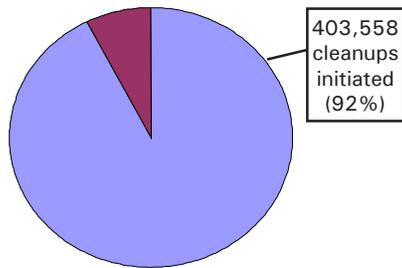


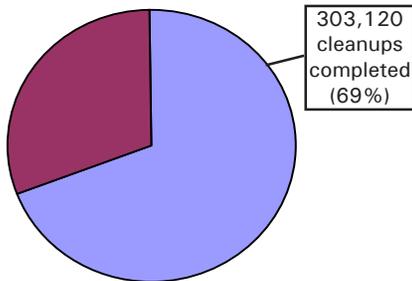
## Progress On Cleaning Up Underground Storage Tank Releases, 1988-2003

For 439,385 total confirmed UST releases  
nationwide:

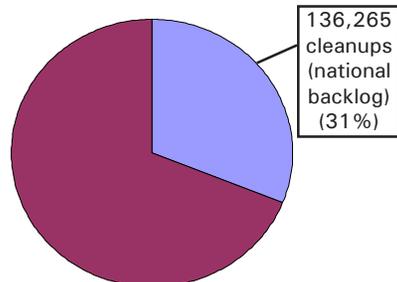
### Cleanups Initiated As Percentage of Total Confirmed Releases



### Cleanups Completed As Percentage of Total Confirmed Releases



### National UST Cleanup Backlog As Percentage of Total Confirmed Releases



**EPA**  
United States  
Environmental Protection Agency  
(540 1G)  
Washington, DC 20460  
Official Business  
Penalty for Private Use  
\$300



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Office of Underground Storage Tanks  
Washington, DC 20460

## Cleaning Up Leaks From Underground Storage Tanks



- Progress To Date
- New Initiatives



April 2004  
EPA 510-F-04-003

## The Underground Storage Tank Program: Cleanup Performance Nationwide, 1988-2003

EPA and the states continue to make considerable progress in addressing contamination from leaking underground storage tanks (USTs):

- Cleanups have been initiated at 92% of all confirmed releases in the U.S.
- Nearly 70% of all confirmed petroleum releases have been cleaned up.
- Completed cleanups reported for 2003 met EPA's annual national cleanup goal of approximately 18,000 and reversed a 3-year downward trend in the number of cleanups completed.

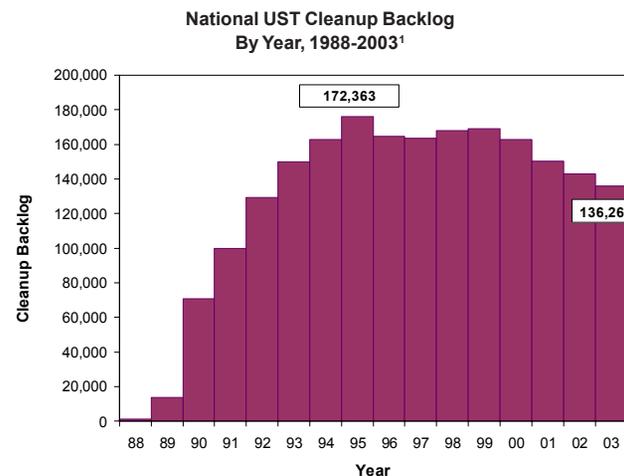
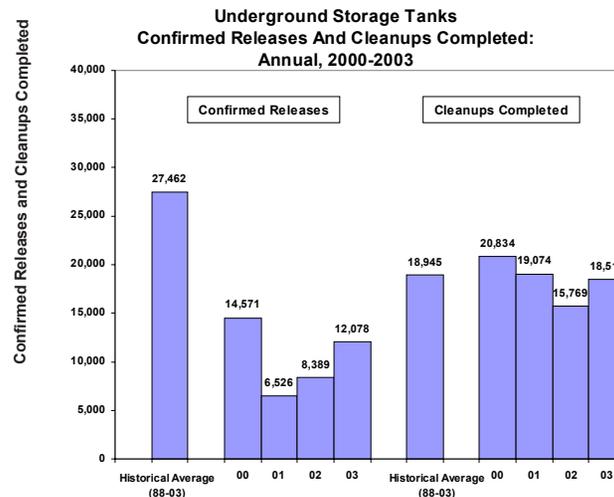
Despite this outstanding progress, much work remains:

- There is still a national backlog of over 136,000 UST cleanups to be completed, and over 50% of those involve groundwater contamination.
- While the number of new releases reported in 2003 represents a drop of about 60% from the historical annual average, the goal is for no more than 10,000 new UST releases per year.

Number of cleanups of leaking underground storage tanks completed since 1988:

303,120

## Leaking Underground Storage Tank Cleanup Statistics



<sup>1</sup>The national UST cleanup backlog is the cumulative number of confirmed releases minus the cumulative number of cleanups completed, beginning in 1988.

For further information on the  
EPA Underground Storage Tank Program:

[www.epa.gov/oust/](http://www.epa.gov/oust/)

## Recent UST Cleanup Initiatives

- **Set National Goals**--EPA and its state partners have established a national goal of completing 18,000 to 23,000 cleanups each year for fiscal years 2003-2007. This cleanup goal aims to reduce the current national backlog of petroleum releases by one-half over five years. [www.epa.gov/oust/goals093002.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/oust/goals093002.pdf)
- **Study The Backlog**--To better understand the nature of the remaining sites to be cleaned up, EPA will launch a study in early 2004 to characterize the backlog of UST sites in selected states and Indian country. *Check the EPA website for updates:* [www.epa.gov/oust](http://www.epa.gov/oust)
- **Use New Tools**--EPA recommends several tools to states and tribes to help achieve faster and more efficient cleanups:
  - ✓ Pay for performance contracting [www.epa.gov/oust/pfp/](http://www.epa.gov/oust/pfp/)
  - ✓ Risk-based decision making for corrective action programs [www.epa.gov/oust/rbdl/](http://www.epa.gov/oust/rbdl/)
  - ✓ Multi-site cleanup approaches [www.epa.gov/oust/msa\\_memo\\_032904.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/oust/msa_memo_032904.pdf)
- **Reuse Cleaned Up Sites**--To encourage the cleanup and reuse of abandoned gas stations, EPA will: continue to implement the new Brownfields law; promote new tools like "ready for reuse" determinations; and encourage states, tribes, and other partners to look for opportunities to clean up and return abandoned gas stations to productive residential, commercial, recreational, or public use. [www.epa.gov/oust/20recycl.htm](http://www.epa.gov/oust/20recycl.htm) over