

Low levels of air pollution may also increase the risk of asthma

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Researchers found that Australians aged 45 to 50 who lived less than 200 meters away from the main road had a 50 percent higher risk of asthma, wheezing and reduced lung function over a five-year period, compared to those who live more than 200 meters away from the main road.

They note that the increase in these health problems still occurs even though Australia's safe low carbon dioxide limit is 30 billion per year.



The study surveyed about 700 participants in longitudinal health research on Tasmania when they were in their 45s and 50s.

According to Gayan Bowatte of the University of Melbourne, Australia has relatively low air pollution levels compared to developing countries in Southeast Asia.

Bowatte, the lead author of the study in European Respiratory Journal, said that the study showed that they were even related to the risk of asthma and poor lung function in adults.

Researchers say governments need to investigate measures to reduce emissions on these roads, especially diesel-powered trucks.

Bowatte said: "Diesel is more harmful than gasoline because of the composition of the fuel. When it burns, diesel produces more pollutants.

The study showed an increased prevalence of asthma after the second half of the 20th century strongly suggested a level of harm when exposed to environmental pollution.

"In particular, the role of traffic exposure by air pollution (TRAP) that aggravates or causes asthma has attracted considerable attention," the researchers said.

They added: "Our study adds evidence that even relatively low TRAP exposure levels are related to asthma and poor lung function in adults.

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