

Arsenic Distribution in New Mexico Private Wells

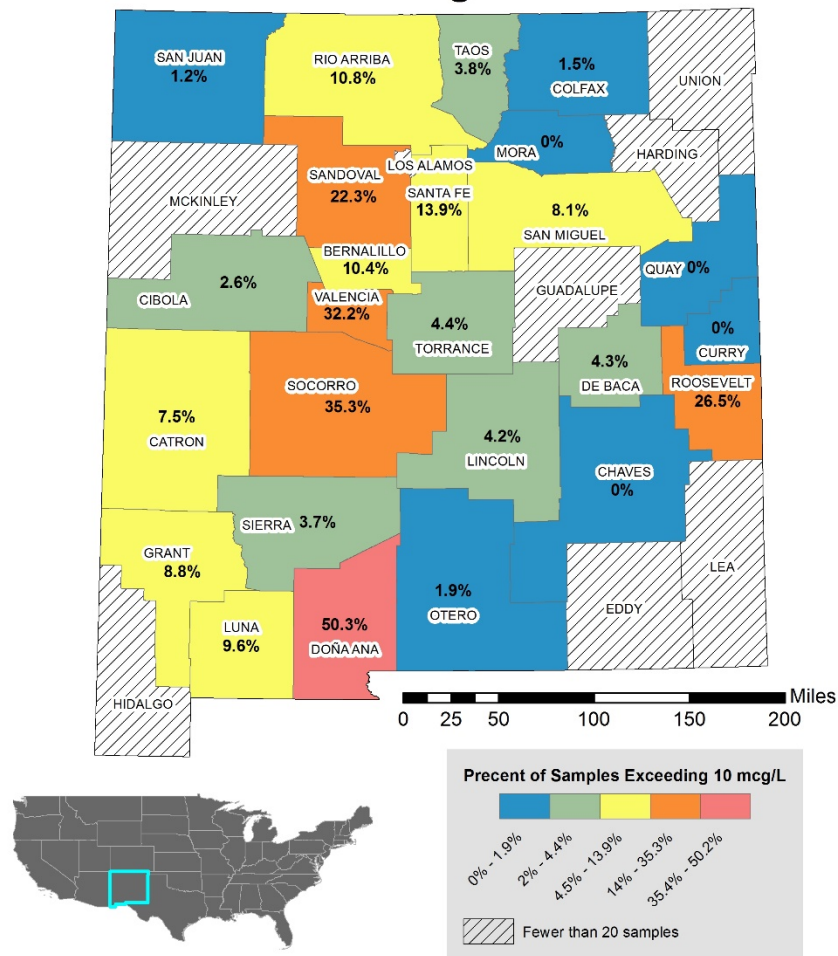
Wells Sampled November 1973 – October 2018

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 primarily in central and south-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

Percentage of Samples Exceeding the EPA MCL of 10 mcg/L for Arsenic



Data Sources: NMED Water Fairs, NMBGMR, USEPA, USGS NWIS, NMDOH biomonitoring, Bernalillo County, Santa Fe County

Updated 08/2022

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



New Mexico Private Wells 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