

Aretas Sensor Networks, Inc.

SCHOOL CO₂ MONITORING SOLUTIONS

Manufactured by
Aretas Sensor Networks, Inc.
www.aretas.ca



SCHOOL CO2 MONITORING

Health & Safety / Energy Savings

HOW IT WORKS



MONITOR

Our monitors gather and transmit data to the communication bridge



GATHER DATA

Data from all units is sent securely to your private online data center account



ANALYZE & REPORT

Your data is archived, analyzed and reported in many useful ways



24/7 ACCESS

Decision making is easy from any computer or smart device

SENSOR OPTIONS

CO	Carbon Monoxide
CO2	Carbon Dioxide
O3	Ozone
dB	Noise
DP	Differential Pressure
NO2	Nitrogen Dioxide
PM	Particulates
TRHF	Freezer / Fridge
VOC	Volatile Organic Compounds

More options available

Health & Safety

As reported in a Berkeley Labs study shown below, high carbon dioxide levels can significantly impair decision-making performance. This can have a detrimental effect in schools where large amounts of students, ventilation issues and other causes elevate CO2 levels in classrooms and other areas.

Aretas Sensor Networks designs and builds a variety of indoor air monitors. One of the monitors that we have created is a wireless carbon dioxide (CO2) monitor. This monitoring system transmits your data online from one or multiple locations 24/7 worldwide. You can view data by hour, day or week, set alerts via text or email, download data for custom reporting and much more.

Please call a live Aretas representative today for a free demo of the online systems **877-218-6232**.

Excerpt from the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory CO2 Study concludes:

"found that moderately high indoor concentrations of carbon dioxide (CO2) can significantly impair people's decision-making performance. The results were unexpected and may have particular implications for schools and other spaces with high occupant density."*

The full article "Elevated Indoor Carbon Dioxide Impairs Decision-Making Performance" follows...

Product Specifications



Product Name: ASMX01TRHCO2
Size: 152.4 mm (6.0") w x 88.9 mm (3.5") h

Details:

- XBee 802.15.4 Frequency
- 900MHz

Temperature

Measurement Range	5°C ~ 50°C 41°F - 122°F
Accuracy	± 1.0°C (1.8°F)

Relative Humidity

Measurement Range	10% ~ 90% RH
Accuracy	± 4% RH

Carbon Dioxide

Measurement Range	0 to 10,000 ppm
Accuracy	± 30 ppm ± 3 % of measured value

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Elevated Indoor Carbon Dioxide Impairs Decision-Making Performance

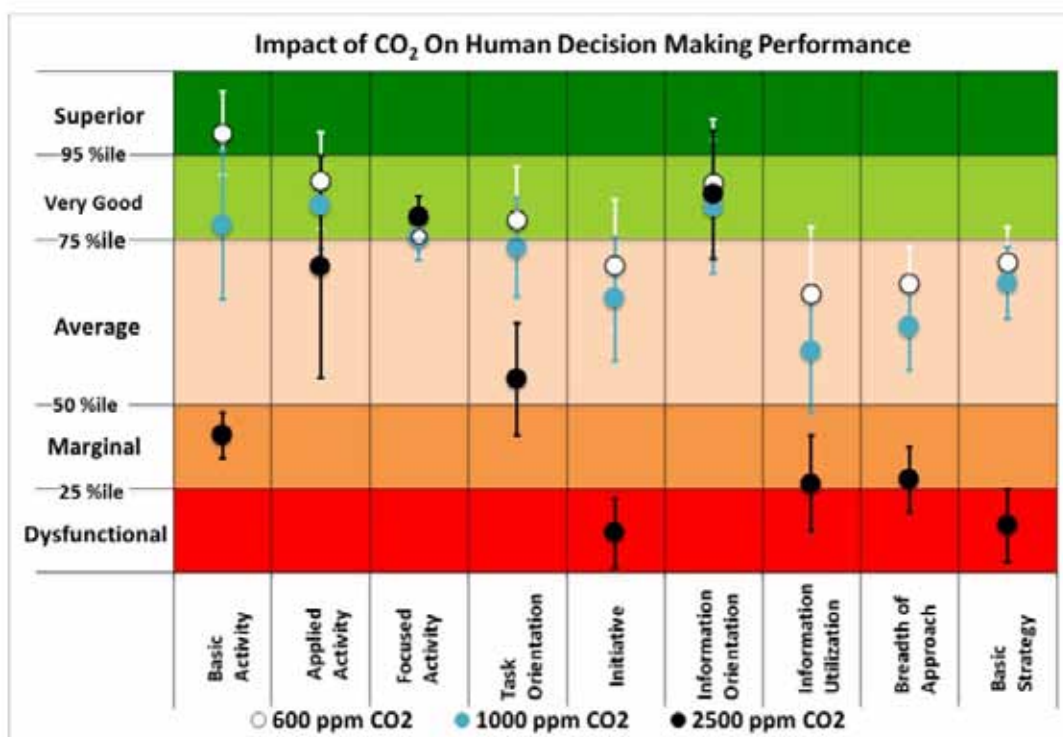
Berkeley Lab scientists surprised to find significant adverse effects of CO₂ on human decision making performance.

