

Abstract

Changes in handwashing practices in the Republic of Korea, 2013-2020

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In 2020, compliance with handwashing guidelines increased significantly during the coronavirus disease-19 (COVID-19) pandemic. The aim of this study was to examine the changes in handwashing compliance from 2013 to 2020. This report found that the handwashing compliance increased from 74.2% in 2019 to 87.3% in 2020. This report found that handwashing compliance among women, seniors, healthcare workers and workers in the food and beverage industry was higher than that among men, youths, and non-sanitation related workers. Also, in the 2020 observational survey, the rate of handwashing after toilet usage was 75.4%. However, among those who washed their hands after toilet usage, only 37.1% washed their hands with soap. This study concluded that policy makers need to focus their efforts on public relations (PR) and on education programs about the importance of using soap when washing hands.

Keywords: COVID-19, Infectious diseases, Washing hands, Soap

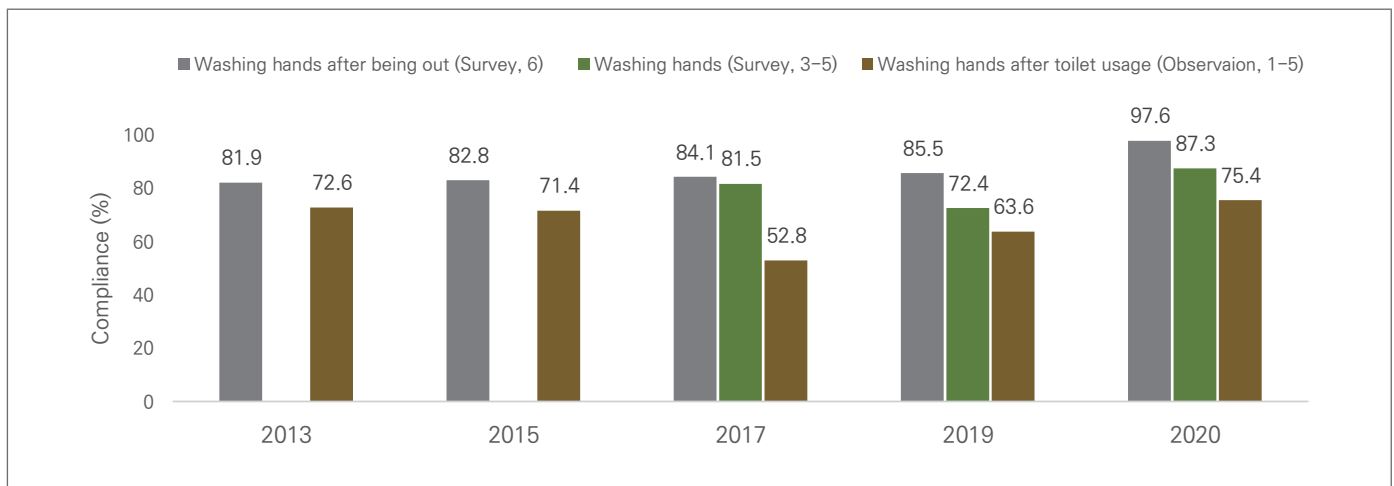


Figure 1-1. Handwashing compliance, 2013–2020 [1–6]

