

Traffic Related Air Pollution and Pediatric Asthma

Michael Brauer

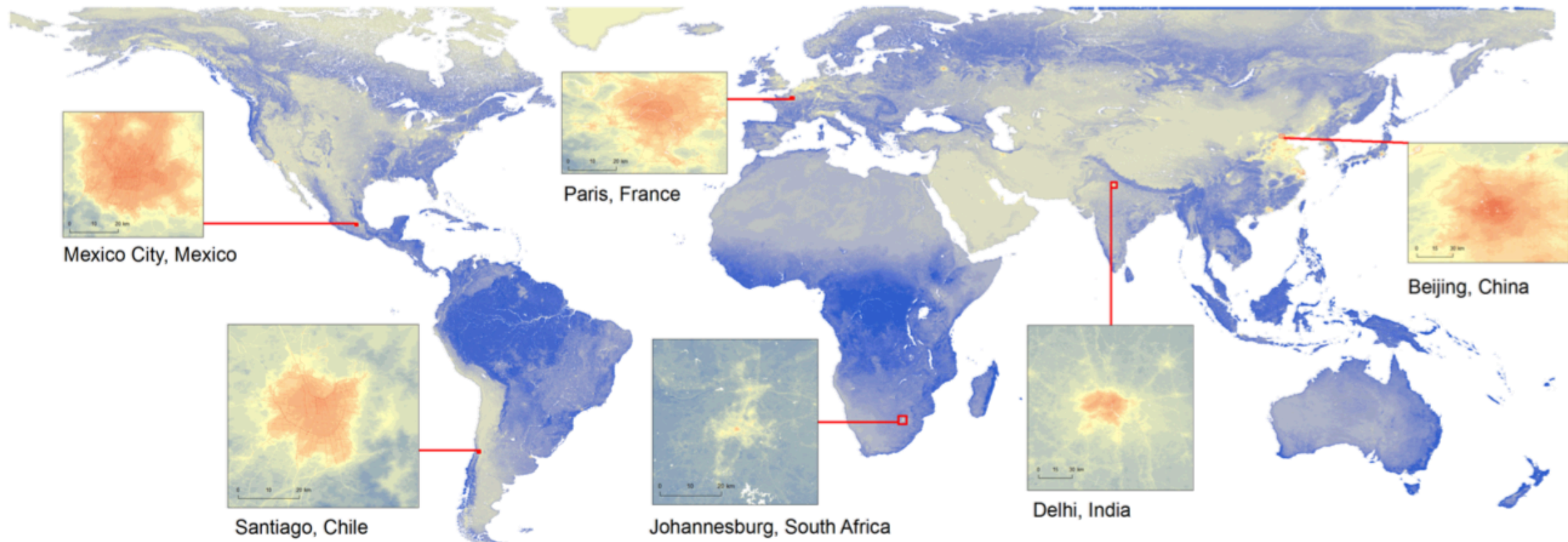
School of Population and Public Health



THE UNIVERSITY
OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

CHE Webinar, July 23, 2019

THINKSTOCK PHOTO



Global, national, and urban burdens of pediatric asthma incidence attributable to ambient NO₂ pollution: estimates from global datasets

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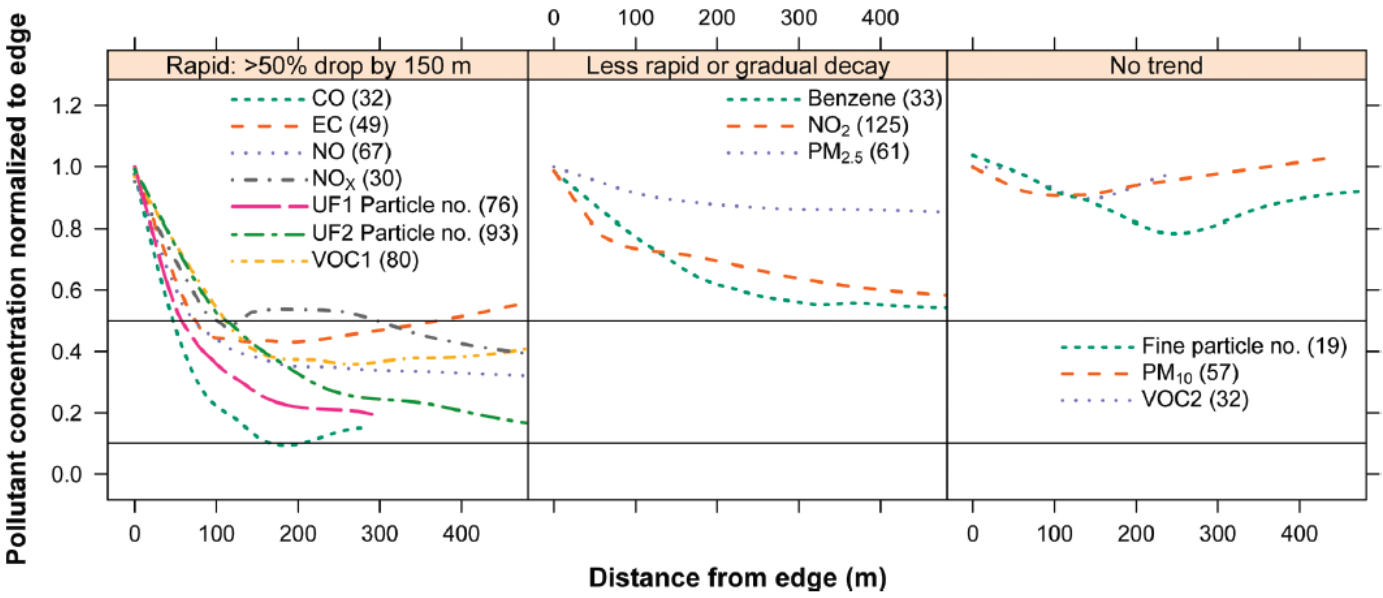
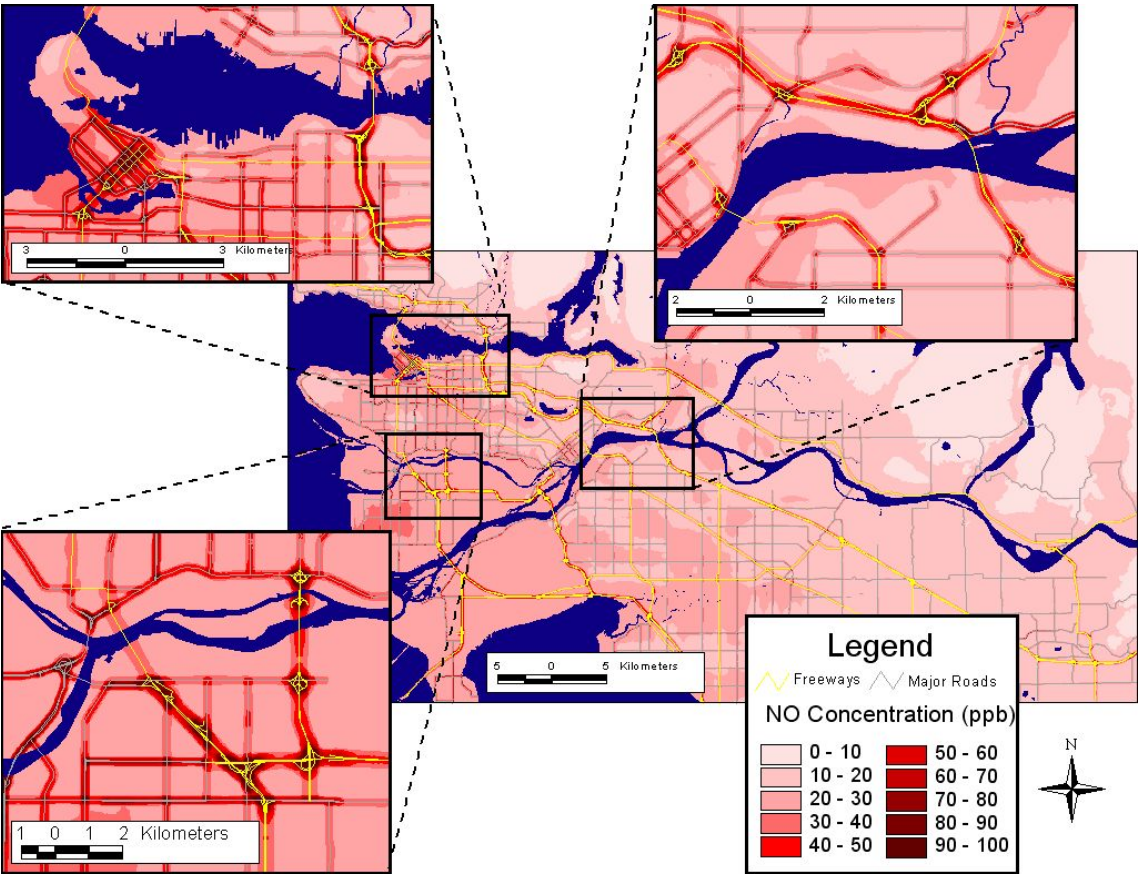
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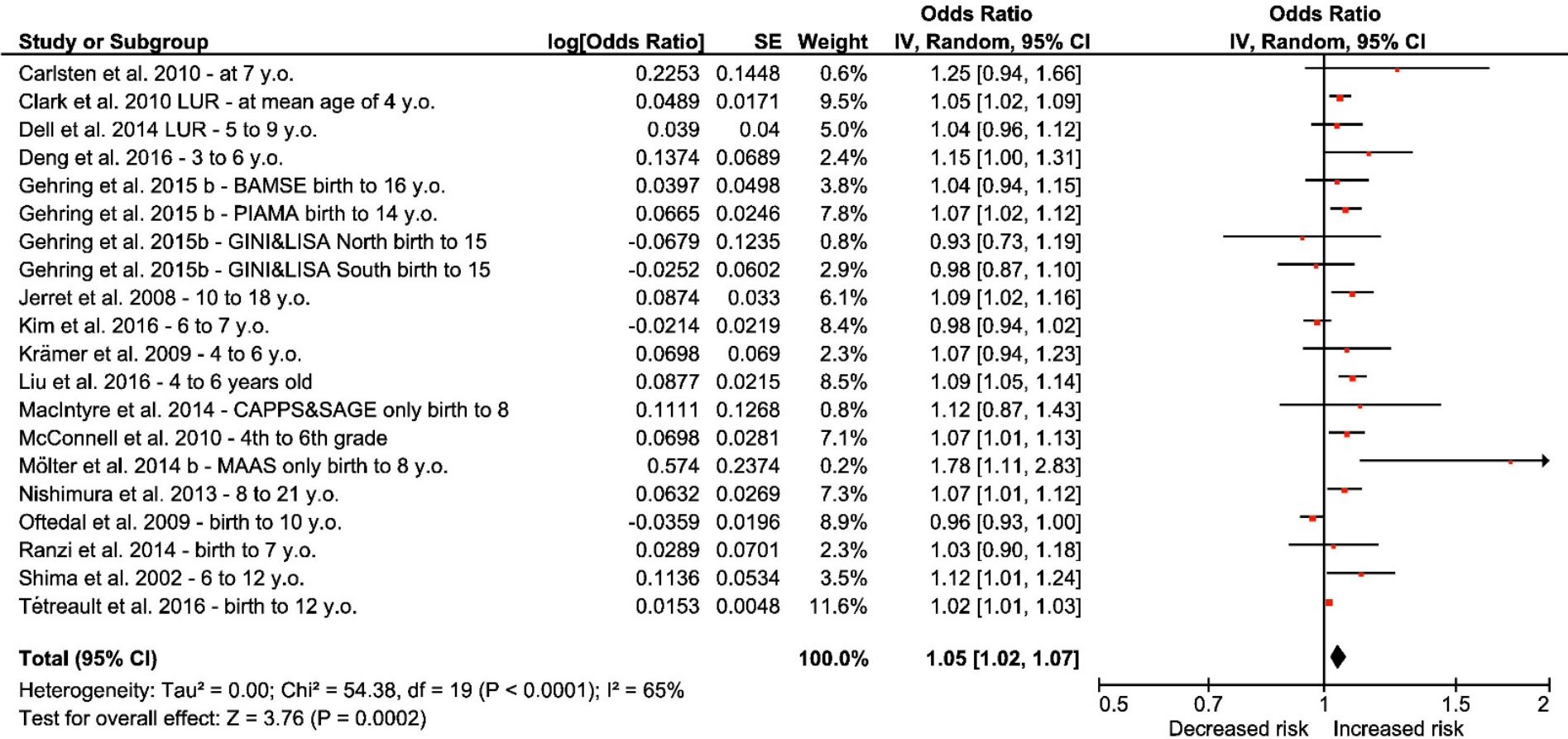
Motivation: Traffic-related air pollution (TRAP)



