

Best Education Practices (BEPs) for Water Outreach Professionals
Defining BEPs, Refining New Resources and Recommending Future Actions

POSTER PRESENTATION

Presenter(s): Lori Severtson, Gaylord Nelson Institute of Environmental Studies and School of Nursing, University of Wisconsin

Title: Evidence Supporting Yearly Community Well Testing

Abstract: This analysis explored differences among communities based on community awareness (high or low) of the arsenic issue and overall arsenic risk (high or low). Community awareness was due to 1) high arsenic publicity or 2) increased arsenic education (offered the WTP 3 times compared to 1 time). Participants in a high awareness community: use more information and have higher levels of risk recognition than participants in low awareness communities. Participants in a community offering yearly well testing: rated information as more useful, selected a lower arsenic safety threshold, disagreed that 10 ug/L was too strict and, had more confidence in how their town government is dealing with arsenic than participants in a high publicity community. While high publicity was related to information use and to recognizing risk, education seemed to be a factor in the adoption of a lower drinking water standard. An ongoing program may foster trust at the local level that in turn enhances the acceptance of prevention information. This exploratory case study analysis provides tentative findings that should be further explored with a more rigorous study.

Target Audience(s): Agency partners, NGOs

Educational Purpose: Information, communications and education

Contact Information:

K6/380 CSC
600 Highland Ave
Madison, WI 53792-2455
608-263-5315
djsevert@wiscmail.wisc.edu

