

Toxicological and Exposure Database Inventory: A review

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16	
17	Highlights
18	• A review of databases that can support human risk assessment to chemicals is needed
19	• 715 databases (DBs) were identified and described from a literature review
20	• The chemicals studied and the summary information reported was often very limited
21	• A free searchable online inventory was set up to collect and share meta-data on DBs

• This inventory of toxicological and exposure DBs remains open for further additions

23 ABSTRACT

24

Background: Knowledge of hazards and exposure data about chemical pollutants are essential for
epidemiological studies for assessing health risks and preventing the development of diseases. Access
to this type of information is clearly needed and although numerous databases (DBs) have been
compiled, they are often extremely difficult to find and navigate.

Objectives: This paper presents the creation of an online inventory of toxicological and exposure DBs
to support human health risk assessment resulting from the chemical exposome.

Methods: A free searchable online inventory, called TEDI (Toxicological and Exposure Database Inventory), was set up to collect meta-data on toxicological and exposure DBs resulting from a review of the literature conducted on PubMed. Only chemical agents, including drugs, natural and manufactured/synthetic chemicals and air pollutants, were considered. Regarding exposure DBs, only human exposure to chemicals were included. Because of time and resource constraints, only an inventory was performed, and no effort was made to rate, assess or rank DBs on quality criteria.

Results: A total of 715 DBs were identified, catalogued, described and made available on TEDI. The 37 38 number of chemicals ranged from one single chemical to 90 million for toxicological DBs and from 1 to 103,817 chemicals for exposure DBs. Some DBs were restricted to specific chemicals, with for 39 instance 71 exposure DBs reporting polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon measurements. Toxicological DBs 40 41 (n=362) provided a broad range of different information such as toxicity data (57%), physicochemical 42 properties (38%), experimental study results (28%) or prediction data (16%). A total of 382 exposure 43 DBs were found, including exposure measurements DBs (71%), web application/tool (21%), exposure and risk assessment models (19%) and epidemiological DBs (13%). 44

Discussion: TEDI is of value to the broader community and could support human health risk assessment
to chemicals in various contexts. This inventory remains open for further additions, to enlarge its
coverage, increase the meta-data collected and include newly developed DBs.

48

49 KEYWORDS: toxicological database; exposure database; chemical exposome; health risk assessment;
50 inventory

51 Abbreviations

- 52 ADME: absorption, distribution, metabolism, excretion
- 53 DB: database
- 54 EU: European Union
- 55 GBD: Global Burden of Disease
- 56 GHS: Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals
- 57 JEM: job-exposure matrices
- 58 LB: lower bound
- 59 MS: Microsoft
- 60 OMEGA-NET: Network on the Coordination and Harmonization of European Occupational Cohorts
- 61 PAHs: polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons
- 62 QSAR: structure-activity relationship
- 63 QSPR: quantitative structure-property relationship
- 64 REACH: Registration, Evaluation, Authorization and restriction of CHemicals
- 65 SAR: structure-activity relationship
- 66 TEDI: Toxicological and Exposure Database Inventory
- 67 UB: upper bound

68 1. Introduction

The introduction of the exposome concept emphasizes on the multiplicity, interaction and complexity of health risks. The exposome can be defined as the study of the impact of all potential stressors on human health (including chemical, biological, physical, psychological, social, etc.) from conception onwards (Dennis et al. 2017; Kim and Hong 2017; Siroux et al. 2016; Wild 2005, 2006). This concept, first formulated in 2005, was developed to highlight the need for better and more complete exposure data related to all life-stages for various populations (Siroux et al. 2016; Wild 2005).

75 Because chemicals are among the major environmental threats to human health, knowledge of hazards and exposure data about chemical pollutants (chemical exposome) are essential for assessing health risks 76 and preventing the development of diseases. Risk assessment can be viewed as a four-step process 77 including hazard identification, dose-response assessment, exposure assessment, and risk 78 characterization (Persad and Bobst 2020). Since the REACH regulation, knowledge about hazards has 79 increased, but there is still a scarcity of data pertaining to thousands of chemicals, in particular for 80 chronic hazards, chemical mixtures and the condition of use of many chemicals (ECHA 2015; Wignall 81 82 et al. 2018). Regarding exposure data, the knowledge is much more limited and highly variable. Some 83 chemicals have been intensively monitored, such as asbestos, while others have been well characterized 84 in various media (water, sediment, food) but poorly in humans. However, for most chemicals, there is a paucity of knowledge and even occasionally no data, with only a small fraction of the chemical 85 exposome covered (Vineis et al. 2017; Wignall et al. 2018). 86

87 Technological advancement has led to evolving exposure environments/conditions and to a drastic 88 increase in the health data generated and captured. To be used for research purposes, the generated data have to be collected, recorded, stored and properly handled (Gaudet et al. 2011; Zheng et al. 2017). A 89 great diversity of databases (DBs) exists, whose nature and scope, as well as the degree of complexity 90 91 vary immensely (Andreu-Perez et al. 2015; Frelinger 2015; Sowe and Zettsu 2014; Steckling et al. 2018; Zheng et al. 2017). The true challenge is to identify what data are truly relevant/useful and concentrate 92 efforts on gathering it. Access to this type of information is clearly needed and although numerous DBs 93 94 have been compiled, they are often extremely difficult to find and navigate. A concerted effort is needed to catalogue available toxicological and exposure DBs that can support human health risk assessment ofthe chemical exposome.

97 This paper attempts to catalogue relevant DBs that might benefit human health risk assessment resulting 98 from the chemical exposome into an easily accessible format. This inventory could be a useful 99 tool/resource for epidemiologist, risk assessors, risk managers, practitioners, industry practitioners, 100 decision makers and sanitary agencies to obtain and find relevant information from available resources 101 when conducting risk assessment to chemicals.

- 102
- 103 **2.** Material & Methods
- 104

105 *2.1 Scope of the study*

106 The scope of this study was to create an online inventory to collect meta-data on various toxicological 107 and exposure DBs into an easily findable, accessible, interoperable, and re-useable format. No attempt 108 to conduct an analysis of the scientific content of the identified records was undertaken because it was 109 outside the scope of this study. In addition, no data quality analysis (qualitative or quantitative) of the 110 DBs compiled from this work was made because it was also outside the scope of this work.

For this study, a toxicological DB was defined as a collection of data which included at least one of the 111 following information: physicochemical properties, results of experimental studies, reference/limit 112 values (e.g., cancer slop factor), prediction data, prediction models, dose response models or other 113 114 toxicity information. An exposure DB was defined as a collection of data which included at least one of 115 the following information: results of the analysis/monitoring of one or several chemicals in at least one media (e.g., air, urine, food), information on the number of people exposed to at least one chemical, 116 117 exposure models used to rank or estimate chemical exposure levels or health risk assessment tools (e.g., 118 software, web application, methods or numerical analysis models) used to qualify or quantify the risk 119 posed to human health resulting from chemical exposure.

For this work, only chemical agents, including drugs, natural and manufactured/synthetic chemicals
(including unwanted by-products) and air pollutants, were considered as chemical exposome stressors
and referred to as chemicals in the remaining of this paper. Biological agents (e.g., mycotoxins, virus),

physical agents (e.g., radiation), and active smoking were outside the scope of this inventory. Regardingexposure DBs, only human exposure to chemicals were considered.

125

126 *2.2 Literature search*

For the purpose of this study, a review of the literature, conducted by one author, was undertaken using 127 PubMed. All identified papers addressing the subject of toxicological or human exposure DBs regarding 128 129 chemicals that were published in peer-reviewed journals were considered for inclusion. Edited books 130 and book chapters were also considered. Gray literature was also examined. No records that were deemed relevant to the scope of this study were purposely excluded from this review. Using PubMed, 131 the following search strategy/query was used: (toxicological OR toxicology OR exposure OR exposome) 132 AND (database OR dataset OR databank). The search was carried out on February 7th 2022 and was 133 limited by language: 'English' and 'French' and by date: from 1950 to the end of January 2022. 134

When possible, the main information (e.g., DB name, topic, country, number of data observations, 135 references) and other meta-data regarding the identified DBs were retrieved. The meta-data of interest 136 to be retrieved during the literature search are listed in Table 1. The characteristics/meta-data of each 137 DB were collected using only information that was available from the screened records. Descriptors of 138 interest that were never available or almost never reported in the screened records were excluded. 139 Because of time and resource constraints, only an inventory was performed, and no effort was made to 140 141 rate, assess or rank DBs on quality criteria. In addition, no effort was made to reach out directly to the 142 owners of the DBs to request additional details.

Database type	Database descriptor	Example
Toxicological and	Name	ACROPOLIS
exposure databases	Creator	Institution
	Owner	Institution
	Contact person	Name and email address
	Status	Still active
	Data availability	Open
	Country/Scale	The Netherlands
	Time period	2001-2010
	Number of agents	97
	Topic/Agents	Chemicals
	Full list of chemicals	Arsenic, cadmium, lead
	Reference	Bopp et al. 2018
Toxicological database only	Data type	Physicochemical properties, experimental data about acute toxicity
Exposure database only	Data origin	Original study
	Exposure setting	Environmental exposure
	Media	Air
	Monitoring strategy	Airborne monitoring (area) from 8,405 air stations located in 38 countries
	Number of data	166
	Data type	Samples

143 **Table 1**: List of meta-data of interest to collect from the literature search

144

145 2.3 Creation of an online tool – TEDI

To make the inventory of toxicological and exposure DBs easily findable, accessible, interoperable, and 146 147 re-useable, a user friendly and interactive web application/tool, named TEDI (Toxicological and 148 Exposure Database Inventory), was created. It was built using the Shiny package in the R programming language (Chang et al. 2018). TEDI can be accessed on any device with an internet browser and requires 149 no programming knowledge to use. TEDI is freely available to anyone who wants to use it and is 150 available at: https://exporisk-timc.imag.fr/TEDI/. 151 152 Data analysis, all calculation and the creation of TEDI were performed with R software 4.1.2® (R Core Team, Vienna, Austria) for Windows 10©. 153

