

Dos and don'ts in the design of indoor air quality studies on smoke-free products

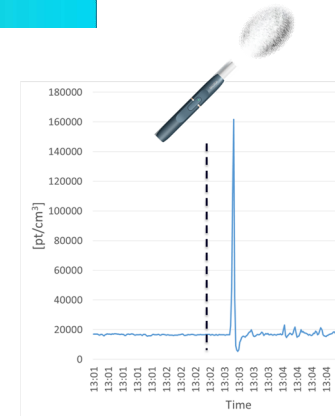
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2020 CORESTA ONLINE Congress
12 October – 12 November 2020

Introduction

- Electrically heated tobacco products (EHTP) and e-vapor products (EVP) are consumer products with intermittent emission patterns
- No officially standardized assessment procedures exist
- Different research groups assess the environmental aerosols of EHTPs and EVPs using various settings



Exposure chamber with controlled environmental parameters



Simulation in model room with controlled environmental parameters



Simulation in real-life environment with no control on environmental parameters

- Some discrepancies in research findings



Markers of environmental aerosols



Particulate-phase markers

Non-specific: RSP-gravimetry; UVP, FPM, Particulate Matter (PM₁-PM₁₀), ultrafine particles (UFP)

Specific: Solanesol, **glycerin**

Partitioning between particulate and gas phases:
NNK and **NNN**

Gas-phase markers

Non-specific: Acetaldehyde, acrolein, crotonaldehyde, formaldehyde, acrylonitrile, benzene, 1,3-butadiene, isoprene, toluene, Total Volatile Organic Compounds TVOC (C₆-C₁₆ window), catechol, hydroquinone, CO, CO₂, NO, NO_x, NH₃, O₃

Specific: 3-Ethenylpyridine, **nicotine**, **propylene glycol**

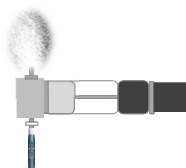
Majority of studies on the environmental aerosols of EHTPs and EVPs evaluate airborne **nicotine**, PM, UFP, carbonyls and TVOC.



Model environment

Environmentally controlled exposure room

24.1 m², 72.3 m³
 Air change: 0.5 to 12.2 per hour
 Air filtration (dust, microparticles, VOCs)
 Low-emission/washable furniture
 Temperature (23 ± 3°C) & pressure controlled
 Fans to homogenize air
 Humidity monitored (40–56 RH%)



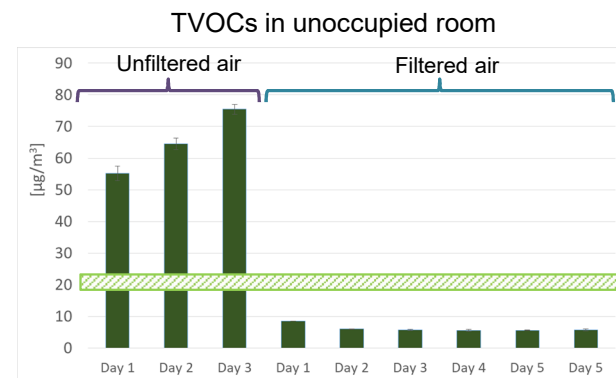
Machine puffing: Surrogate environmental aerosol

- Lower variability
- Overestimation of airborne constituent levels



Human users

- Genuine puffing regimen
- Realistic retention of mainstream aerosol constituents after inhalation



