

Exposure Based Priority Setting for Chemical Safety

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The views expressed in this presentation are
those of the author and do not necessarily
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EPA Office of Research and Development

- The Office of Research and Development (ORD) is the scientific research arm of EPA
 - 558 peer-reviewed journal articles in 2016
- Research is conducted by ORD's three national laboratories, four national centers, and two offices
 - Includes **National Center for Computational Toxicology** and **National Exposure Research Laboratory**
- 14 facilities across the country
- Six research programs
 - Includes **Chemical Safety for Sustainability**
- Research conducted by a combination of Federal scientists; contract researchers; and postdoctoral, graduate student, and post-baccalaureate trainees



Credit: the Research Triangle Foundation

ORD Facility in
Research Triangle Park, NC

Chemical Regulation in the United States

- Park *et al.* (2012): At least 3221 chemicals in pooled human blood samples, many appear to be exogenous
- A tapestry of laws covers the chemicals people are exposed to in the United States (Breyer, 2009)
- Different testing requirements exist for food additives, pharmaceuticals, and pesticide active ingredients (NRC, 2007)



November 29, 2014

Chemical Regulation in the United States

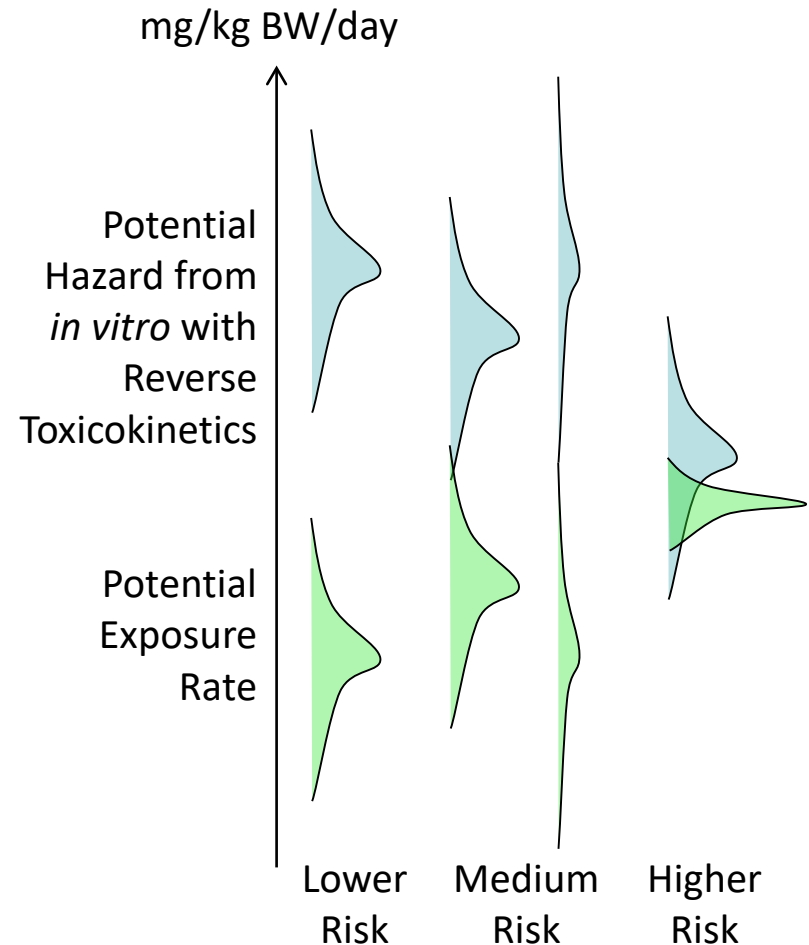
- Most other chemicals, ranging from industrial waste to dyes to packing materials are covered by the recently updated Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA)
 - Thousands of chemicals on the market were either “grandfathered” in or were allowed without experimental assessment of hazard, toxicokinetics, or exposure
 - Thousands of new chemical use submissions are made to the EPA every year
 - **Methods are being developed to prioritize these existing and new chemicals for testing**



November 29, 2014

Chemical Risk = Hazard + Exposure

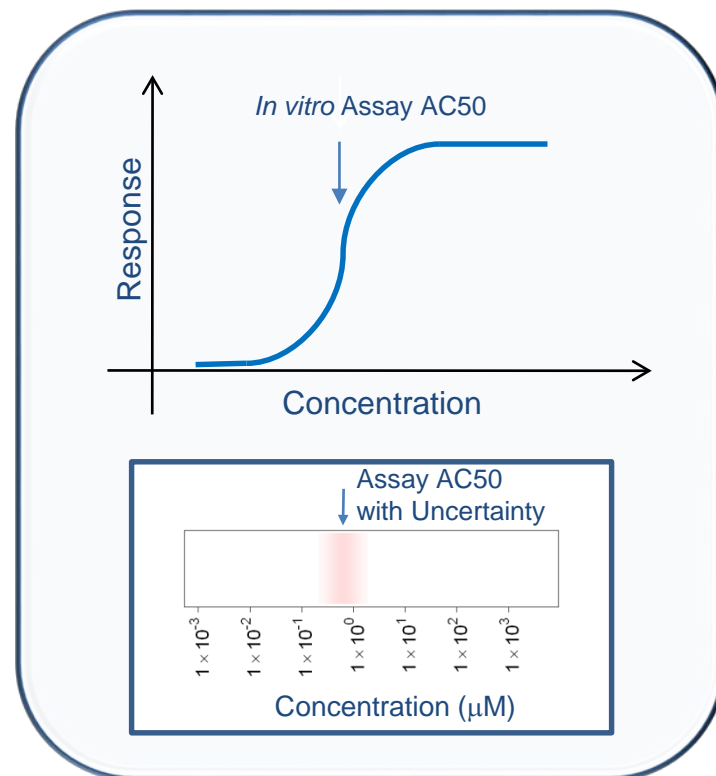
- National Research Council (1983) identified chemical risk as a function of both inherent hazard and exposure
- To address thousands of chemicals, we need to use “high throughput methods” to prioritize those chemicals most worthy of additional study
- **High throughput risk prioritization** needs:
 1. high throughput **hazard** characterization (from HTT project)
 2. high throughput **exposure** forecasts
 3. high throughput **toxicokinetics** (*i.e.*, dosimetry) linking hazard and exposure



High-Throughput Screening



- We might estimate points of departure (concentrations causing relevant bioactivity) *in vitro* using high throughput screening (HTS)
- **Tox21:** Examining >8,000 chemicals using ~50 assays intended to identify interactions with biological pathways (Schmidt, 2009)
- **ToxCast:** For a subset (>2000) of Tox21 chemicals ran >1100 additional assays (Kavlock *et al.*, 2012)
- Most assays conducted in dose-response format (identify 50% activity concentration – AC50 – and efficacy if data described by a Hill function, Filer *et al.*, 2016)
- All data is public: <http://comptox.epa.gov/dashboard/>



Risk Assessment in the 21st Century

*The National Academies of
SCIENCES • ENGINEERING • MEDICINE*

REPORT

USING 21ST CENTURY SCIENCE TO IMPROVE RISK-RELATED EVALUATIONS

THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES PRESS

Washington, DC

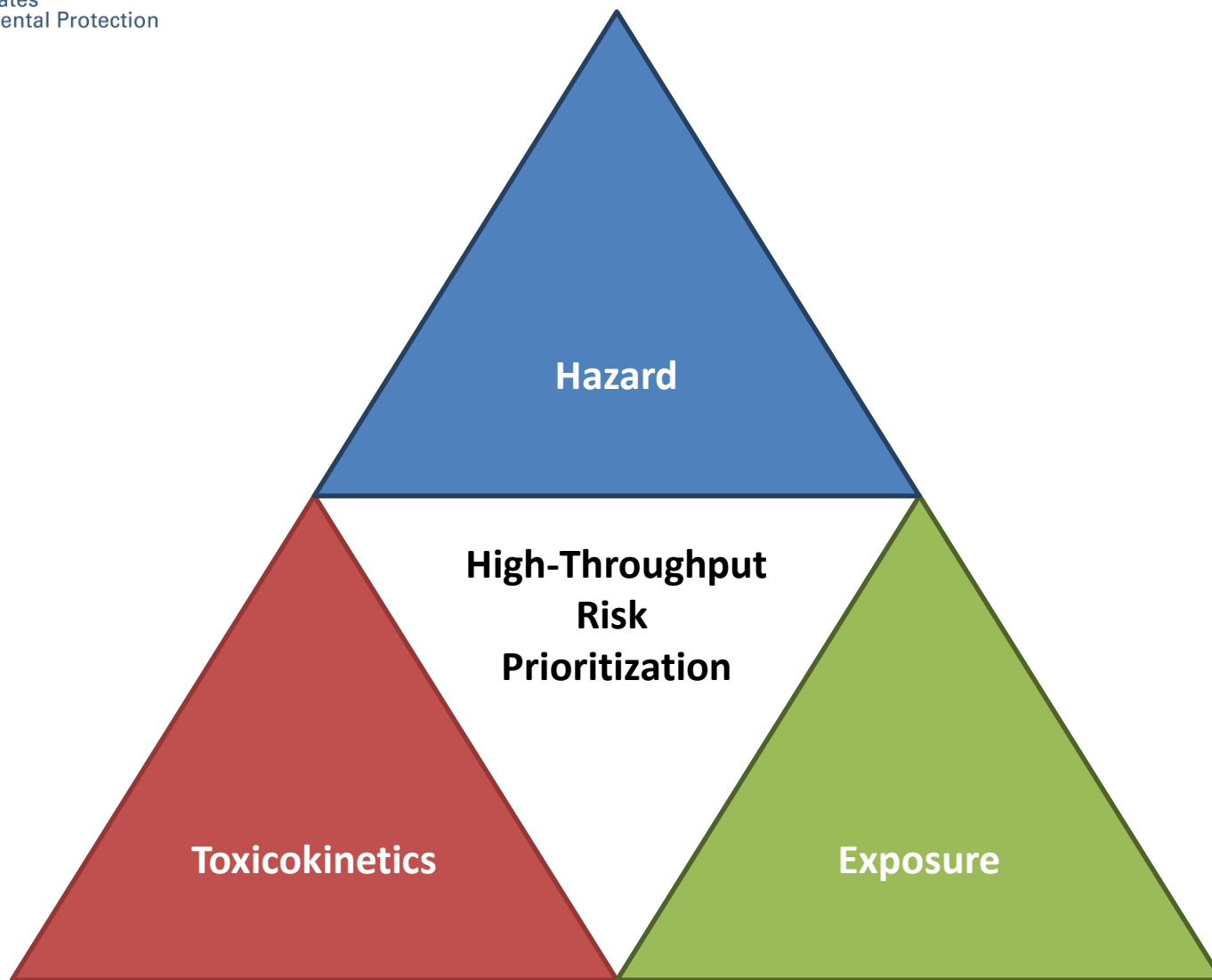
www.nap.edu

January 5, 2017

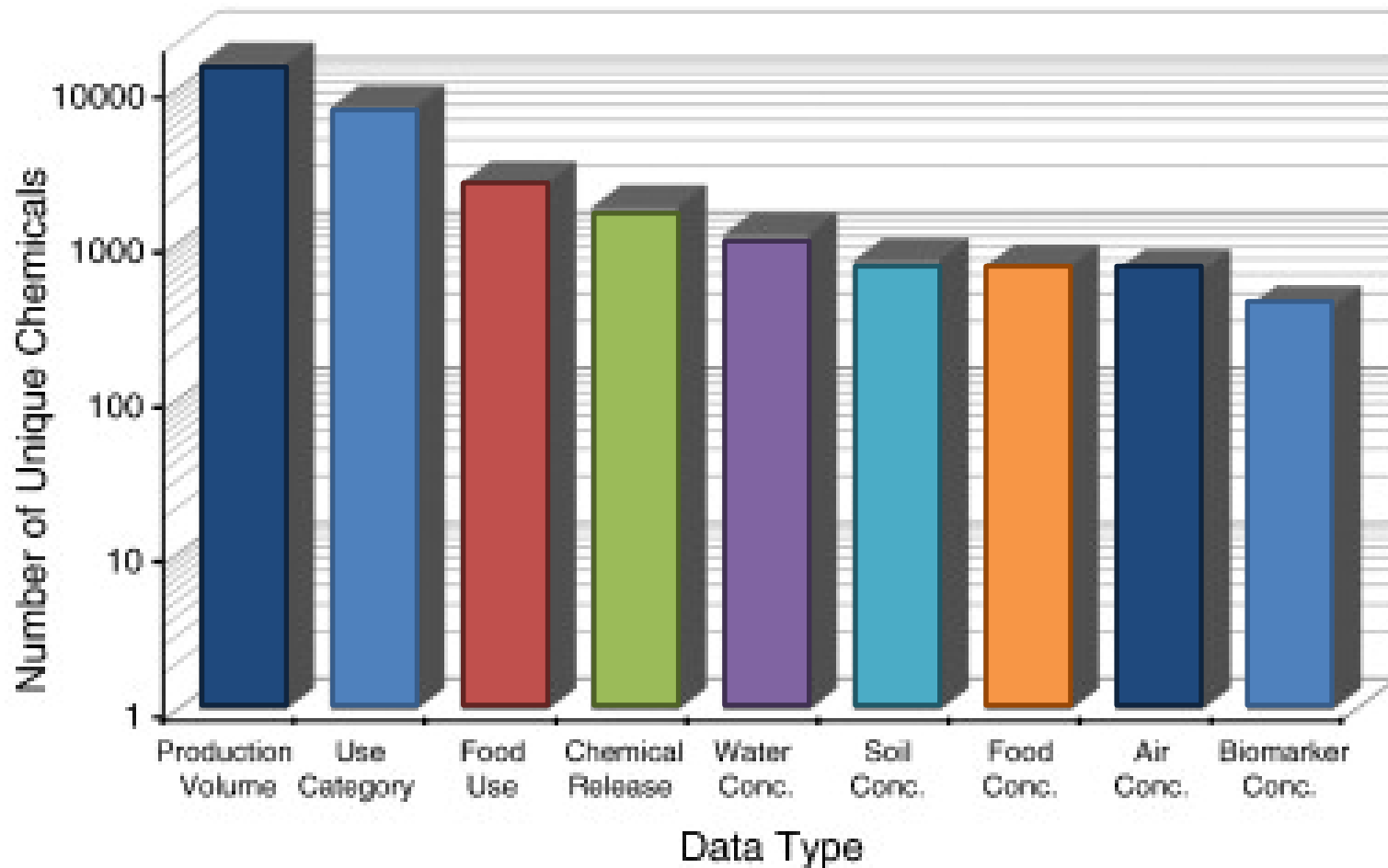
“Translation of high-throughput data into risk-based rankings is an important application of exposure data for chemical priority-setting. Recent advances in high-throughput toxicity assessment, notably the ToxCast and Tox21 programs (see Chapter 1), and in high-throughput computational exposure assessment (Wambaugh et al. 2013, 2014) have enabled first-tier risk-based rankings of chemicals on the basis of margins of exposure...”

“...The committee sees the potential for the application of **computational exposure science** to be highly valuable and credible for comparison and **priority-setting among chemicals in a risk-based context.**”