Karner *et al.* (2010) *Environ. Sci. Technol.* 44, 5334

- Traffic influence zones** (<500m from highway or <100m from major road)
- 32% of Canadian population (~10 M)
 - 36% of primary schools in large Canadian cities

Motivation: Traffic-related air pollution (TRAP)



Motivation

- First estimates published in EHP in October 2018

Research

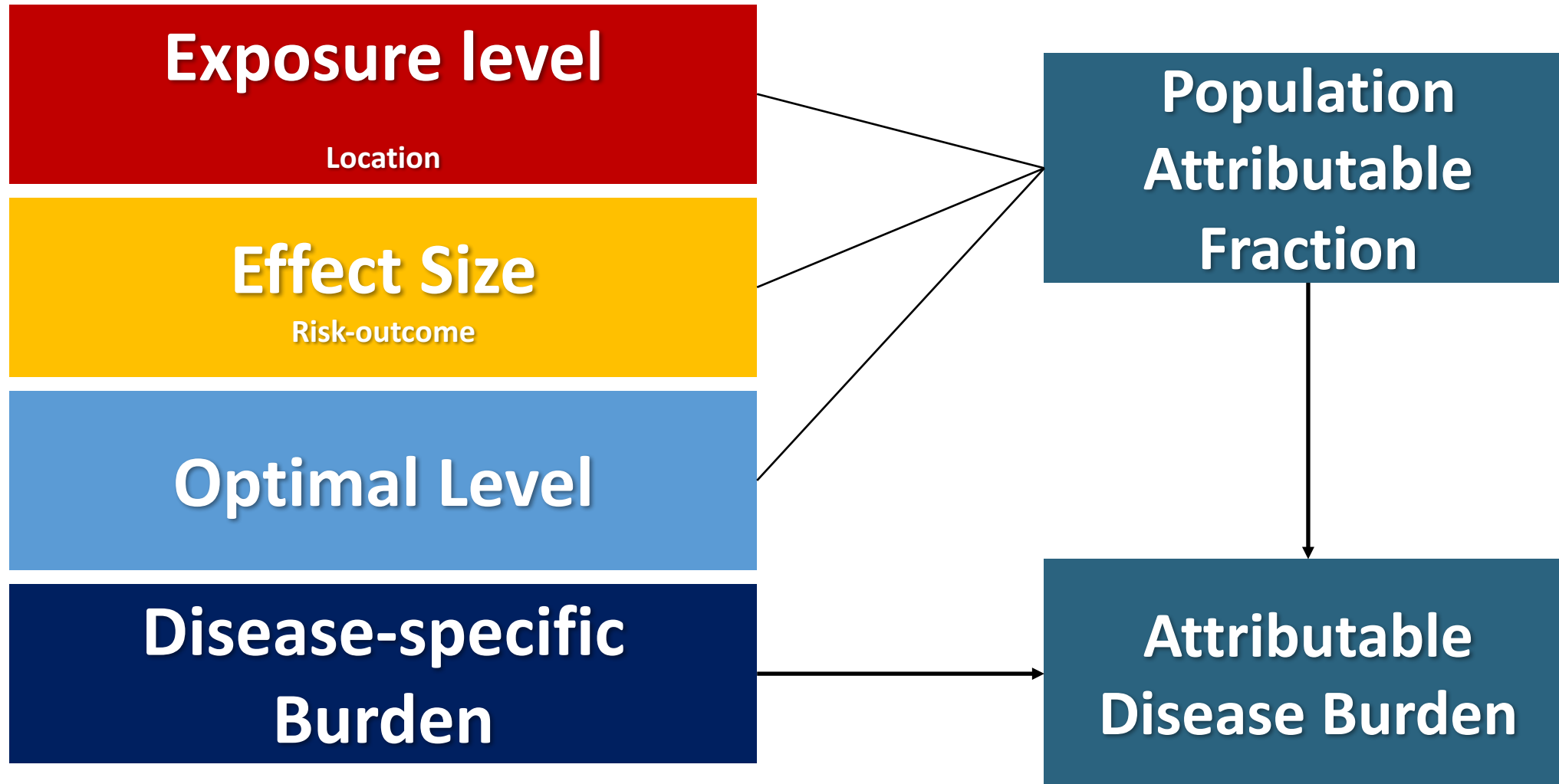
A Section 508–conformant HTML version of this article
is available at <https://doi.org/10.1289/EHP3766>.

Estimates of the Global Burden of Ambient PM_{2.5}, Ozone, and NO₂ on Asthma Incidence and Emergency Room Visits

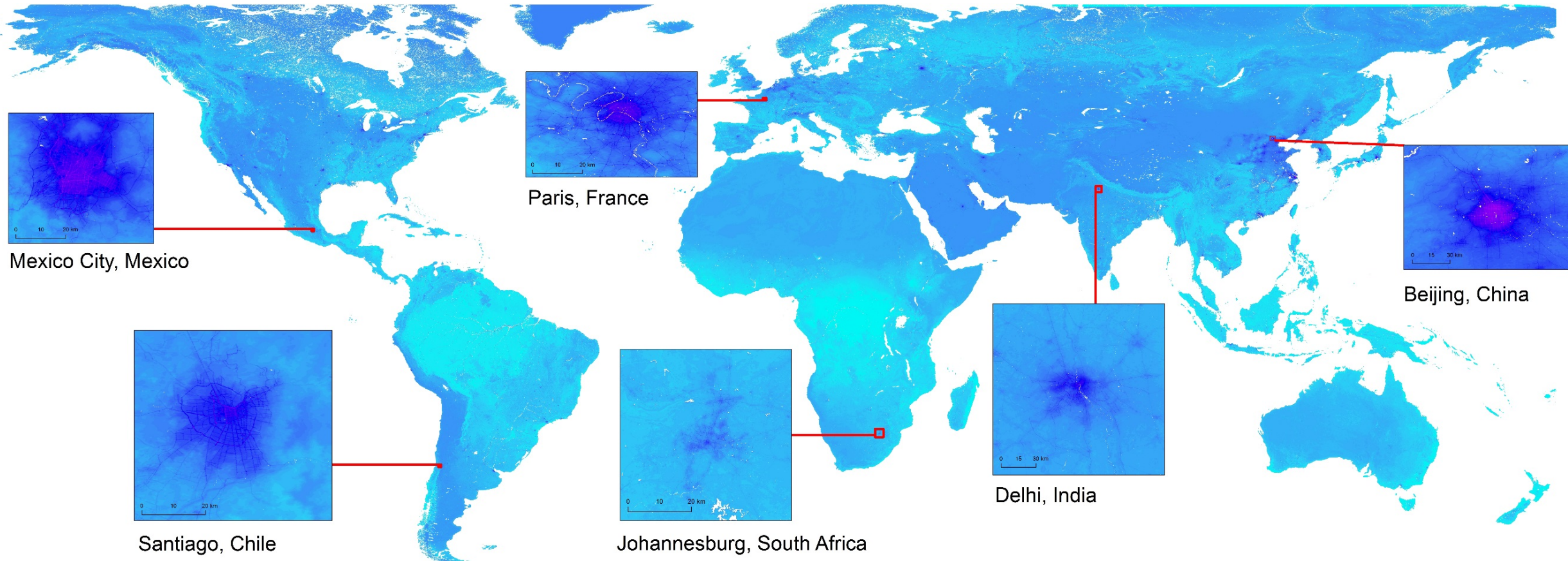
Susan C. Anenberg,¹ Daven K. Henze,² Veronica Tinney,¹ Patrick L. Kinney,³ William Raich,⁴ Neal Fann,⁵ Chris S. Malley,⁶ Henry Roman,⁴ Lok Lamsal,⁷ Bryan Duncan,⁷ Randall V. Martin,^{8,9} Aaron van Donkelaar,⁸ Michael Brauer,^{10,11} Ruth Doherty,¹² Jan Eiof Jonson,¹³ Yanko Davila,² Kengo Sudo,^{14,15} and Johan C.I. Kuylenstierna⁶

- Demonstrated potentially large impacts, but also many uncertainties and methodological refinements needed.
- For **asthma incidence**, strongest evidence for associations with **traffic-related NO₂ and for children**, but our methods were unable to capture realistic near-roadway exposures.

