Risk Evaluation of Select PFAS: Report to the Hawaii State Department of Health

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Executive Summary

 A comprehensive literature search and review was conducted to assess the toxicity and potential health effects of specific emerging perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) compounds. These compounds include those found in aqueous film forming foam or AFFF (4:2 FTTAoS, 6:2 FTTAoS, 8:2 FTTAoS and their partial breakdown products 4:2 FTS, 6:2 FTS, and 8:2 FTS), those found in food wrappers and containers (6:2 FTOH, 8:2 FTOH, 5: FTCA), and those found in toilet paper (6:2 diPAP). Compared to legacy PFAS such as perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS), there was a dearth of literature on these lesser-known compounds. Twenty-seven unique studies were identified. Most of the studies examined 6:2 FTOH, 8:2 FTOH, and 5:3 FTCA (n=17) or 6:2 FTTAoS (n=7).

Most of the identified studies were toxicology studies using various animal models including mice, rats, amphibians, and fish. A focus of the report was the identification of Points of Departure (POD) including NOAELS, LOAELs, and BMD10s for use in risk assessment guidance. PODs for 6:2 FTOH, 8:2 FTOH, and 6:2 FTTAoS, and measures of toxicity (i.e., lethal dose (LD_{50}) for 6:2 FTOH were derived in select studies; however, significant data gaps exist in the literature to draw a conclusion about the toxicity of these compounds.

Almost all rodent studies focused on exposure to the compounds of interest through ingestion or placental transfer; the concentration and frequency of dosing were similar among the studies. The endpoints analyzed and the study durations, however, were limited and differed greatly. While PODs for 6:2 FTTAoS were derived based on immunological outcomes, the PODs for fluorotelomer alcohols (FTOHs) were determined from reproductive, developmental, or systemic toxicity. Most studies only assessed acute exposure to the compounds of interest, but even among these studies, the study duration differed widely (e.g., 14 or 28 days). Only a couple of studies evaluated subchronic exposure (e.g., 90 and 112 days), and studies on chronic exposure were not identified in the literature. Differences in exposure duration make it challenging to directly compare the small number of toxicological studies, especially given the various endpoints and animal models used in these studies. Furthermore, to draw conclusions about long-term exposures to these compounds, which are more pertinent to the exposure pattern in humans, chronic exposure studies are required.

Four epidemiology studies on the selected PFAS compounds were identified 6:2 diPAP $(n=2)$; 6:2 FTTAoS and 4:2 FTTAoS $(n=1)$ and 8:2 FTOH $(n=1)$; these studies examined health effects, including rate of infant weight gain, birthweight, preeclampsia, couple fecundity, infertility, and testicular function. A prospective cohort study found that 6:2 diPAP concentrations in blood in women were significantly associated with reduced fecundity and an increased risk of infertility. A case-control study found a significant association between serum concentrations of 4:2 FTS and lower odds of preeclampsia. There were too few epidemiology studies to draw conclusions regarding health effects.

To assist HDOH in its health risk assessments, Provisional Guidance Values (PGVs) were calculated for 6:2 FTOH, 8:2 FTOH, and 6:2 FTTAoS. The points of departure (PODs) for oral exposure to 6:2 FTOH and 8:2 FTOH are BMDL₁₀s; the POD for 6:2 FTTAoS is a NOAEL. The PODs were converted to human equivalency doses and divided by uncertainty factors to arrive at the PGVs for oral exposure. The PGVs for 6:2 FTOH and 8:2 FTOH were used to estimate PGVs for inhalation exposure.

Background

PFAS are synthetic chemical compounds that are used to make fluoropolymer coatings and a variety of products that are resistant to heat, oil, stains, grease, and water (CDC 2022). Products that contain PFAS include clothing, furniture, adhesives, heat-resistant non-stick cooking surfaces, insulation of electrical wire, firefighting foam, and food packaging (CDC 2022; Carnero et al. 2021). Although there are more than 4500 manufactured substances that can be defined as PFAS, research and legislation have only focused on a few of these substances (Carnero et al. 2021). PFAS, and their impurities, are released into the environment because of their production, use, and disposal (Carnero et al. 2021). PFAS contamination has been found in soil and groundwater from firefighter training, wastewater and sludge release from PFAS manufacturing facilities, leachate from unlined municipal landfills, biosolids containing PFAS as soil amendments, and treated wastewater used in irrigation (SHDH 2022).

PFAS exposure to the general population usually occurs via ingestion of PFAScontaminated water or food but can also occur by using products that contain PFAS (CDC 2022). Indirect exposure can occur through consumption of food that has been in contact with PFAScontaining materials (Carnero et al. 2021). For example, paper-based food packaging materials can contain PFAS because of residues from recycled fiber and paperboard used in the manufacture of food packaging products (Curtzwiler et al. 2021). PFAS is also used in some food packaging, such as fast-food wrappers, microwave popcorn bags, and take-out paperboard containers, as a grease-proofing agent (FDA Undated). PFAS can migrate from the food container into the soil and water if the container ends up in a landfill (Loria 2022). Leachate from these landfills can then contaminate groundwater (SHDH 2022). There is evidence that PFAS concentrations are higher in wastewater plants that accept leachate from landfills and industrial wastewater (SHDH 2022). In general, the production of paper products is thought to be a major point source of PFAS contamination in water (Carnero et al. 2021).

 The following subsections provide further background on the specific types of PFAS compounds examined in this report: fluorotelomer thioether amido sulfonates, fluorotelomer alcohols, and 6:2 fluorotelomer phosphate diester.

