change in air pollution. West and others said it's likely that some places, such as China, will dramatically cut their air pollution by 2050.

And Lelieveld said that if the world reduces a different air pollutant — carbon dioxide, the main gas causing global warming — soot and smog levels will be reduced as well, in a "win-win situation in both directions."