



# HEALTH EXPERTS FIND THAT HEAVY STORMS CAN PREDICT THE RISK OF GERMS IN TREATED GREAT LAKES DRINKING WATER



## Nearly 40 million people get their drinking water from the Great Lakes



- ▶ Monitoring and reporting on water quality is vital to understanding potential risks to the health of the people whose drinking water comes from the Great Lakes.
- ▶ *The Health Professionals Advisory Board recommends that the Canadian and US governments include indicators of source water quality as part of their reporting.*

## Experts find that heavy precipitation events can predict the risk of waterborne illness



- ▶ The Health Professionals Advisory Board's study of data from four Great Lakes cities confirmed that heavy precipitation events following periods of dry weather can predict an increase in residents contracting acute gastrointestinal illnesses (cryptosporidiosis and giardiasis) within three to seven weeks after a storm.
- ▶ Climate change impacts can increase extremes in wet and dry weather. *The Health Professionals Advisory Board recommends increased investments in monitoring, treatment and coordination among drinking water treatment utilities to better protect human health.*
- ▶ The study looked at trends in environmental and health data from 2009 to 2014 for Green Bay and Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and Toronto and Hamilton, Ontario.

## Better monitoring and reporting can reduce waterborne health risks



- ▶ Binational integration and monitoring of water quality and health data can detect possible health risks resulting from climate change and other Great Lakes trends.
- ▶ When integrated, environmental and health data can help predict certain human health risks from Great Lakes drinking water.
- ▶ *The Health Professionals Advisory Board recommends a binational drinking water source quality indicator clearinghouse made available for cities and developing partnerships with municipal water utilities and water monitoring organizations.*

This graphic presents a summary of the Health Professionals Advisory Board's 2021 report entitled: "A Proof-of-Concept Pilot Study - Transboundary Monitoring of Environmental Factors and their Influence on Waterborne Protozoan Acute Gastrointestinal Illnesses in Cities that Source Water from the Great Lakes; Phase 2: Analysis" The report is available at: [IJC.ORG/HPAB/LIBRARY/PUBLICATIONS](https://www.ijc.org/hpab/library/publications)