

9 Health

9.1 Percentage of population for whom microbiological compliance was achieved—H3

This indicator reports the percentage of the population serviced by the utility for whom microbiological compliance was achieved.

Compliance is assessed against the *Australian Drinking Water Guidelines 2011*¹¹, or licence conditions imposed on the utility by their regulator. Typically, utilities record very high compliance; however, unforeseen events may deliver a lower compliance result, with the cause of non-compliance not always traceable.

Microbiological compliance data for 2017–18 are presented in Table A20, Appendix A.

9.1.1 Key findings

A summary of the percentage of population for which microbiological compliance was achieved, by utility group, is shown in Table 9.1.

In 2017–18, nationwide and across all utility groups, most utilities achieved 100 per cent microbiological compliance, the exceptions being Tasmanian Water and Sewerage Corporation (99.8 per cent), Central Highlands Water (99.7 per cent), Coliban Water (99.5 per cent), and GWMWater (99.4 per cent).

Table 9.1 Overview of results: Percentage of population for which microbiological compliance was achieved (%)

Utility group	Range		No. utilities with increase/decrease from 2016–17		Median		Change from 2016–17 (%)
	High	Low	Increase	Decrease	2016–17	2017–18	
Major	100.0	99.8	1	0	100	100	0
	Multiple utilities	TasWater					
Large	100.0	99.5	1	2	100	100	0
	Multiple utilities	Coliban Water					
Medium	100.0	99.4	1	1	100	100	0
	Multiple utilities	GWM Water					
Small	100.0	100.0	0	0	100	100	0
	Multiple utilities	Multiple utilities					
All utility groups (national)	100.0	99.4	3	3	100	100	0
	Multiple utilities	GWM Water					

Table note

The median percentage of population for which microbiological compliance was achieved was calculated using data from all utilities supplying both water services reporting data against H3 for both 2016–17 and 2017–18.

9.1.2 Results and analysis—Major utility group

Tasmanian Water and Sewerage Corporation identified remoteness, open catchments and ageing reticulation networks as contributing to its less than 100 per cent compliance. During the reporting year, permanent public health alerts were removed for a number of towns, and Tasmanian Water and Sewerage Corporation is seeking to remove the remaining permanent alerts by early 2018–19.

¹¹ www.nhmrc.gov.au/guidelines/publications/eh52, updated October 2017