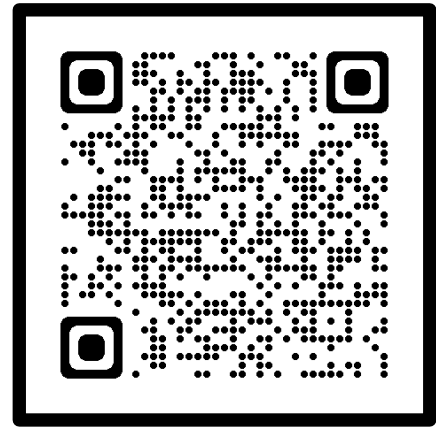


# Per- & polyfluorinated alkyl substances (PFAS) in Pennsylvania surface waters: A statewide assessment & associated sources

Sara E. Breitmeyer, Amy M. Williams, Joseph W. Duris, Lee W. Eicholtz, Dustin R. Shull, Timothy A. Wertz, Emily E. Woodward

U.S. Geological Survey & Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP)

Scan for Journal Article



# Per- & polyfluorinated alkyl substances (PFAS)

- Do not easily degrade
- A human & environmental health concern
- Surface water: major pathway of exposure to humans & biota
- Surface water concentrations commonly exceed interim USEPA Health Advisory Levels & proposed Maximum Contaminant Levels.





