

Clean Air for Health – Using Science to stop “Fake news”

1st lecture in the SSPH+/ETH Jubilee Series **“This Is Public Health”**
Wed 19.2.2020 – 17:15h (CET) @ ETH Zurich HG D16.2 and
live-streamed online <https://ethz.zoom.us/j/253320154?status=success>

Prof. Nino Künzli, MD PhD

Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute (Swiss TPH) Basel and
University of Basel, Switzerland
Dean Swiss School of Public Health (SSPH+)

... be prepared for a QUIZ... soon open: PollEv.com/ninokuenzli573

Engines of a highly successful Swiss air pollution & health research agenda launched in 1989



Prof. Hans-Urs Wanner,
ETHZ († 2019)

Prof. Ursula Ackermann-Liebrich
Prof. Charlotte Braun-Fahrländer
1989 @ former Institute of Public Health Uni Basel



Dr. Gianfranco Domenighetti
(† 2017)

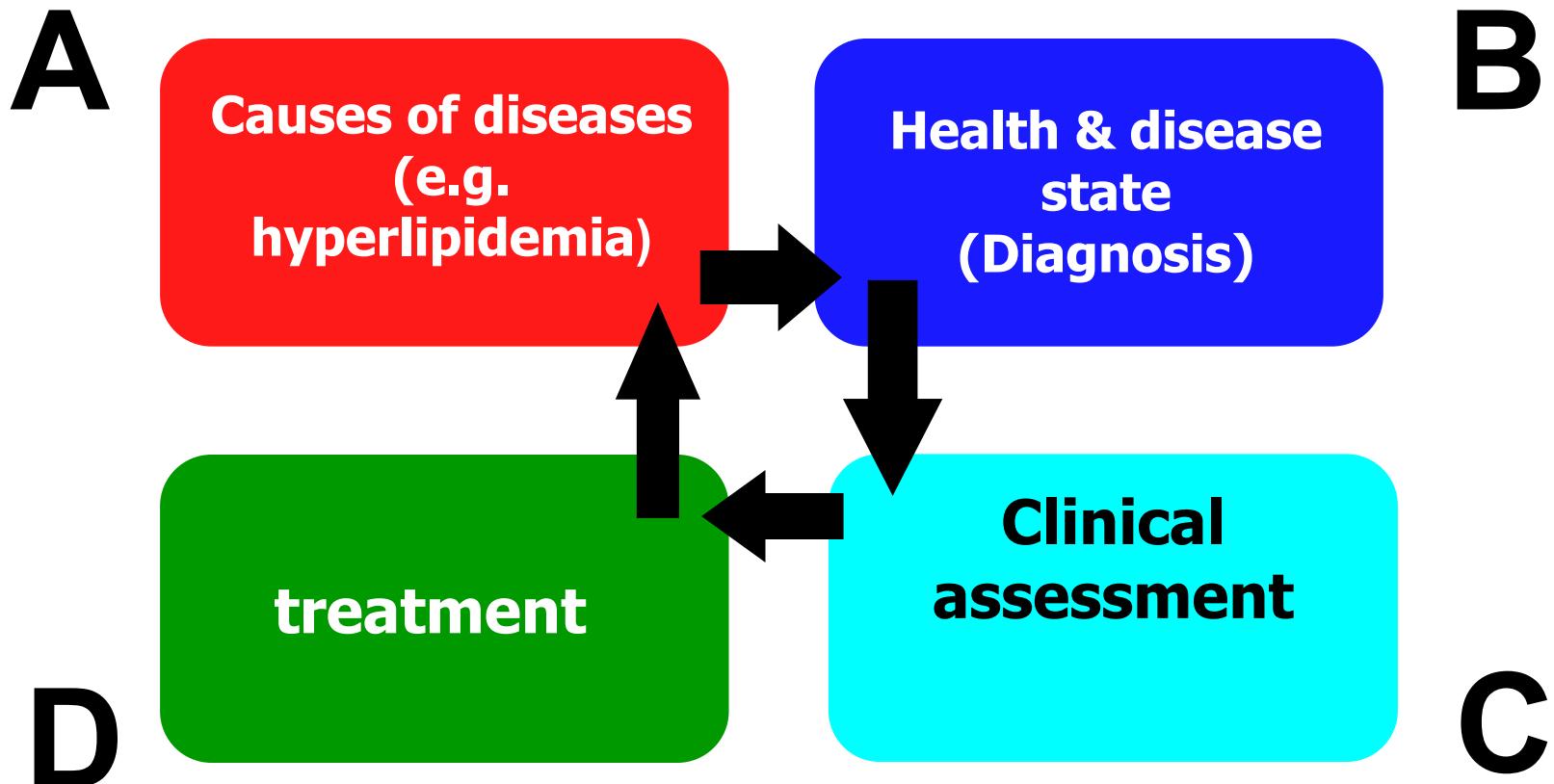
L SSPH+ Honorary Fellows J

THIS IS PUBLIC HEALTH.

#thisispubiclhealth

... "the science and art of preventing disease, prolonging life and improving quality of life through organized efforts ... of society..."

Evidence-based medicine



Künzli & Perez, Swiss Med Weekly 2009 – free on line

**EXPOSURES /
RISKS**

HEALTH EFFECTS

A

B

This is...

evidence-
based

Public Health

D

C

**ACTION / PUBLIC HEALTH
STRATEGY / POLICY**

**PUBLIC HEALTH IMPACT
ASSESSMENT**

A QUIZ to start with... go on-line /smart phone at:

PollEv.com/ninokuenzli573

or text-message **NINOKUENZLI573** to **22333** to join session.

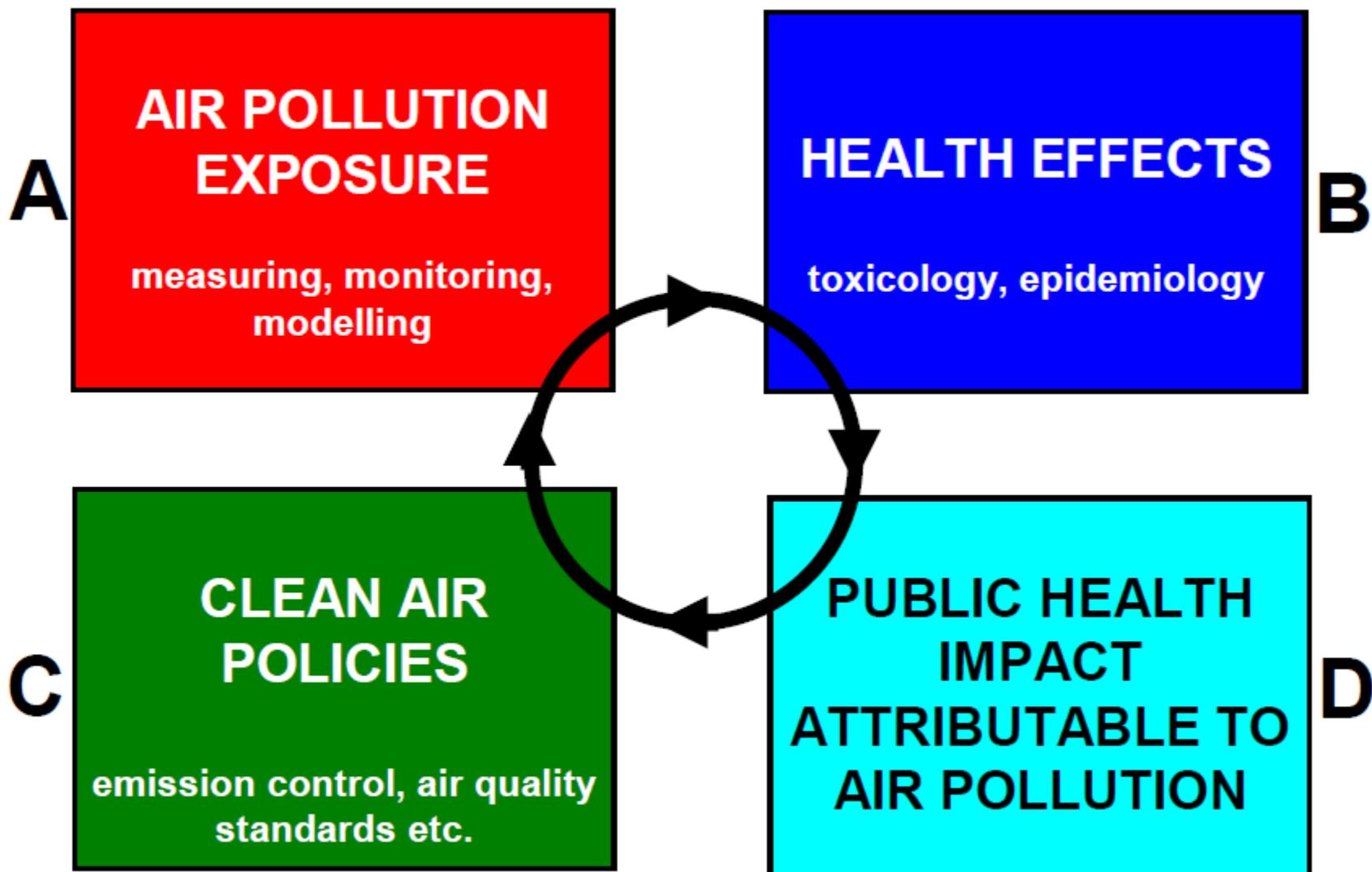
QUESTION:

What risk factor or disease is the LARGEST cause of premature death, globally? (choose only ONE)

- A) HIV/AIDS + Tuberculosis+Malaria
- B) Alcohol
- C) Environmental Pollution
- D) Malnutrition
- E) Tobacco

Science Based Clean Air Policy Making

The Environmental Health Policy Cycle



Sources



... and related pollutants

Gases - e.g.

- Nitrogen oxides (NO₂, NO, NO_x etc.)
- Sulfates
- Carbon monoxide (CO)
- Ozone (O₃)

Volatiles - e.g.

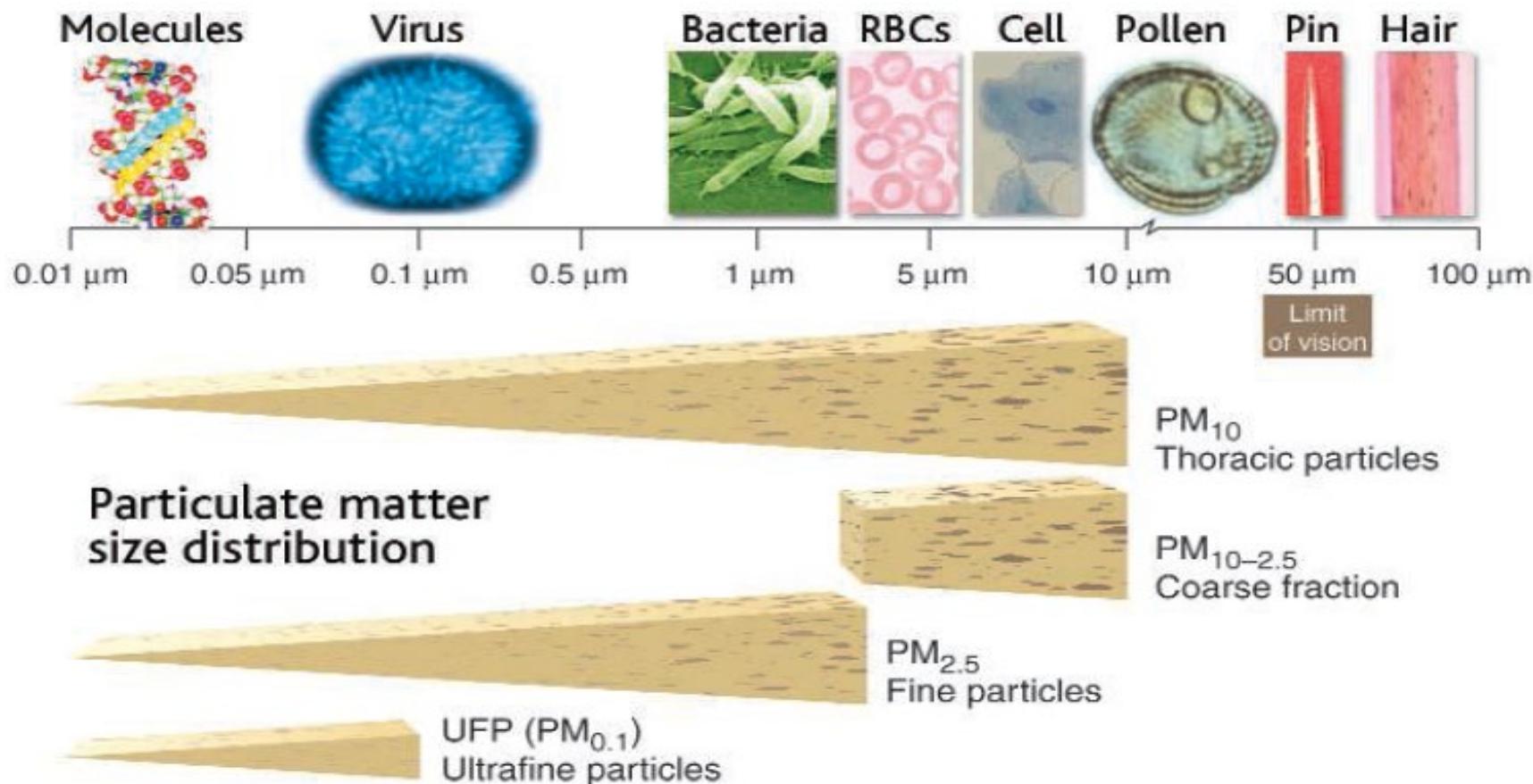
- Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC)

Particulate matter (PM) - e.g.

