A man in a white lab coat with a stethoscope around his neck, holding a small white object, standing in front of a city skyline at night. The skyline features several tall, illuminated skyscrapers, including the Burj Khalifa, reflecting in a body of water in the foreground.

Urban Metabolism Metrology: a powerful approach for tracking narcotic use and emerging pathogens in populations around the world

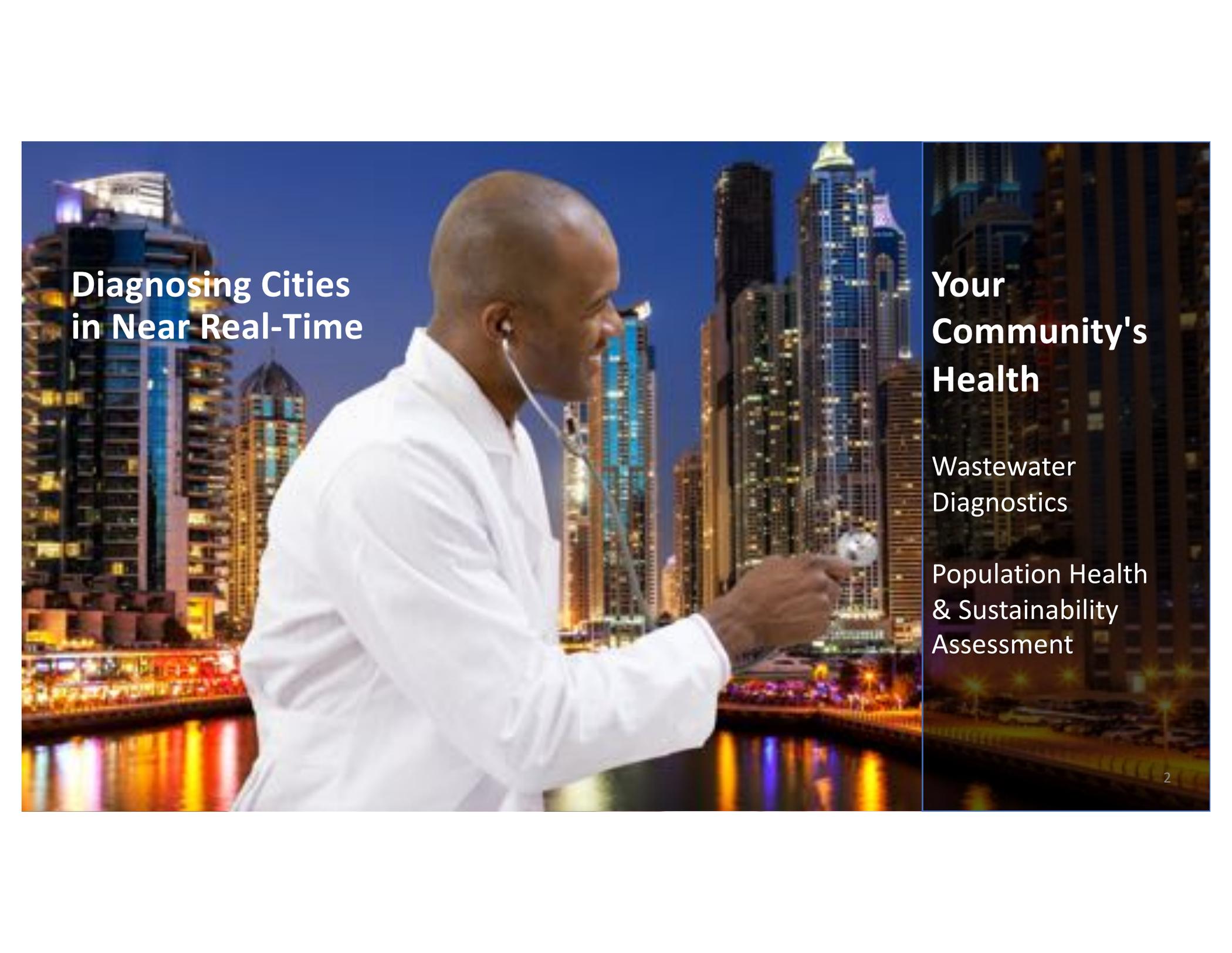
Rolf U. Halden

Biodesign Center for Environmental Health Engineering

The Biodesign Institute

Arizona State University

October 26, 2018



**Diagnosing Cities
in Near Real-Time**

**Your
Community's
Health**

Wastewater
Diagnostics

Population Health
& Sustainability
Assessment

Wastewater Treatment Plants as Public Health Observatories

- Near-real time daily samples
- 70-100% of population reflected in samples
- Chemical agents
- Biological agents
- Assessment of threats, exposure, disease status
- Urine
- Stool
- Blood
- Sputum
- Sweat
- Other

Outline

- Case study => antimicrobials & antibiotic resistance
- Opioid epidemic
- Surveillance of infectious diseases & resistance genes



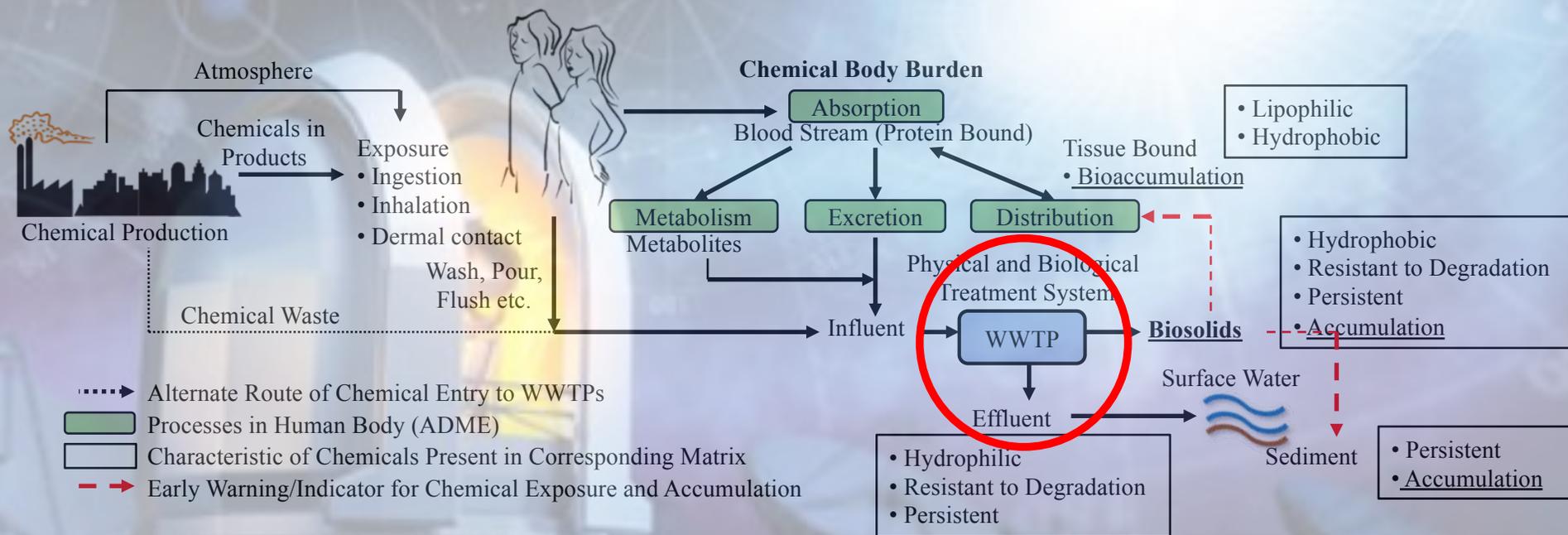
Heidler & Halden, *Chemosphere* 2007, 66(2):362-369



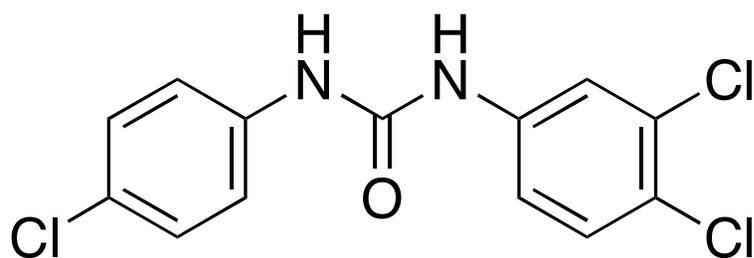
Image Credits: fair-use-internet sources

Wastewater Treatment Plants (WWTPs)

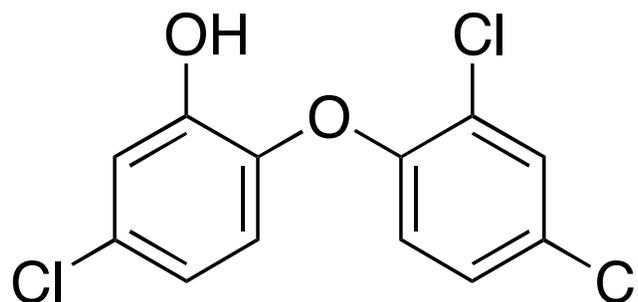
Accessing an underutilized 'Information Super Highway'



