



Exploring Co-Location of Adverse Birth Outcomes and Environmental Variables

Charlene Nielsen, Osnat Wine, Carl Amrhein, and Alvaro Osornio-Vargas

Overview

- What are adverse birth outcomes (ABO)?
- How does NPRI data help us in or research?
- What are our challenges in using NPRI data in mapping and spatial analysis?

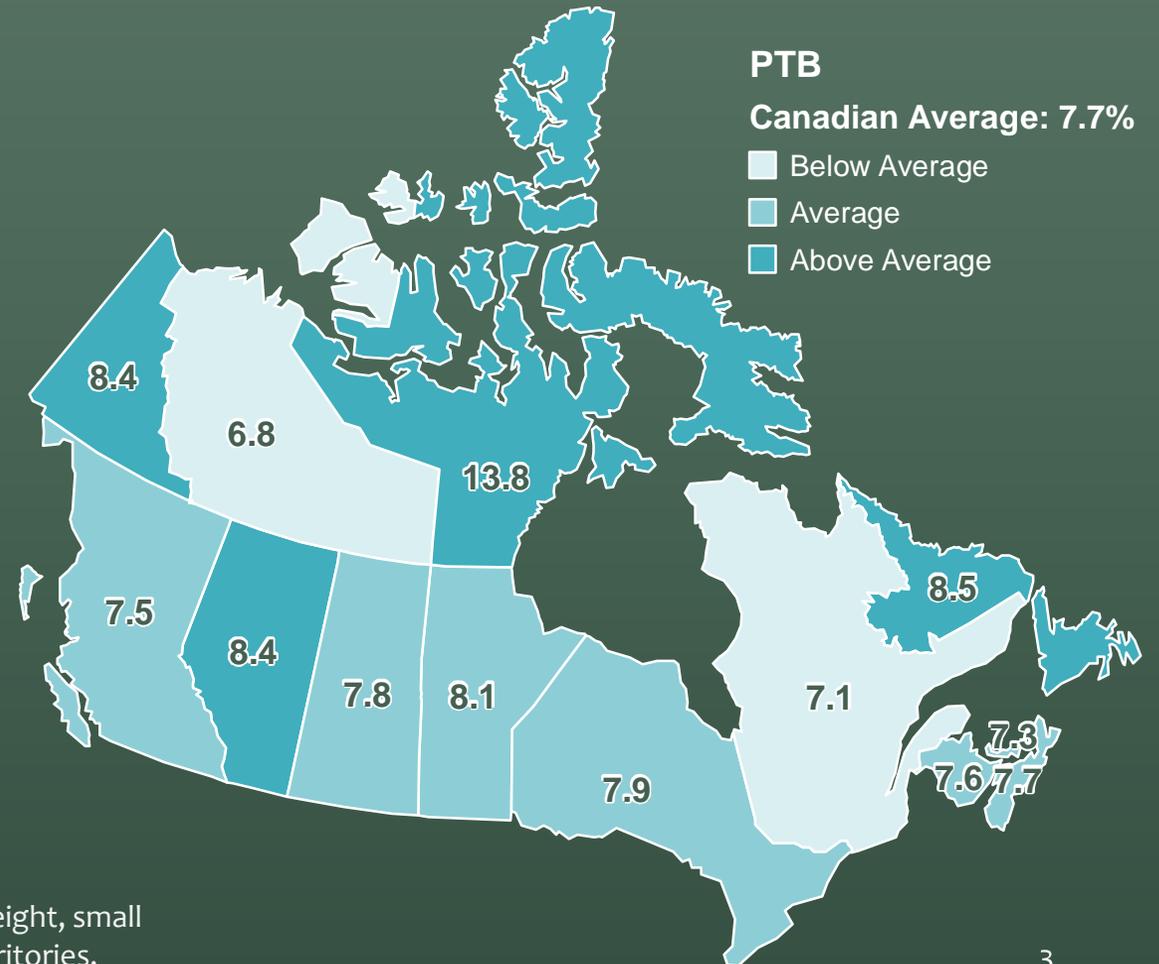
Adverse Birth Outcomes (ABO)

Birth Weight
(grams)



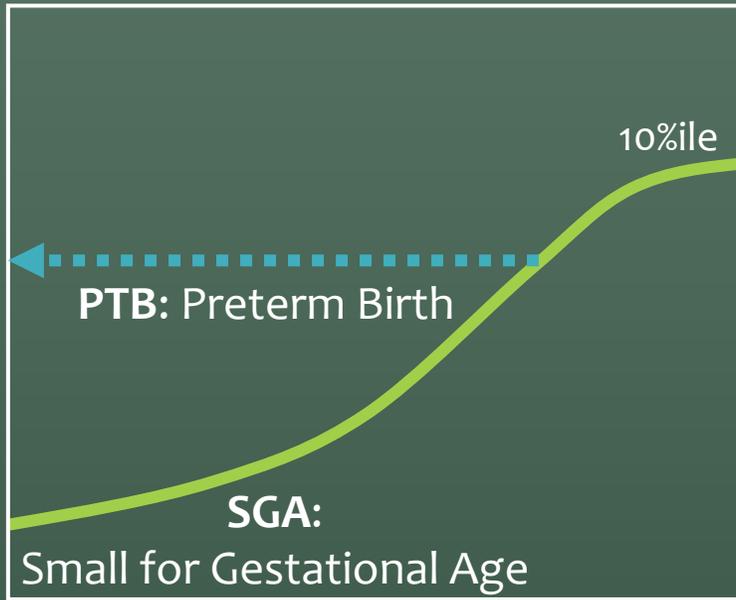
37

Gestational Age
(completed weeks)



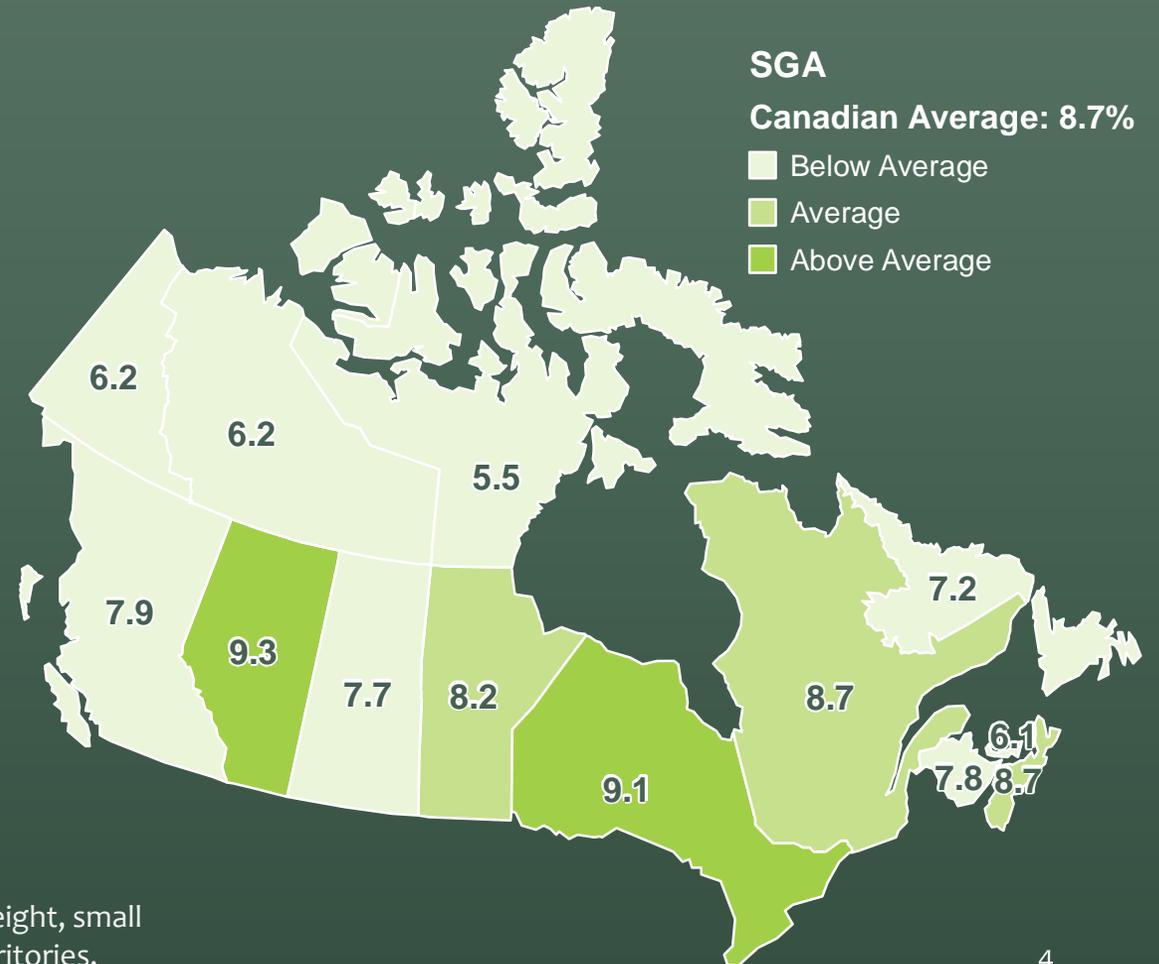
Adverse Birth Outcomes (ABO)

Birth Weight
(grams)

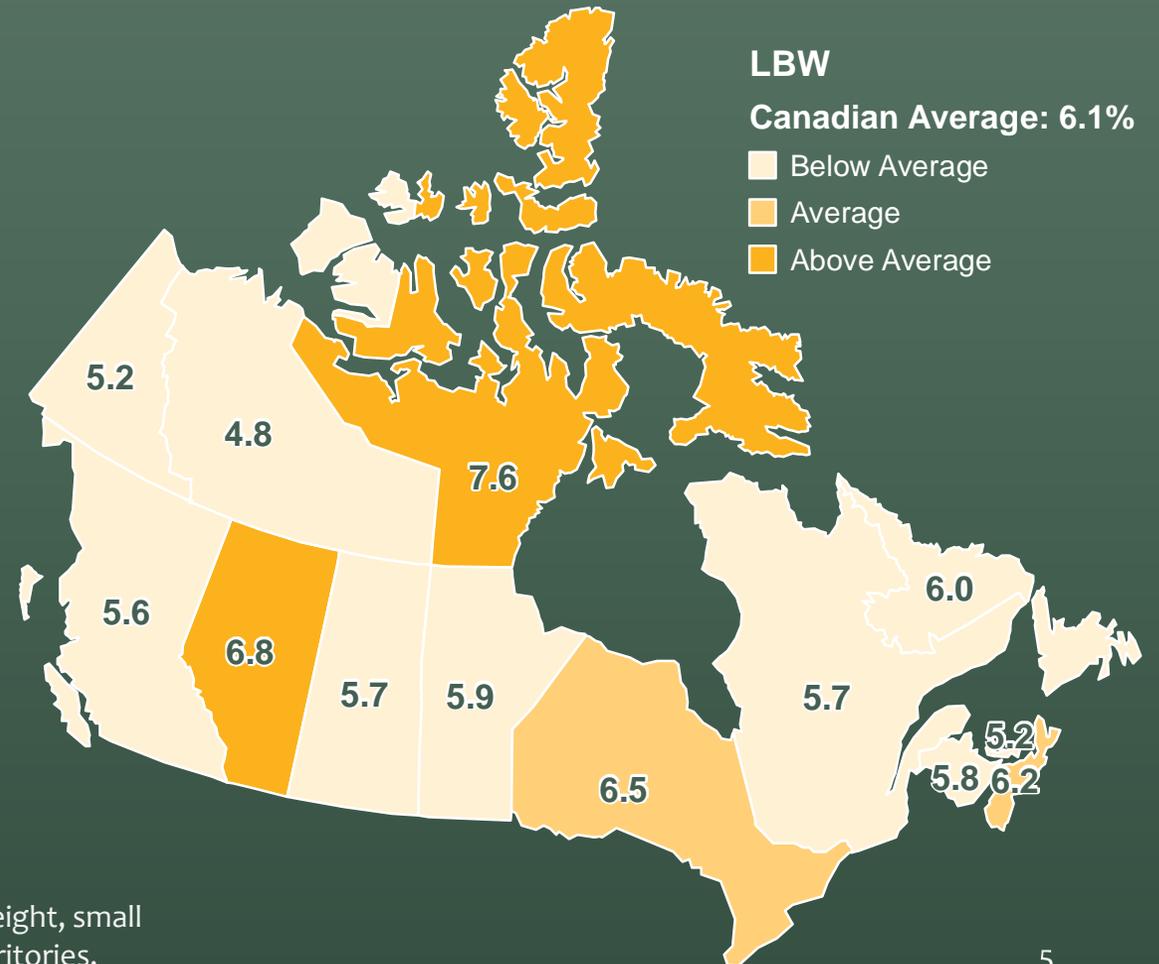
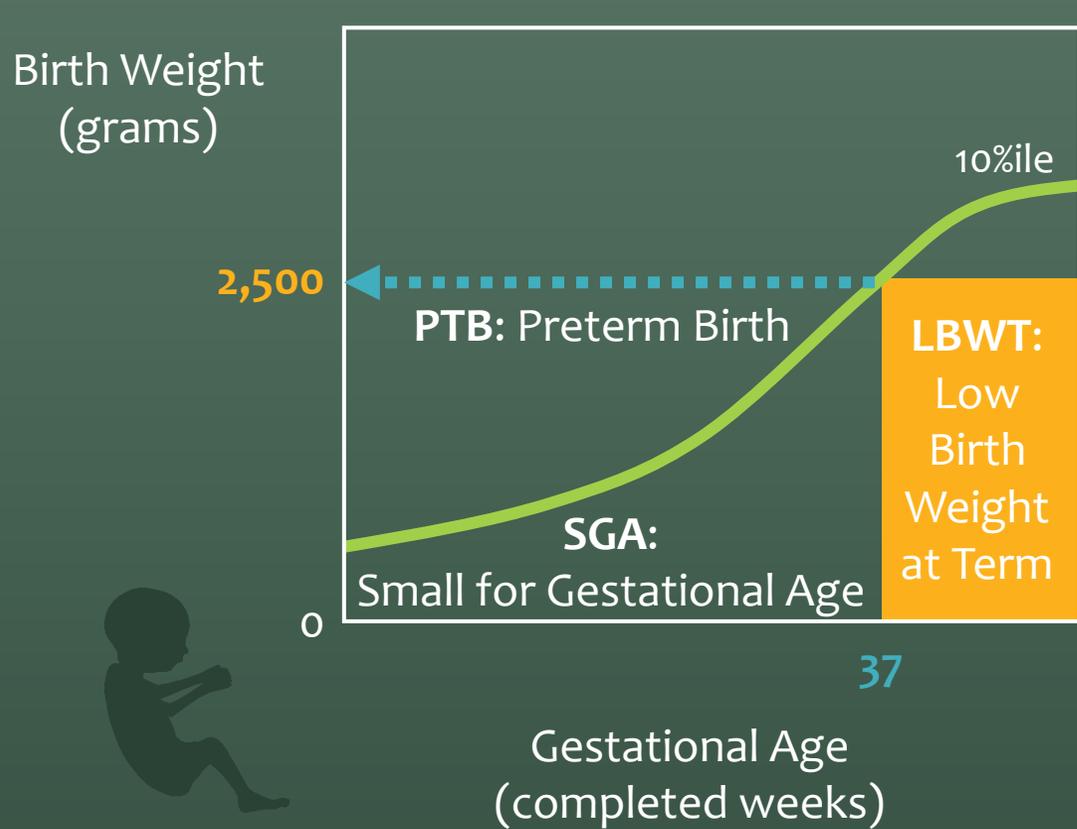


37

Gestational Age
(completed weeks)



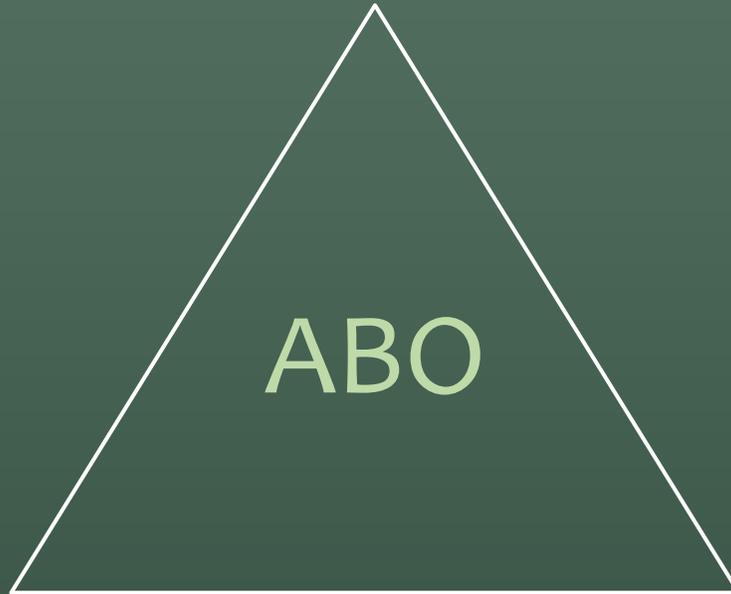
Adverse Birth Outcomes (ABO)



Statistics Canada. Table 13-10-0746-01, 2010-2012, Birth-related indicators (low and high birth weight, small and large for gestational age, pre-term births), by sex, three-year period, Canada, provinces, territories, census metropolitan areas and metropolitan influence zones. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.25318/1310074601-eng>.



