

CDC - Water Quality Reports/CCRs

Water quality reports (Consumer Confidence Reports or CCRs) are released one year behind because they are designed to summarize the data from the entire previous calendar year, with a deadline of July 1st of the following year to allow for complete data compilation, lab analysis, and reporting. This structure ensures that the information covers a full annual cycle of testing, rather than just a snapshot in time.

Here are the key reasons for this delay:

- **Annual Data Compilation:** The reports are intended to summarize results for a full 12-month period (January 1–December 31).
- **Analysis and Verification Time:** After the year ends, water systems require time to analyze samples, compile data, and verify that the results meet EPA and state standards.
- **Regulatory Deadlines:** The EPA requires that these annual reports be delivered to consumers by July 1st of the *following* year.
- **Monitoring Schedules:** Some contaminants are not tested daily; some, such as lead and copper, may only be sampled once every three years, meaning the reported data reflects the most recent testing cycle.

While the report is "behind," it is used to show trends over the past year and ensure the water met regulations during that time. If a serious, immediate contamination issue occurs, water systems are required to notify the public immediately, not wait for the annual report.

