Indoor exposures to outdoor air pollution

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ILLINOIS INSTITUTE V OF TECHNOLOGY

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The **Built Environment Research Group** at Illinois Tech is dedicated to investigating energy and air quality within the built environment

Research areas:

Indoor pollutant dynamics Building science measurements and methods Air cleaning and filtration Human exposure assessment Building energy efficiency and energy simulation



INDOOR EXPOSURES TO OUTDOOR POLLUTANTS

Particulate matter and gas-phase pollutants (e.g., ozone)

What do you think of when you hear "air pollution?"



What do I think of when I hear "air pollution?"



NHAPS - Nation, Percentage Time Spent

Total n = 9,196

IN A RESIDENCE (68.7%) OUTDOORS (86.9%) OUTDOORS (7.6%) OFFICE-FACTORY (5.4%) Klepeis et al. 2001 J Exp Anal Environ Epidem

Americans spend almost 90% of their time indoors

Almost 70% at home

There are many indoor & outdoor sources of indoor pollutants

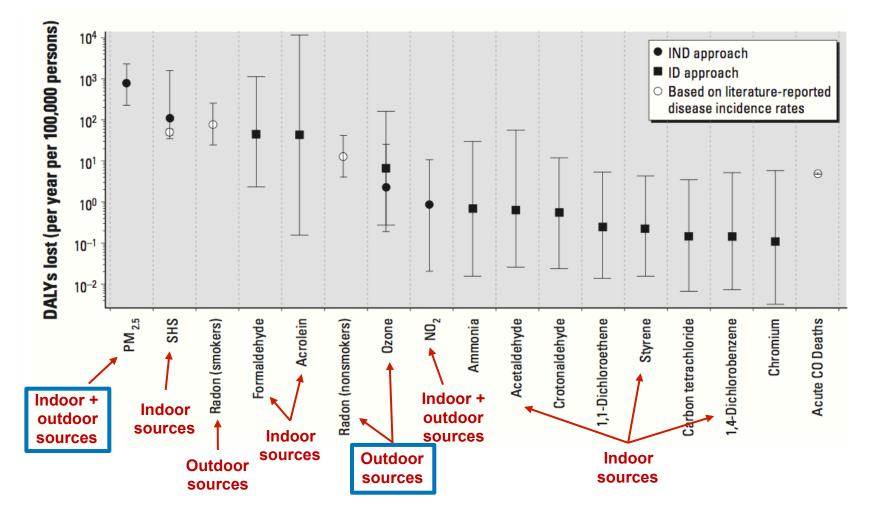
- Particulate matter
- Organic gases
- Inorganic gases

Logue et al. 2011 Indoor Air

Residential indoor air and chronic health effects

Likely the most harmful indoor air pollutants inside residences:

• Accounts for **5 to 14%** of the non-communicable/non-psychiatric **U.S. disease burden**

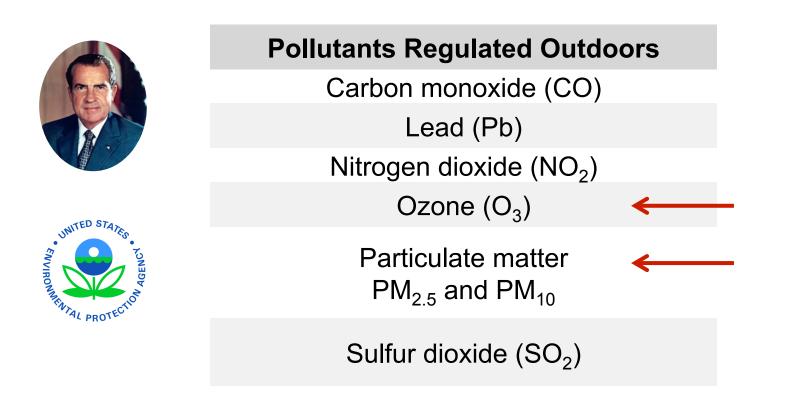


Logue et al. 2012 Environ Health Perspect 120:216-222

A few outdoor airborne pollutants are regulated

National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS)

- US EPA and the Clean Air Act (1970)
- Set limits for 6 "criteria" air pollutants
 - World Health Organization (WHO) also maintains guidelines for 4 of these



Outdoor particulate matter and ozone

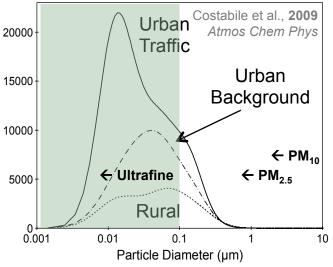
Particulate matter

- Solid and liquid particles suspended in air
- Primary and secondary sources
 - Traffic, industry, natural, atmospheric rxns (SOA)
- Wide range of sizes (a few nm to tens of µm)¹⁵
 and constituents
 - Size governs deposition in the respiratory tract
- Wide range of measurement methods and classifications
 - UFPs, PM_{2.5}, PM_{2.5-10}, PM₁₀, TSP, etc.

Ozone

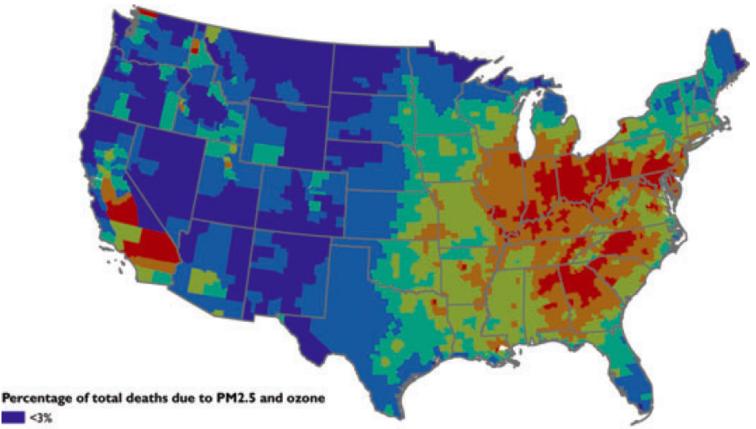
- Formed through atmospheric reactions between hydrocarbons and nitrogen oxides in the presence of sunlight
- Major contributor to smog

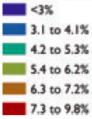
Most particles of outdoor origin are smaller than 100 nm





Outdoor particulate matter, ozone, and health

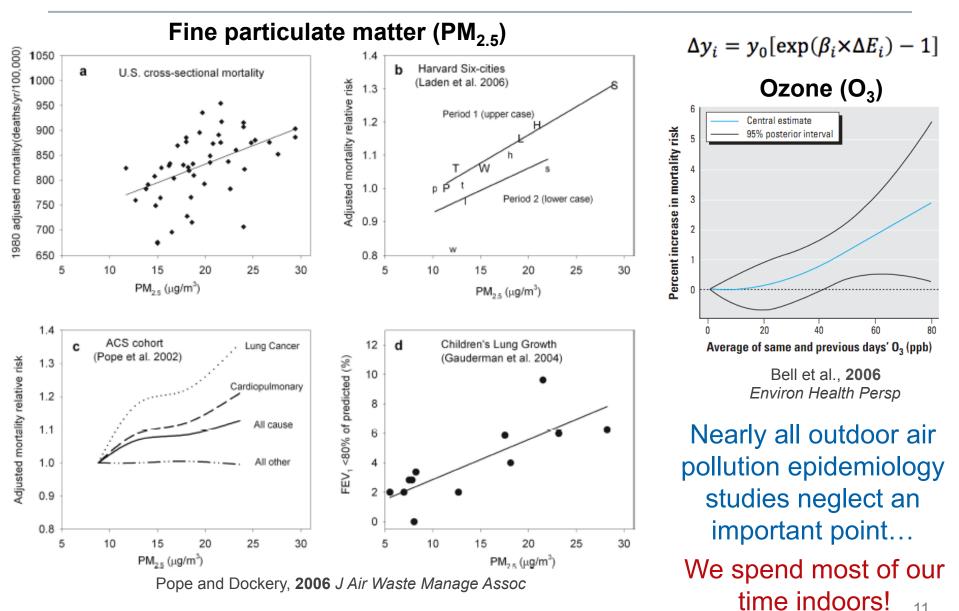




An estimated ~130,000 deaths in 2005 in the US were due to elevated outdoor $PM_{2.5}$ (and ~5,000 due to O₃)

Fann et al., 2012 Risk Analysis

Outdoor air epidemiology: A problem



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Exposures to outdoor particulate matter and ozone

• Elevated outdoor concentrations \rightarrow health effects

PM_{2.5}/PM₁₀/ultrafine particles (UFPs)

Respiratory symptoms, cardiovascular mortality, lung cancer

Pope et al., 2002 J Am Med Assoc; Pope and Dockery,
2006 J Air Waste Manag Assoc; Miller et al., 2007 New Engl J Med; Ostro et al., 2010 Environ Health Persp

Ozone (O₃)

