

Children Die, Air Pollution Continues

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Air Pollution

Exigency

The human species has evolved thanks in part to our ability to learn and solve problems, and now we as a race must solve a universal problem, air pollution. Children who intake polluted air are at a higher risk for decreased levels of cognitive functioning; in other words, our children, our future, are becoming mentally handicapped by the very air we hope they fix in the future.

- Children are the ones closest to the ground, so they consume more automobile toxins.
- They are the ones who breathe the fastest, faster than adults, thus resulting in consuming polluted air the quickest.
- They are the ones who are completely innocent of the air they breathe: **100% of children who are born into this world are blameless, yet 90% of them reap the benefits.**

Kills

Findings

Coal, electricity, automobiles, gasoline, and nuclear power – our proud innovations – are now poisoning the air we breathe.

How has this affected us?

The correlation between adolescent cognition and environment pollution has been studied to observe any connections between **intelligence** and **cognitive functioning** with regards to **air pollution**. These connections can be broken down into age-specific categories:

- **Infancy** (birth to 1-years-old)
- **Early childhood** (2-years-old to 12-years-old)
- **Late childhood** (12-years-old to 20-years old)

Our

Effects

Infancy

- Heavily affected by air pollution: Particulate Matter (PM) and automobile pollution.
- When PM levels are reduced, mortality rates decrease and cognitive functioning improves.
- High PM levels lead to deficiencies in memory and intelligence.

Early Childhood

- **10% of worldwide children under five years old die to air pollution.**
- Children exposed to air pollution experience lung, heart, cognitive, and psychological issues.
- **Air pollution remains a health risk and cognitive gamble for nine out of 10 children under five years old.**

Late Childhood

- After years of exposure to pollution, children experience stress and cognitive impairment (ADHD and *thought problems*).

Children

Conclusion

Humanity may be struggling with its greatest obstacle yet: A self-created air pollution that kills many of its future generations.

Innocent children are dying.

Humanity must change its current pollutive trajectory by any number of health-conscious countermeasures: **raise fuel economy standards, eliminate coal production and use, and limit CO2 emissions from nuclear plants and other sources.**

Yet, as this catastrophe continues, our impaired children may become the new normal, a cognitively-handicapped future responsible for saving humanity.

For the future to live, the present-day adult generation must change their pollutive habits: We should no longer add to this statistic:

“Every year 600,000 children die from breathing polluted air.”