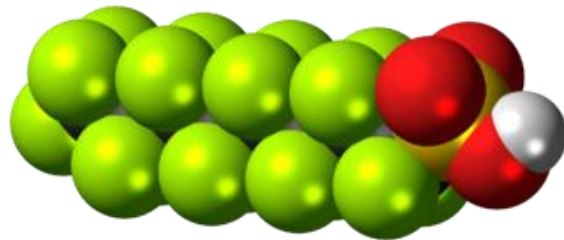




# The National Atmospheric Deposition Program National Trends Network, a Premier Model of Multi-Sector Partnerships, Working to Provide New Information on PFAS Deposition in Precipitation

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University of Wisconsin-Madison, State Laboratory of Hygiene

**2020 National Environmental Monitoring Conference  
August 14, 2020**



## The National Atmospheric Deposition Program (NADP)

The NADP is one of our nation's **premier long-term environmental monitoring programs**, with data of the highest quality, and has been relied upon for four decades to help understand and mitigate some of the most pressing environmental problems of our times. Issues that directly impact people, ecosystems, and our built environment at local, regional and national scales.

The NADP monitors our nation's precipitation and atmosphere for a range of chemical constituents to determine **SPATIAL** and **TEMPORAL** trends in **CONCENTRATION** and **DEPOSITION**.



# NADP Nationwide Importance

The NADP program is essential for facilitation of cleaner water, healthier air quality, more productive fisheries, smarter environmental planning, improved air quality and climate forecasting, healthier forests, and responsible environmental stewardship.

1. A critical tool to **inform and evaluate the effects of environmental regulation** on contaminant levels in key environmental compartments (including humans) [e.g. acid deposition, mercury deposition]
2. NADP data is key to **understanding the ecosystem and human health impacts of anthropogenic emissions**:
  - a. direct and indirect effects of **acid deposition on acid-sensitive watersheds** – element leaching, food-web impacts, fisheries impacts
  - b. impacts of acid deposition and nitrogen loading on our **forests**
  - c. development of **critical loading factors** that protect the abundance and diversity of forest and aquatic ecosystems
  - d. assessing **Hg/MeHg cycling and human health** implications, Hg advisories
  - e. understanding the **sourcing and impacts of ammonia** in both rural and urban environments
3. An important **resource for scientific research across multiple disciplines** [e.g. in 2016 alone, 236 peer-reviewed publications used NADP data]

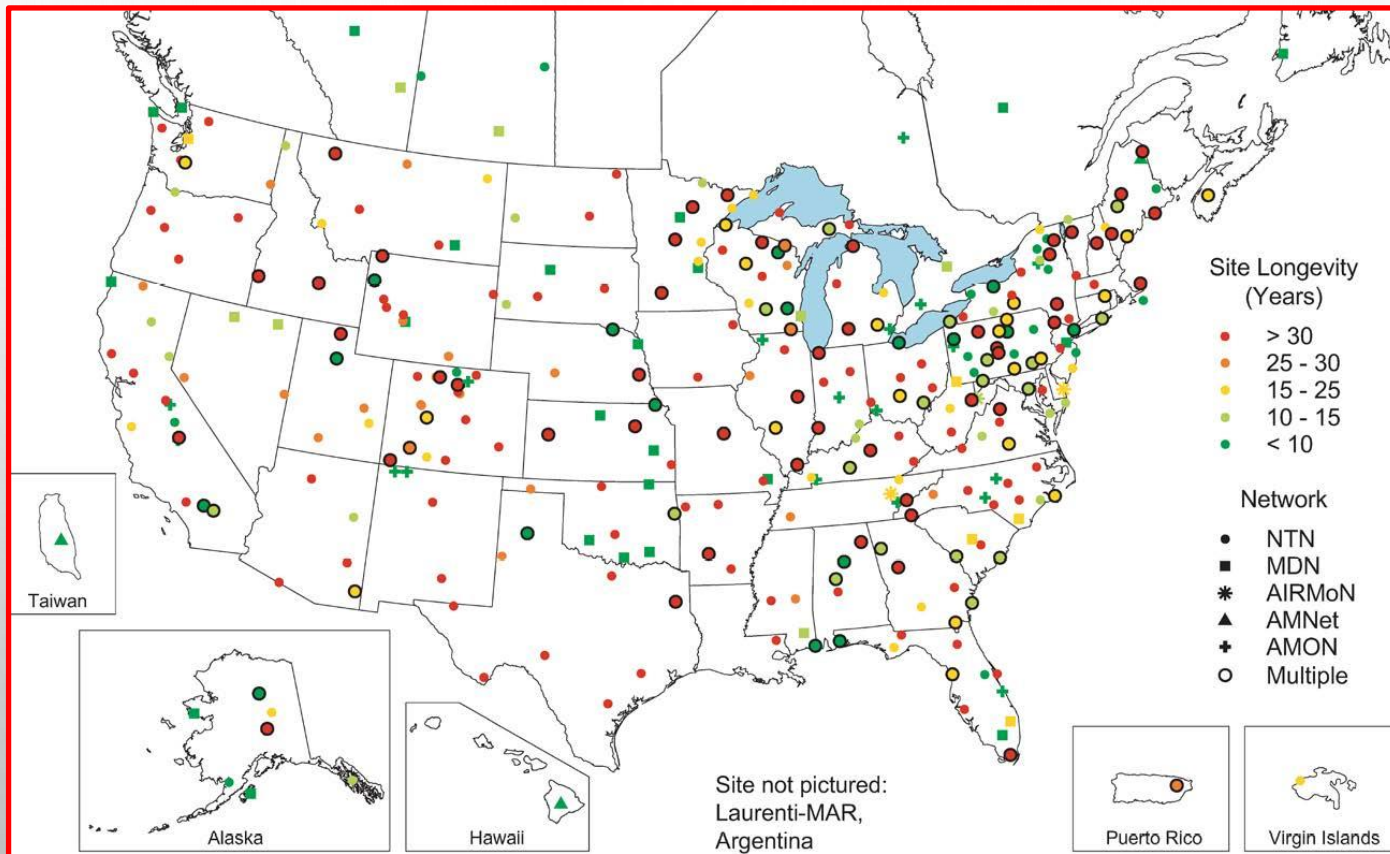


# NADP SCOPE : Network Sampling Sites

Established in **1978**, the NADP is the only network providing a long-term record of precipitation chemistry, and more recently air chemistry, across the US.

Over **350 sites** with **500+ samplers** are monitored.

Generating **20,000+ samples per year** for chemical characterization.





# NADP National Atmospheric Deposition Program

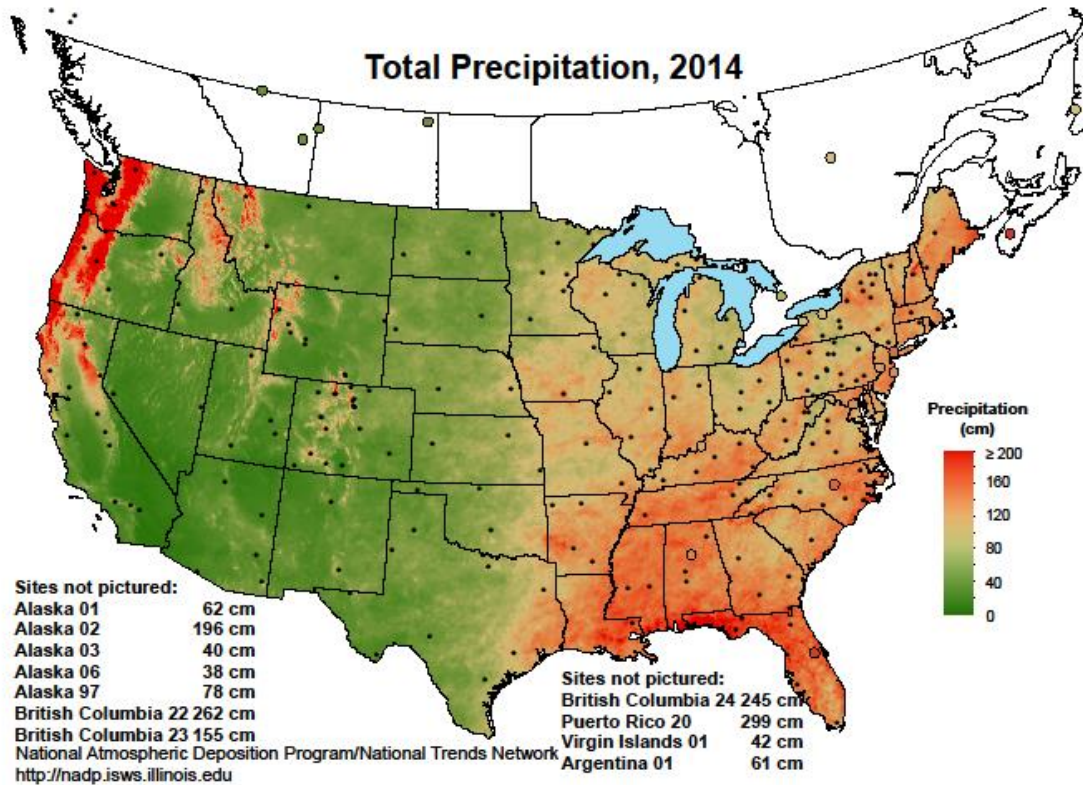
Operated by the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene

1. **NTN**: National Trends Network
2. **MDN**: Mercury Deposition Network
3. **AMNet**: Atmospheric Mercury Network
4. **AMoN**: Ammonia Monitoring Network

Network ID	Network Initiated	Sample Matrix	Collection Frequency	# of Sites (WI)	Core Analytes
NTN	1978	Precipitation	Weekly	259 (7)	Na, K, Mg, Ca, NH <sub>4</sub> , pH Cl, NO <sub>3</sub> , SO <sub>4</sub> , PO <sub>4</sub> , SpCond
MDN	1996	Precipitation	Weekly	88 (5)	HgT, MeHg
AMoN	2010	Air (Gas)	Biweekly	110 (5)	NH <sub>3</sub>
AMNet	2009	Air (Gas & PM)	Semi-Cont.	18 (0)	GEM, GOM, PBM



# NADP – NTN : Data Product : Precipitation

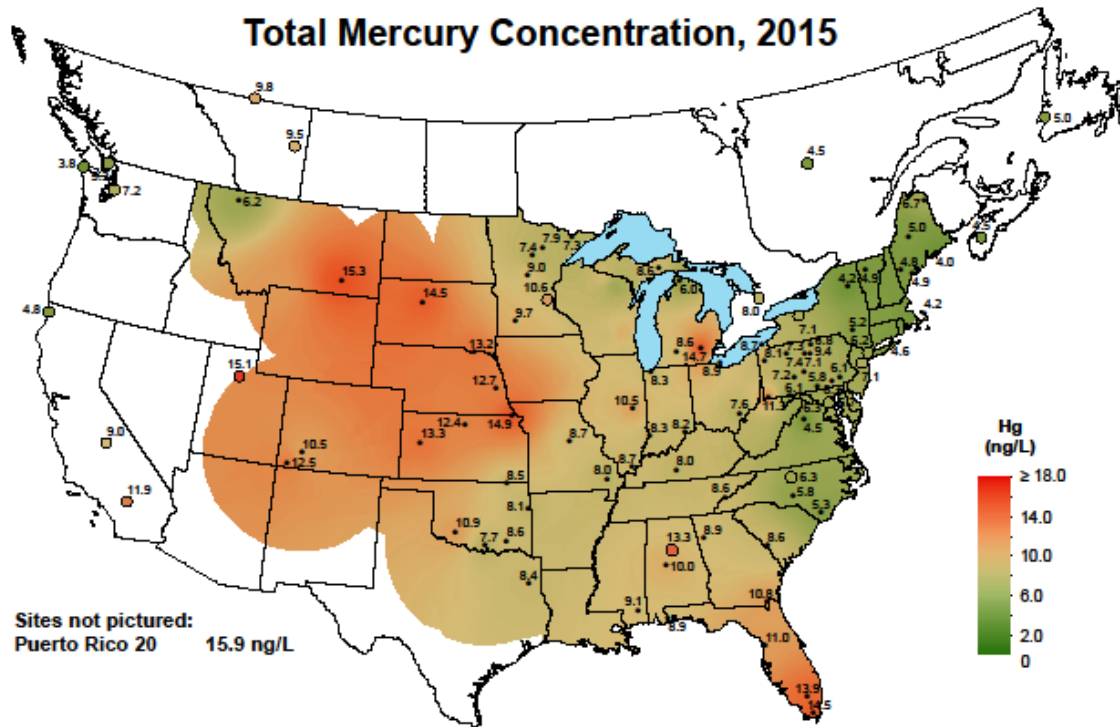


ETI NOAH IV  
Rain Gauge





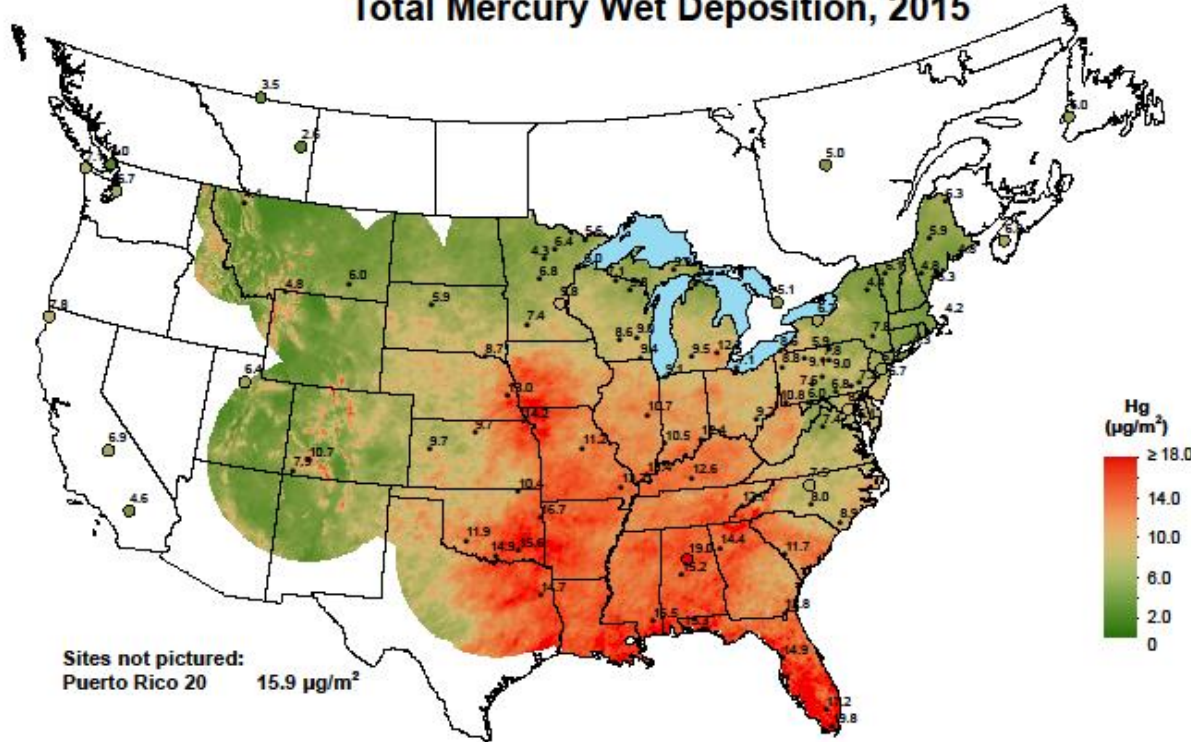
# NADP – MDN: Data Product : Hg Concentration



National Atmospheric Deposition Program/Mercury Deposition Network  
<http://nadp.isws.illinois.edu>