Hospital admissions, respiratory illness, short-term mortality

Gent et al., **2003** *J Am Med Assoc*; Bell et al., **2004** *J Am Med Assoc*; Hubbell et al., **2005** *Environ Health Persp*; Jerrett et al., **2009** *New Engl J Med*

• Americans spend most of their time indoors (nearly 90%)

~70% at home Klepeis et al., 2001 J Expo Anal Env Epi

Outdoor PM and O₃ infiltrate in buildings w/ varying efficiency

PM: Chen and Zhao, 2011 Atmos Environ
 O₃: Avol et al., 1998 Environ Sci Technol; Weschler, 2000 Indoor Air

• Exposure to outdoor PM and O₃ (+ rxns) often occurs indoors

PM: Meng et al., **2005** *J Exp Anal Environ Epidem*; Kearney et al., **2010** *Atmos Environ* **O**₃: Weschler, **2006** *Environ Health Persp*

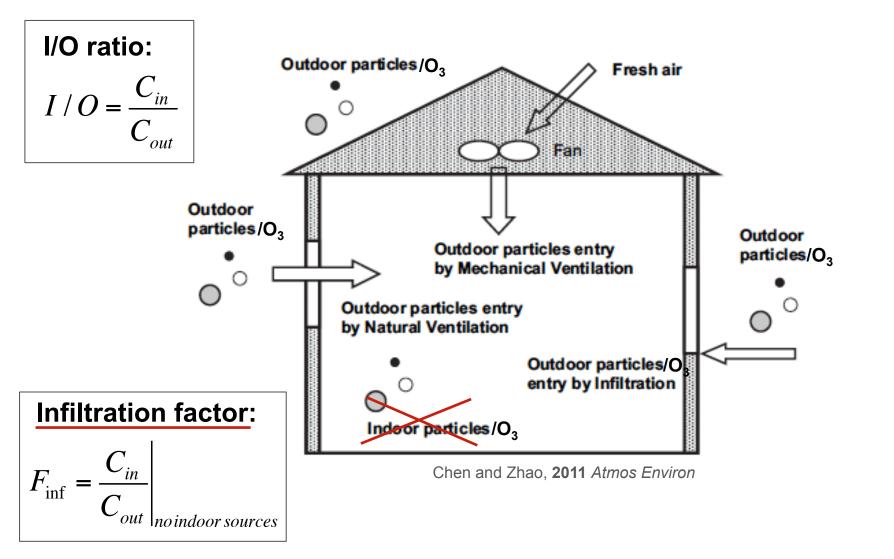
• But we don't fully account for outdoor pollutant infiltration

Leads to "exposure misclassification"

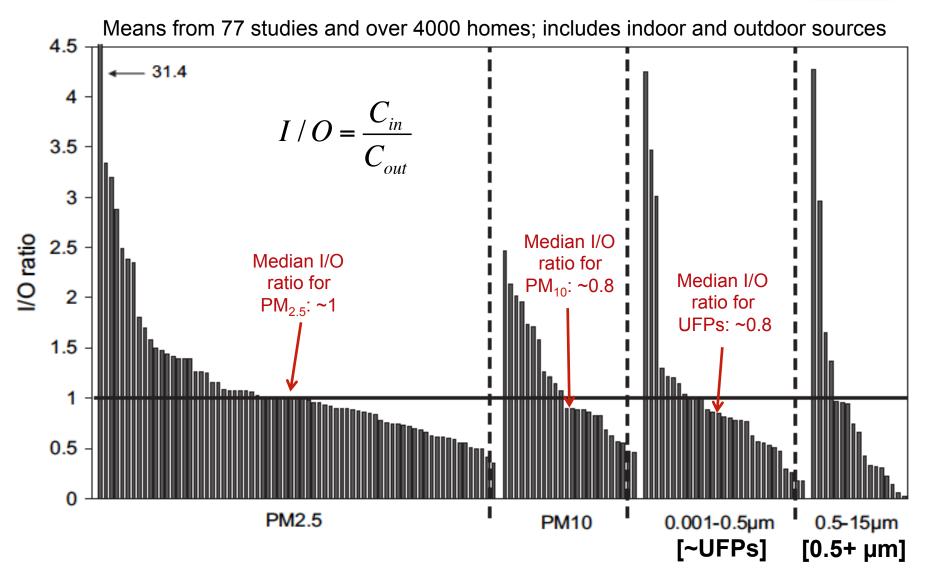
Avery et al., **2010** *Environ Health Persp*; Baxter et al., **2013** *J Exp Sci Environ Epidem*; 12 Hodas et al., **2013** *J Exp Sci Environ Epidem*

ACCOUNTING FOR OUTDOOR POLLUTANT INFILTRATION

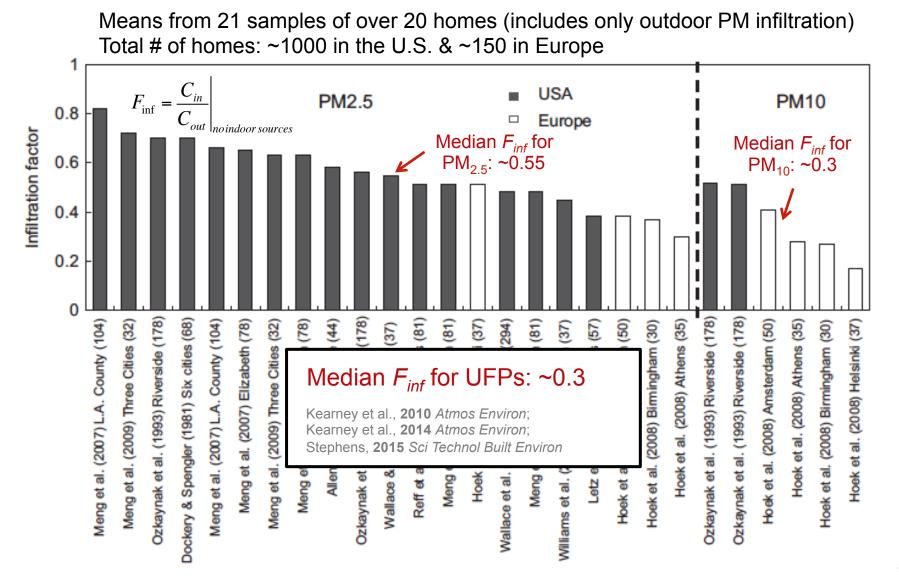
Indoor sources of outdoor PM/O₃ and key definitions



