

Summary of the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services' Perfluorochemical (PFC) Blood Testing Program, 2016-2017



Beginning in April 2015, the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) has conducted blood testing for people in communities where perfluorochemicals (PFCs) have been found in drinking water above lifetime health advisory levels. The DHHS PFC blood testing program measures a person's PFC blood level, or the amount of PFCs in the blood. The DHHS blood testing program was initially launched to test people who may have been exposed to PFCs on the Pease Tradeport. Between April and October 2015, 1,578 members of the Pease Tradeport community had their blood tested for PFC exposure.

In 2016, DHHS expanded the blood testing program to include residents of communities in southern New Hampshire, initially around the Saint-Gobain Performance Plastics facility in Merrimack, where PFCs have been found to contaminate private drinking water wells. DHHS has also conducted a Community Exposure Assessment among the Merrimack Village

District (MVD) public water system, a random sample of 217 MVD customers to measure approximate levels of exposure. Below is a summary of 694 blood test results conducted in 2016-2017, including 258 individuals from the Pease Tradeport community, 219 individuals from southern New Hampshire communities on private drinking water wells, and 217 individuals who participated in the MVD Community Exposure Assessment. The results are compared to each other, 2015 blood test results from Pease, other exposed communities and the general U.S. population.

The comparisons below include average and 95th percentile PFC levels found in the communities. The average is the middle level found in the community. The 95th percentile reflects the upper-end of the blood levels that most individuals tested below (95% of individuals in the community tested below this level). The DHHS PFC blood testing program is ongoing and some results may change as additional results become available.

Summary Results for Individuals Who Participated in the MVD Community Exposure Assessment

- People participating in the MVD Community Exposure Assessment had higher levels of PFOA exposure compared with the general U.S. population.
- PFOA levels were lower than levels seen in other exposed communities around the U.S, including Bennington, VT and Hoosick Falls, NY, where residents living near a Saint-Gobain facility received blood testing.
- PFOA blood levels in MVD participants are similar to blood levels in other southern NH residents whose private drinking water wells tested between 40-60 ppt of PFOA.

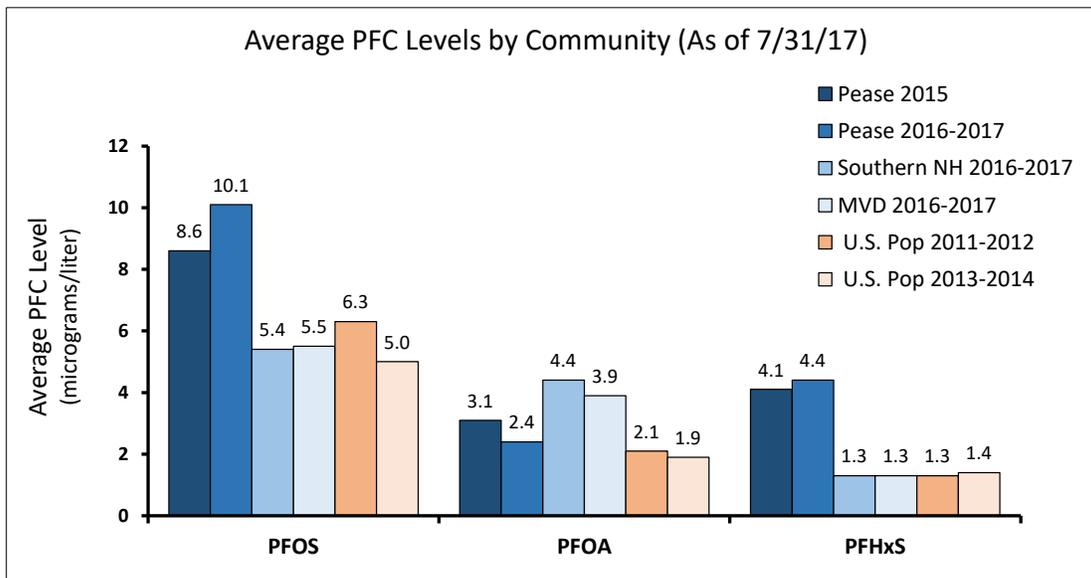
Summary Results for Individuals in Southern NH on Private Wells

- Participants from southern New Hampshire had higher blood levels of perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) compared with the general U.S. population.
- Individuals with higher concentrations of PFOA in their private well water have higher blood PFOA levels.
- PFOA levels in southern NH residents were lower than levels seen in other exposed communities around the U.S, including Bennington, VT and Hoosick Falls, NY, where residents living near a Saint-Gobain facility received blood testing.

