



FACT SHEET

OFFICE OF DRINKING WATER & MUNICIPAL ASSISTANCE – ENVIRONMENTAL ASSISTANCE CENTER 800-662-9278

GROUNDWATER STATISTICS

U.S. Groundwater

- About 90% of the U.S. freshwater supply is groundwater. [Source: National Ground Water Association (NGWA)]
- 80 billion gallons of groundwater are withdrawn daily in the U.S. [Source: NGWA and United States Geological Survey (USGS)]
- Groundwater accounts for 20% of the total water usage in the US. (Source: NGWA and USGS)
- Less than 3% of the U.S. groundwater has been contaminated (Source: NGWA)
- 53% of Americans drink groundwater. (Source: NGWA)
 - 37% from public water systems dependent upon more than 283,000 wells
 - 16% from more than 15.1 million private household wells

Michigan Groundwater

- 45% of Michigan citizens are served by groundwater. (Source: Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and USGS)
- The total groundwater use in Michigan is about 700 million gallons per day. (Source: NGWA)

Private Water Supplies

- Michigan has 1.25 million private household wells (based on 1990 US census and adjustment for wells drilled since 1990). (Source: DEQ)
- Michigan has more private household wells than any other state. (Source: NGWA)
- 2.6 million Michigan citizens are served by private household wells. (Source: NGWA)
- Michigan's private household wells withdraw 194 million gallons of groundwater per day. (Source: USGS)
- In 2000, more new wells were drilled (35,299) than in any previously recorded year (records kept since 1966). (Source: DEQ)
- 85% of all new water wells drilled in Michigan are private household wells. (Source: DEQ)

Public Water Supplies

- Public water supplies using groundwater serve 1.7 million people in Michigan. (Source: DEQ)
- Michigan has 9% of the nation's public groundwater supply systems (Community and Noncommunity) – the highest share of any state (12,038 out of 128,371). (Source: DEQ)
- Michigan's per capita use from public water supplies (groundwater and surface water combined) is 188 gallons per day. (Source: USGS)

Irrigation and Industrial Wells

- Over 100 million gallons of groundwater are withdrawn daily in Michigan for irrigation. (Source: USGS)
- Michigan industries withdraw 180 million gallons of groundwater daily from on-site wells. (Source: USGS)

Sources: 1. National Ground Water Association, 601 Dempsey Rd., Westerville, OH 43081-8978
2. United States Geological Survey, *Estimated Use of Water in the United States in 1995*, Circular 1200, 1998
3. Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Drinking Water & Municipal Assistance
4. 1990 Census of Housing, Detailed Housing Characteristics, Michigan, 1990 CH-2-24, US Department of Commerce

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