



# Oscoda Area PFAS Listening Session

Sue Manente, Puneet Vij, Taylor Sullivan

Michigan Department of Health and Human Services

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# Welcome

- Oscoda Area PFAS Listening Session
- July 30, 2020

# Agenda

- Webinar instructions
- Purpose of the session
- Presentations
- Discussion
- Stakeholder recruitment
- Next steps
- Meeting conclusion

# Webinar Housekeeping



All lines are muted during the webinar.

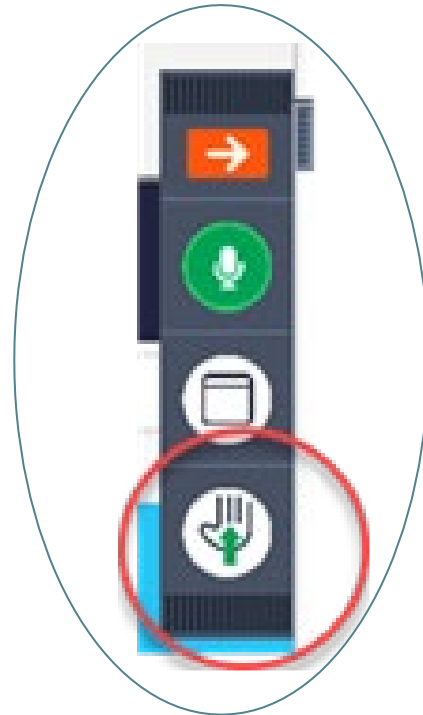
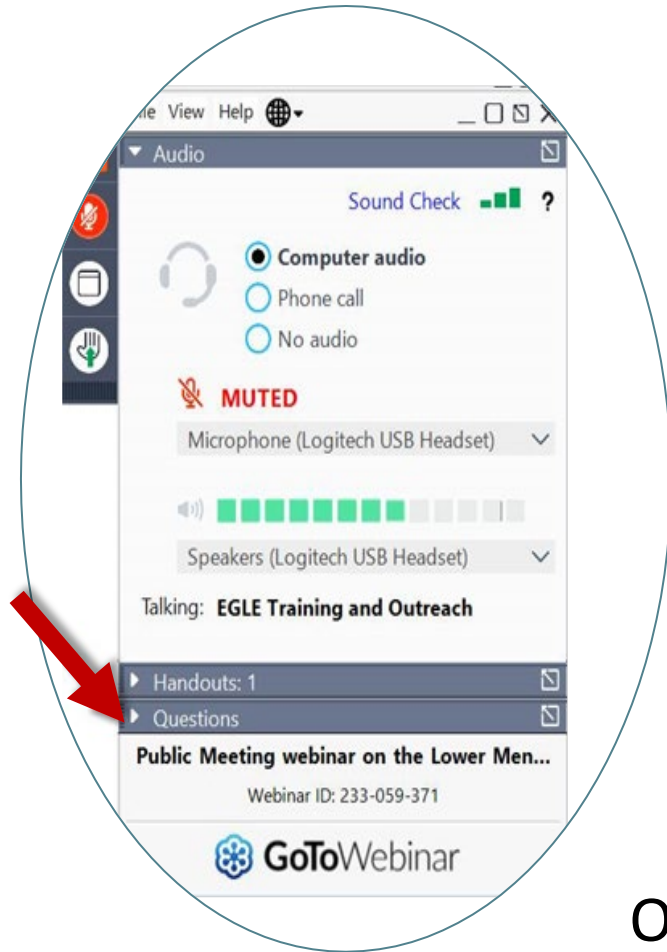


Submit your questions using the **“Question”** box in your Go To Webinar tool bar or email [mdhhs-pfas@michigan.gov](mailto:mdhhs-pfas@michigan.gov)



We are recording this webinar

# How to: Questions and Comments



Or email: [MDHHS-PFAS@Michigan.gov](mailto:MDHHS-PFAS@Michigan.gov)

# Listening Session Purpose

- Describe ways PFAS exposure can be evaluated
- Hear your concerns about PFAS exposure in the Oscoda area
- Help us define affected community
- Get your thoughts on if or how an exposure assessment might affect the community
- Ask for stakeholder group volunteers

# Do you live in the Oscoda area?

## Poll responses

- a) Yes, I live in the Oscoda area year-round
- b) Yes, I live in the Oscoda area for part of the year
- c) No, but I regularly visit the Oscoda area
- d) No, I do not live in or visit the Oscoda area

