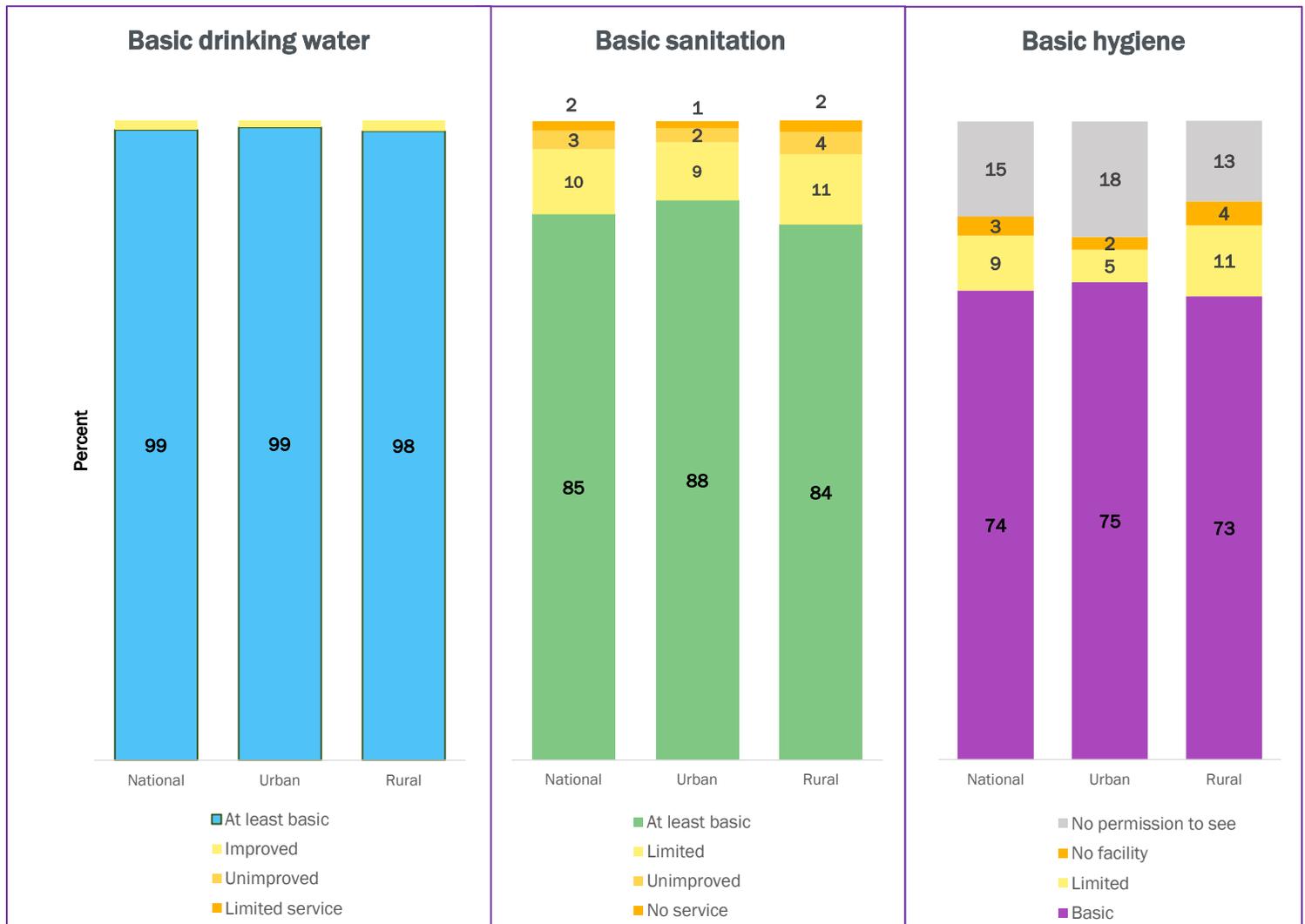




Basic Drinking Water, Sanitation & Hygiene Services



Percent of population by drinking water, sanitation and hygiene coverage

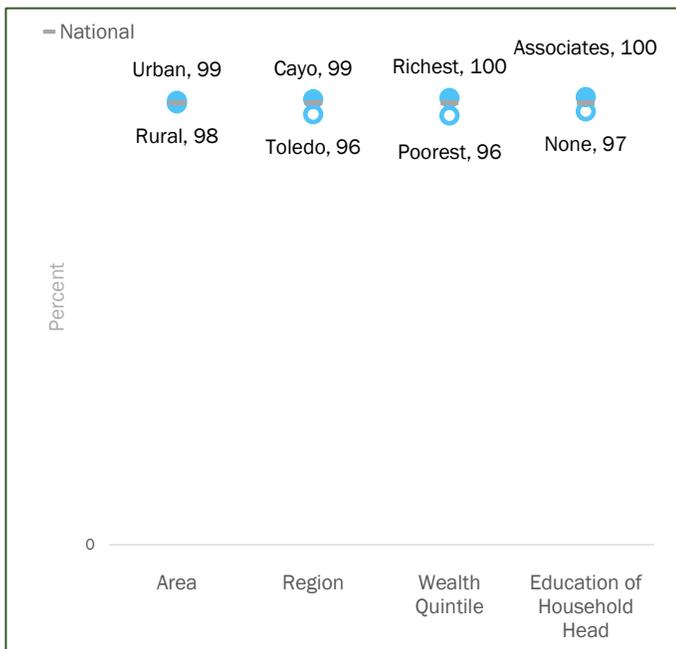
Drinking water ladder: **At least basic** drinking water services (SDG 1.4.1) refer to an improved source, provided collection time is not more than 30 minutes for a roundtrip including queuing. Improved drinking water sources are those that have the potential to deliver safe water by nature of their design and construction, and include: piped water, boreholes or tubewells, protected dug wells, protected springs, rainwater, and packaged or delivered water. **Limited** refers to an improved source more than 30 minutes roundtrip. **Unimproved** sources include unprotected dug wells and unprotected springs. **No service** refers to the direct collection of water from surface waters such as rivers, lakes or irrigation channels.

Sanitation ladder: **At least basic** sanitation services (SDG 1.4.1) refer to the use of improved facilities which are not shared with other households. Improved sanitation facilities are those designed to hygienically separate excreta from human contact, and include: flush/pour flush to piped sewer system, septic tanks or pit latrines; ventilated improved pit latrines, composting toilets or pit latrines