



DRINKING WATER UPDATES

Sydney B. Cummings

Source and Drinking Water Program

Division of Water Resource Management

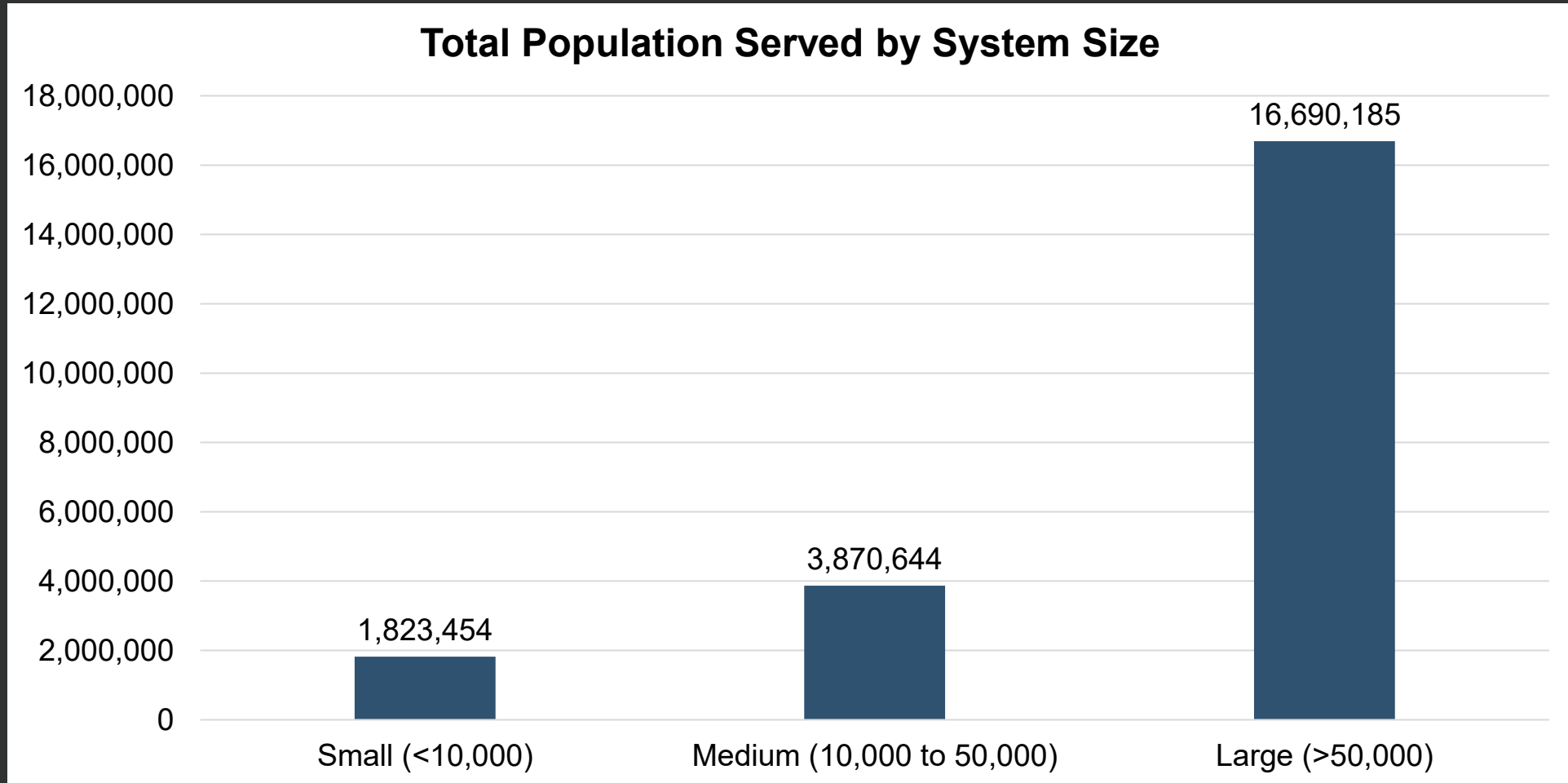
Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Focus on Change | 2026



