



Chesapeake Bay Program
Science. Restoration. Partnership.

November 12, 2024

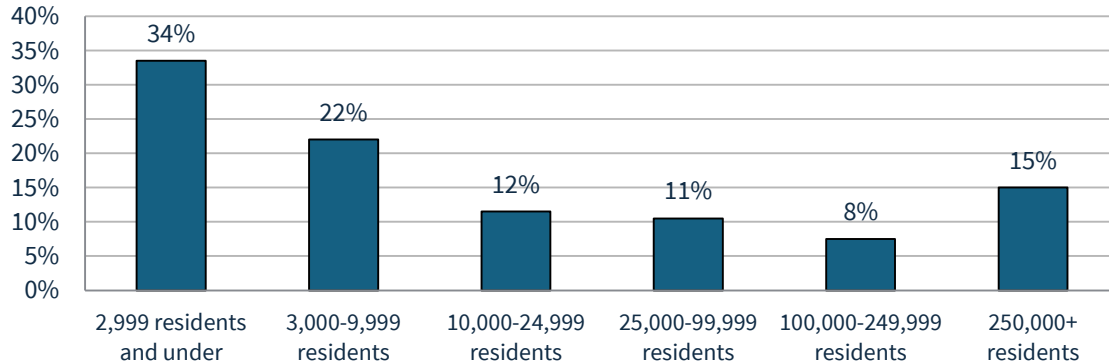
Local Leadership Survey

Findings and Figures

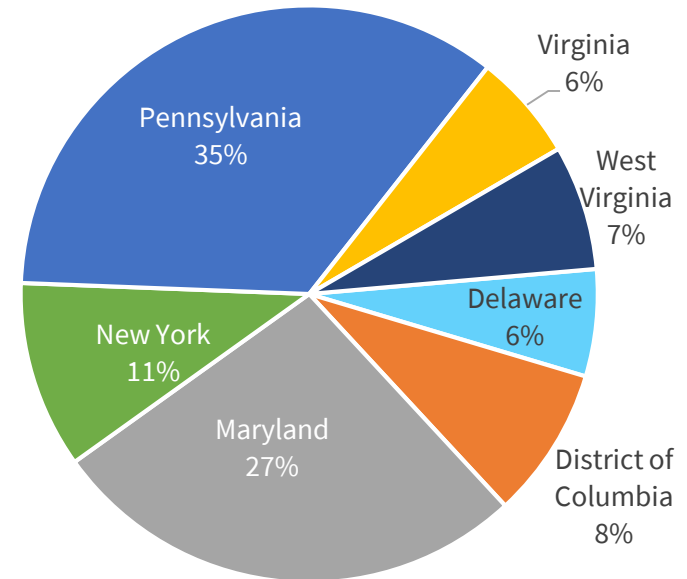
Responses

- 200 respondents from communities in all seven watershed jurisdictions.

