

WORKSHOP Sostanze Perfluoro Alchiliche in acque ad uso potabile:
analisi e gestione dei rischi potenziali
Venezia, 26 maggio 2014



Gli studi di biomonitoraggio: significato, e interpretazione
dei dati

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IL BIOMONITORAGGIO UMANO (HBM)



Consiste nella misura della concentrazione di biomarcatori di esposizione, suscettibilità o effetto in un tessuto, fluido, organo o altra matrice del corpo umano

Biomarcatore di esposizione: sostanza chimica o suoi metaboliti

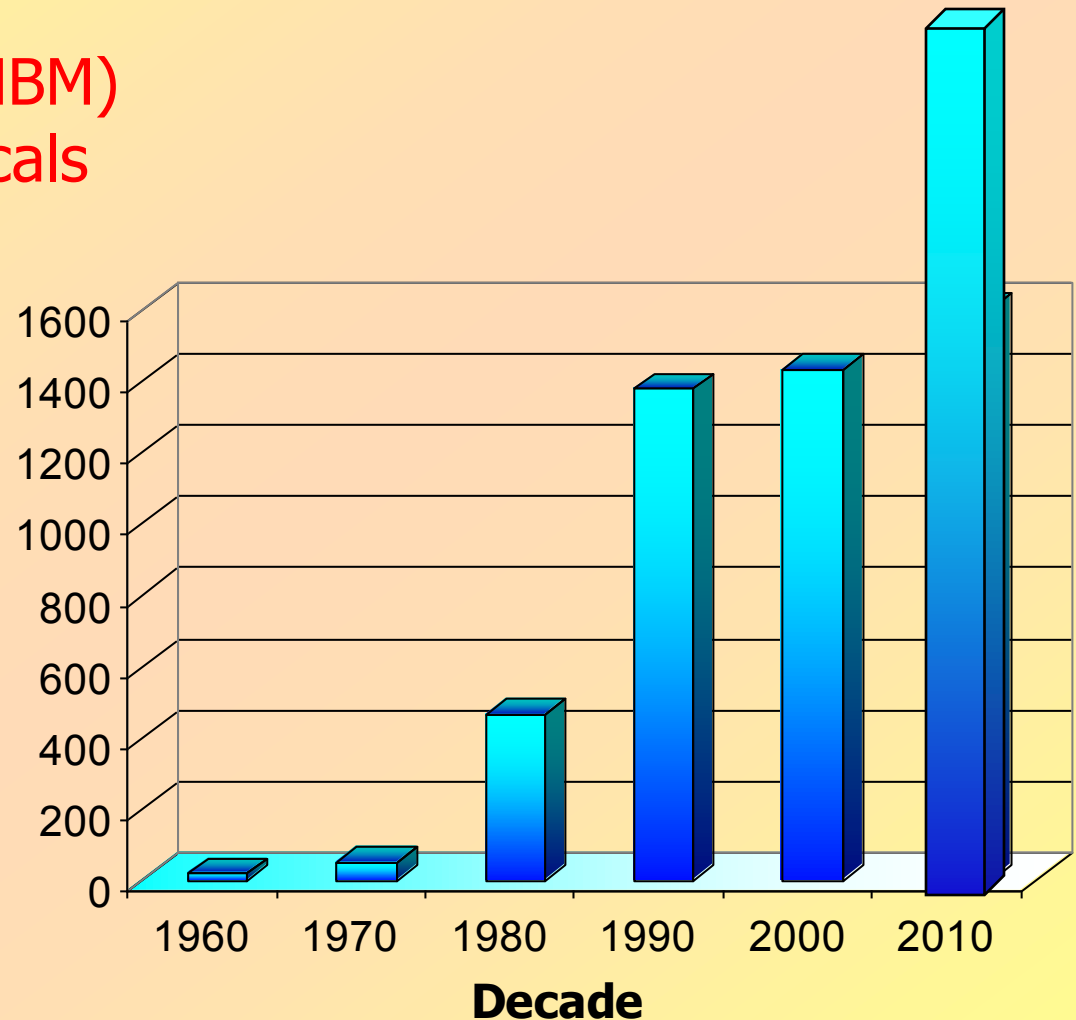
Biomarcatore di suscettibilità: indicatore di condizione congenita o acquisita che predispone agli effetti indesiderati degli agenti chimici e/o concorre a determinare la dose interna dell'inquinante

Biomarcatore di effetto: alterazione biochimica o funzionale misurabile, che in funzione della sua entità, può indicare un potenziale rischio per la salute o una malattia

Human Biomonitoring (HBM) of Environmental Chemicals

Measuring chemicals in human tissues is the “gold standard” for assessing people’s exposure to pollution

Ken Sexton, Larry L. Needham and James L. Pirkle, in American Scientist, February 2004, www.americanscientist.org



da: Needham et al, 2007. Uses and issues of biomonitoring. Int. J. Environ. Health 210, 229-238

News Focus

Biomonitoring is charting the public's exposure to many chemicals, but often the health effects are unclear

Pollution Gets Personal

After the World Trade Center towers collapsed on 11 September 2001, the world was gripped by the search for survivors. Researchers at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) raced to address an additional concern: the exposure of rescuers to potentially toxic smoke from the rubble. They took blood and urine samples from 370 firefighters, including those digging through the rubble at Ground Zero and those putting out nearby fires. After examining the samples for dioxins, cyanide, and 100 other chemicals associated with burning buildings, they determined that the rescuers had not been exposed to dangerous levels. Although the team couldn't rule out all possible health effects, James Pirkle, deputy director for science at CDC's Environmental Health Laboratory, says the fast tests were "a huge help," eliminating the need for a lot of further studies.

