



FINDINGS & FIGURES LOCAL LEADERSHIP SURVEY

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Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay

September 13, 2024



Introduction

Overview

This is the second completion of the biannual survey to measure understanding of local official's knowledge and capacity. Survey consists of:

- Qualifying questions (q's 1, 2, 3, 4, 5)
- Attitude questions (q's 6, 7, 8)
- Informational questions (q's 9, 10, 11, 16)
- Behavioral questions (q's 12, 17)
- Knowledge questions (q's 13, 14, 18)
- Capacity question (q 15)
- Demographic questions (q's 19, 20, 21, 22)



Survey Distribution

The survey was distributed via the following partner organizations:

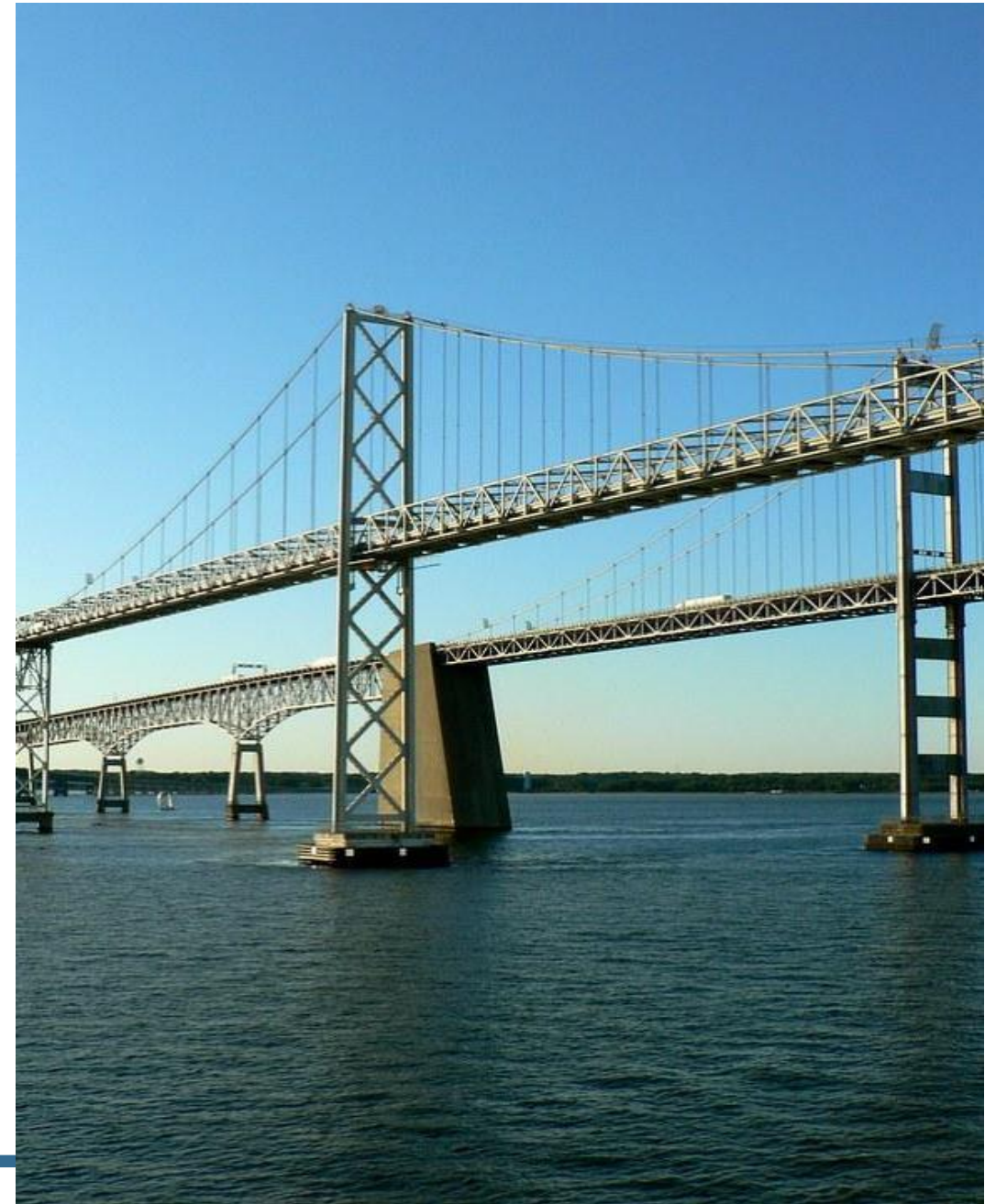
- County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania (CCAP)
- Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control
- Delaware League of Local Governments (DLLG)
- Maryland Association of Counties (MACo)
- Maryland Municipal League (MML)
- Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG)
- Pennsylvania Municipal League (PML)
- Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs (PSAB)
- Upper Susquehanna Coalition
- Virginia Association of Counties (VACo)
- Virginia's Planning District Commissions
- Virginia Municipal League (VML)
- West Virginia Region 9

Each organization sent a link to the survey to its members, either via a direct email invitation, placement in an organizational newsletter, or both. See Appendix for sample messages.

Response Rate

Number of respondents starting the survey: n=435

- Completed survey: n=200 (*46% completion rate; median response time = 8.3 minutes*)
- Partial responses: n=111 (*26% did not complete the survey, see Appendix for more details*)
- Disqualifications: n=124 (*29% were disqualified; see Appendix for more details*)





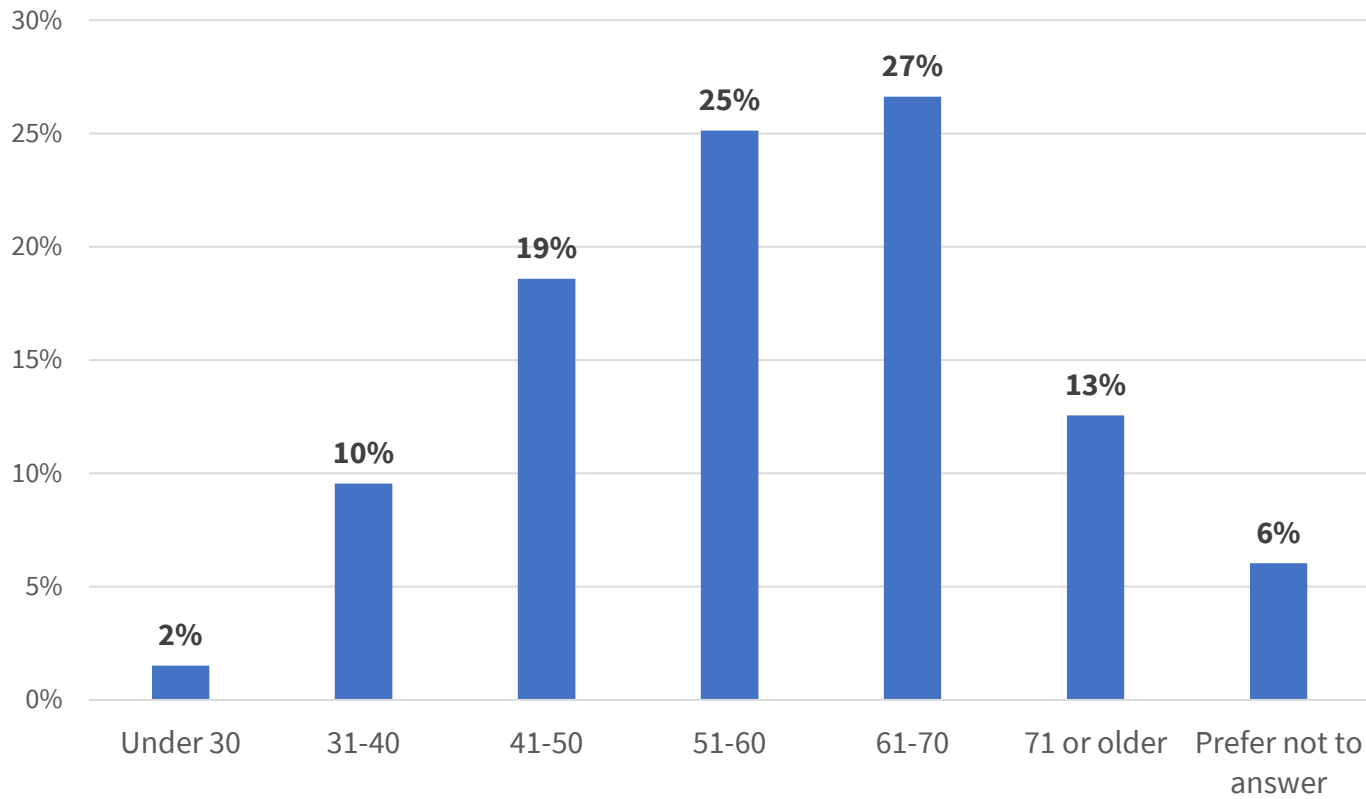
Respondent Demographics

Qualifying questions (q's 1, 2, 3, 4, 5)

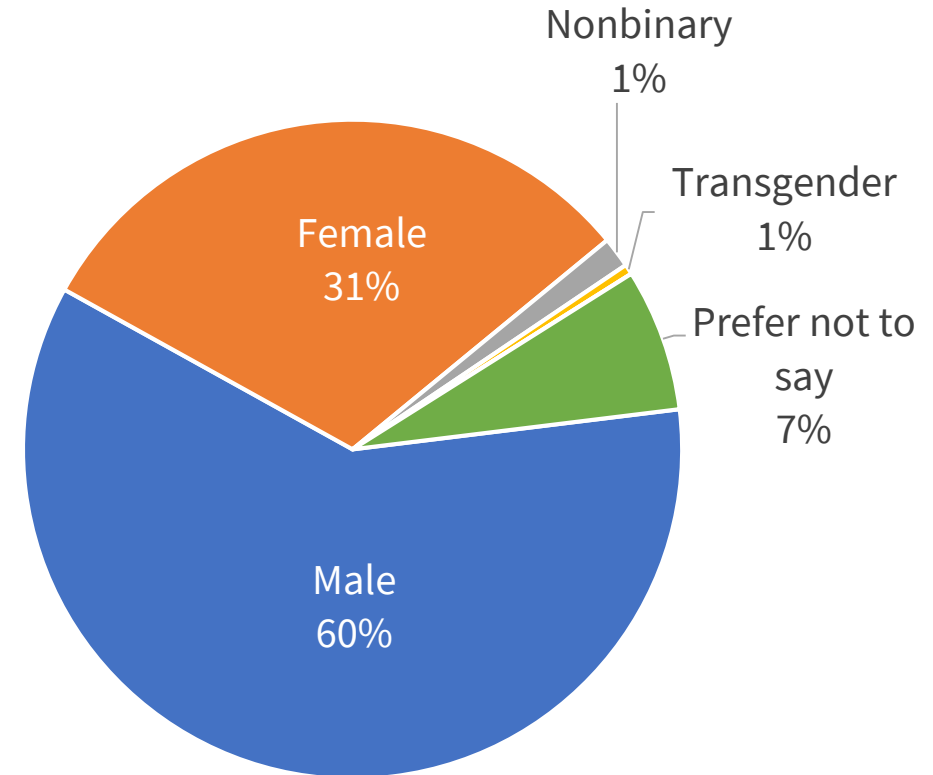
Demographic questions (q's 19, 20, 21, 22)

Respondents (n=200)

Age

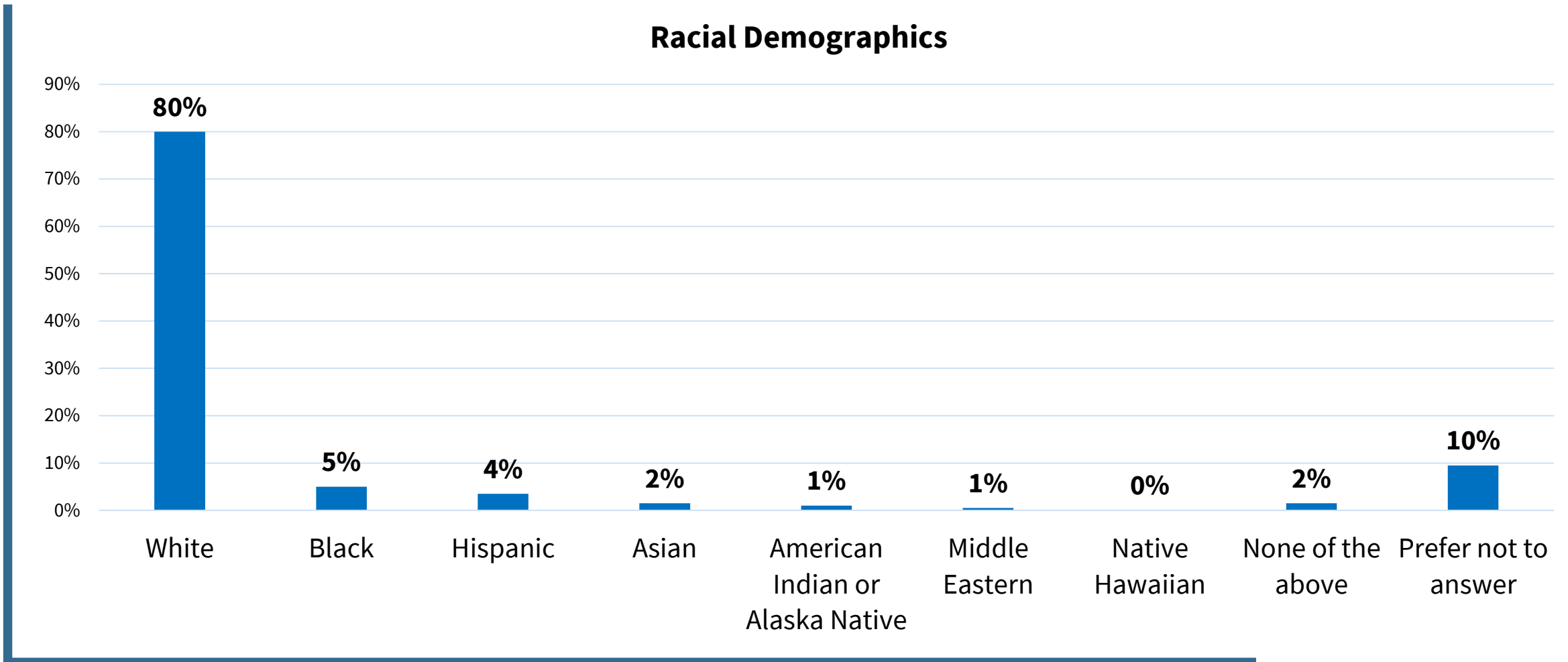


Gender



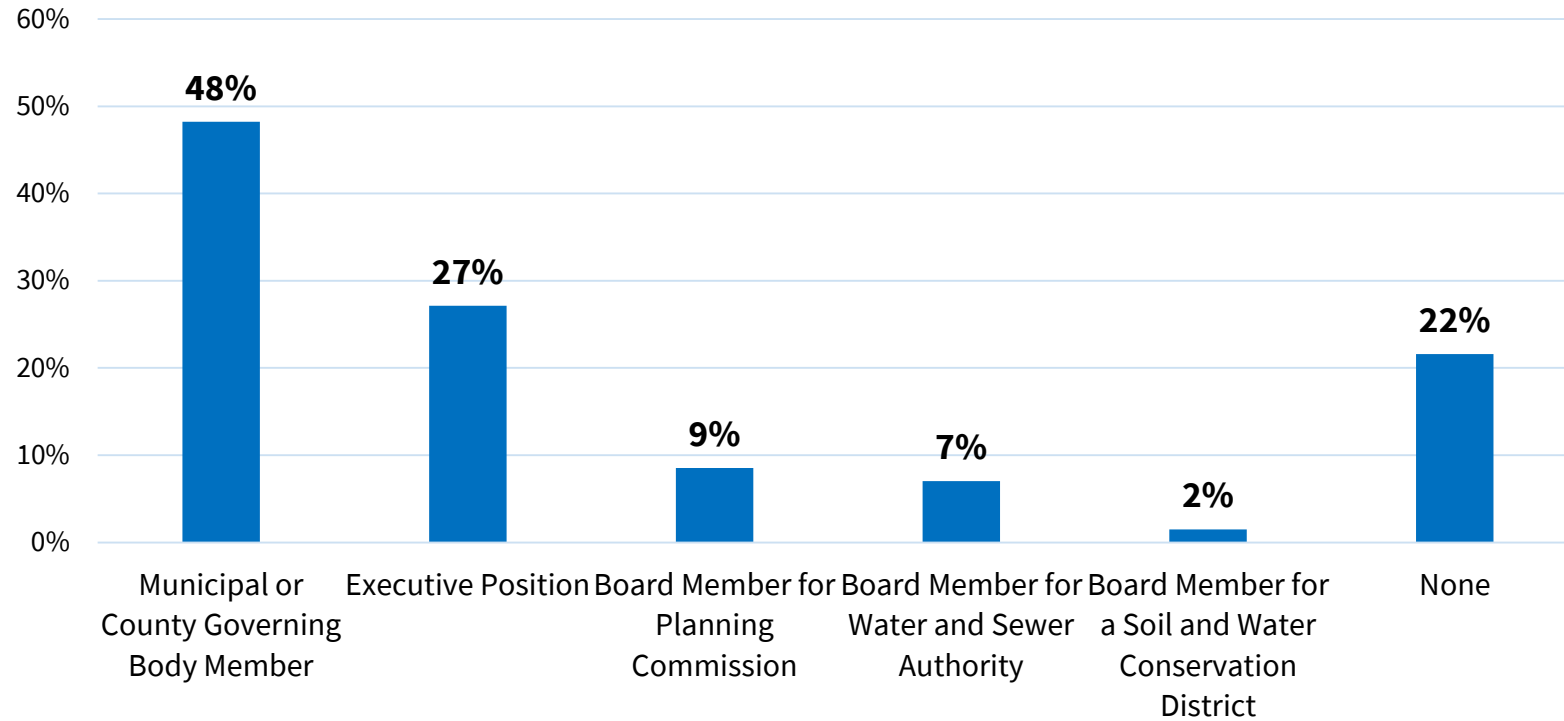
Respondents (n=200) (continued)