# NADP – MDN: Data Product : Hg Deposition

## Total Mercury Wet Deposition, 2015



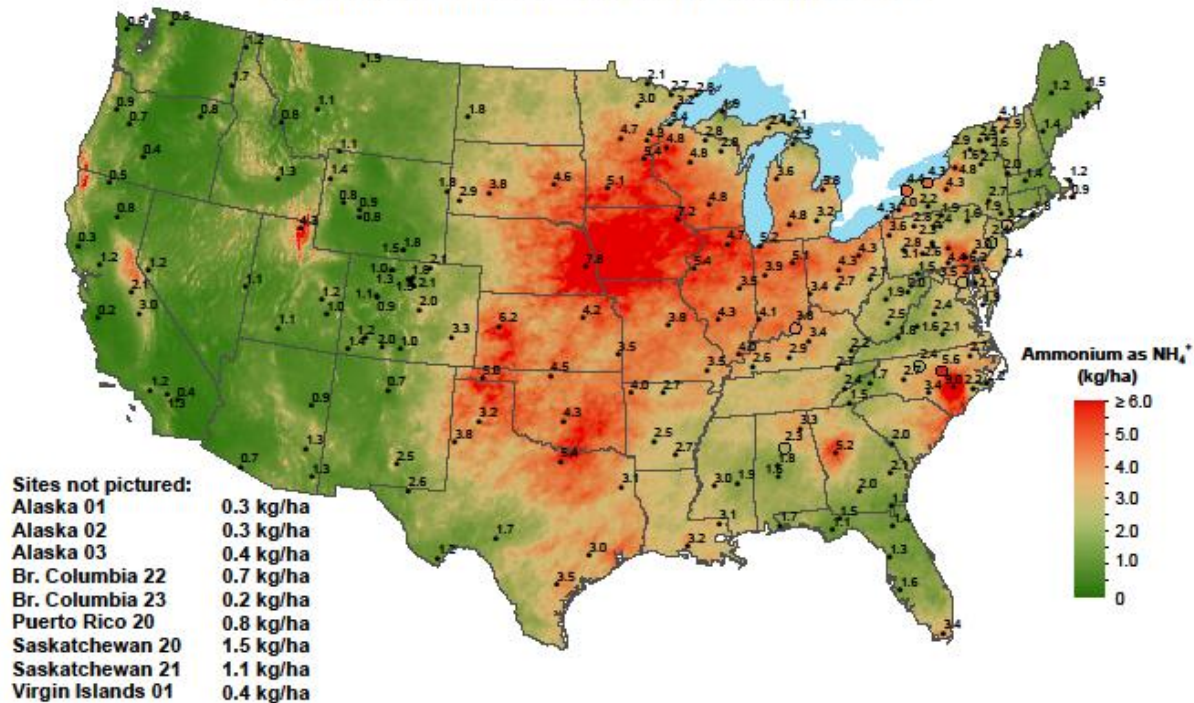
Sites not pictured:  
Puerto Rico 20 15.9  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^2$

National Atmospheric Deposition Program/Mercury Deposition Network  
<http://nadp.isws.illinois.edu>



# NADP – NTN: Data Product : Ammonium Deposition

## Ammonium ion wet deposition, 2015



National Atmospheric Deposition Program/National Trends Network  
<http://nadp.isws.illinois.edu>

# The NADP is a Cooperative Program among 5 major Federal Agencies and over 100 other State, Tribal, Local Governments, Universities, Private Companies & NGOs.



Federal Agency Members



Tribal Organizations



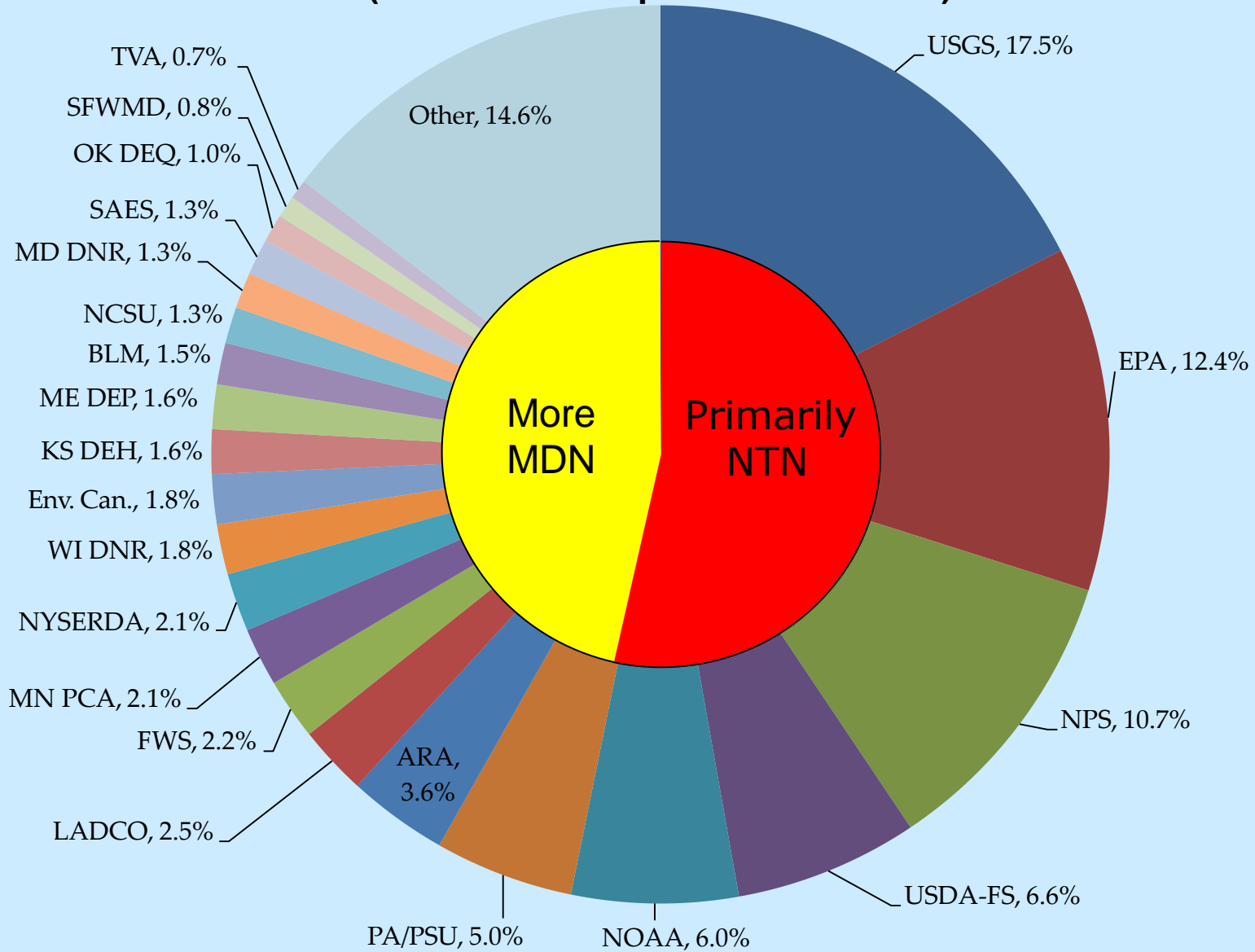
Universities



Other Organizations



**Total Program Funding for the NADP (PO, CAL, HAL) was ~3.5M in 2016 with ~55% from 5 main Federal Partners and ~45% from all other Organizations (via Site Subscription Fees / MOAs)**



**Funding stable over past decade and NADP enjoys broad support in congress**



# Evaluation of the Efficacy of the NADP-NTN for Assessment of PFAS Deposition in Precipitation

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# PFAS Dispersal & Atmospheric Processing



