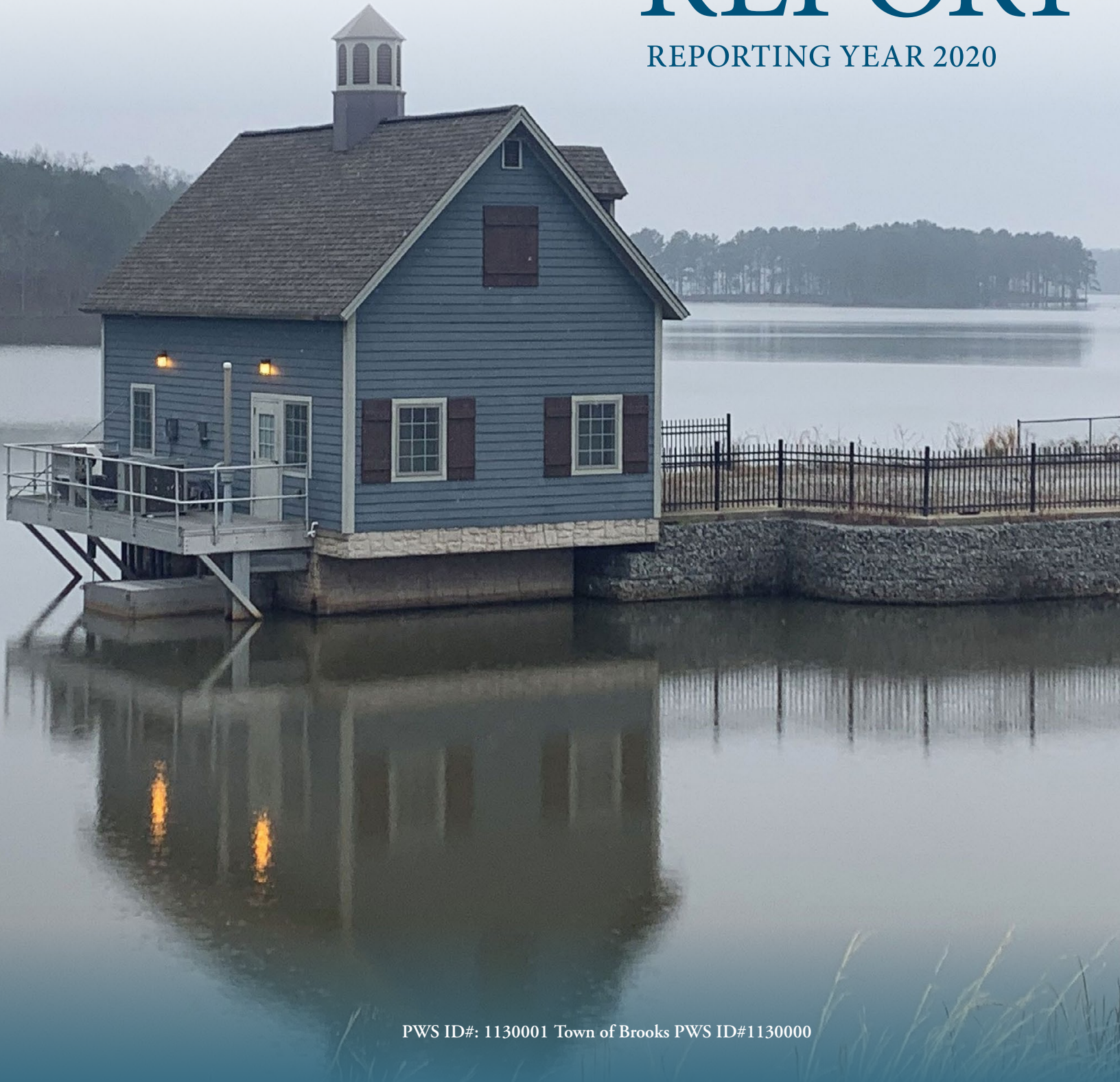


ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

REPORTING YEAR 2020





Dear Valued Customer,

Once again, Fayette County is pleased to present our annual water quality report as part of our ongoing commitment to be open, transparent, and accountable to you. The staff's dedication to producing drinking water that meets all state and federal standards, especially through this pandemic, aligns with the county's mission of perpetuating a high-quality lifestyle. Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to serve you and your family.

