
Water Equity Taskforce

Water Equity in Rural VA Wkgrp

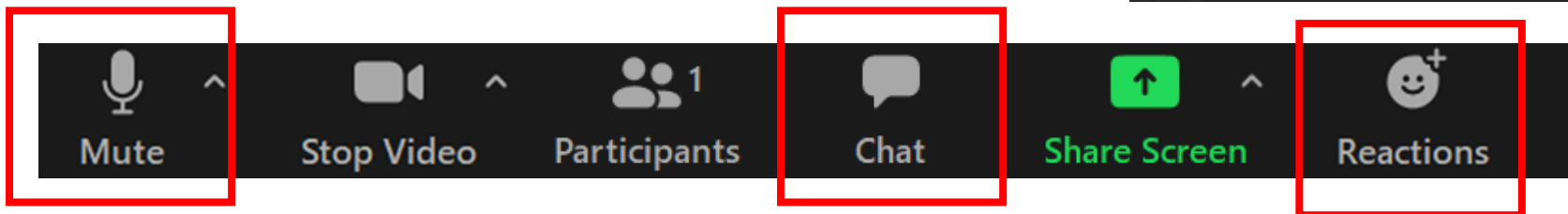
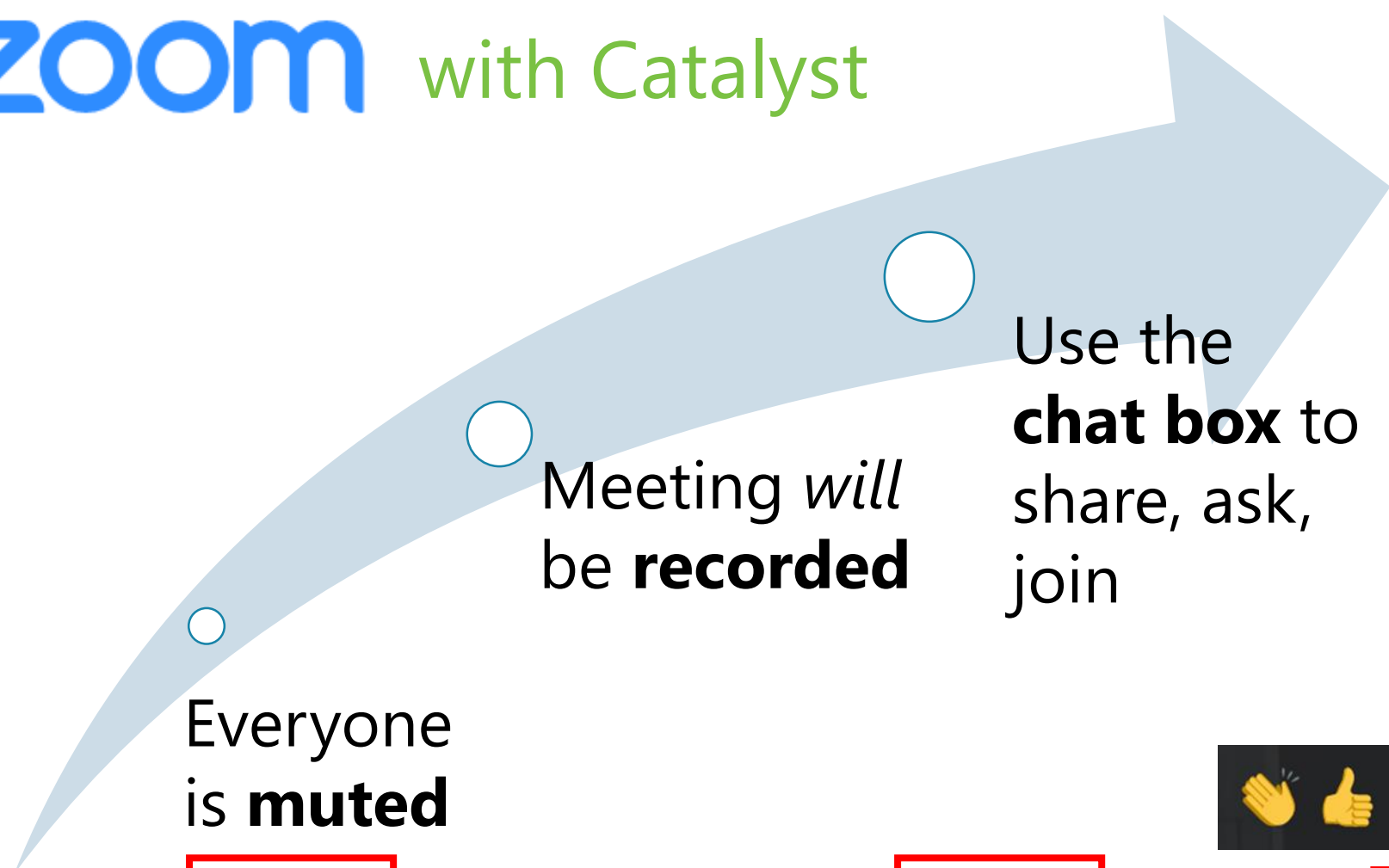
Thursday, December 17th, 2020