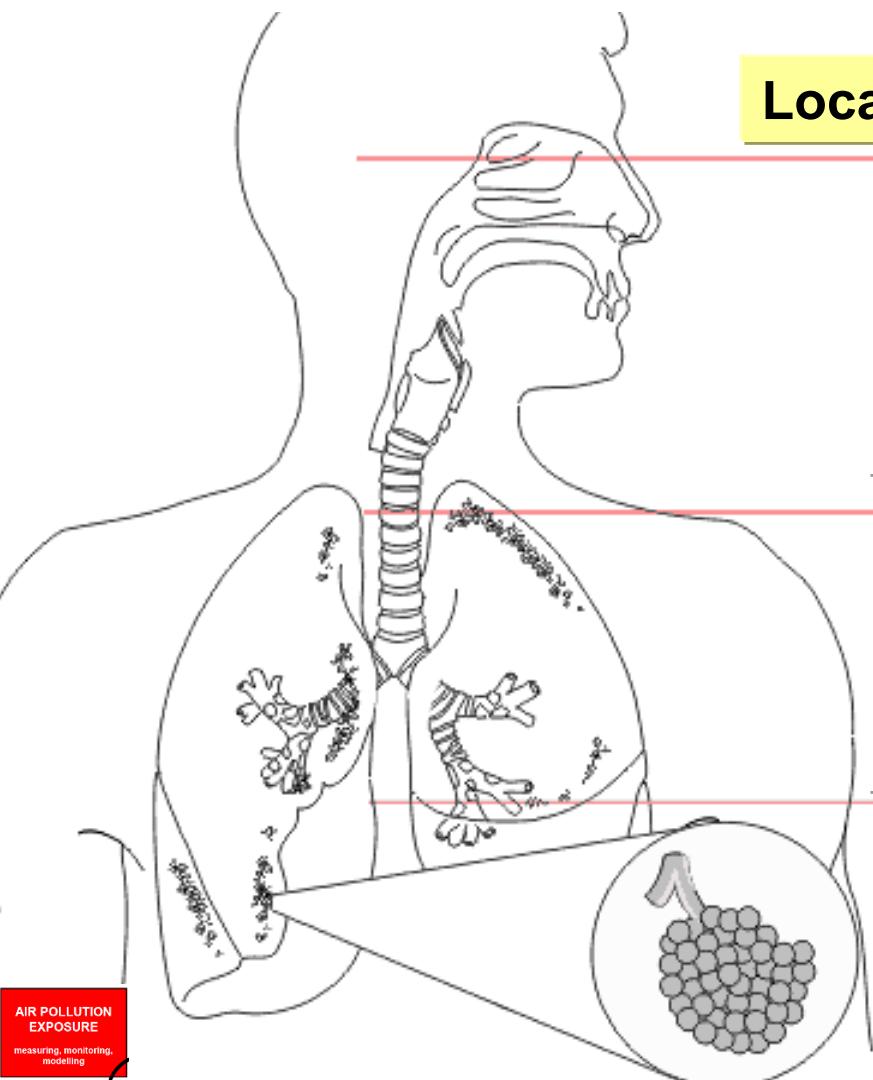
- Total suspended particles (TSP)
- Particles up to 10 micrometer in diameter (PM₁₀)
- Fine Particles up to 2.5 microm. - PM_{2.5}
- Nano-Particles = Ultrafines / PM_{0.1}
- Black smoke / elemental carbon / soot / diesel particles

Particulate Matter (PM) by size (diameter, in micrometers)

Nel et al, Science, 2005; 307:1858



Deposition of fine particles in the respiratory tract



Location of action	Relevant particles
--------------------	--------------------

Nose / Throat	5-10 µm
---------------	---------

Airways	3-5 µm
---------	--------

Bronchia	2-3 µm
----------	--------

Bronchioli	1-2 µm
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Alveoli	0.1-1 µm
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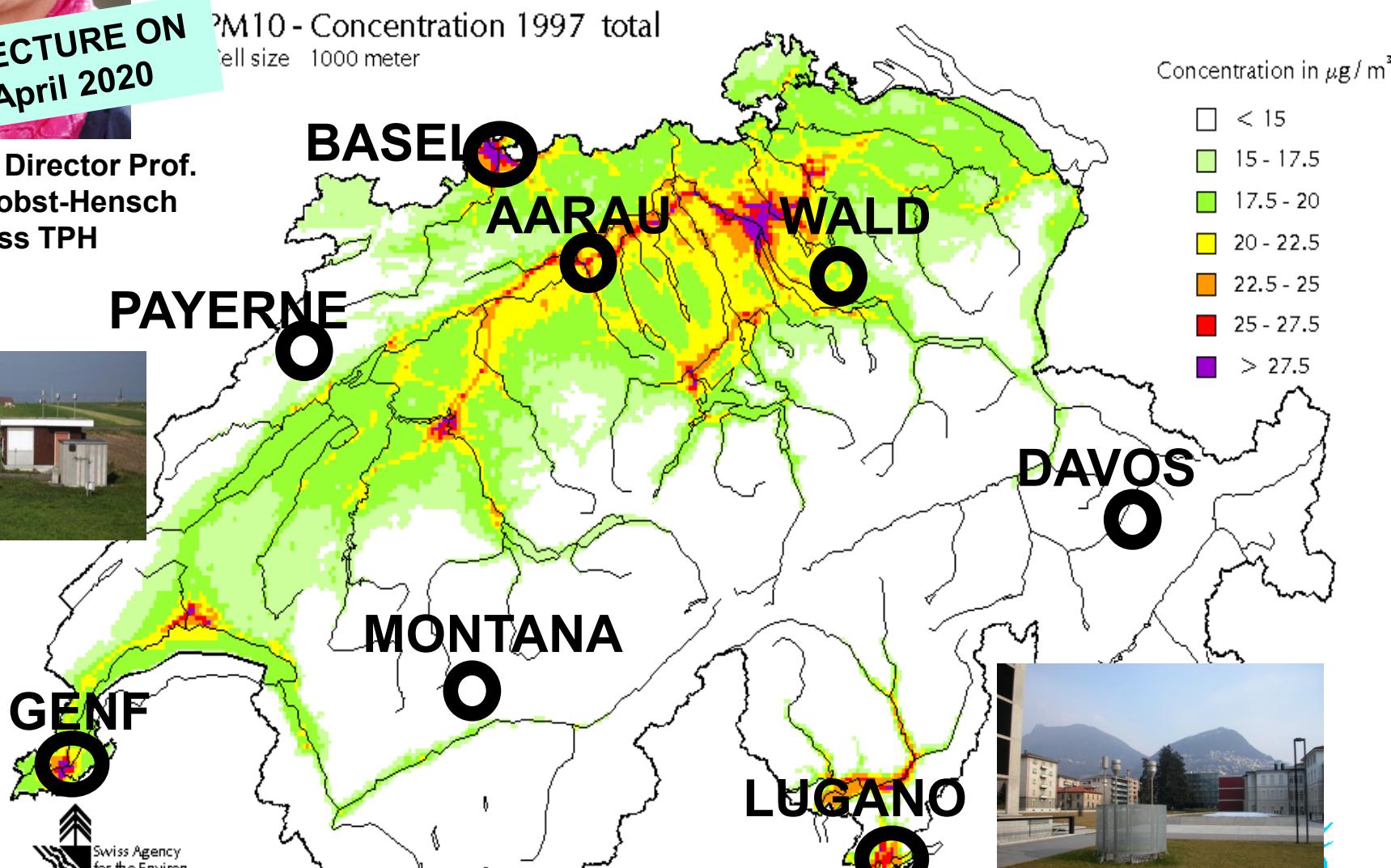
broncho-inhalers to treat asthma

