HEALTH BENEFITS OF SOOT FREE BUSES

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15 June, 2017

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Introduction

Transport is a vital part of modern life.

 Economic development of entire regions depends on the easy access to people and goods ensured by transport technology.

 Unfortunately these positive aspects are closely associated with hazards to the environment and human health.

Sources of Exposure

- People are exposed to diesel exhaust fumes by breathing in soot and gases emitted by transport.
- Exposures are highest where diesel traffic is heaviest especially in major highways and in cities.
- Commuting for work is a potential source of diesel exhaust exposure for many people.
- WHO 2014 report estimated that humans breathe 20,000 litres of air each day, this means that the more polluted the air is, the more humans breathe in dangerous chemicals into the lungs.

Effects of diesel exhaust on human health

The type and severity of effect of air pollution depends on the length of time of exposure

- Short term health effects:-
- irritation to the eyes
- Nose, throat and upper respiratory infections such as bronchitis and pneumonia.
- headaches, nausea, and allergic reactions

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Effects of diesel exhaust on human health (Long Term Health Effects)

- Chronic respiratory disease
- lung cancer
- damage to the brain nerves, liver or kidneys
- heart attack,
- stroke, and cardiovascular disease
- Asthma and pre-term birth.

Air Pollution related disease trends (2014-2016) Greater Accra Region /GHS

DESEASE	(2014) NO OF CASES	(2015) NO OF CASES	(2016) NO OF CASES
STROKE	763	980	11,168
CARDIOVASCU LAR DISEASE	5,910	3,257	4,022
COPD	29	74	92
ASTHMA	14,380	14,701	12,513
UPPER RESPIRATORY TRACT INFECTION	257,222	289,576	294,827
PNEUMONIA	14,652	17,068	15,962

SOURCE;: CHIMS/GHS

Magnitude of impacts of diesel exhaust fumes on human health

- WHO 2012 report indicates that 7 million people die around the world as a result of air pollution exposures.
- In Ghana many studies have not been done to ascertain the exact estimates of disease and deaths attributable to air pollution. However GHS data for (GAR) years 2014-2016 shows a general increase in prevalence of diseases related to air

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