## Atmospheric Transport, Processing and Deposition is Underappreciated and Under-Studied

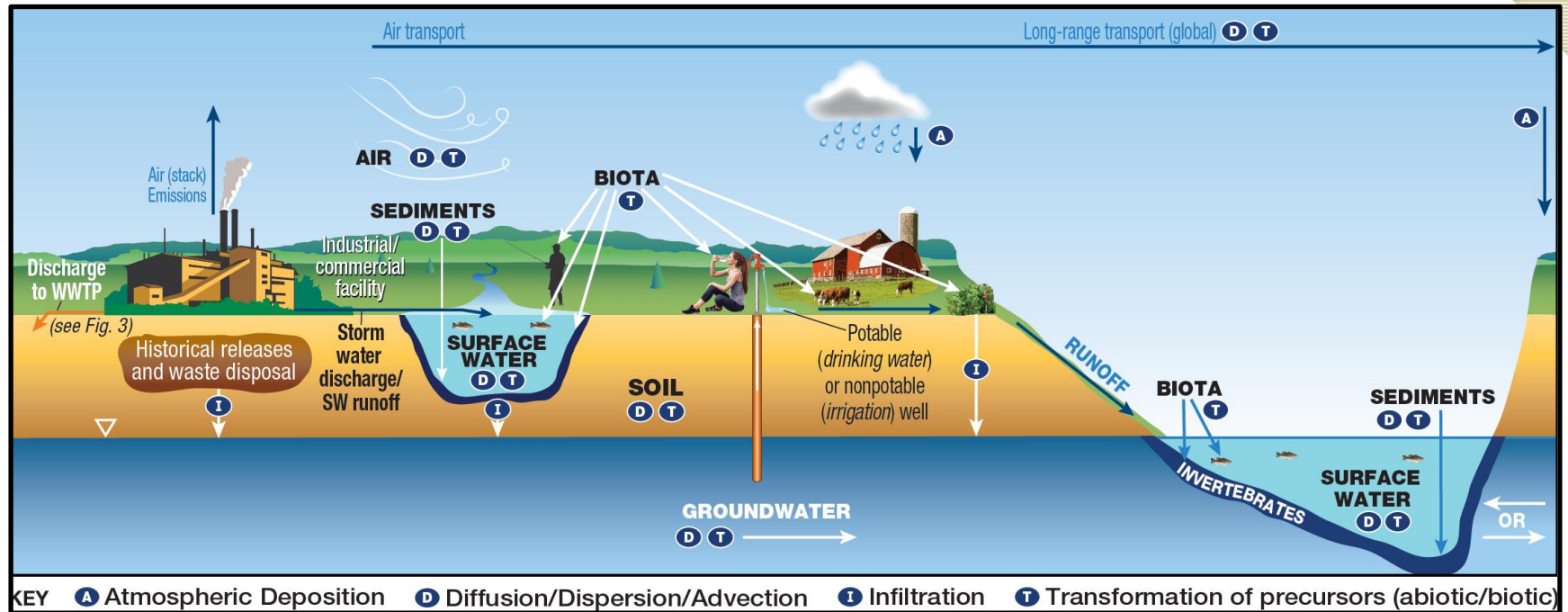


Figure from ITRC



### Industrial Sources

1. Paper mills
2. Metal finishers
3. Textile mills
4. Foam factories
5. PFAS factories
6. (manufacturing aids)

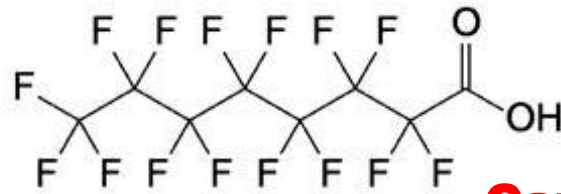
### Major Entry Points

1. Industrial Sites
2. Fire Fighting Training
3. Commercial Fugitive Emissions
4. Landfills
5. WWTP





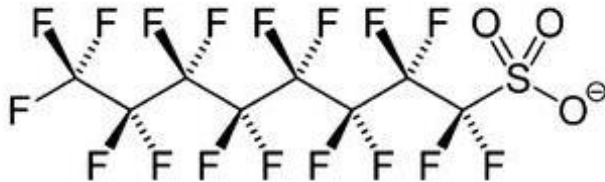
# PFAS Compounds



Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA)

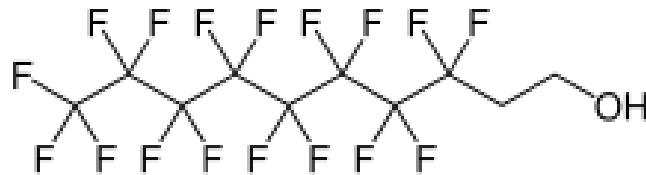
## Carboxylic Acids

**>4500 compounds known/suspected**  
**220 with authentic standards**  
**50 with "routine" robust methods**  
**18 in EPA 537.1 (drinking water)**  
**3-5 with regulatory limits (States)**

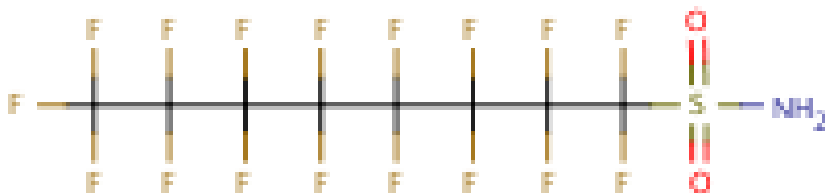


Perfluorooctanesulfonate (PFOS)

## Sulfonates

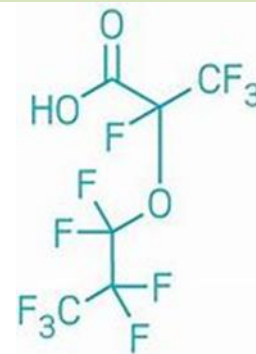


## Fluorotelomers

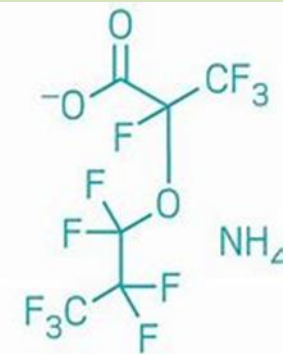


## Sulfonamides

1. **-C<sub>n</sub>F<sub>2n</sub>-head →**
2. **Repel oil and water**
3. **Chemical and Thermal stability**
4. **Reduce friction**
5. **High surface activity**



HFPO-DA



GenX





# Atmospheric Deposition of PFAS via Precipitation

## Goals of the 2019/2020 NADP/WSLH Pilot Study

- ❑ Assess the efficacy of the NADP infrastructure and current sample collection methods, for PFAS studies
- ❑ Broaden the number of PFAS compounds evaluated
  - Few studies quantify more than 20 compounds
- ❑ Initiate a synoptic overview study of PFAS concentrations in precipitation across the US
  - Extant data is quite limited
- ❑ Improve the Quality Assurance documentation of PFAS precipitation studies
  - limited QA in many of few published studies



NTN Wet-Only Collector

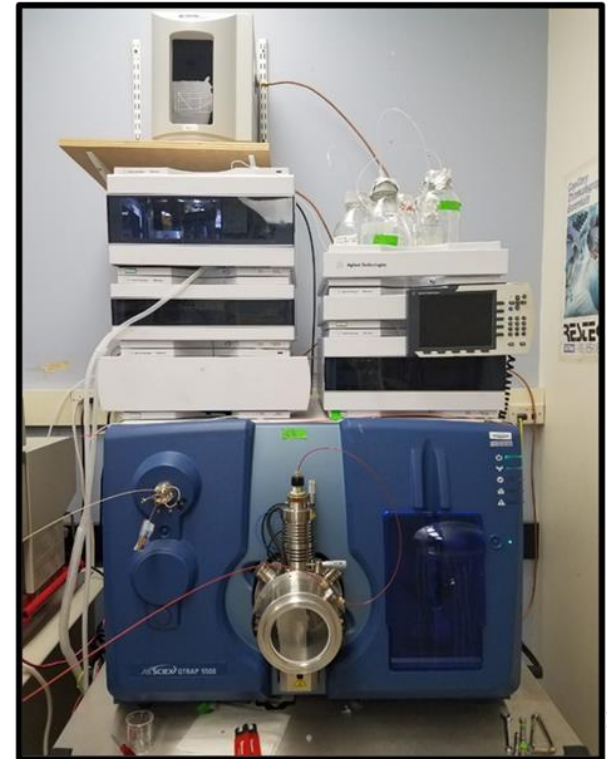
# PFAS Analytical Methods

## ☐ Analytical methods:

- ✓ ISO Method 21675 (PFAS in Water by LC-MS/MS). 36 PFAS compounds. 26 isotopically-labeled internal-standards
- ✓ 500 mL sample volume; entire sample extracted
- ✓ Automated SPE (Oasis-WAX; 8-station Promochrom Tech.)
- ✓ Sciex QTRAP 5500 LC/MS/MS, Waters Acquity UPLC

