

Access to Sanitation by Country, 1970-2008

Description

Adequate sanitation is also a fundamental requirement for basic human well-being, and improving access is one of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Data are given here for the percent of urban, rural, and total populations, by country, with access to sanitation services for 1970, 1975, 1980, 1985, 1990, 1994, 2000, 2002, 2004, 2005, and 2008, the most recent year for which data are available. The World Health Organization (WHO) collected these data over various periods. Most of the data presented were drawn from responses by national governments to WHO questionnaires. Participants in data collection include the JMP, the United Nations Children's Fund, and the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council, which has continued sector monitoring and aims to support and strengthen the monitoring efforts of individual countries. Countries used their own definitions of "rural" and "urban."

For all WHO Assessments since 2000, new definitions were provided for "improved" sanitation with allowance for acceptable local technologies. The 40 largest countries in the developing world account for 90 percent of population. As a result, WHO spent extra effort to collect comprehensive data for these countries. The excreta disposal system was considered adequate if it was private or shared (but not public) and if it hygienically separated human excreta from human contact. The following technologies were included in the 2000 assessment as representing improved sanitation:

- Connection to a public sewer
- Connection to septic system
- Pour-flush latrine
- Simple pit latrine
- Ventilated improved pit latrine

In comparison, unimproved sanitation facilities refer to:

- Public or shared latrine
- Open pit latrine
- Bucket latrine

Limitations

As is the case with drinking water data, definitions for access to sanitation vary from country to country, and from year to year within the same country. Countries generally regard sanitation facilities that break the fecal-oral transmission route as adequate. In urban areas, adequate sanitation may be provided by connections to public sewers or by household systems such as pit privies, flush latrines, septic tanks, and communal toilets. In rural areas, pit privies, pour-flush latrines, septic tanks, and communal toilets are considered adequate. Direct comparisons between countries and across time within the same country are difficult and are additionally complicated by the fact that these data hide disparities among regions and socioeconomic classes.

WHO Assessments since 2000 have attempted to shift from gathering information from water providers only to including consumer-based information. The current approach uses household surveys in an effort to assess the actual use of facilities. Access to sanitation services, as reported by WHO, does not imply that the level of service is “adequate” or “safe.” The assessment questionnaire did not include any methodology for discounting coverage figures to allow for intermittence or poor quality of the service provided. More details of the methods used, and their limitations, can be found at http://www.who.int/docstore/water_sanitation_health/Globassessment/GlobalTOC.htm.

SOURCES

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DATA TABLE 4 continued

Region and Country	Fraction of Population with Access to Improved Sanitation																																	
	URBAN								RURAL								TOTAL																	
	1970	1975	1980	1985	1990	1994	1999	2000	2002	2004	2005	2008	1970	1975	1980	1985	1990	1994	1999	2000	2002	2004	2005	2008	2000	2002	2004	2005	2008					
Montserrat								96	96	96	96	96	96	96	96	96	96	96	96	96	96	96	96	96	96	100	100	100	100					
Netherlands Antilles																																		
Nicaragua	34	35				34	96	78	56	62	63	8	24	16	27	68	51	34	35	37				31	84	66	47	50	52					
Panama	87	78	83	99			87	89	89	75	75	69	76	59	61	94	51	51	51	51	78	77	71	81	86	99	72	73	68	69				
Puerto Rico																																		
Saint Kitts								96	96	96	96	96													96	95	96	96	96					
Saint Lucia								89	89									89	89						89	89								
Saint Vincent																																		
Trinidad/Tobago						100		100	100	92	92	92				92	100	100	92	92					97	88	100	100	92	92				
Turks/Caicos Islands	51	83	96	100				98	94	98	98	98	96	97	88	95	94	98			81	92	93	98	96	96	96	96	96					
United States of America								100	100	100	100	100				100	100	100	99	99					100	100	100	100	100	100				
United States Virgin Islands																																		
SOUTH AMERICA																																		
Argentina	87	100	80	75			89	92	91	91	91	79	83	35	35	48	83	77	77	85	97		69	85	91	90	90	90						
Bolivia	25	37	33	38	58	82	58	60	33	34	4	9	4	10	14	16	38	23	22	9	9	12	18	21	26	41	66	45	46	24	25			
Brazil	85		86	84	55	85	83	83	86	87	24		1	1	32	3	40	35	37	37	58		63	71	44	77	75	75	78	80				
Chile	33	36	100	100		82	98	96	95	98	98	10	11	10	4	93	64	62	83	83	29	32	83	84	97	92	91	96	96					
Colombia	75	73	93	96	84	76	97	96	96	81	81	8	13	4	13	18	33	51	54	53	55	47	48	61	64	63	85	86	86	74	74			
Ecuador							73	98	56	87	70	80	94	95	96	7	17	29	38	34	37	59	82	81	84	43	65	48	64	59	72	89	90	92
French Guiana								85	57								57	85							79	78								
Guyana	95	99	73	100	97		97	86	86	85	85	92	94	80	79	81	81	60	60	78	80	93	96	78	86	86	87	70	70	80	81			
Paraguay	16	28	95	89	31		95	94	94	88	90			80	83	60	95	58	61	39	40	6	10	86	85	46	95	78	80	69	70			
Peru	52		57	67	76	62	90	72	74	79	81	16		0	12	20	40	33	32	33	36	36		36	49	59	44	76	62	63	66	68		
Suriname			100	78			100	99	99	90	90			79	48		34	76	76	66	66		88	62	83	93	94	84	84					