Mission:

To better understand water use/avoidance through research that identifies water coping behaviors in rural Virginia communities, by looking at the implications of drinking water quality and public perceptions of water quality.



zoom with Catalyst



Introductions

- Name
- Organization
- Role



Mission:

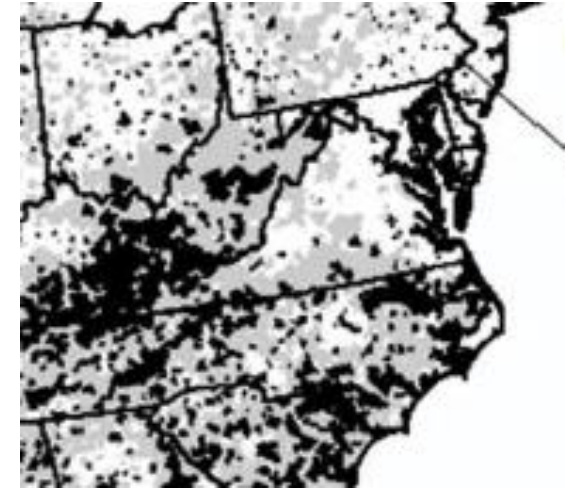
To better understand water use/avoidance through research that identifies water coping behaviors in rural Virginia communities, by looking at the implications of drinking water quality and public perceptions of water quality.



RESEARCH ARTICLE

A Burgeoning Crisis? A Nationwide Assessment of the Geography of Water Affordability in the United States

Elizabeth A. Mack^{1*}, Sarah Wrase²



Highlights:

- National study
- From a geographic perspective, populations **most likely to suffer from rising water prices** are **concentrated in low-income** states across the United States
- These populations have higher rates of unemployment, lack of health insurance coverage, and a reliance on foods stamps and public assistance.

Research Paper

Examining differences in the implementation of school water-quality practices and water-access policies by school demographic characteristics

Angie L. Cradock^{a,*}, Sherry Everett Jones^b, Caitlin Merlo^c

Highlights:

- National survey of schools
- 46% flush drinking water outlets after periods of non-use
- 45% conduct periodic inspections that test drinking water outlets for lead
- 25% require staff training on drinking water quality
- Most schools teach the importance of water consumption (81%) and offer free drinking water in the cafeteria (88%)

Takeaways:

Lots of room for improvement: testing, quality, and communication!

Small towns, big challenges: Does rurality influence Safe Drinking Water Act compliance?

Cristina E. Marcillo | Leigh-Anne H. Krometis

Highlights:

- Virginia specific water utilities
- very small CWSs had significantly more monitoring and reporting (MR) violations than large systems, while medium CWSs had significantly more maximum contaminant-level violations.
- Isolated rural area CWSs had significantly high MR noncompliance compared with town and urban centers.
- From 1999 to 2016, Virginia's 1,133 CWSs reported a total of 9,576 SDWA violations (81% MR, 17% health-based). The most common health-based contaminant for every sized system was total coliform

Small towns, big challenges: Does rurality influence Safe Drinking Water Act compliance?