SAPALDIA

Initiated 1991 (~10'000 subjects) – and still running

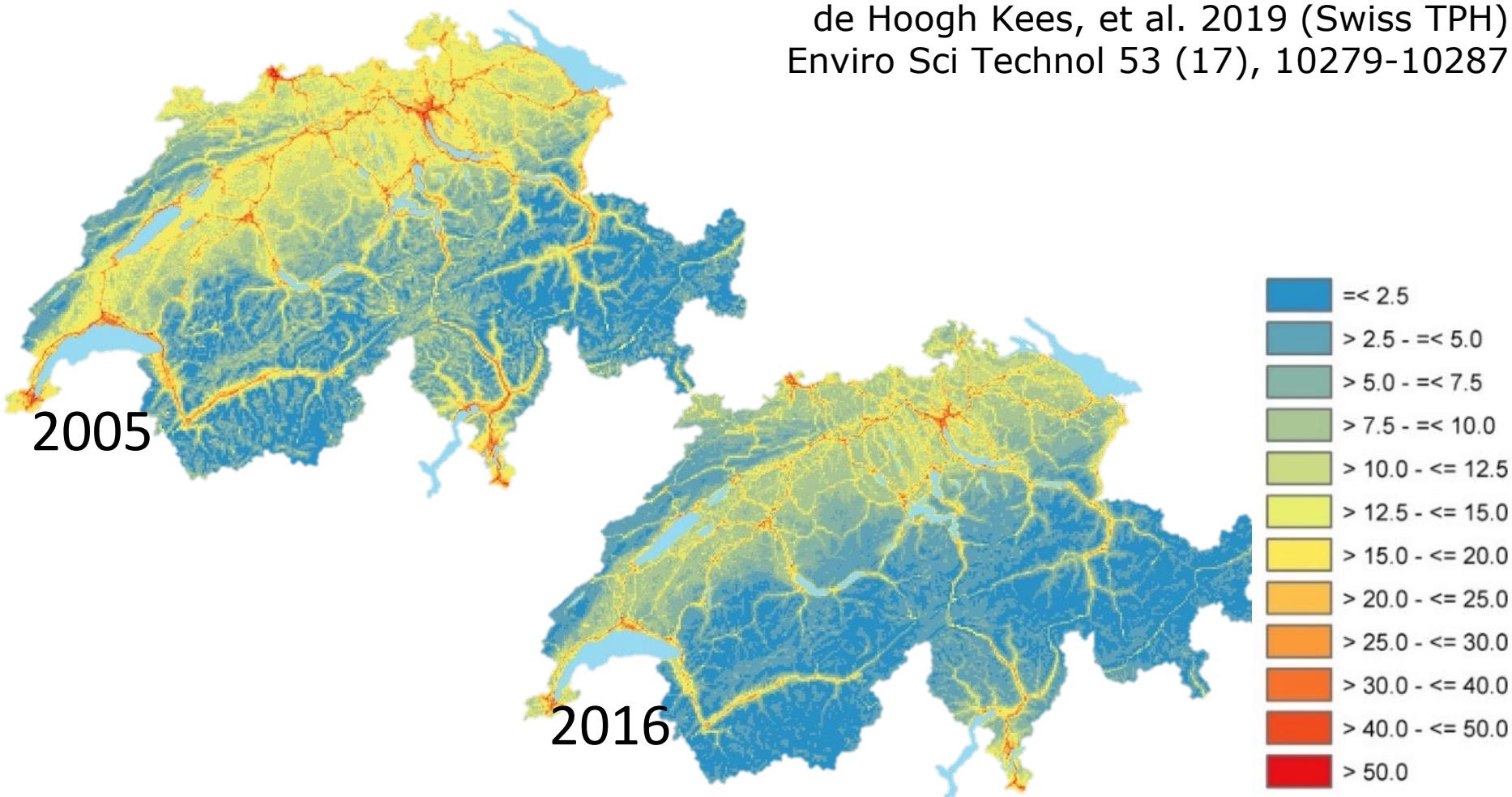
see LECTURE ON
08 April 2020

SAPALDIA Director Prof.
Nicole Probst-Hensch
Swiss TPH



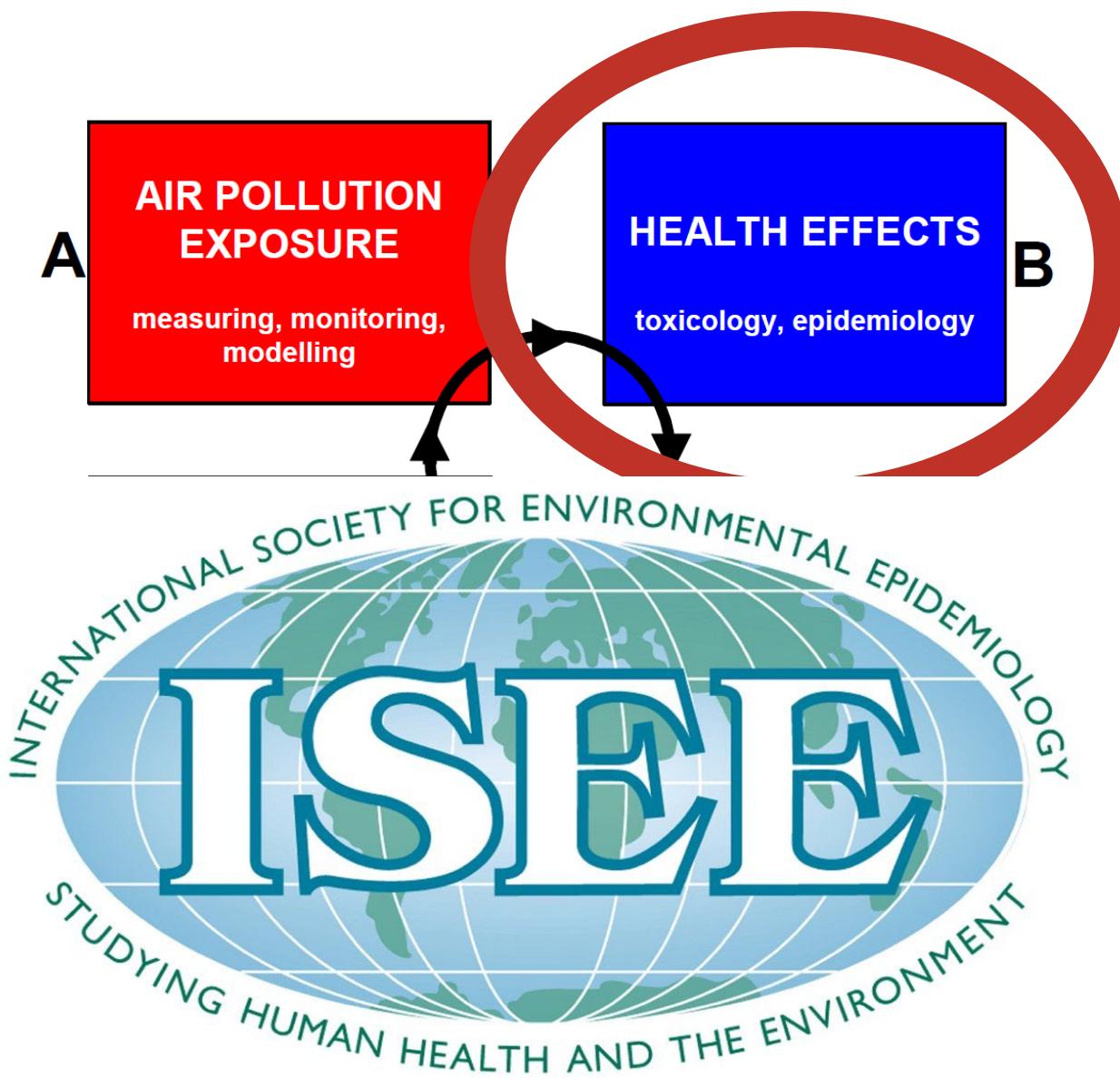
Spatial map of annual mean NO₂ concentrations ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$) Switzerland 2005 and 2016

de Hoogh Kees, et al. 2019 (Swiss TPH)
Enviro Sci Technol 53 (17), 10279-10287

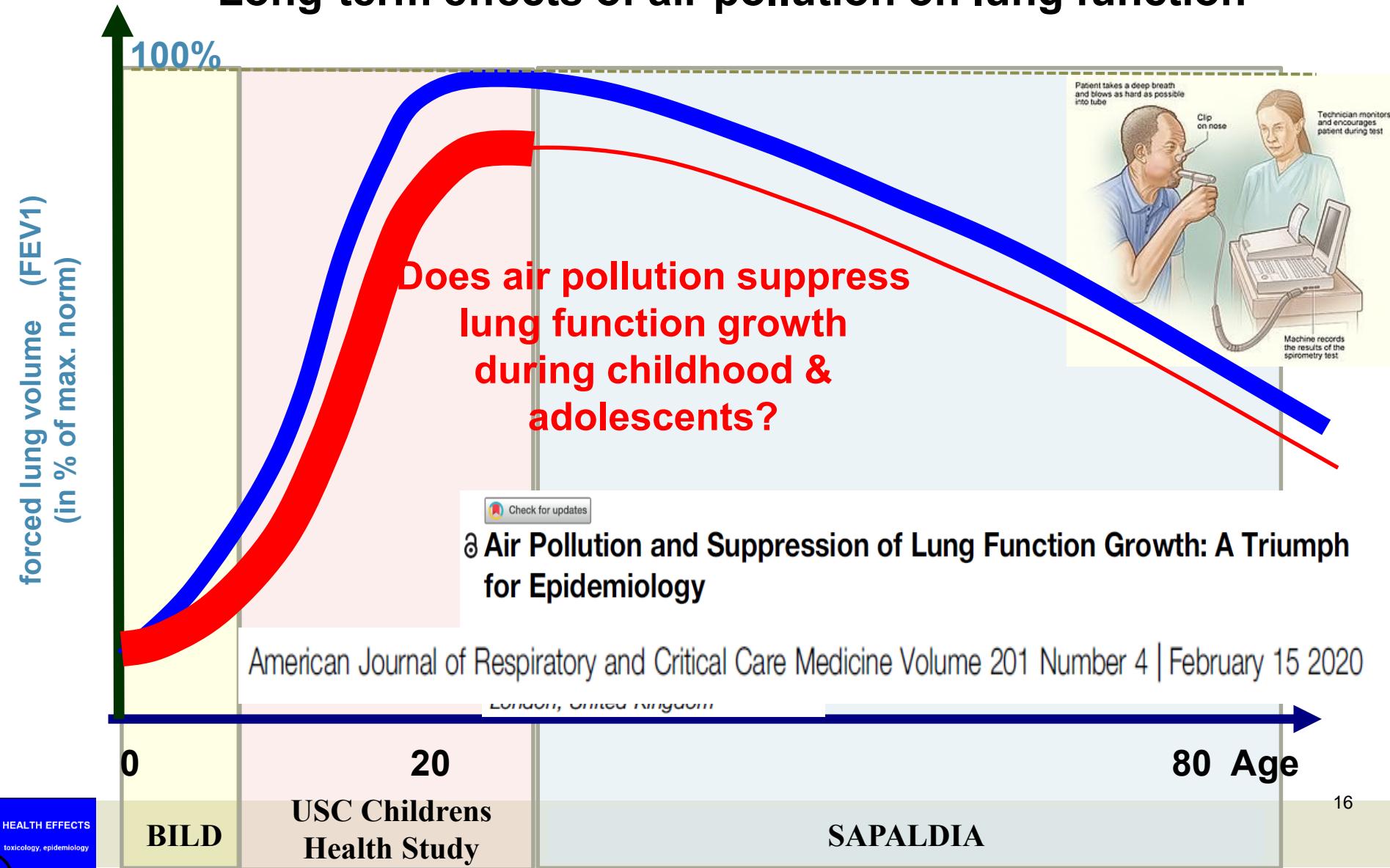


Science Based Clean Air Policy Making

The Environmental Health Policy Cycle



Long-term effects of air pollution on lung function





A primary 1991 hypothesis of

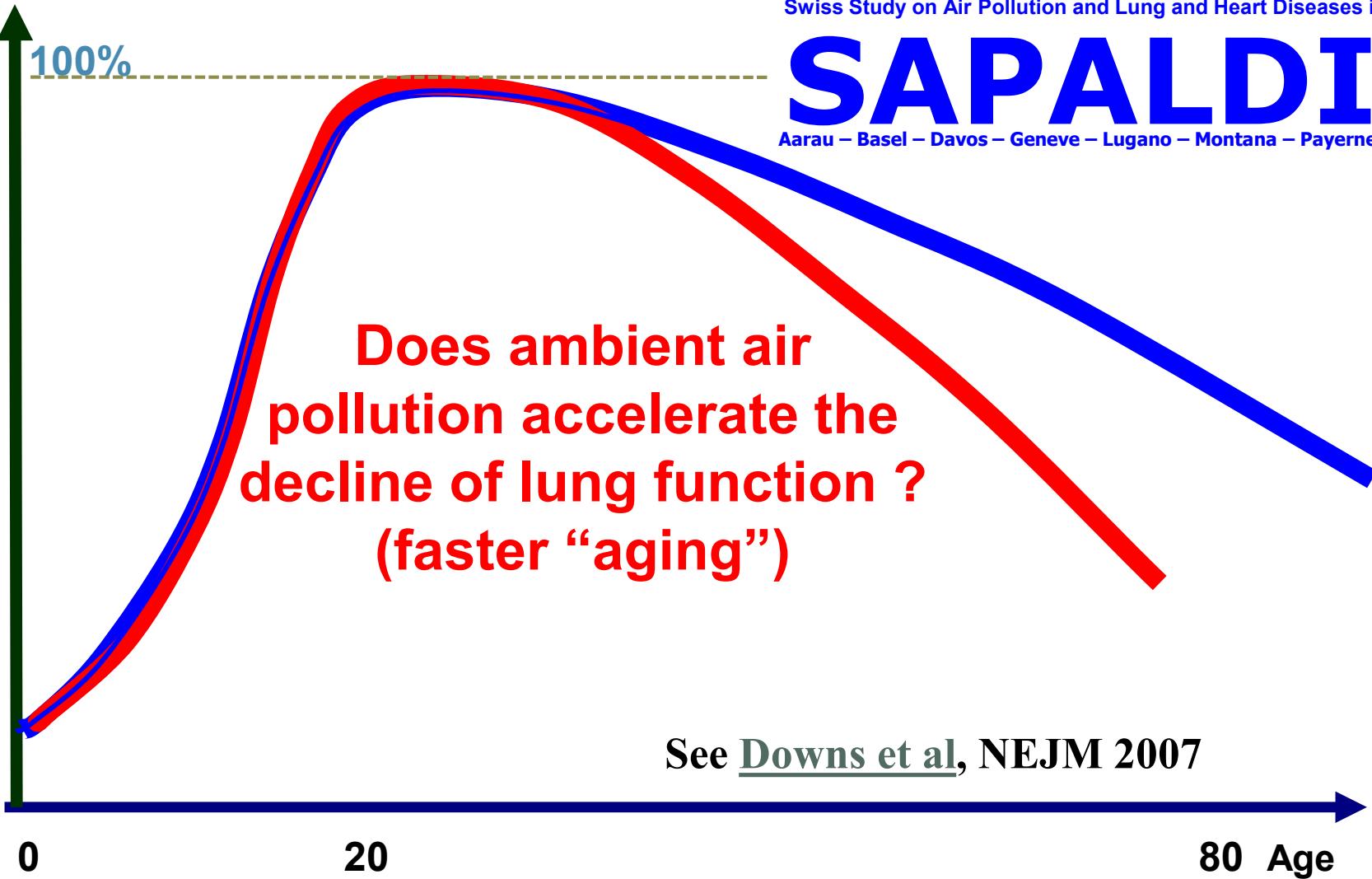
Swiss Study on Air Pollution and Lung and Heart Diseases in Adults