Successful Case Study: Antimicrobial Compounds



Triclocarban (TCC)



Triclosan (TCS)





Wastewater-based Epidemiology

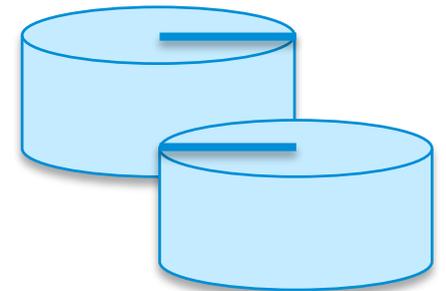
– Key Information from the Mouth of the WWTP



**Anonymized, composited
health information (in urine,
stool, sputum & blood) of the
entire community**

Centralized sewer
system

Wastewater
Treatment Plant
(WWTP)

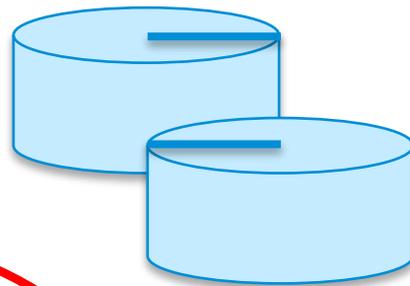


UMM: Additional Critical Data Gleaned from WWTPs



<http://pixgood.com/school-community-clipart.html>

Wastewater Treatment
Plant (WWTP)



**Persistent, water-soluble
chemicals in
effluent**

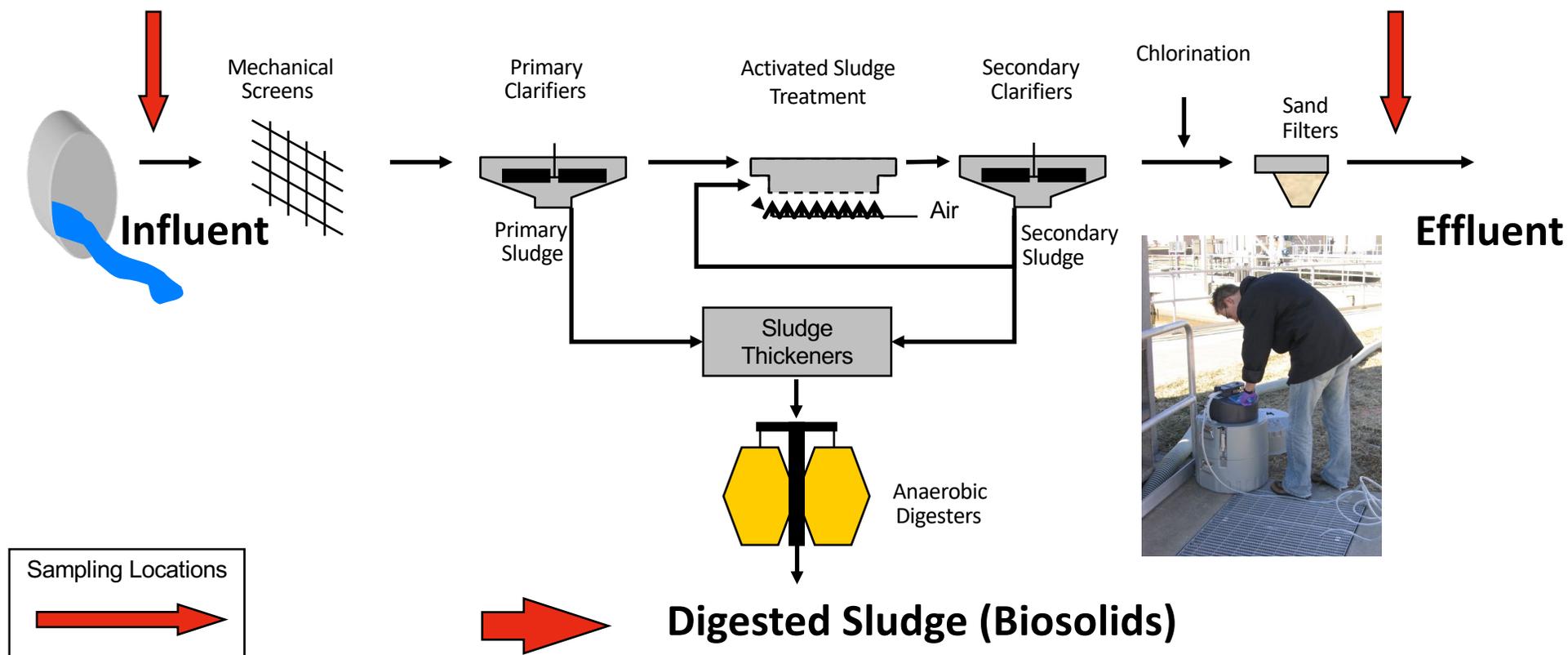


Non-persistent, **green
chemicals** degrade

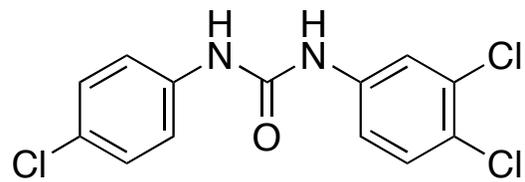
**Persistent, potentially
bioaccumulative** chemicals in sludge

Halden, 2018

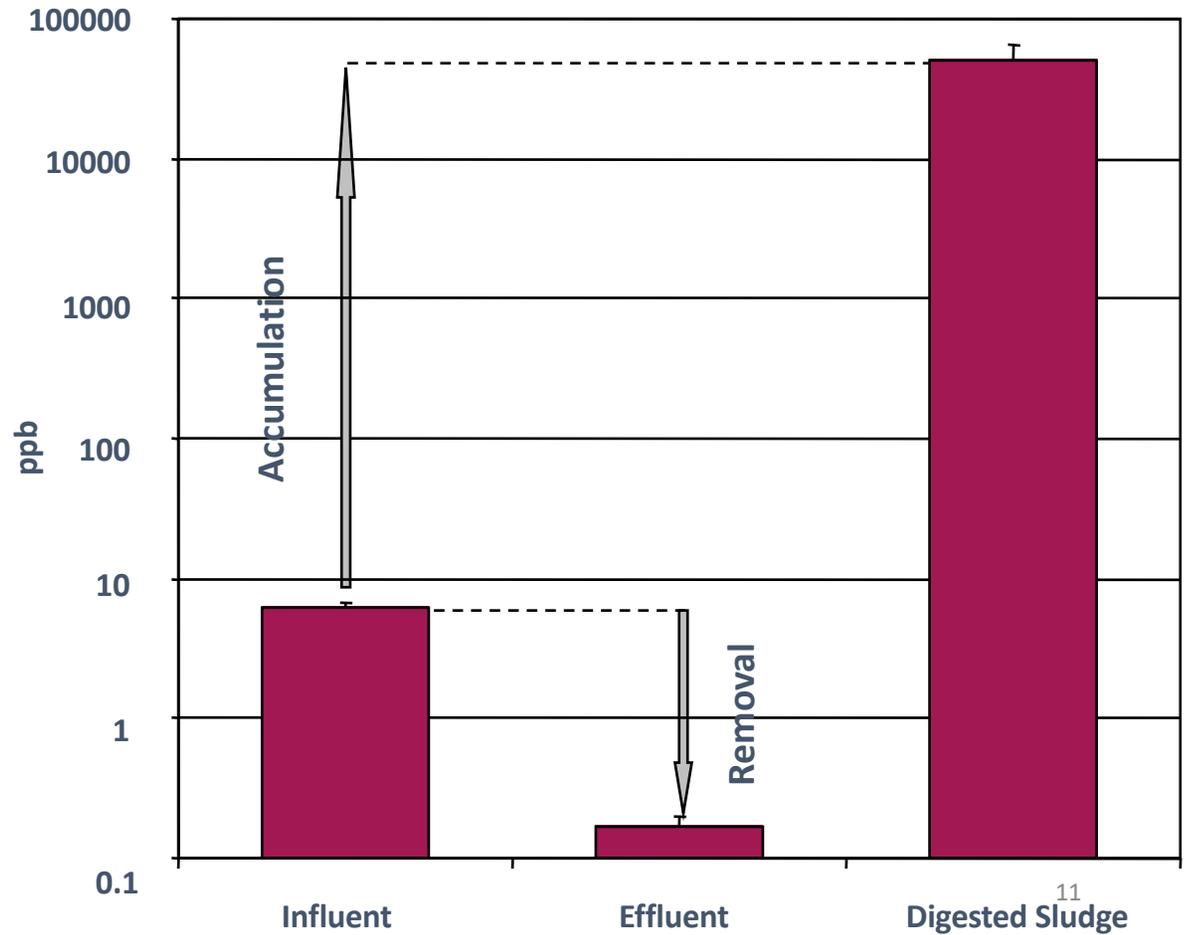
Antimicrobials: what quantity and where do they go?



