

# Assessment of Levels and Health Risks of Atmospheric Particulate Matter (PM<sub>10</sub>) and Associated Gaseous Elements in Selected Locations in Lagos, Nigeria

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**ABSTRACT:** Particulate matter with a size of 10 micrometers (PM<sub>10</sub>) poses health risks and thus needs to be monitored in every locality. This study assessed the health risks associated with PM<sub>10</sub> and related gaseous elements, including nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>), carbon monoxide (CO), and ozone (O<sub>3</sub>), in the ambient air of selected locations in Lagos, Nigeria. These locations included Ikeja, Apapa, Idumota, Odogunyan, Yaba, Obalende, Agege, Oshodi, Oto-Awori, and Ojodu. The average hourly dose (AHD), average daily dose (ADD), and hazard quotient (HQ) of these pollutants were calculated. The results indicated that PM<sub>10</sub> levels (ranging from 48.05±0.97 µg/m<sup>3</sup> in Obalende to 115.00±1.74 µg/m<sup>3</sup> in Apapa) and CO levels (ranging from 12.46±0.84 µg/m<sup>3</sup> in Obalende to 58.50±3.64 µg/m<sup>3</sup> in Agege) exceeded the WHO permissible limits at all locations (45 µg/m<sup>3</sup> for PM<sub>10</sub> and 7 µg/m<sup>3</sup> for CO). NO<sub>2</sub> levels (ranging from 0.00 µg/m<sup>3</sup> in Yaba and Obalende to 23.98±2.06 µg/m<sup>3</sup> in Oshodi) and O<sub>3</sub> levels (ranging from 2.25±0.20 µg/m<sup>3</sup> in Odogunyan to 38.71±2.41 µg/m<sup>3</sup> in Oshodi) remained within permissible limits (25 µg/m<sup>3</sup> for NO<sub>2</sub> and 100 µg/m<sup>3</sup> for O<sub>3</sub>) across all locations. The HQ of the ADD for both PM<sub>10</sub> and CO (Agege and Oshodi only) exceeded the threshold, suggesting that air quality in these locations may induce toxic effects. These findings emphasize the need for policies aimed at controlling pollution in the city.

**KEYWORDS:** Average daily dose (ADD); carbon monoxide (CO); hazard quotient (HQ); nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>); particulate matter 10 (PM<sub>10</sub>)

## 1. Introduction

PM constitutes a significant component of air pollution, consisting of exceedingly small particles and liquid droplets containing acids, organic chemicals, metals, and soil or dust particles [1, 2]. PM can originate from either direct emissions (primary particles) or atmospheric formation through chemical reactions involving gases (secondary particles) like sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>), nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>2</sub>), and certain organic compounds [3, 4]. Therefore, sources of PM can be classified as either natural or anthropogenic [5]. Anthropogenic, or

human-made sources, of PM encompass combustion in mechanical and industrial processes, vehicle emissions, and tobacco smoke [6, 7]. On the other hand, natural sources encompass phenomena such as volcanoes, fires, dust storms, and aerosolized sea salt [8,9]. For regulatory purposes regarding air quality, PM is categorized based on size. Particles with a diameter of 10 microns or less are referred to as PM<sub>10</sub>, whereas those with a diameter of 2.5 microns or less are categorized as PM<sub>2.5</sub> [10, 11]. It is essential to note that PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub> often originate from distinct emission sources and exhibit varying chemical compositions. PM<sub>2.5</sub> is primarily produced by emissions from the combustion of gasoline, oil, diesel fuel, or wood. In contrast, sources of PM<sub>10</sub> include dust from construction sites, landfills, agriculture, wildfires, industrial sources, wind-blown dust from open lands, pollen, and fragments of bacteria [12, 13]. PM has a profound impact on both human health and the environment, with effects that can be acute or chronic, contingent upon the duration and absorbed dose [14]. Exposure to PM, specifically PM<sub>10</sub>, can lead to health issues such as ischemic heart disease, inflammatory responses, DNA damage, cancer, obesity, and diabetes mellitus [14, 15]. Additionally, exposure to PM heightens the risk of developing or succumbing to cardiac, cerebrovascular, and chronic airway diseases [16, 17]. Globally, about 8.34 million people died yearly from particulate matter emissions [18]. Moreover, both PM<sub>10</sub> and gaseous pollutants like CO, SO<sub>2</sub>, and NO contribute to climate change and exhibit detrimental effects on rainfall, reducing its occurrence and quantity [19–21].

