Occurrence and spatial distribution of polychlorinated biphenyls in urban soils from East Chicago, Indiana

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The College of Engineering's 18th Annual Research Open House
November 5, 2020

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Polychlorinated biphenyls are industrial chemicals that are toxic to humans.

209 congeners
There are three main modes of PCB exposure to humans.

- Inhalation
- Ingestion
- Skin-absorption
Indiana Harbor and Ship Canal, East Chicago, IN
n = 32
Min = 20 (ng/g)
Max = 1700 (ng/g)
Median = 100 (ng/g)
So where are these PCBs coming from?

- $n = 32$
- Min = 20 (ng/g)
- Max = 1700 (ng/g)
- Median = 100 (ng/g)
PCB levels in East Chicago are higher compared to other study sites.

Martinez et al. *Environmental Pollution* [2011]

$n = 32$
Min = 20 (ng/g)
Max = 1700 (ng/g)
Median = 100 (ng/g)
what's next
• Sources of PCBs in East Chicago soil may vary
• PCB levels > other urban sites
• PCB levels > US and global background levels
• More detailed analyses will be conducted