

# Monitoring and Action for PFAS- Impacted Biosolids and Foods



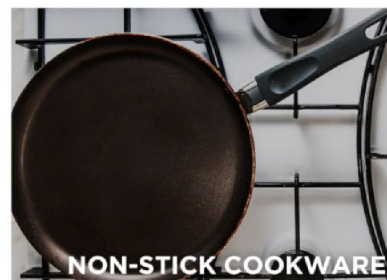
Courtney Carignan, Ph.D.  
Assistant Professor  
Michigan State University

Association of Food and Drug Officials  
June 8, 2024

\*Updated 6/21/24 to improve clarity and include captions



# Provide Stain, Grease, Water and Fire Resistance



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=imZUJJ8keBE>





# ‘Forever Chemicals’ Perfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)



C8

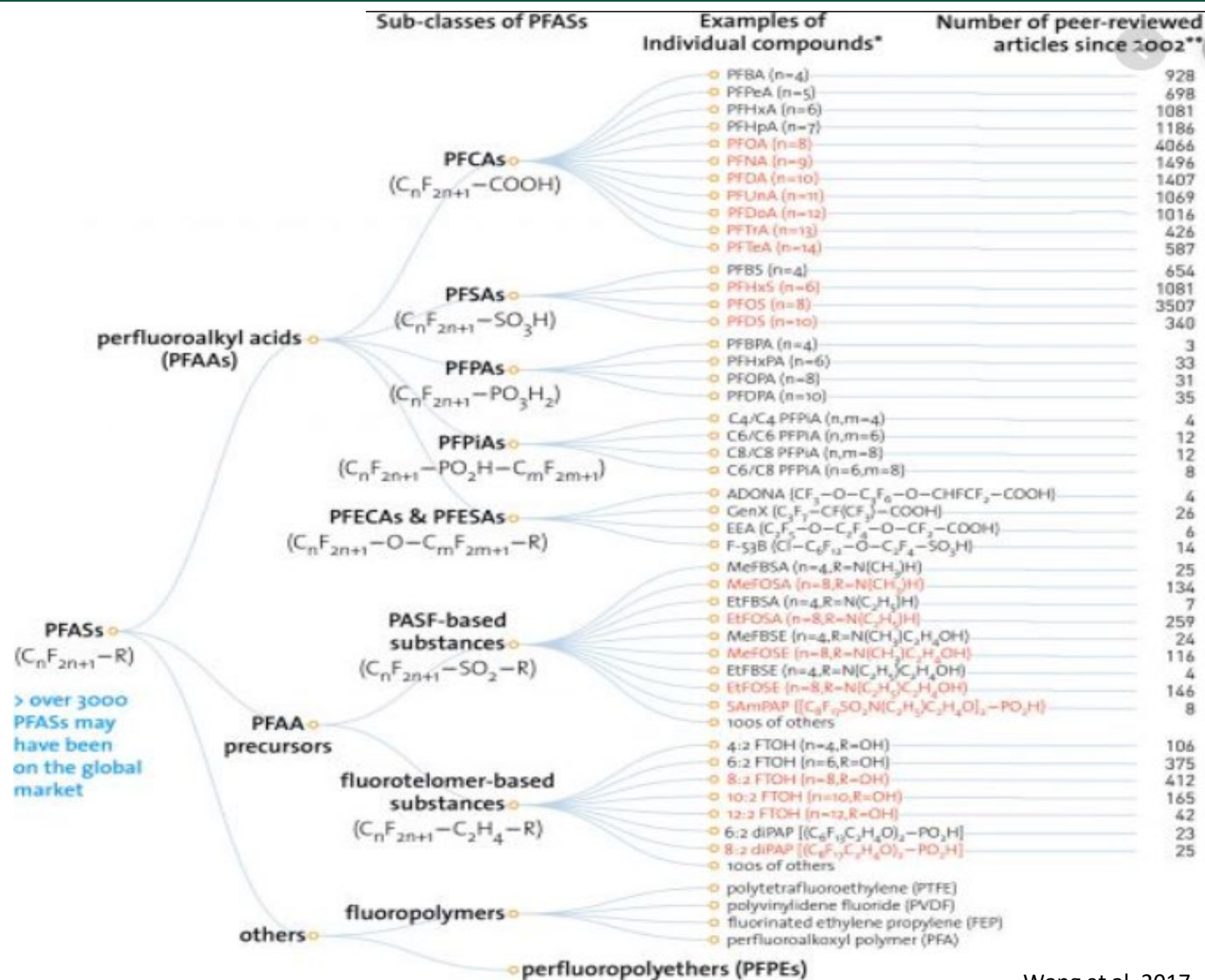
PFOS

PFOA

Legacy  
‘Long Chain’

C6 | C4 | C3

Current Use  
‘Short Chain’



Thousands of PFAS

This shows major categories

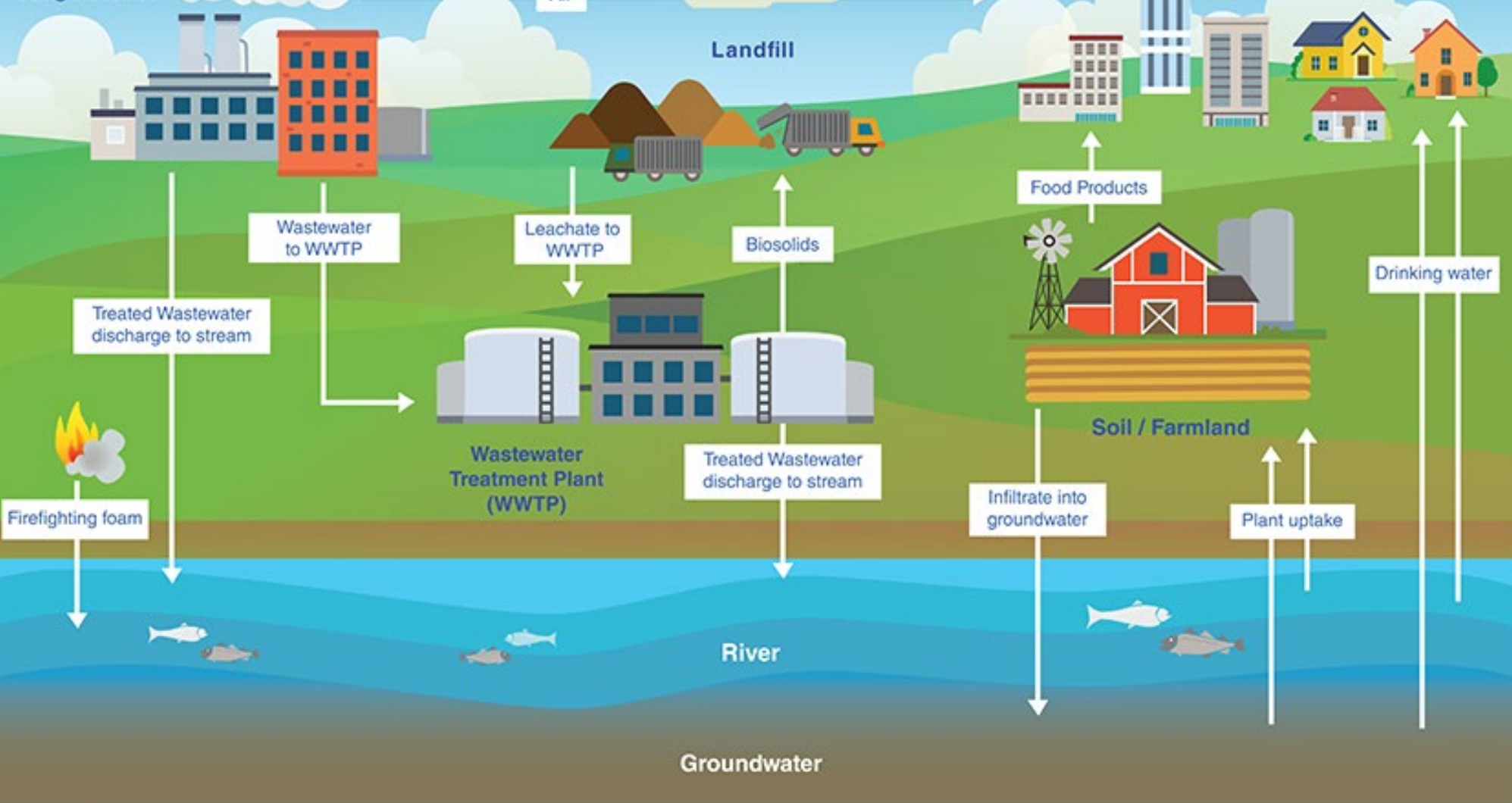
Many 'short chain' PFAS are *precursors*, which means they can transform into the 'long chain' PFAS





# PFAS Cycle

PFAS Production/  
Using Industries



Migrate easily  
from industrial  
plants and  
products

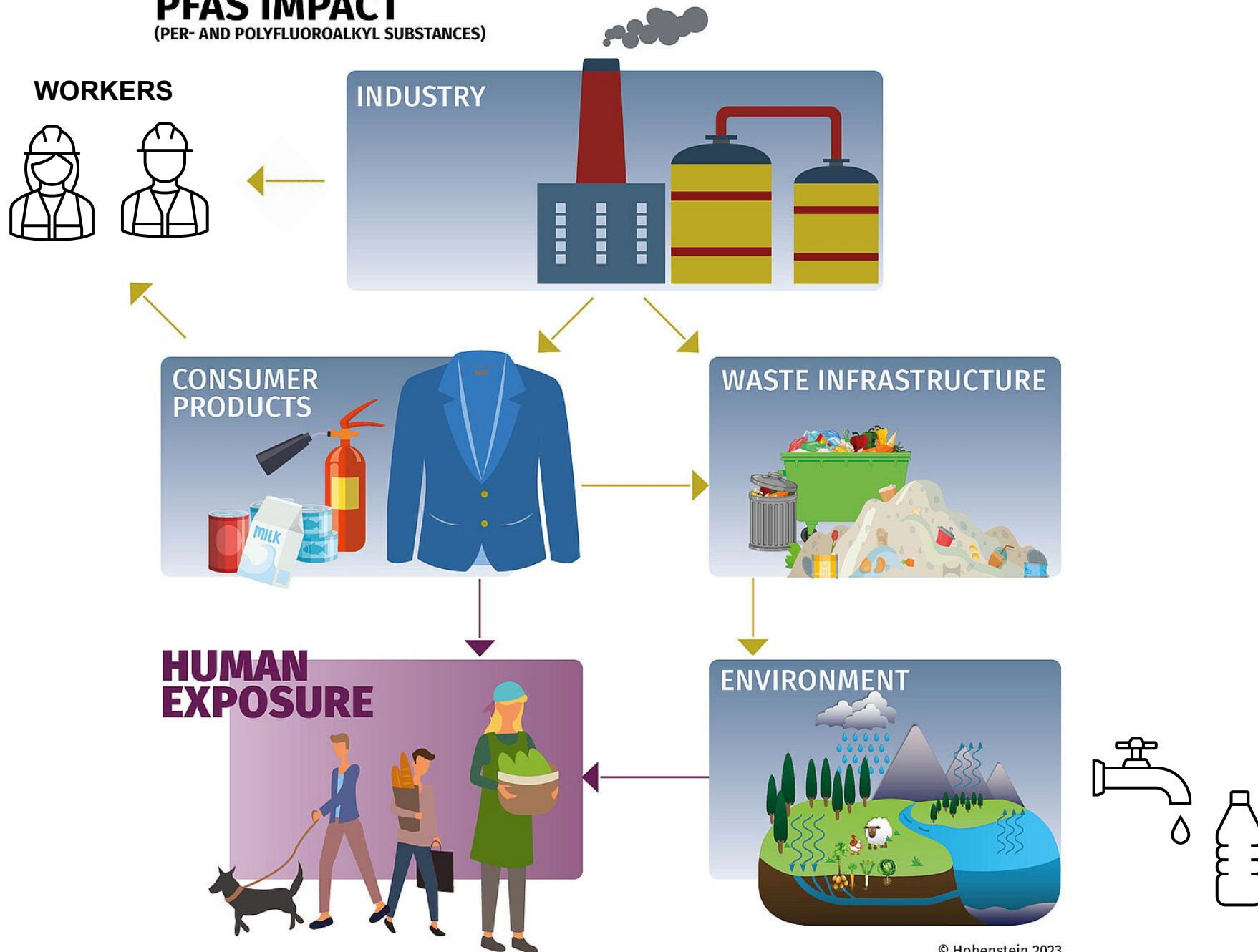


NEW JERSEY  
DEPARTMENT OF  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
PROTECTION

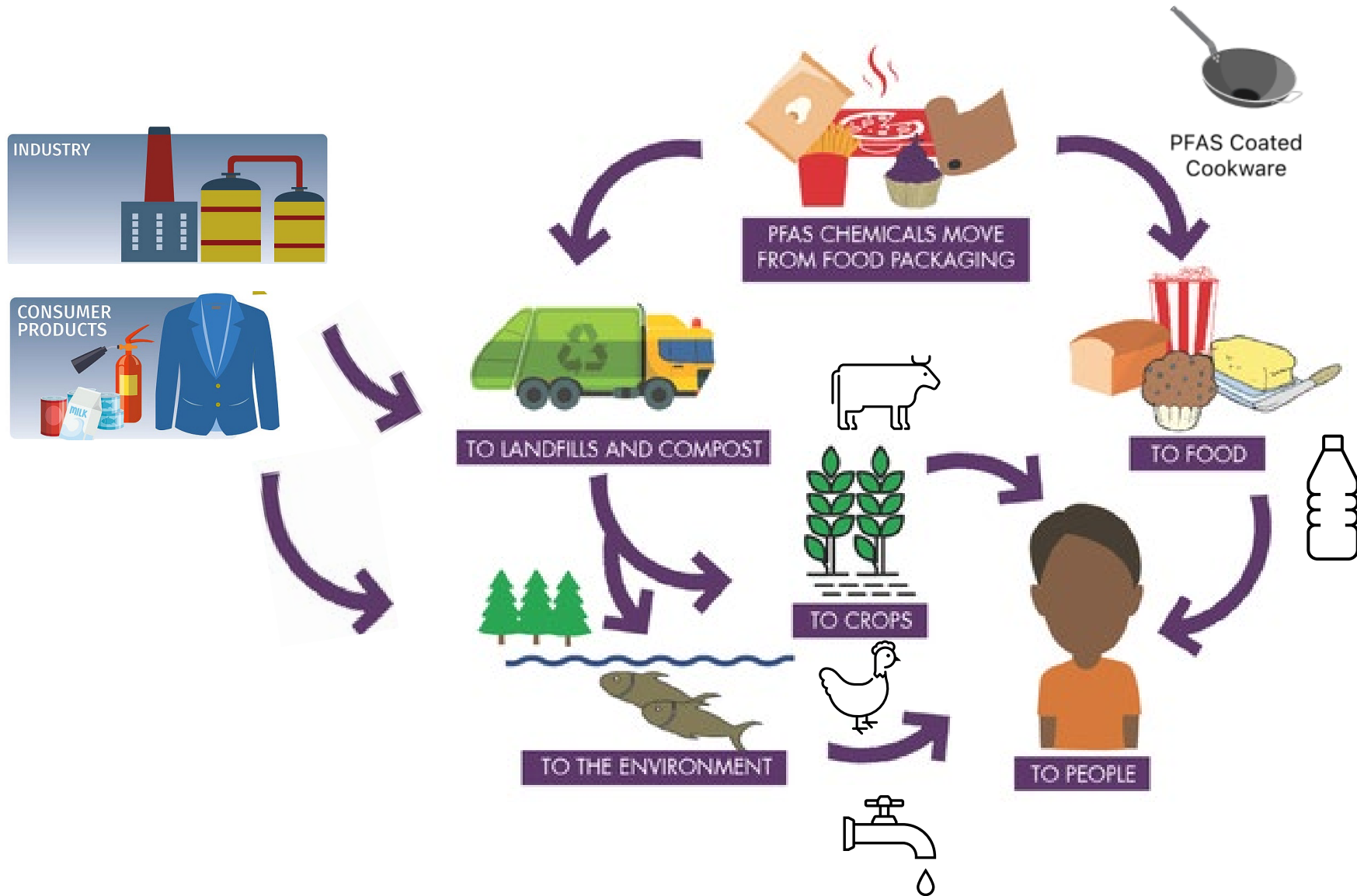
[nj.gov/dep/pfas/](https://nj.gov/dep/pfas/)

# PFAS IMPACT

(PER- AND POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES)







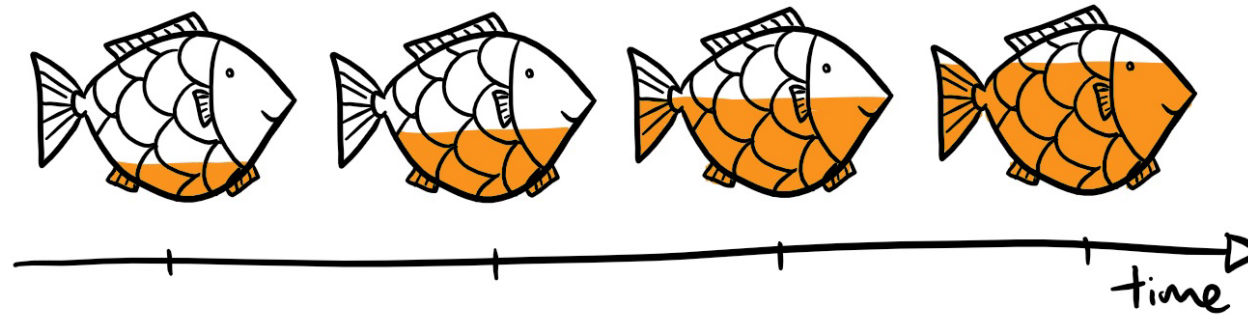
Diet is believed to be the primary PFAS contributor for the general population.

There are many pathways via food contact materials and the environment



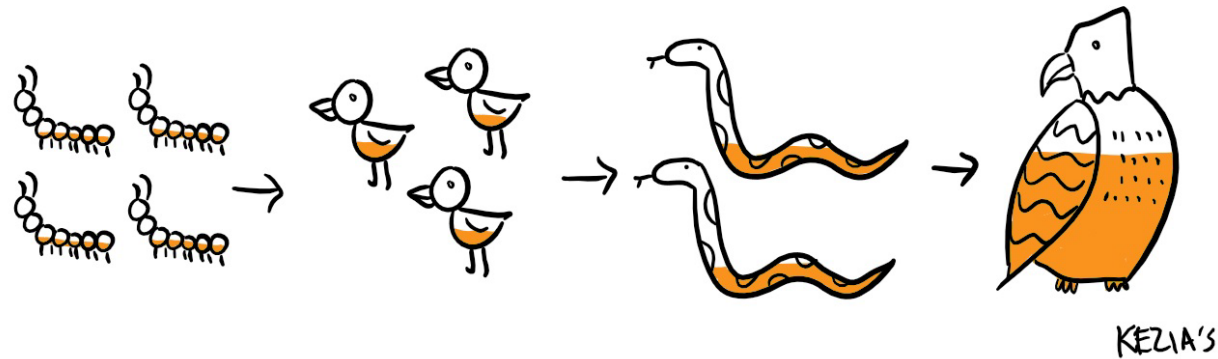
# BIOACCUMULATION

■ - contaminant



Bioaccumulate in animals over time

# BIO MAGNIFICATION



Biomagnify up the food chain





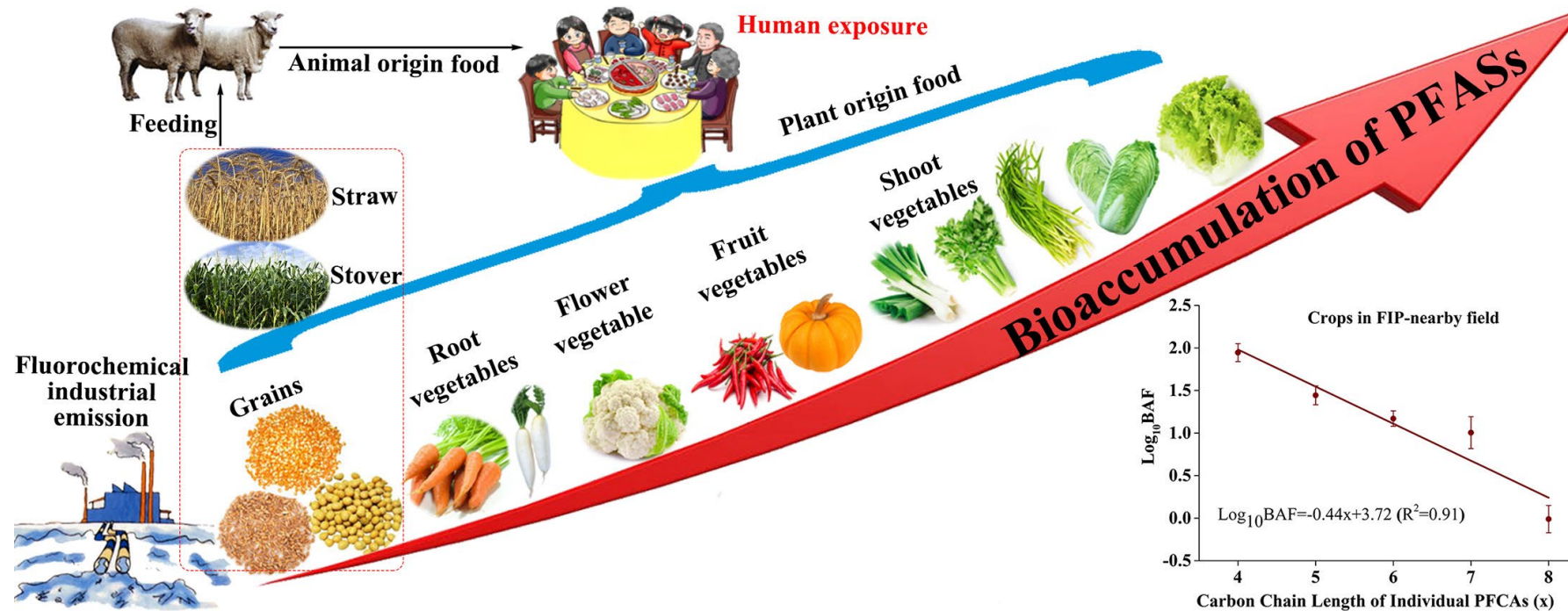
# Extremely persistent

Transported all over the world

Accumulate in animals and up the food chain



Legacy (long-chain)  
PFAS bioaccumulate  
in animals



Liu et al 2019





## Found in the bodies of most Americans



**Born exposed**





## Health Concerns:

- High cholesterol
- Immune effects (e.g., reduced antibody response)
- Decreased infant and fetal growth
- Certain cancers (kidney, testicular, breast)
- Pregnancy induced hypertension
- Thyroid disease and dysfunction
- Autoimmune disease (e.g., ulcerative colitis)

