

Merced County public water systems

22

systems are Failing or At-Risk

56% of all systems in the county profile

Status classification

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

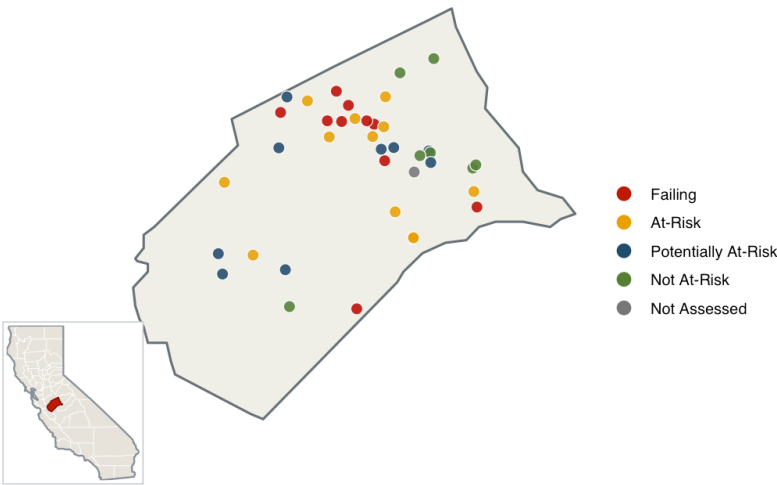
	Failing 26%	At-Risk 31%	Potentially At-Risk 23%	Not At-Risk 18%	Not Assessed
Systems	10	12	9	7	1
Population	41,099	47,266	56,934	99,012	58
Funding since 2017	\$50M	\$11M	\$15M	\$675K	\$0

Key figures



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

Merced County has 39 public water systems in the SAFER dataset. Of these, 22 (56%) are classified as Failing or At-Risk.

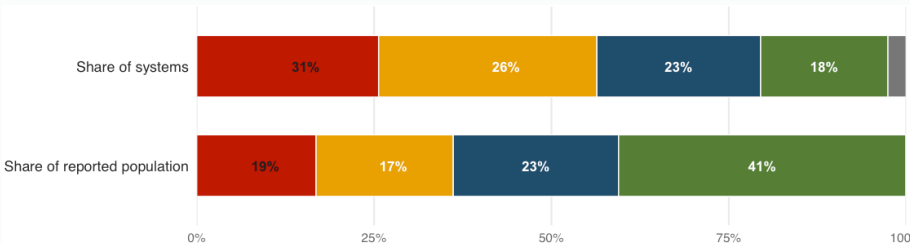
Those systems report serving 88,365 people. The county profile is also shaped by small systems: 21 systems serve 500 people or fewer.

1 system is listed as Not Assessed, serving 58 people, so Not Assessed should not be read as a low-risk classification.

Reported funding since 2017 totals \$77M across 7 systems. Technical assistance funding totals \$2M.

System counts and reported population

Not At-Risk systems make up 18% of listed systems and 41% of reported population. A few large systems drive that population, so it reaches more people than its system count suggests.



Risk profile

Risk in Merced County is distributed across four dimensions. Water Quality contributes the largest share of the combined weighted risk score at 43%. Across all individual indicators, No intertie appears most often, affecting 36 of 38 assessed systems.

Water Quality

43%

of combined weighted risk

State 32% · ▲ 11 pts

MOST COMMON FLAG

Water quality trends toward MCL

Accessibility

37%

of combined weighted risk

State 36% · ▲ 1 pts

MOST COMMON FLAG

No intertie

Affordability

13%

of combined weighted risk

State 17% · ▼ 4 pts

MOST COMMON FLAG

Household socioeconomic burden

TMF Capacity

7%

of combined weighted risk

State 15% · ▼ 8 pts

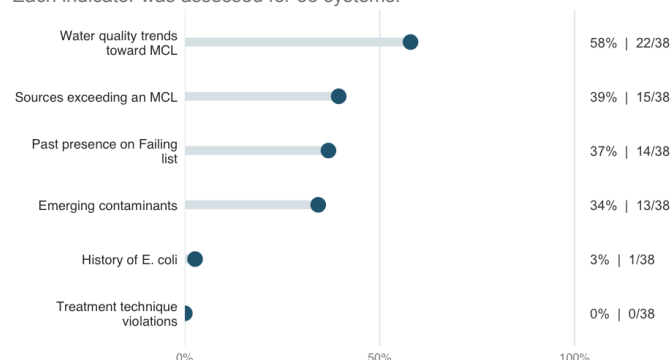
MOST COMMON FLAG

Total net annual income

Water Quality

Water Quality accounts for 43% of the county's combined weighted risk score. Water quality trends toward MCL appears in 22 of 38 assessed systems. Sources exceeding an MCL is next, appearing in 15 of 38 assessed systems.

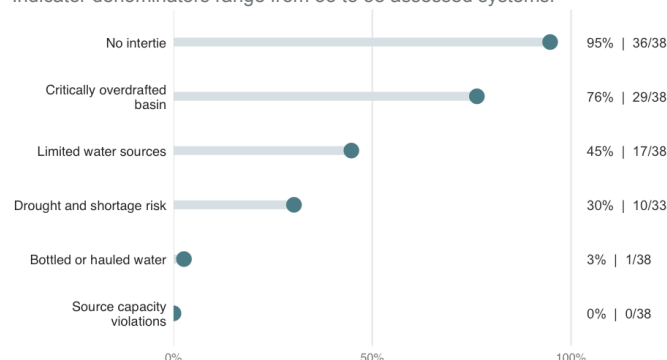
Each indicator was assessed for 38 systems.



Accessibility

Accessibility accounts for 37% of the county's combined weighted risk score. No intertie appears in 36 of 38 assessed systems. Critically overdrafted basin is next, appearing in 29 of 38 assessed systems.