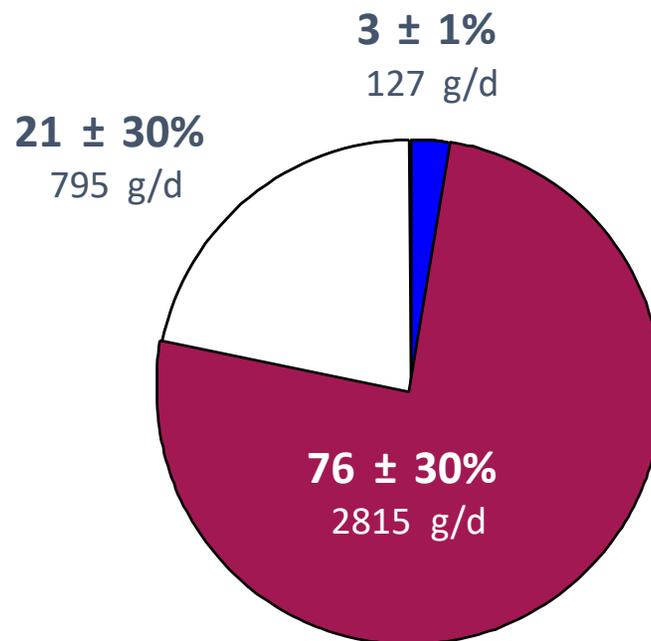
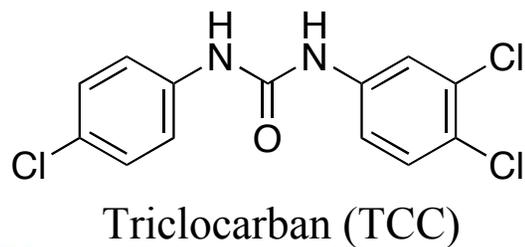
Removal \neq Degradation



Triclocarban (TCC)

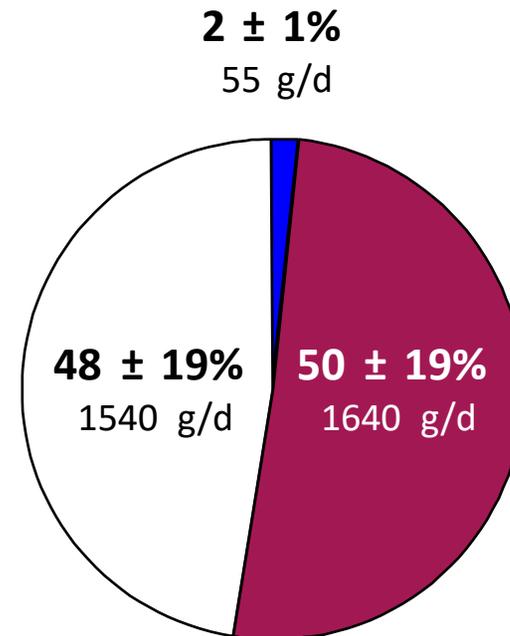
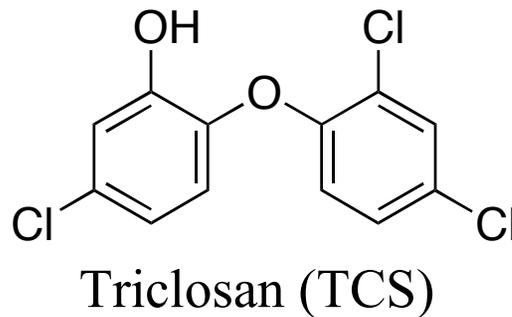


Mass Balance Assessment: Fate of TCC During Activated Sludge Treatment



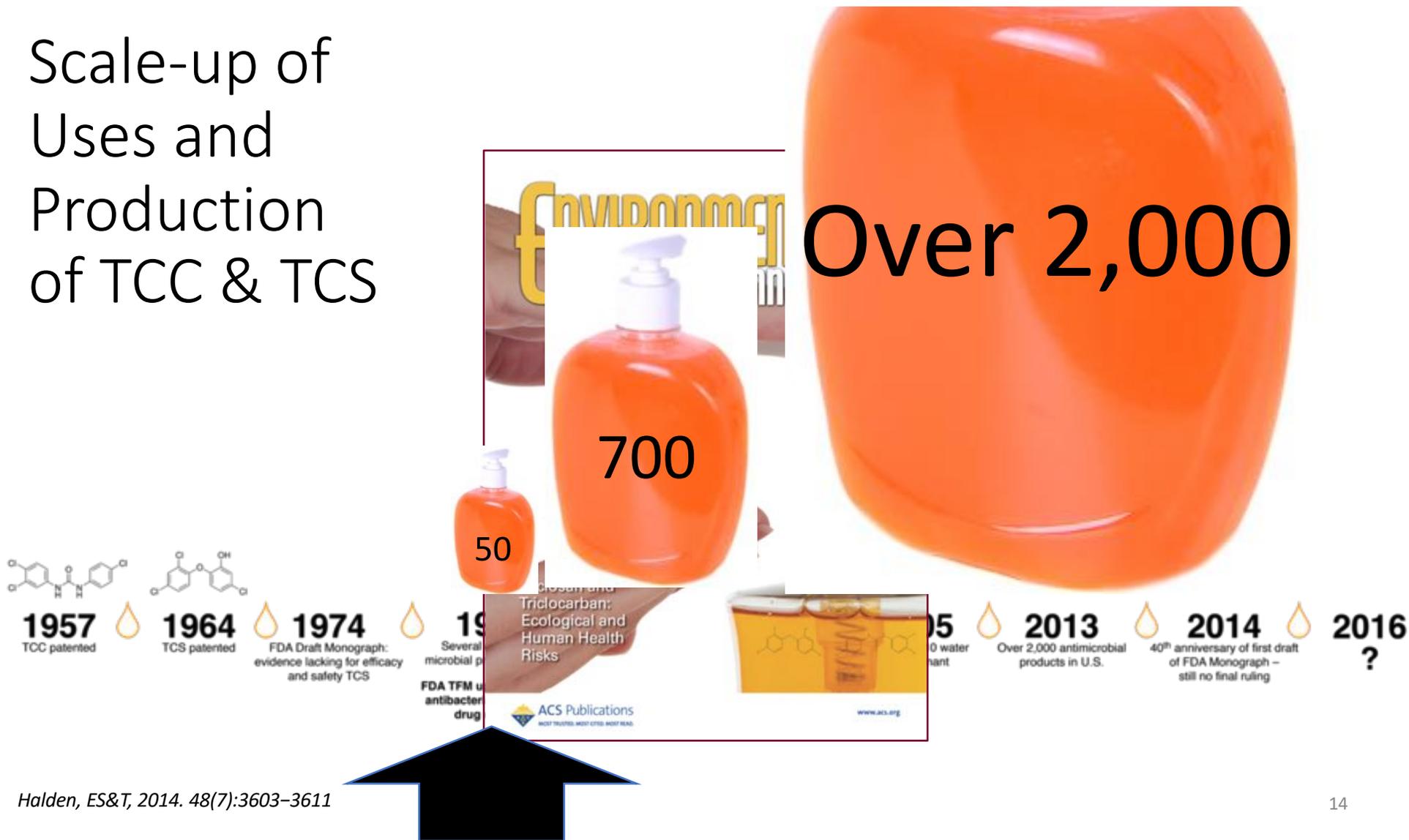
- Mass in effluent
- Mass in sludge
- Mass transformed/lost

Mass Balance Assessment: Fate of Triclosan in Activated Sludge WWTP



- Mass in effluent
- Mass in sludge
- Mass transformed/lost

Scale-up of Uses and Production of TCC & TCS



Halden, ES&T, 2014. 48(7):3603-3611

What Happens to Antimicrobials in Soap?

