bulkley valley - lakes district airshed management society
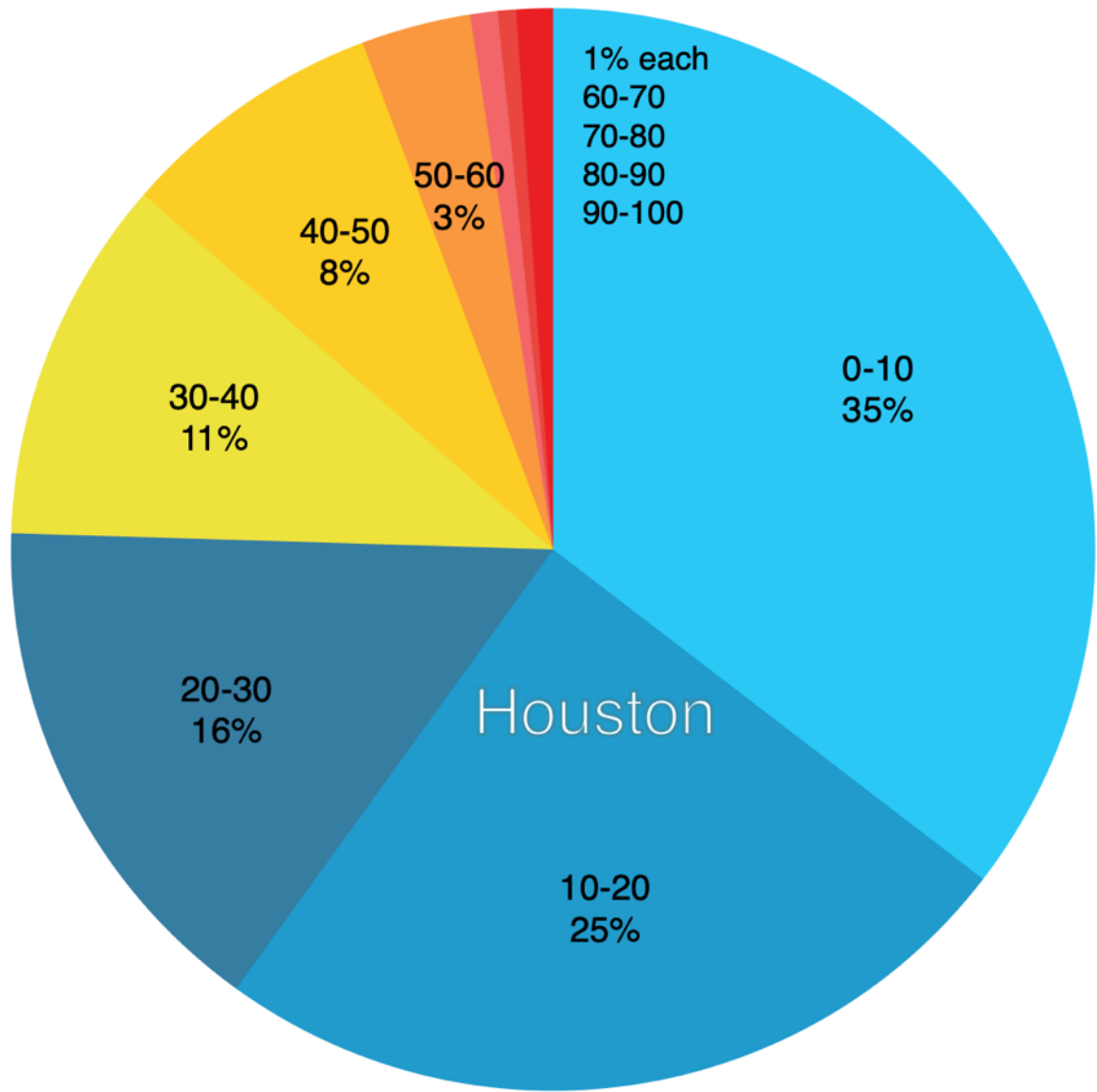
Contact: Sue Brookes, coordinator@cleanairplan.ca, 250 847-0678, cleanairplan.ca
Mail Care Of: Ben Weinstein,
Air Quality Meteorologist, Ministry of the Environment
BAG 5000 3726 Alfred Avenue Smithers BC V0J 2N1

A preliminary presentation of purple air numbers from Sep 2022 - Sept 2023 compared to the BCCDC Air Quality Health Index. This is for illustraion of seasonal realities, the figures are raw 24 hour PM2.5, not corrected for sensor calibration or UNBC indexes. To produce further charts using hourly PM2.5 or to drill down to individual sensor data or provide feedback contact Sue to discuss.

