



# DRINKING WATER UPDATES

**Sydney B. Cummings**  
Source and Drinking Water Program  
Division of Water Resource Management  
Florida Department of Environmental Protection

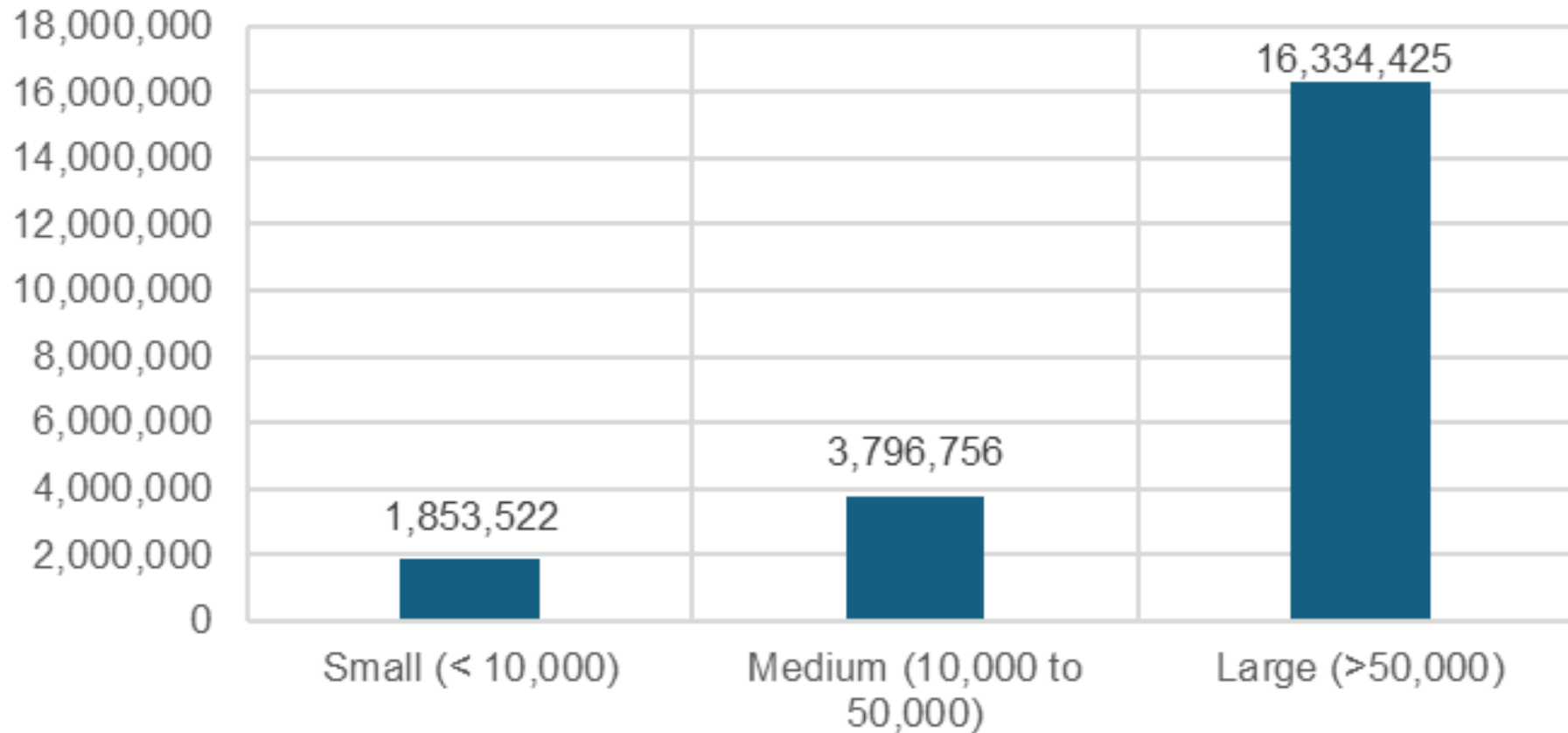
Focus on Change | March 4, 2025



# FLORIDA OVERVIEW

## PUBLIC WATER SYSTEMS: POPULATION SERVED BY SYSTEM SIZE

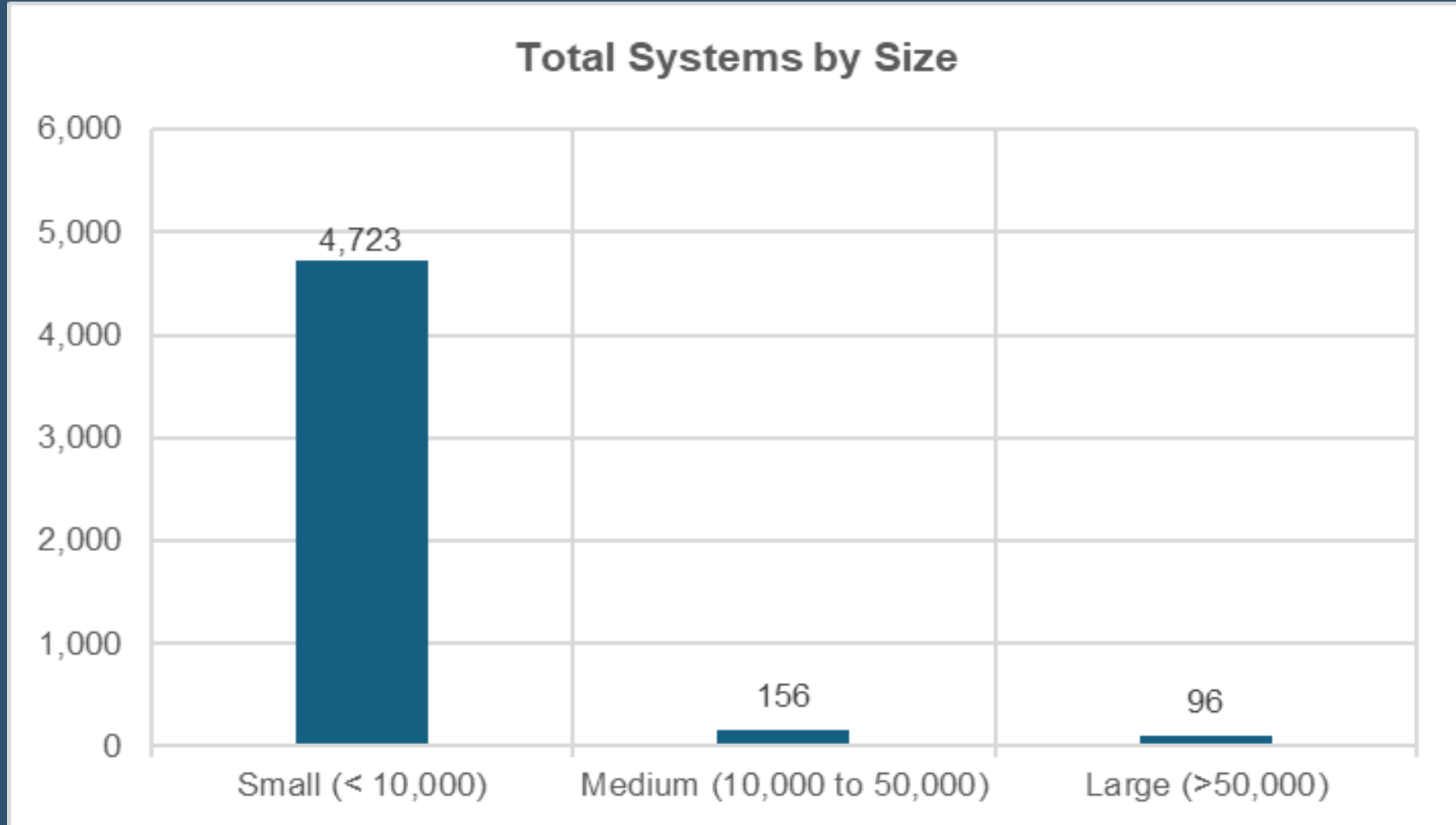
Total Population Served by System Size





# FLORIDA OVERVIEW

## PUBLIC WATER SYSTEMS: TOTAL SYSTEMS BY SIZE

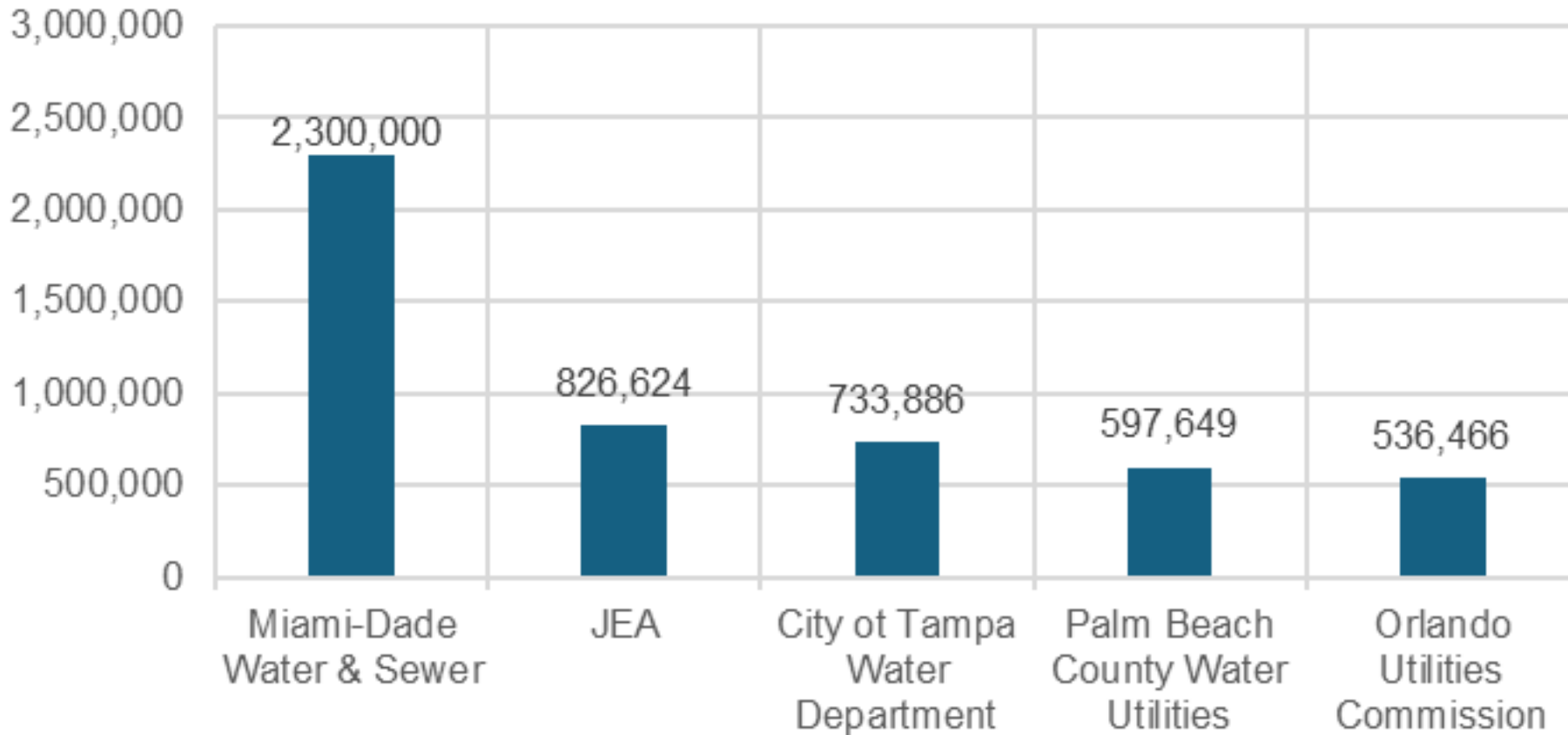




# FLORIDA OVERVIEW

## PUBLIC WATER SYSTEMS: FIVE LARGEST WATER SYSTEMS

Largest Water Systems

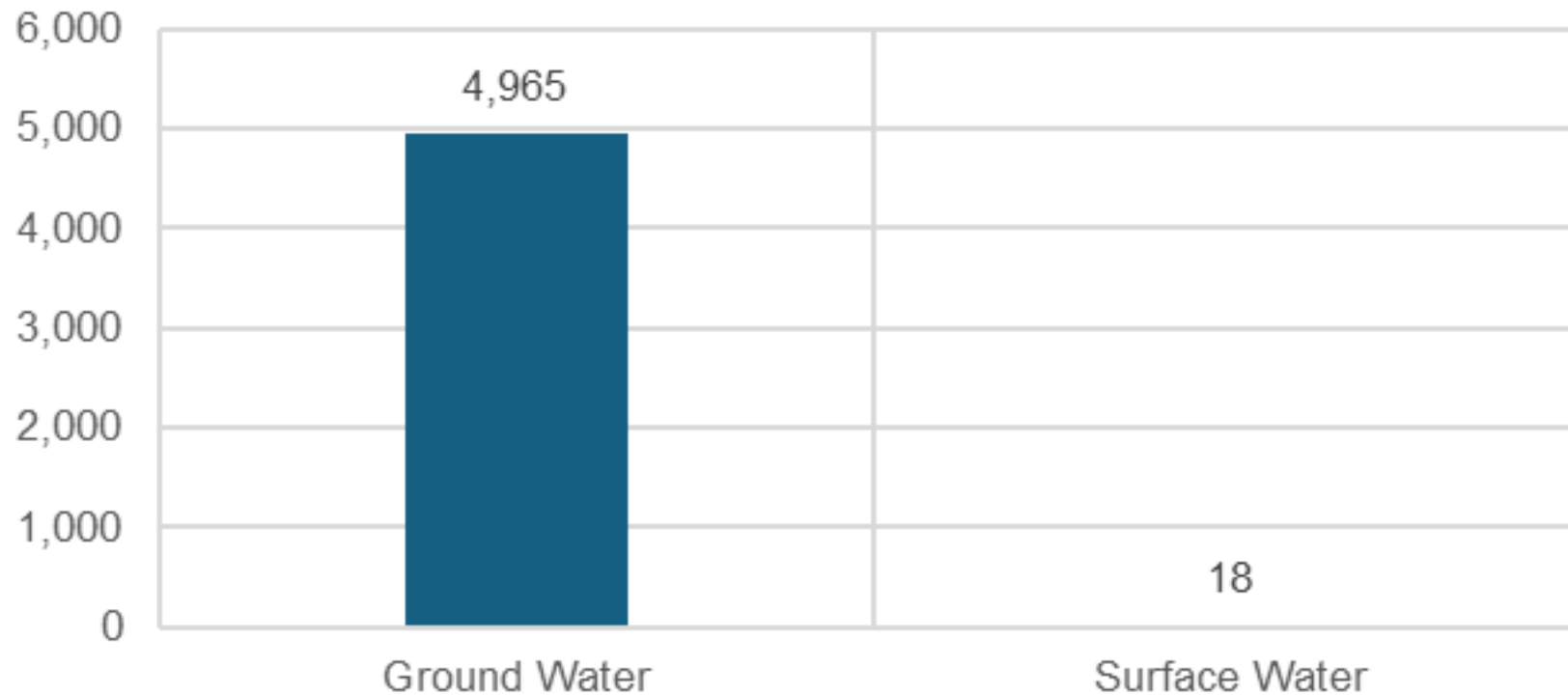




# FLORIDA OVERVIEW

## PUBLIC WATER SYSTEMS: PLANT CATEGORY BY SOURCE WATER

Plant Category by Source Water





# CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

JUNE 2023 - MAY 2024

- Florida Rural Water Association (FRWA) circuit riders conducted 3,464 technical assistance visits to drinking water systems.
  - 923 actual compliance visits.
  - 724 potential compliance visits.
  - 560 compliance related to capacity development.
  - 1,147 outreach visits were conducted.
  - 44 wellhead protection plans and four source water protection plans were completed.
    - These plans encompass 159 water systems and a population of 169,786.
- FRWA trainer held 18 classes.
  - 300 Operators earned continuing education credits (CEUs).
- 50 public water system water audits were completed.
- 144 water systems were assisted with long range planning and capacity analysis.



# STORM SEASON RESPONSE

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# STORM SEASON RESPONSE

## HURRICANE SEASON OVERVIEW

- The 2024 Atlantic hurricane season had a total of 18 named storms.
  - Of these named storms, five were major hurricanes with wind speeds greater than 125 mph.
  - Florida was directly impacted by three hurricanes, with two being major hurricanes.





# STORM SEASON RESPONSE

## HURRICANE DEBBY, AUGUST 2024

- Hurricane Debby impacted Florida's water systems.
  - 61 counties, 2,225 drinking water systems and 1,392 wastewater facilities.
  - Seven facilities requested needs through Water Tracker and a total of 11 needs were requested.
  - Generators were the most requested item.
  - Collection system operators, bypass/trash pumps and electric motors were among the needs requested by water systems and wastewater facilities.
  - A total of 23 boil water notices were issued.



