

# CALIFORNIA Air Resources Board

Chair's Air Pollution Seminar  
January 12, 2010

Cardiovascular Response to Freeway Air:  
Results of an On-Road Exposure Study

William C. Hinds, ScD.

# INTRODUCTION

# Project Overview

- Human subjects
  - 19 subjects
  - Over age of 60
  - Healthy
- 2-hour exposure
  - Filtered or unfiltered
  - I-710 or I-405 freeways
  - Detailed physical characterization of aerosol
- Short term indicators of exposure or response to UFP on freeways
  - HRV + cardiac rhythm (24 hour)
  - Blood biomarkers (before, after, next day)

# Impetus for Study

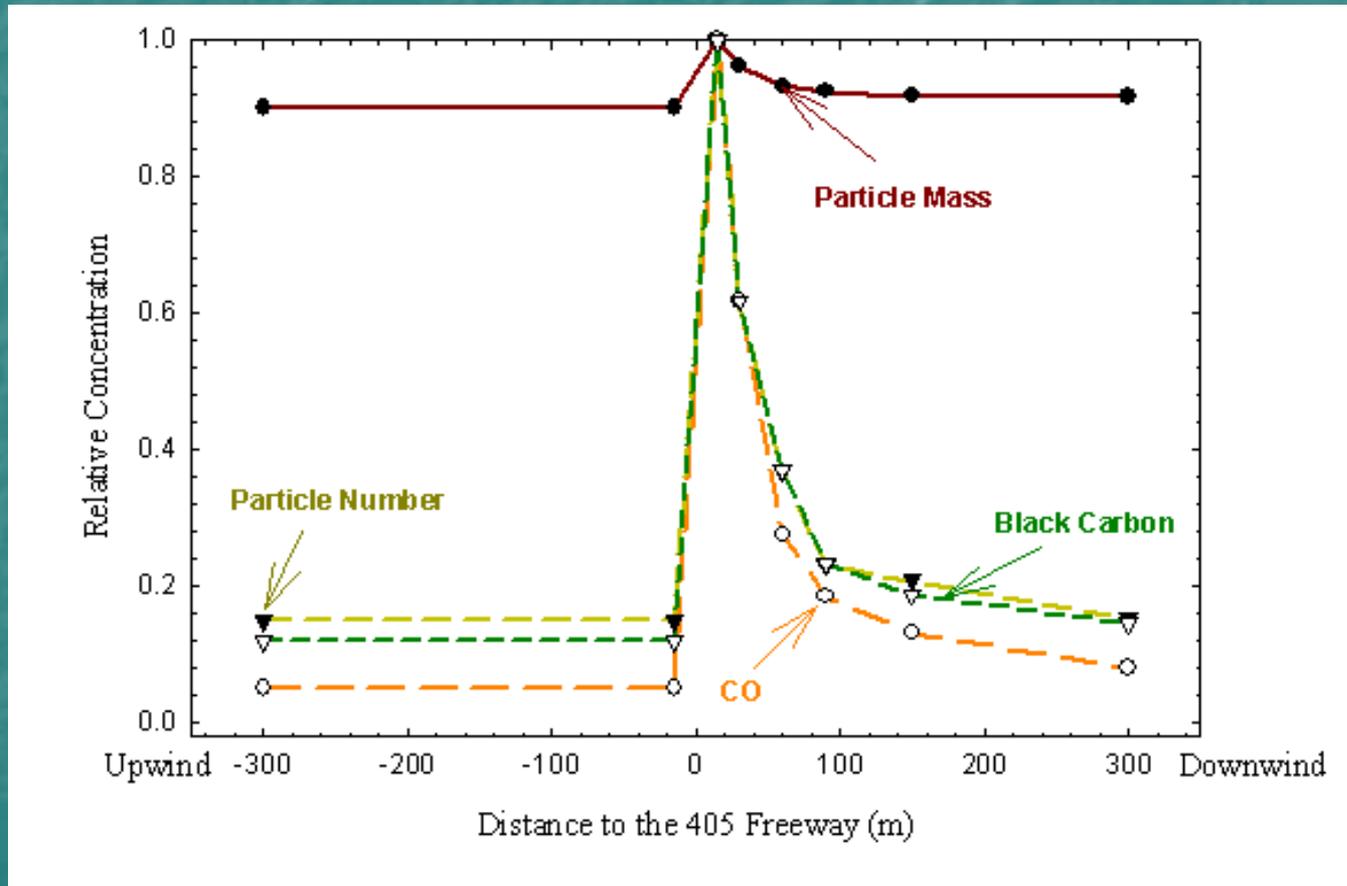
- High concentration of ultrafine particles on or near freeways (Zhu et al, 2002)
  - For typical LA commuter bulk of daily exposure occurs on freeway
- Change in HRV associated with PM-2.5 for NC highway patrol (Riediker et al, 2004)
- Risk of MI increases with time spent in traffic preceding 2 hours (Peters et al, 2004 )

# Impetus for Study



# Impetus for Study

**PREVIOUS STUDY:** Relative Particle Number, Mass, Black Carbon, CO Concentration, vs. Downwind Distance from Freeway 405 during daytime.



Yifang Zhu, William C. Hinds, Seongheon Kim and Constantinos Sioutas “Concentration and size distribution of ultrafine particles near a major highway”, 2002, *J. of Air and Waste Management Association*, 52:1032-1042.

# Impetus for Study

Particulate Matter Exposure in Cars Is Associated with Cardiovascular Effects in Healthy Young Men



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## Original Article

### Particulate Matter Exposure in Cars Is Associated with Cardiovascular Effects in Healthy Young Men

Michael Riediker, Wayne E. Cascio, Thomas R. Griggs, Margaret C. Herbst, Philip A. Bromberg, Lucas Neas, Ronald W. Williams and Robert B. Devlin

Center for Environmental Medicine, Asthma and Lung Biology; Division of Cardiology, School of Medicine, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; North Carolina State Highway Patrol; Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Research and Development; National Health and Environmental Effects Research Laboratory, Research Triangle Park; and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Research and Development, National Exposure Research Laboratory, Research Triangle Park, North Carolina

Correspondence and requests for reprints should be addressed to Michael Riediker, Institut de Santé au Travail (Institute of Occupational Sciences), Rue du Bugnon 19, CH-1005 Lausanne, Switzerland; e-mail: michael.riediker@alumni.ethz.ch

Exposure to fine airborne particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>)

with cardiovascular events and mortality in older and cardiac patients. Potential physiologic effects of in-vehicle, roadside, and ambient PM<sub>2.5</sub> were investigated in young, healthy, nonsmoking, male North Carolina Highway Patrol troopers. Nine troopers (age 23 to 30) were monitored on 4 successive days while working a 3 P.M. to midnight shift. Each patrol car was equipped with air-quality monitors. Blood was drawn 14 hours after each shift, and ambulatory monitors recorded the electrocardiogram

In-vehicle PM-2.5 was associated with changes in lymphocytes, neutrophils, C-reactive protein, von Willebrand factor, heart rate variability factors, and ectopic beats in a group of young, healthy, nonsmoking male Highway Patrol troopers.

# Impetus for Study



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### ORIGINAL ARTICLE

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Number 17

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## Exposure to Traffic and the Onset of Myocardial Infarction

Annette Peters, Ph.D., Stephanie von Klot, M.P.H., Margit Heier, M.D., Ines Trentinaglia, B.S., Allmut Hörmann, M.S.,  
H. Erich Wichmann, M.D.

### ABSTRACT

*Background* An association between traffic exposure and exacerbation of cardiovascular disease was hypothesized. We designed a case-control study to assess whether exposure to traffic was associated with the onset of myocardial infarction.

*Methods* We conducted a case-control study using data from the Myocardial Infarction Registry 1999 to July 2001. There were 1,000 myocardial infarction cases known who had survived for at least 24 hours after the event, completed the registry's standardized interview, and provided information on factors that may have triggered the myocardial infarction. Data on subjects' activities during the four days preceding the onset of

"Time spent in traffic (including time in cars, on public transport, or riding bicycles) 1 or 2 hours earlier increased the relative risk of MI onset by 2- to 3-fold compared with control periods."

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# Overall Objectives

- Determine if exposure to freeway air changes HRV or blood chemistry
- Determine if these changes increase with increases in fine or ultrafine particle exposure
- Provide data for estimating in-vehicle exposure to ultrafine particles on freeways

# Specific Objectives

- Develop a near real-time, mobile instrumentation system for in-vehicle measurement
  - Concentration and size distribution of UFP
  - Other vehicle-related air pollutants
  - Heart rate variability and measures of cardiovascular health
- Expose subjects to filtered and unfiltered freeway air
  - Gasoline dominated freeway
  - Diesel dominated freeway
  - Rigorous double blinding
- Analyze physiological and environmental data
  - Draw conclusions on health response
  - Write up papers and reports

# Team Leaders

- **PI: William Hinds – UCLA**
  - Overall Coordination
  - Environmental Instruments and Measurements
  - Van Modifications and operation
- **William Linn – LAREI**
  - Subject Recruitment and Screening
  - Lung function
  - Blood samples
  - Holter monitors
  - Physiologic Measurements
- **Yifang Zhu - Texas A&M Kingsville**
  - Instrument Calibration
  - Data management
- **Wayne Cascio - E. Carolina Medical School**
  - Cardiac Measurement and Analysis
  - Biomarker analysis
- **Daniel Stram - USC**
  - Biostatistics

# METHODS

# Experimental Design

**Subjects (60 or older) were exposed, 1 or 2 at a time, for 2-h periods (~10:00-12:00), at 1 week intervals, random order/double-blind, to:**

- **I-710 freeway (mostly diesel trucks) unfiltered and filtered**
- **I-405/105 freeway (mostly gasoline cars) unfiltered and filtered**

**Environmental measurements in near real time during exposure:**

- **PM-10, PM-2.5, UFP, size dist.**
- **BC, P-PAH**
- **CO, CO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub>**

**Responses were measured in terms of:**

- **24-h Holter ECG (heart rate variability, arrhythmia incidence)**
- **24-h ambulatory blood pressure record**
- **Spirometry & vital signs (pre-, 0, 2, 22 h post-exposure)**
- **Blood biomarkers (pre, 2, 22 h)**
- **Symptom and time-activity diary recording**



# A conventional 9-passenger van was converted to a mobile exposure chamber as shown.

Air monitoring instruments on shock mount platform replacing 3<sup>rd</sup> seat

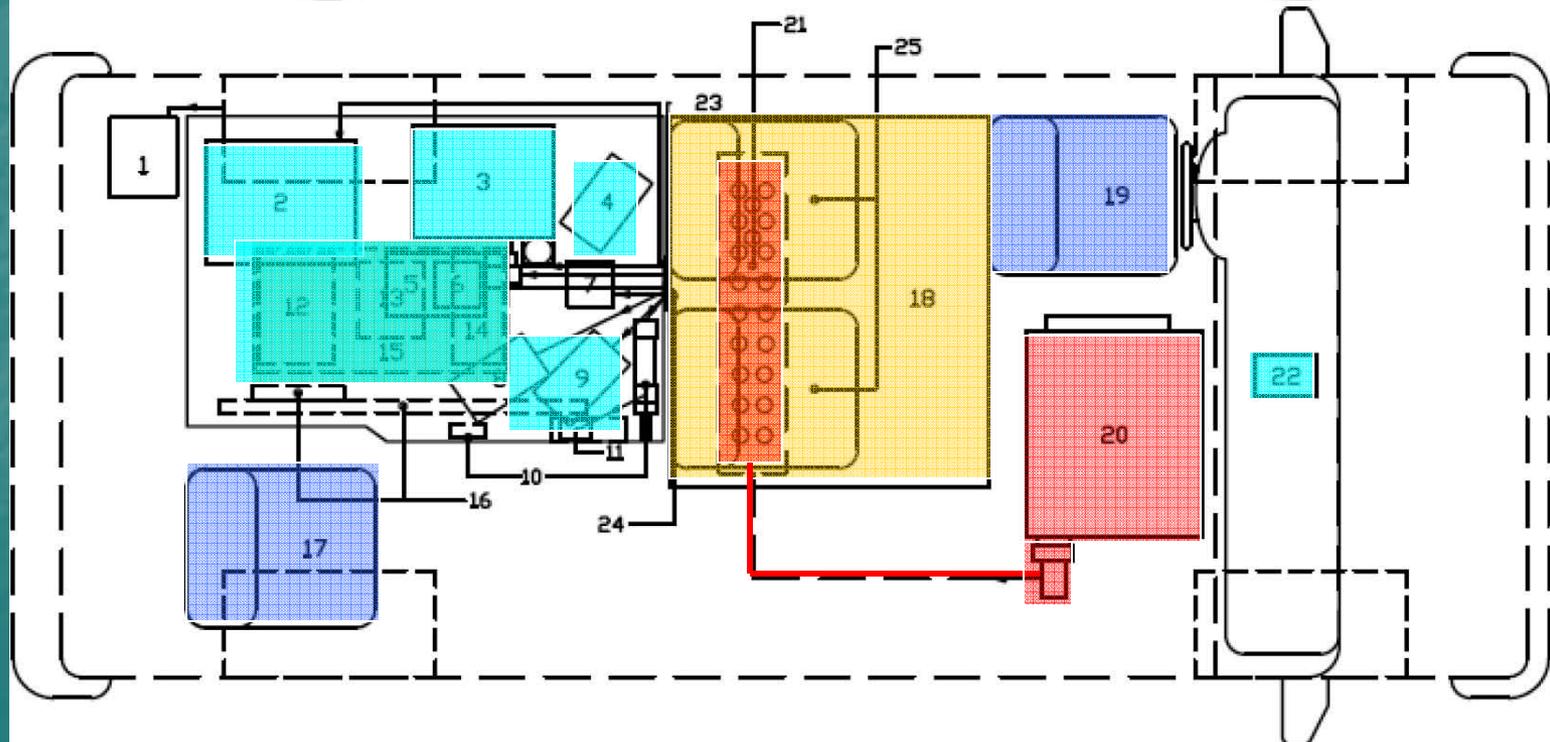
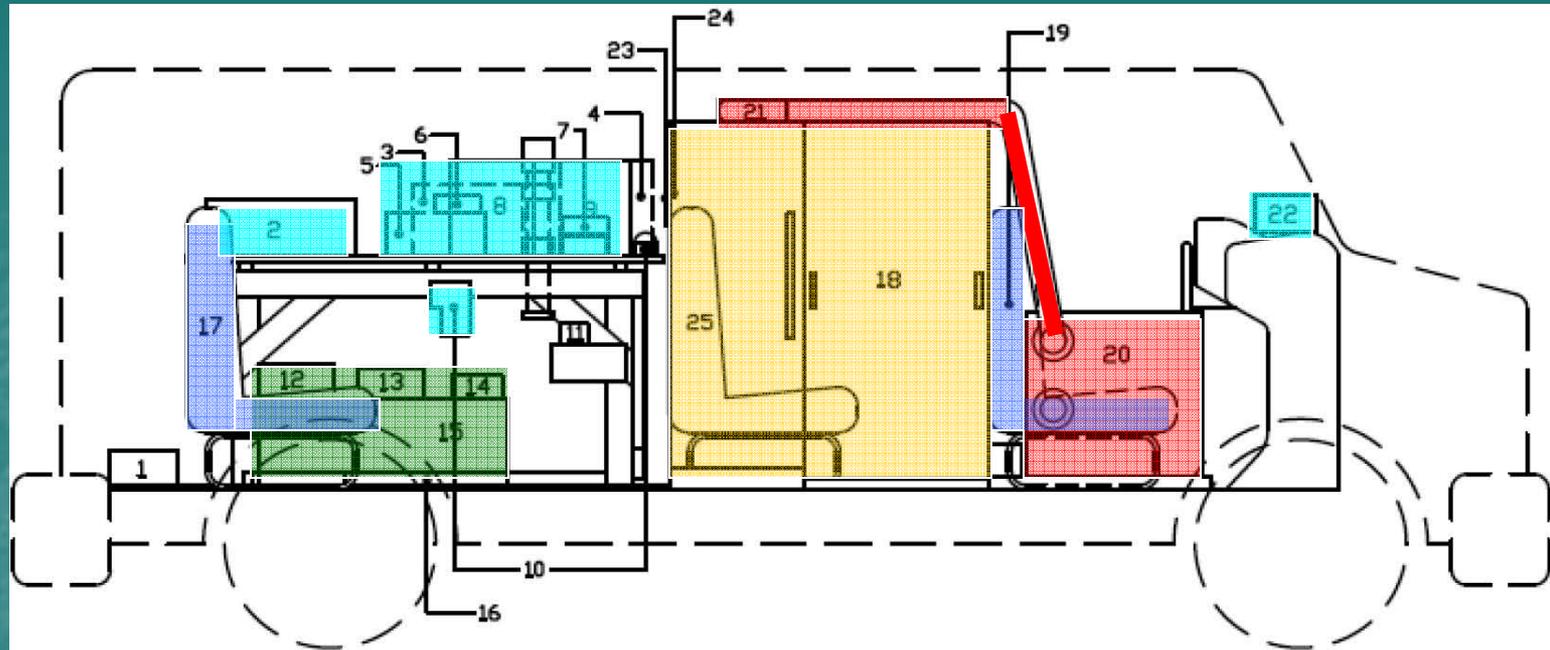
Dash-mounted camera & video recorder document traffic



Battery/inverter power supply under instrument platform

Clear plastic partitions around 2<sup>nd</sup> seat form exposure chamber with ~40 air changes per hour

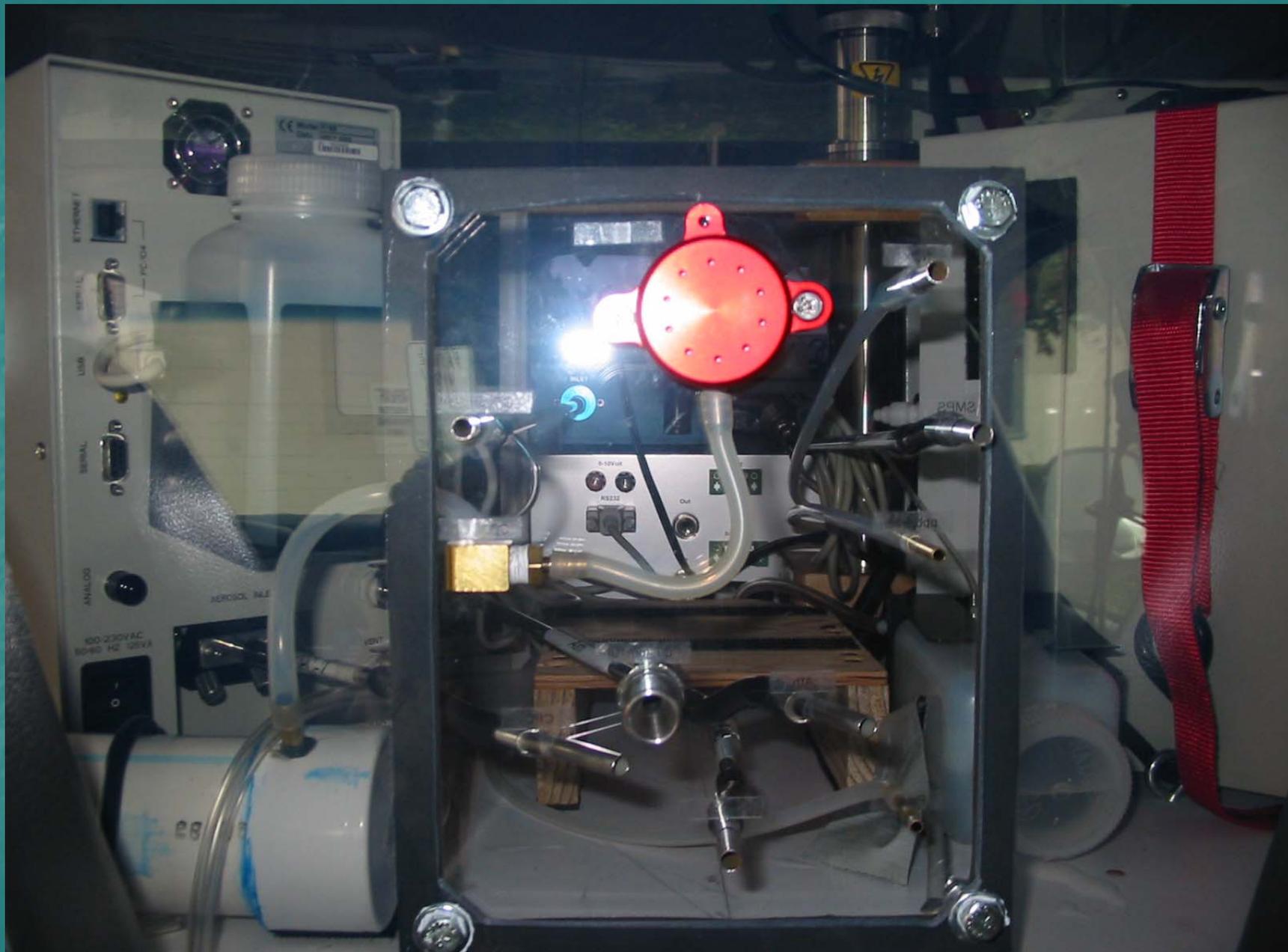
HEPA filter/blower unit in front passenger seat delivers filtered or unfiltered air to chamber













Xantrex  
Sine Wave Inverter 1000  
1000 watts

CONN DISC DISC CONN  
RUN B1 B2 B3 B4  
INV CHG

Caution: Set battery switches before connecting inverter or charger.

Always charge or use at least 2 batteries at a time.

