

Focus Area 8: Environmental Health

Objective 8-5. Increase the proportion of persons served by community water systems who receive a supply of drinking water that meets the regulations of the Safe Drinking Water Act. Target = 95.0 percent [State Data Source: Division of Drinking Water and Environmental Management (DDWEM), CDPH]

Primary drinking water standards have been adopted by the CDPH for contaminants that may be found in drinking water supplies in California. The standards are set at levels necessary to protect the public from acute and chronic health risks associated with consuming the contaminants in the drinking water supplies. These limits are known as Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs). Public Water Systems (PWSs) are required to serve drinking water that meets all drinking water standards, and to conduct routine sampling and analysis of their drinking water supplies to certify compliance. Further, all water quality analysis must be conducted by laboratories that are certified by the CDPH and the analytical results transmitted electronically to the CDPH. The water quality analytical results are reviewed and evaluated by the CDPH to determine compliance with drinking water standards. The CDPH identifies and reports violations when PWSs submit water quality analytical results that exceed the established drinking water standards.

According to data reported in the "Annual Compliance Report for Public Water Systems" prepared by the DDWEM's Drinking Water Program, there were an estimated 7,745 PWSs in California during the 2006 calendar year. These systems served approximately 36.6 million (97.1 percent) of the estimated 37.7 million people in California. The remaining estimated 1.1 million people in the state received their drinking water from private wells serving individual residences, and from other sources. Of the 36.6 million persons served by California PWSs in 2006, approximately 797,988 (2.18 percent) were impacted by MCL violations. This represents a 1.4 percent increase in the number of persons served by PWSs from 2005, when PWSs served approximately 36.1 million (97.0 percent) of the estimated 37.2 million people in California. It also represents a 5.0 percent decrease in the number of persons impacted by MCL violations, which totaled 839,796 (2.33 percent) in 2005. Based on these data, this HP2010 objective was being achieved for California.

For more information on Healthy People 2010 objective 8-5, please visit:
<http://www.healthypeople.gov/Document/HTML/Volume1/08Environmental.htm>

and the DATA2010 Web site at <http://wonder.cdc.gov/data2010/>

For more information on California's Drinking Water Program, see
<http://www.cdph.ca.gov/certlic/drinkingwater/Pages/Publications.aspx>