<https://www.nationalacademies.org/our-work/guidance-on-pfas-testing-and-health-outcomes>

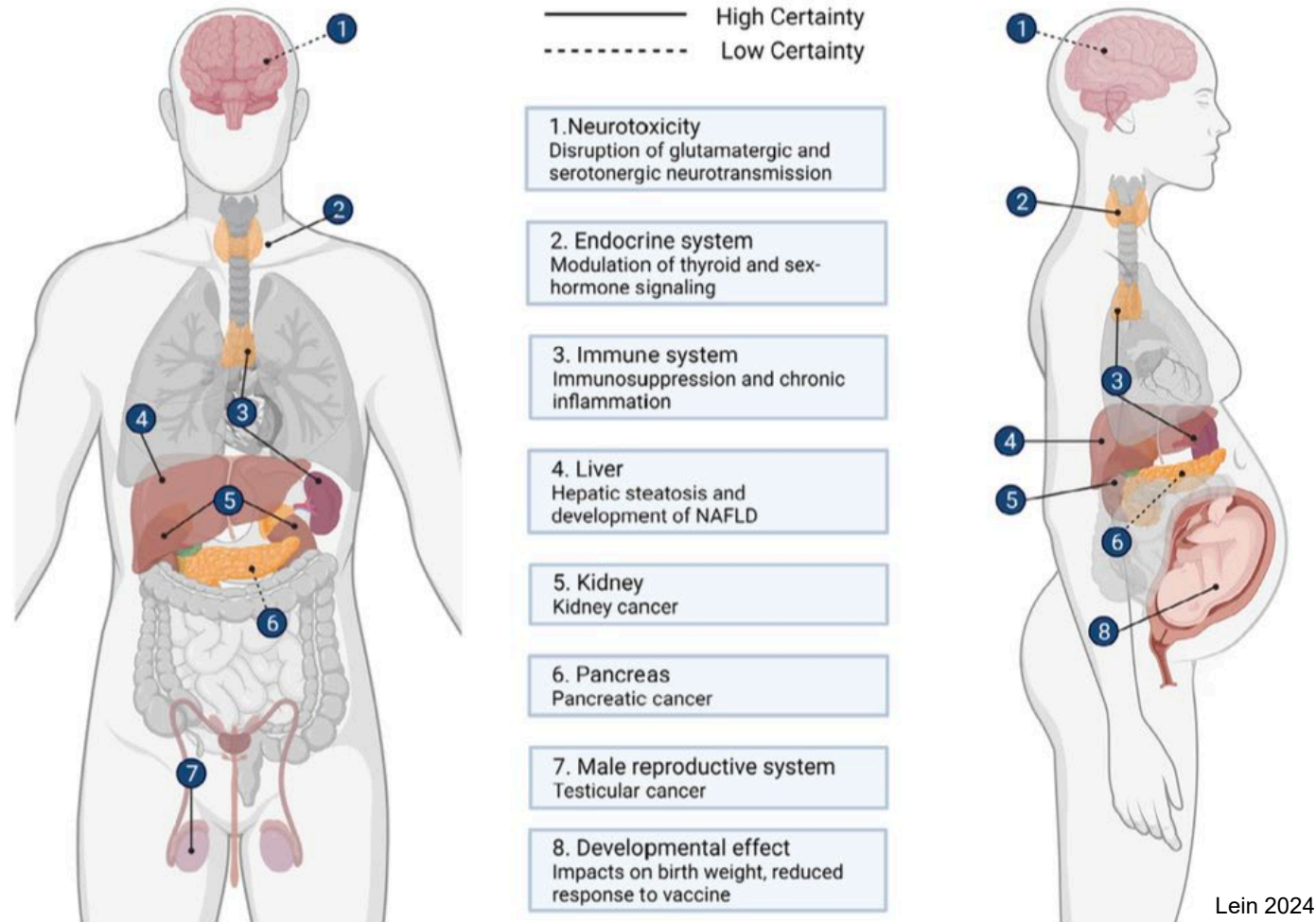


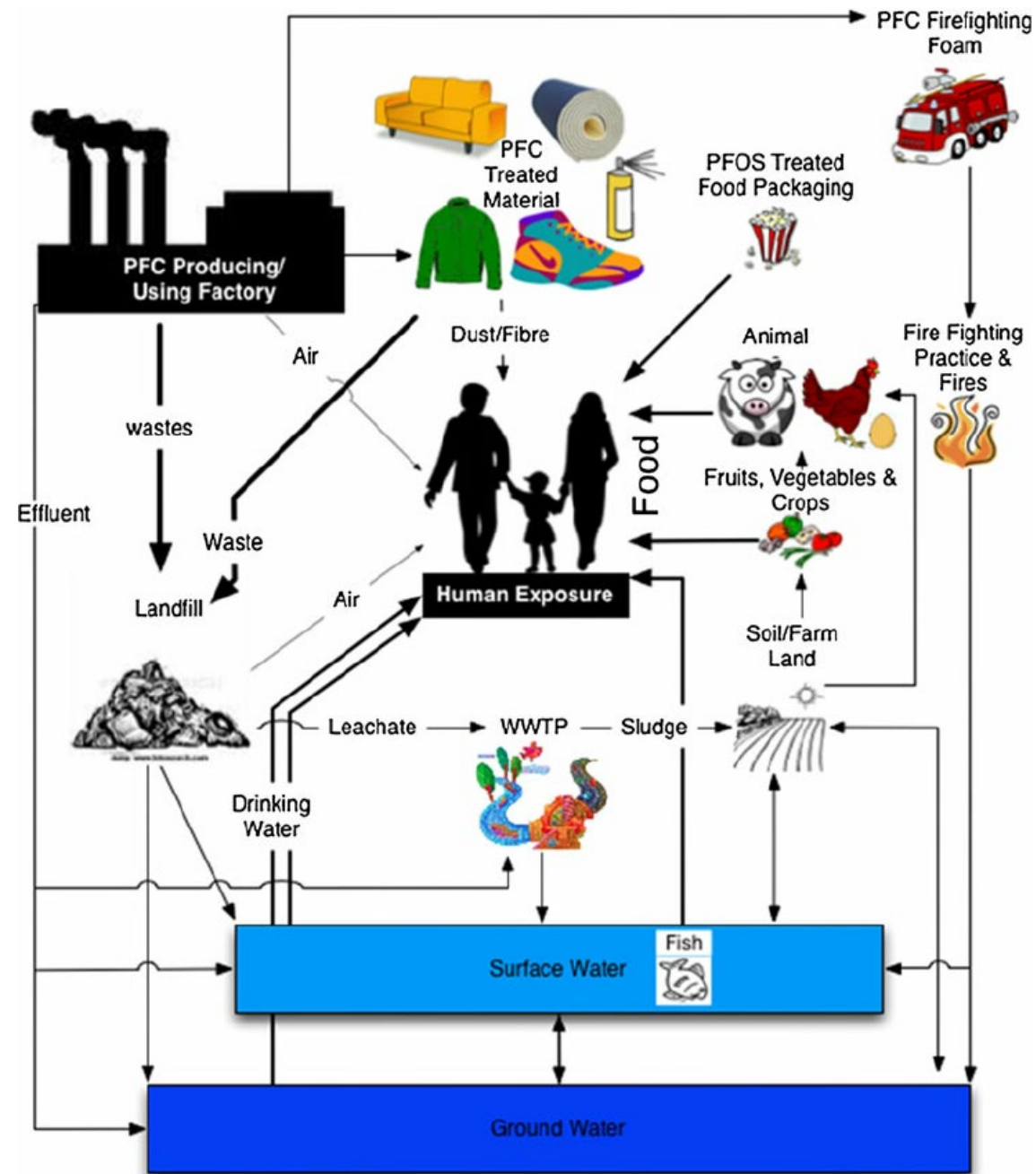


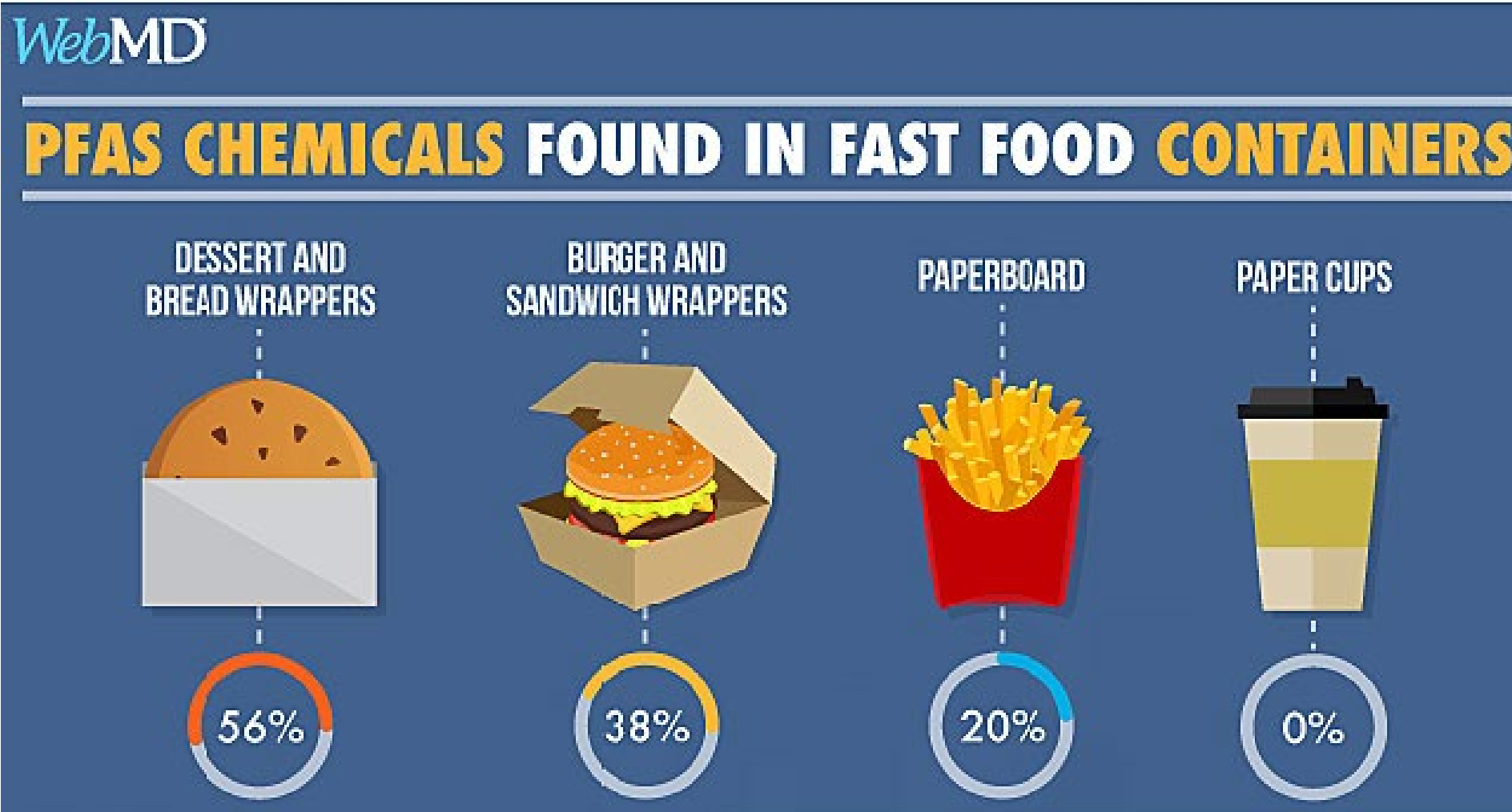
**Figure 2:** Toxicological effects of PFAS on human biology. Solid lines indicate biological effects for which there is strong evidence; dashed lines, biological effects for which there is more limited evidence.

Effect multiple systems of the body.

Sensitive endpoints are developmental and immune.







Based on Schaider et al. ES&T Letters 2017



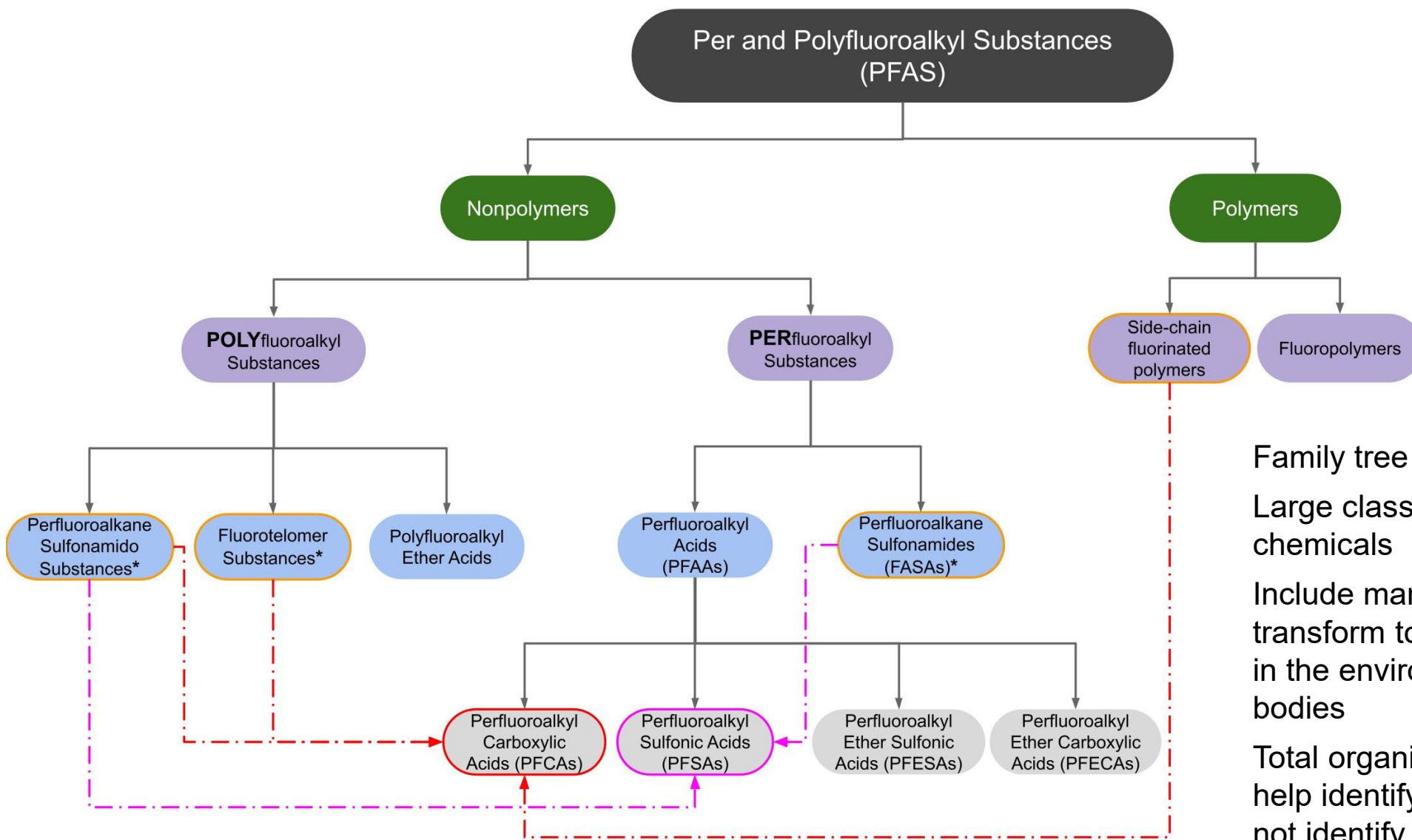
# Food Contact Materials

- Applied to paper food packaging for grease resistance
- Migrates from packaging into foods
- People who eat more popcorn have higher PFAS levels in their blood
- Transitioned from long-chain (PFOA) to short-chain (6:2 FTS)
- FDA announced in 2024 that grease-proofing materials containing PFAS are no longer being sold for use in food packaging in the U.S.



Phased out (not regulated) domestically  
Still FDA authorized for limited use in  
cookware, food packaging and food  
processing equipment

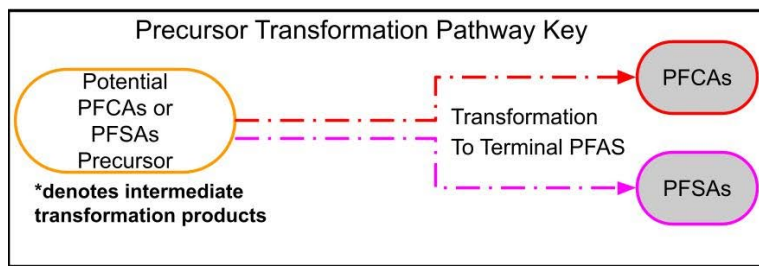




Family tree of PFAS sub-groups  
Large class of over 20,000 chemicals

Include many 'precursors' that transform to PFCAs and PFSAs in the environment and our bodies

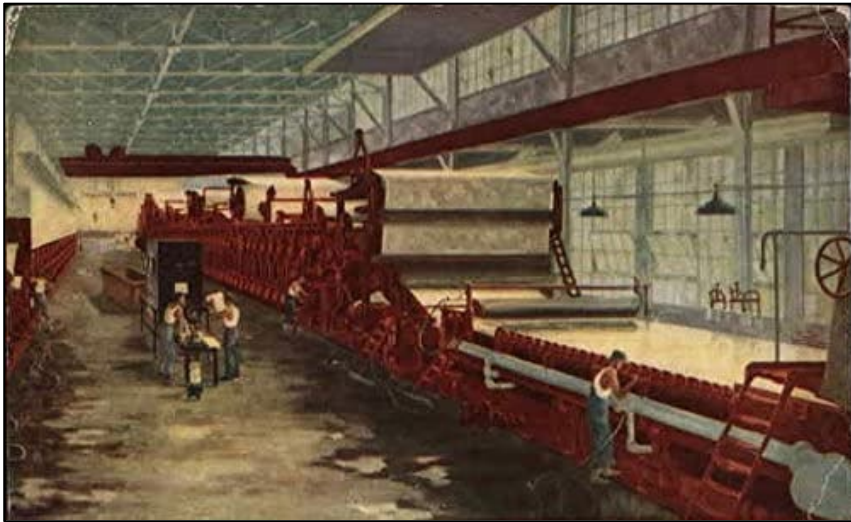
Total organic fluorine tests can help identify how much PFAS is not identify by standard method



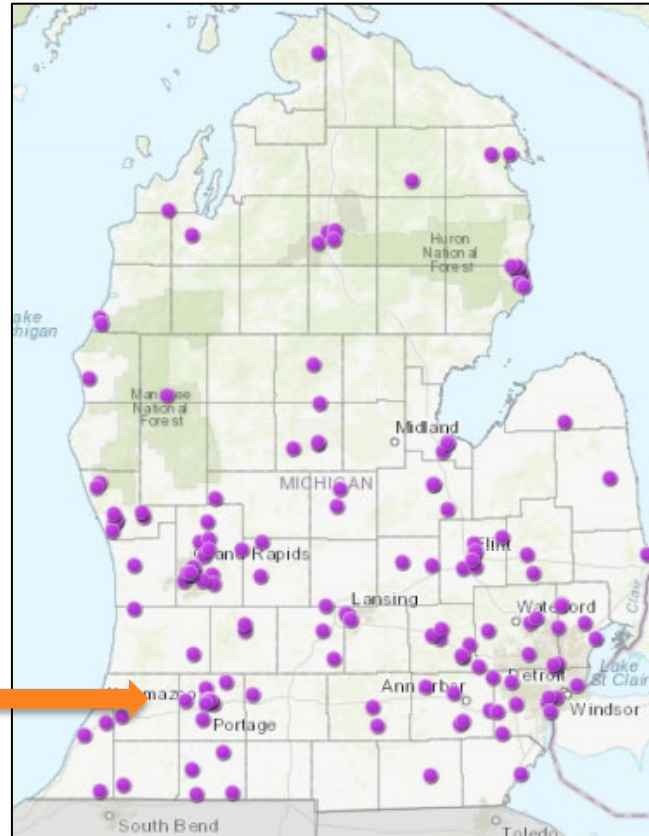
**POLY**fluoroalkyl substances contain a carbon alkyl backbone, attached to a functional group(s), with *at least* one hydrogen bonded to carbon replaced with fluorine