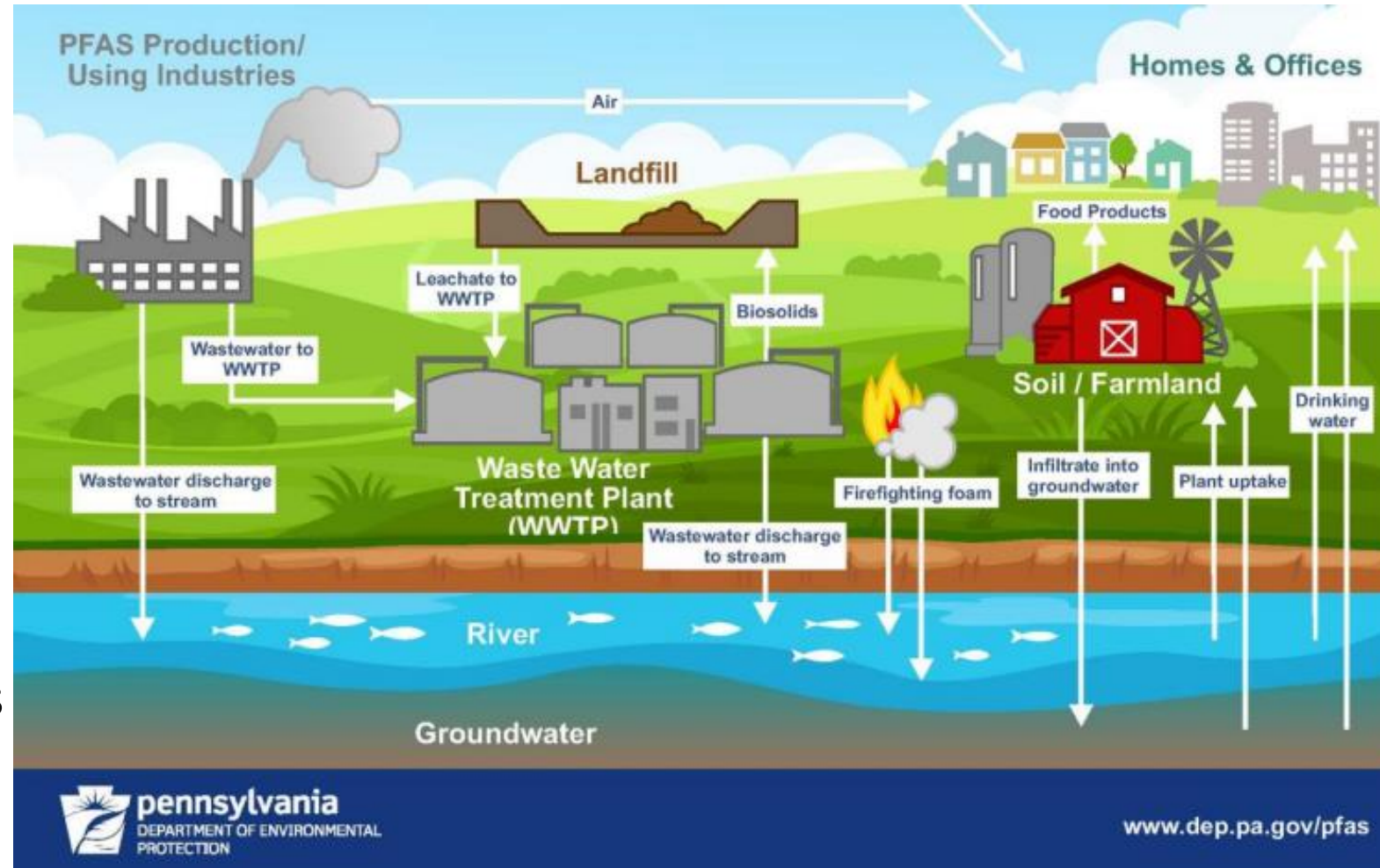
# Geospatial Analysis

## Land use (upstream catchment)

- Wetland
- Cropland
- Development

## Potential PFAS sources (local catchment)

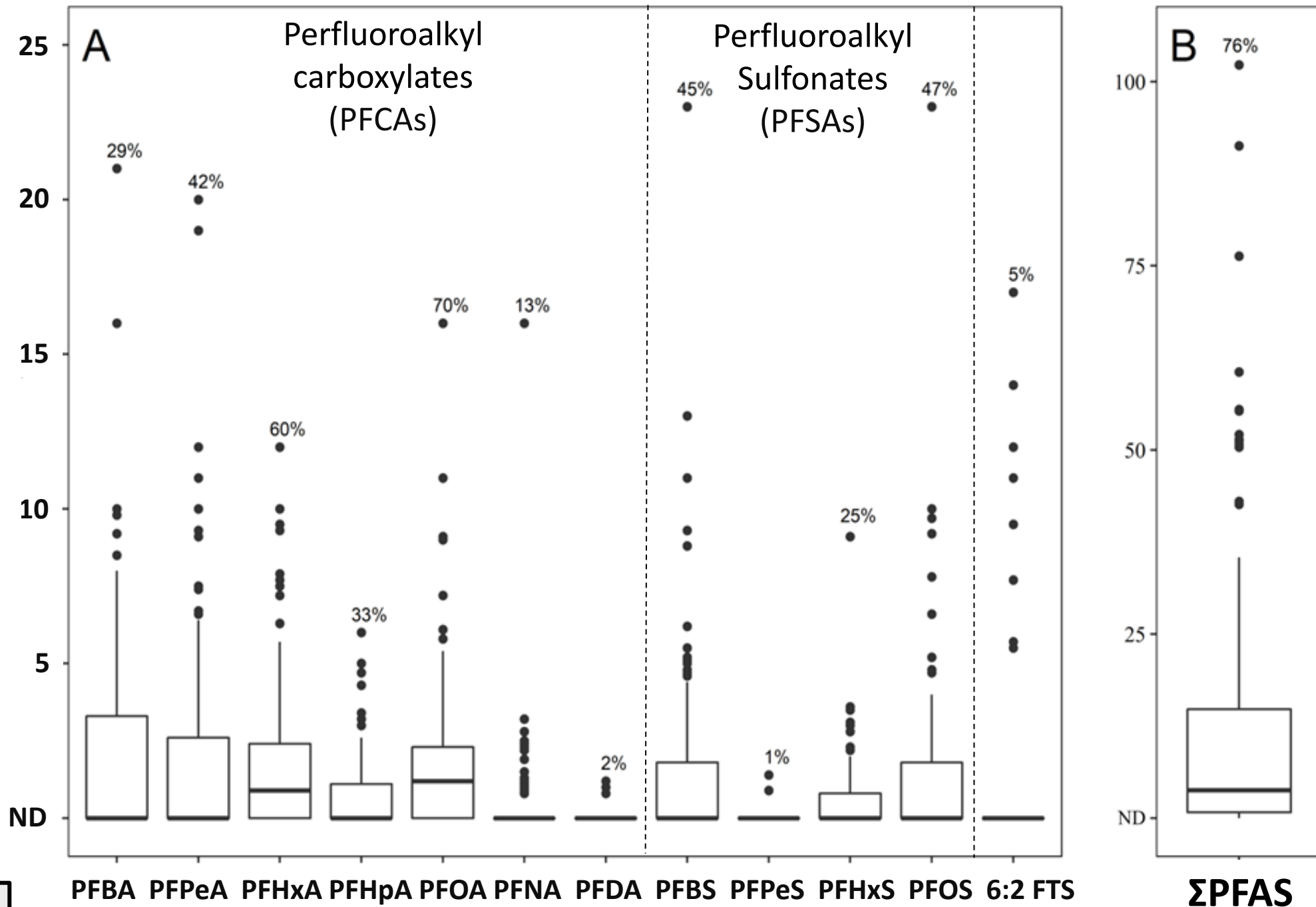
- Sinkholes
- Water pollution control facilities
- Military installations
- Airports
- Fire training schools
- Combined sewer overflow outfalls
- Oil & gas wells
- Land recycling cleanup locations
- Superfund sites
- Major groups of EnviroFACTS industries (manufacturing/service facilities w/ permitted discharges)



This information is being provided to meet the need for timely best science and provided on the condition that it is not for citation or distribution.

