

Composition of Personal, Indoor and Outdoor Particulate Exposures

*Helen H. Suh, Sc.D
Harvard School of Public
Health*

November 7, 2002

Key Questions

- *Is ambient PM an appropriate exposure **surrogate**?*
- *Do exposures of **sensitive populations** differ from those of healthy populations?*
- *What exposure factors act as **effect modifiers** in epidemiological studies?*
- *What is the **PM component** responsible for the observed effects?*
- *Are observed PM associations in epidemiological studies due to **confounding** by other pollutants?*
- *Do we need to consider the effects of **indoor and outdoor PM** separately?*

Hypotheses

- *The composition of personal and indoor $PM_{2.5}$ exhibits significant inter- and intra-personal variation*
- *The personal-outdoor relationship differs by particulate component*
- *The composition of personal and indoor $PM_{2.5}$ and its relationship to that outdoors differs for individuals with COPD living in LA as compared to other individuals*

Approach

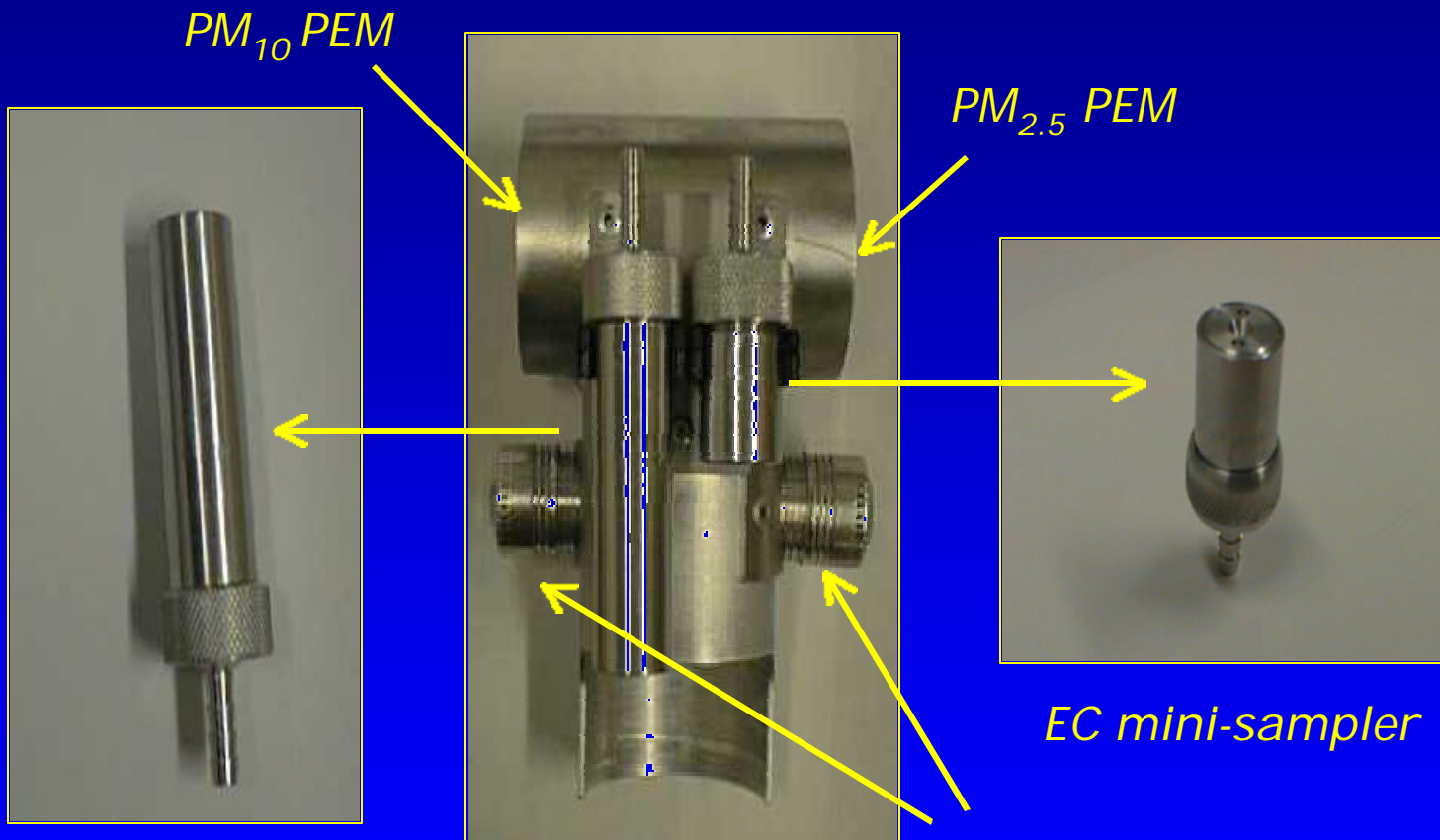
- **Phase I:** *Validate personal NO_3^- and EC samplers in laboratory and field tests*
- **Phase II:** *Conduct field study*
 - *Characterize composition of personal, indoor, and outdoor $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ for individuals with COPD*
 - *Examine relationship among personal, indoor and outdoor $\text{PM}_{2.5}$, NO_3^- and EC levels*
 - *Identify factors that may modify personal-outdoor, personal-indoor relationship*

EPA- and CARB-Sponsored Measurements

Measurement	Sponsor	
	EPA	CARB
Pollutant (24-h):¹ <i>PM₁₀, PM_{2.5}</i> <i>O₃, SO₂, NO₂</i> <i>Elemental Carbon (EC)</i> <i>Nitrate (NO₃⁻)</i> <i>Elements</i>	 	
Other: <i>Time-activity diaries</i> <i>Air exchange rates</i> <i>Housing characteristics</i>	 	

¹ Includes personal, indoor, outdoor home, and SAM site measurements

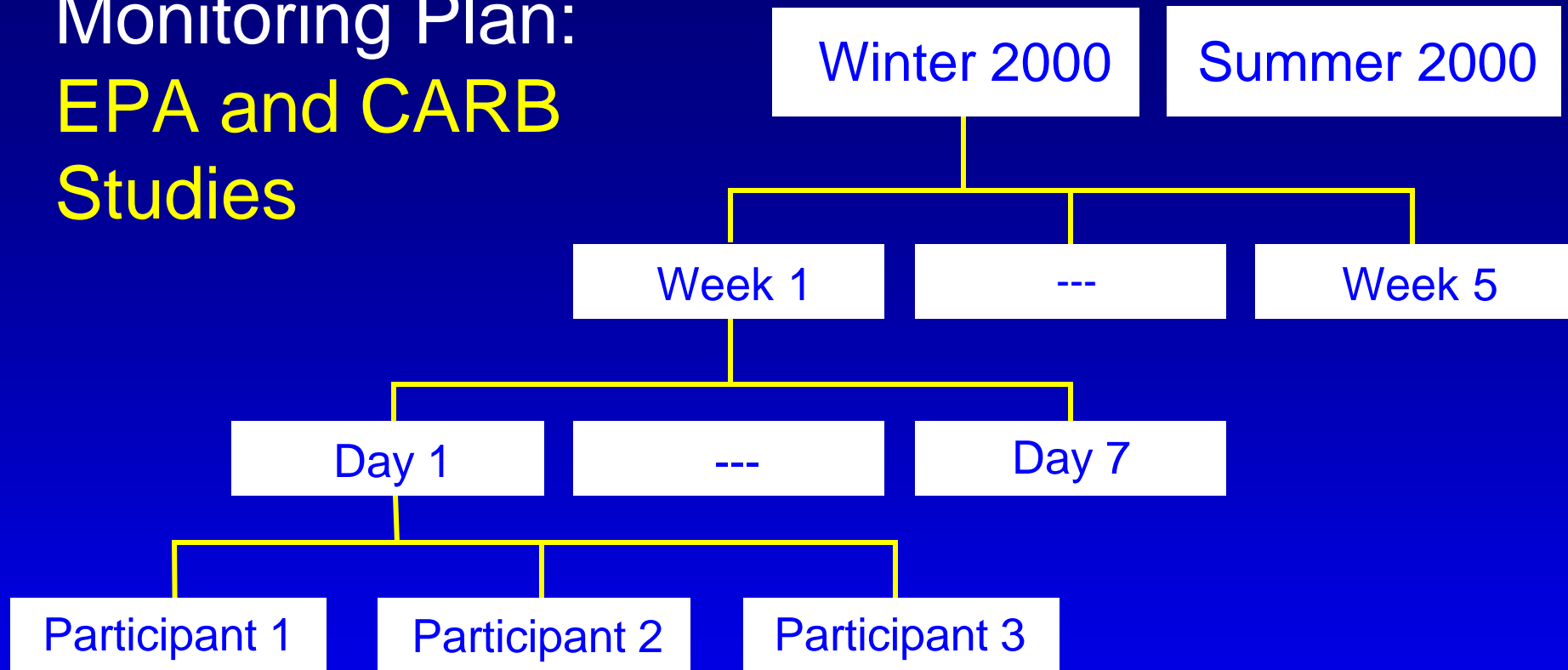
Multi-Pollutant Sampler



NO₃⁻ mini-sampler

O₃, SO₂/NO₂ samplers

Monitoring Plan: EPA and CARB Studies



24-h Personal, indoor, outdoor $PM_{2.5}$, PM_{10} , O_3 , SO_2 , NO_2
24-h Personal, indoor, outdoor fine particle NO_3^- , EC, OC, elements
24-h Air exchange rate measurements (PFT)
Time/activity, housing activity diaries, housing questionnaires

Participant Residences:

*Winter and
Summer 2000*

*Metropolitan
Los Angeles*

SAM site 

**Participant
Homes** 

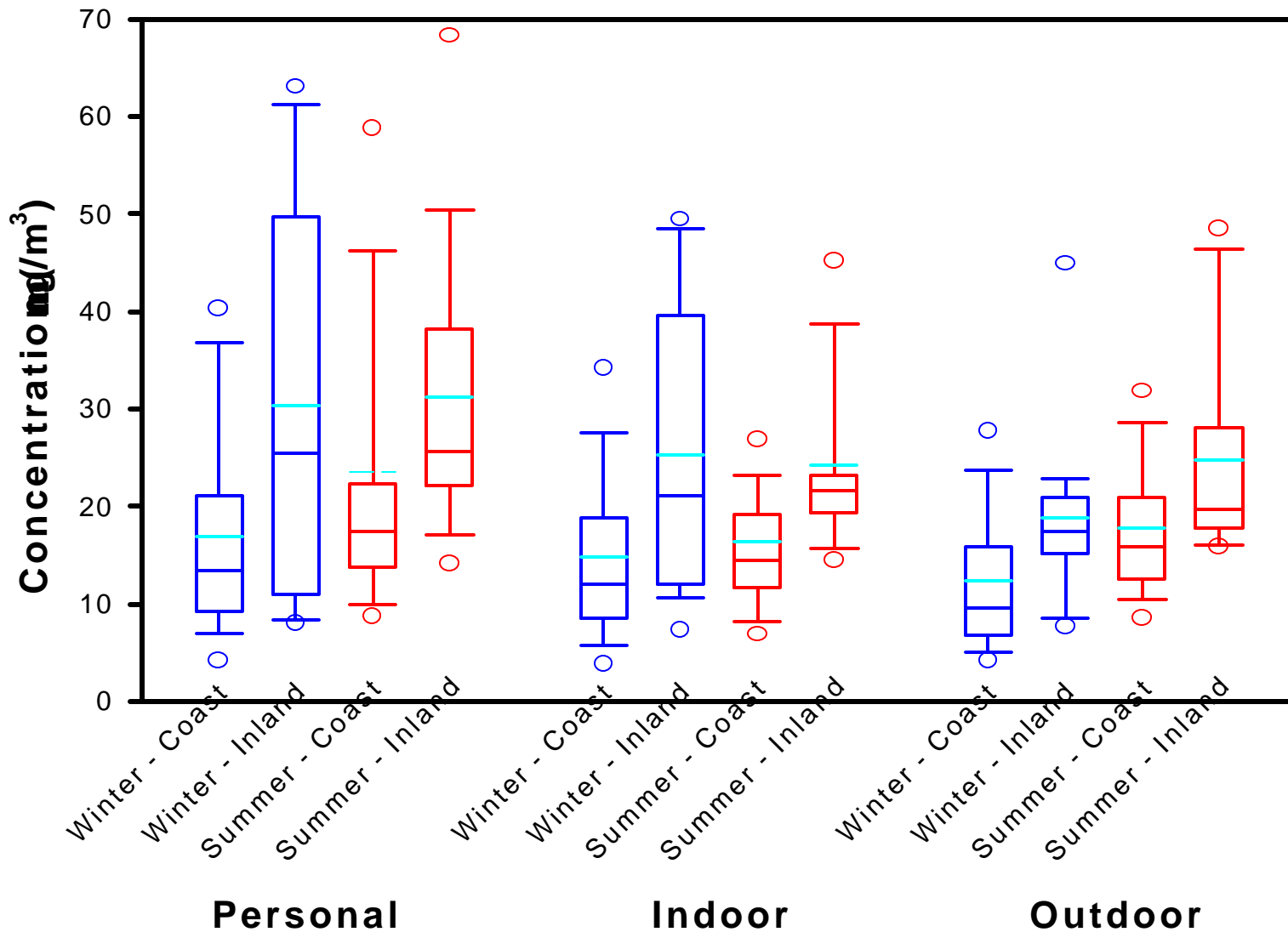
Participant and Location Profiles

Parameter	Season		
	Both	Winter	Summer
Sex: Male	0	1	2
Female	8	14	13
Age (years)	63-84	60-84	55-84
Location: Coastal	6	12	12
Inland	2	3	3
Population Density (persons/km ²)	173-9693	173-9693	49-9693
Distance from Road (m)	76-2029	65-2029	0-2098

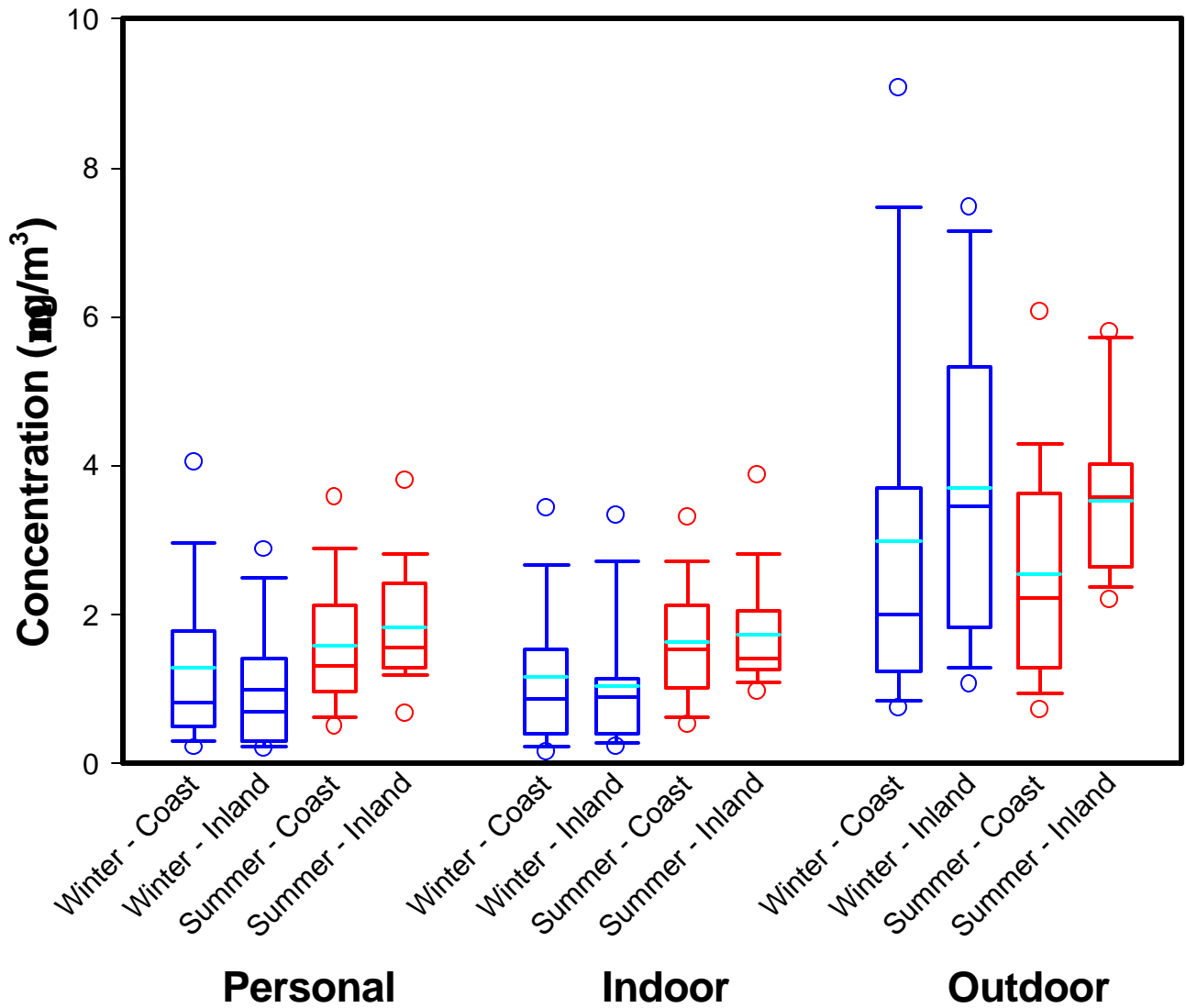
Housing Characteristics

<i>Characteristic</i>	<i>Winter</i>		<i>Summer</i>	
	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>
<i>Air conditioner use</i>	3	12	4	11
<i>Near busy road</i>	11	4	13	2
<i>Attached garage</i>	8	7	7	8
<i>Detached home</i>	7	7	9	5
<i>Gas stove</i>	6	8	8	6
<i>Clothes dryer</i>	11	4	6	9