SAPALDIA

Aarau – Basel – Davos – Geneve – Lugano – Montana – Payerne – Wald

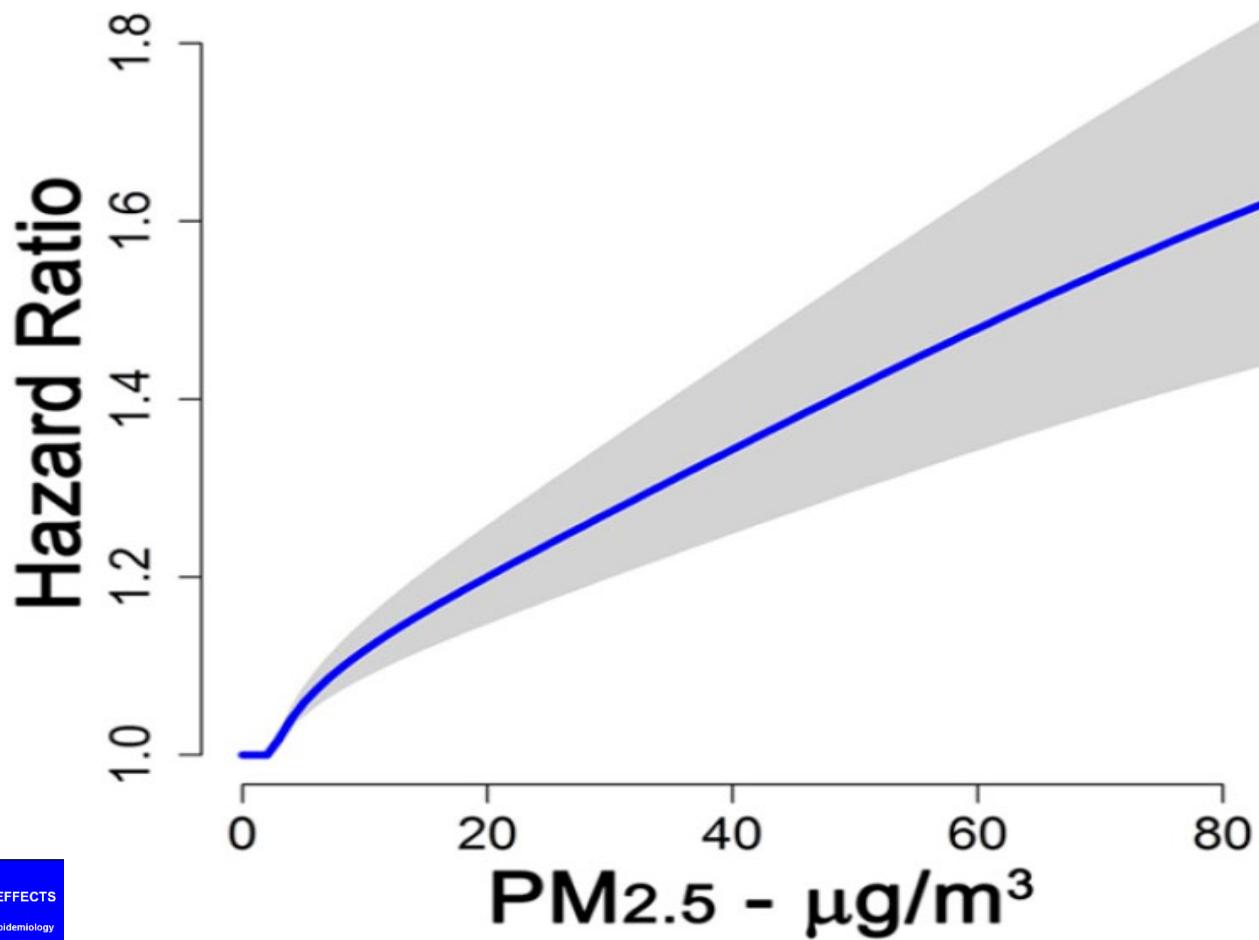
**Does ambient air
pollution accelerate the
decline of lung function ?
(faster “aging”)**

See Downs et al, NEJM 2007



Association between home outdoor PM_{2.5} long-term mean concentrations and mortality in 41 long-term studies from 16 countries (incl. Switzerland)

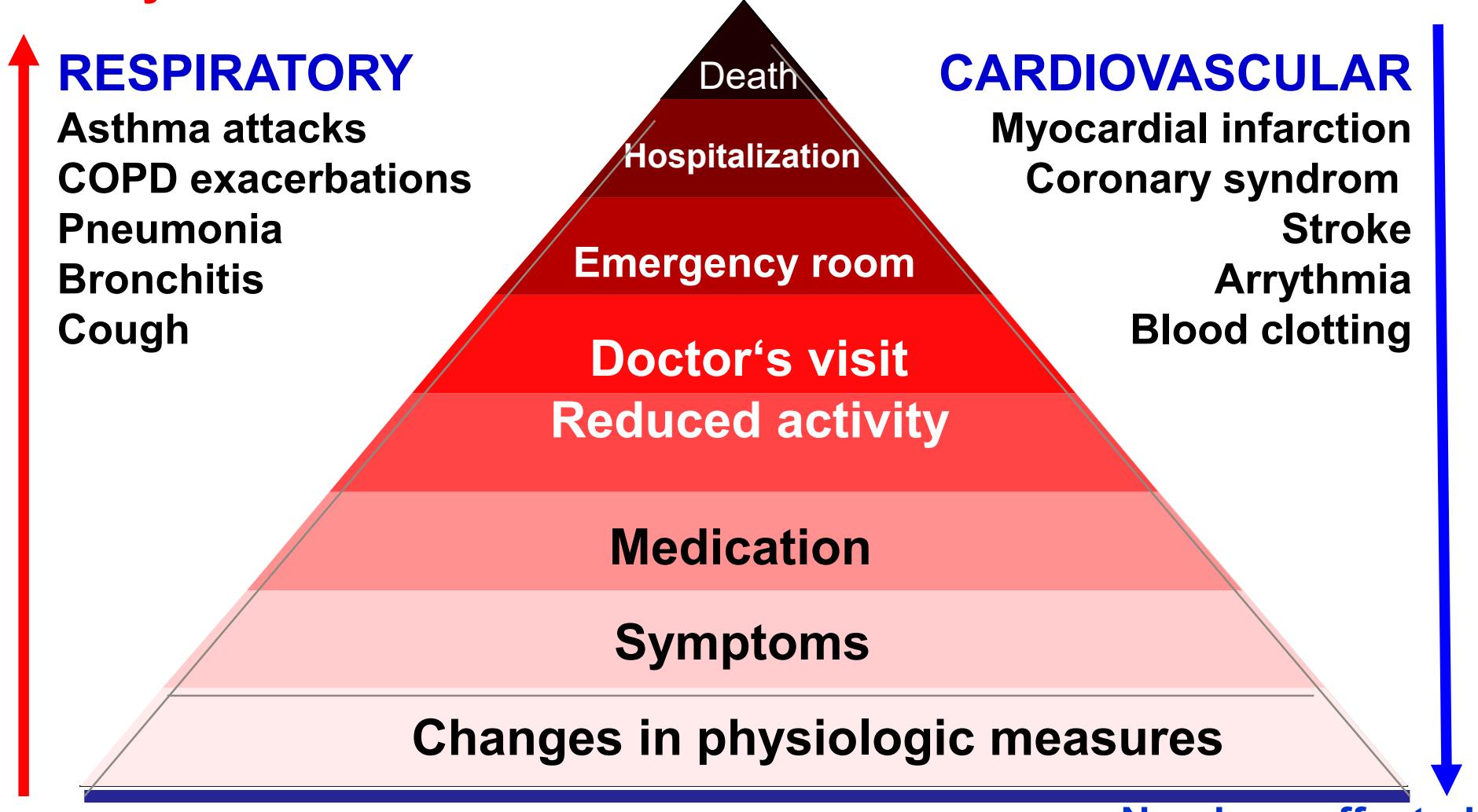
A «big data» meta-analysis by Burnett et al, PNAS 2018



Interrelated acute health effects of air pollution

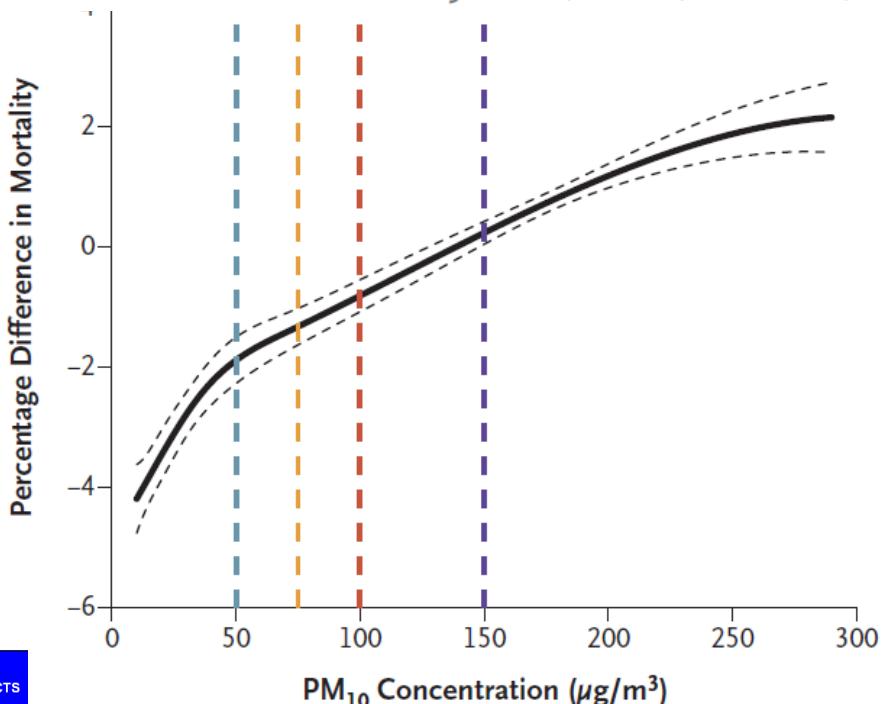
Severity of effects depends also on susceptibilities

severity



Ambient Particulate Air Pollution and Daily Mortality in 652 Cities

C. Liu, R. Chen, F. Sera, A.M. Vicedo-Cabrera, Y. Guo, S. Tong, M.S.Z.S. Coelho, P.H.N. Saldiva, E. Lavigne, P. Matus, N. Valdes Ortega, S. Osorio Garcia, M. Pascal, M. Stafloggia, M. Scortichini, M. Hashizume, Y. Honda, M. Hurtado-Díaz, J. Cruz, B. Nunes, J.P. Teixeira, H. Kim, A. Tobias, C. Íñiguez, B. Forsberg, C. Åström, M.S. Ragettli, Y.-L. Guo, B.-Y. Chen, M.L. Bell, C.Y. Wright, N. Scovronick, R.M. Garland, A. Milojevic, J. Kysely, A. Urban, H. Orru, E. Indermitte, J.J.K. Jaakkola, N.R.I. Ryti, K. Katsouyanni, A. Analitis, A. Zanobetti, J. Schwartz, J. Chen, T. Wu, A. Cohen, A. Gasparrini, and H. Kan



per 10 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ increase in
2-day-mean PM₁₀ ...

natural mortality increases
by 0.44% (95% CI: 0.39-0.50)

