

Private Sector Commission

Technical Information Bulletin
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Living Conditions in Guyana

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Preface

Our Technical Information Bulletin N0. 7 – Living Conditions in Guyana focuses on Water Supply, Toilet Facilities, Lighting and Cooking Fuel. Our analysis is based on data released earlier this year on the Population Census of 2002.

We had earlier looked at the Labour Force and Employment (Bulletin No. 4) and the Employment Structure (Bulletin No. 5).

Our Bulletins are aimed at providing our membership and the wider business community with baseline data for general awareness and decision making. We do not attempt to do any detailed analysis of the data provided but would be happy to further research any aspects of the topics covered which would be of interest to our members.

We would be happy to receive your feedback, comments, etc in this regard.

Bal Parsaud
Executive Director

Previous Bulletins

Bulletin 1 (Dec 2006) - The Guyana Economy June 2006

Bulletin 2 (Mar 2007) - Highlights of the Guyana National Budget 2007

Bulletin 3 (Mar 2007) - Recent Growth Trends in the Guyana Economy

Bulletin 4 (Apr 2007) – Labour Force and Employment in the Guyana Economy

Bulletin 5 (May 2007) – Employment Structure in Guyana

Bulletin 6 (July 2007) – Measuring Inflation in Guyana

E-copies available on request.

Living Conditions in Guyana

The 2002 NDC Census data released earlier this year afforded the opportunity to obtain various details of the Guyana population. In previous bulletins we examined the labour market and employment.

Among other details garnered in the Census was information on the living conditions of Guyanese. The living conditions are utilized to provide a poverty index for the different Regions of the country.

This brief bulletin examines some of the variables utilized in the construction of the index and includes not only aggregate data for the country as a whole, but also living conditions across the various Regions.

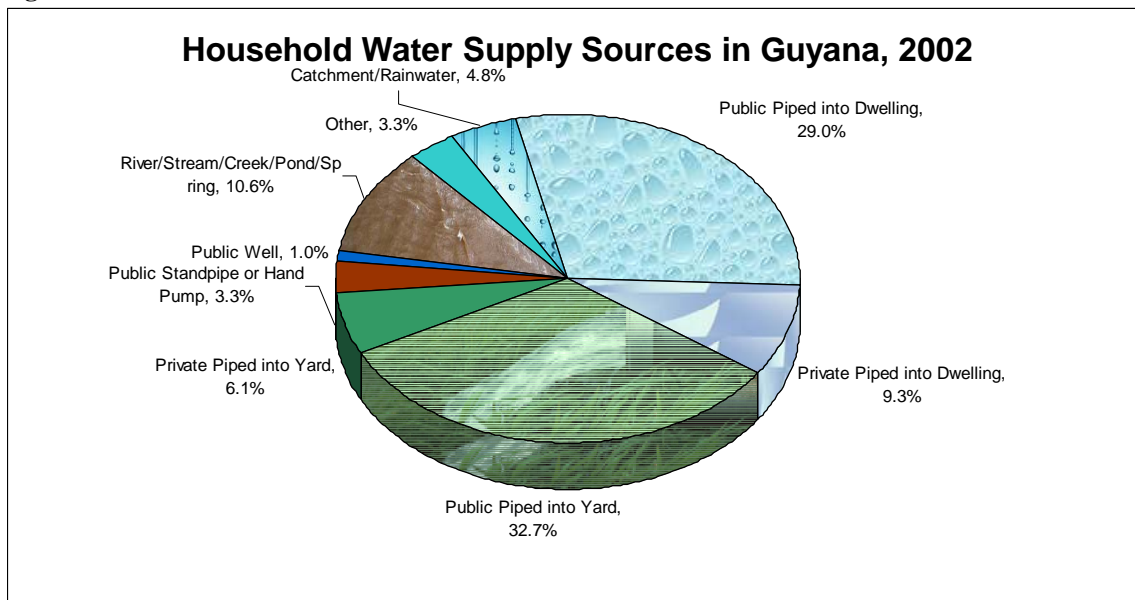
Household Water Supply Source

Less than 40% of households in 2002 had access to water piped into dwellings while 38.8% had water piped into yards.

