

ALISO CANYON DISASTER HEALTH RESEARCH STUDY

COMMUNITY MEETING #5 SUMMARY

MEETING PURPOSE

The University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) held the fifth Aliso Canyon Disaster Health Research Study (Health Study or Study) community meeting to share two preliminary analyses results (listed below) and provide Study updates.

Preliminary results were presented to the community prior to submittal to a scientific journal for peer review and publication, as is required by the contract terms that govern the Study.

MEETING FORMAT, ATTENDANCE, AND AGENDA

The meeting was held on May 13, 2025, 6:00-9:00 pm, in person and online via Zoom. The in-person meeting was held at The Vineyards at Porter Ranch Community Room, 20065 Rinaldi St, Northridge, CA.

The meeting agenda included:

- Preliminary Results
 - Impact of the Blowout on Health: Emergency Department (ED) Visits
 - How Pollutants Traveled During the Disaster
- Study Updates

UCLA presented each topic, followed by questions and answers.

Approximately 50 community members attended the meeting (22 in person and 28 online). Following the meeting, a recording and the PowerPoint presentation were posted to the Study website meeting page at: <https://alisostudy.ucla.edu/events/meeting-5/>. (Slides 21 and 41 were modified for clarity based on feedback received at the meeting).

MEETING CONTENT AND COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

A summary of materials presented during the meeting and community questions and feedback are included below.

CHANGES IN EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT VISITS

Dr. Nadereh Pourat, PhD, UCLA Administrative Core Lead and Health Care Utilization Lead, presented preliminary results of an analysis of emergency department (ED) data before, during, and after the disaster. This is one of multiple analyses included in the study to identify the health impact of the disaster on residents in the vicinity of the blowout (impact zone). The analysis examines all ED visits as well as visits associated with specific conditions and symptoms that occurred during the disaster.

Community members asked questions and offered feedback about the data sources, methodology, and presentation of findings.

HOW POLLUTANTS TRAVELED DURING THE DISASTER

Dr. Michael Kleeman, PhD, UC Davis, presented preliminary estimates of air pollutant concentrations during and attributable to the disaster. This analysis uses a Chemical Transport Model (CTM), which simulates how pollutants traveled during the disaster, taking into account chemical and physical atmospheric conditions and processes. This is part of the exposure analysis - pollutant estimates will inform the risk assessment and health studies. Information on exposures is critical to attributing any observed health effects to possible exposures from the Aliso facility.

Community members asked questions and offered feedback about the data sources, methodology, purpose, and presentation of findings.

STUDY UPDATES

Dr. Michael Jerrett, PhD, UCLA Principal Investigator, updated the community on the status of the study. Key progress and updates included:

- Previously presented results are in various stages of journal submission and review including:
 - Birth Outcomes – submitted, revisions re-submitted, awaiting final decision.
 - Focus Groups – to be submitted shortly.
 - Remote Sensing – to be submitted shortly.
- State blood spots request for metabolomics were significantly delayed due to the state staffing shortage. Study team members are in regular contact with the State data providers to obtain the data as soon as possible.
- Resident Health Survey and Clinical Assessment updates:
 - Survey instrument and protocols were reviewed and approved by the Scientific Oversight Committee (SOC) in March 2025.
 - Recruitment materials are in final stages of preparation for distribution.
- Nurses are piloting clinical assessment methods in preparation for appointments
 - Awareness-building conducted among neighborhood councils and elected officials to promote recruitment.
- Environmental field sampling (indoor and outdoor air monitoring at homes and residential gas sampling) has been completed, which will feed into the exposure estimates and risk assessment.
- Analysis of cancer registry data, additional healthcare utilization data, autism registry, Quest data, and California Health Interview Survey (CHIS) data is in progress.
- UCLA is working to develop process to receive health records and test results from individuals who volunteer them.
 - These will be used to inform analysis of other data, but not to provide medical opinions.
- Website updates are in progress to add new content and data.

- In January 2026, SOC will begin to evaluate whether the Health Study is on track to meeting its specific goals and determine the merits of the Health Study's continuation to completion.

Community members asked questions and shared concerns about the study schedule and the SOC's evaluation.