

ENVIRONMENT STATISTICS

HUMAN SETTLEMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH REPORT 2025



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ACRONYMS

ARI	Acute Respiratory Infections
ZIMSTAT	Zimbabwe National Statistics Agency
Mash	Mashonaland
Mat	Matabeleland

1. Introduction

The Human Settlement and Environmental Health Report provides an overview of the state of human settlements and environmental health in Zimbabwe. Statistics presented in the report aim to inform policy decisions and program interventions to improve the health and well-being of Zimbabwe's populace. By presenting indicators relating to access to improved water sources, sanitation, and disease incidence, the report sheds more light on challenges and opportunities for advancing sustainable development and promoting a healthier environment for Zimbabwe.

Statistics in the report were compiled using administrative data obtained from the Ministry of Health and Child Care, Food and Nutrition Council and reports produced by the Zimbabwe National Statistics Agency.

2. Human Settlement

Figure 2.1 shows a projected increase in population of **248,287**, from **15,675,158** in 2024 to **15,923,445** in 2025.

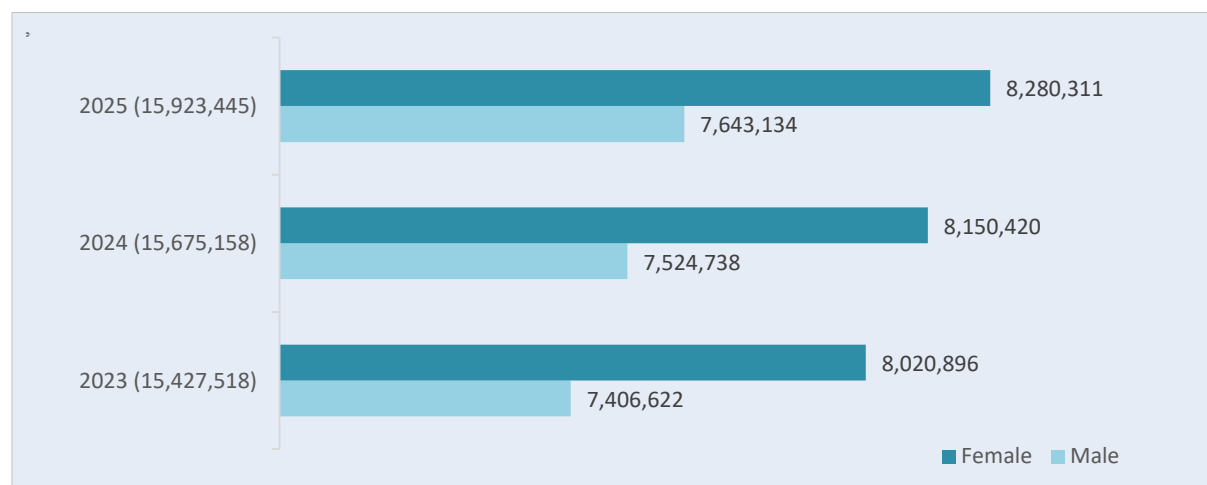


Figure 2.1: Population by Sex and Year 2023- 2025

Source of data: Population Projections Report, based on 2022 Population and Housing Census

According to the 2022 Population and Housing Census, **61.4 percent** of Zimbabwe's **15,178,957** population resided in rural areas. This comprised **61.0 percent** of the **7,891,035** females and **61.8 percent** of the **7,287,922** males. **(Figure 2.2)**

