

Drinking Water Services Program Update

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April 2018



(Enter) DEPARTMENT (ALL CAPS)

(Enter) Division or Office (Mixed Case)

Outline

- Public Attitudes
- Safe Drinking Water
- Partner Survey
- Challenges Ahead

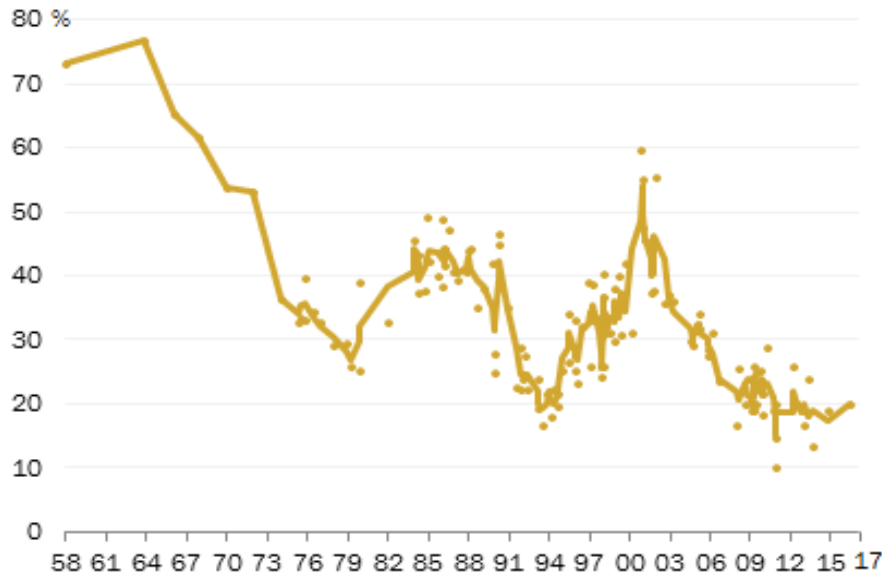
Public Attitudes

How do people think we're doing?

Public Trust in Government

Public trust in government remains near historic lows

Trust the federal government to do what is right just about always/most of the time...



Notes: From 1976-2016 the trend line represents a three-survey moving average.

Source: Survey conducted April 5-11, 2017.

Trend sources: Pew Research Center, National Election Studies, Gallup, ABC/Washington Post, CBS/New York Times, and CNN polls.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

- Only 2 in 10 Americans trust the federal government to do what is right most of the time.
- Trust in State and local governments is higher.

Public Attitudes about Drinking Water



- 61% of Americans worry a great deal about pollutants in drinking water. (Gallup poll)
- Americans top three health concerns (Kaiser poll 2016):
 - Cancer
 - Heroin abuse
 - **Contaminated Drinking water**

Public Attitudes about Drinking Water

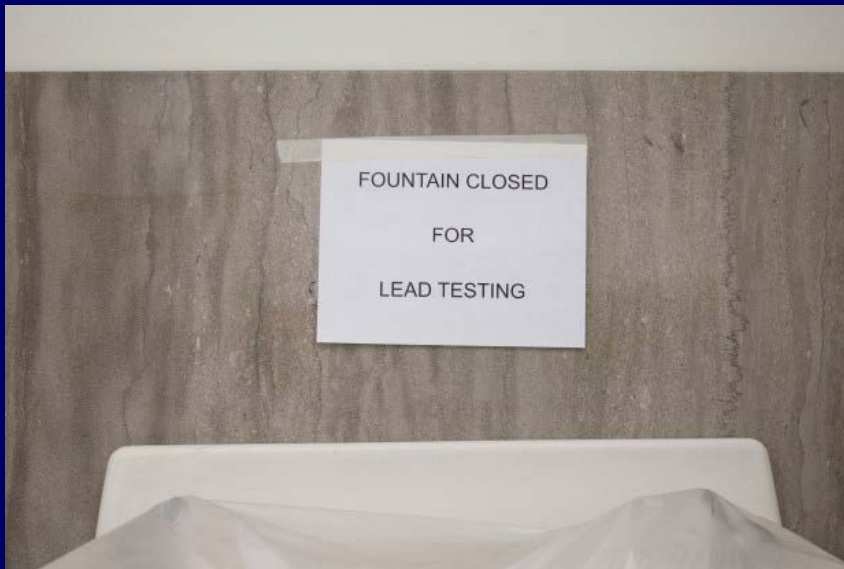


70% of Americans polled followed the Flint crisis. Half think it indicates a more widespread problem.

--AP Poll 2016



Public Attitudes about Drinking Water



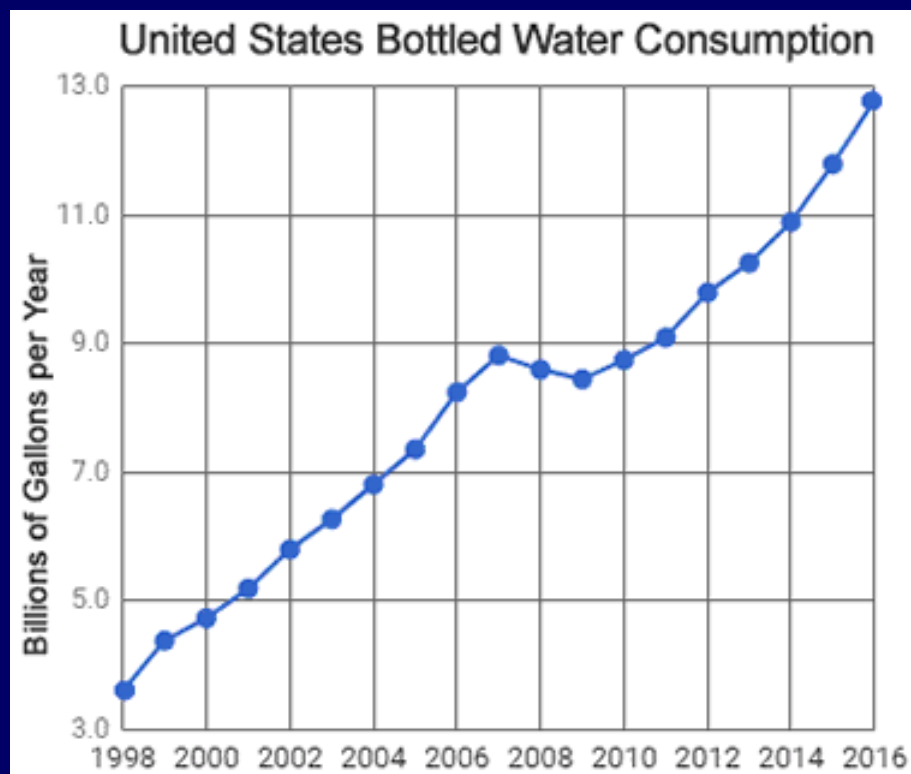
Public concern (outrage) over lead in schools and day care facilities remains high.

Public Attitudes about Drinking Water



Drinking water concerns are intensely local and personal.

Public Attitudes about Drinking Water



- Bottled water sales in 2016 exceeded soda for first time
- Compared to tap water:
 - 2,000 times more expensive
 - Less stringently regulated
 - Generates waste and greenhouse gases

Source: <https://geology.com/articles/bottled-water.shtml>

Public Attitudes about Drinking Water



Unfiltered Fervor: The Rush to Get Off the Water Grid

“Tap water? You’re drinking toilet water with birth control drugs in them,” he said. “Chloramine, and on top of that they’re putting in fluoride. Call me a conspiracy theorist, but it’s a mind-control drug that has no benefit to our dental health.”

