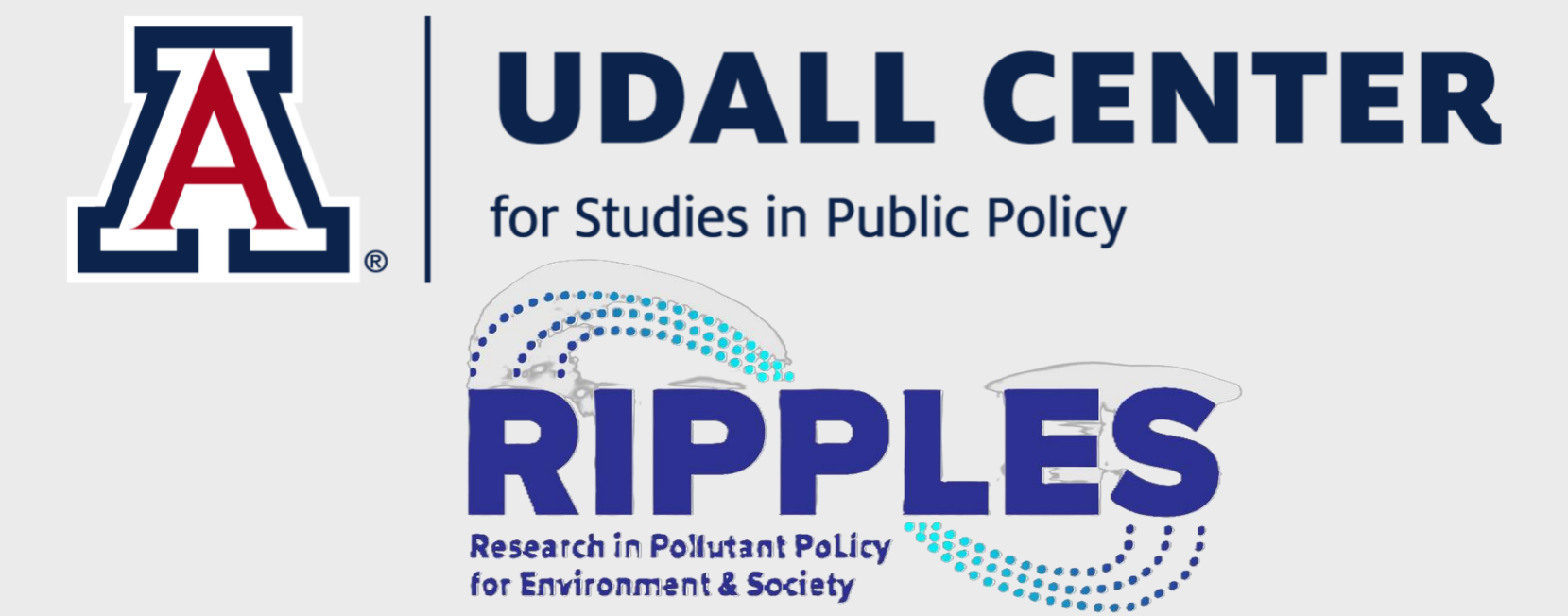


A Roadmap to Address PFAS Contamination

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No relationships to disclose.



