



Observatoire  
pour la Recherche  
sur les Méga-Événements

*OLYMPIC GAMES: State of art*  
*18th & 19th June 2018*



Round Table: Risk and environment

# Microbiological risk associated with swimming in open waters

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Triathlon de Paris 2010 (<https://www.nageurs.com>)

Open waters: lakes, rivers, reservoirs, ocean

⇒ Triathlon

⇒ Marathon swimming



2024  
Olympics:  
Seine River



Triathlon de Paris 2010 (<https://www.nageurs.com>)

Open waters: lakes, rivers, reservoirs, ocean

Highly diverse microbial communities

=> Could contain:

- Waterborne pathogens of fecal origin
- Opportunistic pathogens indigenous of aquatic ecosystems

## Sanitary risks:

**Respiratory infection:** Adenovirus, *Aeromonas*, *Mycobacteria*...

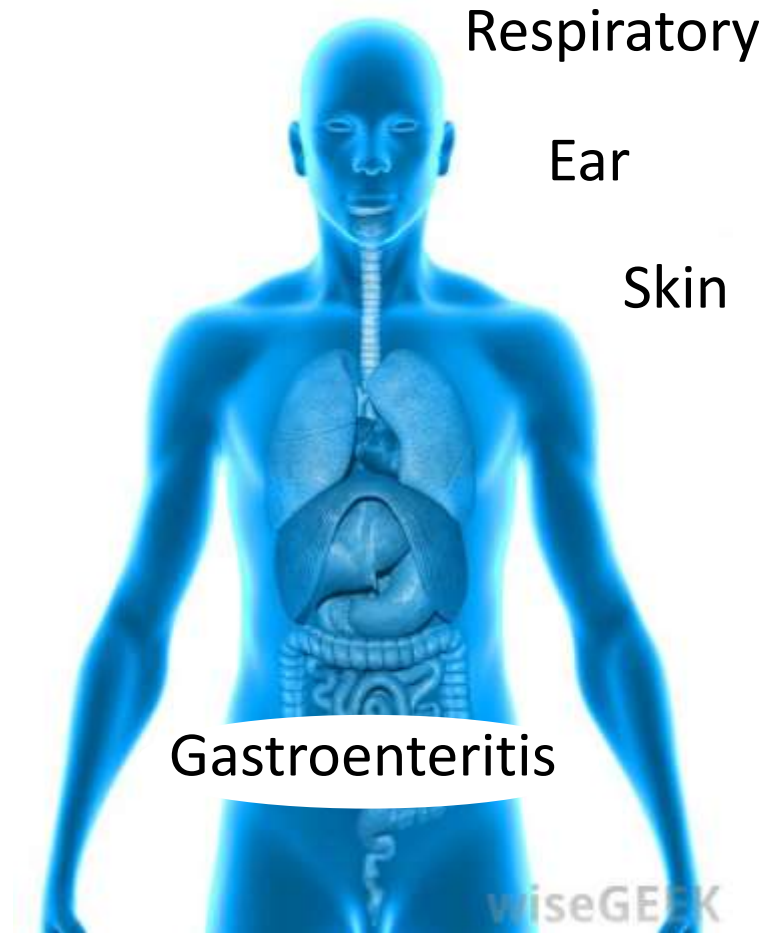
**Ear infection:** *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*,...

**Skin infection:** *Staphylococcus aureus*, ...

**Gastroenteritis:** enteric viruses, *Giardia*, *Cryptosporidium*, *Campylobacter*, *Salmonella*, *Shigella*, *Vibrio cholerae*, *Escherichia coli* H7:O157....