Fluorotelomer alcohols

Fluorotelomer alcohols (FTOHs) are major precursors of perfluoroalkyl acids (PFCAs), and FTOHs can ultimately degrade to form PFCAs through atmospheric oxidation and biodegradation (Liu et al. 2015). FTOHs are used to create fluorotelomer-based polymers, grease-proof coatings, carpet, and surfactants (Jin et al. 2020). A study of consumer products found that 6:2 FTOH was detected in carpet, commercial carpet-care liquids, treated home textiles and upholstery, treated medical garments, treated floor waxes and stone/wood sealants, treated food contact paper, membranes for apparel, and in thread sealant tapes and pastes (Liu et al. 2015). 8:2 FTOH was detected in carpet, commercial carpet-care liquids, household carpet/fabric-care liquids and foams, treated apparel, treated home textiles and upholstery, treated medical garments, treated floor waxes and stone/wood sealants treated food contact paper, membranes for apparel, and thread sealant tapes and pastes (Liu et al. 2015).

8:2 FTOH generally degrades to PFOA and PFNA but also to 8:2 FTCA, 8:2 FTUCA, 7:3 FTCA, 7:3 FTUCA, and 7:2 sFTOH, depending on the environment (DME 2015; Butt et al. 2014). See Figures 1 and 2 in Appendix A. On the other hand, 6:2 FTOH typically metabolizes

to PFHxA, PFBA, PFHpA, and 5:3 acid or 5:3 FTCA (Russell et al. 2015; Butt et al. 2014). See Figure 3 in Appendix A.

A study by Lang et al. (2017) found that 5:3 FTCA was the dominant PFAS compound in U.S. landfill leachate in 2013; 6:2 FTCA and 8:2 FTCA were also detected¹. Lang and colleagues also reported that the mean 5:3 FTCA concentration was at least three times higher than PFOA and PFOS combined for leachate from landfills from all climates (Lang et al. 2017).

Fluorotelomer thioether amido sulfonates (FTTAoS)

The Strategic Environmental Research and Development Program (SERDP) reports that aqueous film forming foam, or AFFF, which is used in firefighting and firefighting training, contains PFAS compounds (SERDP 2017). The 3M Company manufactured AFFF using PFOS and PFOA until 2001 when these compounds were voluntarily phased out by 3M (Harding-Marjanovic et al. 2015; 3M 2019). At least three other manufacturers, Ansul, Chemguard, and Angus, used a different PFAS compound to produce AFFF: fluorotelomer thioether amido sulfonate (FTTAoS) (Harding-Marjanovic et al. 2015). FTTAoS was used in AFFF as early as 1984 (Harding-Marjanovic et al. 2015). 6:2 FTTAoS is believed to be the most common FTTAoS in AFFF formulations (Harding-Marjanovic et al. 2015; SERDP 2017). 4:2 FTTAoS and 8:2 FTTAoS have also been detected in some AFFF formulations (Harding-Marjanovic et al. 2015; ECHA 2018; SERDP 2017 [Table 3]).

Harding-Marjanovic et al. (2015) indicates that 4:2 FTTAoS ultimately transforms into 3:3 FtCA, and PFBA, that 6:2 FTTAoS ultimately transforms into PFBA, PFPeA, PFHxA and 5:3 FTCA, and that 8:2 FTTAoS ultimately transforms into PFHxA, PFHpA, PFOA, and 7:3 FTCA. See Appendix A, Figure 4.

According to SERDP (2017), AFFF waste is frequently released in surface-holding ponds and groundwater. The report also indicates that PFOA, PFOS, and fluorotelomer sulfonates (FTSAs) are transported in groundwater from the locations where the AFFF was released (SERDP 2017).

6:2 fluorotelomer phosphate diester

6:2 fluorotelomer phosphate diester (6:2 diPAP) is part of the polyfluoroalkyl phosphate esters (PAPs) class of PFAS. PAPs can be classified into mono-, di-, or triesters (i.e., monoPAP, diPAP, and triPAP) and by the number of fluorinated carbons and their two hydrogenated carbon atoms (e.g., 4:2, 6:2, 8:2, and 10:2) (Luo et al. 2022b). Luo et al. (2022b) indicate that diPAPs are used as the precursors of PFAS end products in the water- and grease-proofing industries, and in personal care products and cosmetics.

6:2 diPAP can metabolize into PFPeA, PFHxA, PFHpA, 6:2 FTOH, 6:2 FTCA, 6:2 FTUCA, and 5:3 FTCA (Butt et al. 2014; Lee et al. 2010). See Figure 5 in Appendix A.

¹ 5:3 FTCA and 6:2 FTCA are products of anaerobic 6:2 fluorotelomer alcohol (FTOH) degradation (Zhang et al. 2013; Lang et al. 2017). Zhang et al. (2013) state that 6:2 FTOH and 8:2 FTOH are the main polyfluorinated raw materials used to manufacture FTOH-based products.

Literature Search Methods

Fluorotelomers of interests

The following PFAS compounds were evaluated for this report: 1) 4:2 FTTAoS and its partial breakdown products; 2) 6:2 FTTAoS and its partial breakdown products; 3) 8:2 FTTAoS and its partial breakdown products; 4) 6:2 FTOH, 8:2 FTOH, and 5:3 FTCA; and 5) 6:2 diPAP.

PECO Criteria

The systematic literature search for health effects of the various compounds identified above followed the methodology described in the 2019 National Toxicology Program/Office of Health Assessment and Translation (NTP/OHAT) *Handbook for Conducting a Literature-Based Health Assessment Using the OHAT Approach for Systematic Review and Evidence Integration* (NTP 2019). For the search, the following population, exposure, comparator, and outcome of interest (PECO) criteria, described below, guided the inclusion/exclusion criteria and selection of terms. The aim of the literature search was to identify original, peer-reviewed epidemiologic studies based on the PECO criteria. Only studies in English were reviewed.

- **Population of Interest:** The population studied must be human (with no restrictions on age, life stage, sex, country of residence/origin, race/ethnicity, lifestyle, or occupation) or animal (with no restrictions on the species).
- **Exposure:** Any route of exposure was included.
- **Comparator:** Exposed or case populations must be compared to populations with low/no exposure or to non-cases to arrive at an effect estimate for a health outcome. Similarly, *in vivo* toxicology studies must compare effects in various dose groups, including a dose of zero.
- **Time Frame:** There are no restrictions on the publication date.
- **Outcome:** All reported health effects were included.

Search engines and number of hits

PubMed and Google Scholar were utilized to identify the relevant literature. The search terms used can be found in Appendix B ("Coded Literature Search Terms"). Table 1, below, provides the number of hits in each search engine for each PFAS compound and its partial breakdown products, if applicable. The literature search was completed on April 6, 2023. Along with the literature search in PubMed and Google Scholar, documents by ECHA, EFSA, EPA, FDA, WHO and OECD were also examined to gather additional information on these PFAS compounds.

Table 1. Literature search results by search engine and compound

Results

 Twenty-seven unique studies were identified in the literature search. The findings are described by PFAS compound, below. The toxicology studies that identify PODs such as a LOAEL or NOAEL or that utilized a benchmark dose (BMD) approach are included in the summary tables in this report. All studies are summarized in detail in an Excel document provided with this report ("Appendix C – Study Summaries").

6:2 FTOH, 5:3 FTCA, and 8:2 FTOH

We found 16 epidemiology or toxicology studies that evaluated 6:2 FTOH and 8:2 FTOH. Nine studies were identified for 6:2 FTOH and seven studies were found for 8:2 FTOH. One study looked at the toxicity of 5:3 FTCA; this study was identified and described in a review article by Rice et al. (2020). No additional studies regarding 5:3 FTCA were found through the literature search.

6:2 FTOH

All the 6:2 FTOH studies were animal toxicity studies. The most common evaluations were developmental toxicity $(n=4)$ and subchronic toxicity $(n=4)$, followed by reproductive toxicity (n=3), acute toxicity (n=1), genotoxicity (n=1), behavioral toxicity (n=1), and estrogenic effects $(n=1)$.² The test animals were rats $(n=6)$, mice $(n=2)$, zebrafish $(n=2)$, madeka fish $(n=1)$, bacteria (n=1), and rabbits (n=1). The most common exposure route was ingestion (n=7),

² One study (Serex et al. 2014) examined acute, subchronic, and dermal toxicity of 6:2 FTOH.

followed by dermal absorption $(n=1)$; the exposure routes studied in zebrafish included dermal exposure (through the gills) and ingestion (n=2).

One of two zebrafish studies evaluated lethal dose, morphometric, and behavioral effects at 120 hours post fertilization (Annunziato et al. 2019); the other focused on developmental endpoints (Shi et al. 2017). Shi et al. (2017) found that exposure to 6:2 FTCA could cause developmental toxicity, measured by hatching and survival percentages and malformation of zebrafish embryos. A study on male madeka fish by Ishibashi et al. (2008) concluded that 6:2 FTOH shows estrogenic potential based on hepatic vitellogenin (VTG) expression patterns, a widely used biomarker for screening estrogenic effects of compounds on aquatic organisms.

Reproductive, developmental, or systemic toxicity of 6:2 FTOH was evaluated in six rodent studies (2 mice, 4 rats) with mixed results. Mukerji et al. (2015) derived a NOAEL for systemic toxicity in CD-1 mice of 5 mg/kg/day in females and 25 mg/kg/day for males. Toxicity at higher doses included effects on mortality, clinical observations, body weight, nutritional parameters, hematology, clinical chemistry (liver-related), liver weights, and histopathology (liver, teeth, reproductive tract, and mammary gland). The mice were dosed between 40 and 109 days. The same study concluded that 6:2 FTOH was not a selective reproductive toxicant for CD-1 mice as no adverse reproductive outcome occurred, even in the highest treatment group (100 mg/kg/day); the NOAEL for reproductive toxicity was subsequently identified as >100 mg/kg/day. The NOAEL for viability and growth of the offspring was 25 mg/kg/day. Xia et al. (2023), however, observed adverse reproductive effects, such as impaired blood-testis barrier (BTB) formation and maturation and abnormal spermatogenesis among BALB/c male mice born to dams exposed to 6:2 FTOH at 5 mg/kg/day. This suggests that the NOAEL level derived by Mukerji et al. would not be protective against the adverse reproductive outcomes in the mice studied by Xia et al.

Kirkpatrick (2005) and Miyata (2007) evaluated systemic toxicity in Crl:CD(SD) rats exposed to 6:2 FTOH. While there appear to be sex differences, most adverse outcomes were observed in the highest treatment groups (above 125 mg/kg/day) in both studies. Kirkpatrick (2005) derived a NOAEL of 25 mg/kg/day for both sexes based on body weight and weight gain. The NOAEL identified by Miyata (2007) is 5 mg/kg/day based on discolored incisors in males and females, mottled teeth in males, and increased relative liver weight and enlargement of the liver in females. Serex et al. (2014) is the only study that evaluated systemic toxicity of 6:2 FTOH after subchronic exposure (i.e., 90 days) in rats (Crl:CD(SD) rats); the authors identified a NOAEL of 5 mg/kg/day in both sexes based on liver and hematologic endpoints. Serex et al. (2014) also evaluated the acute oral and dermal toxicities associated with 6:2 FTOH and determined that the oral and dermal lethal doses (LD₅₀) were 1750 mg/kg and $>$ 5000 mg/kg, respectively. The same study did not find any evidence that 6:2 FTOH should be considered a dermal or eye irritant or dermal sensitizer.

