

Drinking Water by the Numbers

FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022

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, 2022 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	3,046,673	3.0	54.02	54
Public surface water (community systems) ¹	1,438,617	1.4	25.51	26
Private wells ²	1,154,342	1.2	20.47	20

Table 2. Private Wells and Well Sealing Information

Well Records	Number
Private wells in Minnesota (estimated)	463,591
Minnesota Well Index (MWI) well and boring ³ records	554,289
Private drinking water wells sealed in previous fiscal year	3,337
Cumulative wells and borings sealed	326,328

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.

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	730	42	687	2,186
Community Nonmunicipal	234	0	234	401
Noncommunity Transient	5,215	53	5147	7,645
Noncommunity Nontransient	470	4	466	766
Total Community	964	42	921	2,587
Total Noncommunity	5,685	57	5,613	8,411
Total Public Water Supply Systems	6,649	99	6,534	10,998

Table 4. Source Water Protection Records

Source Water Protection Records	Number
Public water supply systems with approved plans	745
Public water supply systems in first time development	137
Public water supply systems in amendment process	80
Plans audited in fiscal year	0
Cumulative plans audited	27
Population served by a public water supply system with approved protection plans	4,268,398

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08/24/2021

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

⁴ Includes systems that purchase water from another system

⁵ Includes systems that purchase water from another system and one groundwater system influenced by surface water

⁶ Includes local units of government such as cities, towns, townships, and territories