## **AIR POLLUTION AND HEALTH**

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## **LUNGS: THE AMAZING ORGAN**

100-200 million branching tubes Need to remain patent all the time

> 10,000 liters air every day





600 million air sacs Very thin membrane (0.3 micron)

10,000 liters blood every day

Oxygen – 420 Lts Carbon Dioxide – 350 Lts



#### The world is becoming more urbanized.. And the Air is becoming more foul....



## WORLD GROWTH

### **INDIAN SCENARIO**



No. of Motor vehicles in India				
1951	0.3 million			
1997	37.2 million			
2012	100 million			



(World Bank, 1990)

#### Remote sensing of air pollution from space



(Van Donkelaar et al. Environ Health Perspect 2010; 118(6): 847 DOI: 10.1289/ehp.0901623)

### DO POLLUTANTS INHALED BY THE MOTHER ENTER INTO THE GROWING FETUS?



10 newborn babies randomly selected by Red Cross from USA Cord blood collected and sent for analysis for different pollutants

#### BodyBurden The Pollution in Newborns

A benchmark investigation of industrial chemicals, pollutants, and pesticides in human umbilical cord blood

287 pollutants, chemicals, pesticides identified in the umbilical cord blood

(http://www.ewg.org/reports/bodyburden2/execsumm.php)

# **RUDOLF DIESEL** (1858-1913)



<u>Pollutant</u>	<u>Petrol</u>	<u>Diesel</u>
Carbon dioxide Carbon monoxide Benzene	++++ +++ +++	+ ++ ++
Nitrogen oxides	+	++
Hydrocarbons	++	+++
Aldehydes	++	+++
Sulphur dioxide	+	++++
PAHs	+	++++
Particulate matter*	+	++++



Diesel vehicles produce 1500-times more particles than Petrol vehicles





#### Diesel exhaust particles increase allergenicity by up to <u>50-fold</u>

#### Pollen become more allergenic when these trees grow in an urban environment

(Knox et al, Clin Exp Allergy 1997

Takenaka et al, J Allergy Clin Immunol 1995; 95: 103-115)

(Bryce M et al., Int Arch Alergy Immunol 2010; 151: 45-65)

## Residential Proximity to main roads during Pregnancy and Risk of Asthma

Japanese Birth Cohort Study, 756 pregnant mothers, Babies followed for 2 yrs after birth



Doctor diagnosed asthma: 4.0 (1.4-11.2)

Doctor diagnosed eczema: 2.3 (1.1-4.6)

Maternal exposure to vehicular pollutants during pregnancy is strongly associated with early childhood asthma





#### IS THERE ANY ASSOCIATION BETWEEN TRUCK TRAFFIC DENSITY AND CHILDHOOD ASTHMA?



Current wheeze vs Truck traffic on street of residence (n = 513,087; 98 countries, 238 centers)

> Pune and Nagpur (16,000 school children)

Figure 3. Participating centers with an indication of reported frequency of truck traffic on the street of residence: "almost the whole day" for 13- to 14-year-olds.

Table 6. Adjusted<sup>a</sup> association between self-reported truck traffic on the street of residence and current wheeze in 6- to 7-year-old children participating in the ISAAC phase 3 study in different parts of the world.

		No.			OR (95% confidence interval) <sup>p</sup>			
Region	Country	Center	Total	High vs. never	Medium vs. never	Low vs. never		
Africa	1	1	833	1.41 (0.24-8.43)	0.32 (0.03-3.32)	0.32 (0.04-2.71)		
Asia-Pacific	3	5	13,064	1.27 (0.95-1.69)	1.25 (0.98-1.61)	0.93 (0.75-1.15)		
Eastern Mediterranean	2	4	7,882	1.20 (0.83-1.73)	1.12 (0.79-1.59)	0.93 (0.67-1.28		
Indian subcontinent	1	7	16,972	2.43 (1.66-3.56)	1.41 (0.97-2.04)	1.48 (1.06-2.07		
Latin America	5	7	15,641	1.51 (1.22-1.88)	1.33 (1.09-1.61)	1.08 (0.91-1.30)		
North America	2	2	3,076	1.60 (1.12-2.29)	1.88 (1.37-2.59)	1.13 (0.87-1.48		
Northern and Eastern Europe	3	3	6,592	1.12 (0.76-1.66)	1.23 (0.87-1.74)	0.98 (0.71-1.36		
Oceania	1	4	9,541	1.08 (0.83-1.41)	1.16 (0.96-1.39)	1.02 (0.87-1.21)		
Western Europe	3	12	26,953	1.23 (1.00-1.52)	1.22 (1.06-1.41)	1.07 (0.93-1.22)		

