

# Outdoor air and (non-combustion) appliances as sources of indoor particulate matter (PM)

---

Brent Stephens, PhD

Assistant Professor

Civil, Architectural and Environmental Engineering



---

## The Built Environment Research Group

advancing energy, environmental, and sustainability  
research within the built environment  
at Illinois Institute of Technology



**web** [www.built-envi.com](http://www.built-envi.com) **email** [brent@iit.edu](mailto:brent@iit.edu) **twitter** @built\_envi

Indoor exposures to outdoor PM

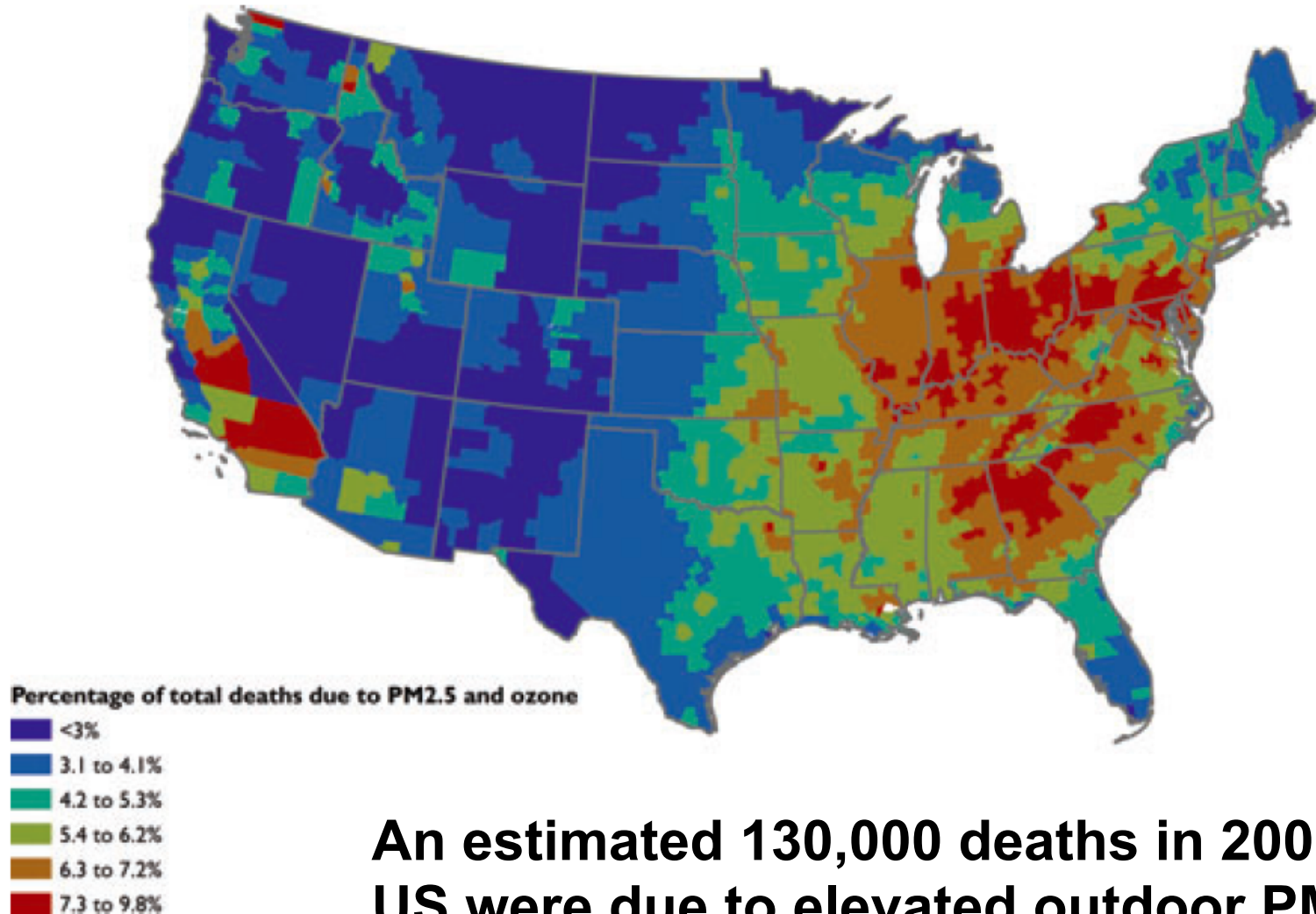
## **WHAT WE KNOW**

# Outdoor PM and adverse health effects

---

- Documented health effects include:
  - Stroke
  - Heart disease
  - Lung cancer
  - Chronic and acute respiratory diseases (including asthma)
  - Lung function
  - Mortality
- Measures of PM (some causal, some suggestive):
  - PM<sub>10</sub>
  - PM<sub>2.5</sub>
  - Ultrafine particles (UFPs, less than 100 nm)
  - Various chemical components of PM

# Outdoor PM<sub>2.5</sub> and mortality



**An estimated 130,000 deaths in 2005 in the US were due to elevated outdoor PM<sub>2.5</sub>**

# Indoor exposures to outdoor PM

---

- We spend most of our time indoors
  - Nearly 90% of the time, on average (~70% at home)
- Outdoor PM enters into buildings with varying efficiencies
  - Outdoor PM becomes indoor PM
- Human exposure to outdoor PM often occurs indoors
  - And often at home