with slabs. **Limited** sanitation service refers to an improved facility shared with other households. **Unimproved** sanitation facilities include flush/pour flush to an open drain, pit latrines without a slab, hanging latrines and bucket latrines. **No service** refers to the practice of open defecation.

Hygiene ladder: A **basic** hygiene service (SDG 1.4.1 & SDG 6.2.1) refers to the availability of a handwashing facility on premises with soap and water. Handwashing facilities may be fixed or mobile and include a sink with tap water, buckets with taps, tippy-taps, and jugs or basins designated for handwashing. Soap includes bar soap, liquid soap, powder detergent, and soapy water but does not include ash, soil, sand or other handwashing agents. **Limited** hygiene service refers to a facility lacking water and/or soap. **No facility** means there is no handwashing facility on the household's premises.

WASH: Inequalities in Basic Services

Basic Drinking Water



Percent of population using basic drinking water services by background characteristics

Regional Data on Basic Services

Region	Basic Drinking Water	Basic Sanitation	Basic Hygiene
National	98.6	85.4	73.5
Corozal	99.1	91.1	57.9
Orange Walk	98.6	91.2	88.2
Belize North	99.0	91.2	76.9
Belize South	98.6	87.6	64.1
Cayo	99.3	76.1	78.9
Stann Creek	98.2	85.9	63.8
Toledo	96.0	80.9	72.7