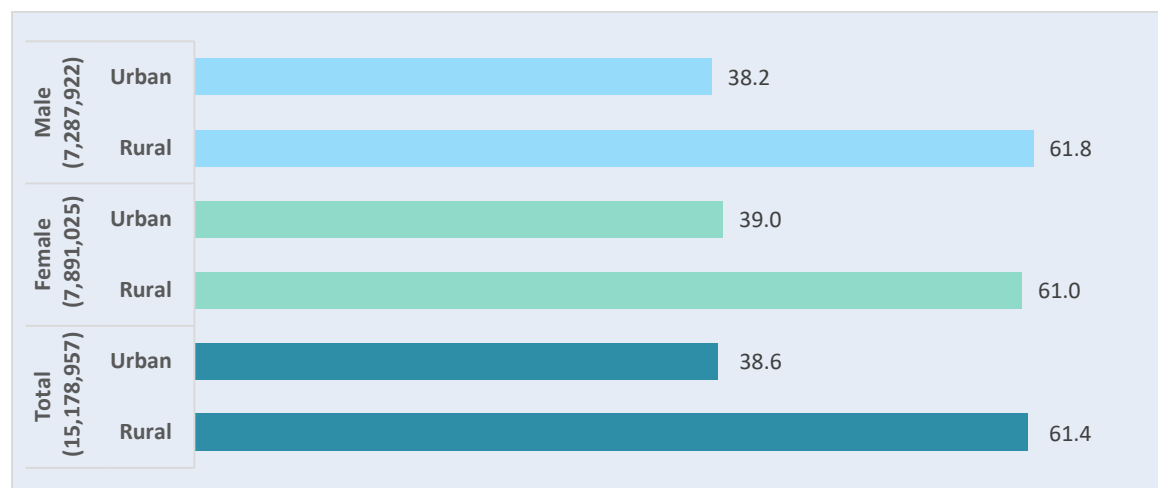


Figure 2.2: Population Size by Location and Sex, 2022
Source of data: Zimbabwe 2022 Population and Housing Census Report

The proportion of rural households with access to improved water sources in 2025, ranged from **75 percent** in Masvingo Province to **88 percent** in Matabeleland North province. **(Figure 2.3)**

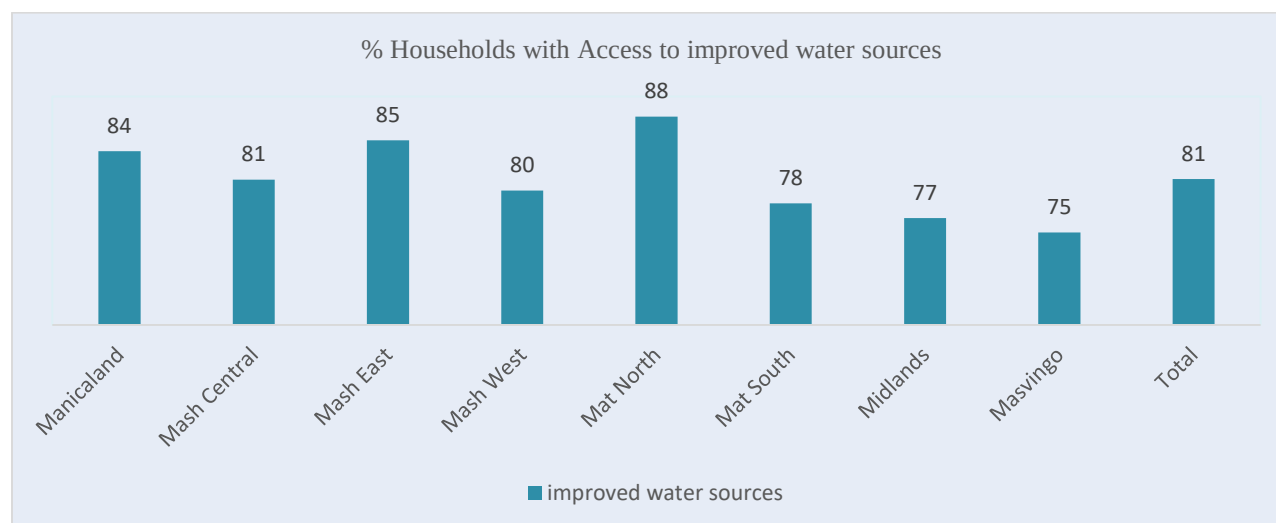


Figure 2.3: Improved Water Sources, 2025
Source of data: ZIMLAC Rural Report 2025

The proportion of urban households connected to Council or ZINWA water in 2025, ranged from **75 percent** in Matabeleland North to **98 percent** in Harare province. **(Figure 2.4)**