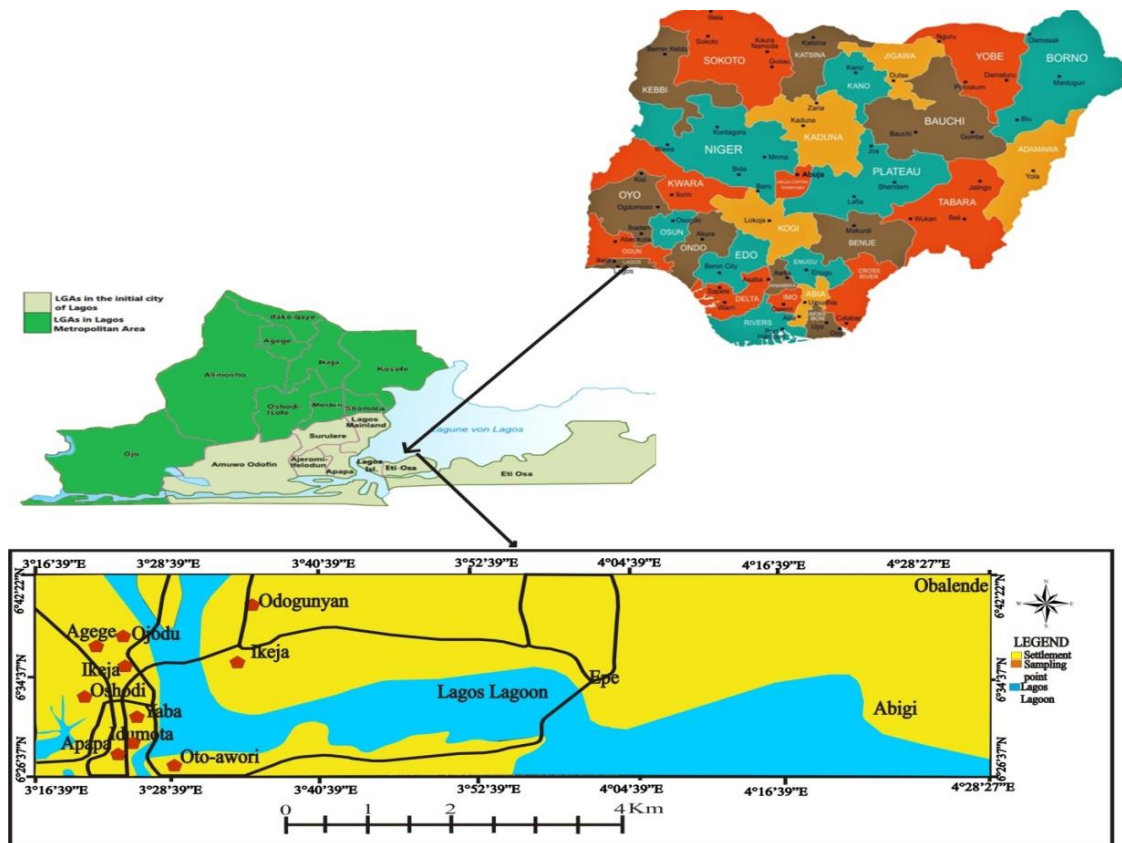
People in low- and middle-income countries, particularly those residing in industrialized urban areas such as the Lagos metropolis, bear the brunt of mortality and morbidity due to PM exposure [22, 23]. In 2018, PM was responsible for approximately 11,200 premature deaths and generated a health cost of US\$2.1 billion in Lagos State, Nigeria, which equated to about 2.1% of the state's GDP during that year [24]. The World Health Organization (WHO) has recommended a PM limit of 45 g/m<sup>3</sup>, but Lagos recorded levels as high as 68 g/m<sup>3</sup> [24–26]. Unfortunately, literature searches have revealed a significant lack of studies and awareness regarding the dangers posed by PM exposure in the city. Information and awareness are crucial to mitigating mortality, morbidity, and the expenses incurred due to PM exposure. Consequently, this study was conducted to determine the concentrations and health risks associated with PM<sub>10</sub> in selected locations within Lagos, namely Ikeja, Apapa, Idumota, Odogunyan, Yaba, Obalende, Agege, Oshodi, Oto-awori, and Ojodu. It is hoped that the findings of this study will provide primary data on PM pollution and associated health burden which policymakers in the city may strategize to reduce air pollution and its effects.