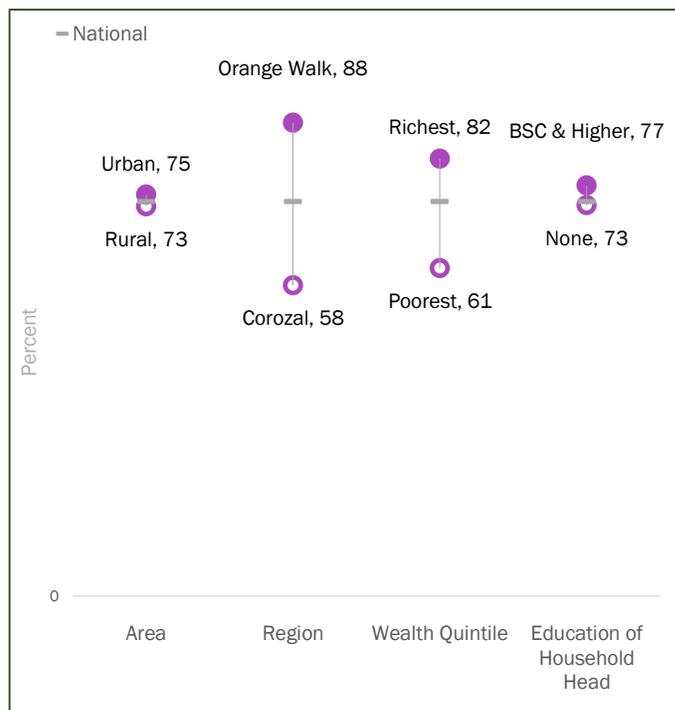
Percent of population using basic drinking water, sanitation and hygiene services by region

Basic Sanitation



Percent of population using basic sanitation services by background characteristics

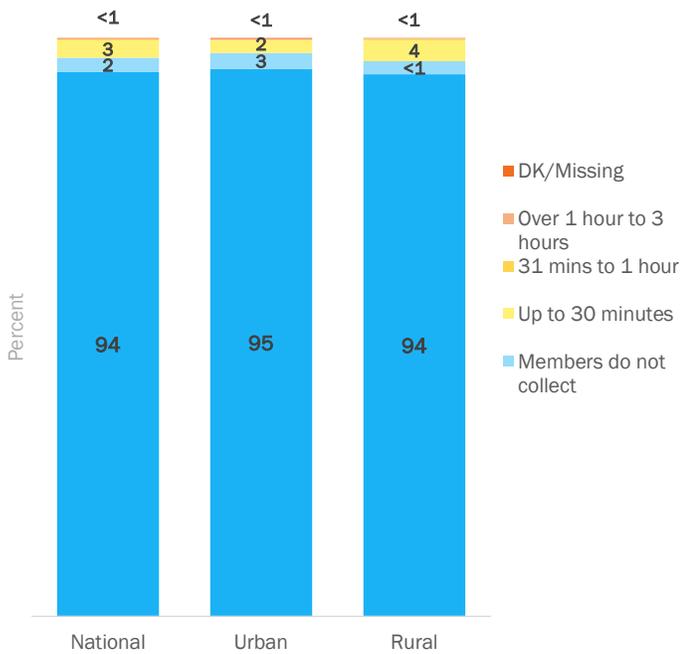
Basic Hygiene



Percent of population using basic hygiene services by background characteristics

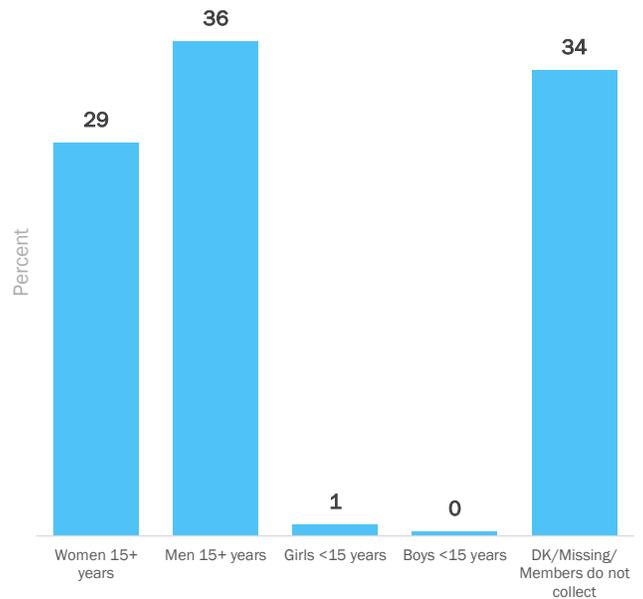
Accessibility of Drinking Water & Sanitation Facilities

