

Human Health & the Ohio River

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Pollution in the Ohio River

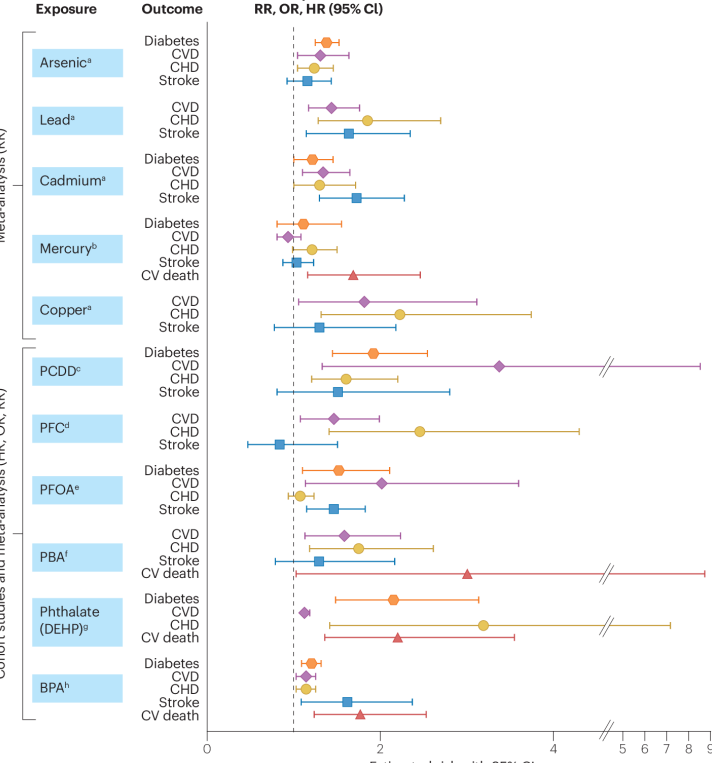
Exposure is multi-source and cumulative:

- Pollution primarily stems from industry, agriculture, and urban wastewater.
- Exposure impacts fish, wildlife, and humans via water, air, and food sources.



