

Brunswick/Glynn Exposure Study

Background

Researchers at Emory University Rollins School of Public Health, in collaboration with EJAB and other Brunswick-based organizations, attended a community fair last summer to learn what the community's needs and assets are. Community members expressed that they wanted to know if they were being exposed to harmful chemicals.



Community Fair, July 2022

Purpose of the Study

This study asked the question of whether residents of the Brunswick area have been exposed to certain harmful chemicals at a level that is higher than others in the US population.

Who was in the study?

The study included 100 participants. The average participant age was 60, 67% were female and 46% were Black. The average participant has lived in Brunswick for over 40 years.

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Community Town Hall to
Share Results,
September, 2023



Key Findings

- Several chemicals were detected in the blood samples from study participants.
- For many of these chemicals, levels in the study participants were higher than levels in the average American.
- Some participants had levels many times higher than the average American.

Chemical	Was the average level of study participants higher, lower or about the same compared to the average American?	Were any of the individual study participants as high as the most exposed 5% of Americans?
Lead	ABOUT THE SAME	YES
Cadmium	A LITTLE HIGHER	YES
Mercury	ABOUT THE SAME	YES
PCB 118	LOWER	NO
PCB 138	LOWER	NO
PCB 152	LOWER	NO
PCB 180	LOWER	YES
PCB 196/203	HIGHER	YES
PCB 199	HIGHER	YES
PCB 206	HIGHER	YES
DDE	LOWER	NO
Toxaphene 26	A LITTLE HIGHER / HIGHER	YES
Toxaphene 50	A LITTLE HIGHER / HIGHER	YES
Total PFAS	ABOUT THE SAME	YES

For all chemicals except toxaphene, data on average Americans is based on the CDC's NHANES database. Toxaphene is based on a study by Health Canada.

Note: The data in the table have not yet been peer-reviewed or analyzed statistically.

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