



WATER · Published 42 mins ago

# More than 100,000 cancer cases could be caused by contaminants in tap water, study finds

By Morgan Phillips | Fox News



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A toxic cocktail of chemicals found in U.S. drinking water could be the cause of more than 100,000 cases of cancer, a new study by the nonprofit Environmental Working Group (EWG) found.

“The vast majority of community water systems meet legal standards,” said Olga Naidenko, Ph.D., EWG’s vice president for science investigations, in a press release. “Yet the latest research shows that contaminants present in the water at those concentrations – perfectly legal – can still harm human health.”



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The [study](#), published in the research journal Heliyon, conducted an assessment of 22 carcinogenic contaminants which meet national drinking water standards and found that a majority of the risk is due to arsenic, disinfection byproducts and radioactive contaminants. Overall, tap water exposure to the carcinogens studied leads to 105,887 cases of cancer in the U.S. over a statistical lifetime, or 70 years. This is the equivalent of four cancer cases per 10,000 people.

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Luckily, use of a water filter decreases the risk of exposure to these contaminants.

Cancer risk assessments are standard for air quality evaluations under the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the study is the first of its kind to perform a comprehensive cancer risk assessment of drinking water pollutants.

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“Drinking water contains complex mixtures of contaminants, yet government agencies currently assess the health hazards of tap water pollutants one by one,” said Sydney Evans, science analyst and lead author of the paper, in a [press release](#). “In the real world, people are exposed to combinations of chemicals, so it is important that we start to assess health impacts by looking at the combined effects of multiple pollutants.”

The study analyzed water quality profiles for 48,363 community water systems, which provide water for around 86 percent of U.S. homes. The other 14 percent rely on private wells for drinking water.

The study found that the risk is higher in the western part of the country, due to water scarcities faced there. “Drier conditions decrease water availability from surface water sources, concentrate contaminants in the existing water sources, and prompt communities to use groundwater resources even in areas where underlying aquifers may have higher levels of arsenic or radioactive chemicals,” it found. It also found that those who rely on public water sources in smaller communities are more at risk than in larger ones.

The study reiterated that most of the water they tested was in compliance with national drinking water standards. E.P.A. data show that only 4.5 percent to 5.5 percent of community water systems had serious violations from 2014 to 2017.

“We need to prioritize source water protection, to make sure that these contaminants don’t get into the drinking water supplies to begin with,” Naidenko concluded.

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Numerous other contaminants which could potentially be hazardous to public health were not able to be included in the study.



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**Stryderc73** ★ Leader ·

I wonder if they'll add an extra tax to tap water as they did cigarettes all in the name of added medical expenses.

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**RealDemocratsForTrump2020** ★ Leader · 2m

I don't know who to believe anymore with this stuff... kind of a plug for the bottled water industry.

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**vernerable** · 2m

Fox's standards are really going down. The Environmental Working Group is a far left alarmist group and yet Fox describes it as "non-profit" without any further background. Aside from Democrat run city Flint, Michigan most of the water in the U.S. meets EPA standards, as the alarmists have to admit. Yes, out here in the west, people who use wells rather than municipal water sources are more likely to be exposed to arsenic, but that's nothing new. Muni water sources go through several stages of decontamination, including the removal of lead and arsenic. Drinking water does not cause cancer.

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**Phillip\_Oliver\_Holz** ★ Leader · 2m

...and windmills.

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**YoungKid** ★ Leader · 3m

Whoops! Back to bottled water!

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**dreamharder744** ★ Leader · 3m

If you or a loved one are one of the 4 cases in 10,000, it's a big deal.

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**loquacioulips** ★ Leader · 4m · Edited

I moved into a new house about 10 years ago and for the first few months I was having terrible stomach aches. My husband was too but not as bad as mine. It was getting to the point I was going to have to go to the doctor (I almost have to be dead to go to a doctor, cant's stand going). We were drinking bottled water but it finally dawned on us that the ice maker in the freezer needed a filter. Within a few days of putting a new filter in... our stomach aches went away completely.

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**Whiskeyman66** ★ Leader · 7m

This is your gov't.....making rules for appearance sake without understanding what they are actually doing.

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**alkhobar966** ★ Leader · 2m → Whiskeyman66

In this case, they did not understand what undoing will cause to the future of water quality.

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**John.Howard** ★ Leader · 7m

W.C. Fields was right about water.

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**CaptJW** ★ Leader · 9m



All that needs to be done is reduce regulations and force scientists to keep quiet about the dangers.

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**Whiskeyman66** ★ Leader · 8m → CaptJW



You seem to miss the fact these are gov't regulations and dangers.....smh

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**MKSpector** ★ Leader · 9m



This is how gov't takes care of drinking water and some folks want to give them control of health care? Not sure gov't is the right answer for anything. Their track record is less than impressive.

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**CaptJW** ★ Leader · 8m → MKSpector



Yes. We should let industry regulate themselves on a voluntary basis

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**TryFactChecking** ★ Leader · 3m → CaptJW

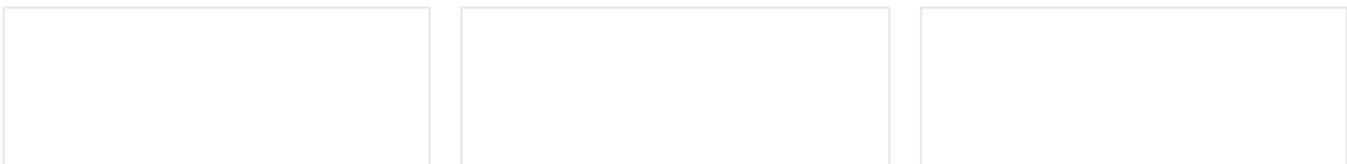


That's a good one. Nearly fell out of my chair laughing.

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