

The Health Cost of Urban Air Pollution in Sri Lanka: An Empirical Analysis in the City of Kandy

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Abstract

Outdoor air pollution remains a major environmental health problem in Kandy in Sri Lanka, which is one of the congested cities in Sri Lanka. Despite the high levels of pollution in the city, which has been documented, the published evidence of its impact on health is as yet scarce. This study investigates the health cost attributable to air pollution in the Kandy city area. The study uses survey data gathered in 2017 covering 401 respondents who work in the inner-city limits of Kandy. The burden of diseases calculated as attributable to air pollution is approximately 2.7% of their monthly income. It has been found that the health cost of the residents in the city area is relatively higher than the people whose residences are located outside the city area. Regression results show that exposure level, number of sick days, distance to the road, mode of travel, location of dwelling, household income, education, and age serve as the key determinants of the health costs. The results have important policy implications.

Keywords: Air pollution; Health Problem; Exposure Level; Health Cost; Sri Lanka

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