Summary Results for Individuals Exposed on the Pease Tradeport

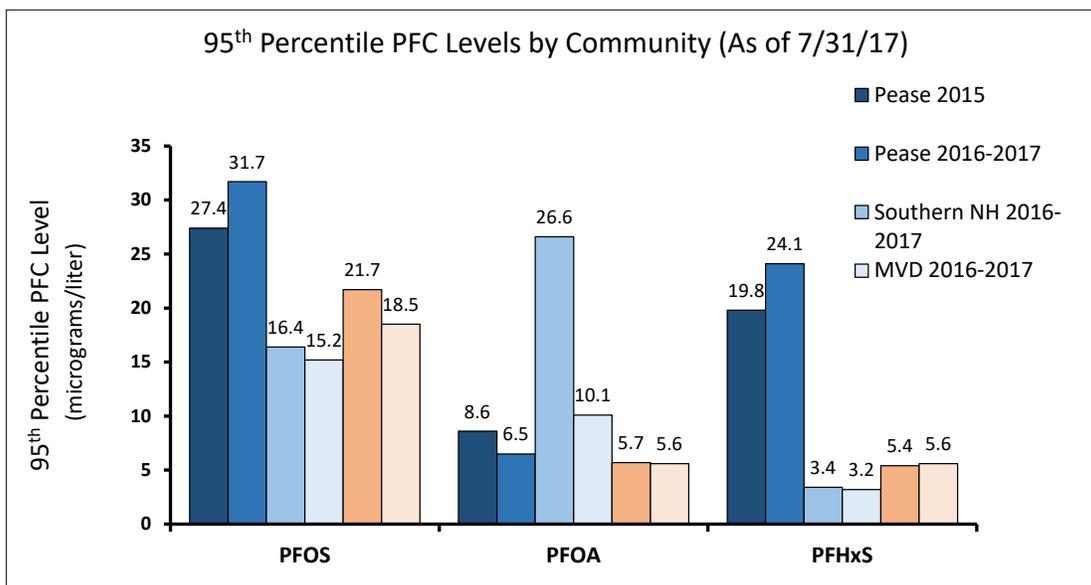
- Individuals from the Pease Tradeport had higher blood levels of PFOA, perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS), and perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS) compared with the general U.S. population. PFOS, PFOA and PFHxS were detected at elevated levels in a public water supply well tested at Pease in 2014.
- These 2016-2017 results are consistent with the results from PFC blood testing of the Pease community in 2015. PFOS, PFOA and PFHxS were detected at higher levels in one of the drinking water wells in 2014.

Comparing Average Levels for Pease 2015*, Pease 2016-2017, Southern NH 2016-2017, MVD 2016-2017, and the General U.S. Population



*In 2015, the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services tested 1,578 individuals exposed to PFC contaminated drinking water at Pease. A full report of those findings can be found at: www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/investigation-pease.htm.

Comparing 95th Percentile Levels for Pease 2015*, Pease 2016-2017, Southern NH 2016-2017, MVD 2016-2017, and the General U.S. Population