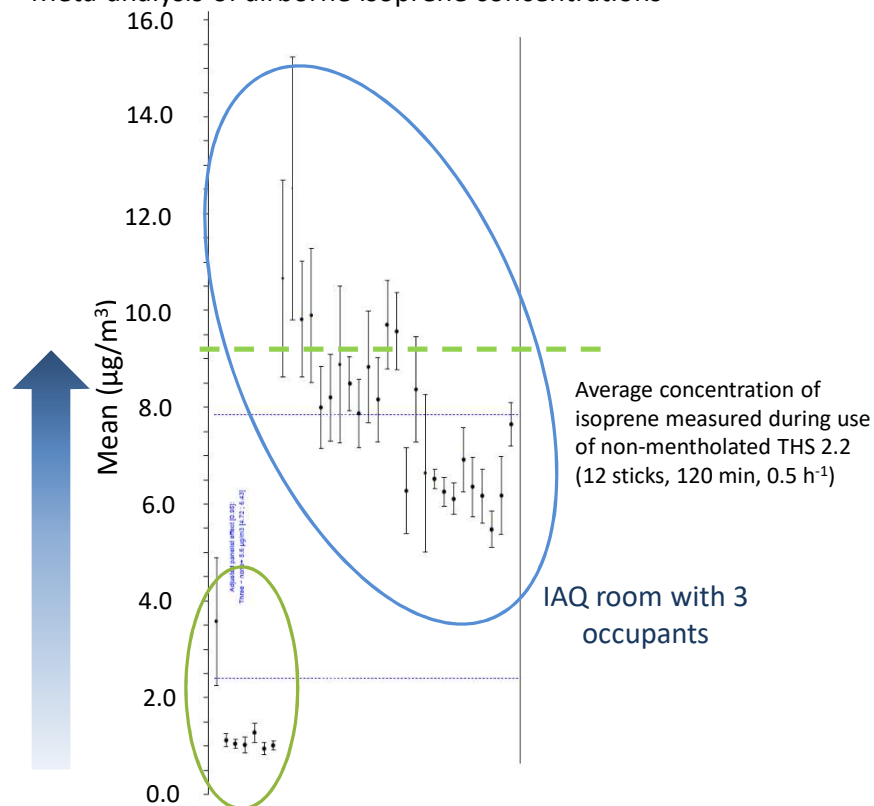
Concentration of TVOCs measured during use of non-mentholated THS 2.2



Do people make a difference?

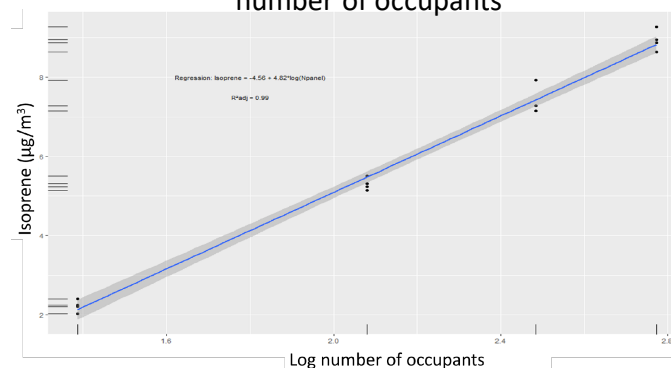
Human presence leads to increase of indoor concentrations of isoprene, TVOC, formaldehyde and acetaldehyde.

Meta-analysis of airborne isoprene concentrations

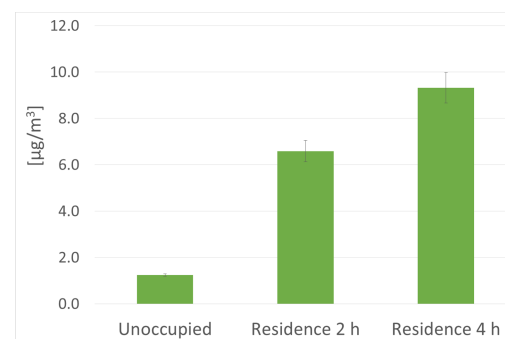


IAQ room with no occupants

Regression of airborne isoprene concentrations to increasing number of occupants



Airborne isoprene concentrations at different durations of residence

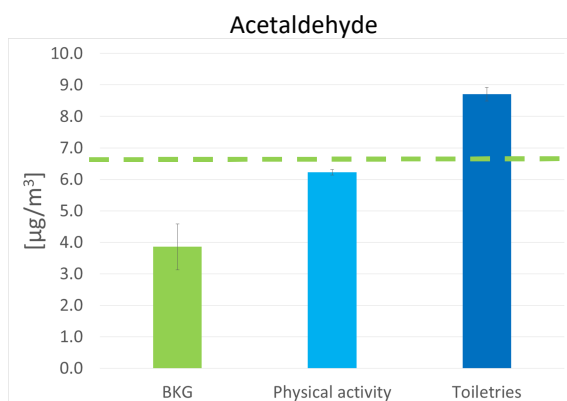


Data for the figures were published in doi: 10.1016/j.envpol.2019.113518 and 10.1007/s11869-019-00697-6

Do human activities make a difference?

