



Institut für Prävention und Arbeitsmedizin
der Deutschen Gesetzlichen Unfallversicherung
Institut der Ruhr-Universität Bochum

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Human-Biomonitoring (HBM): basic requirements and some practical examples

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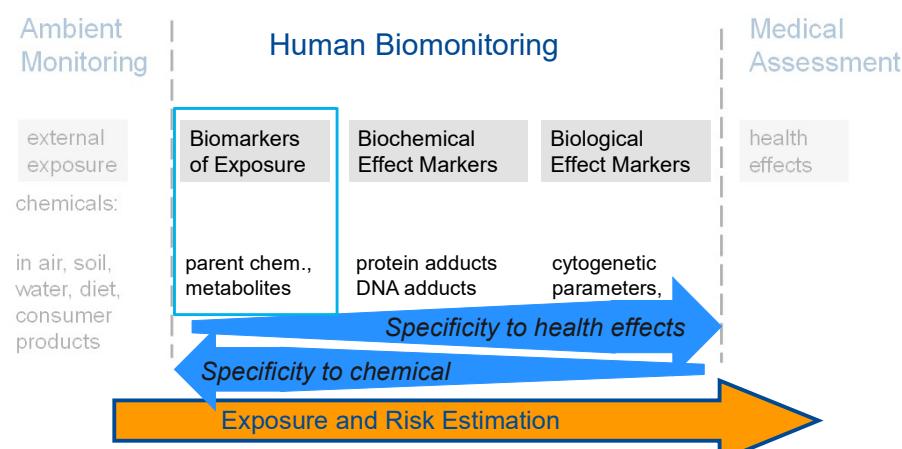
*HBM4IRE Stakeholder Forum at UCD
Dublin, October 11, 2024*

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Exposure Assessment (in the exposure-disease continuum)



adapted from: Biological Monitoring- Prospects in Occupational and Environmental Medicine
Angerer and Weiss (eds.), Wiley-VCH, Weinheim, 1. Edition (2002)

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HUMAN BIOMONITORING (HBM) DEFINITION

HBM is the determination of chemical substances, their metabolites and effects in human biological material with the aim

- *to determine internal exposure and health risk*
- *to compare results with reference- and limit values*
- *and if necessary to take corrective actions*



Tool for EXPOSURE and RISK ASSESSMENT

HUMAN BIOMONITORING (HBM) ... from another perspective

Human Biomonitoring:
pollutants that actually entered the human body
 (via all known and unknown routes: oral, dermal, inhalation)



Ambient Monitoring:
*pollutants that might enter the human body
 through known routes*

The Lead-Example I

**First HBM activities of EU
in Environmental medicine**

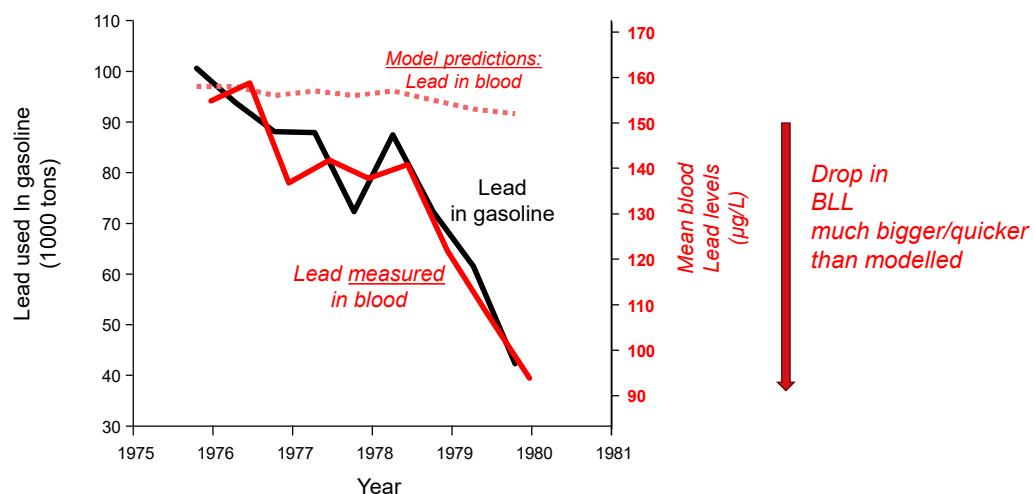


- COUNCIL DIRECTIVE
of 29. March 1977
on the biological screening of the population for lead (77/ 312 / EEC)

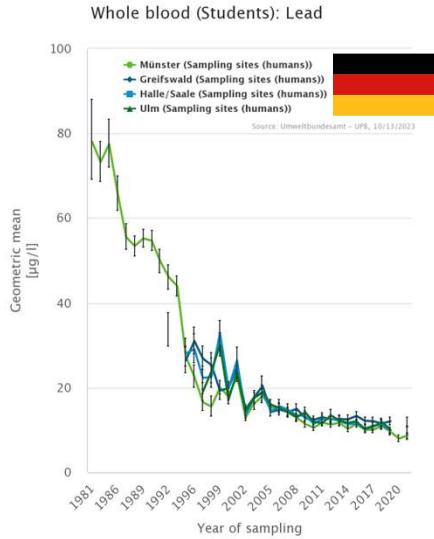
„HBM necessary because of *multiple sources of lead which make it difficult to determine exposure*“

The Lead-Example II

Lead in gasoline and blood
NHANES II, 1976-1980



The Lead-Example III



Why blood?

