

# NASEM Guidance on PFAS Testing and Health Outcomes

## Community Liaison FAQs

### **What is the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine?**

The [National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine](https://www.nationalacademies.org) is a private, nonprofit institution that provides independent, objective advice to inform evidence-based policy, spark progress and innovation, and confront challenging issues for the benefit of society. It was created as the National Academy of Sciences in 1863 via a congressional charter signed by President Lincoln to meet the government's urgent need for an independent adviser on scientific matters. National Academies studies, workshops, and other activities are funded by Congress and federal agencies and funding from non-governmental organizations, the private sector, and individual donations. Each year, approximately 6,000 top experts in their fields volunteer their time and extensive knowledge to conduct our policy studies, workshops, symposia, and other activities. You can download National Academies reports for free at <https://www.nationalacademies.org/publications>.

### **What is the purpose of this study?**

The Agency Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) and the National Institutes of Environmental Health Services (NIEHS) funds the consensus study, Guidance on PFAS Testing and Health Outcomes. While these agencies provided the study funding and developed the Statement of Task (SoT) for the study, the committee's deliberations and report are independent of ATSDR and NIEHS. This study will provide advice for clinicians about PFAS testing and how test results should inform clinical care. Additionally, our expert committee will examine the health outcomes associated with PFAS exposure. It will develop principles clinicians can use to advise patients on exposure reduction. The full SoT for the study is on the study website (<https://www.nationalacademies.org/our-work/guidance-on-pfas-testing-and-health-outcomes>).

### **Where can I find more information about the study and upcoming committee meetings?**

The study website, <https://www.nationalacademies.org/our-work/guidance-on-pfas-testing-and-health-outcomes>, contains information about the committee's public meetings. This website describes the study Statement of Task (SoT) (under description), lists upcoming committee meetings, provides information on committee members, and includes links to past National Academies PFAS projects. We will add the community liaison biosketches to the website soon. National Academies staff will also post some project announcements on LinkedIn and Twitter. Still, the website will provide the most up-to-date information. You may sign-up for email updates about this study and other related National Academies work on the [study website](#).

### **What is the role of a community liaison?**

A community liaison group is not a standard part of all National Academies studies. Still, we are grateful for your participation and input in this study. The specific opportunities for involvement may evolve. At this time, we envision community liaisons participating in the following ways:

- Suggest speakers, topics, and discussion questions for committee meetings
- Answer questions to inform the report or the study process

- Provide documents or other data/information to Academies staff for the committee’s review
- Suggest reviewers for the report
- Disseminate the report (if you so choose)

Community liaisons are welcome to speak or provide testimony about their experiences related to the statement of task. You may also speak on behalf of your community. The National Academies is grateful to all of you for graciously volunteering your time to provide a range of perspectives to the committee.

**How were liaisons selected?**

National Academies staff put out a public call for community liaison nominations and speakers at town hall meetings. After receiving the nominations, the National Academies staff contacted nominated community members to confirm their interest in serving as liaisons. When we received more than one nominee from an organization, we asked those organizations to select one person to serve as a liaison from their group.

**Which PFAS are included in this study?**

This study includes those in CDC’s National Report on Human Exposure to Environmental Chemicals (see table below).

PFAS Included in the National Report on Human Exposure to Environmental Chemicals
MeFOSAA
PFHxS
n-PFOA
Sb-PFOA
PFDA
PFUnDA
n-PFOS
Sm-PFOS
PFNA

**What topics should community liaisons provide testimony about?**

Community liaison testimony can be via invited speaker presentations at our public meetings, public comment at the end of committee meetings, responses to emailed surveys, written testimony, or scientific research or data sent to the National Academies staff. Community liaisons are welcome to provide testimony on anything they feel is relevant to the study. However, liaisons should note that the study's report will only discuss issues related to the Statement of Task (SoT) and cannot go outside of

the goals laid out in the SoT. Your testimony will be most helpful to the committee if it is tailored to respond to the following questions:

- What potential health effects of PFAS exposure are your community most concerned about and why?
- What is the value to your community of testing individual people for PFAS exposure right now?
- Does the value of getting tested for PFAS exposure depend on how much scientific evidence links exposure to health effects?
- What challenges do you think medical professionals face in providing advice on PFAS exposure?
- For what specific health situations would you like this report to provide advice?
- What routes of exposure to PFAS is your community most concerned about (i.e., drinking water, diet, the indoor environment, etc.)?

#### **How will community liaison perspectives be used in the report?**

Community liaisons can offer valuable perspectives about their experiences, values, and how this report could help them when or if they receive medical care. They may also choose to share scientific studies or data on PFAS exposure and potential health effects with Academies staff. The National Academies cannot guarantee that the information liaisons provide will be included in the report. Still, the information and community perspectives that are shared will help the committee understand the issues fully and work to address the liaisons' concerns within the confines of the Statement of Task (SoT). The committee will have the final say in the contents of the report. Still, community liaisons are welcome to recommend peer reviewers of the report before its release.

#### **Can people who are not community liaisons participate in the study?**

Yes, stakeholder input is a critical part of the National Academies process. Any stakeholder may email relevant information such as perspectives, data, research, or written testimony, to a National Academies staff member for share with the study committee (note that staff will include all the information provided to the committee in the public access file). Any stakeholder may register to give public comment at one of the committee's public meetings.