



# The Systematic Empirical Evaluation of Models (SEEM) framework: **High Throughput Exposure Science for Chemical Decision Making**

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The views expressed in this presentation are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the U.S. EPA

**Computational Toxicology  
Community of Practice Webinar**

**February 28, 2019**

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# Chemical Regulation in the United States

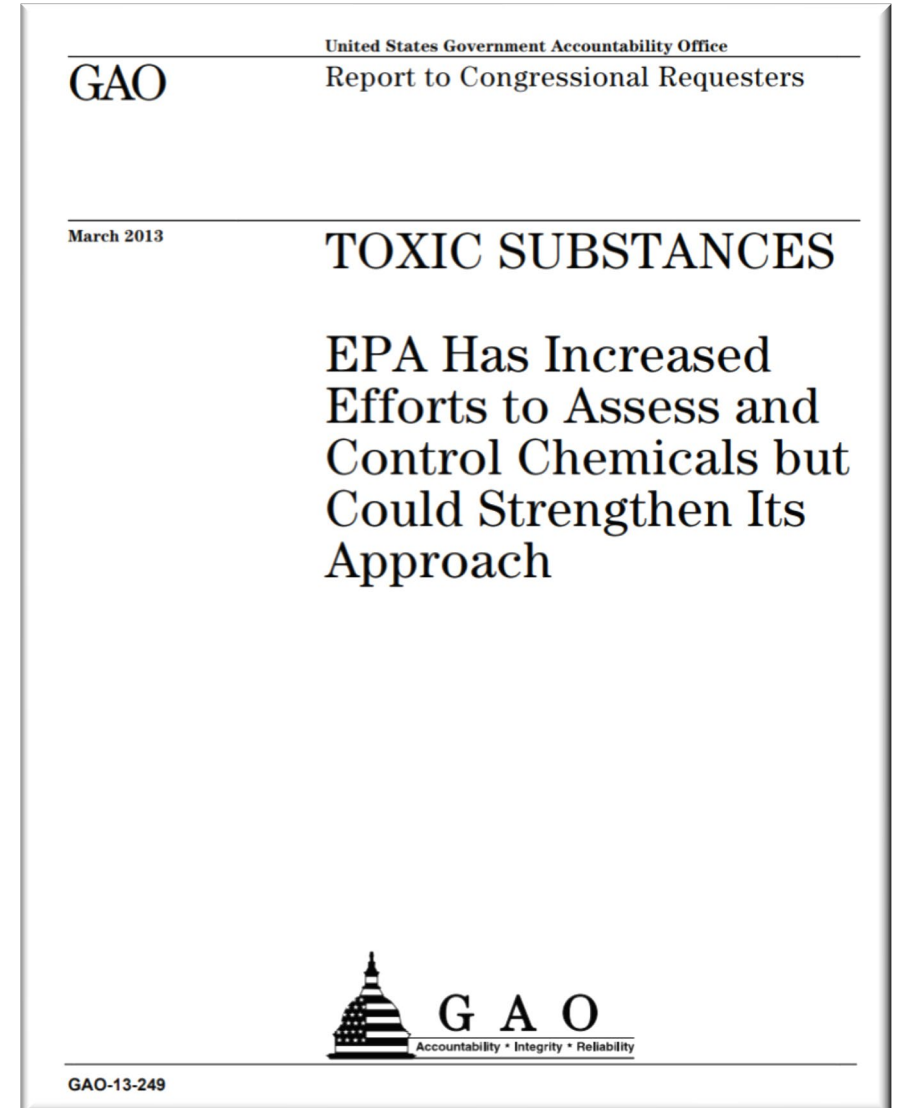
- Park *et al.* (2012): At least 3221 chemical signatures in pooled human blood samples, many appear to be exogenous
- A tapestry of laws covers the chemicals people are exposed to in the United States (Breyer, 2009)
- Different testing requirements exist for food additives, pharmaceuticals, and pesticide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



# Chemical Regulation in the United States

- Most other chemicals, ranging from industrial waste to dyes to packing materials, are covered by the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA)
- Thousands of chemicals on the market were “grandfathered” in without assessment  
Judson et al. (2009), Egeghy et al. (2012), Wetmore et al. (2015)

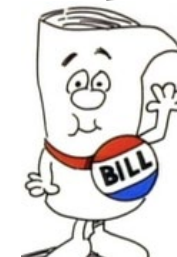
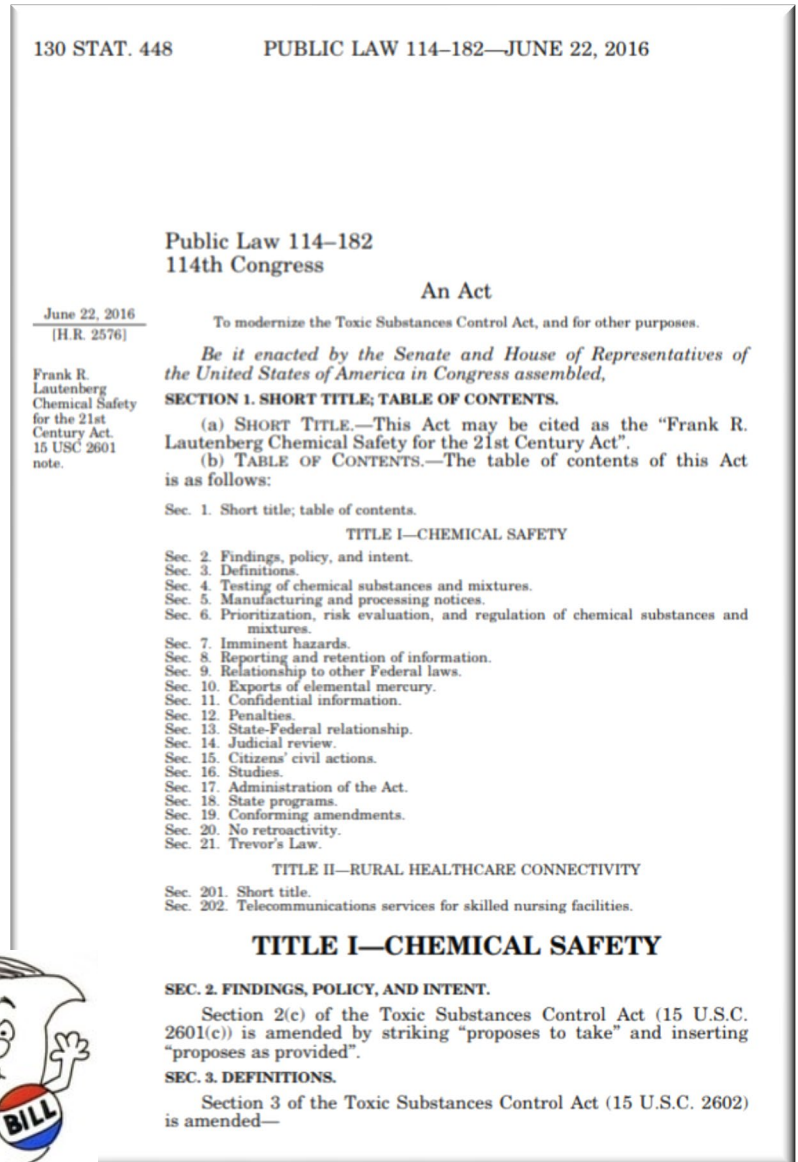
*“Tens of thousands of chemicals are listed with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for commercial use in the United States, with an average of 600 new chemicals listed each year.”*  
*U.S. Government Accountability Office*



March, 2013

# Chemical Regulation in the United States

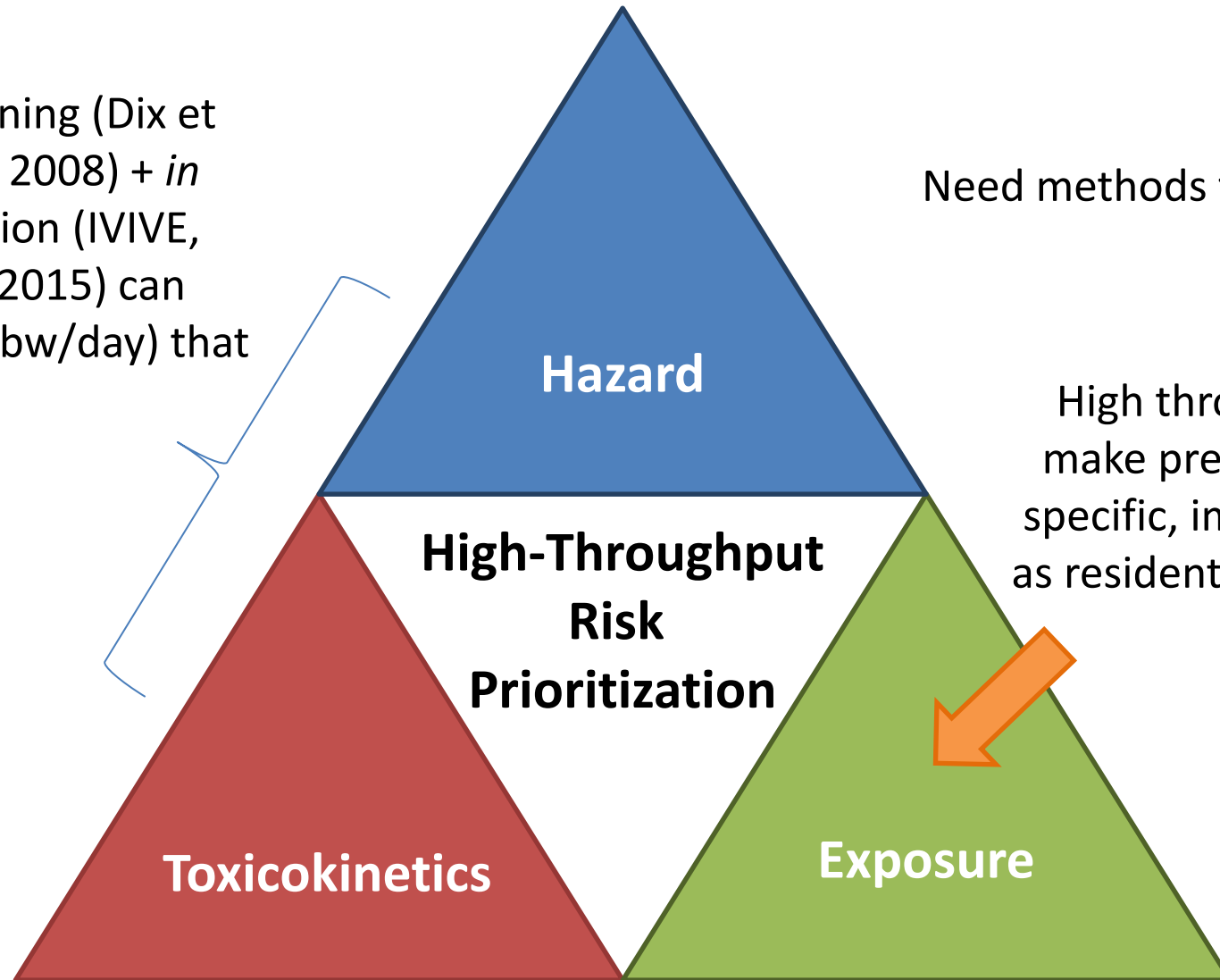
- TSCA was updated in June, 2016 to allow more rapid evaluation of chemicals (Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act)
- New approach methodologies (NAMs) are being considered to inform prioritization of chemicals for testing and evaluation (Kavlock et al., 2018)
- EPA has released a “A Working Approach for Identifying Potential Candidate Chemicals for Prioritization” (September, 2018)



June 22, 2016

# Risk = Hazard x Exposure

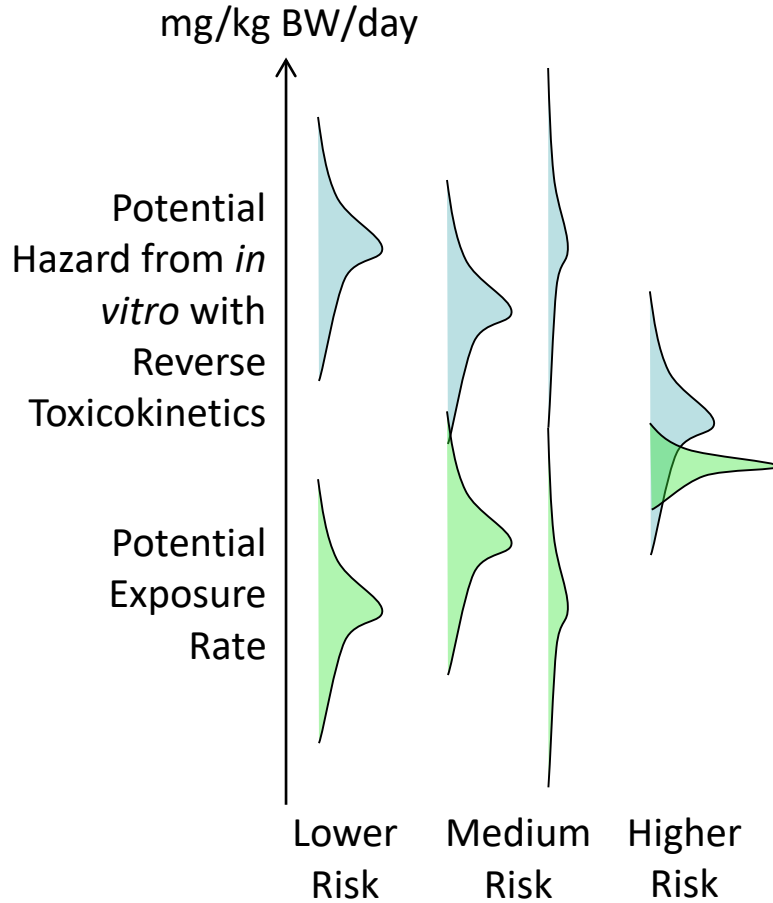
High throughput screening (Dix et al., 2006, Collins et al., 2008) + *in vitro-in vivo* extrapolation (IVIVE, Wetmore et al., 2012, 2015) can predict a dose (mg/kg bw/day) that might be adverse



Need methods to forecast exposure for thousands of chemicals (Wetmore et al., 2015)

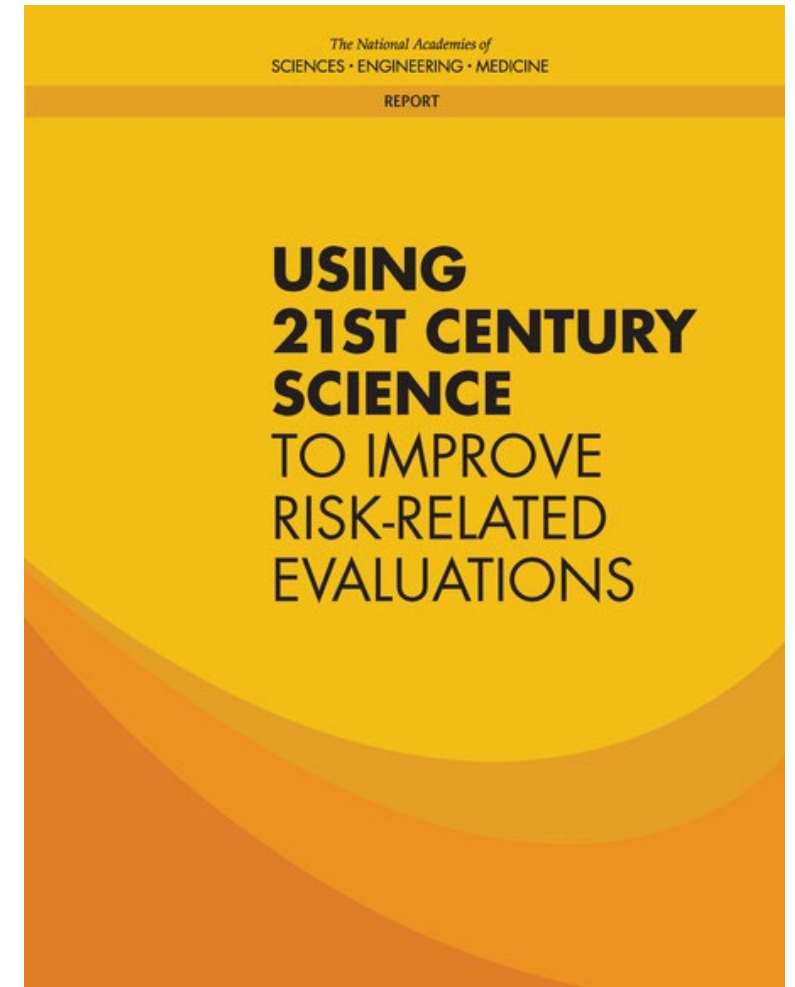
High throughput models exist to make predictions of exposure via specific, important pathways such as residential product use and diet

# Risk Assessment in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century



“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... and in high-throughput computational exposure assessment... 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.**”

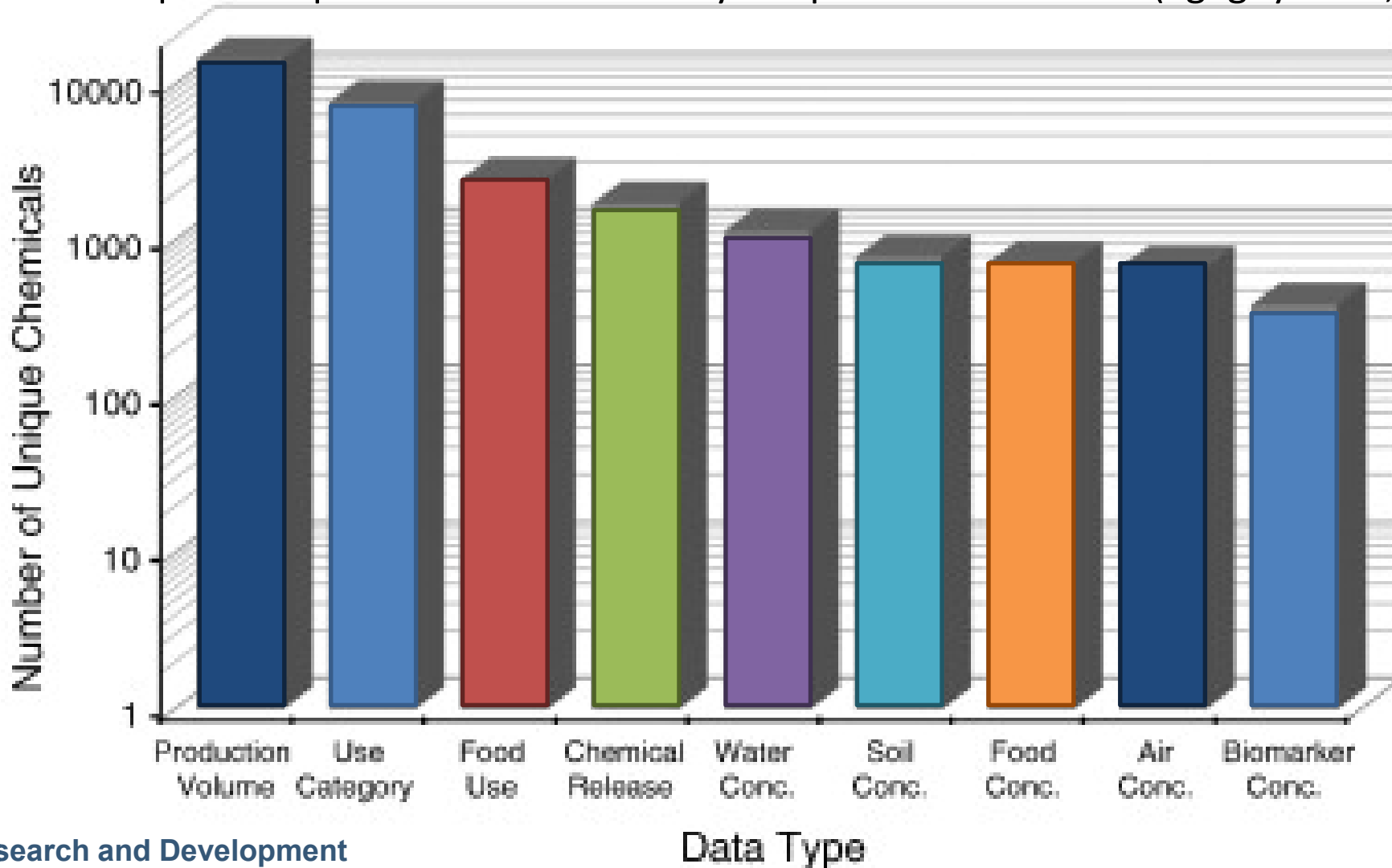


THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES PRESS  
Washington, DC  
www.nap.edu

