

Drinking Water by the Numbers

FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025

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, 2024 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	3,174,017	3.2	55.52	56
Public surface water (community systems) ¹	1,408,977	1.4	24.64	25
Private wells ²	1,154,921	1.2	20.13	20

Table 2. Private Wells and Well Sealing Information

Well Records	Number
Private wells in Minnesota (estimated)	469,480
Minnesota Well Index (MWI) well and boring ³ records	592,342
Private drinking water wells sealed in previous fiscal year	4,387
Cumulative wells and borings sealed	348,420

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. Public Water Systems in Minnesota

Public Water Systems	Number of Systems	Surface Water Source	Groundwater Source	Number of Wells
Community Municipal ⁴	729	43	687	2,166
Community Nonmunicipal	236	0	237	411
Noncommunity Transient	5,157	50	5,086	8,248
Noncommunity Nontransient	460	4	461	816
Total Community	965	43	925	2,577
Total Noncommunity	5,617	54	5,547	9,064
Total Public Water Systems	6,582	97	6,471	11,641

Table 4. Community Water Systems in Minnesota, by Size

Size and Population Served	Number of Systems	Percentage of Systems
Very small (25-500)	478	50
Small (501-3,300)	303	32
Medium (3,301-10,000)	90	9
Large (10,001-50,000)	74	8
Very Large (50,001-100,000)	17	2
Huge (100,001+)	3	0
Total Community Water Systems	965	100

Table 5. Source Water Protection Records

Source Water Protection Records	Number
Public water systems protected by approved plans	833
Public water systems in first time development	63
Public water systems in amendment process	54
Plans audited in fiscal year	0
Cumulative plans audited	27
Population served by a public water system with approved protection plans	4,386,347

⁴ Includes systems that purchase water from another system and one groundwater system influenced by surface water. Includes local units of government such as cities, towns, townships, and territories

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