New HEI studies assessing health effects of low levels of air pollution

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HEI Annual Conference, May 1-3, 2016
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Key Features

Very large populations drawn from administrative databases (e.g., national census) or multiple (traditional) cohort studies

Exposure models at fine spatial resolution

Development and application of new statistical methods (e.g., indirect confounder control, causal modeling, exposure measurement error)
Geographical areas
Large Study Populations

~56 million Americans using Medicare and Medicaid data

~6 million Canadians using Canadian Census Data

~25 million Europeans using traditional cohorts and 6 large administrative cohorts
The European Study of Cohorts for Air Pollution Effects (ESCAPE) was recently completed.

Data of 10 ESCAPE cohorts will be pooled.

6 large administrative cohorts will be used as well.
Health Outcomes

All cause and cause-specific mortality

Lung cancer incidence

Cause-specific hospitalization
Exposure Assessment

- PM$_{2.5}$, NO$_2$, O$_3$, [PM components including BC]
- Hybrid models that combine satellite data, chemical transport models, land use variables, and monitoring data
- Exposure estimated at high spatial resolution (address level, 1 by 1 km grid)
- Residential mobility taken into account
- New statistical methods will be developed to correct for exposure measurement error
Exposure – Canadian study
Validation study satellite data with ground level measurements

Part of SPARTAN, http://www.spartan-network.org
Exposure – US study

- PM$_{2.5}$, NO$_2$, O$_3$, PM components
- Different exposure data sources including satellite data and ground based monitoring
- Exposure estimated at 1 by 1 km grid

**GROUND MONITORING DATA (EPA):**
- Gases, PM2.5 Mass & Species
- Land Use Variables (NGA)
- National Emission Inventories (EPA)
- Weather and Visibility (NOAA)
- Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NASA)
Exposure – European study

- PM$_{2.5}$, NO$_2$, O$_3$, BC
- Europe-wide models as well as location-specific models
- Land use regression models that include satellite data, air pollution dispersion estimates, land use variables, traffic data and ESCAPE monitoring data
- Exposure estimated at address level
Confounding

Detailed individual-level information in ESCAPE cohorts:

- Age, gender, marital status, SES, active and passive smoking, diet, BMI

Less individual covariate information available in administrative cohorts:

- Age, gender, marital status, SES
Confounding - Indirect methods

Individual co-morbidity data for diseases linked with smoking, e.g., COPD

Ancillary information from surveys, e.g., the Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS) and the Medicare Current Beneficiary Survey (MCBS)

Statistical methods available (e.g., Shin et al. 2014, Environmental Research)
Analyses

• Cox proportional hazard models (relative and absolute risk) and causal modeling
• Single and multi-pollutant models
• Rigorous control for important confounding variables
• Possible interactions (e.g., air pollution and smoking)
• Many additional analyses (e.g., timing of exposure, additional control for traffic noise)
Characterize possible exposure-response functions

A priori ‘simple’ shapes will be explored based on biologically plausibility and suitability for risk assessment.

Also fitting splines, threshold models and subgroup analyses (below specified concentrations)
Thank You