

# Exposure to traffic pollution increases asthma severity in pregnant women

May 20 2013

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Air pollutants from traffic are associated with increased asthma severity levels in pregnant asthmatic women, according to a new study.

"Air pollution is a known trigger for [asthma symptoms](#)," said lead author Janneane Gent, PhD, Research Scientist in Epidemiology (Environmental Health) at the Yale School of Public Health. "In our study, exposures were assessed using a sophisticated air pollution [modeling system](#) (Community Multiscale Air Quality, CMAQ) that permits community-level estimates (i.e., close to where the subject resides) instead of assigning regional measurements made at [Environmental Protection Agency](#) (EPA) central site monitors to all subjects. Using community-level estimates, we found that exposure to [nitrogen dioxide](#) at levels much lower than the current EPA standard was associated with increased risk of asthma morbidity."

The results of the study will be presented at the ATS 2013 International Conference.

The study enrolled 637 pregnant women (

Citation: Exposure to traffic pollution increases asthma severity in pregnant women (2013, May 20) retrieved 20 April 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2013-05-exposure-traffic-pollution-asthma-severity.html>

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