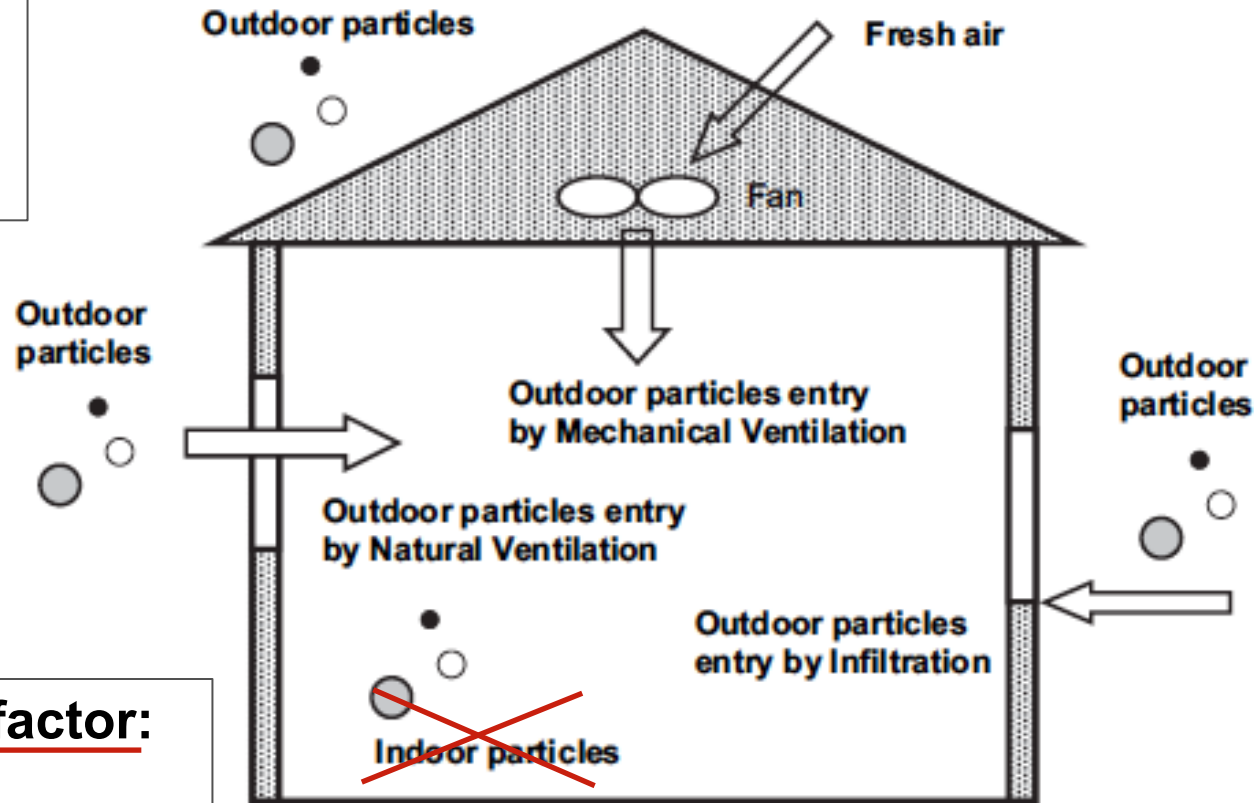
Klepeis et al., **2001** *J Exp Anal Environ Epidem*

Meng et al., **2005** *J Expo Anal Environ Epidem*; Kearney et al., **2010** *Atmos Environ*;  
Wallace and Ott **2011** *J Expo Sci Environ Epidem*; MacNeill et al. **2012** *Atmos Environ*;  
MacNeill et al. **2014** *Indoor Air*

# Indoor sources of outdoor PM and key definitions

I/O ratio:

$$I / O = \frac{C_{in}}{C_{out}}$$



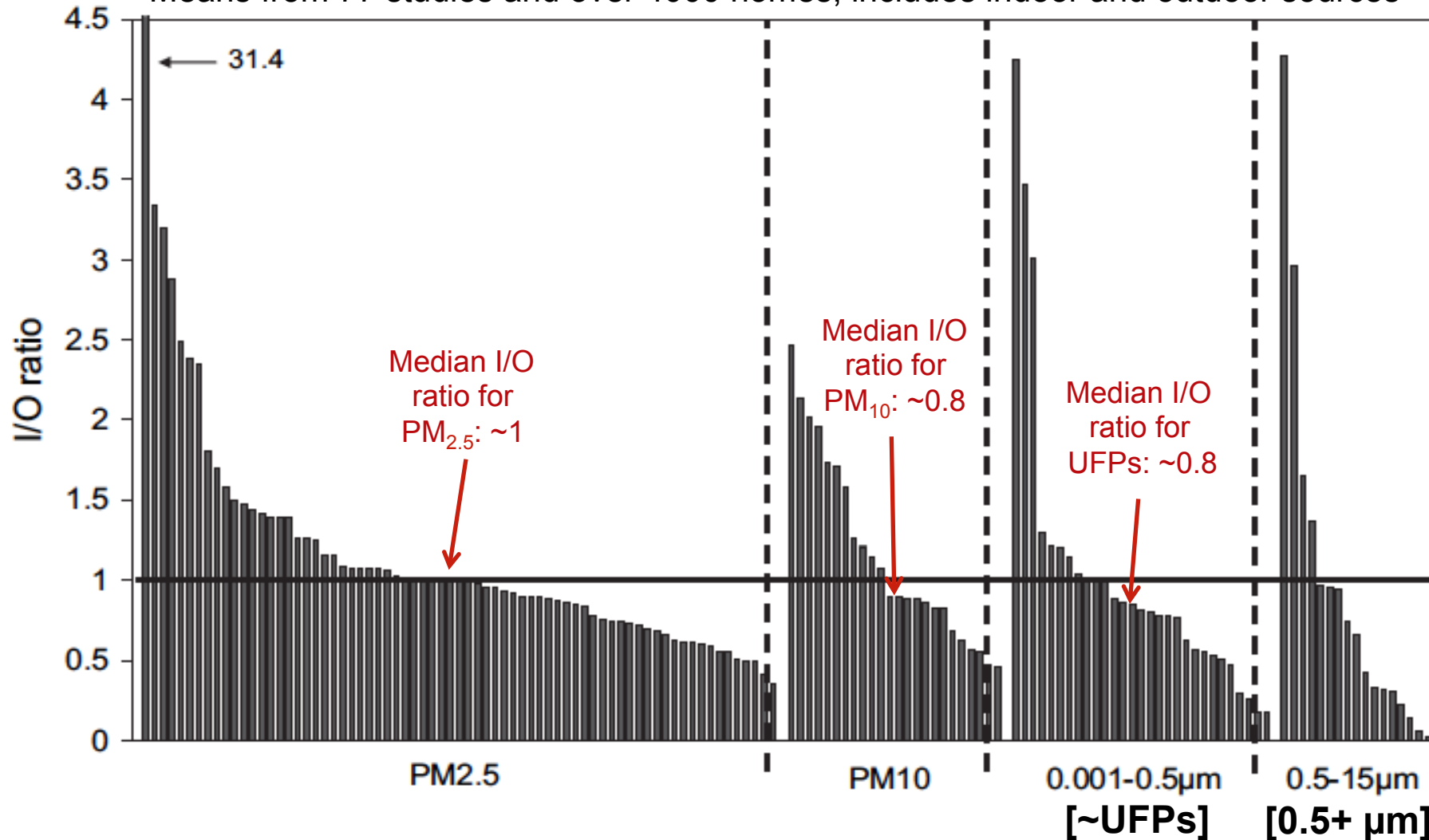
Infiltration factor:

$$F_{inf} = \frac{C_{in}}{C_{out}} \Big|_{no\ indoor\ sources}$$

Chen and Zhao, 2011 *Atmos Environ*

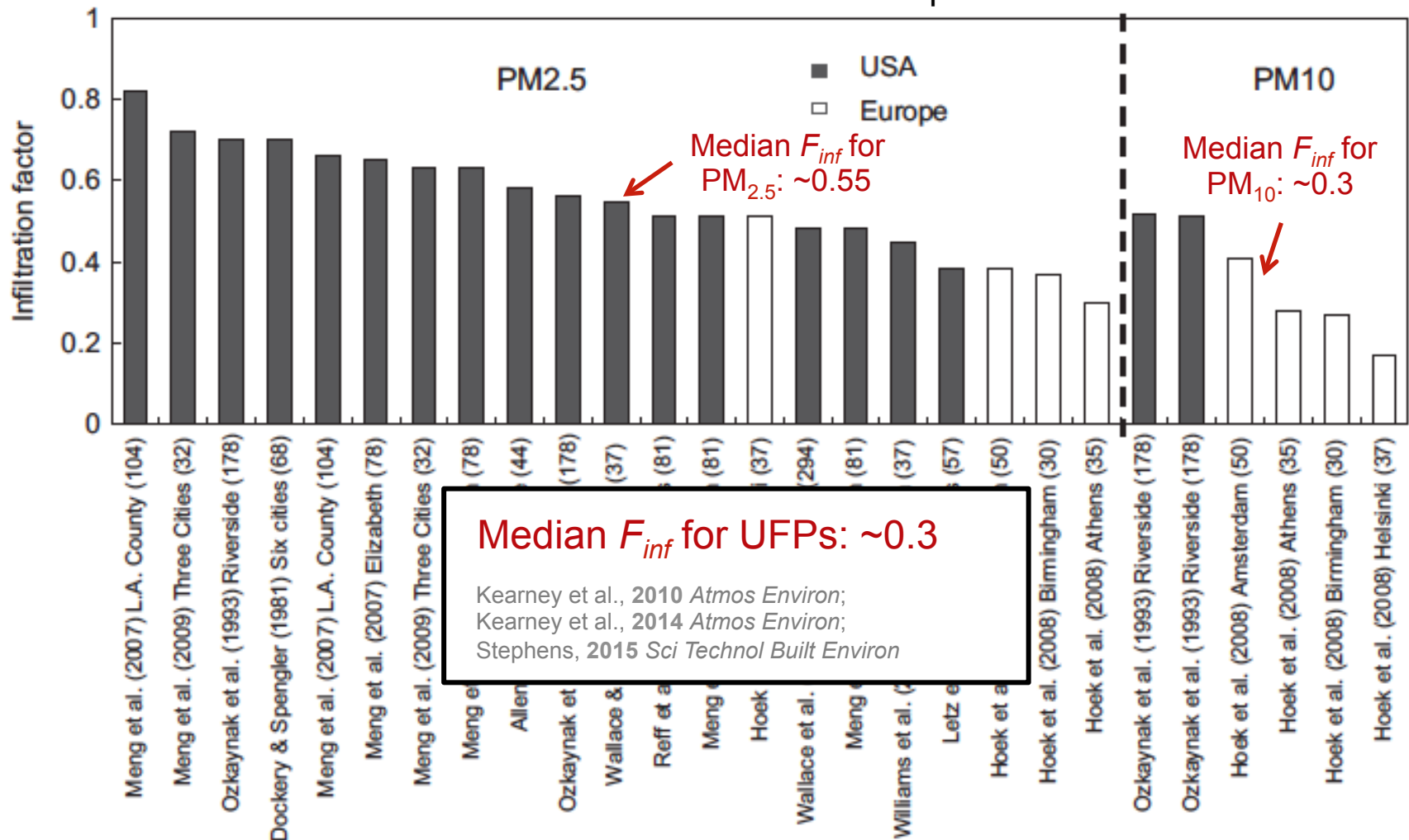
# I/O PM ratios: Indoor + outdoor sources

Means from 77 studies and over 4000 homes; includes indoor and outdoor sources



# Infiltration factors: Outdoor PM sources only

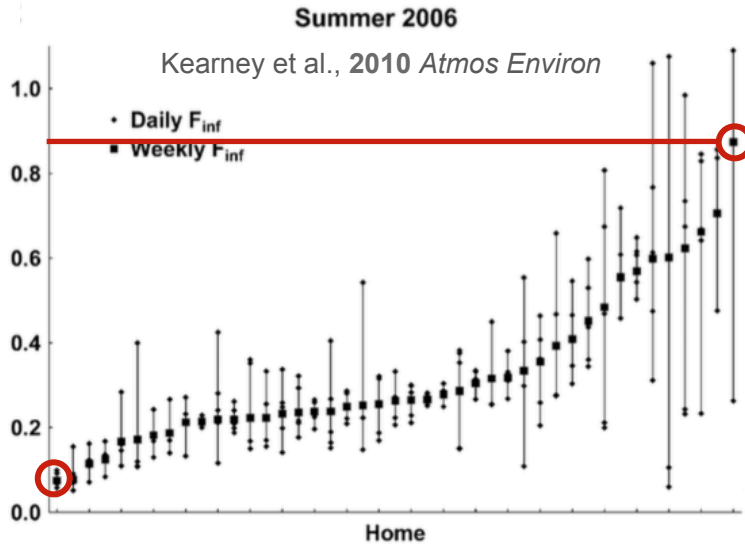
Means from 21 samples of over 20 homes (includes only outdoor PM infiltration)  
Total # of homes: ~1000 in the U.S. & ~150 in Europe



