

IMPACT AIR POLLUTION TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH

Presented by:

Dra. Tinuk Sitti Nursetiawati Soemino Nasrul, MSi.
(Indonesian Home Economics Association)

Home Economics Departement, Faculty of Technology and
Vocational Education, Institute For Training Teacher and
Education (IKIP) Jakarta, Indonesia

Abstract

Air pollution can affect humans in a number of ways. After decades research there is overwhelmings statistical evidence that air pollution can kill, induce and aggravate a number of discauses, and increase human suffering. Air pollution is particularly harmful to the very young (Kane 1976, Shy et al. 1972), the old, the poor (who are usually forced to live in highly polluted areas), and those already weakened by heart and lung diseases. In spite of the evidence, proving that a particular pollutant causes a particular disease or death in extremely difficult. Officially almost no one dies of air pollution. Instead the death certificate reads chronic bronchitis, emphysema, lung cancer, stomach cancer, or heart disease, even though air pollution may have been a major contributing factor.

Correlating air pollution and health is difficult because of (1) the number and variety of air pollutants, (2) the difficulty of detecting pollutants that causes harm at extremely low concentration (3) the synergistic interaction of pollutant, (4) the difficulty on isolating single harmful factors when people are exposed to so many potentially harmful chemicals over many years, (5) the unreliability of records of disease and death, (6) The multiple causes and lenghtly incubation times of diseases such as emphysema, chronic bronchitis, cancer, and heart disease 6), and (7) the problem extrapolating test data on laboratory animals to humans (Ehrlich, et al. 1977).