

Healthcare

Cyberletter

Health, Healthcare and Lifestyles



Public Perceptions on Clean and Safe Drinking Water

Produced by: Gallup Pakistan Jointly with Gilani Research Foundation

November-December Edition

(A national survey on public perceptions on Clean and Safe Drinking Water)

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From the Editor

Dear Reader,

Gallup Pakistan would like to present findings of a nation wide study on how Pakistanis view the water they are using for drinking and other purposes. We look forward to your comments and suggestions.

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Highlights

Most common source of water: 37% of Pakistanis use a tap inside their house as a source of water.

Perception on quality of water used: 53% of Pakistanis think the drinking water they consume is safe.

Why do people regard water as 'unsafe'? 41% of Pakistanis who think their drinking water is unsafe consider bad taste to be the reason which makes water 'unsafe'.

How is drinking water purified in your house? 57% of Pakistanis take no precautions or steps to purify the water they use for drinking.

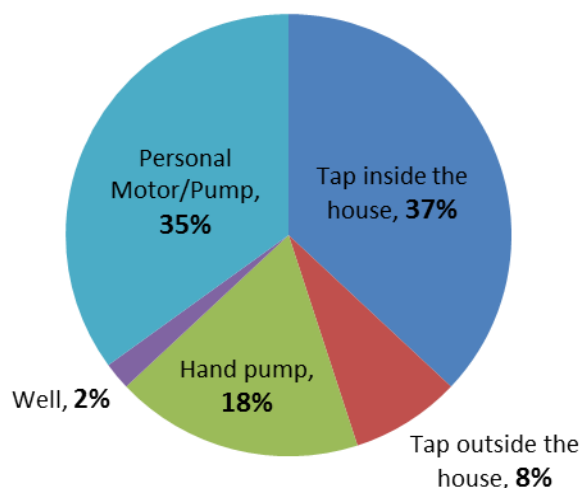
SECTION 1: WHAT IS THE MOST COMMON SOURCE OF WATER IN YOUR HOUSE?

WHO defines *Drinking water* as water used for domestic purposes, drinking, cooking and personal hygiene. Access to drinking water means that the source is less than 1 kilometer away from its place of use and that it is possible to reliably obtain at least 20 litres per member of a household per day. Safe drinking water is water with microbial, chemical and physical characteristics that meet WHO guidelines or national standards on drinking water quality. Access to safe drinking water is the proportion of people using improved drinking water sources: household connection; public standpipe; borehole; protected dug well; protected spring; rainwater.

Source: http://www.who.int/water_sanitation_health/mdg1/en/index.html

Gallup Pakistan conducted a national survey to see what sources of water are available to a common Pakistani and explore people's perception about the quality of water they are using in their homes for drinking and other purposes.

“What is the source of water at your house?”

