

# 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*<sup>8</sup> 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, and the cause of non-compliance is not always traceable.

Microbiological compliance data for 2022–23 is presented in Appendix A, Table A18.

### 9.1.1 Key findings

Table 9.1 presents a summary of the percentage of population for which microbiological compliance was achieved by utility size group.

In 2022–23, nationally and across all utility size groups, the median remained at 100% (no change from the previous year). The majority of utilities achieved 100% microbiological compliance, except for South East Water Corporation (Major size group), North East Water (Large size group), Bundaberg Regional Council (Medium size group), which all achieved 99.9% microbiological compliance, and Coliban Water (Large size group), which achieved 95% microbiological compliance, largely due to issues caused by flooding in the area.

**Table 9.1 Overview of results: Percentage of population for which microbiological compliance was achieved**

Utility group	Range		No. utilities with increase/decrease from 2021–22		Median		Change in median from 2021–22 (%)
	High	Low	Increase	Decrease	2021–22	2022–23	
Major	100.0	99.9	0	1	100.0	100.0	0%
	Multiple utilities	South East Water					
Large	100.0	95.0	0	2	100.0	100.0	0%
	Multiple utilities	Coliban Water					
Medium	100.0	99.9	1	1	100.0	100.0	0%
	Multiple utilities	Bundaberg					
Small	100.0	100.0	0	0	100.0	100.0	0%
	Multiple utilities	Multiple utilities					
<b>All size groups (national)</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>95.0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>0%</b>
	<b>Multiple utilities</b>	<b>Coliban Water</b>					

**Note:** The median percentage of population for which microbiological compliance was achieved for each year was calculated using data from all utilities supplying both water services and reporting data against H3 in that reporting year.

### 9.1.2 Results and analysis – Major utility group

All utilities in the Major utility group achieved 100% microbiological compliance over the last 5 years, except for South East Water Corporation which achieved 99.9% in the 2022–23 and 2020–21 reporting years.

<sup>8</sup> [www.nhmrc.gov.au/guidelines/publications/eh52](http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/guidelines/publications/eh52), updated January 2022