Racial Demographics

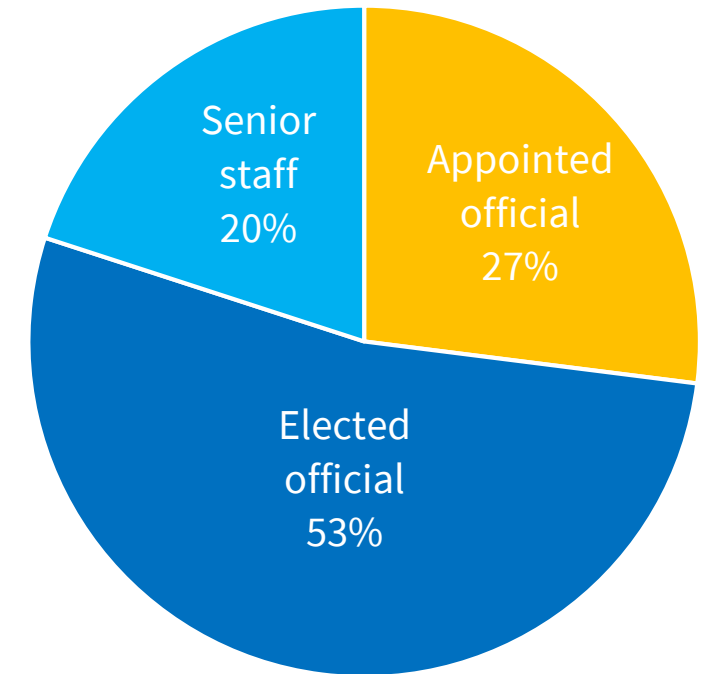


Respondents (n=200) (continued)

Position Held

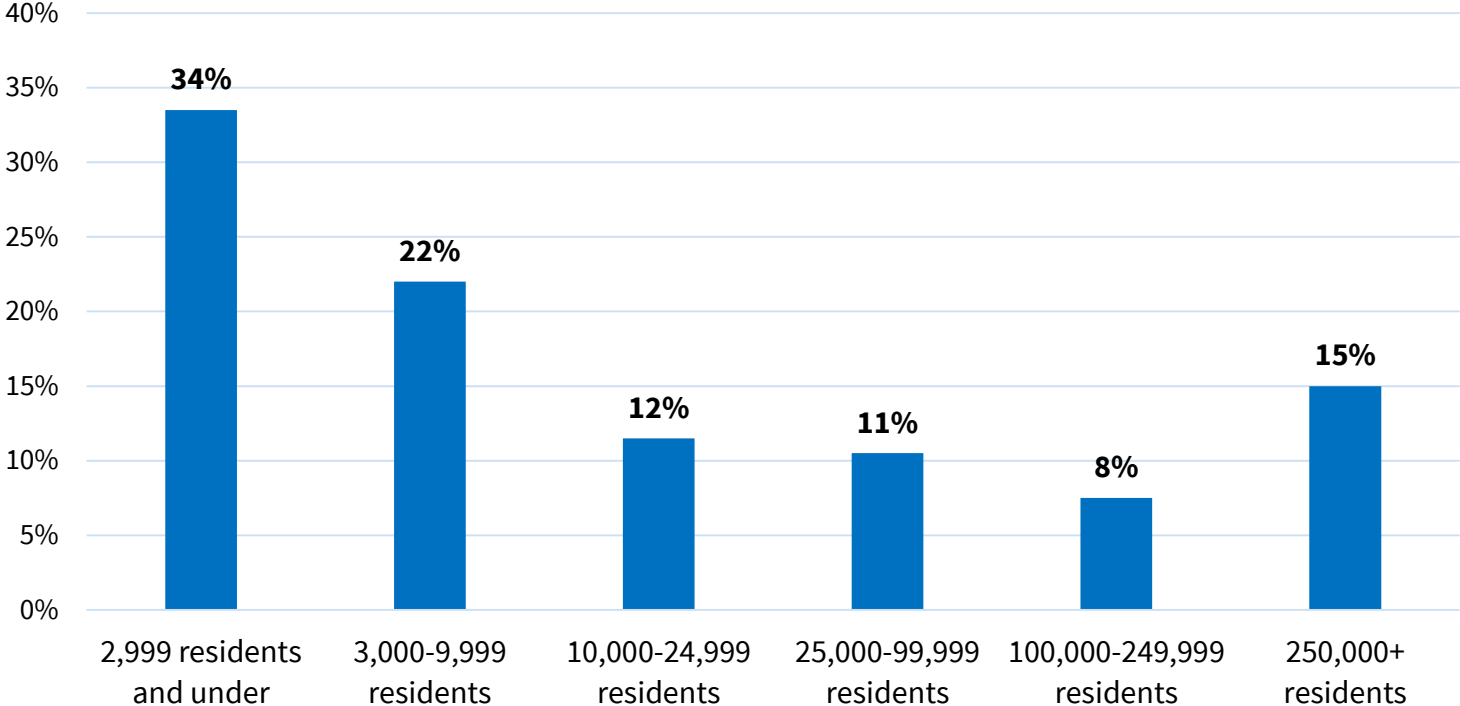


Role in Community

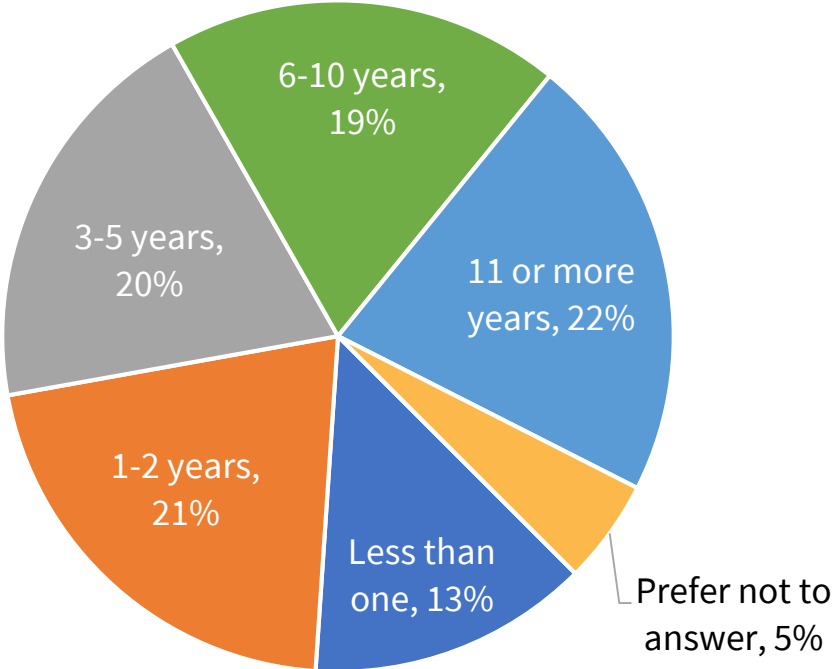


Respondents (n=200) (continued)

Community Population



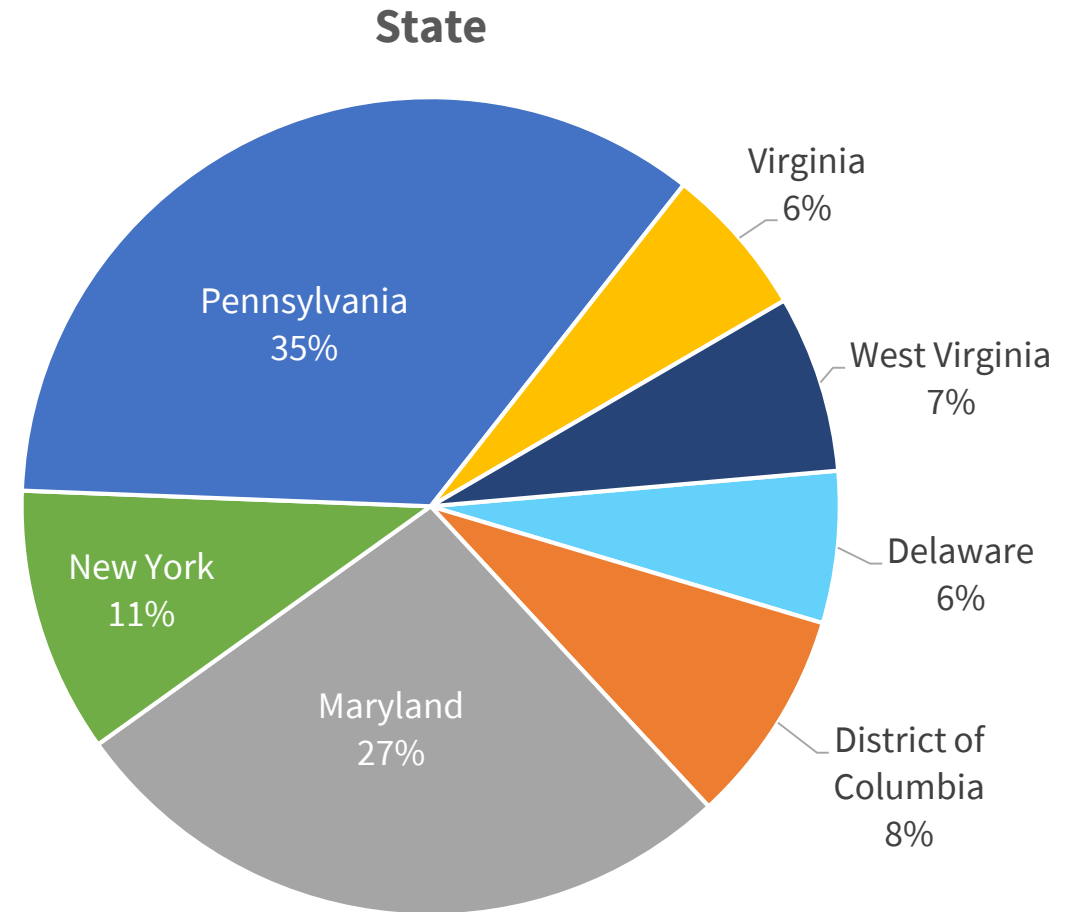
Years in Position



Respondents (n=200) (continued)

Respondents served communities in all six states in the Bay watershed and Washington, D.C.

- The highest number of respondents were from Pennsylvania (n=70), Maryland (n=54), and New York (n=21).
- See Appendix for a breakdown of participation by County/State.





Results: Attitudes and Information

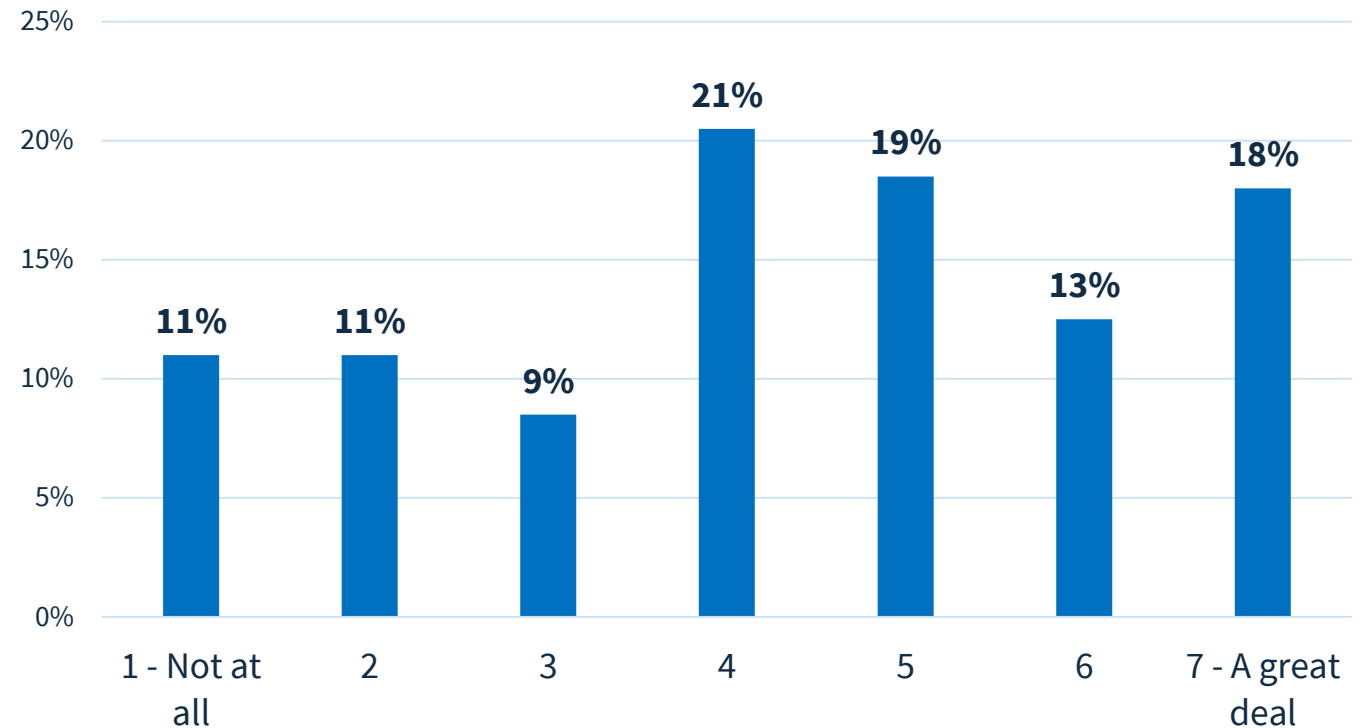
Attitude questions (q's 6, 7, 8)

Informational questions (q's 9, 10, 11, 16)

Thinking about Bay/Downstream

Half (50%) think about downstream communities or the Bay (rated 5 or higher on a 7-point scale) when making policy decisions for their own communities.

- About 31% reported not thinking about the Bay or downstream communities (rated 3 or lower).



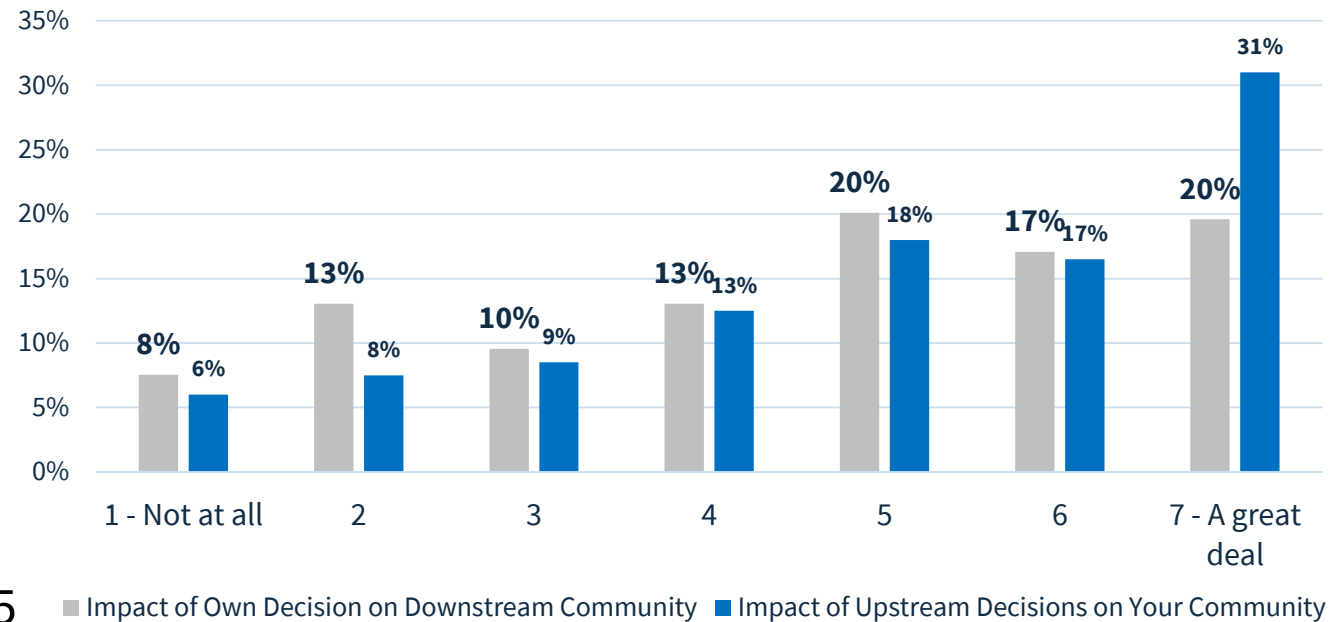
Q6: How much are you thinking about downstream communities and/or the Chesapeake Bay when making policy decisions for your community?