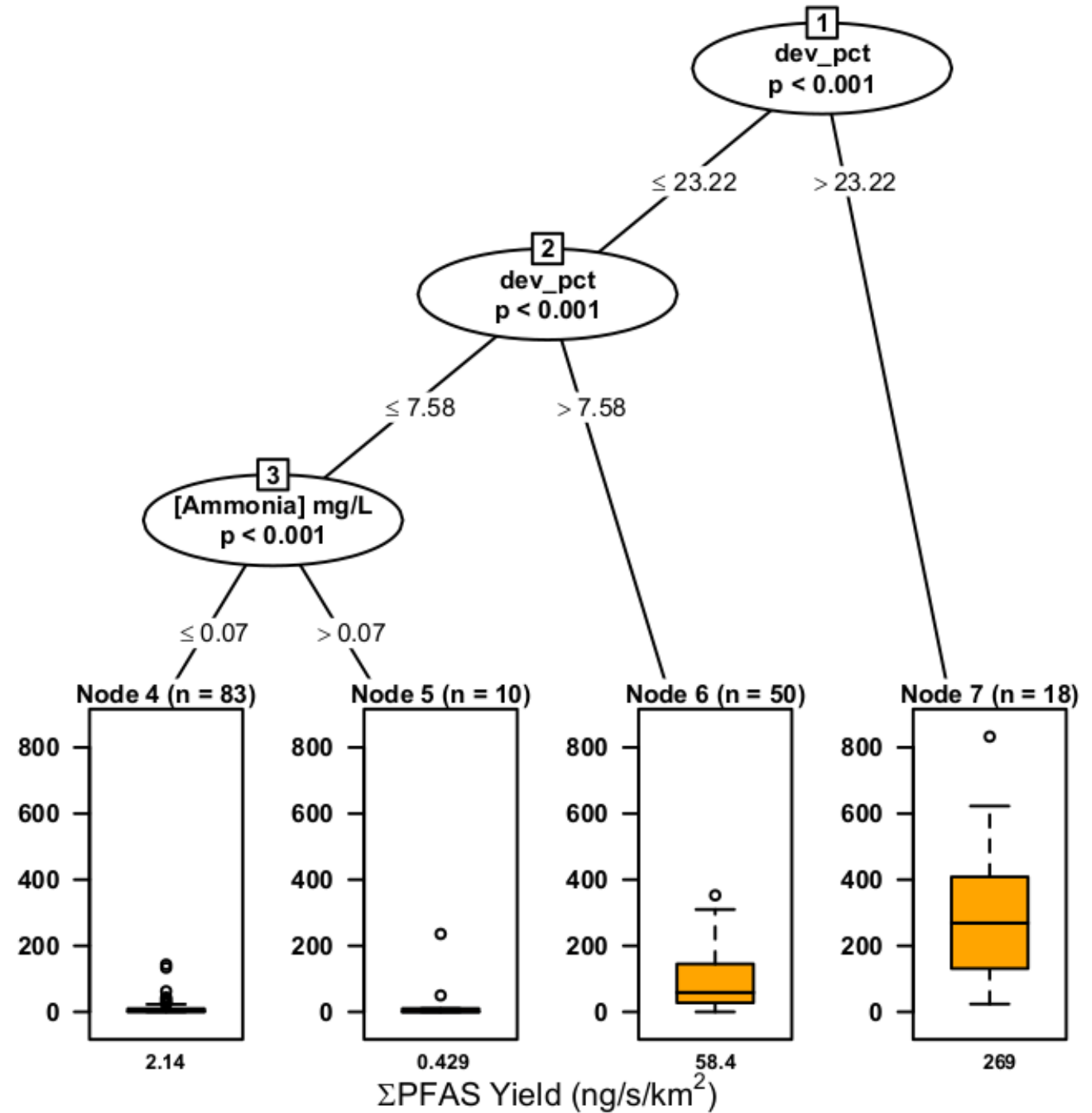


Detected PFAS concentrations (ng/L)  
n=161 streams

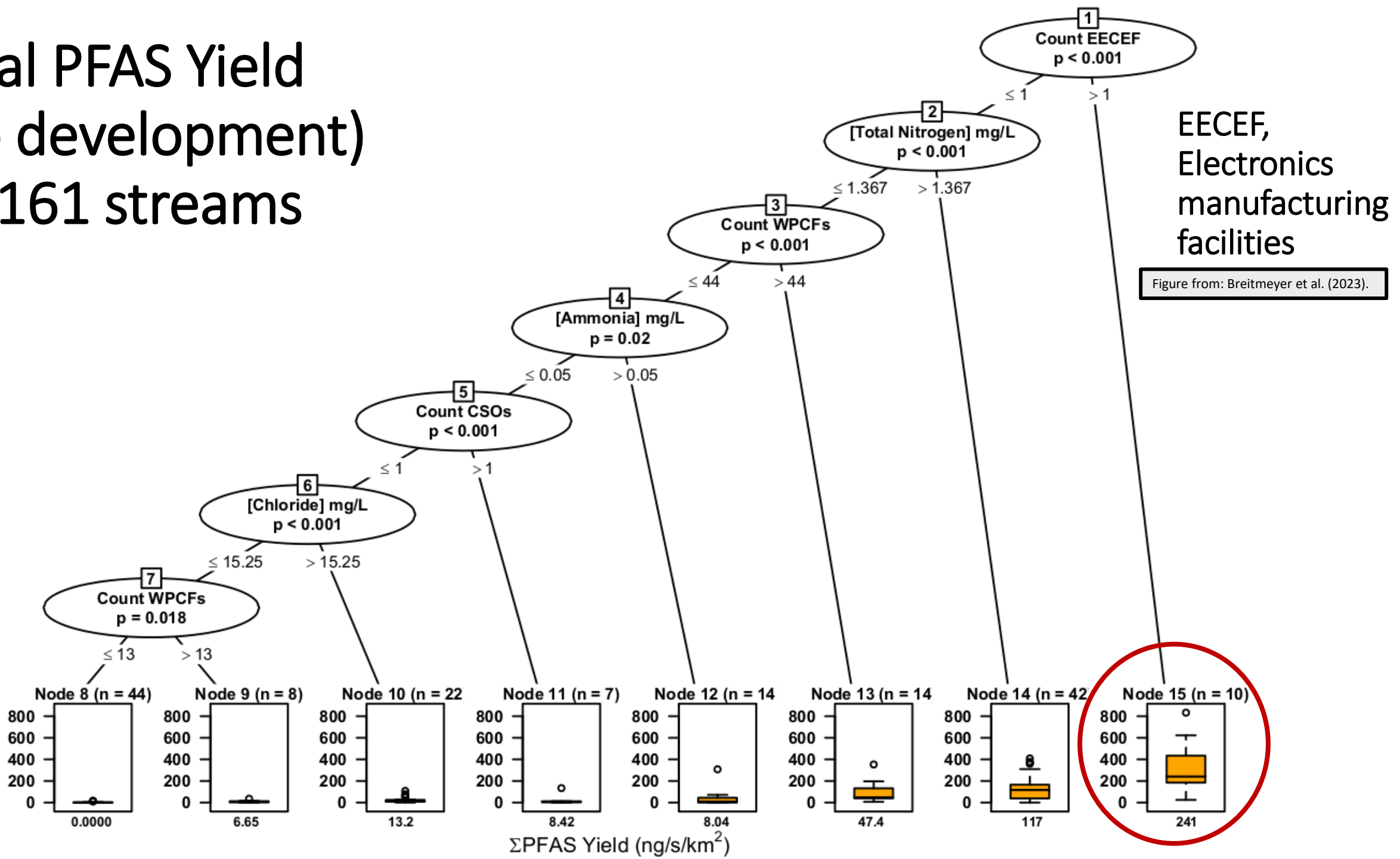


# Urbanization & PFAS

- n=161 streams
- 38 total input features
- Total PFAS yield (median)= $11.9 \frac{\text{ng}}{\text{s}} / \text{km}^2$
- dev\_pct,  
% development