## 2. Materials and Methods

### 2.1. Description of the study area.

This research was conducted in Lagos State, located in southwestern Nigeria, as depicted in Figure 1. The geographical coordinates of the state fall within the latitude of 6° 27' 55.5192 "N and the longitude of 3° 24' 23.2128 "E. Lagos experiences a tropical wet and dry climate, characterized by two distinct rainy seasons, with the peak rainy season occurring from April to July and a dry season prevailing from December to March. The temperature in the city typically varies between 21 and 33 degrees celsius. Lagos stands as the fastest-growing city in Nigeria, boasting an annual growth rate of approximately 5.8% and an estimated population exceeding 14 million residents [27]. This dynamic urban center is host to a significant portion of Nigeria's industrial investments, accounting for 70%, and is a hub for about 65% of the country's

commercial activities, with over 10,000 large-scale industrial and commercial businesses [28]. Furthermore, Lagos contends with a high density of vehicles, surpassing 222 vehicles per square kilometer [29]. It is noteworthy that many of these vehicles employ outdated emission technologies and utilize fuel with high sulfur content [30]. Given these circumstances, there exists a plausible risk of elevated levels of PM and its associated elements in the city's ambient air. Regrettably, documented information concerning PM exposure within the city is limited, underscoring the imperative need for the present study.



**Figure 1.** Locations of the study area.

### 3.2. Sample and data collection.

A pre-calibrated Aerosol Mass Monitor (Temtop Aerosol Dust Monitor PMD 351, USA) was utilized to measure the concentrations of PM<sub>10</sub>, NO<sub>2</sub>, CO<sub>2</sub>, and O<sub>3</sub> in the ambient air of ten carefully chosen locations in Lagos, covering the period from July 2023 to September 2023. These selected locations encompass Ikeja, Apapa, Idumota, Odogunyan, Yaba, Obalende, Agege, Oshodi, Oto-Awori, and Ojodu. The selection of these sites took into account various factors, including high population and vehicular densities, the presence of industrial clusters, and intense anthropogenic activities. Following the data collection process, the precise coordinates of each location were determined using a portable, automated GPS device.

### 3.3. Health risk assessment.

The potential health risks associated with PM<sub>10</sub>, NO<sub>2</sub>, CO<sub>2</sub>, and O<sub>3</sub> in the ambient air of the selected locations were assessed by estimating their AHD, ADD, and HQ using equations 1, 2, and 3, as described by Yahaya et al. [31].

$$AHD = Cn \times IR/BW \quad (1)$$

$$ADD = Cn \times ED \times IR/BW \times AT \quad (2)$$

$$HQ = AHD \text{ or } ADD/RL \quad (3)$$

In this context, the variables are defined as follows: Cn represents the concentration of particulate matter (mg/kg); IR signifies the inhalation rate, which is set at 1.2 m<sup>3</sup>/hour per person/day; ED stands for exposure duration (55 years, which corresponds to the average lifespan of a resident of Nigeria); BW indicates the average body weight (65 kg); AT represents the average exposure time for non-carcinogenic health risk (365 days/year multiplied by ED); and RL stands for the reference exposure level (20 µg/m<sup>3</sup>) [31].

### 3.4. Data analysis.

The values of PM<sub>10</sub>, NO<sub>2</sub>, CO<sub>2</sub>, and O<sub>3</sub> obtained from the selected locations were presented as means ± standard deviation (SD) using Minitab version 21. The same software was employed to calculate the AHD, ADD, and HQ for these values.