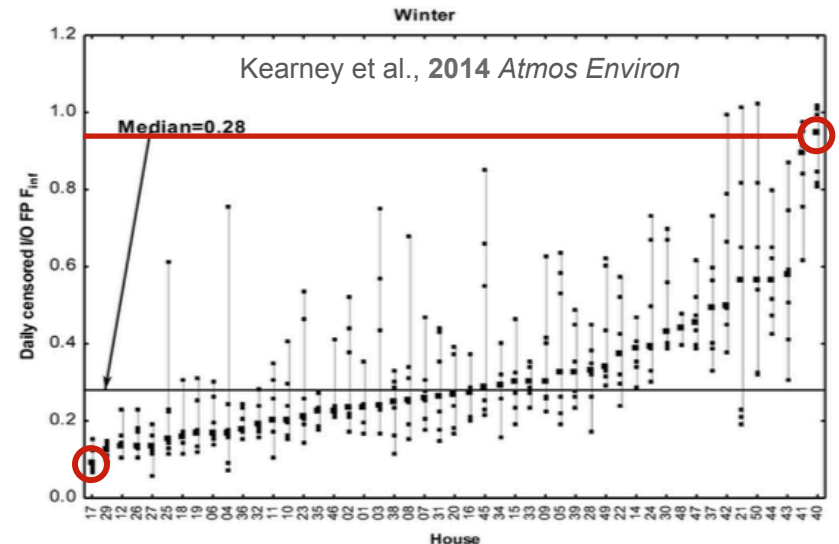


# Variability in infiltration factors

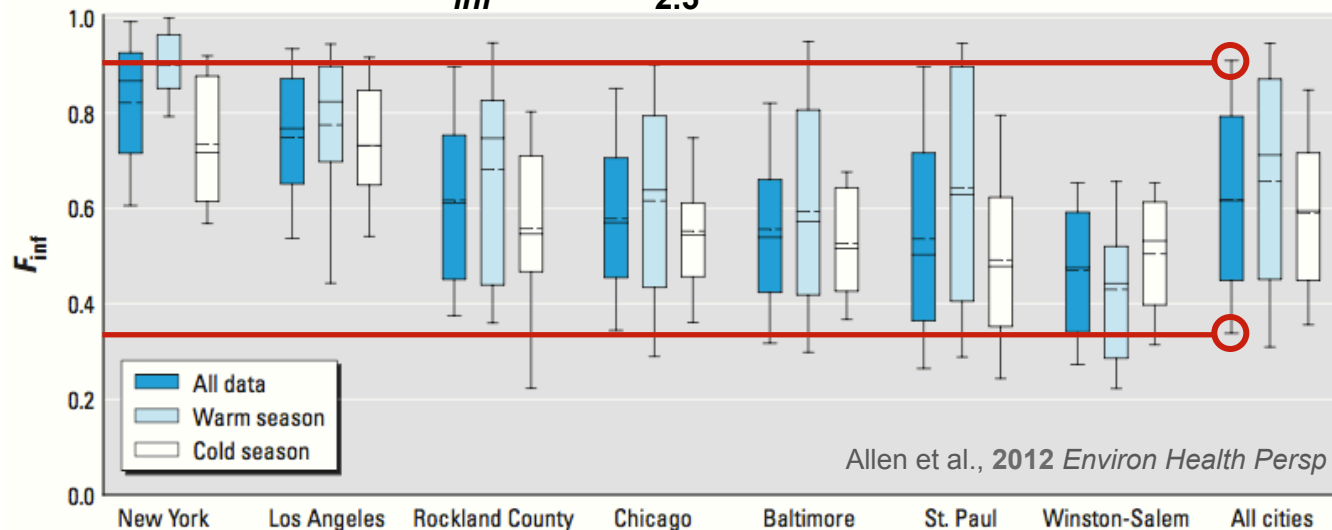
## $F_{inf}$ for UFPs in Windsor, ON



## $F_{inf}$ for $PM_{2.5}$ in Edmonton, AB



## $F_{inf}$ for $PM_{2.5}$ in 7 U.S. cities



**Between-home variations:**  
 $0.1 < F_{inf} < 1$

Allen et al., 2012 *Environ Health Persp*

# Key drivers of variability in infiltration factors

---

- Source of ventilation air
  - Infiltration (leaks)
  - Mechanical ventilation
  - Natural ventilation
- Human behaviors (e.g., window opening frequencies)
- Magnitude of the air exchange rate (AER)
  - Meteorological conditions
- Sizes/classes/components of PM
- Building characteristics (e.g., airtightness)
- HVAC system design and operation

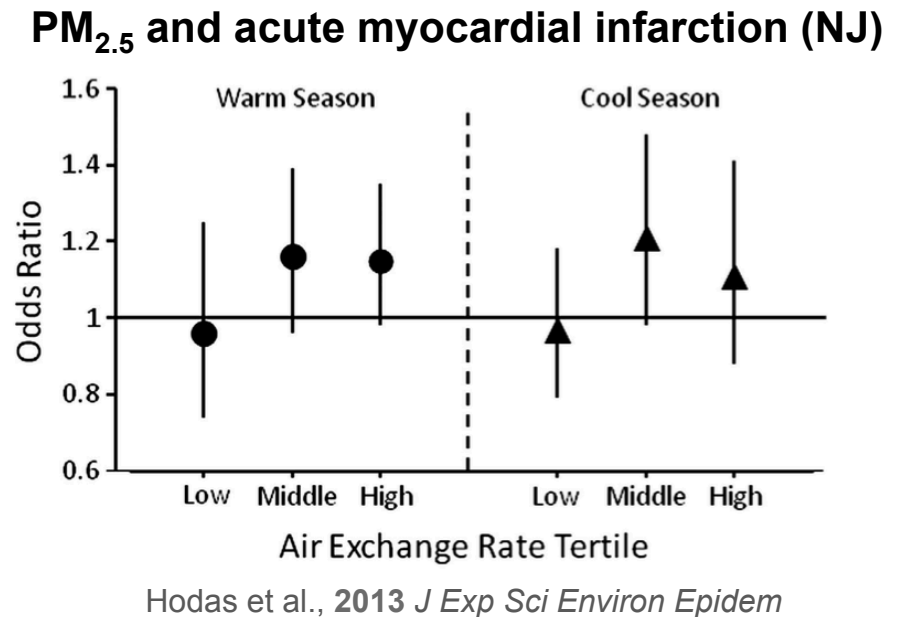
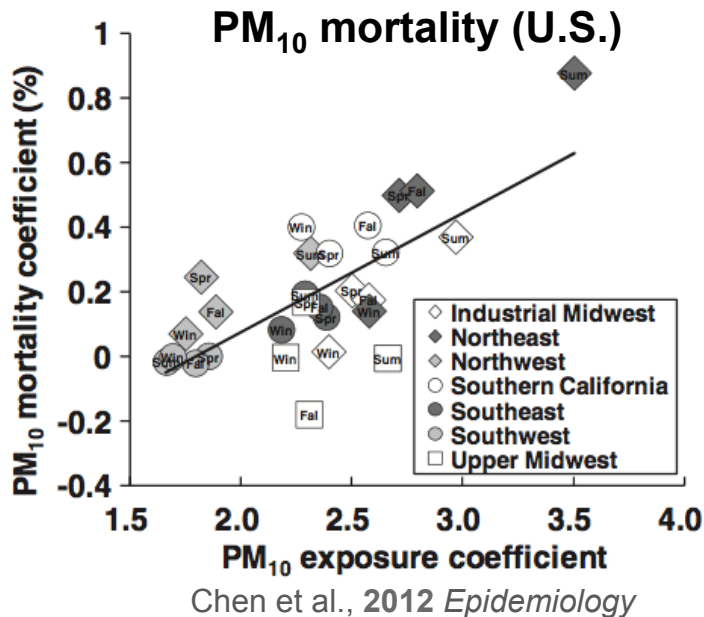
Indoor exposures to outdoor PM

## **WHAT WE DO NOT KNOW**

Or what do we know *less* about?

