

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

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Dear authors,

I personally appreciated your efforts in developing awareness among your fellow citizens and in asking the Nigerian government for knowledge programs, but the paper you presented is rather poor to be considered for publication in a scientific journal. At present, the paper could be suitable for a local congress. In general, the present study is extremely focused on a (small) local result. In order to be useful for the scientific community, it should be expanded and deepened with more information at the national level. Moreover, some changes are needed in how the research is reported.

As regards the paper, any concept should be contextualized. You do not inform about the general situation at present and/or any eventual local problems raised in Nigeria that induced the authors to investigate the awareness of the Nigerian population. Do you know if high PFAS serum levels were found in the local population? Or if particularly high rates of some kinds of cancers hypothesized to be induced by these substances were reported? Or about releases from public waste dump sites or from factories into drinking water? All these aspects should be considered and reported on (even the lack of data should be reported).

As to the questionnaires, they are self-designed (that's why references are missing?) and rather simple. In Materials and Methods, a better description is needed, i.e., where did you distribute the questionnaires? In which kind of places/sites? Who administered the questionnaires, professionals? Students? Were respondents allowed to ask for explanations? Did you make any examples of PFAS-containing products or show images? You could administer the questionnaire in a different Nigerian area and highlight the differences in results.

The discussion is also poor. Providing data on imports of PFAS products (eventually estimates) would be very valuable. Diagrams 1 and 2 and the following paragraph should be moved to the Introduction.

Following the suggested additions, this study could help in the knowledge of PFAS contamination in a poorly characterized area of the world.