

EPA SAFE DRINKING WATER INFORMATION SYSTEM (SDWIS) DATA

What is the SDWIS dataset?

EPA's Safe Drinking Water Information System (SDWIS) databases store information about drinking water. The federal version (SDWIS/FED) stores the information EPA needs to monitor approximately 156,000 public water systems. Information in the dataset includes:

- Basic information on each water system, including: name, ID number, city county, and number of people served, type of system (residential, transient, non-transient), whether they operate year-round or seasonal, and characteristics of their sources of water
- Violation information for each water system: whether it has followed established monitoring and reporting schedules, complied with mandated treatment techniques, violated any Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs), or communicated vital information to their customers
- Enforcement information: what actions states have taken to ensure that drinking water systems return to compliance if they are in violation of a drinking water regulation
- Sampling results for unregulated contaminants and for regulated contaminants when the monitoring results exceed the MCL
- Spatial data is available in latitude/longitude format or as small source water protection areas in vector data.

How do I get access to the dataset?

You may access statistical information on local drinking water from SDWIS/FED in the following ways:

1. Browse and/or download Annual Public Water System Statistics PDF
The following summary tables include inventory data on water systems, violations reported by violation type and by contaminant/rule, and official Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) data.
<http://water.epa.gov/scitech/datait/databases/drink/sdwisfed/howtoaccessdata.cfm>
2. Access data on individual water systems online through Envirofacts. These include basic inventory data, violations reported, and enforcement actions taken against individual water systems in the past 10 years. http://www.epa.gov/enviro/html/sdwis/sdwis_ov.html
3. Download and manipulate SDWIS/FED data in MS Excel PivotTables®
Access aggregated information on all violations reported in an EPA region, state, and county since 1993 using the MS Excel PivotTables®. These multidimensional tables contain aggregated information on water systems; violations reported by violation type and by contaminant/rule, and GPRA data, for each year since 1993; and current Envirofacts data. Sort, categorize, and analyze the data across several dimensions.
<http://water.epa.gov/scitech/datait/databases/drink/pivottables.cfm>
4. Read the annual Consumer Confidence Report (also called a water quality report) published by your public water system. Each year by July 1st you should receive in the mail an annual water quality report (consumer confidence report) from your water supplier that tells where your water comes from and what's in it. <http://cfpub.epa.gov/safewater/ccr/index.cfm>

5. Make a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Request. Visit the EPA Freedom of Information Office Web site for instructions. <http://www.epa.gov/foia/>

The SDWIS dataset with its latitude/longitude is not classified, but is considered sensitive information, and thus requires signing a confidentiality agreement. (And therefore researchers involved in the Forests to Faucets project may not distribute this information to any internal or external partners.) Make the following EPA contact to request access to the GIS data for the nation or to ask more detailed questions about the SDWIS dataset.

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Who do I contact with questions about SDWIS dataset?

Check this website for User Support and Training related to the SDWIS dataset, and contact information for the SDWIS hotline, national and regional representatives.

http://water.epa.gov/scitech/datatit/databases/drink/sdwisfed/datamanagers_usersupport.cfm