

“Air Pollution in Victorian England”, my comments on the article by Tim Hatton, published by The Conversation, November 17th, 2017

November 2017, I just found an article about the health effects of air pollution in England in the late 1800's, early 1900's, when they were burning a lot of coal

excerpts:

”Geography mattered. Those located downwind from a coal intensive district suffered from their neighbour’s pollution. And communities in valleys surrounded by hills suffered more deaths as their own smoke emissions became trapped and concentrated.”

”The effect of atmospheric pollution can be measured by looking at men who were born in the 1890s whose heights were recorded when they enlisted in the British army during World War I. Their average height was five feet six inches (168cm), but 10% were shorter than five feet three (160cm). Those who grew up in the most polluted districts were almost an inch shorter than those who experienced the cleanest air, even after allowing for a range of household and local characteristics. This is twice as much as the difference in adult height between the children of white-collar and manual workers”

I think that is very special that the author found this. I thank him for this good work.

Comments by John Conover Jr, P.E.