Perceived Impact of Decisions

Respondents **remained** more inclined to see others' decisions as impacting their own communities vs. their decisions impacting others.

- Over 6 out of 10 respondents (66% selected 5 or higher; blue bars) agreed that decisions upstream communities make impact their water quality.
- Slightly less than half (47% selected 5 or higher; grey bars) thought their decisions impacted downstream communities.

Perceived Impact of Decisions



Q7: How much impact do you think the decisions you make have on downstream communities and/or the Chesapeake Bay? (grey bars)

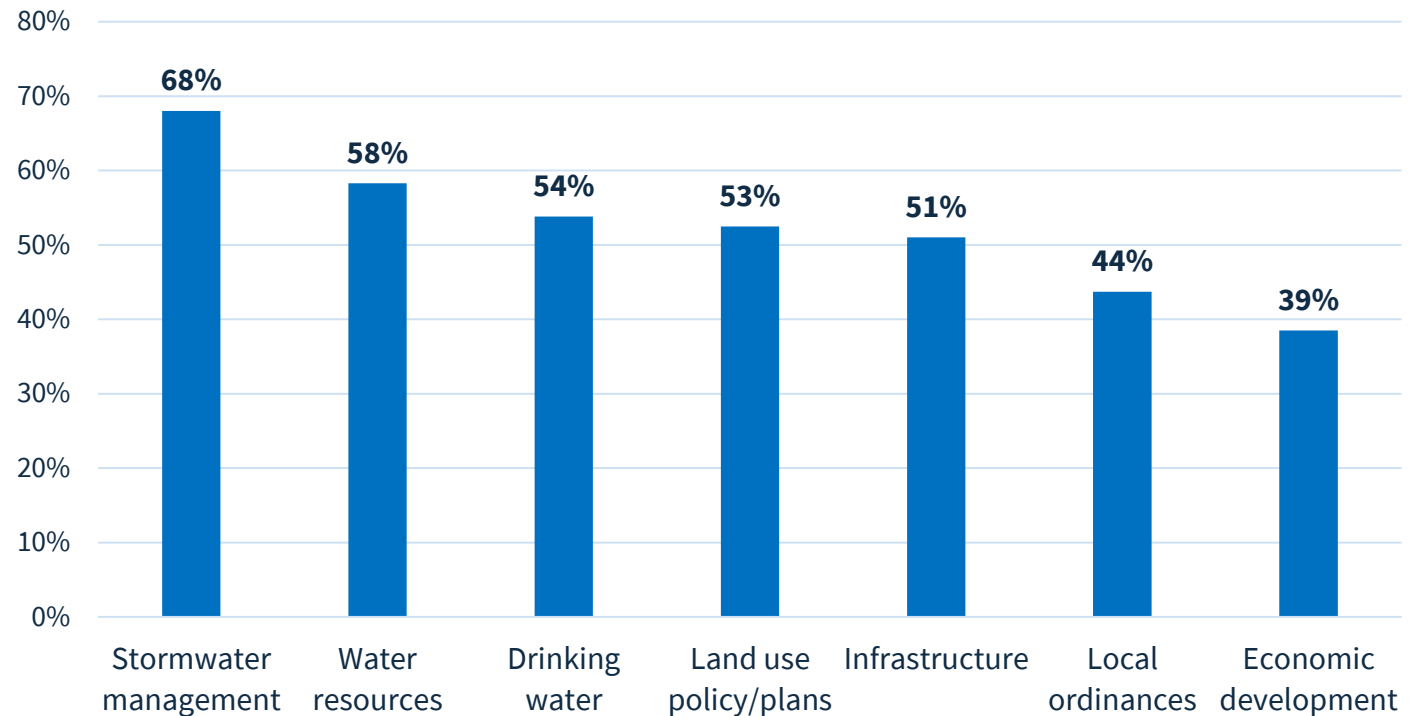
Q8: How much impact do you think the decisions upstream communities make have on your communities' water quality? (blue bars)

[From None/Not at all (1) to A great deal (7)]

Key Bay Policy Associations

Stormwater management **remained** the primary issue associated with the Bay, with 68% reporting they think about the Bay (rated 5 or higher on a 7-point scale) when making stormwater decisions for their communities.

- **The top 5 priorities remained unchanged from 2022** water resources (58%), drinking water (24%), land use policies/plans (53%), and infrastructure (51%).

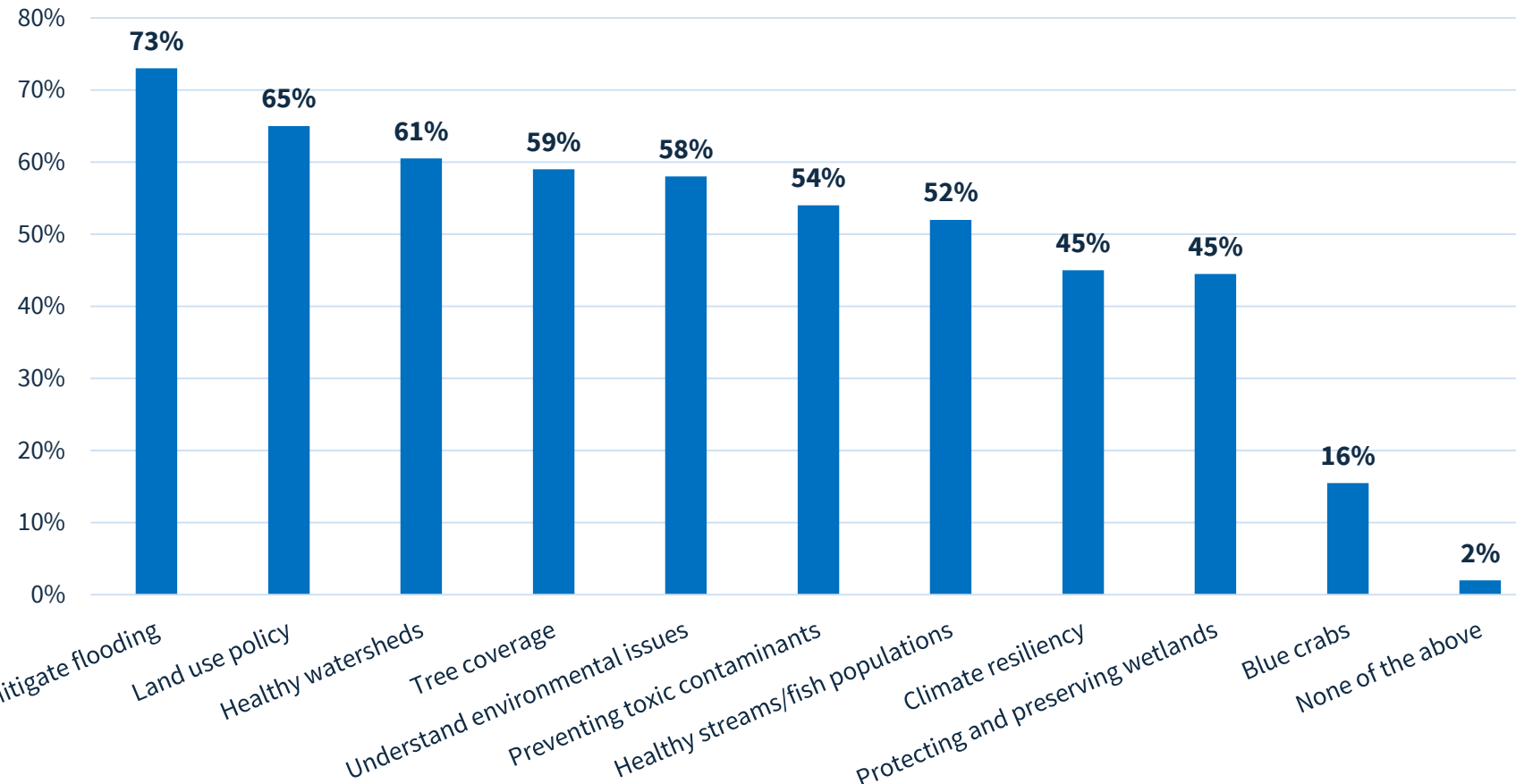


Q9: Given your local budget and existing constraints, how much do you think about downstream communities and/or the Chesapeake Bay when making decisions related to:
[From Not at all (1) to A great deal (7); chart shows percent selecting 5 or higher]

Local Priorities Related to Bay

Mitigating flooding (73%) **remained** as top local priority related to the Bay.

The top 5 priorities remained unchanged from 2022 with land use policy (65%), local priorities are healthy watersheds (61%), tree coverage (59%), and understanding environmental issues (58%).

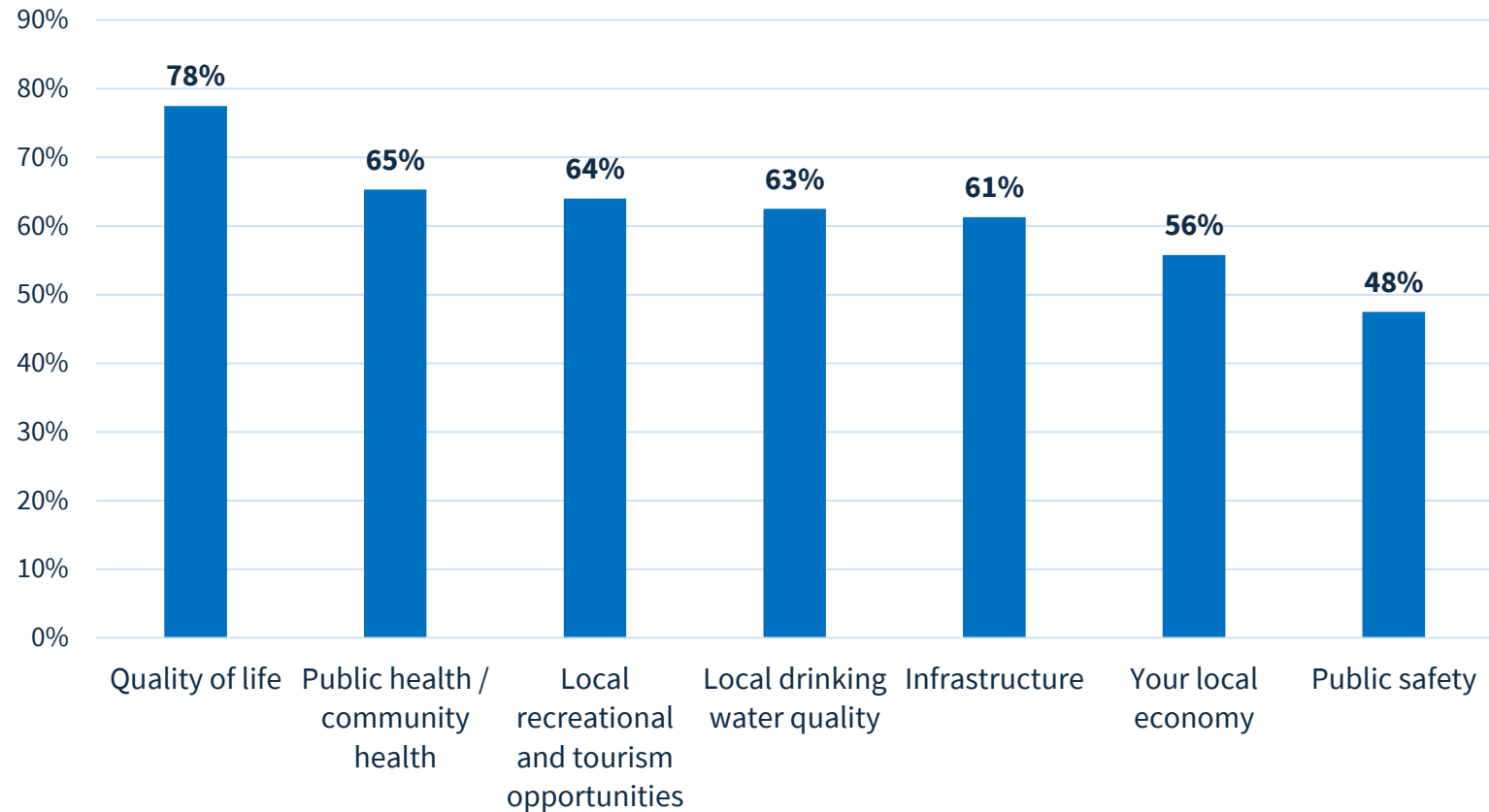


Q10: Given your local budget and existing constraints, which of the following do you see as a priority for your local community? Please check all that apply.

Key Impacts of Protections

Quality of life (QoL) **remained** the key impact of protecting the Bay, with 78% reporting protections impact QoL (rated 5 or higher on a 7-point scale).

The top 5 priorities remained unchanged (other than order) from 2022 with public health (65%), local recreation/ tourism (64%), drinking water quality (63%), local infrastructure (61%).



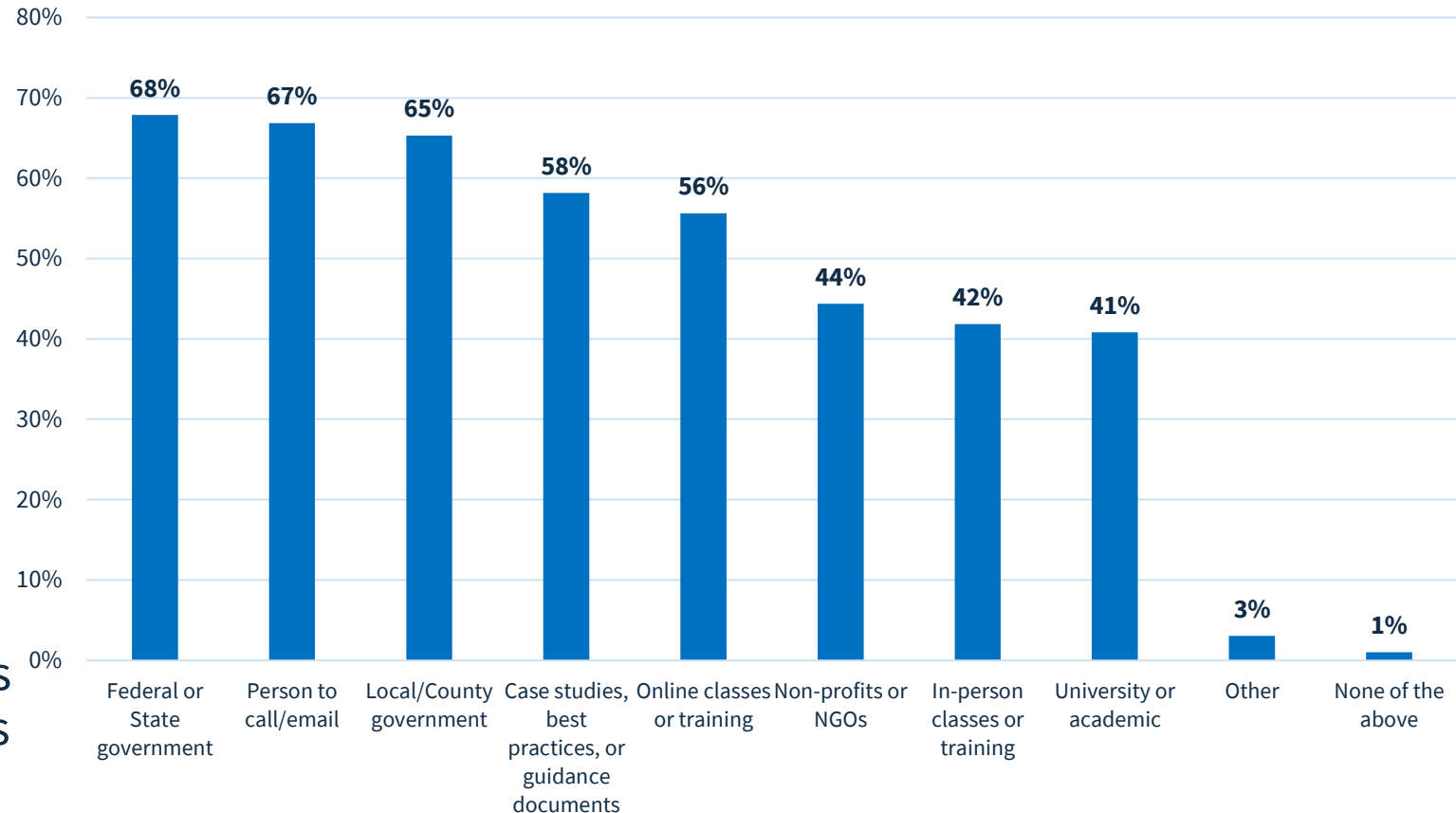
Q11: When your community takes steps to protect the environment, including protecting water resources and the Chesapeake Bay, how much impact does that have on:

[From Not at all (1) to A great deal (7); chart shows percent selecting 5 or higher]

Desired Information Sources

Strong desire for direct contact person (67%) **remained popular** from 2022 with Federal/State resources (68%) **remaining high** on the list. Local/county resources (65%) also **remained popular**.