# Have you heard of PFAS before today?

## Poll responses

- a) Yes, I am very familiar with PFAS
- b) Yes, I've heard of PFAS before, but I am not very familiar
- c) No, I have not heard of PFAS before



# What are PFAS?

PFAS are a family of chemicals used widely in industry and consumer goods

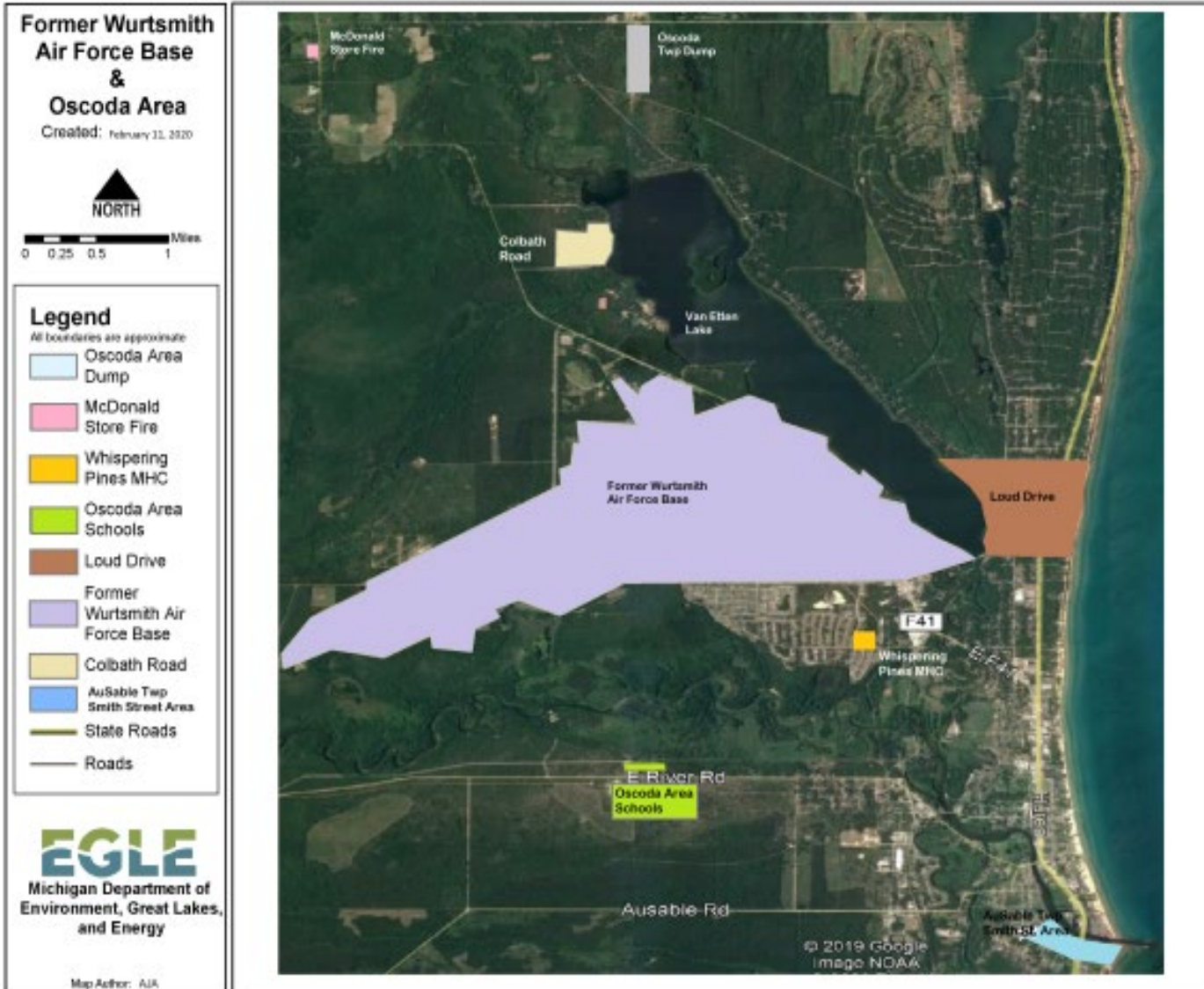
- Waterproof, grease proof
- Don't break down easily
- Includes PFOS, PFOA, and others

Sources:

- Fire-fighting foam
- Stain-resistant clothing, upholstery, carpet
- Personal care products such as waterproof cosmetics
- And many more applications