Cristina E. Marcillo | Leigh-Anne H. Krometis

Legend

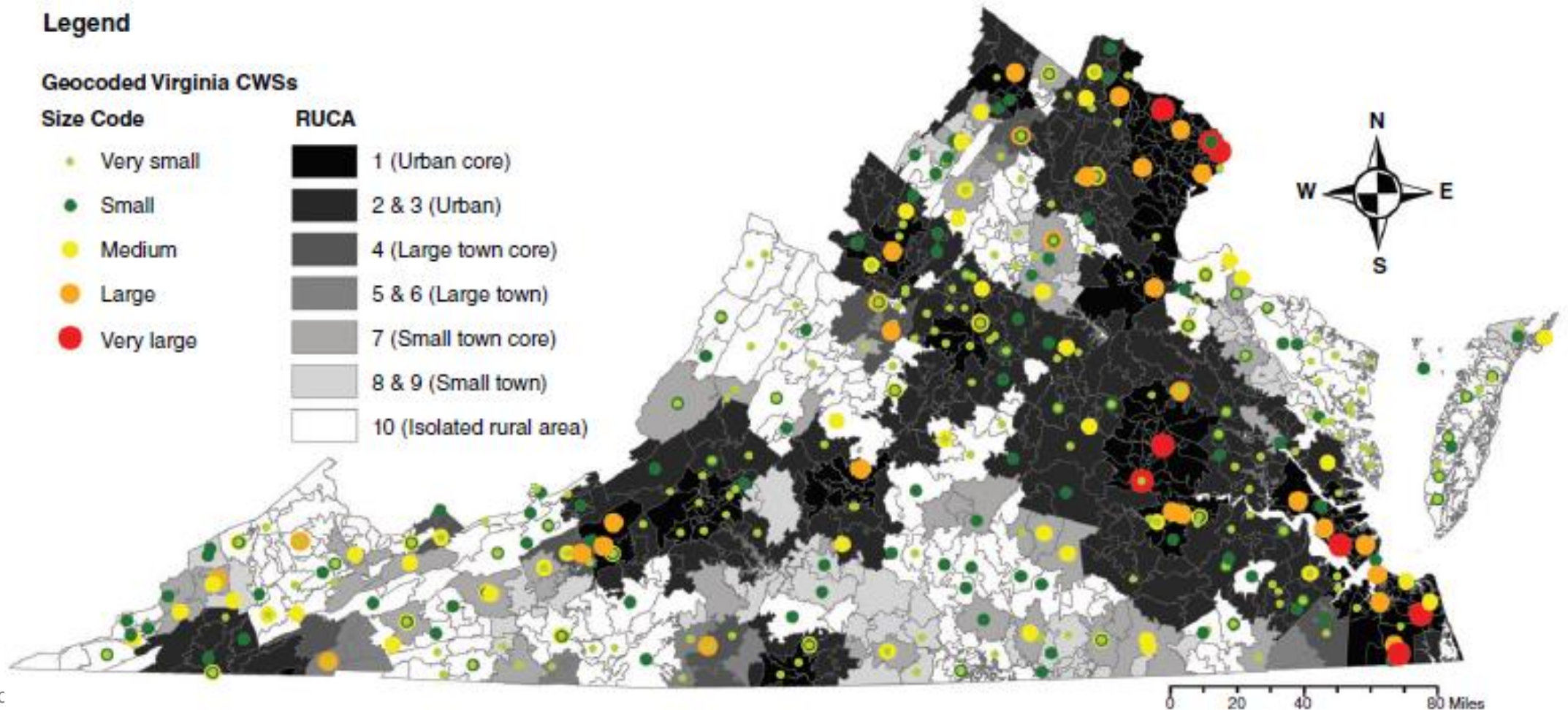
Geocoded Virginia CWSs

Size Code

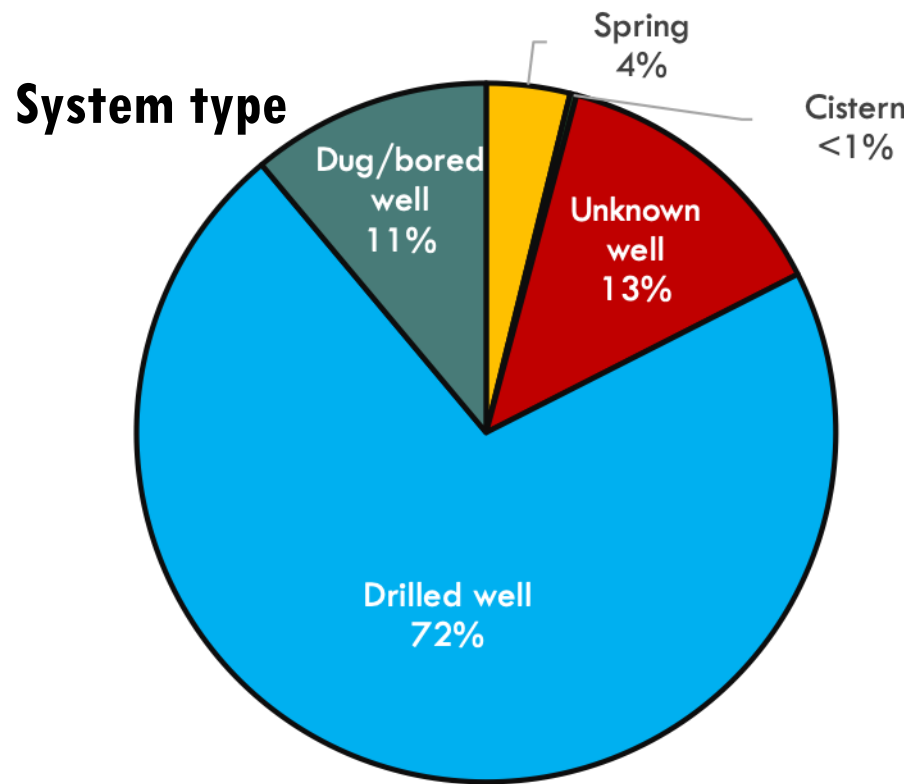
- Very small
- Small
- Medium
- Large
- Very large

RUCA

- 1 (Urban core)
- 2 & 3 (Urban)