The two studies that evaluated reproductive and developmental toxicity were done on Crl:CD(SD) rats. Kirkpatrick (2005) identified a NOAEL of 75 mg/kg/day for reproductive and neonatal toxicity based on mean number of pups born, postnatal survival, and pup weight. O'Connor et al. (2014) concluded that there was no evidence of either parental or developmental toxicity at doses of 5 and 25 mg/kg/day, and there were no effects on reproductive outcomes at any dose level. O'Connor et al. observed adverse effects (e.g., increased mortality in parental mice) only in the highest exposure groups (125 and 250 mg/kg/day).

Serex et al. (2014) derived a NOAEL of 5 mg/kg/day in rats for 6:2 FTOH for subchronic exposure based on liver and hematologic endpoints. Serex et al. (2014) did not find any mutagenic or genotoxic activity after 6:2 FTOH exposure or any evidence that 6:2 FTOH should be considered a dermal or eye irritant or dermal sensitizer.

Table 2, below, describes the studies that provide POD values derived in studies of 6:2 FTOH.

5:3 FTCA

For 5:3 acid, the LOAEL, identified by Rice et al. (2020), was 30 mg/kg/day based on kidney and liver adverse effects. Table 3 describes this study in more detail.

Potential POD	Exposure Route	Strain and species	Duration of Exposure (days)	Endpoint Evaluated	Critical effect(s)	Study authors
NOAEL: 25 mg/kg/day (males); 5 mg/kg/day (females)	Oral	$CD-1$ mice	Varied $(40-109)$	Systemic	Effects at higher doses on mortality, clinical observations, body weight, nutritional parameters, hematology clinical chemistry, liver weights, and histopathology	Mukerji et al. (2015)
NOAEL: >100 mg/kg /day	Oral	$CD-1$ mice	Varied (40- 109)	Reproductive toxicity	No effects on reproductive outcome were observed at any dosage	Mukerji et al. (2015)
NOAEL: 25 mg/kg/day	Oral	$CD-1$ mice	Varied (40- 109)	Viability and growth of the offspring	Clinical signs of delayed maturation in pups, and reductions in pup survival and pup body weight during lactation at 100 mg/kg/day	Mukerji et al. (2015)
NOAEL: 5 mg/kg/day	Oral	Crl:CD (SD) (SPF) rats	28 days	Systemic toxicity	Discolored incisors in males and females, mottled teeth in males, and increased relative liver weight and enlargement of the liver in females	Miyata (2007)
NOAEL: 25 mg/kg.day	Oral	Crl:CD(S) D) rats	Varied (14- 52 days)	Systemic toxicity	Body weight and body weight gain	Kirkpatrick (2005)
NOAEL: 75 mg/kg/day	Oral	Crl:CD(S) D) rats	Varied (39- 44)	Reproductive and developmental toxicity	Mean number of pups born, postnatal survival, and pup weight	Kirkpatrick (2005)
NOAEL: 5 mg/kg/day (males) and 125	Oral	Crl:CD(S) D) rats	90 days	Systemic toxicity	Hematology and liver effects	Serex et al. (2014)

Table 2. Point of departure values identified in the literature for 6:2 FTOH

^a Rice et al. (2020) summarized LOAELs of previous studies; we do not have access to this original study.

8:2 FTOH

One epidemiologic study and six toxicology studies were identified evaluating exposure to 8:2 FTOH. The epidemiologic study (Jin et al. 2020) assessed the correlation between exposure to 8:2 FTOH via breastmilk and rate of infant weight gain. The animal studies assessed a variety of outcomes, including reproductive toxicity $(n=2)$, immunotoxicity $(n=1)$, behavioral toxicity $(n=1)$, developmental toxicity $(n=1)$, toxicokinetics $(n=1)$, estrogenic effects $(n=1)$ and hepatic effects (n=1). The routes of exposure in studies conducted in rats (n=3) and mice (n=2) included ingestion (n=4) and inhalation (n=1).

 Jin et al. (2020) conducted a prospective cohort study of 174 mother-infant pairs in Hangzhou, China. The results provide limited information: the authors found a negative correlation between exposure to 8:2 FTOH via breastmilk and postnatal growth at 5 months but calculated Spearman correlation coefficients without adjustment for potential confounders.

 In general, the toxicologic studies show adverse outcomes following 8:2 FTOH exposure, but effects are typically observed only in the highest treatment groups. Zebrafish exposed to 8:2 FTOH showed adverse reproductive effects, particularly in the highest exposure categories (90 and 270 µg/L) (Liu et al. 2010). Henderson and Smith (2007) also observed adverse maternal outcomes and offspring viability in a cross-fostering experiment³ in mice. Mylchreest et al. (2005) derived a NOAEL of 200 mg/kg/day for both maternal and developmental toxicity based on a study in rats.

 3 Cross-fostering is transfer of young between mothers. In the Henderson and Smith (2007) study, four groups were created through cross-breeding: 1) no in utero and no exposure via lactation; 2) only in utero but not exposure via lactation; 3) no in utero but exposure via lactation; 4) exposure in utero and exposure via lactation.

 Ladics et al. (2008) conducted a 90-day toxicity study in rats. The authors derived a NOAEL of 5 mg/kg for systemic toxicity based on elevated urine fluorine levels and mild hepatic necrosis. Based on the data provided by Ladics et al. (2008), Himmelstein et al. (2012) calculated a BMD_{10} and $BMDL_{10}$ of 6.3 and 3.7 mg/kg/day, respectively, for 8:2 FTOH based on mild hepatic necrosis. The calculated BMDL₁₀ is lower and thus would be more protective as a POD than the NOAEL identified by Ladics et al. (2008).

 Studies also observed that exposure to 8:2 FTOH has estrogenic and immunotoxic potential (Ishibashi et al. 2008; Wang et al. 2019). Like 6:2 FTOH, exposure to 8:2 FTOH affected VTG expression in male medaka fish (Ishibashi et al. 2008). Adverse effects associated with immunotoxicity, including immune cell infiltration and downregulation of selected cytokines in the spleen and thymus, were observed in a 28-day oral gavage study in mice (Wang et al. 2019). However, the toxicological consequences of both study findings are unclear, and further studies are needed to understand the potential toxicity of 8:2 FTOH.

