



Possible Health Effects and Advisory Levels

Additional information can be found online at:
www.secnav.navy.mil/eie/pages/pfc-pfas.aspx

For updates as more information becomes available, visit:
<https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas/index.html>

If you have specific questions, please contact the ATSDR Region 1 at:
tv4@cdc.gov or 617-918-1493

How Might PFAS Exposure Affect My Health?

- At this time, scientists are still learning about how exposure to PFAS might affect people's health.
- High levels of certain PFAS may lead to the following:
 - Increased cholesterol levels.
 - Increased risk of high blood pressure or preeclampsia in pregnant women.
 - Increased risk of kidney or testicular cancer.
 - Small decrease in infant birth weight.
 - Decreased vaccine response in children.
 - Changes in liver enzymes.
- There are no medical interventions that will remove PFAS from the body.
 - The best intervention is to stop the source of exposure (such as drinking water).
 - This allows levels in the body to decrease over time.

What is the EPA's Health Advisory?

- Sets a total concentration of 70 ppt PFOA and PFOS in drinking water.
- Protects against harmful health effects to sensitive populations and the general public.
- Assumes exposure over a lifetime.
- Provides information to state agencies and public health officials on health effects and water treatment needs so they can take steps to reduce exposures.
- Is only an advisory and is therefore non-enforceable.

How was the EPA Health Advisory Calculated?

- Based on studies of health effects from PFOA and PFOS in laboratory animals.
- Considers information regarding health effects on people exposed to PFOA and PFOS.
- Based on consumption of water by pregnant or nursing women.

The Navy will provide bottled water if your drinking water sampling results for PFOA and PFOS are above the EPA health advisory (70 ppt).

EPA U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
ppt parts per trillion

PFAS per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances
PFOA perfluorooctanoic acid

PFOS perfluorooctane sulfonate