

# Arsenic Testing in Florence County Private Wells

Florence County Health Department | Taking Action with Data 2016

Summary of study period December 2015 - March 2016

## Our Results

**100** TEST KITS DISTRIBUTED

**88** TEST KITS RETURNED

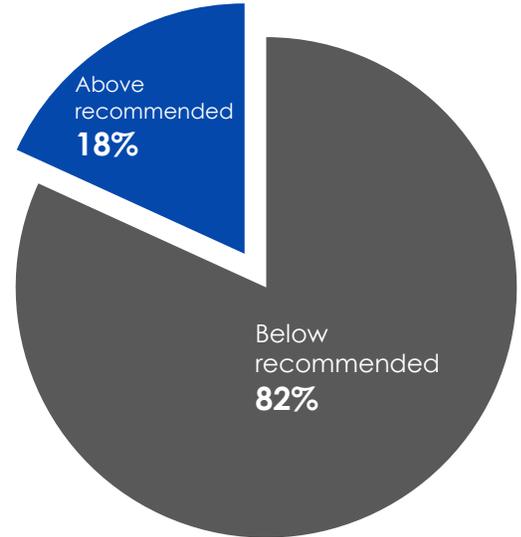
**7.83** AVERAGE RESULT (in  $\mu\text{g/L}$ )

**2.16** MEDIAN RESULT (in  $\mu\text{g/L}$ )

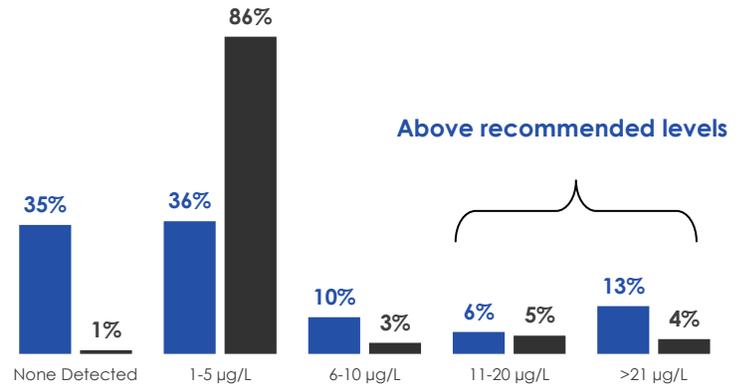
**0** LOWEST RESULT (in  $\mu\text{g/L}$ )

**101** HIGHEST RESULT (in  $\mu\text{g/L}$ )

About 1 in every 5 tests had **elevated arsenic levels.**



**Florence County** had more wells with no arsenic detected than the **State of Wisconsin** but a slightly higher percentage of wells above healthy levels.



Florence County: 88 Samples tested (2015-2016)  
Wisconsin: 15,230 samples tested (1988-2014)

## Guidelines for Arsenic in Drinking Water



**0-9  $\mu\text{g/L}$**

Safe for drinking and cooking.



**10-99  $\mu\text{g/L}$**

Do not drink water or use for foods that require a lot of water (infant formula, Jell-O, coffee, etc.) Showering, laundry and doing dishes is still ok.



**Over 100  $\mu\text{g/L}$**

Consult local health department for recommendations.

### Possible health effects from too much arsenic in drinking water

- Skin cancer
- Bladder, prostate, lung and other cancers
- Thick, rough skin on hands and feet
- Dark brown or white splotches on skin
- Numbness of the hands and feet
- Circulatory disorders
- Tremors
- Stomach pain, nausea, diarrhea
- Diabetes
- Depression