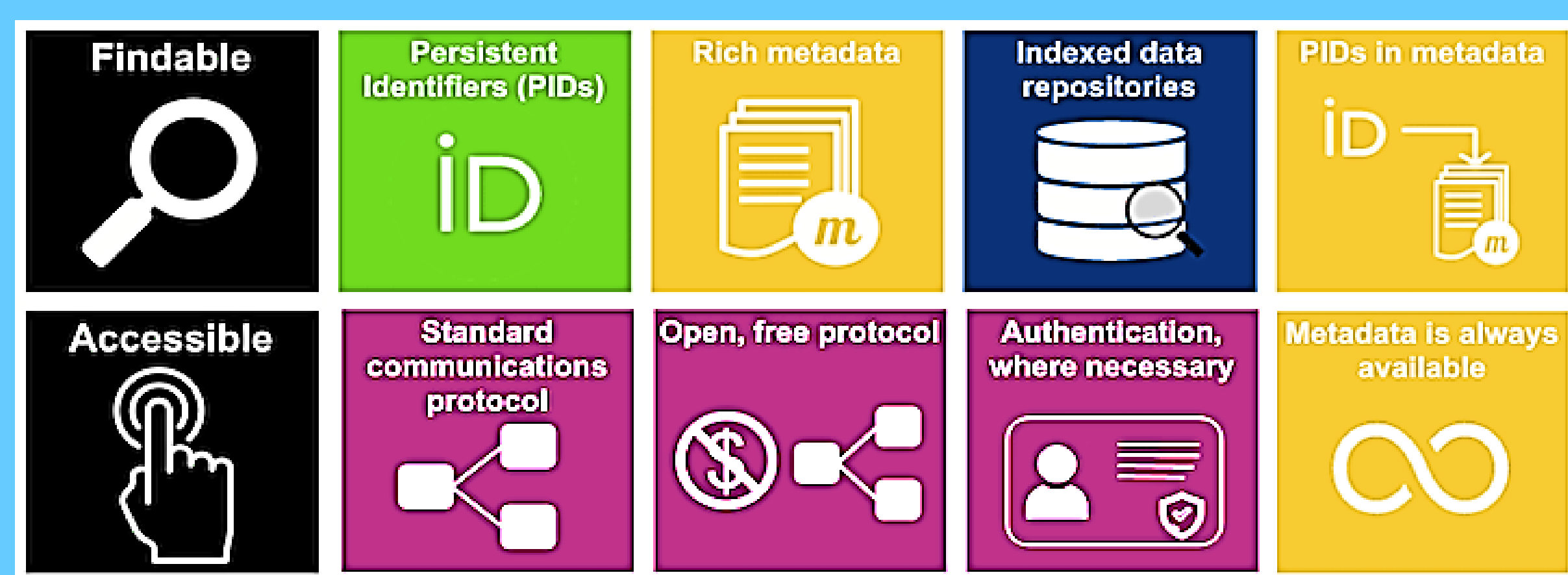


# Evaluating the Current State of Findability and Accessibility of Microplastics Data



## Motivation

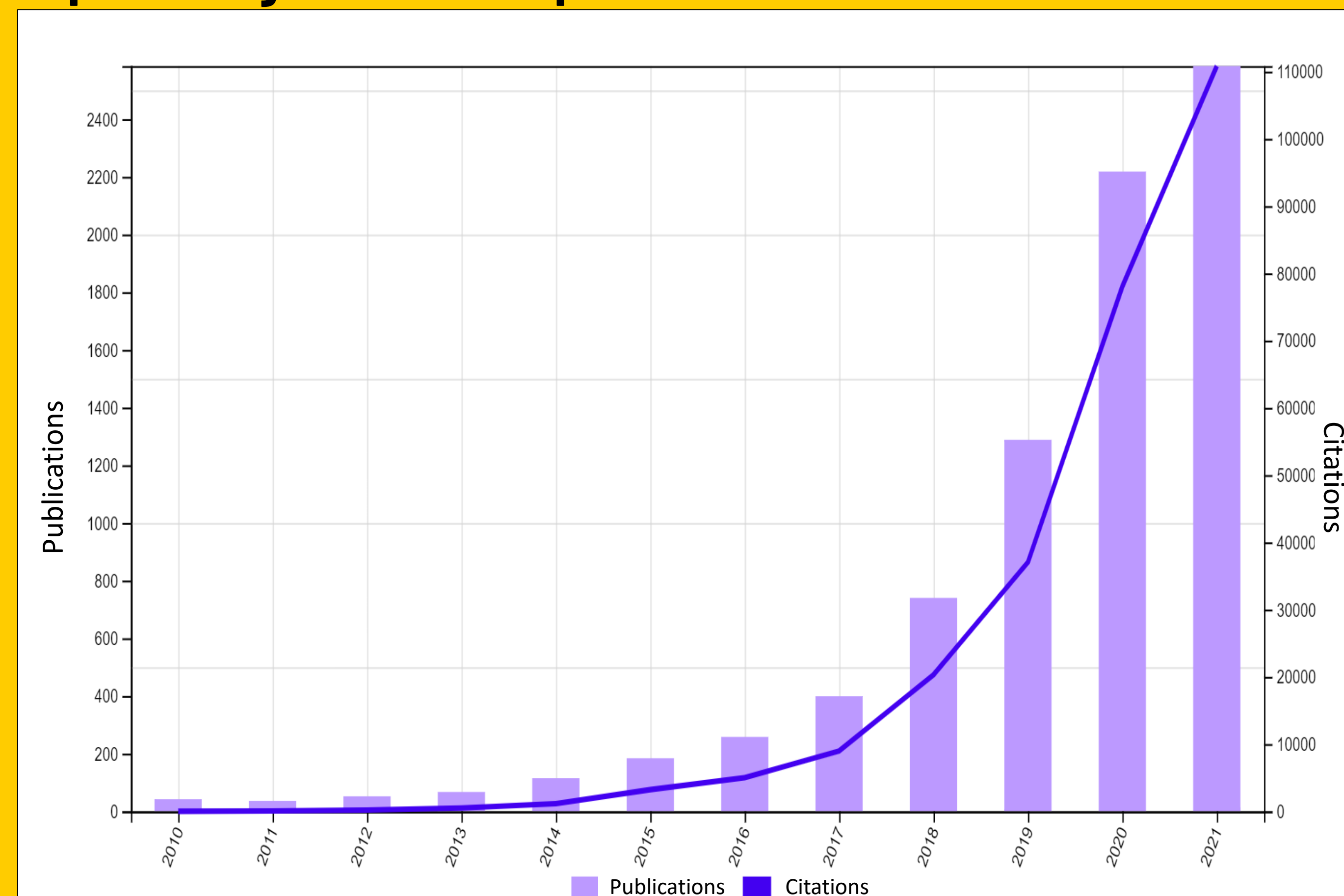
- Are the data generated by microplastics researchers findable and accessible?
- Findable and accessible data are needed as baseline for future monitoring and help make informed environmental policy decisions.
- Scientists must be able to conduct meta-analyses, confirm reproducibility, and meaningfully compare data from different studies and geographies.



## Background

- Environmental microplastics are an emerging contaminant.
- The field of microplastics research is growing exponentially.

