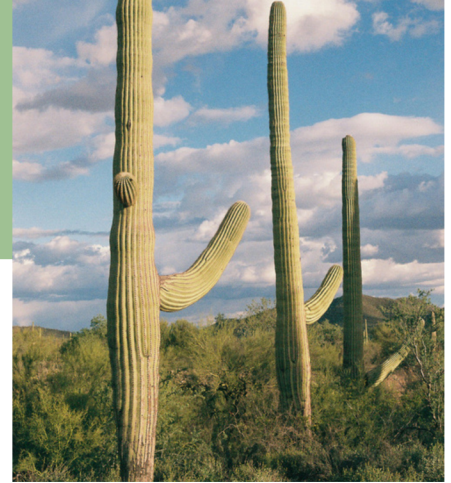
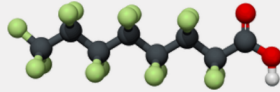


PFAS in Pima County

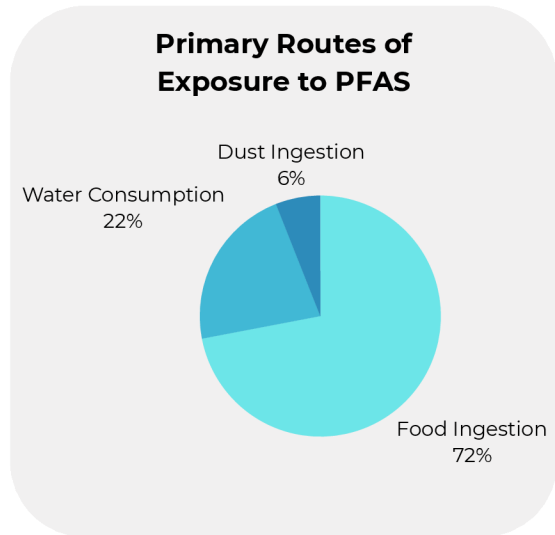


What are PFAS?

- Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a large and diverse class of over 15,000 man-made chemicals used in many commercial applications due to their unique properties.¹
- They are resistant to high and low temperatures and resistant to degradation, making them persistent in both human bodies and the environment.

How Can People be Exposed to PFAS?

Ingestion is the primary route of exposure for PFAS. It is estimated that 72% of total PFAS exposure is from food ingestion, 22% is from water consumption, and 6% is from dust ingestion¹. Due to its widespread use and persistence in the environment, PFAS has been found to leach into groundwater and drinking water.



What are the Impacts?

PFAS are an environmental and health concern. Exposure has been associated with numerous health effects including, but not limited to¹:

 Atherosclerosis and stroke	 Cancer
 Impaired thyroid or kidney function	 Adverse birth outcomes
 Immune modulation - impacts reactions to viruses	

What can PFAS be Found In?



Fast Food Wrappers



Non-stick Pans



Firefighting Foams



Water Resistance on Fabrics

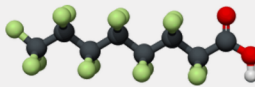


Upholstery and Carpets



Dental Floss

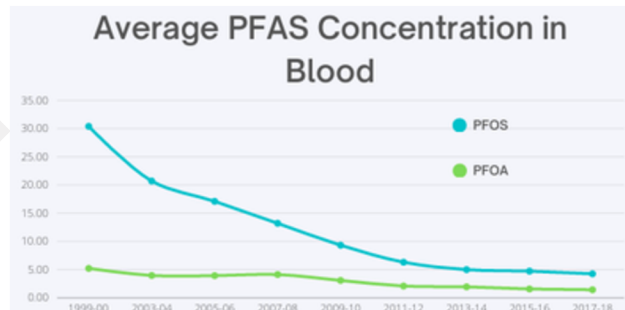
PFAS in Pima County



PFAS in Tucson Waters

- Tucson Water has removed 30 contaminated production wells that were contributing to the water system.³
- Invested in laboratory equipment to help test 1,800 samples of water each year for PFAS in the water.
- Removed Tucson Airport Remediation Project (TARP) from connection from the potable system.
- ADEQ has invested \$25 million to improve water treatment of PFAS in Tucson. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has invested \$30 million to protect residents of Tucson from PFAS in drinking water, back in 2023.³
- The construction of the Randolph Park Groundwater Treatment Facility, which will remove PFAS from groundwater and use it for irrigation.

Generally, PFAS concentration in the population has been decreasing over the past three decades



Ways to Reduce PFAS Exposure

- Try to avoid products treated with PFAS:
 - Water-resistant treatments like Polartec or Gore-tex
 - Non-stick cookware (ex: Teflon)
 - Stain-repellant treatments on carpets and furniture
 - Personal care products that contain PTFE or “Fluoro” in the ingredients.
 - Fast food and microwave popcorn since the wrappers or the bags are often coated in PFAS.
- Be on the lookout for local consumption and water advisories.⁴

References

1. Beamer et al. “Environmental Toxic Substance Assessment 2022 Update.” University of Arizona, 6 Oct. 2022.
2. Dr. Farshad Shirazi. “An Informative Guide for Healthcare Providers in Pima County About PFAS”
3. City of Tucson. “PFAS: Forever Chemicals City of Tucson”
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