Community Population

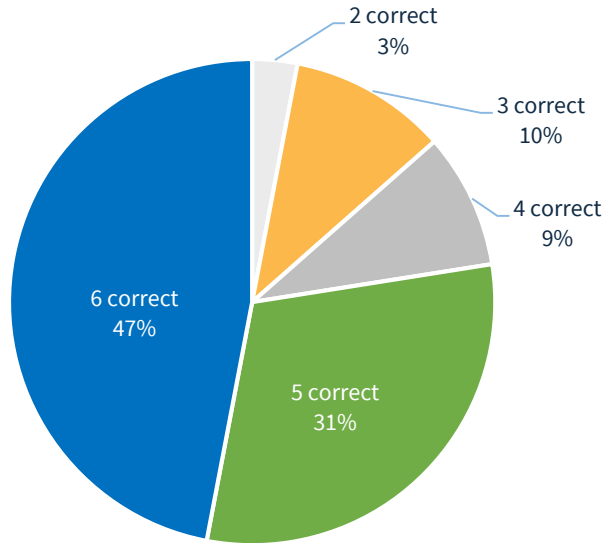


State

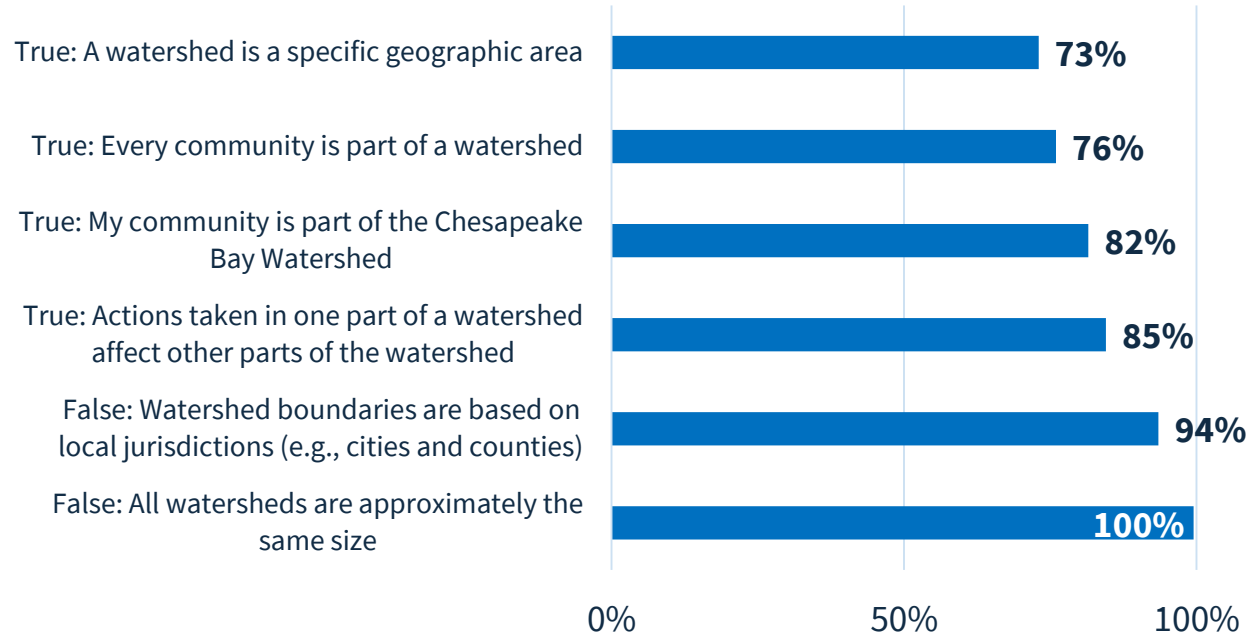


Key Takeaways – Watershed Knowledge

of Correct Answers

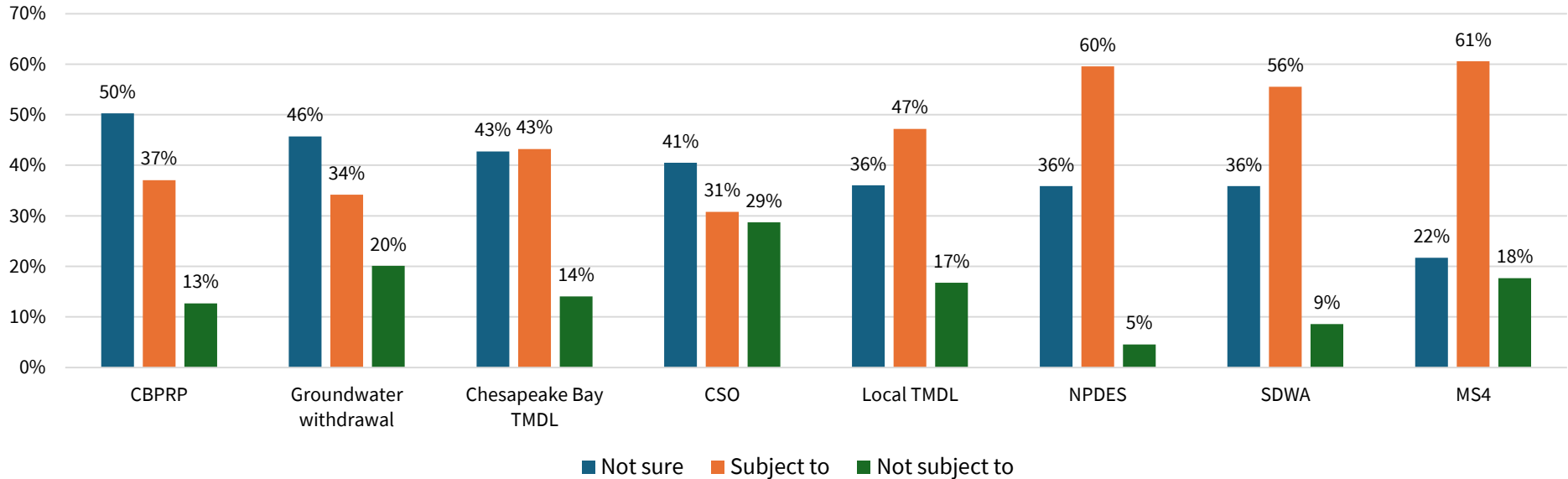


% Correct



