

Clean Air



Nearly one-quarter of all deaths and overall disease burden can be attributed to modifiable environmental factors. Children, elderly persons, and those with chronic health conditions are particularly sensitive to poor environmental quality. Air pollution (indoor and outdoor) has been linked to decreased lung function, asthma, lung cancer, and other respiratory conditions.

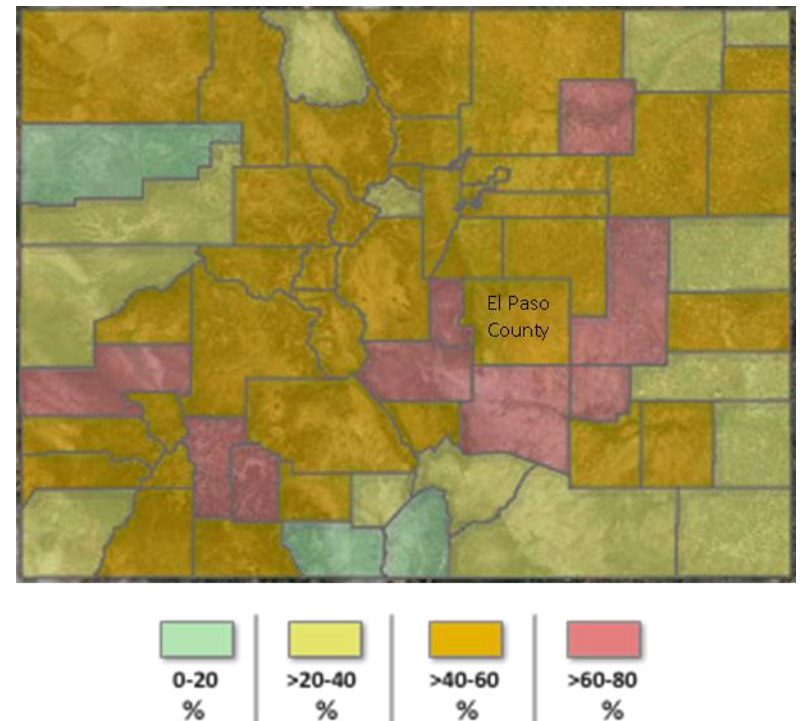
Outdoor air quality is measured through daily monitoring of ozone and particulate matter levels. The National Ambient Air Quality Standards are federal limits for allowable levels of these pollutants. Particulate matter 2.5 (PM_{2.5}) includes very small particles of dust, dirt, smoke, soot and even tiny drops of liquid. It is called PM_{2.5} because these particles are between 0.01 and 2.5 micrometers in size. The small size of these particles allows them to get deep into the lungs, which is a health hazard. Air monitors measure PM_{2.5} hourly in some areas, and either daily or once every third day in other areas. Ground level ozone is the major component in what we usually call smog.

Indoor air quality (radon)

In 2009 for El Paso County:

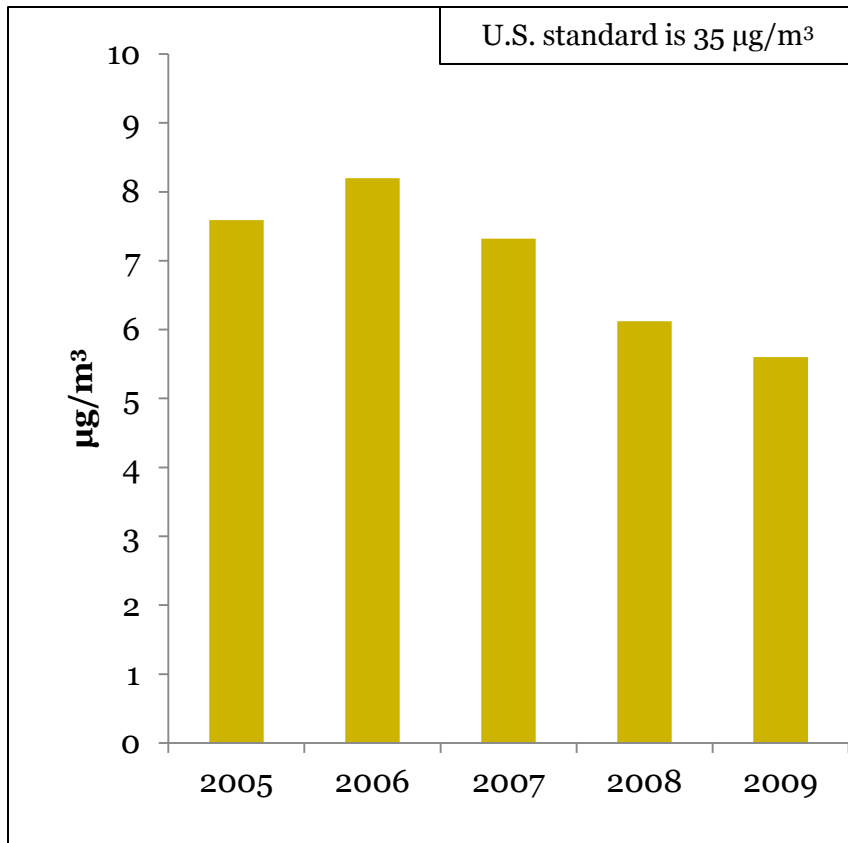
- 73 percent of adults reporting knowledge of what radon is.
- 36 percent of adults had their home tested for radon.

Percent of indoor air radon tests above the Environmental Protection Agency action level of 4pCi/L, by county, 2005-2009



Outdoor air quality, El Paso County

Annual average levels of PM_{2.5} in the county, by year



Number of days the county was over the U.S. standard ozone concentrations, by year