January, 2017

# Limited Available Data for Exposure Estimation

Most chemicals lack public exposure-related data beyond production volume (Egeghy et al., 2012)



# What Do We Know About Exposure? Biomonitoring Data

- 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>)
- Includes measurements of:
  - Body weight
  - Height
  - **Chemical analysis of blood and urine**





# What Do We Know About Exposure?

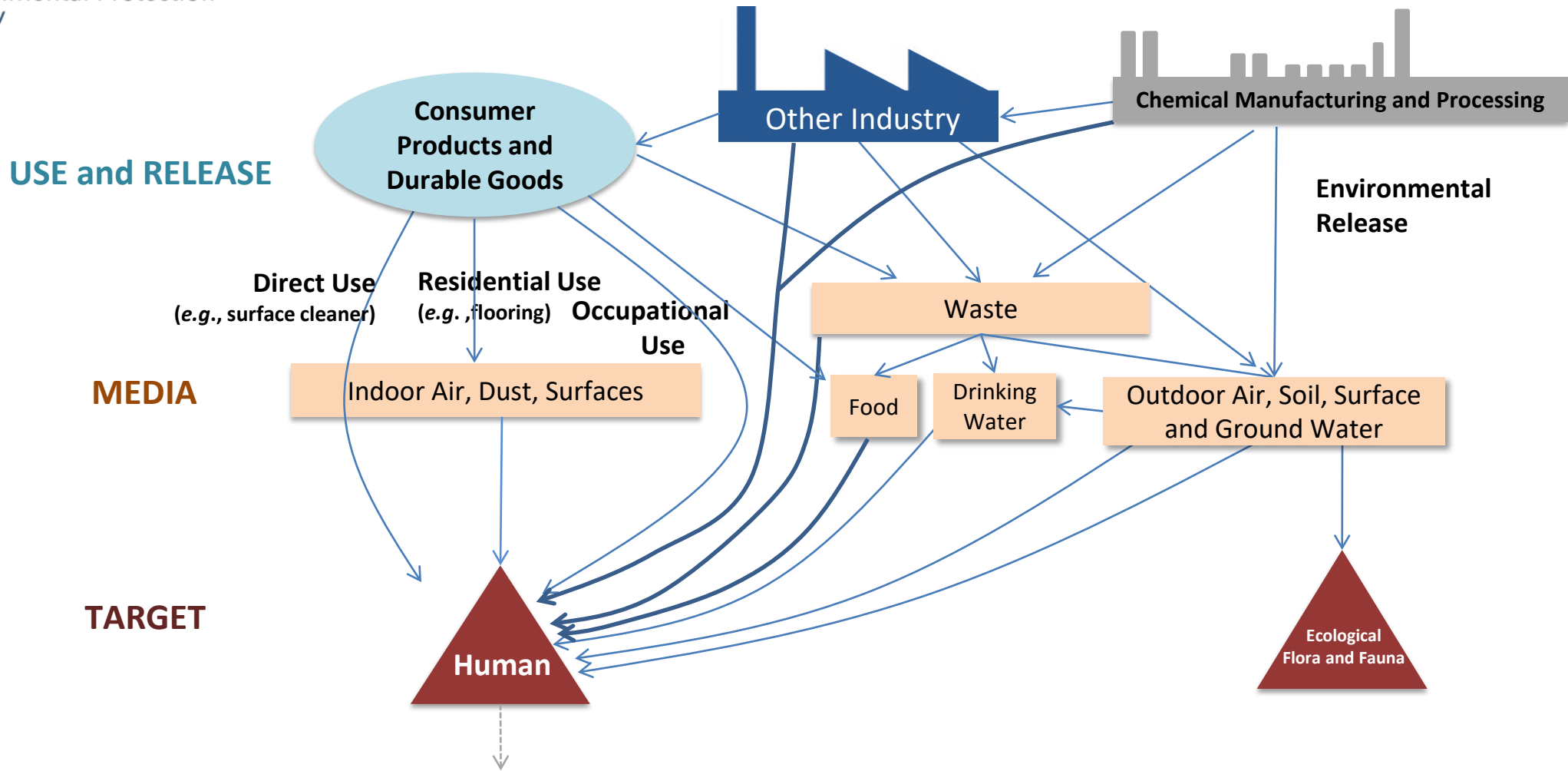
## Exposure Models

- Human chemical exposures can be coarsely grouped into “**near field**” sources that are close to the exposed individual (consumer or occupational exposures) ‘**far-field**’ scenarios wherein individuals are exposed to chemicals that were released or used far away (ambient exposure) (Arnot *et al.*, 2006).
- A model captures knowledge and a hypothesis of how the world works (MacLeod *et al.*, 2010)
- EPA’s EXPOsure toolBOX (EPA ExpoBox) is a toolbox created to assist individuals from within government, industry, academia, and the general public with assessing exposure
  - Includes many, many models

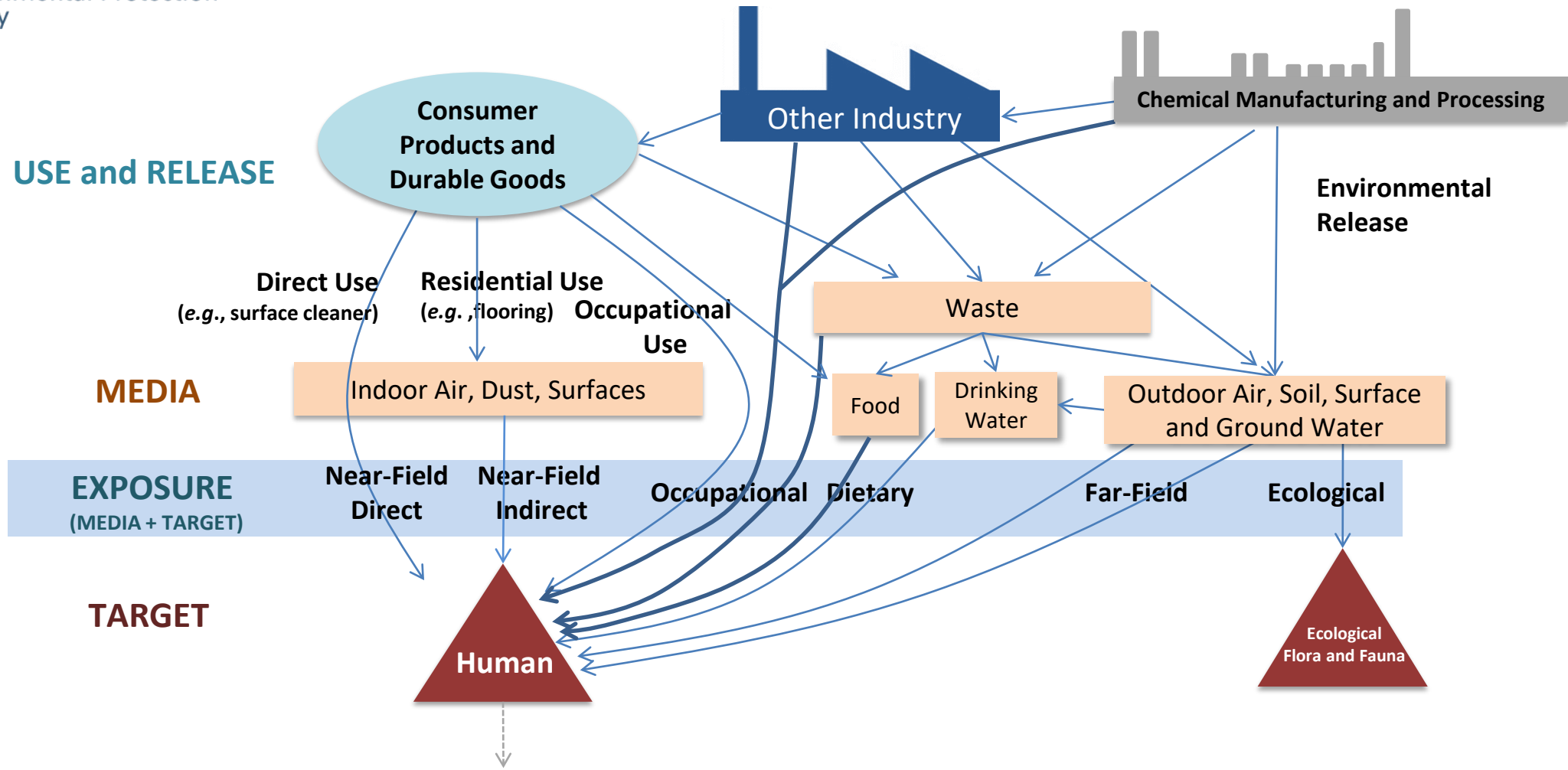
<https://www.epa.gov/expobox>

“Now it would be very remarkable if any system existing in the real world could be exactly represented by any simple model. However, cunningly chosen parsimonious models often do provide remarkably useful approximations... The only question of interest is ‘Is the model illuminating and useful?’” George Box

# Forecasting Exposure is a Systems Problem



# Source-based Exposure Pathways



The exposure event itself is often unobservable

# Models to Predict Exposure

Predictive  
Modeling

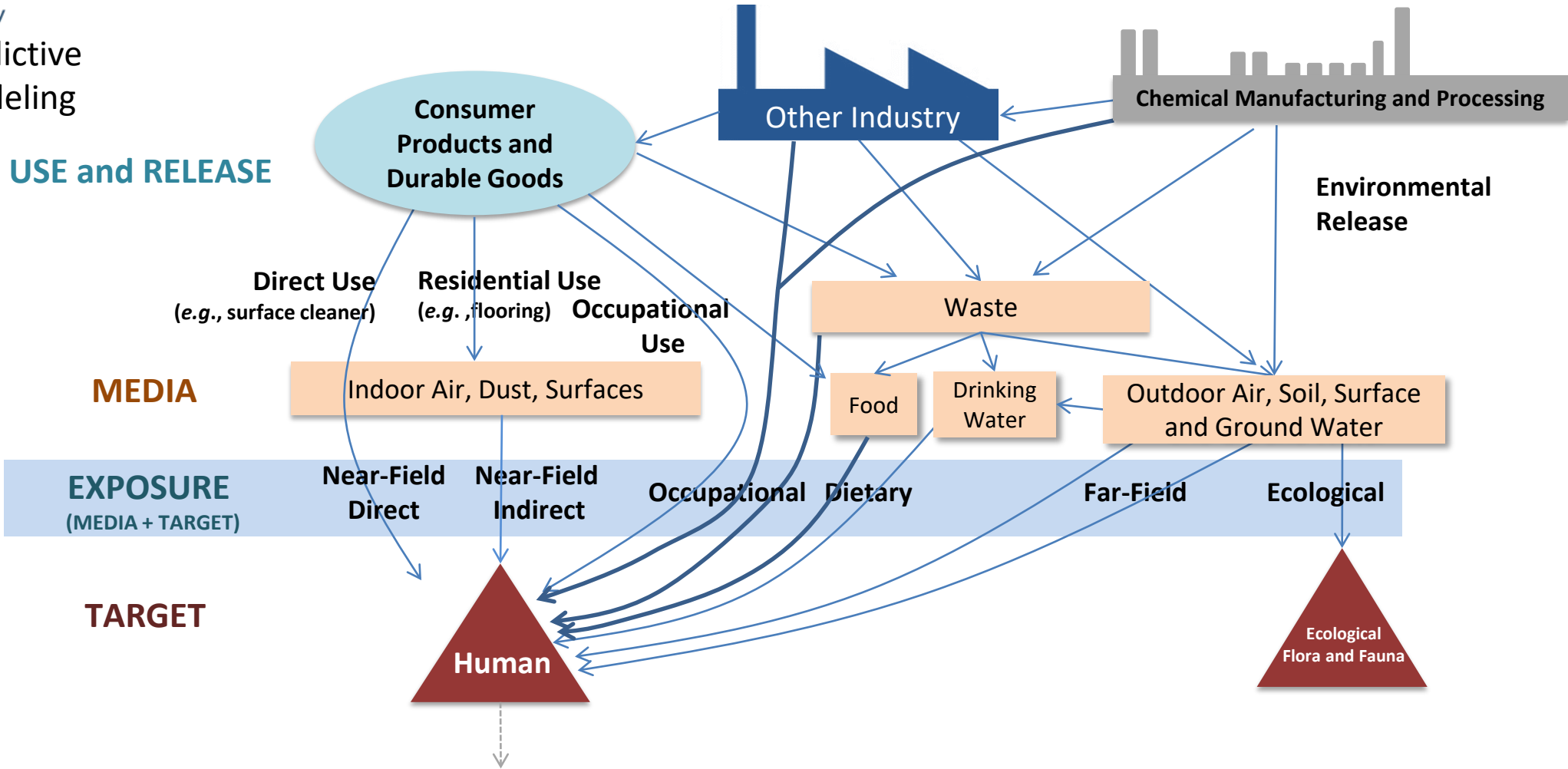


**USE and RELEASE**

**MEDIA**

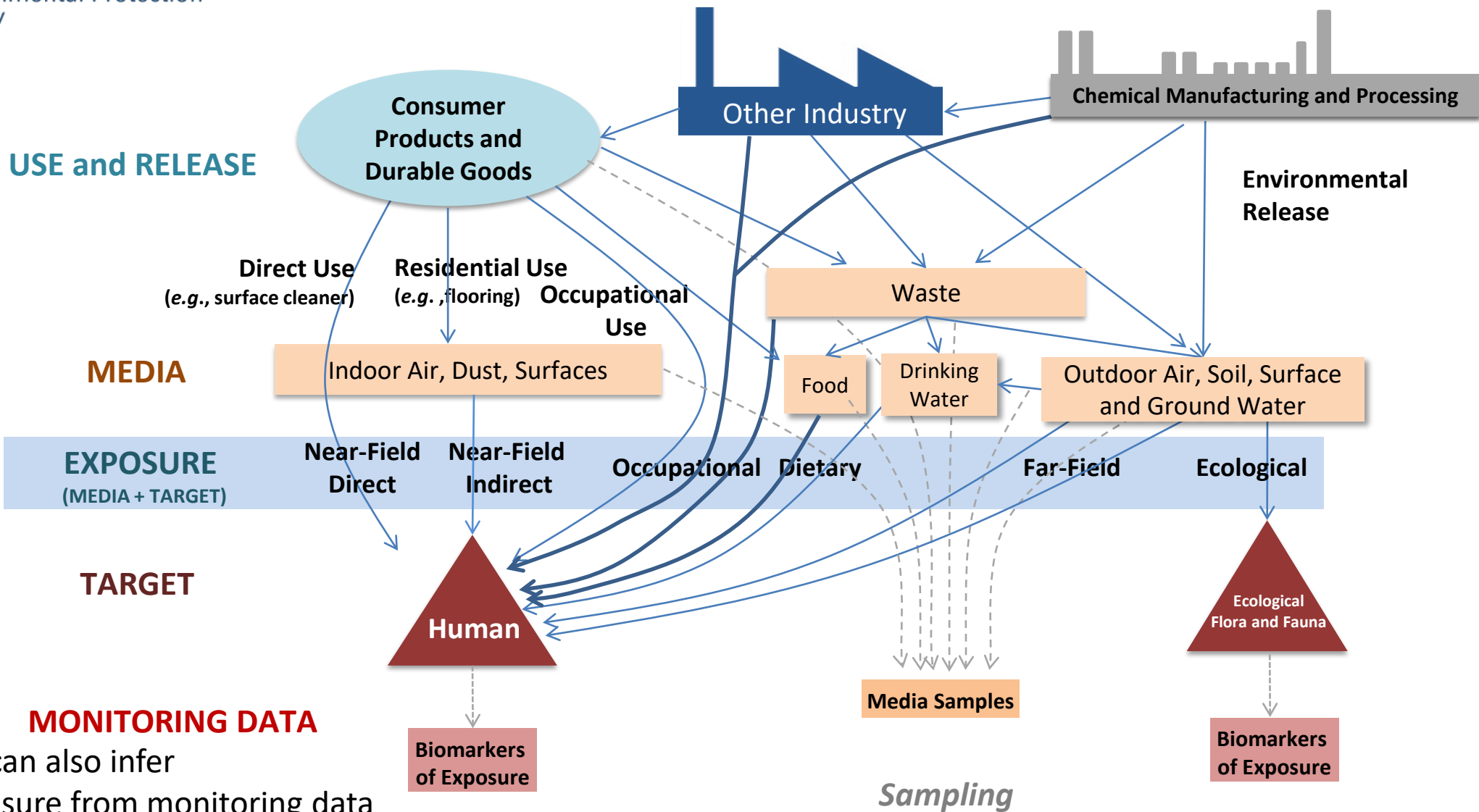
**EXPOSURE**  
(MEDIA + TARGET)