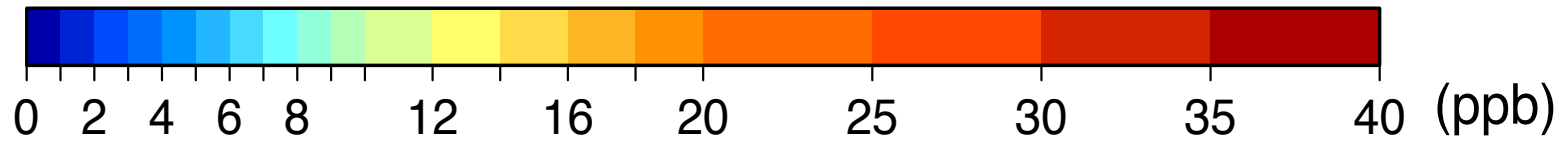
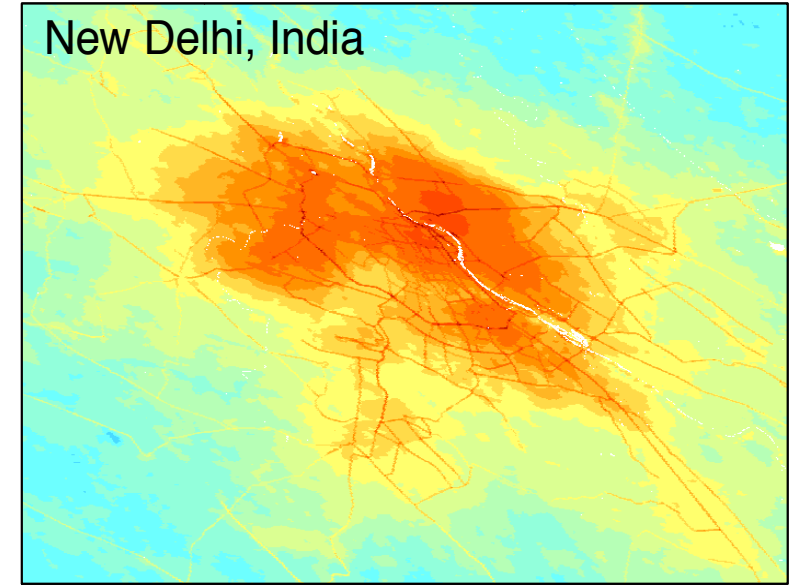
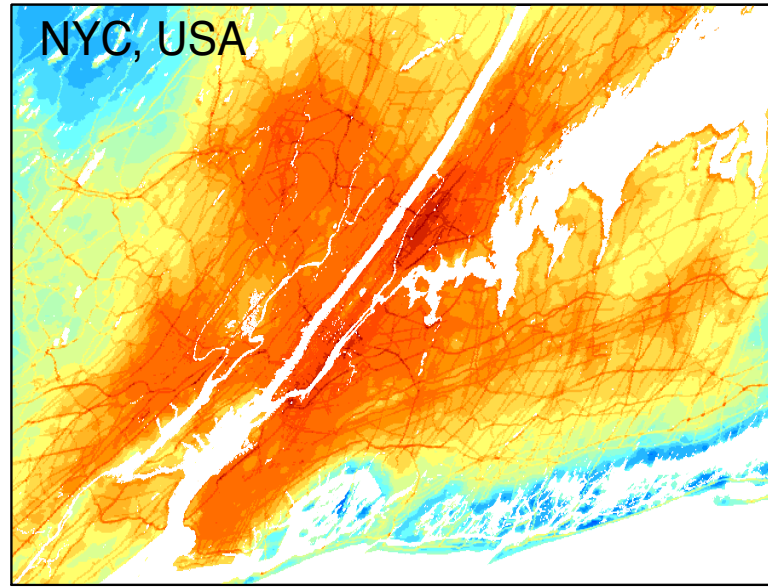
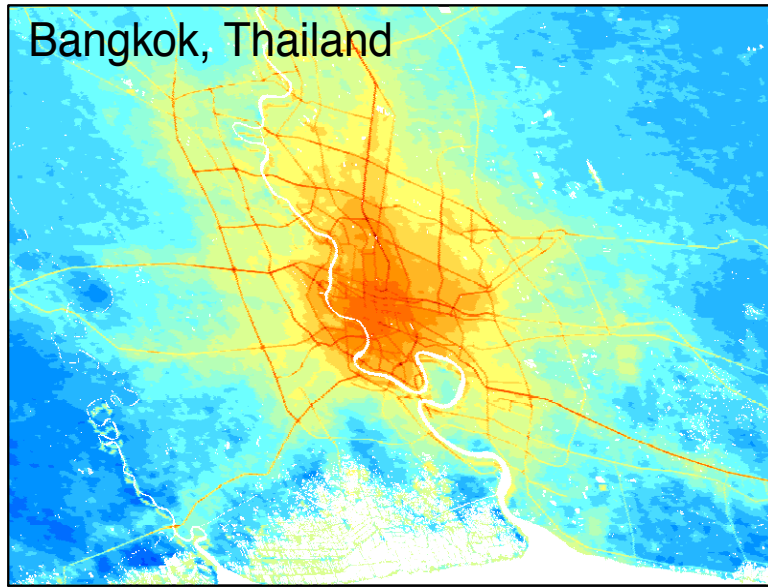
Methods: Estimating asthma burden attributable to NO₂



Exposure: Global high resolution (100m) NO₂ model

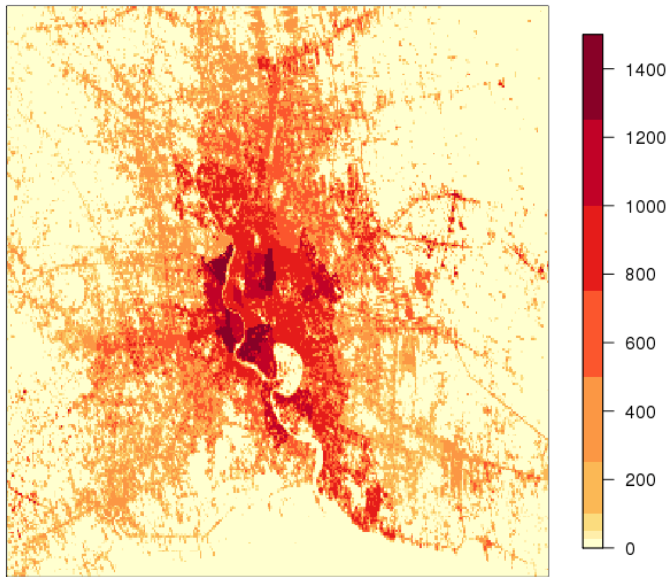


Exposure: Global high resolution (100m) NO₂ model

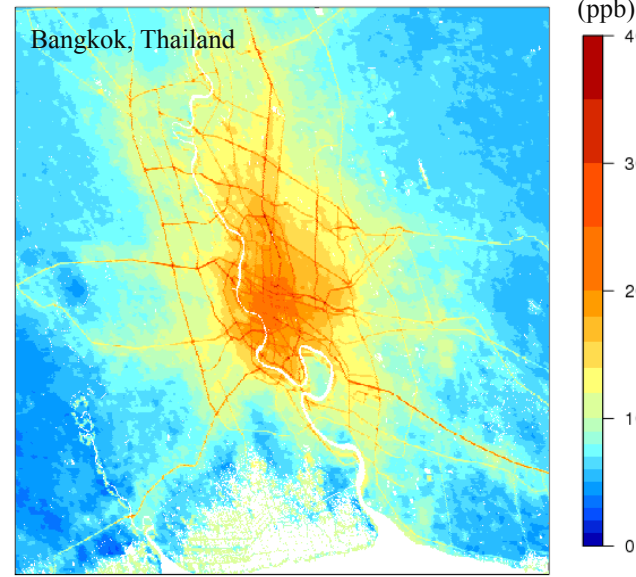


Exposure: Matching exposure to population data

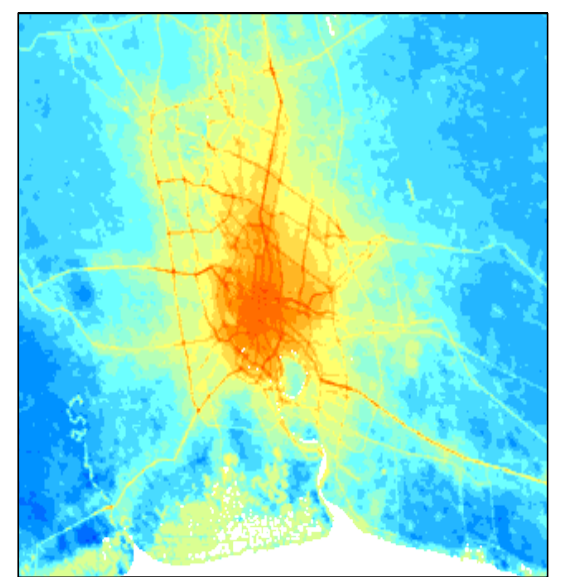
$$Burden = Inc_{c,a} \times \sum_{i,j} Pop_{i,j,a} \times (1 - e^{-\beta X_{i,j}})$$



