

## How are we doing?

Minnesotans enjoy one of the best drinking water protection systems in the nation, but we must stay vigilant to prevent contamination and address emerging threats.

### Public Water Systems (PWSs) with Health-Based Violations

Fewer Minnesota public water systems have health-based Safe Drinking Water Act violations than public water systems nationally.

### Community Public Water Systems with Violations

Minnesota's community public water systems overall have high compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act and do much better than the national average. However, challenges remain, especially with smaller community public water systems.

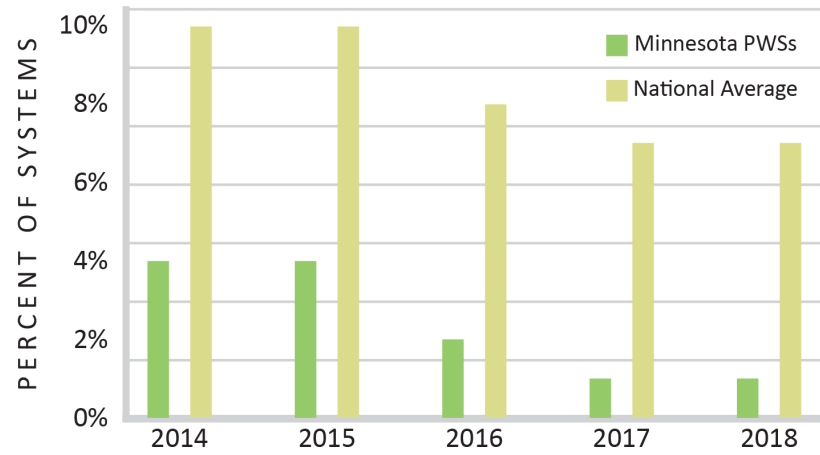
Minnesota Department of Health  
Drinking Water Protection Section  
health.drinkingwater@state.mn.us  
www.health.state.mn.us

To obtain this information in a different format, call 651-201-4700. Printed on recycled paper.

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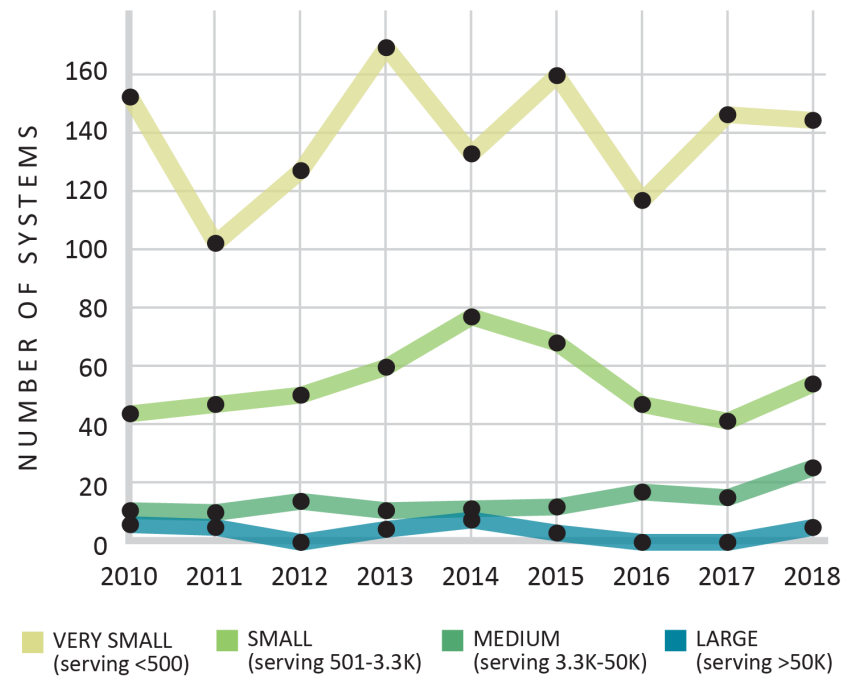
## PUBLIC WATER SYSTEMS WITH HEALTH-BASED VIOLATIONS

Public water systems include both community and noncommunity systems.



## COMMUNITY PUBLIC WATER SYSTEMS WITH ALL VIOLATIONS

This includes health-based, monitoring and reporting, public notification and education, and treatment technique violations. Very small systems are often nonmunicipal systems, such as manufactured home parks. Small, medium, and large systems are mostly municipal systems.