Three Components for Chemical Risk

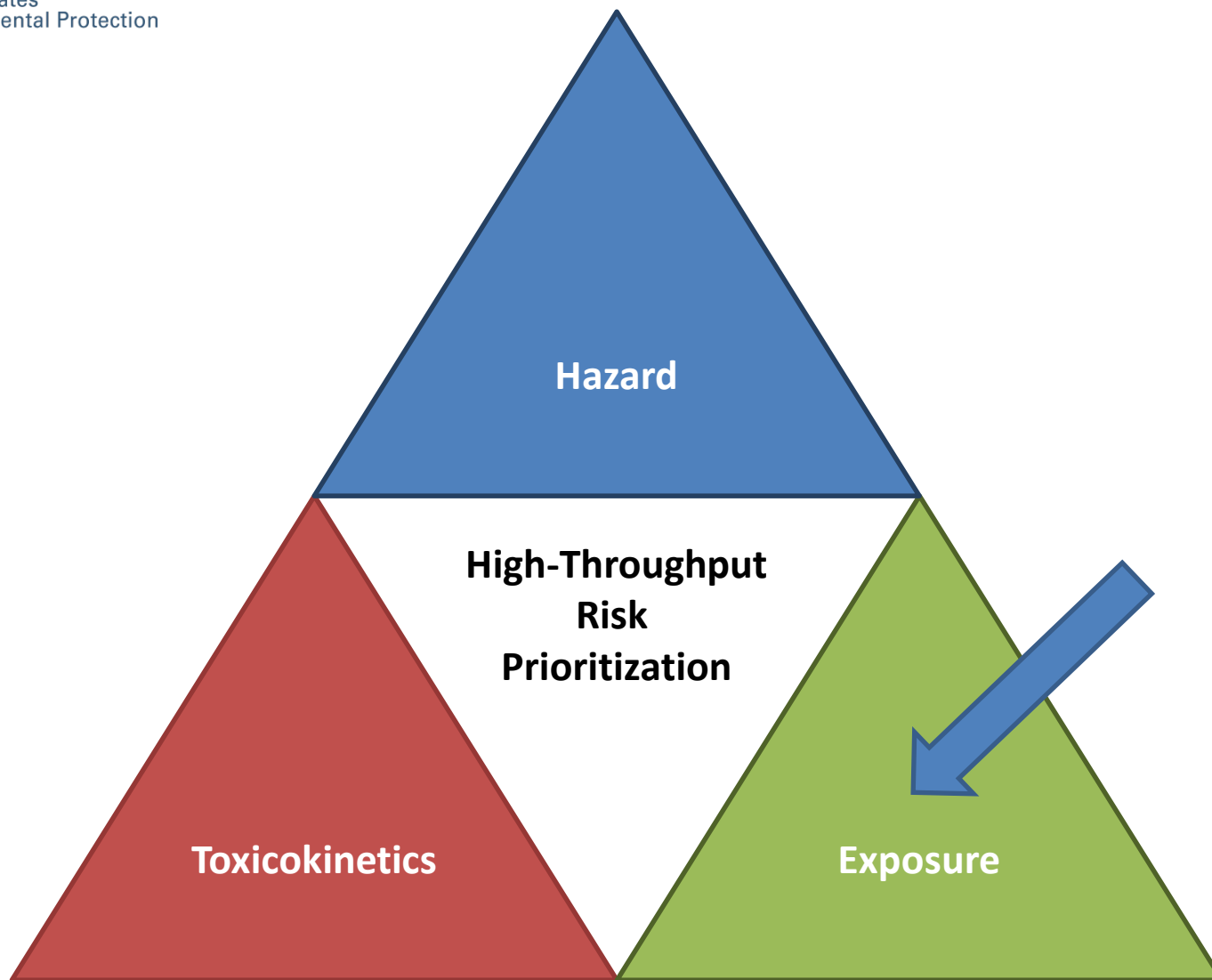


Limited Available Data for Exposure Estimations



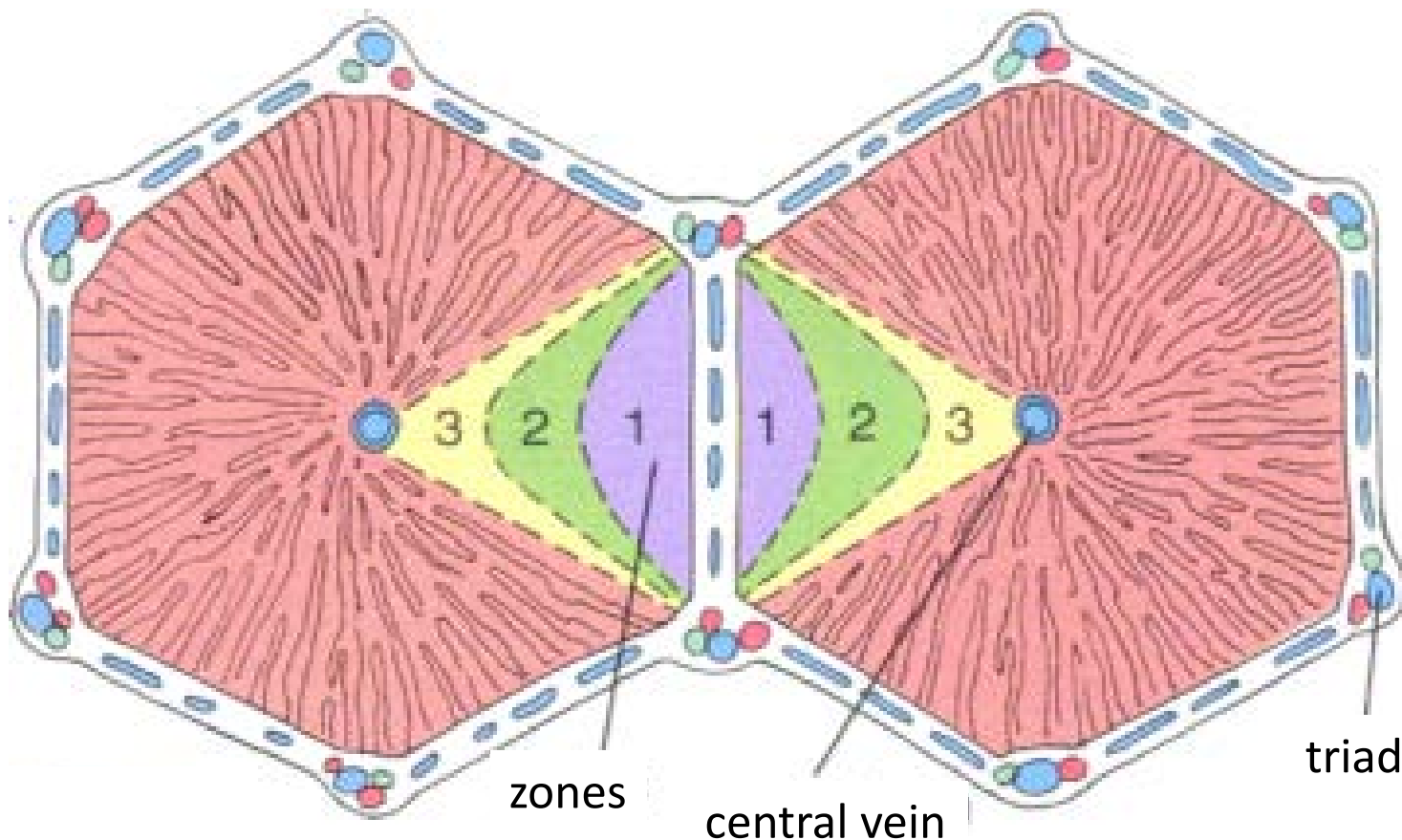
- Most chemicals lack exposure data (Egeghy et al., 2012)

New Exposure Data and Models

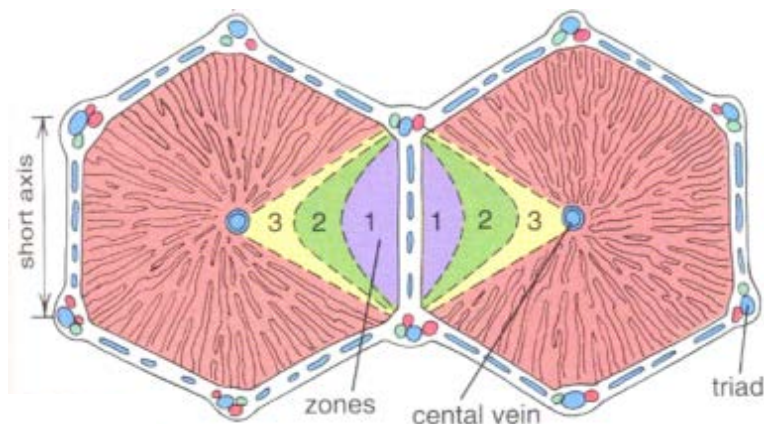


Computational Approaches: Modeling

The liver is composed of hepatic lobules



When Models Meet Real Biological Variability



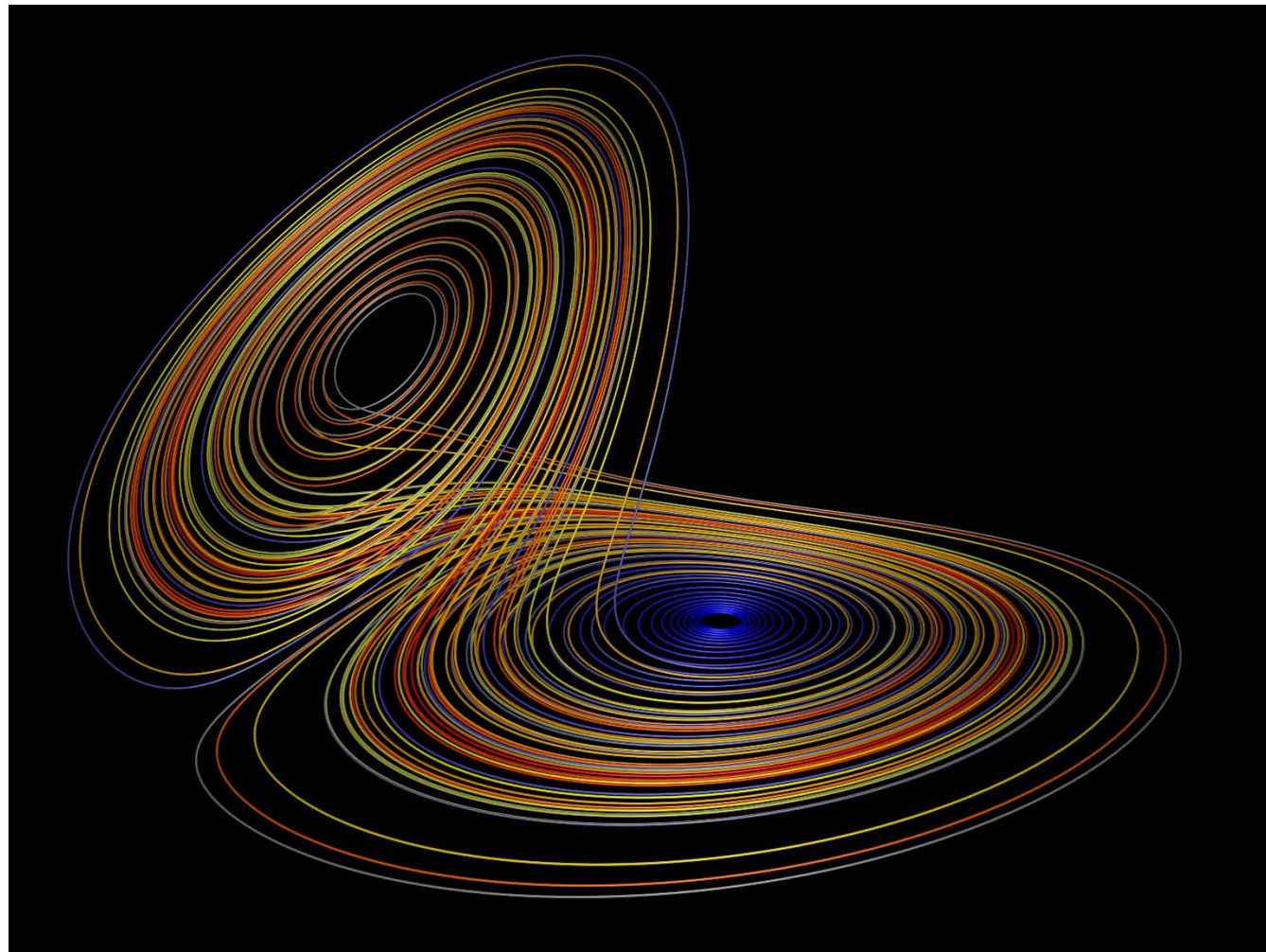
- Actual lobules are much messier (variable) (Crawford, et al., 1988)
- Further, pathology calls are actually quite subjective
- You need to understand both the system being modeled and the data generation process

Rockett et al. (2006)



Emergent Phenomena

- The underlying rules of system may constrain the observed states
- For example, each hepatocyte needs to get oxygen
- Hepatocyte state depends on degree of hypoxia, endogenous chemical signaling, and history of exposure to exogenous chemicals



Lorenz Attractor, Paul Bourke (1997)

Pattern Recognition



Rockett et al. (2006)



Teatra Sociale, Como, Italy

- The underlying rules of system
- Each hepatocyte needs to get oxygen, state depends on degree of hypoxia, endogenous chemical signaling, and history of exposure to exogenous chemicals

What do we know about exposure?

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES) provides an important tool for monitoring public health

Large, ongoing CDC survey of US population: demographic, body measures, medical exam, biomonitoring (health and exposure), ...

Designed to be representative of US population according to census data

Data sets [publicly available](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhanes.htm) (<http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhanes.htm>)

Includes measurements of:

- Body weight
- Height
- **Chemical analysis of blood and urine**



National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey

The Structure of Chemical Exposure

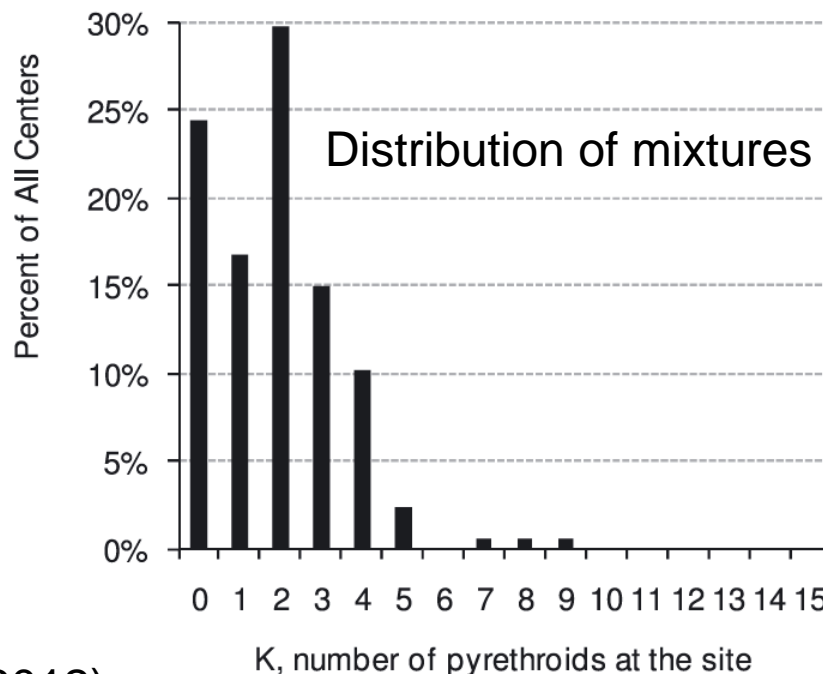
finch species

	Cuba	Hispanolia	Jamaica	Puerto Rico	Guadeloupe	
Loxigilla noxis	0	0	0	0	1	1
Melanospiza richardsoni	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tiara olivacea	1	1	1	1	0	4
Tiara bicolor	0	1	1	1	1	4
Tiara canora	1	0	0	0	0	1
Loxipasser anoxanthus	0	0	1	0	0	1
	2	2	3	2	2	11

chemical species

	site 1	site 2	site 3	site 4	site 5	
chemical 1	1	0	0	0	1	2
chemical 2	1	1	0	1	1	4
chemical 3	0	0	0	0	1	1
chemical 4	1	0	0	0	0	1
chemical 5	0	0	1	0	0	1
chemical 6	0	0	1	0	0	1
	3	1	2	1	3	10

- For n chemicals 2^n combinations are possible
 - However, not all are observed
- Diamond (1975): Not all finch species present on all islands of Caribbean
- Tornero-Velez et al. (2012): Not all chemical combinations present at all sites



- Targeted analytical chemistry used to quantitate concentration of specific chemicals in urine
 - Samples must be divided up for each chemical tested
 - NHANES cohort divided up to allow enough sample for testing all chemicals

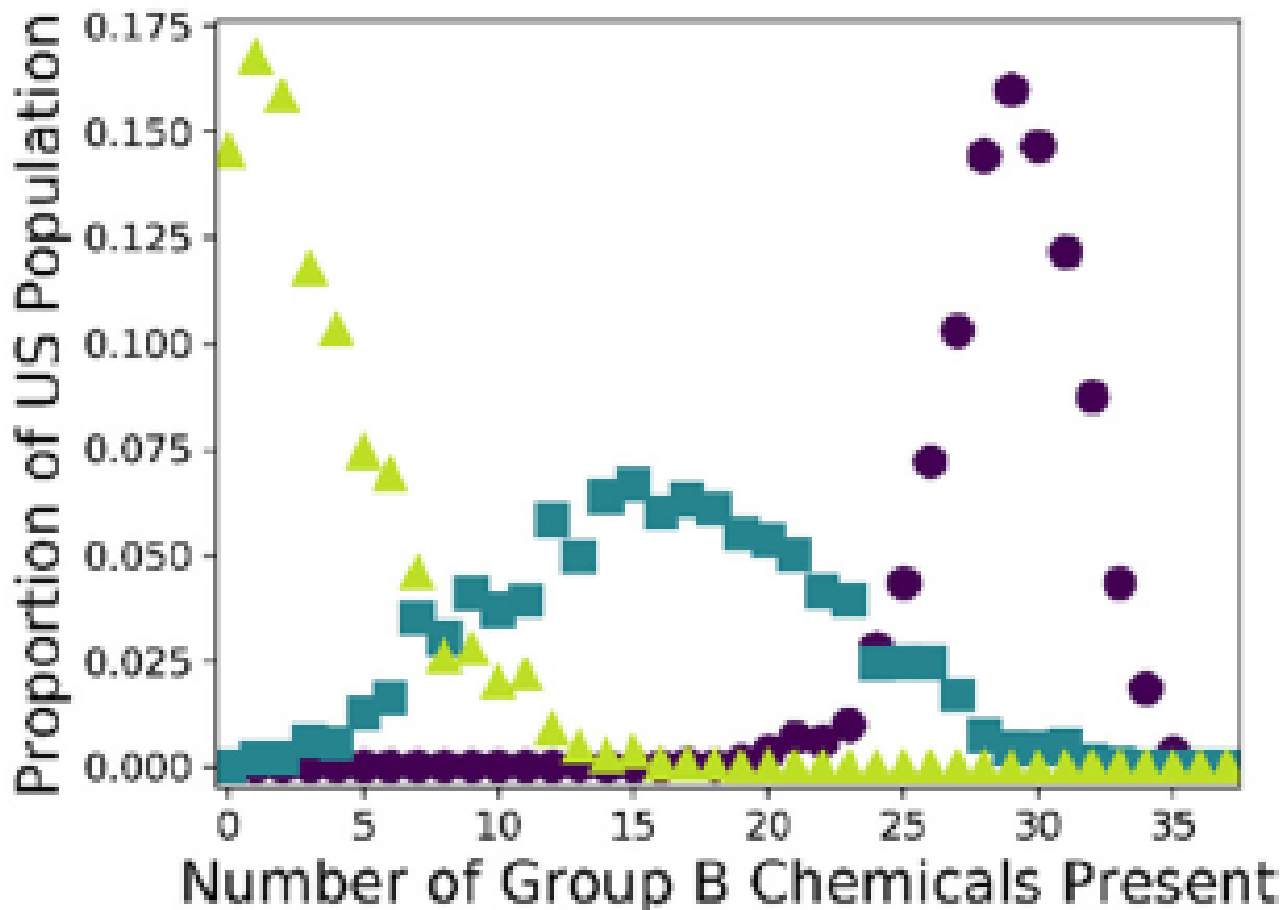
Table 4. Summary information for each of the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES) 2009–2010 subsamples.

