



Fine particulate matter (2): effects on reproductive function, risk and risk management *Particules fines (2): effets sur la function de reproduction, gestion du risque* 

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The relations between human health and the environment in the Anthropocene

Lecture #4 – 20 April 2022









## F. Effects of atmospheric pollutants on reproductive function

















(Bell, Env Health Perspect, 2001, 2004)

→ Only short-term effects are visible





## Establishing *causality* in environmental health research? A *practical view*

- Epistemologically, causality is a complex and debated concept
- In practice, it is relevant to establish/validate causal models and causal chains, in particular to identify targets for public health interventions
- Whether or not one accepts the concept of causality, documenting the *level* of evidence of environmental health theories is also essential to justify and prioritize public health action.
- Whatever the conceptual framework, some form of evidence pluralism is often required to establish causality or increase the level of evidence
  - Evidence pluralism states that, to establish causal claims in medicine, one typically needs evidence of difference-making and evidence of mechanism: Russo-Williamson thesis (Russo & Williamson, 2007)

(cf. seminar by Pr. F Russo, 1 June 22)



















# Associations of size at birth with PM<sub>2.5</sub> oxidative potential (OP<sup>DTT</sup>, OP<sup>AA</sup>) and PM<sub>2.5</sub> mass concentration in *SEPAGES* couple-child cohort

	Exposure		Fully adjusted models*								
Birth outcome			n	Change p-valu		95% Confidence Inte					
XX7 1 1 .	PM2.5 mass concentration		333	-53.3	0.02	-98.5	-8.2				
Weight	$OP_v^{DTT}$		333	-63.7	0.02	-115.9	-11.4				
(g)	$OP_{v}^{AA}$		333	-14.5	0.57	-64.0	35.1				
<b>XX 1 1</b>	PM2.5 mass concentration		332	-2.3	0.05	-4.5	-0.01				
Height (mm)	$OP_{v}^{DTT}$		332	-3.5	0.01	-6.0	-0.9				
	$OP_{v}^{AA}$		332	-2.0	0.11	-4.5	0.4				
	PM2.5 mass concentration		330	-0.1	0.87	-1.6	1.4				
lead circumference (mm)	$OP_{v}^{DTT}$		330	-0.2	0.79	-2.0	1.5				
	$OP_{v}^{AA}$		300	0.9	0.27	-0.7	2.6				

\* Adjusted for gestational duration (week, weeks<sup>2</sup>), child sex, parity, maternal characteristics (height, weight before pregnancy, head circumference, age, educational status), marital status, season of conception, maternal smoking anytime during the pregnancy.

(Borlaza et al., manuscript)

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Documenting the mechanisms possibly implied through molecular Placenta Fetus Rahmalia, Env Res, onment Mother 2012 Blood viscosity, endothelial Maternal-placental blood flow/ transplacental oxygen and nutrient transport function, hypertension IUGR Hypothalamo-pituitary-gonadal axis (endocrine Abraham, Env Int, Placental/fetal disruption) genetic or 2018) Air pollutants epigenetic Maternal hostchanges defense mechanisms Pollutant-DNA adducts Inflammatory markers Prematurity (cytokines, IL6, prothrombin...), oxidative stress Father Genetic or epigenetic changes in (Slama, EHP, 2008) germ cells

## Experimental evidence of air pollution effects on the foetal-placental unit?









## From hazard identification to risk quantification













(Luyten, Env Res, 2018)

### Relevance of placenta to assess DNA methylation

- The placenta plays a key role in fetal programming
  - support foetal development
  - conveys nutrients and oxygen to the fetus, regulates gas and waste exchanges, hormone interactions (Murphy, 2006)
- Air pollutants and tobacco smoke
  - can cross the placenta and expose the developing fetus (Valentino, Part Fib Tox, 2016; Wick, 2010)
- The placenta may provide a memory of exposures occurring during pregnancy (an epigenetic memory?)
- Heterogeneous tissue, variable across time

















## Social inequalities in air pollution exposure at the *country* level













## Social inequalities in air pollution exposure at the *city* level

















## Estimated impact of PM<sub>2.5</sub> exposure (France and world)

Health endpoint	Human evidence	Mechanistic evidence	Attributable fraction or nb of cases*	Reference	
Mortality	Certain	Certain	40,000 deaths/year (France), about 6.5% of deaths	(Medina/Santé publique France, 2021)	
			4.2 M deaths/year (world)	(Landrigan, Lancet, 2018)	
Lung cancer	Certain	Certain	3000 cases, 7.6% of all cases (France)	(Kulhanova, Env Int, 2018)	
Breast cancer	Very likely	Moderate	3% (France)	(Gabet, <i>EHP</i> , 2021)	

Overall cost of PM<sub>2.5</sub> exposure in France (2010s): 100 billion €/year (Aïchi, Sénat, 2015)

\*Fraction of all disease cases attributable to atmospheric pollution exposure, considering a specific counterfactual situation (typically, a mean PM<sub>2.5</sub> level of 5  $\mu$ g/m<sup>3</sup>)











Bicing system also allowed to avoid the emission of  $9,000 \text{ t CO}_2$ .

