

## Chromium-6 (also referred to as hexavalent chromium)

Chromium-6 is a naturally occurring contaminant and an industrial chemical that has been linked to cancer. Research is underway regarding how much, if any, Cr-6 might pose a health risk in drinking water. There is no regulation for it. The South Milwaukee Water Utility conducted quarterly monitoring and reporting for Cr-6 from 2013 to 2014.

**Summary of monitoring for Cr-6** Results in micrograms per liter ( ug/L) or parts per billion (ppb)

Samples:	8
Detects:	8
Average :	0.25 ppb
Range:	0.20-0.35 ppb

### Chromium-6 Tests

Sample Date	Sample Facility	Sample Point	Result
2013-03-25	Distribution System	Wisconsin DMV	0.35 ppb
2013-03-25	South Milwaukee Water Utility	Lab Tap	0.33 ppb
2013-07-08	Distribution System	Wisconsin DMV	0.24 ppb
2013-07-08	South Milwaukee Water Utility	Lab Tap	0.20 ppb
2013-10-21	South Milwaukee Water Utility	Lab Tap	0.20 ppb
2013-10-21	Distribution System	Wisconsin DMV	0.28 ppb
2014-01-06	Distribution System	Wisconsin DMV	0.23 ppb
2014-01-06	South Milwaukee Water Utility	Lab Tap	0.20 ppb

The level of Cr-6 in South Milwaukee water results are below California's existing MCL but above California's public health goal.

California MCL = 10 µg/L; California health goal = 0.02 µg/L

### Background

The EPA is reviewing a proposal to set a safe level, known as a Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL), for Cr-6, and is assessing health effects based on available data and data now being collected by utilities like South Milwaukee. EPA has not yet provided any risk context for the sampling or any operational guidance if Cr-6 was detected. Cr-6 is included in the EPA Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule-3 (UCMR-3) mandatory monitoring to collect data. This requires quarterly monitoring of source water, treated water and water in the distribution system. (Total Chromium is regulated by the EPA via the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) while Cr-6 is not regulated.)

**The latest US results**

During the three-year period from January 2013 - December 2015, all community and nontransient noncommunity systems serving more than 10,000 persons, and a statistical sample of small systems, were required to monitor for Cr-6 and 27 other unregulated contaminants for one year. This UCMR3 data is released on EPA's website periodically over the monitoring period. The latest release came this summer.

**California set its own MCL**

In July 2014, California became the first U.S. state to determine an MCL specifically for hexavalent chromium of 10 parts per billion. The state's public health goal for hexavalent chromium is 0.02 parts per billion. The EPA data show 88 systems are above California's existing MCL. The level of Cr-6 in South Milwaukee water results are below California's existing MCL but above California's public health goal.