**Toxine:** cyanobacteria, *Dynophyceae*

## Infections



## Routes of infection:



### **Ingestion:**

*Submersion of the face*

*Water spray on the face*

75% of triathletes swallow water  
10-34 ml swallowed/event

*(Medema et al. 1997, Dufour et al. 2006,  
Schets et al. 2011)*

**Inhalation:** *Water spray on the face*

**cuts, grazes, orifices, mucous membranes:** *Whole body immersion*

### **Lower immunological defences**

⇒ Intense & prolonged physical activity

⇒ mental stress

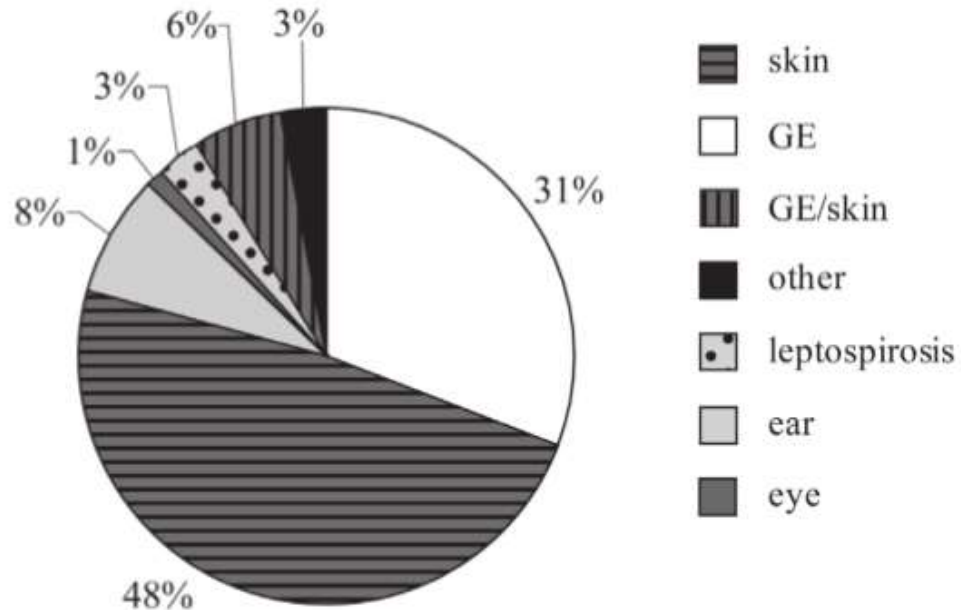
*(Friman and Wesslen 2000)*

# Outbreaks associated with swimming in surface water

**Netherlands (1991–2007) => 742 outbreaks**

(Schets 2011)

5623 patients



**USA (1991-2006) => 138 outbreaks**

36-89% gastroenteritis

5-38% neurological conditions (*Naegleria fowleri*)

5-21% skin conditions (schistosomes)

