Team Science:

A Cross-Disciplinary Training Approach to Engaging Schools in Citizen Science

Project Coordinator: Luz Guel









Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

The Transdisciplinary Center on Early Environmental Exposures



The Mount Sinai Transdisciplinary Center on Early Environmental Exposures

> Community Engagement Core (CEC) **New York City**



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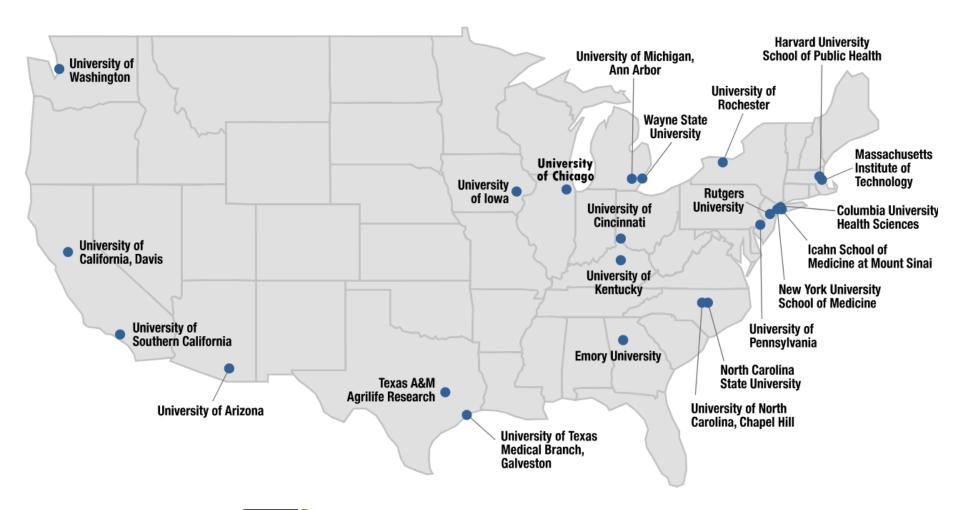




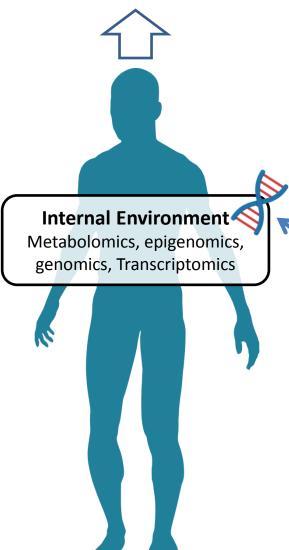




NIEHS Environmental Health Sciences Cores



Health Risk & Impact Assessment











Stress

Social Capital

Education

Climate





Urban **Environment Status**

Financial

Specific External Environment







Chemicals

Diseases Air Pollution







Physical Activity

Diet









Social and Economic Stress

Bronx	East Harlem	NYC
43%	31%	21%
16%	12%	11%
31%	29%	20%
	43% 16%	43% 31% 16% 12%

Health Burden: Estimated Emergency Visits attributable to PM 2.5 & Ozone (average annual rate per 100,000) **New York City East Harlem Bronx**

150

■ PM 2.5

200

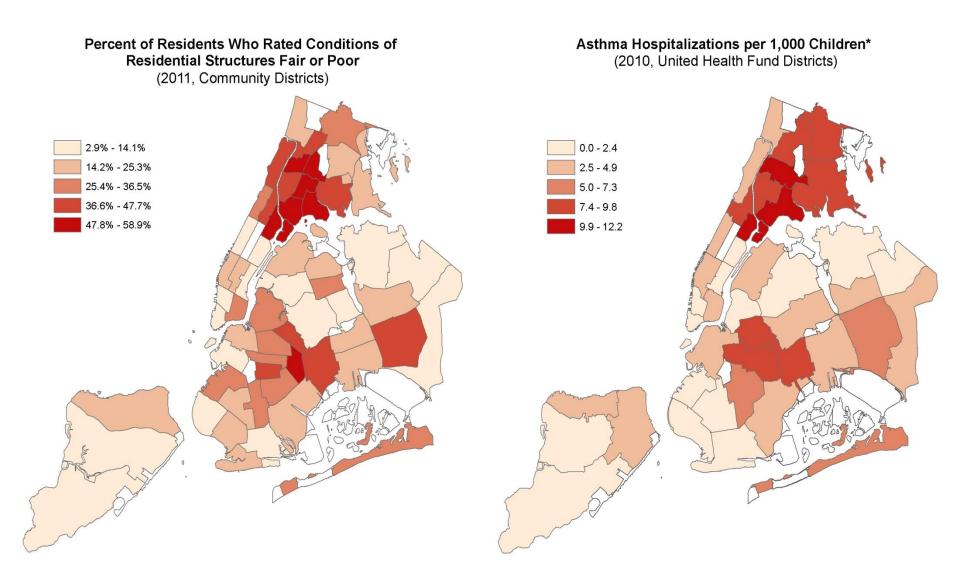
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300