Individual Characteristics In Maternal Population



Behavior



Habitat

There are more newborns having ABO whose mothers have been prenatally exposed to industrial chemicals emitted to air



Health hazards



Prenatal exposure

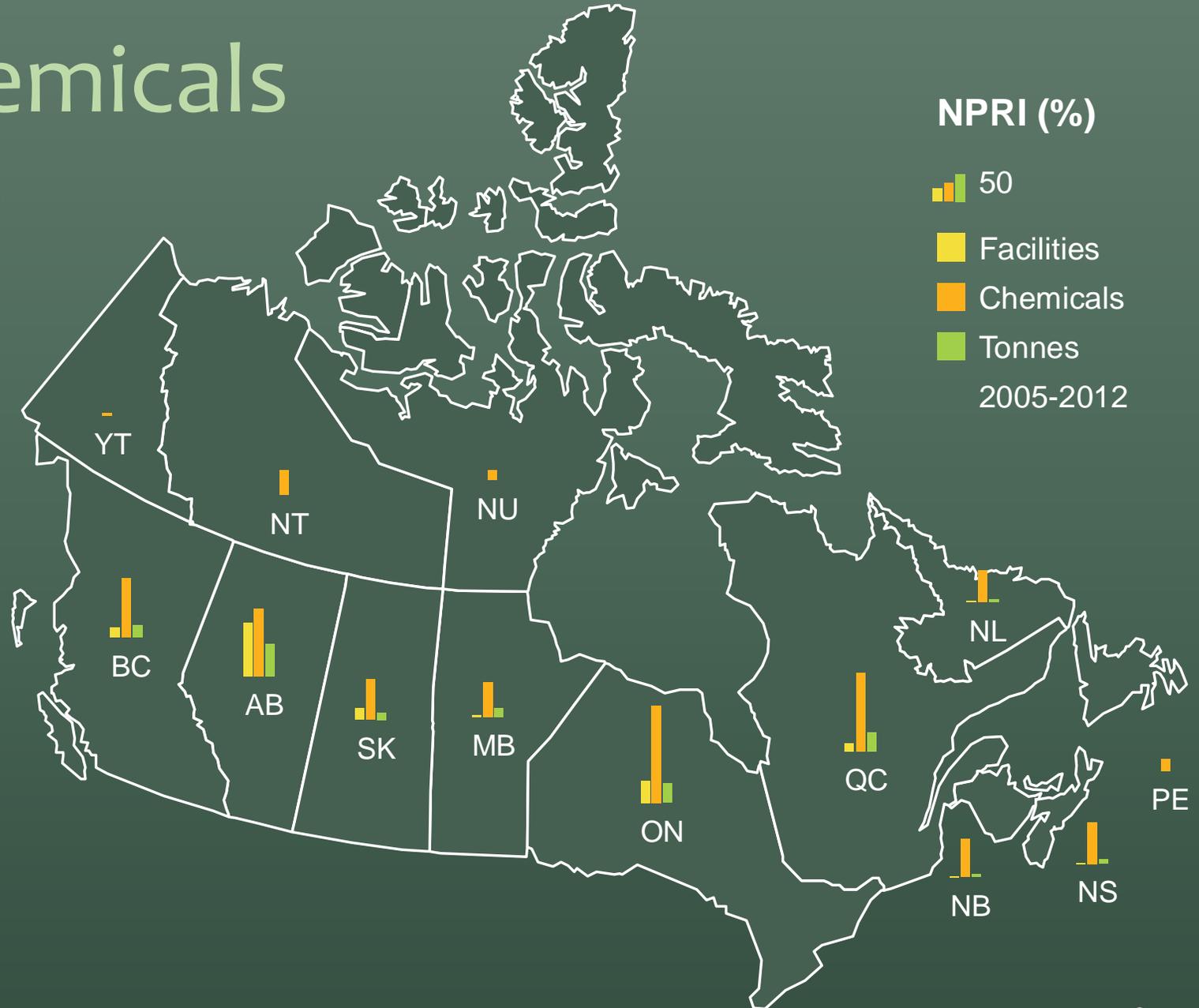


ABO

Industrial Chemicals

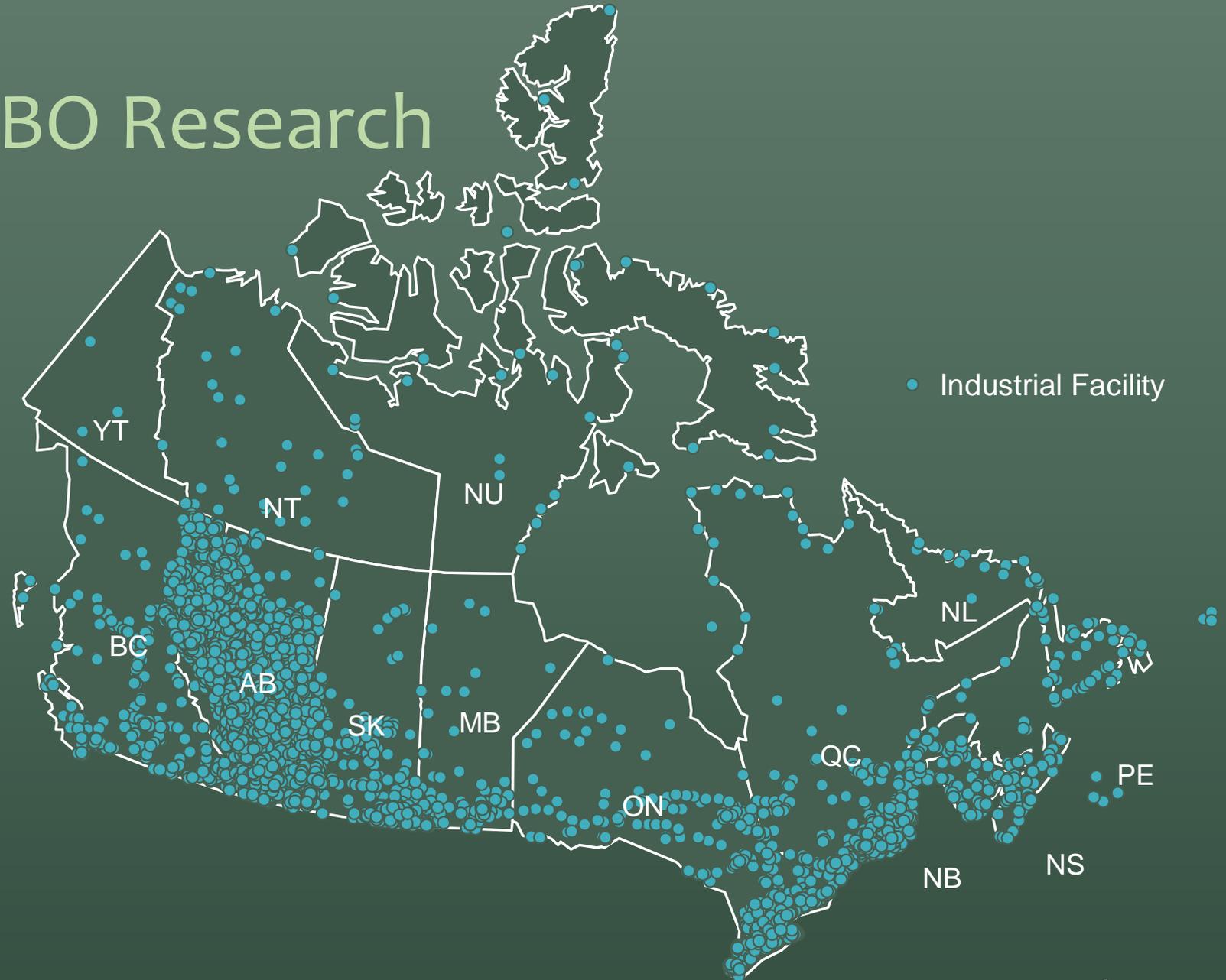
NPRI, 2005-2012

30,855,608 tonnes
 209,456 records
 13,558 facilities
 228 chemicals



NPRI Data for ABO Research

1. Identification of industrial chemical emissions co-located with adverse birth outcomes across Canada
2. Development of an ambient health hazard index for Alberta
3. Formulation of hypotheses on the co-location of mixtures of industrial air pollution and adverse birth outcomes
4. Space-time modeling of hot spots



1. Identification of industrial chemical emissions co-located with adverse birth outcomes across Canada

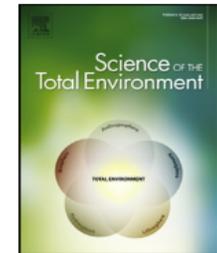
Science of the Total Environment 696 (2019) 134091



Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Science of the Total Environment

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/scitotenv



Geographic information assessment of maternal ambient health hazards and adverse birth outcomes in Canada



Charlene C. Nielsen ^{a,b}, Carl G. Amrhein ^{b,c}, Jesus A. Serrano-Lomelin ^d, Alvaro R. Osornio-Vargas ^{a,*},
the DoMiNO Team

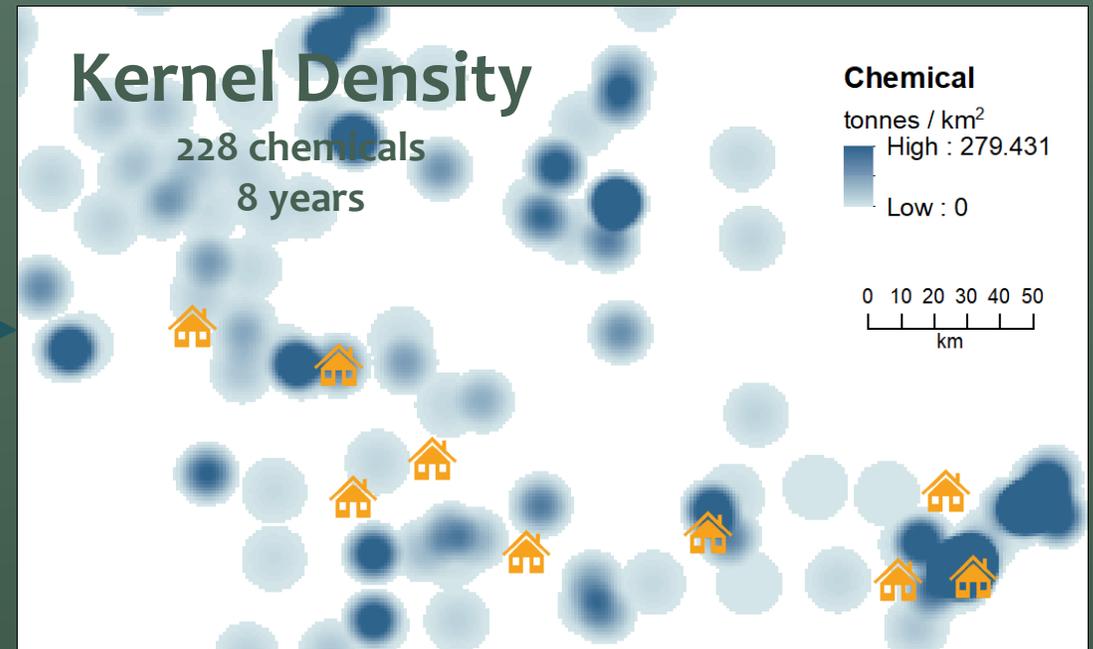
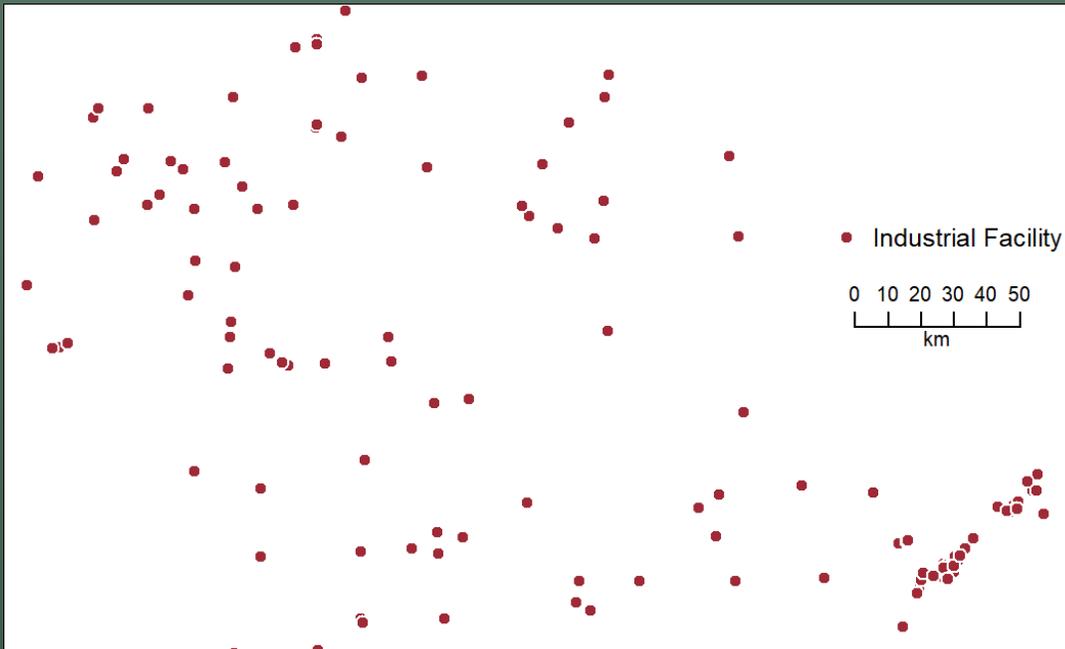
^a Department of Pediatrics, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada

^b Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada

^c Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Aga Khan University, Nairobi, Kenya