Blood lead represents (chronic) lead exposure (bone lead) over the last couple of weeks ($t_{1/2} = 1-2$ months)

Urinary lead represents very recent (< 24h) lead exposure (*less commonly used biomarker!*)

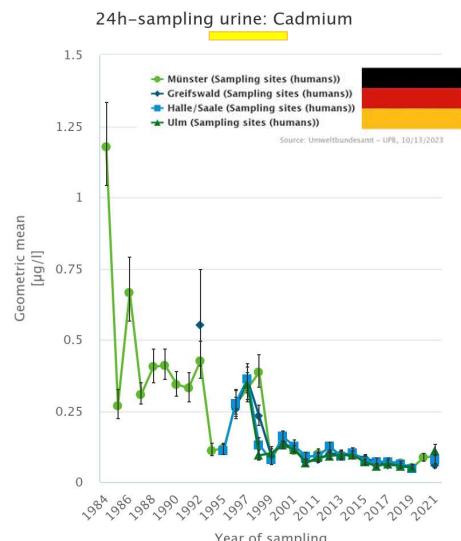
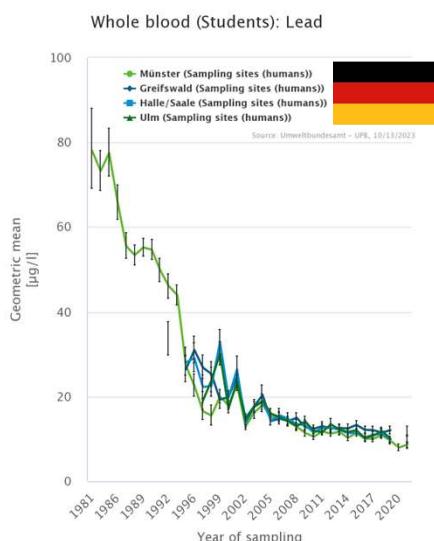
Caveat: for Cd it is vice-versa:
cadmium accumulates in the kidney
and is slowly released into the urine

For this and much more data, visit: <https://umweltprobenbank.de/en>

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The Lead-Example III



For this and much more data, visit: <https://umweltprobenbank.de/en>

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Exposure Assessment by HBM

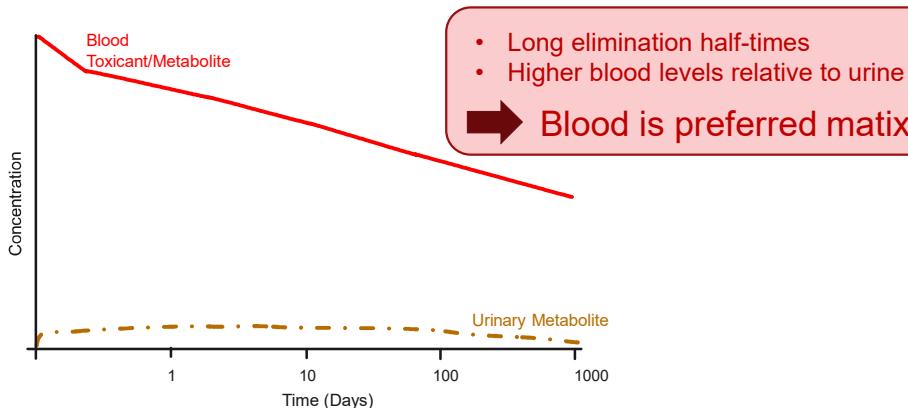
Knowledge on core characteristics of pollutants in the body is essential !

metabolism and elimination



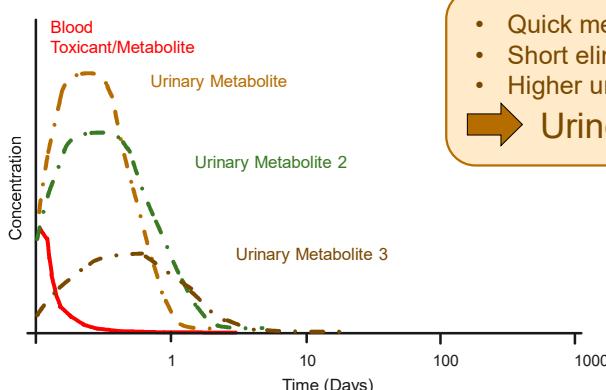
- biomarker: pollutant or metabolite(s) ?
- matrix: blood, urine , ...
- interpretation: dose-extrapolation, sampling...

Toxikokinetics: persistent chemicals



Needham and Sexton. JEAE 10: 611-629 (2000)
Henderson et al. Crit Rev Toxicol 20: 65-82 (1989)

Toxikokinetics: non-persistent chemicals



- Quick metabolism
 - Short elimination half-times
 - Higher urine levels relative to blood
- Urine is preferred matrix

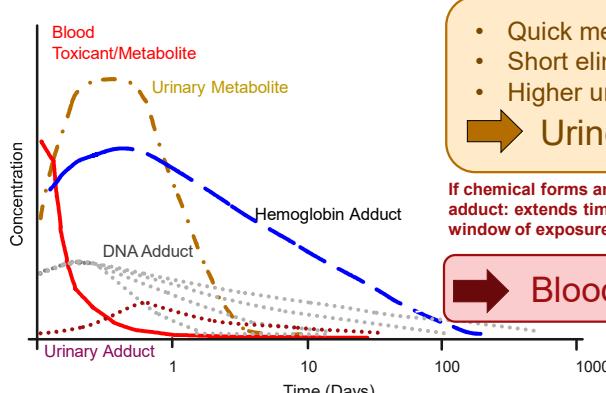
Needham and Sexton, JEAEE 10: 611-629 (2000)
Henderson et al. Crit Rev Toxicol 20: 65-82 (1989)

taken from ISEA/ISES Wesolowski Award Presentation, Paris 2006:
Biomonitoring: An Integral Part of Exposure Analysis
Larry L. Needham, Ph.D., National Center for Environmental Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

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Toxikokinetics: non-persistent chemicals



- Quick metabolism
 - Short elimination half-times
 - Higher urine levels relative to blood
- Urine is preferred matrix

