



**UN EUROPE &  
CENTRAL ASIA**



# Air Pollution Impacts on Children's Health and what we can do

*Maria Osbeck, Snr Programme Specialist Environment and Climate Change, UNICEF Europe and Central Asia Regional Office*

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# Breathless beginnings: the alarming impact of air pollution on children in Europe and Central Asia



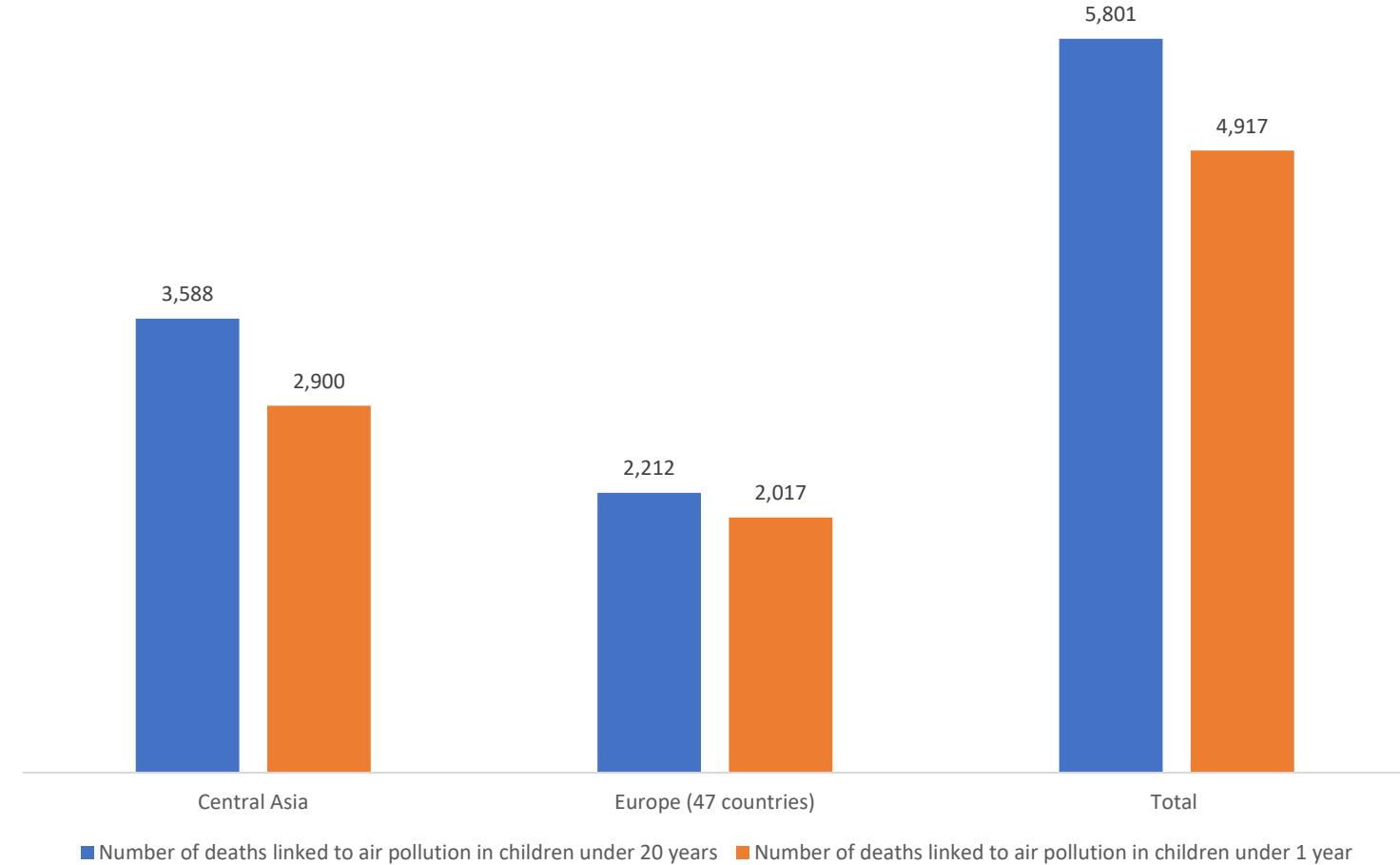
A close-up photograph of a young child's face, focusing on the eye, nose, and mouth. The child has light-colored skin and blue eyes. The background of the slide features this image, with the text overlay positioned in the upper left corner.

