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## **Decarbonizing the Built Environment:** Understanding the Essential Levers in Concrete Construction

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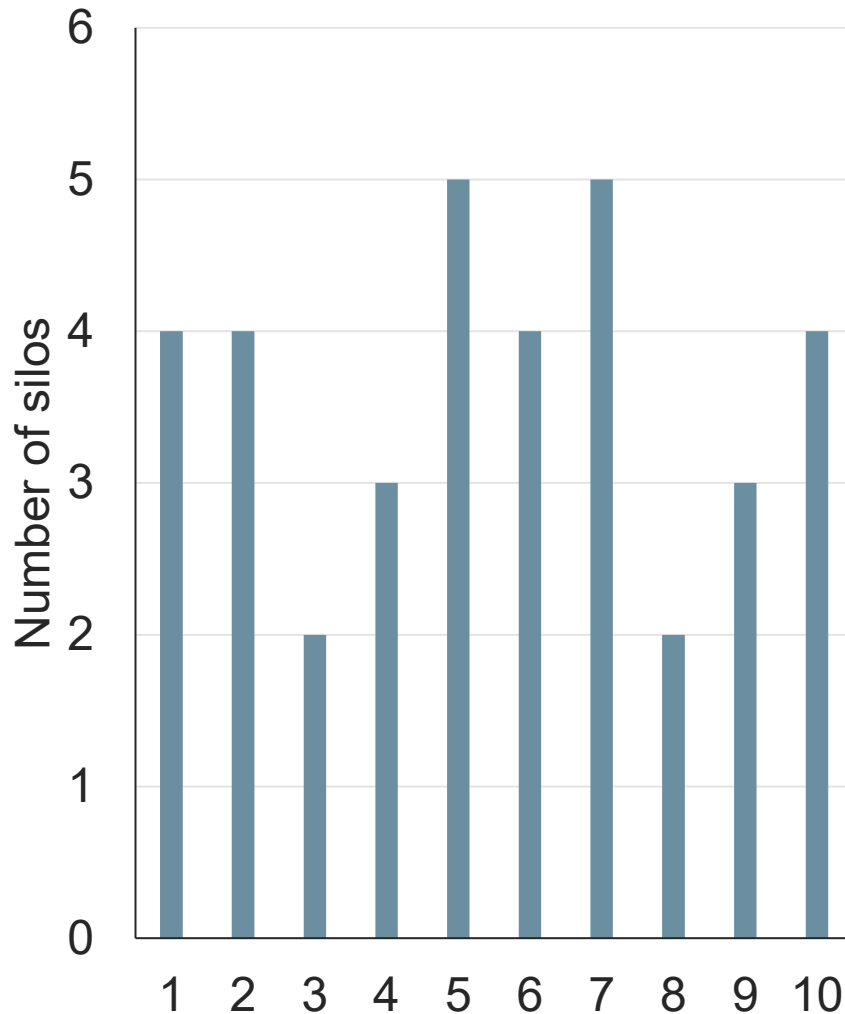
## **Determination of GHG emissions threshold requires an extensive data collection effort**