**PER**fluoroalkyl substances have a carbon alkyl backbone, attached to a functional group(s), with *only* fluorine atoms replacing *all* hydrogens

# Former Crown Vantage Paper Mill Parchment, MI



Used in grease  
resistant paper  
food packaging



Paper making waste disposed in  
nearby landfill



PFAS from the landfill  
contaminated the  
groundwater and the  
nearby municipal wells



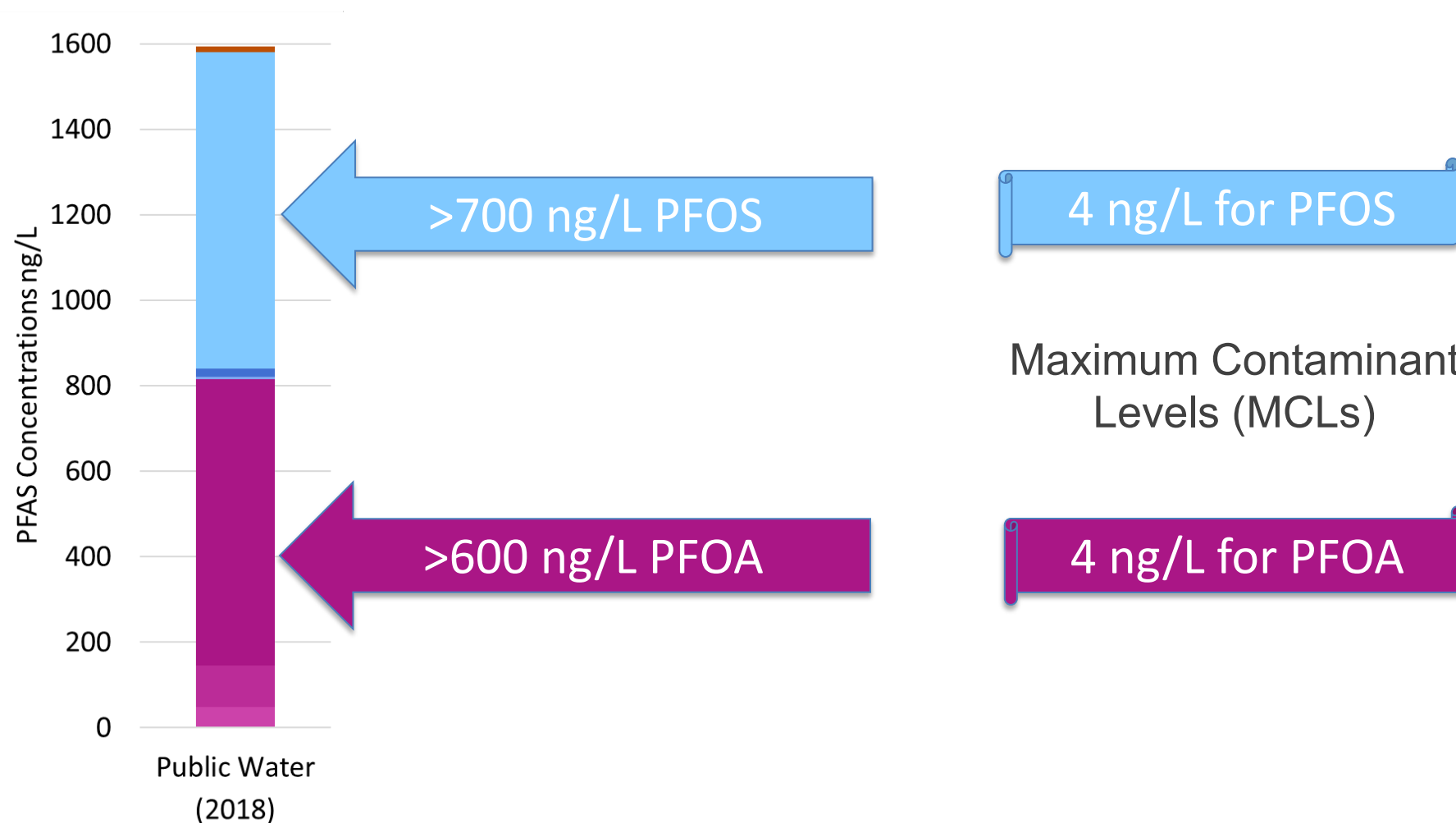
PFAS Concentration (ng/L)

Milt Klingensmith | MLive.com



# High PFAS Concentrations in Municipal Water

1600 ng/L (parts per trillion)



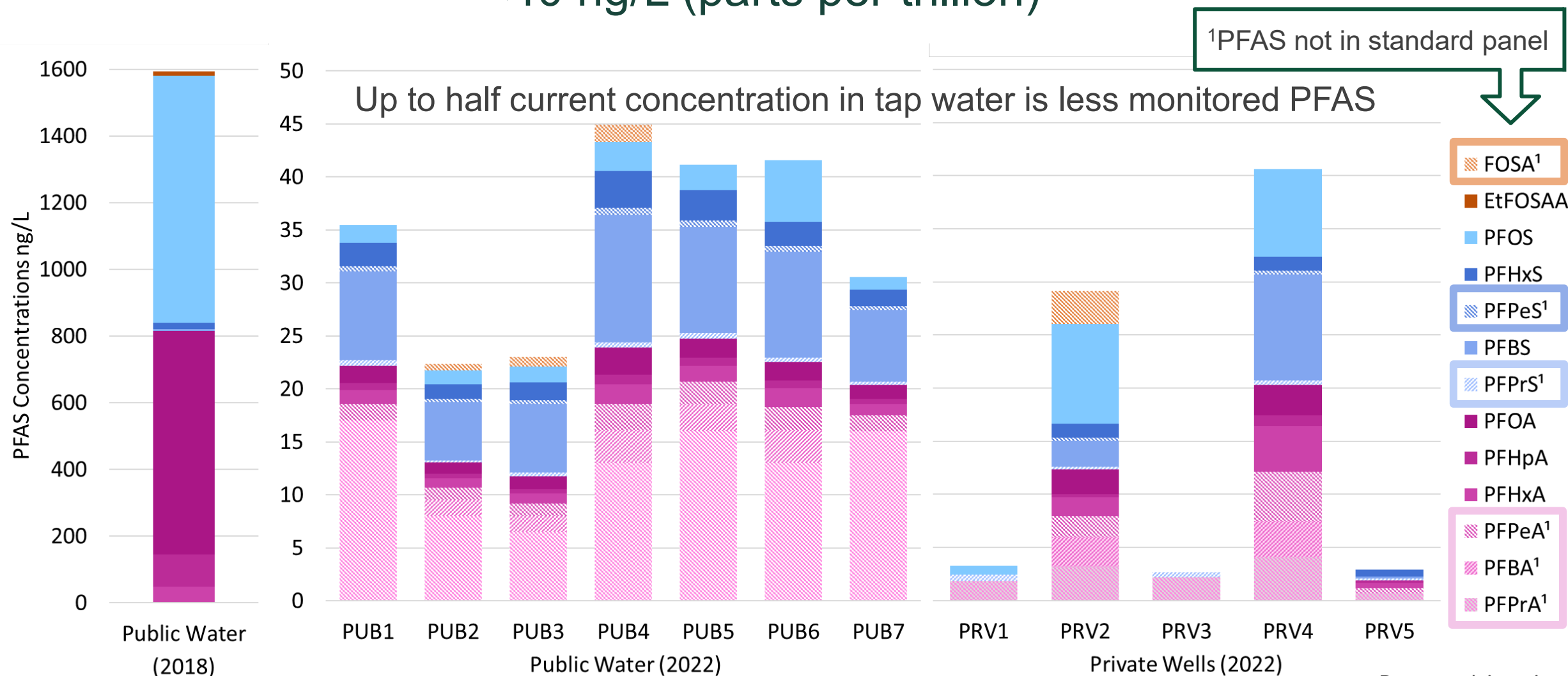
# Drinking Water Interventions





# Lower PFAS Concentrations in Current Tap Water

<40 ng/L (parts per trillion)



# Local and Home Produced Foods



Local Fish



Home Grown Produce



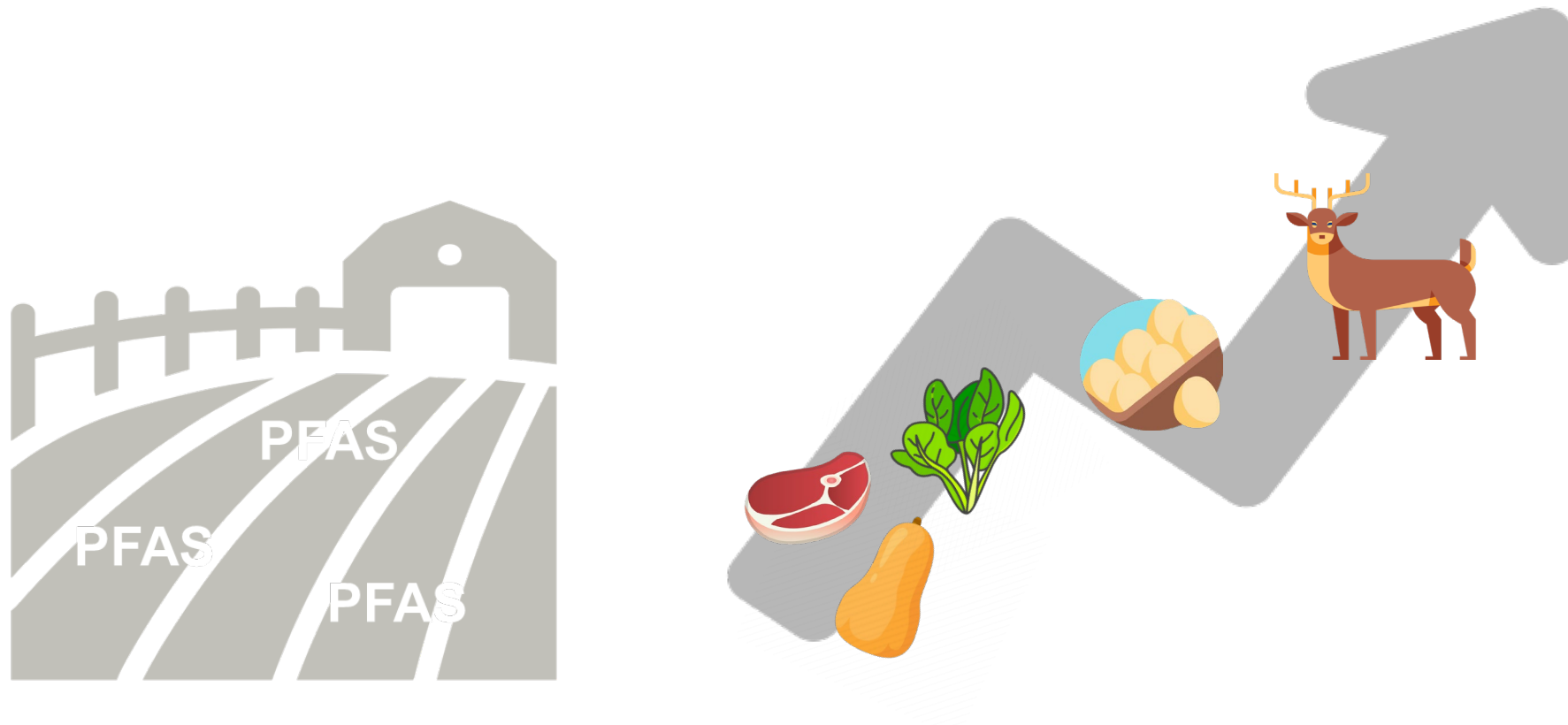
Home Produced Eggs



Local Venison



# Elevated PFAS in animal products and some produce contribute to local dietary exposure



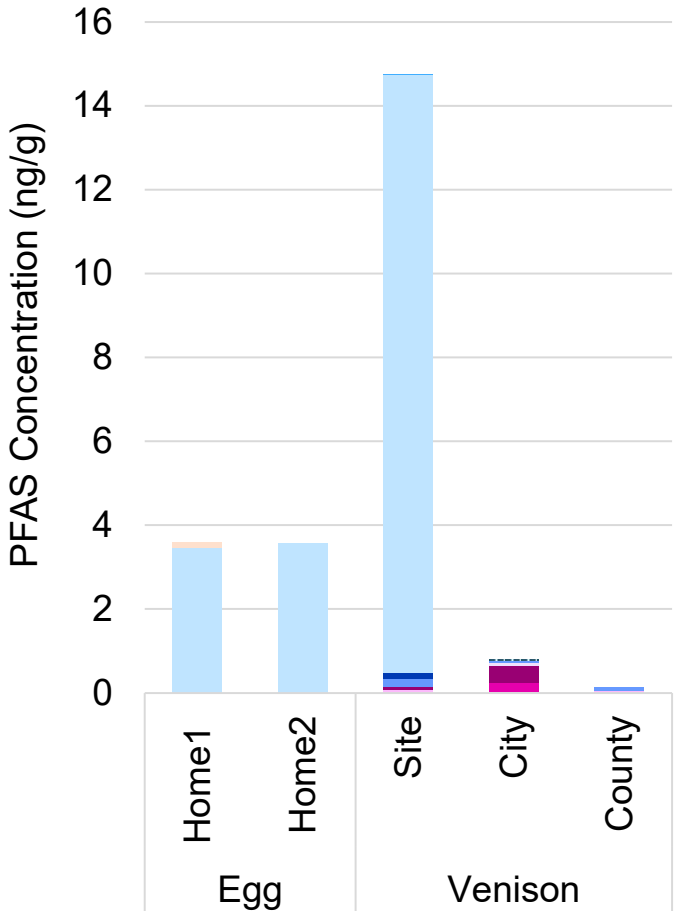
Credit: A. Bhattacharya



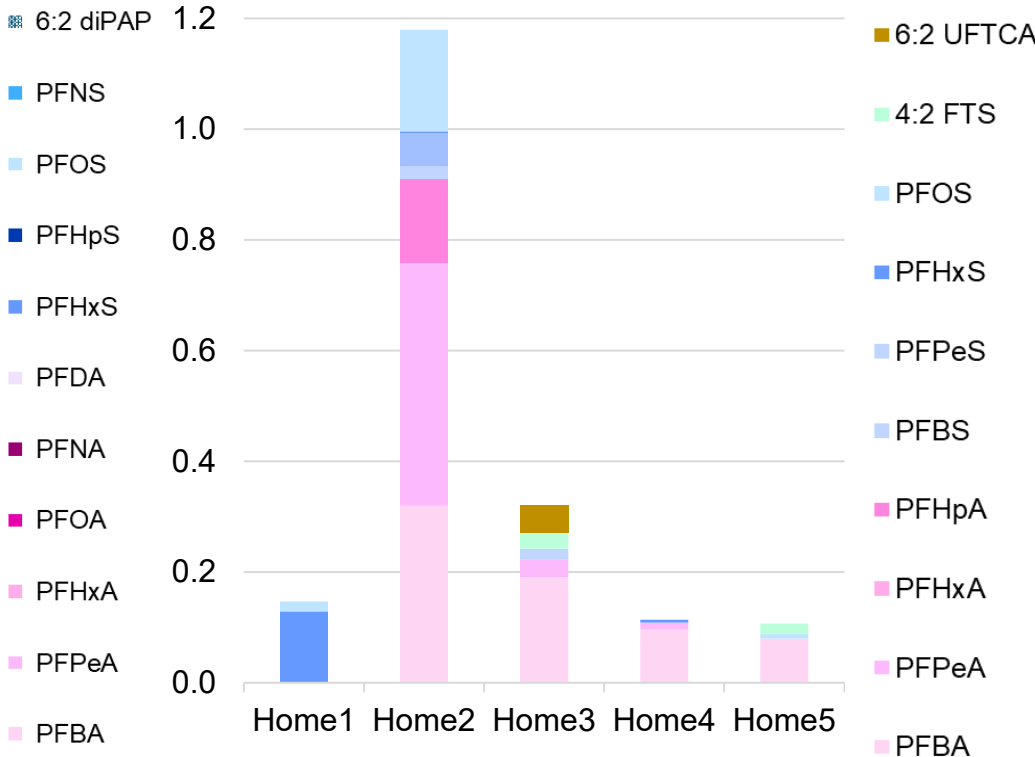


PFAS in home/local foods 3 years after the intervention

Eggs & Venison  
(ppb)

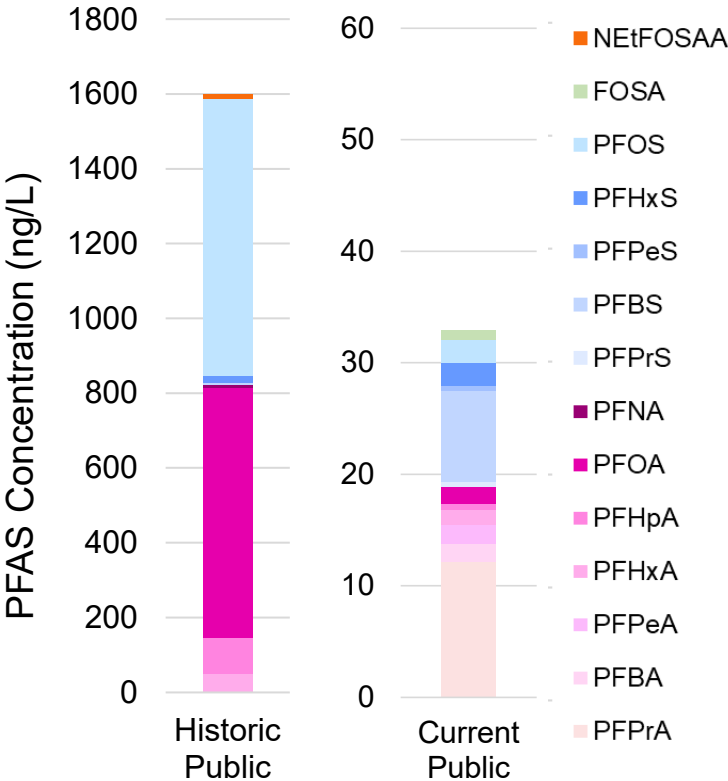


Garden Produce  
(ppb)



Levels in water pre- and post intervention

Tap Water  
(ppt)