The Health Impact of Air Pollution

An expert report of
International Society
and the European

Prof Dr Annette Peters, MSc, Helm
and Ludwig-Maximilian University
in 2012-2013, ISEE Policy Committee

Prof Dr Barbara Hoffmann, MD, MF
of the Environment and Health Con
Europe 2015-2017

Prof Dr Bert Brunekreef, Universit
ISEE President in 2000-2001, Chai
Committee of the ERS (2014-2017)

Prof Dr PhD Nino Künzli, MD, Swi
Institute (Swiss TPH), Basel, and L

Meltem Kutlar Joss, MSc ETH, MPI
Health Institute (Swiss TPH), Base

PProf Dr PhD Nicole Probst-Hensch
Health Institute (Swiss TPH), Basel,

Prof Dr PhD Beate Ritz, MD, Unive
USA, ISEE President

Prof Dr Holger Schulz, MD, Helmh

PD Dr Kurt Straif, MD, MPH, PhD, I

J. Erich Wichmann, MD
Ludwig-Maximilian U

Death due to respiratory diseases

Disease due to respiratory diseases

Lung cancer/ Pneumonia

Respiratory symptoms

Inflammation of airways

Impaired lung function

Impaired pulmonary growth

Insulin resistance

Type- 2 Diabetes

Type-1 Diabetes

Bone metabolism

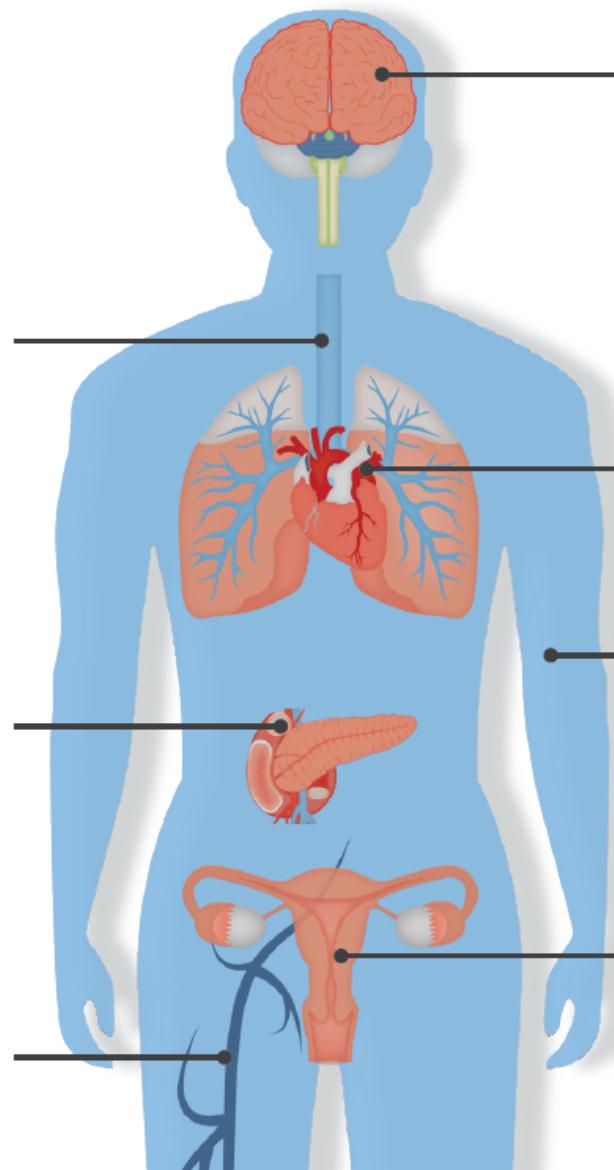
High blood pressure

Endothelial dysfunction

Increased blood clotting

Systemic inflammation

Venal thrombosis



Strokes

Neurological development

Mental health

Neurodegenerative disorders

Death due to cardiorespiratory disorders

Disease due to cardiorespiratory disorder

Myocardial infarction

Cardiac arrhythmia

Cardiac insufficiency

Aging of skin

Preterm birth

Lower weight at birth

Reduced foetal growth

Delayed foetal growth

Lower quality sperm

Preeclampsia

Established «causality» (ISA, US EPA)

PM10 and PM2.5:

- total mortality
- cardiovascular mortality
- respiratory mortality

NO₂:

- bronchial hyperreactivity
- respiratory health problems among asthmatics
- ... and PM2.5 is classified as CARCINOGEN (IARC)



Integrated Science Assessments (ISAs)

[NOTICE] EPA announced the availability of the final report [Integrated Science Assessment for Particulate Matter.](#)

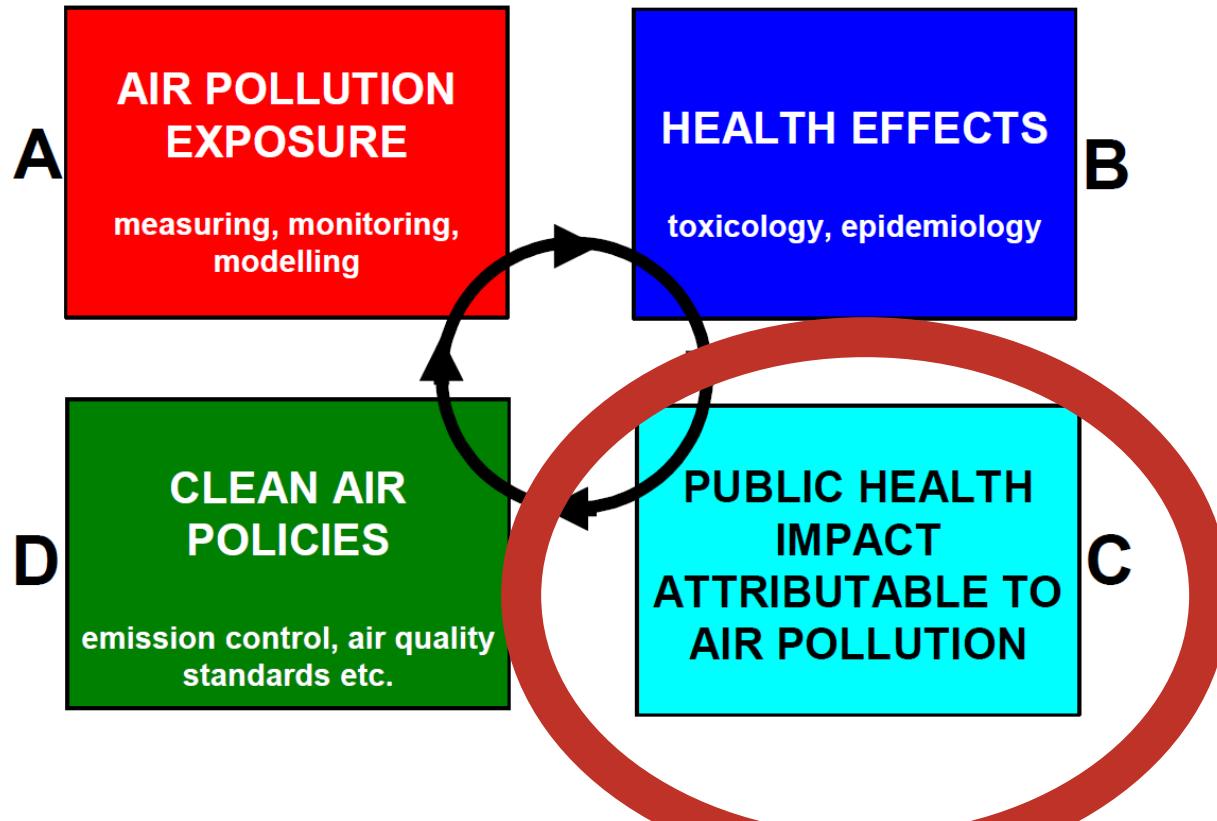
EPA has set National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for six principal criteria air pollutants, which include nitrogen oxides, sulfur oxides, particulate matter, carbon monoxide, ozone and lead. Numerous sources emit these "criteria pollutants", which are considered harmful to public health and the environment.

Since 2008, EPA's **Integrated Science Assessments (ISAs)** have formed the scientific foundation for the review of the NAAQS standards by providing the primary (human health-based) and secondary (welfare-based, e.g. ecology, visibility, materials) science assessments:

- [Nitrogen Oxides - Health Criteria](#)
- [Sulfur Oxides- Health Criteria](#)
- [Particulate Matter](#)
- [Carbon Monoxide](#)
- [Ozone and Related Photochemical Oxidants](#)
- [Lead](#)
- [Oxides of Nitrogen, Oxides of Sulfur and Particulate Matter - Ecological Criteria](#)

Science Based Clean Air Policy Making

The Environmental Health Policy Cycle



Explore the Global Burden of Disease web tools ! <http://www.healthdata.org/gbd>



Air pollution is the 'new tobacco', warns WHO head

Exclusive: Simple act of breathing is killing 7 million people a year and harming billions more, but 'a smog of complacency pervades the planet', says Dr Tedros Adhanom

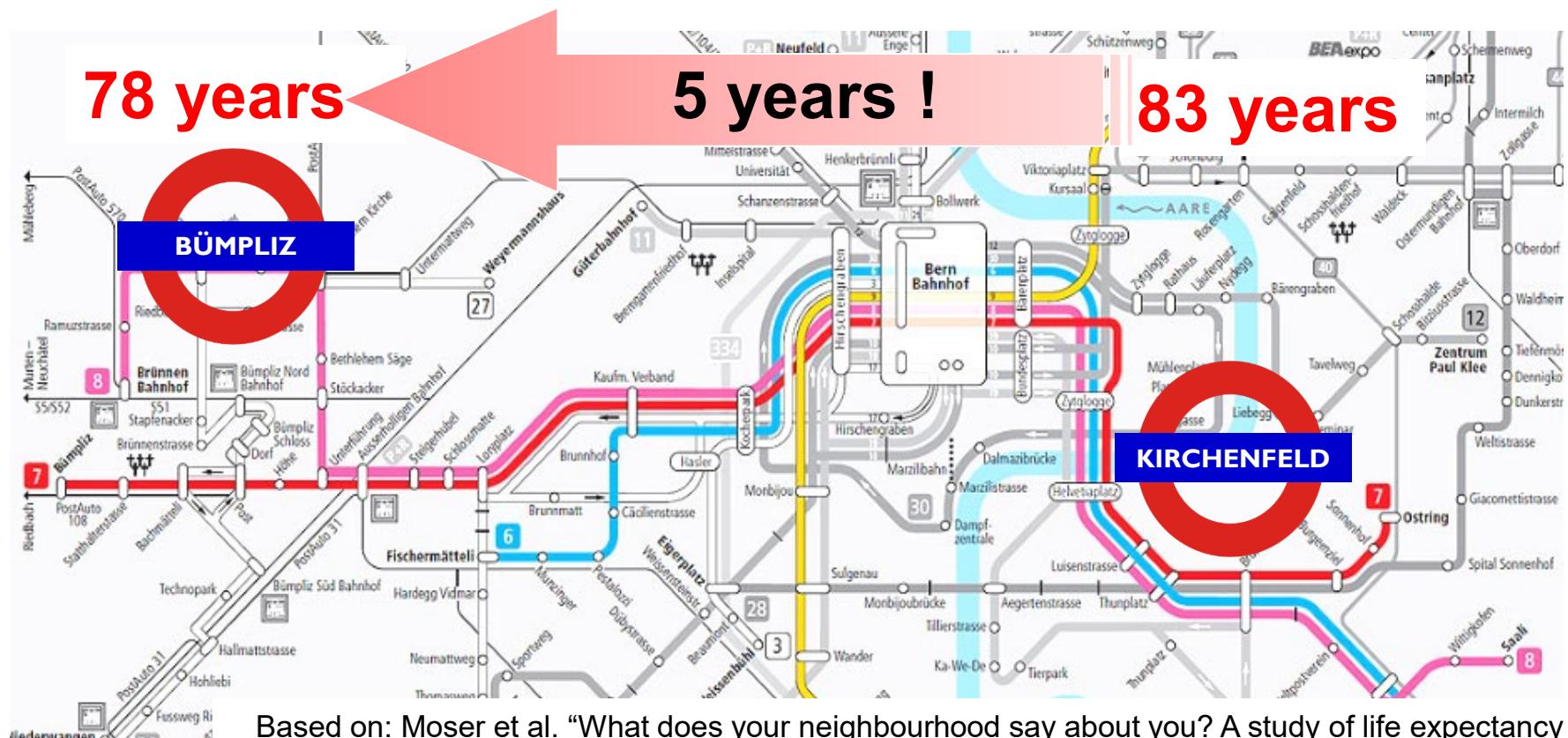
- Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus: Air pollution is the new tobacco. Time to tackle this epidemic



also see: First WHO Conference on
Air Pollution and Health –
Oct 2018 in Geneva
<http://www.who.int/airpollution/events/conference/en/>

