

# Drinking Water Quality: Public Water Use

Type of EPHT Indicator	Exposure
Measures	1. Number of people receiving water from community water systems.
Derivation of Measures	This measure will be developed from water system attribute and water quality data stored in state Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) databases such as the Safe Drinking Water Information System (SDWIS/State). Data will be cleaned and transformed to a standard format.
Units	1. Number of people
Geographic Scope	State
Geographic Scale	State
Time Period	Based on Data first extracted in 2012, updated for future years
Time Scale	Calendar year
Rationale	<p><b>Public Water Use and Public Health</b></p> <p>The public water use index provides some data to explore the relative importance of community water supplies as sources of drinking water and to provide context for subsequent community drinking water system (CWS) indicators. SDWA collects data for a number of different types of public water systems of which community water systems (CWS) are a sub-set. The community water systems represent non-transient public water systems that serve year round community residents and are the focus of the initial indicators. The range of state populations served by CWS as their primary residential drinking water source varies from 95% to as low as 40% within the United States. Understanding the relative population coverage of these indicators by state helps to understand representativeness of these data for prioritization and evaluation across the United States and within individual states and communities.</p>
Use of Measure	<p>This measure can be useful in providing data for surveillance purposes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Estimated population potentially exposed to contaminants in CWS.</li> </ul>
Limitations of The Measure	The current measure is derived for CWS only. Private wells are another important source of population exposure to water contaminants. Transient non-community water systems, which are regulated by EPA, may also be an important source of potential exposure.
Data Sources	Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Limitations of Data Sources	Population estimates are rough and may overestimate or underestimate the number of affected people.
Related Indicators	All other community water indicators.
Additional Information	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Water On Tap, Office of Water (4601) EPA 816-K-09-002, December 2009. <a href="http://water.epa.gov/drink/guide/upload/book_waterontap_full.pdf">http://water.epa.gov/drink/guide/upload/book_waterontap_full.pdf</a></li> <li>U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Public Drinking Water Systems: Facts and Figures <a href="http://water.epa.gov/infrastructure/drinkingwater/pws/factoids.cfm">http://water.epa.gov/infrastructure/drinkingwater/pws/factoids.cfm</a></li> <li>U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Public Drinking Water Systems Programs. <a href="http://water.epa.gov/infrastructure/drinkingwater/pws/index.cfm">http://water.epa.gov/infrastructure/drinkingwater/pws/index.cfm</a></li> </ol>