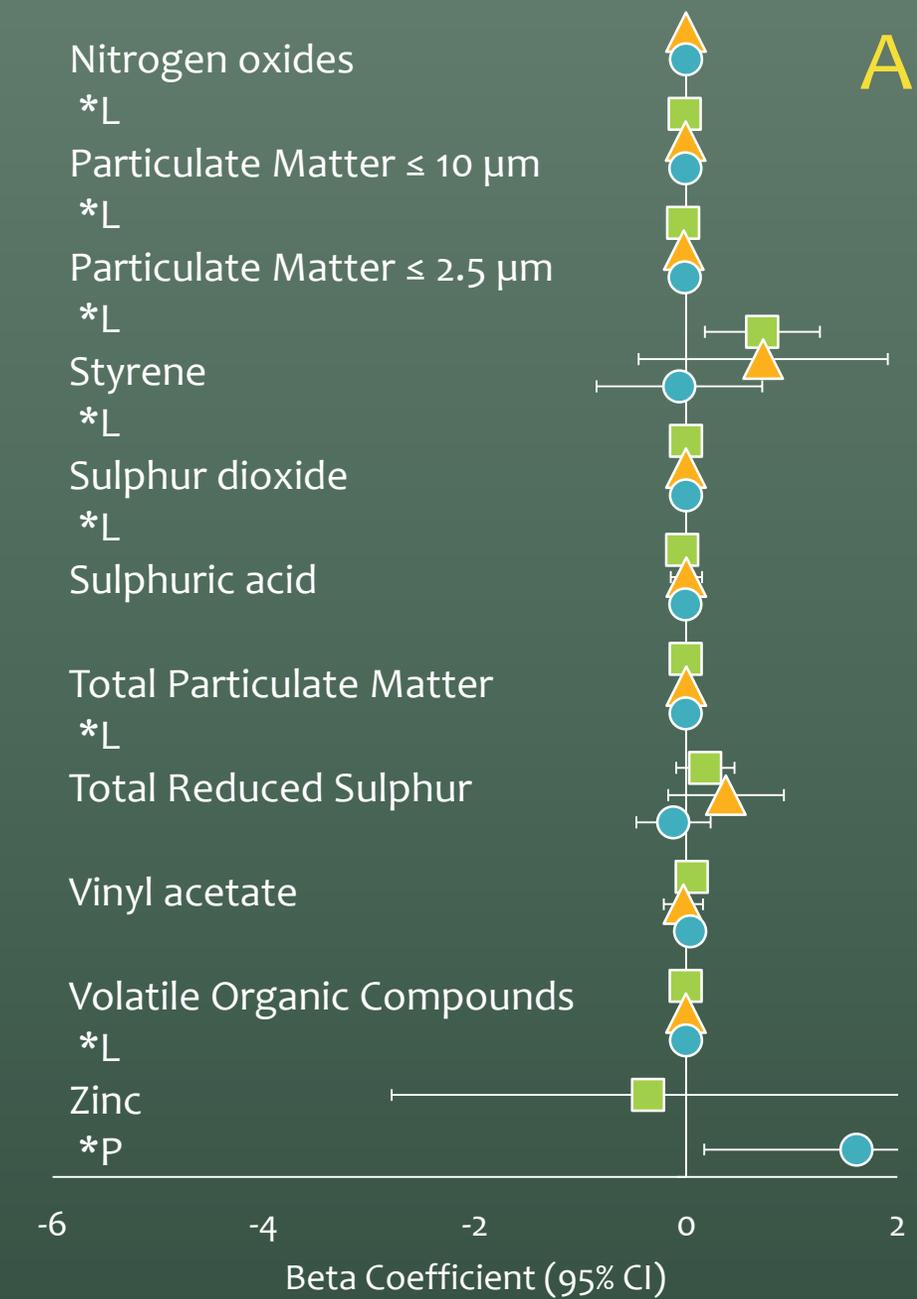
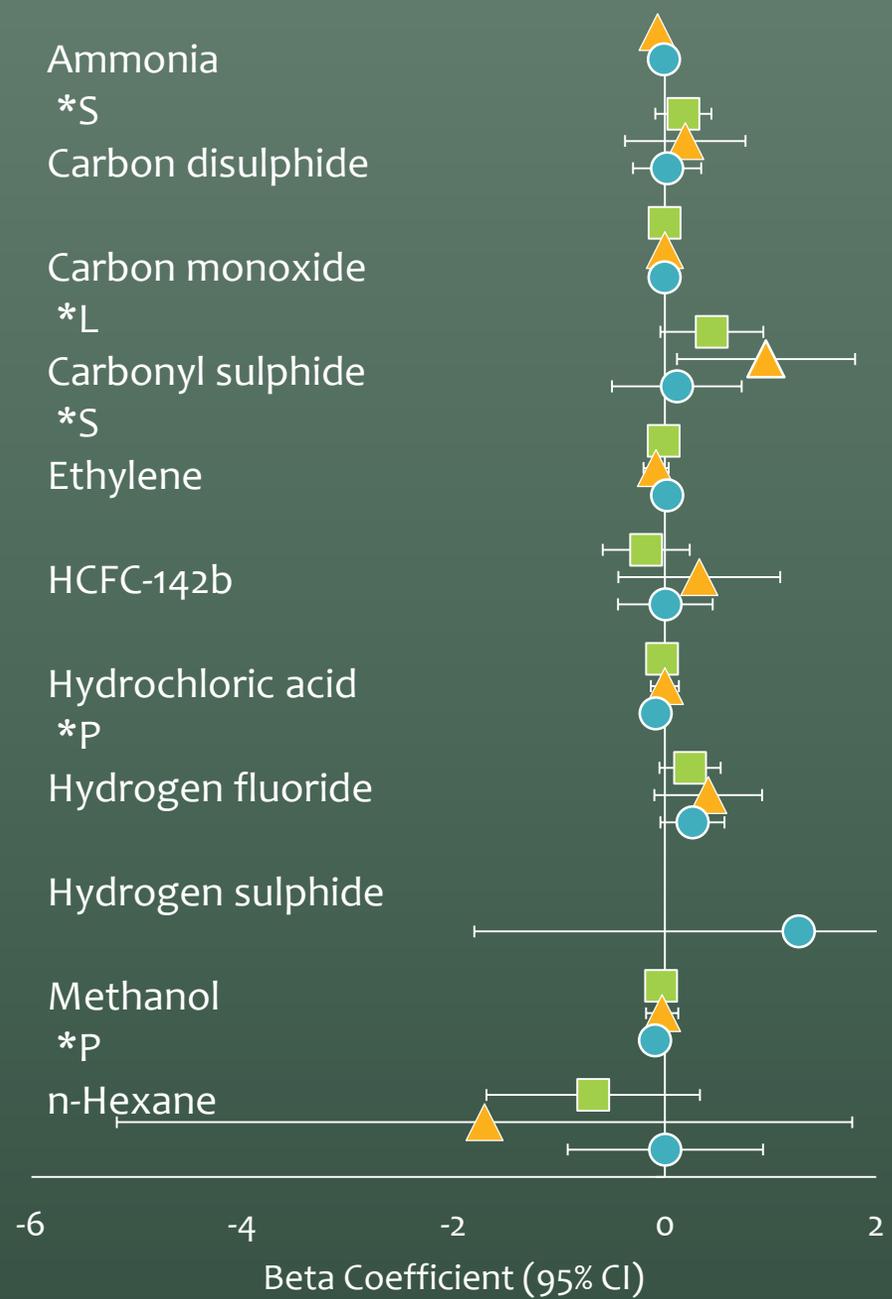
^d Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada

Annual time-weighted chemical emissions



$$\text{Total Tonnes} = P_b \times \text{Tonnes}_b + P_c \times \text{Tonnes}_c$$

where P=proportion of gestation; b=birth year; c=conception year



ABO: ■ SGA ▲ LBWT ● PTB

ABO: ■ SGA ▲ LBWT ● PTB

Chemical	Number
Particulate Matter $\leq 2.5 \mu\text{m}$	9
Carbon monoxide	7
Particulate Matter $\leq 10 \mu\text{m}$	7
Ammonia	6
Nitrogen oxides	6
Volatile Organic Compounds	5
Methanol	4
Total Particulate Matter	4
Carbonyl sulphide	3
Sulphur dioxide	3
HCFC-142b	2
Methyl ethyl ketone	2
Sulphuric acid	2

Chemicals ranked by number of associations for 2 or more ABO-province combinations

2. Development of an ambient health hazard index for Alberta

Nielsen et al. *Int J Health Geogr* (2017) 16:43
DOI 10.1186/s12942-017-0117-5

International Journal of
Health Geographics

RESEARCH

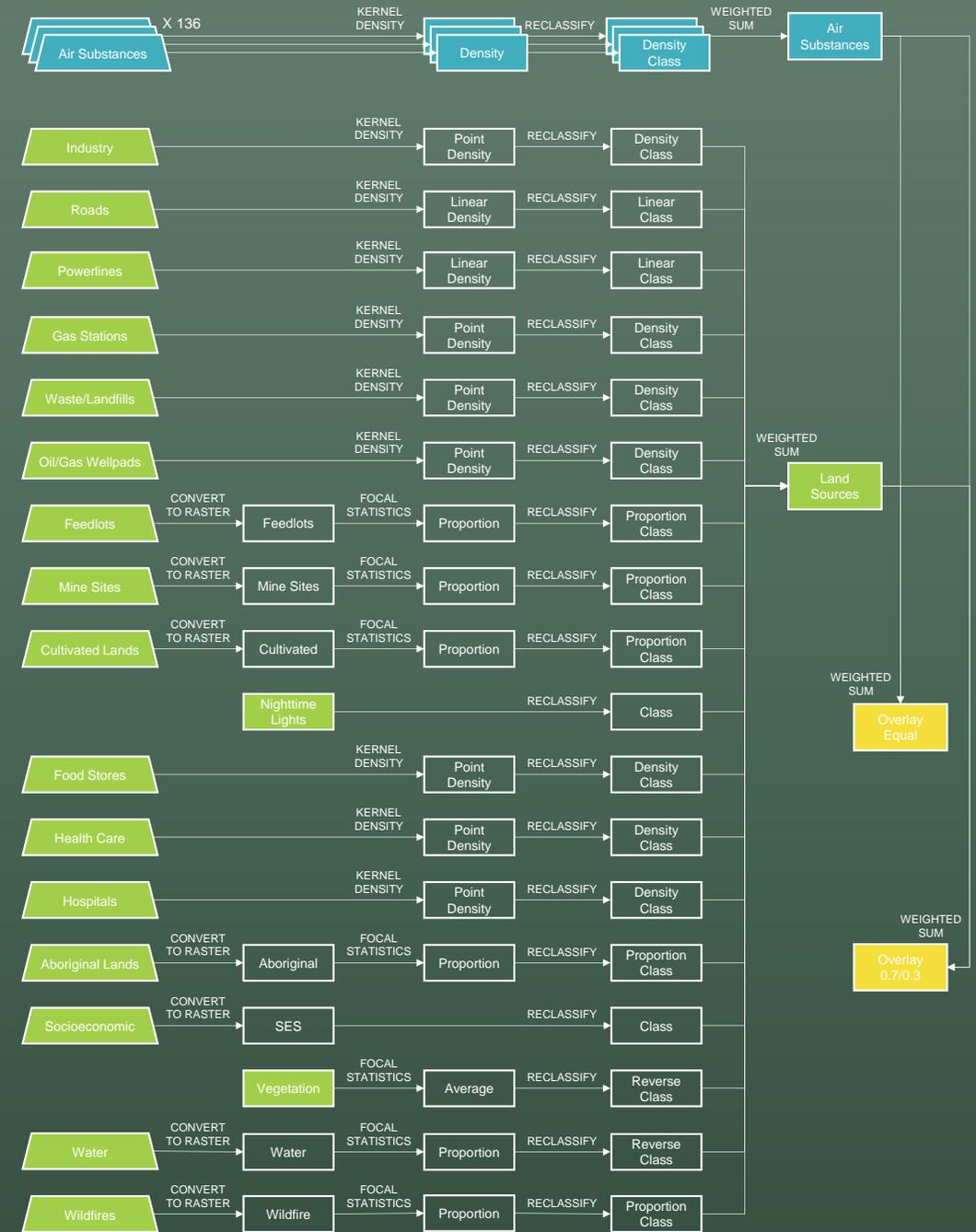
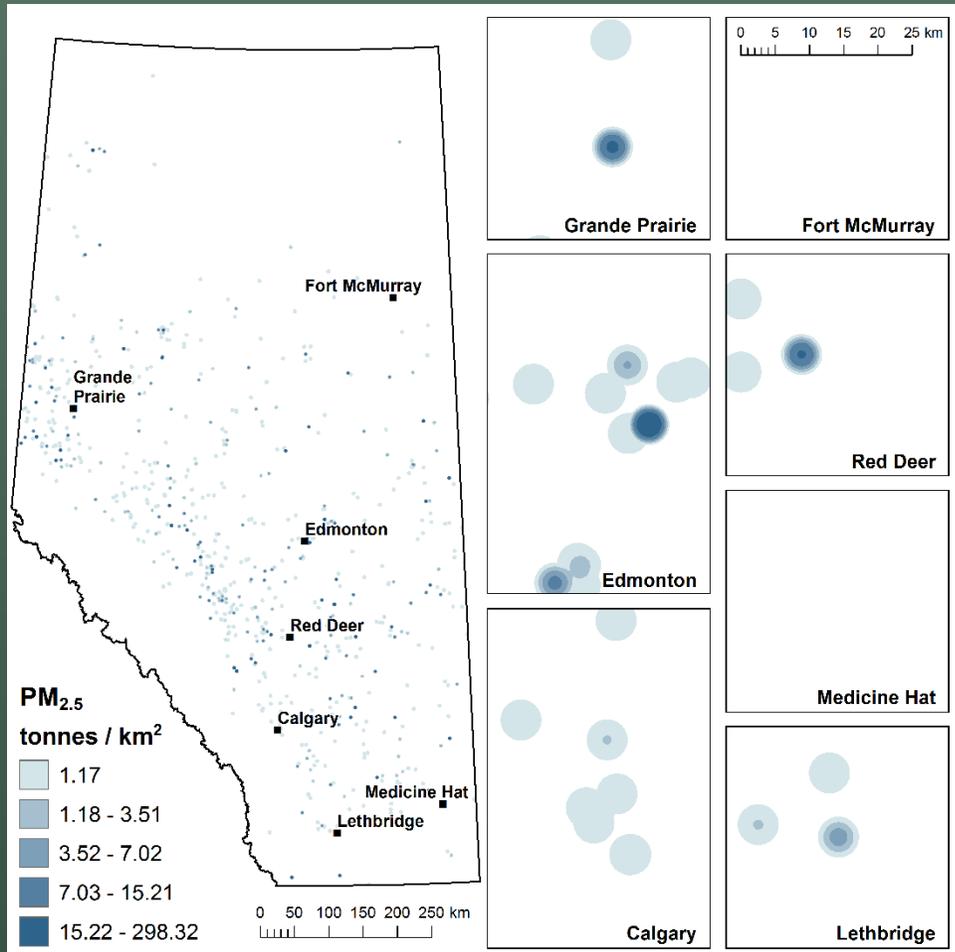
Open Access



Mapping outdoor habitat and abnormally small newborns to develop an ambient health hazard index

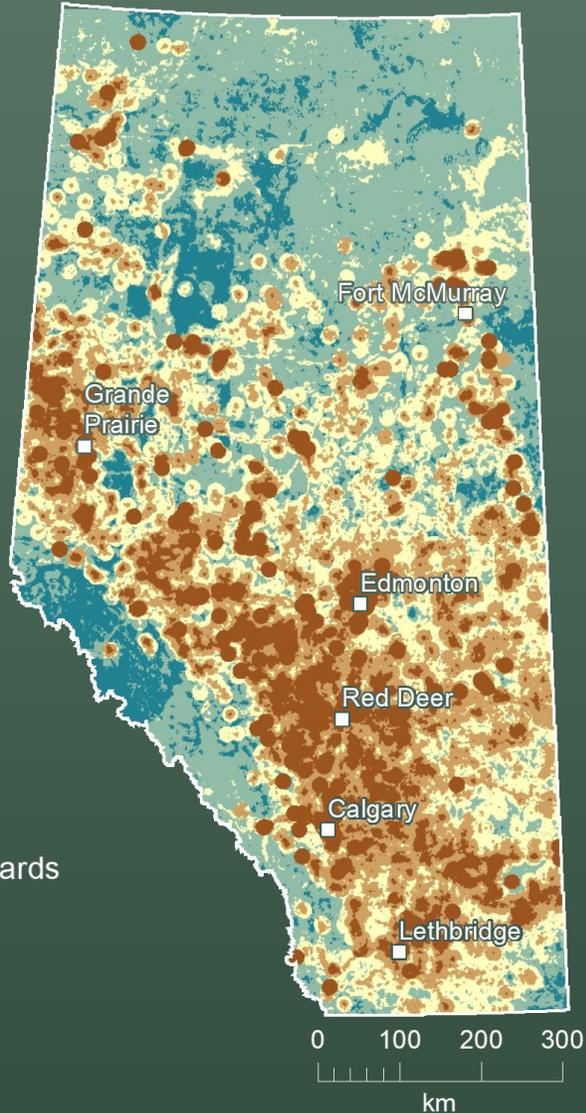
Charlene C. Nielsen^{1,2}, Carl G. Amrhein¹, Alvaro R. Osornio-Vargas^{2*}  and the DoMiNO Team^{1,2}

Average chemical emissions in a cumulative hazard overlay

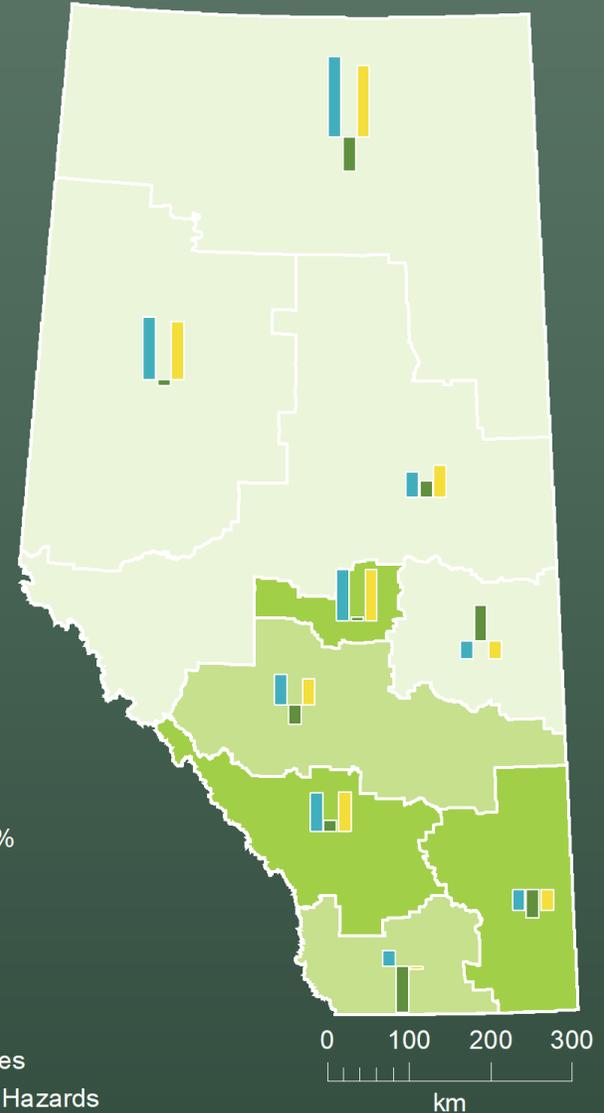


Associations with ABO

Combine the outdoor environmental variables into a single index



Correlate the index with patterns in ABO



Region mattered: There were stronger associations within health regions than for the entire province

