



# Public Health and Drinking Water: A State Policy Perspective

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## NCSL Overview

- Bipartisan organization
  - Serves the 7,000+ legislators and 30,000+ legislative staff of the nation's 50 states, commonwealths, and territories
- NCSL Environmental Health Program

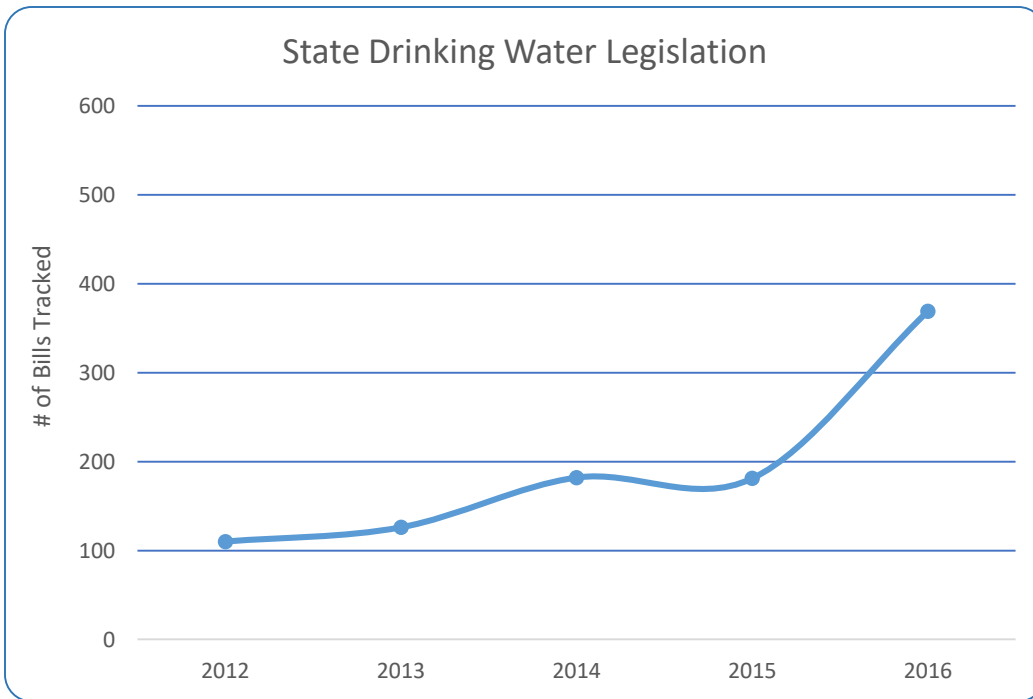


# Presentation Overview

- Historical context of water quality
- Provide an overview of state legislation recently introduced and enacted
- Summarize state legislative trends regarding drinking water quality



# Drinking Water Legislation 12 - 16



- Public water systems/private wells
- Infrastructure
- Lead in water
- Fluoride
- Chemicals in water



# Public Water Systems

- **Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA)**
  - 15+ connections or serving 25 individuals per day for 60 days per year
  - Small water systems & private well users unregulated
- States can change definition of public
  - NY: 5+ connections
  - KS: 10+ connections
  - MS: less than 15 connections “semi-public”



## Private Wells

- Not regulated by SDWA
- Testing of wells
- Education for new private wells
- At least **four states** provide for emergency authority to inspect private wells





# Infrastructure

- 14-18% of treated water is lost
- Cost to repair nation-wide >\$1 trillion
  - Federal support from WIFIA and SRFs
  - States considered hundreds of bills related to infrastructure funding in 2016



## Notice of Lead in Water

- At least **3 states** (MI, OH, TN) now require public notice in 2-3 days after awareness of high lead levels
- At least **3 other states** (CA, IL, NJ) are considering similar reporting requirements







# Lead Testing

- Public schools & day cares
  - At least 13 states considering legislation
- Home purchases and rental housing
  - Pending in at least 3 states
- Public living centers
  - Pending in TN



# Fluoride

- 17 states have laws intended to provide statewide fluoridation
- 3 states require public vote before fluoride can be instituted
- NH considering legislation to prohibit fluoride
- In 2014, 92.7% of IA water fluoridated





# Chemicals in Water

- State action for Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs)
  - More stringent than federal
  - New MCLs for unregulated chemicals
  - Increasing monitoring and reporting
- PFOA/PFOS
  - High levels in CO, NY, and VT
  - Legislation passed in CA, MN, MS, and VT
  - 2017 legislation introduced in 4 states





# Other State Water Trends



- Nitrates & Ag Runoff
- Waterborne Illnesses
- Waste Water Systems
- Right to Clean Water



# Questions or Comments?

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