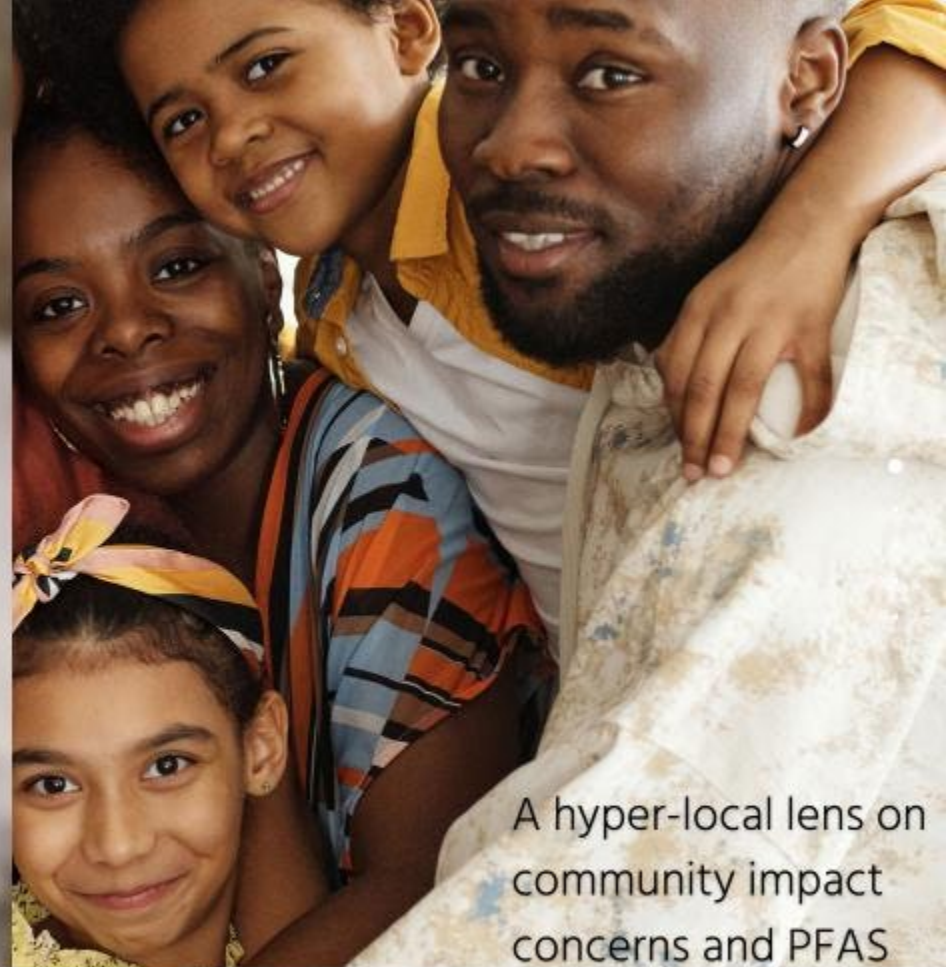




→
PFAS
A COMMUNITY
CRISIS



A hyper-local lens on
community impact
concerns and PFAS

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Outline

- Introduction
- Black & Brown populations impacted
- Potential health effects
- The value in testing our community members
- Medical support needs





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The Kingdom of the Happy Land: Afro-Indigenous North Carolina Native



The **North Carolina Black Alliance**, a 501c3, addresses policy and economic issues to enhance black communities by developing and promoting systemic policy change as well as youth and leadership development. As an intergovernmental organization of legislators, municipal officials, county commissioners, school board members and community activists, we seek to collaborate with strategic partners to advance the work of those organizations and to enhance intentional collaboration with black constituencies.



Advance North Carolina (Advance Carolina) is a statewide, independent, Black-Led, 501c (4) organization with a mission to build political and economic power in Black communities and institutions in North Carolina. Our mission is to educate and mobilize African-American and progressive voters to take charge of their communities amid inclusive, committed and authentic engagement in order to advance community-based political solutions.

Hurricane Florence 2018

The Impact

- Over 455,000 people evacuated
- Up to 11 dams breached or failed
- Over 75k structures flooded
- Family Farms contaminated

The Breach

Cape Fear River watershed

- Reported contaminants:
 - Coal ash
 - Animal waste
 - Sewage

What About PFAS?

For decades Chemours (DuPont) dumped manmade PFAS into the Cape Fear River, poisoning the water of 350,000+ downstream residents.