--Christopher Sanborn, aka Mukhande Singh, founder of Live Water. NY Times Dec 29, 2017

Public Attitudes about Drinking Water



- 74% of US population served by CWS adjust for fluoride.
- 22% of Oregon population served by CWS adjust for fluoride.
- 43 Oregon Community Water Systems adjust for fluoride.

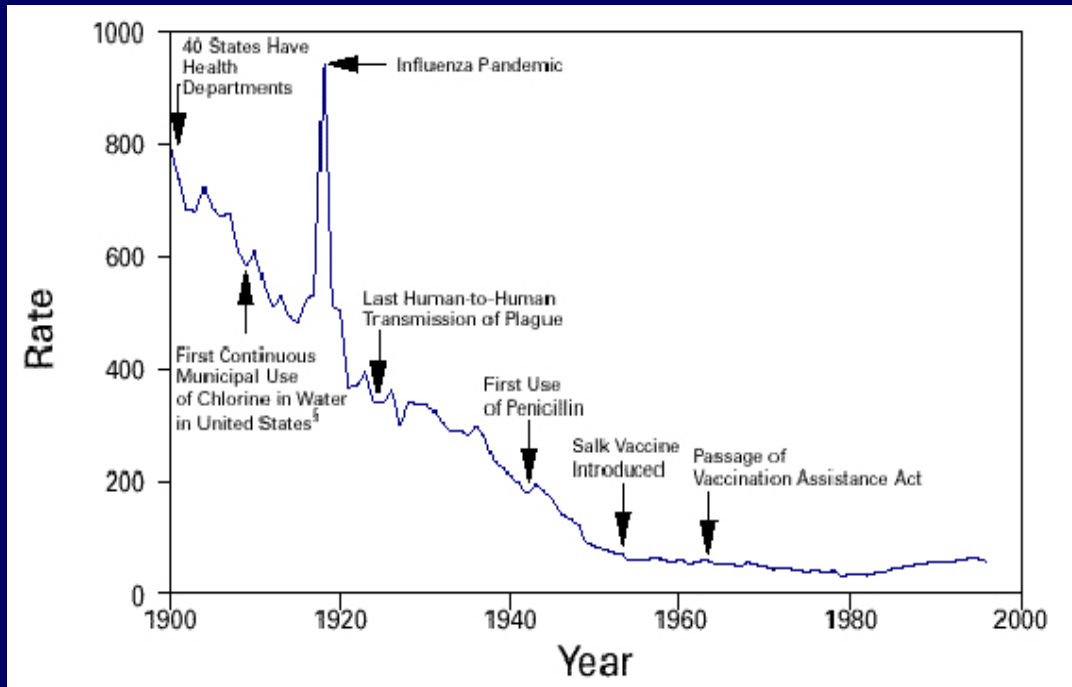
Public Attitudes about Drinking Water

- High public concern, but localized
- Public confidence has been damaged
- Public expectations tending toward zero risk

Safe Drinking Water

How are we really doing?

Drinking Water Treatment



“Drinking water disinfection and treatment -- one of the greatest public health achievements of the 20th Century.” CDC

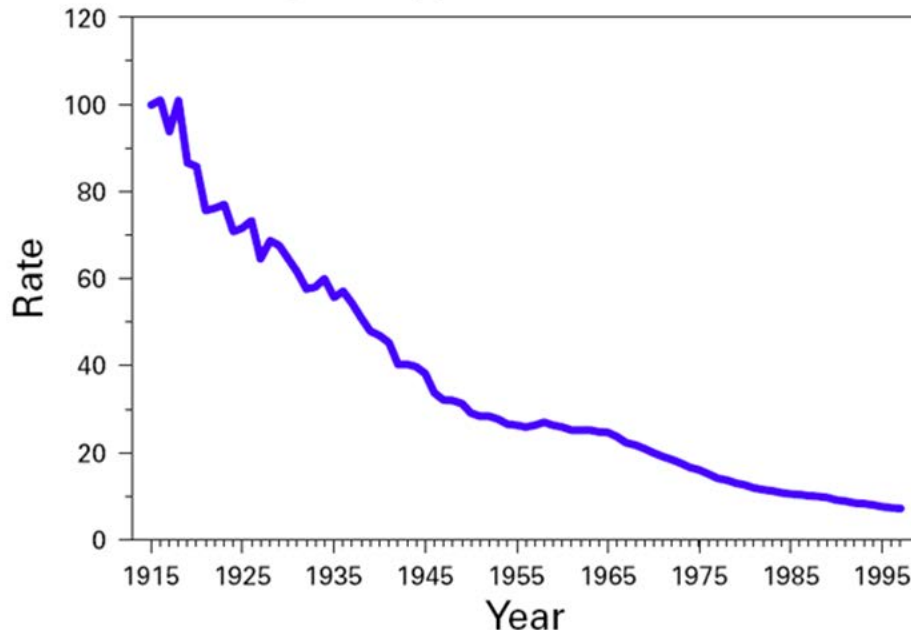
Crude death rate* for infectious diseases - United States, 1900-1996
Per 100,000.

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Drinking Water Services

Oregon
Health
Authority

Drinking Water Treatment

FIGURE 1. Infant mortality rate,* by year — United States, 1915–1997

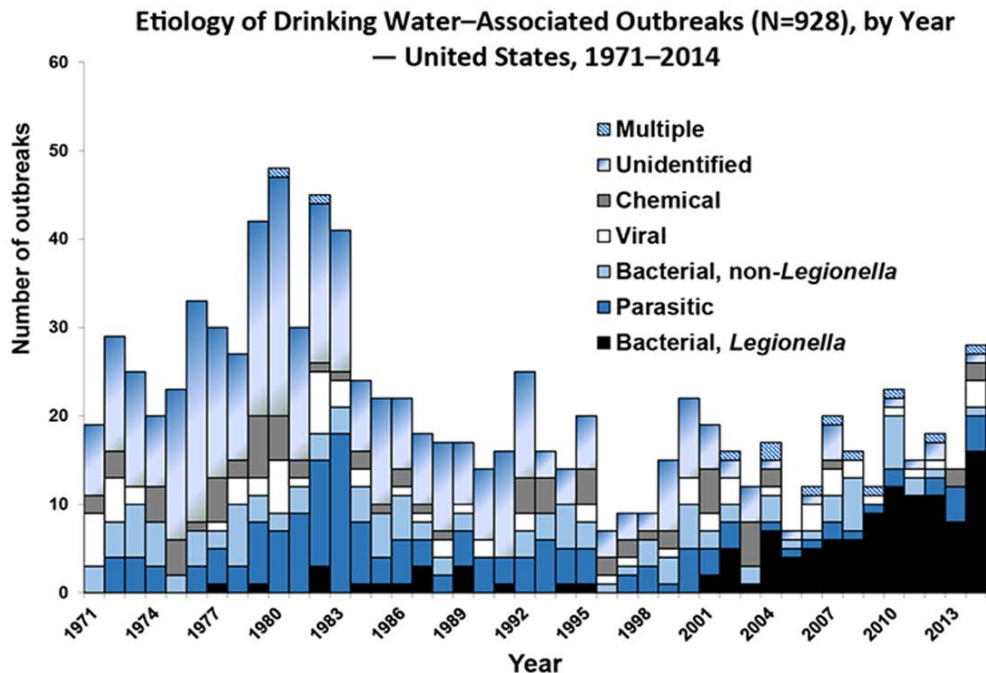


*Per 1000 live births.

- In 1900, in some cities, 30% of infants died in their first year.
- Reduced infant mortality by 90%, mostly due to treatment and sanitation.

