

THRESHOLD OF TOXICOLOGICAL CONCERN (TTC) IN RISK ASSESSMENT

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THRESHOLD OF TOXICOLOGICAL CONCERN (TTC) IN RISK ASSESSMENT

**Threshold principles
Derivation TTC
Application TTC**

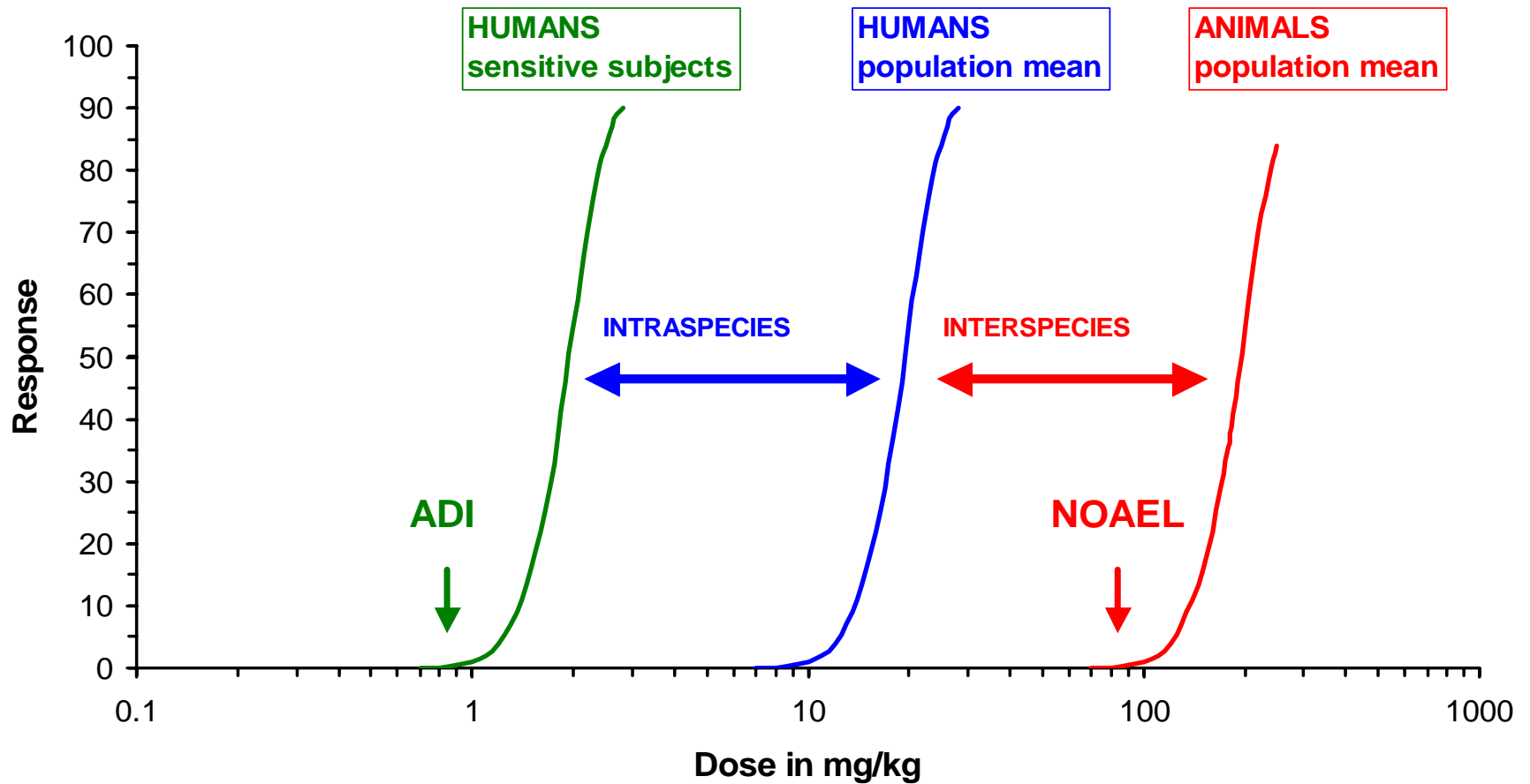
Chemical Risk Assessment Questions

What is the compound capable of doing?

What is the likelihood of such an effect at the levels to which humans are exposed?

What level of intake would be without appreciable health risk, if consumed daily over a lifetime?

Hypothetical dose response curves



100 - FOLD UNCERTAINTY FACTOR

INTER-SPECIES
DIFFERENCES

10 - FOLD

INTER-INDIVIDUAL
DIFFERENCES

10 - FOLD

TOXICO-
DYNAMICS

10^{0.4}

(2.5)

TOXICO-
KINETICS

10^{0.6}

(4.0)

TOXICO-
DYNAMICS

10^{0.5}

(3.16)