About 450,000 lbs/y of triclosan and triclocarban are applied inadvertently on U.S. agricultural land via sewage sludge disposal

Pathway for contamination of water and food with antimicrobials and drug-resistant pathogens

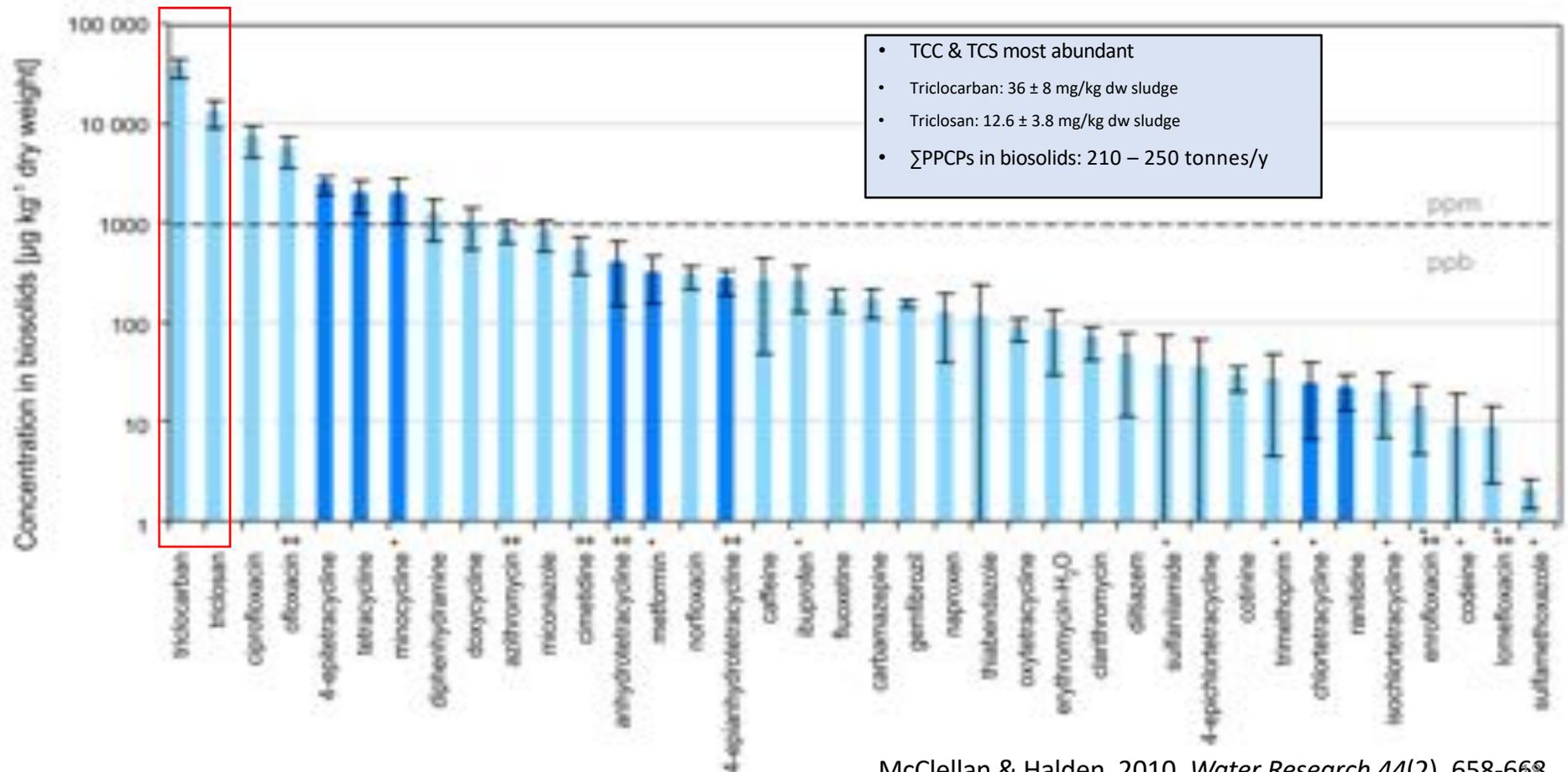




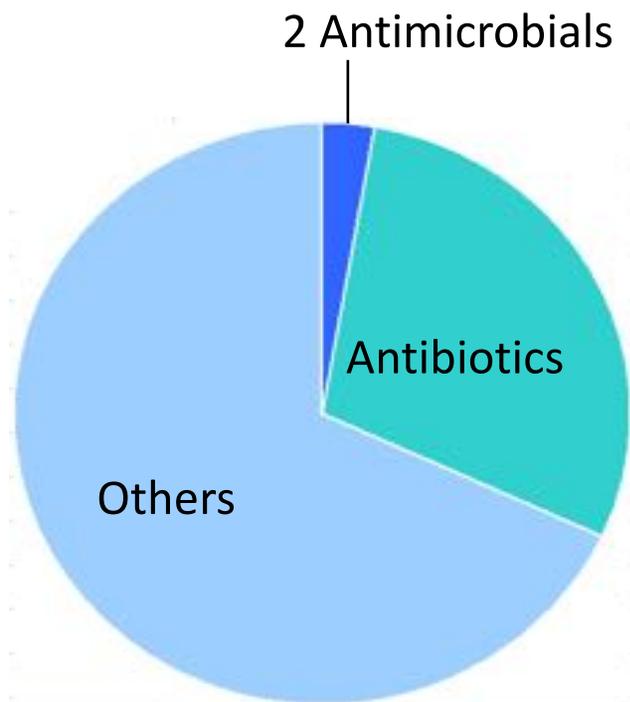
Antimicrobials: from production to use to wastewater to fertilizer to crops to food.



Pharmaceuticals in NSSS Samples from 2001

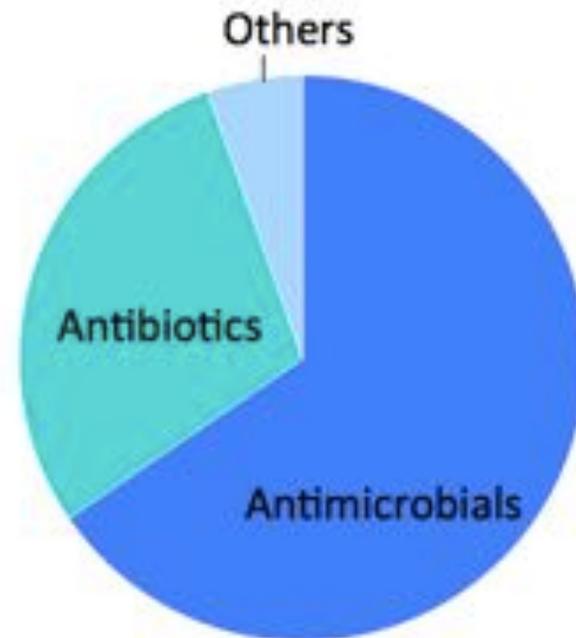


Triclosan & Triclocarban: Regulatory Intervention



Number of Compounds, N = 72

McClellan & Halden, Water Res. 44: 626-636

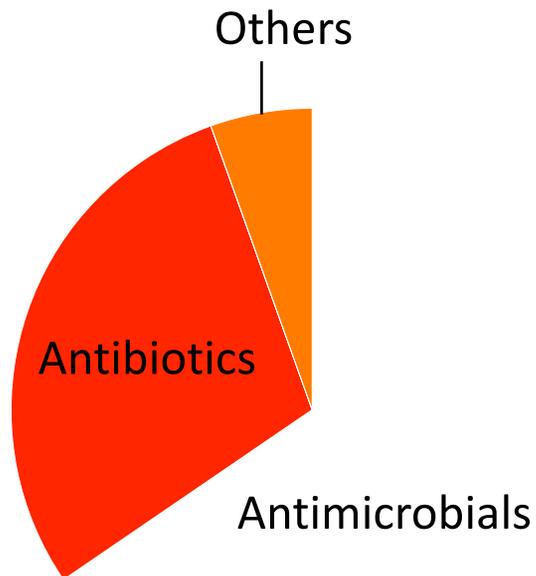


Mass of Compounds

EPA Method 1694

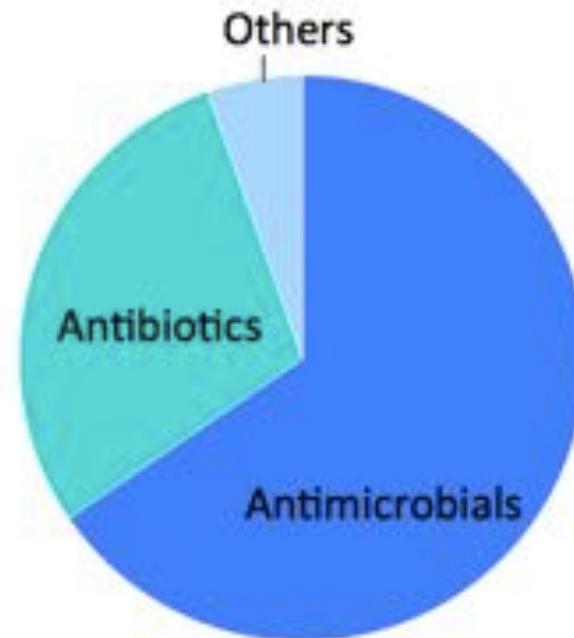
Impact of U.S. FDA Ban

U.S. Ban announced 2016, effective September 2017



Removal of TCS/TCC => 60% less
PPCP mass in sludge

Halden, 2014. *ES&T* 48:3603–3611



Mass of Compounds
EPA Method 1694

Human Health Observatory (HHO) at ASU

- >300 WWTPs globally; >200 in U.S.