 Table 4, below, summarizes the studies where potential points of departure values have been identified for 8:2 FTOH.

Potential POD	Exposure Route	Strain and species	Duration of Exposure (days)	Endpoint Evaluated	Critical effect(s)	Study authors
NOAEL: 5mg/kg/day	Oral	Crl:CD (SD)IGS BR rats	90 days	Systemic toxicity	Mild hepatic necrosis (males), chronic nephropathy (females)	Ladics et al. (2008)
$BMDL_{10}$: 3.7 mg/kg/day	Oral	Cr1:CD (SD)IGS BR rats	90 days	Systemic toxicity	Hepatocellular necrosis in males and chronic nephropathy in females receiving 125 mg/kg/day	Himmelstein et al. (2012); the data is from Ladics et al. 2008
NOAEL: 200 mg/kg/day (females)	Oral	Crl:CD (SD)IGS BR rats	Gestational day 6 to gestational day 20	Developmental toxicity	Increased fetal skeletal variations (delayed pelvic bone ossification and wavy ribs)	Mylchreest et al. (2005)

Table 4. Point of departure values identified in the literature for 8:2 FTOH

4:2 FTTAoS

 Only one toxicological study that examined exposure to 4:2 FTTAoS was identified. The study assessed developmental toxicity following embryonic exposure (Rericha et al. 2022). Another study, Narizzano et al. (2021a), mentions 4:2 FTTAoS in comparison to the concentration of 6:2 FTS found in the study but did not examine 4:2 FTTAoS directly. One epidemiological study was identified that examined the level of 4:2 FTS in the blood of women with and without pre-eclampsia (Tian et al. 2023).

Rericha et al. (2022) examined several different chemical exposures, including 4:2 FTS, in zebra fish embryos. 4:2 FTS was found to induce a small number of differentially expressed genes but no morphological effects. Additionally, 4:2 FTS had relatively low internal concentrations when the bioaccumulation of the chemical was studied in the tissue of the embryos (Rericha et al. 2022).

The epidemiological study, Tian et al. (2023), was a case-control study conducted in China that compared women with preeclampsia to healthy controls with respect to exposure to various PFAS including 4:2 FTS. The participants had blood taken a few days prior to delivery. Following delivery, Tian and colleagues examined the effect of various PFAS on both preeclampsia and low birth weight. Adjusted models found that higher maternal concentrations of 4:2 FTS were significantly inversely associated with preeclampsia. In multivariable regression, higher concentrations of 4:2 FTS was associated with higher birth weights, but this relationship was not statistically significant in a Cox proportional hazard regression that showed an inverse relationship between higher levels of 4:2 FTS and risk of low birth weight.

6:2 diPAP

 One toxicological study and two epidemiological studies were identified that examined exposure to 6:2 diPAP. The toxicological study, Chen et al. (2020), examined thyroid toxicity of zebrafish embryos exposed to 6:2 diPAP. One of the epidemiologic studies, Luo et al. (2022a), examined couple fecundity and infertility. The other epidemiologic study, Luo et al. (2022b), examined testicular function.

 Chen et al. (2020) examined the potential thyroid toxicity of 6:2 diPAP when zebrafish embryos were exposed post-fertilization. The study found that exposure to 6:2 diPAP was associated with decreases in five thyroid hormones.

Luo et al. (2022a) is a prospective preconception cohort study of 936 Chinese couples. Twenty-five different PFAS chemicals were examined in the blood samples taken from the couples at enrollment including 6:2 diPAP. Luo et al. (2022a) found that 6:2 diPAP levels in the women were significantly associated with reduced fecundity and an increased risk of infertility. Luo et al. (2022b) was a cross-sectional study examining 6:2 diPAP in the blood and semen of 902 men who were seeking preconception care. No association was found between 6:2 diPAP and semen quality.

6:2 FTTAoS

 Six toxicology studies were identified that examined potential effects from exposure to 6:2 FTTAoS. These studies examined sublethal effects $(n=1)$, developmental toxicity $(n=4)$, and reproductive toxicity ($n=1$). The routes of exposure in the studies conducted on mice ($n=2$), fish $(n=1)$, and amphibians $(n=3)$ were ingestion $(n=3)$, embryonic $(n=1)$, dermal $(n=1)$, and aquatic (n=1). One epidemiological study was identified that examined potential effects of maternal blood levels of 6:2 FTS and pre-eclampsia and low birth weight.

 Of the toxicological studies, Abercrombie et al. (2021), found a lowest-observable-effect concentration (LOEC) between 50 and 120 ppb via dermal exposure⁴ for the various amphibians examined. When examining the snout-vent length (SVL) of anurans, the authors found that exposure to 6:2 FTS reduced their SVL; however, the same exposure in salamanders caused an increased SVL. Abercrombie et al. concluded that effects depended on species and chemicals, but not on concentration. Flynn et al. (2022) also examined the effects of 6:2 FTS on several amphibian species. The authors noted several effects from 6:2, such as reduced survival among the salamanders exposed to 6:2 FTS versus the controls. It was also found that the toads and salamanders had increased SVL and that the toads exposed to the chemical also had increased

⁴ The amphibians were dermally exposed via dosed sphagnum moss substrate (Abercrombie et al. 2021).

