

Santa Barbara County public water systems

14
systems are Failing or At-Risk
21% 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 8%	At-Risk 14%		Not At-Risk 68%			
	Failing	At-Risk	Potentially At-Risk	Not At-Risk	Not Assessed	
Systems	5	9	4	45	3	
Population	875	86,263	557	268,562	109,477	
Funding since 2017	\$0	\$2M	\$0	\$35M	\$0	

Key figures

66
public water systems

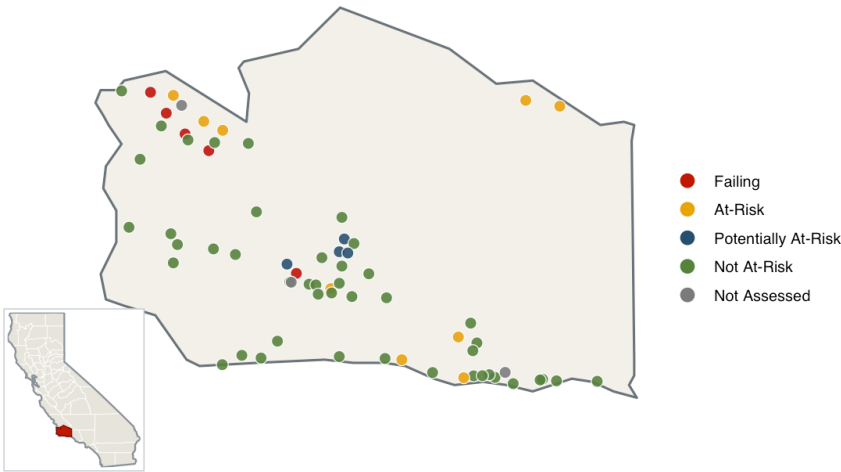
465,734
reported population

67%
serve 500 people or fewer

\$36M
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

Santa Barbara County has 66 public water systems in the SAFER dataset. Of these, 14 (21%) are classified as Failing or At-Risk.

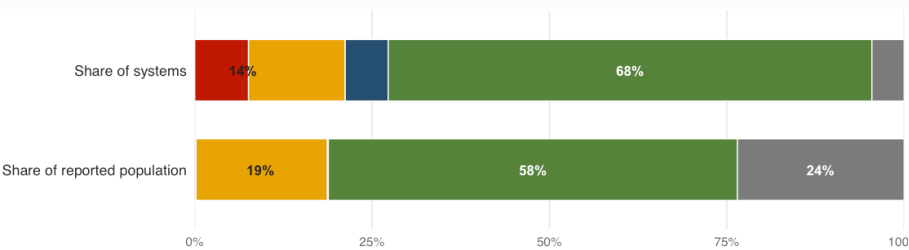
Those systems report serving 87,138 people. The county profile is also shaped by small systems: 44 systems serve 500 people or fewer.

3 systems are listed as Not Assessed, serving 109,477 people, so Not Assessed should not be read as a low-risk classification.

Reported funding since 2017 totals \$36M across 2 systems. Technical assistance funding totals \$2M.

System counts and reported population

Not Assessed systems make up 5% of listed systems and 24% 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.



Santa Barbara County | Public water system SAFER profile

Risk profile

Risk in Santa Barbara 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 47 of 63 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% · ▼ 4 pts