250m x 250m population (GHS-POP) available for 1975, 1990, 2000, 2015



2010-2012 ground-level NO₂ at 100m x 100m (Larkin et al., 2017)



Regridded and reprojected to match the GHS-POP raster

Methods: Effect size

Literature review: multi-national meta-analyses of traffic-related air pollution (TRAP) exposure and pediatric asthma incidence

Meta-analysis	Relative risk per 10 ppb NO ₂	Relative risk per 10 µg m ⁻³ PM _{2.5}	# of epi studies and locations
Khreis et al. (2017)	1.26 (1.10-1.37)	1.34 (1.11-1.63)	41 studies in North America, Latin America, Europe, East Asia
Bowatte et al. (2015)	1.18 (0.93-1.48)	1.93 (1.00-3.71)	10 studies in Europe, Canada
Anderson et al. (2013)	1.24 (1.06-1.45)	<i>Not given</i>	14 studies in Europe, North America, Japan
Gasana et al. (2012)	1.28 (1.12-1.50)	1.40 (0.77-2.56)	9 studies in Europe, North America, Latin America, East Asia

Khreis et al. reviewed the largest number of studies that include all but one of those considered in the other meta-analyses. No apparent regional heterogeneity in reported relative risks

“The overall evidence indicates that there is **likely a causal** relationship between long-term NO₂ exposure and pediatric asthma development.” -- EPA, 2016; Health Canada, 2016.

Methods: Estimating asthma burden attributable to NO₂

$$Burden = Inc_{c,a} \times \sum_{i,j} Pop_{i,j,a} \times (1 - e^{-\beta X_{i,j}})$$

2015 national incidence rates from IHME (for 1-4, 5-9, 10-14, 15-18 year age groups)

2015 gridded population at 250 m x 250 m from the European Commission Joint Research Center GHS-POP + gridded age-group fractions from 2010 NASA CIESIN GPWv4

2010-2012 gridded surface NO₂ (100 m x 100 m) from Land Use Regression modeling by Larkin et al. (2017) → aggregated to 250 m x 250 m

Relative risk from Khreis et al. (2017)

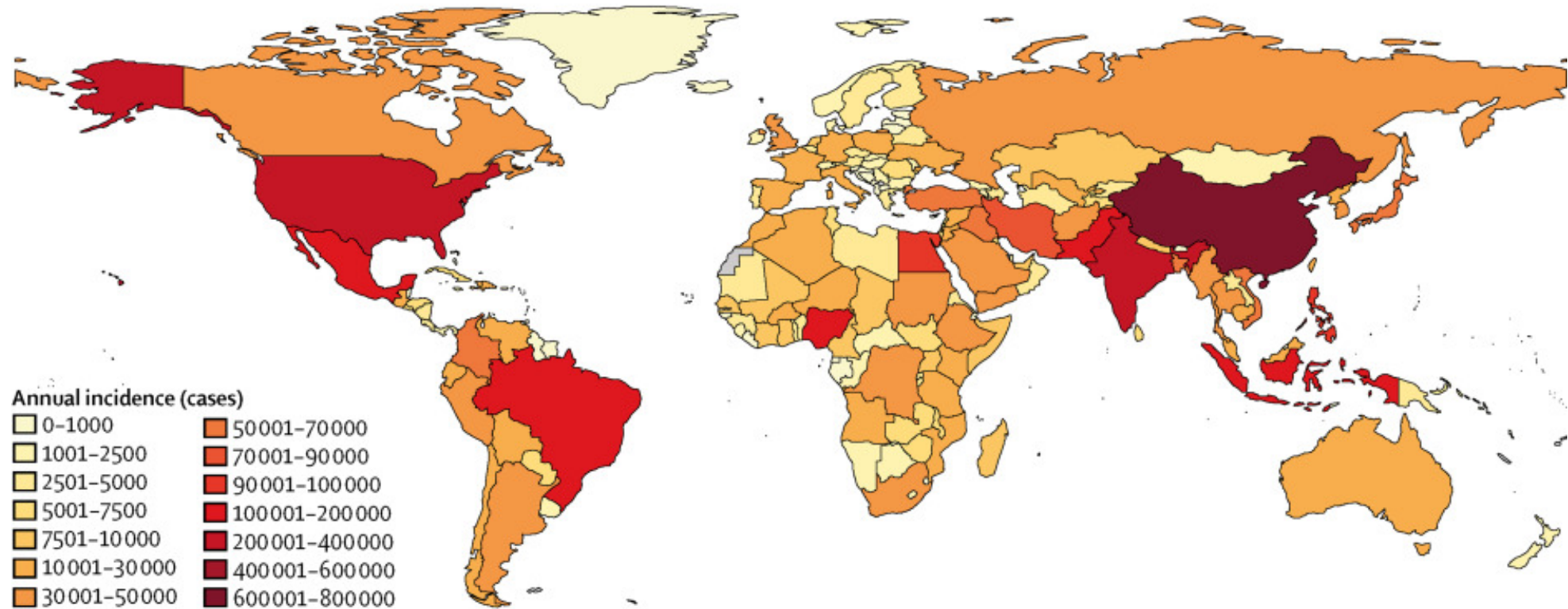
Applied in each 250 m x 250 m grid cell globally, and aggregated over 21 regions, 194 countries, and 125 major cities*

Counterfactual concentrations of 0, 2, and 5 ppb.

*GHS-SMOD city extents (contiguous cells with ≥50,000 people & population density of ≥1,500 inhabitants/km² or built-up density >50%.)

4 million (95% UI 1.8-5.2) children developed asthma due to NO₂ pollution in 2015

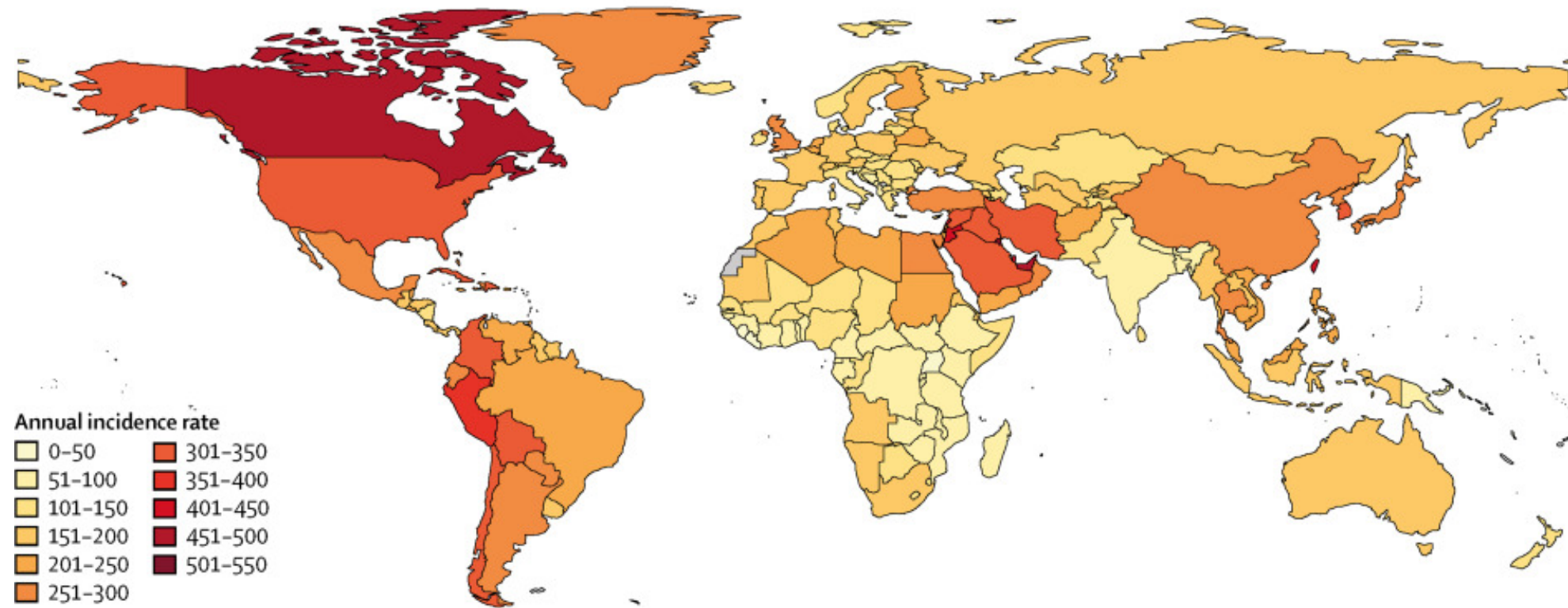
A Number of new asthma cases due to NO₂ exposure



- Top 5 national burdens (cases/year): China (760,000), India (350,000), USA (240,000), Indonesia (160,000), and Brazil (140,000).

