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Health Department Releases Results of Diesel Study in Downtown Pittsburgh

PITTSBURGH – The Allegheny County Health Department (ACHD) today announced the results of a special monitoring study to better understand the health impacts of diesel pollution in downtown Pittsburgh. The study, funded by ACHD, was conducted by the University of Pittsburgh under the direction of principal investigator Dr. Jane Clougherty.

The study found that transit bus activity was the best predictor of the high diesel pollution levels in downtown Pittsburgh. To a lesser degree, delivery trucks and parking garage activity can also influence diesel particulate matter (DPM) concentrations in some areas.

There were significant differences in diesel pollution across the study area. The highest measurements were directly within the downtown Pittsburgh business district along major roadways. The preliminary results showed that average diesel-related concentrations did not change substantially between winter and summer months.

Patterns in diesel-related pollution were comparable during rush hour as compared to full work-week averages. This suggests that rush hour traffic may be an important contributor to high levels of DPM, and its spatial distribution, across downtown Pittsburgh.

The Executive Summary is currently available on the Health Department's website at <http://www.achd.net/air/diesel.html>.

The full results of the study will be detailed in three published articles by Dr. Clougherty. The first article can be read online [here](#). The two additional publications are forthcoming. Questions on the study can be directed to Dr. Clougherty at jcloughe@pitt.edu. Dr. Clougherty has received an additional grant to further investigate the pollutants monitored and to evaluate possible measures to reduce the impact of diesel emissions.

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