Source: CDC MMWR 10/01/99

U.S. Waterborne Outbreaks



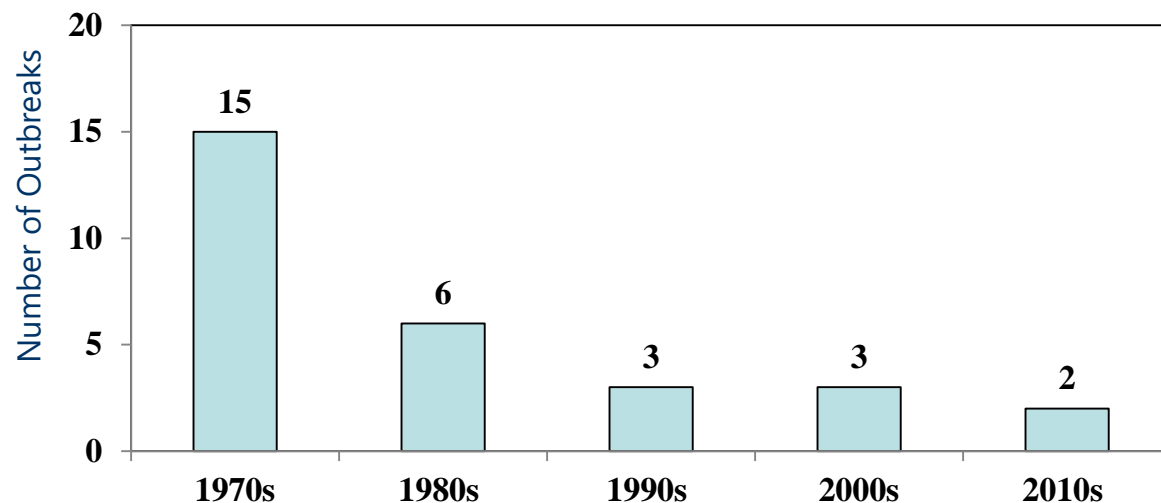
In U.S. 2013-14:

- 42 outbreaks
 - 57% *Legionella*
 - 19% Parasites
 - 10% Chemicals or algal toxins
- 13 deaths, all due to *Legionella*



Oregon Waterborne Outbreaks

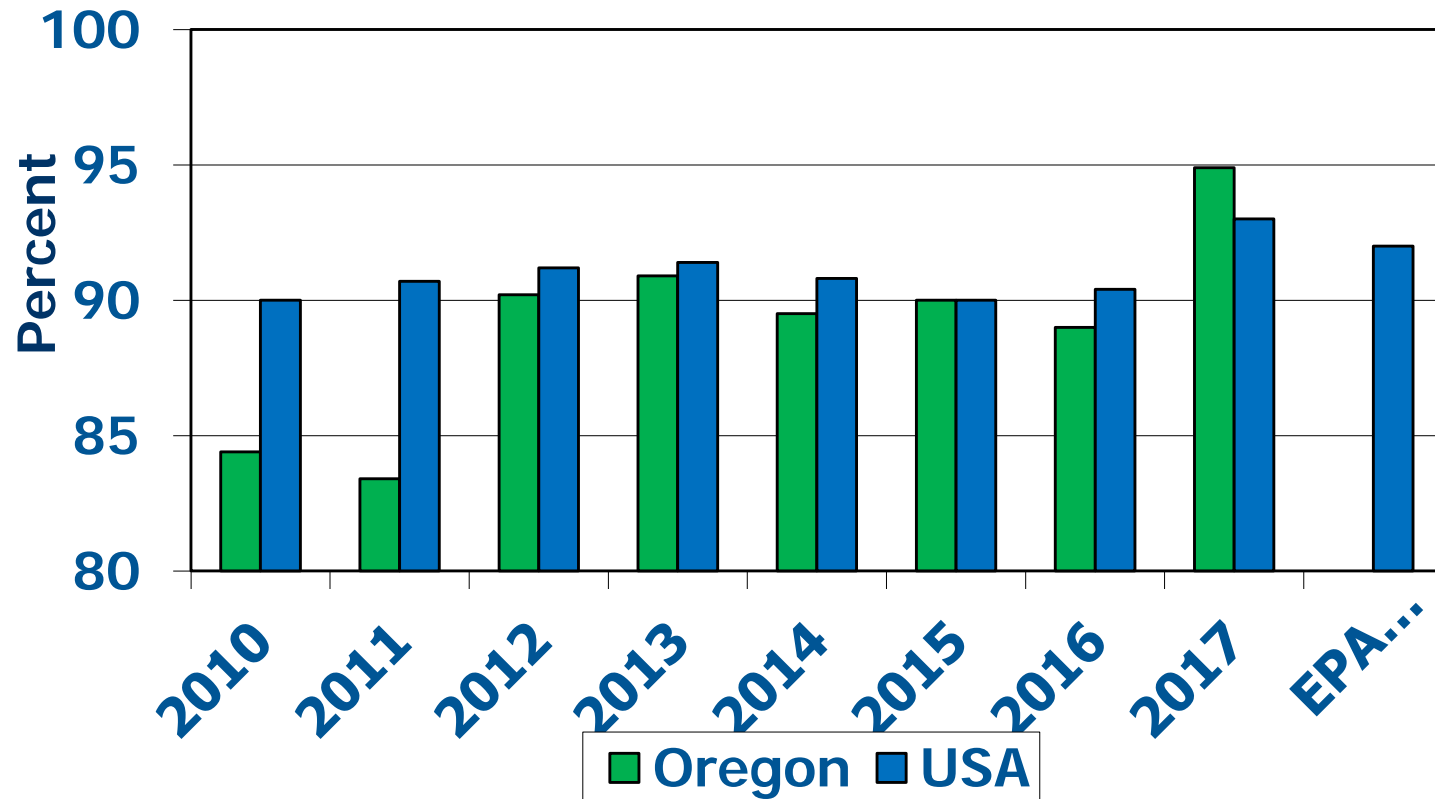
Oregon waterborne disease outbreaks (CDC)



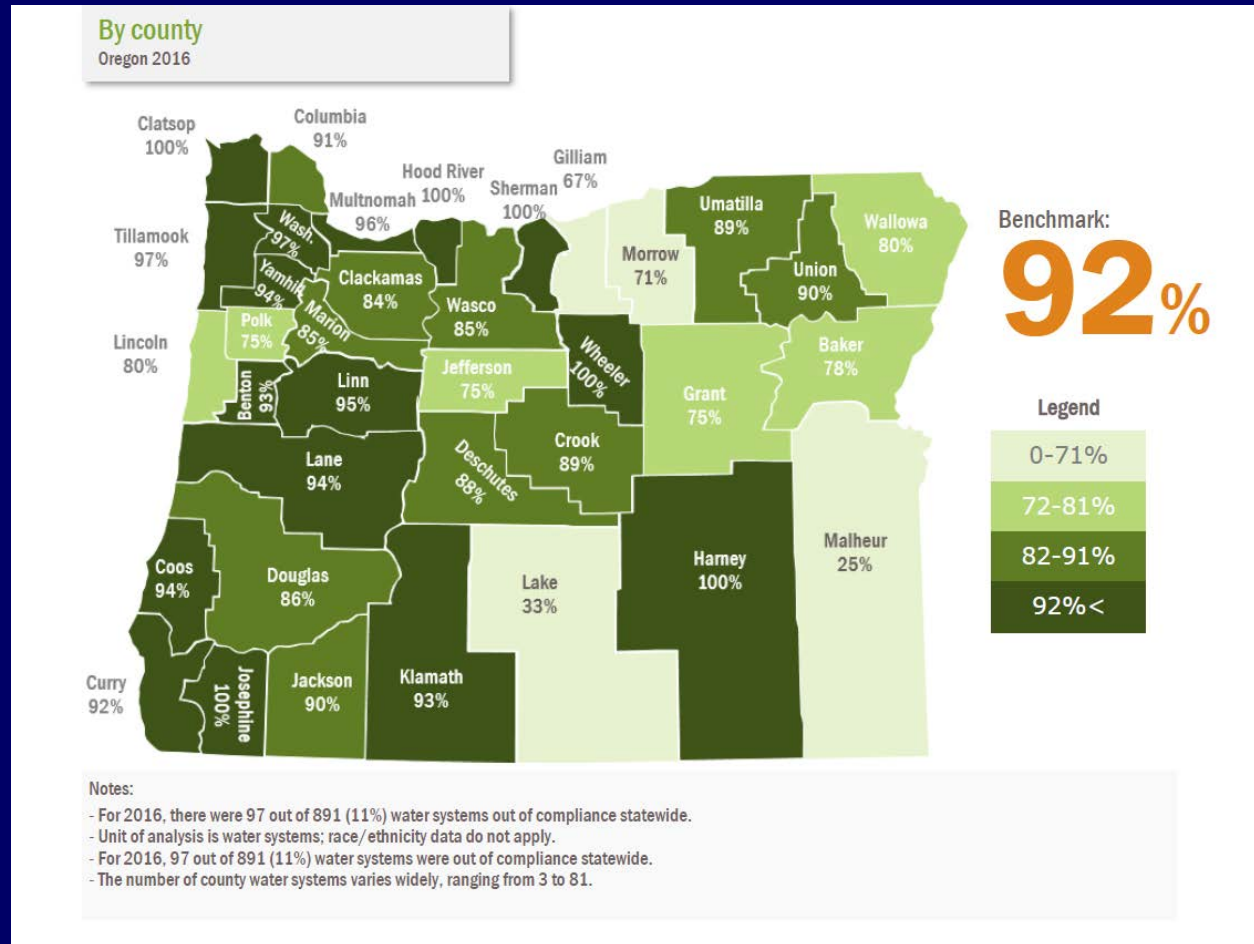
Last outbreaks, 2013-14:

- Crypto, Baker City;
- Legionella

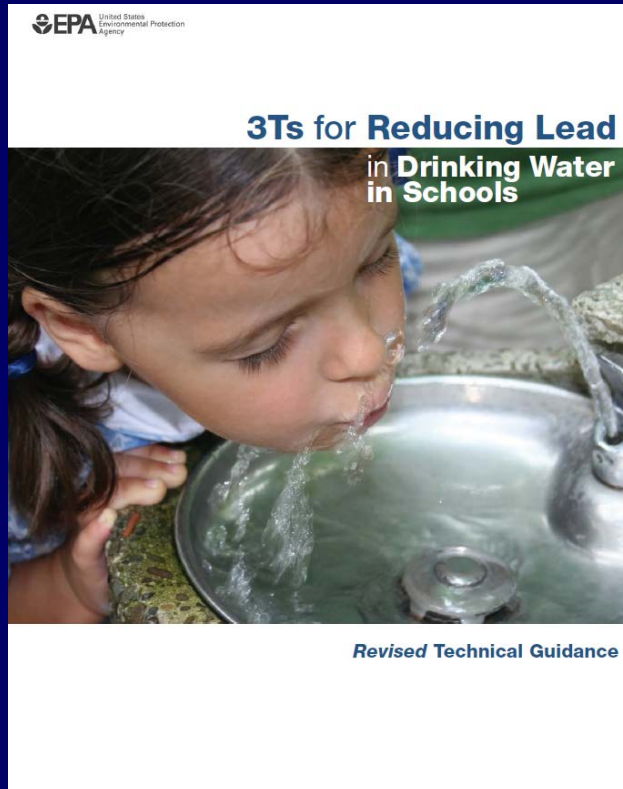
Percent of community water systems that meet health-based standards throughout the year



OR systems meeting health-based standards 2016, by County

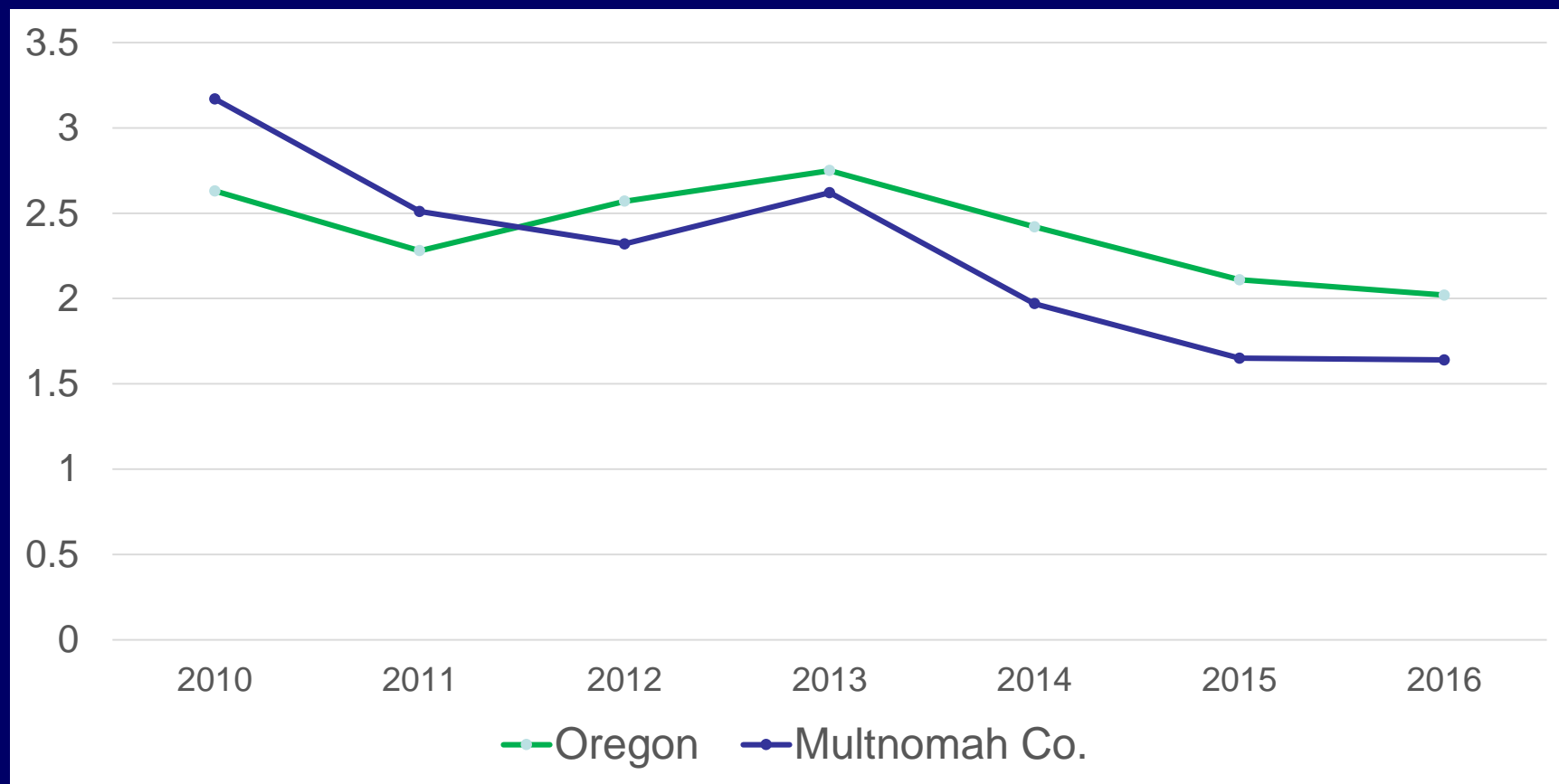


Reducing exposure to Lead



- No elevated Blood Lead attributed to water in 500 kids tested at Portland Public Schools in 2016
- ODE and Early Learning adopting rules requiring lead sampling at schools and Child Care centers