13% (6-16) of global pediatric asthma burden

B Number of new asthma cases due to NO₂ exposure (per 100 000)

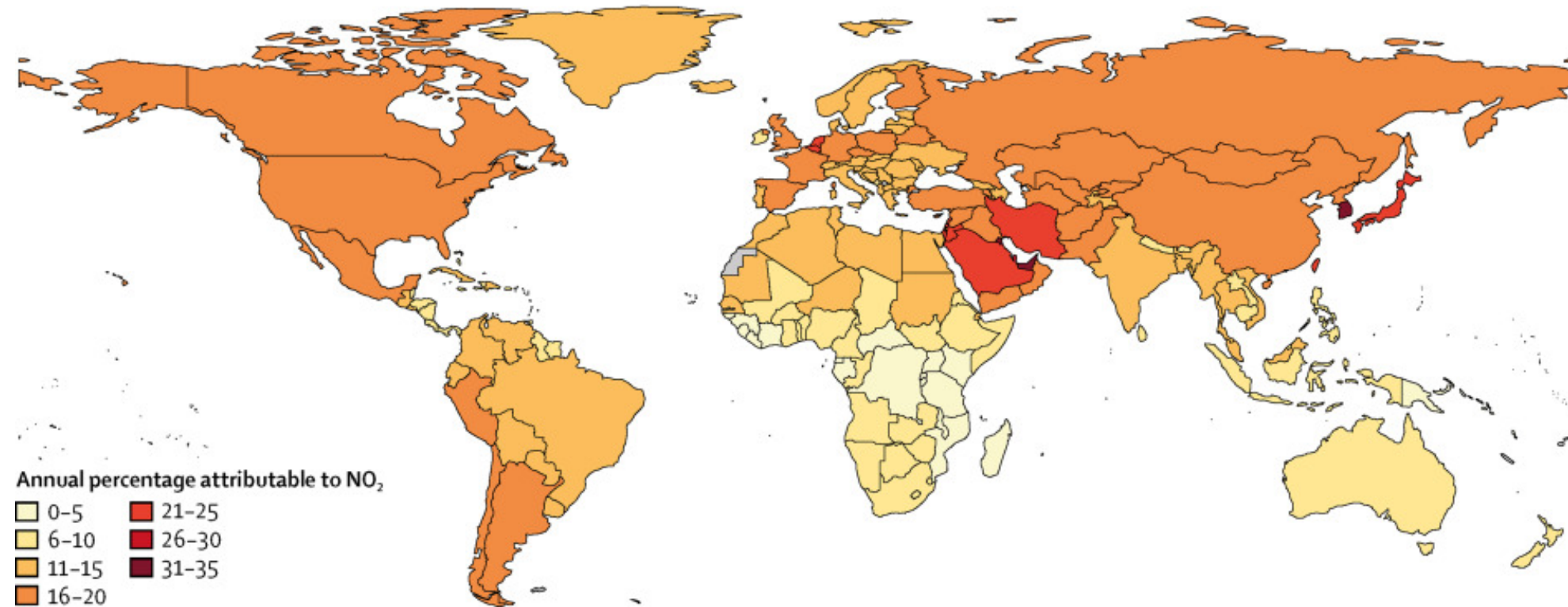


Top 5 national rates (case/year per 100,000): Kuwait (550), United Arab Emirates (460), Canada (450), Taiwan (420), and Qatar (410).

~97% of children lived, and ~92% of NO₂-attributable pediatric asthma incidence occurred, in areas below the current WHO guideline (21 ppb annual average NO₂)

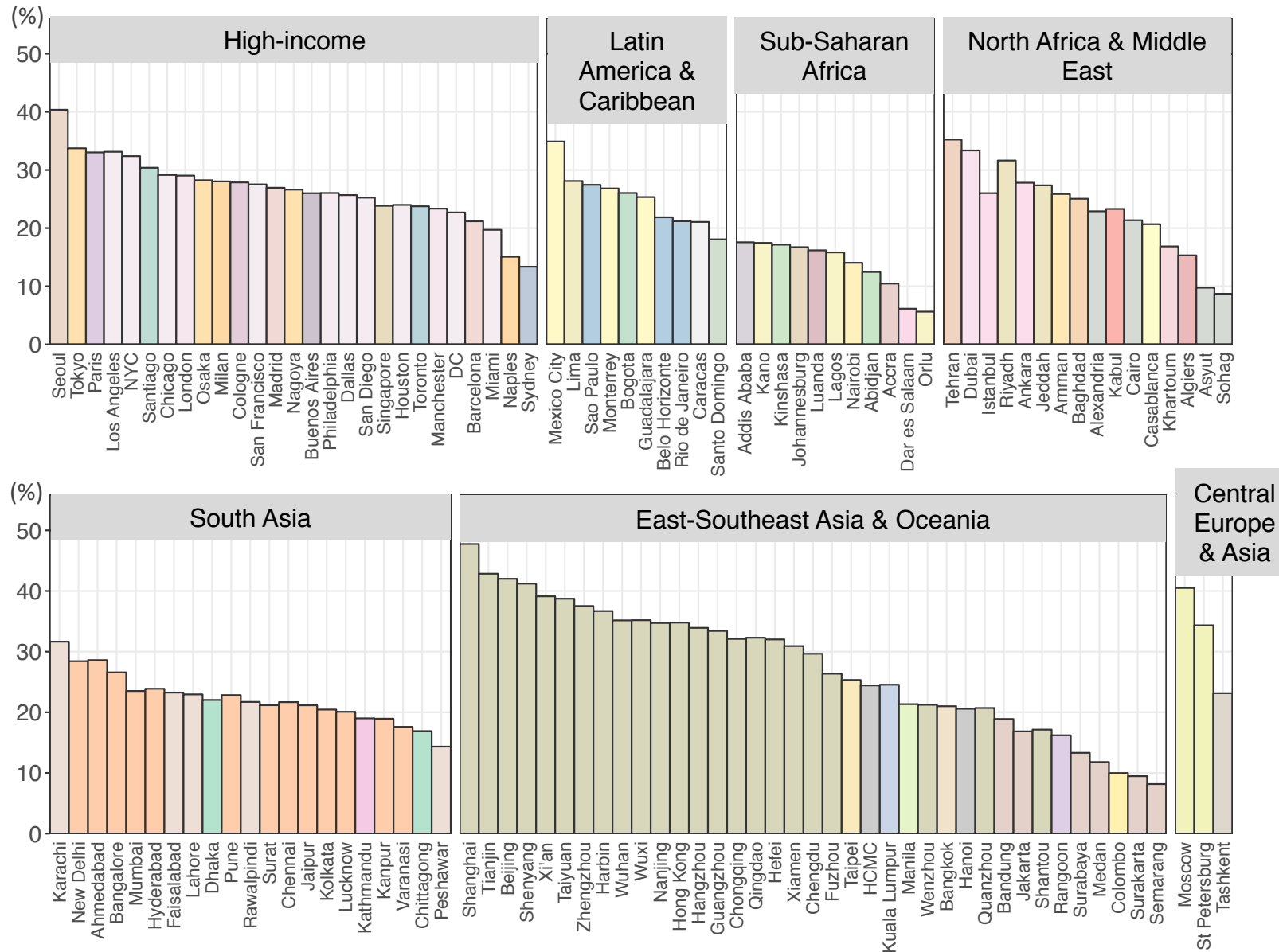
NO₂-attributable pediatric asthma incidence impacts are largest in middle and high-income countries

C Percentage of new asthma cases due to NO₂ exposure



- Globally, 64% of NO₂-attributable pediatric asthma incidence occurred in urban centers
-and exceeded 50% in 106 countries, reflecting the distribution of children living in urban areas and the high NO₂ concentrations in urban centers.

In both developed and developing cities, NO₂ pollution is an important risk factor for pediatric asthma incidence



In 125 major cities, the percentages of new pediatric asthma cases attributable to NO₂:

- Ranged from 6% (Orlu, Nigeria) to 48% (Shanghai, China).
- **Exceeded 20% in 92 cities, located in both developed and developing countries.**
- Highest in 8 cities in China, in Moscow, and Seoul.

Concluding thoughts

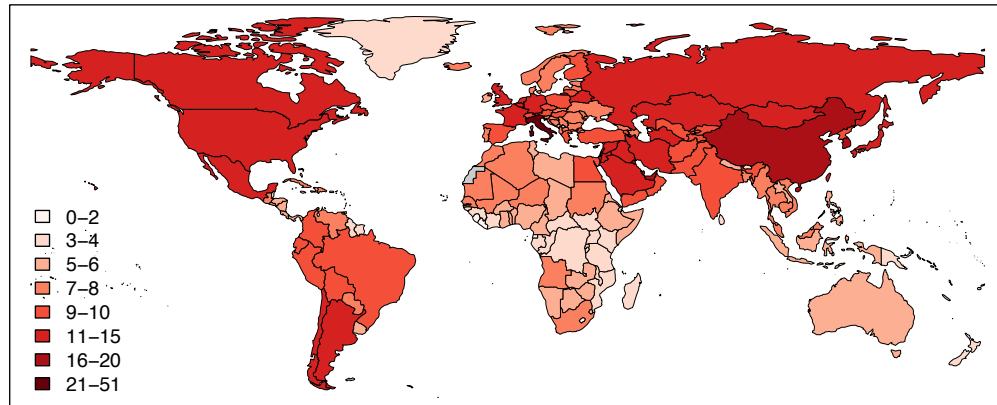
- Traffic-related air pollution is responsible for a sizeable proportion (13% globally, > 20% in many cities) of pediatric asthma. 730,000 DALYs in 2015
- While only 3% of children were exposed above the WHO guideline, 4.0 (1.8-5.2, 95% UI) million new pediatric asthma cases attributable to NO₂ pollution in 2015
- Reductions in traffic emissions and/or TRAP exposure could prevent a large portion of pediatric asthma in urban areas.