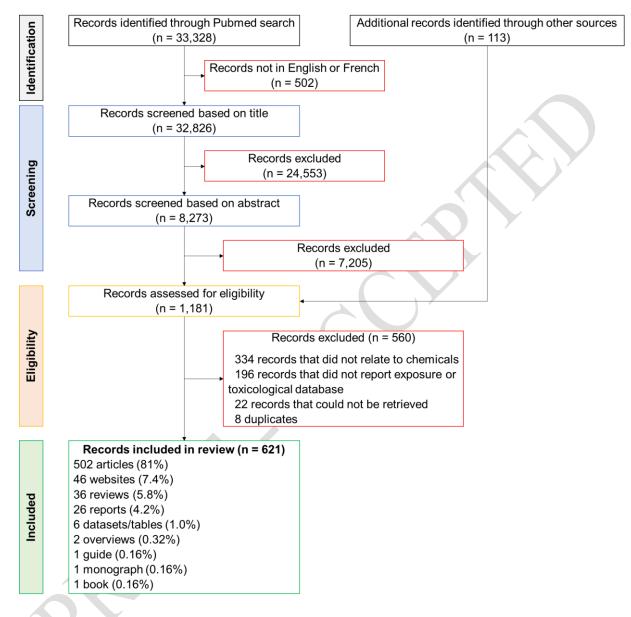
154

155 **3. Results**

- 156
- 157 *3.1 Literature search*

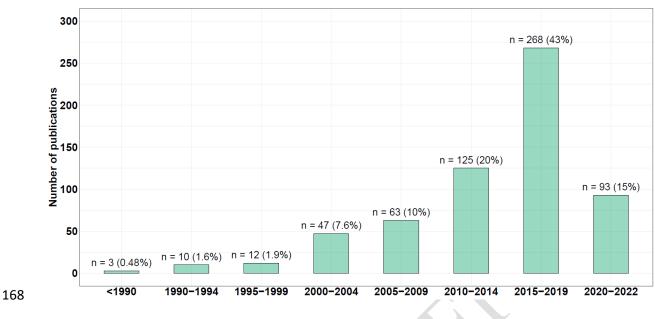
The literature search yielded 33,328 records that had been published before the end of January 2022. A total of 113 additional records were identified through other sources (gray literature). Irrelevant and duplicate records (32,820) were excluded based on the examination of titles, abstracts, and full-texts, after which 621 records were kept (Fig.1). Most of the records screened were articles (81%), followed

- by websites (7.4%), reviews (5.8%), reports (4.2%) and other resources (1.7%). Most references were
- 163 published after 2005 (88%), and almost two-third of them (58%) were published since 2015 (Fig.2).
- 164



165

166 Fig.1 Flow chart depicting the literature search and the evaluation process for finding relevant records



169 Fig.2 Number of records per 5-year period

170 Regarding the bar on the right side of the graph (2020-2022), the number of records corresponds only171 to the total number of records from 2020, 2021 and January 2022

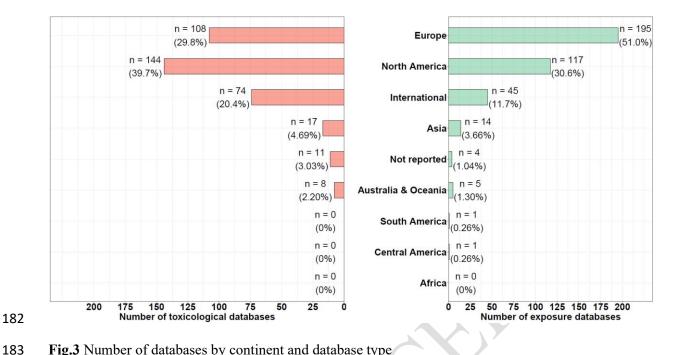
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173 *3.2 Database inventory*

A total of 715 toxicological and exposure DBs were identified through the literature search (Fig.1). Some records described more than one DB, which explains why there were more DBs identified than records screened (715 vs. 621). There were 333 DBs (46.6%) solely classified as toxicological DBs, 353 DBs (49.4%) solely classified as exposure DBs and 29 DBs (4.1%) that were classified in both categories. The geographical coverage showed that most DBs were developed in North America and Europe (Fig.3). No DB from Africa was found while only a few DBs from South America, Central America, Asia, Australia and Oceania were identified.

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A total of seven descriptors of interest were excluded and not recorded on TEDI because they were 185 either not available or almost never reported in the screened records. These descriptors were the owner, 186 the creator, the contact person, the data availability, the full list of chemicals, the time period and the 187 status of the DB. As a results, to address this shortcoming, a proof of concept was undertaken using the 188 screened records to investigate the possibility of collecting more detailed information about the missing 189 190 descriptors of interest. This proof of concept focused only on one descriptor (the full list of chemicals) and was restricted to exposure DBs reporting results of airborne and/or biological monitoring to 191 polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), which is one of the most studied family of carcinogens 192 (Mallah et al. 2022; Yang et al. 2021). The results of the proof of concept are detailed below in 193 194 subsection 3.2.3.

195

196 3.2.1 Toxicological databases

197 Among the 715 DBs identified, 362 (50.6%) were classified as toxicological DBs. Most of the time, 198 they were made up of data retrieved through literature reviews, data collation and/or data collection. 199 Data on a wide variety of chemicals were available. The number of chemicals found in the identified toxicological DBs ranged from one single chemical to 90 million. They were 83 (23%) DBs that
investigated specific topics or classes of chemicals, in particular nanomaterials (n=20), pesticides
(n=19), chemicals in food (n=13), chemical mixtures (n=11), endocrine disrupting chemicals (n=9),
carcinogens (n=6) and PAHs (n=4).

A broad range of data types were available (Fig.4). A total of 208 (57%) toxicological DBs provided toxicological information while 16 reported ecotoxicological data. There were many types of toxicity information reported such as data on target organ, mode of action, adverse effects, as well as toxicity profile, toxicity thresholds and dose-response relationship of a chemical in different organisms and/or the environment. Some of these DBs also provided information on pharmacokinetic data (n=10), in particular ADME (absorption, distribution, metabolism, and excretion), but also on adverse outcome pathway (n=7).

A total of 139 (38%) DBs provided chemical structure and physicochemical properties. Most of these DBs were usually freely accessible and had their own search engine. Information regarding the chemical identity (e.g., name, synonym, formula, structure, identification number) were often provided. A broad range of physicochemical properties could be found such as vapor pressure, solubility, partition coefficients, molar mass, molar volume, pH and critical temperature. Chemotype and activity annotations were sometimes also available

A total of 100 (28%) DBs gathered results from experimental studies. Most experimental data came from animal and *in vitro* studies. DBs with experimental data provided results for 1 to 1,563 different species. There were many types of assays that were reported, in particular carcinogenicity, mutagenicity, genotoxicity, hepatotoxicity, acute toxicity, developmental toxicity and skin sensitization tests.