Percent of Oregon children tested with blood lead level ≥ 5 ug/dl 2010-2016



Portland Issues



- Schedule to improve corrosion control by 2022.
- Revocation of Crypto Variance and Bilateral Compliance Agreement
 - Interim measures
 - Pilot study by Nov 2020
 - Construction plans by Oct 2022
 - Treatment operational by Sept 2027

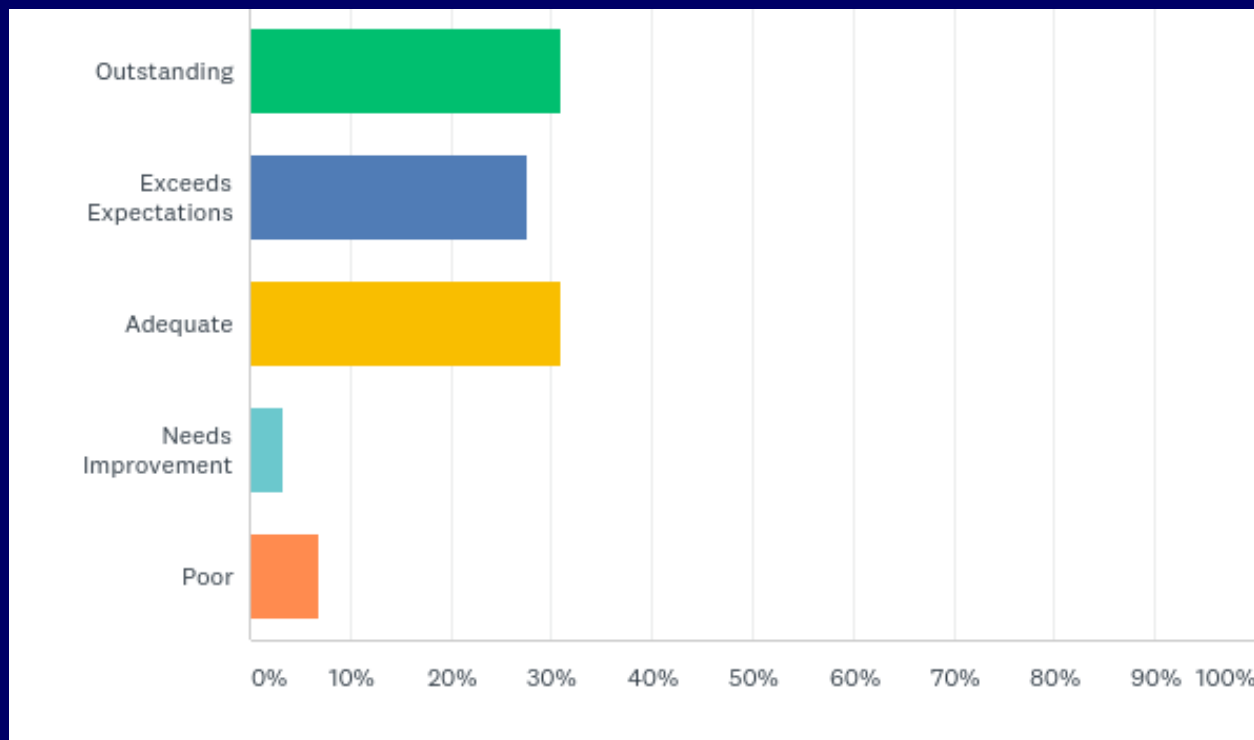
Safe Drinking Water

- History of progress in preventing disease and death
- Regulation is imperfect, but it works
 - Improved compliance with health based standards
 - Continued focus on reducing lead exposure
 - Major improvements planned for Portland
- Overall, our drinking water has never been safer.

Partner Survey 2018

Q1: Please rate the quality and accuracy of information provided by Drinking Water program Technical Services unit staff.

- Answered: 29 Skipped: 0

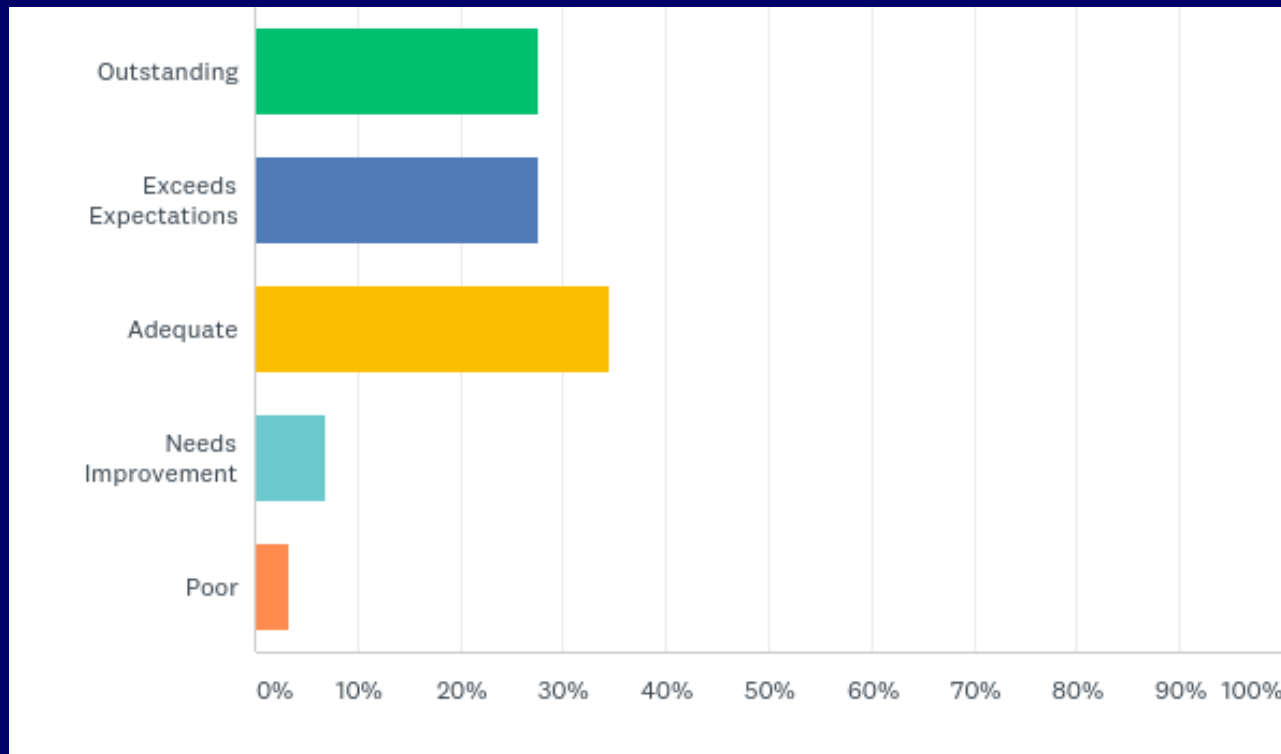


59% +

10% -

Q2: Please rate the response time of Drinking Water program Technical Services unit staff to your requests.