CB1 CB2 CB3 CB4

B2

B3

B4

B1

PRECAUCION:  
AL PRODUCTO  
EN SERVICIO

# Instruments

SMPS: Particle Size Distribution



Water CPC: Total Particle Number Concentration

Dust Trak: Real time PM10, PM2.5



Q-Trak: CO, CO2, Temp, Rh



Portable Aethelometer: EC

EcoChem PAS2000: Particle bound PAHs

PEM: PM2.5 Filter Samples



API 200AU: NO, NO2, NOx



# Environmental Parameters and Measurement methods.

	Species/Parameter	Instrument	Detection Limit	Flow Rate (L/Min)	Response Time (s)
1	Ultrafine Particle Size Distribution	TSI SMPS	Single Particle	1.5	100/200
2	Particle Number Concentration	TSI CPC	Single Particle	0.3	<2
3	PM-10 Real Time Mass	TSI Dusttrak 8520 with 10 $\mu\text{m}$ inlet impactor	1 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$	1.7	60
4	PM-2.5 Real Time Mass	TSI Dusttrak 8520 with 2.5 $\mu\text{m}$ inlet impactor	1 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$	1.7	60
5	Elemental Carbon	Portable Aethelometer AE-42	1 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$	5	60
6	CO, CO <sub>2</sub> , Temperature, Relative humidity	TSI Q-trak	1 ppm, 0.1°C, 1%	n/a	60
7	Particle-bound PAHs	EcoChem PAS 2000	ng/m <sup>3</sup>	2	30
8	NO, NO <sub>2</sub> , NO <sub>x</sub>	API 200AU	<1 ppb	1	60
9	Location and Speed	Camcorder, Garmin GPS18	10 m	n/a	1



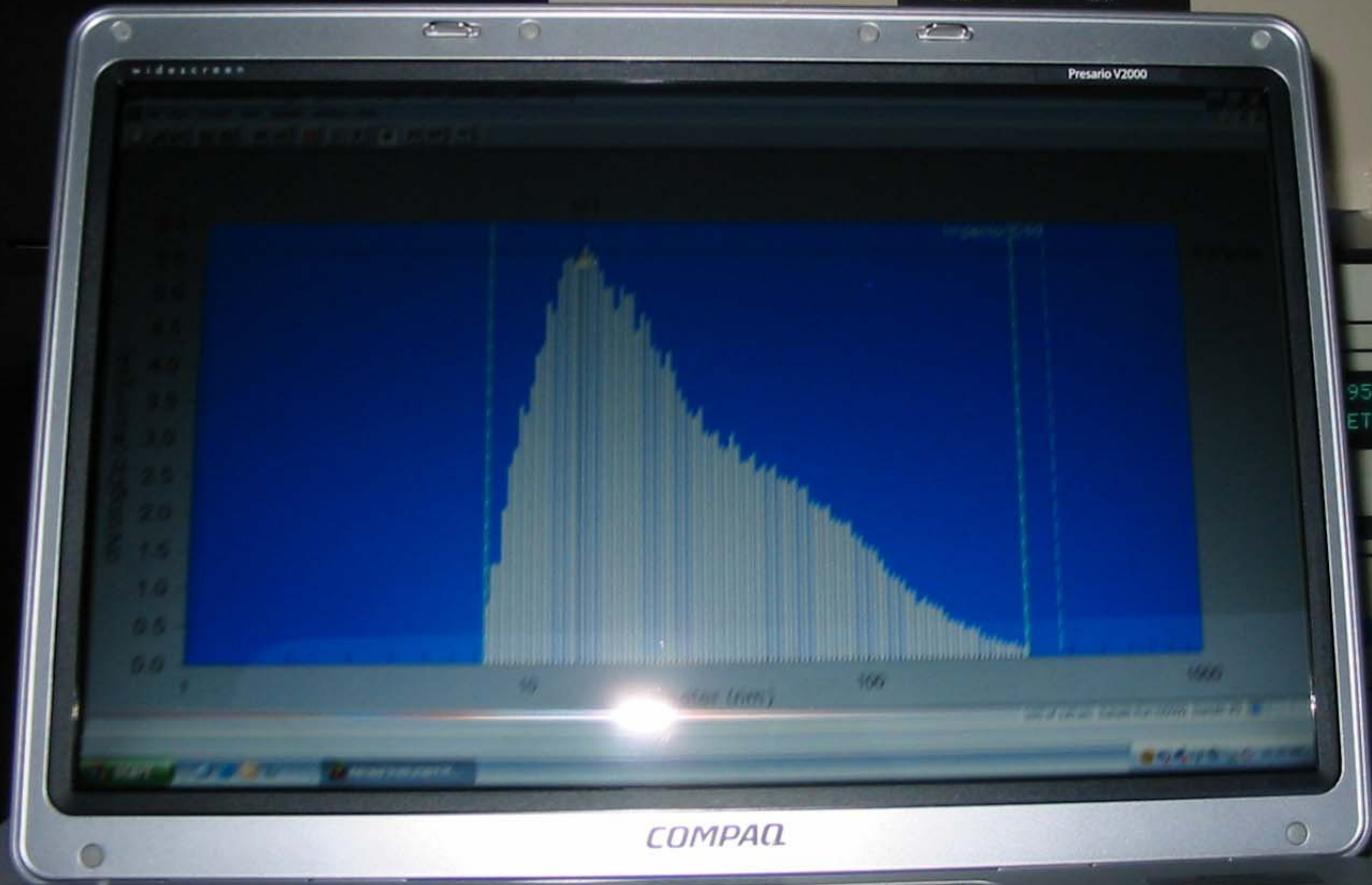


CHAMBER



FILTER

BLACK CHANNEL		
1000	100	10000
10000	1000	100000
100000	10000	1000000
1000000	100000	10000000



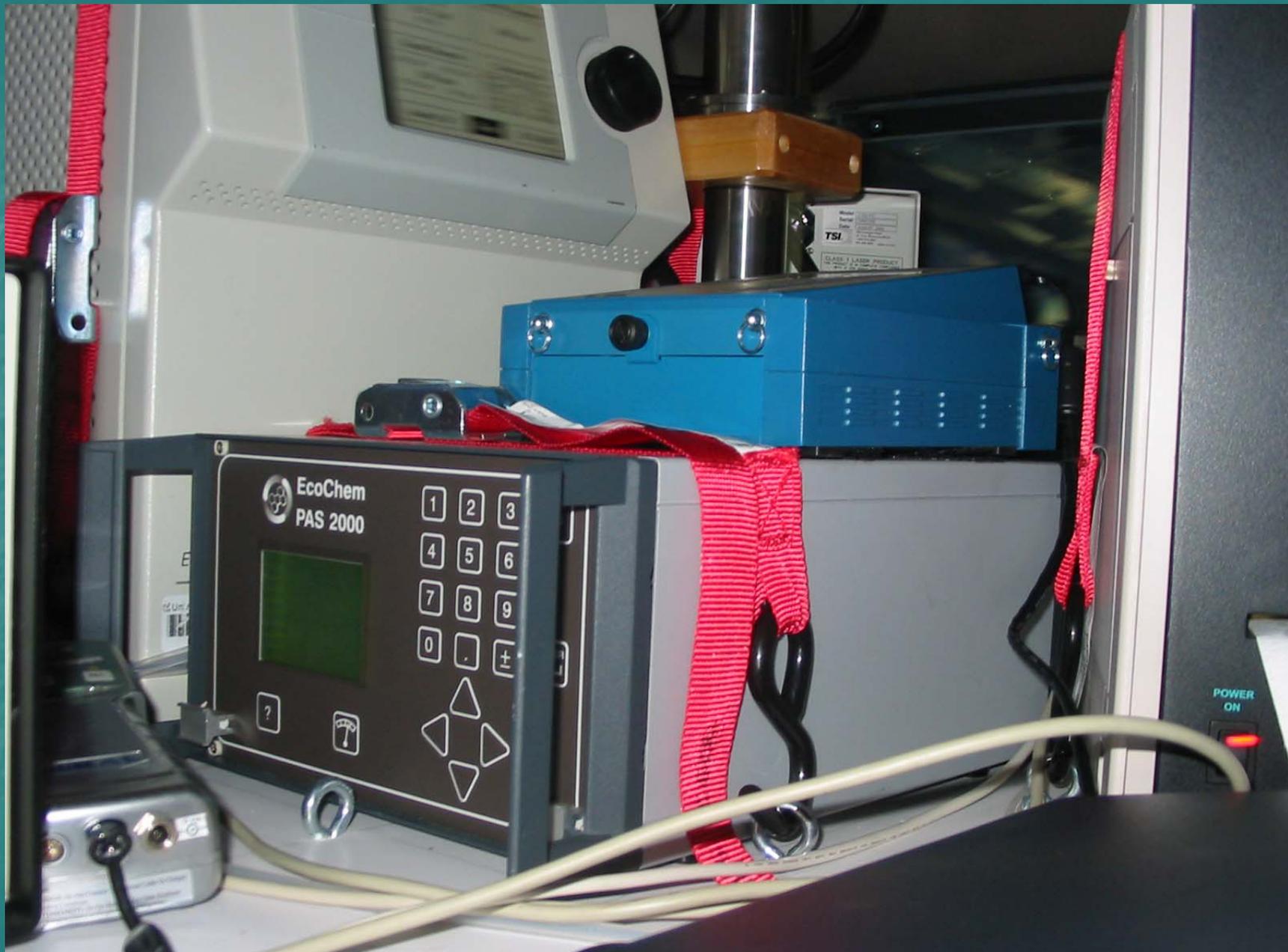
95.0  
SETUP

200EU

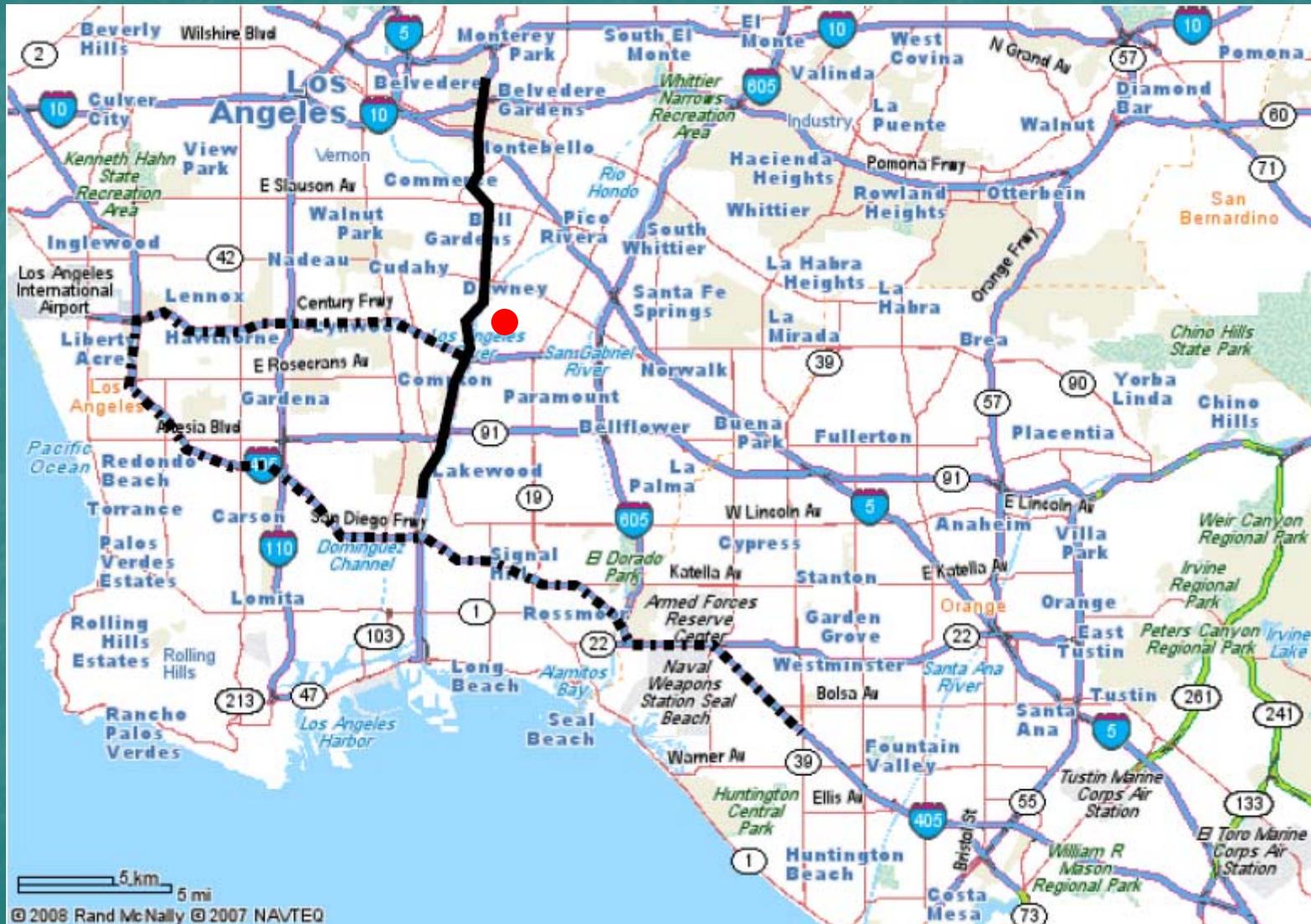
- SAMPLE
- CAL
- FAULT

POWER

COMPAQ



# Exposure Routes



# I-405 and I-710 Freeways



I-405  
Freeway

**Zhu et al., 2002** "Concentration and size distribution of ultrafine particles near a major highway", *J. of Air and Waste Management Association*, 52:1032-1042.



I-710  
Freeway

**Zhu et al., 2002** "Study of Ultrafine Particles near a Major Highway with Heavy-duty Diesel Traffic", 2002, *Atmospheric Environment*, 36: 4323-4335.

# Subject Characteristics

ID #	Sex	Ethnicity	Height (in)	Weight (lb)	Age (y)
2676	F	White	62	156	73
2692	F	White	60.5	138	75
2675	F	White	64	232	65
2680	F	White	66	250	69
2683	F	White	66.5	150	77
2705	M	White	73	142	83
2694	M	Hispanic	70	209	70
2674	M	White	67	158	73
2691	M	Asian	67	186	75
2681	F	White	63.5	129	71
2677	F	Asian	60	141	73
2707	M	White	73	223	65
2713	M	White	71	208	64
2710	F	White	61	128	61
2708	M	White	72	225	68
2709	M	White	68	191	70
2716	M	White	68.5	184	74
2842	M	Hispanic	67	184	66
2841	M	White	66	165	76

# Physiological Measurements

- 12 lead Holter ECG monitor (24-hour)
  - HRV, Arrhythmias
- Ambulatory blood pressure monitor (24-hour)
- Spirometry
  - Lung function – FVC, FEV-1, MMF, Resistance, resonant freq.
- Pulse oximeter – fingertip
  - Arterial Oxygen saturation, pulse rate
- Symptom score
- Time – activity diary record
- Blood draw – biochemical analysis

# Biomarkers

## **Regular blood chemistry**

uric acid  
hematocrit  
MCV  
MCH  
MCHC  
Neutrophils  
lymphocytes  
lymphocyte counts

## **Cytokines**

IL-1b  
IL-6  
IL-8  
IL-10  
MCP-1  
TNF-a

## **Acute phase response**

Fibrinogen  
CRP

## **Vascular injury/repair**

Soluble E-selectin  
Soluble ICAM  
Soluble VCAM  
MMP-9  
PAI-1  
Myeloperoxidase  
VEGF  
vWF

## **Vasoactive peptides and other molecules**

Endothelin-1  
Angiotensin II  
ACE  
Plasminogen  
NT pro-BNP

# Biomarkers

## Regular blood chemistry

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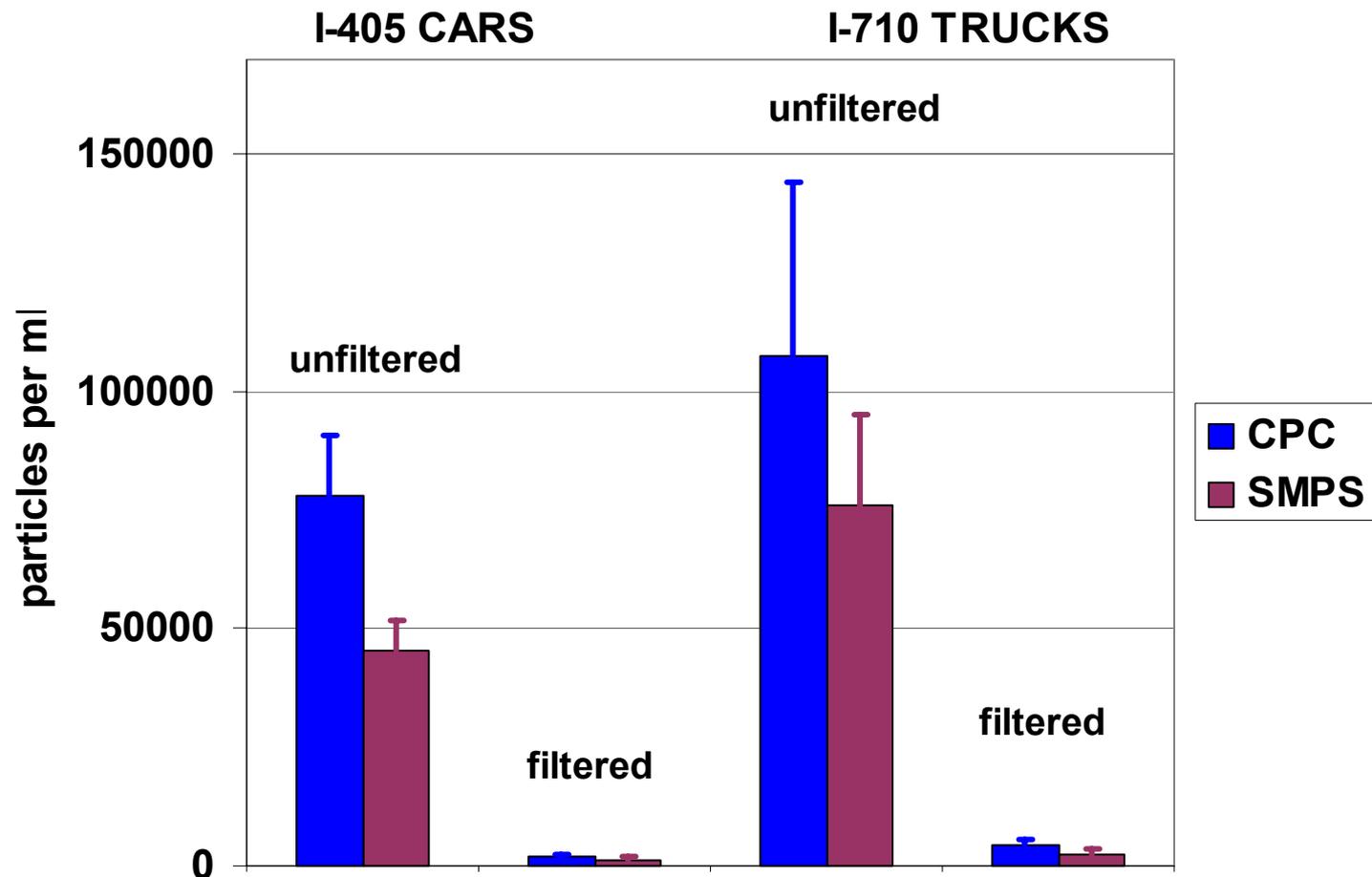
# Exposure Sequence

## ■ Table 2. Sequence of Procedures for Each Exposure Session

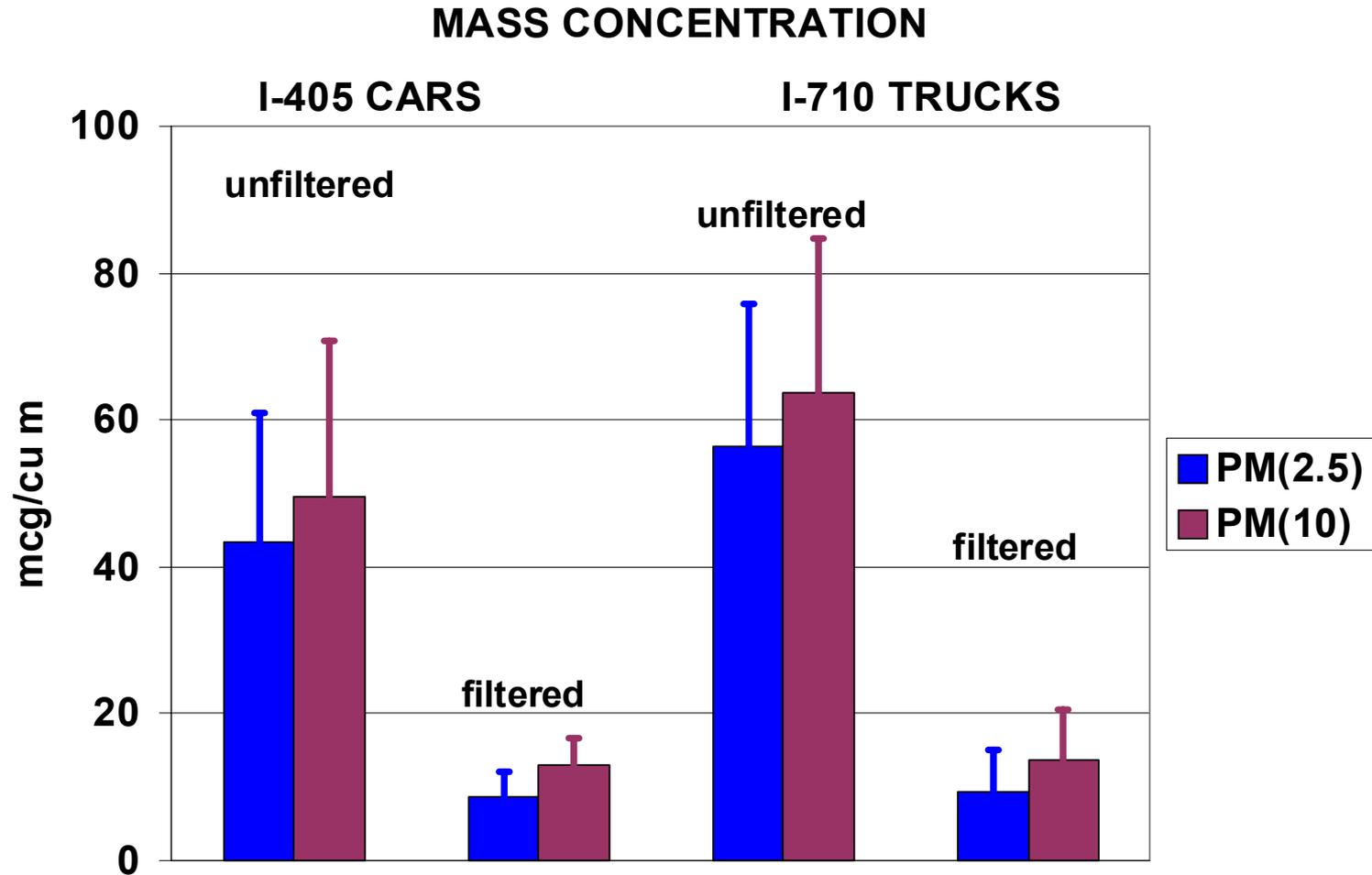
■ <u>Day</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Activity</u>
■ Day 1		
■	08:00	Arrive at lab; rest in clean air; equipment hookup.
■	09:00	Pre-exposure cardiopulmonary examination; symptom recording; SpO <sub>2</sub> ; spirometry; <b>blood draw</b> ; start Holter ECG and ambulatory blood pressure monitor ("pre" testing).
■	10:00	Resting exposure for 2 hr in van on freeway; record symptoms every 15 minutes.
■	12:30	Return to lab; rest in clean air; symptom recording; SpO <sub>2</sub> ; Spirometry ("post" testing).
■	14:30	Symptom recording; SpO <sub>2</sub> ; spirometry; <b>blood draw</b> ("hour 2" testing); leave laboratory; fill out time-activity diary through the following morning.
■ Day 2		
■	08:00	Arrive at lab; rest in clean air; post-exposure cardiopulmonary examination; symptom recording; SpO <sub>2</sub> ; spirometry; <b>blood draw</b> ("day 2" testing).
■	09:00	Discharge from laboratory.
■		<b>Exposures continued one per week for four weeks.</b>