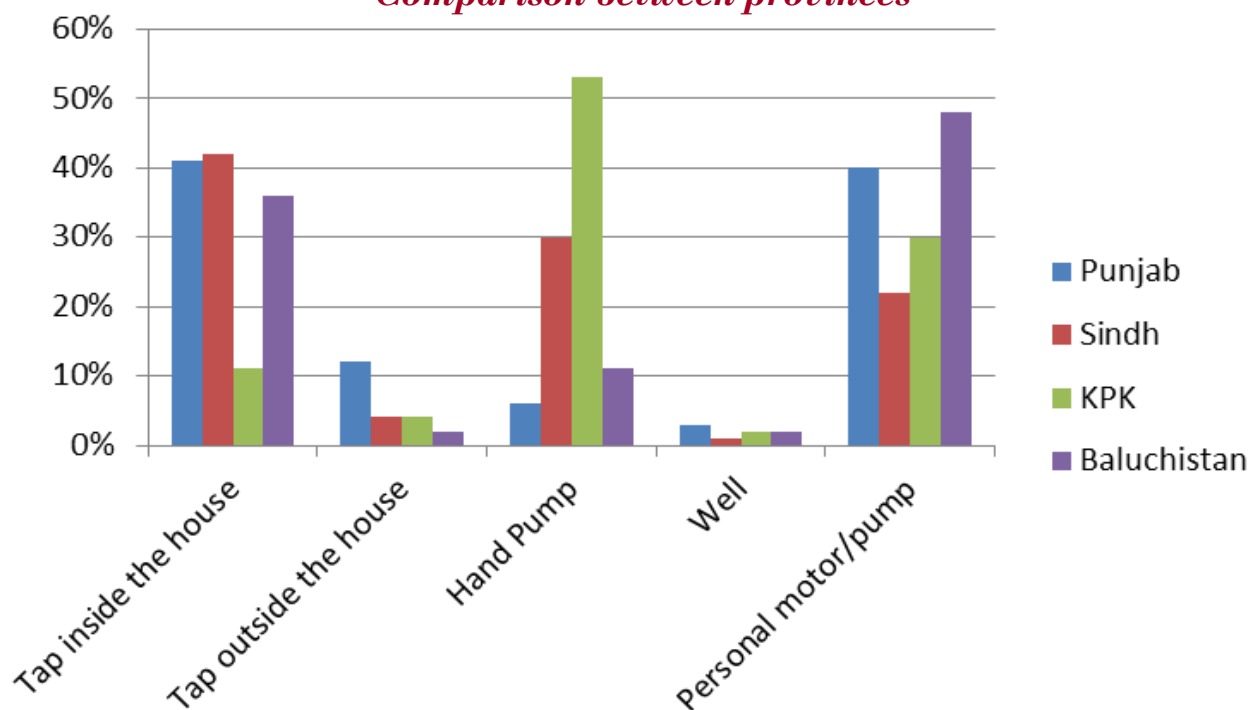


Source: Gallup and Gilani National Survey (September, 2011)

A variety of water sources are available to people spread across the country. At national level, nearly a third (37%) take water from a ‘tap inside the house’, another 35% use ‘personal motor/pump’ to take out water and 18% use a ‘hand pump’. 8% take water from ‘tap outside the house’ and 2% use well water.

People might have multiple water sources but this question asked of the main water source for the household.

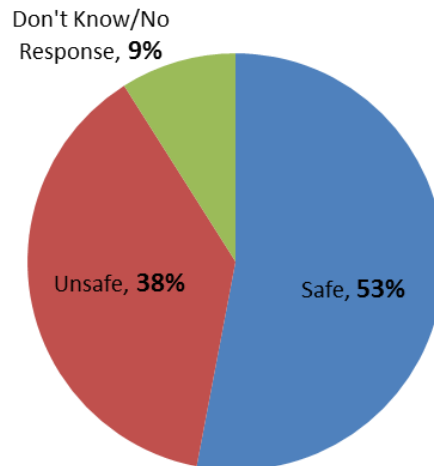
Comparison between provinces



Source: Gallup and Gilani National Survey (April, 2012)

SECTION 2: . IS THE WATER YOU USE FOR DRINKING SAFE?

We asked our respondents, 'In your opinion, is the drinking water you use safe or unsafe for health?'

