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Effect of COVID-19 Pandemic on Ambient Air Quality and Excess Risk of Particulate Matter in Turkey

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20 **HIGHLIGHTS**

- 21 • Actions taken in COVID-19 pandemic in Turkey produced mixed effects on air quality
- 22 • Variable effects observed among cities and among studied stations in a city
- 23 • PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀ concentrations not significantly affected by curfew policies
- 24 • Significant reductions observed in NO, NO₂, and NO_x concentrations
- 25 • Excess Risk posed by PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀ were slightly decreased

26

27

28 **Abstract**

29 The COVID-19 pandemic, which has reached 4 million global cases as of March 10, 2020, has
30 become a worldwide problem. Turkey is one of the most affected (9th in the world) country with
31 139 771 cases. An intermittent curfew policy that differ for three age groups, and an intercity travel
32 ban varying within the country have been implemented. The effects of changes in social life and
33 industrial activity in terms of environmental pollution are not yet known. The short-term effects on
34 PM_{2.5}, PM₁₀, SO₂, NO₂, NO, NO_x, O₃ and CO concentrations measured at 51 air quality
35 measurement stations (AQMS) in 11 cities in March – April period of 2020 were statistically
36 compared with that of the previous year. While PM_{2.5} (9/14 AQMS) and PM₁₀ (29/35 AQMS)
37 concentrations were not significantly affected, NO (12/24 AQMS), NO₂ (20/29 AQMS), NO_x
38 (17/25 AQMS) concentrations were decreased, SO₂ concentrations at half of the AQMSs (11/25)
39 did not show a significant change. There were stations at which higher pollutant concentrations
40 were measured in the study period in 2020 compared to that of 2019. Excess risks associated with
41 PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀ were estimated to be variable, albeit with a small difference. In conclusion, the
42 heterogeneous actions taken in response to the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in mixed effects on
43 ambient air quality.

44

45 **Keywords:** Air quality, COVID-19, Excess Risk, Turkey

46

47 **1. Introduction**

48 COVID-19 pandemic has been identified as one of the worst global health crises that human
49 race faced so far. Since the report of the first one, there had been 4,013,728 confirmed cases,
50 278,993 of which ended in loss of life (WHO, 2020). The most affected regions are Americas and
51 Europe, and the most affected countries are listed as United States of America, Spain, Italy,
52 Germany, United Kingdom, and France. After the first report in March 10, case number in Turkey
53 has risen to 107,773 as of April 26, 2020. Turkey acted promptly and took action to prevent the
54 spread of the infection. These actions included closing of educational institutions at all levels
55 (March 16), enforcing curfew on citizens older than age of 65 (March 21), enforcing curfew on
56 citizens younger than age of 20 (March 28), travel restriction to enter and leave 30 metropolitan
57 cities and Zonguldak (due to being in a province with coal mining, thermal power plants, and iron-
58 steel industry, and having a higher rate of respiratory diseases) (April 3), enforcing general curfew
59 on weekends (April 11), and continuous stay-at-home calls to general population. Furthermore,
60 mobility between all cities was gradually decreased to the point of security forces controlling
61 entries and exits. In order to prevent congregation of people in indoor spaces, most of the public
62 sector has started to provide services online, leaving minimum staff in office buildings. Private
63 sector was strongly encouraged to follow the example of the public sector. As a result, a large
64 proportion of the population stayed at home, minimizing use of public transportation services and
65 sustaining only basic commercial activities. Similar to global news reports on nature's regenerative
66 power, Turkish media reported increased air quality based on visibility (Figure SM-1).

67 In this study, we investigated the combined effect of the preventive measures taken in COVID-
68 19 pandemic on air quality of 11 cities in Turkey, seven of which were metropolitan cities. Data
69 for the years of 2019 and 2020 were acquired from governmental air quality monitoring network

70 that conduct real-time measurements of PM_{2.5}, PM₁₀, SO₂, NO₂, NO, NO_x, O₃ and CO.
71 Concentrations measured in March 1-April 21 period in 2019 and 2020, and PM-associated excess
72 health risks were compared to elucidate the effect of decreased human mobility and activity due to
73 COVID-19 on air quality. This is the first study that investigates air pollution behavior and
74 estimates excess risk levels of PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀ during COVID-19 pandemic period in Turkey.

75

76 **2. Methods**

77 *2.1. Study area and air quality parameters*

78 Eleven cities, Ankara (A), Bursa (B), Corum (C), Istanbul (I), Izmir (IZ), Kars (K), Kocaeli
79 (KO), Konya (KON), Kutahya (KU), Trabzon (T), and Zonguldak (Z) were selected for
80 investigating impact of COVID-19 on air quality (Figure 1). Selected cities represent 42.8% of
81 Turkey's population. Istanbul, Kocaeli, and Bursa are heavily industrialized zones with energy,
82 steel, automotive, chemical and textile sectors. Metropolitan cities are A, B, I, IZ, KO, KON, and
83 T. Although Zonguldak is a non-metropolitan city, it was included in the travel restriction along
84 with the metropolitan cities, due to having a higher rate of respiratory diseases (Table 1). Measured
85 concentrations of air quality parameters (PM_{2.5}, PM₁₀, SO₂, NO₂, NO_x, NO, O₃, and CO) were
86 obtained from the Air Quality Monitoring Database of the Ministry of Environment and Urban
87 Urbanization in Turkey (URL1). Number of Air Quality Monitoring Stations (AQMS) in the
88 selected cities are presented in the descriptive statistic tables for each air quality parameter (Table
89 SM 1-4). Since measured values for any given parameter at a given city can be quite scattered,
90 overall median, minimum and maximum values were used in assessment instead of mean values.

91



92

93

Figure 1. Investigated cities in Turkey (Adopted from Google Maps)

94

Table 1. Investigated cities in this study

City	Population (n)	Provincial Surface Area (km ²)	Population Density (n/km ²)	Road Motor Vehicles (n)	Industry
Ankara	5639076	25632	220	2064501	Construction, Furniture, Metal, Defence, Printing
Bursa	3056120	10813	283	913154	Automotive, Textile, Cement, Energy, Chemical, Furniture
Corum	530864	12428	43	172622	Tile and brick, Roasted Chickpea
Istanbul	15519267	5343	2905	4222821	Textile, Tourism, Metal, Chemical Printing
Izmir	4367251	11891	367	1440392	Dye, Iron and steel, Petrochemical, Metal, Chemical, Food and beverage, Cement, Tourism
Kars	285410	10193	28	45111	Food, Wood
Kocaeli	1953035	3397	575	403209	Automotive, Pulp and paper, Iron and steel, Cement, Petrochemical, Energy, Aluminum, Waste, Chemical
Konya	2232374	40838	55	729076	Food and beverage, Tourism, Energy, Plastic, Base metal and casting, Automotive, Machinery
Kutahya	579257	11634	50	211463	Ceramic
Trabzon	808974	4628	175	200385	Cement, Printing, Metal and casting, Food
Zonguldak	596053	3342	178	156125	Energy, Cement, Mining
Turkey	82003882	780043	105	23361062	

96

97 *2.2. Excess risk*98 Health risks due to change in ambient air PM_{2.5}, PM₁₀, SO₂, NO, O₃, and CO concentrations

99 between March 1-April 21 in 2019 and 2020 were determined by estimating the excess risk (ER).

100 The relative risk (RR) and ER were calculated using Eqs. 1 and 2, respectively.

101

102 $RR = \exp[\beta(C_i - C_t)], C_i > C_t$ Eq. 1

103

104 $ER (\%) = (RR - 1) \times 100$ Eq. 2

105

106 where, C_i and C_t are contaminant concentration and threshold concentration, respectively.
107 Threshold concentrations for PM_{2.5}, PM₁₀, SO₂, NO₂, O₃, and CO were 25 µg/m³ (24-h average),
108 50 µg/m³ (24-h average), 20 µg/m³ (24-h average), 200 µg/m³ (1-h average), 100 µg/m³ (8-h
109 average), and 4000 µg/m³ (1-h average), respectively (WHO, 2005; Sharma et al., 2020). If the
110 concentration of a pollutant (C_i) is equal or below the threshold concentration (C_t), it has no excess
111 risk. β values were 0.38 % for PM_{2.5}, 0.32 % for PM₁₀, 0.81 % for SO₂, 1.30 % for NO, 0.48 % O₃,
112 and 3.7 % for CO (Shang et al., 2013).

113

114 2.3. Statistical

115 Shapiro-Wilk normality test was conducted with the significance level of 0.05, which was
116 rejected for most of the air quality parameters at all stations. Therefore, nonparametric Mann-
117 Whitney U-test (M-W test) was used to compare the concentrations. Significance level of M-W
118 test was 0.05. Criterion of inclusion in this study for a pollutant measured at a station was <25 %
119 missing values.

120

121 3. Results and discussion

122 3.1. Effect of COVID-19 on levels of air quality parameters

123 Values for air quality parameters (PM_{2.5}, PM₁₀, SO₂, NO₂, NO_x, NO, O₃, and CO) were
124 downloaded for the period of March 1 to April 21 in 2019 and 2020 for 11 cities in Turkey. Box-
125 plots for the studied periods at each station are presented in Figure SM 2-46.

126

127 3.1.1. PM_{2.5}

128 PM_{2.5} emissions are mainly originate from traffic, combustion of fossil fuels and biomass for
129 energy production, and industrial facilities (Sharma et al., 2016; Guo et al., 2019). Exposure to
130 high levels of PM_{2.5} may cause adverse human health effects, such as respiratory and
131 cardiovascular diseases, premature death, and lung cancer (WHO, 2013). Furthermore, since
132 particles comprising PM_{2.5} may be suspended in ambient air for prolonged periods of time, it may
133 serve as an important vector in spread of infection (Zhu et al., 2020). Therefore, PM_{2.5} may be the
134 most important air quality parameter to be investigated.

135 Overall median concentrations of PM_{2.5} were in the range of 10.2-23.7 µg/m³ (2019) and 17.3-
136 30.4 µg/m³ (2020) (Table SM1 and Figure SM2-5). The median values showed a slight increase in
137 Ankara, Bursa, Istanbul, Kocaeli, Kutahya, Trabzon, and Zonguldak, while there was only a slight
138 reduction in Istanbul. Furthermore, the M-W test results indicate that the differences in PM_{2.5}
139 concentrations were either not significant for all stations in Kocaeli and Bursa, and for 3/4 stations
140 in Istanbul, or higher in 2020 for Ankara, Kutahya, Trabzon, and Zonguldak. There was only one
141 station (in Istanbul) that had a significantly higher PM_{2.5} median concentration in 2019 compared
142 to 2020.

143 A significant reduction in PM_{2.5} concentrations was observed in other countries during the
144 COVID-19 pandemic period due to strict curfew policies. For instance, the average PM_{2.5}
145 concentration reduction in northern region of Malaysia was found to be 23.7 % through a ban of
146 business operation except for essentials and suspension of activities in several industries as well as

147 enforcing curfew on citizens (Abdullah et al., 2020). In India, PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀ concentrations in 22
148 cities in different regions of the country were analyzed and overall decreases of 43% and 31% were
149 reported, respectively (Sharma et al., 2020). With the strict traffic restrictions and self-quarantine
150 implementations, the reduction in PM_{2.5} concentration was also reported to be 20-30% in majority
151 of China during the COVID-19 pandemic period compared with the same period in years 2017,
152 2018, and 2019 (Zambrano-Monserrate, et al., 2020). In comparison, curfew policy partly
153 excluding public service and production based working population (ages between 20 and 65) in
154 Turkey allowed continuation of industrial and construction activities, which also necessitated
155 transportation activities. Furthermore, curfew on ages >65 and <20 may have increased residential
156 heating emissions. These could be the main reasons for not observing reductions in the median
157 PM_{2.5} concentrations.

158

159 3.1.2. PM₁₀

160 Diesel engines, industry, resuspension of soil particles, industrial activities and residential
161 fossil fuel heating are the main sources of PM₁₀ pollution (Lenshow et al., 2001). Overall median
162 concentrations of PM₁₀ ranges were 24.2-55.2 µg/m³ (2019) and 27.6-76.5 µg/m³ (2020) (Table
163 SM1 and Figure SM6-11). Reduction in overall median PM₁₀ concentrations were 13.1%, 15.0%,
164 2.82%, 11.0%, 2.77%, and 8.79% in Corum, Bursa, Istanbul, Kars, Kocaeli, and Konya
165 respectively. On the other hand, the overall median PM₁₀ concentrations increased in Ankara
166 (31.8%), Izmir (38.8%), Kutahya (9.80%), and Trabzon (11.6%). M-W test indicated that, in
167 general, PM₁₀ concentration distributions were not significantly affected by the actions taken
168 against COVID-19 in Turkey. The median PM₁₀ concentrations at all stations in Bursa (n=3),
169 Corum (n=2), Kars (n=1), Kocaeli (n=9), and Kutahya (n=1), 1/3 stations in Ankara, 10/11 stations
170 in Istanbul and 2/3 stations in Trabzon were not significantly different. There were only five

171 stations with significantly differing concentrations: one in Ankara and Istanbul with 2019>2020,
172 and one in Ankara, Trabzon, and Zonguldak with 2019<2020.

173 Partial lockdown has decreased the PM₁₀ concentrations in Milan-Italy by 32.7-40.5%
174 (Collivignarelli, 2020). Additional reductions were observed during the total lockdown period. In
175 Turkey, white collar employees were allowed to work home-office and the traffic density decreased
176 due to curfew policies in the business center(s) of the cities, which may be the reason for the
177 reductions observed at two stations in Istanbul and Ankara but the remaining stations (10/11 in
178 Istanbul and 2/3 in Ankara) did not support this observation. Industrial production (for Istanbul,
179 Kocaeli, Bursa, and Ankara,) and shipping traffic (for Istanbul, Kocaeli, and Bursa) were not
180 interrupted during the study period, which probably played a role in the not significantly differing
181 concentrations between 2019 and 2020. Higher PM₁₀ concentrations in Izmir in 2020 might be due
182 to the increase in industrial production and shipping traffic to meet the demand in food sector. The
183 increasing in PM₁₀ concentrations at Besirli station in Trabzon might be due to combustion of fossil
184 fuels for residential heating. The median concentration in Zonguldak was tripled from 2019 to
185 2020. We do not have the data to reasonably explain this sharpest change in PM₁₀ concentrations
186 other than to speculate that an increased residential heating may had a role while emissions of the
187 seven thermal power plants and the iron-steel plant also continued.

188

189 3.1.3. NO_x

190 Overall median concentrations of NO₂ for seven cities (29 stations) were in the range of 24.9-
191 77.9 µg/m³ (2019) and 23.2-59.1 µg/m³ (2020) (Table SM2 and Figure SM12-17). Results showed
192 a significant decrease in COVID-19 pandemic period compared with the same period in 2019. The
193 highest reduction was 40.9 % in Trabzon, while the lowest reduction was 6.83 % in Kocaeli.
194 Concentrations did not significantly change from 2019 to 2020 at 1/4 stations in Bursa, 2/11

195 stations in Istanbul, 4/6 stations in Kocaeli, and 1/4 stations in Trabzon. On the other hand, they
196 were significantly higher in 2019 at 20 stations (in A, B, I, K, KO, T, and Z). We have found that
197 station location is a determining factor: NO₂ concentrations at stations in heavily
198 industrialized/commercial areas or at transportation connection hubs did not differ significantly,
199 most probably due to emissions from traffic despite preventive measures. Dantas et al. (2020)
200 studied effect of COVID-19 pandemic period on air quality of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. They found
201 that the median NO₂ concentration was 24.1–32.9 % lower when compared with the same period
202 in 2019. They also reported that the least reduction was observed for NO₂ most probably due to
203 diesel combustion and industrial activities. The NO₂ reductions were found to be 20-30 % in
204 Wuhan, China, Europe, Italy, France, Spain, and USA following lockdown periods (NASA, 2020;
205 ESA, 2020).

206 Overall median NO concentrations were in the range of 6.24-31.8 µg/m³ (2019) and 8.57-20.9
207 µg/m³ (2020) (Table SM2 and Figure SM18-23). Similar to NO₂, a significant decrease was
208 observed in NO concentrations. There were 12 stations at which reduced concentrations were
209 measured (2 in Ankara and Kocaeli, 4 in Istanbul, 1 in Kars, and 3 in Trabzon) during the COVID-
210 19 period. For the remaining stations, the difference in NO concentrations were not significant at
211 7 stations (2/4 in Bursa, 4/9 in Istanbul, 1/4 in Trabzon) and higher in 2020 at 4 stations (1/4 in
212 Bursa, 1/9 in Istanbul, and 2/4 in Kocaeli). Furthermore, the overall median NO_x concentrations
213 were 36.4-89.6 µg/m³ (2019) and 33.8-72.1 µg/m³ (2020) (Table SM3 and Figure SM24-29). The
214 concentrations were lower in 2020 at 17 stations, no significant difference at 6 stations, and higher
215 in 2020 at 2 stations (2/8 in Kocaeli).

216

217 *3.1.4. SO₂*

218 The overall median concentrations of SO₂ were 4.52-34.1 µg/m³ and 4.31-12.6 µg/m³ in 2019
219 and 2020 for nine cities (Table SM3 and Figure SM30-36). Furthermore, changes in overall median
220 SO₂ concentrations were as follows: 15.4-61.9% reduction (Trabzon, Zonguldak, Kars, Izmir,
221 Bursa, and Corum) and 7.74-63.7 % increase (Istanbul, Kocaeli, and Ankara). The highest
222 reduction was 61.9 % (from 11.3 µg/m³ to 4.31 µg/m³) in Trabzon while the highest increase was
223 63.7 % in Istanbul (from 4.90 µg/m³ to 8.02 µg/m³). M-W test results indicated that the
224 concentrations did not significant change in Corum, Izmir, Ankara (1/2 stations), Bursa (4/5
225 stations), Istanbul (2/9 stations), and Kocaeli (2/4 stations), whereas, increased concentrations were
226 observed in 2020 in 1/2, 6/9, 2/4, and 1/1 stations in Ankara, Istanbul, Kocaeli, and Zonguldak
227 respectively.

228 SO₂ concentration increase was significant in Ankara, Istanbul, and Kocaeli, which have a large
229 number of industrial facilities and high population density. These results point to continuation of
230 industrial activities and dense population as probable causes for the increased SO₂ concentrations
231 during COVID-19 pandemic period.

232

233 3.1.5. CO

234 CO concentrations could be analyzed in seven cities because the inclusion criterion was not met
235 at many stations. The overall median concentration ranges were 463-926 µg/m³ and 1.09-2282
236 µg/m³ in 2019 and 2020, respectively (Table SM4 and Figure SM37-41). Reduction in overall
237 median CO concentrations were 3.82 %, 15.4 %, and 28.4 %, in Kars, Trabzon, and Zonguldak,
238 respectively. On the other hand, the overall median CO concentrations almost doubled in Ankara,
239 Bursa, and Istanbul. According to the M-W tests, the median CO concentrations were higher in
240 2019 compared to 2020 at 1/2 stations in Kars, 3/4 stations in Kocaeli, and all stations in Trabzon

241 and in Zonguldak. However, the median CO concentrations were lower in 2019 compared to 2020
242 for all stations in Bursa and Istanbul, while the difference in CO concentrations were not significant
243 in Ankara.

244 Based on the results, CO emissions significantly decreased in Kars, Trabzon, and Zonguldak as
245 these cities had fewer industrial activities except for Zonguldak. Ankara, Istanbul, and Bursa are
246 considered as the metropolitan cities with high industrial capacity and registered motor vehicles.
247 No reduction in CO concentrations were observed in these cities during the COVID-19 pandemic
248 period. The reason of the increase and/or no significant change in CO concentrations in these cities
249 might be the continuation of industrial activities and associated transportation. Similar results
250 observed in southern India, such that a significant increase was observed in CO concentration,
251 while a significant decrease was observed in other pollutants concentrations (NO, NO₂, and O₃)
252 during the COVID-19 pandemic period (Sharma et al., 2020).

253

254 3.1.6. O₃

255 O₃ was the parameter with the least available data. Its concentrations are presented in Table
256 SM4 and Figure SM42-46. In Bursa, reduction in overall median O₃ concentration was 3.08% (45.5
257 µg/m³ in 2019 and 44.1 µg/m³ in 2020). Changes in median O₃ concentrations were lower during
258 COVI-19 period at 1/3 stations in Bursa, while the difference was not significant at the meaning
259 two stations. Studies on atmospheric O₃ concentrations revealed that the decrease in NO_x
260 concentrations may be attributed to the increase in O₃ concentrations (Geraldino et al., 2020;
261 Dantas et al., 2019). Moreover, the decrease in PM concentrations, which increasing sunlight
262 passing through atmosphere, may be attributed the production of O₃ with photochemical activities
263 (Dang and Liao, 2019). During the COVID-19 pandemic period, the decrease in PM and NO₂
264 concentrations were attributed to increase in O₃ concentrations. For instance, the median O₃

265 concentration increased by 6.34%, while PM₁₀ and NO₂ median concentrations decreased by 14.0
266 % and 37.5 %, respectively at Uludag station, Bursa. On the other hand, at Kestel station, again
267 Bursa but close to its Organized Industrial Zone, the median O₃ concentration decreased by 18.8%,
268 while the PM₁₀ concentration increased by 6.47%. Wang et al. (2020) reported significant increases
269 in O₃ concentrations probably due to lower fine particle loadings, which cause less scavenging by
270 HO₂, and thus observation of O₃ concentrations for longer periods. A similar trend was reported
271 by Mahato et al. (2020) for megacity Delhi, India. They found that O₃ concentrations increased
272 significantly during the COVID-19 pandemic period possibly due to decrease in NO_x and NO
273 concentrations, and increase in insolation and temperature.