FLORIDA OVERVIEW

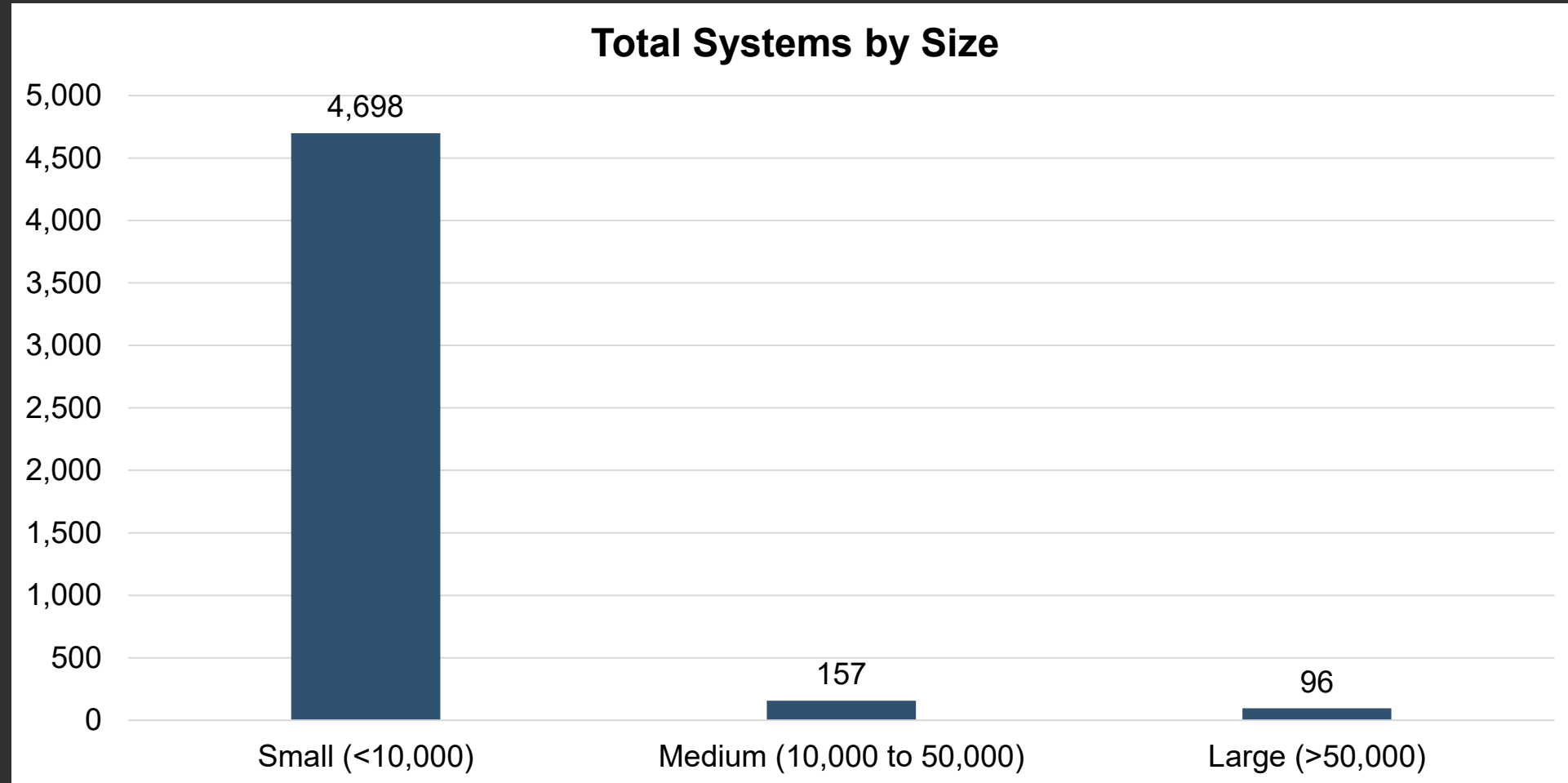
PUBLIC WATER SYSTEMS: POPULATION SERVED BY SYSTEM SIZE





FLORIDA OVERVIEW

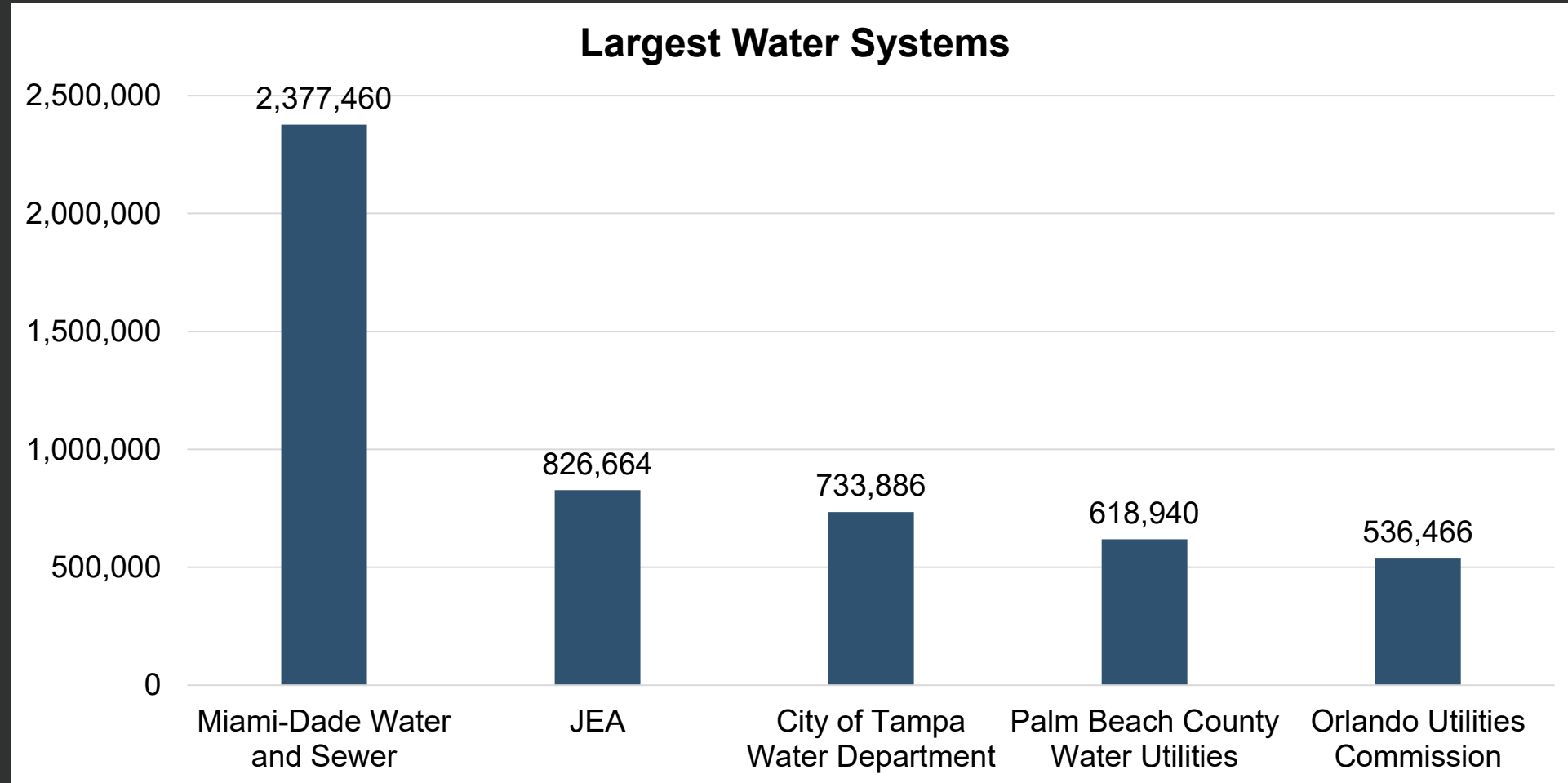
PUBLIC WATER SYSTEMS: TOTAL SYSTEMS BY SIZE





FLORIDA OVERVIEW

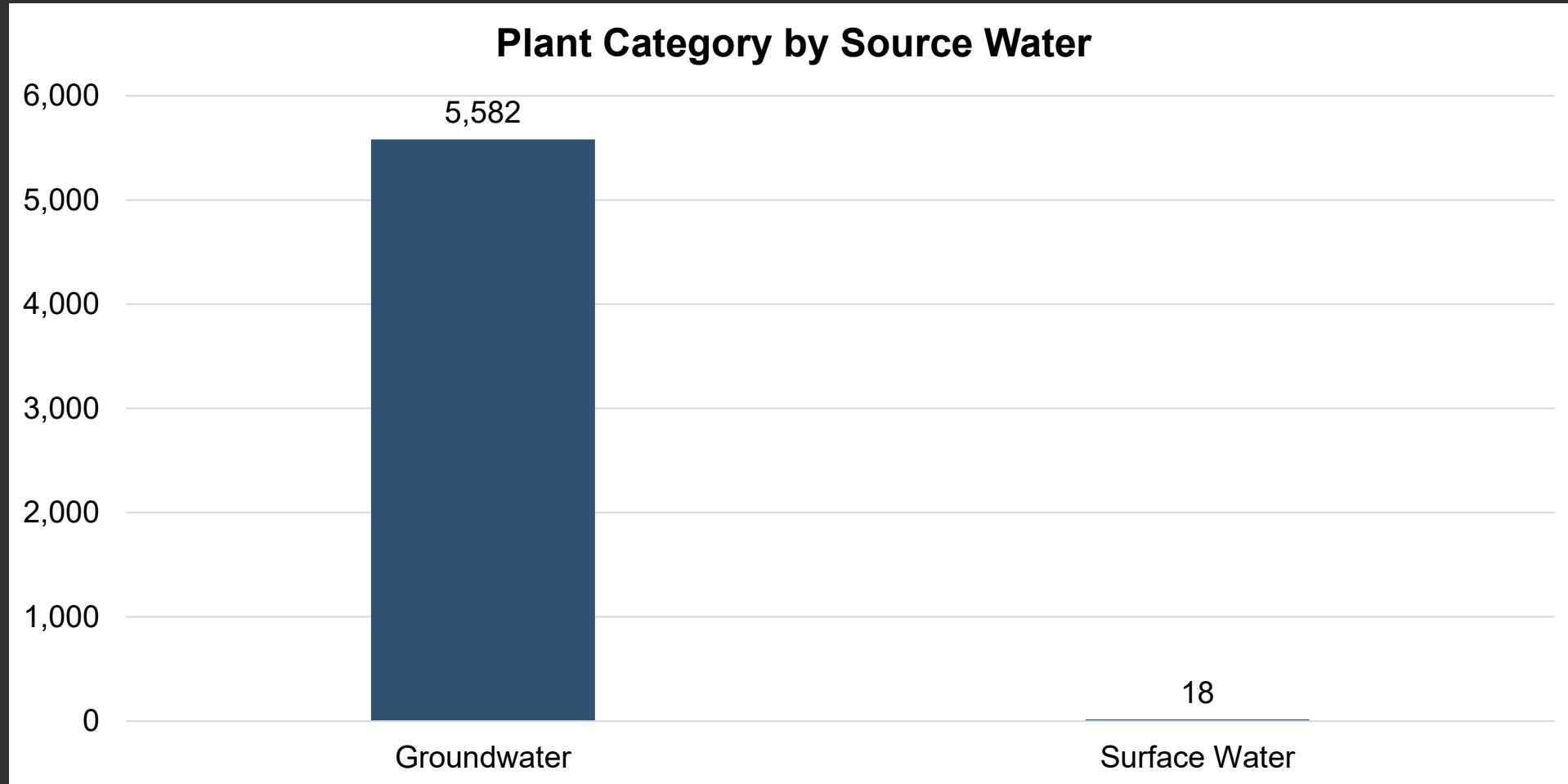
PUBLIC WATER SYSTEMS: FIVE LARGEST WATER SYSTEMS





FLORIDA OVERVIEW

PUBLIC WATER SYSTEMS: PLANT CATEGORY BY SOURCE WATER





CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

JAN. 1, 2024 – NOV. 30, 2025

- Florida Rural Water Association (FRWA) circuit riders conducted 3,309 technical assistance visits to drinking water systems.
 - 1,082 actual compliance visits.
 - 913 potential compliance visits.
 - 1,314 outreach visits were conducted.
 - 23 wellhead protection plans and four source water protection plans were completed.
 - These plans encompass 85 water systems and a population of 1,062,310.
- FRWA trainer held 19 classes.
 - 331 operators earned continuing education units (CEUs).
- 25 public water system audits were completed.
- 132 water systems were assisted with long range planning and capacity analysis.



U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY UPDATES

Drinking Water Updates



EPA UPDATES

- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has recently completed rulemaking for the following areas:
 - Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS).
 - Consumer confidence reports.
 - Lead and copper rule improvements.
 - Perchlorate.



VOLUNTARY LEAD TESTING PROGRAM FOR SCHOOLS AND CHILDCARE FACILITIES

Drinking Water Updates



LEAD TESTING PROGRAM

SAMPLES COLLECTED AS OF DECEMBER 2025

| | COUNTIES | SAMPLES | FACILITIES |
|----------------------------------|----------|---------|------------|
| Schools | 15 | 37,804 | 635 |
| Childcare Facilities/Head Starts | 33 | 1,863 | 125 |
| TOTAL | 39* | 36,524 | 711 |

