



Ensure Safe Drinking Water for All Maine Families

Pass the Safe Drinking Water Bill to educate Mainers about toxic well water

We all have a right to have clean, safe drinking water

Safe drinking water is essential to our health, but for many Mainers who get their water from a well, every sip contains hidden toxic chemicals like arsenic

- Arsenic is linked to cancer and learning disabilities, which takes a serious toll on the health of Maine families.
- Kennebec County children who had arsenic in their water had lower average IQ scores than their peers. Arsenic is also linked to kidney failure, and skin and lung cancers.
- Arsenic in well water contributes to Maine's bladder cancer rate being 20% higher than the U.S. average.
- More than 1 in 8 wells in Maine are contaminated with levels of arsenic that exceed federal safe drinking water standards. In some regions of the state, half of all wells contain high arsenic levels.

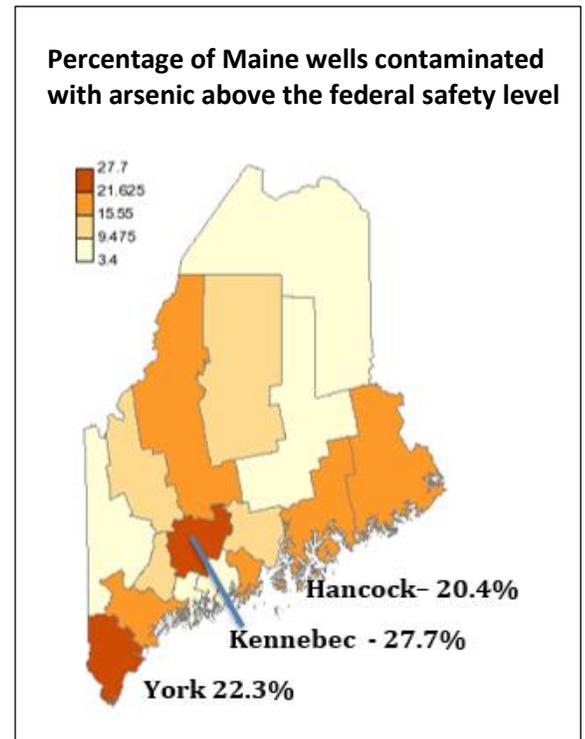


Current education efforts around well water safety are woefully under-resourced

- Less than half of all Maine households with wells have gotten a water test from a professional lab, yet this is the only way to detect arsenic in drinking water.
- In 2015 Maine ended an educational safety program in high-risk communities when the program stopped receiving federal funding.

The Safe Drinking Water Bill will raise awareness about the need to test for arsenic and help keep Maine families healthy and safe

- The bill will support outreach and education to inform Mainers of the importance of testing by establishing the Private Well Safe Drinking Water Fund.
- The bill creates better public access to information, establishing a single recommended water test for Maine residents, and making sure tenants receive well water safety information from their landlords.
- Research shows that the more people know the risks, the more people will test their water.



Support the Safe Drinking Water Bill

For more information, please contact Emma Halas-O'Connor, Prevent Harm, 207-699-5799 or ehalasoc@preventharm.org



Maine's Environmental Priorities Coalition

is a partnership of 34 environmental, conservation and public health organizations representing over 100,000 members who want to protect the good health, good jobs and quality of life that our environment provides.

We are counting on Maine policymakers to take the important steps needed to make wise use of Maine's extraordinary environment so Maine people and Maine communities can thrive

Acadia Center	Maine People's Alliance
Appalachian Mountain Club	Maine Public Health Association
Atlantic Salmon Federation	Maine Rivers
Bicycle Coalition of Maine	Maine Wilderness Guides
Conservation Law Foundation	Organization
Environmental Health Strategy Center	Midcoast Conservancy
Environment Maine	Natural Resources Council of Maine
Friends of Casco Bay	Physicians for Social Responsibility
Islesboro Island Trust	Maine Chapter
Maine Association of Conservation Commissions	RESTORE: The North Woods
Maine Audubon	Sierra Club, Maine Chapter
Maine Center for Economic Policy	Southern Maine Conservation Collaborative
Maine Conservation Alliance	The Ocean Conservancy
Maine Council of Churches	The Trust for Public Land
Maine Council of Trout Unlimited	The Wilderness Society
Maine Interfaith Power & Light	Toxics Action Center
Maine Lakes Society	Upstream
Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association	350 Maine