

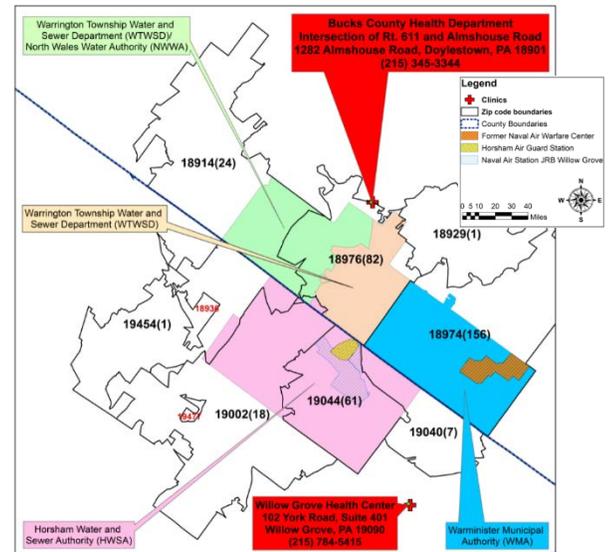
PFAS EXPOSURE ASSESSMENT TECHNICAL TOOLS PILOT PROJECT

BACKGROUND

The Pennsylvania Department of Health is piloting a project to test resident exposure to per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in affected areas of Bucks and Montgomery counties through a grant from the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials. The study will use and provide feedback on a toolkit developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the federal Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), the study will lay the scientific groundwork for a larger, national study.

WHAT WILL THE STUDY INVOLVE?

Approximately 500 residents will be randomly selected for biomonitoring. The selection is limited to residents whose home addresses are within the most affected public water service areas near Department of Defense bases. This includes Warrington, Warminster and Horsham Townships, Ivyland Borough and a part of Warwick Township, including parts of 18929, 18976, 18914, 19454, 19002, 19044, 19040 and 18974 zip codes (see map to the right). Residents who lived in the area prior to June 2016 are eligible to participate. Participants' blood samples will be analyzed for eleven PFAS. They will also be required to fill out a questionnaire on basic information like demographics, length of residence in the area, exposure, occupation and health effects. Community meetings will be organized prior to the beginning of the study and during the study period to explain the project and progress.



WHAT WILL THE RESULTS BE USED FOR?

Participants will get their test results, along with an assessment to interpret the results compared to the rest of the community and the nation. The results of this pilot project will be used to set protocols and baselines for a national study on the health impacts of PFAS.

WHAT ARE PFAS?

- PFAS are man-made chemicals found in consumer products. Health effects related to PFAS are still being studied, but include: interfering with the body's natural hormones; affecting the growth, learning and behavior of infants and children; lowering a woman's chance of getting pregnant; increasing cholesterol levels; affecting the immune system and increasing the risk of cancer.
- Most exposure from PFAS comes from contact with products containing PFAS, drinking contaminated water or eating food that is contaminated with PFAS.

PFAS IN BUCKS AND MONTGOMERY COUNTIES

Some public water supplies in Horsham and Warrington townships were contaminated. All affected municipal wells have been taken offline. Residents with contaminated private wells have been connected to approved public water systems or are provided bottled water. The source of contamination in the groundwater is likely from the past use of aqueous film-forming foam in the area.

NEXT STEPS

The department will reach out to residents selected for the project and conduct biomonitoring in the coming weeks.

If you have any questions about PFAS or the project, contact us at env.health.concern@pa.gov