

The World Health Organization estimates that a combination of unsafe water, inadequate sanitation and poor hygiene now kills 200 people an hour.

200 Every hour, every day, every year.

GUINEA WORM DISEASE

Caused by drinking water containing a water flea that harbors the larvae of a parasitic worm. The larvae pass through the intestinal wall and mature inside the body. After about a year the worm, now 3 feet long, bursts through an inflamed blister, often in the leg, exposing its head. It must be carefully wound out of the body onto a small stick.

2 WATER PROBLEMS IN THE UNITED STATES

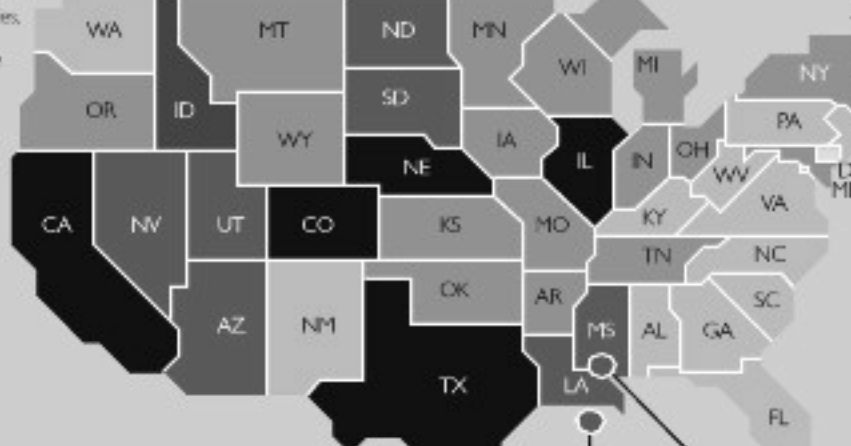
West Nile encephalitis and West Nile meningitis are forms of severe disease that affect a person's nervous system. The disease is spread by mosquitoes, which breed in water.

This map shows cases of West Nile Virus infection in humans reported by the Centers for Disease Control, 2006.

There were 4,269 cases with 177 fatalities. 34% of the cases were West Nile meningitis or encephalitis; most of the rest were West Nile Fever, a milder disease.

no cases  
1 to 10  
11 to 100  
101 to 200  
201 to 400  
more than 400 (also: 996 cases, 21 deaths)

Selected water problems in the U.S.



- Between 1.8 and 3.5 million people in the United States become sick from swimming in waters contaminated by sanitary sewer overflows.
- 900 people die from waterborne microbial infections annually.
- Half a million people a year become ill from microbial contamination of drinking water.

This is the Dead Zone, an area of oxygen-depleted water at the mouth of the Mississippi that supports no aquatic life. The size varies every year; in 1998 the Dead Zone covered an area of 7,700 square miles.

Sediment filled with nitrogen and phosphorus washed into rivers from farms and yards bleeds out light, smothering life in rivers, and threatens to fill up rivers completely.

1 WATERBORNE DISEASES

4,800 people die every day from diseases associated with lack of access to safe drinking water, inadequate sanitation and poor hygiene.

That's the equivalent of 11 jumbo jets crashing every day.



DIARRHEA

In 1998, 308,000 people died from war in Africa, but more than 2 million died from diarrheal diseases.

In the past 10 years, diarrhea has killed more children than all the people lost to armed conflict since World War II.

1.8 million children die each year from this disease alone.

In China, India and Indonesia, twice as many people are dying from diarrheal diseases as are dying from HIV/AIDS.

BILHARZIASIS

(Schistosomiasis) affects more than 200 million people worldwide, mostly in the tropics. It is acquired by swimming in infected lakes and rivers. Tiny flukes penetrate a bath's skin and cause bleeding in the intestinal walls or bladder, and may affect other organs such as the liver.

