NO_2, CO, AND SO_2

TRENDS IN NO_2, CO, AND SO_2 CONCENTRATIONS

Nationally, concentrations of nitrogen dioxide (NO_2) decreased 20 percent between 2001 and 2007, as shown in Figure 22. In 2007, NO_2 concentrations were the lowest of the seven year period. All recorded concentrations were well below the level of the annual standard (0.053 ppm).

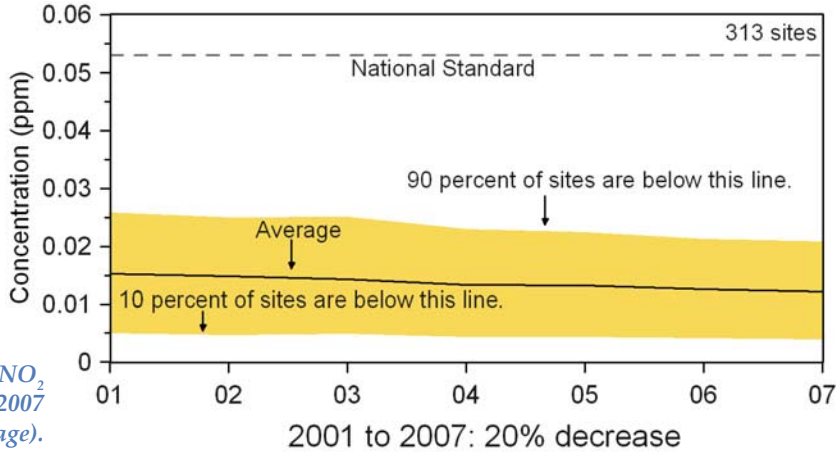
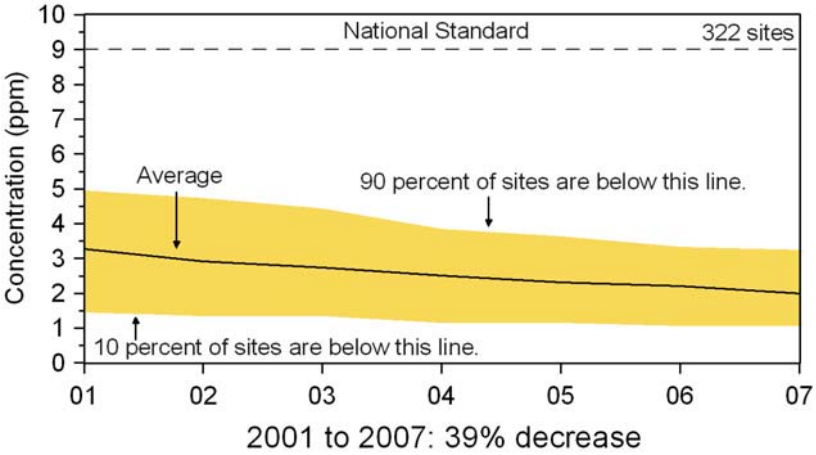


Figure 22. National NO_2 air quality trend, 2001-2007 (annual average).



Nationally, concentrations of 8-hour carbon monoxide (CO) decreased 39 percent between 2001 and 2007, as shown in Figure 23. In 2007, CO concentrations were the lowest in the past seven years. All concentrations were below the 8-hour standard (9 ppm). One site near Salt Lake City, Utah, showed concentrations above the level of the 1-hour standard (35 ppm).

Figure 23. National CO air quality trend, 2001-2007 (second maximum 8-hour average).

Nationally, concentrations of sulfur dioxide (SO_2) decreased 24 percent between 2001 and 2007, as shown in Figure 24. In 2007, annual SO_2 concentrations were the lowest of the seven year period. All concentrations were below the level of the annual standard (0.03 ppm). One site in Hawaii showed concentrations above the level of the 24-hour standard (0.14 ppm), due to a nearby volcano.

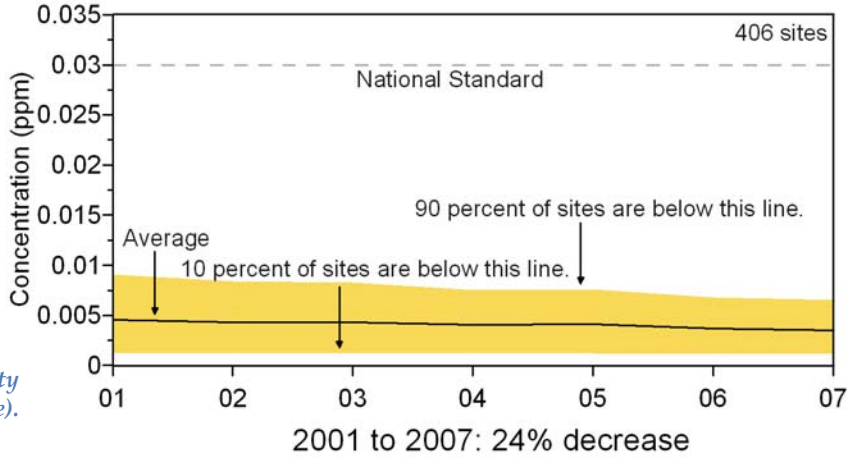


Figure 24. National SO_2 air quality trend, 2001-2007 (annual average).

Downward trends in NO_2, CO, and SO_2 are the result of various national emissions control programs. Even though concentrations of these pollutants are low with respect to national standards, EPA continues to track these gaseous pollutants because of their contribution to other air pollutants (e.g., ozone and $PM_{2.5}$) and reduced visibility. National ambient air quality standards for these pollutants are under review.