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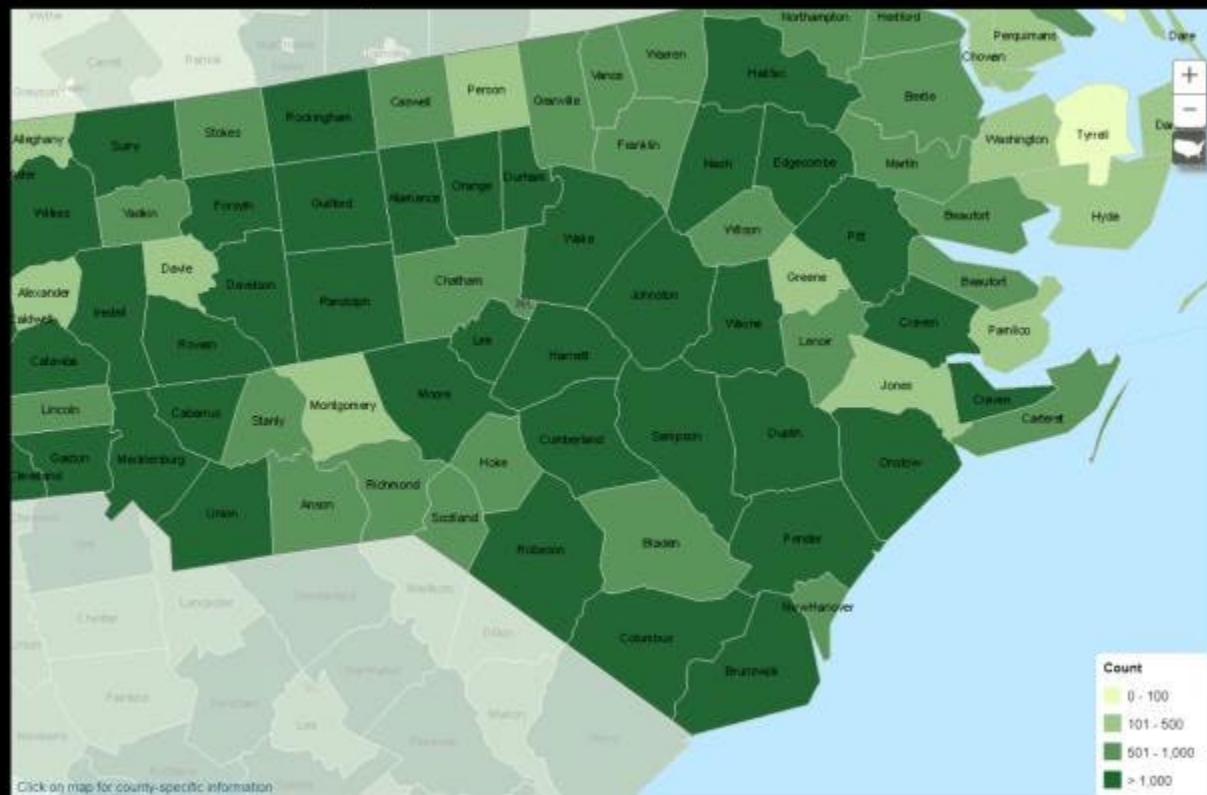
Areas of PFAS Exposure: Housing



Over 35% :
of all North Carolinians are renters.

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Areas of PFAS Exposure: Food Deserts



80 out 100 :
North Carolina counties are considered
food deserts.

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Areas of PFAS Exposure: Fast Food



481,900

North Carolina residents are franchise -
foodservice employees/workers.

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Essential, Franchise, Corporation and Farm Workers

PFAS Concerns:

- Long-term impacts on health
- Air emissions
- Cumulative impact when industries collide
- Need OSHA studies on fast food employees

Why?

We need to test exposure and make provisions for those closer in proximity and more consistently exposed to this emerging contaminant.



High Priority Populations

Our Concerns:

Expectant Mothers

- PFAS can cross over the placenta.
- PFAS can be passed to the infant through breastfeeding.
- The need for blood testing in PFAS contaminated zones.
- Followed by the need for adequate medical care for expectant parent and child.

*Increased infertility concerns among men.

Returning Citizens

- In 2018, there were 35,000+ people in North Carolina prisons.
- Blood testing for individuals in custody of law enforcement.
- Blood testing and clinical support post-release.
- Clinical guidelines for free clinics and urgent cares.
- Not often included in outreach for community input or testing.