274

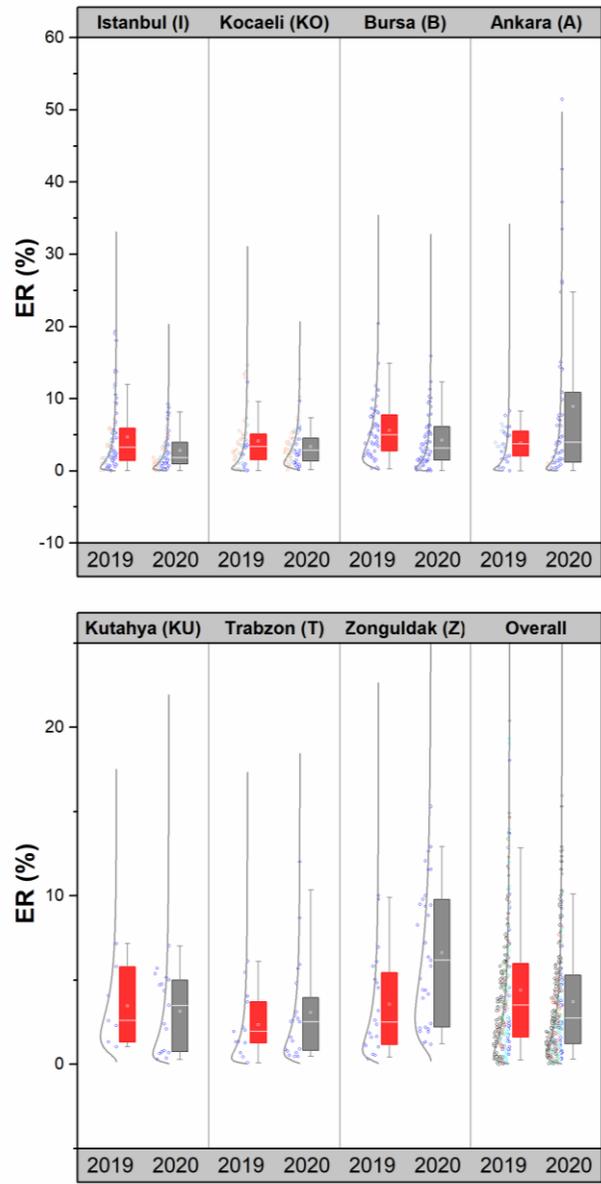
275 *3.2. Excess risk assessment of air quality parameters*

276 Exposure to PM_{2.5} mainly causes respiratory and cardiovascular system problems. Hence, it may
277 aggravate the COVID-19 infection symptoms and may increase mortality rate. Wu et al. (2020)
278 studied the relationship between air pollution and COVID-19 mortality in the United States and
279 found that comorbidities related to PM_{2.5} dramatically increased the risk in COVID-19 patients.
280 Overall and city-based excess risks (ER) were compared for PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀ median concentrations
281 (Fig. 2 and 3). Comparisons of ER_{PM_{2.5}} values revealed decreases for Bursa, Istanbul, and Kocaeli,
282 and increases for Trabzon, Kutahya, and Zonguldak (Fig. 2). Since Bursa, Istanbul, and Kocaeli
283 are densely populated metropolitan cities, decrease in traffic and industrial activities due to
284 progressive prevention measures during the COVID-19 pandemic period resulted in decrease of
285 ER values. For the capital city of Ankara, the median ER values were similar (Table 2). The most
286 significant increase in median ER values was calculated for Zonguldak, where coal mining is the
287 major source of livelihood. Furthermore, the overall ER values decreased from 2019 to 2020 (Fig.
288 2). Sharma et al. (2020) compared the effect of restricted emissions during COVID-19 on air quality

289 in India with previous three years. They reported that there was a considerable health risks related
290 to PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀ in all the regions during the lockdown period of COVID-19 pandemic. However,
291 the mean ER values for PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀ decreased by almost 52% on average in India compared
292 with previous years. Relationship between COVID-19 infection and short-term exposure to PM_{2.5},
293 PM₁₀, CO, NO₂ and O₃ were investigated in China (Zhu et al., 2020), showing that daily counts of
294 confirmed cases increased by 2.24 %, 1.76 %, 6.94 %, and 4.76 % with a 10 µg/m³ increase in
295 PM_{2.5}, PM₁₀, NO₂, and O₃, respectively. The median ER value associated with PM₁₀ decreased in
296 Corum, Ankara, Bursa, Kocaeli, and Kutahya, while it increased in Istanbul, Izmir, Kars, Konya,
297 Trabzon, and Zonguldak from 2019 to 2020. The most pronounced increase was calculated for
298 Zonguldak.

299 It should be noted that although both increases and decreases in concentrations were observed
300 for the studied cities, they were mostly small changes (for PM₁₀ median ER changed between -
301 2.01% and +3.21% except for Zonguldak; for PM_{2.5} ER changed between -1.87% and +3.68%).
302 Due to the enforced partial curfews and calls for staying at home, emissions from transportation
303 and industrial activities might have been limited because a portion of the population kept working.
304 On the other hand, emissions from residential heating were probably increased because the
305 remaining portion of the population were forced to stay at home. In Turkey, 15 °C is generally the
306 threshold temperature for residential heating. For our study period (March 1-April 21), the highest
307 average temperature was measured as 18.9 °C in Izmir, while the lowest average temperature was
308 9.5 °C in Kars. Despite the extensive infrastructure of natural gas in cities of Istanbul, Ankara,
309 Bursa and Kocaeli, there are parts of these cities that still use coal and fuel oil for residential
310 heating. The probable effect of fossil fuel based residential heating was most readily observed in
311 Zonguldak for PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀. Overall median ER values for PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀ decreased slightly
312 during the COVID-19 pandemic period in Turkey based on the 11-city data. Atmospheric SO₂,

313 NO₂, NO_x, NO, O₃, and CO concentrations were below the limits recommended by World Health
314 Organization, therefore, the ER levels were not calculated for these pollutants.



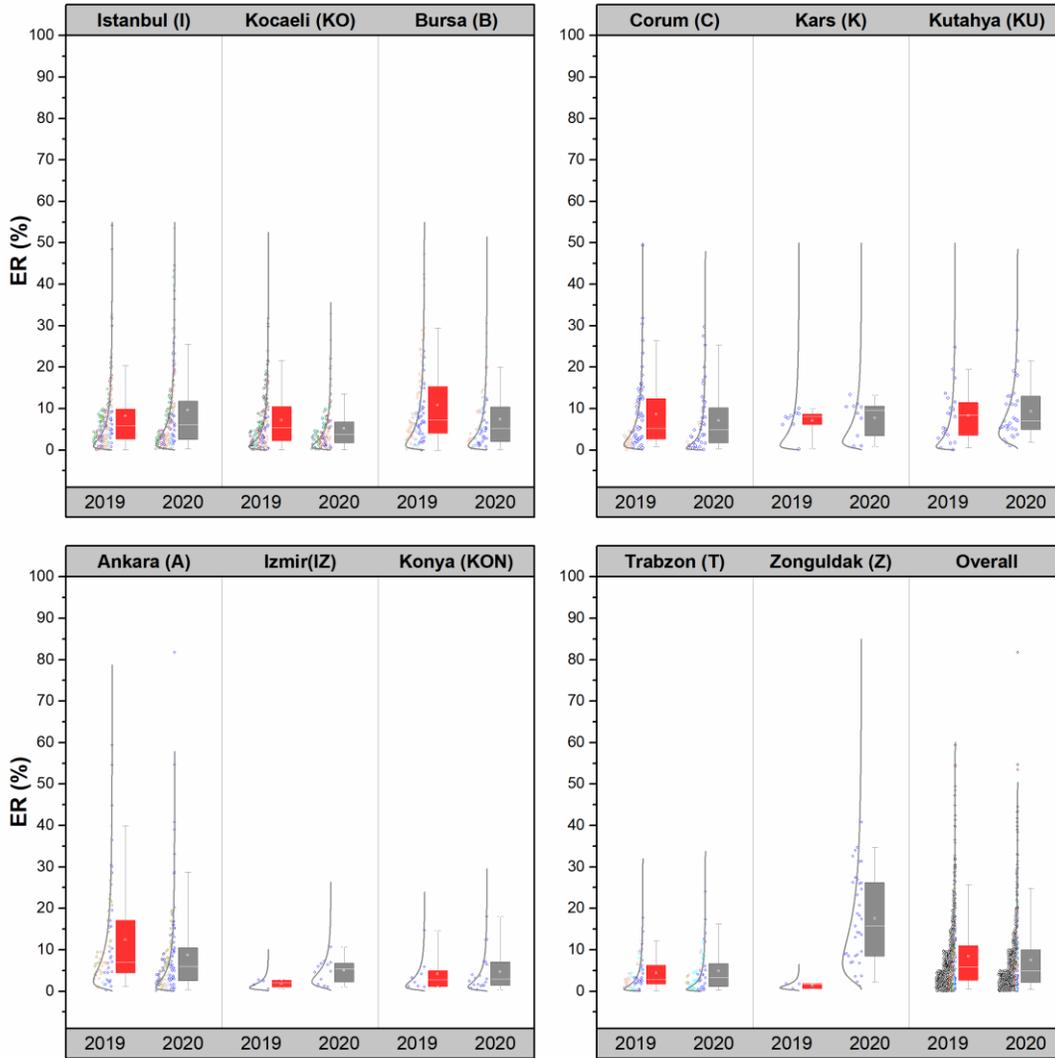
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316

Figure 2. Excess risks related to PM_{2.5} in 2019 and 2020.

317

318



319

320

Figure 3. Excess risks of PM₁₀ in 2019 and 2020.

321

Table 2. Descriptive statistics of excess risk levels (%) of PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀

Parameter	City	Number of AQMS	Year	Median	Mean	Min	Max
PM _{2.5}	Ankara	4	2019	3.71	3.85	0.004	8.29
			2020	3.96	8.90	0.03	51.4
	Bursa	2	2019	5.02	5.65	0.27	20.4
			2020	3.15	4.26	0.01	15.9
	Istanbul	4	2019	3.28	4.72	0.03	19.3
			2020	1.85	2.80	0.01	9.25
	Kocaeli	4	2019	3.40	4.13	0.03	14.7
			2020	2.84	3.39	0.13	12.7
	Kutahya	1	2019	2.59	3.46	1.04	7.16
			2020	3.50	3.15	0.28	7.03
	Trabzon	1	2019	1.95	2.36	0.09	6.11
			2020	2.53	3.06	0.46	12.0
	Zonguldak	1	2019	2.49	3.56	0.31	10.0
			2020	6.17	6.62	1.18	15.3
PM ₁₀	Corum	3	2019	5.31	8.60	0.08	49.4
			2020	4.83	7.12	0.06	29.8
	Ankara	7	2019	7.04	12.4	0.25	59.4
			2020	5.98	8.69	0.05	81.8
	Bursa	4	2019	7.33	10.8	0.002	47.2
			2020	5.32	7.40	0.11	30.6
	Istanbul	11	2019	5.89	8.19	0.03	54.1
			2020	6.18	9.76	0.13	53.5
	Izmir	1	2019	2.04	1.85	0.54	2.78
			2020	5.36	5.01	1.11	10.7
	Kars	1	2019	8.05	7.14	0.22	10.1
			2020	9.59	7.76	0.88	13.3
	Kocaeli	11	2019	5.37	7.25	0.04	31.8
			2020	3.87	5.27	0.03	32.9
	Konya	2	2019	2.72	4.20	1.08	14.7
			2020	3.01	4.77	0.33	18.0
	Kutahya	1	2019	8.40	8.38	0.06	24.8
			2020	7.03	9.30	1.01	28.9
	Trabzon	5	2019	2.91	4.38	0.04	17.7
			2020	3.27	4.92	0.04	24.0
Zonguldak	1	2019	1.76	1.43	0.62	1.89	
		2020	15.7	17.6	1.26	40.8	

324 4. Conclusion

325 This study shows the effects of curfew policies on air quality parameters in Turkey. Selected
326 AQMSs represents 42.8 % of the population in Turkey (Ankara, Bursa, Corum, Istanbul, Izmir,
327 Kars, Kutahya, Kocaeli, Konya Trabzon, and Zonguldak). Statistical comparison shows that, in
328 general, there were no significant difference in PM concentrations, and at half of the stations for
329 SO₂ between March-April periods of 2019 and 2020, whereas, overall NO_x, NO₂, and NO

330 concentrations were significantly decreased. While the highest NO₂ reduction was determined in a
331 non-industrial city with 40.9 %, the lowest reduction was in a heavily industrialized one with 6.83
332 %. Similar trends were observed for NO and NO_x. While the CO emissions were increased in
333 metropolitan cities, others were decrease since fewer industrial activities. Current available ozone
334 data was only in Bursa, with an overall insignificant decrease. There were stations at which
335 concentration increases were observed, such as tripling of PM in a non-metropolitan but with dense
336 coal mining and thermal power plants city and a 63.7 % in SO₂ in Istanbul. Excess risk (ER)
337 associated with PM is important for the spread of the virus because it may act as a transport media.
338 ER could only be estimated for PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀ since concentrations of the other pollutants were
339 below their threshold levels. Overall countrywide median ER values for PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀ decreased
340 slightly during the investigated period. In conclusion, the heterogeneous actions taken in response
341 to the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in mixed effects on ambient air quality.

342

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346 **DECLARATIONS**

347 The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest.

348

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SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL

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410 **Figure SM1.** Uludağ mountain could be seen from Istanbul after the partial curfew period (URL

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SM1)

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Table SM1. Descriptive statistics of atmospheric PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀ concentrations.

Parameter	City	Number of AQMS	Year	Median	Mean	Min	Max
PM_{2.5} ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)	Ankara	4	2019	10.2	14.7	0.82	46.0
			2020	17.3	22.1	3.43	134
	Bursa	2	2019	23.7	26.7	6.87	73.9
			2020	25.6	27.8	8.08	63.9
	Istanbul	4	2019	20.5	23.1	5.34	71.5
			2020	19.9	20.9	5.20	48.3
	Kocaeli	4	2019	16.6	19.6	2.56	61.0
			2020	17.9	20.3	4.42	56.5
			2019	10.9	12.7	1.73	43.2
	Kutahya	1	2020	19.2	20.1	1.99	42.88
			2019	20.0	20.5	6.68	40.6
	Trabzon	1	2020	24.8	26.0	9.46	54.9
			2019	20.3	21.8	3.47	50.1
	Zonguldak	1	2020	30.4	30.7	3.23	62.5
2019			45.1	49.1	7.6	176	
Corum	3	2020	39.2	45.0	10.3	131	
		2019	33.0	43.1	4.82	196	
Ankara	7	2020	43.5	47.8	2.95	237	
		2019	55.2	59.6	10.9	171	
Bursa	4	2020	46.9	49.3	9.2	133	
		2019	39.0	44.6	6.1	185	
Istanbul	11	2020	37.9	44.9	9.4	184	
		2019	30.7	33.7	11.7	58.6	
Izmir	1	2020	42.6	44.5	17.4	81.8	
		2019	31.0	34.9	7.6	80.0	
Kars	1	2020	27.6	34.3	7.72	89.2	
		2019	32.5	39.1	4.55	136	
Kocaeli	11	2020	31.6	36.7	6.07	409	
		2019	30.7	34.0	9.83	928	
Konya	2	2020	28.0	32.9	8.48	102	
		2019	55.1	57.3	14.05	119	
Kutahya	1	2020	60.5	60.0	14.7	129	
		2019	34.5	37.6	11.5	101	
Trabzon	5	2020	38.50	42.3	17.6	117	
		2019	24.2	26.1	4.63	55.9	
Zonguldak	1	2020	76.5	77.2	8.11	157	

Table SM2. Descriptive statistics of atmospheric NO and NO₂ concentrations.

Parameter	City	Number of AQMS	Year	Median	Mean	Min	Max
NO ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)	Ankara	5	2019	14.7	25.3	0.19	155
			2020	12.6	24.6	1.90	164
	Bursa	4	2019	10.9	21.9	0.29	178
			2020	11.1	18.8	1.50	139
	Istanbul	11	2019	19.1	28.9	0.28	229
			2020	18.2	25.5	0.49	210
	Kars	1	2019	13.1	13.9	4.56	31.0
			2020	8.57	10.2	2.98	27.8
	Kocaeli	11	2019	6.24	15.8	0.24	170
			2020	11.9	35.3	0.40	376
	Kutahya	1	2019	6.84	10.6	2.46	35.5
			2020	9.75	13.2	2.18	38.5
	Trabzon	5	2019	18.5	22.3	1.42	115
			2020	10.6	19.8	1.02	158
Zonguldak	1	2019	31.8	33.0	11.8	60.7	
		2020	20.9	25.4	9.52	73.6	
NO ₂ ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)	Corum	1	2019	77.9	85.9	40.1	167
			2020	59.1	57.9	34.3	90.3
	Ankara	5	2019	49.2	48.8	3.95	110
			2020	38.0	40.9	10.8	90.1
	Bursa	4	2019	37.8	44.0	1.20	132
			2020	31.5	33.3	4.87	98.7
	Istanbul	12	2019	32.9	40.0	0.84	164
			2020	27.7	28.0	0.27	120
	Kars	1	2019	29.0	29.9	15.7	55.9
			2020	25.2	27.4	12.9	53.5
	Kocaeli	11	2019	24.9	29.1	0.73	191
			2020	23.2	26.8	0.20	78.3
	Kutahya	1	2019	29.4	30.0	13.0	53.5
			2020	41.4	40.3	12.3	71.1
Trabzon	5	2019	46.5	48.1	19.6	86.5	
		2020	27.5	38.5	8.94	99.7	
Zonguldak	1	2019	41.3	44.6	24.4	65.1	
		2020	32.9	33.4	18.1	63.3	

Table SM3. Descriptive statistics of atmospheric NO_x and SO₂ concentrations.

Parameter	City	Number of AQMS	Year	Median	Mean	Min	Max
NO _x (µg/m ³)	Corum	1	2019	89.6	106	46.2	234
			2020	72.1	80.2	40.5	147
	Ankara	5	2019	63.3	74.1	4.62	254
			2020	51.7	65.6	13.9	254
	Bursa	5	2019	49.9	74.8	1.19	405
			2020	51.5	67.7	13.0	306
	Istanbul	12	2019	66.2	85.5	3.24	516
			2020	43.9	59.7	1.08	438
	Kars	1	2019	41.8	43.7	22.7	86.8
			2020	33.8	37.6	15.9	81.3
	Kocaeli	11	2019	36.8	55.3	0.83	337
			2020	39.4	76.1	1.09	683
	Kutahya	1	2019	36.4	40.6	16.5	81.5
			2020	53.8	53.5	14.4	103
	Trabzon	5	2019	66.3	70.3	22.7	195
			2020	48.3	58.3	10.7	257
	Zonguldak	1	2019	74.6	78.1	41.3	126
			2020	53.8	58.9	28.5	137
SO ₂ (µg/m ³)	Corum	1	2019	10.1	12.9	2.25	38.3
			2020	7.52	10.6	5.88	24.6
	Ankara	6	2019	4.52	8.86	0.25	34.4
			2020	4.87	5.32	0.73	20.4
	Bursa	5	2019	9.41	11.4	0.81	59.3
			2020	7.08	9.95	0.79	83.2
	Istanbul	10	2019	4.90	6.48	0.66	43.2
			2020	8.02	13.02	0.23	71.5
	Izmir	1	2019	9.25	10.3	3.71	30.4
			2020	7.83	8.78	3.76	16.1
	Kars	1	2019	8.80	10.9	3.04	27.1
			2020	4.37	5.08	2.12	11.4
	Kocaeli	7	2019	5.19	7.88	0.43	49.7
			2020	7.44	11.4	0.69	75.0
	Konya	2	2019	13.9	14.6	5.47	39.8
			2020	7.36	8.89	3.02	26.1
	Kutahya	1	2019	34.1	30.4	11.9	62.5
			2020	12.6	13.1	4.28	31.5
Trabzon	4	2019	11.3	16.2	2.56	66.3	
		2020	4.31	5.46	1.87	16.2	
Zonguldak	1	2019	12.8	15.4	1.83	36.7	
		2020	5.06	6.61	1.01	26.5	

Table SM4. Descriptive statistics of atmospheric CO and O₃ concentrations.

Parameter	City	Number of AQMS	Year	Median	Mean	Min	Max
CO ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)	Ankara	2	2019	463	773	128	3833
			2020	655	795	200	2569
	Bursa	1	2019	926	1104	442	3284
			2020	2282	2386	1437	3905
	Istanbul	6	2019	564	608	177	2208
			2020	1342	2266	219	10527
	Kars	2	2019	498	501	274	965
			2020	479	496	297	936
	Kocaeli	4	2019	612	794	409	2321
			2020	1.09	608	0.29	2721
	Kutahya	1	2019	822	861	552	1361
			2020	640	606	180	1002
	Trabzon	2	2019	752	768	379	1587
			2020	636	652	290	1130
Zonguldak	1	2019	870	904	378	1576	
		2020	623	667	151	1793	
O ₃ ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)	Corum	1	2019	23.9	26.9	17.5	43.1
			2020	36.5	32.3	6.58	44.4
	Ankara	2	2019	57.5	57.6	43.5	79.4
			2020	22.5	29.8	4.88	83.6
	Bursa	4	2019	45.5	47.4	11.4	97.9
			2020	44.1	46.6	13.0	91.7

424 **Table SM5.** Hypothesis and p-values of Mann-Whitney tests of PM_{2.5}.

AQMS	Null hypothesis	Alternative Hypothesis	p-value
Bahcelievler-Ankara	2019=2020	2019>2020	1
Uludag-Bursa	2019=2020	2019≠2020	0.533
City Center-Bursa	2019=2020	2019≠2020	0.438
Umraniye-Istanbul	2019=2020	2019≠2020	0.289
Kagithane-Istanbul	2019=2020	2019>2020	0.004
Sultangazi-Istanbul	2019=2020	2019≠2020	0.656
Silivri-Istanbul	2019=2020	2019≠2020	0.637
City Center-Kocaeli	2019=2020	2019≠2020	0.067
Kandira-Kocaeli	2019=2020	2019≠2020	0.836
Golcuk-Kocaeli	2019=2020	2019≠2020	0.860
Korfez-Kocaeli	2019=2020	2019≠2020	0.901
Kentpark-Kutahya	2019=2020	2019>2020	0.999
Besirli-Trabzon	2019=2020	2019>2020	0.999
Trafik-Zonguldak	2019=2020	2019>2020	0.998

427 **Table SM6.** Hypothesis and p-values of Mann-Whitney tests of PM₁₀.

