

Review of: "Knowledge of Risk Associated with Exposure to Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances in Abuja, Nigeria"

Anchal Garg¹

¹ Stanford University

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

The study is important and relevant for the Nigerian population, as the unawareness about these toxic compounds, PFAS, is very important. However, authors need to discuss a few things mentioned below:

Abstract: The abstract needs to be restructured.

- I think in the abstract, the authors don't need to discuss other countries like America and Europe. Better words are used in developed countries here. Rather, discuss one line about the study area.
- The second line of the abstract, "This may point to the fact that PFAS exposure in Abuja may not pose only localized risk but may progress to be a global risk," can be restructured as, "Since 91% of the population is unaware of the localized risks, sources, and health effects of these compounds, therefore, there is an emerging need to start raising awareness about these compounds."
- I am also surprised that 91% of the population is aware of these compounds, which means out of 10, only 1 person knows about PFAS. I think this disparity is because of the low number of respondents, i.e., 400 only. But I appreciate the efforts of the authors.

Introduction:

- Are waste burning and production the only sources of these compounds? If others such as plastic, etc., please discuss all the sources of these compounds, whether natural or anthropogenic.
- Please add the citations (actual references) for this line in the introduction, "Studies have linked PFAS to various types of cancer; endocrine damage, reproductive system defects, and is potentially toxic to animals (Betts, 2007)."

Materials and Methods:

Please discuss the materials and methods appropriately. Discuss the questionnaire, how many questions, what type of questions were included in your study. Also, discuss how you communicated this questionnaire among the participants. Discuss the challenges you faced during your study. The current materials and methods description is not sufficient for publication.

Results:

- Diagram 1: Can the authors restructure this figure rather than taking the already published image?

- Discuss the ways how this information should be reached with policymakers, action authorities, or NGOs to raise awareness?