# STORM SEASON RESPONSE

## HURRICANE HELENE, SEPTEMBER 2024

- Hurricane Helene severely impacted Florida's water systems.
  - 61 counties, 2,225 drinking water systems and 1,392 wastewater facilities.
  - 18 facilities requested needs through Water Tracker and a total of 63 needs were requested.
  - Labor was the most requested resource.
  - Generators, distribution system operators, collection system operators, bypass/trash pumps and vacuum trucks were among the needs requested by water systems and wastewater facilities.
  - A total of 61 boil water notices were issued.



# STORM SEASON RESPONSE (4)

## HURRICANE MILTON, OCTOBER 2024

- Hurricane Milton severely impacted Florida's water systems.
  - 51 counties, 2,199 drinking water systems and 1,421 wastewater facilities.
  - 39 facilities requested needs through Water Tracker and a total of 291 needs were requested.
  - Fuel was the most requested item.
  - Generators, labor, distribution system operators, collection system operators, bypass/trash pumps, dump trucks, equipment trailers and pump trucks were among the needs requested by water systems and wastewater facilities.
  - A total of 368 boil water notices were issued.



# STORM SEASON RESPONSE (5)

## SOUTH FLORIDA FLASH FLOODING, JUNE 2024

- South Florida flash flood event.
  - Five counties were affected, 149 drinking water systems and 144 wastewater facilities.
  - There were no boil water notices issued during this event.



# U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY UPDATES

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# EPA UPDATES

- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has recently completed rulemaking for the following areas:
  - Per- and polyflouroalkyl substances (PFAS).
  - Consumer confidence reports.
  - Lead and copper rule improvements.
- Under the Congressional Review Act (CRA), major rules are subject to review of the U.S. Government Accountability Office if within a certain time period. As such, some of these rules may still be subject to change.



# **VOLUNTARY LEAD TESTING PROGRAM FOR SCHOOLS AND CHILDCARE FACILITIES**

**Drinking Water Updates**



# LEAD TESTING PROGRAM

## SAMPLES COLLECTED, AS OF JANUARY 2025

	COUNTIES	SAMPLES	FACILITIES
Schools	15	34,799	588
Childcare Facilities/Head Starts	33	1,725	123
<b>TOTAL</b>	39*	36,524	711

*\*Counties wherein both schools and childcare facilities collected counted only once in this total.*

	SCHOOLS	CHILDCARE FACILITIES
<b>POPULATION</b>	~333,027	~4,332

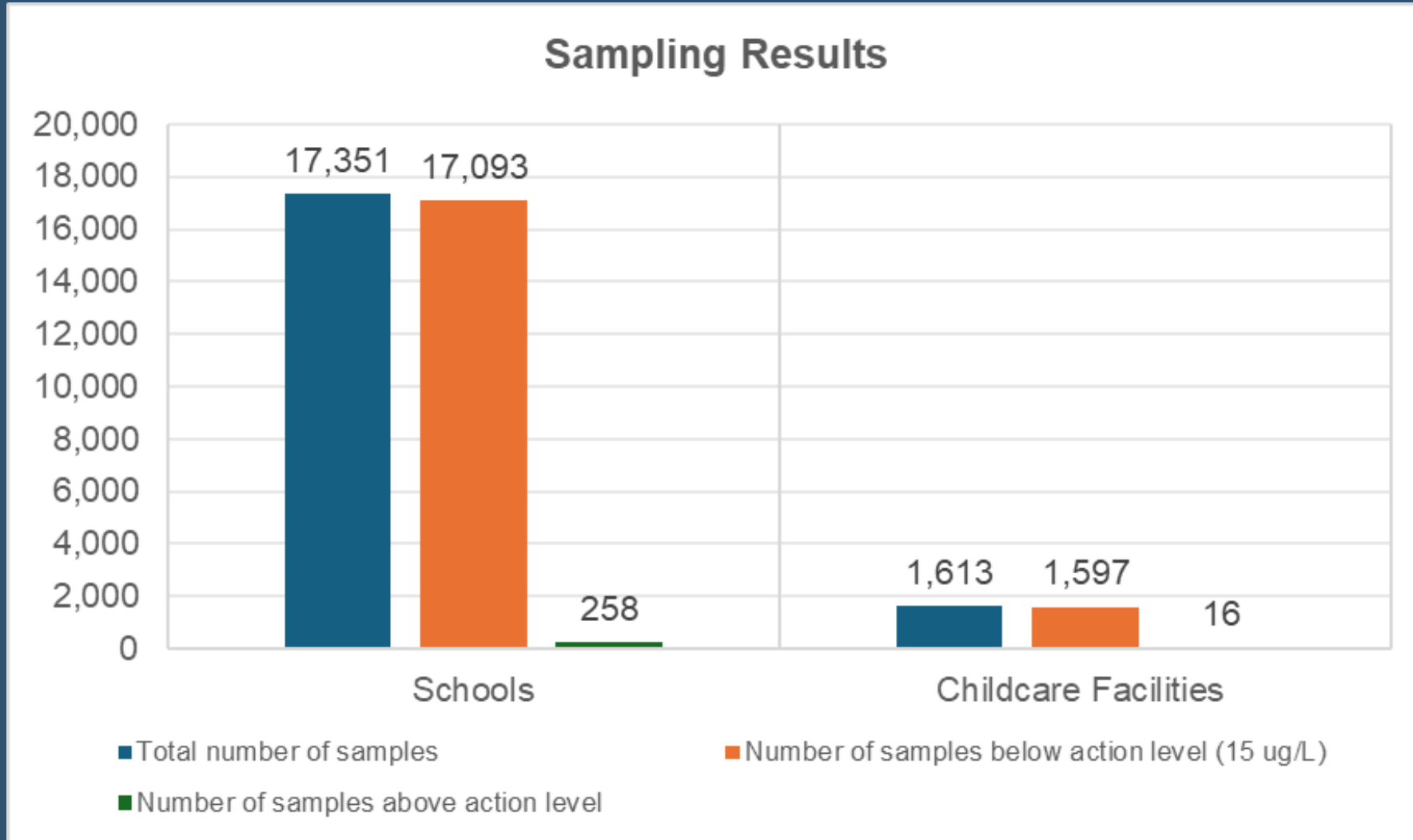
- For more information on the Voluntary Lead Testing Program for Schools and Childcare Facilities, contact Stacey Odom:
  - [Stacey.Odom@FloridaDEP.gov](mailto:Stacey.Odom@FloridaDEP.gov).
  - 850-245-8491.





