

Drinking Water Data Search BETA Release - Fact Sheet

Completeness of Drinking Water Violation Measurement Data

This document is provided to inform ECHO users about the completeness of measurement data available in ECHO. This is not meant to rank states, but simply allow users to understand when they may need to go directly to their state for details not found in ECHO.

The US EPA has mandated specific reporting requirements for drinking water. In the United States, drinking water programs are primarily implemented by the states, who receive detailed measurement data from public water systems. When these measurements exceed standards, the US EPA requires these violations to be reported to the Federal Safe Drinking Water Information System (SDWIS). While all violations must be reported to SDWIS, the details regarding the actual measurement are only required for specific types of violations.

Specific water contaminants are given health thresholds which are called Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCL) and Maximum Residual Disinfectant Levels (MRDL). These are the standards set by the US EPA for drinking water quality under the Safe Drinking Water Act. While there are many violation types, the states are only required to report to EPA the results for the following MCL and MRDL violation types: Single Sample MCL and Average MCL (Chemicals and Radionuclides), Non-Acute MRDL (Chlorine, Chloramine, and Chlorine Dioxide), and Acute MRDL (Chlorine Dioxide). The states are not required to send measurement amounts to EPA for any other violation types; however, some states provide more than what is required.

Currently, there are 4,733,000 violation records in the SDWIS system, of which 90,400, or 2%, require a measured amount to be reported. Also, 99.3% of required data have measured values present.

Most states maintain a 100% entry rate of REQUIRED measurement data.

Only several states do not maintain 100% data entry rate. MA, FL, HI, Navajo Nation (NN), AZ, and EPA Region 10 Indian country have completeness rates between 85 - 99%. The EPA strives to ensure required amounts are reported by identifying on a quarterly basis the most serious violators. EPA then works with the states to take action at those systems. EPA also encourages states to provide assistance and informal responses to systems before they rise to the level of requiring formal enforcement. Many of the problems EPA identifies occur at small systems because they often lack resources and the ability to fix problems that lead to violations. Therefore, EPA provides technical assistance, as well as enforcement action when needed, to achieve the goals of bringing the systems back into compliance and ensuring that they comply with the regulations on an ongoing basis.

For sample measurement data that is NOT required, most states have a lower entry rate.

The tables below illustrate the completeness of the measurement data for is not required to be sent to the US EPA. For almost all states, the US EPA receives one hundred percent of all required measurement data. For data that is not required, the states vary in the amount of measurement data submitted.

Percent of Violations with Sample Measurement Data in ECHO

According to UP EPA Standards the States are **NOT REQUIRED** to provide these data

■ Data Available ■ Data Not Available

