

Webinar Training Series

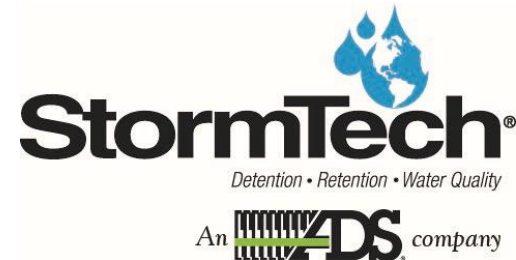


Trends in Stormwater Utilities in the Southeast
Findings from SESWA's 2019 Survey of Stormwater Utilities

July 18, 2019
10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. (Eastern)

www.SESWA.org

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Today's Presenters



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2019 Southeast Stormwater Utility Survey

Presented by

David Mason, P.E.

Scott McClelland

CDM Smith



Acknowledgements

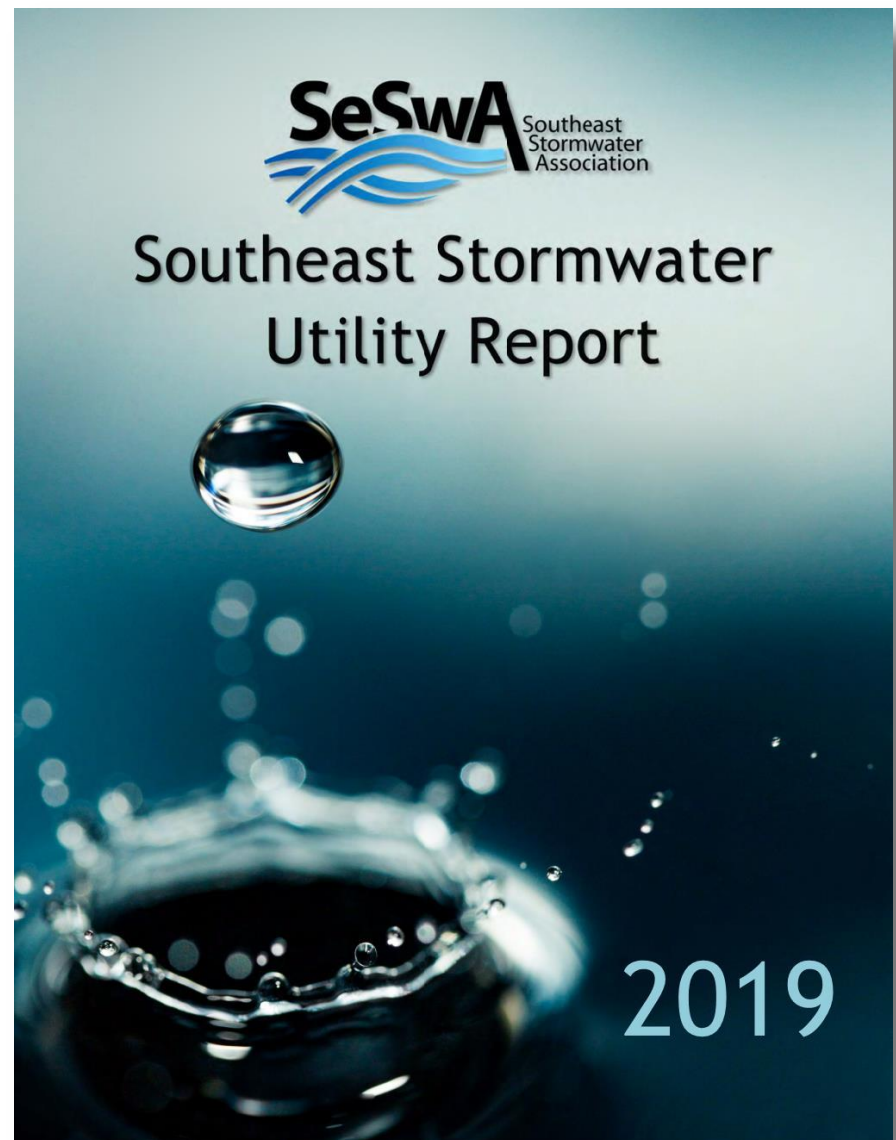


- Southeast Stormwater Association
- Responding SWU's
- Survey Sponsors

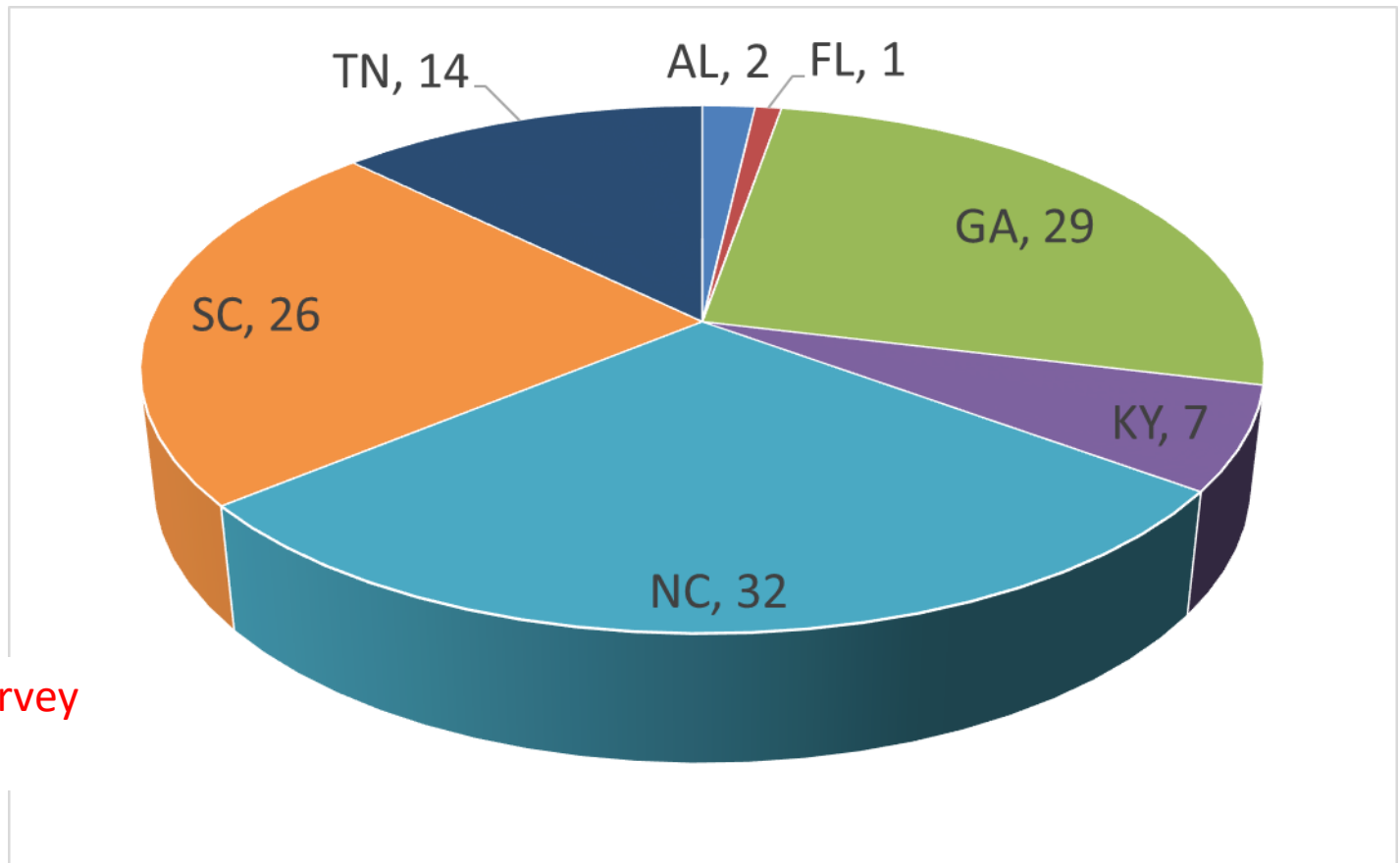


Survey Outline

- Utility Characteristics
- Utility Fees and Rates
- Stormwater Program
- Public Information

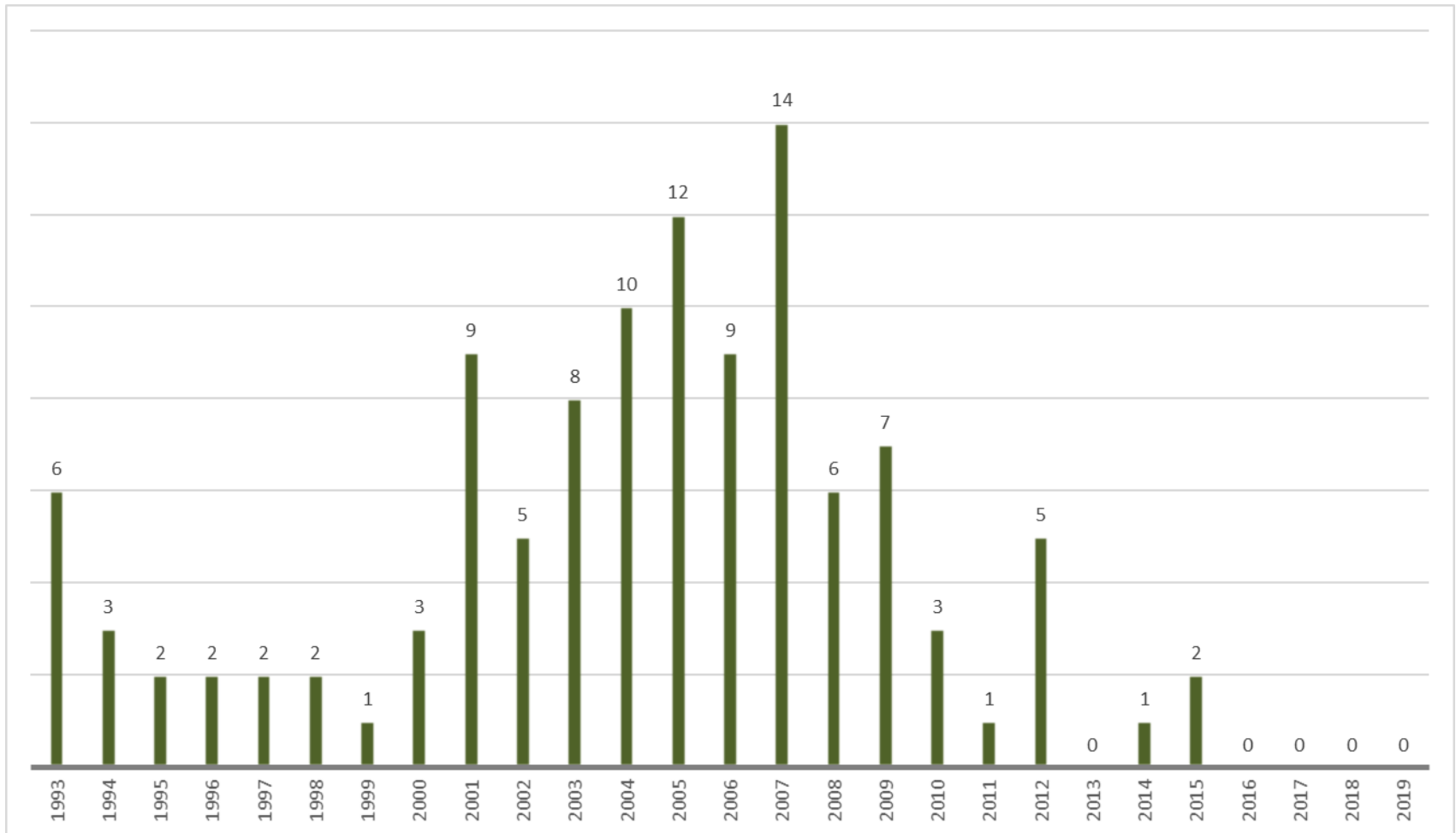


Survey Respondents (115)



