

Kern County public water systems

102

systems are Failing or At-Risk
57% of all systems in the county profile

Status classification

Share of listed systems, followed by the count, reported population, and funding in each status.

	Failing 28%	At-Risk 29%	Potentially At-Risk 17%	Not At-Risk 24%	Not Assessed 2%
Systems	50	52	30	42	4
Population	55,634	182,420	61,162	248,357	428,025
Funding since 2017	\$108M	\$33M	\$5M	\$31M	\$0

Key figures

178

public water systems

975,598

reported population

68%

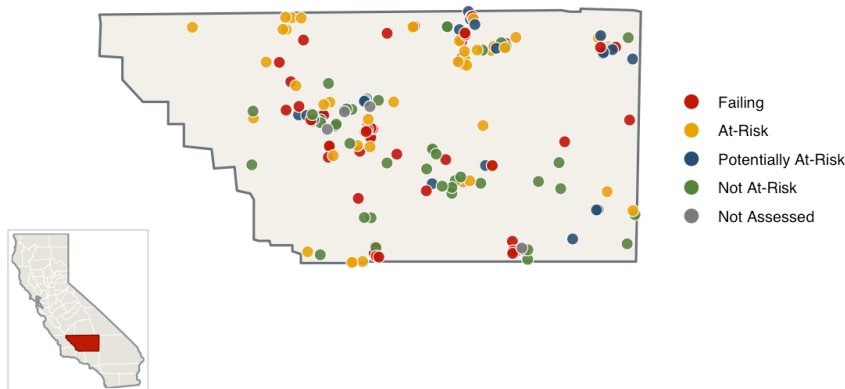
serve 500 people or fewer

\$177M

reported funding since 2017

System locations

Points show reported system locations. They do not represent service-area boundaries.



Each point represents one system record. Nearby or overlapping points can conceal multiple systems.

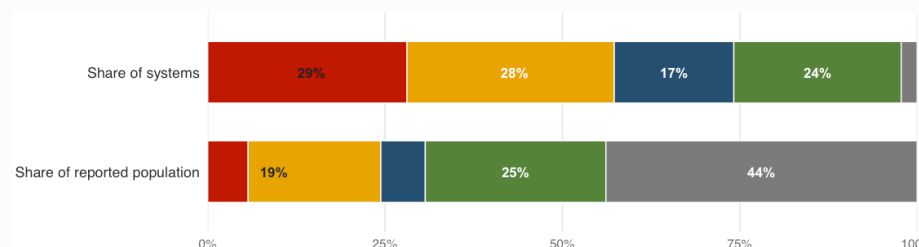
Summary

Kern County has 178 public water systems in the SAFER dataset. Of these, 102 (57%) are classified as Failing or At-Risk.

Those systems report serving 238,054 people. The county profile is also shaped by small systems: 121 systems serve 500 people or fewer.

4 systems are listed as Not Assessed, serving 428,025 people, so Not Assessed should not be read as a low-risk classification.

Reported funding since 2017 totals \$177M across 33 systems. Technical assistance funding totals \$10M.



