London’s Most Polluted Schools: The Social Context

Dr Alison Pridmore

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Importance of Exploring Multi-Level Challenges

- Background to the research
- Study area
- Key results
Study area

Primary and secondary schools most affected by air quality issues – the focus of the analysis
Schools affected by poor air quality are impacted by higher levels of deprivation than the London average.
Schools affected by poor air quality impacted by higher levels of obesity and excess weight than the London average.
Physical activity

Primary schools affected by air pollution in the context of active travel

Schools affected by poor air quality had:

- Higher rates of pupils walking to school
- Lower rates of pupils cycling to school
- Both compared to the London average
- But data availability a key limitation
Issues of Equity

- Compared to the London average, schools affected by poor air quality had:
  - lower levels of travel to school by car
  - lower levels of car ownership in their catchment areas

- A social justice issue
Conclusions and policy recommendations

- Obesity
  - Health impacts

- Physical activity
  - Active travel and exposure to pollutants

- Deprivation
  - Importance of integrated approach

- Policy appraisal and evaluation
  - Robust up to date data requirements
Report available at