What made the rapid findings possible were tremendous advances in methods of sampling human tissue for chemicals, called biomonitoring. Over the past decade, analytical techniques have improved so much that researchers can detect ever smaller concentrations of chemicals in a single blood sample. The largest effort is CDC's National Report on Human Exposure to Environmental Chemicals, an ongoing \$6.5 million survey that is now measuring about 145 chemicals in some 2500 people across the United States every 2 years. "It's critically important early intelligence about compounds that are getting into people," says Philip Landrigan of Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York City.

Biomonitoring is hot. With lab costs down, environmental groups are commissioning their own analyses of chemical exposures. Last year, the Environmental Working Group (EWG) in Washington, D.C., released a report entitled *Body Burden: The Pollution in People* that examined the levels

of 210 chemicals in nine people. In April, the World Wildlife Federation tested for 101 compounds in 39 members of the European Parliament. The impetus is clear: Such studies can generate headlines and political



Clearing the smoke. Rapid sampling of rescuers alleviated some health concerns.

leverage. As a result of biomonitoring data, "we'll see sweeping changes in our system of public health safeguards," predicts Jane Houlihan, EWG's vice president of research.

But although biomonitoring can provide reams of statistics about the chemicals people are exposed to, it can't necessarily indicate whether such exposures are likely to make them sick. So while environmentalists herald biomonitoring as a valuable tool for precautionary action, chemical manufacturers worry that it will spark unjustified alarm and costly regulations that may not provide much real benefit to public health. "Industry sees a movement toward collecting a lot of biomonitoring data prematurely, before we know what to do with it," says Nancy Doerr, scientific program manager at ILSI Health and Environmental Sciences Institute, an industry-funded group in Washington, D.C. What's becoming ever more obvious, researchers say, is a growing data gap: Although testing for a chemical can take just a few days, discerning its impact on health takes years, says Landrigan. "It's a real conundrum."

Going public

Public health researchers have long studied worker exposure to chemicals. Such testing was key in figuring out the toxicity of PCBs and dioxins, for example. But measurements

of actual exposures among, say, chemical plant workers don't translate easily to the average person, who encounters small concentrations through food, air, or skin.

Enter CDC, which in 1976 first looked at blood and urine samples of the general population and checked for environmental chemicals, including lead and a handful of pesticides. Examining the public for chemical exposure was "a fundamental change in mindset," says Joseph Thornton, a molecular biologist at the University of Oregon, Eugene. The same point is

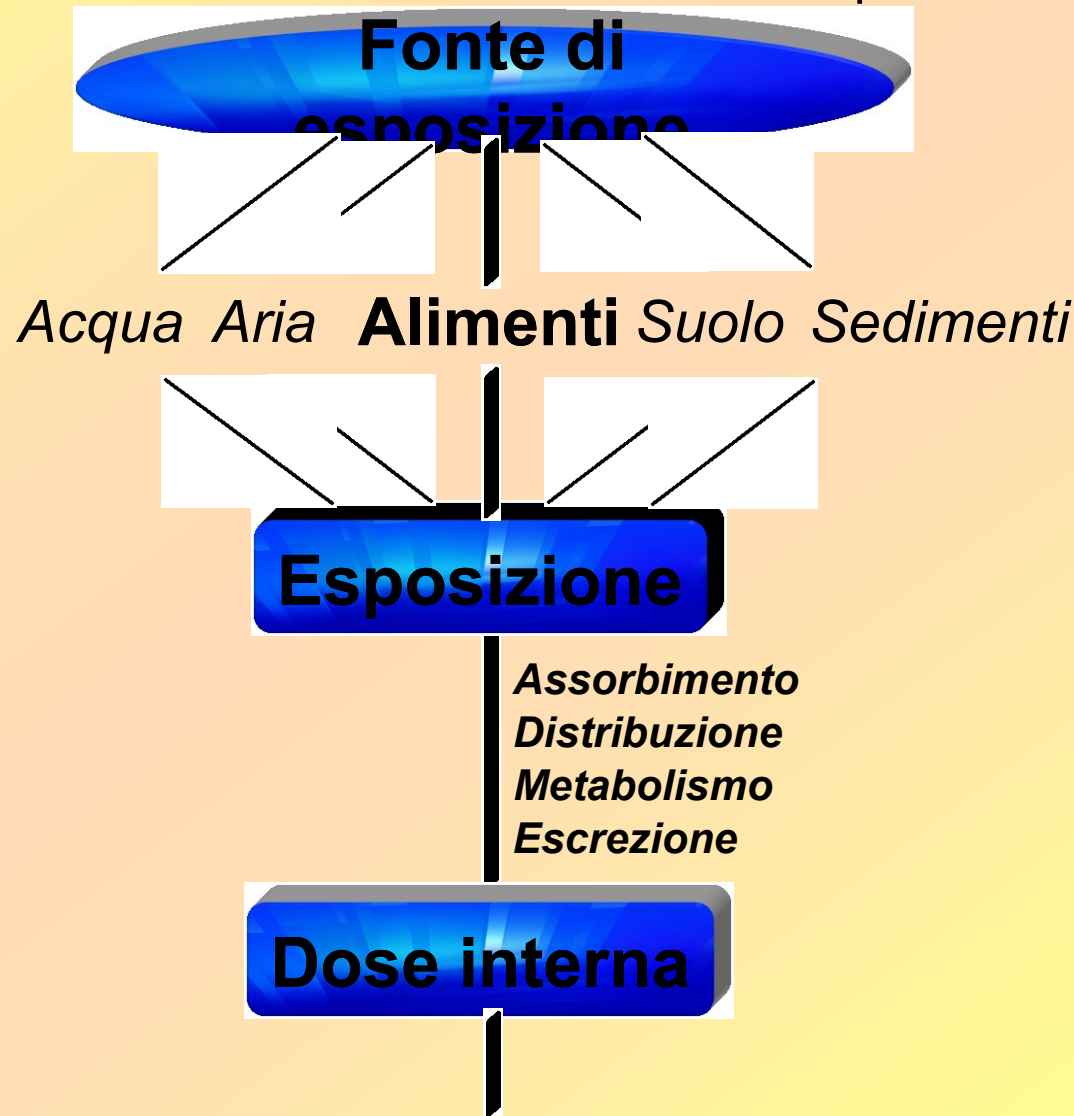
hammered by environmental groups: Everyone is exposed to chemicals.