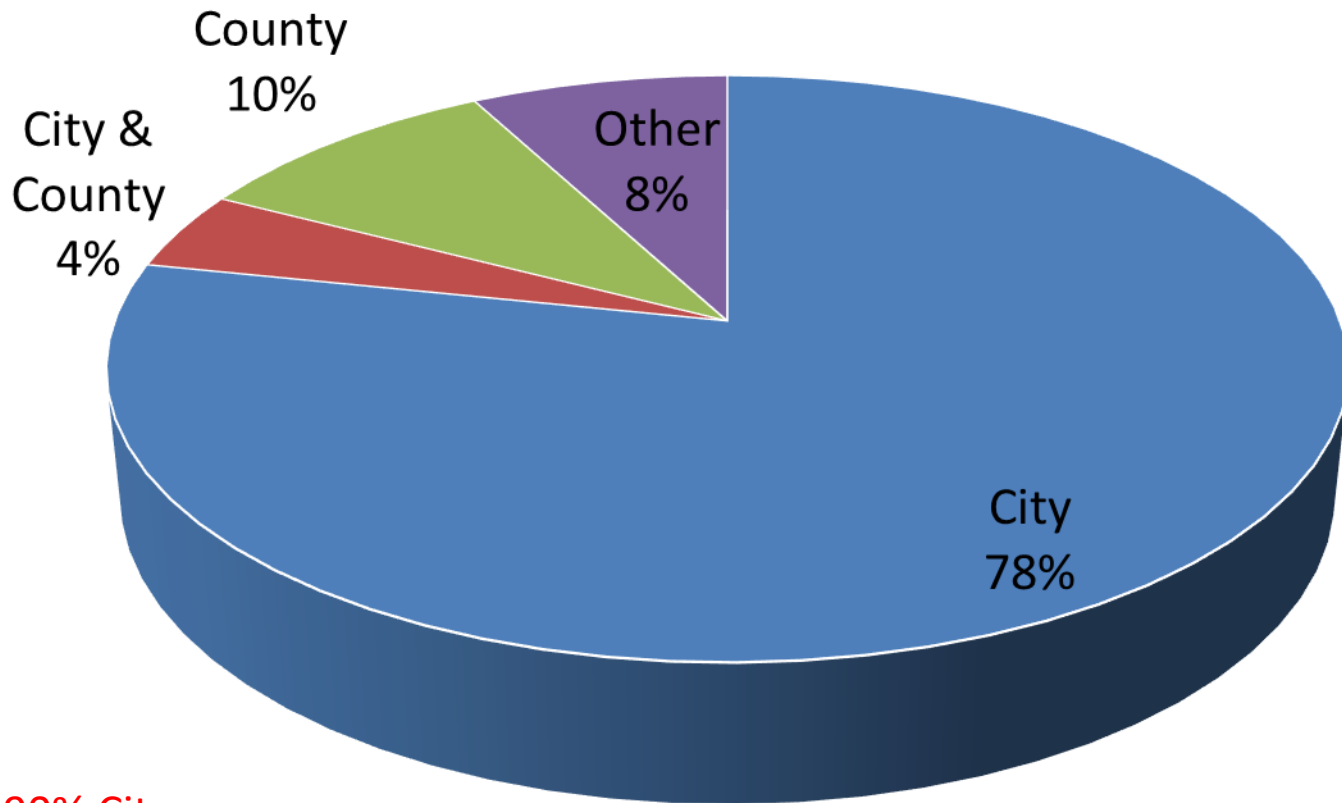
FSA 2018 Florida Survey
= 136 Respondents

