



Background

What is the Anti-Heroin Task Force?

- Competitive award program through the Department of Justice Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Office
- Funds allocated for the purpose of investigating illicit activities related to heroin and other opioids, such as fentanyl and prescription painkillers
- Approximately \$35 million available every year
- The award lasts three years and agencies can receive up to \$4 million

Who is eligible for the AHTF?

- State law enforcement agencies in jurisdictions with high treatment admission rates for opioid addiction
- Treatment admissions criterion is based on data from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)

Figure 1. AHTF funding descriptive statistics.

| Fiscal Year | Applications | Grants Awarded | Total Grant Value | Average Grant |
|-------------|--------------|----------------|-------------------|---------------|
| 2015 | 15 | 6 | \$5,784,427 | \$964,071 |
| 2016 | 19 | 6 | \$5,729,478 | \$954,913 |
| 2017 | 21 | 8 | \$7,190,000 | \$898,750 |
| 2018 | 21 | 17 | \$27,865,277 | \$1,639,134 |
| 2019 | 20 | 19 | \$27,760,000 | \$1,461,053 |
| 2020 | 16 | 14 | \$29,731,251 | \$2,123,661 |

Research Questions

- Are AHTF grants awarded based on the outlined criteria?
- Has there been an effect on arrests, overdoses, and drug seizures?

Methods

Outcomes

- Drug arrests and seizures (Uniform Crime Reports)
- Treatment admission rates (SAMHSA)
- Overdose mortality (CDC)

Independent variable

- AHTF grants (COPS office)

Control variables

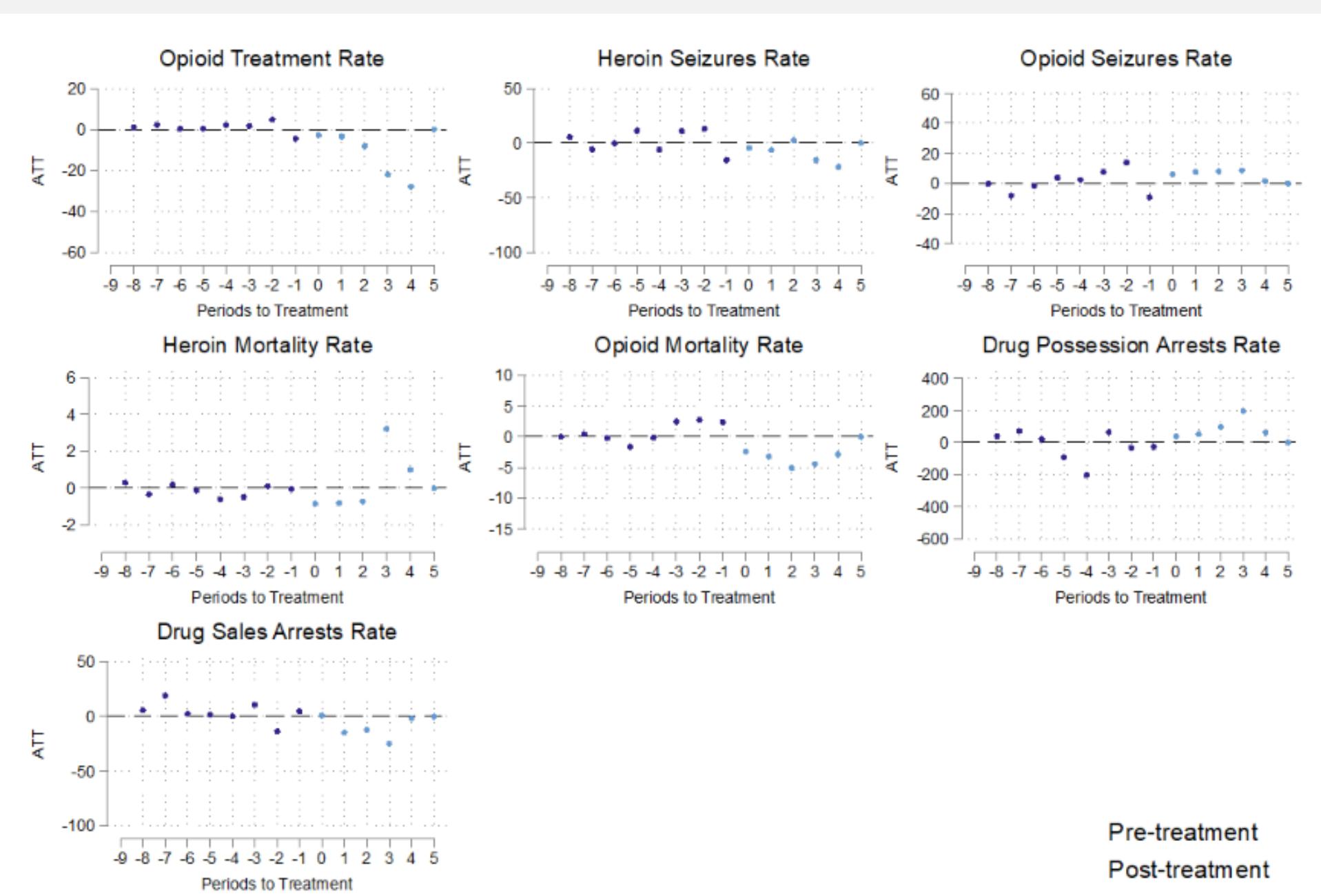
- Police spending
- Unemployment rate
- Mean household income