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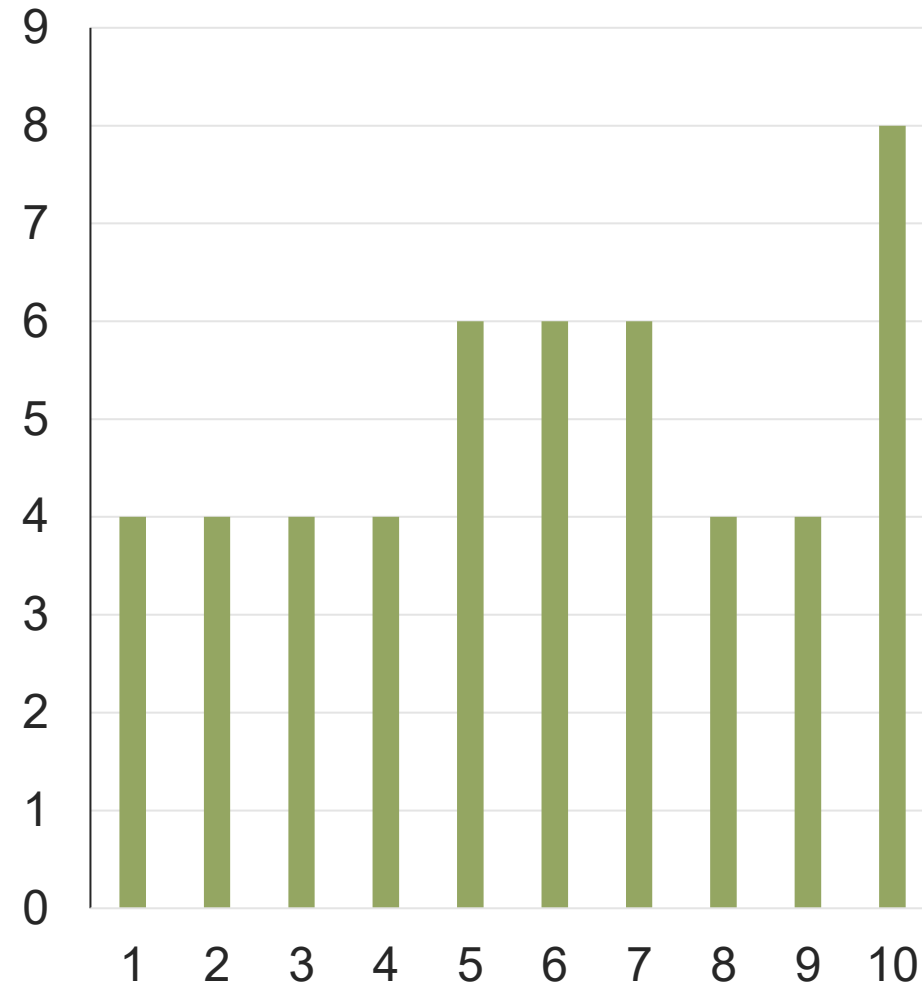
- Data should be granular enough to represent the local production capacity
- Data should consider the production size
- Objective:
  - Evaluate the GHG emissions associated with typical concrete mixtures produced by MA ready mix plants:
    - Mostly produced concrete mixtures for 3000-5000 psi design strengths
    - End-use application was tested (sidewalk vs. residential)