Category	Subsample A	Subsample B	Subsample C
Number of subjects	2,741	2,736	2,132
Number of chemicals	29	37	40
Maximum weight	476,883.0	426,061.1	413,068.1
Minimum weight	14,002.7	13,975.1	12,659.3
Sum of weights	258,281,689.4	272,911,664.0	226,021,580.6
Records needed	18,445.1	19,528.5	17,854.1

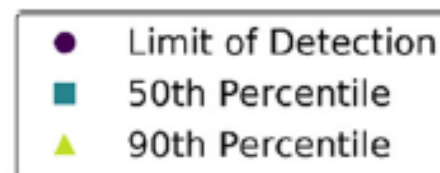
- We will focus on “Sub-sample B” PAHs, Phenols, Pesticides, and Phthalates

Co-Occurrence of Chemicals in Individuals

The number of chemicals (out of 37) “present” in individuals depends upon where you set the limit

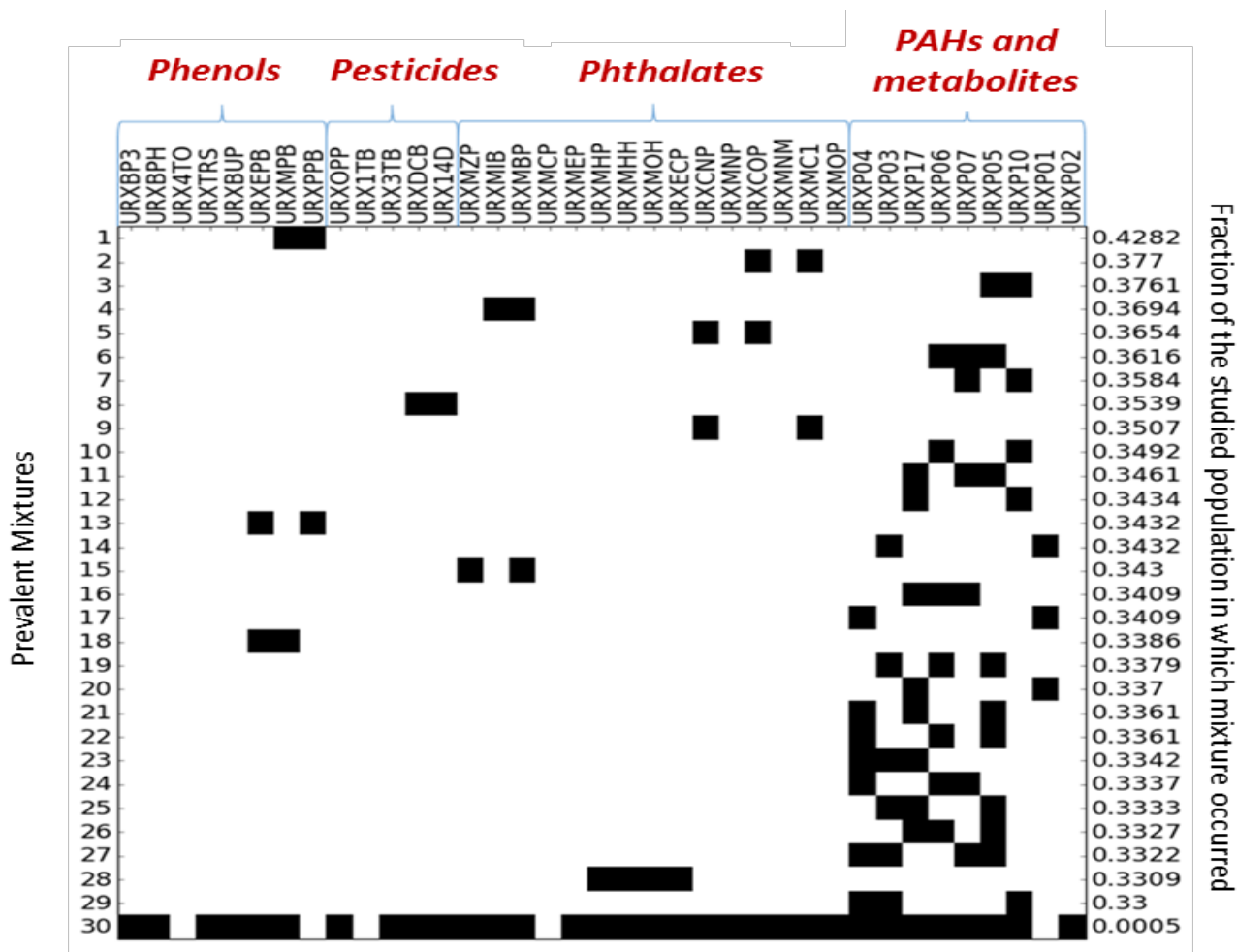


Ideally we would use some sort of chemical toxicity informed point of departure but don't have that for all chemicals

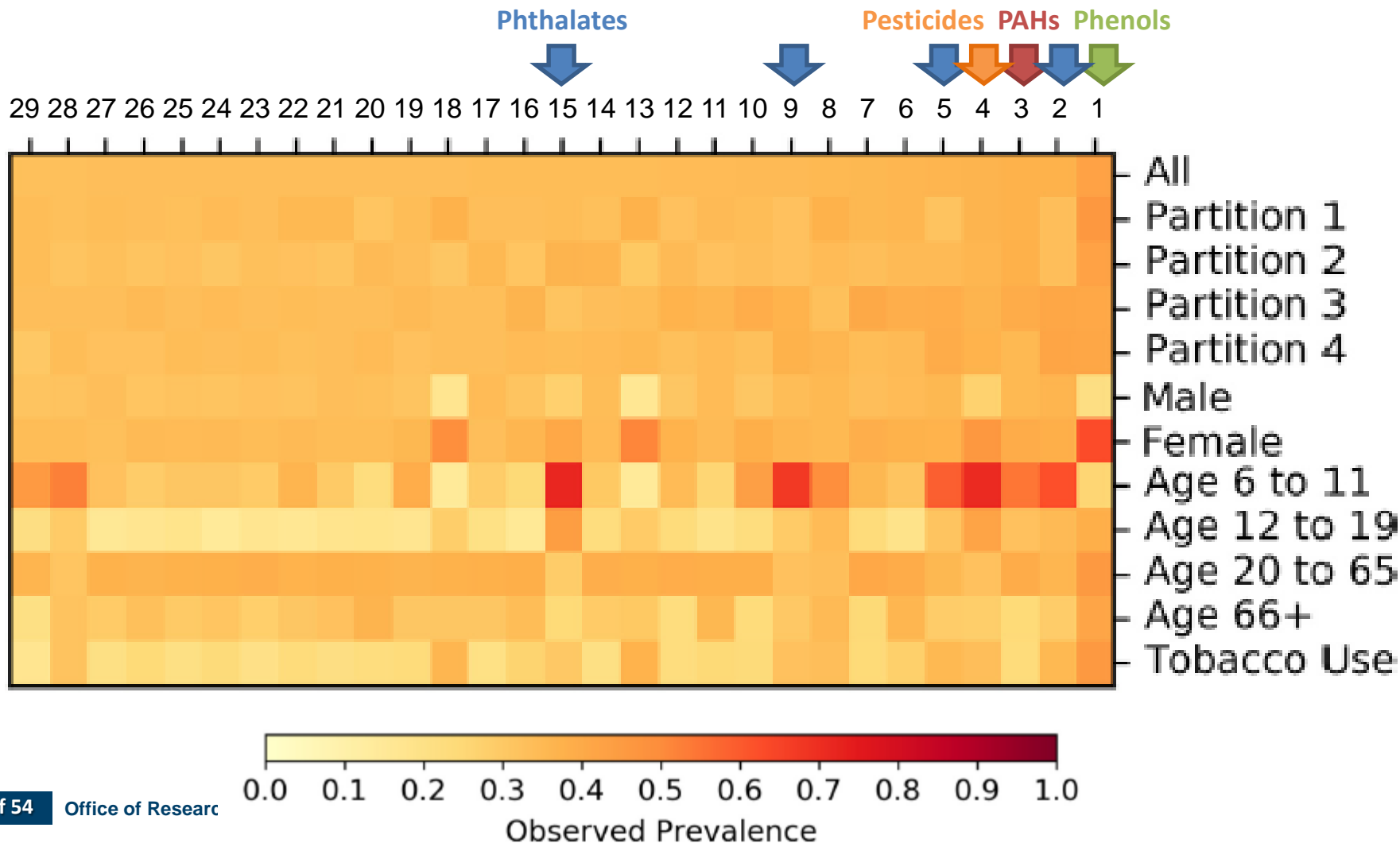


Identifying Prevalent Mixtures

- We are using data-mining methods (frequent itemset mining or FIM, Borgelt, 2012) to identify combinations of items (chemicals) that co-occur together within samples from same individual
- Used total population median concentration as threshold for “presence”
- Identified a few dozen mixtures present in >30% of U.S. population

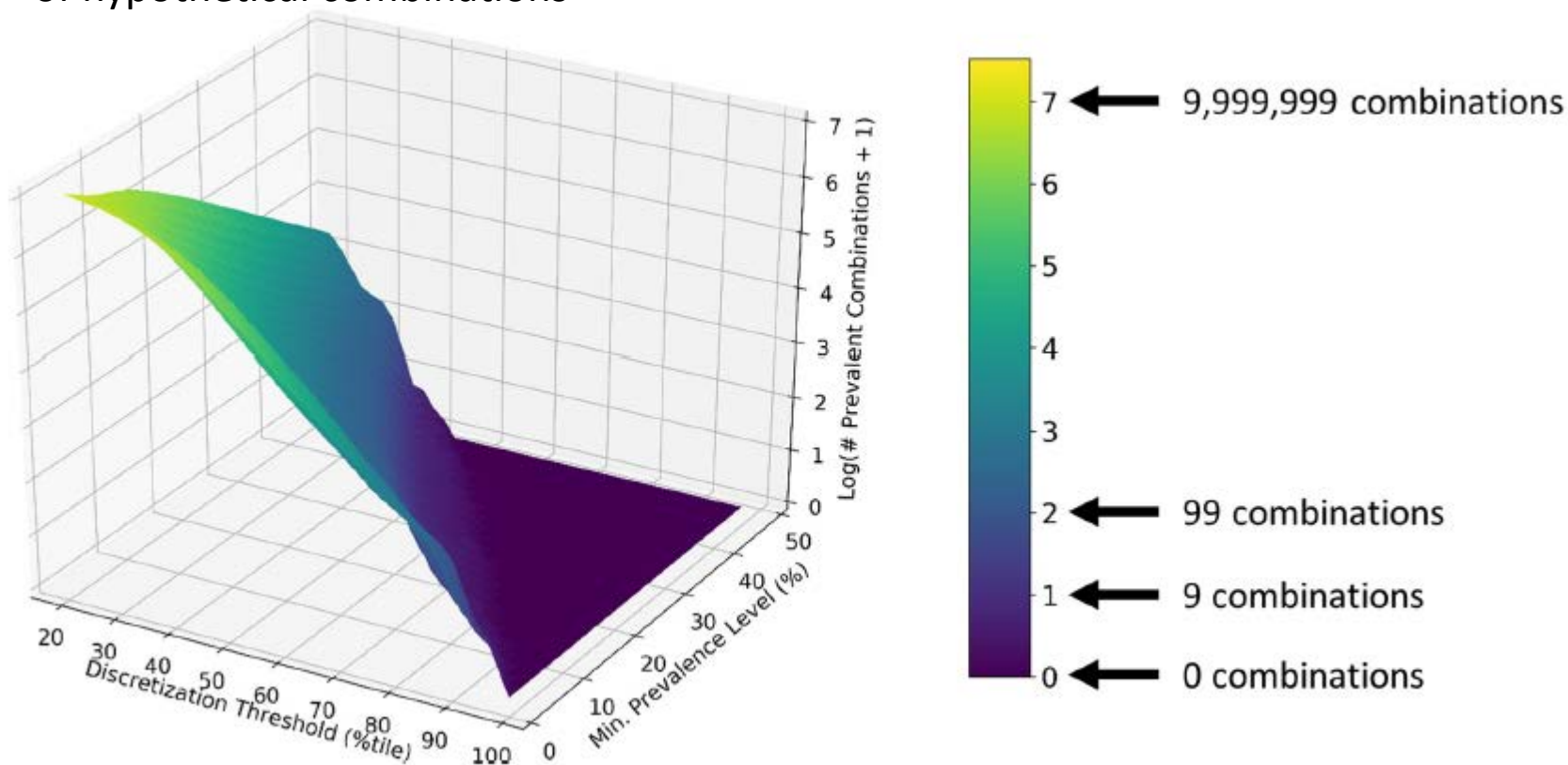


Demographic-Specific Prevalence of Combinations



A Testable Number of Combinations

While high throughput screening (HTS) allows thousands of tests, there are millions of hypothetical combinations

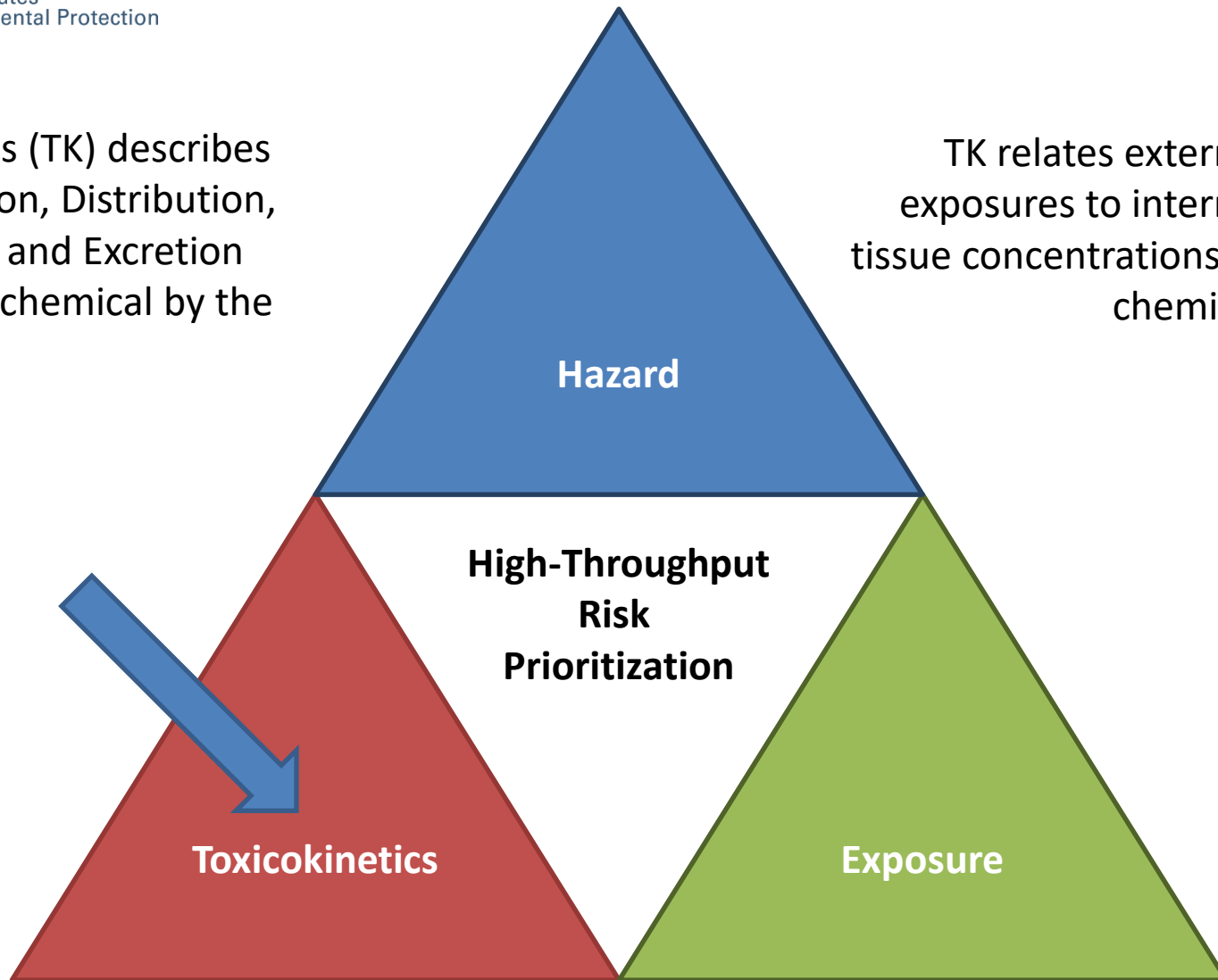


“Exposure based priority setting” (NAS, 2017) allows identification of most important mixtures to test

High Throughput Toxicokinetics (HTTK)

Toxicokinetics (TK) describes the Absorption, Distribution, Metabolism, and Excretion (ADME) of a chemical by the body

TK relates external exposures to internal tissue concentrations of chemical



High-Throughput Toxicokinetics (HTTK)

- **Most chemicals do not have TK data** – we use *in vitro* HTTK methods adapted from pharma to fill gaps
- In drug development, HTTK methods estimate therapeutic doses for clinical studies – predicted concentrations are typically on the order of values measured in clinical trials (Wang, 2010)

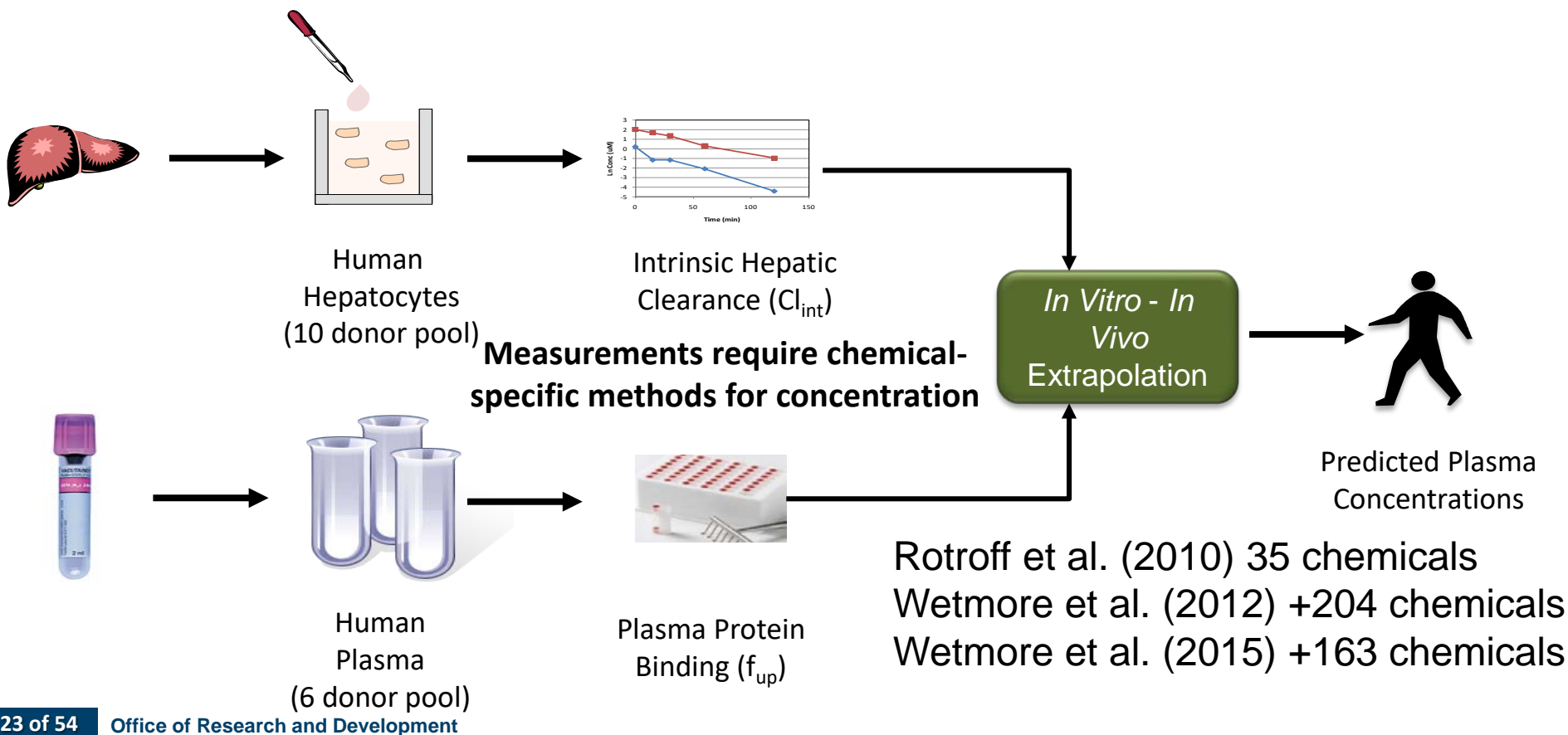
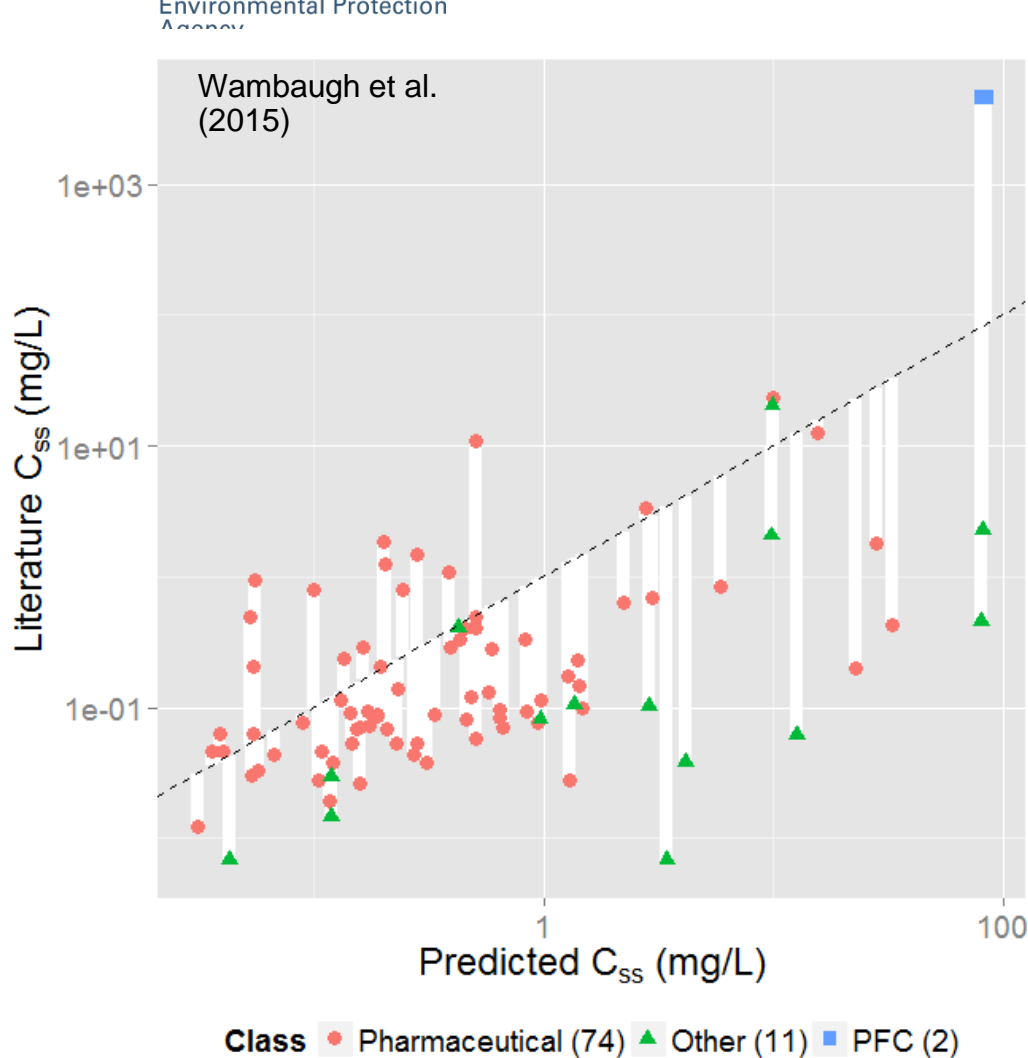


Figure from Barbara Wetmore

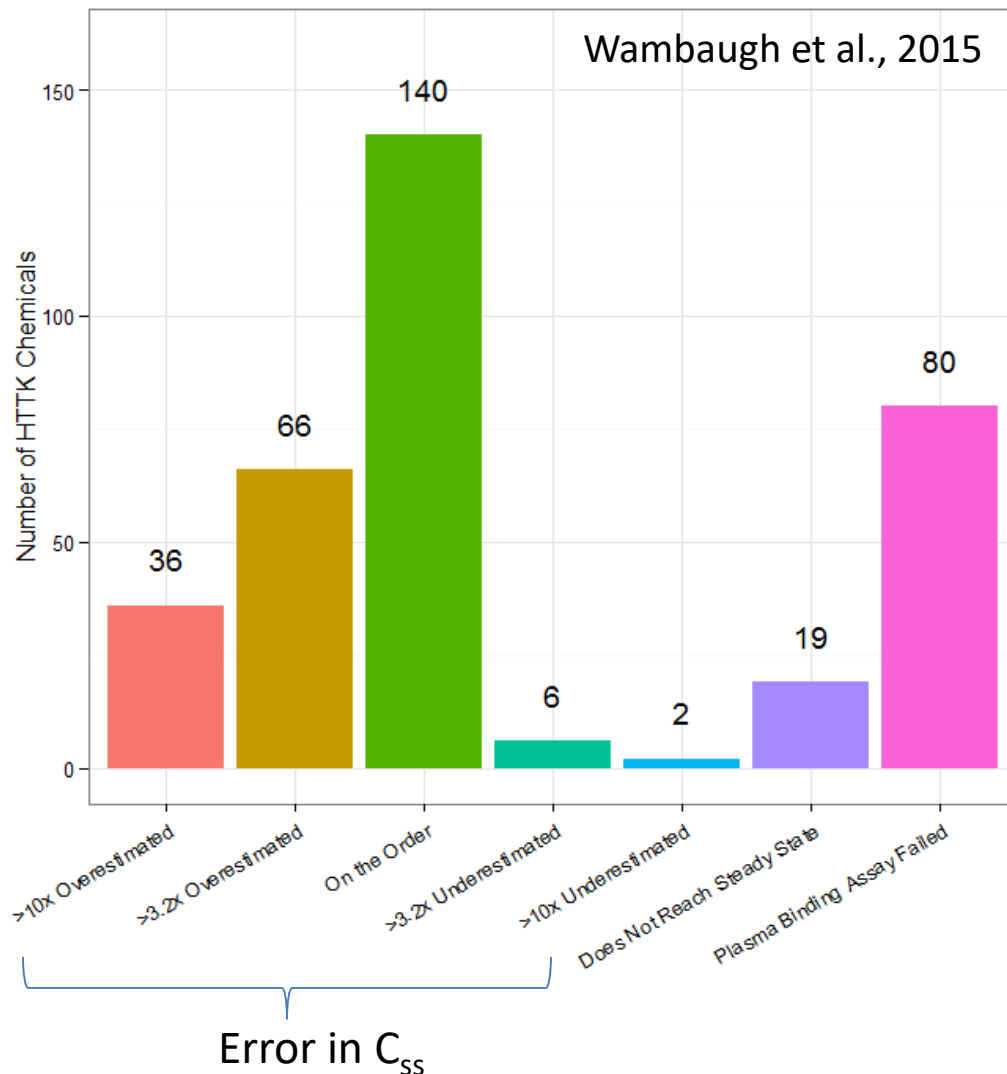
Evaluating Predictions of Steady-State Plasma Concentration (C_{ss})



- When we compare the C_{ss} predicted from *in vitro* H_{TTK} with *in vivo* C_{ss} values determined from the literature we find limited correlation ($R^2 \sim 0.34$)
- The dashed line indicates the identity (perfect predictor) line:
 - Over-predict for 65
 - Under-predict for 22
- The white lines indicate the discrepancy between measured and predicted values (the residual)

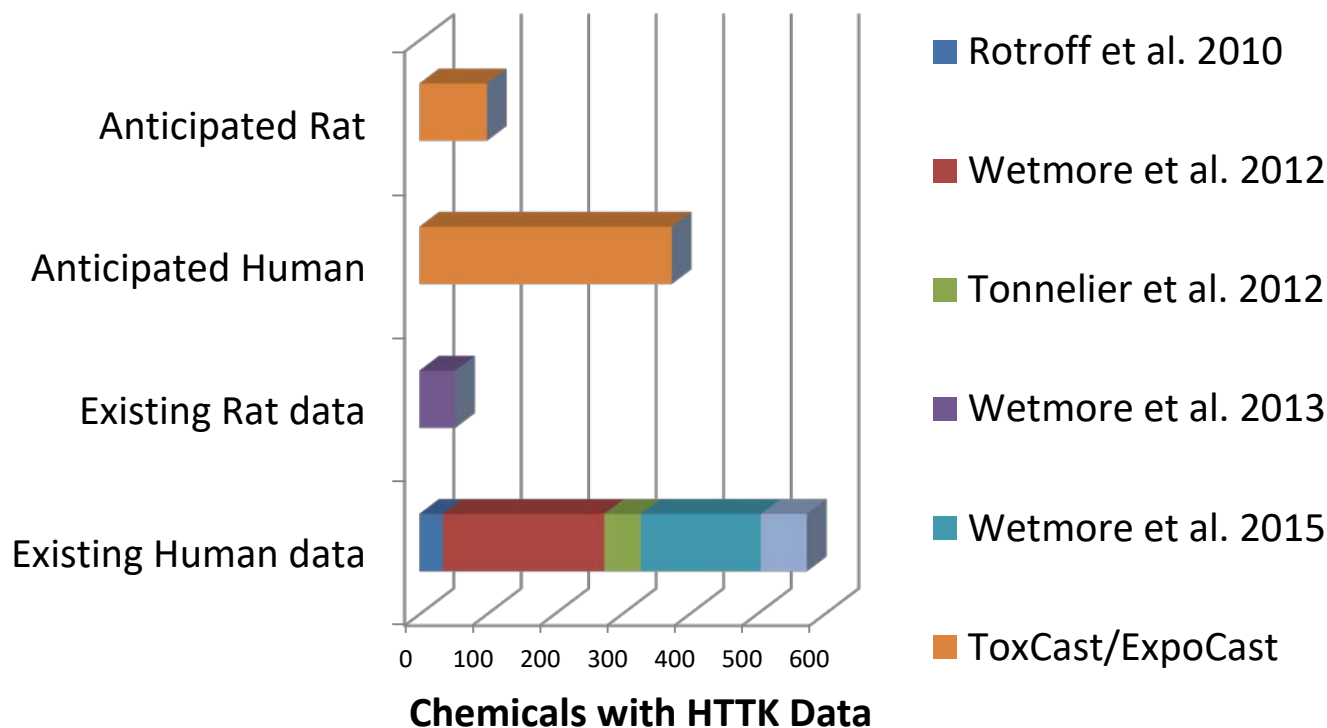
Predicting Error in HTK Predictions

- For most compounds in the environment there will be no clinical trials
- Uncertainty must be well characterized
 - We compare to *in vivo* data to get **empirical estimates of HTK uncertainty**
 - Any approximations, omissions, or mistakes should work to increase the estimated uncertainty when evaluated systematically across chemicals
- Through comparison to *in vivo* data, a cross-validated (Random Forest, Breiman, 2001) predictor of success or failure of HTK has been constructed
- We also have categories for chemicals that do not reach steady-state or for which plasma binding assay fails



Chemicals with HTK Data

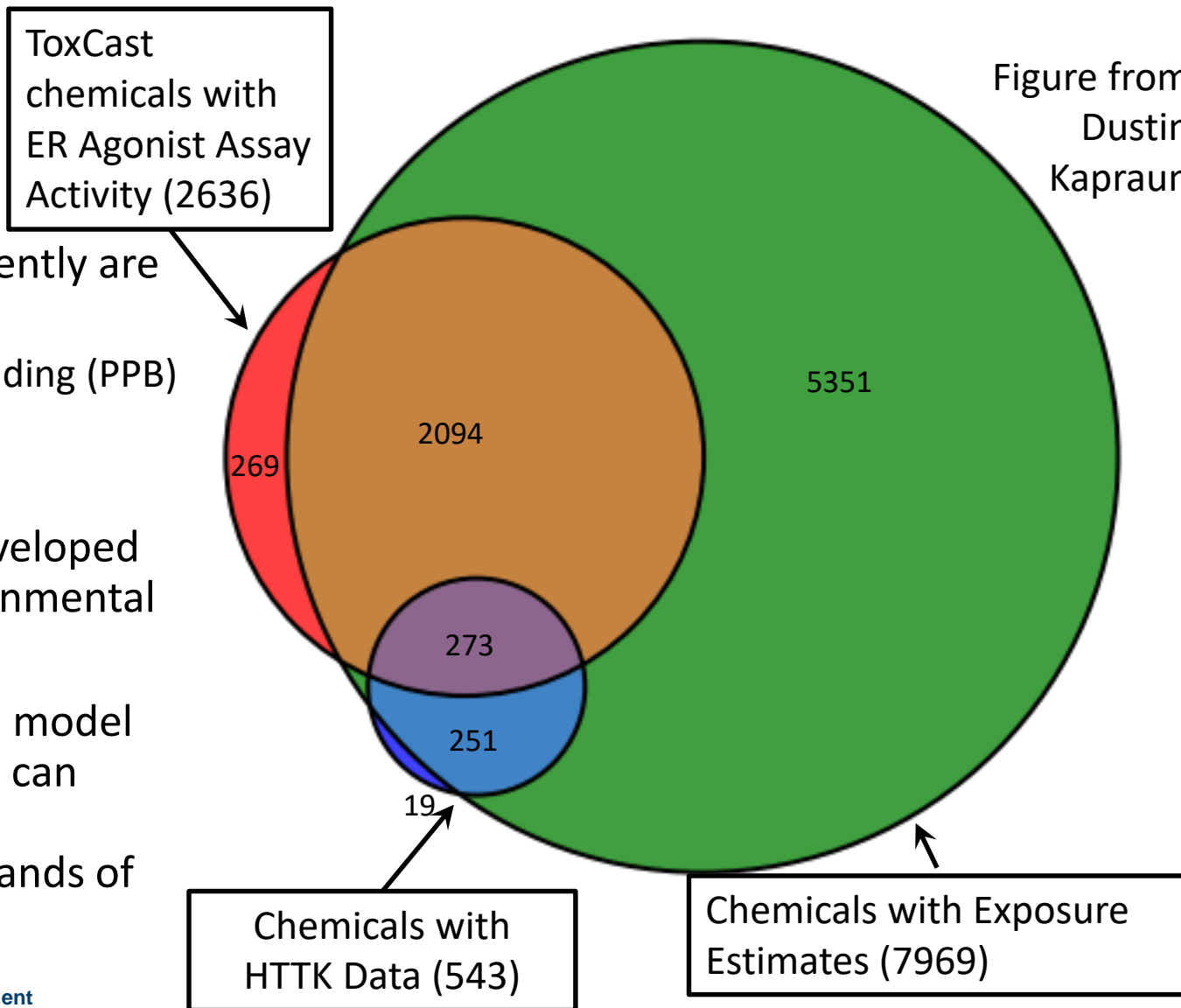
- Measurement of *in vitro* clearance and binding both require chemical-specific analytical chemistry methods – these can be difficult to develop
- Methods are appropriate for chemicals that are soluble, non-volatile only



Predicting Critical TK Parameters

Figure from
Dustin
Kapraun

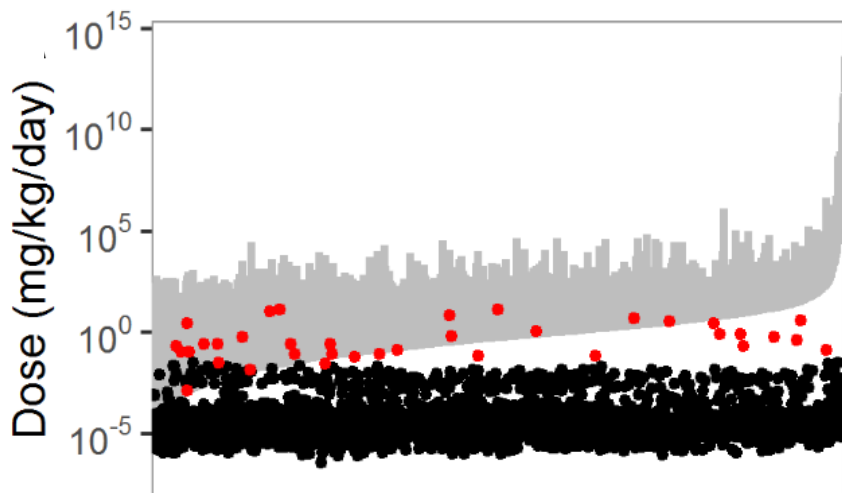
- Two parameters currently are key to HHTK model:
 - Plasma protein binding (PPB)
 - Hepatic clearance (metabolism)
- Ingle *et al.* (2016) developed PPB model for environmental chemicals
- If a hepatic clearance model can be developed we can provide tentative TK predictions for thousands of more chemicals



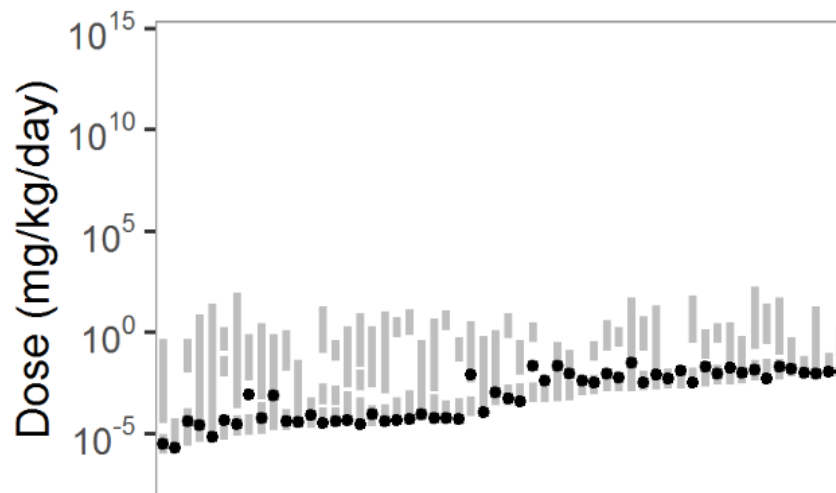
Using Predicted HTKK for Risk Prioritization



Sipes et al. used Simulations Plus ADMET Predictor to make *in silico* predictions of metabolism and protein binding:



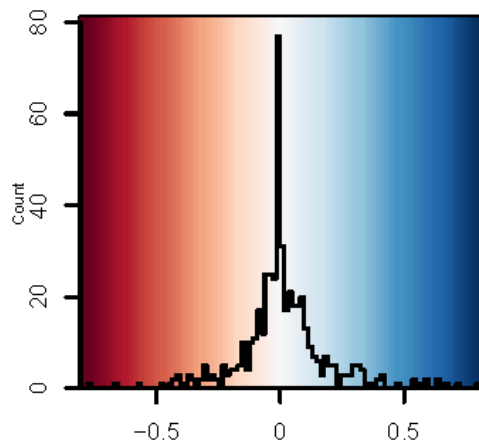
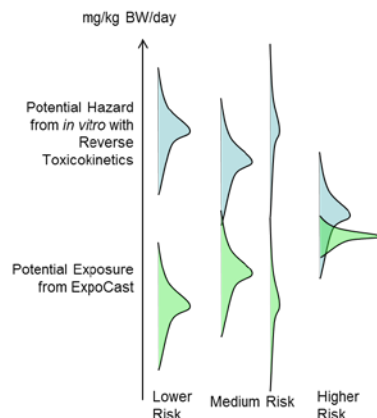
Doses ranges for all 3925 Tox21 compounds eliciting a 'possible'-to-'likely' human *in vivo* interaction alongside estimated daily exposure



56 compounds with potential *in vivo* biological interaction at or above estimated environmental exposures

Life-stage and Demographic Specific Predictions

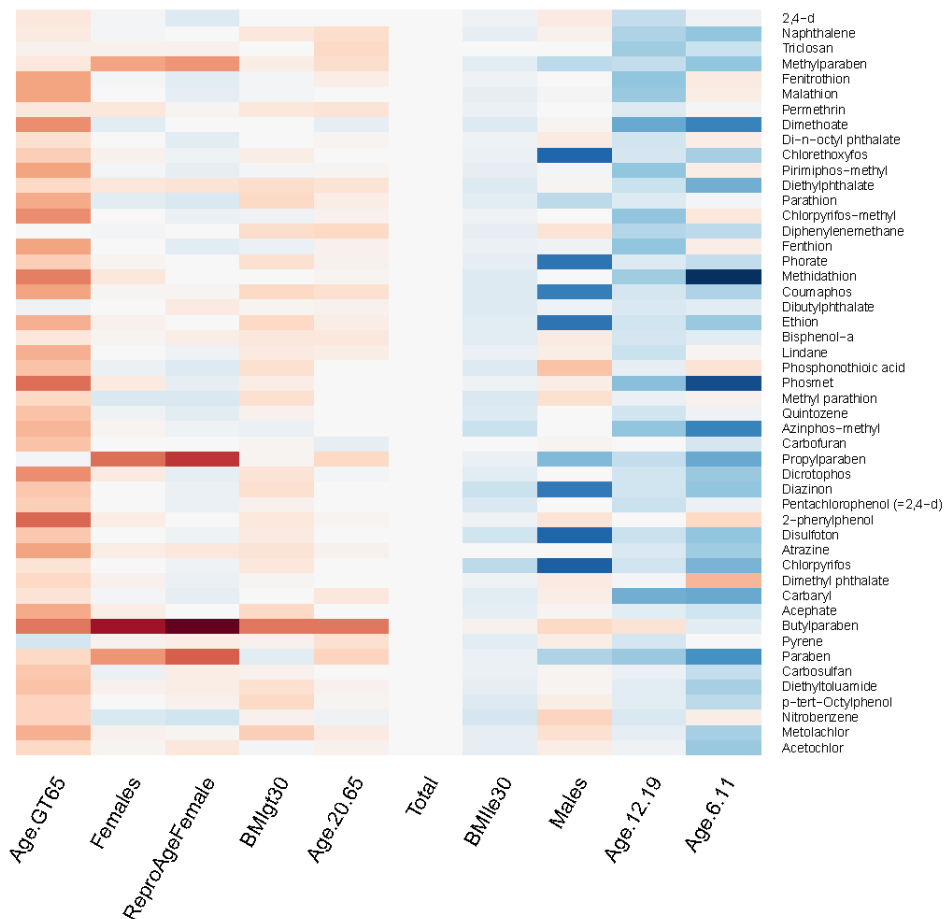
- Can calculate margin between bioactivity and exposure for specific populations



Change in Risk Relative to Total Population

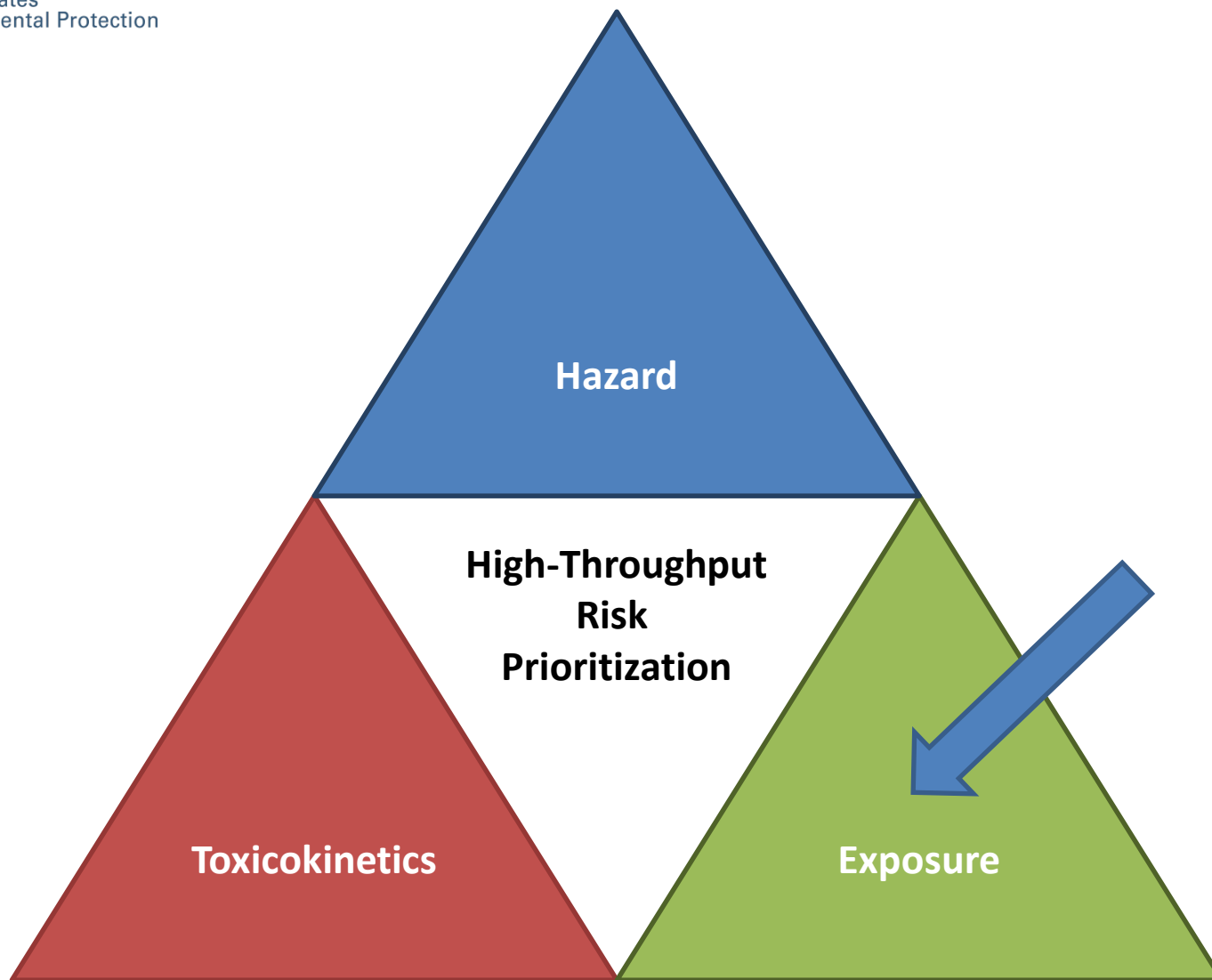
NHANES Chemicals

Change in Activity:Exposure Ratio



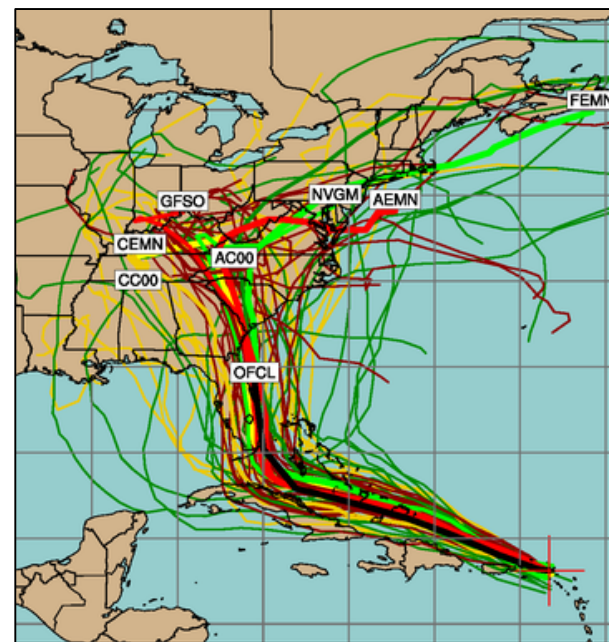
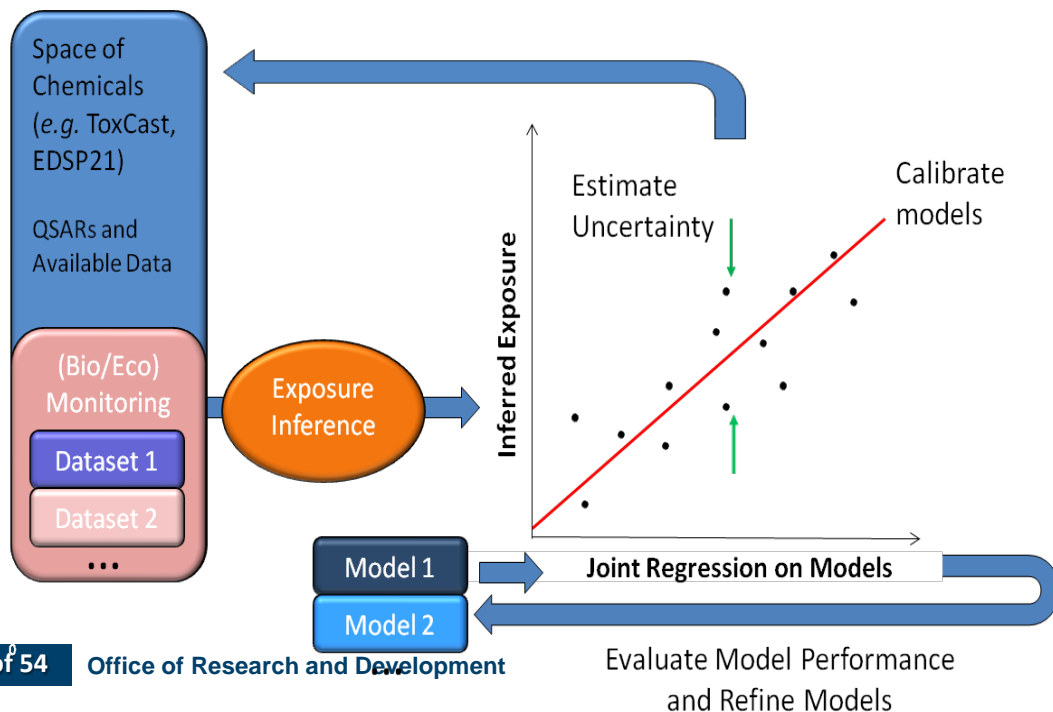
Ring *et al.* (2017)

New Exposure Data and Models



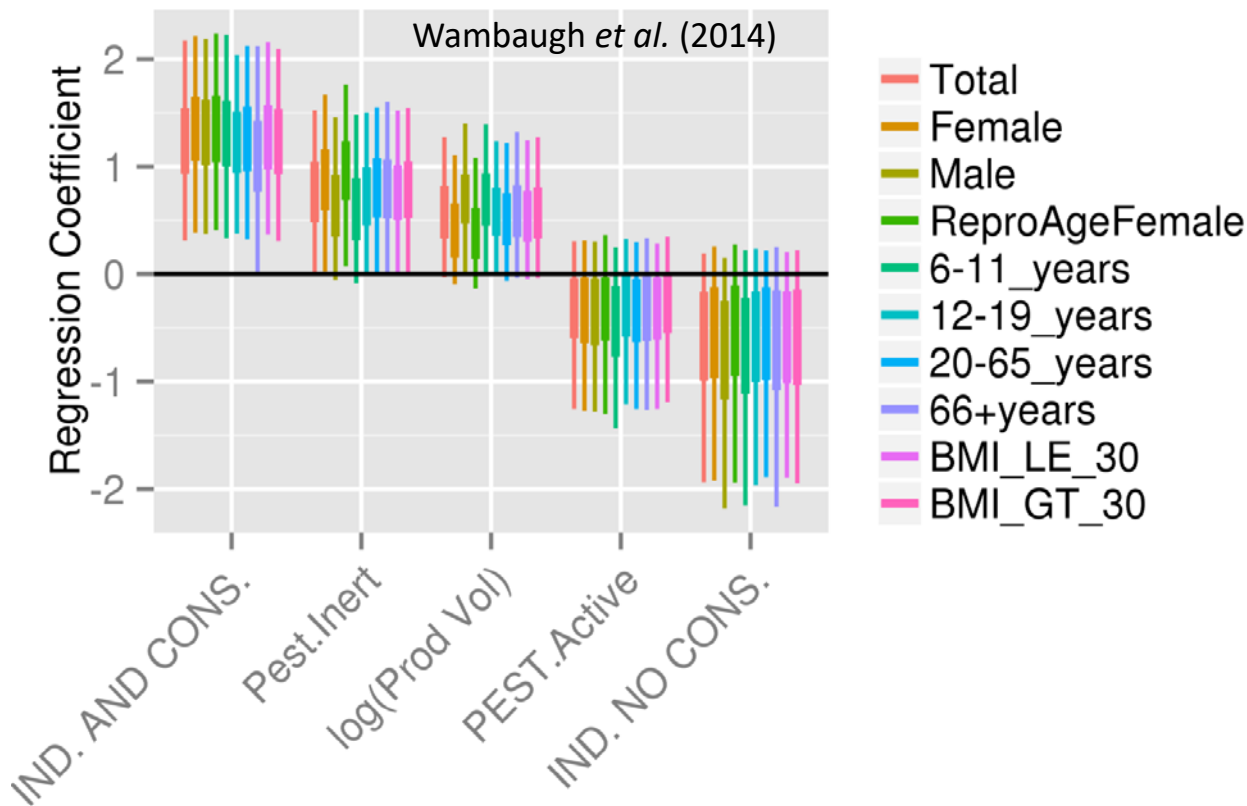
How Do We get Exposed to Chemicals?