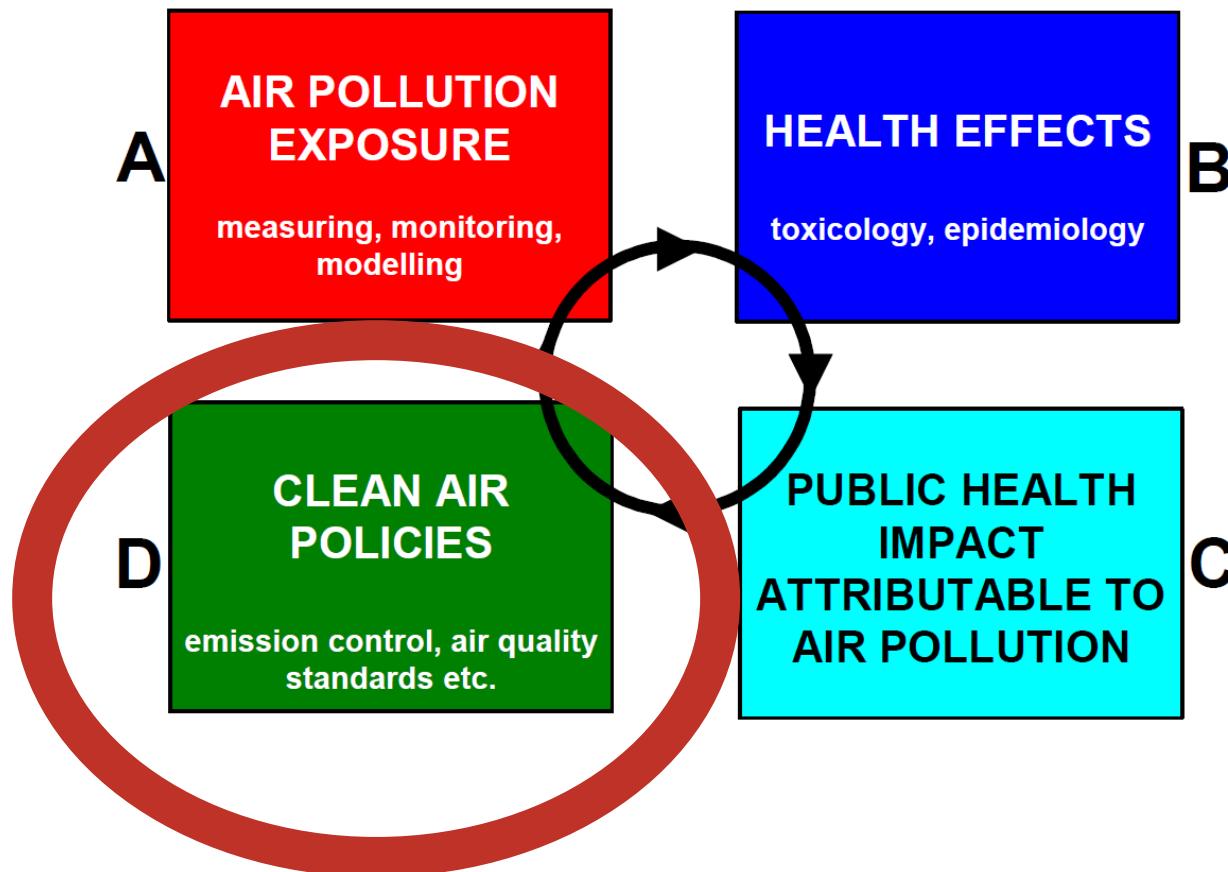
In Switzerland...

Life expectancy varies more strongly across socio-economic gradients than across contrasts in air pollution exposure



Science Based Clean Air Policy Making

The Environmental Health Policy Cycle



4 relevant pillars of Clean Air Policy Making

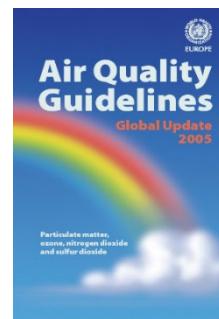
1. Fuel quality standards



2. EMISSION standards
(= regulation of SOURCES)



3. AMBIENT AIR QUALITY STANDARDS



4. Clean Air Management
Plans and controls /
monitoring

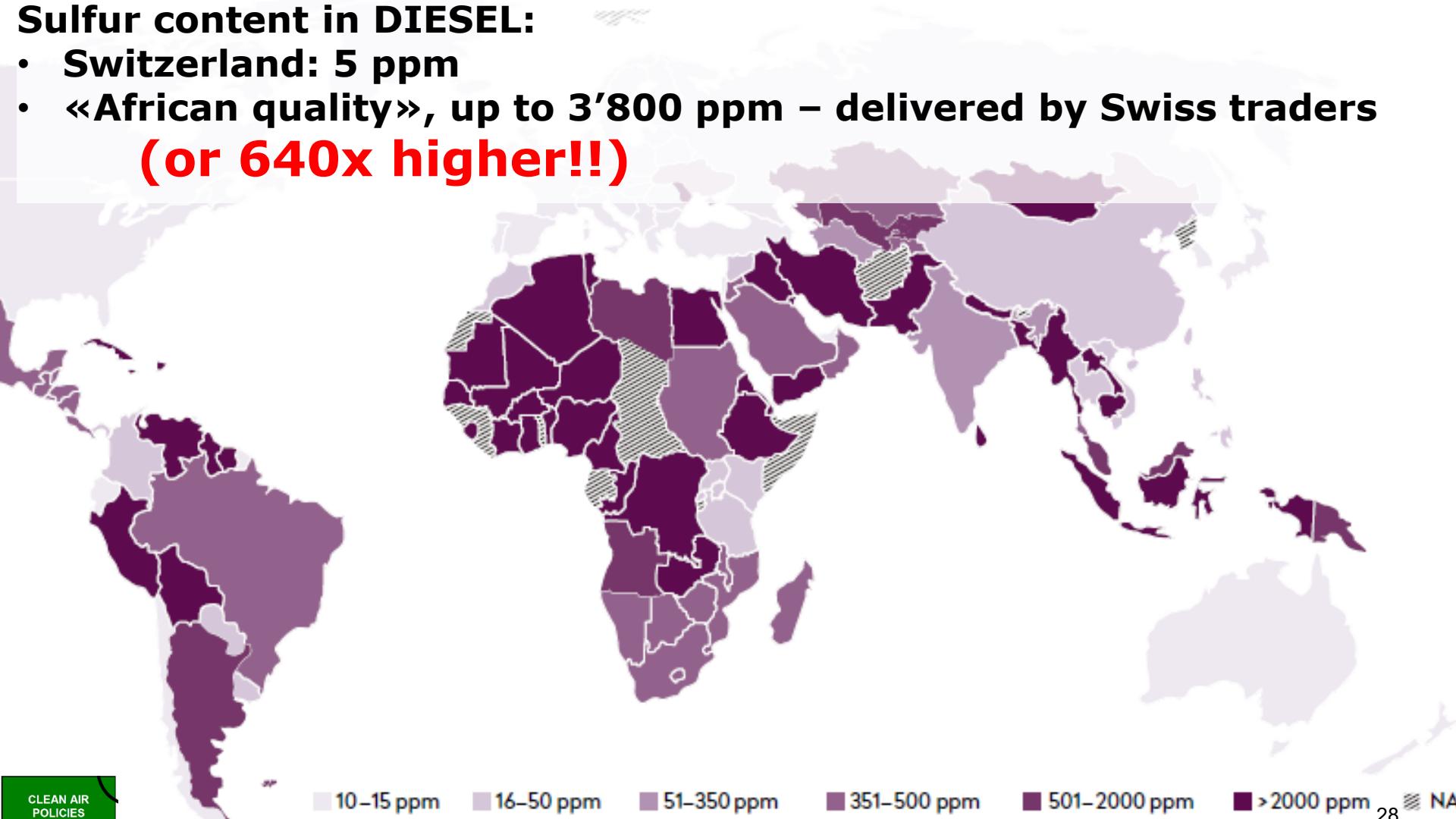


Unequal sulfur standards have devastating effects in Africa

An investigation of PublicEye (Swiss NGO)

Sulfur content in DIESEL:

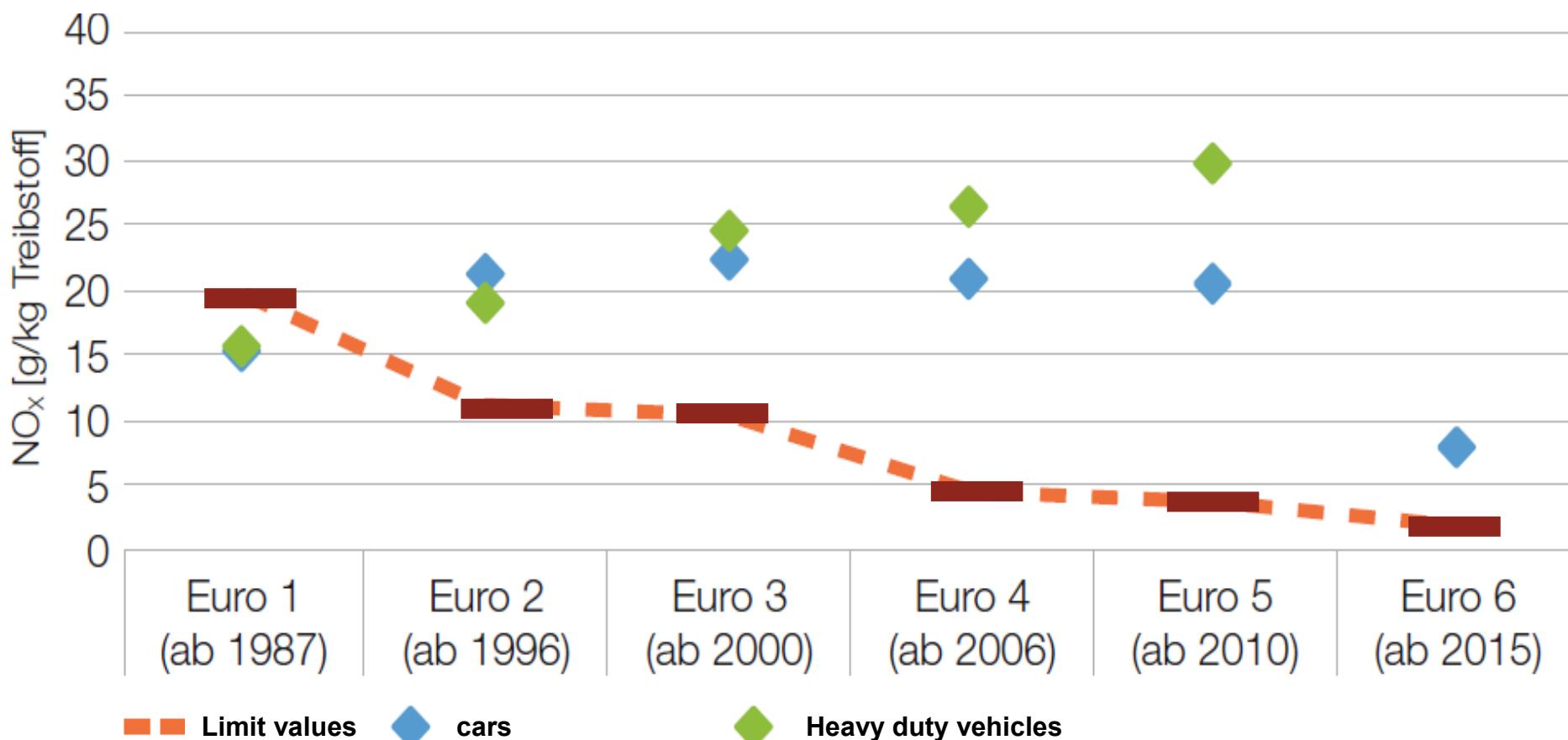
- Switzerland: 5 ppm
- «African quality», up to 3'800 ppm – delivered by Swiss traders
(or 640x higher!!)