TOXICO-
KINETICS

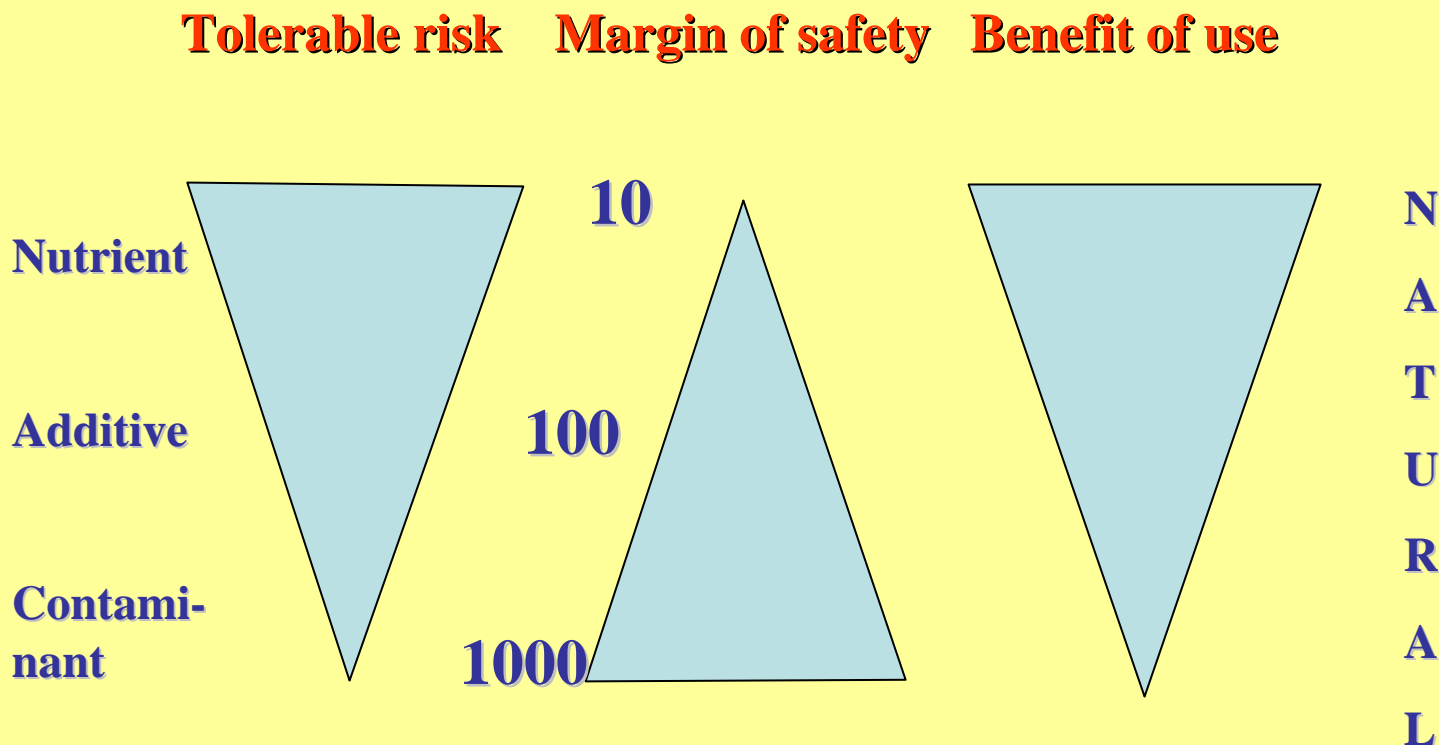
10^{0.5}

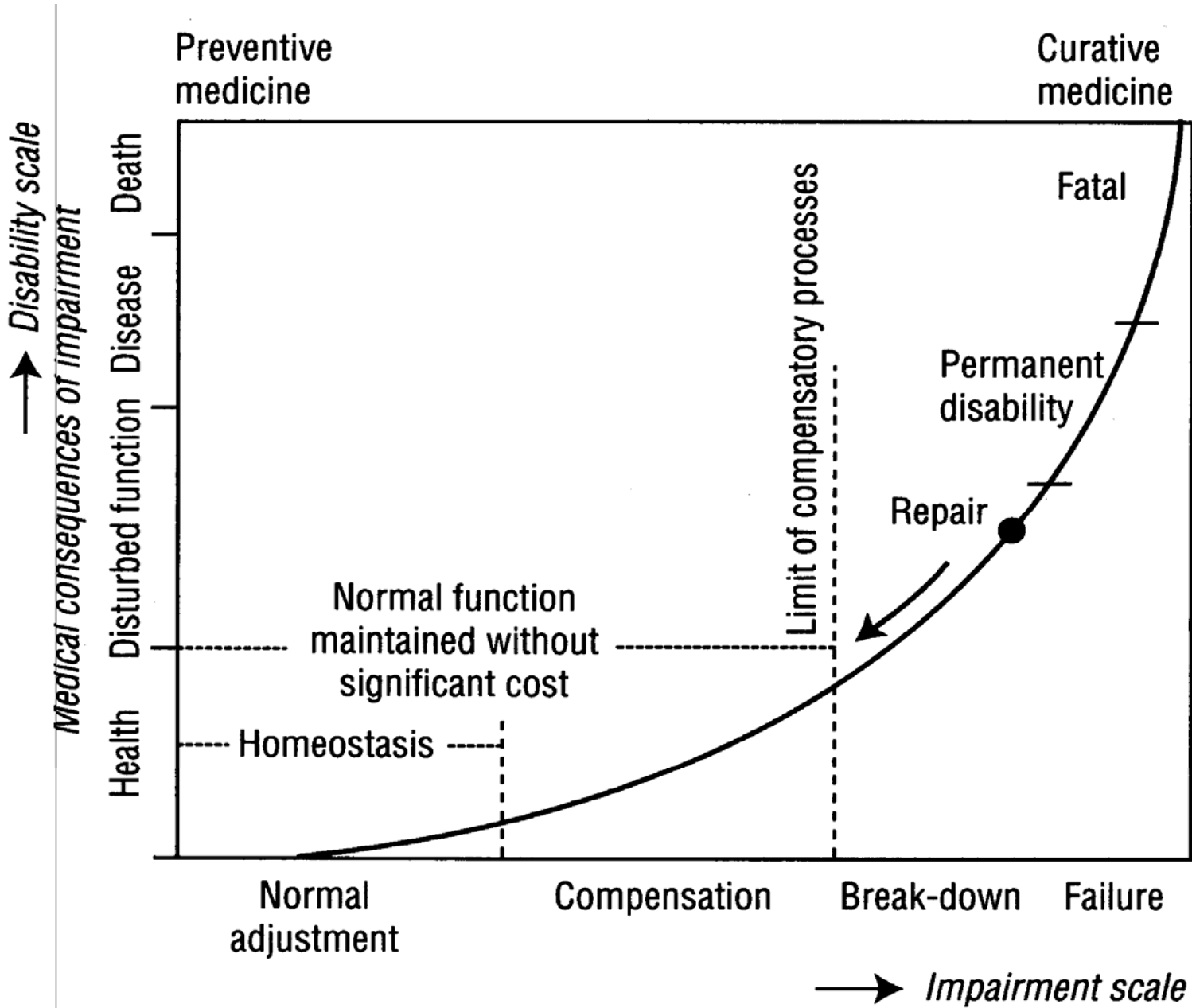
(3.16)

Margins of Safety

	» Substance	Actual intake	MOS
Fat	(en%)	40	<2
Sugar	(g)	100	2-3
Nicotin acid	(mg)	20 (RDA)	50
Vitamin A	(IE)	5000(RDA)	18
Selenium	(mg)	1 (RDA)	10
Tocopherol	(mg)	0.15-2	60-6
Vitamin D	(IE)	400 (RDA)	5
Fluor	(mg)	1 (RDA)	5
Mercury	(µg)	63	50
Sulphite	(mg)	3	1400
Bromide	(mg)	9.4	10
Solanin	(mg)	1	2
Dietary Fibre	(g)	20-30(RDA)	2
Aspartame	(mg)	300	800
DDT	(µg)	0.0115	1.740000
Dieldrin	(µg)	0.0039	2500
Lindane	(µg)	0.001	1.100000
Dioxin	(pg)	135	44
Folpet	(µg)	0.0011	909000

Striking difference between man-made and natural substances





THRESHOLD OF TOXICOLOGICAL CONCERN (TTC) IN RISK ASSESSMENT

The threshold of toxicological concern (TTC) is a pragmatic risk assessment tool that is based on the principle of establishing a human exposure threshold value for all chemicals, below which there is a very low probability of an appreciable risk to human health.

ADVANTAGES

- an important pragmatic tool for risk assessors, risk managers and industry to allow the prioritisation of resources to compounds with high exposures and/or high toxicity.**
- accelerates the evaluation process of substances to which humans are exposed to at low levels.**
- allows resources used in food safety assessment to be focused on those chemicals of greatest public health importance**
- reduces the number of animal toxicity studies**

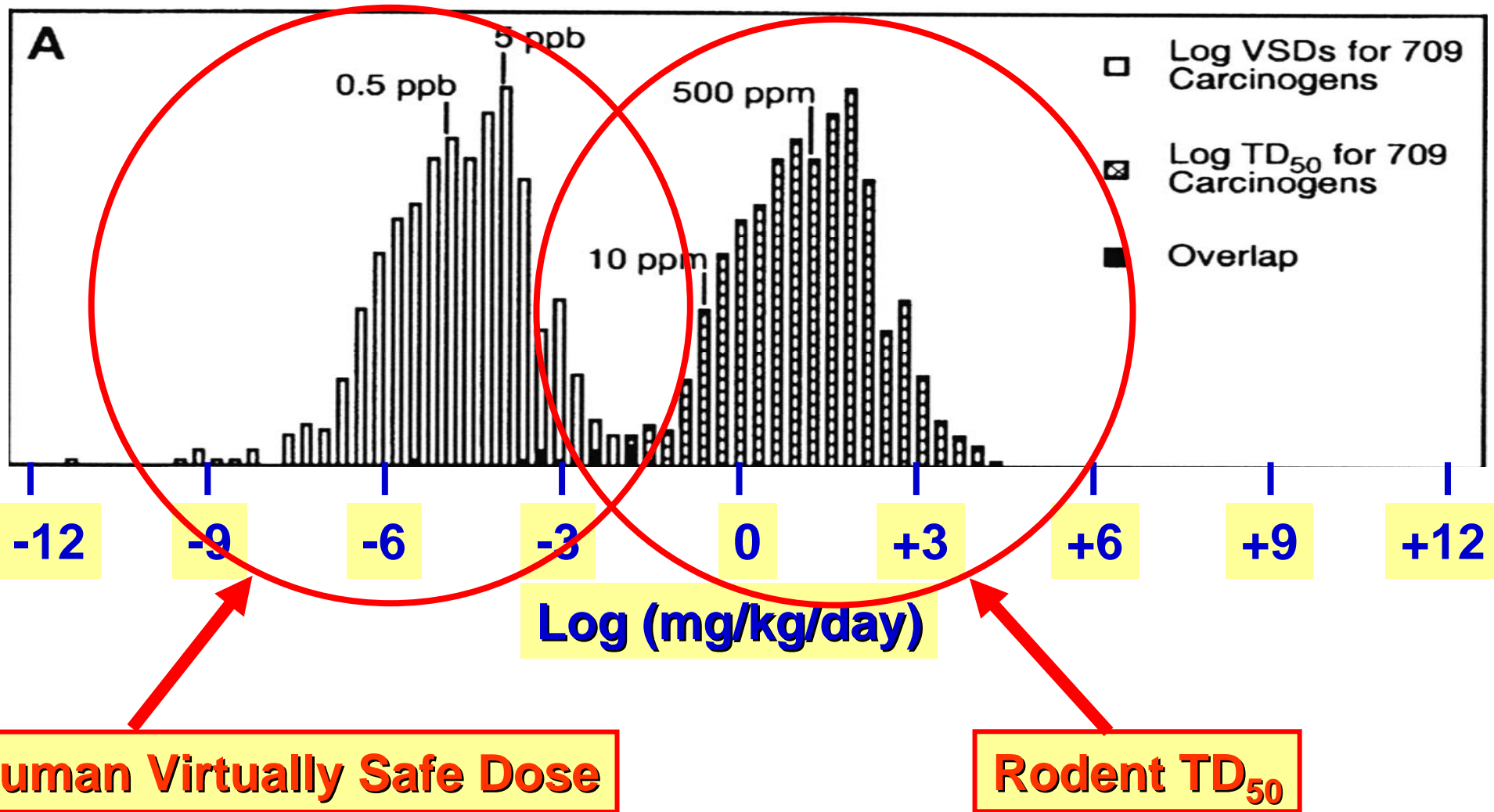
- an important part of any chemical prioritisation procedure, or preliminary risk assessment, which is based on minimal chemical-specific data and which depends on the use of data on structural analogues.**
- principle could also be used to indicate analytical data needs and to set priorities for levels of “inherent concern”.**
- the approach could be used in the assessment of impurities**
- is applicable to other sectors of health risk assessment such as in occupational and environmental settings and may also be further developed for environmental risk assessment**

