

## Navy Water Contamination Survey Results

Updated 5/26/22 health.hawaii.gov/redhill (808) 586-4258

In January and February 2022, the Hawaii Department of Health (DOH) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention/Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (CDC/ATSDR) conducted a survey to learn more about the experience of people who were affected by the petroleum contamination in the U.S. Navy's Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam drinking water system.



reported at least one new or worsening health symptom



switched to an alternate water source



of people with symptoms saw improvement after switching to an alternate water source



sought medical care. 17 people were hospitalized overnight

## PARTICIPANT PROFILE

2,289 people from 1,389 households submitted surveys. 88% were affiliated with the Department of Defense.

Over half of survey participants reported signs that their water was contaminated such as a fuel-like smell or taste or a visible oily sheen.

Most participants reported receiving information about the incident online with 52% using social media for information and many respondents reported a lack of trust in the information provided by responding agencies.

## **COMMON SYMPTOMS**

The most commonly reported symptoms were:

- Headache
- Fatique
- Diarrhea
- Dry or Itchy Skin
- Nausea

- Anxiety
- Skin rash
- Irritation/pain/ burning of eyes
- Dizziness and lightheadedness

Additional symptoms, such as difficulty concentrating and other mental health symptoms were also frequently experienced.



Many reported that symptoms lasted longer than 30 days.

## **WHAT'S NEXT?**

Many people reported significant disruptions to their lives and concerns about long-term impacts on their health and the health of their families and pets. The survey results provide valuable information about the experiences of people affected by the petroleum contamination in the Navy's Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam drinking water system. However, because the survey was voluntary, it did not capture the full scale of the impacts on people affected by the water contamination.

Initial survey results were published in an article in the <u>CDC's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report</u> (<u>MMWR</u>) on <u>May 26, 2022</u>. DOH continues to work with CDC/ATSDR to learn more about health effects from this unprecedented event.