- Answered: 29 Skipped: 0

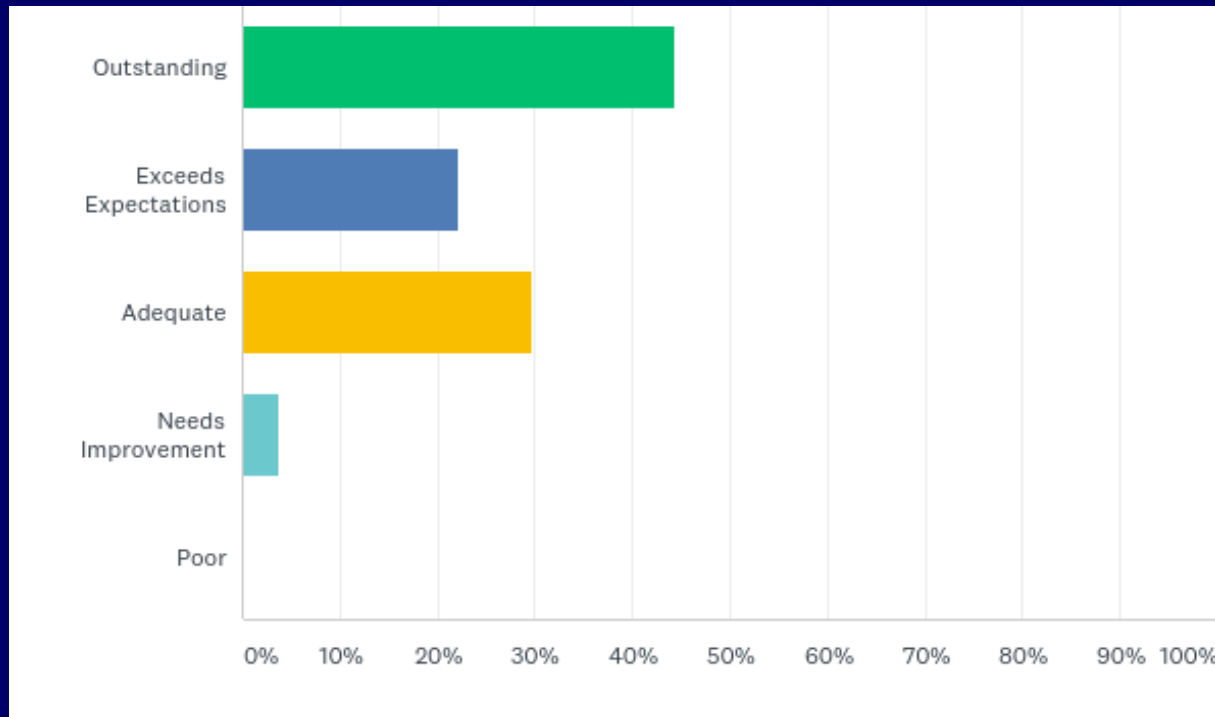


55% +

10% -

Q3: Please rate the service provided by the Drinking Water program partner liaison staff.

- Answered: 27 Skipped: 2

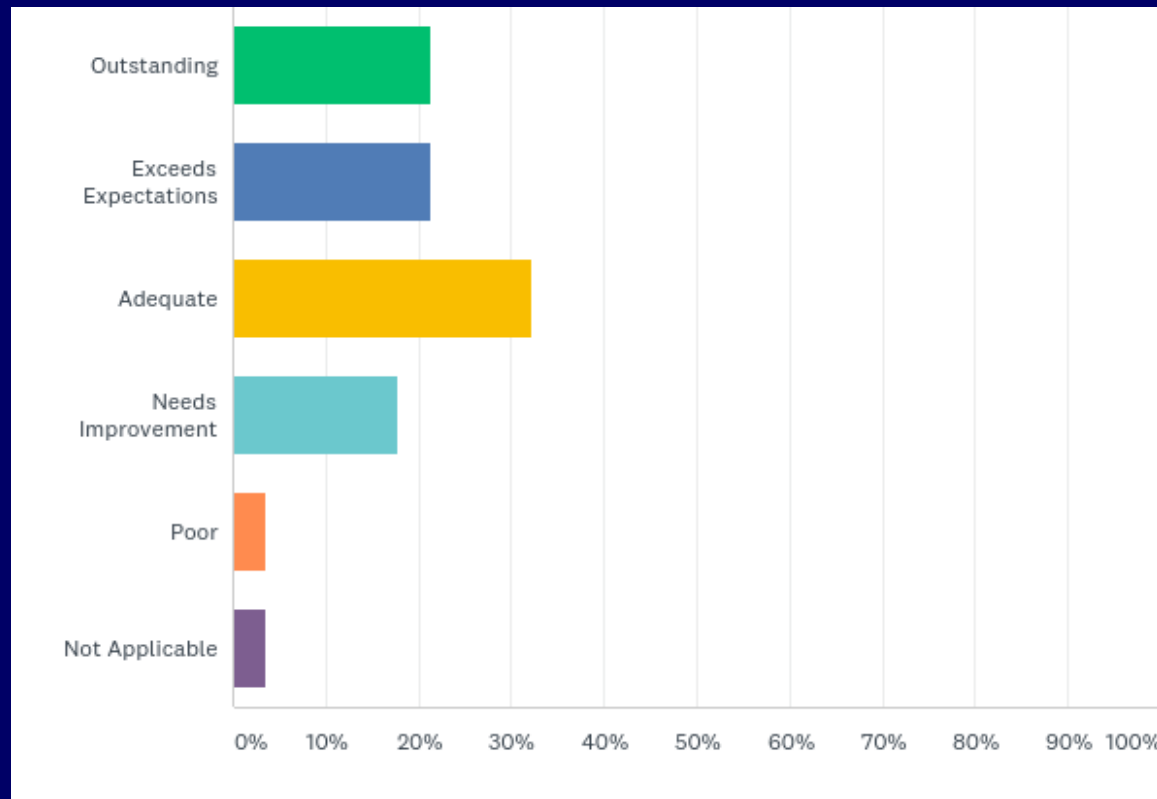


67% +

4% -

Q5: Please rate the quality and accuracy of information provided by Drinking Water program compliance and enforcement (DMCE) unit staff.

- Answered: 28 Skipped: 1

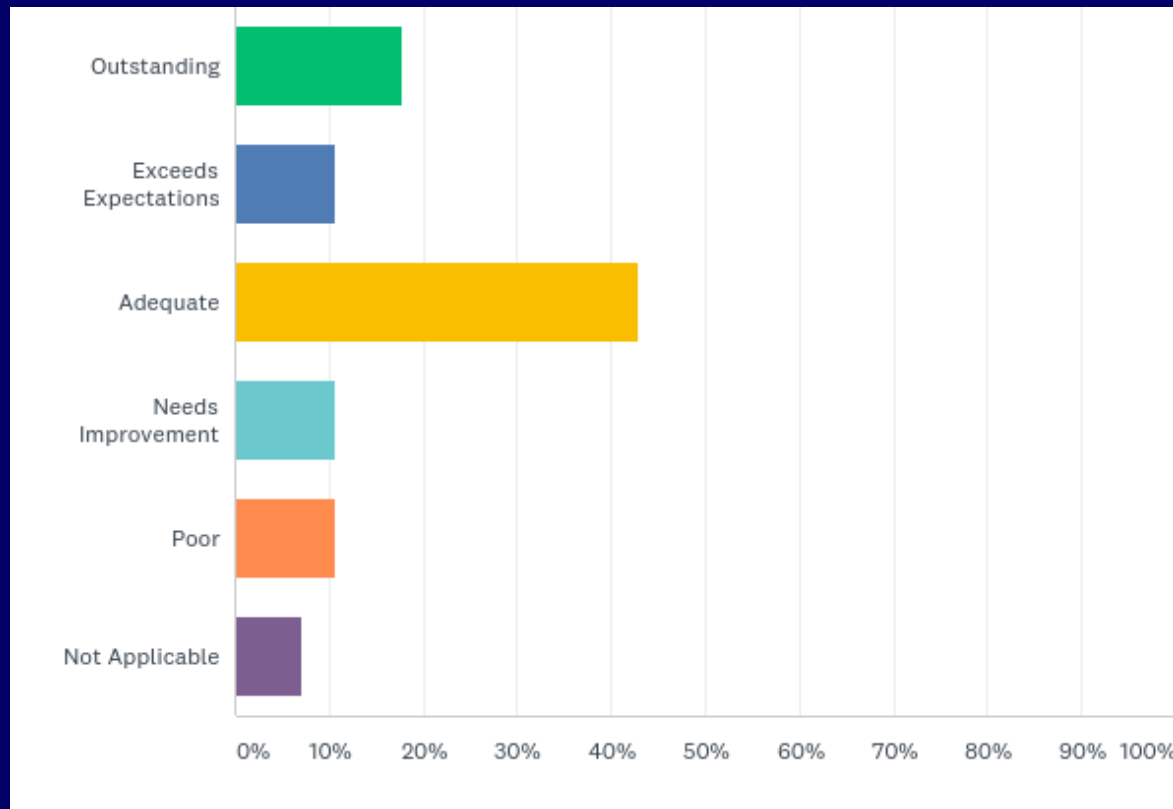


43% +

21% -

Q6: Please rate the response time of information or service provided by Drinking Water program compliance and enforcement (DMCE) unit staff.