Only 4.4% of households relied on public wells or standpipes, but as many as 10.6% relied on untreated water from rivers, streams, creeks, ponds or springs. (see Fig.1)

Across the Regions access to potable water varied greatly. In Region 4, for instance, 45% of households enjoyed water piped into dwellings while only 2.1% relied on untreated water from rivers and creeks. By contrast, in Region 1 only 10.6% had water piped into dwellings while almost 60% relied on water from rivers and creeks. In Region 8 almost 82% of households relied on river and creek water. (see Table 1)

Figure 1

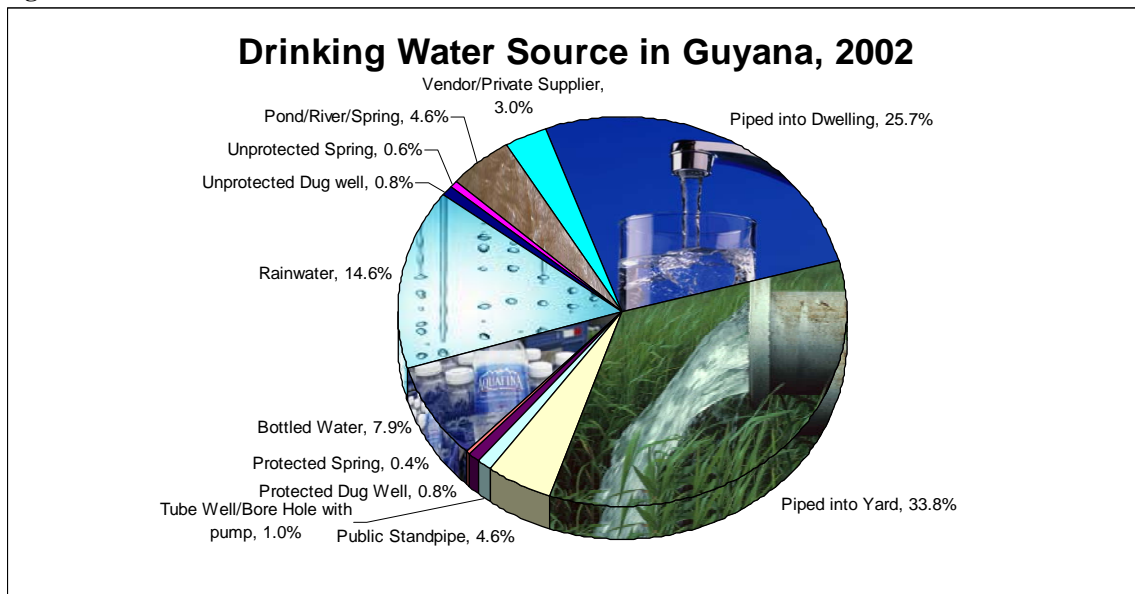


Drinking Water Source

59.5% of households in 2002 relied on water piped into dwellings or yards for drinking but, while 14.6% were able to utilize rainwater for the purpose and 7.9% used bottled water, a significant 6% still obtained drinking water from rivers and other unprotected sources. (Fig.2)

Across the Regions the circumstances were more disparate with as many as 55.4% of households in Region 8 and almost 50% of the population in Region 1 using river and creek water for drinking purposes. (Table 1)