This is the BCCDC Air Quality Health Index for more of an explanation click here.

| 1-HOUR PM$_{2.5}$ ($\mu g/m^3$)	PROVINCIAL AQHI	AQHI RISK CATEGORY	HEALTH MESSAGE FOR PEOPLE AT HIGHER RISK	HEALTH MESSAGE FOR GENERAL POPULATION	ACTIONS TO REDUCE WILDFIRE SMOKE EXPOSURE
0 – 10	1	LOW	Enjoy your usual outdoor activities.	Ideal air quality for outdoor activities.	Normal air quality in British Columbia
11 – 20	2				
21 – 30	3				
31 – 40	4	MODERATE	Consider reducing or rescheduling strenuous activities outdoors if you experience symptoms.	No need to modify your usual outdoor activities unless you experience symptoms.	• Use a portable air cleaner to reduce smoke in your home
41 – 50	5				• Stay inside with doors and windows closed, but keep cool – being too hot is more risky than breathing smoke for most people
51 – 60	6				
61 – 70	7	HIGH	Reduce or reschedule strenuous activity outdoors.	Consider reducing or rescheduling strenuous activities outdoors if you experience symptoms.	• Visit places with cleaner and cooler air, such as libraries, community centres, and shopping malls
71 – 80	8				
81 – 90	9				
91 – 100	10				
101+	10+	VERY HIGH	Avoid strenuous activity outdoors.	Reduce or reschedule strenuous activity outdoors, especially if you experience symptoms.	• If you cannot access cleaner air, consider using a well-fitted N95 respirator or relocating to an area with less smoke

TABLE 1: 1-hour concentrations of fine particulate matter (PM$_{2.5}$) can be used to estimate the Air Quality Health Index (AQHI) in British Columbia.

FOR MORE INFORMATION bccdc.ca/wildfire-smoke

Houston

1% each
60-70
70-80
80-90
90-100

0-10
35%

50-60
3%

40-50
8%

30-40
11%

20-30
16%

10-20
25%

These charts use the 1 hour PM2.5 risk categories to show the distribution of risk as a percentage of days of the year, for Houston.

All sensors, the entire period…
Sept 2022 - Sept 2023
See Notes above, this is for illustration only.

