



Virginia Household Water Quality Program



Virginia Cooperative Extension

Virginia Tech Virginia State University

2024 Annual Report

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

1.6 million, or 19 % 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.

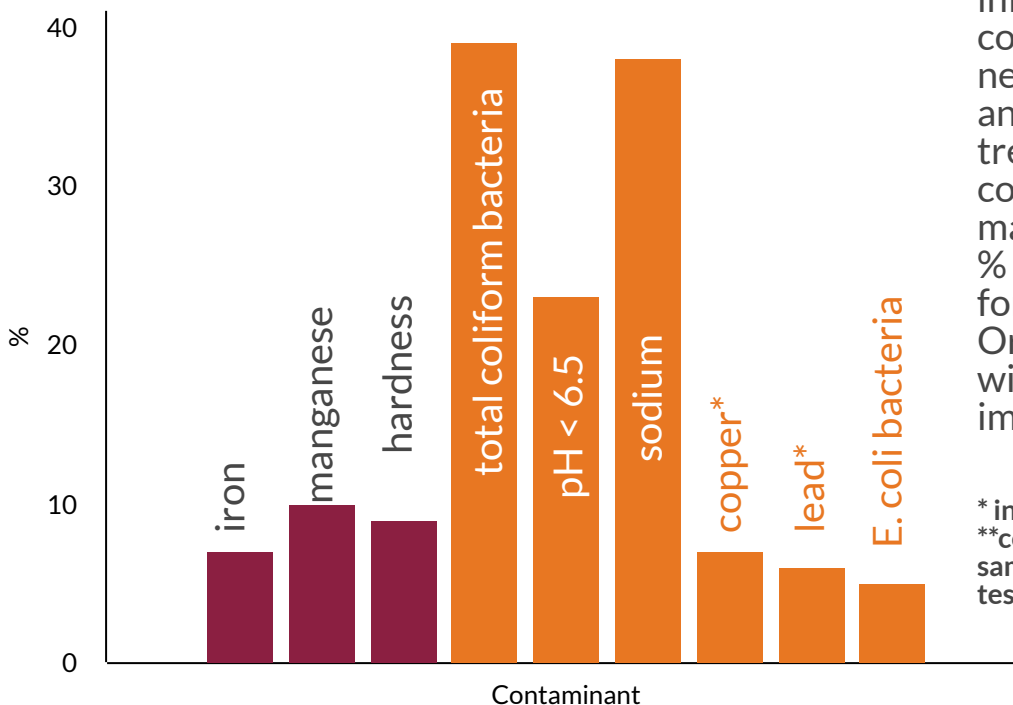


3,760 samples analyzed

serving 9,270 Virginians

in 90/95 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 90 VAHWQP drinking water clinics offered in 2024 would be \$1,203,200. The cost to the 2024 participants was \$263,200, a cost savings of about 78%. 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 2024 participants, 37% report NEVER testing their water before and 31% have tested only once (with any lab). Of our survey respondents, 51% were new to the program; 22% have participated once; 21% 2-4 times and 5% participated 5 or more times.






*based on estimate of \$20 per analyte; **grant funding and donations from Southeast Rural Community Assistance Project, Virginia Environmental Endowment Community Conservation Program and local funding secured by collaborating Extension offices.

Impact



94% of participants stated that they understand their water test results

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

	done since clinic!	plan within a year!
 install treatment or improve function of existing treatment devices	27%	32%
 shock chlorinate (circulate chlorine through well and plumbing to kill bacteria)	18%	14%
 improve maintenance water system, pump septic or move a source of contamination	8%	16%
 seek additional testing	9%	22%
 use bottled water	12%	6%

Program satisfaction survey*

*administered online; RR=23% n=874

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. → 4.8

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:

The logistics of the program were smooth and easy. The explanations of the results were very understandable and helpful. Thank you for this public service!

I love that the Extension is offering this at an extremely affordable price so that all in the community can participate. Invaluable service.

I am very thankful to learn we have very good water quality since we are big water drinkers.

The water testing collaboration between Virginia counties and Virginia Tech is a great service to rural home owners and at a very reasonable cost.

As a new well water user, I felt this [program] helped me get a good understanding if my water was safe, and also gave me information on well standards, which resulted in me extending my well casing above grade.

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

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