System counts and reported population

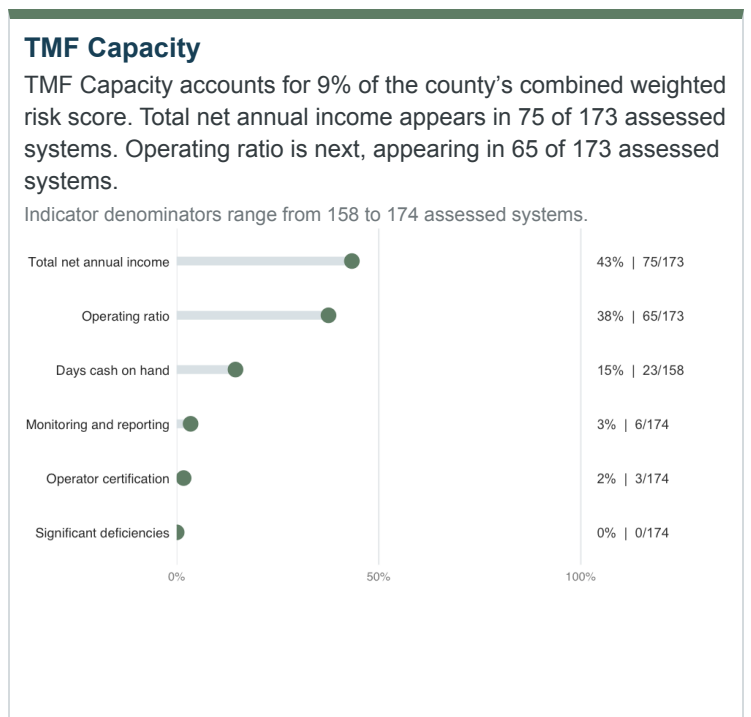
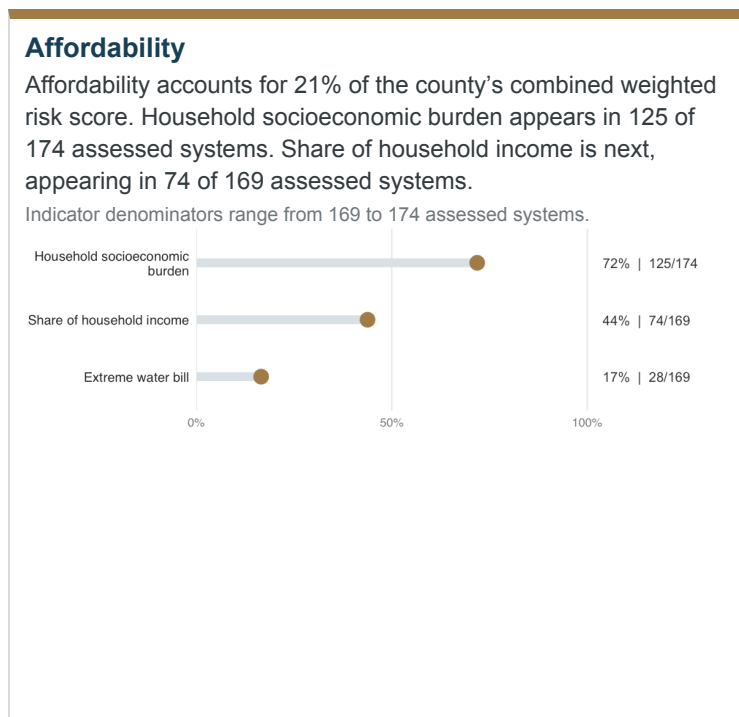
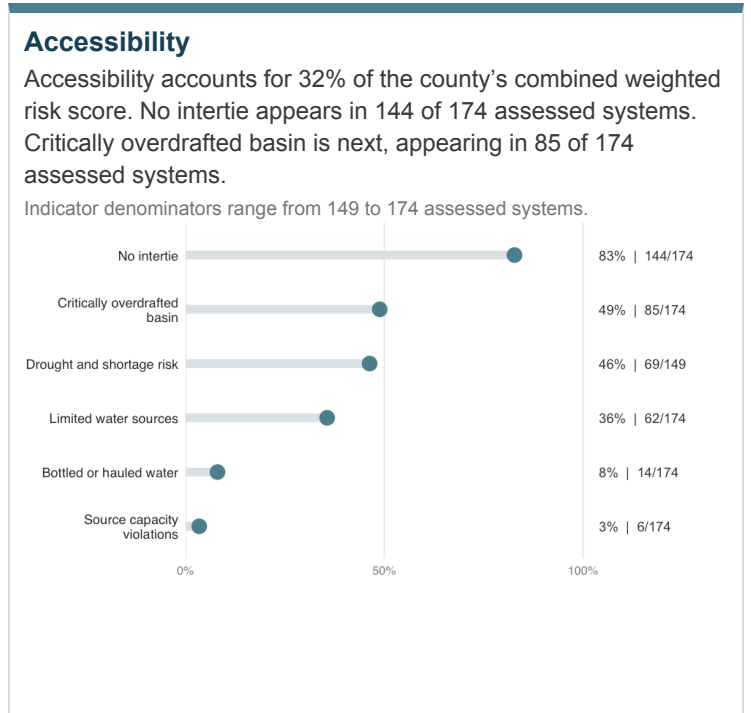
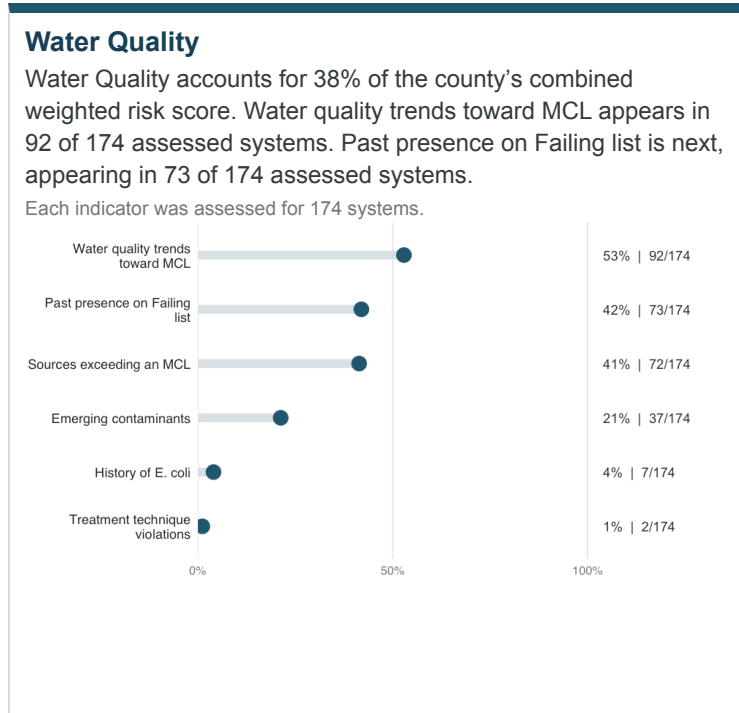
Not Assessed systems make up 2% of listed systems and 44% of reported population. That population sits in a few large systems outside the SAFER assessment's scope, which generally have more capacity, so this reflects scope rather than hidden risk.

