



# Newsletter

July 2023 | Issue 7

A North Carolina research study assessing exposure to GenX and related chemicals in people living in the Cape Fear River Basin.

## From the Principal Investigator, Dr. Jane Hoppin

Thank you for being a part of the GenX Exposure Study. Your time and participation are critical to our ability to understand the health effects of PFAS exposure. The value of a study like this grows over time because it allows us to see connections between past exposures and future health outcomes. The generous contribution of you and other people in the cohort brings us one step closer to answering critical health questions.

We are collecting new samples this summer and fall from people who participated in 2020-2021. Please join us during one of the below dates for the next round of sampling. We will be contacting you with details about how to make an appointment. You can provide a sample at any location.

As a member of an ongoing health study, an additional sample from you is greatly beneficial. This helps us identify trends that may emerge throughout the duration of the study.

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact us at [genx-exposure-study@ncsu.edu](mailto:genx-exposure-study@ncsu.edu) or (855) 854-2641. Please check our website ([genxstudy.ncsu.edu](http://genxstudy.ncsu.edu)) for study updates. Also, if you have moved, please let us know.

Best wishes,

### UPCOMING COLLECTION DATES:

**Aug. 11-13:** New Hanover County Health Department, Wilmington

**Sept. 8-10:** New Hanover County Health Department, Wilmington

**Sept. 29-30:** Cape Fear Community College, Wilmington

**Oct. 13-15:** Cumberland County Health Department, Fayetteville

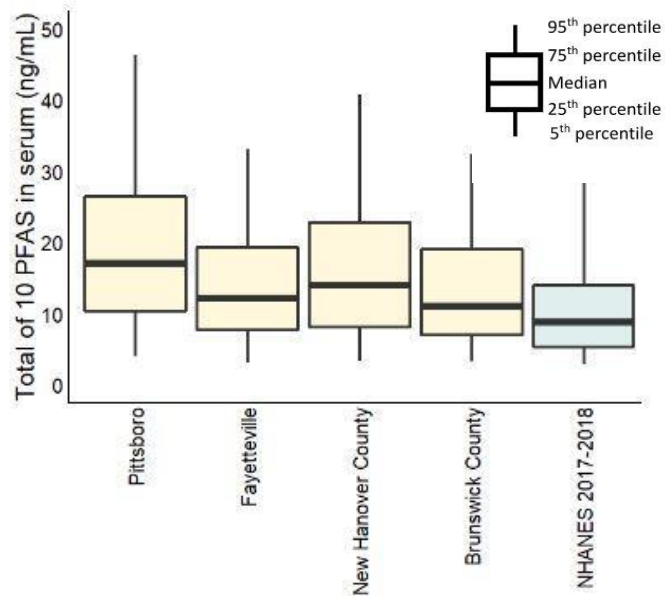
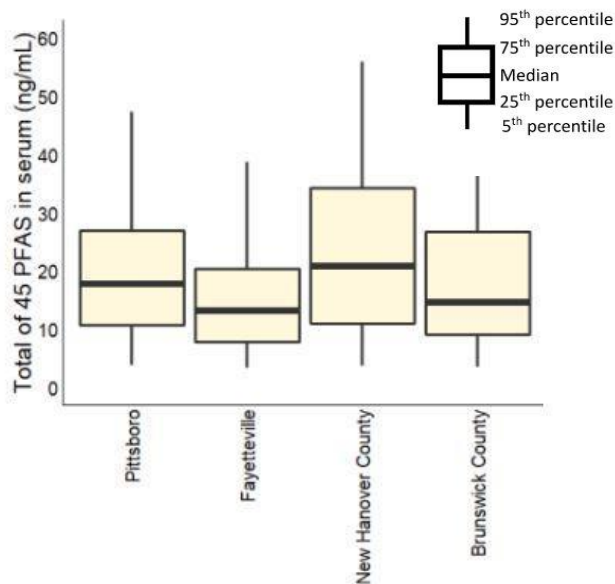
**Late Oct.:** Pittsboro [TBA]

## The overall burden of PFAS in blood samples is high in all communities in the Cape Fear Basin.

- From November 2020 to November 2021, we collected blood samples from 1,020 people throughout the Cape Fear River Basin. These people came from four communities:
  - Pittsboro
  - Fayetteville
  - New Hanover County
  - Brunswick County
- In Fall 2022, we shared results with individuals and communities.
- In March 2023, a community group asked us to share some more PFAS results: the total sum of all PFAS measured in blood per community. We are sharing these with you today.

We looked for 45 different PFAS in people’s blood. All communities had more PFAS than the US population. Overall, there was not a big difference in the total amount of PFAS in blood by community. There was evidence of widespread PFAS exposure in all communities. The lowest number of any PFAS detected in an individual was 3, the most was 18. Most people had 8 to 11 detectable PFAS in their blood. It’s important to note that participants in the GenX Exposure Study are volunteers and may not be representative of the entire community.

The amount of time people live in a community is a measure of how long they may have been exposed to PFAS. This varied a lot within the study. The median years lived in each community was Pittsboro:10 years, Fayetteville:30 years, New Hanover County:19 years, and Brunswick County:11 years.



Total concentration of 45 PFAS in serum samples from Pittsboro (206 people), Fayetteville (299 people), New Hanover County (367 people), and Brunswick County (148 people), North Carolina, collected in 2020-2021.

Total concentration of 10 PFAS\* in Pittsboro (206 people), Fayetteville (299 people), New Hanover County (367 people), and Brunswick County (148 people), North Carolina, and 1,672 people who participated in CDC NHANES (a representative sample of US population) in 2017-2018.

\*PFOS, PFOA, PFHxS, PFNA, PFDA, PFHpS, PFUnDA, MeFOSAA, PFHxA, HFPO-DA [GenX]