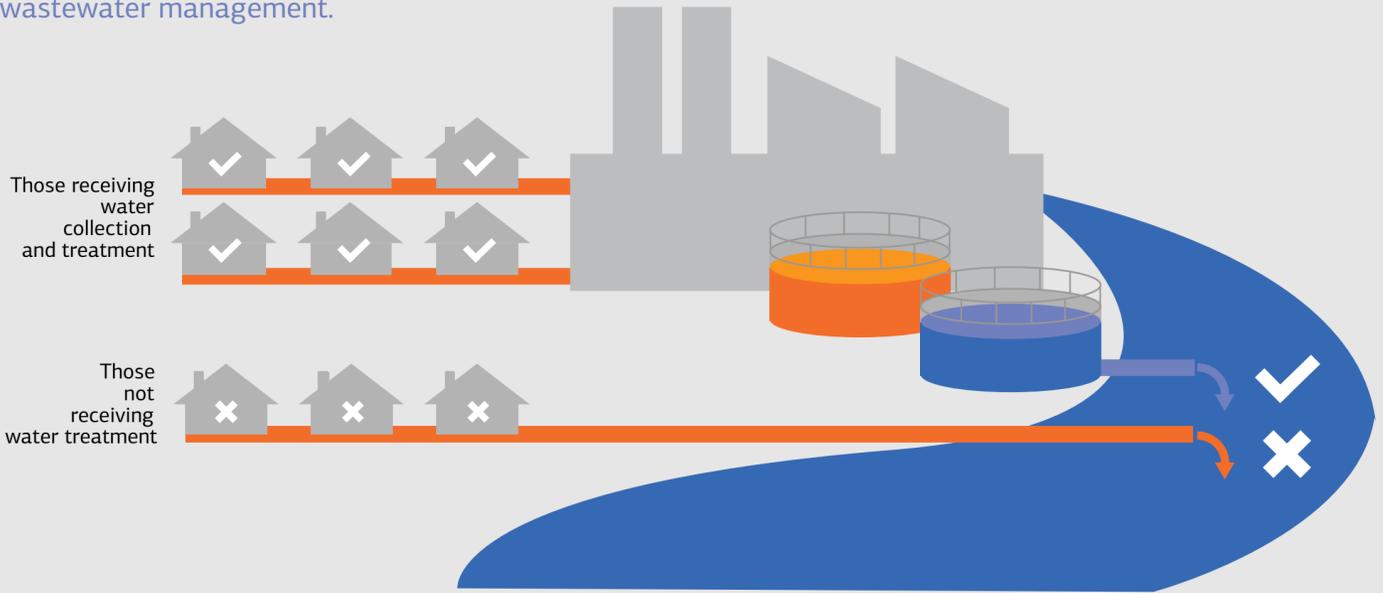


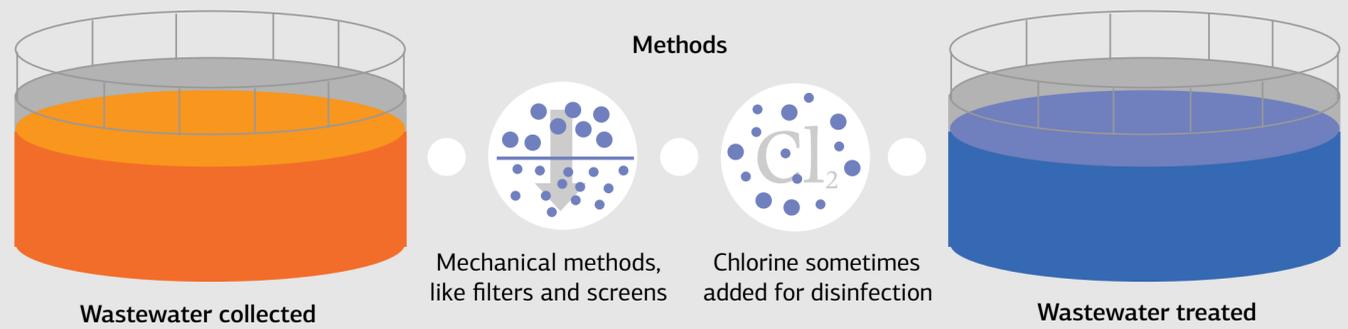
What is Wastewater Treatment?