AQMS	Null hypothesis	Alternative Hypothesis	p-value
Kecioren-Ankara	2019=2020	2019≠2020	0.552
Kayas-Ankara	2019=2020	2019>2020	0.0004
Bahcelievler-Ankara	2019=2020	2019>2020	1
Inegol-Bursa	2019=2020	2019≠2020	0.582
Kestel-Bursa	2019=2020	2019≠2020	0.128
Beyazit-Bursa	2019=2020	2019≠2020	0.072
Bahabey-Corum	2019=2020	2019≠2020	0.498
Mimarsinan-Corum	2019=2020	2019≠2020	0.069
Kandilli-Istanbul	2019=2020	2019≠2020	0.616
Uskudar-Istanbul	2019=2020	2019≠2020	0.842
Sirinevler-Istanbul	2019=2020	2019≠2020	0.609
Mecidiyekoy-Istanbul	2019=2020	2019>2020	0.009
Umraniye-Istanbul	2019=2020	2019≠2020	0.542
Basaksehir-Istanbul	2019=2020	2019≠2020	0.516
Esenyurt-Istanbul	2019=2020	2019≠2020	0.512
Sultanbeyli-Istanbul	2019=2020	2019≠2020	0.630
Sultangazi-Istanbul	2019=2020	2019≠2020	0.227
Silivri-Istanbul	2019=2020	2019≠2020	0.749
Sile-Istanbul	2019=2020	2019≠2020	0.063
Gazimir-Izmir	2019=2020	2019>2020	0.999
Istasyon-Kars	2019=2020	2019≠2020	0.739
Gebze-Kocaeli	2019=2020	2019≠2020	0.759
Dilovasi-2-Kocaeli	2019=2020	2019≠2020	0.308
Dilovasi-1-Kocaeli	2019=2020	2019≠2020	0.699
City Center-Kocaeli	2019=2020	2019≠2020	0.394
Yenikoy-Kocaeli	2019=2020	2019≠2020	0.296
Golcuk-Kocaeli	2019=2020	2019≠2020	0.062
Alikahya-Kocaeli	2019=2020	2019≠2020	0.896
Korfez-Kocaeli	2019=2020	2019≠2020	0.604
Izmit-Kocaeli	2019=2020	2019≠2020	0.495
Kentpark-Kutahya	2019=2020	2019≠2020	0.250
Fatih-Trabzon	2019=2020	2019≠2020	0.311
Akcaabat-Trabzon	2019=2020	2019≠2020	0.234
Besirli-Trabzon	2019=2020	2019>2020	0.999
Trafik-Zonguldak	2019=2020	2019>2020	1

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430 **Table SM7.** Hypothesis and p-values of Mann-Whitney tests of NO.

AQMS	Null hypothesis	Alternative Hypothesis	p-value
Demetevler-Ankara	2019=2020	2019>2020	0.021
Bahcelievler-Ankara	2019=2020	2019>2020	0.010
Inegol-Bursa	2019=2020	2019≠2020	0.919
Kestel-Bursa	2019=2020	2019>2020	<0.001
Uludag-Bursa	2019=2020	2019>2020	1
Beyazıt-Bursa	2019=2020	2019≠2020	0.144
Kandilli-Istanbul	2019=2020	2019≠2020	0.102
Uskudar-Istanbul	2019=2020	2019>2020	0.998
Sirinevler-Istanbul	2019=2020	2019≠2020	0.103
Mecidiyekoy-Istanbul	2019=2020	2019>2020	<0.001
Umraniye-Istanbul	2019=2020	2019>2020	0.001
Basaksehir-Istanbul	2019=2020	2019≠2020	0.745
Esenyurt-Istanbul	2019=2020	2019>2020	0.014
Sultangazi-Istanbul	2019=2020	2019≠2020	0.166
Silivri-Istanbul	2019=2020	2019>2020	0.953
Trafik-Kars	2019=2020	2019>2020	0.001
Gebze-Kocaeli	2019=2020	2019>2020	<0.001
Dilovasi 1-Kocaeli	2019=2020	2019>2020	0.999
Dilovasi 2-Kocaeli	2019=2020	2019>2020	1
City Center-Kocaeli	2019=2020	2019>2020	<0.001
Fatih-Trabzon	2019=2020	2019>2020	0.024
Akcaabat-Trabzon	2019=2020	2019>2020	<0.001
Besirli-Trabzon	2019=2020	2019>2020	<0.001
City Square-Trabzon	2019=2020	2019≠2020	0.267

432 **Table SM8.** Hypothesis and p-values of Mann-Whitney tests of NO₂ at significance value of 0.05.

AQMS	Null hypothesis	Alternative Hypothesis	p-value
Demetevler-Ankara	2019=2020	2019>2020	0.014
Bahcelievler-Ankara	2019=2020	2019>2020	0.041
Inegol-Bursa	2019=2020	2019≠2020	0.820
Kestel-Bursa	2019=2020	2019>2020	<0.001
Uludag-Bursa	2019=2020	2019>2020	<0.001
Beyazıt-Bursa	2019=2020	2019>2020	<0.001
Kandilli-Istanbul	2019=2020	2019>2020	<0.001
Uskudar-Istanbul	2019=2020	2019≠2020	0.131
Sirinevler-Istanbul	2019=2020	2019>2020	<0.001
Mecidiyekoy-Istanbul	2019=2020	2019>2020	<0.001
Umraniye-Istanbul	2019=2020	2019>2020	<0.001
Basaksehir-Istanbul	2019=2020	2019>2020	<0.001
Esenyurt-Istanbul	2019=2020	2019>2020	<0.001
Sultanbeyli-Istanbul	2019=2020	2019≠2020	0.398
Kagithane-Istanbul	2019=2020	2019>2020	<0.001
Sultangazi-Istanbul	2019=2020	2019>2020	<0.001
Silivri-Istanbul	2019=2020	2019>2020	0.010
Trafik-Kars	2019=2020	2019>2020	0.013
Dilovasi 1-Kocaeli	2019=2020	2019>2020	0.998
Dilovasi 2-Kocaeli	2019=2020	2019≠2020	0.799
Dilovasi 3-Kocaeli	2019=2020	2019≠2020	0.968
City Center-Kocaeli	2019=2020	2019>2020	<0.001
Korfez-Kocaeli	2019=2020	2019≠2020	0.103
Izmit-Kocaeli	2019=2020	2019≠2020	0.195
Fatih-Trabzon	2019=2020	2019≠2020	0.211
Akcaabat-Trabzon	2019=2020	2019>2020	<0.001
Besirli-Trabzon	2019=2020	2019>2020	<0.001
City Square-Trabzon	2019=2020	2019>2020	<0.001
Trafik-Zonguldak	2019=2020	2019>2020	<0.001

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435 **Table SM9.** Hypothesis and p-values of Mann-Whitney tests of NO_x.

AQMS	Null hypothesis	Alternative Hypothesis	p-value
Demetevler-Ankara	2019=2020	2019>2020	0.033
Bahcelievler-Ankara	2019=2020	2019>2020	0.015
Inegol-Bursa	2019=2020	2019≠2020	0.936
Kestel-Bursa	2019=2020	2019>2020	<0.001
Beyazit-Bursa	2019=2020	2019>2020	0.003
Kandilli-Istanbul	2019=2020	2019>2020	0.003
Uskudar-Istanbul	2019=2020	2019≠2020	0.900
Sirinevler-Istanbul	2019=2020	2019>2020	0.004
Mecidiyekoy-Istanbul	2019=2020	2019>2020	<0.001
Umraniye-Istanbul	2019=2020	2019>2020	<0.001
Basaksehir-Istanbul	2019=2020	2019>2020	0.004
Esenyurt-Istanbul	2019=2020	2019>2020	<0.001
Sultanbeyli-Istanbul	2019=2020	2019≠2020	0.131
Kagithane-Istanbul	2019=2020	2019>2020	<0.001
Sultangazi-Istanbul	2019=2020	2019>2020	<0.001
Silivri-Istanbul	2019=2020	2019≠2020	0.431
Trafik-Kars	2019=2020	2019>2020	0.001
Gebze-Kocaeli	2019=2020	2019>2020	<0.001
Dilovasi 1-Kocaeli	2019=2020	2019>2020	<0.001
Dilovasi 2-Kocaeli	2019=2020	2019≠2020	0.109
City Center-Kocaeli	2019=2020	2019>2020	0.002
Kandira-Kocaeli	2019=2020	2019≠2020	0.225
Yenikoy-Kocaeli	2019=2020	2019>2020	<0.001
Korfez-Kocaeli	2019=2020	2019>2020	1
Izmit-Kocaeli	2019=2020	2019>2020	1

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438 **Table SM10.** Hypothesis and p-values of Mann-Whitney tests of SO₂.

AQMS	Null hypothesis	Alternative Hypothesis	p-value
Demetevler-Ankara	2019=2020	2019≠2020	0.169
Bahcelievler-Ankara	2019=2020	2019>2020	1
Inegol-Bursa	2019=2020	2019≠2020	0.490
Kestel-Bursa	2019=2020	2019≠2020	0.715
Uludag-Bursa	2019=2020	2019≠2020	0.704
Beyazıt-Bursa	2019=2020	2019>2020	<0.001
Kultur-Bursa	2019=2020	2019≠2020	0.868
Corum	2019=2020	2019≠2020	0.354
Kandilli-Istanbul	2019=2020	2019≠2020	0.944
Sirinevler-Istanbul	2019=2020	2019>2020	1
Umraniye-Istanbul	2019=2020	2019>2020	0.999
Basaksehir-Istanbul	2019=2020	2019>2020	1
Esenyurt-Istanbul	2019=2020	2019>2020	<0.001
Sultanbeyli-Istanbul	2019=2020	2019>2020	1
Sultangazi-Istanbul	2019=2020	2019>2020	1
Sile-Istanbul	2019=2020	2019>2020	0.002
Silivri-Istanbul	2019=2020	2019≠2020	0.642
Gaziemir-Izmir	2019=2020	2019≠2020	0.368
Trafik-Station	2019=2020	2019>2020	<0.001
City Center-Kocaeli	2019=2020	2019≠2020	0.198
Yenikoy-Kocaeli	2019=2020	2019>2020	0.999
Golcuk-Kocaeli	2019=2020	2019>2020	0.995
Korfez-Kocaeli	2019=2020	2019≠2020	0.414
Akcaabat-Trabzon	2019=2020	2019>2020	<0.001
Trafik-Zonguldak	2019=2020	2019>2020	<0.001

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441 **Table SM11.** Hypothesis and p-values of Mann-Whitney tests of CO.

AQMS	Null hypothesis	Alternative Hypothesis	p-value
Bahcelievler-Ankara	2019=2020	2019≠2020	0.171
Beyazit-Bursa	2019=2020	2019>2020	1
Kandilli-Istanbul	2019=2020	2019>2020	1
Uskudar-Istanbul	2019=2020	2019>2020	1
Sirinevler-Istanbul	2019=2020	2019>2020	1
Umraniye-Istanbul	2019=2020	2019>2020	1
Basaksehir-Istanbul	2019=2020	2019>2020	1
Trafik-Kars	2019=2020	2019>2020	<0.001
Station-Kars	2019=2020	2019≠2020	0.142
Dilovasi 1-Kocaeli	2019=2020	2019>2020	<0.001
Dilovasi 2-Kocaeli	2019=2020	2019>2020	<0.001
Dilovasi 3-Kocaeli	2019=2020	2019>2020	0.999
Izmit-Kocaeli	2019=2020	2019>2020	0.999
Akcaabat-Trabzon	2019=2020	2019>2020	<0.001
Besirli-Trabzon	2019=2020	2019>2020	<0.001
Trafik-Zonguldak	2019=2020	2019>2020	<0.001

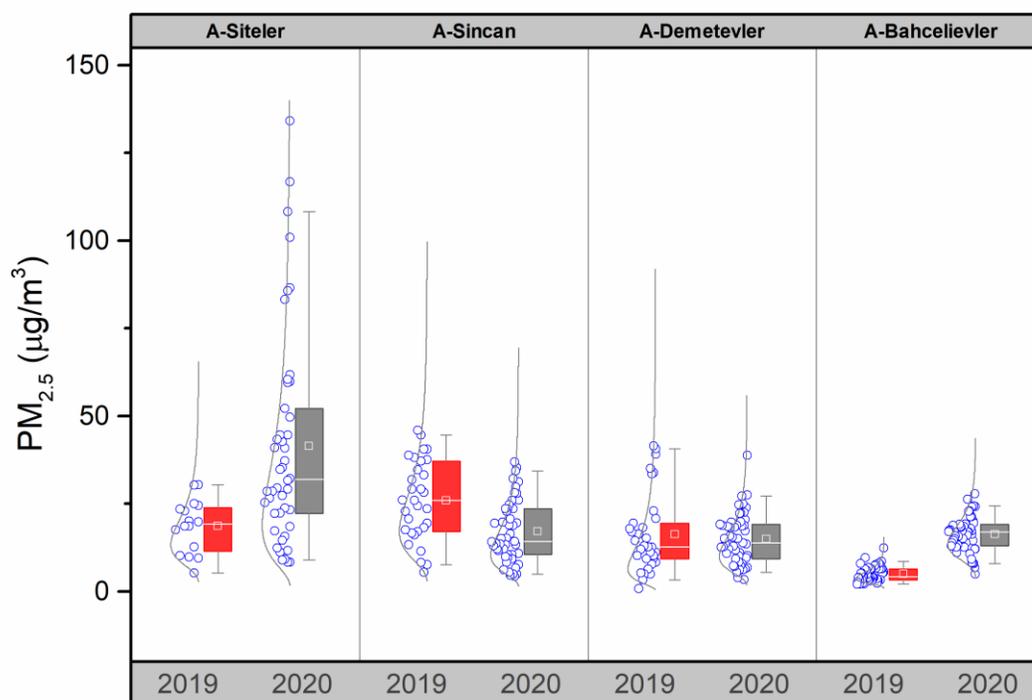
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443 **Table SM12.** Hypothesis and p-values of Mann-Whitney tests of O₃.

AQMS	Null hypothesis	Alternative Hypothesis	p-value
Kestel-Bursa	2019=2020	2019>2020	<0.001
Uludag-Bursa	2019=2020	2019≠2020	0.248
City Center-Bursa	2019=2020	2019≠2020	0.061

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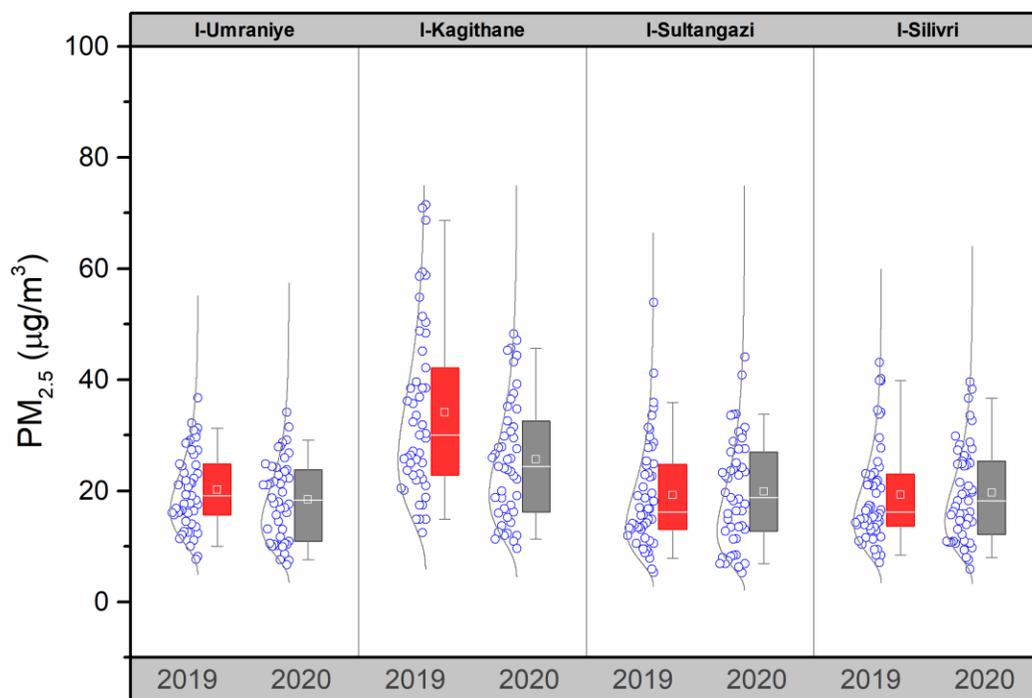
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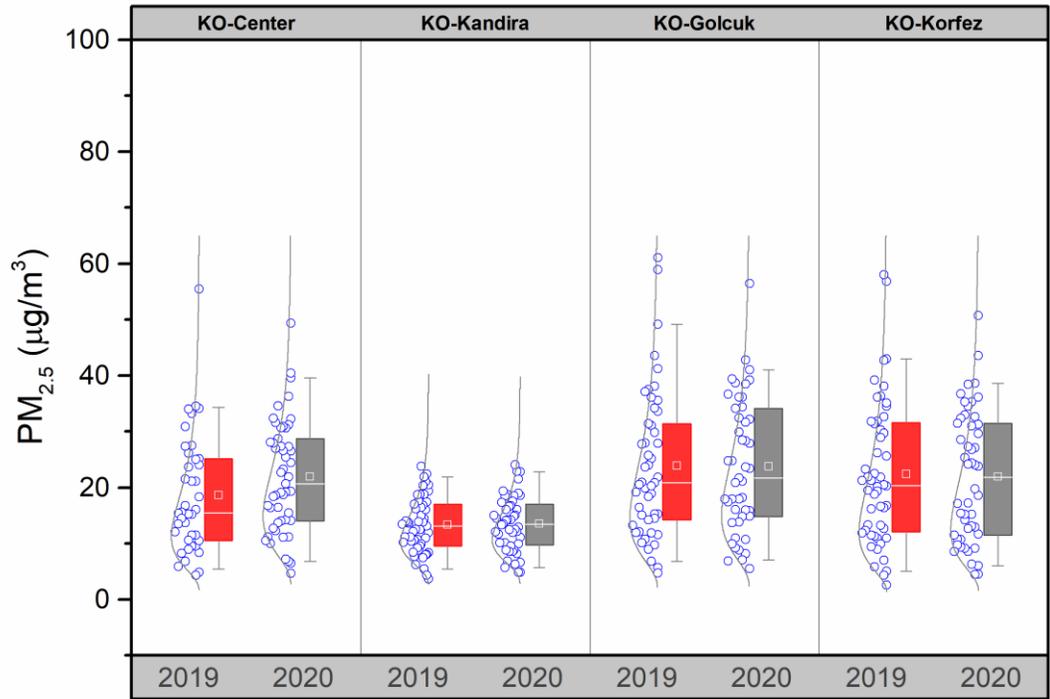
Figure SM2. PM_{2.5} concentrations in Ankara



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Figure SM3. PM_{2.5} concentrations in Istanbul



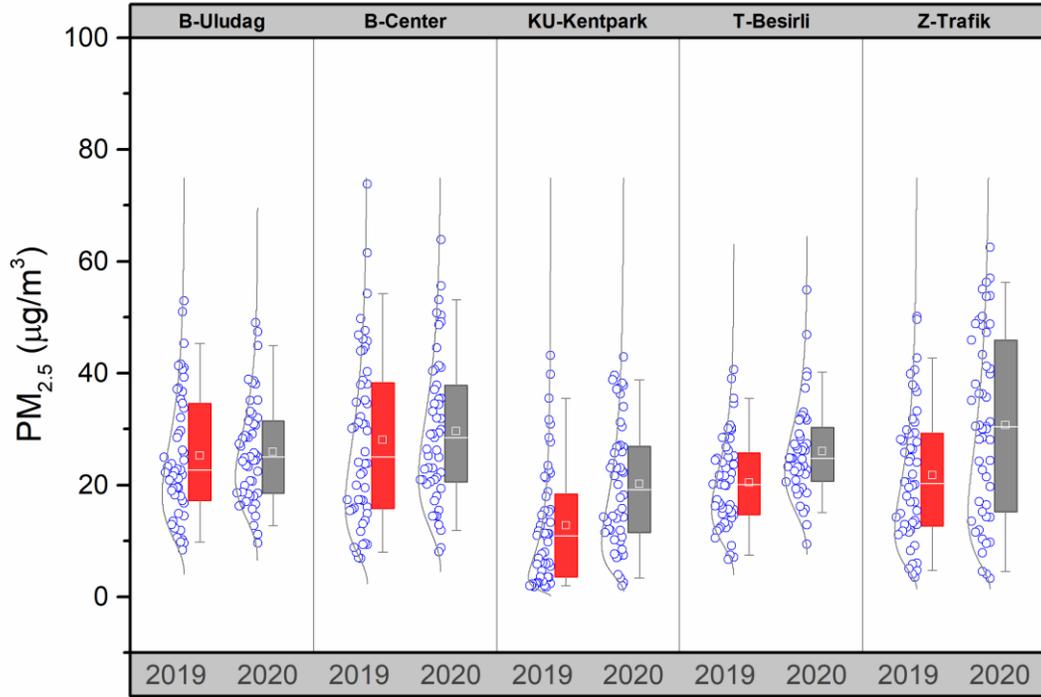
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Figure SM4. PM_{2.5} concentrations in Kocaeli

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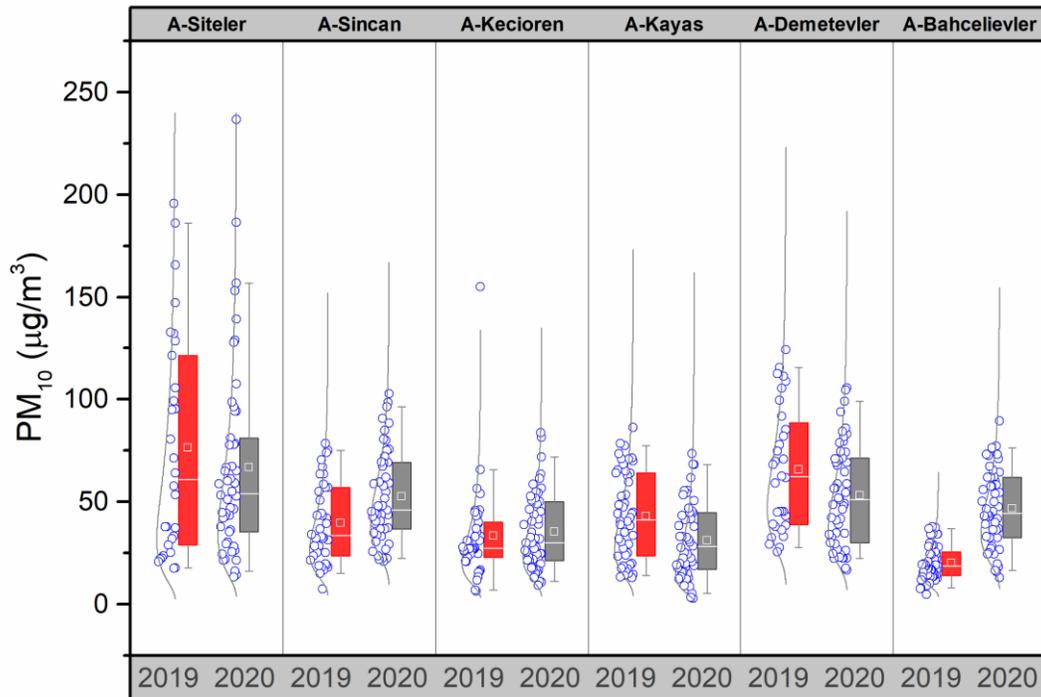


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Figure SM5. PM_{2.5} concentrations in Bursa, Kutahya, and Zonguldak

