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Results of the Questionnaire about Groundwater Pollution Cases in FY 2003

The Ministry of the Environment carries out the questionnaire to the prefectures and government ordinance designated cities under the Water Pollution Control Law concerning the groundwater pollution in Japan every year to hold the actual conditions of the surveys and the cases for which preventive measures are taken.

There are 4,223 groundwater pollution cases which the local governments hold information turned out by the end of FY 2003 (March 31, 2004), and 2,844 cases of which there are wells exceeding the environmental quality standards (EQSs).

Fig.1 Number of Cases Exceeding the Environmental Quality Standards by Substances (Cumulated)

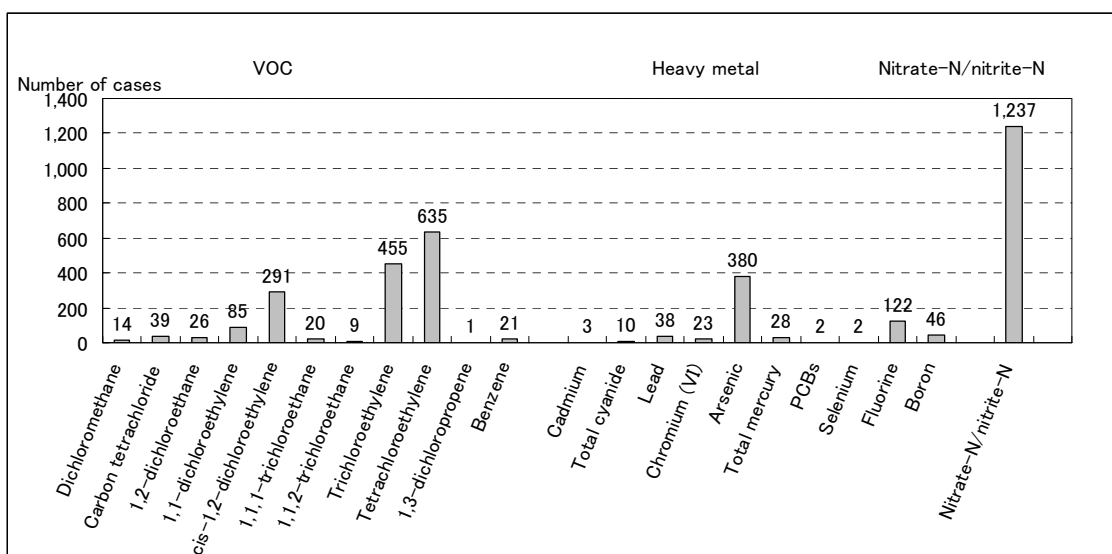


Fig. 2 shows the breakdown of the 2,844 cases by the survey year when cases exceeding the EQSs are found. There are 403 cases turned out exceeding the EQSs and 256 cases of those (64%) were pollution cases by nitrate-N/nitrite-N. As the number of groundwater monitoring is increasing, after nitrate-N/nitrite-N, fluorine and boron were added to the list of substances for which the EQSs are set in 1999, the cases exceeding the EQSs also tend to increase.

Fig.2 Change in Number of Cases Exceeding the Environmental Quality Standards by Fiscal Year When the Cases Turned Out