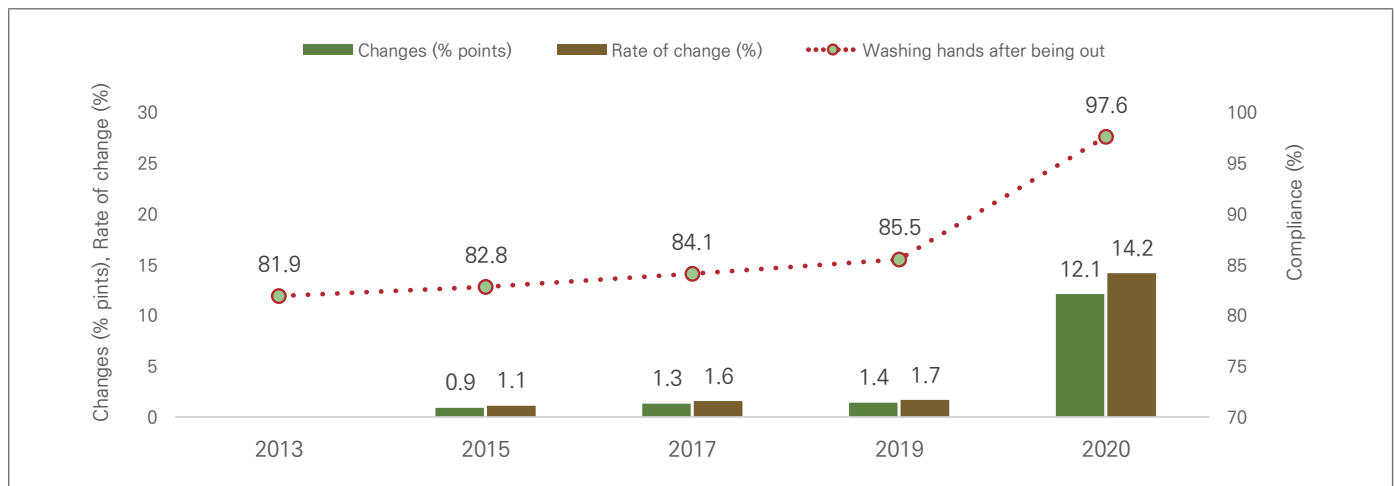


Figure 1-2. Changes in handwashing practices after being out, 2013–2020 [6]

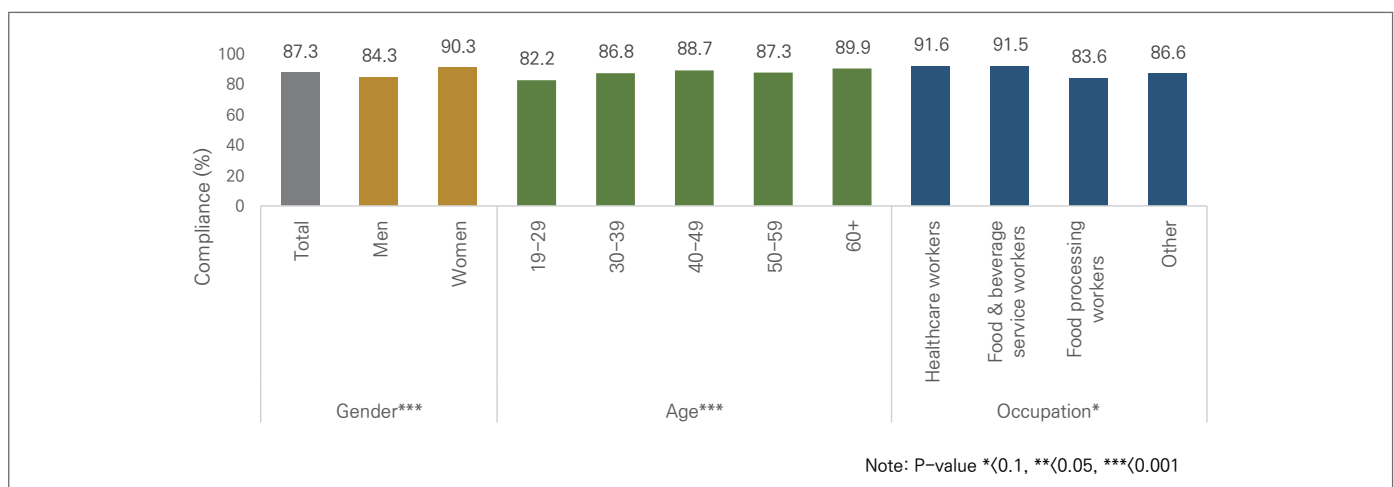


Figure 1-3. Handwashing practice by gender, age, and occupation in 2020 [5]

