1997 Ambient Air Quality Report

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NATURAL RESOURCES
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1997 Ambient Air Quality Report

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Preface

This report is issued by the Division of Air Quality of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to inform the public of air pollution levels throughout the state of North Carolina. It describes the sources and effects of the following pollutants for which the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the State of North Carolina have established ambient air quality standards:

Particulate Matter Nitrogen Dioxide
Carbon Monoxide Ozone
Sulfur Dioxide Lead

A brief discussion of the ambient air monitoring program, including a description of the monitoring network, is provided. Detailed results are presented of monitoring that was conducted in 1997 to measure the outdoor concentrations. The data are presented graphically and as statistical summaries, including comparisons to the ambient air quality standards. The report discusses the recorded data, seasonal variability of some pollutants. Data and areas exceeding the ambient air quality standards are identified. Factors that have contributed to those exceedances are also described.

Acid rain data from the National Atmospheric Deposition Program/National Trends Network for North Carolina also is included for 1997. The report concludes with an account of pollutant concentration trends through 1997. Data collected after 1997 will be discussed in later reports.

Current air pollution information is available to the public 24 hours a day through the use of the air quality index telephone numbers listed below:

Statewide toll-free 888-AIR-WISE (for Asheville, Durham, Fayetteville, Greensboro, Greenville, Raleigh, Wilmington, and Winston-Salem areas)

Charlotte area 704-333-SMOG

Additional copies of this report and previous annual reports are available from:

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Comments regarding this report or suggestions for improving future reports are welcomed. Comments may be sent to Dr. Wayne L. Cornelius, at the above address.

Alan W. Klimek, P.E., Director Division of Air Quality

Executive Summary

In 1997, the North Carolina Division of Environmental Management (DEM), later the Division of Air Quality (DAQ), and the three local program agencies (listed in Appendix A) collected 486,712 air quality samples. These samples included measurements of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) criteria air pollutants: particulate matter, carbon monoxide, ozone, sulfur dioxide, and nitrogen dioxide. This report discusses each pollutant and presents summary tables, maps, charts and explanations of the data.

The report also includes data from weekly acid rain samples collected by the National Atmospheric Deposition Program/National Trends Network (NADP/NTN) at seven North Carolina sites and one Tennessee site very close to the North Carolina border. It discusses acid rain and presents summary tables, maps, charts and explanations of the data.

In addition, this report provides information on pollutant trends from 1972 (or the earliest year available) through 1997. The following summary discusses trends only for those pollutants having either increasing or decreasing tendencies.

Two different types of **particulate matter** were sampled in North Carolina during 1997. Total Suspended Particulate (TSP), generally considered to be particles having an aerodynamic diameter of 45 micrometers or less, is regulated by North Carolina standards. Particulate matter (PM₁₀) with an aerodynamic diameter less than or equal to a nominal 10 micrometers (0.00004 inches) is regulated by both EPA and N.C. standards.

TSP was sampled at 13 sites, yielding 748 daily samples. No exceedances of the state TSP ambient air quality standard for 24-hour samples (150 μ g/m³) were observed in 1997.

 PM_{10} was sampled at 46 sites, yielding 3345 daily samples. There were no exceedances of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for PM_{10} (150 $\mu g/m^3$ for 24-hour samples and 50 $\mu g/m^3$ for the annual arithmetic mean). Mean 24-hour concentrations have decreased about 30 percent since 1985.

Carbon monoxide (CO), the most common air pollutant, largely results from fuel combustion. The most likely areas to have excessive CO concentrations are larger cities where there are more cars and congested streets.

CO was sampled at 16 sites, yielding 112,597 valid hourly averages. The National Ambient Air Quality Standards for CO are 35 ppm for the maximum one-hour average and 9 ppm for the maximum eight-hour average. There were no exceedances of the standards, although the highest eight hour concentration of 8.4 ppm (93 percent of the standard) was observed at the East Franklin Street, Chapel Hill site in Orange County. Both the mean one-hour average and the mean eight-hour average have been decreasing by about 4 percent per year. The combined effects of newer cars in the vehicle fleet, traffic control strategies, and the Inspection and Maintenance

program in Durham, Orange, Wake, Forsyth, Guilford, Cabarrus, Gaston, Mecklenburg, and Union Counties have helped reduce the number and intensity of CO exceedances from previous years.

Ozone (O₃) forms in the lower atmosphere when hydrocarbons (or volatile organic compounds) and nitrogen oxides chemically react in the presence of sunlight and high temperatures. The main emphasis in control of ozone has been to limit hydrocarbon emissions.

 O_3 was sampled at 45 sites, yielding 211,648 valid hourly averages. The National Ambient Air Quality Standard for O_3 is 0.08 ppm for the maximum eight-hour average in most localities (including all of NC) and 0.12 ppm for the maximum one-hour average elsewhere. Nine one-hour exceedances occurred in North Carolina in 1996, and five occurred in 1995.

In 1997, there were four exceedances of the one-hour standard. Two in Rowan County on July 15 and 16, one in Farmville in Pitt County on July 28, and one Wake County at Saint Augustine's College in Raleigh on July 14. Mecklenburg County was redesignated as in attainment for ozone in July 1996. However, hydrocarbon control strategies continue to be used there to help reduce ozone concentrations.

In 1997, the 8-hour standard was exceeded 291 times with 10 counties having 10 or more exceedances at individual sites. The site at 29 N and Mecklenburg Cab Co led all the sites with 21.

Sulfur dioxide (SO₂) is mainly produced by combustion of fossil fuels containing sulfur compounds and the manufacture of sulfuric acid.

 SO_2 was sampled at 21 sites, yielding 141,554 valid hourly averages. There were no exceedances of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (365 $\mu g/m^3$ or 0.14 ppm for a 24-hour average, 1300 $\mu g/m^3$ or 0.50 ppm for a three-hour average, 80 $\mu g/m^3$ or 0.03 ppm for the annual arithmetic mean).

Nitrogen oxides (NO_x) are produced primarily from the burning of fossil fuels such as coal, oil and gasoline, due to the oxidation of atmospheric nitrogen and nitrogen compounds in the fuel. The primary combustion product is NO, which reacts with hydrocarbons, ozone and other atmospheric compounds to form NO₂. NO_x compounds play an important role in the formation of ozone. Reactive nitrogen species (NOy) were monitored in Charlotte, Raleigh, and Winston-Salem to gather data for the development of control strategies for ozone non-attainment areas.

The criteria pollutant NO₂ was sampled at two sites, yielding 16,727 valid hourly averages. There were no exceedances of the National Ambient Air Quality Standard (0.053 ppm for the annual arithmetic mean). The mean one-hour average concentration has been decreasing by about 1.5 percent per year.

Lead (Pb) emissions result from coal combustion and the sandblasting of highway bridges, overpasses, and water tanks. In the past, the combustion of gasoline containing tetraethyl lead as an additive was a major source.

Lead was sampled at 5 sites in 1977 yielding 93 samples. There have been no recent exceedances of the ambient air quality standard for lead $(1.5 \,\mu\text{g/m}^3)$ for a quarterly arithmetic mean). Mean lead concentrations have decreased by 94.6 percent since 1972. The steady decline in the use of leaded gasoline is primarily responsible for this trend.

Acid Rain is produced when nitrate and sulfate ions from motor vehicles and industrial sources reach the upper atmosphere, react with moisture in the air, and are deposited as acid precipitation. Monitoring of pH and other ion concentrations in precipitation will help to identify trends and demonstrate the results of efforts to reduce emissions from mobile and industrial sources.

The annual mean pH in 1997 ranged from 4.42 (Rowan County) to 4.76 (Samson County).

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1 Introduction

This annual report summarizes the ambient air monitoring performed in calendar year 1997 by the North Carolina Division of Air Quality (DAQ) and three local air pollution agencies, which are more fully described in Appendix A on pp. 74-76.

There were 486,712 air quality samples of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) criteria pollutants – particulate matter, carbon monoxide, ozone, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide and lead - which are discussed in this report.

Chapter 2 describes the criteria pollutants and discusses their sources and effects on human health, plants and animals. Chapter 3 outlines the standards applied to criteria pollutant concentrations established by the EPA and the state of North Carolina to protect human health (primary standards) and plants, animals, and property (secondary standards). Chapter 4 describes the ambient monitoring program conducted by DAQ and three local program agencies. Chapter 5 gives detailed monitoring results for each pollutant, with a map of the monitor sites, a table of the monitor summary statistics relevant to the standards, one or more maps summarizing the important

statistics for each county with monitors, and additional summaries as appropriate to each pollutant. Chapter 6 describes the EPA Air Ouality Index for the criteria pollutants and charts index measurements for five Metropolitan Statistical Areas of North Carolina. Chapter 7 presents sources, effects and monitoring of acid rain data conducted in North Carolina by the National Atmospheric Deposition Program and National Trends Network (NADP/NTN). It also includes a map of the calendar year mean pH level and site statistics for the calendar year in two tables. Chapter 8 provides a statewide summary of trends for the criteria pollutants from the early 1970s $(1985 \text{ for PM}_{10})$ and pH values from 1978 through 1997.

2 Description of Criteria Pollutants

2.1 Particulate Matter

Atmospheric particulate matter is defined as any airborne material, except uncombined water (liquid, mist, steam, etc.) that exists in a finely divided form as a liquid or solid at standard temperature (25°C) and pressure (760 mm mercury) and has an aerodynamic diameter of less than 100 micrometers. In the period covered by this report, two sizes of particulate matter were monitored, total suspended particulate (TSP) and PM₁₀. TSP is any particulate matter measured by the method described in EPA regulations 40 CFR 50 App. B (United States Environmental Protection Agency [US EPA] 1993, p. 715-728) and is generally considered to be particles having an aerodynamic diameter of 45 micrometers or less. PM₁₀ is particulate matter with an aerodynamic diameter less than or equal to 10 micrometers as measured according to EPA regulations 40 CFR 50 App. J (United States Environmental Protection Agency [US EPA] 1993, p. 769-773). TSP measurements have been made in North Carolina since the early 1960s and PM₁₀ has been sampled locally in Charlotte since 1985 and statewide since 1986 (North Carolina Department of Environment, Health, and

Natural Resources 1991). The new PM-2.5 standard was adopted by North Carolina on April 1, 1999.

2.1.1 Sources

Particulates are emitted by many human activities, such as fuel combustion, motor vehicle operation, industrial processes, grass mowing, agricultural tilling and open burning. Natural sources include windblown dust, forest fires, volcanic eruptions, and plant pollen.

Particles emitted directly from a source may be either fine (less than 2.5 micrometers) or coarse (2.5 - 60 micrometers), but particles formed in the atmosphere will usually be fine. Generally, coarse particles have very slow settling velocities and are characterized as suspended particulate matter. Typically, fine particles originate by condensation of materials produced during combustion or atmospheric reactions.

2.1.2 Effects

Particulate matter can cause health problems affecting the breathing system, including aggravation of existing lung and heart disease, limitation of lung clearance, changes in form and structure of organs, and development of cancer. Individuals most sensitive to the effects of particulate matter include those with chronic obstructive lung or heart disease, those suffering from the flu, asthmatics, the elderly, children, and mouth breathers.

Health effects from inhaled particles are influenced by the depth of penetration of the particles into the respiratory system, the amount of particles deposited in the respiratory system, and by the biological reaction to the deposited particles. The risks of adverse health effects are greater when particles enter the tracheobronchial and alveolar portions of the respiratory system. Small particles can penetrate into these deeper regions of the respiratory system. Healthy respiratory systems can trap particles larger than 10 micrometers more efficiently before they move deeply into the system and can more effectively remove the particles that are not trapped before deep movement.

Particulate matter also can interfere with plant photosynthesis, by forming a film on leaves reducing exposure to sunlight.

Particles also can cause soiling and degradation of property, which can be costly to clean and maintain.

Suspended particles can absorb and scatter light, causing reduction of visibility. This is a national concern, especially in areas such as national parks, historic sites and scenic attractions visited by sightseers.

2.2 Carbon Monoxide

Carbon monoxide (CO) is the most commonly occurring air pollutant. CO is a colorless and poisonous gas produced by incomplete burning of carbon-containing fuel.

2.2.1 Sources

Most atmospheric CO is produced by incomplete combustion of fuels used for vehicles, space heating, industrial processes and solid waste incineration. Transportation accounts for the majority of CO emissions. Boilers and other fuel burning heating systems are also significant sources.

2.2.2 Effects

Breathing carbon monoxide affects the oxygen-carrying capacity of the blood. Hemoglobin in the blood binds with CO more readily than with oxygen, starving the body of vital oxygen.

Individuals with anemia, lung and heart diseases are particularly sensitive to CO effects. Low concentrations affect mental function, vision and alertness. High concentrations can cause fatigue, reduced work capacity and may adversely affect fetal development. Chronic exposure to CO at concentrations as low as 70 ppm (80 mg/m³) can cause cardiac damage. Other health effects associated with exposure to CO include central nervous system effects and pulmonary function difficulties.

Ambient CO apparently does not adversely affect vegetation or materials.

2.3 Ozone

Ozone is a clear gas that forms in the troposphere (lower atmosphere) by chemical reactions involving hydrocarbons (or volatile organic compounds) and nitrogen oxides in the presence of sunlight and high temperatures. Even low concentrations of tropospheric ozone are harmful to people, animals, vegetation and materials. Ozone is the most widespread and serious criteria air pollutant in North Carolina.

Ozone in the upper atmosphere (stratosphere) shields the earth from harmful effects of ultraviolet solar radiation. Stratospheric ozone can be damaged by the emission of chlorofluoro-hydrocarbons (CFCs) such as Freon.

2.3.1 Sources

Ozone (O₃) is the major component of a complex mixture of compounds known as photochemical oxidants. Ozone is not usually emitted directly into the atmosphere, but is formed by a series of complex reactions involving hydrocarbons, nitrogen oxides and sunlight. Ozone concentrations are higher during the daytime in late spring, summer and early autumn when the temperature is above 60°F and the sunlight is more intense.

Two natural sources of upper atmosphere ozone are solar radiation and electrical discharge during thunderstorms. These are not significant sources of tropospheric (ground level) ozone.

2.3.2 Effects

Ozone is a pulmonary irritant, affecting the respiratory mucous membranes, as well as other lung tissues and respiratory functions. Ozone has been shown to impair normal function of the lung causing shallow, rapid breathing and a decrease in pulmonary function. Other symptoms of exposure include chest tightness, coughing and wheezing. People with asthma, bronchitis or emphysema probably will experience breathing difficulty when exposed to short-term concentrations between 0.15 and 0.25 ppm. Continued or repeated long-term exposure may result in permanent lung structure damage.

Ozone damages vegetation by injuring leaves. Ozone also accelerates material aging, cracking rubber, fading dyes and eroding paint.

2.4 Sulfur Dioxide

Sulfur dioxide (SO₂) is a colorless, corrosive, harmful gas with a pungent odor. Smaller concentrations of sulfur trioxide and other sulfate compounds are also found in SO₂ emissions. Sulfur oxides contribute to the formation of acid rain and the formation of particles that reduce visibility.

2.4.1 Sources

The main sources of SO₂ are combustion of fossil fuels containing sulfur compounds and the manufacture of sulfuric acid. Other sources include refining of petroleum and smelting of ores that contain sulfur.

2.4.2 Effects

The most obvious health effect of sulfur dioxide is irritation and inflammation of body tissues brought in contact with the gas. Sulfur dioxide can increase the severity of existing respiratory diseases such as asthma, bronchitis, and emphysema. Sulfuric acid and fine particulate sulfates, which are formed from sulfur dioxide, also may cause significant health problems. Sulfur dioxide causes injury to many plants. A bleached appearance between the veins and margins on leaves indicates damage from SO₂ exposure. Commercially important plants sensitive to SO₂ include cotton, sweet potatoes, cucumber, alfalfa, tulips, apple trees, and several species of pine trees.

2.5 Nitrogen Oxides

Several gaseous oxides of nitrogen are normally found in the atmosphere, including nitrous oxide (N₂O), nitric oxide (NO) and nitrogen dioxide (NO₂). Nitrous oxide is a stable gas with anesthetic characteristics and typical ambient concentrations well below the threshold concentration for a biological effect. Nitric oxide is a colorless gas with ambient concentrations generally low enough to have no significant biological effect. Nitrogen dioxide is reddish-brown but is not usually visible at typical ambient concentrations.

2.5.1 Sources

The most significant nitrogen oxide emissions result from the burning of fossil fuels such as coal, oil and gasoline, due to the oxidation of atmospheric nitrogen and nitrogen compounds in the fuel. The primary combustion product is NO, which reacts to form NO₂.

2.5.2 Effects

At typical concentrations, nitrogen dioxide has significant health effects as a pulmonary irritant, especially upon asthmatics and children. In North Carolina a much greater health concern is the formation of ozone, which is promoted by the presence of NO₂ and other nitrogen oxides.

Some types of vegetation are very sensitive to NO₂, including oats, alfalfa, tobacco, peas and carrots. Chronic exposure causes chlorosis (yellowing) and acute exposure usually causes irregularly shaped lesions on the leaves.

Nitric oxide and nitrogen dioxide do not directly damage materials. However, NO₂ can react with moisture in the air to produce nitric acid, which corrodes metal surfaces and contributes to acid rain.

High concentrations of NO₂ may reduce visibility. Much of the brownish coloration sometimes observed in polluted air in winter months may be due to NO₂.

2.6 Lead

Lead is a toxic heavy metal element occurring in the atmosphere as small particles.

2.6.1 Sources

The major source of atmospheric lead used to be the combustion of gasoline containing the additive tetraethyl lead as an antiknock agent. However, the availability of leaded fuel has declined, and the concentration of lead in such fuel has decreased, minimizing gasoline as a source. Significant remaining sources include coal combustion (lead exists in very small quantities as an impurity in coal) and sandblasting of highway structures and water tanks. Lead also is used in some batteries, paints, insecticides and newspaper inks.