- **TTC principle is derived from FDA's Threshold of Regulation (TOR) approach for food contact materials**
 - **Dietary concentration below 0.5 ppb is so negligible that it presents no public health concern (assuming an average intake per day of 1500 g diet and 1500 g fluids this equals to: 1.5 µg/person/day)**
 - **Food contact materials with an exposure below this level are "Exempted from regulation"**

FDA' s TOR APPROACH

- **Derivation of a threshold value based on carcinogenicity database**
- **Analysis of carcinogenic potencies of 500 substances from 3500 experiments of the Carcinogenic Potency Database (CPDB) - Gold *et al.* (1984, 1989)**
- **Distribution plot of the chronic dose rates [mg/kg bw/day] which would induce tumours in 50% of test animals at the end of their lifespan (corrected for background tumours in controls) in the most sensitive species and sex (TD50's)**
- **Extrapolation to a distribution of 10^{-6} risk to develop cancer with life-span exposure**

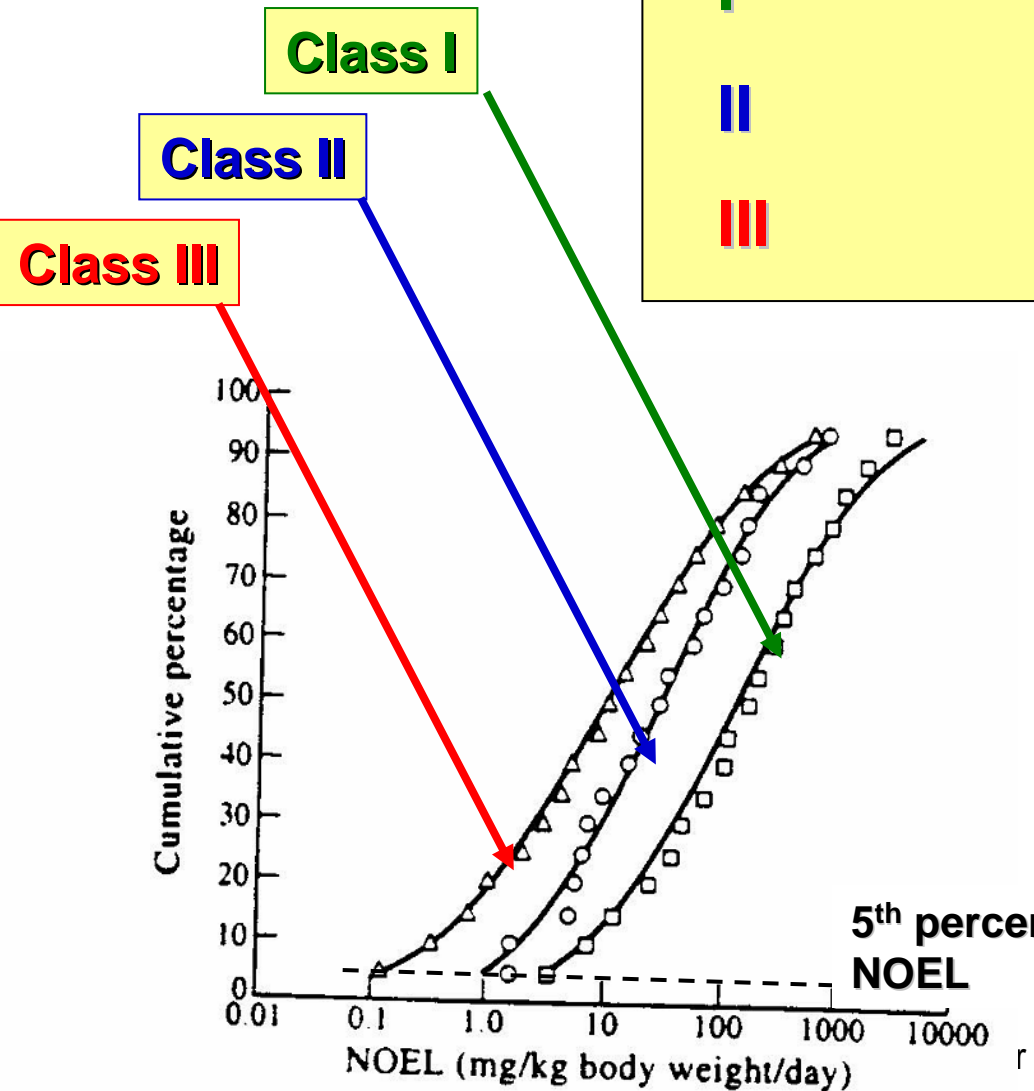
Rodent Carcinogenicity Database – from Cheeseman et al 1999



THRESHOLD IN RELATION TO STRUCTURAL CLASSES

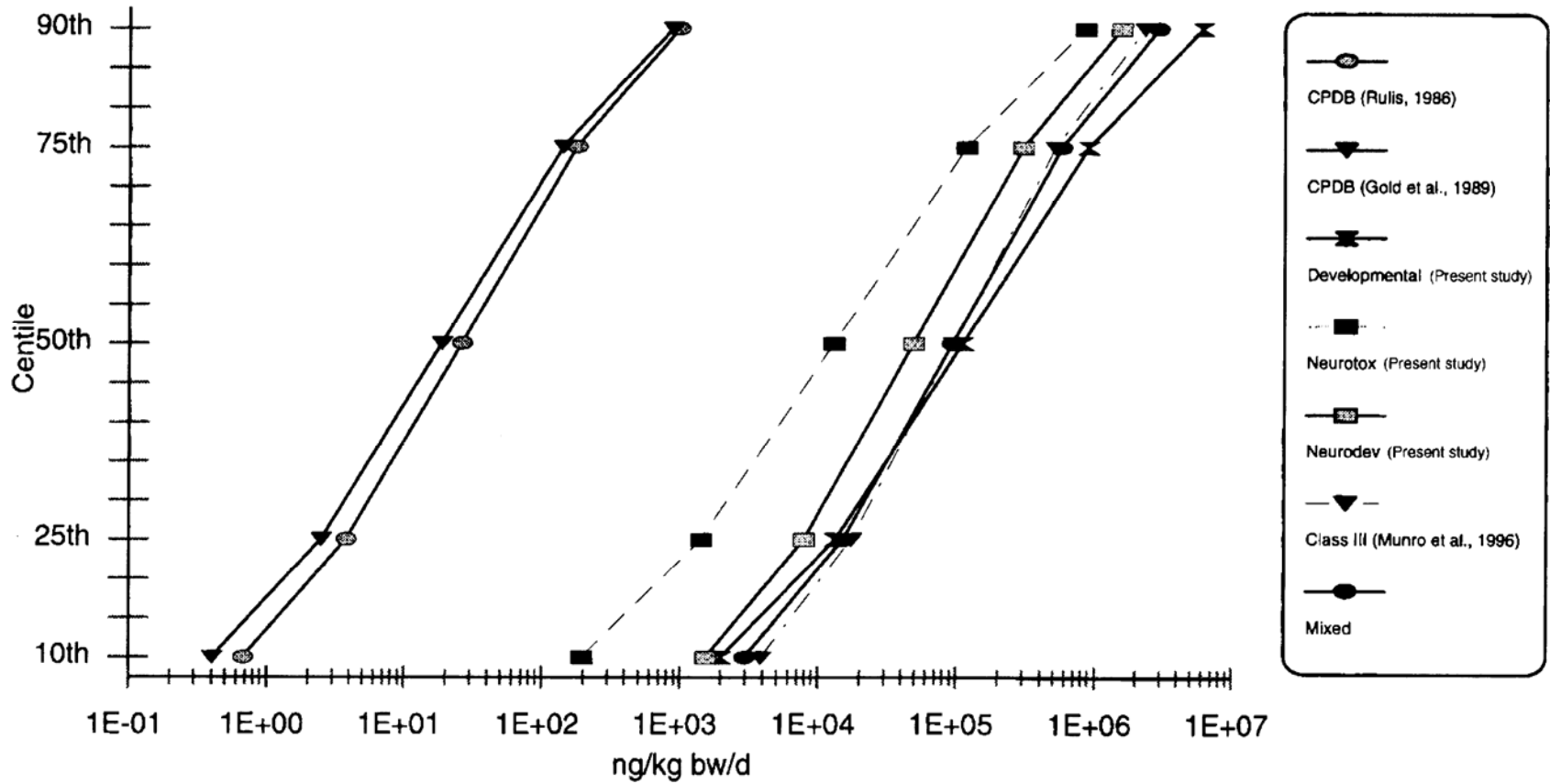
- **Refinement by Munro *et al.* (1996)**
- **Non-genotoxic and non carcinogenic organic chemicals (over 900)**
- **Classification into 3 structural classes according to Cramer *et al.* (1978) Class I simple, Class II less complex than III and Class III complex structures**
- **Most sensitive species, sex, and toxicological endpoint recorded for each substance**
- **Plot of distributions of NOELs for chemicals by structural class**
- **Applying a 100-fold uncertainty factor to the 5th percentile per class**

Class	5%ile NOEL (mg/kg/day)	Human threshold (μg per day) *
I	3.0	1800
II	0.91	540
III	0.15	90



