FACTS

- It is estimated that washing hands with soap and water could reduce diarrheal disease–associated deaths by up to 50%. (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention–CDC)
- It’s estimated that if everyone routinely washed their hands, a million deaths a year could be prevented. (CDC)
- A large percentage of foodborne disease outbreaks are spread by contaminated hands. Appropriate hand washing practices can reduce the risk of foodborne illness and other infections. (CDC)
- Handwashing can reduce the risk of respiratory infections by 16%. (CDC)
- 2.1 billion people live without safe water at home. (World Water Day)
- One in four primary schools have no drinking water service, with pupils using unprotected sources or going thirsty. (World Water Day)
- More than 700 children under five years of age die every day from diarrhea linked to unsafe water and poor sanitation. (World Water Day)
- Today, 4.2 billion people—more than half the global population—live without safely managed sanitation. (World Toilet Day)
- 673 million people practice open defecation. (World Toilet Day)
- Three billion people lack basic handwashing facilities. (World Toilet Day)
- At least 2 billion people use drinking water sources contaminated with waste. (World Toilet Day)
- One third of schools worldwide lack basic sanitation and hygiene services. (World Toilet Day)

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American Water Works Association

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