**United Kingdom (1992-2003) => 5 outbreaks**

*Cryptosporidium*

*Giardia*

norovirus

**Infective dose :** 50% of the exposed population exhibit symptoms

+ exposure : quantity swallowed

=> **Calculation of the risk of infection**

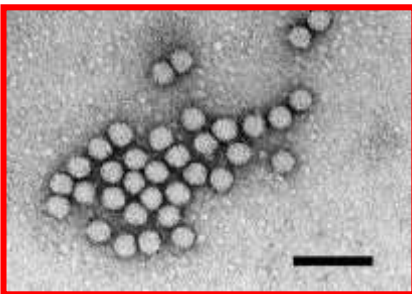


*Giardia lamblia*:  $ID_{50} = 34,8$

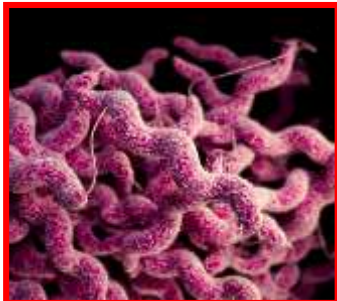


*Cryptosporidium parvum*:  $ID_{50} = 173,1$

Not available for all  
the pathogens



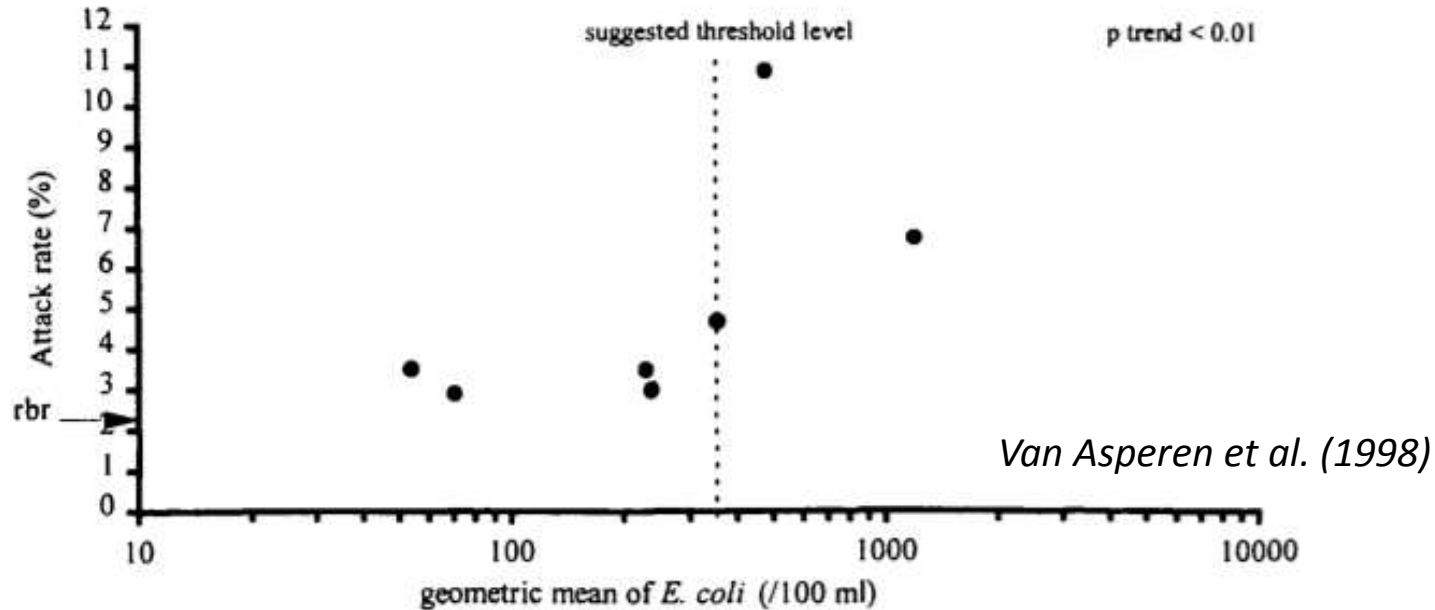
Rotavirus:  $ID_{50} = 6,11$



*Campylobacter jejuni* :  $ID_{50} = 890$



# Risk for triathletes to contract gastroenteritis



Epidemiological studies (*Pruessen, 1996; Wiedmann et al. 2006*)

=> threshold values for water regulations

=> Fecal indicator bacteria (*Escherichia coli*, intestinal enterococci)

