

Skillswise factsheet

N2/E3.1

Read all about it

The survey of over 500 teenagers aged 11 to 19 by the Food and Drink Federation (FDF) found 40% of those who do always wash their hands don't always use soap.

Three quarters say they dry their hands on their clothes if in a hurry.

But the FDF warns 1,000 times as many germs are spread from damp hands than dry.

Over half the teenagers surveyed said they did not always wash their hands before eating lunch at school, even though 2/3 had a meal such as a packed lunch or burger and chips which they had to eat using their hands.

But many teenagers did know the rules about when they should wash their hands.

Two thirds knew they should wash them after going to the toilet, and 41% that they should have clean hands before preparing food.

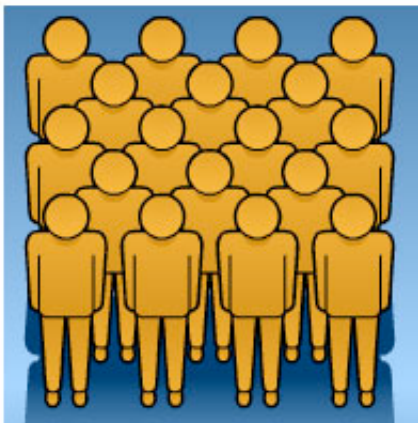
But only a 1/4 knew they should wash their hands after touching raw meat and before touching other foods or utensils.

Just 1/3 knew it was important to wash their hands after touching pets because they could harbour germs.

Martin Paterson, deputy director general of the FDF, said, "Kids' handwashing habits are a potential recipe for disaster."

In the article you have to imagine things like how many people would make up a quarter of the population. It's a bit like dividing England into four areas, one area would be a quarter of the population. It's a big amount.

Or, another way of looking at it is to imagine a crowd of people and imagine lines dividing them into quarters.



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