

# Review: Dementia, Psychiatric Illness, and Suicide Corresponds With Prolonged Exposure to Pollution

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## Abstract

While there is limited evidence regarding neurodegenerative diseases and psychiatric disorders, ambient air pollution is a known risk factor for premature mortality from chronic cardiovascular, respiratory, and metabolic diseases. In seven European cohorts, we investigated the connection between dementia, psychiatric disorders, and suicide mortality after prolonged exposure to air pollution. The multi-institutional project titled “Effects of Low-Level Air Pollution: We combined data from seven European cohorts from six nations for the “A Study in Europe” (ELAPSE). Using Europe-wide hybrid land-use regression models, annual mean levels of eight PM<sub>2.5</sub> components—fine particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>), nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>), black carbon (BC), ozone were estimated based on residential addresses. To find out how dementia, psychiatric disorders, and suicide mortality were linked to air pollution, we used stratified Cox proportional hazard models. During a mean follow-up of 19.7 years, 900 of the 271,720 participants died from dementia, 241 from psychiatric disorders, and 164 from suicide. and there is no link to dementia mortality. None of the three mortality outcomes were positively correlated with any of the eight PM<sub>2.5</sub> components or O<sub>3</sub>. Psychiatric disorders and suicide may result from prolonged exposure to NO<sub>2</sub>, PM<sub>2.5</sub>, and BC.

**Keywords:** Psychiatric disorders; Chronic cardiovascular; Dementia; Metabolic diseases

## Introduction

An established risk factor for cardiovascular and cerebrovascular disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), lower respiratory infections, lung cancer, and diabetes is prolonged exposure to ambient air pollution. There is still a lack of evidence regarding mortality from other causes, such as mental illnesses and neurodegenerative diseases. According to new experimental findings, air pollution has a negative effect on brain pathology through neuroinflammation and oxidative stress, which can have a negative impact on cognitive function and ultimately lead to dementia [1]. In line with this, solid epidemiological evidence has established a link between cognitive decline in the elderly and long-term exposure to air pollution, such as nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) and particulate matter with a diameter of less than 2.5 millimeters (PM<sub>2.5</sub>). However, there are still a number of unanswered questions regarding the link between dementia and air pollution [2]. Only three studies looked at mortality from dementia: Two of the studies found a connection between PM<sub>2.5</sub> and mortality from dementia and cardiovascular and respiratory diseases, while another Dutch study based on a national health survey found no connection [3]. It is unknown which pollutants are most important for the development of dementia: The impact of black carbon (BC) has only been the subject of one study to date; Few have considered specific elemental components or sources of PM, and none have provided results from two or multi-pollutant models [4].

However, epidemiological evidence on the relationship between mental health and air pollution is far less extensive than that on dementia. The majority of current studies focus on short-term exposures, but they do demonstrate that prolonged exposure to air pollution over a period of several days may result in psychiatric responses such as depressive symptoms, hospital admissions, and attempts and successful suicide [5].

## Method

Cross-sectional studies with data on the prevalence of psychiatric disorders, particularly depression and anxiety, have primarily

investigated the association with long-term exposure to air pollution. The onset of psychiatric disorders has only been the subject of a few studies, all of which have focused on depression. However, associations with other major psychiatric disorders, such as anxiety, substance abuse, bipolar and psychotic disorder, and eating disorders, have yet to be investigated. Air pollution and depression have been linked in a number of studies: PM<sub>2.5</sub> and major depressive disorder were linked in a South Korean study PM<sub>2.5</sub> and ozone (O<sub>3</sub>) were linked to the onset of depression in the US Nurses’ Health Study a South Korean [6].

Health care coverage record concentrate on connected particulate matter with width under 10 μm (PM<sub>10</sub>) and carbon monoxide to the beginning of melancholy, and a second screening study in South Korea found a link between PM<sub>10</sub> and the onset of depression; PM<sub>2.5</sub>, on the other hand, has not been linked in any study. Long-term air pollution exposure and suicide have only been the subject of one large South Korean study, which found strong correlations with PM<sub>10</sub> and NO<sub>2</sub> [7]. Low-Level Air Pollution’s Effects: Long-term exposure to low levels of air pollution was recently found to be linked to an increased risk of incidence of cardiovascular diseases, adult-onset asthma, COPD, and lung cancer, as well as an increased risk of premature mortality from natural causes. This was in addition to an increased risk of premature mortality from natural causes. We wanted to see if long-term exposure to PM<sub>2.5</sub>, NO<sub>2</sub>, BC, and O<sub>3</sub> was linked to dementia, psychiatric illness, and suicide deaths. In request to clarify what parts and related wellsprings of air contamination might be generally applicable for the advancement of these three results [8].

