

The issue that I am discussing in this analysis is pollution. Pollution has been a problem for centuries now, but became more recognized as a problem during the 1950s and 1960s. Many environmental and climate change activists are involved in this issue as they are searching for ways to improve it. These types of groups present statistics on how pollution is harming not only the environment, but people as well. Looking at websites such as the World Live Air Quality Map from AirVisual show in real time the negative effects that pollution has. Not only do websites like these give live reports, but they also provide other sources and statistics on the negative effects of pollution. Experts have learned that 7 million people die every year from just air pollution while countless others suffer side effects of the exposure.

I chose to analyze the "Air Pollution: Current and Future Challenges" article by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) because it is an official, research and expert backed collection of information regarding pollution and the future problems we will have in it.

The major claims of this text are that air pollution, while having greatly improved since the 1970s, continues to harm people to this day and there is still a lot of work that needs to be done in order for it to no longer be a concern. Some of the mentioned problems that air pollution can cause are things such as asthma attacks, harm to the cardiovascular system, premature death, shortness of breath, aggravate lung disease and permanent damage to lungs with long enough exposure. Even brief exposure to polluted air, also known as fine particle matter, can cause premature death and harm a person's cardiovascular system.

The article makes note of the different materials that cause these problems, including lead, sulfur dioxide and nitrogen dioxide. Air pollution is being combated by the EPA through research and implementing regulations on things such as motor vehicles in an attempt to decrease the harmful emissions humans release through machinery.

Climate change is an issue caused by pollution, mainly air pollution as noted in the article. Not only does it affect the health of humans, but it also affects wild life and the world itself by harming habitats and creating dangerous living conditions for animals. Carbon dioxide is a major factor in climate change which is released through different types of emissions from things like cars and airplanes. The EPA is attempting to combat this through changing the standards of greenhouse gases released and fuel standards. In the final sections of the article, the harmful effects of toxic pollutants on humans as well as the challenges of protecting the ozone layer are discussed. It's noted that the toxic pollutants in the air come from a variety of sources but most notably from vehicles. The harmful effects on humans from these pollutants include cancer, birth defects and reproductive harm. To attempt to combat this, the EPA is finding ways to reduce harmful emissions, similarly to their plans for previous mentioned pollutants. And finally, as the article discusses protecting the ozone layer, it explains that the ozone layer is what protects life on Earth, making it very important. While it is harmed, the amount of ultraviolet radiation that hits Earth is much higher, making things such as cataracts, skin cancer and impaired immune systems more common. Fortunately, around the world different countries are working to phase out chemicals that harm the ozone layer in favor of less damaging products.

After analyzing this text, I found that while there are a large number of hazards from just air pollution alone, there is still hope through the fact that there is work being done to preserve life and aim for a cleaner future. From this analysis I would say that I was able to learn more about the specifics of what aspects of pollution are harmful and why, as well as learned that not only have things improved over the years, but that there is still a lot of work being done to help things continue to improve.

This text explains the how and why air pollution exists and is harming both us and our planet. It's also important to note that there are things being done to improve these issues, as well as things everyday people can do to help as well.

ARTICLE ANALYZED

EPA. "Air Pollution: Current and Future Challenges | US EPA." *US EPA*, US EPA,
15 Feb. 2019,

www.epa.gov/clean-air-act-overview/air-pollution-current-and-future-challenges