Key Takeaways – Regulation Understanding

Rules Community is Subject to

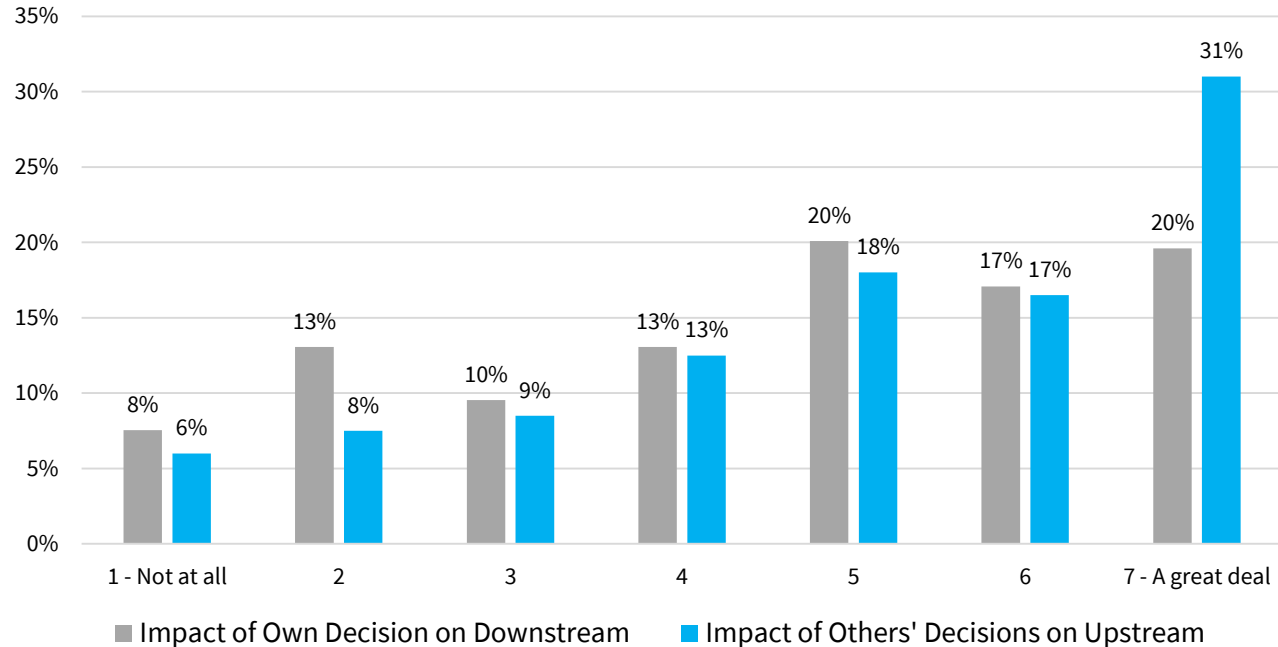


- Understanding of regulations was lowest for officials with less than 2 years experience and highest for those with 11+ years experience.