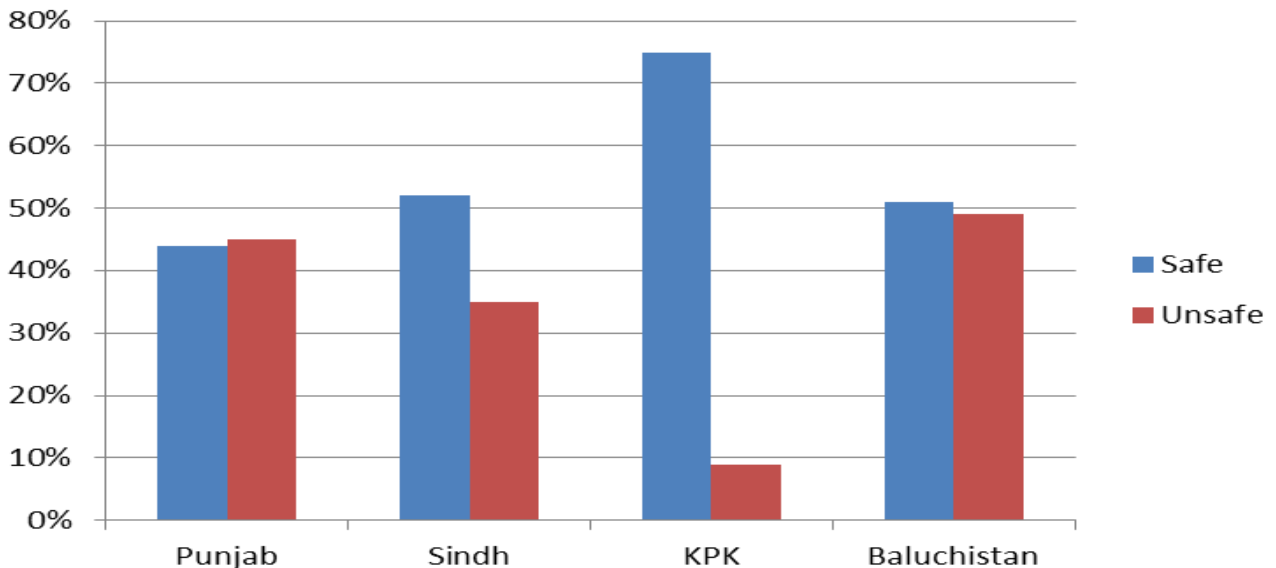


Source: Gallup and Gilani National Survey (April, 2012)

53% of Pakistanis think the water they consume is safe for drinking and 38% think it is unsafe. However, 9% did not give a response.

Note: It is the respondent's own perception on quality of water and not an objective assessment.

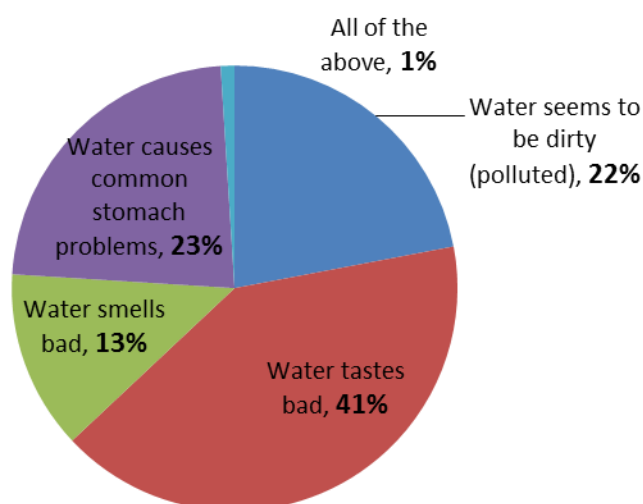
Comparison between provinces



Source: Gallup and Gilani National Survey (April, 2012)

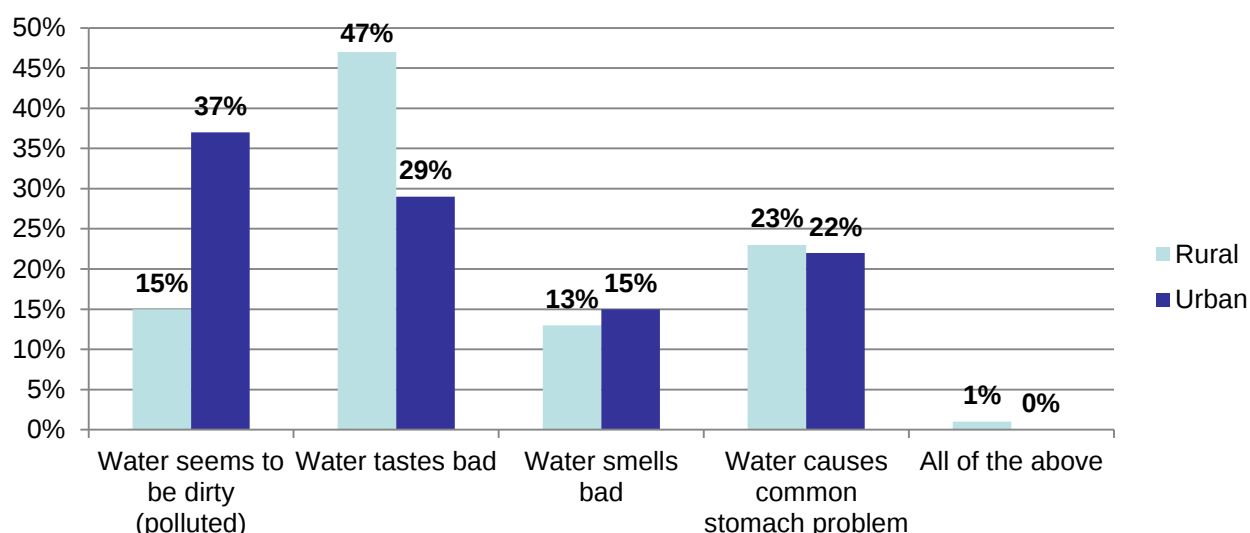
SECTION 3: WHY DO YOU THINK YOUR DRINKING WATER IS UNSAFE?

