

Santa Cruz County public water systems

20 systems are Failing or At-Risk
34% 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 9%	At-Risk 26%	Potentially At-Risk 14%	Not At-Risk 52%	Not Assessed
Systems	5	15	8	30	0
Population	1,576	3,224	160,903	89,988	0
Funding since 2017	\$0	\$0	\$191M	\$0	\$0

Key figures

58 public water systems

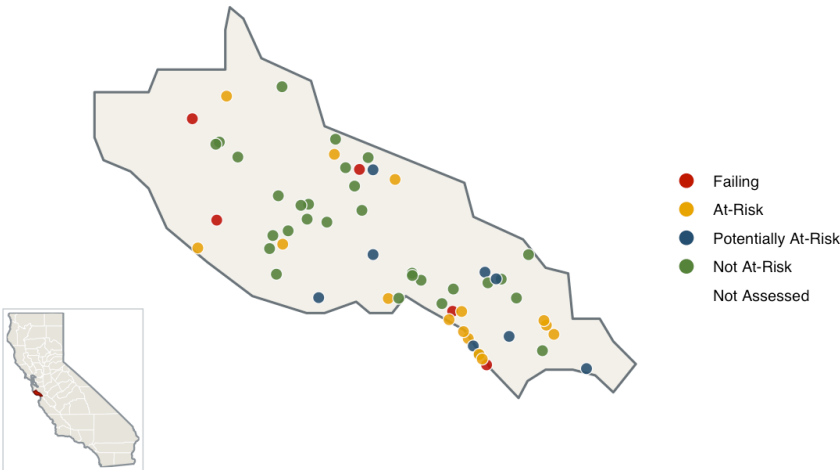
255,691 reported population

74% serve 500 people or fewer

\$191M reported funding since 2017

System locations

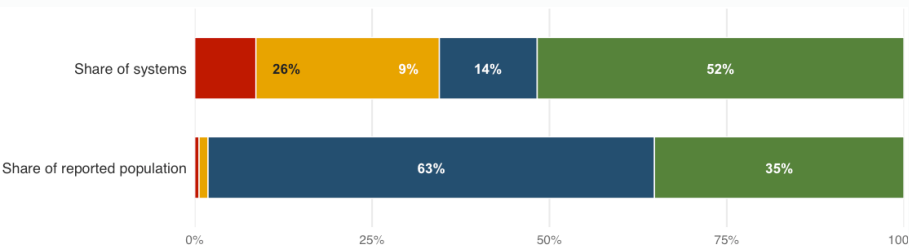
Points show reported system locations. They do not represent service-area boundaries.



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

Summary

Santa Cruz County has 58 public water systems in the SAFER dataset. Of these, 20 (34%) are classified as Failing or At-Risk. Those systems report serving 4,800 people. The county profile is also shaped by small systems: 43 systems serve 500 people or fewer. Reported funding since 2017 totals \$191M across 1 system. Technical assistance funding totals \$3M.



System counts and reported population

Potentially At-Risk systems make up 14% of listed systems and 63% of reported population. A few large systems drive that population, so it reaches more people than its system count suggests.

Santa Cruz County | Public water system SAFER profile

Risk profile

Risk in Santa Cruz County is distributed across four dimensions. Accessibility contributes the largest share of the combined weighted risk score at 43%. Across all individual indicators, No intertie appears most often, affecting 41 of 58 assessed systems.

Water Quality

30%

of combined weighted risk

State 32% · ▼ 2 pts

MOST COMMON FLAG

Water quality trends toward MCL

Accessibility

43%

of combined weighted risk

State 36% · ▲ 6 pts

MOST COMMON FLAG

No intertie

Affordability

12%

of combined weighted risk

State 17% · ▼ 6 pts

MOST COMMON FLAG

Extreme water bill

TMF Capacity

16%

of combined weighted risk

State 15% · ▲ 2 pts

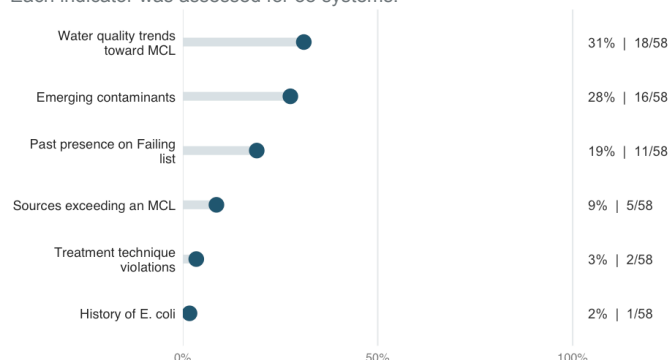
MOST COMMON FLAG

Total net annual income

Water Quality

Water Quality accounts for 30% of the county's combined weighted risk score. Water quality trends toward MCL appears in 18 of 58 assessed systems. Emerging contaminants is next, appearing in 16 of 58 assessed systems.

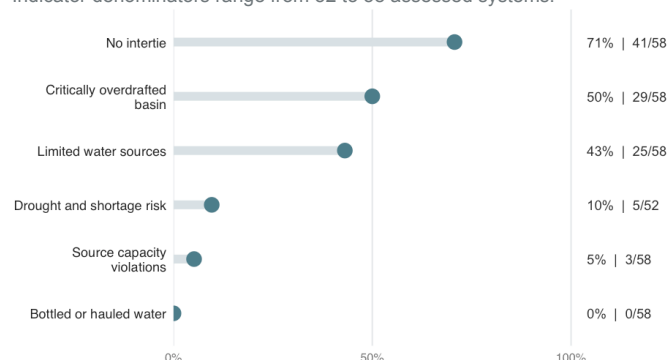
Each indicator was assessed for 58 systems.