Several toxicological DBs provided prediction data (16%) as well as different models (8%) that can
mostly be used to predict toxicity. Toxicity prediction was usually performed with quantitative structureactivity relationship (QSAR) (n=38), read-across, structure-activity relationship (SAR), or quantitative
structure-property relationship (QSPR) models.

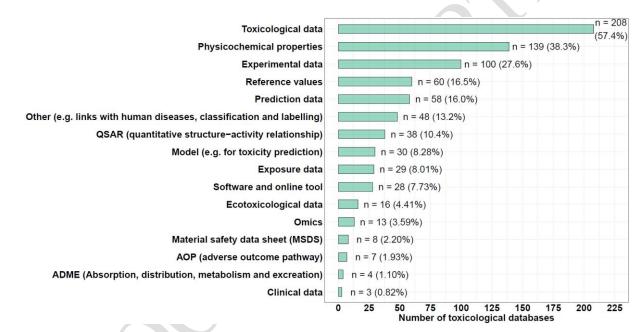
A total of 60 (17%) of the DBs gathered reference values. There were also 12 DBs that reported threshold
of toxicological concern. A broad range of reference values were recorded, such as cancer slope factors,

227 unit risks or tolerable daily intake. Most of the time, for each reference value, the chemical, the route of

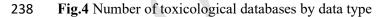
exposure, the targeted population, the adverse effect, the target organ, the type of reference value (e.g.,acute, chronic) and the year of establishment was provided.

Other information was also available. There were 15 DBs (4%) that recorded safety data, such as material safety data sheets (n=8). A total of 13 (4%) DBs reported omics data, with 9 DBs that gave information on toxicogenomics, 3 on metabolomics and 1 on chemogenomics. A total of 12 DBs recorded classification and labeling information according to the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals (GHS) and European Union (EU) rules. There were 3 DBs that recorded links between chemicals and human diseases or conditions.





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240 3.2.2 Exposure databases

Exposure DBs are useful for estimating exposure levels and profiles, estimating the number of individuals exposed, identifying exposure determinants, tracking co-exposures/multiple exposures, triggering and guiding medical surveillance, estimating spatial and temporal exposure traceability, etc. Among the 715 DBs identified, 382 (53.4%) were classified as chemical exposure DBs. There were many types of exposure DBs, such as exposure measurement DBs (71%), epidemiological DBs (13%), job-exposure matrices (JEM) (9%), exposure information systems (9%), national registers (3%), clinical 247 DBs (3%) and occupational health surveillance systems (1%) (Fig.5). In addition, around 20% of the 248 exposure DBs were web application/tool or provided different statistical models that were used, for 249 example, to estimate and/or rank exposure levels or to conduct health risk assessment. A wide variety 250 of exposures to chemicals were covered, with between 1 to 103,817 chemicals reported. Most data 251 originated from original studies (48%) and data collation -i.e., compilation of data directly from the 252 source (e.g., companies, physicians, hygienists, agencies) - (46%). Some exposure DBs pertained solely 253 to environmental exposures (53%) or to occupational exposures (41%) while 6% of them related to both. 254 Most exposure DBs had a national stature. Occupational exposure DBs usually represented multiple industries, occupations, and workplaces over multiple years and sometimes decades. 255

256 National registers provided information on the number of exposed people (mostly workers) and their exposure to given chemicals (usually carcinogens). In these registers, only a few chemicals were 257 recorded. Exposure information systems also provided information about the number of people exposed, 258 the levels of exposure, the places where the exposure occurred and sometimes emission inventories. 259 260 Clinical DBs gathered cases, exposure information and factors seeking to explain disease occurrence or 261 prognosis, while epidemiological DBs recorded data to study exposure determinants that play a role in 262 the occurrence of a given disease in a particular human population. Regarding JEMs, they were commonly used to assign exposure estimates, within a given industry, department or for a specific job 263 264 title, to subjects in epidemiological studies. JEMs were usually created for occupational exposure but 265 also existed for the general population.

266 Regarding exposure measurement DBs, some of them had administrative purposes and were made for 267 insurance, control, compliance or regulatory purposes. This was in particular true for occupational exposure DBs. Within industry, chemical exposure measurements were typically carried out for the 268 269 purpose of compliance with occupational safety and health regulations or under specific circumstances 270 (e.g., incidents, turnarounds). When reported, there were between 50 to more than 2 million samples 271 recorded in exposure measurement DBs. DBs with a high number of samples were usually made from 272 data collation and/or literature search (data collection). Most samples were measured into one single 273 media (65%). The monitoring strategies the most used were airborne monitoring (37%), biomonitoring 274 (19%) (e.g., urine, blood) and contaminant monitoring in food (19%) (Fig.5). Airborne monitoring consisted of measuring the concentrations of chemicals in the air. Biomonitoring consisted of measuring the concentrations of chemicals and/or their biomarkers in body fluids (e.g., blood, urine, and breast milk) or tissues (e.g., hair, nails, fat, and bone). In contrast to targeted analyses of single compounds, exposomic biomonitoring, which are untargeted analyses of many analytes using omics technologies (e.g., metabolomics), were still rare (only 3 DBs identified). Some exposure measurement DBs contained measurements of numerous chemicals, while others focused on one family of compounds.