growth. "Body condition" was reduced for both the salamanders and frogs exposed to the 6:2 FTS. Another study, Narizzano et al. (2021a), found that of the six PFOS chemicals administered to white-footed mice, 6:2 FTS had the lowest serum to dose ratio. The authors indicate that the lowest serum to dose ratio means that 6:2 FTS had the lowest bioaccumulation potential of the six PFAS compounds studied. Fey et al. (2022) examined several outcomes among zebra fish embryos and rainbow trout embryos exposed to 6:2 FTS, such as mortality, hatching, and other developmental endpoints. Of the endpoints identified, none were significant for 6:2 FTS. Bohannon et al. (2023) examined reproduction, development, and immune function in whitefooted mice exposed to 6:2 FTS. The immune function of the mice was decreased in both males and females in the two highest dose groups, but the authors found little evidence of effect upon reproduction or development. In a 30-day experiment, Flynn et al. (2021) fed salamanders crickets that had been exposed to 6:2 FTS through their food and watering gel. The authors found that the crickets showed bioaccumulation of 6:2 FTS; the salamanders did not. Body condition, hepatosomatic index, and change in mass of the salamanders were not significantly different from controls for the low, medium, or high 6:2 FTS dose groups. There was a significant decrease in SVL for the low and high 6:2 FTS dose groups but not for the medium dose group. The salamander liver burden of 6:2 FTS was not significantly correlated with the estimated dose rate.

 Table 5, below, summarizes the studies that identified point of departure values for 6:2 FTTAoS.

 One epidemiological study was identified that examined 6:2 FTS, Tian et al. (2023). This study, which was previously discussed with respect to 4:2 FTS, also examined the relationship between preeclampsia and 6:2 FTS exposure. There was no significant association between maternal blood levels of 6:2 FTS and preeclampsia or low birth weight.

Potential POD	Exposure Route	Strain and species	Duration of Exposure (days)	Endpoint Evaluated	Critical effect(s)	Study authors
LOEL: 50-120 ppb ^a	Dermal	Amphibiansb	30 days	Relative body condition	Exposure influenced snout-vent length and scaled mass index. The effects observed were dependent on species and chemical, not concentration.	Abercrombie et al. (2021)
NOAEL: 1.0 mg/kg/day	Oral	White- footed Mice	112 days	Immune Function	Decreased plaque- forming cell (PFC) assay	Bohannon et al. (2023)
LOAEL: 5.0 mg/kg/day	Oral	White- footed Mice	112 days	Immune Function	Decreased plaque- forming cell (PFC) assay	Bohannon et al. (2023)
$BMDL_{10}$: 2.63 (males), 2.26 (females) mg/kg/day	Oral	White- footed Mice	112 days	Immune Function	Decreased plaque- forming cell (PFC) assay	Bohannon et al. (2023)

Table 5. Point of departure values identified in the literature for 6:2 FTTAoS

a Sphagnum moss concentrations

^b Juvenile American toads (Anaxyrus Americanus), eastern tiger salamanders (Ambystoma tigrinum), and northern leopard frogs (Rana pipiens)

8:2 FTTAoS

No studies were identified for 8:2 FTTAoS.

Provisional Guidance Values

 The U.S. EPA calculates Reference Doses (RfDs) as a "reference point from which to gauge the potential effects of the chemical at other doses" (EPA 1993). This report does not provide RfDs; that is the purview of the U.S. EPA. However, this report has made estimates of what we are calling Provisional Guidance Values (PGVs) for 6:2 FTOH, 8:2 FTOH, and 6:2 FTTAoS to assist HDOH in its health evaluation of exposure to these compounds. The PGVs for oral exposure (PGVos) for 6:2 FTOH and 8:2 FTOH are based on BMDL10s for which human equivalency doses (HEDs) were calculated, and both use uncertainty factors like those used by U.S. EPA in its development of RfDs. The PGV_O for 6:2 FTTAoS is based on a NOAEL for which a human equivalency dose was calculated; uncertainty factors were used to develop the PGVO.

BMDL10s were calculated by Serex et al. (2014), Himmelstein et al. (2012), and Bohannon et al. (2023) for 6:2 FTOH, 8:2 FTOH, and 6:2 FTTAoS, respectively (See Tables 2, 4, and 5). The data on which Serex et al. (2014) estimated a BMDL₁₀ for 6:2 FTOH were not provided by the authors, and thus the BMDL10 could not be confirmed. Data were available in Miyata et al. (2007), however, on which to calculate a BMDL₁₀. Miyata et al. (2007) was a 28day study while Serex et al. 2014 was a 90-day study. The effects in both studies were similar, however, and the test animals were the same [Crl:CD (SD) rats]. The lowest BDML₁₀ calculated from Miyata et al. (2007) was for discolored teeth in the females (1.578 mg/kg/day), which is lower than the BMDL₁₀ of 18 mg/kg/day estimated by Serex et al. (2014). See Table 2.

Himmelstein et al. (2012) et al. estimated a $BMDL_{10}$ for 8:2 FTOH of 3.69 mg/kg/day based on the focal liver necrosis in Crl:CD (SD) male rats in Ladics et al. (2008). Himmelstein et al. excluded the highest dose group for the $BMDL_{10}$ estimate. To confirm the $BMDL_{10}$ estimate for 8:2 FTOH by Himmelstein et al. (2012), the Ladics et al. (2008) data were run excluding the highest dose group. The resulting BMDL₁₀, 1.368, was lower than that obtained by Himmelstein et al. (2012). A BMDL10 using focal liver necrosis data (all dose groups) in Ladics et al. (2008) was also run. The result was 1.636, which was also lower than the BMDL₁₀ obtained by Himmelstein et al. (2012). Because the chronic progressive nephropathy results in female rats in Ladics et al. (2008) provided a relatively monotonic response, a $BMDL_{10}$ of 3.719 was estimated using the nephropathy data.