2.6.2 Effects

Lead (Pb) persists and accumulates in the environment and the human body. It may be inhaled, ingested, and eventually absorbed into the bloodstream and distributed to all body tissues. Exposure to low concentrations interferes with blood production and specific enzyme systems. It is believed to cause kidney and nerve cell damage, and severe lead poisoning is known to cause brain damage in children.

3 Standards

Ambient air quality status is determined by measuring pollutant concentrations in outdoor air and comparing the measured concentrations to corresponding standards. The US EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) defines the ambient air as "that portion of the atmosphere, external to buildings, to which the general public has access."

Ambient air quality standards are classified as primary and secondary. Primary standards are those established to protect public health. Secondary standards are those established to protect the public welfare from adverse pollution effects on soils, water, crops,

vegetation, manmade materials, animals, wildlife, weather, visibility, climate, property, transportation, economy, and personal comfort and well-being. The scientific criteria upon which the standards are based are reviewed periodically by the EPA, which may reestablish or change the standards according to its findings.

A pollutant measurement that is greater than the ambient air quality standard for a specific averaging time is called an "exceedance." The national primary, secondary and North Carolina ambient air quality standards are summarized in Table 3.1.

Table 3.1 National and North Carolina Ambient Air Quality Standards. For new or anticipated new standards, References in the Code of Federal Regulations are given. For standards expressed in parts per million, an equivalent mass per unit volume is also shown.

Pollutant/ Ambient Measurement/ (Reference)	Averaging Period	Type of Summary	Primary National (Health Related) Standard	Secondary National (Welfare Related) Standard	North Carolina Standard
TSP	1 year	geometric mean	(1)	(1)	$75 \mu g/m^3$
24 hour average	1 day	2nd maximum	(1)	(1)	$150 \ \mu g/m^3$
PM-2.5 24 hour average	1 year	average ² arithmetic mean	15 μg/m ^{3 (6)}	15 μg/m ^{3 (6)}	15 μg/m ^{3 (6)}
(40CFR50, App. N)	1 day	average ² 98th percentile	$65 \mu g/m^3$	$65 \mu g/m^3$	$65~\mu g/m^3~^{(6)}$
PM-10 24 hour average	1 year	average ² arithmetic mean	$50 \mu g/m^3$	$50 \ \mu g/m^3$	$50 \mu g/m^3$
(40CFR50, App. N)	1 day	average ² 99th percentile ³	$150~\mu\text{g/m}^3$	$150~\mu\text{g/m}^3$	$150 \ \mu g/m^3$
CO 1 hour average	8 hours	2nd maximum	9 ppm (10 mg/m ³)		9 ppm (10 mg/m ³)
	1 hour	2nd maximum	35 ppm (40 mg/m ³)		35 ppm (40 mg/m ³)
O ₃ 1 hour average	1 hour	expected ⁴ 2nd maximum	0.12 ppm ⁽⁶⁾ (235 μg/m ³)	0.12 ppm ⁽⁶⁾ (235 μg/m ³)	0.12 ppm (235 $\mu g/m^3$) ^(6,7)
(40CFR50, App. I)	8 hours	average ⁵ arithmetic mean 4th maximum	$0.08 \text{ ppm}^{(6)}$ (157 µg/m^3)	0.08 ppm ⁽⁶⁾ (157 μg/m ³)	0.08 ppm $^{(6)}$ (157 μ g/m ³)
SO ₂ 1 hour average	1 year	arithmetic mean	0.03 ppm (80 $\mu g/m^3$)		$0.03 \text{ ppm } (80 \mu\text{g/m}^3)$
	1 day	2nd maximum	$0.14 \text{ ppm } (365 \mu\text{g/m}^3)$		$0.14 \text{ ppm } (365 \mu\text{g/m}^3)$
	3 hours (non- overlapping)	2nd maximum		0.50 ppm (1,300 μg/m ³)	0.50 ppm $(1,300 \mu g/m^3)$
NO ₂ 1 hour average	1 year	arithmetic mean	$0.053 \text{ ppm} \ (100 \text{ µg/m}^3)$	$0.053 \text{ ppm} \ (100 \text{ µg/m}^3)$	$0.053 \text{ ppm} \ (100 \text{ µg/m}^3)$
Pb 24-hour average	1 quarter	arithmetic mean	$1.5 \mu g/m^3$	$1.5 \mu g/m^3$	$1.5 \ \mu g/m^3$

^{1.} In 1987, National standards for PM-10 replaced those for TSP.

^{2.} Arithmetic mean over the 3 most current years.

^{3.} In July 1997, this percentile-based statistic replaced the 2nd maximum.

^{4.} Determined by adjusting for incomplete days and averaging over the most recent 3 consecutive, complete calendar years.

^{5.} Arithmetic mean value over the most recent 3 consecutive, complete calendar years.

^{6.} On April 1, 1999 North Carolina adopted the EPA PM2.5 and Ozone standards. On May 1999 the US Court of appeals ruled the new EPA standards illegal. The US Supreme Court has agreed to consider an appeal of that decision.

^{7.} On May 27, 1999 the one-hour standard was rescinded by the EMC based on EPA guidance. The one-hour standard will likely be reinstated.

4 Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Program

Ambient monitoring and analyses of samples were conducted by the North Carolina Air Quality Section and three local air pollution control programs (Appendix A, pp. 74-76). The air monitoring data are used to determine whether air quality standards are being met, to assist in enforcement actions, to determine the improvement or decline of air quality, and to determine the extent of allowable industrial expansion. A list of all monitoring sites active in 1997 is presented in Table 4.1 and shown as a map in Figure 4.1. The locations of sites for individual pollutants are shown in Figures 5.1, 5.4, 5.7, 5.11, 5.16, and 5.19.

Siting of monitors involves several considerations, including size of the area represented, distance from roadways and nearby sources, unrestricted air flow, safety, availability of electricity and security. Each site has a defined monitoring objective, and annual evaluations are conducted to ensure that the objectives are met. The four basic monitoring objectives are to determine:

- the highest concentration expected in an area:
- representative concentrations in areas of high population density;

- the impact of significant sources or source categories on ambient air quality;
- general background concentration levels.

All monitors have known precision, accuracy, interferences and operational parameters. The monitors – as well as all measurement devices – are carefully calibrated at predetermined frequencies, varying from daily to quarterly.

Measurements are traceable to National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), when standards are available.

Monitoring and analyses are performed according to a set of standard operating procedures. Field personnel visit manual sampling sites once every six days to replace sample media and check the operation and calibration of monitors. Personnel check continuous monitors at least twice weekly for correct instrument operation.

Quality assurance activities are carried out to determine the quality of the collected ambient data, improve the quality of the data and evaluate how well the monitoring system operates. The goal of quality assurance activities is to produce high quality air pollution data with defined completeness, precision, accuracy, representativeness and comparability.

Microprocessors are used at most sites to collect the data. A computerized telemetry system aids in assembly of the data for

submission to the US EPA. This enhances data validity, minimizes travel costs, and allows real-time data to be available by computer polling when needed. Numerous checks are performed to ensure that only valid data are reported.

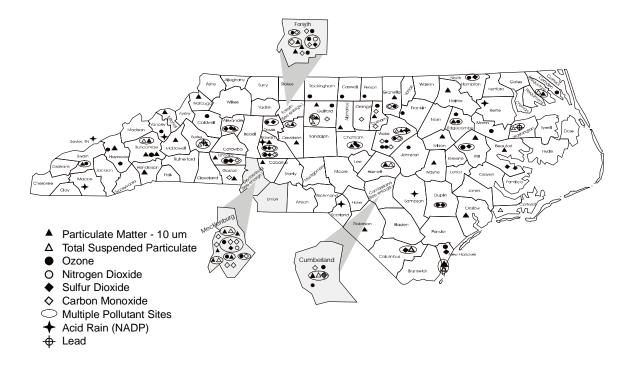


Figure 4.1 Monitoring Sites Active in 1997

Table 4.1 Ambient Air Monitoring Sites Operated in North Carolina, 1997

SITE	ADDRESS	P	POLLUTANTS		
37-001-0002 ALAMANCE	827 S GRAHAM & HOPEDALE RD BURLINGTON	PM10			
37-003-0003 ALEXANDER	STATE ROAD 1177 TAYLORSVILLE	О3	PM10		
37-013-0003 BEAUFORT	NC HIGHWAY 306	SO2			
37-013-0004 BEAUFORT	SOUTH FERRY LANDING PAMLICO RIVER	SO2			
37-013-0005 BEAUFORT	SLATESTONE RD NEAR WATER TWR WASHINGTON	PM10			
37-021-0003 BUNCOMBE	HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES BLDG WOODFIN ST	TSP	PM1O		
37-021-0030 BUNCOMBE	ASHEVILLE ROUT 191 SOUTH BREVARD ROAD ASHEVILLE	О3			
37-021-0032 BUNCOMBE	LONDON ROAD ASHEVILLE	PM10			
37-021-0033 BUNCOMBE	US 70 WEST SWANNANOA	PM10			
37-025-0004 CABARRUS	FLOYD STREET KANNAPOLIS	PM10			
37-027-0003 CALDWELL	HIGHWAY 321 NORTH LENOIR	О3			
37-029-0099 CAMDEN	COUNTY ROAD 1136 & 1134	О3			
37-031-0003 CARTERET	ARENDELL & 4TH MOREHEAD CITY	TSP			
37-033-0001 CASWELL	CHERRY GROVE RECREATION	О3			
37-035-0004 CATAWBA	1650 1ST STREET HICKORY	TSP	PM10	РВ	
37-037-0004 CHATHAM	ROUT 4 BOX 62 PITTSBORO	О3	PM10		

SITE	ADDRESS	POLLUTANTS				
COUNTY 37-051-0004	F.S. # 5 3296 VILLAGE DRIVE	TSP	PM10	PB		
CUMBERLAND	FAYETTEVILLE			, 5		
37-051-0007 CUMBERLAND	CUMBERLAND CO ABC BOARD 1705 OWEN DRIVE	СО				
37-051-0008 CUMBERLAND	FAYETTEVILLE 1/4 MILE SR1857/US301/1857	О3				
37-051-1003 CUMBERLAND	3625 GOLFVIEW ROAD HOPE MILLS	О3				
37-057-0002 DAVIDSON	SOUTH SALISBURY STREET LEXINGTON	PM10				
37-057-1002 DAVIDSON	400 SALEM STREET THOMASVILLE	TSP	PM10			
37-059-0002 DAVIE	246 MAIN STREET COOLEEMEE	О3	SO2			
37-061-0002 DUPLIN	HIGHWAY 50 KENANSVILLE	О3				
37-063-0001 DURHAM	HEALTH DEPT 300 E MAIN ST DURHAM	PM10				
37-063-0011 DURHAM	210 NORTH ROXBORO STREET DURHAM	СО				
37-063-0012 DURHAM	4001 CHAPEL HILL BLVD DURHAM	СО				
37-063-0013 DURHAM	2700 NORTH DUKE STREET DURHAM	О3	HSCO			
37-065-0002 EDGECOMBE	LEGETT RD., WASTE TREATMENT PLANT ROCKY MOUNT	PM10				
37-065-0099 EDGECOMBE	RT 2, BOX 195 TARBORO	О3	PM10			
37-067-0009 FORSYTH	INDIANA AVE & AKRON DR HANES HOSIERY PARK WINSTON-SALEM	PM10				
37-067-0013 FORSYTH	720 RIDGE AVENUE WINSTON-SALEM	PM10				
37-067-0022 FORSYTH	1300 BLK. HATTIE AVENUE WINSTON-SALEM	О3	HSCO	SO2	NO2	

SITE COUNTY	ADDRESS	P	OLLUTANTS		
37-067-0023 FORSYTH	1401 CORPORATION PARKWAY WINSTON-SALEM	СО	PM10		
37-067-0024 FORSYTH	NORTH FORSYTH HIGH SCHOOL WINSTON-SALEM	PM10			
37-067-0025 FORSRTH	100 SW STRATFORD ROAD WINSTON-SALEM	СО			
37-067-0026 FORSYTH	1590 BOLTON STREET WINSTON-SALEM	СО			
37-067-0027 FORSYTH	7635 HOLLYBERRY LANE WINSTON-SALEM	О3			
37-067-0028 FORSYTH	6496 BAUX MOUNTAIN ROAD WINSTON-SALEM	О3			
37-067-1008 FORSYTH	3656 PIEDMONT MEMORIAL DRIVE WINSTON-SALEM	О3	HSCO		
37-069-0001 FRANKLIN	431 S. HILLSBOROUGH STREET FRANKLINTON	О3			
37-071-0014 GASTON	RANKIN LAKE ROAD GASTONIA	PM10			
37-071-0015 GASTON	1555 EAST GARRISON BLVD GASTONIA	СО			
37-077-0001 GRANVILLE	WATER TREATMENT PLANT JOHN UMSTEAD HOSPITAL BUTNER	О3	HSCO		
37-077-0002 GRANVILLE	3200 WEB SCHOOL ROAD OXFORD	PM10			
37-081-0009 GUILFORD	EDGEWORTH & BELLEMEADE ST'S GREENSBORO	TSP	PM10	РВ	
37-081-0011 GUILFORD	KEELY PARK, KEELY ROAD MC CLEANSVILLE	О3			
37-081-1005 GUILFORD	E. GREEN & S. CENTENNIAL ST HIGH POINT	PM10			
37-081-1011 GULFORD	401 WEST WENDOVER GREENSBORO	СО			
37-083-0002 HALIFAX	NE CORNER OF 5TH & CAROLINA ST ROANOKE RAPIDS	PM10			

SITE COUNTY	ADDRESS	POLLUTANTS		i		
37-085-0001 HARNETT	MUNICIPAL BUILDING DUNN	TSP	PM10			
37-087-0002 HAYWOOD	CANTON FIRE DEPARTMENT CANTON	PM10				
37-087-0035 HAYWOOD	TOWER BLUE RODGE PARKWAY MILE MARKER 410	О3				
37-087-0036 HAYWOOD	GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK	О3				
37-080-1006 HENDERSON	CORNER OF ALLEN & WASHINGTON ST'S HENDERSONVILLE	PM10				
37-101-0002 JOHNSTON	3411 JACK ROAD CLAYTON	О3				
37-109-0003 LINCOLN	EAST CONGRESS STREET LINCOLNTON	PM10				
37-109-0004 LINCOLN	RIVERVIEW ROAD LINCOLNTON	О3	HSCO	SO2		
37-111-0002 MC DOWELL	COURTHOUSE MARION	PM10				
37-117-0001 MARTIN	HAYES STREET #2 WELL SITE	О3				
37-119-0001 MECKLENBURG	600 EAST TRADE STREET CHARLOTTE	TSP	PM10			
37-119-0003 MECKLENBURG	FIRE STATION # 11, 620 MORETZ ST CHARLOTTE	PM10				
37-119-0010 MECKLENBURG	FIRE STATION # 10, 2136 FREMOUNT RD CHARLOTTE	TSP	PM10			
37-119-0032 MECKLENBURG	5137 CENTRAL ROAD CHARLOTTE	СО				
37-119-0034 MECKLENBURG	PLAZA ROAD AND LAKEDELL CHARLOTTE	О3	HSCO	СО	SO2	NO2
37-119-0035 MECKLENBURG	1330 SPRING STREET GRANVILLE NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER	СО				
37-119-0037 MECKLENBURG	CHARLOTTE 415 EAST WOODLAWN ROAD CHARLOTTE	СО				

SITE COUNTY	ADDRESS	F	POLLUTANTS	
37-119-0038	301 TRYON STREET	СО		-
MECKLENBURG				
37-119-1001 MECKLENBURG	FILTER PLANT DAVIDSON	PM10		
37-119-1005 MECKLENBURG	400 WESTINGHOUSE BLVD. CHARLOTTE	О3	PM10	
37-119-1009 MECKLENBURG	29N @ MECKLENBURG CAB CO. CHARLOTTE	О3	HSCO	
37-121-0001 MITCHELL	CITY HALL, SUMMIT STREET SPRUCE PINE	PM10		
37-129-0002 NEW HANOVER	6028 HOLLY SHELTER ROAD CASTIE HAYNE	O3		
37-129-0006 NEW HANOVER		SO2		
37-129-0007 NEW HANOVER	WAREHSE & RECEIVING ST.,UNCW WILMINGTON	TSP	PM10	
37-131-0002 NORTHAMPTON	ROUTE 46 GASTON	О3	SO2	
37-133-0004 ONSLOW	2553 ONSLOW DRIVE JACKSONVILLE	PM10		
37-135-0006 ORANGE	147 EAST FRANKLIN STREET CHAPEL HILL	CO		
37-139-0001 PASQUOTANK	WATER PLANT, NORTH WILSON ST. ELIZABETH CITY	TSP	PM10	
37-143-0099 PERSON	SR 1102 & NC 49	О3		
37-147-0001 PITT	1500 BEATTY STREET GREENVILLE	PM10		
37-147-0099 PITT	US 264 NEAR WATER TOWER FARMVILLE	O3	SO2	
37-155-0003 ROBESON	SOUTH WATER STREET LUMBERTON	PM10		
37-157-0099 ROCKINGHAM	6371 NC 65 @ BETHANY SCHOOL BETHANY	О3		

SITE	ADDRESS	Р	OLLUTANTS	3	
37-159-0021 ROWAN	WEST STREET & GOLD HILL AVENUE ROCKVILLE	O3	HSCO	SO2	
37-159-0022 ROWAN	925 NORTH ENOCHVILLE AVENUE ENOCHVILLE	О3	HSCO	SO2	
37-159-1006 ROWAN	CORNER OF CHURCH & KERR ST'S SALISBURY	PM10			
37-173-0002 SWAIN	CENTER STREET, PARKS 7 RECREATION FACILITY	О3	PM10		
37-183-0003 WAKE	FIRE STATION #9 SIX FORKS ROAD RALEIGH	TSP	PM10	РВ	
37-183-0011 WAKE	420 PERSON STREET RALEIGH	СО			
37-183-0014 WAKE	EAST MILLBROOK JR HI 3801 SPRING FOREST ROAD RALEIGH	О3			
37-183-0015 WAKE	808 NORTH STATE STREET RALEIGH	О3	HSCO		
37-183-0016 WAKE	201 NORTH BROAD STREET FUQUAY-VARINA	О3			
37-183-0017 WAKE	5033 TV TOWER ROAD GARNER	О3			
37-183-0018 WAKE	HWY 70 WEST & HWY 50 NORTH RALEIGH	СО			
38-187-0002 WASHINGTON	OLD ACRE ROAD PLYMOUTH	TSP	РВ		
37-189-0004 WATAGUA	HARDIN PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL HIGHWAY 194	PM10			
37-191-0004 WAYNE	BOONE HWY 70 WEST PATROL STATION GOLDSBORO	PM10			
37-195-0002 WILSON	NW CORNER OF KENAN & TARBORO ST'S WILSON	PM10			
37-199-0003 YANCEY	BLUE RIDGE PARKWAY	О3			
Sites Operated in	99				
1997	99				

5 Pollutant Monitoring Results

Air quality in a given area is affected by many factors, including meteorological conditions, the location of pollutant sources, and the amount of pollutants emitted from them.

