

# Air Pollution in the Western Balkans

Key messages for policymakers and the public

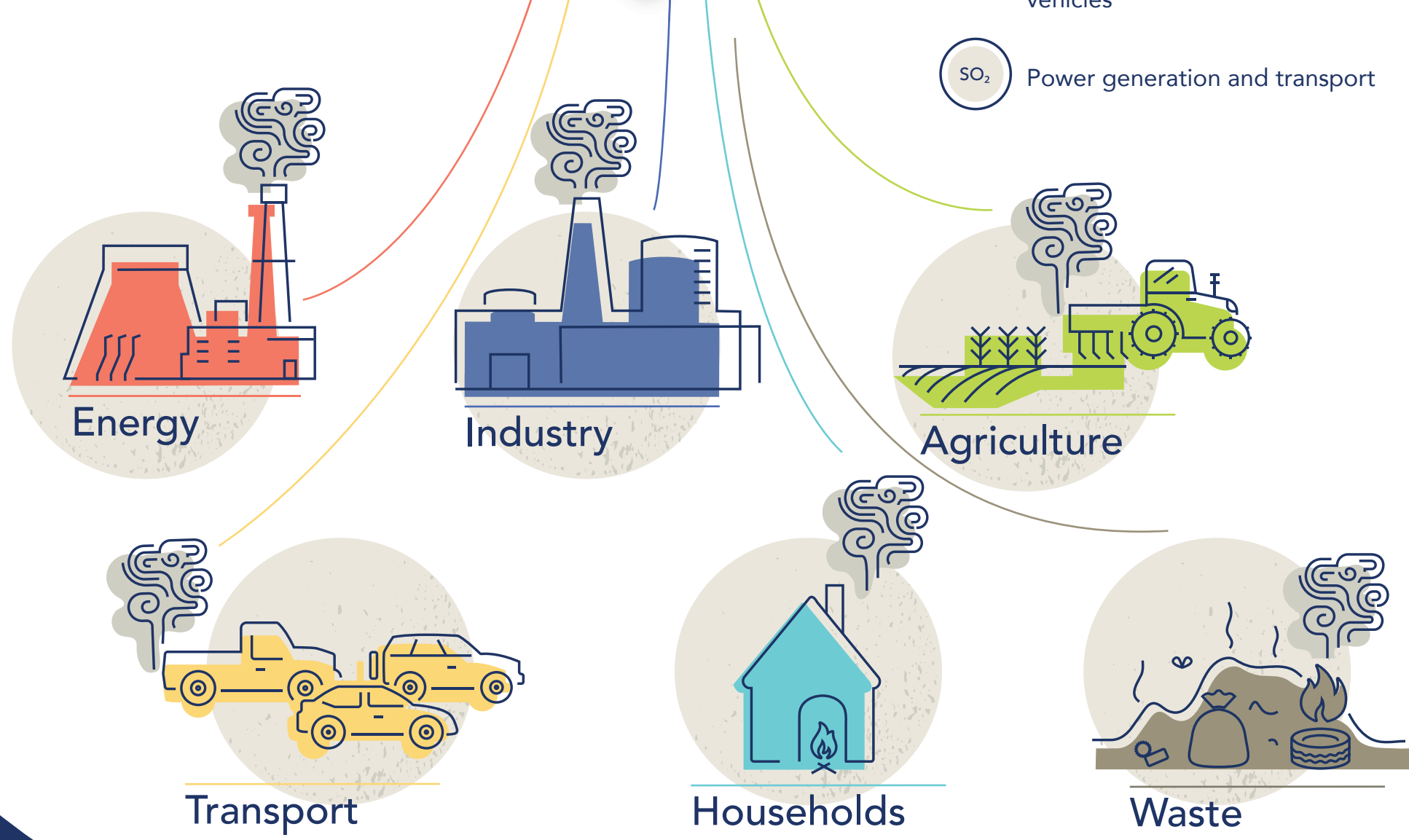
## Pollutants and sources

**7 million deaths** per year globally due to air pollution

The UNEP health risk assessment finds that air pollution contributes to **19% of the total mortality** in the Western Balkans