# Environmental Results

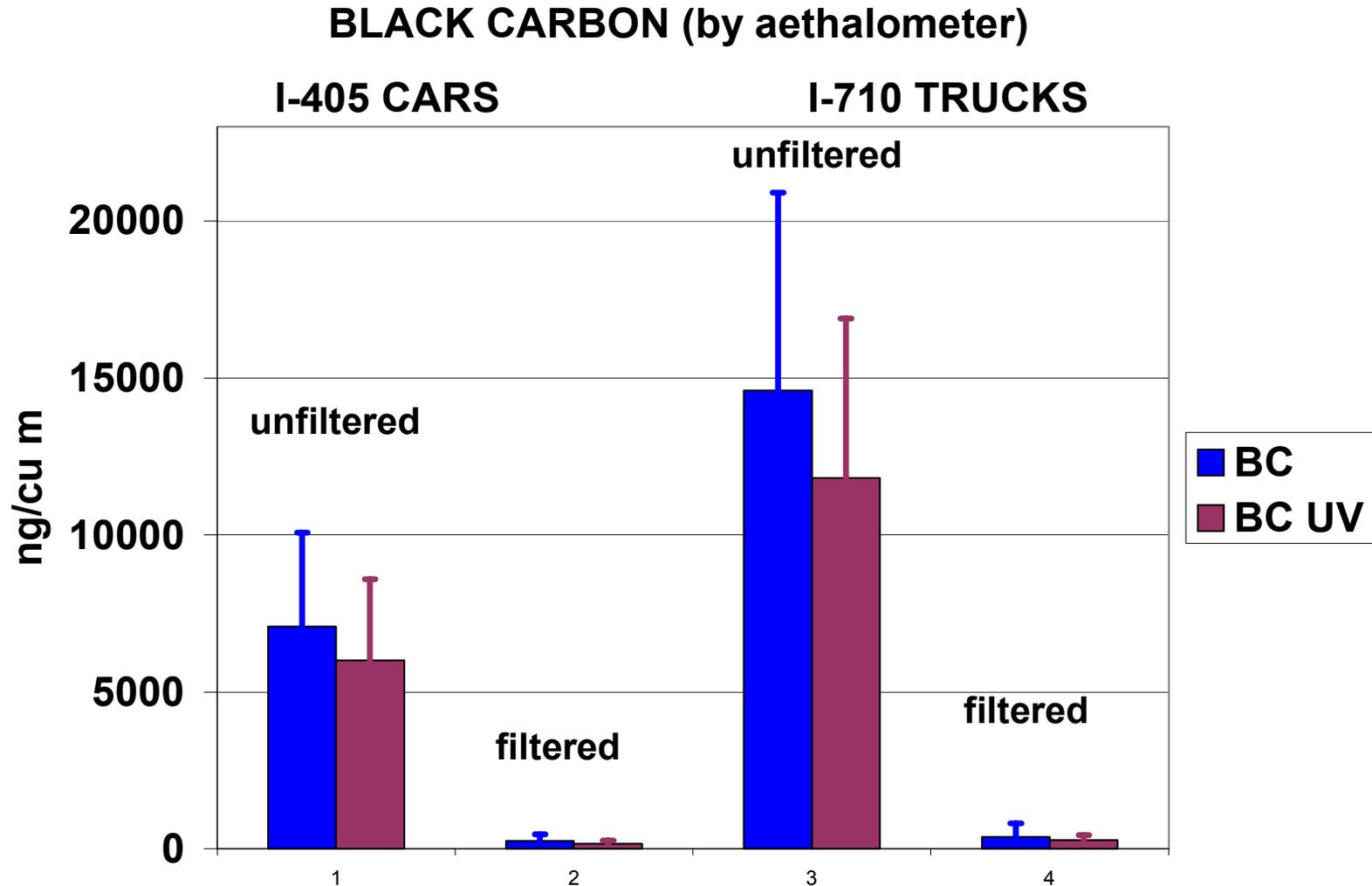
# Particle Number Concentration



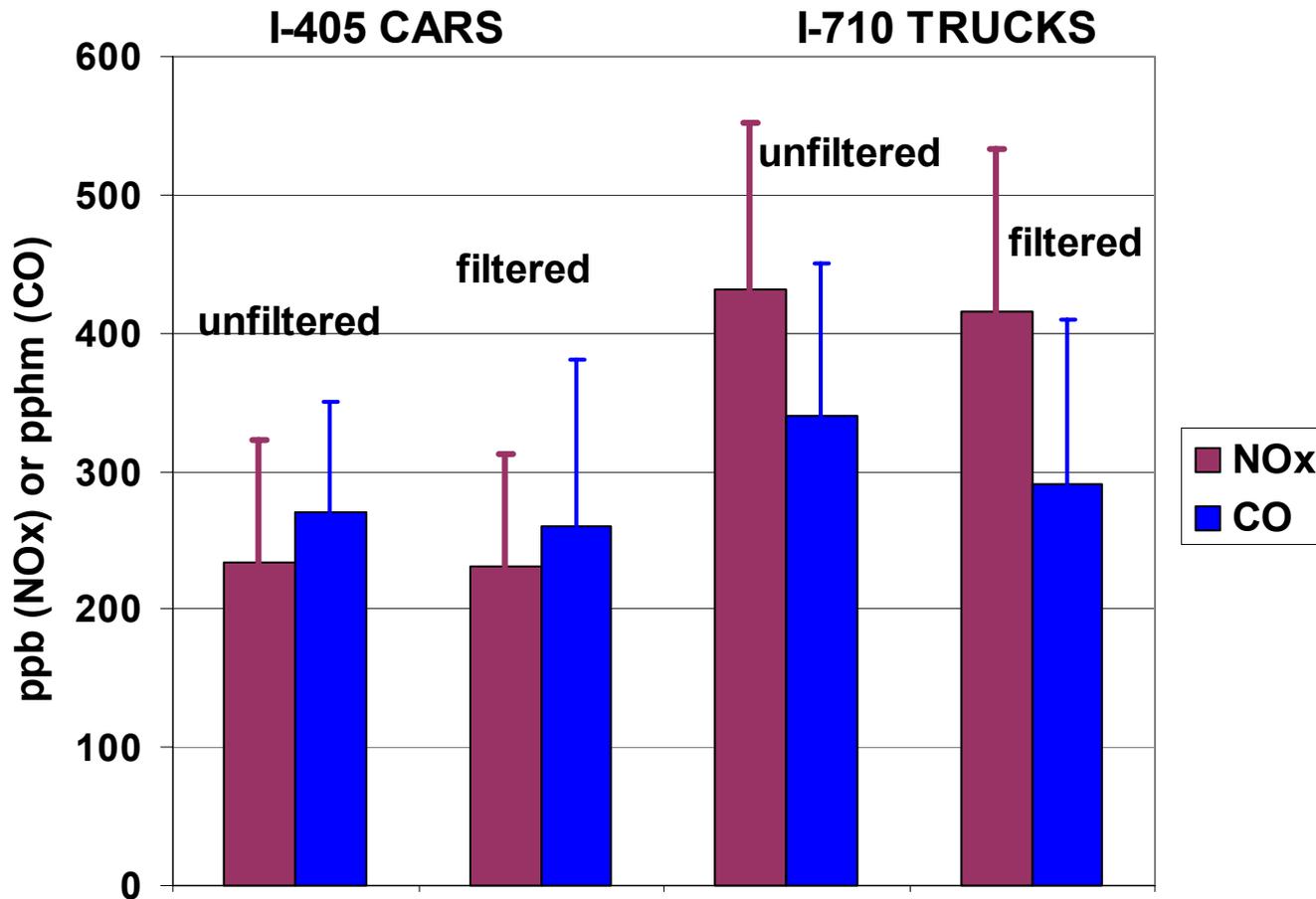
# Particle Mass Concentration



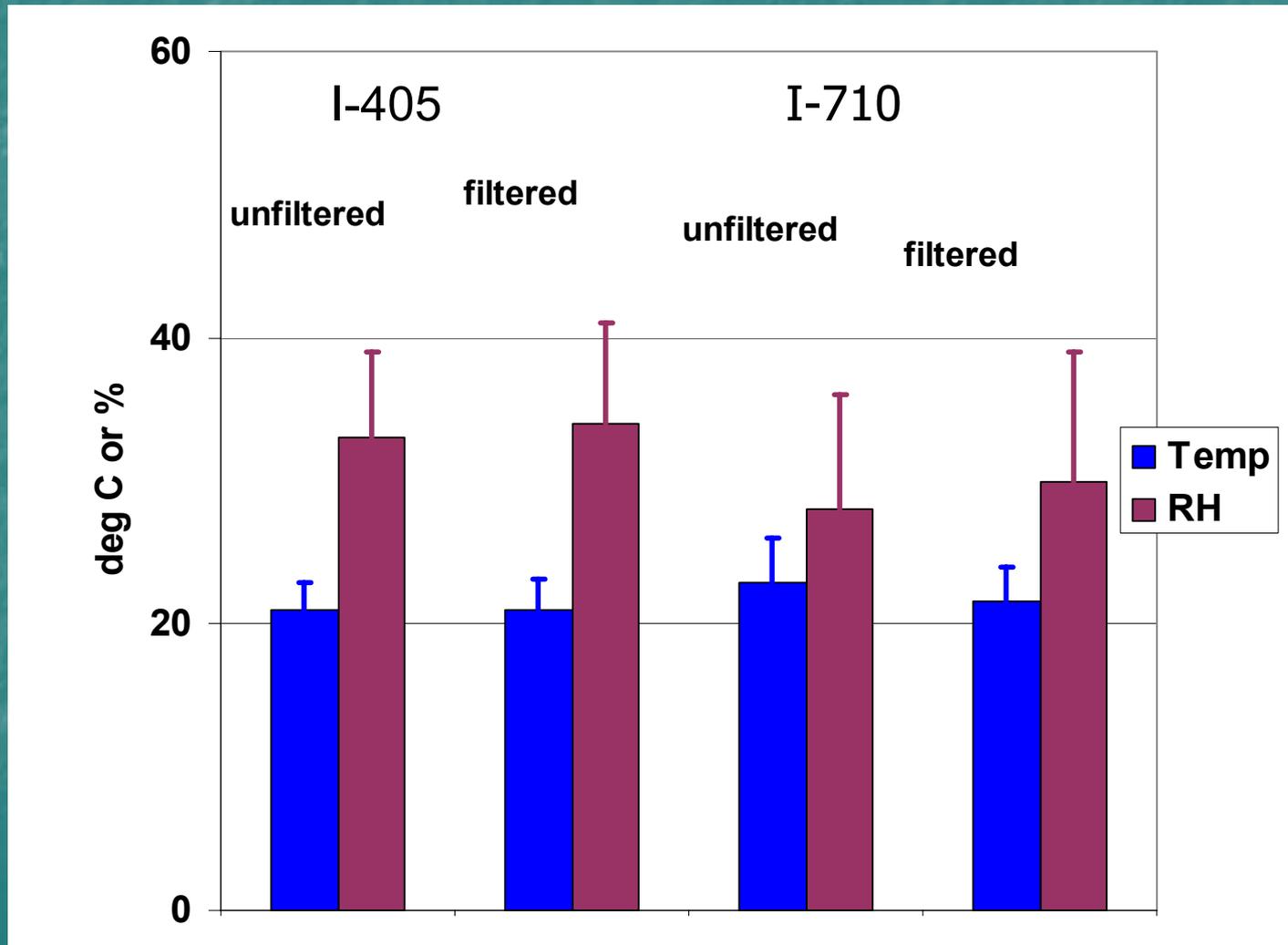
# Black Carbon



# OXIDES OF NITROGEN CARBON MONOXIDE



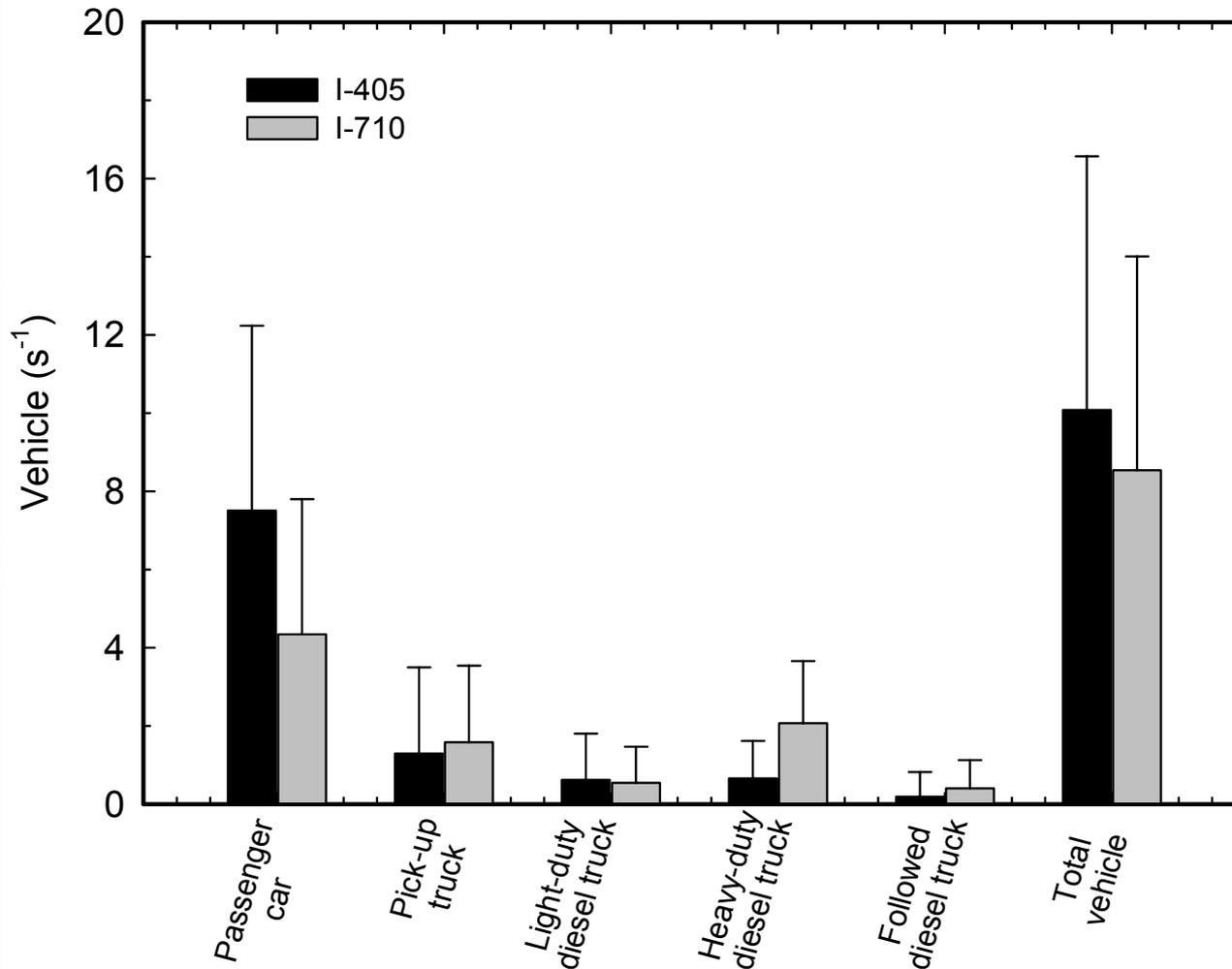
# Temperature, Relative Humidity



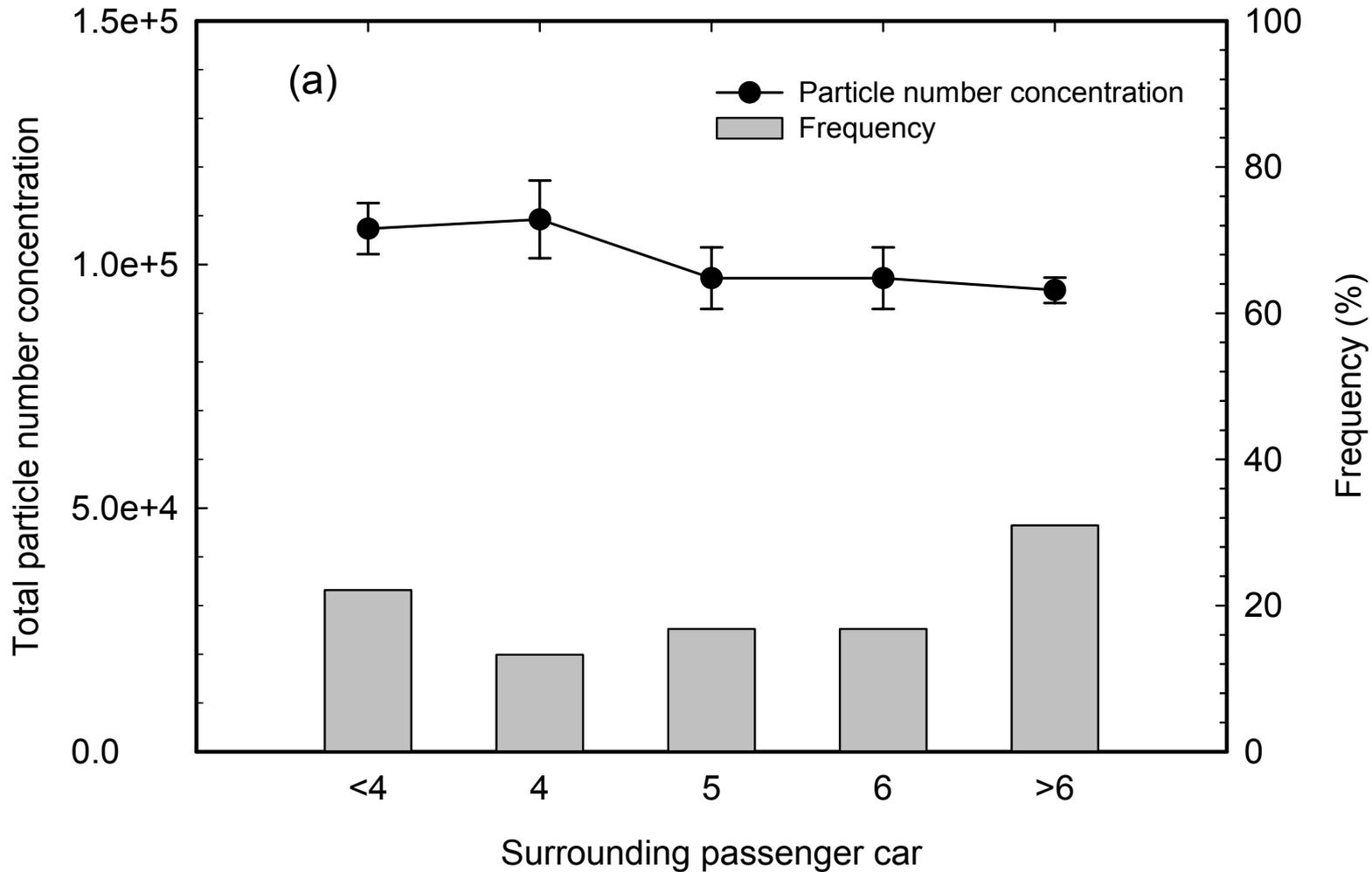
# Mean Values for Environmental Measurements

Variable	Units	I-405 unfiltered	I-405 filtered	I-710 unfiltered	I-710 filtered
Particle number	count/ ml	78069 (13419)	2221 (549)	107152 (36414)	4327 (1346)
PM <sub>2.5</sub>	µg/m <sup>3</sup>	44.5 (17.6)	8.1 (3.3)	51.4 (19.6)	9.8 (5.7)
PM <sub>10</sub>	µg/m <sup>3</sup>	50.8 (21.3)	13.1 (3.2)	58.5 (21.0)	14.5 (7.0)
Black carbon	ng/m <sup>3</sup>	6214 (1268)	325 (270)	11729 3904)	663 (545)
PAH	ng/m <sup>3</sup>	148 (38)	21 (74)	250 (128)	5 (3)
NOx	ppb	234 (88)	231 (82)	431 (121)	415 (118)
CO	ppm	2.7 (0.8)	2.6 (1.2)	3.4 (1.1)	2.9 (1.2)
Temperature	deg C	21.1 (1.8)	20.9 (1.8)	22.8 (2.9)	21.5 (2.4)
Rel. Humidity	%	33 (6)	35 (7)	28 (8)	30 (9)
Prior 24 hr Amb. PM <sub>10</sub>	µg/m <sup>3</sup>	30.0 (9.2)	26.2 (8.6)	30.1 (8.3)	29.6 (9.7)
Prior 24 hr Amb. PM <sub>2.5</sub>	µg/m <sup>3</sup>	24.0 (5.6)	21.7 (7.7)	21.5 (10.1)	23.6 (12.2)

