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Geographical distribution of air pollutant and human health impacts

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Air pollution can be defined as a condition in which the concentrations of substances in the atmosphere are high enough to cause measurable effect on man, animals, vegetation or materials. A substance, refer to particulate matter which is any natural or anthropological airborne chemical element or compound that can exist in the atmosphere as gases, liquid drops or solid particles. Particulate Matter (PM) is a not a single pollutant, but a complex mixture of many types of pollutants, it's extremely made up of acids, organic chemicals, metals and soil or dust particles, with different physical, chemical and biological characteristics, which determine both its behavior as well as its environmental and health effects. Air pollution is a pervasive public health issue with major cardiovascular and health economic consequences and it should remain a key target for global health policy. The effect of air pollution on other cardiovascular conditions has been less well described. The World Health Organization (WHO) reported that ambient air pollution was responsible for 3.7 million deaths in 2012, representing 6.7% of total deaths worldwide and was the cause of 16% of lung cancer deaths, 11% of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease related death, 29% of heart disease and stroke and approximately 13% of deaths due to respiratory infection. This article will discuss the source of particulate matter air pollutants, the geographical distribution and its human health impact.

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