



*Research article*

## Strategy for mitigating health and environmental risks from vehicle emissions in South Tangerang

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**Abstract:** Increasing emissions from mobile sources have become a major focus in terms of health, environmental sustainability, and climate change. South Tangerang City is the Indonesian city with the highest yearly average pollution level. This study's objectives are to quantify the levels of pollutant concentrations that endanger human health and the environment and to devise a plan for reducing the pollution brought on by vehicle emissions. This study used an analytic observational research design. Data was taken from 32 points in 7 sub-districts in the city of South Tangerang with human and environmental samples. Human samples using the Hazard Quotient. Data is processed using Stella for the next 30 years. HQ value of PM<sub>2.5</sub>, NO<sub>2</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub>, and CO pollution has risen to greater than 1, endangering human health. CO and PM<sub>2.5</sub>, with HQ values of 3.315 and 1.644, both present serious health concerns. The accumulation of PM<sub>2.5</sub>, NO<sub>2</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub>, and CO pollutants over the next 30 years will have a substantial impact on South Tangerang's environmental conditions. South Tangerang could encourage the growth of a smart city by supporting the use of electric vehicles. Human health is at risk due to the increase in the HQ value of PM<sub>2.5</sub>, NO<sub>2</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub>, and CO pollution above 1. The environmental conditions in South Tangerang be significantly impacted by PM<sub>2.5</sub>, NO<sub>2</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub>, and CO pollutants over the ensuing 30 years. A mitigation strategy is needed in the form of smart transportation in the form of

electric vehicles

**Keywords:** vehicle emission; pollution; ecological and health risk; strategy mitigation; electric vehicles

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## 1. Introduction

The majority of cities worldwide now consider air pollution to be a serious public health concern [1–4]. Most of the air pollution is caused by the transportation sector. The transportation industry is vital to human activity and has an impact on the world economy [5]. For instance, the movement of people and things promotes economic growth, mobility, a sustainable way of life, and trade in local and international goods [6,7]. High rates of economic expansion, rapid urbanization, rising disposable income, a wide range of social and recreational activities, an increase in private vehicles, and the distribution of different materials and resources have all contributed to an increase in demand for the transportation sector, which has resulted in deteriorating urban air quality [8,9].

Transportation-related vehicle emissions can have a big impact on both air pollution and climate change. Burning fossil fuels like gasoline and diesel results in numerous greenhouse gases and air pollutants, which are the source of vehicle emissions [10–12], that cannot be renewed [13–15]. Almost 14% of the total Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions in 2016 came from the transportation sector, this sector has greatly impacted global GHG emissions [16]. Without an effective policy and program for decarbonization, the transportation sector's GHG emissions are predicted to rise faster than those of the other sectors, from 7.2 GtCO<sub>2</sub>e in 2010 to 12.8 GtCO<sub>2</sub>e in 2050 [17]. 80% of the air pollution in metropolitan areas comes from transportation [18].

Vehicle emissions consist of particulate matter (PM), nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>), sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>), and carbon monoxide (CO) [19,20]. Most vehicle emissions emit 61 % carbon monoxide (CO), 53 % nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>), 17 % volatile organic compounds, and 13 to 15 % particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub> and PM<sub>10</sub>) [21,22]. In 2019, more than 90% of the European urban population was exposed to concentrations of nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) and particulate matter (PM) with diameters smaller or equal to 2.5 μm [23]. Indonesia experienced the same situation; more than 90% of its transportation is by road [24]. Peak vehicle emissions in the morning and evening [25].

Ambient air toxic levels that are known or suspected to cause cancer in people or animals are influenced by motor vehicle emissions. Non-cancerous health issues include harm to the nervous, cardiovascular, respiratory, reproductive, or immune systems can also result from exposure to air toxics. Vehicle emissions have a negative impact on human health and environment [26,27]. The incidence and mortality of numerous diseases are both accelerated by vehicle emissions [28,29]. Particulate matter has been linked to rising incidence of lung cancer, ischemic heart disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), asthma, and stroke [30,31]. Children who experience prenatal illnesses as a result of air pollution may later experience delayed neuro development, which may have an impact on their performance in later life [32,33].