50

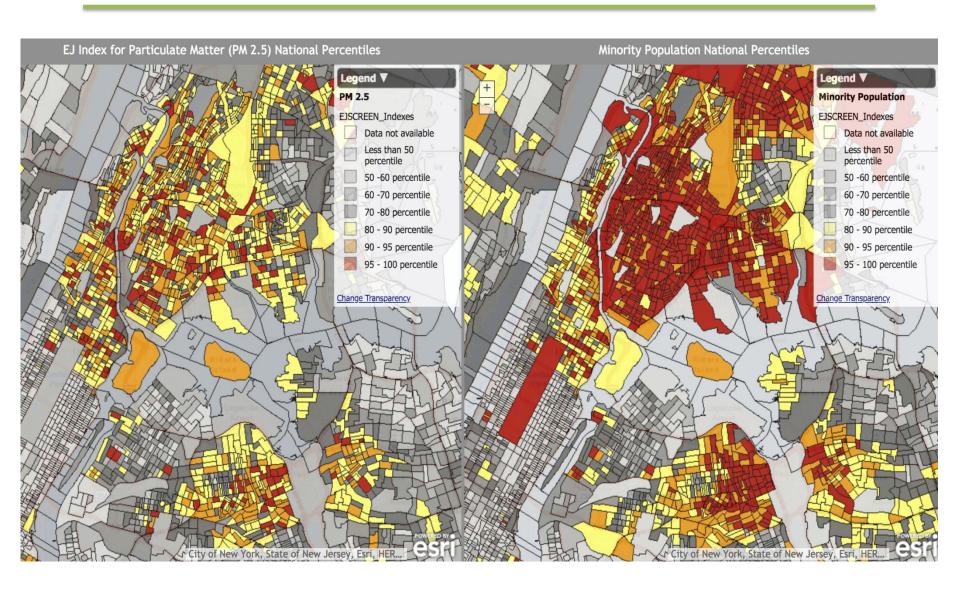
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Ozone



^{*} Children under age 15. Source: Citizens' Committee for Children of New York (2013), Keeping Track of New York City's Children, Tenth Edition; Figure 3.12 and Figure 4.15.

Environmental Inequality: Race, Income, and Environmental Racism





Health Professionals

Policy Makers





Community Groups



Advocacy Groups



Educators



Environmental Health Research:



Creating Equitable, Healthy
Communities through
Community Driven Research



What is Team Science?

Team science is a collaborative effort to address a scientific challenge that leverages the strengths and expertise of professionals trained in different fields.

Project Partners













New York Hall of Science





Transdisciplinary Center on Health Effects of Early Environmental Exposures



Citizen Science in NYC School Communities

The project engaged students in air quality research that informed public health interventions and empowered students to act as advocates for healthy neighborhoods.