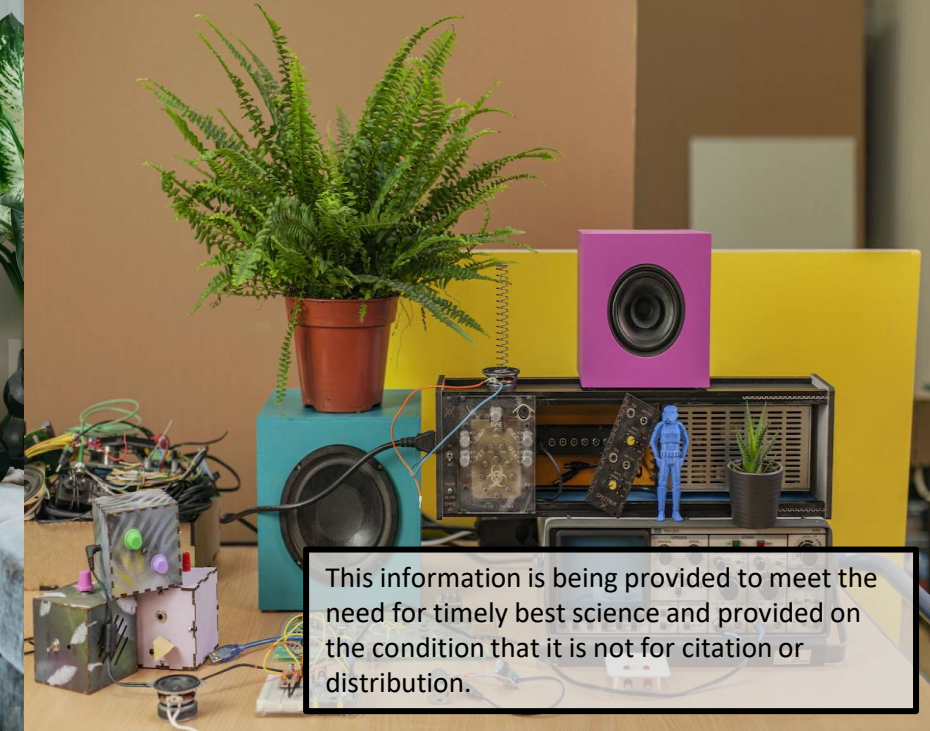
# Total PFAS Yield (no development) n= 161 streams





## Electronic & Other Electrical Equipment & Components (Except Computer Equipment):

- Electrical industrial apparatus
- Household appliances
- Electrical lighting & wiring
- Radio & television
- Phones
- Electronic components & accessories





# Total PFAS Yield

Excluded:

- Development
- Highest outlier site

WPCF, water pollution control facilities  
 CSO, combined sewage overflow outfall