3. Formulation of hypotheses on the co-location of mixtures of industrial air pollution and adverse birth outcomes

Environment International 131 (2019) 104972



ELSEVIER

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Environment International

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/envint



Interdisciplinary-driven hypotheses on spatial associations of mixtures of industrial air pollutants with adverse birth outcomes



Jesus Serrano-Lomelin^{a,h}, Charlene C. Nielsen^{b,c}, M. Shazan M. Jabbar^d, Osnat Wine^b, Colin Bellinger^d, Paul J. Villeneuve^e, Dave Stieb^f, Nancy Aelicks^g, Khalid Aziz^b, Irena Buka^b, Sue Chandra^h, Susan Crawford^g, Paul Demersⁱ, Anders C. Erickson^j, Perry Hystad^k, Manoj Kumar^b, Erica Phipps^l, Prakesh S. Shah^m, Yan Yuan^a, Osmar R. Zaiane^d, Alvaro R. Osornio-Vargas^{b,*}

^a School of Public Health, University of Alberta, Edmonton Clinic Health Academy, 11405 87 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta T6G 1C9, Canada

^b Department of Pediatrics, University of Alberta, Edmonton Clinic Health Academy, 11405 87 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta T6G 1C9, Canada

^c Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, University of Alberta, 1-26 Earth Science Building, Edmonton, Alberta T6G 2E3, Canada

^d Department of Computing Science, University of Alberta, 32 Athabasca Hall, Edmonton, Alberta T6G 2E8, Canada

^e Department of Health Sciences, Carleton University, Herzberg Building, Room 5413, 1125 Colonel By Drive, Ottawa, Ontario K1S 5B6, Canada

^f Environmental Health Science and Research Bureau, Health Canada, 50 Colombyne Driveway, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0K9, Canada

^g Alberta Health Services, Alberta Perinatal Health Program, Suite 310, 1403-29 Street NW, Calgary, Alberta T2N 2T9, Canada

^h Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology, University of Alberta, Royal Alexandra Hospital, 10240 Kingsway Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta T5H 3V9, Canada

ⁱ CAREX Canada, Faculty of Health Sciences, Simon Fraser University, 105-515 West Hastings St, Vancouver, BC V6B 5K3, Canada

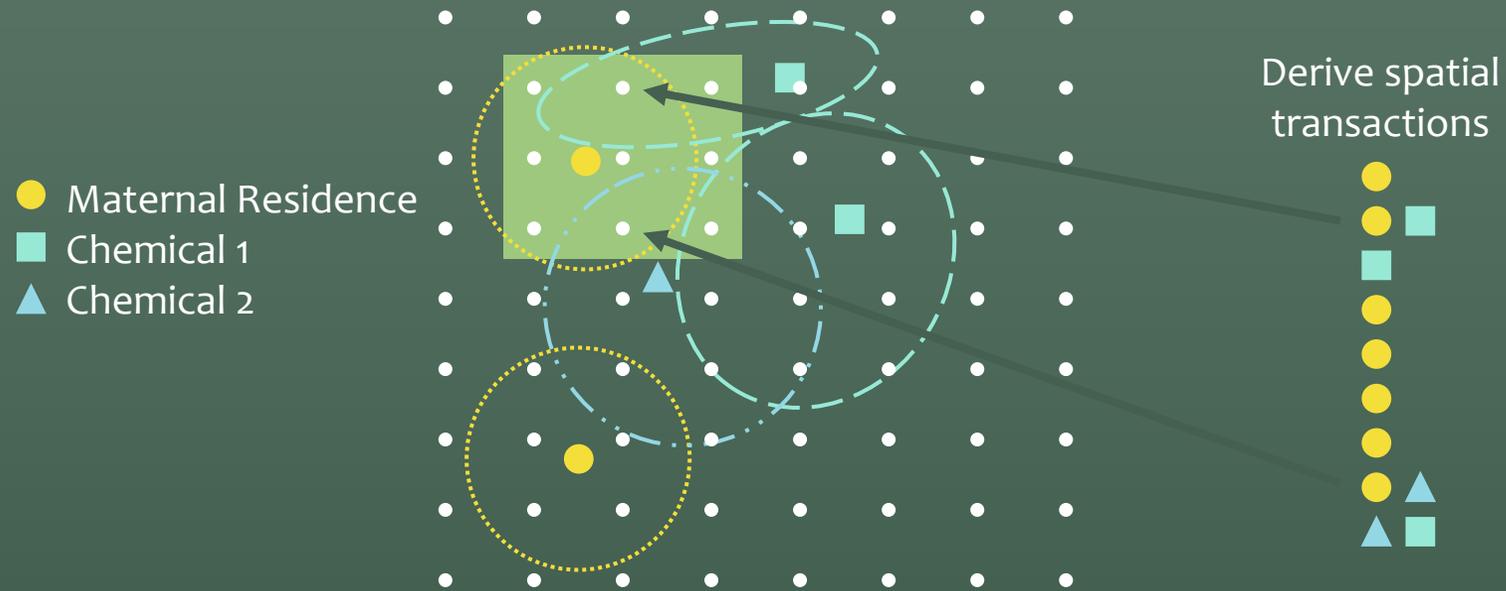
^j School of Population and Public Health, University of British Columbia, 2206 E Mall, Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z3, Canada

^k School of Biological and Population Health Sciences, Oregon State University, 101 Milam Hall, Corvallis, OR 97331, USA

^l Canadian Partnership for Children's Health & Environment, 1500-55 University Avenue, Toronto, Ontario M5J 2H7, Canada

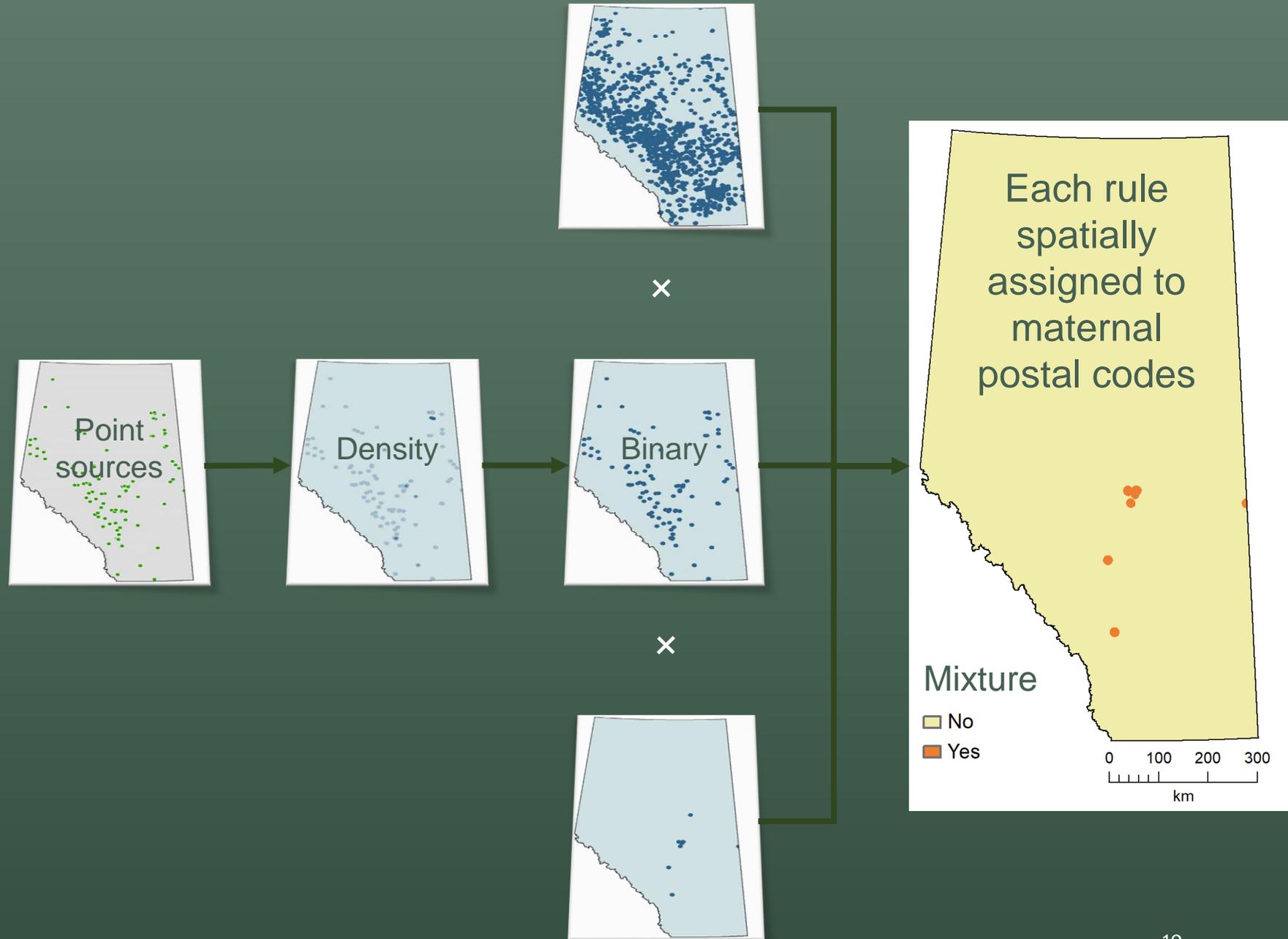
^m Department of Pediatrics and Institute of Health Policy, Management, and Evaluation, University of Toronto, Mount Sinai Hospital, 600 University Avenue, Room 19-231A, Toronto, Ontario M5G 1X5, Canada

Spatial Data Mining: 3 ABO and 136 Chemicals

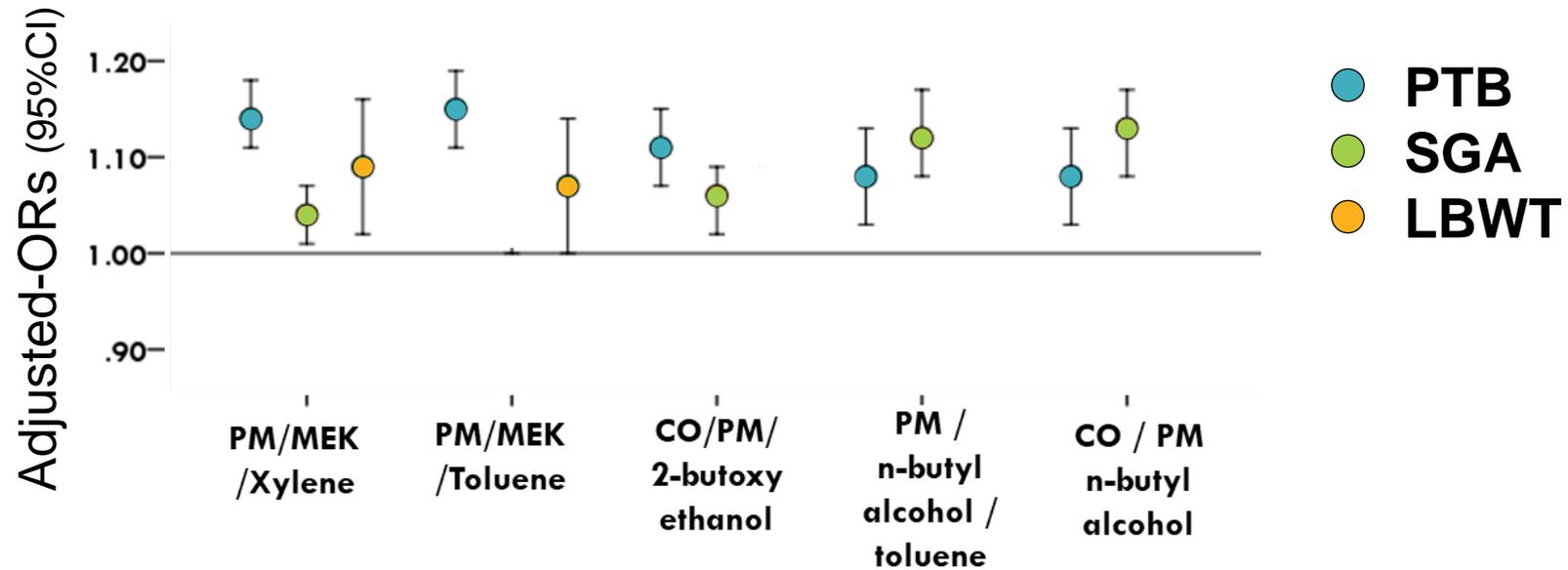


Data mining found patterns $\blacksquare \rightarrow \bullet$
that identified the most common chemical mixtures
that implied an ABO
~1,700 rules ($p < 0.05$)

Chemical Mixtures		P	S	L
		T	G	B
		B	A	T
1	PM / Methyl ethyl ketone / Xylene	■	■	■
2	PM / Methyl ethyl ketone / Toluene	■	■	■
3	CO / PM / 2-Butoxyethanol	■	■	■
4	PM / n-Butyl alcohol / Xylene	■	■	■
5	CO / PM / n-Butyl alcohol	■	■	■



