WICC
Water insecurity correction coalition

WATER INSECURITY IN THE U.S.

How often do you think about your water privilege?

When you think about not having clean drinking water, you probably picture somewhere in a desert, not your neighborhood.

In the United States, inadequate access to clean water is more prevalent than you think. Currently over 1.4 million U.S. citizens lack access to clean water. Over 60 million Americans were exposed to unsafe drinking water over the past decade. Oftentimes this is due to a lacking investment in infrastructure, or poor city planning. This can lead to all sorts of health issues, including Legionnaire's disease, lead poisoning, and diarrhea, and more often is an issue for low-income communities. Thousands of Americans are impacted by water-related illnesses every year.

Why is there unsafe water in the U.S.?

All sorts of contributors cause water issues in the United States. Illegal or unsafe dumping of wastes and water pollution from industry and agriculture, as well as climate change related events like flooding and drought contribute to hazardous water conditions. Issues with infrastructure, like the infamous lead-covered pipes running through the city of Flint, Michigan, are also a huge contributor to a lack of clean water access.

How can we help?

To battle water insecurity in the United States, our best weapons are our voice and our actions. Contact your Congressional leaders and urge them to support legislation that addresses issues like infrastructure refurbishing, green water use practice mandates, and combating climate change. Since we elect our representatives, it is their job to listen to their constituents. Hearing from you through a call or email will show that you really care about this issue and want it on the policy-making docket.

Also finding ways to conserve water in your own life can contribute to assuring everyone else has adequate access to clean water. You can do this by eating less meat, taking shorter showers, or collecting grey water to irrigate your plants.

Use your voice

Contact Congress through call or email.

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Conserve Water

Find ways to reduce your water usage in your life.