Support remained for case studies (58%) and online classes/trainings (56%). NGOs (44%), in-person (42%), and academic (41%), **resources remained low**.



Q16: If you wanted to learn more about environmental policy and/or water resources, which of the following would you want to access? Please check all that apply.



Behavior, Knowledge, and Capacity

Behavioral questions (q's 12, 17)

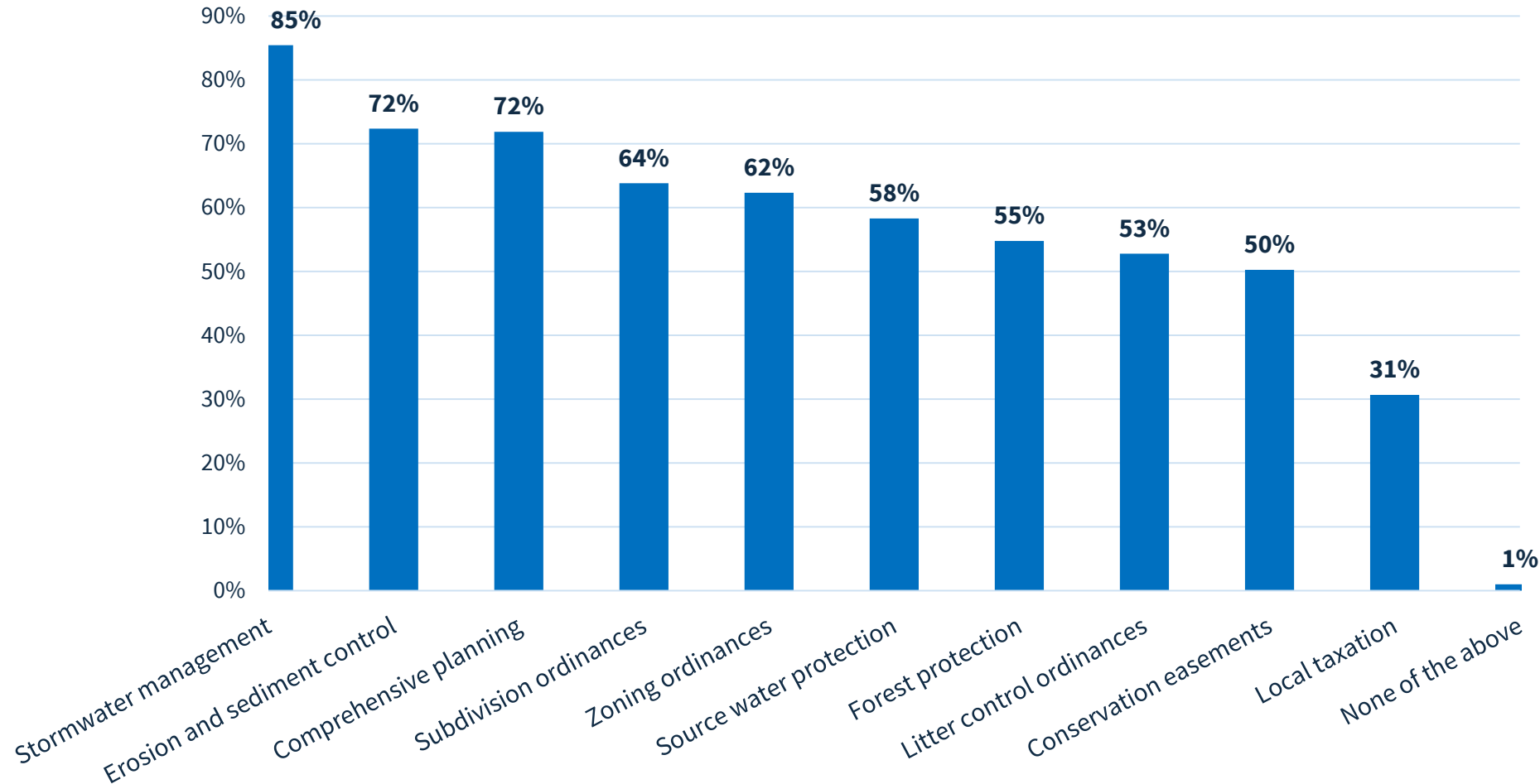
Knowledge questions (q's 13, 14, 18)

Capacity question (q 15)

Tools Considered to Protect Resources

Stormwater management (85%) **remained** as the key tool to protect water resources.

The top 5 priorities remained unchanged from 2022 with erosion and sediment control (72%), and comprehensive planning (72%) and subdivision (64%), and zoning ordinances (62%).

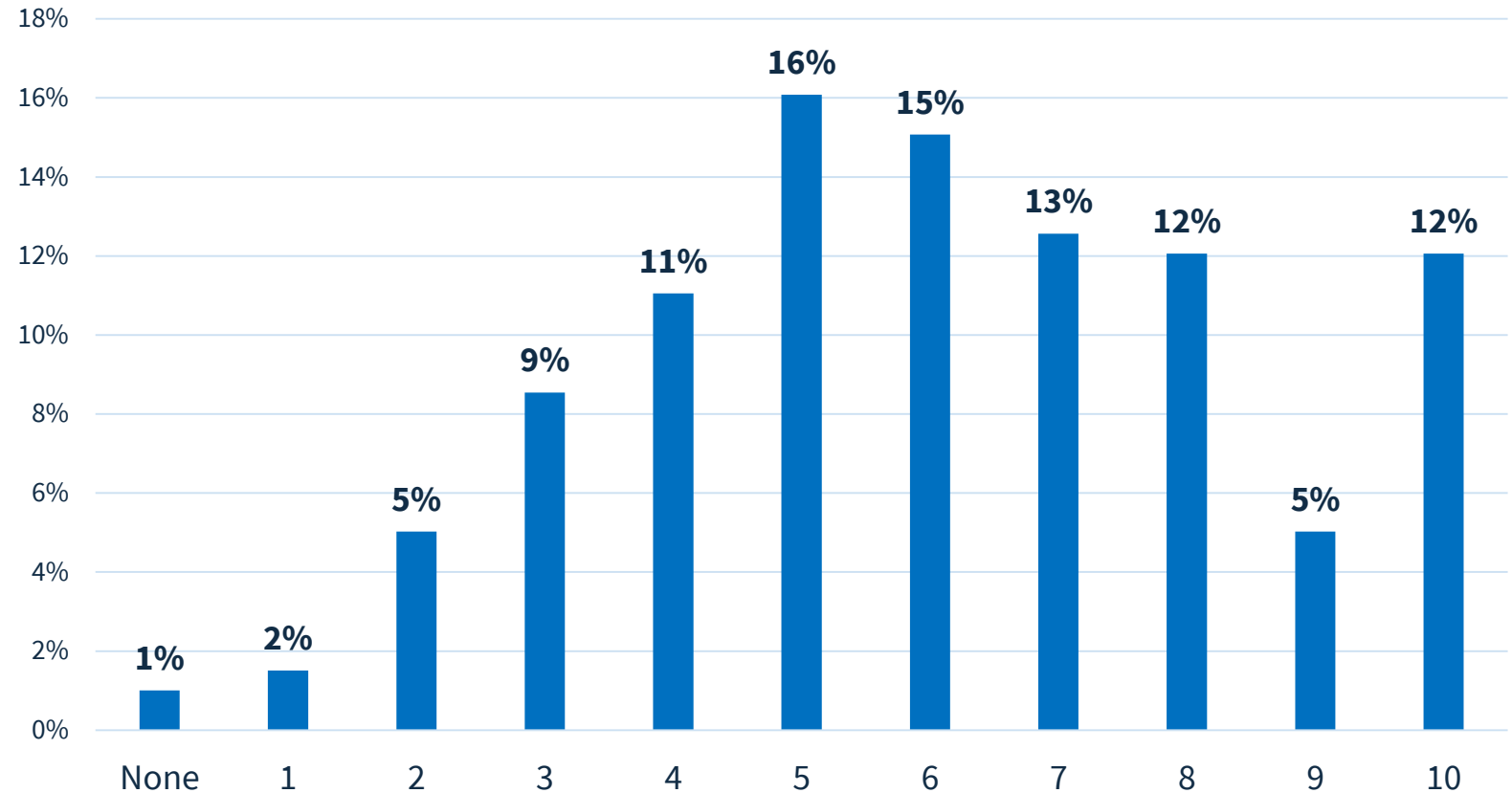


Q12: Which of the following tools would you use or consider as a way to protect or improve water resources for your community? Please check all that apply.

Number of Tools Considered

Mean number of tools considered was 6.

- 84% of respondents would consider four or more tools.



Q12: Which of the following tools would you use or consider as a way to protect or improve water resources for your community? Please check all that apply. Chart shows number of tools selected.

Tools Considered (Q12 means)

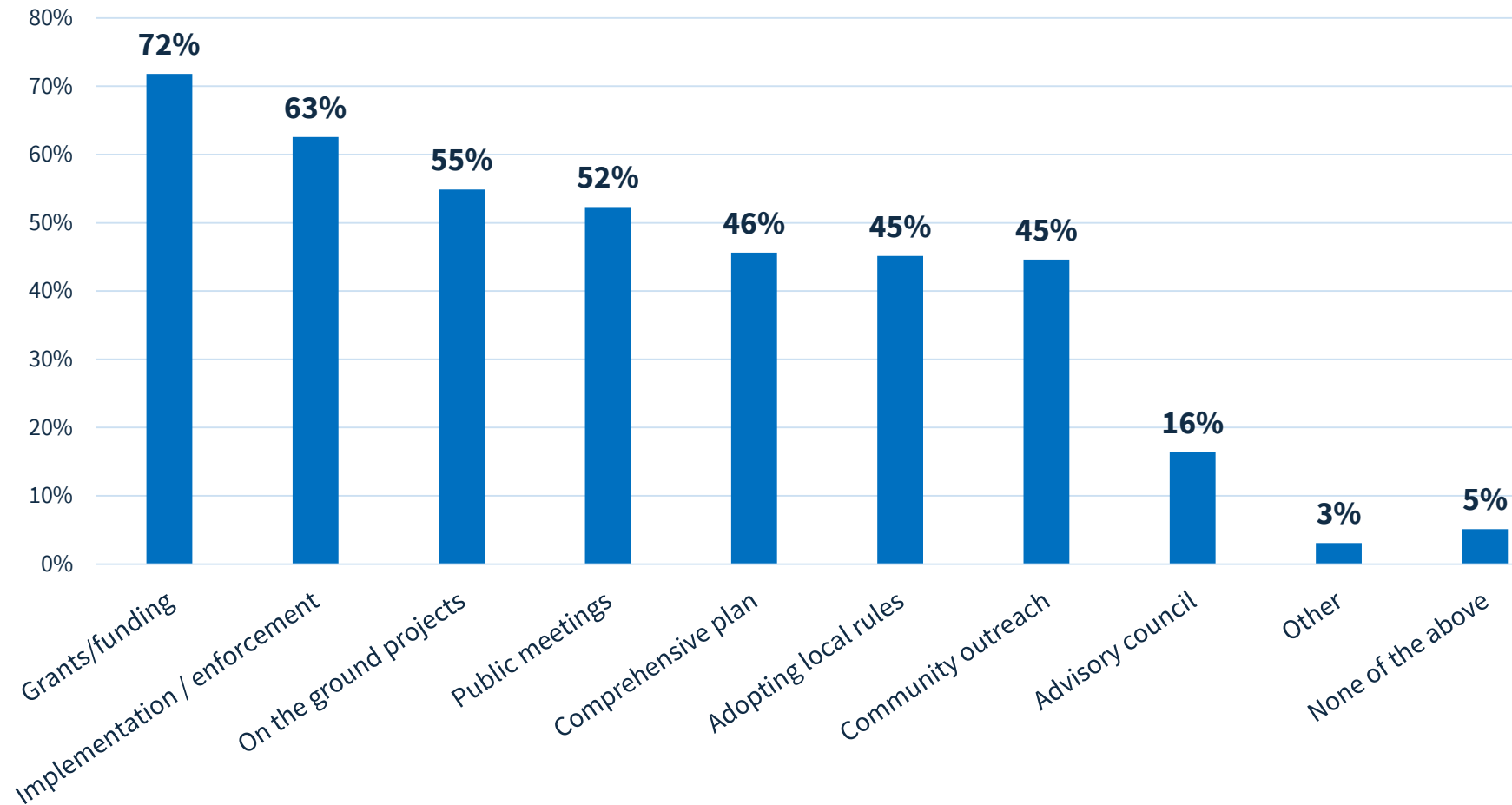
	CATEGORIES				
AGE	<40	41-50	51-60	61-70	71+
MEAN (NOT SIG)	5.77	5.57	6.14	6.19	6.68
TENURE	<2 YEARS	3-5 YEARS	6-10 YEARS	11+ YEARS	
MEAN (NOT SIG)	6.10	6.38	5.97	5.51	
STATE	MARYLAND	PENNSYLVANIA	OTHER		
MEAN (SIG DIFF)	7.15 [B]	5.01 [A]	6.16 [B]		
COMMUNITY SIZE	<9,999	10,000-99,999	100,000+		
MEAN (SIG DIFF)	5.34 [B]	6.14 [B]	7.6 [A]		
GENDER	FEMALE	MALE			
MEAN (NOT SIG)	6.47	5.84			

MD reported more tools considered while PA reported the least amount considered. The largest communities, those with 100k+ residents, considered more tools compared to smaller communities.

Actions Taken

Almost all (95%) had taken actions related to water quality or water resources.

Grants/funding (72%) **remained at the top.** Implementation/enforce (63%) **was higher with this group of survey respondents,** while on the ground projects (54%) and public meetings (52%) **remained very common.**

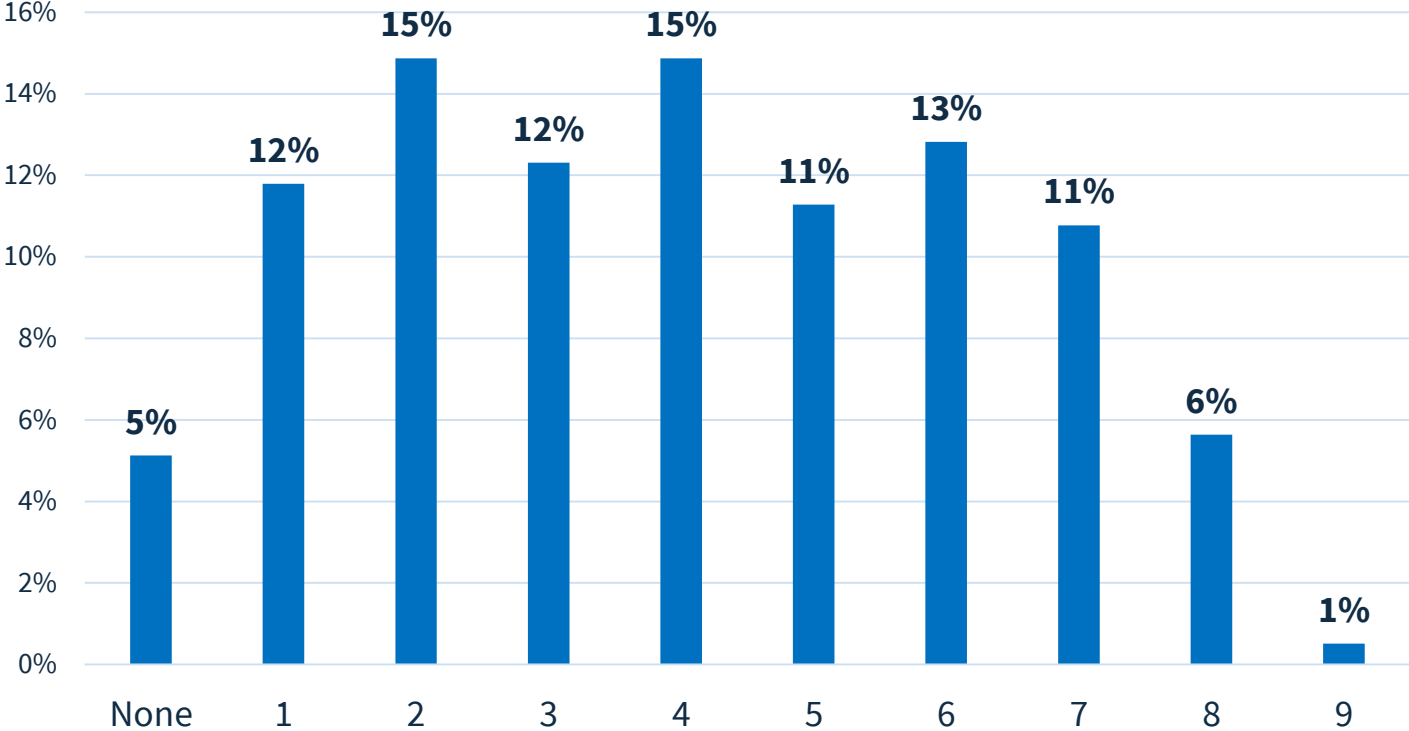


Q17: In the last three years, which of the following has your community undertaken related to water quality or water resources? Please check all that apply.