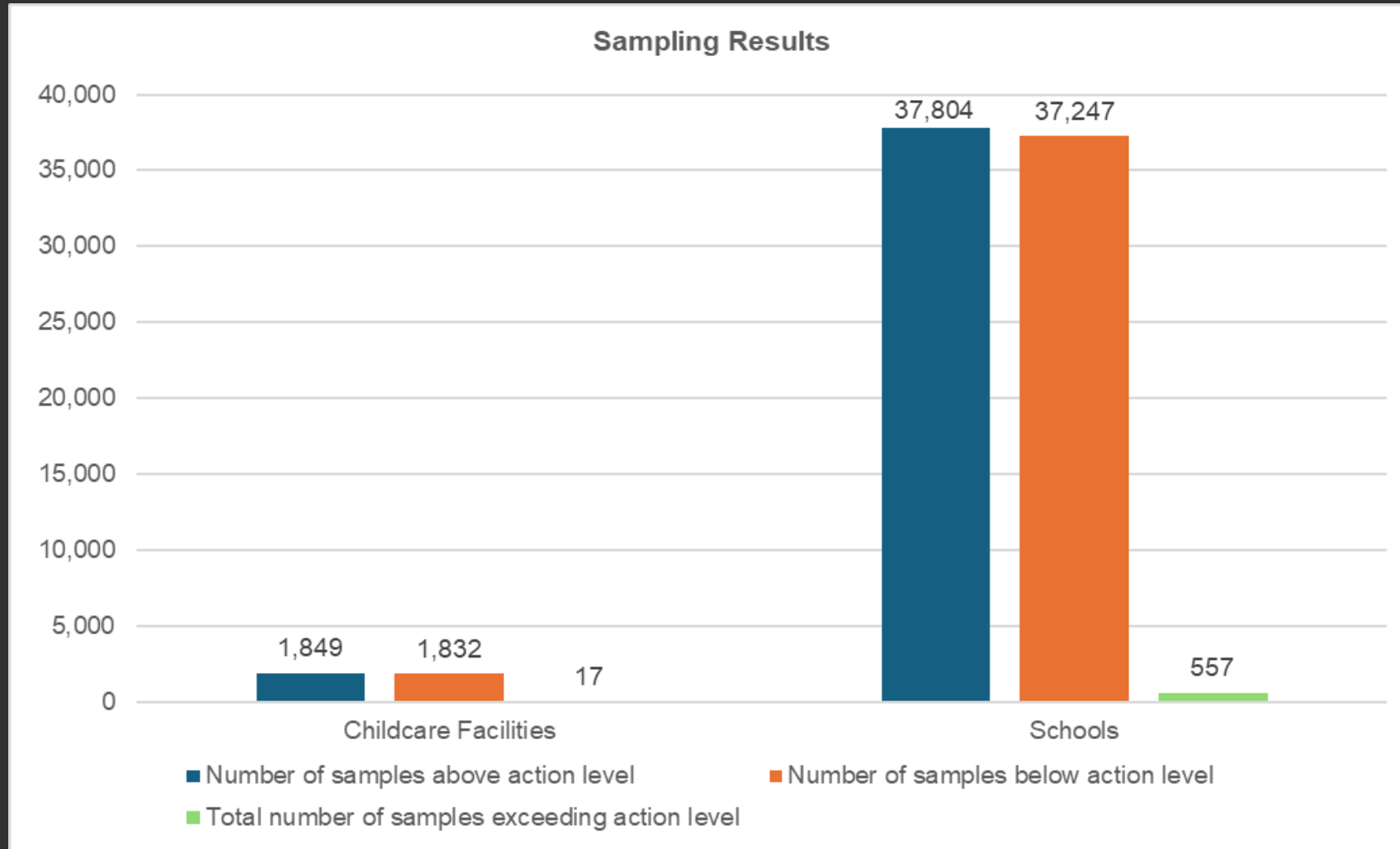
| | SCHOOLS | CHILDCARE FACILITIES |
|-------------------|----------|----------------------|
| POPULATION | ~384,961 | ~4,462 |