Representative of 16,000+ U.S. plants

Unbiased national estimates

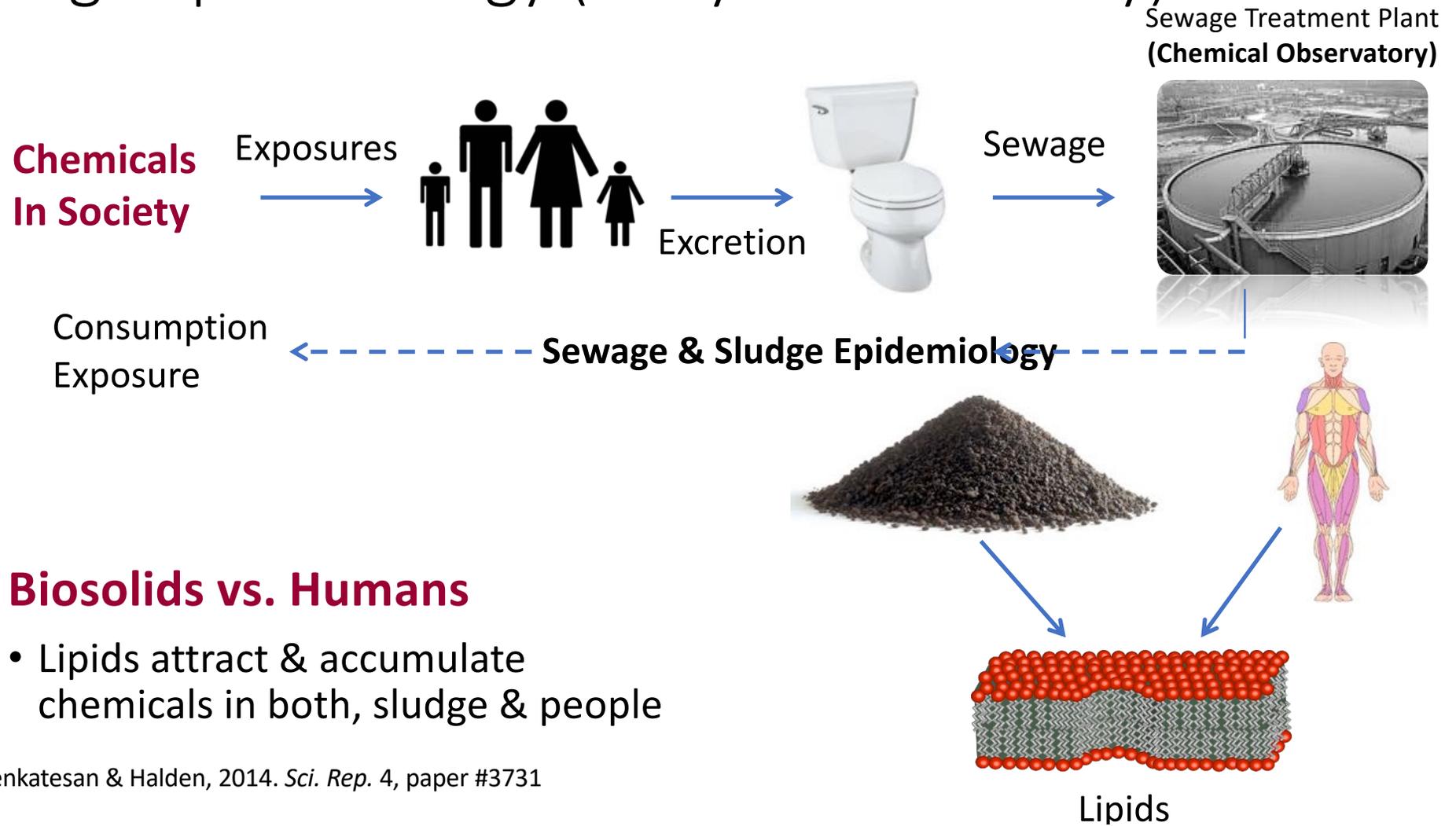
- >10% of U.S. pop.; >32M people
- >150M people worldwide
- Largest archive in the U.S./world
- Anonymity through size



Environ. Sci. Technol. 2014, 48, 3603–3611

Venkatesan & Halden, 2014. *Environ. Sci. Pollut. Res.* 22 (3), 1577–1586

Sludge Epidemiology (Body Burden Study)

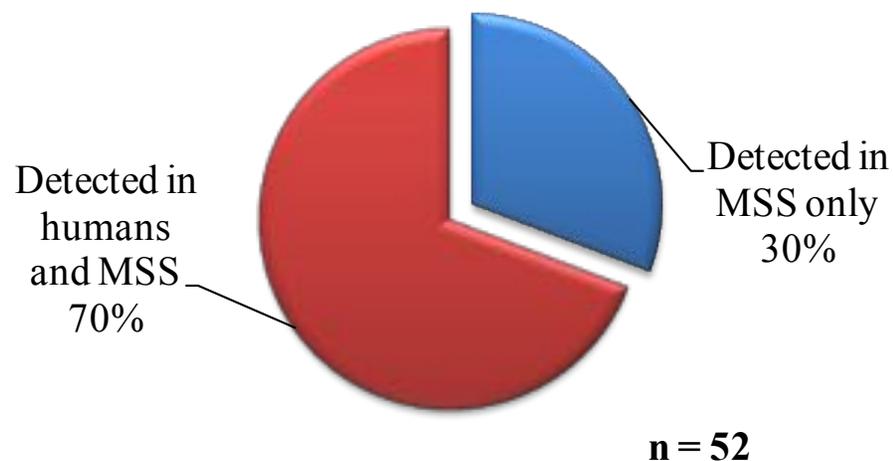


Venkatesan & Halden, 2014. *Sci. Rep.* 4, paper #3731

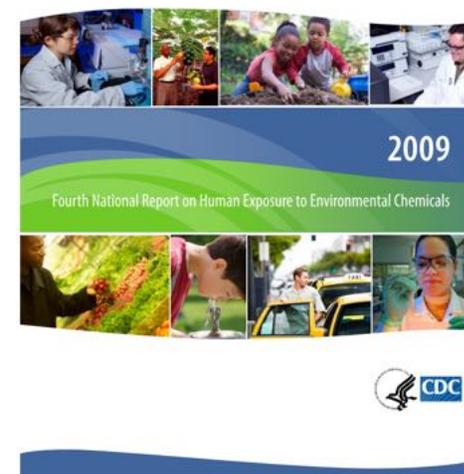
Qualitative Info: Toxic Chemicals in U.S. People

- CDC national report on human exposure to environmental chemicals
- 139 chemicals detected in human samples, NHANES
- Compare with MSS (52 chemicals commonly screened)