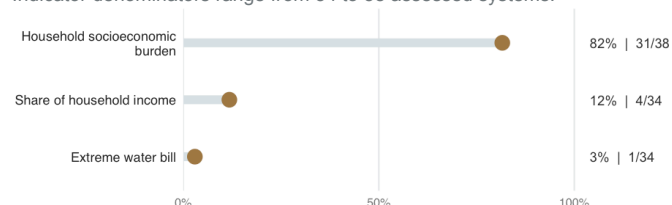
Indicator denominators range from 33 to 38 assessed systems.



Affordability

Affordability accounts for 13% of the county's combined weighted risk score. Household socioeconomic burden appears in 31 of 38 assessed systems. Share of household income is next, appearing in 4 of 34 assessed systems.

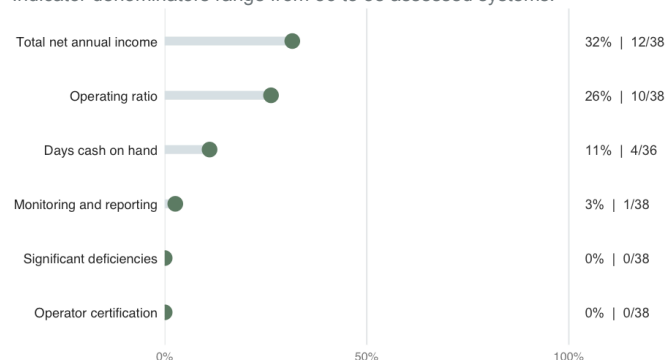
Indicator denominators range from 34 to 38 assessed systems.



TMF Capacity

TMF Capacity accounts for 7% of the county's combined weighted risk score. Total net annual income appears in 12 of 38 assessed systems. Operating ratio is next, appearing in 10 of 38 assessed systems.

Indicator denominators range from 36 to 38 assessed systems.

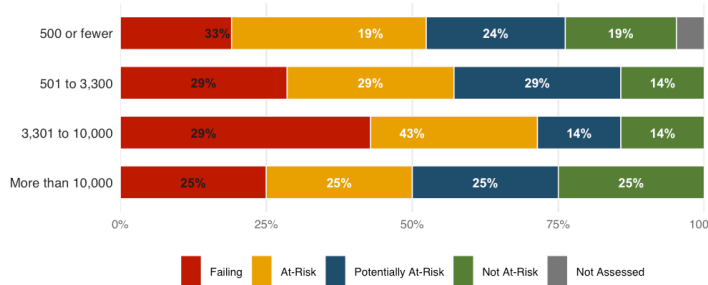


Patterns and context

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 39 systems in Merced County.

Status by system size

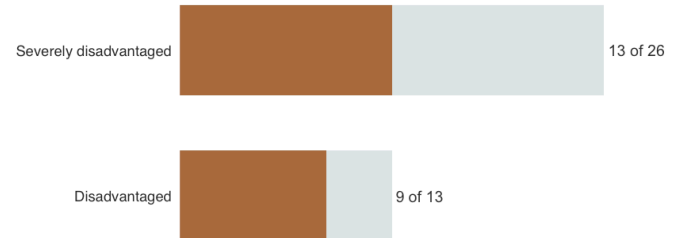
SAFER status within each population group



Among systems serving 500 people or fewer, 11 of 21 are Failing or At-Risk. The highest concentration occurs among systems serving 3,301 to 10,000, at 71%.

Economic context

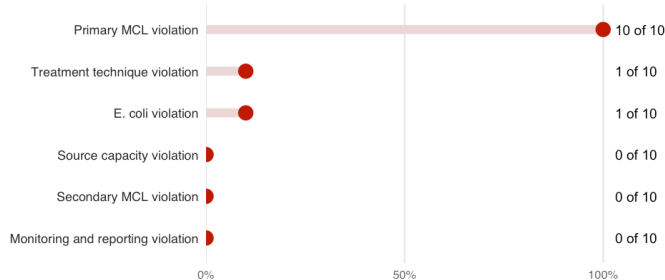
Orange shows Failing or At-Risk systems within each service-area group



DAC and SDAC service areas contain 39 of 39 listed systems. Within those two groups, 22 systems are Failing or At-Risk.

Conditions among Failing systems

A system can appear under more than one condition



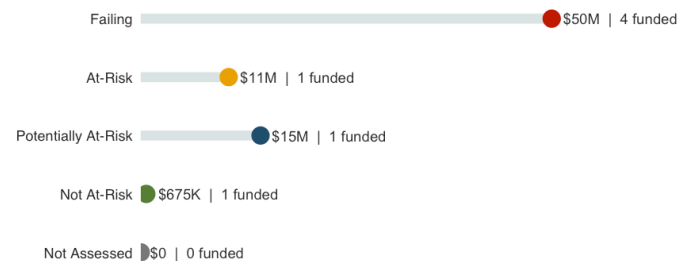
Frequently listed primary analytes

1,2,3-Trichloropropane	7	Arsenic	2
Nitrate	1	Total Haloacetic Acids (Haa5)	1
Tthm	1		

Among 10 Failing systems, 10 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 \$77M across 7 systems. Failing systems account for 66% of that total. Reported technical assistance funding adds \$2M.

Key takeaways

56%

of systems are Failing or At-Risk

That represents 22 systems reporting service to 88,365 people. That is above the statewide average of 33%.

43%

of weighted risk comes from Water Quality

The most widespread individual flag is no intertie, found in 36 of 38 assessed systems. Statewide, Water Quality accounts for 32% of weighted risk.

54%

of systems serve 500 people or fewer

Small systems account for 21 of the county's 39 listed systems. That is below 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.