CDC's small testing program was massively expanded in the late 1990s to become the world's largest survey of chemical exposure among the general public. As part of the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES), CDC's biomonitoring results provide a guide to typical exposure to chemicals that pose a known or possible threat to health. Many are pesticides; others are ingredients in cosmetics, plastics, and other components of everyday life. Says Arnold Schechter of the University of Texas School of Public Health in Dallas: "CDC is providing a very careful look at the U.S., a nice snapshot."

Biomonitoring's strong suit is that it directly measures the amount of a chemical in bodily fluids or tissues. Those exposure data are much more relevant for risk assessments than are extrapolations from chemical concentrations in soil, air, or water. What you really want to know is not whether asbestos is in the walls but whether it's in your lungs, says

Downloaded from www.sciencemag.org on October 11, 2010

Il biomonitoraggio umano (HBM) misura la **dose interna** di un inquinante, derivante da tutte le fonti e vie di esposizione



Il biomonitoraggio degli inquinanti organici persistenti: i vantaggi

E' una **misura** delle dose interna vs/ la **stima** dell'esposizione che si ottiene dall'analisi di matrici alimentari e ambientali

Fornisce l'informazione più affidabile da utilizzare per la valutazione del rischio tossicologico



Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)

“Chemical substances that persist in the environment, bioaccumulate through food web, and pose a risk of causing adverse effects to human health and the environment”

<http://www.chem.unep.ch/pops/>

Il biomonitoraggio di POP: gli elementi critici

Ha bassa specificità nei confronti di fonte di esposizione, e periodo e durata dell'esposizione

La dose interna riflette un'esposizione aggregata di anni, un'eventuale esposizione occupazionale, stili di vita, etc...

***Il disegno di uno studio di biomonitoraggio:
gli elementi di base***

Aree

(aree a diversa tipologia espositiva: aree a possibile esposizione incrementale /vs aree a esposizione di "background")

Numero individui per area

(significatività statistica)

Caratteristiche degli individui

(sesso, età, residenza)

Materiale informativo

(descrizione studio e suo significato, modalità comunicazione risultati)

**Materiale per
interpretazione dati**
(questionari)

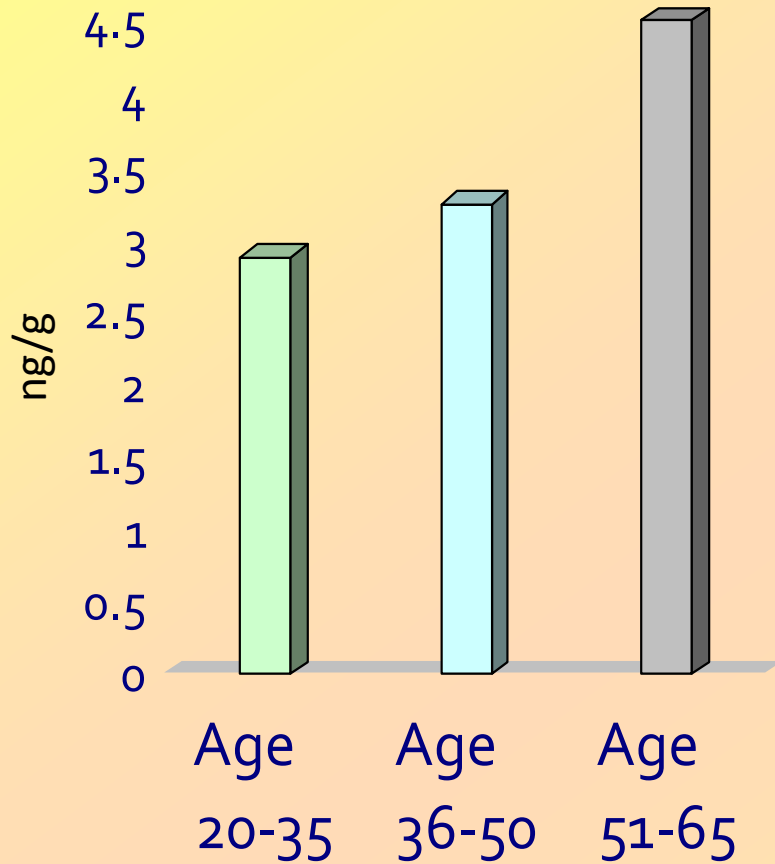
Il disegno di uno studio di biomonitoraggio