If chemical forms an adduct: extends time window of exposure

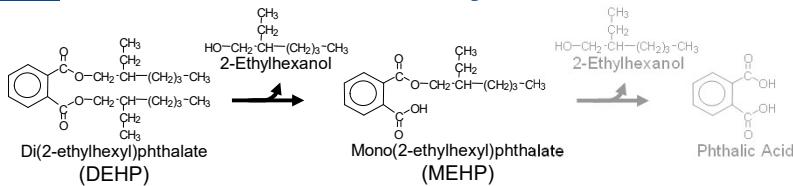
→ Blood possible, too

Needham and Sexton, JEAEE 10: 611-629 (2000)
Henderson et al. Crit Rev Toxicol 20: 65-82 (1989)

taken from ISEA/ISES Wesolowski Award Presentation, Paris 2006:
Biomonitoring: An Integral Part of Exposure Analysis
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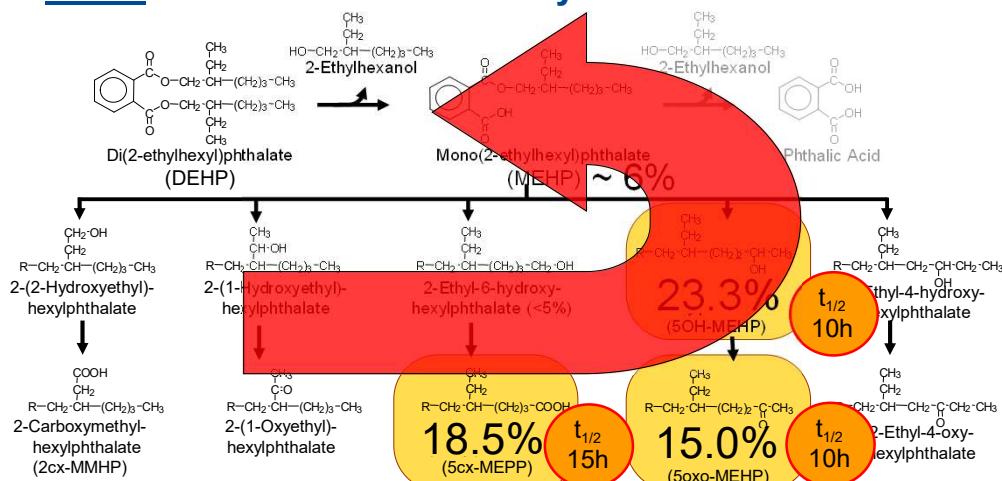
DEHP: metabolism and urinary excretion**Metabolite is the toxic species (!)**

- Rapid metabolism does NOT mean „detoxification“
- Non-persistent chemicals not *per se* less toxic than persistent chemicals
- Exposure biomarkers for reverse-dosimetry

Koch et al. (2004) Arch Tox 78, 123.
Koch et al. (2005) Arch Tox 79, 367.Wittassek et al. (2011) Mol Nut F Res 55(1), 7.
Koch et al. (2017) IJHEH 220: 130.

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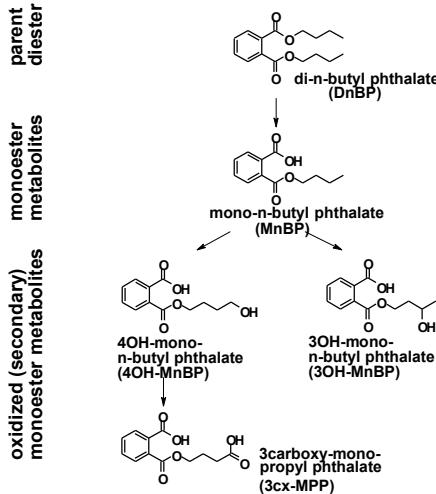
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DEHP: metabolism and urinary excretionKoch et al. (2004) Arch Tox 78, 123.
Koch et al. (2005) Arch Tox 79, 367.Wittassek et al. (2011) Mol Nut F Res 55(1), 7.
Koch et al. (2017) IJHEH 220: 130.

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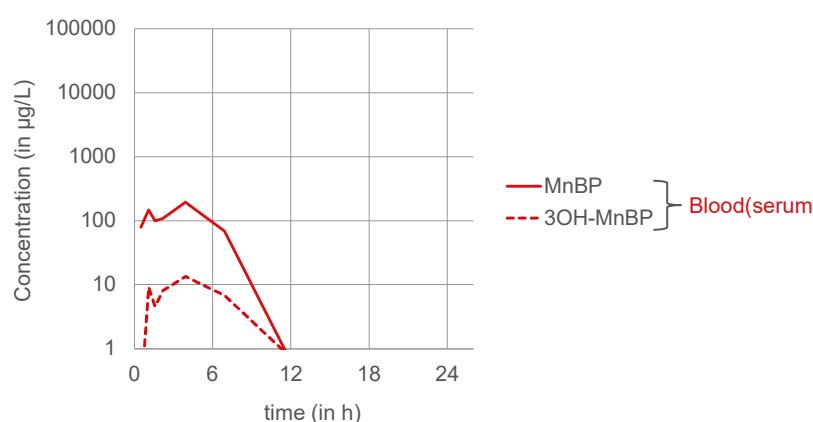
Toxikokinetics: n-butyl phthalate



Koch et al (2012) Arch Tox 86, 1829-1839.
Lorber and Koch (2013) Environ Int 59, 469-477.

