

Virginia Household Water Quality Program

2022 Annual Report



Virginia
Cooperative
Extension

Virginia Tech
Virginia State University

The Virginia Household Water Quality Program provides affordable, confidential water testing and education to the

1.7 million, or 22% of Virginians

who rely on wells, springs and cisterns for household water.

Municipal water supplies are regulated in the U.S., but maintenance, testing and addressing problems with

private water supplies are the responsibility of the owner.

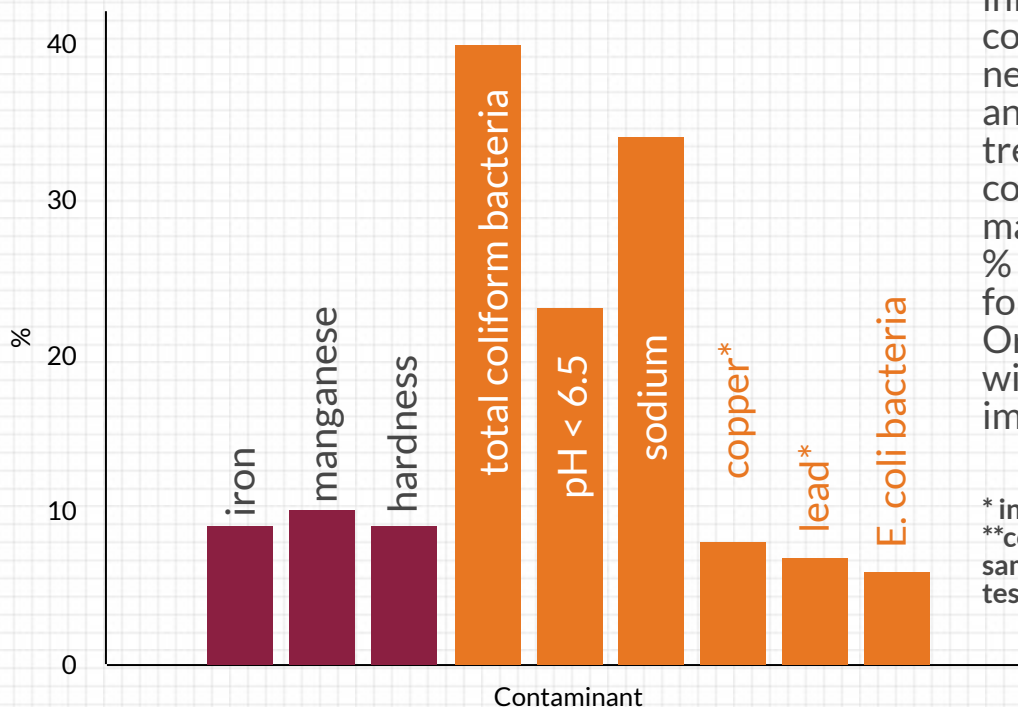


3,011 samples analyzed serving

7,599 Virginians

in 90/96 counties

What's in the water?



Household water quality is influenced by geology, well construction and condition, nearby sources of contamination, and, within the home, water treatment devices and composition of plumbing materials. Maroon bars represent % of samples exceeding standards for NUISANCE contaminants. Orange bars signify contaminants with associated HEALTH impacts.**

* in first draw household tap water samples
**contaminants found in less than 5% of samples not shown; more information on testing here.

Value



Participation in a VAHWQP clinic is designed to encourage subsequent, annual testing using a commercial lab. If delivered commercially, the value attributed to the 71 VAHWQP drinking water clinics offered in 2022 would be \$963,520. The cost to the 2022 participants was \$195,715, a cost savings of about 80%. In addition, grant funding and donations** reduced the cost of testing for families, making the program more accessible for many.



Annual well testing is recommended. Of 2022 participants, 43% report NEVER testing their water before and 28% have tested only once (with any lab). Of our survey respondents, 58% were new to the program; 21% have participated once; 16% 2-4 times and 5% 5 or more times.

*based on estimate of \$20 per analyte; **grant funding from an EPA grant, The Private Well Class through Rural Community Assistance Project, Virginia Environmental Endowment Community Conservation Program and local funding secured by collaborating Extension offices.

Impact



91% of participants stated that they understand their water test results

Participants were asked what recommended actions they already took or planned to take:

	did it since clinic!	plan to in a year!
install treatment or improve function of existing treatment devices	18.3 %	21.2 %
shock chlorinate (circulate chlorine through well and plumbing to kill bacteria)	12.3 %	12.6 %
improve maintenance water system or move a source of contamination	6.8 %	11.7 %
seek additional testing	6 %	16.4 %
use bottled water	14.5 %	7 %

T1: Double click to edit

Program satisfaction survey*

*administered online; RR=25% n=748

1-completely disagree; 5 = completely agree

I gained useful information. → 4.9

4.8 ← It was affordable.

I feel empowered to manage my water supply. → 4.7

4.9 ← I will recommend this program to my friends and neighbors.

This program was valuable to me. → 4.9

4.8 ← It was easy to participate.



VAHWQP Participants Say:



We have been using the testing service for quite a few years and are completely satisfied. Thank you.

Great program and brings affordable water testing to everyone. Thank you!

It was very simple and knowledgeable. I'm grateful for knowing my water is safe to drink that's worth more than money can buy.

I appreciate the focus on community health and ensuring that as a well owner I'm given the tools to properly take care of it and ensure it's successful operation.

This service gave me peace of mind that our water quality was safe and ruled out a possible source of chronic health problems. It was invaluable to me and my family, living in an area that is only serviced by private wells and septic tanks.

Visit us online! www.wellwater.bse.vt.edu

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