

NC Department of Health and Human  
Services

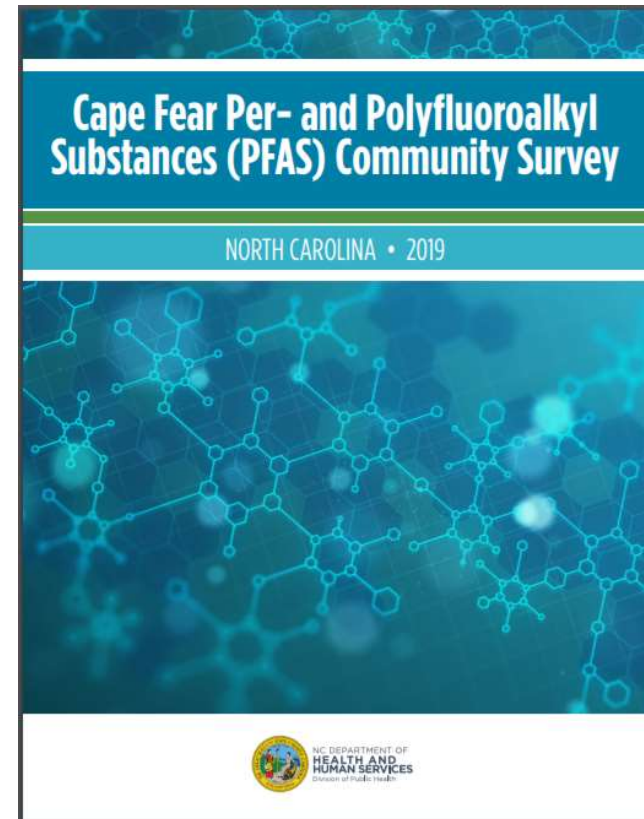
# Cape Fear PFAS Community Survey & Community Involvement Plan

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# 2019 Cape Fear PFAS Community Survey

- **Purpose: Document community concerns about PFAS**
- **Use results to guide future health education activities**
- **Results released January 2020**
- **[bit.ly/surveyresults2019](https://bit.ly/surveyresults2019)**



# Key Findings

- After Receiving Recommendations Not to Use Water



**34% changed water use**  
WITHOUT BEING TOLD TO CHANGE USAGE

# Key Findings

- After Receiving Recommendations Not to Use Water



### Did You Know?

Most PFAS exposures occur via contaminated food or water. Based on the current science, **very little exposure occurs during swimming, bathing, or showering.** Only a tiny amount of PFAS can get into your body through your skin.

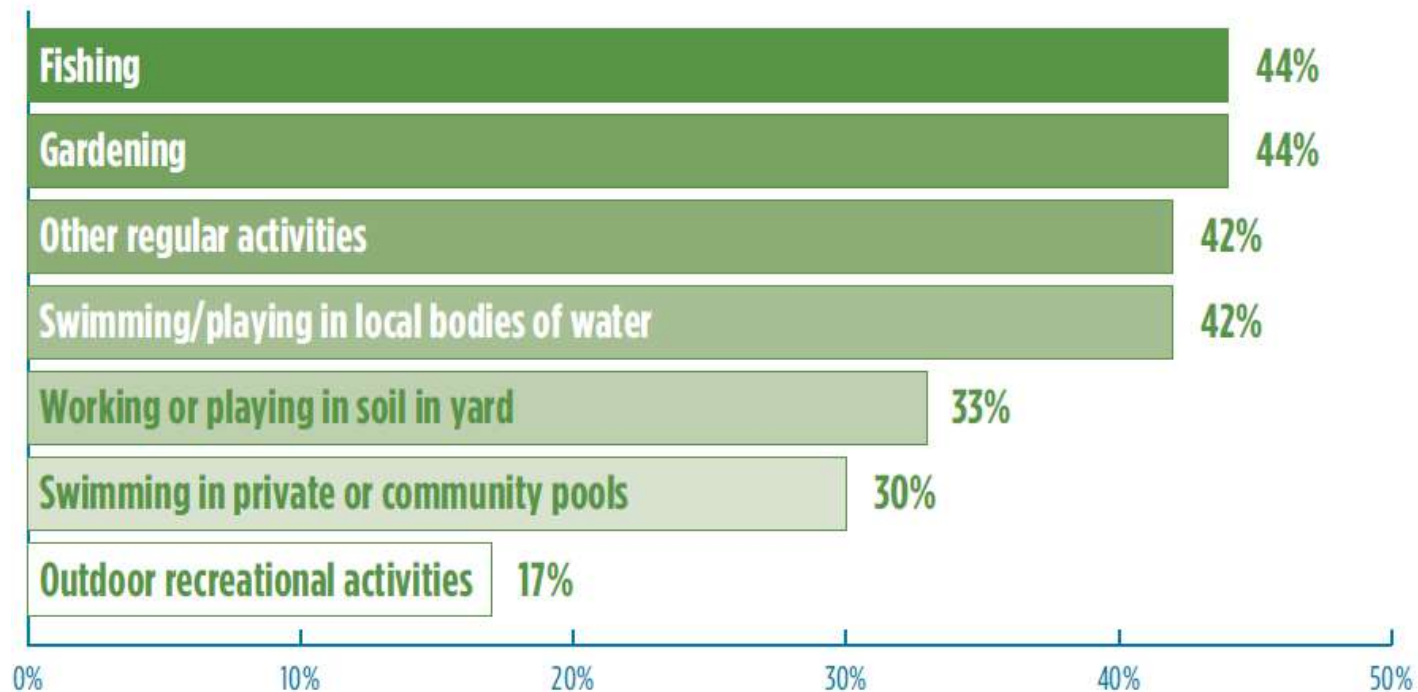
# Key Findings

- **38% of households decreased activities such as fishing, gardening, and swimming**

FIGURE 7. BEHAVIORAL CHANGE AFTER LEARNING ABOUT GENX OR OTHER PFAS

Percentage of households decreasing activities • Questions #18 and 19\* • N=709

\*Respondents were able to select more than one activity.