- We incorporate multiple models into consensus predictions for 1000s of chemicals within the **Systematic Empirical Evaluation of Models (SEEM) framework** (Wambaugh et al., 2013, 2014)
- We evaluate/calibrate predictions with available monitoring data
- This provides information similar to a sensitivity analysis: What models are working? What data are most needed? This is an iterative process.
- To date we have relied on median U.S. population exposure rates only



Integrating Multiple Models

Heuristics of Exposure



Five descriptors explain roughly 50% of the chemical to chemical variability in median NHANES exposure rates

Same five predictors work for all NHANES demographic groups analyzed – stratified by age, sex, and body-mass index:

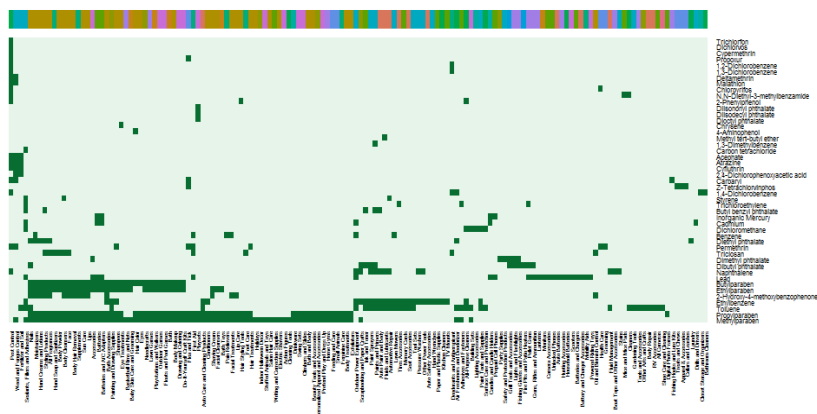
- Industrial and Consumer use
- Pesticide Inert
- Pesticide Active
- Industrial but no Consumer use
- Production Volume

Chemical Use Identifies Relevant Pathways

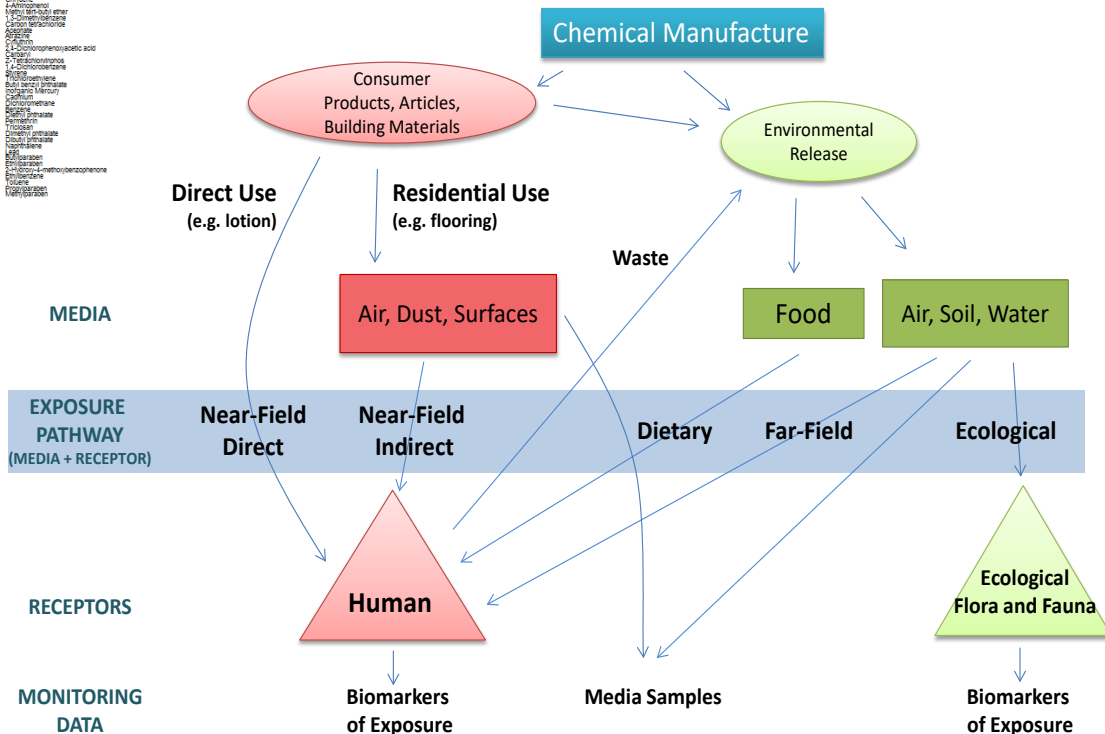
>2000 chemicals with Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) in CPCPdb (Goldsmith *et al.*, 2014)

Some pathways have much higher average exposures!

106 NHANES Chemicals



- Apparel
- Auto and Tires
- Baby
- Beauty
- Craft and Party Supply
- Electronics
- Grocery
- Health
- Home
- Home Improvement
- Patio and Garden
- Pets
- Sports and Outdoors
- Toys



The Chemistry Dashboard

<http://comptox.epa.gov/>

Chemistry Dashboard



Chemistry Dashboard

Search a chemical by systematic name, synonym, CAS number, or InChIKey



☐ Single component search ☐ Ignore isotopes

See what people are saying, read the dashboard [comments!](#)

Need more? Use [advanced search](#).

758 Thousand Chemicals



Chemicals and Products Database

Secure | <https://comptox.epa.gov/dashboard/dsstoxdb/results?utf8=√&search=ethyl+paraben>

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Chemistry Dashboard

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Chemical Properties Env. Fate/Transport Toxicity Values (Beta) ADME (Beta) **Exposure** Assays Similar Molecules (Beta) Synonyms Literature External Links

Comments

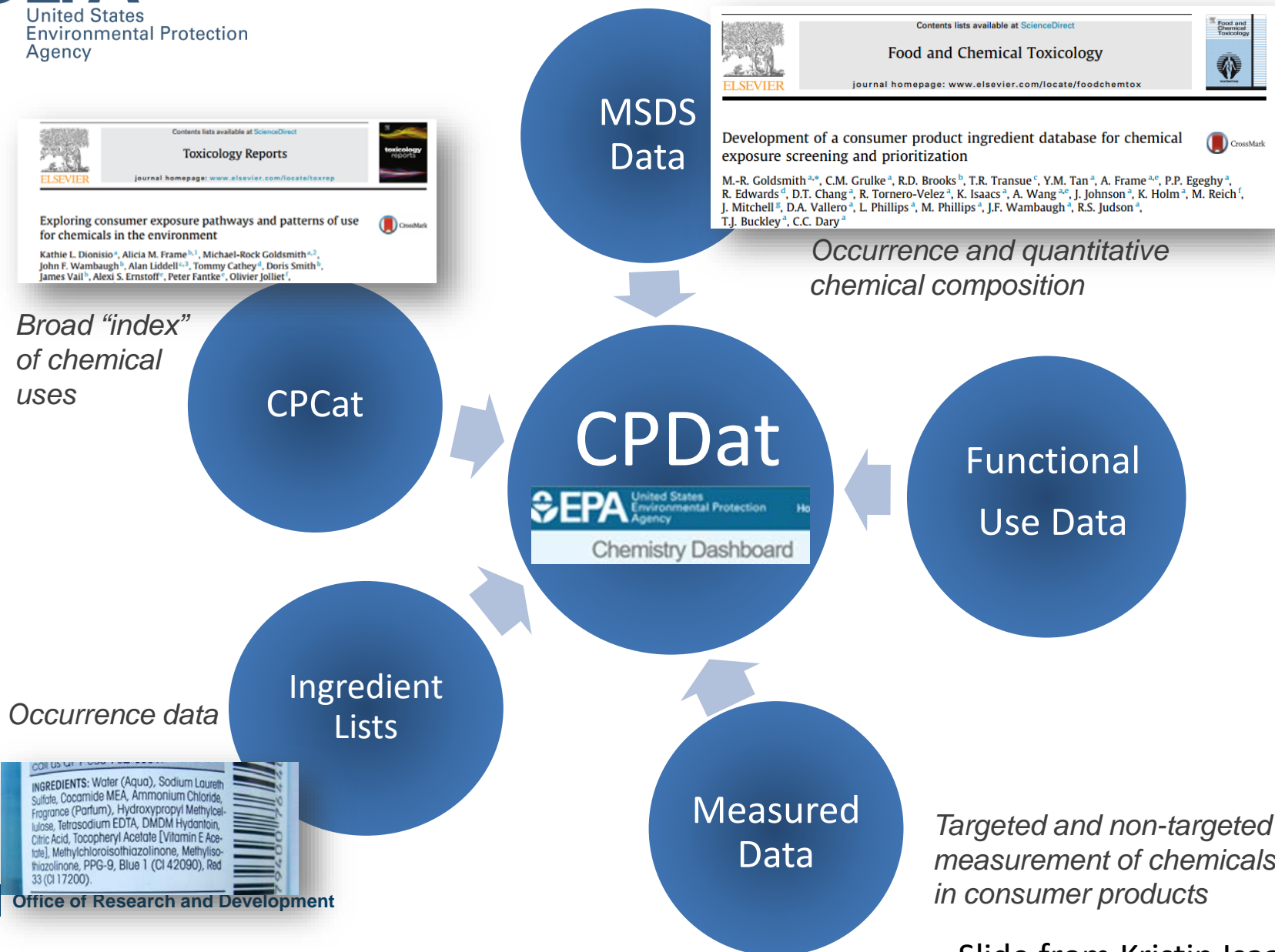
Product & Use Catego...

- Chemical Weight Fraction
- Chemical Functional Use
- Monitoring Data
- Exposure Predictions

Download as: TSV Excel

Product & Use Categories (PUCs) **CPDat**

Product or Use Categorization	Categorization type	Number of Unique Products
personal care: face cream/moisturizer	PUC	51
personal care: lip gloss	PUC	39
personal care: foundation/concealer	PUC	37
personal care: hand/body lotion	PUC	34
personal care: shampoo	PUC	22
arts and crafts: bubble solution	PUC	19
personal care: hair styling	PUC	19
personal care: mascara	PUC	19
personal care: hair conditioner	PUC	17



Material Safety Data Sheets

Goldsmith et al. (2014):

- ~20,000 product-specific Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) curated
- ~2,400 chemicals

Product-specific uses determined using web spider to click through categories (e.g., home goods, bath soaps, baby) to find each product

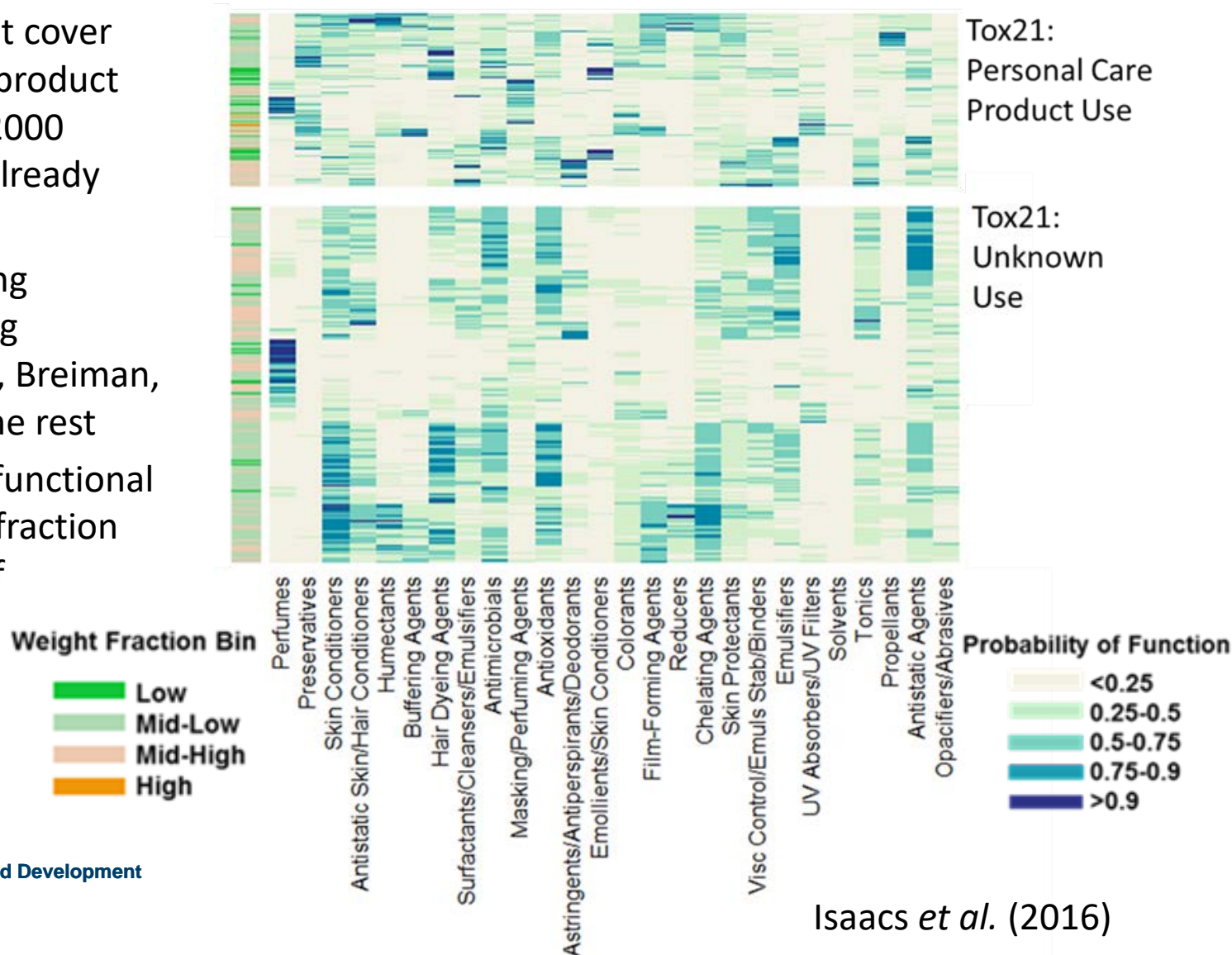
Material Safety Data Sheet

COM-35604

I Product: XXX X SOAP SCUM REMOVER & DISINFECTANT 35604																	
Description: PALE BLUE TO BLUE/GREEN LIQUID WITH HERBAL PINE ODOR																	
Other Designations	Manufacturer	Emergency Telephone No.															
XXX X SOAP SCUM REMOVER	XXX	For Medical Emergencies, call Rocky Mountain Poison Center: 1-800-446-1014 For Transportation Emergencies, call: Chemtrec: 1-800-424-9300															
II Health Hazard Data		III Hazardous Ingredients															
<p>Eye irritant. Prolonged inhalation of vapors or mist may cause respiratory irritation. There are no known medical conditions aggravated by exposure to this product.</p> <p>FIRST AID: <u>EYE CONTACT:</u> Immediately flush eyes with plenty of water for 15 minutes. If irritation persists, call a physician. <u>INHALATION:</u> If breathing is affected, breathe fresh air. <u>SKIN CONTACT:</u> Remove contaminated clothing. Flush skin with water. If irritation persists, call a physician. <u>IF SWALLOWED:</u> Drink a glassful of water and immediately call a physician.</p>		<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Ingredient</th> <th>Concentration</th> <th>Worker Exposure Limit</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Tetrasodium ethylenediamine tetra acetate (EDTA) CAS #64-02-8</td> <td>< 10%</td> <td>none established</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Glycol ether solvent</td> <td>< 8%</td> <td>none established</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cationic/nonionic surfactants</td> <td>< 5%</td> <td>none established</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Trisodium nitrilotriacetate CAS #5064-31-3</td> <td>0.14%</td> <td>none established</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>This product contains trisodium nitrilotriacetate. IARC and NTP list nitrilotriacetic acid (NTA) and its sodium salts as potential carcinogens.</p>	Ingredient	Concentration	Worker Exposure Limit	Tetrasodium ethylenediamine tetra acetate (EDTA) CAS #64-02-8	< 10%	none established	Glycol ether solvent	< 8%	none established	Cationic/nonionic surfactants	< 5%	none established	Trisodium nitrilotriacetate CAS #5064-31-3	0.14%	none established
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IV Special Protection and Precautions		V Transportation and Regulatory Data															
<p>Do not get in eyes, on skin, or on clothing.</p> <p>Avoid contact with food.</p>		<p><u>U.S. DOT Hazard Class:</u> Not restricted</p> <p><u>U.S. DOT Proper Shipping Name:</u> Compound, cleaning, liquid</p> <p><u>EPA CERCLA/SARA TITLE III:</u></p>															

Predicting Chemical Constituents

- CPCPdb does not cover every chemical-product combination (~2000 chemicals, but already >8000 in Tox21)
- We are now using machine learning (Random Forest, Breiman, 2001) to fill in the rest
- We can predict functional use and weight fraction for thousands of chemicals

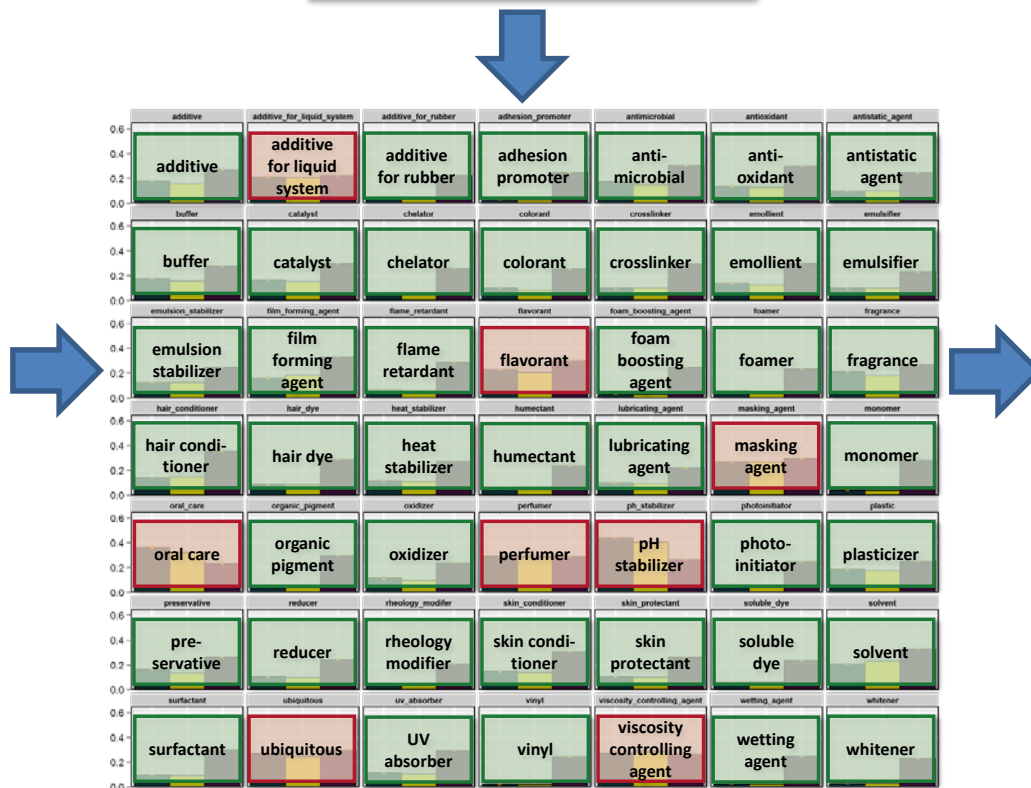
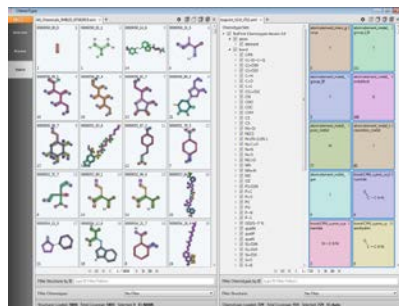
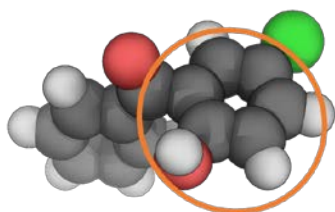