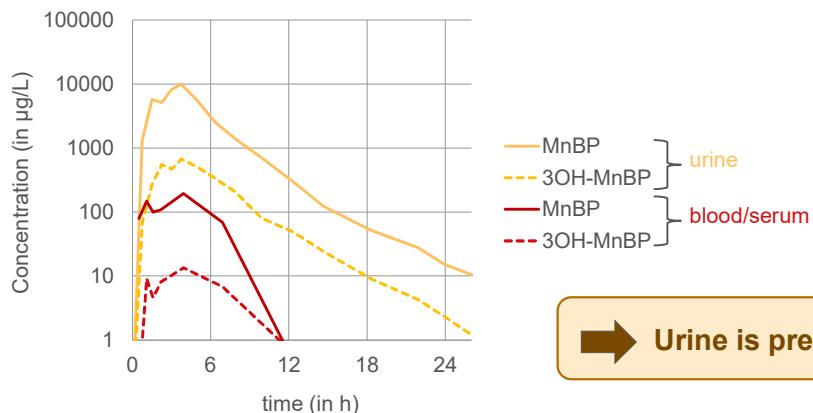
Toxikokinetics: n-butyl phthalate

5mg D4-DnBuP (oral, one human volunteer)



Toxikokinetics: n-butyl phthalate

5mg D4-DnBuP (oral, one human volunteer)



Urine is preferred matrix

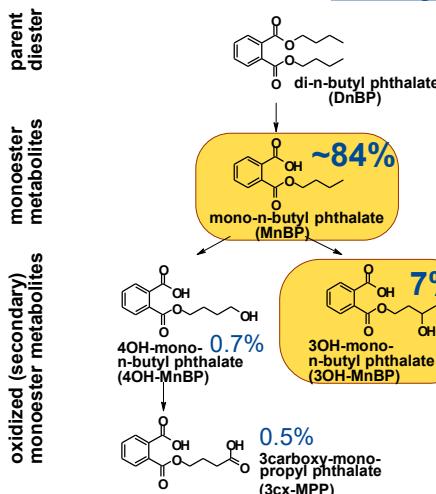
Koch et al (2012) Arch Tox 86, 1829-1839.
Lorber and Koch (2013) Environ Int 59, 469–477.

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Toxikokinetics: n-butyl phthalate



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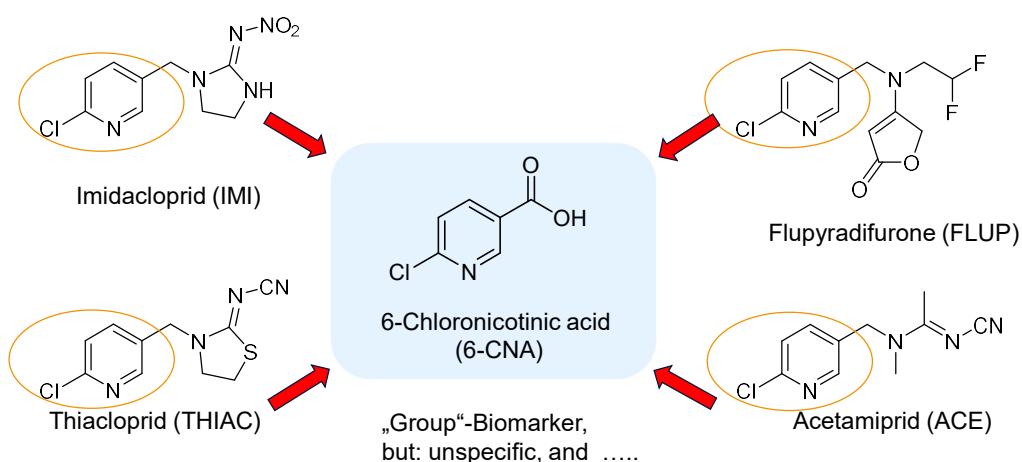
Urinary Exposure Biomarkers for Phthalates

Chain length	Phthalate	Monoester Metabolite	f_{ue-pm}	Secondary metabolite	f_{ue-pm}	reference
2	DEP	MEP	80%			estimated
4	DnBP	MnBP	84%			Koch et al. (2012), Anderson et al. (2001)
4	DiBP	MiBP	71%			Koch et al. (2012) Anderson et al. (2001)
6	BBzP	MBzP	73%			Anderson et al. (2001)
8	DEHP	MEHP	6%			Koch et al. (2005), Anderson et al. (2011), Kessler et al. (2012)
				5OH-MEHP	23%	
				5oxo-MEHP	15%	
				5cx-MEPP	18%	
9	DiNP	MiNP	1%			Koch et al. (2007), Anderson et al. (2011)
				OH-MiNP	18%	
				oxo-MiNP	10%	
				cx-MiNP	9%	
10	DPHP /DiDP			OH-MPHP	12%	Schütze et al. (2014), Wittassek and Angerer (2008)
				oxo-MPHP	14%	
				cx-MPHP	0.5%	

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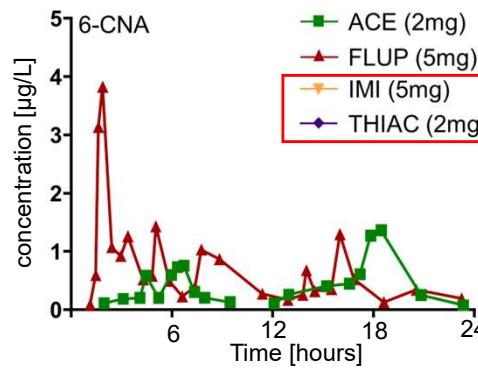
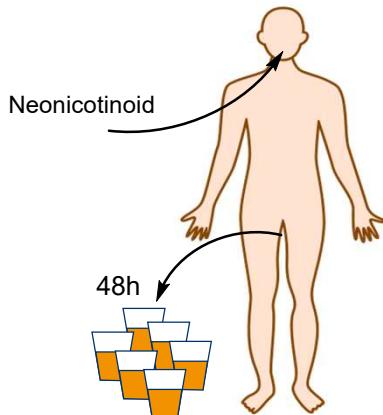
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Specificity of biomarkers: neonicotinoids