* - calculated as NOEL/100 times 60kg body weight

Therefore converting the NOEL into a TTC uses the normal 100-fold uncertainty factor and provides the normal reassurance



- **Level of toxicity is clearly influenced by structural class. It is indicated by the distinct separation of the distributions**
- **Results show options to integrate structural knowledge into the threshold approach**
- **Higher threshold values for compounds without structural alerts for genotoxicity or carcinogenicity may be appropriate**
- **Principles of this approach are partly applied by JECFA (evaluations of flavours)**

SPECIFIC ENDPOINTS

- Neurotoxicity / Developmental Neurotoxicity**
 - Developmental Toxicity**
 - Teratogenicity**
 - Immunotoxicity**
 - Endocrine Activity**
 - Allergenicity**
-
- Are these endpoints more sensitive than the TOR ?
Would a generic threshold according to structural classes also cover these toxicity endpoints ?**

NEURODEVELOPMENTAL TOXICITY DEVELOPMENTAL TOXICITY

**have a similar cumulative distribution as
structural class III chemicals**

NEUROTOXICITY

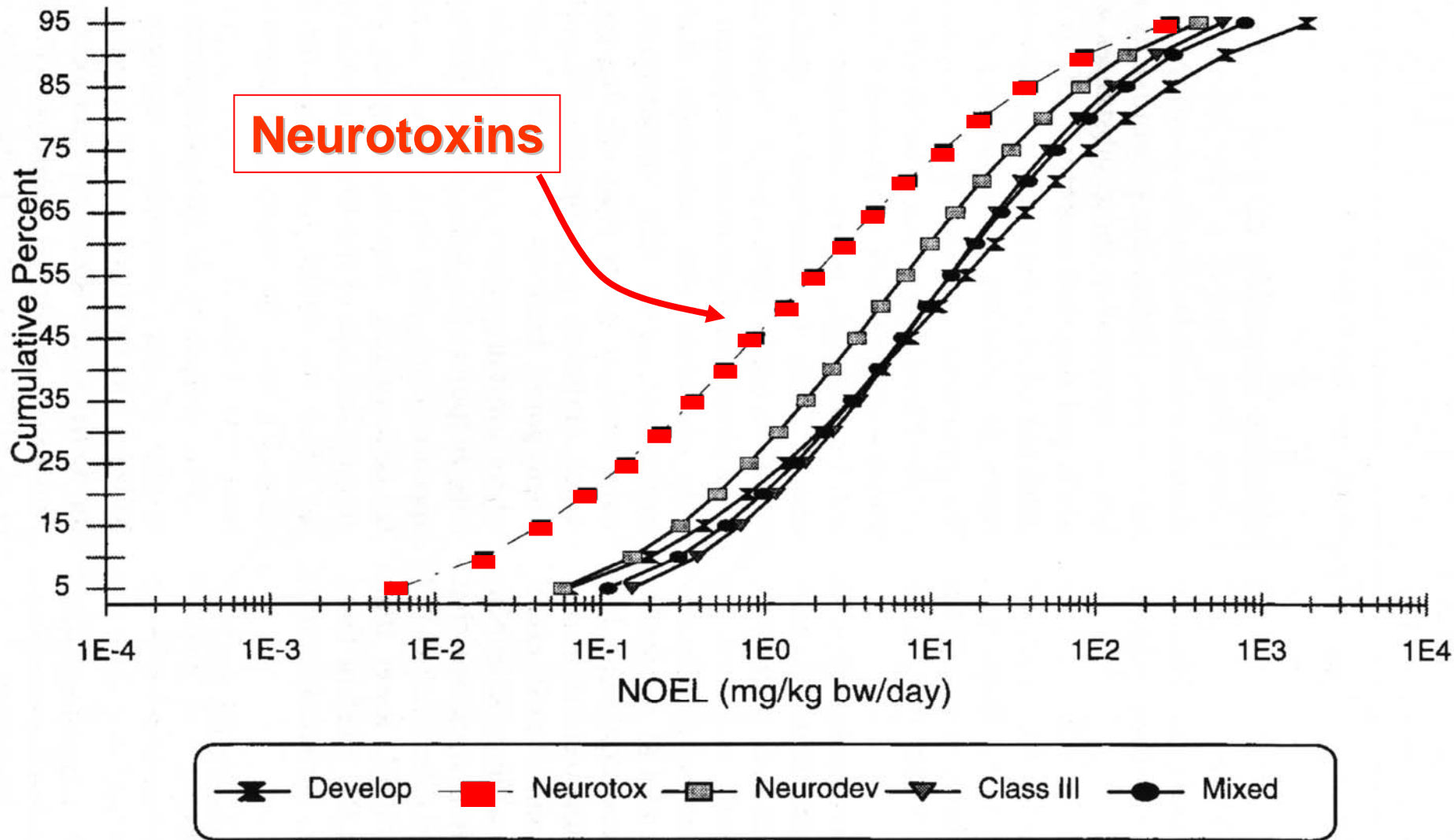
has a different cumulative distribution

**Mean levels are orders of magnitude (100-1000)
higher as compared to the mean level of
carcinogens (Gold's database)**

THRESHOLD OF TOXICOLOGICAL CONCERN (TTC) IN RISK ASSESSMENT

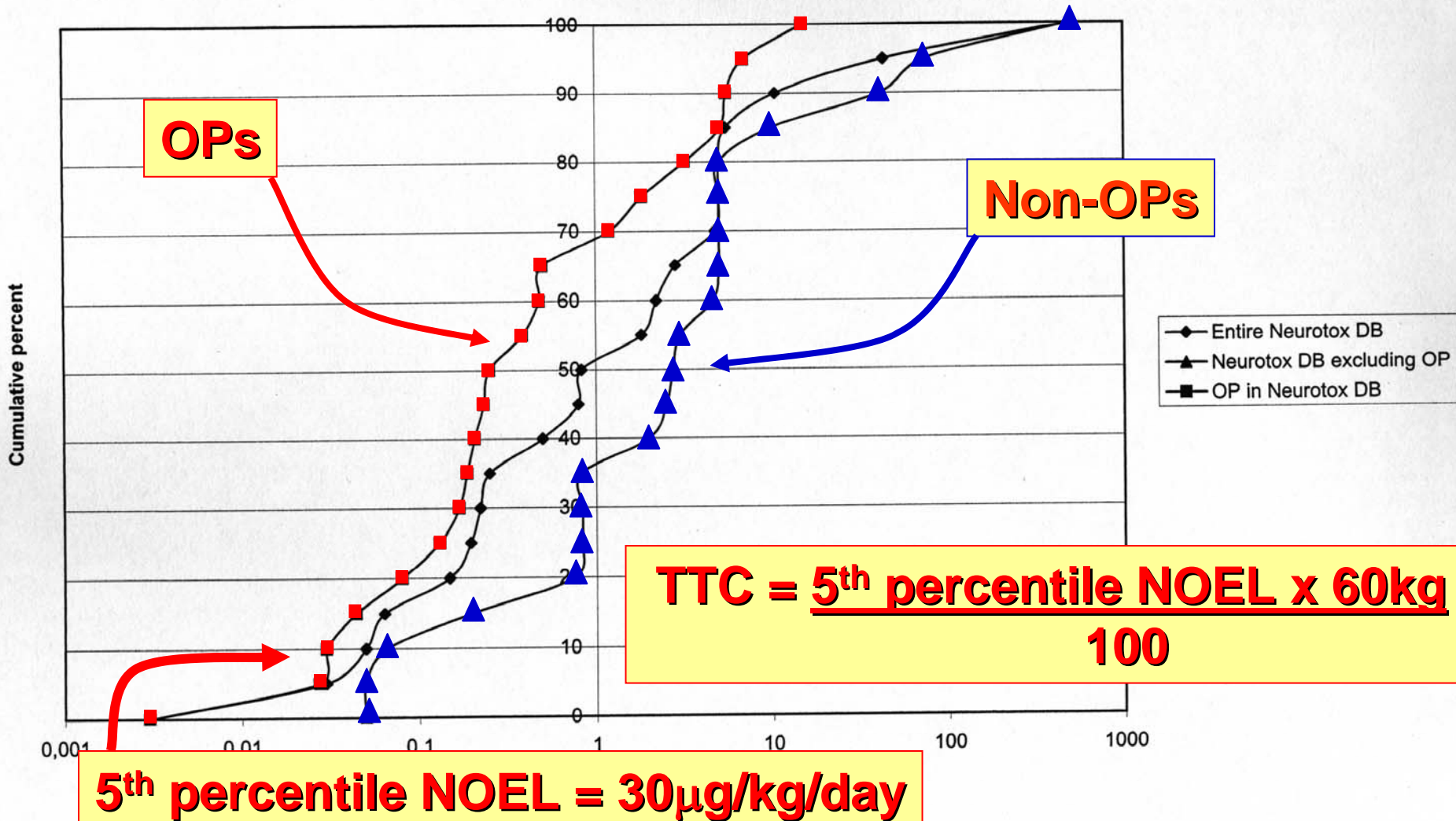
Neurotoxins a separate class?

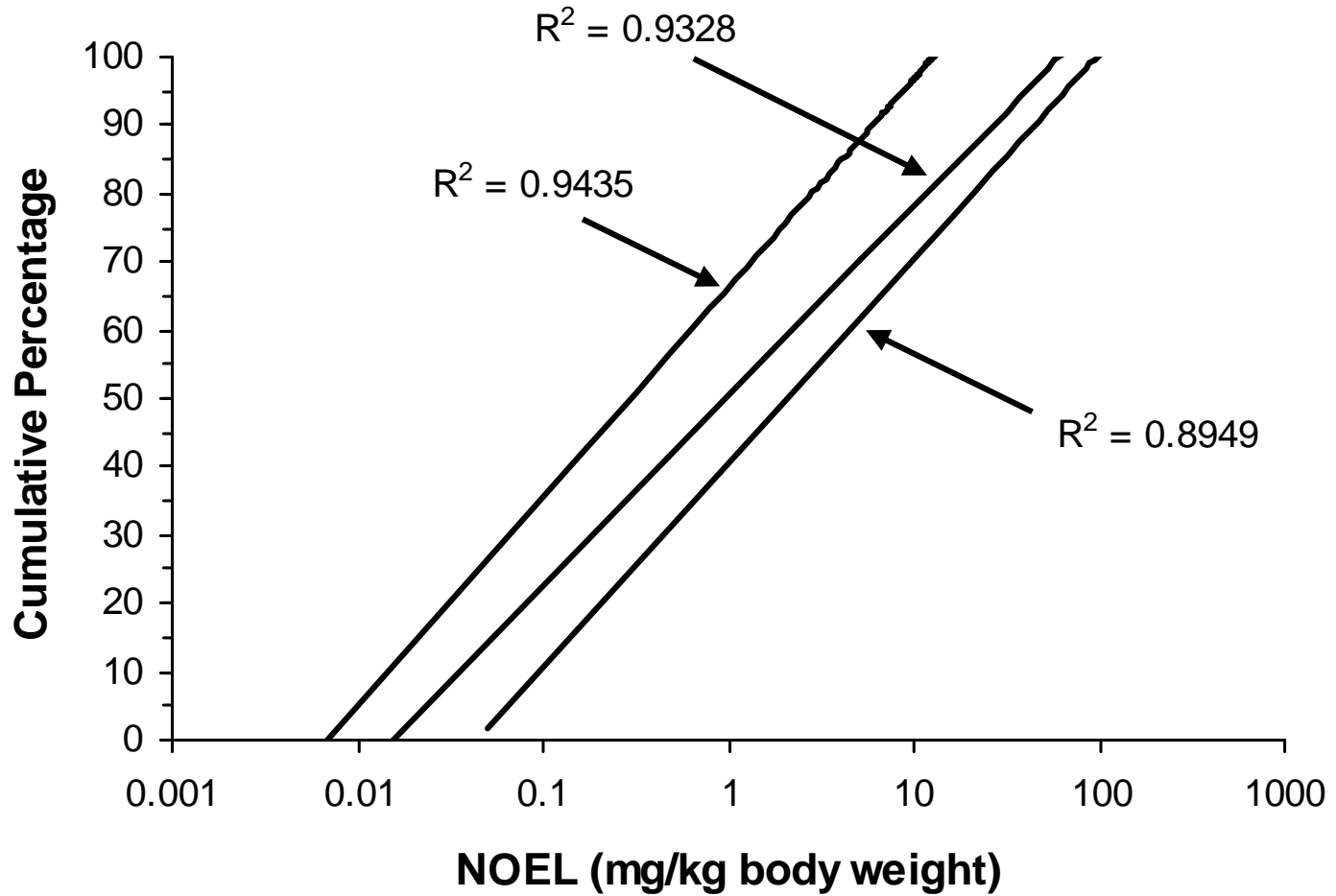
Neurotoxins – Kroes et al 2000 FCT 38, 255-312.



Subdivision of neurotoxicity database into OPs and non-OPs

Cumulative distributions of NOELs





Neurotoxins a separate class?

- **Only OP esters do have a different distribution**
- **Separate class for OP esters**

- **IMMUNOTOXICITY**

Immunotoxicity should not be considered as a more sensitive endpoint (comparison of NOEL with the distribution of non-immunotoxic NOEL's, n =37)

- **ENDOCRINE ACTIVITY**

Endocrine effects at proposed threshold levels not to be expected in light of exposure to overall estrogens

- **ALLERGENICITY**

Unlikely that small chemical molecules at proposed threshold levels would elicit such reactions (subsets of susceptible individuals, means to control by labelling)

- **TERATOGENICITY**

Teratogens a separate class?

A separate class may not be necessary

Methods

NOEL for Embryotoxicity

- **E/T ratio = $\frac{\text{NOEL for Embryotoxicity}}{\text{NOEL for Teratogenicity}}$**

- **E/T ratio >1 : Teratogenicity occurs at lower doses than general developmental toxicity**
- **N = 38**

E/T >1

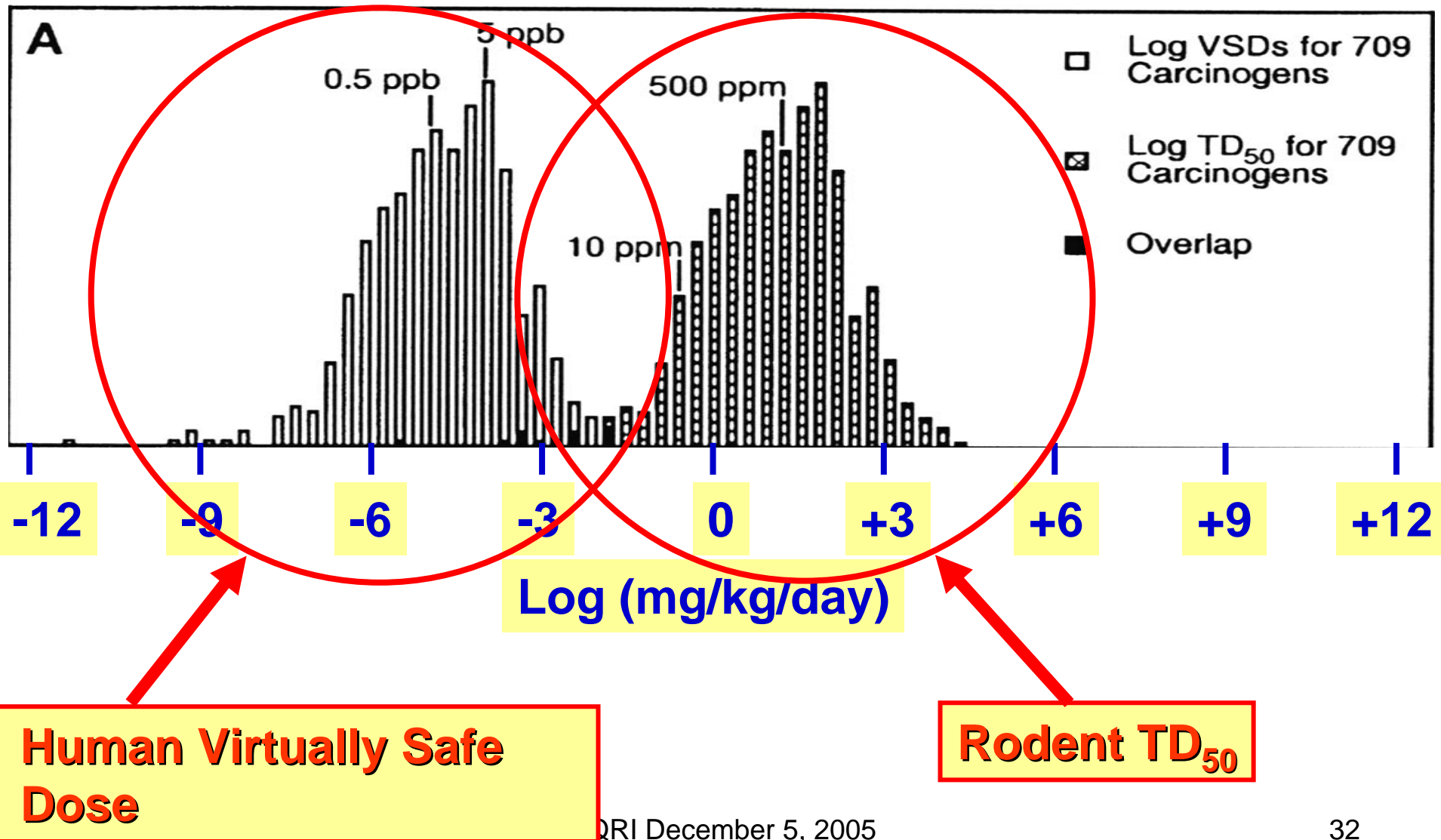
Chemical E/T	general embryotoxicity	teratogenicity	
sodium selenite	1.125	NOEL 15.57 mg/kg	NOEL 13.84 mg/kg
TBDF	5	NOEL 0.25 mg/kg	NOEL 0.05 mg/kg
ETU	8	NOEL 40 mg/kg	NOEL 5 mg/kg
BCAN	>1	NOEL 5 mg/kg	LOEL 5 mg/kg
1PeBDF	>2	NOEL (>) 4 mg/kg	NOEL 2 mg/kg
4PeBDF	>5	NOEL (>) 4 mg/kg	NOEL 0.8 mg/kg
TCDD	>30	NOEL (>) 0.003 mg/kg	NOEL 0.0001 mg/kg
TBDD	>32	NOEL (>) 0.192 mg/kg	NOEL 0.006 mg/kg

