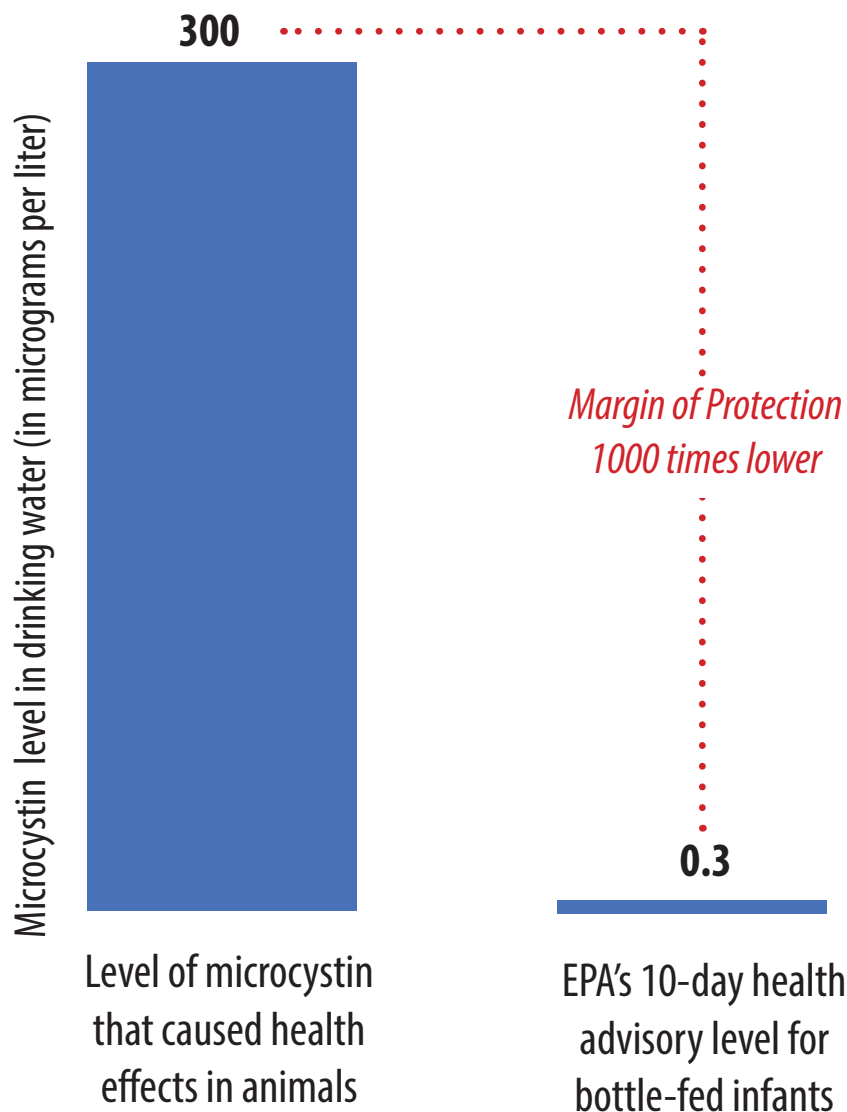


# Drinking Water Health Advisory for Harmful Blue-green Algae Bloom Toxin Protects Public Health

The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) sets health advisories to protect people from being exposed to contaminants in drinking water. Health advisories are set at levels that consider animal studies, human studies, vulnerable populations, and the amount of exposure from drinking water.

There is a large margin of protection built in between the health advisory level and level shown to cause health effects. As a result, an exceedance of an advisory is used to indicate that actions should be taken to reduce exposures because that margin of protection is reduced, not because health effects are likely to occur.



EPA defines a 10-day health advisory as the concentration of a chemical in drinking water at which adverse health effects are not anticipated to occur over a 10-day exposure period.