In Beijing, China, both short-term and long-term exposure to vehicle emissions is linked to cardiovascular and respiratory conditions, early mortality, and a higher chance of developing

cancer [34]. In Canada, rectal cancer has an OR of 1.98 and colorectal cancer has an OR of 1.65 when exposed to CO, NO<sub>2</sub>, and PM<sub>2.5</sub> from diesel engines for 10 years [35]. A significant association was found between an increase in the interquartile range of PM<sub>2.5</sub> (36.0 g/m<sup>3</sup>), NO<sub>2</sub> (29.0 g/m<sup>3</sup>), SO<sub>2</sub> (9.0 g/m<sup>3</sup>), and CO (0.6 mg/m<sup>3</sup>) over the 0 to 24 hours prior to commencement and, correspondingly, greater chances of the beginning of acute coronary syndrome (ACS) of 1.32%, 3.89%, 0.67%, and 1.55% [36].

In China, the frequency of Metabolic syndrome (MetS) in children and adolescents is strongly correlated with long-term exposure to PM<sub>2.5</sub>, PM<sub>10</sub>, and NO<sub>2</sub>. MetS prevalence will rise by 2.8% for every 10 g/m<sup>3</sup> increase in PM<sub>2.5</sub>, PM<sub>10</sub>, and NO<sub>2</sub> [37]. Hospitalization for cardiovascular disease (CVD), coronary heart disease (CHD), and cerebrovascular disease (CBV) in Boston correlates strongly with PM<sub>2.5</sub> and NO<sub>2</sub> levels [38].

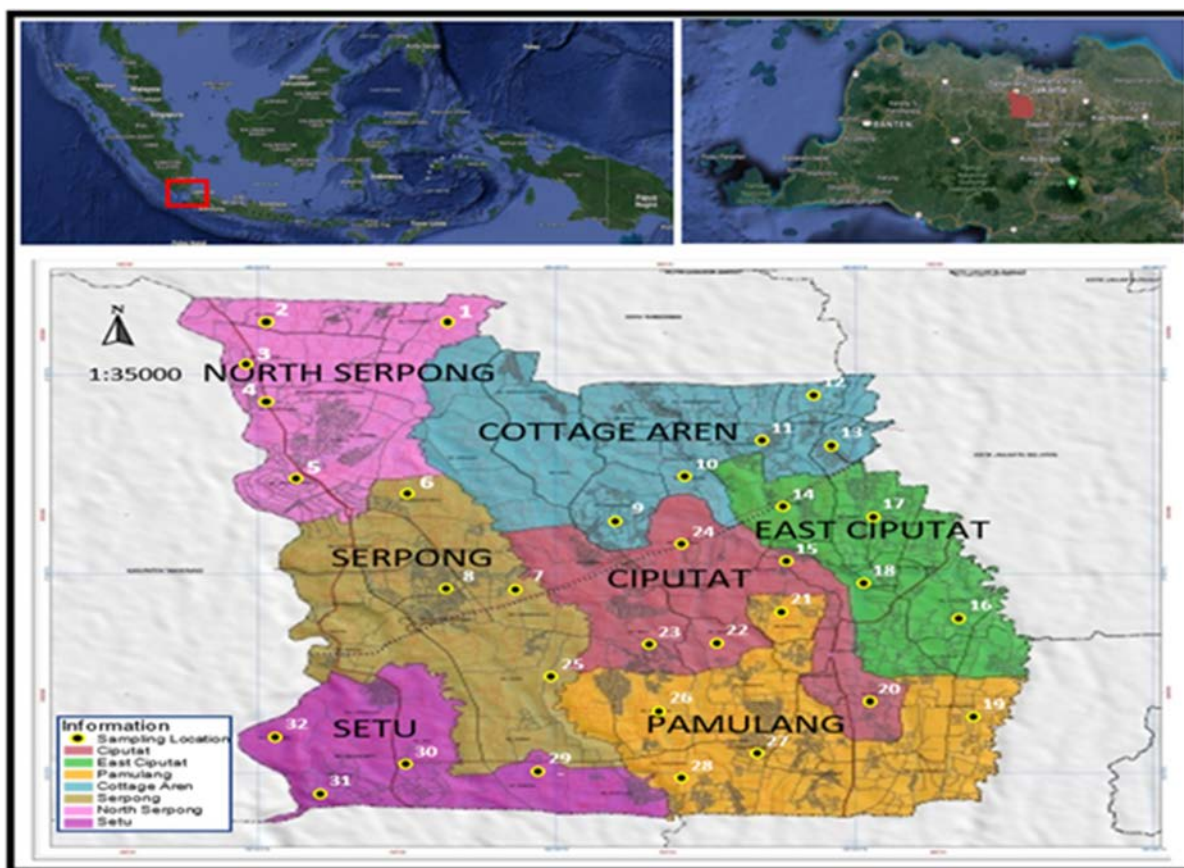
SO<sub>2</sub> undergoes a reaction with air and water vapor, resulting in the formation of sulfuric acid, which subsequently precipitates onto the ground through rain. This process has the potential to harm ecosystems by acidifying bodies of water and soil, as well as damaging plants, animals, and structures. In addition, NO<sub>2</sub> can also cause acid rain [39]. An increase in PM<sub>2.5</sub> can have a negative impact on plants that are disturbed to photosynthesize because the stomata on the leaves will be closed [40,41]. CO contributes to air pollution and the creation of smog when it is discharged into the atmosphere [42].

