



GLCb2020 Environmental threats and security

Contemporary

environmental threats

April 11, 2024

Miriam Matejova, PhD

Agenda

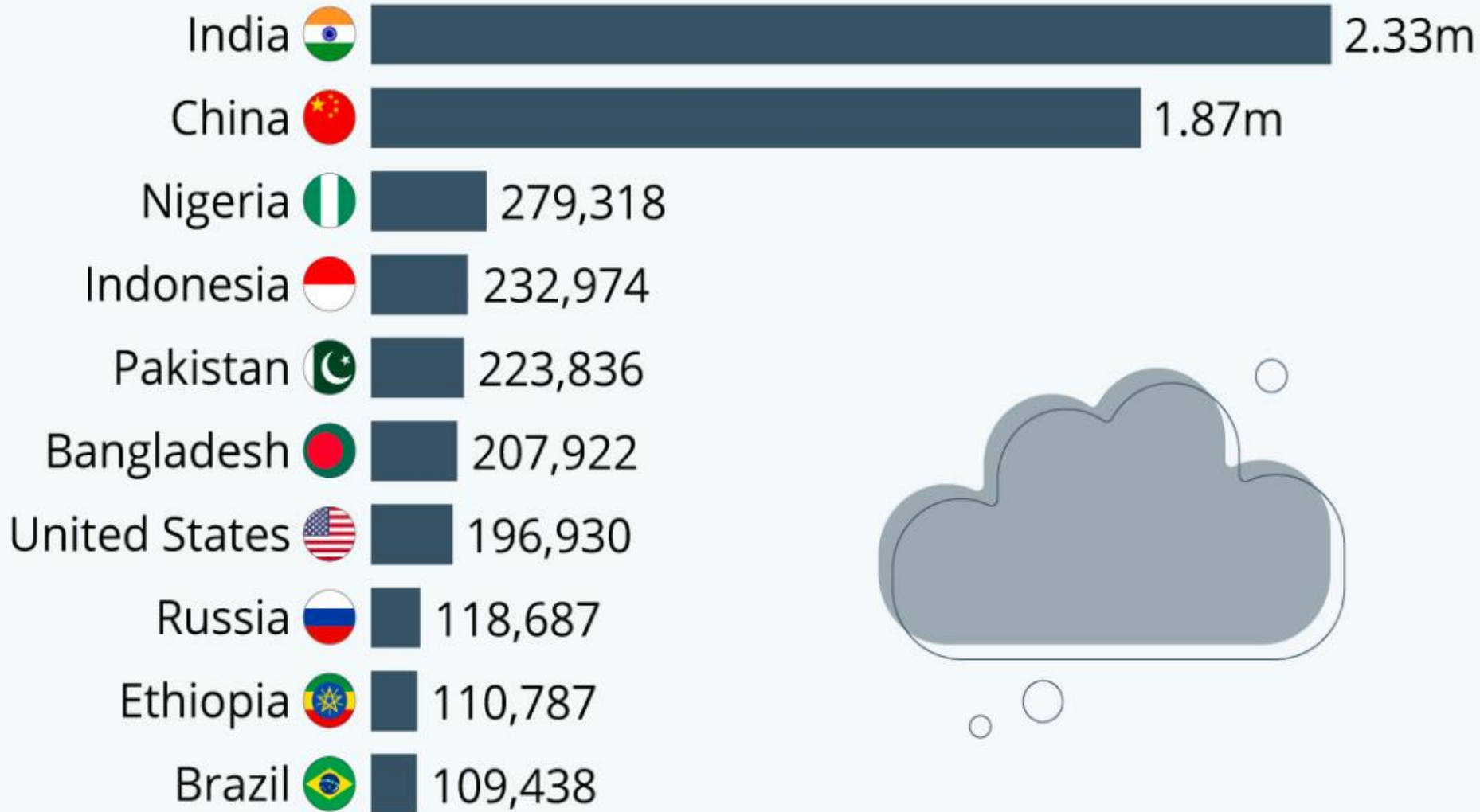
- Pollution
- Overconsumption
- Waste

What is killing us?

	Type of pollution	Deaths (2010)
1.	Household air pollution (smoke)	3,546,399
2.	Outdoor air pollution (particulate matter)	3,223,540
3.	Led poisoning	674,038
4.	Water/sanitation pollution	337,476
5.	Ozone	152,434
6.	Residential radon exposure	98,992

Source: Lim et al. (2012)

Estimated number of premature pollution-related deaths per year*



“Risk society”

- Ulrich Beck (1992)
- People who live in risk society accept pollution and disasters as a necessary part of life.
- “Insecurity” is becoming an everyday part of life.

