

Places That Struggle to Meet the Rules On Safe Drinking Water

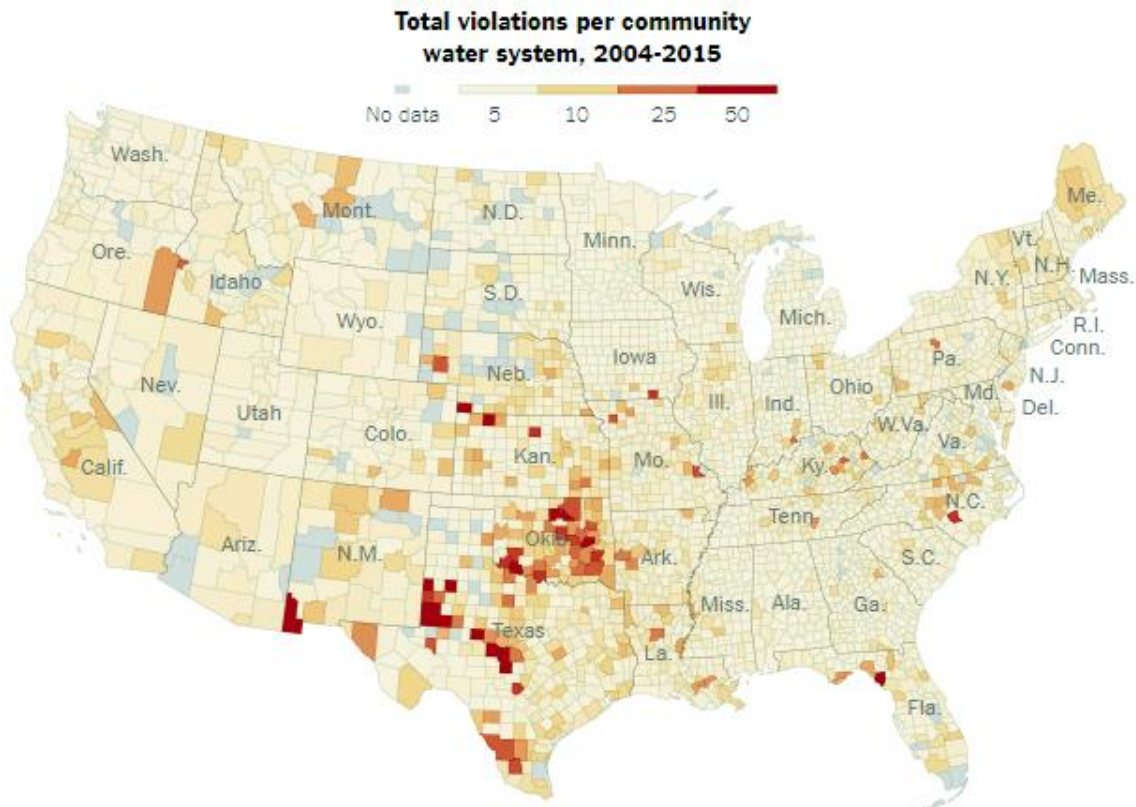
Taken from a New York Times Article, February 12th, 2018

Washington – To ensure that tap water in the United States is safe to drink, the federal government has been steadily tightening the health standards for the nation’s water supplies for decades. But over and over again, local water systems around the country have failed to meet these requirements.

In a new study published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, researchers found that, since 1982, between 3 and 10 percent of the country’s water systems have been in violation of federal Safe Drinking Water Act health standards each year. In 2015 alone, as many as 21 million Americans may have been exposed to unsafe drinking water.

Struggling to Meet New Water Quality Standards

Some rural water systems, especially in Texas and Oklahoma, have had many violations as new rules have gone into effect over the past decade.



Concerns about the safety of America’s tap water gained national prominence after the 2015 crisis in Flint, Mich., when residents discovered dangerously high levels of lead in their drinking water. Since then, a barrage of reports have revealed that a surprisingly large number of water systems serving millions of Americans sometimes contain unsafe levels of contaminants like lead, nitrates, arsenic, or pathogens that can cause gastrointestinal diseases.

Source: New York Times, **Brad Plumer & Nadja Popovich**