Notice the seasonal change.
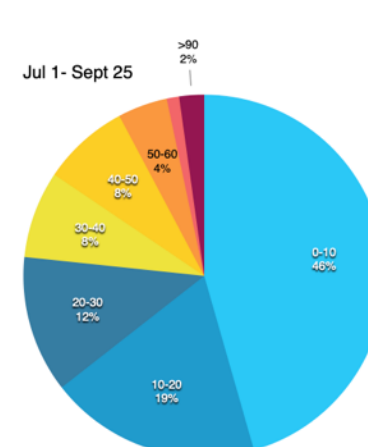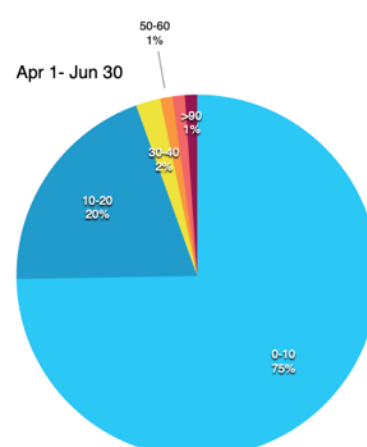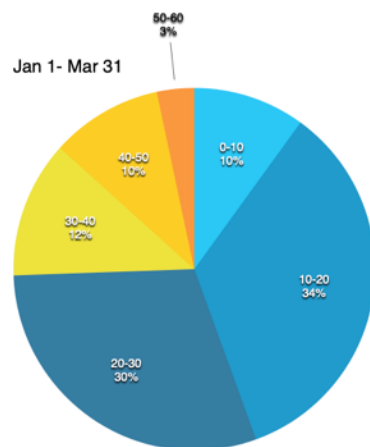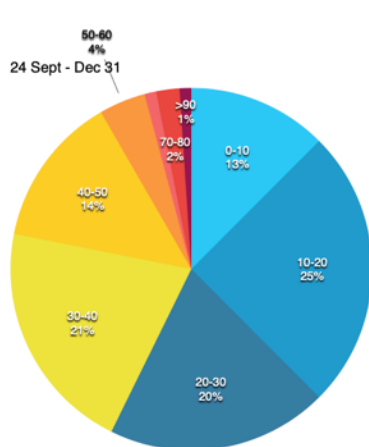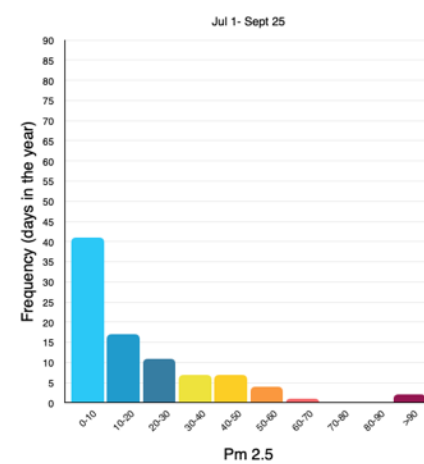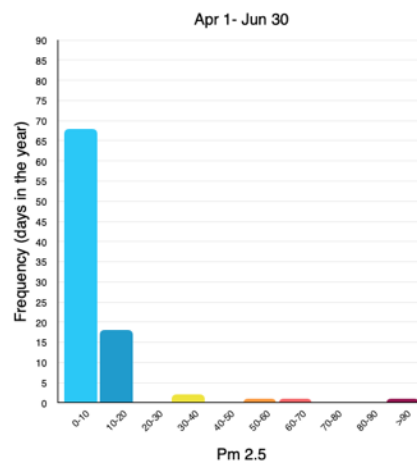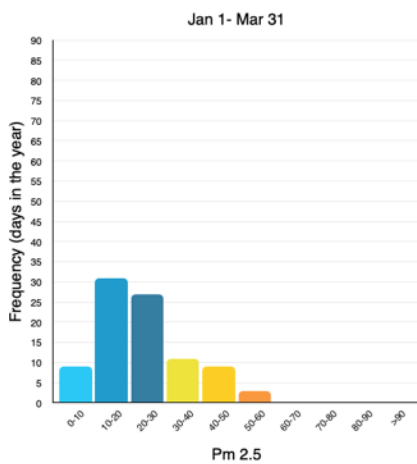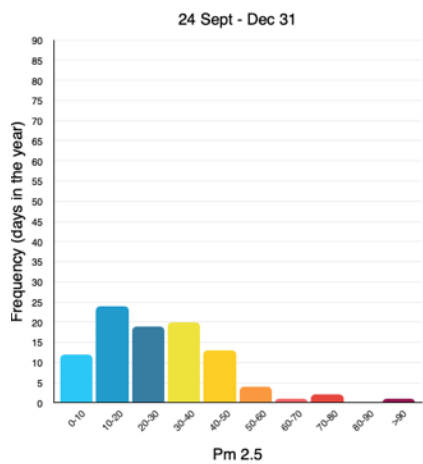
Sept. 2022 - Sept 2023, 24 hour PM2.5 Averages from raw Purple Air Data (preliminary):

Gitanyow 14.94
Hazelton/Kispiox 10.7
Witset 16.6
RDBN 37.9
Smithers 36.14
Telkwa 10.6
Houston 25.8
Burns Lake 21.6
Granisle 40.3, JULY 2023 only