

108 – WORSE THAN ROAD TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS AND PASSIVE SMOKING – PUT TOGETHER!

1. What takes a greater toll each year than road traffic accidents—at least five times as great?
2. What takes a greater toll than passive smoking each year – at least three times as great?

Why we all have a role to play!!

	Reduction in PM _{2.5}	Elimination of road traffic accidents	Elimination of passive smoking
Expected gain in life expectancy	7-8 months	1-3 months	2-3 months
Estimated equivalent gain in life years 2005 - 2110	>39 million years	>8 million years	> 13 million years

Ref: Institute of Occupational Medicine , Comparing estimated risks for air pollution with risks for other health effects, March 2006

Air quality diagnosis sits comfortably within Environmental Health Departments.....*but*.....to improve the effectiveness of the LAQM process the ownership of air quality problems and solutions needs to be a priority for those departments that can bring about meaningful change i.e. those departments that can offer and more importantly implement solutions.



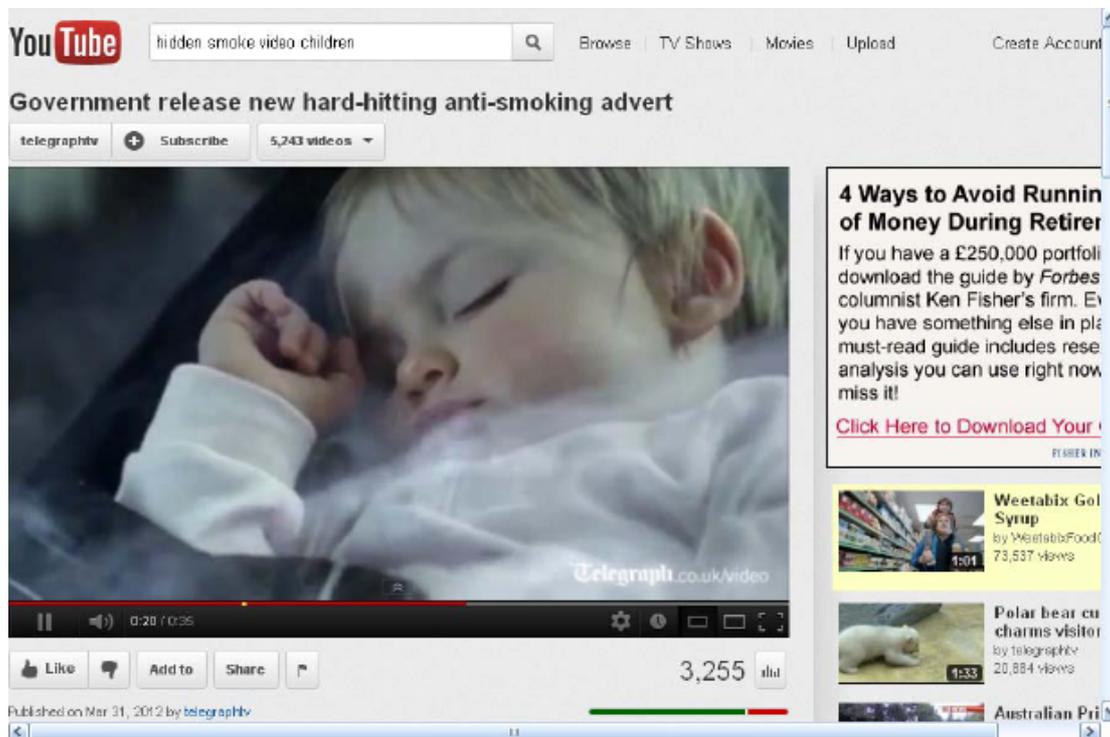
The answer to both questions is PM 2.5 -- Particulate Matter 2.5

There is no argument about this, it is a fact produced by the Institute of Occupational Medicine and based on nationally available statistics.

- **FACT:** PM2.5 is one class of pollutants created by many sources, traffic is overwhelmingly the major cause in Edinburgh, there are many; PM10s and NO2 (Nitrogen Dioxide) with PM2.5s are the three most commonly measured.