Year Established



Service Area

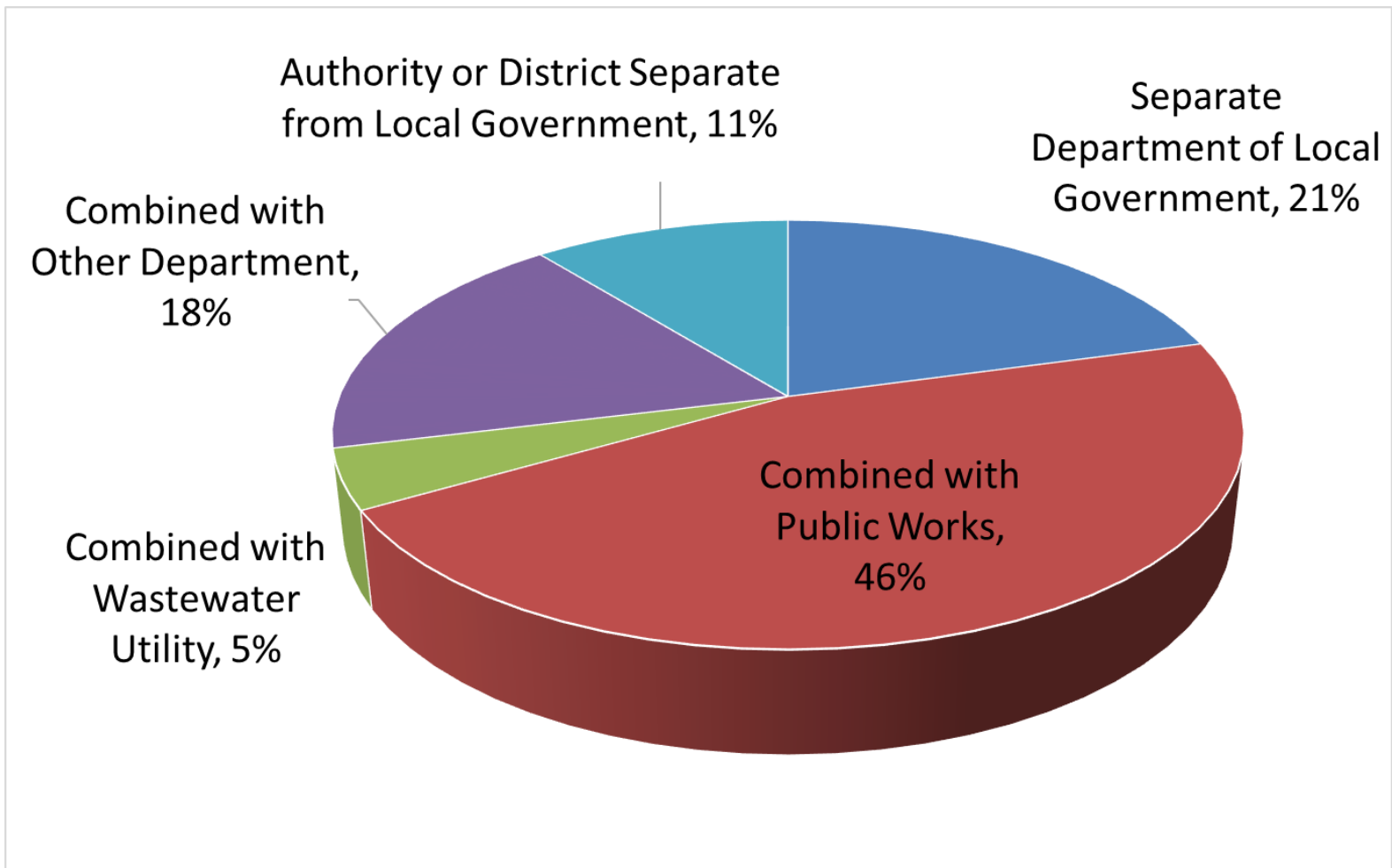
City Represented 74%
in 2017



FSA Survey: 90% City

Utility Organization

	2017	2019
Separate Dept	17%	21%
With Public Works	50%	46%
With Water	4%	5%
Withy Other	17%	18%
Authority/District	12%	11%



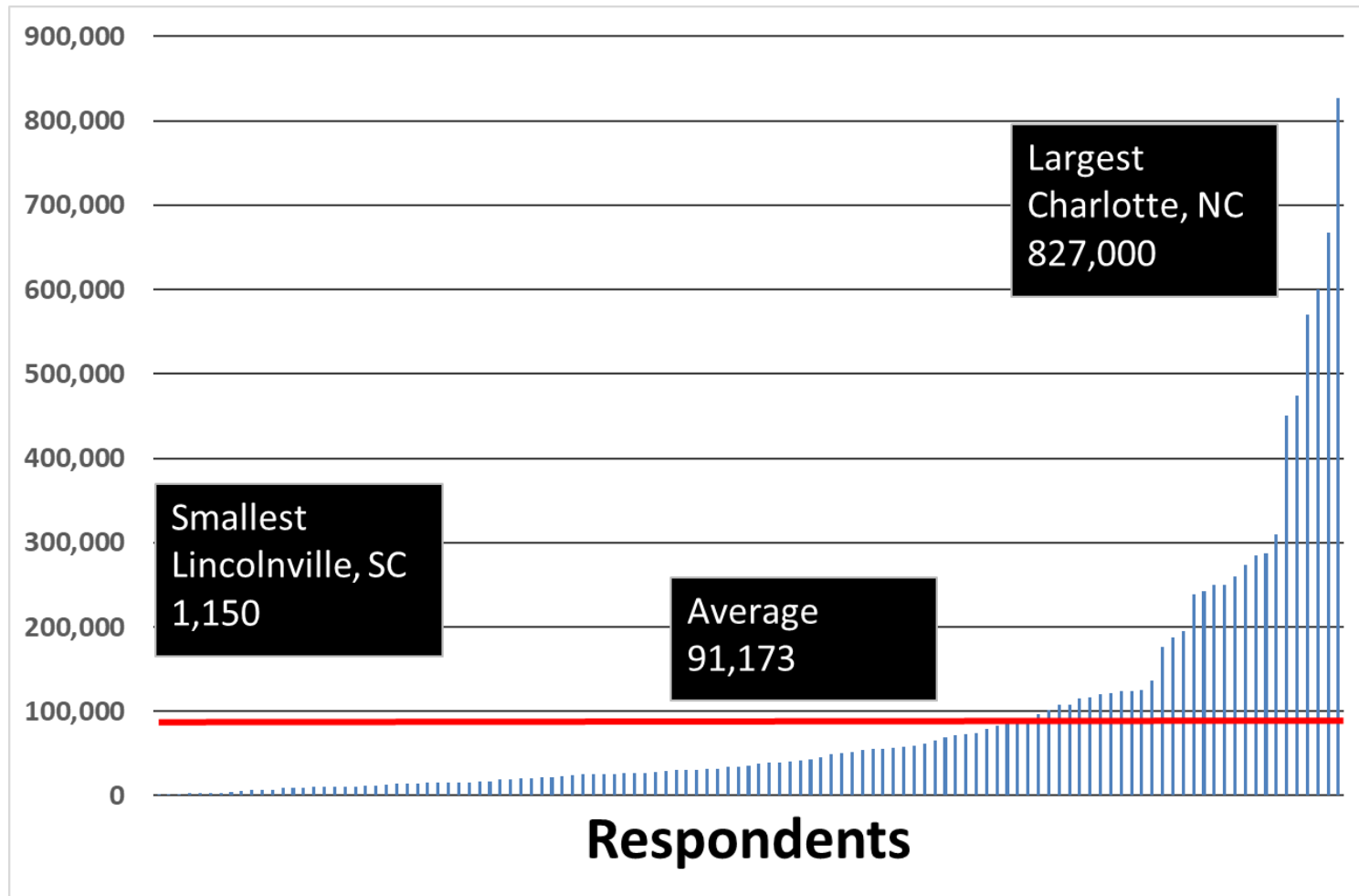
Population Served

Trending Down

2007 Avg = 135,392

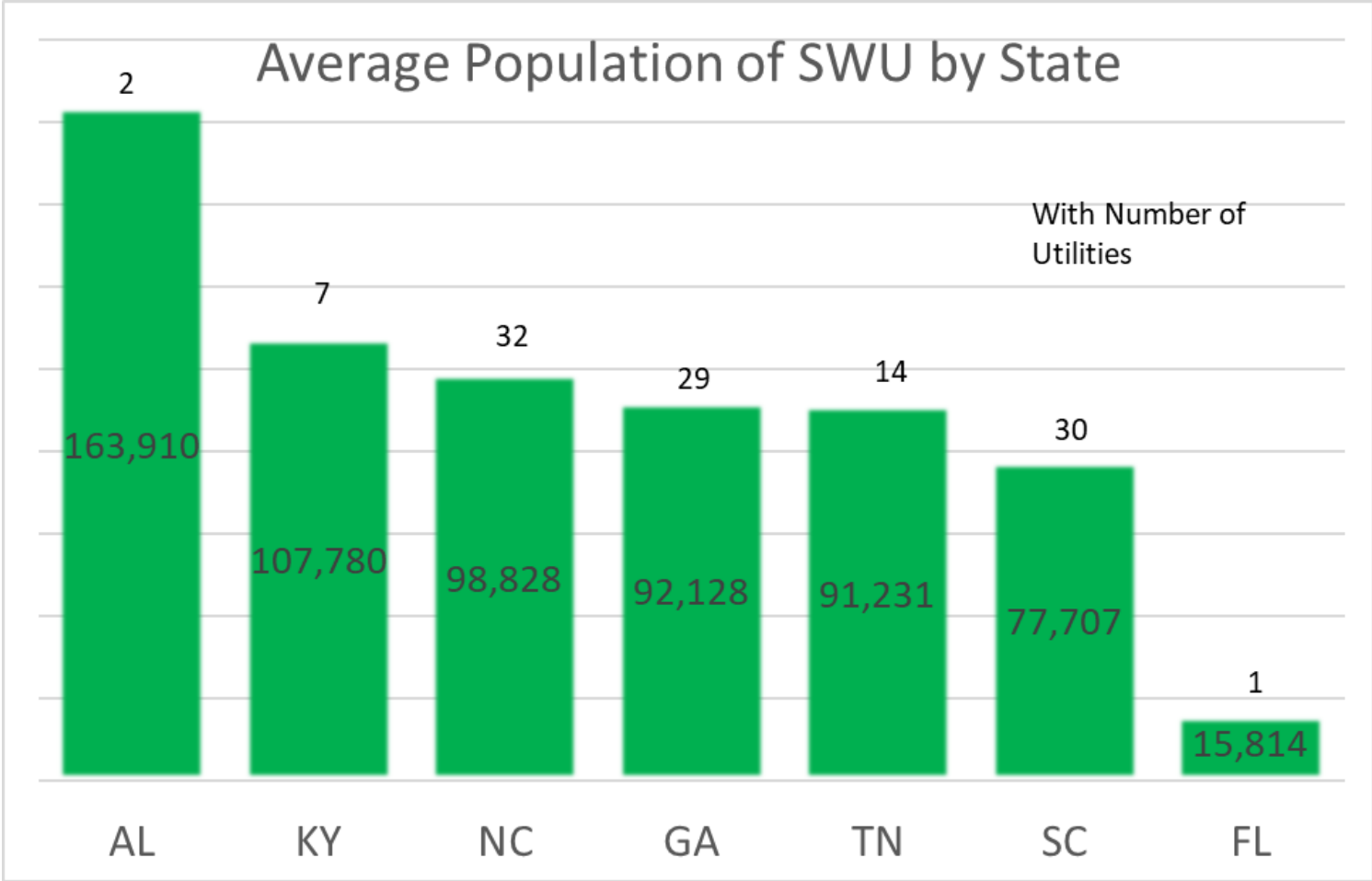
2015 Avg = 103,535

2019 Avg = 91,173



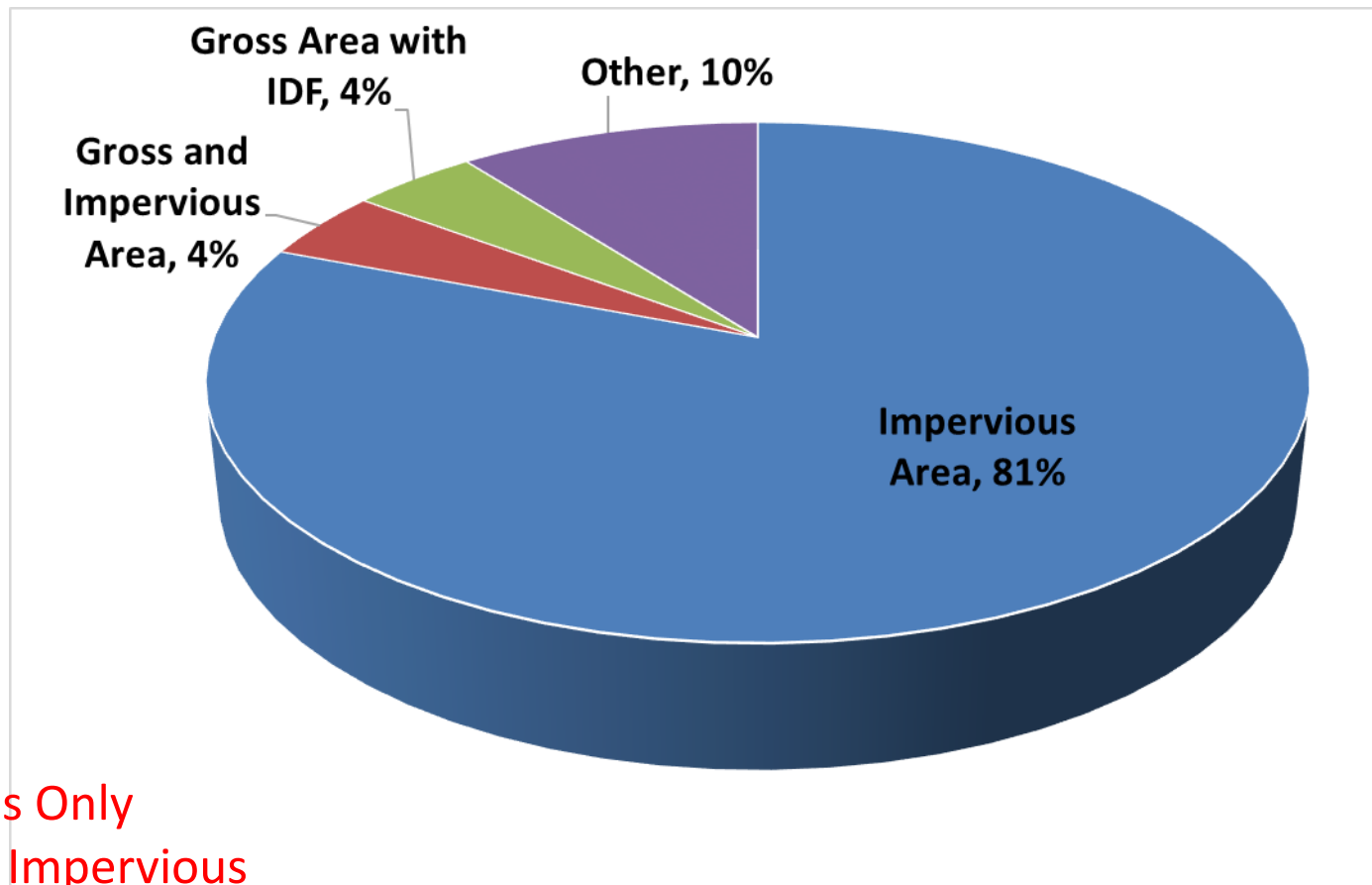
FSA Survey Average
Population = 88,420

Population Served by State



Basis of Fee

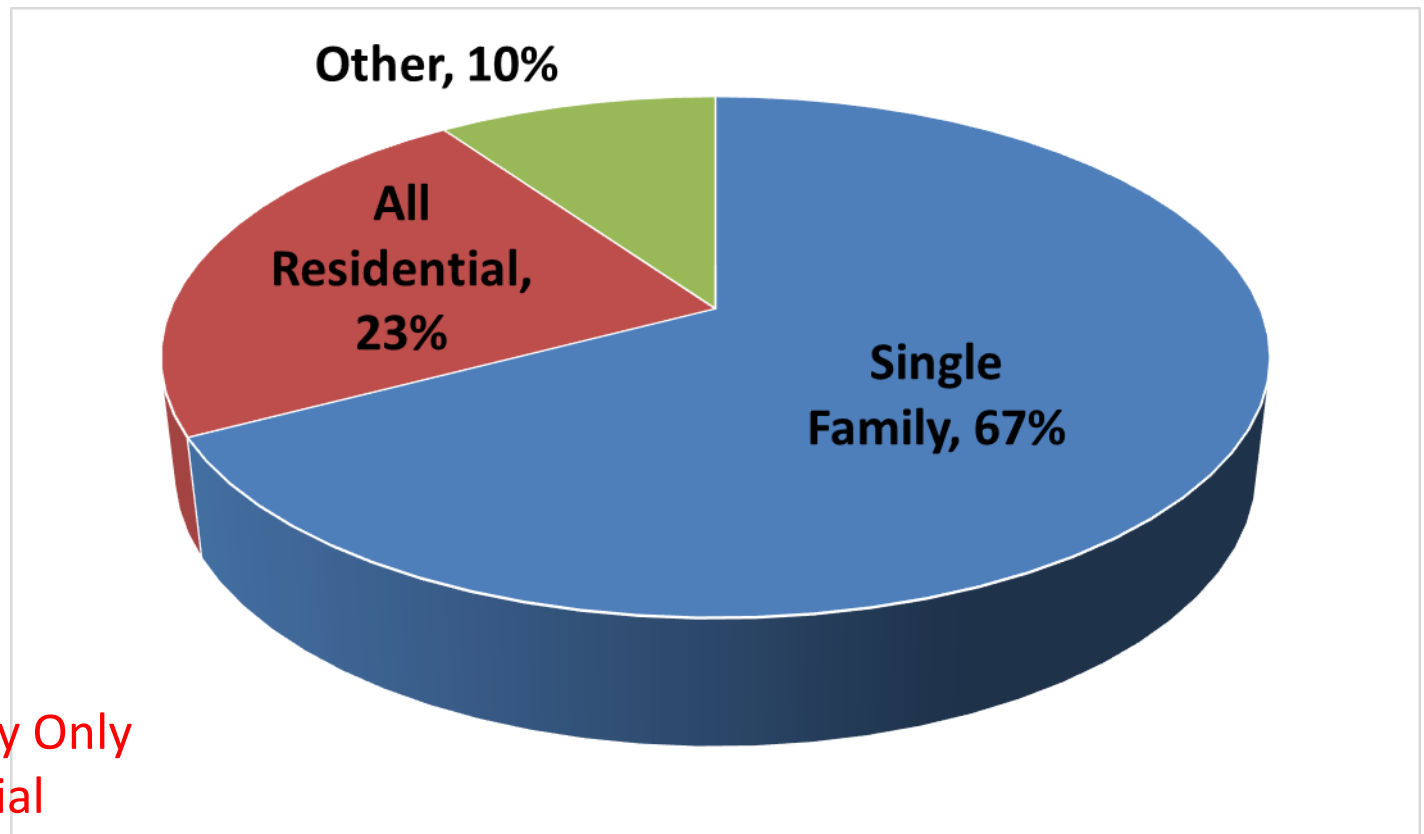
Use of Impervious Area
as the basis is still
trending upward



FSA Survey:
69% Impervious Only
14% Gross and Impervious

Basis of Average Billing Unit

The highest percentages are SC (92%) and KY (86%)



FSA Survey:
56% Single Family Only
35% All Residential

Fees Do Not Vary by Location within a Community

- Do Fees Vary by Watershed?
 - Only one....Rockdale County, GA
- Are Fees Charged Differently within a “Zone of Benefit?”
 - None.

FSA Survey:

3 (2%) by Watershed

4 (3%) by “Zone of Benefit”

Billing Unit (sq. ft.)

4 have ERU > 14,000 sq ft

No Trends in Sq. Ft.