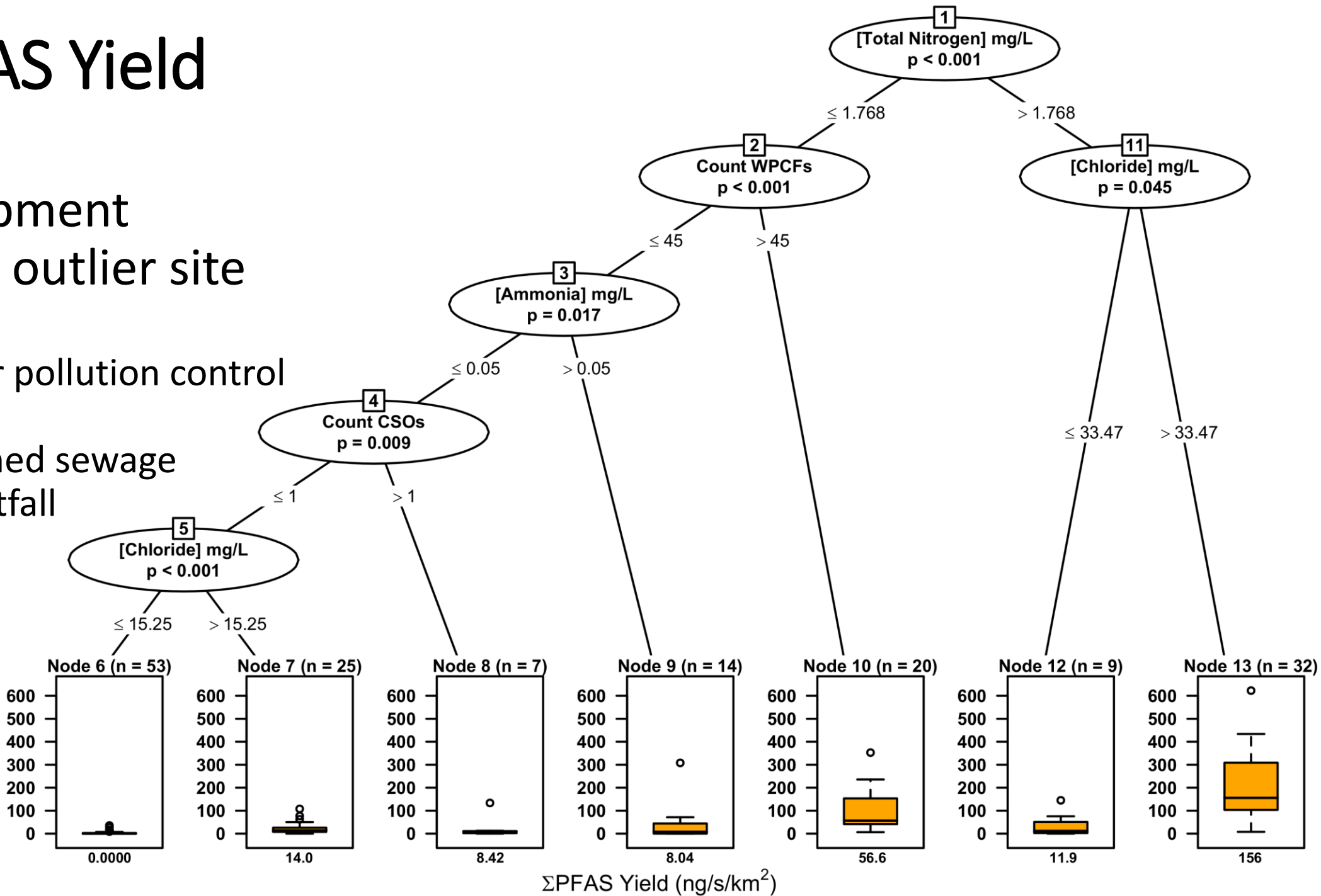
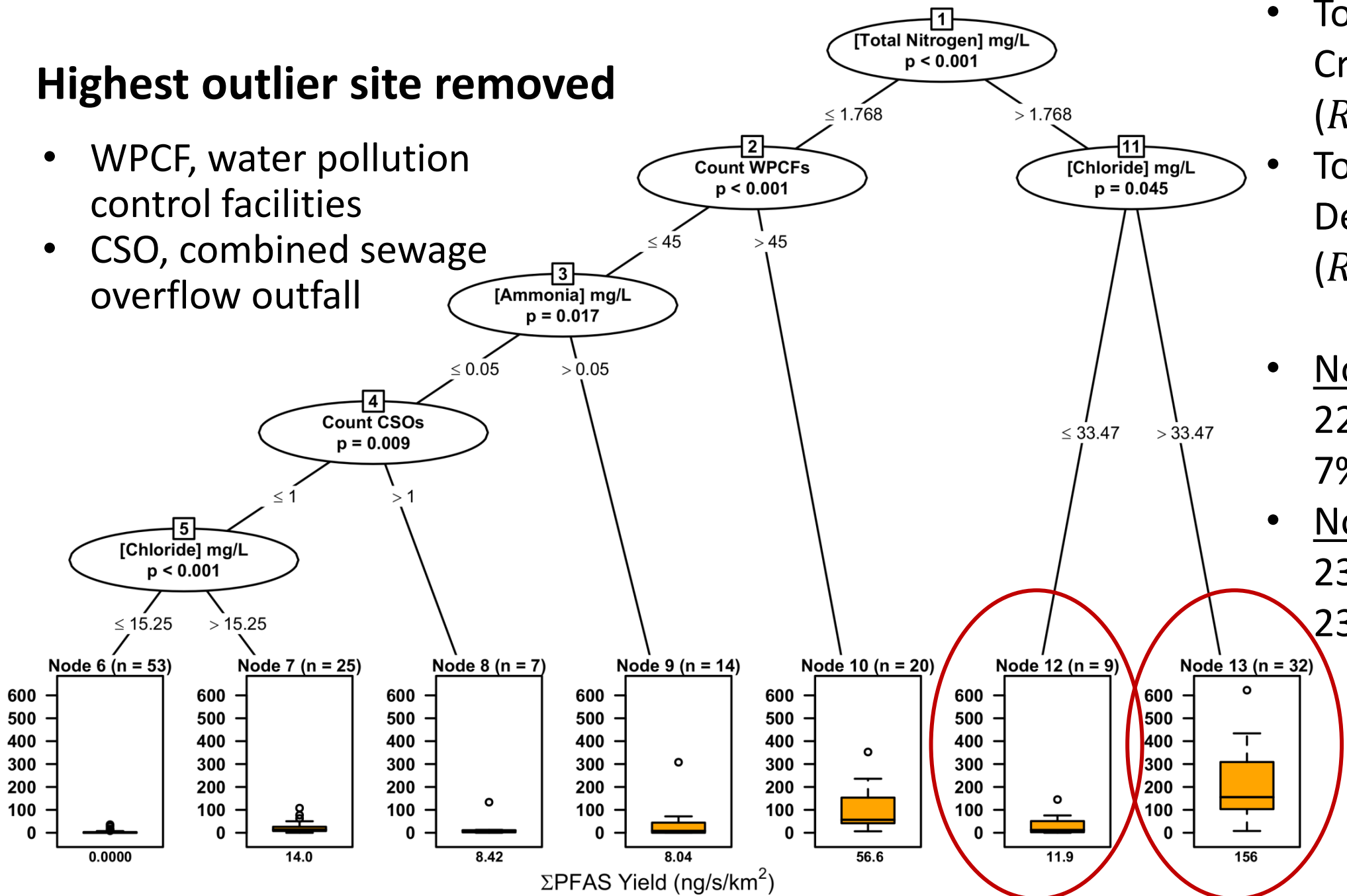


Figure from: Breitmeyer et al. (2023).

# Highest outlier site removed

- WPCF, water pollution control facilities
- CSO, combined sewage overflow outfall