**TARGET**



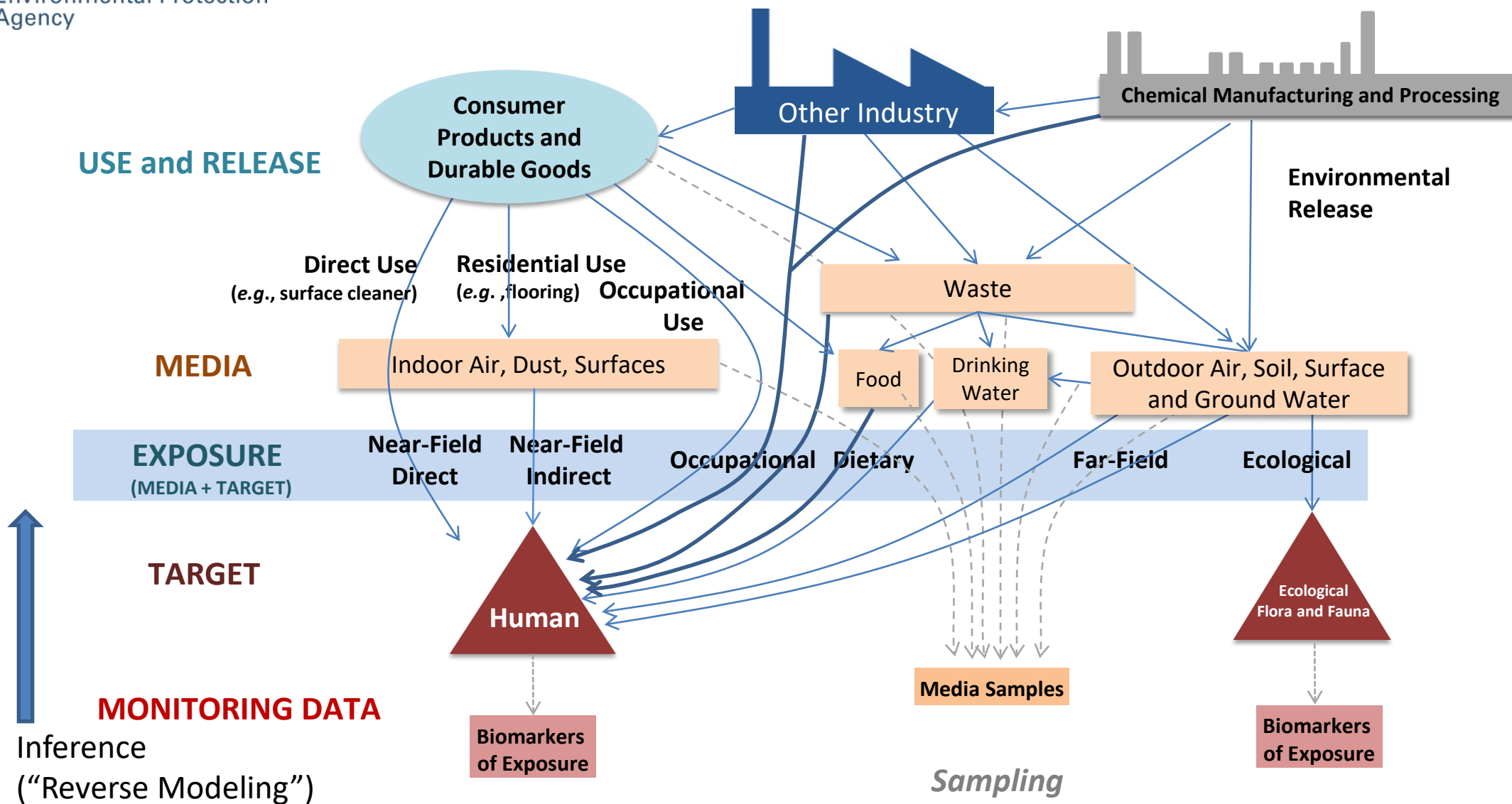
We can try to predict exposure by describing the process leading to exposure

# Monitoring Data



**MONITORING DATA**  
We can also infer exposure from monitoring data

# Models to Infer Exposure



# Evaluating Models with Monitoring Data

Predictive  
Modeling

**USE and RELEASE**

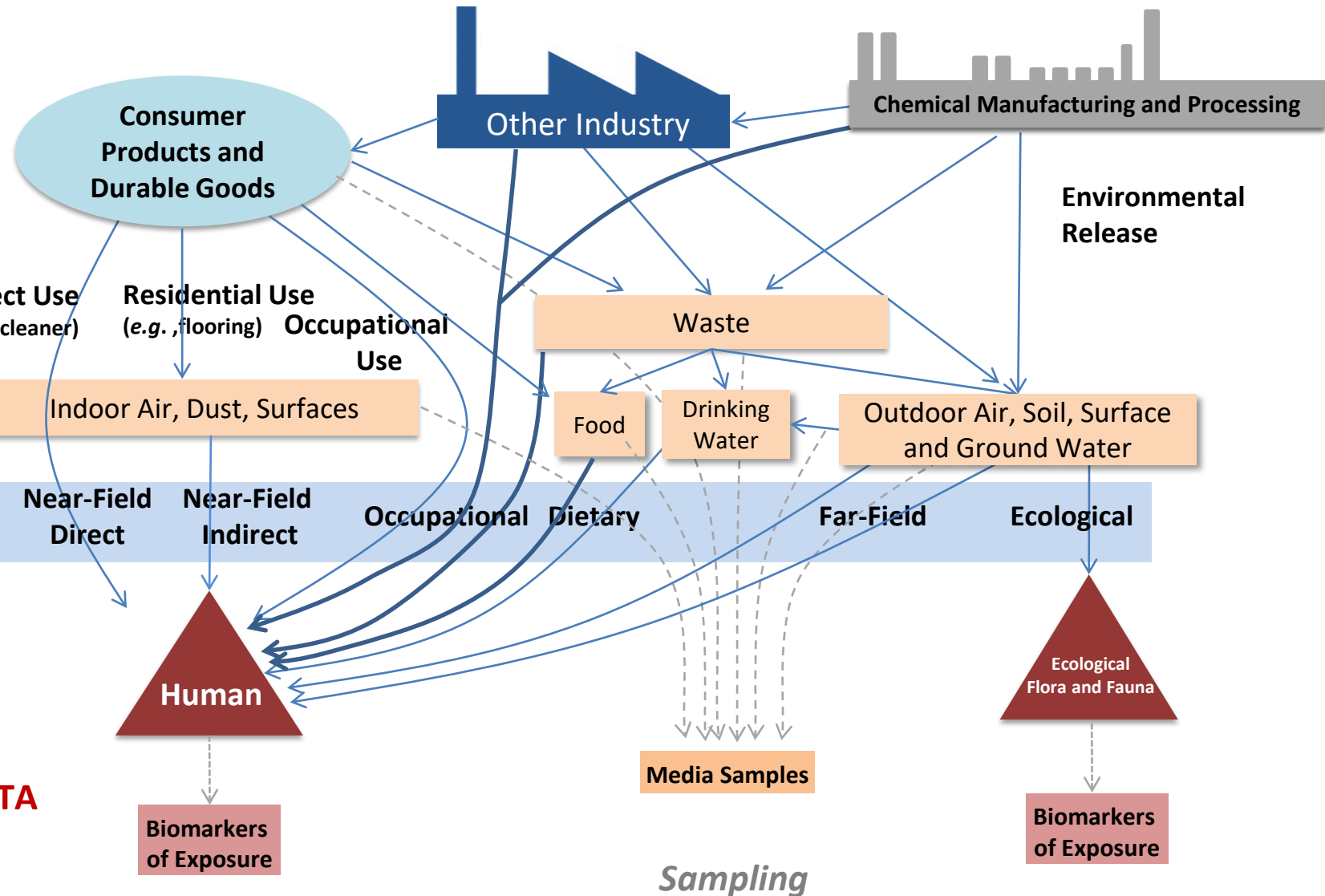
**MEDIA**

**EXPOSURE**  
(MEDIA + TARGET)

**TARGET**

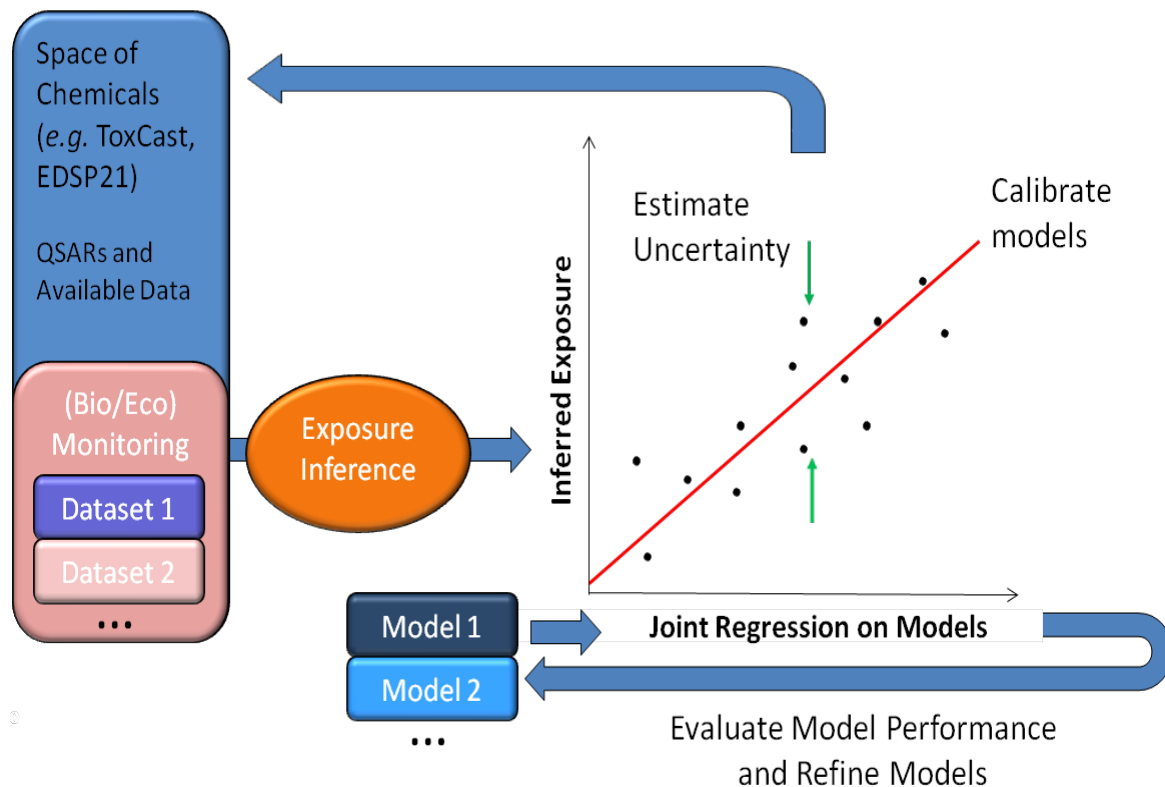
**MONITORING DATA**

Inference  
("Reverse Modeling")



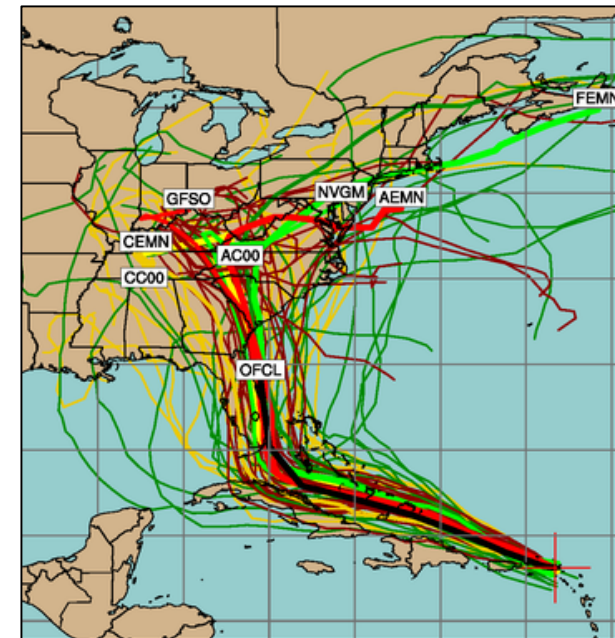
# Consensus Exposure Predictions with the SEEM Framework

- Different exposure models incorporate **knowledge, assumptions, and data** (MacLeod et al., 2010)
- We incorporate multiple models into consensus predictions for 1000s of chemicals within the **Systematic Empirical Evaluation of Models (SEEM)** (Wambaugh et al., 2013, 2014)



- Evaluation is similar to a sensitivity analysis: What models are working? What data are most needed?

Hurricane Path Prediction is an Example of Integrating Multiple Models

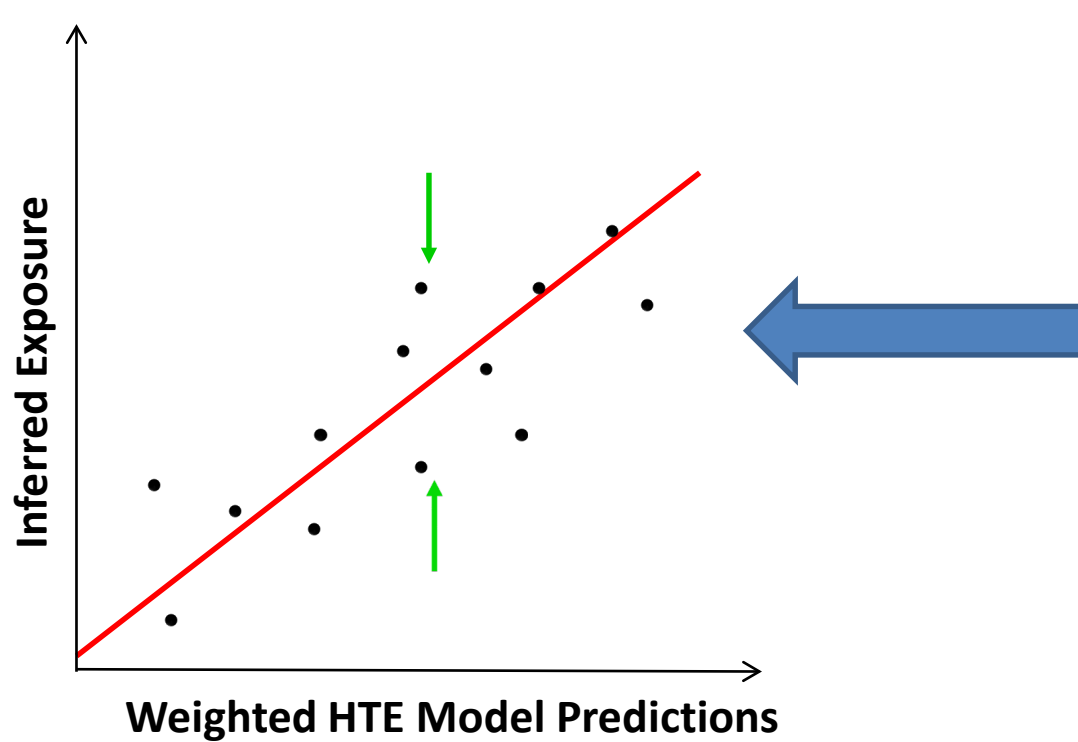





# SEEM is a Linear Regression

## Multiple regression models:

$$\text{Log(Parent Exposure)} = a + m * \log(\text{Model Prediction}) + b * \text{Near Field} + \varepsilon$$

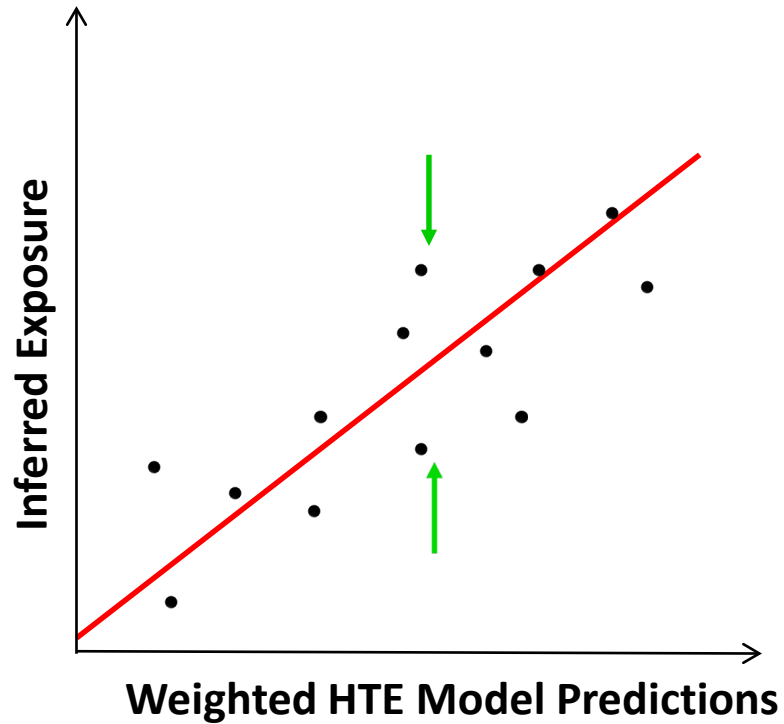


  
 $\varepsilon \sim N(0, \sigma^2)$   
Residual error,  
unexplained by  
the regression  
model

# SEEM is a Linear Regression

## Multiple regression models:

$$\text{Log(Parent Exposure)} = a + m * \text{log(Model Prediction)} + b * \text{Near Field} + \varepsilon$$



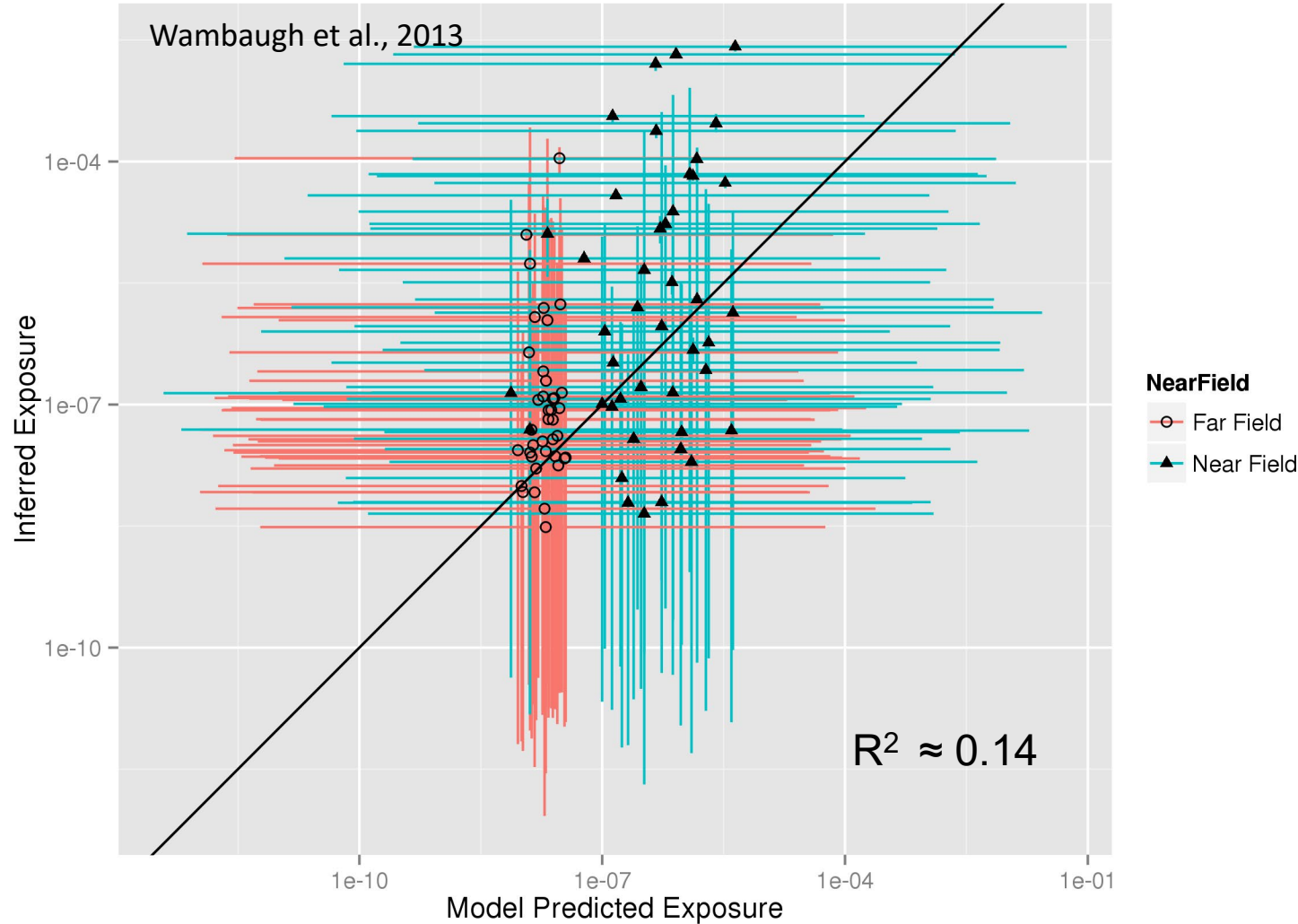
Not all models have predictions for all chemicals

- We can run SHEDS-HT (Isaacs et al., 2014) for ~2500 chemicals

What do we do for the rest?

