Household air pollution

15 December 2023

Key facts

- Around 2.3 billion people worldwide (around a third of the global population) cook using open fires or inefficient stoves fuelled by kerosene, biomass (wood, animal dung and crop waste) and coal, which generates harmful household air pollution.
- Household air pollution was responsible for an estimated 3.2 million deaths per year in 2020, including over 237 000 deaths of children under the age of 5.
- The combined effects of ambient air pollution and household air pollution are associated with 6.7 million premature deaths annually.
- Household air pollution exposure leads to noncommunicable diseases including stroke, ischaemic heart disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)



Related

- WHO's work on air pollution
- WHO Air Quality and Health Unit
- Ambient (outdoor) air pollution fact sheet
- Air pollution data portal
- WHO household energy database
- Clean Household Energy Solutions Toolkit (CHEST)
- Tracking SDG7