

THE LANCET COMMISSION ON POLLUTION AND HEALTH

Pollution – the largest environmental cause of disease and premature death in the world today

AN OPEN LETTER



It is time to put pollution on the map.

Pollution accounts for 16% of all deaths worldwide – 3 times more deaths than AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria combined; and 15 times more than all wars and other forms of violence. In the most severely affected countries, pollution accounts for more than 1 in 4 deaths.

These are the facts. And there's much more in the new report from *The Lancet* Commission on Pollution and Health, the first report of its kind to quantify the cost of pollution, and the cost of inaction against pollution, measured in lives, money, and lost opportunity for sustainable development.

For too long, pollution has been sidelined, overshadowed, ignored by the world, in part because it is a complicated topic with many causes, and as many outcomes. Often it kills slowly, and indirectly, hiding its tracks.

With this report, we bring pollution out of the shadows. This report is the result of two years of collective work from ourselves and our colleagues around the world, representing some of the world's most influential leaders, researchers and practitioners in the fields of pollution management, environmental health and sustainable development.

We, the authors, present this report and call on the world—decision makers, business leaders, international agencies, funders, governments, students, teachers, everyone—to act now to take control of pollution. This is one global problem that can be solved.

This report does not just tell us why we have to take up arms. More importantly, it tells us how to win the war. It is a battle we cannot lose. We just have to fight it.

Co-Chairs of *The Lancet* Commission on Pollution and Health

[Read the report, key findings and solutions](#)

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