Number of Actions Taken

Mean number of actions taken was 3.96.

- 57% of respondents have taken four or more actions.
- About one in five (17%) have taken none or only one action.



Q17) In the last three years, which of the following has your community undertaken related to water quality or water resources? Please check all that apply.

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community outreach efforts | <input type="checkbox"/> Implementation/enforcement of local rules, ordinances, or regulations | <input type="checkbox"/> Apply for grants/funding to assist with projects |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public meetings or public discussions | <input type="checkbox"/> "On the ground" projects to directly improve water quality or water resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Formation of an advisory council or citizen advisory committee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adopting local rules, ordinances, or regulations | <input type="checkbox"/> Developing a comprehensive plan | <input type="checkbox"/> None of the above |

Actions Taken (Q17 means)

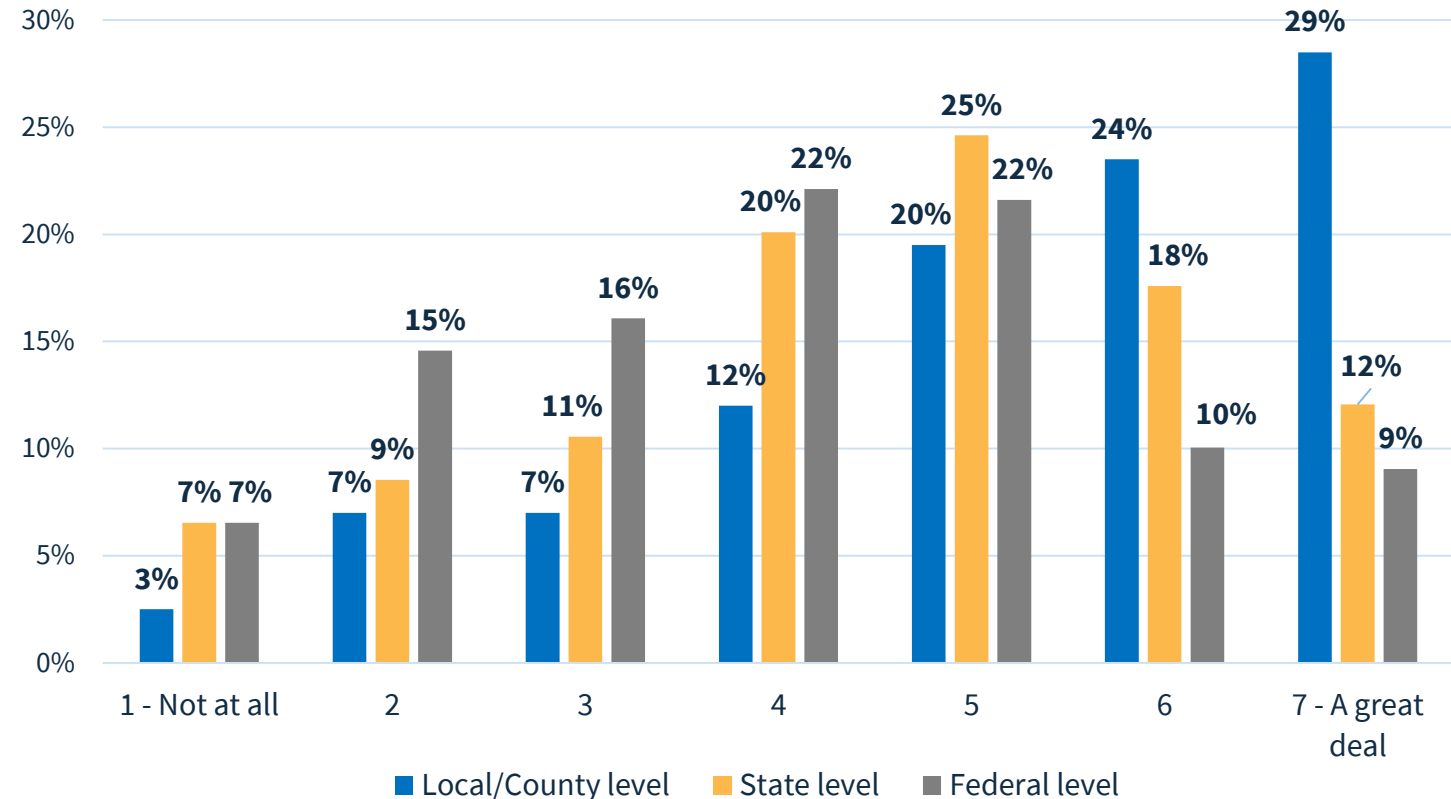
	CATEGORIES				
AGE	<40	41-50	51-60	61-70	71+
MEAN (NOT SIG)	4.14	4.39	4.50	3.31	3.60
TENURE	<2 YEARS	3-5 YEARS	6-10 YEARS	11+ YEARS	
MEAN (NOT SIG)	4.26	4.05	3.84	3.42	
STATE	MARYLAND	PENNSYLVANIA	OTHER		
MEAN (SIG DIFF)	4.88 [A]	3.25 [B]	3.99		
COMMUNITY SIZE	<9,999	10,000-99,999	100,000+		
MEAN (SIG DIFF)	3.22 [A]	4.45 [B]	5.38 [B]		
GENDER	FEMALE	MALE			
MEAN (NOT SIG)	4.07	3.96			

MD and larger communities (10K+ residents) report taking more actions. Those from PA report the least amount of actions taken.

Understanding Regulations

Understanding is reported as **highest** for environmental laws and regulations at the **local level** (73% rated understanding as 5 or higher on a 7-point scale, mean=5.24).

- Knowledge decreases at the State level (55% rated as 5 or higher, mean=4.49).
- Knowledge is even more limited at the Federal level (41% rated as 5 or higher, mean=4.04).



Q13: In general, how well do you understand environmental rules and regulations at the: local/county; state; federal level? [Scale 1 to 7]

Understanding Local (Q13 means)

	CATEGORIES				
AGE	<40	41-50	51-60	61-70	71+
MEAN (NOT SIG)	5.45	5.11	5.52	5.13	4.76
TENURE	<2 YEARS	3-5 YEARS	6-10 YEARS	11+ YEARS	
MEAN (NOT SIG)	4.96	5.31	5.05	5.60	
STATE	MARYLAND	PENNSYLVANIA	OTHER		
MEAN (SIG DIFF)	6.07 [A]	4.8 [B]	5.04 [B]		
COMMUNITY SIZE	<9,999	10,000-99,999	100,000+		
MEAN (SIG DIFF)	4.71 [A]	5.7 [B]	6.07 [B]		
GENDER	FEMALE	MALE			
MEAN (NOT SIG)	5.27	5.21			

Those from MD and larger communities (10K+ residents) report more understanding of Local regulations.

Understanding State (Q13 means)

	CATEGORIES				
AGE	<40	41-50	51-60	61-70	71+
MEAN (NOT SIG)	4.14	4.46	4.88	4.36	4.40
TENURE	<2 YEARS	3-5 YEARS	6-10 YEARS	11+ YEARS	
MEAN (NOT SIG)	4.43	4.41	4.39	4.71	
STATE	MARYLAND	PENNSYLVANIA	OTHER		
MEAN (SIG DIFF)	5.46 [A]	4.03 [B]	4.22 [B]		
COMMUNITY SIZE	<9,999	10,000-99,999	100,000+		
MEAN (SIG DIFF)	3.99 [A]	4.88 [B]	5.4 [B]		
GENDER	FEMALE	MALE			
MEAN (NOT SIG)	4.47	4.39			

Those from MD and larger communities (10K+ residents) report more understanding of State regulations.

Understanding Federal (Q13 means)

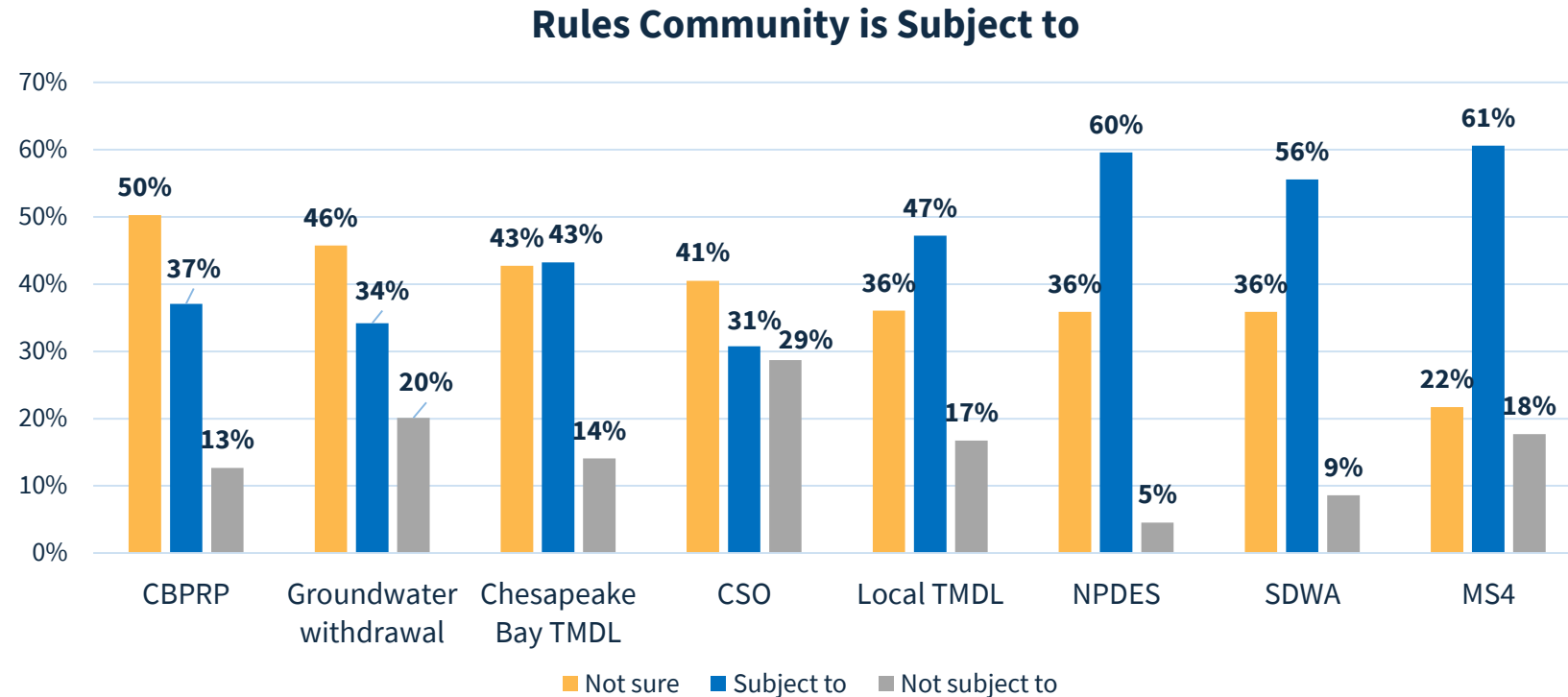
	CATEGORIES				
AGE	<40	41-50	51-60	61-70	71+
MEAN (NOT SIG)	3.50	4.03	4.20	3.95	4.16
TENURE	<2 YEARS	3-5 YEARS	6-10 YEARS	11+ YEARS	
MEAN (NOT SIG)	4.00	4.03	4.03	4.00	
STATE	MARYLAND	PENNSYLVANIA	OTHER		
MEAN (SIG DIFF)	4.46 [A]	3.63 [B]	4.11		
COMMUNITY SIZE	<9,999	10,000-99,999	100,000+		
MEAN (SIG DIFF)	3.63 [A]	4.47 [B]	4.67 [B]		
GENDER	FEMALE	MALE			
MEAN (NOT SIG)	4.00	3.92			

Those from MD and larger communities (10K+ residents) report more understanding of Federal regulations.

High Regulation Uncertainty

High level of uncertainty regarding whether communities are subject to various environmental regulations **remained**, (see red bars in chart).

The four highest uncertainties remained the same from 2022 survey with CBPRP (50% are not sure), groundwater withdrawal restrictions (46%), Chesapeake Bay TMDL (43%), and CSO (41%).



Q14: Which of the following rules or regulations is your community subject to? If you are not sure if your community is subject to these rules or regulations, please select not sure.

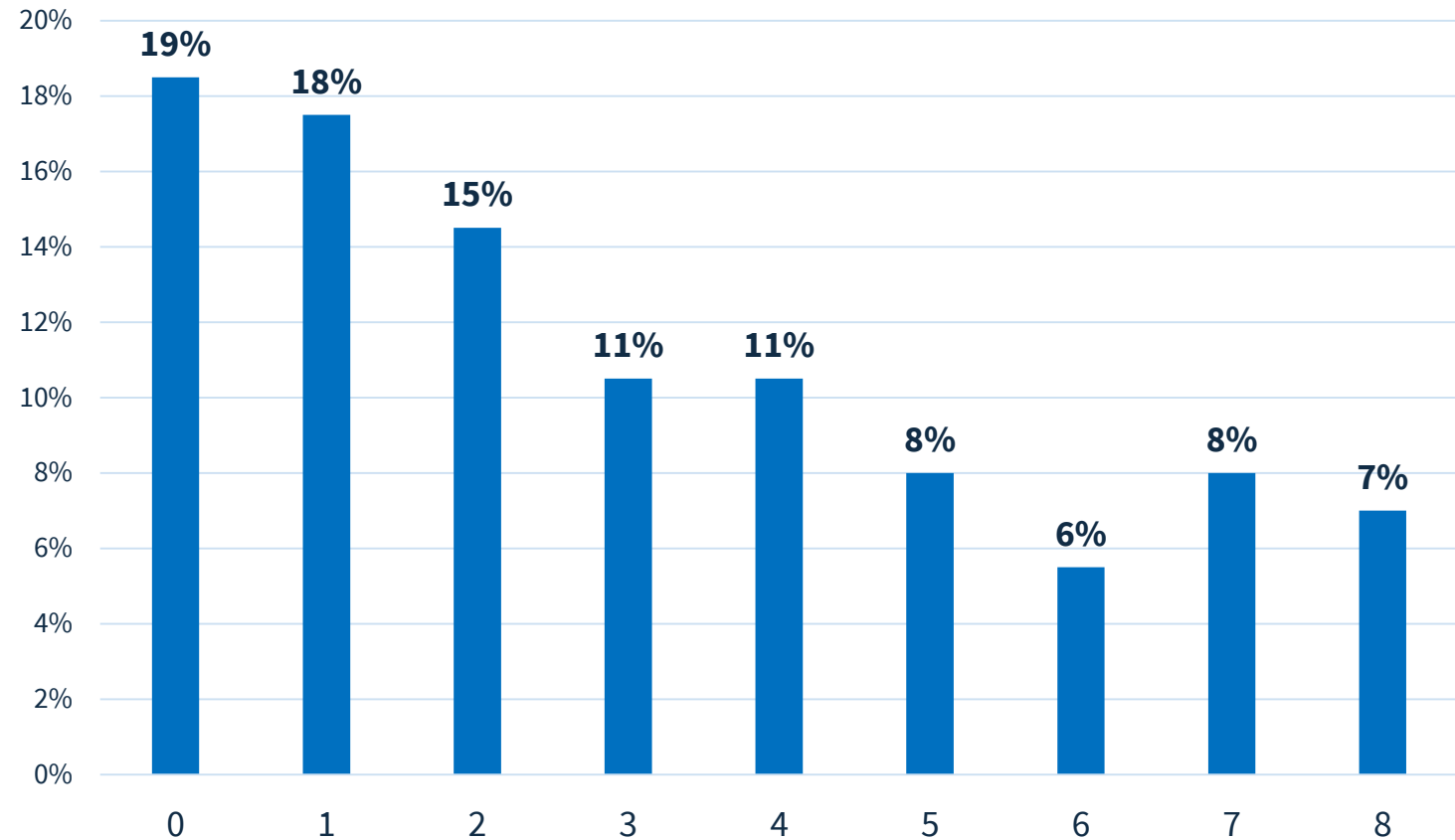
- NPDES (National Pollution Discharge Elimination System)
- MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems)
- CSO (Combined Sewer Overflows)
- Groundwater withdrawal restriction permits

- Chesapeake Bay TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load)
- Local TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load)
- CBPRP (Chesapeake Bay Pollutant Reduction Plan)
- SDWA (Safe Drinking Water)

of Regulations Uncertain About

Mean number of federal regulations respondents were not sure was about 3 out of 8.

