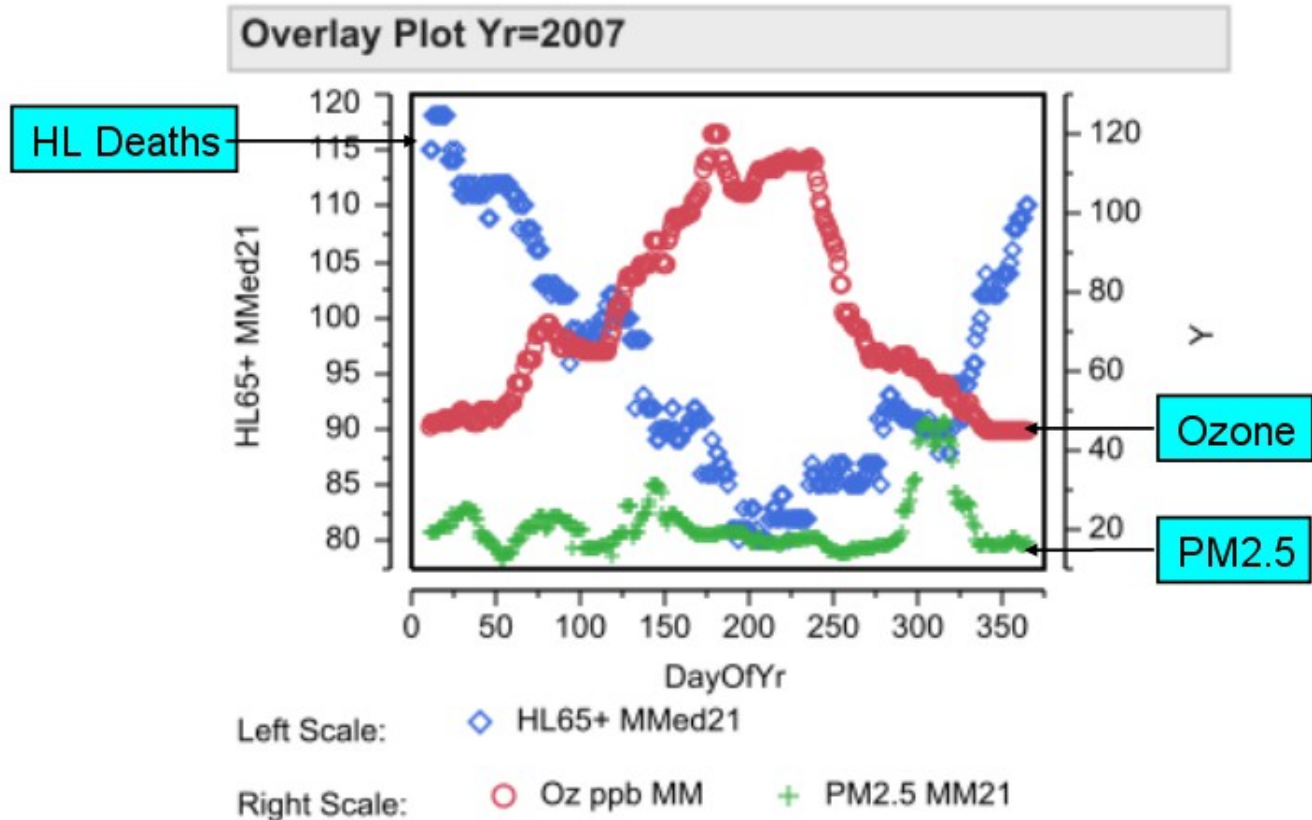


Los Angeles California is reported to have serious air pollution that is acutely lethal to its citizens, if you believe the California Air Resources Board, CARB. True? Let's walk through a figure to see if we can check their claim.



Here we plot heart and lung deaths for people 65 and older, the blue diamonds, the ozone levels, the red circles, and PM2.5 levels, the green plus signs, for the year 2007. We use moving medians of 21 days. We start with daily air pollution levels and for the 1st 21 days we compute a median, that value where half the values are below the selected number and half are above. The median is a measure of the air pollution levels that is minimally affected by spurious data. Follow the red circles across the figure. The median ozone level starts at 40 parts per billion (using the right axis) during the winter and goes to a level of about 120 ppb during the summer. It makes minor wiggles and ends the year at about 40 ppb near where it started. Now let's follow PM2.5, the green plus signs. PM2.5 wiggles its way from left to right, starting at about 20 micrograms per cubic meter (ug/m3), reaching a high point at about day 312 of about 50. Now let's follow heart and lung deaths for people 65 and older, the blue diamonds. The deaths start high at about 120 per day in the winter and decline to the summer reaching a low of about 80 deaths at about day 200. It is well-known that daily deaths peak in the winter and reach a low point during the summer. For Los Angeles it is also well-known that ozone levels are low during the winter and high during the summer. So as ozone, red circles, go up, deaths, blue diamonds are going down. Now let's track deaths and PM2.5 levels. The dramatic increase in PM2.5 from about day 280 to about day 305 corresponds to a decline in daily deaths. There appears to be no increase in daily heart and lung deaths associated with the air pollutants ozone and PM2.5. So, to paraphrase Harpo Marx, Who are you going to believe? CARB or your own eyes?

The EPA and CARB should make their research funded papers' data public to help resolve questions.