CENTER FOR CIVIC LEADERSHIP
RICE UNIVERSITY

HOUSTON ACTION RESEARCH TEAM

air ALLIANCE HOUSTON

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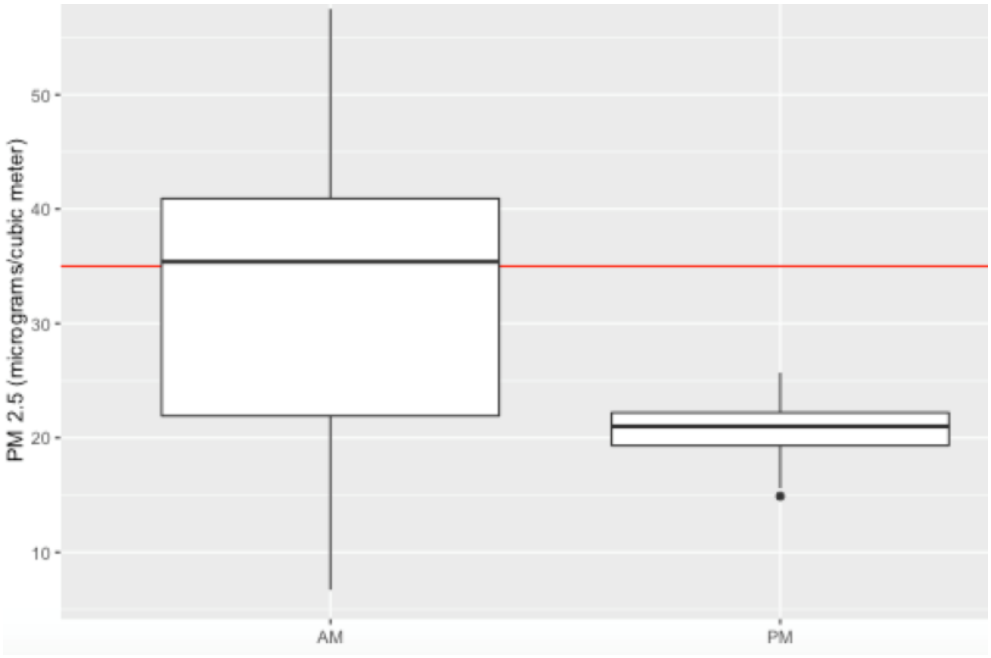
Bridge to Clean Air Project, Spring 2016

This HART, made up of undergraduate students from Statistics, Policy Studies, Mathematics, and Mechanical Engineering, worked with Air Alliance Houston and the City of Houston's Bureau of Pollution Control and Prevention to sample for NO_2, $PM_{2.5}$, and PM_{10} (particulate matter contaminants less than 2.5 microns and 10 microns, respectively) under the US 59 Hazard Street Bridge. These pollutants have been linked with negative health effects such as coronary heart disease and asthma. The purpose of the project was to collect baseline levels of air quality for use in future research that will be used to examine the impact of a planned stationary air treatment system. However, the students found that the $PM_{2.5}$ levels were actually higher at this particular site than at other sites in the city where air quality is known to be an issue. These unexpected findings will be reported to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for further research.



The red line indicates the EPA 24 Hour Standard