

Wildfire Smoke Exposure during Pregnancy Study

Winter 2023 Study Update

Klamath County Public Health (KCPH) and researchers from Oregon State University (OSU) started a small study to look at wildfire smoke exposure during pregnancy. KCPH and OSU wished to look at the health of pregnant people before and during fires, and the health of the baby after birth.

Types of Data Collected

Seven participants helped us collect information about pollutants they were exposed to (wristband), and pollutants inside their home (monitors). They also shared daily respiratory symptoms during the two sampling periods. We collected information about outdoor pollutants, working with KCPH Air Quality.



This is the kit each participant received.



The wristband traps chemicals from the air.



This monitor collects data on particulates in the air.



This monitor collects data on carbon monoxide.

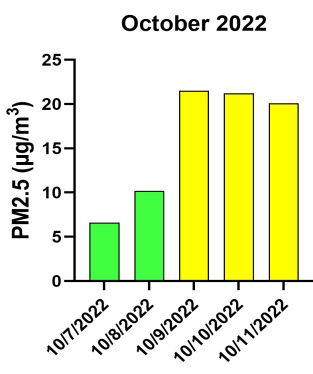
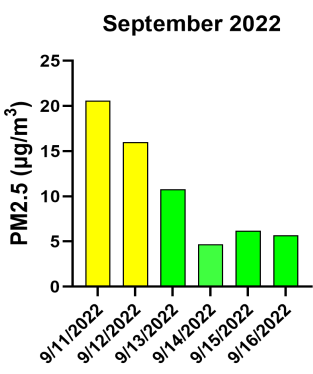
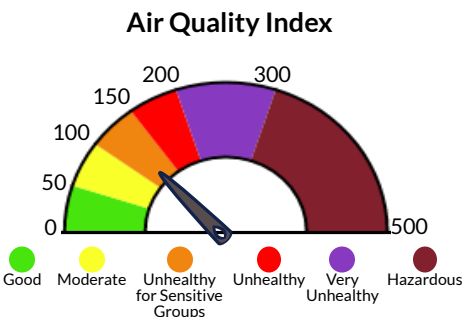


Daily surveys collected health information.



This is one of the outdoor monitors which acts like the wristband. KCPH set these up.

We sampled in September and October during mild smoke exposure. We were not able to capture strong wildfire smoke. Below, you can see the air quality, based on the Air Quality Index, for each sampling period.



What questions can this data help us answer?

DOES WILDFIRE SMOKE IMPACT HEALTH?

We know that wildfire smoke can be harmful. We developed an infographic to help you avoid wildfire smoke now and in the future. Scan the QR codes above to download the infographic in English or Spanish.

We do not know all of the pollutants that are in wildfire smoke, or how they may affect your health, or the health of your baby. For many chemicals, we still do not know how much will cause a negative health effect. Studies like this will help us start to answer these questions.



IS INDOOR AIR BETTER OR WORSE THAN OUTDOOR AIR?

We collected air quality data inside homes, as well as outside air. This will let us look at differences in air quality. We know that wildfire smoke can get inside our homes, so we are interested to learn more about air quality inside and outside.



What is next?

Participants will be asked to complete a survey about the health of their baby. Each participant will receive their results about the air quality in their home during the two sampling periods.

Email us at ehsc-cec@oregonstate.edu or call us at 541-224-7883.