281

Original study	n = 182 (47.	
Data collation	n = 174 (45.5%) Data origin
Data collection	n = 54 (14.1%)	
Environmental data		204 (53.4%)
Occupational data	n = 156 (40.8%)	Exposure data type
Both environmental and occupational data	n = 21 (5.49%)	
Exposure measurement data		n = 270 (70.6%
Web application, tool and software	n = 79 (20.6%)	
Model (e.g. risk assessment)	n = 72 (18.8%)	
Epidemiological data (e.g. cohort)	n = 49 (12.8%)	
Risk assessment data	n = 41 (10.7%)	
JEM (job-exposure matrix)	n = 34 (8.90%)	Data type
System information	n = 33 (8.63%)	Data type
Toxicological data	n = 29 (7.59%)	
Clinical data	n = 13 (3.40%)	
Register	n = 12 (3.14%)	
Exposure factors	n = 8 (2.09%)	
Occupational health surveillance system	n = 4 (1.04%)	
Monitoring in one single media		n = 248 (64.9%)
Airborne monitoring	n = 139 (36.3%)	
Biomonitoring	n = 75 (19.6%)	
Food monitoring	n = 73 (19.1%)	
Monitoring in multiple media	n = 68 (17.8%)	
Unreported media monitoring / Not concerned	n = 65 (17.0%)	Monitoring type
Water monitoring	n = 38 (9.94%)	
Dermal monitoring	n = 28 (7.32%)	
Soil/sediment monitoring	n = 20 (5.23%)	
Omics	n = 3 (0.78%)	
Childs	0 25 50 75 100 125 150 175 200	225 250 275 300
	Number of exposure databases	200 210 000

283 Fig.5 Number of exposure databases by data type

284

282

285 3.2.3 Proof of concept – PAH exposure measurement databases

Among the 270 exposure measurement DBs identified, a total of 71 (26%) contained information about exposure to PAHs. Occupational exposures to PAHs were investigated alone in 49% of the DBs and in parallel to environmental exposures in 10% of them. For most DBs (73%), it was possible to collect the full list of PAHs and/or PAH biomarkers. A total of 28% DBs reported measurements of PAH substitutes (products containing or emitting PAHs) and 18% did not report which PAH congeners were measured. Most DBs recorded airborne samples (73%), with between 1 to 39 PAHs measured. Only 8% of the DBs reported both airborne monitoring and biomonitoring. When biomonitoring was conducted (31% of the time), between 1 to 38 biomarkers were measured, with 1-hydroxypyrene levels reported most of thetime (82%).

295

296 *3.3 Online inventory – TEDI*

297 The results of the inventory were implemented online. Fig.6 presents a screenshot of the TEDI tool. On 298 top of the web page (on the left), there are 8 tabs, written in orange fonts, that can be clicked on. The 299 active tab has an orange background and a bold black font. The first three tabs (starting from the left) 300 display as interactive tables the toxicological, exposure and PAH exposure measurement DBs, respectively. The "Reference" tab provides a table listing all of the references mentioned in the reference 301 column of the three aforementioned tables. The "News & Articles" tabs will report articles describing, 302 using or citing TEDI. The "Help/Info" tab provides general information regarding TEDI, such as the 303 goal, strengths and limitations of the tool as well as information regarding table interactivity, information 304 pertaining to condition of use, data privacy, data protection and legal mentions and how to report bugs 305 or mistakes. The "Contact" tab provides contact information details while the "Mentions légales" tab 306 307 stipulates the legal mentions in French.

308 All of the tables available on TEDI are interactives. There is a help button below each table, named 'How to interact with this table?', which explains how to interact with all the tables. On top of each 309 310 table (on the left), there are 7 action buttons. The "Copy" button allows the user to copy the table to 311 clipboard. The "CSV", "Excel" and "PDF" buttons enable the user to export the table to CSV, XLS or 312 PDF format, respectively. The "Print" button allows the user to print the table. The user can choose 313 which columns to visualize using the "Column visibility" button. The last button, "Show 10 rows" allows the user to choose the number of rows to display. When the former button is not set on the "Show all 314 315 rows" option, the user will have to click on the buttons under the table (on the right) to navigate through 316 the table. Beware, for exporting or printing the entire table, the user needs to first click on the number of rows to display button (named "Show 10 rows" by default), then choose the All option and finally to 317 318 click on one of the three export/download buttons.

The interactive tables allow the user to perform queries, either on a specific column or on the entire table. The global search is performed across all searchable columns and is starting when typing text on 321 the "Search" rectangle/bar located on top of the table (on the right). Searching on individual columns can be performed by typing text on the white rectangle/bar below each column header. Queries are not 322 323 case sensitive and provide on-the-fly filtering with immediate feedback to the user. For the global search, 324 the order of the words in the query does not matter. Clicking on the cross symbol that appears on the right of the query will cancel the search. Columns containing numbers (e.g., number of data) can be 325 326 filtered either using the rule that appears when clicking on the column search rectangle under the column 327 header or by typing the following command in the search rectangle cell: 'LB ... UB', where LB and UB 328 are the lower and upper bounds, respectively.

It is possible to sort the table based on one column by clicking on a column double arrow head located on the right of each column header. Clicking on the arrowhead facing the top of the web page will sort the chosen column either alphabetically or in ascending numerical order, depending on the type of data the column contains (numerical values or texts). It is also possible to change the order of the columns of a table by clicking and dragging the column header to the left or to the right.

In each column, cells with terms underlined and written in orange font refer to special terms and abbreviations that can be clicked on to display the full definition/details. References and access links (last column of each table) are also underlined and written in orange font and can be clicked on to open the website where the paper/record can be viewed/obtained. Note that empty cells correspond to nonreported values.

339

TEDI - Toxicological and Exposure Database Inventory							
Toxicological databases	Exposure databases	PAH databases	References News &	Articles Help/Info Contac	t Mentions légales	Tabs	
There are currently a total of	362 toxicological databas	es (out of 715) listed	d in TEDI.				
Tab. 1: Inventory of toxicologi	ical databases	Actior	<u>n buttons</u>			:	Search: Global search
Copy CSV Excel	PDF Print Colum	nn visibility 🔹 Sh	now 10 rows 🔻				
Name of the database 🔹	Country/Scale 🕴 Nu	mber of agents 🔷	Topic/Agents	Data type		Refere	ence
All	All	All	All	All Column s	earch	All	
ACROPOLIS	The Netherlands		Pesticide residues	Monte Carlo Risk Assessment soft based environment that allows for exposure to pesticide residues, wit <u>experimental data</u> (results from in	the assessment of dietar h information on		Hyperlink : al. 2018: van Klaveren et al. 2015
ACToR	United States	500000	Environmental chemicals	Physicochemical properties, <u>exper</u> toxicological data, health risk asse			nd Garny, 2019; Judson, 2010; et al. 2012; Mahammedi et al. 2020
∝ Horizontal slider	r						
Showing 1 to 2 of 362 entries			Table naviga	tion Previous 1	2 3	4 5 37 Next	
How to interact with this table? Help button							

341 Fig.6 Screenshot of the TEDI app

342 Orange fonts that are underlined refer to hyperlinks providing either the definitions and descriptions of 343 terms or direct access to the mentioned references. Buttons allow user actions such as copying the table to clipboard, saving the table as CSV/XLS/PDF, printing the table and selecting columns to visualize. 344 It is possible to make global (entire table) and column specific queries. Beware, when opening TEDI on 345 a web browser there are several horizontal sliders that will be available, with one on the web page itself, 346 347 one inside the toxicological DB table (at the bottom) and one inside the exposure DB table (at the 348 bottom). To access all of the available information reported in these two tables, the user has to use the different horizontal sliders (moving it on the right or left) or to download the table. 349

350

351 **4. Discussion**

Toxicological and exposure DBs are complementary tools for conducting risk assessment that can help linking exposures to adverse outcomes, establish reference values, develop primary prevention and thus decrease disease incidence (Atwood et al. 2019). An online inventory collecting meta-data on various toxicological and exposure DBs was created. A total of 715 DBs were catalogued, described and are available on TEDI.

357

358 4.1 Remarks about databases identified

359

360 4.1.1 Data availability and geographical coverage

The understanding of, access to and acquisition of relevant information was often difficult. For many DBs, especially exposure DBs, the summary information reported was very limited. Several available resources (papers, reports, and websites) lacked necessary details to provide adequate descriptions of the DBs. In addition, some DBs had no name (7.2%) and it was difficult if not impossible to identify the proper contact person for potential correspondence and access to additional information. Based on the current inventory, DBs developed for Eastern Europe, Southern Europe, Africa, South America, Latin America and Asia were lacking.

368

369 4.1.2 Data accuracy and quality

The identified DBs contained a wealth of information that was relevant to risk assessment, but the value of these sources could not be considered equal. According to some authors, the quality and accuracy of available information greatly varies and is inconsistent from one DB to another, which has a direct impact on the quality and reproducibility of the resulting risk assessment that may be conducted (Bopp et al. 2018).

375 DBs were heterogeneous in nature, not only in terms of objectives and strategies but also in the accuracy 376 and completeness of information available as well as in the general architecture and the semantics used. 377 This heterogeneity mainly came from different economic, technical, practical and human choices that 378 had been made by the founder(s)/creator(s) of each DB as well as the disparate purposes for which DBs 379 were developed.

380

381 4.1.3 Toxicological databases

For most existing chemicals, there are no comprehensive toxicological data or some form of human 382 health risk assessment has not been undertaken (Wignall et al. 2018). In addition, determining which 383 384 available toxicological DB is the most suitable for addressing the goal(s) of a study depending on the desired aim might be potentially difficult (Laamanen et al. 2008). Indeed, the reported health effects 385 could be different from one DB to another, depending on the methods, tests, experimental conditions, 386 387 assumptions made, chemicals and species used. In addition, the degree of reliability and validity of the 388 available data could highly vary, making it difficult to determine which relevant information to use (Beck et al. 2016). 389

390

391 4.1.4 Exposure databases

Most exposure DBs provided low temporal resolution information due to the complexity of gathering complete, rich long-term time-series data. Only a sample of the whole population of interest was usually studied, which may only represent a narrow picture of the development of a disease. In addition, most exposure DBs (52%) reported results from monitoring of chemicals in various media/matrices (e.g., food, water, sediments). While these types of monitoring are easier to undertake than monitoring chemicals in human body fluids or tissues, they do not provide information on individuals but only on
media contamination, which makes the results sometimes difficult to interpret and not necessarily useful
for the establishment of prevention and protection measures.

400 Regarding occupational measurements DBs, chemical exposure measurements were typically carried 401 out for the purpose of compliance with occupational safety and health regulations or under specific 402 circumstances (e.g., incidents, turnarounds), which explained why the focus was most often on 403 carcinogens and high exposure tasks/events.

404

405 *4.2 Limitations of this work*

While a comprehensive literature search was conducted, the search was not exhaustive and not 406 completely systematic. The search sentence may have not yielded every possible existing toxicological 407 and exposure DBs, therefore results presented in this work only reflects this query. Hence, the 408 409 identification of some type of DBs (e.g., JEMs) was not optimal. For instance, when screening records related to exposure data, it was found that some exposure models were either part of exposure DBs or 410 411 provided exposure measurement data. Therefore, they were classified/considered as a category of 412 exposure DBs in this work. If a literature search had been conducted using specific keywords related to exposure models, it would have likely allowed for the identification of more exposure models than what 413 was found in this work. The same is true for other categories of toxicological and exposure DBs. This 414 415 might also explain why some DB categories, in particular exposure measurement DBs were more 416 identified than other exposure DB categories.