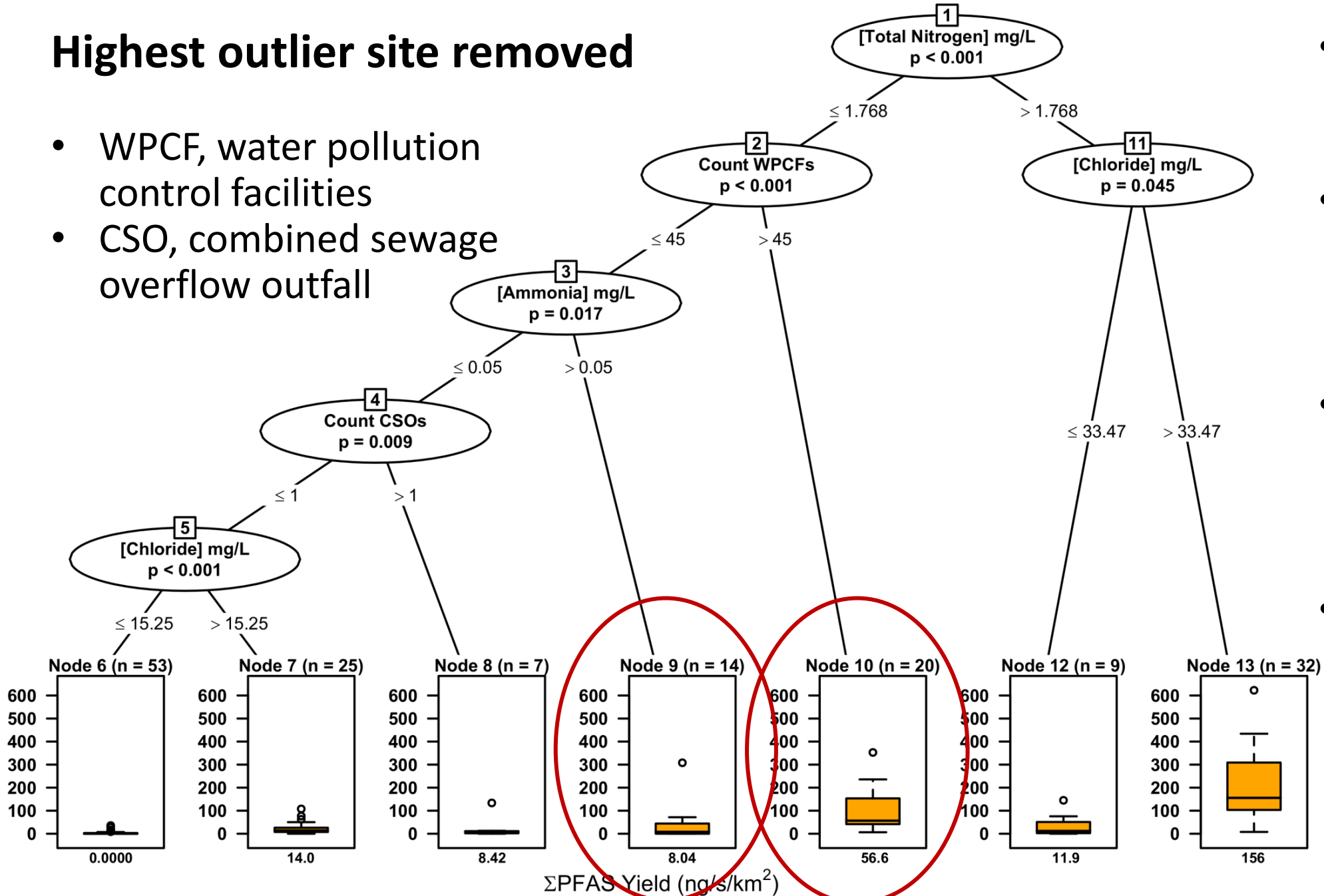
- Total PFAS & Cropland ( $R^2=0.35$ ,  $p<0.001$ )
- Total PFAS & Development ( $R^2=0.77$ ,  $p<0.001$ )
- Node 12:  
22% Cropland  
7% Developed
- Node 13:  
23% Cropland  
23% Developed

Figure from: Breitmeyer et al. (2023).



# Highest outlier site removed

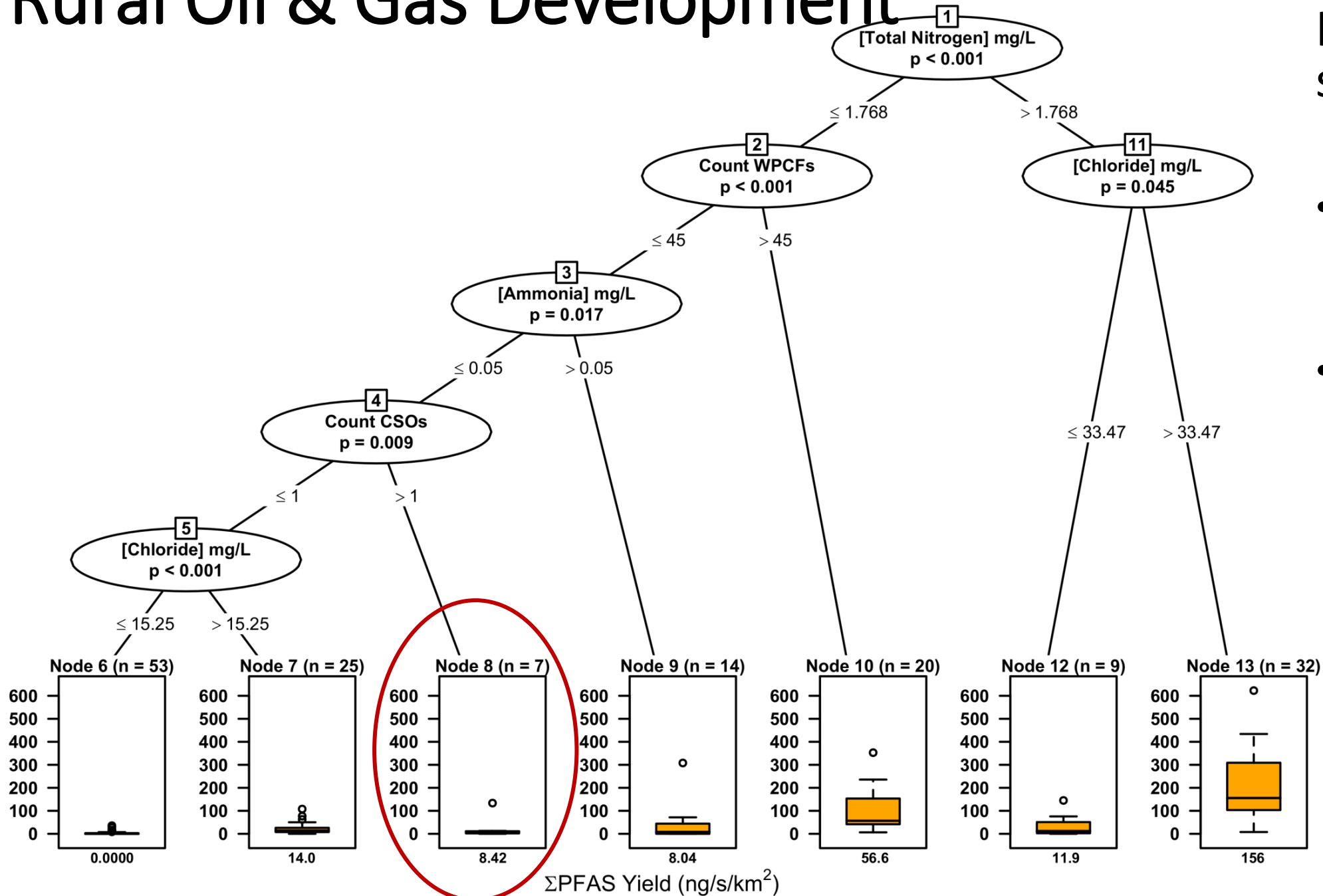
- WPCF, water pollution control facilities
- CSO, combined sewage overflow outfall