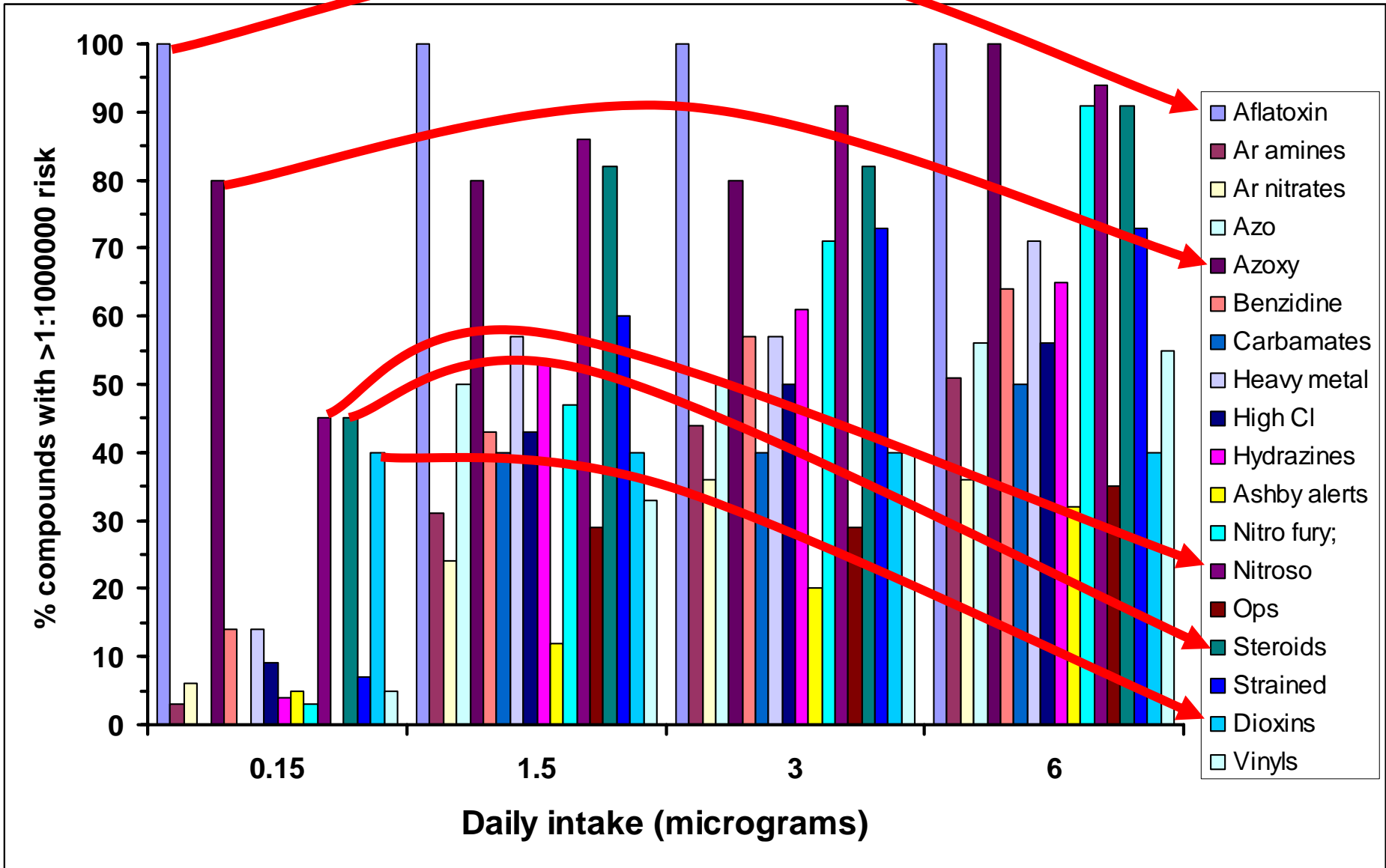
All others: E/T either equal or <1 (N= 30)

- **Additional Questions:**
 - **Other TTC for specific structural alerts?**
 - **What about accumulative properties?**

- **Establishment of the dose giving a 50% tumour incidence (TD50) using data for the most sensitive species and most sensitive site (Cheeseman *et al.*, 1999).**
- **Based on a selected subset of the database containing 730 carcinogenic substances which had adequate estimates of the TD50 following oral dosage.**
- **Simple linear extrapolation from the TD50 to a 1 in 10^6 incidence.**
- **The approach assumes that all biological processes involved in the generation of tumours at high dosages are linear over a 500,000-fold range of extrapolation.**
- **Simple linear low-dose extrapolation is conservative because the possible effects of cytoprotective and DNA repair processes on the shape of the dose- response relationship are not taken into account.**
- **All of the compounds were analysed assuming there is no threshold in the dose-response.**

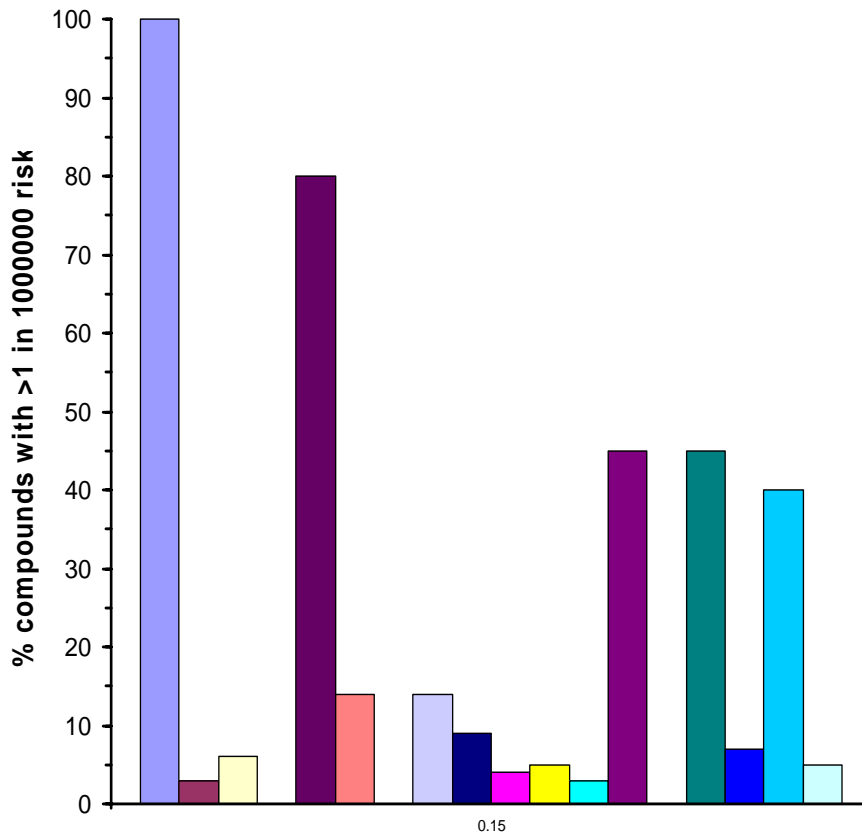
Rodent Carcinogenicity Database – from Cheeseman et al 1999