Daily living and recreational activities lead to increase of indoor concentrations of carbonyls, VOCs and particulate matter.

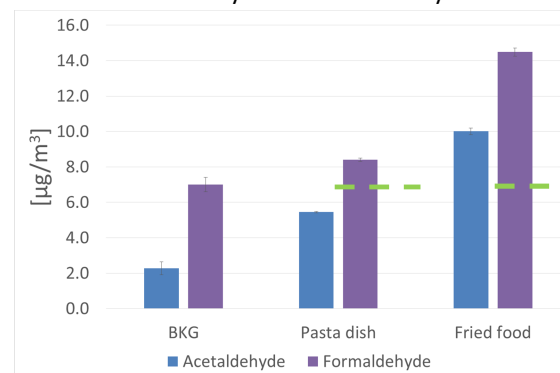
Impact of physical activity and using scented toiletries



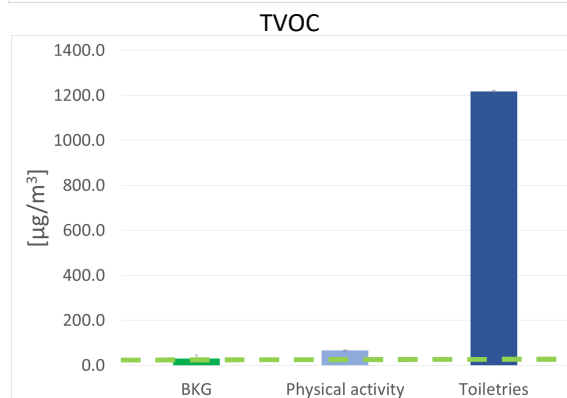
Average concentration of acetaldehyde measured during use of non-mentholated THS 2.2 (12 sticks, 120 min, 0.5 h⁻¹)

Impact of serving hot food

Acetaldehyde and formaldehyde

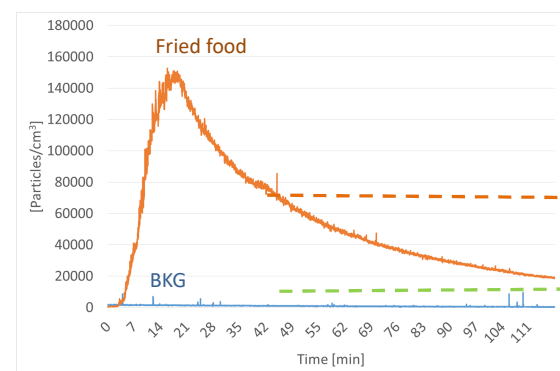


Average concentration of acetaldehyde measured during use of non-mentholated THS 2.2 (12 sticks, 120 min, 0.5 h⁻¹)



Average concentration of TVOC measured during use of non-mentholated THS 2.2 (12 sticks, 120 min, 0.5 h⁻¹)

Ultrafine particles



Average concentration of UFP measured during serving of fried food

Average concentration of UFP measured during use of THS 2.2 (12 sticks, 120 min, 0.5 h⁻¹)

Data for the figures were published in doi: 10.1016/j.envpol.2019.113518 and 10.1007/s11869-019-00697-6

Design requirements for simulations with human users

- Air in an unoccupied room is an appropriate background only for experiments with machine puffing
- Experiments with human users: “room air” obtained in the presence of the same number of panelists as those during experiments with EHTPs and EVPs
- Experiments conducted in sequence: compulsory purge of experimental location to remove human-related emanations
- Restrictions on the use of personal care products
- Real-life environments: count the number of persons and keep record of food and drinks served
- The experiments must be replicated



Does EHTP and EVP use increase formaldehyde concentrations?

Formaldehyde: carcinogen group 1, indoor air quality marker, emitted by numerous indoor sources.

