

Arsenic Distribution in New Mexico Private Wells

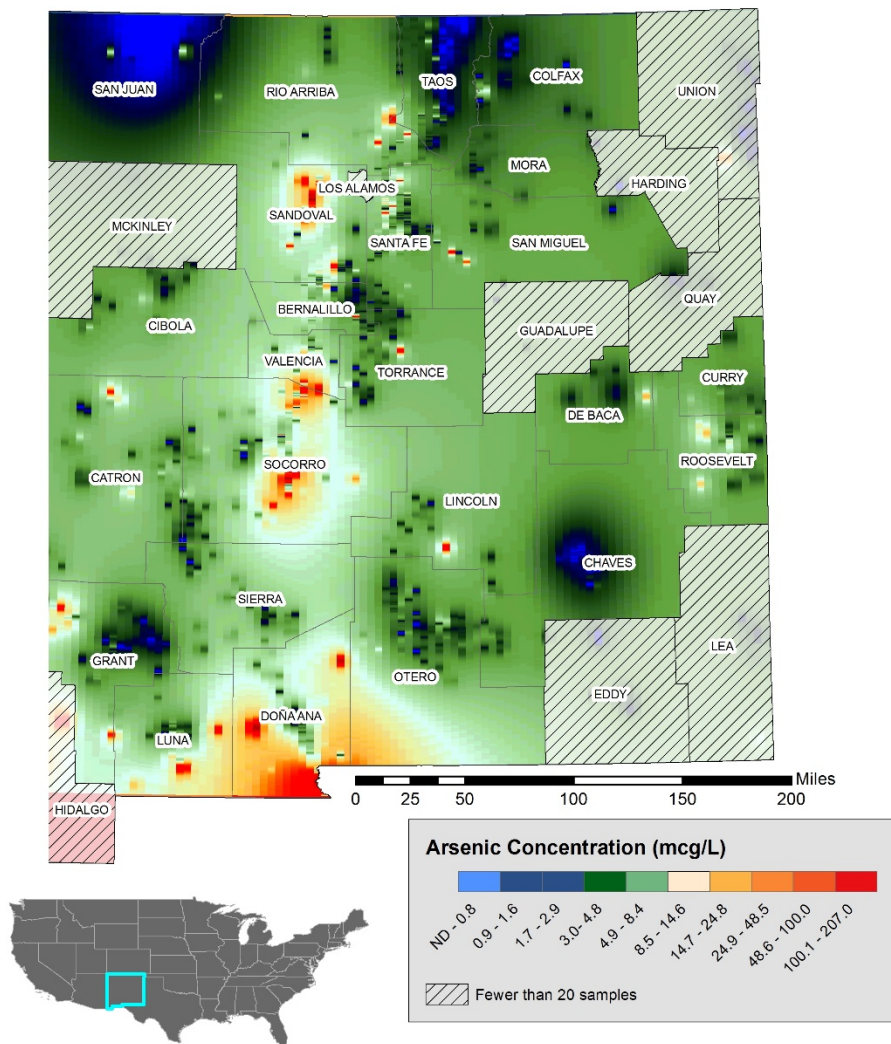
Wells Sampled November 1973 – October 2018

Arsenic levels in water samples from private wells vary between New Mexico counties and even within the same county. There appears to be higher arsenic levels in central New Mexico counties based on the data that are available. The groundwater system in New Mexico is very complex. This complexity can lead to large arsenic concentration variability even amongst neighboring wells. **Therefore, to know the arsenic concentration in your water from your own well, you need to test.** The safe drinking water concentration for arsenic is 10 micrograms per liter (mcg/L) and some of the water samples from wells in counties (with greater than 20 samples) appear to exceed this Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Safe Drinking Water standard. Based on data available, counties without water samples that exceed the EPA drinking water standard include: Curry, Chaves, Mora, and Quay counties.

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Wells Sampled November 1973 – October 2018

Interpolated* Groundwater Arsenic Concentrations (mcg/L) from Private Wells Data



Data Sources: NMED Water Fairs, NMBGMR, USEPA, USGS NWIS, NMDOH biomonitoring, Bernalillo County, Santa Fe County
 *Interpolated Using QGIS 3.4.3 inverse distance weighted.

