Child Health And Air Quality

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The exposure of children to air pollution

- Breathe more air (relative to weight)
- Breathe lower to the ground
- Spend more time outside
- More active life styles
- Brain and organs still developing
AIR POLLUTION: A GLOBAL CHALLENGE

- **23%** of all global deaths are linked to modifiable environmental factors i.e. **12.6 million deaths** a year
- Air pollution is the biggest environmental health risk – **7 million premature deaths** per year
- Half of these deaths are due to indoor and half due to outdoor air pollution
- Urban air pollution is increasing by **8%** every 5 years
- WHO estimates that **95% of cities (>100,000 inhabitants)** don’t meet WHO air quality guidelines
- **Welfare losses** – Exposure to air pollution (outdoor & indoor) costs USD **5.11 trillion** per year
The global transport challenge
Road safety & the environment
UN Environment Air Quality and Mobility Programmes

Share the Road (StR)

Global Fuel Economy Initiative (GFEI)

Electric Mobility

Partnership for Clean Fuels and Vehicles (PCFV)

Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC)
### Findings on Air Quality Policy Actions Around the World

**Where is the world in taking action to improve air quality?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Action</th>
<th>No. of Countries</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Indoor Air Pollution</td>
<td>Non-solid fuels access</td>
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<td>Cook/heating stoves</td>
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<td>Fuels &amp; Vehicles</td>
<td>Vehicle emission standards</td>
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<td>Fuel sulphur content</td>
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<td>Public Transport</td>
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<td>Industry</td>
<td>Industrial energy efficiency</td>
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<td>Clean production incentives</td>
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<td>Waste Burning</td>
<td>Waste burning</td>
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<tr>
<td>Air Quality Laws/Regulations</td>
<td>Air quality standards</td>
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The chart illustrates the number of countries implementing various air quality policies and actions, with different colored bars indicating the level of adoption.
MOBILITY AT SCHOOLS

INTRODUCTION

Perception of reduced safety, due to the increased number and severity of road crashes, has caused significant changes in the choice of transport modes, reducing the use of active modes of transport in benefit of motorized vehicles.

Various social, cultural, economic and urban conditions in Brazilian cities have led kids to be increasingly deprived of contact with the public space. The health consequences are serious and affect millions of children, who suffer from conditions such as juvenile diabetes, obesity, vitamin D deficiency, and attention deficit disorder. The impaired relationship with the city causes in them a growing feeling of not belonging.

Activities to improve the quality of life of its residents, particularly the vulnerable groups, such as children. Learning in the city, from the city and from its people focusing on experiential learning, is critical for education, health and human development.

Knowing and appropriating the space in which we live give us a frame of reference and the feeling of belonging. Often kids cannot draw a mental map, which relates one place to another and gives meaning to urban life. That’s why it is important to engage them in the development of the city and active mobility from an early age. Children are full citizens and know how they can improve the environment where they live.

Working on urban references, mental maps and the sense of belonging from an early age can be very effective in helping them develop skills that will benefit them later in life.

Drawing by a second grade student from School Arquiteto Luís Saia, São Paulo, about his travel to school.
Thank you!

https://www.unenvironment.org/explore-topics/air

https://www.unenvironment.org/explore-topics/transport/about-transport