- Answered: 28 Skipped: 1

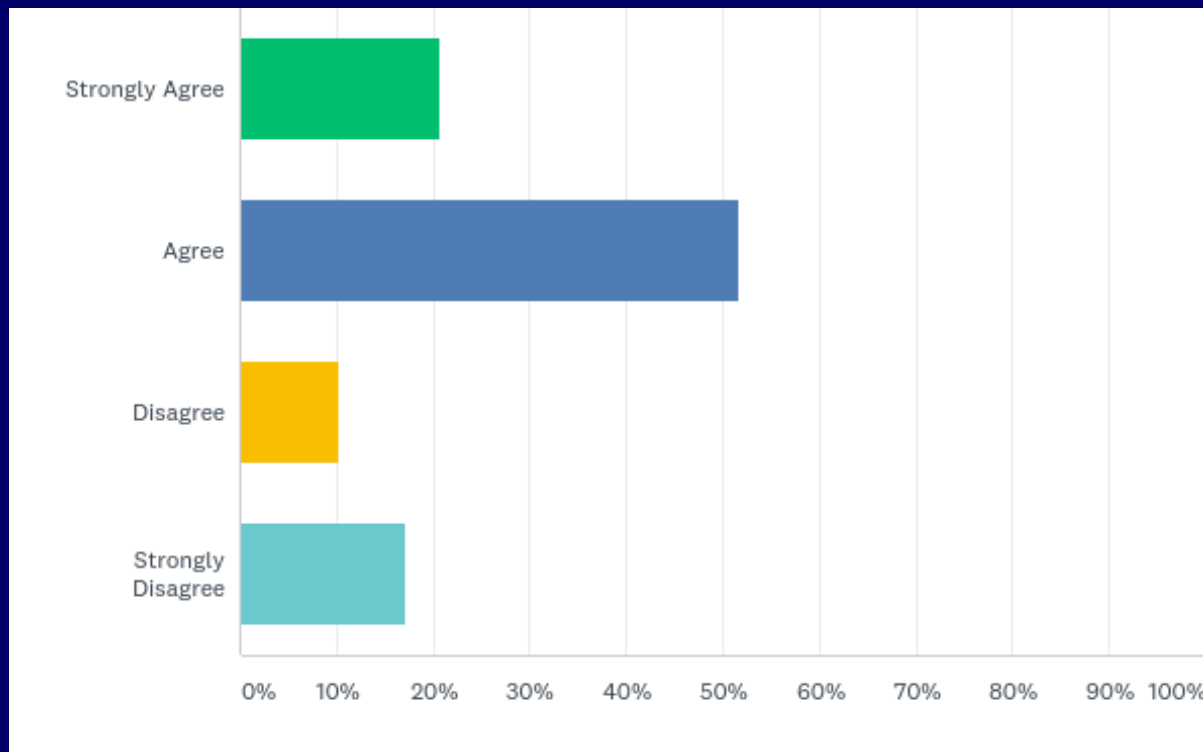


28% +

21% -

Q7: The Drinking Water program's system of providing technical assistance and enforcement when needed is effective at resolving compliance issues at public water systems.

- Answered: 29 Skipped: 0

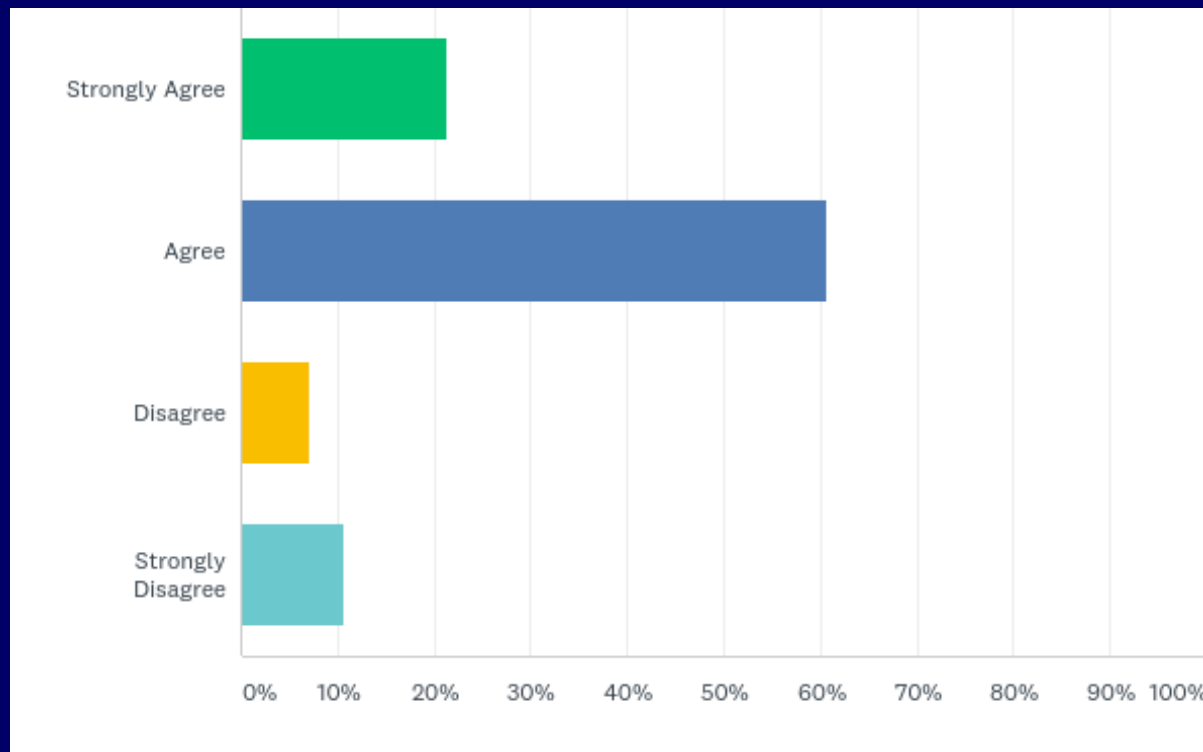


73% +

27% -

Q8: County staff receive adequate training and technical support from the Drinking Water program to perform regulatory work with confidence and effectiveness.

