





Toxicokinetic Chemical Simulator (ToCS): A Graphical User Interface for High-Throughput Chemical Analysis

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Office of Laboratory Operations and Applied Science (OLOAS)

September 24, 2025 Human Foods Program



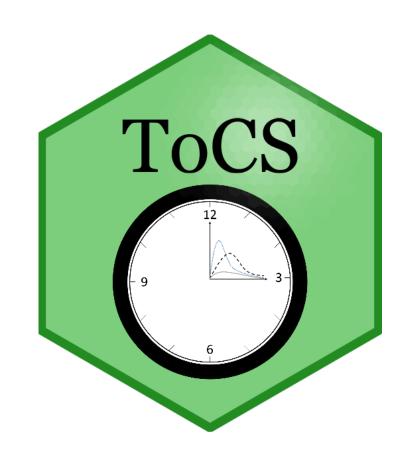
Session I: Introduction to ToCS

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What is ToCS?



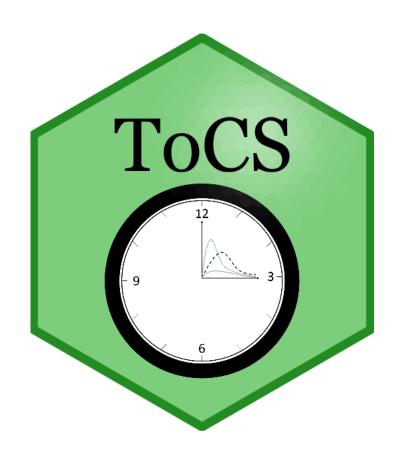
- An easy-to-use graphical user interface (GUI)
- Uses computational software to make highthroughput toxicokinetic (TK) chemical predictions
- No programming required
- Predict ADME profiles and characteristics, prioritize chemicals using in vitro to in vivo extrapolation, and generate TK parameters



Purpose of ToCS



- High throughput preliminary screening, prioritization, and characterization of chemicals at the beginning of studies
- Post market assessment of food relevant compounds
- Obtain parameters to use in other models
- Simulate ingredients used in dietary supplements





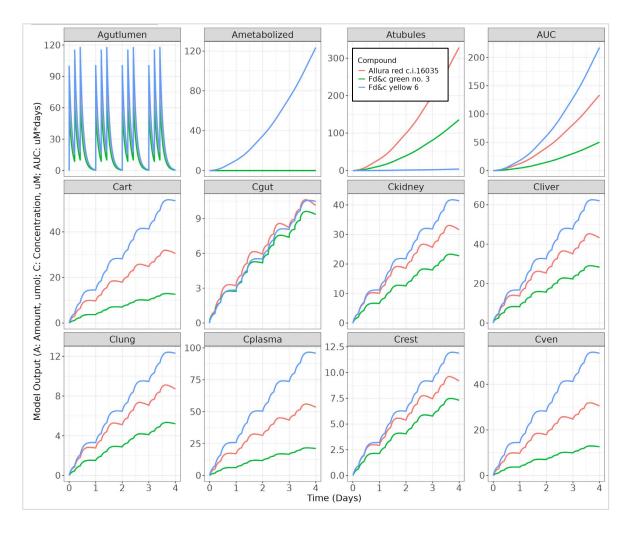
ToCS Outputs

Concentration-Time Profiles Module	Steady State Concentrations Module
 ADME time course data (Amounts and concentrations over time) Summary statistics (Tmax, Cmax, and AUC) 	 Analytical steady state in desired concentration/tissue Estimate of the time (days) it takes to reach steady state behavior following constant oral dosing
In Vitro to In Vivo Extrapolation (IVIVE) Module	Parameter Calculations Module
 OEDs (the external dose needed to produce the internal bioactive conc.) compared with exposure data (if provided by the user) BERs if exposure data is provided by the user 	 Toxicokinetic parameters (half-life, total plasma clearance, elimination rate, volume of distribution) Partition coefficients in different tissues

Abbreviations: ADME – absorption, distribution, metabolism, excretion; Cmax – maximal concentration; Tmax – time to Cmax; AUC – area under the curve; OED – oral equivalent dose; BER – bioactivity exposure ratio

Food Relevant Features

- Models with oral exposure route
- Ability to make a non-uniform exposure protocol (mimics food consumption at mealtimes)
- Customization of bioavailability settings
 - Use of in silico Caco2. Pab values
 - Ability to run simulations with 100% bioavailability - more conservative



- Contains explicit list of food chemicals available for simulation
 - 109-118 chemicals for human simulations (954-956 chemicals using in silico CL_{int} and F_{up})
 - 25-30 chemicals for rat simulations (no human data)

How does ToCS compare to other GUIs?



