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## **Historical records and spatial distribution of high hazard PCBs levels in sediments around a large South American industrial coastal area (Santos Estuary, Brazil)**

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### **Highlights**

- PCBs in dated sediments provide evidence of high hazard historic contamination;
- Levels started to increase in 1960 following emissions in Brazil and worldwide;
- Concentrations in sediments showed a faster response to PCB consumption in Brazil;
- High concentrations and inventories were detected in sediments after the PCB ban;
- 50 years of increased industrial activity changed the magnitude of PCB input.

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