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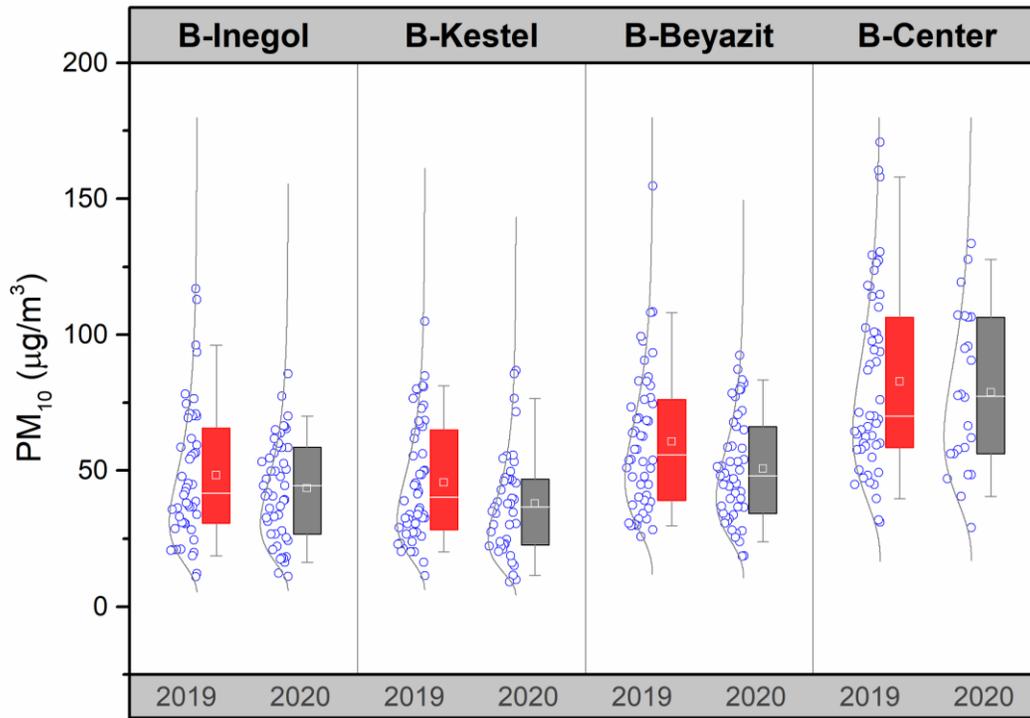
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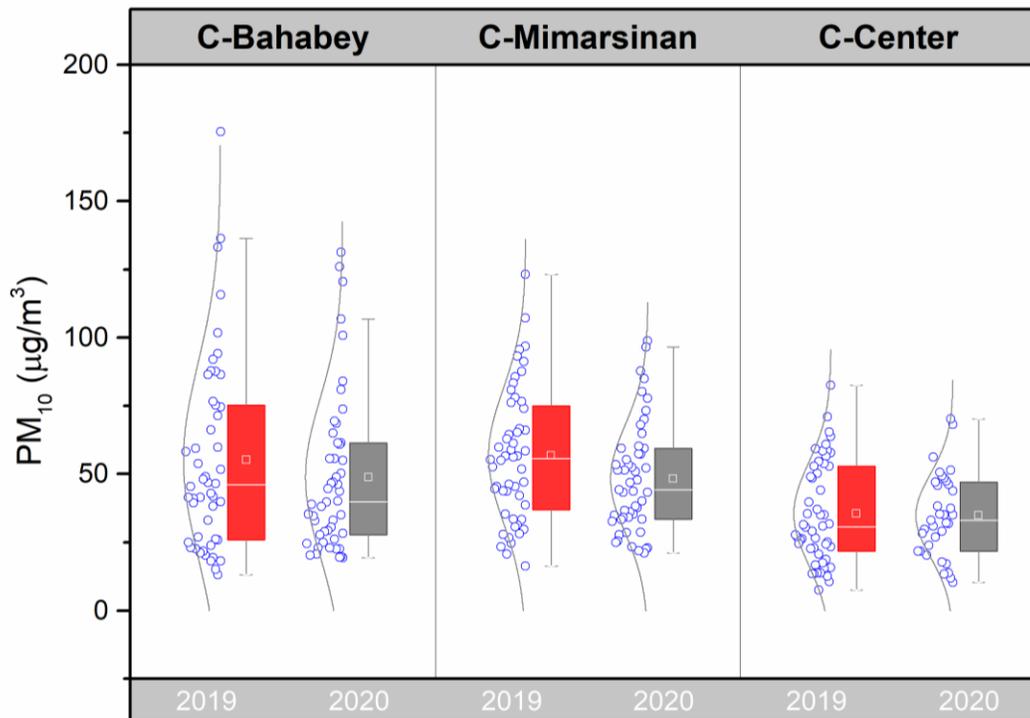
Figure SM6. PM₁₀ concentrations in Ankara

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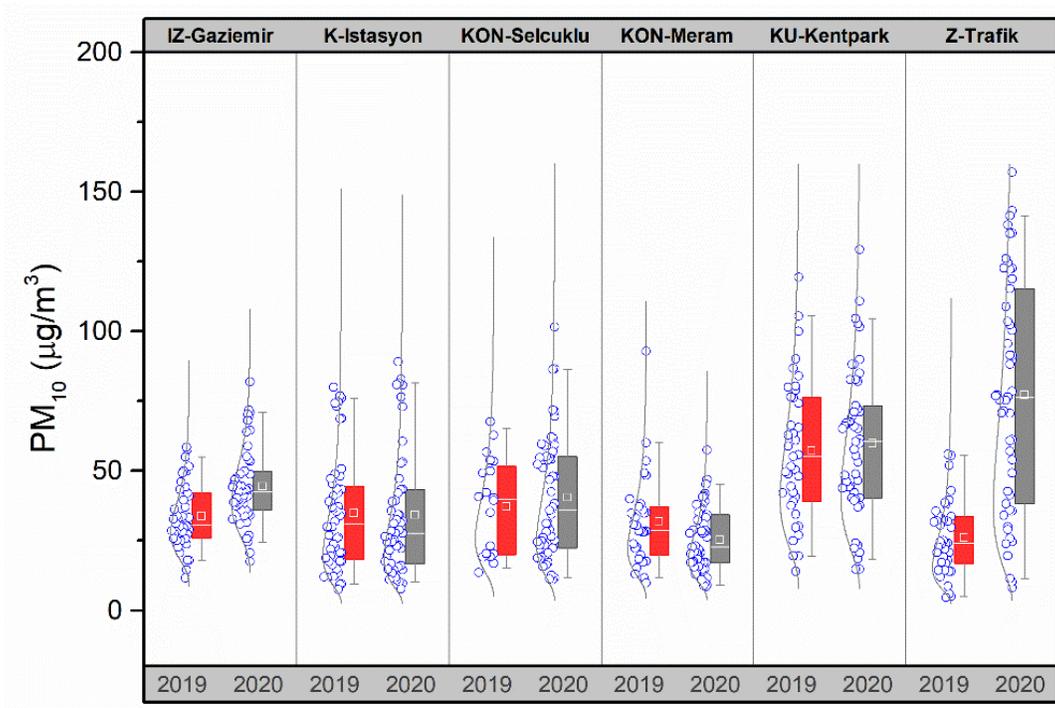
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Figure SM7. PM₁₀ concentrations in Bursa



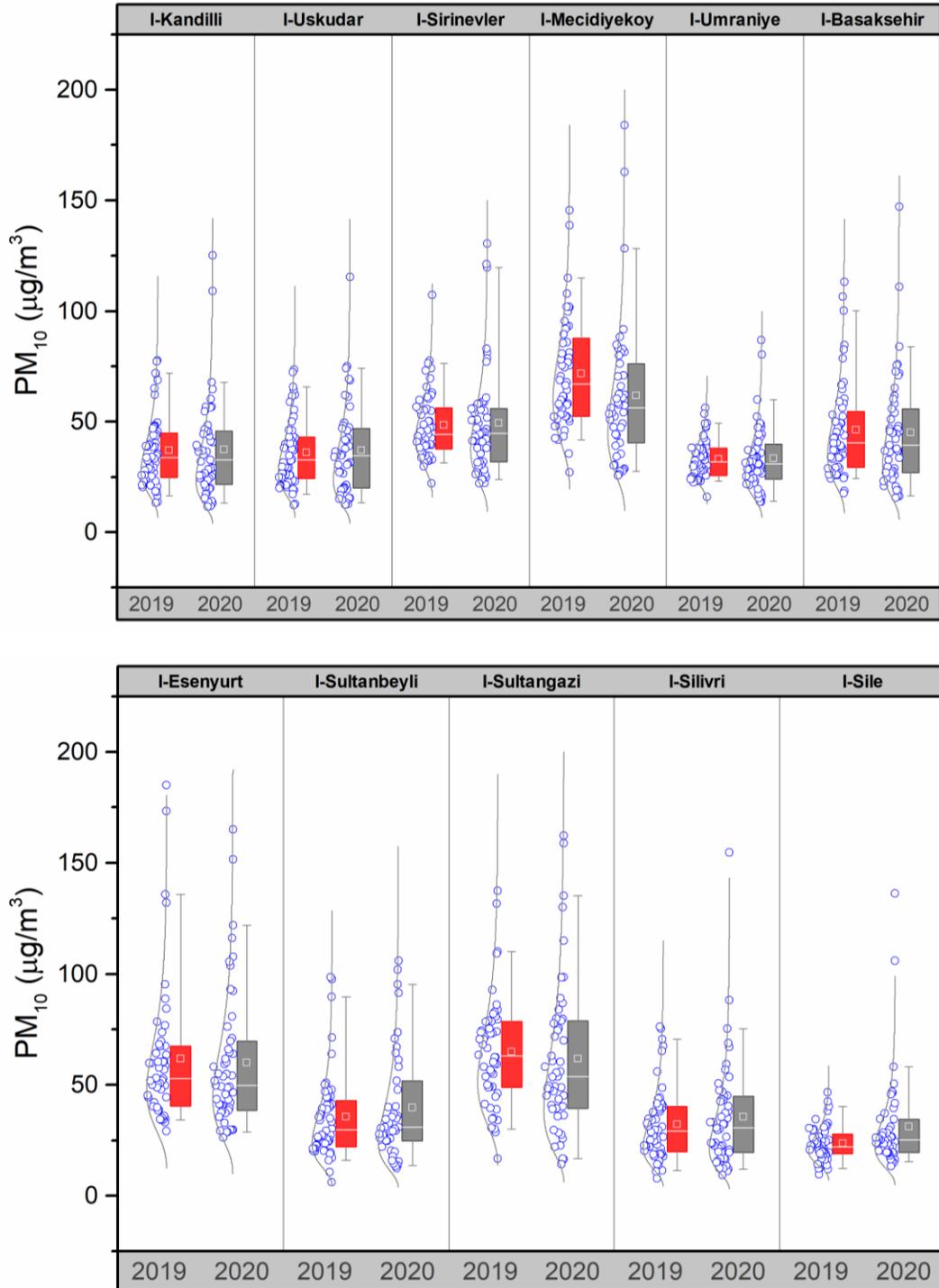
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Figure SM8. PM₁₀ concentrations in Corum



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Figure SM9. PM₁₀ concentrations in Izmir, Kars, Konya, Kutahya, and Zonguldak



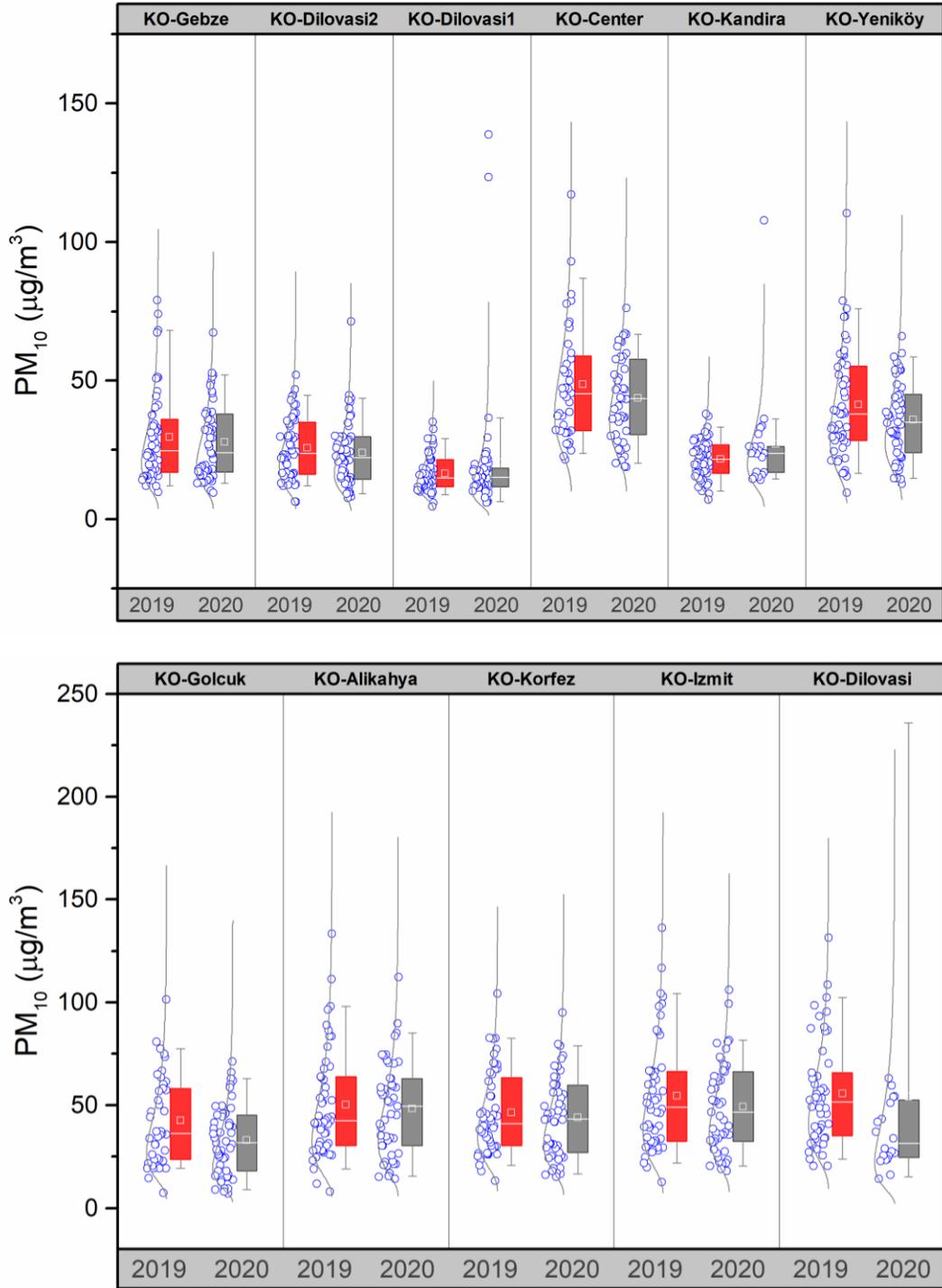
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Figure SM10. PM₁₀ concentrations in Istanbul

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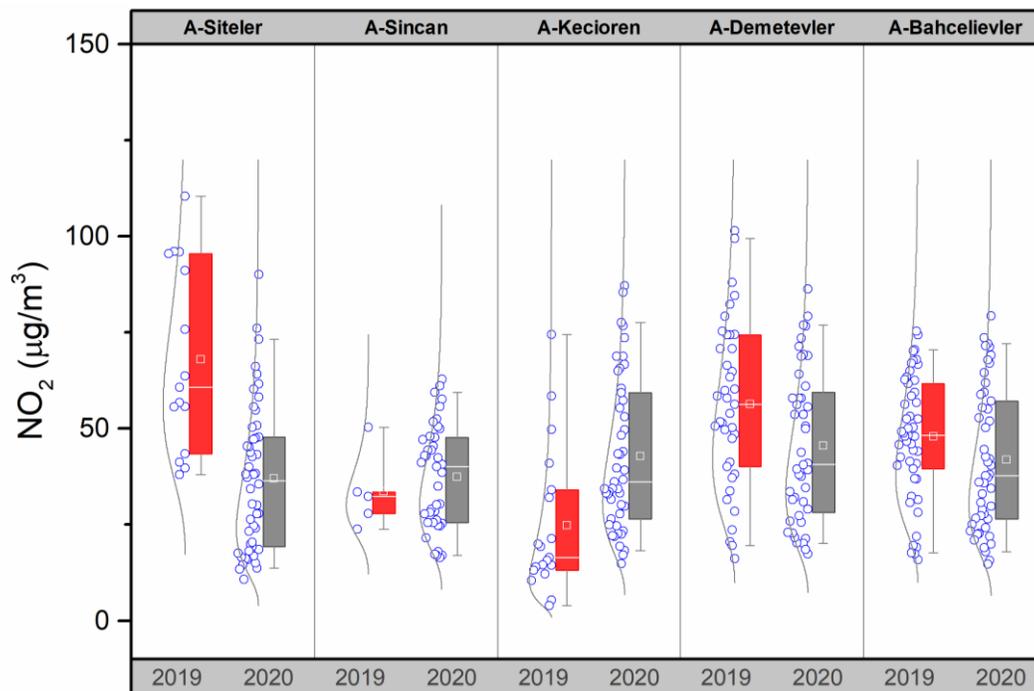
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Figure SM11. PM_{10} concentrations in Kocaeli



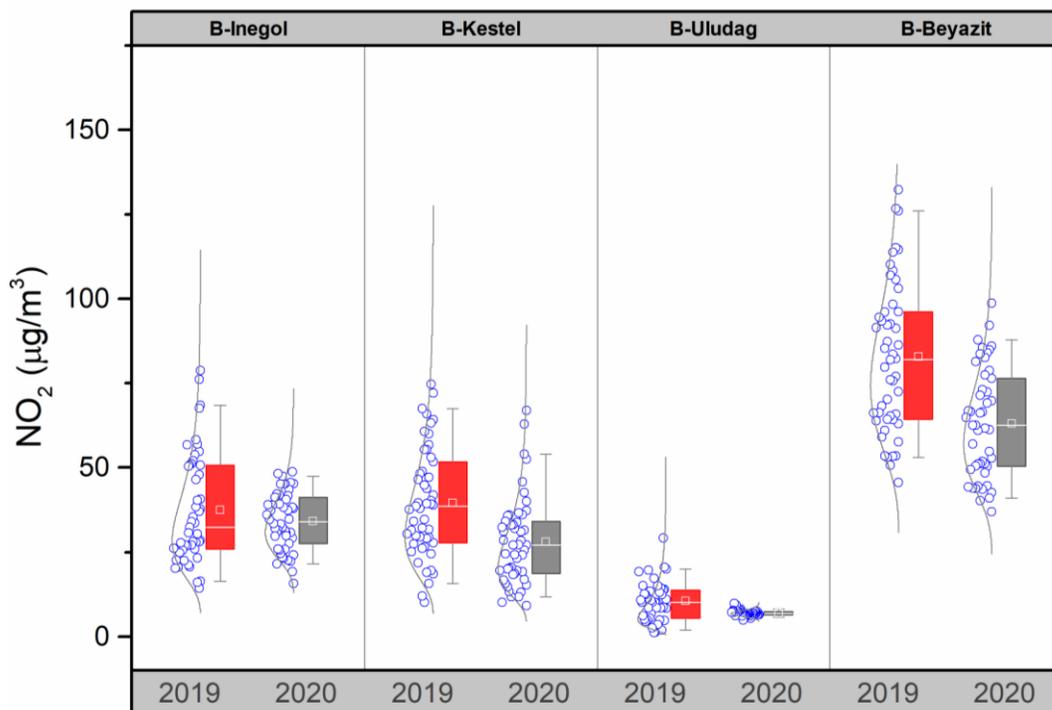
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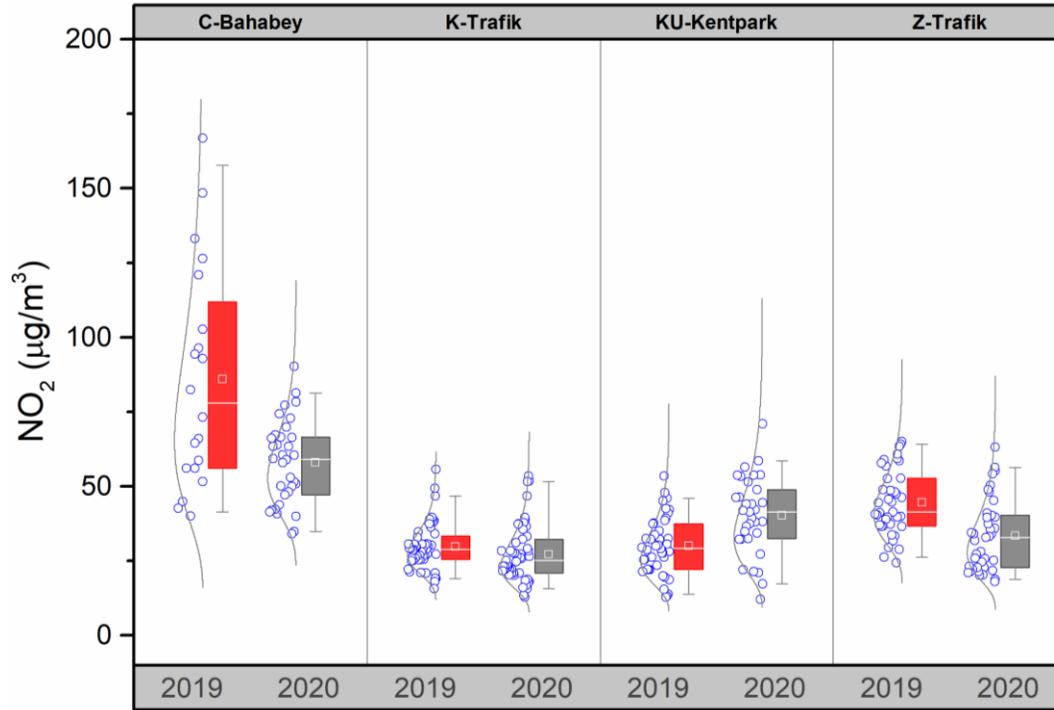
Figure SM12. NO₂ concentrations in Ankara



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Figure SM13. NO₂ concentrations in Bursa



