

# Uncertainty in Whole body counting

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# From measurement value to dose

## Critical parameters:

- time of intake → often not so well known
- particle size, AMAD → can be "measured"
- molecule/atom? →  $^{60}\text{Co}$  = atom/oxide,  $^3\text{H}$  = who knows
- inhalation/ingestion/wound?

## Not so critical

- Size of the person
- how exact is the measurement geometry

# IDEAS Guidelines

Forschungszentrum Karlsruhe  
in der Helmholtz-Gemeinschaft  
Wissenschaftliche Berichte  
FZKA 7243

**GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR THE ESTIMATION OF  
COMMITTED EFFECTIVE DOSE FROM  
INCORPORATION MONITORING DATA**  
(Project IDEAS – EU Contract No. FIKR-CT2001-00160)

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Trigger:  
Intercomparison exercise  
where results deviated that  
much that committee came to  
conclusion that general  
guidelines are desperately  
needed

## Forschungszentrum Karlsruhe

Technik und Umwelt

Wissenschaftliche Berichte

FZKA 6457

### Third European Intercomparison Exercise on Internal Dose Assessment

Results of a Research Programme in the Framework of the EULEP/EURADOS  
Action Group "Derivation of Parameter Values for Application to the New Model of the  
Human Respiratory Tract for Occupational Exposure"

1997-1999

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2000

Seven case scenarios  
where participants were  
asked to estimate intake  
and internal dose:  
 $^3\text{H}$ ,  $^{90}\text{Sr}$ ,  $^{125}\text{I}$ ,  $^{137}\text{Cs}$ ,  
 $^{210}\text{Po}$ ,  $^{238}\text{U}$ ,  $^{239}\text{Pu}$

# IDEAS Guidelines

Example: level 0

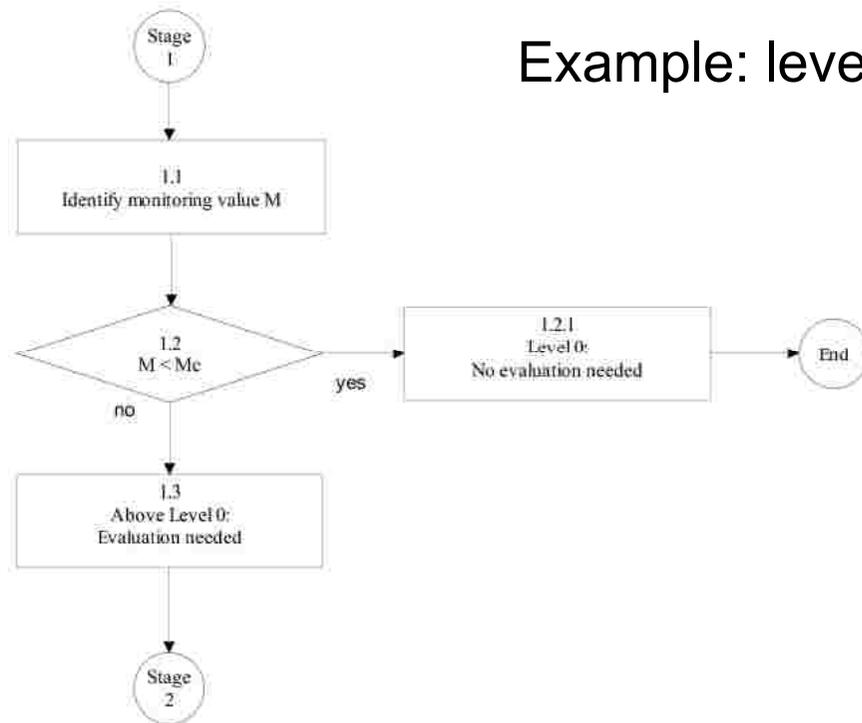


Figure 6.1: Stage 1. Check of need for evaluation.

# Critical monitoring value

$$M_c = \frac{0.1 \text{ mSv } m(T/2) T}{e(50) 365}$$

If measured value is smaller than critical monitoring value, it is safe to note that dose is less than 0.1 mSv.

Table 5.1: Critical monitoring value  $M_c$  for some selected radionuclides and the corresponding monitoring procedures.

Radionuclide	Absorption type (chemical form)	Type of monitoring	Monitoring interval (d)	Critical monitoring value $M_c$
H-3	HTO	Urine	14	4400 Bq/d
			30	5500 Bq/d
			60	3900 Bq/d
Co-60	M	Whole body	90	160 Bq
			180	230 Bq
			360	290 Bq
Co-60	S or Unknown	Whole body	90-360	70 Bq
Sr-90	F	Urine	90	0.4 Bq/d
			180	0.2 Bq/d
			360	0.2 Bq/d
Sr-90	S	Urine	90-360	3 mBq/d < LLD
I-131	F	Thyroid	7	18 Bq
			14	26 Bq
			30	26 Bq
Cs-137	F	Whole body	90	1200 Bq
			180	1800 Bq
			360	2000 Bq
U-235	S	Lungs	90	0.2 Bq < LLD
			180	0.3 Bq < LLD
			360	0.5 Bq < LLD
Pu-239	M	Urine	90	0.007 mBq/d < LLD
			180	0.011 mBq/d < LLD
			360	0.017 mBq/d < LLD

# Uncertainty on internal dose assessment

Dose delivered by the internal contamination:

$$E(50) = \sum_T w_T \text{See}(T \leftarrow WB) \int_{t_1}^{t_1+50y} (F_{re}) dt$$

Where:

$w_T$ =tissue weighting factor

$\text{See}(T \leftarrow WB)$ = equivalent dose in T per disintegration in the whole body source organ

the integral gives number of disintegrations in 50 y in the whole body

# Model A Parameters

50 parameters

Transfer coefficients ( $d^{-1}$ ) for a reference adult male

Plasma to heart	14.128	GI tract tissue to plasma	8.191
Plasma to liver	19.515	GI tract tissue to liver	0.431
Plasma to kidneys	67.108	GI tract tissue to stomach contents	0.0333
Plasma to muscle	30.022	GI tract tissue to small intestine contents	0.108
Plasma to GI tract tissue	52.98	GI tract tissue to large intestine contents	0.0667
Plasma to stomach contents	4.516	Spleen to plasma	5.033
Plasma to small intestine contents	1.0480	Spleen to liver	0.265
Plasma to large intestine contents	0.02	Pancreas to plasma	1.678
Plasma to spleen	5.298	Pancreas to liver	0.0883
Plasma to pancreas	1.766	Skin to plasma	0.867
Plasma to brain	0.424	Skin to excreta	0.0159
Plasma to red marrow	5.298	Brain to plasma	0.0848
Plasma to other skeleton	3.532	Red marrow to plasma	0.706
Plasma to skin	4.415	Other skeleton to plasma	0.128
Plasma to lungs	4.415	Lungs to plasma	1.472
Plasma to adipose tissue	8.83	Adipose tissue to plasma	1.766
Plasma to Other 1	8.826	Other 1 to plasma	0.692
Plasma to Other 2	0.00353	Other 2 to plasma	0.00141
Plasma to RBC	1.8	RBC to plasma	0.257
Heart to plasma	8.073	Urinary bladder contents to urine	12.0
Liver to plasma	2.204	Stomach to small intestine (contents)	40.0
Liver to small intestine contents	0.116	Small intestine contents to plasma	28.215
Kidneys to urinary bladder contents	1.678	Small intestine to large intestine (contents)	0.3
Kidneys to plasma	31.876	Small intestine contents to liver	1.485
Muscle to plasma	0.0751	Large intestine contents to feces	0.5

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# Propagation of Uncertainties for Model Parameters

$$x = f(u, v, \dots)$$

$$\sigma_x^2 \cong \sigma_u^2 \left( \frac{\partial x}{\partial u} \right)^2 + \sigma_v^2 \left( \frac{\partial x}{\partial v} \right)^2 + \dots + 2\sigma_{uv}^2 \left( \frac{\partial x}{\partial u} \right) \left( \frac{\partial x}{\partial v} \right) + \dots$$

$$\sigma_{uv}^2 = r_{uv} \sigma_u \sigma_v$$

ISO GUM 1995

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# About metabolic models

Generally, metabolism is well known

- most of the uncertainty comes from complicated behaviour of an element in the body
- this can be either several routes and end locations or
- chemical reactions (study  $^{14}\text{C}$  or  $^3\text{H}$ !)

