**Health outcomes in Escambia and Santa Rosa counties**

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| Assessment of Environmental Pollution and Community Health in Northwest Florida |
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| Project Director: Dr. K. Ranga Rao |

**Integration of health outcomes, air quality, and socio-economic data in Northwest Florida**

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The local incidence of some illnesses is perceived to be elevated by many citizens in Escambia and Santa Rosa Counties. Many assume that this perceived elevated incidence is due to the multitude of environmental pollution issues in the area, especially air pollution. To address this concern of the citizens, PERCH initially carried out a health tracking study that compares mortality and morbidity rates at the zip code level in the two-county area at the zip code with those elsewhere in the state of Florida. To relate the results of this Zip code level health study to air pollution, PERCH evaluated relationships between the health outcomes and the proximity of the Zip codes to air emission sites. This proximity study pointed to possible connections between some specific health outcomes and the location of air emission sites, but was somewhat limited in its potential by the large spatial unit (Zip codes) used in the health tracking study. Therefore, PERCH further assessed the connections between air pollution and health outcomes with two other approaches, air toxics modeling and geostatistical modeling. The purpose of this task is to provide a comparative account of the results of the four studies (health tracking, proximity analysis, air toxics modeling, and geostatistical modeling).