

Sulfate Distribution in New Mexico Private Wells

Wells Sampled July August 1903 - October 2018

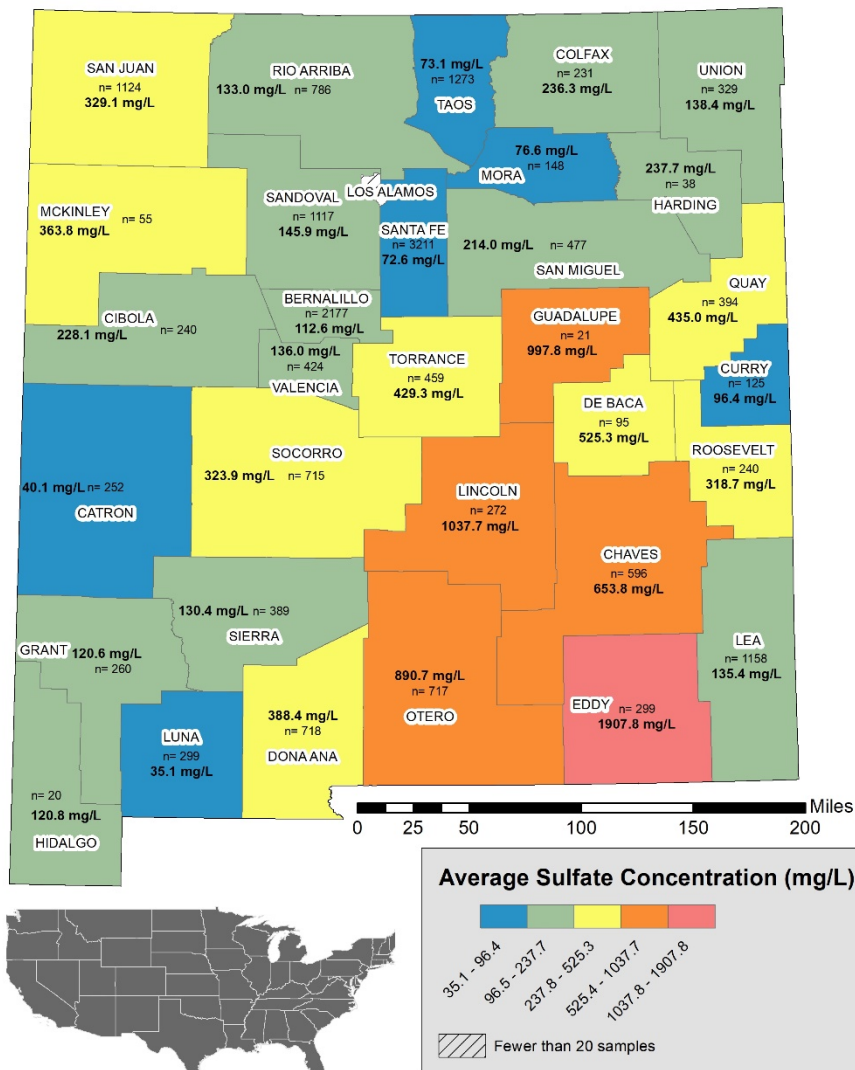
Sulfate levels in water samples from private wells vary between New Mexico counties and even within the same county. The groundwater system in New Mexico is very complex. This complexity can lead to sulfate concentration variability even amongst neighboring wells. **Therefore, to know the sulfate concentration in your water from your own well, you need to test.** The secondary safe drinking water concentration for sulfate, related to aesthetics (odor and taste), is 250 milligrams per liter (mg/L). Some of the water samples from wells in all counties appear to exceed this Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Safe Drinking Water secondary standard. However, counties with at least 45 percent of samples that exceed this standard are in south eastern NM.

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Average Sulfate Concentration (mg/L) by County

"n" is number samples per county.



Data Sources: NMED Water Fairs, NMBGMR, USEPA, USGS NWIS, NMDOH biomonitoring, Bernalillo County, Santa Fe County

Updated 08/2022

<https://nmtracking.doh.nm.gov/environment/water/Sulfate.html>

New Mexico Private Wells Inventory

Sulfate Test Results Summary August 1903 - October 2018

County	Number of tests	% Tests above secondary MCL (250 mg/L)	Concentration of Sulfate in Milligrams per Liter (mg/L)						
			Mean	Standard Deviation	Max	95th Percentile	Median	5th Percentile	Minimum Detected Value*
Bernalillo	2177	6.3	112.6	318.7	7850	300	60.0	15.0	0.06
Catron	252	2.4	40.1	78.1	649	148	16.2	3.2	0.50
Chaves	596	70.1	653.8	846.0	9500	1920	380.0	145.0	0.02
Cibola	240	27.9	228.1	293.3	2840	707	127.5	8.0	2.00
Colfax	231	18.6	236.3	586.3	5860	1200	35.0	4.0	0.10
Curry	125	9.6	96.4	160.8	1200	425	35.0	12.0	2.00
De Baca	95	74.7	525.3	424.1	1980	1690	380.0	70.0	0.50
Doña Ana	718	30.4	388.4	3312.4	87900	700	165.0	37.0	0.50
Eddy	299	81.3	1907.8	12876.7	222000	3530	800.0	75.0	18.00
Grant	260	11.9	120.6	199.2	1000	600	36.0	2.0	0.50
Guadalupe	21	81.0	997.8	699.1	2220	1900	1000.0	25.0	13.00
Harding	38	34.2	237.7	275.2	1250	846	105.5	2.0	2.00
Hidalgo	20	15.0	120.8	153.2	466	463	48.5	8.5	6.00
Lea	1158	7.3	135.4	218.3	6215	300	90.0	40.0	0.01
Lincoln	272	90.1	1037.7	995.5	10000	2400	787.0	170.0	7.00
Los Alamos	13	7.7	42.2	79.9	300	300	17.0	0.8	0.80
Luna	299	1.0	35.1	62.9	600	142	16.0	3.0	0.50
McKinley	55	34.5	363.8	579.7	3009	1290	130.0	14.0	3.00
Mora	148	6.1	76.6	138.5	770	292	30.0	2.0	0.50
Otero	717	72.2	890.7	1152.2	10270	2690	600.0	32.0	1.50
Quay	394	44.2	435.0	467.6	3190	1400	250.0	27.0	0.50
Rio Arriba	786	10.9	133.0	599.3	14200	500	48.6	5.7	0.01
Roosevelt	240	22.5	318.7	454.8	3350	790	200.0	41.5	1.50
San Juan	1124	38.7	329.1	534.5	7375	970	180.0	59.0	0.04
San Miguel	477	22.6	214.0	352.2	3200	770	76.0	13.0	0.50
Sandoval	1117	9.8	145.9	295.3	4650	500	71.0	9.0	0.01
Santa Fe	3211	4.4	72.6	181.8	7050	250	34.0	5.0	0.04
Sierra	389	9.8	130.4	215.6	1660	600	67.0	16.0	0.50
Socorro	715	24.9	323.9	854.2	13100	1770	76.0	13.0	0.50
Taos	1273	5.7	73.1	136.1	1820	280	31.0	2.5	0.01
Torrance	459	35.1	429.3	638.2	3230	1900	85.0	14.0	0.50
Union	329	13.1	138.4	223.6	2500	560	60.0	16.0	0.02
Valencia	424	10.1	136.0	191.4	2440	480	78.0	26.0	1.50

- Indicates insufficient data to calculate statistics; N/A indicates Not Applicable; *Minimum detected value calculated as half the detection limit (DL) for concentrations less than DL; DL varies