Accessibility of drinking water



Percent of population by average time spent per day by household members collecting drinking water

Who Primarily Collects Drinking Water for the Household



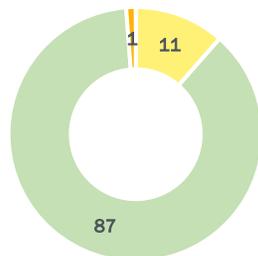
Percent of population in households without drinking water on premises, by gender and age of person primarily responsible for collecting drinking water. The population without drinking water on premises is very small in some surveys. Note the number/percent or delete chart if very small.

Shared sanitation



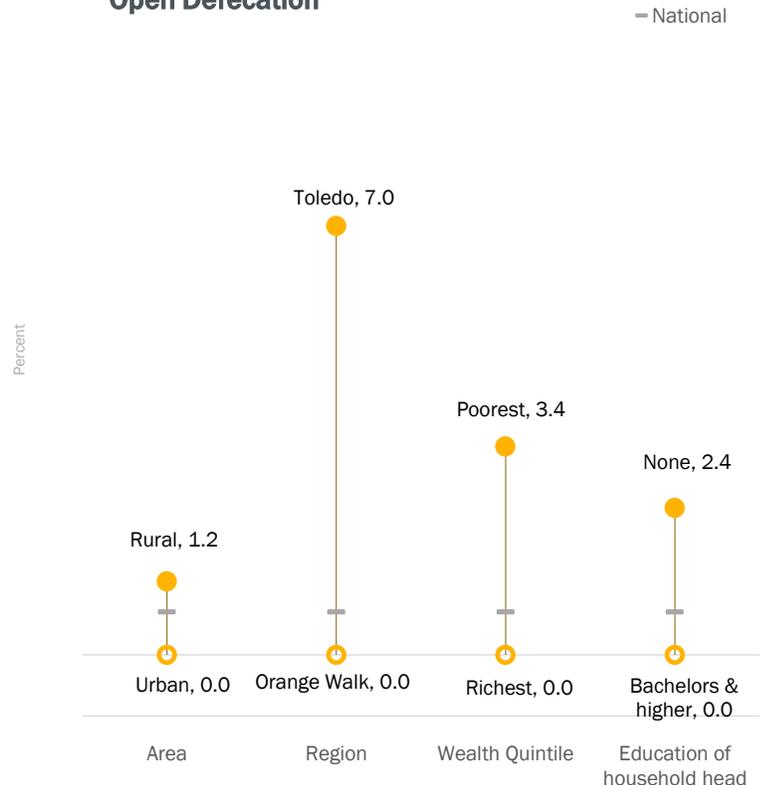
Shared sanitation in urban areas

Shared sanitation in rural areas



Percent of the population sharing sanitation facilities, by residence

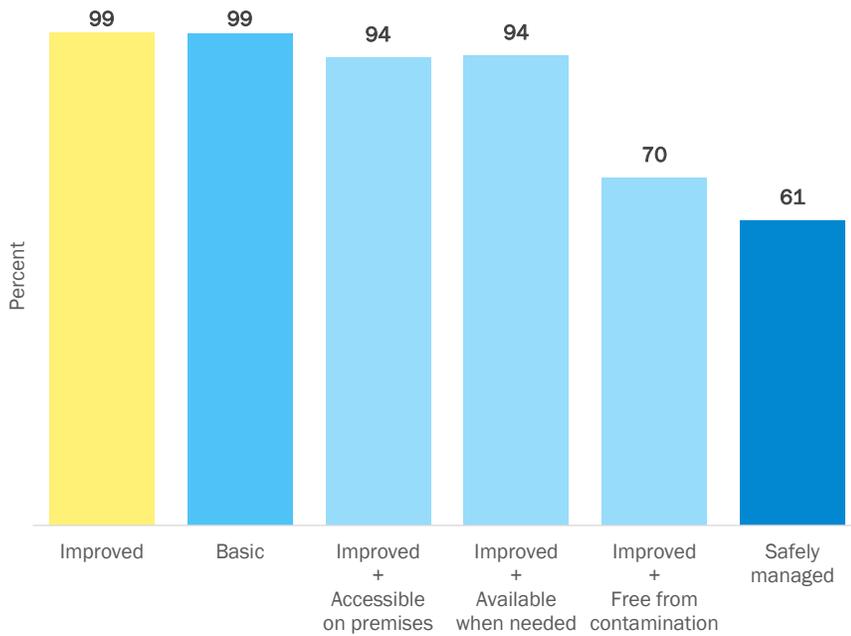
Open Defecation



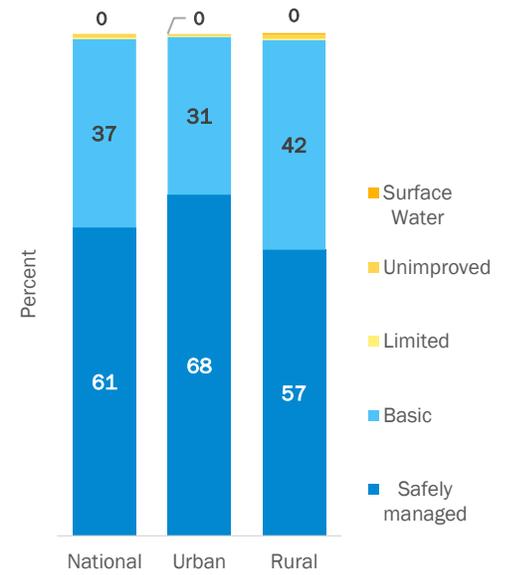
Percent of the population practising open defecation, by background characteristics

