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WHO says 99% of people breathe unhealthy air - 7th April, 2022

Level 0

The WHO reported that almost everyone on Earth breathes unhealthy air. Researchers checked 6,000 cities in 117 countries. People in poorer countries breathe the unhealthiest air. Millions of people in these countries die because of air pollution. The WHO said 7 million people would not die if we had cleaner air.

High gas prices and climate change mean we must use fossil fuels less. We must cut air pollution and use cleaner energy. The WHO made some suggestions. It said we should use clean energy for cooking, heating and lighting. We should also make public transport greener, and have roads that cyclists can use safely.

Level 1

The WHO found something shocking - almost everyone on Earth breathes unhealthy air. The WHO's air quality update says 99 per cent of people breathe air that breaks quality limits. Researchers checked over 6,000 cities in 117 countries. People in poorer countries breathe the unhealthiest air. Millions in these countries die from pollution-related diseases. The WHO said: "It is unacceptable to have 7 million preventable deaths...due to air pollution."

The WHO says high gas prices, energy security and climate change mean we must move away from fossil fuels. It asked governments to cut air pollution and move to cleaner energy. The WHO made many suggestions. It said we should use clean energy for cooking, heating and lighting. We should also make public transport greener. This means building more roads that pedestrians and cyclists can use safely.

Level 2

The WHO has announced a shocking finding about the air we breathe. It said almost everyone on Earth breathes unhealthy air. The WHO's air quality update said that 99 per cent of the world's population breathes air that breaks air quality limits. Researchers looked at data from over 6,000 cities in 117 countries. People living in poorer countries breathe the unhealthiest air. Millions of people die in these countries from pollution-related diseases. The WHO said: "After surviving a pandemic, it is unacceptable to still have 7 million preventable deaths...due to air pollution."

The WHO stressed the need to move away from fossil fuels. It asked governments to do more to cut air pollution. It wants the world to quickly change to cleaner and healthier energy. It added that high gas prices, energy security, air pollution, and climate change mean the world must use fossil fuels less. The WHO report has many recommendations for change. One of these is the use of clean energy for cooking, heating and lighting. Another is to "build safe and affordable public transport systems and pedestrian- and cycle-friendly networks".

Level 3

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. The update reported that 99 per cent of the world's population breathes air that exceeds 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 surviving a 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 transition 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".