Development of an Asthma – Air Quality Data Linkage Tool

New Mexico Department of Health
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Staff and Partner Credits

Helen Flowers, M.S. Program Manager
Glenda Hubbard, MPH, RN - Asthma Epidemiologist
Barbara Malczewska -Toth, Ph.D - Toxicologist

University of New Mexico, NIEHS
Orin B. Myers, Ph.D. & Christine Stidley, Ph.D.

NM Environment Department - Air Quality Bureau
Navaho Nation
Earth Data Analysis Center
Purpose: demonstrate a general process for linking particulate matter & ozone data with asthma data to develop a model for preventing exacerbations of asthma.

- Exposure to pollutants, such as airborne particulate matter and ozone associated with increases in mortality and hospital admissions due to respiratory and cardiovascular disease.

Special Study Area: Four Corners of NM
Determine the relationship between the daily number of ED visits for asthma and ozone levels.
Asthma Data Linkage Project

Description

Examine the relationship between daily ozone & PM concentrations & ED visits for asthma & other respiratory outcomes

- Conduct time-series analysis
- Analysis of linked data sets to examine associations between exposure & disease
- Demonstrate the utility of the linked data analyses in guiding public health practice & policy regarding public concerns about ozone, PM and asthma/respiratory ailments
Why Farmington, New Mexico?

- High ozone levels (near non-attainment)
- Community concerns about asthma due to ozone
- Early Action Compact committee
- Prevention
- Policy

Average Sunny Days: 273
Average Rainfall: 7.5 in.
Average Snowfall: 12.3 in.
Farmington Altitude: 5,395 ft.
8-hr Ozone Episodes (1999-2002)

Recent 8-hr Ozone Episode in the Four Corners Region

2000-2002
DV=76.3 ppb

Daily Maximum 8-hr Ozone (ppb)

8-hr Ozone Episodes (1999-2002)
Project Components

Environmental Data:

- Air pollution monitoring data (hourly reading for each day for 2000-2003)
- Ozone, nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide, meteorological data
- PM 10 collected every 6 days
- PM 2.5 every 3 days

Data Use: use both daily hourly maximums for ozone and daily maximum 8 hour ozone levels
Environmental Data, cont:
Local Scale Ozone Tile Plots

Daily Maximum 8-hr Ozone Concentrations (ppb) on 3 Aug 2000 Over The San Juan Basin/Four Corners Region: 4 km CAMx Grid Domain
Environmental Data, cont:

8-hour Ozone Trends
Substation/Bloomfield Sites in San Juan Co., NM
Compared to other Regional Sites
3-year running design values

2000-2002 Design Values for Substation & Bloomfield = 0.076 ppm
Substation ozone monitoring began 5/3/97
Bloomfield ozone monitoring began 6/7/2000
Ozone Formation from VOC and NOx

- NO
- VOCs
- NO2
- NO2
- Nitric acid, etc.
- CO, CO2

No sunlight ⇒ no ozone production
No NOx ⇒ no ozone production
No VOC ⇒ no ozone production
Implications of VOC/NOx Chemistry

- **Highest on hot, summer days**
- **Maximum level in the afternoon**
- **Clinical effects**
  - Reductions in lung function, inflammation
  - Increased exercise-related wheezing, coughing, and chest tightness

Average Sunny Days: 273
Ozone Time Series Plots

Hourly Ozone Concentrations (ppb) on at Mesa Verde National Park
For 31 July – 4 August 2000 Over the San Juan Basin/Four Corners Region
Health Outcome Data

- Asthma data from area hospitals
  - San Juan Regional Medical Center, Presbyterian Urgent Care, Durango Hospital in Durango, CO, Northern Navaho Medical

- ER data to be collected
  - Acute Respiratory (croup, acute bronchitis, pneumonia)
  - Chronic Respiratory (asthma, COPD, emphysema, chronic bronchitis)
  - Age 5 year age groups if won’t release single ages
  - Year: 2000 through 2003
Children’s Health Study

- 10 year study, began in 1992
- Funded by the CA EPA’s Air Resources Board and conducted by USC
- Large, long-term study of health effects of children’s chronic exposure to S. CA air pollution
- 12 communities chosen because they have different patterns of high and low levels of Ozone, Nitrogen Oxide, Acid Vapor and PM
Risk to Develop Asthma

Children Playing ≥ 3 Sports

High O₃ Communities

All Communities

Fold Increase Risk

Lancet Feb 2, 2002
Health Effects

- **Asthma Exacerbations and Exposure to Ozone**
  - May trigger asthma exacerbations at levels much lower than the federal ambient air quality standards (8-hour average = 0.084 ppm and 1-hour average – 0.12 ppm)

- **Effect of Ozone on Hospital Admissions, ER Visits and Medications Use**
  - Increased hospital admissions occur a day after an increase in ozone levels
  - Increase in ER visits is associated with an increase in ozone levels
  - Increased need for asthma medications use is associated with an increase in ozone
Exposure and Analysis Issues

- Determining spatial units and time period for linkage - likely establish temporal trends using generalized linear mixed model analysis and generalized additive models
- Daily ED visit frequencies will need to be filtered to remove day of the week and long wave trends - filtered values will likely be regressed on air pollution and weather variable for the same day and the 3 previous days
- Determining whether ozone effect is confounded by other pollution and weather variables - assessment of these impacts
- Small population - sufficient power?
Guiding Public Health Practice and Policy

**Public Health**
- Air quality reports
- Stay indoor on $O_3$ alert days
- Avoid exercise on $O_3$ alert days
- Expansion of health outcome datasets statewide (ER, Medicaid, HMO)
- Education to child care givers

**Policy**
- Control Strategies for Ozone Formation
Who We Are

New Mexico Department of Health
Office of Epidemiology

Amy Lay, MPH
amy.lay@doh.state.nm.us
505-841-5894

Glenda Hubbard, RN, MPH
Asthma Epidemiologist
glendah@doh.state.nm.us
505-476-3577

Barbara Malczewska-Toth, Ph.D., D.A.B.T.
Btoth@doh.state.nm.us
505-476-3028