Safely Managed Drinking Water Services: SDG 6.1.1

Improved, basic & safely managed drinking water



Drinking water coverage: National, urban & rural



Percent of population using improved, basic and safely managed drinking water services

Percent of population by drinking water coverage

Safely managed (SDG 6.1) are improved sources: accessible on premises, available when needed, free from contamination

Drinking Water Quality at Source & Home



Percent of population using drinking water quality at Source and Household

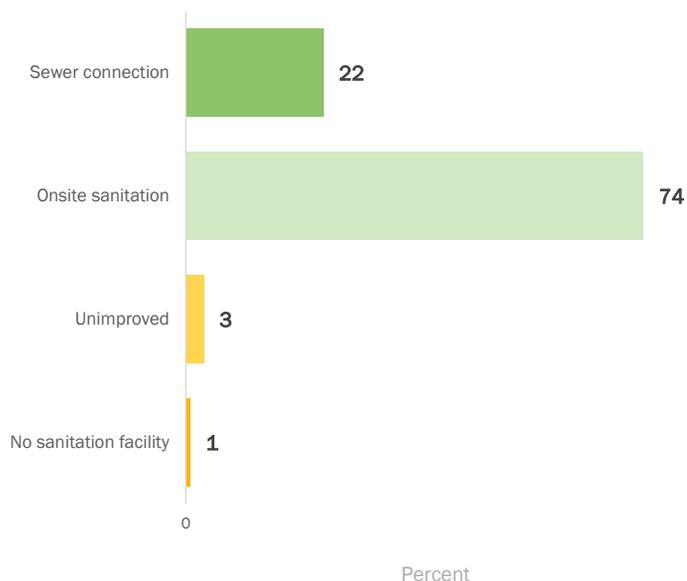
Availability of Drinking Water



Percent of population using drinking water sources with sufficient drinking water in the last month

Safely Managed Sanitation Services: SDG 6.2.1

Types of Sanitation Facility



Percent of population by type of sanitation facility, grouped by type of disposal

