

Editorial

The Invisible Killer: Investigating the Lack of Research on Smog in Pakistan

Saira Afzal

Dean of Public Health & Preventive Medicine/ Editor in Chief, Annals, King Edward Medical University, Lahore 75500, Pakistan

Smog, a combination of smoke and fog, is a major public health hazard in Pakistan, although it has gotten little attention and research. Despite the negative impacts of smog on the population, there is a dearth of studies and data on the subject, making it difficult for politicians and public health professionals to properly comprehend the issue and design effective solutions. Smog hurts public health in Pakistan, with research attributing it to an increase in respiratory infections and mortality. However, a paucity of study makes it difficult to completely comprehend the scope of the problem and its impact on the community. The purpose of this article is to highlight the critical need for additional study and data collection on the issue of smog in Pakistan and its effects on public health. We also emphasize the need for the government to prioritize this issue and take steps to alleviate the consequences of smog on the population.

In Pakistan, smog, a mixture of smoke and fog, is a major public health hazard, particularly in urban areas. Smog levels in the country have risen in recent years because of several causes such as climate change, industrialization, and increased car emissions. In the context of recent flooding, the Dengue outbreak, and the COVID pandemic, Smog can lead to deleterious effects on the masses.¹

Climate change results in more heatwaves and droughts. These harsh weather conditions, in turn, exacerbate the pollution problem. The temperature

rises, causing the development of ground-level ozone, a significant component of smog, which can cause respiratory issues, cardiovascular disease, and even death.²

Smog is a major public health hazard in Pakistan, yet it has gotten little attention or investigation. Despite the frightening impacts of smog on the population, there are little research and data on the subject. This lack of study makes it difficult for legislators and public health experts to properly comprehend the problem and devise effective solutions. The lack of attention to smog is exacerbated by the fact that air pollution is not often regarded as a priority issue in Pakistan. Poverty, terrorism, and political instability have all taken precedence in the country. As a result, combating smog and improving air quality has not received the attention they deserve.³

Pakistan's industrialization and fast urbanization have also contributed to the smog problem. The number of factories and cars in the country has increased significantly, leading to an increase in pollutant emissions such as nitrogen oxides and particulate matter. These pollutants contribute significantly to smog and have been related to a variety of health issues such as respiratory ailments, cancer, and heart disease. In Pakistan, the impacts of pollution on public health are concerning.⁴

Pakistan's government must move quickly to alleviate the smog problem. This includes tougher industrial pollution rules, increasing the use of clean energy, and boosting the use of public transportation. Furthermore, the government should invest in R&D to find new ways to cut emissions and enhance air



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quality. To effectively eliminate smog in Pakistan, more study and data collection are required. This covers research on the sources and nature of smog, as well as its influence on public health. Furthermore, additional investment in monitoring and measuring air quality is required to guarantee that data is reliable and up to date.

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