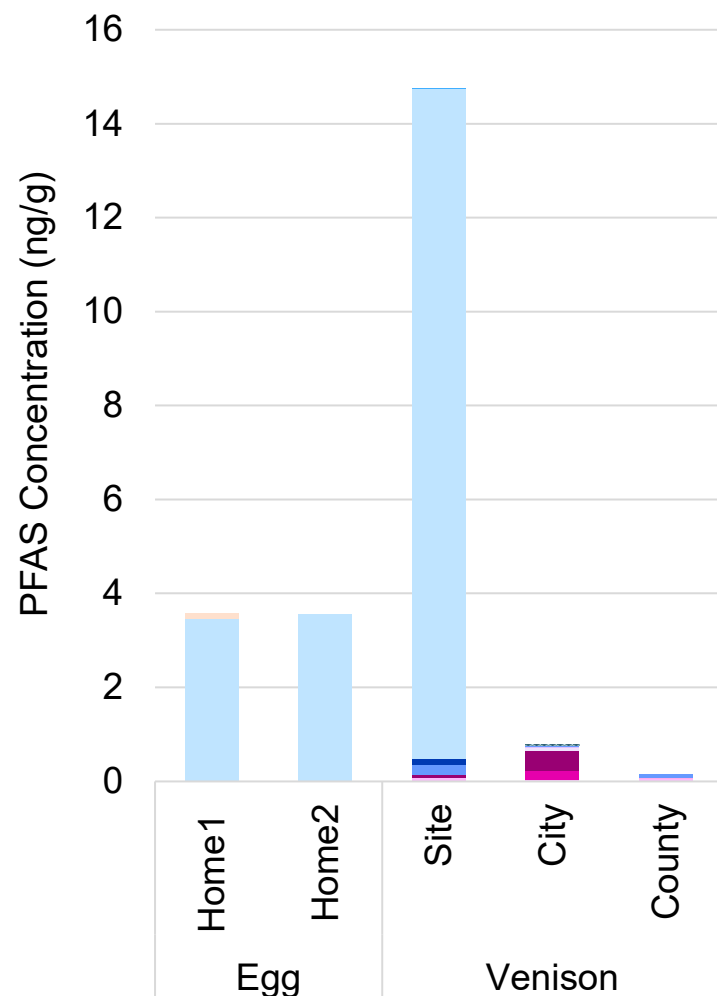


Bhattacharya et al. *in review*



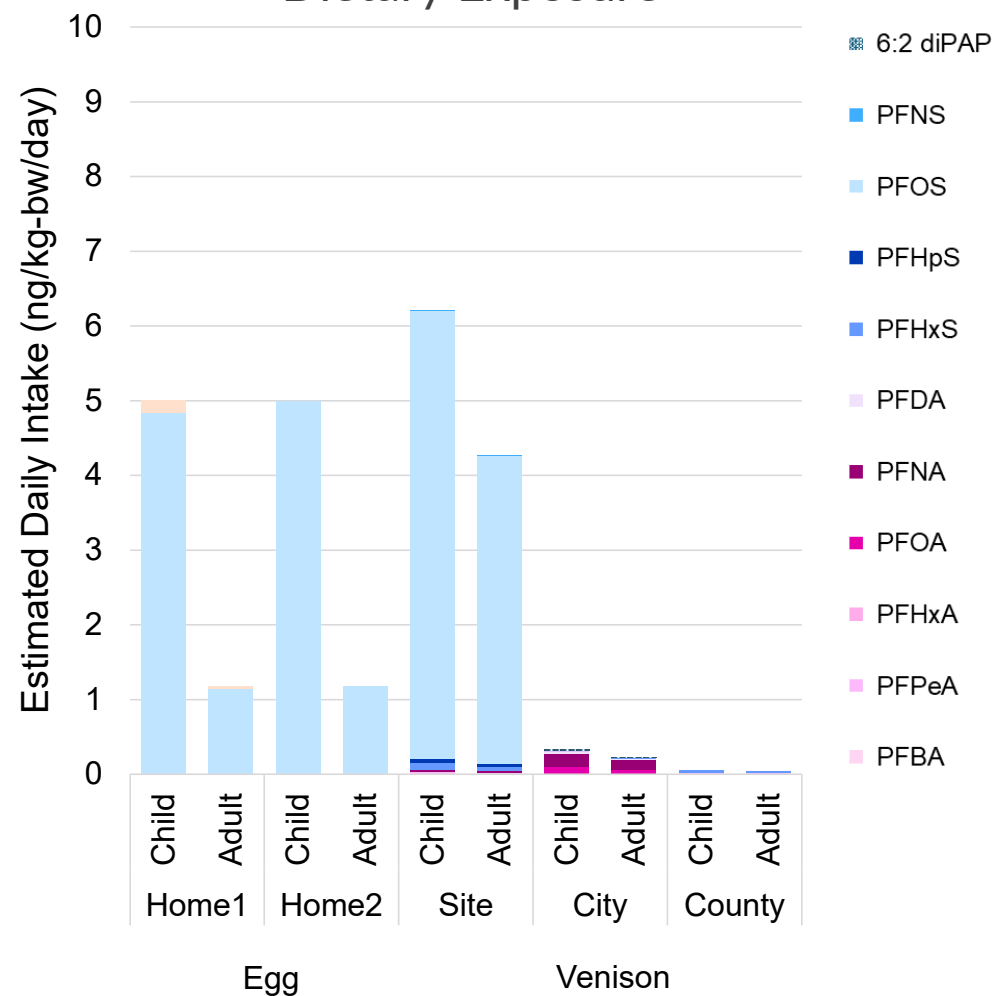
# Eggs & Venison

## Concentration



# Eggs & Venison

## Dietary Exposure



PFOS exposure from typical consumption of Site eggs and venison exceeds RfD

0.1 for PFOS

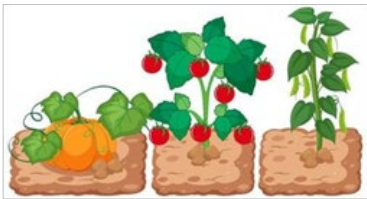
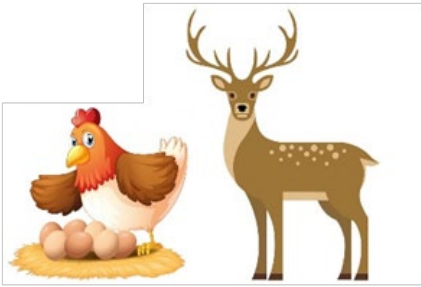
U.S. EPA Reference Doses (ng/kg-bw/day)

0.03 for PFOA

Bhattacharya et al. *in review*



# Elevated PFAS in Eggs, Venison and some Produce in/near Site



Our recent findings:

- Highest levels in home produced eggs and locally captured venison (2-14 ppb)
- Eggs and some produce higher from farms near the site (3-4 ppb)
- While soils are highest for PFOS, it is low in produce





# Sources of PFAS to Chickens/Eggs

Contamination of:

- Drinking water
- Soil & Invertebrates

Presence in:

- Bedding (certain recycled papers)

Often contains PFOS:

- Fish meal

Eggs can be a considerable source of dietary PFAS exposure for home produced eggs in communities with PFAS contamination.

Levels in eggs can be elevated even with low concentrations in drinking water.

Monitoring is useful and wise, as interventions can be simple and quickly effective as chickens eliminate PFAS much faster than people.

Fish meal feed can substantially increase PFAS in eggs.



# Elevated PFAS in Chicken Eggs from Fish Meal

Per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances in commercial organic eggs via fishmeal in feed

Kit Granby<sup>a,\*</sup>, Bjarne Kjær Ersbøll<sup>b</sup>, Pelle Thonning Olesen<sup>a</sup>, Tue Christensen<sup>a</sup>, Søren Sørensen<sup>c</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Technical University of Denmark, National Food Institute, Kemitorvet 4, DK-2800, Kgs. Lyngby, Denmark

<sup>b</sup> Technical University of Denmark, Department of Applied Mathematics and Computer Science, Richard Petersens Plads, Building 324, DK-2800, Kgs. Lyngby, Denmark

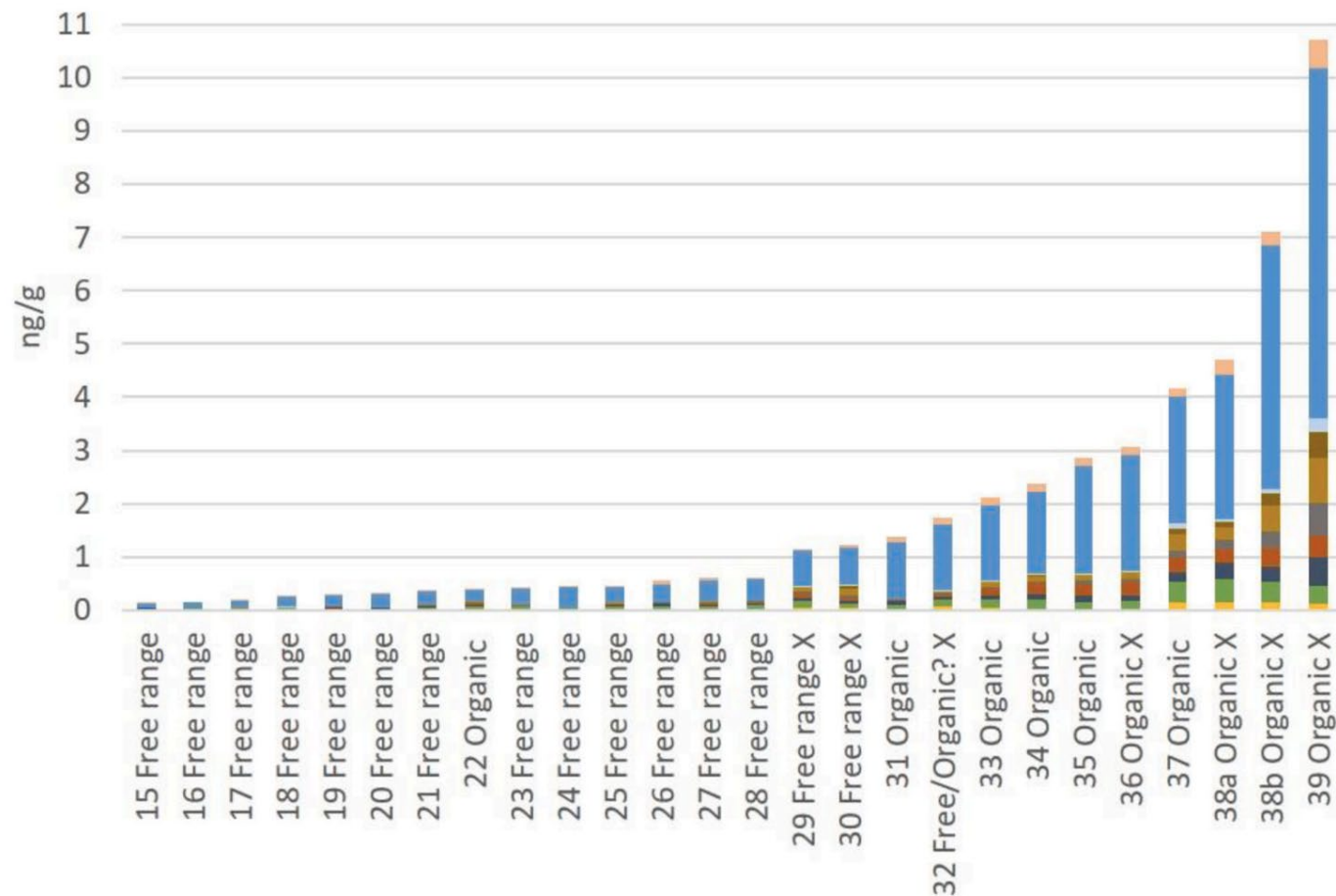
<sup>c</sup> Danish Veterinary and Food Administration, Division of Residues, Søndervang 4, DK-4100, Ringsted, Denmark

