Gallo, V; Leonardi, G; Genser, B; Lopez-Espinosa, MJ; Frisbee, SJ; Karlsson, L; Ducatman, AM; Fletcher, T; (2012) Serum Perfluorooctanoate (PFOA) and Perfluorooctane Sulfonate (PFOS) Concentrations and Liver Function Biomarkers in a Population with Elevated PFOA Exposure. Environmental health perspectives, 120 (5). pp. 655-60. ISSN 0091-6765 DOI: https://doi.org/10.1289/ehp.1104436

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Supplemental Material

Serum Perfluorooctanoate (PFOA) and Perfluorooctane Sulfonate (PFOS) Concentrations and Liver Function Biomarkers in a Population with Elevated PFOA Exposure

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**Detail of between- and within-regression models**

Water district data available in the C8 Health Project questionnaire data were considered: using the geocoded locations of the address, combined with a detailed mapping of streets covered by each water districts piped water supplies, geocoded residences could be assigned a water district code. These analyses were restricted to those living in the six contaminated districts (Little Hocking Water Association of Ohio; City of Belpre, Ohio; Tupper Plains–Chester District of Ohio; Village of Pomeroy, Ohio; Lubeck Public Service District of West Virginia; Mason County Public Service District of West Virginia) at the time of the survey ($n=26,777$). For each water districts, on the ln-transformed scale, a mean PFOA value and a deviation from the mean for each individual was calculated as the difference between the individual level and the water district mean. Regression coefficients with relative standard errors (SE) and p-values were calculated for the association within water district and between water districts with both the mean In-PFOA values, and the individual deviations, in a fully adjusted linear regression model. The significance of the difference between these within and between water district coefficients was also assessed. Models also included a random effect at the water district level.

**Formal model description:**

To estimate within and between water district ($i=1,..., 6$) coefficients relating log serum PFOA in individual $j$ in that district ($x_{i,j}$) to numerical outcomes ($y_{i,j}$), we fit the model:

$$ y_{i,j} = a + \beta_{ln}(d_{i,j}) + \beta_{b}\bar{x}_i + \{\text{covariate terms}\} + \alpha_i + \varepsilon_{i,j}, $$

Where $d_{i,j} = (x_{i,j} - \bar{x}_i), \alpha_i \sim N(0, \sigma_\alpha^2), \text{and } \varepsilon_{i,j} \sim N(0, \sigma_\varepsilon^2)$
To test the hypothesis $\beta_w = \beta_b$, we re-parameterised this relationship writing $\beta_{\text{diff}} = \beta_w - \beta_b$, giving:

$$E(y) = a + \beta_w(x_{i,j}) + \beta_{\text{difference}} \bar{x}_i + \{\text{covariate terms}\}$$

We used the Wald test for $\beta_{\text{diff}} = 0$ as a test for $\beta_w = \beta_b$.

For dichotomous outcomes we fit analogous logistic models, except that instead of fitting a random effect at water district level, which was computationally cumbersome, we used a sandwich (Huber-White) estimator of variance clustering by water district.