## 3. Results and Discussion

### 3.1. Levels of particulate matter (PM<sub>10</sub>) in the ambient air.

Table 1 displays the concentrations of PM<sub>10</sub>, NO<sub>2</sub>, CO, and O<sub>3</sub> in the ambient air across various locations in Lagos, including Ikeja, Apapa, Idumota, Odogunyan, Yaba, Obalende, Agege, Oshodi, Oto-Awori, and Ojodu. Notably, the levels of PM<sub>10</sub> and CO exceeded the permissible limits established by the WHO [26], which were 45 µg/m<sup>3</sup> for PM<sub>10</sub> and 7 µg/m<sup>3</sup> for CO, across all the selected areas. Obalende recorded the lowest PM<sub>10</sub> levels, measuring at 48.05±0.97 µg/m<sup>3</sup>, while Apapa exhibited the highest PM<sub>10</sub> concentration, reaching 115.0±1.74 µg/m<sup>3</sup>. As for CO levels, Obalende had the lowest concentration, with 12.46±0.84 µg/m<sup>3</sup>, while Agege had the highest, measuring at 58.50±3.64 µg/m<sup>3</sup>. On the other hand, O<sub>3</sub> and NO<sub>2</sub> levels were found to be within the permissible limits (100 µg/m<sup>3</sup> for O<sub>3</sub> and 25 µg/m<sup>3</sup> for NO<sub>2</sub>) across all the locations. Odogunyan displayed the lowest O<sub>3</sub> levels, registering at 2.25±0.20 µg/m<sup>3</sup>, while Oshodi exhibited the highest O<sub>3</sub> concentration, measuring 38.71±2.41 µg/m<sup>3</sup>. Regarding NO<sub>2</sub>, Yaba and Obalende both recorded the lowest levels at 0.00 µg/m<sup>3</sup> each, whereas Oshodi had the highest NO<sub>2</sub> concentration, reaching 23.98±2.06 µg/m<sup>3</sup>.

These findings imply that individuals exposed to the ambient air in the selected locations risk health hazards associated with PM<sub>10</sub> and CO. Prolonged exposure to elevated PM<sub>10</sub> levels can result in increased mortality due to cardiovascular and respiratory diseases, developmental defects, and mutagenic effects in children [32, 33]. Additionally, PM<sub>10</sub> exposure can cause poor pregnancy outcomes, type 2 diabetes, dementia, and decreased life expectancy [34,35]. Acute exposure to CO can cause headache, dizziness, drowsiness, or nausea, vomiting, loss of consciousness, while chronic exposure can lead to loss of consciousness, coma, or even death [36, 37]. Moreover, excessive CO exposure aggravates respiratory, cardiovascular, genitourinary, gastrointestinal, and neuropsychiatric diseases [38]. The findings of the current study are consistent with those of Odekanle et al. [39], who detected non-tolerable levels of PM<sub>10</sub> in Oshodi, Agege, Apapa, Ikorodu, and Maryland in Lagos, Nigeria. Njoku et al. [40] reported non-tolerable levels of CO in the ambient air of selected locations in Lagos, Nigeria.

However, unlike the current study, Njoku and colleagues reported non-tolerable levels of NO<sub>2</sub>. Abulude et al. [41] also detected PM<sub>10</sub>, CO, and NO<sub>2</sub> above the permissible limit in Ojodu, Opebi, Maryland, Ikeja, and Eti-Osa in Lagos, Nigeria. Additionally, compared to a study carried out in Ibadan, Nigeria by Kolawole and Olatunji [42], PM<sub>10</sub> concentrations in the study areas were lower; while the current study recorded maximum PM<sub>10</sub> concentration of 115.0±1.74 µg/m<sup>3</sup>, Kolawole and Olatunji recorded a minimum of 120 µg/m<sup>3</sup>. However, it is higher than the maximum range of PM<sub>10</sub> (0.065-0.172 µg/m<sup>3</sup>) recorded in some markets in Imo, Nigeria [43]. Outside Nigeria, it is lower than the levels detected in Qena, Egypt which detected as high as 646.74 µg/m of PM<sub>10</sub> [44]. But it is higher than the 56.243-69.425 µg/m<sup>3</sup> range reported in Tema, Ghana [45].