- 7% of respondents indicated they were uncertain about all 8 regulations.
 - Most of these respondents (86%) were from communities with a population under 10,000 people, and over half (64%) had served for two or fewer years.



Q14: Which of the following rules or regulations is your community subject to? If you are not sure if your community is subject to these rules or regulations, please select not sure. Chart shows number of times selected not sure.

Regulation Uncertainty (Q14 means)

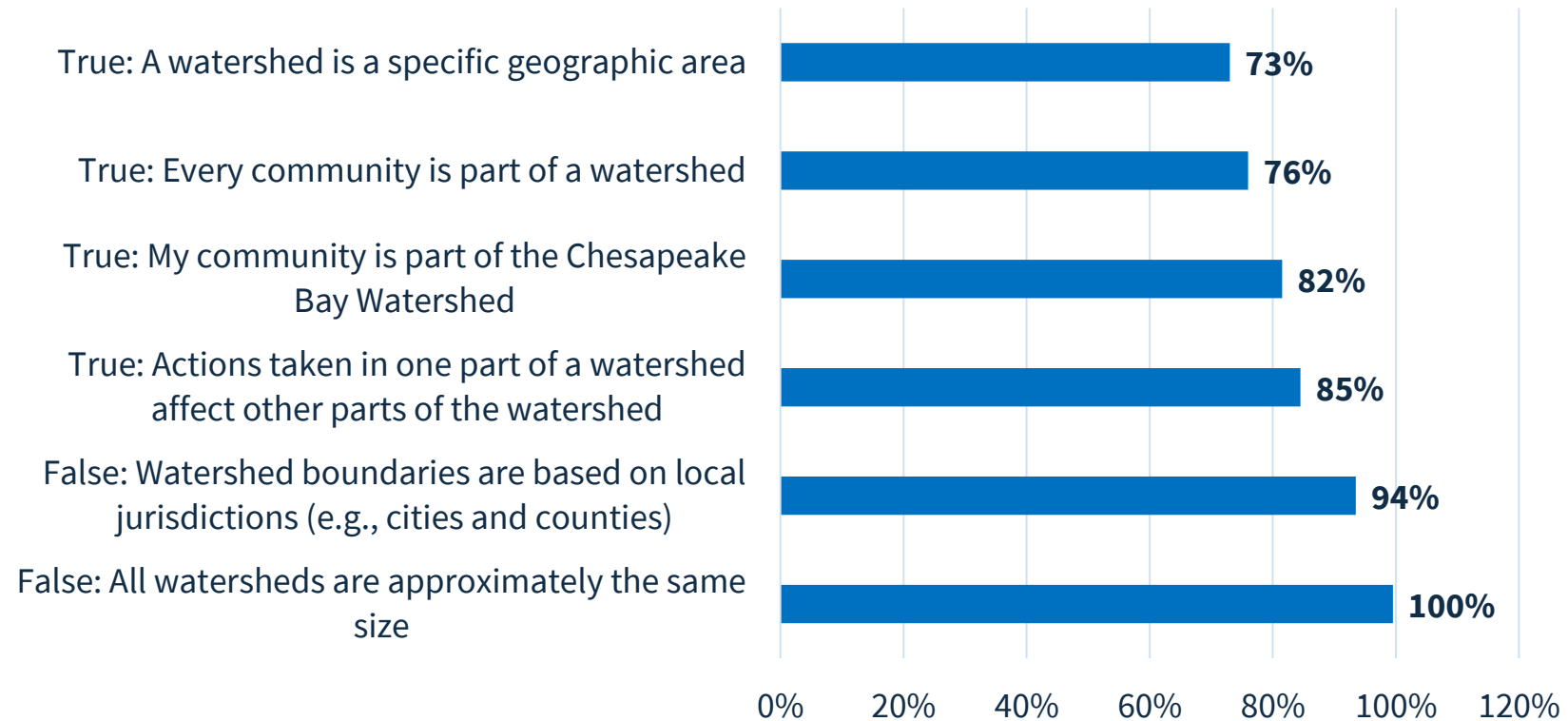
	CATEGORIES				
AGE	<40	41-50	51-60	61-70	71+
MEAN (NOT SIG)	3.86	2.95	2.86	3.36	2.20
TENURE	<2 YEARS	3-5 YEARS	6-10 YEARS	11+ YEARS	
MEAN (SIG DIFF)	3.62 [A]	2.95	3.08	2.21 [B]	
STATE	MARYLAND	PENNSYLVANIA	OTHER		
MEAN (NOT SIG)	2.43	3.33	3.24		
COMMUNITY SIZE	<9,999	10,000-99,999	100,000+		
MEAN (NOT SIG)	3.40	2.77	2.47		
GENDER	FEMALE	MALE			
MEAN (NOT SIG)	3.18	2.99			

Local officials surveyed that had a longer tenure (11+ years) showed the least uncertainties while newer officials showed the greatest level of uncertainty.

Watershed Knowledge

Respondents were **fairly knowledgeable** about watersheds based on a series of 6 questions.

- However, around $\frac{1}{4}$ **responded incorrectly** to the questions: watersheds are specific geographic areas (27% incorrect) or that every community is part of a watershed (24% incorrect).

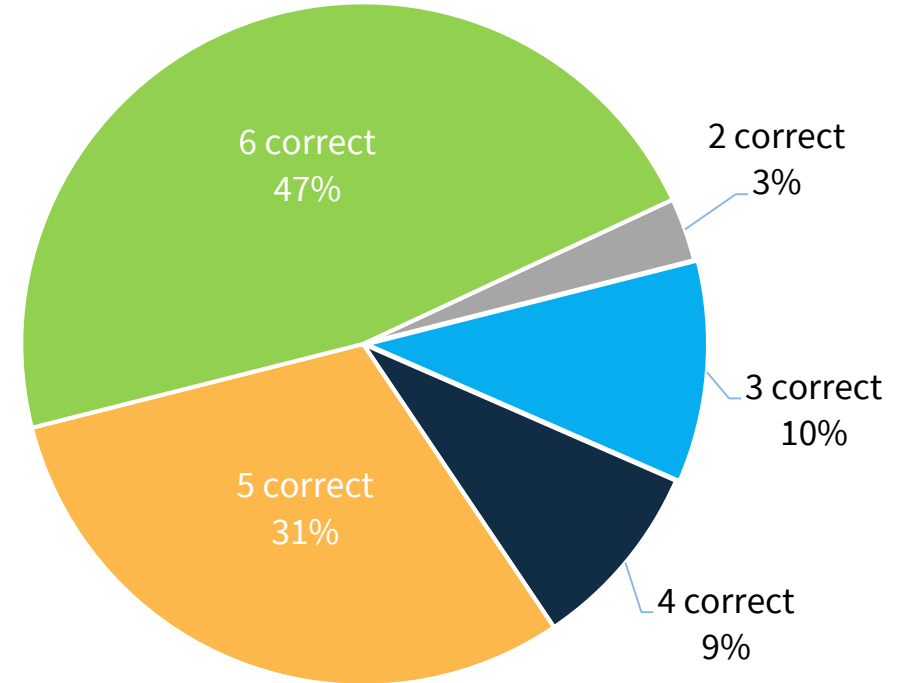


Q18: Based on your current understanding, which of the following statements about a watershed are true? Please check all that are true. Chart shows percent correct answers.

Number of Correct Answers

Mean correct answers was 5.08 (out of 6).

- The largest group of respondents (47%) answered all six questions correctly.
- However, that means more than half (53%) missed at least one question.



Q18: Based on your current understanding, which of the following statements about a watershed are true? Please check all that are true. Chart shows percent getting 1-6 answers correct.

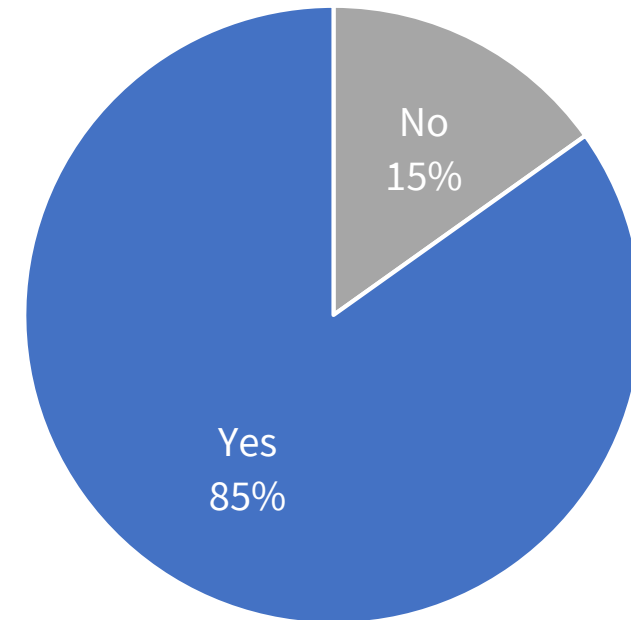
Knowledge (Q18 means)

	CATEGORIES				
AGE	<40	41-50	51-60	61-70	71+
MEAN (SIG DIFF)	5.45 [A]	5.24	5.32	4.75 [B]	4.80
TENURE	<2 YEARS	3-5 YEARS	6-10 YEARS	11+ YEARS	
MEAN (NOT SIG)	5.17	4.92	5.13	5.12	
STATE	MARYLAND	PENNSYLVANIA	OTHER		
MEAN (SIG DIFF)	5.57 [A]	4.93 [B]	4.87 [B]		
COMMUNITY SIZE	<9,999	10,000-99,999	100,000+		
MEAN (SIG DIFF)	4.83 [B]	5.16 [B]	5.62 [A]		
GENDER	FEMALE	MALE			
MEAN (SIG DIFF)	4.82 [A]	5.19 [B]			

Those from MD and the largest communities (100K+) answered more knowledge questions correctly.

Available contact person

Almost all respondents reported they had someone they could contact for information on water resources or how best to implement environmental policy if-needed.



Q15. If you had a question about water resources or how best to implement environmental policy, do you have a knowledgeable person or source you could go to for assistance?



Key Takeaways, Methodology, & Acknowledgements

High Level Findings

Key findings include:

- Half of respondents (50%) reported thinking about the Bay when making policy decisions. Stormwater management remained the issue most often associated with the Bay, with mitigating flooding also remaining as the top local priority. Protecting water resources and the Bay was again associated with increased quality of life.
- Majority (85%) say they have a contact person to consult for more information on water resources or how to implement environmental policy.
- Respondents would consider an average of 6 tools to protect water resources, with stormwater management (85%) and erosion/sediment control and comprehensive planning (both 72%) considered most often.
- Understanding of environmental rules and regulations at the local level remained high (vs. state or federal). Relatedly, more than four in ten were not sure whether their community was subject to four of eight federal regulations.
- Key watershed concepts were unknown to some with (24%) not knowing every community is part of a watershed or that watersheds are specific geographic areas (27%).
- Smaller communities (especially those with fewer than 10,000 residents) remained lower in using tools, taking fewer actions, not understanding regulations as well, and lower knowledge scores.
- Officials in office longer (11+ years) continued to report less uncertainty about whether various federal regulations apply to their communities and higher understanding of state regulations.

Comments on Methodology

Considerations for future projects:

- Because the sample was not random, results cannot be generalized.
- Survey was distributed via trusted partners. This led to higher rates of participation from some states (e.g., 35% of respondents were from Pennsylvania). Likewise, several states were underrepresented. Aim for n=30-50 responses per state to allow for comparisons.
- The ability to extrapolate these results beyond the responding group is limited by the methodology of survey distribution.
- We lack data to better understand other ways the sample may be skewed. For example, we do not know the demographics of this population (e.g., population age distribution or experience of local leaders). The high turnover among local elected officials means that the target population for this survey changes significantly every few years.

Acknowledgements

Survey Administration

Eastern Research Group Inc. (ERG)

- The survey was conducted by an independent contractor Eastern Research Group, Inc. (ERG). ERG also provided Analysis of Variance and support in data and trend analysis.
- About ERG: ERG helps government and nonprofit clients protect the environment and achieve other positive outcomes. Founded in 1984, ERG now has more than 400 technical, communications, and IT specialists in offices across the United States. An employee-owned company, ERG works only in the public interest.

Photos

Photo credit to the Chesapeake Bay Program



Appendixes

Questionnaire, Invitations, Partial Surveys and Disqualifications, Completions by County/State

Survey Questionnaire

This collection of information is approved by OMB under the Paperwork Reduction Act, 44 U.S.C. 3501 et seq. (OMB Control No. 2003-0002). Responses to this collection of information are voluntary (33 U.S.C. 1267). An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. The public reporting and recordkeeping burden for this collection of information is estimated to be 0.142 hours per response. Send comments on the Agency's need for this information, the accuracy of the provided burden estimates and any suggested methods for minimizing respondent burden to the Regulatory Support Division Director, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (2821T), 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, D.C. 20460. Include the OMB control number in any correspondence. Do not send the completed form to this address.

This survey is designed to be completed by elected or appointed officials or senior staff who are involved in policy making. It should take about 10 minutes to complete. Responses are confidential and results will be used to improve and enhance training and information for elected leaders. We appreciate your honest feedback.

1) What kind of role do you have in your community?

- Elected official
- Appointed official
- Senior staff
- Other
- None

2) Are you involved in making policy decisions for your community?

- Yes
- No

3) What role do you hold in your community? Please check all that apply.

- Executive position (e.g., Mayor, County Executive, etc.)
- Municipal governing body member (e.g., City or Town Council, County Board or Commission, Township or County Supervisor, etc.)
- Board member for a Soil and Water Conservation District
- Board member for Water and Sewer Authority
- Board member for Planning Commission
- None of the above

Survey Questionnaire (continued)

4) What is the population of the community you represent?

- 2,999 residents and under
- 3,000-9,999 residents
- 10,000-24,999 residents
- 25,000-99,999 residents
- 100,000-249,999 residents
- 250,000+ residents

5) Where is the community you represent located?

- Delaware
- Maryland
- Pennsylvania
- New York
- Virginia
- Washington, D.C.
- West Virginia

5a) [FOR DE] Which county is the community you represent located in?

- Kent County
- New Castle County
- Sussex County
- Other

5b) [FOR MD] Which county is the community you represent located in?

- Allegany County
- Anne Arundel County
- Baltimore City
- Baltimore County
- Calvert County
- Caroline County
- Carroll County
- Cecil County
- Charles County
- Dorchester County
- Frederick County
- Garrett County
- Harford County
- Howard County
- Kent County
- Montgomery County
- Prince George's County
- Queen Anne's County
- Somerset County
- St. Mary's County
- Talbot County
- Washington County
- Wicomico County
- Worcester County
- Other

Survey Questionnaire (continued)

5c) [FOR PA] Which county is the community you represent located in?

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adams County | <input type="checkbox"/> Lancaster County |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bedford County | <input type="checkbox"/> Lebanon County |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Berks County | <input type="checkbox"/> Luzerne County |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Blair County | <input type="checkbox"/> Lycoming County |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bradford County | <input type="checkbox"/> McKean County |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cambria County | <input type="checkbox"/> Mifflin County |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cameron County | <input type="checkbox"/> Montour County |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Carbon County | <input type="checkbox"/> Northumberland County |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Centre County | <input type="checkbox"/> Perry County |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chester County | <input type="checkbox"/> Potter County |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clearfield County | <input type="checkbox"/> Schuylkill County |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clinton County | <input type="checkbox"/> Snyder County |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Columbia County | <input type="checkbox"/> Somerset County |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cumberland County | <input type="checkbox"/> Sullivan County |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dauphin County | <input type="checkbox"/> Susquehanna County |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Elk County | <input type="checkbox"/> Tioga County |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Franklin County | <input type="checkbox"/> Union County |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fulton County | <input type="checkbox"/> Wayne County |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Huntingdon County | <input type="checkbox"/> Wyoming County |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Indiana County | <input type="checkbox"/> York County |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jefferson County | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Juniata County | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lackawanna County | |

5d) [FOR NY] Which county is the community you represent located in?

