

Authors

Esther Duflo
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Rema Hanna
Harvard University

Michael Greenstone
The University of Chicago

Indoor Air Pollution, Health and Economic Well-being

February 2008

Esther Duflo
Department of Economics, Massachusetts Institute of Technology and I-PAL
30 Memorial Drive, E52-252G
Cambridge, MA 02142
eduflo@mit.edu

Michael Greenstone
Department of Economics, Massachusetts Institute of Technology and I-PAL
30 Memorial Drive, E52-259
Cambridge, MA 02142
mgreenst@mit.edu

Rema Hanna (Corresponding Author)
New York University Wagner Graduate School of Public Service and I-PAL
295 Lafayette Street 2nd Floor
New York, NY 10012
Email: rhanna@wagner.nyu.edu

KEY WORDS: indoor air pollution (IAP), global health, economic development, randomized evaluation,
future studies

Indoor Air Pollution, Health and Economic Well-being

Indoor air pollution (IAP) caused by solid fuel use and/or traditional cooking stoves is a global health threat, particularly for women and young children. The WHO World Health Report 2002 estimates that IAP is responsible for 2.7% of the loss of disability adjusted life years (DALYs) worldwide and 3.7% in high-mortality developing countries. Despite the magnitude of this problem, social scientists have only recently begun to pay closer attention to this issue and to test strategies for reducing IAP. In this paper, we provide a survey of the current literature on the relationship between indoor air pollution, respiratory health and economic well-being.

We then discuss the available evidence on the effectiveness of popular policy prescriptions to reduce IAP within the household.

February 01, 2008