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



LEAD TESTING DATA

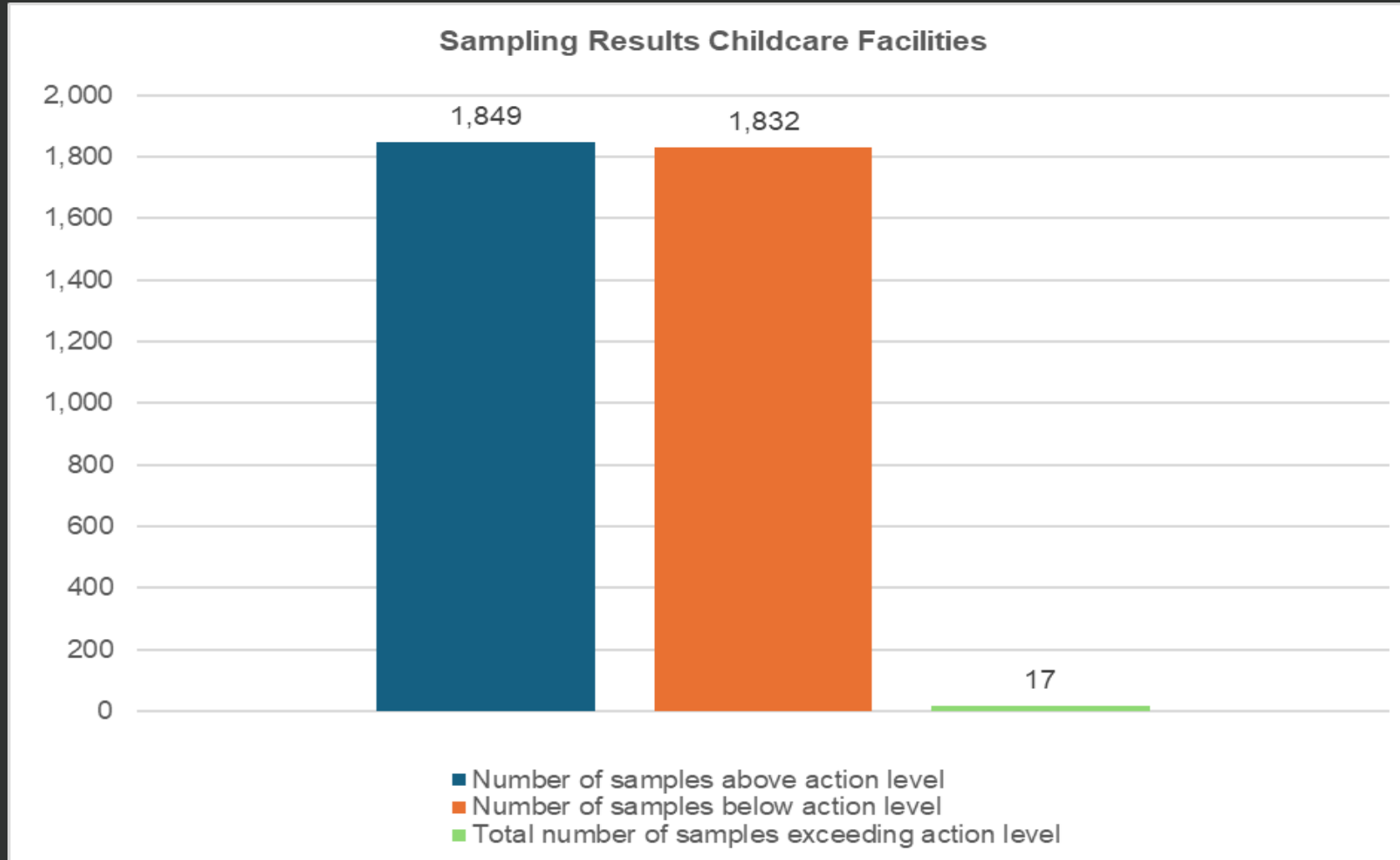
SAMPLING RESULTS IN SCHOOLS AND CHILDCARE FACILITIES





LEAD TESTING DATA

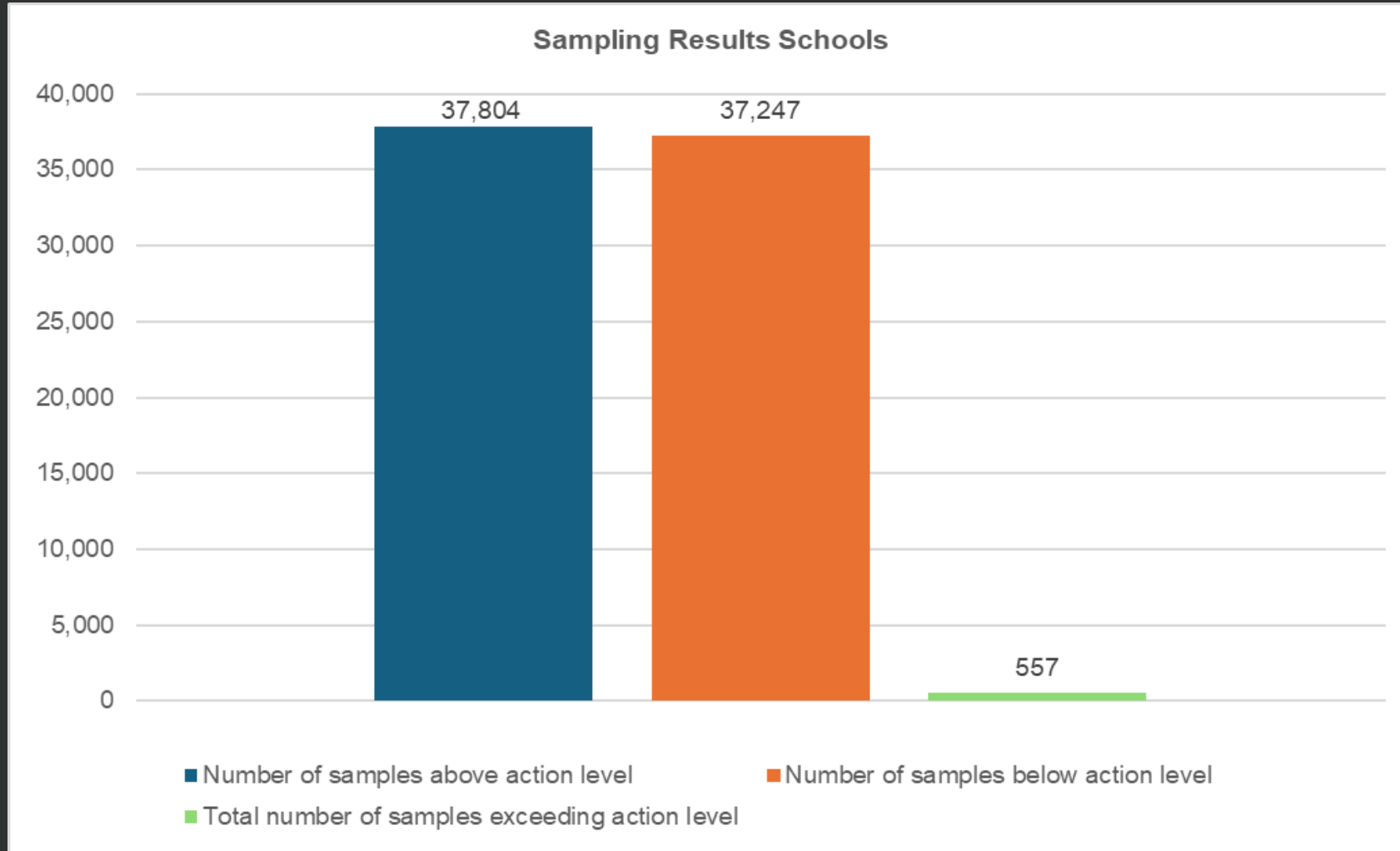
SAMPLING ANALYSIS: CHILDCARE FACILITIES





LEAD TESTING DATA

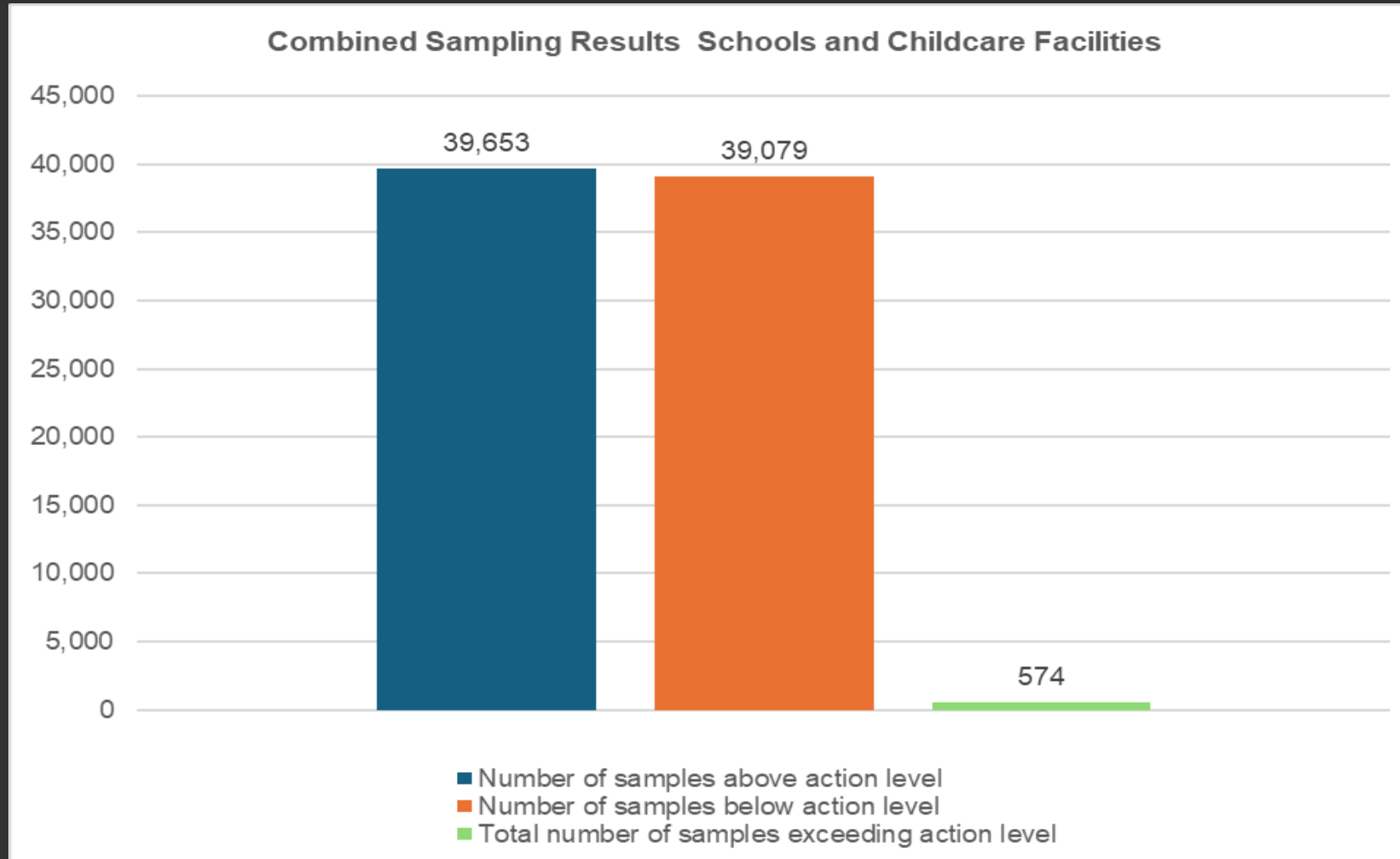
SAMPLING ANALYSIS: SCHOOLS





LEAD TESTING DATA

SAMPLING ANALYSIS: COMBINED





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 approved program.
 - The program complies with the eligibility criteria.
 - The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) can issue waivers at any time for schools and childcare facilities sampled under a qualifying program between Jan. 1, 2021, and Nov. 1, 2027.



LEAD TESTING FUNDING

- EPA has awarded Florida \$9.1 million to support the sampling and analysis of lead in schools and childcare facilities.
 - As of December 2025, with assistance from FRWA, Florida has spent \$1.5 million.
 - Future funding is anticipated to be available.



LEAD AND COPPER 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 assist with:
 - The completion of service line replacement, regardless of pipe material and ownership of the service line.
 - Corrosion control planning and design as well as associated capital infrastructure projects.



LEAD AND COPPER RULE IMPROVEMENTS

Drinking Water Updates



LEAD AND COPPER RULE IMPROVEMENTS