Overconsumption

- **Material footprint:** “the total amount of raw materials extracted to meet final consumption demands”
 - Indicator of the pressure put on the environment due to economic growth and satisfaction of people’s material needs

Obsolescence and consumption

- **Technological obsolescence**
 - Due to technological innovation
- **Psychological or dynamic obsolescence**
 - A change in the product style as a way to manipulate consumers
- **Planned obsolescence**
 - Limit the durability of products to stimulate repeat consumption



The story of bottled water

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Se12y9hSOM0&ab_channel=TheStoryofStuffProject

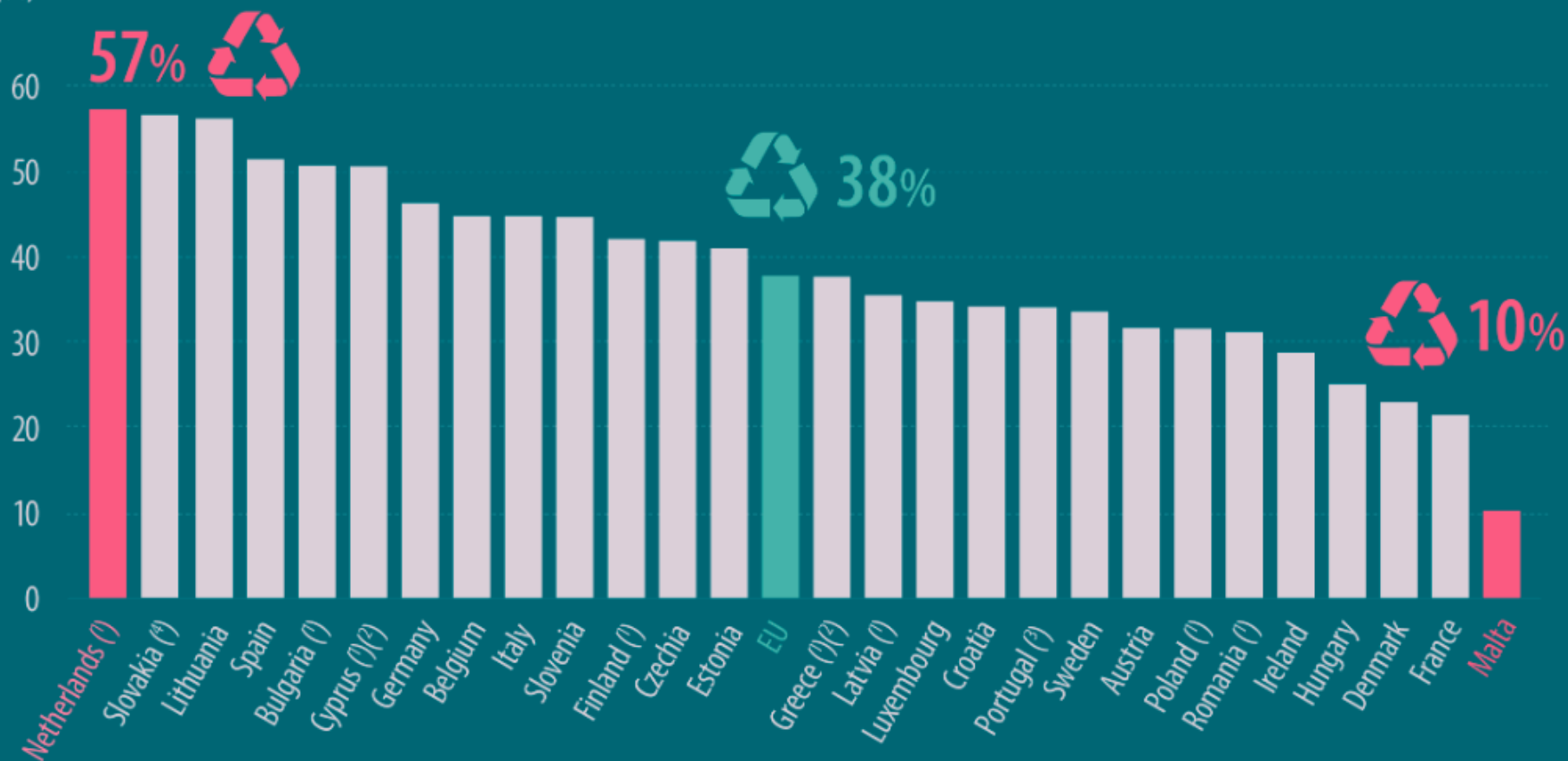
The problem with waste (cont.)

- Average person consumes five grams of plastic every week—mostly from water.
- About 95% of the tap water in the USA is contaminated.
- Microplastics are also found in beer, salt, shellfish, and other human foods.



Recycling rate of plastic packaging waste, 2020

(%)



(1) 2019 data instead of 2020.

(2) Estimated.

(3) Provisional.

(4) Definition differs.