**Table 1.** Levels of PM<sub>10</sub> and associated elements in the ambient air of ten selected locations in Lagos.

| Locations          | Coordinates    | PM <sub>10</sub> (µg/m <sup>3</sup> ) | NO <sub>2</sub> (µg/m <sup>3</sup> ) | CO (µg/m <sup>3</sup> ) | O <sub>3</sub> (µg/m <sup>3</sup> ) |
|--------------------|----------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Ikeja              | 6.60°N, 3.51°E | 83.51±1.45                            | 11.01±0.55                           | 23.07±0.77              | 22.00±1.21                          |
| Apapa              | 6.46°N, 3.36°E | 115.0±1.74                            | 17.05±0.57                           | 18.91±0.45              | 10.50±0.69                          |
| Idumota            | 6.46°N, 3.38°E | 63.38±2.09                            | 15.07±2.05                           | 29.06±0.50              | 8.21±0.06                           |
| Odogunyan          | 6.68°N, 3.52°E | 76.33±1.15                            | 7.12±1.12                            | 25.19±4.02              | 2.25±0.20                           |
| Yaba               | 6.51°N, 3.37°E | 52.71±0.69                            | ND                                   | 34.51±1.15              | 10.02±0.68                          |
| Obalende           | 6.70°N, 4.35°E | 48.05±0.97                            | ND                                   | 12.46±0.84              | 11.0±1.00                           |
| Agege              | 6.62°N, 3.32°E | 89.56±0.45                            | 21.51±2.24                           | 58.50±3.64              | 35.54±1.74                          |
| Oshodi             | 6.54°N, 3.31°E | 32.78±1.07                            | 23.98±2.06                           | 50.89±4.42              | 38.71±2.41                          |
| Oto-Awori          | 6.44°N, 3.42°E | 104.7±4.08                            | 14.12±0.80                           | 43.61±2.24              | 36.12±1.04                          |
| Ojodu              | 6.63°N, 3.36°E | 93.41±2.01                            | 16.15±0.48                           | 40.65±2.05              | 27.65±1.12                          |
| <b>Limits [26]</b> |                | <b>45</b>                             | <b>25</b>                            | <b>7</b>                | <b>100</b>                          |

Values were expressed as mean ± SD and µg/m<sup>3</sup>, WHO: World Health Organization.

### 3.2. Health risk of PM<sub>10</sub> in the ambient air.

Table 2 presents data on the AHD and ADD of PM<sub>10</sub>, NO<sub>2</sub>, CO, and O<sub>3</sub> obtained from ambient air in various locations in Lagos. As anticipated, the ADD for pollutants exceeded the AHD in all the locations. AHD and ADD for PM<sub>10</sub> showed the highest values among the pollutants, ranging from 0.61 µg/m<sup>3</sup> and 14.52 µg/m<sup>3</sup> in Oshodi to 2.12 µg/m<sup>3</sup> and 50.97 µg/m<sup>3</sup> in Apapa, respectively. Conversely, exposure to NO<sub>2</sub> had the lowest values, ranging from 0.00 µg/m<sup>3</sup> in Yaba and Obalende to 0.44 µg/m<sup>3</sup> and 10.62 µg/m<sup>3</sup> in Oshodi, respectively. Figures 2 and 3 illustrate the HQ of the AHD and ADD of PM<sub>10</sub> and associated elements at selected locations in Lagos. Figure 2 demonstrates that the HQ of AHD for PM<sub>10</sub>, NO<sub>2</sub>, CO, and O<sub>3</sub> remained consistently below 1 in all locations. In contrast, Figure 3 reveals that the HQ of ADD for PM<sub>10</sub> exceeded 1 in all locations, while those for NO<sub>2</sub>, CO (except in Agege and Oshodi), and O<sub>3</sub> remained below 1 in all locations. The HQ of the AHD of PM<sub>10</sub>, NO<sub>2</sub>, CO, and O<sub>3</sub> being less than 1, indicate lower risk, while the HQ of the ADD of PM<sub>10</sub> being greater than 1, indicated potential risks. Additionally, the HQ of ADD of CO being greater than 1 in Agege and Oshodi, suggests that PM<sub>10</sub> and CO could cause lasting harm to individuals in these areas.

**Table 2.** AHD and ADD of PM<sub>10</sub> and associated elements in the ambient air of ten selected locations in Lagos.

