Environmental Health

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ABOUT THE COVER



This month's cover article, "Barriers to Managing Private Wells and Septic Systems in Underserved Communities: Mental Models of Homeowner Decision Making," explores underbounded commu-

nities that are disproportionately exposed to water contaminants and face elevated health risks. Through semistructured interviews with residents in such communities, the authors sought to identify knowledge gaps and misconceptions regarding the monitoring and maintenance of private wells and septic systems. The interview results suggest that testing is inhibited by a lack of awareness of well maintenance guidelines, overreliance on sensory information, poor understanding of exposure pathways, and cost. The highlights of the article point to the need for risk communication materials that target at-risk communities

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