

NOTEWORTHY, ONE WORLD

1,200 DEAD CHILDREN BY AIR POLLUTION

24.04.2023

This is the headline based on a [press release by the EEA](#) that went online only this morning after having been already taken up by news outlets like the [Guardian](#), [DW](#) and [Tagesschau](#).

Fortunately many newspaper did not respond. Was this just a small experiment which news desk can discriminate fake and real news?

The screenshot shows a list of news items from various sources, each with a small thumbnail image and a brief headline. The sources include DW, ZAHYA, France 24, The Guardian, Arab News, Barron's, and Daily Express (Sabah). The headlines all report on air pollution causing the death of 1,200 children in Europe each year, citing the European Environmental Agency (EEA) as the source of the information.

news reports April 24, 2023 about 1,200 dead children by air pollution

When asking the EEA now about the source of their information, they responded by an automated reply. Is this a scientific hoax just like the recent news of [6000 deaths by NO2?](#)

I cannot find any scientific study that support this claim. There are 200 children [dying from asthma in the US](#) every year but 1200? [My estimate for Germany](#) is not higher than 10 deaths and less than 100 children in Europe (see below). The only [source given](#) in the

press release is leading to a [page](#) listing the EEA member countries.



Key messages

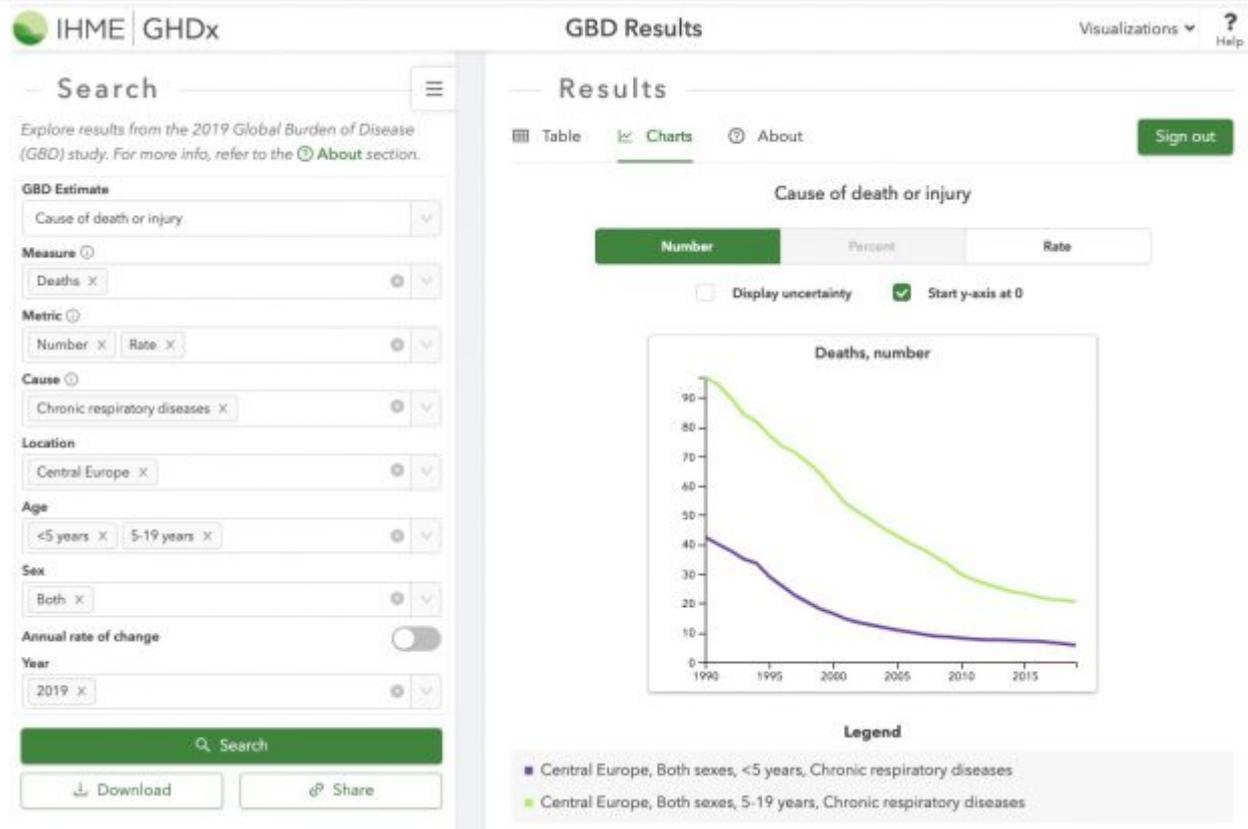
- Children are particularly vulnerable to air pollution, from when they are in the womb to when they reach adulthood.
- Over 1,200 deaths in people under 18 years of age are estimated to be caused by air pollution every year in EEA member and collaborating countries¹¹.

