

Drinking Water by the Numbers

FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024

The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) publishes *Drinking Water by the Numbers* annually for staff, state agencies, and other partners to use in communications, planning, and performance measures. MDH calculates numbers on the first day of the new fiscal year (July 1, 2023 for this edition). These numbers will change as the year progresses, but are useful for consistency, particularly in high-level, public communications.

Table 1. Source of Drinking Water for Minnesotans

Drinking Water Source	Estimated Population	Rounded Population (millions)	Percent	Rounded Percent
Public groundwater (community systems) ¹	3,136,609	3.1	54.86	55
Public surface water (community systems) ¹	1,441,961	1.4	25.22	25
Private wells ²	1,138,614	1.1	19.92	20

Table 2. Private Wells and Well Sealing Information

Well Records	Number
Private wells in Minnesota (estimated)	457,275
Minnesota Well Index (MWI) well and boring ³ records	581,733
Private drinking water wells sealed in previous fiscal year ⁴	4485-6000
Cumulative wells and borings sealed	342,700

¹ Estimates based on population served as reported by public water systems (may overestimate)

² Estimates based on state population minus population served as reported by community public water systems

³ Boring means a hole or excavation that is not used to extract water and includes exploratory borings, bored geothermal heat exchangers, and elevator borings.

⁴ Estimated because of delay of scanning documents.

Table 3. Water Supplies in Minnesota

Public Water Supply Systems	Number of Systems	Surface Water Source ⁴	Groundwater Source ⁵	Number of Wells
Community Municipal ⁶	731	43	688	2,170
Community Nonmunicipal	238	0	237	413
Noncommunity Transient	5,154	51	5,103	8,194
Noncommunity Nontransient	466	5	461	840
Total Community	969	43	925	2,583
Total Noncommunity	5,620	56	5,564	9,034
Total Public Water Supply Systems	6,589	99	6,489	11,617

Table 4. Source Water Protection Records

Source Water Protection Records	Number
Public water supply systems protected by approved plans	809
Public water supply systems in first time development	88
Public water supply systems in amendment process	53
Plans audited in fiscal year	0
Cumulative plans audited	27
Population served by a public water supply system with approved protection plans	4,357,880

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To obtain this information in a different format, call: 651-201-4700.

⁵ Includes systems that purchase water from another system

⁶ Includes systems that purchase water from another system and one groundwater system influenced by surface water

⁷ Includes local units of government such as cities, towns, townships, and territories