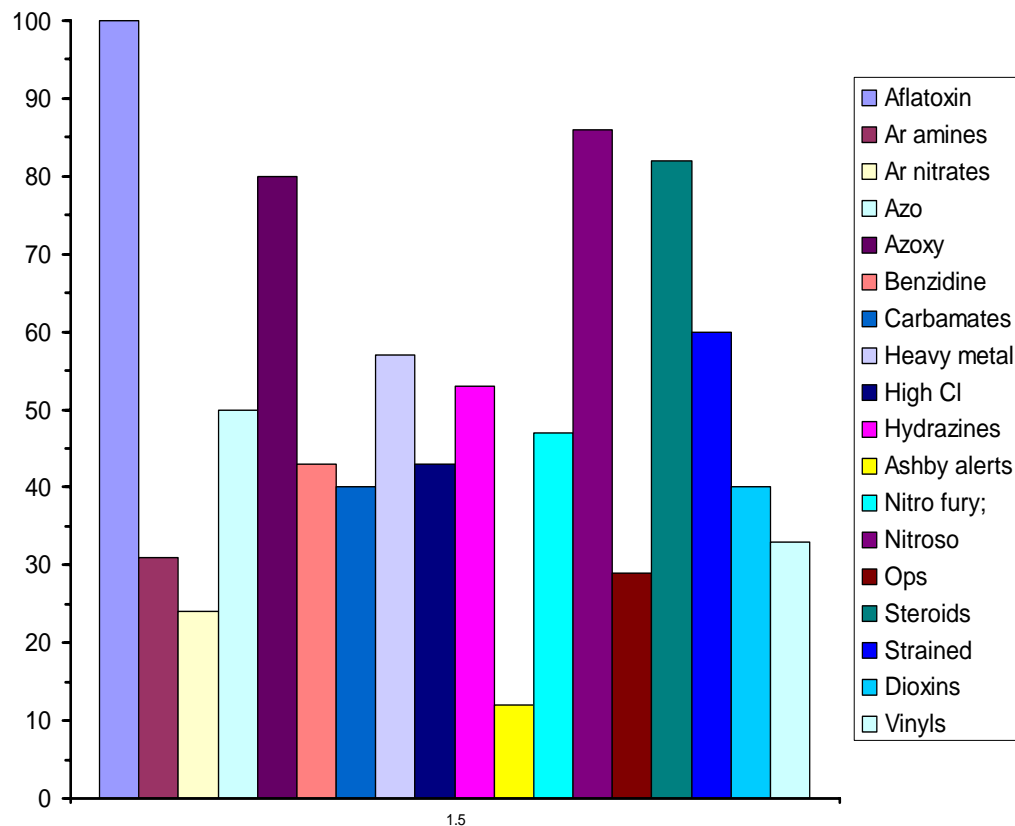


Cohort of Concern = aflatoxin, azoxy, nitroso, [steroids], dioxins

% Compounds with a calculated risk > 1 in 1000000

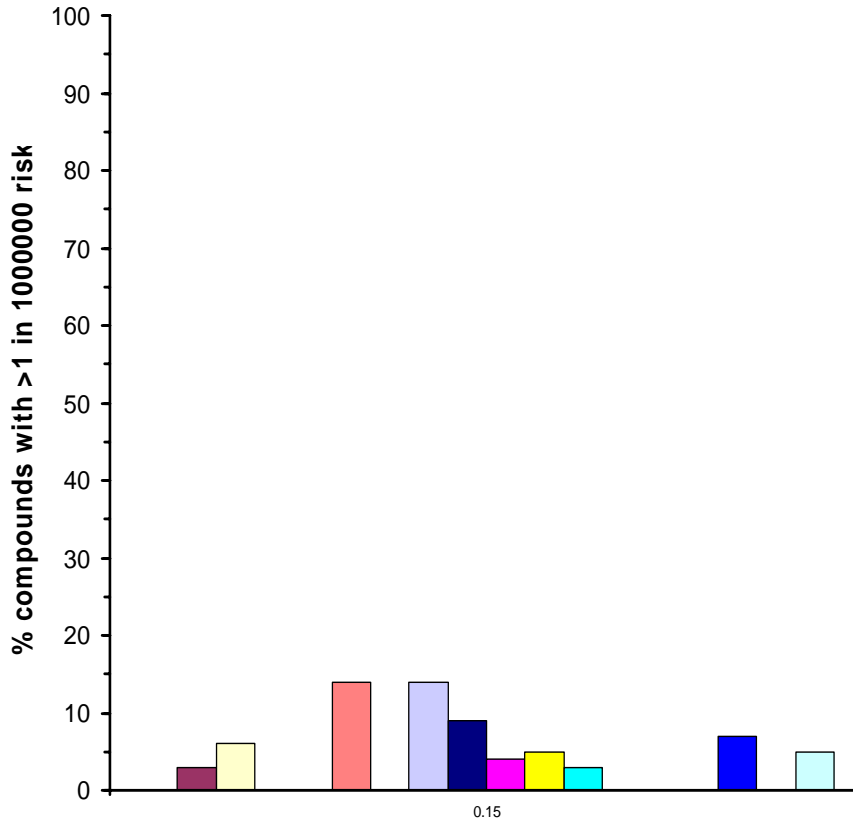


0.15 µg/day

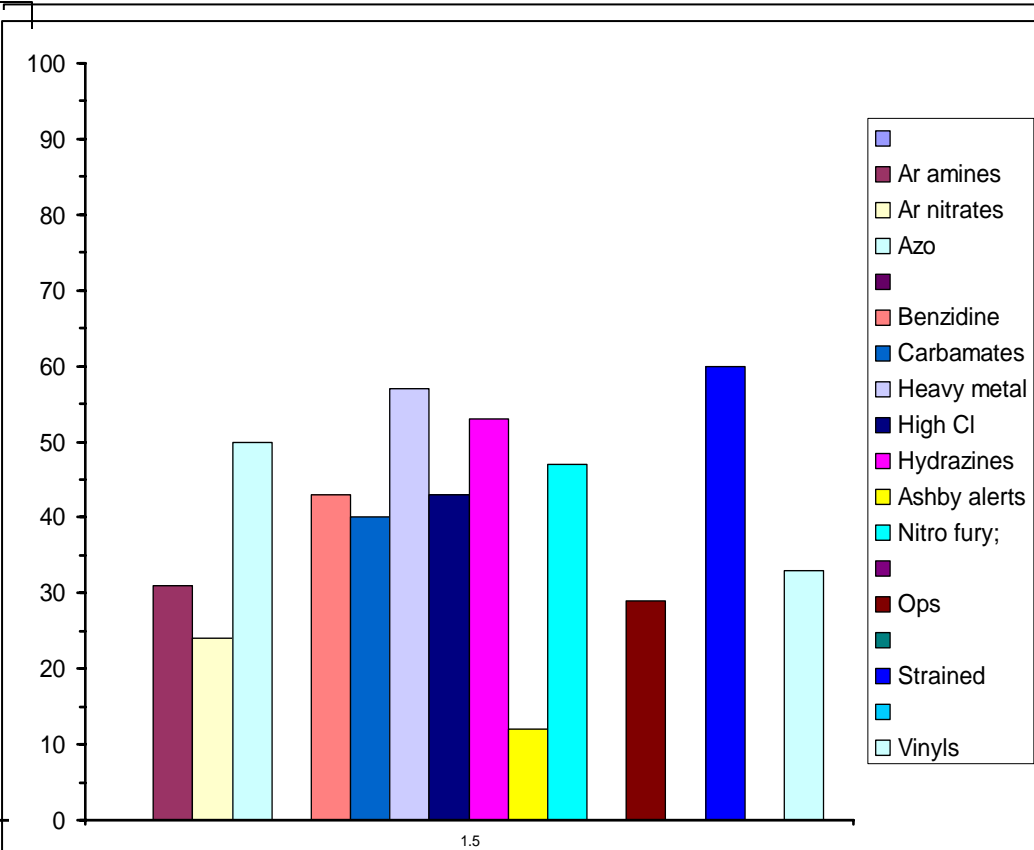


1.5 µg/day

% Compounds with a calculated risk > 1 in 1000000



0.15 µg/day



1.5 µg/day

Other TTC for specific structural alerts?

- **For specific structural alerts (i.e. aflatoxin-azoxy-, N-nitroso-, dibenzodioxin- and dibenzofuran-like structures) a TTC should NOT be considered.**
- **For all other structural alerts a TTC of 0.15 μ g/day can be applied**

**What about metabolism and
accumulative properties?**

Clearance and bioavailability are the main pharmacokinetic parameters that determine species differences and inter-individual variability