# Majority of the surveyed plants have reported insufficient storage for lower-carbon mix adoption

Proposal for SCMs and OPC: minimum of 6



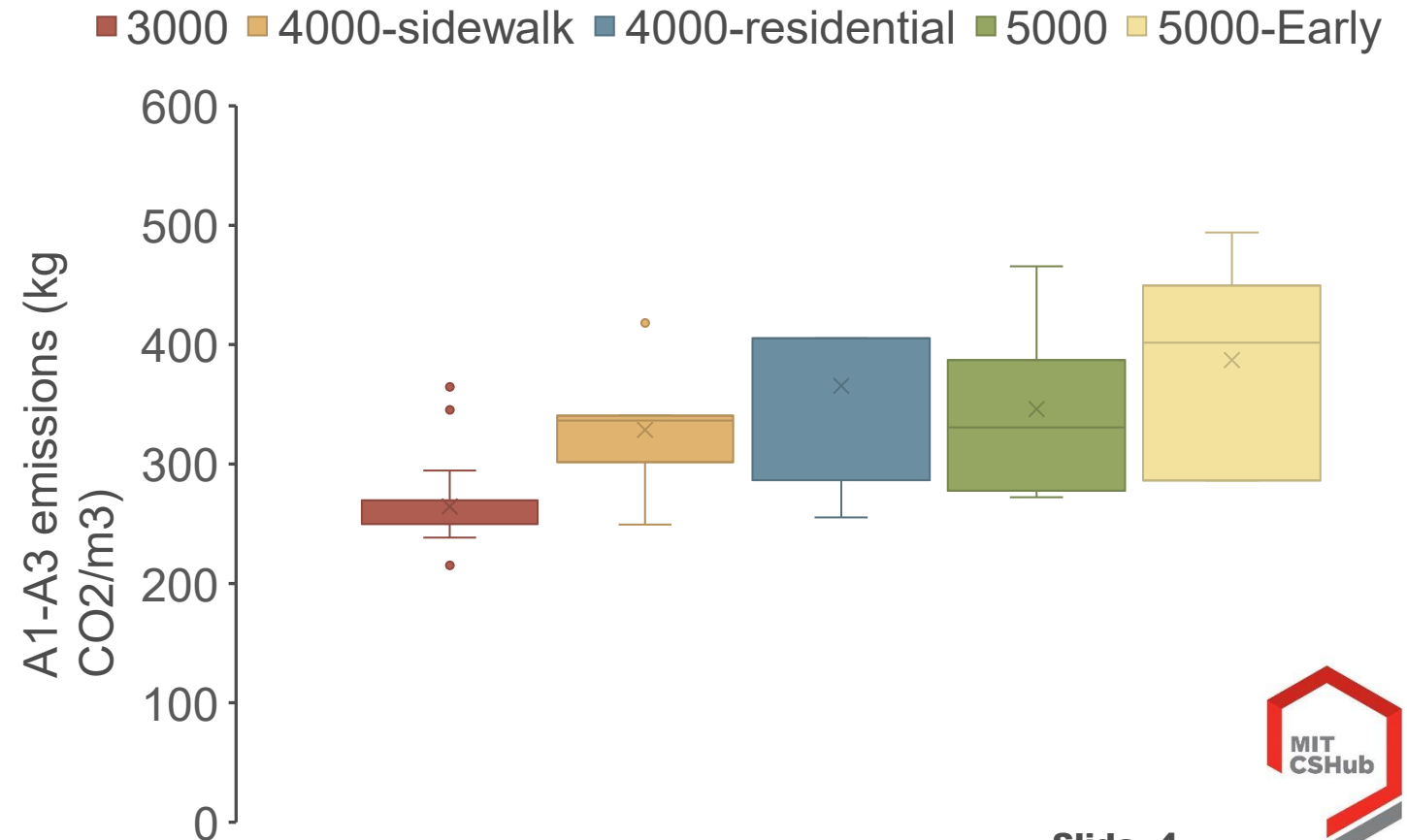
Proposal for optimized aggregates: minimum of 6



# Current distribution of A1-A3 emissions from different ready-mixed plants

- Covers ~400,000 yd<sup>3</sup> of concrete (~20% of Mass procurement)
- Majority of the cement is imported (imported cement = additional 15-100 kg CO<sub>2</sub>e /ton cement)
- Majority of the sand is hauled from out-of-state (= additional 3-10 kg CO<sub>2</sub>e /ton aggregates)

