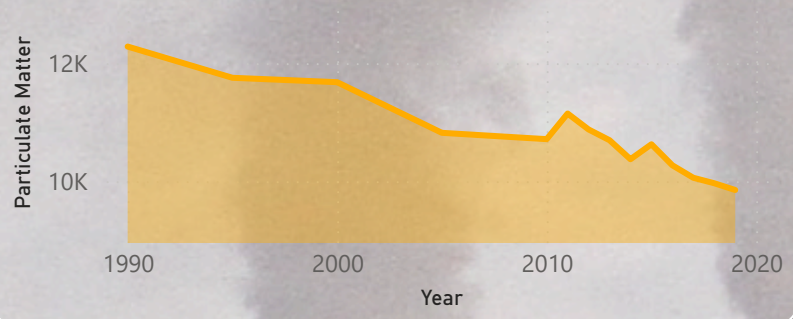
Air pollution and the Human Impact

Air pollution poses a significant risk to global health, contributing to a substantial number of excess deaths annually. Fine particulate matter and other pollutants can lead to respiratory and cardiovascular diseases, exacerbating pre-existing health conditions and reducing life expectancy. According to the World Health Organization, air pollution is responsible for an estimated 7 million premature deaths each year, underscoring its critical impact on public health worldwide. Effective monitoring and mitigation strategies are essential to reduce these health risks and improve overall quality of life.

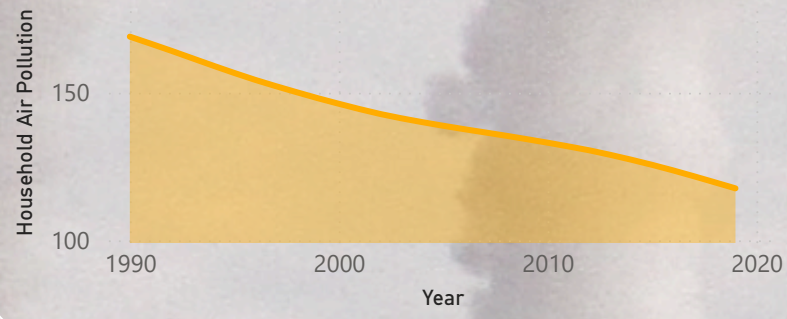
Source: Global Burden of Disease Study 2019