Bohannon et al. (2023) estimated BMDL10s for 6:2 FTTAoS of 2.63 and 2.26 mg/kg/day in male and female mice, respectively, using a Bayesian Hill model. The estimates were based on the results of plaque-forming cells in the spleen, a measure of immune function. The authors reported that they used EPA's BMDS Version 3.2 for their $BMDL_{10}$ estimate. The EPA currently provides BMDS 3.3.2 on their website, which is a newer version of the BMDS 3.2 that Bohannon et al. (2023) used. There have been some substantial changes between the two versions; one change is that Bayesian models have been disabled in Version 3.3, and thus we are not able to confirm the Bohannon et al. (2023) BMDL₁₀ result. The NOAEL of 1 mg/kg/day for immune effects (See Table 5) was used as a POD.

The models used to calculate BMDL₁₀s for this report are the ones recommended by the EPA software (Version 3.3.2) based on AIC and other parameters of model fit. Human Equivalent Doses (HEDs) of the BMDL10s were calculated using the dosimetric adjustment factor (DAF) described in EPA (2011):

$HED = BMDL₁₀$ x DAF

Where the DAF = $(BW_a / BW_b)^{1/4}$ and "BW_a" is the body weight of the animal and "BWh" is the body weight humans. Here, we assumed BW_a to be 0.25 kg for rats⁵ and 0.025 for mice⁶ and BW_h to be 70 kg (EPA 2011). The DAFs were calculated to be 0.244462 for 6:2 FTOH and 8:2 FTOH and 0.137471 for 6:2 FTTAoS.

 BMDL10s and the HEDs for the BMDL10s are described in Table 6. Because the BMDL10s calculated for this report are all lower and thus more protective than the one calculated by Serex and colleagues, the Serex et al. (2014) BMDL₁₀ was not used to calculate a PGV₀. Similarly, because the BMDL₁₀s calculated for this report using the Ladics et al. (2008) data are lower and thus more protective than that calculated by Himmelstein et al. (2012) , the BMDL₁₀ estimated by Himmelstein and colleagues was not used to calculate a PGV₀. As indicated above, a NOAEL for immune effects, rather than a BMDL₁₀ was used to calculate a PGV_o for 6:2 FTTAoS. The HED for the NOAEL is 0.137471 mg/kg/day [1 mg/kg/day (NOAEL) x 0.137471 (DAF)].

PFAS	Study	Critical endpoint	BMD	BMDL ₁₀ (mg/kg/day)	Model fit	HED (mg/kg/day)
6:2 FTOH	Miyata (2007)	Liver enlargement (females)	6.032	2.852	Multistage 1	0.6972
	Miyata (2007)	Discolored teeth (females)	3.344	1.578	Multistage 1	0.3858
	Miyata (2007)	Discolored teeth (males)	4.541	2.155	Multistage 1	0.5268
8:2 FTOH	Ladics et al. (2008)	Liver necrosis, focal (males)	5	1.636	Hill ⁷	0.3999
	Ladics et al. (2008)	Liver necrosis, focal (males)	5.38	1.368	Log Probit δ	0.3344
	Ladics et al. (2008)	Chronic progressive nephropathy (females)	22.464	3.719	Hill	0.9092

Table 6. Results of BMDL10 analyses and HED calculations for 6:2 FTOH and 8:2 FTOH

⁸ The highest dose group was removed from this analysis to mimic the Himmelstein et al. (2012) analysis.

⁵ The 6:2 FTOH and 8:2 FTOH studies (Miyata et al. 2007 and Ladics et al. 2008, respectively), used rats.

⁶ The study of 6:2 FTTAoS (Bohannon et al. 2023) used mice.

 7 All dose groups were included; the Hill model was recommended; the Log Probit model was not recommended.

To determine the PGV_{OS}, uncertainty factors were applied to the HEDs of the BMDL_{10S}. According to the EPA, when dosimetric adjustments are applied and an HED is calculated, as was done above, the interspecies uncertainty factor should be set at 3 for calculation of a RfD (EPA 2011). An uncertainty factor of 10 was used for the variation in sensitivity in the human population. An uncertainty factor of 10 was also used for extrapolation from less than chronic exposure. A modifying factor (MF) may be used in the determination of the guidance valued; modifying factors range from 1-10 and depend on the professional assessment of scientific uncertainties of the study and database (EPA 1993). The default value of the MF is 1 (EPA 1993). Developmental studies have been done for all three compounds, which did not indicate effects below the BMDL10s or the NOAEL (6:2 FTTAoS). It was concluded that the MF would be 1. The composite uncertainty factor for both 6:2 FTOH and 8:2 FTOH is 300 (10 for human variability x 3 for animal to human extrapolation x 10 for less than chronic exposure).

The PGV_{OS} were determined using the following equation where the UF are the uncertainty factors, and MF is the modifying factor:

 $PGV_O = HED of the BMDL₁₀ (or NOAEL)/ (UF x MF)$

 Route-to-route extrapolation was utilized to estimate Provisional Guidance Values for inhalation (PGVI). The extrapolation was made following guidance from EPA on conversion of RfDs to RfCs (EPA Undated):

Extrapolated RfC $(mg/m^3) = RfD (mg/kg-day) x (70 kg/20 m^3/day)$

PGVs for oral and inhalation exposure are reported in Table 7. $9,10$

Table 7. Provisional Guidance Values

 10 According to EPA (Undated a), the method to extrapolate from an oral guidance value to an inhalation guidance value provides a reasonable approximation when the substance is volatile but can be very uncertain when the substance is less volatile. Both 6:2 and 8:2 FTOH are volatile; 6:2 FTTAoS is much less volatile (EPA Undated b). Thus, a PGV_I was not estimated for 6:2 FTTAoS.

⁹ The PGVs for 6:2 FTOH and 8:2 FTOH are based on the lowest HEDs from Table 6; the PGV for 6:2 FTTAoS is based on the HED of the NOAEL from Bohannon et al. (2023).

Conclusion

Limited data on the potential health risks of the PFAS compounds described in this report are available. The data were sufficient, however, to make estimates of PGVs for 6:2 FTOH, 8:2 FTOH, and 6:2 FTTAoS.