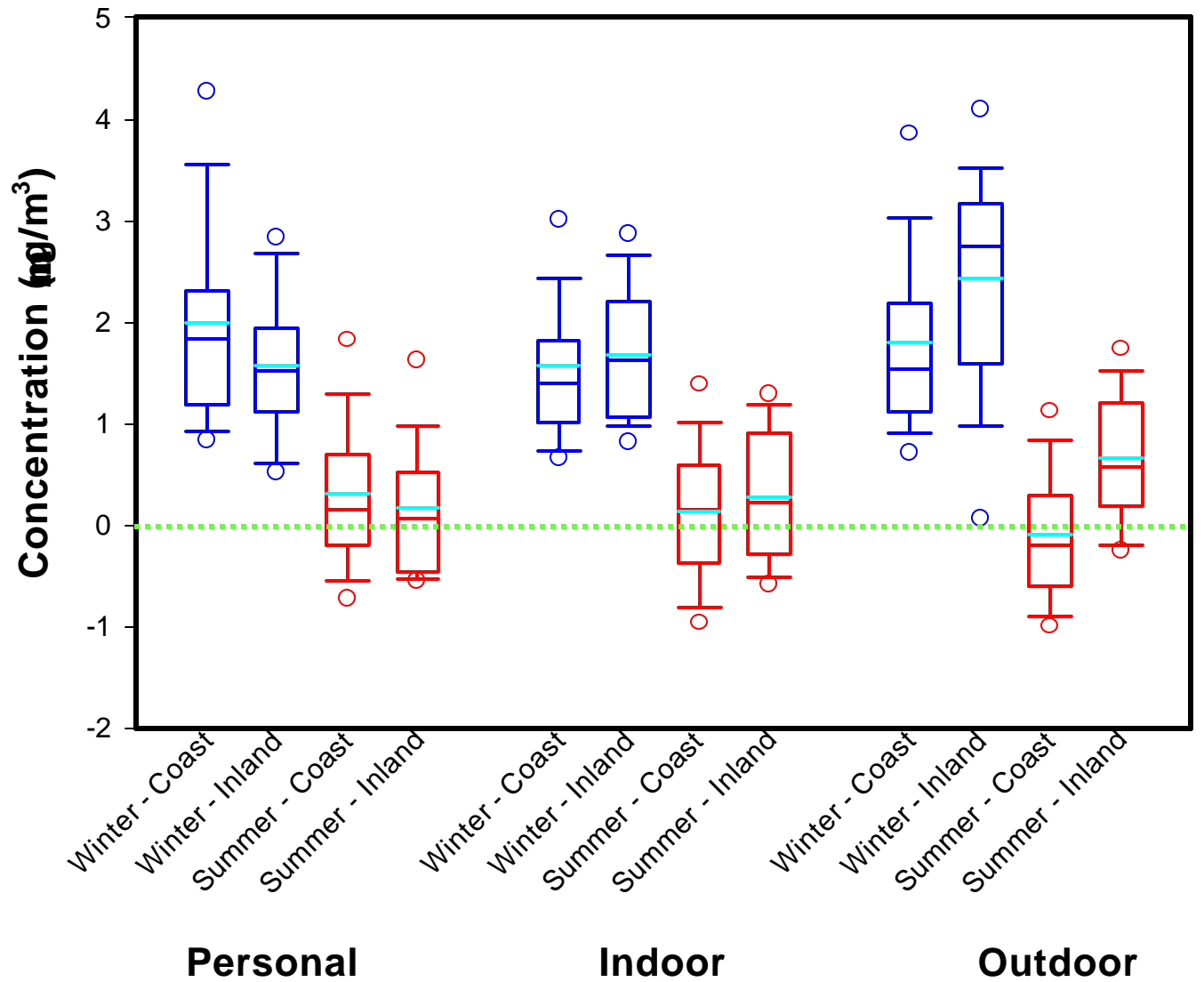
$PM_{2.5}$ Levels



NO_3^- Levels



EC Levels

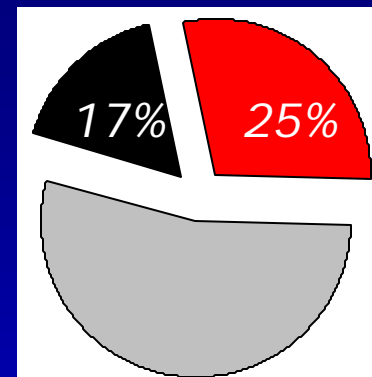
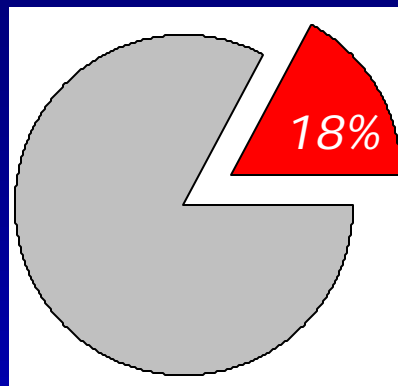


$PM_{2.5}$ Composition

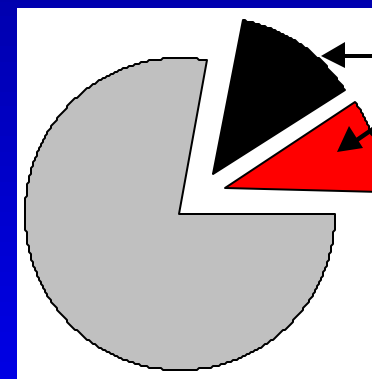
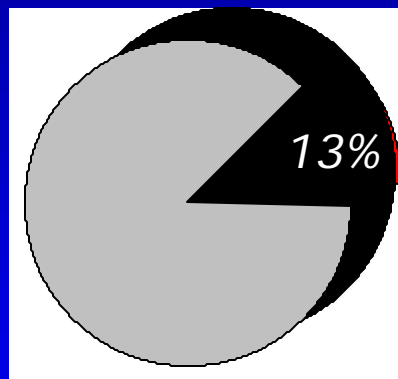
Outdoor

Summer

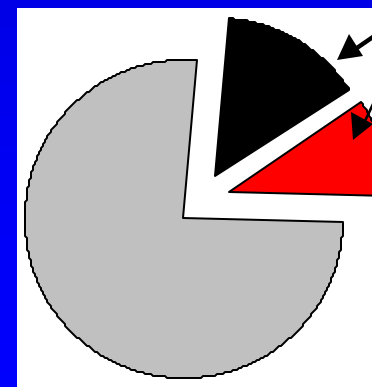
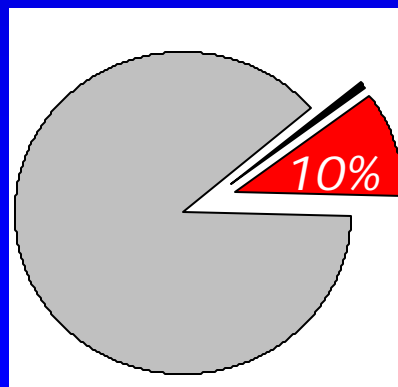
Winter



Indoor



Personal



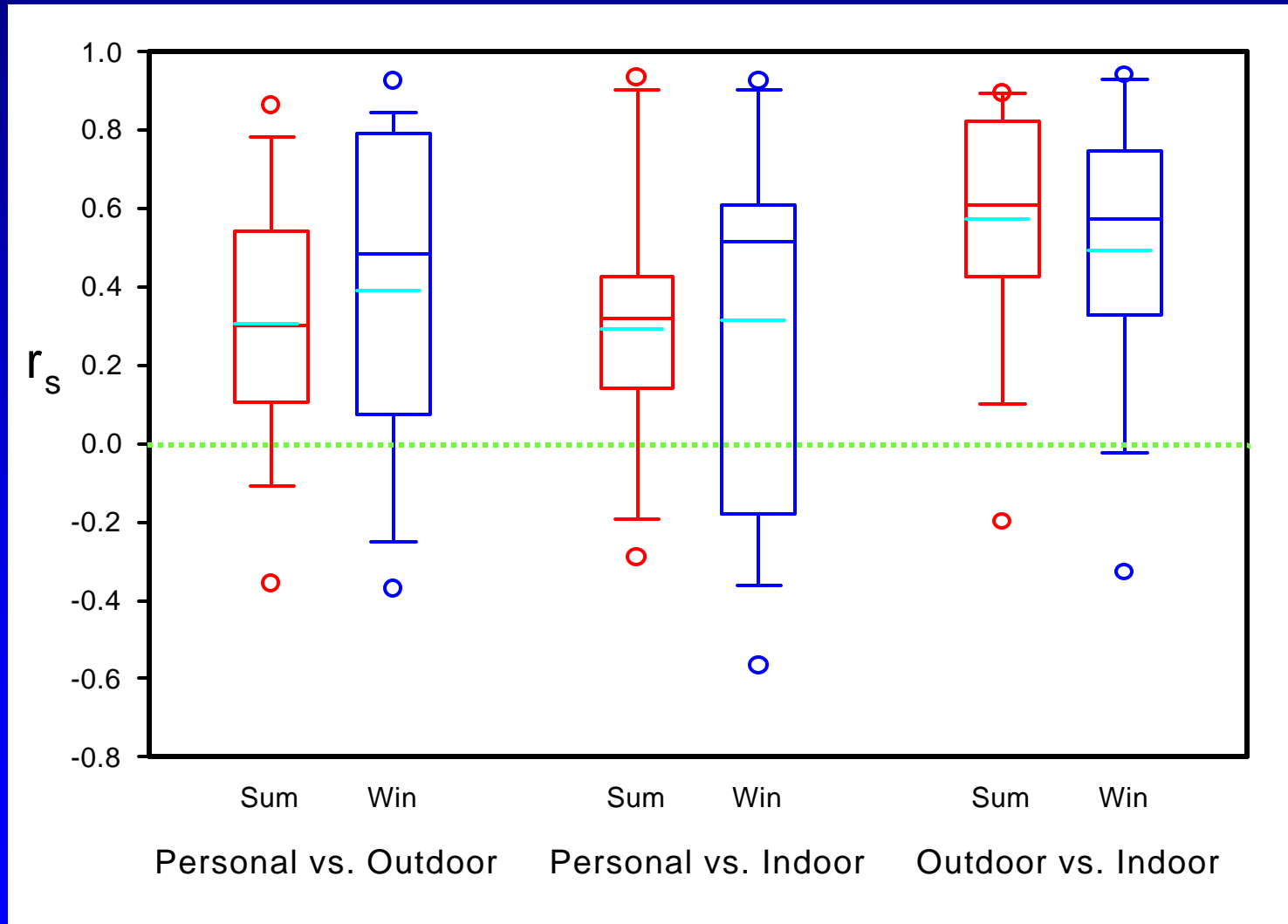
- NH_4NO_3
- EC
- Other

Exposure Error

When is
ambient PM
an
appropriate
exposure
surrogate?

- **Surrogate:** One that takes the place of another; a substitute
(The American Heritage® Dictionary)
- Epidemiological studies use **ambient concentrations** as a surrogate for exposures for their study populations
- Factors, such as activity patterns or housing characteristics, may impact ability of ambient PM to reflect exposures