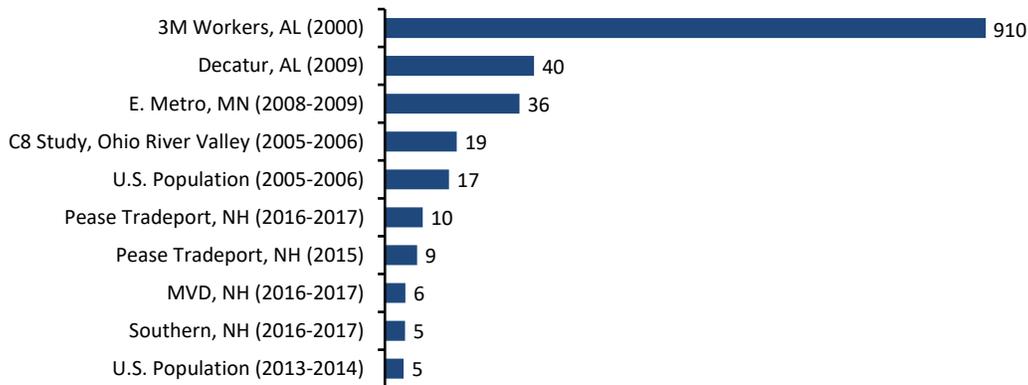


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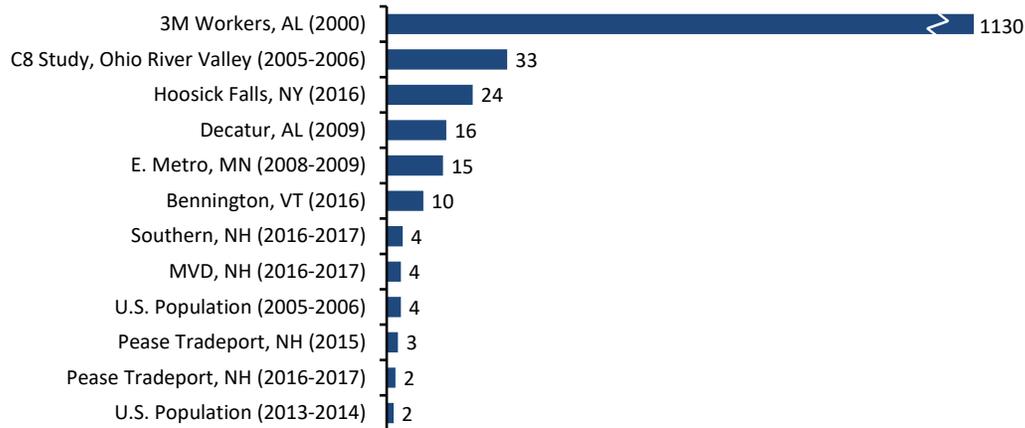
PFC Levels in Other Populations

Below are graphs showing PFOS, PFOA, and PFHxS levels in other populations around the country compared with the New Hampshire communities tested. Comparisons include communities with known exposures to PFCs and the general U.S. population tested as part of a national general health study (the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey).

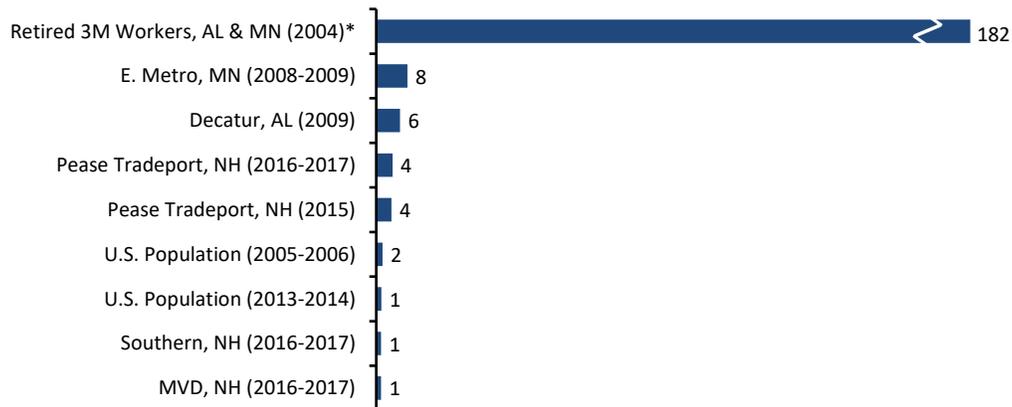
Average PFOS Levels in Blood (Micrograms per liter)



Average PFOA Levels in Blood (Micrograms per Liter)



Average PFHxS Levels in Blood (Micrograms per Liter)



Additional Resources

For more information about PFCs and the blood testing program, visit www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/pfcs/.