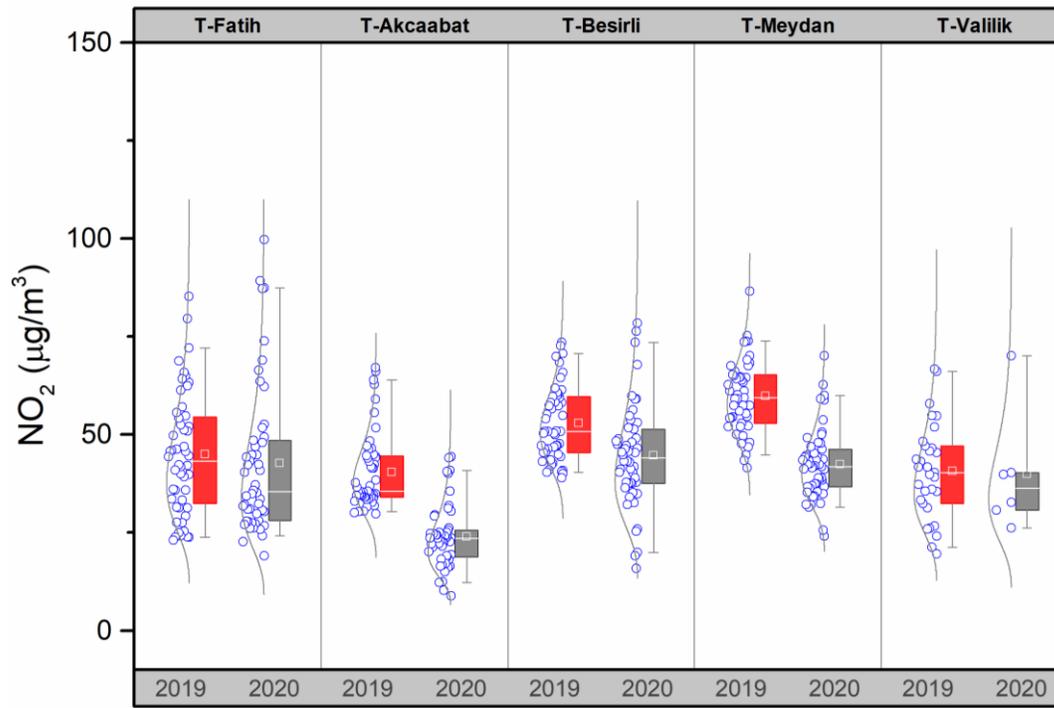
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Figure SM14. NO₂ concentrations in Corum, Kars, Kutahya, and Zonguldak

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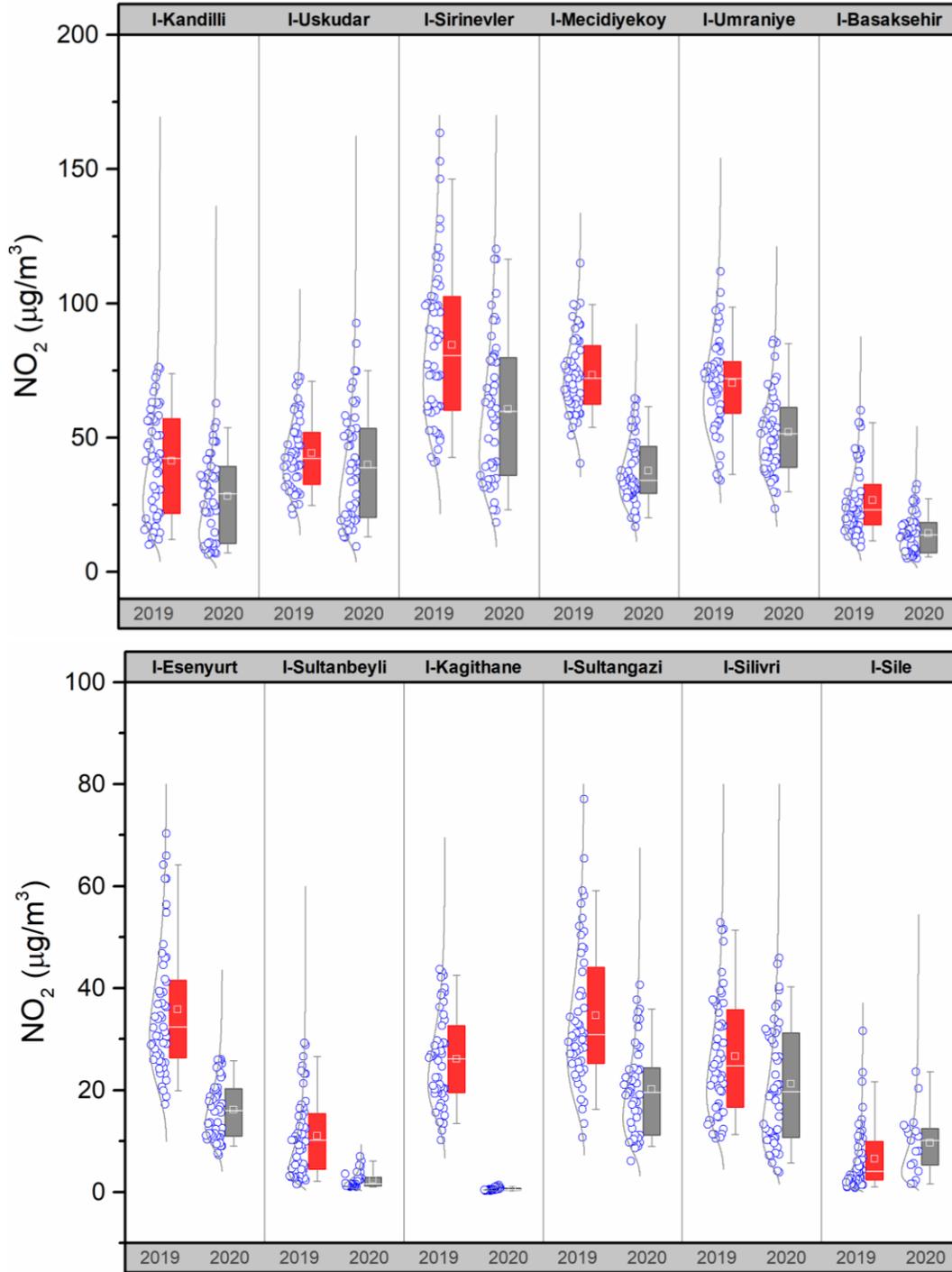
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Figure SM15. NO₂ concentrations in Trabzon



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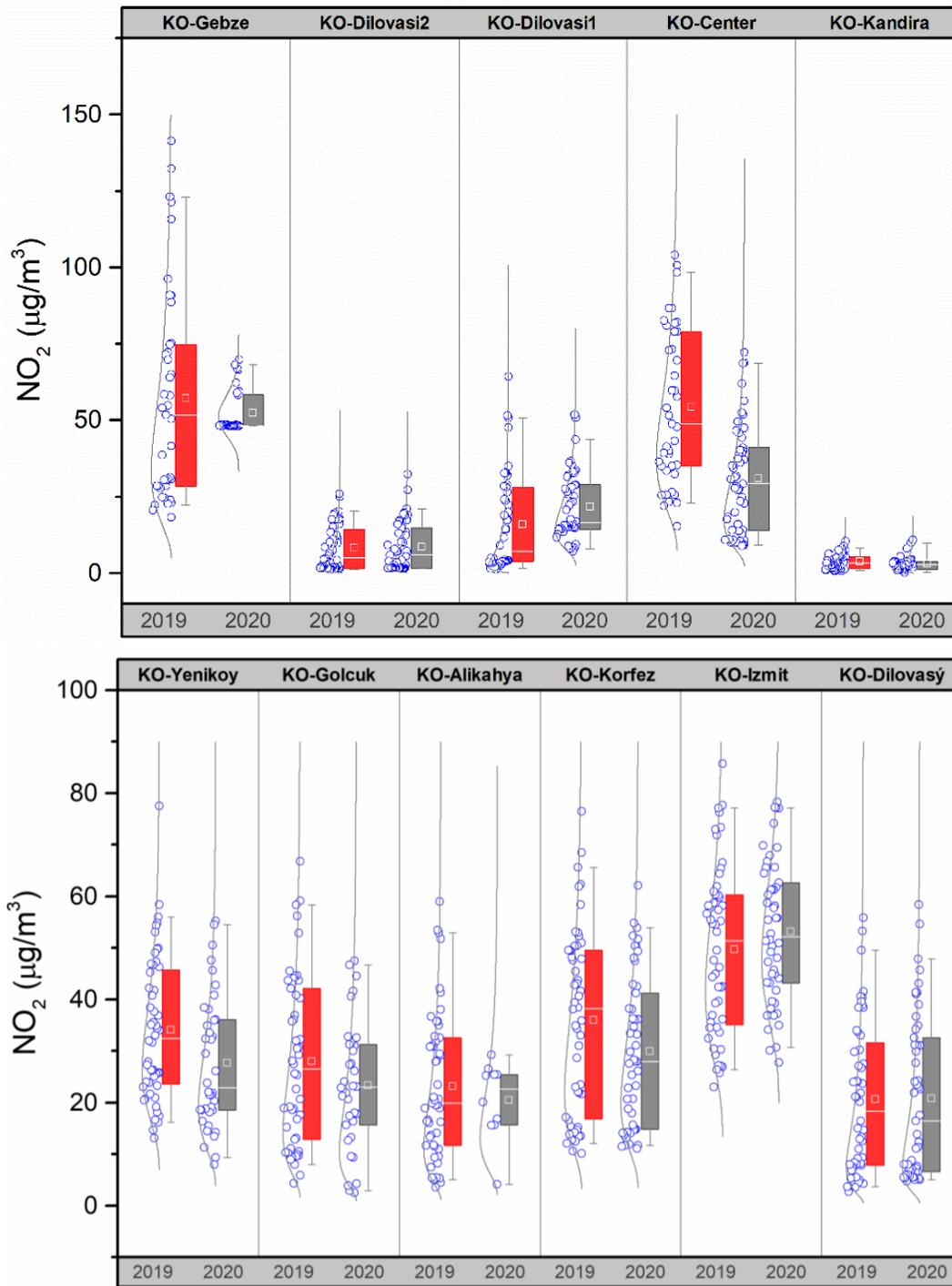
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Figure SM16. NO_2 concentrations in Istanbul



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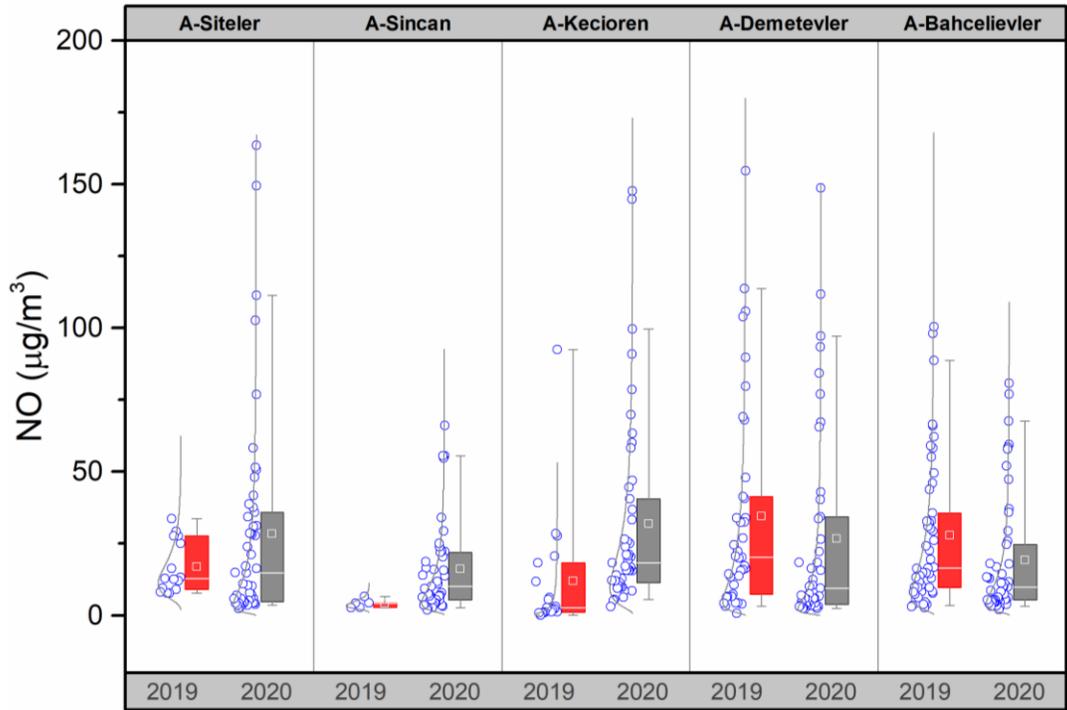
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Figure SM17. NO_2 concentrations in Kocaeli

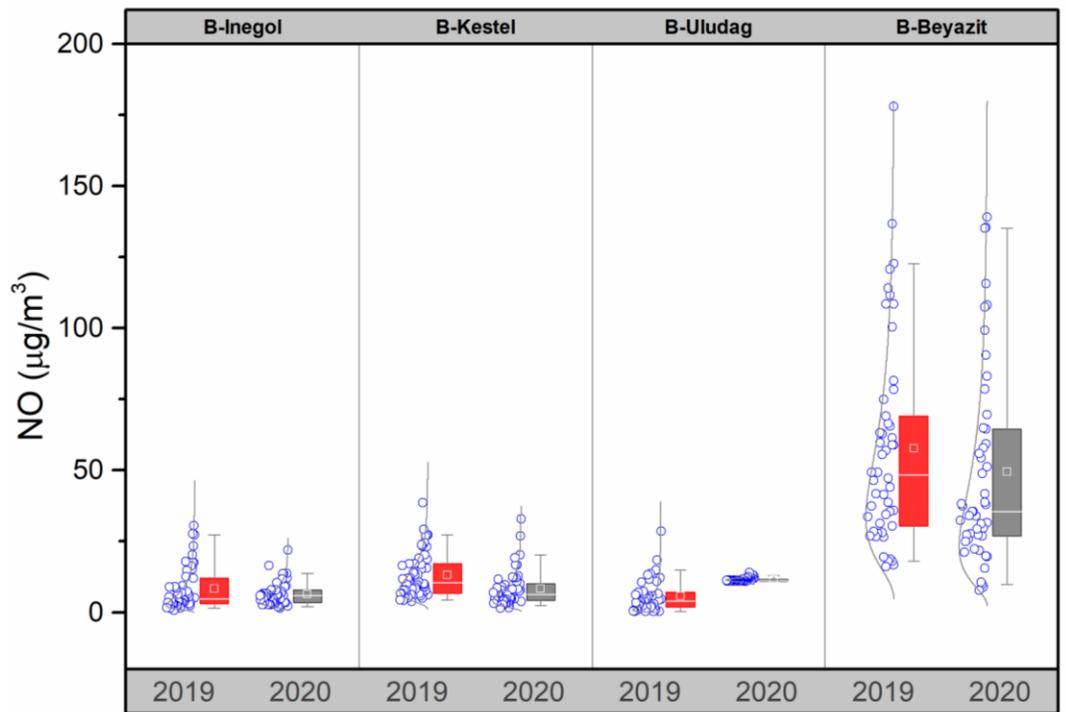


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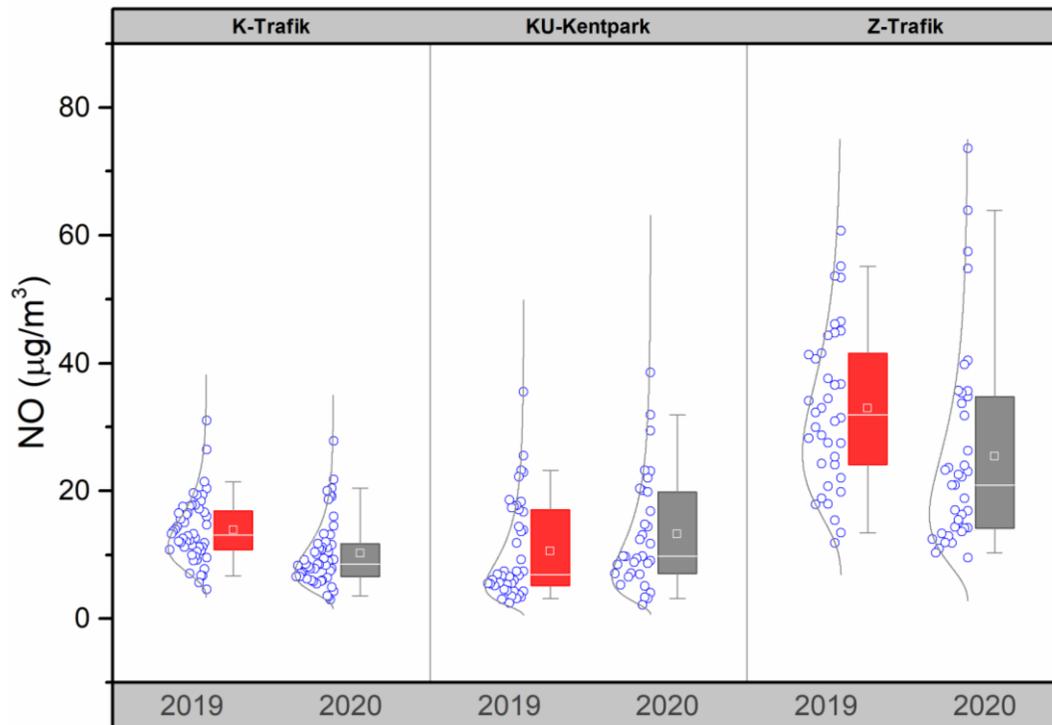
Figure SM18. NO concentrations in Ankara



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Figure SM19. NO concentrations in Bursa

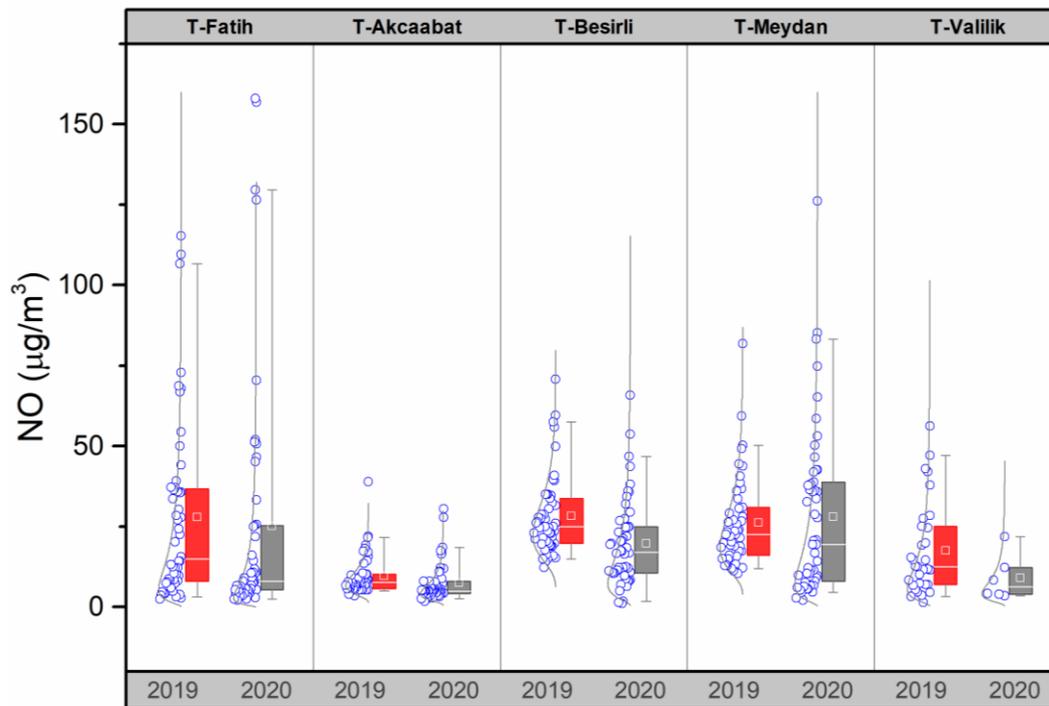


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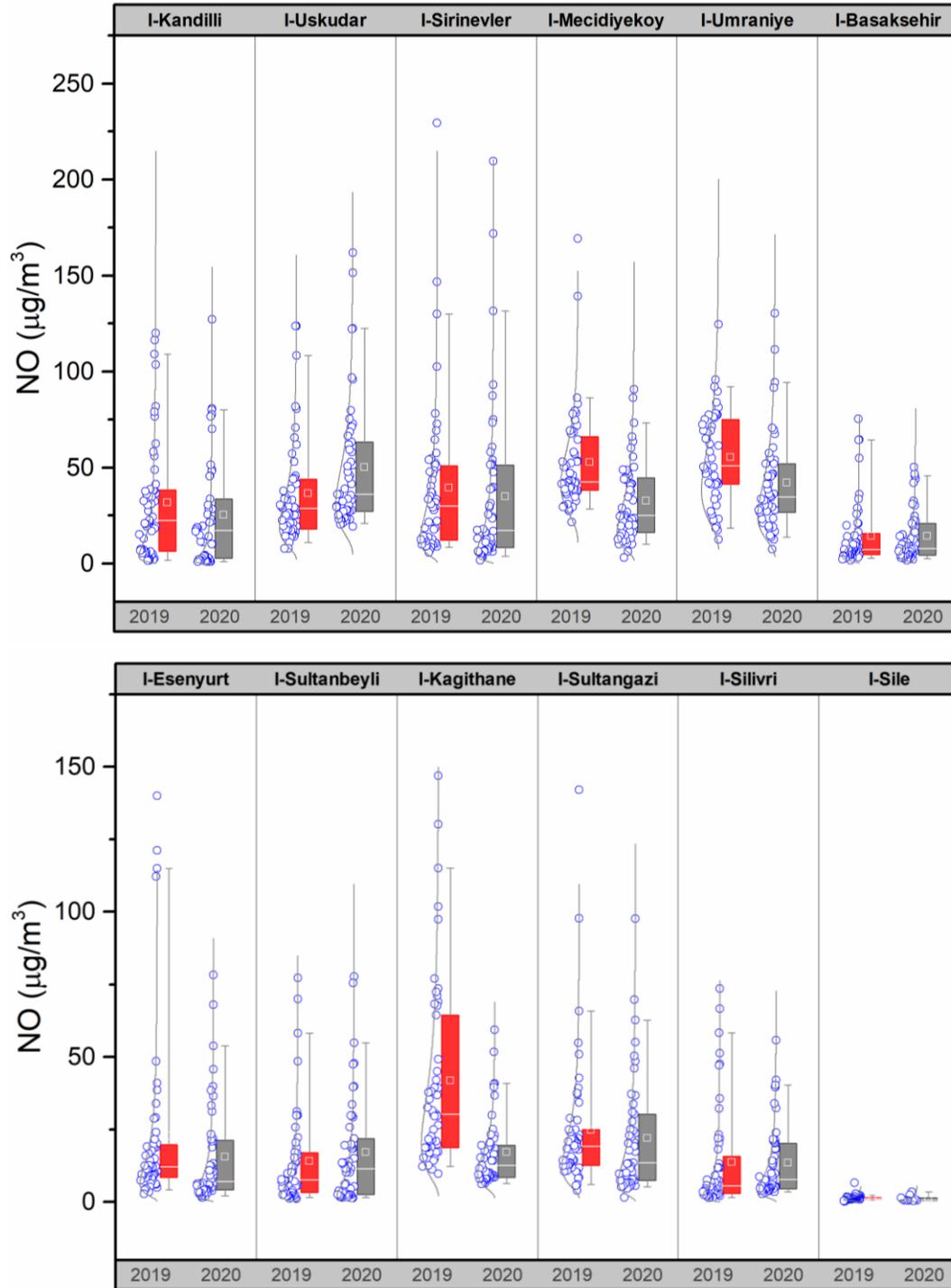
Figure SM20. NO concentrations in Kars, Kutahya, and Zonguldak



