# Population using safely managed sanitation services

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| **Abbreviated name** | Population using safely managed sanitation services |
| **Indicator name** | Percentage of population using safely managed sanitation services |
| **Domain** | Risk factors |
| **Subdomain** | Environment |
| **Associated terms** | Environmental risk factors |
| **Definition** | Population using a basic sanitation facility (flush or pour-flush toilets to sewer systems, septic tanks or pit latrines, ventilated improved pit latrines, pit latrines with a slab, and composting toilets) which is not shared with other households and where excreta are safely disposed in situ (e.g. in a sealed latrine pit until they are safe to handle and re-use, such as an agricultural input ) or transported to a designated place for safe disposal or treatment (e.g. treatment facility or hygienically collected from septic tanks or pit latrines by a suction truck or similar equipment that limits human contact and thereafter transported to a designated location such as a treatment facility or solid waste collection site). |
| **Numerator** | Population using safely managed sanitation services |
| **Denominator** | Total population |
| **Disaggregation/ additional dimension** | Place of residence (urban/rural), socioeconomic status (wealth, affordability etc.) |
| **Method of measurement** | The percentage of the population using basic sanitation facilities is computed as the ratio of the number of people who use a basic sanitation facility, urban and rural, expressed as a percentage. Data from household surveys or censuses provide information on types of basic sanitation facilities listed above. Such data will be combined with data from administrative records or regulatory frameworks for various aspects of safe management. The percentage of the total population using an improved sanitation facility 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 sanitation facilities 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.vwssinfo.org. The percentage of the population using different types of basic sanitation facilities will be adjusted with estimates of the proportion of faecal waste which is safely disposed in situ or transported to a designated place for safe disposal or treatment. |
| **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, survey and census data 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 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 excreta management, and regulation by appropriate authorities, will be collected from countries and used to adjust the data on use of basic sanitation facilities as needed. Administrative, population (including population density) and environmental data can be combined to estimate safe disposal or transport of excreta, when no country data are available. Excreta management will initially be estimated globally and regionally, and progressively at country level.<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: estimated 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%2025Feb2015.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%20for%20the%20follow-up%20to%20the%20PoA%20of%20the%20ICPD.pdf, accessed 19 August 2014).<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). |