- Total PFAS & Cropland ( $R^2=0.35$ ,  $p<0.001$ )
- Total PFAS & Development ( $R^2=0.77$ ,  $p<0.001$ )
- Node 9:  
8% Cropland  
7% Developed  
(86% Open Space)
- Node 10:  
12% Cropland  
9% Developed

# Rural Oil & Gas Development

Highest outlier site removed

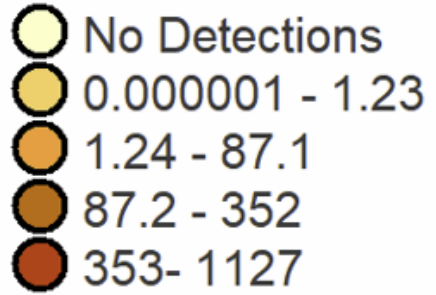


- WPCF, water pollution control facilities
- CSO, combined sewage overflow outfall

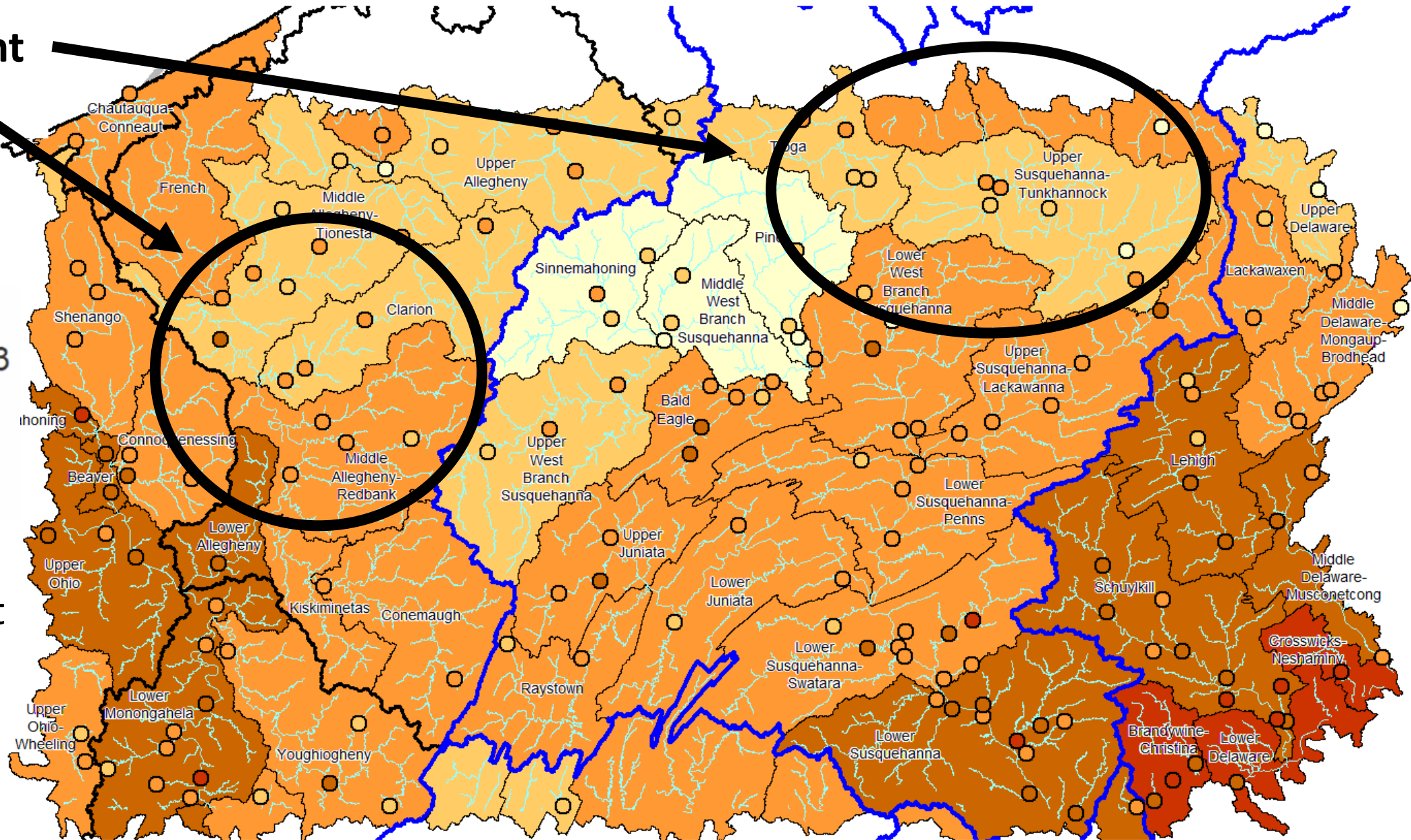
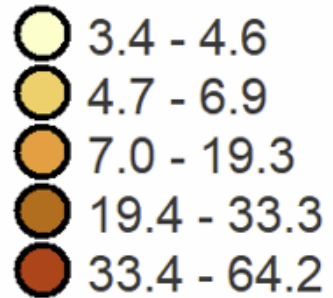