MOST COMMON FLAG

No intertie

Affordability

16%

of combined weighted risk

State 17% · ▼ 1 pts

MOST COMMON FLAG

Household socioeconomic burden

TMF Capacity

14%

of combined weighted risk

State 15% · ▼ 1 pts

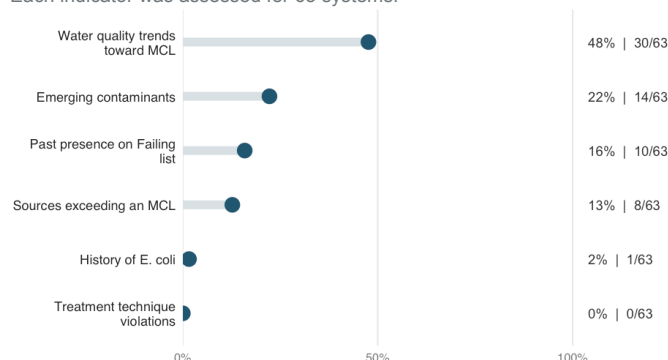
MOST COMMON FLAG

Total net annual income

Water Quality

Water Quality accounts for 38% of the county's combined weighted risk score. Water quality trends toward MCL appears in 30 of 63 assessed systems. Emerging contaminants is next, appearing in 14 of 63 assessed systems.

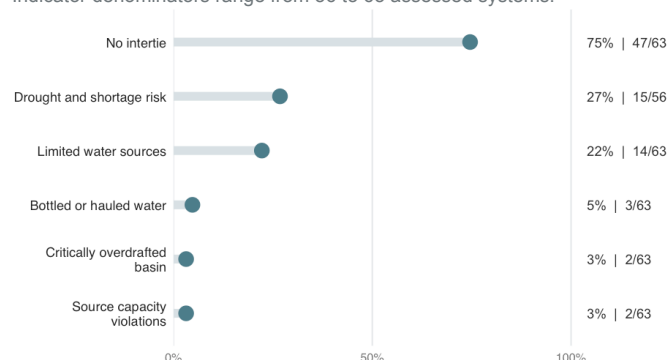
Each indicator was assessed for 63 systems.



Accessibility

Accessibility accounts for 32% of the county's combined weighted risk score. No intertie appears in 47 of 63 assessed systems. Drought and shortage risk is next, appearing in 15 of 56 assessed systems.

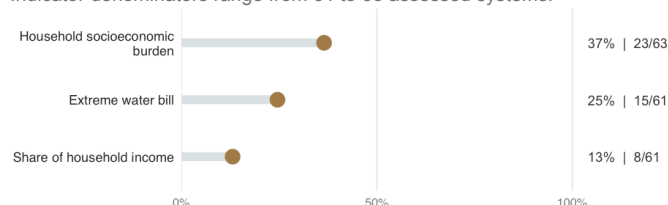
Indicator denominators range from 56 to 63 assessed systems.



Affordability

Affordability accounts for 16% of the county's combined weighted risk score. Household socioeconomic burden appears in 23 of 63 assessed systems. Extreme water bill is next, appearing in 15 of 61 assessed systems.

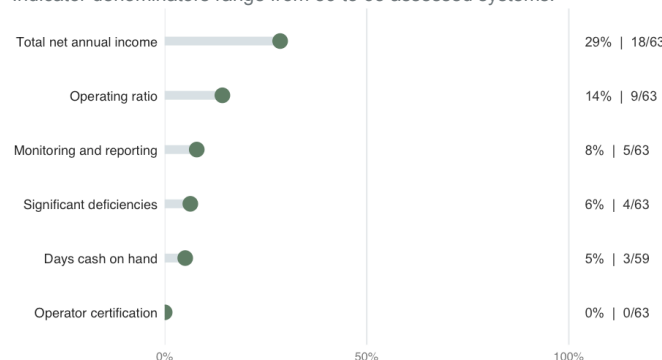
Indicator denominators range from 61 to 63 assessed systems.



TMF Capacity

TMF Capacity accounts for 14% of the county's combined weighted risk score. Total net annual income appears in 18 of 63 assessed systems. Operating ratio is next, appearing in 9 of 63 assessed systems.

Indicator denominators range from 59 to 63 assessed systems.