Summary | Pollution Levels | Premature Deaths

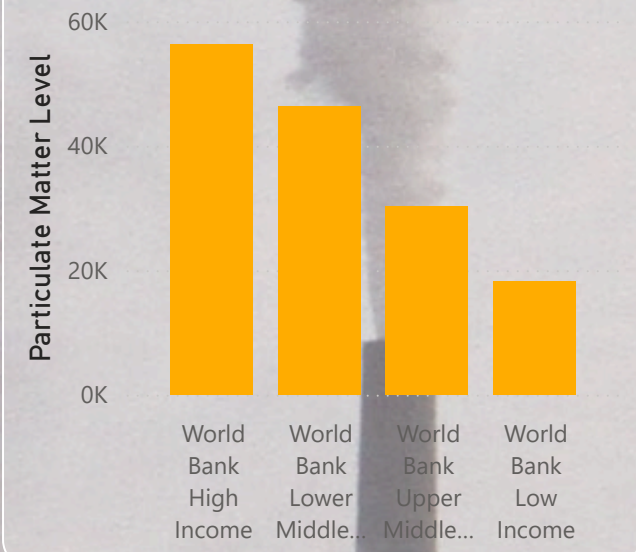
Global Particulate Matter



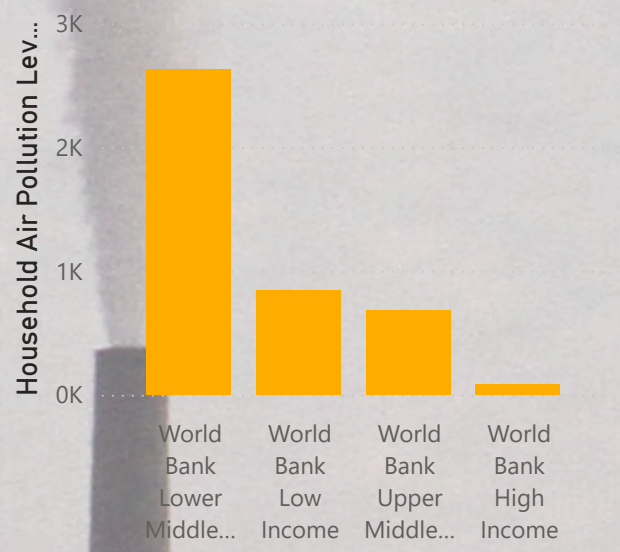
Global Household Air Pollution



Particulate Matter by World Bank Income Category



Household Air Pollution by World Bank Income Category

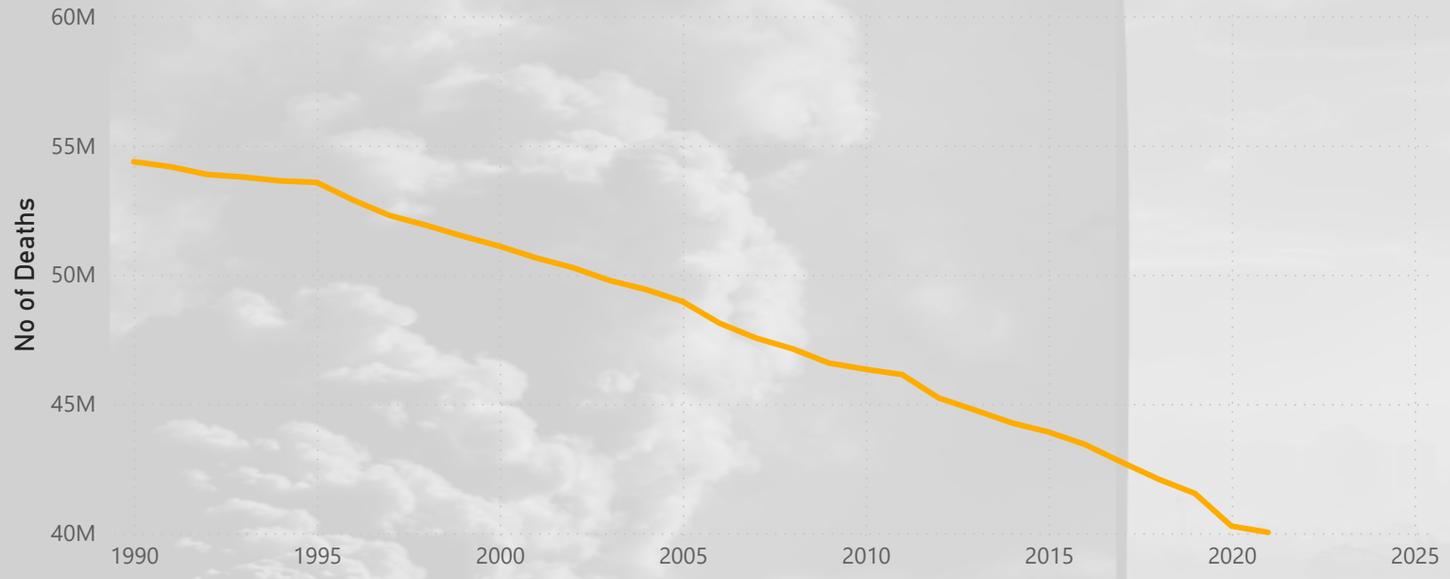


South Asia, Africa, and the Middle East are most affected by air pollution.
The highest average exposure rates for ambient particulate matter air pollution from industry and transportation were seen in Qatar, Egypt, and Bahrain, with the greatest per capita health loss in Egypt, Iraq, and Saudi Arabia.

Around 47% of the world's population, or about 3.6 billion people, are exposed to household air pollution from the burning of solid fuels for cooking (coal, crop waste, charcoal, wood, among others)

Pollution Levels & Main Pollutors

Premature Deaths per Year



Breathing polluted air has been linked to lower respiratory infections like pneumonia, cardiovascular disease—including ischemic heart disease and stroke—lung cancer, chronic respiratory diseases such as COPD, diabetes, and lower birthweight and premature births.
Household air pollution and ambient particulate matter pollution are among the top risk factors for loss of healthy life years, according to the Global Burden of Disease study.
Air pollution is the 2nd leading risk factor for death - surpassed only by high blood pressure.

Location

- African Region
- Eastern Mediterranean Region
- European Region
- **Global**
- Region of the Americas
- South-East Asia Region
- Western Pacific Region

Premature Deaths