OCTOBER 17, 2012 – Julie Chao (510) 486-6491 jhchao@lbl.gov

Overtuning decades of conventional wisdom, researchers at the Department of Energy's Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (Berkeley Lab) have found that moderately high indoor concentrations of carbon dioxide (CO₂) can significantly impair people's decision-making performance. The results were unexpected and may have particular implications for schools and other spaces with high occupant density.

"In our field we have always had a dogma that CO₂ itself, at the levels we find in buildings, is just not important and doesn't have any direct impacts on people," said Berkeley Lab scientist William Fisk, a coauthor of the study, which was published in Environmental Health Perspectives online last month. "So these results, which were quite unambiguous, were surprising." The study was conducted with researchers from State University of New York (SUNY) Upstate Medical University.

On nine scales of decision-making performance, test subjects showed significant reductions on six of the scales at CO₂ levels of 1,000 parts per million (ppm) and large reductions on seven of the scales at 2,500 ppm. The most dramatic declines in performance, in which subjects were rated as "dysfunctional," were for taking initiative and thinking strategically. "Previous studies have looked at 10,000 ppm, 20,000 ppm; that's the level at which scientists thought effects started," said Berkeley Lab scientist Mark Mendell, also a co-author of the study. "That's why these findings are so startling."



Berkeley Lab researchers found that even moderately elevated levels of indoor carbon dioxide resulted in lower scores on six of nine scales of human decision making performance.

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While the results need to be replicated in a larger study, they point to possible economic consequences of pursuing energy efficient buildings without regard to occupants. "As there's a drive for increasing energy efficiency, there's a push for making buildings tighter and less expensive to run," said Mendell. "There's some risk that, in that process, adverse effects on occupants will be ignored. One way to make sure occupants get the attention they deserve is to point out adverse economic impacts of poor indoor air quality. If people can't think or perform as well, that could obviously have adverse economic impacts."

The primary source of indoor CO2 is humans. While typical outdoor concentrations are around 380 ppm, indoor concentrations can go up to several thousand ppm. Higher indoor CO2 concentrations relative to outdoors are due to low rates of ventilation, which are often driven by the need to reduce energy consumption. In the real world, CO2 concentrations in office buildings normally don't exceed 1,000 ppm, except in meeting rooms, when groups of people gather for extended periods of time.

