

Information topic	Details
Indicator name	Population with access to bacteriological, protozoa and chemically compliant drinking-water
Domain and topic	Drinking-water quality: Access to safe drinking-water
Indicator definition and units	Number and percentage of the population on registered community drinking-water supplies, and number of water supplies/distribution zones that meet safety standards.
Data source	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water Services Authority – Taumata Arowai. 2025. <i>Drinking Water Regulation Report 2024</i>. Wellington: Water Services Authority Taumata Arowai. Water Services Authority – Taumata Arowai. 2025. <i>Distribution zone level data extract</i>. Created 22/09/2025 and provided to EHINZ through personal communication with Water Services Authority analysts.
Numerator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The number of people who were served with water complying with various safety standards The number of supplies/water distribution zones compliant with those standards.
Denominator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Population on registered community drinking-water supplies Total registered supplies
Population coverage	Population on registered community drinking-water supplies
Time period and time scale	Annual only, snapshot of Water Services Authority records held at the time of data provision
Measures of frequency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number and percentage of people served with water treated with essential safety measures. Number of supplies exceeding contaminant Maximum Acceptable Values (MAVs). Number of people potentially affected by MAV exceedances (upper limit estimate only)
Limitations of indicator	<p>Indicator only represents the population on registered drinking-water supplies, instead of all New Zealanders. For example, New Zealanders who rely on wells for potable drinking water and water sources that are not registered with the regulator are not included.</p> <p>Population figures given in relation to MAV exceedances are only upper limit estimates and cannot be made more precise.</p>

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Limitations of data source	<p>The population statistics in the report are provided by the supply operators and are not reviewed for consistency or correctness. Records in the data source may not be current and, so fail to reflect the actual fluoridation status of a given supply at the time of publication.</p> <p>Some population figures are aggregated to supply-scale from the smaller populations of specific distribution zones, which prevents giving precise figures for the number of people affected when a breach of safety standards only applies to a subset of the supply population.</p>
Created by	Environmental Health Intelligence New Zealand, Centre for Public Health Research, Massey University, Wellington
Related indicators	Waterborne diseases related to drinking water Access to fluoridated drinking water
For more information	https://www.taumataarowai.govt.nz/for-the-public/public-registers
References	