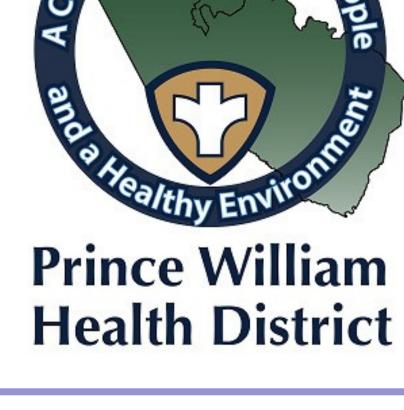
VDH INTERNSHIP ACADEMY 2023

Environmental Health





Intern: **Kira Funge** University of Pittsburgh '22 B.S. Neuroscience

Global Health Certificate Chemistry Minor

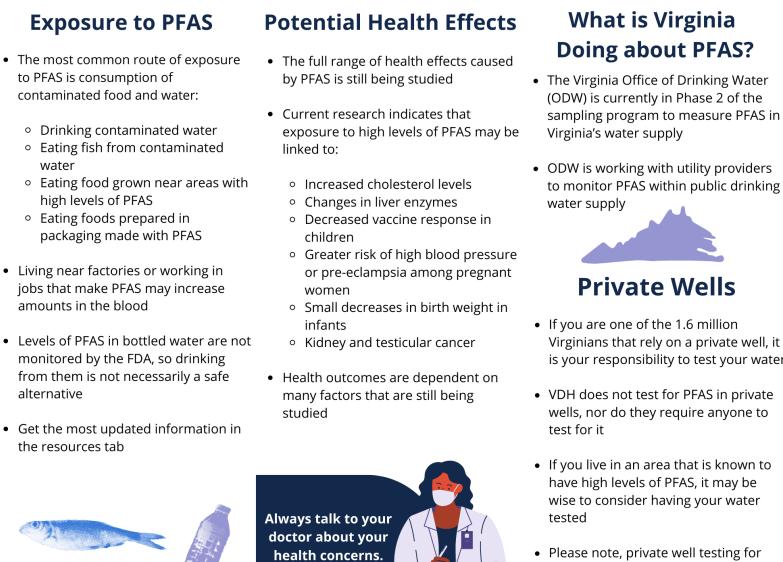
Mentor: Patrick Berard Jr., EHS

Supervisor: Patrick Jones, EH Manager

PROJECTS COMPLETED

Developed a PFAS brochure for use in PWHD:



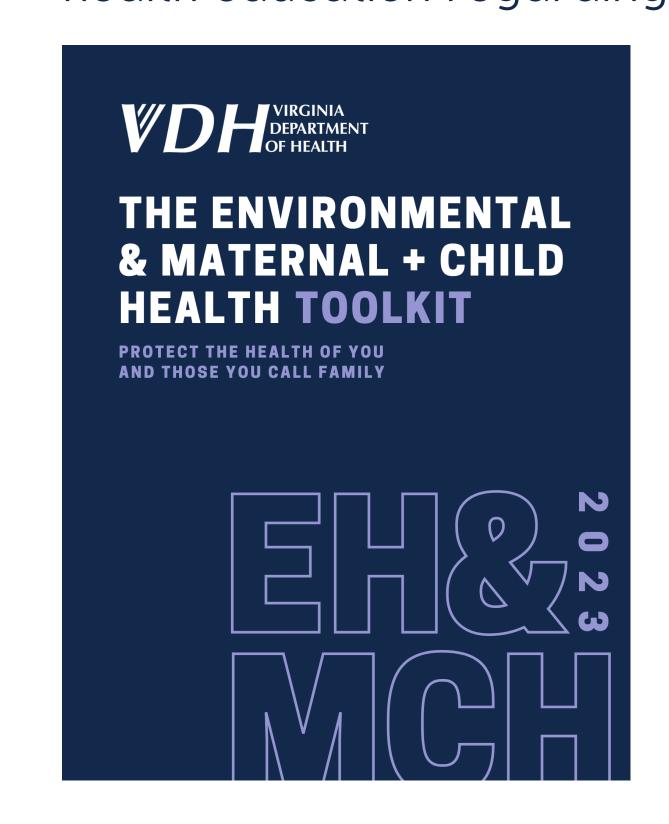


PFAS (also called 'forever chemicals') are a big topic in environmental health right now. Given the unknowns of PFAS, I wanted to create a brochure to educate the public about basic information about PFAS and point the public to resources to learn more. Thank you to Dr. Dwight Flammia, Toxicologist and Emely Melendez, PWHD Population Health Community Coordinator for reviewing the brochure.