Figure 2



Toilet Facilities

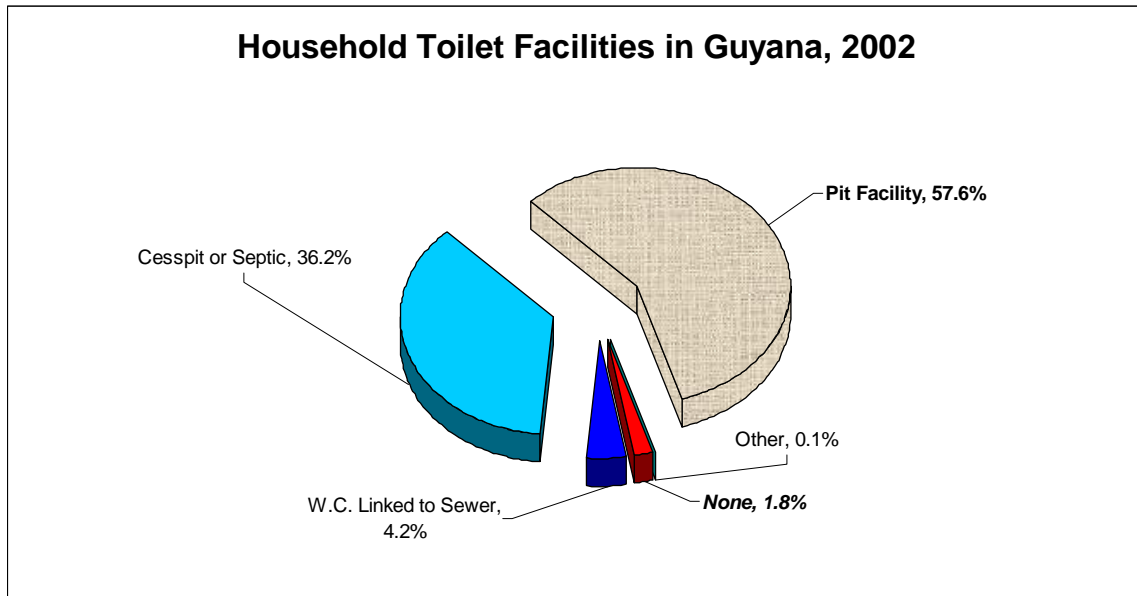
The municipality of Georgetown remained the only part of the country where residents utilized W.C.'s linked to sewers. This accounted for only 4.2% of households in the country.

Less than 40% of all households had access to cesspits or septic tanks while almost 60% still utilized pit facilities. (Fig.3)

Region 4 had the lowest incidence of use of pit facilities with just under 40% of households using these. In the other Regions use of such facilities was significantly higher reaching over 70% in six Regions and almost 86% in Region 1. (Table 1)

In Regions 7, 8 and 9 large sections of the population reported no sanitary facilities at all. (Table 1)

Figure 3

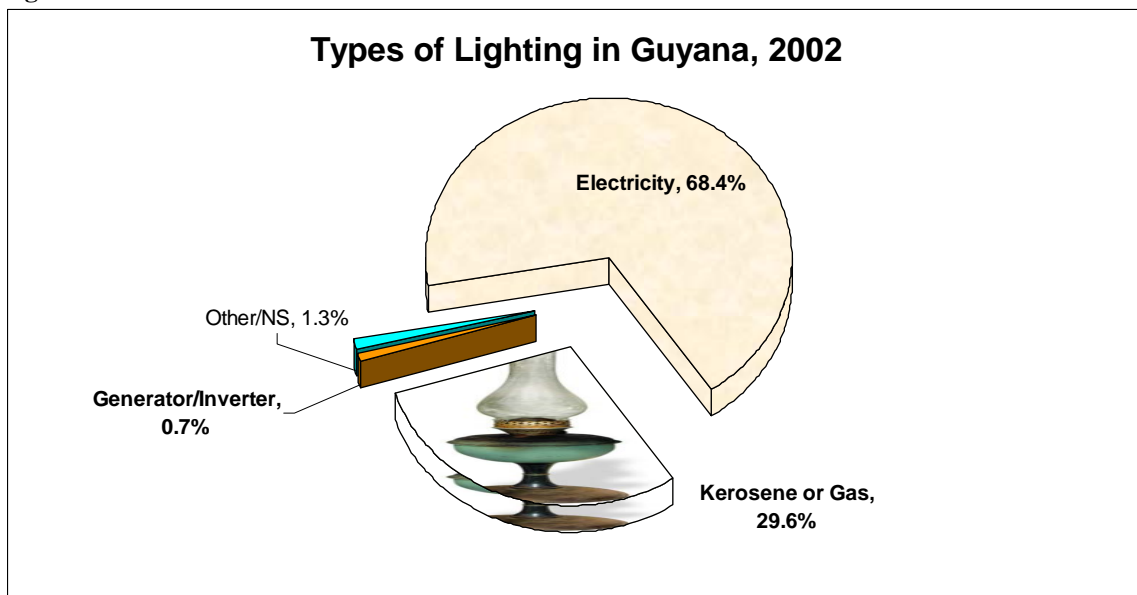


Types of Lighting

A high 68.4% of households had access to electric lighting in 2002 while almost 30% still relied on kerosene or gas lamps. (Fig 4)

Regions 4 and 10 had the highest incidence of electricity use at over 79% of households while in Regions 8 and 9 only just over 10% had access to electricity. (Table 1) The use of generators was highest in Region 7 and 8 at 2.9% and 2.5% respectively.