Chemosphere 346 (2024) 140553



# PFAS in Egg Yolks from Small Danish Farms

■ PFOA 
 ■ PFNA 
 ■ PFDeA 
 ■ PFUnDA 
 ■ PFDoDA 
 ■ PFTra 
 ■ PFTeA 
 ■ PFHxS 
 ■ I-PFOS 
 ■ br-PFOS



X indicates closed production

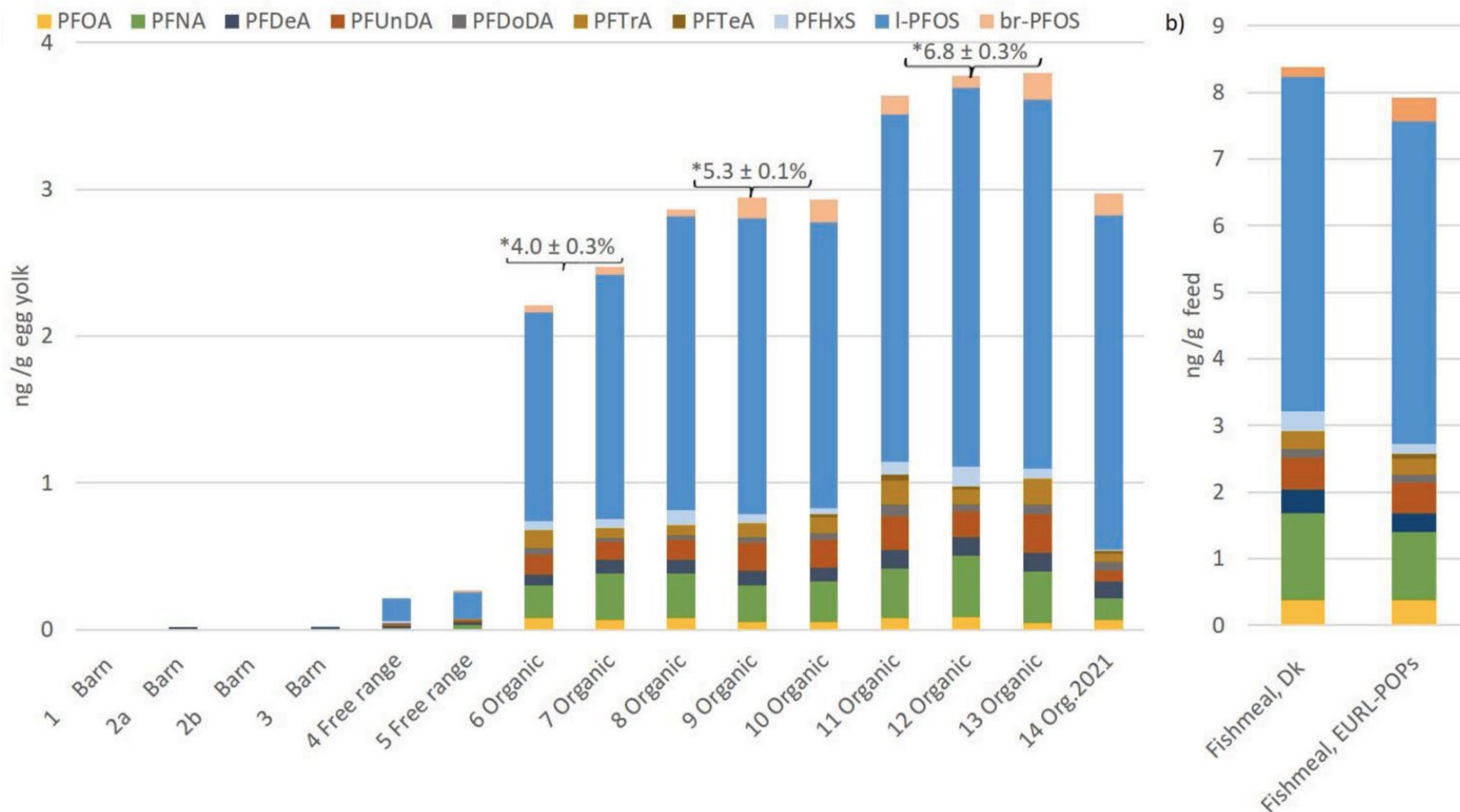
Farms with <500 chickens

Granby et al. 2023



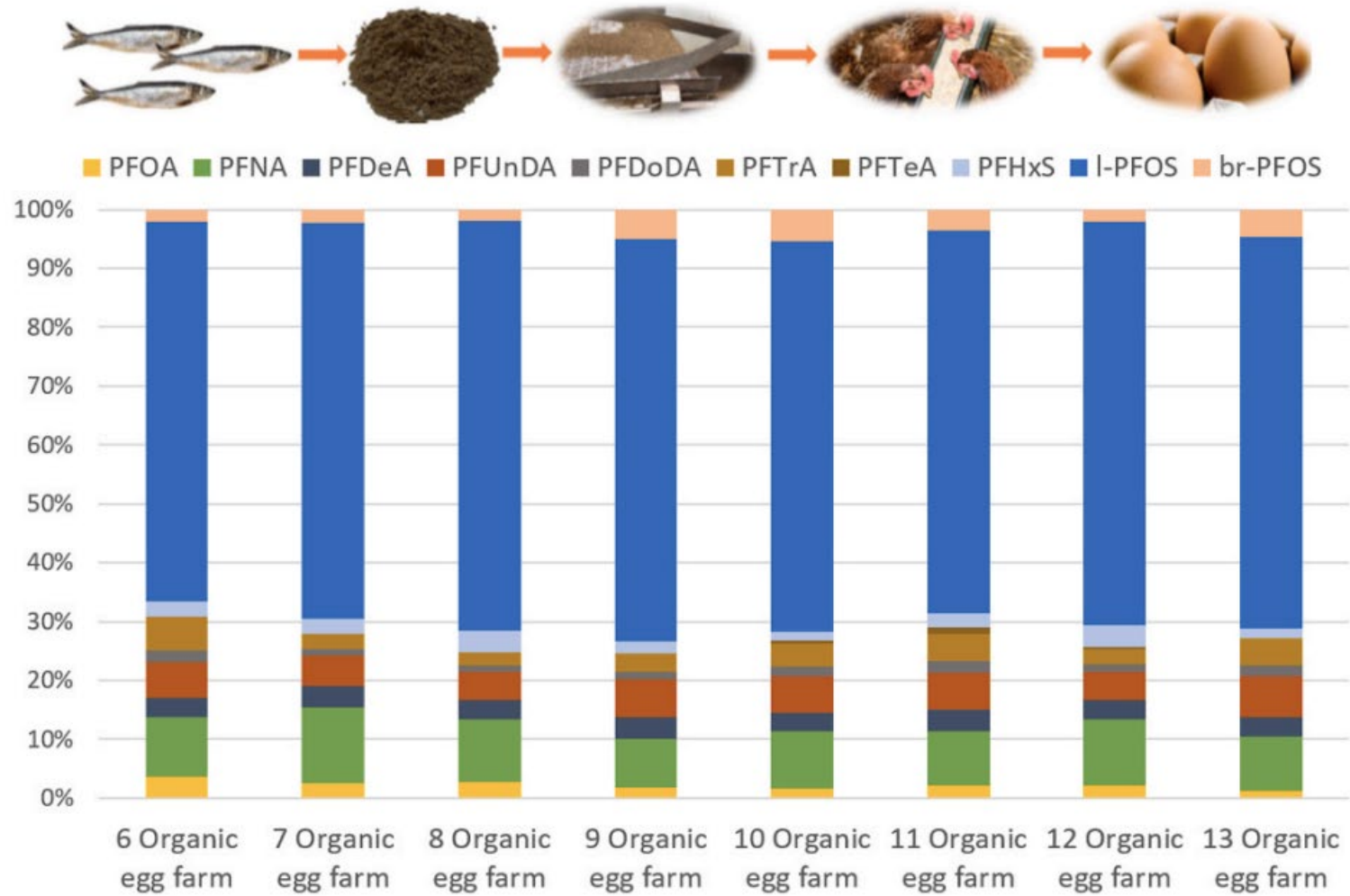


# PFAS in Egg Yolks from Large Danish Farms



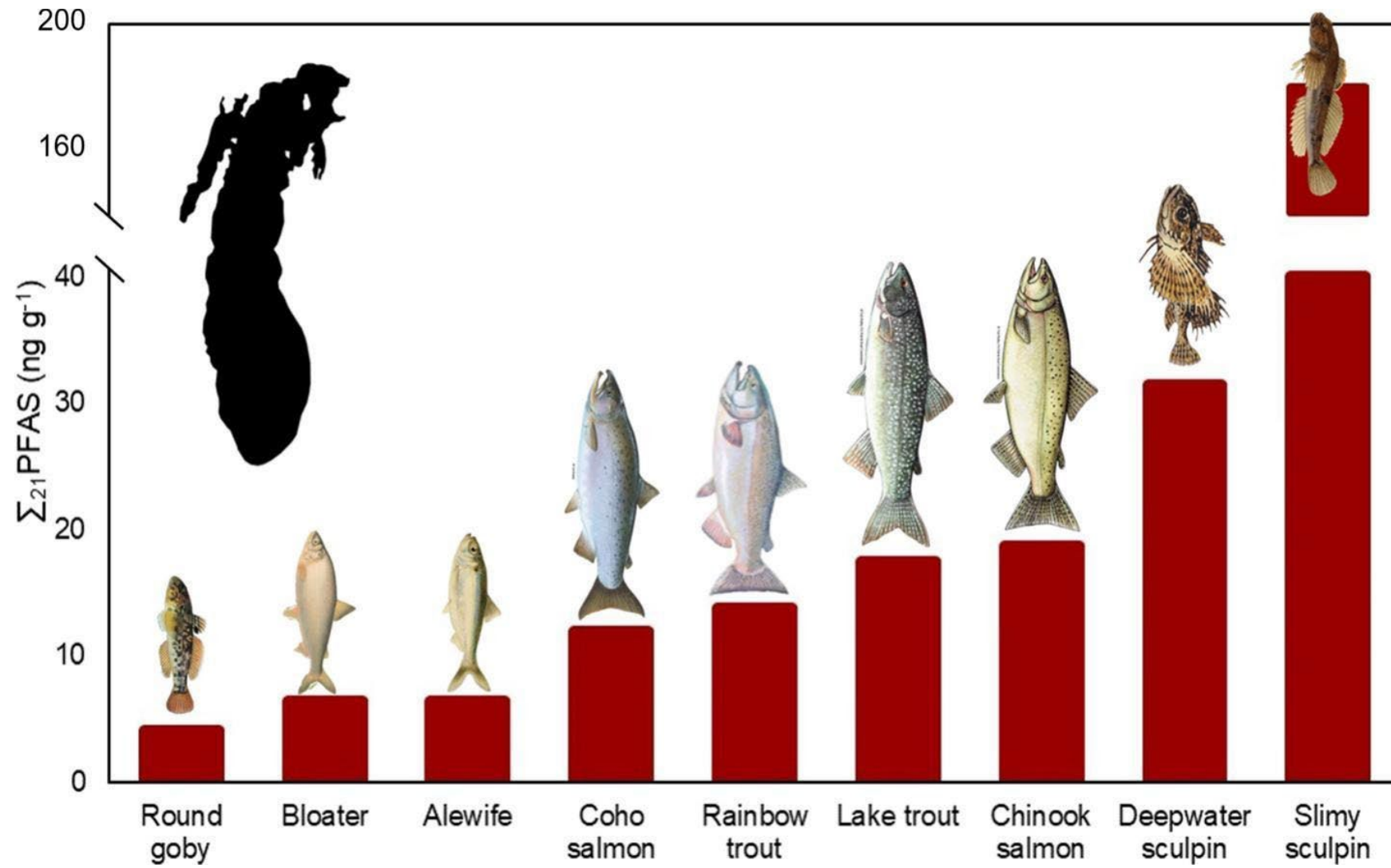
Granby et al. 2023





Granby et al. 2023





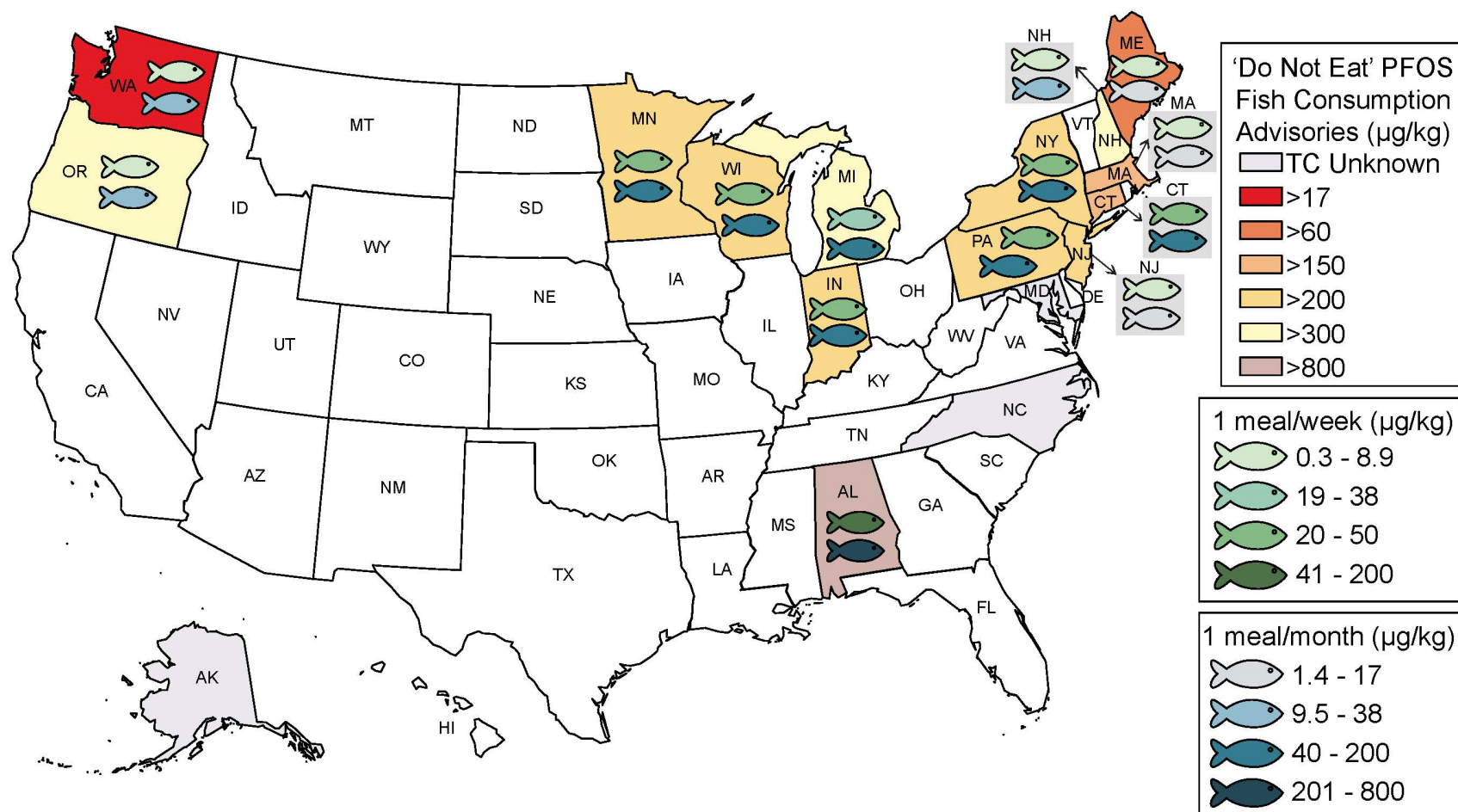
Fish can be a notable source of PFAS exposure

Miranda et al. 2023





# PFOS Consumption Advisories Vary by State

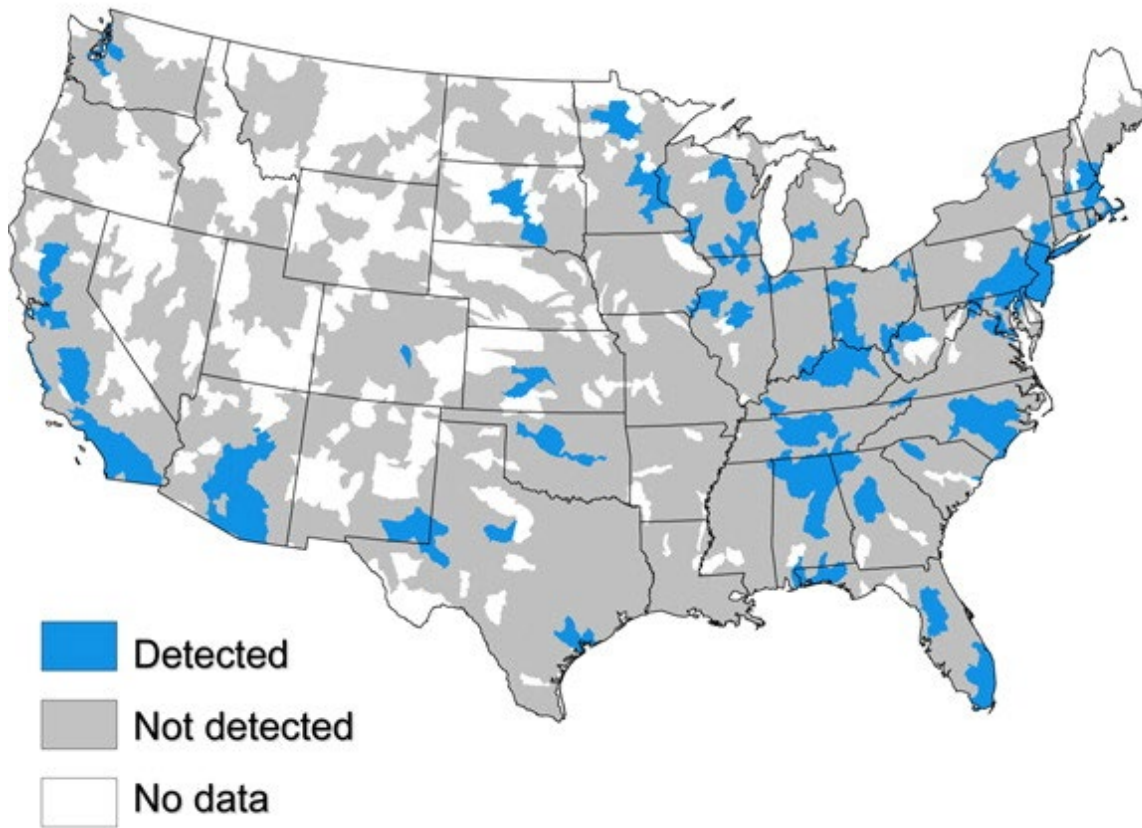


Petali et al 2024



# 110 Million Americans with Impacted Water

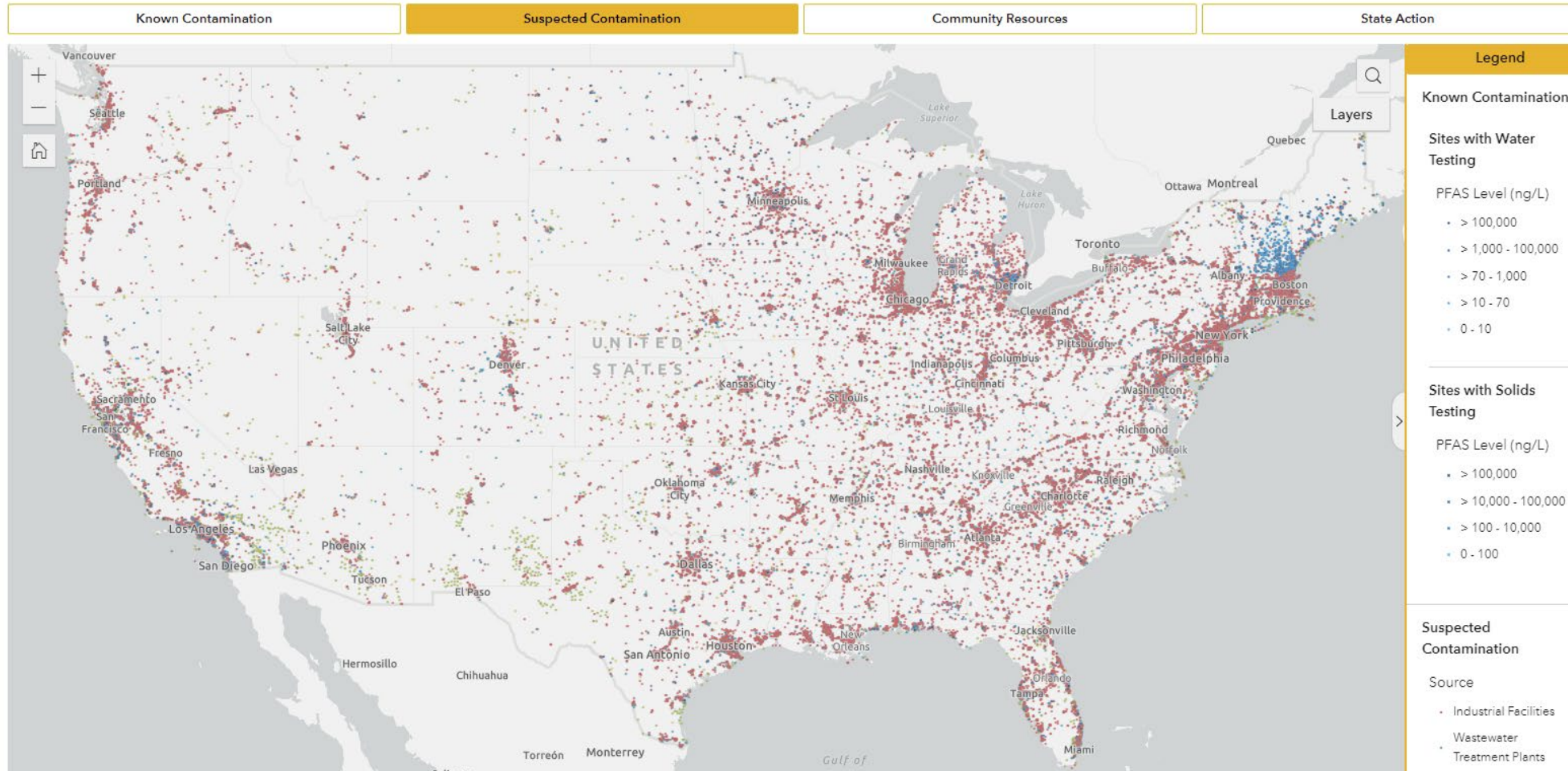
Hydrological units with  
detectable PFASs



Public water system contamination  
more likely with closer proximity to:

- PFAS industrial sites
- Military fire training areas
- AFFF certified airports
- Wastewater treatment plants

# Presumptive Sources



Red dots show where PFAS is likely used

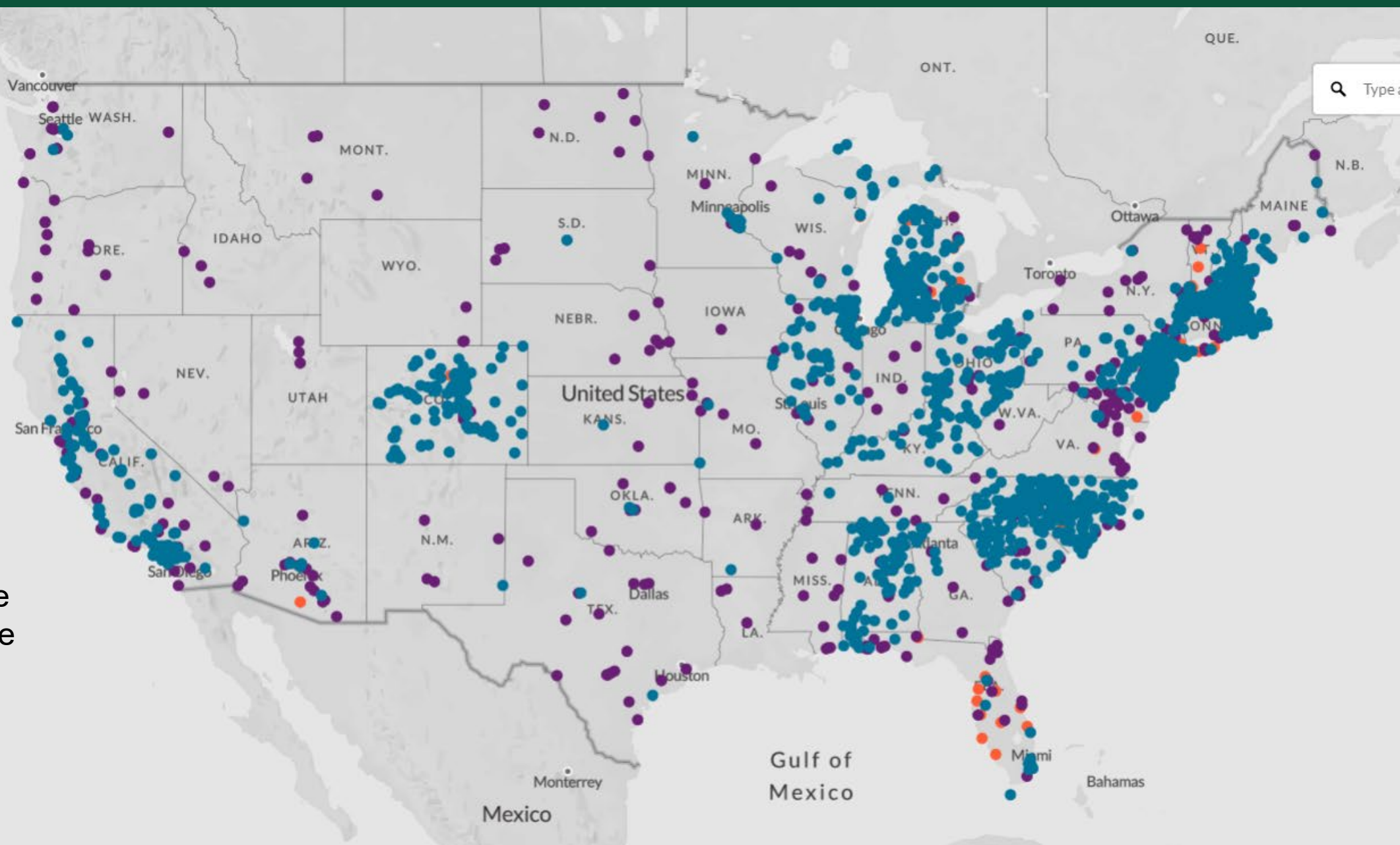
<https://pfas-exchange.org/connecting-communities/>





-  Military Sites
-  Drinking Water
-  Other Known Sites

Concentration of blue dots indicate which states have been testing



# Former Wurtsmith Air Force Base Oscoda, MI



PFAS  
contamination  
discovered over  
15 years ago



# Aqueous Film Forming Foam (AFFF)



Used to fight fuel fires



Hangar Suppression Systems



# Aqueous Film Forming Foam (AFFF)



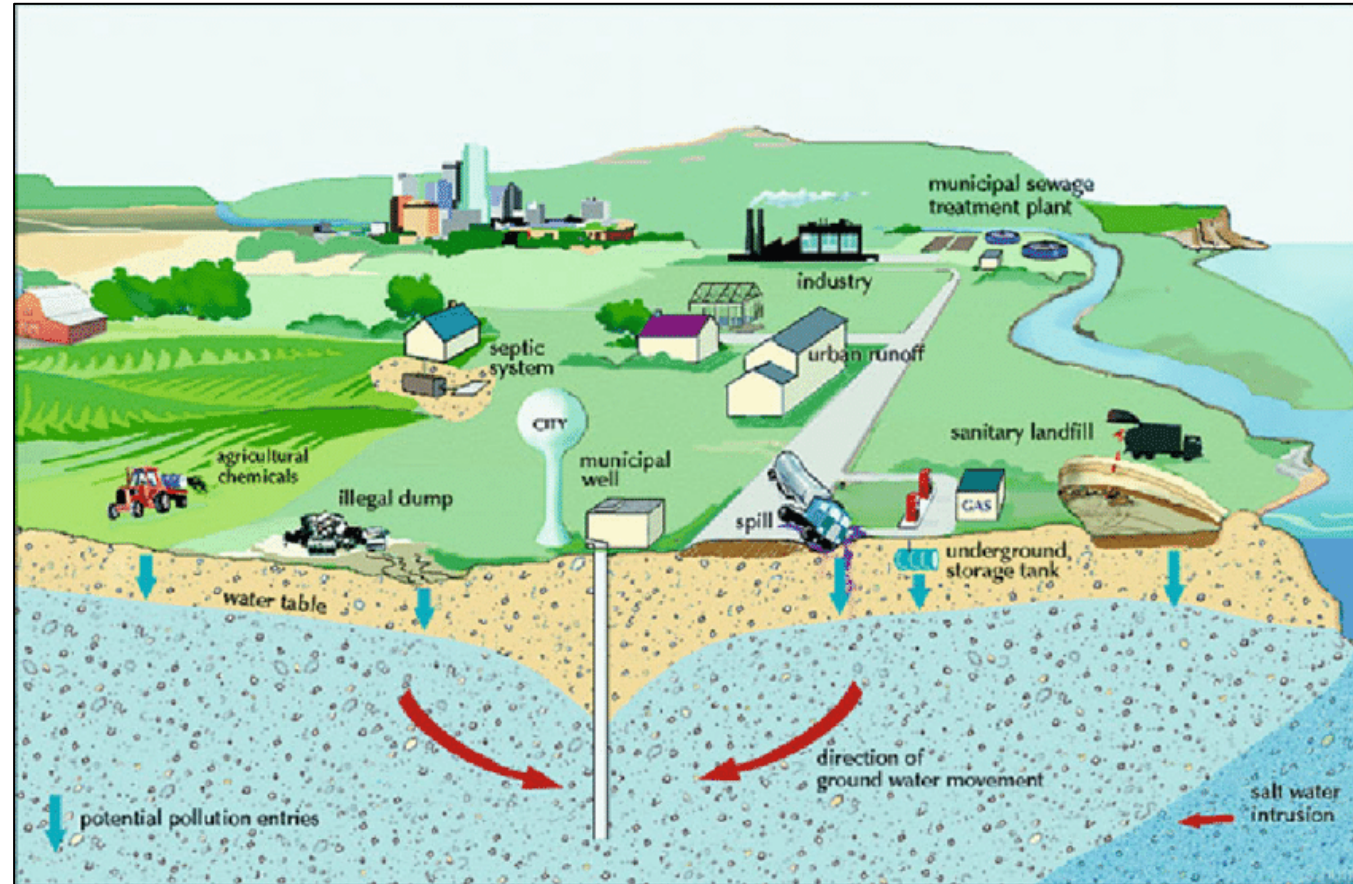
Firefighter Training



Vehicle Fires

Firefighters were told it was as  
'safe as soap and water'

# PFAS Easily Migrate into Groundwater

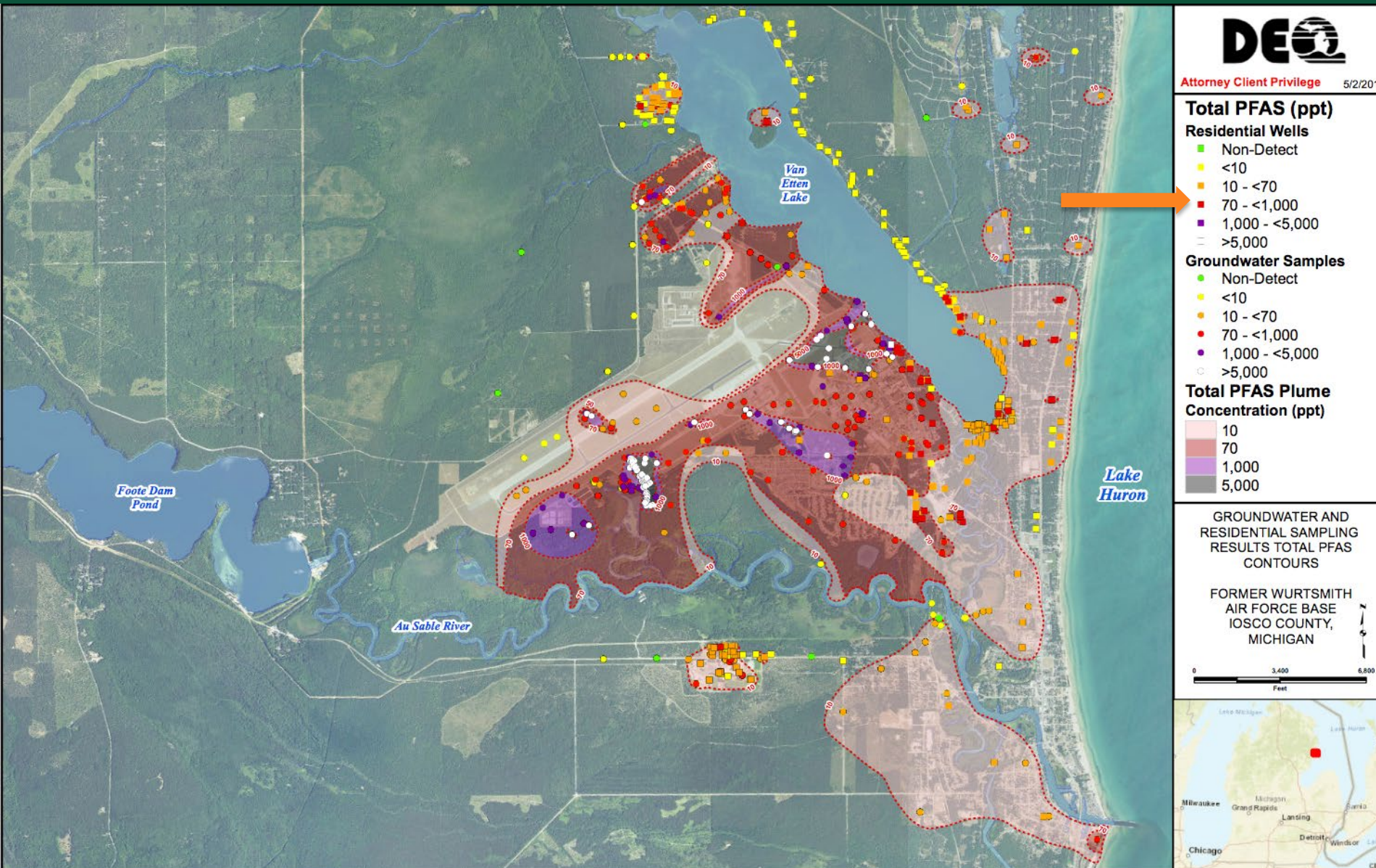


Groundwater is commonly used for **drinking water** by cities, towns and individual homes

