



MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH &
SENIOR SERVICES**

Lead in Private Drinking Water Wells in Washington County, Missouri

WHAT IS THE ISSUE?

Private drinking water wells in Washington County have been found with elevated levels of lead due to historic mining activities in the area.

*An estimated 70% of the population in Washington County get their water from a private well rather than a public water system.

*Over 4,500 private wells have been tested so far, but many residents with private wells have not yet had their well tested.

*Of those tested, approximately 1 out of 7 wells have elevated levels of lead.

WHY THE CONCERN?

Exposure is a significant health concern, particularly for children, who are most sensitive to the adverse effects of lead.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Get your private well tested and have an appropriate filtration system installed if results show elevated concentrations of lead.

*The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) provides private well water testing and a filtration system free of charge to qualifying residents in Washington County to reduce lead in their drinking water.

Lead *Heavy Metal* with Heavier Consequences

There is no safe level of lead in the bloodstream; any amount of lead is toxic. Some symptoms are not obvious, which is why testing for lead levels in the blood is so important.

Children are at the highest risk of lead poisoning, especially from ages 0-6.

Children



Brain and Nervous System

Lower IQ, behavior problems and learning disabilities. Damage to nervous system function.



Hearing

Hearing loss.



Body

Bone and muscle deterioration.



Growth

Slowed growth.



Blood

Anemia.



Kidneys

Abnormal function and damage.

Adults

Brain and Nervous System

Memory loss, irritability, lack of concentration, headaches and depression. Speech and language problems. Damage to nervous system function.



Cardiovascular

High blood pressure.



Body

Fatigue, muscle and joint pain.



Digestive System

Poor appetite, nausea and constipation.



Kidneys

Abnormal function and damage.



Reproductive System

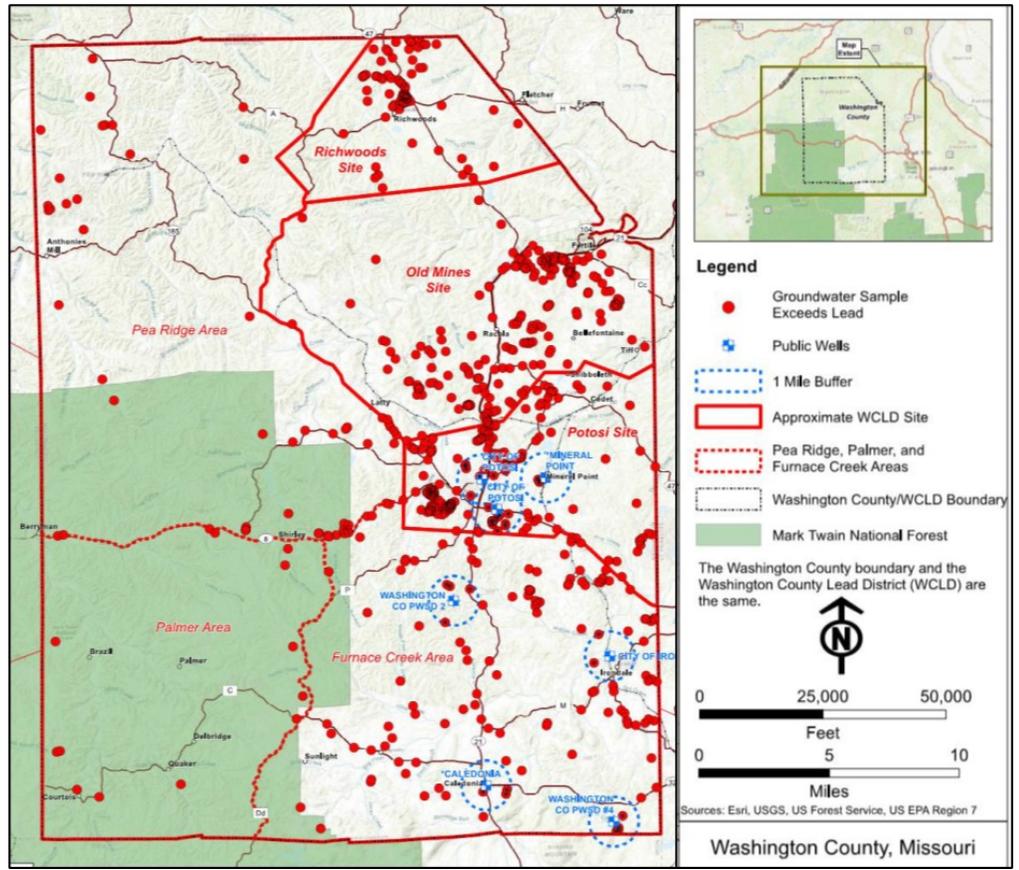
Men: Decreased sex drive and sperm count, sperm abnormalities. Women: Spontaneous miscarriage.



Washington County Lead District (WCLD)

Washington County is part of Missouri's Old Lead Belt. Historical mining activities have contributed to elevated levels of lead and other heavy metals in soil, groundwater, surface water and sediment in the area.

The Washington County Lead District (WCLD) covers the entire county and is divided into the Furnace Creek, Old Mines, Potosi and Richwoods National Priorities List (NPL) sites.



Contact Information:

EPA — Steve Sturgess, (913) 551-7913

Washington County Health Department — Jesse Douglas, (573) 438-2164, Ext. 3

For more information on the WCLD Sites:

EPA Factsheet—www.epa.gov/mo/washington-county-lead-district-national-priority-list-npl-superfund-sites-furnace-creek-old

EPA Site Pages

*Furnace Creek <https://cumulis.epa.gov/supercpad/cursites/csitinfo.cfm?id=0705842>

*Old Mines <https://cumulis.epa.gov/supercpad/cursites/csitinfo.cfm?id=0705027>

*Potosi <https://cumulis.epa.gov/supercpad/cursites/csitinfo.cfm?id=0705023>

*Richwoods <https://cumulis.epa.gov/supercpad/cursites/csitinfo.cfm?id=0705032>

Actions You Can Take:

☑ Get your private well tested.

☑ If lead elevations are found, get an EPA-provided water filter! This is a small filter connected to your water line and fits under your sink.

☑ Get your child tested for lead exposure! Lead testing is available for children under the age of 6 at Washington County Health Department or your doctor's office.