

NYC COMMUNITY AIR SURVEY

The New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) and Queens College of the City University of New York (QC-CUNY) are conducting the New York City Community Air Survey, or NYCCAS, a program to monitor air quality across New York City. NYCCAS helps us better understand air pollution levels and patterns by revealing how pollution from traffic, buildings and other sources varies among the city's neighborhoods. This helps us identify which neighborhoods have the highest pollutant levels and where changes can be made to improve air quality.



Pollutants

NYCCAS monitors pollutants that cause health problems such as lung and heart disease. These pollutants – which include fine particles, nitrogen oxides, elemental carbon, sulfur dioxide and ozone – come from motor vehicles, boilers and furnaces in buildings, and other sources.



Monitors

NYCCAS air pollution monitors are mounted about 10 feet off the ground on light or utility poles along streets and in parks. Monitors use a small battery-powered pump and filters to collect air samples. Monitors do not contain radiation or chemicals that can be released, and they do not take videos or pictures.



Monitor Installations

NYCCAS team members install monitors four times a year and monitors remain in place for a two-week period. Team members drive vehicles with official license plates and always carry QC-CUNY or DOHMH identification.



Locations

There are about 100 NYCCAS air pollution monitors installed throughout the five boroughs, with at least one in each Community District. Many are located in neighborhoods with lots of traffic and buildings. Others are in quieter locations with fewer buildings. Some monitors are placed near unique facilities, like bus depots and ferry terminals.