

"Estimated Per Capita Water Ingestion in the United States." United States Environmental Protection Agency. Washington: GPO, 2000. (Reviewed by Jessica Miller)

This report provides estimates of water ingestion in the United States in general and for specific subpopulations. The report is based on information gathered in presented in the USDA 1994-1996 Continuing Survey of Food Intakes by Individuals. The categories analyzed are separated by age and gender distinctions. Categories also include pregnant women, lactating women, and women of child-bearing age. The Safe Drinking Water Act requires the EPA to provide information on health risks within water contaminants (specifically within certain subpopulations). This report does not specifically discuss the human health risks associated with drinking unclean water. It merely provides the ingestion study as a platform to further investigate which groups are at higher risk for contact with water which may be contaminated.

Critique

This fifty page document provides an overview of estimated water ingestion across the country. While helpful for the purpose it attempts to serve, this is not a great source for investigation of drinking water in the northwest. An advantage of the survey is that it is completely unbiased. However, this report has many downfalls. The study was only over a two-day period for each data collection interval. Additionally, not all of the subpopulations studied were well represented in all geographical locations of study. Furthermore, the study does not take into account the effects of increased water intake (i.e. very hot climates, increased physical activity, medical conditions).

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