Lead in Home Plumbing

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. We are responsible for providing high-quality drinking water, but we cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791 or at www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Community Participation

You are invited to participate in our public forum and voice any concerns you may have about your drinking water. A link to the Water Committee schedule and minutes for each meeting is posted at www.fayettecountyga.gov/water under Agenda/Minutes.



Water Treatment Process

The Fayette County Water System has two water treatment plants. Both plants have the ability to add sodium permanganate at the beginning of the treatment process to oxidize iron, manganese, and some organics.

Alum and lime are added to the water taken from the surface water sources to cause the finely divided mud particles to clump together so they settle with other particles to the bottom of the settling tanks by gravity. The clear water is collected from the top of the basins, filtered, and disinfected with chlorine to make the water biologically

safe. The pH is adjusted by adding lime, and phosphate is added to make the water noncorrosive. Fluoride is added to prevent dental cavities. Treated drinking water is pumped through large pressure pumps to other pumping stations and to tanks within the local distribution system. Distribution systems are composed of large pipes known as trunk mains to deliver drinking water. Smaller-diameter branch mains feed individual streets and subdivision. Service connections to branch mains deliver water into residences. Pumping stations are used to increase the pressure and to maintain adequate supply flows. Water distributed to elevated water tanks ensures stable water pressure. An adequate supply of water is maintained to meet peak water demands and/or emergencies such as fires, water main breaks, power outages, and pump failures.

“We remain vigilant in delivering the best-quality drinking water.”

QUESTIONS?

For more information about this report, or for any questions related to your drinking water, please call The Fayette County Water System at (770) 461-1146. For more information regarding the water supply for our region, please visit Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District at the following link: <https://northgeorgiawater.org/conserves-our-water/water-supply-in-our-region/>.





Table Talk

Get the most out of the Testing Results data table with this simple suggestion. In less than a minute, you will know all there is to know about your water:

For each substance listed, compare the value in the Amount Detected column against the value in the MCL (or AL, SMCL) column. If the Amount Detected value is smaller, your water meets the health and safety standards set for the substance.

Other Table Information Worth Noting

Verify that there were no violations of the state and/or federal standards in the Violation column. If there was a violation, you will see a detailed description of the event in this report.

If there is an ND or a less-than symbol (<), that means that the substance was not detected (i.e., below the detectable limits of the testing equipment).

The Range column displays the lowest and highest sample readings. If there is an NA showing, that means only a single sample was taken to test for the substance (assuming there is a reported value in the Amount Detected column).

If there is sufficient evidence to indicate from where the substance originates, it will be listed under Typical Source.

Substances That Could Be in Water

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. EPA prescribes regulations limiting the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health. Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of these contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals, in some cases, radioactive material, and substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Substances that may be present in source water include:

Microbial Contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, or wildlife;

Inorganic Contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or may result from urban storm-water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming;

Pesticides and Herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm-water runoff, and residential uses;

Organic Chemical Contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production and may also come from gas stations, urban storm-water runoff, and septic systems;

Radioactive Contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or may be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

For more information about contaminants and potential health effects, call the U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

Source Water Assessment

An updated Source Water Assessment Plan (SWAP) is available at our office or online. It lists and locates sources of potential contaminants in the four water-supply watersheds. Potential contaminate source locations and developed area determine the contamination susceptibility rating for each watershed.

WATERSHED SUSCEPTIBILITY RATING	
Flat Creek	Medium-High
Flint River	Medium-High
Horton Creek	Medium
Line Creek	Low-Medium

