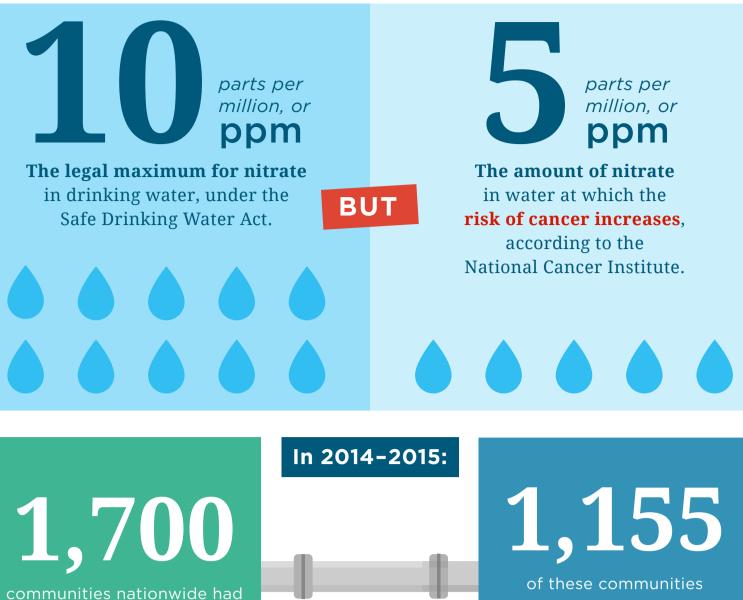
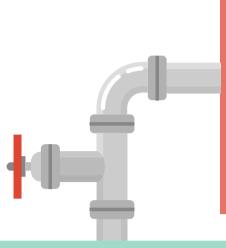
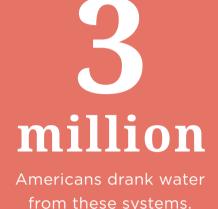
# NITRATE CONTAMINATION IN **U.S. DRINKING WATER SYSTEMS**

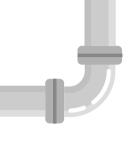
America has a serious problem with nitrate contamination of drinking waterand it is most severe in small communities that can least afford to fix it.



drinking water containing nitrate at or above 5 ppm.







don't have a way to

treat their water for

nitrate contamination.

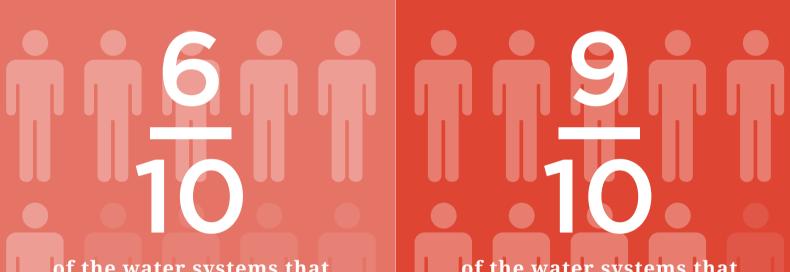
## **68% OF THE COMMUNITIES**

whose drinking water systems have nitrate above 5 ppm and no nitrate treatment **ARE LOCATED IN JUST 10 STATES.** 

> Arizona, California, Illinois, Kansas, Nebraska, New York, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Texas and Washington

#### **Customers fund community water treatment.**

The smaller a community, the fewer rate-paying customers, which means less money to clean up drinking water.



of the water systems that don't have a way to treat for nitrates serve **FEWER THAN 500 PEOPLE.** 

of the water systems that don't have a way to treat for nitrates serve FEWER THAN 3,300 PEOPLE.

There are two common ways to treat water contaminated with nitrate. Both are costly especially for small communities with a small tax base and, often, a low average income.

#### ION EXCHANGE SYSTEM:

A resin removes nitrate as water passes through it.

For very small communities, a system could cost as much as

**\$666** per person each year.

#### **REVERSE OSMOSIS:**

Pressurized water is pushed through a membrane that filters out nitrate and other contaminants.

For very small communities, a system could cost as much as

**\$2,776** per person each year.

Nitrate pollution is not only a problem for

community water systems. Those who rely on

private wells for drinking water may also be affected.

# **44 million Americans**

are estimated to get their drinking water from private wells.

## **ONE KNOWS HOW MUCH** NITRATE IS IN THESE WELLS,

but recent data showed that



of the private wells tested in Iowa had nitrate levels of 5 ppm or more.\*

\* 2017 Iowa Private Well Tracking System



#### HOW CAN WE PREVENT THIS PROBLEM? VISIT

### EWG.ORG/RESEARCH/NITRATECOST