# PFAS in Your Community

# PFAS in the Oscoda Area



- Drinking water contamination in some residential wells
- Fish caught from Au Sable River, Clark's Marsh, and Van Etten Lake
- Deer and wildlife from the Clark's Marsh area (5-mile radius)
- Foam on Van Etten and Cedar Lakes

# How PFAS Enters Your Body

## Type of Exposure

### Swallowing (eating and drinking)

Drink water or eating food with PFAS  
how most people get it into their body

### Skin Contact

Can happen from swimming in lakes  
that have PFAS foam

### Breathing

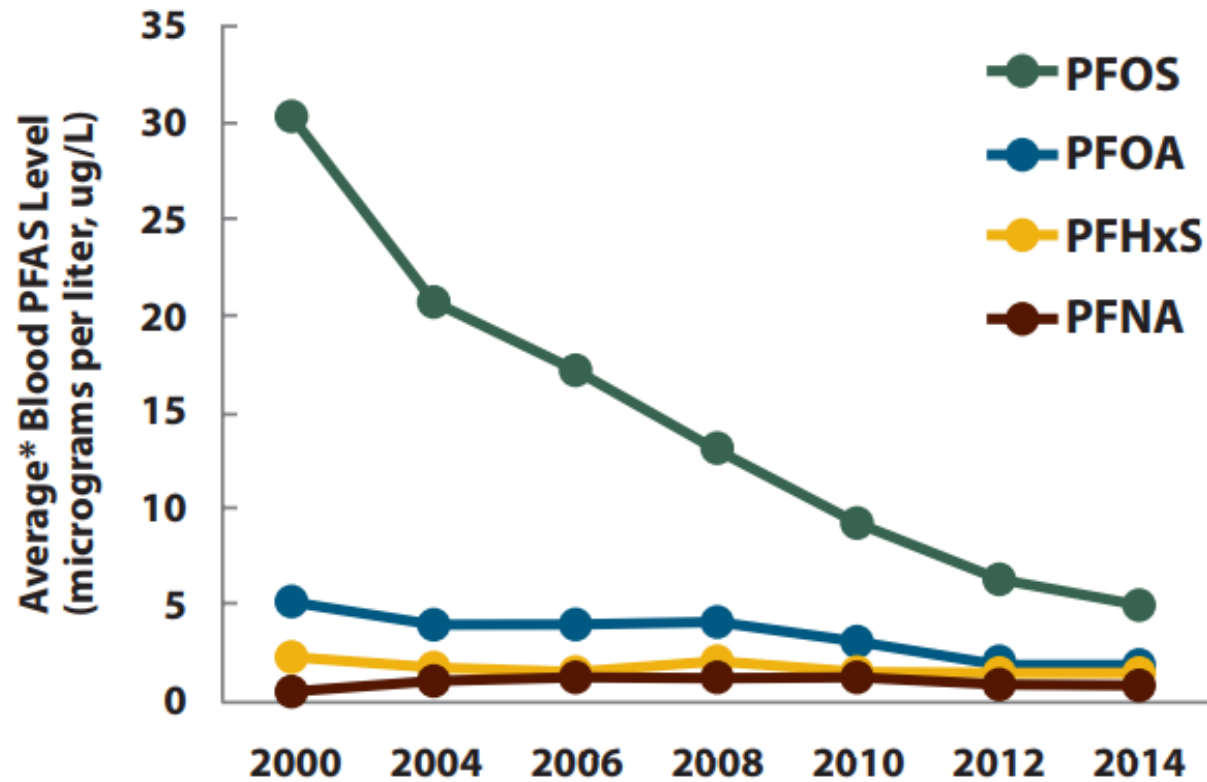
Some PFAS from household products  
can gather in dust, which you might  
breathe in.

## Level of Exposure Risk

High: Long-term repeated  
exposure is greatest concern.

Low: Current science shows  
PFAS do not move easily  
through skin.