# How does variability in $F_{inf}$ contribute to effect estimates?

## Accounting for variations in AERs and window opening



## PM<sub>2.5</sub> and ER visits (ATL)

	Low AER ( $< 0.227 \text{ hr}^{-1}$ )	Moderate AER ( $0.228 - 0.308 \text{ hr}^{-1}$ )	High AER ( $> 0.309 \text{ hr}^{-1}$ )
High PM <sub>2.5</sub> ( $> 19.2 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ )	1.056 (1.019 – 1.095)	1.018 (0.977 – 1.060)	1.021 (0.981 – 1.063)
Moderate PM <sub>2.5</sub> ( $13.4 - 19.1 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ )	1.031 (0.995 – 1.068)	1.040 (1.003 – 1.079)	1.043 (1.005 – 1.083)
Low PM <sub>2.5</sub> ( $< 13.3 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ )	1.000 (NA)	1.022 (0.986 – 1.059)	1.044 (1.009 – 1.081)

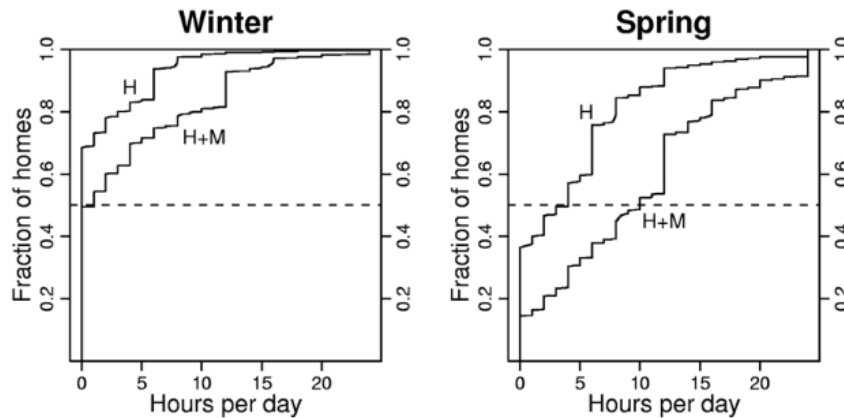
Sarnat et al., 2013 *J Exp Sci Environ Epidemi*

# Window opening frequencies and impact on AER

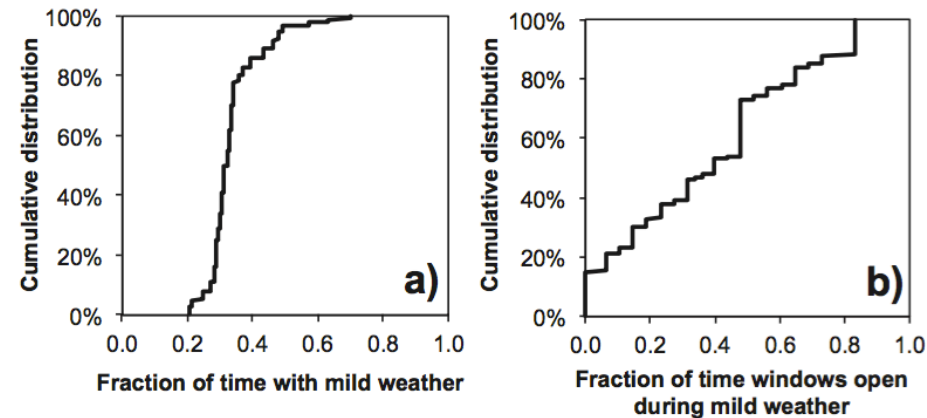
## Determining the frequency of open windows in residences: a pilot study in Durham, North Carolina during varying temperature conditions

Category	Classification	Number of surveyed residences	Percentage of total surveyed residences	Percent of surveyed residences with one or more open windows or doors		
				Visit A	Visit B	Weighted average
Housing type	Detached one story	521	47.4	30.5	31.1	30.8
	Detached multistory	351	31.9	26.8	27.1	27.0
	Detached split level	83	7.5	22.9	32.5	27.7

Johnson and Long, 2005 *J Expo Anal Environ Epidemiol*



Price and Sherman 2006 *LBNL Report 59620*



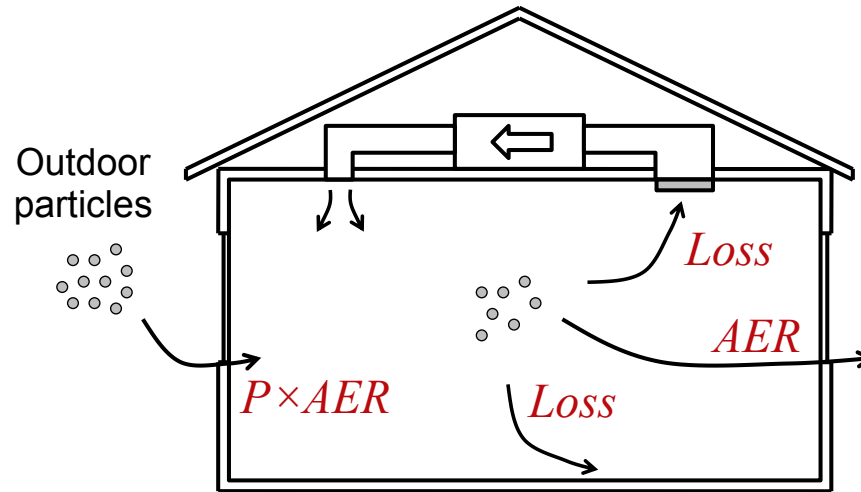
El Orch et al., 2014 *Build Environ*

Limited data on air exchange rate multipliers with open windows:

- Typically ~2-4 times higher, depending on area of openings, I/O  $\Delta T$

Marr et al., 2012 *HVAC&R Research*; Wallace et al., 2002 *J Expo Anal Environ Epidemiol*;  
Johnson et al., 2004 *J Expo Anal Environ Epidemiol*; Chen et al., 2012 *Epidemiology*