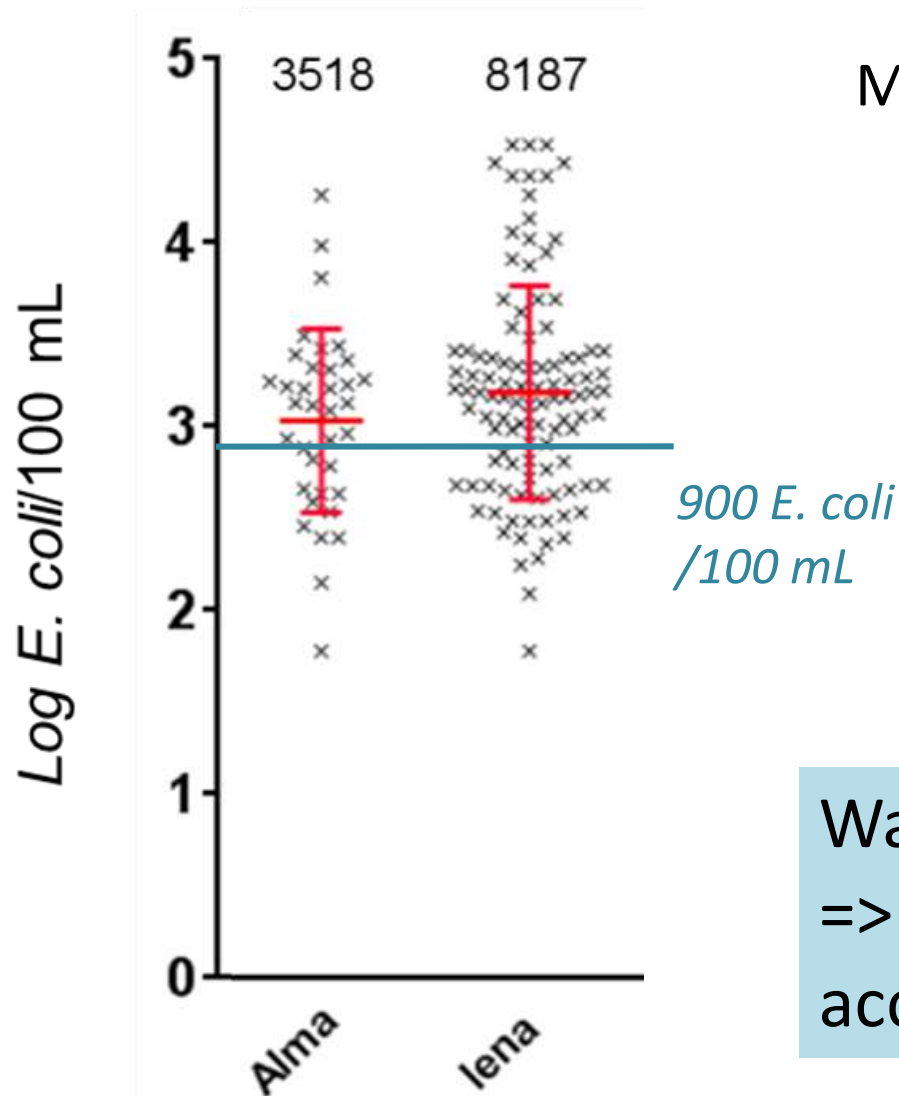
*European bathing guidelines for inland waters (2006/7/CE)*

Class of quality	Excellent	Good	Sufficient
Intestinal enterococci (N/100 mL)	200 <sup>a</sup>	400 <sup>a</sup>	330 <sup>b</sup>
Escherichia coli (N/100 mL)	500 <sup>a</sup>	1000 <sup>a</sup>	900 <sup>b</sup>

*a: based on 95<sup>th</sup> percentile evaluation*

*b: based on 90<sup>th</sup> percentile evaluation*

# Risk at the potential olympic site:



Water quality in the Seine River  
=> insufficient for bathing  
according to the EU legislation

# Risk at the potential olympic venue:

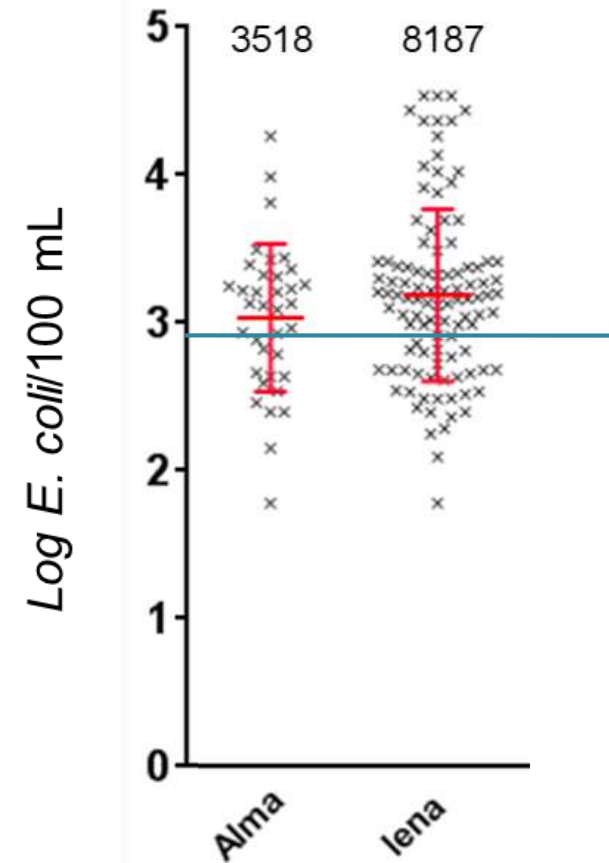
## Fecal indicator bacteria at the Olympic venue:

90th Percentiles > 900 *E. coli*/100 mL

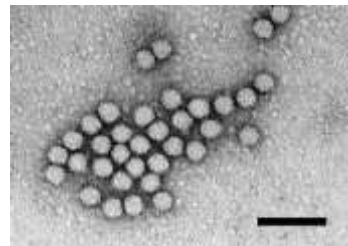
>10% of risk to contract a gastroenteritis

>3,8% of risk to contract a respiratory infection

(WHO 2013)



## Pathogens upstream the Olympic venue:



Rotavirus

~1000 genome unit/L

~34 ingested >  $ID_{50} = 6$



*Giardia* sp.