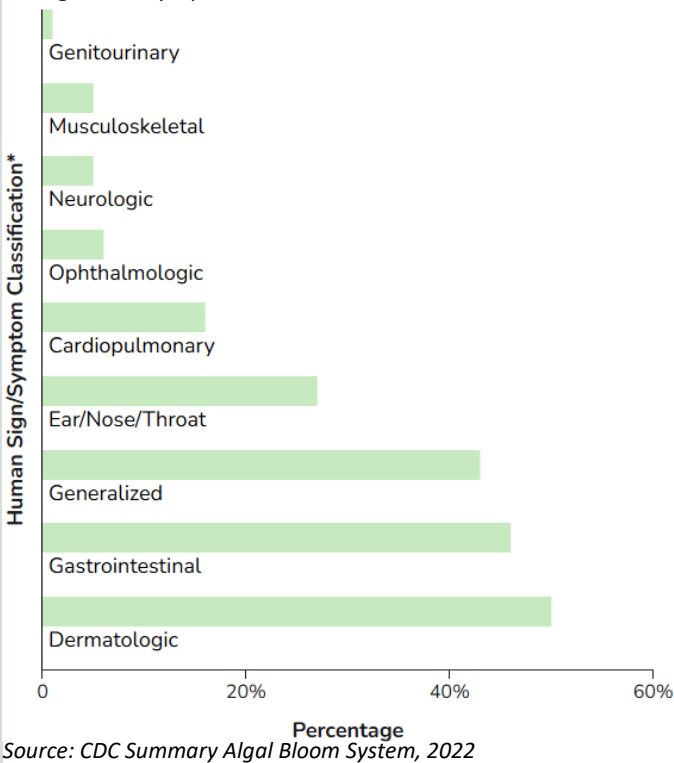
Impacts on Public Health

Association between metals, pesticides and cardiovascular outcomes

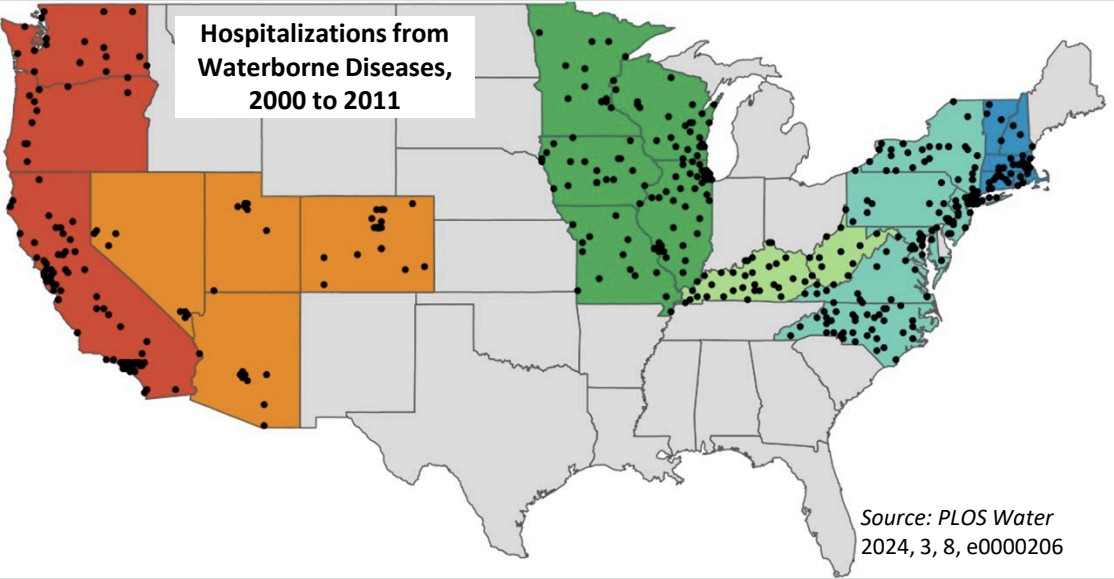
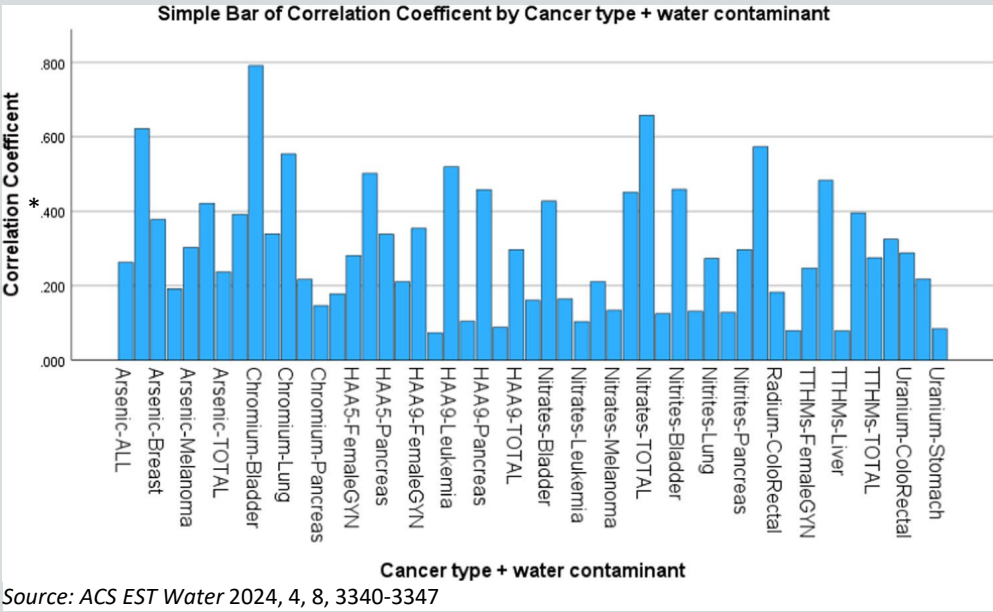