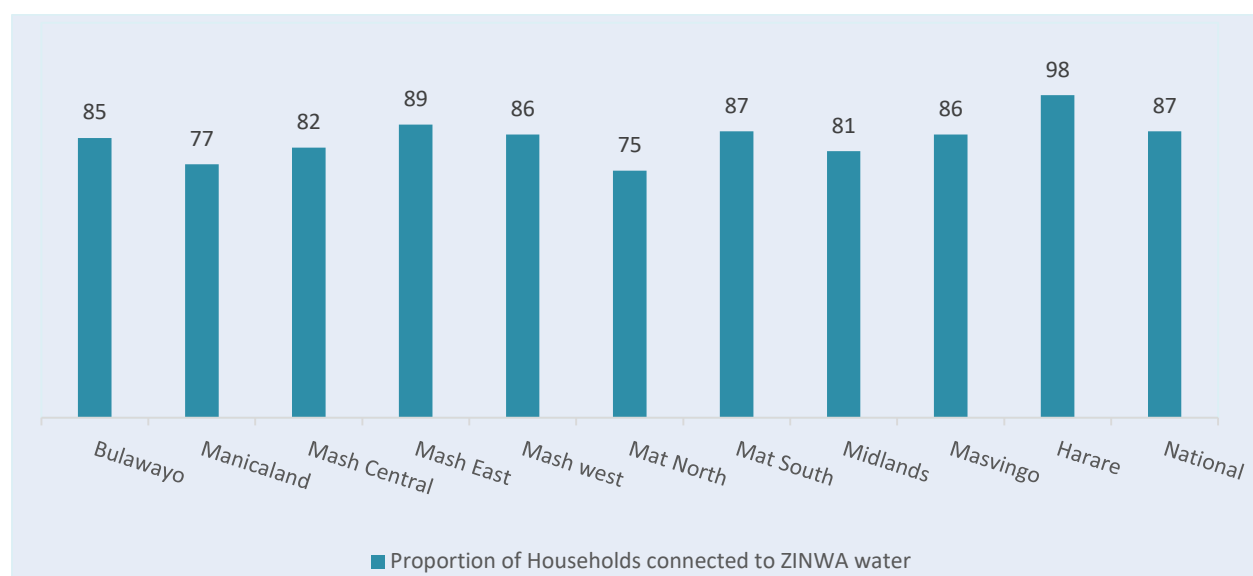


Figure 2.4: Connection to Council or ZINWA Water, 2025
Source of data: ZIMLAC Urban Report 2025

The proportion of rural households with water sources located within their premises increased by 2 percentage points from **6 percent** in 2024 to **8 percent** in 2025, as the percentage of households accessing water within a distance of less than 500 meters, increased from **51 percent** in 2024 to **55 percent** in 2025. **(Figure 2.5)**

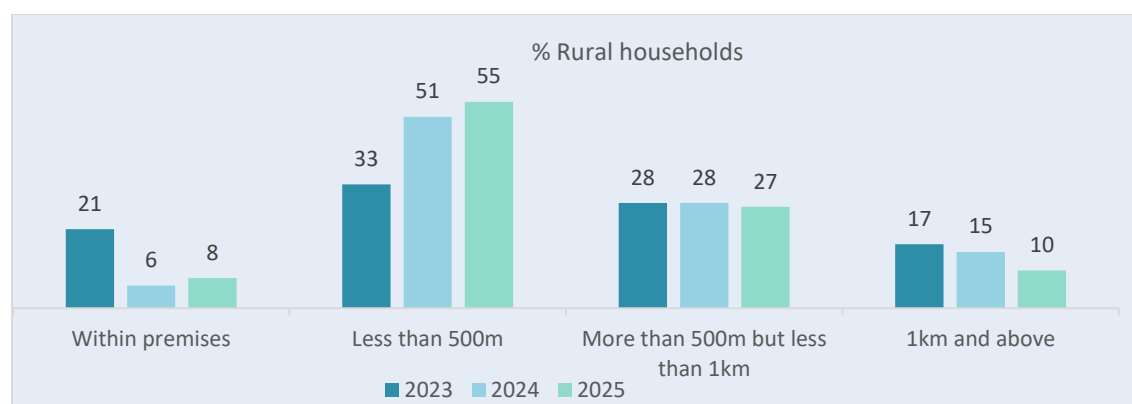


Figure 2.5: Distance Travelled to Main Source of Water, 2024 and 2025
Source of data: ZIMLAC Rural Report 2025