Kern County | Public water system SAFER profile

Risk profile

Risk in Kern County is distributed across four dimensions. Water Quality contributes the largest share of the combined weighted risk score at 38%. Across all individual indicators, No intertie appears most often, affecting 144 of 174 assessed systems.

Water Quality 38% of combined weighted risk State 32% · ▲ 6 pts MOST COMMON FLAG Water quality trends toward MCL	Accessibility 32% of combined weighted risk State 36% · ▼ 5 pts MOST COMMON FLAG No intertie	Affordability 21% of combined weighted risk State 17% · ▲ 4 pts MOST COMMON FLAG Household socioeconomic burden	TMF Capacity 9% of combined weighted risk State 15% · ▼ 5 pts MOST COMMON FLAG Total net annual income
---	---	--	---

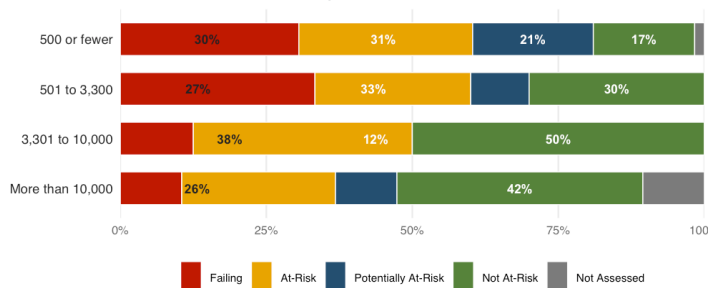


Patterns and context

The countywide totals hide important differences among systems. The panels below show how SAFER status varies by system size and service-area economic status, what conditions appear among Failing systems, and how reported funding is distributed across the 178 systems in Kern County.