Feature	ToCS	ICE*
httk software version	2.7.0	2.2.2
Species	Human, rat, mouse, dog, rabbit	Human, rat
Food chemical subset	Yes	No
Loads in silico caco-2 permeability values	Yes	No
Customize parameter calculation methods	Yes	No
Dosing routes	Oral	Oral, iv, inhalation
ADME dosing	Single, evenly recurring, and non-uniform	Single, evenly recurring
Inclusion of full pregnancy model	Yes	No
AUC and Tmax calculated for plasma and all tissues	Yes	Plasma only

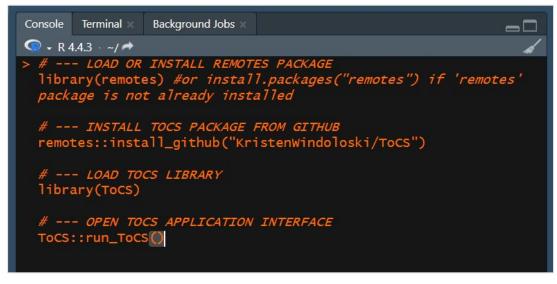
Feature	ToCS	ICE*
Analytical SS concentrations	Plasma and all tissues	Plasma only
Estimates days to plasma SS	Yes	No
OED calculation	Plasma and all tissues	Plasma only
Convert nominal in vitro bioactive conc to free conc	Yes	No
OED quantile returned	User's choice	5% and 50%
Option to view all OED samples	Yes	No
Built-in bioactivity data	No	Yes
Bioactivity exposure ratio (BER) calculation	Yes	No
Volume of distribution, elimination rate, total plasma clearance, and partition coefficient calculations	Yes	No

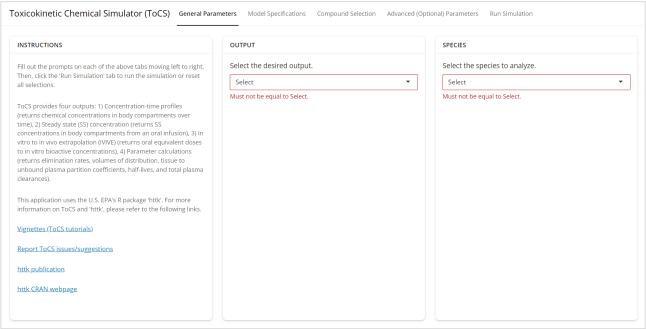
^{*}Integrated Chemical Environment (https://ice.ntp.niehs.nih.gov/)

How to Access the ToCS Interface



- 1. Web Application
 - pub-connect.foodsafetyrisk.org/tocs
 - No programming needed

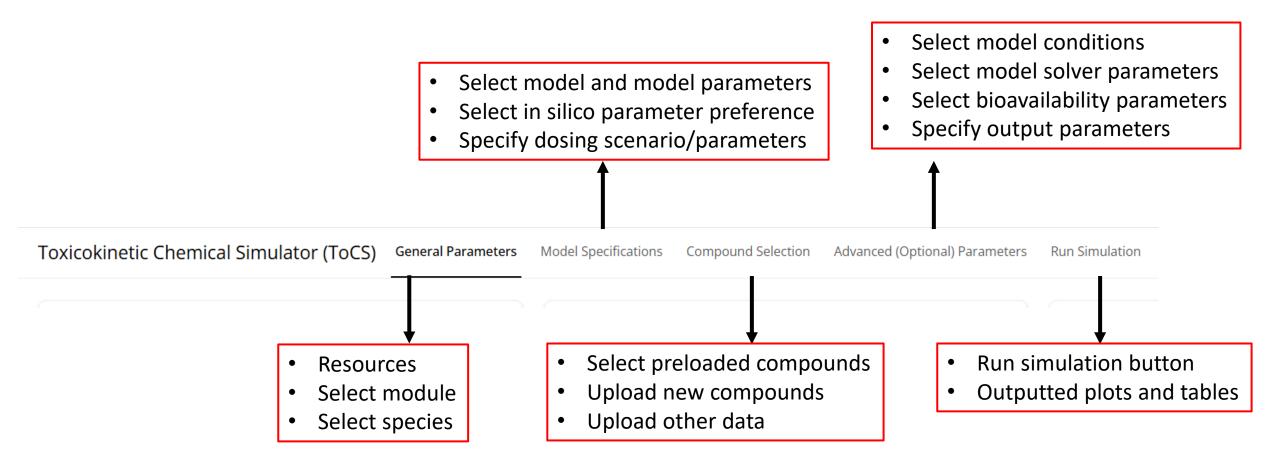




- 2. R Package
 - Install in R from the ToCS GitHub
 - Some programming needed



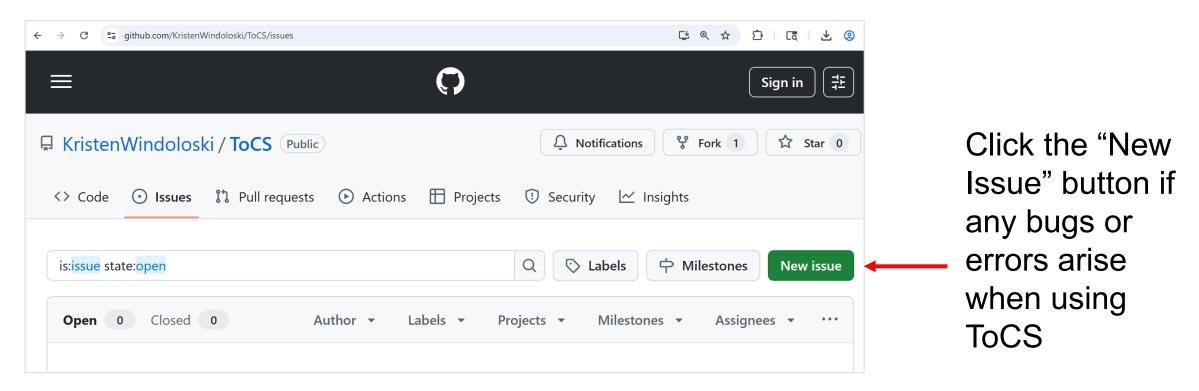
Interface Structure





Getting Help and Reporting Issues

- README file (https://github.com/KristenWindoloski/ToCS)
- Vignettes (https://github.com/KristenWindoloski/ToCS/tree/main/vignettes)





Limitations & Challenges

- Generalized models no chemical-specific physiological components, pathways, or compartments
 - More appropriate for reporting high-throughput preliminary toxicokinetics and risk estimation
 - Suggest ToCS be used as an earlier stage analytical software for screening and to guide further chemical studies
- Use caution when using the optional in silico parameters, as a different output would be achieved if the parameter data sets were loaded in another order
- Challenges users may face:
 - Uploading data
 - Entering non-uniform dosing schedule/long lists of numbers
 - Singular bioactivity data
 - Plotting customization





- Include new httk models into ToCS (PFAS, time-dependent parameter version, and 1st trimester pregnancy models)
- Update non-uniform dosing input structure
- Estimation of additional parameters
- Incorporate user feedback (new analyses and methods, food relevant features, etc.)
- Fix programming bugs as needed



An overview of httk and its models

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The httk R package



- Built by the U.S. EPA in 2015 and is continually maintained and updated
- Provides toxicokinetic analysis models and functions for chemical compounds
- Contains chemical data for over 17,000 compounds
- Newest version (2.7.0) contains timevarying parameter pbtk models, a three-trimester pregnancy model, and a PFAS model

httk: High-Throughput Toxicokinetics

Pre-made models that can be rapidly tailored to various chemicals and species using chemical-specific in vitro data and physiological information. These tools allow incorporation of chemical toxicokinetics ("TK") and in vitro-in vivo extrapolation ("TIVVE") into bioinformatics, as described by Pearce et al. (2017) (<doi:10.18637/jss.v079.i04>). Chemical-specific in vitro data characterizing toxicokinetics have been obtained from relatively high-throughput experiments. The chemical-independent ("generic") physiologically-based ("PBTK") and empirical (for example, one compartment) "TK" models included here can be parameterized with in vitro data or in silico predictions which are provided for thousands of chemicals, multiple exposure routes, and various species. High throughput toxicokinetics ("HTTK") is the combination of in vitro data and generic models. We establish the expected accuracy of HTTK for chemicals without in vivo data through statistical evaluation of HTTK predictions for chemicals where in vivo data do exist. The models are systems of ordinary differential equations that are developed in MCSim and solved using compiled (C-based) code for speed. A Monte Carlo sampler is included for simulating human biological variability (Ring et al., 2017 <doi:10.1016/j.envint.2017.06.004>) and propagating parameter uncertainty (Wambaugh et al., 2019 <doi:10.1003/toxsci/kfr2025>). Empirically calibrated methods are included for predicting tissue:plasma partition coefficients and volume of distribution (Pearce et al., 2017 <doi:10.1007/s10928-017-9948-7>). These functions and data provide a set of tools for using IVIVE to convert concentrations from high-throughput screening experiments (for example, Tox21, ToxCast) to real-world exposures via reverse dosimetry (also known as "RTK") (Wetmore et al., 2015

Version: 2.7.3 Depends: $R (\ge 2.10)$

Imports: deSolve, msm, data table, survey, mvtnorm, truncnorm, stats, graphics, utils, magrittr, purrr, methods, Rdpack (≥ 2.3), ggplot2, dplyr

knitr, markdown, gplots, scales, EnvStats, MASS, RColorBrewer, stringr, reshape, viridis, gmodels, colorspace, cowplot, ggrepel, forcats

smatr, gridExtra, readxl, ks, testthat, ggpubr, tidyverse

Published: 2025-09-12

DOI: 10.32614/CRAN.package.httk

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[ctb], Barbara Wetmore 👵 [ctb], Lily Whipple [ctb], Woodrow Setzer 👵 [ctb]

Maintainer: John Wambaugh <wambaugh.research at gmail.com>
BugReports: https://github.com/USEPA/CompTox-ExpoCast-httk/issues

License: MIT + file LICENSE

Copyright: This package is primarily developed by employees of the U.S. Federal government as part of their official duties and is therefore public

domain.

