

# PFAS Exposure and Health Assessment Activities

## El Paso County, Colorado

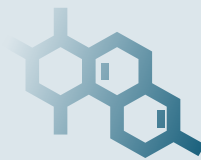
### INFORMATION TO PROTECT OUR COMMUNITIES

Exposure to per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) is a public health concern that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) are helping address in El Paso County, Colorado.

CDC/ATSDR are conducting a **PFAS exposure assessment** to provide information to the community about levels of PFAS in their bodies. CDC/ATSDR have also established a cooperative agreement with researchers at the Colorado School of Public Health (Colorado SPH) at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus to conduct a health study, the Colorado Study of Community Outcomes from PFAS Exposure (CO-SCOPE). This study is part of a larger program, the ATSDR PFAS **Multi-site Study (MSS)**, which aims to expand the knowledge between PFAS exposure and health outcomes among different populations. Previously, Colorado SPH conducted the PFAS Assessment of Water and Resident Exposure (**PFAS-AWARE**) health study.

This fact sheet summarizes key activities and describes the differences between these projects/studies.

### PFAS are human-made chemicals that have been used in industry and consumer products worldwide since the 1950s.



Some studies have shown that high levels of certain PFAS may lead to the following:

- Increased cholesterol levels
- Changes in liver enzymes
- Small decreases in infant birth weights
- Decreased vaccine response in children
- Increased risk of high blood pressure or pre-eclampsia in pregnant women
- Increased risk of kidney or testicular cancer

### PFAS Exposure Assessments



**Assess PFAS exposure** in communities near current or former military installations



**Compare PFAS levels** in blood and urine from each community to levels in the general US population



**Identify and assess** environmental factors that affect exposure

### PFAS Health Studies



**Look at the relationship** between PFAS exposure and health outcomes



National Center  
for Environmental Health  
Agency for Toxic Substances  
and Disease Registry

## PFAS Exposure Assessment and Health Studies in El Paso County, CO

	CDC/ATSDR PFAS Exposure Assessment	PFAS Health Studies	
	CDC/ATSDR Exposure Assessment (Data collection 2020)	PFAS-AWARE (Data collection 2018/2019)	CO-SCOPE/ ATSDR PFAS MSS (Data collection planned for 2021)
	The exposure assessment helps understand PFAS exposure at the community level	The health studies evaluate how exposures to PFAS may affect human health	
Evaluates existing environmental data	✓		✓
Evaluates if health effects are associated with PFAS exposure		✓	✓
Gives results to individuals about levels of chemicals found in their blood and/or urine	✓	✓	✓
Provides community-level estimates of PFAS exposure	✓		
Households are selected to participate at random	✓		
Individuals can sign up to participate		✓	✓
Collects blood and/or urine samples from community members	✓	✓	✓
Collects exposure histories from community members	✓	✓	✓
Collects environmental samples (drinking water, indoor dust)	✓	✓ <i>Tested untreated water sources</i>	
Makes recommendations to stop harmful exposures	✓	✓	
Findings can be applied to communities beyond the ones studied	✓	✓	✓
Understand relationship between PFAS exposure and its accumulation in and/or elimination from the body		✓	

### For More Information

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