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Figure SM21. NO concentrations in Trabzon



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Figure SM22. NO concentrations in Istanbul

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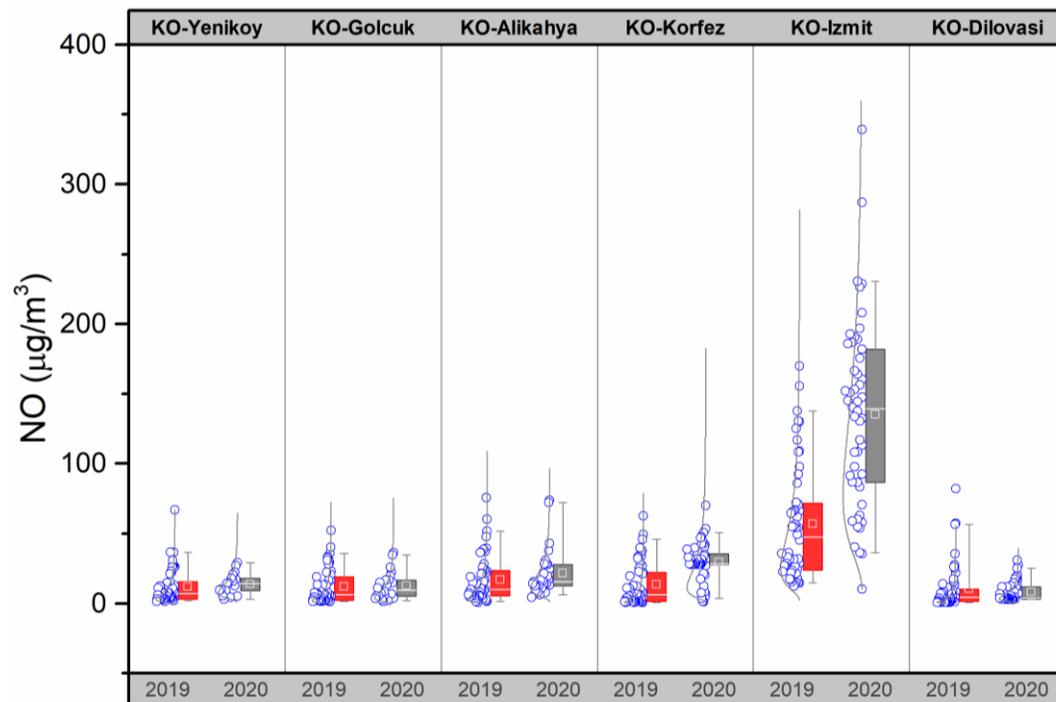
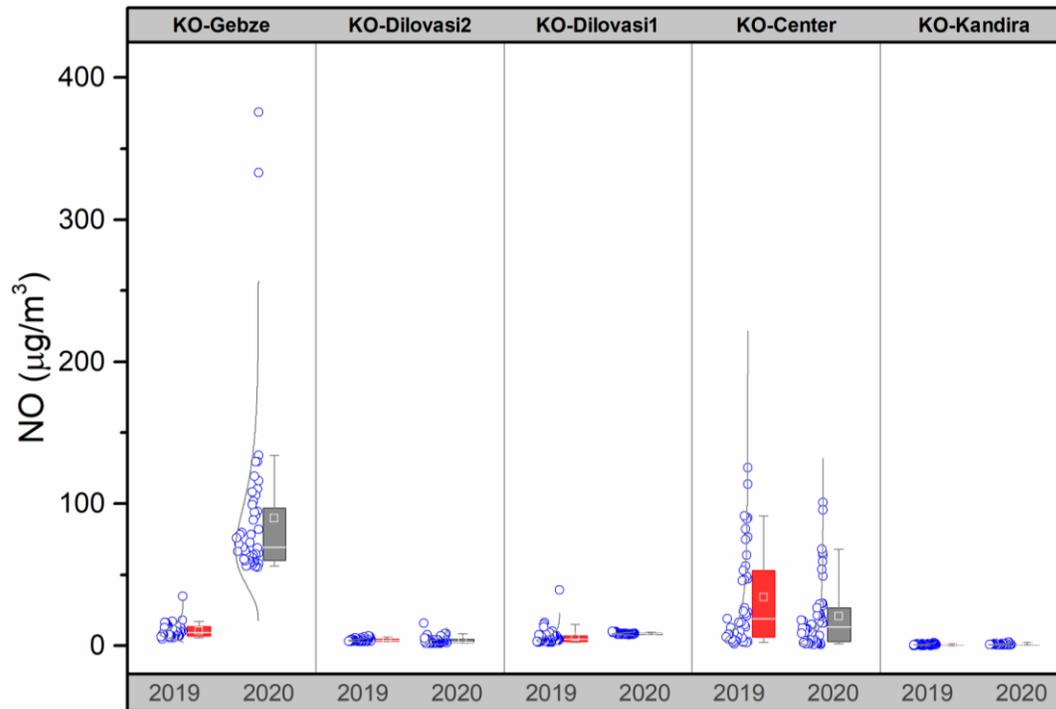
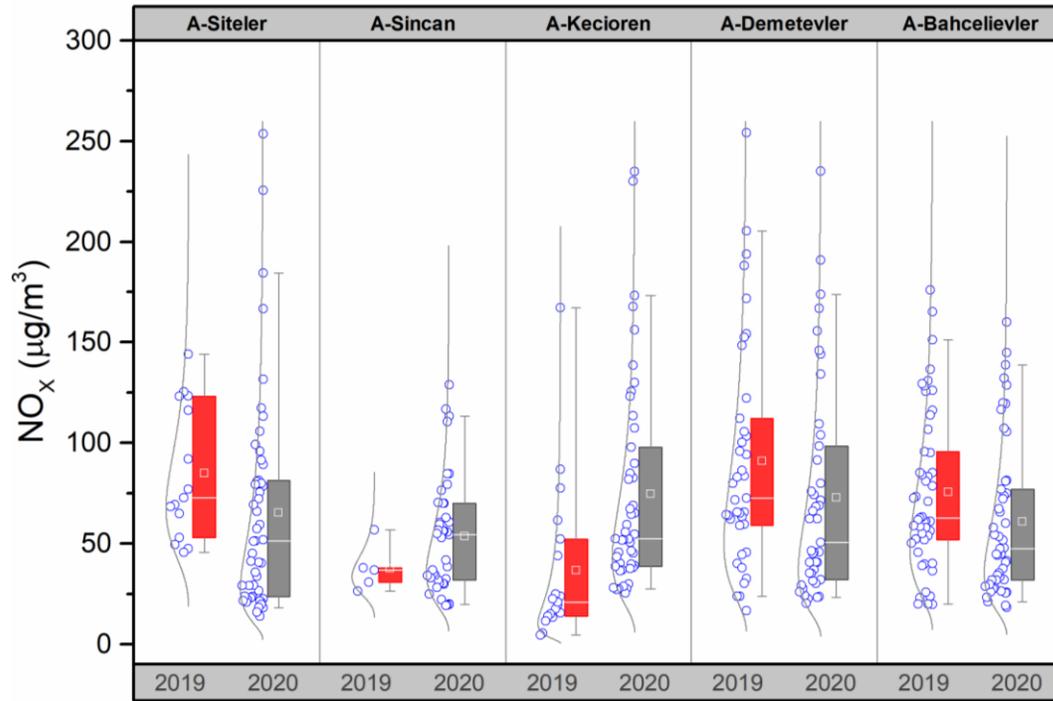


Figure SM23. NO concentrations in Kocaeli

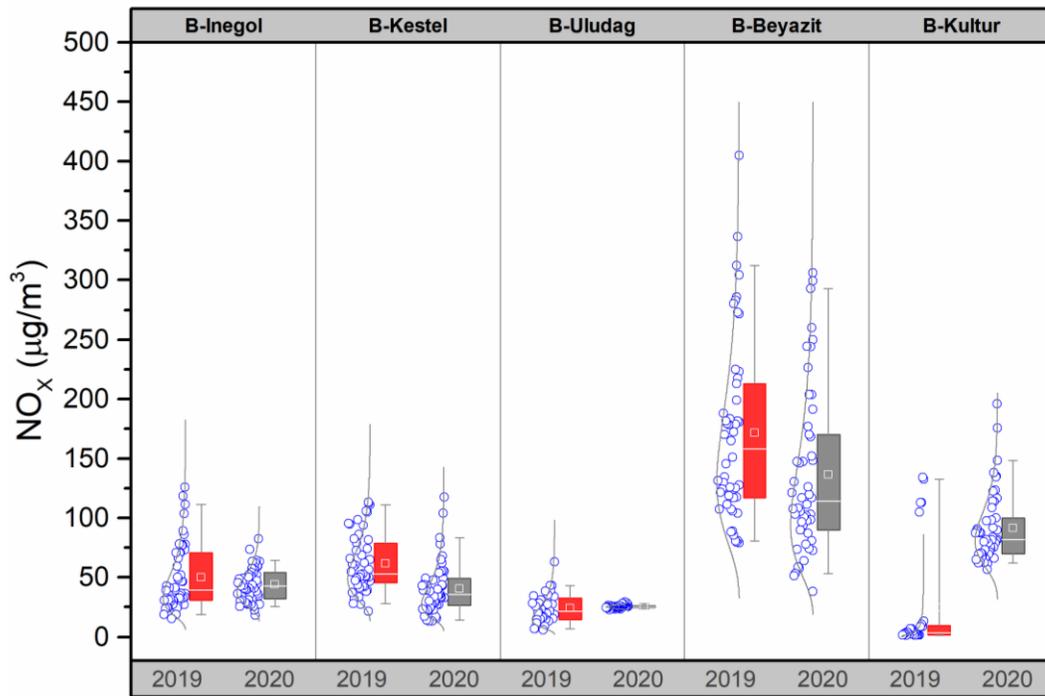


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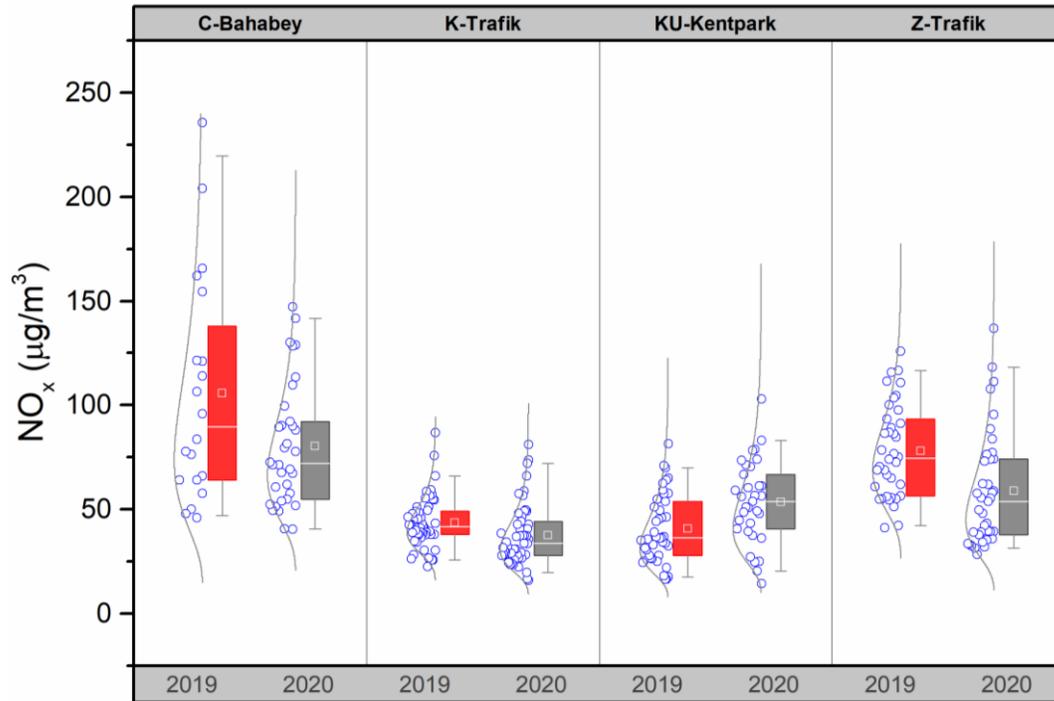
Figure SM24. NO_x concentrations in Ankara



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Figure SM25. NO_x concentrations in Bursa

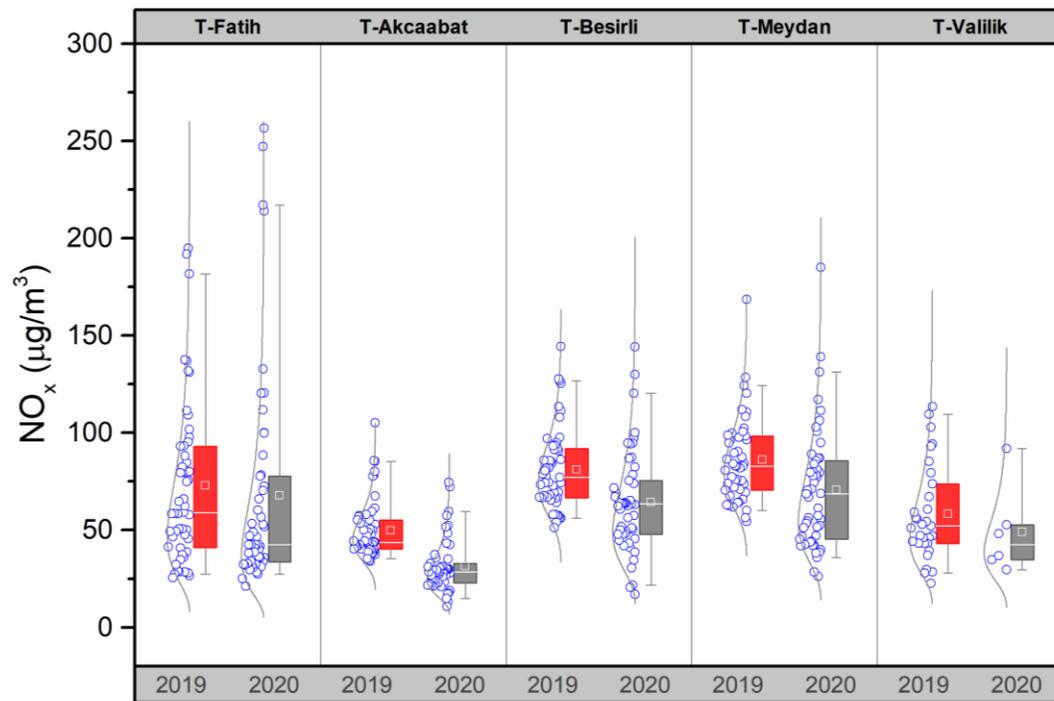


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Figure SM26. NO_x concentrations in Corum, Kars, Kutahya, and Zonguldak

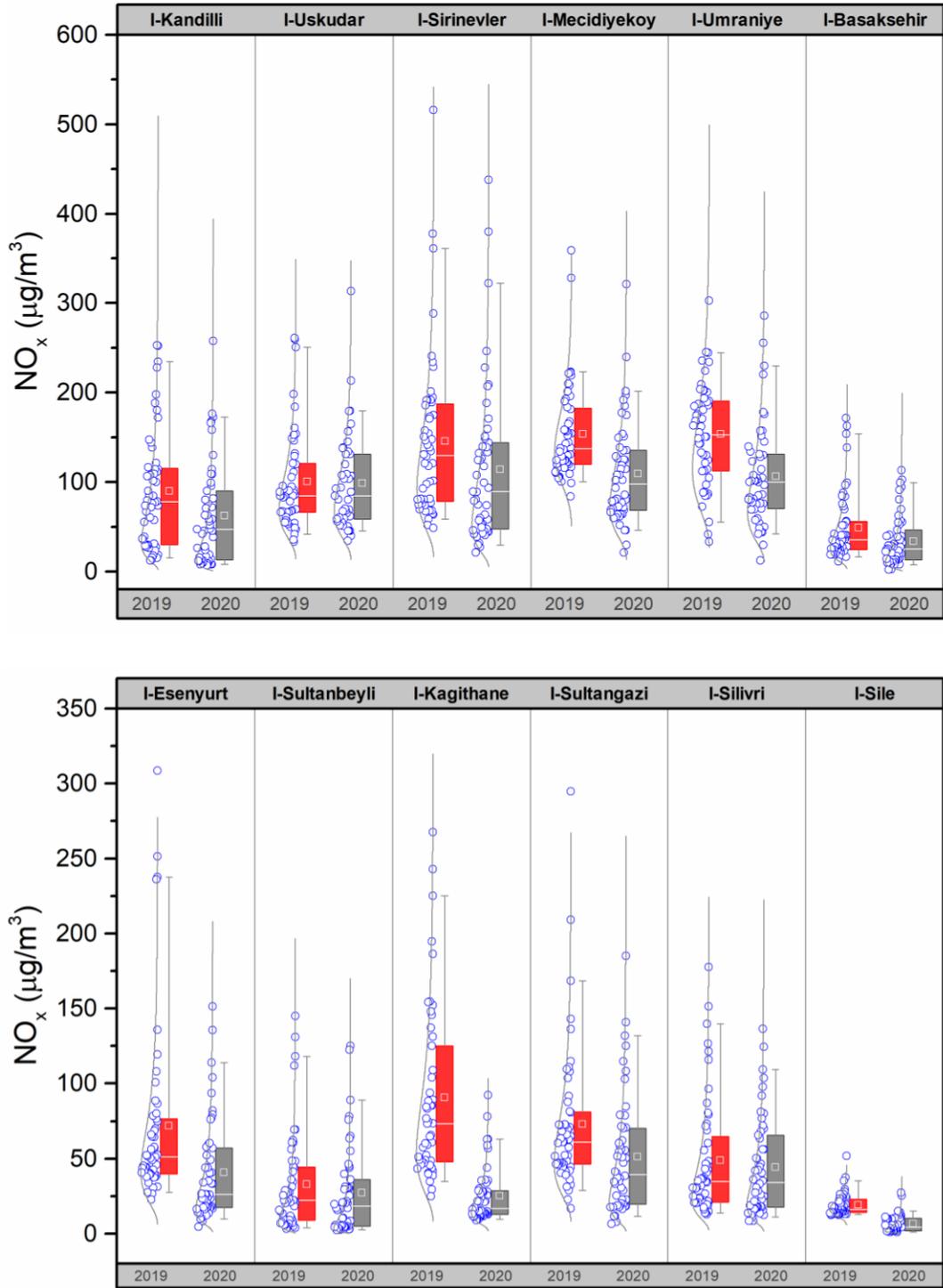
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Figure SM27. NO_x concentrations in Trabzon



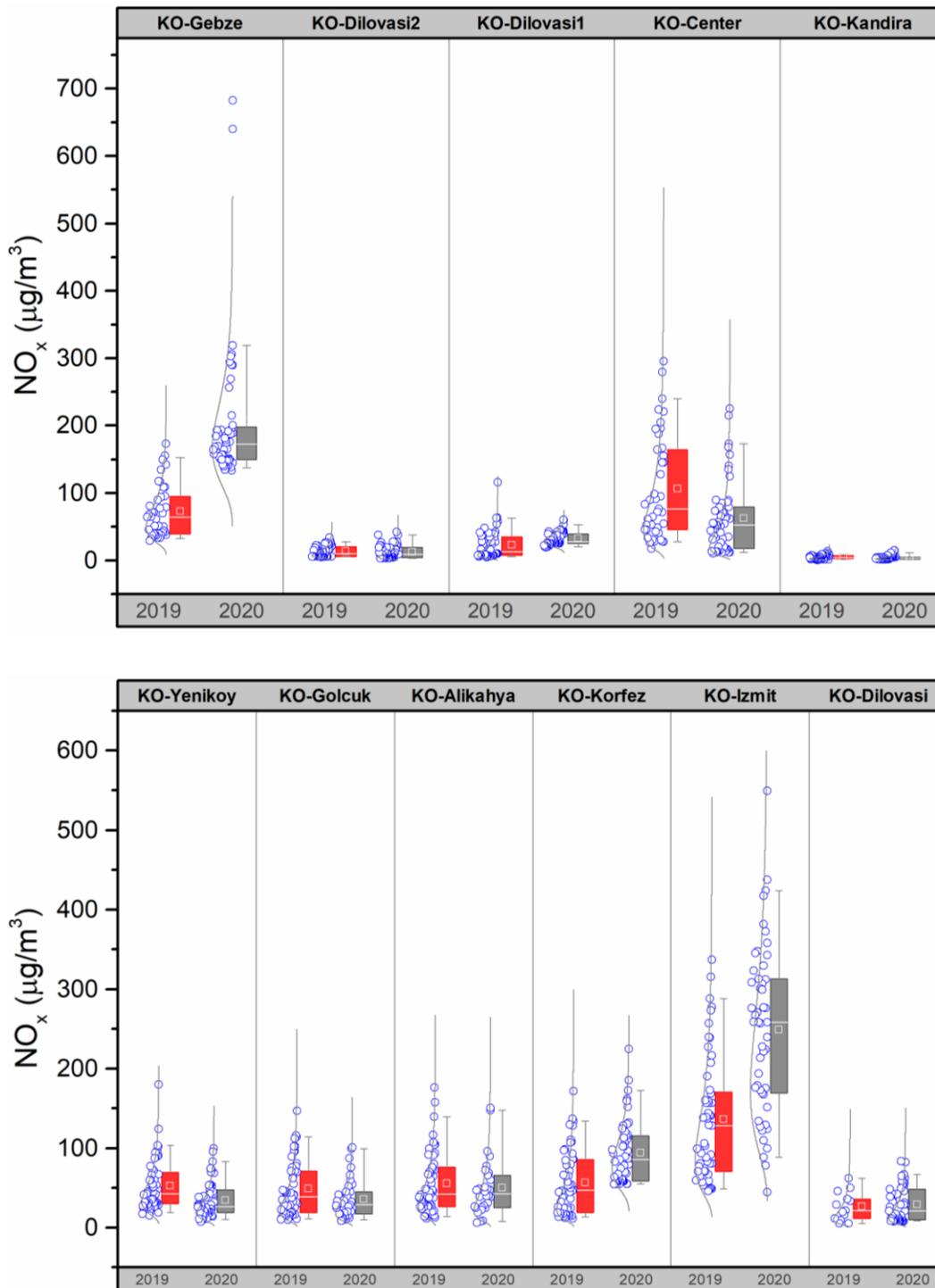
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Figure SM28. NO_x concentrations in Istanbul



