



MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
WATER DIVISION  
GROUNDWATER SECTION

## Ground Water Statistics

### U.S. Ground Water

- About 90% of the US freshwater supply is ground water. (Source: National Ground Water Association (NGWA))
- 80 billion gallons of ground water are withdrawn daily in the US. (Source: NGWA and United States Geological Survey (USGS))
- Ground water accounts for 20% of the total water usage in the US. (Source: NGWA and USGS)
- Less than 3% of the US ground water has been contaminated. (Source: NGWA)
- 53% of Americans drink ground water. (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 Ground Water

- 45% of Michigan citizens are served by ground water. (Source: Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) and USGS)
- The total ground water 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: MDEQ)
- Michigan has more private household wells than any other state. (Source: NGWA)
- 2.6 million Michigan citizens are served by private household wells. (Source: USGS)
- Michigan's private household wells withdraw 194 million gallons of ground water per day. (Source: USGS)
- In 1998, more new wells were drilled (31,160) than in any previously recorded year (records kept since 1966). (Source: MDEQ)
- 96% of all new water wells drilled in Michigan are private household wells. (Source: MDEQ)

### Public Water Supplies

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

### Irrigation and Industrial Wells

- Over 100 million gallons of ground water are withdrawn daily in Michigan for irrigation.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

#### Sources:

1. National Ground Water Association, 601 Dempsey Road, Westerville, OH 43081-8978
2. Solley, W., Pierce, R., and Perlman, H., *Estimated Use of Water in the United States in 1995*, U.S. Geological Survey Circular 1200, 1998, U.S. Department of the Interior, U.S. Geological Survey.
3. Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, Water Division, PO Box 30630, Lansing, MI 48909-8130
4. *1990 Census of Housing, Detailed Housing Characteristics, Michigan*, 1990 CH-2-24, U.S. Department of Commerce, Economics and Statistics Administration, Bureau of Census.