Zeidan et al. 2016



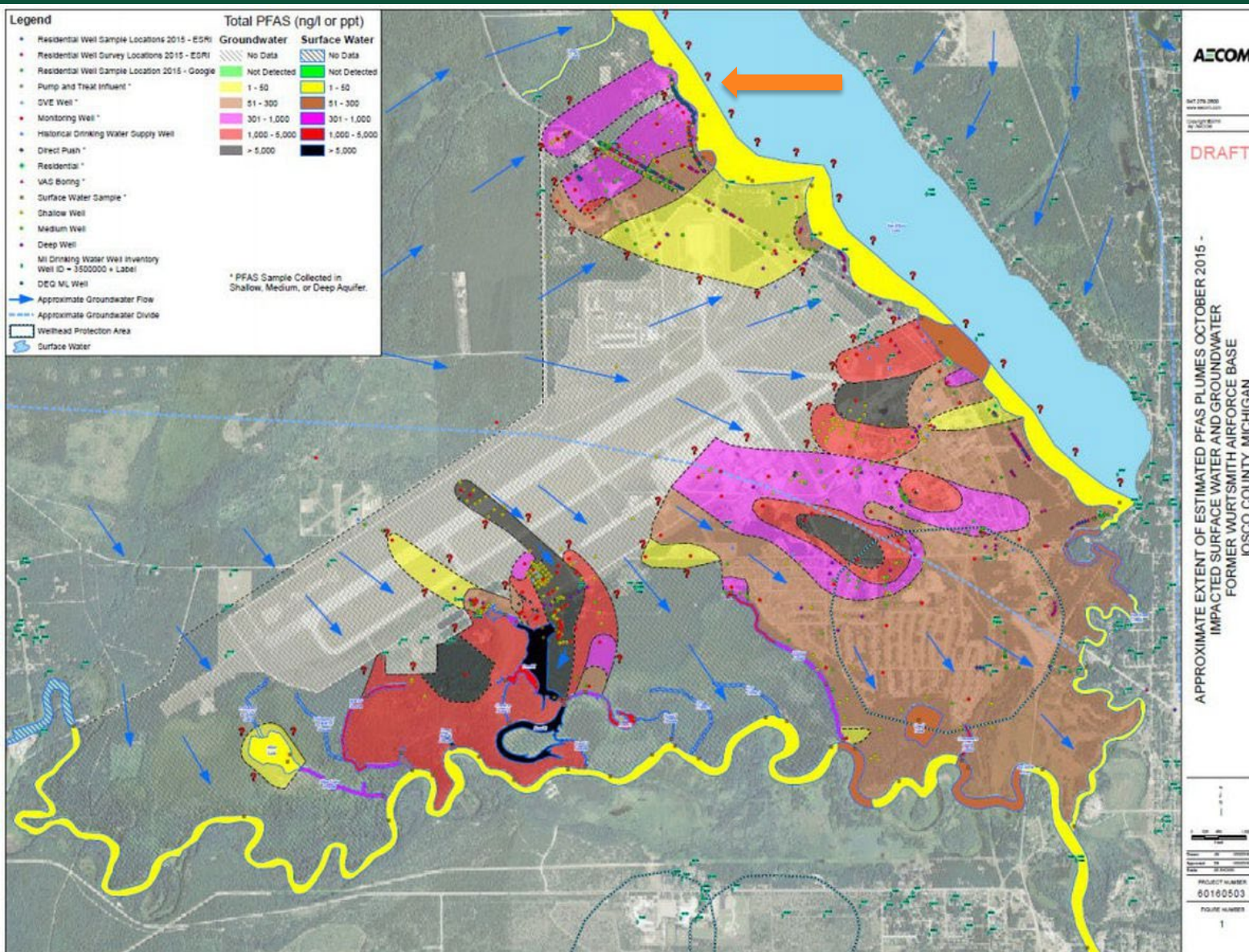




High levels in  
drinking water and  
groundwater







PFAS migrate into surface water:  
Van Etten Lake  
Clarks Marsh → Au Sable River → Lake Huron





## A photograph showing a shoreline where a large volume of white foam, likely from a breaking wave, is washing onto a sandy beach. The foam is thick and extends from the water's edge onto the sand. In the background, there is a grassy area, a wooden deck, and a building with a red roof, possibly a clubhouse or pavilion. The sky is overcast.



# Elevated Exposure to PFAS in Surface Water Foam

## Surface Water Foams

- Accumulate PFAS
- Contained 16 different PFAS
- PFOS Max=97,000 ppt (ng/L)
- PFOS Enrichment factor = 2830
- Exposure estimate for children ingesting the foam exceeds health-based guideline



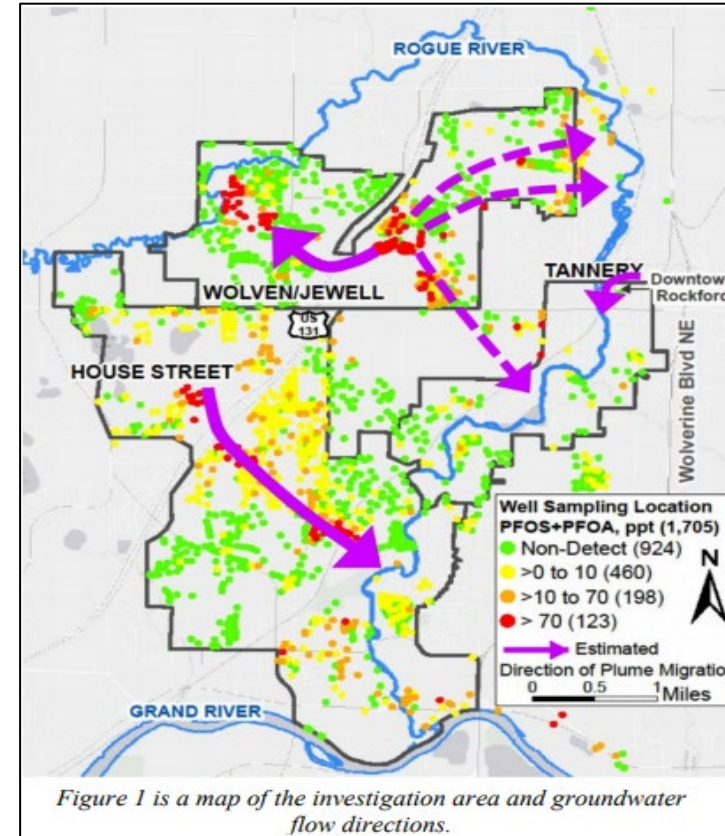
Schwichtenberg et al. 2020 (Enviro Sci Technol)



# Wolverine Worldwide former Tannery Rockford, MI

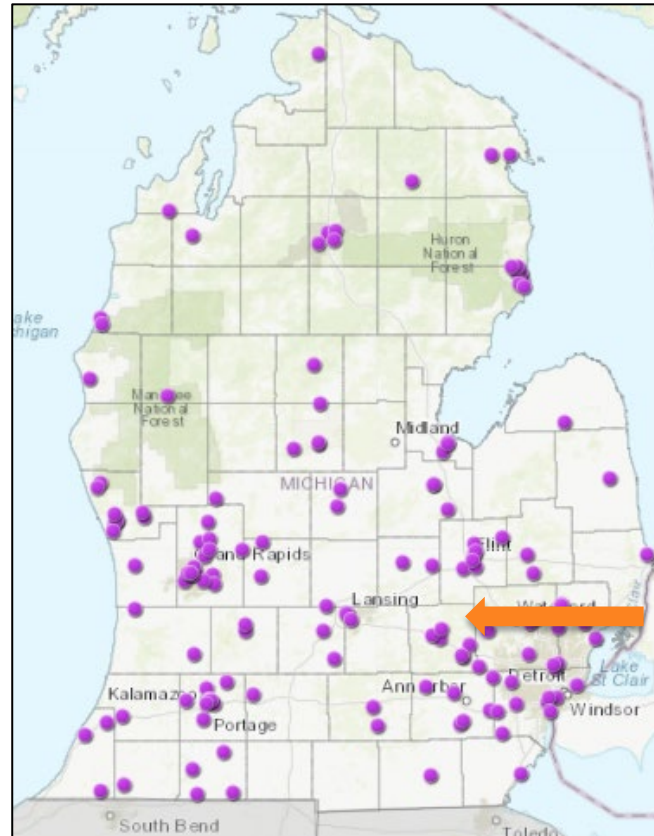


Poor disposal of  
tannery waste at  
dumping sites  
across town





# Chrome Plating Huron River



<https://finishingandcoating.com/index.php/plating/224-epa-michigan-find-that-pfos-suppressants-work>

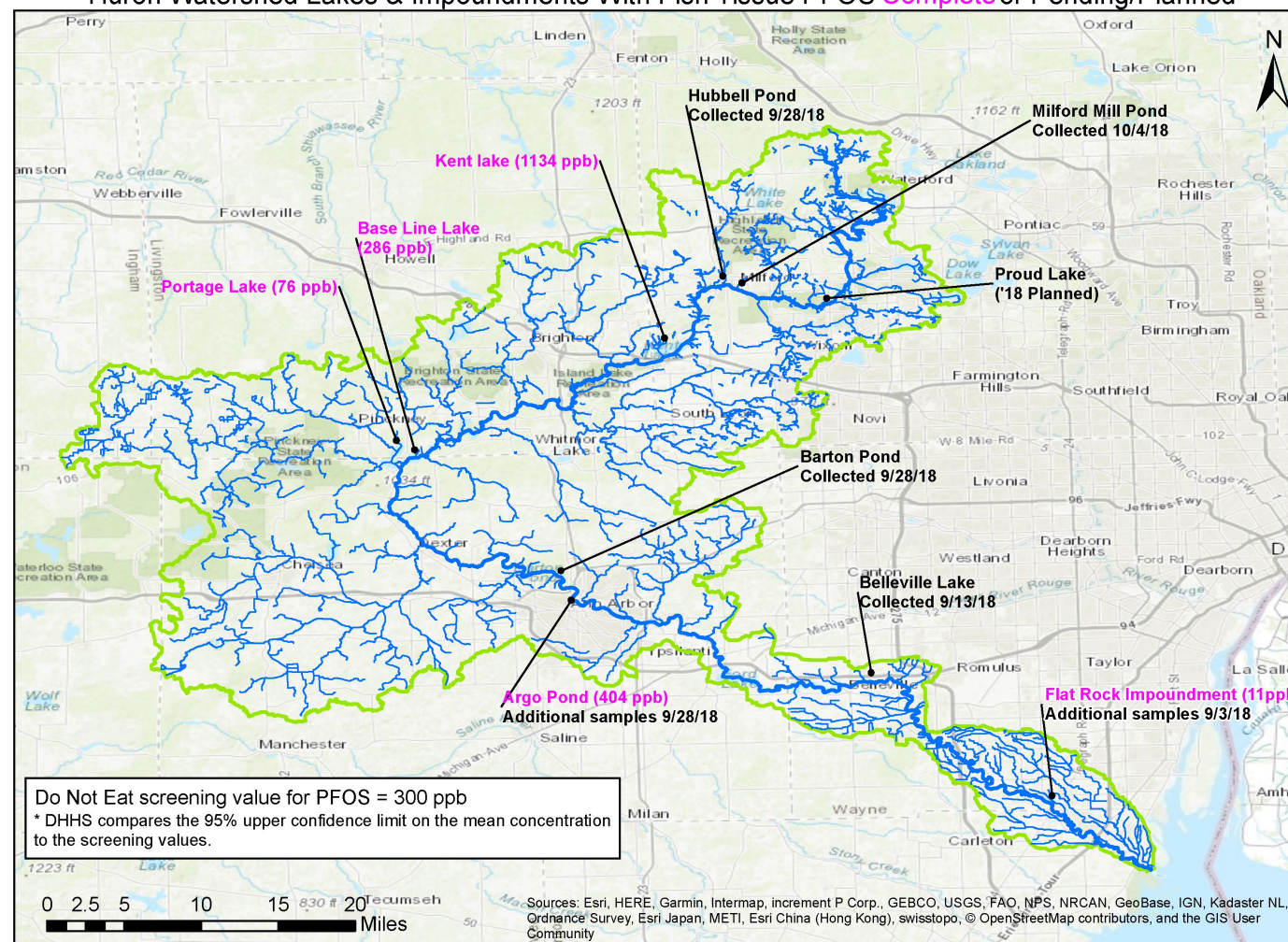


PFAS used as  
fume suppressant  
in chrome plating





## Huron Watershed Lakes &amp; Impoundments With Fish Tissue PFOS Complete or Pending/Planned



PFAS discharge from chrome plating facilities to waste-water treatment plants

### PFAS ADVISORY

- PFAS are toxic, synthetic chemicals used to manufacture many common household products. They currently contaminate the Huron River.
- Ingesting PFAS is associated with many health risks.
- The State of Michigan has found high levels of PFAS in fish and foam on the Huron River and has issued health advisories.

**Enjoy swimming and boating.**  
Touching the water is not a health concern. It's okay if you accidentally swallow river water. PFAS are a health risk with repeated exposure over time.

**Do not eat fish from the river.**  
Until further notice, do not eat fish from the Huron River and connected lakes. Catch and release fishing is okay.

**Avoid river foam.**  
**Keep pets and kids away from it.**  
PFAS concentrate in foam. Not all foam on the river contains PFAS, but to be safe, avoid lingering in places where foam occurs and wash your hands after touching river water.

LEARN MORE at [HRWC.org/PFAS](https://hrwc.org/PFAS)







# PFAS in Biosolids ➡ Soil ➡ Crop ➡ Livestock/People

**Concerns grow over PFAS-tainted sewage sludge spread on croplands**



Source: [MI sewage sludge application](#)

**Michigan beef found to contain dangerous levels of 'forever chemicals'**

Contamination at a small farm discovered after sewage sludge was tested for PFAS, but officials downplayed incident as 'isolated'



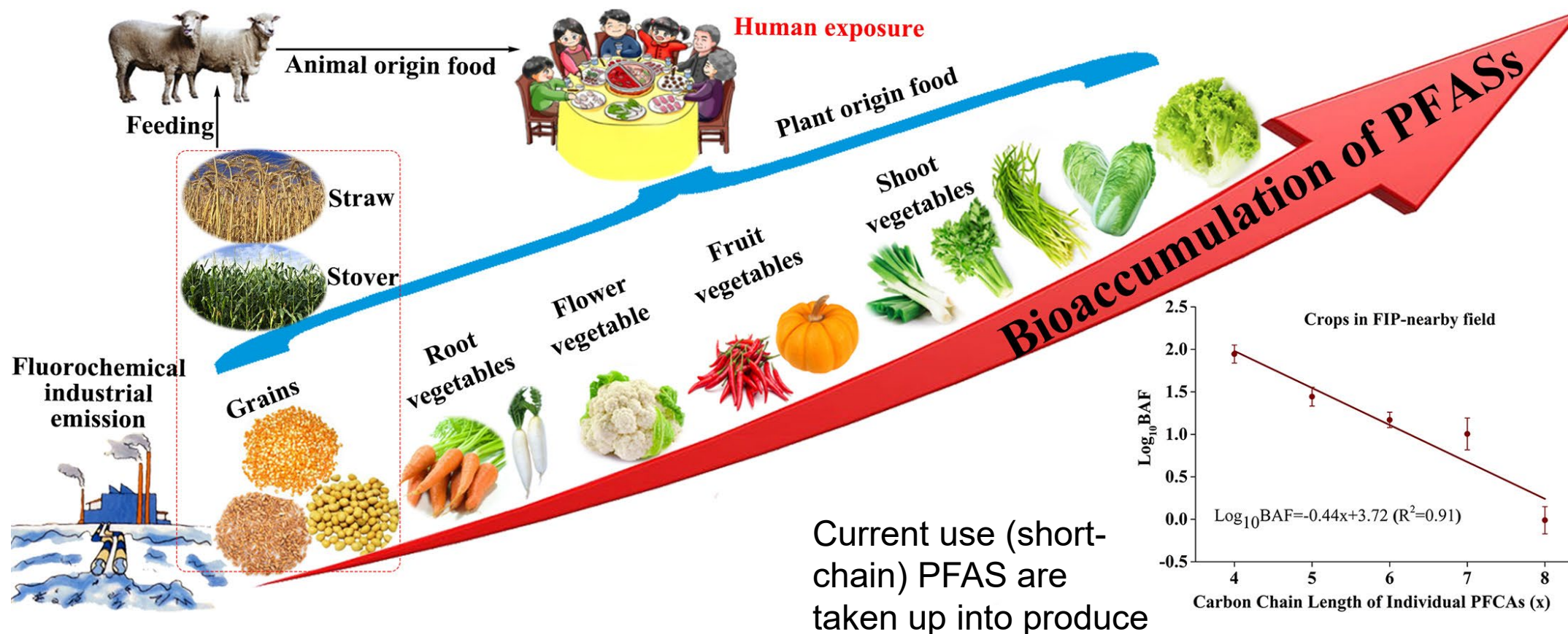
Source: [MI cattle farm news](#)

Discoveries over past decade include WV, AL, CO, NM, ME, MI. Need to be able to discover and act.  
**National support is urgently needed for farmers and regulators.**



Legacy (long-chain)  
PFAS bioaccumulate  
in animals

# Diet is the primary exposure pathway for general population



Liu et al 2019





# PFAS in Biosolids → Soil → Crop → Livestock/People

Our recent finding (unpublished):

- Kernels non-detect despite high PFOS in soil ~500 ppb

Silage is known to take up PFAS more readily

Current use short-chain PFAS are taken up into crops



# PFAS in Compostable Bowls



Preventable. Sustainability claims need to consider contaminants as well.





**PFAS in Compost** ➡ **Soil** ➡ **Crop** ➡ **Livestock/People**



# Maine PFAS Screening Levels

Fish Tissue Action Level (ng/g wet weight)	
Compound	Action Level
PFOS	3.5

Milk <sup>4</sup> (ng/l or ppt)	
Compound	Action Level
PFOS	210

Beef <sup>5</sup> (ng/g)	
Compound	Action Level
PFOS	3.4

Dairy <sup>6</sup> - PFOS Crop-Specific Soil Screening Levels (ng/g dry weight)			
	Soil to Hay to Milk Screening Level	Soil to Corn-Silage to Milk Screening Level	Soil to Hay and Corn-Silage to Milk Screening Level
Grass-Based Farm	6.8	120.0	6.4
Average Maine Farm	13.8	54.8	11.0

Maine DEP (2023)

Maine has helpful guidance and has been more proactive than most states.





# MAINE PFAS SCREENING LEVELS

December 2023

## Soil Remedial Action Guidelines<sup>1</sup> (mg/kg dry weight)

Compound	Leaching to Groundwater	Residential	Commercial Worker	Park User	Recreator Sediment	Construction Worker
PFBS	0.11	26	340	74	85	230
PFBA	0.36	110	1,600	300	350	2,000
PFHxS	0.00047	1.7	22	4.9	5.7	5.1
PFHxA	0.13	43	560	120	140	130
PFNA	0.0046	0.26	3.4	0.74	0.85	0.77
PFOS	0.001	0.17	2.2	0.49	0.57	0.51
PFOA	0.017	0.26	3.4	0.74	0.85	0.77

## Soil Beneficial Use<sup>2</sup> (ng/g dry weight)

Compound	Beneficial Use
PFBS	1,900
PFOS	5.2
PFOA	2.5

## Interim Drinking Water Standard<sup>3</sup> (ng/l or ppt)

Compound	Residential
PFOS + PFOA + PFHpA + PFNA + PFHxS + PFDA	20

Maine DEP (2023)



PFAS

Response

Assistance

Fund to Address PFAS  
Contamination

## PFAS Response

The Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry (DACF) is committed to ensuring a safe food supply in Maine and supporting our vibrant agricultural community. DACF is taking a leading role in responding to the chemicals known as per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in agriculture.

