

National Water Insecurity in Australia

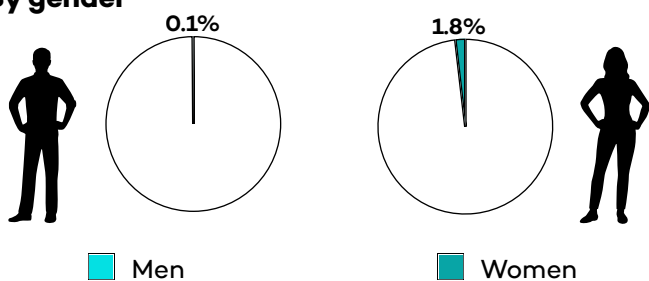
In 2022, Gallup World Poll, Northwestern University, & others

partnered to estimate experiences with water access and use for the first time in Australia. Respondents were selected using probability-based sampling with post-stratification weights to ensure the 1,000 respondents were representative of the population in Australia ≥15 years of age.

Who is water insecure in Australia?

0.98% of Australians ages 15 years and older are water insecure¹

By gender



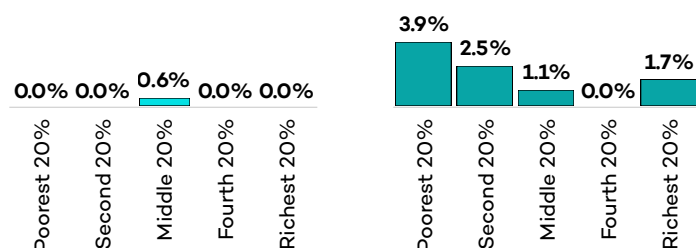
Within age groups



Within rural and urban areas



Within household income quintiles

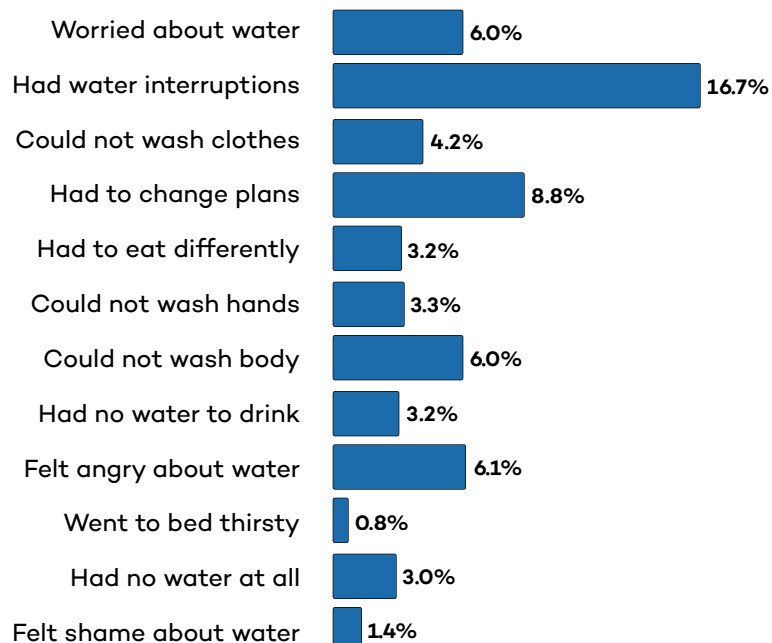


How did we measure water insecurity?

Most indicators measure water availability or infrastructure. These don't tell us about people's ability to reliably access or use water or how water insecurity varies by gender, age, etc. Which means we haven't known exactly **who** is left behind... until now.

How does water insecurity manifest in Australia?

We used the Individual Water InSecurity Experiences (IWISE) Scale^{1,2} to measure individual experiences with water access and use. Respondents had the following negative experiences **due to water problems in the last year.**



These data provide insights on **prevalence and severity** of water insecurity that can guide **policymaking**, including resource allocation. The IWISE Scale can also be used to measure the **impact** of interventions, and monitor **progress and accountability**. We are seeking resources to generate these vital, actionable water insecurity data again in all countries.

¹ Each of the 12 IWISE items are scored 0 (never), 1 (1-2 months), 2 (some but not all months), or 3 (almost every month) in the last year, for a total score range of 0-36. A score of 12 or more was considered water insecure.

² Young et al 2021 *BMJ Global Health*. More at www.hwise.org.