



PFAS Health Effects

**Senate Committee on Health and Welfare
Vermont Department of Health**

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Health Effects of PFAS

- Increases in cholesterol levels
- Immune effects: decreased antibody response to vaccines
- Pregnancy-induced hypertension and preeclampsia
- Developmental effects including decreased birth weight
- Cancer: kidney and testicular
- Effects on liver enzymes
- Other endocrine effects: thyroid, sex hormones

PFAS health effects may be especially harmful to fetal development



A single exposure during a critical period of development can have lifelong effects.

Per- and polyfluoroalkylated substances (PFAS) are a class of widely-used and stable chemicals

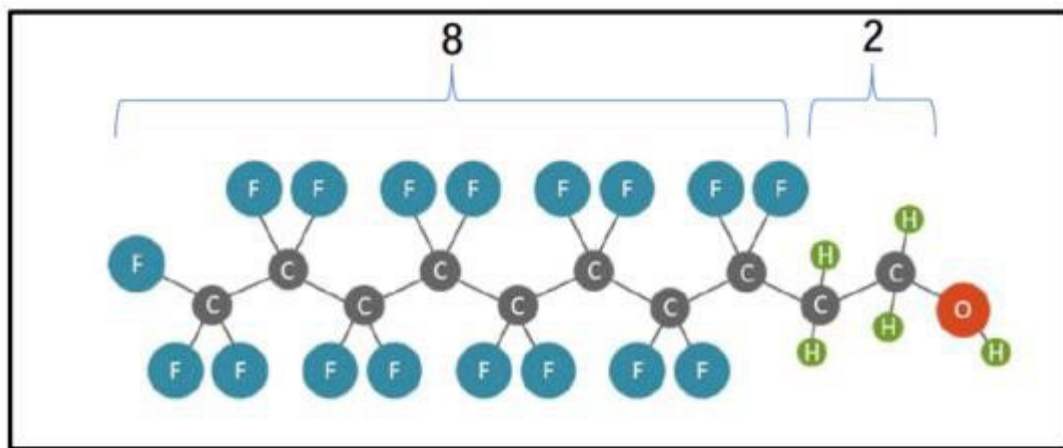


Figure 3. Example of a polyfluoroalkyl substance.

Source: M. Olson, Trihydro. Used with permission. PFAS-1, Figure 2-12.

[NamingConventions_PFAS_Fact Sheet_Sept2023_final \(itrcweb.org\)](#)

Thousands of PFAS chemicals are in commerce.

Little PFAS federal regulation exists; states have varying regulations.

Preventing PFAS from entering the environment is critical for protecting public health

- PFAS are “forever chemicals” – once in the environment, difficult, if not impossible, to get it out
- Continued use of products containing PFAS leads to more of the chemicals in our environment
- More PFAS in the environment results in more exposures and potential for impacts to health
- Approaches that prevent PFAS from entering the environment, like restricting PFAS in products, are critical for reducing exposures and protecting public health