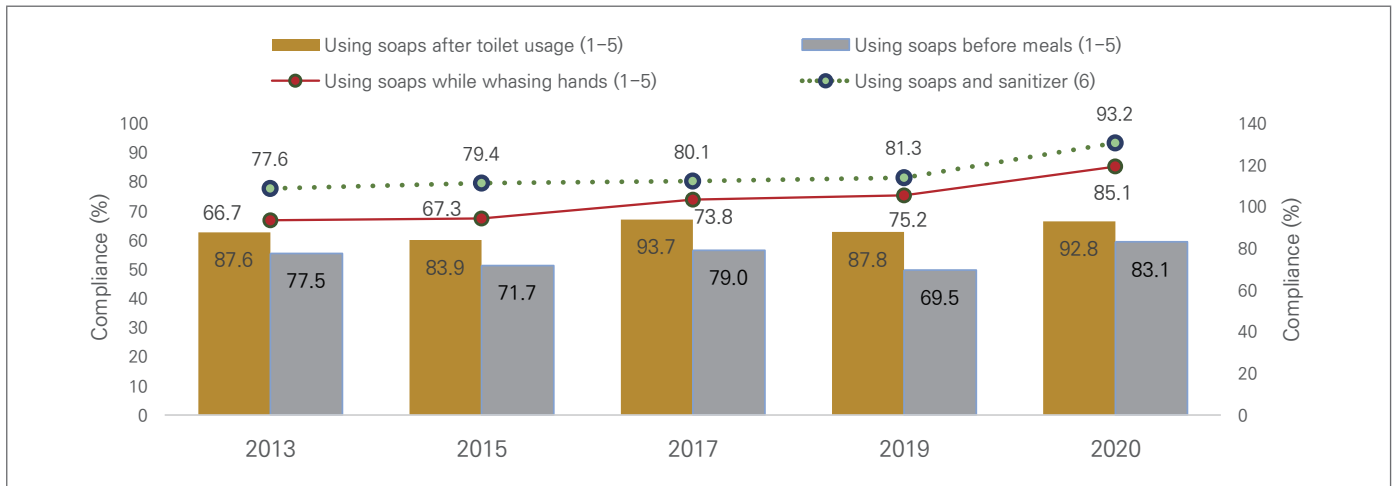


Figure 2-1. Soap usage when washing hands, 2013–2020 [1–6]

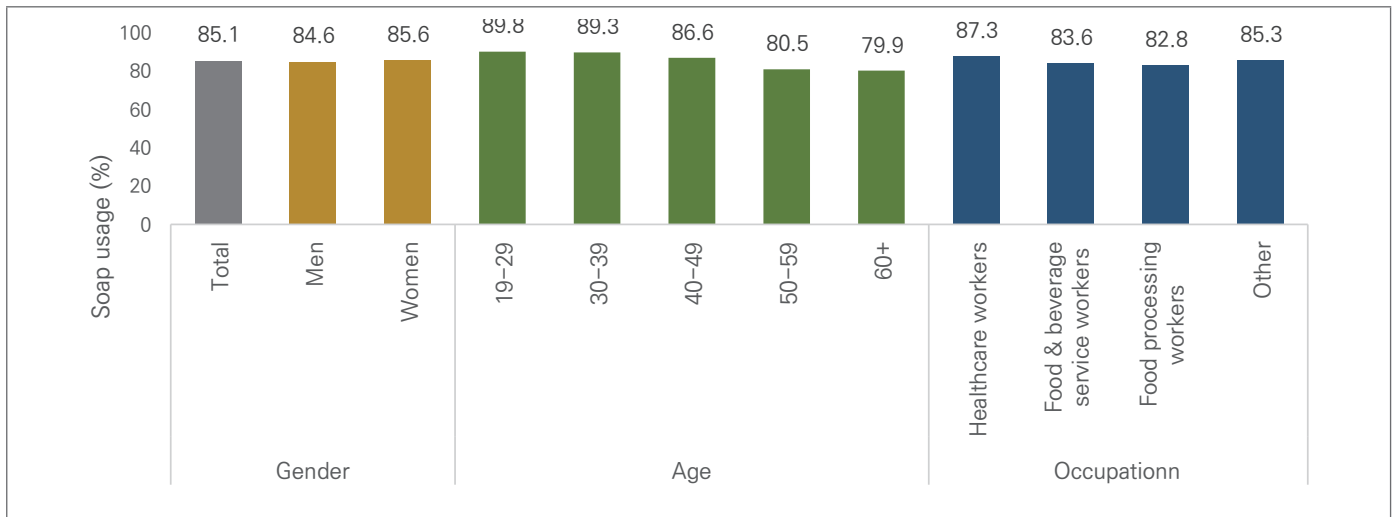


Figure 2-2. Soap usage when washing hands by gender, age, and occupation in 2020 [5]

