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including heart disease stroke lower respiratory infections lung cancer diabetes and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease copd nearly 2 5 million people die worldwide each year from the effects of outdoor or indoor air pollution people react differently to different types of air pollution young children and older adults whose immune systems tend to be weaker are often more sensitive to pollution one of our era s greatest scourges is air pollution on account not only of its impact on climate change but also its impact on public and individual health due to increasing morbidity and mortality there are many pollutants that are major factors in disease in humans what to know outdoor air quality has improved since the 1990s but many challenges remain in protecting americans from air quality problems the epa regulates six pollutants as criteria air pollutants it regulates them using human health based and environmentally based criteria pollution ie unwanted waste of human origin released to air land water and the ocean without regard for cost or consequence is an existential threat to human health and planetary health and jeopardises the sustainability of modern societies movement of air from a high pressure zone to a low pressure zone caused by the uneven heating of the earth by the sun pollution is the introduction of harmful materials into the environment these harmful materials are called pollutants particulate matter in the air we breathe organic pollutants and heavy metals in our food supply and drinking water all of these pollutants cut short millions of lives every year those 12 6 million people represent almost a quarter of all deaths worldwide that year air pollution is the presence of one or more contaminants in the atmosphere such as dust fumes gas mist odour smoke or vapor in quantities and duration that can be injurious to human health the main pathway of exposure from air pollution is through the respiratory tract chemicals that are harmful to human health and have gotten into the environment due to human activity are called environmental pollutants additionally environmental pollution is caused by natural events like volcanic eruptions human activities introduce pollutants by polluting the water air and soil air pollution and birth outcomes are linked as

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