URL: https://www.epa.gov/chemical-research/rapid-chemical-exposure-and-dose-research

NeedsCompilation: yes

Citation: httk citation info
Materials: README, NEWS
CRAN checks: httk results

Documentation:

Reference manual: httk.html, httk.pdf

ignettes: 1) Introduction to HTTK (source, R code)

2) Introduction to IVIVE (source, R code)
a) Pearce (2017): HTTK Basics (source, R code)

b) Ring (2017) HTTK-Pop: Generating subpopulations (source, R code) c) Pearce (2017): Evaluation of Tissue Partitioning (source, R code) d) Frank (2018): Neuronal Network IVIVE (source, R code) e) Truong (2025) Full Human Gestational IVIVE (source, R code)

f) Wambaugh (Submitted): HTTK for PFAS (source, R code)

g) Meade (Submitted): High Throughput Dermal Exposure Model (source, R code)

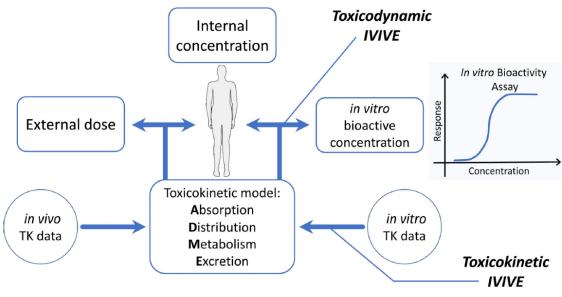
j) Scherer (Submitted): In Vitro Distribution (source, R code)

The httk R package



 Contains generalized mathematical models (same structure for each chemical, but use of chemical-specific parameters)

- Chemical specific parameters include:
 - In vitro intrinsic hepatic clearance
 - In vitro fraction unbound in plasma
 - Molecular weight
 - Octanol water partition coefficient
 - Many others...

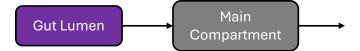


Breen, M., Ring, C.L., Kreutz, A., Goldsmith, M.R. and Wambaugh, J.F. (2021). High-throughput PBTK models for in vitro to in vivo extrapolation. *Expert opinion on drug metabolism & toxicology*