## ☐ Contamination Control:

- ✓ QC'd polypropylene collection bottles
- ✓ Gloves worn during sampling
- ✓ NO Teflon or related materials

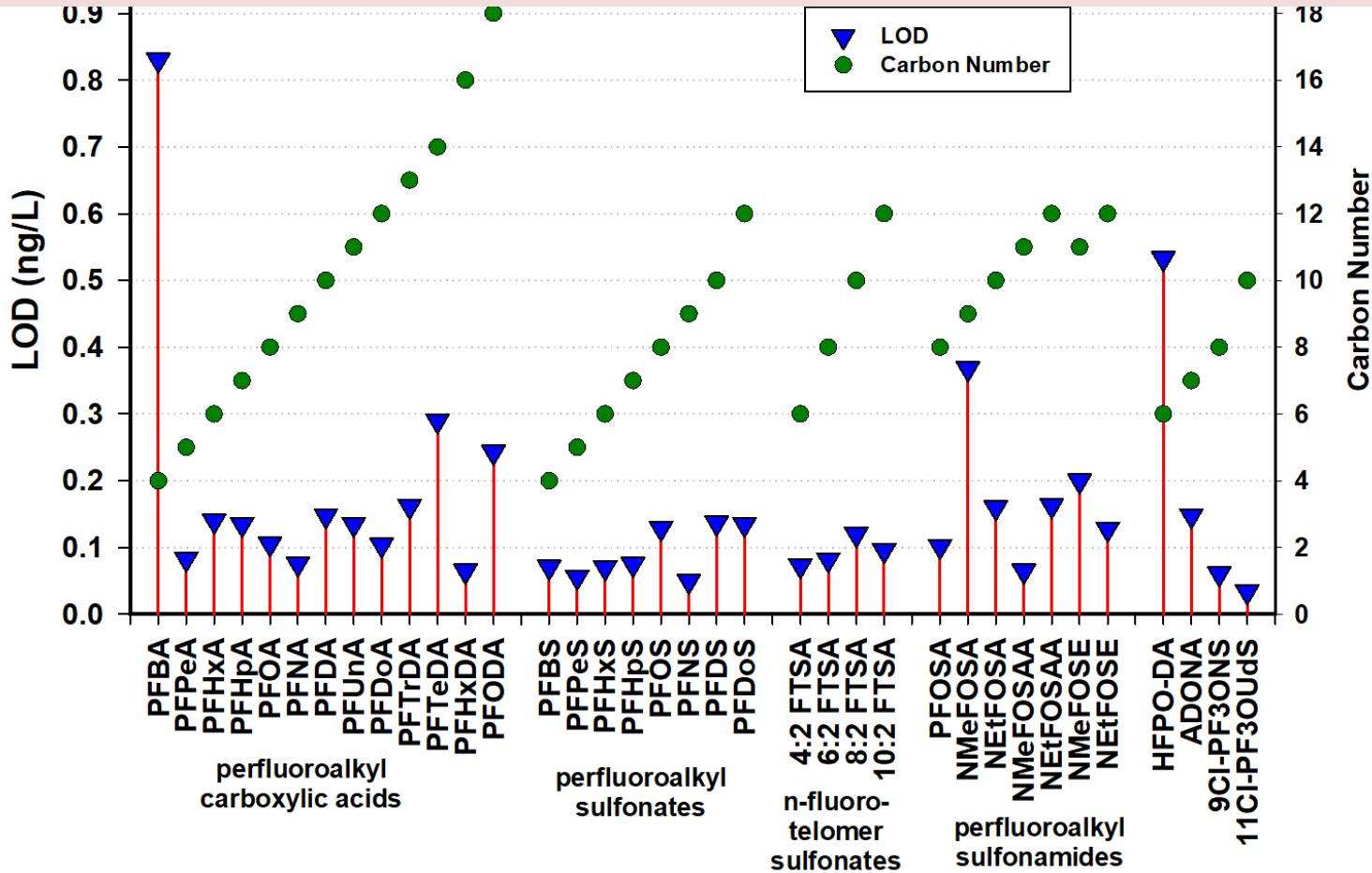


NADP

National Atmospheric Deposition Program

# PFAS Method Performance Outcomes in Precipitation

Detection Level (LOD) & Carbon # of the 36 Quantified PFAS Compounds



**LODs**  
Typically in Range  
of 0.15 to 0.2 ng/L

**Spike Recoveries**  
Typically in Range  
of 90 to 110%  
(4 ng/L spike)







## Outcomes of Efficacy Study: BLANKS

### A. System **Blanks**:

1. Both Bucket & Bag Collectors
2. Both Lab & Field Deployments
3. 7-day Trials, Run in Triplicate

### I. High Purity Water (7-day field conditions)

1. **Bags**: no detects for 36 species (except PFOA, 0.23 ng/L, one sample)
2. **Buckets**: no detects for 36 species (except PFOA, 0.44 ng/L, one sample)
3. **NTN Bottle**: no detects for 36 species

### II. Methanol Rinses

- I. **Buckets**: no detects for 36 species

### Bucket Washers



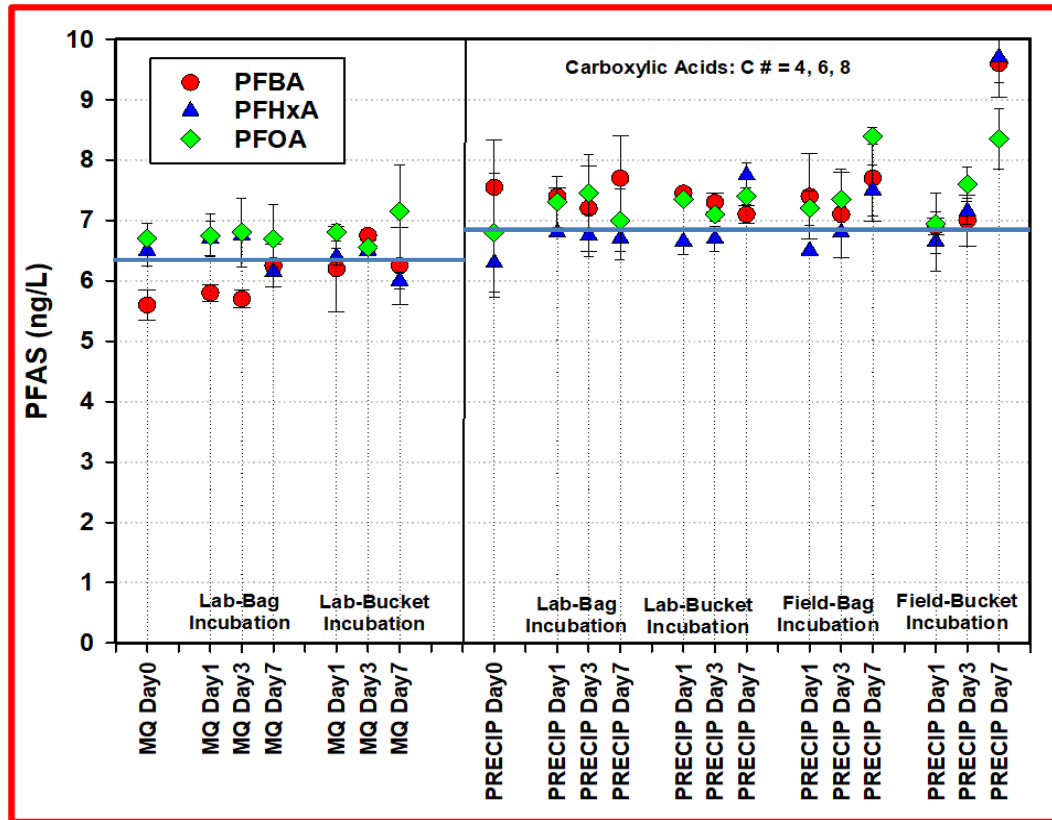


# Outcomes of Efficacy Study: RETENTION STUDIES

## B. PFAS Retention/Loss Studies

1. Both **Bucket & Bag** Collectors in **Lab & Field** Deployments
2. Both **MQ & Precipitation** Matrices
3. Kinetic Studies (0, 1, 3, 7-day samples)
4. Spiked with 36-PFAS Compound Mixture