# LEAD TESTING DATA

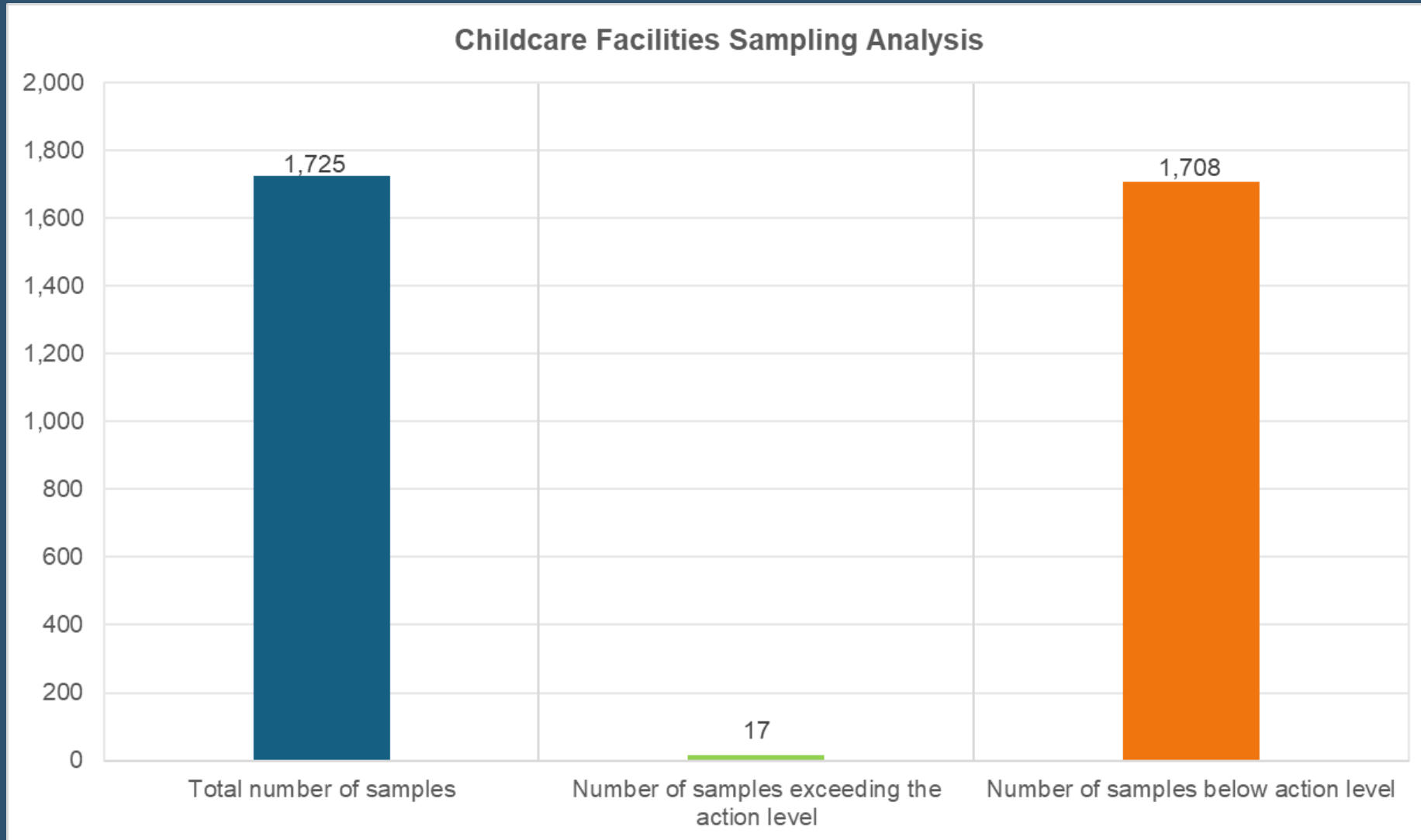
## SAMPLING RESULTS IN SCHOOLS AND CHILDCARE FACILITIES





