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PGC Day 5: Greenest

Every drop of water tells a story, and in Georgia, that story includes PFAS, the "forever chemicals" that have potentially contaminated almost every person in America.

PFAS contamination isn't just a scientific problem — it's a justice issue. Communities like Rome, GA have had their drinking water polluted for years, but the industries responsible often face little to no accountability.

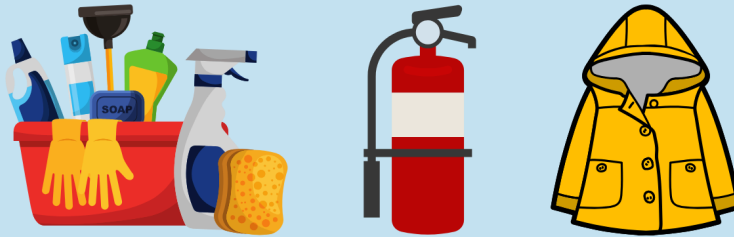
However, change is possible. The work of groups across GA and the country show that awareness and advocacy make a difference. Together, we can push for a PFAS-free future.

# **THE FIGHT AGAINST "FOREVER CHEMICALS"**

PFAS, a category of toxic chemicals,  
in Georgia waterways have emerged  
as a serious health concern for  
residents in Savannah and North  
Georgia.

# WHAT ARE PFAS?

**PFAS** are **per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances** found in items like cleaning supplies, waterproof clothing, and firefighting foam. They do not break down in the environment, and **once they enter the water or soil, they stay there for decades.**



## THE PROBLEM.

These chemicals are found throughout the US, and exposure to them can cause serious health issues such as cancer, thyroid disease, and developmental delays.

An estimated  
**98%**  
of the U.S. population  
has detectable  
concentrations [of  
PFAS] in their blood.

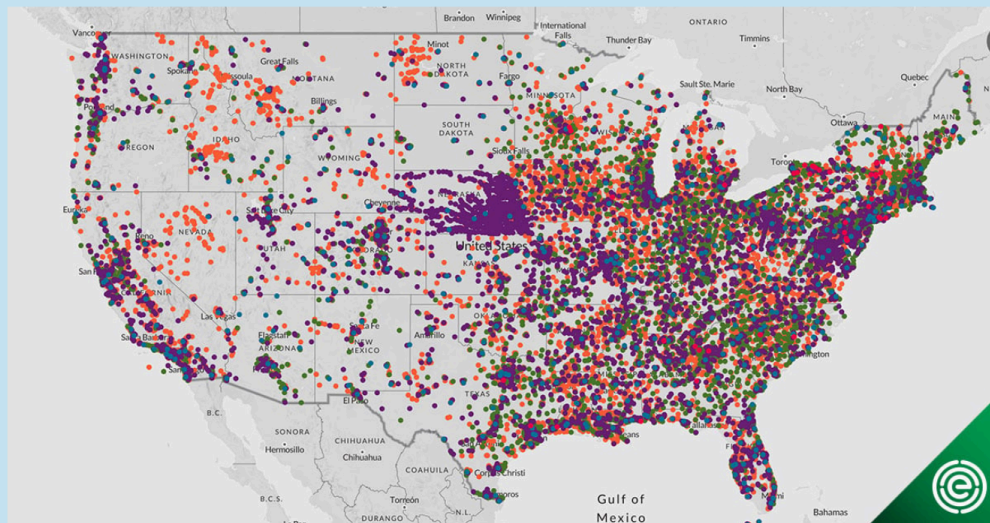
Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health

# PFAS IN GEORGIA

PFAS have been found in **over 20 water systems across GA**. Industrial discharges have been dumped into lakes and rivers, contaminating so many ecosystems, the groundwater, and the health of residents in particularly close areas.

**20X**

In Rome, GA, PFAS levels reached over 20x the EPA's proposed limit.



This map shows the suspected industrial discharges of PFAS across the country.

**Rural areas that rely on untreated groundwater and low-income communities are typically impacted the most.**

# WHO IS HELPING:

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The **Georgia Water Coalition** and **local residents** have taken a stand against these forever chemicals and are working to increase PFAS monitoring and hold the industries who have polluted their communities accountable.

**Sign the Clean Water Standards for PFAS Act petition today!**

This would require the EPA to review the sources of PFAS in waterbodies and establish water quality criteria for each measurable PFAS and class of PFAS within a 3 year timeline.

Join local advocacy groups, avoid products that contain PFAS, and support state-level PFAS legislation!

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**Ban forever chemicals, and protect our water.**