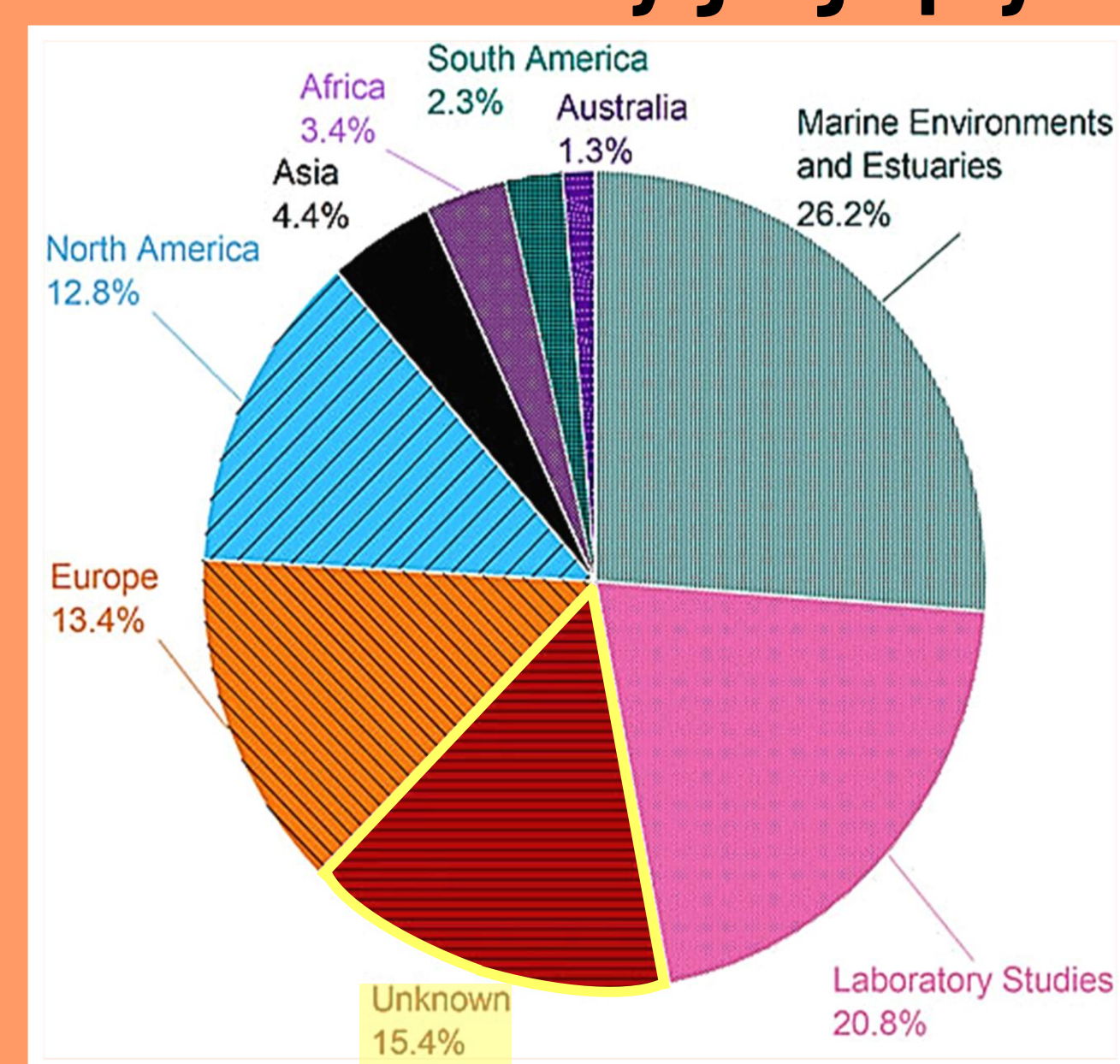
### Exponential growth in microplastics research since 2010