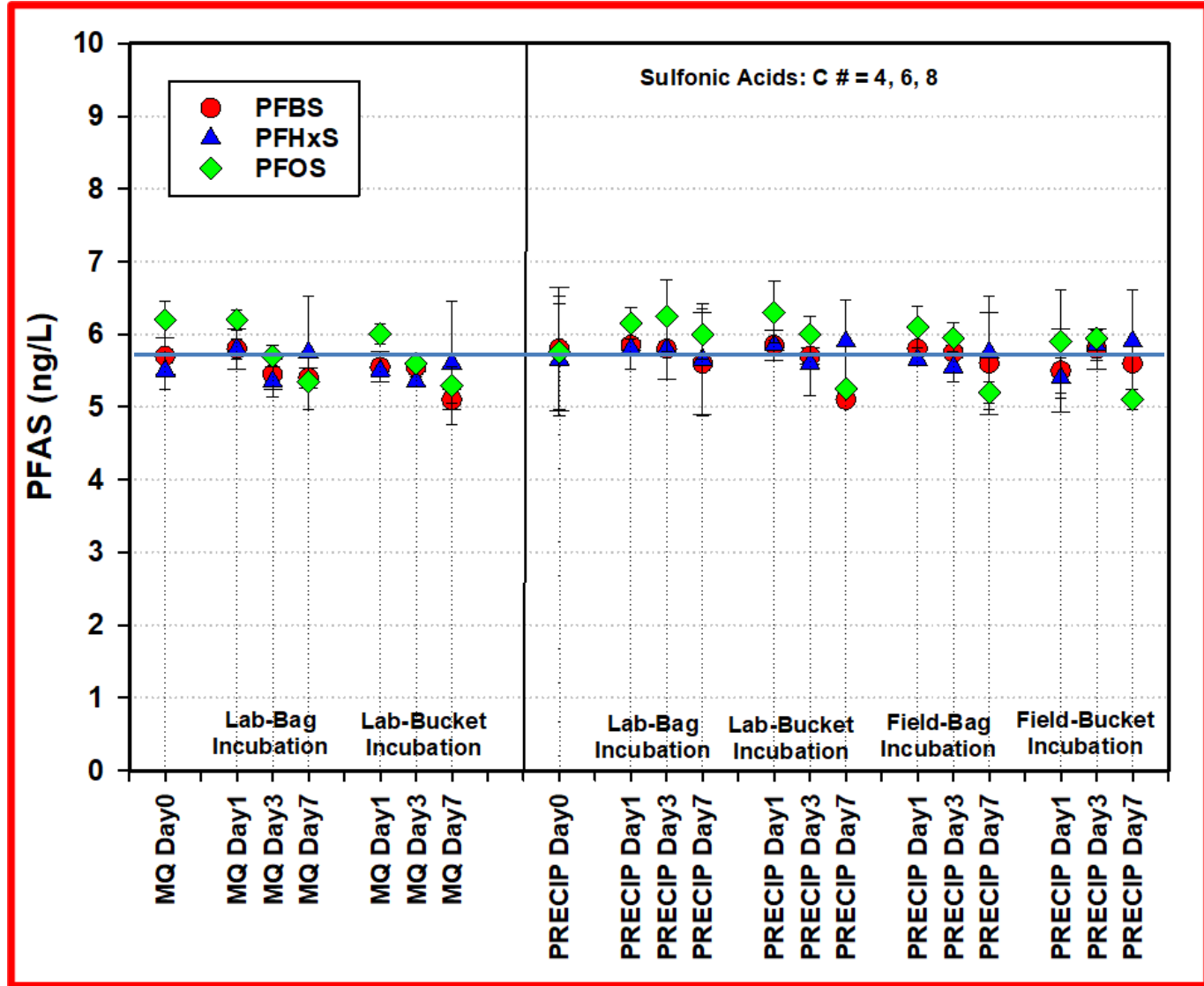
**Carboxylic Acids**  
C# = 4, 6, 8





# PFAS Retention/Loss Study

Sulfonic Acids  
C# = 4, 6, 8



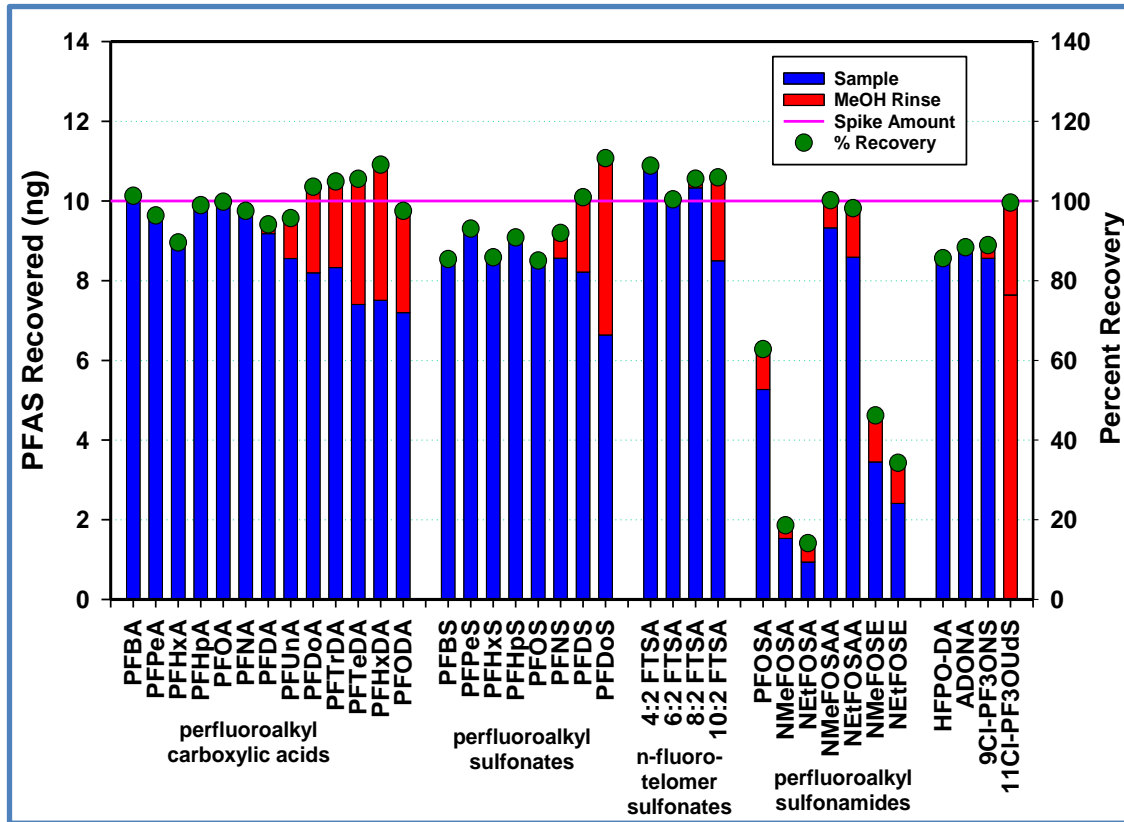
National Atmospheric  
Deposition Program







# Outcomes of Efficacy Study: RETENTION STUDIES



**10 ng Spike  
in 2L of MQ**

**7-Day  
Exposure**

**50 mL MeOH  
Bucket Rinse**

**Average of  
Triplicate  
Buckets**



## Outcomes of Efficacy Study: SUMMARY

Loss of PFAS is minimal for compounds of carbon number <10 under current (and planned) NTN protocols.

Losses are observed for longer-chain (>10 carbon) PFAS compounds.

