AIR POLLUTION IN INDIA:
Impacts on Disease Burden, the Economy and Human Capital

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COMMISSION’S MAIN HEALTH FINDINGS

Pollution killed an estimated 9 MILLION people in 2015…

3 TIMES MORE than AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria combined.

9 MILLION premature deaths = 16% of all deaths worldwide

10 times more deaths than war, terrorism and all forms of violence
HOUSEHOLD AIR POLLUTION KILLS ALMOST 3 MILLION PER YEAR
Beijing air pollution in 2012 is now worse.

Ambient air pollution kills about 4 million per year.
AIR POLLUTION DEATHS ARE INCREASING

- Deaths from household air pollution are declining in number
- But deaths from ambient air pollution are increasing. They are projected to double by 2050 in the absence of aggressive intervention
- Most severe effects are seen in the rapidly growing cities of low and middle-income countries
- **Major drivers:** uncontrolled urbanization, increasing energy demand, industrialization, growing numbers of petroleum-powered vehicles
70 PERCENT OF POLLUTION-RELATED DISEASE IS NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASE

22% of all cardiovascular deaths, 25% of stroke deaths, 53% of COPD deaths, and 40% of lung cancer deaths
A 6-POINT STRATEGY FOR CONTROLLING POLLUTION AND PREVENTING POLLUTION-RELATED DISEASE

• Make pollution prevention a high priority within countries and internationally. Link to development strategy, SDG planning and climate change commitments
• Increase funding for pollution control
• Work with countries and cities to advise on development of pollution control plans
• Support research to further elucidate links between pollution and disease
• Engage the general public, the media and civil society
• Create a Global Observatory on Pollution and Health
DEVELOPMENTS IN AIR POLLUTION CONTROL SINCE RELEASE OF LANCET COMMISSION REPORT

• The UN Environment Assembly (UNEA 3) issued a global call for a pollution-free planet
• The World Bank’s Independent Evaluation Group recommended increasing support for pollution management
• WHO, UN Environment, WMO and other partners convened the first Global Conference on Air Pollution and Health
• The Berggruen Institute and the Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation launched the Every Breath Matters initiative
• Five National Academies of Science and Medicine call for urgent action against air pollution
• Global Observatory for Pollution and health formed at Boston College
GLOBAL OBSERVATORY ON POLLUTION AND HEALTH AT BOSTON COLLEGE

Goal

• To work with partners to provide highly credible, carefully curated, information and forecasts that to identify emerging pollution problems and track progress.

• Findings will guide UN agencies and leaders of governments, inform civil society and the media, and assist cities and countries to address and prioritize pollution problems and prevent disease.
STUDY OF AIR POLLUTION IN INDIA

• Requested by Indian Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

• Undertaken through partnership: CDE, Delhi School of Economics; UN Environment; and Boston College with many colleagues

• Goal. To present high-quality, unbiased data on the health and economic impacts of air pollution in India that can inform decision making nationally and in the states
THANK YOU
TODAY’S KEY MESSAGES

• 1.24 million deaths in India in 2017 associated with air pollution
  – 60% due to ambient air pollution; 40% to household air pollution
• Lost output due to YLDs is 0.24% of India’s GDP; lost output due to premature mortality 0.50% of GDP
• In Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Rajasthan, the sum of these losses exceeds 1% of GDP
• Health expenditures associated with air pollution are over 10% of total health expenditures
• Economic losses far exceed what we have quantified