The speed and direction of air movement determine whether pollutant emissions cause exceedances of the ambient air quality standards and where those exceedances will occur. Atmospheric stability, precipitation, solar radiation and temperature also affect pollutant concentrations.

Geographic factors that affect concentrations include variables such as whether an area is urban or rural, and whether the area has mountains, valleys or plains.

Important economic factors affecting air quality include concentration of industries, conditions of the economy, and the day of the week.

Air quality also may be influenced by "exceptional events" in the short term. Exceptional events may be either natural (e.g., forest fire) or manmade (e.g., construction or demolition). Unusual data that can be attributed to an exceptional event

are considered biased and may be omitted from data summaries when they are not representative of normal conditions. In the tabular listings in this report, data affected by exceptional events are included but flagged, but they are omitted from summaries in charts. A list of typical exceptional events is given in Appendix B.

Data for the 1997 ambient air quality report were collected at 148 air pollutant monitors operated by state and local agencies in North Carolina (listed in Appendix A, pp.74-76). To save operating costs, some ozone monitors and sulfur dioxide monitors are operated only every third year. Fifteen of the 148 monitors used for this report operated most recently in 1995 or 1996. The most recent lead data available are from 1997 and involve 5 of the 148 monitors.

5.1 Total Suspended Particulates

Total Suspended Particulate matter (TSP) is collected on filters using a "high volume" sampler (an EPA Reference Method). The sampler motor is set and calibrated to an air flow rate of 40 ±4 feet³/min. Gravimetric analysis is performed by comparing the exposed filter weight to the unexposed filter weight. Weights are measured to the nearest 0.1 milligram. The difference between the exposed and unexposed weights is the amount of particulate collected from a known volume of air.

In 1997, 13 sites were used to monitor TSP and 748 samples were collected. A map of the TSP sampling sites is shown in Figure 5.1, and a detailed summary of the data from each site is given in Table 5.1.

No sample exceeded the N.C. TSP ambient air quality standards in 1997, compared to one exceedance in both 1996 and 1995. The highest 24-hour average was 114, which was

76 percent of the standard. This value occurred at Elizabeth City. Attainment status is based on the second highest 24-hour concentration and on the geometric mean of all the 24-hour concentrations at a given site.

The largest geometric mean TSP average was $40 \,\mu g/m^3$, which is 53 percent of the level of the air quality standard. Two sites in Charlotte reported geometric means of $40 \,\mu g/m^3$. The second highest 24-hour concentrations are charted by county in Figure 5.2 and the annual geometric means are similarly charted in Figure 5.3. (In counties with more than one TSP monitoring site, the concentration reported in Figure 5.2 is the county-wide second largest concentration, and the geometric mean reported in Figure 5.3 is the maximum geometric mean for the county.)

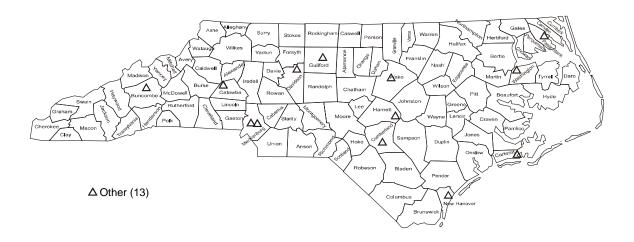


Figure 5.1 Location of TSP Monitoring Sites.

 Table 5.1 Total Suspended Particulates in Micrograms Per Cubic Meter for 1997

SITE NUMBER COUNTY	ADDRESS	NUM OBS	24 1ST	I-HOUF 2ND	R MAXI 3RD			GEOM MEAN	GEOM SD
37-021-0003 BUNCOMBE	HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES BLD WOODFIN ST ASHEVILLE	54	84	68	67	65	38.1	34.7	1.57
37-031-0003 CARTERET	ARENDELL & 4 TH MOREHEAD CITY	60	108	106	99	87	44.4	39.1	1.68
37-035-0004 CATAWBA	1650 1ST. ST. HICKORY	59	98	84	73	72	42.7	37.9	1.70
37-051-0004 CUMBERLAND	F.S. # 5 3296 VILLAGE DR. FAYETTEVILLE	60	104	74	74	69	41.3	35.8	1.93
37-057-1002 DAVIDSON	400 SALEM STREET THOMASVILLE	52	77	77	71	67	38.8	35.4	1.58
37-081-0009 GUILFORD	EDGEWORTH & BELLEMEADE STS GREENSBORO	61	76	75	72	63	36.7	31.3	1.98
37-085-0001 HARNETT	MUNICIPAL BUILDING DUNN	48	91	77	74	72	42.4	37.8	1.72
37-119-0001 MECKLENBURG	600 EAST TRADE STREET CHARLOTTE	60	96	81	81	72	43.7	40.1	1.54
37-119-0010 MECKLENBURG	FIRE STA #10 2136 REMOUNT RD CHARLOTTE	61	77	76	73	69	43.3	40.2	1.50
37-129-0007 NEW HANOVER	WAREHSE & RECEIVING ST UNCW WILMINGTON	58	49	49	45	44	25.8	23.3	1.62
37-139-0001 PASQUOTANK	WATER PLANT N WILSON ST ELIZABETH CITY	59	114	112	108	98	40.7	31.6	2.42
37-183-0003 WAKE	FIRE STATION #9 SIX FORKS RD N RALEIGH	59	106	103	83	79	43.3	38.6	1.65
37-187-0002 WASHINGTON	OLD ACRE RD. PLYMOUTH	57	88	86	63	56	31.1	27.3	1.71
Total Samples		748							
Total Sites Sample	ed	13							

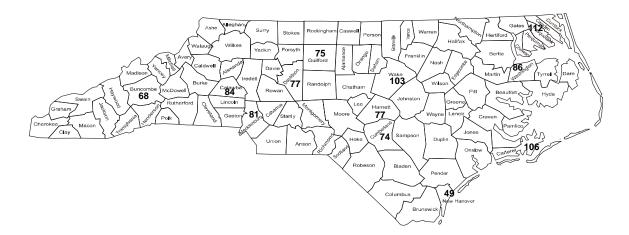


Figure 5.2 Total Suspended Particulates: Second Highest 24-Hour Averages, 1997

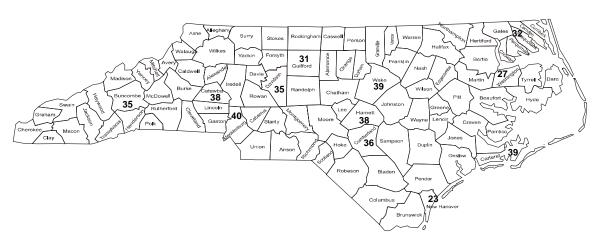


Figure 5.3 Total Suspended Particulates: Maximum Annual Geometric Means, 1997

$5.2 PM_{10}$

State and local program agencies in North Carolina use high volume samplers and size selective inlets to collect PM₁₀ samples. A gravimetric analysis procedure (EPA Reference Method) is used to analyze the samples.

In 1997 46 sites were used to monitor PM_{10} and 3,345 samples were collected. A map of the PM_{10} sampling sites is shown in Figure 5.4, and a detailed summary of the data from each site is given in Table 5.2.

There were no exceedances of the PM₁₀ ambient air quality standards in 1997. The highest 24-hour maximum concentration

was $100 \, \mu g/m^3$, or about 67 percent of the standard ($150 \, \mu g/m^3$). This value occurred at the State Road site in Alexander County. The highest annual arithmetic mean was 31 $\mu g/m^3$, which is 62 percent of the standard ($50 \, \mu g/m^3$). This annual average occurred at two sites in Charlotte, Moretz Street and Westinghouse Blvd.

The second highest 24-hour concentrations are charted by county in Figure 5.5 and the annual arithmetic means are shown in Figure 5.6. (In counties with more than one TSP monitoring site, the concentration reported in Figure 5.5 is the county-wide second maximum 24-hour concentration, and the mean reported in Figure 5.6 is the maximum arithmetic mean for the county.)

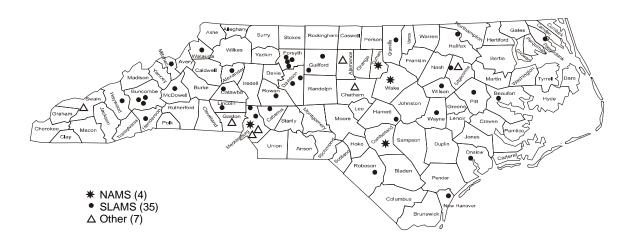


Figure 5.4 Location of PM10 Monitoring Sites.

Table 5.2 PM-10 in Micrograms Per Cubic Meter for 1997

SITE NUMBER	ADDRESS	NUM		I-HOUR AXIMA			ARITH
COUNTY		OBS	1ST	2ND	3RD	4TH	MEAN
37-001-0002 ALAMANCE	827 S GRAHAM & HOPEDALE RD BURLINGTON	60	60	57	40	40	22.9
37-003-0003 ALEXANDER	STATE ROAD 1177 TAYLORSVILLE	56	100	60	53	42	23.9
37-013-0005 BEAUFORT	SLATESTONE ROAD (NEAR WATER TOWER) WASHINGTON	47	43	32	29	28	16.4
37-021-0003 BUNCOMBE	HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES BLDG WOODFIN ST	58	47	44	42	41	20.7
37-021-0032 BUNCOMBE	ASHEVILLE LONDON ROAD ASHEVILLE	245	49	48	47	45	22.2
37-021-0033 BUNCOMBE	US 70 WEST SWANNANOA	296	49	48	48	48	21.3
37-025-0004 CABARRUS	FLOYD STREET KANNAPOLIS	60	53	52	42	39	22.2
37-035-0004 CATAWBA	1650 1ST. ST. HICKORY	61	55	47	44	43	23.7
37-037-0004 CHATHAM	RT 4 BOX 62 PITTSBORO	36	34	33	31	26	16.5
37-051-0004 CUMBERLAND	F.S. # 5 3296 VILLAGE DR. FAYETTEVILLE	58	59	48	45	43	24.8
37-057-0002 DAVIDSON	SOUTH SALSBURY STREET LEXINGTON	58	67	59	44	43	25.6
37-057-1002 DAVIDSON	400 SALEM STREET THOMASVILLE	59	58	48	45	42	24.3
37-063-0001 DURHAM	HEALTH DEPT 300 E MAIN ST DURHAM	55	68	59	43	41	25.1
38-065-0002 EDGECOMBE	LEGETT RD.,WASTE TREATMENT PLANT ROCKY MOUNT	57	56	54	45	41	21.8
37-065-0099 EDGECOMBE	RT 2 BOX 195 TARBORO	58	50	47	42	34	20.4
37-067-0009 FORSYTH	INDIANA AV & AKRON DR HAINS HOSIERY PARK	61	69	55	43	39	23.1
37-067-0013 FORSYTH	WINSTON-SALEM 720 RIDGE AVENUE WINSTON-SALEM	61	67	58	42	41	23.6
37-067-0023	1401 CORPORATION PARKWAY	356	78	61	59	56	23.8

SITE NUMBER	ADDRESS	NUM	24-HOUR			ARITH		
COUNTY		OBS	1ST	iaxima 2nd	3RD	4TH	MEAN	
FORSYTH	WINSTON-SALEM							
37-067-0024 FORSYTH	NORTH FORSYTH HIGH SCHOOL WINSTON-SALEM	60	73	56	46	42	22.8	
37-071-0014 GASTON	RANKIN LAKE ROAD GASTONIA	55	55	44	40	38	21.9	
37-077-0002 GRANVILLE	3200 WEB SCHOOL ROAD OXFORD	56	47	42	41	40	25.1	
37-081-0009 GUILFORD	EDGEWORTH & BELLEMEADE STS GREENSBORO	61	65	59	55	45	25.1	
37-081-1005 GUILFORD	E GREEN & S CENTENNIAL ST HIGH POINT	61	69	60	47	46	26.8	
37-083-0002 HALIFAX	NE CORNER OF 5TH & CAROLINA ST. ROANOKE RAPIDS	59	61	55	41	38	21.7	
37-085-0001 HARNETT	MUNICIPAL BUILDING DUNN	52	51	49	41	41	24.6	
37-087-0002 HAYWOOD	ROOF, CANTON FIRE DEPT. CANTON	60	70	49	46	44	25.1	
37-089-1006 HENDERSON	CORNER OF ALLEN & WASHINGTON STS HENDERSONVILLE	59	53	44	44	41	22.6	
37-109-0003 LINCOLN	EAST CONGRESS ST LINCOLNTON	32	37	35	34	34	23.8	
37-111-0002 MC DOWELL	COURTHOUSE MARION	61	61	49	48	48	26.7	
37-119-0001 MECKLENBURG	600 EAST TRADE STREET CHARLOTTE	59	60	58	55	50	28.2	
37-119-0003 MECKLENBURG	FIRE STA #11 620 MORETZ STREET CHARLOTTE	60	65	61	58	58	30.9	
37-119-0010 MECKLENBURG	FIRE STA #10 2136 REMOUNT ROAD CHARLOTTE	60	61	53	50	50	28.6	
37-119-1001 MECKLENBURG	FILTER PLANT DAVIDSON	60	66	59	45	44	24.3	
37-119-1005 MECKLENBURG	400 WESTINGHOUSE BLVD. CHARLOTTE	52	68	60	58	50	30.9	
37-121-0001 MITCHELL	CITY HALL SUMMIT ST SPRUCE PINE	56	58	56	54	44	26.7	
37-129-0007 NEW HANOVER	WAREHSE & RECEIVING ST UNCW WILMINGTON	58	41	39	39	37	21.6	

SITE NUMBER	ADDRESS	NUM	24-HOUR MAXIMA			ARITH		
COUNTY		OBS	1ST	2ND	3RD	4TH	MEAN	
37-133-0004 ONSLOW	2553 ONSLOW DRIVE JACKSONVILLE	59	52	46	37	36	20.2	
37-139-0001 PASQUOTANK	WATER PLANT N WILSON ST ELIZABETH CITY	59	50	46	39	36	19.4	
37-147-0003 PITT	1500 BEATTY STREET GREENVILLE	59	51	42	36	34	20.4	
37-155-0003 ROBESON	SO. WATER ST. LUMBERTON	57	59	54	51	48	25.1	
37-159-1006 ROWAN	CORNER OF CHURCH & KERR STS SALISBURY	60	63	54	46	41	22.5	
37-173-0002 SWAIN	CENTER ST/PARKS 7 REC FACILITY	61	47	38	38	37	18.8	
37-183-0003 WAKE	FIRE STATION #9 SIX FORKS RD NORTH HILLS RALEIGH	60	59	59	51	44	24.0	
37-189-0003 WATAUGA	HARDEN PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL HWY 194	61	50	45	39	38	19.4	
37-191-0004 WAYNE	BOONE HWY 70 WEST PATROL STATION GOLDSBORO	61	54	49	42	38	23.1	
37-195-0002 WILSON	N.W. CORNER OF KENAN ST.& TARBORO ST. WILSON	45	60	38	34	34	22.2	
Total Samples Total Sites Sampled		3345 46						

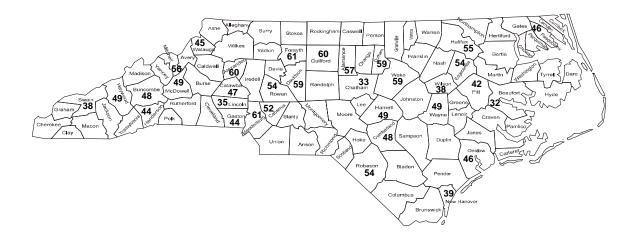


Figure 5.5 PM10: Second-Highest 24-Hour Averages, 1997

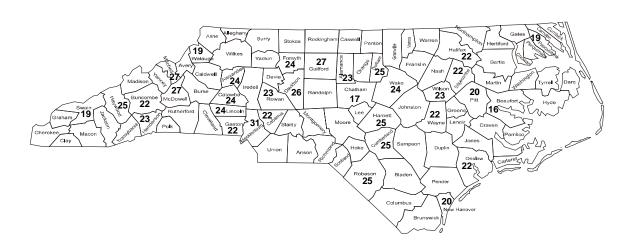


Figure 5.6 PM10: Maximum Annual Arithmetic Means, 1997

5.3 Carbon Monoxide

Carbon monoxide (CO) data were collected for two purposes in 1997: to determine attainment status of the ambient air quality standard and to gather data on CO as an ozone precursor. The carbon monoxide associated with ozone formation consists of very low concentrations (not greater than 2 ppm) collected at special sites considered optimal for input to a large photochemical grid model. This report will not further discuss the role of CO as an ozone precursor, but these data and more information are available on request from the Division of Air Quality (see the **Preface** for a mailing address).