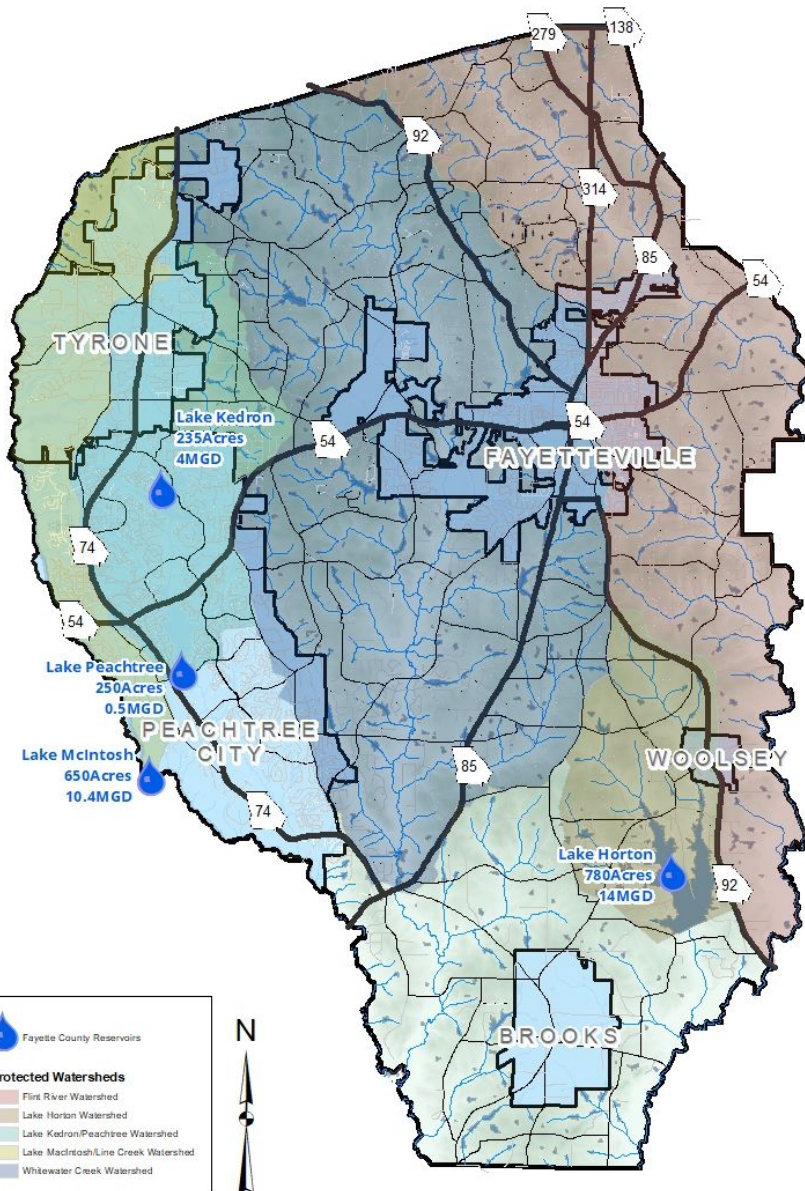
Important Health Information

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants may be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health-care providers. The U.S. EPA/CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791 or <http://water.epa.gov/drink/hotline>.



Where Does My Water Come From?

In 2020, Fayette County Water System produced 100% or 3,420,048,000 gallons of drinking water from Lake Kedron, Lake Peachtree, Lake Horton, and Lake McIntosh. Water from the Flint River is pumped to Lake Horton when needed.



What type of container is best for storing water?

Consumer Reports has consistently advised that glass or BPA-free plastics such as polyethylene are the safest choices. To be on the safe side, don't use any container with markings on the recycle symbol showing "7 PC" (that's code for BPA). You could also consider using stainless steel or aluminum with BPA-free liners.

How much emergency water should I keep?

Typically, 1 gallon per person per day is recommended. For a family of four, that would be 12 gallons for 3 days. Humans can survive without food for 1 month, but can only survive 1 week without water.

How long can I store drinking water?

The disinfectant in drinking water will eventually dissipate, even in a closed container. If that container housed bacteria prior to filling up with the tap water, the bacteria may continue to grow once the disinfectant has dissipated. Some experts believe that water could be stored up to six months before needing to be replaced. Refrigeration will help slow the bacterial growth.

How long does it take a water supplier to produce one glass of drinking water?

It could take up to 45 minutes to produce a single glass of drinking water.

How many community water systems are there in the U.S.?

About 53,000 public water systems across the United States process 34 billion gallons of water per day for home and commercial use. Eighty-five percent of the population is served by these systems.



Test Results

Our water is monitored for many different kinds of substances on a very strict sampling schedule. And, the water we deliver must meet specific health standards. Here, we only show those substances that were detected in our water (a complete list of all our analytical results is available upon request). Remember that detecting a substance does not mean the water is unsafe to drink; our goal is to keep all detects below their respective maximum allowed levels.

The State recommends monitoring for certain substances less than once per year because the concentrations of these substances do not change frequently. In these cases, the most recent sample data are included, along with the year in which the sample was taken.

