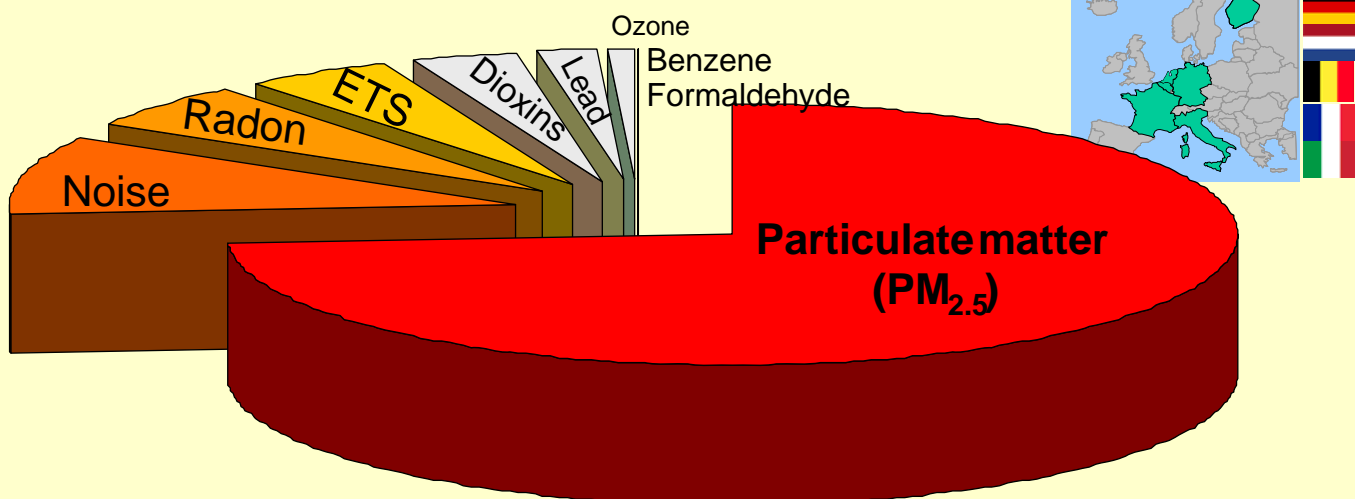


Few environmental factors responsible for most of the environmental burden of disease in European countries

The EBoDE Working Group



Some factors contributing to Environmental Burden of Disease in Six European Countries

Introduction and objectives

Environmental factors may endanger human health in many ways. Development of policies for the protection of public health as well as research programs bridging the gaps in our understanding of the relationship between the environment and health both need quantitative estimates of the contribution of various hazards.

The EBoDE project is a platform for the selection of environmental stressors and health endpoints and assess the impacts in a comparable way across countries. The objectives of the project are to update the previous assessments, to identify stressors relevant for the European region to provide harmonized EBD assessments for the participating countries, and to develop and make available the methodology and databases for other countries.

Specifically the project intends to achieve:

- (i) Comparability of the quantifications and ranking of the EBDs within and between the countries;
- (ii) Unified disability weighing of the different health consequences; and
- (iii) Assessments of variation and uncertainty in the country specific input parameters and current results.

References

EBoDE Web-site <http://en.opasnet.org/w/Ebode>

WHO, 2009a. EBoDE Project. Presentation of the project on WHO ECEH web site http://www.euro.who.int/envhealth/data/20090108_1

WHO, 2009b. EBoDE Project kick-off meeting report http://www.euro.who.int/Document/EHE/EBODE_1stIMtg.pdf

- Several key factors can be identified as main contributors to the environmental burden of disease (see Figure above)
- Current data do not indicate a decrease in the key factors (see Poster 2); up to now only ETS reduction policies are effective in most countries.
- Environmental risks are important determinants of health in general in Europe (Poster 3)

Public health significance vs strength of evidence for the investigated nine stressors.

		Strength of the evidence		
		High	Medium	Low
Public health impact	High	Particulate air pollution (6000-10 000)		
	Medium	Radon (600-800) Passive smoking (300-700)	Noise (1000-1500) Lead Ozone (200-400)* (40-200)	Dioxins (0-400)
	Low	Benzene (2-4)		Formaldehyde (0-2)*

Numerical values indicate DALYs per million people averaged over the six participating countries.
* a numerical model has been used to estimate threshold exceedances.