To assess CO attainment status, the Division of Air Quality collected data from eight monitors in Fayetteville, Gastonia, Chapel Hill, Durham, Greensboro and Raleigh, and local program agencies collected data from three monitors in Winston-Salem and five monitors in Charlotte using EPA Reference or equivalent methods to measure the concentrations.

In 1997, 16 sites were used to monitor CO and 112,594 valid hourly averages were collected. To keep operating costs minimal, some sites are operated only in the colder months. A map of the CO sampling sites is shown in Figure 5.7, and a detailed summary of the data from each site is presented in Table 5.3.

There were no exceedances of the CO ambient air quality standards in 1997. The greatest 1-hour average was 10.4 parts per million (ppm), or about 30 percent of the standard (35 ppm). The greatest 8-hour

average was 8.4 ppm, which is 93 percent of the standard.

The second highest 1-hour concentrations in each county are charted in Figure 5.8 and the second highest 8-hour concentrations are shown in Figure 5.9. (These second highest concentrations must be lower than the standard.)

Monthly distributions of 8-hour CO averages are graphed in Figure 5.10 as boxand-whisker plots. (See Appendix C on p.78-79 for an explanation of this type of chart.) Historical data have demonstrated that high concentrations of CO occur more frequently in autumn and winter than during the warmer months of the year. There are three main reasons for this seasonal variation: (1) North Carolina experiences more atmospheric inversions in colder months, trapping air pollutants at low heights; (2) motor vehicles emit more CO due to inefficient combustion during cold starts and warm up; and (3) during colder temperatures, more fuel is burned for comfort heating.

All areas monitored are attaining the ambient air quality standards for carbon monoxide. Several factors have reduced CO concentrations, with the most significant being that older vehicles are gradually being replaced with newer, more efficient vehicles. The motor vehicle Inspection and Maintenance program (in effect in Mecklenburg, Wake, Durham, Forsyth, Guilford, Gaston, Cabarrus, Orange and Union counties) is an intentional control strategy that helps assure cleaner-running

cars. Other factors include increased news media interest and public awareness, and the reporting of the Air Quality Index (see Chapter 6 of this report). As a result of greater public awareness, more cars are kept in better running condition, thus operating more cleanly. Traffic flow improvements such as new roads and better coordinated traffic signals also help reduce CO.

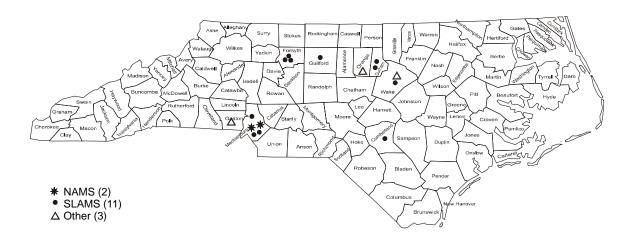


Figure 5.7 Location of Carbon Monoxide Monitoring Sites.

Table 5.3 Carbon Monoxide in Parts Per Million for 1997

SITE NUMBER COUNTY	ADDRESS	NUM OBS	ONE-HO MAXIM		EIGHT-HO MAXIM	
			1ST	2ND	1ST	2ND
37-051-0007 CUMBERLAND	ABC BOARD, 1705 OWEN DR FAYETTEVILLE	8,693	8.1	7.3	6.5	6.0
37-063-0011 DURHAM	201 NORTH ROXBORO ST DURHAM	8,698	9.0	8.9	7.2	6.9
37-063-0012 DURHAM	4001 CHAPEL HILL BLVD DURHAM	4,302	6.9	6.4	5.3	4.3
37-067-0023 FORSYTH	1401 CORPORATION PKY WINSTON-SALEM	8,690	8.4	7.3	4.9	4.7
37-067-0025 FORSYTH	100 SW STRATFORD RD WINSTON-SALEM	8,675	6.2	5.9	3.3	3.0
37-0067-0026 FORSYTH	1590 BOLTON STREET WINSTON-SALEM	8,687	6.0	6.0	4.5	4.1
37-071-0015 GASTON	1555 EAST GARRISON BLVD	4,206	7.3	5.4	3.7	3.3
37-081-1001 GILFORD	GASTONIA 401 WEST WENDOVER GREENSBORO	4,303	6.0	5.9	4.9	4.8
37-119-0032 MECKLENBURG	5137 CENTRAL AVE CHARLOTTE	8,688	10.4	8.8	6.6	5.7
37-119-0034 MECKLENBURG	PLAZA ROAD & LAKEDELL CHARLOTTE	8,654	9.7	7.6	5.2	4.7
37-119-0035 MECKLENBURG	1330 SPRING ST GRANVILLE NEIGHBORHOOD	8,702	6.8	6.1	5.5	4.9
37-119-0037 MECKLENBURG	CHARLOTTE 415 EAST WOODLAWN RD CHARLOTTE	4,908	6.9	6.7	3.6	2.9
37-119-0038 MECKLENBURG	301 N TRYON ST CHARLOTTE	8,337	12.0	10.2	7.8	6.0
37-135-0006 ORANGE	147 EAST FRANKLIN STREET CHAPEL HILL	4,047	10.4	9.3	8.4	6.1
37-183-0011	420 S PERSON ST	8,671	7.6	7.5	6.9	6.6

SITE NUMBER COUNTY	ADDRESS	NUM OBS	ONE-HOUR MAXIMA		EIGHT-H	
			1ST	2ND	1ST	2ND
WAKE	RALEIGH					
37-183-0018 WAKE	HWY 70 WEST AND HWY 50 NORTH RALEIGH	4,336	5.8	5.6	4.2	3.9
Total Samples		112,597				
Total Sites Sampled		16				

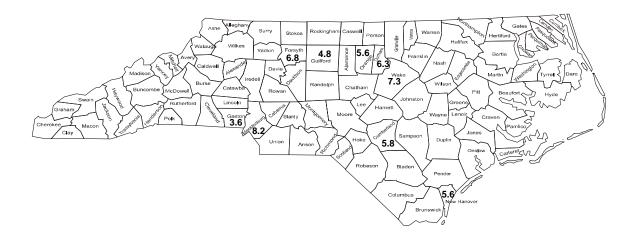


Figure 5.8 Carbon Monoxide: Second-Highest 1-Hour Averages, 1997

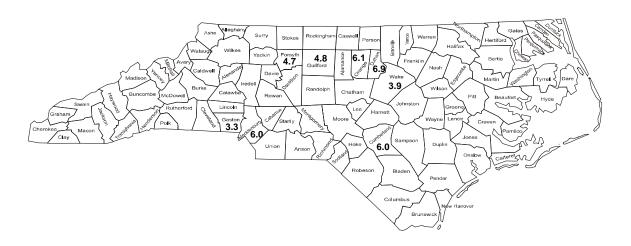


Figure 5.9 Carbon Monoxide: Second-Highest Non-Overlapping 8-Hour Averages, 1997

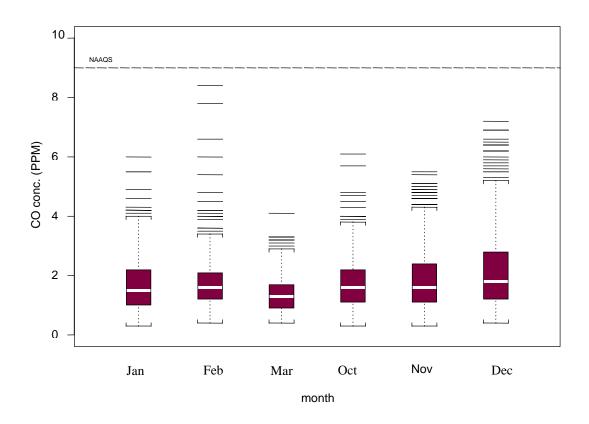


Figure 5.10 Carbon Monoxide: Monthly Distribution of Highest Daily 8-Hour Averages, for Cold Months in 1997

5.4 Ozone

Ozone (O₃) concentrations are measured using EPA reference or equivalent continuous monitors. Ozone is a seasonal pollutant formed in the atmosphere as a result of many chemical reactions that occur in sunlight, mainly during the warmer months. Thus, most ozone monitors only operate from April through October.

The state and local program agencies operated 40 monitoring sites in 1997 during the ozone season, April through October. A map of the O₃ sampling sites is presented in Figure 5.11, and a detailed summary of the one-hour data from each site is given in Table 5.4, and the 8-hour data in Table 5.5. In the past in North Carolina, some O₃ sites are operated only every third year, so the monitors considered "active" in 1997 included three sites that were last operated in 1996 and two sites that were last operated in 1995. These 45 active monitoring sites provided 211,648 hourly samples. From 1997 on, all active sites will be monitored every year.

There were four exceedances of the 1-hour ozone standard in North Carolina in 1997 (Table 5.6). One exceedance occurred on July 28 in Farmville, two exceedances occurred in Rowan County at the Enochville site on July 15 and 16 respectively, and the last exceedance occurred on July 14 in Raleigh at St. Augustine's College.

The one-hour standard is exceeded when one valid one-hour average exceeds 0.124 ppm at a site and the expected number of exceedances is greater than 1. (To exceed the standard, the largest average must be larger than 0.12 ppm when *rounded* to two

significant digits. The "expected number" of exceedances is determined from a 3-year average of exceedance day counts for an area. Moreover, when any ozone sampling day does not have a valid maximum ozone measurement for any reason, the missing day can be counted as an *estimated* exceedance day under certain circumstances [40 CFR 50 App. J, US EPA 1993, p. 767-768]. Table 5.4 gives both the actually measured and the estimated number of exceedance days at each site.)

Mecklenburg County and the Triad Counties were redesignated as attainment/maintenance areas on July 5, 1995, and November 8, 1993, respectively. Generally an area is in violation if it exceeds the standard at a monitor four or more times in any three year period. (Note: no additional exceedances occurred at these sites in 1997.) A discussion of attainment status is provided in Appendix D of this report.

The 8-hour standard was exceeded a total of 291 times at the 40 sites that monitored for O3. In fact there were only four sites that failed to register at least one exceedance. These sites were: Hayes Street (#2 Well Site) Martin County; Center Street Parks 7 Rec Facility, Swain County; 201 North Broad Street, Fuquay-Varina, Wake County and the Blue Ridge Parkway site near Mount Mitchell in Yancey County.

The second highest 1-hour concentrations in each county are shown in Figure 5.12 for areas with one or more monitors active in 1995, 1996 or 1997 (using only the latest available year of data).

Figure 5.13 shows the second-highest 8-hour concentrations of O3 for sites operating in 1997.

Monthly distributions of all the 1-hour O_3 data for 1997 are graphed in Figure 5.14 as

box-and-whisker plots. Figure 5.15 shows the number of exceedance days of the 8-hour standard on a monthly basis while Figure 5.16 shows the monthly distribution of the 8-hour values.

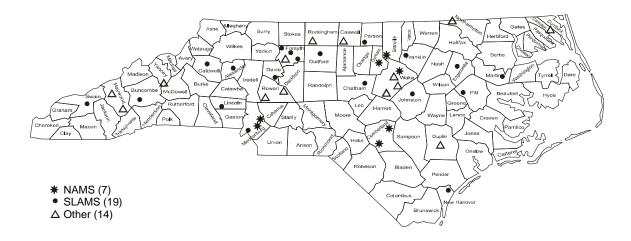


Figure 5.11 Location of Ozone Monitoring Sites.

Table 5.4 One-Hour Ozone in Parts Per Million from All Sites for 1995-97

SITE NUMBER	ADDRESS	NUM		AILY 1-HR AXIMA			NO. VALUES	3
COUNTY		OBS	1ST	2nd	3rd	4th	>0.125 MEAS	EST
1997 Data		-	101	Zilu	Siu	401	WEAG	LOT
37-003-0003 ALEXANDER	STATE ROAD 1177 TAYLORSVILLE	4,867	0.105	0.099	0.093	0.092	0	0.0
37-021-0030 BUNCOMBE	ROUT 191 SOUTH BREVARD RD ASHEVILLE	5,047	0.093	0.090	0.086	0.083	0	0.0
37-027-0003 CALDWELL	HWY 321 NORTH LENOIR	4,887	0.099	0.097	0.097	0.091	0	0.0
37-029-0099 CAMDEN	COUNTY ROAD 1136 & 1134	4,840	0.094	0.093	0.092	0.090	0	0.0
37-033-0001 CASWELL	CHERRY GROVE RECREATION	4,811	0.123	0.117	0.111	0.107	0	0.0
37-037-0004 CHATHAM	RT 4 BOX 64 PITTSBORO NC 27312	4,846	0.120	0.106	0.102	0.101	0	0.0
37-051-0008 CUMBERLAND	1/4MI SR1857/US301/1857	4,826	0.103	0.098	0.098	0.097	0	0.0
37-051-1003 CUMBERLAND	3625 GOLFVIEW ROAD HOPE MILLS	4,857	0.095	0.094	0.094	0.092	0	0.0
37-059-0002 DAVIE	246 MAIN STREET COOLEEMEE	4,841	0.112	0.105	0.104	0.104	0	0.0
37-061-0002 DUPLIN	HWY 50 KENANSVILLE	4,841	0.099	0.092	0.090	0.089	0	0.0
37-063-0013 DURHAM	2700 NORTH DUKE STREET DURHAM	4,860	0.106	0.097	0.095	0.093	0	0.0
37-065-0099 EDGECOMBE	RT 2, BOX 195 TARBORO	4,825	0.106	0.106	0.102	0.095	0	0.0
37-067-0022 FORSYTH	1300 BLK. HATTIE AVENUE WINSTON-SALEM	4,906	0.117	0.115	0.105	0.101	0	0.0
37-067-0027 FORSYTH	7635 HOLLYBERRY LANE WINSTON-SALEM	5,066	0.105	0.094	0.093	0.092	0	0.0
37-067-0028 FORSYTH	6496 BAUX MOUNTAIN RD WINSTON-SALEM	5,085	0.110	0.103	0.099	0.096	0	0.0
37-067-1008 FORSYTH	3656 PIEDMONT MEMORIAL DRIVE WINSTON-SALEM	5,109	0.119	0.115	0.109	0.103	0	0.0
37-069-0001 FRANKLIN	431 S. HILLBOROUGH ST FRANKLINTON	4,868	0.118	0.116	0.112	0.110	0	0.0

SITE NUMBER	ADDRESS	NUM		AILY 1-HR IAXIMA			NO. VALUES	S
COUNTY		OBS	1ST	2nd	3rd	446	>0.125 MEAS	EST
37-077-0001 GRANVILLE	WATER TREATMENT PLANT JOHN UMSTEAD HOSPITAL BUTNER	4,821	0.116	0.116	0.116	4th 0.115	0	0.0
37-081-0011 GUILFORD	KEELY PARK, KEELY RD, MCCLEANSVILLE	4,827	0.108	0.104	0.100	0.098	0	0.0
37-087-0035 HAYWOOD	TOWER BLUE RIDGE PARKWAY MILE MARKER 410	4,692	0.094	0.089	0.089	0.086	0	0.0
37-087-0036 HAYWOOD	GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK	4,829	0.109	0.106	0.103	0.097	0	0.0
37-101-0002 JOHNSTON	3411 JACK ROAD CLAYTON	4,877	0.112	0.110	0.106	0.103	0	0.0
37-109-0004 LINCOLN	RIVERVIEW ROAD LINCOLNTON	4,838	0.105	0.102	0.095	0.094	0	0.0
37-117-0001 MARTIN	HAYES STREET (#2 WELL SITE)	4,848	0.094	0.092	0.090	0.090	0	0.0
37-119-0034 MECKLENBURG	PLAZA ROAD AND LAKEDELL CHARLOTTE	5,072	0.123	0.120	0.118	0.118	0	0.0
37-119-1005 MECKLENBURG	400 WESTINGHOUSE BLVD. CHARLOTTE	5,053	0.124	0.114	0.110	0.106	0	0.0
37-119-1009 MECKLENBURG	29 N@ MECKLENBURG CAB CO CHARLOTTE	5,040	0.118	0.116	0.114	0.112	0	0.0
37-129-0002 NEW HANOVER	6028 HOLLY SHELTER RD CASTLE HAYNE	4,820	0.106	0.102	0.100	0.091	0	0.0
37-131-0002 NORTHAMPTON	ROUTE 46 GASTON	4,792	0.100	0.097	0.095	0.095	0	0.0
37-145-0099 PERSON	SR 1102 & NC 49	4,632	0.112	0.100	0.100	0.099	0	0.0
37-147-0099 PITT	US 264 NEAR WATER TOWER FARMVILLE	4,698	0.130	0.122	0.105	0.104	1	1.0
37-157-0099 ROCKINGHAM	6371 NC 65 @ BETHANY SCHOOL BETHANY	4,843	0.113	0.109	0.106	0.105	0	0.0
37-159-0021 ROWAN	WEST ST & GOLD HILL AVENUE ROCKVILLE	4,724	0.110	0.108	0.106	0.104	0	0.0
37-159-0022 ROWAN	925 N ENOCHVILLE AVE ENOCHVILLE	4,836	0.128	0.126	0.122	0.107	2	2.0
37-173-0002 SWAIN	CENTER STREET PARKS 7 REC FACILITY	4,761	0.086	0.081	0.078	0.077	0	0.0

