

The Social Stratification of Health Risks Associated with Wastewater Irrigation: A Rapid Assessment in Punata, Bolivia

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Abstract:

Approximately 90% of wastewater in developing countries is discharged without treatment, global estimates of the total area irrigated with untreated wastewater range from 3 million hectares to 20 million hectares. In Bolivia, the use of wastewater for irrigation is currently widespread and unsanctioned. Using perspectives from Environmental Engineering, Microbiology, Anthropology, and Statistics, this project seeks to characterize the health risks associated with the transmission of viruses by wastewater irrigation and to provide insight as to how these risks might be gendered or stratified amongst members of the community.