# Underlying mechanisms that govern $F_{inf}$



Penetration from outdoors

$$F_{inf} = \frac{P \times AER}{AER + Loss}$$

Removal by air exchange

Removal by deposition to surfaces, phase changes, or control by filters or air cleaners

## “Penetration Factor”

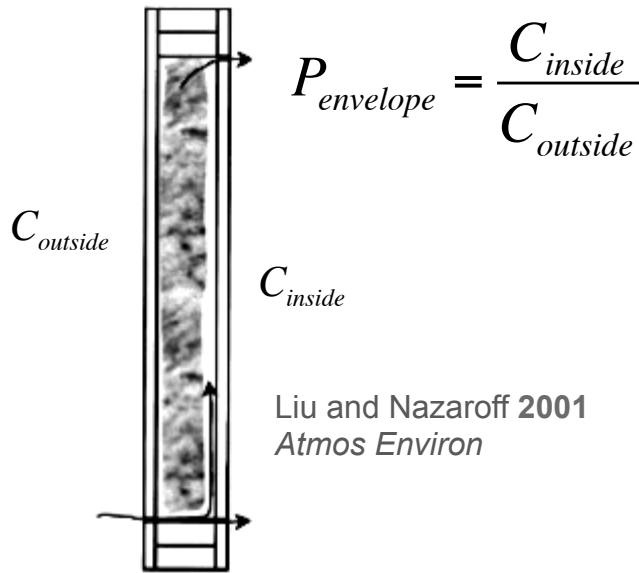
If  $P = 1$ :

The envelope offers no protection

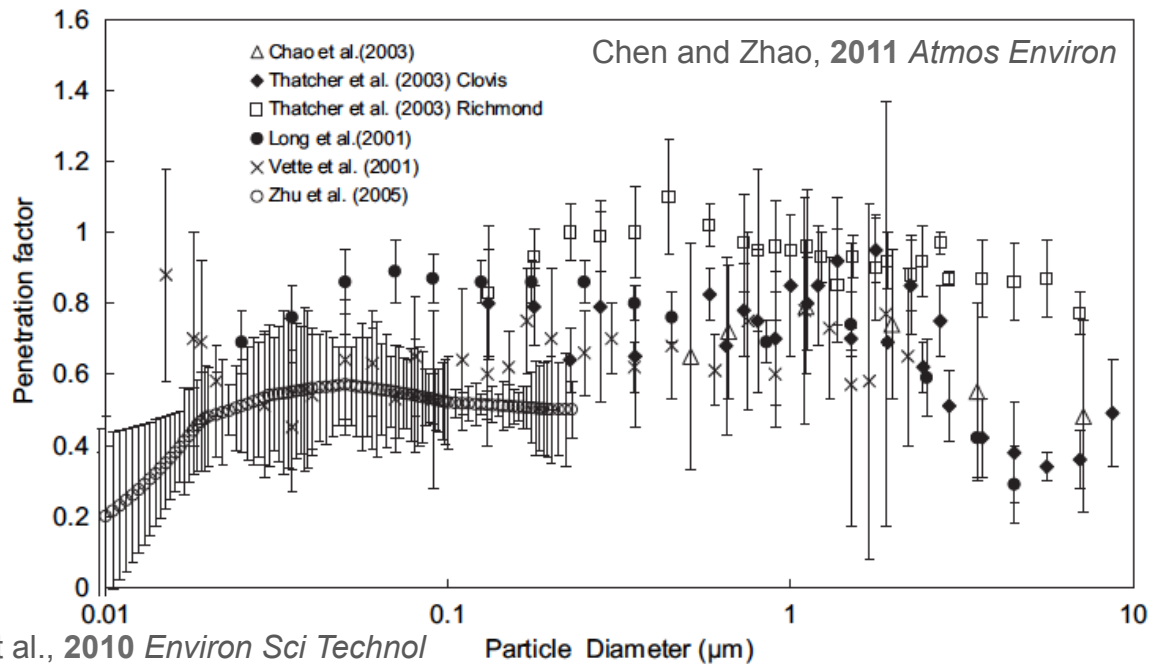
If  $P = 0$ :

The envelope offers complete protection

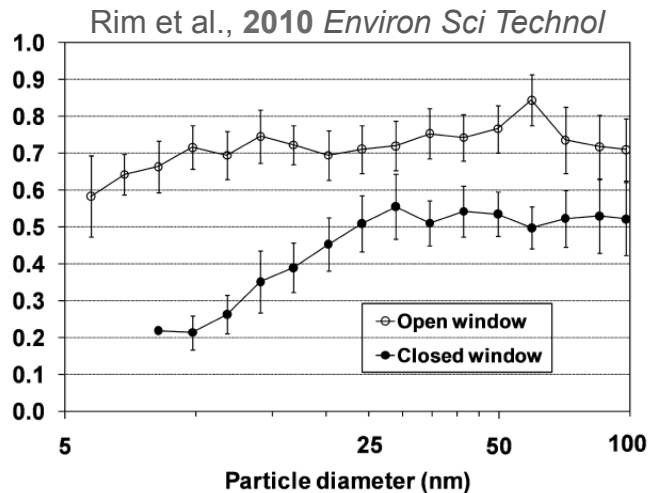
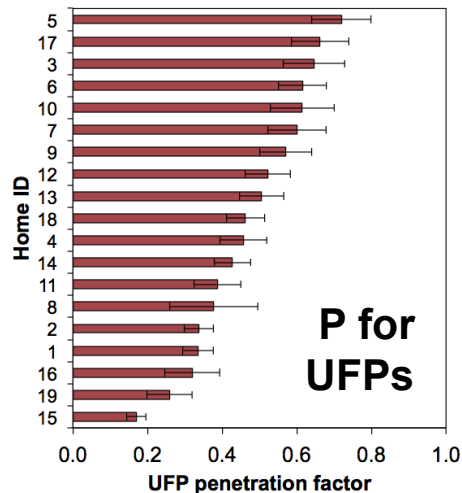
# Envelope penetration factors



Liu and Nazaroff 2001  
*Atmos Environ*



## 19 homes in TX



**# of homes with penetration factors measured:**  
**Size-resolved PM:** < 20 homes  
**UFPs:** ~30-50 homes  
**PM<sub>2.5</sub>:** *estimated* in 100s of homes  
 • But seldom (never?) *measured*

# Other unknowns (or less knowns)

---

- Associations between  $F_{inf}$  (or  $P$ ) and building characteristics
  - Some evidence of associations w/ AC usage, year of construction, and envelope airtightness
  - How do they change after building retrofits?