In all provinces except Mashonaland East (**76 percent**), proportions of urban households with water sources located within their premises were **above eighty percent**. Bulawayo province recorded a proportion of **99 percent**. (Figure 2.6)

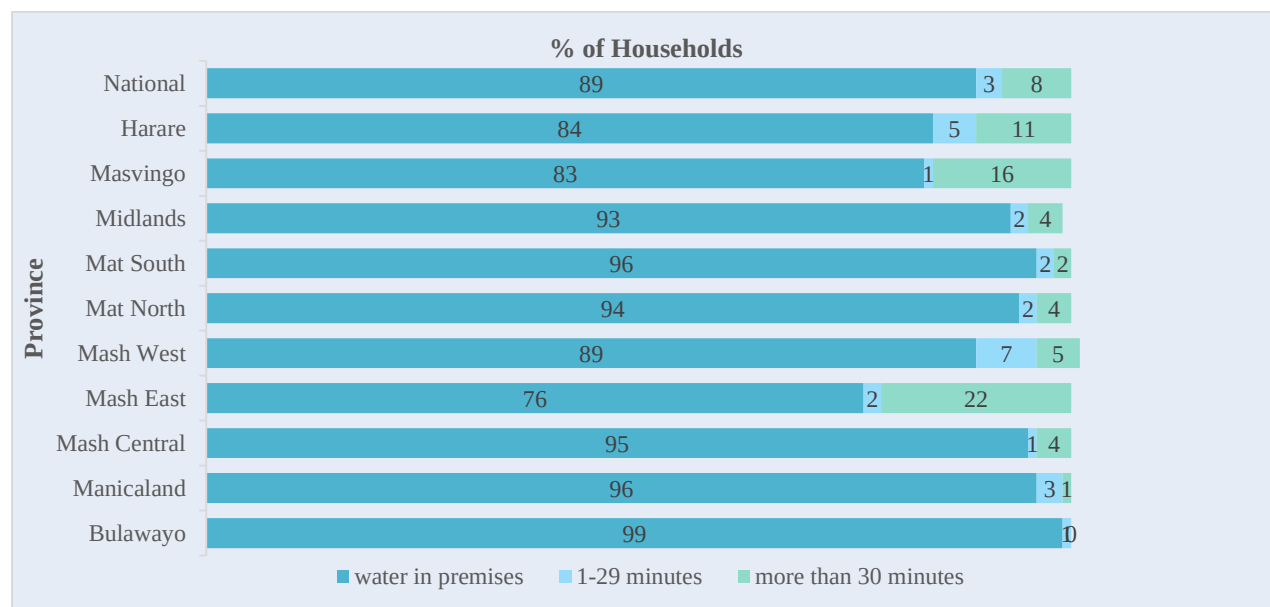


Figure 2.6: Time Taken to Main Drinking Water Source, 2025

Source of data: ZIMLAC Urban Report 2025

The proportion of rural households with access to improved sanitation was 64 percent, a recovery when compared to the drop from **66 percent** in 2022 to **61 percent** in 2023. (Figure 2,7)