Isaacs *et al.* (2016)

Predicting Function Based on Structure

Chemical Structure and Property Descriptors

Use Database (FUSE)



Prediction of
Of Potential
Alternatives from
Chemical Libraries

Random Forest Based Classification Models (Breiman, 2001)

Each functional model evaluated on the basis of balanced accuracy, 5-fold CV, and Y-randomization classification errors

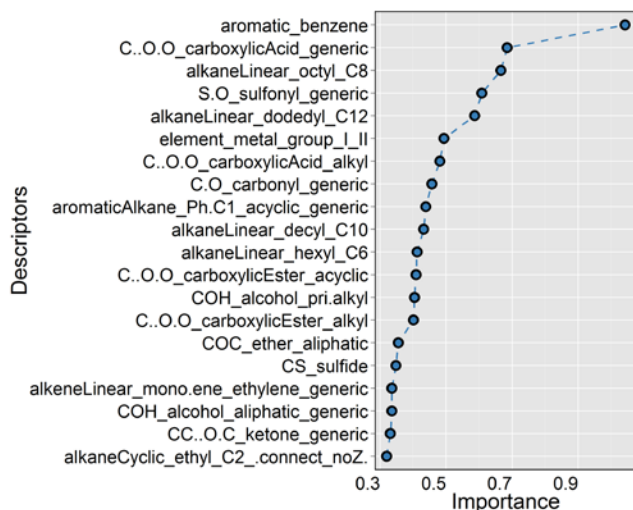
Phillips et al. (2017)

Understanding Use Predictions

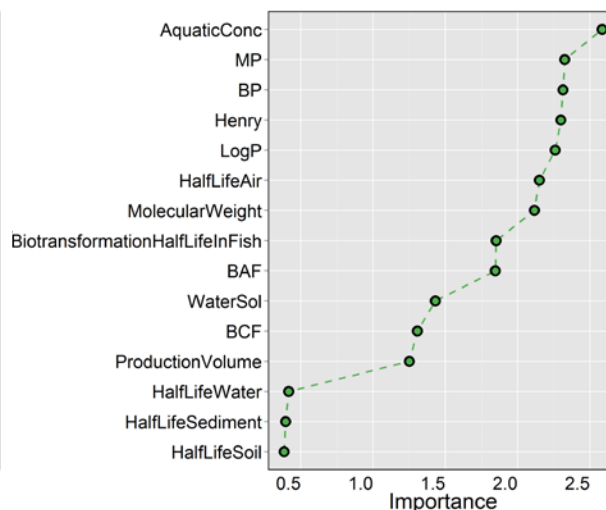
- Each functional model evaluated on the basis of balanced accuracy, 5-fold CV, and Y-randomization classification errors

Random Forest Importance for Viscosity Controller Functional Use (Failed Model)

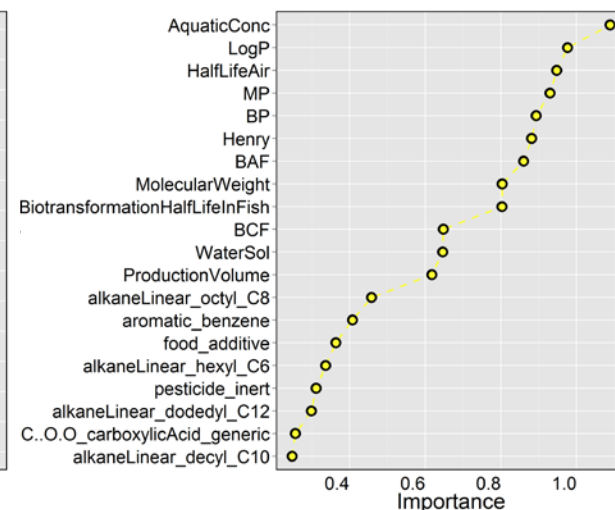
ToxPrint



EPI Suite



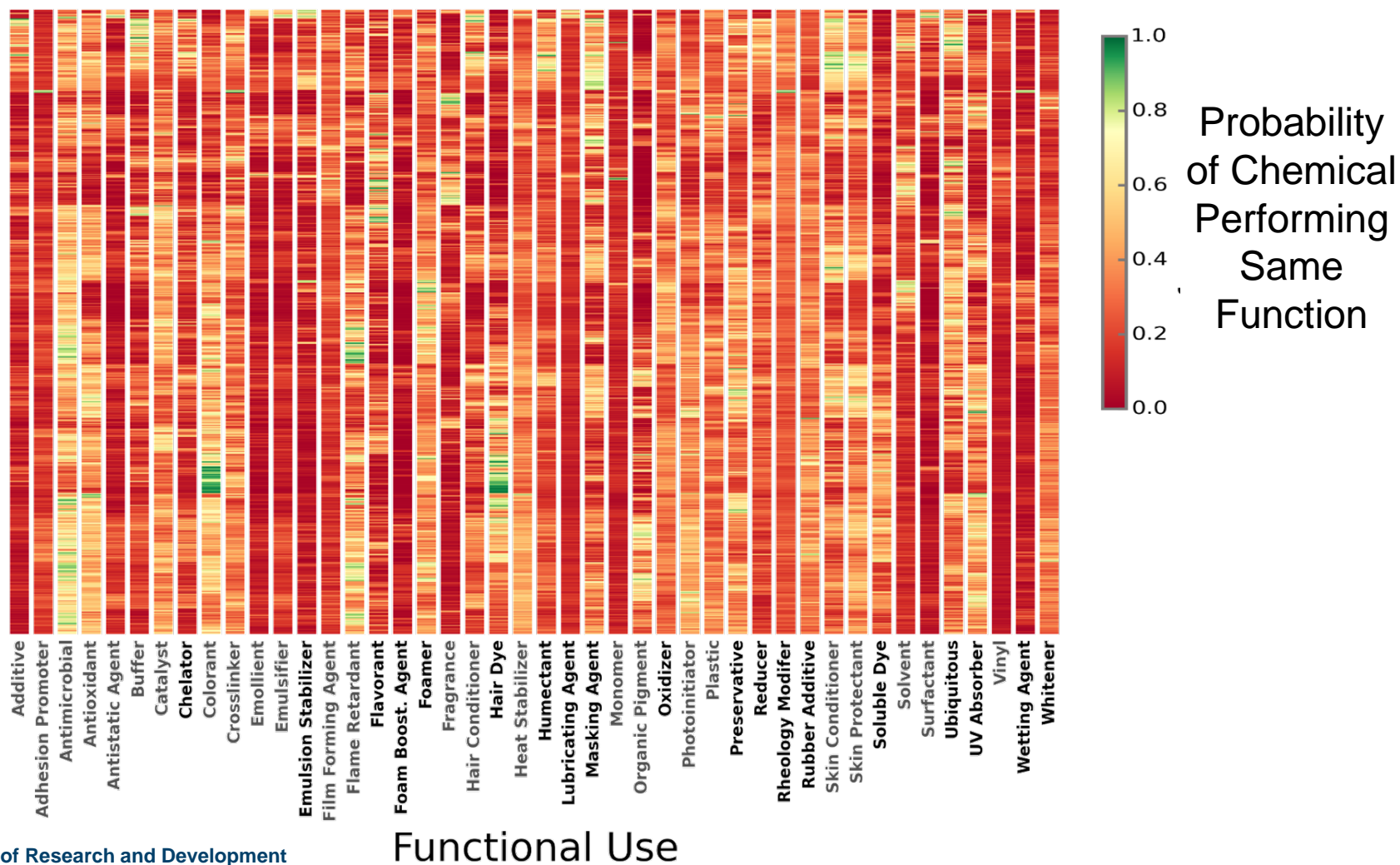
ToxPrint + EPI Suite

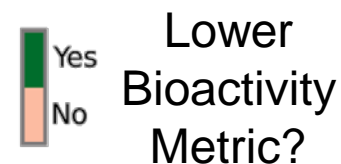


Viscosity controllers can be used to **thicken** or **thin out** mixtures of chemicals..

Screening for Alternatives By Function and Bioactivity

Tox21 Chemicals with
Unknown Functional Use





Phillips et al. (2017)

Non-Targeted and Suspect-Screening Analysis

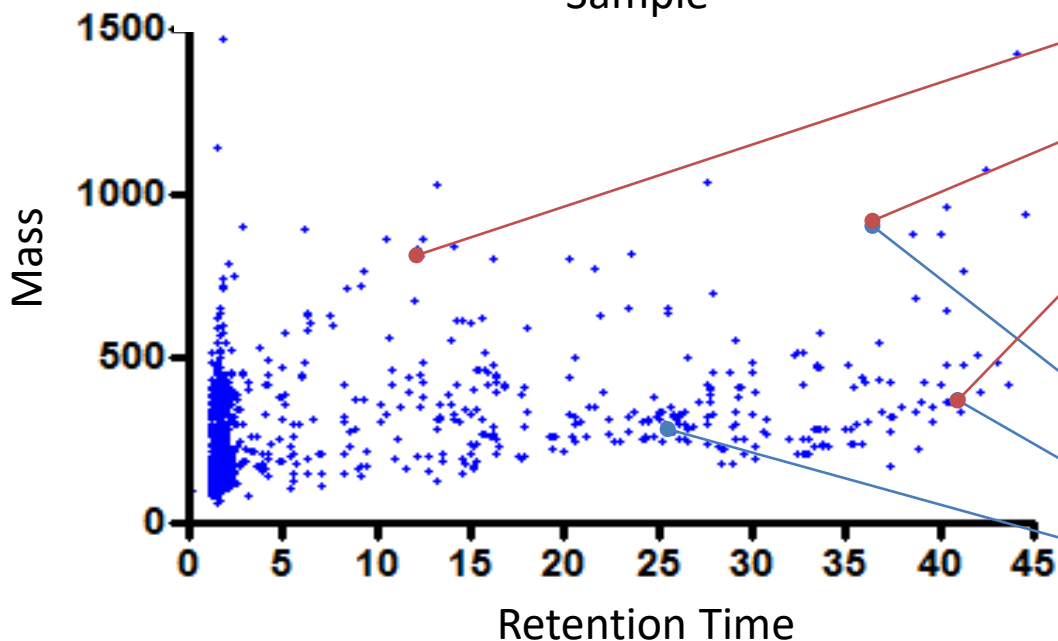
- Models present one way forward, but new analytic techniques may also allow insight in to chemicals composition of products and the greater environment
- EPA is coordinating a comparison of non-targeted screening workflows used by leading academic and government groups (led by Jon Sobus and Elin Ulrich)
 - Examining house dust, human plasma, and silicone wristbands (O'Connell, et al., 2014)
 - Similar to NORMAN Network (Schymanski et al., 2015) analysis of water
- Published analysis on house dust (Rager et al., 2016)
 - 100 consumer products from a major U.S. retailer were analyzed, tentatively identifying 1,632 chemicals, 1,445 which were not in EPA's database of consumer product chemicals (Phillips *et al.*, submitted)



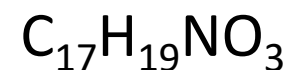
"I'm searching for my keys."

Suspect Screening Example: House Dust

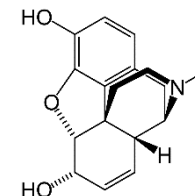
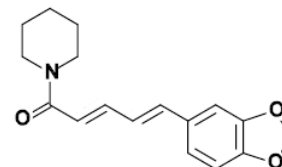
947 Peaks in an American Health Homes Dust
Sample



Each peak corresponds to a chemical with an accurate mass and predicted formula:



Multiple chemicals can have the same mass and formula:



Is chemical A present, chemical B, both, or some other chemical (neither)?

We are expanding our reference libraries using ToxCast chemicals to enable greater numbers and better accuracy of confirmed chemicals

Appropriate Skepticism for Non-Targeted Analysis and Suspect Screening

“As chemists we are obliged to accept the assignment of barium to the observed activity, but as nuclear chemists working very closely to the field of physics we cannot yet bring ourselves to take such a drastic step, which goes against all previous experience in nuclear physics. It could be, however, that a series of strange coincidences has misled us.”

Hahn and Strassmann (1938)

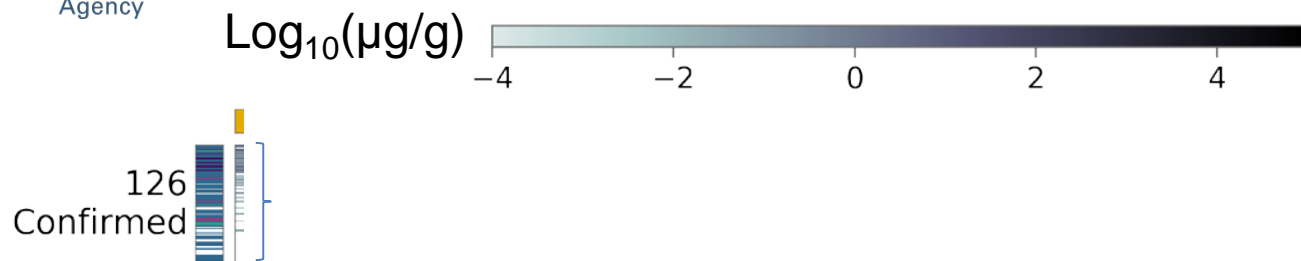
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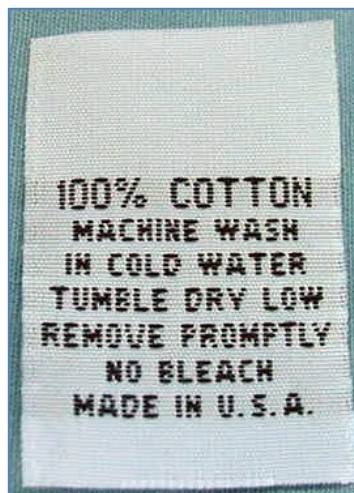
Hahn and Strassmann (1938)