The city of South Tangerang is a densely populated area, an industrial area, an area with rapid trade growth, and an increasing number of modes of transportation that pollute the air. The city in Indonesia with the highest average annual pollution level is South Tangerang City. The number of vehicles in South Tangerang City in 2017 was 34,732 with the largest composition being public transportation [43]. Based on air quality in South Tangerang, PM<sub>2.5</sub> is 260 g/m<sup>3</sup>. This condition is very unhealthy so that a mitigation strategy is needed for air management in South Tangerang so that it does not have a negative impact on health and the environment. The dynamics of pollutants in the urban environment must be thoroughly understood in order to develop strategies and policies to reduce the negative consequences of air pollution exposure. The purpose of this study is to determine the amount of pollutant concentrations that pose a risk to health and the environment and to develop a strategy for mitigating pollutants caused by vehicle emissions.

## 2. Materials and methods

### 2.1. Study Design

This study uses observational analytics with a cross-sectional design and the STELLA dynamic model approach to predict health risks and situations. STELLA is good for predicting environmental health risks in the next few years by creating scenarios to produce strategies to overcome problems that occur. Data was taken from 32 points in 7 sub-districts in South Tangerang City (North Serpong, Serpong, Pondok Aren, Ciputat, East Ciputat, Pamulang and Setu) in March 2023. The samples used were population and environment. The population sample was 128 respondents with the criteria of being active and living near the main road in the South Tangerang City area. While, environmental samples consist of PM<sub>2.5</sub>, CO, NO<sub>2</sub>, and SO<sub>2</sub> emission gases during 24 hours, as shown in Figure 1.



**Figure 1.** Geographic location of 32 sampling points in South Tangerang City, Indonesia

## 2.2. Data analysis

This study uses a dynamic model to determine health and environmental risks due to vehicle emissions based on several variables that influence mitigation strategies in South Tangerang City. The dynamic modeling approach provides problem solving with methods and tools that can identify, analyze, simulate and design systems with interrelated components that are formulated across scientific disciplines and complement each other [44].

STELLA is used to model the exposure of vehicle emissions to health and environmental risks for 30 years from 2022 - 2053. The initial stage for predicting health and environmental risks is entering vehicle emissions data (PM<sub>2.5</sub>, CO, SO<sub>2</sub> and NO<sub>2</sub>), then modified by meteorology in the form of temperature and wind speed and direction in South Tangerang City. The next stage enters the HQ value and the average number of upper tract infection cases. Apart from that, population and vehicle density data are used so that the modeling results are well validated.