### On this Page:

[What is PFAS?](#)

[What's the risk?](#)

[What's the impact to agriculture?](#)

[Is food safe?](#)

[What is the Maine DACF doing?](#)

[Self-testing](#)

[An evolving situation](#)

## What is PFAS?

PFAS refer to a group of man-made chemicals known as Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances. There are thousands of varieties of these chemicals that repel oil, grease, water, and heat. They became widely used in household products and industrial settings as early as the 1940s and have been used in firefighting foams due to their effectiveness at quickly extinguishing petroleum-based fires.

PFAS have been used to make a host of commercial products including non-stick cookware, stain-resistant carpets and furniture, water-resistant clothing, coated oil resistant paper/cardboard food packaging (like microwave popcorn and pizza boxes), and some personal care products.

## EDUCATION & RESOURCES

[UMaine Cooperative  
Extension PFAS Resources](#)

[Dairy Risk Management  
\(PDF\)](#)

[Hay Farmer  
Recommendations \(PDF\)](#)

## PFAS OVERVIEW PRESENTATIONS

[PFAS Overview Presentation  
\(PDF\)](#)

## CONTACT US

### PFAS Response Program

Email: [pfas.dacf@maine.gov](mailto:pfas.dacf@maine.gov)

Phone: (207) 287-4514

## Get AG Resources & Event Updates!

Enter your email below:

Go

# Collecting Samples for PFAS Testing

## Follow ITRC Sampling Guidance

- Take care to minimize background contamination
- Collect into PFAS-free container (e.g., zip bag)
- Transport in cooler on ice
- Freeze at -20C until shipment

ITRC Guidance Website: [https://pfas-1.itrcweb.org/11-sampling-and-analytical-methods/#11\\_1](https://pfas-1.itrcweb.org/11-sampling-and-analytical-methods/#11_1)





# Analytical Challenges

- Matrix effects
- Interference
- Background contamination



## Contract Labs

- Axys Environmental
- Eurofins Test America
- Vista

Typically costs hundreds of dollars per sample.  
Inexpensive screening methods are needed



# Analytical Methods

- HPLC-MS/MS
- UPLC-MS/MS
- LC-QTOF-MS

U.S. FDA: <https://www.fda.gov/food/process-contaminants-food/testing-food-pfas-and-assessing-dietary-exposure>

ITRC: [https://pfas-1.itrcweb.org/11-sampling-and-analytical-methods/#11\\_2](https://pfas-1.itrcweb.org/11-sampling-and-analytical-methods/#11_2)

Peng et al. 2022 for novel PFAS

<https://pubs.acs.org/doi/abs/10.1021/acs.jafc.1c07665>





## Cost

- Contract labs typically charge hundreds of dollars per sample.
- Effected by rising costs of both analytical standards and labor.
- Inexpensive comprehensive screening methods are needed.



[RETURN TO ISSUE](#) | [< PREV](#) **PERSPECTIVE** [NEXT >](#)

# Outside the Safe Operating Space of a New Planetary Boundary for Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)

Ian T. Cousins\*, Jana H. Johansson, Matthew E. Salter, Bo Sha, and Martin Scheringer

**Cite this:** *Environ. Sci. Technol.* 2022, 56, 16, 11172–11179

Publication Date: August 2, 2022 




<https://doi.org/10.1021/acs.est.2c02765>

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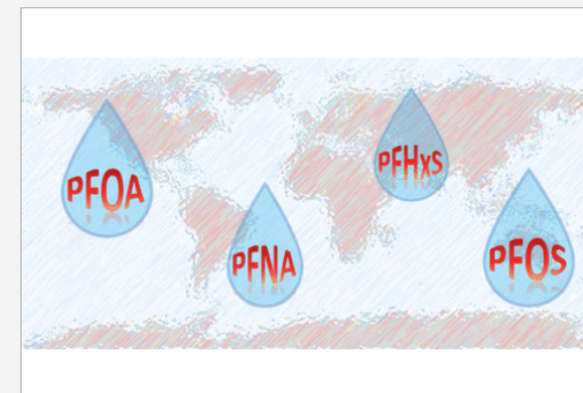
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 Supporting Info (1) »

**SUBJECTS:** [Deposition](#), [Drinking water](#), [Environmental pollution](#), [Soils](#), [Toxins](#)

## Abstract

It is hypothesized that environmental contamination by per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) defines a separate planetary boundary and that this boundary has been exceeded. This hypothesis is tested by comparing the levels of four selected perfluoroalkyl acids (PFAAs) (i.e., perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS), perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), perfluorohexanesulfonic acid (PFHxS), and perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA)) in various global environmental media (i.e., rainwater, soils, and surface waters) with recently proposed guideline levels. On the basis of the four PFAAs considered, it is concluded that (1) levels of PFOA and PFOS in rainwater often greatly exceed US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Lifetime Drinking Water Health Advisory levels and the sum of the aforementioned four PFAAs ( $\Sigma_4$  PFAS) in rainwater is often above Danish drinking water limit values also based on  $\Sigma_4$  PFAS; (2) levels of PFOS in rainwater are often above Environmental Quality Standard for Inland European Union Surface Water; and (3) atmospheric deposition also leads to global soils being ubiquitously contaminated and to be often above proposed Dutch guideline values. It is, therefore, concluded that the global spread of these four PFAAs in the atmosphere has led to the planetary boundary for chemical pollution being exceeded. Levels of PFAAs in atmospheric deposition are especially poorly reversible because of the high persistence of PFAAs and their ability to continuously cycle in the hydrosphere, including on sea spray aerosols emitted from the oceans. Because of the poor reversibility of environmental exposure to PFAS and their associated effects, it is vitally important that PFAS uses and emissions are rapidly restricted.



# Unaffordability of PFAS cleanup from wastewater

The full report will be of interest to the wastewater management and scientific communities. Key findings of broader interest include:

- Removing and destroying PFAS from water and biosolids leaving Minnesota's wastewater treatment facilities could cost between **\$14 billion and \$28 billion over 20 years.**
- **PFAS can be bought for \$50 - \$1,000 per pound (according to MPCA estimates), but costs between \$2.7 million and \$18 million per pound to remove and destroy from municipal wastewater, depending on facility size.**
- **Small wastewater treatment facilities would face per-pound costs over six times greater than large facilities,** due to economies of scale.
- **New "short-chain" types of PFAS are more difficult and up to 70% more expensive to remove and destroy** compared to old "long-chain" PFAS.

Cost estimates are based on the required upgrades to Minnesota's existing wastewater infrastructure to treat and destroy PFAS using current commercially available technologies and PFAS levels. In total, 13 PFAS removal and destruction technologies passed a screening on their real-world effectiveness and the most cost-effective technology was selected for statewide cost development. Complete details and additional findings are found in the full report.

New technology that reduces costs to remove and destroy PFAS from wastewater is in development, but the MPCA believes that without an alternative source of funding, PFAS removal and destruction from municipal wastewater will be unaffordable for the foreseeable future. In contrast, emerging biosolids technologies capable of destroying PFAS can be cost-competitive with current practices.



# Societal cost of 'forever chemicals' about \$17.5tn across global economy - report

**Chemicals yield profit of about \$4bn a year for the world's biggest PFAS manufacturers, Sweden-based NGO found**



📷 A woman wears a waterproof coat in the rain. PFAS are commonly used as waterproofing agents in clothing and textiles. Photograph: Edward Berthelot/Getty Images

The societal cost of using toxic **PFAS** or “forever chemicals” across the global economy totals about \$17.5tn annually, a new analysis of the use of the dangerous compounds has found.

Meanwhile, the chemicals yield comparatively paltry profits for the world's largest PFAS manufacturers - about \$4bn annually.

While PFAS are profitable to industry the cost to society due to health effects, testing and treatment are enormous.

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## Is a Seismic Shift in the Landscape of PFAS Uses Occurring?

Martin Scheringer\*, Ian T. Cousins, and Greta Goldenman

✓ **Cite this:** *Environ. Sci. Technol.* 2024, 58, 16, 6843–6845

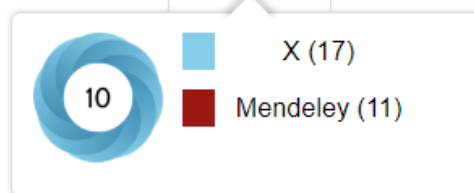
Publication Date: April 11, 2024 ▾

<https://doi.org/10.1021/acs.est.4c01947>

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**SUBJECTS:** Fluoropolymers, Gases, Industrial manufacturing, Materials, Redox reactions

We argue that a seismic shift in the landscape of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) uses can be observed. From conversations with representatives of the fluorochemical industry and of large brands of consumer products; from recent statements made in the general discussion among industry, consumer groups, environmental NGOs, and academic scientists; from various analyses of the availability of alternatives to PFASs in many use areas, including our own work; [\(1–4\)](#) and from the decision of a major PFAS manufacturer (3M) to leave entirely the production of PFAS, [\(5\)](#) we conclude that in many PFAS use areas, the transition to nonfluorinated alternatives is underway and is gaining more and more momentum.



# Transition to PFAS-free Alternatives Occurring/Needed

- Food-contact materials
- Textiles
- Carpets
- Leather
- Metals
- Cookware
- Lubrication
- Personal care products
- Cosmetics
- Firefighting foams
- Electrical device components (e.g., fuel cells)
- Ski waxes
- Cleaning products
- Building materials
- Refrigerants
- Etc.





# Drinking Water Protections

- New Federal MCLs for some PFAS
- Nationwide testing of public water systems
- Federal funding to help support treatment of public water systems
- Many polluter pay type lawsuits settled/ongoing to support treatment



# Protections for Food

- Reducing/eliminating production, use and disposal of PFAS will reduce migration pathways to food
- Many states have fish advisories
- PFAS added to FDA's Total Diet Study (ongoing with lower MDLs)
- Michigan implemented a pre-treatment program to reduce the biosolids pathway
- Maine has guidance for irrigation water, soils and foods – and has banned application of biosolids or sludge on agricultural fields



# Acknowledgements

## Colorado School of Mines

Chris Higgins & Sarah Choyke

## Duke University

Heather Stapleton

## North Carolina State University

Detlef Knappe & PingPing Meng

## Eurofins Environment Test America

Andrew Patterson

## Michigan State University

Rachel Bauer

Ankita Bhattacharya

Ying Guo

## Study Participants







**June 10 -12**

**Ann Arbor, MI**

[nationalpfasconference.org](https://nationalpfasconference.org)



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**Supporting  
Impacted  
Communities**

**Protecting  
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[nationalpfasconference.org](https://nationalpfasconference.org)

Sessions on Dietary Sources, Human Rights, etc. – recordings post soon  
**[nationalpfasconference.org](https://nationalpfasconference.org)**

# Declarations

I currently am funded to investigate PFAS exposure pathways and effects on reproductive and child health (sources of funding: NIH, EPA, USDA).

I have served as an external peer-reviewer for agency PFAS documents.

I have served as a plaintiff's expert witness for two PFAS cases.

I am supported in part by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, National Institutes of Health, USEPA National Priorities Program, and USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture. This document has not been formally reviewed by the funding agencies. The views expressed in this presentation are mine and do not necessarily reflect those from the funding agencies. The agencies do not endorse any products or commercial services mentioned.



# Thank You!

carigna4@msu.edu

Check out our website with tools/resources for communities:  
**[pfas-exchange.org](https://pfas-exchange.org)**





## Some filters perform better than others...



## ...but they cost more to buy and maintain

(approximate costs\*)

	up-front cost	comes with fridge (\$0)	do it yourself	professional help
	\$20+		\$200+	\$1,000
annual maintenance	\$50+	\$80+	\$80+	\$275

## Regular maintenance is important

The best way to limit PFAS exposure in your drinking water is by replacing filters and other parts using the schedule recommended by the manufacturer

### Data Sources

Herkert, N., et al. 2020. Assessing the Effectiveness of Point-of-Use Residential Drinking Water Filters for Perfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS). Environmental Science & Technology Letters. <https://dx.doi.org/10.1021/acs.estlett.0c00004>

Knappe, D. 2018. "How do fluorochemicals get into our drinking water, and how can we get them out?" [http://miesad.umich.edu/files/UMPFASWebinar\\_20180516\\_Knappe\\_HowDoFluorochemicals.pdf](http://miesad.umich.edu/files/UMPFASWebinar_20180516_Knappe_HowDoFluorochemicals.pdf)

\* Cost assumptions: filter replacement every 6 months

Duke  
UNIVERSITY

SUPERFUND  
Research Center

early life exposures, later life consequences



National Institute of  
Environmental Health Sciences  
Superfund Research Program

NC STATE  
UNIVERSITY

Water filter images all from The Noun Project  
Water pitcher - Ben Davis  
Fridge - DAVIVONGSA PATHIRPOL  
Reverse Osmosis - lastspark



## The PFAS Exchange

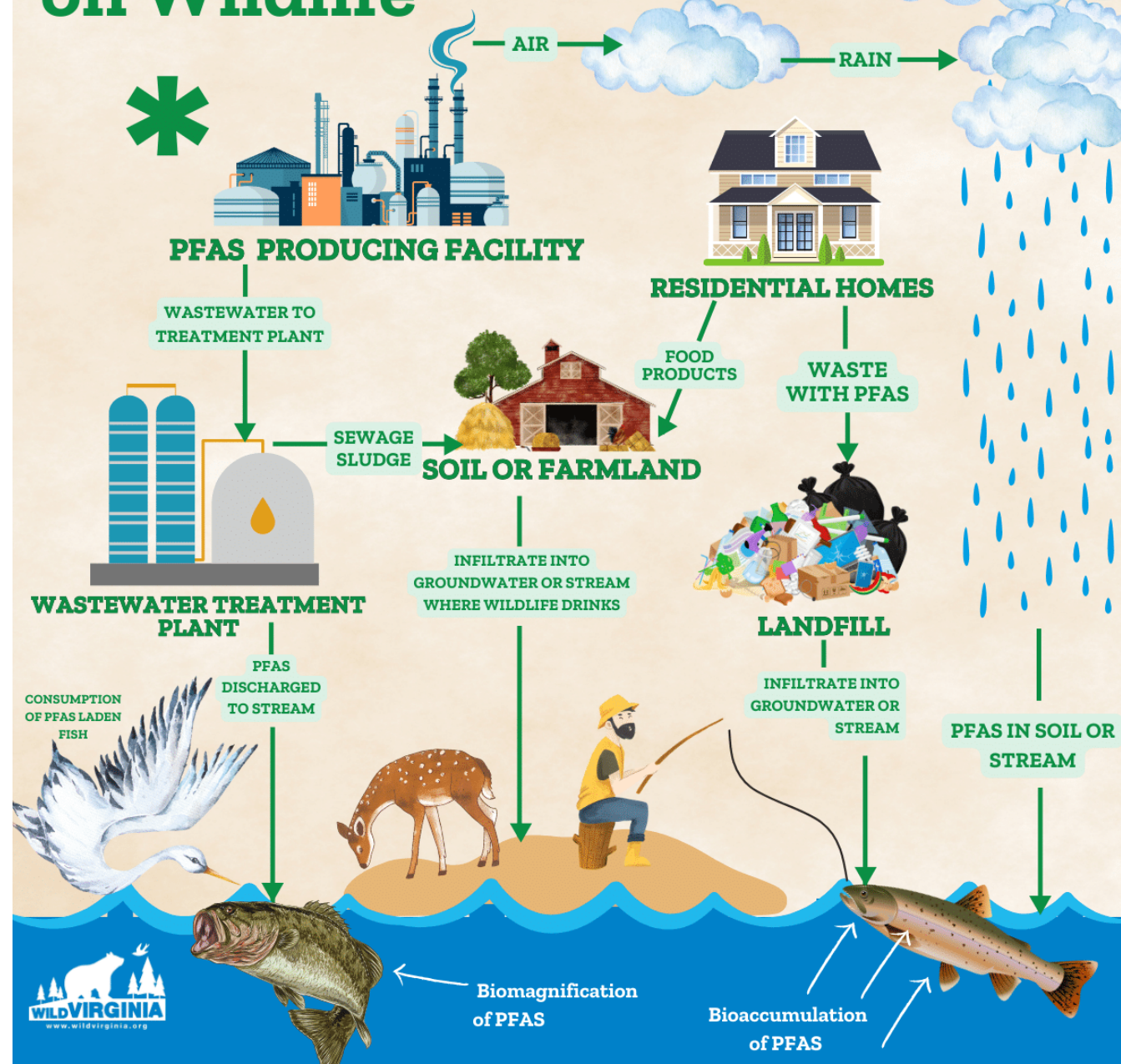
An online resource center about PFAS contaminants in drinking water—helping communities understand their exposures and take action to protect their health.



[www.pfas-exchange.org](http://www.pfas-exchange.org)

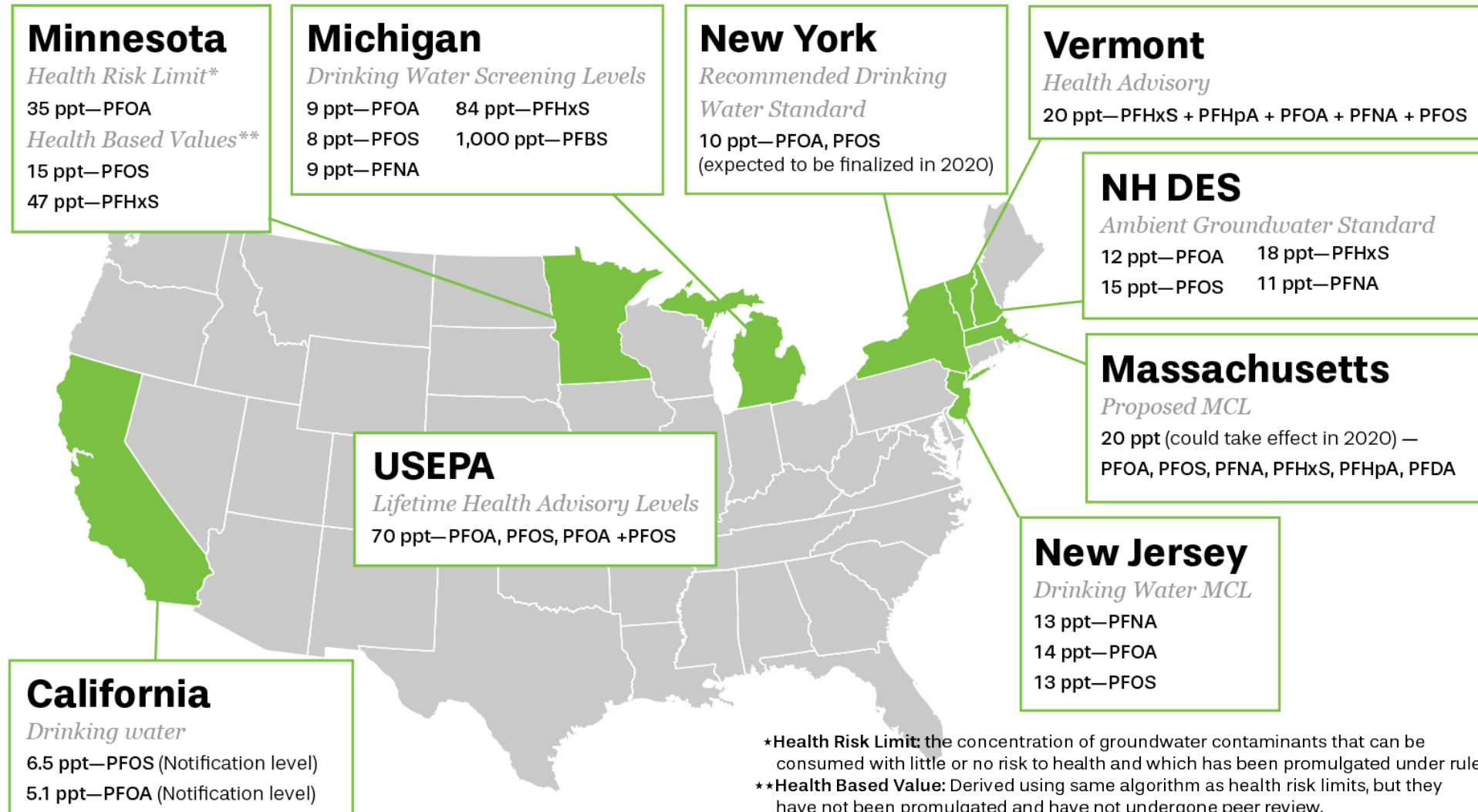


# PFAS Cycle and Effects on Wildlife





# Enforceable Standards: Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs)



# U.S. EPA Federal Drinking Water Standards




PFAS Compound	Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)	Enforceable Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)
PFOA	0	4.0 parts per trillion (ppt)
PFOS	0	4.0 ppt
PFNA	10	10.0 ppt
PFHxS	10	10.0 ppt
HFPO-DA (GenX Chemicals)	10	10.0 ppt
Mixture of two or more: PFHxS, PFNA, HFPO-DA (GenX), and PFBS	Hazard Index of 1	Hazard Index of 1