60 cysts/10L

<  $ID_{50} = 35$

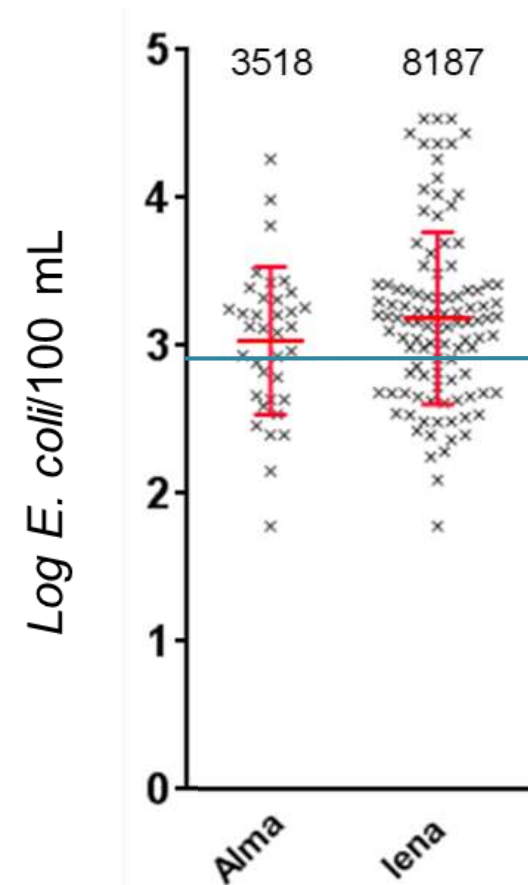


*Cryptosporidium* sp.

5 oocysts/10L

< Infective dose

# Risk at the potential olympic site:



High concentrations of Fecal indicators

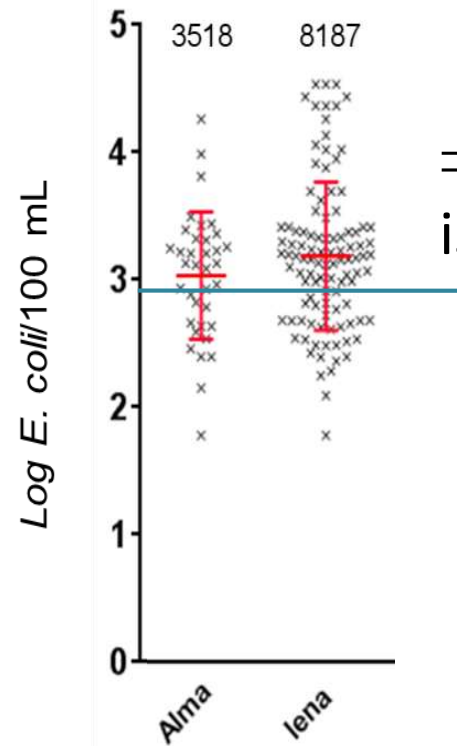
34-44% of the samples < 900 E.coli/100mL

Mitigation strategies to improve the quality => Coordinated actions of stakeholders and local authorities in Ile de France

=> Which level of mitigation is enough ?

- modeling
- monitoring

# Risk at the potential olympic site:



⇒ **Temporal variation**  
is it predictable?