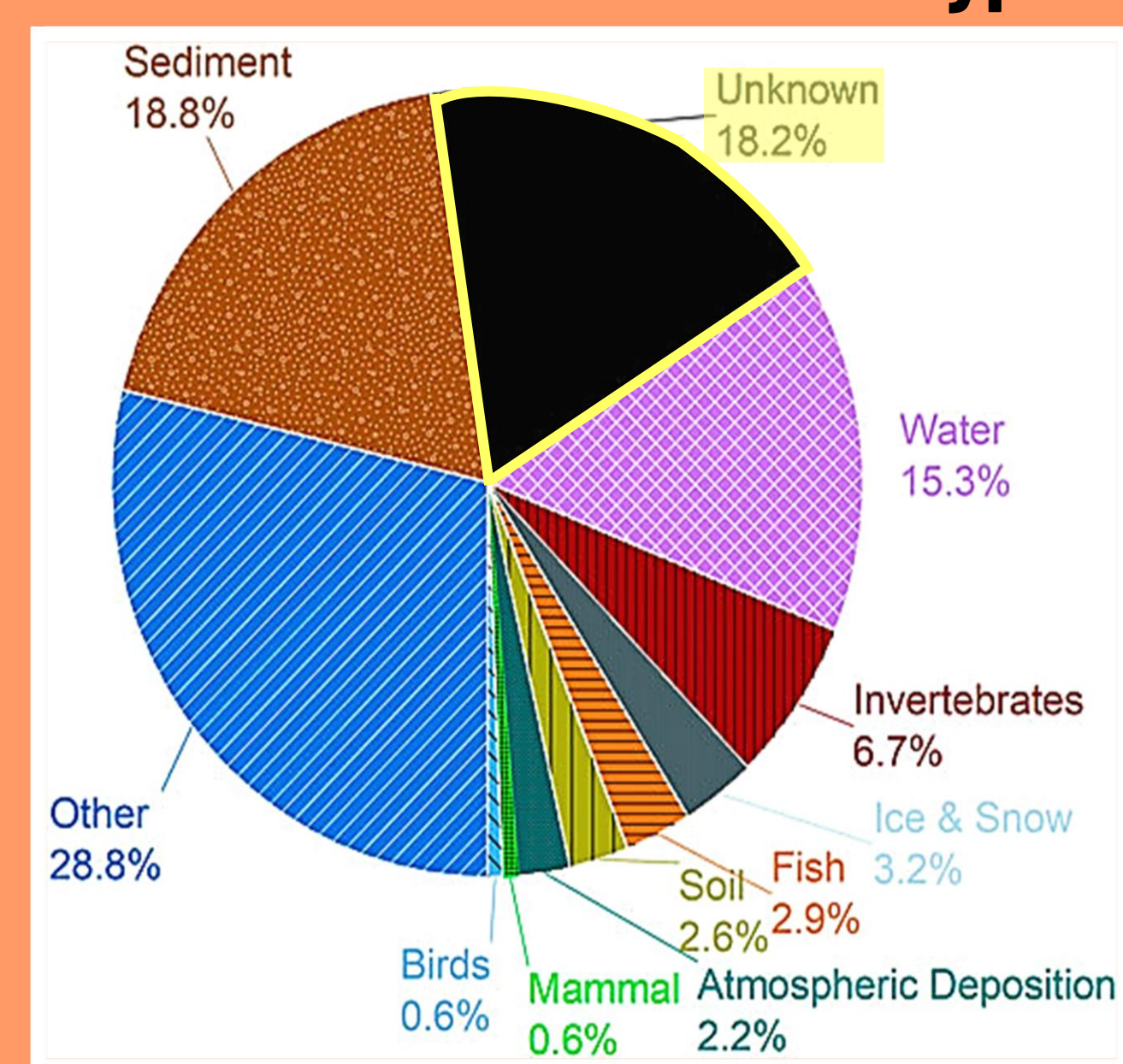
## Data Management Practices

- Metadata are data that describe and provide information about other data. This allows you to understand and find relevant data in datasets.
- When looking at metadata in microplastics datasets, vital information was missing, and important data could not be found.

### 15 % fail to identify geography



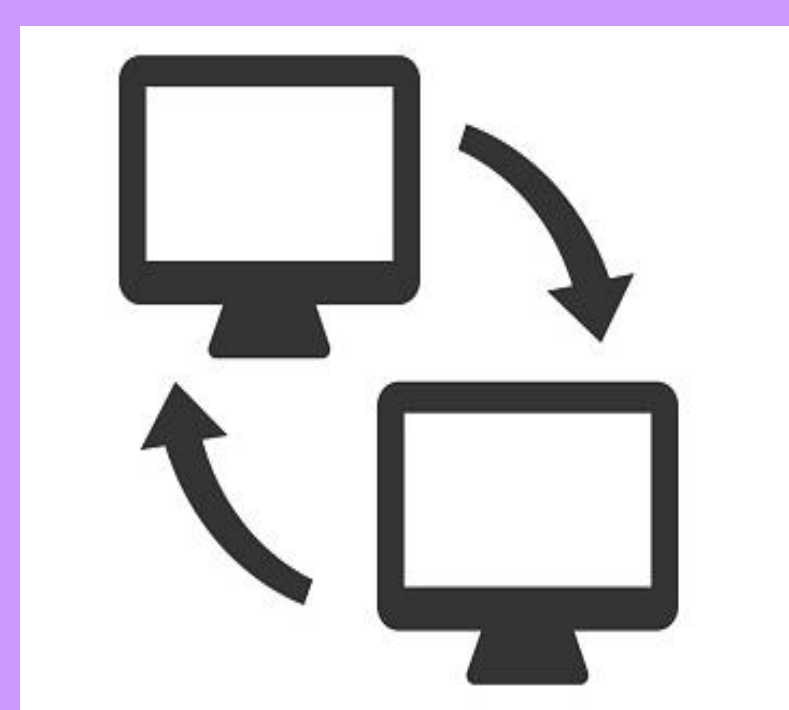
### 18 % fail to indicate media type



## Recommendations

To strengthen data sharing practices in the microplastics community, researchers should:

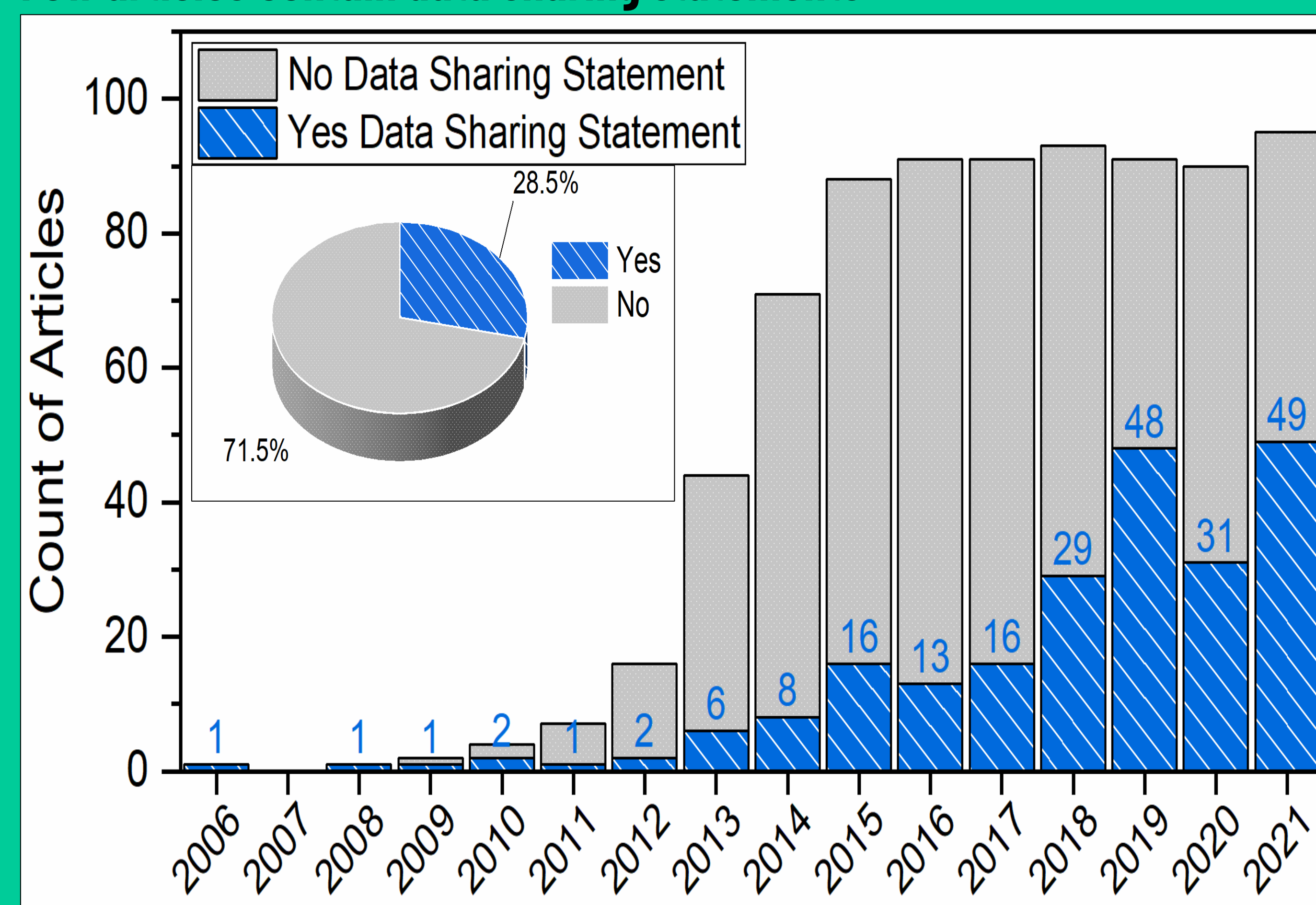
1. Use available standards/practices to describe data
2. Share raw data - or as close to raw as possible
3. Use a trusted digital repository
4. Link dataset to publications
5. Plan to share data from the onset of a study



## Data Sharing

- Data sharing statements inform readers where data associated with an article can be found.
- We randomly sampled 785 microplastics articles: less than one-third contained a data sharing statement.

### Few articles contain data sharing statements



## Read More