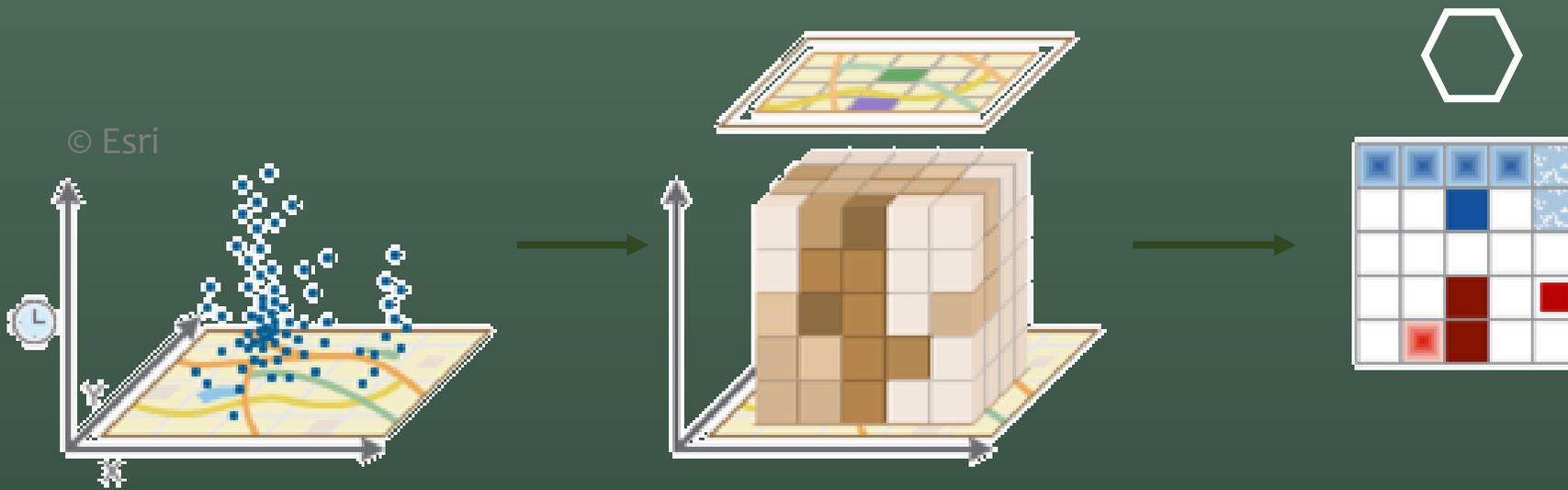
Assess Odds Ratios to Determine Risk



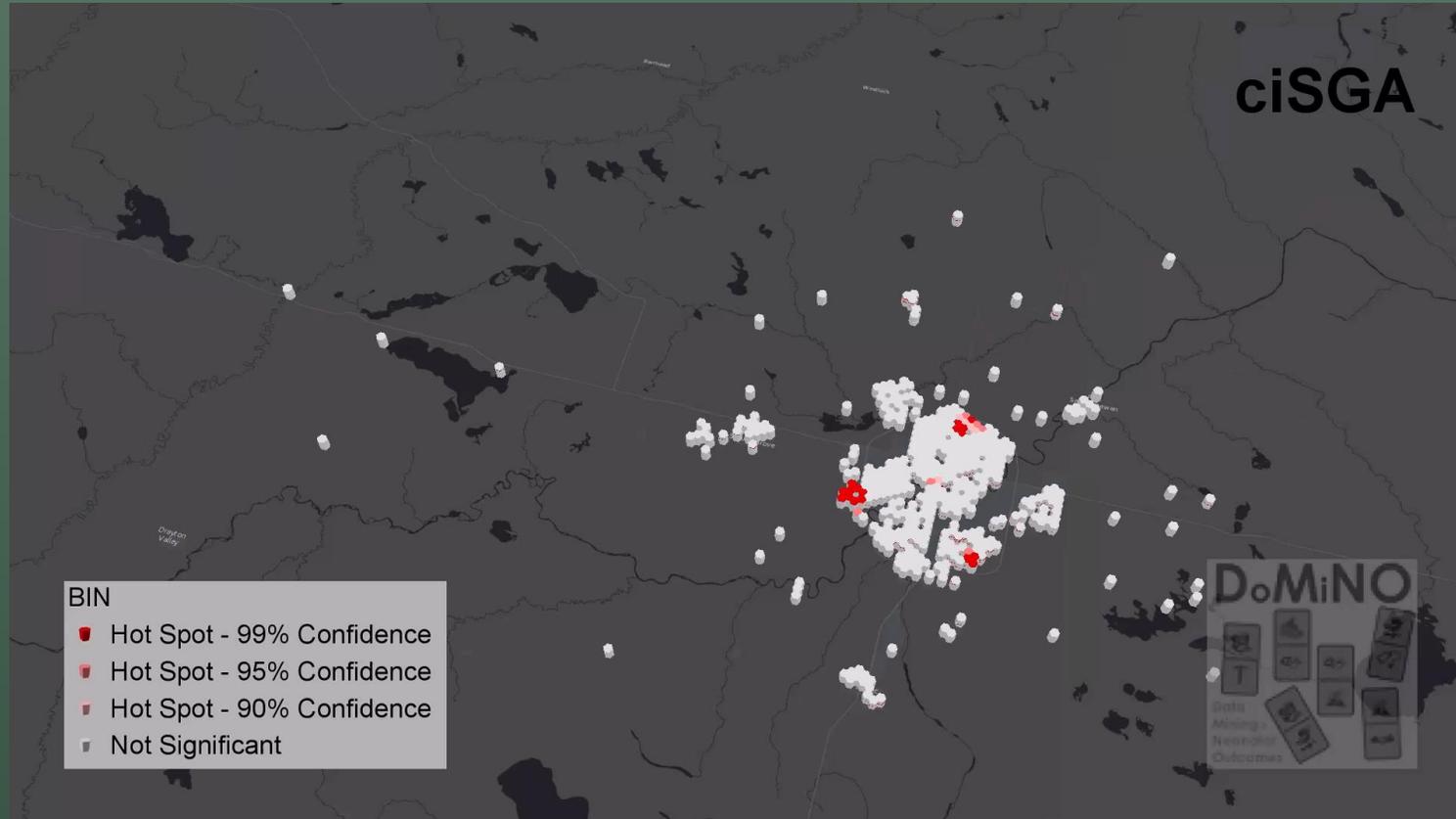
4. Space-time modeling of hot spots

Nielsen CC, Amrhein CG, Shah PS, Stieb DM, Osornio-Vargas AR, Canadian Neonatal Network, and the DoMiNO Team. Space-time hot spots of critically ill small for gestational age newborns and industrial air pollutants in major metropolitan areas of Canada. *Environmental Research*. In Review.

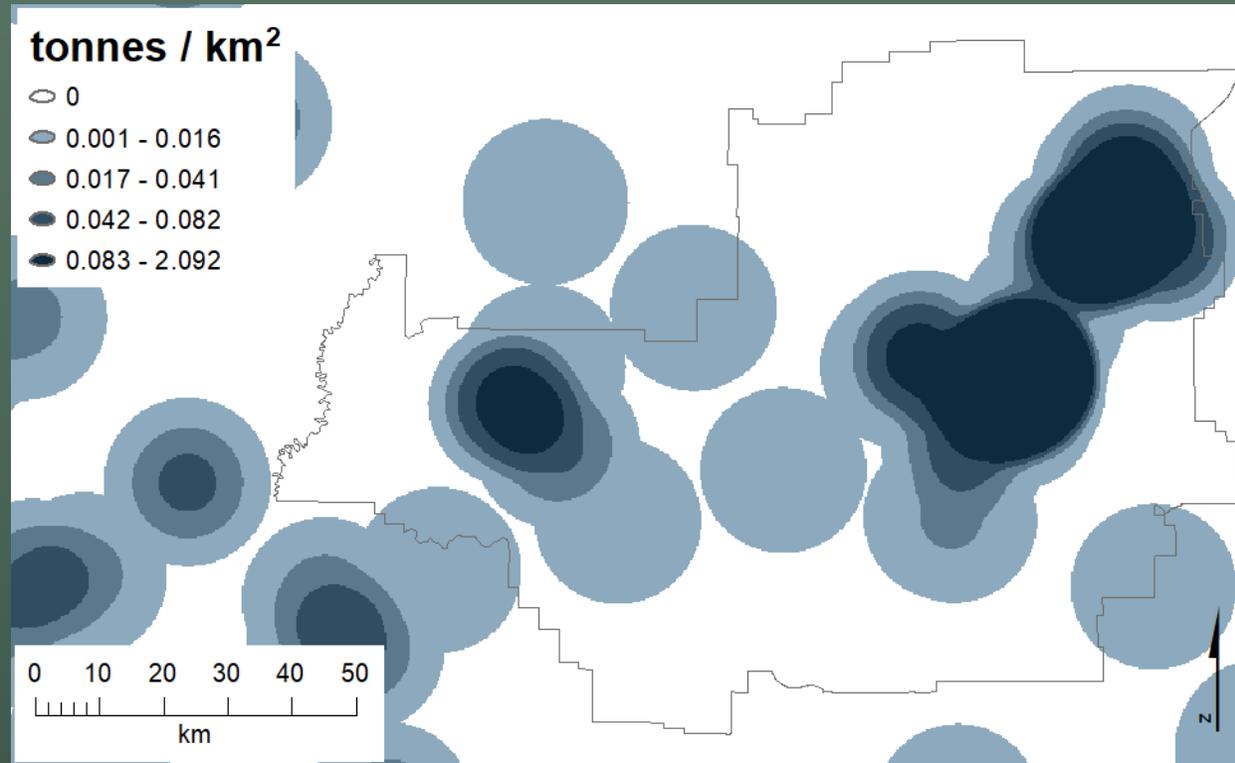
*critically ill small for gestational age = ciSGA



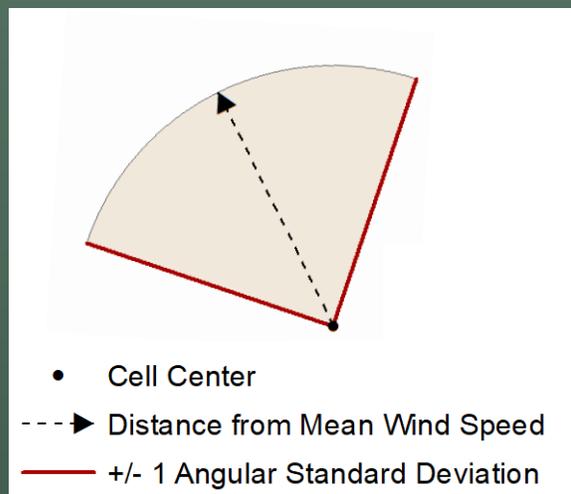
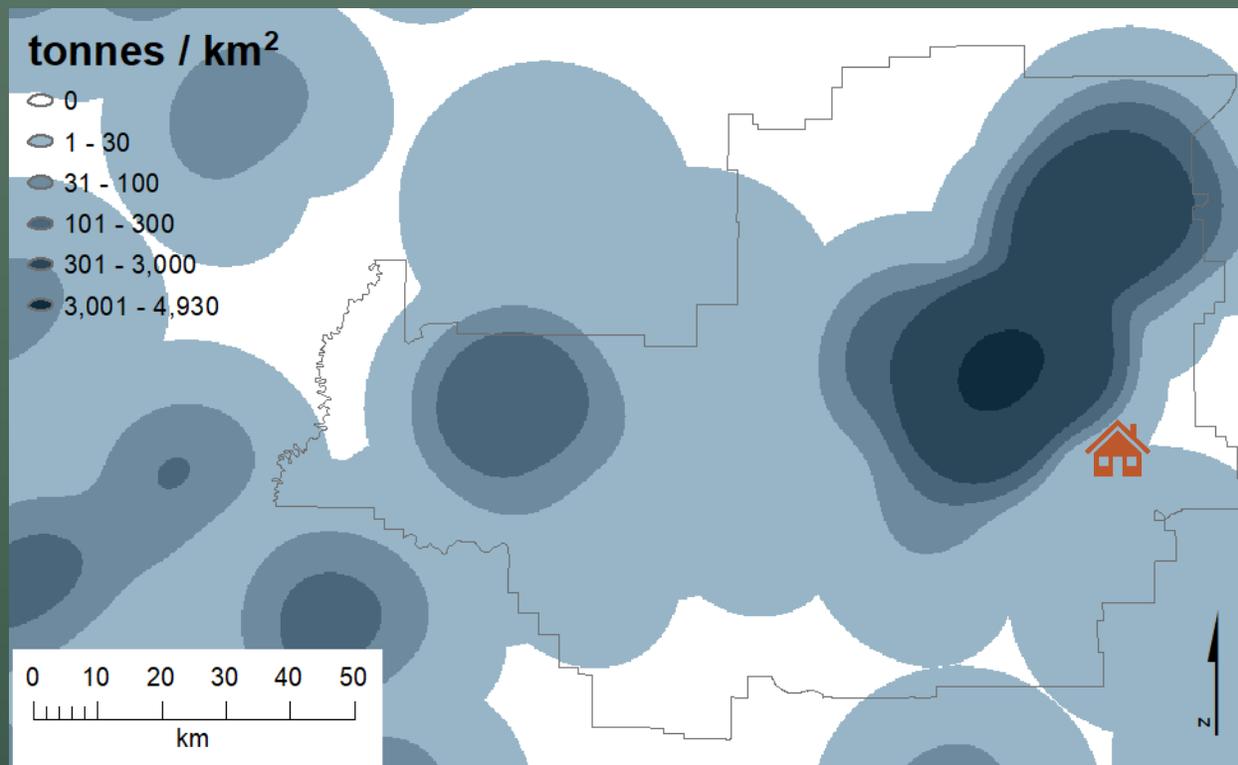
Space-time hot spots of ciSGA in Edmonton



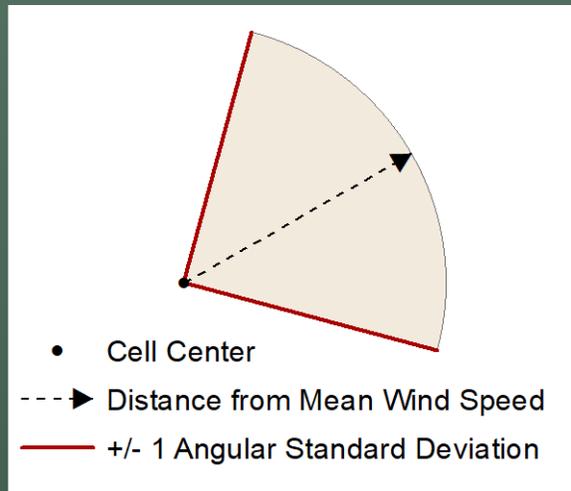
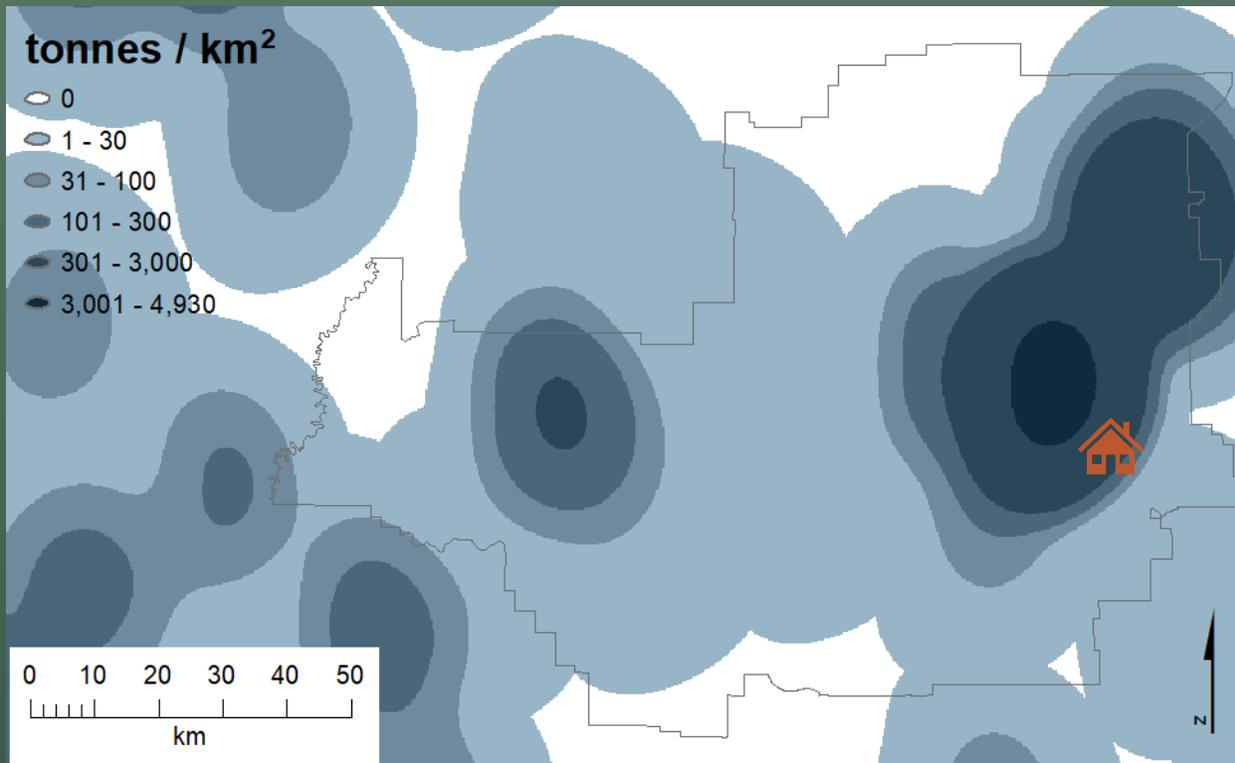
Mean monthly chemical emissions



JANUARY

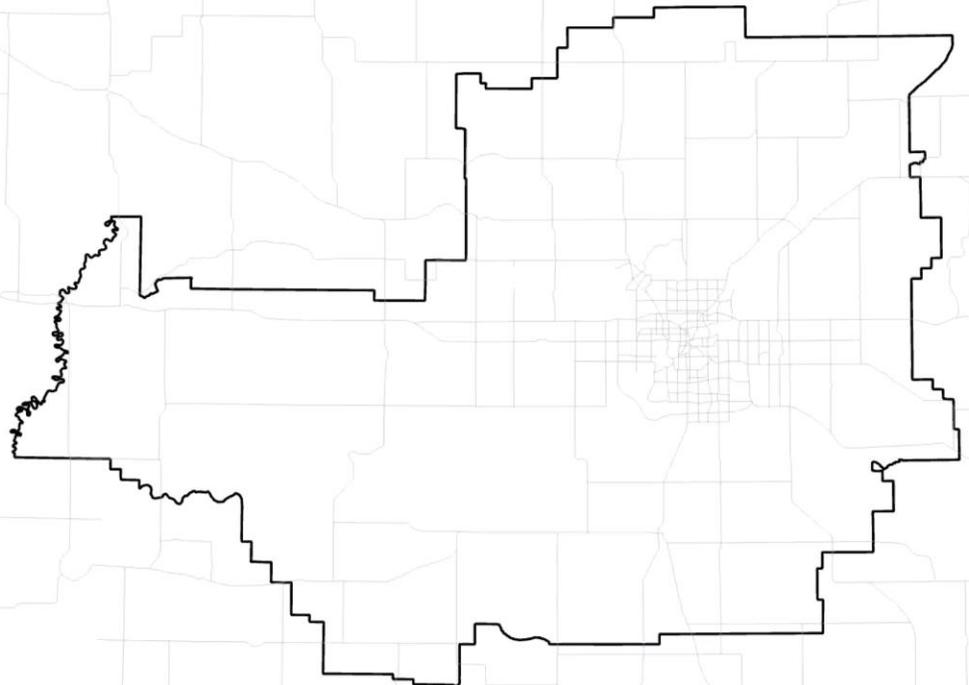
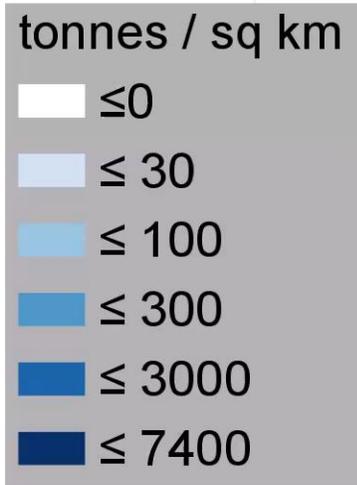


JULY

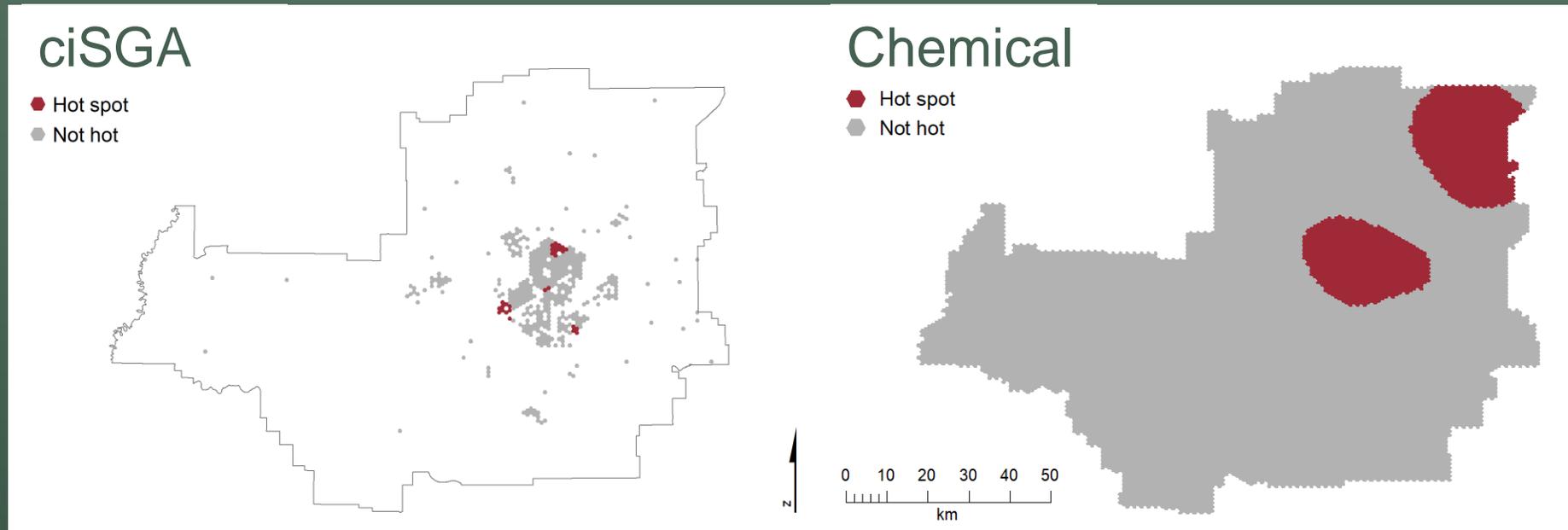


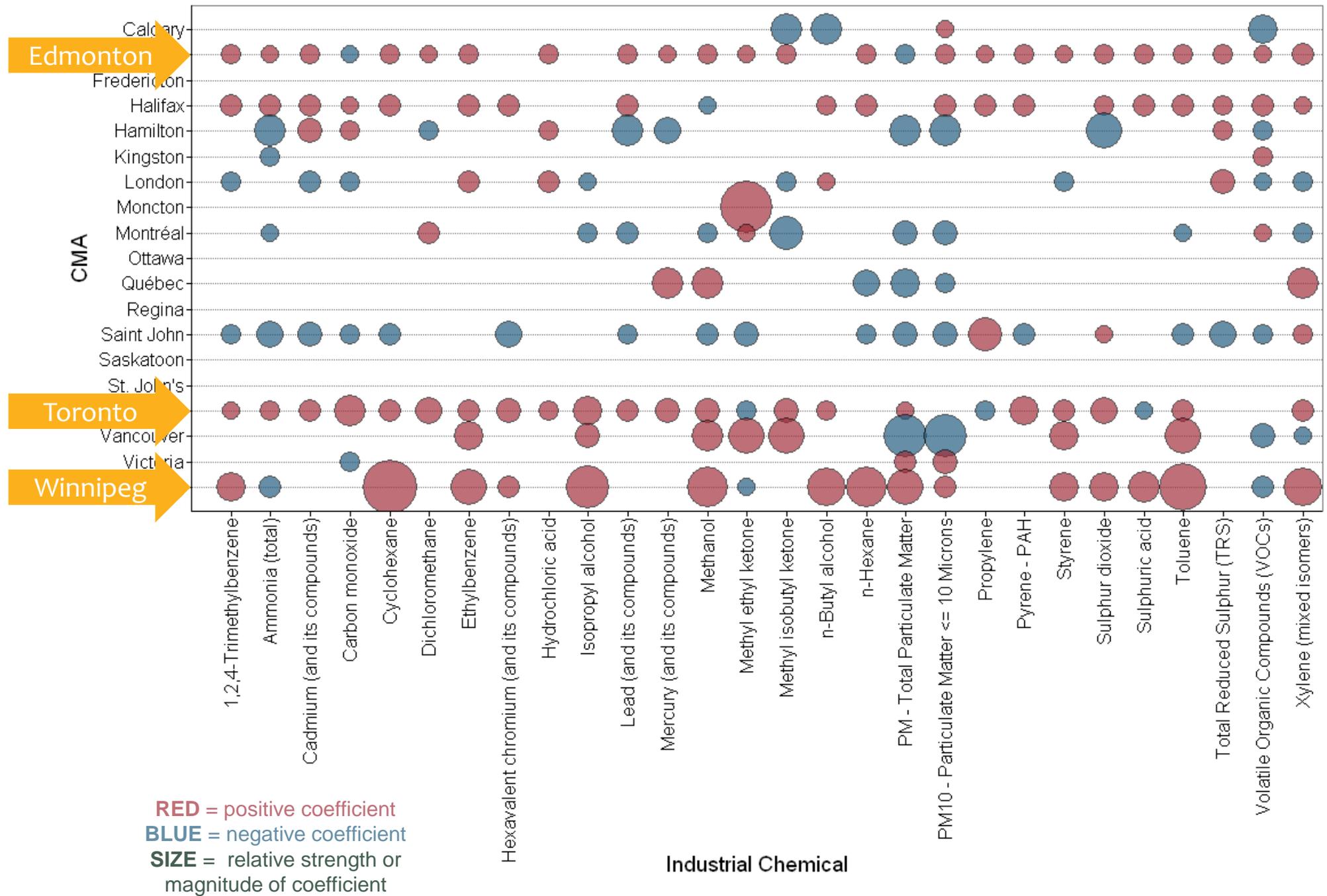
Edmonton

2010 VOCs



Space-time hot spots of chemical emissions





Online Mapping

ChEHC 

Online Map Collection

<https://arcg.is/19XyXno>

ChEHC Map Collection

AIR POLLUTION



Introduction

Researchers from the University of Alberta's Department of Pediatrics who are affiliated with the Children's Environmental Health Clinic (ChEHC) have created and curated these environmental health maps as a clinical and public resource. Air pollution from traffic and industry are highlighted here.

Refer to the [ChEHC](#) website to learn more about the effects of air pollution on children's health.

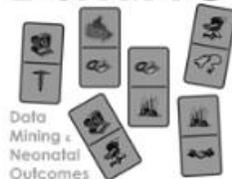
Roads

Traffic

Emissions



DoMiNO



ChEHC Map Collection

AIR POLLUTION



Traffic

Emissions

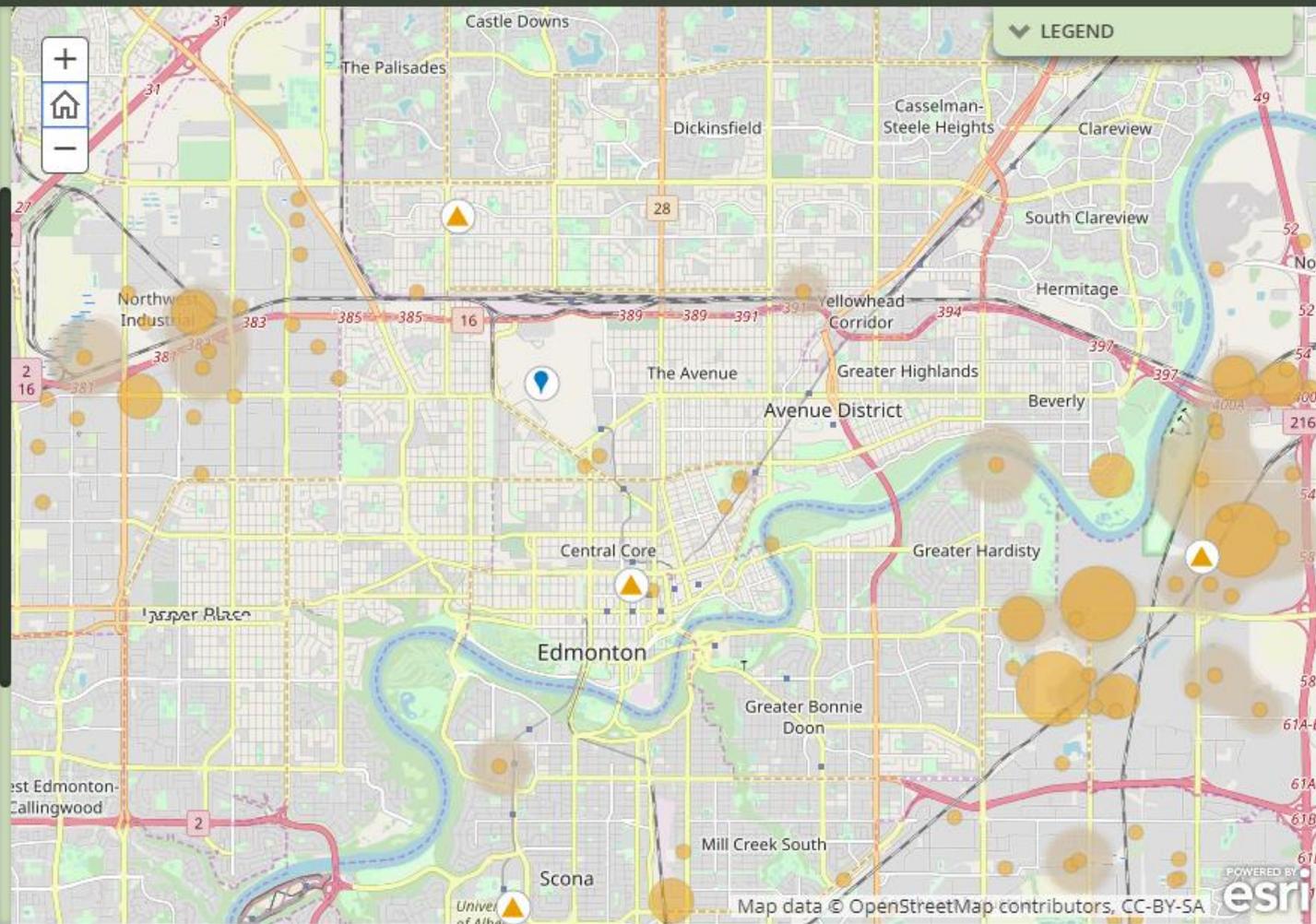
The National Pollutant Release Inventory reports 100's of industrial chemical emissions that are not monitored.

Zoom in to your area of interest to view where there are air quality monitors (for the 5 criteria air contaminants: CO, NO_x, O₃, PM, SO₂), weather stations (for potential wind information), and industrial facilities that release chemicals to the air.

Refer to the pull-down legend to the right.

Notice as you zoom in and out, the heat map adjusts accordingly. The shaded areas indicate the average tonnes per square kilometer. The brighter the yellow means relatively more tonnes. The size of the orange circles indicate how many chemicals.

Click on the orange circles to get a list of the chemicals.



ChEHC Map Collection

AIR POLLUTION



Traffic

Emissions

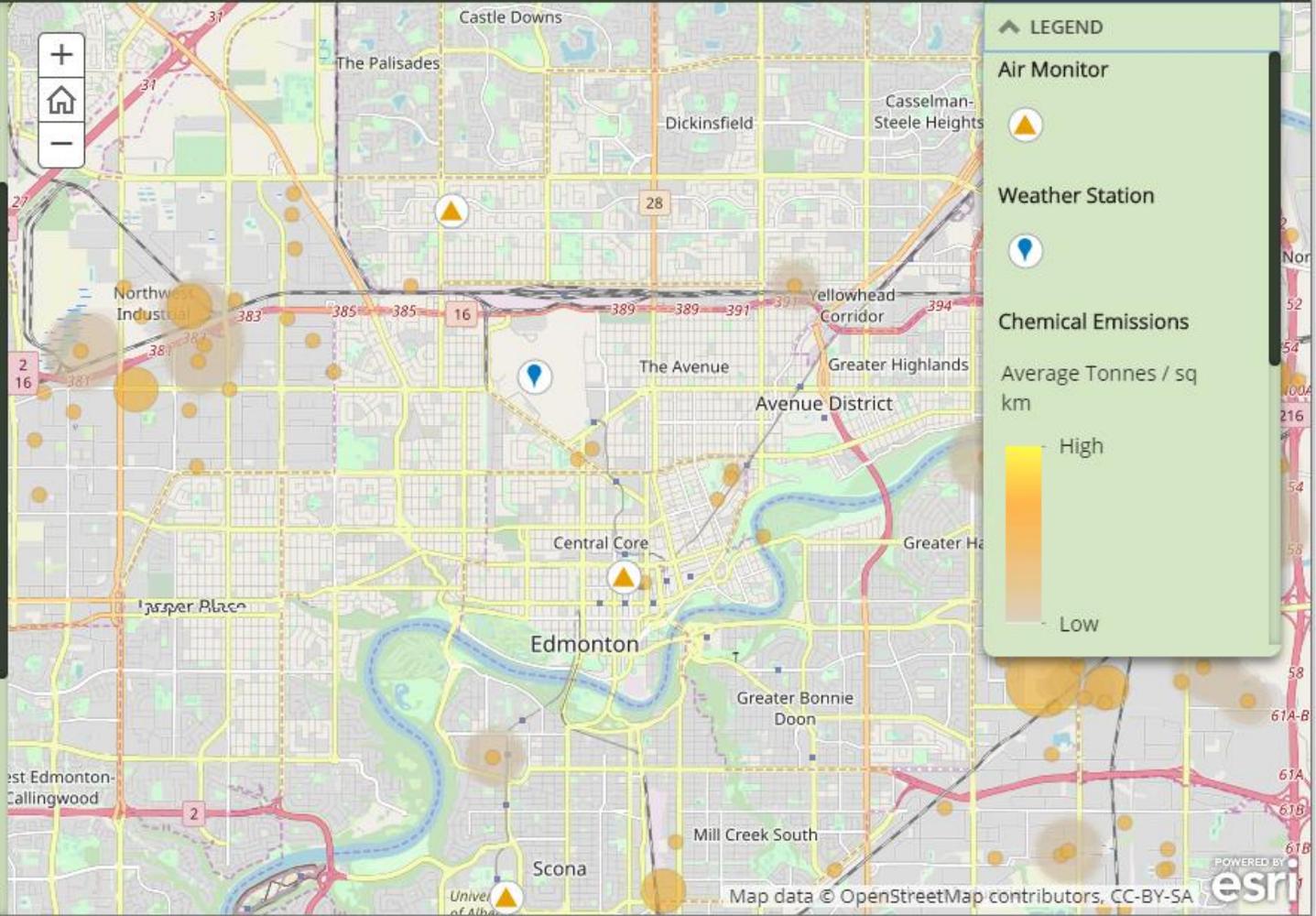
The National Pollutant Release Inventory reports 100's of industrial chemical emissions that are not monitored.

Zoom in to your area of interest to view where there are air quality monitors (for the 5 criteria air contaminants: CO, NO_x, O₃, PM, SO₂), weather stations (for potential wind information), and industrial facilities that release chemicals to the air.

Refer to the pull-down legend to the right.

Notice as you zoom in and out, the heat map adjusts accordingly. The shaded areas indicate the average tonnes per square kilometer. The brighter the yellow means relatively more tonnes. The size of the orange circles indicate how many chemicals.

Click on the orange circles to get a list of the chemicals.



