

Environmental health risks perceptions: results from cross-sectional surveys in Southeastern France

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CONCLUSION

- Inhabitants from Southeastern France are highly concerned by environmental health risks, especially pesticides and air pollution.
- They call stakeholders to take actions to reduce these risks, but appear to have changed some of their own practices too since 2007.
- These results helped stakeholders to define priorities of the current regional environmental health plan.

BACKGROUND

- In accordance with commitments made as part as the European conferences on environment and health in the 90s, France has adopted national environmental health plans since 2004.
- These plans include regional offshoots to take local specificities into account.
- Stakeholders in Southeastern France needed to have better knowledge about population's concerns and expectations to help them defining their regional plan.

METHODS

- Random cross-sectional telephone surveys carried out in 2007 (n=1415) and 2017 (n=1960) among the regional population aged 18-75 years (*Environmental Health Barometer* surveys).
- Questionnaire: perceptions' about environmental health risks (e.g., air pollution) and actions to reduce them, trust in sources of information, and practices.
- Statistical analyses: descriptive analyses of the 2017 data, and logistic regression models adjusted for sociodemographic variables to test time evolutions.

Table 1. Characteristics of the study population, 2017 survey (n=1960, weighted %)

	%
Gender -- Women	51
Age (years)	
18-34	27
35-54	38
55-75	34
Educational level	
<Bac	56
Bac	18
>Bac	27
Size of the area of residence (number of inhabitants)	
<2000	6
2000-100 000	23
>100 000	71

OBJECTIVES

- To assess:
 - general population environmental health risks perceptions and practices in Southeastern France in 2017;
 - and their trends since 2007.

RESULTS

- Main environmental health risks perceived in 2017: pesticides, carbon monoxide, air pollution (Fig. 1).
- As in 2007, over 90% thought the air quality has worsened.
- Ways perceived as the most efficient to reduce air pollution in 2017: improvement of public transportation, of bike paths and the development of car sharing.
- Between 2007 and 2017: ↗ of self-reported use of soft mobility, car sharing (Fig. 2), and consumption of organic food (from 40% to 69%).
- Participants perceived physicians as the most trustful source of information (Fig. 3).

Fig. 1. Health risks perceptions in 2017 (% of people who answered "rather or very high risk")

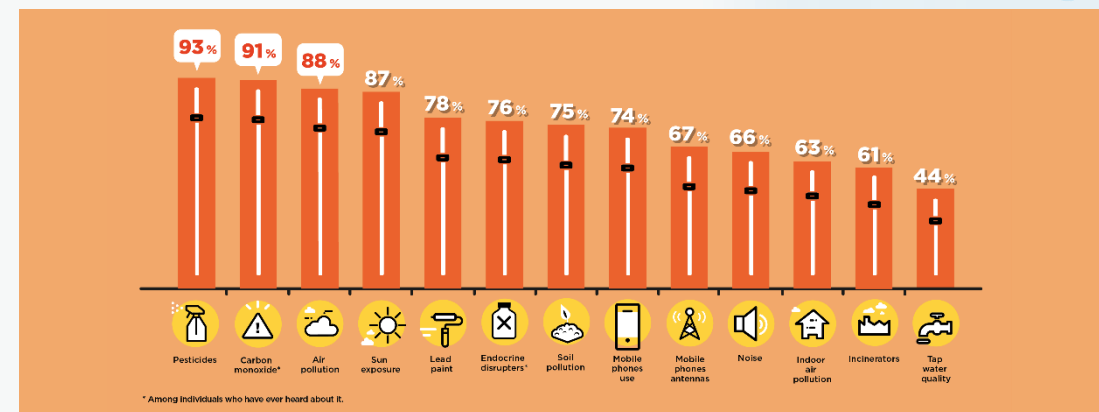


Fig. 2. Self-reported practices in 2017 and trends since 2007

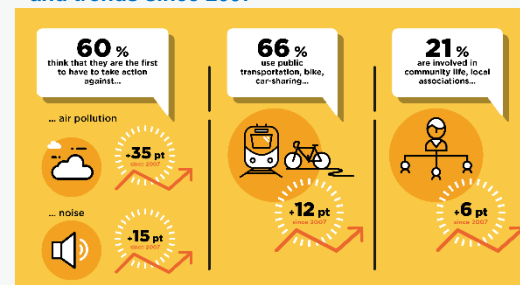


Fig. 3. Trust in various sources of information about environmental health in 2017