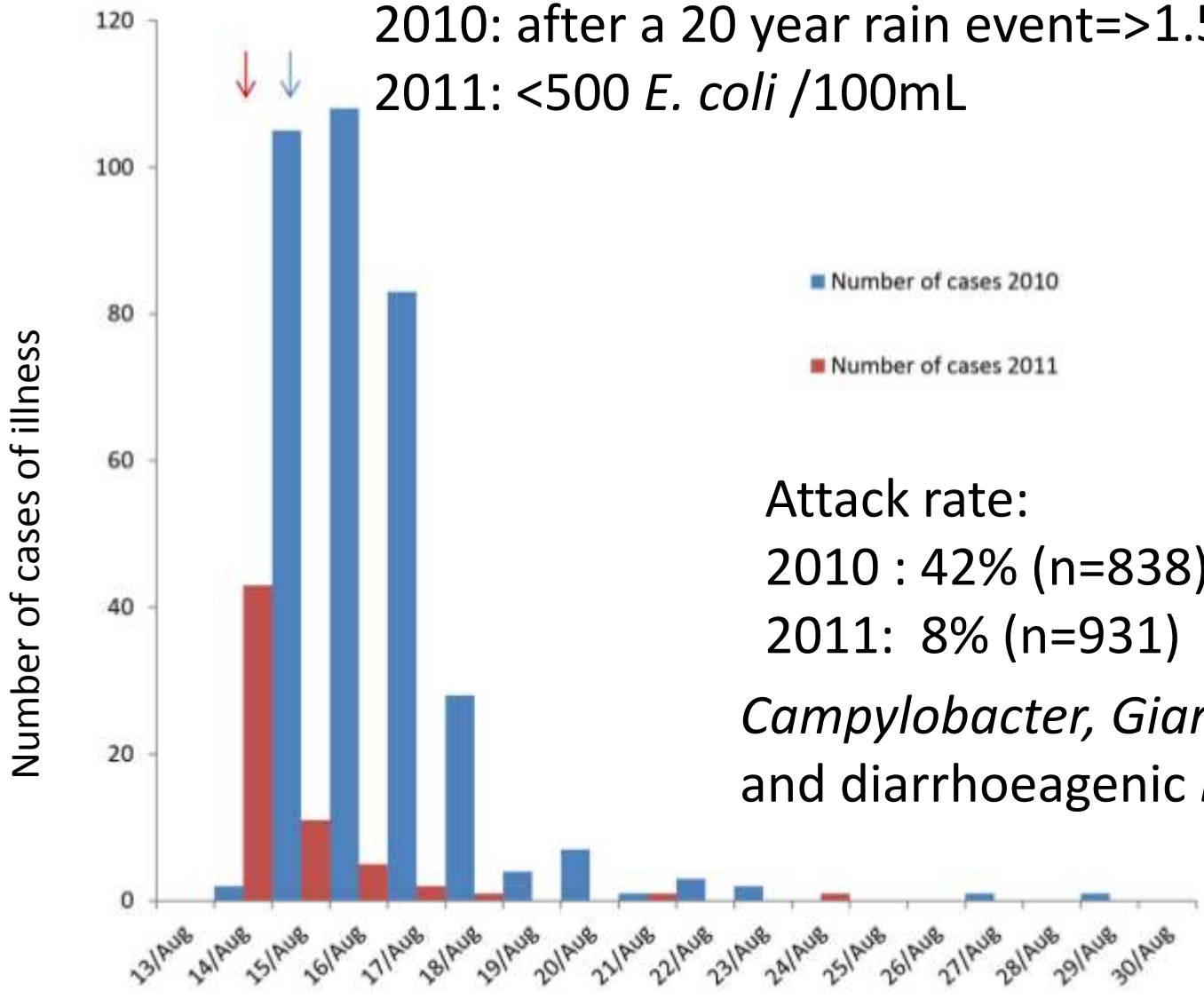
- Rainfalls
- Accidental pollutions

# Impact of rain event on the water quality

Triathlon in Copenhagen harbour

2010: after a 20 year rain event=>  $1.5 \times 10^4$  *E. coli*/100 ml

2011: <500 *E. coli* /100mL



Attack rate:

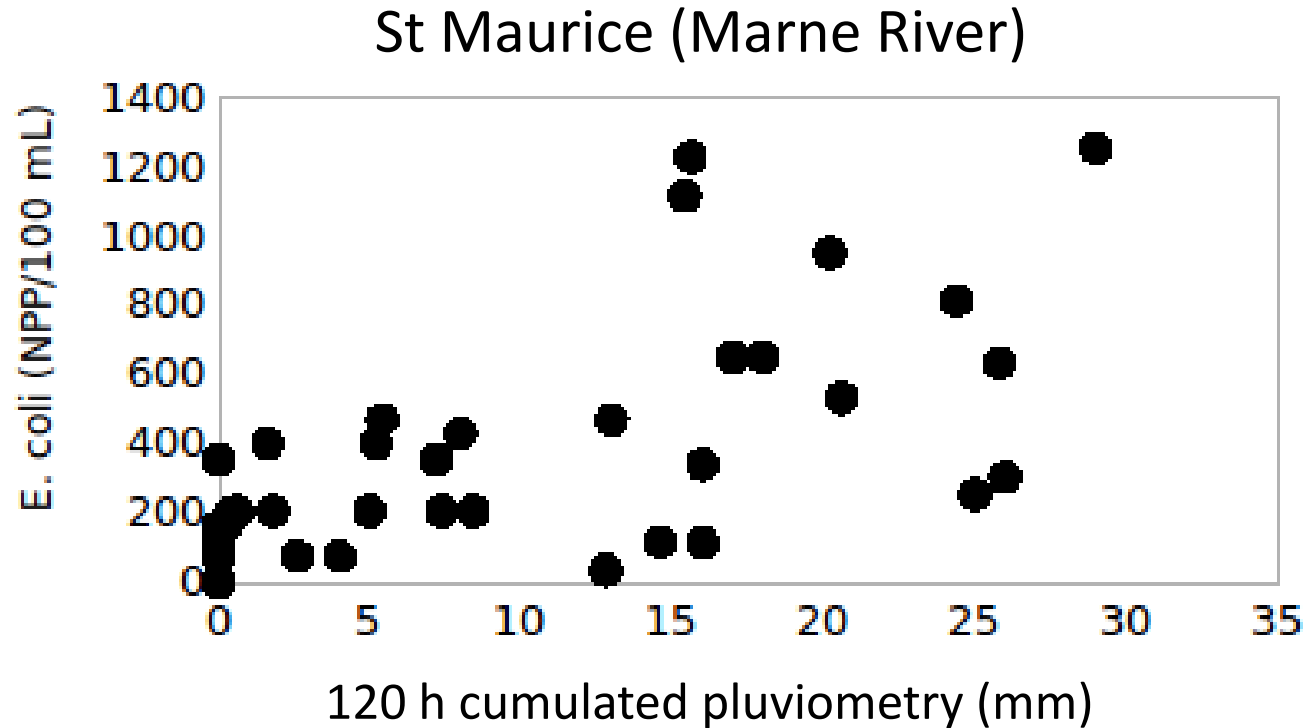
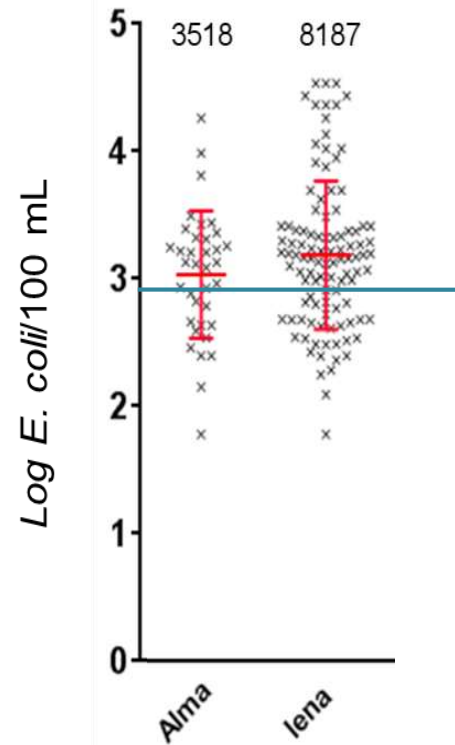
2010 : 42% (n=838)

2011: 8% (n=931)

*Campylobacter, Giardia lamblia*  
and diarrhoeagenic *E. coli*.