- 8 Middle Schools from Bronx, Brooklyn, and Manhattan
- 1-2 Teachers per school
- AirBeam monitoring devices & apps

Project Timeline

October 14, April 28, September-**November** August-September October 2017 2017-March 2018: 2017 2017 2018: Workshop #1: Workshop #2: Full-day Data Full-day 3-hour Online Citizen Science Recruitment Professional Sharing through DOE Pre-Work Implementation; Development Office of **Data Collection** Sustainability

Cross-Disciplinary Training: Professional Development Course

Goals For Teachers:

- Increase instructional capacity for project-based and placebased learning through Citizen Science
- Build knowledge of environmental factors, in particular air pollution's impact on human and environmental health
- Gain knowledge of citizen science tools assessing environment, environmental law and advocacy

Environmental Health, Epidemiology & Community Engaged Research



Icahn School of Medicine at Mount

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Environmental Justice & Environmental Law

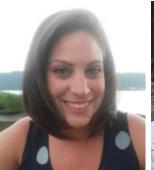




Education for Sustainability & Curriculum Development









AirBeam Technology & Data Analysis







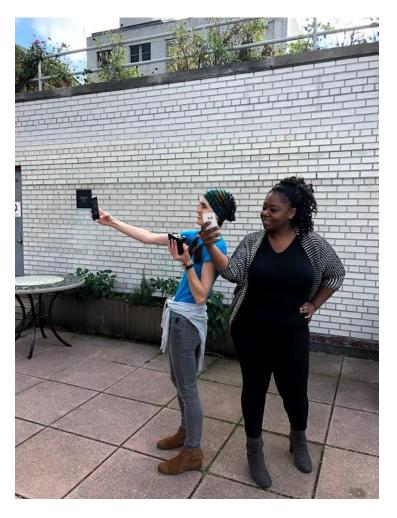
AirBeam

AirBeam is a wearable air monitor that maps, graphs & crowdsources your pollution exposures in real-time



AirBeam Technology Training





Environmental Health in Schools

 Teachers witness the daily consequences of students being absent due to stressors contributing to their illness

Teachers promote healthy futures for children by providing them with the

education that allows them to advocate for themselves





Best Practices in Asthma In-Home Interventions Pane

Citizen Science in the Classroom

Data Collected:

- Asthma Hospitalization Rates
- Car/Truck Count
- Demographics
- Idling Vehicles
- Noise
- PM 2.5
- Soil Sampling
- Temperature & Humidity



Central Park East: No Findings?



Students ask construction workers if they can blow their cigarette smoke into the Air Beam



Students share stories about their asthma and how family/neighbors smoke indoors



Students see the Air Beam PM 2.5 count spike up





No drastic changes to PM 2.5

The Chapin School: Vehicles Idling Outside of School

- Vehicles idled the most during lunch and dismissal
- ➤ No one enforced the idling laws
- > People turned their vehicles off only when they saw kids with cameras





Research to Action: The Chapin School

Promote stronger enforcement of idling laws



Educate people about the effects of air pollution on health, especially for children.



Proposed that school use
Ecosia a default search
engine that plants trees
with it's profits

Informational Posters
about Indoor Air
Pollution: Anti-Smoking
and Banning Nicotine



PS 111: Car Traffic & Health

Car Traffic



- ➤ 60-70 Cars pass by PS 111 every hour
- Students created lung model and comic books to educate peers

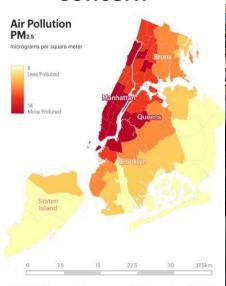
Re-Establishing the Eco-Club



➤ 5th Grade student lead the discussion/debates about what more they could do to improve the school community

Symposium

Community Concern



PM2.5 is fine particulate matter of diameter less than 2.5 micrometers. These tiny dust particles, when inhaled, lead to numerous health conditions including early deaths, and heart and lung related illnesses.

Research



Action



Dissemination & Education

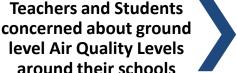




Teachers and Students

level Air Quality Levels

around their schools



Each class collects air quality data around their school using an **AirBeam**



Students draw conclusions from the collected data and develop recommendations for pollution prevention in their neighborhood.



Each school presented their findings to the community at CUNY Law School











Team Science: Importance of Partnerships





Lessons Learned

- There is a need for citizen science in schools
- Youth voices matter
- Future generation of team scientists
- Training teachers in February 2019
 - Mount Sinai
 - NY Hall of Science



THANK YOU!



Icahn

Mount Sinai

The Transdisciplinary School of Center on Early Medicine at Environmental Exposures