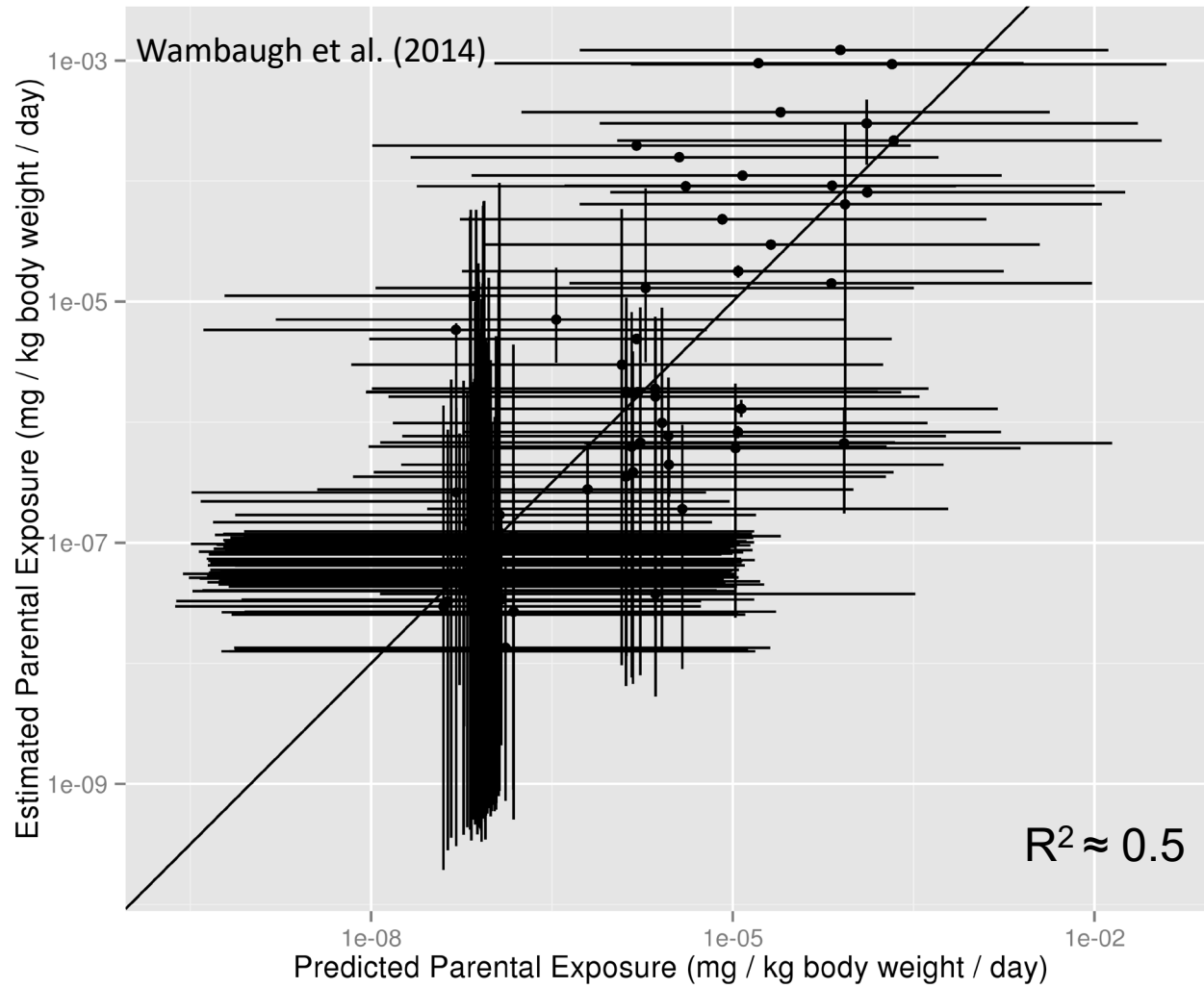
- Assign the average value?
- Zero?

# First Generation SEEM



- Those chemicals with “near-field” – proximate, in the home, sources of exposure – had much higher rates of exposure than those with sources outside the home (Wallace et al., 1986)
- The only available “high throughput exposure models in 2013 were for far-field sources

# Second Generation SEEM

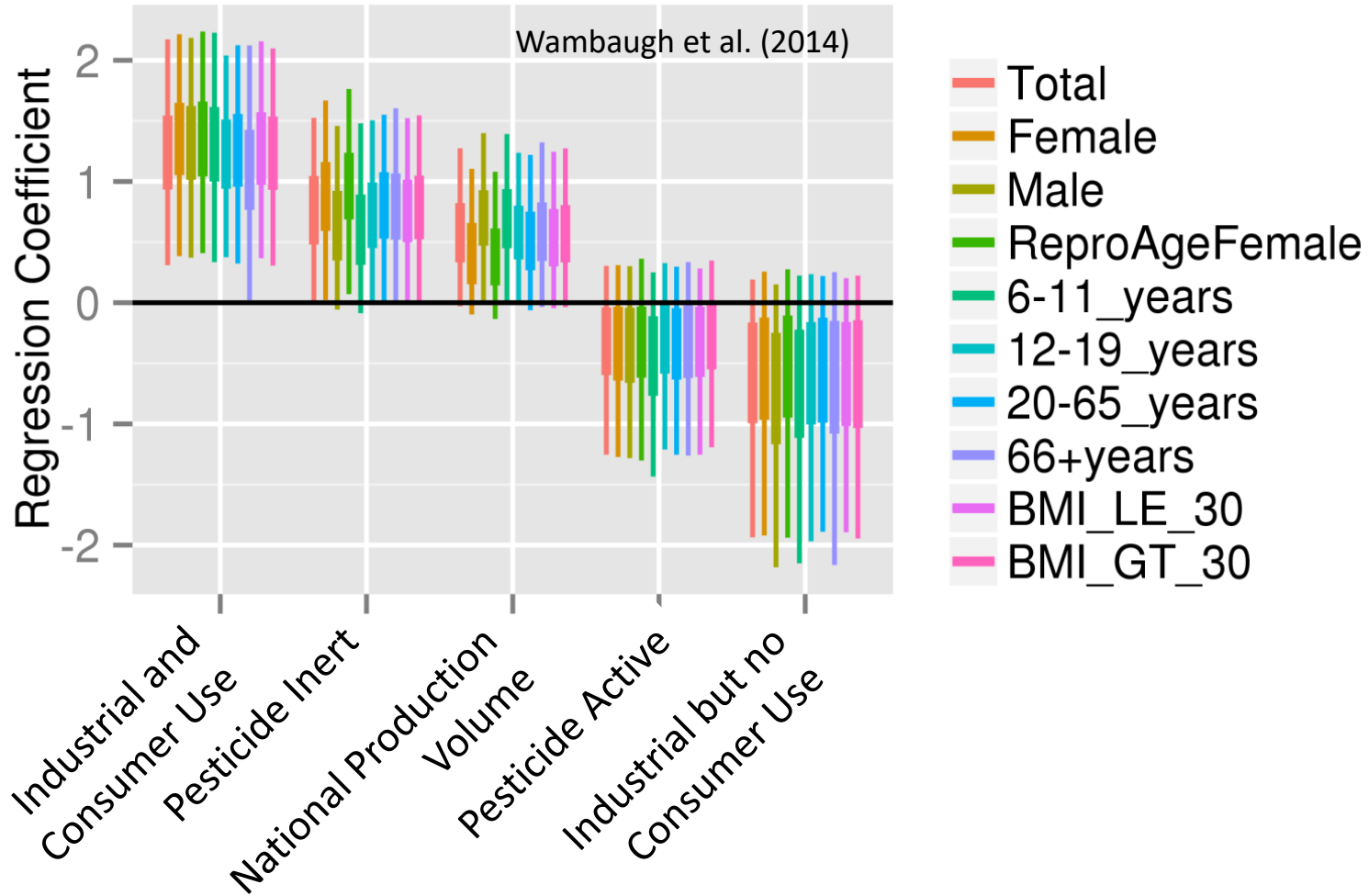


$R^2 \approx 0.5$  indicates that we can predict 50% of the chemical to chemical variability in median NHANES exposure rates

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

# Heuristics of Exposure



$R^2 \approx 0.5$  indicates that we can predict 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

# Knowledge of Exposure Pathways Limits High Throughput Exposure Models

“In particular, the assumption that 100% of [quantity emitted, applied, or ingested] is being applied to each individual use scenario is a very conservative assumption for many compound / use scenario pairs.”

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Article

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**ENVIRONMENTAL**  
Science & Technology

## Risk-Based High-Throughput Chemical Screening and Prioritization using Exposure Models and in Vitro Bioactivity Assays

Hyeong-Moo Shin,<sup>\*,†</sup> Alexi Ernstoff,<sup>‡,§</sup> Jon A. Arnot,<sup>||,⊥,#</sup> Barbara A. Wetmore,<sup>∇</sup> Susan A. Csiszar,<sup>§</sup> Peter Fantke,<sup>‡</sup> Xianming Zhang,<sup>○</sup> Thomas E. McKone,<sup>◆,¶</sup> Olivier Jolliet,<sup>§</sup> and Deborah H. Bennett<sup>†</sup>

# What Do We Know About Chemical Use?

## Chemicals and Products Database

Contents lists available at [ScienceDirect](#)

**Food and Chemical Toxicology**

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/foodchemtox](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/foodchemtox)

Development of a consumer product ingredient database for chemical exposure screening and prioritization

M.-R. Goldsmith<sup>a,\*</sup>, C.M. Grulke<sup>a</sup>, R.D. Brooks<sup>b</sup>, T.R. Transue<sup>c</sup>, Y.M. Tan<sup>a</sup>, A. Frame<sup>a,c</sup>, P.P. Egeghy<sup>a</sup>, R. Edwards<sup>d</sup>, D.T. Chang<sup>a</sup>, R. Tornero-Velez<sup>a</sup>, K. Isaacs<sup>a</sup>, A. Wang<sup>a,e</sup>, J. Johnson<sup>a</sup>, K. Holm<sup>a</sup>, M. Reich<sup>f</sup>, J. Mitchell<sup>g</sup>, D.A. Vallero<sup>a</sup>, L. Phillips<sup>a</sup>, M. Phillips<sup>a</sup>, J.F. Wambaugh<sup>a</sup>, R.S. Judson<sup>a</sup>, T.J. Buckley<sup>a</sup>, C.C. Dary<sup>a</sup>

**MSDS Data**

*Occurrence and quantitative chemical composition*

**Green Chemistry**

PAPER

High-throughput screening of chemicals as functional substitutes using structure-based classification models†

Katherine A. Phillips<sup>a,b,c</sup>, John F. Wambaugh<sup>b</sup>, Christopher M. Grulke<sup>b</sup>, Kathie L. Dionisio<sup>e</sup> and Kristin K. Isaacs<sup>e</sup>

**Functional Use Data**

*The roles that chemicals serve in products*

Broad "index" of chemical uses

Contents lists available at [ScienceDirect](#)

**Toxicology Reports**


journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/toxrep](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/toxrep)

Exploring consumer exposure pathways and patterns of use for chemicals in the environment

Kathie L. Dionisio<sup>a</sup>, Alicia M. Frame<sup>b,1</sup>, Michael-Rock Goldsmith<sup>a,2</sup>, John F. Wambaugh<sup>b</sup>, Alan Liddell<sup>c,3</sup>, Tommy Cathey<sup>d</sup>, Doris Smith<sup>b</sup>, James Vail<sup>b</sup>, Alexi S. Ernstoff<sup>e</sup>, Peter Fantke<sup>e</sup>, Olivier Jolliet<sup>f</sup>

**CPCat**

**CPDat**



<https://comptox.epa.gov/dashboard>

**Ingredient Lists**

*Occurrence data*

Journal of Exposure Science and Environmental Epidemiology (2018) 28, 216–222  
© 2018 Nature America, Inc., part of Springer Nature. All rights reserved 1559-0631/18  
[www.nature.com/jes](http://www.nature.com/jes)

**ORIGINAL ARTICLE**

**Consumer product chemical weight fractions from ingredient lists**

Kristin K. Isaacs<sup>1</sup>, Katherine A. Phillips<sup>1</sup>, Derya Biryol<sup>1,2</sup>, Kathie L. Dionisio<sup>1</sup> and Paul S. Price<sup>3</sup>

**Measured Data**

*Measurement of chemicals in consumer products*

**ENVIRONMENTAL Science & Technology**

Suspect Screening Analysis of Chemicals in Consumer Products

Katherine A. Phillips<sup>†</sup>, Alice Yau<sup>‡</sup>, Kristin A. Favela<sup>‡</sup>, Kristin K. Isaacs<sup>†</sup>, Andrew McEachran<sup>§,||</sup>, Christopher Grulke<sup>||</sup>, Ann M. Richard<sup>||</sup>, Antony J. Williams<sup>||</sup>, Jon R. Sobus<sup>†</sup>, Russell S. Thomas<sup>||</sup>, and John F. Wambaugh<sup>\*,||</sup>



# Collaboration on High Throughput Exposure Predictions

Jon Arnot, Deborah H. Bennett, Peter P. Egeghy, Peter Fantke, Lei Huang, Kristin K. Isaacs, Olivier Jolliet, Hyeong-Moo Shin, Katherine A. Phillips, Caroline Ring, R. Woodrow Setzer, John F. Wambaugh, Johnny Westgate

Predictor	Reference(s)	Chemicals Predicted	Pathways
EPA Inventory Update Reporting and Chemical Data Reporting (CDR) (2015)	US EPA (2018)	7856	All
Stockholm Convention of Banned Persistent Organic Pollutants (2017)	Lallas (2001)	248	Far-Field Industrial and Pesticide
EPA Pesticide Reregistration Eligibility Documents (REDs) Exposure Assessments (Through 2015)	Wetmore et al. (2012, 2015)	239	Far-Field Pesticide
United Nations Environment Program and Society for Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry toxicity model (USEtox) Industrial Scenario (2.0)	Rosenbaum et al. (2008)	8167	Far-Field Industrial
USEtox Pesticide Scenario (2.0)	Fantke et al. (2011, 2012, 2016)	940	Far-Field Pesticide
Risk Assessment IDentification And Ranking (RAIDAR) Far-Field (2.02)	Arnot et al. (2008)	8167	Far-Field Pesticide
EPA Stochastic Human Exposure Dose Simulator High Throughput (SHEDS-HT) Near-Field Direct (2017)	Isaacs (2017)	7511	Far-Field Industrial and Pesticide
SHEDS-HT Near-field Indirect (2017)	Isaacs (2017)	1119	Residential
Fugacity-based INdoor Exposure (FINE) (2017)	Bennett et al. (2004), Shin et al. (2012)	645	Residential
RAIDAR-ICE Near-Field (0.803)	Arnot et al., (2014), Zhang et al. (2014)	1221	Residential
USEtox Residential Scenario (2.0)	Jolliet et al. (2015), Huang et al. (2016,2017)	615	Residential
USEtox Dietary Scenario (2.0)	Jolliet et al. (2015), Huang et al. (2016), Ernstoff et al. (2017)	8167	Dietary



# High-Throughput Stochastic Human Exposure and Dose Simulation Model (SHEDS-HT)

- We treat models like related assays and look for consensus while considering model appropriateness
- High-throughput model for simulating population exposures to chemical in consumer products via multiple product types, scenarios, and routes
- R package, code, and default input files for consumer products (derived from CPDat) are available:



## Package 'ShedsHT'

September 9, 2016

**Title** To run the SHEDS-HT screening model for estimating human exposure to chemicals.

**Version** 0.1.1

**Author** Kristin Isaacs [aut, cre]

**Maintainer** Kristin Isaacs <isaacs.kristin@epa.gov>



**ENVIRONMENTAL**  
Science & Technology

Article  
[pubs.acs.org/est](https://pubs.acs.org/est)

### SHEDS-HT: An Integrated Probabilistic Exposure Model for Prioritizing Exposures to Chemicals with Near-Field and Dietary Sources

Kristin K. Isaacs,<sup>\*,†</sup> W. Graham Glen,<sup>‡</sup> Peter Egeghy,<sup>†</sup> Michael-Rock Goldsmith,<sup>§,○</sup> Luther Smith,<sup>‡</sup> Daniel Vallero,<sup>†</sup> Raina Brooks,<sup>||</sup> Christopher M. Grulke,<sup>⊥,○</sup> and Halûk Özkaynak<sup>‡</sup>

<sup>†</sup>U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Research and Development, National Exposure Research Laboratory, 109 T.W. Alexander Drive, Research Triangle Park, North Carolina 27709, United States

<sup>‡</sup>Alion Science and Technology, 1000 Park Forty Plaza Suite 200, Durham, North Carolina 27713, United States

<sup>§</sup>Chemical Computing Group, Suite 910, 1010 Sherbrooke Street West, Montreal, QC H3A 2R7, Canada