Raccomandazioni EU per il disegno di uno studio di biomonitoraggio

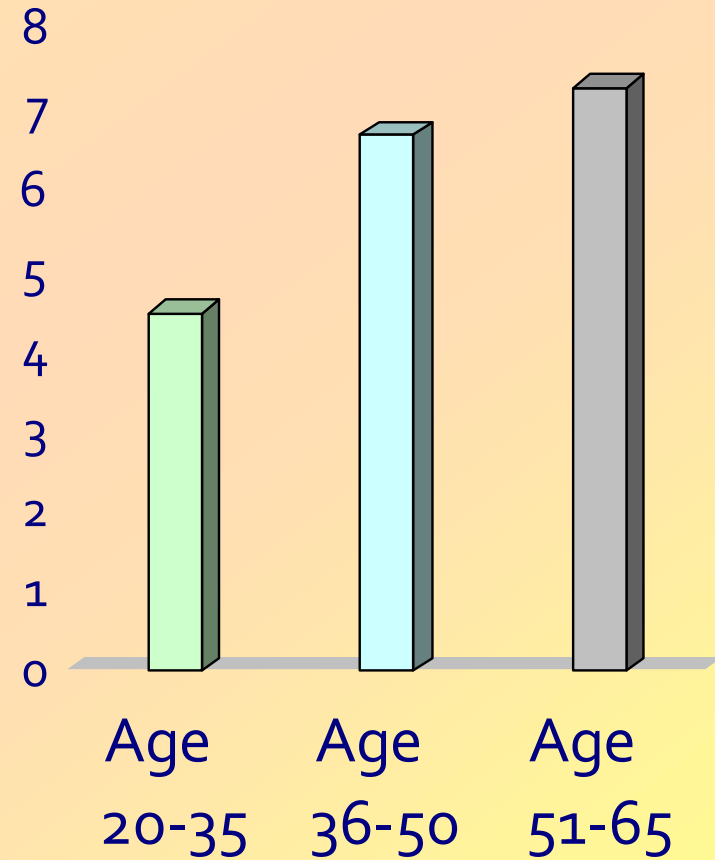
- Disegno campionario (approccio bifocale o gradiente di esposizione)
- Utilizzo di stessa metodologia analitica (stesso laboratorio)
—————→ COMPARABILITA' DEI DATI
- Utilizzo di stesso materiale per arruolamento e comunicazione (questionari, moduli consenso, etc,.)

Variabilità delle concentrazioni di PFOS e PFOA nel siero: età

PFOA



PFOS



Ingelido et al., Chemosphere 80 (2010), 1125-1130

- **Dati sociodemografici**
(età, BMI, stato civile, residenza, etc.)
- **Variabili che possono influenzare i livelli di inquinante**
(esposizione occupazionale, distanza da fonti di contaminazione, abitudini alimentari con particolare attenzione ai prodotti di produzione locale o propria, presenza di fonti di esposizione indoor)



Project LIFE08 ENV/IT/000423 "WOMENBIOPOP"
Linking Environment and Health: a Country-based Human Biomonitoring
Study on Persistent Organic Pollutants in Women of Reproductive Age