2007: 3,253

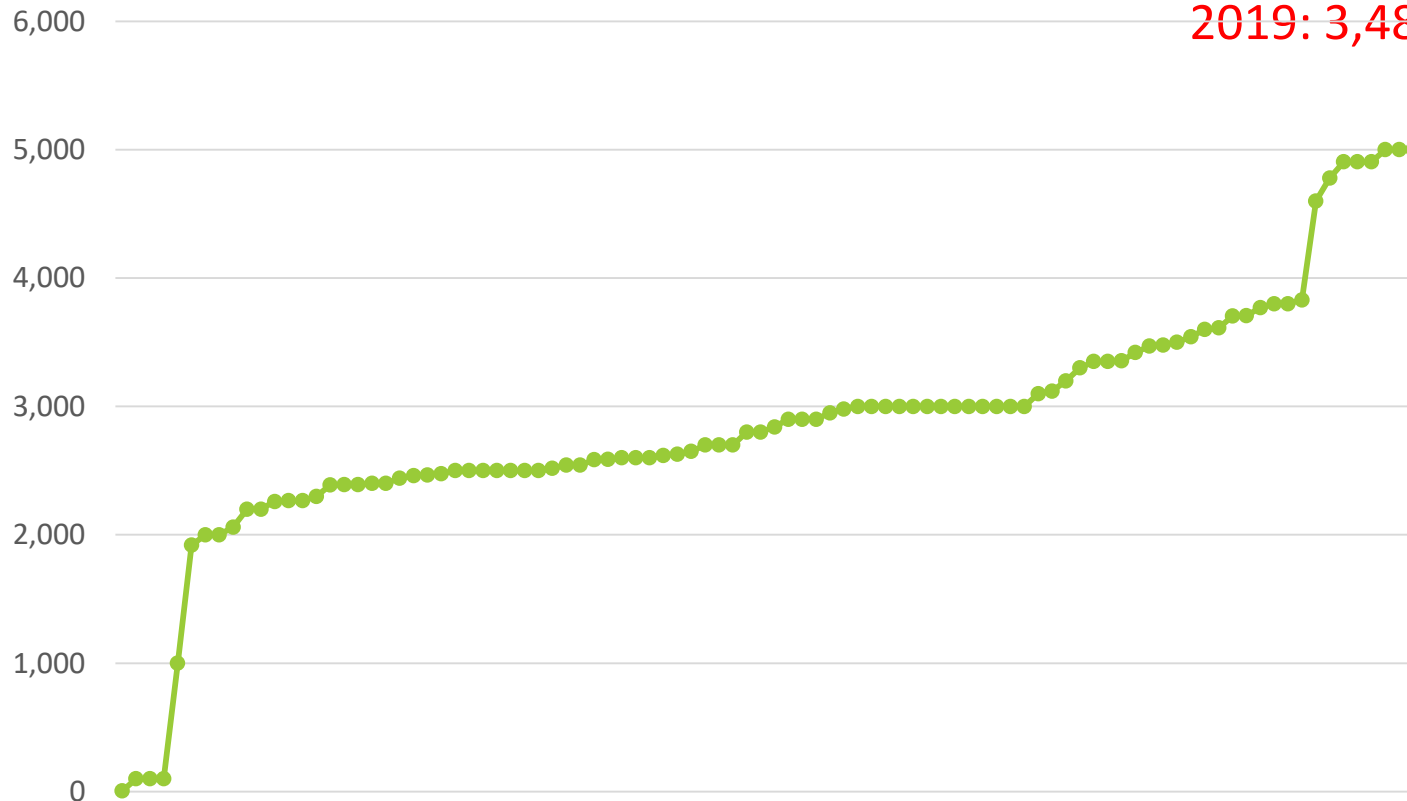
2009: 2,766

2011: 2,940

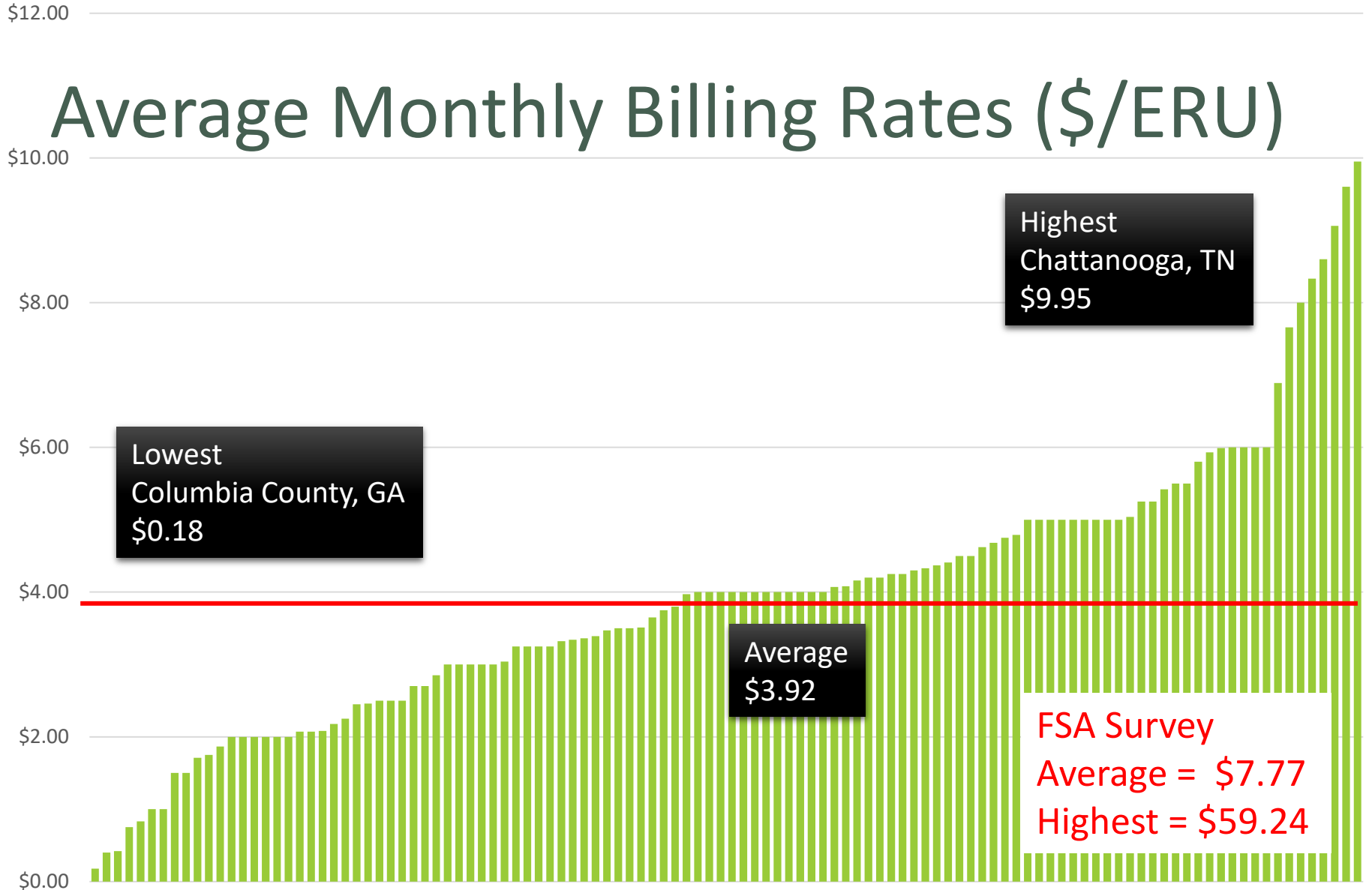