This indicator tracks how well countries treat wastewater from households and industrial sources before it is dumped into the environment. It tracks the performance of basic wastewater management.

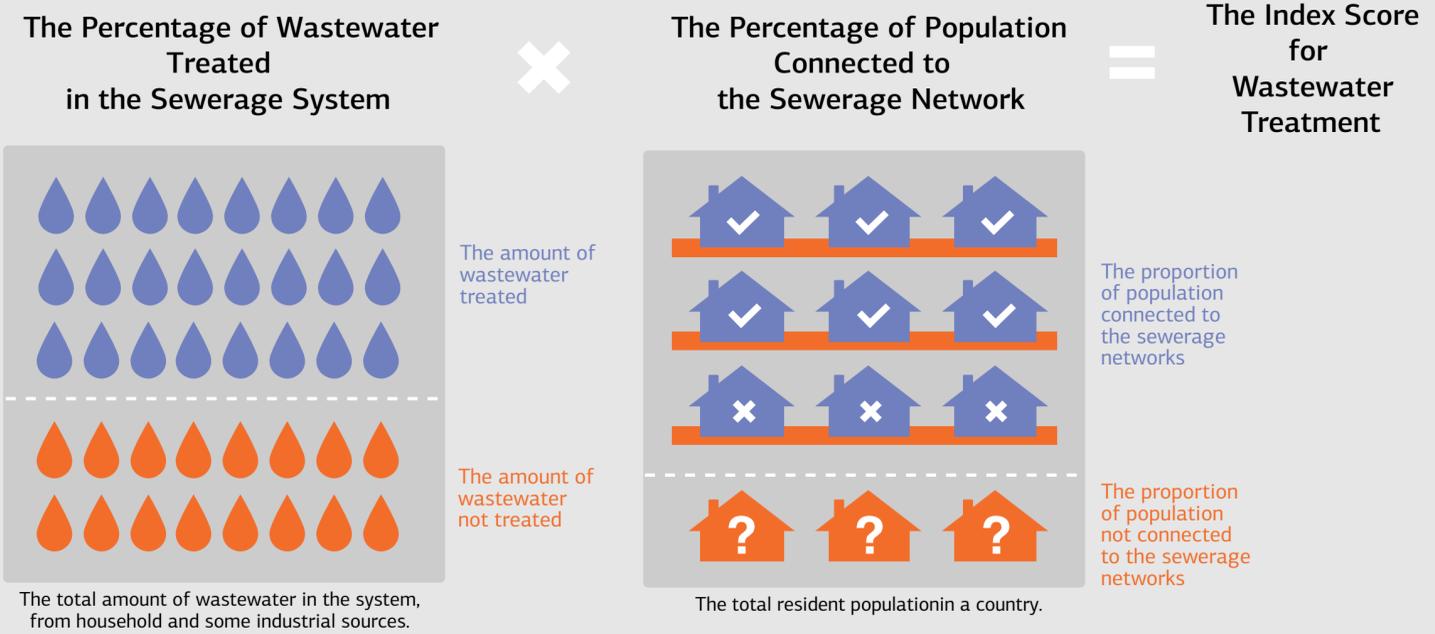


Primary Treatment and Beyond

There are different levels of wastewater treatment. We consider the definition "at least primary treatment," which removes a lot of suspended solids and reduces biochemical oxygen demand. Extra steps may be taken to treat the water further.