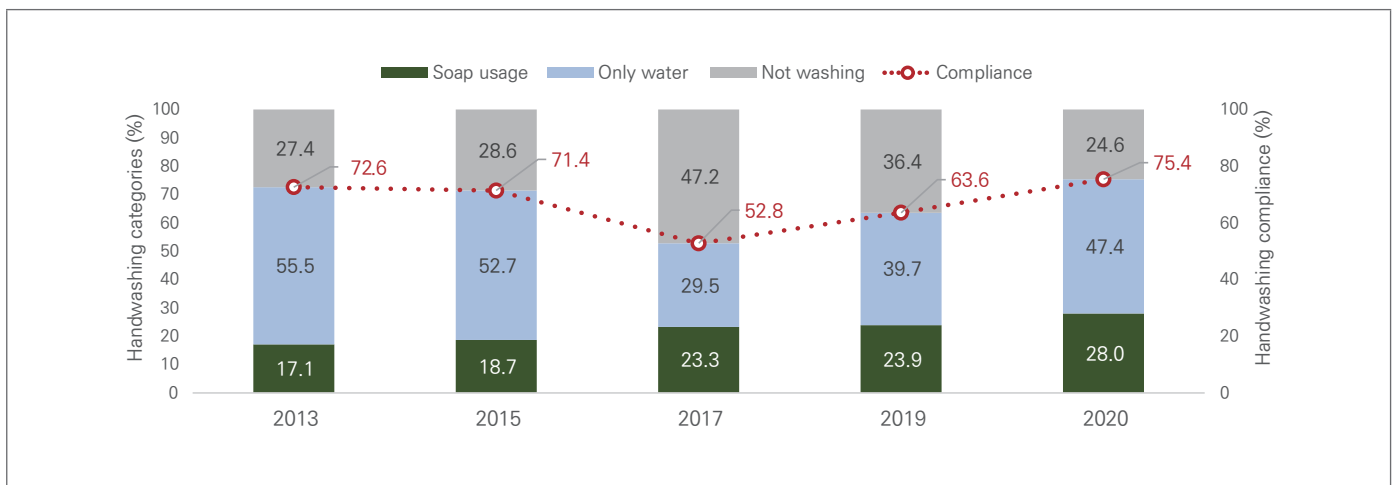


Figure 2-3. Observational survey: Handwashing after toilet usage, 2013–2020 [1–5]

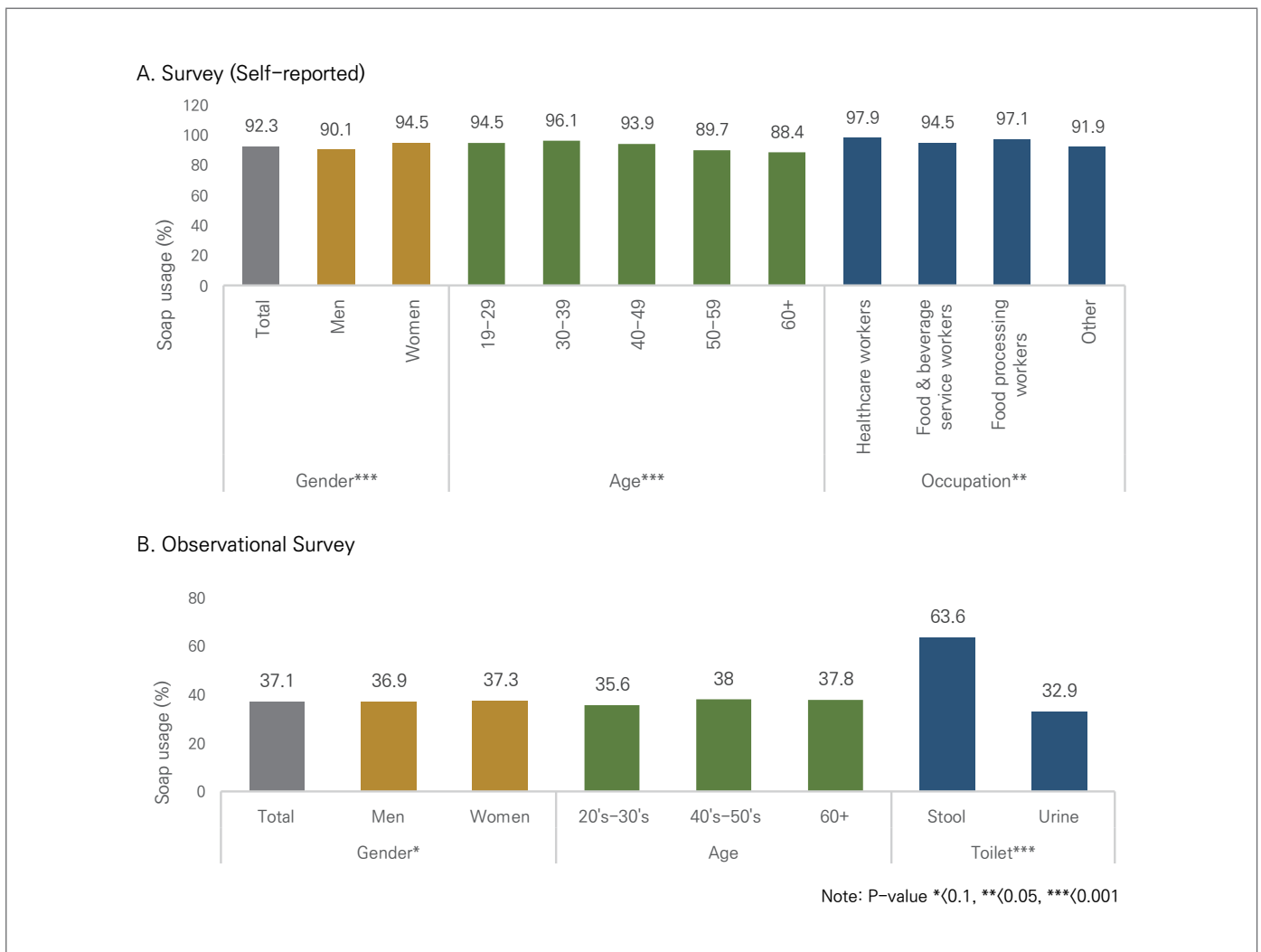


Figure 2-4. Soap usage after toilet use by gender, age, and occupation in 2020 [5]