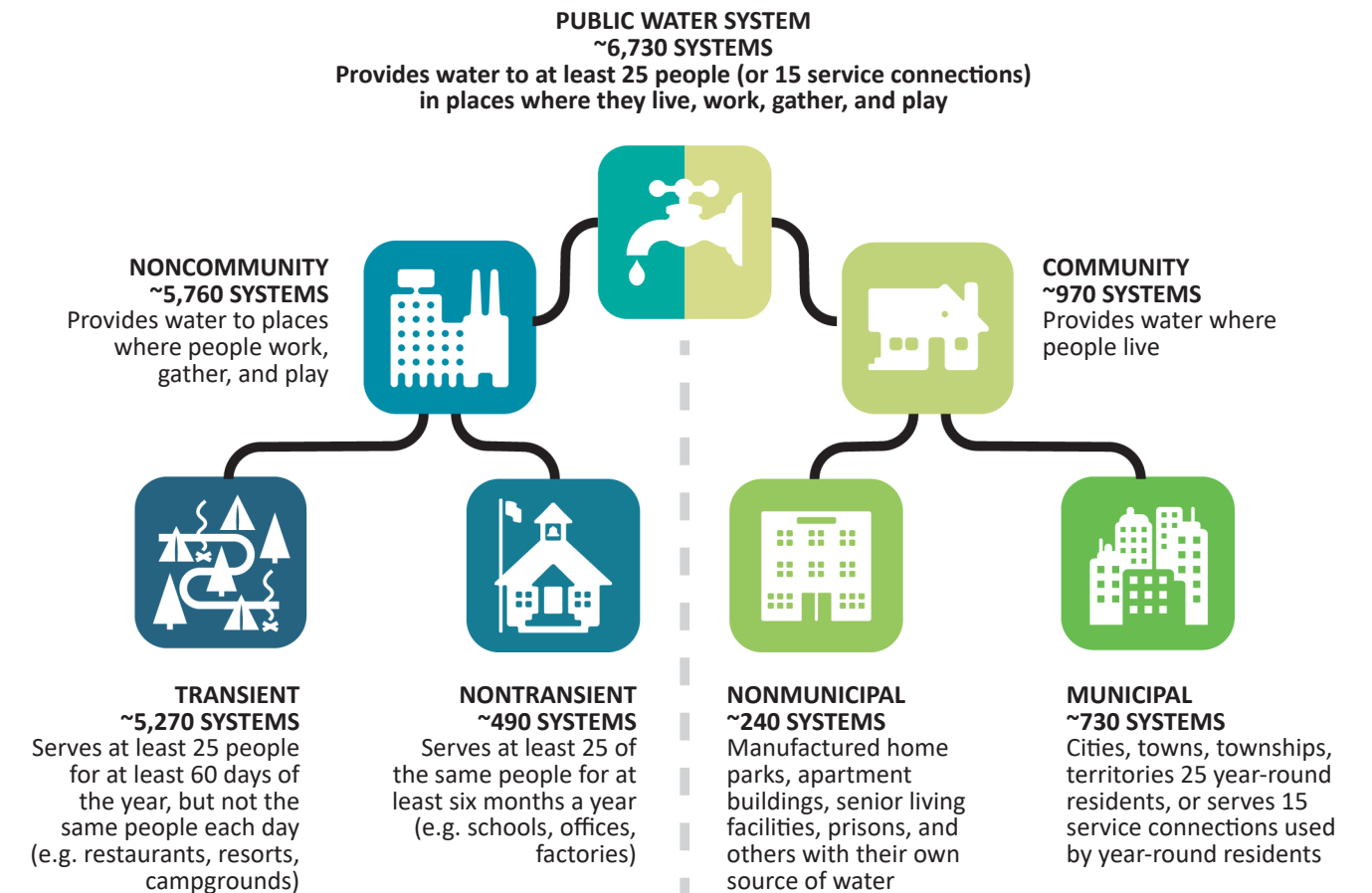
# Drinking Water Protection in Minnesota

Safe, reliable, and affordable drinking water is essential for the health of all Minnesotans and our economy.

Drinking water protection involves countless activities, including protecting source water, educating consumers, training and certifying water operators, inspecting and assisting public water systems, testing water, addressing threats, and funding projects.

The Minnesota Department of Health's Drinking Water Protection program is responsible for protecting drinking water at almost 7,000 public water systems across the state. Together with our partners, our work ensures residents and visitors have safe drinking water where they live (community water systems) and where they learn, work, and play (noncommunity water systems).

