

# Impact of Air Pollution on Children's Health

*State of Global Air 2024 (SoGA)* Report was produced by the State of Global Air Initiative, a collaboration between the Health Effects Institute (HEI) and the Global Burden of Disease project of the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) in partnership with UNICEF. The report says, "The air pollution accounted for 8.1 million deaths globally in 2021. Because children are uniquely vulnerable to the damaging health effects of air pollution, many die, get ill or bear lifelong consequences from exposure. Children under five years old are especially vulnerable, with health effects including premature birth, low birth weight, asthma and lung diseases."



The *SoGA* report provides good news as well. Since 2000, the death rate linked to children under five has dropped by 53 per cent, due largely to efforts aimed at expanding access to clean energy for cooking, as well as improvements in access to healthcare, nutrition, and better awareness about the harms associated with exposure to household air pollution.

Many countries, particularly those experiencing the highest levels of air pollution, are finally tackling the problem head on. Air quality actions in regions like Africa, Latin America, and Asia, such as installing air pollution monitoring networks, implementing stricter air quality policies, or offsetting traffic-related air pollution by moving to hybrid or electric vehicles, are all having measurable impacts on pollution and improving public health.

While progress is being measured, more can be done to stop air pollution from continuing to outrank other health risks as one of the biggest threats to millions of lives.

*Text Adapted from the Press Release at [unicef.org](https://www.unicef.org)*