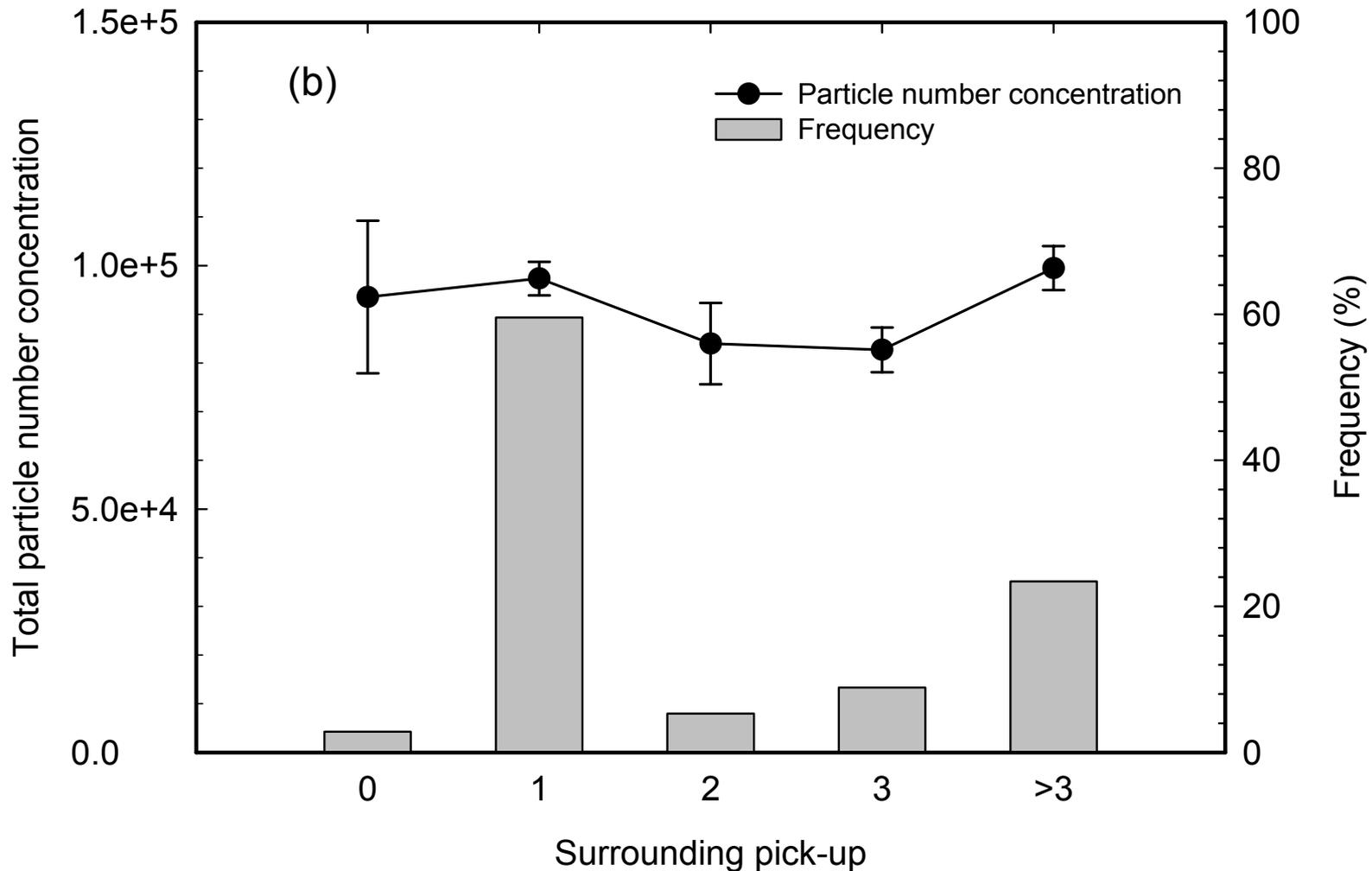
# Vehicle Distribution



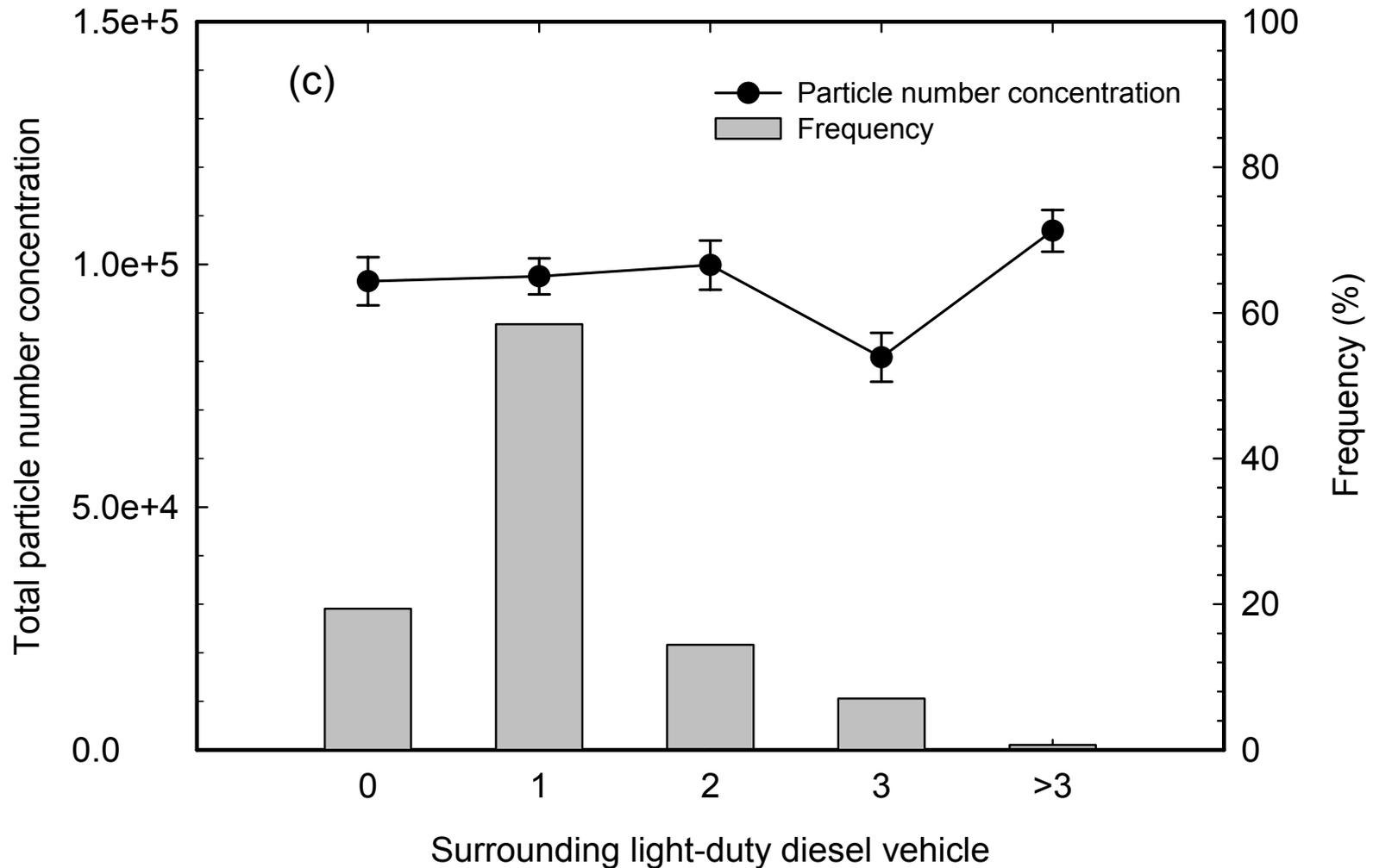
# Effect of Nearby Vehicles



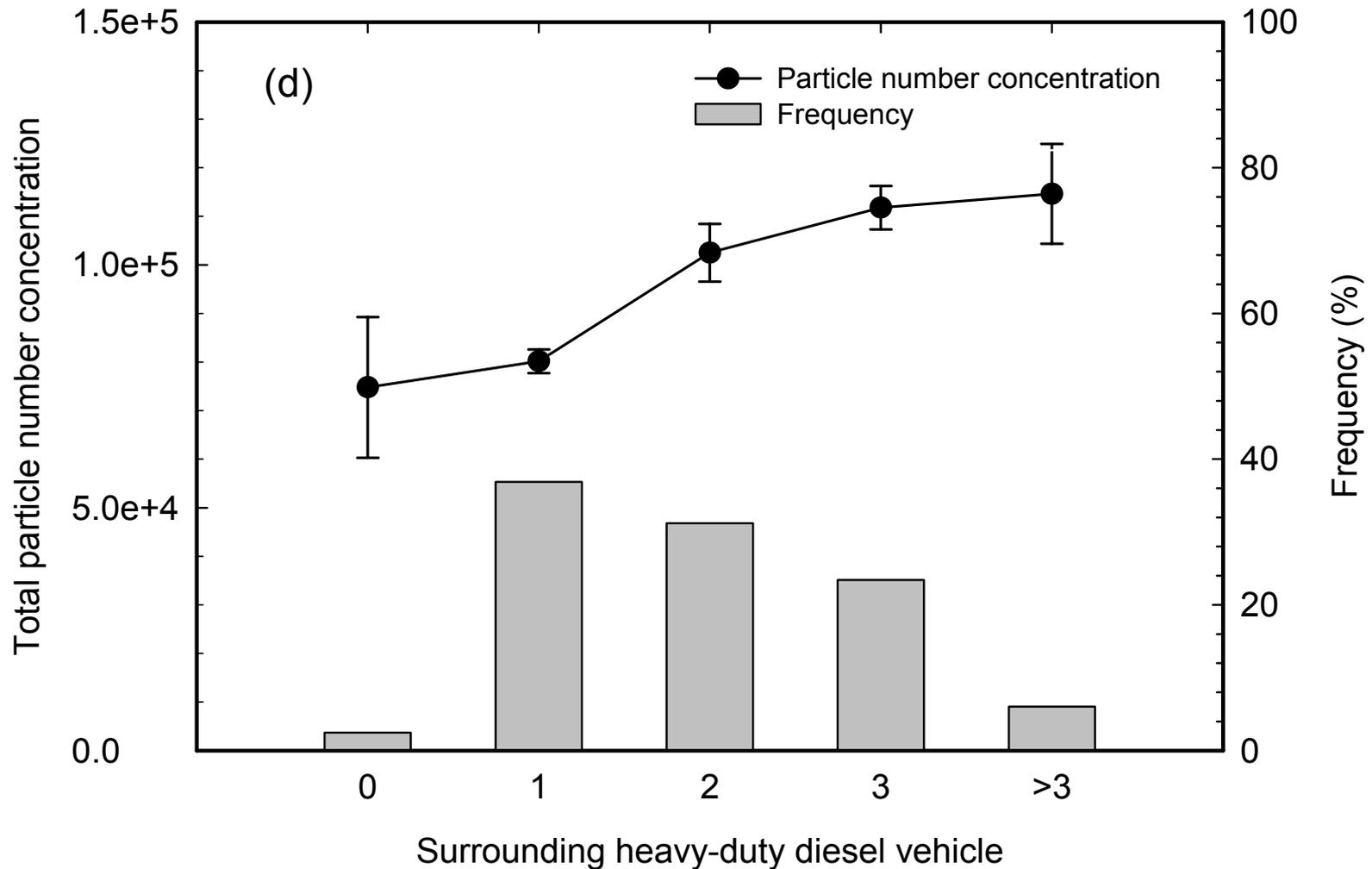
# Effect of Nearby Vehicles



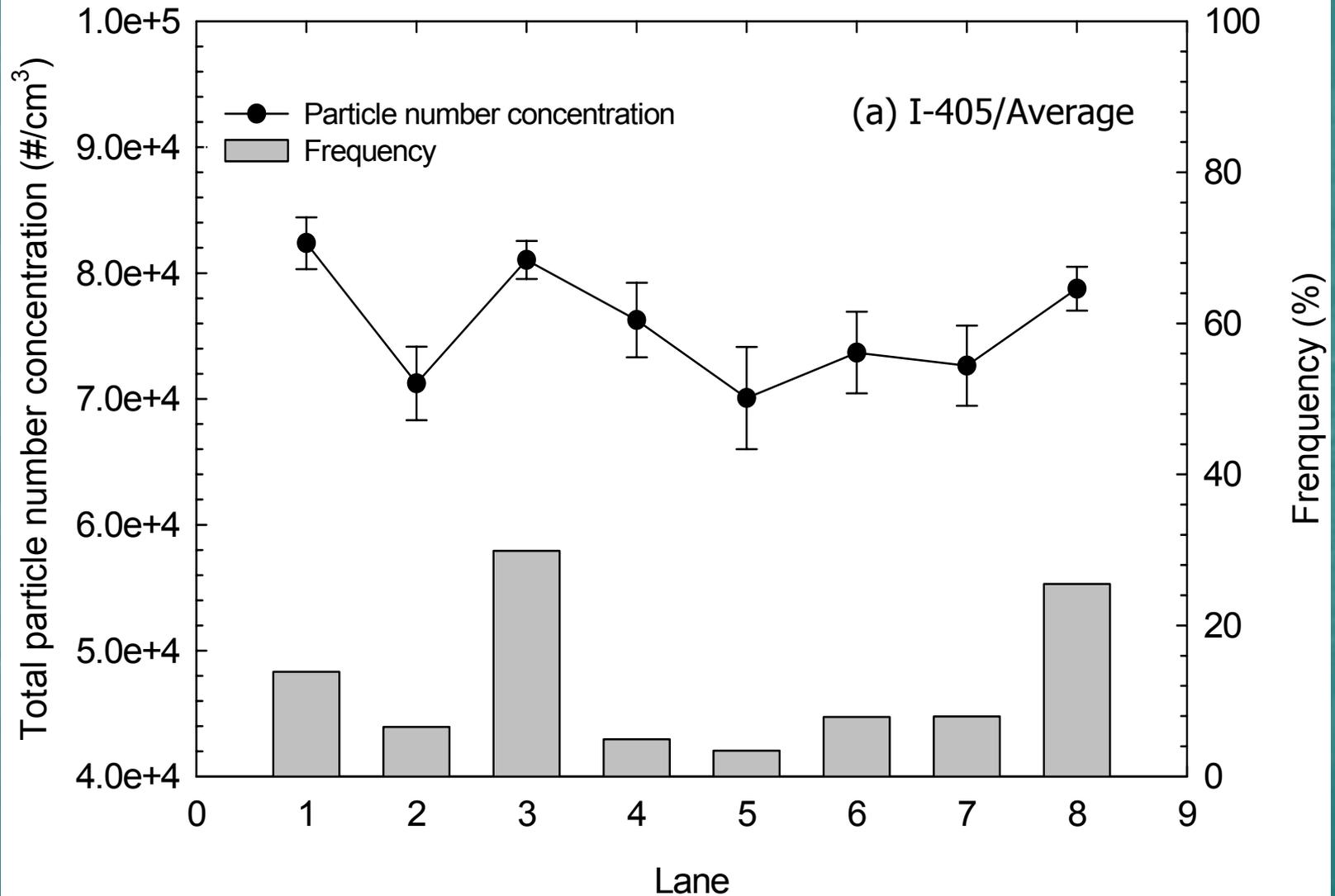
# Effect of Nearby Vehicles



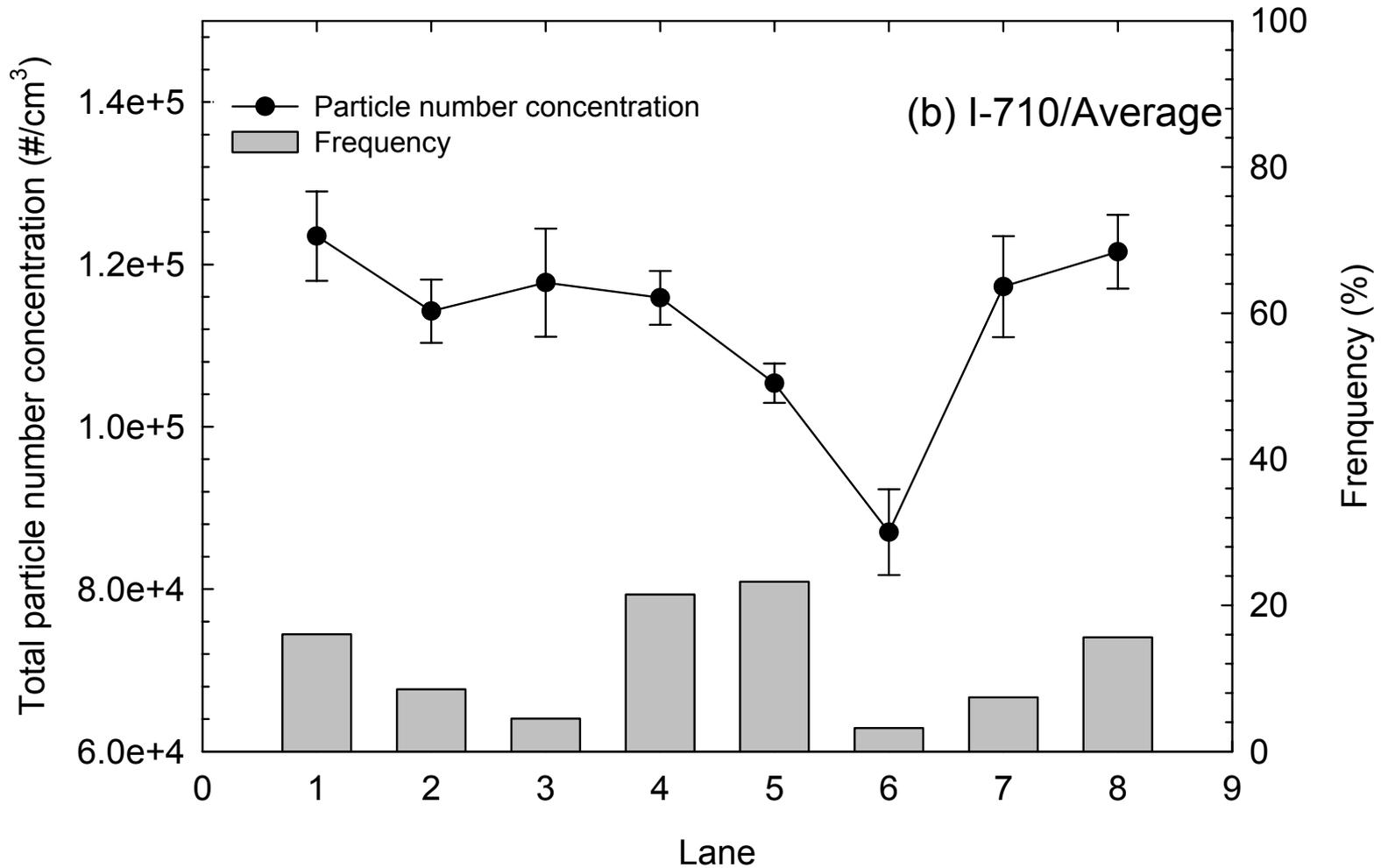
# Effect of Nearby Vehicles



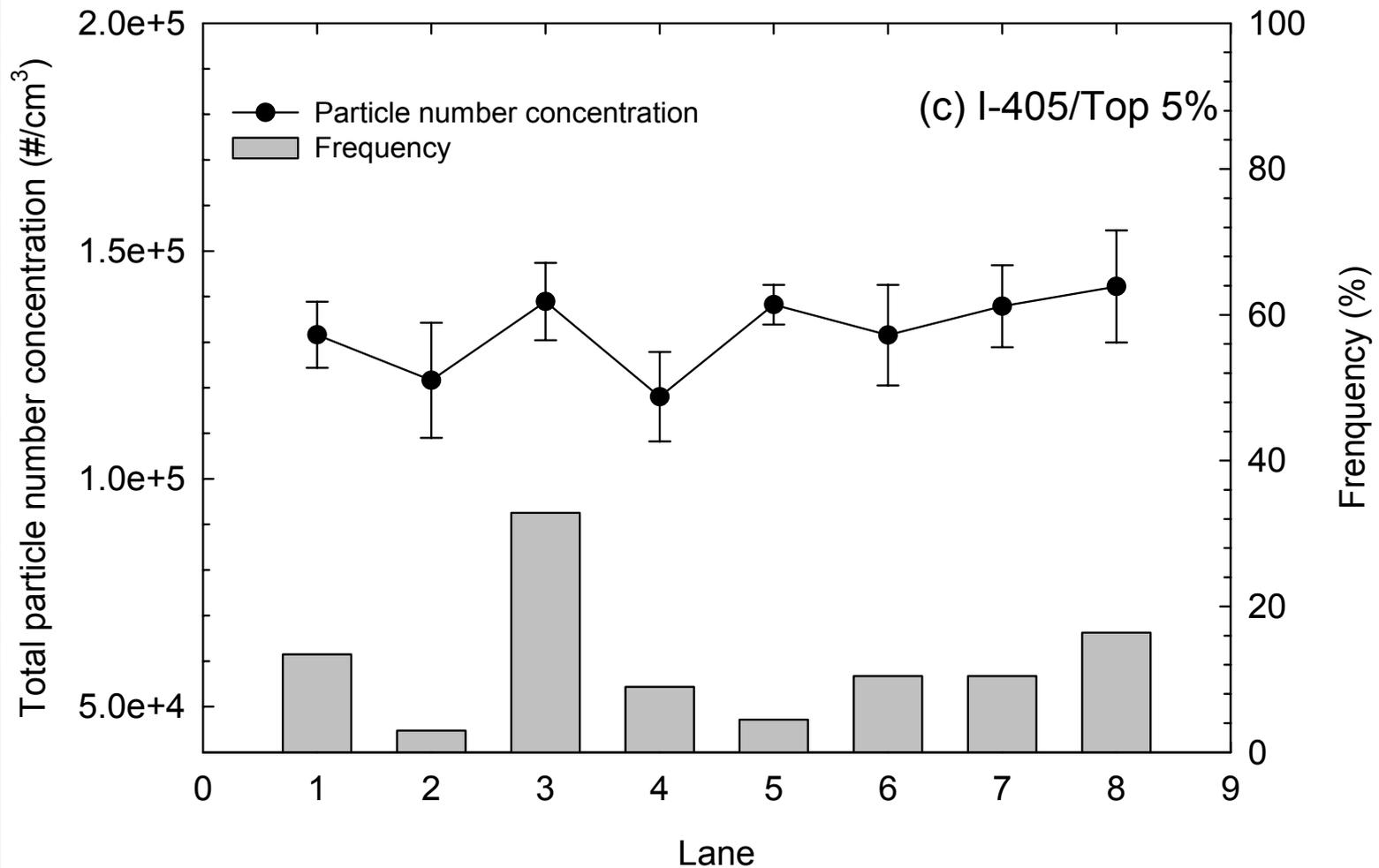
# Effect of Driving Lane



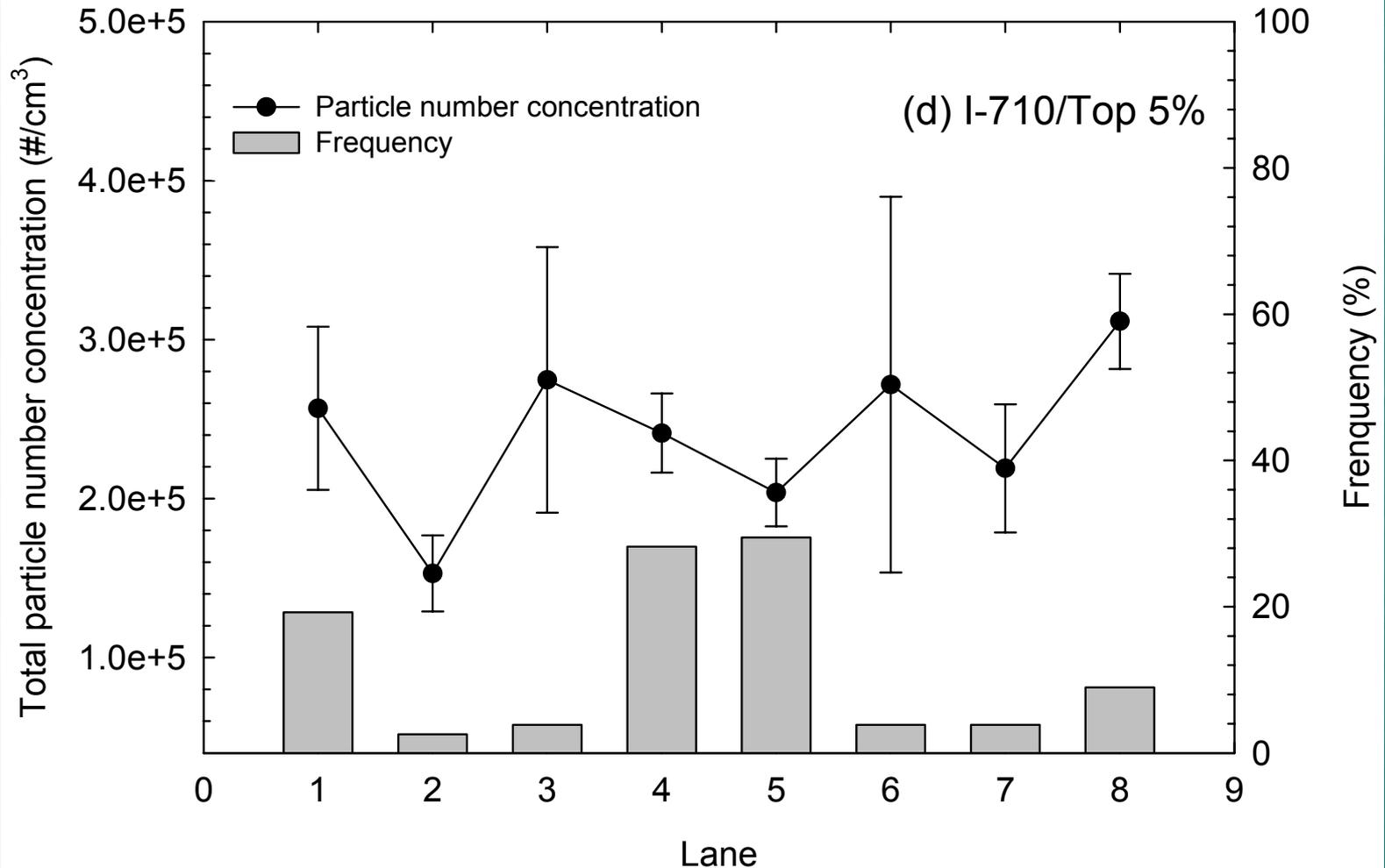
# Effect of Driving Lane



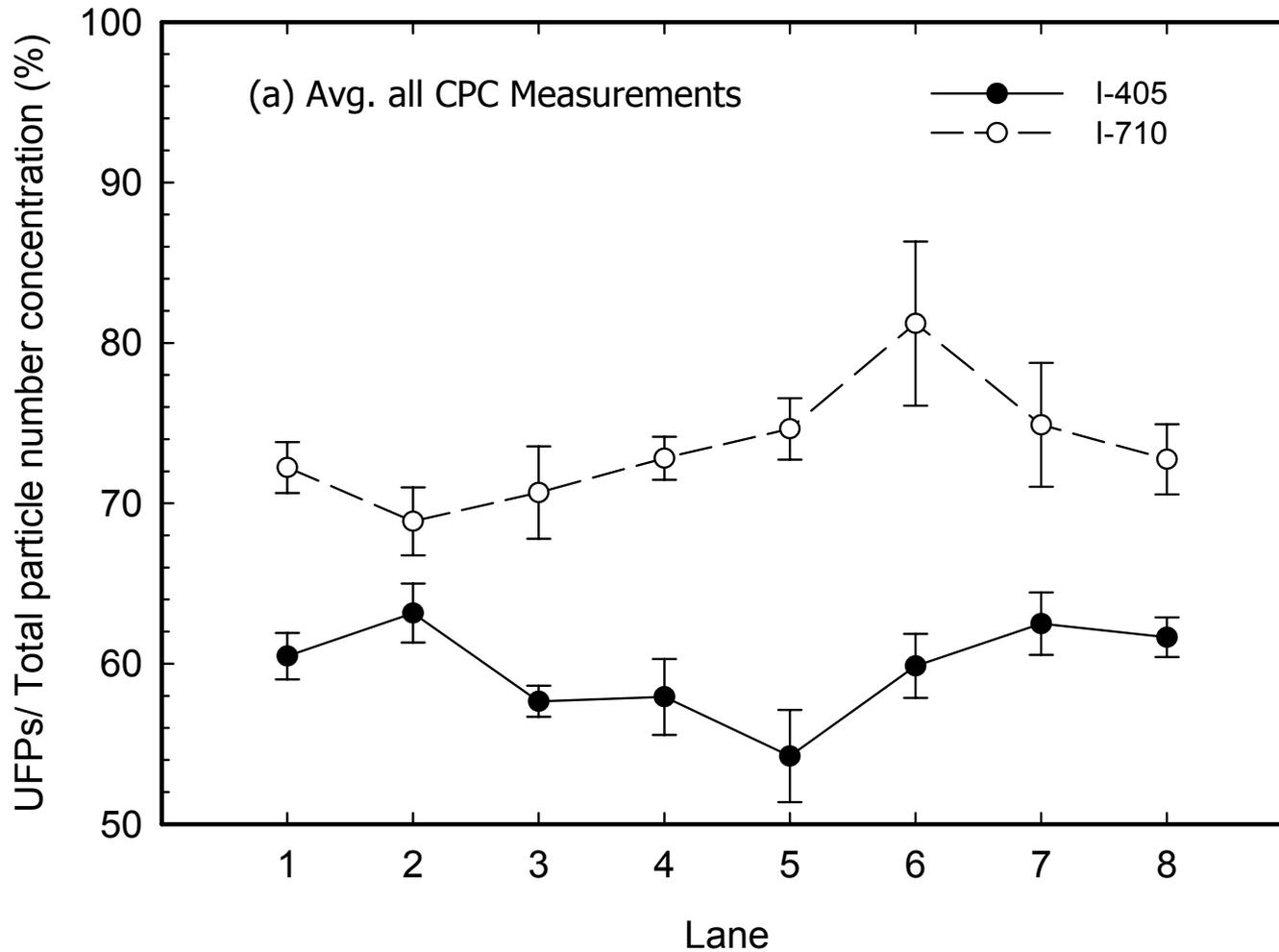
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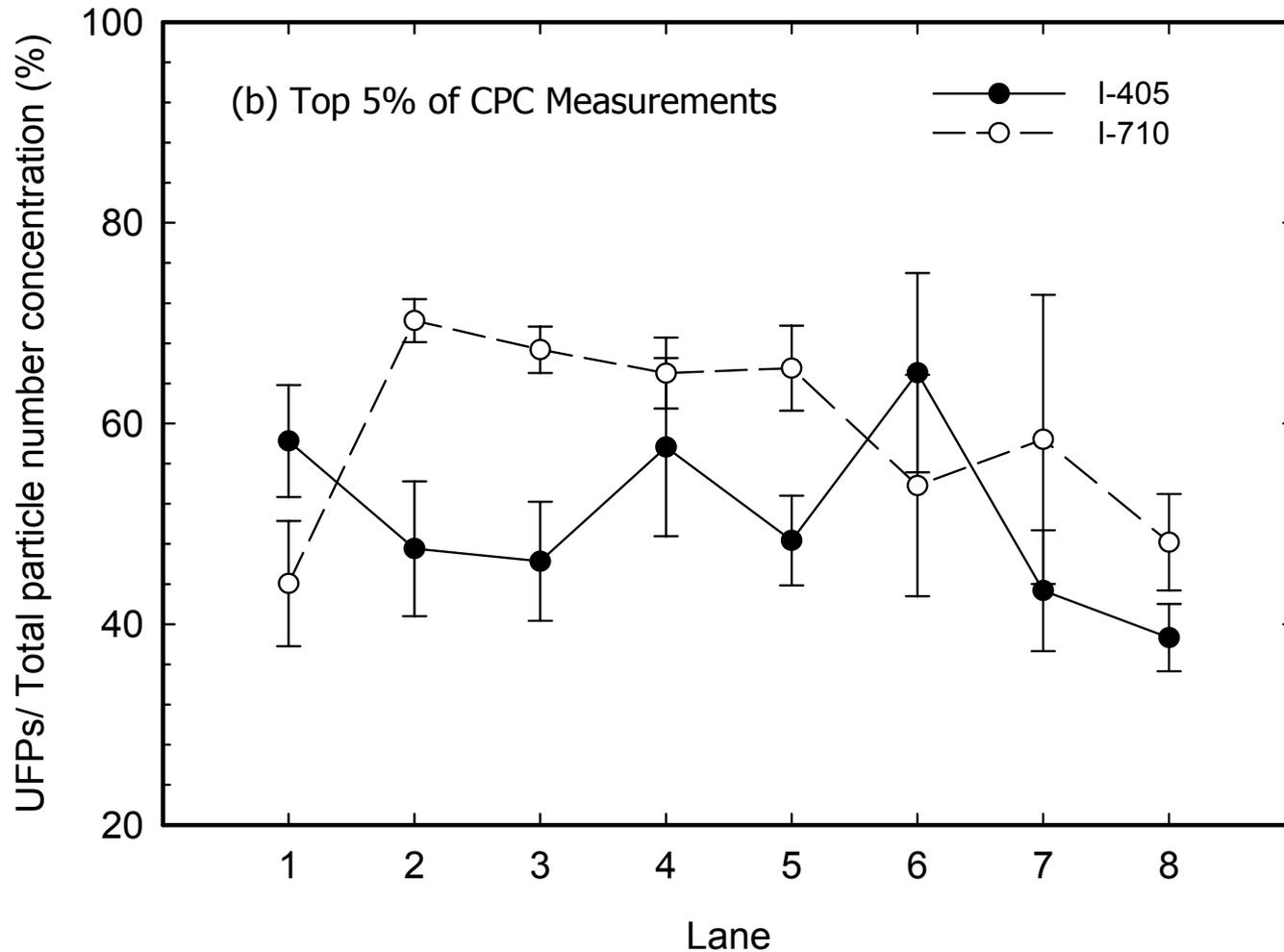