httk Models

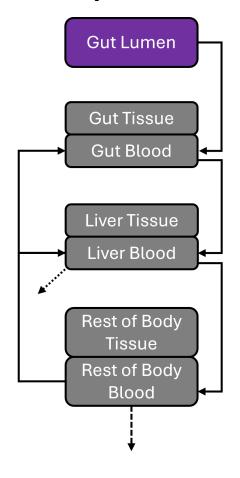


1compartment

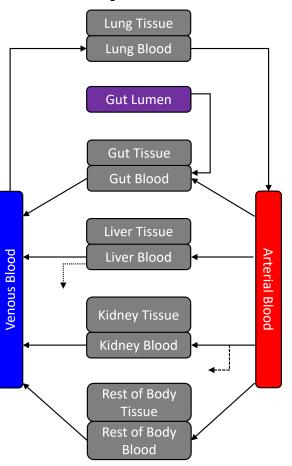


----> Hepatic clearance
----> Passive glomerular filtration

3compartment



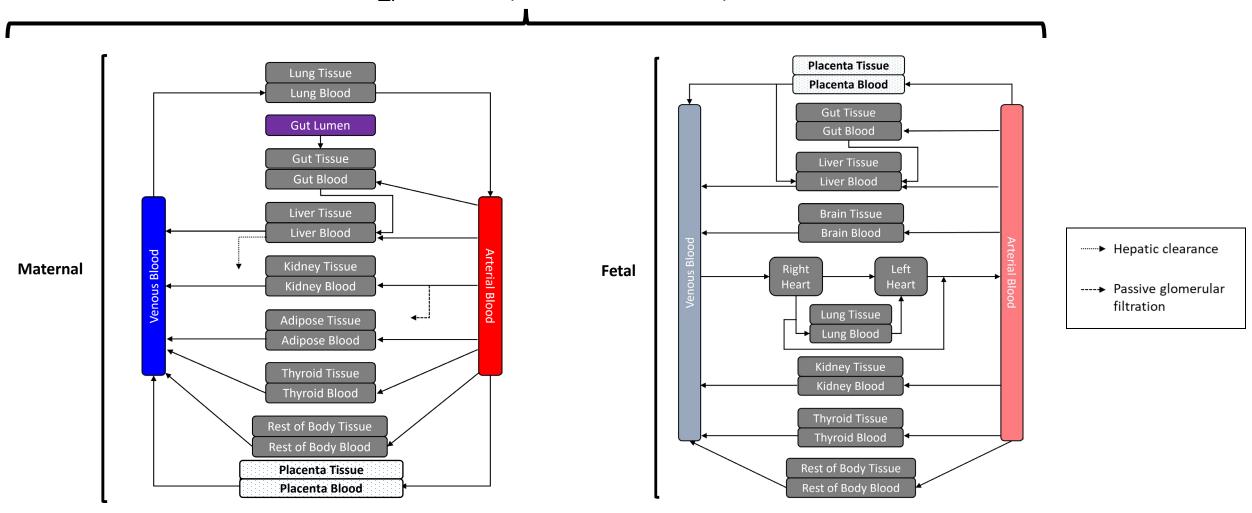
pbtk



httk Models



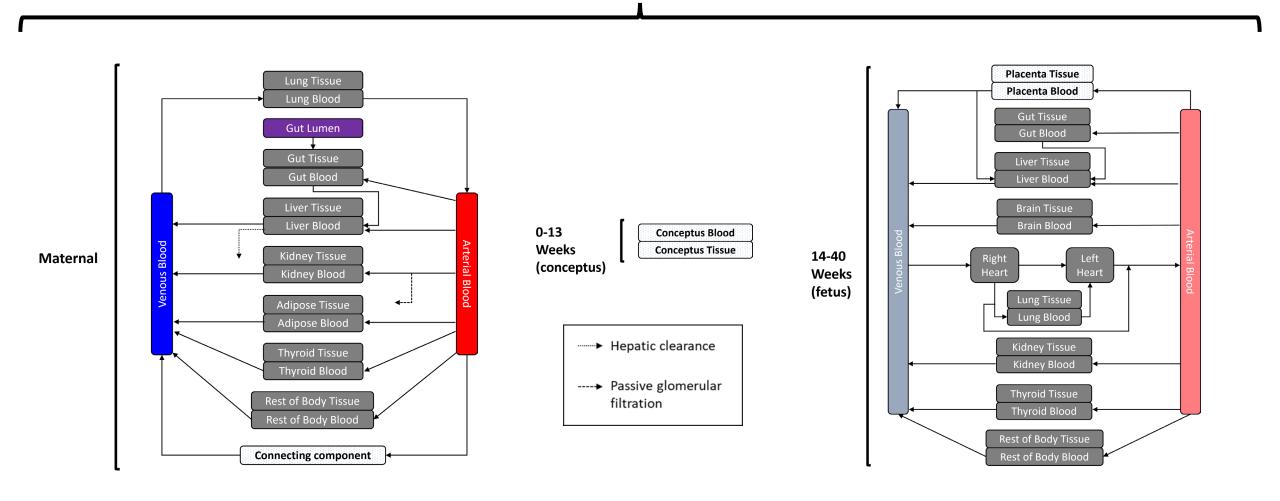
fetal_pbtk model (2nd and 3rd trimesters)



httk Models



Full_pregnancy model



Additional Information on httk



Websites

https://github.com/USEPA/CompTox-ExpoCast-httk

https://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/httk/index.html

Select Publications

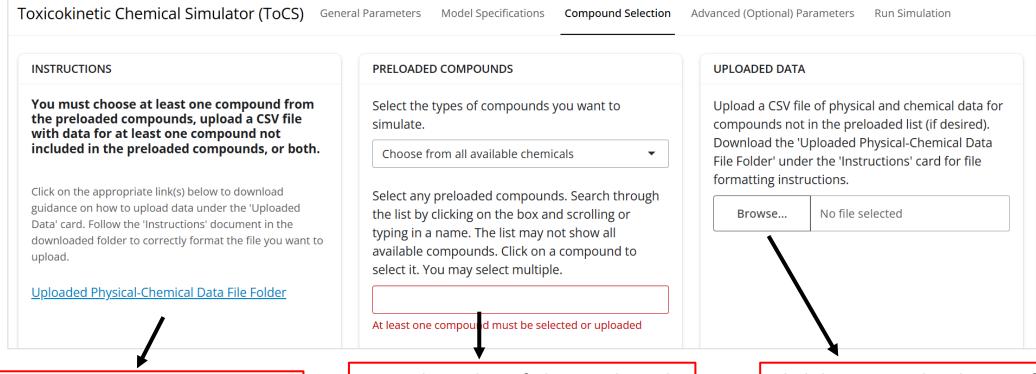
- 1. Breen, M., Ring, C.L., Kreutz, A., Goldsmith, M., and Wambaugh, J.F. (2021). High-throughput PBTK models for in vitro to in vivo extrapolation. *Expert Opin. Drug Metab. Toxicol.* 17(8), 903–921. doi: 10.1080/17425255.2021.1935867.
- 2. Breen, M., Wambaugh, J.F., Bernstein, A., Sfeir, M., and Ring, C.L. (2022). Simulating toxicokinetic variability to identify susceptible and highly exposed populations. *J. Expo. Sci. Environ. Epidemiol.* 32(6), 855-863. doi: 10.1038/s41370-022-00491-0.
- 3. Kapraun, D.F., Sfeir, M., Pearce, R.G., Davidson-Fritz, S.E., Lumen, A., Dallmann, A., et al. (2022). Evaluation of a rapid, generic human gestational dose model. *Reprod. Toxicol.* 113, 172-188. doi: 10.1016/j.reprotox.2022.09.004.
- 4. Pearce, R.G., Setzer, R.W., Strope, C.L., Wambaugh, J.F., and Sipes, N.S. (2017). httk: R package for high-throughput toxicokinetics. *J. Stat. Softw.* 79(4), 1-26. doi: 10.18637/jss.v079.i04.
- 5. Truong, K.T., Wambaugh, J.F., Kapraun, D.F., Davidson-Fritz, S.E., Eytcheson, S., Judson, R.S., et al. (2025). Interpretation of thyroid-relevant bioactivity data for comparison to in vivo exposures: A prioritization approach for putative chemical inhibitors of in vitro deiodinase activity. *Toxicology* 515, 154157. doi: 10.1016/j.tox.2025.154157.
- 6. Wambaugh, J.F., Wetmore, B.A., Ring, C.L., Nicolas, C.I., Pearce, R.G., Honda, G.S., et al. (2019). Assessing toxicokinetic uncertainty and variability in risk prioritization. *Toxicol. Sci.* 172(2), 235-251. doi: 10.1093/toxsci/kfz205.



