

ABSTRACT

Water and Public Health in Florida

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Globally and in Florida, the most important public health issue with regards to water is its growing scarcity, particularly drinking water. Although over- and inadequate use of current water supplies by both industry and the general population is the major factor in this scarcity, the contamination of water through various sources is also important. In Florida, surface water is increasingly an important source of drinking water as well as for other uses; unfortunately, contamination of surface waters by microbes, anthropogenic chemicals, and natural toxins is a growing problem. Routes of exposure and health effects associated with these contaminants will be discussed, focusing on the issues most relevant to Florida currently and in the future.