AIR POLLUTION AND HEALTH: POLICY LINKAGES

Giulio Gallo
European Commission for Health and Food Safety
Brussels
21 January 2020
We live longer…

1950

2020

2060

UN, Populationpyramid.net
...but not always in good health

Life expectancy (LE) and healthy life years (HLY) at 65

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Women</th>
<th>Men</th>
<th>LE</th>
<th>HLY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FRANCE</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPAIN</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GERMANY</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EU</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BULGARIA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
IMPACT OF CHRONIC DISEASES ON THE EU ECONOMY

PREMATURE DEATHS FROM CHRONIC DISEASES

555,000 PEOPLE OF WORKING AGE

ECONOMIC LOSS

> 3.4 MILLION PRODUCTIVE YEARS
> € 115 BILLION PER YEAR
> 0.8% OF GDP

OECD Health at a Glance Europe 2016
Air pollution and its impact in Europe

Europe’s air quality is slowly improving, but fine particulate matter, nitrogen dioxide and ozone continue to cause serious impacts on health.

More than 400,000 premature deaths in EU-28 each year.

Heart disease and stroke are the most common reasons for premature death attributable to air pollution, followed by lung diseases and lung cancer.

Source(s): EEA Air Quality in Europe
Environment and health

Currently 6 to 8% of citizens in EU urban areas exposed to particulate matter (PM$_{2.5}$) above EU limits; and more than 80% above WHO guidelines.

Assessed against EU Limit Value

6-8%

Assessed against WHO Guidelines

74-81%
By 2030, substantially reducing deaths and illnesses from chemicals, air, water and soil pollution.

Reducing by one third deaths caused by NCDs

The European Green Deal as a key framework to support the EU implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
WHO NCDs Target 1
Mortality to be reduced by 25% in 2025
Death rates (per 100,000)
Member States performance in achieving WHO NCDs Target 1 to reduce mortality by 25% in 2025 for respiratory diseases

Source: Eurostat, Causes of death statistics [hlth_cd_asdr2]
Percentage of people reporting a chronic respiratory disease by degree of urbanisation in the EU28 (2014)

Source: Eurostat, European Health Interview Survey (EHIS) [hlth_ehis_cd1u]
Figure 1.13: Population living in a dwelling with a leaking roof, damp walls, floors or foundation
Figure 1.14: Population living in a dwelling with a leaking roof, damp walls, floors or foundation or rot in window frames or floor, by country, 2012 and 2017

(%) of population

Source: Eurostat (online data code: sdg_01_60)
Public perception: air pollution and health

A majority of Europeans (54%) do not feel informed about EU air quality problems in their country

QC3 Would you say that the following is a very serious problem, a fairly serious problem, not a very serious problem or not a serious problem at all in (OUR COUNTRY)? (% - EU)

- RESPIRATORY DISEASES (E.G. LUNG DISEASES): 54
- CARDIO-VASCULAR DISEASES (HEART DISEASES): 54
- ASTHMA AND ALLERGY: 53
- ACIDIFICATION AND EUTROPHICATION: 47

QC1 How informed do you feel about air quality problems in (OUR COUNTRY)? (% - EU)

- Very well informed: 6
- Well informed: 39
- Not informed at all: 12
- Don't know: 1
Majority of Europeans have not heard of EU Air Quality standards

QC9 Have you heard of the EU air quality standards? (% - EU)

Those aware believe that current standards are not adequate

QC10 Do you believe that the existing EU air quality standards are adequate or not? (% - EU)
EU Health Policy Platform and EU Health Award

- **Platform**: sharing the latest updates on EU health policy
  - **2020 Thematic Networks**:
    - Colorectal Cancer
    - Digital Doctors
    - Training of health professionals
  - **Live Webinars**
    - Organisation by HPP team for registered users
  - **Annual meeting**: end of 2020

- **EU Health Award**: two calls will be launched early 2020
Steering Group on Promotion and Prevention

- Sets priorities
- Selects policy interventions to be implemented
- Monitors implementation
- Develops policies
more and more studies are highlighting the connection between air pollution and lung cancer

Europe is Beating Cancer Plan

Linkages with other political priorities and the Green Deal

Note: Non-melanoma skin cancer is excluded.
Source: JRC (European Cancer Information System).
Air pollution is harming health and the environment

Response should be comprehensive and cross-border

The European Green Deal will help achieve the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

All EU policies and actions need to contribute

Achieving clime neutrality and zero pollution ambition requires everyone’s commitment