Chemical Selection

Compound Selection Interface



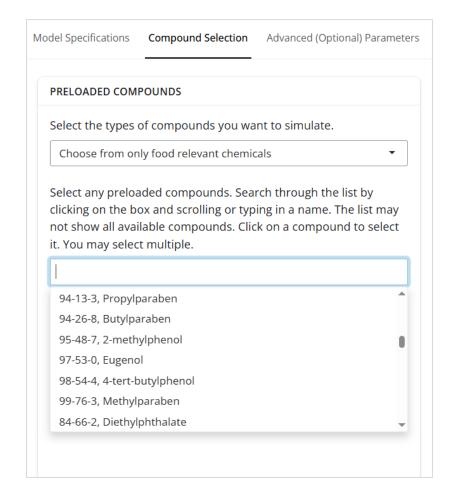


Downloadable folder detailing how to upload physicochemical data to simulate new compounds Drop-down list of chemicals with data already preloaded into httk, contains only compounds with adequate data for simulation Click here to upload a CSV file of physicochemical data for chemicals not available in the preloaded drop-down list



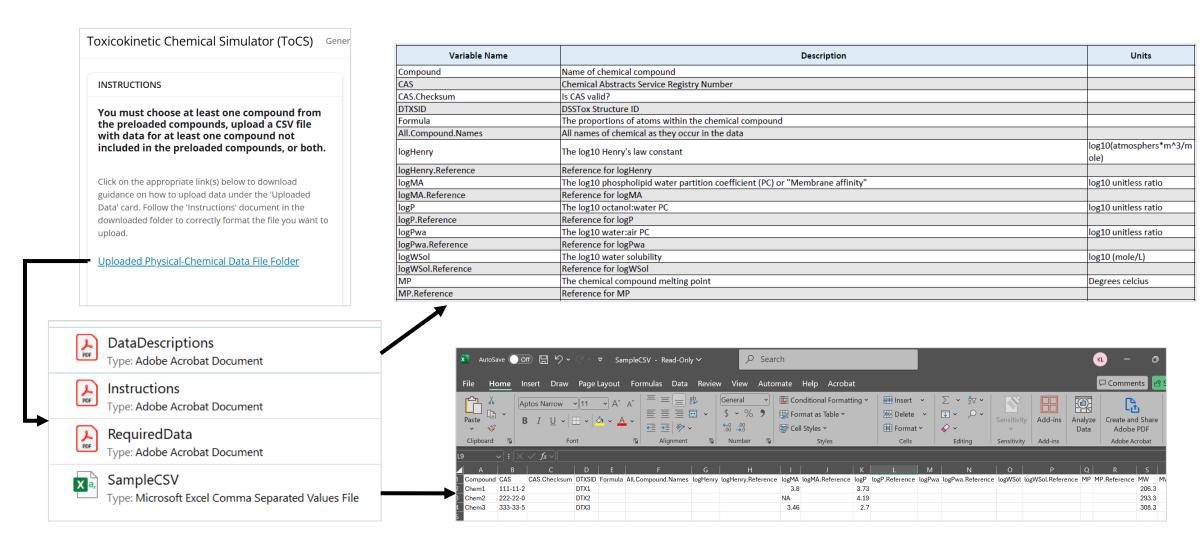
Compound Selection: Preloaded Drop-Down List

- Contains compounds with data already in httk
- Search the drop-down list by:
 - Typing in the CAS number (recommended)
 - Typing in the compound name
 - Scrolling the list (all compounds are not visible)



Compound Selection: Upload Your Own Compounds







Compound Selection: Uploaded Data

Required Data

- Compound name
- CAS number
- DTXSID
- Molecular weight
- Log10 octanol:water partition coefficient
- In vitro intrinsic hepatic clearance
- In vitro fraction unbound in presence of plasma proteins

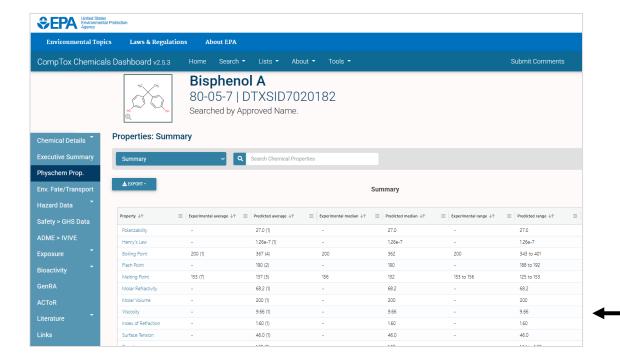
Optional Data

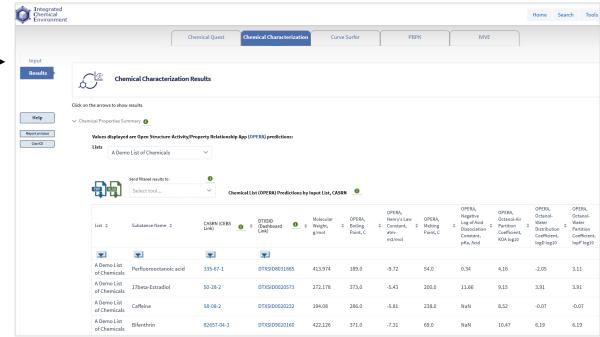
- Log10 Henry's law constant
- Log10 phospholipid water partition coefficient
- Log10 water air partition coefficient
- Log10 water solubility
- Melting point
- Hydrogen acceptor equilibria concentration
- Hydrogen donor equilibria concentration
- In vivo measured fractional systemic bioavailability of an oral dose
- Caco-2 apical-to-basal membrane permeability
- Probability that there is no clearance observed
- In vivo fraction of oral dose absorbed and entering gut lumen
- In vivo fraction of oral dose surviving first pass metabolism in the gut
- In vivo fraction of oral dose surviving first pass hepatic clearance
- Ratio of blood to plasma chemical concentration

Where Can I Find the Chemical Data?