SERVICE LINE INVENTORY MATERIAL CLASSIFICATION

- 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 December 2025, the following service line material classifications have been inventoried:
 - 5,207 lead lines.
 - 5,879,000 non-lead lines.
 - 34,494 galvanized requiring replacement (GRR) lines.
 - 1,462,628 unknown lines.



LEAD AND COPPER RULE IMPROVEMENTS

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 to DEP 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.
- Systems will continue refining the inventory and identifying the material of “unknown” service connections and connectors until all service lines and connectors have been identified and classified.



LEAD AND COPPER RULE IMPROVEMENTS

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 a lead ALE.
- A copy of the Tier 1 Public Notice (PN) for lead ALEs must be sent to DEP and EPA, no later than 24 hours after the system learns of the exceedance.
- All Tier 1 PNs must include the revised lead health effects language.
 - From Oct. 16, 2024, through the LCRI compliance date of Nov. 1, 2027, a Tier 1 PN is triggered by a lead ALE of 0.015 mg/L.
 - Starting on Nov. 1, 2027, a Tier 1 PN is triggered by a lead ALE of 0.010 mg/L.



POTABLE REUSE

Drinking Water Updates



POTABLE REUSE

- New Chapter 62-565, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), **Potable Reuse**, became effective Feb. 26, 2025.
 - Establishes a regulatory framework for direct and indirect potable reuse and the permitting of an advanced treatment water 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)

- 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 advanced 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 updates to ensure consistency with changes to other chapters and the creation of Chapter 62-565, F.A.C.



CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT REVISIONS

Drinking Water Updates



CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT

- Consumer confidence reports (CCRs) will need to meet the new requirements beginning in 2027.
- Some of the key revisions include:
 - A summary of the contents must be displayed prominently at the beginning of the report.
 - New definitions.
 - Changes in language for sources and categories of contaminants for better clarification.
 - Changes in language for arsenic and nitrate.



CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORTS (2)

- Systems serving 100,000+ persons will be required to develop and annually update a plan to assist consumers with limited English proficiency.
- Systems serving a population of 10,000 or more must distribute the CCR twice per year, by July 1 and Dec. 31.
- New section regarding lead and the lead service line inventory.



QUESTIONS?

Drinking Water Updates



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