Environmental chemicals

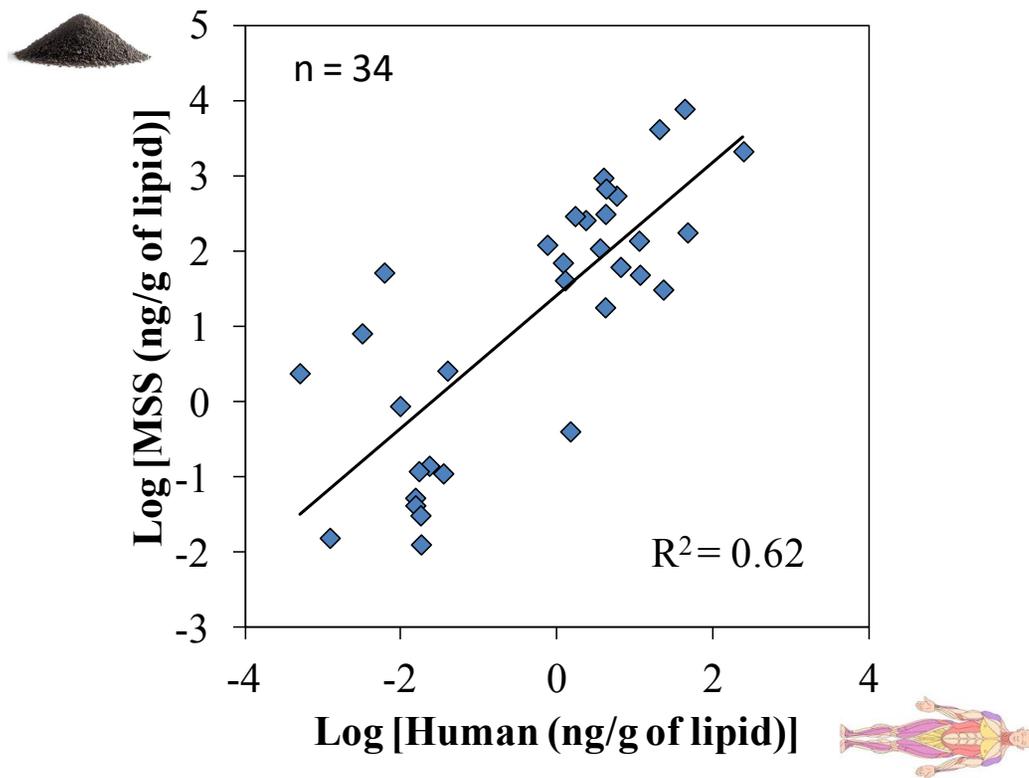


Venkatesan & Halden, 2014. *Sci. Rep.* 4, paper #3731



- 36 detects our of 52
- **~70% overlap**

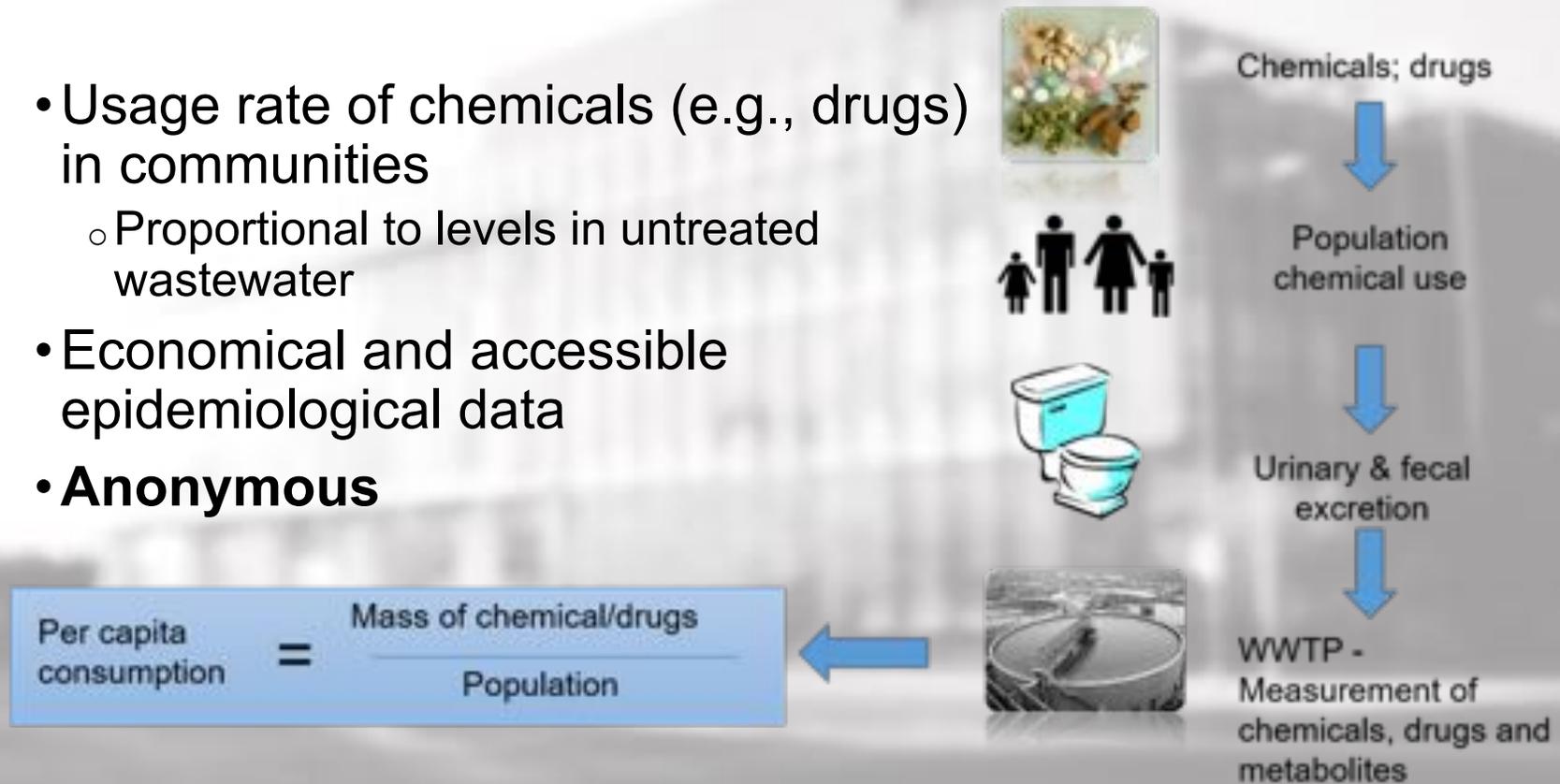
Quantitative Info: Chemical Body Burden in Humans



- Lipid-normalized concentration
 - Chemicals detected in human serum and tissues
- **Indicator** of chemical body burden in humans
- Biosolids are a sentinel matrix; not the source of exposure
- **'Early warning system'**

Community Wastewater – A Public Health Indicator

- Usage rate of chemicals (e.g., drugs) in communities
 - Proportional to levels in untreated wastewater
- Economical and accessible epidemiological data
- **Anonymous**



Metrics and Biomarkers Monitored

Metrics	Parameter	Biomarkers and Proxies
Diet	Soy/Vegetables Meat	Phytoestrogens Creatinine
Lifestyle	Cigarette smoking Alcohol ingestion Substance Abuse	Tobacco metabolites Ethanol and metabolites Opioids , morphine, heroin, etc.
Health	Stress Infectious Diseases	Cortisol, cortisone Viruses, bacteria, resistance genes
Environment	Unsustainable chemicals	Persistent and toxic chemicals added to household and personal care products
Indicators for chemical body burden	Human metabolites of unsustainable chemicals	Urinary and fecal metabolites and other bioaccumulative chemicals

Evidence-based Decision-making in Public Health

- ASU is partnering with communities across the U.S. and worldwide to improve public health, focusing on
 - Chemical threats
 - Biological threats
 - Sustainability
- E.g., Informing the selection and optimization of interventions for combating:
 - Abuse of opioids, alcohol, marijuana, smoking, etc.
 - Spread of toxic chemicals and diseases