Key Takeaways - Impacts

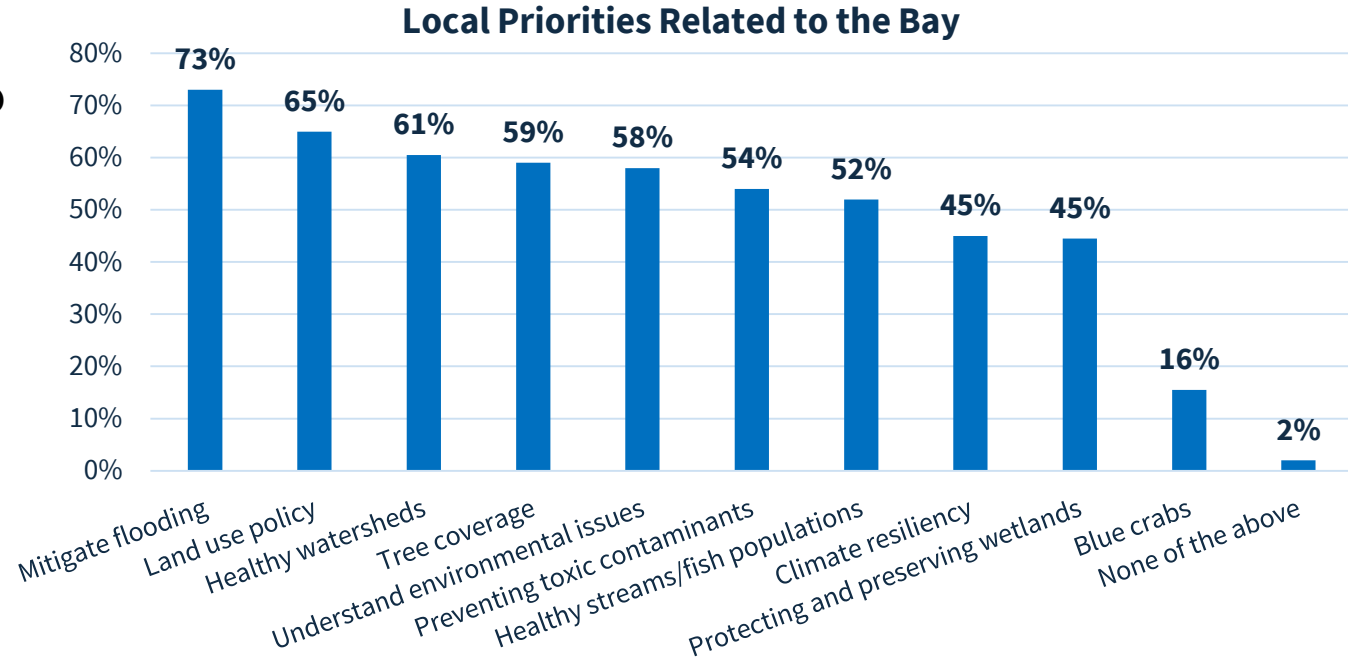
- Half (50%) think about downstream communities when making policy decisions.
- Respondents were more inclined to see others' decisions impacting their own communities vs. their decisions impacting other communities.

Perceived Impact of Decisions



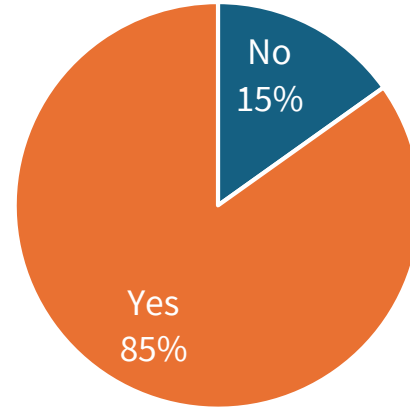
Key Takeaways - Priorities

- Mitigating flooding **remained** as a top local priority to water resources.



Key Takeaways - Contact

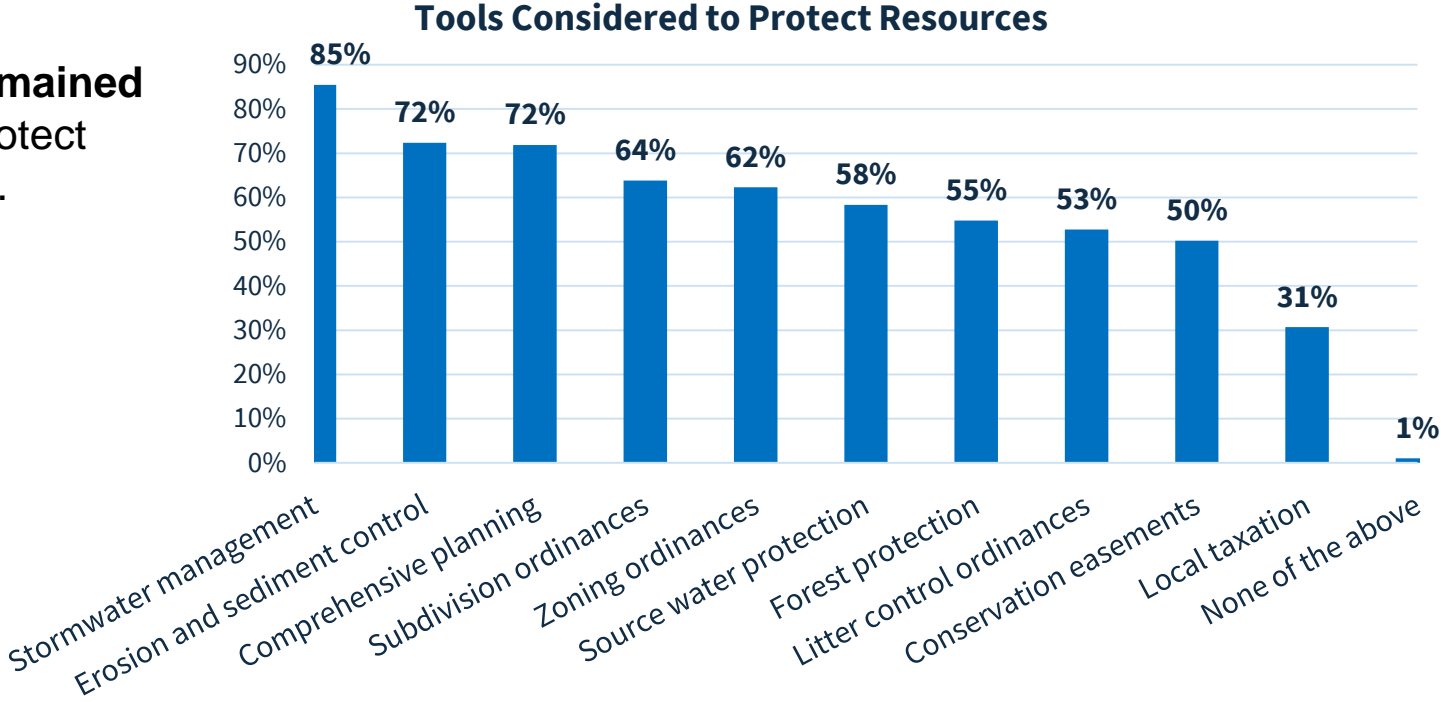
- **Majority** of respondents said they have a person to consult for more information on water resources or how to implement environmental policy.



