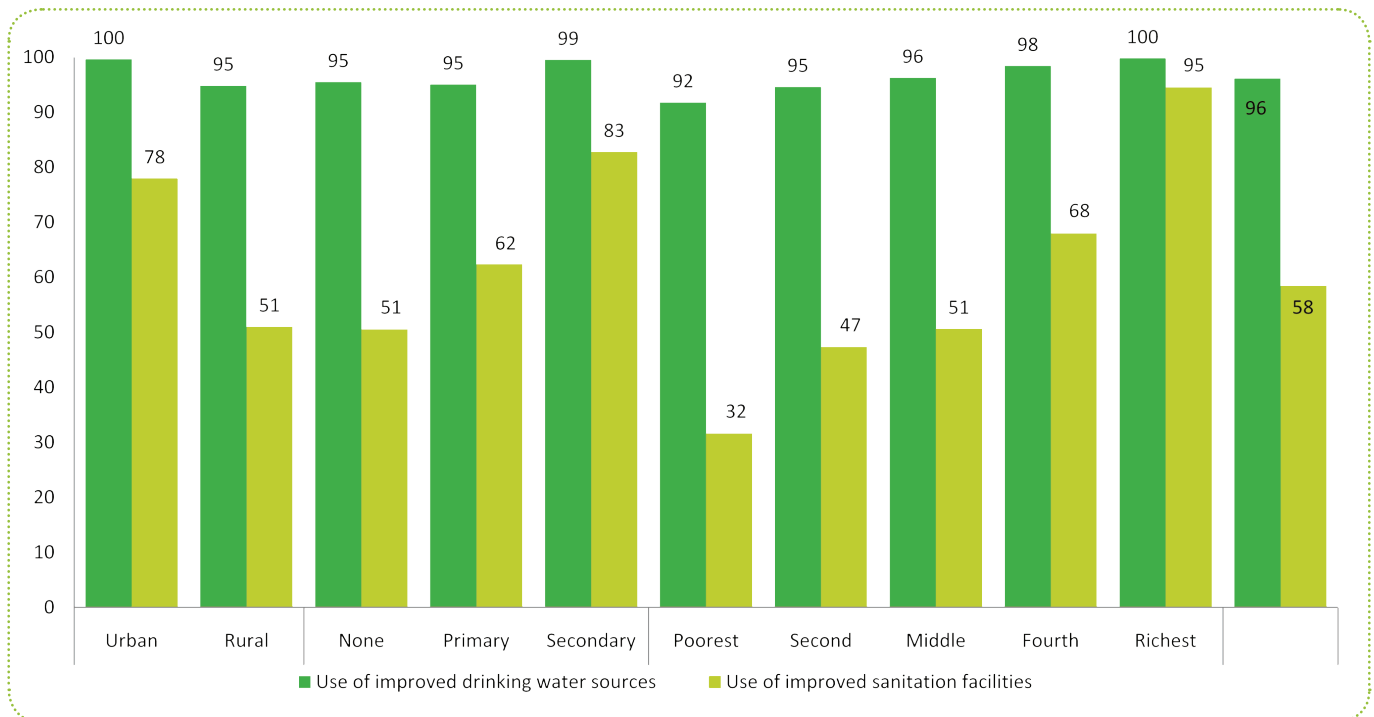


Lack of safe drinking water and basic sanitation undermines efforts to combat poverty and diseases. Access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation can prevent child death and free up hours each day for women to go for work and children to attend schools. Evidence shows that access to basic sanitation facilities in schools prevent girls from dropping out!

In Bhutan 96% of the population use improved source of drinking water and 58% have access to improved sanitation facilities as per the global sanitation standard (without sharing with other households). Only 3% of the population are practicing open defecation. The practice safe disposal of child's faeces amongst 58% of household implies poor hygiene practices at the household level.

PERCENTAGE OF WATER AND SANITATION COVERAGE BY DIFFERENT BACKGROUND CHARACTERISTICS



There is slight variation in use of improved source of drinking water by rural and urban with 95% in rural areas and almost 100 % in urban areas. The coverage in western and eastern regions at 92% and 90% respectively is higher as compared to 82% in the central region.

Use of improved sources of drinking water and improved sanitation facilities relates positively with the education level of the household head and wealth index of the household. The richest quintile is more than three times likely to use improved drinking water sources and improved sanitation than the poorest quintile.

SUMMARY OF WATER AND SANITATION INDICATORS, BMIS 2010

Indicator	Value
Use of improved drinking water sources	96 %
Water treatment	56 %
Use of improved sanitation facilities (not shared)	58%
Safe disposal of child's faeces	58 %
Place for hand washing (water and soap available)	81 %
Availability of soap	99%

At district level, sanitation coverage is very low in the dzongkhags of eastern region. Bumthang, Thimphu, Paro and Chhukha dzongkhags have high sanitation coverage.

PERCENTAGE OF USE OF IMPROVED SANITATION FACILITIES BY DZONGKHAG