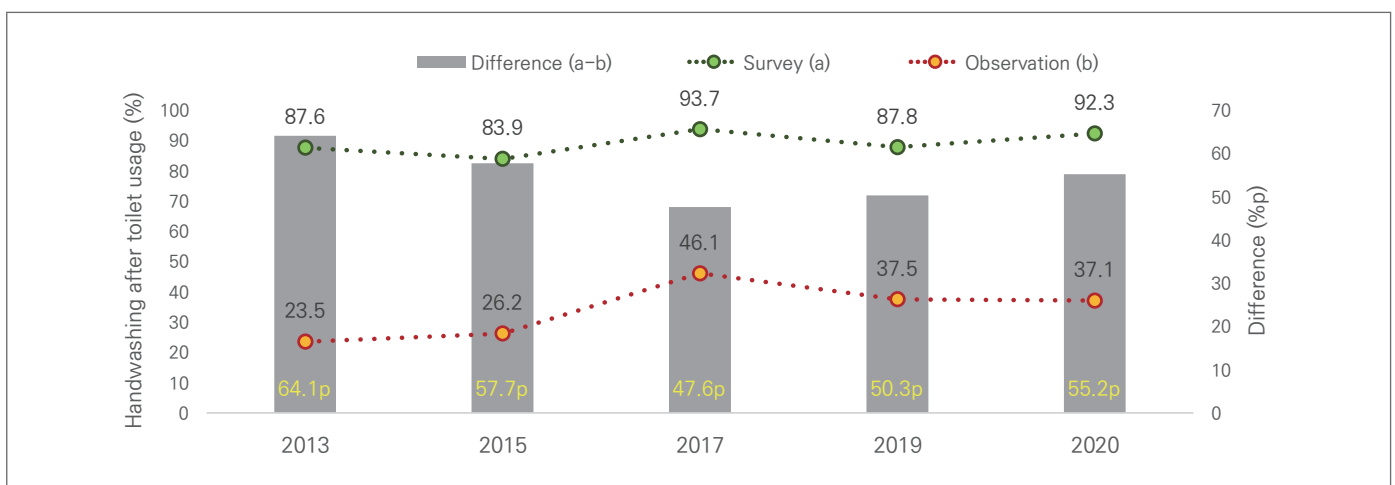


Figure 2-5. Handwashing with soap after toilet usage: The difference between self-reported and observational surveys, 2013-2020 [1-5]

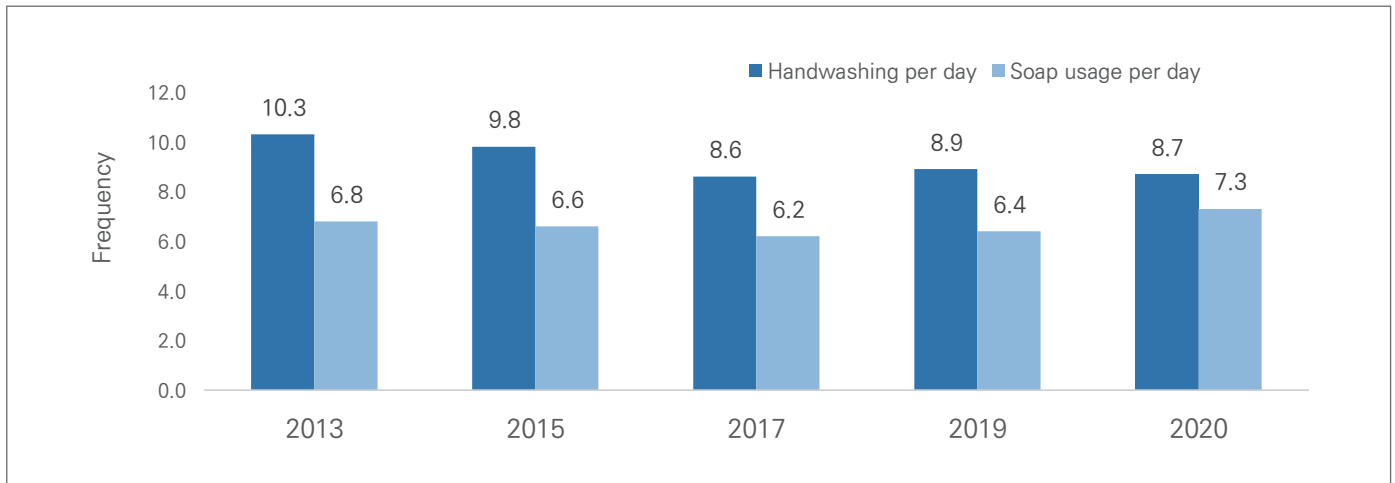


Figure 3-1. Handwashing and soap usage per day, 2013–2020 [1–5]

