CASE STUDY

EXPOSURE TO COMPLEX MIXTURES

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Problem Based Learning (PBL)

WP5 – Risk assessment, policy and risk communication

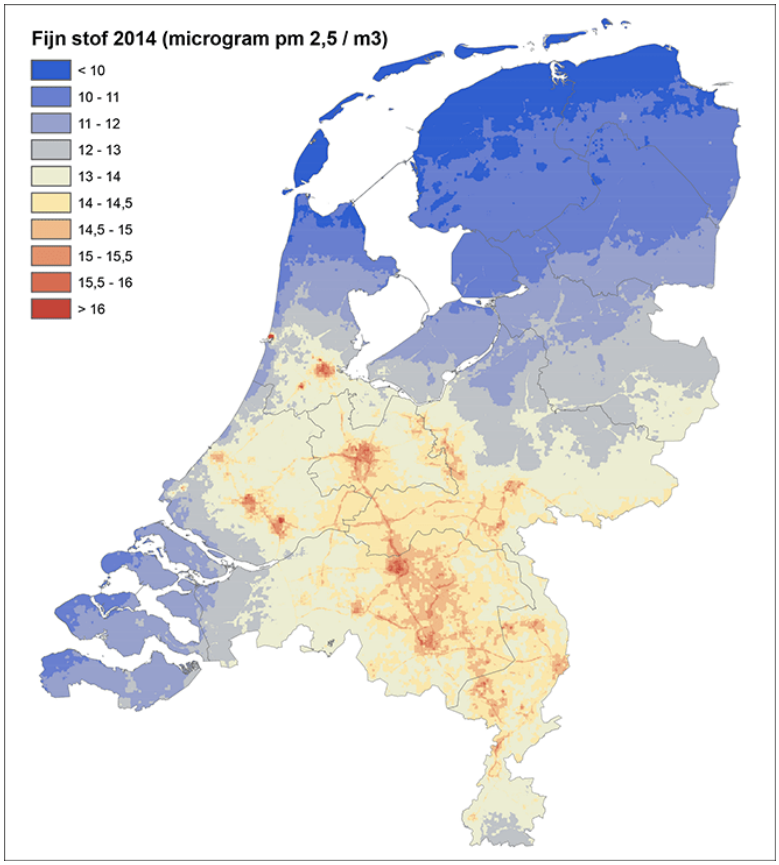
Topic: CASE on Exposure to complex mixtures

Particulate matter

You just started a new job as a health worker at the regional health service, when you were asked to organize an information meeting for residents of Maastricht (city in the south of the Netherlands), who live near a very busy street. These people are exposed to relatively high levels of particulate matter (PM). During this information meeting, residents should be informed about what the government is doing to monitor the air quality, and more specifically, what daily measurements are taken to monitor the air quality, how the results of the measurements should be interpreted in relation to health risks and how the guidelines are enforced.

You know that this is not an easy task, because the type of exposure is complex. Polluted air can be assessed by measuring for instance PM10, PM2.5 or nitric dioxide concentrations.

After you checked the daily air quality measurements, you were surprised by the number of times that the levels were found higher than desired. You decide to take this opportunity not only to inform the public about air quality and the results in the measurements in their environment, but also to get an impression of the concerns people have. You plan to do this according to the “Risk Governance Framework”.



Map of the Netherlands for levels of PM2.5