Communities Living with Disabilities

- Comprises 18% of total extremely low income renter households.
- Exposure to PFAS through food supply, carpet and manufactured materials.
- Accessibility and accommodations built into blood testing outreach.



High Priority Populations

Firefighters

- Lack of testing options or studies for firefighters exposed to PFAS in AFFF foam.
- The need to test and track impact of layered exposure via a foam substance, uniforms and air emissions.
- Clinical guidelines for health care providers specific to essential workers with increased exposure to PFAS.

Living & Care Facilities & Alternative Housing

- There are 27 senior living care facilities housing over 2,152 residents downstream of the Cape Fear River.
- Testing should include this population.
- Provide clinical guidelines on the front end to Social Security Services, DSS, DHHS and Disability Rights.
- Heightened concern with water quality, manufactured materials, and air emissions.
- Accessible testing for families dwelling in alternative housing: hotels, extend stays, shelters, etc.

Students

- There are numerous community colleges and a Historically Black College & University in proximity to Fayetteville Works.
- There are 161 K-12 schools located across Cumberland, Bladen, Brunswick and New Hanover.
- Several have tested positive for PFAS.
- How are we testing and monitoring long-term impacts on students and development.

AFFF + Teflon +
Dust
=
High Exposure to
PFAS





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Cancer Rates in Children of Firefighters

- 0.0179% chance a child will be diagnosed with cancer in the U.S.
- Whereas a child of a Kitsap County (KC) career firefighter has a 0.49% chance of getting cancer.

What does this mean?

- This probability is 27.4 times higher than that of the general population of children.

Research by: Ronald E. Powers,
South Kitsap Fire Rescue
Port Orchard, Washington



Regulatory Concerns:

- Federal, state and local regulations can differ for fluorinated products.

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No agreed or validated method to substantiate 'no intentionally added PFAS'

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- **Medical Deserts:** Lack of diverse health care options.
- **Some residents, drive up to 23mi+ to the nearest emergency room.**
- **Communities on unregulated utilities and in unincorporated towns face PFAS impact in well water and groundwater.**
- **Impact on property, family land and wildlife.**

Rural

- **Lack of insurance coverage, similar to rural communities.**
- **Lack of clinical guidelines on PFAS for free clinics and urgent cares.**
- **Double exposure to air emissions and public utilities.**
- **Increased exposure to fast food.**
- **Impact on urban fishing in contaminated areas.**

Urban



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American Rescue Plan - Infrastructure

- Potential historic expansion of what applies as "infrastructure".
- Includes terminology as "climate justice" which offers potential resource support for contaminated communities.

Creates Opportunity to:

- Redefine infrastructure to include remediation of toxic exposures.
 1. Toxic exposures in buildings, community centers, pipes, housing, farmland, fire stations and other community infrastructures contaminated by PFAS.
 2. Resource support for military infrastructures, base housing, schools and daycares.
 3. Conduct research in environmental justice communities and low wealth populations to assess contamination depth and spread.
- Explore resource needs to connect PFAS exposure and COVID boosters.



What Our Communities Need

Our communities are willing to undergo testing, they will participate in your studies, they're just not designed to include our communities.

This requires a design process alongside Black & Brown communities and community leaders to be in the design process on the ground floor.

More Testing

1. Over 300,000 residents have been impacted by PFAS. Yet only one major study involving the community and community groups.
 - a. We need to assess a larger sample size, seek funding and make \$ available.
2. Track data over the long run, blood exposures to tipping point of health outcomes.
 - a. What's the tipping point for babies and expectant mothers?
 - b. For EJ communities? Should EJ communities be tested differently than the standardized being elevated?
3. We should be included in clear testing for health care providers and for insurance claims.
 - a. For urgent cares and communities without insurance, we need clear accessibility and support
4. How does exposure to COVID-19, other environmental contaminants, and major industries layering impact in communities and how are we tracking this data?
 - a. Include a review of health outcomes in factoring the appropriate Parts Per Trillion (PPT) to increase survivability.
5. OSHA studies on fast food workers
6. Plain language (include language justice) for both Urgent Cares, free clinics, pediatrics, universities supporting clinics, women's health, hospitals and general physicians.
 - a. Clinical guidelines can support insurance claims
7. Better representation of design for better health effects study data.
 - a. If the community can't participate, this study can't have data needs properly assessed.



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