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The German Environmental Survey -40 years of research on exposure to harmful pollutants in humans and their environment

Inhalt

The German Environmental Survey (GerES) is the largest study of human exposure to potentially harmful pollutants in Germany. Since the first cycle started in 1985, it has provided population-representative human biomonitoring (HBM) and ambient monitoring data for 40 years. The sixth cycle has just been completed, and recent samples of urine, blood, tap water, indoor and outdoor air, and house dust, alongside comprehensive questionnaire data (covering i.a. health status, living environment, dietary preferences, personal care product use, biocide application, environmental justice, climate change adaptation and sociodemographic information, among others), will again provide valuable insights into the environmental exposure of the German population. The combination of state-of-the-art analytical HBM methods, questionnaires and ambient monitoring allows for the identification of exposure sources and can also aid in quantifying exposure routes. This presentation introduces GerES as a prototype for a 'One and Planetary Health' survey that integrates human exposure and environmental pollution from various sources to facilitate effective policy advice on exposure reduction measures.

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