

Environmental Health

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ABOUT THE COVER



Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) is a man-made chemical with a variety of uses, including coatings for nonstick cookware and food packaging, waterproof fabrics, and fire-fighting foam.

Exposure to PFOA is so widespread that it is present in the blood of most people. The persistence of PFOA in the environment is a concern because exposure to PFOA has been associated with adverse health outcomes. This month's cover article, "Public Health Assessment of and Response to Perfluorooctanoic Acid in Drinking Water, Bennington, Vermont," highlights a state health department investigation to assess risk and address community concerns around PFOA contamination in a Vermont community. The findings provide insights for future public health responses to PFOA and other perfluoroalkyl substance contamination.

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