- **FACT:** Edinburgh Council until recently did not measure PM2.5-10 pollution or publish figures for levels in the city.
- **FACT** Edinburgh Council's own figures show well over 85% of all NO2 pollution in the city comes from traffic
- **FACT:** Edinburgh Council doesn't reveal how many people it believes die from the effects of airborne pollutants each year—in London it is 4,500 people.

An unseen menace is still a menace



<http://tinyurl.com/unseenmenace> -click to see the video

This film is a graphic illustration of the fact that passive smoking exposes people to far greater effects from *invisible* gases than from the *visible* smoke.

This is not a film by our group it is a UK government safety film produced with advice from UK government scientists and experts.

FACT: The pollutants from traffic are far less visible than cigarette pollution.

FACT: The pollutants from traffic are expected to be THREE times more lethal in terms of the total years of life lost to people exposed in the next century than passive smoking – see chart above.

FACT: The pollutants are expected to be almost FIVE times more lethal in terms of lost life years than the deaths and life shortening effects of all RTAs...road traffic accidents – see chart above.

FACT: Edinburgh Council are treating these facts as if they couldn't care less about them

FACT: Edinburgh Council are the only Council we know of in Europe, who are engaged in a major Civil engineering initiative where the effects of traffic created pollution are known to be worsened by the project they are pursuing

The issues of Road Traffic accidents and passive smoking have created enormous concern and provoked huge social and legislative changes.

Yet the creation of worse and worse traffic created air pollution which is just short of being TWICE AS LETHAL as the other two Public Health subjects of concern PUT TOGETHER not only provokes no major policy initiatives from Edinburgh Council – it is being hushed up.

The Council is locked into a state of desperate denial that leads to incoherence and institutional babbling, as much as the facts of the tram have damaged

Edinburgh and the city's reputation, the spectacle of the civic leadership engaged in sterile political point scoring has damaged it more.

For three years the council has denied to residents over and over again, that the tram **must have** sole use of the roadway---yet in the last few days we see the latest pathetic lie—that it would be nice to pedestrianise Princes Street.

It would be nice to pedestrianise every street in the city.

But this idea is being promoted only because it is the least worst excuse they can come up with to ensure no traffic at all is on the street.

Because the fundamentally botched tram design cannot share road space.

The recent feeble discussion document on the 'Southern arc' must have been produced simply to pretend the council DO care about 'traffic pollution'. The supposed data driving the concern was pitiful, even the report itself acknowledged health statistics did not actually support the statements being made elsewhere!

The Council's wish to 'prove' they are concerned may be because a United Nations committee is presently looking very closely at the Council's record on delivering openness and access to Justice – or impeding such things.

They are concerned about this because they realize that to promote a project which creates pollution is ultimately untenable. Is it credible that in preparing such a report driven by the stated concerns the Council did not utter one word or make a single approach during the preparation of it to the resident's group that

has worked so hard to raise the identical concerns in the face of implacable opposition from the council lasting three years.

The Fact is the concern is synthetic. If it were not, then the group working in this area for three years would surely have been consulted.

The council are presently spending all the extra money being so expensively borrowed, on getting the highly visible line along Princes Street in the city centre built. They calculate that when the money runs out, which they already expect it will and which independent experts who have been proved correct in the past believe it will, they can point to this track and yet again claim to be so close, that the city must find even more money to complete the project.

It is a cynical and bankrupt strategy that is insulting to the people taking the pollution load the project cannot acknowledge, and degrading to people inside the council who toe the line often through fear of legal action for damages for revealing commercially confidential information if they do speak out.

The Facts are not made up because they are facts published by universities, research groups and scientists, across the world.

This pollution threat really IS twice as big as ALL traffic accidents and ALL passive smoking put together.

It **will not** only rise in the streets where this resident's group all live. it **will rise** in literally hundreds of streets across the Capital.

The tram design alone creates the traffic diversions which cause the expected increases in pollution predicted in the foundation study by Mott MacDonald - there are no other causes. FACT

The council have tried *not measuring* the effects, they have tried *suppressing* the figures they get when forced to measure; they have tried anything and everything to *avoid facing the facts*— this cannot go on.

Ends