NTP's Integrated Chemical Environment (ICE) (https://ice.ntp.niehs.nih.gov/) ———





EPA's CompTox Chemicals Dashboard (https://comptox.epa.gov/dashboard)



Calcium Benzoate

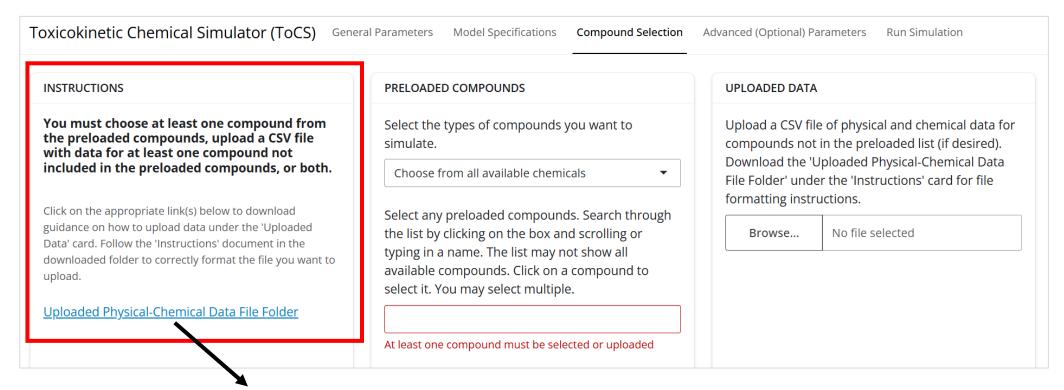
A direct food additive used as an antimicrobial agent



- 1. Download physicochemical data folder
- 2. Copy SampleCSV file to a new file to edit
- 3. Search for chemical data within EPA's CompTox Dashboard
- 4. Update appropriate fields in new CSV file
- 5. Save CSV file and upload within ToCS interface



