



Center for Appalachian Research  
in Environmental Sciences

# Welcome!

## Advocacy Training

- UK-CARES is one of 28 Environmental Health Sciences Core Centers in the U.S.
- Only Center focused on EH in Appalachia.
- To discover & translate research on how the environment affects the health of people in rural Appalachia.

<https://medicine.uky.edu/centers/ukcares/center-membership>



# 2020 Community Environmental Health Assessment Findings

## **BIG SANDY AREA DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT**

- Floyd County
- Johnson County
- Magoffin County
- Martin County
- Pike County

## **KENTUCKY RIVER AREA DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT**

- Breathitt
- Knott
- Lee
- Leslie
- Letcher
- Owsley
- Perry
- Wolfe

## **CUMBERLAND VALLEY AREA DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT**

- Bell
- Clay
- Harlan
- Jackson
- Knox
- Laurel
- Rockcastle
- Whitley



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# WHAT DID WE WANT TO KNOW?


Researchers at **UK-CARES** wanted to learn the concerns of community members in the Big Sandy, Kentucky River, and Cumberland Valley Area Development Districts (ADDs) to better understand and address health issues related to:




# BIG SANDY AREA DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT CONCERNS AT A GLANCE



## INDOOR & OUTDOOR AIR

**63%**   
Are concerned about mold and pollen indoors

**66%**   
Are concerned about truck exhaust outdoors




## EMERGING THREATS

**91%**  
Are concerned about flooding




## WATER

**57%**   
Are concerned about PFAS in their **tap water**

**55%**   
Are concerned about the integrity of **municipal/public water lines**

**79%**   
Are concerned about solvents or metals in their **private well water**


**60%**   
Are concerned about bacteria in their **tank water**

**89%**   
Are concerned about dumping in their **streams and other water sources**


# KENTUCKY RIVER AREA DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT CONCERNS AT A GLANCE



## INDOOR & OUTDOOR AIR

**72%** 


Are concerned about mold and pollen indoors


**73%** 





Are concerned about secondhand smoke exposure



## EMERGING THREATS

**89%** 

Are concerned about both infectious disease and flooding 



## WATER

**84%** 

Are concerned about chemicals in their **tap water**

**75%** 

Are concerned about both the pipes and the integrity of **municipal/ public water lines**

**73%** 

Are concerned about bacteria in their **private well water**

**85%** 

Are concerned about lead and other heavy metals in their **tank water**

**88%** 

Are concerned about impact of chemical spray on **streams and other water sources**

# CUMBERLAND VALLEY AREA DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT CONCERNS AT A GLANCE



## INDOOR & OUTDOOR AIR

**67%** 

Are concerned about mold and pollen indoors

**71%** 

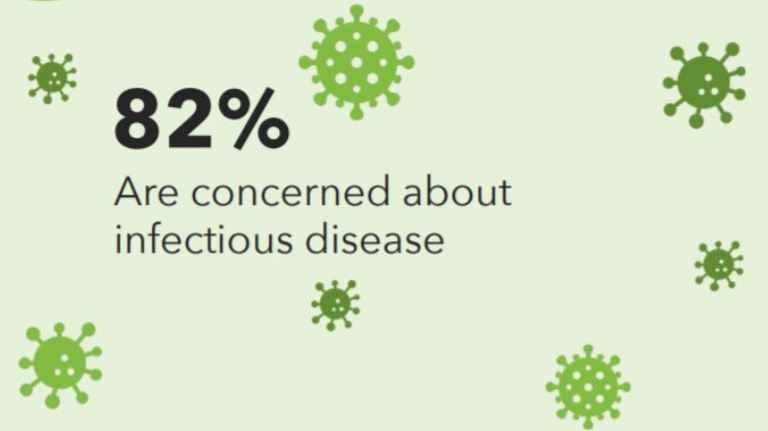
Are concerned about secondhand smoke exposure



## EMERGING THREATS

**82%**

Are concerned about infectious disease



## WATER

**67%** 

Are concerned about pesticides in their **tap water**

**56%** 

Are concerned about the integrity of **municipal/public water lines**

**70%** 

Are concerned about bacteria in their **private well water**

**65%** 

Are concerned about lead and other heavy metals in their **tank water**

**88%** 

Are concerned about dumping in their **streams and other water sources**

# WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR YOU?

- Poor water and air quality are linked to a variety of health issues:
  - Asthma, bronchitis, and other lung diseases
  - Poisoning, gastro-intestinal illnesses, eye infections, increased cancer risk, and many other health problems
- Communities are experiencing devastation like never before as extreme weather and natural disasters become more frequent.





# WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Get involved in community events
- Advocate for change at every level: your family, your school, your organization, your place of work or worship, your county, town, state, country, the world!
- Use your voice to vote
- Join organizations that share your values/interests



# Today's Facilitators



Tiffany Pyette



Tom Harris