# Oil & Gas Development Regions

## Streams Total PFAS Yield



## Watershed % Development



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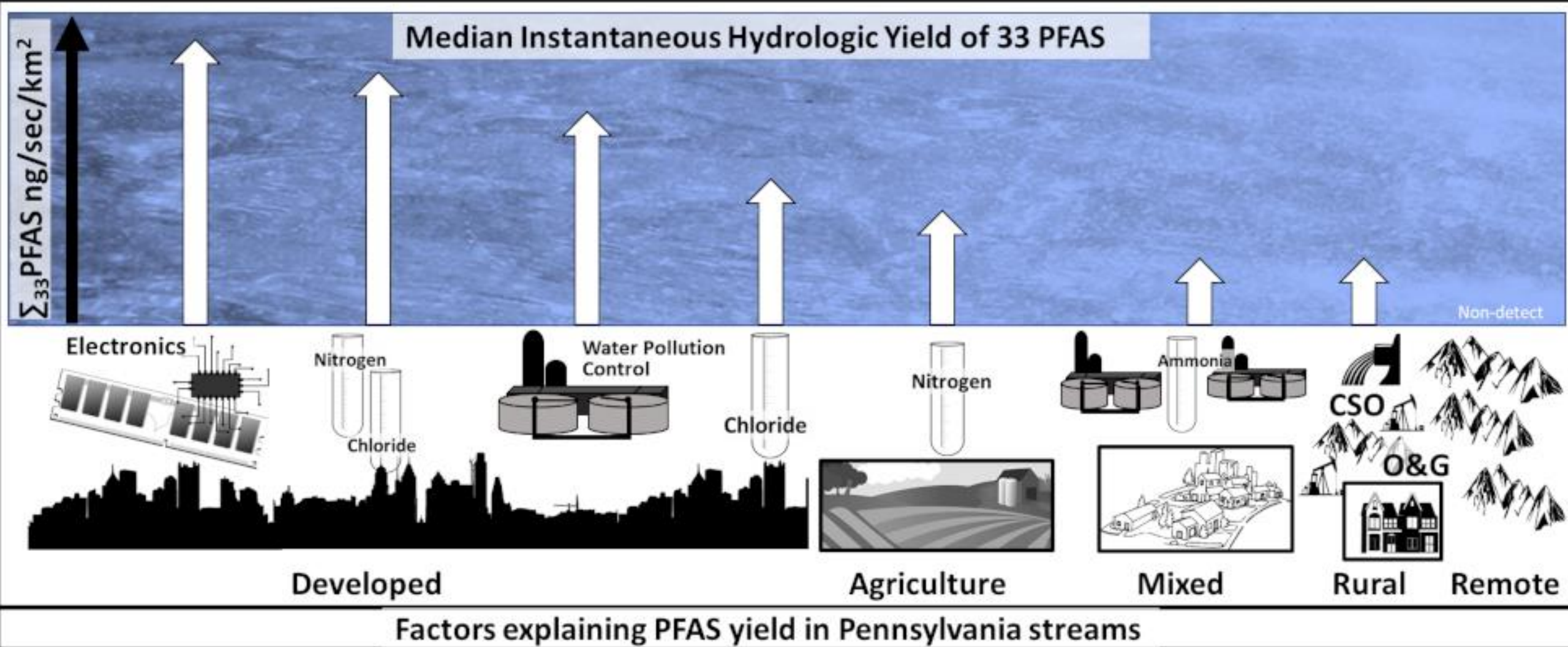
## USEPA Drinking Water Human Health Criteria (ng/L)

	Interim Health Advisory Level (HAL)	Proposed Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)
<b>PFOA</b>	0.04	4.0
<b>PFOS</b>	0.02	4.0
<b>PFNA</b>	--	1.0 (unitless) Hazard Index
<b>PFHxS</b>	--	
<b>PFBS</b>	2000	
<b>Gen-X</b>	10	



$$\text{Hazard Index} = \left( \frac{[\text{GenX}_{\text{water}}]}{[10 \text{ ppt}]} \right) + \left( \frac{[\text{PFBS}_{\text{water}}]}{[2000 \text{ ppt}]} \right) + \left( \frac{[\text{PFNA}_{\text{water}}]}{[10 \text{ ppt}]} \right) + \left( \frac{[\text{PFHxS}_{\text{water}}]}{[9.0 \text{ ppt}]} \right)$$





# Thank You

## Contact information

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- USGS Water Mission Area



# References

- Breitmeyer, S.E., Williams, A.M., Duris, J.W., Eicholtz, L.W., Shull, D.R., Wertz, T.A., and Woodward, E.E. 2023. Per- and polyfluorinated alkyl substances (PFAS) in Pennsylvania surface waters: A statewide assessment, associated sources, and land-use relations. *Science of The Total Environment* 888, 164161. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.scitotenv.2023.164161>.
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- USEPA (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency). 2023. PFAS National Primary Drinking Water Regulation Rulemaking. 40 CFR Parts 141 and 142. EPA-HQ-OW-2022-0114; FRL 8543-01-OW. RIN 2040-AG18. [https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2023-03/Pre-Publication%20Federal%20Register%20Notice PFAS%20NPDWR NPRM Final 3.13.23.pdf](https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2023-03/Pre-Publication%20Federal%20Register%20Notice%20PFAS%20NPDWR%20NPRM%20Final%203.13.23.pdf)