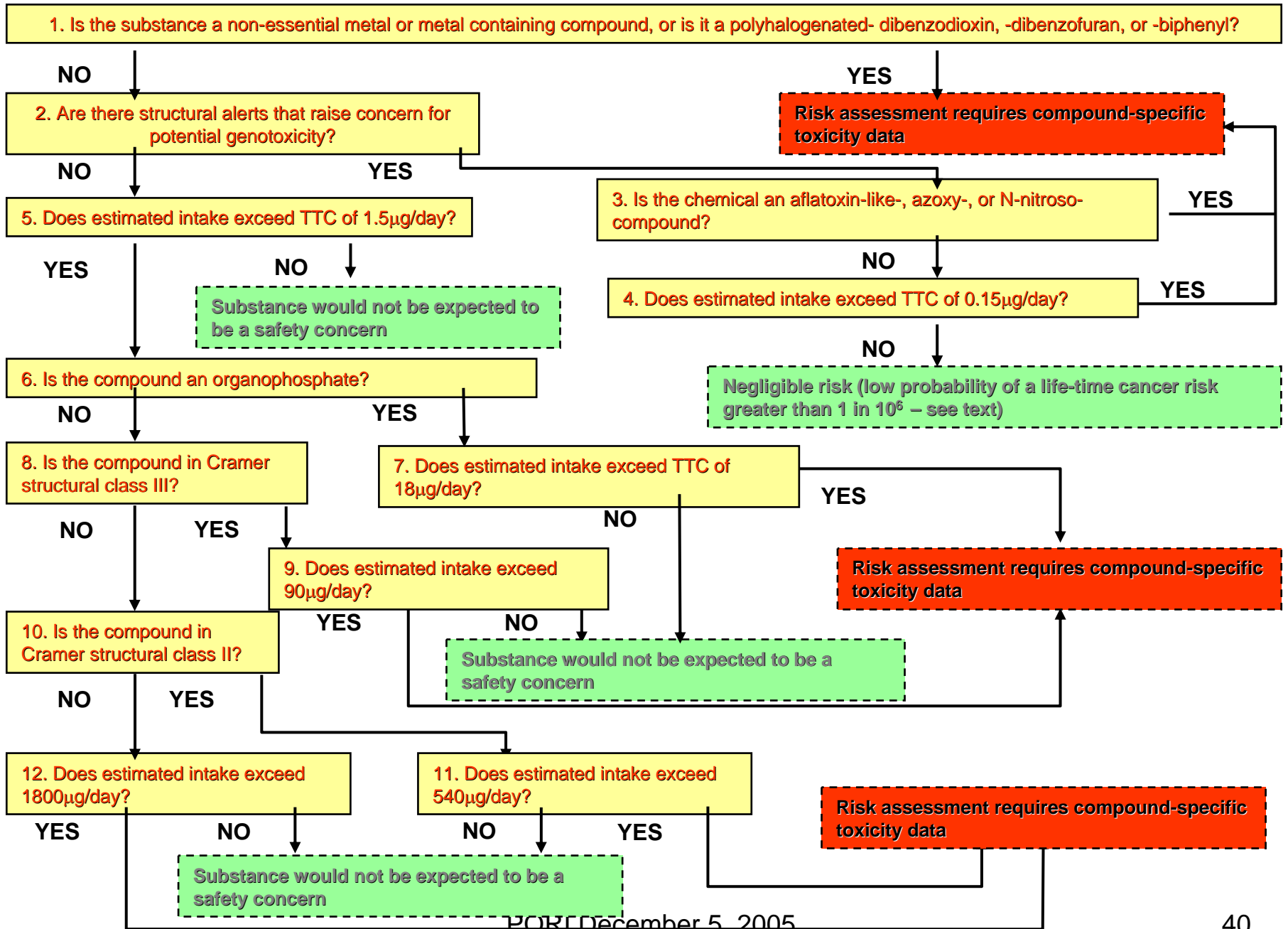
Compounds that are extensively metabolised or excreted would be covered by the normal approaches

Compounds that are not eliminated rapidly by excretion or metabolism would show extensive accumulation

Such compounds might show larger than expected species differences related to the reason for accumulation, such as sequestration/reversible binding or absence of a site for metabolism

Known examples are heavy metals, such as cadmium, which are excluded, and polyhalogenated aromatics, which have their own well established risk characterisation

- **How to apply the TTC?**
- **Stepwise approach on a case by case basis:**
 - **Specific structural alerts? → NO TTC**
 - **All other structural alerts → TTC 0.15 µg/person/day**
 - **Structural alerts excluded → OP ester? →**
 - **If OP ester → 18 µg/p/day**
 - **Class III chemical? → 90 µg/person/day**
 - **Class II chemical? → 540 µg/person/day**
 - **Class I chemical? → 1800 µg/person/day**



1. Is the substance a non-essential metal or metal containing compound, or is it a polyhalogenated- dibenzodioxin, -dibenzofuran, or -biphenyl?

↓ NO

2. Are there structural alerts that raise concern for potential genotoxicity?

↓ YES

Risk assessment requires compound-specific toxicity data

NO

↓ YES

3. Is the chemical an aflatoxin-like-, azoxy-, or N-nitroso- compound?

YES

NO

4. Does estimated intake exceed TTC of 0.15µg/day?

YES

NO

5. Non-cancer considerations

Negligible risk - low probability of a life-time cancer risk > 1 in 10⁶

6. Is the compound an organophosphate?

NO

YES

8. Is the compound in Cramer structural class III?

NO

YES

10. Is the compound in Cramer structural class II?

NO

YES

12. Does estimated intake exceed 1800µg/day?

YES

NO

Substance would not be expected to be a safety concern

7. Does estimated intake exceed TTC of 18µg/day?

YES

NO

9. Does estimated intake exceed 90µg/day?

NO

Substance would not be expected to be a safety concern

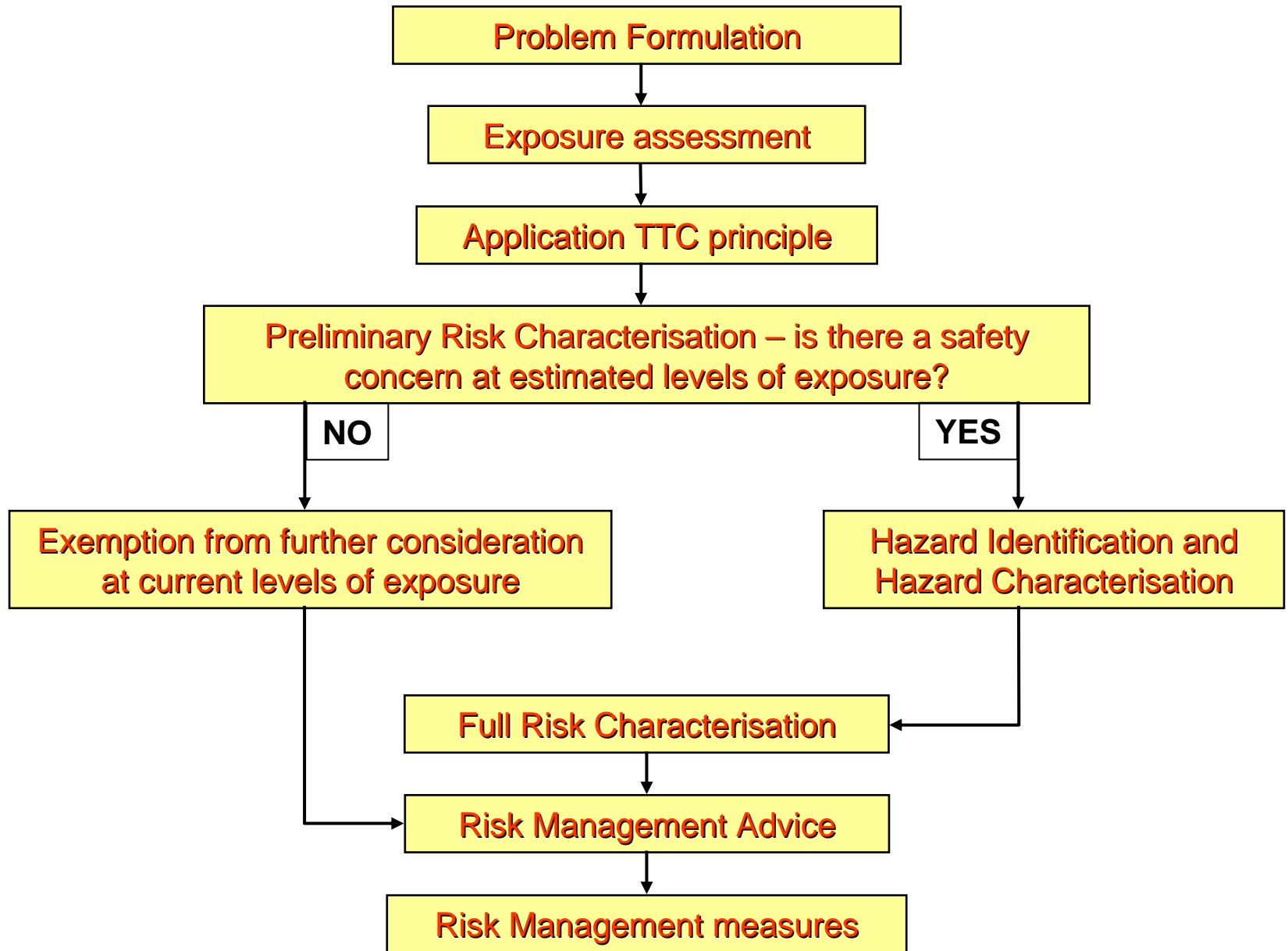
11. Does estimated intake exceed 540µg/day?

NO

YES

Risk assessment requires compound-specific toxicity data

Risk assessment requires compound-specific toxicity data



Applications (Health)

Food:

- **Flavours**
- **Contaminants**
- **Packaging materials**
- **Additives**
- **Can also be used to indicate analytical data needs and to set “analytical evaluation thresholds” above which toxicological assessment may be indicated.**
- **BUT: accurate exposure assessment is a necessity!**

Applications (Health)

Non Food:

- **Cosmetics**
- **EMEA applies TTC for contaminants in drugs**
- **Leachables OINDP**
- **Consumer products (see Blackburn et al, Reg. Tox Pharm. In press)**
- **Environmental contaminants**

- **BUT: accurate exposure assessment extremely important !!!**
- **For topical effects different databases should be assessed to set TTC's**

Applications (Environment)

- **The TTC principle could also be applied in environmental risk assessment (but to day only limited toxicity data are available to establish generic thresholds)**
- **For fresh water systems an environmental threshold of no toxicological concern has been proposed (de Wolf et al, Env. Tox and Chem. 24, 479-485, 2005)**

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THANK YOU!