DENGUE

A mosquito-borne infection estimated to affect 50 million people a year. It's sometimes called breakbone fever as it results in severe bone and muscle pain. No vaccine is currently. A potentially fatal complication of dengue is DSHF (dengue hemorrhagic fever).

TRACHOMA

An infectious disease spread by direct physical contact between people, and by flies. Lack of water for washing eventually leads to blindness. Trachoma affects three times as many women as men.

RIVER BLINDNESS

(Onchocerciasis) affects more than 20 million people in Central and South America and Africa. It is transmitted by small flies that breed in water.

TYPHOID FEVER

The source of infection is the feces of a diseased person. It is commonly spread by contamination of drinking water by sewage, or by flies that carry bacteria from feces to food. If untreated, fatal complications may develop. An estimated 17 million people are infected every year.

CHOLERA

Infection is caused by drinking water that is contaminated by a bacterium. The World Health Organization reported 5,000 deaths in 2000, 87% of them in Africa.

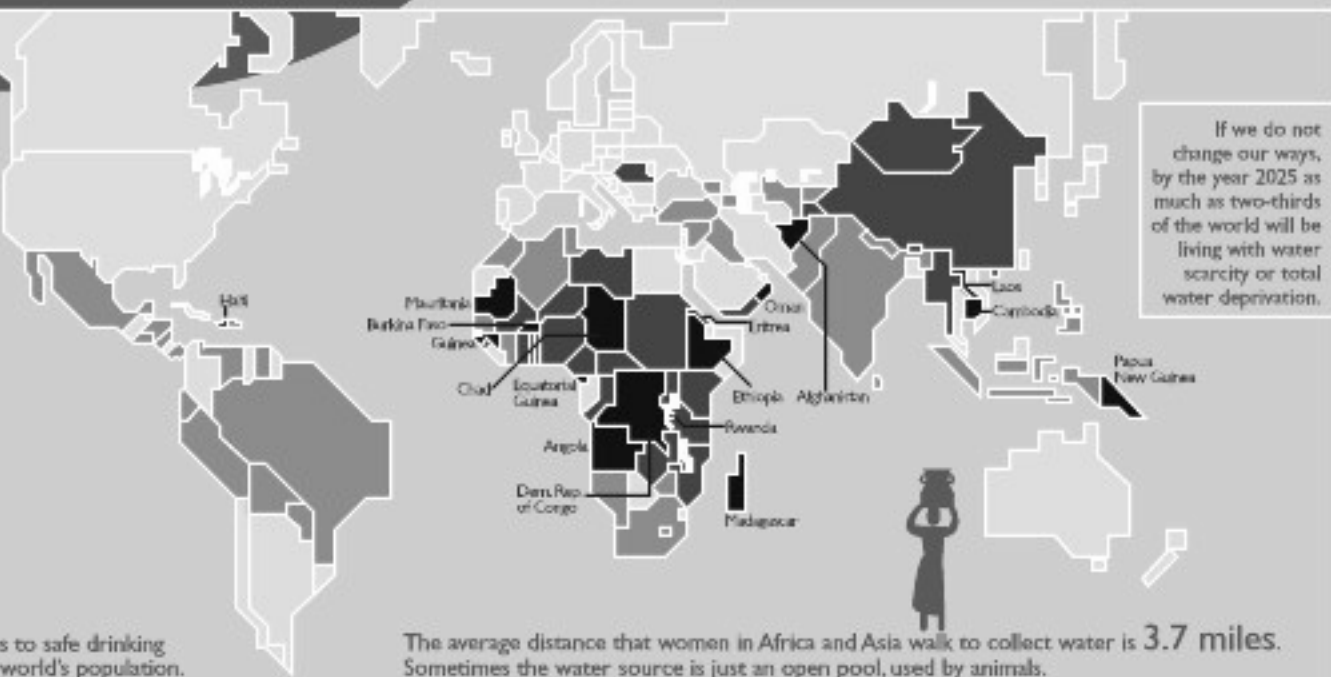
3 WHO HAS SAFE WATER?