# LEAD TESTING DATA

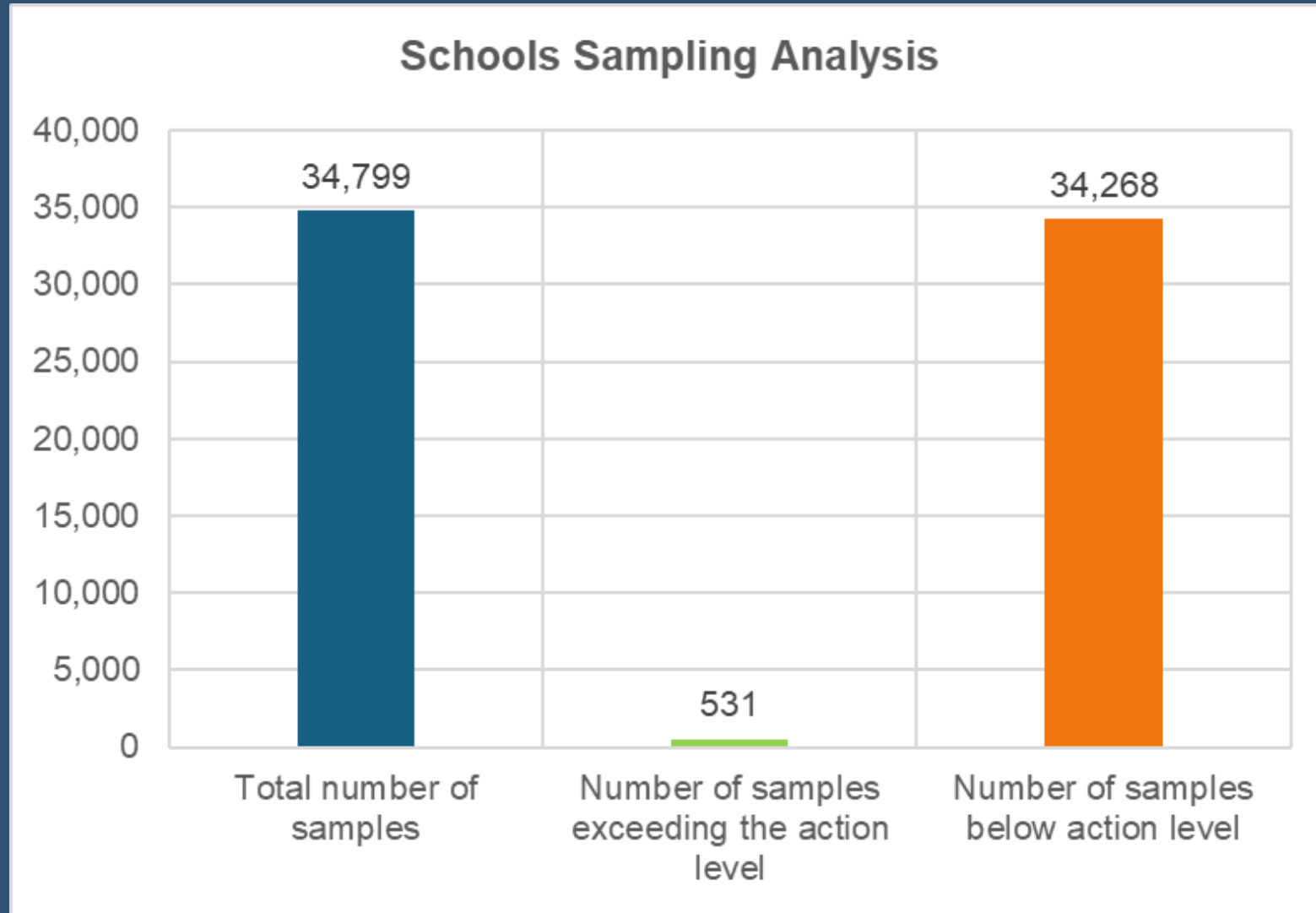
## SAMPLING ANALYSIS: CHILDCARE FACILITIES