Targeted Narcotics

Morphine

Parent MDL: 0.9 ng/L
Met. MDL: 0.2 ng/L

Codeine

Parent MDL: 1.4 ng/L
Met. MDL: 0.8 ng/L

Oxycodone

Parent MDL: 0.2 ng/L
Met. MDL: 0.3 ng/L

Heroin

Parent MDL: 0.3 ng/L
Met. MDL: 0.3 ng/L

Fentanyl

Parent MDL: 0.3 ng/L
Met. MDL: 0.2 ng/L

Methadone

Met. MDL: 1.7 ng/L

Buprenorphine

Parent MDL: 140 ng/L
Met. MDL: 120 ng/L

Amphetamine

Parent MDL: 0.9 ng/L

Methylphenidate

Parent MDL: 0.3 ng/L

Alprazolam

Parent MDL: 0.5 ng/L
Met. MDL: 0.2 ng/L

Cocaine

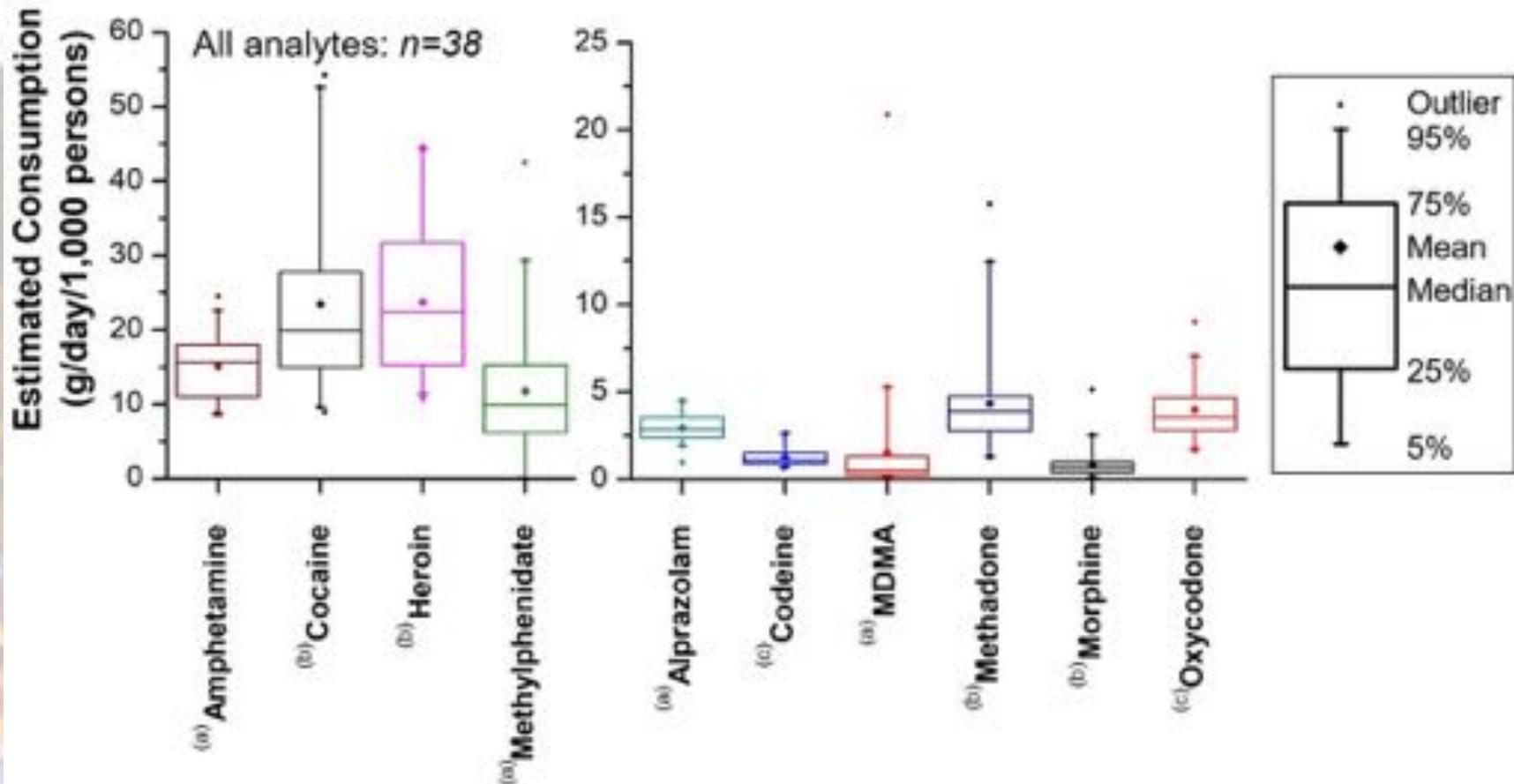
Parent MDL: 0.6 ng/L
Met. MDL: 0.7 ng/L

MDMA

Parent MDL: 0.5 ng/L

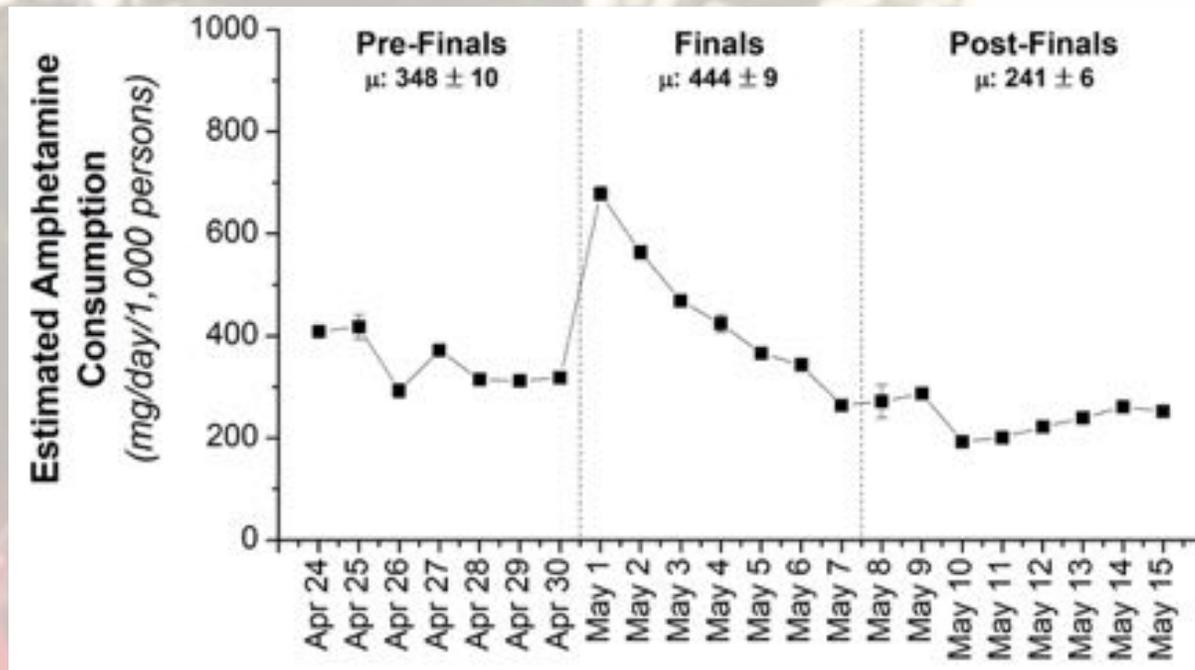
Gushgari, A.J., Driver, E.M., Steele, J.C., Halden, R.U., 2018. Tracking narcotics consumption at a Southwestern U.S. university campus by wastewater-based epidemiology. *Journal of Hazardous Materials*.

Consumption of Narcotics on a Uni. Campus



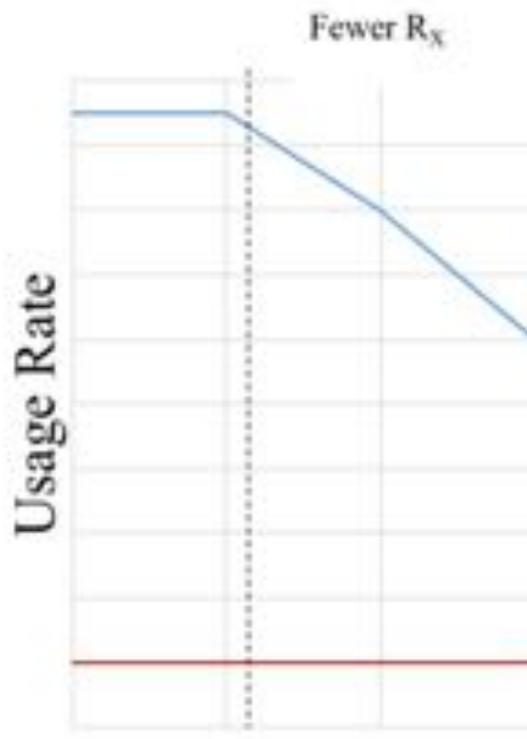
Gushgari, A.J., Driver, E.M., Steele, J.C., Halden, R.U., 2018. Tracking narcotics consumption at a Southwestern U.S. university campus by wastewater-based epidemiology. *Journal of Hazardous Materials*.

ADHD Drug Use (e.g., Adderall) During Finals



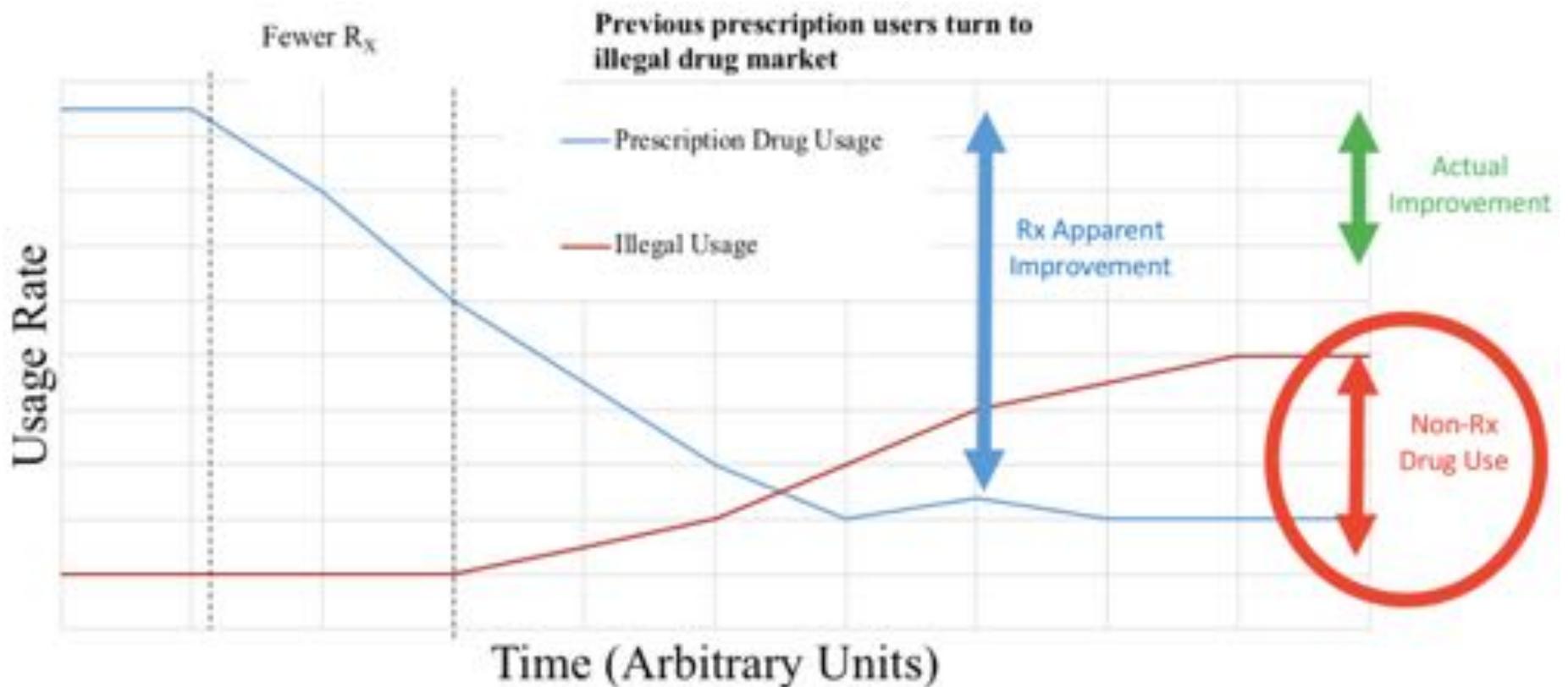
- 3-Week Wastewater Project
- During Spring 2017 Finals (April-May)
- Captured between 15,000-50,000 contributors

