# Millions in the UK Exposed to Health Risks from Airplane Emissions, Study Finds



A recent study by Transport & Environment (T&E) indicates that tiny particles emitted by airplanes pose serious health risks to millions in the UK. Approximately six million people, or 9% of the UK population, living within a 20km radius of major airports such as London Gatwick, Stansted, Heathrow, and Manchester are exposed to "ultrafine particles" (UFPs). UFPs, which are less than 100 nanometers in diameter, can infiltrate deeply into the human body and have been identified in the blood, brain, and placentas.

Conducted by CE Delft, the study also revealed that 52 million people across Europe are impacted by UFPs from the 32 busiest airports. The health risks associated with UFP exposure include respiratory issues, cardiovascular problems, and complications during pregnancy. The study suggests that using better-quality jet fuel and adopting sustainable aviation fuels (SAFs) and zero-emission aircraft could significantly reduce the emissions of UFPs.

Despite the World Health Organization identifying UFPs as an emerging concern 15 years ago, there is still no specific regulation on safe air levels. Experts and environmental organizations have called for an urgent review of air pollution regulations to address these findings.