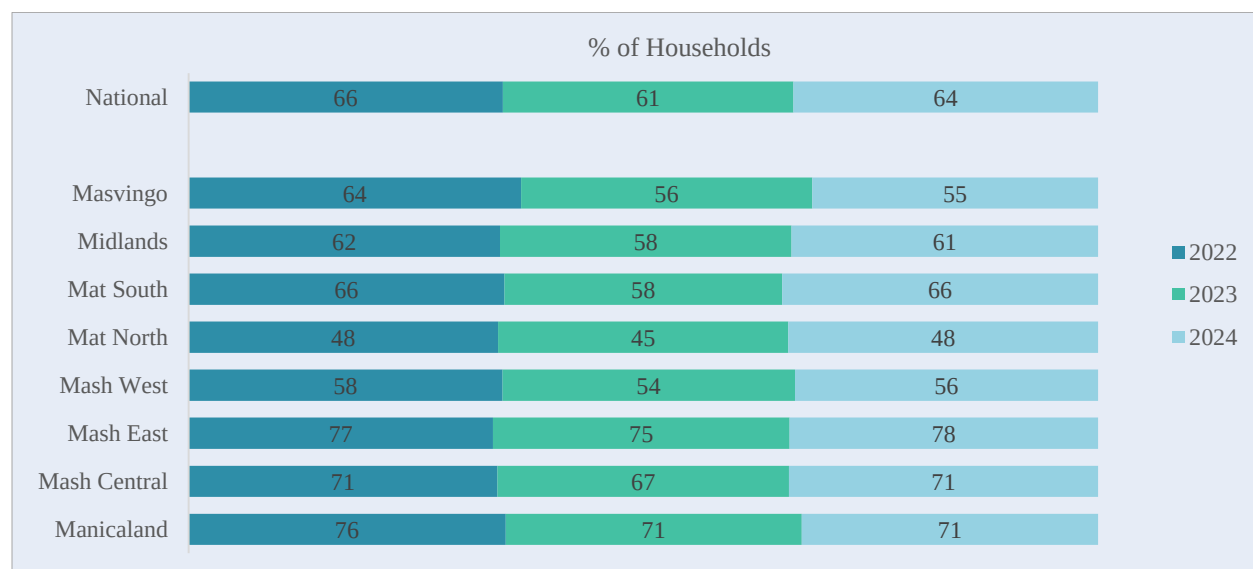


Figure 2.7: Rural Households with Access to Improved Sanitation, 2022 -2024

Source of data: ZIMLAC Rural Report 2024

There was a decline in the national proportion of rural households practicing open defecation from **29 percent** in 2023 to **25 percent** in 2025. **(Figure 2.8)**

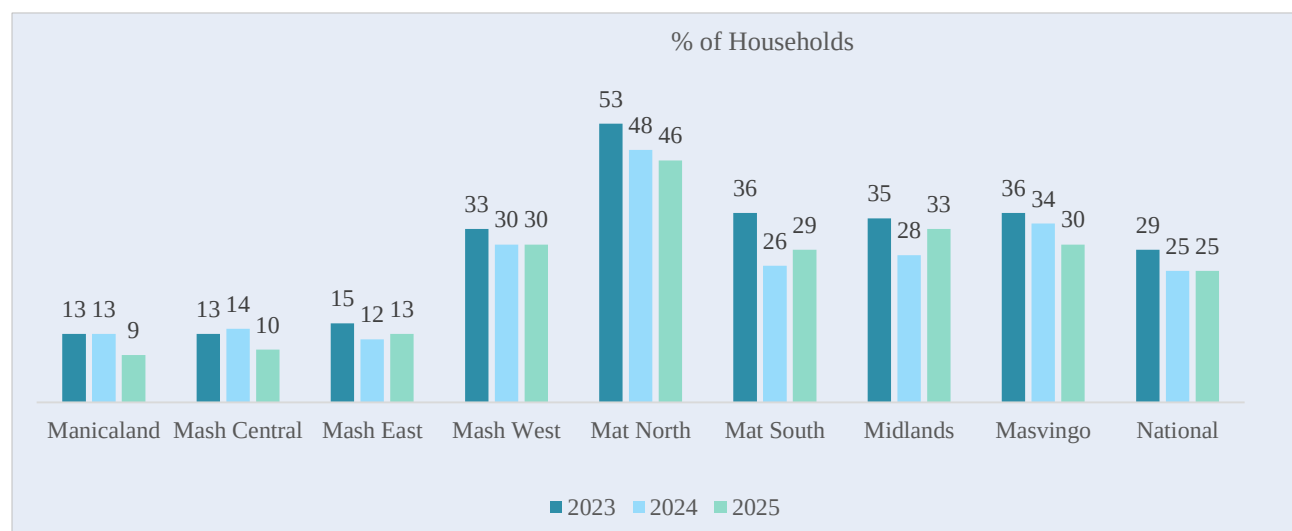


Figure 2.8: Rural Households Practicing Open Defecation by Province, 2023-2025
Source of data: ZIMLAC Rural Report 2025

Nationally, **33 percent** of urban households reported their refuse was not collected at all in the month prior to the survey. Provincially, the proportion ranged from **3 percent** in Bulawayo Province to **64 percent** in Harare Province. **(Table 2.1)**

