Comparison Charts

PFAS Drinking Water Standards and Health Advisories (Non-enforceable) in Great Lakes States and Canada

(Freshwater Future, Updated February 2026)

"**PFAS**, or **per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances**, are a group of man-made chemicals used in making things like firefighting foam, stain repellants, and non-stick cookware. PFAS can't break down easily in the environment and some PFAS can build-up in our bodies, which can lead to health risks."[1] The various types of PFAS being tracked to protect public health can be found on the charts below.

- ✓ This document is meant to be a reference for residents and local community organizations interested in addressing the topic of PFAS in their communities. It provides a base level of information to help advocate for things such as clean ups or stronger state regulations.

DEFINITIONS

Action level - the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow. The term "action level" is not the same as a Maximum Contaminant Level (see below). Other examples of an action level include, but are not limited to, a concentration at which a remediation action is triggered, or a situation where a percentage of households affected with high lead concentrations triggers action.[2]

Advisories - US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) advisories provide information on a contaminant that can cause negative human health effects and is known or anticipated to occur in drinking water. EPA's health advisories are non-enforceable and non-regulatory. They provide technical information to drinking water system operators and regulatory officials on the health effects, analytical methods, and treatment technologies associated with drinking water contaminants.[3]

[1] https://www.michigan.gov/pfasresponse/faq/categories/pfas-101?accordion=0
[2] https://www.fws.gov/policy-library/e1561fw4
[3] https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/environmental-health/dwp/cet/documents/EPA%20PFAS%204%20HAs%20FAQ%20for%20Web.pdf#:~:text=EPA's%20health%20advisories%20are%20non%2Denforceable%20and%20non%2Dregulatory.,treatment%20technologies%20associated%20with%20drinking%20water%20contaminants.

Drinking Water Standards - Drinking water standards are mainly set by the EPA under the Safe Drinking Water Act. They are legal limits set for over 90 contaminants (Maximum Contaminant Levels, see below) to ensure public health. As of 2024, these regulations cover strict 4 parts per trillion (ppt) limits for PFOA/PFOS. The Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) allows individual states to set and enforce their own drinking water standards if the standards are at least as stringent as EPA national standards.[4]

Hazard Index - a long-established tool that the EPA uses to identify health risks from chemical mixtures. "EPA is proposing a Hazard Index Maximum Containment Level to limit any mixture containing one or more of PFNA, PFHxS, PFBS, and/or GenX Chemicals. The Hazard Index considers the different toxicities of PFNA, GenX Chemicals, PFHxS, and PFBS. For these PFAS, water systems would use a hazard index calculation to determine if the combined levels of these PFAS in the drinking water at that system pose a potential risk and require action."[5]

MCL - A **maximum contaminant level** (MCL) is the maximum amount of a contaminant allowed in drinking water.[6] An example of how this is used can be found in Michigan: "Compliance with Michigan's MCLs for PFAS is determined based on a calculated running annual average of sample results for a public water supply. When the running annual average of a contaminant in drinking water is higher than the MCL, the water supply must take action as outlined in the Safe Drinking Water Act or its accompanying administrative rules."[7]

NE - Not Established

ppt - unit of measure representing one part of a substance for every one trillion (10^{12}) parts of a total mixture.

[4] https://www.epa.gov/dwreginfo/drinking-water-regulations
[5] https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2023-03/How%20do%20I%20calculate%20the%20Hazard%20Index._3.14.23.pdf
[6] https://www.michigan.gov/pfasresponse/drinking-water/mcl
[7] Ibid.