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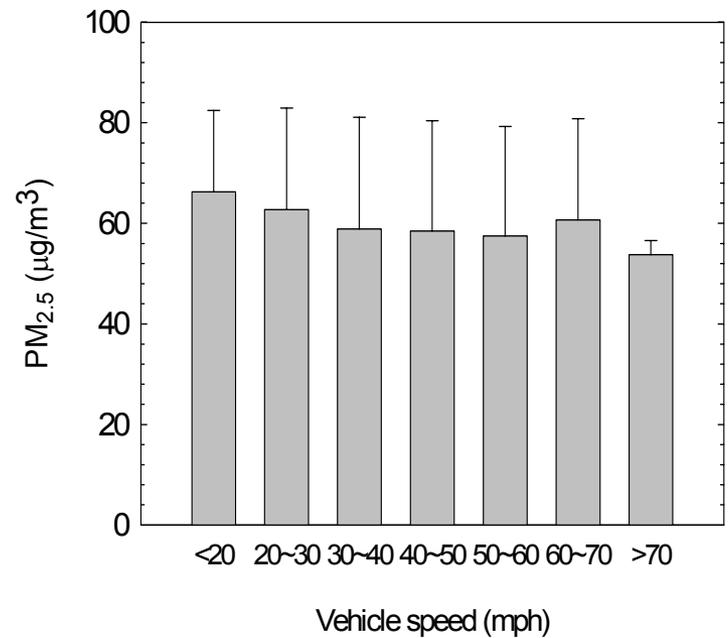
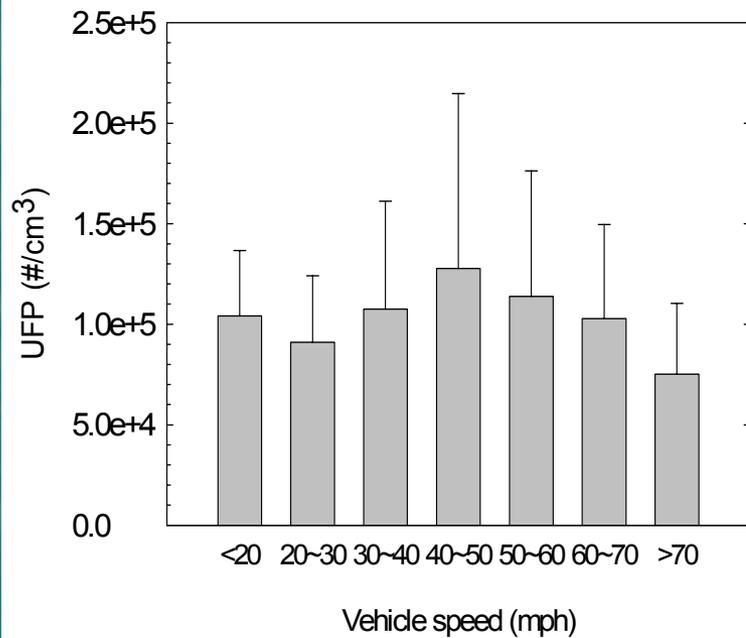
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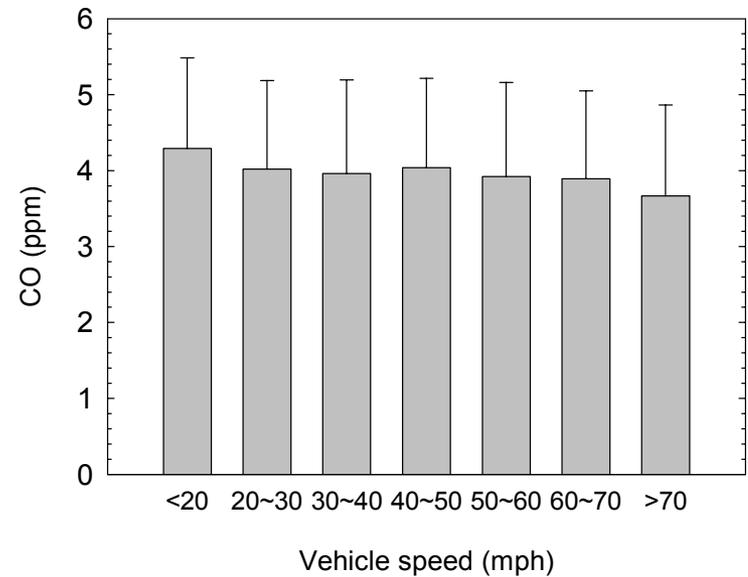
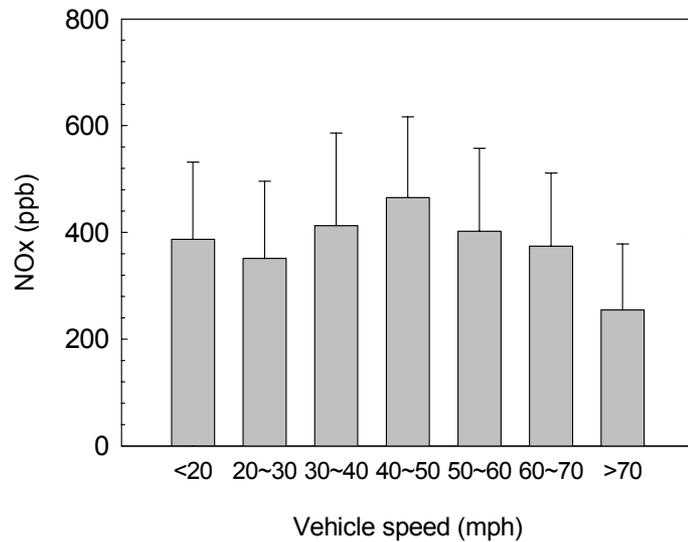
# Effect of Driving Lane



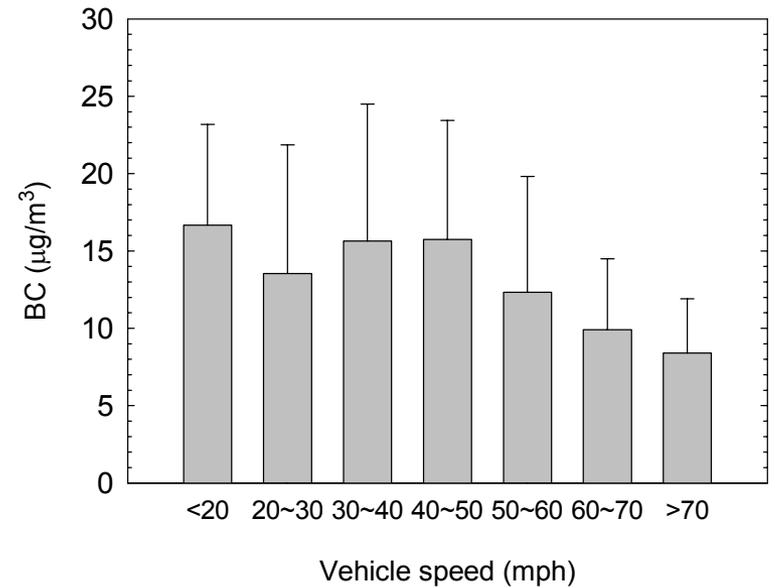
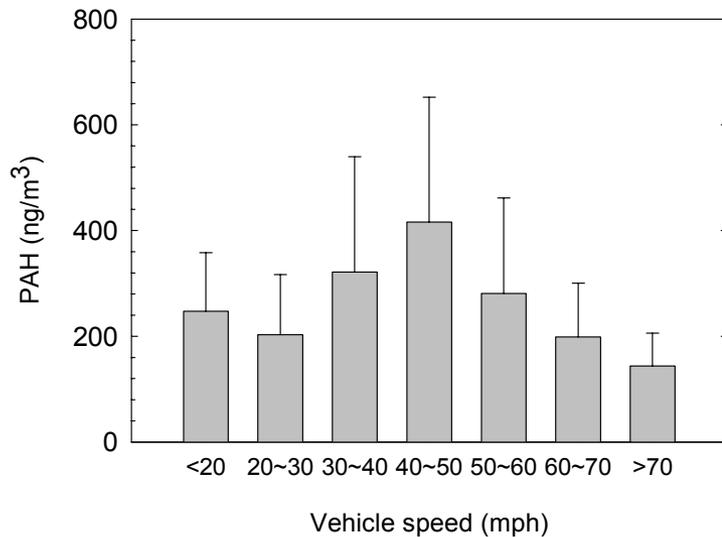
# Effect of Vehicle Speed



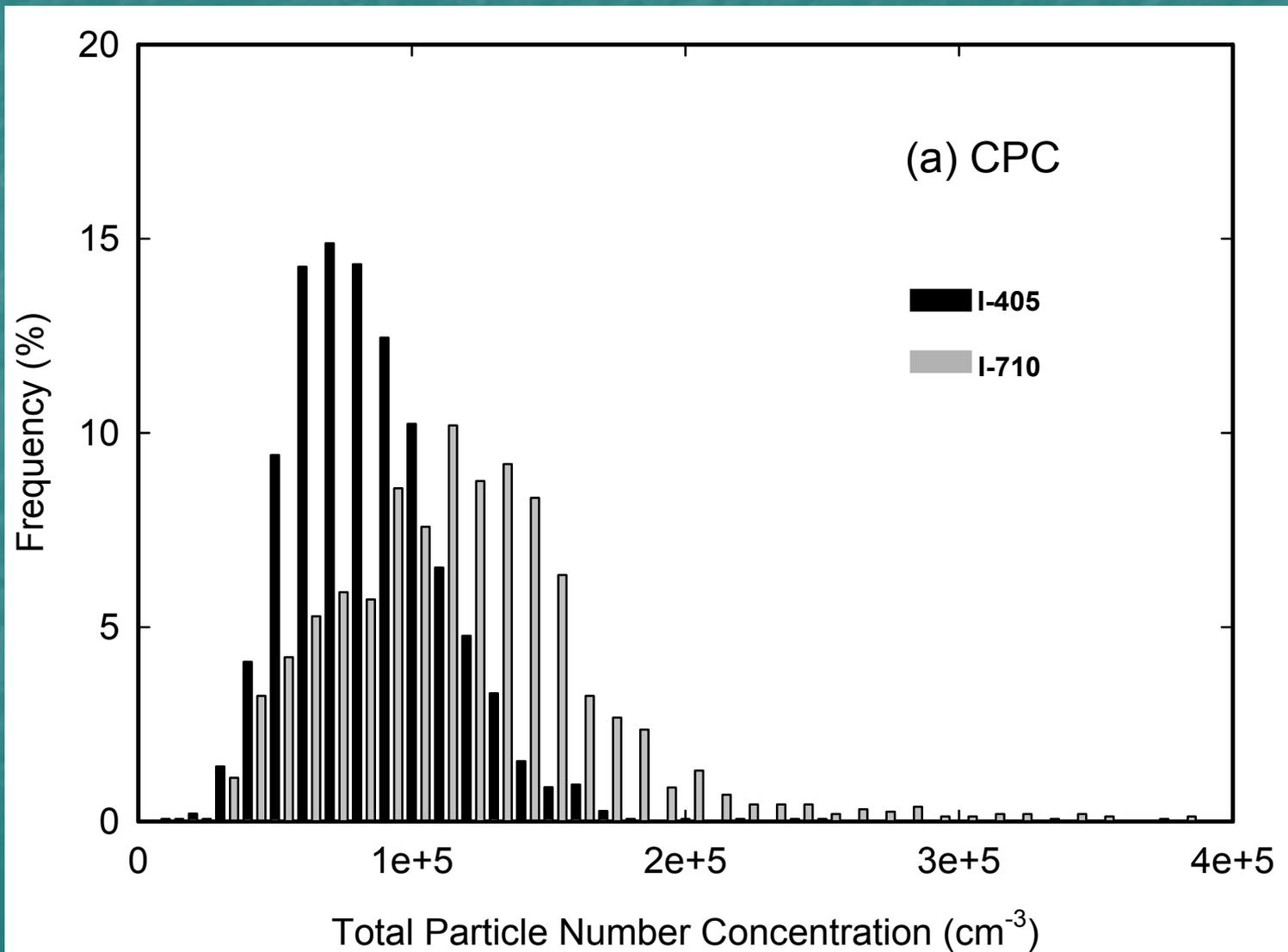
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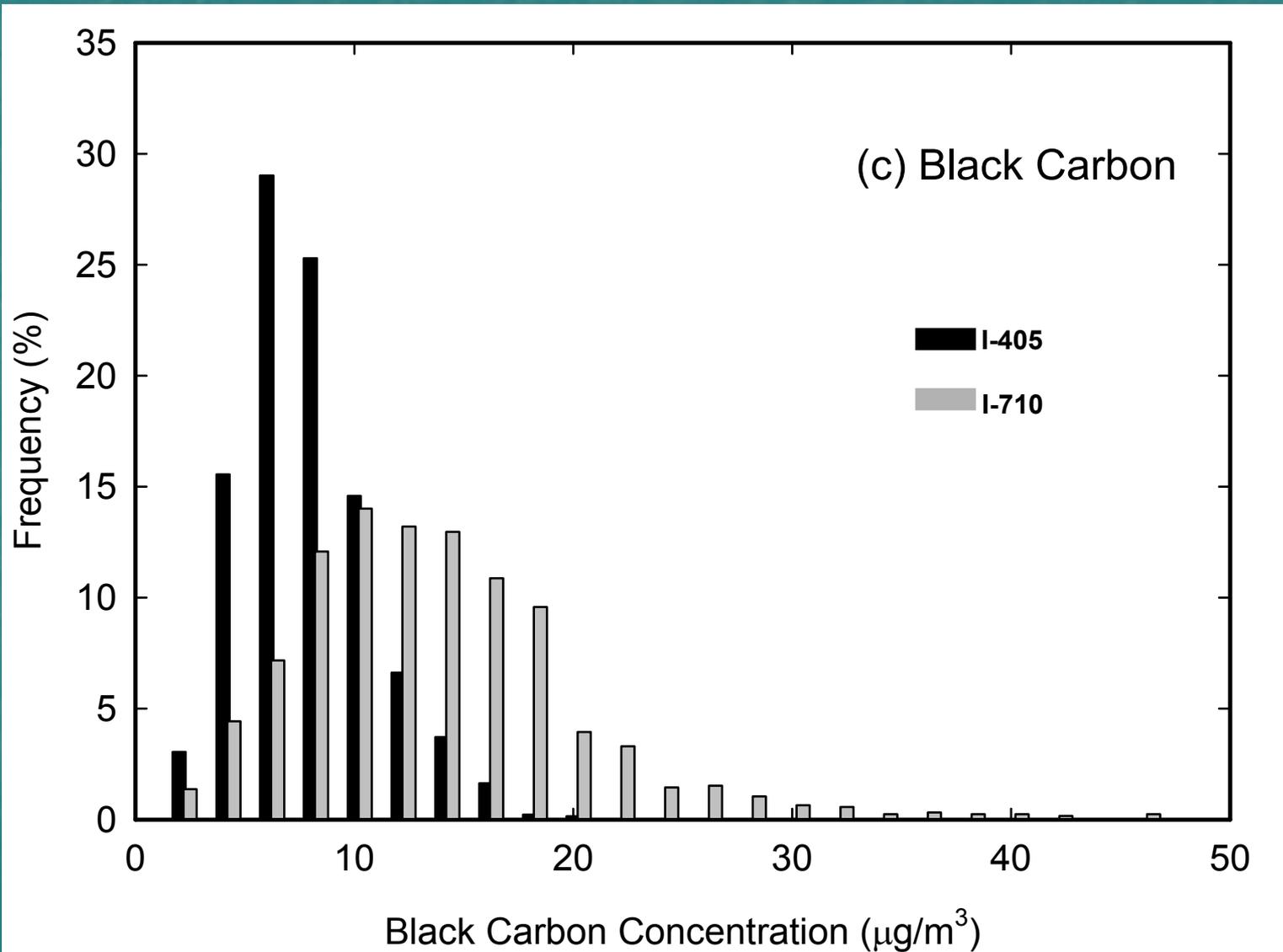
# Effect of Vehicle Speed