SITE NUMBER	ADDRESS	NUM		AILY 1-HR IAXIMA			NO. VALUE	S
COUNTY		OBS	1ST	2nd	3rd	4th	>0.125 MEAS	EST
37-183-0014 WAKE	E. MILLBROOK JR HI 3801 SPRING FOREST ROAD RALEIGH	4,862	0.122	0.112	0.109	0.108	0	0.0
37-183-0015 WAKE	808 NORTH STATE STREET RALEIGH	4,863	0.126	0.110	0.108	0.106	1	1.0
37-183-0016 WAKE	201 NORTH BROAD STREET FUQUAY-VARINA	4,884	0.090	0.083	0.083	0.082	0	0.0
37-183-0017 WAKE	5033 TV TOWER ROAD GARNER	3,861	0.118	0.107	0.105	0.104	0	0.0
37-199-0003 YANCY	BLUE RIDGE PARKWAY	4,879	0.085	0.085	0.084	0.083	0	0.0
Total Samples Total Sites Sampled		193,734 40						
1966 Data								
37-031 8001 CARTERET	MERRIMON ROAD BEAUFORT	1,993	0.092	0.090	0.088	0.087	0	0.0
37-051-1002 CUMBERLAND	HOPE MILLS POLICE DEPT ROCKFISH RD, FAYETTEVILLE	4,667	0.106	0.106	0.105	0.100	0	0.0
37-113-8001 MACON	HYDROLOGIC LABORATORY COWEETA	2,150	0.094	0.080	0.077	0.076	0	0.0
Total samples		8,810						
Total Sites Sampled		3						
1995 Data								
37-067-0007 FORSYTH	5337 OLD RURAL ROAD WINSTON-SALEM	4,957	0.117	0.111	0.109	0.099	0	0.0
37-123-8001 MONTGOMERY	112 PERRY DRIVE	4,147	0.118	0.091	0.088	0.088	0	0.0
Total Samples		9,104						
Total Sites Sampled		2						

 Table 5.5
 Eight-Hour Ozone in Parts Per Million for 1997

SITE NUMBER	ADDRESS	NUM		/ALID DAI					NO.
COUNTY		OBS		MAXIMUM		441-	CTU	CTLL	VALUES .>.085
37-003-0003 ALEXANDER	STATE ROAD 1177 TAYLORSVILLE	213	1ST 0;092	2nd 0.089	3rd 0.085	4th 0;080	5TH 0.08	6TH 0.078	MEAS 3
37-021-0030 BUNCOMBE	ROUTE 191 SOUTH BREVARD ROAD ASHEVILLE	209	0.078	0.078	0.076	0.075	0.074	0.073	0
37-027-0003 CALDWELL	HWY 321 NORTH LENOIR	213	0.085	0.084	0.082	0.079	0.078	0.075	1
37-029-0099 CAMDEN	COUNTY ROAD 1136 & 1134	210	0.085	0.085	0.084	0.084	0.083	0.083	2
37-033-0001 CASWELL	CHERRY GROVE RECREATION	214	0.098	0.097	0.095	0.085	0.095	0.092	17
37-037-0004 CHATHAM	RT 4 BOX 64 PITTSBORO NC 27312	214	0.094	0.092	0.091	0.089	0.088	0.086	8
37-051-0008 CUMBERLAND	1/4MI SR1857/US301/1857	213	0.091	0.091	0.087	0.085	0.085	0.084	5
37-051-1003 CUMBERLAND	3625 GOLFVIEW ROAD HOPE MILLS	214	0.092	0.089	0.088	0.085	0.082	0.081	4
37-059-0002 DAVIE	246 MAIN STREET COOLEEMEE	214	0.104	0.093	0.092	0.092	0.092	0.091	11
37-061-0002 DUPLIN	HWY 50 KENANSVILLE	213	0.089	0.082	0.079	0.078	0.078	0.076	1
37-063-0013 DURHAM	2700 NORTH DUKE STREET DURHAM	214	0.090	0.088	0.086	0.080	0.079	0.079	3
37-065-0099 EDGECOMBE	RT 2, BOX 195 TARBORO	210	0.097	0.097	0.092	0.089	0.088	0.086	8
37-067-0022 FORSYTH	1300 BLK. HATTIE AVENUE WINSTON-SALEM	214	0.102	0.101	0.093	0.093	0.09	0.088	9
37-067-0027 FORSYTH	7635 HOLLYBERRY LANE WINSTON-SALEM	212	0.087	0.083	0.083	0.083	0.082	0.08	1
37-067-0028 FORSYTH	6496 BAUX MOUNTAIN RD WINSTON-SALEM	214	0.086	0.083	0.081	0.079	0.079	0.078	1
37-067-1008 FORSYTH	3656 PIEDMONT MEMORIAL DRIVE	214	0.100	0.099	0.093	0.092	0.088	0.088	12
37-069-0001 FRANKLIN	WINSTON-SALEM 431 S. HILLBOROUGH ST FRANKLINTON	214	0.102	0.100	0.098	0.097	0.096	0.095	14
37-077-0001 GRANVILLE	WATER TREATMENT PLANT JOHN UMSTEAD HOSPITAL	211	0.104	0.101	0.099	0.099	0.097	0.097	17
37-081-0011 GUILFORD	BUTNER KEELY PARK, KEELY RD, MCCLEANSVILLE	214	0.089	0.087	0.086	0.084	0.084	0.084	3
37-087-0035 HAYWOOD	TOWER BLUE RIDGE PARKWAY MILE MARKER 410	194	0.087	0.087	0.085	0.085	0.081	0.079	4

SITE NUMBER	ADDRESS	NUM		'alid dai Maximum	LY 8-HR				NO VALUE
COUNTY		OBS	1ST	2nd	3rd	4th	5TH	6TH	.>.08 MEA
37-087-0036 HAYWOOD	GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK	211	0.094	0.093	0.089	0.087	0.087	0.085	
37-101-0002 JOHNSTON	3411 JACK ROAD CLAYTON	213	0.098	0.093	0.092	0.092	0.092	0.091	1
37-109-0004 LINCOLN	RIVERVIEW ROAD LINCOLNTON	214	0.089	0.087	0.087	0.085	0.083	0.083	
37-117-0001 MARTIN	HAYES STREET (#2 WELL SITE)	214	0.084	0.082	0.082	0.082	0.080	0.077	
37-119-0034 MECKLENBURG	PLAZA ROAD AND LAKEDELL CHARLOTTE	214	0.109	0.107	0.105	0.105	0.101	0.099	
37-119-1005 MECKLENBURG	400 WESTINGHOUSE BLVD. CHARLOTTE	212	0.110	0.099	0.094	0.094	0.091	0.090	
37-119-1009 MECKLENBURG	29 N@ MECKLENBURG CAB CO CHARLOTTE	213	0.106	0.103	0.102	0.101	0.100	0.099	
37-129-0002 NEW HANOVER	6028 HOLLY SHELTER RD CASTIE HAYNE	213	0.097	0.094	0.087	0.083	0.082	0.081	
37-131-0002 NORTHAMPTON	ROUTE 46 GASTON	207	0.089	0.088	0.088	0.088	0.087	0.083	
37-145-0099 PERSON	SR 1102 & NC 49	204	0.098	0.091	0.089	0.088	0.086	0.084	
37-147-0099 PITT	US 264 NEAR WATTER TOWER FARMVILLE	200	0.115	0.102	0.097	0.097	0.096	0.090	
37-157-0099 ROCKINGHAM	6371 NC 65 @ BETHANY SCHOOL	214	0.098	0.090	0.090	0.089	0.087	0.087	
37-159-0021 ROWAN	BETHANY WEST ST & GOLD HILL AVENUE ROCKVILLE	206	0.098	0.095	0.091	0.089	0.088	0.087	
37-159-0022 ROWAN	925 N. ENOCHVILLE AVE ENOCHVILLE	213	0.116	0.095	0.093	0.0.92	0.090	0.090	
37-173-0002 SWAIN	CENTER STREET PARKS 7 REC FACILITY	209	0.079	0.071	0.071	0.070	0.068	0.065	
7-183-0014 VAKE	E. MILLBROOK JR HI 3801 SPRING FOREST ROAD	214	0.113	0.103	0.103	0.097	0.094	0.091	
7-183-0015 VAKE	RALEIGH 808 NORTH STATE STREET RALEIGH	214	0.114	0.099	0.097	0.095	0.095	0.095	
7-183-0016 VAKE	201 NORTH BROAD STREET FUQUAY-VARINA	214	0.083	0.079	0.075	0.075	0.074	0.074	
37-183-0017 VAKE	5033 TV TOWER ROAD GARNER	214	0.104	0.096	0.095	0.095	0.092	0.091	
37-199-0003 YANCY	BLUE RIDGE PARKWAY	214	0.081	0.078	0.077	0.076	0.075	0.074	

SITE NUMBER	ADDRESS	NUM	V	ALID DAIL	Y 8-HR				NO.
			M	AXIMUM					VALUES
COUNTY		OBS							.>.085
			1ST	2nd	3rd	4th	5TH	6TH	MEAS
Total Sites Samp	led	40							

Table 5.6 One-Hour Ozone Exceedances in 1997.

SITE NUMBER COUNTY	ADDRESS	DATE	EXCEEDANCE
1997 Data			
37-149-0099 PITT	US 264 NEAR WATER TOWE FARMVILLE	R. JULY 28	0.130
37-159-0022 ROWAN	925 N ENOCHVILLE	JULY 15	0.128
37-159-0022 ROWAN	925 N ENOCHVILLE	JULY 16	0.126
37-183-0015 WAKE	808 N STATE ST RALEIGH	JULY 14	0.126

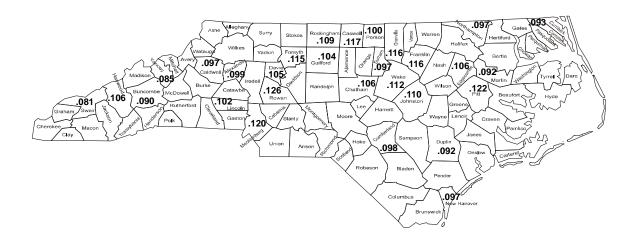


Figure 5.12 Ozone: Second-Highest 1-Hour Averages in the Most Recent Year of Data from 1995, 1996 or 1997

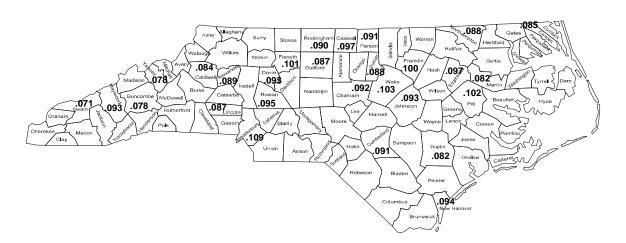


Figure 5.13 Ozone: Second-Highest 8-Hour Averages, 1997

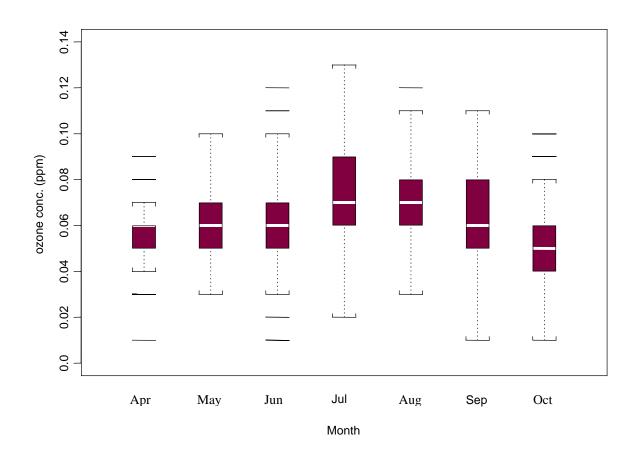


Figure 5.14 Monthly Distributions of 1-Hour Ozone Averages, 1997

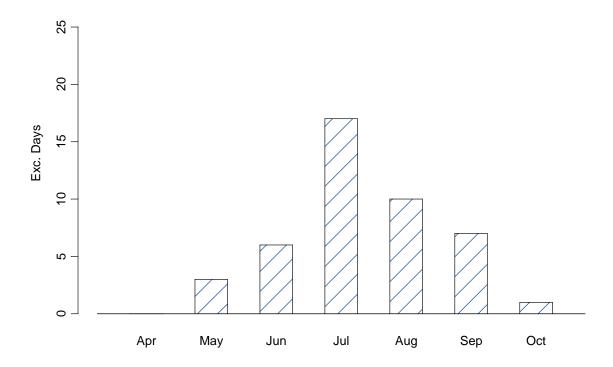


Figure 5.15 Number of Days with 8-Hour Ozone Averages in Excess of (0.085 ppm), 1997

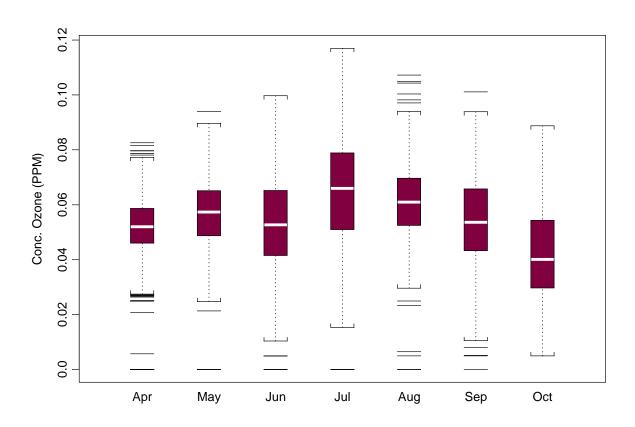


Figure 5.16 Monthly Distributions of 8-Hour Ozone Averages, 1997

5.5 Sulfur Dioxide

Sulfur dioxide (SO₂) concentrations were measured by the state and two local program agencies using EPA reference or equivalent methods. Twenty-one SO₂ monitors were active in North Carolina in 1997. However, some SO₂ sites are operated only every third year. Eleven sites provided data in 1997, seven sites provided data in 1996 (and will next be operated in 1999), and three sites provided data in 1995 (and will next be operated in 1998).

From the 21 sites with SO₂ data obtained between 1995 and 1997, 141,554 valid hourly averages were collected. A map of the active SO₂ sampling sites is presented in Figure 5.17, and a detailed summary of the data from each site is given in Table 5.7.

There were no exceedances of the SO₂ ambient air quality standards in 1997. The

greatest annual arithmetic mean was 20 $\mu g/m^3$, or about 25 percent of the standard (80 $\mu g/m^3$), the highest maximum 24-hour. average was 152 $\mu g/m^3$, about 42 percent of the standard (365 $\mu g/m^3$), and the highest maximum 3-hour average was 779 $\mu g/m^3$, about 60 percent of the welfare-related secondary) standard.

Apparently, the size of an urban area has little effect on the ambient concentrations of SO_2 in North Carolina. Seasonal variations, such as those with CO and O_3 , do not appear to exist for SO_2 . Major source characteristics such as type, size, distribution, control devices, operating conditions and dispersion situations significantly affect the amount of SO_2 in ambient air.

The second highest three-hour concentrations in each county are charted in Figure 5.18. The second highest 24-hour concentrations in each county are charted in Figure 5.19.

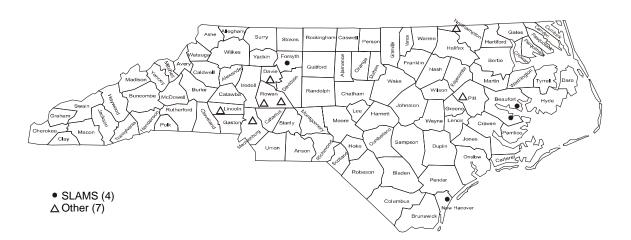


Figure 5.17 Location of Sulfur Dioxide Monitoring Sites.