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6-CNA: Literature vs. research



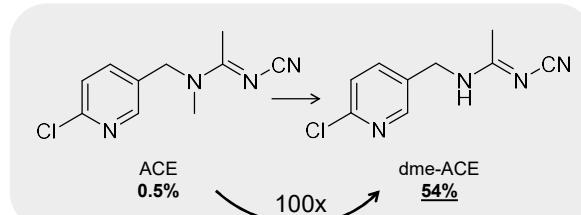
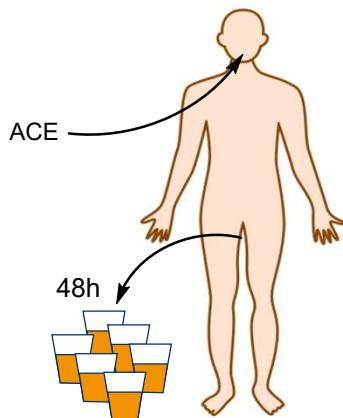
- varying 6-CNA shares for ACE and FLUP
- no 6-CNA for IMI and THIAC

Wrobel S et al. (2023) Environ Res. 226:115609.

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Metabolism of Acetamiprid (ACE)



Wrobel S et al. (2023) Environ Res. 226:115609.

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Urinary excretion of Neonicotinoids

Dosage	Parent	N-dealkylation	Hydroxylation
ACE	0.5%	54%	n.d.
FLUP	33%	26%	24%
IMI	8%	n.d.	31%
THIAC	0.4%	n.d.	23%
CLO	84%	14%	n.d.
THIAM	50%	0.3%	n.d.
SULF	51%	n.d.	n.d.

First practical application in
HBM-study with UCD/Prof. Connolly



Wrobel S et al. (2022) Arch Toxicol. 96(1):121-134.
Wrobel S et al. (2023) Environ Sci Technol. 57(48):19285-19294.

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Exposure route investigations ...

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Transdermal uptake of phthalates (experimental chamber study)



Indoor air exposure:

- ~250 µg/m³ for DEP
- ~125 µg/m³ for DnBP

8h-exposure:

- With hood (clean air)
- Without hood

Human Biomonitoring:

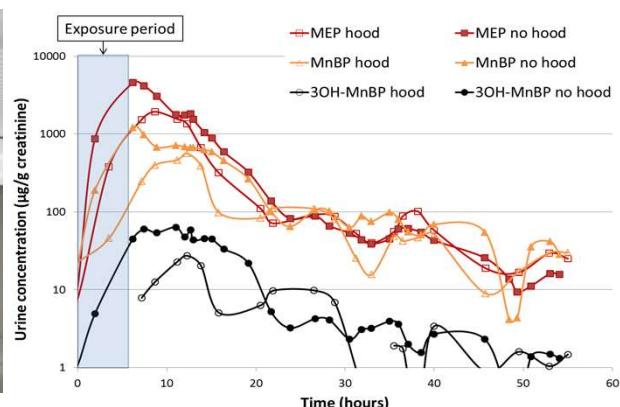
- Urine samples collected
- before entering the chamber
 - continuously for 54 hours thereafter

Schripp et al., Sci. Total Environ (2014)
Weschler et al., EHP (2015)

Seite 25

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Transdermal uptake of phthalates (experimental chamber study)



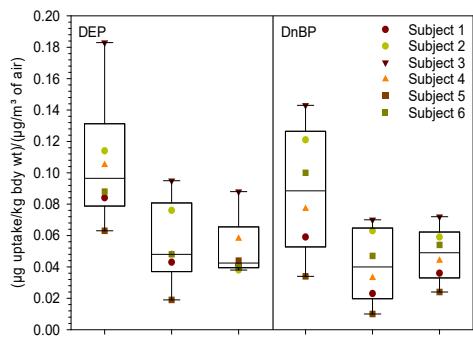
Schripp et al., Sci. Total Environ (2014)
Weschler et al., EHP (2015)

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Transdermal uptake of phthalates (experimental chamber study)


reverse-dosimetry
to phthalate uptake



 Proof, that transdermal uptake can lead to exposures comparable to inhalation.

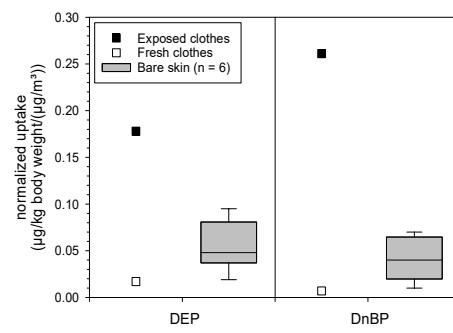
 Assuming only inhalation exposure would underestimate total exposure

Schripp et al., Sci. Total Environ (2014)
Weschler et al., EHP (2015)

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Transdermal uptake ... and the role of clothing:



 Significance of multiple exposure routes

 “dirty” protective gear can be counter-protective

Morrison et al. J Expo Sci Environ Epidemiol. 26(1), 113-118 (2016)

