GROUNDWATER STATISTICS

U.S. Groundwater
- About 90% of the U.S. freshwater supply is groundwater. [Source: National Ground Water Association (NGWA)]
- 76 billion gallons of groundwater are withdrawn daily in the U.S. [Source: NGWA and United States Geological Survey (USGS)]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)
- 38% of Americans regularly depend upon groundwater for their drinking water supply. (Source: NGWA)
  - 90 million Americans depend on 88,000 community water system wells
  - 34 million Americans are served by 13.1 million private household wells
- There are 98,000 noncommunity water supply systems that serve 15 million people

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)
- 2.6 million Michigan citizens are served by private household wells. (Source: NGWA and USGS)
- Michigan’s private household wells withdraw 231 million gallons of groundwater per day. (Source: USGS)
- Michigan has more household wells drilled annually than any other state. (Source: NGWA)
- 89% 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 has 10,703 Noncommunity wells and 3,966 Community wells. (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- Over 100 million gallons of groundwater are withdrawn daily in Michigan for irrigation.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
3. Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, Drinking Water & Municipal Assistance Division

For information or assistance on this publication, please contact the Drinking Water and Municipal Assistance Division, through the DEQ’s Environmental Assistance Center at 800-662-9278. This publication is available in alternative formats upon request.

This publication is intended for guidance only and may be impacted by changes in legislation, rules, policies, and procedures adopted after the date of publication. Although this publication makes every effort to teach users how to meet applicable compliance obligations, use of this publication does not constitute the rendering of legal advice.