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*Mapping Air Pollution: Pueblo, Colorado*

The purpose of this experiment was to determine if certain areas of Pueblo, Colorado, have more air pollution than others. I hypothesized that areas of Pueblo, Colorado, with the most poverty will have higher rates of air pollution because they are located near industrial plants such as Evraz Steel mill, Comanche Power Plant, and GCC cement plant. For example, the air will be more polluted in Bessemer, a part of town with a higher rate of poverty, than in the suburbs.

The experiment involved making Air Particulate Pollution Catchers (APPCs) to capture air particulates. I distributed 25 APPCs throughout the city of Pueblo. The APPCs were in the field for 11 days. I used a milligram scale to weigh the APPCs before and after to measure the collection of air particulates for each location. I then applied this data to a map to determine which parts of town had more air particulate pollution.

Parts of my hypothesis were supported. I found that the combination of poverty and industrial location had higher rates of air particulate pollution. The south side of Pueblo had the heaviest accumulation of air particulates. This part of town has industrial plants, higher rates of poverty and higher Latino-Hispanic population. It is important to note that industrial plants tend to be located in places with more poverty and with increased minority population. People in poverty tend to live near industrial areas because industries generally move into poorer neighborhoods and wealthier people generally do not move into areas with a lot of industry.