

Higher air pollution days trigger cardiac arrests and hospitalizations

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New data released today by King's and UK100, a network of local leaders, shows that hundreds of children and adults are suffering out-of-hospital cardiac arrests or being sent to hospital for strokes or severe

asthma attacks on days when air pollution levels are higher in nine major cities across England.

In total, across nine [major cities](#), higher air [pollution](#) days trigger an additional 124 out-of hospital cardiac arrests, 231 hospitalizations for [stroke](#) and 193 [children](#) and adults hospitalized for asthma.

The data shows:

London

Higher air pollution days in London are responsible for 87 more out of hospital cardiac arrests, and 251 children or adults being hospitalized for asthma or strokes.

Birmingham

Higher air pollution days in Birmingham are responsible for 12 more out of hospital cardiac arrests, and 53 children or adults being hospitalized for asthma or strokes.

Bristol

Higher air pollution days in Bristol are responsible for four more out of hospital cardiac arrests, and 18 children or adults being hospitalized for asthma or strokes.

Derby

Higher air pollution days in Derby are responsible for zero more out of hospital cardiac arrests, and 16 children or adults being hospitalized for asthma or strokes.

Liverpool

Higher air pollution days in Liverpool are responsible for four more out of hospital cardiac arrests, and 24 children or adults being hospitalized for asthma or strokes.

Manchester

Higher air pollution days in Manchester are responsible for six more out of hospital cardiac arrests, and 28 children or adults being hospitalized for asthma or strokes.

Nottingham

Higher air pollution days in Nottingham are responsible for three more out of hospital cardiac arrests, and 16 children or adults being hospitalized for asthma or strokes.

Oxford

Higher air pollution days in Oxford are responsible for six more out of hospital cardiac arrests, and four children or adults being hospitalized for asthma or strokes.

Southampton

Higher air pollution days in Southampton are responsible for two more out of [hospital](#) cardiac arrests, and 14 children or adults being hospitalized for asthma or strokes.

The research, which will be published in full in November, is being released ahead of the International Clean Air Summit being hosted by

the Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan.

The Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan said: "London's lethal air is a [public health crisis](#)—it leads to thousands of [premature deaths](#) in the capital every year, as well as stunting the development of young lungs and increasing cases of respiratory illness.

"An issue as serious as this requires urgent innovative action which is why on top of bold measures like the ULEZ and cleaning up our bus fleet, I'm hosting an International Clean Air Summit this week, bringing together city leaders, ministers, global NGOs and industry representatives. We need government to match London's ambition and introduce a legally binding target of meeting World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines by 2030 so we can clean up our filthy air once and for all."

Dr. Heather Walton from King's said: "The impact of air pollution on our health has been crucial in justifying air pollution reduction policies for some time, and mostly concentrates on effects connected to life-expectancy. However, health studies show clear links with a much wider range of health effects. This project provides short statements of fact, backed up by supporting evidence.

"We have released a sample of these statements about the effects in a number of UK cities, ahead of publication of the full report in November. This wider range of impacts on our health provides additional evidence of the important need for further action to reduce air pollution."

Simon Stevens, chief executive of NHS England said: "As these new figures show, air pollution is now causing thousands of strokes, cardiac arrests and [asthma](#) attacks, so it's clear that the climate emergency is in fact also a health emergency.

"Since these avoidable deaths are happening now—not in 2025 or 2050—together we need to act now. For the NHS that is going to mean further comprehensive action building on the reduction of our carbon footprint of one fifth in the past decade. So our NHS energy use, [supply chain](#), building adaptations and our transport will all need to change substantially."

The data is a subset of material which will be published in an upcoming report, "Personalising The Health Impacts of Air Pollution," due out in November 2019.

More information: Personalising The Health Impacts Of Air Pollution: Interim Statistics Summary For A Selection Of Statements.
[www.erg.kcl.ac.uk/Research/hom ... -health-impacts.html](http://www.erg.kcl.ac.uk/Research/hom...-health-impacts.html)

Provided by King's College London

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