Real NO_x-Emissions of diesel vehicles did not decline despite more restrictive policies...

**Measurement data of Environmental agency AWEL,
Zürich County**

Diesel cars: NO_x-Emissions, Euro 1 to Euro 6



Air Quality Standards (annual means) for PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} (in µg/m³)

**Science-based health
oriented limit values**

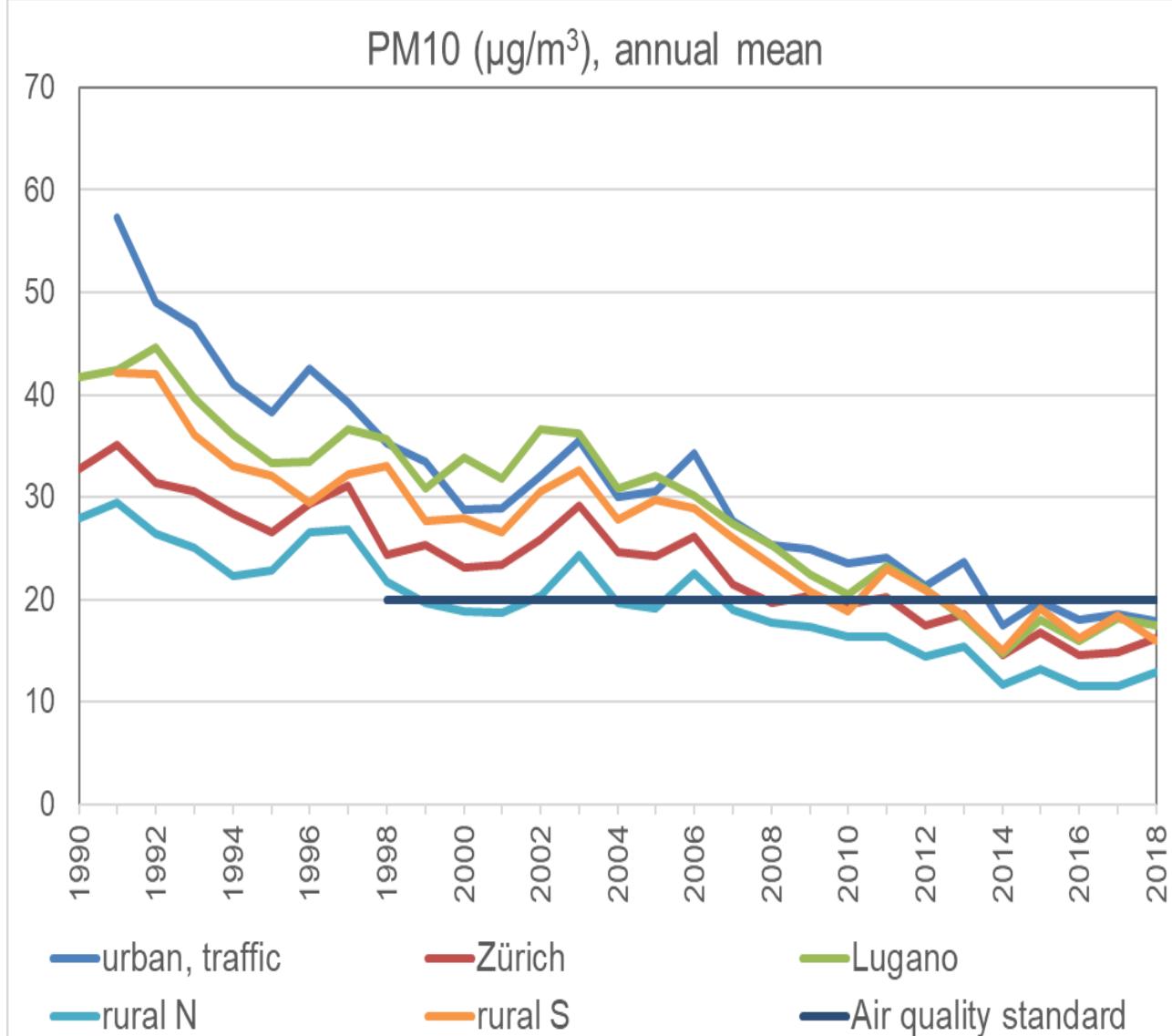
**Politically defined
values**
No protection of
public health

	WHO Guide- line Value	Afghanistan, Cameroon, Iceland, Iran, Australia Malawi, Switzerland, UK	State of California	U.S.A. Federal; Mexico	E.U.
PM₁₀ Annual mean	20	20	20	--	40
PM_{2.5} Annual mean	10	10 (AUST: 8)	12	12	25

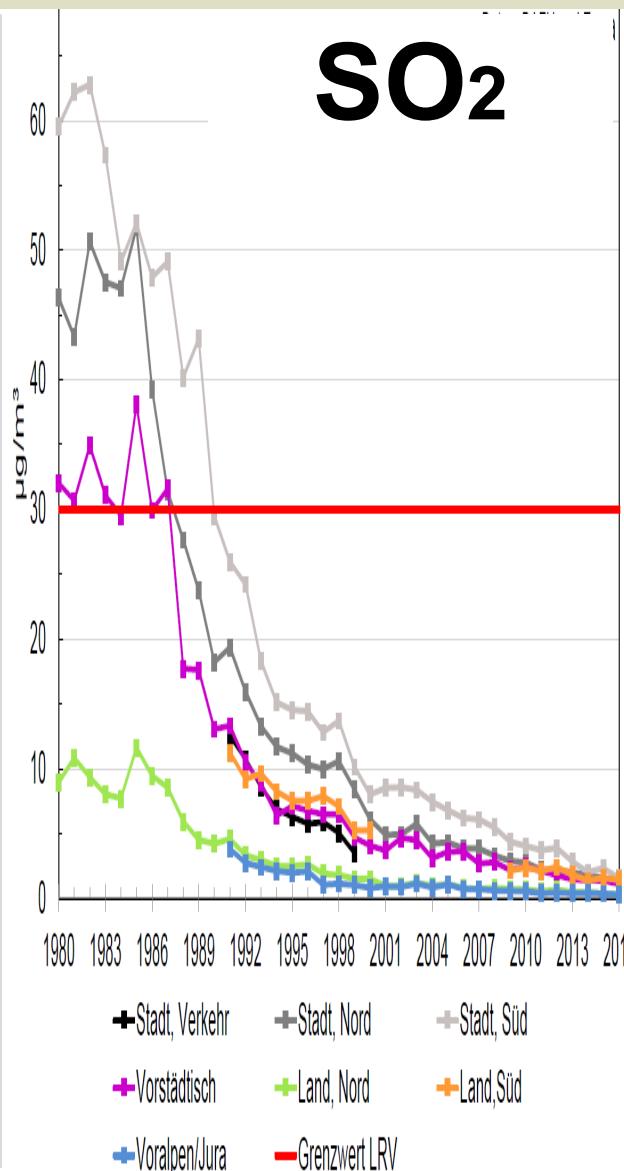
Success of clean air policy making

Switzerland – 1990 – 2018

PM10 ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$), annual mean

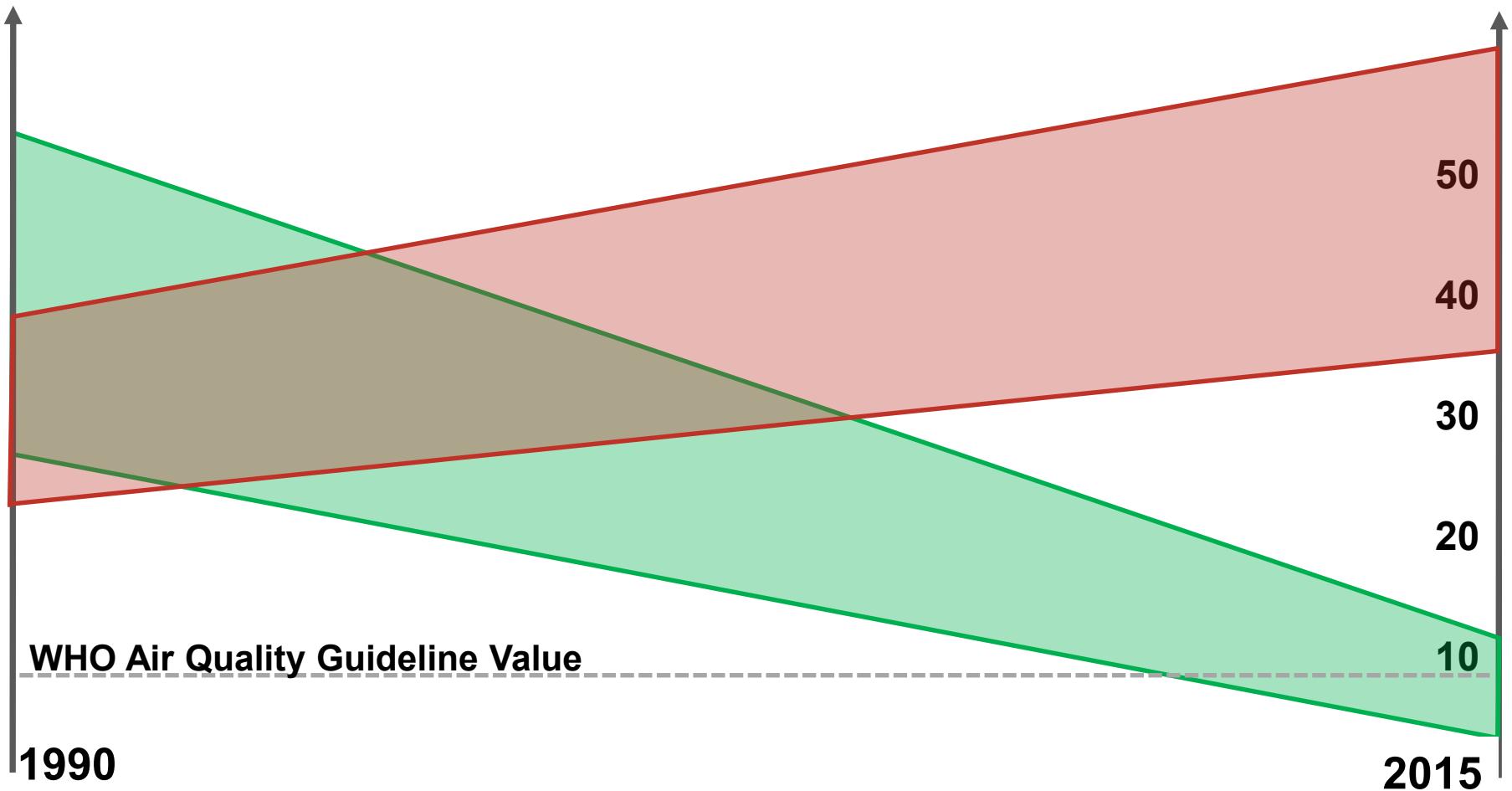


SO₂



Dissociated trends in air quality (annual means of PM_{2.5}) **in the West and in Asia and Africa** 1990 – 2015

Adapted from Brauer et al ES&T2016



1990
2015

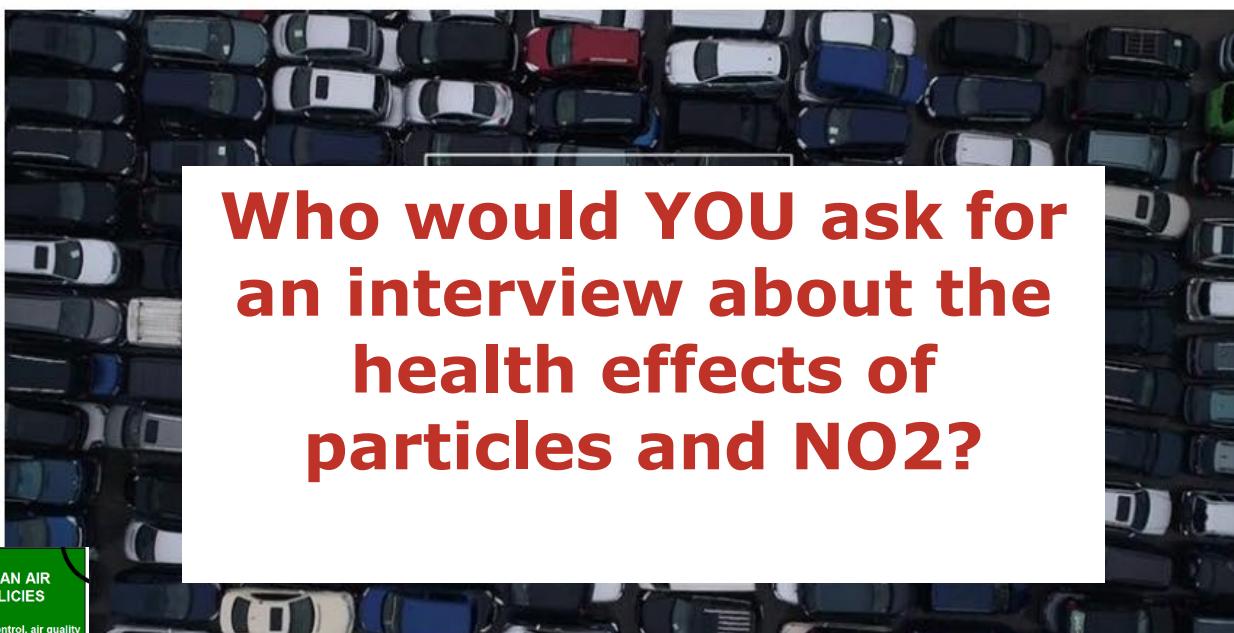
CLEAN AIR
POLICIES

emission control, air quality
standards etc.