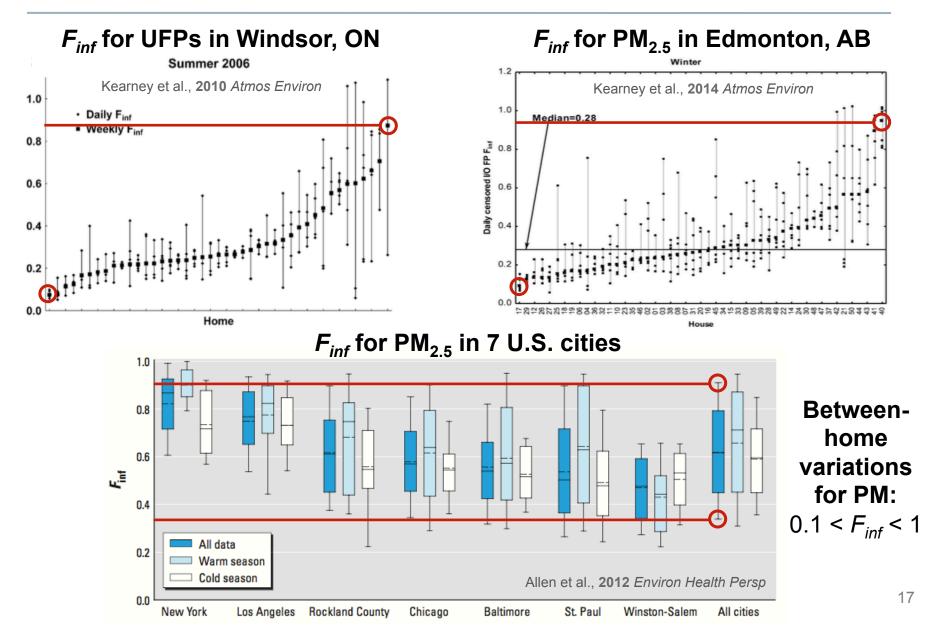
I/O PM ratios: Indoor + outdoor sources



PM Infiltration factors: Indoor PM of outdoor origin



Variability in residential PM_{2.5} and UFP infiltration factors



Variability in ozone (O₃) infiltration factors

• I/O O₃ ratios also commonly range from <0.1 to ~1

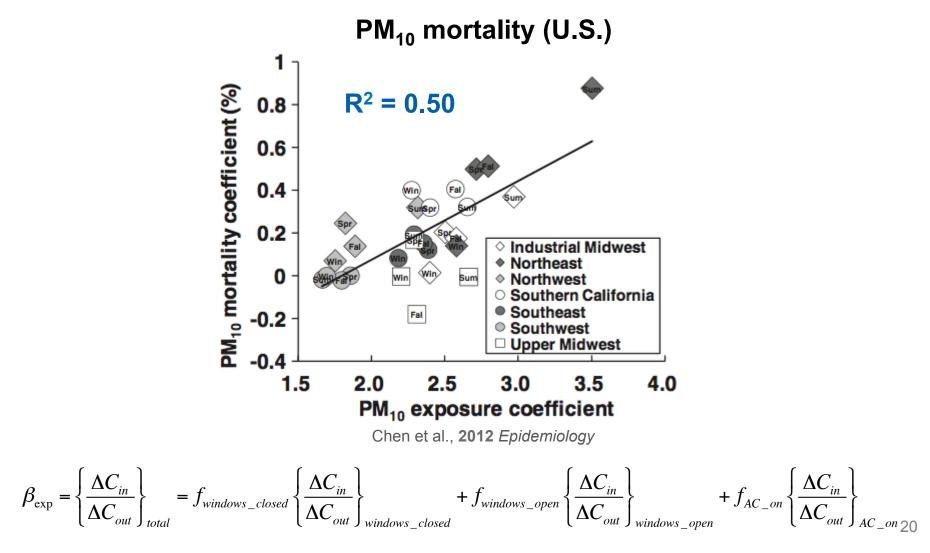
Building	Location	I/O	Notes
Hospital	So. California	0.67	Thompson, 1971
Office/lab	So. California	0.80	Sabersky et al., 1973
Office/lab	So. California	0.65	Ibid.
Home	So. California	0.70	Ibid., natural ventilation
Hospital	So. California	0.5	Thompson et al., 1973
Indoor pool	So. California	0.5	Ibid.
2 Schools	So. California	0.3-0.7	Ibid.
Office/lab	So. California	0.5	Ibid.
Home	So. California	0.6	Ibid., evaporative cooing
2 Offices	So. California	0.66	Shair and Heitner, 1974; maximum ventilation
2 Offices	So. California	0.54	Ibid., minimum ventilation
Office/lab	So. California	0.62	Hales et al., 1974
5 Townhouses	Washington	0.5-0.7	Moschandreas et al., 1978
6 Apartments	Baltimore	0.5-0.7	Ibid.
2 Mobile homes	Denver	0.5-0.7	Ibid.
1 School	Chicago	0.5-0.7	Ibid.
1 Hospital	Pittsburgh	0.5-0.7	Ibid.
Homes	Medford, OR	0.1-0.3	Berk et al., 1981; weatherized homes
10 Homes	Boston, MA	0.2	Moschandreas et al., 1981
2 Offices	Boston, MA	0.3	Ibid.
Art gallery	So. California	0.5	Shaver et al., 1983
2 Museums	So. California	0.1	Ibid; activated carbon air filtration
Art gallery	England	0.7	Davies et al., 1984
41 Homes	Tucson, AZ	0.3	Lebowitz et al., 1984
12 Homes	Houston, TX	<0.1	Stock et al., 1985; conventional air conditioning

Key drivers of variability in infiltration factors

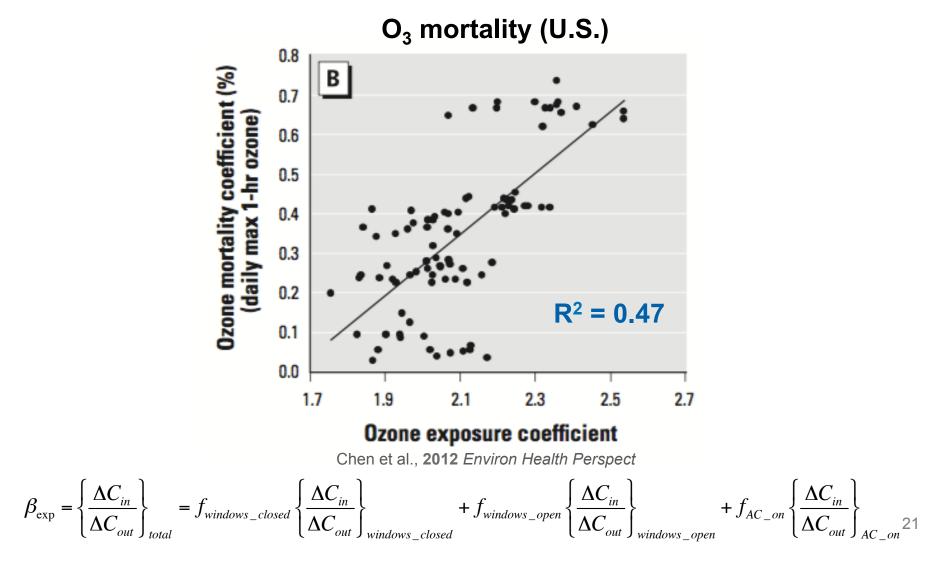
- Source of ventilation air
 - Infiltration (envelope leaks)
 - Mechanical ventilation
 - Natural ventilation
- Human behaviors
 - Window opening frequencies
 - Portable air cleaners
- Magnitude of the air exchange rate (AER)
 - Meteorological driving forces (e.g., I/O temperatures, wind speed/direction)
 - Building envelope characteristics (e.g., airtightness and possibly material)
- Pollutant characteristics
 - Sizes/classes/components of PM
 - Reactivity of O₃
- HVAC system design and operation
 - HVAC filtration and system runtime

Williams et al., **2003** *Atmos Environ*; Allen et al., **2012** *Environ Health Persp*; MacNeill et al, **2012** *Atmos Environ*; MacNeill et al., **2014** *Indoor Air*; El Orch et al., **2014** *Build Environ*; Chen et al., **2012** *Epidemiology*

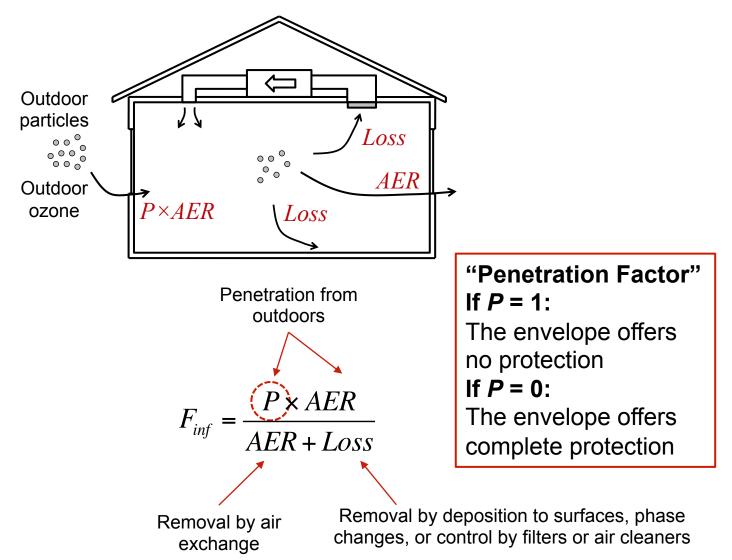
Accounting for variations in AERs and window opening:



Accounting for variations in AERs and window opening:

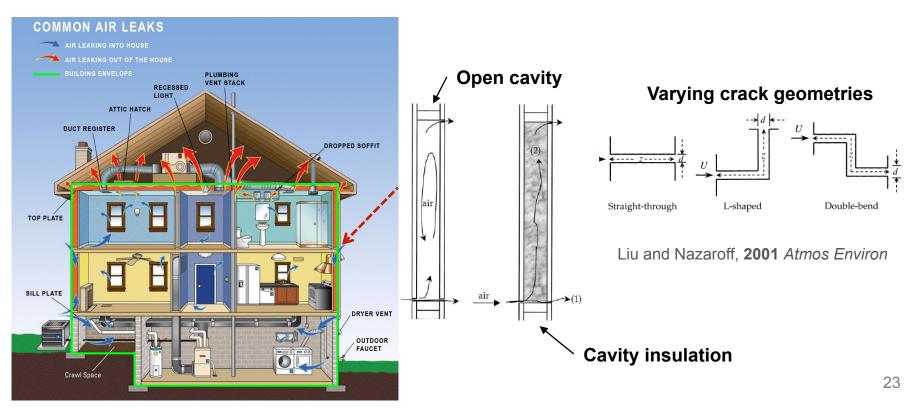


Underlying mechanisms that govern *F*_{inf}

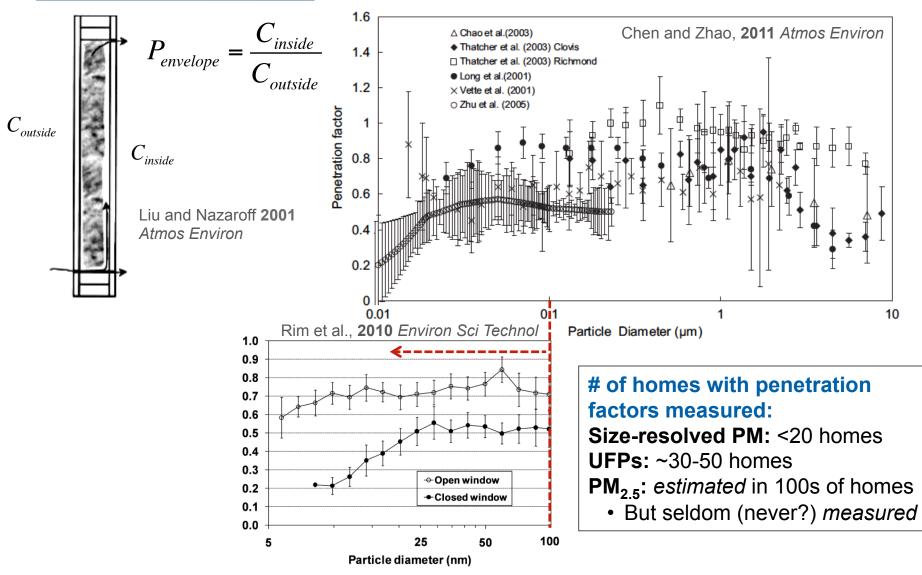


Envelope penetration factors

- O₃ and PM can penetrate through leaks in building envelopes
 - Ozone can react with envelope materials
 - Particles can deposit in envelope cracks
- Measurements are challenging
 - Need test methods to solve for 2 unknowns with 1 equation



Envelope penetration factors for PM

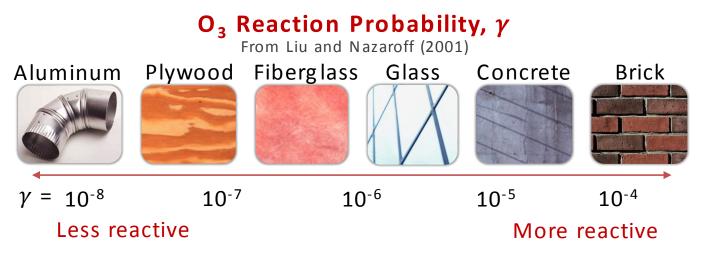


Envelope penetration factors for ozone (O₃)

• Typically assumed that O_3 penetration factor = 1

Weschler, 2000 Indoor Air; Weschler, 2006 Environ Health Persp

• But O₃ reacts with common envelope materials:



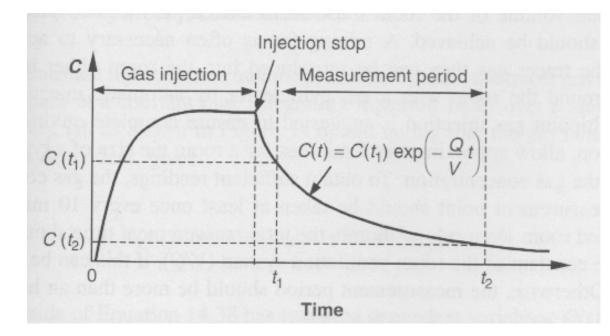
• No known measurements of O₃ penetration factors until 2012

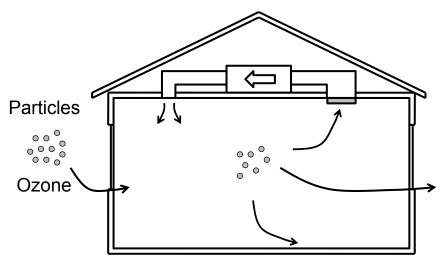
Pollutant penetration into buildings: Challenges

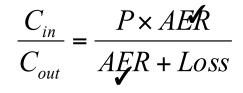
There are some challenges with estimating *AER*, *P*, and *Loss*

• How do we measure each?

– Or estimate from measured data?



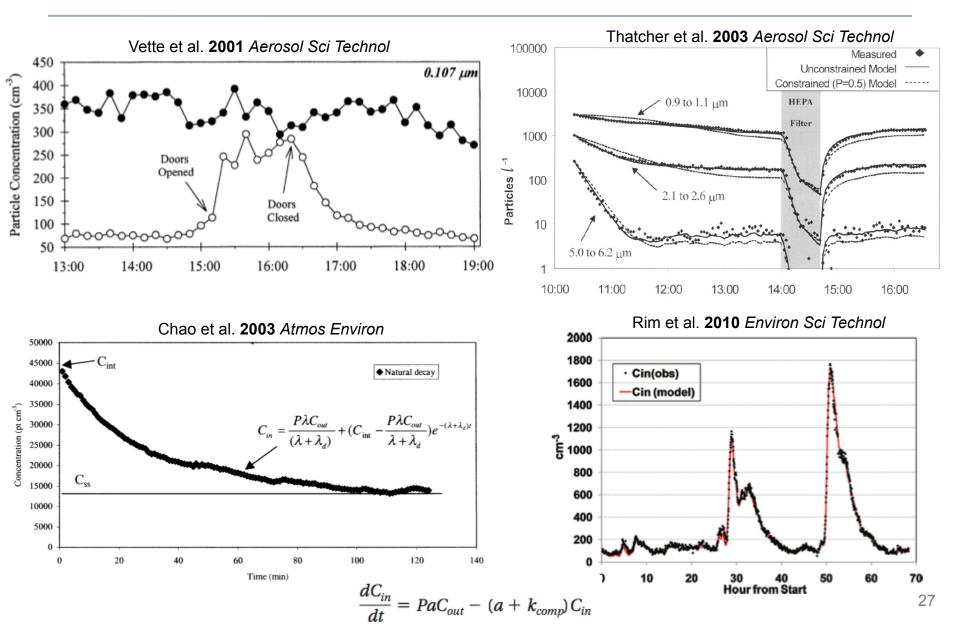




✓ AER: Tracer decay Inject an inert tracer gas, and measure the decay from C(t=0) after time t=0

What about *P* and *Loss*?

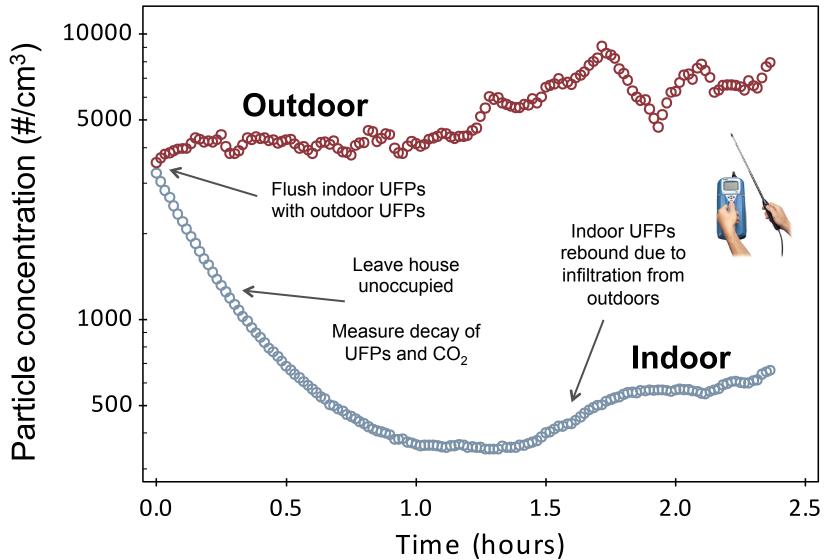
How would you measure pollutant penetration factors?



MEASUREMENTS OF PARTICULATE MATTER AND OZONE PENETRATION FACTORS IN RESIDENCES

UFP penetration tests in Austin, TX (c. 2010)

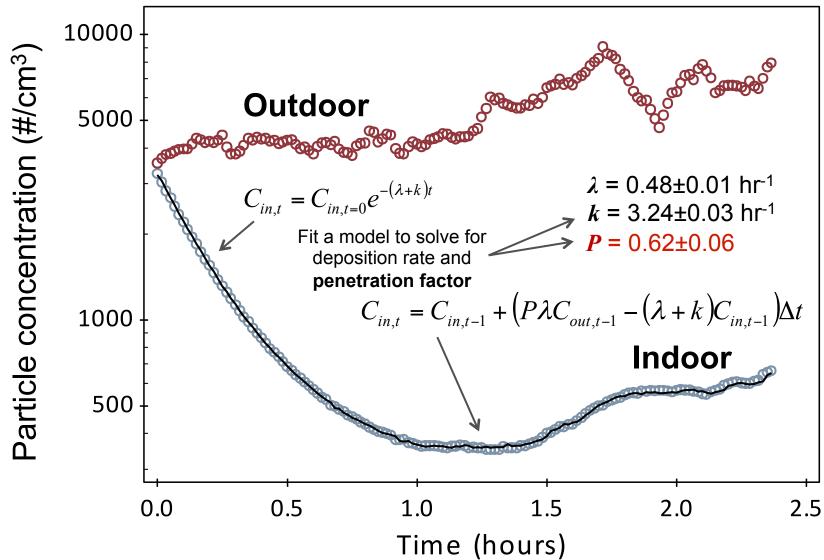
CPC: 20-1000 nm



Stephens and Siegel, Indoor Air 2012 22(6):501-512

UFP penetration tests in Austin, TX (c. 2010)