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## Result

Seven cohorts from six European nations were combined within the ELAPSE project framework to form the study population. In order to control for potential confounders in the pooled cohort, the data from the register and the cohort were combined and harmonized. The following European cohorts formed the study population: 1) The Swedish cohort of Cardiovascular Effects of Air Pollution and Noise in Stockholm (CEANS), which includes the following sub-cohorts: The Stockholm Cohort of 60-year-olds (SIXTY) of the Stockholm Diabetes Prevention Program (SDPP) Magnusson et al.'s Stockholm Screening Across the Lifespan Twin study (SALT), and the Danish Nurse Cohort (DNC) of the Swedish National Study on Aging and Care in Kungsholmen (SNAC-K), which consists of two cohort waves with data collected in 1993 and 1999 [9]; The European Prospective Investigation into Cancer and Nutrition-Netherlands (EPIC-NL) cohort, which combines the two sub-cohorts of Morgen (the Monitoring Project on Risk Factors and Chronic Diseases in the Netherlands) and Prospect, is from the Netherlands. The Heinz Nixdorf Recall study (HNR) is from Germany. The Cooperative Health Research in the Region of Augsburg (KORA) cohort, which is from Germany, consists of two sub-cohorts with information collected between 1994 and 7) The Austrian Vorarlberg Health Monitoring and Prevention Program (VHM&PP). Enlistment year and end of follow-up fluctuated by accomplices, going from 1985 to 2005 for the enlistment year, and 2011 to 2015 for follow-up. The respective countries' medical ethics committees approved each cohort [10].

ELAPSE's assessment of air pollution exposure has been extensively described elsewhere. In brief, the baseline residential addresses of every person in the cohorts were used to estimate the annual mean concentrations of PM<sub>2.5</sub>, NO<sub>2</sub>, BC, and warm season O<sub>3</sub> for 2010. Using checking and satellite information, synthetic vehicle model (CTM) gauges, land use, and street factors, as potential indicator factors, normalized all inclusive cross breed land-use relapse (LUR) models were created on 100 m x 100 m grids at a fine spatial scale [11]. For PM<sub>2.5</sub>, NO<sub>2</sub>, BC, and O<sub>3</sub>, the LUR models explained 72%, 59%, 54%, and 69% of the measured spatial variation, respectively, in fivefold hold-out validation. For the years 2009 and 2010, the reflectance of PM<sub>2.5</sub> filters was used to calculate BC, which was expressed in absorbance units. O<sub>3</sub> fixations were assessed as the greatest running 8-hour midpoints in the warm season. A back extrapolation of air pollution concentrations was used for the cohorts with available residential address history. We utilized two distinct approaches to back-extrapolation: 1) ratio and 2) distinction [12].

## Discussion

The methods are described in detail in previous publications. Briefly, we compared the ratio and difference between the year of estimate and 2010 to extrapolate the annual air pollution level for each individual using the air pollution estimate from the Danish Eulerian Hemispheric Model (DEHM). Since at least 1990, DEHM has provided monthly mean concentration estimates for Europe at a spatial resolution of 26 km x 26 km [13]. The monthly levels of two different back-extrapolation methods ratio and difference were used to calculate the annual levels that changed over time. The European Study of Cohorts for Air Pollution Effects (ESCAPE) project defined eight PM<sub>2.5</sub> components that were chosen to represent major pollution sources: as non-tailpipe traffic emissions, copper (Cu), iron (Fe), and zinc (Zn); secondary inorganic aerosols are transported over long distances by sulfur (S); nickel (Ni) and vanadium (V) as an industry and fuel for

oil burning; silicon (Si) as a component of the crust, and; potassium (K) when burning biomass. Using Europe-wide LUR models developed with two algorithms [14], we estimated exposure to these eight PM<sub>2.5</sub> components at the baseline residential addresses of the participants in 2010: supervised linear regression (SLR) and random forest (RF) algorithms based on the standard ESCAPE project monitoring data, with additional information about the models available elsewhere. For the purpose of modeling local spatial variability, we used estimates of components from the large-scale satellite model and CTM to represent background concentrations [15]. At the European scale, models were responsible for explaining anywhere from 41% to 90% of the measured concentration variation across components [16].

## Conclusion

According to the statistical protocol for the ELAPSE project, which is described in detail elsewhere, associations between air pollution and mortality from dementia, psychiatric disorders, and suicide were examined using Cox proportional hazards models with age as the underlying timescale. 2021). Participants in the cohort were followed from the year of enrollment (baseline), with the first cohort entry occurring in 1985 and the last one occurring in 2005 (both in VHM&PP). Participants were followed up until the outcome of interest occurred, they emigrated, they lost access to follow-up, or their follow-up ended; whatever happened first. Due to a lack of power, we were unable to display the suicide probability in Kaplan-Meier curves, but the survival probability for dementia and psychiatric disorders was. Each of the four air pollutants' associations with dementia mortality, psychiatric disorders mortality, and suicide mortality were all modelled in three steps, with increasing control for individual and area-level covariates: Model 1 was adjusted for year of cohort baseline, sex (strata), age (time axis), and sub-cohort (strata). Model 2 also adjusted for current, former, and never-smoking status, smoking duration (in years) for current smokers, and smoking intensity (linear and squared term; cigarettes per day), BMI (body mass index), and categories for current smokers: 30 kg/m<sup>2</sup>, marital status (married/cohabiting, divorced/separated, single, widowed), and employment status (employed/self-employed, other); The main model, Model 3, also took into account socioeconomic status (SES) at the neighborhood or municipality level in 2001. Complete case analysis of both exposure and covariate data served as the foundation for all models.

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