



# The Most Polluted Places in the World

**5 million** people are poisoned everyday in the developing world

**1** **Sumgayit, Azerbaijan**

- 250,000 potentially affected
- 40 factories manufacturing chemicals
- 120,000 tons of harmful emissions
- Cancer rates 51% higher than average

**6** **La Oroya, Peru**

- Population of 35,000 and a poly-metallic smelter
- 99% have blood lead levels exceeding acceptable limits
- Very high rates of premature deaths
- Vegetation destroyed by acid rain

**9** **Chernobyl, Ukraine**

- Location of the world's worst nuclear disaster
- 20 years after the disaster the exclusion zone still remains uninhabitable
- 5 million people inhabit the affected area around Chernobyl
- Infertility and birth defects remains high

**10** **Kabwe, Zambia**

- Mining and smelting of zinc and lead began in 1902 and ran until 1994
- Most workers and residents of the area have been exposed to toxic levels of lead due to a waterway running from the mine to town and the inhalation of dust
- In many cases children's blood lead levels are regarded as potentially fatal

**5** **Vapi, India**

- 400 km belt of industrial estates
- Waste products include heavy metals, cyanides, pesticides and other toxins
- Mercury in the groundwater is 96 times higher than WHO standards
- Very high incidences of respiratory diseases and numerous cancers

**7** **Dzerzhinsk, Russia**

- 300,000 tons of chemical waste was disposed here between 1930 and 1998
- In certain places the water has levels of dioxins 17 million times higher than what is deemed safe
- In 2003 the death rate exceeded birth rate by 260%
- Average life expectancy for men is 42

**4** **Sukinda, India**

- Contains 97% of India's chromite ore
- 30 million tons of waste rock
- 60% of drinking water contains twice the national standard of hexavalent chromium
- 2.6 million potentially affected

**8** **Norilsk, Russia**

- Contains world's largest heavy metal smelting complex
- 2million tons of sulphur dioxide is released into the air annually
- Life expectancy for factory workers is 10 years less than Russian average
- 15.8% of deaths among children are caused by respiratory diseases

**2** **Linfen, China**

- 3 million affected
- Provides 2/3 of nation's coal energy
- Worst air quality in China, pollutants include arsenic and sulphur dioxide
- High rates of lead poisoning in children

**3** **Tianying, China**

- 140,000 affected
- Largest lead production base in China
- Lead concentrations are 10x higher than national health standards
- 85% of air samples have lead concentrations

**25%** of all deaths in the developing world are attributable to environmental factors

Water pollution causes **14,000** deaths a day

Source: WorstPolluted.org, MSN News