

Summary of Mobile Monitoring an Air Quality Monitoring Project: % of risk of adverse health effects in neighbourhoods

Kirkendall area*

*While taking samples, the air monitoring vehicle was damaged in a car accident. Results in Kirkendall and Strathcona were analyzed from samples taken in 2007.



Overview

In late 2010 to 2011, the *Mobile Monitoring* project collected air samples in designated areas using a specialized vehicle. Samples were taken in industrial areas, neighbourhoods and along roadways. (1a)

Currently, there are stationary air quality locations, such as the Hamilton Air Monitoring Network (www.hamnair.ca). What makes this project unique is the mobility aspect and being able to collect data anywhere in the City.

This is a summary of the findings of the *Mobile Monitoring* project.

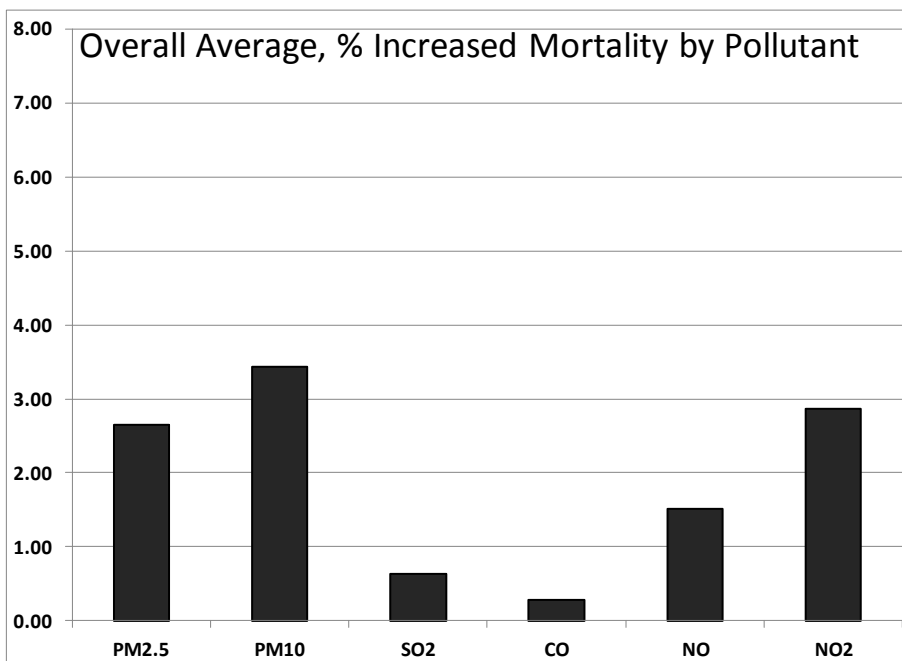
The main goal of *Mobile Monitoring* was to:

1. identify pollutants and its impacts on health, also known as Total Health Effects (increased mortality, ie deaths, due to air pollution) and;
2. to compare impacts on health in different areas of Hamilton.

With this information, residents can use this data to, for example, to reduce pollutants in their area.

Five contaminants that were measured (1b):

- Carbon Monoxide (CO)
- Oxides of Nitrogen (NO, NO₂, NO_X)
- Sulphur Dioxide (SO₂)
- PM₁₀ (Inhalable Particulates, is "coarse" an example is dust stirred up by traffic)
- PM_{2.5} (Respirable Particulates, is "fine" and found in smoke or haze and can only be viewed through a microscope)



This graph shows how much each pollutant increases mortality. The City's average of calculated increased mortality is 11.5%.

That means for every 100 deaths (from non-traumatic reasons) 11 more deaths will be caused by air pollution.

In Hamilton, out of the 5 contaminants measured, particulate matter is the most predominant pollutant followed by nitrogen NO and NO₂.

