



# Background: Private Wells in Minnesota

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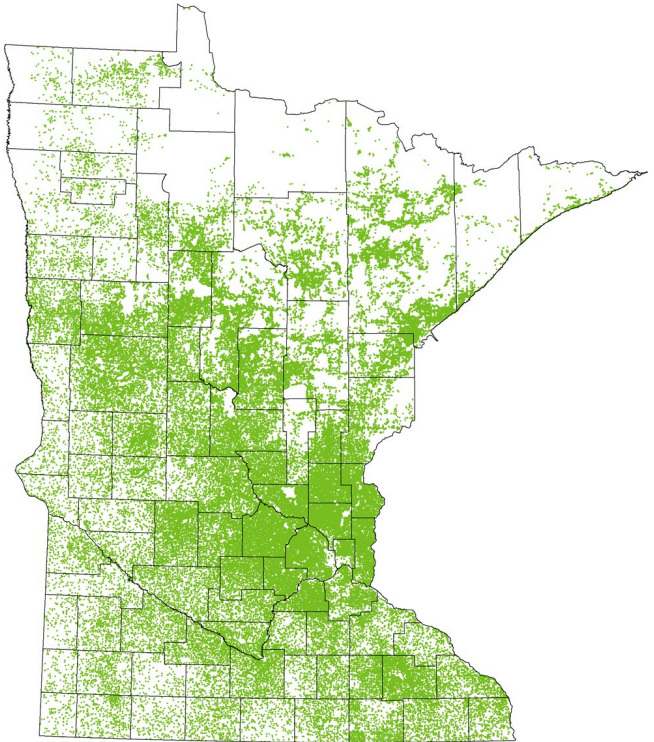
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# 1.2 Million Private Well Users



About 1 in 5 Minnesotans get their drinking water from a private well.

# Our Vision

Private wells are a safe source of drinking water

Private wells are tested regularly

Private well water quality issues are addressed



# Minnesota's Well Code


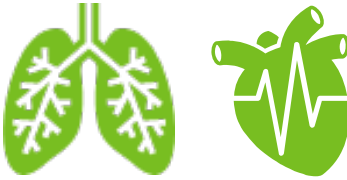



## Protect people's health and groundwater (1974)

- Regulate the location, construction, and sealing of wells and borings
- License well contractors
- One water quality test
  - Bacteria - since 1975
    - must pass test before well can be used
  - Nitrate - since 1975
  - Arsenic - since 2008

\*Additional testing, treatment and maintenance is up to the well owner



# Five Contaminants of Concern

	Nitrate	Arsenic	Coliform Bacteria	Manganese	Lead
Health effects					
How common is it?	<p><b>40%+</b> (some townships)</p> <p><b>~4-5%</b> (all wells)</p> <p><b>~1%</b> (new wells)</p>	<p><b>~50%</b> (have arsenic)</p> <p><b>11%</b> (above what is allowed in community water systems)</p>	<p><b>27%</b> (1996 CDC study)</p>	<p><b>50%</b> (above level safe for infants)</p>	<p><b>?</b></p>

# Are people taking action to ensure safe drinking water?

2016 survey of 798 well owners who had arsenic above 10 µg/L in their new well sample

**34%**

did not take any action

**Less than 20%**

tested well in the last two years

	% 'Very Important'
<b>Prompt to test water</b>	
Recommendation of a doctor	59
Infant or young child living in/visiting home	50
Well testing event occurring in township/county	50
Hearing from a neighbor about a water quality problem in my area	49
Coupon for a discount on a well water test	47
Selling my home	35

# Questions?

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