

Why do I need to test for arsenic in my well water ?

Arsenic in private well water in Minnesota:

- Arsenic is odorless.
- Arsenic is tasteless.
- Arsenic cannot be seen in water.
- Arsenic comes from rock and soil in parts of Minnesota

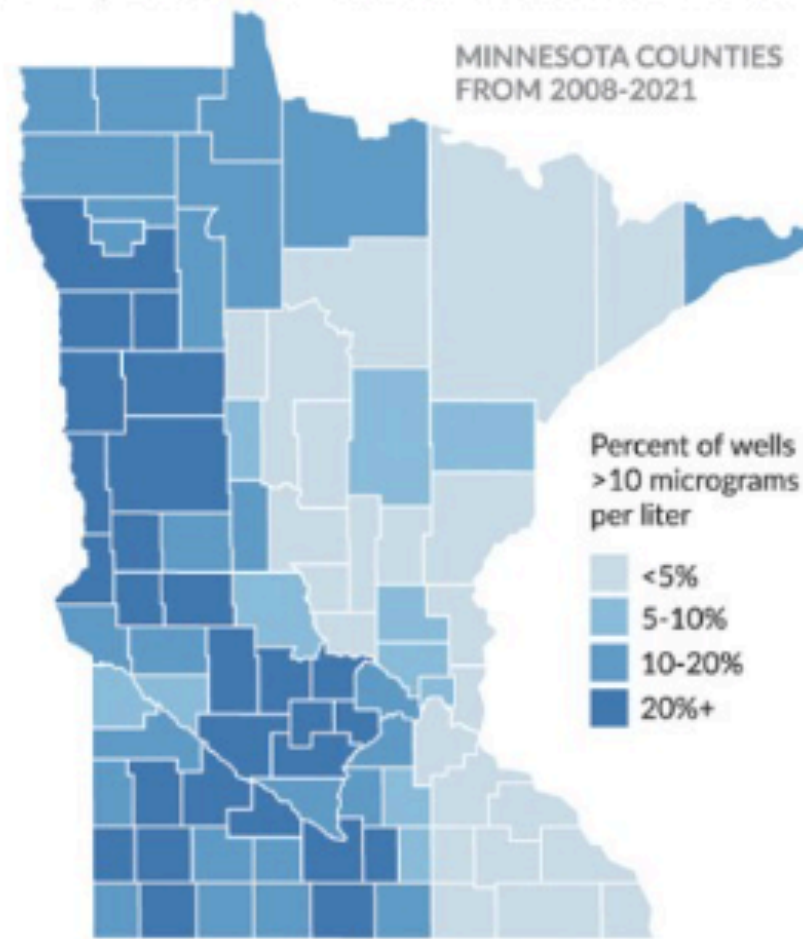
Health Effects of arsenic in well water:

Consuming water with even low levels of arsenic over a long time is associated with diabetes and increased risk of cancers of the bladder, lungs, liver, and other organs. Ingesting arsenic can also contribute to cardiovascular and respiratory disease; reduced intelligence in children; and skin problems such as lesions, discoloration, and the development of corns. Health impacts of arsenic may take many years to develop.

Information from Minnesota Department of Health

Arsenic in private wells

The maximum safety threshold for arsenic in public water systems is 10 micrograms per liter of water. Starting in 2008, all new private wells in Minnesota must be tested for arsenic.



In 27 Minnesota counties, 20% or more of tested wells have arsenic levels above 10 micrograms per liter.

County	Wells tested	Percentage over 10 micrograms per liter
Norman	178	43%
Mahnomen	267	42%
McLeod	388	40%
Clay	639	39%
Grant	254	38%
Meeker	727	35%
Kandiyohi	1,118	32%
Renville	442	30%
Stevens	204	30%
Becker	2,435	28%
Faribault	138	28%
Traverse	101	27%
Sibley	370	27%
Blue Earth	531	27%
Wilkin	154	25%
Murray	200	25%
Pipestone	67	24%
Brown	306	22%
Redwood	299	22%
Lyon	143	22%
Otter Tail	4,493	22%
Nobles	73	21%
Carver	590	21%
Wright	2,220	21%
Polk	677	21%
Pope	639	21%
Waseca	184	20%