

# Access to Sanitation by Country, 1970 to 2004

## 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, and 2004—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 forty 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 between regions and socioeconomic classes.

WHO Assessments since 2000 have attempted to shift from gathering information from water providers only to include consumer-based information. The current approach uses household surveys 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](http://www.who.int/docstore/water_sanitation_health/Globassessment/GlobalTOC.htm).

## SOURCES

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- World Resources Institute (WRI). 1988. World Health Organization data, cited by the World Resources Institute, *World Resources 1988–89*, World Resources Institute and the International Institute for Environment and Development in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme, New York: Basic Books.

**DATA TABLE 4** Access to Sanitation by Country, 1970 to 2004

Region and Country	Fraction of Population with Access to Improved Sanitation																									
	URBAN								RURAL								TOTAL									
	1970	1975	1980	1985	1990	1994	2000	2002	2004	1970	1975	1980	1985	1990	1994	2000	2002	2004	1970	1975	1980	1985	1990	1994	2000	2002
AFRICA	47	75	57	75	90	99	99	99	6	50	40	47	82	82	9	67	57	73	92	92						
Algeria	13	100	80	80	25	34	70	56	15	16	20	8	30	16	16	20	19	21	16	44	30	31				
Angola	83	48	58	60	54	46	58	59	4	20	35	6	6	12	11	16	33	45	20	23	32	33				
Benin		93	100				57	57	28	85		25	25			40	89	41	42							
Botswana	49	47	38	44	42	88	45	42	5	6	11	16	5	6	4	4	7	9	18	29	12	13				
Burkina Faso	96	40	84	64	60	79	47	47	35	56	16	50	35	35	35	58	18	51	36	36						
Burundi		100					99	63	85	33	43			43				92	48	51						
Cameroon		34	32		40	95	61	61	10	9	10	32	19	19	11	10		24	71	42	43					
Cape Verde	64	100		45	43	47	47	96	100	46	23	12	12	72	100	46	46	31	27	27						
Central African Republic	7	9		73	81	30	24	1	1	7	13	0	4	1	1	21	29	8	9							
Chad		8	10		98	38	41				98	15	29			98	23	33								
Comoros	8	10		14	14	28		6	9		2	25		6	9		9	27								
Congo	5	65		46	23	53	43	42	5	6	9	11	4	6	23	25	5	22	21	9	20	29	30			
Congo, Democratic Republic	23			81	59	61	46			100	51	23	29	5		92	54	40	37							
Cote D'Ivoire		43	78		77	99	55	88	20	17	100	50	27	50	39	64	90	91	50	82						
Djibouti		80	20	98	84	86		80	10	26	5	91	56	58			50	11	94	68	70					
Egypt		54	61	60	60	60		54	61	24	48	46	46	46			33	54	53	53	53					
Equatorial Guinea				66	34	32				1	3	3			13	9	9									
Eritrea				58	19	44		8	8	96	6	4	7	14	14	15	6	13								
Ethiopia	67	56		25	37	37					4	30	30			21	36	36								
Gabon		100	83	41	72	72				27	23	35	46	46			44	37	37	53	53					
Gambia	92	95	47	51	63	53	62	74	27	40	40	17	16	60	36	64	46	11								
Ghana	70	54		94	25	31		2	40	1	1	6	11	55	56	26	30	61	42	63	58	18				
Guinea		21	29		32	88	57	57	13	18	17	34	23	23	13	11	70	58	13	18						
Guinea-Bissau	85	98	89		69	96	56	46	45	48	19	81	43	41	15	21	20	47	34	35						
Kenya	44	51	13	22	1	93	61	61	10	12	14	14	14	14	50	55	30	77	86	48	43					
Lesotho	100		6	38	49	49		9	9	2	2	7	7	32	32	11	13	14	15	6	92	37	37			
Liberia	100	100	100		97	97	97	97	54	69	72	30	96	96	19	79	18	26	27							
Libya															67	88	97	97	97							

*continues*









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Region and Country	Fraction of Population with Access to Improved Sanitation																																	
	URBAN							RURAL							TOTAL																			
	1970	1975	1980	1985	1990	1994	2000	2002	2004	1970	1975	1980	1985	1990	1994	2000	2002	2004	1970	1975	1980	1985	1990	1994	2000	2002	2004							
<i>ASIA (continued)</i>																																		
Turkmenistan					77		77		77							50	50									62	62							
United Arab Emirates	93				100		100		98			22				100	95									80	100	98						
Uzbekistan					100	73	78								100	48	61									100	57	67						
Vietnam	100			23	43	87	84	92		2	55	10	15	70	26	50							13	21	73	41	61							
Yemen A R			60	83		99	76	86						31	14	28										45	30	43						
Yemen Dem			70			99				15				31											35		45							
<i>OCEANIA</i>																																		
American Samoa																																		
Australia					100	100	100								100	100	100										100	100	100					
Cook Islands	100	100	100	100	100	100	100					76	99	100	100	100											99	100	100					
Fiji	100	100	85		91	100	75	99	87	87	93	60	65	85	12	98	55									91	96	70	75	92	43	98	72	
French Polynesia					98		99	99	97				95		97	97	99											98	98	98	98	98	98	
Guam					99		99	98							98	99												99	99	99	99	99	99	
Kiribati					91	100	54	59	59				49	100	44	22	22										100	48	39	40	40	40	40	
Marshall Islands					100		93	93					45		59	58												82	82	82	82	82	82	
Micronesia					99	100	61	61					46	100	14	14											100		28	28	28	28	28	
Nauru																																		
New Caledonia																																		
New Zealand																																		
Niue					0	100	100	100	100				100	100	100	100	100																	
Northern Mariana Islands					100		94	96							71	92	96	94																
Palau					95	100	96	96							100	100	52	52																
Papua New Guinea	100	100	96	99	57	82	92	67	67	5	5	3	35	11	80	41	41									14	18	15	44	22	82	45	44	
Pitcairn																																		
Samoa	100	100	86		100		95	100	100	80	99	83	92	17	100	100	100									84	99							

Solomon Islands	80	73	98	98	98	21	2	18	18	18	18	13	34	31	31	WHO/UNICEF 2006
Tokelau		100	100		100	41		100	74	78		100		31	78	WHO/UNICEF 2004
Tonga	100	88	100	98	98	94	40	78	96	96	100	82	100	97	96	WHO 2000
Tuvalu	100	81	90	100	92	80	73	85	83	84	87	100	88	90	90	WHO 1996
Vanuatu	95	86	100	78	78	68	25	100	42	42	40		100	50	50	WHO 1996
Wallis and Futuna Islands					80										80	
Western Samoa	86	88				83	83				84					
EUROPE																
Albania			99	99					81	84				89	91	WHO/UNICEF 2006
Belarus				93						61					84	WHO/UNICEF 2004
Bosnia and Herzegovina				99						92					95	WHO 2000
Bulgaria			100		100					96					99	WHO 1996
Czech Republic			99		99					97					98	WHO 1996
Estonia				97						96					97	WHO 2000
Hungary			100	100						85					95	WHO 1996
Latvia					82					71					78	WHO 1996
Republic of Moldova			86	86					52	52				68	68	WHO/UNICEF 2006
Romania			86	89					10	10				51	51	WHO/UNICEF 2004
Russian Federation			93	93					70	70				87	87	WHO 2000
Serbia and Montenegro			97	97					77	77				87	87	WHO 1996
Slovakia			100		100					98				99	99	WHO/UNICEF 2006
Ukraine			100	98						93				99	96	WHO/UNICEF 2004
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