

behavior research center's

Rocky Mountain Poll

NEWS RELEASE
RMP 2006-1-04

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STAGNANT - POLLUTED AIR AFFECTS SIX OF TEN ARIZONAN FAMILIES FIVE PERCENT REPORT FAMILY MEMBER WAS HOSPITALIZED

Phoenix, Arizona, January 31, 2006. Fifty-eight percent of families in Arizona report that in the closing months of 2005, one or more family members had an adverse reaction to the stagnant and polluted air in the state. Leading problems included eye irritation, breathing difficulties, sore throats or the aggravation of existing lung disease such as asthma or emphysema.

Five percent report that someone in the family needed to go to a hospital for relief and treatment.

In Maricopa County, the proportion of families reporting problems rose to a startling 67 percent but elsewhere in the state, adverse reactions stayed at about the same levels as were registered a year ago. The urban area of Maricopa County has a bowl-like profile in which winter inversions trap pollen, dust of all kinds and fumes from cars and industry that create a pollution cocktail that has been particularly unhealthy this fall and winter and has been made worse by the very dry air conditions. The Department of Environmental quality issued 13 air pollution advisories between October and the end of the year for Maricopa County and has already issued three in January of 2006.

Complaints about respiratory problems jumped to 49 percent this year compared to 39 percent in 2005 and we also registered major increases in the proportion experiencing pollution irritation of their eyes, 45 percent this year compared to 36 percent the prior year.

The findings outlined in this report are based on a survey of 703 adults across Arizona conducted between January 5th and January 13th, 2006, by the Behavior Research Center of Arizona as part of the Center's independent and non-partisan Rocky Mountain Poll series. The public is welcome to visit www.brcpolls.com to read this and other recent polls.

In recent past studies, Phoenix, the West side and Scottsdale have had the highest levels of people reporting adverse reactions to the pollution. This year, the readings are fairly uniform across the valley, suggesting that pollution of the airshed became so intense that no area escaped its influences. The more active airsheds in northern and southern Arizona appear to have resulted in no worsening of the readings in those areas compared to last year – but no improvement either.

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EDITOR'S NOTE: This Rocky Mountain Poll Arizona (2006-I-04) is based on 703 telephone interviews with adults, conducted from January 5th through January 13th, 2006, throughout Arizona. In the overall sample, one may say with 95 percent certainty that the results have a statistical precision of plus or minus 3.7 percent of what they would have been had the entire adult population been surveyed. The Rocky Mountain Poll is conducted by the Behavior Research Center of Arizona and is an independent and non-partisan research program.

This statement conforms to the principles of disclosure of the National Council on Public Polls.

ENCLOSED: Statistical data for reference.

STATISTICAL DATA

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Rocky Mountain Poll - Arizona
RMP 2005-I-04

For this and other polls, see www.brcpolls.com/results.

"In the past several years, air pollution in some areas of Arizona reached the alert level. During the past several months, did you or other members of your household experience any of the following kinds of problems which you felt were directly the result of the air pollution?"

STATEWIDE

PERCENT OF HOUSEHOLDS WITH ONE OR MORE PERSONS EXPERIENCING ADVERSE REACTION TO AIR POLLUTION

Year	06	05	04	03	01	00	99	98	97	96	95	94
Any Vision or Respiratory Problems	58	49	45	46	47	59	51	53	48	54	39	41
Any respiratory problems	49	39	38	36	35	50	42	45	40	44	34	34
Any vision problems	45	36	34	34	35	46	40	41	35	39	27	30
VISION DETAIL												
Major eye irritations	25	17	18	15	16	25	22	22	18	7	6	7
Minor eye irritations	42	34	32	31	33	44	37	37	32	38	26	29
RESPIRATORY DETAIL												
Aggravation of an existing lung disease such as asthma or emphysema	23	18	17	17	14	24	21	21	17	19	14	13
Major breathing difficulty	18	13	13	14	11	20	17	19	16	11	8	10
Sore or irritated throat not attributed to a cold or other illness	37	24	29	24	23	35	29	30	28	33	25	24
Minor breathing difficulty	32	23	24	22	22	35	27	32	27	33	21	24

