Improving drinking water for Minnesotans through pollution prevention

Drs. Raymond M. Hozalski and William A. Arnold

Meeting of the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources

December 7, 2023

Introduction

- Water is one of our most precious resources
- 2 The upper Mississippi River supplies drinking water to ~20% of MN population
- 3 The river is under constant assault from human activities





NDMA (N-nitrosodimethylamine)

- Highly toxic, human carcinogen
 - Notification Level in CA: 10 ng/L
 - MDH guidance value: 5 ng/L
- Not present in the Mississippi River
- Disinfection by-product (DBP)

Precursors + Chloramines → NDMA

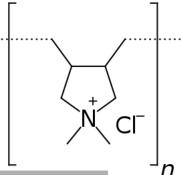
$$H_3C \setminus N \setminus O$$

$$|CH_3|$$

NDMA Precursors

 Precursors mainly anthropogenic chemicals containing secondary, tertiary, and quarternary amines

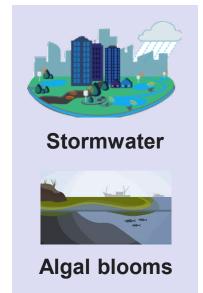
- Pharmaceuticals
 - Raniditine
- Water treatment polymers
 - PolyDADMAC
- Agricultural chemicals
 - Antibiotics
 - Pesticides