We participated in the 4th stage of the U.S. EPA's Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR4) program by performing additional tests on our drinking water. UCMR4 sampling benefits the environment and public health by providing the U.S. EPA with data on the occurrence of contaminants suspected to be in drinking water, in order to determine if U.S. EPA needs to introduce new regulatory standards to improve drinking water quality. Unregulated contaminant monitoring data are available to the public, so please feel free to contact us if you are interested in obtaining that information. If you would like more information on the U.S. EPA's Unregulated Contaminants Monitoring Rule, please call the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

REGULATED SUBSTANCES									
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)		YEAR SAMPLED		MCL [MRDL]	MCLG [MRDLG]	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Chlorine (ppm)		2020		[4]	[4]	1.32	0.20–2.50	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Chlorine Dioxide (ppb)		2020		[800]	[800]	600	0.00–600	No	Water additive used to control microbes
Chlorite (ppm)		2020		1	0.8	0.43	0.12–0.45	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Fluoride (ppm)		2020		4	4	0.82	0.30–0.90	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive, which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Haloacetic Acids [HAAs] (ppb)		2020		60	NA	47	22.0–59.0	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] ¹ (ppb)		2020		80	NA	68	19–101	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Organic Carbon [TOC] (removal ratio)		2020		TT	NA	1.24 ²	1.14–1.54	No	Naturally present in the environment
Turbidity (NTU)		2020		TT	NA	0.23 ³	0.01–0.23	No	Soil runoff
Turbidity (lowest monthly percent of samples meeting limit)		2020		TT = 95% of samples meet the limit	NA	100.0	NA	No	Soil runoff
Tap Water Samples Collected for Copper and Lead Analyses from Sample Sites throughout the Community ⁴									
				Fayette County Water System			Brooks		
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AL	MCLG	AMOUNT DETECTED (90TH %ILE)	SITES ABOVE AL/TOTAL SITES	AMOUNT DETECTED (90TH %ILE)	SITES ABOVE AL/TOTAL SITES	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Copper (ppm)	2019	1.3	1.3	0.21	0/30	0.64	0/10	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead (ppb)	2019	15	0	0	1/30	0	0/10	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

Definitions

90th %ile: The levels reported for lead and copper represent the 90th percentile of the total number of sites tested. The 90th percentile is equal to or greater than 90% of our lead and copper detections.

AL (Action Level): The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

MCL (Maximum Contaminant Level): The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

MCLG (Maximum Contaminant Level Goal): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

MRDL (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level): The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

MRDLG (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal): The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

NA: Not applicable.

ND (Not detected): Indicates that the substance was not found by laboratory analysis.

NTU (Nephelometric Turbidity Units): Measurement of the clarity, or turbidity, of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

ppb (parts per billion): One part substance per billion parts water (or micrograms per liter).

ppm (parts per million): One part substance per million parts water (or milligrams per liter).

removal ratio: A ratio between the percentage of a substance actually removed to the percentage of the substance required to be removed.

TT (Treatment Technique): A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

¹Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous systems, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

²TOC compliance is a calculated removal ratio of 1 (actual removal is equal to or greater than the required removal) and is reported for compliance as a running annual average, computed quarterly. For our source water, a 35% removal is required.

³Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. It is monitored because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of the filtration system.

⁴Water from the treatment plants do not contain lead or copper, therefore, water is tested at the tap. Fayette County Water System is on Reduced Monitoring.

UNREGULATED CONTAMINANT MONITORING RULE - PART 4 (UCMR4)				
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	TYPICAL SOURCE
Bromide (ppb)	2020	20.8	20.6–20.8	Naturally present in the environment
Bromochloroacetic Acid (ppb)	2020	3.78	0.39–4.92	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Bromodichloroacetic Acid (ppb)	2020	3.28	1.31–4.00	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Chlorodibromoacetic Acid (ppb)	2020	4.72	0.31–13.00	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Dibromoacetic Acid (ppb)	2020	0.39	0.31–0.39	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Dichloroacetic Acid (ppb)	2020	22.88	5.73–33.60	By-product of drinking water disinfection
HAA6Br (ppb)	2020	7.45	0.39–8.70	By-product of drinking water disinfection
HAA9 (ppb)	2020	51.85	9.89–71.50	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Manganese (ppb)	2020	6.07	1.55–14.90	Naturally present in the environment
Monobromoacetic Acid (ppb)	2020	0.58	0.39–0.59	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Monochloroacetic Acid (ppb)	2020	3.50	2.10–4.10	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Trichloroacetic Acid (ppb)	2020	20.43	3.77–31.40	By-product of drinking water disinfection