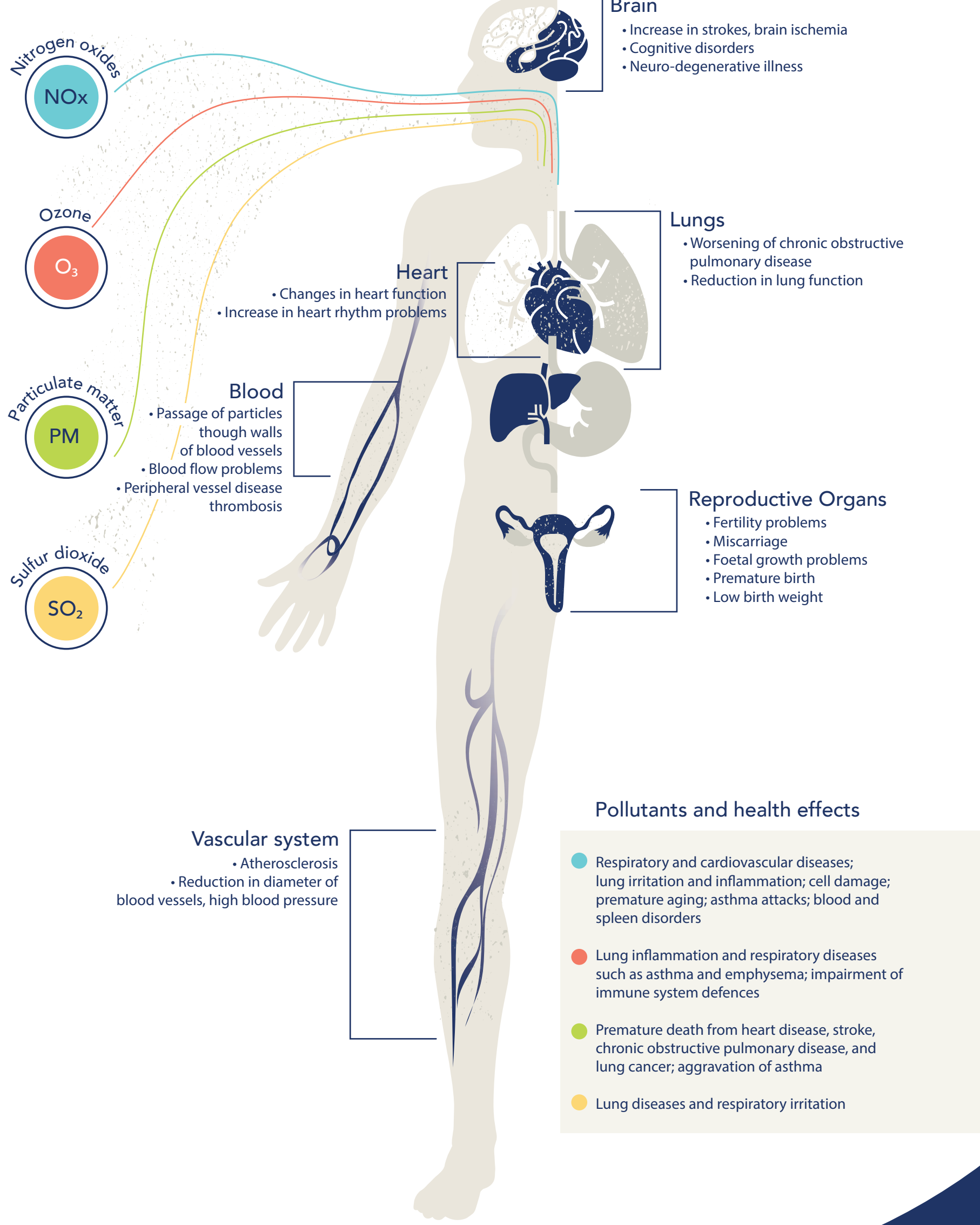
**5,000 deaths per year** in Western Balkan target cities

People in Western Balkans lose up to **13-16 months** of life due to air pollution



- NO<sub>x</sub>** Power generation and transport
- O<sub>3</sub>** Forms when nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compounds react in stagnant air and sunlight
- PM** Directly from fires and smokestacks; and forms in the atmosphere through reactions among chemical pollutants emitted by power plants, industry or vehicles
- SO<sub>2</sub>** Power generation and transport

## Impact on human health



## Air quality and health in Western balkans

### Emission sources

- Traffic
- Domestic heating
- Thermal power plants
- Petroleum refineries
- Coal mines
- Metal mines
- Industry
- Chemical industry
- Textile industry
- Metal industry
- Cement factories

• Air quality monitoring station, — non-operational

Exceedance Days per year in exceedance of PM<sub>10</sub> daily limit value (EU standards) in Western Balkan cities in 2017

Annual average PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentration in 2017\*\* (µg/m<sup>3</sup>)



Limit value WHO Limit value EU

Months of life lost due to PM<sub>2.5</sub> exposure (no data for Albania)

\* References to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of UN Resolution 1244 (1999)

Data consistency: \*\* Albania 2010–2015, Serbia 2010–2015

Map produced by 3oi Environment Network, February 2021

## Solutions

The UNEP study on air pollution in the Western Balkans has developed a series of recommendations to reduce emissions in the region and work toward SDGs 3, 7, and 11.

