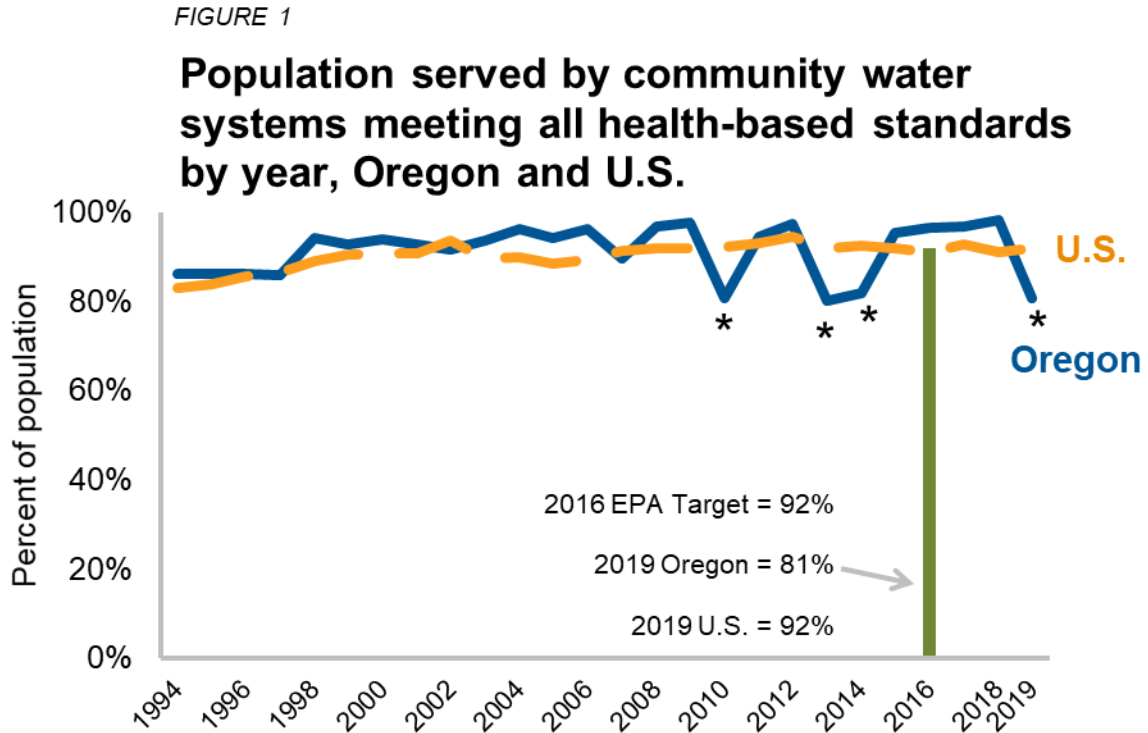


## Environmental Health

# Safe drinking water

Access to safe drinking water is essential to human health. Every human being requires at least 20 – 50 liters per day of clean, safe water for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene. Oregon Drinking Water Services works to help keep drinking water safe for Oregonians by administering and enforcing drinking water quality standards for public water systems in the state of Oregon.

Government Performance and Results Act data contains reported health-based (HB) violations of drinking water standards from 1994 to present. HB violations include contaminant levels above allowable maximums in the water served and failures to completely treat the water supply as required. Figure 1 below shows the percent of Oregon population served by community water systems (CWS) that meet all of the HB standards set forth in the Safe Drinking Water Act throughout each year.