Only two studies on 4:2 FTTAoS were identified; no studies on 8:2 FTTAoS were found. Of the two epidemiological studies that evaluated 6:2 diPAP, one showed potential reduction in fecundity and increased infertility among women; the other study showed no association between 6:2 diPAP and semen quality. The results of a toxicity study of zebrafish and 6:2 diPAP showed a reduction in five thyroid hormones.

Of the six animal studies examining the effects of exposure to 6:2 FTTAoS, two studies, both amphibian, found effects. However, Abercrombie et al. (2021), the author of one of the amphibian studies, noted that the effects depended on the species exposed and the specific chemical rather than the concentration. The remaining toxicological studies generally did not find effects from 6:2 FTTAoS exposure.

As indicated, there are limited toxicity data on the PFAS compounds described in this report. Hence, the development of guidance values for these compounds must be viewed with caution. Nevertheless, the development of guidance values, even with limited data, should provide benefit to HDOH in its health assessments.

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Appendix A: Proposed Degradation Pathways of Selected PFAS

Figure 1. Proposed biodegradation pathway of 8:2 FTOH in mixed microbial systems (Figure 1 from Butt et al. 2014)

Figure 2. Proposed degradation pathway of 8:2 FTOH in soil and activated sludge (Figure 2 from Butt et al. 2014)

Figure 3. Proposed aerobic degradation pathway of 6:2 FTOH (Figure 3 from Butt et al. 2014)

Figure 5. Proposed degradation pathway of 6:2 diPAP and 6:2 monoPAP (Figure 1 from Lee et al. 2010)

APPENDIX B

Appendix C: Toxicologic Studies

4:2 FTTAoS cologic Studies

Author and Year

Notes

Rericha et al. 2022

Epidemiologtudies

6:2 FTTAoS Toxicologic Studies

6:2 FTTAoS Toxicologic Studies 6:2 FTTAoS Toxicologic Studies

Applicable Guideline (*it is either OECD ####

Author and Year

or TG-##) Notes

gestational age and gender.

8:2 FTTAoS Toxicologic Studies

6:2 diPAP Toxicologic Studies 6:2 diPAP Toxicologic Studies

Applicable Guideline

6:2 diPAP Tologic Studies

Author and Year

Notes

Chen et al. 2020

quality

Luo et al. 2022b 15% lower odds of couple fecundity and Semen samples were collected preconception at the same time with blood exposure to 6:2 or 8:2 diPAP and semen plasma No association was found between

menstrual cycle)

household income Age and BMI

number of pups born, postnatal survival, and pup weight)

Author and Year Applicable Guideline (*it is Applicable Guideline ("it is
either OECD #### or TG-##) Notes

Annunziato et al. 2019 Modified OECD 212

Ishibashi et al. 2008

Kirkpatrick 2005 OECD 422 NOAEL for systemic toxicity is 25 mg/kg/day (body weight and body gain); NOAEL 75 mg/kg/day for reproductive and neonatal toxicity (mean number of pups born, postnatal survival, and pup weight)

Author and Year Applicable Guideline (*it is Notes Notes Notes 1994)

Applicable OECD #### or TG-##)

Mukerji et al. 2015 OPPTS 870.3550

Author and Year Applicable Guideline (*it is Applicable Guideline ("it is
either OECD #### or TG-##) Notes

O'Connor et al. 2014 OECD 414

Serex et al. 2014 (Acute toxicity: oral, dermal) OECD Section 4 (Part 425): Acute Oral Toxicity – Up-and-Down-Procedure (2001). The dermal toxicity study conformed to OECD Section 4 (Part 402): Acute Dermal Toxicity (1987).

Oral, death - resulting in an LD50 of 1750 mg/kg. Acute dermal LD50 is >5000 mg/kg.

Serex et al. 2014 (Dermal irritation and sensitization, and eye irritation)

The dermal irritation study conformed to OECD Section 4 (Part 404): Acute Dermal Irritation/Corrosion (2002). The dermal sensi- tization study conformed to OECD Section 4 (Part 429): Local Lymph Node Assay (LLNA; 2003) and the eye irritation study conformed to OECD Section 4 (Part 405): Acute Eye Irritation/Corrosion (2002).

6:2 FTOH Toxicologic Studies

(*genotoxicity included because we describe the toxicological components of this study) OECD Section 4 (Part 471)

> Effects Test Guidelines OPPTS 870.3100 (1998). NOAEL in the subchronic study was 5 mg/kg/day based on hematology and liver effects. Benchmark Dose Analysis was performed on the most sensitive endpoints from the 90-day oral gavage study and these levels were all above the study NOAEL of 5 mg/kg/day. For risk assessment purposes, the recommended point of departure is the more conservative study NOAEL of 5 mg/kg/day.

> > Taken together, 6:2 FTCA exposure decreased the erythrocyte number and disrupted erythroid differentiation during zebrafish embryonic development. Our results suggest that 6:2 FTCA can cause developmental toxicity in zebrafish embryos, and that FTCAs exhibit greater toxicity than that of PFCAs.

Shi et al. 2017

Serex et al. 2014 (90-day subchronic oral tox)

Xia et al. 2023

Tox Studies from Rice et al. 2020 Tox Studies from Rice et al. 2020

Author and Year Applicable Guideline (*it is either OECD #### or TG-##) Notes

DuPont 2012

8:2 FTOH Toxies Studies

Author and Year

Notes

Henderson and Smith 2007

Himmelstein et al. 2012 The exposure concentrations were targeted to give inhaled doses (in units of mg/kg bw) that were in the lower range of those used in a 90-day oral gavage study

Ladics et al. 2008 NOAEL was 5 mg/kg.

Epidemiologic Studies

No adjustment Only Spearman correlation was used to examine the relationship between 8:2 FTOH exposure and postnatal growth