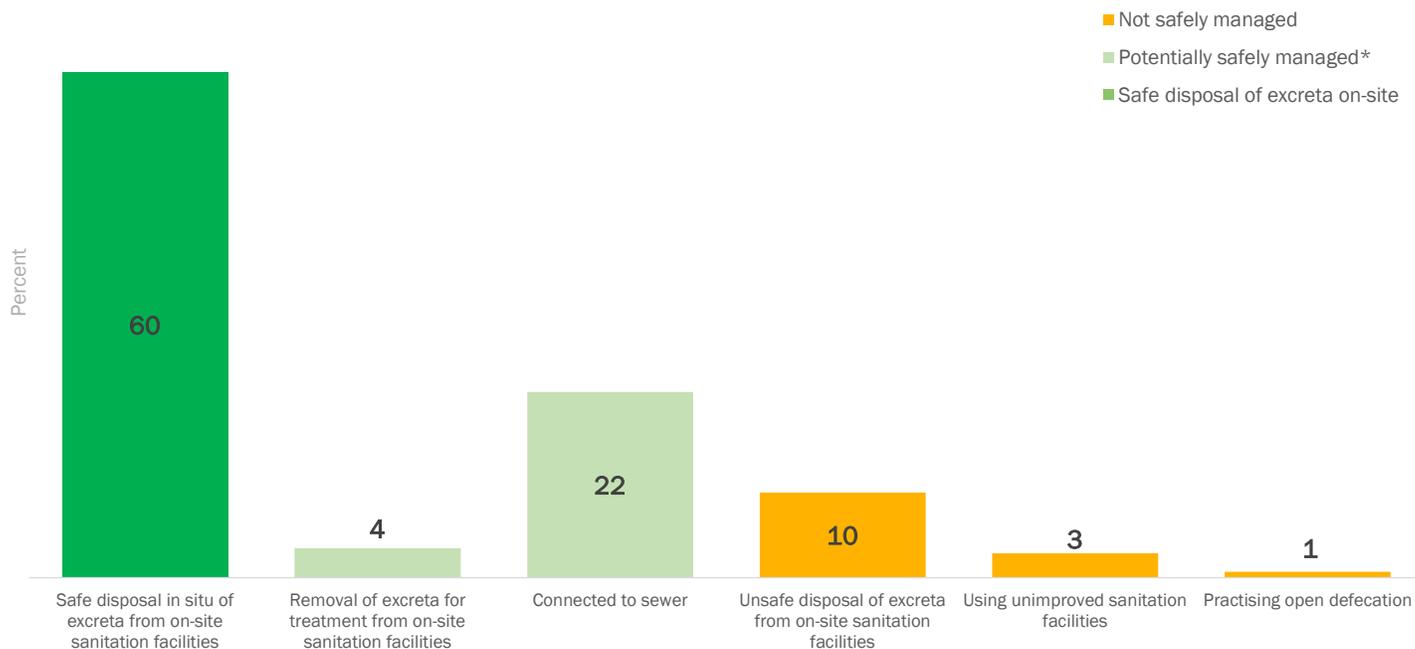
Sewer connections include "Flush/pour flush to piped sewer system" and "Flush to DK where"
Onsite sanitation facilities include "Flush/pour flush to septic", "Flush/pour flush to latrine", "Ventilated improved pit latrine", "Pit latrine with slab" and "Composting toilet"

Types of Sanitation Facility by Region

Region	Sewer connection	Onsite sanitation
National	22.1	73.5
Corozal	0.6	75.0
Orange Walk	21.4	80.0
Belize North	25.1	72.8
Belize South	35.6	60.2
Cayo	23.9	68.0
Stann Creek	28.0	69.9
Toledo	14.8	75.8