ChEHC Map Collection

AIR POLLUTION



Traffic

Emissions

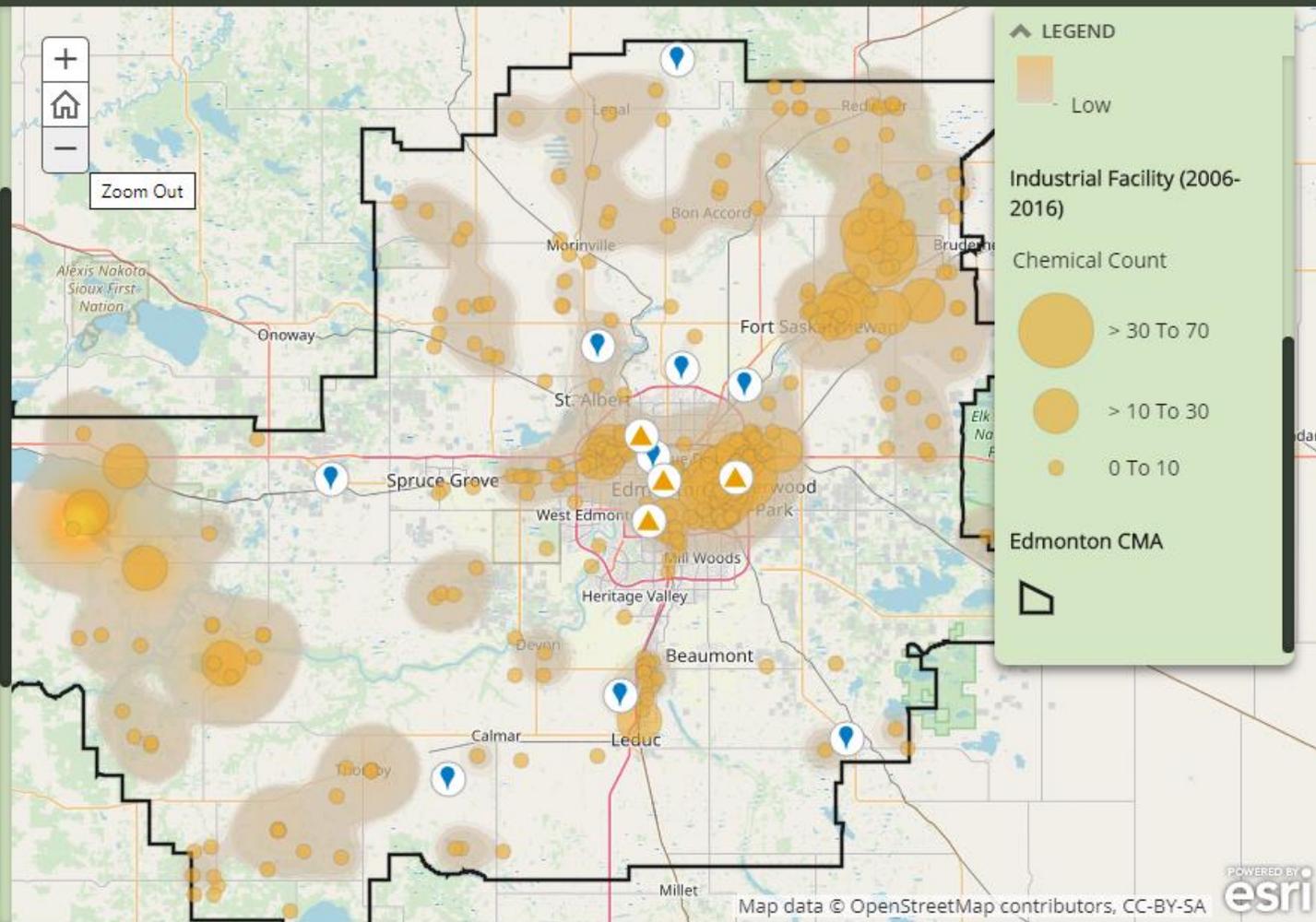
The National Pollutant Release Inventory reports 100's of industrial chemical emissions that are not monitored.

Zoom in to your area of interest to view where there are air quality monitors (for the 5 criteria air contaminants: CO, NO_x, O₃, PM, SO₂), weather stations (for potential wind information), and industrial facilities that release chemicals to the air.

Refer to the pull-down legend to the right.

Notice as you zoom in and out, the heat map adjusts accordingly. The shaded areas indicate the average tonnes per square kilometer. The brighter the yellow means relatively more tonnes. The size of the orange circles indicate how many chemicals.

Click on the orange circles to get a list of the chemicals.



ChEHC Map Collection

AIR POLLUTION



Emissions

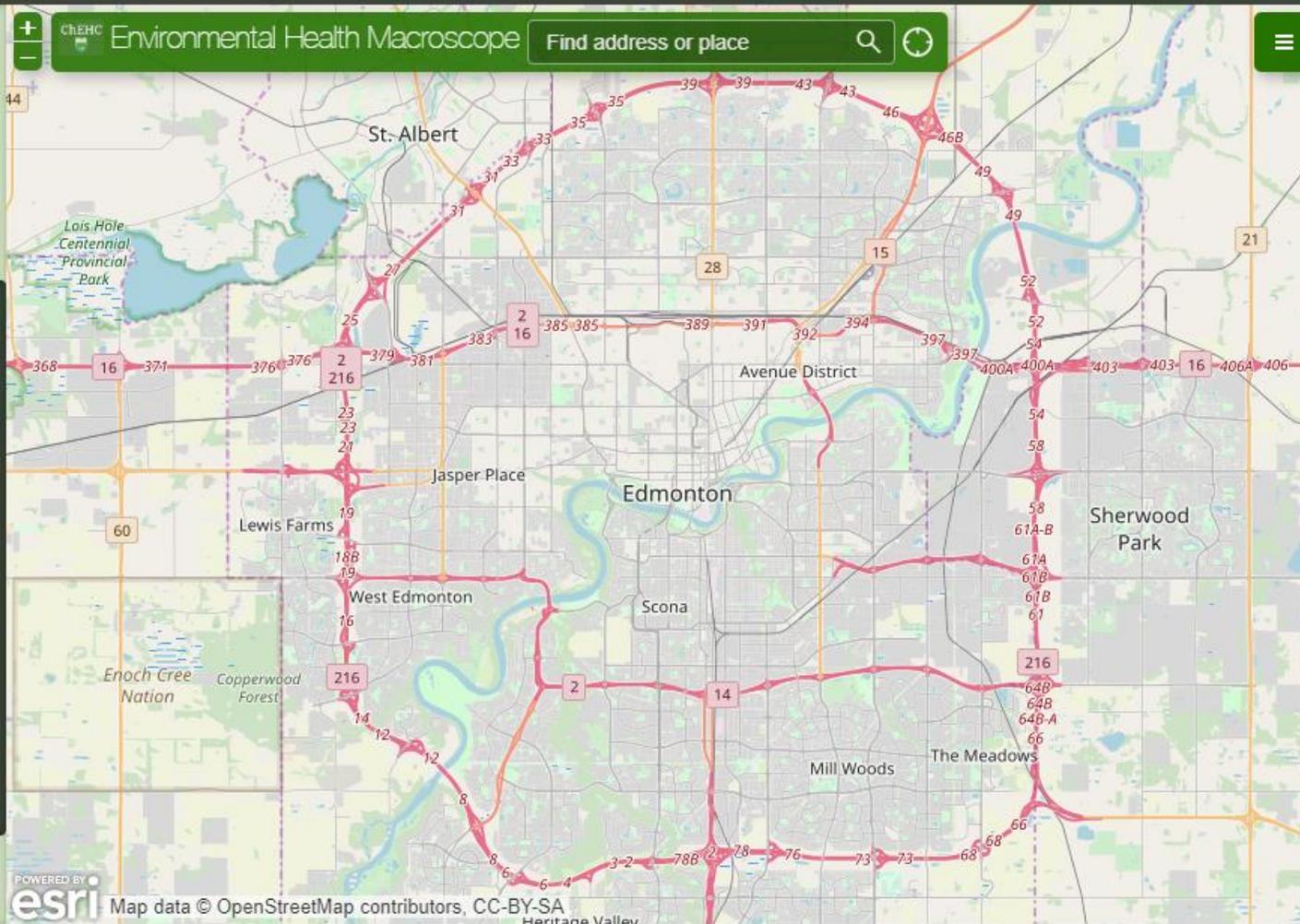
Macroscopic

Click any location on the map, or alternatively search an address in the City of Edmonton, Alberta. The map will automatically zoom to the location and identify air pollution related features within 5 km (you may adjust the radius to between 1-10 km).

Scroll through the right side panel to view air quality monitors, environmental weather stations, and industrial facilities that release chemicals to the air.

TIP: Press Ctrl + or Ctrl - to zoom in or out on the actual web page (i.e. to enlarge or reduce the text and map).

Mixtures



ChEHC Map Collection

AIR POLLUTION



Emissions

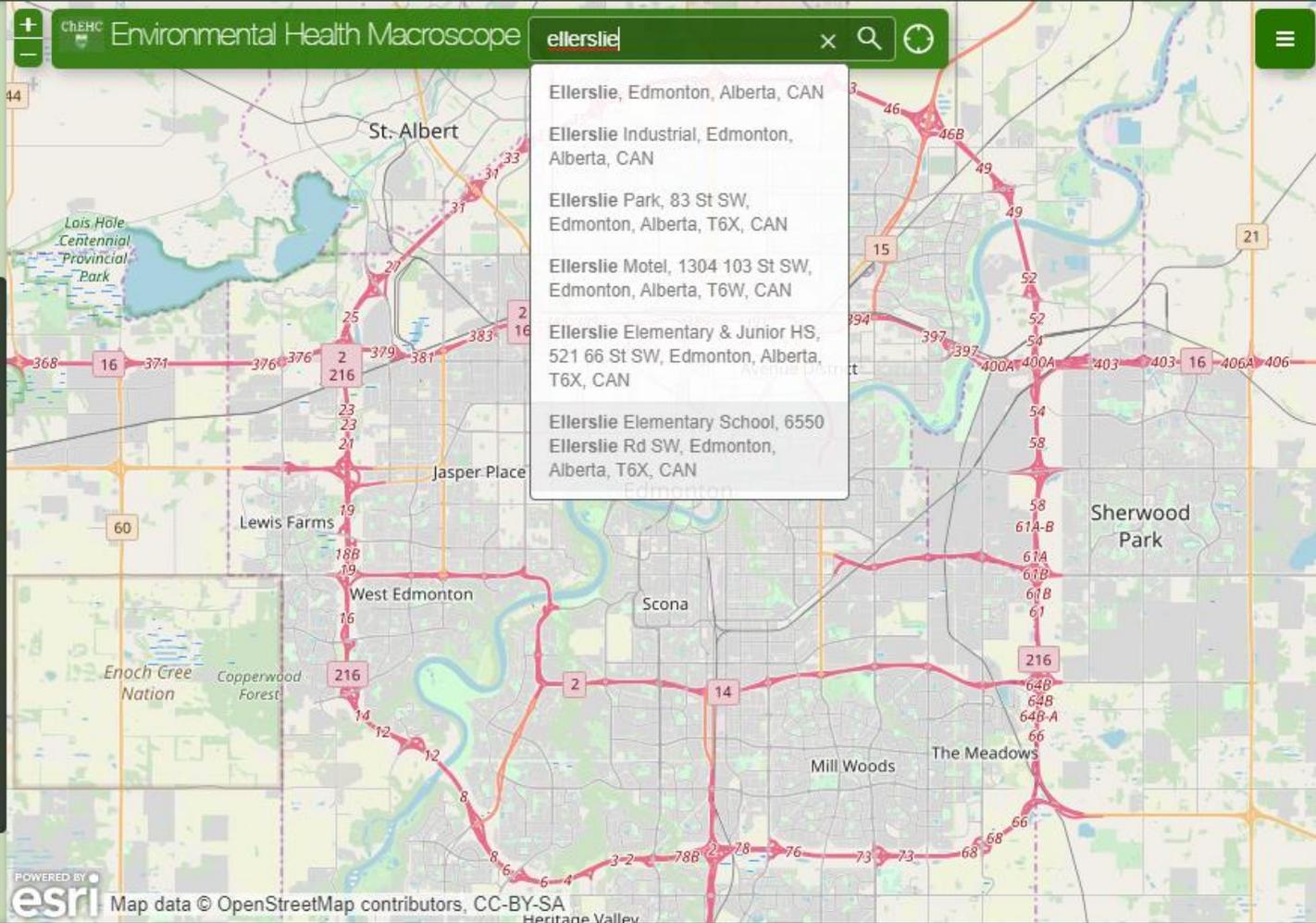
Macroscopic

Click any location on the map, or alternatively search an address in the City of Edmonton, Alberta. The map will automatically zoom to the location and identify air pollution related features within 5 km (you may adjust the radius to between 1-10 km).

Scroll through the right side panel to view air quality monitors, environmental weather stations, and industrial facilities that release chemicals to the air.

TIP: Press Ctrl + or Ctrl - to zoom in or out on the actual web page (i.e. to enlarge or reduce the text and map).

Mixtures



ChEHC Map Collection

AIR POLLUTION



Emissions

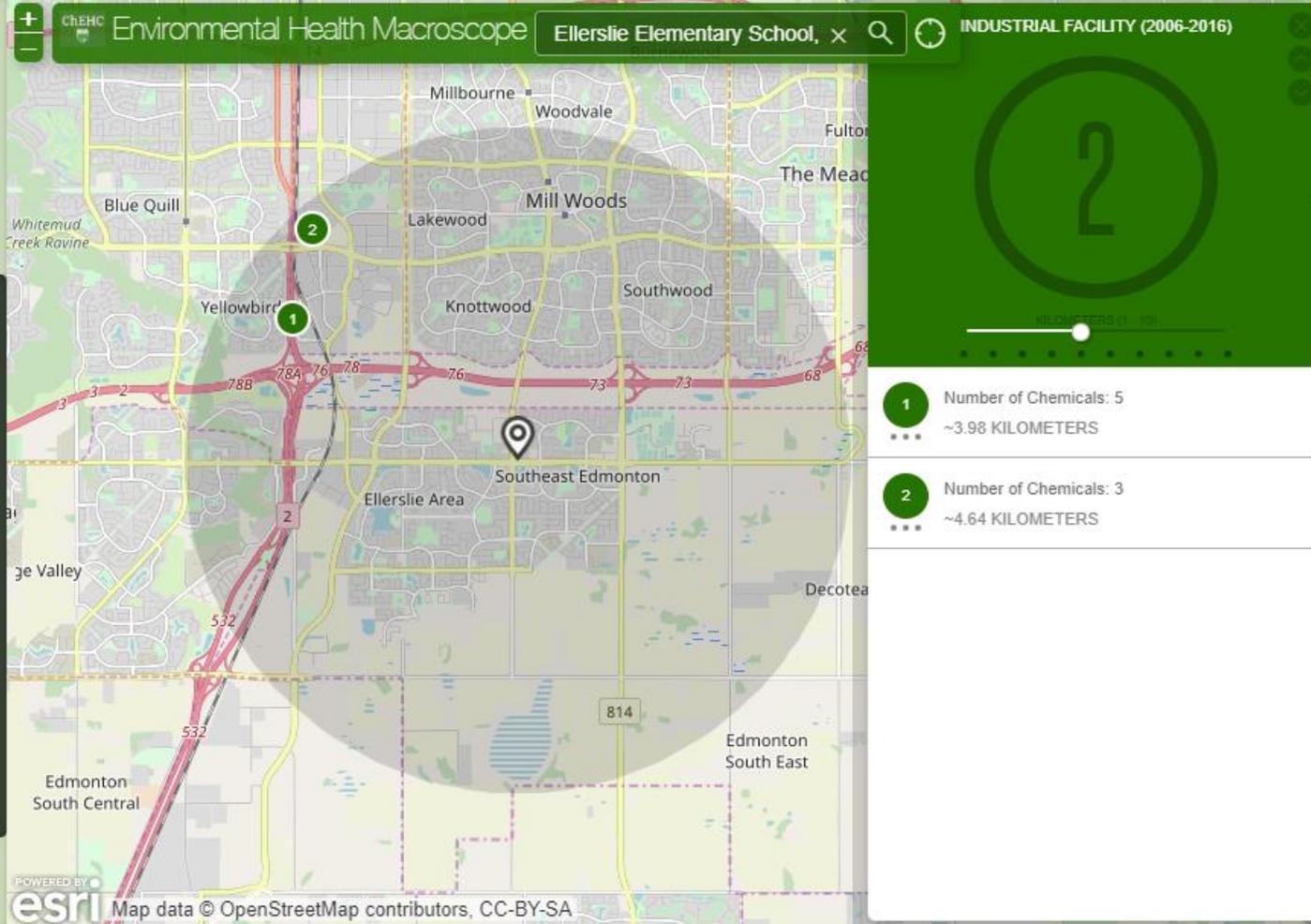
Macroscopic

Click any location on the map, or alternatively search an address in the City of Edmonton, Alberta. The map will automatically zoom to the location and identify air pollution related features within 5 km (you may adjust the radius to between 1-10 km).

Scroll through the right side panel to view air quality monitors, environmental weather stations, and industrial facilities that release chemicals to the air.

TIP: Press Ctrl + or Ctrl - to zoom in or out on the actual web page (i.e. to enlarge or reduce the text and map).

Mixtures



ChEHC Map Collection

AIR POLLUTION



Emissions

Macroscopic

Click any location on the map, or alternatively search an address in the City of Edmonton, Alberta. The map will automatically zoom to the location and identify air pollution related features within 5 km (you may adjust the radius to between 1-10 km).

Scroll through the right side panel to view air quality monitors, environmental weather stations, and industrial facilities that release chemicals to the air.

TIP: Press Ctrl + or Ctrl - to zoom in or out on the actual web page (i.e. to enlarge or reduce the text and map).