# LEAD TESTING DATA

## SAMPLING ANALYSIS: SCHOOLS

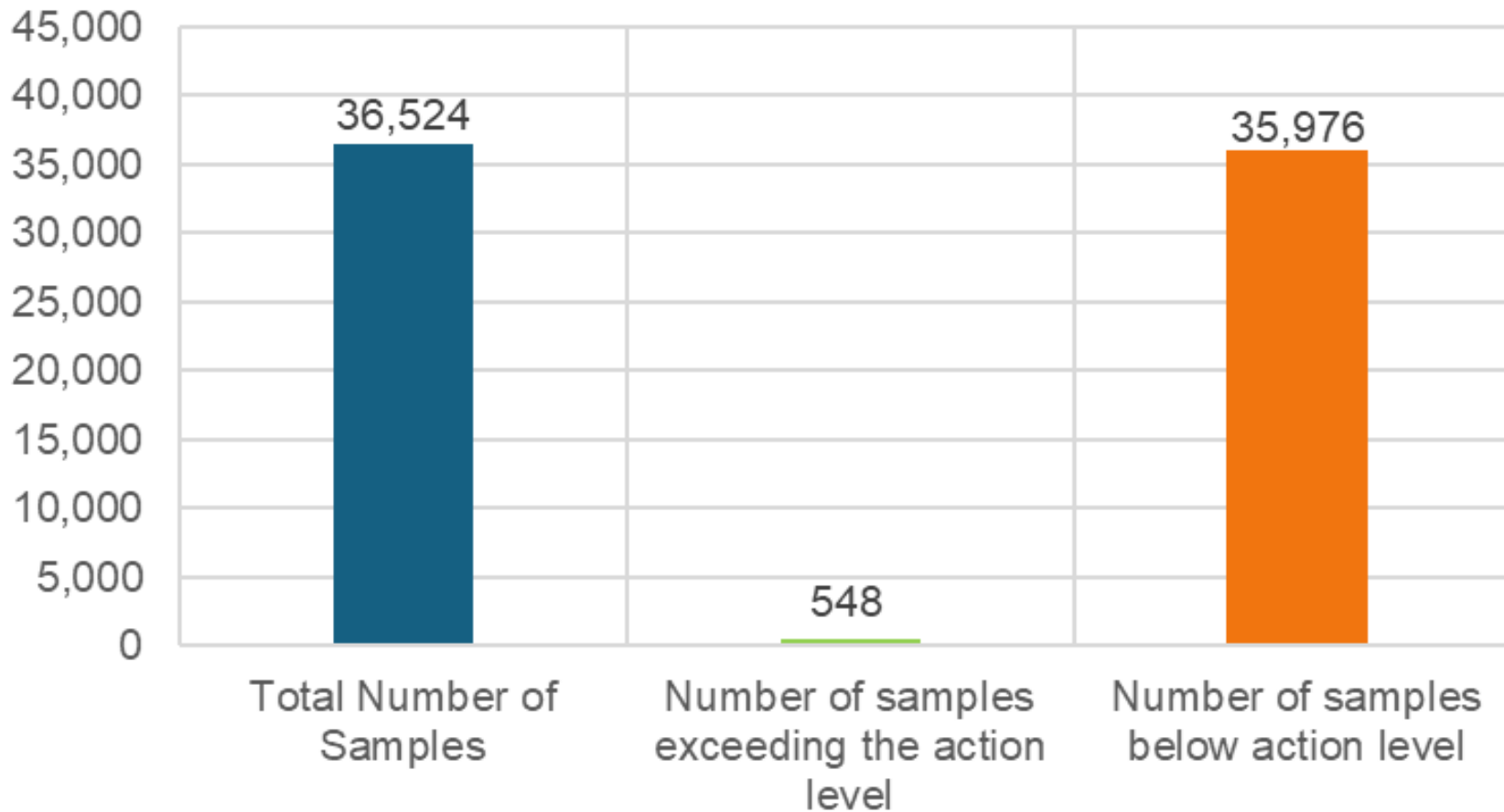




# LEAD TESTING DATA

## SAMPLING ANALYSIS: SCHOOLS AND CHILDCARE FACILITIES

Combined Sampling Analysis





# REMEDIATION UPDATE

- EPA's updated implementation plan for the Voluntary Lead Testing Program in Schools and Childcare Facilities includes approved remediation activities.
- Remediation activities include, but are not limited to, the following:
  - Removal and/or installation of water fountains and related plumbing.
  - Removal and/or installation of fixtures, such as faucets and related components.
- Water systems are not financially responsible for remediation activities.



# LCRI SAMPLING WAIVERS

- Lead and Copper Rule Improvements (LCRI) sampling waivers.
  - A community water system (CWS) is eligible for a sampling waiver at all or a subset of schools and childcare facilities they serve if:
    - The school or childcare facility is sampled under a state or local law or program.
    - The law or program complies with the eligibility criteria.
  - States can issue waivers at any time, given that laws or programs may be established after Nov. 1, 2027.
  - The state may also issue a waiver to a CWS for sampling during the first five years following Nov. 1, 2027, for schools and childcare facilities sampled under a qualifying program between Jan. 1, 2021, and Nov. 1, 2027.



# FUNDING FOR LEAD TESTING

- EPA has awarded Florida \$6 million to support the sampling and analysis of schools and childcare facilities.
  - As of January 2025, with FRWA assistance, Florida has spent \$1.5 million.
  - Future funding should be available.



# POTABLE REUSE

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# POTABLE REUSE

Florida's Environmental Regulation Commission unanimously approved potable reuse rules developed by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) during a hearing on Dec. 13, 2024.

- New Chapter 62-565, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), **Potable Reuse**.
  - Establishes a regulatory framework for direct and indirect potable reuse and the permitting of an advanced water treatment facility (ATWF).
    - The ATWF is the cornerstone of potable reuse.
  - Identifies the requirements for potable reuse systems.
  - Contains industrial pretreatment requirements for potable reuse systems.
  - Establishes monitoring and reporting requirements for ATWFs.
  - Requires pilot testing for all ATWF projects.



# POTABLE REUSE (2)

## ADDITIONAL RULE CHANGES

- Chapter 62-550, F.A.C., **Drinking Water Standards, Monitoring, and Reporting.**
  - Establishes treatment requirements, public noticing requirements and monthly operating reports for a PWS receiving advanced treated water from an ATWF.
- Chapter 62-555, F.A.C., **Permitting, Construction, Operation, and Maintenance of Public Water Systems.**
  - Recognizes advance treated water as a source water for a PWS.
- Chapter 62-610, F.A.C., **Reuse of Reclaimed Water and Land Application.**
  - Removes existing indirect potable reuse provisions and to ensure consistency with changes to other chapters and the creation of Chapter 62-565, F.A.C.



# LEAD AND COPPER RULE IMPROVEMENTS

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# LEAD AND COPPER RULE REVISIONS