Table 5.7 Sulfur Dioxide in Parts Per Million from All Sites for 1995-97

SITE NUMBER COUNTY	ADDRESS	NUM OBS	MAX	IMA	THREE-H MAXIN	ЛΑ	24-HC MAX	IMA	ARITH MEAN
1997 Data			1ST	2ND	1ST	2ND	1ST	2ND	
1997 Dala									
37-013-0003 BEAUFORT	NC HIGHWAY 306	7,662	0.092	0.077	0.071	0.048	0.021	0.015	0.0056
37-013-0004 BEAUFORT	SOUTH FERRY LANDING PAMLICO RIVER	8,019	0.854	0.226	0.292	0.088	0.057	0.015	0.0056
37-059-0002 DAVIE	246 MAIN STREET COOLEEMEE	8,089	0.075	0.064	0.065	0.057	0.027	0.018	0.0059
37-067-0022 FORSYTH	1300 BLk. HATTIE AVE WINSTON-SALEM	8,549	0.092	0.088	0.062	0.057	0.025	0.023	0.0067
37-109-0004 LINCOLN	RIVERVIEW ROAD LINCOLNTON	8,077	0.092	0.080	0.060	0.050	0.020	0.016	0.006
37-119-0034 MECKLENBURG	PLAZA RD. & LAKEDELL CHARLOTTE	8,548	0.096	0.094	0.067	0.045	0.016	0.016	0.0051
37-129-0006 NEW HANOVER	HWY 421 NORTH WILMINGTON	8,229	0.178	0.154	0.091	0.069	0.028	0.028	0.0074
37-131-0002 NORTHAMPTON	RT 46 GASTON	7,808	0.110	0.099	0.027	0.027	0.016	0.014	0.0055
37-147-0099 PITT	US 264 NEAR WATER TOWER	7,932	0.025	0.021	0.020	0.016	0.009	0.008	0.0052
37-159-0021 ROWAN	FARMVILLE WEST STREET & GOLD HILL AVENUE	2,649	0.080	0.052	0.030	0.029	0.010	0.010	0.0054
37-159-0022 ROWAN	ROCKVILLE 925 N. ENOCHVILLE AVE ENOCHVILLE	2,932	0.184	0.168	0.159	0.069	0.069	0.052	0.0068
Total Samples		78,494							
Total Sites Sample	ed	11	_		-		_	_	
1996 Data 37-0030003	STATE ROAD 1177	0.056	0.046	0.044	0.033	0.022	0.015	0.012	0.0039
ALEXANDER	TAYLORSVILLE	8,256	0.046	0.044	0.033	0.022	0.015	0.012	0.0039
37-013-0001 COLUMBUS	ACME-DELCO HWY 8	850	0.037	0.025	0.017	0.016	0.008	0.006	0.0039
37-051-1002 CUMBERLAND	POLICE DEPT HOPE MILLS	8,160	0.054	0.052	0.037	0.029	0.018	0.012	0.0037

SITE NUMBER COUNTY	ADDRESS	NUM OBS	ONE-H MAX 1ST		THREE-H MAXIN 1ST		24-H0 MAX 1ST		ARITH MEAN
37-061-0002 DUPLIN	HWY 50 KENANSVILLE	7,907	0.017	0.017	0.016	0.016	0.010	0.010	0.0030
37-101-0002 JOHNSTON	3411 JACK ROAD CLAYTON	8,084	0.081	0.028	0.021	0.019	0.010	0.010	0.0032
37-173-0002 SWAIN	CENTER ST PARKS 7 REC FACILITY	2,448	0.019	0.019	0.018	0.016	0.010	0.010	0.0034
37-199-0003 YANCY	BLUE RIDGE PARKWAY	2,873	0.008	0.008	0.005	0.005	0.003	0.003	0.0027
Total Samples Total Sites Sample	ed	38,578 7							
1995 Data									
37-037-0004 CHATHAM	RT4 BOX62 PITTSBORO	8,107	0.046	0.044	0.041	0.027	0.012	0.008	0.0030
37-117-0001 MARTIN	HAYES STREET (#2 WELL SITE)	8,237	0.019	0.018	0.015	0.014	0.009	0.007	0.0029
37-145-0099 PERSON	SR 1102 & NC49	8,138	0.085	0.073	0.065	0.065	0.017	0.012	0.0036
Total Samples Total Sites Sample	ed	24,482 3							

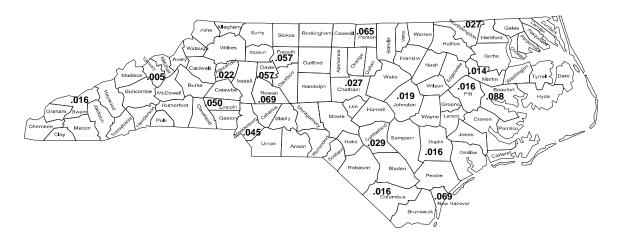


Figure 5.18 Sulfur Dioxide: Second-Highest 3-Hour Averages in the Most Recent Year of Data from 1995, 1996, or 1997

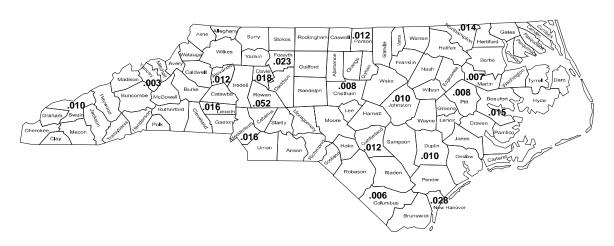


Figure 5.19 Sulfur Dioxide: Second-Highest 24-Hour Averages in the Most Recent Year of Data from 1995, 1996, or 1997

5.6 Nitrogen Dioxide

Nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) concentrations were measured using EPA reference or equivalent continuous monitors in 1997 at one local program site in Forsyth County and one local program site in Mecklenburg County.

From these two sites, 16,727 hourly NO_2 measurements were reported. A map of the NO_2 sampling sites is presented in Figure 5.20, and a summary of the 1997 NO_2 data is given in Table 5.8.

Figure 5.21 contains two box-and-whisker plots showing the monthly distributions of hourly average concentrations at each site, compared to the annual arithmetic mean standard of 0.053 ppm. Each urban area site has only a few outlying high sample values that are above the standard defined for the annual arithmetic mean. The arithmetic means (Table 5.8) are about 33 percent or less of the standard.

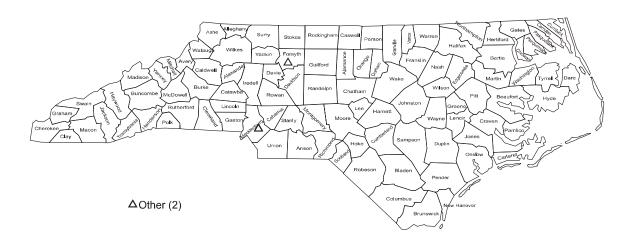
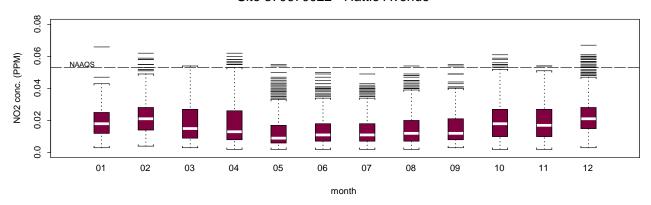


Figure 5.20 Location of Nitrogen Dioxide Monitoring Sites.

Table 5.8 Nitrogen Dioxide in Parts Per Million for 1997

SITE NUMBER	ADDRESS	NUM	ONE-HOUR	{	ARITH
COUNTY		OBS	MAXIMA		MEAN
			1ST	2ND	
37-067-0022	1300 BLK. HATTIE AVENUE	8,414	0.067	0.066	0.0173
FORSYTH	WINSTON-SALEM				
37-067-0034	PLAZA ROAD AND	8,313	0.070	0.070	0.0176
MECKLENBURG	LAKEDELL				
	CHARLOTTE				
Total Samples		16,727			
Total Sites Sampled		2			

Site 370670022 - Hattie Avenue



Site 371190034 - Plaza Road

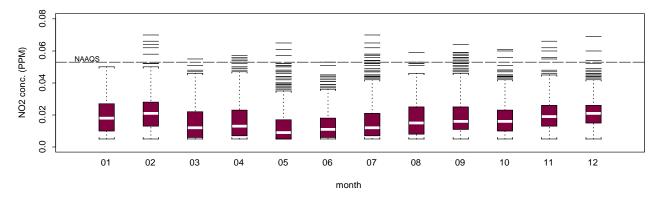


Figure 5.21. Monthly Distributions of I-Hour Nitrogen Dioxide Averages by Site, 1997

5.7 Lead

The state and local program agencies have not performed routine analysis of ambient lead (Pb) in North Carolina since 1982. Lead monitoring was discontinued as a result of the low measurements and a continuing decrease in the lead concentrations being reported. The decrease in ambient Pb concentrations is due to the reduction and elimination of leaded gasoline, resulting in greatly reduced lead emissions from automobiles.

The most recent year of data available prior to 1996 was 1990. Because the previous data were so old, the state began metals

analysis at three locations on 1996. These metal sites will be relocated to other locations in future years. The purpose of these sites is to gather background information about lead and other metals. Five sites operated in 1997. A map of the lead sampling sites is presented in Figure 5.22.

The change in analytical laboratories from the EPA's National Particulate Analysis Program to the state program also changed the minimum detectable levels of the method from 0.01 to 0.04 ug/m³ respectively. Concentrations of most metals are below detectable limits regardless of the method used. Summaries of the lead data from 1997 are given in Table 5.9.

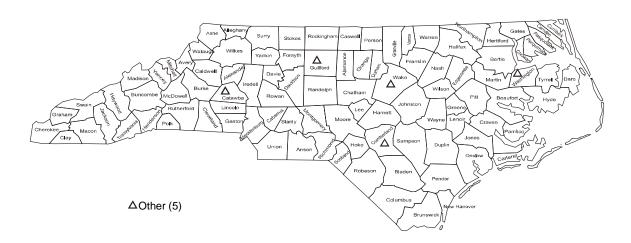


Figure 5.22 Location of Lead Monitoring Sites.

Table 5.9 Lead in Micrograms Per Cubic Meter for 1997

COUNTY SITE NUMBER	NUM OBS				RLY ARITI IEANS	MEANS >1.5		
ADDRESS		MAX	MAX					
CITY		1ST	2ND	1ST	2ND	3RD	4TH	
CATAWBA 37-035-0004 1650 1st. ST HICKORY	26	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04			0
CUMBERLAND 37-051-0004 F.S. #5 3296 VILLAGE DR FAYETTEVILLE	30	0.1	0.04	0.05	0.04	0.04		0
GUILFORD 37-081-0009 EDGWORTH AND BELLEMEADE ST GREENSBORO	7	0.04	0.04	0.04				0
WAKE 37-183-0003 F.S.#9 SIX FORKS RD NORTH HILLS RALEIGH	7	0.04	0.04	0.04				0
WASHINGTON 37-187-0002 OLD ACRE RD PLYMOUTH	23	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04			0
TOTAL SAMPLES TOTAL SITES SAMPLED	93 5							

6 Air Quality Index

The Air Quality Index (AQI) was developed by the EPA to provide the public with a simple, accessible, and uniform assessment of air quality at a specific location, based on the criteria pollutants PM₁₀, CO, O₃, SO₂ and NO2. AQI measurements are made and reported in all U.S. metropolitan areas with a population over 200,000. Ambient concentrations for each of these five pollutants are converted to a segmented linear numerical scale ranging from 0 to 500, where 100 corresponds to the EPA primary standard for a 24-hour average (8-hour CO average, 1-hour O₃ average) and 500 corresponds to a concentration associated with "significant harm." The AQI is determined by the pollutant with the highest scaled concentration, and a subjective description of "good", "moderate", "unhealthful, "very unhealthful", or "hazardous" is included with the report, with the descriptions corresponding to AQI values of 0-50, 51-100, 101-200, 201-300, and 301-500, respectively. For AQI values between 101 and 500, an appropriate cautionary statement is included advising people susceptible to deleterious health effects to restrict activities and exposure to the ambient air.

An AQI of 101-200 (unhealthful) can produce mild aggravation of symptoms in susceptible persons and possible irritation in healthy persons. People with existing heart or lung ailments should reduce physical exertion and outdoor activity. The general population should reduce vigorous outdoor activity.

An AQI of 201 to 300 (very unhealthful) can produce significant aggravation of symptoms and decreased exercise tolerance in persons with heart or lung disease, and a variety of symptoms in healthy persons. Elderly people and those with existing heart or lung disease should stay indoors and reduce physical activity. The general population should avoid vigorous outdoor activity.

The health effects of an AQI of over 300 (hazardous) include early onset of certain diseases in addition to significant aggravation of symptoms and decreased exercise tolerance in healthy persons. The elderly and persons with existing diseases should stay indoors and avoid physical exertion.

At AQI values over 400, premature death of ill and elderly persons may result, and healthy people will experience adverse symptoms that affect normal activity. Outdoor activity should be avoided. All people should remain indoors, keeping windows and doors closed, and should minimize physical exertion.

During winter months in North Carolina, carbon monoxide usually has the highest air quality index value, and in summer months the highest index value is usually due to ozone.

In 1997, nine areas provided an AQI report to the public by telephone using computer-generated recorded voice announcements 24 hours daily. These areas are identified in the box below. The AQI report also may be published by local newspapers or broadcast on radio and television stations.

The Air Quality Index report is now available by telephone for nine areas, as follows:

Statewide toll-free 888-AIR-WISE (for Asheville, Durham, Fayetteville, Greensboro, Greenville, Raleigh, Wilmington, and Winston-Salem areas)

Charlotte area 704-333-SMOG

Air Quality Index values for 1997 at five metropolitan areas in North Carolina are given in Figures 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 6.4 and 6.5.

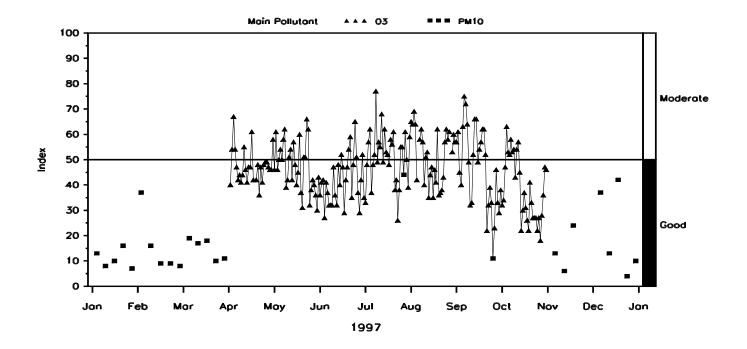


Figure 6.1 Daily Air Quality Index Values for Asheville, NC, Metropolitan Statistical Area, 1997

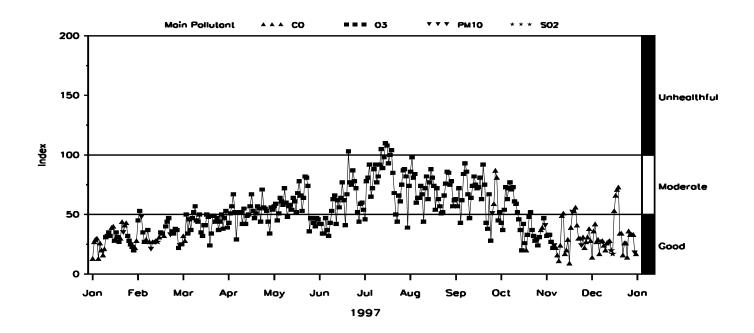


Figure 6.2 Daily Air Quality Values for Charlotte-Gastonia,NC,-Rock Hill, SC, Metropolitan Statistical Area, 1997

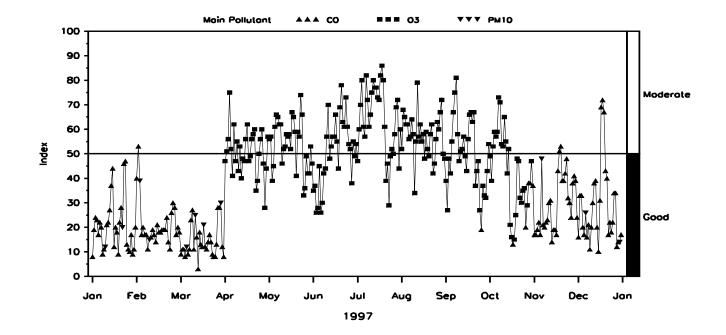


Figure 6.3 Daily Air Quality Index Values for Fayetteville, NC, Metropolitan Statistical Area, 1997

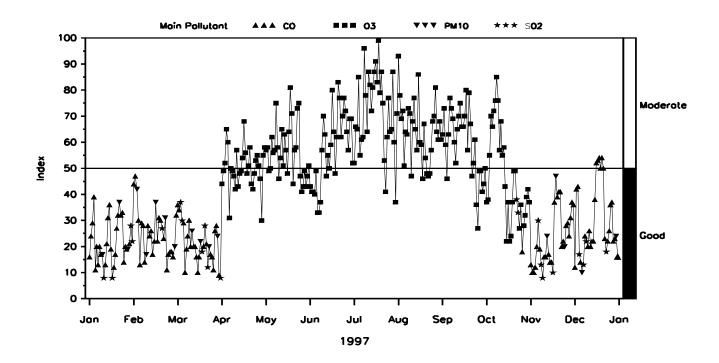


Figure 6.4 Daily Air Quality Index Values for Greensboro-Winston-Salem-High Point, NC, Metropolitan Statistical Area, 1997

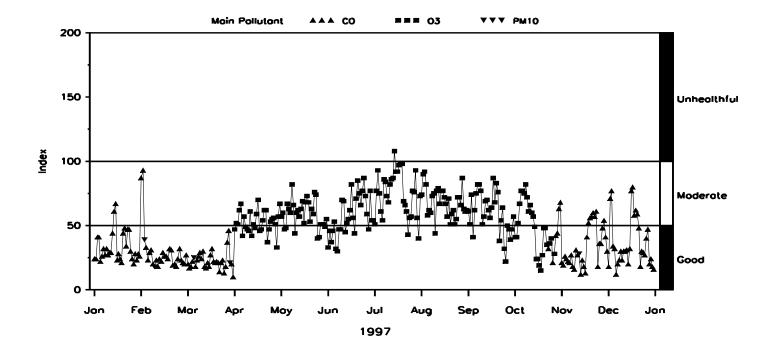


Figure 6.5. Daily Air Quality Index Values for Raleigh-Durham, North Carolina, Metropolitan Area, 1997

7 Acid Rain

7.1 Sources

Acid rain is produced when nitrate and sulfate ions from automobile and industrial sources are released into the atmosphere, undergo a reaction with moisture in the air, and are deposited as acid precipitation. Acid ions are produced when sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides reach equilibrium with water to form sulfuric acid and nitric acid.

7.2 Effects

Many agricultural crops in North Carolina are sensitive to acid rain. Forests are subject to mineral loss from acid rain exposure and may also suffer root damage. Acid fogs and mists, typical in the mountains of North Carolina, can expose trees and plants to even higher acid concentrations and cause direct damage to foliage. Lakes, rivers and streams that are too acidic can impede fish and plant growth.