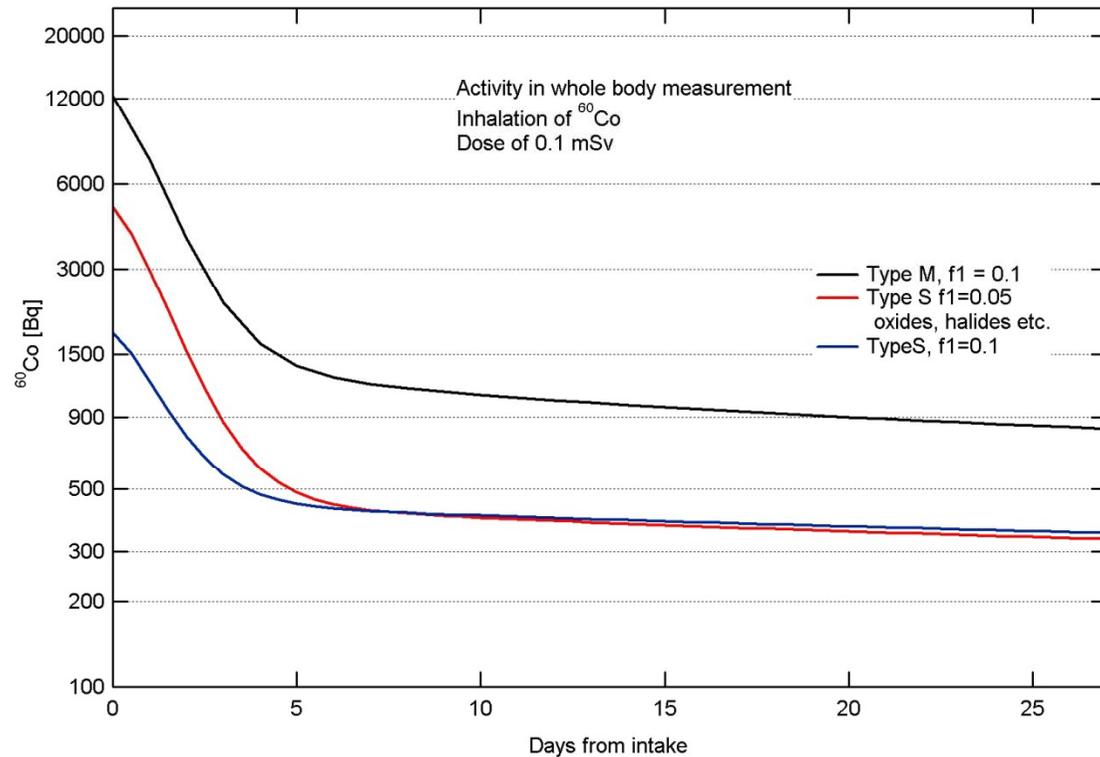
Individual differences usually not significant

# Uncertainties

Time of intake can be determined by repeated measurements

Other parameters to take into account:

- Absorption class
- Compound
- Particle size: can be determined by faeces and lung data



# Uncertainty budget of STUK mobile unit

Uncertainty	Value [%]	Cumulative unc. [%]
Calibration source	5	5
Efficiency calibration	10	11
Peak area	10	15
Size of the person	10	18

Uncertainty on peak area is  $\sqrt{A}$ , so value above is hypothetical.

NOTE: this uncertainty does not include metabolic model!