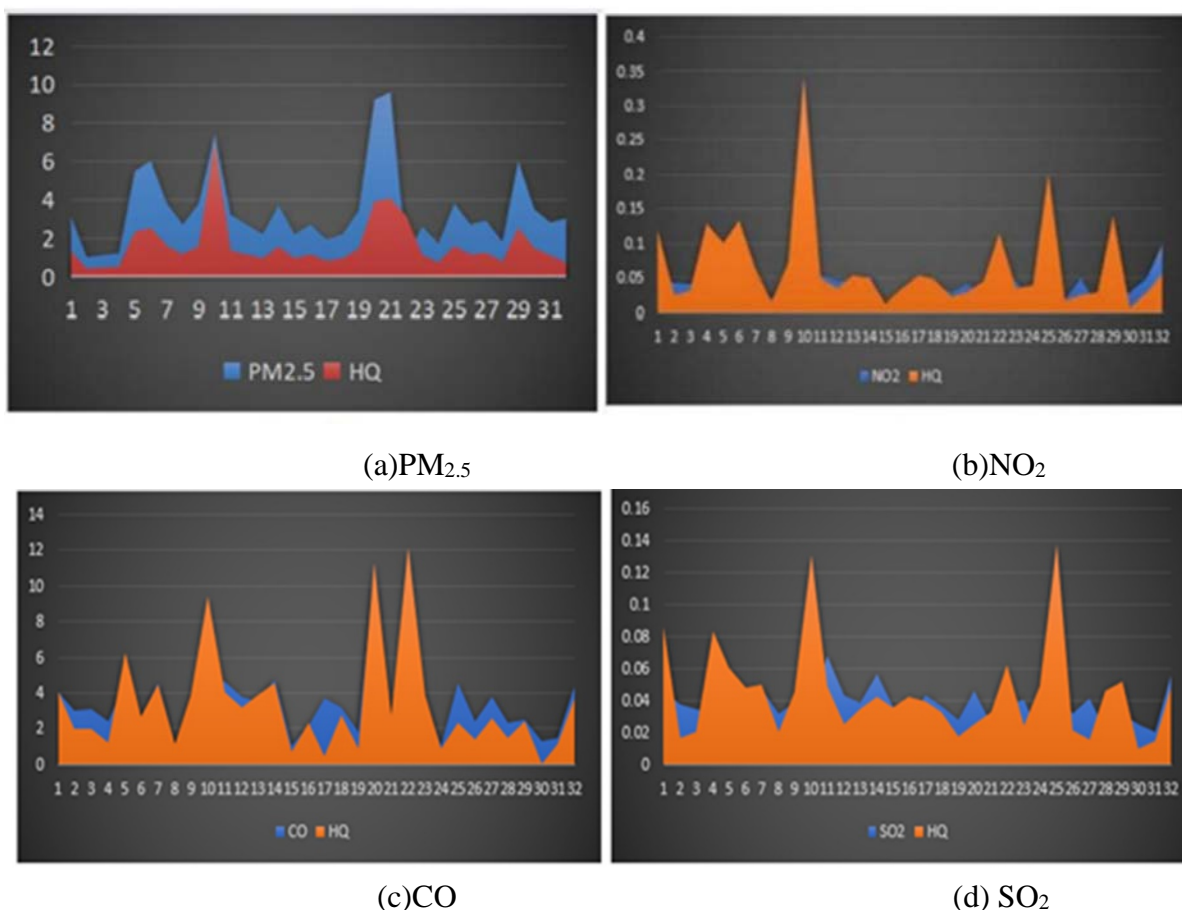
## 2.3. Ethics approval

The ethical permit guidelines number [1645/UN4.14.1/TP.01.02/2023] granted by Hasanuddin University was followed in conducting this study. A written informed consent process was used.

### 3. Results

#### 3.1. Health risk assessments

Several factors affect the level of concentration and distribution of pollutants in South Tangerang, namely, population density, causing vehicles to pass by and more human activities that trigger air pollution, the large number of motorized vehicles causes high exhaust emissions, many factories and industries, which causes the emission of pollutants such as CO, NO<sub>2</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub>, PM<sub>2.5</sub> and South Tangerang has a flat topography and coastal area, including to river and sea that win blew those pollution entered to water body and accumulate either in the water and may enter tosediment. The number of vehicles is a factor that greatly influences the concentration of air pollution due to motorized vehicle emissions. People now have a greater propensity to acquire private vehicles as a result of rising income levels, which is why the number of motorized vehicles is still rising. Each motorized vehicle emits some exhaust emissions that don't all meet the motorized vehicle's exhaust emission standard [45]. Emissions that do not meet standards will have a negative impact on human health. Increased vehicle emissions are significantly associated with increased human health risks, shown in Figure 2.