Uruguay	97	97	59	59	96	95	100	99	100	13	17	6	59	89	85	99	96	99	82	83	51	59	95	94	100	99	100										
Venezuela			60	57	64	86	71	71	94	45		12	5	72	30	69	48	48	57		52	50	58	74	68	68	91										
ASIA																																					
Afghanistan	69	63	5	13	38	25	16	49	56	60	16	15		1	8	5	29	29	30	21	21		8	12	8	34	35	37									
Armenia						96	96	95	95					61	61	79	80								84	83	89	90									
Azerbaijan						73	73	55	51					36	36	34	39									55	54	45	45								
Bahrain			100	100		100	100	100	100	100	0										100																
Bangladesh	87	40	21	24	40	77	82	75	51	57	56	1	3	4	30	44	39	35	48	52	6	5	3	5	10	35	53	48	39	50	53						
Bhutan			80	66	65	65	65	87	87			3	18	70	70	70	54	54					7	41	69	70	70	64	65								
Brunei Darus																																					
Cambodia	100					58	53	53	60	67		76		10	8	8	15	18							18	16	17	24	29								
China			100	58	58	68	69	69	58	58			81	7	24	29	28	50	52				86	21	38	44	44	53	55								
Cyprus	100	94	100	96	100	100	100	100	100	92	95		100	100	100	100	100	100	95	95		100	98		100	100	100	100	100								
East Timor						65	66	68	86					30	33	35	40									33	36	44	50								
Gaza Strip						78	91	91						61	84	84											73	89	89								
Georgia						96	96	96	96					69	91	94	93										83	94	95	95							
Hong Kong			90																																		
India	85	87	31	44	70	73	58	59	54	54	1	2	1	2	3	14	14	22	18	21	18	20	7	9	14	29	31	30	33	28	31						
Indonesia	50	60	29	33	79	73	87	71	73	66	67	4	5	21	38	30	40	52	38	40	33	36	12	15	23	37	44	51	66	52	55	49	52				
Iran	100	100	96	100	89	86	86			48	59	43	35	37	74	78					70	78	69	72	67	81	84										
Iraq	82	75	100	96		93	95	95	76	76	1	11		31	48	48	61	66	47	47		74		36	79	80	79	71	73								
Israel						100	100	100	100																		100	100									
Japan						100	100	100	100																		100	100									
Jordan			94	92	100	100	94	94	98	98	34	100		98	85	87	96	97			70				100	95	99	93	93	98	98						
Kazakhstan						100	87	87	97	97				98	52	52	98	98								99	72	72	97	97							
Korea Democratic						99	58	58						100	60	60										99	59	59	59								
People's Republic																																					
Korea Republic	59	80	100	100	67	76				100	100																										
Kuwait			100	100																																	
Kyrgyzstan						100	75	75	94	94				100	51	51	93	93									100	60	59	93	93						
Laos	10	13	30	70	84	61	67	77	86	2	4		8	13	34	14	20	30	38		3	5				12	24	46	24	30	43	53					
Lebanon						100	100	100	100	100	100			100	92	87	87	87									100	99	98	98	98						

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