<sup>||</sup>Student Services Contractor at U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 109 T.W. Alexander Drive, Research Triangle Park, North Carolina 27709, United States

<sup>⊥</sup>Lockheed Martin, 109 T.W. Alexander Drive, Research Triangle Park, North Carolina 27709, United States

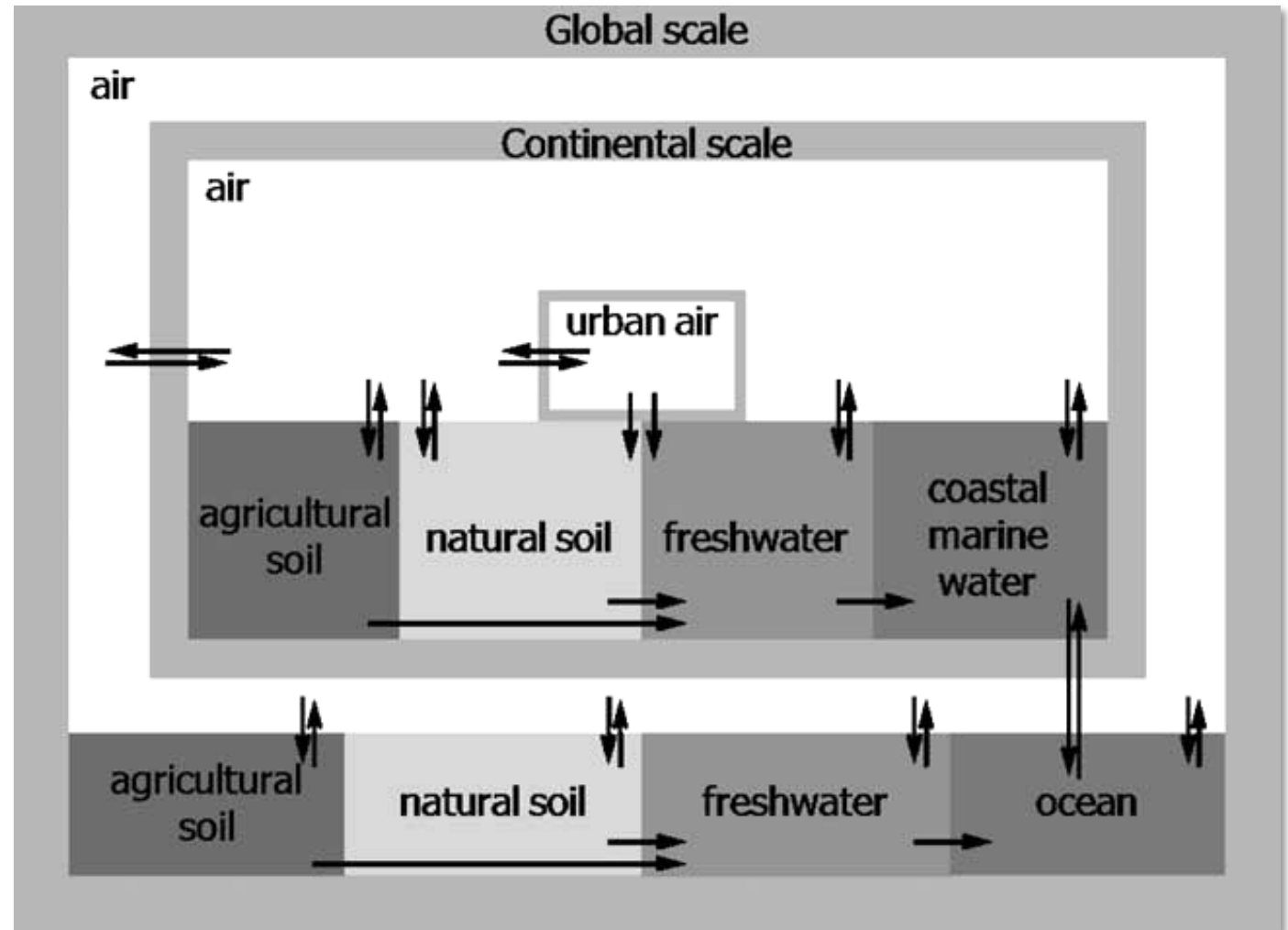
 Supporting Information

<https://github.com/HumanExposure/SHEDSHTRPackage>

Isaacs *et al.* 2014

## USEtox

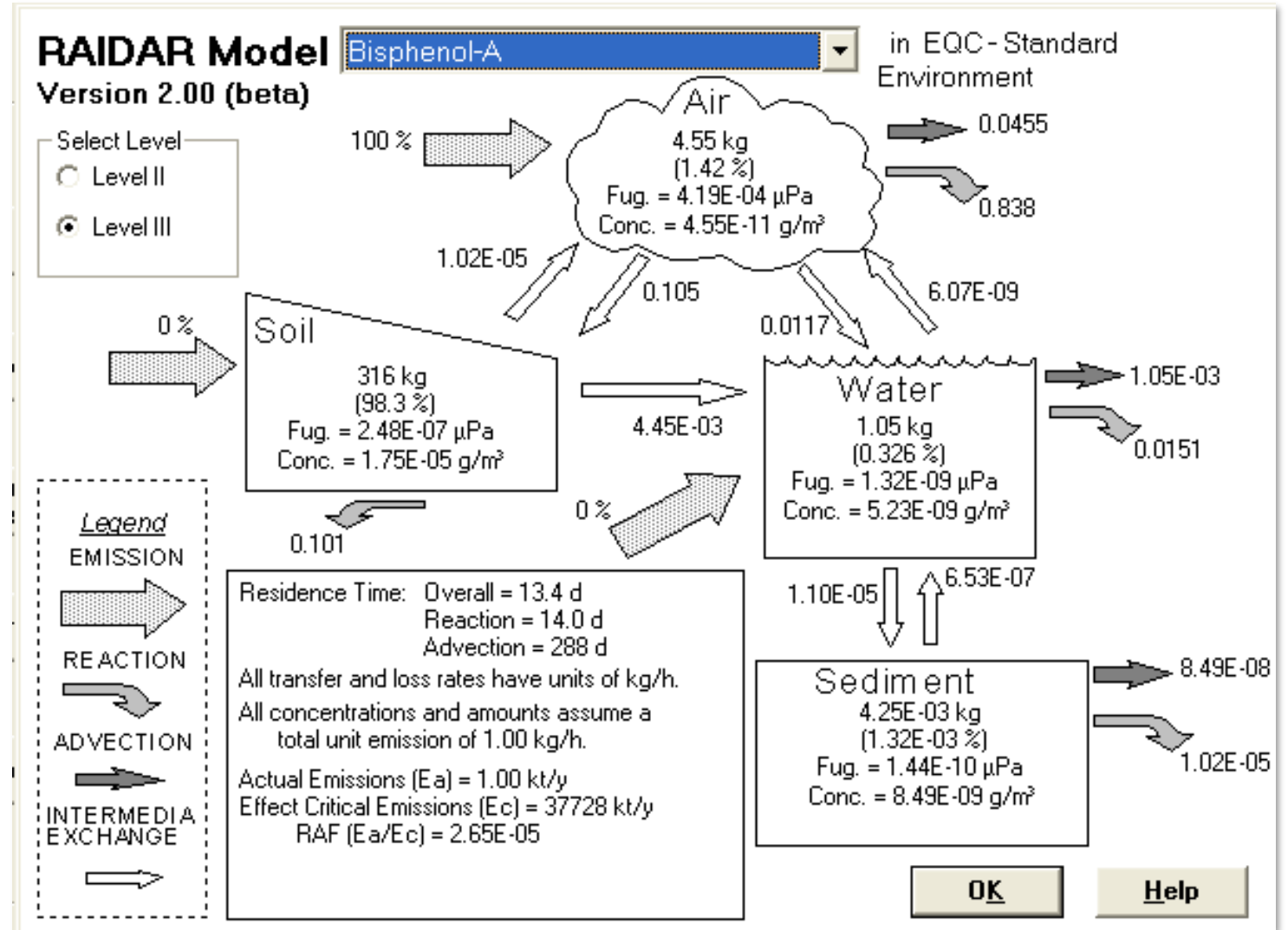
- We treat models like related assays and look for consensus while considering model appropriateness
- United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) and Society for Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (SETAC) toxicity model Version 2.0
- USEtox is a global scientific consensus fate, exposure and effect model
- USEtox consists of a set of nested environmental compartments at indoor, urban, continental, and global scale.



Rosenbaum *et al.* 2008

# RAIDAR

- We treat models like related assays and look for consensus while considering model appropriateness
- The Risk Assessment Identification And Ranking (RAIDAR) model is an environmental fate and transport model linked with food web bioaccumulation models for representative ecological and agricultural targets and humans



Arnot et al. 2006

# SEEM3

**Total Chemical  
Intake Rate  
(mg/ kg BW/ day)**

**Pathway**

**Chemical-Specific**

**Pathway Relevancy ( $\delta_{ij}$ )**

**Predictors**

Consumer

Yes/No

Average Unexplained ( $a_{\text{consumer}}$ )  
SHEDS-HT  
FINE  
RAIDAR-ICE  
USEtox

Dietary

Yes/No

Production Volume  
Average Unexplained ( $a_{\text{dietary}}$ )  
SHEDS-HT Dietary  
Production Volume  
USEtox  
RAIDAR  
Food Contact Substance Migration

Far-Field  
Pesticides

Yes/No

Average Unexplained ( $a_{\text{FFpesticide}}$ )  
Pesticide REDs  
USEtox  
RAIDAR  
Stockholm Convention  
Production Volume

Far-Field  
Industrial

Yes/No

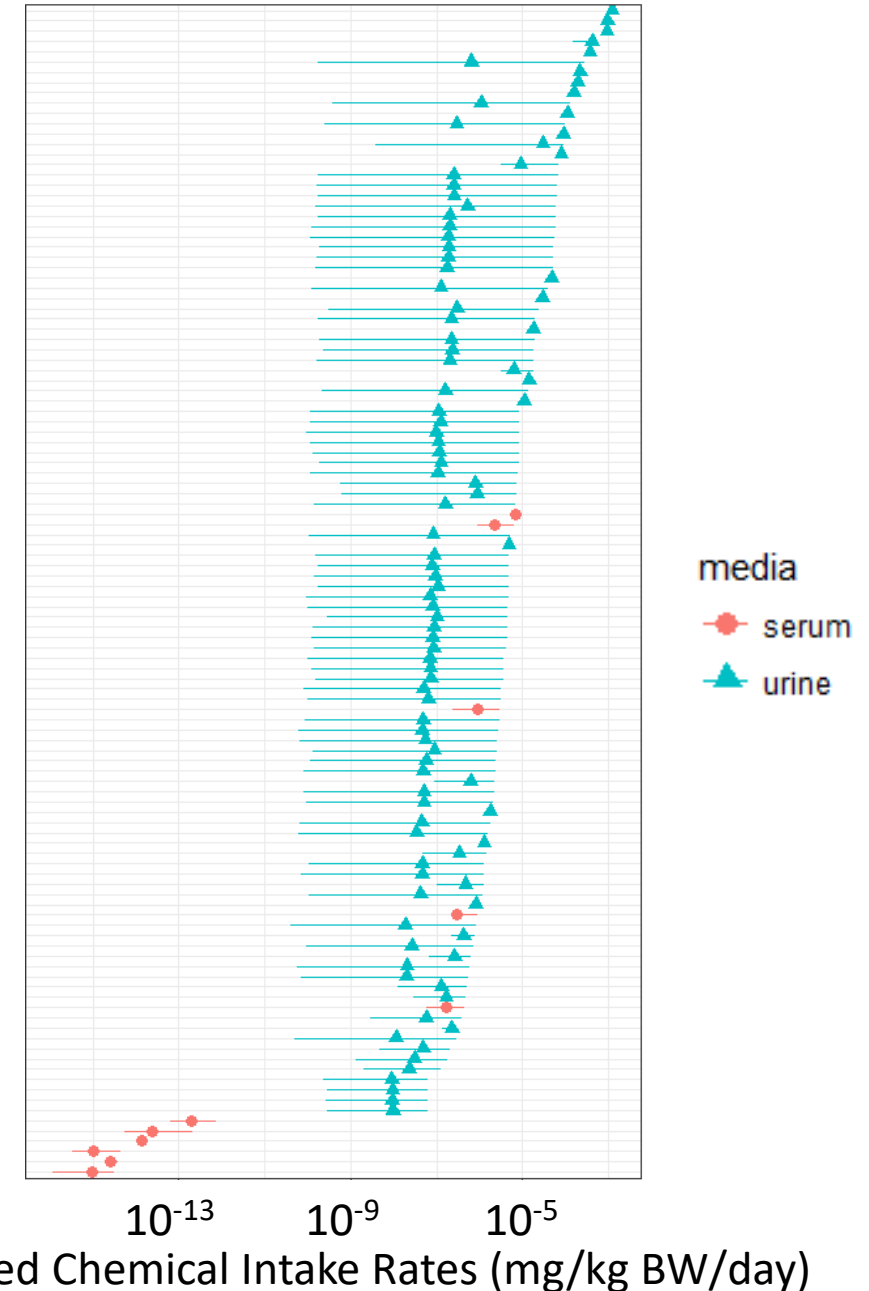
Average Unexplained ( $a_{\text{FFindustrial}}$ )  
USEtox  
RAIDAR  
Stockholm Convention  
Production Volume

Unknown

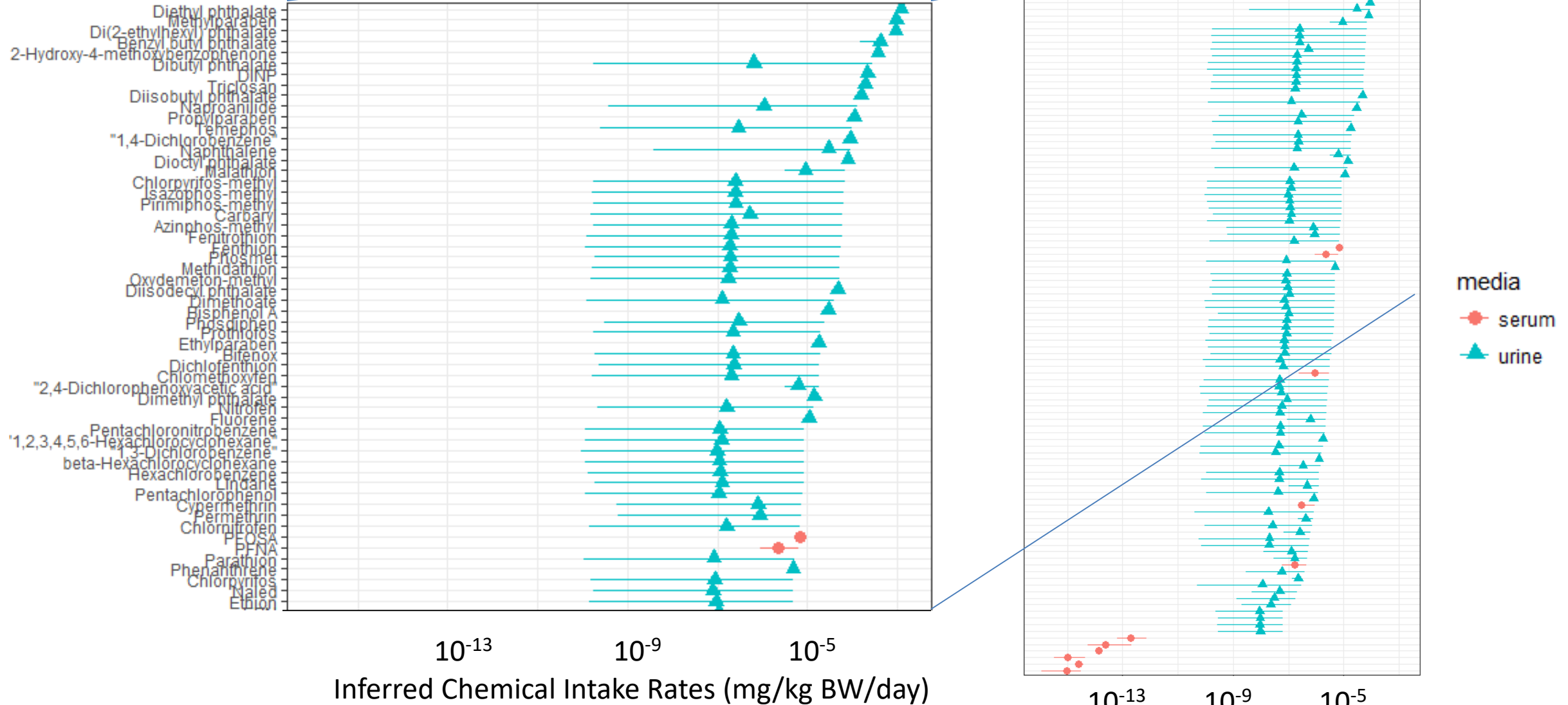
Average Unexplained  
( $a_0$ , the grand mean)

# Reverse Dosimetry (Tan et al., 2006)

- Median chemical intake rates (mg / kg body weight /day) were inferred from:
  - NHANES urine (Wambaugh et al, 2014, Ring et al. 2017)
  - NHANES serum/blood either using HTTK clearance (Pearce et al., 2017)
    - Literature clearance estimates were used for methodologically challenging chemicals not suited to HTTK

