Study links air pollution, adverse ovarian function in female mice

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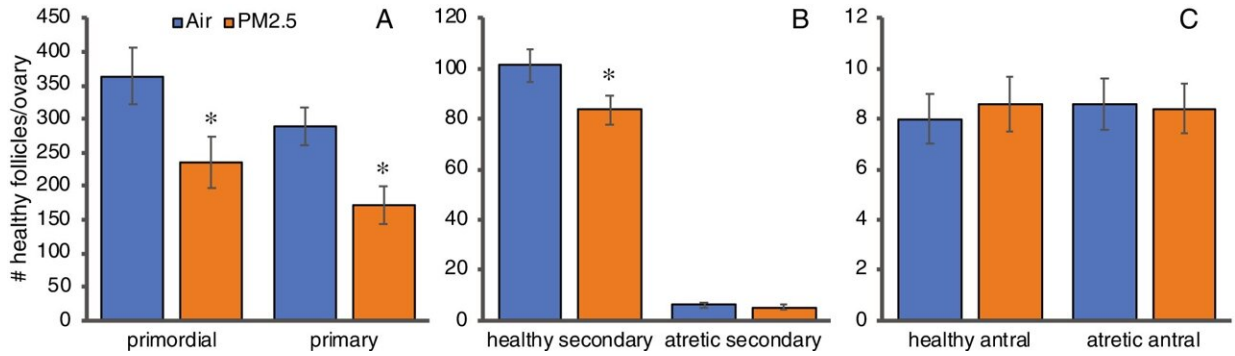

Fig. 1. Effects of $PM_{2.5}$ exposure on ovarian follicle numbers: 3-month old female mice were exposed to concentrated ambient $PM_{2.5}$ or filtered air 4 h per day, 5 days per week for 12 weeks and were euthanized 24 h after the last exposure day for enumeration of ovarian follicles as described in Methods. Graphs show the means ± SEM number of follicles per ovary. A Healthy primordial and primary follicle numbers were significantly decreased in $PM_{2.5}$ exposed mice compared to air controls. B Healthy, but not atretic, secondary follicle numbers were significantly decreased in $PM_{2.5}$ exposed mice compared to air controls. C Neither healthy, nor atretic antral follicle numbers were significantly changed in $PM_{2.5}$ exposed mice compared to air controls. *P