- Allegany County
- Broome County
- Cayuga County
- Chemung County
- Chenango County
- Cortland County
- Delaware County
- Herkimer County
- Livingston County
- Madison County
- Oneida County
- Onondaga County
- Ontario County
- Otsego County
- Schoharie County
- Schuyler County
- Steuben County
- Tioga County
- Tompkins County
- Yates County
- Other

Survey Questionnaire (continued)

5e) [FOR VA] Which county is the community you represent located in?

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Accomack County | <input type="checkbox"/> Frederick County | <input type="checkbox"/> Northampton County |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Albemarle County | <input type="checkbox"/> Fredericksburg City | <input type="checkbox"/> Northumberland County |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Alexandria City | <input type="checkbox"/> Giles County | <input type="checkbox"/> Nottoway County |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Alleghany County | <input type="checkbox"/> Gloucester County | <input type="checkbox"/> Orange County |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Amelia County | <input type="checkbox"/> Goochland County | <input type="checkbox"/> Page County |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Amherst County | <input type="checkbox"/> Greene County | <input type="checkbox"/> Petersburg City |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Appomattox County | <input type="checkbox"/> Hampton City | <input type="checkbox"/> Poquoson City |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Arlington County | <input type="checkbox"/> Hanover County | <input type="checkbox"/> Portsmouth City |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Augusta County | <input type="checkbox"/> Harrisonburg City | <input type="checkbox"/> Powhatan County |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bath County | <input type="checkbox"/> Henrico County | <input type="checkbox"/> Prince Edward County |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bedford City | <input type="checkbox"/> Highland County | <input type="checkbox"/> Prince George County |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bedford County | <input type="checkbox"/> Hopewell City | <input type="checkbox"/> Prince William County |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Botetourt County | <input type="checkbox"/> Isle of Wight County | <input type="checkbox"/> Rappahannock County |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Buckingham County | <input type="checkbox"/> James City County | <input type="checkbox"/> Richmond City |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Buena Vista City | <input type="checkbox"/> King and Queen County | <input type="checkbox"/> Richmond County |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Campbell County | <input type="checkbox"/> King George County | <input type="checkbox"/> Roanoke City |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Caroline County | <input type="checkbox"/> King William County | <input type="checkbox"/> Roanoke County |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Charles City County | <input type="checkbox"/> Lancaster County | <input type="checkbox"/> Rockbridge County |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Charlotte County | <input type="checkbox"/> Lexington City | <input type="checkbox"/> Rockingham County |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Charlottesville City | <input type="checkbox"/> Loudoun County | <input type="checkbox"/> Salem City |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chesapeake City | <input type="checkbox"/> Louisa County | <input type="checkbox"/> Shenandoah County |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chesterfield County | <input type="checkbox"/> Lunenburg County | <input type="checkbox"/> Spotsylvania County |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clarke County | <input type="checkbox"/> Lynchburg City | <input type="checkbox"/> Stafford County |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Colonial Heights City | <input type="checkbox"/> Madison County | <input type="checkbox"/> Staunton City |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Covington City | <input type="checkbox"/> Manassas City | <input type="checkbox"/> Suffolk City |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Craig County | <input type="checkbox"/> Manassas Park City | <input type="checkbox"/> Surry County |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Culpeper County | <input type="checkbox"/> Mathews County | <input type="checkbox"/> Virginia Beach City |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cumberland County | <input type="checkbox"/> Middlesex County | <input type="checkbox"/> Warren County |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dinwiddie County | <input type="checkbox"/> Montgomery County | <input type="checkbox"/> Waynesboro City |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Essex County | <input type="checkbox"/> Nelson County | <input type="checkbox"/> Westmoreland County |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fairfax City | <input type="checkbox"/> New Kent County | <input type="checkbox"/> Williamsburg City |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fairfax County | <input type="checkbox"/> Newport News City | <input type="checkbox"/> Winchester City |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Falls Church City | <input type="checkbox"/> Norfolk County | <input type="checkbox"/> York County |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fauquier County | | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fluvanna County | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Franklin City | | |

5f) [FOR WV] Which county is the community you represent located in?

- Berkeley County
- Grant County
- Greenbrier County
- Hampshire County
- Hardy County
- Jefferson County
- Mineral County
- Monroe County
- Morgan County
- Pendleton County
- Pocahontas County
- Preston County
- Randolph County
- Tucker County
- Other

Survey Questionnaire (continued)

Thanks. Now we want to ask some questions about how you make policy decisions.

6) How much are you thinking about downstream communities and/or the Chesapeake Bay when making policy decisions for your community?

Not at all (1) to A great deal (7)

7) How much impact do you think the decisions you make have on downstream communities and/or the Chesapeake Bay?

None (1) to A great deal (7)

8) How much impact do you think the decisions upstream communities make have on your communities' water quality?

None (1) to A great deal (7)

9) Given your local budget and existing constraints, how much do you think about downstream communities and/or the Chesapeake Bay when making decisions related to:

Not at all (1) to A great deal (7)

- Land use policy/plans
- Drinking water
- Water resources
- Local ordinances
- Economic development
- Stormwater management
- Infrastructure

Survey Questionnaire (continued)

10) Given your local budget and existing constraints, which of the following do you see as a priority for your local community? Please check all that apply.

- Building climate resiliency
- Mitigating flooding
- Making sure streams are healthy to support fish populations
- Achieving and maintaining healthy watersheds
- Dealing with and preventing toxic contaminants
- Protecting and preserving tree coverage
- Protecting and preserving wetlands
- Protecting and preserving blue crabs
- Setting policy/guidance for how land is used
- Helping people understand environmental issues
- None of the above

11) When your community takes steps to protect the environment, including protecting water resources and the Chesapeake Bay, how much impact does that have on:

None at all (1) to A great deal (7)

- Your local economy
- Local recreational and tourism opportunities
- Local drinking water quality

- Public health/community health
- Public safety
- Infrastructure
- Quality of life

12) Which of the following tools would you use or consider as a way to protect or improve water resources for your community? Please check all that apply.

- Comprehensive planning
- Zoning ordinances, including growth boundaries
- Subdivision and land development ordinances
- Stormwater management ordinances
- Local taxation policies or fees (e.g., environmental impact fees)
- Conservation easements and/or purchase of development rights
- Source water protection plans
- Forest protection or tree canopy ordinances
- Litter control ordinances
- Erosion and sediment control ordinances
- None of the above

Survey Questionnaire (continued)

13) In general, how well do you understand environmental rules and regulations at the:

Not very much (1) to A great deal (7)

- Local/County level
- State level
- Federal level

14) Which of the following rules or regulations is your community subject to? If you are not sure if your community is subject to these rules or regulations, please select not sure.

Subject to () Not subject to () Not sure ()

- NPDES (National Pollution Discharge Elimination System)
- MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems)
- CSO (Combined Sewer Overflows)
- Chesapeake Bay TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load)
- Local TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load)
- CBPRP (Chesapeake Bay Pollutant Reduction Plan)
- SDWA (Safe Drinking Water)
- Groundwater withdrawal restriction permits

15) If you had a question about water resources or how best to implement environmental policy, do you have a knowledgeable person or source you could go to for assistance?

- Yes
- No

16) If you wanted to learn more about environmental policy and/or water resources, which of the following would you want to access? Please check all that apply.

- In-person classes or training
- Online classes or training (including webinars)
- A person to call or email for more information
- Case studies, best practices, or guidance documents
- Non-profit organizations or non-government organizations
- University or academic resources (e.g., extension programs)
- Resources provided by Federal or State government
- Resources provided by Local/County government
- Other - Write In:

None of the above

Survey Questionnaire (continued)

17) In the last three years, which of the following has your community undertaken related to water quality or water resources? Please check all that apply.

- Community outreach efforts
- Public meetings or public discussions
- Adopting local rules, ordinances, or regulations
- Implementation/enforcement of local rules, ordinances, or regulations
- “On the ground” projects to directly improve water quality or water resources
- Developing a comprehensive plan
- Apply for grants/funding to assist with projects
- Formation of an advisory council or citizen advisory committee
- Other - Write In:

- None of the above

18) Based on your current understanding, which of the following statements about a watershed are true? Please check all that are true.

- A watershed is a specific geographic area
- Watershed boundaries are based on local jurisdictions (e.g., cities and counties)

- Every community is part of a watershed
- All watersheds are approximately the same size
- My community is part of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed
- Actions taken in one part of a watershed affect other parts of the watershed
- None of the above

Thank you. The following questions are for demographic purposes only:

19) What is your gender?

- Male
- Female
- Nonbinary / nonconforming / genderqueer
- Transgender
- Additional gender category (please specify)
- Prefer not to answer

Survey Questionnaire (continued)

20) What is your age?

- Under 30
- 31-40
- 41-50
- 51-60
- 61-70
- 71 or older
- Prefer not to answer

21) How many years have you served in your position?

- Less than one
- 1-2 years
- 3-5 years
- 6-10 years
- 11 or more years
- Prefer not to answer

22) Which category(s) best describe you? Please check all that apply.

- White
- Black or African American
- Hispanic or Latino/Latina/Latinx

- Asian or Asian American
 - American Indian or Alaska Native
 - Middle Eastern or North African
 - Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
 - None of the above (please specify)
 - Prefer not to answer
-

Thank You!

Thanks so much for taking this survey and for taking the time to answer these questions. This survey is being sponsored by the Chesapeake Bay Program Partnership to better understand how to equip local leaders to make policy decisions related to water resources and the Chesapeake Bay. For more information, please visit www.Chesapeakebay.net.

Invitation: Initial Email

SUBJECT LINE: Please help [ORGANIZATION] by sharing your opinions!

[ORGANIZATION] is helping the Chesapeake Bay Program distribute a survey of elected or appointed officials and senior staff involved in policy making. Will you please take 10 minutes to answer a few questions for us? You can access the survey online at:

{LINK}

Results will be used to improve and enhance training and information for local leaders. The survey is being conducted by an independent contractor (Eastern Research Group, Inc. (ERG)). Your individual feedback will not be shared with the Program; only aggregated results will be reported. If you have any questions, please contact the survey helpdesk at surveyhelp@erg.com.

We appreciate your help, and look forward to hearing from you!

Sincerely,

Invitation: Follow-up Emails

SUBJECT LINE: Reminder: Please help [ORGANIZATION] by sharing your opinions!

As a reminder, [ORGANIZATION] is helping the Chesapeake Bay Program distribute a survey of elected or appointed officials and senior staff involved in policy making. Thank you to everyone who has already shared feedback! If you have not yet participated, please take 10 minutes to answer a few questions:{LINK}

Results will be used to improve and enhance training and information for local leaders. Your feedback is confidential.

We appreciate your help.

Sincerely,

SUBJECT LINE: Last chance! Please help [ORGANIZATION] by sharing your opinions!

As a final reminder, [ORGANIZATION] is helping the Chesapeake Bay Program distribute a survey of elected or appointed officials and senior staff involved in policy making. The survey will close on {DATE}. If you have not yet participated, we would appreciate your feedback:

{LINK}

Thank for your assistance, and for helping to improve and enhance services for local leaders.

Sincerely,

Invitation: Initial Newsletter

We want to hear from you!

[ORGANIZATION] is helping the Chesapeake Bay Program conduct a survey of elected or appointed officials and senior staff involved in policy making. Results will be used to improve and enhance training and information for local leaders. Please take 10 minutes to share your opinions! We appreciate your help. The survey is being conducted by an independent contractor (Eastern Research Group, Inc. (ERG)). Your feedback is confidential. If you have any questions, please contact the survey helpdesk at surveyhelp@erg.com.

{LINK}

Invitation: Follow-up Newsletter

We want to hear from you!

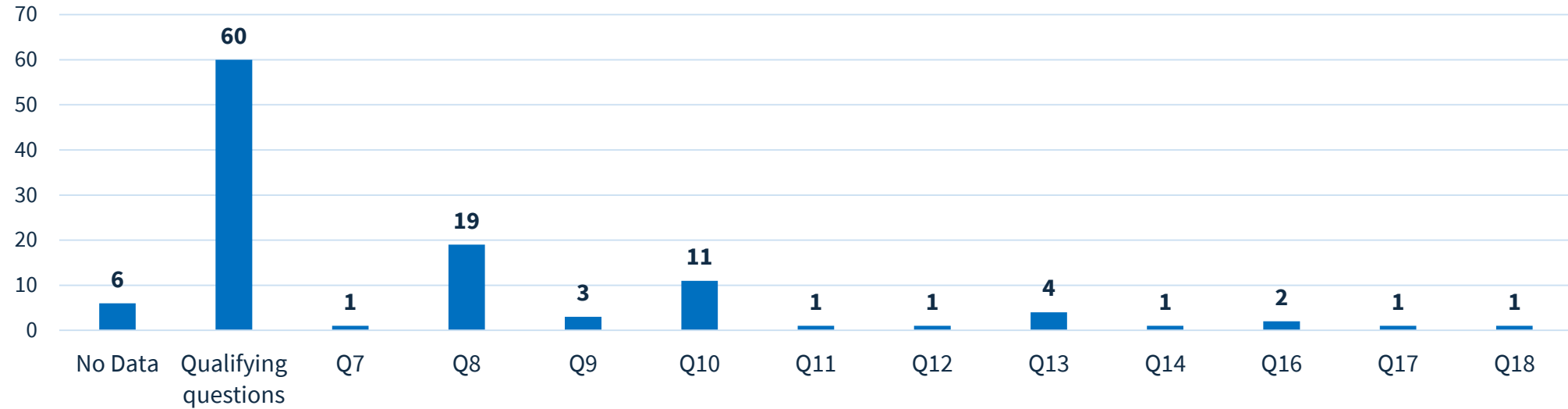
[ORGANIZATION] is helping the Chesapeake Bay Program distribute a survey of elected or appointed officials and senior staff involved in policy making. Thank you to everyone who has already shared feedback! If you have not yet participated, please take 10 minutes to answer a few questions:

{LINK}

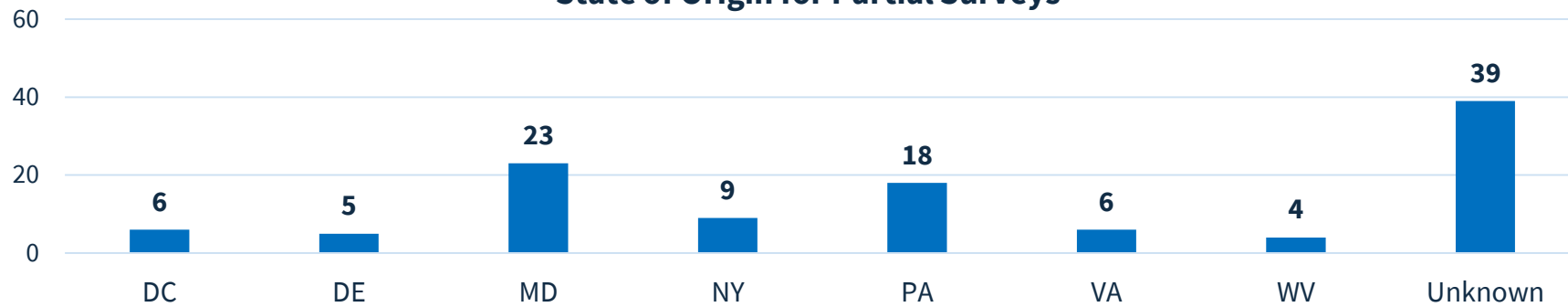
Results will be used to improve and enhance training and information for local leaders. Your feedback is confidential.
We appreciate your help.
Sincerely,

Partial Surveys (n=111)

