

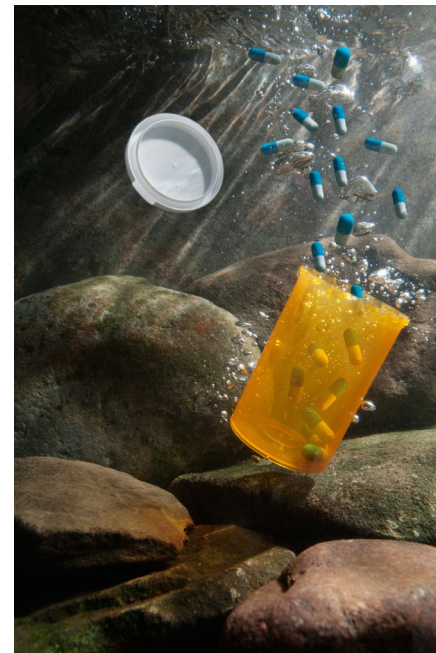
Pharmaceuticals in wastewater

Read the full article at rsc.li/3pVMbFM

The global extent of pharmaceutical pollution has been revealed in a new study. Pollution in rivers, resulting from the production, disposal or human use of pharmaceuticals, can influence the sexual development and behaviour of fish. It's thought that this pollution is stoking the rise of antibiotic resistance.

What's
lurking in
our water?

Samples were collected at 1052 locations and, in each case, the same techniques were used to detect pharmaceuticals. Very low-income countries had the lowest concentrations of pharmaceuticals, likely due to limited access to medicines. Lower- to middle-income countries had the highest concentrations, attributed to a lack of wastewater infrastructure. Regions with looser regulations on access to medicines, such as easy availability of antibiotics, showed a greater range of contaminants.



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1. Why were all samples tested using the same techniques?
2. Name two other types of substance commonly removed from wastewater.
3. Describe how wastewater is treated in the United Kingdom.