

While the drinking water contaminants trichloroethylene (TCE) and tetrachloroethylene (PCE) which were found at Camp Lejeune can cause some types of cancers, some types of birth defects and other health problems among those exposed, it is not known if you personally will have any of these health problems if you were exposed. Many who are exposed to these contaminants do not suffer any health problems from them, but some do. Whether you do or not depends on a lot of factors including:

- which chemicals you were exposed to
- the dates you were exposed (the levels varied over time in the drinking water system)
- when you were exposed (e.g., as a fetus, a child, or an adult)
- how much exposure you received (if you were exposed as a fetus, that would depend on how much water your mother consumed, her showering or bathing habits, and where she drank the water and showered or bathed)
- how long you were exposed
- your genetic make-up
- any other exposures to environmental or occupational hazards you have received during your life
- your "lifestyle" (e.g., diet, smoking, alcohol consumption, physical activity)
- illnesses you may have had from other causes
- and the medications you have taken during your life.

Currently ATSDR is conducting a study to determine if children exposed in utero any time from 1968 through 1985 to VOC-contaminated drinking water at Camp Lejeune were more likely to have one of the following specific health effects that were identified during a 1999-2002 telephone survey:

Spina bifida, Anencephaly (absence of all or a major part of the brain) Cleft lip, Cleft palate, Childhood leukemia, or Childhood non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.

The study includes children born between 1968-1985 because 1968 is the first year that birth certificate data in NC were computerized and the heavily contaminated wells were shut down in 1985. However, any findings from the study would also apply to children born before 1968 if the mothers received contaminated drinking water at Camp Lejeune.

The enrollment phase of this study closed in 2005. We expect this study to be completed in 2009.

In 2009, ATSDR is planning to conduct health studies of former Marines and Navy personnel stationed at Camp Lejeune during the period of drinking water contamination. These studies include a mortality study and a health questionnaire survey.

Former residents and employees of Camp Lejeune can now register at the official Marine Corps water study website for notification and information regarding past drinking water contamination. The address is <https://clnr.hqi.usmc.mil/> The health survey will be sent to everyone who registers with the USMC.

We are also in the process of re-constructing and modeling (via computer) the water distribution system on base. That information will give us a much better idea of when the contaminated water was present on different areas of the base and at what levels. Currently, this information is available for former Camp Lejeune Marines and their families who lived in Tarawa Terrace. You can find out the levels of PCE and PCE by-products in the drinking water serving homes in Tarawa Terrace by visiting the ATSDR website and entering dates lived in Tarawa Terrace housing from 1951 to 1987. The Estimated Finished Water Concentrations are available at: <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/sites/lejeune/cljweb/disclaimer.html>. This information will be available for other areas on base soon.

Please visit our website at <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/sites/lejeune/index.html> to stay up to date with our activities.

Currently, this is our primary means of informing and updating the community about our activities at Camp Lejeune.

Thank you for your interest in ATSDR's activities at Camp Lejeune. Please let us know if you have other questions.

Sincerely yours,

Perri Ruckart, MPH

Epidemiologist

ATSDR, Division of Health Studies