| Locations | PM <sub>10</sub> (µg/m <sup>3</sup> ) |       | NO <sub>2</sub> (µg/m <sup>3</sup> ) |       | CO (µg/m <sup>3</sup> ) |       | O <sub>3</sub> (µg/m <sup>3</sup> ) |       |
|-----------|---------------------------------------|-------|--------------------------------------|-------|-------------------------|-------|-------------------------------------|-------|
|           | AHD                                   | ADD   | AHD                                  | ADD   | AHD                     | ADD   | AHD                                 | ADD   |
| Ikeja     | 1.54                                  | 37.01 | 0.31                                 | 4.88  | 0.43                    | 10.22 | 0.41                                | 9.75  |
| Apapa     | 2.12                                  | 50.97 | 0.20                                 | 7.55  | 0.35                    | 8.38  | 0.19                                | 4.65  |
| Idumota   | 1.17                                  | 28.08 | 0.28                                 | 6.68  | 0.54                    | 12.88 | 0.15                                | 3.64  |
| Odogunyan | 1.41                                  | 33.82 | 0.13                                 | 3.15  | 0.47                    | 11.16 | 0.04                                | 0.99  |
| Yaba      | 0.97                                  | 23.3  | 50.00                                | 0.00  | 0.64                    | 15.29 | 0.18                                | 4.44  |
| Obalende  | 0.78                                  | 18.63 | 0.00                                 | 0.00  | 0.23                    | 5.52  | 0.20                                | 4.87  |
| Agege     | 1.65                                  | 39.68 | 0.39                                 | 9.53  | 1.08                    | 25.92 | 0.66                                | 15.75 |
| Oshodi    | 0.61                                  | 14.52 | 0.44                                 | 10.62 | 0.94                    | 22.55 | 0.72                                | 17.15 |
| Oto-Awori | 1.93                                  | 46.08 | 0.26                                 | 6.26  | 0.81                    | 19.32 | 0.68                                | 16.00 |
| Ojodu     | 1.72                                  | 41.39 | 0.29                                 | 7.16  | 0.75                    | 18.01 | 0.51                                | 12.34 |

These results are consistent with those of Obanya et al. [25], who reported potential health risks of PM<sub>10</sub> in selected places in Lagos, Nigeria. Similarly, Abulude et al. [41] reported poor quality of air at selected places in Lagos, including Ikeja, Maryland, Opebi, Ojodu, and Eti-Osa. Furthermore, Wambebe and Duan [46] documented health risks associated with PM and associated elements in the ambient air of selected locations in Abuja, Nigeria. Potential sources of PM and CO in the city can be attributed to high population density, extensive anthropogenic activities, industrial emissions, vehicular exhaust, and the widespread use of diesel and petrol generators by households.

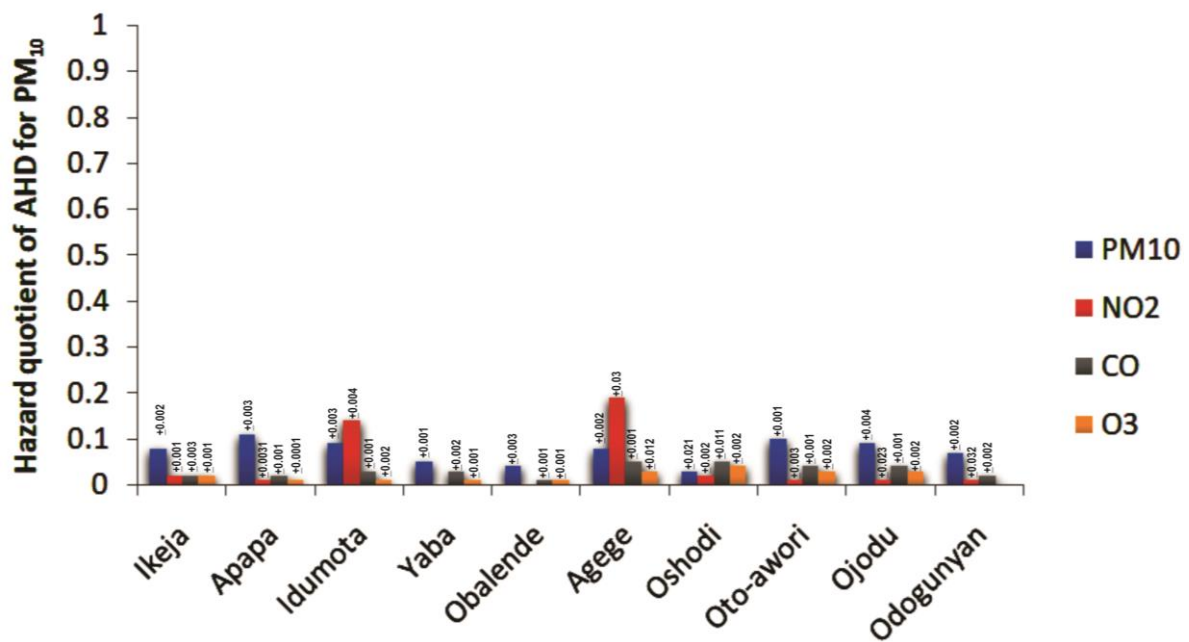


Fig 2. Hazard quotient of AHD of PM<sub>10</sub> (values above each bar is the standard error of the triplicates results).

