

Diseases caused by environmental exposure

How much disease could be prevented through better management of our environment? The environment influences our health in many ways — through exposures to physical, chemical and biological risk factors, and through related changes in our behaviour in response to those factors. To answer this question, the available scientific evidence was summarized and more than 100 experts were consulted for their estimates of how much environmental risk factors contribute to the disease burden of 85 diseases.

This report summarizes the results globally, by 14 regions worldwide, and separately for children. The evidence shows that environmental risk factors play a role in more than 80% of the diseases regularly reported by the World Health Organization. Globally, nearly one quarter of all deaths and of the total disease burden can be attributed to the environment. In children, however, environmental risk factors can account for slightly more than one-third of the disease burden. These findings have important policy implications, because the environmental risk factors that were studied largely can be modified by established, cost-effective interventions. The interventions promote equity by benefiting everyone in the

society, while addressing the needs of those most at risk. (...)

The summary:

http://www.who.int/quantifying_ehimpacts/publications/preventingdisease/en/index.html

The document;

http://www.who.int/quantifying_ehimpacts/publications/preventingdisease.pdf

WHO's Programme on Quantifying Environmental Health Impacts:

http://www.who.int/quantifying_ehimpacts/en/

http://www.who.int/quantifying_ehimpacts/national/en/

PIAS - An Italian Research Project:

<http://natura.forpassion.net/2008/05/26/pronto-il-maxi-progetto-del-cnr/>

<http://media.src.cnr.it/Eventi/allegati/DTA0805->

[Bianchi.pdf](#)