## FUNDING

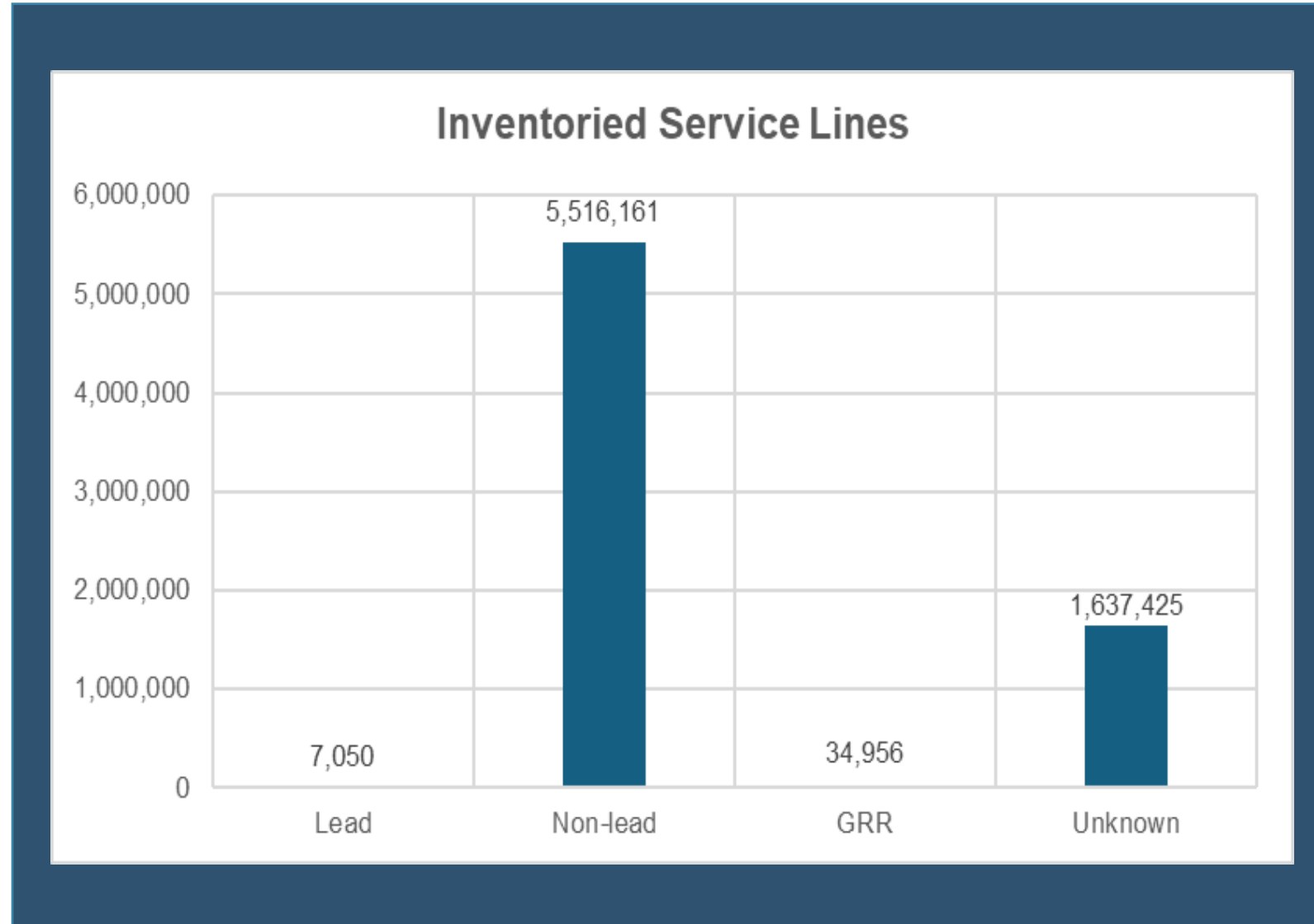
- The Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) Program has low-interest loans and principal forgiveness loans available for disadvantaged communities and eligible utilities to complete lead service line (LSL) inventories.
  - Complete service line replacement is an eligible expense regardless of pipe material and ownership of the service line.
  - Corrosion control planning and design as well as associated capital infrastructure projects, are eligible for funding.



# LEAD AND COPPER RULE REVISIONS

## SERVICE LINE INVENTORY MATERIAL CLASSIFICATIONS

- All CWSs and non-transient non-community water systems (NTNCs), were required to develop and submit their **initial** service line inventory by Oct. 16, 2024.
- As of January 2025, the following service line material classifications have been inventoried:
  - Lead.
  - Non-lead.
  - Galvanized requiring replacement (GRR).
  - Unknown.





# LEAD AND COPPER RULE REVISIONS

## KEY ELEMENTS OF THE LCRI

- Systems are now required to begin developing a baseline inventory, which will include connector material; this is due by the compliance date of Nov. 1, 2027.
  - The baseline inventory adds connector material classifications to the initial service line inventory data.
- Systems that have identified at least one lead, GRR or unknown service line and/or connector must develop a lead service line replacement plan (LSLRP) and submit by Nov. 1, 2027.
- Lead and GRR service lines under the control of the water system must be fully replaced within 10 years unless a deferred deadline has been established by the state.
- Systems will continue refining the inventory and identifying the material of “unknown” service connections and connectors until all service connections and connectors have been identified and classified.



# LEAD AND COPPER RULE REVISIONS

## TIER 1 NOTICE FOR ACTION LEVEL EXCEEDANCE (ALE)

- Water systems must provide public notification as soon as practical, but no more than 24 hours after, learning of the lead ALE.
- A copy of the Tier 1 Public Notice (PN) for lead ALEs must be sent to the head of the primacy agency and EPA administrator no later than 24 hours after systems learn of the exceedance.
- Provide the revised lead health effects language as required in the Tier 1 PN.
  - From Oct. 16, 2024, through the LCRI compliance date of Nov. 1, 2027, a Tier 1 PN is triggered by a lead action level exceedance of 0.015 mg/L.
  - Starting on the LCRI compliance date of Nov. 1, 2027, a Tier 1 PN is required if a system exceeds the new lead action level of 0.010 mg/L.



# CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT REVISIONS

Drinking Water Updates





# CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT

## PROPOSED REVISIONS

- Consumer confidence reports (CCRs) will need to meet the new requirements beginning in 2027, and states, territories and tribes that manage the Public Water System Supervision program will begin reporting compliance monitoring data in 2027.
- A summary of the contents must be displayed prominently at the beginning of the report.
- The revised CCR rule will add new definitions.
- Changes in language for sources and categories of contaminants for better clarification.
- Changes in language for arsenic and nitrate, but can use alternative statement approved by DEP.



# CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORTS

## PROPOSED REVISION, CONTINUED

- Systems serving 100,000+ persons will be required to develop and annually update a plan meant for assisting consumers with limited English proficiency.
- Systems serving a population of 10,000 or more must distribute the CCR twice per year (biannually) by July 1 and Dec. 31 each year.
- New section regarding lead and the lead service line inventory.
- The new requirements for the compliance monitoring data (CMD) require primacy agencies to report annually compliance monitoring data and related monitoring data necessary in the determination of compliance with all National Primary Drinking Water Regulations, (NPDWR).
- Please see 40 CFR 141 subpart O for specifics on CCR requirements and 40 CFR 142.15 for specifics on CMD.



# THANK YOU

**Sydney B. Cummings**

Source and Drinking Water Program  
Division of Water Resource Management  
Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Contact Information:

850-245-8633

[Sydney.Cummings@FloridaDEP.gov](mailto:Sydney.Cummings@FloridaDEP.gov)