Respondents who answered that their drinking water is 'unsafe' were then asked why they thought it was unsafe. 41% said that the 'water tastes bad', 23% said 'water causes common stomach problems', 22% said 'water seems to be dirty (polluted)' and 13% said 'water smells bad.' 1% listed all of the reasons above for thinking the water they drink is unsafe for consumption.



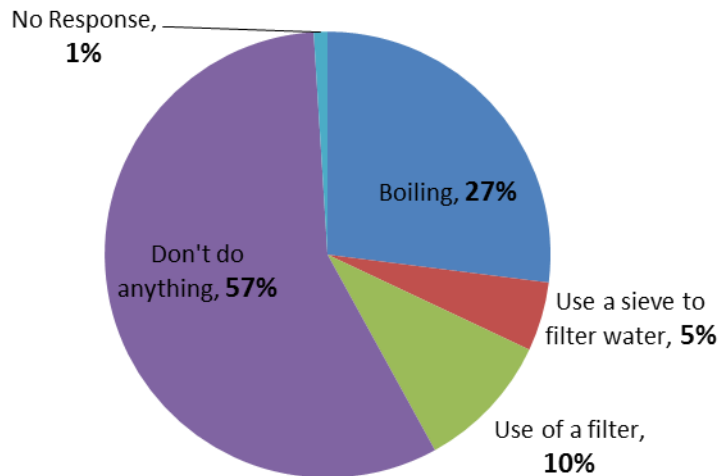
Source: Gallup and Gilani National Survey (April, 2012)

Comparison between rural/urban localities



SECTION 4: WHAT PRECAUTIONS DO YOU TAKE TO PURIFY DRINKING WATER

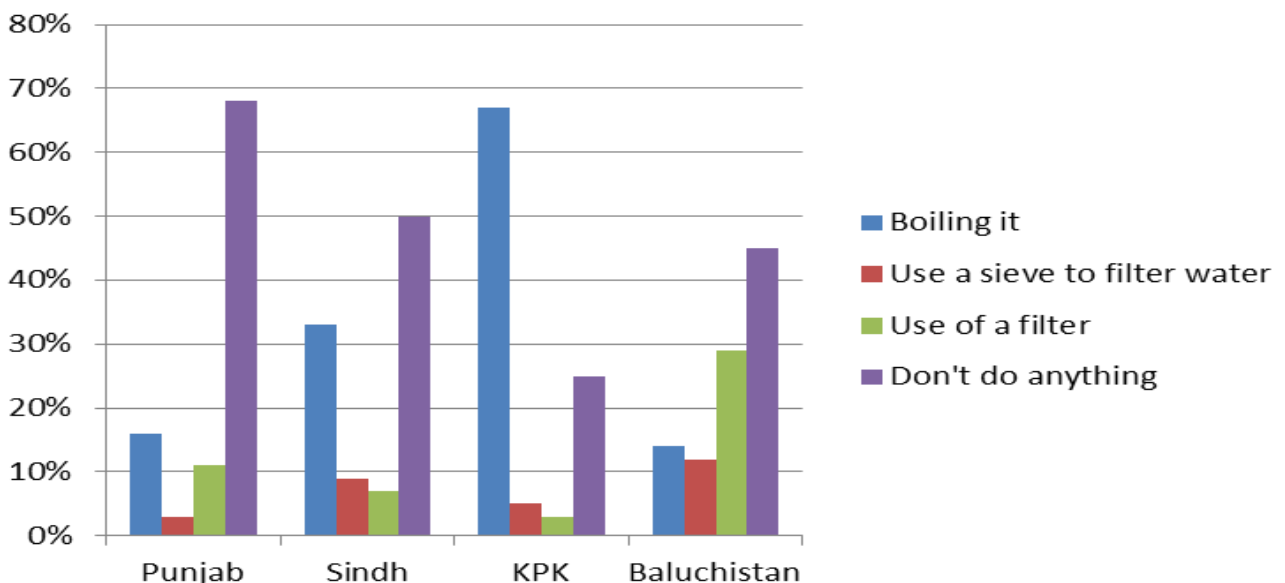
‘How do you purify drinking water normally?’