Updated 08/2022

<https://nmtracking.doh.nm.gov/environment/water/Arsenic.html>

New Mexico Private Well Inventory

Arsenic Test Results Summary November 1973 – October 2018

| County | Number of tests | % Tests above MCL (10 mcg/L) | Concentration of Arsenic in Micrograms per Liter (mcg/L) | | | | | | |
|------------|-----------------|------------------------------|--|--------------------|-------|-----------------|--------|----------------|-------------------------|
| | | | Mean | Standard Deviation | Max | 95th Percentile | Median | 5th Percentile | Minimum Detected Value* |
| Bernalillo | 425 | 10.4 | 5.2 | 9.1 | 100.0 | 23.4 | 2.0 | 0.5 | 0.10 |
| Catron | 53 | 7.5 | 4.2 | 3.9 | 20.0 | 13.0 | 3.0 | 0.5 | 0.50 |
| Chaves | 121 | 0.0 | 2.2 | 1.4 | 5.0 | 5.0 | 2.0 | 0.5 | 0.50 |
| Cibola | 39 | 2.6 | 3.4 | 3.1 | 15.0 | 10.0 | 2.0 | 2.0 | 0.63 |
| Colfax | 65 | 1.5 | 2.7 | 9.8 | 80.0 | 2.7 | 2.0 | 0.5 | 0.50 |
| Curry | 25 | 0.0 | 3.8 | 1.2 | 6.8 | 6.4 | 4.0 | 1.8 | 1.70 |
| De Baca | 23 | 4.3 | 2.8 | 2.8 | 15.0 | 12.8 | 2.0 | 0.7 | 0.40 |
| Doña Ana | 404 | 50.3 | 17.3 | 18.8 | 100.0 | 60.0 | 11.0 | 1.3 | 0.70 |
| Eddy | 13 | 0.0 | 2.3 | 1.4 | 5.0 | 5.0 | 2.0 | 0.5 | 0.50 |
| Grant | 114 | 8.8 | 3.8 | 5.6 | 39.0 | 14.3 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 0.50 |
| Guadalupe | 4 | 0.0 | 1.9 | 1.0 | 3.0 | 3.0 | 2.0 | 0.5 | 0.50 |
| Harding | 4 | 0.0 | 1.5 | 0.6 | 2.0 | 2.0 | 1.7 | 0.7 | 0.74 |
| Hidalgo | 9 | 55.6 | 18.7 | 18.4 | 50.0 | 50.0 | 15.0 | 2.5 | 2.50 |
| Lea | 19 | 5.3 | 3.9 | 3.4 | 15.0 | 15.0 | 2.1 | 2.0 | 2.00 |
| Lincoln | 24 | 4.2 | 4.6 | 5.7 | 30.0 | 25.0 | 2.5 | 1.3 | 1.00 |
| Los Alamos | 5 | 20.0 | 6.5 | 3.2 | 10.4 | 10.4 | 5.7 | 2.5 | 2.50 |
| Luna | 73 | 9.6 | 5.8 | 8.1 | 60.0 | 16.5 | 4.0 | 2.0 | 1.00 |
| McKinley | 4 | 0.0 | 1.4 | 0.8 | 2.0 | 2.0 | 1.5 | 0.5 | 0.50 |
| Mora | 42 | 0.0 | 3.0 | 1.4 | 7.0 | 4.5 | 3.0 | 0.5 | 0.50 |
| Otero | 206 | 1.9 | 3.8 | 3.3 | 33.0 | 9.0 | 2.6 | 0.5 | 0.08 |
| Quay | 20 | 0.0 | 2.6 | 0.9 | 4.0 | 4.0 | 2.0 | 2.0 | 2.00 |
| Rio Arriba | 185 | 10.8 | 4.7 | 7.2 | 70.0 | 14.9 | 2.1 | 0.5 | 0.33 |
| Roosevelt | 34 | 26.5 | 6.1 | 4.9 | 15.0 | 15.0 | 4.0 | 1.4 | 1.25 |
| San Juan | 752 | 1.2 | 0.8 | 1.5 | 11.7 | 3.1 | 0.3 | 0.2 | 0.03 |
| San Miguel | 37 | 8.1 | 5.9 | 13.9 | 80.0 | 35.0 | 2.1 | 0.7 | 0.50 |
| Sandoval | 431 | 22.3 | 9.1 | 15.6 | 150.0 | 34.4 | 4.0 | 0.5 | 0.30 |
| Santa Fe | 1737 | 13.9 | 5.9 | 10.7 | 200.0 | 20.0 | 2.8 | 0.6 | 0.03 |
| Sierra | 54 | 3.7 | 4.1 | 7.0 | 50.0 | 11.1 | 2.5 | 0.6 | 0.50 |
| Socorro | 300 | 35.3 | 11.3 | 15.2 | 150.0 | 40.0 | 6.0 | 0.7 | 0.25 |
| Taos | 635 | 3.8 | 2.6 | 9.5 | 207.0 | 8.0 | 1.0 | 0.3 | 0.16 |
| Torrance | 68 | 4.4 | 2.7 | 6.5 | 48.5 | 11.1 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.50 |
| Union | 19 | 5.3 | 3.0 | 5.4 | 25.0 | 25.0 | 1.6 | 0.6 | 0.60 |
| Valencia | 59 | 32.2 | 10.0 | 10.8 | 55.7 | 25.0 | 6.0 | 0.5 | 0.50 |

- Indicates insufficient data to calculate statistics; N/A indicates Not Applicable; *Minimum detected value calculated as half the detection limit (DL) for concentrations less than DL; DL varies