

# Chronic coal pollution Turkey: Cumulative health effects



## TURKEY:



Has ratified the Paris Climate Agreement (November 2021)



Has set a 2053 net zero carbon target



Has not adopted a coal phase out date nor timeline

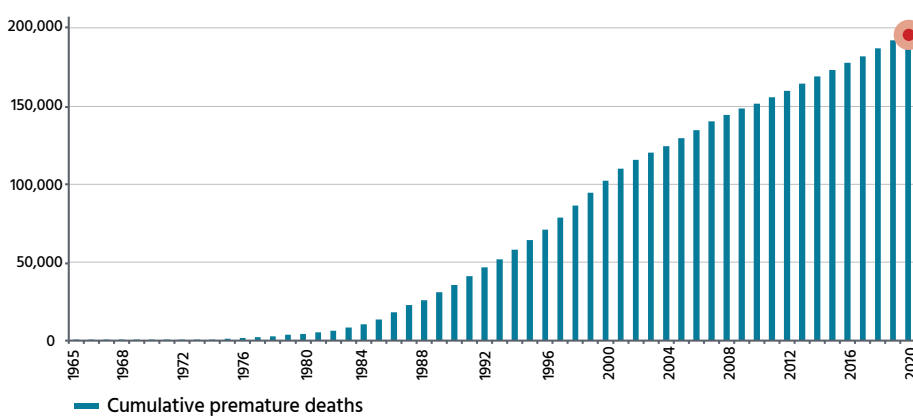


Does not make data on emissions from coal power plants publicly available



Had a 34% share of coal power in its 2020 electricity generation

For decades, coal power plants in Turkey have fuelled climate change and polluted the air. This has created an unacceptable health burden, leading to people dying early and causing and worsening of diseases such as asthma, chronic bronchitis or heart disease.



1965-2020

**196,091**  
premature deaths

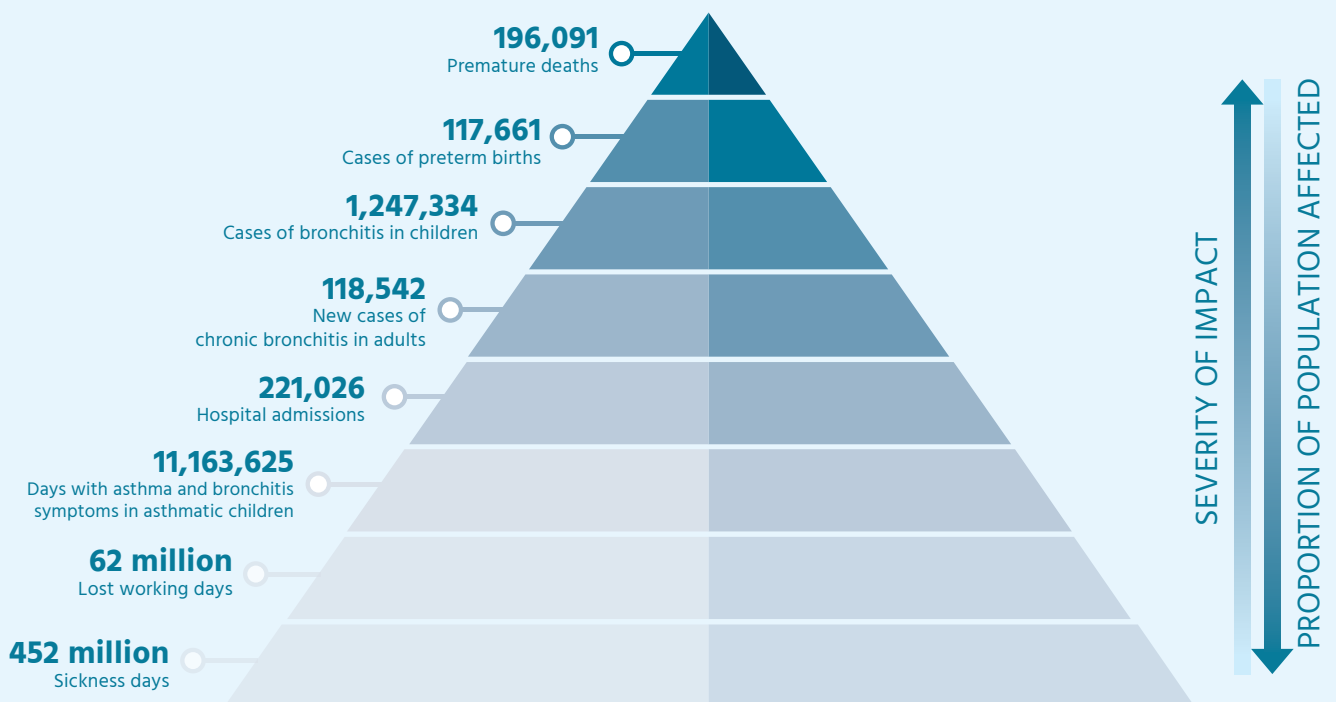


1965 is the year the oldest still active coal plant was commissioned. The year 2020 has been selected to calculate the cumulative effect.

The health bill  
**320 billion EUR**  
or 4.8 trillion Turkish Lira



Calculations are based on December 2021 EUR/TRY rate, as 1 Euro equals to 15 Turkish Lira.



**CUMULATIVE HEALTH COST 1965-2020\***

**up to 320 billion EUR, or 4.8 trillion Turkish Lira\*\***

\* Reflects the cumulative cost between 1965-2020. 1965 is the year the oldest still active coal plant was commissioned. The year 2020 has been selected to calculate the cumulative effect.

\*\* Calculations are based on December 2021 EUR/TRY rate, as 1 Euro equals to 15 Turkish Lira.

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## Recommendations

### FOR POLICY-MAKERS



Set an ambitious date for phasing out coal and a clear timeline.



Cancel all coal plants in the pipeline and halt the construction of plants such as Hunutlu.



Provide transparency on health and pollution data, at the local, regional and national level.



Carry out a health impact assessment for any decisions and measures on energy generation, to prioritise those energy forms with the least health impacts.



Prepare mechanisms for just transition to promote health and job alternatives to thousands of people working in mines and plants as well as the local community.

### FOR HEALTH BODIES AND HEALTH PROFESSIONALS



Increase the capacity of health and medical organizations and individuals (such as patients) in Turkey to be active on clean air, healthy energy and climate mitigation.



Highlight the true costs of coal power generation and the health benefits of a phase out in economic and public health deliberations and decisions.



As health ministries, participate in the development and implementation of clean air activities and plans, as well as energy and climate policies.

**Emission transparency:** As emissions to air, soil and water per facility are not reported yet in Turkey, HEAL's analysis is based on estimations on the basis of global peer reviewed methodologies. The cumulative health costs are therefore likely to be an underestimate. According to the new Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (PRTR) Regulation in Turkey announced in November 2021, emissions at facility level will be released for the emissions only after 2023.

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