

The United Kingdom & Pollution

Health and Economic Impacts

The Lancet Commission on pollution and health provides data related to the health and economic costs of pollution for 190 countries. It also gives specifics on the inequity of pollution’s impact, and provides an overview of solutions implemented or possible to reduce the burden of pollution.

The Commission’s lead authors have prepared this brief summary of pollution’s impact specifically in the United Kingdom.

Pollution in the air, water, and soil was responsible for **8.4 %** of all deaths in the U.K.

Health Impact

In 2015, the report indicates that 50,200 people in the United Kingdom died from pollution-related disease. That is over 80 times more than deaths from HIV, TB and malaria combined.

Economic Impact

The economic costs of pollution in the U.K. are calculated in two ways:

The costs of lost productivity from pollution-related diseases are estimated to be between .047% and .052% of gross domestic product (GDP).

When a willingness-to-pay method is used to estimate the amount that people would be willing to pay to avoid premature death due to pollution-related disease, the total value is estimated to be **US \$148 billion**, which is approximately 5.3% of the United Kingdom’s economic output.

Average % of Deaths from Pollution

High-Income Countries	7.3%
Upper-Middle-Income Countries	10.3%
Lower-Middle-Income Countries	14.7%
Low-Income Countries	19.2%

