

Nitrate Distribution in New Mexico Private Wells

Wells Sampled June 2004 - April 2018

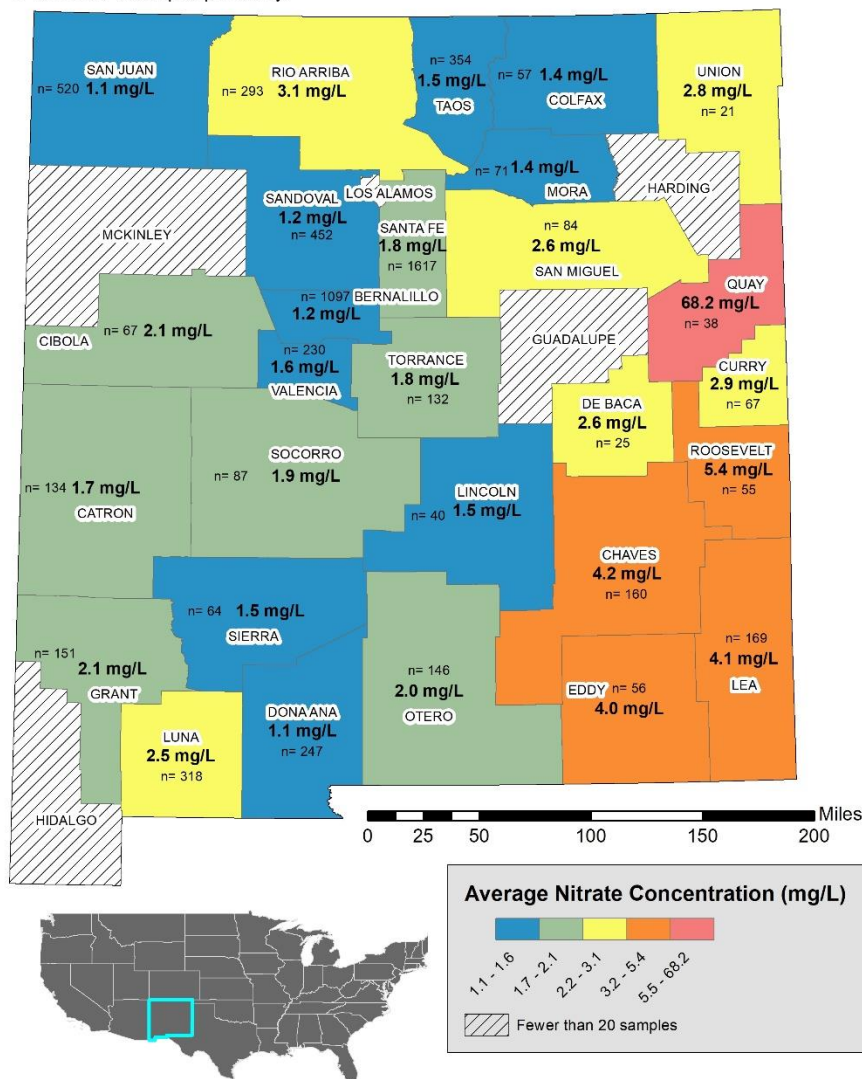
Nitrate levels in water samples from private wells vary between New Mexico counties and even within the same county. The groundwater system in New Mexico is very complex. This complexity can lead to large nitrate concentration variability even amongst neighboring wells. **Therefore, to know the nitrate concentration in your water from your own well, you need to test.** The safe drinking water concentration for nitrate is 10 milligrams per liter (mg/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: De Baca, Sierra, and Union counties.

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Average Nitrate Concentration (mg/L) by County

"n" is number of samples per county.



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/Nitrate.html>



New Mexico Private Wells Inventory

Nitrate Test Results Summary June 2004 – April 2018

County	Number of tests	% Tests above MCL (10 mg/L)	Concentration of Nitrate in Milligrams per Liter (mg/L)						
			Mean	Standard Deviation	Max	95th Percentile	Median	5th Percentile	Minimum Detected Value*
Bernalillo	1097	1.0	1.2	2.4	32.4	5.6	0.300	0.043	0.001
Catron	134	1.5	1.7	2.8	19.2	7.9	1.000	0.200	0.050
Chaves	160	8.1	4.2	7.0	76.0	15.7	2.500	0.050	0.001
Cibola	67	6.0	2.1	3.1	14.6	10.4	1.100	0.050	0.001
Colfax	57	1.8	1.4	4.4	33.0	4.1	0.500	0.050	0.050
Curry	67	1.5	2.9	1.9	11.0	7.4	2.700	0.480	0.100
De Baca	25	0.0	2.6	2.4	9.6	8.8	1.400	0.390	0.300
Doña Ana	247	2.4	1.1	3.0	27.9	5.3	0.050	0.038	0.001
Eddy	56	5.4	4.0	3.5	14.0	11.4	3.600	0.050	0.050
Grant	151	1.3	2.1	2.3	14.7	6.3	1.700	0.050	0.050
Guadalupe	1	0.0	0.7	-	0.7	0.7	0.700	0.700	0.700
Harding	4	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.050	0.007	0.007
Hidalgo	8	0.0	1.9	1.1	3.3	3.3	2.100	0.400	0.400
Lea	169	2.4	4.1	2.2	14.1	8.7	3.600	1.700	0.050
Lincoln	40	2.5	1.5	2.7	13.9	8.9	0.350	0.005	0.005
Los Alamos	6	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.001	0.001	0.001
Luna	318	2.8	2.5	2.6	15.2	8.3	1.500	0.300	0.080
McKinley	10	0.0	0.8	0.7	2.7	2.7	0.850	0.050	0.050
Mora	71	1.4	1.4	2.1	13.4	5.1	0.700	0.050	0.050
Otero	146	1.4	2.0	3.8	43.1	5.0	1.300	0.050	0.001
Quay	38	7.9	68.2	405.2	2500.0	140.1	1.350	0.048	0.010
Rio Arriba	293	6.5	3.1	3.9	25.9	11.7	1.900	0.050	0.001
Roosevelt	55	12.7	5.4	3.7	18.4	12.5	4.200	0.740	0.500
San Juan	520	0.2	1.1	1.5	18.9	3.2	0.700	0.032	0.023
San Miguel	84	7.1	2.6	5.4	31.0	14.2	0.950	0.050	0.001
Sandoval	452	0.2	1.2	1.5	12.9	4.3	0.700	0.050	0.001
Santa Fe	1617	1.9	1.8	4.0	98.0	5.7	1.010	0.001	0.001
Sierra	64	0.0	1.5	1.1	5.3	4.4	1.250	0.113	0.050
Socorro	87	5.7	1.9	3.7	24.0	10.3	0.900	0.038	0.010
Taos	354	1.4	1.5	2.1	21.0	3.7	1.000	0.050	0.030
Torrance	132	2.3	1.8	2.3	14.0	7.3	1.000	0.050	0.001
Union	21	0.0	2.8	2.4	9.7	9.5	1.900	0.150	0.100
Valencia	230	0.4	1.6	1.2	12.0	3.1	1.500	0.050	0.025

- 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