



Water, Sewage and Garbage: what do we want to know with the household surveys of IBGE?¹

Sonia Maria Moreira Carvalho de Oliveira*
IBGE, Rio de Janeiro, Brasil, (sonia.oliveira@ibge.gov.br).
Paulo Gonzaga Mibielli de Carvalho
IBGE, Rio de Janeiro, Brasil, (paulo.mibielli@ibge.gov.br).
Aristides Pereira Lima Green
IBGE, Rio de Janeiro, Brasil, (aristides.green@ibge.gov.br).
Frederico Cavadas Barcellos
IBGE, Rio de Janeiro, Brasil, (fredcavadas@ibge.gov.br).

Abstract

The text aims to discuss sanitation on the household surveys conducted periodically by the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics - IBGE, specifically focusing on questions relating to the form of water supply at home, the type of domestic sewage and the disposal of household garbage. These issues are the object of specific questions, present in the main household surveys conducted by the Institute - Population Census, Pesquisa Nacional por Amostra de Domicílios (National Household Survey) (PNAD) and Pesquisa de Orçamentos Familiares (Consumer Expenditure Survey) (POF) – each one with a certain frequency and amplitude sample. In this paper, the questions of each of these surveys are examined comparatively in order to identify similarities and differences in their formulation and in their concepts, with possible effects on the results. In its conclusion, the text proposes a unique formulation in the questions of the three surveys and, by comparisons with research in other Latin American countries and United Nations recommendations, suggests some new questions, with objective of improving the collection of information on the sanitary and environmental conditions of the households in the country.

Keywords: sanitation, environmental conditions, sustainability

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