Individual-Specific Spearman Correlation Coefficients for $PM_{2.5}$

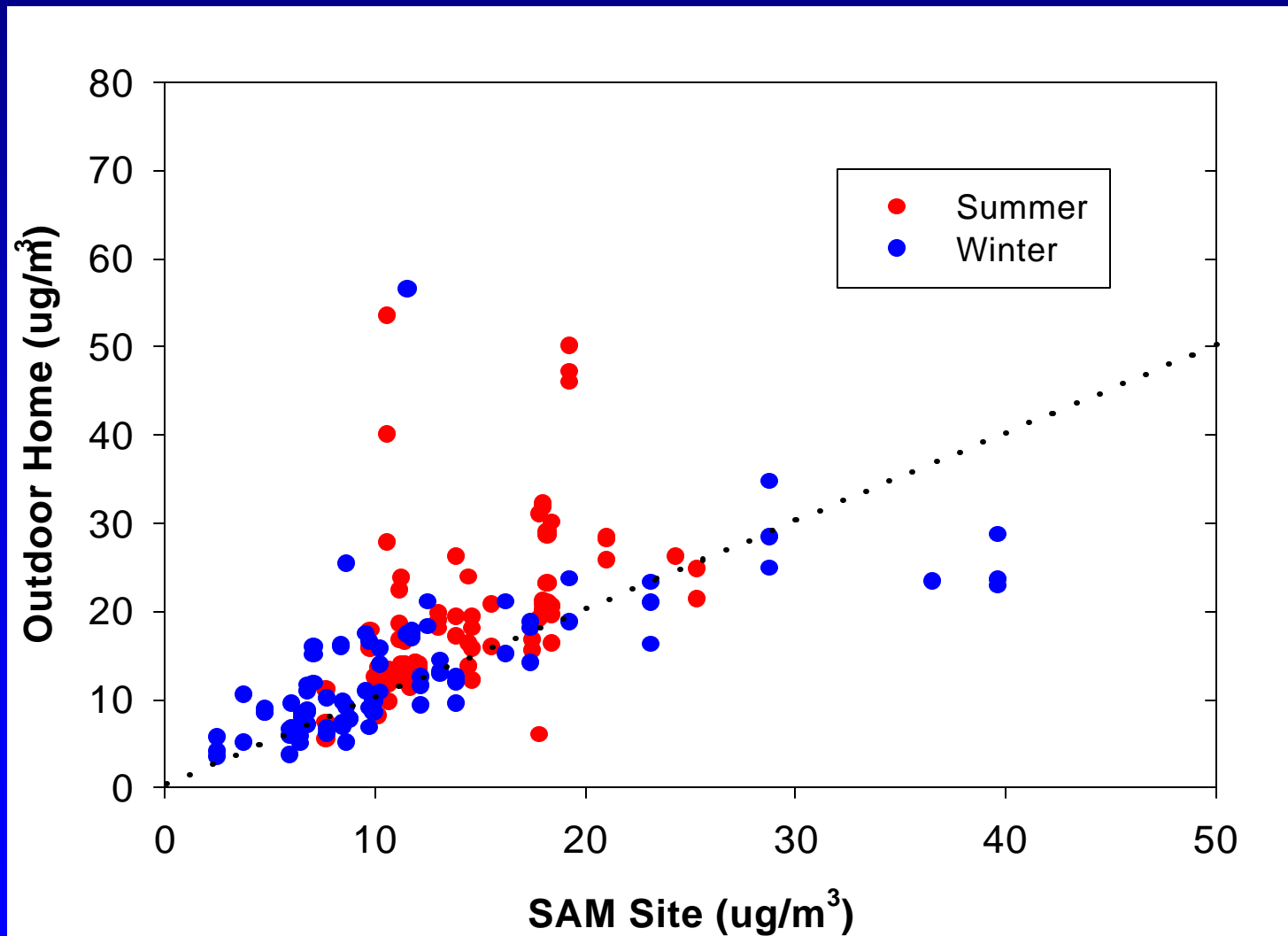


Relationship Among Personal, Indoor, and Outdoor PM_{2.5}

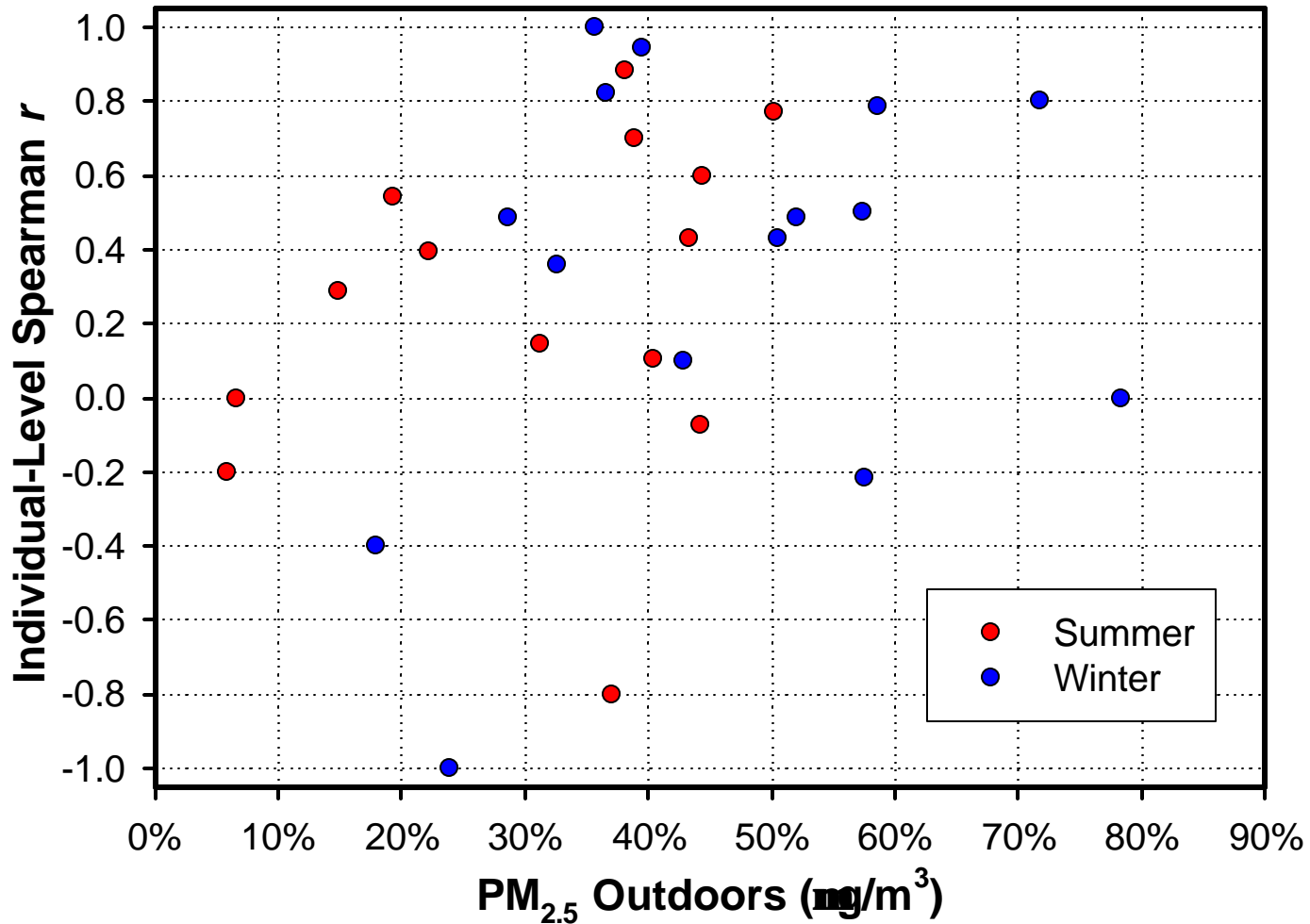
Comparison	N	Slope (se)	Intercept (s.e.)	Crude R²
PER vs. OUT				
Winter	82	0.5 ± 0.1	13.2 ± 3.5	0.19
Summer	90	1.3 ± 0.2	1.0 ± 4.7	0.30
PER vs. IND				
Winter	80	1.0 ± 0.1	2.5 ± 1.8	0.63
Summer	91	0.6 ± 0.2	15.0 ± 4.4	0.14
IND vs. OUT				
Winter	83	0.4 ± 0.1	11.3 ± 2.8	0.21
Summer	95	0.7 ± 0.1	4.6 ± 2.3	0.34

Results from a generalized linear model that accounts for repeated measures.

Outdoor Home vs. SAM Site PM_{2.5}: Los Angeles, CA

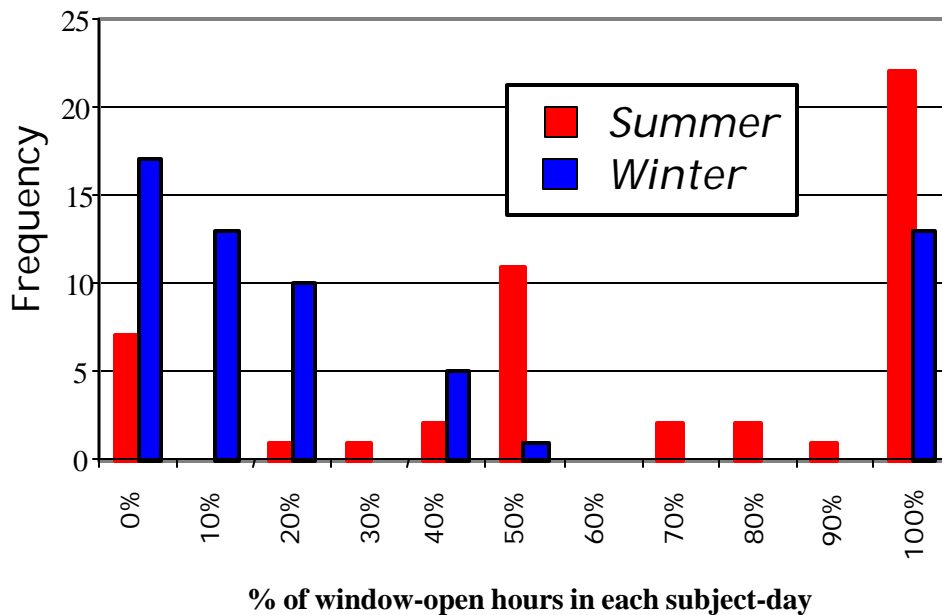


Individual-Specific Spearman Correlation Coefficients for $PM_{2.5}$: Personal-Outdoor Home Comparisons

