

Virginia

Water loss is an important issue in Virginia, where approximately 81% of the population is served by public water suppliers. The US Geological Survey (USGS) estimates that in 2015 (the most recent year available), Virginia's public water suppliers withdrew an average of about 695.63 million gallons of water per day for treatment and distribution to customers. Those public water suppliers face enormous challenges when it comes to replacing and repairing their systems. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently found a 20-year capital improvement need of more than \$8.14 billion for Virginia's water systems to continue to provide safe drinking water.

The agency with jurisdiction over water loss reporting is the Virginia Department of Health – Office of Drinking Water (ODW). The ODW requires water loss reporting as a function of the sanitary surveys, which are required for all water systems in the state but with varying frequency based on system profiles. Systems reporting greater than 30% losses are requested to submit a corrective action plan. The 30% loss threshold is considered a goal, and ODW does not presently have a legal enforcement mechanism for systems exceeding this threshold.

U.S. Geological Survey's "Estimated Use of Water in the United States County-Level Data for 2015", September 28, 2017- <https://www.sciencebase.gov/catalog/item/59a96d18e4b07e1a023db323>

EPA's "Drinking Water Infrastructure Needs Survey and Assessment, Sixth Report to Congress", March 2018 - https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2018-03/documents/sixth_drinking_water_infrastructure_needs_survey_and_assessment.pdf

Virginia DOH Working Memo 851:

http://www.townhall.virginia.gov/L/GetFile.cfm?File=C:\TownHall\docroot\GuidanceDocs\601\GDoc_VDH_1557_v4.pdf