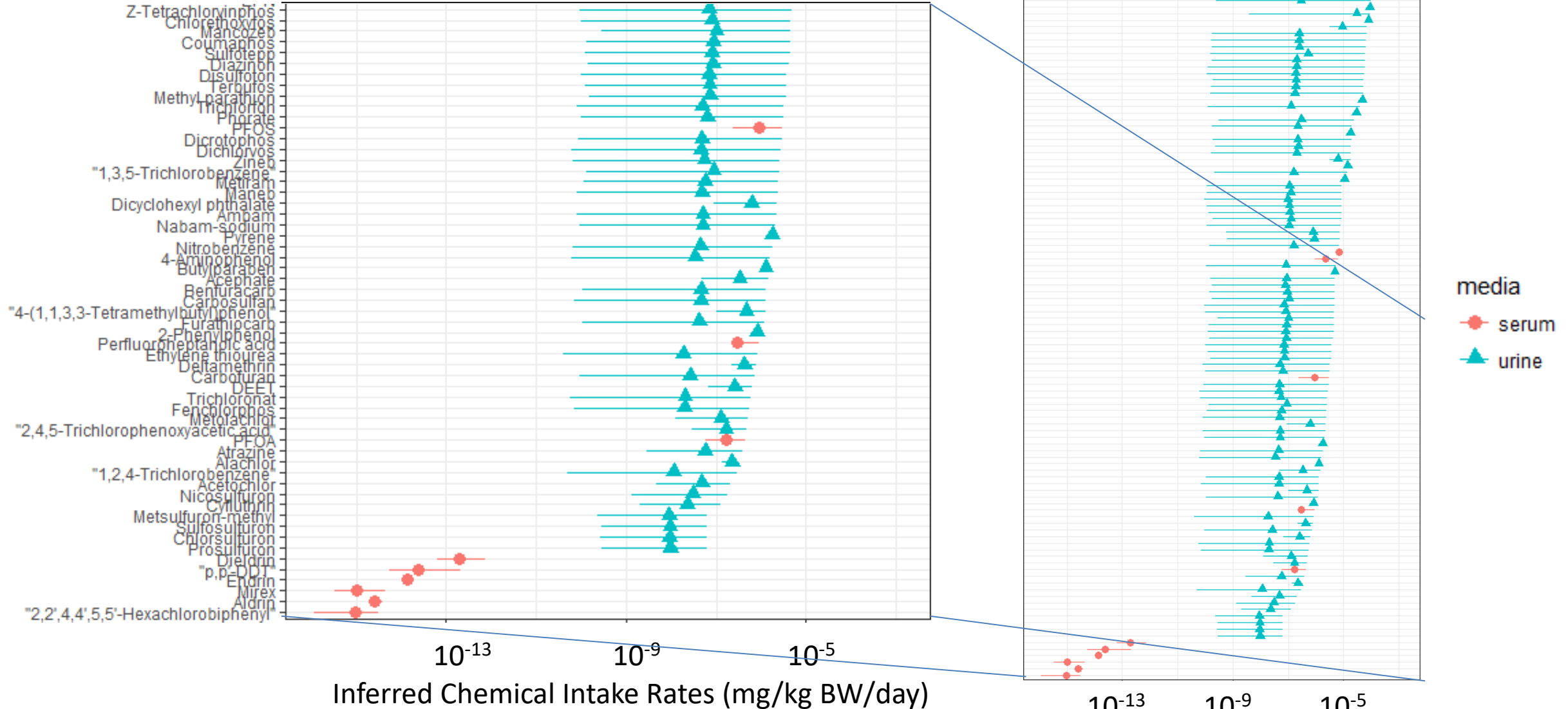


# Reverse Dosimetry (Tan et al., 2006)



media  
● serum  
▲ urine

# Reverse Dosimetry (Tan et al., 2006)



# SEEM3

**Total Chemical  
Intake Rate  
(mg/ kg BW/ day)**

**Pathway**

**Chemical-Specific**

**Pathway Relevancy ( $\delta_{ij}$ )**

**Predictors**

Consumer

Yes/No

Average Unexplained ( $a_{\text{consumer}}$ )  
SHEDS-HT  
FINE  
RAIDAR-ICE  
USEtox

Dietary

Yes/No

Production Volume  
Average Unexplained ( $a_{\text{dietary}}$ )  
SHEDS-HT Dietary  
Production Volume  
USEtox  
RAIDAR  
Food Contact Substance Migration

Far-Field  
Pesticides

Yes/No

Average Unexplained ( $a_{\text{FFpesticide}}$ )  
Pesticide REDs  
USEtox  
RAIDAR  
Stockholm Convention  
Production Volume

Far-Field  
Industrial

Yes/No

Average Unexplained ( $a_{\text{FFindustrial}}$ )  
USEtox  
RAIDAR  
Stockholm Convention  
Production Volume

Unknown

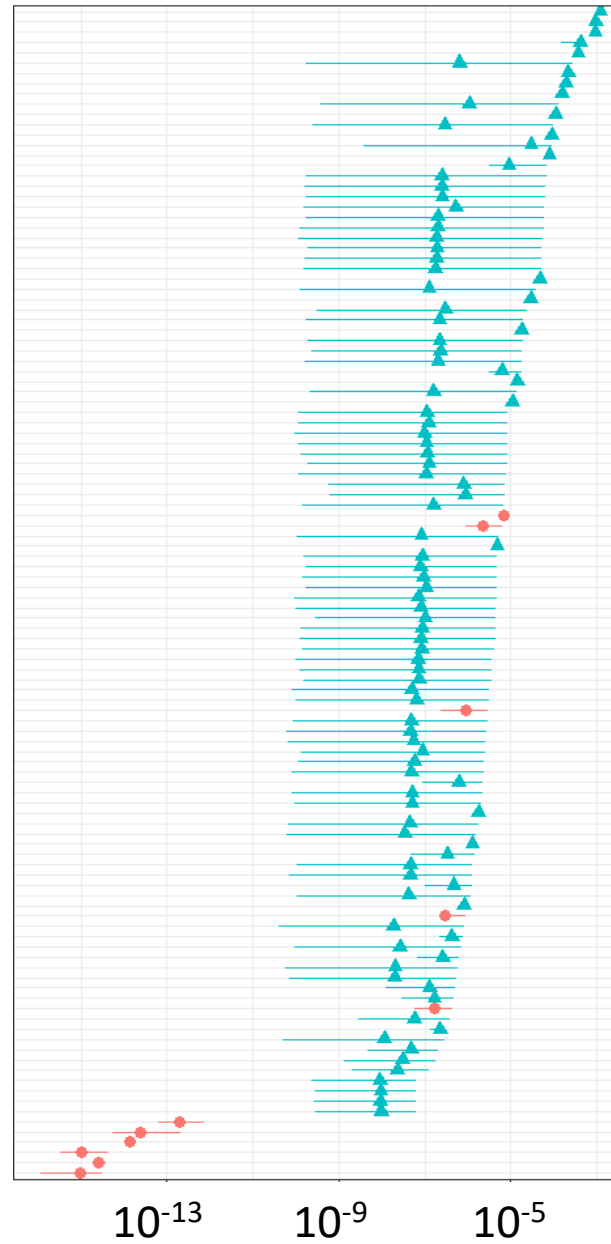
Average Unexplained  
( $a_0$ , the grand mean)



# Evaluation Data

Total Chemical  
Intake Rate  
(mg/ kg BW/ day)

## Intake Rates Inferred from NHANES



- NHANES urine (Wambaugh et al, 2014, Ring et al. 2017)
- NHANES serum/blood either using HTKK clearance (Pearce et al., 2017)
- Literature clearance estimates were used for methodologically challenging chemicals not suited to HTKK

media  
● serum  
▲ urine

# SEEM3

**Total Chemical  
Intake Rate  
(mg/ kg BW/ day)**

**Pathway**

**Chemical-Specific**

**Pathway Relevancy ( $\delta_{ij}$ )**

**Predictors**

Consumer

Yes/No

Average Unexplained ( $a_{\text{consumer}}$ )  
SHEDS-HT  
FINE  
RAIDAR-ICE  
USEtox

Dietary

Yes/No

Production Volume  
Average Unexplained ( $a_{\text{dietary}}$ )  
SHEDS-HT Dietary  
Production Volume  
USEtox  
RAIDAR  
Food Contact Substance Migration

Far-Field  
Pesticides

Yes/No

Average Unexplained ( $a_{\text{FFpesticide}}$ )  
Pesticide REDs  
USEtox  
RAIDAR  
Stockholm Convention  
Production Volume

Far-Field  
Industrial

Yes/No

Average Unexplained ( $a_{\text{FFindustrial}}$ )  
USEtox  
RAIDAR  
Stockholm Convention  
Production Volume

Unknown

Average Unexplained  
( $a_0$ , the grand mean)

# SEEM3

**Total Chemical  
Intake Rate  
(mg/ kg BW/ day)**

**Chemical-Specific  
Pathway Relevancy ( $\delta_{ij}$ )**

Consumer ————— Yes/No

Dietary ————— Yes/No

Far-Field Pesticides ————— Yes/No

Far-Field Industrial ————— Yes/No

Unknown

- Likelihood of exposure via various source-based pathways is predicted from production volume, OPERA physico-chemical properties and ToxPrint structure descriptors
- Machine learning (Random Forest) – generates a chemical specific probability of exposure by that pathway (which is then used as a Bayesian prior)

# SEEM3

**Total Chemical  
Intake Rate  
(mg/ kg BW/ day)**

**Pathway**

**Chemical-Specific**

**Pathway Relevancy ( $\delta_{ij}$ )**

**Predictors**

Consumer

Yes/No

Average Unexplained ( $a_{\text{consumer}}$ )  
SHEDS-HT  
FINE  
RAIDAR-ICE  
USEtox

Dietary

Yes/No

Production Volume  
Average Unexplained ( $a_{\text{dietary}}$ )  
SHEDS-HT Dietary  
Production Volume  
USEtox  
RAIDAR  
Food Contact Substance Migration

Far-Field  
Pesticides

Yes/No

Average Unexplained ( $a_{\text{FFpesticide}}$ )  
Pesticide REDs  
USEtox  
RAIDAR  
Stockholm Convention  
Production Volume

Far-Field  
Industrial

Yes/No

Average Unexplained ( $a_{\text{FFindustrial}}$ )  
USEtox  
RAIDAR  
Stockholm Convention  
Production Volume

Unknown

Average Unexplained  
( $a_0$ , the grand mean)

# SEEM3

**Total Chemical  
Intake Rate  
(mg/ kg BW/ day)**

**Pathway**  
Consumer

**Chemical-Specific  
Pathway Relevancy ( $\delta_{ij}$ )**

Yes/No

**Predictors**

- Average Unexplained ( $a_{\text{consumer}}$ )
- SHEDS-HT
- FINE
- RAIDAR-ICE
- USEtox
- Production Volume

Bayesian analysis via Markov Chain Monte Carlo assigns each chemical either a “Yes” or “No” according to predicted probability

**If the pathway is no for a chemical, nothing is added to the intake rate**

Linear regression is used to estimate the average unexplained exposure (intercept) and loadings (slopes, or predictive ability) for each model

Model predictions are centered at zero – **if there is no prediction for a chemical, the average value “zero” is added**

# SEEM3

**Total Chemical  
Intake Rate  
(mg/ kg BW/ day)**

**Pathway**

**Chemical-Specific**

**Pathway Relevancy ( $\delta_{ij}$ )**

**Predictors**

Consumer

Yes/No

Average Unexplained ( $a_{\text{consumer}}$ )  
SHEDS-HT  
FINE  
RAIDAR-ICE  
USEtox

Dietary

Yes/No

Production Volume  
Average Unexplained ( $a_{\text{dietary}}$ )  
SHEDS-HT Dietary  
Production Volume  
USEtox  
RAIDAR  
Food Contact Substance Migration

Far-Field  
Pesticides

Yes/No

Average Unexplained ( $a_{\text{FFpesticide}}$ )  
Pesticide REDs  
USEtox  
RAIDAR  
Stockholm Convention  
Production Volume

Far-Field  
Industrial

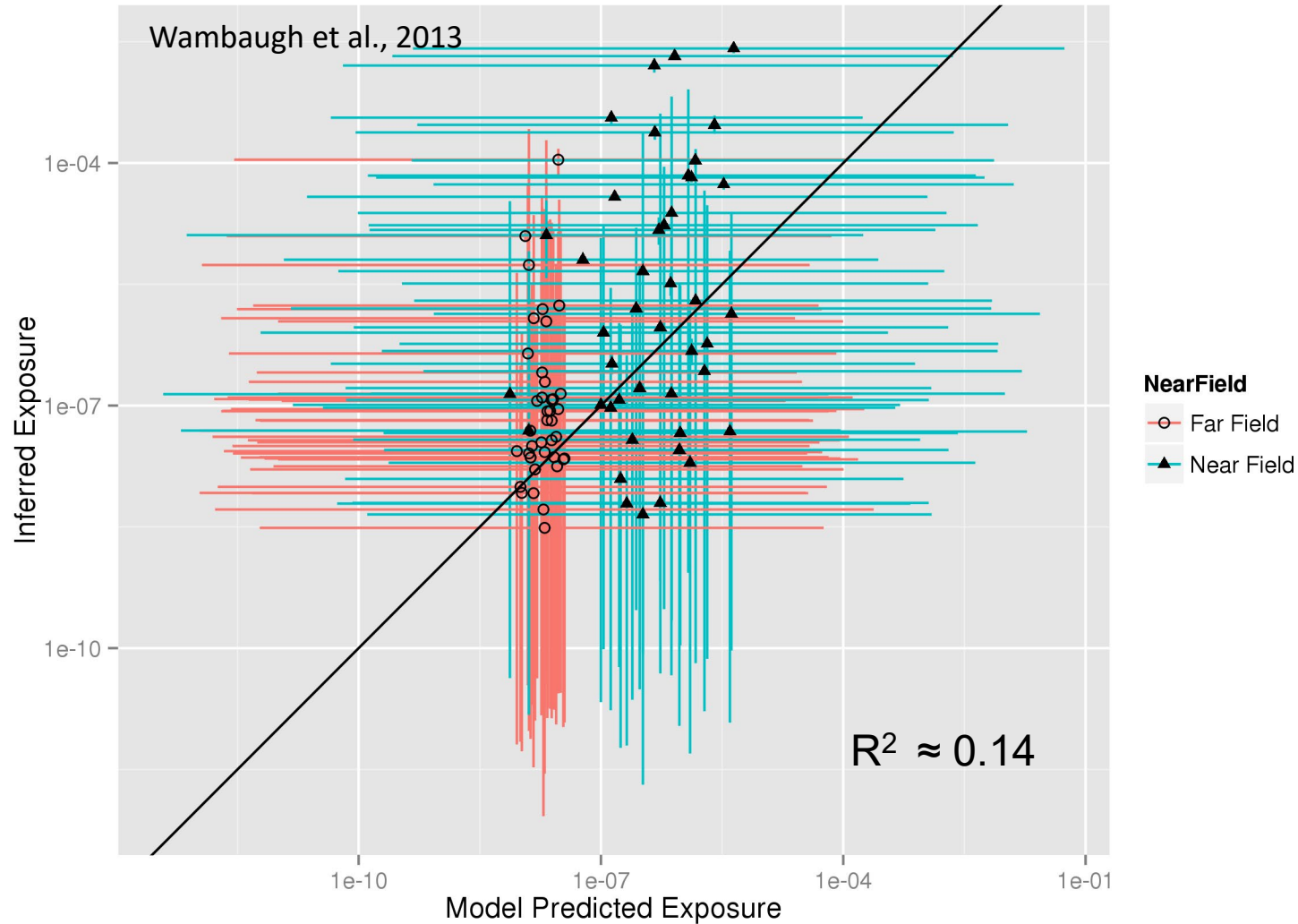
Yes/No

Average Unexplained ( $a_{\text{FFindustrial}}$ )  
USEtox  
RAIDAR  
Stockholm Convention  
Production Volume

Unknown

Average Unexplained  
( $a_0$ , the grand mean)

# First Generation SEEM



- Those chemicals with “near-field” – proximate, in the home, sources of exposure – had much higher rates of exposure than those with sources outside the home (Wallace et al., 1986)
- The only available “high throughput exposure models in 2013 were for far-field sources

# SEEMI

**Total Chemical  
Intake Rate  
(mg/ kg BW/ day)**

**The 3<sup>rd</sup> Gen. SEEM  
framework incorporates  
the previous models**

**Pathway**

**Chemical-Specific  
Pathway Relevancy ( $\delta_{ij}$ )**

**Predictors**

Consumer

Yes

Average Unexplained ( $a_{\text{consumer}}$ )

Dietary

No

We were unfair to USEtox and RAIDAR in that we judged them on all chemicals, not just those that with far-field sources.

Far-Field  
Pesticides

Yes

Average Unexplained ( $a_{\text{FFpesticide}}$ )  
USEtox  
RAIDAR  
Production Volume

Far-Field  
Industrial

Yes

Average Unexplained ( $a_{\text{FFindustrial}}$ )  
USEtox  
RAIDAR  
Production Volume

Unknown

Average Unexplained  
( $a_0$ , the grand mean)



# SEEM3

**Total Chemical  
Intake Rate  
(mg/ kg BW/ day)**

**Pathway**

**Chemical-Specific**

**Pathway Relevancy ( $\delta_{ij}$ )**

**Predictors**

Consumer

Yes/No

Average Unexplained ( $a_{\text{consumer}}$ )  
SHEDS-HT  
FINE  
RAIDAR-ICE  
USEtox

Dietary

Yes/No

Production Volume  
Average Unexplained ( $a_{\text{dietary}}$ )  
SHEDS-HT Dietary  
Production Volume  
USEtox  
RAIDAR  
Food Contact Substance Migration

Far-Field  
Pesticides

Yes/No

Average Unexplained ( $a_{\text{FFpesticide}}$ )  
Pesticide REDs  
USEtox  
RAIDAR  
Stockholm Convention  
Production Volume

Far-Field  
Industrial

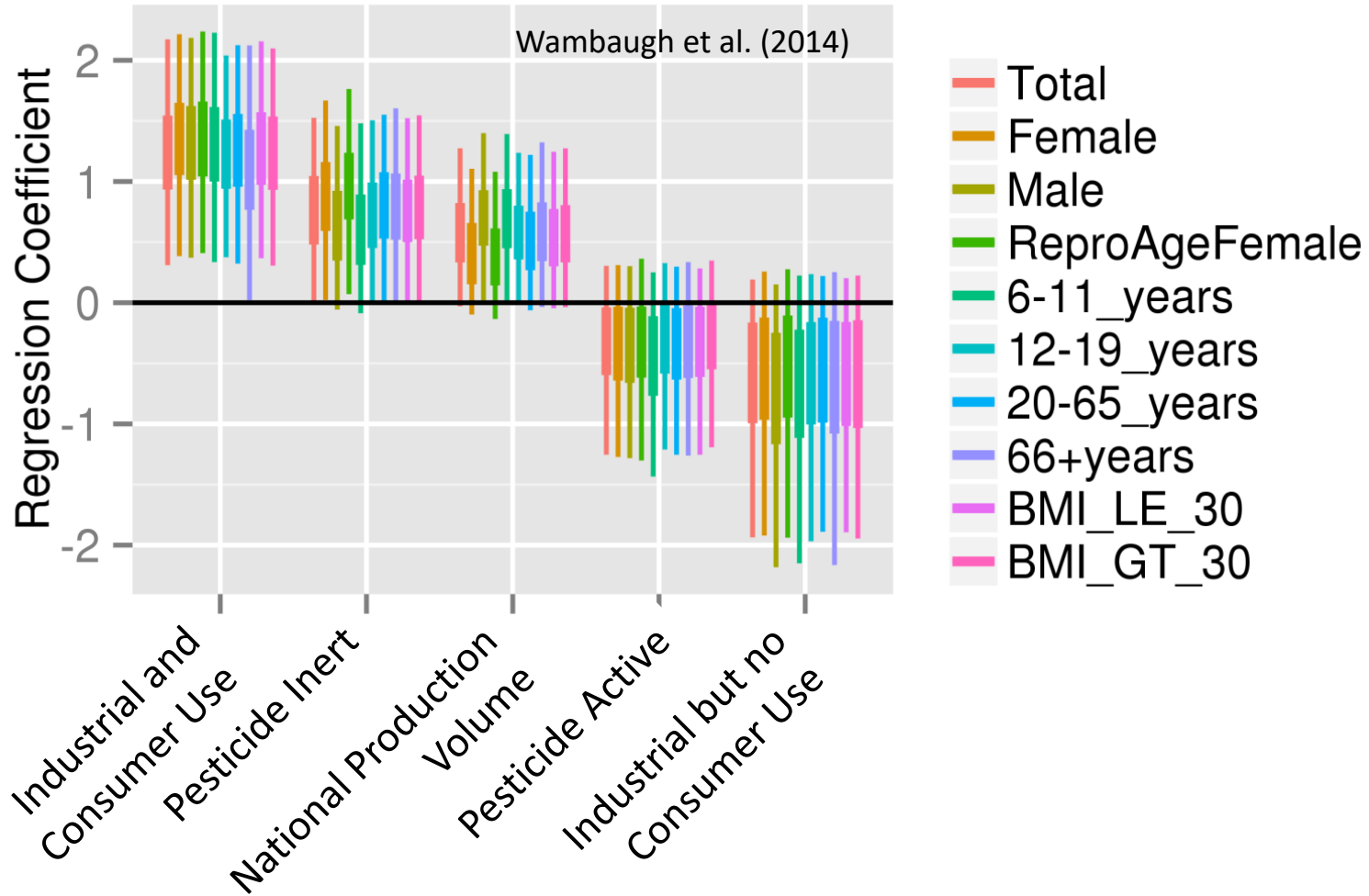
Yes/No

Average Unexplained ( $a_{\text{FFindustrial}}$ )  
USEtox  
RAIDAR  
Stockholm Convention  
Production Volume