Table 2.1: Frequency of Refuse Collection in January 2025

Province	Number of Times Refuse was Collected in January 2025				
	Once	Twice	Three times	Four times	Never collected
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Bulawayo	15	5	1	75	3
Manicaland	1	1	4	85	9
Mash Central	12	6	4	34	44
Mash East	4	4	4	54	35
Mash West	7	7	6	47	33
Mat North	2	2	2	67	27
Mat South	9	3	4	78	6
Midlands	8	5	3	47	37
Masvingo	1	5	5	82	7
Harare	15	3	1	17	64
National	9	4	3	51	33

3. Environmental Health

Environmental health plays a pivotal role in protecting communities from harmful physical, chemical and biological hazards. In this regard, existence of contaminated water, polluted air, poor sanitation, shrinking forests, climate change effects and ineffective waste disposal, lead to serious health consequences requiring adequate medical attention. In **Figure 3,1** is a map showing the distribution of healthcare facilities in Zimbabwe.

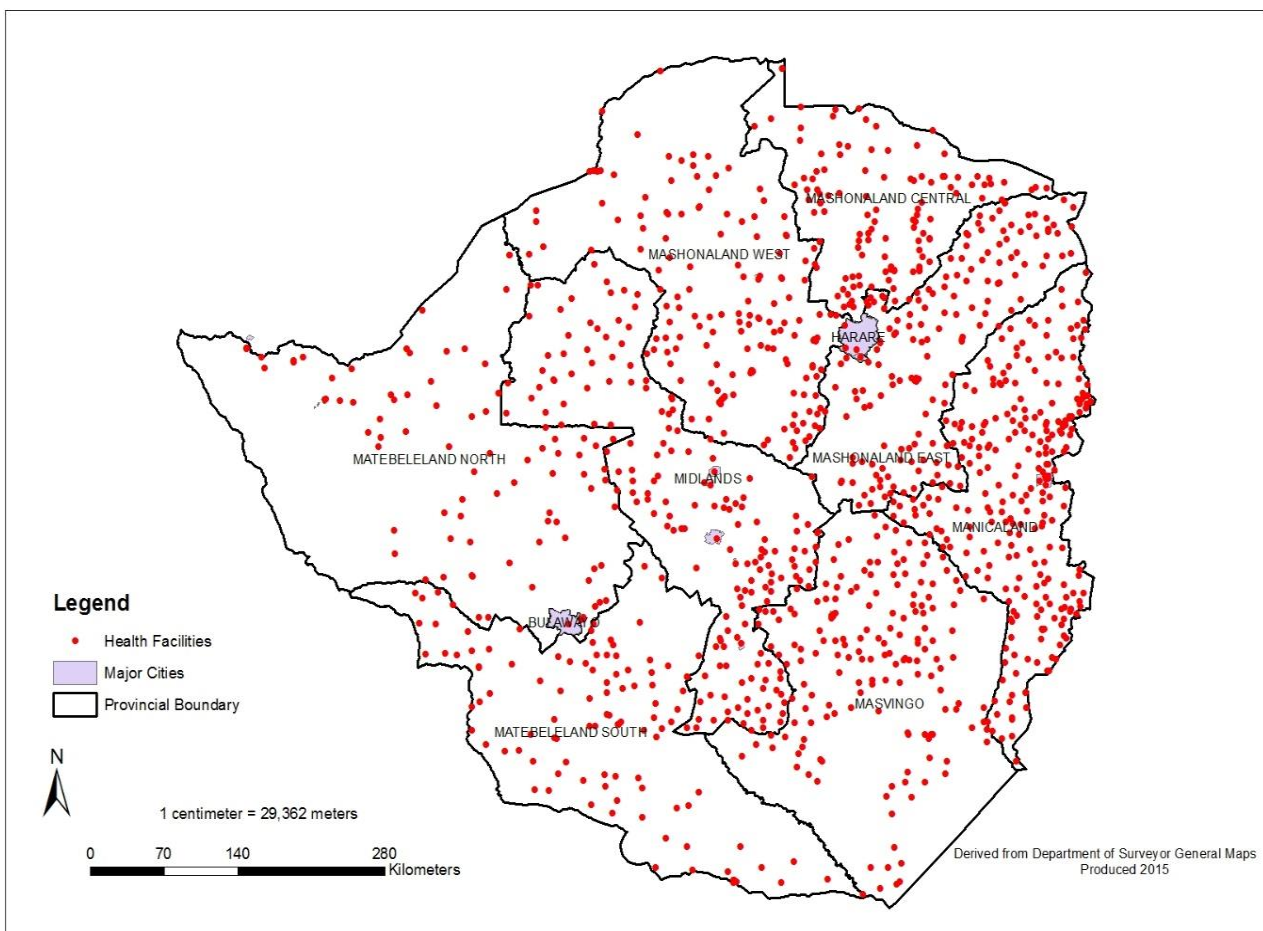


Figure 3.1: Distribution of Health Care Facilities in Zimbabwe, 2015
Source: Ministry of Health and Child Care

In **Table 2.2**, moderate Acute Respiratory Infection (ARI) cases accounted for the highest proportion (**52 percent**) of Outpatient Department (OPD) Acute Respiratory Infection cases (**2,360,318**) recorded at national level in 2025.

Table 2.2: OPD ARI Breakdown by Province/City, 2025

Province	Type of ARI					Population	ARI Incidence Rate/1000	Ear Incidence Rate
	Ear	Mild	Moderate	Severe	Total ARI			
Bulawayo	9,868	29,361	27,472	2,136	68,837	667,280	103.2	14.8
	14.3%	42.7%	39.9%	3.1%	100%			
Manicaland	26,704	101,036	186,232	7,352	321,324	2,192,249	146.6	12.2
	8.3%	31.4%	58.0%	2.3%	100%			
Mash Central	26,847	97,034	157,849	3,185	284,915	1,470,730	193.7	18.3