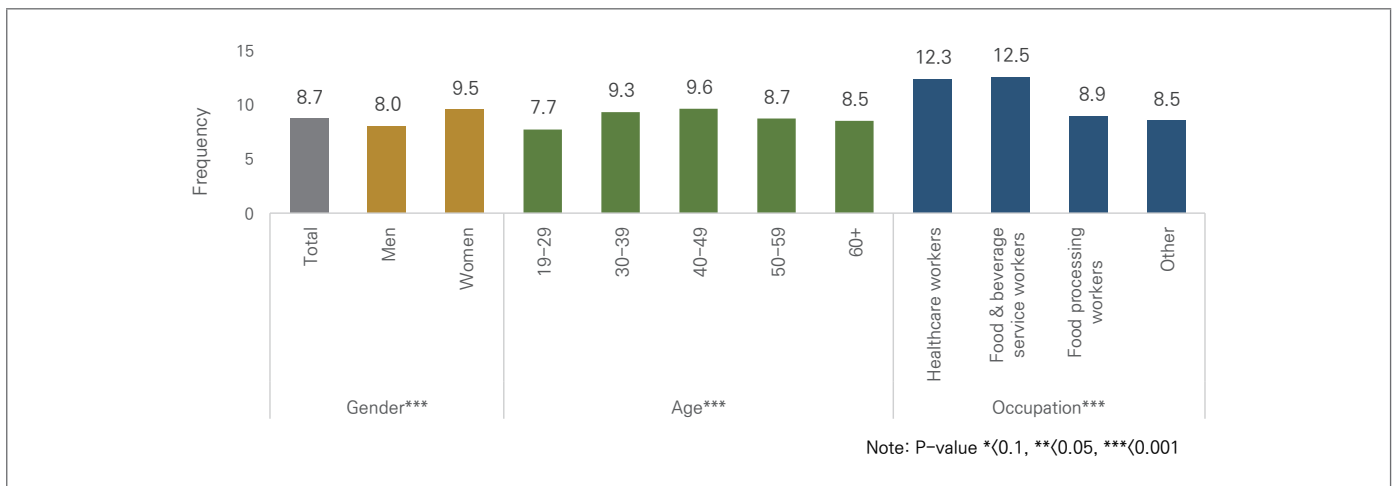


Figure 3-2. Handwashing frequency per day by gender, age, and occupation in 2020 [5]

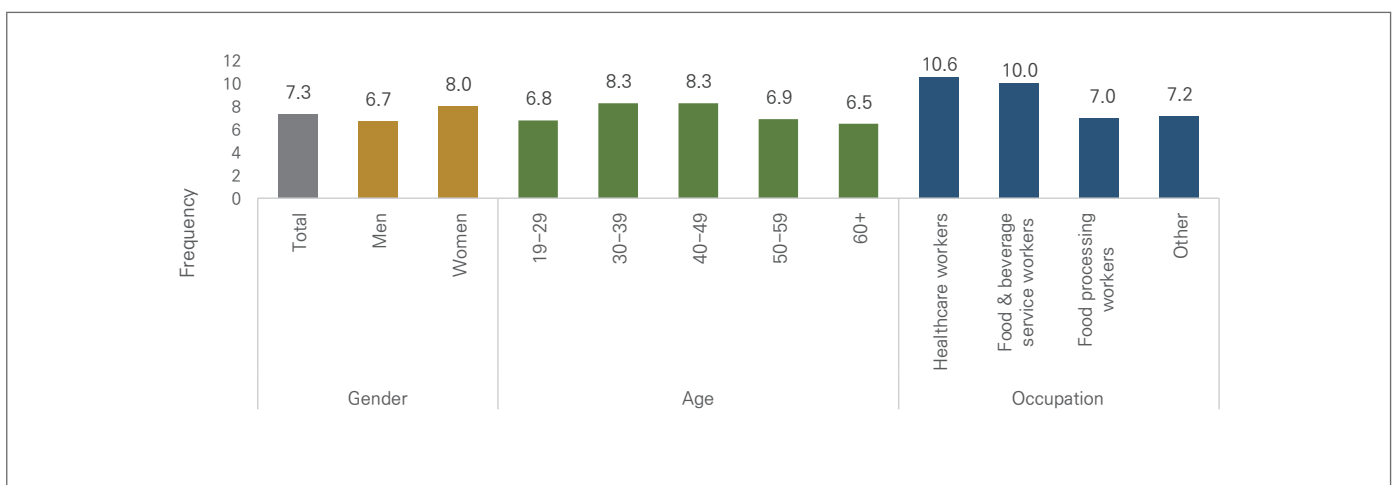


Figure 3-3. Handwashing with soap frequency per day by gender, age, and occupation in 2020 [5]

