

Contact: Dave Loveday
Water Quality Association
International Headquarters & Laboratory
4151 Naperville Road, Lisle, Illinois 60532-3696 USA
Email: DLoveday@wqa.org
Telephone: 630 505 0160
Faxsimilie: 630 505 9637



WATER QUALITY ASSOCIATION PRESS RELEASE

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Half of Americans want stricter water quality laws, survey finds

Poll results come as Congress begins hearings

LISLE, Illinois — Fifty percent of Americans believe federal laws governing drinking water are not strict enough, according to a scientific opinion poll conducted for the Water Quality Association.

The release of these results follows a survey in March that showed more than two-thirds of Americans expressing concern over pharmaceuticals in their water. The U.S. Senate has begun public hearings to look into the issue, holding its latest session yesterday.

“This is National Drinking Water Week, so there is no better time to respond to the concerns of the American people,” said Peter J. Censky, Executive Director of WQA.

Only 34 percent of respondents stated that they believed federal drinking water quality laws are “fair.” Additionally, 38 percent said they do not believe their municipality is doing everything it should to make sure water reaching their home is safe to drink.

Taken together, the two polls show that concern about water quality has increased. The first poll, taken in January, was completed before news reports emerged about pharmaceuticals in water. The March survey was conducted in the immediate aftermath of those reports.

— more —

ADD ONE

Survey

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Overall, just over two-thirds of Americans - 67 percent - are generally concerned about the quality of their household water supply. In the January poll, 55 expressed such concern. Similarly, in January 48 percent of Americans believed that their drinking water is "as safe as it should be." In the March poll only 39 percent believed this.

Americans seem to increasingly believe that responsibility for safe drinking water is a public/private partnership. Seventy percent said they believe that home filtration plays a role, along with their municipality, in ensuring safe drinking water.

Many communities have begun responding to concerns about pharmaceuticals in water. In March, a study by the Chicago Tribune found trace concentrations in water collected at City Hall, an elementary school on Chicago's South Side and a suburban public library.

WQA provides Gold Seal certification for products that remove a variety of contaminants. This certification is conducted using independently developed testing standards. Consumers can learn about different treatment systems and find locally certified dealers by visiting the WQA Web site's Gold Seal and Find A Professional features.

The random sample surveys were conducted by Applied Research-West, Inc.

About WQA: The Water Quality Association is a non-profit international trade association representing the residential, commercial, industrial and small community water treatment industry. Its membership consists of both manufacturers as well as dealers/distributors of equipment. WQA is a resource and information source, a voice for the industry, an educator of professionals, a laboratory for product testing, and a communicator with the public. WQA has more than 2,500 members nationwide.