	9.4%	34.1%	55.4%	1.1%	100%			
Mash East	15,946	86,139	117,429	5,045	224,559	1,851,032	121.3	8.6
	7.1%	38.4%	52.3%	2.2%	100%			
Mash West	20,087	109,899	147,859	6,018	283,863	2,007,615	141.4	10
	7.1%	38.7%	52.1%	2.1%	100%			
Mat North	11287	47,427	68,366	1,787	128,867	854,755	150.8	13.2
	8.8%	36.8%	53.1%	1.4%	100%			
Mat South	10331	43,197	54,991	1,922	110,441	764,835	144.4	13.5
	9.4%	39.1%	49.8%	1.7%	100%			
Midlands	22,252	109,609	137,424	6,438	275,723	1,906,430	144.6	11.7
	8.1%	39.8%	49.8%	2.3%	100%			
Masvingo	20,847	107,320	176,579	5,421	310,167	1,720,073	180.3	12.1
	6.7%	34.6%	56.9%	1.7%	100%			
Harare	44,967	136,692	154,283	15,680	351,622	2,487,591	141.4	18.1
	12.8%	38.9%	43.9%	4.5%	100%			
National	209,136	867,714	1,228,484	54,984	2,360,318	15,922,590	147.6	13.1
	8.9%	36.8%	52.0%	2.3%	100%			

Source of data: Ministry of Health and Child Care

Vector Borne Diseases

Vector-borne diseases are human illnesses caused by parasites, viruses, or bacteria transmitted through vectors e.g. mosquitoes. Mashonaland west Province recorded the highest positivity rate

from the tested cases of suspected malaria cases, followed by Mashonaland central with a positivity rate of **20.4 percent**. (Table 2.3)

Table 2.3: Malaria Cases by Province, 2025

Province	Suspected/Clinical Cases	Tested Cases	Positive Cases	Positivity Rates (%)
Bulawayo	4,837	4,829	98	2.0
Manicaland	180,009	180,075	22,496	12.5
Mash Central	160,430	160,445	32,763	20.4
Mash East	108,999	108,998	12,110	11.1
Mash West	107,904	107,266	26,315	24.5
Mat North	43,074	43,074	1767	4.1
Mat South	23,294	23,329	360	1.5
Midlands	58,036	58,036	6079	10.5
Masvingo	49,977	49,879	3098	6.2
Harare	5,517	5,523	1055	19.1
National	742,077	741,454	106,141	14.3