% of the population with access to improved drinking water (2000)

more than 90%  
76% to 90%  
51% to 75%  
1% to 50%  
no data available



1.1 billion people do not have access to safe drinking water now. That's about a sixth of the world's population.



If we do not change our ways, by the year 2025 as much as two-thirds of the world will be living with water scarcity or total water deprivation.

The average distance that women in Africa and Asia walk to collect water is 3.7 miles. Sometimes the water source is just an open pool, used by animals.



Every hour,  
every day,  
every year.

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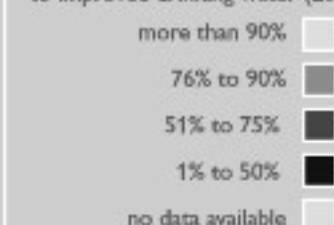
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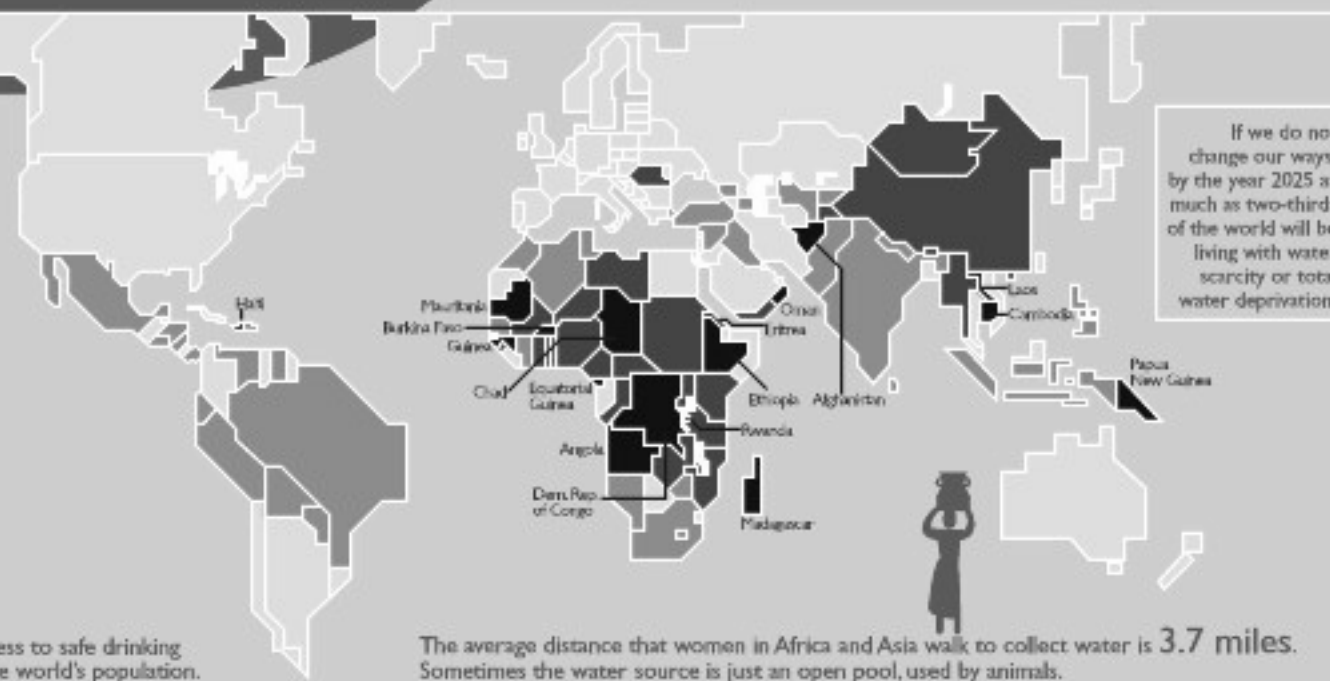
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