7.3 Monitoring

Acid rain monitoring has been conducted nationally, including in North Carolina, since 1978 by the National Atmospheric Deposition Program (NADP) and the National Trends Network (NTN) which merged with NADP in 1982. In 1997, acid rain samples were collected at seven sites in North Carolina and one Tennessee site in the Great Smoky Mountains less than 10 miles from the western border of North Carolina.

NADP/NTN conducts acid deposition monitoring using a wet/dry bucket type sampler. When rainfall is detected, a sensor is activated and a metal lid automatically covers and protects the "dry" sample, exposing the "wet" bucket to collect precipitation.

Acidity is measured using a "pH" scale. The pH scale is numbered from 0 to 14, with 0 being extremely acidic and 14 being extremely basic. A substance with a pH of five is ten times as acidic as one with a pH of six, 100 times as acidic as a substance with a pH of seven, etc. Neutral water with an equal concentration of acid and base ions

has a pH of seven. The pH of vinegar is approximately 2.8, and lemon juice has a pH of about 2.3. The pH of ammonia is approximately 12.

Pure water in equilibrium with the air is slightly acidic and has a pH of approximately 5.6. The measurements of pH at the North Carolina monitoring sites in 1997 ranged from 4.42 to 4.71 with a mean

of 4.57. The 1997 pH annual means for North Carolina from the NADP/NTN database are presented in Figure 7.1 and Table 7.1. Table 7.1 also exhibits conductivity averages and precipitation totals for rainfall. Measured concentrations of several other chemical constituents of precipitation are given in Table 7.2.

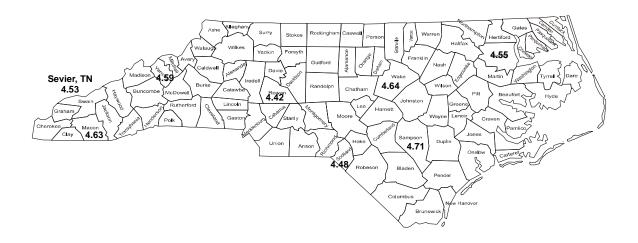


Figure 7.1 Annual Mean pH Values at North Carolina NADP/NTN/NDDN Sites, 1997

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Table 7.1 pH, Conductivity in Microsiemans per Centimeter and Precipitation in Inches from the National Atmospheric Deposition Program/National Trends Network and National Dry Deposition Network Data for 1997

COUNTY SITE	рН	CONDUCTIVITY	PRECIPITATION		
ADDRESS					
BERTIE 340320 LEWISTON	4.55	16.9	40.3		
MACON 342500 COWEETA	4.63	12.6	72.8		
ROWAN 343460 PIEDMONT RESEARCH STATION	4.42	20.9	40.2		
SAMPSON 343560 CLINTON CROPS RES. STATION	4.71	14.0	44.5		
SCOTLAND 343600 JORDAN CREEK	4.48	18.6	45.9		
WAKE 344160 FINLEY FARM	4.64	15.6	37.0		
YANCEY 344500 MT. MITCHELL	4.59	13.8	67.6		
SEVIER (TN) 441190 GREAT SMOKY MTS NATIONAL PARK ELKMONT TN	4.53	16.3	73.9		

Table 7.2 Ion Concentration in Milligrams per Liter (Precipitation-Weighted Annual Means) from the National Atmospheric Deposition Program/National Trends Network and National Dry Deposition Network Data for 1997

COUNTY SITE ADDRESS	% COMPLETE	Ca	Mg	K	Na	NH4	NO3	CL	SO4
BERTIE 340320 LEWISTON	96.2	0.07	0.026	0.022	0.180	0.24	0.99	0.32	1.47
MACON 342500 COWEETA	88.5	0.04	0.011	0.015	0.079	0.12	0.67	0.14	1.05
ROWAN 343460 PIEDMONT RESEARCH STATION	84.1	0.06	0.020	0.032	0.137	0.24	1.15	0.26	1.80
SAMPSON 343560 CLINTON CROPS RES. STATION	94.2	0.04	0.021	0.032	0.156	0.38	0.88	0.32	1.36
SCOTLAND 343600 JORDAN CREEK	96.2	0.06	0.021	0.025	0.161	0.18	1.05	0.28	1.52
WAKE 344160 FINLEY FARM	96.2	0.06	0.027	0.040	0.155	0.38	1.02	0.27	1.44
YANCEY 344500 MT. MITCHELL	80.1	0.04	0.006	0.008	0.038	0.16	0.68	0.08	1.24
SEVIER (TN) 441190 GREAT SMOKY MTS NATIONAL PARK ELKMONT TN	94.2	0.08	0.012	0.012	0.046	0.18	0.95	0.09	1.45

8 Statewide Trends

The N.C. DENR has published an analysis of long term trends in North Carolina, statewide and within the individual Air Quality Control Regions, covering air pollutant concentrations from 1972 through 1989 (North Carolina Department of Environment, Health, and Natural Resources 1991b). Such a review of annual changes helps evaluate the success of programs intended to reduce pollution and prioritize future efforts. The next detailed update of the trends report is scheduled for publication in 2000. This chapter provides some interim analyses at the statewide level.

8.1 Particulate Matter

The statewide distribution of second-largest 24-hour PM_{10} concentrations for each monitor from 1985 to 1997 is shown in Figure 8.1. Concentrations have decreased from about 68 to about 47 $\mu g/m^3$ (a 30 percent decline).

8.2 Carbon Monoxide

The statewide distribution of second-largest one-hour carbon monoxide (CO) concentrations from 1973 to 1997 is shown in Figure 8.2. The average value of this concentration has decreased from 21 ppm in 1973 to 7.2 ppm in 1997 (a decline of 66 percent). North Carolina did not experience an exceedance of the one-hour standard for CO from 1973 through 1997.

The statewide distribution of second-largest eight-hour CO concentrations from 1973 to

1997 is shown in Figure 8.3. The average value of this concentration decreased from 13 ppm in 1973 to 4 ppm in 1997 (a decline of 69 percent).

There were more than 700 exceedances of the 8-hour standard for CO from 1973 through 1990, and the number of exceedances per year is shown in Figure 8.4. The average number of exceedances decreased steadily from about 66 per year in 1973 to none in 1991, an average of 3.5 per year. There have been no CO exceedances since 1991.

8.3 Ozone

The statewide distribution of second-highest one-hour ozone concentrations is shown in Figure 8.5. The average ozone (O₃) concentration was nearly steady from 1972 to 1997, averaging 0.104 ppm (87 percent of the standard).

There were about 215 exceedances of the 1-houe ozone NAAQS from 1972 through 1997, and the number of exceedances per year is shown in Figure 8.6. The number of exceedances generally fluctuates considerably from year to year, between zero and 20 annually. An exception was 1988, when 69 exceedances occurred. If the trend is examined with that year excluded as an outlier, the average number of exceedances dropped from 8 to 4.5 through the entire interval from 1973 through 1997, a 44 percent decrease.

Because of the transition from the 1-hour ozone standard to the 8-hour ozone standard a historical comparison of past levels is provided. The second-maximum 1-hour and the fourth-maximum 8-hour ozone averages are the most directly comparable to the one and eight hour standards. Figures 8.7 and 8.8 compare the statewide annual distributions of these values during the 1978-97 time period. There is a far greater percentage of the values above the standard for the 8-hour distribution than the 1-hour distribution, demonstrating that the 8-hour standard is much more restrictive than the 1-hour standard

Looking at the trend in the number of values that exceed the 1-hour and 8-hour standards an interesting divergence appears. In Figure 8.6, the trend in the number of exceedances of the 1-hour standard appears to be decreasing over time. Figure 8.9 shows the number of exceedances of the 8-hour standard to be of a much greater magnitude than the 1-hour. If 1988 is eliminated as an outlier, as was done for the 1-hour distribution, the number of exceedances appears to be increasing over time, at least during the 1990's.

8.4 Sulfur Dioxide

The statewide distribution of second-largest three-hour sulfur dioxide (SO_2) concentrations from 1972 to 1997 is shown in Figure 8.10. The average decreased from 0.090 ppm in 1972 to 0.039 ppm in 1983 (8 percent of the standard) - a 57 percent decline - and has remained generally between 0.04 and 0.06 ppm in the subsequent years.

The statewide distribution of second-largest 24-hour SO₂ concentrations from 1972 to

1997 is shown in Figure 8.11. The average was approximately constant around 0.015 ppm (10 percent of the standard) from 1973 through 1997.

8.5 Nitrogen Oxides

The statewide distribution of annual average nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) concentrations from 1972 to 1997 is shown in Figure 8.12. The average concentration decreased from 0.0204 ppm in 1978 to 0.0174 ppm in 1997 (33 percent of the standard), or a decline of 15 percent.

8.6 Lead

The statewide distribution of quarterly lead (Pb) concentrations is shown in Figure 8.13, using all available data from 1972 through 1997. The average lead concentration decreased from 0.785 in 1972 to essentially the minimum detectable limit (MDL) of the methodology used by 1988. In 1997 the MDL was 0.04. This translates to a 95 percent decrease.

8.7 pH

The statewide distribution of annual average pH values from 1978 to 1997 for the NADP/NTN sites (including two collocated sites and the Great Smoky Mountain, Tennessee site) is shown in Figure 8.14. The mean pH has been approximately constant during this time period showing only a 1.2 percent increase.

The NADP/NTN instituted a change in sampling protocol during the first complete

sample collected in 1994. As a consequence, acid rain data analyzed in the Central Analytical Laboratory before 1994 are not directly comparable to data analyzed in and after 1994 (NADP 1995). However, no attempt has been made here to adjust earlier or later data to be more properly comparable. The NADP study suggested that pH values less than 4.6 will decrease by a median amount of 0.03 (s.e. = 0.005) due to the protocol change (NADP 1995).

8.8 Ammonium Ion

The statewide distribution of annual average ammonium ion (NH₄⁺) concentrations from 1978 to 1997 for the NADP/NTN sites (including two collocated sites and the Great Smoky Mountain, Tennessee site) is shown in Figure 8.15. The average has stayed about 0.2 mg/L until 1989. From 1990 to 1997 there appears to be an increase of 17 percent. Ammonium ion concentration in rain increased significantly in Sampson County where there is concentrated animal production. (Cornelius, 1997) The NADP study suggested that the 1994 protocol change had no net effect on measured NH₄⁺ concentrations (NADP 1995).

8.9 Nitrate Ion

The statewide distribution of annual average nitrate ion (NO₃⁻) concentrations from 1978 to 1997 for the NADP/NTN sites (including two collocated sites and the Great Smoky Mountain, Tennessee site) is shown in Figure 8.16. The mean has been relatively unchanged over the study period. The NADP study suggested that NO₃⁻ concentrations will decrease by a median amount of 0.01 (s.e. = 0.002) due to the protocol change in 1994 (NADP 1995).

8.10 Sulfate Ion

The statewide distribution of annual average sulfate ion (SO_4^{2-}) concentrations from 1978 to 1997 for the NADP/NTN sites (including two collocated sites and the Great Smoky Mountain, Tennessee site) is shown in Figure 8.17. The average has decreased from 1.9 mg/L in 1978 to 1.3 mg/L in 1997, for a 30 percent decrease. The NADP study suggested that SO_4^{2-} concentrations will decrease by a median amount of 0.02 (s.e. = 0.002) due to the protocol change in 1994 (NADP 1995).

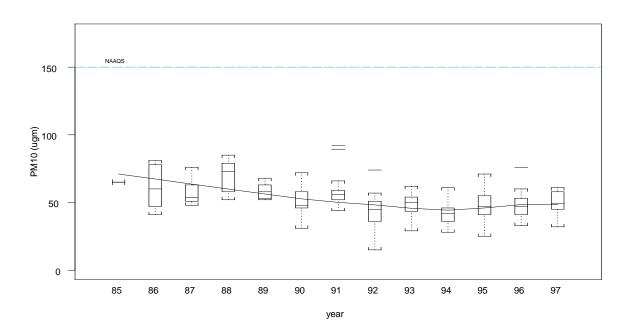


Figure 8.1 Distribution of Statewide 24-Hour PM_{10} Concentrations, 1985-97, and Smoothed Regression Trend Line

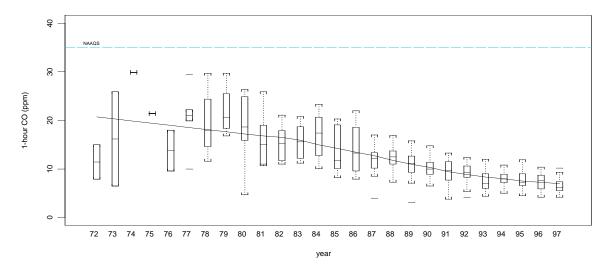


Figure 8.2 Distribution of Statewide 1-Hour Carbon Monoxide Concentrations, 1973-97, and Smoothed Regression Trend Line

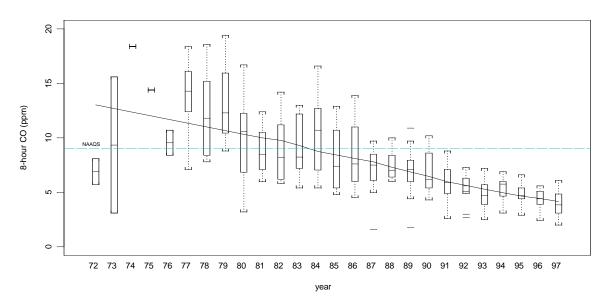


Figure 8.3 Distribution of Statewide 8-Hour Carbon Monoxide Concentrations, 1973-97, and Smoothed Regression Trend Line

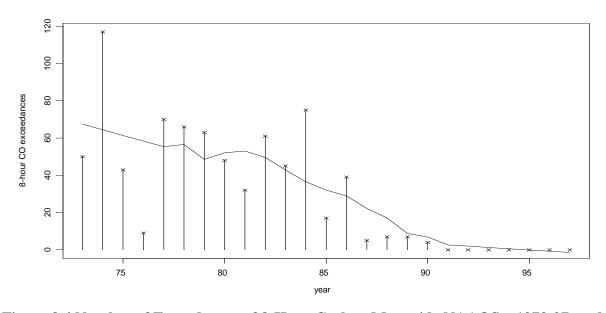


Figure 8.4 Number of Exceedances of 8-Hour Carbon Monoxide NAAQS, 1973-97, and Smoothed Regression Trend Line

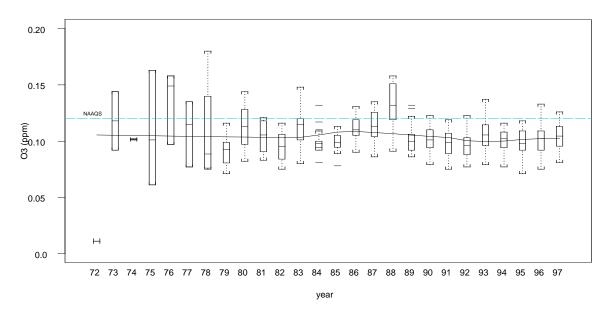


Figure 8.5 Distribution of Statewide 1-Hour Second-Maximum Ozone Concentrations, 1972-97, and Smoothed Regression Trend Line

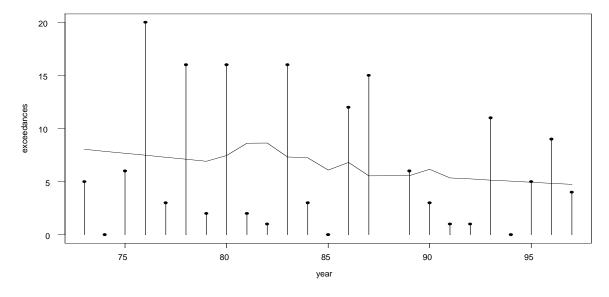


Figure 8.6 Number of Exceedances of the Ozone 1-Hour NAAQS, 1972-97, and Smoothed Regression Trend Line ${\bf P}$

(The omitted count in 1988 was 69 exceedances)

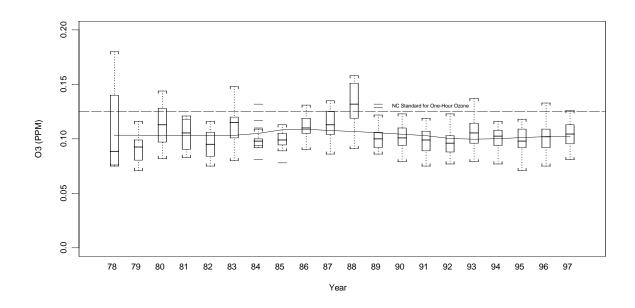


Figure 8.7 Distribution of Statewide 1-Hour Second-Maximum Ozone Concentrations, 1978-97, and Smoothed Regression Trend Line

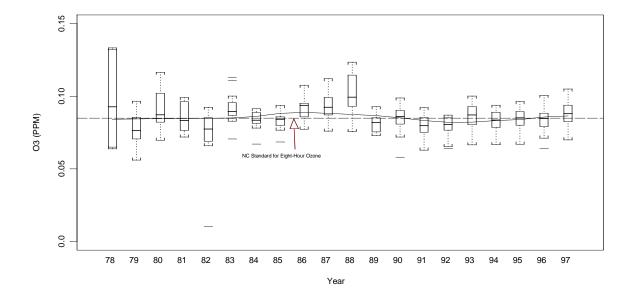


Figure 8.8 Distribution of Statewide 8-Hour Fourth-Maximum Ozone Concentrations,1978-97, and Smoothed Regression Trend Line

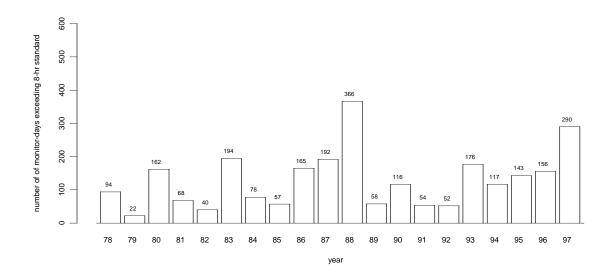


Figure 8.9 Number of Exceedances of the Daily Maximum 8-Hour Ozone Averages of 0.085 ppm or Greater, 1978-97

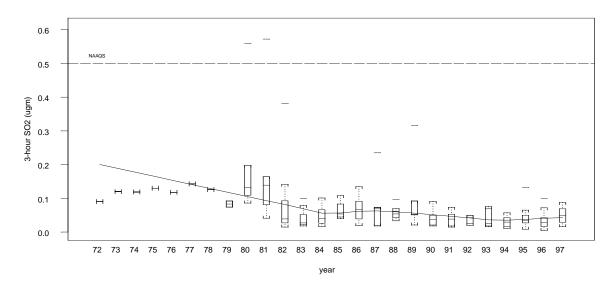


Figure 8.10 Distribution of Statewide 3-Hour Sulfur Dioxide Concentrations, 1973-97, and Smoothed Regression Trend Line *

* The smoothed regression trend line may not accurately reflect the beginning or end of the time series if there are differences in the number of samples or sites.