- But recoverable with a methanol rinse of the bucket

- ❑ The current NTN protocols are “CLEAN” for a broad range of PFAS compounds.
- ❑ Alternate handling/collection protocols can be implemented to address losses of longer-chain compounds (MeOH rinsing).
- ❑ Precipitation (and Air) are effective monitoring matrices for detection of trends (likely better than other environmental receptors (e.g. fish))



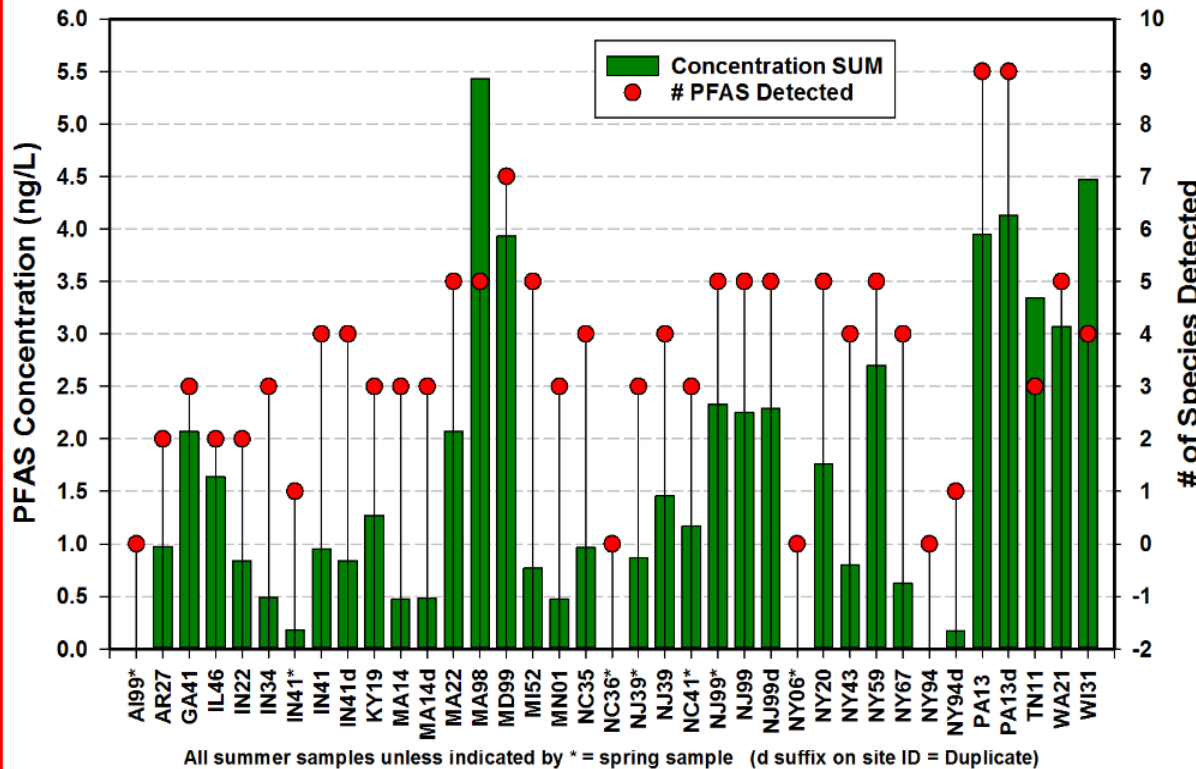
# Atmospheric Deposition of PFAS via Precipitation

## Pilot Synoptic Study: Key Findings

Levels of many PFAS compounds were low (1 ng/L), though the  $\Sigma$  exceeded 4 ng/L at several sites.

Sites in the mid-Atlantic states generally had the greatest # of detectable PFAS species and the highest concentrations.

### Total PFAS Levels (sum of 36 compounds) in 37 NADP NTN Precipitation Samples



30 Sites,  
37 Samples,  
Summer &  
Spring 2019

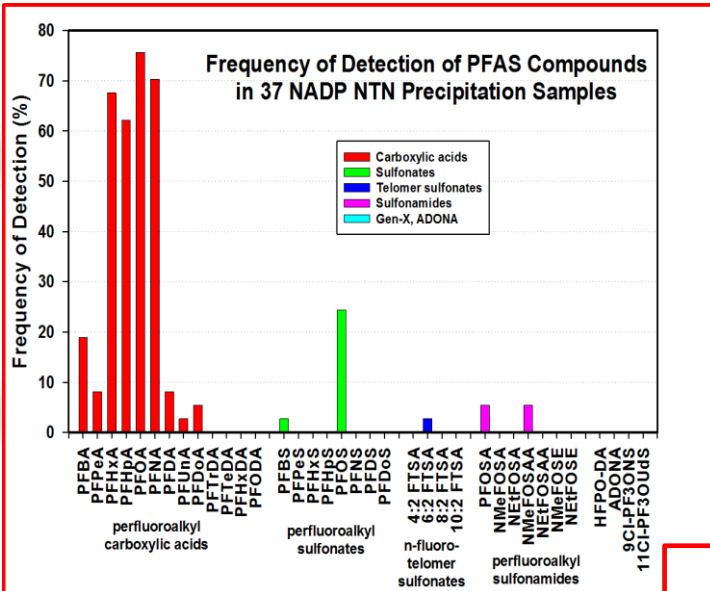




# Atmospheric Deposition of PFAS via Precipitation

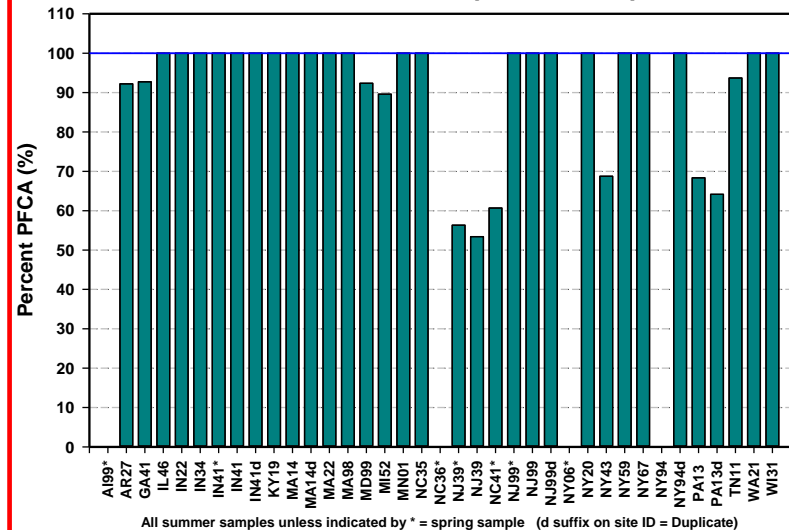
## Pilot Synoptic Study: Key Findings

**PFH<sub>x</sub>A, PFHpA, PFOA and PFNA** were each present in nearly 70% of all samples.



The carboxylic acid compounds were by far the most frequently detected and largest class contribution to the total targeted PFAS.

Sum of PFCA (n=13) as % of Total PFAS (n=36) in 37 NADP NTN Precipitation Samples



All summer samples unless indicated by \* = spring sample (d suffix on site ID = Duplicate)



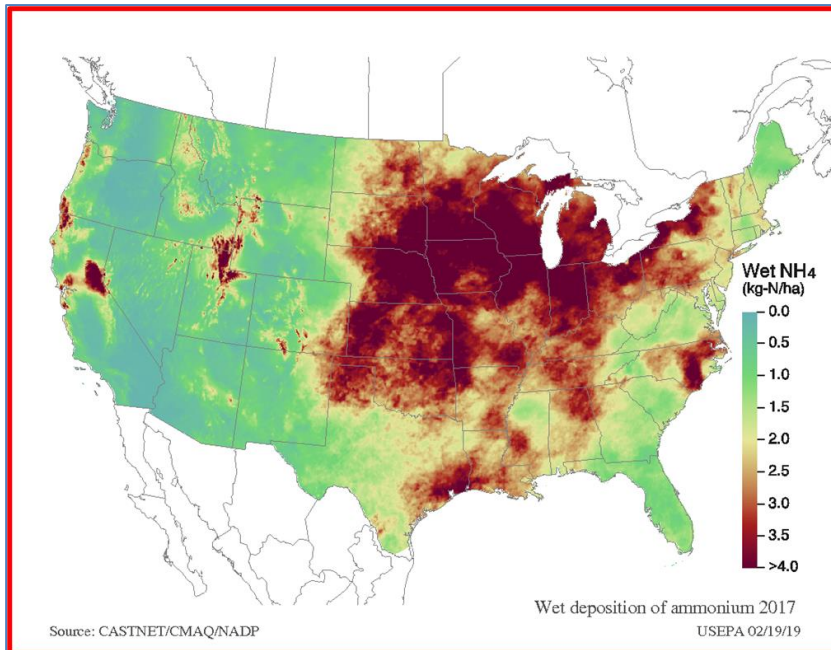
# Atmospheric Deposition of PFAS via Precipitation

## Pilot Synoptic Study: Key Findings

## PFAS Deposition Fluxes

Concentrations of 0.2 to 6.0 ng/L equate to a wet deposition PFAS flux of 0.7 to 21 ng/m<sup>2</sup>/day (at an annual precipitation volume of 125 cm/year).