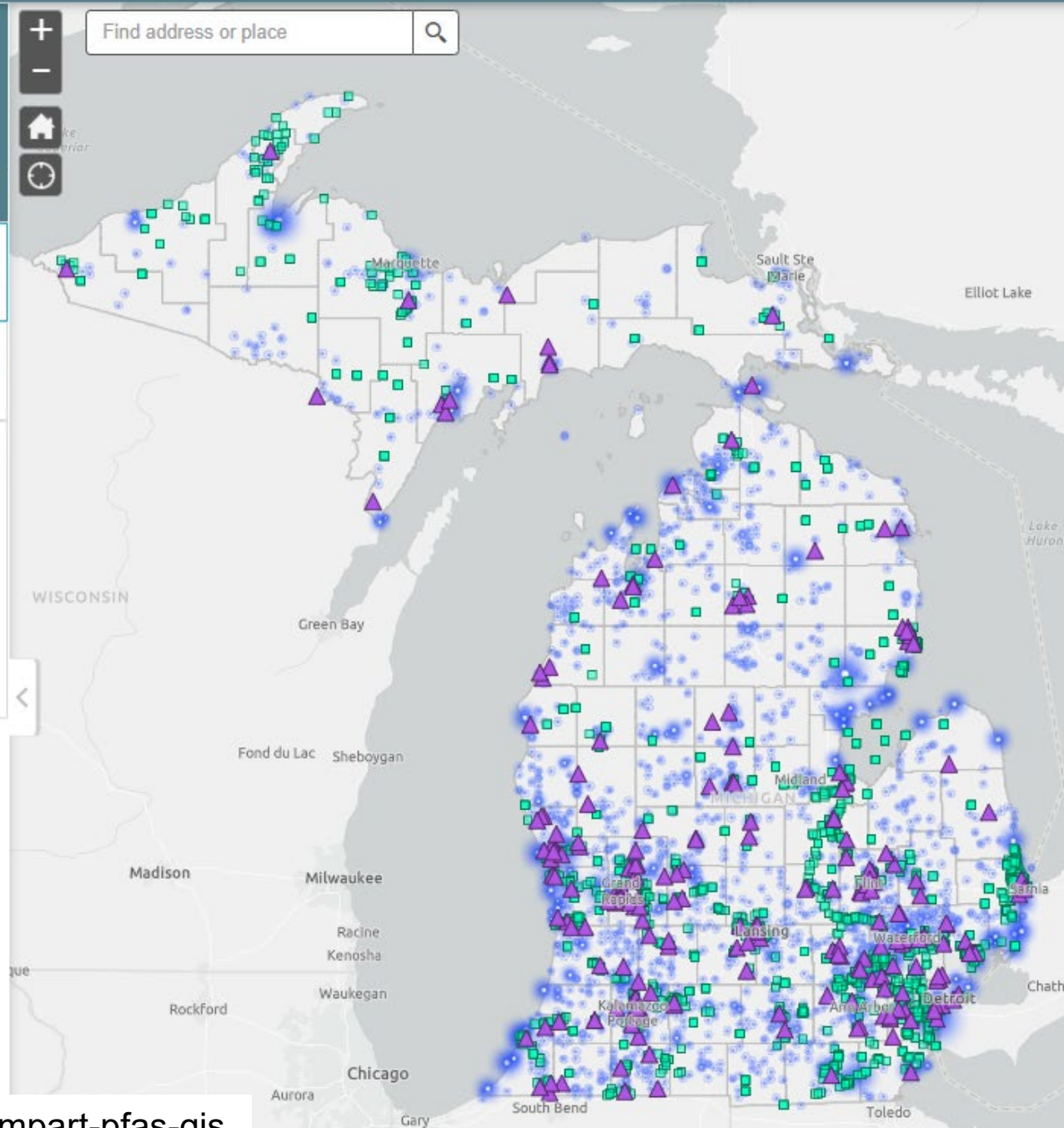
Historic enforceable MCLs for PFAS

Goal (MCLG) is no detectable PFOA or PFOS.

MCL is based on feasible detection limit for most labs.

Number of Features in Current Map View (zoom in or out to adjust number)

	Number of PFAS Sites in View	230
	Number of PFAS Surface Water Samples in View	2,047
	Number of Statewide PFAS Public Drinking Water Supply Sampling Hexagons in View (# represents # of hexagons in map view, not number of samples. Click on a hexagon to view # of samples)	1,486



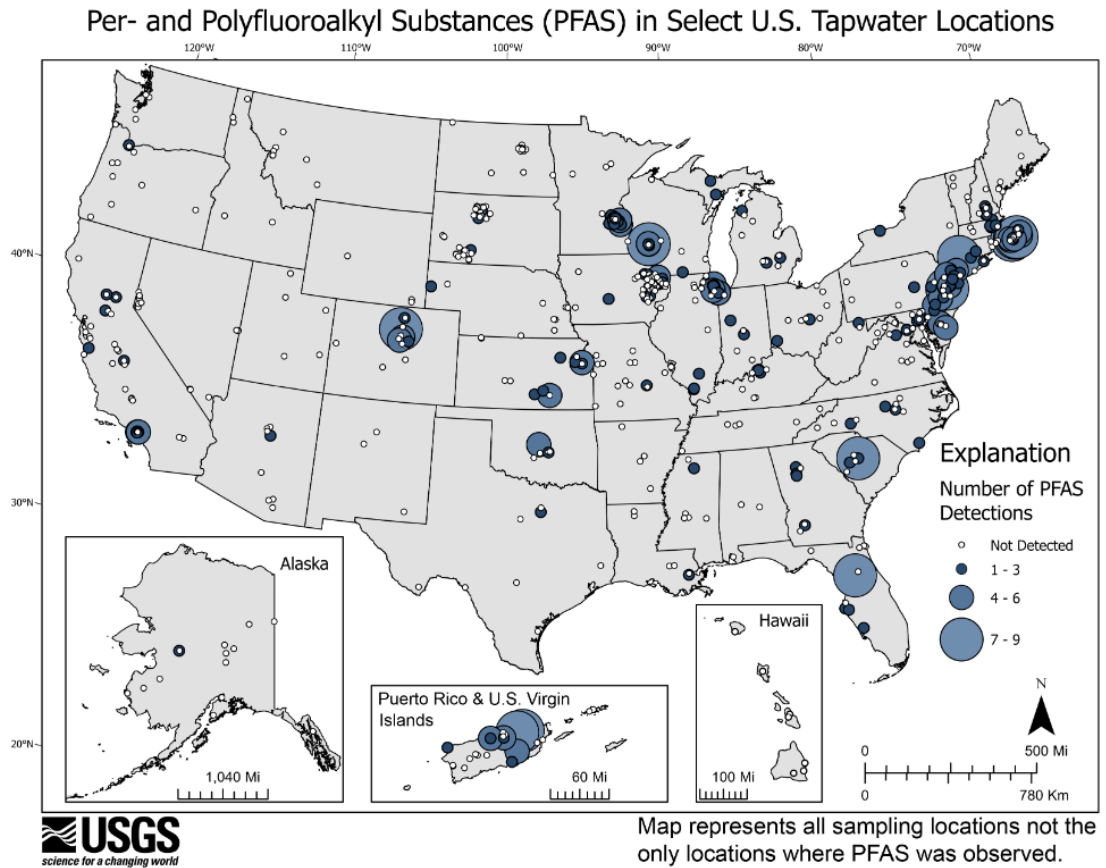
Can look up test results across much of Michigan



# PFAS contamination and exposure

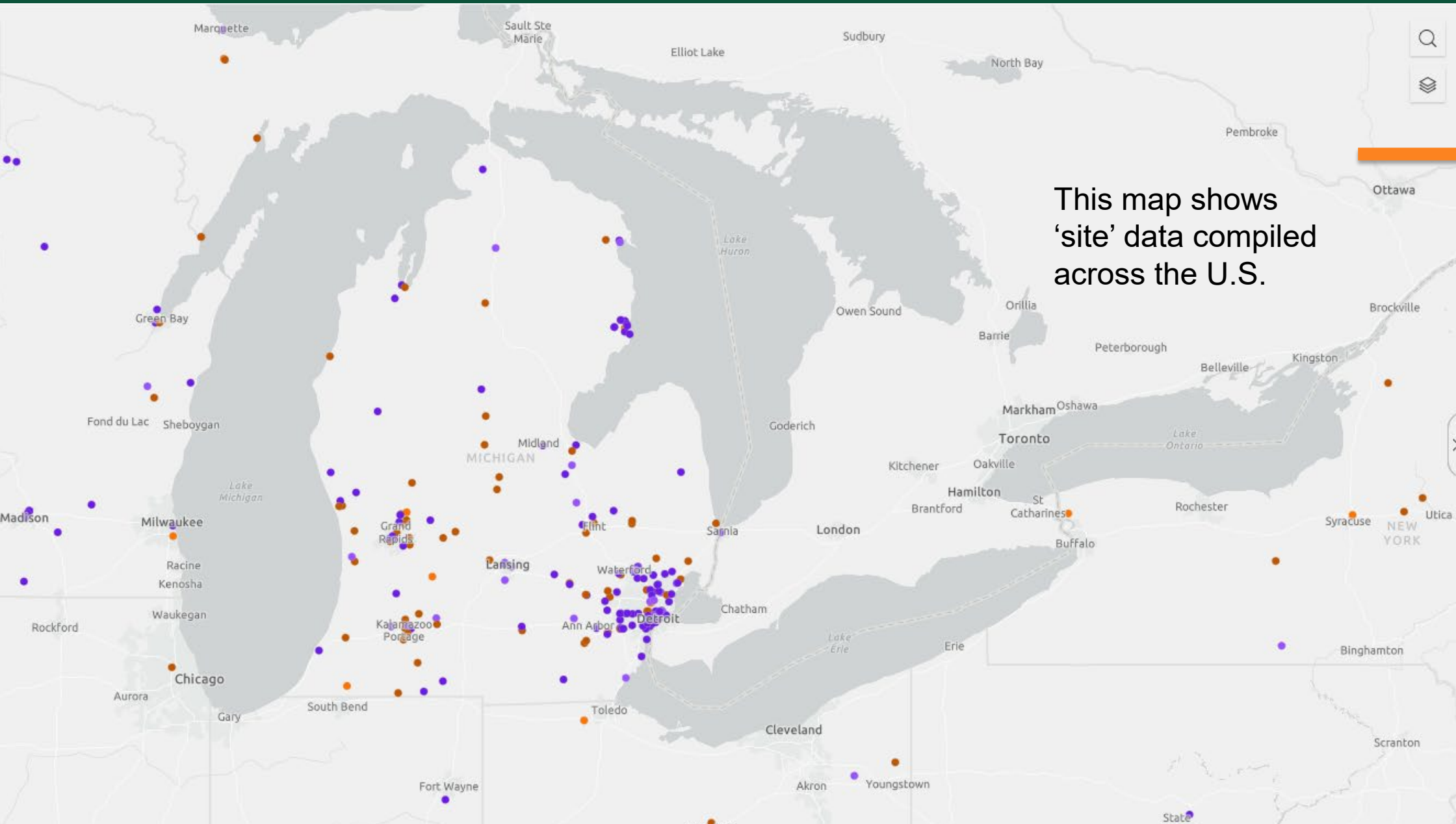
## Drinking Water (2023 Study)

- USGS estimated that at least 45% of the nation's tap water contains measurable levels of PFAS
- Concentrations were similar between public supplies and private wells



<https://www.usgs.gov/news/national-news-release/tap-water-study-detects-pfas-forever-chemicals-across-us>





## Industrial Chemicals in Virtually Every U.S. Pregnant Woman

43

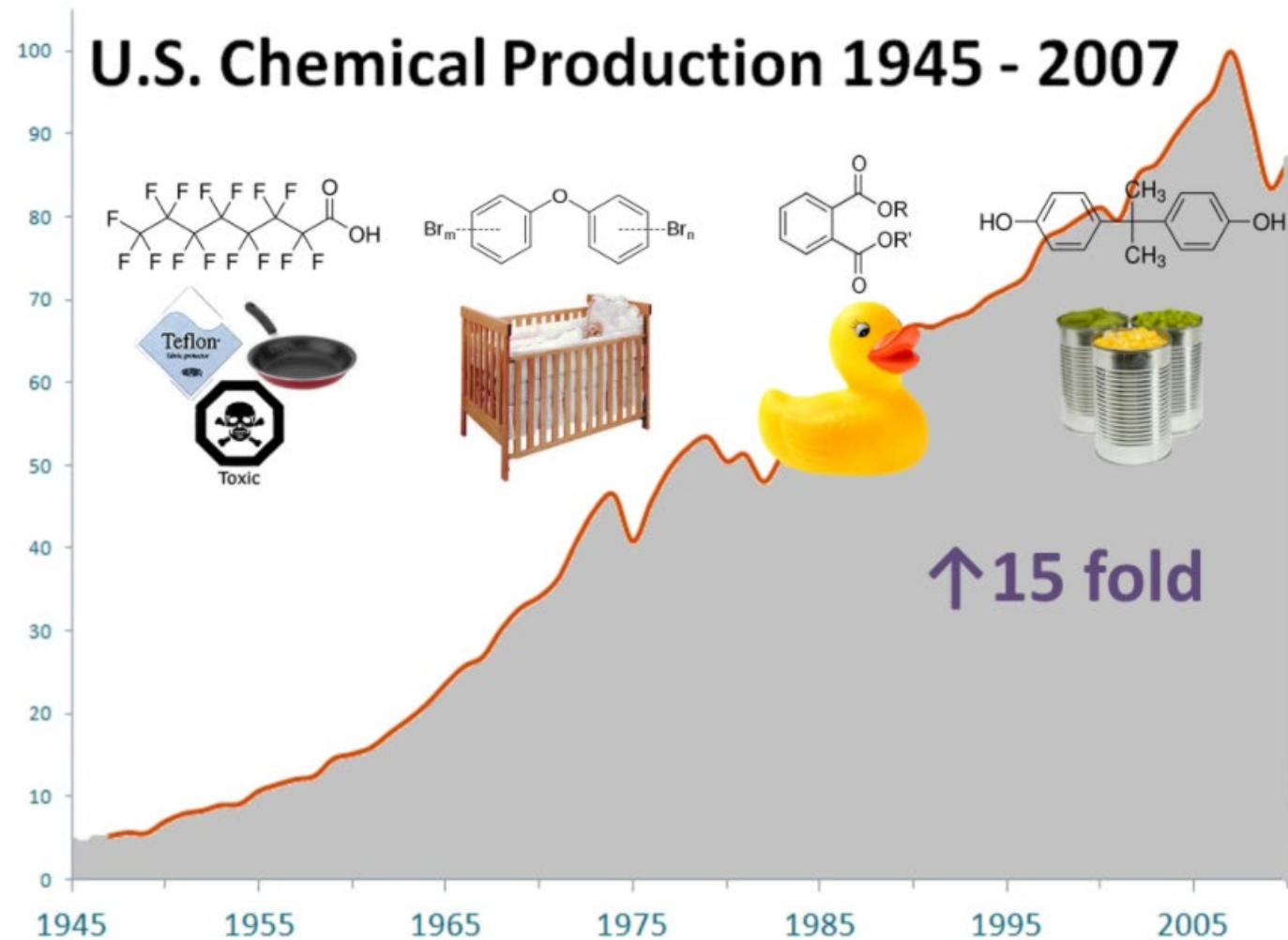
industrial chemicals found  
in pregnant women

Perchlorate	PCB-170
1-Hydroxypyrene	PCB-153
3-Hydroxyphenanthrene	PCB-146
2-Hydroxyphenanthrene	PCB-118
1-Hydroxyphenanthrene	PCB-110
1-Napthol	PCB-105
2-Napthol	PCB-101
2-Hydroxyfluorene	PCB-99
3-Hydroxyfluorene	PCB-74
9-Hydroxyfluorene	PCB-66
Mono-(3-carboxypropyl) phthalate (MCPP)	PCB-52
Mono-(2-ethyl-5-carboxypentyl) phthalate (MECPP)	PCB-49
Mono-(2-ethyl-5-oxohexyl) phthalate (MEOHP)	PCB-44
Mono-(2-ethyl-5-hydroxyhexyl) phthalate (MEHHP)	PCB-28
Mono-ethyl phthalate (MEP)	PBDE-153
Mono-n-butyl phthalate (MnBP)	PBDE-100
Mono-isobutyl phthalate (MiBP)	PBDE-47
Mono-benzyl phthalate (MBzP)	Perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA)
Benzophenone-3	Perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS)
Hexachlorobenzene	Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA)
p,p' - Dichlorodiphenyldichloroethene (DDE)	PCB-138 and -158
1,2,3,4,6,7,8-Heptachlororodibenzo-p-dioxin (HpCDD)	



Source: University of California, San Francisco, Program on Reproductive Health and the Environment



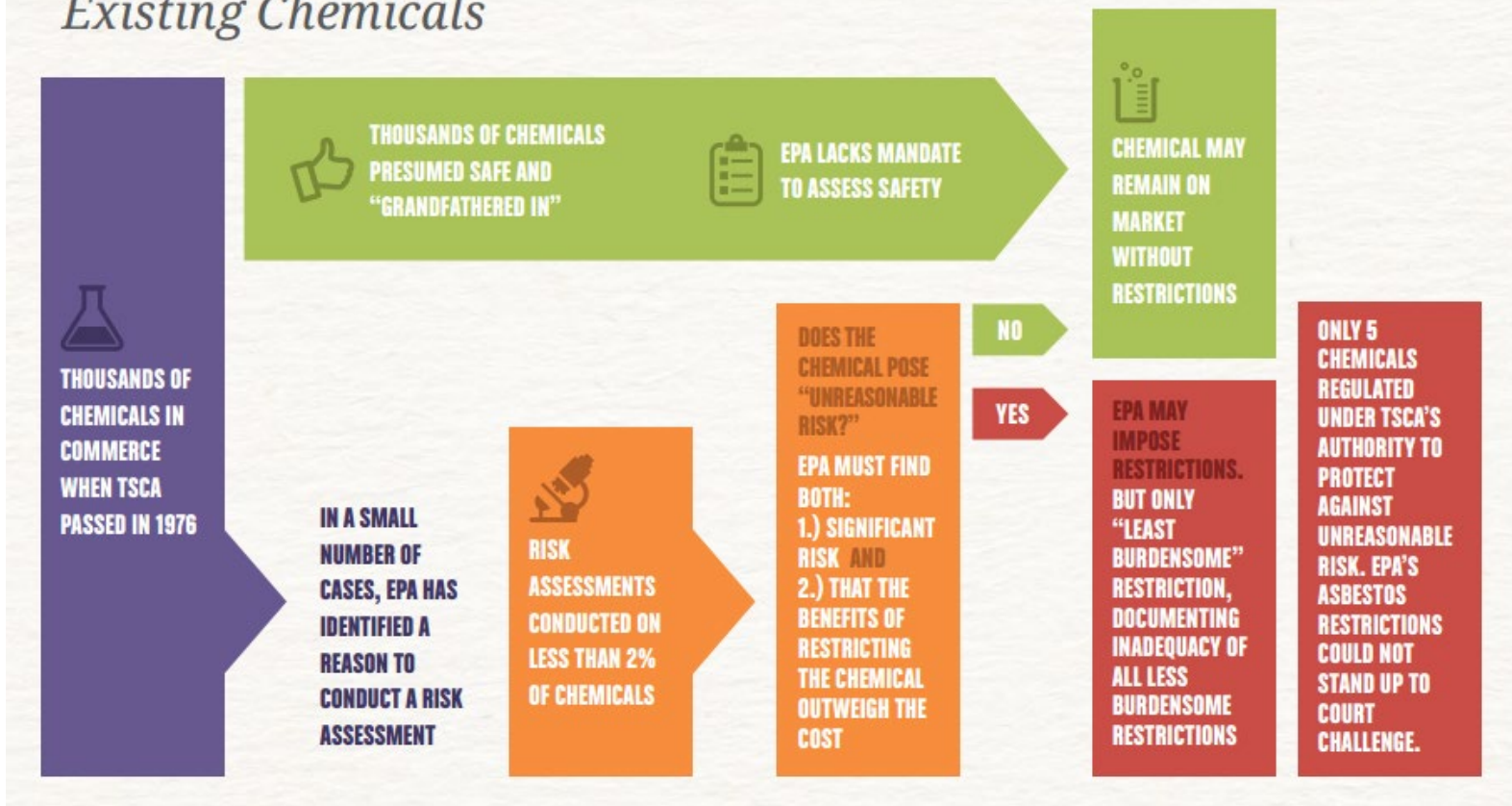


Federal reserve data on chemical production is only offered as relative production, which is unit-less. A specific reference year is chosen and values are calculated relative to that year's production. In this particular data set 2007 is the reference year and is assigned a value of 100.

Data from: U.S. Federal Reserve Board, Division of Research and Statistics

# How the Toxic Substances Control Act Evaluates Chemicals

## Existing Chemicals



Pre-TSCA Reform



# Roadmap to strengthen chemical policy

## The Problem



Chemical production is rising dramatically and impacting global health



EPA's regulatory process can't keep up



Low wealth and communities of color bear disproportionate chemical burden

**The system fails to protect people from harmful chemicals**

## The Solution

To protect people's health, EPA must **strengthen** use of **science** in 5 ways:



- 1** Make industry pay for data collection 
- 2** Declare lack of data does not mean lack of risk 
- 3** Better identify and protect populations in harm's way 
- 4** Don't assume safety thresholds for population-wide exposures 
- 5** Account for conflicts of interest in risk assessments 

**EPA can protect people better if chemical regulations rely on the best science**

Effective chemical policy is needed to help protect food supply.  
Scientists need your help.  
Share concerns with legislators.  
This is a bipartisan issue.