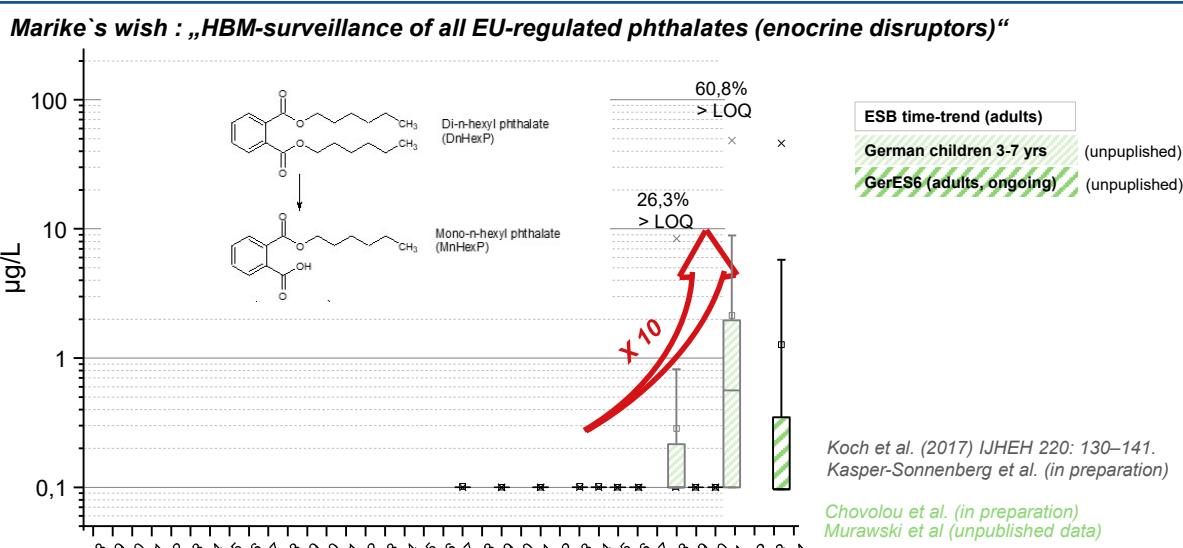
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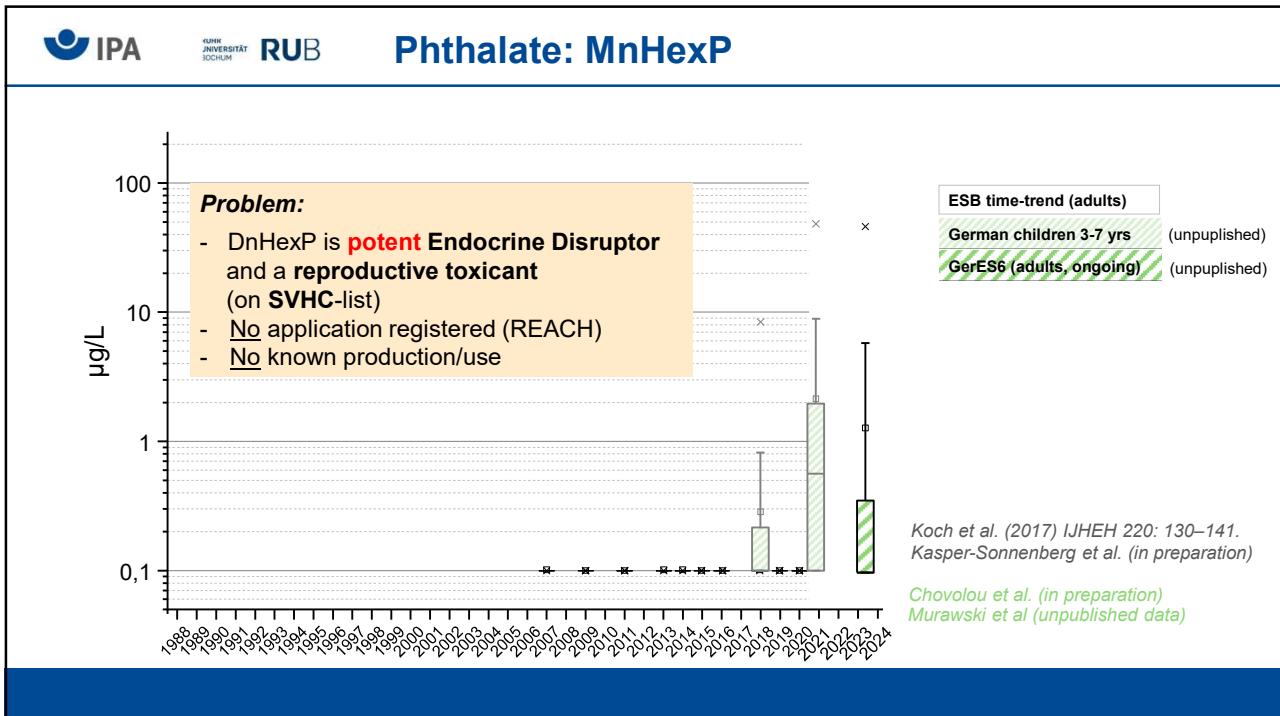
New, emerging exposures: Unexpected *Hexyl-Phthalate (DnHexP)* Exposures

