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Evaluation of access to safe drinking water in Greenlandic settlements

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According to UN, everyone has the right to sufficient, continuous, safe, acceptable, physically accessible, and affordable water for personal and domestic use. Sustainable Development Goal target 6.1 calls for universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water, and is tracked with the indicator of "safely managed drinking water services" i.e. drinking water from an improved water source that is located on premises, available when needed, and free from fecal and priority chemical contamination. While running water is available in most households of the largest cities of Greenland, there are large variations in household supply systems throughout the country (Hendriksen, Hoffmann 2018), with the rural areas reportedly still having low in house access to piped water - estimated to an average of 75% overall (Bressler, Hennessy 2018), and as low as 56% in parts of Northern Greenland (Hennessy, Bressler 2016). This may severely affect water consumption and quality, and thus the health of the population (Mosites et al. 2020). As results of the first step of a larger research project, we present detailed data on the extent of piping to homes in specific Greenlandic settlements, water consumption per capita in each settlement, and settlement specific water related issues such as water quantity and quality. In conclusion, the deficiencies of water infrastructure vary significantly from one local community to another, due to the Islandoperated infrastructure.