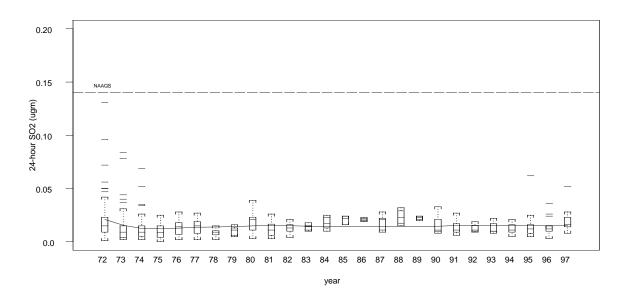


Figure 8.11 Distribution of Statewide 24-Hour Sulfur Dioxide Concentrations, 1973-97, and Smoothed Regression Trend Line

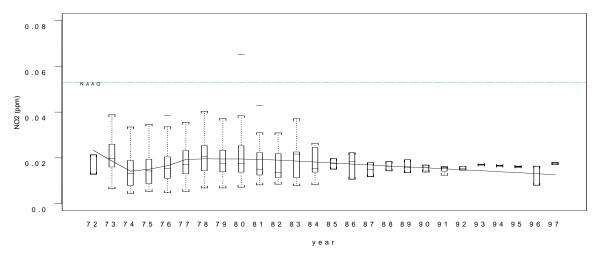


Figure 8.12 Distribution of Statewide Annual Mean Nitrogen Dioxide Concentrations, 1972-97, and Smoothed Regression Trend Line *

* The smoothed regression trend line may not accurately reflect the beginning or end of the time series if there are differences in the number of samples or sites

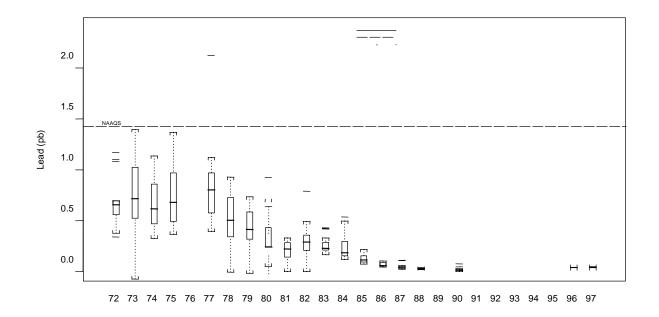


Figure 8.13 Distribution and Trend of Statewide Quarterly Lead Concentrations, 1972-97

There were no lead samples analyzed in 89, 91, 92, 93, 94 and 95.

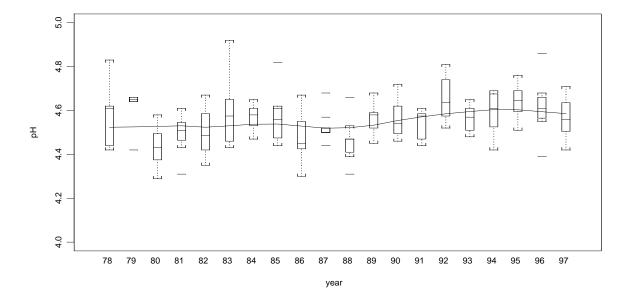


Figure 8.14 Distribution of Statewide Annual Mean pH Concentrations, 1978-97, and Smoothed Regression Trend Line

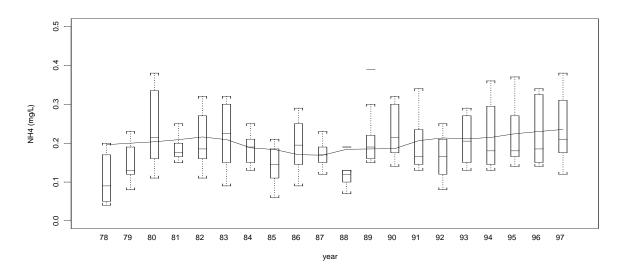


Figure 8.15 Distribution of Statewide Annual Mean Ammonium Ion Concentrations, 1978-97, and Smoothed Regression Trend Line

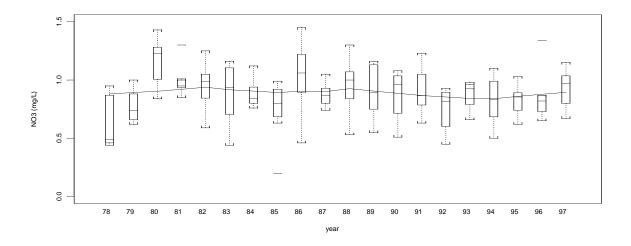


Figure 8.16 Distribution of Statewide Annual Mean Nitrate Ion Concentrations, 1978-97, and Smoothed Regression Trend Line

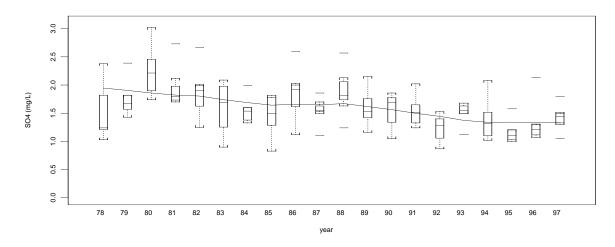


Figure 8.17 Distribution of Statewide Annual Mean Sulfate Ion Concentrations, 1978-97, and Smoothed Regression Trend Line

References

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- Cornelius, Wayne L. (1997). Comparison of Nitrogenous Ion Deposition and Human and Animal Census Trends in Eastern North Carolina. *Air Quality Section, Division of Environmental Management, N.C. Dept. Of Env., Health, and Nat. Res.*
- NADP (National Atmospheric Deposition Program) (1995). Notification of Important Change in NADP/NTN Procedures on 11 January 1994.
- North Carolina Department of Environment, Health, and Natural Resources (1991a). 1989 Ambient Air Quality Report. Air Quality Section, Division of Environmental Management, N.C. Dept. Of Env., Health, and Nat. Res.
- North Carolina Department of Environment, Health, and Natural Resources (1991b). Ambient Air Quality Trends in North Carolina 1972-1989. *Air Quality Section, Division of Environmental Management, N.C. Dept. Of Env., Health, and Nat. Res.*
- United States Environmental Protection Agency [US EPA] (1993), "Code of Federal Regulations, Title 40, Parts 1 to 51, Protection of Environment," (July 1 ed.). *Office of the Federal Register (National Archives and Records Administration)*, Washington, DC.

Appendix A. Air Pollution Monitoring Agencies

North Carolina State Headquarters

Division of Air Quality

Parker Lincoln Building 2728 Capital Boulevard 1641 Mail Service Center Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-1641 (919) 715-0665

North Carolina Regional Offices

Asheville Regional Office

Interchange Building 59 Woodfin Place Asheville, North Carolina 28801 (704) 251-6208

Counties of Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Caldwell, Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Haywood, Henderson, Jackson, Macon, Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, Polk, Rutherford, Swain, Transylvania, and Yancey.

Fayetteville Regional Office

Suite 714 225 Green Street Fayetteville, North Carolina 28301 (919) 486-1541

Counties of Anson, Bladen, Cumberland, Harnett, Hoke, Montgomery, Moore, Robeson, Richmond, Sampson, and Scotland.

Mooresville Regional Office

919 North Main Street Mooresville, North Carolina 28115 (704) 663-1699

Counties of Alexander, Cabarrus, Catawba, Cleveland, Gaston, Iredell, Lincoln, Mecklenburg, Rowan, Stanly and Union.

Raleigh Regional Office

3800 Barrett Drive Raleigh, North Carolina 27611 (919) 571-4700

Counties of Chatham, Durham, Edgecombe, Franklin, Granville, Halifax, Johnston, Lee, Nash, Northampton, Orange, Person, Vance, Wake, Warren, and Wilson.

Washington Regional Office

943 Washington Square Mall Washington, North Carolina 27889 (919) 946-6481

Counties of Beaufort, Bertie, Camden, Chowan, Craven, Currituck, Dare, Gates, Greene, Hertford, Hyde, Jones, Lenoir, Martin, Pamlico, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Pitt, Tyrrell, Washington, and Wayne.

Wilmington Regional Office

127 Cardinal Drive Extension Wilmington, North Carolina 28405-3845 (910) 395-3900

Counties of Brunswick, Carteret, Columbus, Duplin, New Hanover, Onslow and Pender.

Winston-Salem Regional Office

585 Waughtown Street Winston-Salem, North Carolina 27107 (336) 771-4600

Counties of Alamance, Alleghany, Ashe, Caswell, Davidson, Davie, Forsyth, Guilford, Rockingham, Randolph, Stokes, Surry, Yadkin, Watauga, and Wilkes.

Local Agencies

Forsyth County Environmental Affairs Department

537 North Spruce Street Winston-Salem, North Carolina 27101 (336) 727-8064

Mecklenburg County Department of Environmental Protection

1200 Blythe Boulevard Charlotte, North Carolina 28203 (704) 376-4603

Western North Carolina Regional Air Pollution Control Agency (Buncombe County and Ashevlille)

Buncombe County Courthouse Annex Asheville, North Carolina 28801-3569 (704) 255-5655

Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians

Tribal Environmental Office P. O. Box 455 Cherokee, North Carolina 28719 (828) 497-3814

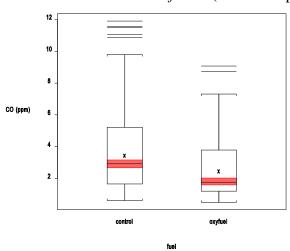
Appendix B. Exceptional Events

Type of Event	Pollutants Affected
Natural Events	
Sustained high wind speeds	particulate matter (PM)
Stagnations, inversions	all pollutants
Unusual lack of precipitation	PM
Stratospheric ozone intrusion	O_3
Volcanic eruption	CO, SO ₂ , PM
Forest fires	CO, PM
High pollen count	PM
Unintentional Man-made Events	
Large structural fires	CO, PM
Major traffic congestion due to accident or nonrecurring obstruction	CO
Chemical spills	SO ₂ , NO ₂ , PM, CO
Industrial accidents	SO ₂ , NO ₂ , PM, CO
Intentional Man-made Events	
Short-term construction/demolition	PM
Sandblasting	PM
High-sulfur oil refining	SO_2
Roofing operations	PM, SO_2
Salting or sanding of streets	PM
Infrequent large gatherings	PM, CO
Soot blowing from ships	PM
Agricultural tilling	PM
Prescribed burning	CO, PM
Noncompliance of local sources	CO, SO_2

Appendix C. Box-And-Whisker Plots

A box-and-whisker plot (also called boxplot or schematic plot) is a schematic diagram useful for depicting the location, spread and skewness of a continuous data variable. Box plots are constructed from order statistics (data values sorted from smallest to largest). The "box" of the box plot is oriented parallel to a continuous scale and is defined by 3 points, (1) a line or point in the interior of the box at the median of the data (a point that divides the order statistics into two equal parts), and (2) upper and (3) lower fourths or quartiles. (Fourths divide the upper and lower halves of the data values into two equal parts; quartiles divide the entire range of the data into 4 equal parts. Fourths and quartiles are not necessarily the same, because there may be more than one number that appropriately divides a given set of data in the prescribed way, and different computational techniques [or computer programs] may make different choices.)

The distance between the upper and lower fourth in the box plot is called the *interquartile range*. In most box plots, the length of each of the *whiskers* is 1.5 times the interquartile range or to the extreme (maximum or minimum) of the data, whichever is *shorter*. The endpoint of each whisker is called an *inner fence*. (In the box plots pictured below, the end of each whisker is



marked by a "staple" for clarity.) There may be data points, called *outliers*, beyond the inner fences; if so, they are usually indicated individually on the box plot by a dot, small circle, or (as below) a short line segment perpendicular to the axis of the box. Box plots of variables with very long-tailed distributions may display two kinds of outliers—small dots for those just beyond the inner fences and larger dots or circles for *extreme outliers* at a distance of more than 3.0 times the interquartile range beyond the fourths. This boundary between outliers and extreme outliers is termed the *outer fence* and usually not explicitly shown in the plot.

The maximum and minimum values are always visible in a box-and-whisker plot as either the outermost outliers or, if there is no outlier, the position of the inner fence.

Box plots may have additional, optional features, such as a point marker at the *arithmetic mean* or a distinctive display of a *confidence interval for the median*, which is calculated from the fourths. In the figure, the arithmetic mean is marked with an "X", and the confidence interval for the median is displayed as a shaded or colored range; it is also common to display the confidence interval by cutting notches in the sides of the box at its endpoints.

Box plots are very useful for comparing two or more variables by placing two comparable variables side-by-side on the same scale (as in the figure). The statistics displayed can be directly compared, and statistical significance of difference between the medians can be assessed by examining overlap or lack of overlap of confidence intervals.

Appendix D. Nonattainment and North Carolina

What is nonattainment and what are the sources of the pollutants?

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) sets National Ambient Air Quality Standards. North Carolina monitors concentrations of air pollutants in the ambient air. Some of these monitors have measured concentrations of ozone and carbon monoxide exceeding the standards. Areas that have not met the National Ambient Air Quality Standards can be classified by EPA as "nonattainment."

Mobile sources such as cars and trucks are the primary cause of carbon monoxide and ozone precursors. About 90 percent of the carbon monoxide emissions come from motor vehicles. In the urban areas, 60 percent of the nitrogen oxides and 25 percent of the man-made hydrocarbons or volatile organic compound emissions come from motor vehicles; the rest comes from off-road vehicles utility and industrial boilers, petroleum marketing, factories, businesses, and households. Nitrogen oxides react with volatile organic compounds and sunlight in warm weather to produce ozone.

Why is my county nonattainment?

EPA guidance recommends that an entire Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) be designated nonattainment when a monitor is found to be violating the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). This policy is due to the regional nature of certain pollutants, like ozone. Ozone is formed in the atmosphere under complex chemical reactions. Sometimes the ozone levels are higher just downwind of urban areas because of the time it takes the pollutants to react to form ozone. Therefore, larger areas are designated nonattainment to represent the likely area contributing to the air quality problems.

Once we are nonattainment, what is the process for becoming attainment?

North Carolina is required by the federal Clean Air Act and EPA to produce and implement emission reduction plans and show that these plans are strong enough to produce compliance with the standards. The plans could involve resource-intensive monitoring, emissions inventory, modeling, public participation, and strategy formulation efforts. There are deadlines for producing the plans and for achieving compliance with the standards. EPA must approve the plans.

How does the public get involved in the formulation of the emission reduction plans, known as State Implementation Plan (SIP) revisions?

Local agencies and officials, as well as state agencies, will be involved in drawing up the SIP revisions. There will be public meetings or special citizen panels. When draft SIP revisions are done, there will be public hearings on them. The SIP revisions must be approved by the N.C. Environmental Management Commission and possibly by local bodies as well. EPA's approval process also includes an opportunity for public comment.

How will it affect citizens?

Emission reduction strategies fall into several categories. Motor vehicle inspection/maintenance may be required for hydrocarbons, carbon monoxide, and nitrogen oxides. Traffic patterns may be altered by changing roads or traffic signals. Both new and existing factories and business may have to reduce emissions by installing control equipment or changing processes. Cleaner burning gasoline may be required.

What happens if North Carolina refuses to address these air pollution problems?

Under the Clean Air Act, EPA has the authority to apply sanctions. EPA can require more stringent offsets for new facilities of major pollutant sources, and may withhold federal highway construction funds in the nonattainment areas.

What is the likelihood of receiving sanctions if we are showing progress in reducing pollution?

North Carolina can avoid sanctions if it produces and carries out SIP revisions that EPA approves by the deadlines. If pollution concentrations do not recede and attain the standards as projected, the EPA could impose construction bans. However, EPA has some discretion about imposing sanctions. Sanctions are a last step to persuade states to take required positive action.

What does inspection/maintenance cost?

Currently, the inspection/maintenance (I/M), or motor vehicle tailpipe testing process, costs the motorist \$19.40. If a vehicle fails the test, it must be repaired. A waiver is available if a vehicle still fails after \$250.00 worth of repairs have been done. The \$250.00 limit does not apply to tampered or misfueled vehicles. The inspection/maintenance program includes tests for hydrocarbon (HC) and carbon monoxide (CO) emissions for the following counties, Mecklenburg, Wake, Guilford, Forsyth, Durham, Gaston, Cabarrus, Orange, and Union. The number of counties will increase to 48 by 2006 under the Clean Air Bill passed on 1999. Only gasoline powered motor vehicles built after 1974, excluding the current model year and motorcycles, are inspected in these counties. Inspection/maintenance pass/fail levels vary with vehicle age and pollutant.

