# Population using safely managed drinking-water services

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| **Abbreviated name** | Population using safely managed drinking-water services |
| **Indicator name** | Percentage of population using safely managed drinking-water services |
| **Domain** | Risk factors |
| **Subdomain** | Environment |
| **Associated terms** | Environmental risk factors |
| **Definition** | Population using a basic drinking-water source (piped water into dwelling, yard or plot; public taps or standpipes; boreholes or tubewells; protected dug wells; protected springs and rainwater) which is located on premises and available when needed; free of faecal (and priority chemical) contamination and/or regulated by a competent authority. |
| **Numerator** | Population using safely managed drinking-water services |
| **Denominator** | Total population |
| **Disaggregation/ additional dimension** | Place of residence (urban/rural), socioeconomic status (wealth, affordability etc.) |
| **Method of measurement** | The indicator is computed as the ratio of the number of people who use a safely managed drinking-water service, urban and rural, expressed as a percentage. Data from household surveys or censuses provide information on the types of basic drinking-water sources listed above. Such data will be combined with water quality data from direct testing of water quality at the household level as well as data from administrative records or regulatory frameworks for various aspects of safe management. The percentage of the total population using a safely managed drinking-water service is the population-weighted average of the previous two numbers. Access to water and sanitation are considered core socioeconomic and health indicators and key determinants of, inter alia, child survival, maternal and children's health, family well-being and economic productivity. Additionally, the use of drinking-water sources and sanitation facilities is part of the wealth index used by household surveys to divide the population into wealth quintiles. As a result, most nationally representative household surveys include information about basic water and sanitation. The survey questions and response categories pertaining to access to basic drinking-water sources are fully harmonized between DHS and MICS and are adopted from the standard questionnaire promoted for inclusion in survey instruments by the WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme on Water Supply and Sanitation. This can be accessed via www.wssinfo.org. Administrative data on faecal and chemical contamination, and regulation by appropriate authorities, will be collected by JMP through consultation with the government departments responsible for drinking-water supply and regulation. |
| **Method of estimation** | The Joint Monitoring Programme on Water Supply and Sanitation assembles, reviews and assesses data collected by national statistics offices and other relevant institutions through nationally representative household surveys and national censuses.<br>For each country, data on use of basic drinking-water sources from surveys and censuses are plotted on a timescale from 1980 to the present. A linear trend line, based on the least-squares method, is drawn through these data points to provide estimates of use of basic drinking-water sources for all years between 1990 and the present year (wherever possible). This is based on the MDG baseline year of 1990, and therefore will be modified based on the agreed baseline for the SDGs. Estimates of faecal and chemical contamination, and regulation by appropriate authorities, will be collected from countries and used to adjust the data on use of basic drinking-water sources as needed.<br>Population data used, including the proportion of the population living in urban and rural areas, are those established by the United Nations Population Division.<br>Predominant type of statistics: adjusted and predicted. |
| **Measurement frequency** | Biennial |
| **Monitoring and evaluation framework** | Outcome |
| **Preferred data sources** | Household surveys, population census, data from administrative sources or regulatory frameworks. |
| **Other possible data sources** | |
| **Further information and related links** | A post-2015 Global Goal for Water: synthesis of key findings and recommendations from UN-Water. New York (NY): United Nations; 2014 (http://www.unwater.org/fileadmin/user_upload/unwater_new/docs/Topics/UN-Water_paper_on_a_Post-2015_Global_Goal_for_Water.pdf, accessed 29 March 2015).<br>A statistical note: proposal for indicator monitoring framework for WaSH, and wastewater targets under the SDGs. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2015 (http://unstats.un.org/unsd/post-2015/activities/egm-on-indicator-framework/docs/Statistical%20note%20on%20Water%20for%20UNSC%20final%20 25Feb2015.pdf, accessed 23 April 2015).<br>Framework of actions for the follow-up to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014. Report of the Secretary-General. New York (NY): United Nations; 2014 (https://www.unfpa.org/webdav/site/global/shared/documents/ICPD/Framework%20of%20action%20 for%20the%20follow-up%20to%20the%20PoA%20of%20the%20ICPD.pdf, accessed 19 August 2014).<br>Guidelines for drinking-water quality, fourth edition. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2011 (http://www.who.int/water_sanitation_health/publications/2011/dwq_guidelines/en/, accessed 29 March 2015).<br>WASH targets and indicators post-2015: recommendations from international consultations. Geneva: Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council; 2014 (http://www.wssinfo.org/fileadmin/user_upload/resources/post-2015-WASH-targets-factsheet-12pp.pdf, accessed 29 March 2015).<br>WHO/UNICEF. Progress on drinking-water and sanitation – 2014 update. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2014 (http://www.wssinfo.org/fileadmin/user_ upload/resources/JMP_report_2014_webEng.pdf, accessed 29 March 2015). |