Allen et al., 2012 *EHP*; MacNeill et al., 2012 *Atmos Environ*; Stephens and Siegel 2012 *Indoor Air*

- Chemical transformations
  - e.g. evaporative losses

Hodas et al., 2014 *Aerosol Sci Technol*

- High spatial- and temporal-resolution data for:
  - Outdoor particle size distributions
  - Outdoor size-resolved aerosol composition



## Summary of outdoor → indoor PM transport research needs

---

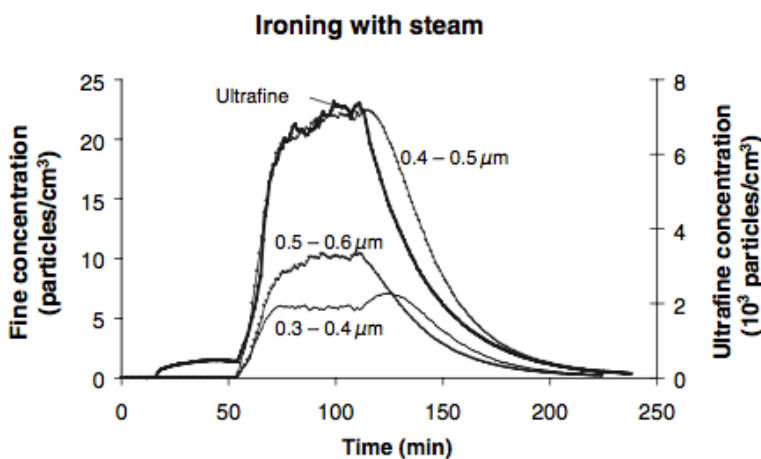
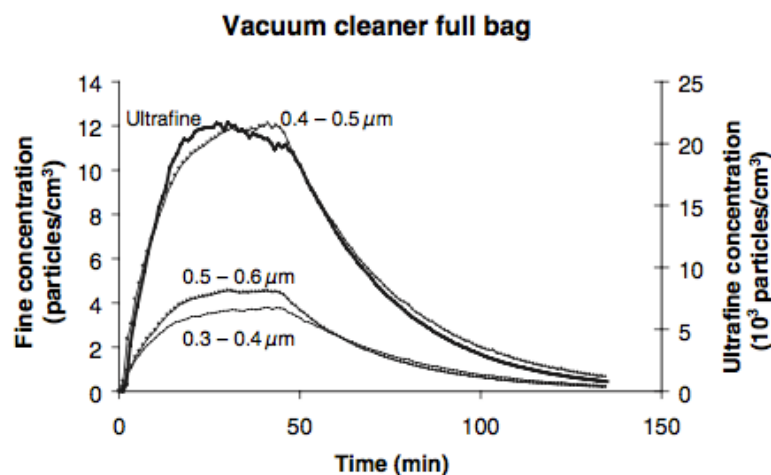
- We need more integration between epidemiologists and exposure scientists
  - Address exposure misclassification
  - Improve health effect estimates
- We need more data on window opening frequencies and their impact on air exchange rates
- We need more field measurements of size-resolved, UFP, and PM<sub>2.5</sub> penetration factors
  - And explorations of associations with building characteristics

# **INDOOR PM SOURCES**

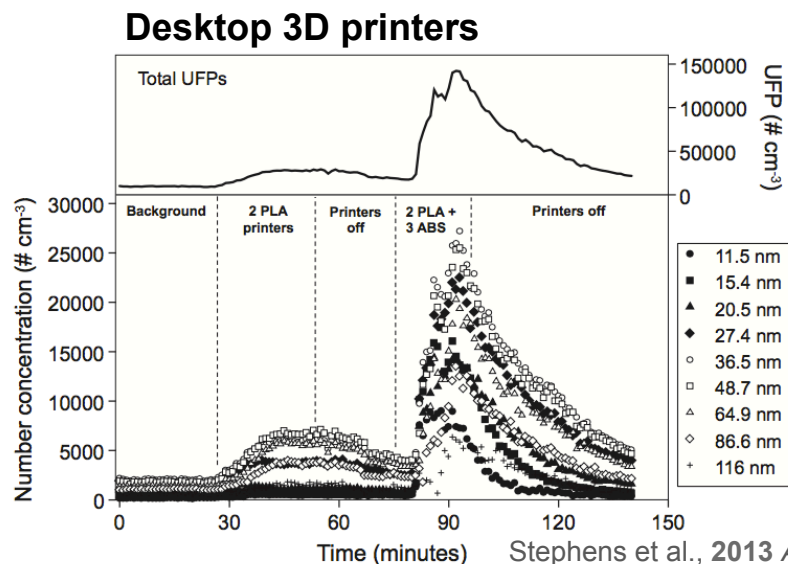
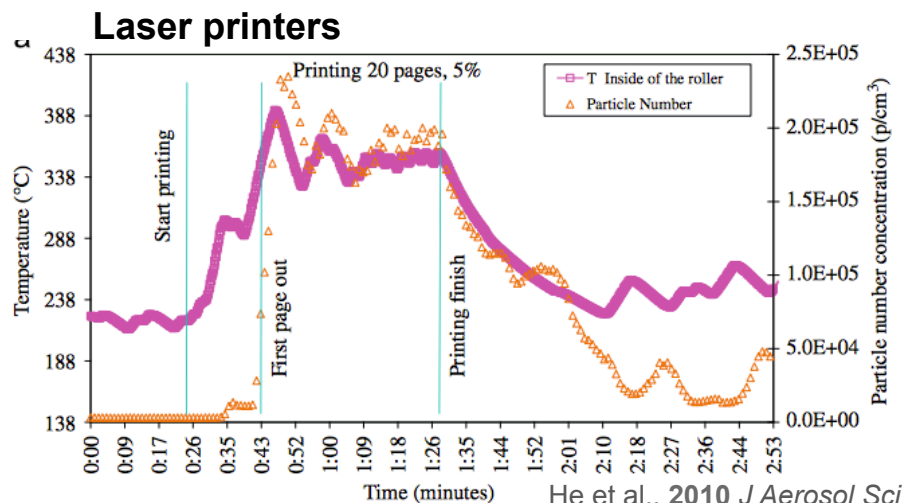
Specifically: Non-combustion appliances

# Non-combustion appliances as indoor PM sources

- Several (non-combustion) appliances emit PM indoors
  - Mostly in the UFP size range