417 Only one author conducted the inventory and created the online inventory. Therefore, it is possible that some DBs may have been missed and the presence of some mistakes (e.g., typos) and bias cannot be 418 419 excluded. Two independent reviewers may have decreased the chance of systemic error and bias. In 420 addition, the literature search was conducted using only one source (PubMed). To conduct a more comprehensive and systematic work, other bibliographic DBs such as Web Of Science, Scopus or 421 Dimensions could have been used. The information reported on TEDI came from screened records 422 423 (mostly papers) that may not report the most up-to-date information regarding the DB(s). Thus, some 424 information on TEDI is likely to be incorrect and is subjected to evolve if new data become available.

Potential misclassification of DBs is possible since the content of several DBs spanned multiple categories so that DBs often do not sit comfortably in a single category. This is not surprising because risk is a function of hazard and exposure and therefore some degree of exposure information can come into play during hazard identification and the establishment of dose-response relationship. This explained why some DBs (4.1%) were classified as both toxicological and exposure DBs. Another definition regarding toxicological and exposure DBs could have resulted in another DB classification.

TEDI provides access to 6 descriptors for toxicological DBs and to 12 descriptors for exposure DBs. 431 432 The level of description of each DB reported in TEDI is heterogeneous and remains fairly general due to the broad scope of the literature search, which lead to a high number of data sources that differed in 433 nature and content. Indeed, information reported in the records screened were found to be highly diverse 434 435 and inconsistent across studies resulting in challenges summarizing relevant information from the reviewed records. Most of the time, many interesting and important information were not available, such 436 as the database availability (e.g., public), the terms of use, the full list of chemicals, the number of 437 variables (columns) and observations (rows) available or the database format (e.g., MS Excel sheet). 438 Some information, such as the full list of chemicals are not available in TEDI, because this information 439 440 was often unavailable and because it was not possible and feasible to list every chemical available in each DB due to the high number of chemicals sometimes available (up to several millions). Therefore, 441 it is unfortunately not currently possible to pull up information on a specific chemical, with the exception 442 443 of PAHs.

444

445 *4.3 Perspectives from this work*

As pointed out before, this work is far from being exhaustive, both in terms of DBs listed and in terms of information and meta-data retrieved. The inventory and its website remain open for new entries and a more global coverage would certainly be preferable to support the broader objectives to support human health risk assessment, which could help promote collaborative and harmonized research in this area.

450 A possible evolution of TEDI would be to integrate new core descriptors and meta-data from each DB,

451 in particular the creator, the owner, the contact person, the data availability, the full list of chemicals,

the coding system(s) used, the time period considered (e.g., data from 1995 to 2010) and the status of

the DB (e.g., still maintained). These descriptors were initially considered but were most of the time missing from the records screened, and were therefore not collected and not recorded. The proof of concept showed that this was possible, at least for a specific type of DB, for a specific family of chemicals (PAHs) and for one of the missing descriptors. Another possible evolution of TEDI could be to focus on specific chemical families and to perform the same work than the one that was done for PAHs.

To collect the missing aforementioned meta-data and descriptors, another perspective from this work could be to send a questionnaire to each contact person of the identified DBs. Such initiative, which was beyond the scope of this work, would allow for the correction of potential mistakes and bias currently present in TEDI. It would also allow for the improvement of the level of description of each DB reported on TEDI.

464

465 4.4 Comparison with other international efforts to compile databases

To the best of the author's knowledge, to date, there is no review providing a comprehensive compilation 466 467 of existing toxicological and exposure DBs, consolidated in a single resource that can support chemical risk assessment. Previous reviews on the subject in the past 15 years have only focused either on DBs 468 that can assist computational, drug discovery and system toxicology (usually in the public domain) or 469 470 on exposure DBs regarding carcinogens in the workplace. In addition, with the exception of one study 471 (Pawar et al. 2019), existing reviews only listed a few DBs (no more than 41). TEDI, which listed 715 472 DBs focusing solely on chemicals, was complementary to other existing reviews and provided more 473 information about existing toxicological and exposure DBs and their characteristics related to the chemical risk assessment. As a result, most DBs mentioned in TEDI (81%) were not listed in any other 474 475 reviews.

Regarding toxicological DBs, one study listed 15 toxicological (in vitro, in vivo toxicity and ontology)
public DBs that can be used for assisting computational toxicology (Judson 2010). Another study
provided a comprehensive inventory of available data resources to support computational toxicology,
which is complementary to TEDI (Pawar et al. 2019). In their work, they listed more than 900 chemistry,
drug discovery, ADME, toxicological, clinical trials, biological, omics, protein-protein interactions,

patents, pathways, animal alternative methods and nanomaterials DBs. However, 88% of the DBs listed 481 in TEDI are not listed in their review. Another study reported 18 DBs on carcinogenicity and 482 483 mutagenicity that are available in the public domain (Benigni et al. 2013). A review from 2014 described 484 development of various bioinformatics tools that may be applied in the field of biodegradation (Arora and Bae 2014). This review also provided the list of 32 chemical DBs that enable classification 485 486 identification and risk assessment of chemicals or that describe their environmental properties, toxicity 487 and distribution. Another study published in 2014 described 14 toxicogenomics and toxicology DBs that 488 can address question within systems toxicology (Fostel et al. 2014). A more recent study reported a list of 41 publicly available DBs that provides information on hazards and risks of industrial chemicals, and 489 490 assessed the quality of each DB described (Bond and Garny 2019). An inventory of around 100 in silico resources (DBs, software, models and applications) that can be used for physiologically-based kinetic 491 modeling and to predict physicochemical properties and chemical similarity was also published that year 492 493 (Madden et al. 2019).