(Rojas-Rueda, BMJ, 2011)





### 07/09/2022



## Which decrease in air pollution levels should be targeted?

PM <sub>2.5</sub> exposure reduction scenarios	Population P	M <sub>2.5</sub> exposure	Health	th benefits concerning all-cause non-accidental mortality								
	Yearly average (µg/m <sup>3</sup> )	5th-50th-95th percentiles (µg/m <sup>3</sup> )	Δ <sub>NAC</sub> <sup>a,f</sup>	95% CI	% of S2 <sup>b</sup>	% of baseline cases <sup>c</sup>	95% CI	Mortality rate gain <sup>d,f</sup>	95% CI	Gain in life expectancy months <sup>c</sup>	95% CI	
Grenoble conurbation	13.9	10.2-14.6-16.2										
(444,000 inhabitants)												
S1: "WHO guideline"	10.0	10.0-10.0-10.0	65	40-90	45%	2.5%	1.5-3.5%	25	15-34	4.5	2.8-6.3	
S2: "No anthropogenic PM <sub>2.5</sub> "	4.9	4.9-4.9-4.9	145	90–199	Ref.	5.6%	3.5-7.7%	55	34-76	10.0	6.1-13.9	
S3: "Quiet neighborhood"	10.3	10.2-10.3-10.3	61	38-84	42%	2.3%	1.5-3.2%	23	14-32	4.3	2.6-5.9	
S4: "-1 μg/m <sup>3</sup> "	12.9	9.2-13.6-15.2	16	10-23	11%	0.6%	0.4-0.9%	6	4-9	1.1	0.6-1.5	
05- # 0 (	11.9	8 2-12 6-14 2	33	20-45	23%	1.3%	0.8-1.7%	12	8-17	2.1	1.3-2.9	



## Acting on urban heating: Dublin bituminous coal ban (1990)



	Variation (after-before*)
Black smoke concentration	-70%
Respiratory mortality	-15.5%
Cardiovascular mortality	-10.3
Total non accidental mortality	-5.7%

\*Change between the 7 year average *after* and the 7 year *before* the intervention

(Clancy, *Lancet*, 2002)





## Do changes in air quality levels vary according to sociodemographic characteristics?



In the USA, improvements in air quality between 1990 and 2010 benefited more to the least socially deprived counties

(Wyatt, Environ Int, 2020)

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### Atmospheric pollutants: some recent regulations

- 1952 : Episode de pollution de Londres
- 1955 : Air Pollution Control Act (USA)
- 1963 : Clean Air Act (USA), amendé en 1967, 1970, 1977, 1990
- 1974 : Décret relatif au contrôle des émissions polluantes dans l'atmosphère (France)
- 1980-92 : Directives européennes 1980, 1985 : SO<sub>2</sub> et particules (TSP) 1982 : plomb dans l'atmosphère
- 1990 : Amendement du Clean Air Act (USA) Limite annuelle : 15 µg/m³ pour PM<sub>2,5</sub> 100 µg/m³ pour NO<sub>2</sub>
- 1996 : Loi sur l'air et l'utilisation rationnelle de l'énergie (France)
- 1999 : Directive européenne sur SO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>2</sub>, PM<sub>10</sub> et le plomb Limite annuelle (UE) : 40 μg/m<sup>3</sup> pour PM<sub>10</sub> (janvier 2005)
- 2002 : Directive européenne sur le bruit
- Avril 2008 : Directive européenne sur PM<sub>10</sub> et PM<sub>2,5</sub>
  Valeur *cible* annuelle pour 2010 : 25 μg/m<sup>3</sup> pour PM<sub>2,5</sub>
  Valeur *limite* annuelle pour 2015 : 25 μg/m<sup>3</sup> pour PM<sub>2,5</sub>













### Conclusion

- Various approaches allowed to identify various effects of atmospheric pollution (in particular, but not only, PM<sub>2.5</sub>) during the last decades
  - Before-after studies, temporal ecological studies (time-series), cohort studies...
- Atmospheric pollutants have a certain effect on non-accidental mortality, cardiovascular and respiratory morbidity.
  - Huge societal cost
  - Frail people but not only them are affected
  - · Large mortality displacement: not only frail people are impacted
  - No evidence of a threshold effect
- Other likely or very likely effects of PM<sub>2.5</sub>, e.g., on foetal growth, preeclampsia, on the central nervous system, possibly type II diabetes
- Actions on various sources of PM have been developed in several parts of the world in the past (targeting e.g., road traffic, residential sources or both). Such actions are likely to be cost-efficient.

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### The relations between human health and the environment in the Anthropocene Course overview



#### #1 - 31 March 2022

#### #2 - 6 April 2022

Seminar: Lead, legal poison: uses and regulations of toxic in the nineteenth century Pr. Judith Rainhorn, Université Paris-1 Panthéon-Sorbonne (Paris)

Fine particulate matter: effects on mortality and cardiovascular and respiratory morbidity

Seminar: Air pollution effects on the central nervous system Pr. Marc Weisskopf, Cecil K. and Philip Drinker Professor of Environmental Epidemiology and Physiology, Harvard TH Chan School of Public Health (Boston)

#### #4 - 20 April 2022

Seminar: The Human Sensor – Toxicology in Real People in the Real World Pr. Ian Mudway, Imperial College London, MRC for Environment and Health (London)

#### #5 - 11 May 2022

Seminar: Endocrine disruption and nuclear receptors: mechanisms and impact on health Dr. William Bourget, Centre de Biologie Structurale, Univ Montpellier, CNRS, Inserm (Montpellier)

### #6 - 18 May 2022

Seminar: Bad cocktails - the evaluation of combined exposures Pr. Andreas Kortenkamp, Brunell University (London)

### #7 - 25 May 2022

Seminar: Biosurveillance de la population vivant en France. Dr. Clémence Fillol, Santé publique France

#### #8 – 1 June 2022

Seminar: Causality in public health research Pr. Federica Russo, Philosophe des Sciences, Techniques, et Information, Université d'Amsterdam

#### #9 - 8 June 2022

hange and human health Seminar: on the Anthropocene concept Dr. Jean-Baptiste Fressoz, CNRS et EHESS