- 4 (Large town core)
- 5 & 6 (Large town)
- 7 (Small town core)
- 8 & 9 (Small town)
- 10 (Isolated rural area)

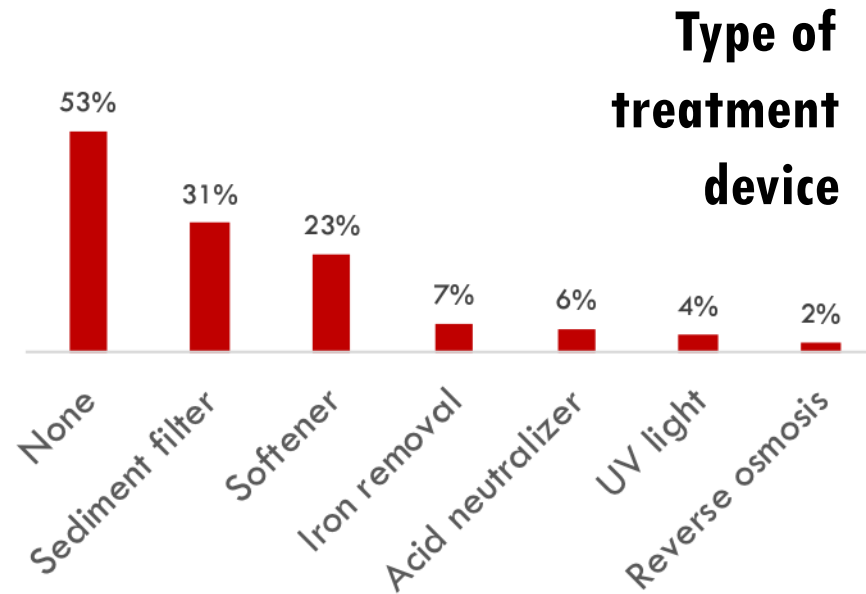


VAHWQP System Characteristics (2008-2019; n=16,034)



Wells are an average of **30** years old.

