

AWERNESS OF POLISH PHYSICIANS ABOUT THE IMPACT OF AIR POLLUTION ON HEALTH

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Air pollution causes many diseases. The air quality in Poland is the worst in Europe. The aim of the study was to assess the awareness of Polish physicians about the impact of air pollution on health, the sources of their knowledge and how this knowledge is used in clinical practice. The study was based on a voluntary and anonymous questionnaire created for physicians. The study included 95% of doctors from a hospital in Warsaw. There were 40% men and 60% women aged 26-73 years. 27% of physicians think that their knowledge on the impact of air pollution on health is sufficient, however only in 3.5% they were right. The main source of this knowledge were the internet and TV, however they prefer medical press. Only 5% of physicians know what air pollution concentrations are acceptable. 16% of physicians follow the levels of air pollution in their region. Less than 3% of doctors inform their patients about exceeded air pollution permissible limits. The majority of physicians do not know what are the main air pollutants in their city. The knowledge of physicians on the impact of air pollution on health is not sufficient and they need professional education in this area.