

# Lung health of schoolkids in Delhi worst in India

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Around 35 per cent of school-going children in India suffer from poor lung health, with Delhi topping the chart, reveals a recently-released report.

The survey conducted on a preliminary lung health screening test (LHST) revealed that children in the national capital are worst affected with 21 per cent being tagged with "poor" lung capacity, while another 19 per cent faring as bad.

As part of the "Breathe Blue 2015" campaign, the survey was conducted by

the HEAL Foundation in Kolkata, Delhi, Mumbai and Bengaluru in the last three months. "Together a whopping 40 per cent of the children surveyed in national capital suffer from poor lung health. The city was followed by Bengaluru at 36 per cent (14 per cent poor and 22 per cent bad), 35 per cent in Kolkata (9 per cent poor and 26 per cent bad) and 27 per cent in Mumbai (13 per cent poor and 14 per cent bad)," said the survey.

The survey included 2,000 school students in the age group of 8-14 from all parts of the county. "The lung health screen-

ing test determines how much air the lungs can hold, how quickly one can move air in and out of his/her lungs, and how well the lungs take oxygen in and remove carbon dioxide out from the body. The tests can detect lung diseases and measure the severity of lung problems. Poor results on LHST mean compromised lung function and high possibilities of contracting pulmonary diseases," said Dr Preetish Kaul of HEAL Foundation. The survey also found that the worst-affected children are those who commute in unpacked vehicles.

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