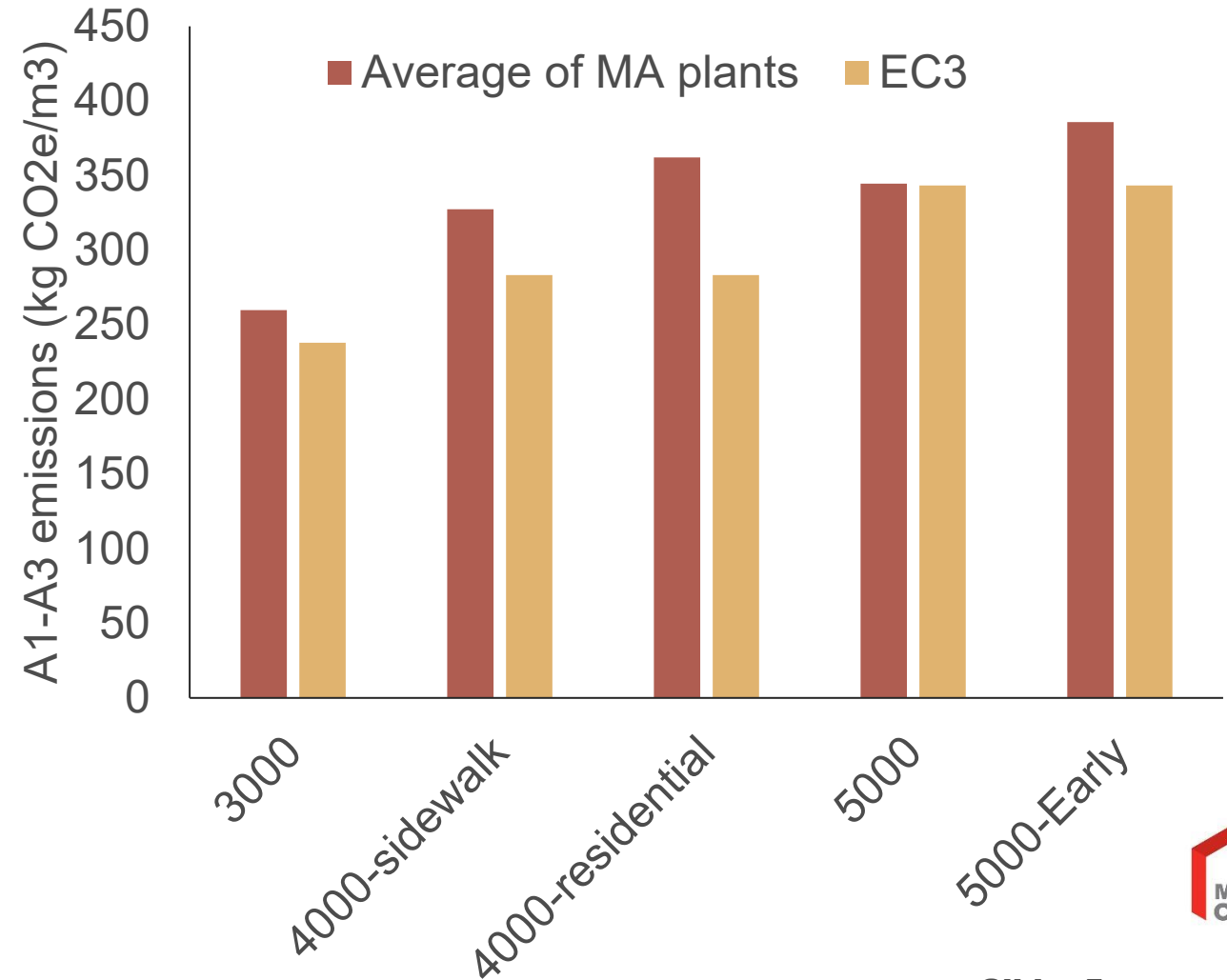
	3000	4000- sidewalk	4000- residential	5000	5000- Early
2024-2025 production (m3)	105,360	72,377	87,963	33,878	6,578