Analytic Strategy

- Differences-in-differences
- Comparison of grant recipients to other states

Results

Figure 2. Measures before and after grant.



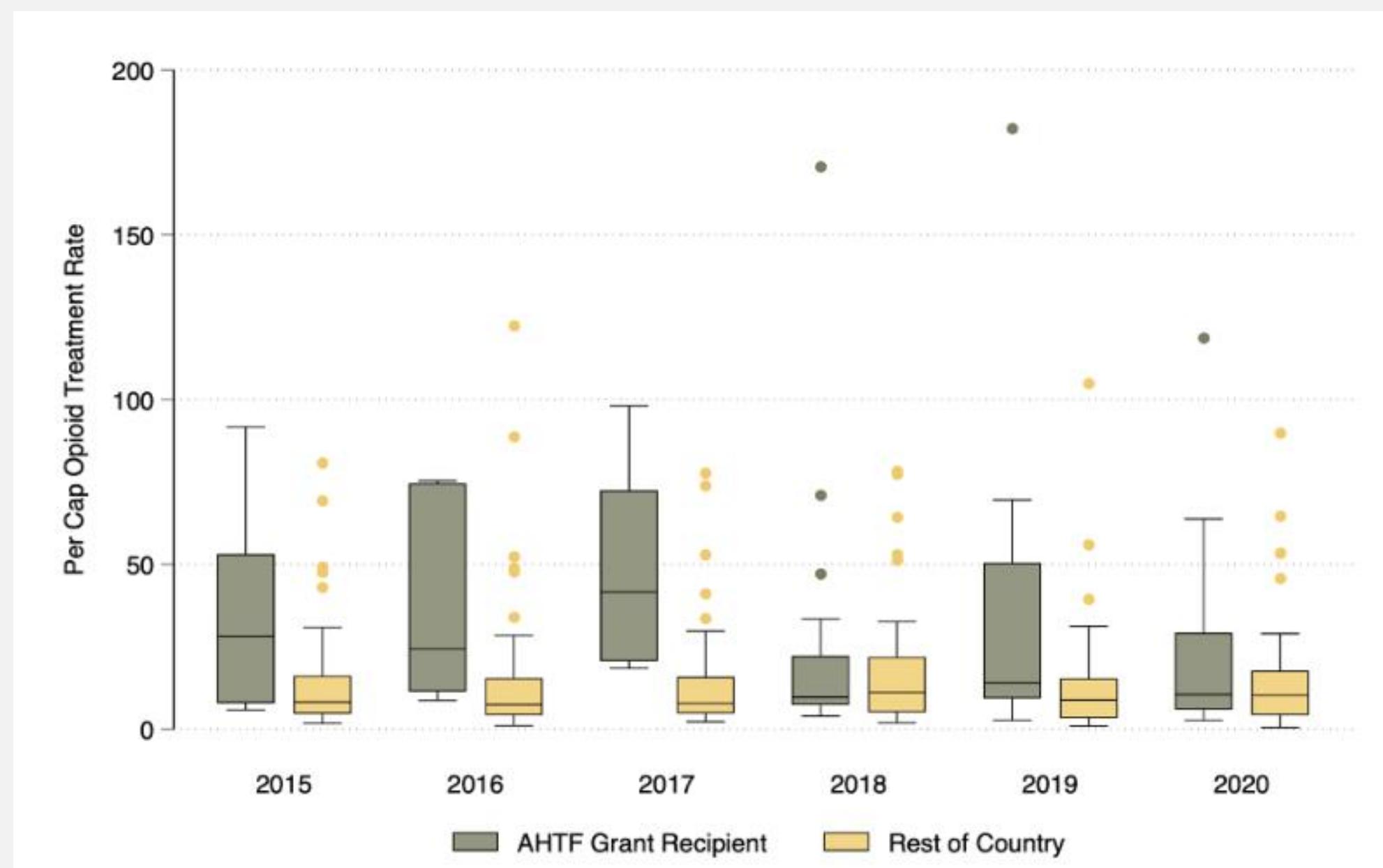
We find a moderate reduction in:

- Opioid treatment admissions
- Opioid overdoses

We find no effect on:

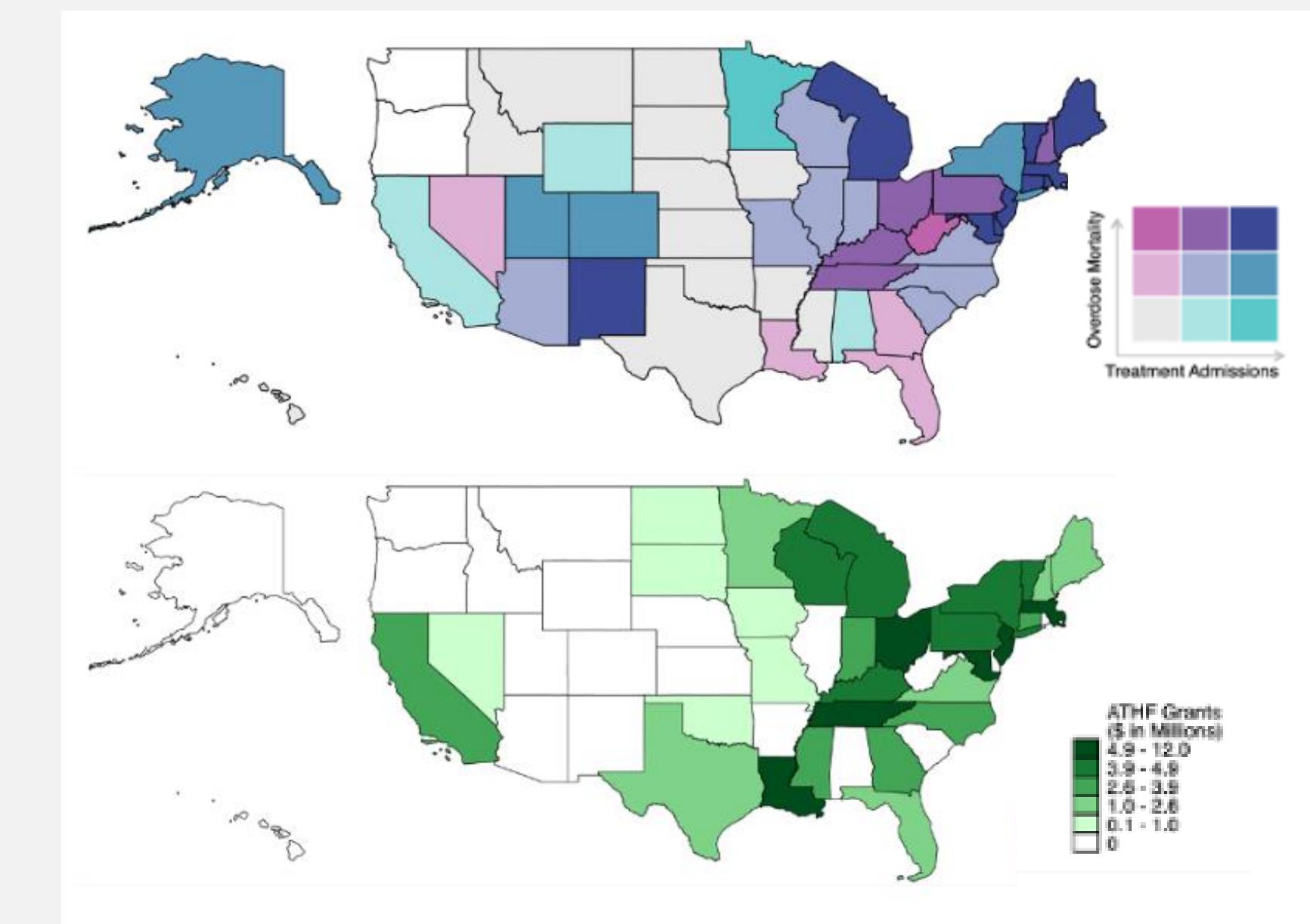
- Drug seizures
- Drug sale arrests

Figure 3. Treatment admission rates.



Results

Figure 4. Treatment and AHTF grant heat maps.



Funding allocation:

- Treatment admissions two years prior was a strong predictor of receiving a grant
- However, treatment admissions can indicate treatment accessibility rather than opioid-related problems.
- Treatment admissions also have not been evaluated as an outcome prior to this study.

Discussion/Conclusion

Key Takeaways:

- Funding is allocated based on the program criteria
- Opioid crisis is a dynamic and multifaceted issue
- Treatment admissions are an important but limited measure

Recommendations:

- Expand criteria to include public health and safety measures
- Focus on growing fentanyl crisis
- Perform systematic evaluation each year assessing the impact of grants on crime and health-related

References

Email akn5535@psu.edu for more information! See the following QR code for works cited:

