

FS 1.5.b: OLAS Household Survey Data Set 2023 Update: Sanitation Access Indicators

One of the key objectives of the Water and Sanitation Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean (OLAS) is to provide reliable data on water and sanitation access throughout the region. To this end, the OLAS created the OLAS Household Survey data set (HHS-OLAS), which provides key indicators on water and sanitation access in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC). The data set has undergone multiple iterations, the most recent of which has dramatically expanded the data available and its potential uses. This fact sheet outlines the changes to the data set as an update to the previously published [FS 1.5 OLAS Household Survey Data Set: Sanitation Access Indicators](#) [1].

The newest iteration of the dataset has 14 sanitation access indicators, addressing the sanitary facilities, how households without sanitary facilities address their sanitation needs, and exclusivity of facility access. Data is available in percent of households as well as by number of households, and can be broken down by various socio-economic elements, including income, gender and ethnicity.

Sanitary Facilities

Data on sanitation facility access includes information about wastewater network connections, septic system use, those whose waste discharges to surface water bodies or the soil, and other categories. Table 1 has a full list of sanitation facility indicators. Sanitation facilities are categorized into improved and unimproved sources according to the [Joint Monitoring Programme's \(JMP\) definitions](#), allowing for the creation of aggregate indicators representing improved, unimproved, and unclassifiable sanitation facilities [2]. The organization of these indicators is also shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Sanitation facility indicators [3]

Topic	Aggregate Indicator	Definition	Indicator	Definition
Sanitation facilities	sanmejorado_ch	Percent of households with an improved sanitation facility	sanred_ch	Percent of households with a toilet connected to the sewer network
			sanseptic_ch	Percent of households with a toilet connected to a septic system
			sanotrimejorado_ch	Percent of households with another improved sanitation facility
	sannomejorado_ch	Percent of households with unimproved sanitation facilities	sanambiente	Percent of households whose sanitation facilities drain to the surface or a surface water body
			sanotranm_ch	Percent of households with other unimproved sanitation facilities
	sandesconocido_ch	Percent of households with a sanitation facility that cannot be classified		

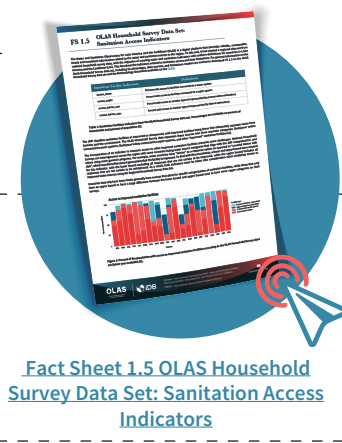
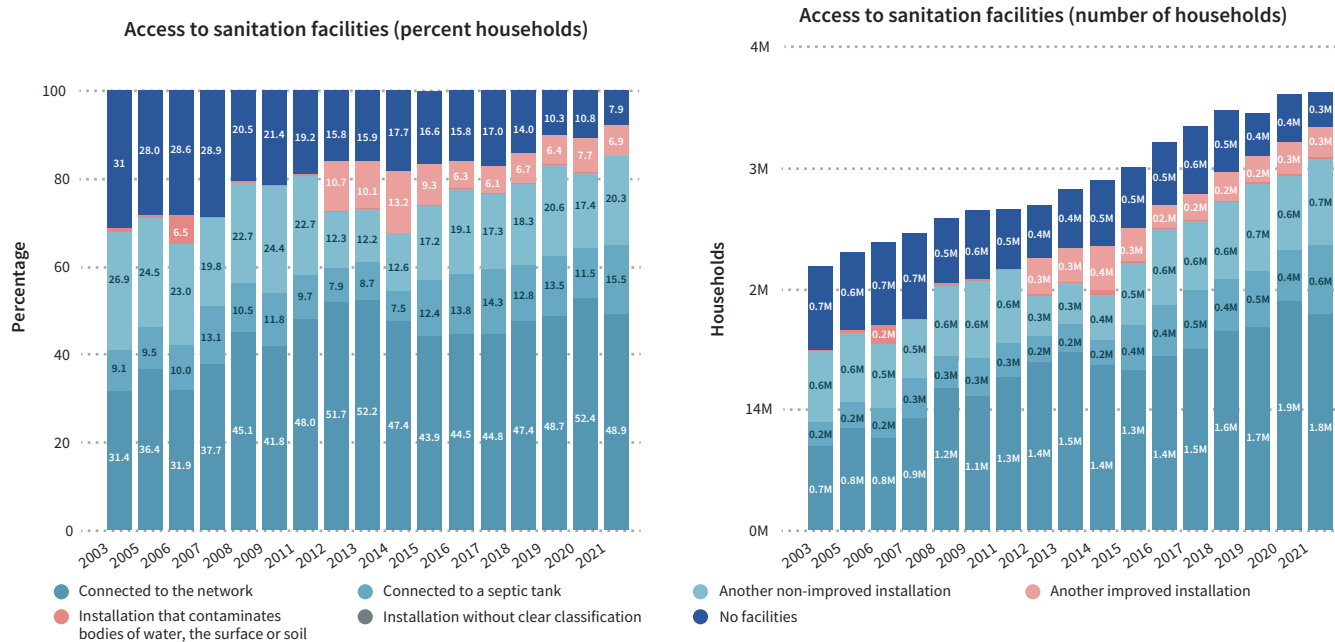
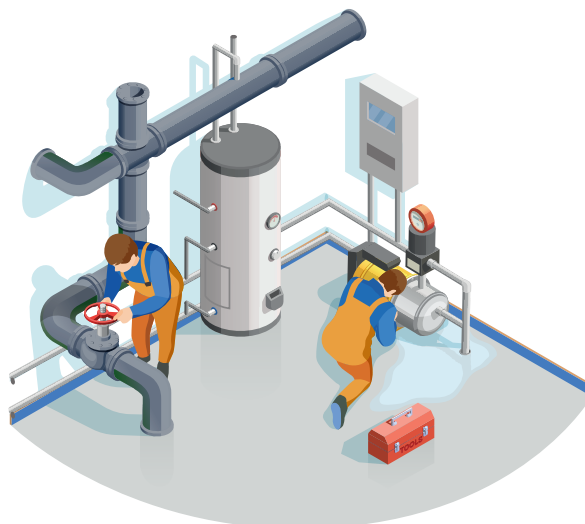


Figure 1: Sanitation facility use in Bolivia [3]



1The JMP defines an 'improved sanitation facility' as "one designed to hygienically separate human excreta from human contact. Improved sanitation facilities include flush or pour flush toilets connected to sewer systems, septic tanks or pit latrines; and dry sanitation technologies such as dry pit latrines with slabs (constructed from materials that are durable and easy to clean), ventilated improved pit (VIP) latrines, pit latrines with a slab, composting toilets and container-based sanitation. 'Unimproved sanitation facilities' include flush or pour flush toilets connected to open drains; pit latrines without slabs; open pits; buckets, pans, 'trays' or other unsealed containers; hanging toilets/latrines; defecation in the bush or field or ditch and defecation into surface water. If a household uses a flush or pour flush toilet and survey respondents report that it is not flushed to sewer systems, septic tanks or pit latrines but elsewhere, the sanitation facility is considered to be unimproved."

These indicators allow for the visualization of different sanitation facilities used in each country, both in terms of percent of households and total households. The indicators can be categorized into improved (blue) or unimproved (pink). Typical facilities that are classified as “Other improved facilities” are ecological toilets. Those without classification tend to represent response options such as “latrine” which do not provide enough information to classify the facility as improved or unimproved.



Households without access

Throughout LAC, households without access to sanitation facilities must manage their sanitation needs. Some rely on using public sanitation facilities or those of neighbors, while others practice open defecation. Most surveys do not address how those without access manage their sanitation needs, however, those that do show interesting patterns. For example, the proportion of those using public facilities tends to be higher in urban areas (left).

Figure 2: Families without sanitation facilities, urban vs rural comparison [3]

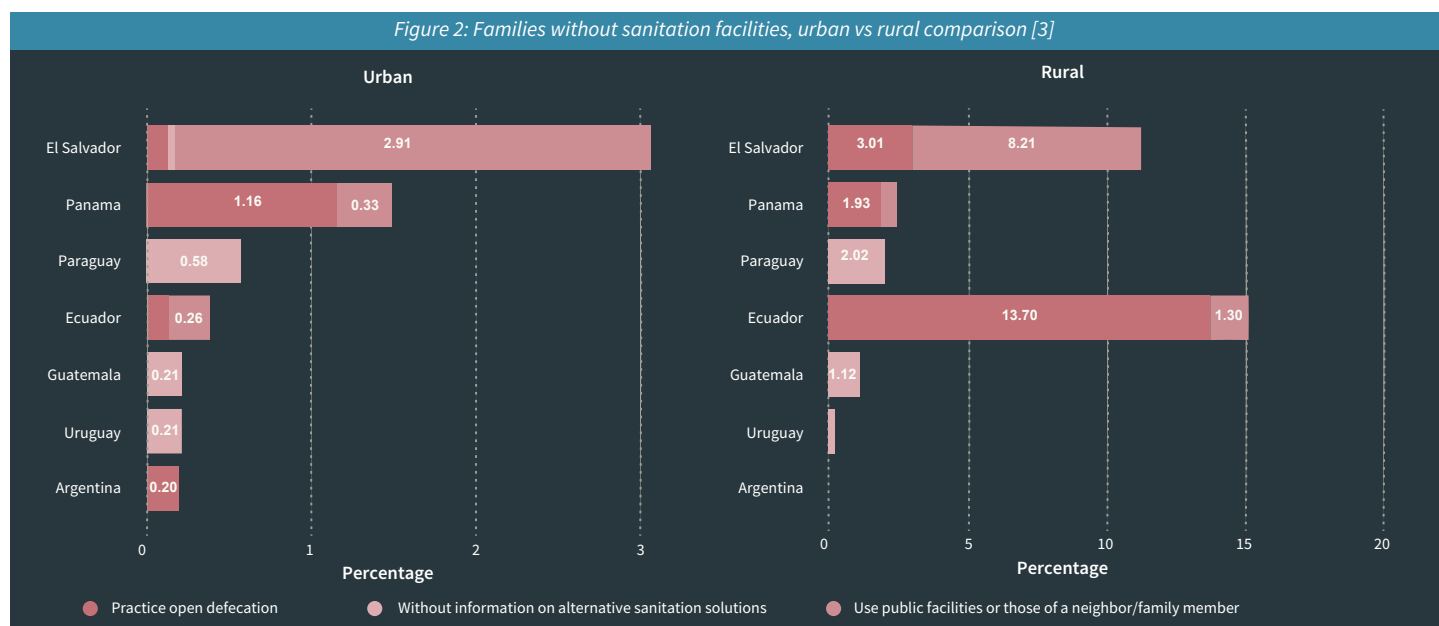


Table 2: Indicators related to lack of access to sanitation facilities [3]

Topic	Aggregate Indicator	Definition	Indicator	Definition
Without sanitation	sinsan_ch	Percent of households without sanitation facilities	nosanvecino_ch	Percent of households that rely on public or neighbors' facilities
			sanseptic_ch	Percent of households that practice open defecation
			nosandesc_ch	Percent of households without sanitation facilities with unknown alternatives