(Harder-Lauridsen et al. 2013)

# Risk at the potential olympic site: Rainfalls



## How to manage?

EU directive => No swimming for 3 days after a rain event

RS-14V Autonomous Sampler  
ALERT E.Coli Microbiology Analyzer



- ✓ Drinking water
- ✓ Waste water
- ✓ Storm water
- ◇ Pollution monitoring
- ◇ Impact studies
- ◇ Rapid E.Coli quantification



# Alert system => fine tuning the management of accidental pollution and rainfall?

In situ monitoring of the pollution upstream the Olympic venue?:

- Alert (Fluidion)
- ColiMinder (VWM)

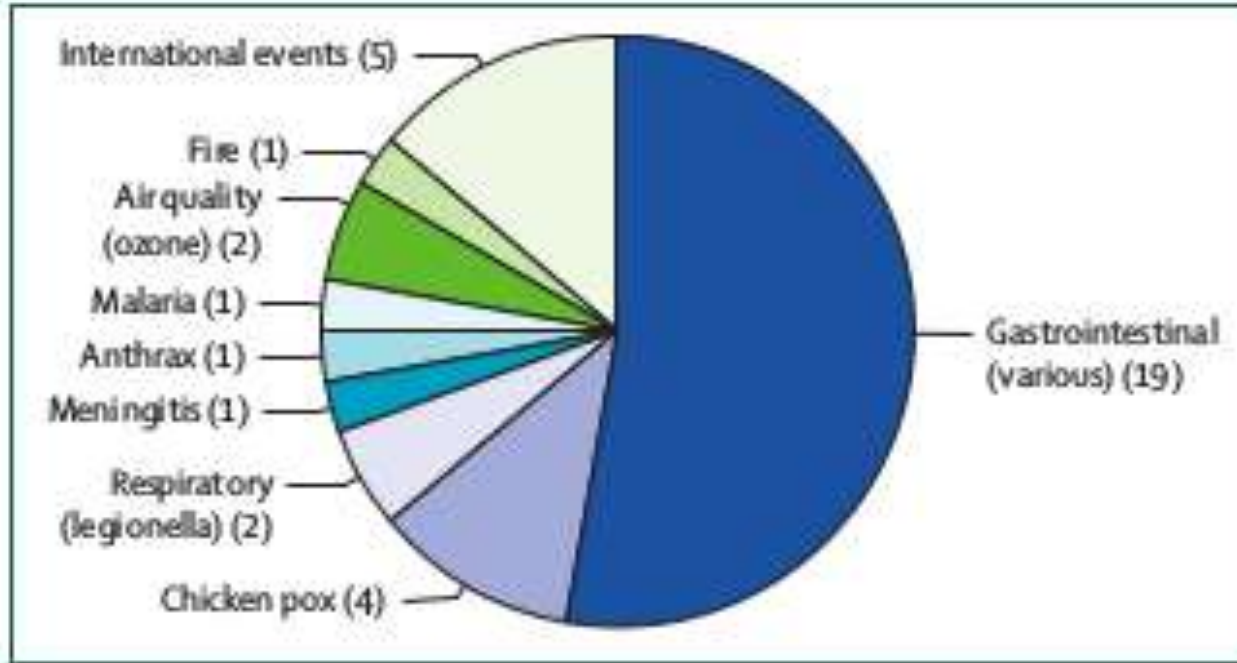




## Conclusions :

- ➔ today not suitable for swimming according to the EU regulation
  - > 10 % of risk to declare gastroenteritis due to enteric viruses
  
- ➔ Strategies to lower the risk:
  - Improvement of the water quality
  - Management of storm events
  - Advices for athletes
    - ⌈ vaccinations,
    - ⌈ avoid swallowing water,
    - ⌈ shower after the competition
    - ⌈ Clean swimming suits and equipment after the competition

# Mass gathering => risk for transmission of infectious disease



Infectious disease reported to the daily Health Protection Agency during London 2012 Olympics/paralympics

*(McCloskey et al. 2014)*

**Atlanta 1996, Sydney 2000, Beijing 2008:**

<1% of health care visits were for infectious disease

**Athens 2004**

6-7% respiratory infections

3-7% gastroenteritis

Salmonellosis, tuberculosis, hepatitis B, meningitis

# THANKS FOR YOUR ATTENTION



Triathlon de Paris 2010 (<https://www.nageurs.com>)

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