Regarding exposure DBs, a report from the European Risk Observatory provided the list of 26 494 495 carcinogen exposure DBs and evaluated these existing sources of information, identified major knowledge gaps and described some new approaches needed to assess and prevent occupational cancer 496 497 risks (Lißner et al. 2014). A recent overview reported an online inventory on exposure assessment tools 498 (https://occupationalexposuretools.net) (Peters et al. 2021). Meta-data on 36 general population JEMs, 499 11 exposure DBs, and 29 occupational coding systems from more than 10 countries were available. This 500 inventory was created within the Network on the Coordination and Harmonization of European Occupational Cohorts (OMEGA-NET) framework, which aims to enable optimization of the use of 501 502 industrial and general population cohorts across Europe to advance etiological research. This inventory 503 reported less exposure DBs than TEDI, however, information recorded were more descriptive and 504 accurate as they were obtained directly from DB owners.

Regarding health risk assessment tools, one study introduced and compared seven air pollution health risk assessment tools (Hassan Bhat et al. 2021). Other authors conducted a systematic review of risk assessment tools for contaminated sites (Mahammedi et al. 2020). For each of the 31 identified tools the relevant risk assessment stages, harm type, hazard category, receptor type and pathways were reported.

There are other complementary resources worth mentioning that can provide with apposite and useful 509 information. For instance, the Nucleic Acids Research journal has an online molecular biology DB 510 collection that amounts to 1,737 DBs that falls into 15 categories such as metabolic and signaling 511 512 pathways or microarray data and other gene expression DBs (Rigden and Fernandez 2018). The Global Burden of Disease (GBD), which is an international consortium, provides a tool to quantify health loss 513 from more than 350 diseases, injuries, and risk factors, in 195 countries, by age and sex, from 1990 to 514 515 the present. The GBD project collected, generated and analyzed over 1 billion data points (Shaffer et al. 516 2019). Finally, TEDI could also be expanded to include open exposure DBs from citizen science projects, which have not been found with the search strategy used in this work. 517

518

519 **5.** Conclusions

Toxicological and exposure DBs play an important role in determining the relationships between 520 exposures and diseases. Access to this type of information is clearly needed and although numerous DBs 521 have been compiled, they are often extremely difficult to find and navigate. This paper presented a 522 523 searchable web-based inventory (TEDI) of 715 toxicological and exposure DBs that might benefit human health risk assessment resulting from the chemical exposome. Each DB had its own strengths 524 and limitations, depending on the problem formulation, purpose of the assessment, regulatory context, 525 526 relevance of the exposure, population, and chemical(s) considered in relation to the outcome(s) of 527 interest. The available information regarding each DB was often very limited. In addition, a dearth of 528 information remains, in particular for developing countries, for some life stages of an individual (e.g., 529 pregnancy, childhood, late adulthood), mixtures of compounds, transformation products and new substances/emerging risks. Only a small fraction of chemicals, their life cycle and the chemical 530 531 exposome were covered. Many challenges and data gaps remain, as outlined above. New studies to 532 bridge the existing gaps are therefore needed.

TEDI is of value to the broader community and could support human health risk assessment to chemicals in various contexts. TEDI can help researchers, risk managers, risks assessors, practitioners, decision makers, stakeholders, sanitary agencies... in finding the available resources useful for assessing health risk. This is particularly true in the context of the launch of the European PARC (Partnership for the

537	Assessment of Risks from Chemicals) project, which aims in particular to promote harmonization of
538	data as well as tools and methods for conducting chemical risk assessment (Zare Jeddi et al. 2021). TEDI
539	remains open for further additions, to enlarge its coverage and include newly developed DBs.
540	
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546	
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558	Data Curation, Writing - Original Draft, Writing - Review & Editing, Visualization, Supervision,
559	Project administration.
560	The work reported in the paper has been performed by the author, unless clearly specified in the text.
561	
562	Data availability statement
563	The data that support the findings of this study are openly available on TEDI at https://exporisk-
564	time.imag.fr/TEDI/. Further information is available from the corresponding author upon request.

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669	Figure	Captions

670

- Fig.1 Flow chart depicting the literature search and the evaluation process for finding relevant records
- 673 Fig.2 Number of records per 5-year period
- 674 Regarding the bar on the right side of the graph (2020-2022), the number of records corresponds only
- to the total number of records from 2020, 2021 and January 2022

676

677 Fig.3 Number of databases by continent and database type

678

679 Fig.4 Number of toxicological databases by data type

680

681 Fig.5 Number of exposure databases by data type

682

683 Fig.6 Screenshot of the TEDI app

684 Orange fonts that are underlined refer to hyperlinks providing either the definitions and descriptions of terms or direct access to the mentioned references. Buttons allow user actions such as copying the table 685 to clipboard, saving the table as CSV/XLS/PDF, printing the table and selecting columns to visualize. 686 It is possible to make global (entire table) and column specific queries. Beware, when opening TEDI on 687 688 a web browser there are several horizontal sliders that will be available, with one on the web page itself, one inside the toxicological DB table (at the bottom) and one inside the exposure DB table (at the 689 690 bottom). To access all of the available information reported in these two tables, the user has to use the 691 different horizontal sliders (moving it on the right or left) or to download the table.