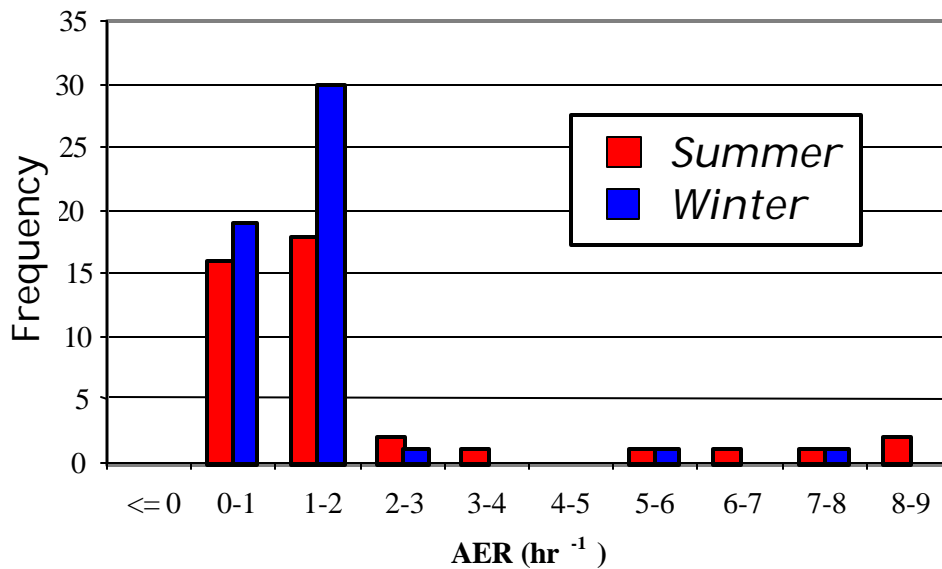


Home Ventilation Patterns

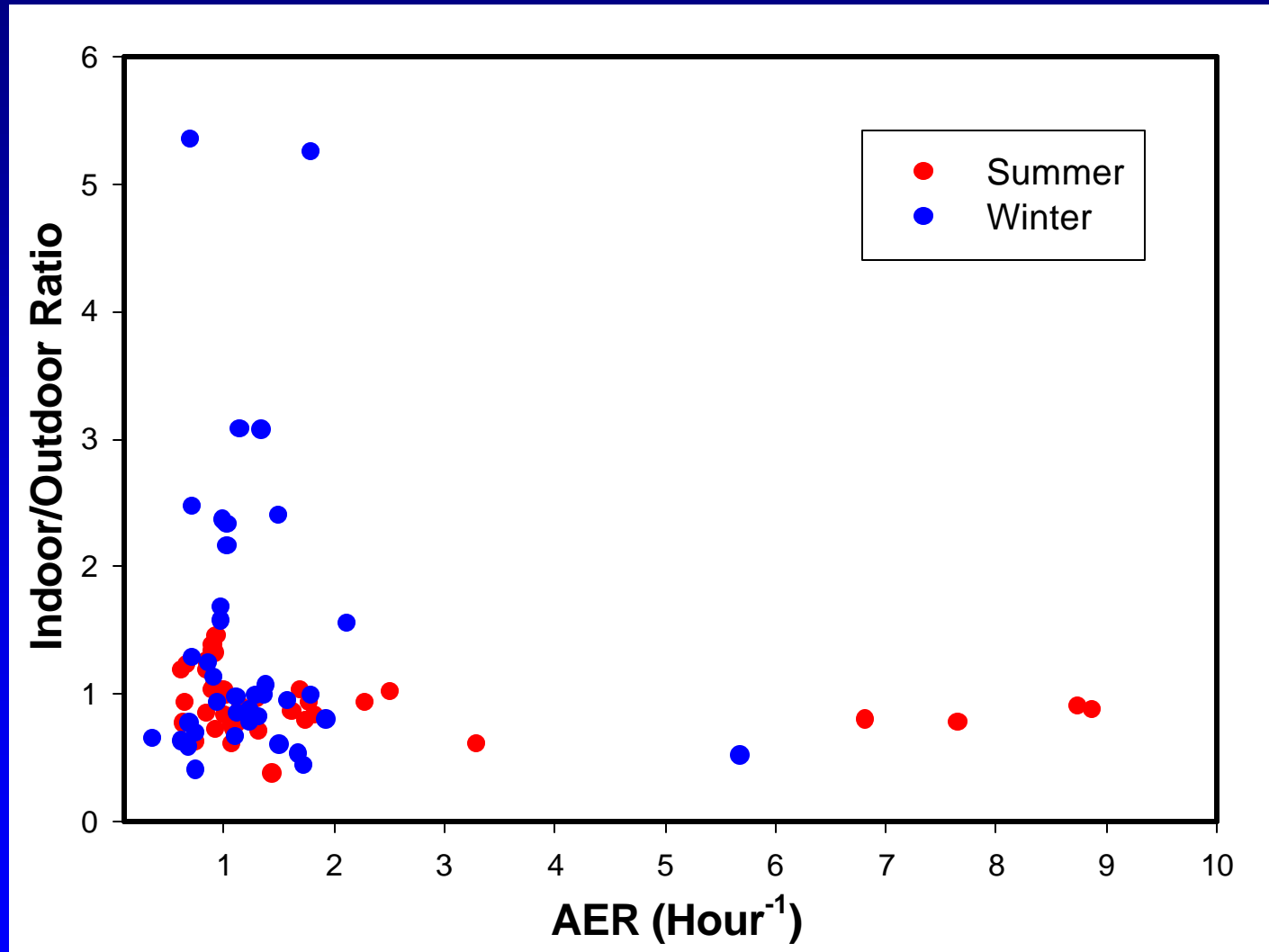
Open Window Use



Air Exchange Rates



Indoor/Outdoor $PM_{2.5}$ vs. Air Exchange Rates



Note: Includes data only from detached homes

Factors Influencing Indoor and Personal Levels

- **Indoors:**

- *no home or activity factors were identified as important predictors*
- *few particle generating activities were conducted*

- **Personal:**

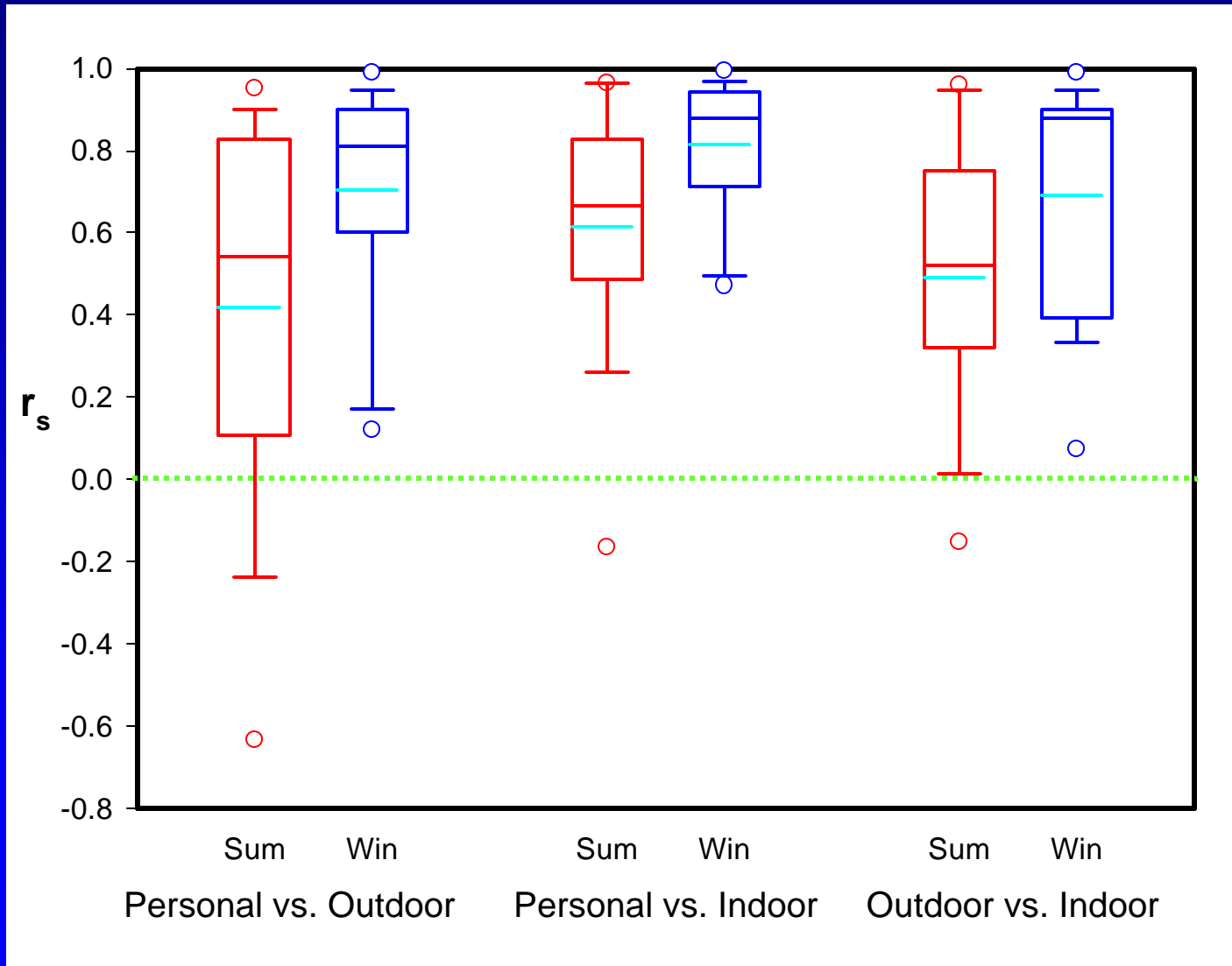
- $f_i C_i$: *both seasons, all species*
- f_{ETS} : *PM_{2.5} in winter*
- $f_o C_o$: *EC in summer, NO₃⁻ in winter*

→ *suggests that time patterns are important*

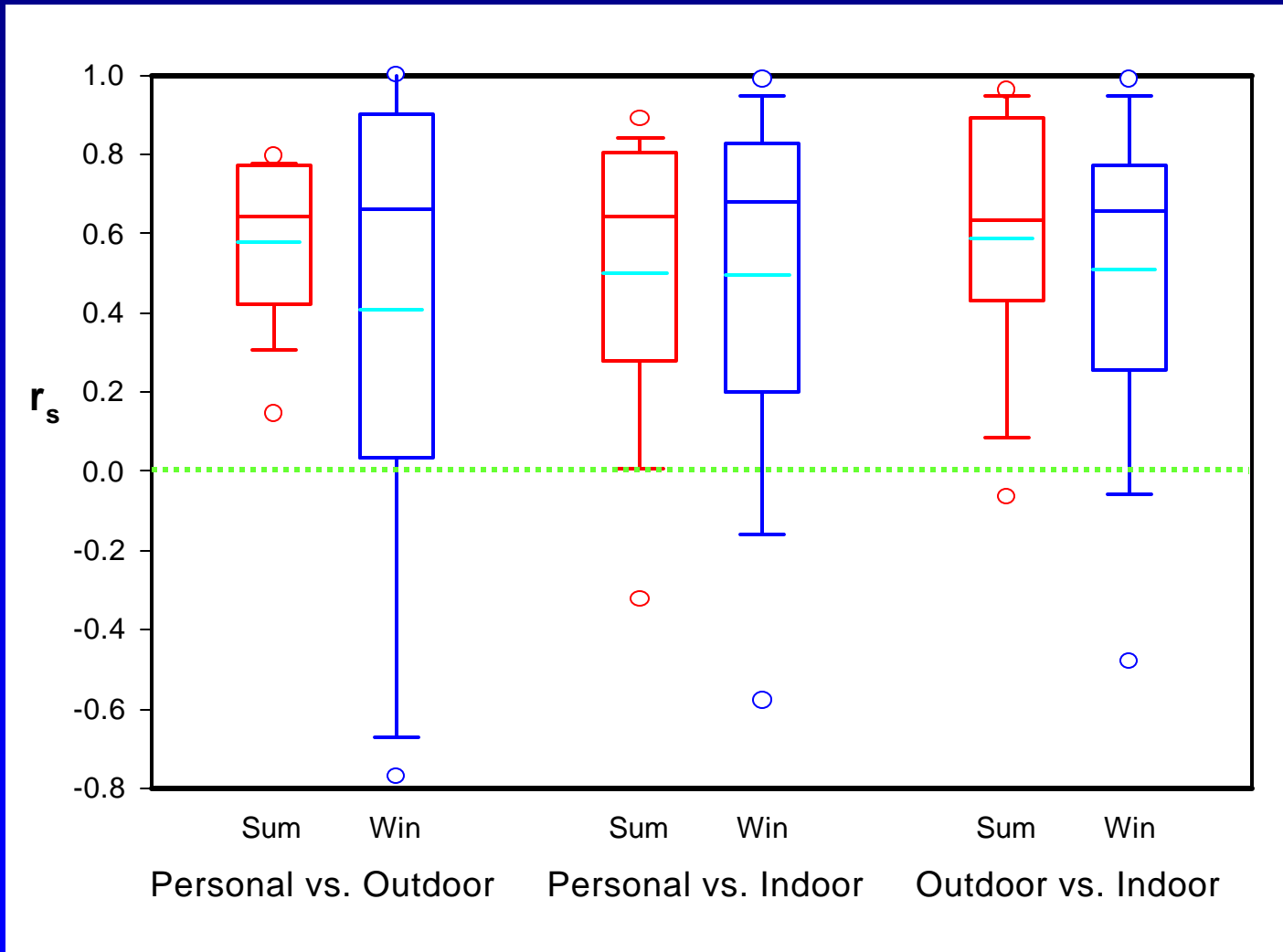
Frequency of Selected Particle-Generating Activities