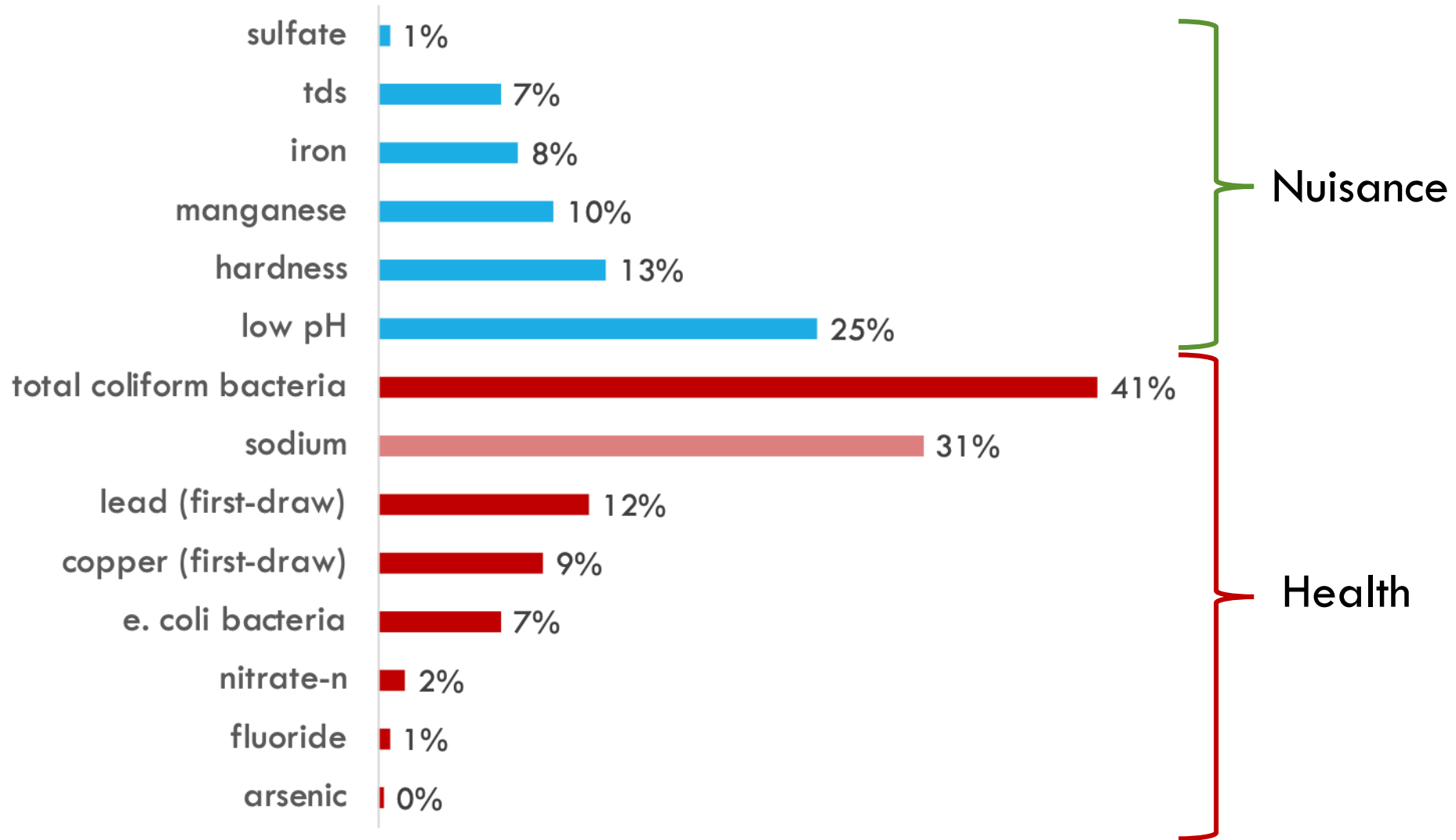
80% of participants have never tested or tested only once.



The most common treatment devices are for **aesthetic** contaminants.

VAHWQP: WHAT'S IN THE WATER*?

(2008-2019; n=16,034)



*% exceeding EPA standards or recommendations according to SDWA (municipal regulations)



Rev Your Bev Survey Findings Report

Highlights:

- 6,537 high school student participants
- The most popular methods to consume water included reusable water bottles (63.7%) and drinking fountain (33.6%)
- Nearly half (49.5%) of participants reported that they do not think drinking fountains are clean and over a third (35.7%) of participants do not think it is safe to drink fountain water.

Which of the following would make it easier for you to drink more water during the school day?	
Clean and safe drinking fountains.	52.3%
Being able to carry a reusable water bottle.	43.3%
Having more sources of water around the school (i.e. hydration stations).	36.90%

VDH Lead Testing Bills

- Require schools and child day programs to test for lead in water
 - Schools: required to notify parents
 - Child day programs: will either fix/remove/remediate the lead sources or switch to bottled water.
- VDH and ODW will receive test plans and results
- WIIN grant - to help pay for testing
 - focusing on rural areas, and lower income areas in cities, focusing on buildings that are most likely to have lead in plumbing fixtures





Discussion

- **Why focus on rural challenges?**
 - **What is the significance of these areas?**
 - **What are their challenges?**
 - **What are their barriers?**





Discussion

What are actionable solutions?



Timeline and future meetings

Catalyst will :

- Synthesize our discussion today
- Draft group workplan

Next meeting

- Thursday, January 28nd
10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Thank you!