Source: Gallup and Gilani National Survey (September, 2011)

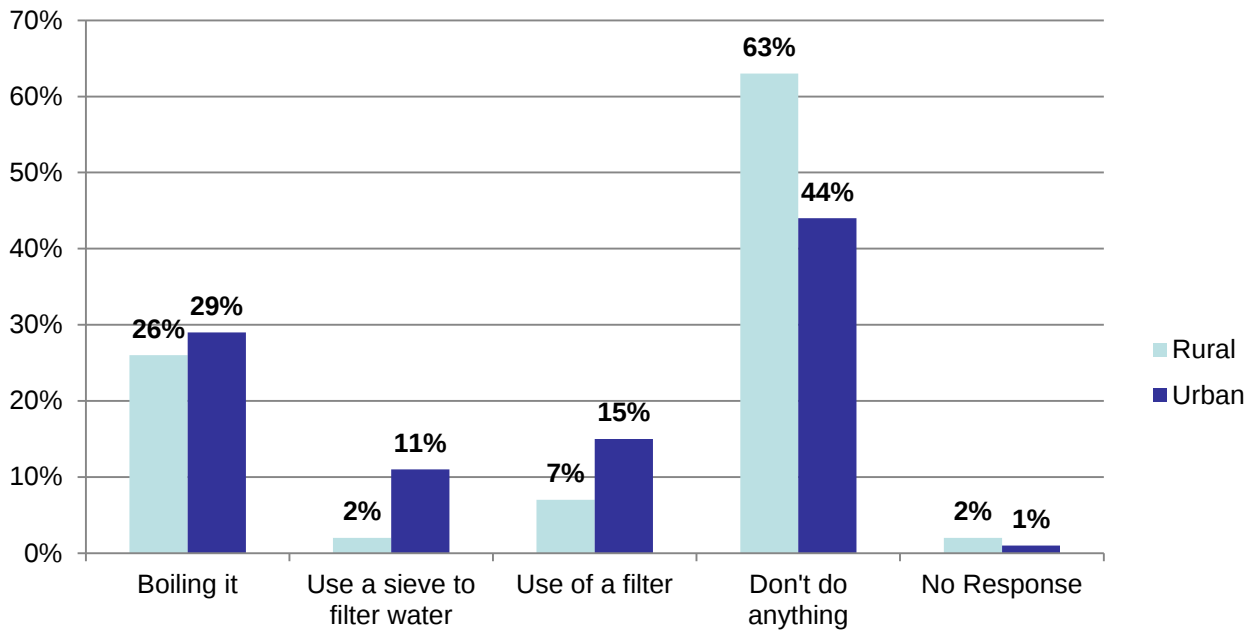
Respondents were asked “how do you purify drinking water normally?”. Responding to this, majority (57%) said they do not treat drinking water at all in any way, 27% said they boil it, 10% said they use a filter (filtration) and 5% said they use a sieve to filter water. However, 1% did not give a response.

Comparison of provinces



SECTION 6: WHAT PRECAUTIONS DO YOU TAKE TO PURIFY DRINKING WATER

Comparison between urban/rural localities



Source: Gallup and Gilani National Survey (April, 2012)

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METHODOLOGY NOTES

All findings in this Cyberletter are from Survey released by Gilani Foundation and carried out by Gallup Pakistan, the Pakistani affiliate of Gallup International. This survey was carried out among a sample of 2697 adult men and women in rural and urban areas of all four provinces of the country, during April 2012. Multi stage random area probability sampling was adopted. In-house face to face Interviews were conducted using a Structured Questionnaire.

The findings are weighted according to rural and urban population share of the four provinces according to Population Census, 1998. All figures are National average unless otherwise specified. Error margin is estimated to be approximately $\pm 2-3$ per cent at 95% confidence level.

Would you Like to Initiate a Similar Study on a Topic of Your Interest? If you would like to gauge Public perceptions on an issue of your interest, **please write to us.**



For more details on Methodology, please consult the Editorial Team.

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Health, Healthcare & Lifestyles Cyberletter Editorial Team.

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