Activity	N	Mean \pm Std. Dev.	Median	Maximum
Near smoking				
Winter	103	0.004 \pm 0.02	0	0.22
Summer	98	0.001 \pm 0.003	0	0.02
Near cooking				
Winter	103	0.04 \pm 0.03	0.03	0.14
Summer	98	0.03 \pm 0.04	0.02	0.3
Near cleaning				
Winter	103	0.02 \pm 0.03	0	0.21
Summer	98	0.01 \pm 0.03	0	0.18

Individual-Specific Spearman Correlation Coefficients: NO_3^-



Individual-Specific Spearman Correlation Coefficients: EC



Factors Influencing Indoor and Personal Levels

- **Indoors:**

- no home or activity factors were identified as important predictors
- few particle generating activities were conducted

- **Personal:**

- $f_i C_i$: both seasons, all species
- f_{ETS} : $PM_{2.5}$ in winter
- $f_o C_o$: EC in summer, NO_3^- in winter

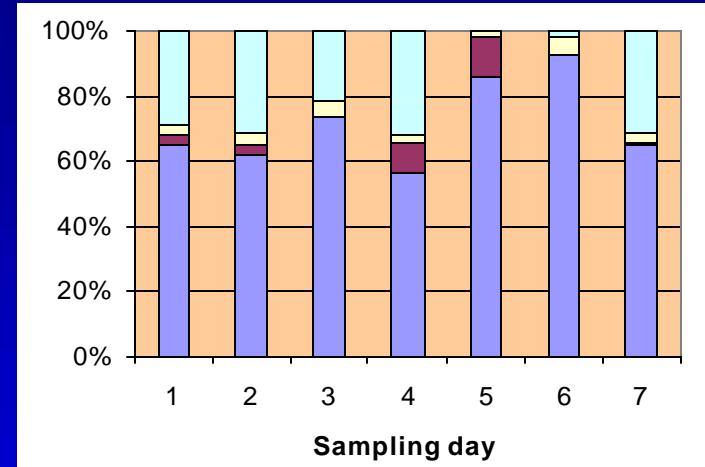
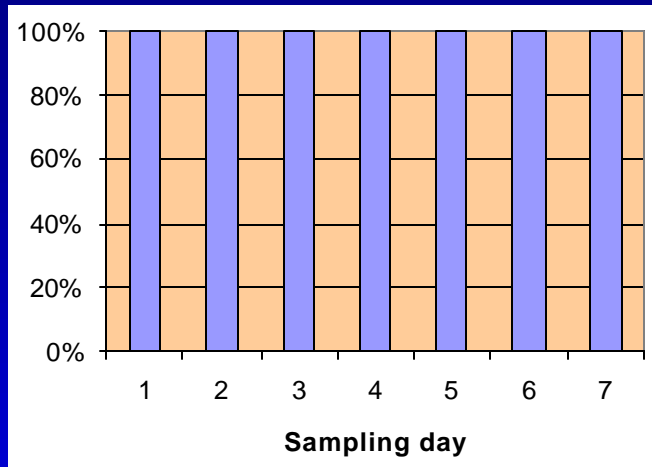
→ suggests that time patterns are important

Time-Activity Patterns: % Time In Microenvironments

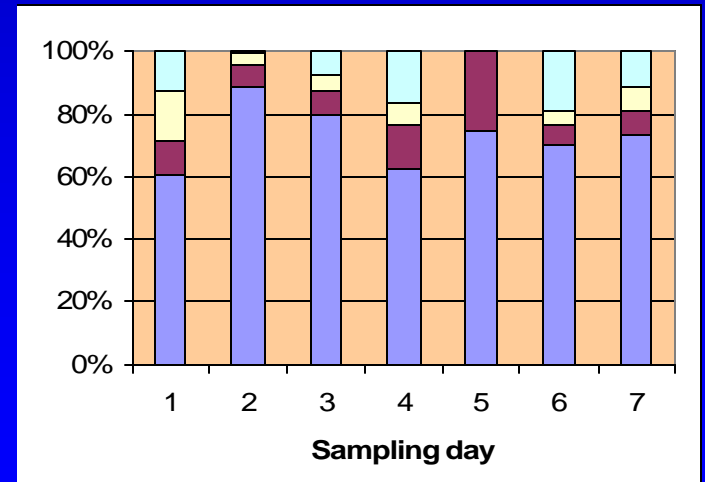
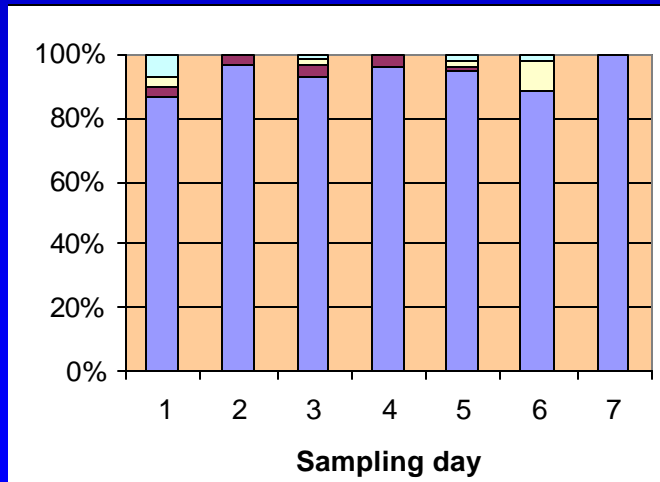
Least Active

Most Active

Winter

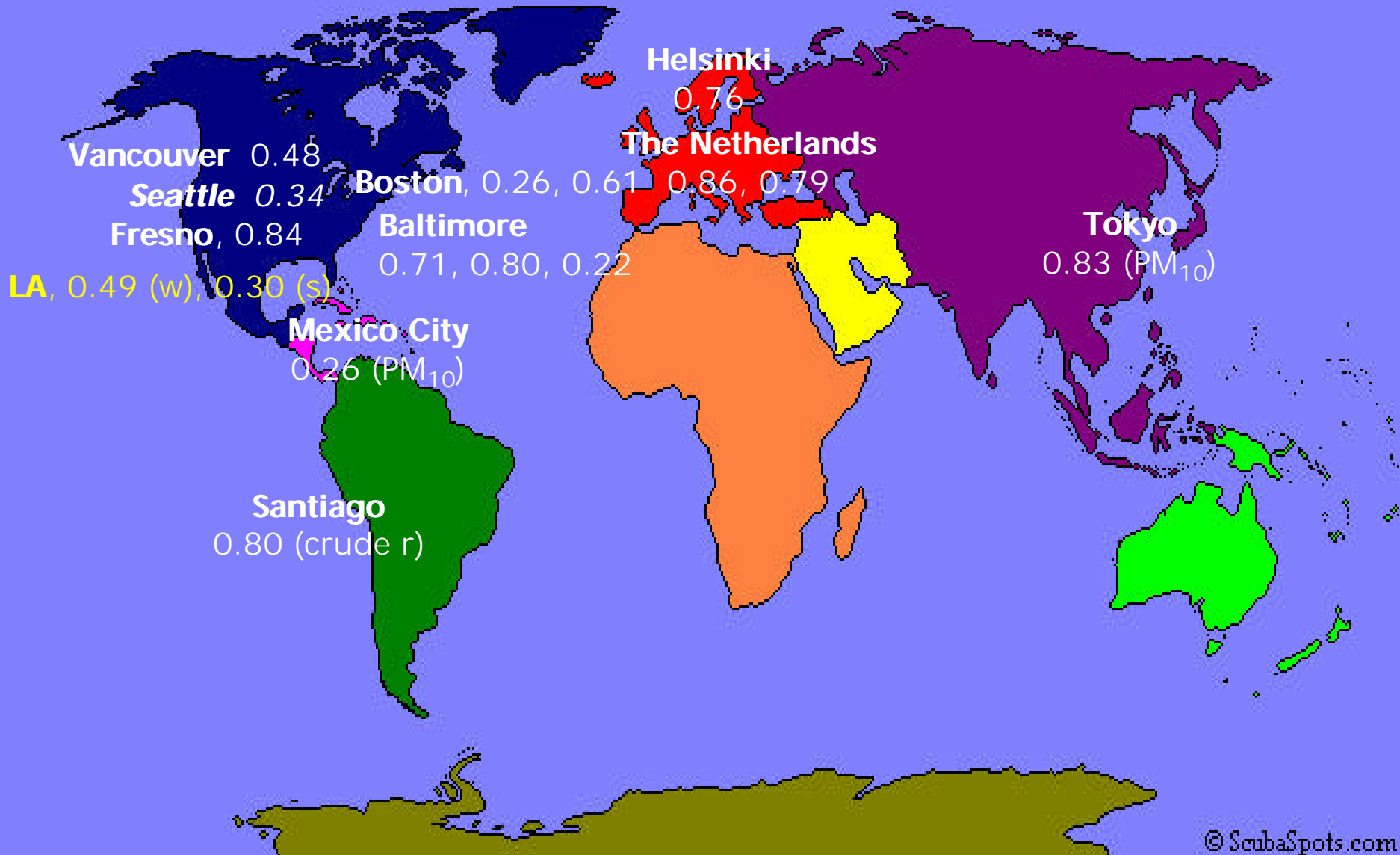


Summer



Indoor home
 Outside
 In transit
 Indoor other

Longitudinal Personal-Ambient Correlation Coefficients for PM_{2.5}



* Median correlation coefficients for study participants

Personal vs. Ambient PM_{2.5}: *r* Values

Cohort	No. of Subj.	Days/ Subj.	R value	
			Median	Range
<i>COPD: Los Angeles (s)</i>	15	7	0.30	-0.43 – 0.89
<i>Los Angeles (w)</i>	15	7	0.49	-0.40 – 0.94
<i>Vancouver, BC (s)¹</i>	16	7	0.48	-0.68 – 0.83
<i>Boston, MA (s)²</i>	18	12-18	0.61	0.10 – 0.93
<i>Boston, MA (w)³</i>	15	7	0.26	-0.46 – 0.67

¹ Ebelt et al., 2000; ² Rojas et al., 2000 (12-h samples); ³ Brown et al., 2002 (unpublished)

Personal vs. Ambient/Outdoor PM_{2.5}

Cohort	No. of Subj.	Days/ Subj.	R value	
			Median	Range
<i>COPD: Los Angeles (s)</i>	15	7	0.30	-0.43 – 0.89
<i>Los Angeles (w)</i>	15	7	0.49	-0.40 – 0.94
<i>Elderly: Fresno, CA (w)¹</i>	5	24	0.80	0.41 (amb)
<i>Fresno, CA (spr)¹</i>	16	12	0.80	0.84 (amb)
Seattle, WA	85		0.34	0.29 (amb)
<i>Baltimore, MD (s)²</i>	15	12	0.71	-0.21 – 0.95
<i>Baltimore, MD(s)³</i>	21	5-22	0.80	0.38 – 0.98
<i>Baltimore, MD (w)²</i>	15	12	0.22	-0.43 – 0.84
<i>Boston, MA (s)</i>	15	7	0.61	0.18 – 0.95
<i>Boston, MA (w)</i>	15	7	0.43	-0.33 – 0.83

¹ Pooled r values with outdoor concentrations (Evans et al., 2000); ² Sarnat et al., 2000; ³ Williams et al., 2000;

⁴ Brown et al., 2002 (unpublished)

Summary of Results

- *Personal $PM_{2.5}$ exposures were higher than indoor and outdoor concentrations.*
- *Outdoor NO_3^- and EC were higher than indoor and personal levels in both seasons.*
- *For $PM_{2.5}$ and EC, greater contribution of outdoor particles in summer; greater indoor source contribution in winter.*

Summary of Results (cont'd)

- *Personal exposures and indoor and outdoor $PM_{2.5}$, NO_3^- , EC were significantly correlated*
 - *Substantial inter-individual variability*
 - *Lower individual-specific personal-ambient $PM_{2.5}$ correlations than eastern U.S. cities*
 - *Closer to values observed in Vancouver for individuals with COPD*
 - *Correlations unaffected by AERs and activities*
- *Personal exposures most strongly associated with indoor as compared to outdoor concentrations*

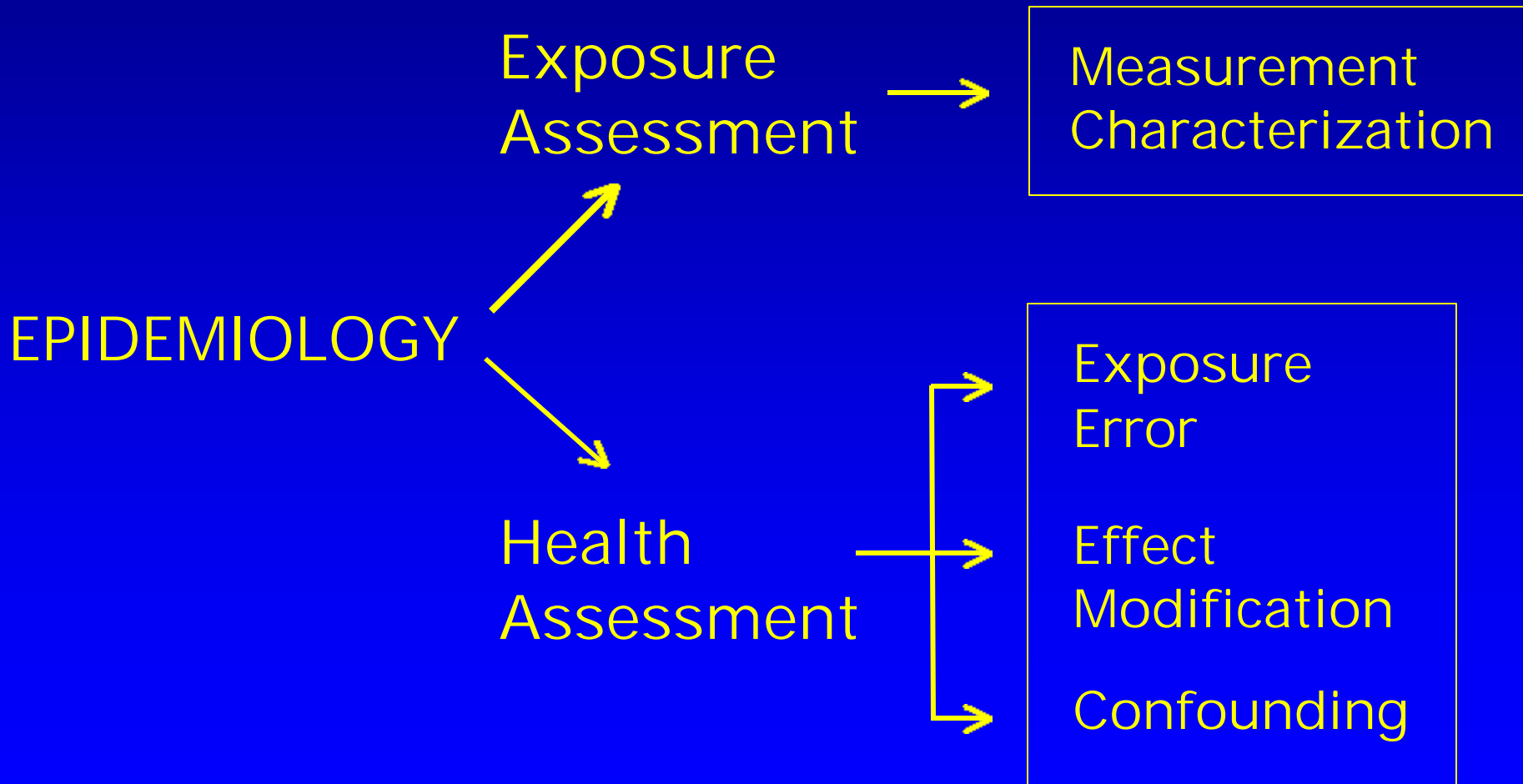
Summary of Results (cont'd)

- *Limited ability of ICP-MS to determine elemental concentrations at low sampling volumes*
- *For detected elements (Al, B, Ba, Cr, Mn, Ni, Pb, Zn), personal, indoor, and outdoor levels varied by season*
- *Except for Al, significant and positive correlations between personal exposures and indoor and outdoor concentrations found in both seasons.*
 - *Strongest associations: Ba, Ni*
 - *PM_{2.5} and elemental levels positively correlated; correlations strongest for indoor and outdoor samples*

Recommendations

- *Perform additional exposure studies in Western US*
 - *to determine whether correlation coefficients are actually lower in Western US*
 - *to provide additional information about relationships among personal, indoor ambient levels for specific particle components*
 - *to examine effect of various housing factors and activity patterns on personal exposures*
- *Develop improved methods to determine elemental concentrations at low sampling flow rates*

Role of Exposure Assessment



Part. ID	Age	Sex	City	Location	Population Density (#/km2)*	Dist. to Major Road (m)**	Season	
							Winter	Summer
1	73	F	Palos Verdes Estates	Coastal	173	2029	X	X
2	84	F	El Segundo	Coastal	4108	252	X	X
3	69	F	Hawthorne	Coastal	3568	696	X	X
4	60	M	Wilmington	Coastal	4504	146	X	
5	NA	F	Torrance	Coastal	3417	256	X	
6	68	F	Hawthorne	Coastal	9693	89	X	X
7	NA	F	Torrance	Coastal	2588	1196	X	
8	NA	F	Redondo Beach	Coastal	5118	598	X	X
9	73	F	Redondo Beach	Coastal	5441	228	X	X
10	68	F	Bellflower	Inland	3911	65	X	
11	NA	F	Downey	Inland	3466	76	X	X
12	63	F	Lynwood	Inland	4647	401	X	X
13	NA	F	Torrance	Coastal	660	1045	X	
14	62	F	Redondo Beach	Coastal	450	93	X	
15	61	F	Carson	Coastal	2226	604	X	
16	NA	M	Torrance	Coastal	3737	683		X
17	NA	F	Carson	Coastal	292	425		X
18	NA	F	Norwalk	Inland	5587	26		X
19	NA	F	Torrance	Coastal	4588	470		X
20	NA	F	Wilmington	Coastal	2855	0		X
21	75	M	Palos Verdes Estates	Coastal	49	2098		X
22	55	F	Rancho Palos Verdes	Coastal	522	191		X