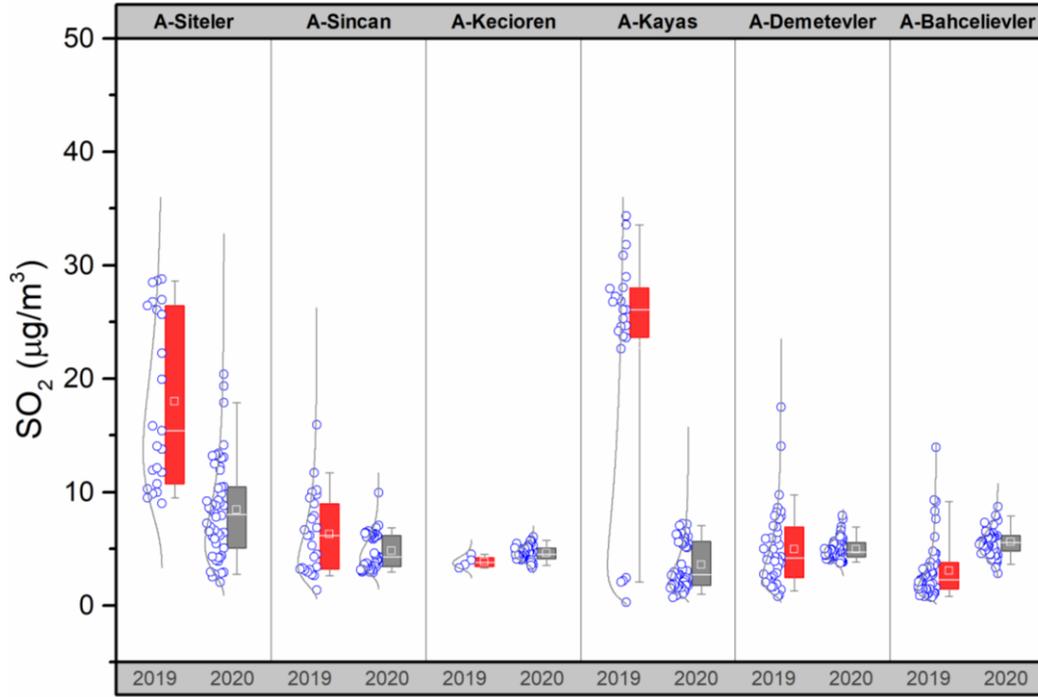
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Figure SM29. NO_x concentrations in Kocaeli



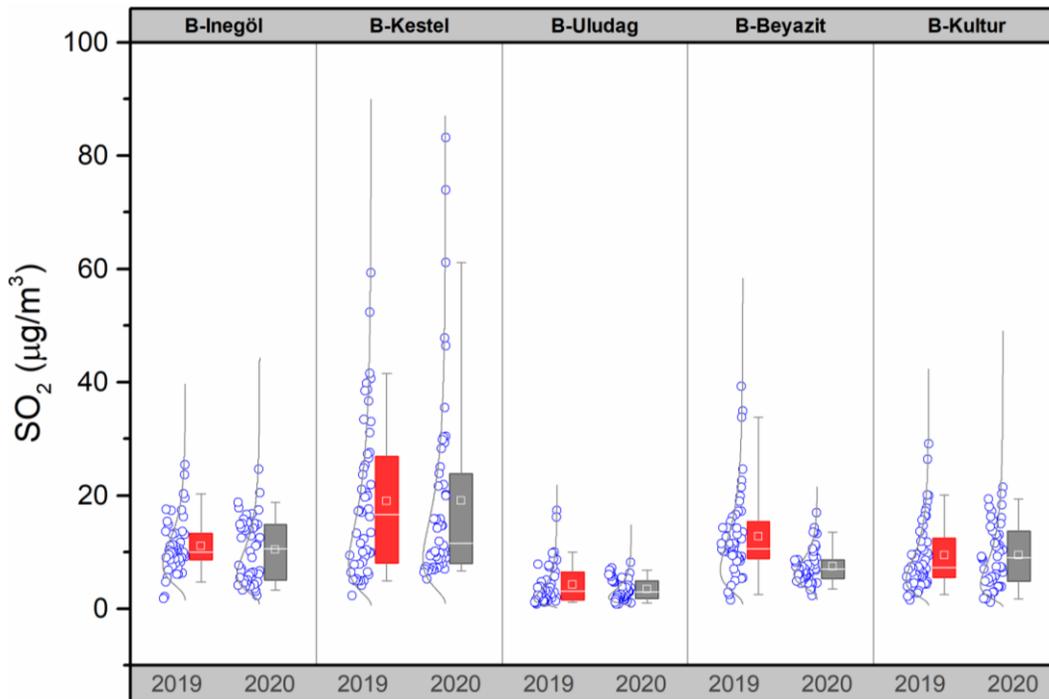
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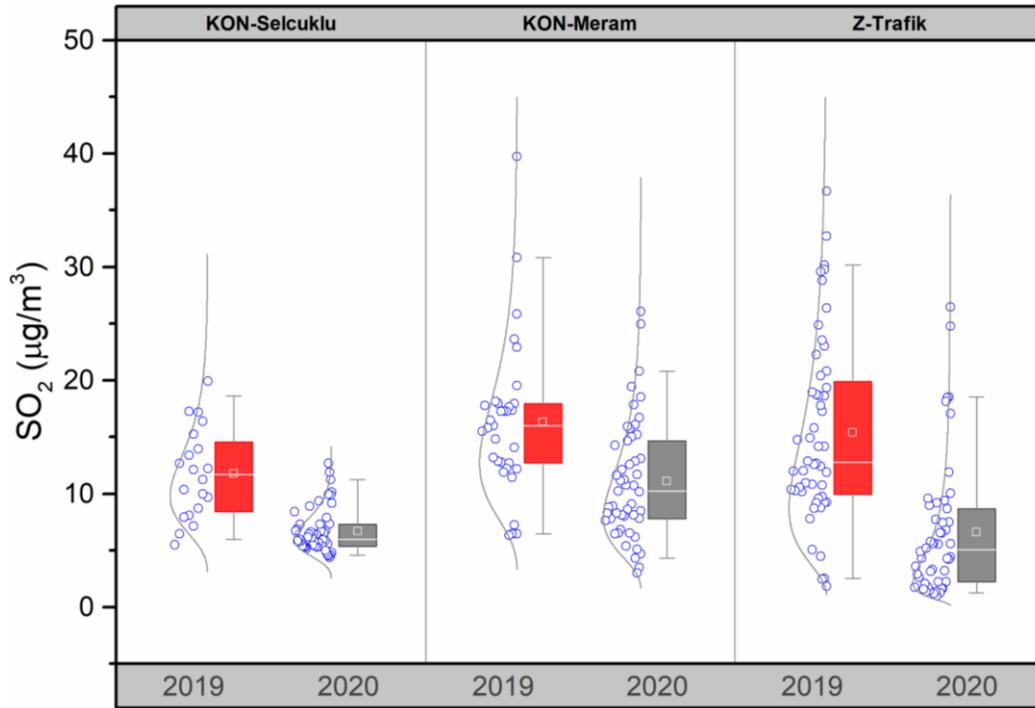
Figure SM30. SO₂ concentrations in Ankara



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Figure SM31. SO₂ concentrations in Bursa

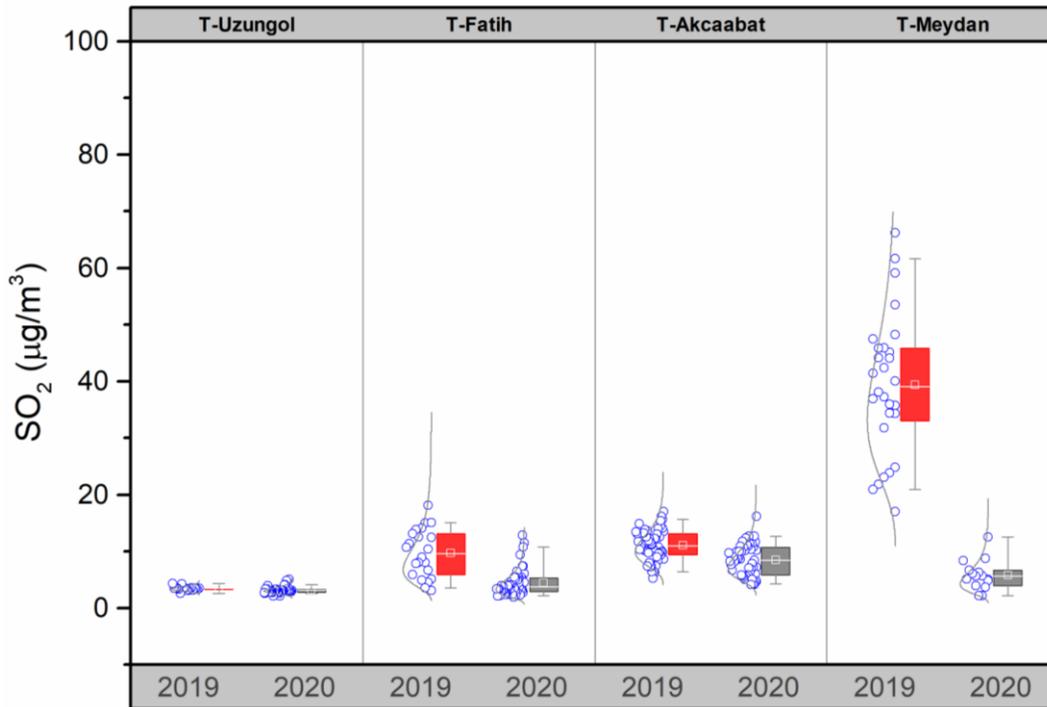


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Figure SM32. SO₂ concentrations in Konya and Zonguldak



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Figure SM33. SO₂ concentrations in Trabzon

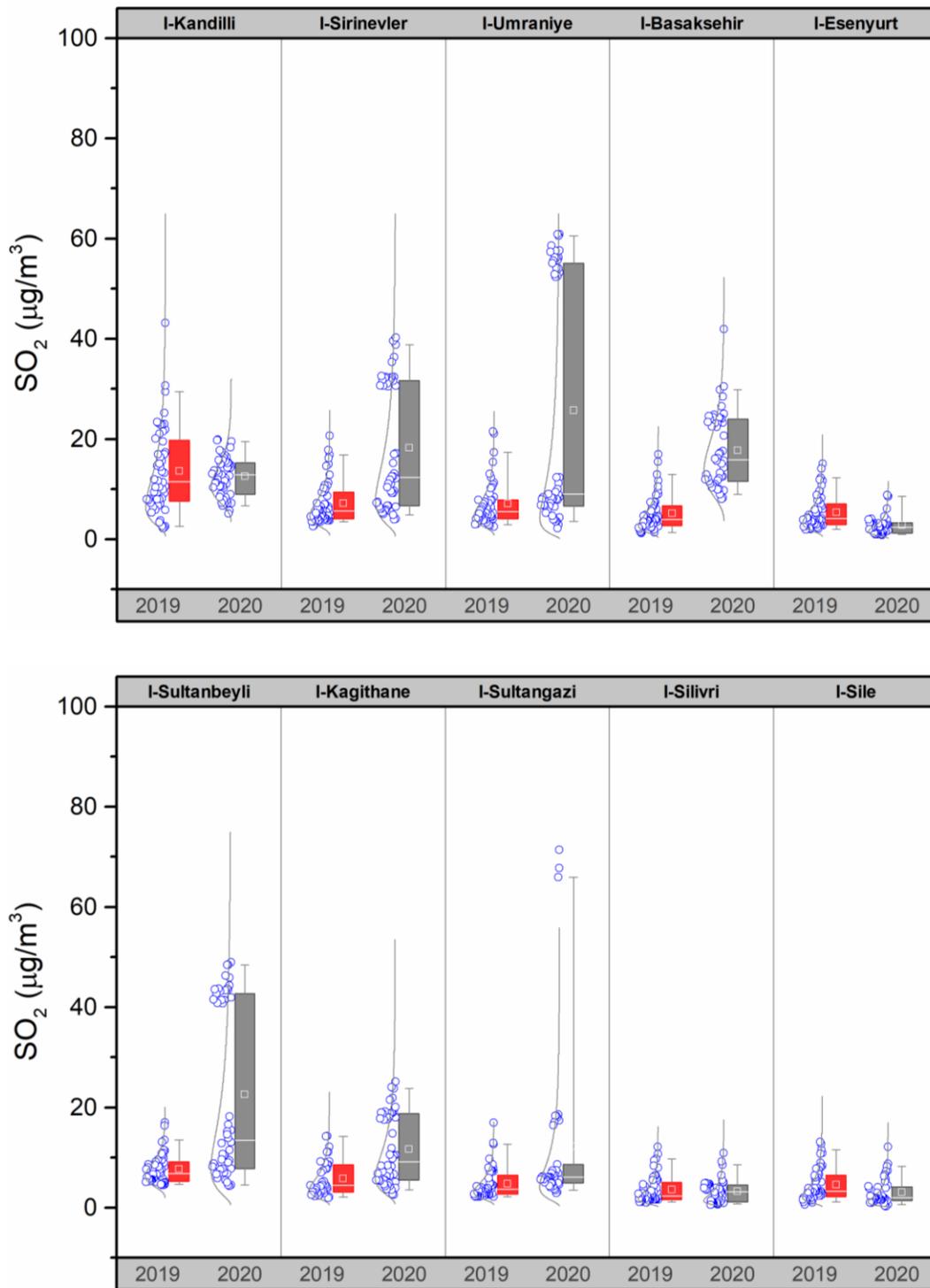


Figure SM34. SO₂ concentrations in Istanbul

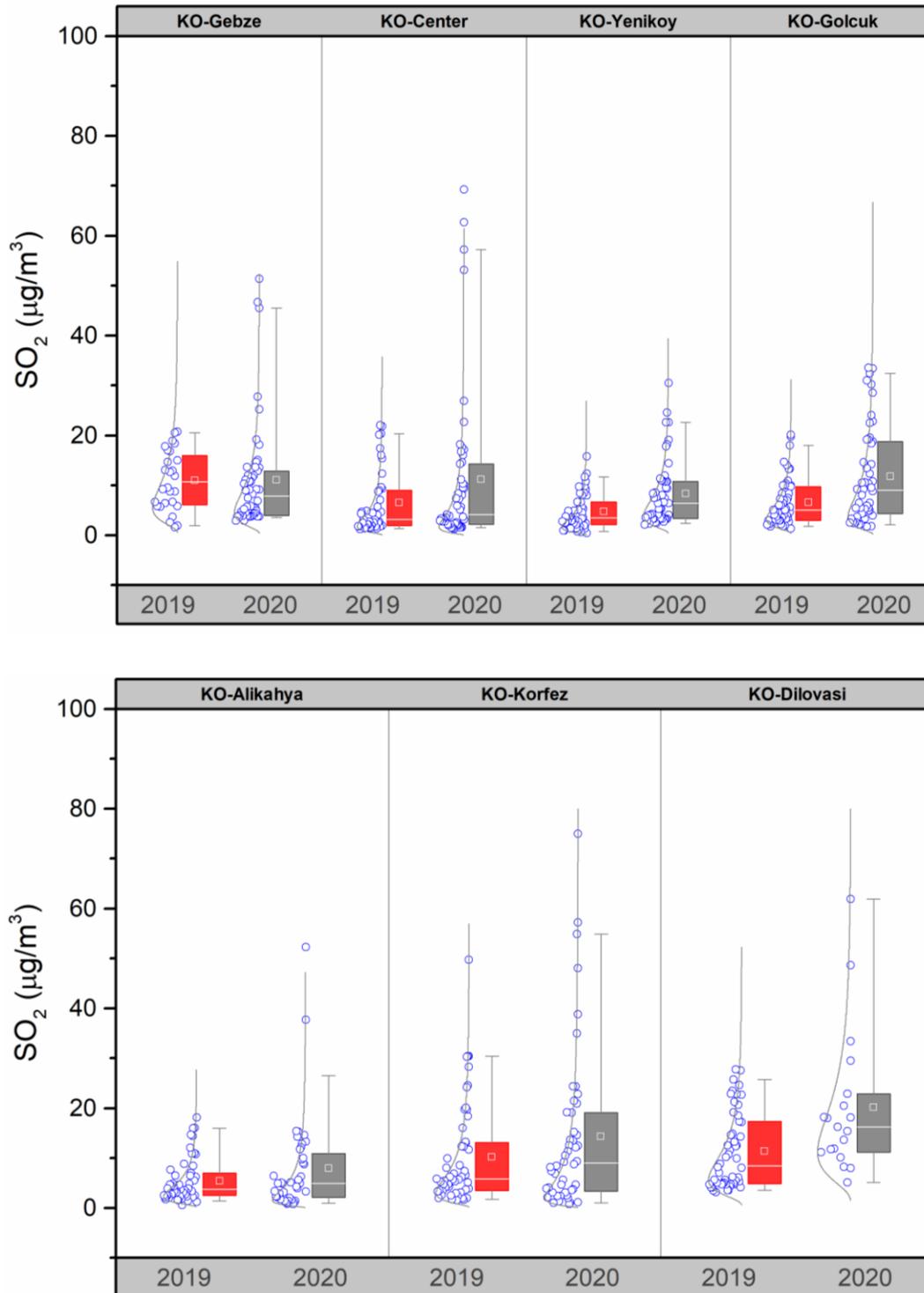
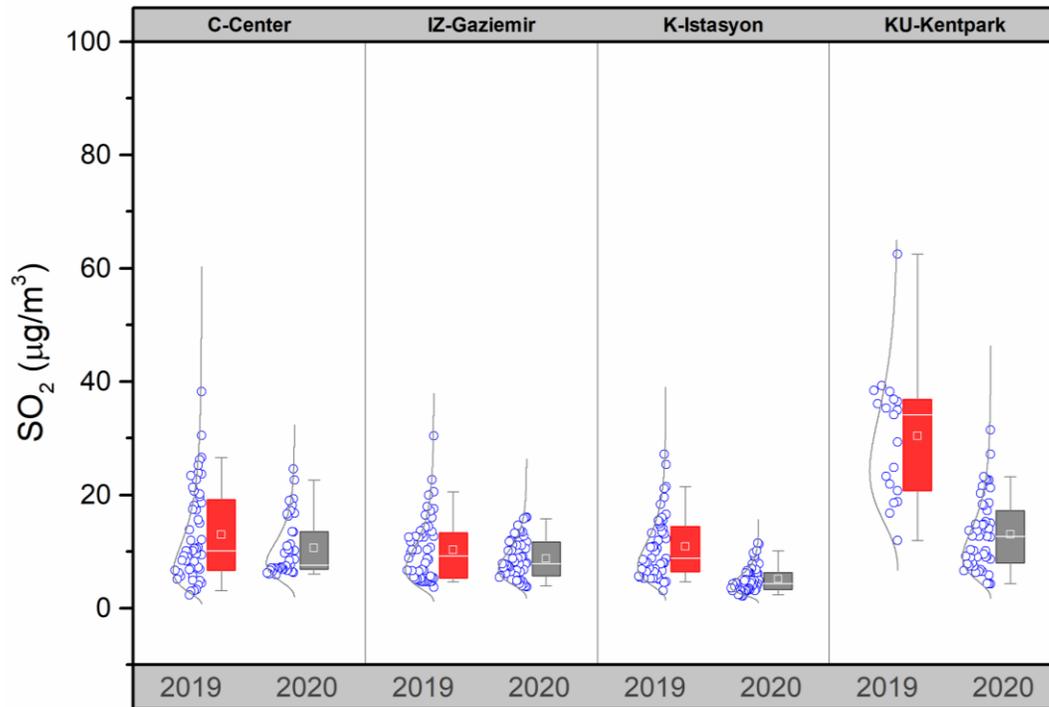


Figure SM35. SO₂ concentrations in Kocaeli

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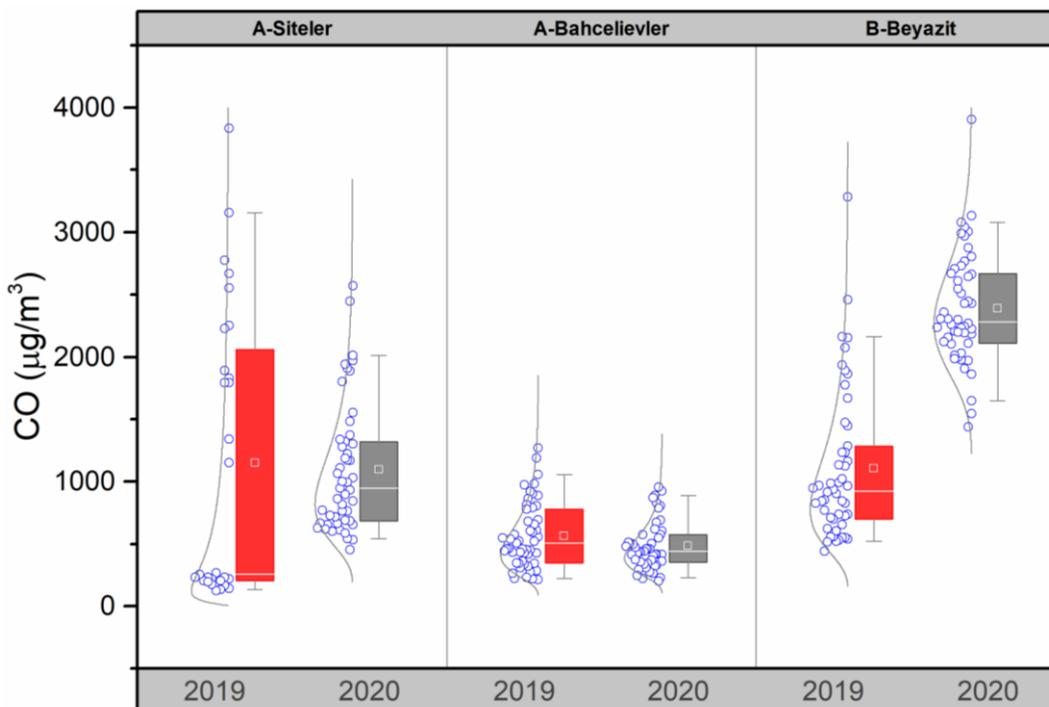


