



9. Oceania

This chapter presents data for Oceania. Urban and rural water supply and sanitation coverage figures are shown by country, area or territory for both 1990 and 2000. Maps of current coverage are also presented. Graphs illustrate regional changes in coverage over time, as well as coverage targets associated with projected changes in population.

9.1 Overview

Oceania is the least populated of the six regions described in this report. The current status of its sanitation coverage appears to be relatively good, with 93% of the population having access to improved sanitation; and 88% of the population has access to improved water supply. These figures are strongly biased by the large and well-served population of Australia. When the figures for Australia are excluded, coverage levels are much lower. Patterns of urban and rural coverage are difficult to distinguish,

as some of the small islands in this region define themselves as either entirely urban or entirely rural.

Population growth in Oceania is expected to continue over the coming decades. To meet the 2015 international development targets, this means that an additional 7.3 million people will need access to improved water supply services, and an additional 6.5 million will need access to sanitation. The specific characteristics of the islands need to be taken into account in efforts to increase water supply and sanitation coverage. In Box 9.1 some of these aspects are discussed.

BOX 9.1 PACIFIC ISLANDS: CHALLENGES FOR SANITATION PROMOTION – CULTURE AND TRADITION

Providing water supply and sanitation services is only half of the problem. The other half is making sure that people use them.

The national policy in Papua New Guinea requires water supply and sanitation to be implemented as a combined programme. Theoretically, no partner agency may support a water supply project without also providing support for sanitation, and vice versa. In the Solomon Islands, a rural water supply and sanitation project has increased the coverage of safe drinking water to about 70% of the population. The project operates on a cost-sharing basis: most of the materials are supplied at a subsidized rate by the project, while all the labour costs are met by the village community. The level of sanitation coverage is, however, low.

Cultural traditions and beliefs may constitute constraints to sanitation. For example, in Papua New Guinea, the ventilated improved pit (VIP) latrine is the sanitation technology of choice. In the Solomon Islands, however, people will only accept flush latrines, even though VIP latrines are less costly and do not require a copious water supply. In many of the Pacific island countries, local people do not allow female children to use the same latrine as male children, although female children may use the latrine that is used by their parents. As a result, families are faced with the extra cost of having at least two latrines. Where this is too expensive, male children have to use the bushes.

Source: (32)



9.2 Water supply and sanitation coverage

Table 9.1 provides water supply and sanitation coverage data for 1990 and 2000, by country, area or territory. Composite coverage data are presented in Figures 9.1–9.6.

Two countries in the region, Fiji and Kiribati, report having both water supply and sanitation coverage below 50%. Papua New Guinea also has less than 50% water supply coverage.

TABLE 9.1 OCEANIA: WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION COVERAGE BY COUNTRY, AREA OR TERRITORY, 1990 AND 2000

	Year	Total population ¹ (thousands)	Urban population (thousands)	Rural population (thousands)	% urban water supply coverage	% rural water supply coverage	% total water supply coverage	% urban sanitation coverage	% rural sanitation coverage	% total sanitation coverage
American Samoa	1990	46	22	24	100	100	100			
	2000	68	36	32	100	100	100			
Australia	1990	16 888	14 369	2 519	100	100	100	100	100	100
	2000	18 886	15 994	2 892	100	100	100	100	100	100
Cook Islands	1990	19	11	8	100	100	100	100	100	100
	2000	20	12	8	100	100	100	100	100	100
Fiji	1990	726	302	424						
	2000	817	404	413	43	51	47	75	12	43
French Polynesia	1990	196	110	86				100		
	2000	235	124	111	100	100	100	99	97	98
Guam	1990	134	51	83						
	2000	168	66	102						
Kiribati	1990	72	25	47						
	2000	84	33	51	82	25	47	54	44	48
Marshall Islands	1990	46	30	16						
	2000	64	46	18						
Micronesia, Federated States of	1990	97	71	27						
	2000	119	85	34						
Nauru	1990	10	10	0						
	2000	12	12	0						
New Caledonia	1990	167	103	64						
	2000	214	165	49						
New Zealand	1990	3 361	2 848	513	100					
	2000	3 862	3 314	548	100					
Niue	1990	3	1	2	100	100	100	100	100	100
	2000	2	1	1	100	100	100	100	100	100
Northern Mariana Islands	1990	44	23	21						
	2000	78	41	37					92	
Palau	1990	16	11	5						
	2000	19	14	5	100	20	79	100	100	100
Papua New Guinea	1990	3 839	576	3 263	88	32	42	92	80	82
	2000	4 807	837	3 970	88	32	42	92	80	82
Pitcairn	1990	0	0	0						
	2000	0	0	0						
Samoa	1990	160	34	126						
	2000	180	39	141	95	100	99	95	100	99
Solomon Islands	1990	321	47	274						
	2000	443	87	356	94	65	71	98	18	34
Tokelau	1990	2	0	2						
	2000	2	0	2	97	48	48			
Tonga	1990	96	31	65						
	2000	98	37	61	100	100	100			
Tuvalu	1990	9	4	5						
	2000	12	6	6	100	100	100	100	100	100
Vanuatu	1990	149	27	122						
	2000	190	38	152	63	94	88	100	100	100
Wallis and Futuna Islands	1990	14	0	14						
	2000	15	0	15			100			80

¹ Source: (10)

9.3 Trends and future needs

As there are few data for 1990 from the region, analysis of any change over the 1990s should be done cautiously. Figures 9.1–9.6 present projected population change and the international development targets. It is predicted that the total population of the region will increase by 14% over the next 15 years, mainly in the urban areas of Oceania. To achieve

the 2015 goal, an additional 4.5 million urban people and 2.8 million rural people will need access to water supply. For sanitation, 4.5 million additional urban people and 2.1 million rural people will require access to facilities. The people requiring service are largely in the small island states of the Federated States of Micronesia, Melanesia and Polynesia.