Status by system size

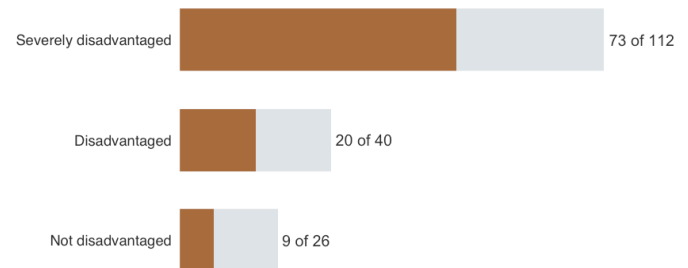
SAFER status within each population group



Among systems serving 500 people or fewer, 73 of 121 are Failing or At-Risk. This size group has the county's highest concentration of high-concern classifications.

Economic context

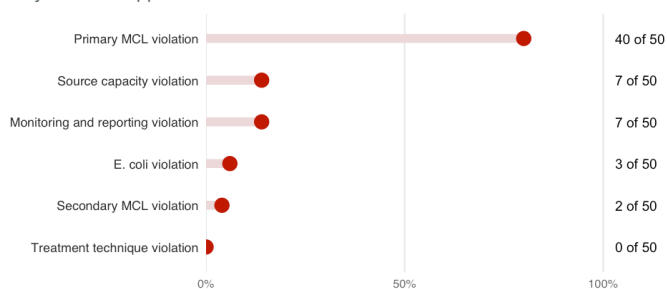
Orange shows Failing or At-Risk systems within each service-area group



DAC and SDAC service areas contain 152 of 178 listed systems. Within those two groups, 93 systems are Failing or At-Risk.

Conditions among Failing systems

A system can appear under more than one condition



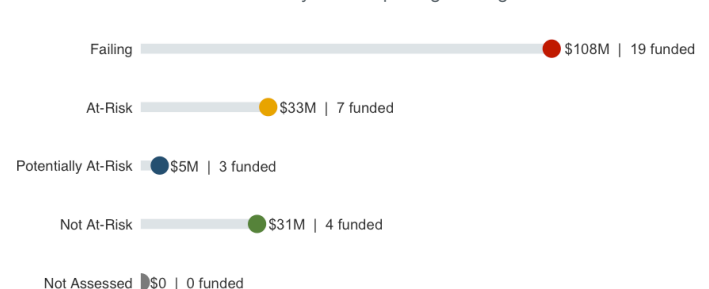
Frequently listed primary analytes

1,2,3-Trichloropropane	21	Arsenic	13
Nitrate	13	Combined Uranium	6
Fluoride	6		

Among 50 Failing systems, 40 report primary MCL violation. The most frequently listed primary analytes are 1,2,3-Trichloropropane, Arsenic, and Nitrate.

Reported funding

Totals since 2017 and number of systems reporting funding



Funding since 2017 totals \$177M across 33 systems. Failing systems account for 61% of that total. Reported technical assistance funding adds \$10M.

Key takeaways

57%

of systems are Failing or At-Risk

That represents 102 systems reporting service to 238,054 people. That is above the statewide average of 33%.

38%

of weighted risk comes from Water Quality

The most widespread individual flag is no intertie, found in 144 of 174 assessed systems. Statewide, Water Quality accounts for 32% of weighted risk.

68%

of systems serve 500 people or fewer

Small systems account for 121 of the county's 178 listed systems. That is above the statewide average of 61%.



Interactive SAFER dashboard

For system-level data and current maps, see the State Water Board's SAFER dashboard. Scan the code or visit waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/certlic/drinkingwater/saferdashboard.html.