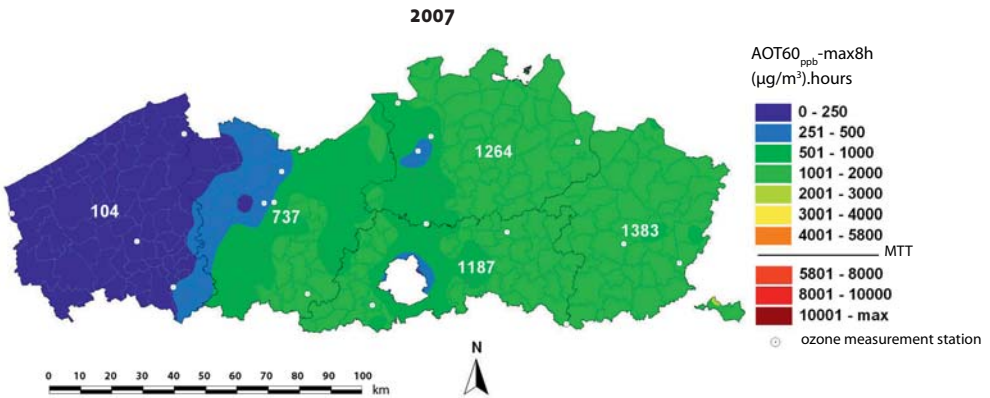
☺ Annual excess indicator (AOT60$_{ppb}$-max8h)

DPSIR



The geographical distribution was calculated using the measurements from all ozone measurement points of the telemetric monitoring networks of the three regions. On the map only VMM ozone measurement points in Flanders are shown. The figures are the average AOT60$_{ppb}$-max8h values per province.

Source: IRCEL, interregional air database

Ozone effect on health small in 2007

The annual excess gives an indication of the effect of the ozone on health. It shows the size and the duration of the exceedance and adds up the daily exceedances of the highest 8-hour average ozone concentration over a year compared to the threshold value of 120 µg/m³ (AOT60$_{ppb}$-max8h). The annual excess fluctuates and is in line with the annual variation in sunshine and temperature.

In 2007, the EU medium-term target of 5 800 (µg/m³).hours was not exceeded anywhere in Flanders. The average excess was 887 (µg/m³).hours, which is considerably less than the average over the last 10 years (3 420 (µg/m³).hours).

The map shows the distribution across Flanders of the ozone excess affecting health in 2007. The highest, but nevertheless limited, ozone excess was recorded in Limburg (1 383 (µg/m³).hours). Next came Antwerp (1 264 (µg/m³).hours) and Flemish Brabant (1 187 (µg/m³).hours). In East Flanders (737 (µg/m³).hours) and especially in West Flanders (104 (µg/m³).hours) the excess was particularly small.

In 2007 the ozone excess was therefore very limited. The main reason for this were the - for health purposes - excellent climate conditions. The emission of ozone precursors in the various European countries must nevertheless decrease further to give a lasting solution for the ozone problem (long-term target = 0 (µg/m³).hours). The expected revision of the Nation Emission Ceilings Directive, with updated maximum emissions for 2020, will contribute to this end.