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# Study Links Toxic 'Forever Chemicals' in Drinking Water to Cancer Risk

## Description

A new study shows that in the US, communities that drink water with 'forever chemicals' have up to 33 percent more cases of some cancers.

These chemicals, called PFAS (short for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances), can cause cancer. They have been linked to kidney, breast, and testicular cancer. One chemical, called PFOA, is known to cause cancer.

PFAS chemicals have been used in many products since the 1940s. They are strong and do not break down easily. Because of this, they can stay in the environment and in our bodies.

These chemicals are in raincoats, food wrappers, cooking pans, and firefighting foam. They can get into our food and drinking water.

The study looked at data from 1,080 US counties from 2016 to 2021. It found that PFAS in drinking water may cause up to 7,000 cancer cases each year.

Researchers say we need to pay attention to PFAS and make stricter rules about these chemicals.

This research was published in a science journal.

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## Vocabulary List:

1. **Chemicals** /'kɛmɪkəlz/ (noun): Substances with a defined composition that undergoes change in chemical reactions.
2. **Cancer** /'kænsər/ (noun): A disease characterized by the uncontrolled division of abnormal cells in a part of the body.
3. **Stricter** /'striktər/ (adjective): More tightly controlled or enforced.
4. **Linked** /lɪŋkt/ (verb): Connected or associated with something else.
5. **Environment** /ɪn'vaɪrənmənt/ (noun): The surroundings or conditions in which a person animal or plant lives or operates.
6. **Researchers** /rɪ'sɜːrtʃərz/ (noun): Individuals who conduct investigations into and study materials and sources to establish facts and reach new conclusions.

## Comprehension Questions



### Multiple Choice

1. What do PFAS chemicals stand for?
  - Option: Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances
  - Option: Polymer and Fatty Acid Substances
  - Option: Persistent and Fluctuating Substances
  - Option: Prolonged and Filtered Substances
  
2. Which type of cancer has PFAS chemicals been linked to?
  - Option: Kidney, Breast, and Testicular Cancer
  - Option: Lung Cancer
  - Option: Skin Cancer
  - Option: Brain Cancer
  
3. How many US counties were included in the study from 2016 to 2021?
  - Option: 500
  - Option: 820
  - Option: 1,080
  - Option: 1,500
  
4. What is one product mentioned in which PFAS chemicals can be found?
  - Option: Raincoats
  - Option: Scarves
  - Option: Sunglasses
  - Option: Umbrellas
  
5. How many cancer cases per year were estimated to be caused by PFAS in drinking water?
  - Option: 3,000
  - Option: 5,000
  - Option: 7,000
  - Option: 10,000
  
6. What type of journal was the research published in?
  - Option: Medical Journal
  - Option: Science Journal
  - Option: Nature Journal
  - Option: Technology Journal



### True-False

7. PFAS chemicals are known to easily break down in the environment.
8. PFOA is a PFAS chemical that is not associated with causing cancer.
9. The study found a direct correlation between PFAS in drinking water and increased cancer cases.
10. PFAS chemicals have been used in products since the 1960s.
11. Stricter rules about PFAS chemicals are not deemed necessary by researchers.
12. The study included data from all 50 US states.

### Gap-Fill

13. PFAS chemicals have been used in products since the \_\_\_\_\_.
14. The study found that PFAS in drinking water may cause up to \_\_\_\_\_ cancer cases each year.
16. The data analyzed in the study spanned from 2016 to \_\_\_\_\_.
17. PFAS chemicals are found in various everyday items like raincoats, food wrappers, cooking pans, and \_\_\_\_\_.
18. The research on PFAS and cancer cases was published in a \_\_\_\_\_.

### Answer

**Multiple Choice:** 1. Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances 2. Kidney, Breast, and Testicular Cancer 3. 1,080  
4. Raincoats 5. 7,000 6. Science Journal

**True-False:** 7. False 8. False 9. True 10. False 11. False 12. False

**Gap-Fill:** 13. 1940s 14. 7,000 16. 2021 17. firefighting foam 18. science journal



## Answer

### CATEGORY

1. Health - LEVEL1

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