Mixtures

Environmental Health Macroscopic Ellerslie Elementary School, x

AIR MONITOR

ChEHC Map Collection

AIR POLLUTION



Emissions

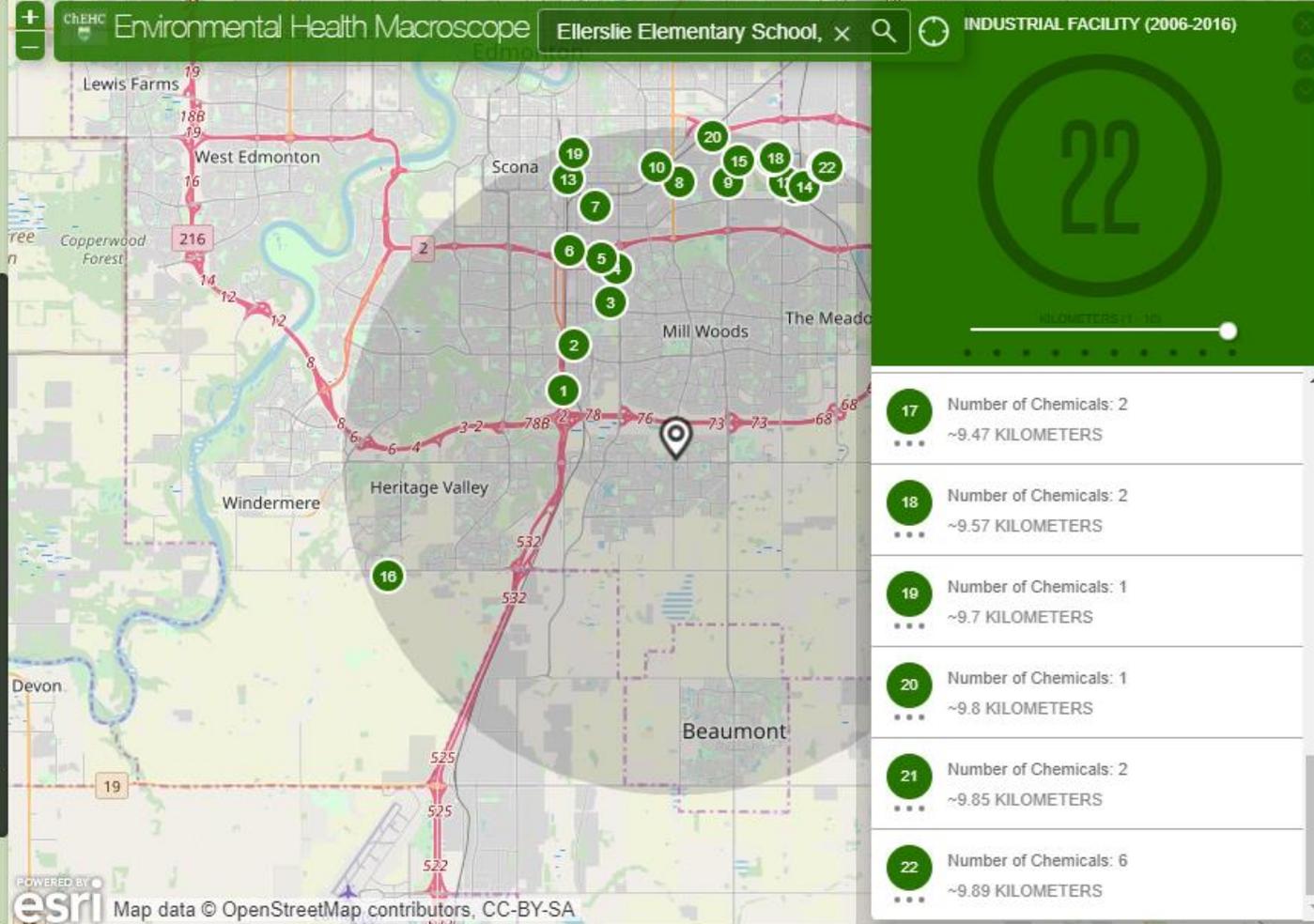
Macroscopic

Click any location on the map, or alternatively search an address in the City of Edmonton, Alberta. The map will automatically zoom to the location and identify air pollution related features within 5 km (you may adjust the radius to between 1-10 km).

Scroll through the right side panel to view air quality monitors, environmental weather stations, and industrial facilities that release chemicals to the air.

TIP: Press Ctrl + or Ctrl - to zoom in or out on the actual web page (i.e. to enlarge or reduce the text and map).

Mixtures



ChEHC Map Collection

AIR POLLUTION



Emissions

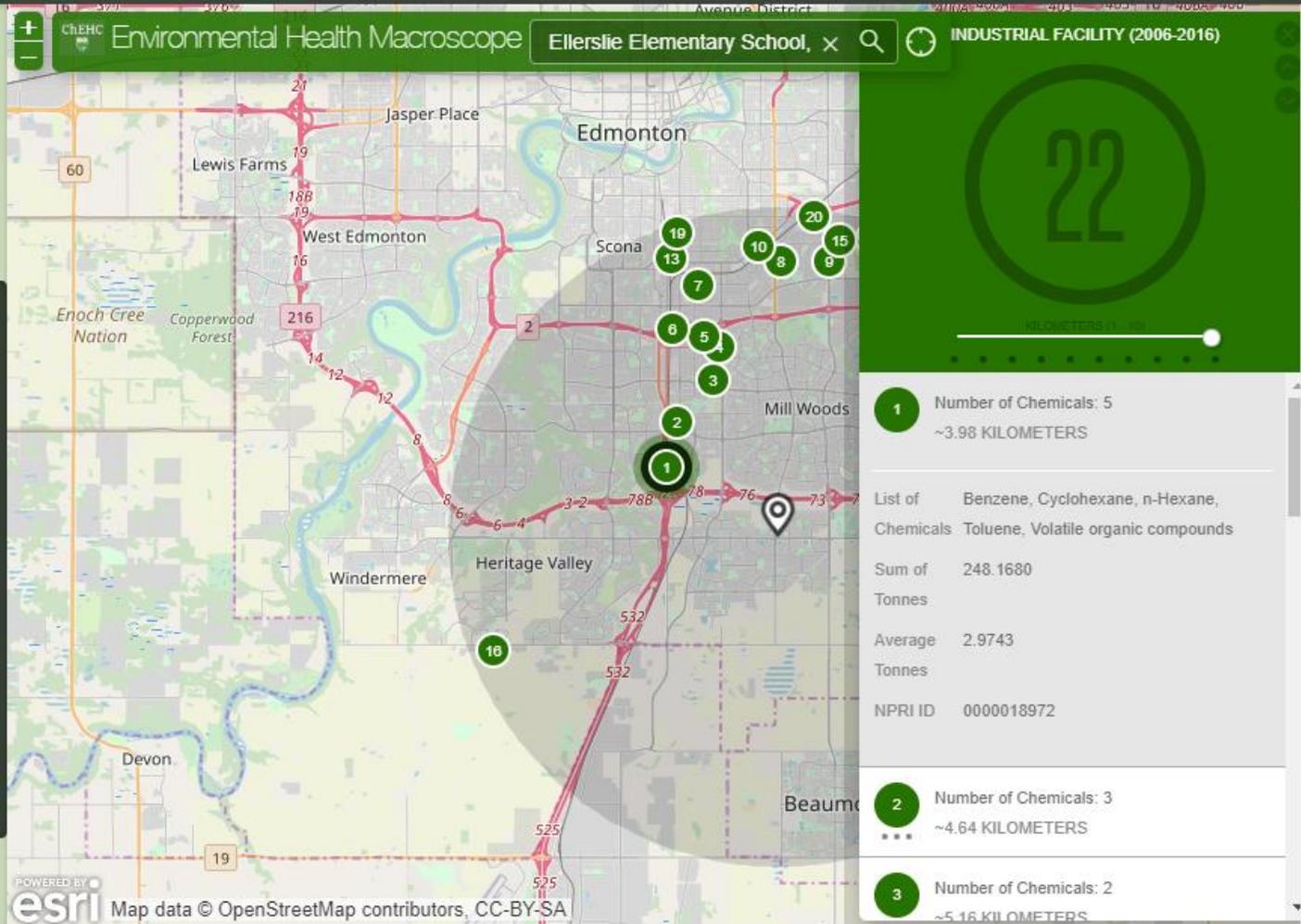
Macroscopic

Click any location on the map, or alternatively search an address in the City of Edmonton, Alberta. The map will automatically zoom to the location and identify air pollution related features within 5 km (you may adjust the radius to between 1-10 km).

Scroll through the right side panel to view air quality monitors, environmental weather stations, and industrial facilities that release chemicals to the air.

TIP: Press Ctrl + or Ctrl - to zoom in or out on the actual web page (i.e. to enlarge or reduce the text and map).

Mixtures



ChEHC Map Collection

AIR POLLUTION



Emissions

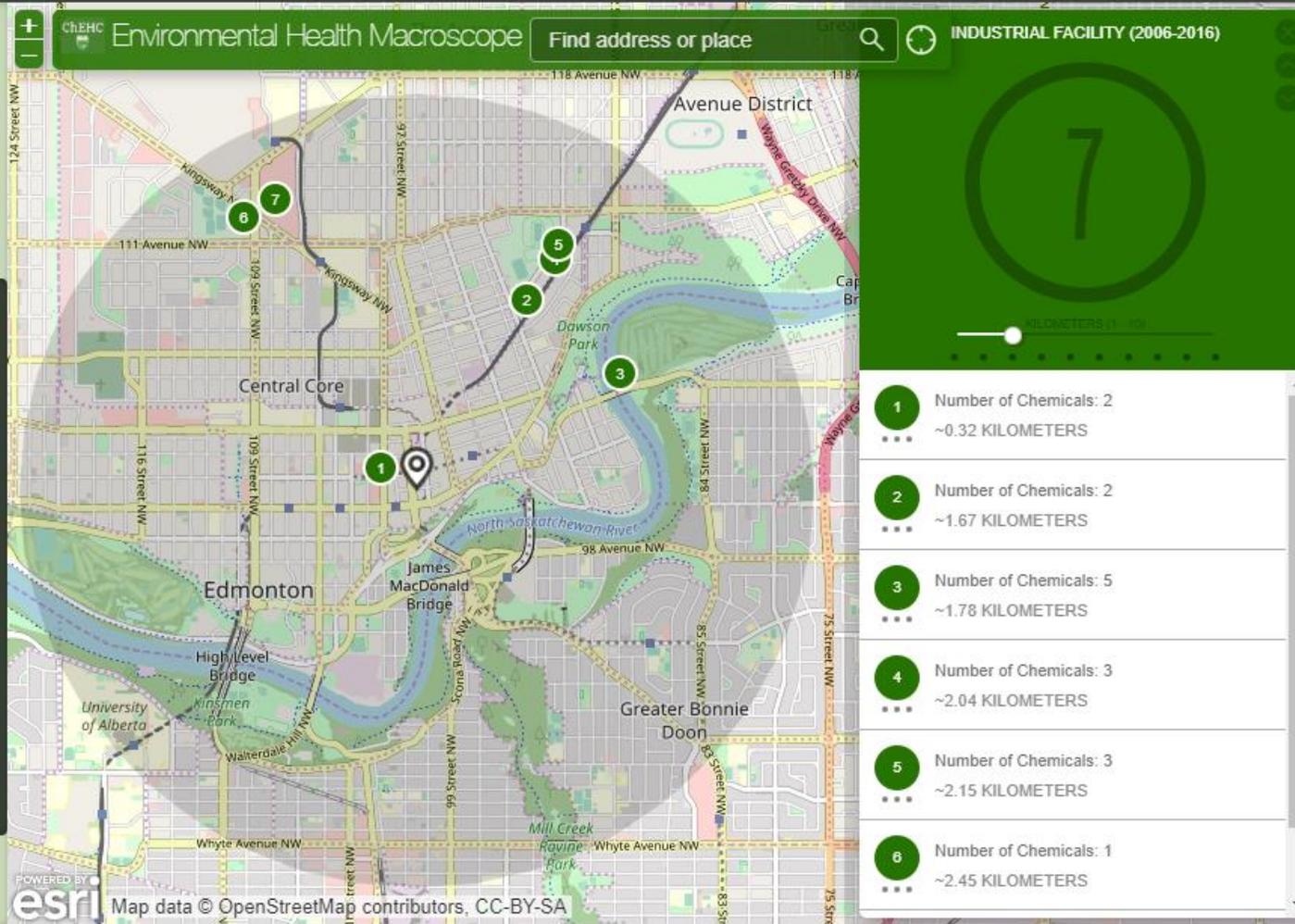
Macroscopic

Click any location on the map, or alternatively search an address in the City of Edmonton, Alberta. The map will automatically zoom to the location and identify air pollution related features within 5 km (you may adjust the radius to between 1-10 km).

Scroll through the right side panel to view air quality monitors, environmental weather stations, and industrial facilities that release chemicals to the air.

TIP: Press Ctrl + or Ctrl - to zoom in or out on the actual web page (i.e. to enlarge or reduce the text and map).

Mixtures



ChEHC Map Collection

AIR POLLUTION



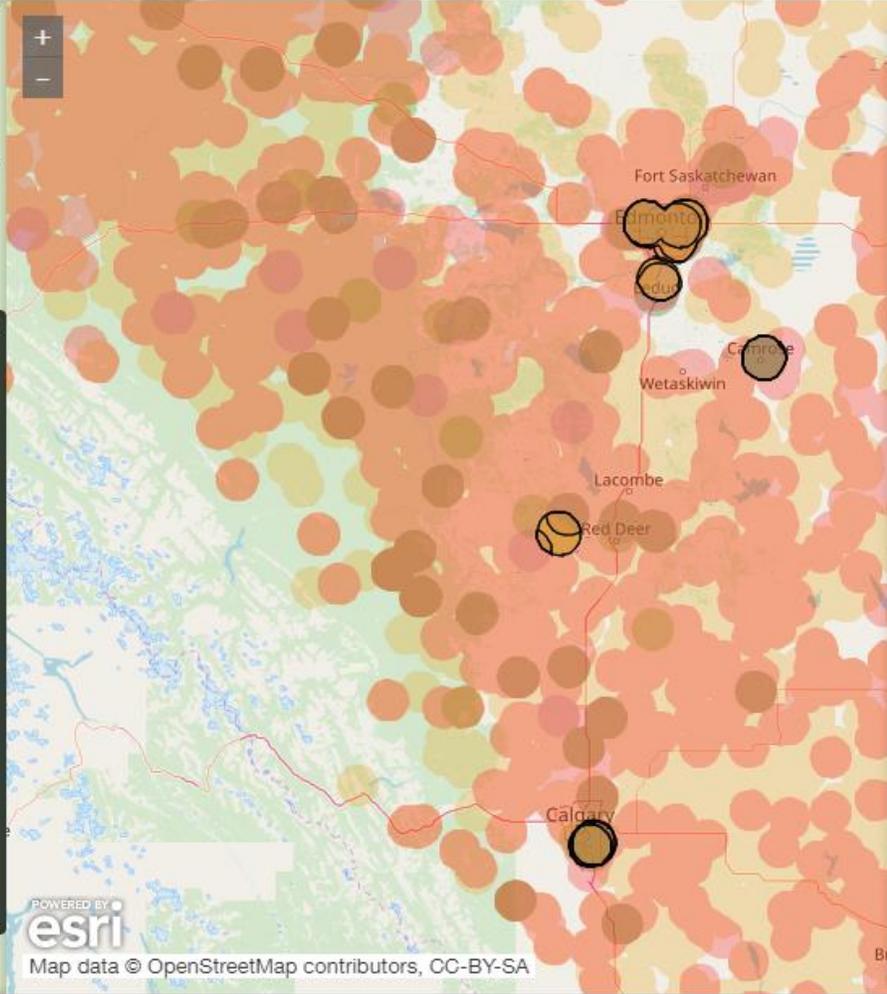
Emissions

Macroscope

Mixtures

Areas of potential exposure to three-chemical mixtures associated with adverse birth outcomes are shown as black outlines. For contrast, the colored areas represent the location where individual chemicals exist but have weaker associations with adverse birth outcomes.

Click the 'i' icon for instruction on navigating this map, turning layers on/off, and to access the scientific publication about the research that this map is based on.



List of Layers

Layers

- Mixture 1
- Mixture 2
- Mixture 3
- Mixture 4
- Mixture 5
- PM - particulate matter (1, 2, 3, 4, 5)

ABO Take Home Messages

1. We discovered associations with known/suspected developmental toxicants, including ammonia, benzene, carbon monoxide, PMs, VOCs, and sulphuric acid
2. Chemicals were more important than land-based sources or when combined in the ambient health hazard index
3. We identified 5 potentially hazardous mixtures of industrial chemicals
4. Our findings do not support causation, but the associations are still worth paying attention to

NPRI Take Home Messages

- NPRI is very useful, publicly-available, environmental data on many chemical emissions that are not monitored
- Annual estimates for NPRI requires the assumption of uniform emission for calculating monthly averages
- Dispersion can be determined from the average wind speed but incorporating wind direction is more challenging
- We recommend continual and required reporting for all facilities to ensure more complete and consistent coverage
- We are still using coordinates from previously downloaded databases because a minimum of 6 decimal places is required for spatial accuracy in local analysis (current coordinates do not)



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA
FACULTY OF MEDICINE & DENTISTRY
Department of Pediatrics