Every day, we work to fulfill our vision: safe and sufficient drinking water is available for everyone, everywhere in Minnesota. Learn more at [www.health.mn.gov/water](http://www.health.mn.gov/water)





# DRINKING WATER PROTECTION FROM SOURCE TO TAP

MDH AND PUBLIC WATER SYSTEMS PROTECT DRINKING WATER AT EVERY STAGE

## Surface Water Source



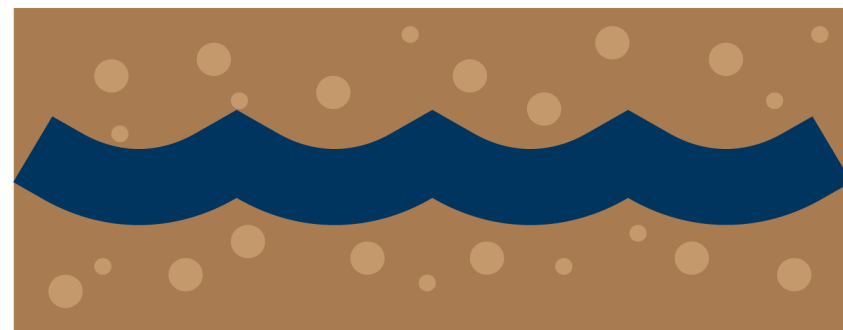
### THREATS:

- Man-made: Examples include industrial chemicals, nitrate, pesticides, personal care products
- Natural: Examples include arsenic, bacteria, radium

### PROTECTION:

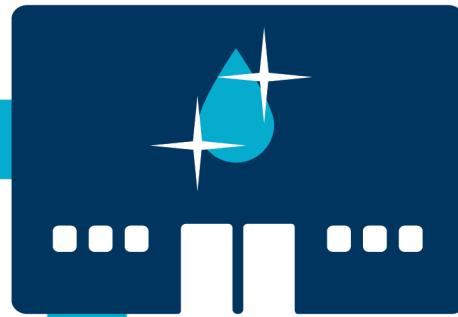
- Protection of drinking water sources
- Inspections & investigations

## Groundwater Source



NOTE: Private well owners should test their own water.  
Learn more at Water Quality/Well Testing  
[health.mn.gov/communities/environment/water/wells/waterquality/](http://health.mn.gov/communities/environment/water/wells/waterquality/)

## Treatment



### PROTECTION:

- Treatment & disinfection
- Construction plan review
- Inspections & investigations
- Monitoring & testing

### TREATMENT MAY INCLUDE:

- Removing particles
- Disinfecting to protect from bacteria & viruses
- Adding fluoride to protect teeth

## Storage



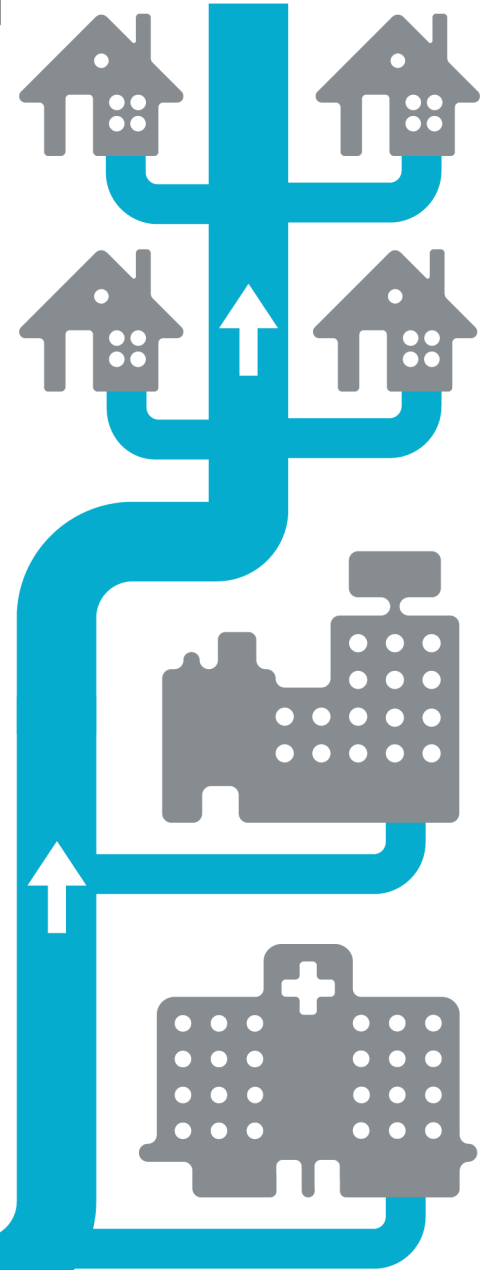
## Distribution System

### THREATS:

- Lead & copper
- Bacteria
- Disinfection byproducts
- Aging infrastructure (e.g. water main breaks)

### PROTECTION:

- Monitoring & testing
- Customer action (e.g. letting the water run)



*Some sources of groundwater are safe as-is and can go straight to peoples homes. It's up to us to protect these sources!*