Accessibility

Accessibility accounts for 43% of the county's combined weighted risk score. No intertie appears in 41 of 58 assessed systems. Critically overdrafted basin is next, appearing in 29 of 58 assessed systems.

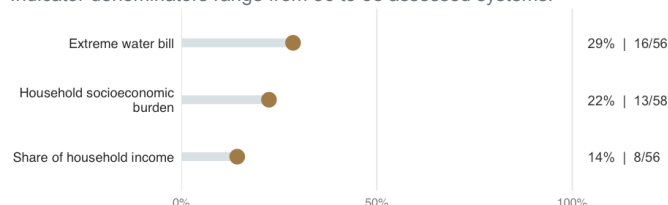
Indicator denominators range from 52 to 58 assessed systems.



Affordability

Affordability accounts for 12% of the county's combined weighted risk score. Extreme water bill appears in 16 of 56 assessed systems. Household socioeconomic burden is next, appearing in 13 of 58 assessed systems.

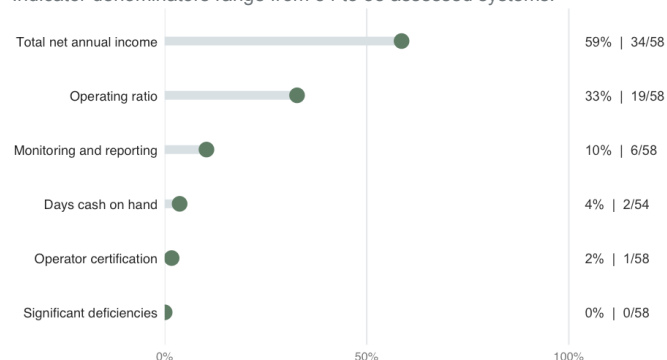
Indicator denominators range from 56 to 58 assessed systems.



TMF Capacity

TMF Capacity accounts for 16% of the county's combined weighted risk score. Total net annual income appears in 34 of 58 assessed systems. Operating ratio is next, appearing in 19 of 58 assessed systems.

Indicator denominators range from 54 to 58 assessed systems.

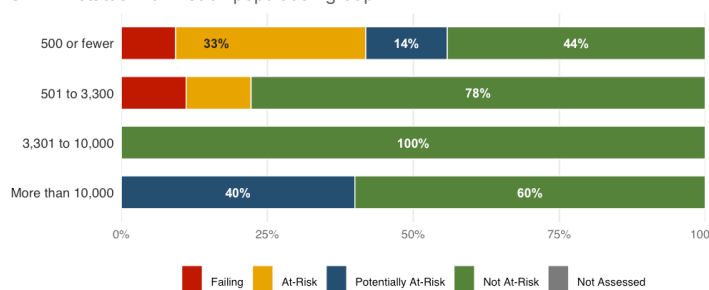


Patterns and context

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 58 systems in Santa Cruz County.

Status by system size

SAFER status within each population group



Among systems serving 500 people or fewer, 18 of 43 are Failing or At-Risk. This size group has the county's highest concentration of high-concern classifications.

Economic context

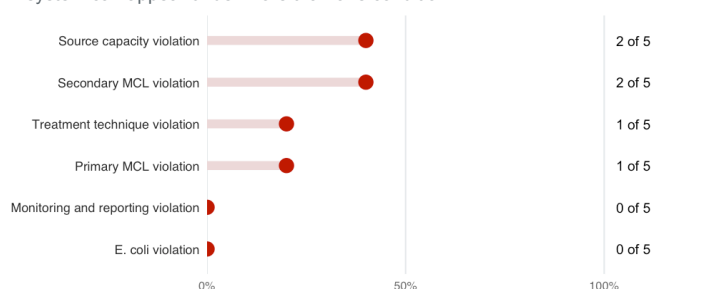
Orange shows Failing or At-Risk systems within each service-area group



DAC and SDAC service areas contain 7 of 58 listed systems. Within those two groups, 6 systems are Failing or At-Risk.

Conditions among Failing systems

A system can appear under more than one condition



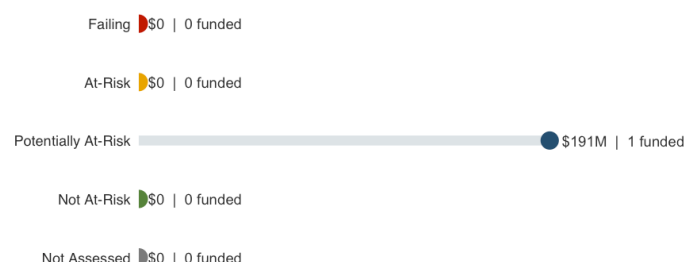
Frequently listed primary analytes

Nitrate 1

Among 5 Failing systems, 2 report secondary MCL violation. The most frequently listed primary analytes are Nitrate.

Reported funding

Totals since 2017 and number of systems reporting funding



Funding since 2017 totals \$191M across 1 system. Potentially At-Risk systems account for 100% of that total. Reported technical assistance funding adds \$3M.

Key takeaways

34%

of systems are Failing or At-Risk

That represents 20 systems reporting service to 4,800 people. That is close to the statewide average of 33%.

43%

of weighted risk comes from Accessibility

The most widespread individual flag is no intertie, found in 41 of 58 assessed systems. Statewide, Accessibility accounts for 36% of weighted risk.

74%

of systems serve 500 people or fewer

Small systems account for 43 of the county's 58 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.