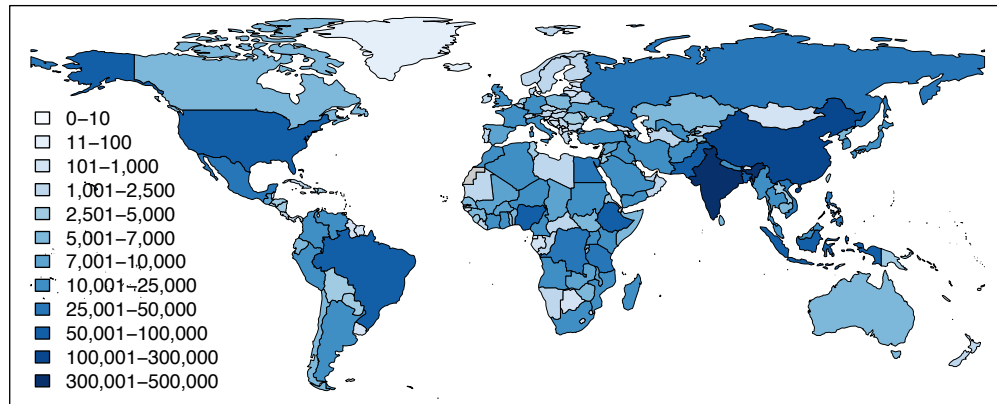
Thank you

Extra figures

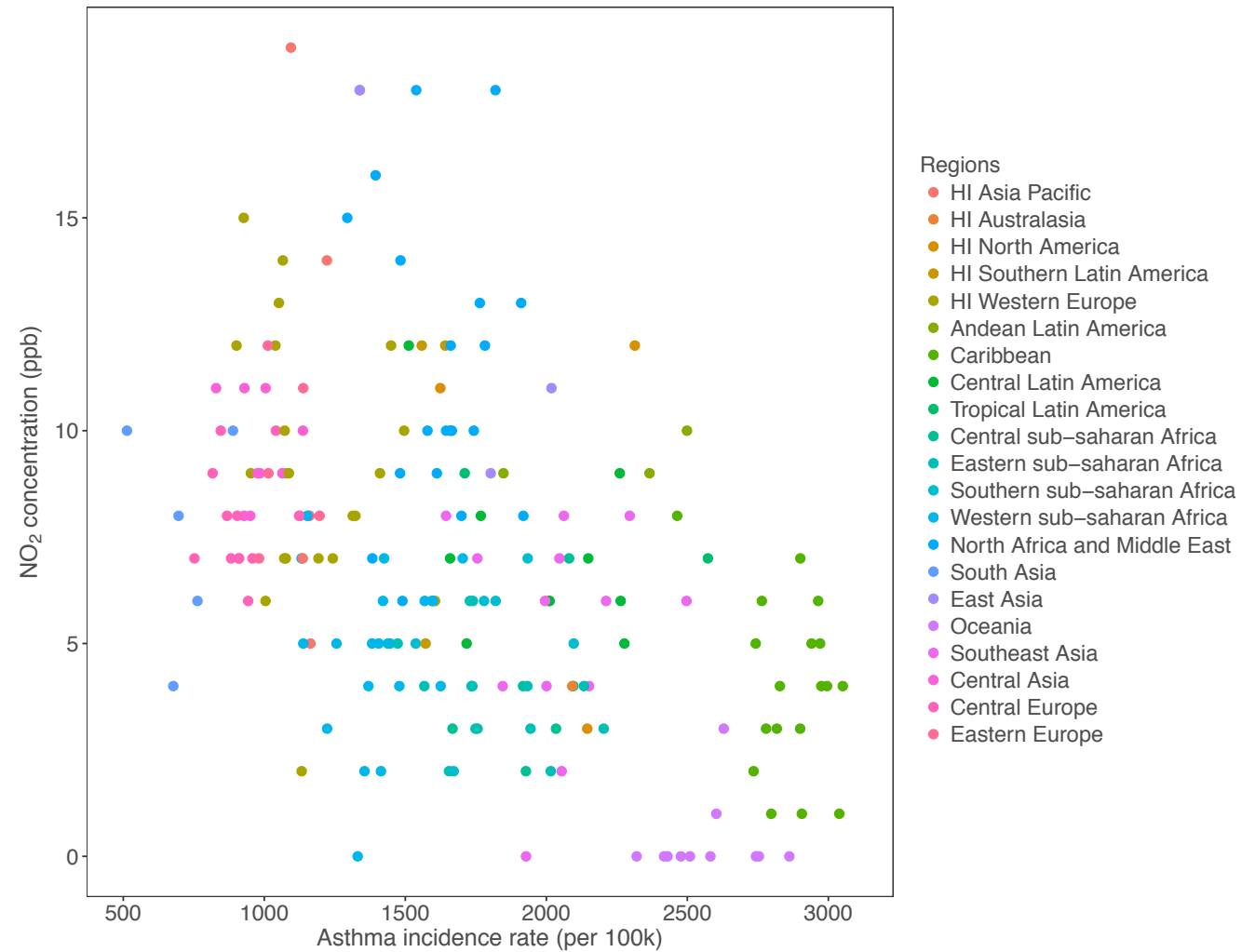
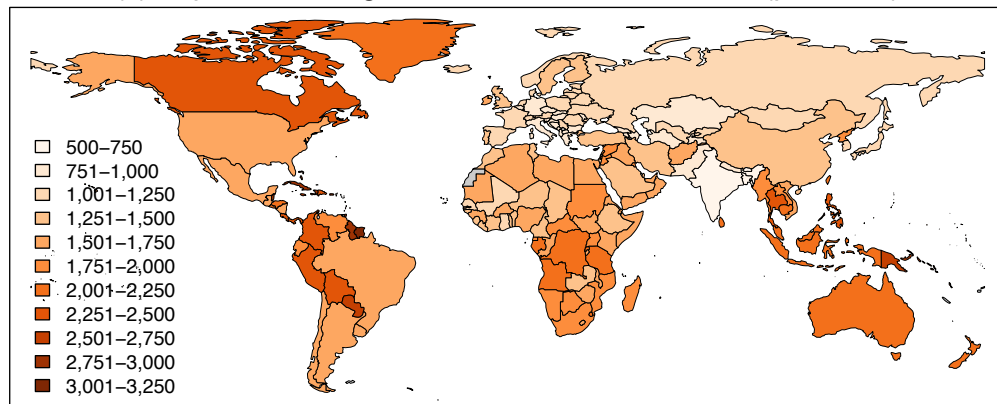
(a) Population-weighted NO₂ concentrations (ppb)



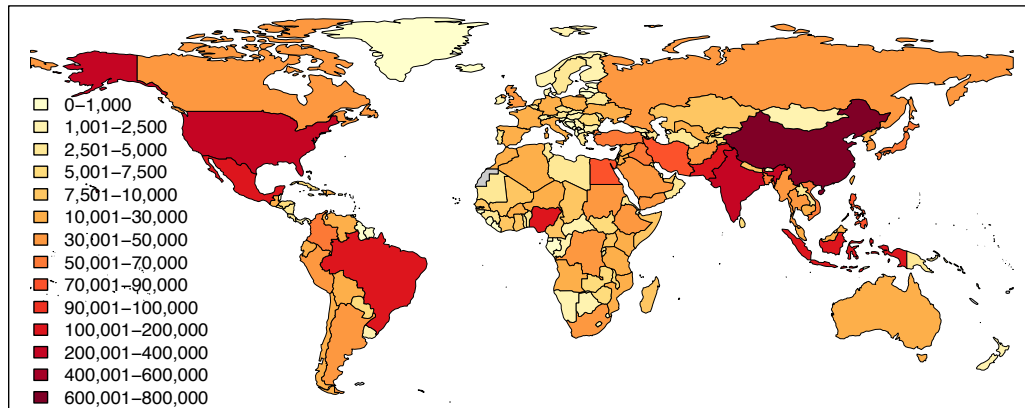
(b) 1-18y population size (thousands)



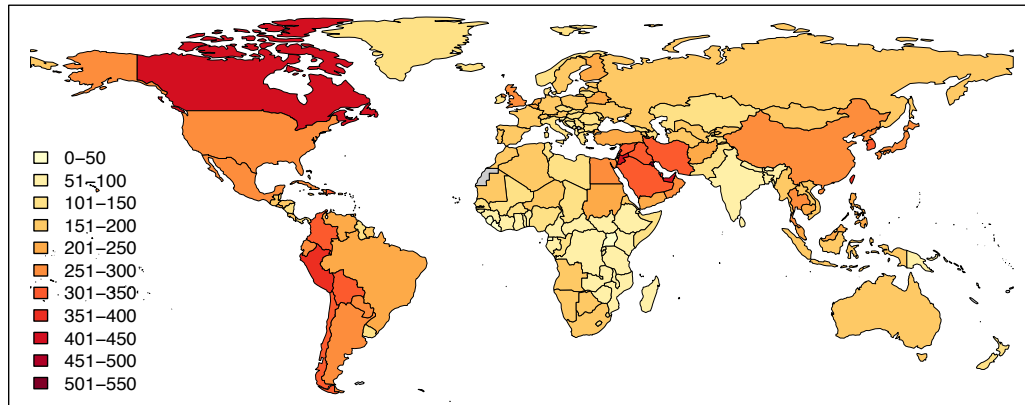
(c) Population-weighted asthma incidence rates (per 100k)



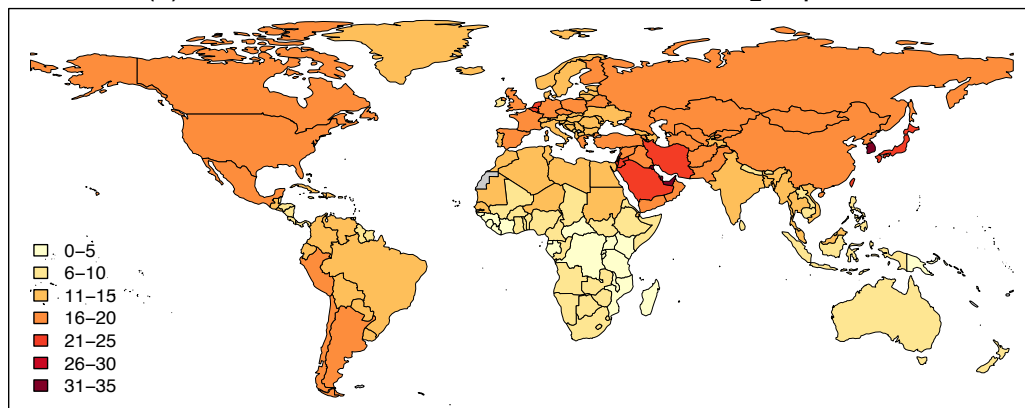
(a) Number of new asthma cases due to NO₂ exposure