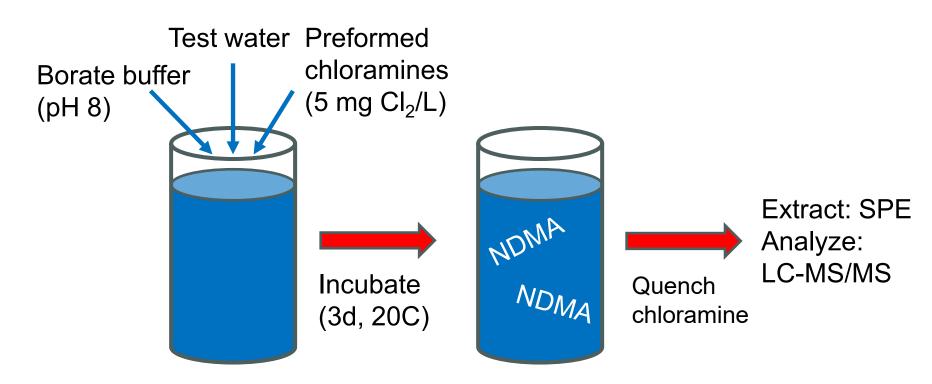




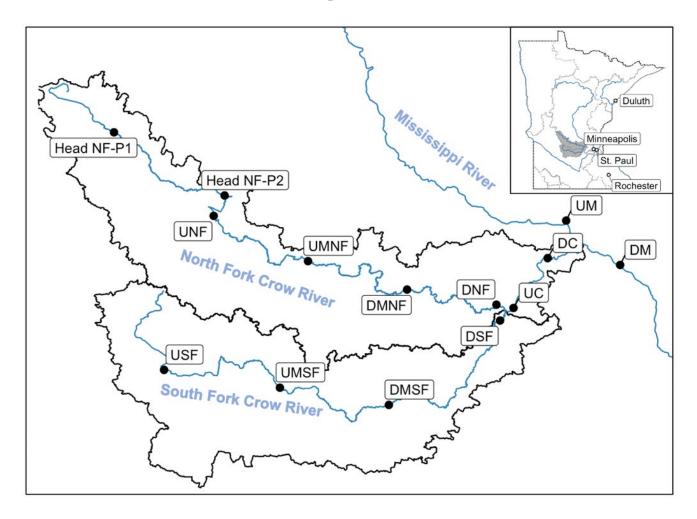


Research Approach

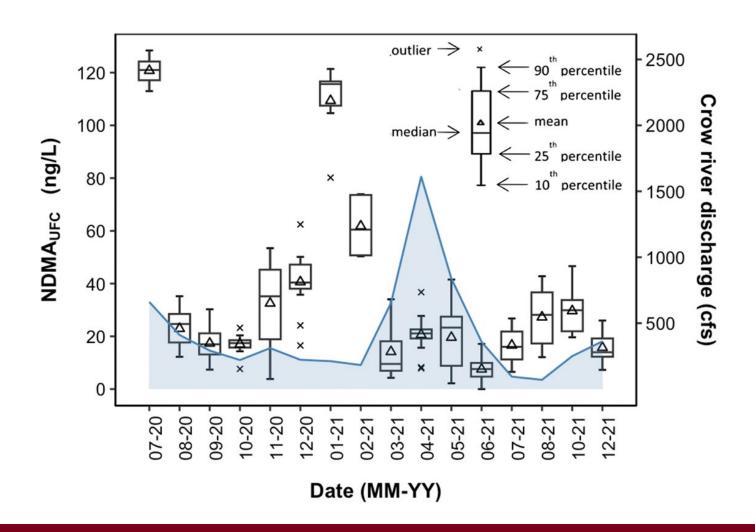
- Sample river water
- Measure NDMA precursor levels
- Analyze for potential precursor chemicals (non-target analysis)
- Test treatment methods for precursor removal (ozone, free chlorine)