ANNEX 2.2

Questionario

INSERIRE CODICE

Data (gg,mm,aa): _ _ | _ _ | _ _ |

Luogo dell'intervista: _____ Provincia: _____

Intervistatore: _____

Codice regionale: _ _ _ _

Ha mai allattato? NO SI
Se sì non proseguire

Risiede nel suo comune da meno di 10 anni? NO SI
Se sì, non proseguire

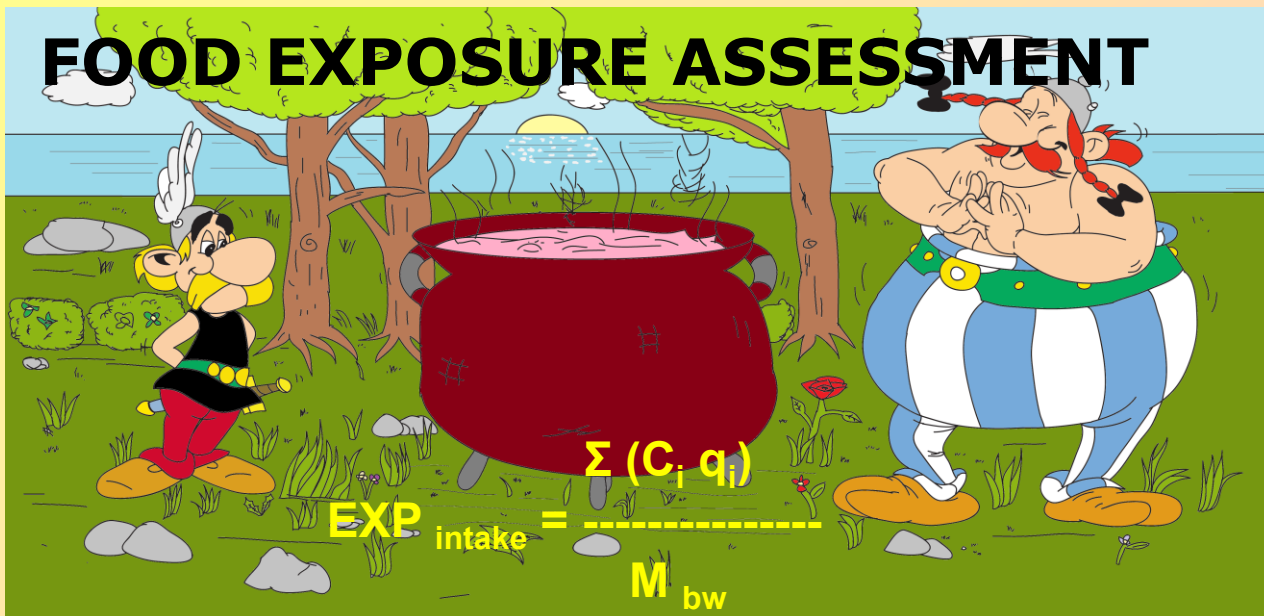
Ha un'età compresa tra 20 e 40 anni? NO SI
Se no, non proseguire

ESPOSIZIONE

- Ingestione di alimenti
La dieta rappresenta la principale via di esposizione: il pesce e i prodotti della pesca sono in genere le categorie alimentari che più contribuiscono all'*intake*
- Inalazione (di materiale contaminato, es. polvere)
La polvere domestica, tappeti e capi di vestiario trattati con materiali idrorepellenti possono contribuire in misura non trascurabile (fino a circa il 40 % nei casi più "estremi") all'esposizione totale

FOOD EXPOSURE ASSESSMENT

perfood



**What food items are really consumed ?
What is their origin and provenience ?
What is their associated contamination
after cooking/processing/packaging?
What is their amount in the diet ?
What is the consumer's body weight ?**

**low contaminated x highly consumed food
=
highly contaminated x low consumed food**

**Need to have analytical data on concentration levels, and
to administer complex and detailed questionnaires**

by courtesy of Gianfranco Brambilla, ISS



Low mileage food produced/caught in the surrounding of the village is sold/consumed by the community



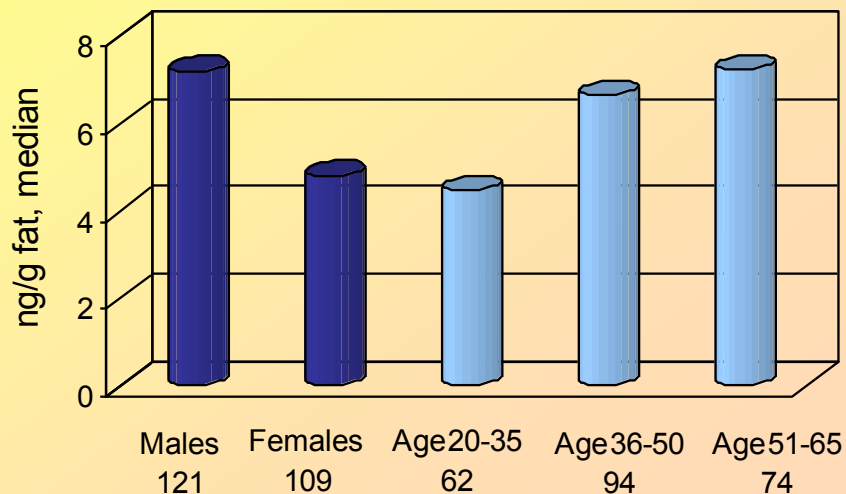
Residents may be exposed in a prolonged way to local food whose contamination reflects the quality of the environment