Publication 1: Yes



Environmental pollution and emission factors of electronic cigarettes, heat-not-burn tobacco products, and conventional cigarettes

Ruprecht et al (2017), Aerosol Science and Technology 51, 674-684
<https://doi.org/10.1080/02786826.2017.1300231>

Furnished living room (48 m³, 1.5 h⁻¹, 180 min)
No control of environmental parameters
2–3 persons
10–14 tobacco sticks of THS 2.2
13 vaping session for EVP

- ☐ Background for carbonyls: outdoor air
- ☐ Lack of baseline control of indoor levels with human presence but without any product use

Publication 2: No



Passive exposure to pollutants from conventional cigarettes and new electronic smoking devices (IQOS, e-cigarette) in passenger cars

Schober, W. et al (2019), International Journal of Hygiene and Environmental Health 222, 486-493, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijheh.2019.01.003>

Passenger cars (2–5 m³, natural ventilation, 20 min)
No control of environmental parameters
2 persons
2 tobacco sticks of THS 2.2
Continuous vaping session for EVP

- Background for carbonyls: same driving route, 2 persons present in the car, no product consumption

Does EHTP and EVP use increase formaldehyde concentrations?

Publication 3: Possibly

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ПРОБЛЕМНИ СТАТИИ

UDK 614.7:351.777:663.977

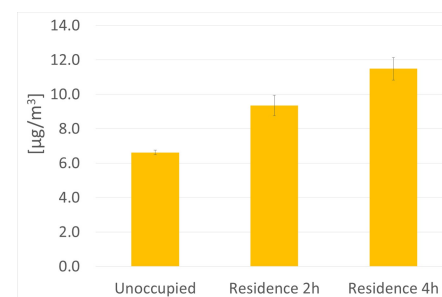
POTENTIAL RISK ASSESSMENT OF THE ELECTRICALLY HEATED TOBACCO SYSTEM (EHTS) USE

Prodanchuk et al (2017), Problemni statii 1/2, 5/14
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijheh.2019.01.003>

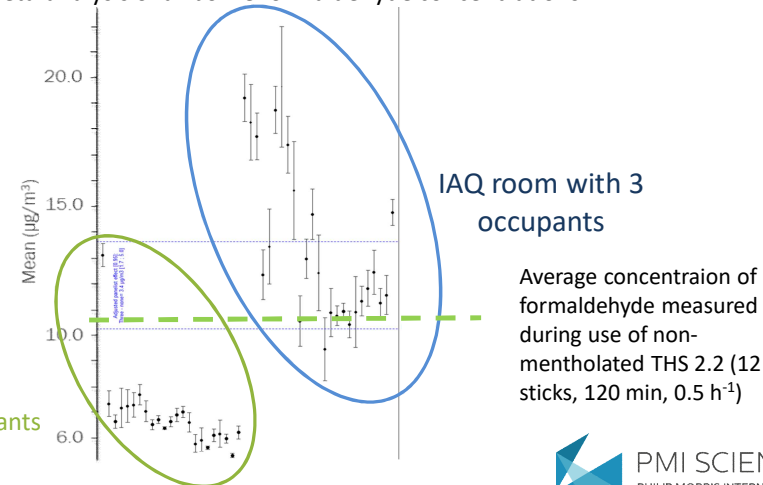
Room in catering facility (625 m³, no ventilation, 60 min)
No control of environmental parameters
80 persons
80–100 tobacco sticks of THS 2.2

- Background: baseline unoccupied room, baseline with the same number of persons present but no product consumption
- ❑ No air purge after background session with human presence
- ❑ No replication of experiments

Airborne formaldehyde concentrations at different durations of residence



Meta-analysis of airborne formaldehyde concentrations



IAQ room with no occupants

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Conclusions

- Recommended model rooms with filtered air and control of environmental parameters
- Consider confounding sources of pollution
- Implement requirements of international norms
- Need for standardization of procedures and protocols

The standardization of procedures and protocols will be beneficial not only to researchers working in this field, but more importantly, it will give clarity to the end users on the influence of environmental aerosols of EHTPs and EVPs on indoor air quality.





Thank you!

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