**96% of children  
in Europe and  
Central Asia  
breathe polluted air.**



## Number of deaths linked to air pollution in children, 2019

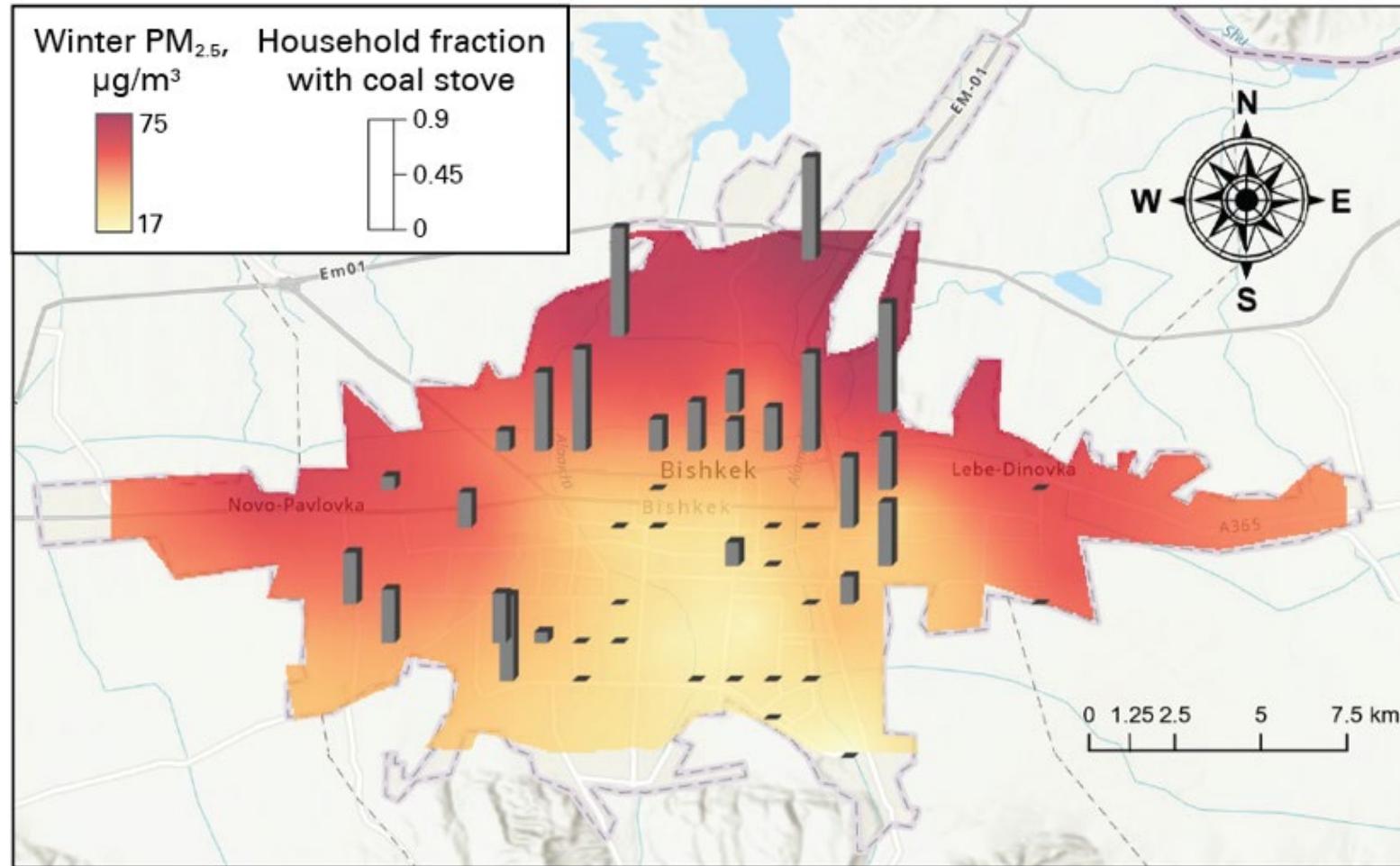
Around 85 per cent of under-20s who died from causes related to air pollution in Europe and Central Asia in 2019 did so before their first birthday







# Air quality in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan





# Air pollution is a children's rights issue.

1. Ensure **air quality standards** are in line with **WHO guidelines**.
2. Support **access to clean energy**. Promote **energy efficiency** and improved ventilation and insulating of private and public buildings.
3. Set up and maintain **air quality monitoring systems** nearby kindergartens and schools.
4. Collect **disaggregated data on the effects and sources of air pollution**, with a specific focus on research and recognition for pregnant women, infants and children.
5. Advocate for air pollution and its impacts on children to be considered in **national climate and environmental policies, such as municipal action plans for air quality, National Adaptation Plans or Nationally Determined Contributions**