(b) Number of new asthma cases due to NO₂ exposure (per 100k)



(c) Percent of new asthma cases due to NO₂ exposure



Results: National estimates

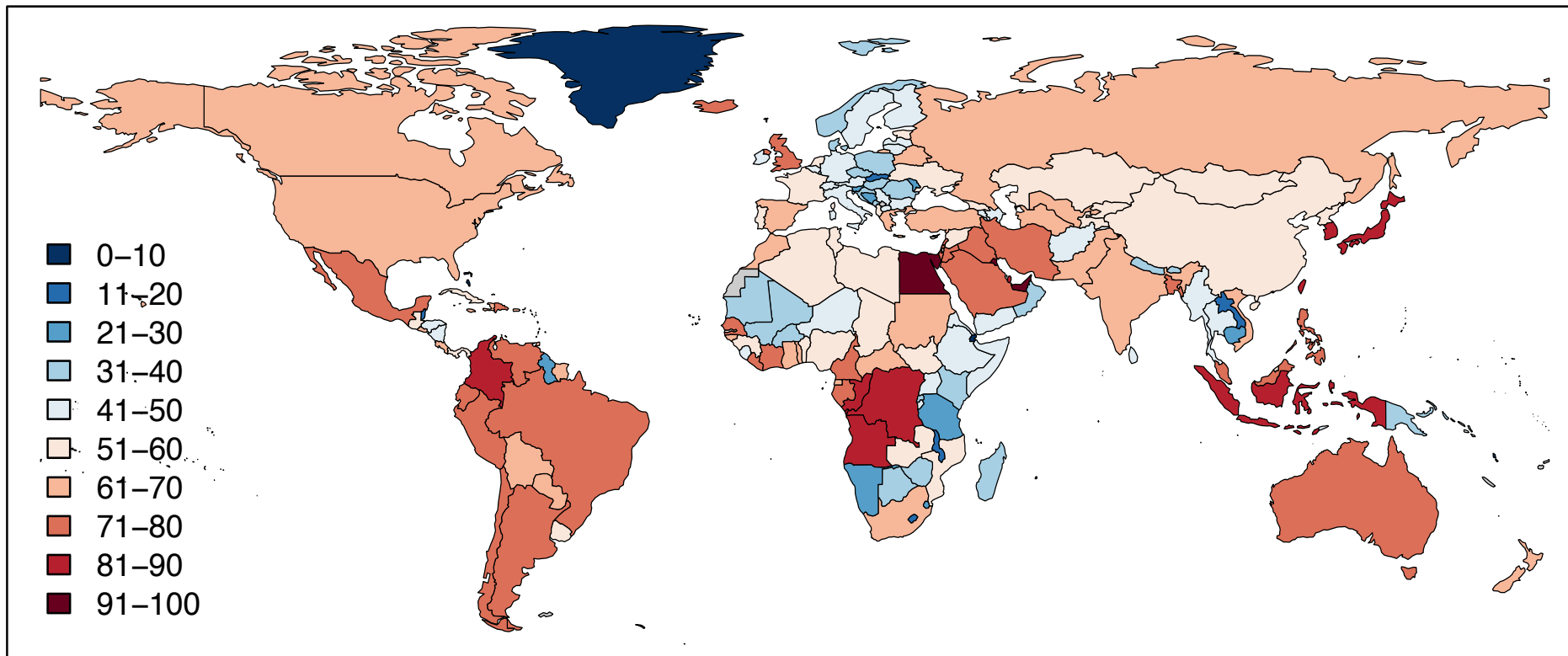
Top 5 national burdens: China (760,000 cases/year), India (340,000), USA (230,000), Indonesia (150,000), and Brazil (140,000)

Top 5 national burdens per 100k children: Kuwait (540 cases/year), followed by Canada, United Arab Emirates, Singapore, and Jordan (410-450) due to relatively high asthma incidence rates and/or population-weighted urban NO₂ concentrations.

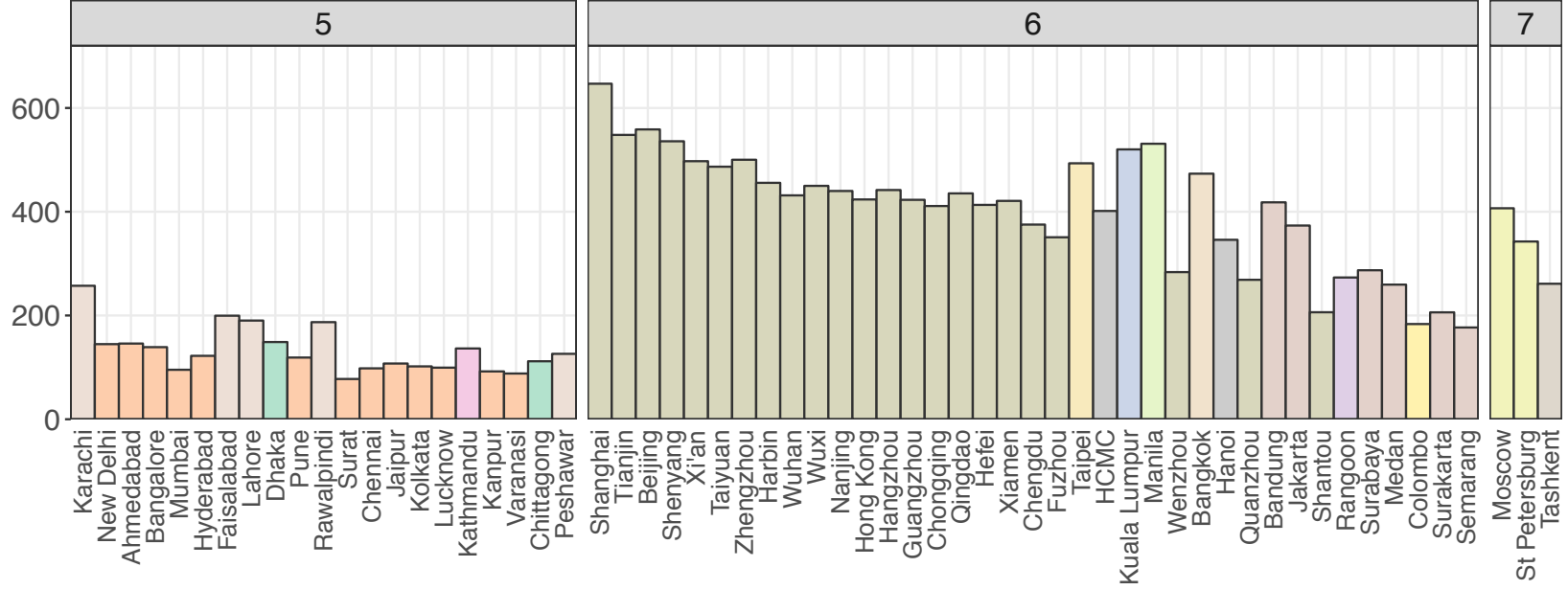
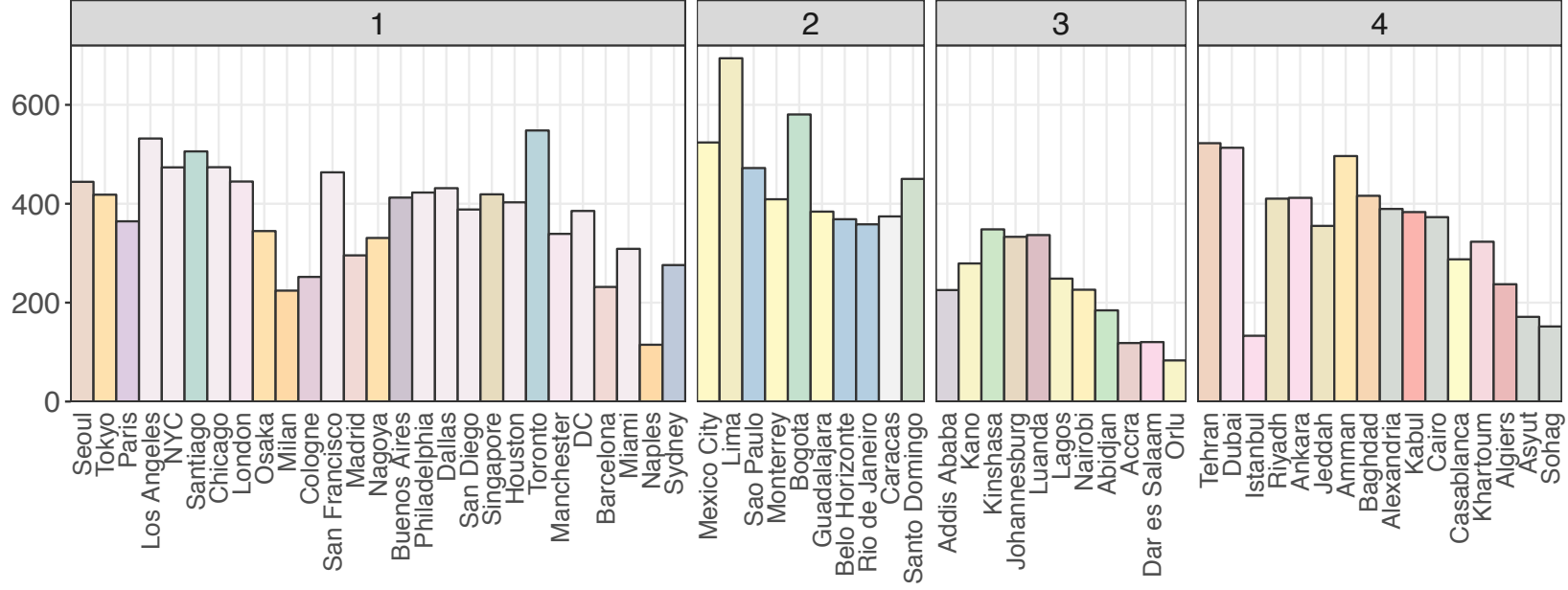
The percentage of NO₂-attributable pediatric asthma incidence exceeds 15% for 51 countries. The highest contributions of around 30% are estimated for South Korea, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, and Kuwait.