# Key Findings: Health Concerns

THEME*	DESCRIPTION OF THEME	N	%
<b>Uncertain</b>	Don't know, unknown, not sure, uncertain, what are the effects?, need more information	237	35
<b>Cancer</b>	Cancer, carcinogen, cancerous	162	24
<b>Other health**</b>	Other health effects noted less frequently, including headaches/dizziness, developmental effects, neurological effects, diabetes, stress or fear, allergies, liver effects, etc.	109	16
<b>Long-term/Chronic effects</b>	Long-term effects, chronic health, concern about future health effects	72	11
<b>Animals</b>	Animals' health (e.g. livestock, chickens, horses, dogs, cats, pets)	49	7
<b>General health</b>	General health risk, all health concerns, anything	47	7
<b>Skin</b>	Skin, eczema, rashes, itching, boils	46	7
<b>Respiratory</b>	Asthma, lung effects, COPD, coughing, sinus issues, respiratory effects	40	6
<b>Gastrointestinal</b>	Stomach, esophageal, gallbladder, intestinal, or gastrointestinal effects, digestive issues, indigestion, nausea	38	6

# Key Findings: Communication Needs

- Need for better and more timely communication, especially information about exposure
- Most households want communication by mail

FIGURE 11. PREFERRED METHODS OF COMMUNICATION

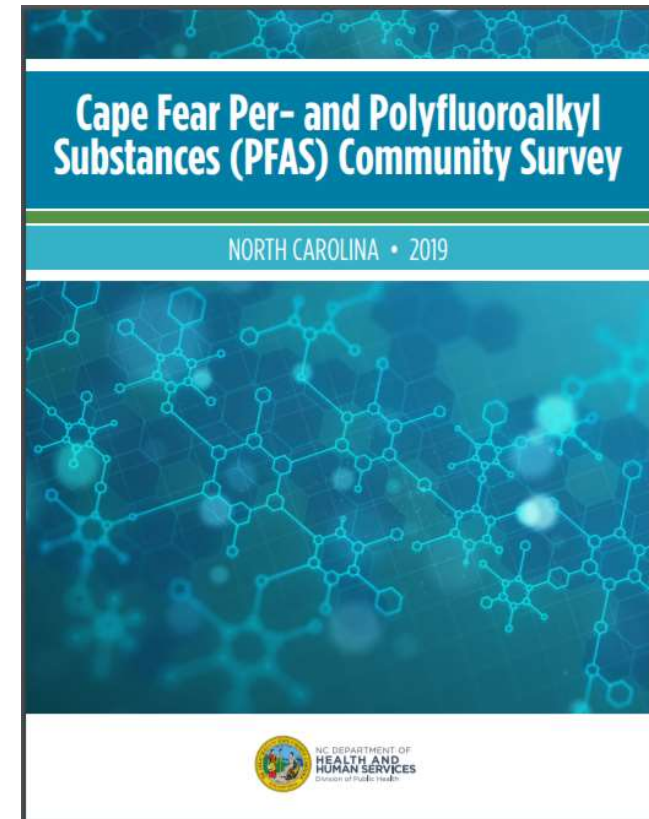
Upcoming events • Questions #27\* • N=1,701

\*Respondents were able to select more than one communication method.



# Community Involvement Plan

- **Promote communication between community members and NCDHHS about health concerns related to PFAS**
- **Make sure community needs are acknowledged and addressed**





# Community Involvement Plan Activities

- Establish a hardcopy repository at Annie H McEachern Library – 223 W Broad Street St. Pauls (*Dec 2019*)
- Develop and maintain a mailing list (*shared with DEQ*)
- Update webpages for GenX and PFAS (*Jan 2020*)
- Distribute GenX and PFAS factsheets (*Feb 2020*)
- Participate in public meetings (*ongoing*)
- Develop memo for local physicians with information on health concerns and PFAS testing (*July 2020*)
- *Future:* Focus groups for feedback on the CIP
- *Future:* Small group outreach presentations

## Next Step: Virtual Focus Groups

- NCDHHS is seeking focus group participants for community feedback on the Community Involvement Plan
- Share input on PFAS educational materials and community outreach
- To participate or obtain more info, email [nchace@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:nchace@dhhs.nc.gov)

## For more information:

**Occupational and Environmental Epidemiology Branch**

**Phone: (919) 707-5900**

**E-mail: [nchace@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:nchace@dhhs.nc.gov)**

**Survey results: [bit.ly/surveyresults2019](https://bit.ly/surveyresults2019)**



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