CPC: 20-1000 nm



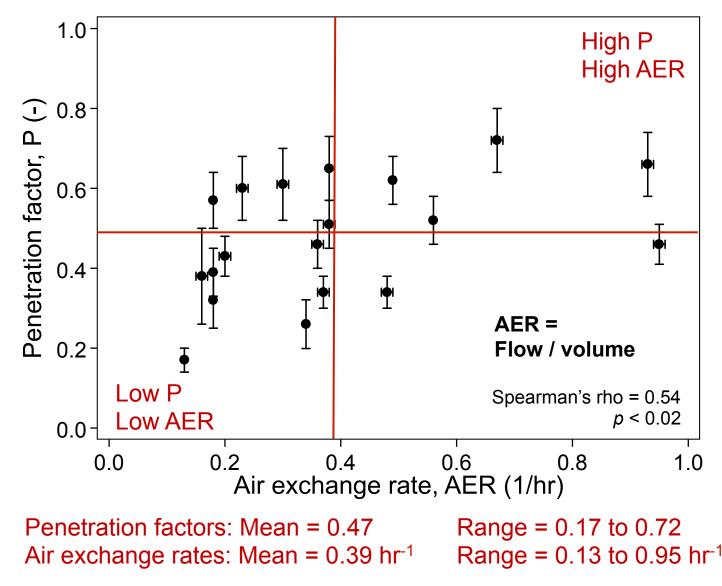
Stephens and Siegel, Indoor Air 2012 22(6):501-512

UFP penetration tests in Austin, TX (c. 2010)



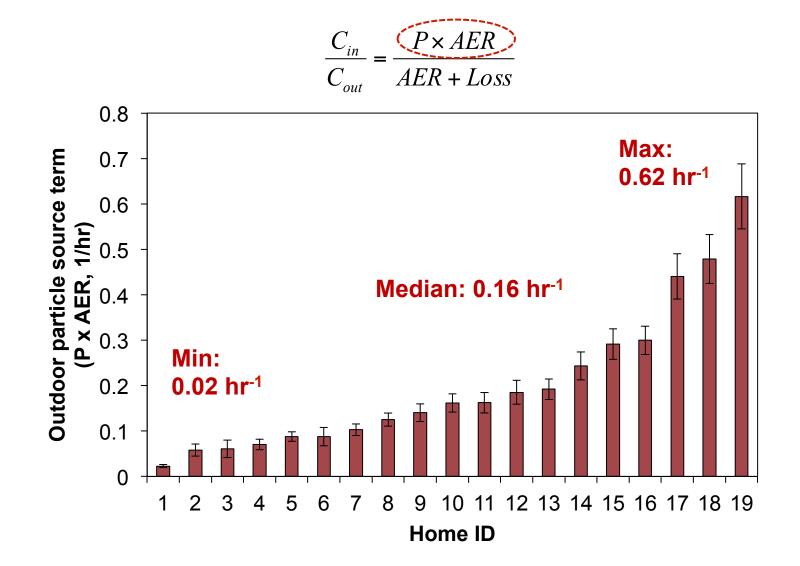
Stephens and Siegel, Indoor Air 2012 22(6):501-512

UFP penetration results: P vs. AER

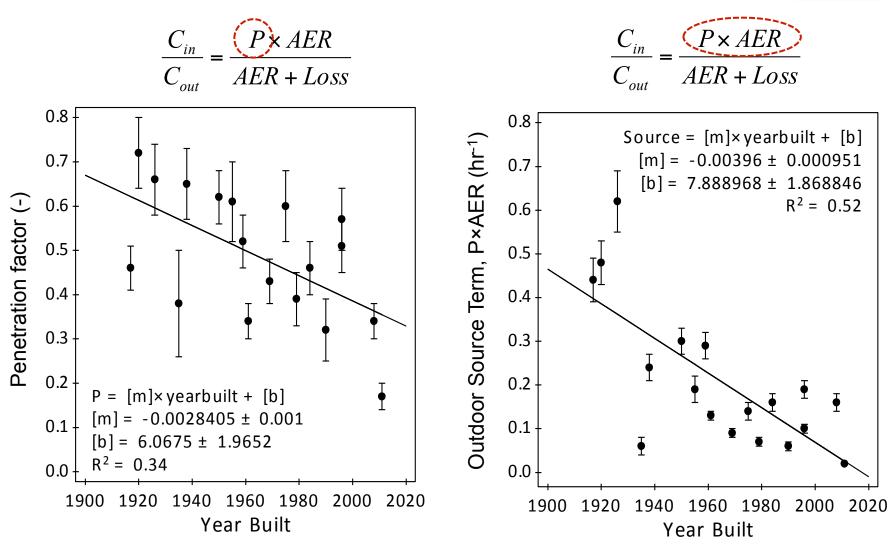


Stephens, Science and Technology for the Built Environment **2014** 21:3-13

Outdoor UFP source terms: Penetration × AER

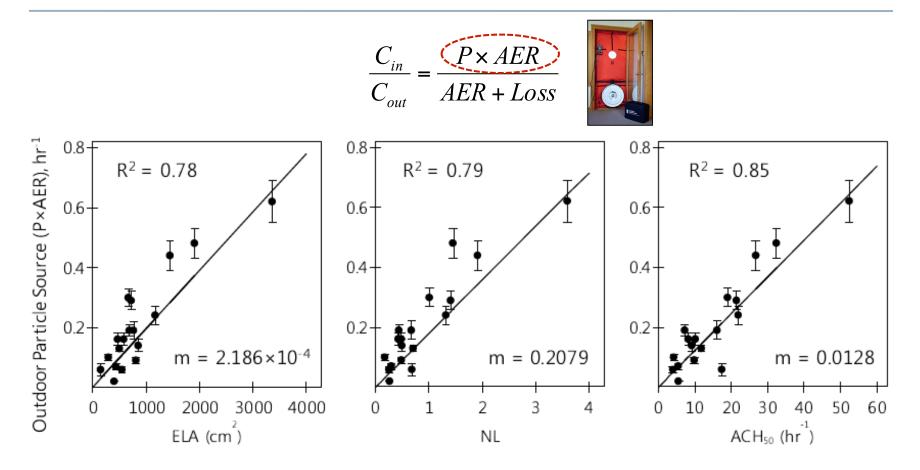


UFP infiltration and age of homes



Older homes also had much higher outdoor particle source rates

Outdoor UFP source terms and airtightness (blower door)

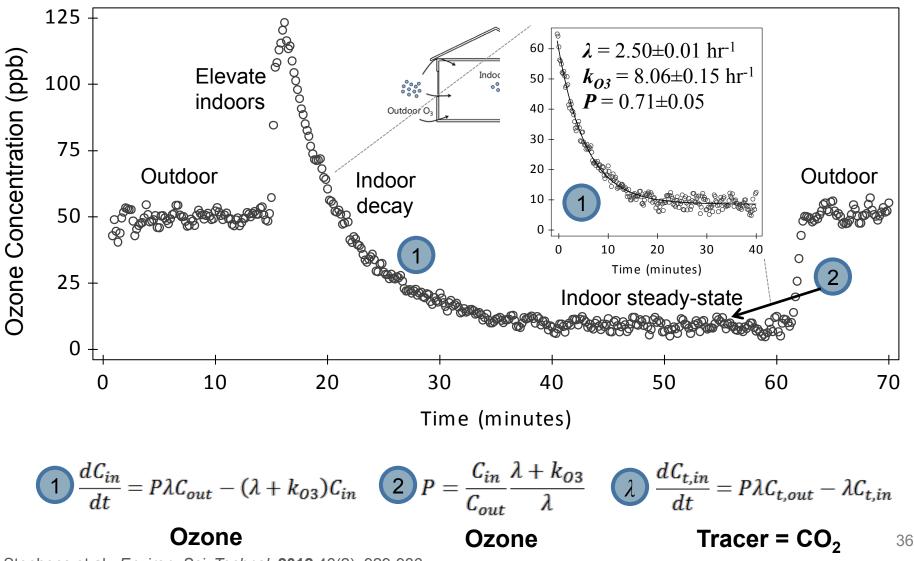


Leakier homes had much higher outdoor particle source rates

- Leaky homes are also older predictive ability?
- Potential socioeconomic implications: low-income homes are also leakier

Chan et al., 2005 Atmos Environ

Ozone penetration tests in Austin, TX (c. 2010)



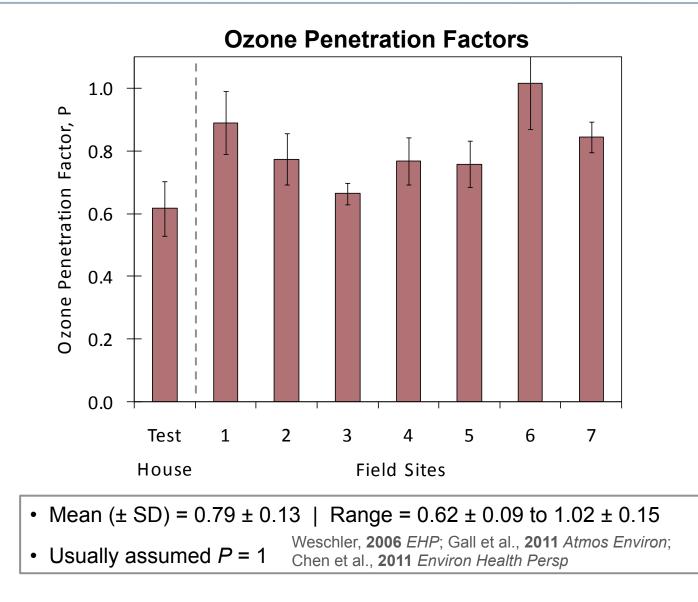
Stephens et al., Environ. Sci. Technol. 2012 46(2), 929-936

Ozone penetration tests in Austin, TX (c. 2010)



Stephens et al., *Environ. Sci. Technol.* **2012** 46(2), 929-936

Ozone penetration tests in Austin, TX (c. 2010)



Stephens et al., Environ. Sci. Technol. 2012 46(2), 929-936

CURRENT APPLICATIONS

Recent measurements of envelope penetration factors

We have been working to develop methods to rapidly and accurately measure envelope penetration factors in order to characterize the ability of building envelopes to prevent the transport of outdoor pollutants indoors

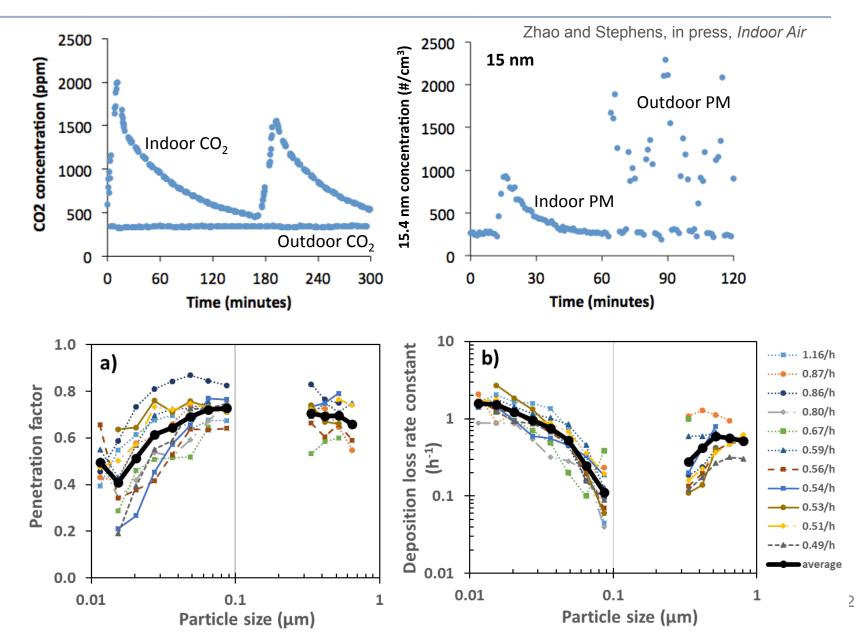


- Size-resolved particles 0.01-10 μm
- Integral measures of PM_{2.5} mass and ultrafine particles (UFPs < 100 nm)
- Reactive gases: O₃ and NO_x

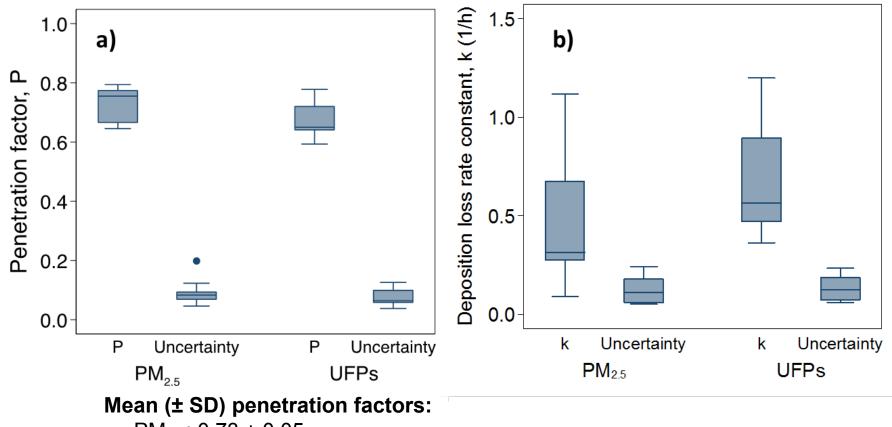
Recent measurements of envelope penetration factors



Particle penetration measurements in a test apartment unit

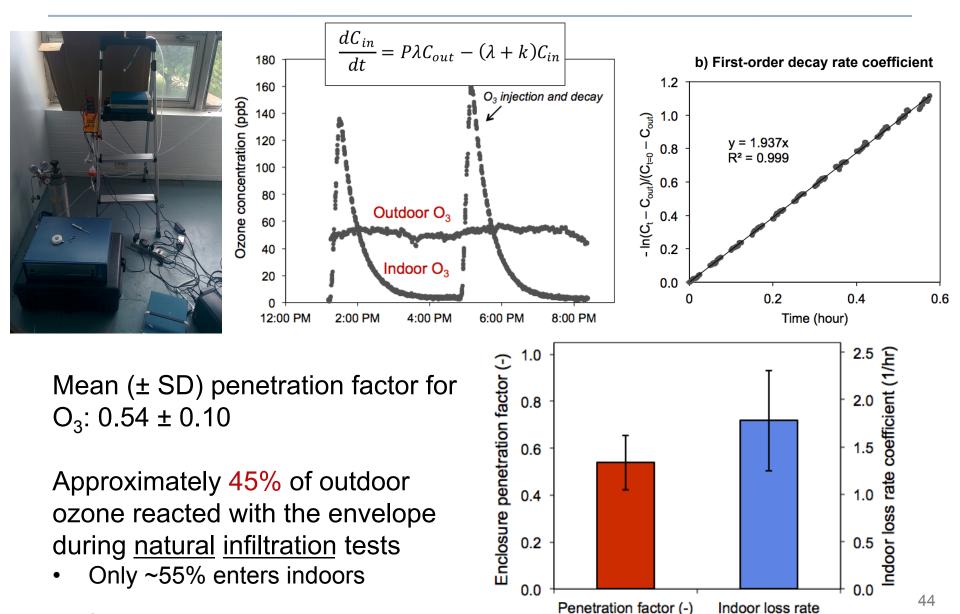


Penetration factors for integral measures of UFPs and PM_{2.5}



- PM_{2.5}: 0.73 ± 0.05
- UFPs: 0.67 ± 0.05

Ozone penetration measurements in a test apartment unit



coefficient (1/hr)

Zhao and Stephens, Indoor Air 2016 26(4), 571-581

Recent field measurements in Chicago, IL (EPA IA+CC)

- Goal: Measure envelope airtightness, pollutant infiltration factors (*F_{inf}*) and, when possible, pollutant penetration factors (*P*) and deposition loss rate constants (*k*) in homes before and after energy retrofits are applied
 - Focus on outdoor pollutants: UFPs, $PM_{2.5}$, BC, O_3 , and NO_x
 - Help fill important data gaps in the literature:
 - Initial penetration factors
 - How infiltration/penetration factors change after energy retrofits

Home recruitment status:

Target:	Completed to date:
30 homes pre/post retrofit	 6 SF homes + 3 MF units - 1 failed MF test = 8 units pre/post retrofit complete + 5 non-retrofit MF homes = 13 tests complete



ELEVATE ENERGY

Smarter energy use for all

Recent field measurements in Chicago, IL (EPA IA+CC)

- Pre/post retrofit measurements in 6 SF + 2 MF units
 - Homes planning to undergo energy efficiency improvements



Homes built between 1894 and 1956 (avg = 1926)

Typical retrofit measures

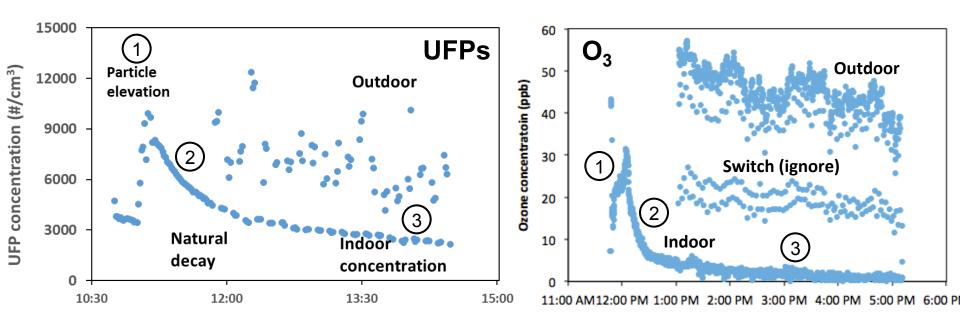
- All homes:
 - Attic air sealing and blown-in insulation for all homes
 - Typically to R-49
 - Typically with attic hatch insulation
 - Weather stripping on doors
- Some homes:
 - Attic knee wall air sealing and insulation
 - Can light boxes
 - Crawlspace insulation and air sealing
 - Blown-in wall insulation in balloon framing wall cavities (2 homes)







Example data: Pollutant infiltration



Three distinct test periods to solve for *P* and *k*:

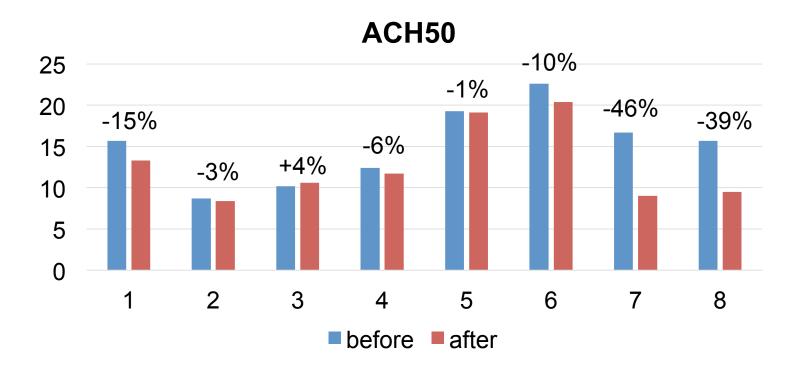
- 1. Elevation w/ open windows + blower door
 - Indoor only for ~15 minutes
- 2. Decay to background
 - Indoor only for ~45 minutes
- 3. Response/rebound period \rightarrow infiltration factor
 - Alternating indoor/outdoor for ~3 hours

Houses are unoccupied during testing

Preliminary results: Blower door ACH₅₀

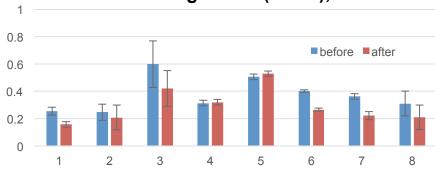
The retrofits reduced ACH_{50} by between -4% and 46%

• Average change: -15%

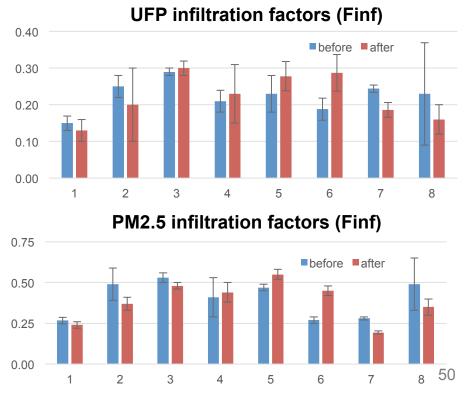


Preliminary results: AERs and infiltration factors

- Air exchange rates were between 39% lower and 5% higher during measurements before and after retrofits
 - Influenced by airtightness, temperature differences, and wind speed/direction
- Average UFP infiltration factors were 0.22±0.04 before retrofits and 0.22±0.06 after retrofits
 - No difference (some up, some down)
- Average PM_{2.5} infiltration factors were 0.40±0.11 before retrofits and 0.39±0.12 after retrofits
 - No difference (some up, some down)
- *F_{inf}* influenced by multiple factors
 - Retrofits + climate conditions + PSDs



Air exchange rates (AERs), 1/hr

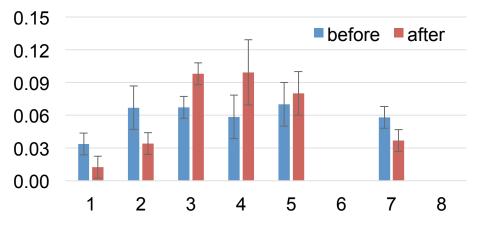


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Preliminary results: AERs and infiltration factors

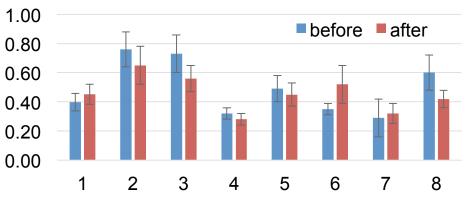
- Average ozone infiltration factors were 0.05±0.02 before retrofits and 0.06±0.03 after retrofits
 - No difference (some up, some down)

- Average black carbon infiltration factors were 0.48±0.18 before retrofits and 0.46±0.12 after retrofits
 - No difference (some up, some down)

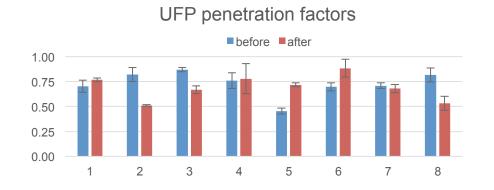


Ozone infiltration factors (Finf)

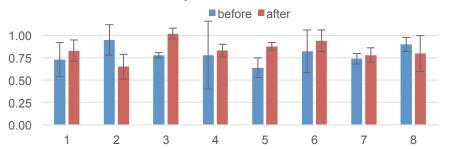
Black carbon infiltration factors (Finf)

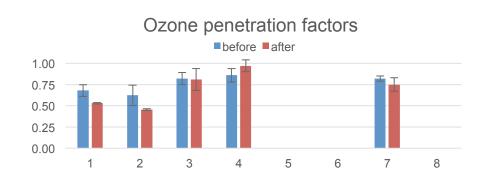


Preliminary results: UFP, PM_{2.5}, and O₃ penetration factors



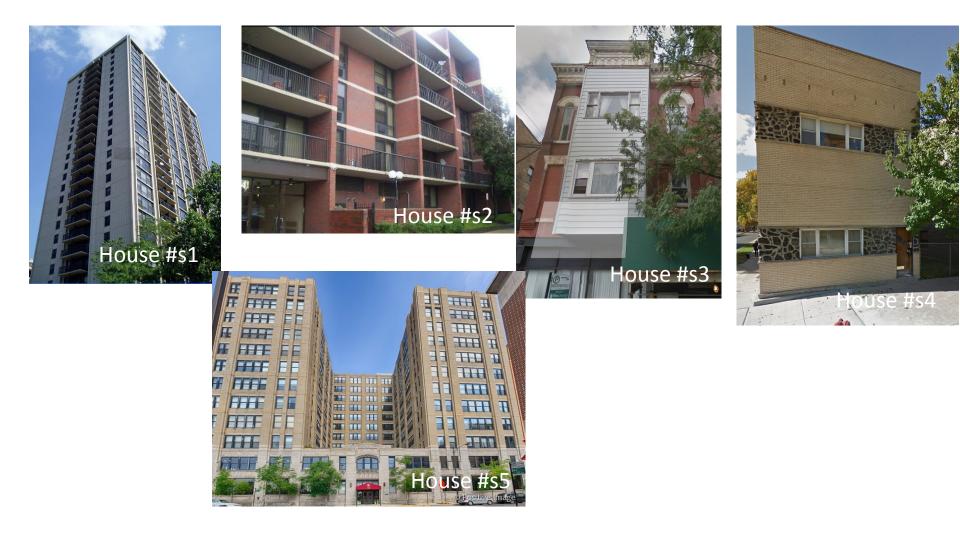
PM2.5 penetration factors





- Estimates of UFP penetration factors (mean ± SD) were 0.72±0.12 before retrofits and 0.72±0.10 after retrofits
 - Ranging from 0.46±0.03 to 0.88±0.09
- Estimates of PM_{2.5} penetration factors (mean ± SD) were 0.78±0.09 before retrofits and 0.85±0.11 after retrofits
 - Ranging from 0.64±0.11 to 1.02±0.06
- Estimates of ozone penetration factors (mean ± SD) were 0.76±0.09 before retrofits and 0.70±0.19 after retrofits
 - Ranging from 0.68±0.07 to 0.97±0.07

Non-retrofit homes (all multi-family)



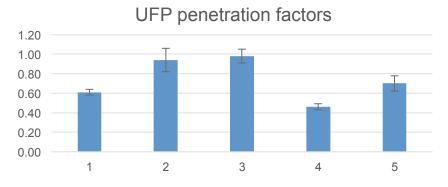
Preliminary results: Non-retrofit home penetration factors

- Estimates of UFP penetration factors (mean ± SD) were 0.74±0.07
 - Ranging from 0.46±0.03 to 0.98±0.07

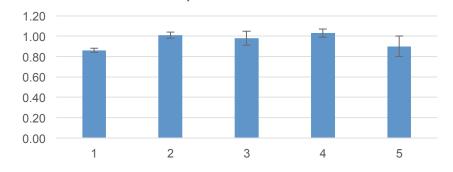
- Estimates of PM_{2.5} penetration factors (mean ± SD) were 0.96±0.05
 - Ranging from 0.86±0.02 to 1.03±0.04

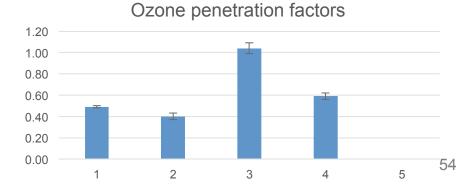
- Estimates of ozone penetration factors (mean ± SD) were 0.76±0.03
 - Ranging from 0.40±0.0 to 1.04±0.04

All homes were multi-family units



PM2.5 penetration factors

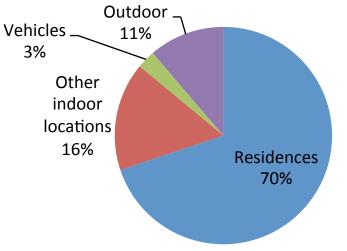




WHAT CAN YOU DO WITH THIS INFORMATION?