Low: Amount of PFAS in  
household products poses  
little risk from breathing it in

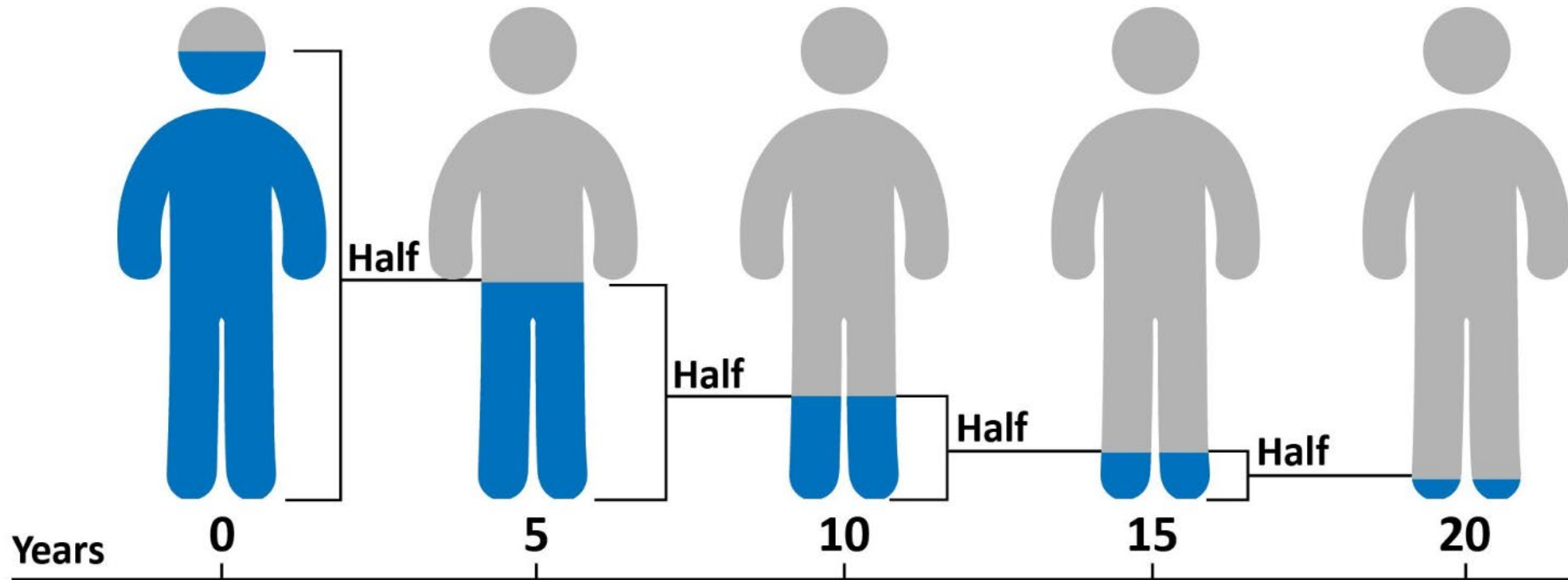


# Blood Levels of the Most Common PFAS in People in the U.S. from 2000-2014

\* Average = geometric mean

**Data Source:** Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Fourth Report on Human Exposure to Environmental Chemicals, Updated Tables, (January 2017). Atlanta, GA: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

# PFAS and Half-Lives



- When your exposure to a PFAS ends, the PFAS levels in your body begin to decline through normal bodily processes.
- The *half-life* of a chemical describes the time it takes for half of that chemical to leave your body.

# How can PFAS affect health?

Exposure to high levels of PFAS chemicals has been associated with certain health effects, including:

- Decreased chance of a woman getting pregnant
- Increased chance of high blood pressure in pregnant women
- Increased chance of thyroid disease
- Decreased vaccine response in children
- Increased cholesterol levels
- Increased chance of cancer, especially kidney and testicular cancers

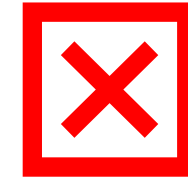
Having PFAS in your body does not mean you have health problems, or will have health problems in the future

# Blood Testing



## A blood test can tell you...

The amount of PFAS in your blood at the time it was drawn



## A blood test can't tell you...

When you were exposed to PFAS

How much PFAS you were exposed to in the past

How you were exposed

If the PFAS in your blood has harmed your health or will harm you in the future



# Approaches to Blood Testing by Public Health Agency

- Individual blood testing (no study done)
- Health study with blood testing
- Exposure assessment with blood testing

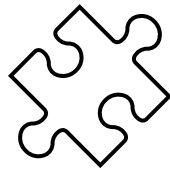
# Individual Blood Testing

- Trained MDHHS staff taking blood, sending individuals results
- Would not recruit people to give blood (not a study)
- May not be representative of your community
  - Couldn't necessarily compare community's average blood PFAS level to national average

# Blood Testing: Types of Studies

A health study...