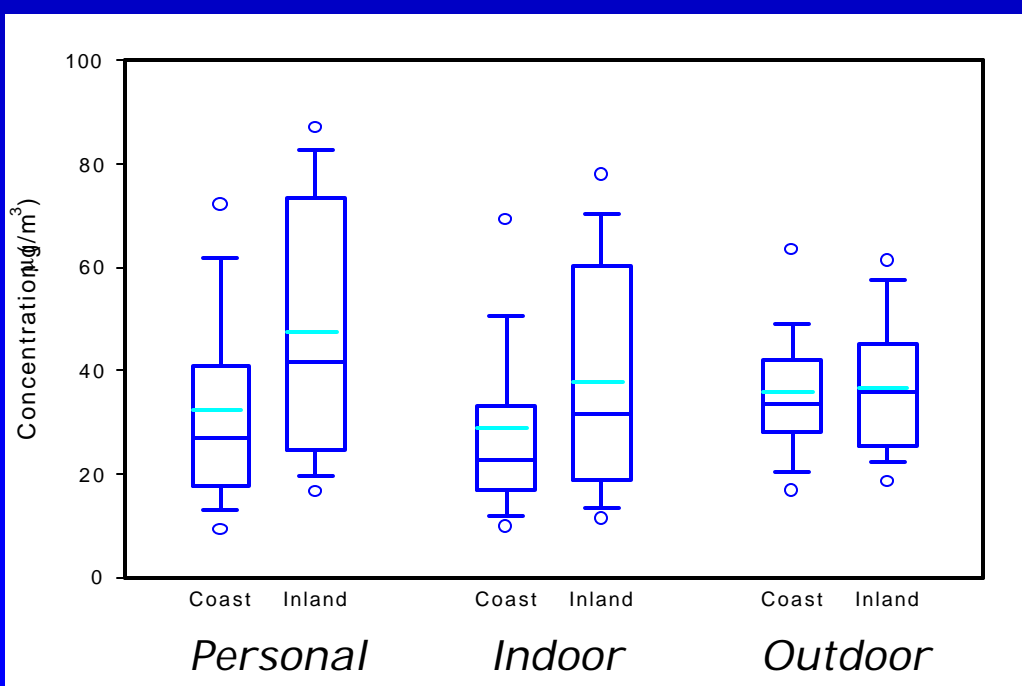
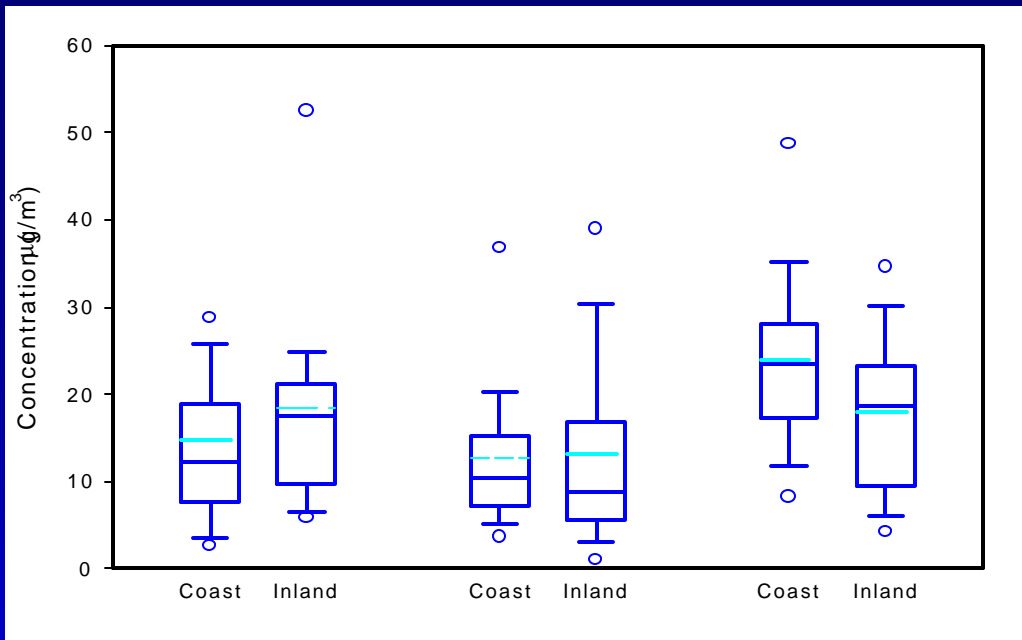
Housing Characteristics (cont'd.)

<i>Characteristic</i>	<i>Number of Homes</i>	
	<i>Summer</i>	<i>Winter</i>
<i>Dwelling: Detached house</i>	9	7
<i>Apartment</i>	4	6
<i>Other</i>	2	2
<i>Heating: Forced air</i>	9	9
<i>Gas furnace</i>	2	1
<i>Gas wall heater</i>	2	2
<i>Other</i>	2	3
<i>Cooking: Electric</i>	7	9
<i>Gas</i>	8	6

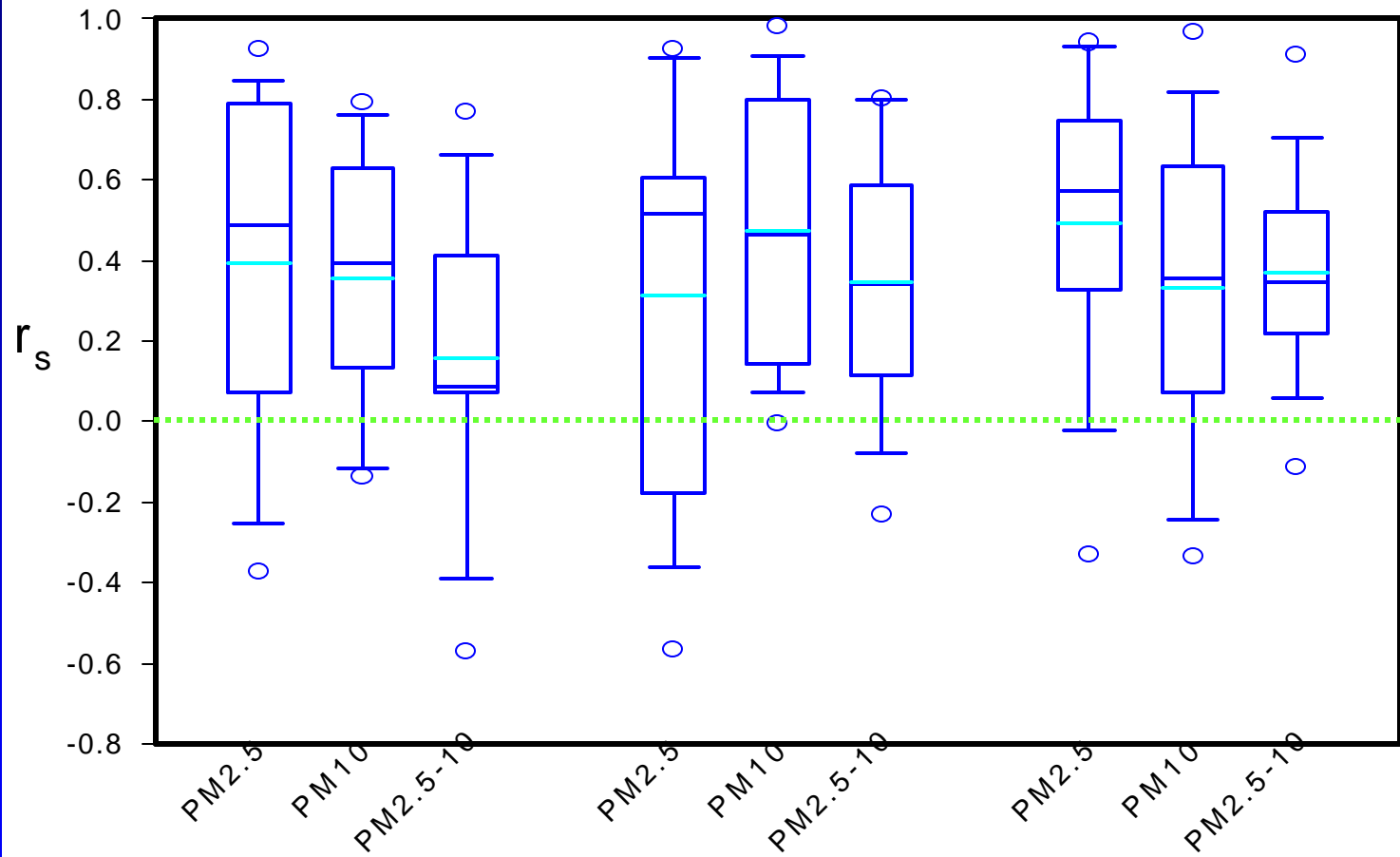
Winter
 $PM_{2.5-10}$

$PM_{2.5-10}$
and
 PM_{10}
Levels:

Winter
 PM_{10}



Winter Individual-Specific Spearman Correlation Coefficients: $PM_{2.5-10}$ and PM_{10}



Personal vs. Outdoor Personal vs. Indoor Outdoor vs. Indoor

Geographic Factors Influencing Outdoor Home $PM_{2.5}$ Concentrations

<i>Factor</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>Estimate (se)</i>	<i>t-stat</i>
<i>Winter</i>			
<i>Coastal</i>		<i>-5.6 (1.4)</i>	<i>-4.2</i>
<i>Road (250m)</i>	<i>83</i>	<i>0.3 (1.7)</i>	<i>0.9</i>
<i>Road (100m)</i>		<i>1.0 (1.9)</i>	<i>0.5</i>
<i>Pop. Density</i>		<i>-0.6 (1.7)</i>	<i>-0.3</i>
<i>Summer</i>			
<i>Coastal</i>		<i>-6.5 (2.5)</i>	<i>-2.5</i>
<i>Road (250m)</i>	<i>86</i>	<i>3.4 (2.4)</i>	<i>0.2</i>
<i>Road (100m)</i>		<i>5.9 (2.2)</i>	<i>2.7</i>
<i>Pop. Density</i>		<i>3.7 (2.5)</i>	<i>1.5</i>

Results from generalized linear model that accounts for repeated measures. Factors significant at the 0.05 level shown in yellow.

PM Composition

Components:

- NO_3^-
- EC
- Elements

Personal-Ambient Association

- **Ambient origin: strong**
 - **Sulfate:** strong correlations¹
 - **EC:** strong, but may vary by traffic-related factors
- **Other elements (non-sulfur):**
 - limited data
 - correlations vary by element:
 $0.5 < r < 0.9^2$
 - As and Pb: strong³

¹ Suh et al., 1992, 1993; Waldman et al., 1993; Sarnat et al., 2000; Ebel et al., 2000; Oglesby et al., 2000

² Ozkaynak et al., 1996; ³ Clayton et al., 1999

Exposure Effect Modifiers

Definition:

Exposures vary by levels of another factor, causing this factor to modify exposure-health association

- *Location*
 - *Geographic location*
 - *Population density*
- *Seasonal Variation*
- *Sensitive Cohort*
- *Traffic*
 - *Distance from roadway*
- *Ventilation*