Source of data: Ministry of Health and Child Care

Of the **38,669** suspected schistosomiasis (bilharzia) cases at national level in 2025, Mashonaland Central constituted the highest proportion **22.2 percent** (8,601 cases). (Table 2.4)

Table 2.4: Schistosomiasis\ Bilharzia Cases by Province, 2025

Province	Suspected/Clinical cases	% of Total Suspected Cases
Bulawayo	171	0.4
Manicaland	7,026	18.2
Mash Central	8,601	22.2
Mash East	5,580	14.4
Mash West	5,298	13.7
Mat North	679	1.8
Mat South	493	1.3
Midlands	3,655	9.5
Masvingo	6,739	17.4
Harare	427	1.1
National	38,669	100

Source of data: Ministry of Health and Child Care

Table 2.5 shows that countrywide, diarrhea was the dominant waterborne disease in 2025, with a national incidence of **26.5 per 1,000**. Mash Central had the highest risk with an incidence **37.1 per 1000**, followed by Matabeleland North (**31.2 per 1000**) and Mashonaland West (**31.0 per 1000**). In terms of volume, Manicaland (**64,065**) and Mashonaland West (**62,304**) recorded the most cases. (**Table 2.5**)

Table 2.5: Water Borne Diseases by Type, Age Group and Province 2025

Province	Diarrhea			Dysentery			Typhoid			Cholera		
	Cases	Incidence/ 1000 population	Deaths	Cases	Incidence/ 1000 population	Deaths	Cases	Incidence/ 1000 population	Deaths	Cases	Incidence/ 1000 population	Deaths
Bulawayo	6,828	10.2	21	323	0.5	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0
Manicaland	64,065	29.2	17	4,234	1.9	0	0.0	0.0	0	2	0.0	0
Mash Central	54,506	37.1	5	3,605	2.5	0	0.0	0.0	0	298	0.2	6
Mash East	47,875	25.9	3	1,787	1	0	0.0	0.0	0	172	0.1	10
Mash West	62,304	31	6	4,376	2.2	0	0.0	0.0	0	8	0.0	0
Mat North	26,633	31.2	3	2,240	2.6	1	0.0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0
Mat South	18605	24.3	9	498	0.7	0	0.0	0.0	0	6	0.0	0
Midlands	49,991	26.2	11	2,165	1.1	0	0.0	0.0	0	5	0.0	1
Masvingo	47,645	27.7	15	2,769	1.6	1	0.0	0.0	0	2	0.0	0
Harare	43,619	17.5	112	214	0.1	1	2.0	0.0	2	9	0.0	0
National	422,071	26.5	202	202	0.0	3	2.0	0.0	2	502	0.0	17

Source of data: Ministry of Health and Child Care

For each of the cancer types, the number of cases reported for persons aged 25 years and older, was higher than that reported for persons aged 0-24 years. Harare province recorded the highest number of cases across all cancer types. (**Table 2.6**)

Table 2.6: Cancers by Type, Age Group, Gender and Province 2025

	Breast Cancer				Cervical Cancer		Prostate Cancer		Other Cancer			
	0-24 years		25 years and older		0-24 Years	25 years and older	0-24 years	25 years and older	0-24 years		25 years and older	
	<i>female</i>	<i>male</i>	<i>female</i>	<i>male</i>	<i>female</i>	<i>female</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>male</i>	<i>female</i>	<i>male</i>	<i>female</i>	<i>male</i>
Bulawayo	0	1	19	31	1	104	2	121	4	16	38	35
Manicaland	0	0	21	10	0	24	0	222	2	1	27	87
Mash Central	0	0	32	9	2	97	1	113	1	4	16	34
Mash East	0	0	11	2	1	56	0	102	1	5	45	22
Mash West	0	0	33	8	0	210	0	19	3	1	26	18
Midlands	0	0	26	11	1	92	0	118	2	4	75	41
Mat North	0	0	4	3	1	22	0	19	0	0	6	6
Mat South	0	0	9	5	0	22	0	39	0	2	15	8

