



WATER FACTS

- Depending on living conditions, including climate and physical activity, drinking-water needs for individuals vary, but the optimal amount is estimated at **2 quarts** per day for a 130-pound person and **1 quart** per day for a 22-pound child.
- Roughly **12 percent** of the world's population, or **884 million** people, do not have access to safe water.
- **About 2.5 billion** people in the world do not have access to adequate sanitation — roughly **two-fifths** of the world's population.
- **Approximately 1.8 million** children die each year as a result of diseases caused by unclean water and poor sanitation. This is around **5,000** deaths a day.
- Diarrheal diseases can be reduced by **more than 40 percent** through the simple practice of washing hands with soap and water.
- Water-related diseases are the second biggest killer of children worldwide. Number one is acute respiratory infections, such as tuberculosis.
- **Approximately 97.5 percent** of the water on earth is saltwater. If all the world's water could fit in an average bucket, only 1 teaspoon would be drinkable.
- Nearly **90 percent** of water-related diseases are due to unsafe water, sanitation and hygiene; most victims are children in developing countries.
- The average person in the developing world uses a little more than **2.5 gallons of water** each day for drinking, washing and cooking. Whereas the average person in the developed world uses 13 gallons per day only for toilet flushing.
- Agriculture uses **more than 80 percent** of the world's total water consumption.
- **Worldwide, approximately 425 million** children under 18 do not have safe water.

Sources: www.who.int, www.wateraid.org, www.unicef.org, February 2009