\*Adjusted for sex, language, GNI, maternal education, maternal and paternal smoking, exercise, television watching, fast food consumption, current paracetamol use, siblings, and cooking fuel. #High, almost the whole day, medium, frequently during the day; low, seldom.



#### (Brunekreef B et al, Environ Health Perspect 2009; 117: 1791-1798)

# Traffic density around school and prevalence of Asthma amongst school children

#### (n = 6550; Bangalore, India)



(Paramesh H. Indian J Paed 2002; 69(4): 309-312)



## WHICH MODE OF TRANSPORT EXPOSES YOU TO MORE AIR POLLUTANTS?



Pune Station to Kothrud

Deccan to Hadapsar



(Chest Research Foundation, 2007)



## CARBON MONOXIDE



(Chest Research Foundation, 2007)



## SULPHUR DIOXIDE



(Chest Research Foundation, 2007)

## **RELATIVE RISK OF SUDDEN HEART ATTACK**



(Peters, New Engl J Med Oct 2004)

#### IMPACT OF AIR POLLUTION IN DIABETIC PATIENTS FROM PUNE CITY

Is there any association between ambient air pollution and serum inflammatory mediators in Type II diabetic patients from Pune city?

**Blood C-Reactive Proteins** 

Vs

#### Ambient Air Pollution Levels MPCB data

1392 Type II Diabetic patients

GPS Mapping of residence

Correlations with SOX, NOX, PM10 studied



#### (Khafaie M et al, Diabetes Care 2013; 36: 625-630)





### **CHEMISTRY OF FIREWORKS COLORS**

Lithium and Strontium salts

Calcium salts

Incandescence of iron (with carbon), charcoal, or lampblack

Sodium compounds

Barium compounds

FIREWORK FUEL Charcoal Sulphur

Copper compounds

Burning aluminum, titanium, or magnesium powder or flakes



### MEAN CHANGES IN SO2 LEVELS (ppm)



Ambient SO2 levels reached values **200 times** above the safety limits recommended by WHO



#### PREVALENCE OF RESPIRATORY SYMPTOMS DURING THE DIWALI FESTIVAL

Symptom	Pre-existing I Prevalence (%)		New symp Prevalenc	toms e (%)	Total Prevalence (%)	
Cough	4.2 ↑		26.3		31.2	
Breathlessness	2.5 ↑		10.8		13.3	
Wheeze	1.8 ↑		4.3		6.1	
Irritation in Eyes	Runny Nose	Allergic Symptoms		Itchy Skin		n - 510
26.1%	9%	5.7%		4.1%		11 - 510



(Chest Research Foundation, India, 2008)



### INDOOR AIR POLLUTION AND RESPIRATORY IMPACT



#### **1** Mosquito coil = **100** cigarettes

(Liu W, EHP 2003; 111: 1454-1460)



Acute Laryngo-tracheo-bronchitis

(Dr Sahasrabuddhe T, ERS 2010)

## MOSQUITO NETS



## **INCENSE BURNING AND ASTHMA**





Oman, Muscat 2441 children 10 yrs 40% of asthmatic children reported worsening of symptoms due to incense burning

Aromatic woods, herbs, flowers, essential oils, perfumes PAH, Benzene, CO, Isoprene

> (Al-Rawas et al, BMC Pulm Med 2009; 9: 23) (Wang IJ et al, Eur Respir J 2011; 37(6): 1371-1377)

## **OBSTRUCTIVE AIRWAYS DISEASE IN PUJARIS**



#### **50 Pujaris in Pune**

**Spirometry:** 25% showed presence of Obstructive Airways Disease

# The Telegraph



#### The Telegraph 2nd Sept. 2011

A DECK

Cross-continental survey raises deeper air pollution fears than suspected

World's worst lungs are in India

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#### **Indian Lungs are** 30% weaker than **European/American** Lungs

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