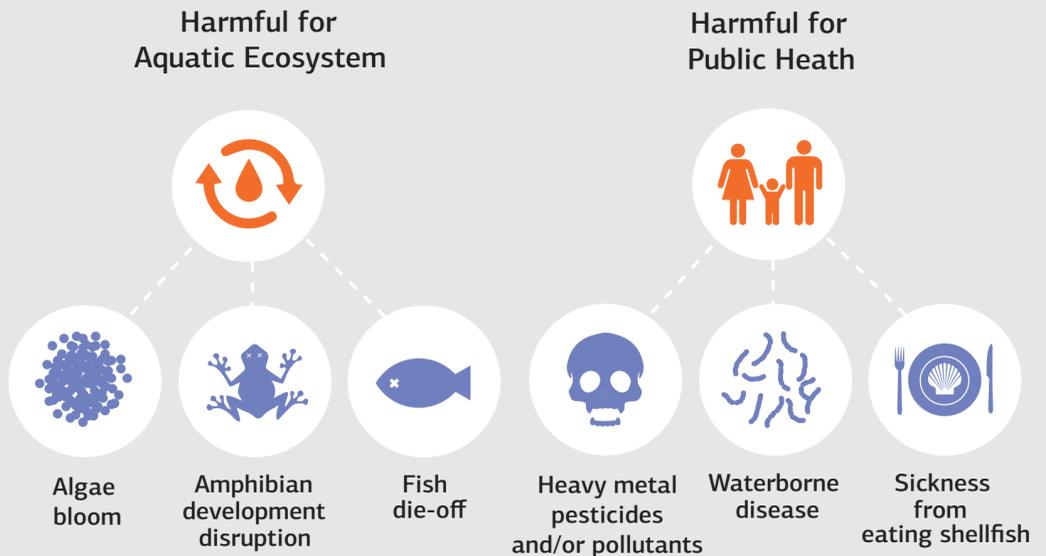
How do we know?



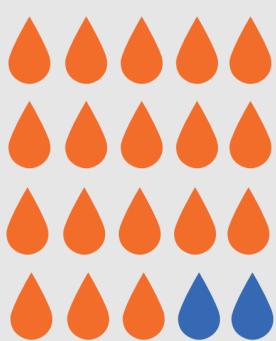
Why does it matter?

Downstream Effects of Wastewater

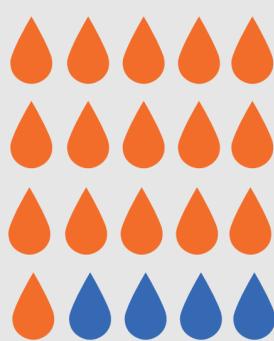
The downstream effects of untreated wastewater are bad for public health and the health of aquatic ecosystems. When pollutants enter the water cycle, aquatic species and humans can be directly harmed through infection or the disruption of their biological development, and they can be harmed indirectly through nutrient loading that causes eutrophication.



Do you know?



90%
Up to 90% of wastewater in developing countries is sent into rivers and open water bodies.



80%
80% of the world's marine pollution comes from sources onland, and wastewater contributes to much of it.

References

- Corcoran, E., Nellemann, C., Baker, E., Bos, R., Osborn, D., Savelli, H. (Eds). (2010). Sick Water? The central role of wastewater management in sustainable development: A Rapid Response Assessment, United Nations Environment Programme, UN-HABITAT, GRID-Arendal. Available: <http://www.unep.org/Documents.Multilingual/Default.asp?DocumentID=617&ArticleID=6504&l=en&t=long>.
- World Bank. Introduction to wastewater treatment processes." Available: <http://water.worldbank.org/shw-resourcement/menu-of-technical-options/wastewater-treatment>
- Baum, R., Luh, J., & Bartram, J (2013). Sanitation: A global estimate of sewerage connections without treatment and the resulting impact on MDG progress. Environmental Science & Technology, 47, 1994-2000.oxide Emissions?", What's Your Impact (WYI): <http://www.whatsyourimpact.org/co2-sources.php>