

# HEALTH STATUS OF ADULTS EXPOSED AS CHILDREN TO AIR POLLUTION IN SOUTH AFRICA: 13 YEAR INTERVAL FOLLOW-UP STUDY

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While studies on the effects of air pollution on the health of South African children have clearly demonstrated adverse effects, little is known about the respiratory health status of adults, who spent their developing years in areas where they were exposed to air pollution. This study reviews the upper respiratory health status, lower respiratory health status and lifestyle aspects of adults who participated as 10-year-old children in the Vaal Triangle Air Pollution Health Study (VAPS) during 1990. The study population consists of 60% females and 40% males. Most of the respondents still live in the Vaal Triangle and 39% were born there. Ninety eight percent of the individuals, who have left the Vaal Triangle, still visit the area. Most of the respondents live in single-family houses with 3 or more bedrooms and are supplied with municipal water and electricity. Preliminary findings of this study indicate an increase in the prevalence of upper as well as lower respiratory diseases in adults exposed as children to air pollution. The influence of lifestyle factors is being investigated. The paper will report on the descriptive statistics and main findings of the study. This study was funded by CSIR, ESKOM and NACA.