



An article on the front-page of the Rotterdam (The Netherlands) daily newspaper on Thursday the 12th of June 2003.

Fine dust is disastrous for health

Especially heart- and lung patients suffer under bad environment

Rotterdam – long-lasting exposure to fine dust in the region of Rotterdam have a big effect on the health of the inhabitants of this area. Calculations show that 1450 bereavement are in relation with dirty air. By name people who suffer to heart and lung illness, like asthma and bronchitis, meet the injurious result of it. Almost a quarter of bronchial tube affections owing due to long-lasting confrontation with nitrogen dioxide.

This proves the yearly report of the project "Environment Measurement city area Rotterdam", which takes attention for the first time to the relation between environment and health. Those effects cannot be ignored, say the conclusion. Who works for a short period with fine dust, ozone or nitrogen dioxide, take the least risk.

"In Rijnmond are the concentration levels in 2001 so high, they caused for approximately 150 hospital admits with heart- and vessel complains and approximately 350 hospital admits for bronchial tubes complains. The number of ill inhabitants, who die thru this exposure, are between the 100 and 450", says the investigators.

At the same time they found out that the situation is considerable improved since the seventy's. The number of untimely deaths of exposure to sulphur dioxide for the last 30 years decreases till less then 1 percent. The concentrations of lead in the air are so low; we can expect they cannot affect the health of people. The same concerns benzene, which can cause leukaemia.

"The predicted degree of concentration of fine dust and nitrogen dioxide in 2010 will result in a degree of health effect with several percents. In that year approximately eleven percent of death will be related tot fine dust and seventeen percent to bronchial tube affections from nitrogen dioxide."

The recommendation is to keep record of this information every year. The calculation method can be changed according to the situation. "Besides that other or more dust can be measured, like fine dust smaller then 2.5 micrometer. The last years there are more and more indications that just very small pieces of dust, have the most effects on the health".

Fine dust has many sources, the traffic is a source of many harmful pieces. Diesel engines are a significant source of problems like lower lung functionality and chronically bronchial tube affection. Diesel exhaust in addition, contains also many cancer stimulating dust. "Alarming is that the exposure to low concentrations of fine dust have effect on the health."

Raiffeisenstraat 24
4697 CG Sint-Annaland
The Netherlands

t +31 (0) 166 65 72 00
f +31 (0) 166 65 72 10

e info@macview.info
l www.macview.info

