

STEEP

Sources, Transport, Exposure & Effects of PFASs
UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND SUPERFUND RESEARCH PROGRAM

WHAT'S IN YOUR WELL WATER?

Find out! Volunteer for FREE private well testing.

Why study well water?

In some areas of Cape Cod, PFASs have been found in drinking water.

What are PFASs?

PFASs are chemicals found in household products and firefighting foam. They've been around for 60 years, but their harmful health effects have only drawn concern in the last 20 years.

How can PFASs get into my well water and what are the harmful effects?

They can seep into the ground and move through groundwater to your well. They suppress certain immune system functions, particularly in kids, impact metabolic and liver functions, and are linked to some cancers and adverse effects on pregnancy, such as low birth weight.

Who can participate and how much time will it take?

Private well owners who live in Barnstable County on Cape Cod are eligible to participate, and participation will take about three hours.

What's the purpose of this study?

To test 50 private wells on Cape Cod each year over the next 5 years. Wells will be chosen from areas in Barnstable County that may be impacted by PFASs. The benefit to Cape Cod residents is a better understanding of PFAS exposure and contamination.

Who is doing the study?

The STEEP project is part of a National Institutes of Health Superfund Research Project led by the University of Rhode Island. URI and Silent Spring Institute will collect well water samples and Harvard University will analyze them.

Will I receive the test results?

We will report individual results and interpret them for each participant. We will share summaries of our findings with Cape residents in reports and public meetings. Names and addresses of participants will be kept confidential.

For more info, or to apply, contact either:

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