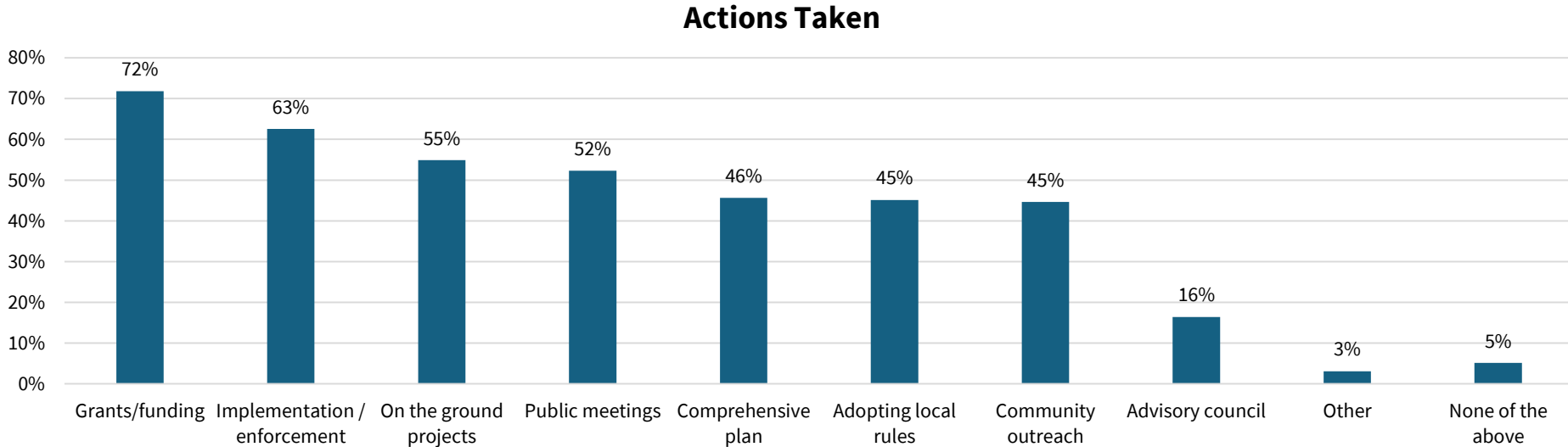
Question 15: If you had a question about water resources or how best to implement environmental policy, do you have a knowledgeable person or source you could go to for assistance?

Key Takeaways – Tools

- Stormwater management **remained** as key tool to protect water resources.




Key Takeaways – Actions Taken



- Almost all respondents (95%) reported taking actions related to water resources.



Overall Takeaways

- **Smaller communities** (especially those with fewer than 10,000 residents) reported using less tools, taking fewer actions, having less understanding of which regulations apply, and scored lower on knowledge questions.
 - **Newly elected officials** (<2 years in office) reported more uncertainty about which regulations apply to their communities (especially federal and state) and had lower knowledge scores.
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Local Leadership Next Steps

- *How will the LLWG utilize the survey results and what key areas will we focus on in the future to address the findings?*
 - Amplifying the next steps beyond 2025 for local governments
 - Providing resilience tools, resources, and education
 - Focus areas: Stormwater management, flooding, and downstream impacts
 - Land use and Development impacts and decision-making support
 - Support in addressing Toxic & Emerging Contaminants (*PFAs*)