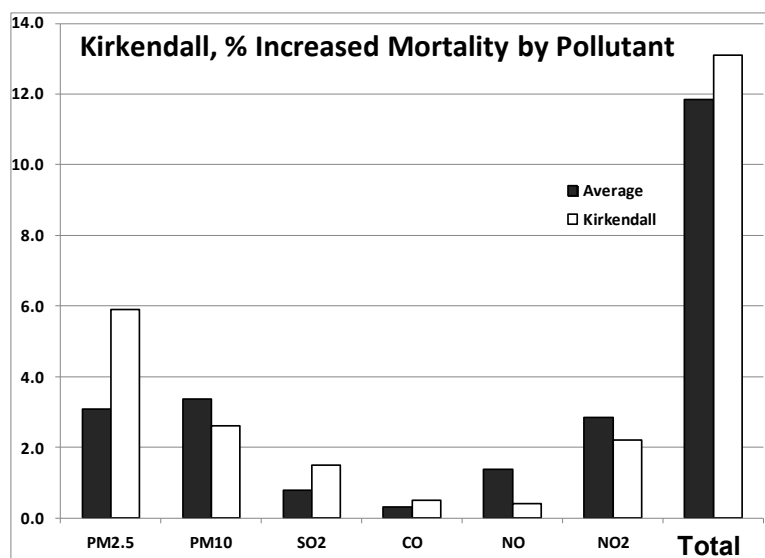
Kirkendall area

Summary of findings: Each area showed various degrees of air pollution and its impact on health. The impacts vary from 6.8% to 18.4% increases in non traumatic mortality in City neighbourhoods. Non traumatic mortality means all deaths not caused by accidents, etc. The City's average of 11.5% means that the total number of deaths in the City (of non-traumatic reasons) is increased by 11.5%.

In other words, for each 100 non trauma deaths in the City, 11 additional deaths are caused by air pollution. It should be cautioned that these percentages are not absolute, refer to specific, limited sampling times and may be best used as an indicator of the relative health impacts by neighbourhood. The most recent Canadian Medical Association estimate is 445 deaths each year from air pollution in Hamilton- Wentworth census district .

Due to an accident with the mobile monitoring vehicle towards the end of the sampling program, sampling in the south west of downtown Hamilton was not completed as planned. Local neighbourhood associations remained very interested in obtaining whatever data might be available. In order to have some basis to compare these neighbourhoods, historical data from 2007 were analyzed for Kirkendall and Strathcona.

In Kirkendall, in 2007, the increased mortality was calculated at 13.1%, above the City's average.



This graph shows the comparison for Kirkendall of percent *increased mortality* due to air pollution for different pollutants compared to city wide averages.

The major increase over the city wide average is for PM2.5, with a smaller increase from SO2. The PM2.5 source is not known, but it is unlikely to be the 403 Highway since that would probably be accompanied with increased NO and NO2. Recommendations include identifying sources of pollutants and figuring out ways to decrease the levels.

This graph represents calculated increased mortality and compares Kirkendall area to the City's average.

The full version of this report, *2011 Hamilton Neighbourhoods: Mobile Air Quality Monitoring to Determine Local Impacts*, is available at: <http://www.cleanair.hamilton.ca/default.asp?id=72>
To see boundaries of each area studied, go to: <http://g.co/maps/m5nj4>

For more information on the organizations involved, see the following links:

Green Venture: www.greenventure.ca

Clean Air Hamilton: www.cleanair.hamilton.ca

Conserver Society of Hamilton and District: www.conserversociety.ca

References:

- 1a. Originally, 11 locations were monitored: Beach Blvd / Eastport Drive, Delta, Dundas, Jones Road / Arvin Avenue, Lawrence Avenue to Burlington Street, Limeridge Mall, McAnulty Blvd, near Mountain, North West End, Red Hill neighbourhoods, Wentworth North. After neighbourhood interest, two locations had previously collected data analyzed: Kirkendall and Strathcona Neighbourhoods.
- 1b. Also noted were wind speed, wind direction and ambient temperature.

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