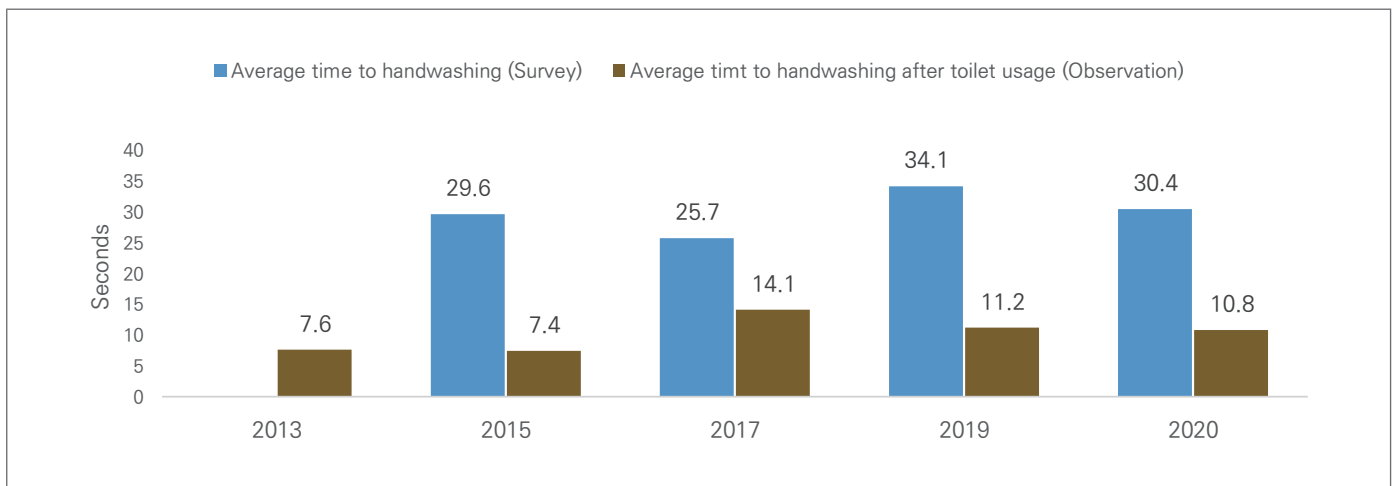


Figure 3-4. Average time (in seconds) taken to wash hands, 2013–2020 [1–5]

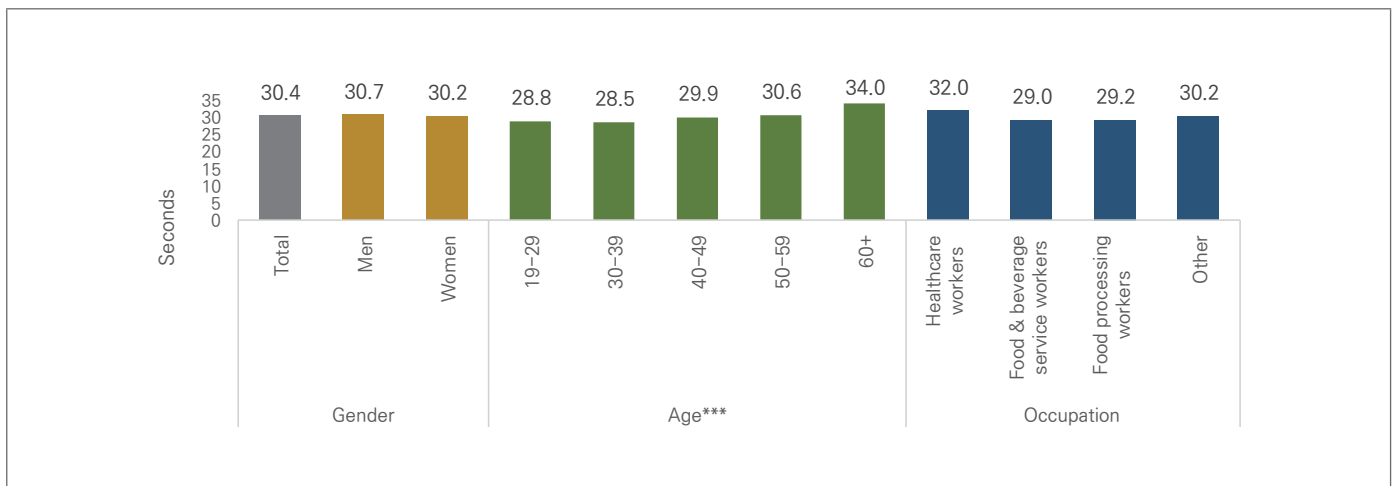


Figure 3-5. Average time taken (in seconds) to wash hands by gender, age, and occupation in 2020, Self-reported [5]

