

Carbon monoxide (CO) control is one of the great air quality management success stories of the past 20 years. This paper evaluates whether past progress will continue into the future, and whether changes in microscale CO concentrations are comparable to reductions observed at the regional scale. Neighborhood and microscale CO concentrations were evaluated at six northern and southern California monitoring sites. The study also included a review of CO emission, concentration, and exposure trends, and on-road motor vehicle-based CO emission control programs for California and the United States. Consistent with California and national trends, CO concentrations declined at each of the six study locations from 1988 through 1998. Microscale concentrations declined at the same rate as neighborhood-scale concentrations. Rollback analyses demonstrated that microscale concentrations will continue to decline through at least the 2010 to 2020 time period. Within a few years, microscale violations of the CO National Ambient Air Quality Standards will be unlikely in California except under extraordinary circumstances.