Stakeholder Expert Group on the Review of the EU Air Policy
First meeting 6/7 June 2011, Brussels

Improving Knowledge and Communication for Decision Making on Air Pollution and Health in Europe

Christophe Declercq
French Institute for Public Health Surveillance, InVS
Saint Maurice France

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Aphekom’s ultimate goal

Deliver new information and tools on the health and monetary impacts of urban air pollution that help:

- decision makers set more effective European, national and local policies
- health professionals to better advise vulnerable individuals
- and the general public to better protect its health
Aphekom scientific questions

Q1. What are the latest findings on the health impacts and monetary costs of air pollution in European cities?

Q2. How can we make HIAs more meaningful and actionable for developing policies and recommendations on air pollution for urban populations?

Q3. Do policies designed to reduce air pollution and its health impacts and monetary costs really work?

Q4. How can we improve communication both among and between scientists and stakeholders concerned with the impact of air pollution on health?
Q1. What are the latest findings on the health impacts and monetary costs of air pollution in European cities?

Christophe Declercq, Mathilde Pascal, Magali Corso, InVS
Olivier Chanel, CNRS
on behalf of the Aphekom WP5 team and of all the Aphekom centres
Objectives

• To assess health impacts of urban air pollution in 25 European cities
  – update of Apheis/Enhis results
  – using latest scientific evidence for particulate matter and ozone
  – performing standardised health impact assessment (HIA)

• To develop and disseminate methods, guidelines and online tools to perform HIA in other European cities

http://si.easp.es/aphekom/
About local HIAs

Current (2004-2006) air quality \( e.g. [PM_{2.5}] \)

Current (2004-2006) health outcomes
\( e.g. \) mortality

Air pollution change for two 2 types of scenario
- decrease by a fixed amount,
  \( e.g. [PM_{2.5}] - 5 \mu g/m^3 \)
- decrease to the WHO air quality guidelines (WHO-AQG)
  \( e.g. [PM_{2.5}] = 10 \mu g/m^3 \)

Concentration response function = % change in health outcome per unit change in pollutants

Impact= change in health outcome associated to the change in pollutant
Impact of Particulate Matter (PM2.5) on mortality

- For PM2.5, only one city complied with the WHO-AQG (annual=10 µg/m³): Stockholm

- A decrease of annual PM2.5 levels to 10 µg/m³
  - could add up to 22 months of life expectancy depending on the city

  - equivalent to a total burden on mortality of nearly 19,000 deaths annually in the 25 Aphekom cities more than 15,000 of which are caused by cardiovascular diseases

  - could total some €31.5 billion annually, including savings on health expenditures, absenteeism and intangible costs such as well being, life expectancy and quality of life
Predicted average gain in life expectancy (months) for persons 30 years of age in 25 Aphekom cities for a decrease in average annual level of PM$_{2.5}$ to 10 µg/m$^3$
Impact of Particulate Matter (PM10) on Morbidity

- Only two cities complied with the WHO AQG (annual=20 µg/m³): Malaga and Stockholm
  - Average annual levels of PM10 varied from 16 to 55 µg/m³ depending on the city

- In 22 cities, a decrease of annual PM10 levels to 20 µg/m³ could lead to a decrease:
  - by more than 2,500 in the annual number of cardiac hospitalisations
  - by more than 5,300 in the annual number of respiratory hospitalisations
Impact of Ozone on Mortality and Morbidity

• The proportion of days exceeding the WHO AQG (daily 8h-maximum levels of ozone=100 µg/m³) varied from 1 to 30% (average: 12%) depending on the city

• Compliance with WHO-AQG could lead to:
  – the postponing of more than 200 deaths annually in 25 Aphekom cities
  – a reduction of 150 respiratory hospitalisations annually in 22 Aphekom cities
Only the tip of the iceberg

- Our results give a robust estimate produced in a standardised way in each Aphekom city.

- Yet they are likely to underestimate the total impact of air pollution.

- Aphekom also explored new avenues (chronic diseases and exacerbations, within-cities contrasts of exposure).

![Pyramid of health effects associated with air pollution](image)
Q2. Health Impact and Policy: novel approaches

How can we make HIAs more meaningful and actionable for developing policies and recommendations on air pollution for urban populations?

Nino Künzli, Laura Perez
Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute, Basel, Switzerland
And University of Basel, Switzerland

Olivier Chanel, CNRS

on behalf of the Aphekom WP4 team and of all the Aphekom centres
Objectives for 10 European cities

- Estimate the number and fraction of population that may have developed their chronic disease due to chronic exposure to local traffic-related pollution, represented by living at proximity of busy roads
  - children with asthma
  - older adults with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and
  - older adults with coronary heart disease (CHD)

- Among those, estimate the number and fraction of exacerbations (i.e. hospitalisations and symptoms) due to both chronic exposure from local traffic-related pollution and additional day-to-day exposure to urban air pollutants above WHO recommended levels
Percentage of population living near busy roads in 10 Aphekom cities