- Improve exposure estimates for epidemiology studies
 - Ongoing U.S. PM_{2.5} mortality analysis:

If outdoor $PM_{2.5}$ concentrations are linked to ~137,000 deaths annually in the U.S...



Exposure to ambient origin $PM_{2.5}$

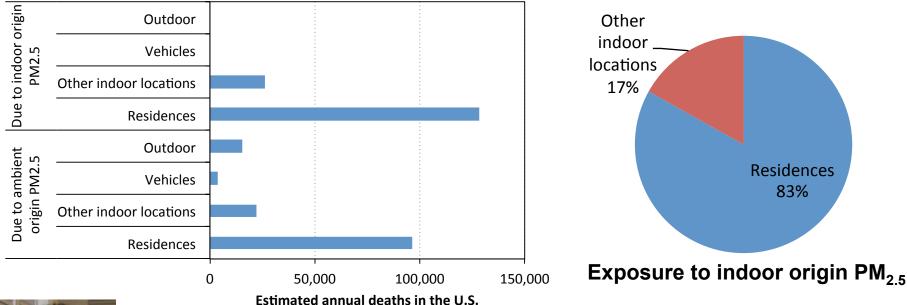


... then 70% of the outdoor $PM_{2.5}$ mortality burden is likely due to outdoor $PM_{2.5}$ exposure inside homes

Parham Azimi, PhD

- Improve exposure estimates for epidemiology studies
 - Ongoing U.S. PM_{2.5} mortality analysis:

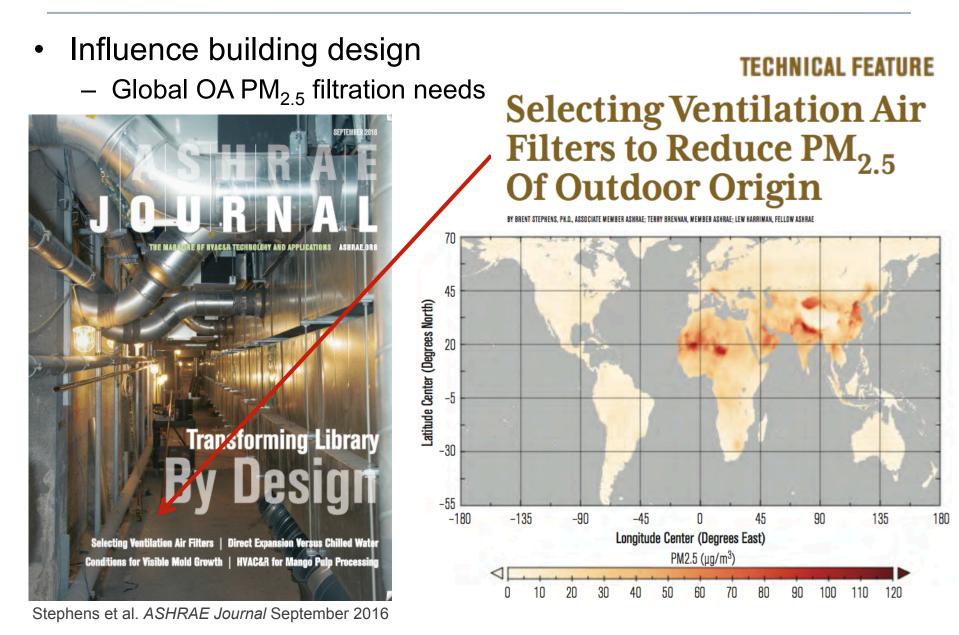


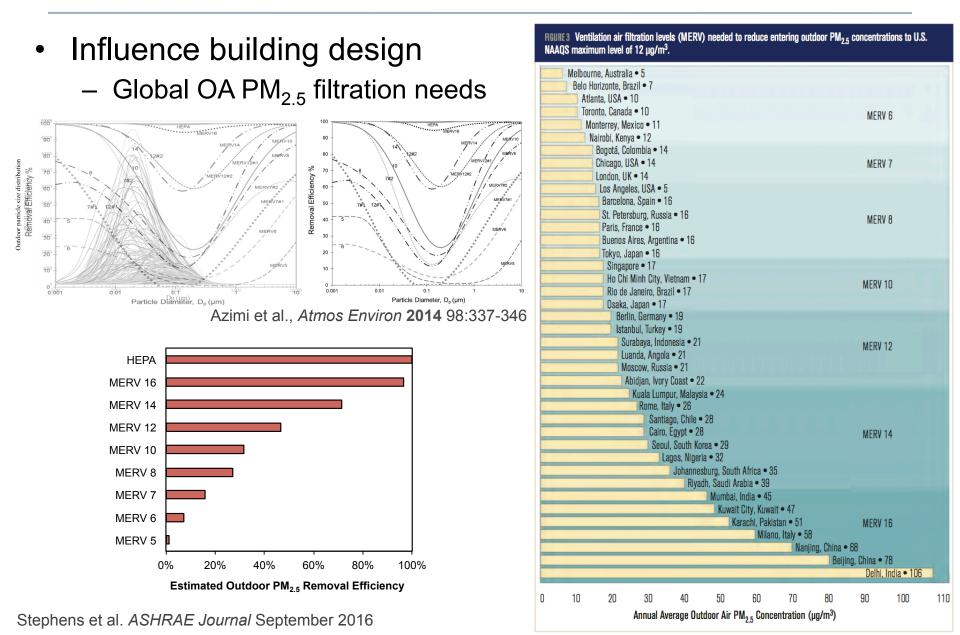




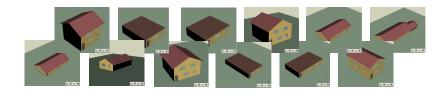
Parham Azimi, PhD

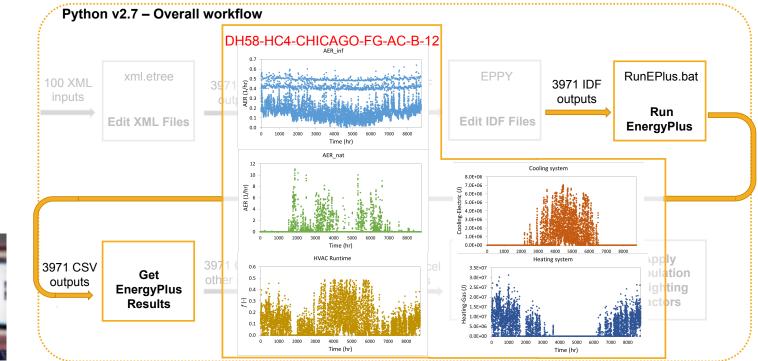
... then indoor sources of $PM_{2.5}$ may contribute to another ~154,000 deaths annually (with 83% attributed to indoor residential exposure)





- Improve our ability to model the indoor environment
 - Development of a nationally representative set of combined energy and indoor air quality models for U.S. residences





Torkan Fazli

Fazli and Stephens in preparation

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Summary

- Much of human exposure to outdoor air pollution occurs indoors
- Failing to account for indoor exposures to outdoor air pollution can lead to exposure misclassification and errors in epidemiology studies
- We continue to improve our abilities to measure some of the fundamental drivers of outdoor pollutant infiltration
 - And translate to practical applications such as improving epidemiology studies, influencing the way we design and operate buildings, improving modeling capabilities to inform policy, and more

Acknowledgments

- Many thanks to all of the homeowners and occupants that have let us inside their buildings!
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 - IIT: US EPA (Assistance Agreement No. 83575001), ASHRAE New Investigator Award, ASHRAE RP-1691, API, Armour College of Engineering
- People
 - UT: Jeffrey Siegel, Elliott Gall, Clement Cros, Rich Corsi, and Atila Novoselac
 - IIT: Haoran Zhao, Parham Azimi, Torkan Fazli, Dan Zhao, Akram Ali, Zeineb El Orch, Jihad Zeid, Ben Wachholz, and staff at Elevate Energy

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