1944 Nobel Prize in Chemistry for “discovery of the fission of heavy nuclei”

Measuring Chemicals in Household Items



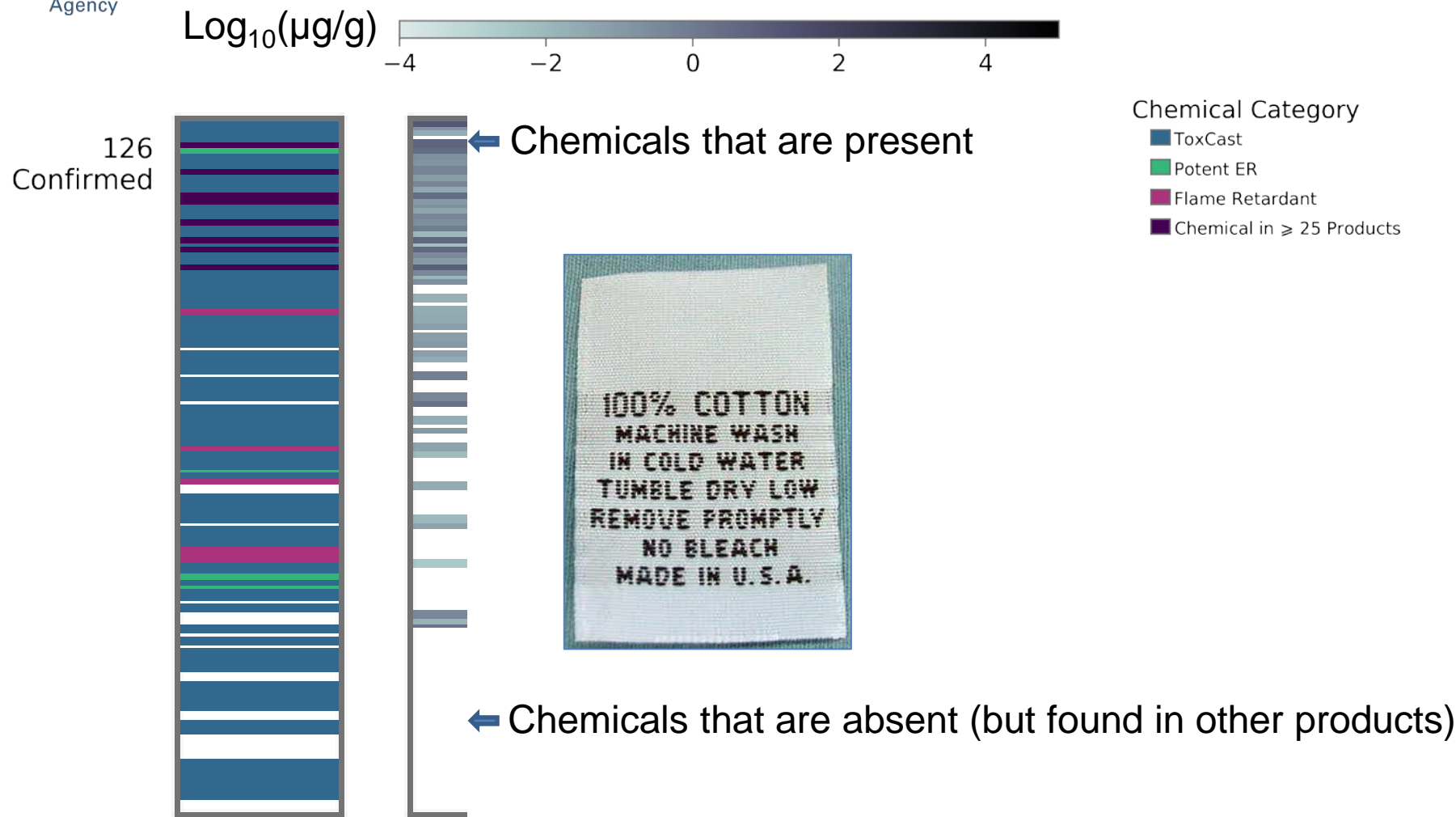
The chemicals
found in a
cotton shirt



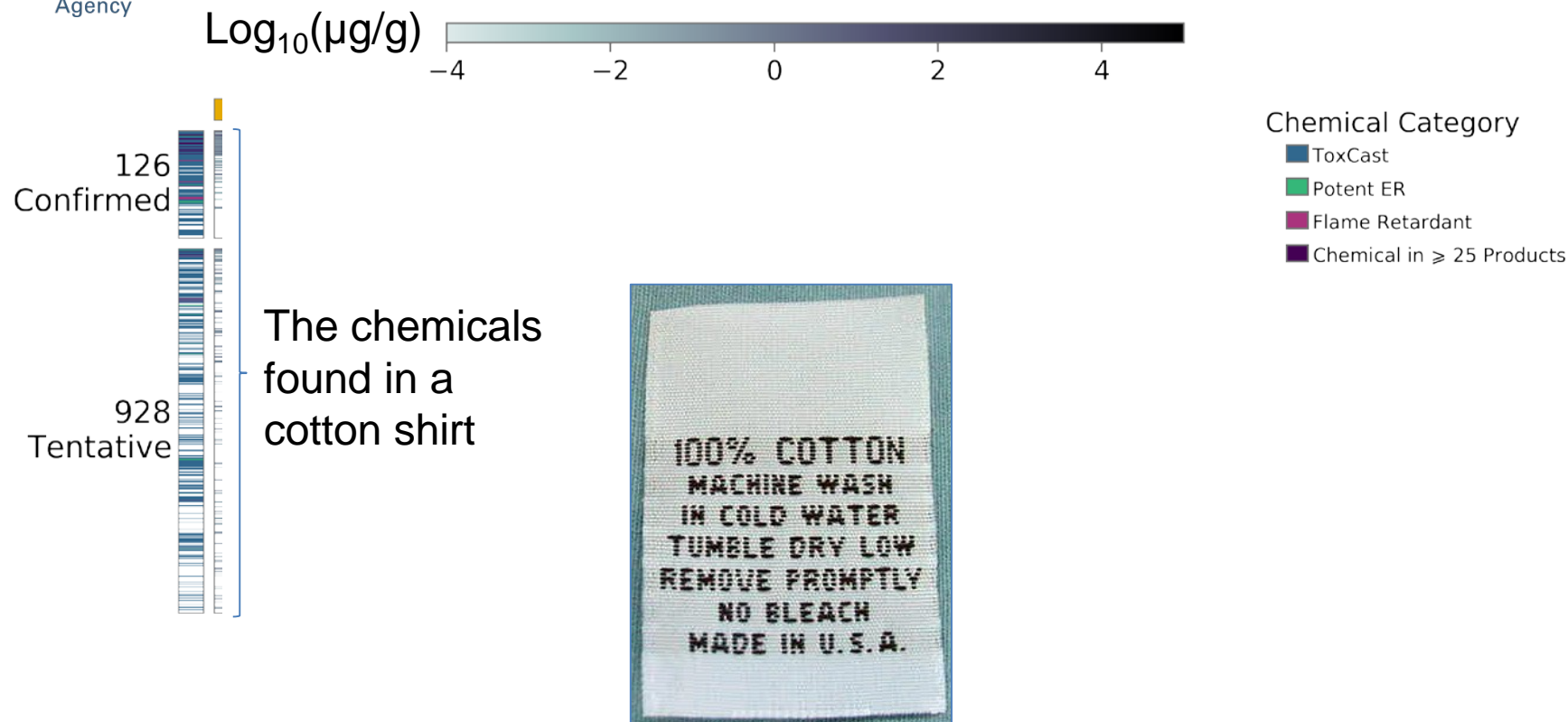
Chemical Category

- ToxCast
- Potent ER
- Flame Retardant
- Chemical in ≥ 25 Products

Measuring Chemicals in Household Items



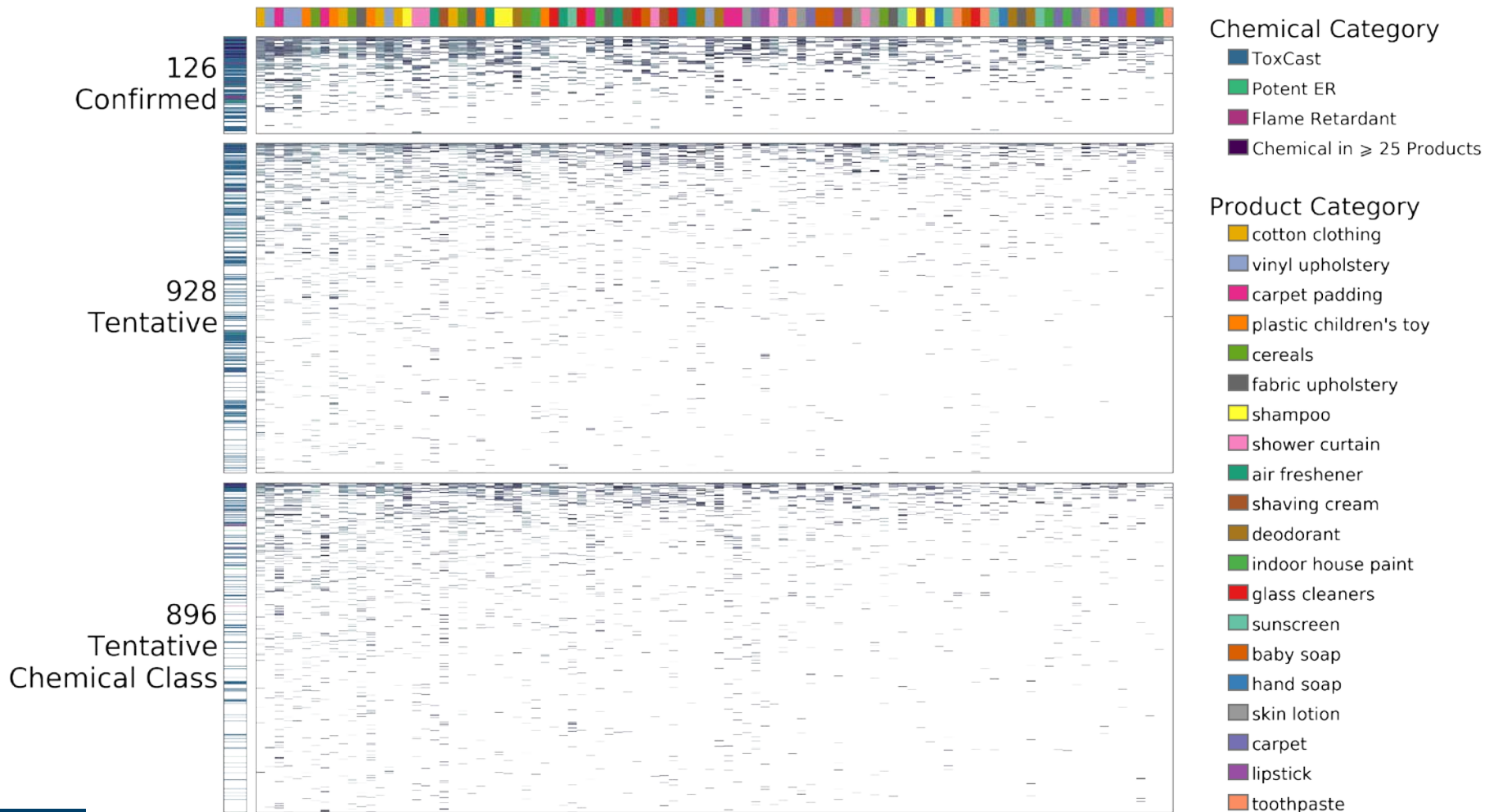
Measuring Chemicals in Household Items



Measuring Chemicals in Household Items

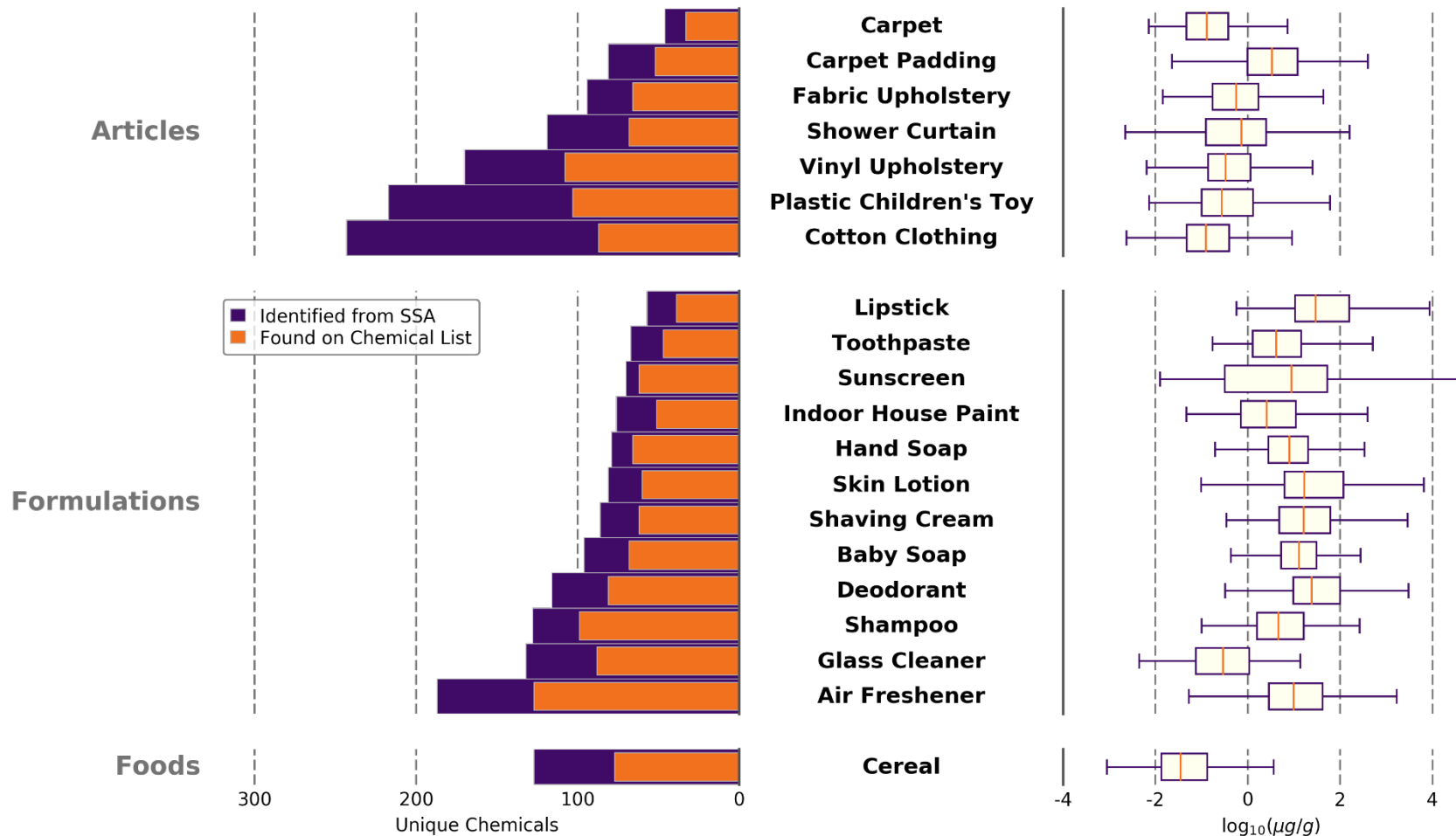
$\text{Log}_{10}(\mu\text{g/g})$

-4 -2 0 2 4



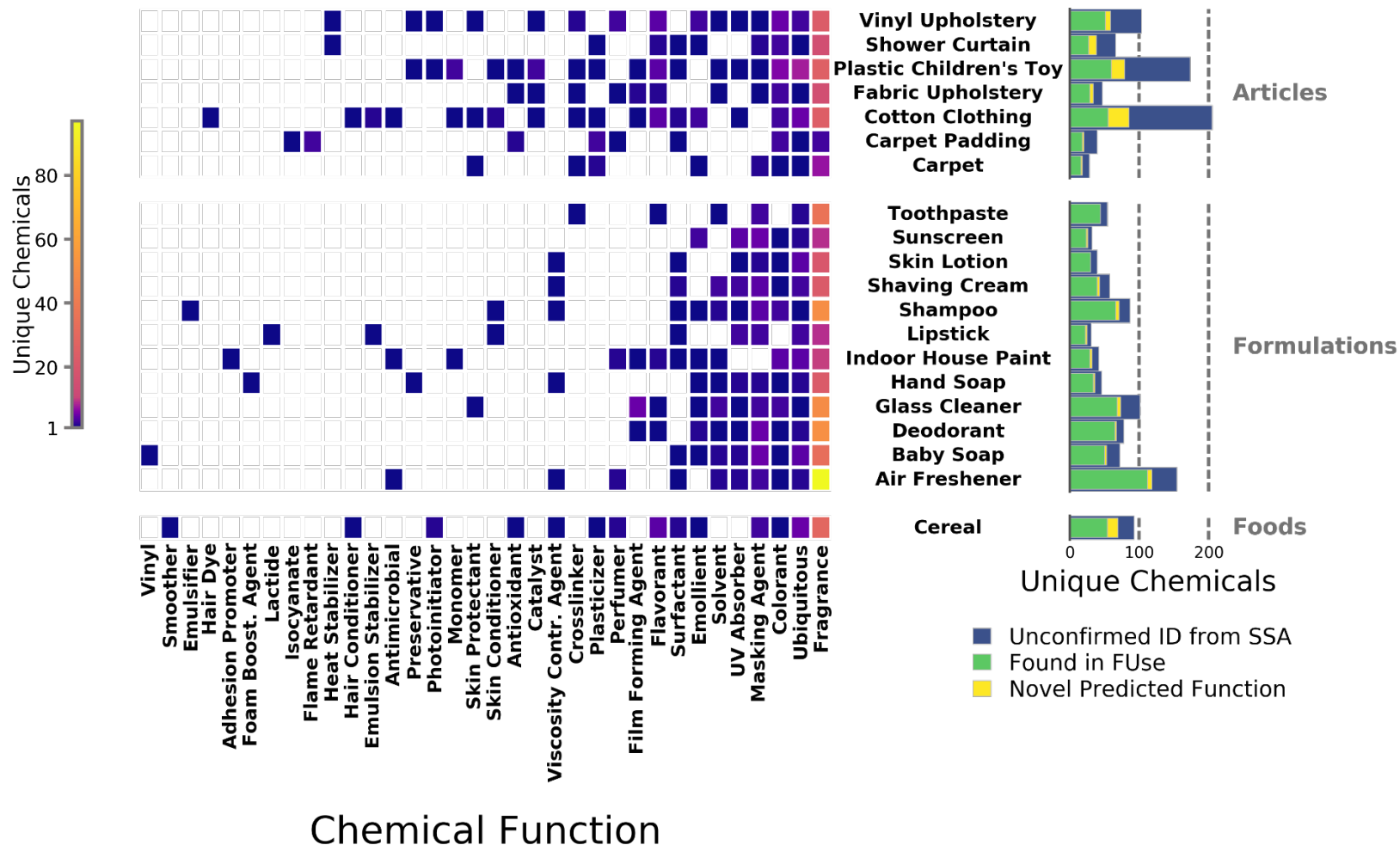
Product Scan Summary

Of 1,632 chemicals confirmed or tentatively identified, 1,445 were not present in CPCPdb (Goldsmith, et al., 2015)



Predicting Chemical Function

Using the methods of Phillips *et al.*, (2017):



Caveats to Non-Targeted Screening

- **Chemical presence in an object does not mean that exposure occurs**
- **Only some chemical identities are confirmed, *most are tentative***
 - Can use formulation predictor models as additional evidence
- **Chemical presence in an object does not necessarily mean that it is bioavailable**
 - Can build emission models
- **Small range for quantitation leads to underestimation of concentration**
- **Product de-formulation caveats:**
 - Samples are being homogenized (e.g., grinding) and are extracted with a solvent (dichloro methane, DCM)
 - Only using one solvent (DCM, polar) and one method GCxGC-TOF-MS
 - Varying exposure intimacy, from carpet padding to shampoo to cereal
- **Exposure alone is not risk, need hazard data**

Conclusions

- We would like to know more about the risk posed by thousands of chemicals in the environment – which ones should we start with?
 - High throughput screening (HTS) provides a path forward for identifying potential hazard, but the real world is full of more mixtures than we can test
- Exposure-based priority setting allows identification of the most relevant mixtures
- New informatic tools are needed to analyze complex data characterizing human exposure
- New analytical chemistry tools (i.e., non-targeted analysis or NTA) are needed to develop the data to understand what and how we are exposed to
 - These NTA tools present their own informatics challenges
- Finally, using *in vitro* methods developed for pharmaceuticals, we can relatively efficiently predict TK for large numbers of chemicals, but we are limited by analytical chemistry



Chemical Safety for Sustainability (CSS) Rapid Exposure and Dosimetry (RED) Project

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