Public Health Role

• Determine whether compounds detected through environmental sampling could pose a risk to human health
• Provide health-based guidance on levels of exposure to such contaminants
• Conduct risk assessments and risk communication
NCDHHS Can Provide:

• Provisional Drinking Water Health Goals
• Fish Consumption Advisories
• Biomonitoring
• Health Education
Provisional Drinking Water Health Goals

• Level of contamination below which no adverse health effects would be expected over a lifetime of exposure

• Calculated based on the most vulnerable population

• Non-regulatory, non-enforceable

• Change as new information becomes available
Health Goal Requirements

• Must have sufficient health-related information
  – Animal studies
  – Epidemiologic studies (human health)
  – Other laboratory studies

• Some health-related information not in public domain

• Health-related information often lacking for emerging compounds
Example – GenX

- NCDHHS Provisional Drinking Water Health Goal of 140 ppt
- NCDHHS requested SSAB review
- SSAB confirmed RfD and provisional drinking water health goal in 2018
- Provided health risk information to:
  - Public water utilities in Southeastern NC (serve 200,000+ residents)
  - Private well owners near Chemours facility (protected 232 households over health goal)
Fish Consumption Advisories

- Must have sufficient toxicity data for chemicals (i.e. RfD or CSF)
- Must have sufficient fish tissue data
  - Collected/analyzed by external partner
- Advisories set based on subsistence fishers
- Coordinate with local health departments to communicate to community
  - Develop health education materials, signage, etc.
Biomonitoring

• Completed on limited basis in the past
• Requires additional staff and resources not currently available at DHHS
Biomonitoring (cont.)

• PFAS biomonitoring can:
  − Tell us what chemicals people have been exposed to and at what level they are in people’s bodies
  − Tell us how levels compare across communities
  − Be used to track trends over time

• PFAS biomonitoring cannot:
  − Tell someone where or how they were exposed
  − Tell someone what, if any, health problems might occur, or have occurred, because of PFAS exposure
  − Be used to guide medical treatment decisions
Health Education

• Continue to provide and update education as new information becomes available.
Questions?

bit.ly/dhhspfas