# Uncertainty on a dose caused by distribution

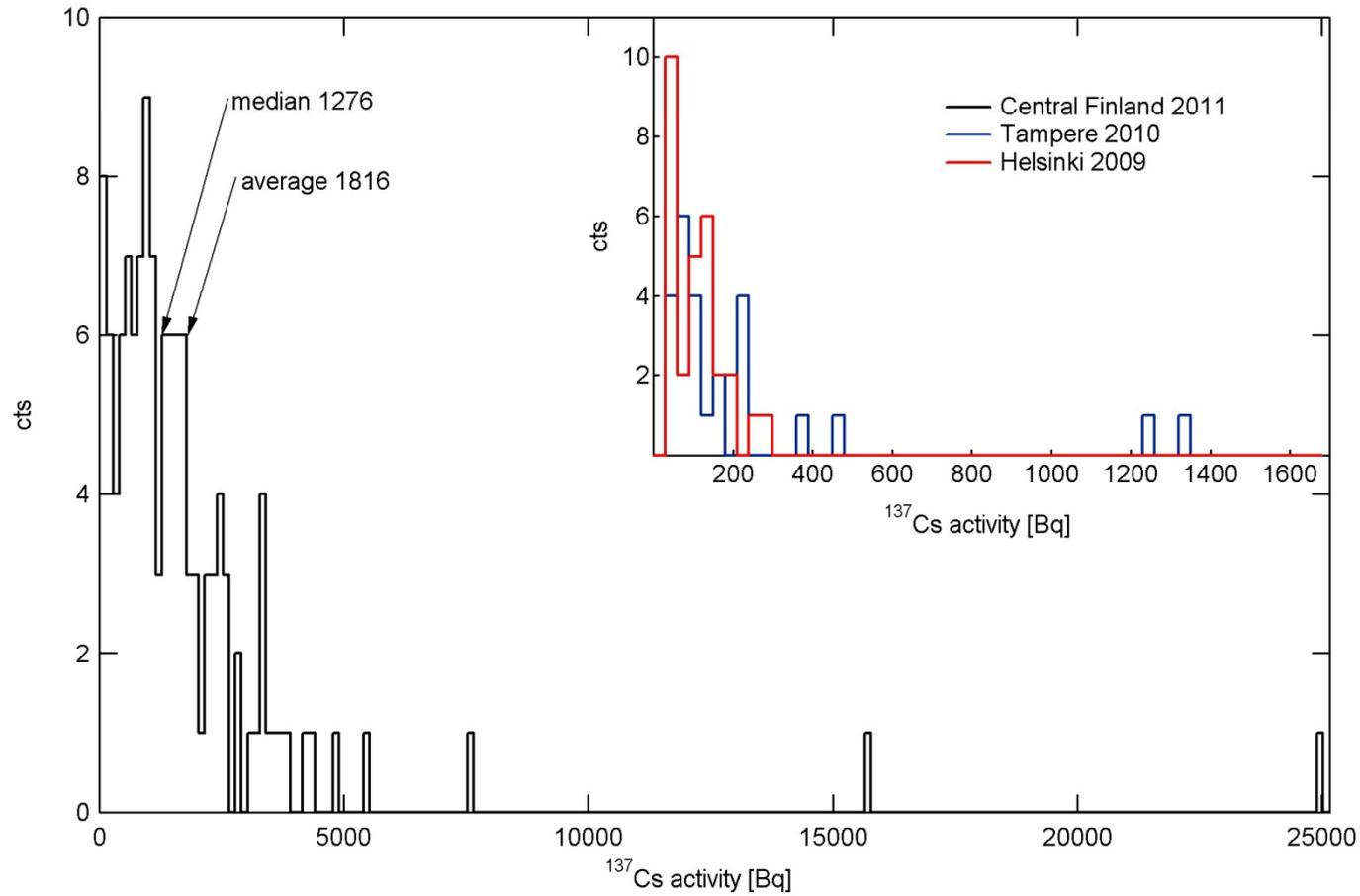
Dose for the population:

- individuals are easy, you have the number
- is the group you measured representative?

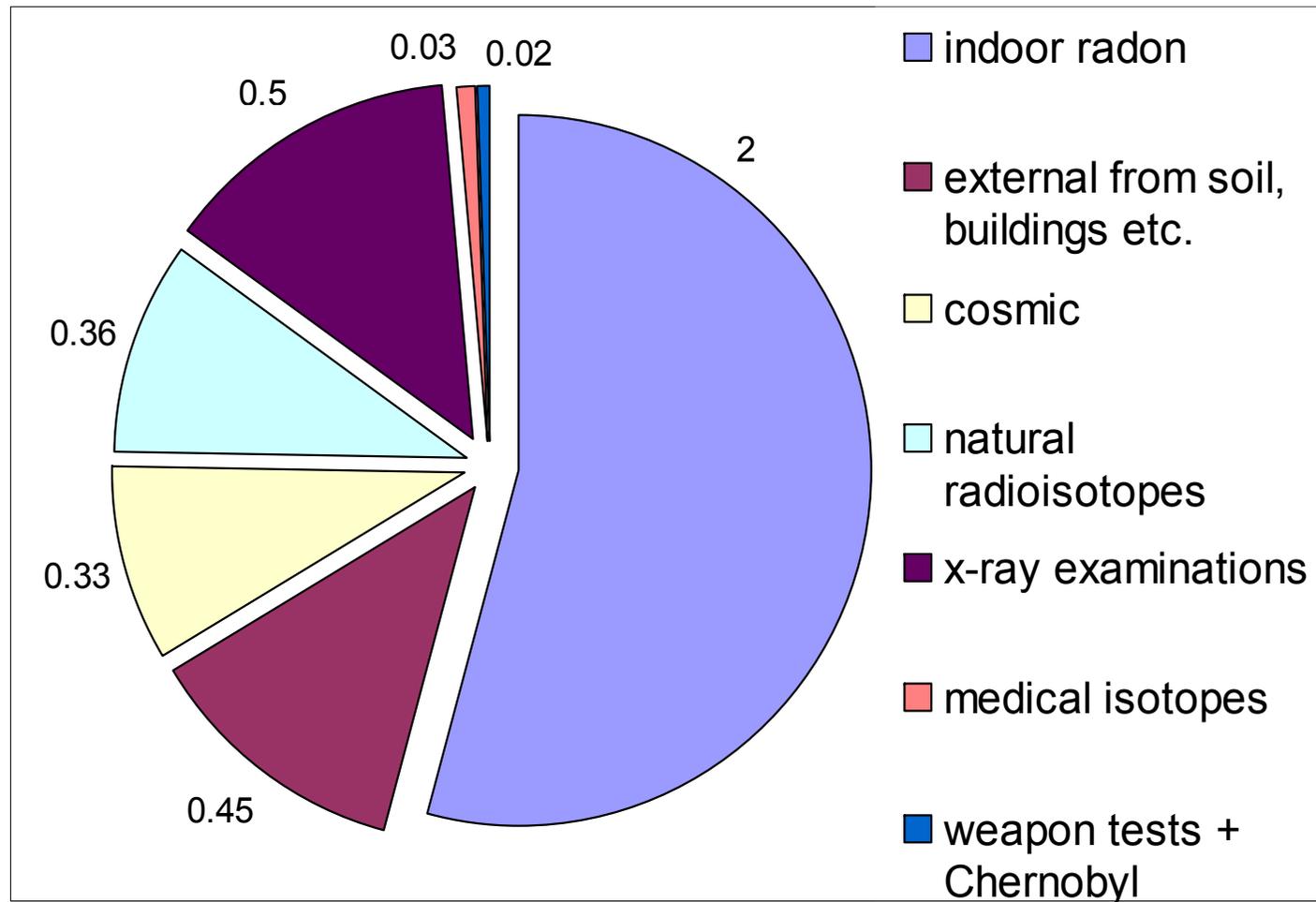
There is no reason that distribution of radioactive material in the group of people is Gaussian