- Needs a lot of study participants to be successful
- Looks for links between certain health conditions and PFAS exposures by collecting:
  - Measures of exposure
  - Measures of health
- Need **accurate** and **recent** exposure information for **all** study participants



# Challenges of Health Studies

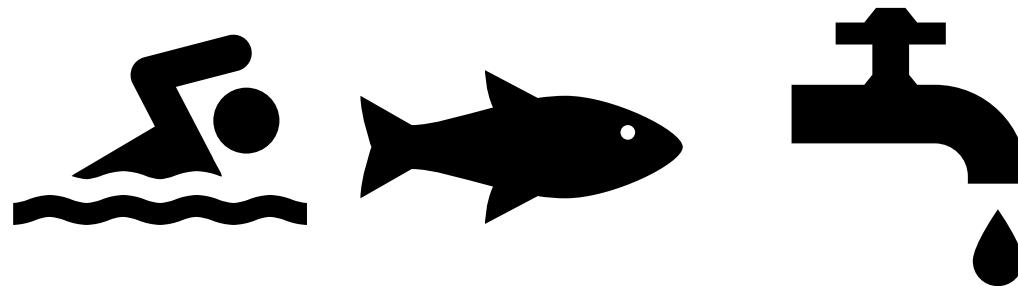


- If the *main source* of exposure ended many years ago, then we cannot accurately measure that exposure.
- If we cannot measure that exposure, we cannot test if that exposure is related to health

# Blood Testing: Types of Studies

An exposure assessment...

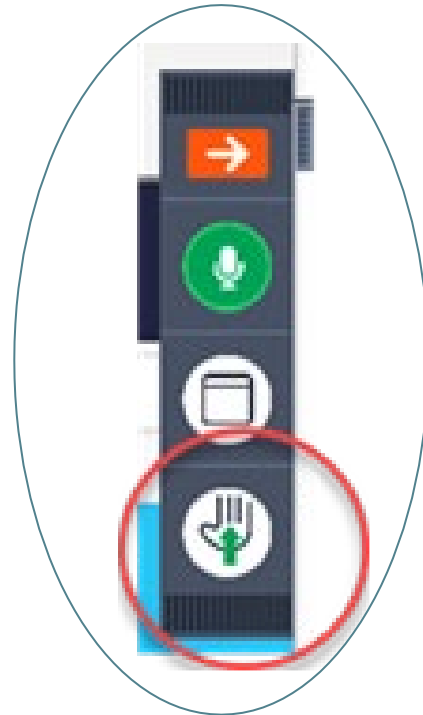
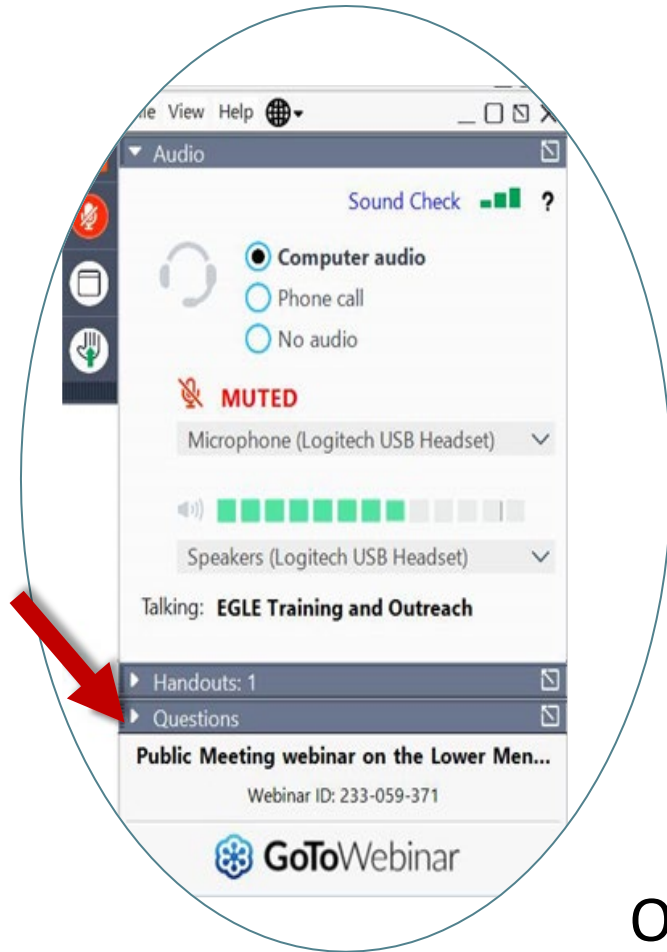
- Attempts to identify if exposure has occurred recently
- Attempts to identify types of exposures (e.g., eating fish, drinking water) that result in elevated levels of chemicals in blood or urine
- Does not link harmful health conditions to chemicals
- Could compare to national average