Reportage & Dokumentation

Exklusiv im Ersten: Das Diesel-Desaster



Mo 7.1.2019 21:45

Sendetermin

Mo, 07.01.19 | 21:45 Uhr

Das Erste

ANDERE SENDUNGEN

< VORHERIGE

NÄCHST

ALLE SENDUNGEN

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air pollution

And ▾ health

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(from Web of Science Core Collection)

You searched for: TOPIC: (air pollu
tion) AND TOPIC: (health) ...More

Create an alert

CLEAN AIR
POLICIESemission control, air quality
standards etc.

Among the Top-100 of >69'000 authors,
journalists would find – within 2 minutes –
8 German-speaking experts...

(incl 3 women) 5 in Germany + 3 at Swiss TPH in Basel):

J Cyrys
J Heinrich
B Hoffmann
N Künzli
A Peters
N Probst-Hensch
Ch Schindler
E Wichmann

1. Carbon Monoxide Prediction in the Atmosphere of Tehran Using Developed

By: Akbarzadeh, A.; Naseh, Vesali M. R.; NodeFarahani, M.

POLLUTION, Volume 6, Issue 1, Pages 42-57, Published: WIN 2020

...but ARD features «Fake experts»

Leading journalists: Thomas Berbner & Torben Börgers

- **demagogic populists**
- **no research record at all**
- **scientifically illiterate**
- **unethical call for lifting air quality standards**

Das Diesel-Desaster ARD 07



Prof. emeritus Dr. med.
Dieter Köhler



Prof. Dr. med.
Martin Hetzel



**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
Acting Administrator
Andrew Wheeler**
Former pro-fossil-fuel & coal
lobbist

Science

March 2020, Vol 110, No. 3 **AJPH**

Dockery and Pope Editorial 287

The Threat to Air Pollution Health Studies Behind the Environmental Protection Agency's Cloak of Science EM Transparency

Cite as: H. H. Thorp, M. Skipper, V. Kiermer,
M. Berenbaum, D. Sweet, R. Horton,
Science 10.1126/science.aba3197 (2019).

Joint statement on EPA proposed rule and public availability of data (2019)

H. Holden Thorp^{1*}, Magdalena Skipper², Veronique Kiermer³, May Berenbaum⁴, Deborah Sweet⁵, Richard Horton⁶

Don't abandon evidence and process on air pollution policy

Gretchen T. Goldman¹ and Francesca Dominici²

Science 10.1126/science.aaw9460 (2019)

POLICY

Nature, April 2019

Pollution rules under siege at US environment agency

Adviser attacks EPA decision-making ahead of major review of air-pollution standards.

BY JEFF TOLLEFSON

research. The head of CASAC, Tony Cox, is towards the link between particulate pollu-

Lessons learned

- Air pollution is ubiquitous (although concentrations are very low in Switzerland).
- Air pollution affects peoples health in the short and long-term
- The air pollution related burden of disease and death is substantial and particularly large and costly in the global south.
- Solutions are available, effective, sustainable and should be enforced, globally
- Science-based public health policies are opposed by interest groups...
- The use of fake “experts”, (retired) demagogues and “pseudo-science” has become a more frequent phenomenon
→ be prepared !



Suggested readings I

REVIEWS

Thurston GD, Kipen H, Annesi-Maesano I, Balmes J, Brook RD, Cromar K, De Matteis S, Forastiere F, Forsberg B, Frampton M, Grigg J, Heederik A, Kelly FJ, **Künzli N**, Laumbach R, Peters A, Rajagopalan ST, Rich D, Ritz B, Samet JM, Sandstrom T, Sigsgaard T, Sunyer J, Brunekreef B. A joint ERS/ATS policy statement: what constitutes an adverse health effect of air pollution? An analytical framework. *Eur Respir J.* 2017;49:1600419. DOI: [10.1183/13993003.00419-2016](https://doi.org/10.1183/13993003.00419-2016)

Ohlwein S, **Kappeler R**, **Kutlar Joss M**, **Künzli N**, Hoffmann B. Health effects of ultrafine particles: a systematic literature review update of epidemiological evidence. *Int J Public Health.* 2019;64(4):547-559. DOI: [10.1007/s00038-019-01202-7](https://doi.org/10.1007/s00038-019-01202-7)

Künzli N, **Perez L**. Evidence based public health - the example of air pollution. *Swiss Med Wkly.* 2009;139(17-18):242-250

Exposure modelling:

Eeftens M, **Meier R**, **Schindler C**, **Aquilera I**, **Phuleria H**, **Ineichen A**, **Davey M**, **Ducret-Stich R**, **Keidel D**, **Probst-Hensch N**, **Künzli N**, **Tsai MY**. Development of land use regression models for nitrogen dioxide, ultrafine particles, lung deposited surface area, and four other markers of particulate matter pollution in the Swiss SAPALDIA regions. *Environ Health.* 2016;15:53. DOI: [10.1186/s12940-016-0137-9](https://doi.org/10.1186/s12940-016-0137-9)

Chen J, **de Hoogh K**, Gulliver J, Hoffmann B, Hertel O, Ketzel M, Bauwelinck M, van Donkelaar A, Hvidtfeldt UA, Katsouyanni K, Janssen NAH, Martin RV, Samoli E, Schwartz PE, Stafoggia M, Bellander T, Strak M, Wolf K, **Vienneau D**, Vermeulen R, Brunekreef B, Hoek G. A comparison of linear regression, regularization, and machine learning algorithms to develop Europe-wide spatial models of fine particles and nitrogen dioxide. *Environ Int.* 2019;130:104934. DOI: [10.1016/j.envint.2019.104934](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.envint.2019.104934)

de Hoogh K, **Saucy A**, Shtein A, Schwartz J, West EA, Strassmann A, Puhan M, **Röösli M**, Stafoggia M, Kloog I. Predicting fine-scale daily NO₂ for 2005-2016 incorporating OMI satellite data across Switzerland. *Environ Sci Technol.* 2019;53(17):10279-10287. DOI: [10.1021/acs.est.9b03107](https://doi.org/10.1021/acs.est.9b03107)

AIR POLLUTION RELATED BURDEN OF DISEASE

Künzli N, Kaiser R, Medina S, Studnicka M, Chanel O, Filliger P, Herry M, Horak F Jr, Puybonnieux-Texier V, Quenel P, Schneider J, Seethaler R, Vergnaud JC, Sommer H. Public-health impact of outdoor and traffic-related air pollution: a European assessment. *Lancet.* 2000;356(9232):795-801 - <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0140673600026532>

The Lancet Commission on pollution and health - Philip J Landrigan, MD et al. *Lancet*, Volume 391, ISSUE 10119, P462-512, February 03, 2018 DOI:[https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(17\)32345-0](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(17)32345-0)

Suggested readings II

Lung function and air pollution

BILD:

Latzin P, **Röösli M**, Huss A, Kuehni CE, Frey U. Air pollution during pregnancy and lung function in newborns: a birth cohort study. *Eur Respir J.* 2009;33(3):594-603

Usemann J, Decrue F, Korten I, Proietti D, Gorlanova O, **Vienneau D**, Fuchs O, Latzin P, **Röösli M**, Frey U, BILD study group. Exposure to moderate air pollution and associations with lung function at school-age: a birth cohort study. *Environ Int.* 2019;126:682-689. DOI: [10.1016/j.envint.2018.12.019](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.envint.2018.12.019)

SAPALDIA:

Schikowski T, **Schaffner E**, **Meier F**, **Phuleria HC**, Vierkötter A, **Schindler C**, **Kriemler S**, **Zemp E**, Kramer U, Bridevaux PO, Rochat T, Schwartz J, **Künzli N**, **Probst-Hensch N**. Improved air quality and attenuated lung function decline: modification by obesity in the SAPALDIA cohort. *Environ Health Perspect.* 2013;121(9):1034-1039. DOI: [10.1289/ehp.1206145](https://doi.org/10.1289/ehp.1206145)

Schikowski T, **Schaffner E**, **Meier F**, **Phuleria HC**, Vierkötter A, **Schindler C**, **Kriemler S**, **Zemp E**, Kramer U, Bridevaux PO, Rochat T, Schwartz J, **Künzli N**, **Probst-Hensch N**. Improved air quality and attenuated lung function decline: modification by obesity in the SAPALDIA cohort. *Environ Health Perspect.* 2013;121(9):1034-1039. DOI: [10.1289/ehp.1206145](https://doi.org/10.1289/ehp.1206145)

Downs SH, **Schindler C**, **Liu LJ**, **Keidel D**, Bayer-Oglesby L, Brutsche MH, Gerbase MW, Keller R, **Künzli N**, Leuenberger P, **Probst-Hensch NM**, Tschopp JM, Zellweger JP, Rochat T, Schwartz J, **Ackermann-Liebrich U**. Reduced exposure to PM10 and attenuated age-related decline in lung function. *N Engl J Med.* 2007;357(23):2338-2347. DOI: [10.1056/NEJMoa073625](https://doi.org/10.1056/NEJMoa073625)

USC Children's Health Study

Urman R et al: **The Potential Effects of Policy-driven Air Pollution Interventions on Childhood Lung Development . AmJRCircCare Med 2019.** <https://doi.org/10.1164/rccm.201903-0670OC>

Gauderman WJ, Vora H, McConnell R, Berhane K, Gilliland F, Thomas D, Lurmann F, Avol E, **Künzli N**, Jerrett M, Peters J. Effect of exposure to traffic on lung development from 10 to 18 years of age: a cohort study. *Lancet.* 2007;369(9561):571-577

Gauderman WJ, Avol E, Gilliland F, Vora H, Thomas D, Berhane K, McConnell R, **Künzli N**, Lurmann F, Rappaport E, Margolis H, Bates D, Peters J. The effect of air pollution on lung development from 10 to 18 years of age. *N Engl J Med.* 2004;351(11):1057-1067

POLICY MAKING

Ohlwein S, **Kappeler R**, **Kutlar Joss M**, **Künzli N**, Hoffmann B. Health effects of ultrafine particles: a systematic literature review update of epidemiological evidence. *Int J Public Health.* 2019;64(4):547-559. DOI: [10.1007/s00038-019-01202-7](https://doi.org/10.1007/s00038-019-01202-7)



Thank you !

Interested in air pollution and health literature? Register for our LUDOK-Newsletter

<http://www.swisstph.ch/ludok>

Prof. Nino Künzli, MD PhD

Nino.Kuenzli@SwissTPH.ch