

WHO Says People Around the World Breathe Unhealthy Air

VOCABULARY WORDS

1. highlight /'hɪˌlaɪt/ to attract attention to
Example: The report highlights the need for increased funding.
2. speed up /'spiːd.ʌp/ an increase in the rate of change or growth
Example: Measures should be taken to stop the speed-up in population growth.
3. energy security /'en.ə.dʒi sɪˌkjʊr.ə.ʃi/ the fact that a place is able to produce or obtain enough energy (= electricity, fuel, etc.) for the needs of the people who live there
Example: The new president put a greater focus on energy security rather than environmental protection.
4. dependent /dɪ'pen.dənt/ needing the support of something or someone in order to continue existing or operating
Example: He has three dependent children.
5. pedestrian /pə'des.tri.ən/ a person who is walking, especially in an area where vehicles go
Example: More and more pedestrians are starting to use the bridge to cross the street.



The World Health Organization (WHO) has announced a shocking finding about the air we breathe. It has found that almost everyone on Earth breathes unhealthy air. The WHO made its air quality update ahead of World Health Day on April 7, 2022. The update reported that 99 percent of the world's population breathes air that is above the WHO air quality limits. It looked at data from over 6,000 cities in 117 countries.

People living in lower- and middle-income countries breathe the poorest-quality air. Millions of people die in these countries because of pollution-related diseases. The WHO said: "After this pandemic, it is unacceptable to still have 7 million preventable deaths...due to air pollution."

The WHO said its report **highlighted** the need to move away from fossil fuels. It asked governments to do more to reduce levels of air pollution. It said: "Current energy concerns

highlight the importance of **speeding up** the change to cleaner and healthier energy systems." It added that high gas prices, **energy security**, the dangers of air pollution, and climate change mean the world must be less **dependent** on fossil fuels.

The WHO report included many recommendations for change. Among these were, "the exclusive use of clean household energy for cooking, heating and lighting," and to "build safe and affordable public transport systems and **pedestrian**- and cycle-friendly networks".

DISCUSSION

1. How does polluted air affect our health?
2. Who suffers most because of poor air quality?
3. How can we make our air quality better?
4. Why is air quality important?
5. What will air quality be like in 25 years from now?
6. Would you be happy to walk or cycle everywhere?