- Answered: 28 Skipped: 1

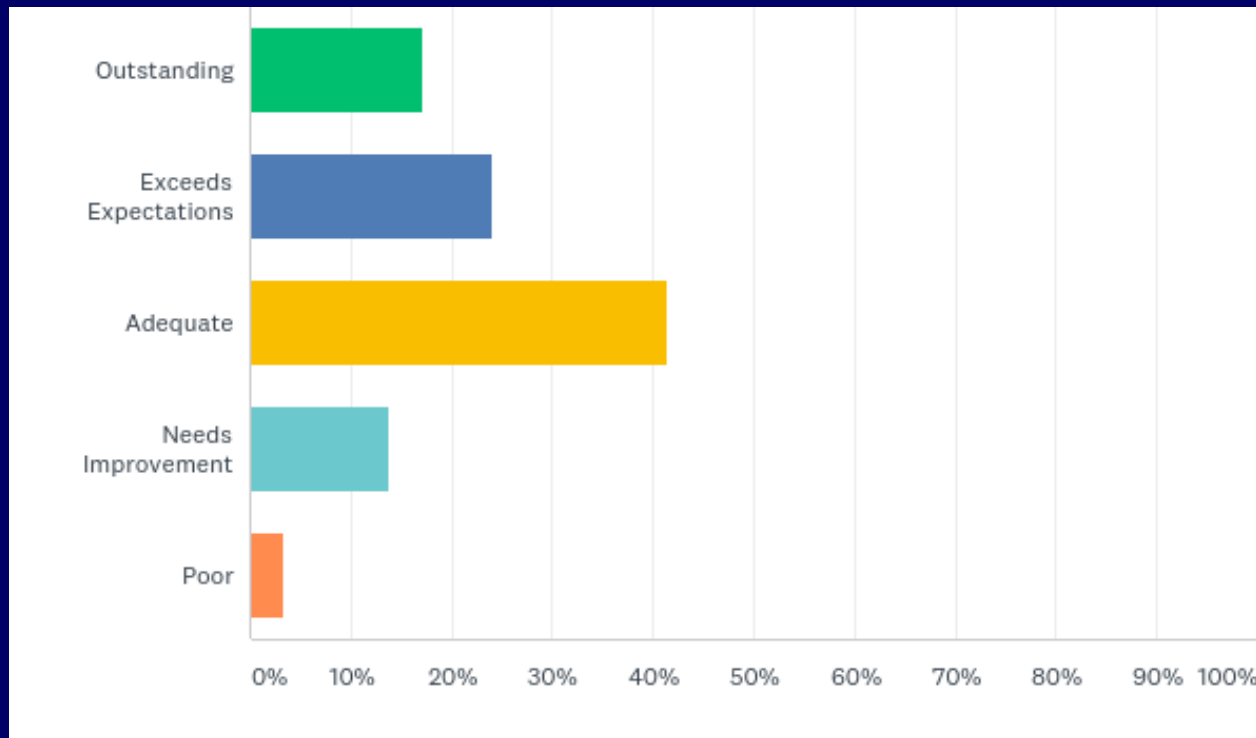


82% +

18% -

Q9: Please rate the overall performance of the Drinking Water program (choose one).

- Answered: 29 Skipped: 0



41% +

17% -

Some Partner Comments

- “More State staff, more money for county staff, streamlined rules that are easy to read and understand.”
- “Fix the train wreck you call Drinking water Rules. Could they possibly be more complicated and confusing...”
- “Spend some time in each county going on surveys with county staff.”
- “I wish DWP response time would be better when it comes to our submittal of material for systems. The systems blame us...”
- Sort out what you are going to do with State-Reg. systems. I recommend keeping them in the inventory (even without funding)
- “Listen to what we say at the county...”
- “Great staff always helpful.”

We're listening...

- State-County workgroup 2017
 - Compiled and reviewed ideas for streamlining processes
 - Reviewed and updated the PE50 workplan
 - Identified increases in County personnel costs
- Stabilized State staffing
 - Used banked set-asides
 - Filling vacancies when they occur
 - Added 2 temporary employees for data entry
- Working on sustainable funding
 - 2019 Legislative Concept. Replace survey fee with annual regulatory fee. 5 new positions, increase Partner funding by 25%.
 - Plan to regulate non-EPA systems as matter of Health Equity

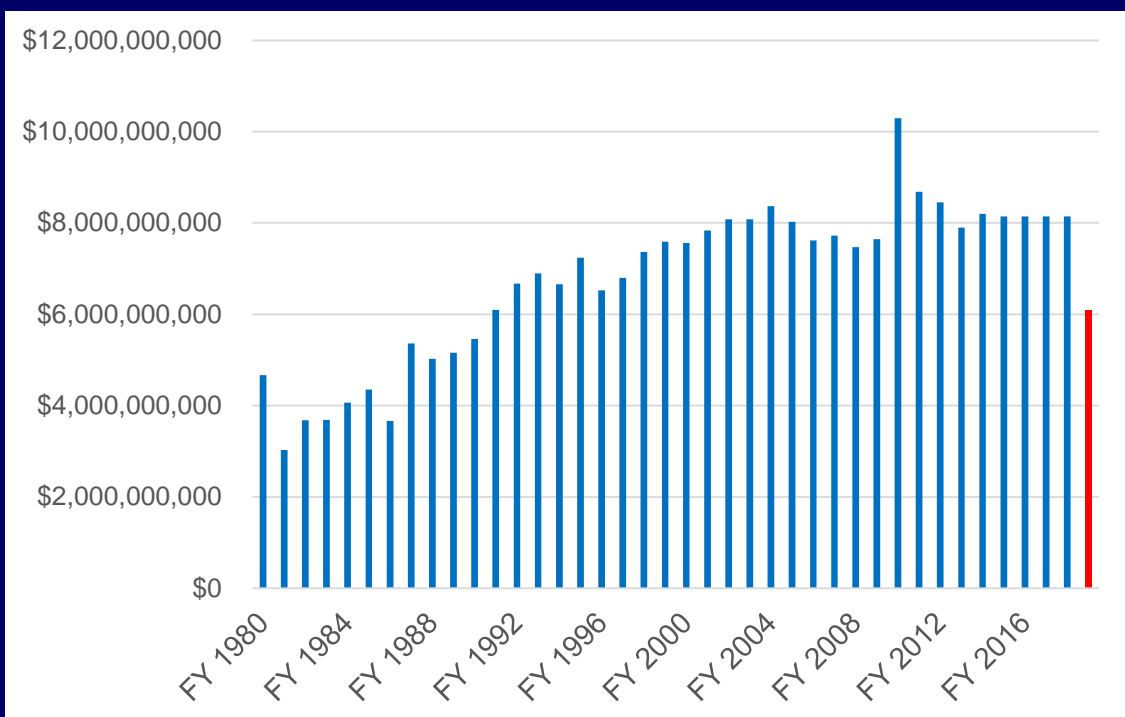
Challenges Ahead

Federal Landscape—Regulatory backlash



- Administration focused on deregulation and cutting government spending.
- Exec. Orders. 2 for 1 repeal for every new reg; No net cost of new regs.
- EPA Administrator
 - “War on Lead”
 - Leveraging infrastructure investment
 - LEAN focus on improving compliance.

Federal Landscape—Eroded funding



- EPA's budget and grants to States flat for many years.
- Omnibus Appropriations Act provides slight increase.
- Anticipate flat grant funds in the future.

Difficult Issues Ahead

Increasing compliance with health based standards

- How can we move the needle with limited resources?

Evaluation of surface water filtration systems

- Can systems be further optimized to be more protective?

Operator certification program review

- Is the program creating barriers to entry in the field or advancement?

Emergency preparedness

- Ready for Cascadia? Implementing seismic assessment/mitigation rule.

Difficult Issues Ahead

Lead and Copper Rule revisions

- What will be the impact on DWS and systems?

Unregulated/Emerging Contaminants. Is it safe?

- Harmful Algal Blooms
 - Is guidance sufficient?
- Legionella
 - What is the role of DWS and water utilities?
- Perfluorinated Compounds (PFOA/PFAS)
 - Not found in drinking water systems in UCMR 3.
 - Were detection limits low enough, looking in the right places?

Conclusions

- Public trust is low, expectations are high (zero risk).
- Drinking Water has never been safer. Regulation has been successful within its scope.
- Need sustainable resources and continued partnership to meet public expectations.



Working together to keep drinking
water safe for all Oregonians.

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