Source: Nature Reviews Cardiology, 2025, 22, 71-89

Signs and symptoms of HAB-associated human illnesses

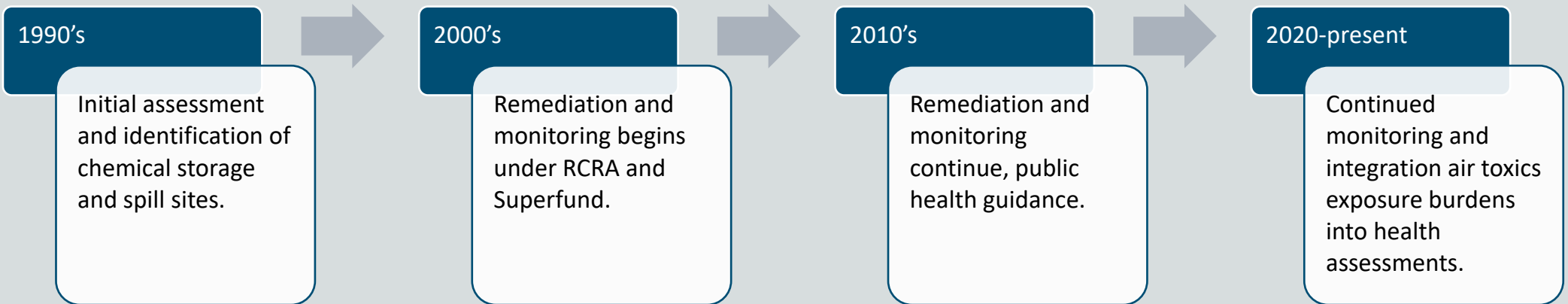


Source: CDC Summary Algal Bloom System, 2022

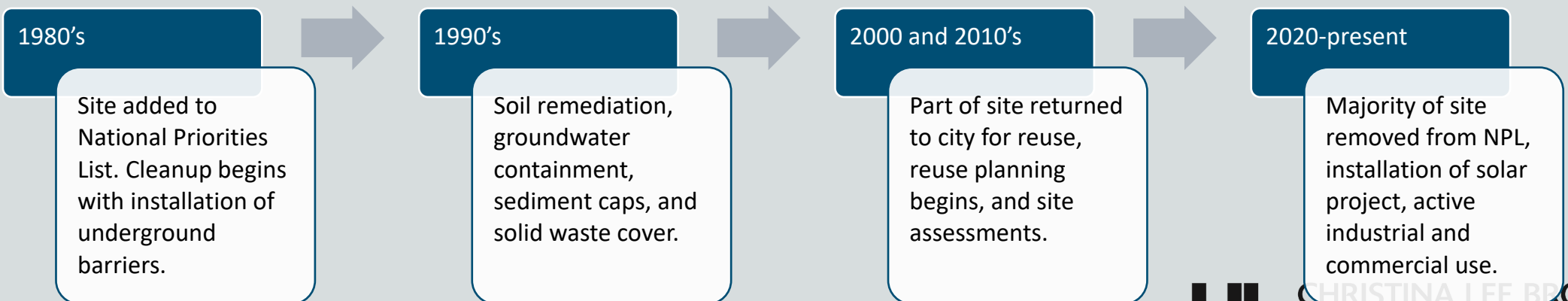


Mitigation and Remediation

- Mitigation: Rubbertown Industrial Corridor, Louisville, KY



- Remediation: Allied Chemical & Ironton Coke, Ironton, OH



River and Watershed Interventions

- Cincinnati and Pittsburgh Green Streets Initiatives
- Recreational Access and Riverfront Restoration



Lessons Learned

- Multi-Level coordination
- Engaged communities and public access
- Data driven communication
- Layering prevention and restoration
- Long-term commitment