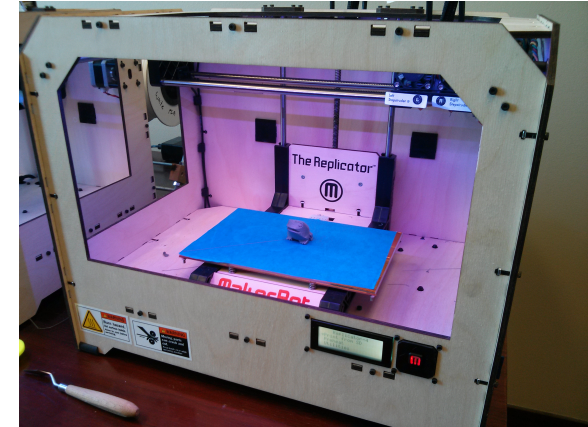
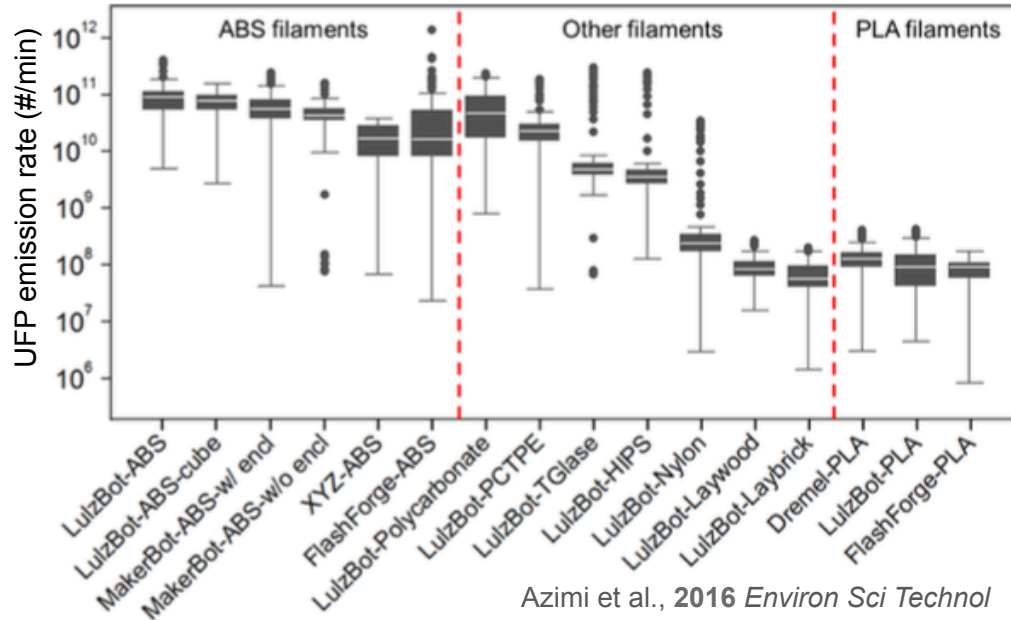


Afshari et al., 2005 *Indoor Air*



# Non-combustion appliances as indoor PM sources

## More desktop 3D printers



## Procedure:

Wash, expose to indoor air, burn until UFP reaches zero

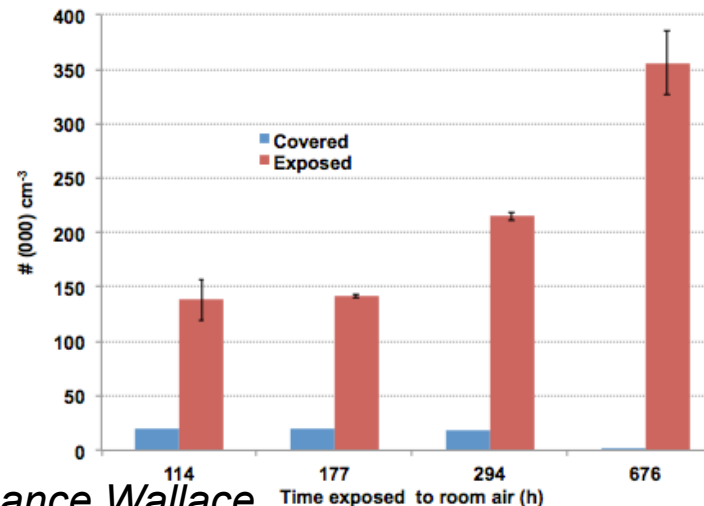
## Proposed mechanisms:

1. Deposition of material on surface
2. Desorption of SVOCs on the heated surface
3. Followed by nucleation and particle growth in cooler air

Wallace et al., 2015 *Indoor Air*

## Heated surfaces

Wallace 2015 *ISES Conference*



Heated surfaces figures by Lance Wallace

# Typical indoor UFP emission rates

---

UFP emitting device	Size range	Emission rate (#/min)	Reference
Flat iron with steam	20-1000 nm	$6.0 \times 10^9$	Afshari et al. (2005)
Electric frying pan	10-400 nm	$1.1-2.7 \times 10^{10}$	Buonnano et al. (2009)
3D printer w/ PLA	10-100 nm	$\sim 2.0 \times 10^{10}$	Stephens et al. (2013)
Vacuum cleaner	20-1000 nm	$3.5 \times 10^{10}$	Afshari et al. (2005)
Scented candles	20-1000 nm	$8.8 \times 10^{10}$	Afshari et al. (2005)
Gas stove	20-1000 nm	$1.3 \times 10^{11}$	Afshari et al. (2005)
3D printer w/ ABS	10-100 nm	$\sim 1.9 \times 10^{11}$	Stephens et al. (2013)
Cigarette	20-1000 nm	$3.8 \times 10^{11}$	Afshari et al. (2005)
Electric stove	20-1000 nm	$6.8 \times 10^{11}$	Afshari et al. (2005)
Frying meat	20-1000 nm	$8.3 \times 10^{11}$	Afshari et al. (2005)
Radiator	20-1000 nm	$8.9 \times 10^{11}$	Afshari et al. (2005)
Desktop 3D printers	10-100 nm	$\sim 10^8$ to $\sim 10^{12}$	Azimi et al. (2016)
Laser printers	6-3000 nm	$4.3 \times 10^9$ to $3.3 \times 10^{12}$	He et al. (2010)
Cooking on a gas stove	10-400 nm	$1.1-3.4 \times 10^{12}$	Buonnano et al. (2009)

Items in **red** are **non-combustion sources**

Items in black are combustion-related

# Summary of (non-combustion) appliance emissions

---

- We continue to find new indoor sources of PM
  - Mostly UFPs
- We need to continue to gather emission rate data for these and other sources
  - Including size-resolved emission rate data
- We need to continue to explore source control and exposure mitigation strategies