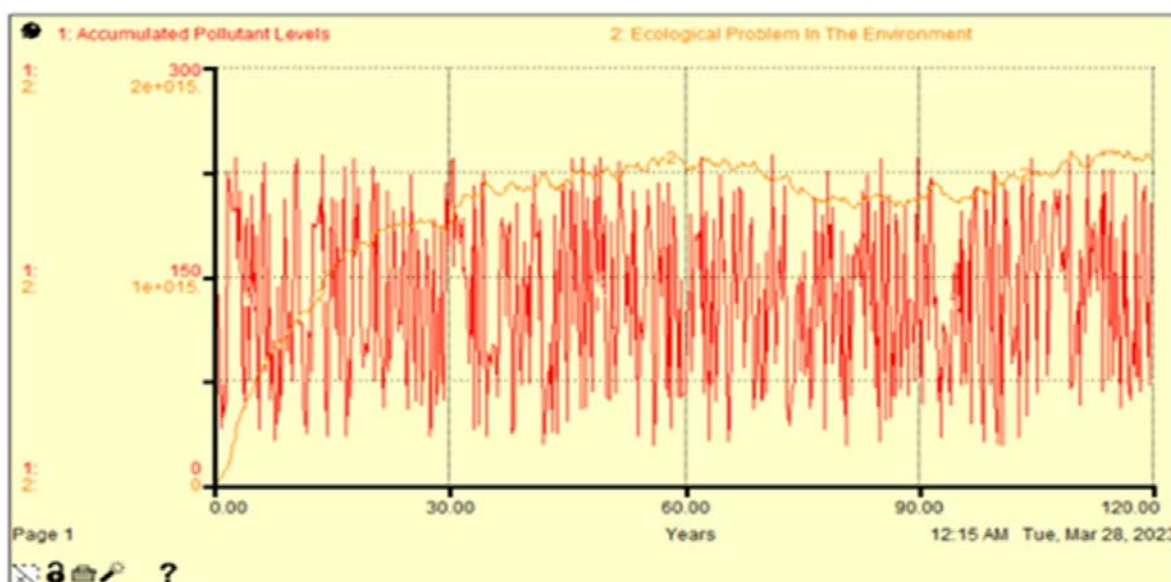


**Figure 2.** Health risk from (a) PM<sub>2.5</sub> (b) NO<sub>2</sub> (c) CO and (d) SO<sub>2</sub> in South Tangerang City, Indonesia.



### 3.2. Ecological risk assessments

Ecological risk is the possibility of unwanted ecological impacts on the environment. The accumulation of SO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>2</sub>, CO, and PM<sub>2.5</sub> in South Tangerang has ecological risks and causes a significant total burden of environmental pollution in the form of negative effects on air quality, ecosystems and human health. The results of SO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>2</sub>, CO, and PM<sub>2.5</sub> pollutant modeling for 30 years in South Tangerang are shown in Figure 3.



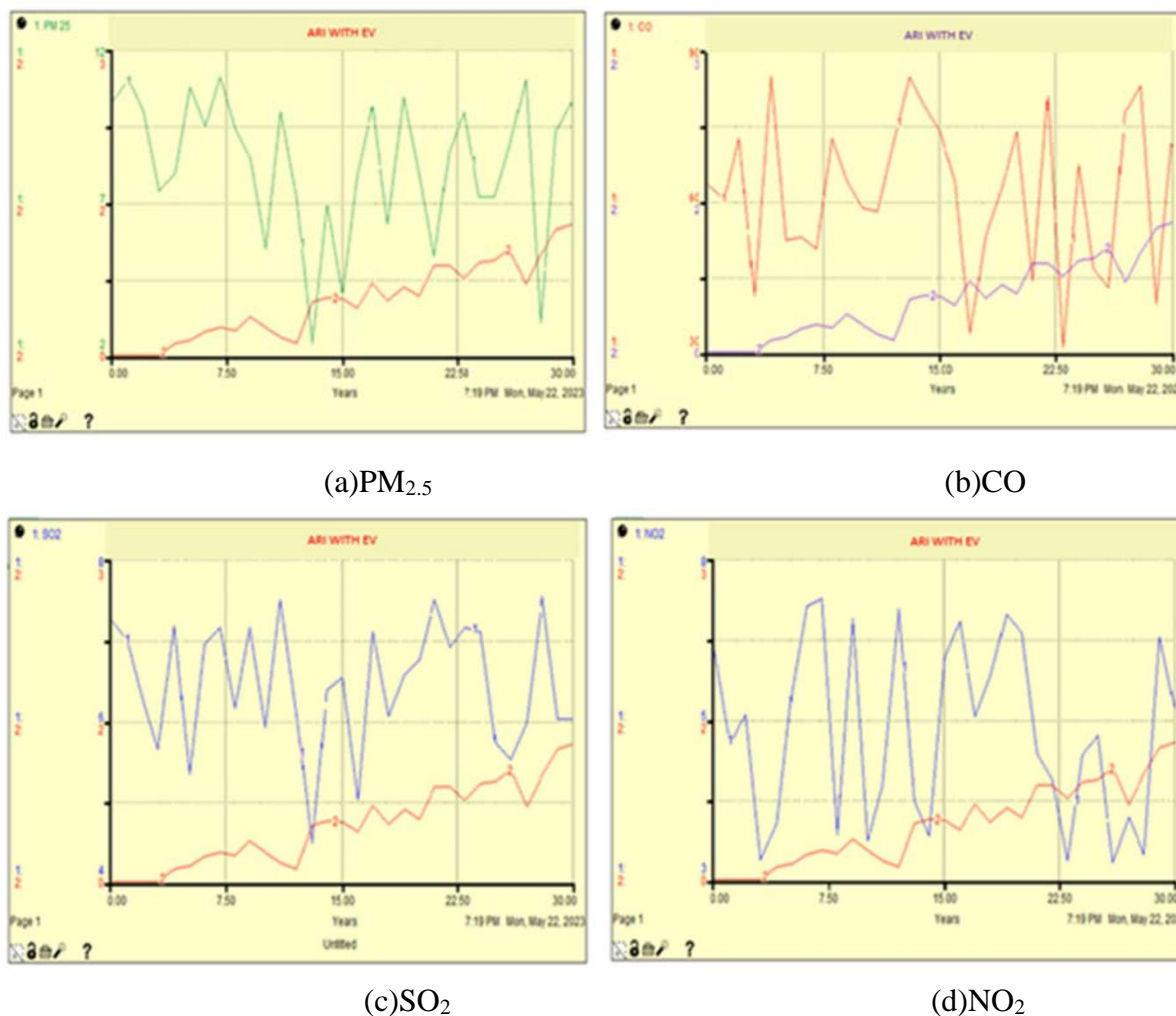
**Figure 3.** Ecological risk and total burden of environmental pollution due to the accumulation of SO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>2</sub>, CO, and PM<sub>2.5</sub> d in South Tangerang for the next 30 years.

Figure 3 shows the accumulation of SO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>2</sub>, CO, and PM<sub>2.5</sub> pollutants can have a significant impact on the ecological conditions and the total burden of environmental pollution in South Tangerang. The findings of projections show that emissions of SO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>2</sub>, CO, and PM<sub>2.5</sub> will negatively affect the environment throughout a 30-year period, starting in 2022 and ending in 2053.

### 3.3. Environmental health risks and mitigation strategies

The results of health and environmental risk analysis with predictions for the next 30 years showed that the highest pollutant levels were CO with an HQ value >1, then the second highest risk was pollutants with PM<sub>2.5</sub> levels with an HQ value >1. These polluting gases can cause problems with the respiratory tract and have systemic toxic effects. The use of vehicle fuel with a high sulfur content can also cause acid rain.

One of the efficient mitigation strategies that can be used to effectively control urban air pollution and lessen its detrimental effects on human health is better urban planning. using electric cars (EV) as a form of transportation to lessen exposure close to roadways. By using stella, an effective mitigation strategy scenario to reduce health and environmental risks is electric vehicles as shown in Figure 4.



**Figure 4.** Scenario of implementing mitigation strategies with electric vehicles to reduce PM<sub>2.5</sub>,CO, SO<sub>2</sub>, and O<sub>2</sub> pollutants as well as ISPA incidents in Tangsel City.

By implementing smart transportation such as electric vehicles, it can reduce vehicle emissions thereby reducing the negative impact on health and the environment. Figure 4 shows the reduced risk of ARI after 30 years with the adoption of electric vehicles.

## 4. Discussion

### 4.1. Health risk assessments

Non-carcinogenic and carcinogenic health risks due to exposure to SO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>2</sub>, CO, and PM<sub>2.5</sub> in SouthTangerang using a Hazard question. If the HQ value is more than 1, then the possibility of non-carcinogenic health risks increases. Figure 2 shows the concentration of pollutants PM<sub>2.5</sub>, NO<sub>2</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub>, CO, and hazards in South Tangerang City which pose a risk to human health. From the graph, it can be seen that PM<sub>2.5</sub> and CO pose health risks to humans because the HQ value exceeds 1. The average concentration of PM<sub>2.5</sub> is 37 µg/m<sup>3</sup> with HQ 1.644, NO<sub>2</sub> is 0.04 µg/m<sup>3</sup> with HQ 0.067, CO is 3.404 µg /m<sup>3</sup> with HQ 3.315, and SO<sub>2</sub> of 0.03 µg/m<sup>3</sup> with HQ 0.044. Even though HQ NO<sub>2</sub> does not

exceed 1, this gas has an effect on humans. Exposure to  $\text{NO}_2$  in the long term will have a detrimental effect on breathing and even cause death [46]. Similar in New York City, such as Buffalo, Detroit, Phoenix, and Tucson, which showed an increase in children's asthma cases in hospitals [47].  $\text{NO}_2$  is linked to an estimated 637,000 new cases of childhood asthma in China (Hu et al. 2022). The same thing applies to  $\text{SO}_2$  concentrations which affect human health. Exposure to  $\text{SO}_2$  for an extended period of time worsens respiratory symptoms and impairs lung function [48].

Emissions from motorized vehicles are one cause of  $\text{PM}_{2.5}$  pollution. Emissions from combustion of gasoline, oil, diesel fuel or wood produce much of the  $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ . Pollution found in outdoor air, as well as a significant proportion of  $\text{PM}_{10}$ . These particles can irritate and inflame the tissues of the lungs and respiratory tract when they reach the human respiratory tract, which raises the risk of contracting acute respiratory infection (ARI) [49].

Air pollutants lead to increased susceptibility to respiratory infections and the development of asthma [50]. Long-term exposure to  $\text{SO}_2$ , CO pollutants can result in a number of health issues, including cancer, heart disease, eye irritation, and respiratory issues. Particularly for vulnerable populations including children, the elderly, and those in poor health. In north China,  $\text{SO}_2$  and  $\text{PM}_{2.5}$  had the biggest impact on lung cancer especially women ( $q = 0.154$  in females) [51]. Similarly to Maros, Sensitivity analysis revealed that exposure length (27.0%) and  $\text{PM}_{2.5}$  concentration (25.7%) were the main contributors to health hazards in both adults and children [52].

Mean maximum  $\text{PM}_{2.5}$  in Northern Spain were  $12 \text{ g/m}^3$ , with a morning high of  $17 \text{ g/m}^3$ , and a nocturnal peak of  $1 \text{ g/m}^3$  greater.  $\text{PM}_{2.5}$  pollutants in Malaysia have 5 times the risk of suffering from lung adenocarcinoma with  $\text{OR} = 5.69$ , 95% CI 3.14-7.21 and death from lung cancer [34]. The City of Atlanta saw a 0.4% (95% CI 0.0%, 0.7%) increase in visits hospitals for all cardiovascular diseases for every  $1 \text{ g/m}^3$  rise in  $\text{PM}_{2.5}$  from vehicle emissions [53].

Pre-eclampsia ( $n = 1,880$ , adjusted odds ratio = 1.07 [95% confidence interval = 1.01, 1.14]) and pregnancy-induced hypertension disorders ( $n = 2,430$ , adjusted odds ratio = 1.07 [1.01, 1.13]) were linked with an elevated risk of pre-eclampsia at  $10\text{-g/m}^3$  of  $\text{NO}_2$  exposure during the first trimester [54]. The findings imply that up to 687 (or 38% of all) pediatric asthma cases in Bradford each year may be brought on by  $\text{NO}_2$  [55].

A significant risk factor for gestational diabetes mellitus (GDM) in pregnant women in China is extended exposure to air pollution, particularly exposure to CO and  $\text{SO}_2$  in metropolitan areas. Studies have suggested that this exposure may increase insulin resistance in pregnant women [56,57].