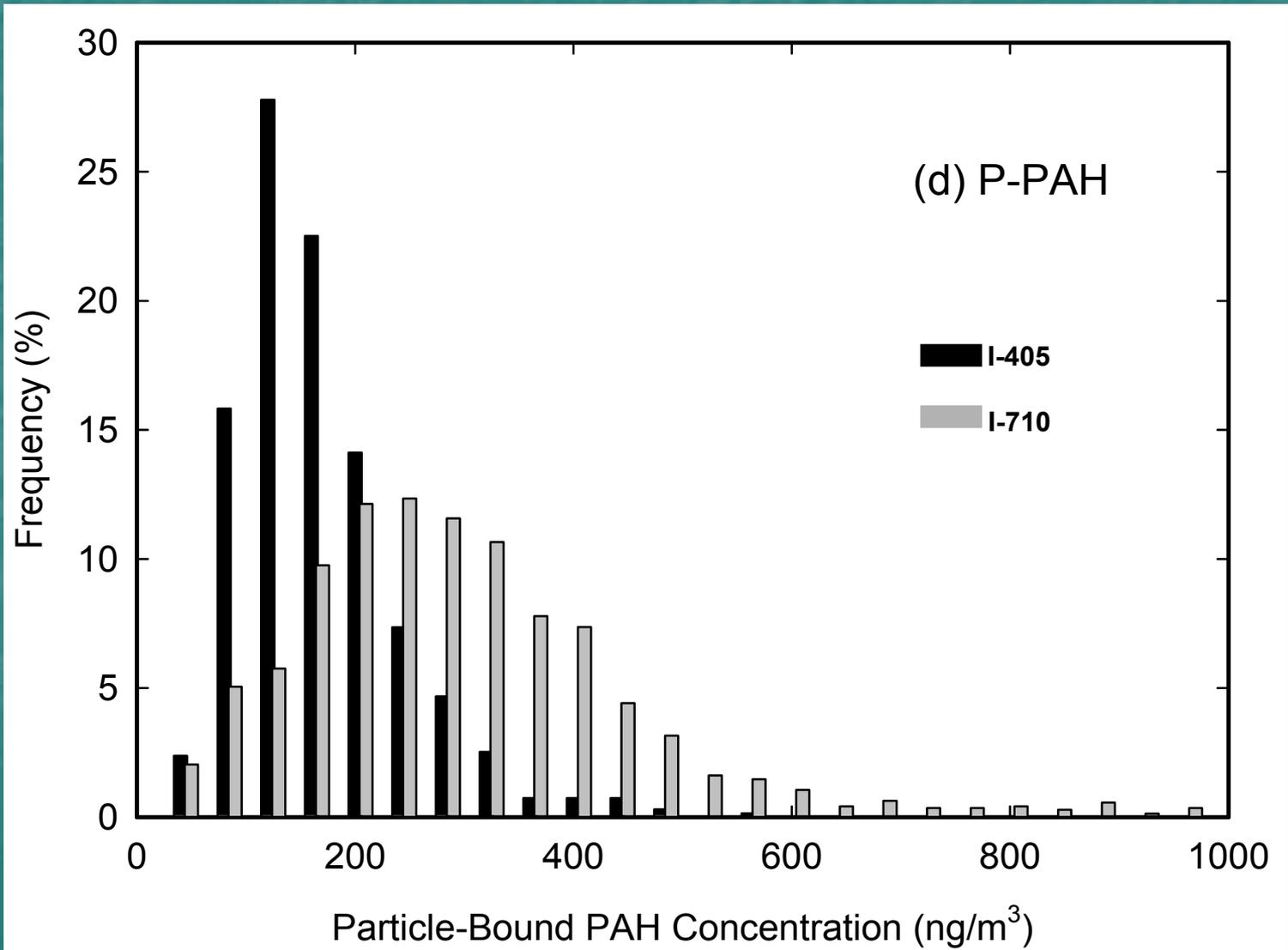
# Distribution of Concentrations



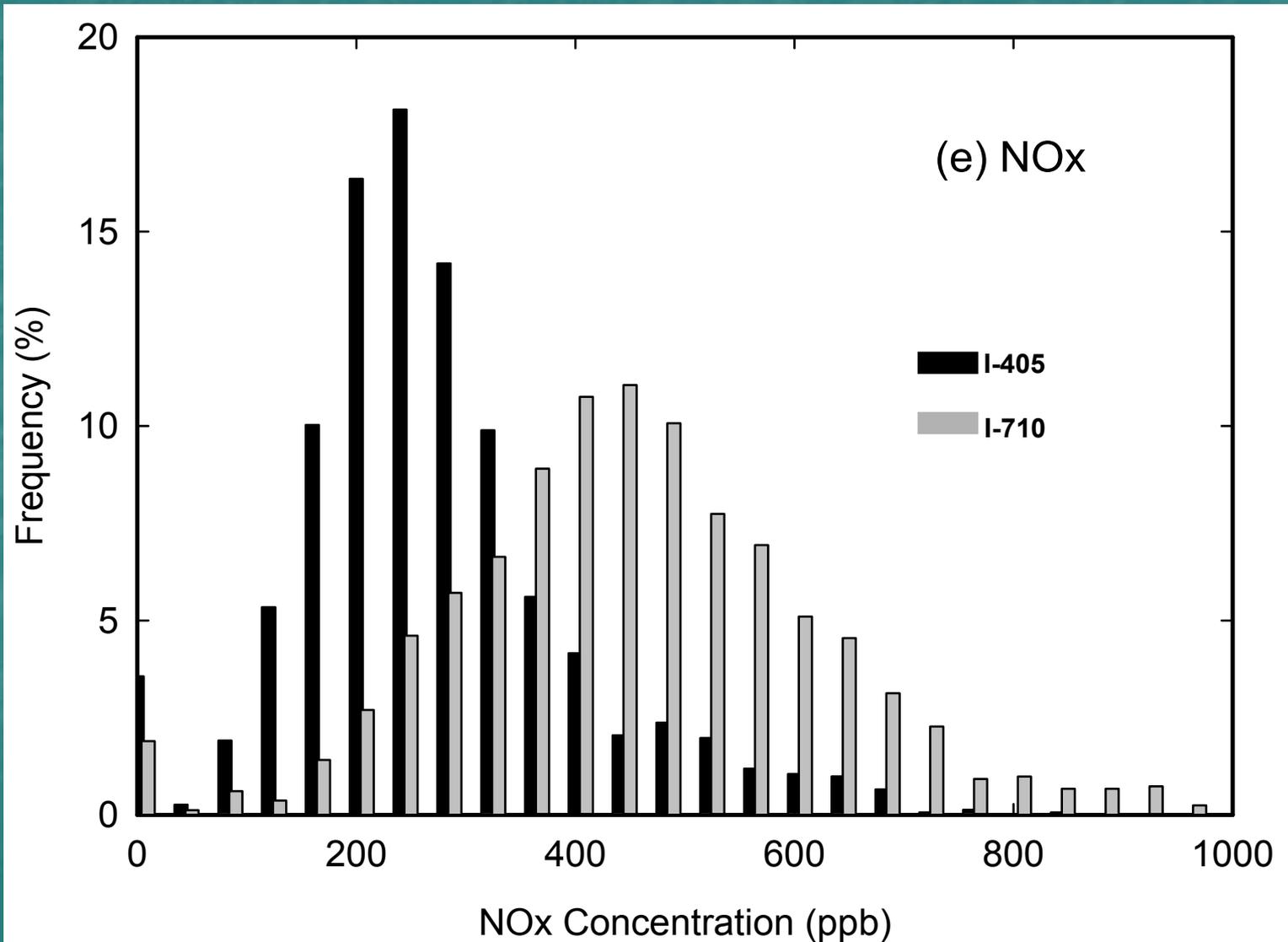
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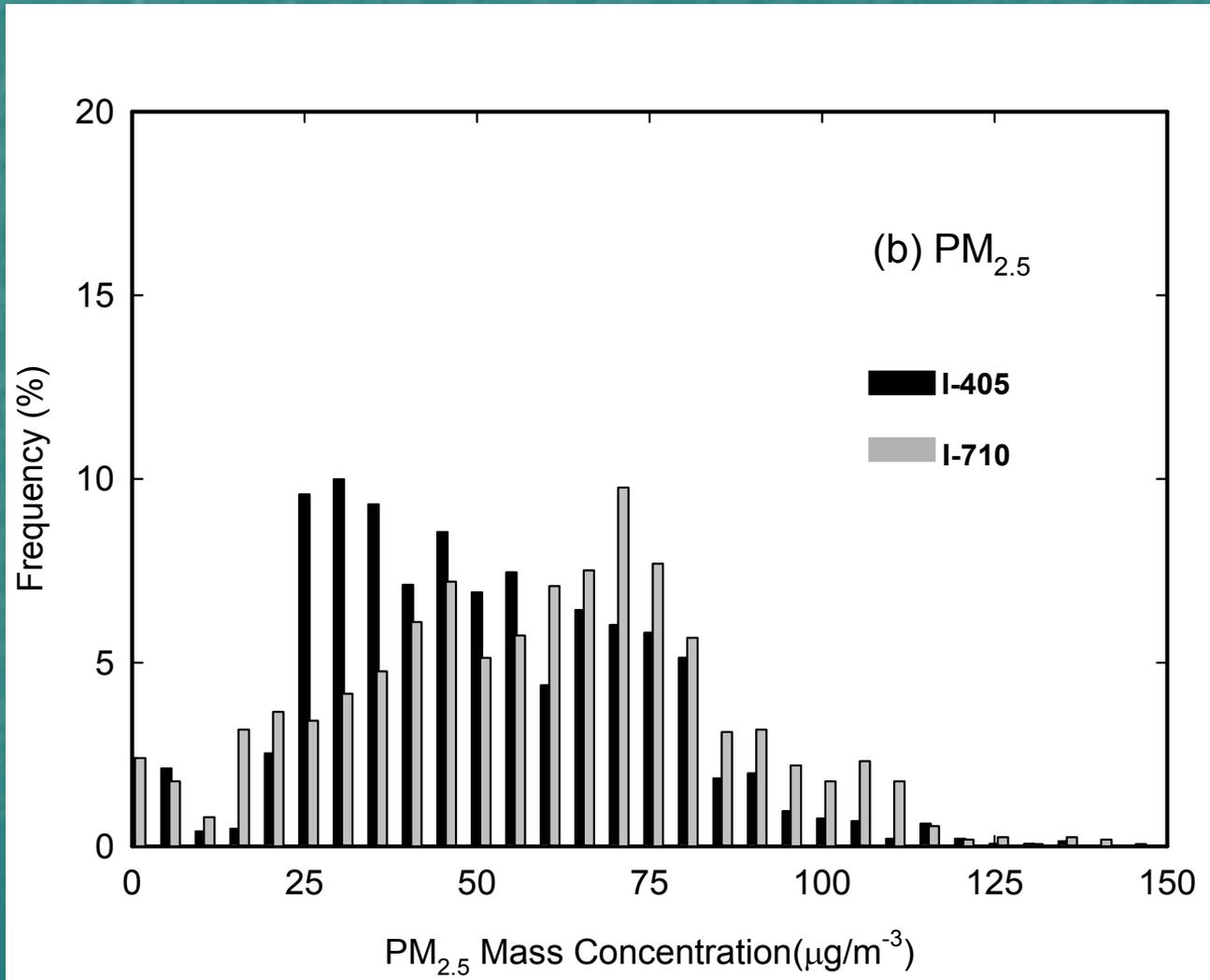
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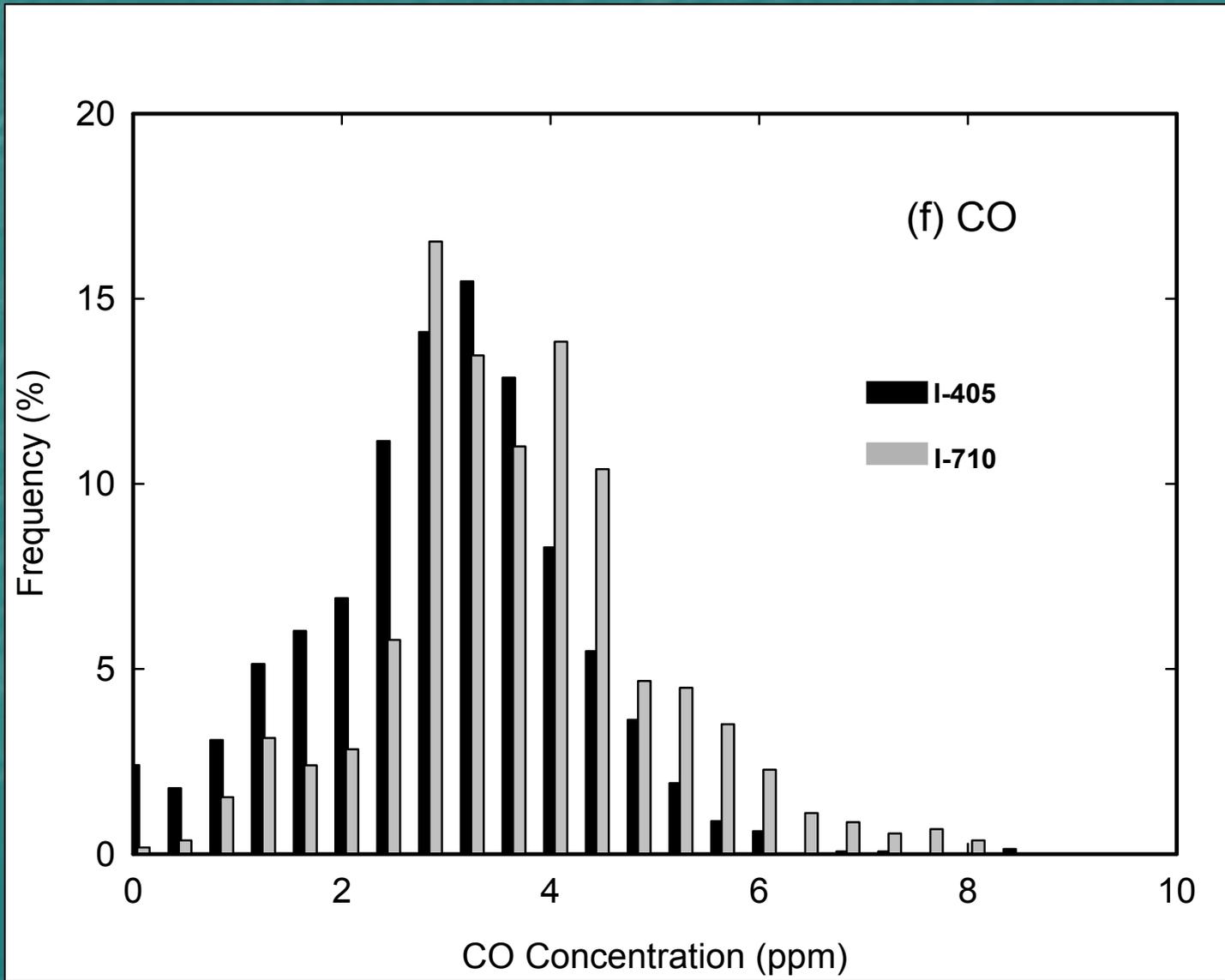
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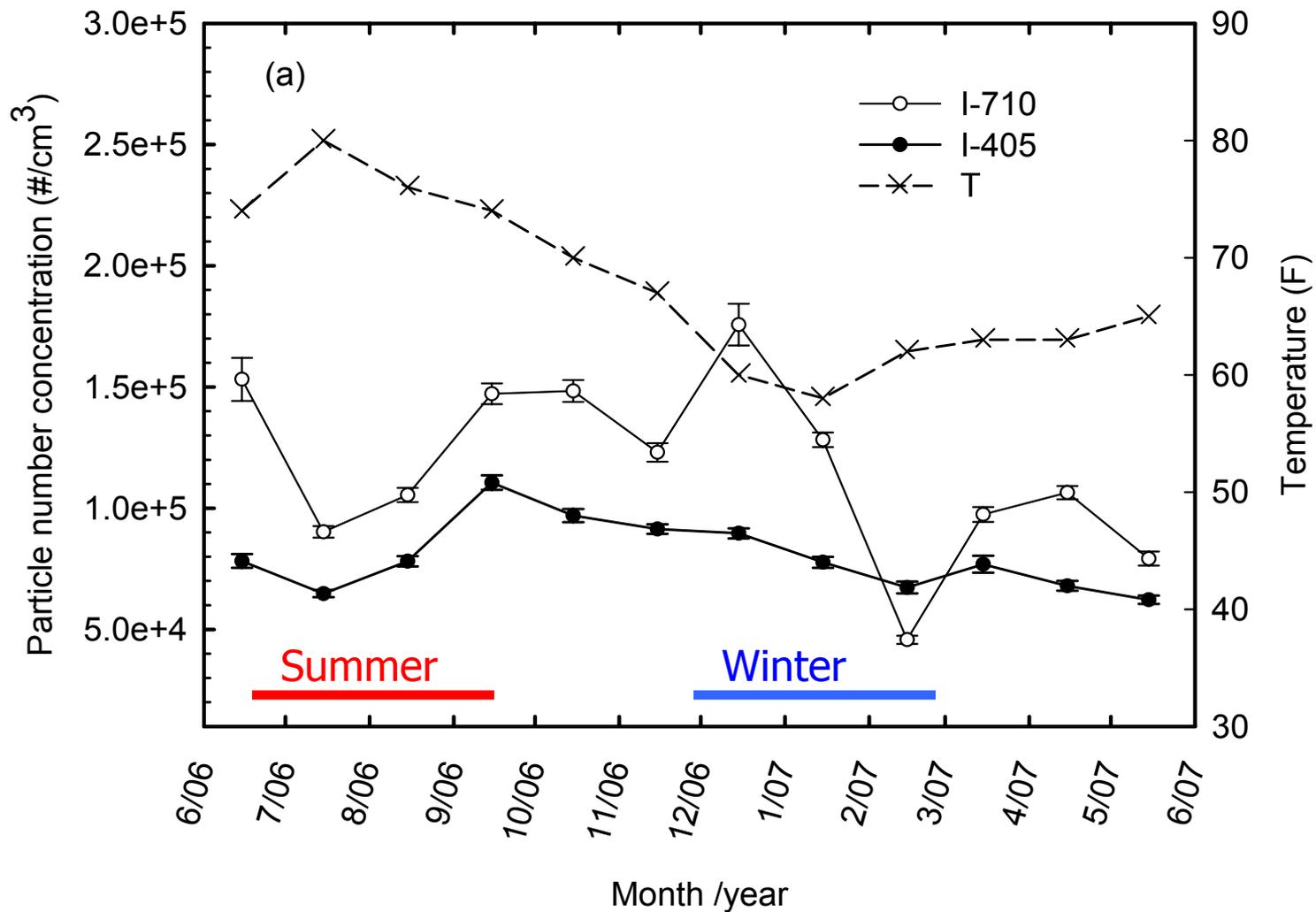
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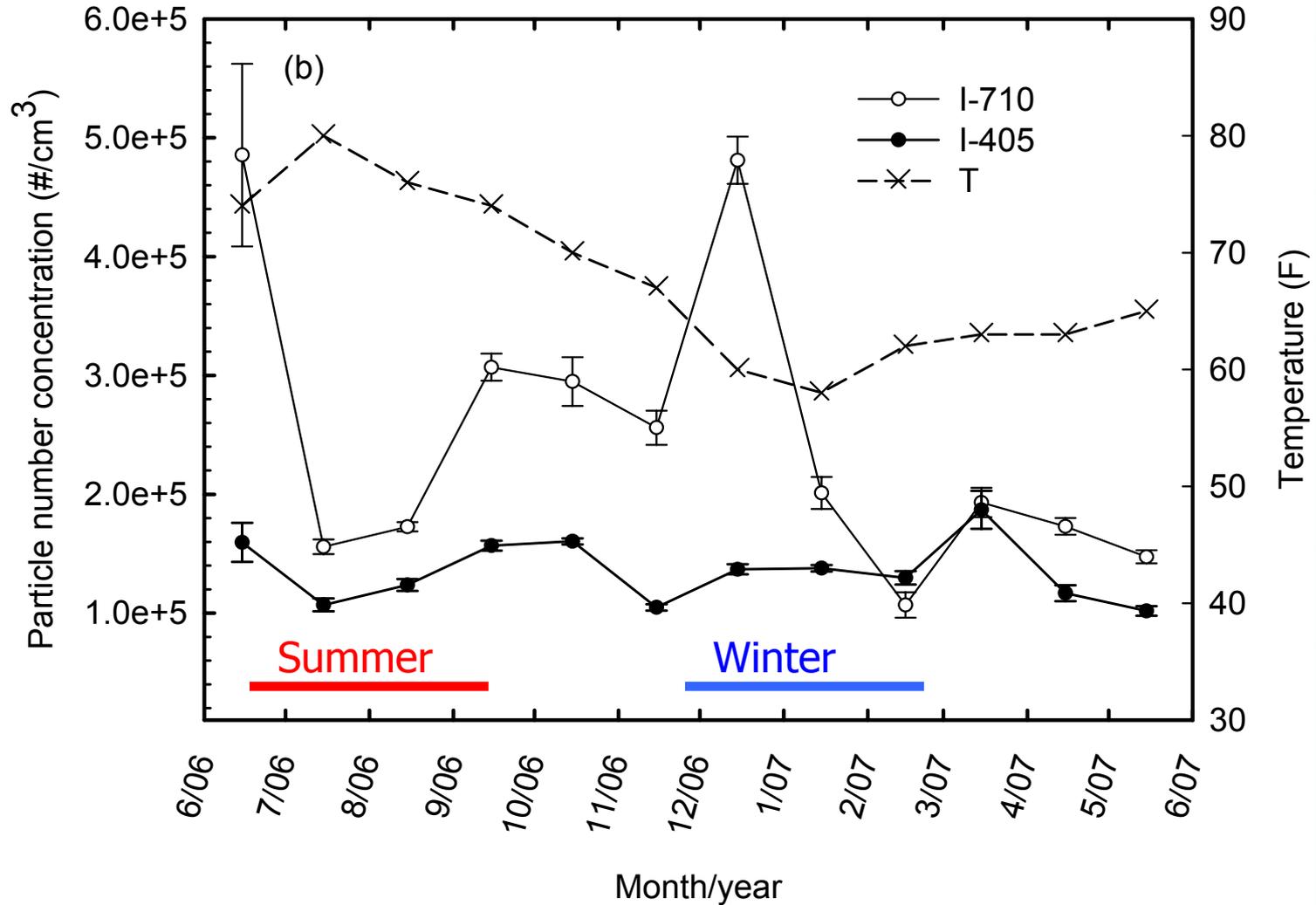