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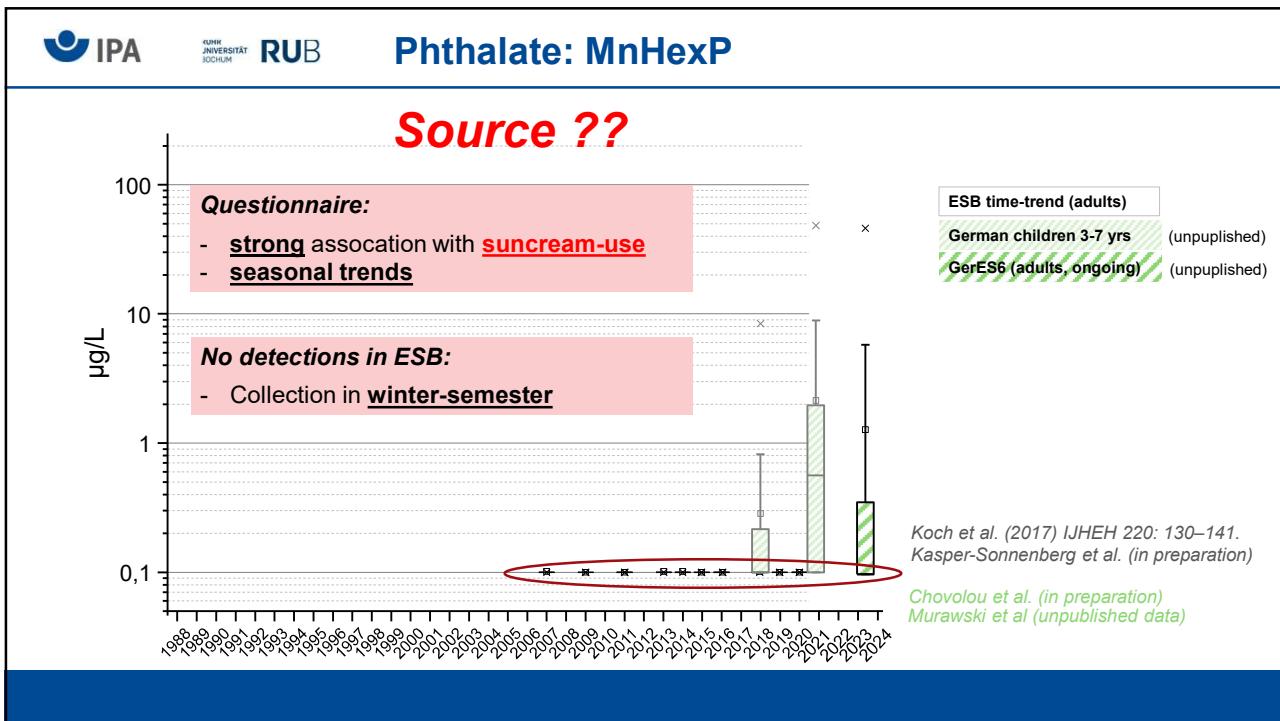
Phthalate: MnHexP



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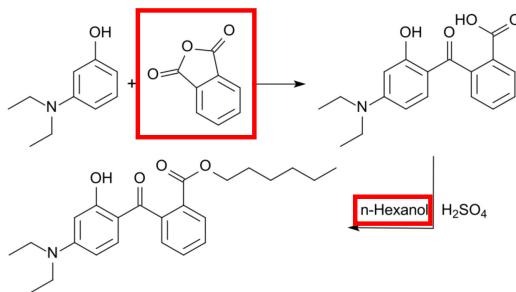


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DHHB (Diethylamino hydroxybenzoyl hexyl benzoate)



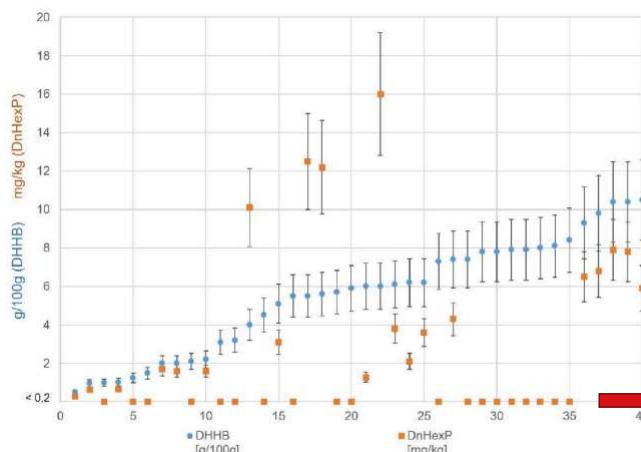
BASF Patent 2021/23: DnHexP impurity 50-150 ppm (mg/kg)

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DHHB (Diethylamino hydroxybenzoyl hexyl benzoate)

INGREDIENTS: Aqua, C12-15 Alkyl Benzoate, Caprylic/Capric Triglyceride, Isoamyl p-Methoxycinnamate, Diethylamino Hydroxybenzoyl Hexyl Benzoate, Butylene Glycol, Polyglyceryl-4 Diisostearate/Polyhydroxystearate/Sebacate, Bis-Ethylhexyloxyphenol Methoxyphenyl Triazine, Cera Alba, Ethylhexyl Triazone, Stearalkonium Hectorite, Glycine, Tocopheryl Acetate, Vitis Vinifera Seed Extract, Tocopherol, Ubiquinone, Lecithin, Ascorbyl Tetraisopalmitate, Diisopropyl Adipate, Glycerin, Alcohol, Magnesium Sulfate, Citric Acid, Propylene Carbonate, Disodium EDTA
L/mindestens haltbar bis:

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Analyses of 57 Sunscreens
(40 with DHHB, 17 without)

No DHHB-free Suncream
contained DnHexP

50% of the DHHB-containing
Suncreams contain DnHexP
(0.3-16 mg/kg)*

Technically avoidable

Abb.3: Graphische Darstellung der Gehalte an DnHexP (mg/kg) und DHHB (g/100g) in 40 Sonnenschutzprodukten mit DHHB als UV-Filter mit Messunsicherheit

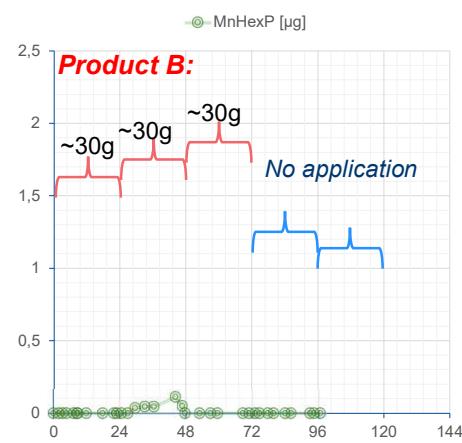
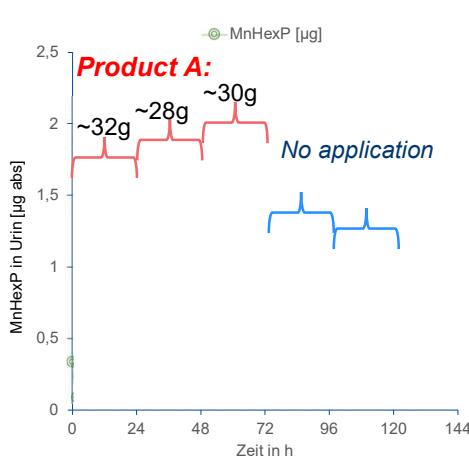
* In the meantime, some suncreams
have been found with higher
concentrations (>35 mg/kg)

Source: CVUA Karlsruhe

https://www.ua-bw.de/pub/beitrag.asp?subid=2&Thema_ID=4&ID=3940&lang=DE&Pdf=No

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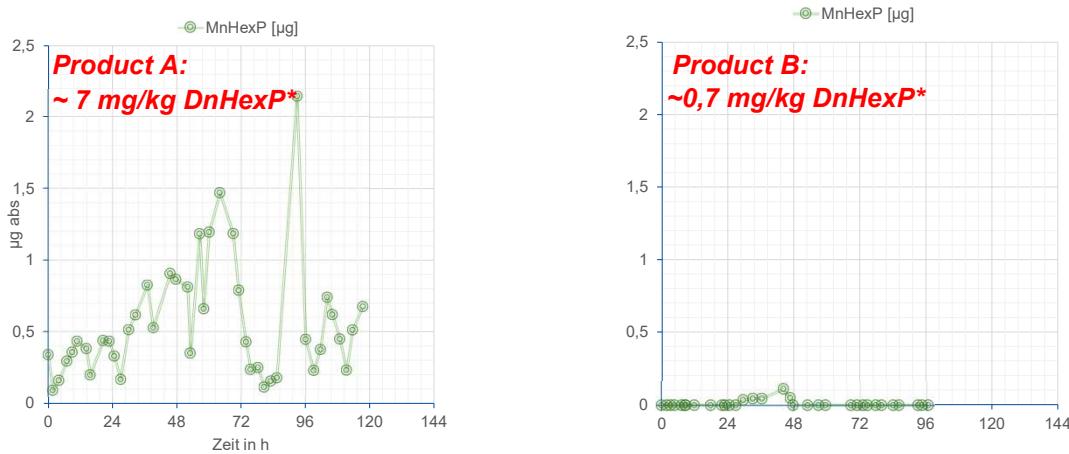
3-day-application (Sun Cream Kids SPF 50+)



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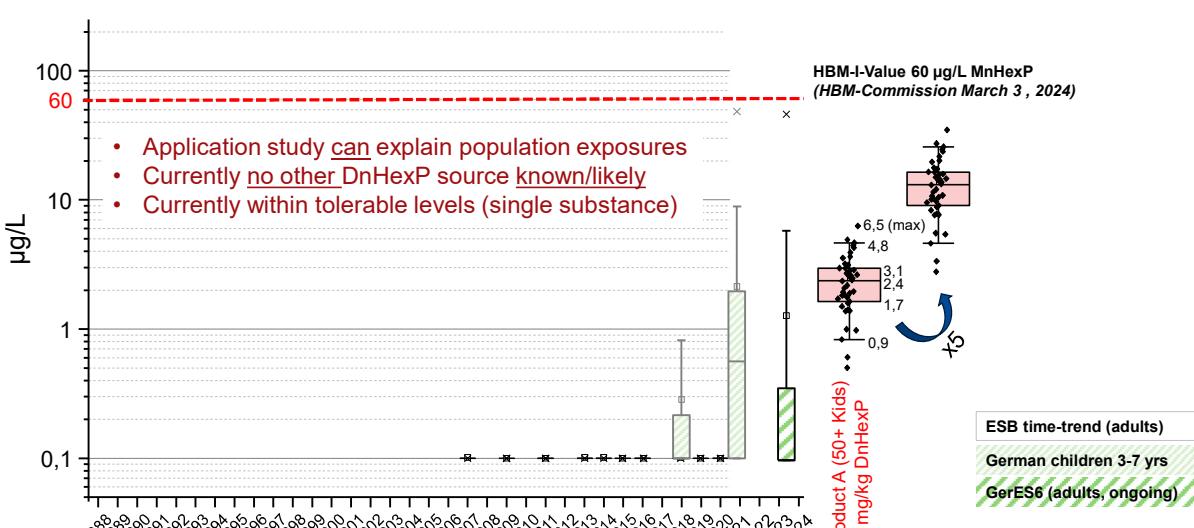
3-day-application (Sun Cream Kids SPF 50+)


* Analyses performed by state-lab

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 Koch et al. (2017) IJHEH 220: 130–141.
 Kasper-Sonnenberg et al. (Eingereicht)

 Chovolou et al. (in preparation)
 Murawski et al (unpublished data)

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Human Biomonitoring: what you need

- Thorough understanding of ADME (absorption, distribution, metabolism, excretion)
- Wise selection of Biomarker and Matrix
 - *Specificity, Sensitivity, Feasibility*
- Analytical chemistry infrastructure (GC-MS/MS; LC-MS/MS ...)
- Multi-disciplinary environment for interpretation
 - *analytical, medical, toxicological, statistical, ...*

Human Biomonitoring: what you get

- method of choice to capture ***actual/effective*** exposure
- captures even complex/unknown routes of exposure (dermal, oral, inhalation)
- captures environmental/life-style/occupational exposures



HBM objectifies exposures (*no worst case!*)
 - *valuable addition to ambient data and probabilistic models*

Integral Exposure Assessment

Wholistic Risk Assessment

Indicator for regulatory/political measures (need for, success/failure)



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Thank you!

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Hello from ...

... the HBM-group at the IPA in Bochum ...



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