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
Key Findings

• After Receiving Recommendations Not to Use Water

STOP
66% Stopped Using Water

CONTINUED TO USE WELL WATER FOR:

- 29% Brushing Teeth
- 10% Cooking
- 6% Drinking
- 1% Making Baby Formula
- 1% Don’t Know

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
### Key Findings: Health Concerns

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

• Need for better and more timely communication, especially information about exposure

• Most households want communication by mail

*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
For more information:

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E-mail: nchace@dhhs.nc.gov
Survey results: bit.ly/surveyresults2019