

1979 EPA Air Quality Ozone Standard

- Probabilistic formulation: The expected number of days per calendar year the maximum hourly ozone concentration exceeds 0.12 ppm should be ≤ 1 .
- Implementation: If the average number of exceedances over three years is > 1 (i.e., total > 3), the site is declared not in compliance.

Binomial Model

- Each day is a trial: exceedance is “success”
- $n = 3 \times 365 = 1095$ trials (assuming no leap year)
- If H_0 is true, $3 = E(X) = np \Rightarrow p = 1/365$
- Possible criticisms of model?
- Is the normal approximation appropriate?

Reformulation as Statistical Decision Rule

- X = number of exceedances in 3 years
- $H_0: E(X) = 3$ (just in compliance),
- $H_a: E(X) > 3$ (not in compliance)
- Reject H_0 if $X > 3$
- $\alpha = P(X > 3 | E(X) = 3)$
- α = probability of Type I error (= probability of incorrectly rejecting H_0)

Calculating α

- Use “exact” binomial test: $P(X = k) = ?$
- $\alpha = P(X > 3) = P(X \geq 4)$
- $= 1 - P(X < 3)$
- $= 1 - P(X = 0) - P(X = 1) - P(X = 2) - P(X = 3)$
- Is this a good decision rule?