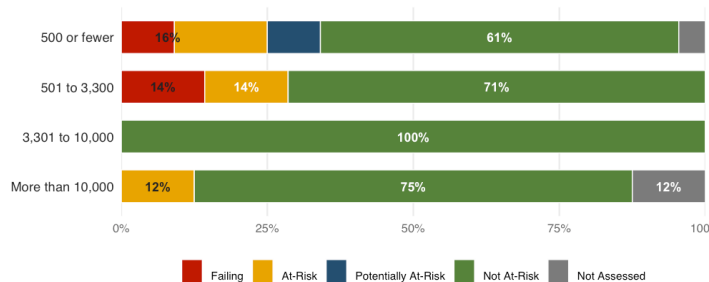


Patterns and context

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 66 systems in Santa Barbara County.

Status by system size

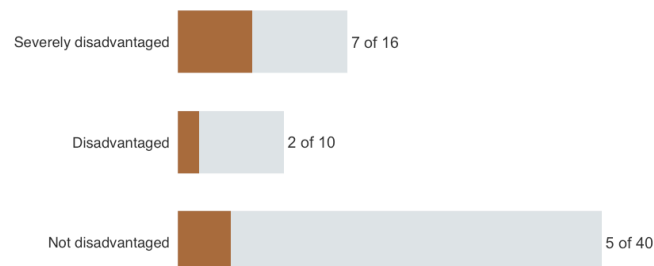
SAFER status within each population group



Among systems serving 500 people or fewer, 11 of 44 are Failing or At-Risk. The highest concentration occurs among systems serving 501 to 3,300, at 29%.

Economic context

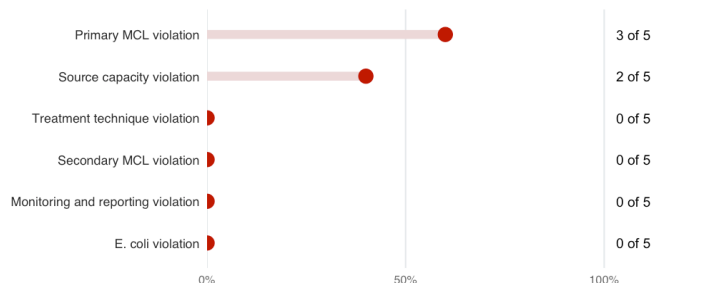
Orange shows Failing or At-Risk systems within each service-area group



DAC and SDAC service areas contain 26 of 66 listed systems. Within those two groups, 9 systems are Failing or At-Risk.

Conditions among Failing systems

A system can appear under more than one condition



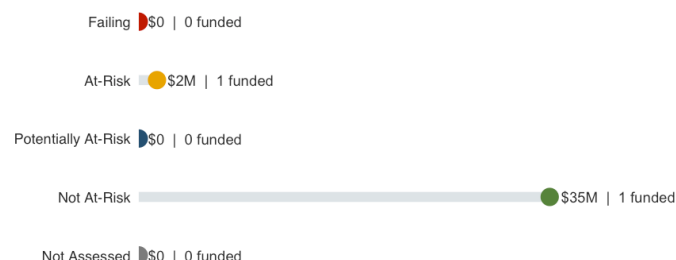
Frequently listed primary analytes

Arsenic	1	Nitrate	1
Perchlorate	1	Selenium	1

Among 5 Failing systems, 3 report primary MCL violation. The most frequently listed primary analytes are Arsenic, Nitrate, and Perchlorate.

Reported funding

Totals since 2017 and number of systems reporting funding



Funding since 2017 totals \$36M across 2 systems. Not At-Risk systems account for 96% of that total. Reported technical assistance funding adds \$2M.

Key takeaways

21%

of systems are Failing or At-Risk

That represents 14 systems reporting service to 87,138 people. That is below the statewide average of 33%.

38%

of weighted risk comes from Water Quality

The most widespread individual flag is no intertie, found in 47 of 63 assessed systems. Statewide, Water Quality accounts for 32% of weighted risk.

67%

of systems serve 500 people or fewer

Small systems account for 44 of the county's 66 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.