# Seasonal Effects

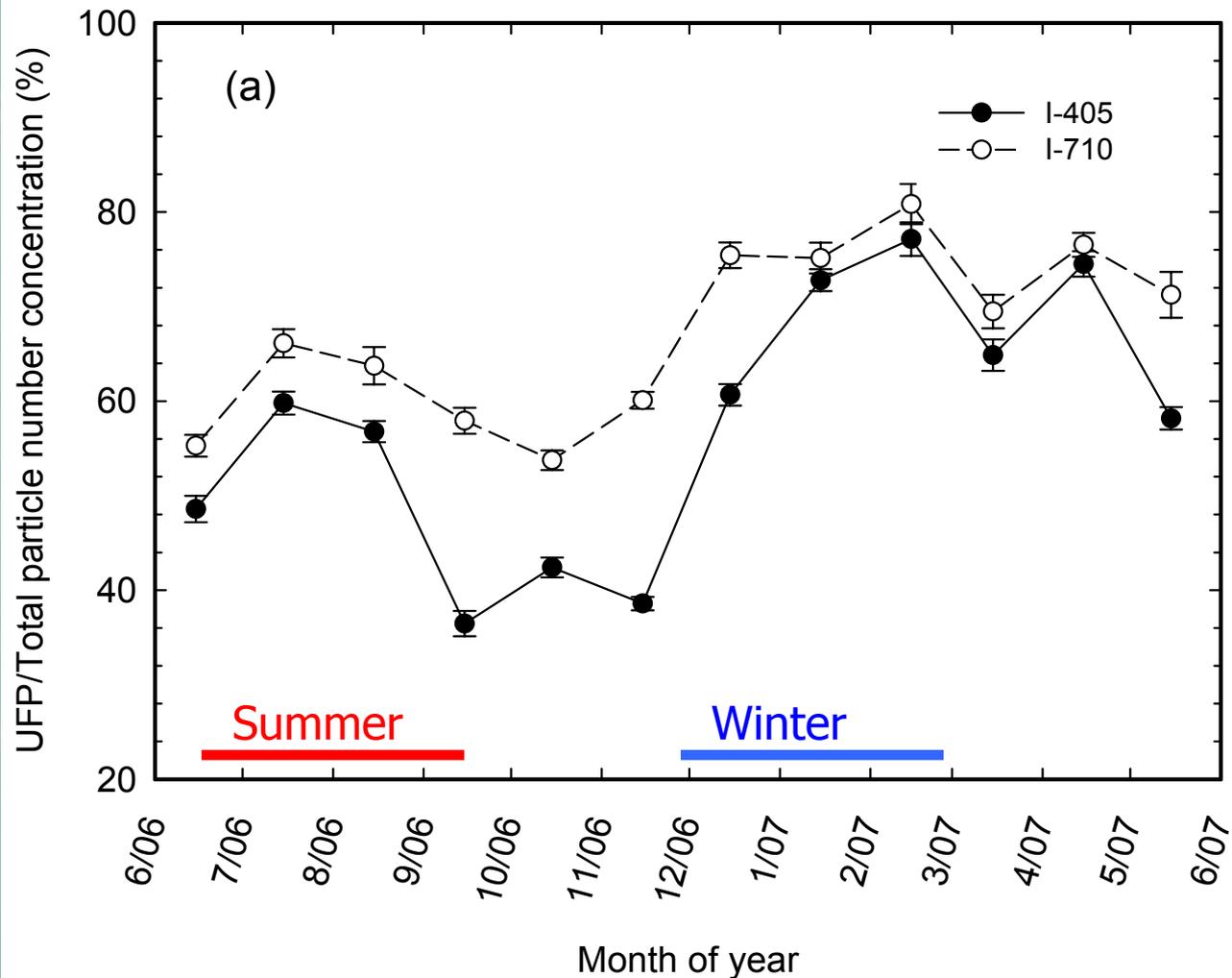


# Seasonal Effects

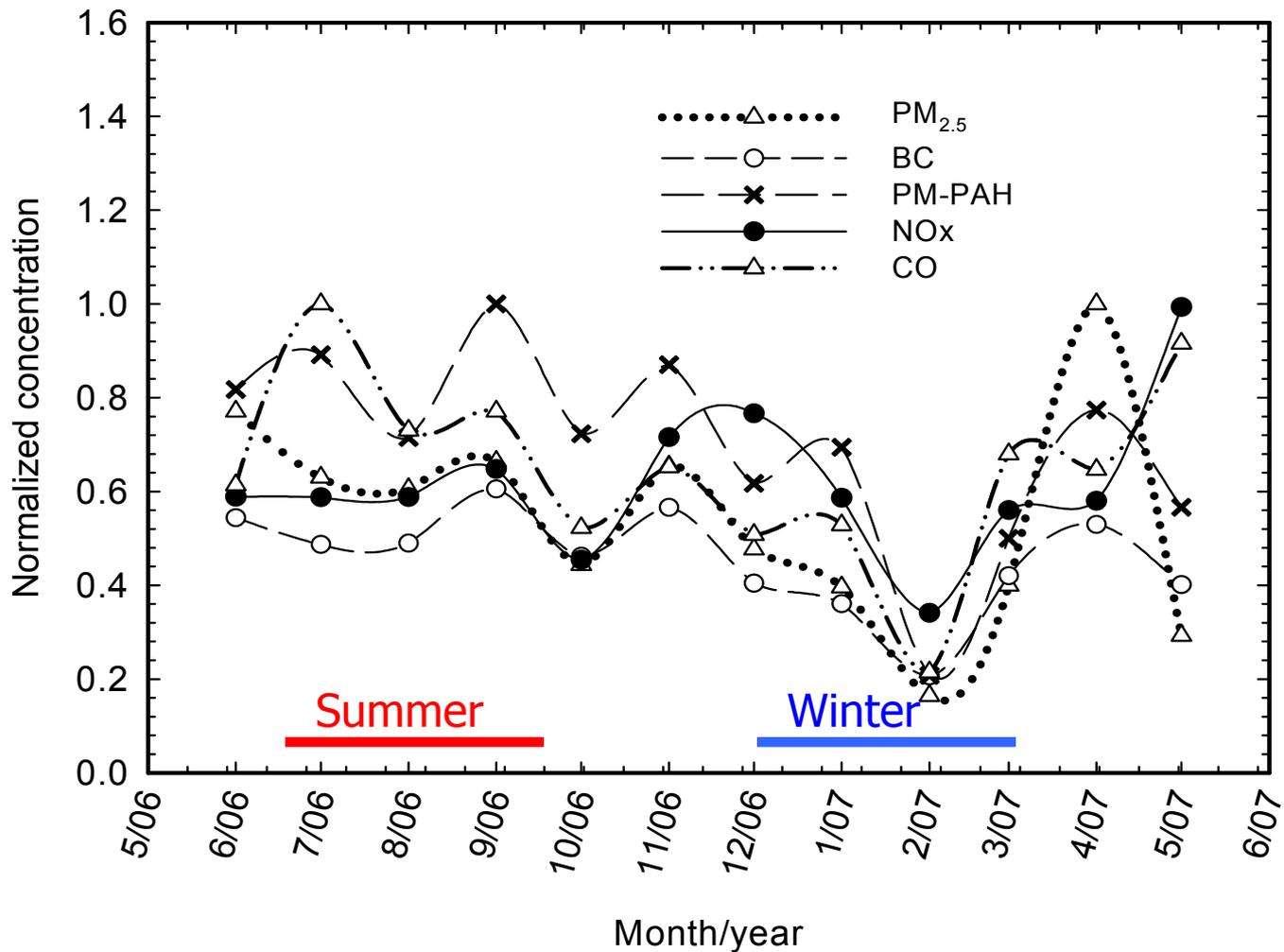
Top 5% of CPC Readings



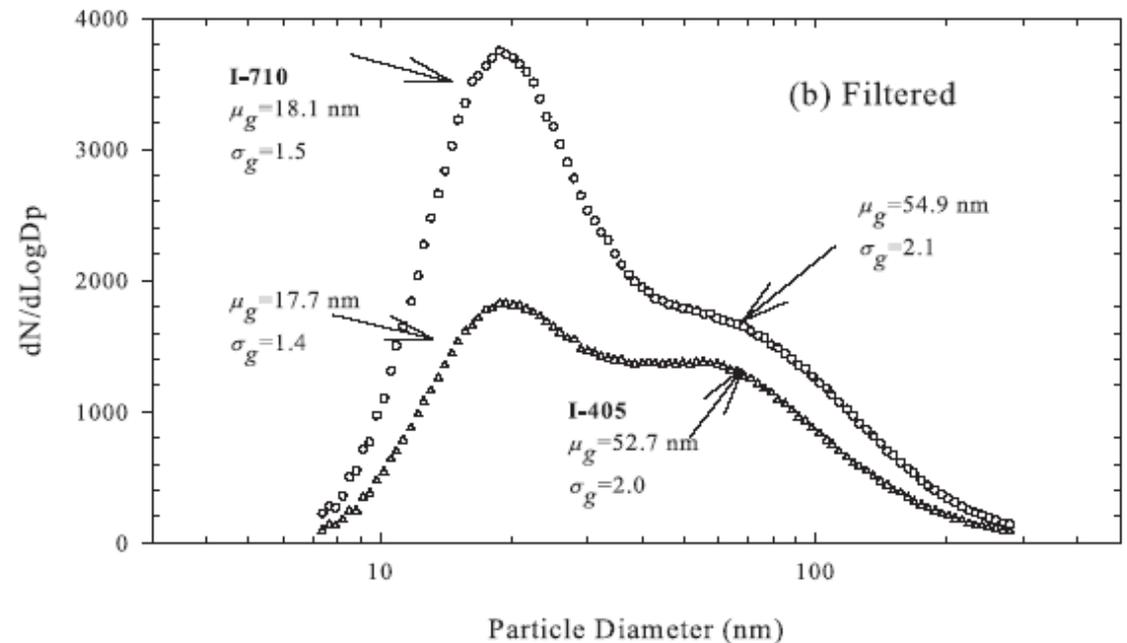
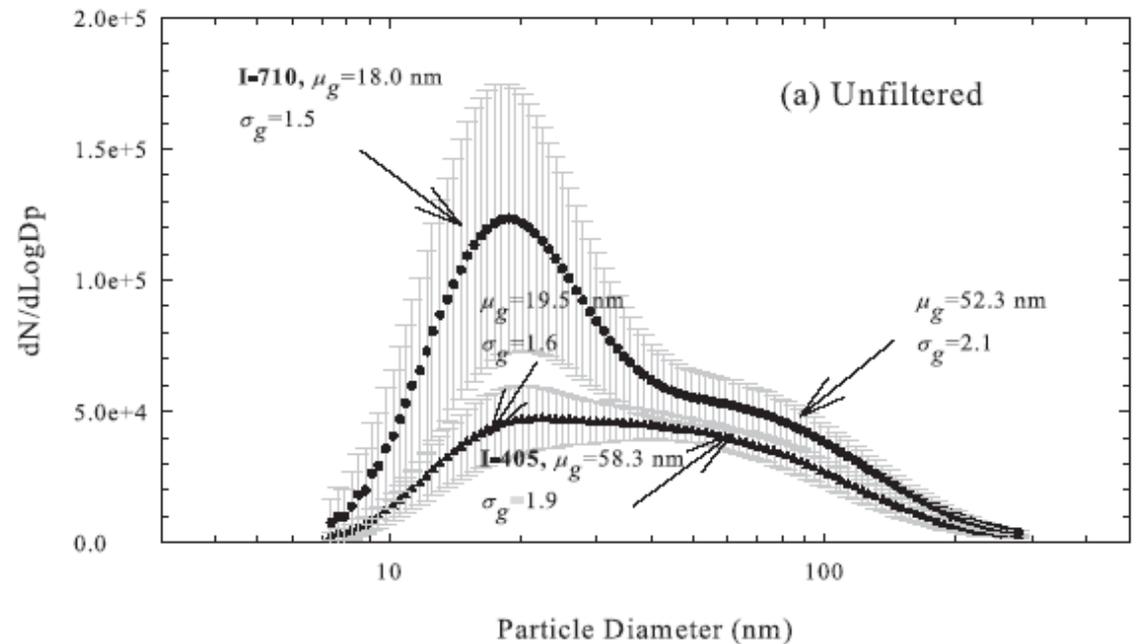
# Seasonal Effects