Percent of population using sewer connections and onsite sanitation, by region

Management of excreta from household sanitation facilities



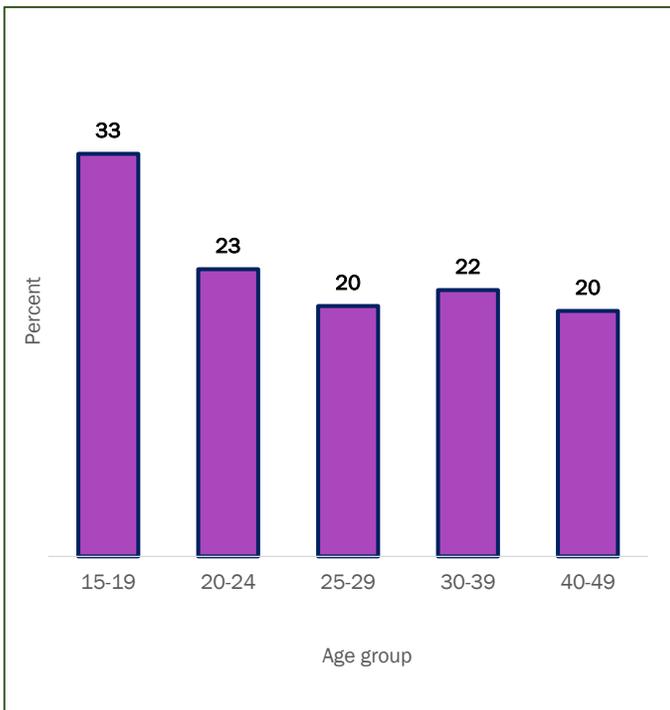
Percent of population by management of excreta from household sanitation facilities

*Additional information required to determine whether faecal sludge and wastewater is safely treated.

Safely managed sanitation services represents an ambitious new level of service during the SDGs and is the indicator for target 6.2. Safely managed sanitation services are improved facilities that are not shared with other households and where excreta are safely disposed of in situ or transported and treated offsite. The MICS survey collected information on the management of excreta from onsite facilities. For households where excreta are transported offsite (sewer connection, removal for treatment), further information is needed on the transport and treatment of excreta to calculate the proportion that are safely managed.

Menstrual Hygiene Management

Exclusion from Activities during Menstruation



Percent of women who did not participate in social activities, school or work due to their last menstruation in the last 12 months, by age, among women reporting menstruating in the last 12 months

Exclusion from Activities during Menstruation by Various Characteristics



Percent of women who did not participate in social activities, school or work due to their last menstruation in the last 12 months, by residence, wealth quintile, education and region, among women reporting menstruating in the last 12 months

Key Messages

- Nationally, 98.6% of the household population has access to basic drinking water, followed by 85.4% with basic sanitation. However, only 73.5% of households have access to basic hygiene facilities.
- In Corozal, just 57.9% of households use basic hygiene facilities compared to 88.2% in Orange Walk.
- Both Orange Walk and Belize North report 91.2% access to basic sanitation, while Cayo lags behind at 76.1%.
- Nationally, 94% of the household population has access to drinking water, with rural and urban areas showing nearly equal access at 95% and 94%, respectively.
- Toledo District has the highest proportion of households using drinking water sources contaminated with E. coli—65% at the source and 70% at the household level.
- By wealth, the poorest households have the highest percentage using drinking water contaminated with E. coli—45% at the source and 47% at the household level.
- Regarding menstrual hygiene, 33% of women aged 15–19 did not participate in social activities, school, or work during their last menstruation.
- The greatest disparities are observed in Stann Creek District, where 39% of women reported non-participation compared to only 14% in Belize South.

The Belize Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) was carried out in 2024 by the Statistical Institute of Belize (SIB) as part of the global MICS programme. Technical support was provided by the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF). UNICEF and the Government of Belize and SIB provided financial support.

The objective of this snapshot is to disseminate selected findings from the Belize MICS7 2024 related to Drinking Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (WASH). Data from this snapshot can be found in tables WS.1.1 to WS.4.3 in the Survey Findings Report.

Further statistical snapshots and the Survey Findings Report for this and other surveys are available on mics.unicef.org/surveys.

For further information on the WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP) for Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene indicator definitions and methods please visit washdata.org.