- average alone is not a good number
- STUK publishes median
- take a look on distribution!

# Some distributions

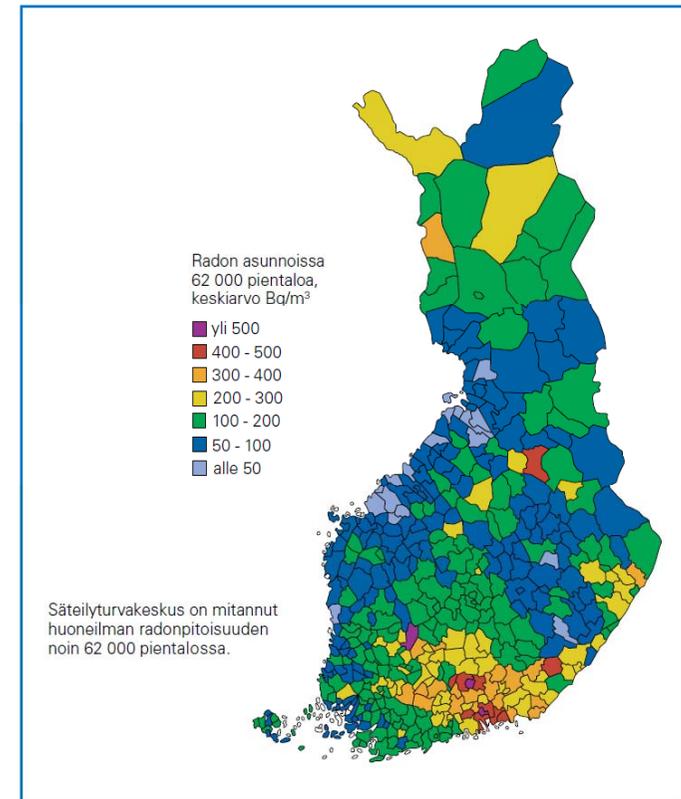


# Average dose for an average Finn (1)



## Average dose for an average Finn (2)

- An average Finn is non-existent in reality
- Averages are tricky when assessing dose
  - Especially radon:
  - Certain areas, e.g. Ostrobothnia, indoor radon is negligible
  - Also, medical doses are not evenly distributed



# Conclusions

With these contamination levels it is no use to spent too much time on analysing the results (Level 0)

Useful only for academic/educational purposes.

Taking into account all uncertainty sources listed above, we can conclude that order of magnitude is absolutely correct.

For a higher dose, more measurements results better estimate, obviously

Comments above DOES NOT mean that you should not measure, how would you know without measuring?