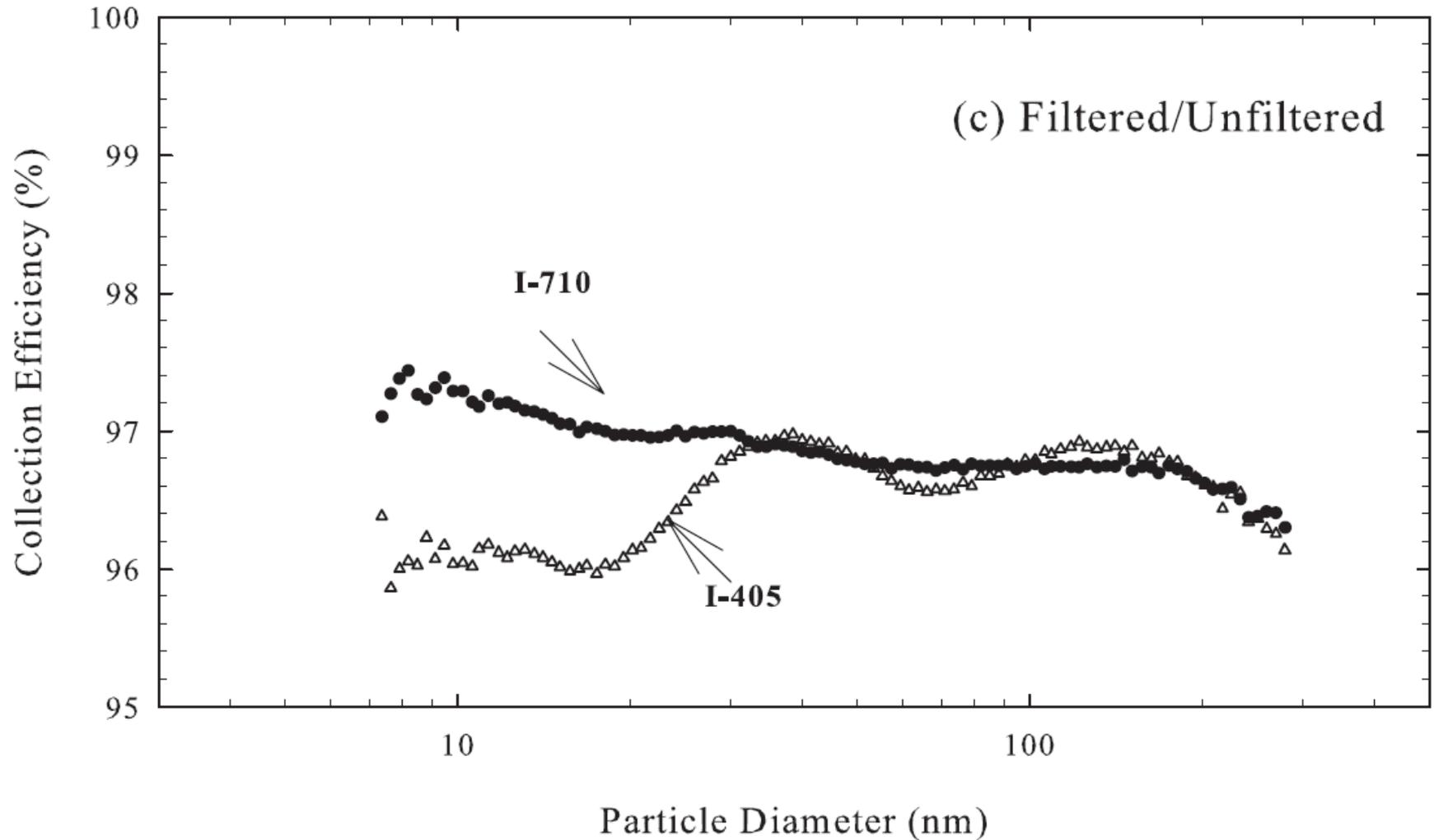
# Seasonal Effects



# Particle Size Distributions In Exposure Chamber

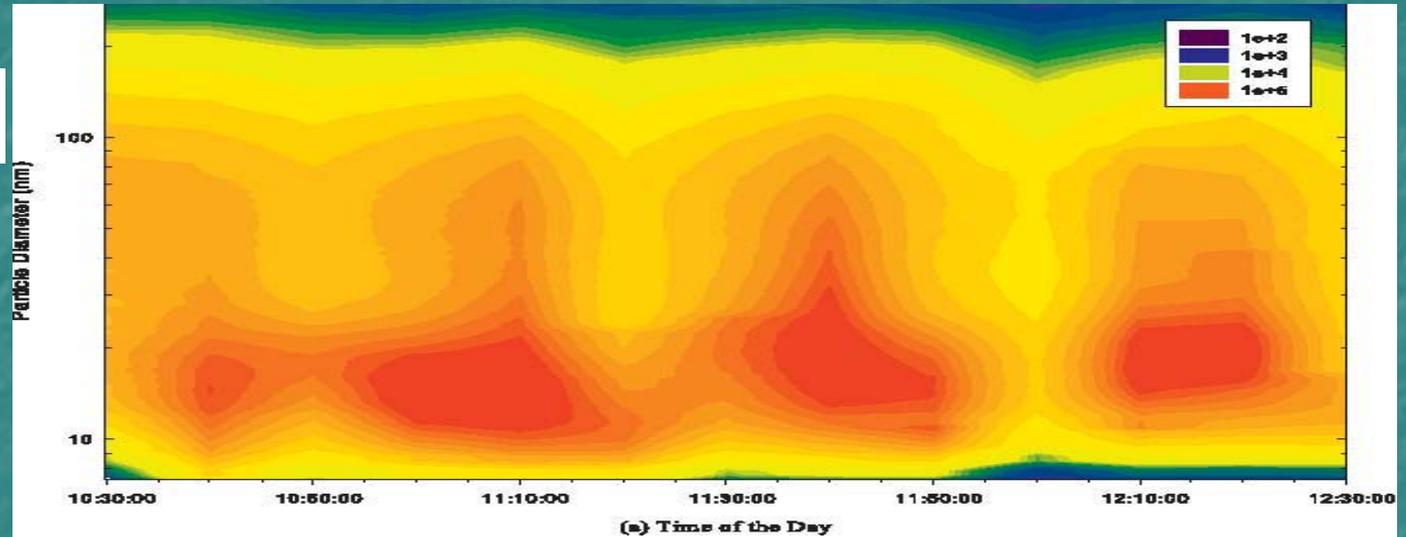


# Size-Specific Filtration Efficiency

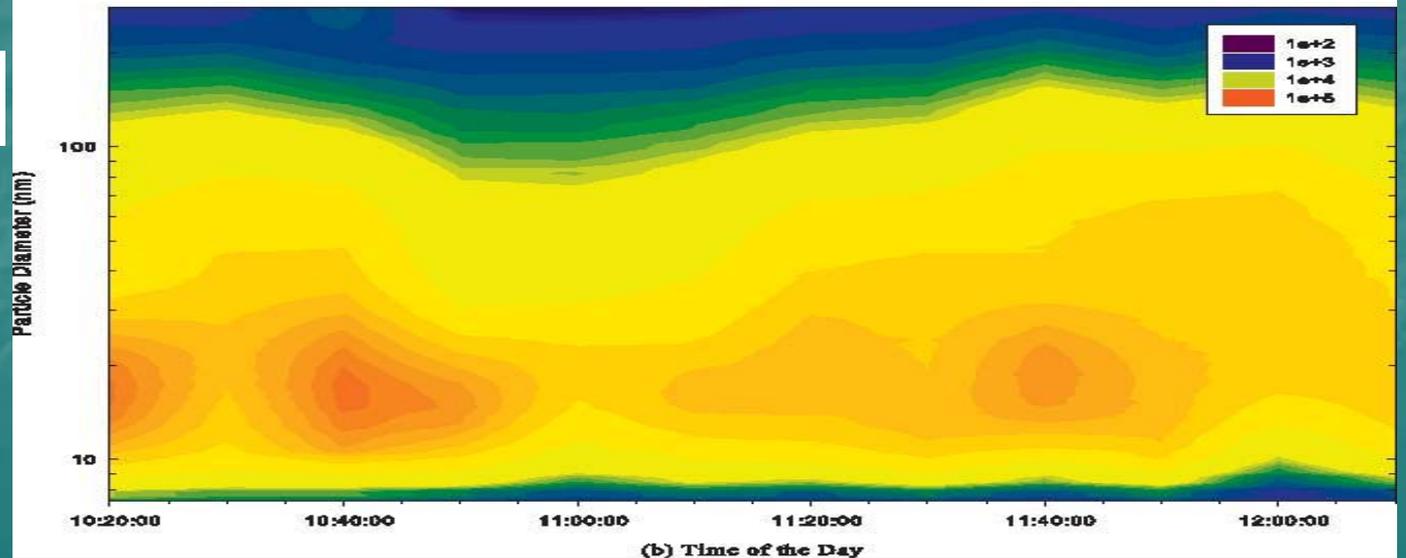


# Contour Plots of UF Size Distributions v. time

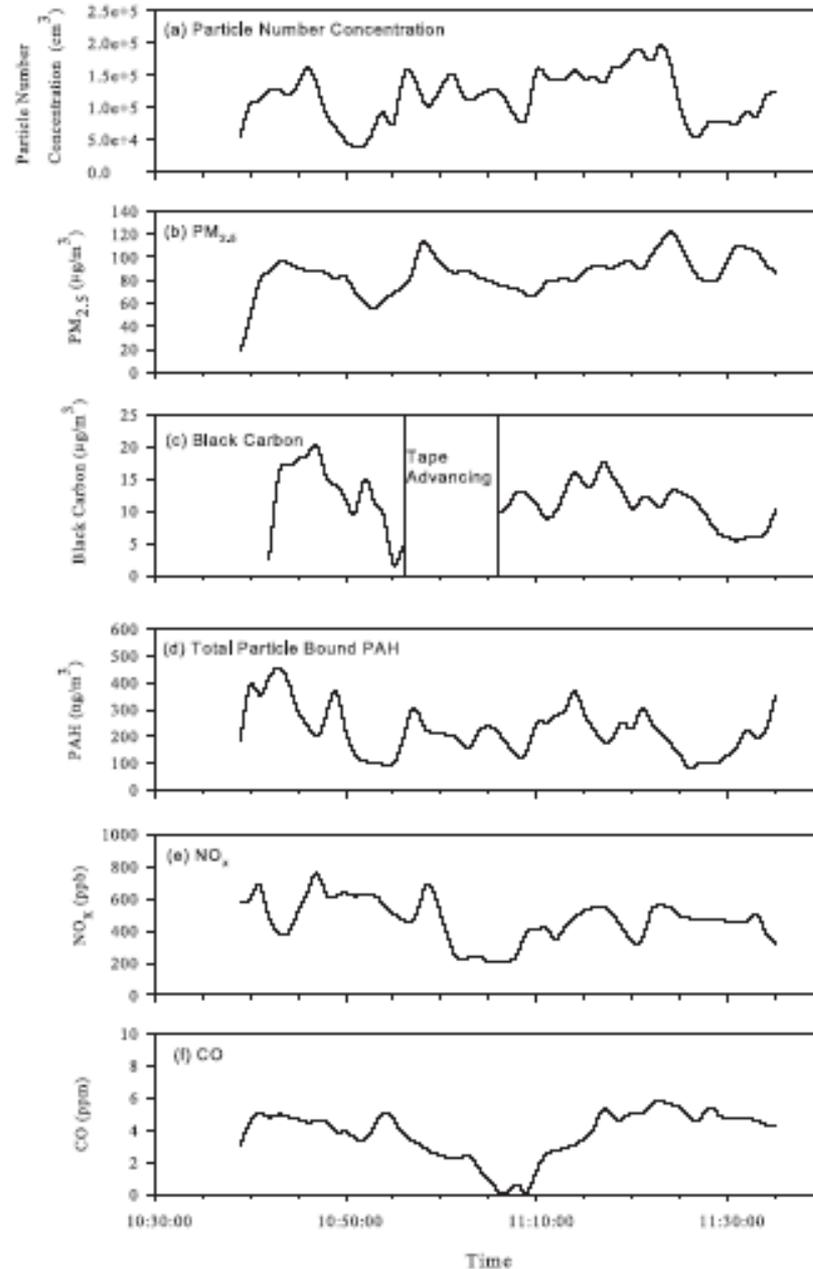
I-710



I-405



# One-hour Time Series Plots of Chamber Concentrations on I-710.



**Pearson correlation coefficients among measured pollutants inside the exposure chamber for unfiltered mode, for all subjects.**

**(a) I-405**

	Total Particle Number	UF particles	PM-2.5	PM-10	BC	UVPM	PB-PAH	NO <sub>x</sub>	CO	CO <sub>2</sub>
Total Particle Number	1.000									
UF particles	-0.025 (0.920)	1.000								
PM-2.5	0.116 (0.706)	0.226 (0.457)	1.000							
PM-10	0.062 (0.841)	0.263 (0.385)	0.993 ( $< 0.0001$ )	1.000						
BC	0.277 (0.251)	0.485 (0.035)	0.570 (0.042)	0.603 (0.029)	1.000					
UVPM	0.279 (0.247)	0.453 (0.051)	0.569 (0.043)	0.587 (0.035)	0.943 ( $< 0.0001$ )	1.000				
PB-PAH	-0.245 (0.313)	0.323 (0.178)	0.242 (0.426)	0.297 (0.325)	-0.257 (0.288)	-0.208 (0.394)	1.000			
NO <sub>x</sub>	-0.007 (0.977)	0.152 (0.534)	0.374 (0.208)	0.387 (0.191)	0.471 (0.042)	0.574 (0.010)	-0.212 (0.383)	1.000		
CO	0.302 (0.239)	-0.158 (0.546)	0.625 (0.022)	0.584 (0.036)	0.583 (0.014)	0.572 (0.016)	-0.737 (0.001)	0.511 (0.036)	1.000	
CO <sub>2</sub>	-0.120 (0.647)	0.417 (0.096)	0.742 (0.004)	0.758 (0.003)	0.013 (0.960)	0.150 (0.567)	0.464 (0.061)	-0.087 (0.741)	-0.356 (0.161)	1.000

**(b) I-710 freeway**

	Total Particle Number	UF particles	PM-2.5	PM-10	BC	UVPM	PB-PAH	NO <sub>x</sub>	CO
Total Particle Number	1.000								
UF particles	0.816 (<.0001)	1.000							
PM-2.5	0.280 (0.354)	0.145 (0.637)	1.000						
PM-10	0.278 (0.359)	0.119 (0.698)	0.997 (<.0001)	1.000					
BC	0.674 (0.002)	0.384 (0.105)	0.600 (0.030)	0.594 (0.032)	1.000				
UVPM	0.684 (0.001)	0.405 (0.086)	0.605 (0.028)	0.600 (0.030)	0.999 (<.0001)	1.000			
PB-PAH	0.328 (0.198)	0.246 (0.342)	0.336 (0.312)	0.315 (0.346)	0.305 (0.233)	0.287 (0.265)	1.000		
NO <sub>x</sub>	0.192 (0.432)	0.272 (0.260)	-0.466 (0.108)	-0.496 (0.085)	0.297 (0.217)	0.291 (0.226)	0.556 (0.021)	1.000	
CO	0.114 (0.641)	-0.019 (0.940)	-0.178 (0.561)	-0.207 (0.498)	0.485 (0.035)	0.458 (0.049)	0.093 (0.722)	0.595 (0.007)	1.000
CO <sub>2</sub>	-0.147 (0.550)	-0.175 (0.473)	-0.444 (0.128)	-0.419 (0.155)	-0.030 (0.904)	-0.050 (0.840)	-0.169 (0.516)	-0.033 (0.892)	0.318 (0.184)

\*“Total particle number” refers to CPC readings, and “UF particles” refers to SMPS measurements.

**(b) I-710 freeway**

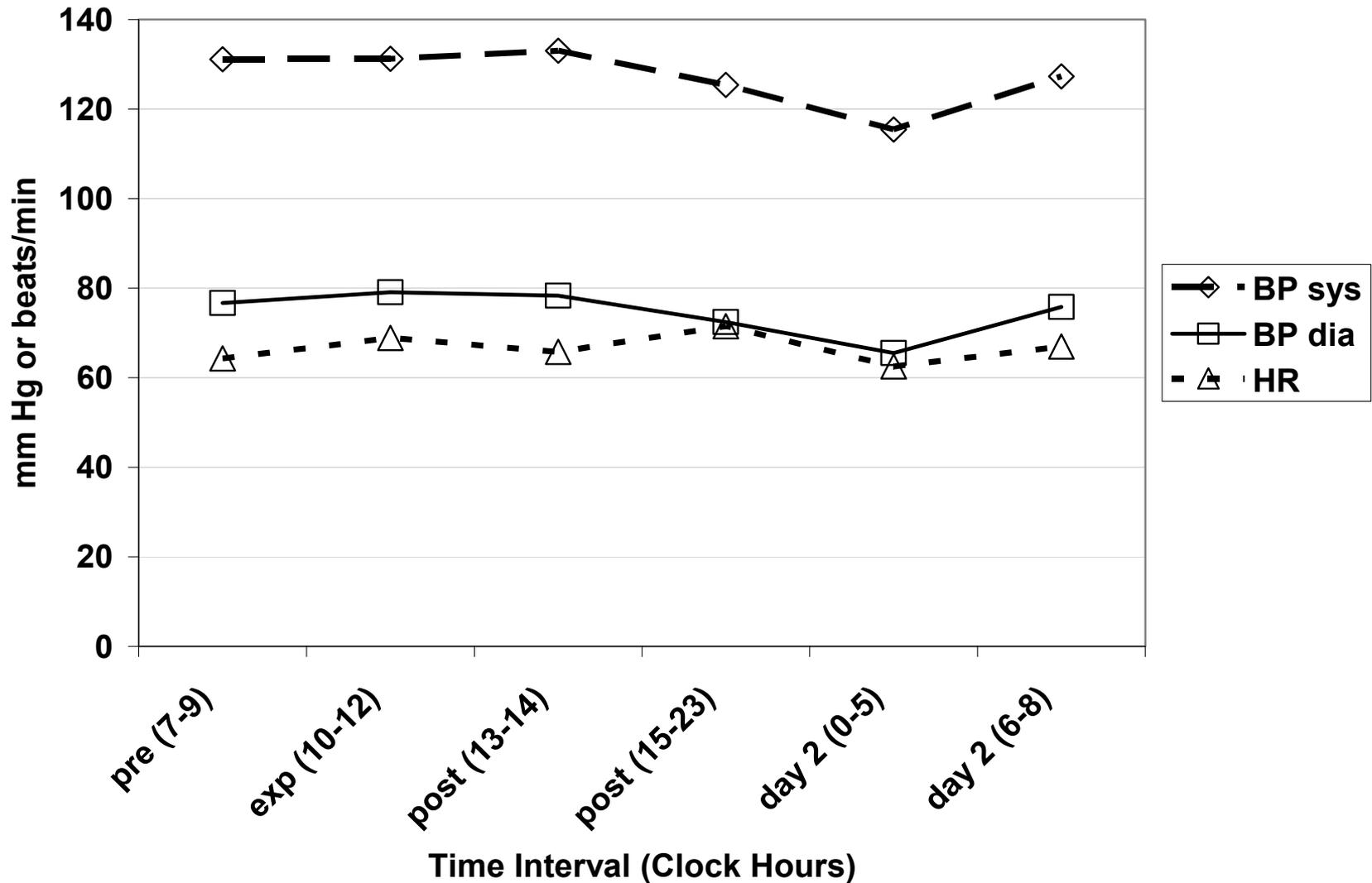
	Total Particle Number	UF particles	PM-2.5	PM-10	BC	UVPM	PB-PAH	NO <sub>x</sub>	CO
Total Particle Number	1.000								
UF particles	0.816 ( $<.0001$ )	1.000							
PM-2.5	0.280 (0.354)	0.145 (0.637)	1.000						
PM-10	0.278 (0.359)	0.119 (0.698)	0.997 ( $<.0001$ )	1.000					
BC	0.674 (0.002)	0.384 (0.105)	0.600 (0.030)	0.594 (0.032)	1.000				
UVPM	0.684 (0.001)	0.405 (0.086)	0.605 (0.028)	0.600 (0.030)	0.999 ( $<.0001$ )	1.000			
PB-PAH	0.328 (0.198)	0.246 (0.342)	0.336 (0.312)	0.315 (0.346)	0.305 (0.233)	0.287 (0.265)	1.000		
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CO	0.114 (0.641)	-0.019 (0.940)	-0.178 (0.561)	-0.207 (0.498)	0.485 (0.035)	0.458 (0.049)	0.093 (0.722)	0.595 (0.007)	1.000
CO <sub>2</sub>	-0.147 (0.550)	-0.175 (0.473)	-0.444 (0.128)	-0.419 (0.155)	-0.030 (0.904)	-0.050 (0.840)	-0.169 (0.516)	-0.033 (0.892)	0.318 (0.184)

**significant Correlations for both freeways**

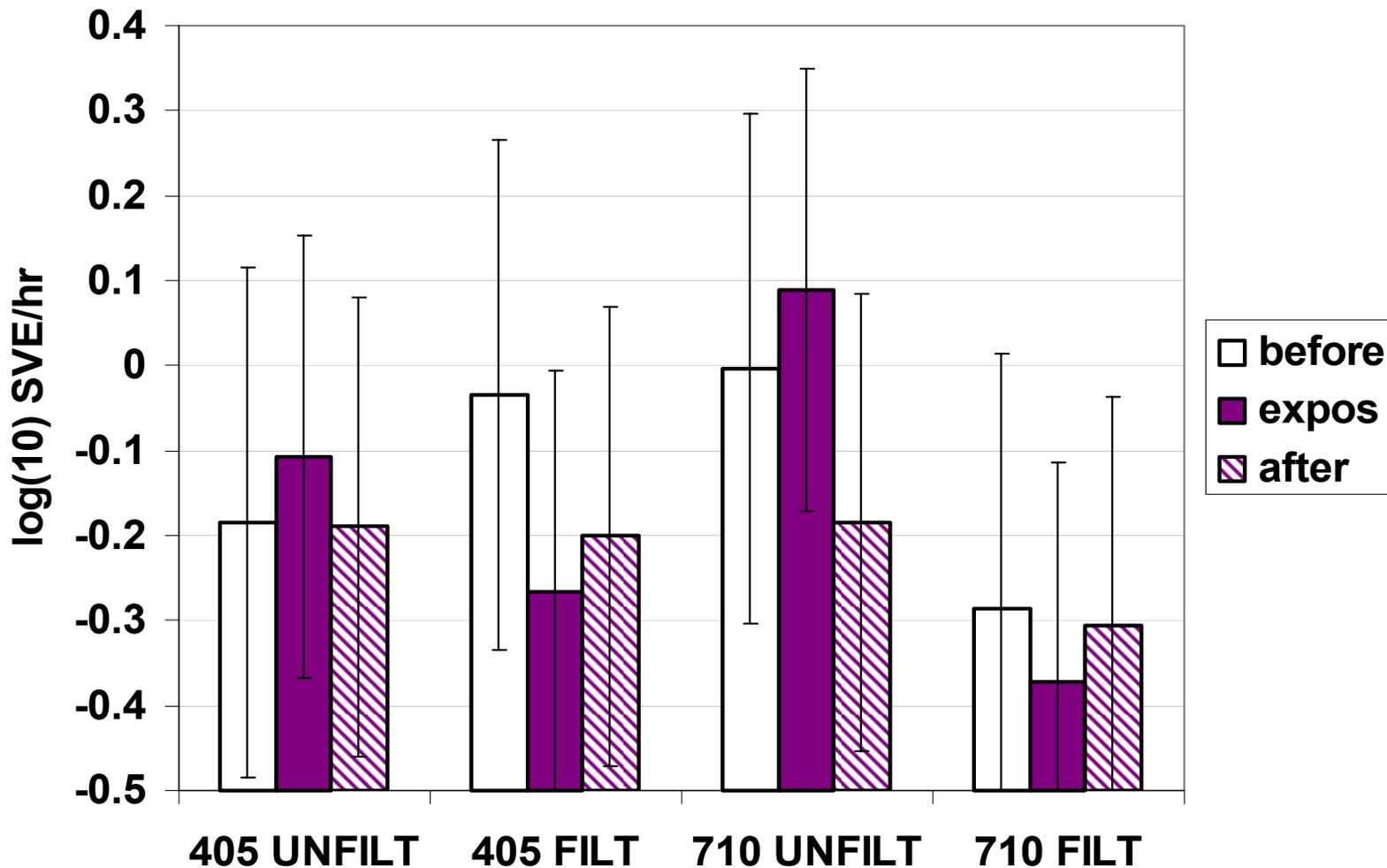
\*“Total particle number” refers to CPC readings, and “UF particles” refers to SMPS measurements.

# Physiological and C/V Results

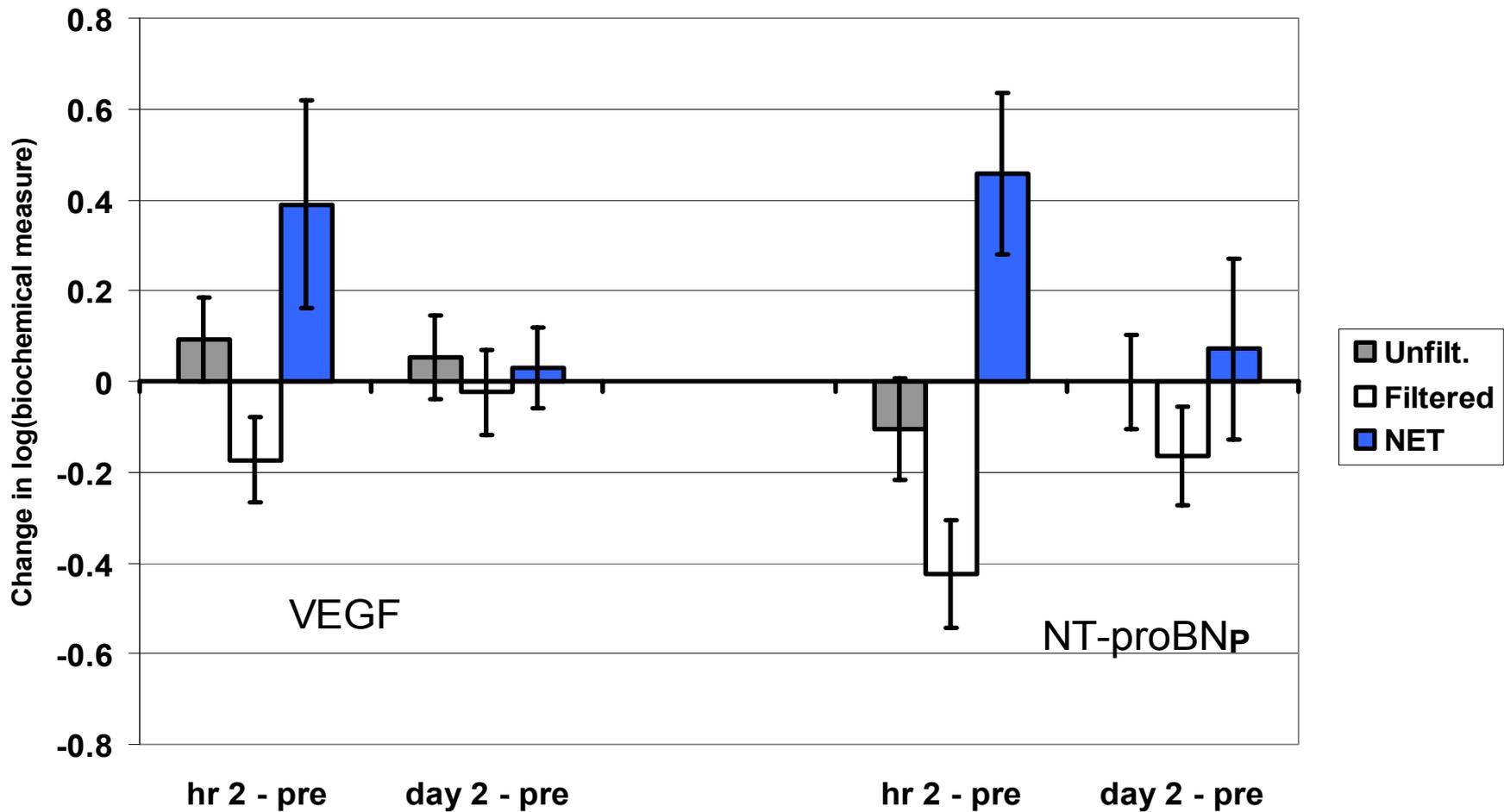
# Blood Pressure and Heart Rate



# Atrial Ectopic Beats



# VEGF and NT-proBNP



**Results of exposure-response analyses: Hourly incidence of supraventricular ectopic beats (from 24-hr recording) vs. exposure measures\***

Exposure Measure	Effect Size	P Value
Particle number	+0.33% / 1000 particles	0.009
PM <sub>2.5</sub>	+0.44% / (μg/m <sup>3</sup> )	0.07
PM <sub>10</sub>	+0.37% / (μg/m <sup>3</sup> )	0.10
Black carbon	+2.2% / (μg/m <sup>3</sup> )	0.04
PAH	+0.11% / (ng/m <sup>3</sup> )	0.02
NO <sub>x</sub>	+0.014% / ppb	0.47
CO	+10% / ppm	0.10
Temperature	+0.83% / deg F	0.63
Prior 24 hr Ambient PM <sub>10</sub>	-0.4% / (μg/m <sup>3</sup> )	0.63
Prior 24 hr Ambient PM <sub>2.5</sub>	-1.5% / (μg/m <sup>3</sup> )	0.07

\*Incidence is log-transformed for analysis, so effect-size estimates are expressed as percentages. See Table 2 for relevant exposure data.

**CONCLUSION**

# Summary of Study Results

- **Significant Results:**
  - **Unfiltered air compared to filtered air**
    - Increased frequency atrial arrhythmias
      - +20% ectopic beats
      - Not significant for healthy individuals
      - Can trigger sustained arrhythmias in susceptible individuals
    - Increased concentration of NTproBNP
      - +38%
      - Marker for intra-atrial pressure
    - Increased concentration of VEGF
      - +30%
      - Marker for vascular response/injury

# Summary of Study Results

- No significant differences in HRV
- No significant differences in respiratory response or blood pressure
- Suggests effect more strongly associated with ultrafine particles, P-PAH, and BC
  - $p=0.01$  for number concentration
  - $p=0.02$  for P-PAH
  - $P=0.04$  for BC
  - $P=0.07$  for mass concentration

# Summary of Study Results

- For this study average concentrations greater on I-710 than I-405
  - Particle number +37%\*
  - P-PAH +69%\*
  - BC +89%\*
  - PM-2.5 +15%
  
  - NOx +84%\*
  - CO +26%
- \* significant at  $p \leq 0.05$

# Summary of Study Results

- In-vehicle concentration of UFP high on heavily used freeways
- UFP fraction of total particulate higher on 710 than 405
- UFP not correlated with other pollutants
- UFP, BC, and P-PAH exposure can be reduced by:
  - Avoiding heavy-duty diesel trucks on freeways
  - Use of in-vehicle filtration

# Acknowledgements

- Major funding was provided by:
  - California Air Resources Board  
(Contract # 04-324),
  - additional support by Southern California Environmental Health Sciences Center (National Institutes of Health Grant # 5P30ES07048-12), and
  - USEPA Southern California Particle Center
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# Questions?

