About 1 in 8 Americans get their drinking water from a private well. Germs, chemicals, or radionuclides can impact wells and other private drinking water sources. About 1 in 5 sampled private wells had at least one contaminant at levels that could affect health.

Learn how CDC works with health departments to protect communities from unsafe well water.

**Making Programs Stronger**

- **Investigating** common contaminants that can affect health.
- **Educating** well owners about testing their water and interpreting test results.
- **Linking** homeowners with services, treatment systems, and other resources to make their water safer.
- **Partnering** with labs, well drillers, universities, and others.
CDC Safe WATCH helps health departments strengthen and improve their programs by
• Identifying gaps in their program using the 10 Essential Environmental Public Health Services.
• Taking actions to close gaps and reduce exposures to contaminants.

La Crosse County (WI)
✓ Collected ~3,000 water samples
✓ Certified staff to test for arsenic and lead using new lab testing equipment

Gaston County (NC)
✓ Digitized ~8,000 well permits
✓ Geocoded 97% of their well permits using new equipment

Madison County (NY)
✓ Conducted ~200 well assessments and found ~40% of wells had bacterial contamination
✓ Educated owners about test results, risks, and how to protect their water

New Mexico
✓ Created a policy for tagging and tracking newly constructed wells
✓ Purchased and marketed ~3,000 tags for voluntary tagging of pre-existing wells

Learn More
www.cdc.gov/nceh/ehs/safe-watch