This flux is significant for many environments (e.g. large lakes with long residence times – for Lake Michigan → annual flux of  $4.4 \times 10^{14}$  ng/year → 0.1 ng/L/year PFAS accumulation throughout the water column)



Field & Laboratory  
Effort Complete.  
Manuscript Draft  
Prepared



## WSLH-NADP PFAS TOOL-BOX

- Developed a standardized robust protocol (SOP) for PFAS wet-deposition measurements using the NADP-NTN infrastructure
- Incorporates optimized analytical methods
- Could support site-specific, State, regional, and national PFAS wet-deposition efforts
- Model (process) for other emerging contaminants

### Regulatory Limits and Reference Concentrations

- EPA Reference Concentration: **70 ng/L**  
(PFOA+PFOS)
- State Drinking Water Limits: **5 – 70 ng/L**
- WI proposed **20 ng/L WQL, 2 ng/L action level**
- Research suggests biological impacts at **< 1 ng/L**





# Atmospheric Deposition of PFAS

## Major Unresolved Issues

- The role of point, regional, and global emission sources at a given location
- Primary emission source versus secondary (reactive transformation) pathway
- Is source reconciliation possible from compound “fingerprint” profiles?
- Emission factors from major classes of emission sources
- The magnitude of dry deposition
- Composition of PFAS pool. Unaccounted for fraction, oxidizable fraction, C<sub>2</sub>, C<sub>3</sub>, >C<sub>12</sub>?





# Partnerships and Follow-up Studies to Address Major Unresolved Issues

## NADP & EPA & States & WSLH

- ❑ Several States, as well as USEPA, have expressed interest in establishing precipitation monitoring as well as PFAS deposition modeling programs

## NADP & EPA & WSLH & WDNR

- ❑ Sharing of precipitation extracts for non-targeted PFAS analysis at EPA ORD

## WSLH & NADP & Researchers

- ❑ Method Exchange





# Atmospheric Deposition of PFAS via Precipitation

## Wisconsin Precipitation PFAS Intensive



1. All 7 NADP-NTN Sites in Wisconsin
2. 14 Weeks (April – July 2020)
3. **WDNR Funded: NADP, WSLH Partners**
4. Optimized PFAS Sampling Protocols with MeOH rinsing
5. Comprehensive Analytical Protocols
  - a. 36 Targeted PFAS (LC/MS) - WSLH
  - b. Total Organic Fluorine (CIC) - WSLH
  - c. Non-Targeted Analysis (LC/MS) - EPA

This initiative incorporates further method enhancements for neutral PFAS species that are very important to atmospheric transport and transformations

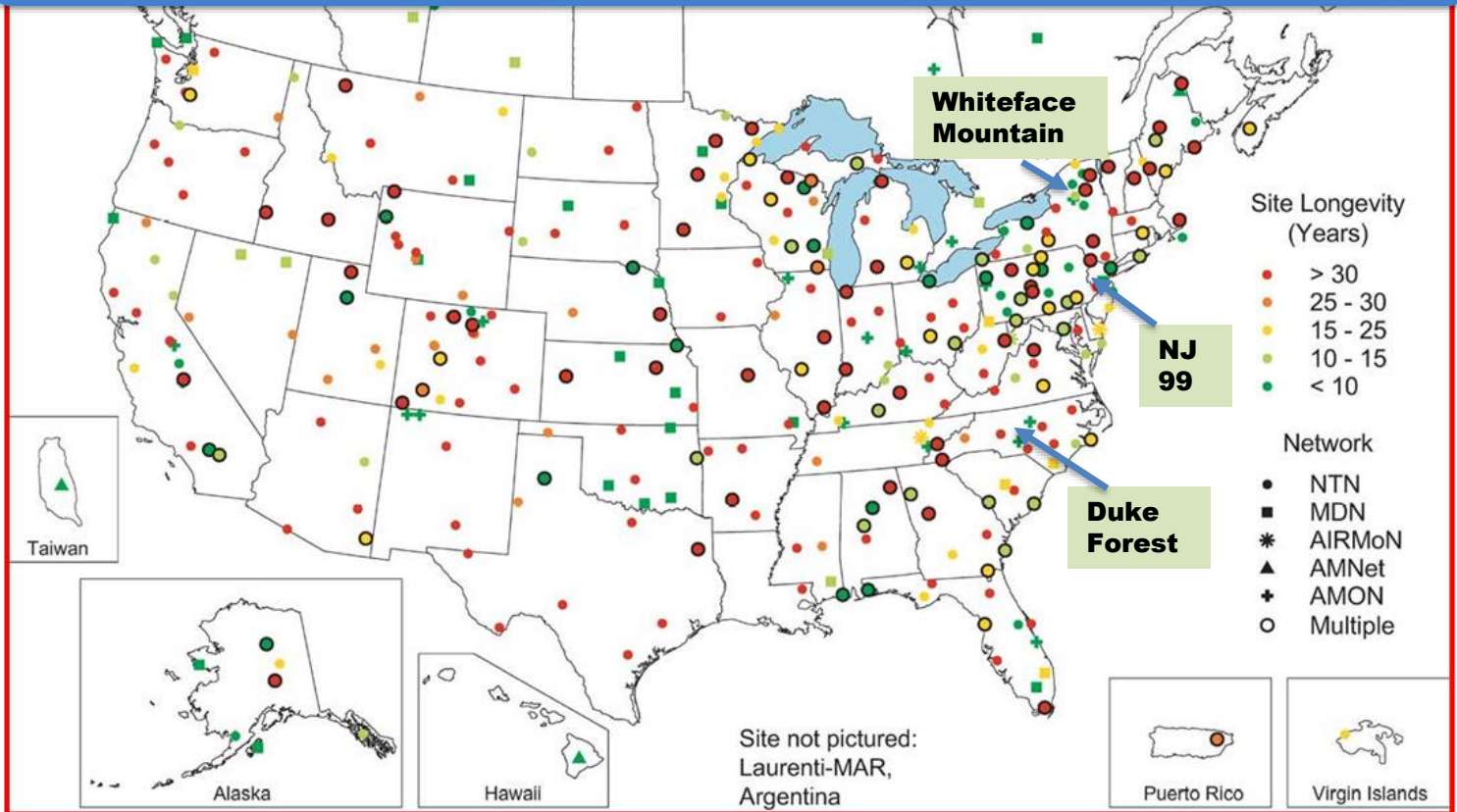




# NADP

## National Atmospheric Deposition Program Operated by the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene

### Expand "synoptic" sampling using NADP infrastructure



### Deposition Modeling (CMAQ, etc.)





# QUESTIONS

# Thank You



Acknowledge: **NADP**: Mark Olson, Amy Mager & her team, Camille. **WSLH**: Erin Mani & PFAS analytical team. **WDNR**: Mark Allen, Katie Praedel. **EPA**: Melissa Puchalski, Donna Schwede, John Offenbergl



# PFAS Measurement Approaches

## • Total

- ❖ PIGE
- ❖ XRF
- ❖ TOF/CIC
- ❖ EOF/CIC

## • Non-targeted

- ❖ Discovery
- ❖ Semi-Quant
- ❖ Pathway analysis

## • Total Oxidizable Precursor (TOP)

- ❖ Oxidative conversion of targeted & unknown precursors

## • Targeted

- ❖ 12-50 species
- ❖ Quantitative
- ❖ Tox relevant
- ❖ Small fraction of total