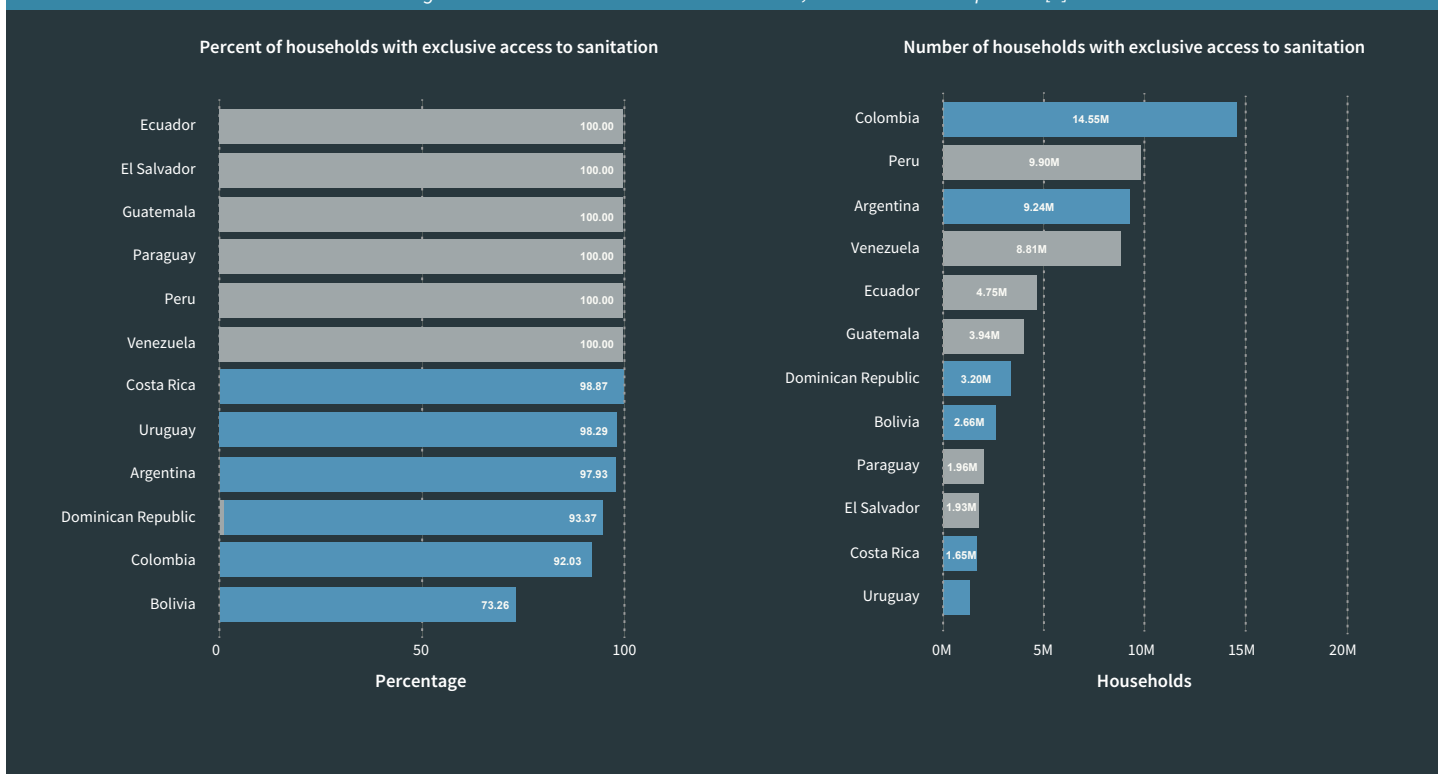
Exclusivity of Access


For a household to have safely managed access to sanitation facilities under the JMP framework the facility must be used exclusively by the household. Many national household surveys in LAC do not address exclusivity, so the OLAS Household Survey Data Set includes an indicator on data gaps with respect to this topic.

Table 3: Indicators related to exclusivity of sanitation facilities [3]

Topic	Aggregate Indicator	Definition
Exclusivity	sanexclusivo_ch	Percent of households with exclusive access to sanitation facilities
	sanexclusivonulo_ch	Percent of households with no information on exclusivity of sanitation facilities

Figure 2: Families without sanitation facilities, urban vs rural comparison [3]





Conclusion

The OLAS Household Survey Data Set, which contains data on 47 water and sanitation access indicators over 2003-2022, can be accessed on [the OLAS](#), along with associated documentation such as the Methodology Document and code repositories.

For more information on the changes to the data set in the 2023 iteration, please see FS 2.1: 2023 Expansion of the OLAS Household Survey Data Set.

References: [1] OLAS, (2022). "FS 1.5 OLAS Household Survey Data Set: Sanitation Access Indicators". Water and Sanitation Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean. Accessed at: [FS 1.5 OLAS Household Survey Data Set: Sanitation Access Indicators \(iadb.org\)](#). [2] JMP, (2021). "Metadata: SDG Global Indicator 6.2.1a." Joint Monitoring Programme. Accessed at: [Metadata: SDG global indicator 6.2.1a | JMP \(washdata.org\)](#). [3] OLAS, 2023. "OLAS/SCL WASH Household Survey Dataset", Water and Sanitation Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean. Accessed at: <https://mydata.iadb.org/Water-and-Sanitation/OLAS-SCL-WASH-Household-Survey-Dataset/bjat-gfsm>.

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