

GREENSTREET OBSERVER



– Cup of Coffee Editions – Ankle-biters’

❖ Soot from Polluted Air Found in Placentas of Pregnant Mothers.

- Black carbon has been found on the foetus-side of placentas, providing a mechanism that explains the many poorer outcomes for births in high pollution areas.

... Hasselt University in Belgium, *The Times*, 17th September 2019

❖ Children who live within 50 metres of a **busy road**:-

- reduce lung growth by up to 14%;
- increase risks of stroke or lung cancer by up to 10%;
- experience reduced risks in asthma and coronary heart disease.

... Kings College London, *The Times*, 5th November 2019.

❖ Babies living with High Air Pollution are *observed* {from 8 million records –mechanism is not clear} to have a higher risk of death in their first year.

- Higher levels of PM10, nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) and Sulphur dioxide (SO₂) are associated with “deadly malformations of the circulatory, digestive and nervous systems, as well as fatal respiratory problems and bacterial diseases.
- Some damage occurs within the womb because particles pass through lungs, to blood and through the placenta.

... Cardiff University School of Medicine, *The Times*, 27th September 2019

❖ Iron nano-particles found in hearts.

- Iron particles from vehicles and industrial processes lodge in our hearts
- Deposits are found even in hearts of very young children;
- Most iron particles are concentrated in mitochondria, which provide energy in cells;

... Lancaster University in “*Environmental Research*”, *The Times*, 13th July 2019

❖ Children in Sad Places

PM2.5 peaks are *associated* {*purely observational, no causal link established*} with hospital admissions of vulnerable children with mental health issues (including depression), even when levels are below WHO “safe” levels.

- For every 10 micrograms of PM2.5: psychiatric disorders increase by 7%; suicidal thoughts increased by 44%. For children in poverty, suicidal thoughts may double; anxiety admissions rise by 39%.

... *Environmental Health Perspectives, The Times, 25th September 2019*

❖ Children’s Sporting Potential Stunted

Children with poor lung function or respiratory conditions (aggravated by pollution during development) “will have reduced exercise capacity”.

... *Jonathan Grigg, Queen Mary University, The Times, 11th February 2020*

❖ Save 10,000 children a year from asthma

- Air pollution leads to 45,000 children developing asthma each year in Britain;
- If we moved from current EU standards to those of the World Health Organisation, 10,000 fewer children would suffer asthma.

... *Barcelona Institute for Global Health, The Times, 8th August 2019*

❖ “School streets” are rarer than hens’ teeth – only 40 schools [September 2019] actively ban cars and vans at drop-off and pick-up times.

- 0.4% of primary schools and 0.1% of secondary schools have policies;
- Most councils say funding is the issue – e.g. to install number-plate recognition for enforcement. Fines would have to be raised to help pay for the system.
- Enforced restrictions are not yet possible outside London!
- Rural schools may not be workable because of common “fear of traffic”.

... “UK100”, network of City Mayors and Council Leaders, *The Times, 5th September 2019*