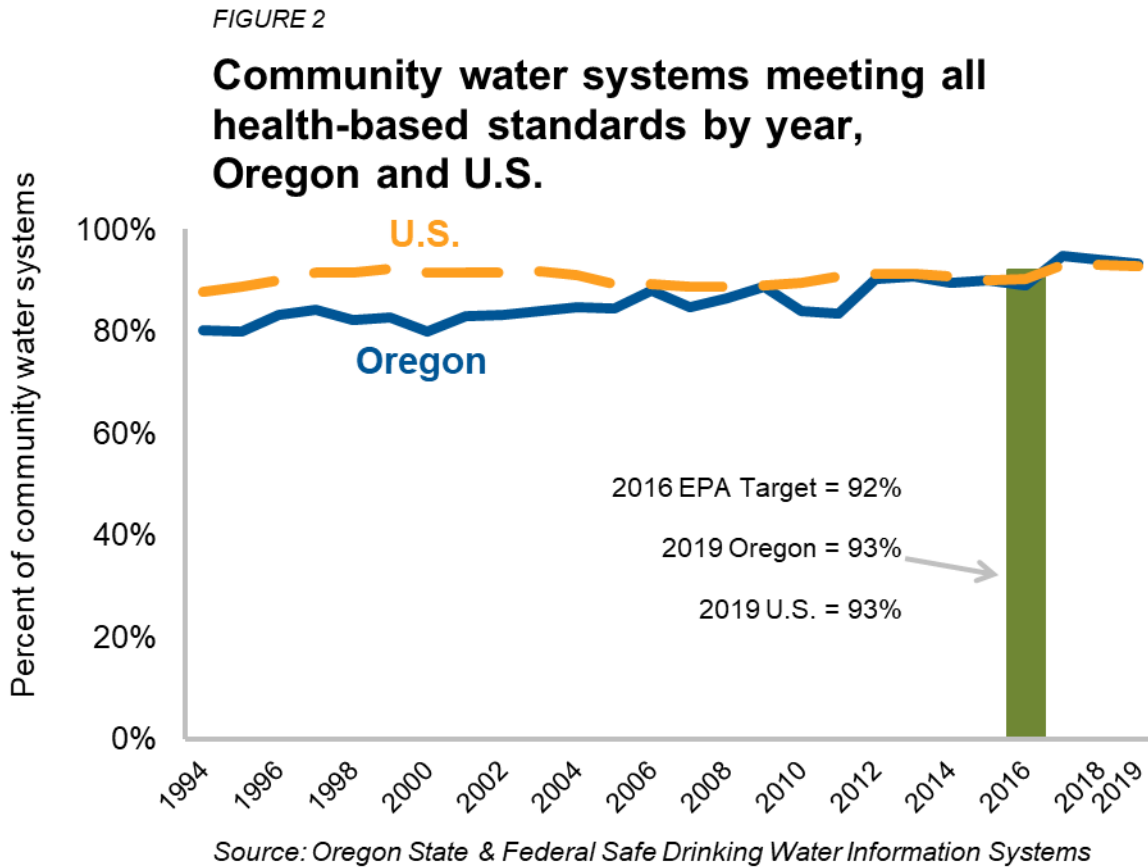


\* City of Portland coliform bacteria events in 2010, 2013, 2014. In 2019 under bilateral agreement to construct a filtration plant for crypto compliance by 2027.

Source: Oregon State & Federal Safe Drinking Water Information Systems

Figure 1 shows a 2019 decline in the Oregon population served by community water systems that meet safe drinking water standards, reflecting the compliance status of the City of Portland in the federal SDWIS database. In 2017, OHA revoked the City of Portland’s variance from treatment requirements for Cryptosporidium. The City and OHA entered a Bilateral Compliance agreement late 2017 that will result in construction of a new filtration plant by 2027 to meet Cryptosporidium treatment requirements. Although the City is under a compliance agreement and on track with their project, the federal SDWIS database reflects a violation until the filtration plant is on line. Drops in 2010, 2013 and 2014 were attributed, in part, to coliform bacteria occurrences in the City of Portland and surrounding areas.

Figure 2 shows the percent of Oregon community water systems (CWS) that meet all of the HB standards set forth in the Safe Drinking Water Act throughout each year.



This figure shows that the community water systems in Oregon have made progress to improve the safety of drinking water. Although increases in performance shown in 2017 over prior years reflect a change in rules that resulted in fewer violations cited both in Oregon and nationally. Nonetheless, Oregon’s performance has kept pace with national performance.

**Additional Resources:** [Oregon Drinking Water Program](#)

**About the Data:** Oregon violation and population data is reported from the State Safe Drinking Water Information System to the Federal Safe Drinking Water Information System to meet the requirements of the Government Performance & Results Act and others set forth by the US Environmental Protection Agency. U.S. data comes from the Federal Safe Drinking Water Information System.

**For More Information Contact:** [info.drinkingwater@state.or.us](mailto:info.drinkingwater@state.or.us)

**Date Updated:** October 7, 2019

[Oregon State Health Profile](#)

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