1 Introduction

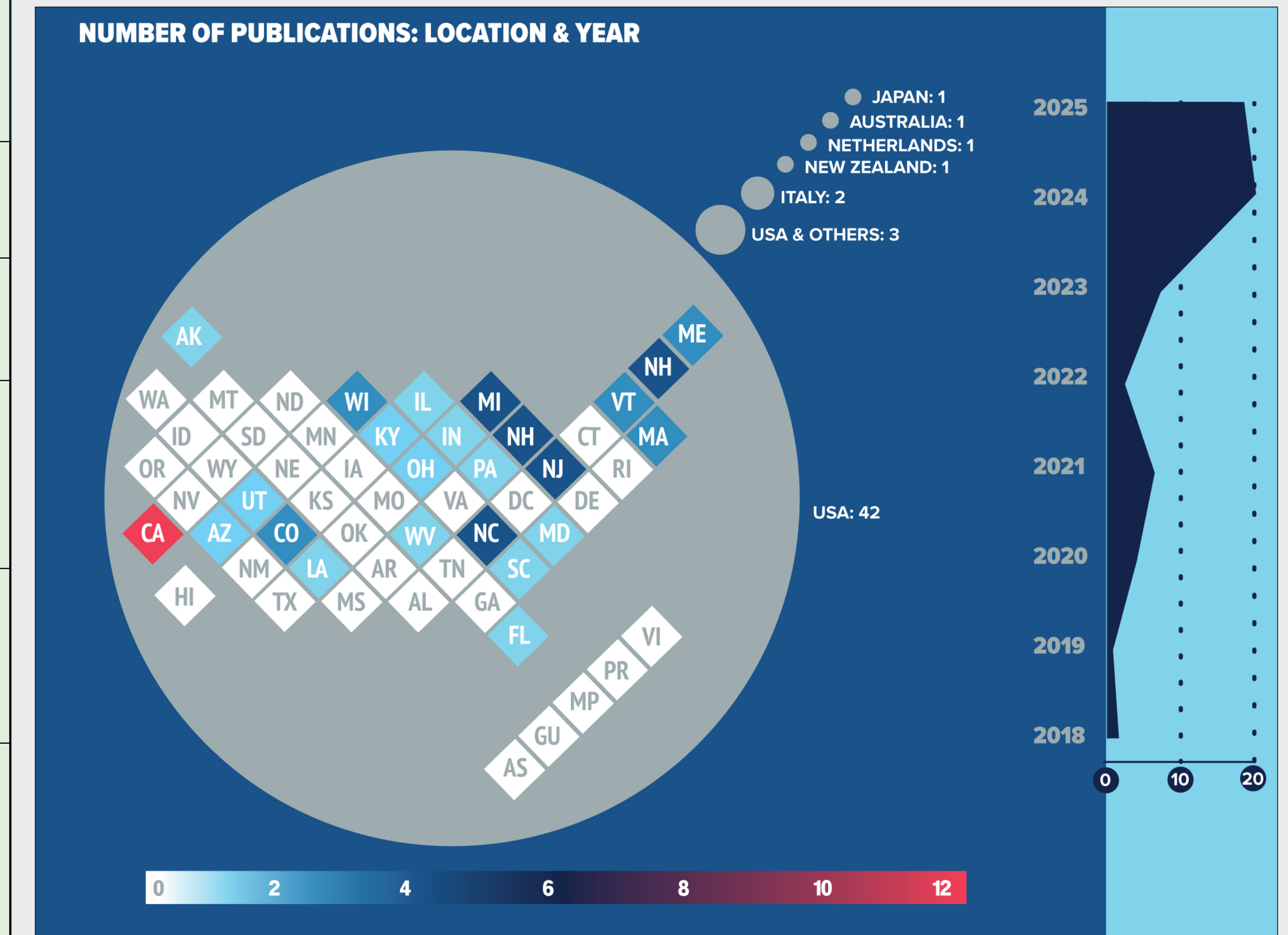
- PFAS contamination now exceeds regional and national boundaries, challenging traditional understandings of justice in environmental contamination.
- Given the scale and ubiquity of contamination, the justice implications of planetary-scale toxicity remain poorly understood.
- This study aims to address this gap by examining the environmental justice dimensions of PFAS contamination.
- To do this, we review and synthesize the academic and grey literature of the past decade (2015-2025). See Figure 2.

2 Methods

Reviewed and synthesized 67 academic and gray literature publications (2015–2025). See Figure 1.
Coding focused on environmental justice framework.

Dimensions	Definition	Operationalization question
Recognition	The groups at the receiving end of inequities, the cultural disrespect of the value of traditions	WHO is mostly affected?
Distribution	The inequities in the geographic siting of environmental bads and goods that disproportionately affect some groups depending on economic level, social class, and race/ethnicity	WHERE is the most significant exposure?
Procedure	The political exclusion and lack of representation of certain groups in decision-making processes	HOW are the inequities explained?
Capabilities	The capacities that individuals and communities need to fully function in the lives they choose to pursue, including health, bodily integrity, and control of their own environment	WHAT are communities doing?

Figure 1: Descriptive characteristics of our sample.