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**STATISTICAL DATA**

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RMP 2005-I-04

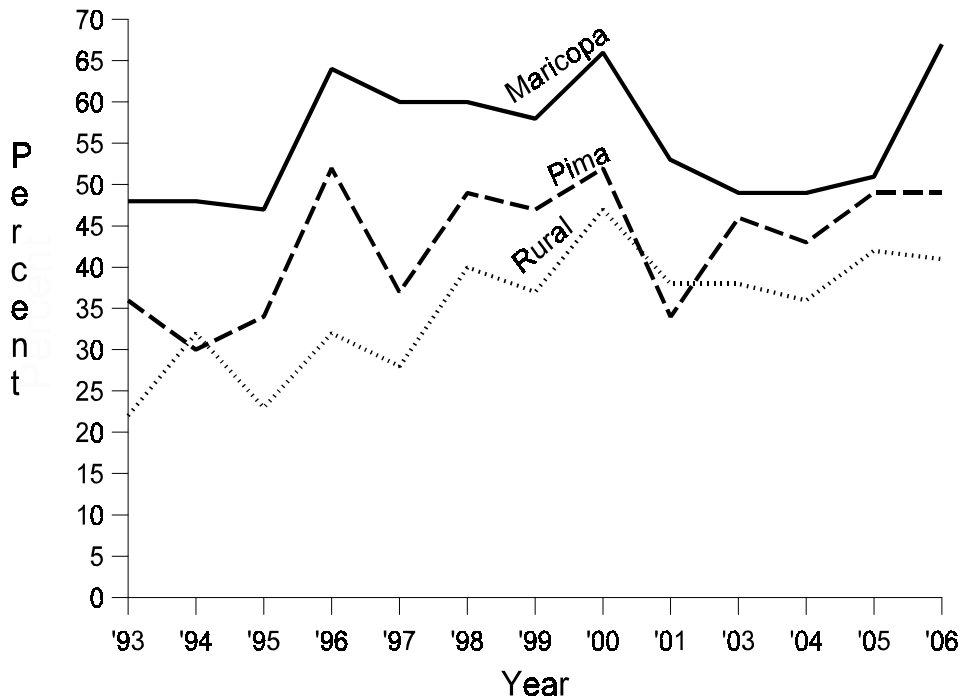
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ANY RESPIRATORY OR  
VISION PROBLEMS

|      | STATE<br>TOTAL | MARICOPA | PIMA | RURAL |
|------|----------------|----------|------|-------|
| 2006 | 58%            | 67%      | 49%  | 41%   |
| 2005 | 49             | 51       | 49   | 42    |
| 2004 | 45             | 49       | 43   | 36    |
| 2003 | 46             | 49       | 46   | 38    |
| 2001 | 47             | 53       | 34   | 38    |
| 2000 | 59             | 66       | 52   | 47    |
| 1999 | 51             | 58       | 47   | 37    |
| 1998 | 53             | 60       | 49   | 40    |
| 1997 | 48             | 60       | 37   | 28    |
| 1996 | 54             | 64       | 52   | 32    |
| 1995 | 39             | 47       | 34   | 23    |
| 1994 | 41             | 48       | 30   | 32    |
| 1993 | 39             | 48       | 36   | 22    |

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**ANY RESPIRATORY
OR VISION PROBLEM**



STATISTICAL DATA

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<u>SPECIAL GROUPS</u>	<u>REPORTING ANY VISION OR RESPIRATORY PROBLEMS</u>
Overall	58%
<u>AGE</u>	
Under 35	54
35 to 54	60
55+	59
Retirees	57
<u>INCOME</u>	
Under \$25K	53
\$25K to \$44.9K	56
\$45K to \$64.9K	53
\$65K +	64
<u>VALLEY RESIDENTS (AVG)</u>	
Tempe	60
Phoenix	66
West Valley	77
Southeast Valley	63
Scottsdale	60
Mesa	75

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