Question Respondent Exited Survey

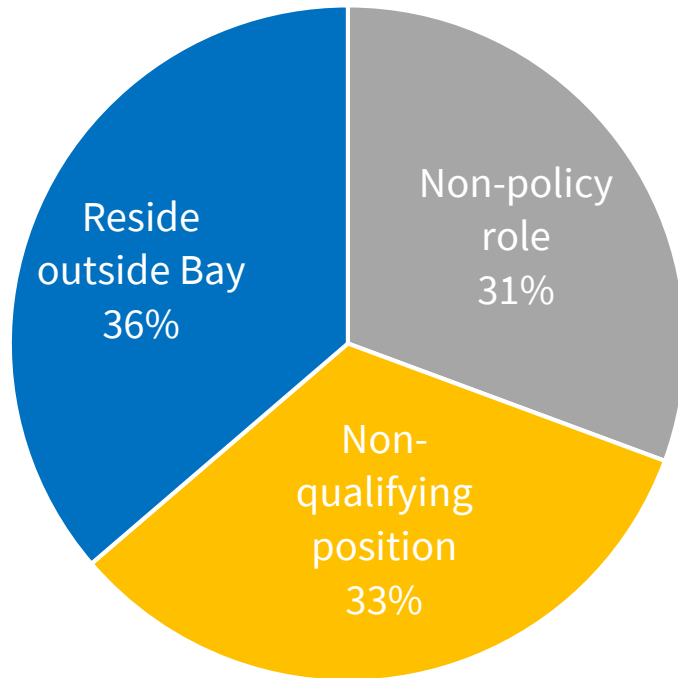


State of Origin for Partial Surveys

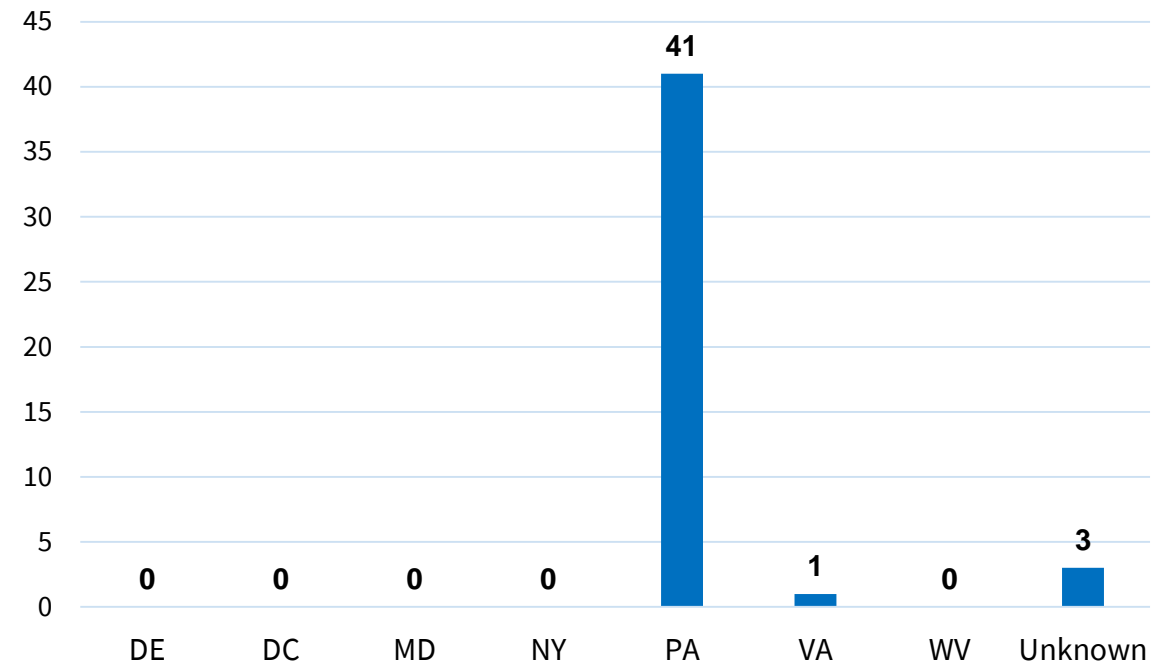


Survey Disqualifications (n=124)

Reason for Disqualification

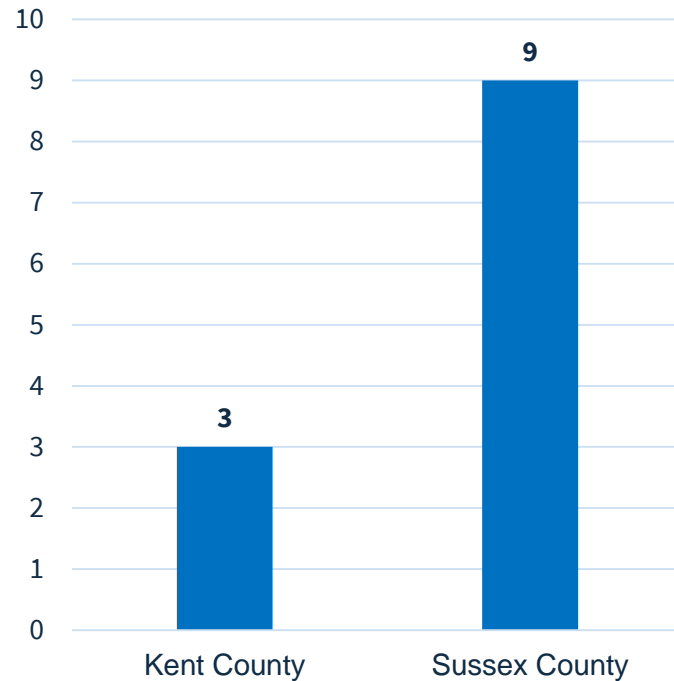


State of Origin for Disqualifications

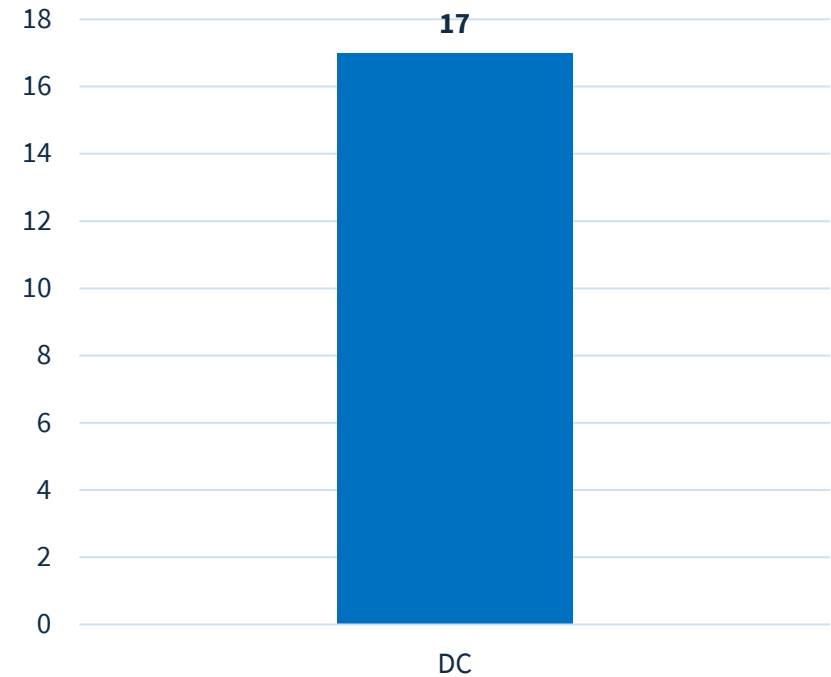


Participation by County/State

Delaware (n=12)

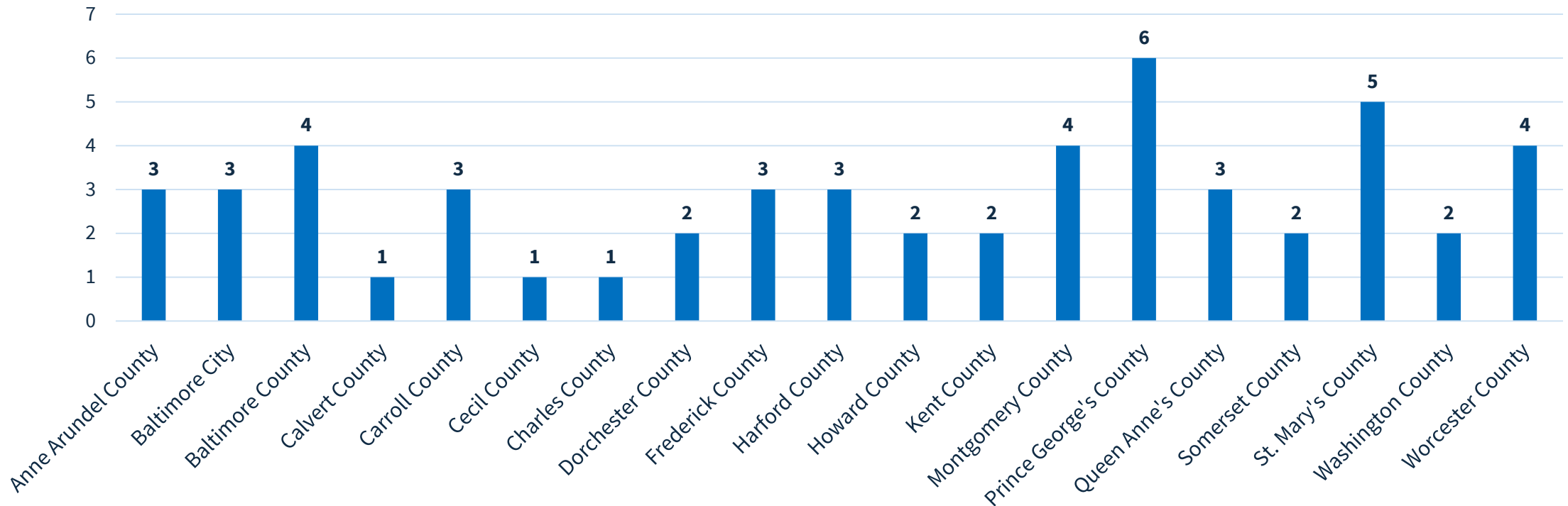


District of Columbia (n=17)



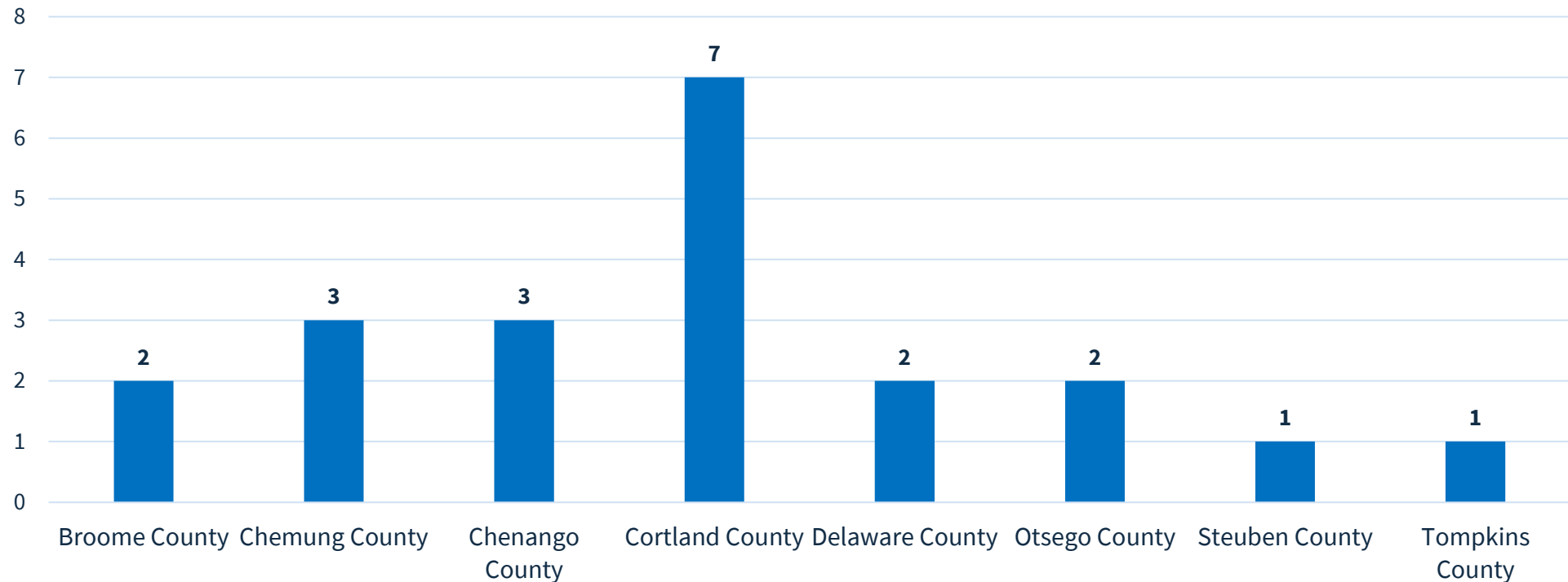
Participation by County/State

Maryland (n=54)



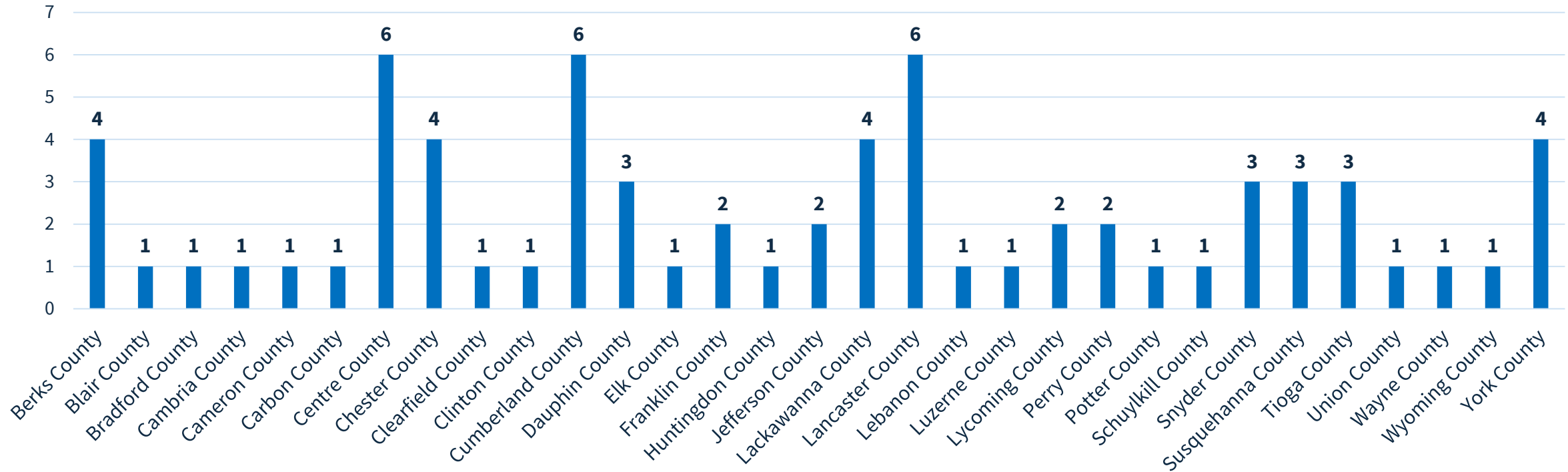
Participation by County/State

New York (n=21)



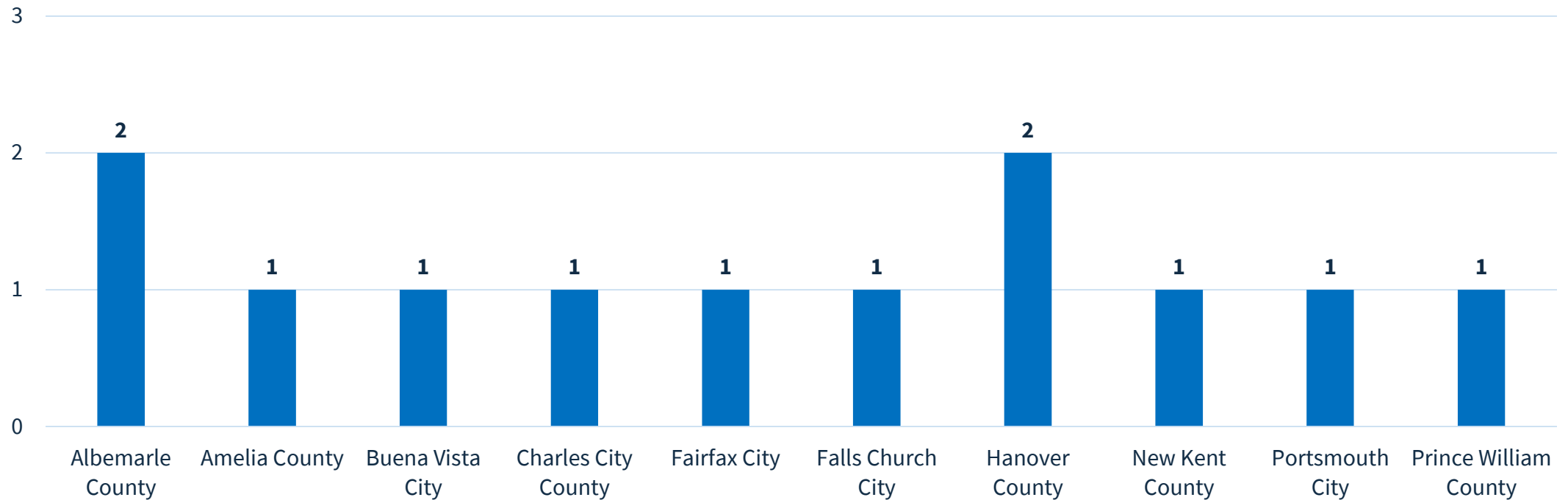
Participation by County/State

Pennsylvania (n=70)



Participation by County/State

Virginia (n=12)



Participation by County/State

West Virginia (n=14)

