PARTICULATE MATTER AIR POLLUTION IN CENTRAL ASIA: A CASE STUDY OF BISHKEK, KYRGYZSTAN

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Jay R. Turner

Professor of Energy, Environmental & Chemical Engineering James McKelvey Professor of Engineering Education Vice Dean for Education, McKelvey School of Engineering Washington University in St. Louis / USA

Rufus Edwards Professor of Professor, Epidemiology and Biostatistics University of California, Irvine/USA

2021 population exposures to outdoor fine particulate matter ($PM_{2.5}$)

Hybrid Model with All Sources



IT-x = WHO Interim Targets (Air Quality Guideline = $5 \mu g/m^3$)

Jay Turner, Washington University in St. Louis, USA methodology from van Donkelaar *et al.* (2021) data from https://sites.wustl.edu/acag/ (accessed 09 Nov 2023)



Annual Average PM_{2.5} (2018)

Hybrid Model with All Sources



map created by Jay Turner, data from Hammer et al. 2020

IT-x = WHO Interim Targets (Air Quality Guideline = $5 \mu g/m^3$)



Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan (pop. ~1 million)





ADI

Bishkek Wintertime PM_{2.5}, like many Central Asian cities, is a mostly local problem

Bishkek



Ala Archa National Park, 30km from Bishkek city center 20km from the peri-urban extent









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Project Team

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HEALTH AND SOCIAL IMPACTS OF AIR POLLUTION ON WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN BISHKEK, KYRGYZSTAN

ENTRY-POINTS FOR ACTION



Objectives and Approach

- Examine the health and social impacts of fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) air pollution on children and women in Bishkek
- Assess entry points for action to reduce air pollution exposures



Our July 2021-June 2022 Study Period was Relatively Less Polluted



This propagates through to the health and economic impact results



PM_{2.5} 12-month average ("annual"), July 2021-June 2022





Clarity Movement Co.

~400% difference in outdoor concentrations across Bishkek

Where you live/work/play matters!



for every child

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average monthly income (som)

... and Coal Stove use broadly distributed across all income brackets

primary energy source for residential space heating

Low

(<5000 som)









High

(>80,000 som)



PM_{2.5} Outdoor Concentrations Strongly Correlated with Residential Coal Use

(July 2021-June 2022; same pattern using winter average PM_{2.5})

















Distribution of Outdoor PM_{2.5} at Residences



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Population mean concentration does not well represent this broad distribution of concentrations

Using 2019 population data...

- 20% of population < 25 μg/m³ (IT-2)
- 50% of population > 40 μ g/m³ (>IT-1)
- 10% of population > 60 μg/m³ (>>IT-1)



But people spend most of their time indoors...

outdoor $PM_{2.5}$ concentrations, $PM_{2.5}$ indoor/outdoor ratios, and time-activity data \rightarrow exposures



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Household Indoor/Outdoor (I/O) PM_{2.5} Ratios

TOTAL



I/O ratio ~0.5 across all heating types...

Consistent with infiltration of neighborhood-scale outdoor PM







Health Outcomes Estimates – Bishkek, July 2021 to June 2022

- Annual health impacts from PM_{2.5} exposure were estimated to cause:
 - 112 Deaths (95% CI 97-131)
 - loss of 3,568 Disability Adjusted Life Years (DALYs) (95% CI 2,990-4,220)
- 2021-2022 estimated welfare loss from PM_{2.5} air pollution:
 - 24.9 million USD (95% CI 20.8-29.4)

Project report and three policy briefs available on the UNICEF Kyrgyzstan website





Residential Heating Interventions Options

Better temperature control of buildings on district central heating



Expand natural gas distribution network



HEAT PUMPS

air-to-air heat pump (commercial building)

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Summary I: Bishkek PM_{2.5} Air Quality

- Moderately dense low-cost sensor (LCS) network (~5km²/LCS)
 - Identified high PM_{2.5} spatial variability (factor of four) across Bishkek
 - Enabled PM_{2.5} exposure estimation at 1km² resolution
 - Determined influence of mountain-valley airflow on PM_{2.5} (not shown)
- PM_{2.5} network and household survey
 - Highlighted residential coal stoves as the dominant source of wintertime PM_{2.5}
- Simultaneous Indoor/Outdoor Monitoring
 - Generated relationships needed for PM_{2.5} exposure modeling
 - Identified indoor PM_{2.5} dominated by infiltration of ambient air
 - Emissions directly to the indoor air are low for vented, properly functioning stoves
 - "It is your stove and your neighbor's stoves" leading to indoor exposures

Summary II: Bishkek PM_{2.5} Air Quality

- Large differences in PM_{2.5} exposures across the city
- Residential stoves drive high neighborhood-scale outdoor air pollution
- Interventions to reduce PM_{2.5} emissions must be at the neighborhood or larger scale to reduce household-level exposures
- Absent (or in addition to) emissions reductions, there are household-level actions to reduce PM_{2.5}
 exposures (e.g., air purifiers)

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For more information, contact Jay Turner, JRTURNER@WUSTL.EDU

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