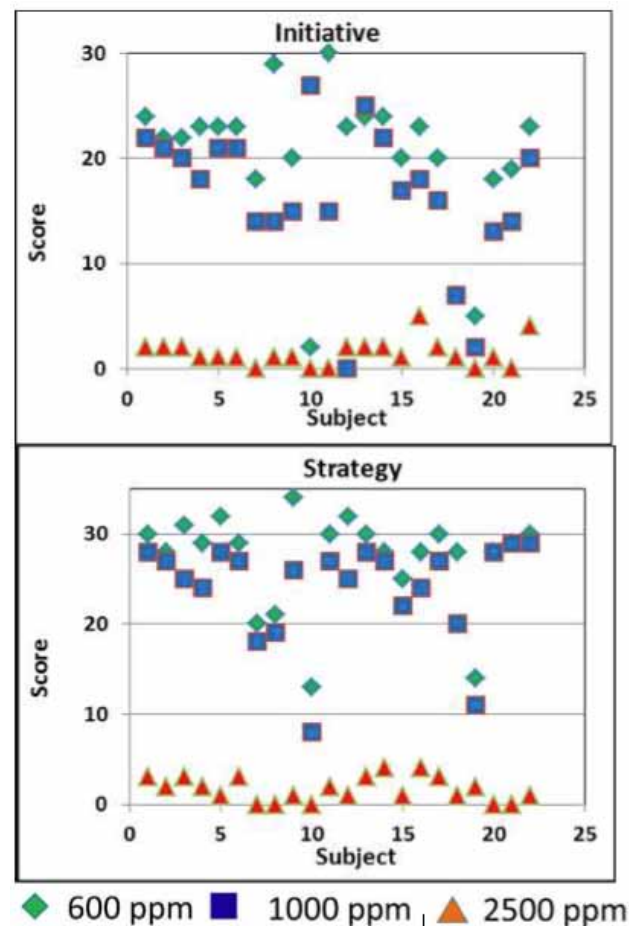
In classrooms, concentrations frequently exceed 1,000 ppm and occasionally exceed 3,000 ppm. CO2 at these levels has been assumed to indicate poor ventilation, with increased exposure to other indoor pollutants of potential concern, but the CO2 itself at these levels has not been a source of concern. Federal guidelines set a maximum occupational exposure limit at 5,000 ppm as a time-weighted average for an eight-hour workday.

Fisk decided to test the conventional wisdom on indoor CO2 after coming across two small Hungarian studies reporting that exposures between 2,000 and 5,000 ppm may have adverse impacts on some human activities.

Fisk, Mendell, and their colleagues, including Usha Satish at SUNY Upstate Medical University, assessed CO2 exposure at three concentrations: 600, 1,000 and 2,500 ppm. They recruited 24 participants, mostly college students, who were studied in groups of four in a small office-like chamber for 2.5 hours for each of the three conditions. Ultrapure CO2 was injected into the air supply and mixing was ensured, while all other factors, such as temperature, humidity, and ventilation rate, were kept constant. The sessions for each person took place on a single day, with one-hour breaks between sessions.

Although the sample size was small, the results were unmistakable. "The stronger the effect you have, the fewer subjects you need to see it," Fisk said. "Our effect was so big, even with a small number of people, it was a very clear effect."

Another novel aspect of this study was the test used to assess decision-making performance, the Strategic Management Simulation (SMS) test, developed by SUNY. In most studies of how indoor air quality affects people, test subjects are given simple tasks to perform, such as adding a column of numbers or proofreading text. "It's hard to know how those indicators translate in the real world," said Fisk. "The SMS measures a higher level of cognitive performance, so I wanted to get that into our field of research."



Strategic thinking and taking initiative showed the most dramatic declines in performance at 2,500 ppm carbon dioxide concentrations.

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The SMS has been used most commonly to assess effects on cognitive function, such as by drugs, pharmaceuticals or brain injury, and as a training tool for executives. The test gives scenarios — for example, you're the manager of an organization when a crisis hits, what do you do? — and scores participants in nine areas. "It looks at a number of dimensions, such as how proactive you are, how focused you are, or how you search for and use information," said Fisk. "The test has been validated through other means, and they've shown that for executives it is predictive of future income and job level."

Data from elementary school classrooms has found CO2 concentrations frequently near or above the levels in the Berkeley Lab study. Although their study tested only decision making and not learning, Fisk and Mendell say it is possible that students could be disadvantaged in poorly ventilated classrooms, or in rooms in which a large number of people are gathered to take a test. "We cannot rule out impacts on learning," their report says.

The next step for the Berkeley Lab researchers is to reproduce and expand upon their findings. "Our first goal is to replicate this study because it's so important and would have such large implications," said Fisk. "We need a larger sample and additional tests of human work performance. We also want to include an expert who can assess what's going on physiologically."

Until then, they say it's too early to make any recommendations for office workers or building managers. "Assuming it's replicated, it has implications for the standards we set for minimum ventilation rates for buildings," Fisk said. "People who are employers who want to get the most of their workforce would want to pay attention to this."

Funding for this study was provided by SUNY and the state of New York.

Contact Aretas Sensor Networks today for a **free live demo**
and to get your questions answered **877-218-6232**.

* Elevated Indoor Carbon Dioxide Impairs Decision-Making Performance. Retrieved from <http://newscenter.lbl.gov/2012/10/17/elevated-indoor-carbon-dioxide-impairs-decision-making-performance/>