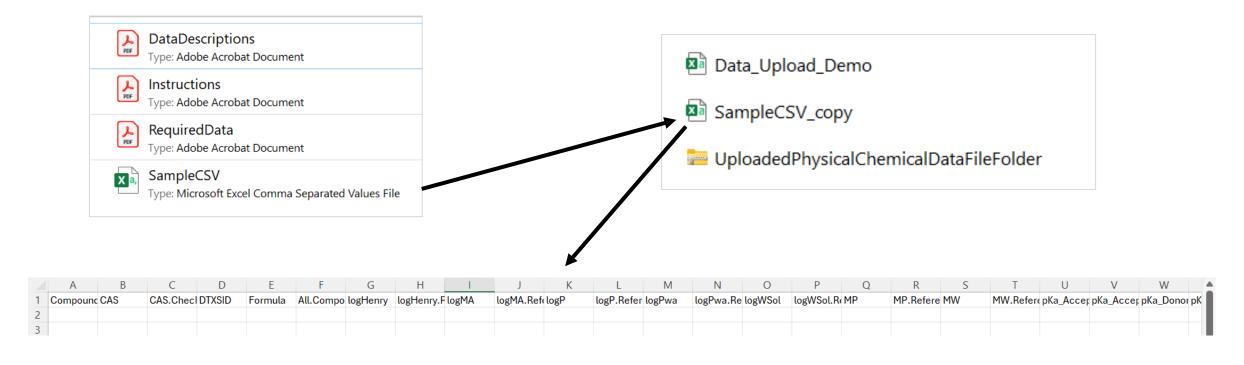
1. Download physicochemical data folder



Click here to download the folder

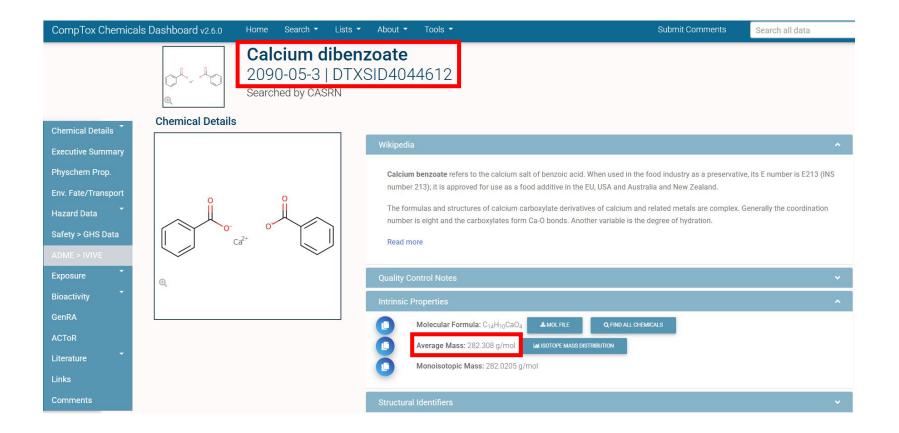


2. Copy SampleCSV file to a new file to edit



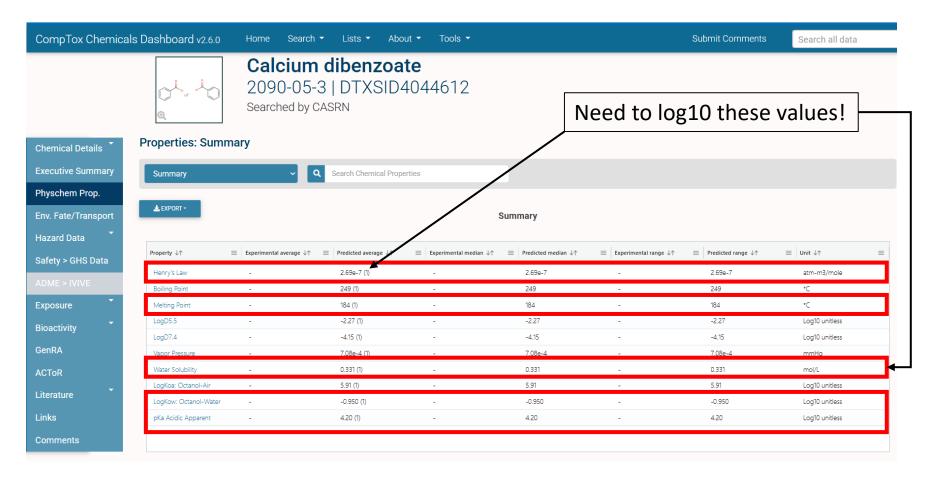


3. Search for chemical data within EPA's CompTox Dashboard





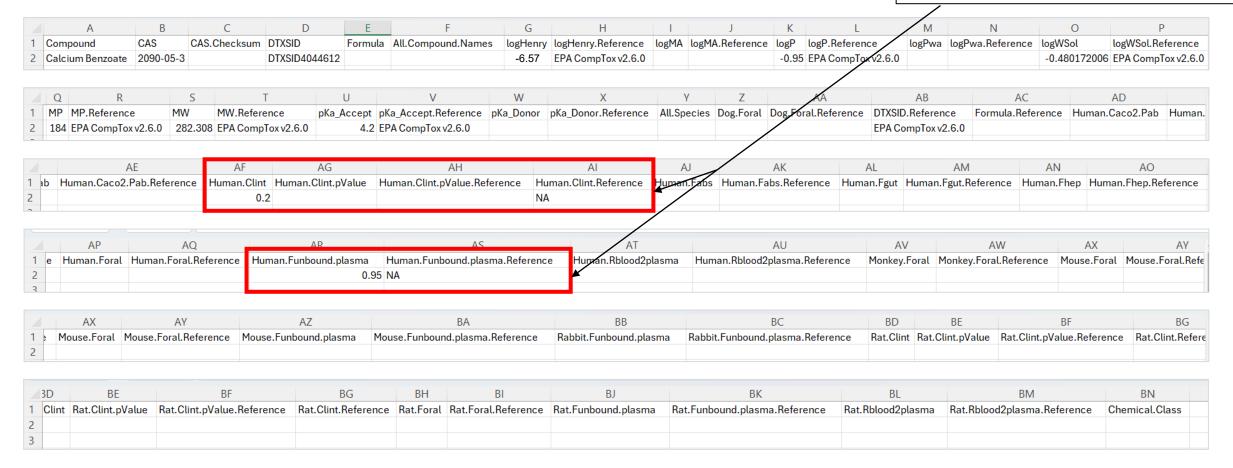
3. Search for chemical data within EPA's CompTox Dashboard





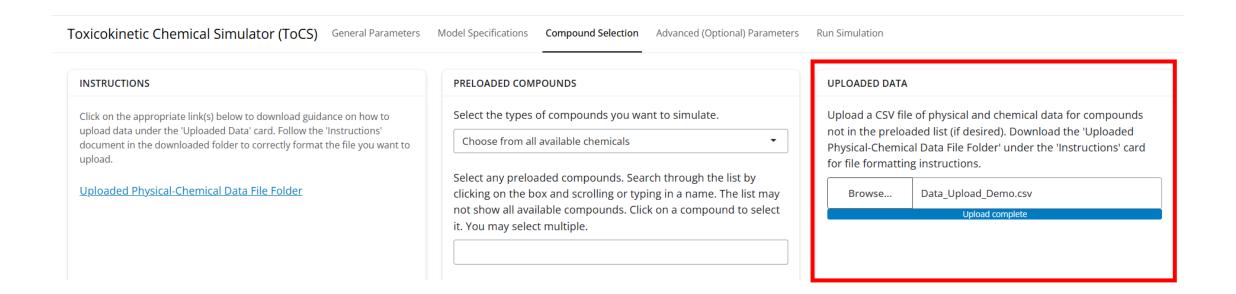
4. Update appropriate fields in new CSV file

No real data available, so we set the clint and Funbound.plasma as 0.2 and 0.95 in this example





5. Save CSV file and upload within ToCS interface





Questions?

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10-Minute Break

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