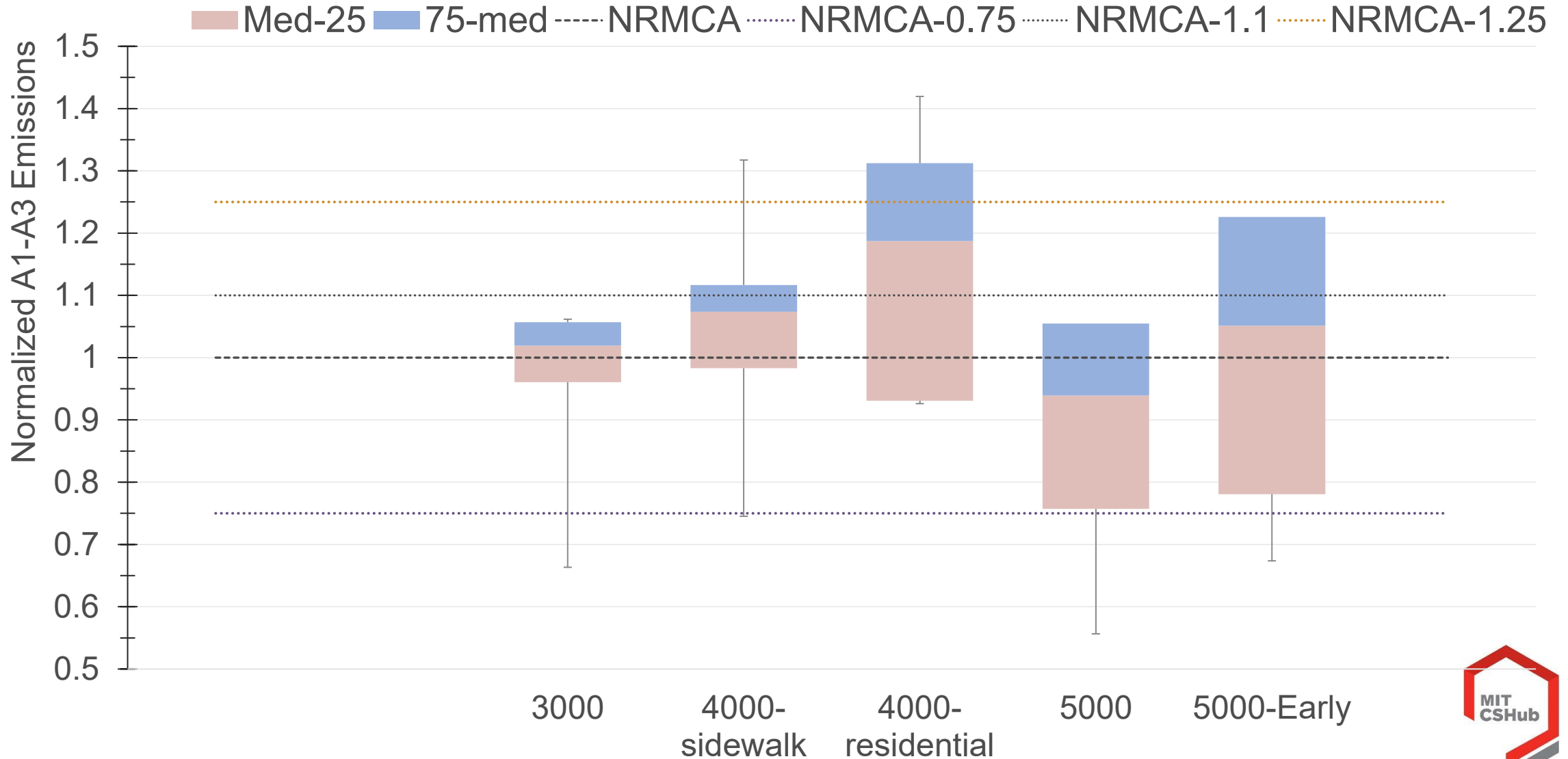
# Data collection based on published EPDs may not represent the average emissions across various concrete mix designs

Up to a 28% difference when considering the MA plants data with the EC3 EPDs

- EPDs are typically developed to satisfy the client's request for low-carbon mixtures
- EPDs represent less than 5% fraction of the produced mix designs for a plant



# NRMCA average may not be the representative benchmark for the MA-produced mixtures, across different applications



## Further suggestions for the Council Recommendation List

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- Collect more data from Producers (comprehensive benchmark)
- Target “Build Clean” initiatives that prioritize construction practices offering embodied and lifecycle environmental benefits
- Incentivize local supply and relax permitting for new plants and quarries
- Support supply chain optimization and workforce development for near-term solutions
- Incentivize early adoption of lower-carbon industrial products by providing an insurance mechanism to de-risk early adoption
- Shift State purchasing through the Buy Clean Initiative to incentive-based procurement programs