Are Rx opioid users switching to illicit street drugs?



Halden 2018

Are Rx drug users switching to illicit street drugs?



Wellville Challenge: Showing Health Improvements in 5 Years





GLOBAL CONSORTIUM FOR SUSTAINABILITY OUTCOMES

- **Facilitating Evidence-based Decision-making for Global Health Outcomes**
- **Sustainability impacts related to global health can be difficult to measure. Apply near real-time WBE/UMM as a diagnostic tool**
- **Grow and scale the impact of UMM internationally:**
 - **Arizona State University (ASU);**
 - **Ireland, led by Dublin City University (DCU);**
 - **United Kingdom, led by King's College London (KCL); and**
 - **Mexico, led by Tecnológico de Monterrey (Tec).**
- **Annual membership for institutions**

U.S.

U.K.

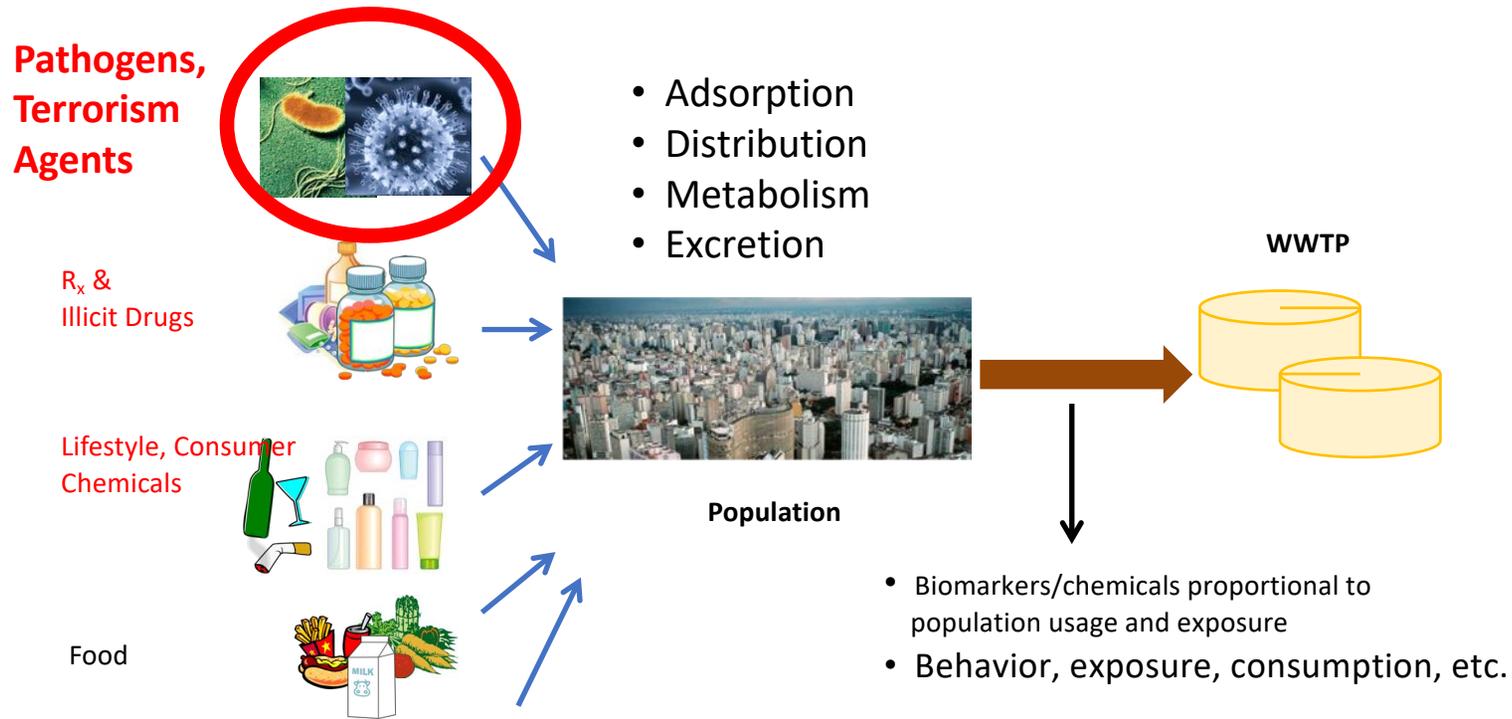
Ireland

Mexico

<https://sustainabilityoutcomes.org/global-health-outcomes/>³⁸

Infectious Disease Surveillance

Threats, Consumption, Exposure, Health Status



Human Health: Toxic Exposures, Biomarkers of Disease, Cancer, Stress Hormones

Tracking Infectious Diseases with ASU's HHO

RH (Presenter)

Matthew Scotch

Arvind Varsani



Surveillance of known disease agents & discovery of 1000s of new DNA & RNA viruses



Human Health Observatory (HHO) at Arizona State University's Biodesign Institute

Public Health Protection Using the Human Health Observatory



Identify chemicals/biologicals that...

- are present in our cities (chemical inventories)
- **show persistence, pose threat**
- cause **harmful human exposures**
- produce **harmful transformation products**
- **bioaccumulate** in people
- cause infectious diseases

Advantages of HHO Approach

- Less time & cost than traditional monitoring
- Whole population assessment
- Non-invasive sampling
- Near real-time data

Human Health Observatory at ASU



- How can we help you?
 - Chemical agents?
 - Biological agents?
 - Point of Contact:
 - Arizona State University
 - Biodesign Center for Environmental Health Engineering
- rolf.halden@asu.edu



Acknowledgments

Prof. Matthew Scotch
Prof. Arvind Varsani
Arjun Venkatesan
Adam Gushgari
Erin Driver
Joshua Steele
Jing Chen
Megan Maurer
Isaac Roll
Sam Supowit
Hansa (Done) Magee
Ben Pycke
Kristin McClellan
Evelyn Walters
Randhir Deo
Talia Chalew
Thayer Young
Amir Sapkota
Daniel Paull
Rick Stevens
Harry McCarty
AND MANY OTHERS

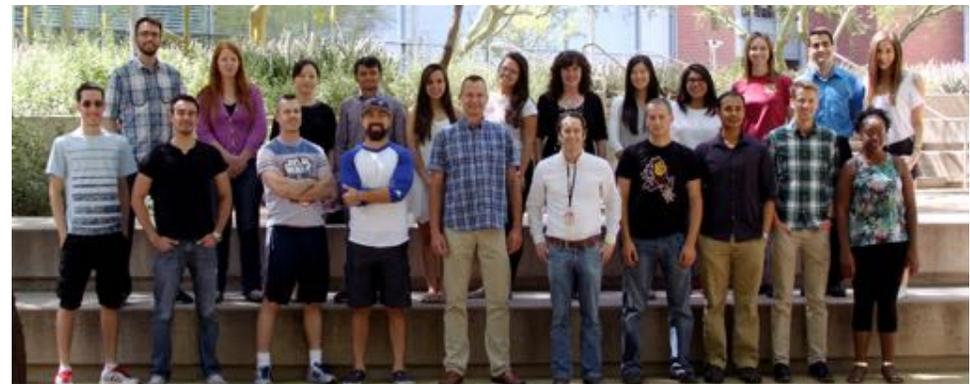


National Institute of
Environmental Health Sciences



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NIEHS R01ES015445; R01ES020889
ESTCP 200914; ESTCP 201122



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