by courtesy of Gianfranco Brambilla, ISS

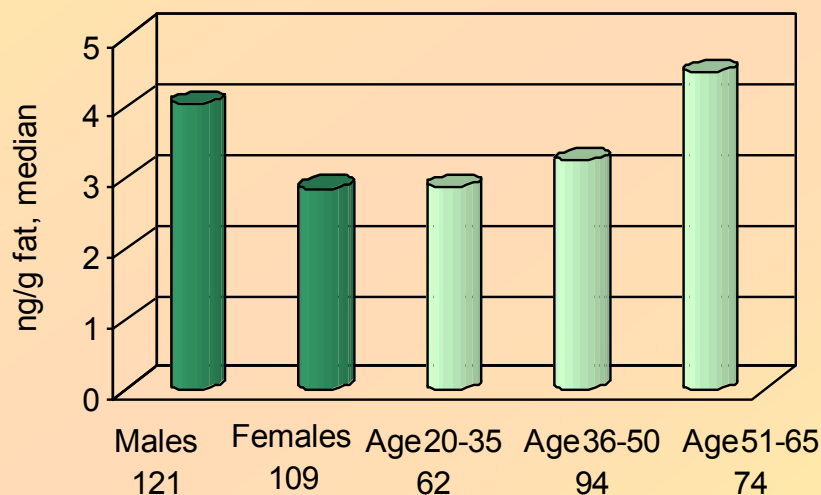
Concentrazioni ematiche di PFOS e PFOA in gruppi della popolazione generale italiana

ISS - Ministero dell'Ambiente, 2010

PFOS



PFOA



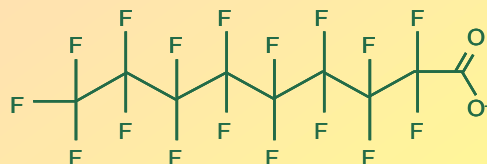
Characteristic of subjects N Median Geometric mean Mean (SD)

PFOS

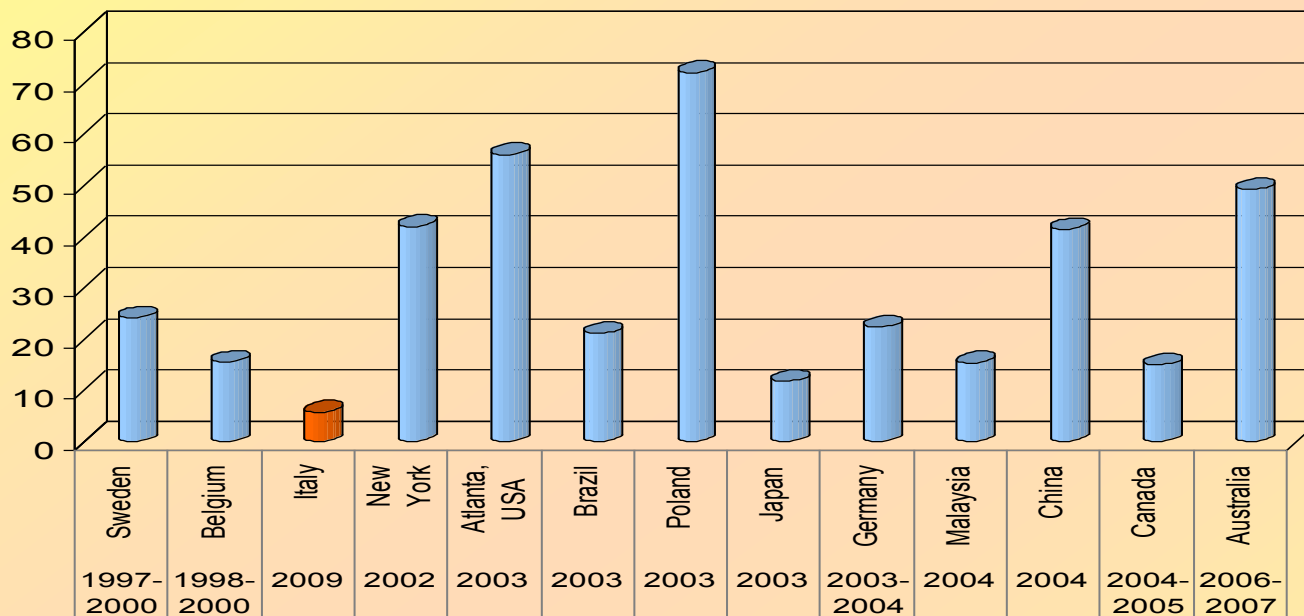
All	230	6.31	5.77	6.86 (3.93)
Males	121	7.21	7.32	8.06 (3.58)
Females	109	4.82	4.43	5.53 (3.89)
Age 20-35	62	4.46	4.05	5.13 (3.4)
Age 36-50	94	6.67	5.84	6.63 (3.15)
Age 51-65	74	7.25	7.62	8.61 (4.53)

PFOA

All	230	3.59	3.32	4.15 (3.79)
Males	121	4.05	3.64	4.72 (4.80)
Females	109	2.85	3.00	3.52 (2.03)
Age 20-35	62	2.87	2.82	3.34 (1.81)
Age 36-50	94	3.24	2.85	3.57 (1.95)
Age 51-65	74	4.50	4.61	5.56 (5.87)



Concentrazioni di PFOS in gruppi della popolazione generale in diversi Paesi industrializzati



Perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS), perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and their salts
Scientific Opinion of the Panel on Contaminants in the Food chain
The EFSA Journal (2008) 653, 1-131

