

exposure assessments found that the average blood levels for PFAS were higher than national levels in most of the studied communities. The assessments also provided information about factors that affect exposure that can be used to prevent and reduce future exposures. The exposure assessments have included over 2,300 participants, assessed over 1,300 households and reached over 150,000 people through social media.

As a result of funding increases since FY 2020, ATSDR has increased the number of states funded through the ATSDR Partnership to Promote Local Efforts to Reduce Environmental Exposure (APPLETREE) cooperative agreement in FY 2023 to 30 with states receiving a total of \$12.6 million in funding. The APPLETREE program expands the environmental health capacity in state health departments, allowing them to do critical work to identify if and how people are exposed to hazardous substances and make recommendations to prevent and address those exposures. For example, APPLETREE funding enabled the Missouri Department of Health and Human Services to collaborate with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Missouri Department of Natural Resources and local governments to address lead exposure concerns from contaminated drinking water. The partnerships led to the sampling of hundreds of private wells and a free community blood-lead testing event that helped people understand their risks and steps they can take to protect themselves and their families. ATSDR is also expanding state environmental health capacity by developing geospatial tools and other resources that states can use to address hazardous exposures.

ATSDR also provides vital support to environmental health education to public health professionals, clinicians, community members and others. ATSDR also supports ten Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Units that advise parents and pediatric health providers on protecting and caring for children potentially exposed to harmful chemicals. In addition to the thousands of trainings conducted, PEHSUs have provided over 1,000 consultations benefitting nearly 2,500 health professionals, parents, and community members. PEHSUs provide a vital role because most healthcare professionals do not receive proper training to recognize, manage, treat, and prevent environmentally related conditions in children.

In order for ATSDR to continue to build upon its impactful work protecting the public from environmental hazards, we urge you to support a request of at least \$100 million for the agency in FY 2025. This requests for assistance, fund state and local health departments emergencies, community

Sincerely,

Allergy & Asthma Network
Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Academy of Pediatrics Iowa Chapter
American Academy of Pediatrics, CA
American Academy of Pediatrics, California
American Academy of Pediatrics, DC Chapter
American Academy of Pediatrics, Utah Chapter
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
American Lung Association
American Public Health Association
Arizona Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs

Association of Public Health Laboratories
Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials
Children's Environmental Health Network
Connecticut Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists
District of Columbia Public Health Association
Florida Chapter of American Academy of Pediatrics, Inc.
Florida Public Health Association
Green & Healthy Homes Initiative
Hawaii Public Health Association
Health Resources in Action
Illinois Public Health Association
Indiana Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Indiana Public Health Association

Washington Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Wisconsin Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Wyoming Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

cc: Members of the House and Senate Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies
Appropriations Subcommittees