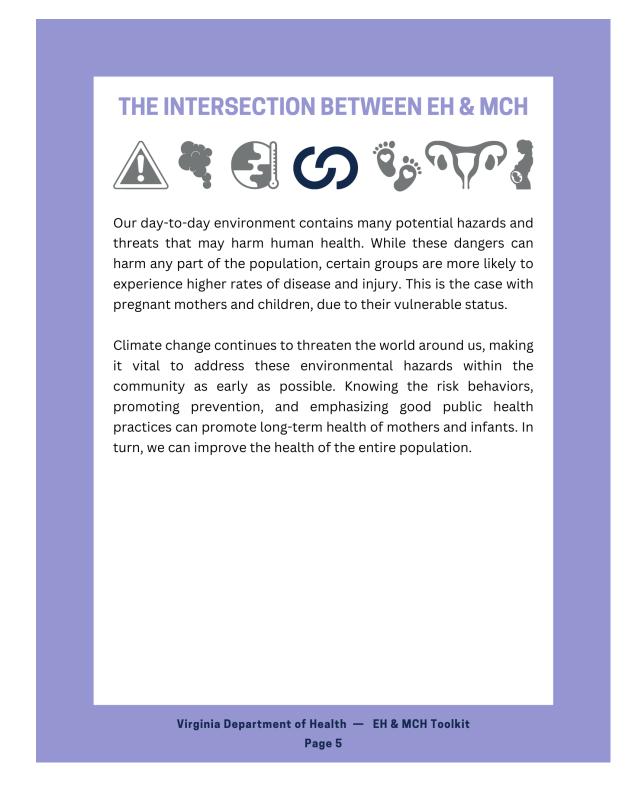
Created an Environmental Health and Maternal & Child Health Toolkit:

In collaboration with VDH Academy Intern, Allison Hoang, we created an 85 page toolkit. Our goal with this project was to promote health education regarding environmental hazards, climate change in relation to maternal and child health.

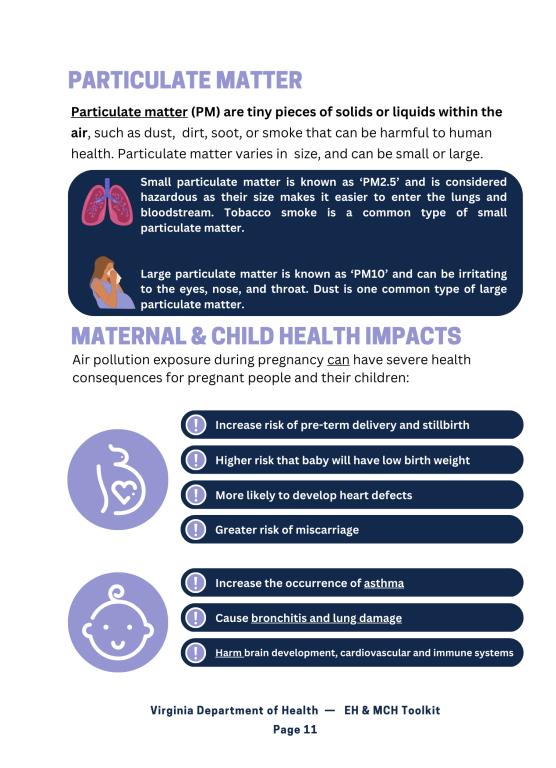
PFAS can be difficult and costly











DAILY ACTIVITIES

INSPECTIONS

 Assisted with inspections for private wells, marinas, swimming pools, restaurants, and hotels throughout the county

INVESTIGATIONS

- Collaborated with other county departments, including building, zoning, and code enforcement to follow up on complaints for septic tanks and health & safety menace complaints
- Foodborne illnesses investigations

RABIES PROGRAM

- Quarantine checks and site visits
- Reviewed bite reports
- Packed specimens for lab testing

SKILLS LEARNED

- Beginner and intermediate/advanced excel training through VDH
- Beginner and intermediate SQL through DataCamp via VDH
- Creating health education materials
- Health promotion
- Cross-department collaboration



Allison H. & I helped the EH Associate in PWHD pack rabies



LESSONS LEARNED

- Creating health education materials that can be understood by the public can be challenging, especially when dealing with scientific topics
- Environmental health plays a huge preventative role in many diseases. Ensuring EH departments are well-staffed is important to promoting the safety and health of the public
- Bureaucracy is a regular process that local health departments have to navigate

FUTURE GOALS

- The VDH Internship Academy experience solidified my desire to pursue a career in the field of public health
- I am actively searching for employment opportunities in public health/environmental health within the Northern Virginia and Washington D.C. area
- I plan to apply to MPH programs to start in Fall 2024

SPECIAL THANKS

would like to extend my thanks to Jeff Stover and Sam Walmsley for creating an amazing internship experience. I also would like to thank both Patrick Jones and Patrick Berard Jr. for mentoring me during these 10 weeks. And finally, thank you to the entire team at PWHD! I have learned so much and hope to be back at VDH soon.