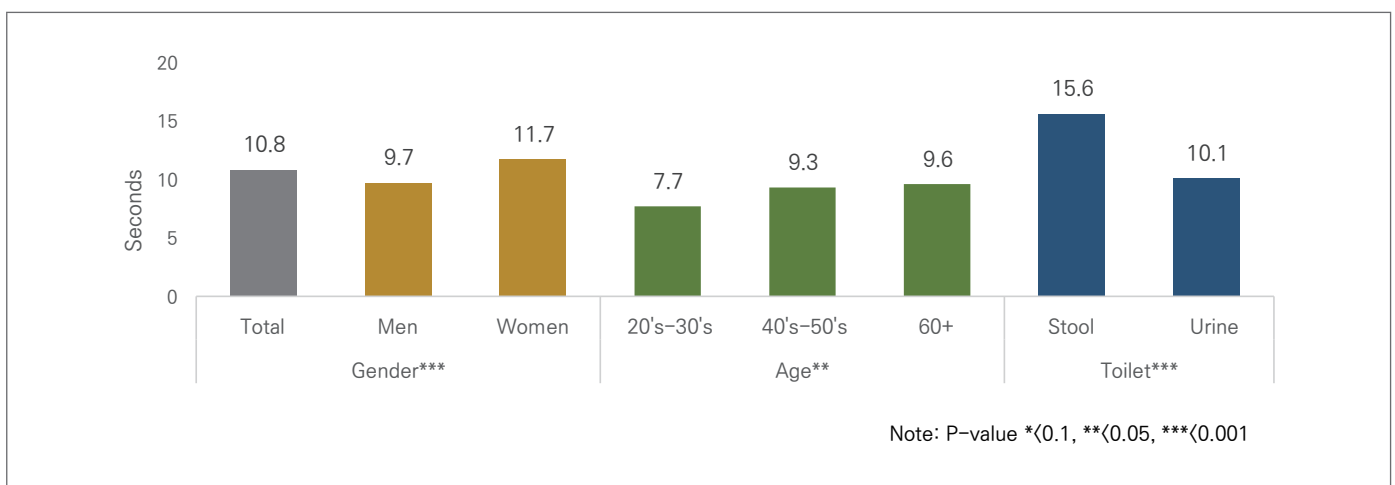


Figure 3-6. Average time taken (in seconds) to wash hands after toilet usage by gender, age, and occupation in 2020, Observation [5]

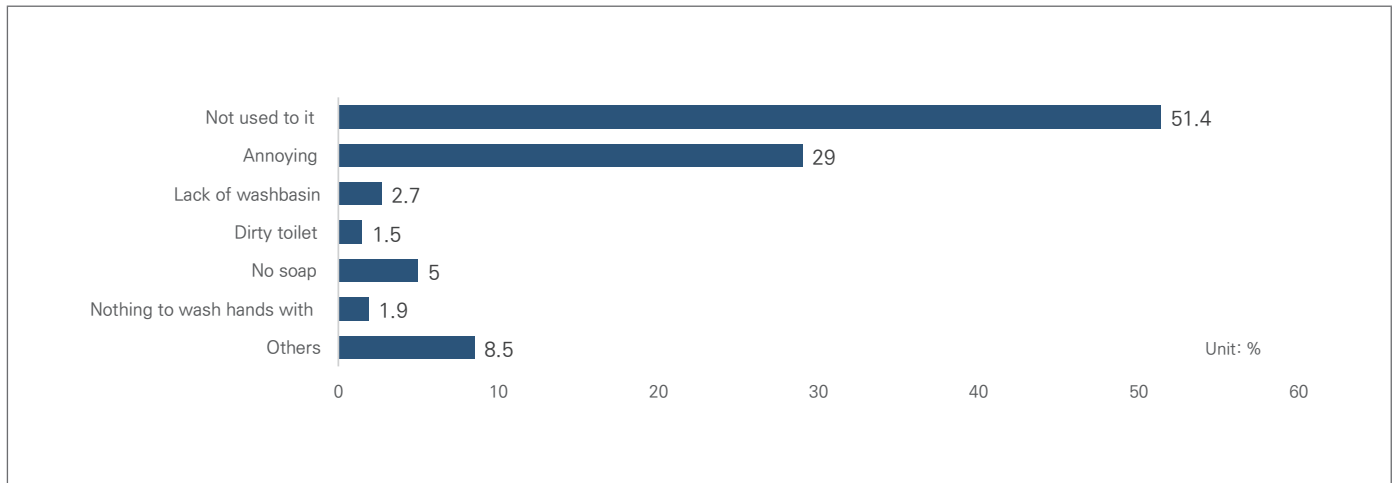


Figure 4. Reasons for not washing hands in 2020 [5]