

The Drinking Water Vital Sign addresses the quality of all drinking water systems, including large and small public and private drinking water systems. Access to safe drinking water is a critical determinant of human wellbeing. In urban areas, cities provide treated drinking water to Puget Sound residents. In more rural areas, small public water systems and wells are harder to track, but can be threatened by ground and surface water infiltration; the use of pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers; and issues with water storage and distribution systems.

Reporting Lead

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VITAL SIGN > INDICATOR	PROGRESS	STATUS
Drinking Water		
Nitrate concentration in source water	INSUFFICIENT OR NO DATA	NO 2020 TARGET
Index of Vulnerability for Elevated Nitrates in Groundwater	INSUFFICIENT OR NO DATA	NO 2020 TARGET

Key Messages

The first indicator for the Drinking Water Vital Sign was adopted in July 2019. The Department of Health and the U.S. Geological Services in collaboration with the Puget Sound Partnership are compiling and analysing data on nitrate concentrations in drinking water and groundwater. The first report is expected in early 2020.

Strategies, Actions, And Effectiveness

- Actions proposed in the Action Agenda that advance this Vital Sign (*let us know if we missed any!*):
 - Clallam County Seawater Intrusion Assessment, Planning, and Implementation

Background Documents

- Leadership Council Resolution 2015-02, Human Health and Quality of Life Vital Signs and Indicators
- Human Wellbeing Vital Signs and Indicators for Puget Sound Recovery
- Report summarizing the development of the drinking water indicators 2019

Other Resources

- Articles related to a healthy human population in the Encyclopedia of Puget Sound

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