#### 4.2. Ecological risk assessments

Air pollution from sources like  $\text{SO}_2$ ,  $\text{NO}_2$ , CO, and  $\text{PM}_{2.5}$  greatly impacts the environment. The ecosystem surrounding the exposed region can be harmed by pollution accumulation. Pollutants can have a harmful impact on plants, animals, and other species when exposed over time. A decrease in agricultural output and harm to plants are both effects of  $\text{SO}_2$ . These contaminants have the potential to hinder plant growth, destroy blooms and leaves, dry up the soil, and harm plant roots. Additionally,  $\text{SO}_2$  has the ability to dissolve in water and produce sulfuric acid, which has negative effects on aquatic life and ecosystems [58–61].

Another gas that might harm the environment is  $\text{NO}_2$ . This nitrogen dioxide can contribute to acid rain, which harms vegetation and plants. Reduced plant nourishment, lowered soil pH, and plant death



can all be caused by acid rain [62]. CO has an impact on air quality and causes tropospheric ozone to develop, which can harm vegetation and lower agricultural productivity [63,64].

More than any other pollutant, PM<sub>2.5</sub> can significantly negatively influence the ecosystem. These particles may adhere to plant leaves and stems, inhibiting photosynthesis and limiting plant growth. Additionally, PM<sub>2.5</sub> particles have the ability to travel great distances and impact local air quality. The ecosystem and biodiversity in the area may be impacted by this [65].

#### 4.3. Environmental health risks and mitigation strategies

Due to their zero exhaust emissions, electric vehicles (EV) are frequently seen as a greener option to conventional cars, especially in densely populated inner cities. [66]. In the area surrounding Tampa, the county's exposure to CO, NO<sub>2</sub>, and SO<sub>2</sub> pollution as well as its ambient concentrations and emissions of those pollutants were reduced by fully electrifying the automobile fleet.[67]. Air pollutants that contribute to cancer, cardiovascular and respiratory disease, and other illnesses will be decreased by employing EVs that are common in cities [68].

Electric vehicles are an alternative to the utilization of renewable generating resources so that it needs to be expanded through smart charging and vehicle services [69–71]. Several countries that have successfully implemented electric vehicles widely with vehicle services are demonstrated in Shanghai, Guangzhou and Spain [72,73].

By promoting the use of electric or other low emission vehicles as a more ecologically friendly alternative to fossil fuel vehicles, South Tangerang may promote the development of a smart city by implementing risk mitigation techniques for both health and the environment. These measures could include lowering the operating costs of electric vehicles, creating extensive battery charging infrastructure, and providing tax breaks or subsidies for buying electric vehicles.

## 5. Conclusions

Health hazards associated with exposure to SO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>2</sub>, CO, and PM<sub>2.5</sub> in South Tangerang using a Hazard question. The HQ value of SO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>2</sub>, CO, and PM<sub>2.5</sub> pollutants in South Tangerang has increased to more than 1, which poses a risk to human health. CO and PM<sub>2.5</sub> gases also pose a significant health risk with HQ values of 3.315 and 1.644, respectively. Environmental conditions and the overall burden of pollution in South Tangerang will be significantly impacted by the buildup of SO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>2</sub>, CO, and PM<sub>2.5</sub> pollutants over the ensuing 30 years. Environment-harming air pollutants like SO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>2</sub>, CO, and PM<sub>2.5</sub> have a significant influence. Accumulated pollution can affect ecosystems near vulnerable regions. If plants, animals, and other species are exposed to pollutants over time, they may suffer negative consequences. By encouraging the use of electric or other low emission vehicles as a more environmentally responsible substitute for fossil fuel vehicles, South Tangerang may support the growth of a smart city by putting into practice risk mitigation strategies for both health and the environment.

Electric vehicles provide numerous advantages for both the environment and public health. In addition to having zero emissions while driving, EV also save money on operations, use less fuel, improve environmental quality, and might be qualified for tax breaks and other benefits. Even while the initial cost of some electric automobiles may be higher, the long-term advantages make the

investment worthwhile.

### Use of AI tools declaration

The authors declare they have not used Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools in the creation of this article.

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### Conflict of interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest

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