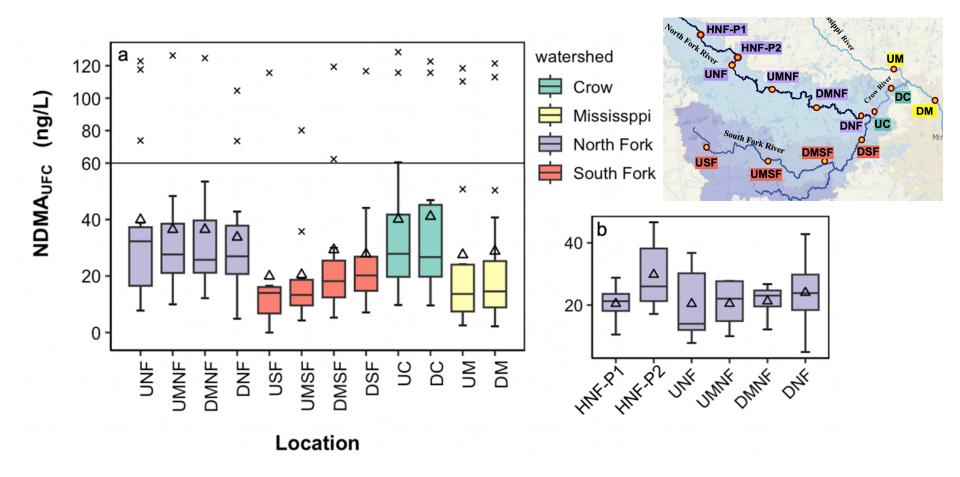
Sampling locations



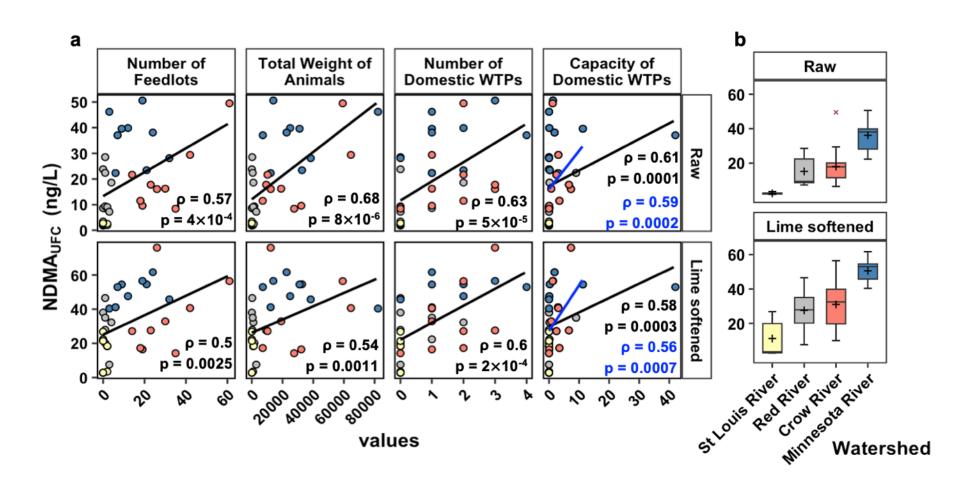
Results: Temporal variation



Results: Spatial Variation

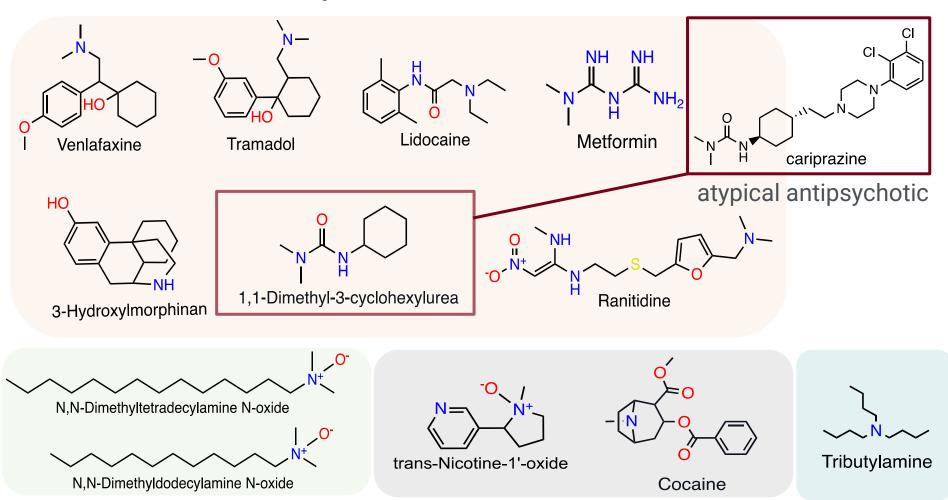


Compare to other watersheds

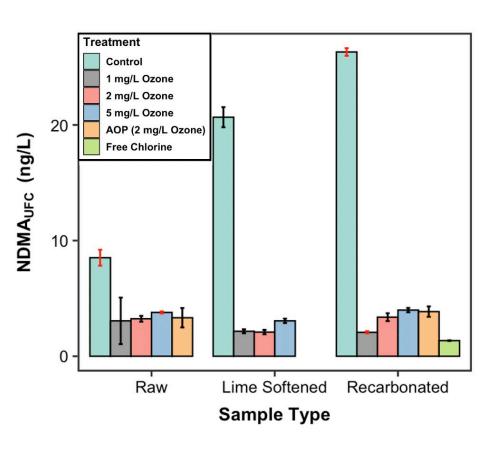


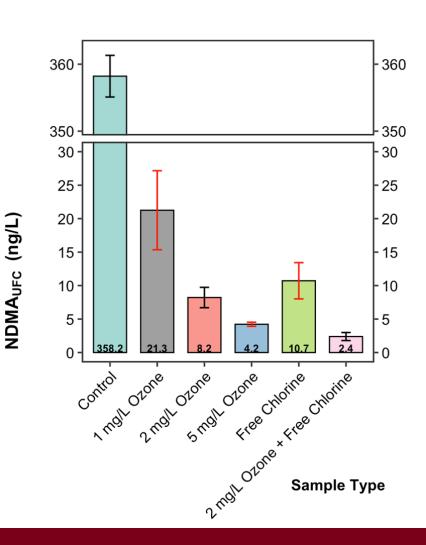
Non-target analysis

Thirteen nitrosamine precursors were identified



Pre-oxidation treatment





Dissemination

- Shared results with water utilities, MDH, MPCA
- Presented results at MN AWWA conference
- Published 3 scientific journal articles