State Drinking Water Standards

Type of PFAS	PFOA	PFOS	PFNA	PFHxA	PFHxS	PFBS	PFBA	GenX	Citation/Link
Illinois	4 ppt	4 ppt	10 ppt	NE	10 ppt	2,000 ppt	NE	10 ppt	Title 35 Illinois Administrative Code Part 620[8]
Michigan	8 ppt	16 ppt	6 ppt	400,000 ppt	51 ppt	420 ppt	NE	370 ppt	MI PFAS Drinking Water Standards[9]
New York	10 ppt	10 ppt	NE	NE	NE	NE	NE	NE	NY PFAS Drinking Water Standards[10]
Pennsylvania	14 ppt	18 ppt	NE	NE	NE	NE	NE	NE	PFAS MCL Rule,[11] which amended DEP's safe drinking water regulations at 25 Pa. Code Chapter 109[12]
Wisconsin	4 ppt	4 ppt	10 ppt	NE	10 ppt	NE	NE	10 ppt	WI safe drinking water code ch. NR 809 Wis. Adm. Code[13] WI setting federal standards in spite of feds weakening their standards[14]

[8] https://pcb.illinois.gov/SLR/IPCBandIEPAEnvironmentalRegulationsTitle35
[9] https://www.michigan.gov/pfasresponse/drinking-water/mcl
[10] https://regs.health.ny.gov/sites/default/files/proposed-regulations/Maximum%20Contaminant%20Levels%20%28MCLs%29.pdf
[11] https://www.pa.gov/agencies/dep/programs-and-services/water/bureau-of-safe-drinking-water/drinking-water-management/drinking-water-regulations/pfas-mcl-rule
[12] https://www.pacodeandbulletin.gov/Display/pacode?file=/secure/pacode/data/025/chapter109/chap109toc.html
[13] https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/code/admin_code/nr/800/809/
[14] https://www.wpr.org/news/wisconsin-pfas-limits-trump-epa-rolling-back?utm_source=Wisconsin+Today&utm_campaign=e204c12ab9-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_6_02_2025_07_00_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_1f0cd798a8-e204c12ab9-466352740

Health-Based Advisories (Non-enforceable)

Type of PFAS	PFOA	PFOS	PFNA	PFHxA	PFHxS	PFBS	PFBA	GenX	Citation/Link
Illinois				1,900 ppt*			3,800 ppt		Health-based Groundwater Quality Standards Health Advisories*[15]
Minnesota	.0079 ppt	.0023 ppt	NE	200 ppt	47 ppt	100 ppt	7,000 ppt	NE	Health-Based Values for PFAS[16]
Indiana Proposed Standards	4 ppt	4 ppt	10 ppt	NE	10 ppt	1.0 Hazard Index	NE	10 ppt	Indiana legislation introduced[17] *IDEM: Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)*[18]
Ohio	>70 ppt	>70 ppt	21 ppt	NE	140 ppt	140,000 ppt	NE	700 ppt	Advisory Drinking Water Action Levels-Current[19]
Ohio Proposed Standards	*4 ppt*	*4 ppt*	*10 ppt*	*NE*	*10 ppt*	*2,000 ppt*	*NE*	*10 ppt*	
Wisconsin Proposed Standards									Wisconsin working on rules to adopt federal standards as state. *SEE ABOVE CHART PAGE 3*

[15] https://epa.illinois.gov/topics/water-quality/pfas/pfas-healthadvisory.html
[16] https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/hazardous/topics/pfashealth.html
[17] https://www.billtrack50.com/billdetail/1920108
[18] https://www.in.gov/idem/resources/per-and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas/
[19] https://epa.ohio.gov/monitor-pollution/pollution-issues/per-and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas

Federal Regulations									
Type of PFAS	**PFOA**	**PFOS**	**PFNA**	**PFHxA**	**PFHxS**	**PFBS**	**PFBA**	**GenX**	
	4 ppt	4 ppt	10 ppt	NE	1 Hazard Index*	1 Hazard Index*	NE	10 ppt	Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) *Final PFAS National Primary Drinking Water Regulation*[20] *(Monitoring and Reporting take effect 2027 and compliance with MCLs by 2029)* **NOTE: Feds are currently working to weaken standards**
	30 ppt	30 ppt	30 ppt	30 ppt	30 ppt	30 ppt	30 ppt	NE	Canada limits for PFAS in drinking water[21]

Additional Resource: University of Pennsylvania *Water Center Report with data*

[20] https://www.epa.gov/sdwa/and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas
[21] https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/environmental-workplace-health/reports-publications/water-quality/water-talk-per-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-drinking-water.html