Figure 4



Types of Cooking Fuel

In 2002 only 40.7% of households utilized cooking gas or electricity for cooking and 45% used kerosene while 13.1% were still cooking on wood fires. (Fig 5)

Region 4 had the most users of gas or electricity at 55.2% of households and the lowest incidence of wood users at 2.3% but the situation was reversed in Region 8 with only 7.5% of households using gas or electricity and more than 70% utilizing wood. In Region 9 almost 75% of households were still using wood as cooking fuel. (Table 1)

Figure 5

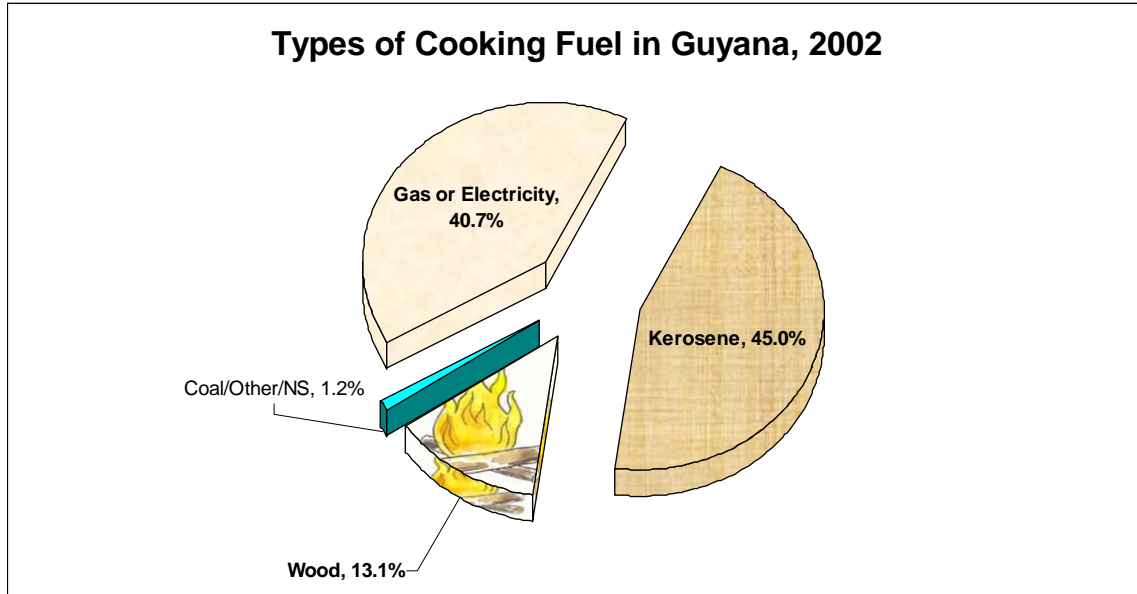


Table 1

Living Conditions in Guyana, 2002

	COUNTRY TOTAL	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10
Total Number of Households	182,609	4,145	11,220	25,957	77,937	12,774	31,469	3,641	1,871	3,543	10,052
Water Supply Source											
Catchment/Rainwater	4.8%	11.2%	18.3%	7.1%	3.1%	1.8%	2.2%	15.0%	12.8%	5.3%	1.5%
Public Piped into Dwelling	29.0%	8.8%	11.4%	28.4%	35.8%	26.3%	27.0%	14.0%	0.2%	2.0%	35.7%
Private Piped into Dwelling	9.3%	1.8%	8.5%	12.9%	9.2%	5.1%	8.2%	5.7%	0.8%	2.0%	18.5%
Public Piped into Yard	32.7%	9.3%	9.1%	30.7%	35.7%	47.8%	46.5%	12.7%	1.6%	3.4%	11.2%
Private Piped into Yard	6.1%	2.8%	3.3%	7.8%	6.7%	5.1%	7.1%	1.8%	0.3%	0.6%	4.9%
Public Standpipe or Hand Pump	3.3%	3.8%	0.5%	3.2%	3.7%	2.2%	2.9%	0.2%	0.9%	5.9%	6.0%
Public Well	1.0%	2.2%	0.5%	0.6%	0.9%	0.6%	0.9%	0.2%	0.4%	12.5%	0.2%
River/Stream/Creek/Pond/Spring	10.6%	59.8%	47.7%	7.3%	2.1%	5.7%	2.1%	49.8%	81.9%	31.7%	21.4%
Other	3.3%	0.3%	0.8%	2.2%	2.8%	5.6%	3.0%	0.6%	1.2%	36.6%	0.6%
Drinking Water Source											
Piped into Dwelling	25.7%	3.5%	6.3%	29.2%	26.1%	28.3%	31.1%	3.2%	0.2%	2.4%	45.7%
Piped into Yard	33.8%	12.9%	56.9%	25.9%	30.7%	49.7%	51.3%	4.5%	3.4%	2.7%	12.7%
Public Standpipe	4.6%	3.1%	2.0%	4.1%	5.0%	5.6%	4.6%	0.4%	1.3%	4.6%	6.5%
Tube Well/Bore Hole with pump	1.0%	2.3%	7.4%	0.6%	0.6%	0.0%	0.0%	1.4%	0.0%	6.0%	0.1%