Screenshot EEA website April 24, 2023

Another reference in the text is made to the GBD Collaborative Network 2020, probably <https://ghdx.healthdata.org>

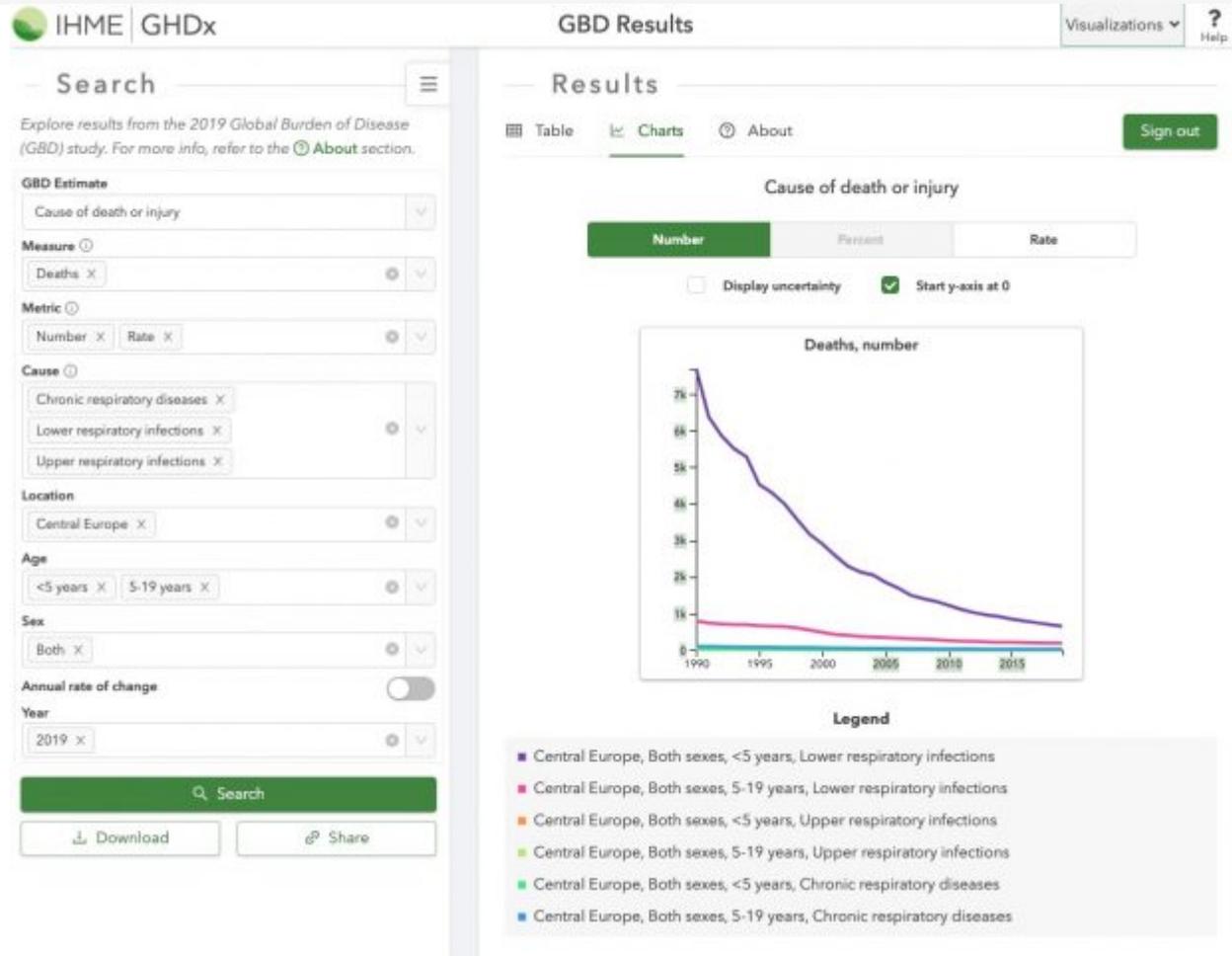
As a research institute, we rely primarily on data collected by others, or secondary data.... If a newly-discovered dataset is publicly available, we download it straight from the source. If not, we request access to the data, which may involve entering into a data use agreement with the collector.

But also here deaths by asthma do not exceed 30.



Screenshot Apr 25, 2023, mortality chronic respiratory disease

Even if we add any upper or lower respiratory disease, we are still at less than 1000.



No method is given by the agency so we will never know how they arrived at the conclusion that air pollution is causing over 1,200 premature deaths every year among those under the age of 18.

Maybe the topic is too serious for EU policy makers [like Hans Bruyninckx](#).

Until proven otherwise this press release contains fake news.