Unknown

Average Unexplained  
( $a_0$ , the grand mean)

# Heuristics of Exposure



$R^2 \approx 0.5$  indicates that we can predict 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

# SEEM2

## Chemical-Specific Pathway Pathway Relevancy ( $\delta_{ij}$ )

Consumer ————— Yes/No ————— Average Unexplained ( $a_{\text{consumer}}$ )



ACToR UseDB gave us chemical pathway predictions (Yes/No) and we estimated the average exposure for each pathway



Far-Field Pesticides ————— Yes/No ————— Average Unexplained ( $a_{\text{FFpesticide}}$ )

Far-Field Industrial ————— Yes/No ————— Average Unexplained ( $a_{\text{FFindustrial}}$ )

Unknown ————— Average Unexplained ( $a_0$ , the grand mean)

**Total Chemical  
Intake Rate  
(mg/ kg BW/ day)**

**The 3<sup>rd</sup> Gen. SEEM  
framework incorporates  
the previous models**

# SEEM3

**Total Chemical  
Intake Rate  
(mg/ kg BW/ day)**

**Pathway**

**Chemical-Specific**

**Pathway Relevancy ( $\delta_{ij}$ )**

**Predictors**

Consumer

Yes/No

Average Unexplained ( $a_{\text{consumer}}$ )  
SHEDS-HT  
FINE  
RAIDAR-ICE  
USEtox

Dietary

Yes/No

Production Volume  
Average Unexplained ( $a_{\text{dietary}}$ )  
SHEDS-HT Dietary  
Production Volume  
USEtox  
RAIDAR  
Food Contact Substance Migration

Far-Field  
Pesticides

Yes/No

Average Unexplained ( $a_{\text{FFpesticide}}$ )  
Pesticide REDs  
USEtox  
RAIDAR  
Stockholm Convention  
Production Volume

Far-Field  
Industrial

Yes/No

Average Unexplained ( $a_{\text{FFindustrial}}$ )  
USEtox  
RAIDAR  
Stockholm Convention  
Production Volume

Unknown

Average Unexplained  
( $a_0$ , the grand mean)

# Predicting Exposure Pathways

We use the method of Random Forests to relate chemical structure and properties to exposure pathway

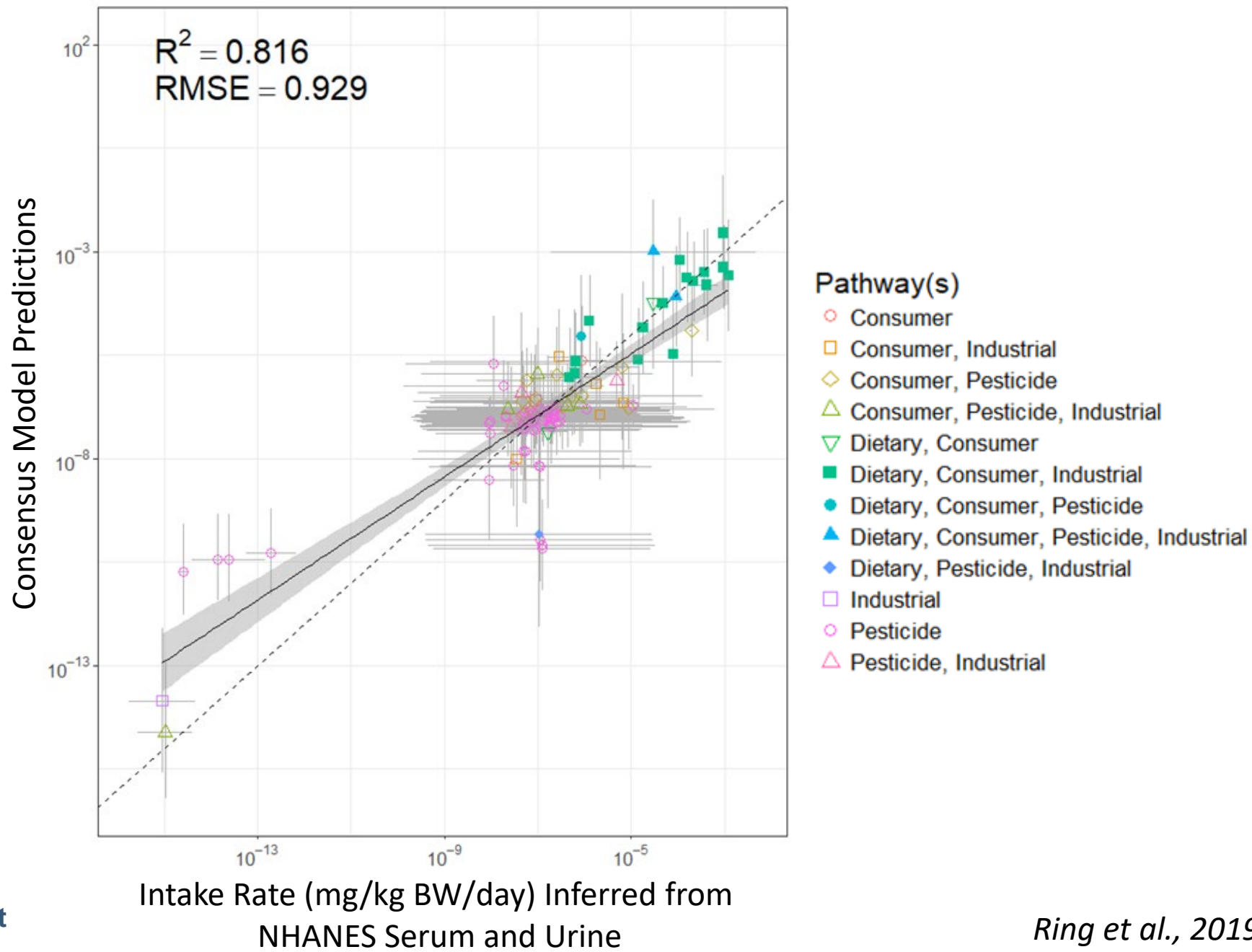
	NHANES Chemicals	Positives	Negatives	OOB Error Rate	Positives Error Rate	Balanced Accuracy	Sources of Positives	Sources of Negatives
<b>Dietary</b>	24	2523	8865	27	32	73	FDA CEDI, ExpoCast, CPDat (Food, Food Additive, Food Contact), NHANES Curation	Pharmapendium, CPDat (non-food), NHANES Curation
<b>Near-Field</b>	<b>49</b>	1622	567	26	24	74	CPDat (consumer_use, building_material), ExpoCast, NHANES Curation	CPDat (Agricultural, Industrial), FDA CEDI, NHANES Curation
<b>Far-Field Pesticide</b>	<b>94</b>	1480	6522	21	36	80	REDs, Swiss Pesticides, Stockholm Convention, CPDat (Pesticide), NHANES Curation	Pharmapendium, Industrial Positives, NHANES Curation
<b>Far Field Industrial</b>	<b>42</b>	5089	2913	19	16	81	CDR HPV, USGS Water Occurrence, NORMAN PFAS, Stockholm Convention, CPDat (Industrial, Industrial_Fluid), NHANES Curation	Pharmapendium, Pesticide Positives, NHANES Curation

# Most Important Predictors (Scaled Gini Impurity, Louppe et al., 2013)

	Normalized Gini impurity importance			
	Dietary	Near-Field	Far-Field Pesticide	Far Field Industrial
NCCT_LogKAW	1.00	0.88	1.00	1.00
NCCT_VP	0.84	1.00	0.99	0.83
NCCT_MP	0.94	0.95	0.89	0.81
NCCT_LogKOA	0.85	0.89	0.90	0.89
Structure_MolWt	0.86	0.89	0.91	0.69
NCCT_BP	0.79	0.79	0.92	0.74
NCCT_HL	0.72	0.69	0.87	0.58
NCCT_BIODEG	0.74	0.53	0.85	0.65
NCCT_KOC	0.72	0.60	0.88	0.48
NCCT_LogP	0.73	0.58	0.80	0.50
NCCT_Csatw	0.72	0.56	0.79	0.52
NCCT_AOH	0.69	0.54	0.82	0.51
NCCT_WS	0.69	0.54	0.80	0.53
NCCT_BCF	0.69	0.56	0.79	0.46

# Pathway-Based Consensus Modeling of NHANES

- Machine learning models were built for each of four exposure pathways
- Pathway predictions can be used for large chemical libraries
- Use prediction (and accuracy of prediction) as a prior for Bayesian analysis
- Each chemical may have exposure by multiple pathways



# Estimated Model Parameters

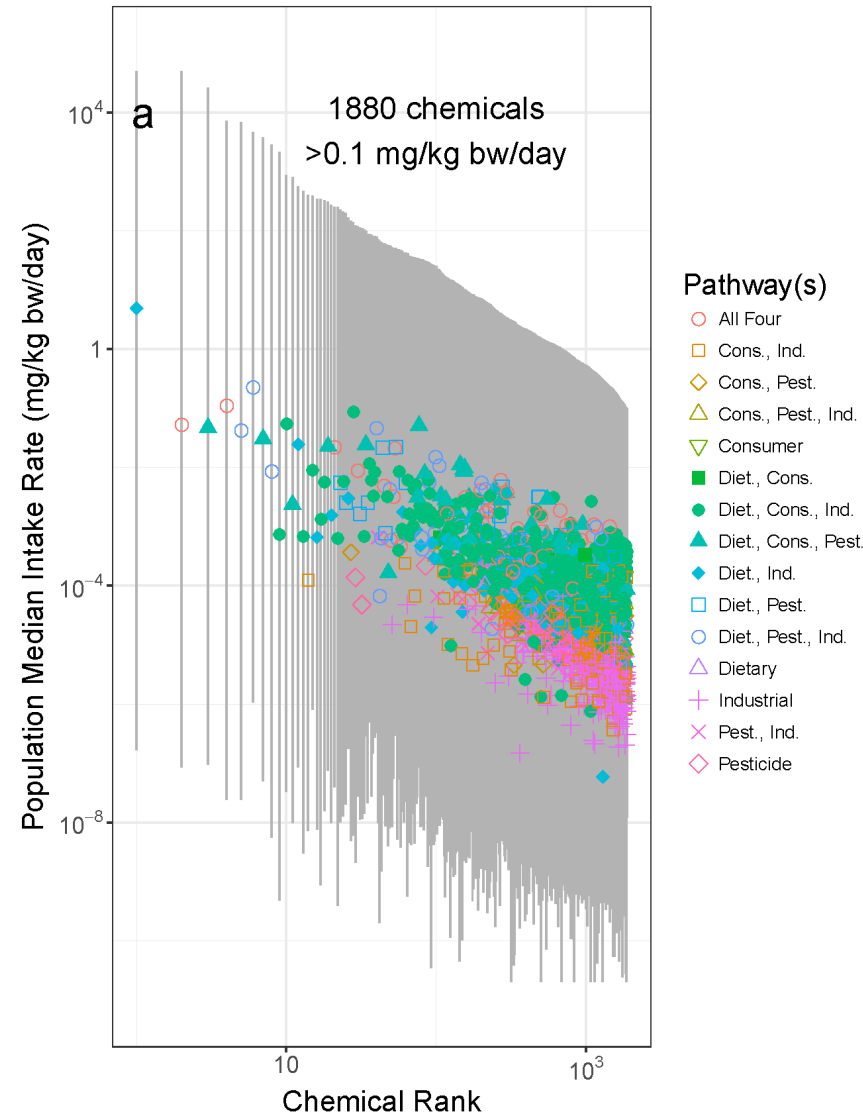
- Median parameter estimates from multivariate regression
- Standard deviation is reported in parentheses
- Statistically association indicated in bold

	Grand Mean (Unexplained)	Dietary	Residential	Far-Field Pesticide	Far-Field Industrial
Pathway Mean	-0.291 (0.319)	<b>0.483 (0.292)</b>	<b>0.888 (0.26)</b>	<b>0.346 (0.302)</b>	-0.104 (0.228)
NHANES Chemicals	0	22	45	88	34
All Chemicals	86.9%	1.22%	4.68%	1.58%	9.89%
SHEDS Direct			<b>0.187 (0.0635)</b>		
SHEDS Indirect			0.0405 (0.0688)		
FINE			0.0159 (0.0496)		
Food Contact		<b>0.378 (0.134)</b>			
REDS				0.0287 (0.144)	
RAIDAR				<b>-0.119 (0.0959)</b>	<b>-0.296 (0.142)</b>
RAIDAR.ICE			-0.0991 (0.161)		
USETox Pest				<b>0.129 (0.0631)</b>	
USETox Indust					<b>-0.29 (0.135)</b>
USETox Res			-0.0167 (0.117)		
USETox Diet		<b>-0.599 (0.169)</b>			
Production.Volume		0.459 (0.252)	-0.152 (0.198)	<b>0.383 (0.126)</b>	-0.093 (0.162)
Stockholm				<b>-1.48 (0.256)</b>	<b>-1.94 (0.462)</b>



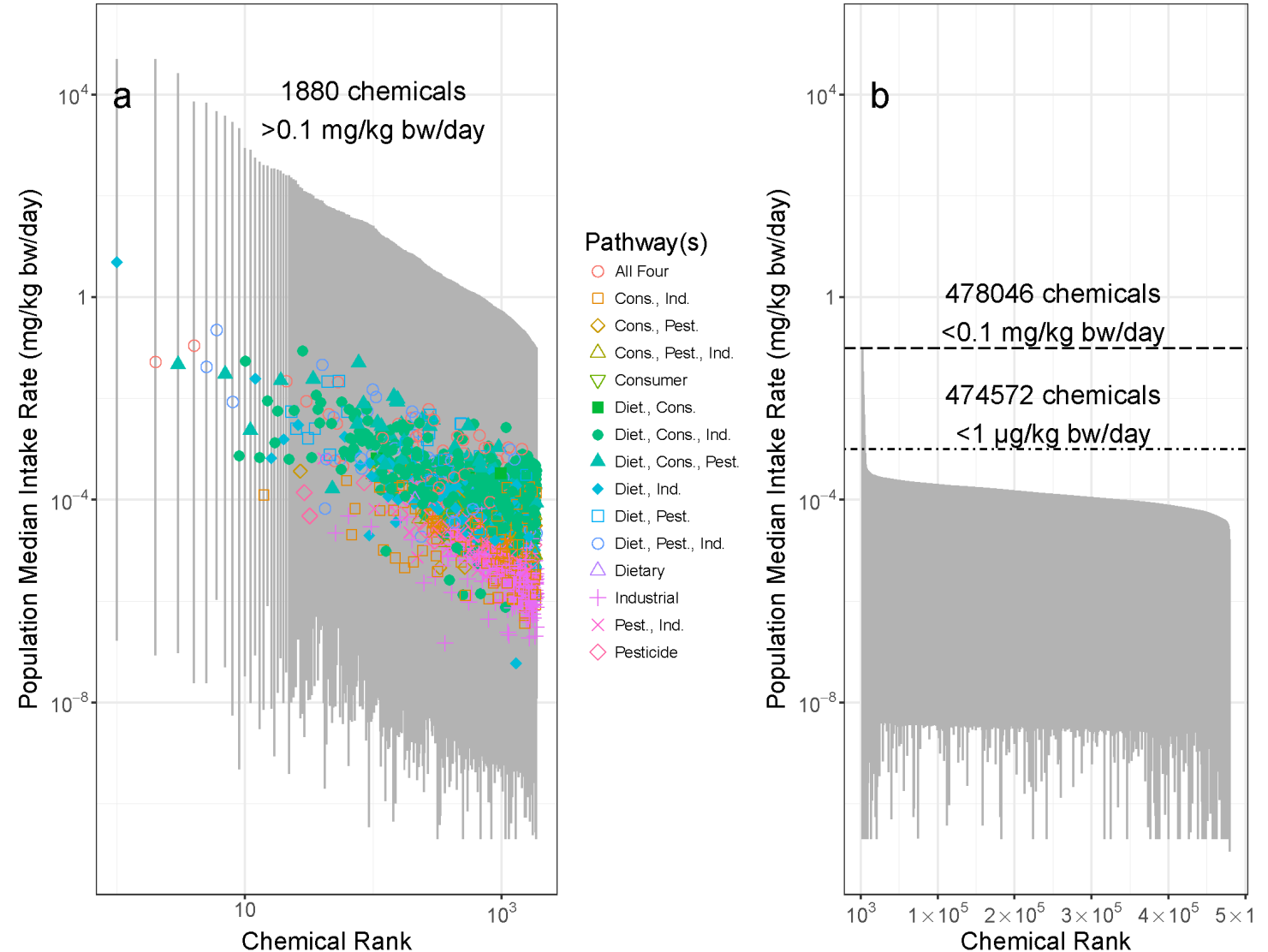
# Consensus Modeling of Median Chemical Intake

- We extrapolate to predict relevant pathway(s), median intake rate, and credible interval for each of 479,926 chemicals
- Of 687,359 chemicals evaluated, 30% have less than a 50% probability for exposure via any of the four pathways and are considered outside the “domain of applicability”
- This approach identifies 1,880 chemicals for which the median population intake rates may exceed 0.1 mg/kg bodyweight/day.



# Consensus Modeling of Median Chemical Intake

- We extrapolate to predict relevant pathway(s), median intake rate, and credible interval for each of 479,926 chemicals
- Of 687,359 chemicals evaluated, 30% have less than a 50% probability for exposure via any of the four pathways and are considered outside the “domain of applicability”
- This approach identifies 1,880 chemicals for which the median population intake rates may exceed 0.1 mg/kg bodyweight/day.
- There is 95% confidence that the median intake rate is below 1 µg/kg BW/day for 474,572 compounds.

