Disparities in exposure to per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in drinking water: Evidence from New Jersey

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Summary

Using testing data from the EPA’s Unregulated Contamination Monitoring Rule (UCMR) from 2013-2015 and New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection from 2019-2020, this paper summarizes the extent, disparities, and trends of PFAS exposure in drinking water in New Jersey. The results show that, between 2019-2020, 81% of NJ’s population receive water from public water systems (PWSs) with PFAS detected and 38% were served by PWSs with above state MCL. In addition, the analysis also shows a decline in PFAS overtime.
Are the declines and disparities mainly driven by more careful treatment or better source water?

Panel b of table 4 shows those PWSs with detectable PFAS between 2013 and 2015 see larger declines in detection.
Comments

- Are the declines and disparities mainly driven by more careful treatment or better source water?
  Panel b of table 4 shows those PWSs with detectable PFAS between 2013 and 2015 see larger declines in detection.
  (1) Information on the installations of treatment facilities, and
  (2) Industrial production and firm location data

- Would differences in testing methods and technology affect the comparability of the data from EPA and NJ?

- How would the voluntary reporting in state testing affect the results?