Protected Dug Well	0.8%	1.7%	0.3%	0.1%	0.3%	0.1%	0.4%	0.5%	0.3%	25.7%	0.2%
Protected Spring	0.4%	0.8%	0.0%	0.1%	0.4%	0.1%	0.1%	0.3%	1.9%	0.5%	3.5%
Bottled Water	7.9%	0.8%	0.4%	3.2%	15.3%	2.6%	2.5%	1.6%	0.3%	0.5%	3.1%
Rainwater	14.6%	22.5%	23.4%	33.0%	11.4%	4.9%	5.7%	52.8%	19.3%	0.4%	8.4%
Unprotected Dug well	0.8%	1.1%	0.1%	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%	0.2%	0.0%	1.0%	36.5%	0.3%
Unprotected Spring	0.6%	2.9%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%	15.7%	1.2%	5.8%
Pond/River/Spring	4.6%	47.7%	1.6%	2.0%	1.0%	3.3%	1.2%	34.3%	55.4%	18.1%	12.4%
Vendor/Private Supplier	3.0%	0.5%	0.4%	0.3%	6.6%	0.5%	0.5%	0.1%	1.0%	0.3%	0.4%
Type of Toilet Facility											
W.C. Linked to Sewer	4.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	9.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Cesspit or Septic	36.2%	11.6%	23.4%	28.6%	49.4%	20.2%	27.8%	21.4%	6.0%	4.6%	47.3%
Pit Facility	57.6%	85.7%	76.3%	70.3%	39.9%	78.7%	71.4%	62.9%	66.6%	71.9%	51.2%
Other	0.1%	0.9%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.0%	0.1%	0.2%	3.5%	0.1%	0.1%
None	1.8%	1.8%	0.2%	0.7%	0.8%	1.1%	0.8%	15.5%	23.9%	23.4%	1.4%
Type of Lighting											
Electricity	68.4%	15.1%	21.0%	68.5%	79.4%	69.2%	73.7%	46.3%	10.0%	10.2%	79.2%
Kerosene or Gas	29.6%	82.5%	78.8%	29.2%	18.8%	29.5%	25.7%	40.6%	72.4%	85.8%	19.2%
Generator/Inverter	0.7%	1.8%	0.1%	0.9%	0.6%	0.9%	0.3%	2.9%	2.5%	0.9%	1.2%
Other/NS	1.3%	0.6%	0.1%	1.5%	1.2%	0.4%	0.3%	10.2%	15.1%	3.1%	0.4%
Type of Cooking Fuel											
Gas or Electricity	40.7%	10.2%	13.9%	41.4%	55.2%	27.2%	28.2%	26.5%	7.5%	23.8%	42.2%
Kerosene	45.0%	28.8%	18.8%	49.4%	41.4%	64.2%	58.6%	39.3%	18.5%	1.6%	52.8%
Wood	13.1%	59.2%	63.2%	8.1%	2.3%	8.1%	12.8%	31.9%	70.4%	74.4%	3.6%
Coal/Other/NS	1.2%	1.9%	4.1%	1.1%	1.1%	0.6%	0.5%	2.4%	3.6%	0.2%	1.3%

Source: Data extracted from 2002 NDC Census Tables