



Vermont Tracking Program News & Updates

The Vermont Tracking Program created a new spotlight fact sheet on private drinking water and provided free arsenic drinking water kits to a high risk region in Vermont. The Health Department is halfway to its Healthy Vermonters 2020 goals. And with the help of data stewards from Vermont's [Cancer Registry](#) and [Health Surveillance](#) team, data were added to the portal.

Private Drinking Water Spotlight

The latest installment of the Environmental Health Spotlight series is on private drinking water. A map developed by Tracking staff revealed [high concentrations of arsenic in drinking water in Southwestern Vermont](#), which is characteristic of the Taconic Allochthon geologic formation in that area. Tracking staff worked with the Rutland District Office, Health Department Lab, and Wells and Castleton town clerks to distribute the spotlight and offer 115 free arsenic test kits to local well owners in seven Southwestern Vermont towns.

[Learn more about tracking water quality in Vermont](#)

Private Drinking Water: A User's Guide

Where does your water come from?

Percent of Vermont Population Served by Drinking Water Source

- 60% Public Water Supply
- 40% Private Water Systems (wells or springs) serve single-family homes, duplexes, or small groups of homes

KEY MESSAGES

Private systems are monitored and maintained by their owners. It is important for owners to test their water to make sure it is safe.

Public water systems are tested regularly for more than 90 contaminants as required by the USEPA. The cost for testing was included in customers' water bills. Public systems send their customers annual Consumer Confidence Reports with specific information about their water.

RESOURCES

For public system test results: <http://health.vt.gov/ehs/ehs2009/>
 For results by contaminant: <http://health.vt.gov/tracking>

Private Water Testing Schedule

Contaminant...	May Cause...	Keep Levels Below.....
Test Every Year for Bacteria	diarrhea, vomiting	not detected
Test Every Five Years for Inorganic Chemicals*		
Arsenic	bladder, lung, skin cancer	0.010 mg/L
Fluoride	staining of teeth	4.0 mg/L
Lead	brain, kidney, nervous system toxicity	0.010 mg/L
Manganese	nervous system toxicity	0.300 mg/L
Nitrate/Nitrite	oxygen deficiency in infants, cancer	10.0 mg/L
Uranium	kidney damage, cancer (lifetime risk)	0.020 mg/L
Test Every Five Years for Alpha Radiation		
Gross Alpha Radiation	cancer	15.0 pCi/L

* You should also test every five years for chloride, copper, iron, sodium, and hardness.
 * mg/L = milligrams per liter; * pCi/L = picocuries per liter (additional testing may be needed)

WHEN TO TEST YOUR WATER:

- Follow the Private Water Testing Schedule on the left.
- A new well is drilled.
- You buy a home served by a well.
- You're expecting a baby.
- Your water changes in smell, taste, or color. Drink bottled water if it does.
- You put in new parts to the system such as a new pump or new pipes.
- The well runs dry and comes back.
- You put in a water treatment system to remove a contaminant. Test treated water each year for it.
- After a natural disaster such as a flood or earthquake.

VERMONT DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
 November 2016

Halfway to Healthy Vermonters 2020

In 2016, the Vermont Department of Health reviewed all Healthy Vermonters indicators as part of it's Halfway to Healthy Vermonters 2020 (HV2020) initiative. After gathering input from programs and partners across the department, the original 122 HV2020 indicators have become 134 indicators - 30 indicators were added, 17 were adjusted to align with a data source or change in national guidance and 18 were dropped due to changing guidelines or lack of data. Check out the [HV2020 Scorecards](#) for statewide trend data and to learn more about each indicator.

[Visit the Data Explorer to find local trend data](#)



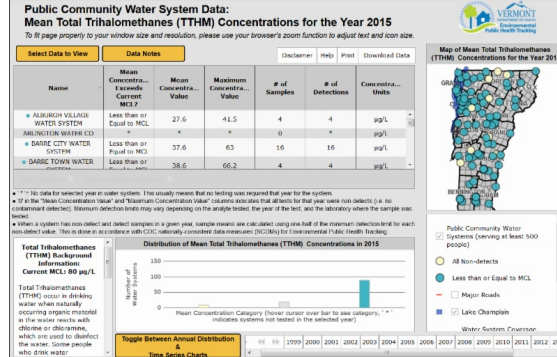
Portal Updates

New data were added for [sub-county and county cancer](#), [Healthy Vermonters 2020](#), and the [cancer community profile](#).

A [3-4-50](#) community profile was released as

part of the Health Department's chronic disease prevention campaign. A community profile for Birth Defects and a community profile for Alcohol, Tobacco, Other Drugs will be coming soon.

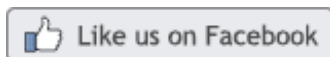
Upgrades to the public community water display of data by water system include updating the design to better reflect the number of tests that were sampled and more accurately depict years where water systems had all samples be "non-detects" for that particular year. In addition, map symbology better reflects the relationship of testing results to the maximum contaminant level (MCL) or state drinking water standards.



[Search the Public Health Data Explorer](#)

About Vermont Tracking

Vermont is one of 25 states and one city funded by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to develop a state and national tracking network of environmental and health data for the public, policy makers, researchers, and agencies. The [VT Environmental Public Health Tracking portal](#) provides these data in maps, charts, and tables as a part of the State's continuing effort to help Vermonters better understand the relationship between their environment and their health. Topics include air quality, climate change, public and private drinking water, asthma, birth defects, cancer, carbon monoxide, heart attack, childhood lead poisoning, reproductive health, blue-green algae, and radon.



VT Environmental Public Health Tracking | (800) 439-8550 | Email healthvermont.gov/tracking