# Summary

- Concerns about PFAS exposure in the Oscoda area
- Individual blood testing (no study done)
  - Possible, but has limits
- Health study with blood testing
  - Not possible because we are missing part of the puzzle (blood PFAS levels from a long time ago)
- Exposure assessment with blood testing
  - Possible, but has limits

# How to: Questions and Comments



Or email: [MDHHS-PFAS@Michigan.gov](mailto:MDHHS-PFAS@Michigan.gov)

What are your concerns about exposure to PFAS in the Oscoda area?



# What do you most want to learn about your potential exposure to PFAS?

Poll responses (select all that apply):

- a) The amount of PFAS in your blood
- b) Ways you might have been exposed to PFAS
- c) Ways to stop your potential exposure to PFAS
- d) How to talk to your doctor about potential PFAS exposure
- e) Other

# What do you most want to learn about the community's potential average blood PFAS levels?

Poll responses (select all that apply):

- a) Ways the community may have been exposed
- b) How the community's blood PFAS levels compare to others
- c) Other

What would it mean to your community if an exposure assessment showed the community has blood PFAS levels similar to the national average?

What would it mean to your community  
if an exposure assessment showed  
the community has blood PFAS levels  
much higher than the national average?

Are any of you opposed to an exposure assessment, and if so, why?

If MDHHS were to do an exposure assessment to assess blood PFAS levels, there are a few different ways we could design that study. In your opinion, who should be included in that study?

Poll responses (select all that apply):

- a) People who live in the Oscoda area year-round
- b) People who have seasonal homes, cottages, or cabins in the Oscoda area, but do not live there year round
- c) People who fish or hunt in the area
- d) Others

# Join the Stakeholder Group

- Help determine next steps
- Assist with evaluation of community concerns
- Participate in development and evaluation of the project
- Identify barriers
- Strengthen relationships and build trust.
- If interested, indicate interest in the Chat or email [mdhhs-pfas@michigan.gov](mailto:mdhhs-pfas@michigan.gov)

# How did you hear about the listening session?

- a) Letter
- b) Email
- c) News article
- d) Facebook page or other social media
- e) Family/friends
- f) Other



# Has the listening session increased your knowledge about human PFAS exposure evaluations?

- a) Yes
- b) Somewhat
- c) No

# Were you given enough opportunity to ask questions or provide comments?

- a) Yes
- b) Somewhat
- c) No

# How can we improve future meetings?

- a) Make it shorter
- b) Make it longer
- c) Better facilitation
- d) Provide more information
- e) Provide less information
- f) Nothing, it was good

# Based on your experience today, how likely are you to attend future PFAS exposure evaluation meetings?

- a) 1 Not likely
- b) 2 Possibly
- c) 3 Likely
- d) 4 Very likely
- e) 5 Extremely likely
- f) Unsure

# Are you interested in participating in a stakeholder group?

- a) Yes
- b) Somewhat – I'd like more information
- c) No

# Next Steps

- Post presentations, (web location)
- Send Listening Session Feedback Form (Survey Monkey) for additional comments
- Provide summary of the listening sessions
- Form stakeholder group

# We Welcome Your Participation

- Join our stakeholder group
- Send questions and comments to [MDHHS-PFAS@Michigan.gov](mailto:MDHHS-PFAS@Michigan.gov)
- Call us with questions or comments at 844-464-7327

# Contact Information

## MDHHS

- Taylor Sullivan (Project Epidemiologist)  
[Sullivant4@michigan.gov](mailto:Sullivant4@michigan.gov)  
517-512-0197
- Puneet Vij (Project Toxicologist)  
[Vijp@michigan.gov](mailto:Vijp@michigan.gov)  
517-582-4104
- Sue Manente  
(Project Community Engagement Specialist)  
[Manentes@michigan.gov](mailto:Manentes@michigan.gov)  
517-281-6091

## EGLE

- Beth Place, Wurtsmith site  
[Placeb1@michigan.gov](mailto:Placeb1@michigan.gov)  
517-899-7524
- Amanda Armbruster, Oscoda area sites  
[Armbruster@michigan.gov](mailto:Armbruster@michigan.gov)  
989-450-6377



# Thank you!

We greatly appreciate your questions and comments, and your time.