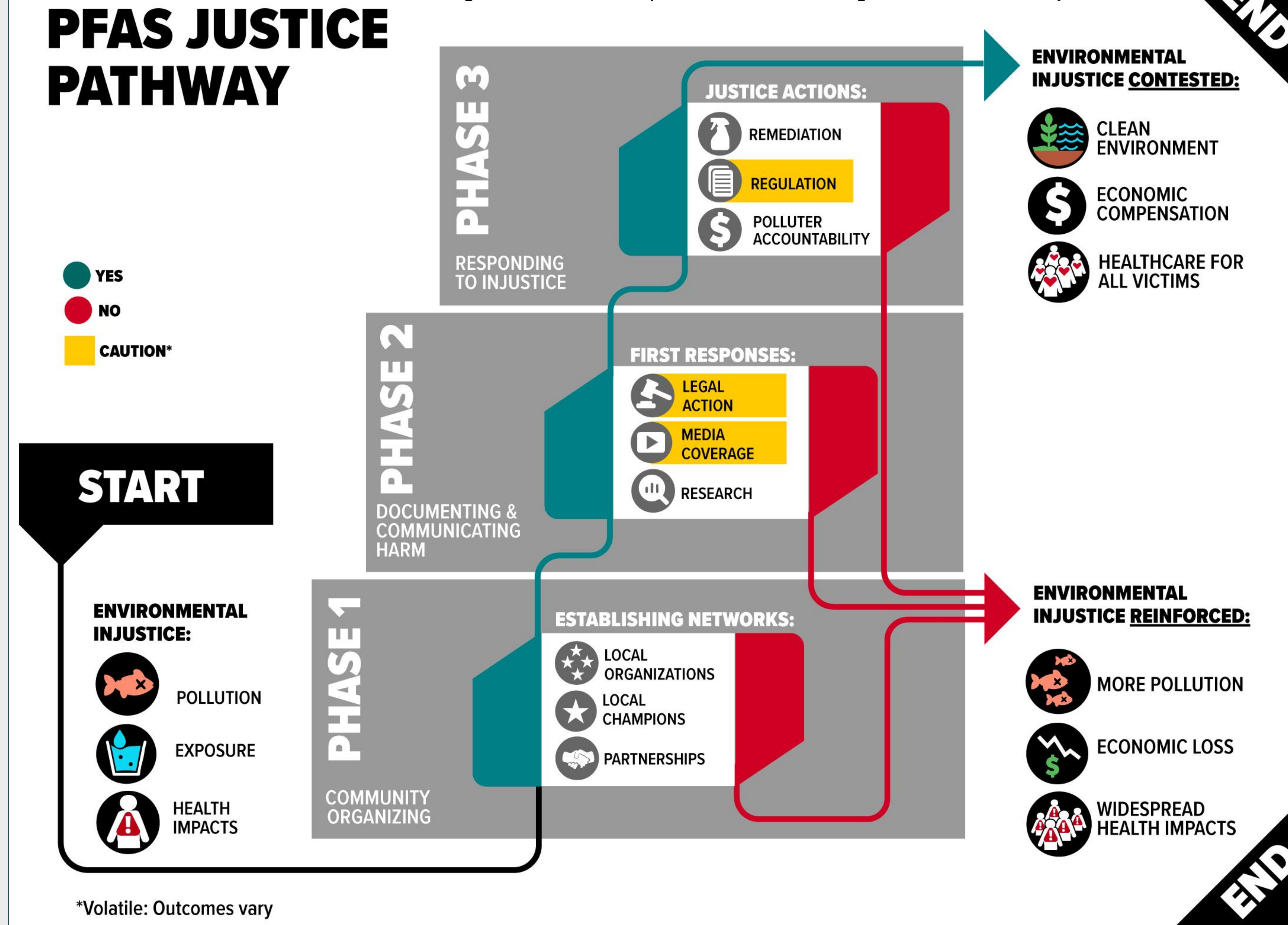


3 Results

- Distribution:** Small water systems, private wells, rainwater, and traditional food sources.
- Procedural:** Delayed enforcement of regulations, military exemption from environmental regulations, acceptable levels of human sacrifice (sacrifice zones).
- Recognition:** Healthcare burdens on communities, housing markets, water service, litigation, local industry power.
- Capabilities:** Family exposure drives activism, community organizations, partnerships, legal activism, class-action lawsuits.

PFAS JUSTICE PATHWAY

Figure 2: A roadmap toward contesting environmental injustice



4 Injustices in Boundary-Making

Legal

- Legal classification, designating "contaminated" land
- Temporal boundaries, legal settlements and no future liability
- Defining community

Research

- Boundary choices for investigation
- Biological and chemical boundaries, circular economy

Socio-Economic

- Racialized boundaries, municipalities, counties, etc.
- Economic status

Political

- Political boundaries, US states, national boundaries
- Indigenous defined territories

This research was conducted by the RIPPLES (Research in Pollutant Policy for Environment and Society) lab at the University of Arizona Udall Center for Studies in Public Policy. Follow the QR code to find out more about our lab.

