

Integrated data (11 million records) on water quality, ecology, and hydrology from 51 river basins and aquifers across the Nation, 1991-2001

Water-quality data

Thousands of samples from about 6,400 stream sites and 7,000 wells analyzed for:

- Pesticides and pesticide breakdown products
- Volatile organic compounds such as MTBE, other gasoline-related compounds, solvents
- Trace elements such as arsenic, lead, mercury
- Nutrients
- Radon and other radionuclides (in ground water)

More than 3,000 samples of streambed sediment and aquatic animal tissue analyzed for:

- Trace elements such as mercury
- Organic compounds such as DDT, PCBs

Ecological data

Fish and invertebrate communities (species and relative abundance) from more than 1,000 stream sites

Algae data, anticipated in 2005

Other information in the warehouse

Maps of sampling sites, characteristics of wells sampled, and site descriptions, such as land use

Daily streamflow, water temperature, pH, dissolved oxygen

Links to other USGS data on water, biology, geology, and geography



NAWQA data characteristics

Represent the quality of source water used for drinking, such as water upstream from treatment plants and water from public-supply wells and more than 2,000 domestic wells in rural areas.

Represent the quality of stream water for supporting aquatic life.

Consistent and comparable. Nationally consistent methods of sampling and analysis are used.

Useful for identifying emerging water-quality issues and for tracking contaminant concentrations over time. Detections of compounds are at concentrations that are often 10-100 times lower than water-quality and aquatic-life standards and guidelines.

How you can use the data warehouse

Retrieve data by selecting a variety of options, such as concentrations for a single chemical or groups of chemicals; or data from one or multiple States, counties, or basins.

Get maps showing concentrations of a chemical or selected chemicals in a particular area or across the Nation.

Relate information to landscape characteristics, such as land use.

Export data to several formats, including spreadsheets or delimited ascii text files.

Find answers to questions, such as

- What is the quality of ground water in rural areas?
- Were pesticides found in streams or ground water in my basin?
- What fish species are found in sampled streams in my State?

See what's new in the NAWQA Data Warehouse. Data are added regularly.

Questions? - Contact:

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