92.6% of Ohio's 4,175 public water systems sourced from ground water

Ohio's Public Water Systems by Category, 2026			
Category	**Ground Water**	**Surface Water**	**Total Systems**
Community Serves at least 15 water service connections used by year-round residents or regularly serves at least 25 year-round residents (e.g., cities, mobile home parks, and nursing homes)	863	267	1,130
Transient noncommunity Serves at least 25 nonresidential persons during 60 days or more per year (e.g., campgrounds, parks, highway rest stops, restaurants, and gas stations)	2,460	12	2,472
Nontransient noncommunity Serves at least 25 of the same persons during six months per year (e.g., schools, hospitals, businesses, and factories)	542	31	573
Total	**3,865**	**310**	**4,175**

Source: Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

- Of the 4,175 public water systems (PWS) in 2026, 3,865 (92.6%) are sourced from ground water (wells) and the remaining 310 (7.4%) are sourced from surface water (lakes and rivers).
- Ohio's PWS range in size from large municipalities to small churches and restaurants relying on a single well. The number of PWS in Ohio fluctuates from year to year. In 2024, there were 4,579.
- PWS are regulated by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency.
- Private water systems are regulated by the Ohio Department of Health and include households and small businesses that serve fewer than 25 people per day 60 days out of the year (e.g., households and small businesses).