



## People in China Suffering Air Pollutants Call for Better Environment

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### Dear Editor-in-Chief

China is facing a furious fight to the exposure of high levels of ambient air pollutants as well as the increasing mortality and morbidity of people exposed to air pollution. In the last few decades, the air quality in China has deteriorated attributed to rapid economic development, industrialization and accelerated urbanization. China now ranks as one of the most polluted countries in the world. At the same time of implementing the public policies in mitigating air pollution, how to reduce the mortality and morbidity of exposure to air pollution remains a challenge for China.

According to an analysis of data from Global Burden of Diseases Study (1), the number of Chinese exposed to the polluted air has increased from 1990 to 2015, increasing most rapidly from 2010 to 2015. Therefore, increase in exposure to particulate matter < 2.5 $\mu$ g (PM<sub>2.5</sub>), ozone and other air pollutants has made more and more people suffering respiratory illnesses and dying from filthy air. Now, respiratory adverse effects of air pollution are important contributors to morbidity and premature mortality in China.

Global Burden of Disease Study published in 2017 (1) reported ambient PM<sub>2.5</sub> contributed to 1.1 million (95% UI 1.0 million to 1.8 million)

deaths in 2015. In China, the short-term adverse effect of air pollution on the health burden has been researched in several cities such as Beijing, Shanghai, and Shenzhen (2-4). All these studies come to a single conclusion; short-term exposures to air pollutants are associated with increases in mortality. In British, irrespective of their disease status, people walking in a relatively less polluted urban park was associated with an increase in lung function and a decrease in pulse wave velocity (PWV) and augmentation index up to 26 h after walking (5). However, after walking in the more polluted commercial roadside, these beneficial responses were attenuated.

Air pollution in China is extremely high and has ranked as one of the most significant environmental contributors to morbidity and mortality. Administrative actions have huge potential in mitigation of air pollution and correlative respiratory adverse effects.

### Conflict of interest

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest.



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