Figure 9 – Estimated percentage of people leaving near busy roads.
Percentage of chronic diseases attributable to local traffic-related pollution in 10 Aphekom cities (assumes causality)

- Barcelona
- Valencia
- Brussels
- Vienna
- Bilbao
- Ljubljana
- Rome
- Sevilla
- Stockholm
- Granada

- Coronary heart disease (age ≥ 65)
- Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (age ≥ 65)
- Asthma (age 0-17)
Comparison of impact of air pollution on chronic diseases using two different HIA approaches in Aphekom

- Assumes air pollution only causes exacerbation of existing chronic disease (traditional approach)
- Assumes air pollution causes both development of the chronic disease and episodes of exacerbation of the disease

- Episodes of bronchitis among asthmatic children (age 0-17)
- Asthma hospitalizations among asthmatic children (age 0-17)
- Bronchitis among adults with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease - COPD (age ≥ 65)
- COPD hospitalizations among adults with COPD (age ≥ 65)
- Myocardial infarction (non-fatal) among adults with coronary heart disease - CHD (age ≥ 65)
- Myocardial infarction hospitalizations among adults with CHD (age ≥ 65)
- Stroke hospitalizations among adults with CHD (age ≥ 65)
Q3. Do policies designed to reduce air pollution and its health impacts really work?

Air Pollution health impact assessment and monetary costs of a strategy already implemented to reduce air pollution in Europe

Patrick Goodman, Susann Henschel, Dublin Institute of Technology, Ireland

Olivier Chanel
CNRS

on behalf of the Aphekom WP6 team and of all the Aphekom centres
**Objective**

Review of EU air quality legislation with respect to sulphur content in fuels

**Aims**

- Analysis as to whether the legislation improved air quality
- Assessment if there is a subsequent positive health impact
- Tracking related effect modifiers overtime
  - e.g. co-pollutants, Temperature, Humidity
- Quantification of monetary costs of health impacts of the implemented regulation
Overall outcomes based on data from 20 Aphekom cities from year 2000 onwards compared to the pre-Directive period

**Air quality**

- Overall a drop in SO$_2$ levels by $\sim$ 66% overtime
Yearly urban background SO$_2$ averages of 13 Aphekom centres from 1990 - 2004

Council directive 93/12/EEC

Council directive 99/32/EC

SO$_2$ (µgm$^{-3}$)

Time (year)
Health

- 2212 (95% CI: 772; 3663) lives per year were prevented from all causes
- 154 (95% CI: -50; 360) lives per year were prevented from respiratory causes
- 1312 (95% CI: 386; 2247) lives per year were prevented from cardiovascular causes

Costs

The 2212 lives per year saved attributable to reductions in ambient SO2 for 20 European cities, spread all over Europe, from year 2000 onwards were valued at €191.6 million in monetary costs.

This underscores the health and monetary benefits from drafting and implementing effective EU policies on air pollution and ensuring compliance with them over time!
Q4. How can we improve communication both among and between stakeholders concerned with the impact of air pollution on health?

Yorghos Remvikos
UVSQ, France

on behalf of the Aphekom WP7 team and of all the Aphekom centres
• To help decision makers draft policies on air quality and related environmental-health issues, Aphekom has developed a process, based on a deliberation-support tool, that helps frame and structure exchanges between stakeholders involved in developing policy options.

• This type of multi-criteria assessment enables highlighting divergences of opinion, focusing discussions on critical points and bridging differences among stakeholders from differing backgrounds.

• As a result, this process facilitates both communication and decision-making.
Synthetic presentation of the individual assessments

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Université de Versailles
Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines
To test use of the process and tool, Aphekom conducted two case studies in Brussels and in Paris during the development of local air-quality action plans (a case study in Athens is ongoing).

The case studies demonstrated the ability of the method and tools to structure discussions and highlight differing views, as confirmed by participants’ satisfaction with their use.

We also developed an online tool to familiarise users with the deliberation-support process used in the case studies and to enable them to create their own deliberative forums.

[http://aphekom.kertechno.net/](http://aphekom.kertechno.net/)
Aphekom outcomes and tools

- Review of literature and guidelines on innovative methods that integrate emerging evidence of air-pollution health effects into HIAs
- Application of the above to HIA case studies that use traffic exposure and sub-clinical impacts of air pollution
- Guidelines and tools (including online tool) for performing local HIAs of air pollution in European cities
- Guidelines on monetary cost calculations related to the health impacts of air pollution
- Report on health impacts of air pollution in 25 European cities
- Report on monetary costs of the health impacts of air pollution in the 25 Aphekom cities
- Review of literature on intervention studies
- Guidelines for conducting intervention studies, for determining health impacts and for calculating monetary costs of health impacts of a strategy implemented to reduce air pollution in Europe
- Report on health impacts of the chosen strategy to reduce air pollution in Europe
- Report on monetary benefits from implementing the chosen strategy
- Guidelines on tools for better dissemination of scientific findings for use by policy makers and other stakeholders in decision making processes
- Interactive online tool for multiparty discussions in decision making processes