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Figure SM36. SO₂ concentrations in Corum, Izmir, Kars, and Kutahya

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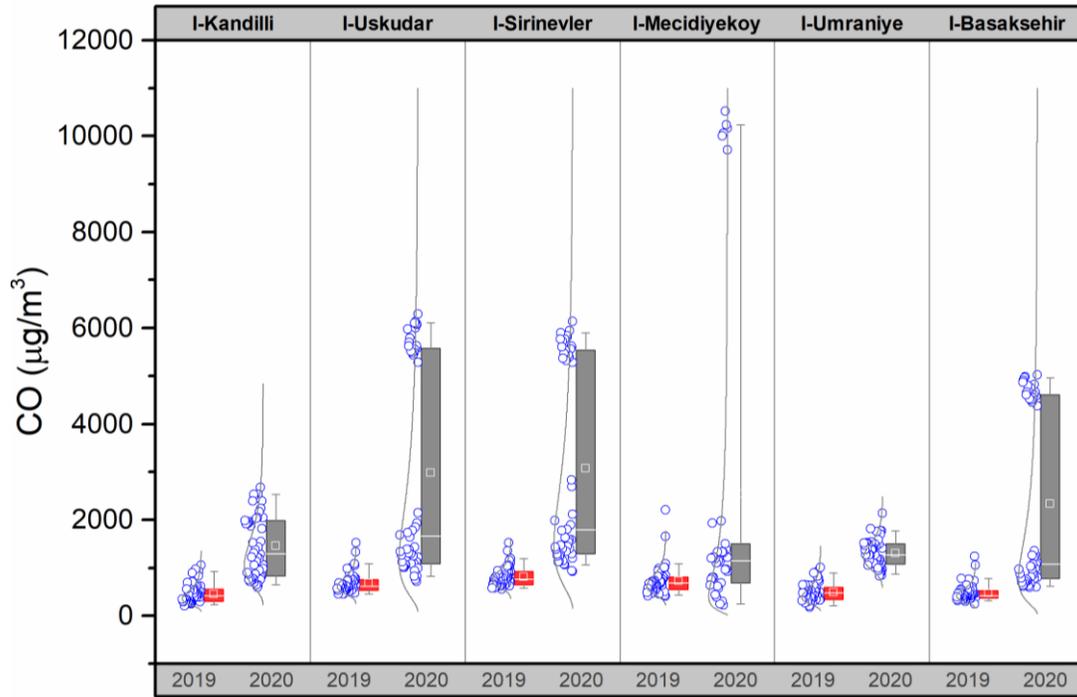


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Figure SM37. CO concentrations in Ankara and Bursa

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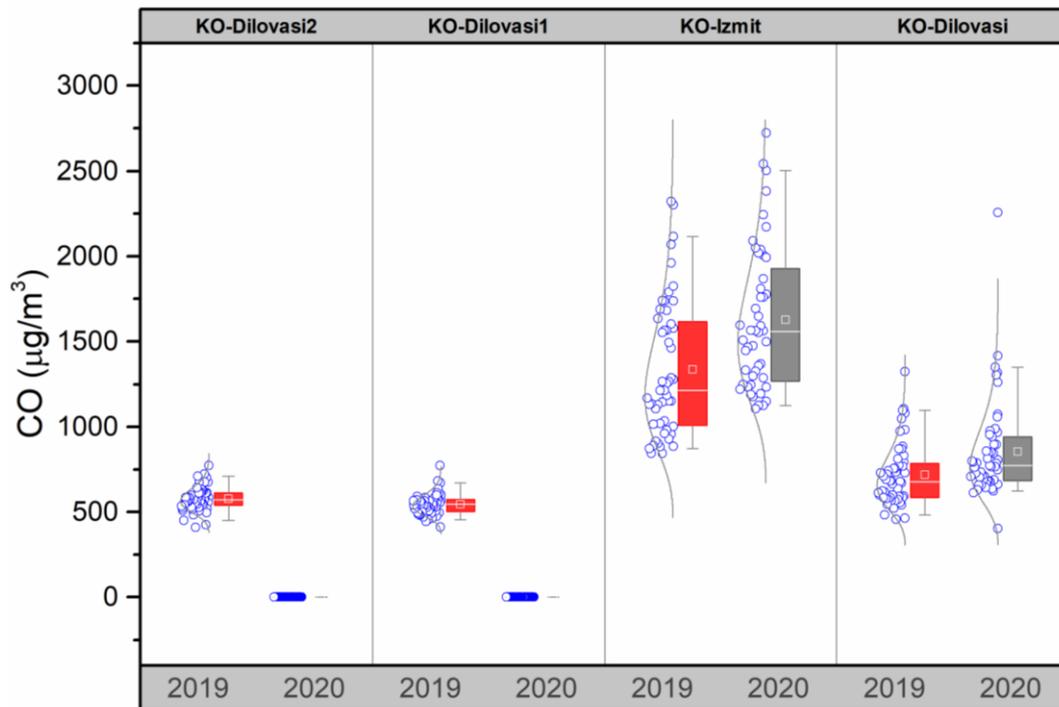


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Figure SM38. CO concentrations in Istanbul

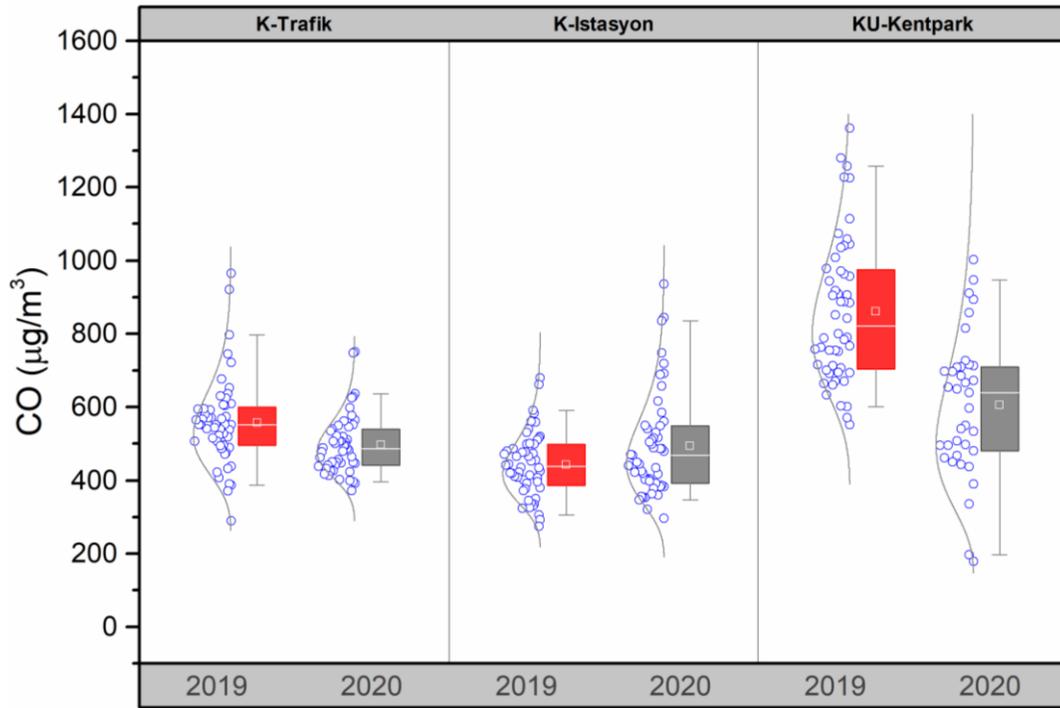
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Figure SM39. CO concentrations in Kocaeli

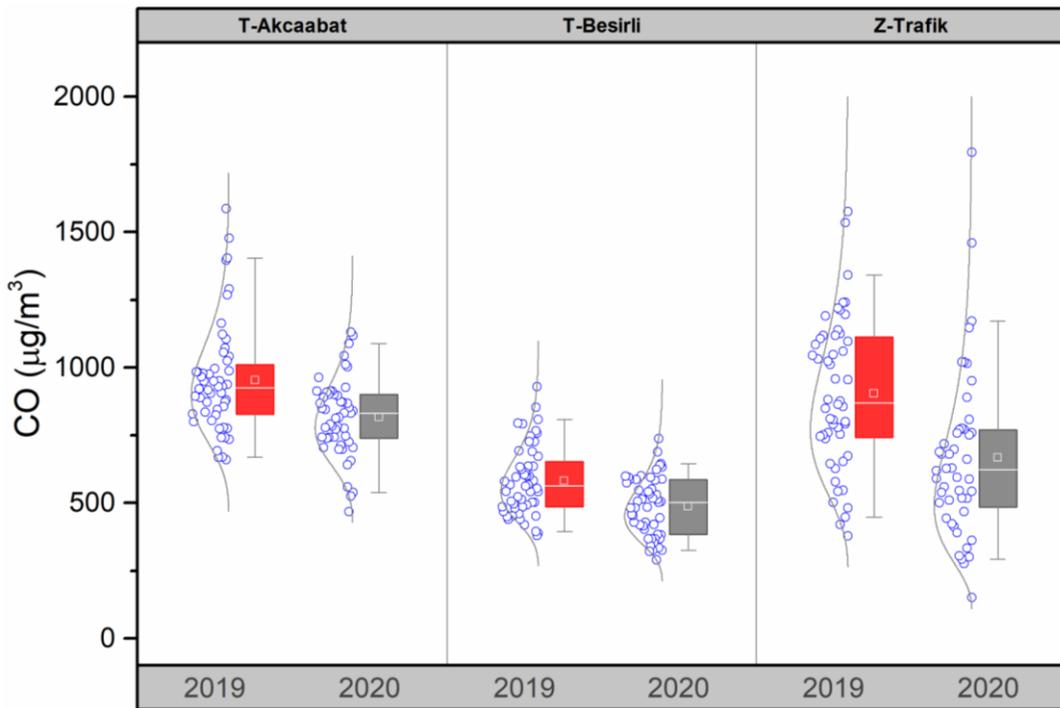


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Figure SM40. CO concentrations in Kars and Kutahya

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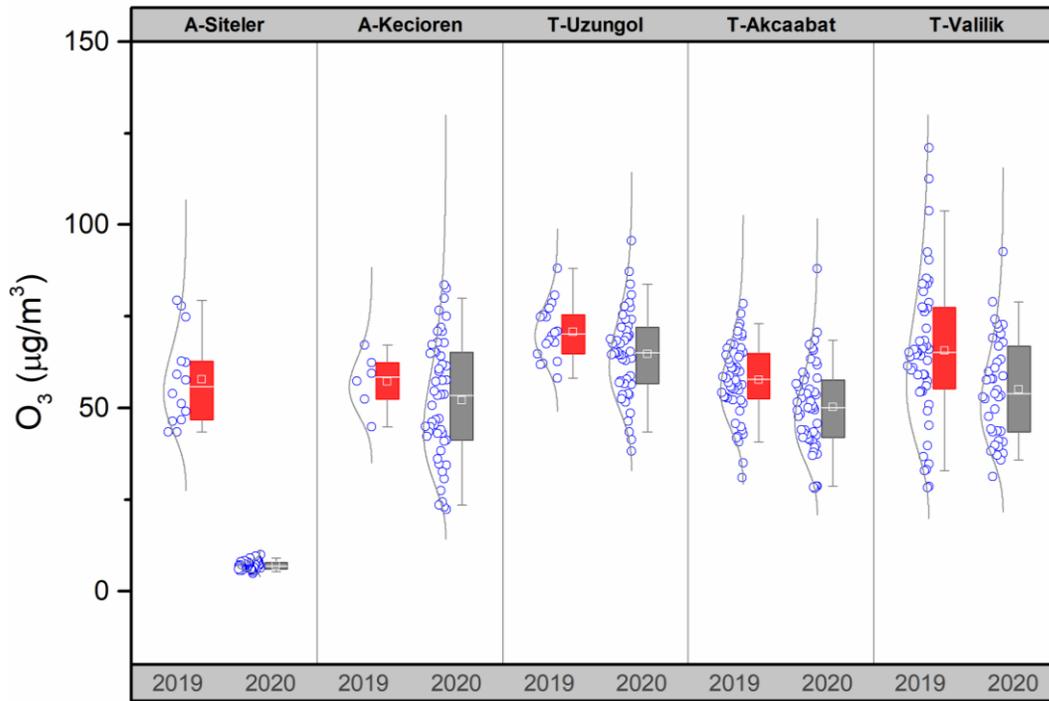


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Figure SM41. CO concentrations in Trabzon and Zonguldak

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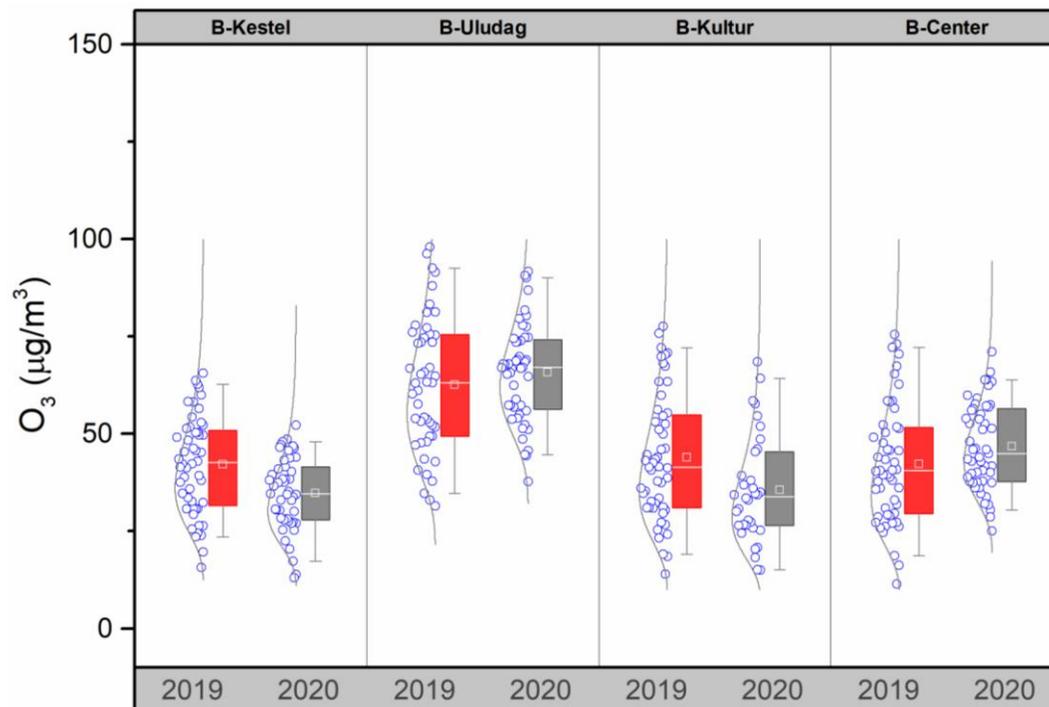


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Figure SM42. O₃ concentrations in Ankara and Trabzon

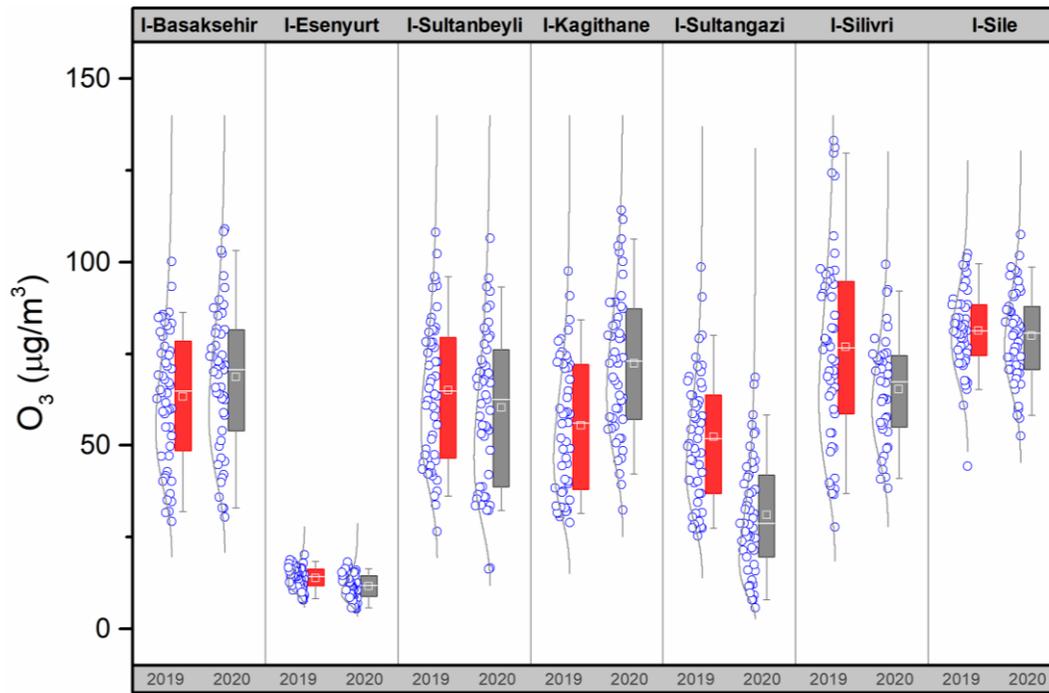
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Figure SM43. O₃ concentrations in Bursa

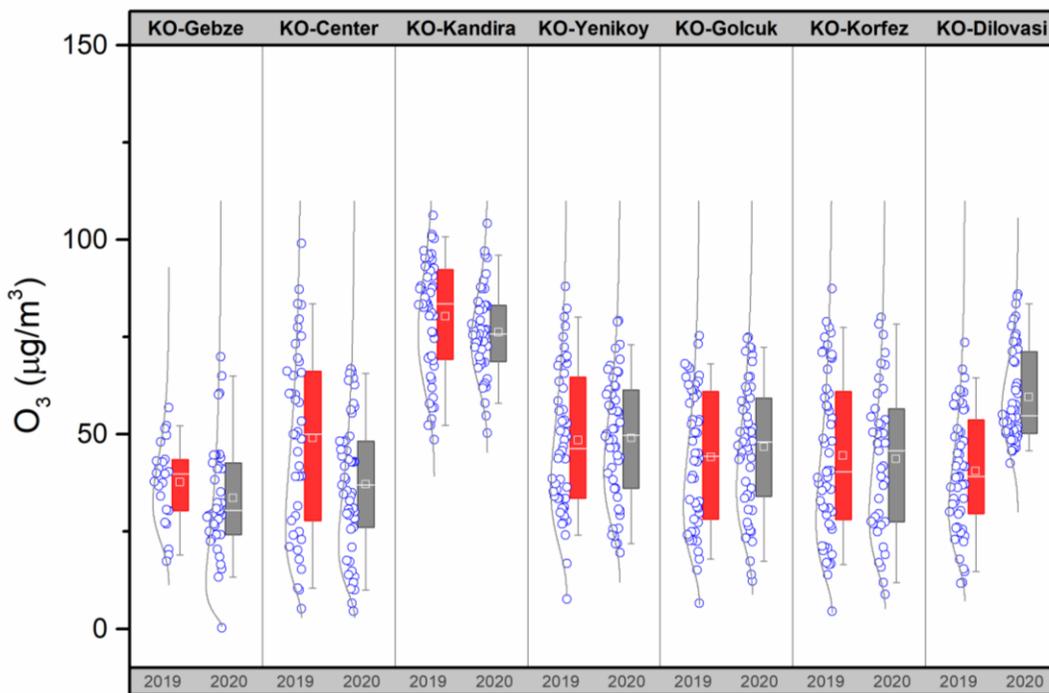


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Figure SM44. O₃ concentrations in Istanbul

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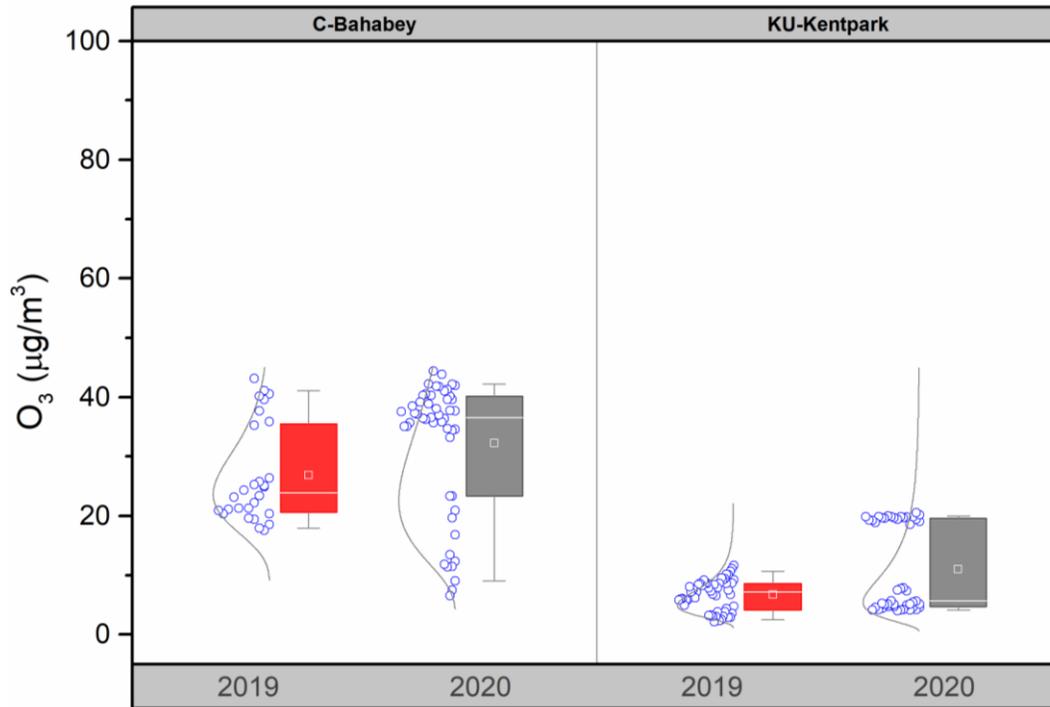


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Figure SM45. O₃ concentrations in Kocaeli

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Figure SM46. O₃ concentrations in Corum and Kutahya

590 **SM References**

591 URL SM1. Newspaper headline, <https://www.takvim.com.tr/yasam/2020/04/18/istanbul-evlere->

592 [kapandi-uludagin-zirvesi-gorundu](#) (retrieved date: 25.04.2020)