Esposizione alimentare per la popolazione generale Italiana

PFOS

- **Consumi medi**

0.17–0.24 ng/kg bw per giorno

- **Alti consumi (95 percentile)**

0.52–0.74 ng/kg bw per giorno

PFOA

- **Consumi medi**

0.14–0.28 ng/kg bw per giorno

- **Alti consumi (95 percentile)**

0.48–0.79 ng/kg bw per giorno

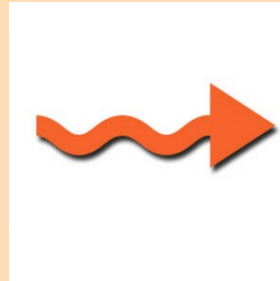
Adulti (18–64 anni)

- **Consumi medi**

0.1–0.2 % del TDI (150 ng/kg bw per day)

- **Alti consumi (95 percentile)**

0.3–0.5 % del TDI



- **Consumi medi**

0.01–0.02 % del TDI (1500 ng/kg bw per day)

- **Alti consumi (95 percentile)**

0.03–0.05 % del TDI

(Klenow et al., Food Additives and Contaminants: Part A, 30:9, 2013)

Il biomonitoraggio di POP: gli elementi critici

La capacità di ottenere dati di HBM è in genere molto superiore a quella di comprenderne il significato in termini tossicologici

L'interpretazione dei dati di biomonitoraggio



"The ability to generate new biomonitoring data often exceeds the ability to evaluate whether and how a chemical measured in an individual or population may cause a health risk or to evaluate its sources and pathways of exposure"

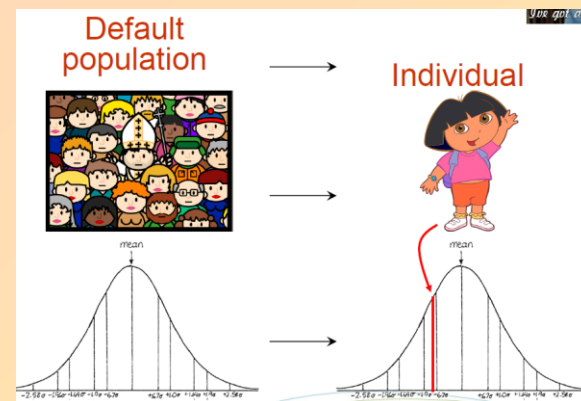
Scientists, policy-makers, and the public are just beginning to grasp the tremendous ethical and communication challenges that the biomonitoring data are creating".

***Committee on HBM for Environmental Toxicants,
National Research Council of the National Academics, 2006***

A quale rischio sono associati i livelli osservati?

Confronto con gli *Health based guidance values* (WHO guidance values, German HBM Commission, Biomonitoring Equivalents)

Confronto con i valori di *occurrence* (distribuzione di valori osservati per Paese, anno, sesso, fascia di età, etc.)

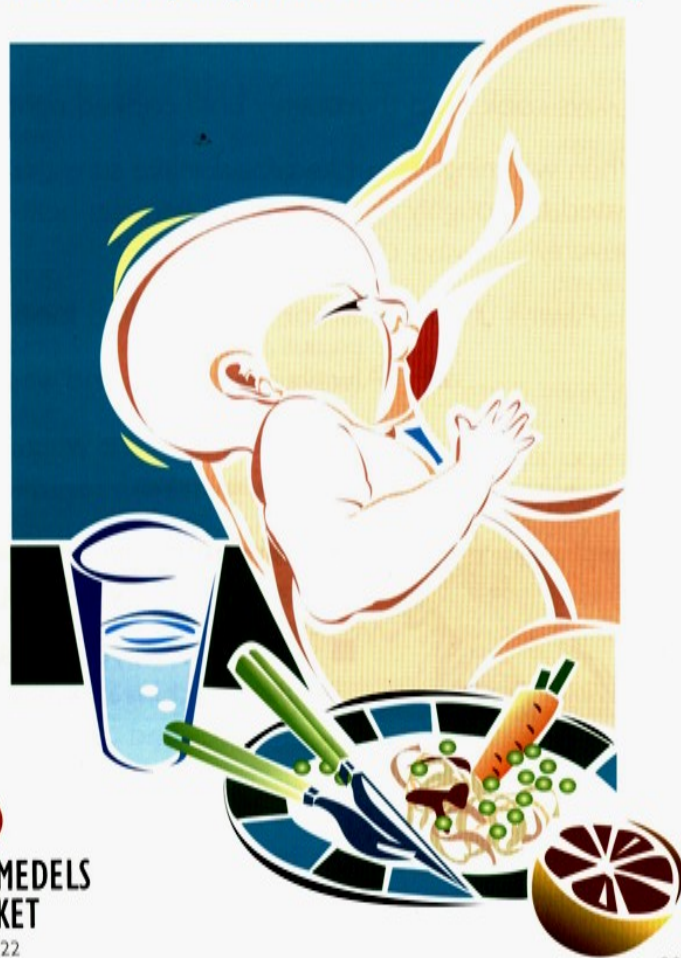


Individuazione di azioni su ambiente/alimenti

Definizione di azioni di sorveglianza sanitaria

Food for two

Sensible advice for women
who are pregnant or breast-feeding



LIVSMEDELS
VERKET

Box 622
751 26 Uppsala

2003

Fish & shellfish

In general, fish is good for you. But some fish can contain harmful pollutants or bacteria and should be avoided. The following guide tells you how often you can eat different types of fish:

As often as you like	Once a month but not more ¹	Never ²
Fish from the open sea, e.g. haddock, hake, mackerel, coalfish, cod, whiting Fish-balls, fish-fingers, pickled herring Caviar Salmon ³ , West Coast, Pacific Whitefish roe, pre-packed Farmed fish, e.g. rainbow trout Char ³ Smoked fish (freshly-smoked) ^{3,4} Whitefish Herring ³ , West Coast Shellfish, boiled, e.g. crab, crayfish, lobster, prawns Plaice Trout ³	Wild salmon from the Baltic Sea, the Gulf of Bothnia, Lake Vänern and Lake Vättern Wild char from Lake Vättern Herring/Baltic herring/ fermented Baltic herring from the Baltic Sea and the Gulf of Bothnia Wild brown trout from the Baltic Sea, the Gulf of Bothnia, Lake Vänern and Lake Vättern	Perch Cured fish, e.g. gravlax (unless freshly-cured) Pike Pike-perch Shark Burbot Burbot liver Skate Shellfish, raw, e.g. oysters Large halibut Cod liver Swordfish Tuna, fresh/frozen Eel



¹ Applies to women of childbearing age and girls.

² Also applies to women who are planning pregnancy.

³ Unless the fish comes from waters/species mentioned in the columns to the right.

⁴ Breastfeeding women can eat cured/smoked fish.

Il biomonitoraggio di POP: gli elementi critici

La percezione del rischio associata a dati di HBM è spesso di gran lunga superiore al rischio stesso: essere "contaminati" non vuol necessariamente dire essere a rischio

Without context, biomonitoring data can be misconstrued.

Centers for Disease Control (CDC): *"Just because people have an environmental chemical in their blood or urine does not mean that the chemical causes disease. The toxicity of a chemical is related to its dose or concentration. Small amounts may be of no health consequence, whereas larger amounts may cause disease."*

Il problema della corretta interpretazione dei dati di biomonitoraggio: il rischio e la “percezione del rischio”

L'allattamento materno

Ravenna, maggio 2012: “Nel latte materno sono stati rilevati 19,6 picogrammi di diossine per grammo di grasso, quando la soglia oltre la quale un prodotto viene ritirato è 5”.

Forlì, marzo 2012: “...agli studi condotti sul latte materno l'Italia non ha mai partecipato, e quindi le conoscenze disponibili al riguardo sono scarse o pressoché nulle, e spesso condotte per iniziative spontanee...

???





Project LIFE08 WOMENBIOPOP
“Linking Environment and Health: a Country-
based Human Biomonitoring Study on
Persistent Organic Pollutants in Women of
Reproductive Age”

Studio sull'esposizione ad inquinanti persistenti di origine ambientale (tra cui diossine e PCB) di **donne in età riproduttiva (nullipare tra 20 e 40 anni)** in 6 regioni italiane tra cui la Puglia.

Puglia: 43 donne a Taranto, e 42 donne a Laterza.

Taranto, 16 gennaio 2013
Presentazione dei risultati del Progetto
"WOMENBIOPOP"

Taranto, 17 gennaio 2013
I commenti sulla stampa



INQUINAMENTO 2 *I rilievi di Alessandro Marescotti, presidente di Peacelink*

«Vanno esaminate le donne anziane»

Corriere del Giorno, 17 gennaio 2013



Challenges for communication

- How to deal with the 'right to know' of the study participants when the links with health risks, especially at the individual level, are not well defined?
- How to feed public debate/raise awareness, without raising unnecessary alarm?
- How to report (uncertainty) to the relevant authorities?
- How to translate results into action?

*(by courtesy of Ludwine Casteleyn, second Workshop
"Womenbiopop" Project, Rome 20-21 May, 2013)*

La comunicazione

All'inizio dello studio

Distribuzione di materiale informativo ai partecipanti con chiara individuazione dei presupposti dello studio, dei suoi obiettivi, del "che cosa" e "perché" verrà determinato (***biomarcatori di esposizione, biomarcatori di suscettibilità***)

Presentazione dello studio alla comunità (comunicati ASL, incontri, etc.)



A conclusione dello studio

Consegna dei risultati individuali ai partecipanti

Comunicazione dei risultati dello studio alla comunità (incontri pubblici)

**Tutti i soggetti interessati (autorità politiche, NGO, comitati etc.)
devono essere coinvolti**



In conclusione...

Il biomonitoraggio è uno strumento ad elevata sensibilità ed accuratezza per il rilevamento dell'esposizione (ed eventuali "sovragesposizioni" della popolazione.

Gli obiettivi della sua applicazione, e i limiti interpretativi dei dati da esso prodotti devono essere definiti chiaramente all'inizio di uno studio.

Gli studi di biomonitoraggio devono essere affiancati da studi di monitoraggio alimentare per una corretta interpretazione dei livelli di dose interna osservati e per l'elaborazione di eventuali *food safety advisories*.



*Reparto di Chimica Tossicologica,
DAMPP, ISS*

Grazie per l'attenzione!