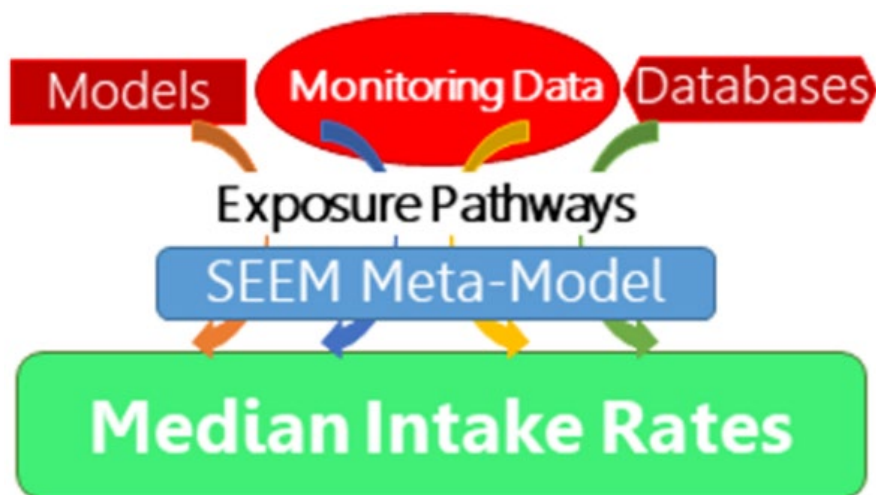


## Consensus Modeling of Median Chemical Intake for the U.S. Population Based on Predictions of Exposure Pathways

Caroline L. Ring,<sup>†,§,∞</sup> Jon A. Arnot,<sup>||,⊥,#</sup> Deborah H. Bennett,<sup>∇,Ⓜ</sup> Peter P. Egeghy,<sup>‡</sup> Peter Fantke,<sup>Ⓞ,Ⓟ</sup> Lei Huang,<sup>◆,Ⓠ</sup> Kristin K. Isaacs,<sup>‡,Ⓡ</sup> Olivier Jolliet,<sup>◆,Ⓡ</sup> Katherine A. Phillips,<sup>‡,Ⓡ</sup> Paul S. Price,<sup>‡,Ⓡ</sup> Hyeong-Moo Shin,<sup>Ⓜ,Ⓡ</sup> John N. Westgate,<sup>||,Ⓞ</sup> R. Woodrow Setzer,<sup>†</sup> and John F. Wambaugh<sup>\*,†,Ⓡ</sup>

Table 1. Partial Technical Glossary

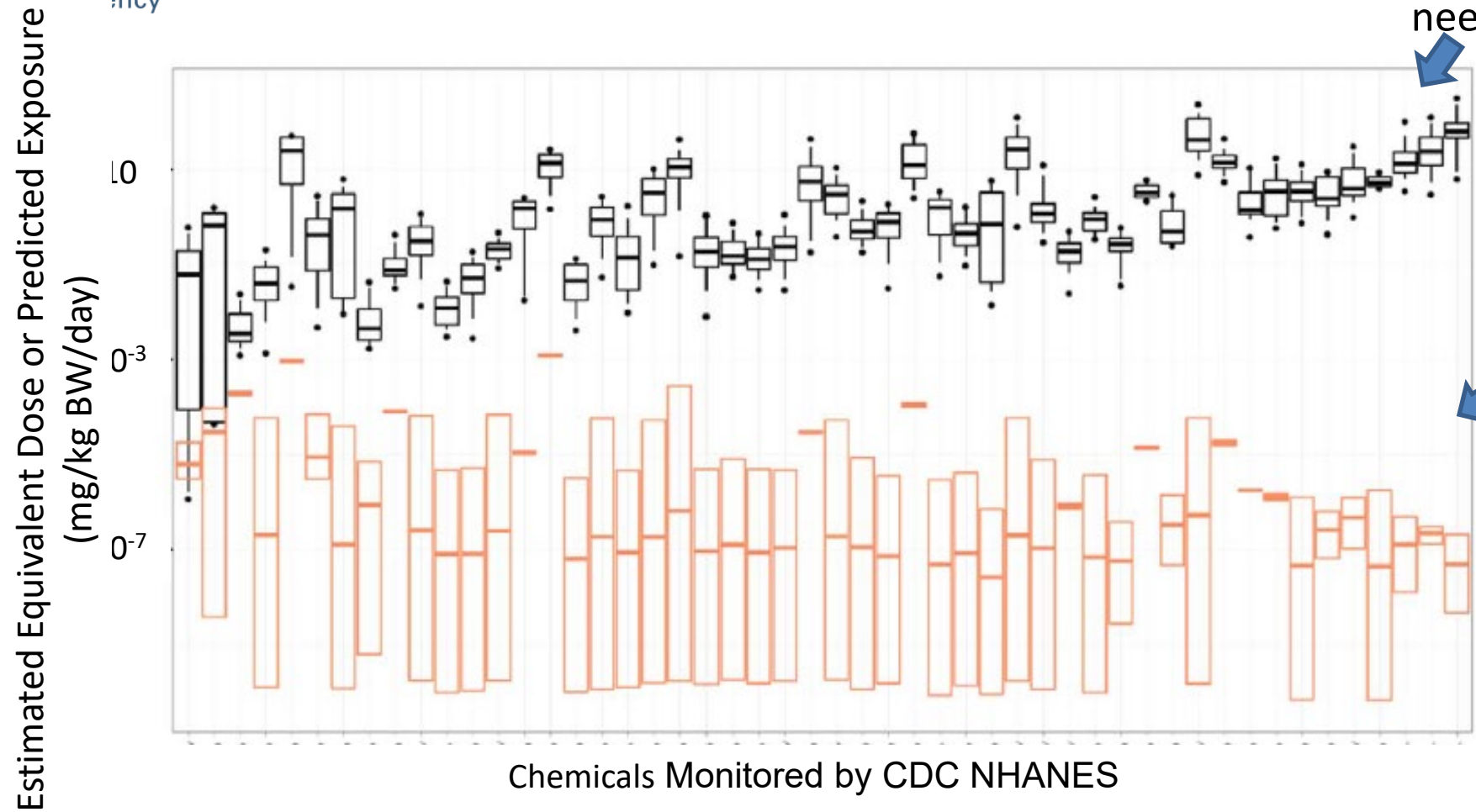
term	explanation
ExpoCast (Exposure Forecasting) Project exposure predictor	an ongoing U.S. Environmental Protection Agency project to develop new methods, data, and models for high-throughput exposure assessment (i.e., thousands of chemicals) <sup>11,89</sup> in this analysis “exposure predictor” refers to both the predictions of specific exposure models as well as other exposure-related information
exposure pathway	“the course an agent [chemical] takes from the source [environmental release] to the target [human].” <sup>14</sup> In this analysis we use the simple term “pathway” to represent the totality of paths that a chemical may follow from a particular source to reach a person
grand mean	the overall mean of a regression. In this analysis, the grand mean $a_0$ describes the average intake rate inferred from NHANES in contrast to the pathway-specific means <sup>30</sup>
intake	“the process by which an agent [chemical] crosses an outer exposure surface [some portion of an individual] of a target [human] without passing an absorption barrier, i.e. through ingestion or inhalation” <sup>14</sup>
intake rate	daily average intake (mg/kg body weight/day)
meet-in-the-middle	an approach in which predictions from models that make predictions from upstream data (e.g., activity) are compared with models that make inferences from downstream data (e.g., biomarkers), <sup>18</sup>
near-field/far-field sources	“near-field” sources are proximate, indoor sources such as consumer product use in domestic settings, while “far-field” sources are distal with exposure mediated by environmental fate and transport <sup>30,7,18</sup>
random forest algorithm	a machine learning approach in which an ensemble of decision trees is used to make probabilistic predictions <sup>29</sup>
Systematic Empirical Evaluation of Models (SEEM)	SEEM is a consensus modeling method for exposure model evaluation and calibration. SEEM uses a meet-in-the-middle approach to calibrate high-throughput exposure predictors with intake rates inferred from biomonitoring data <sup>20,21</sup>



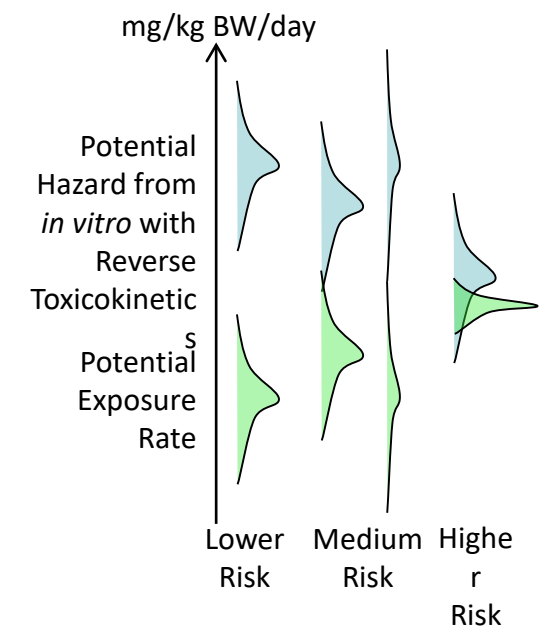
**Haven't Had Enough?**  
**SOT 2019 Sunrise Mini-Course SR02**  
 “Publicly Available Exposure Tools to Inform  
 the Toxic Substances Control Act”  
 7 AM Sunday morning  
 you can register in person at the SOT meeting

# ToxCast + ExpoCast Provide NAMs for Chemical Prioritization

ToxCast + HTTK can estimate doses needed to cause bioactivity

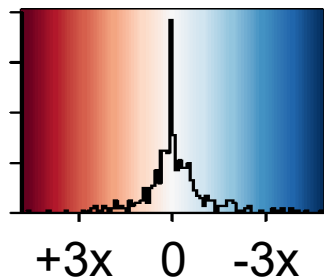


Exposure intake rates can be inferred from biomarkers (Wambaugh et al., 2014)

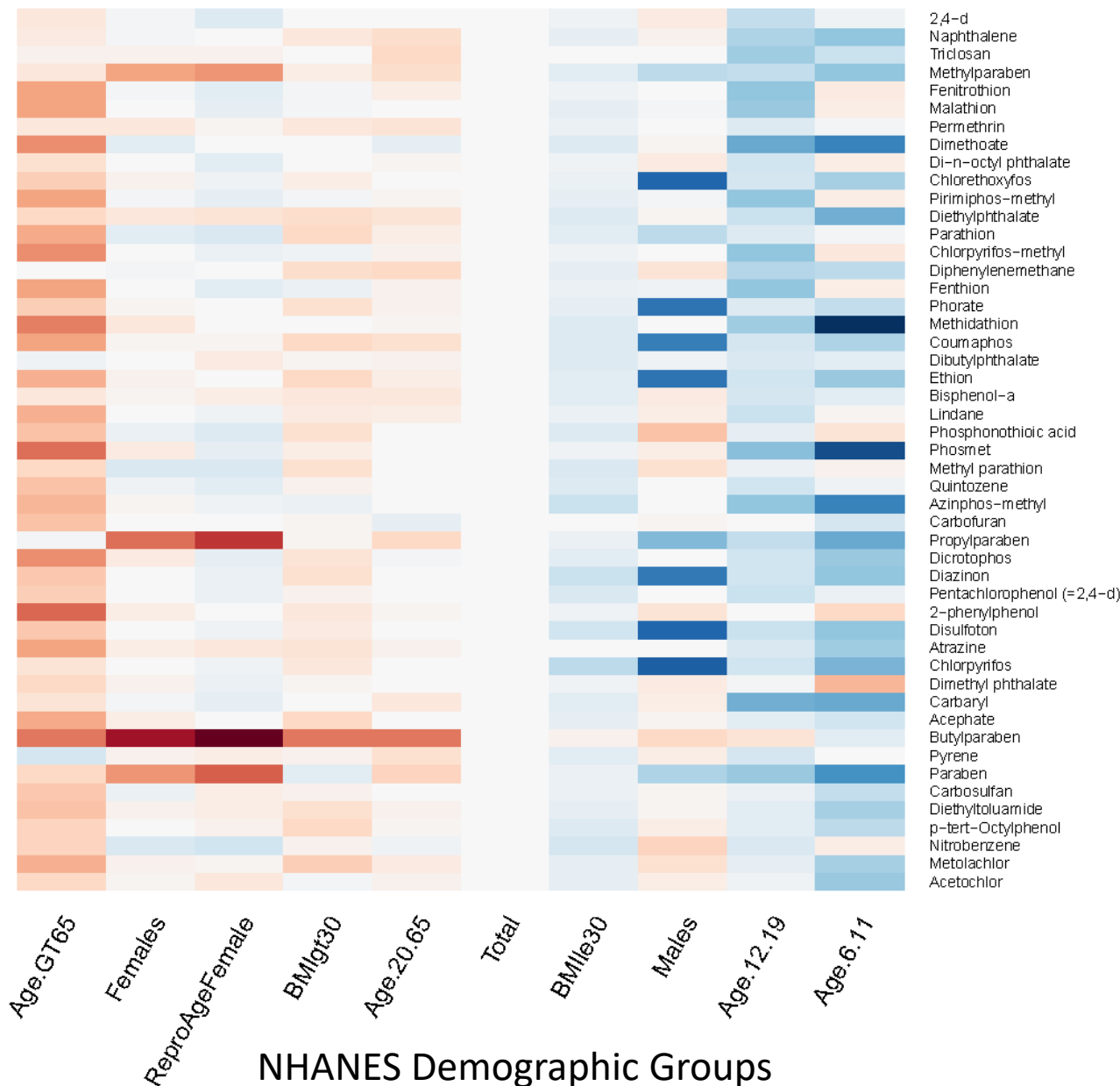


# SEEM2: Life-stage and Demographic Specific Predictions

**Change in  
Activity : Exposure  
Ratio**

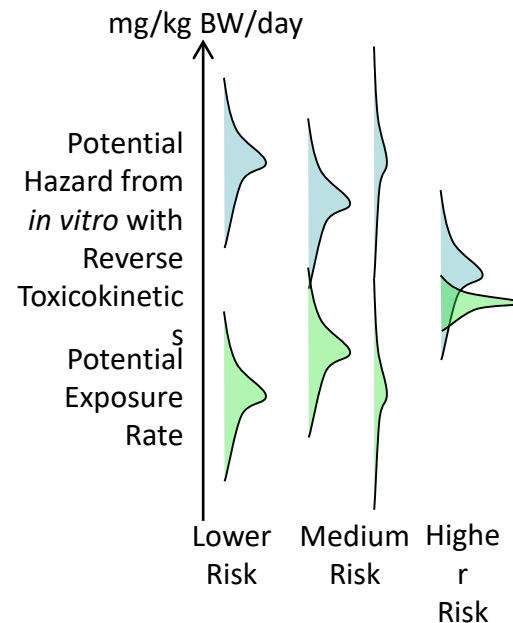


- To date SEEM3 predictions are only available for overall ("Total") U.S. Population



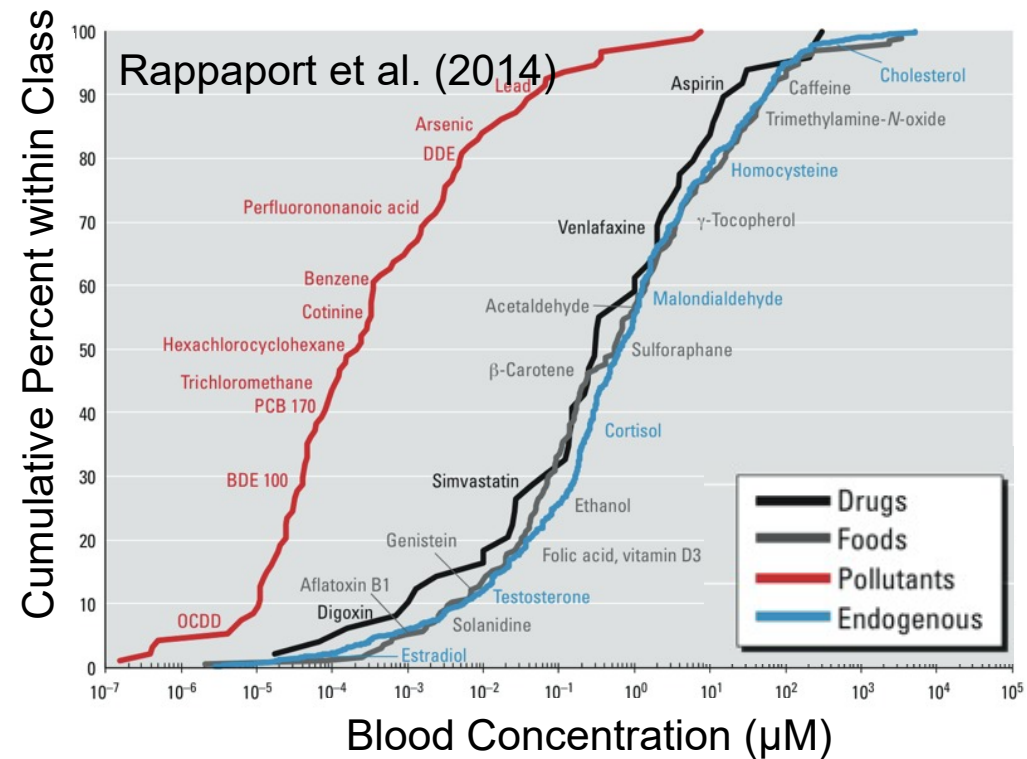
- We can calculate margin between bioactivity and exposure for specific populations
- Based on variation in toxicokinetics and exposure

NHANES Chemicals



# Conclusions

- We can make chemical-specific estimates of intake rate for hundreds of thousands of chemical
  - Only predicting median intake rate (and even that has large uncertainty)
  - Synthesizing as many models and other data as we can find
- Models incorporate Knowledge, Assumptions and Data (Macleod, et al., 2010)
  - The trick is to know which model to use and when
  - Machine learning models allow educated guesses
- We are using existing chemical data to predict pathways
  - Not all chemicals fit within the domain of applicability
  - Need better training data for random (non-targeted analysis of environmental media needed)
- Eventually we have got to go beyond NHANES
  - Current evaluation based upon 114 chemicals
  - Non-targeted analysis of blood may eventually be possible



## Final Thought

“Scientists should resist the demand to describe any model, no matter how good, as validated. Rather than talking about strategies for validation, we should be talking about means of evaluation.”

Naomi Oreskes



# ExpoCast Project (Exposure Forecasting)

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# Open and Machine Readable Modeling

- “Information is a valuable national resource and a strategic asset to the Federal Government, its partners, and the public.” Burwell et al. (2013):
- “...this includes using machine-readable and open formats...” Burwell et al. (2013):
- Machine learning models based on chemical structure and physico-chemical properties predict whether or not each pathway is relevant to a library of over 680,000 chemicals,
  - Each individual model prediction will also be made available