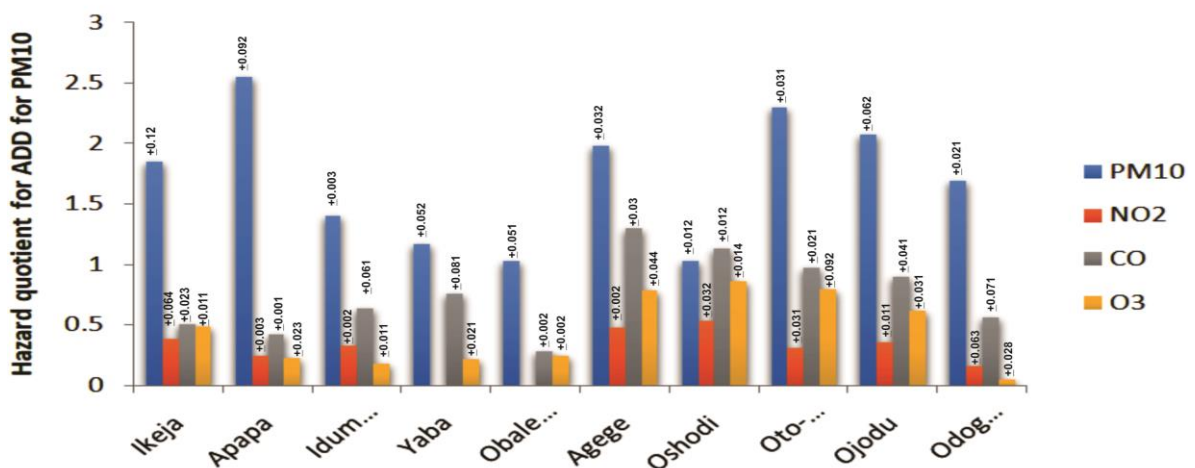


Fig 3. Hazard quotient of ADD of PM<sub>10</sub> (values above each bar is the standard error of the triplicates results).

#### 4. Conclusions

The results indicate that the levels of PM<sub>10</sub> and CO in the ambient air of Ikeja, Apapa, Idumota, Odogunyan, Yaba, Obalende, Agege, Oshodi, Oto-Awori, and Ojodu, all situated in Lagos, Nigeria, exceeded the permissible limits recommended by the WHO. While Obalende recorded the lowest PM<sub>10</sub> levels, measuring at  $48.05 \pm 0.97 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ , Apapa exhibited the highest PM<sub>10</sub>



concentration, reaching  $115.0 \pm 1.74 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ . As for CO levels, Obalende had the lowest concentration, with  $12.46 \pm 0.84 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ , while Agege had the highest, measuring at  $58.50 \pm 3.64 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ . However, NO<sub>2</sub> and O<sub>3</sub> remained within acceptable limits across all these locations. While the HQ for the AHD of PM and its associated elements was found to be below 1, the HQ for the ADD of PM<sub>10</sub> exceeded 1. Additionally, the HQ for ADD of CO exceeded 1 in Agege and Oshodi. These findings suggest that the air quality above the selected locations may pose health hazards to exposed individuals, particularly in relation to PM<sub>10</sub> and CO toxicity. Given these results, it is essential to raise awareness among residents in these areas regarding the health risks associated with PM exposure. Encouraging the use of nose covers as a preventive measure is advisable. Additionally, measures to reduce the number of vehicles on Lagos's roads, such as the introduction of metro lines and railways, should be considered. The removal of old, emissions-heavy vehicles from circulation is crucial. Furthermore, efforts to control industrial emissions are needed to mitigate air pollution. It is imperative that the government develops and implements pollution control policies. Regular, periodic studies similar to the current one should be conducted in these areas to monitor and address air quality concerns effectively.

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Not applicable.

### Competing Interest

All authors have no competing interest.

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