Globally, 64% of NO₂-attributable pediatric asthma incidence occurred in urban centers

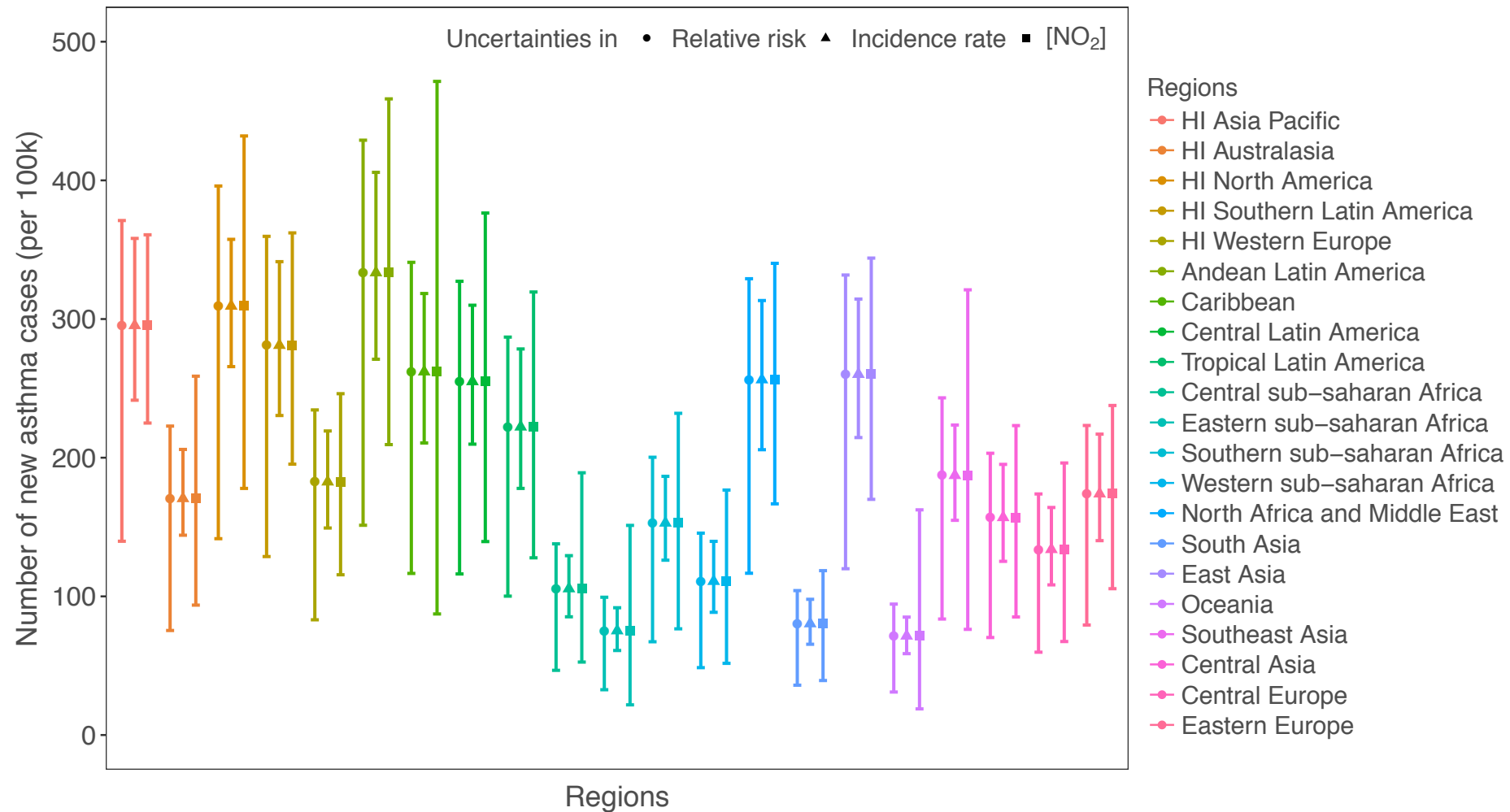
(a) Percent of NO₂-attributable incidence in urban centers



- This percentage increases to 90% if surrounding suburban areas are also considered.
- On a national level, this percentage exceeded 50% in 106 countries, reflecting both the distribution of children living in urban areas and the prevalence of high NO₂ concentrations found in urban centers.



Influence of uncertainties in input variables to regional estimates

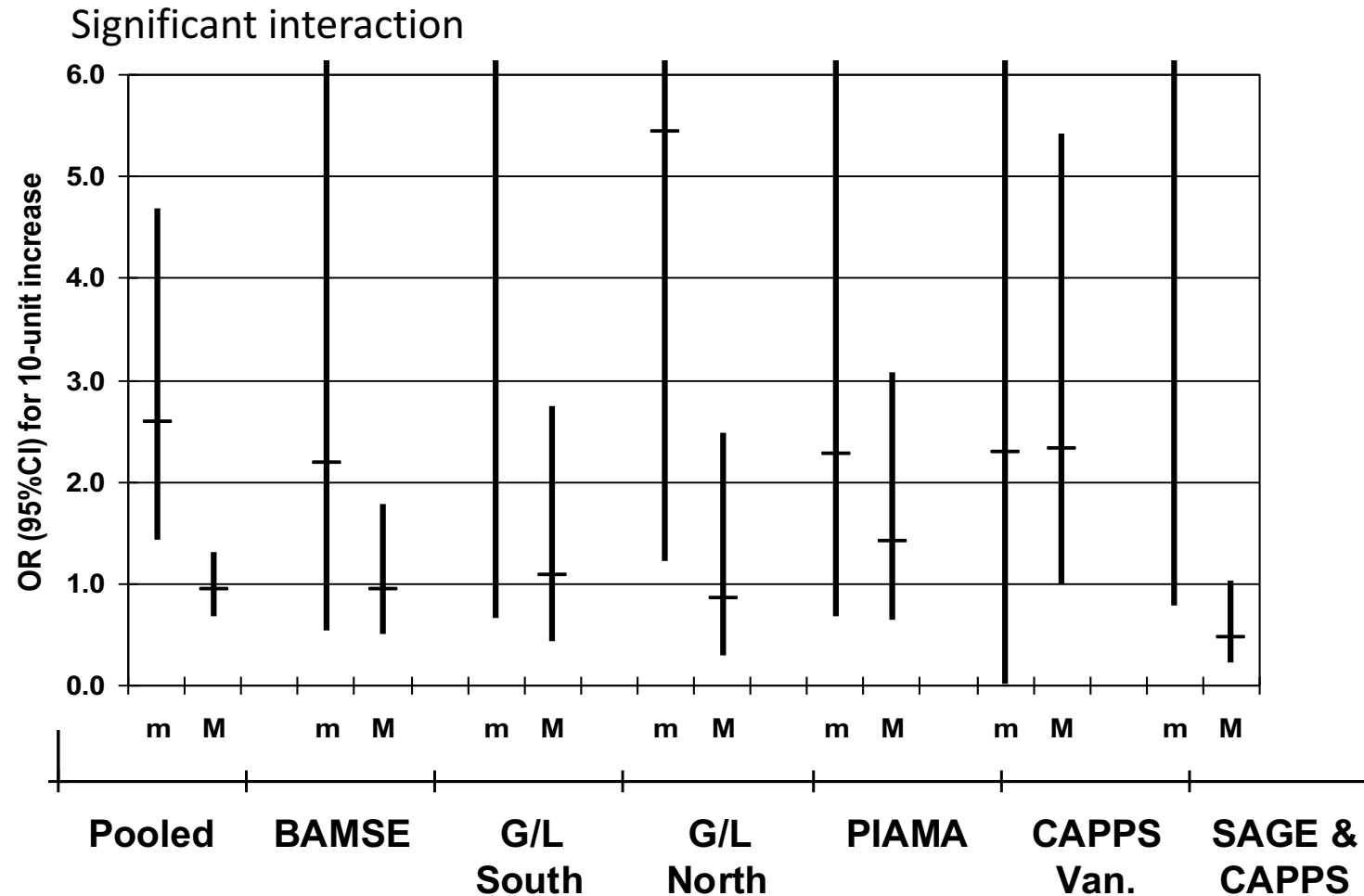


Asthma incidence rates have the least influence, given that their uncertainties are relatively small. Uncertainty resulting from those in the RR and NO₂ concentrations are generally comparable.

Traffic pollution, Asthma Genetics (TAG)



NO₂ -
Asthma, by
GSTP1
rs1138272



m - TT/TC; M - CC

Adjusted for study, city, intervention, gender, maternal age at birth, maternal smoking during pregnancy, environmental tobacco smoke in the home, birth weight and parental atopy

[GSTP1 and TNF Gene variants and associations between air pollution and incident childhood asthma: the traffic, asthma and genetics \(TAG\) study.](#)

MacIntyre EA, Brauer M, Melén E, Bauer CP, Bauer M, Berdel D, Bergström A, Brunekreef B, Chan-Yeung M, Klümper C, Fuertes E, Gehring U, Gref A, Heinrich J, Herbarth O, Kerkhof M, Koppelman GH, Kozyrskyj AL, Pershagen G, Postma DS, Thiering E, Tiesler CM, Carlsten C; TAG Study Group.

Environ Health Perspect. 2014 Apr;122(4):418-24. doi: 10.1289/ehp.1307459.