2013: 3,502

2015: 2,852

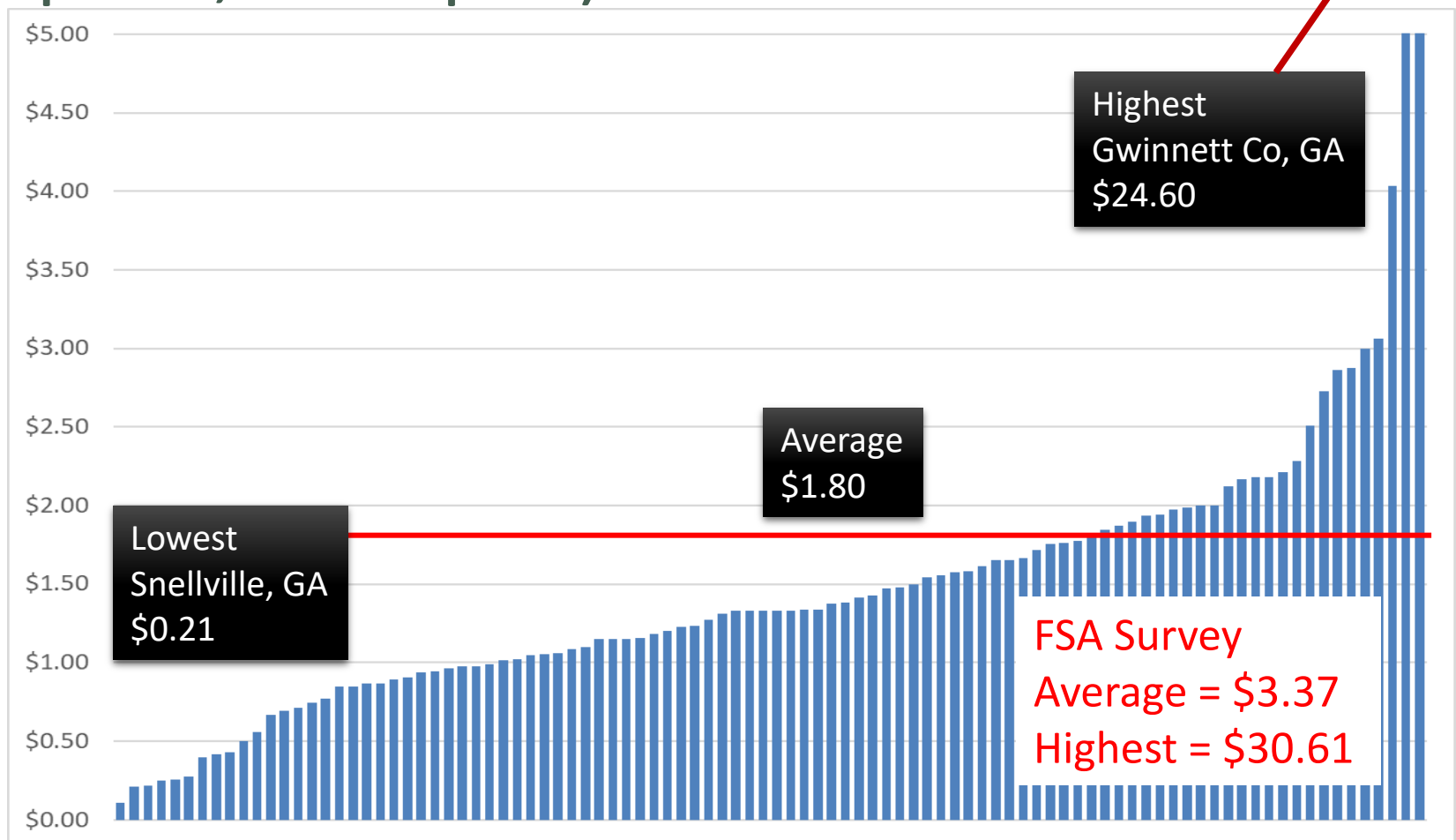
2019: 3,487



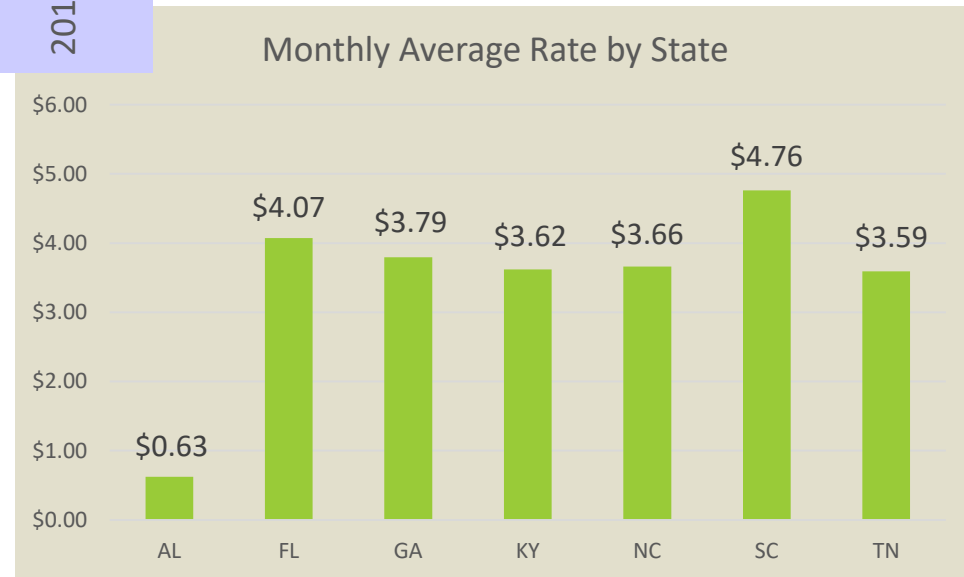
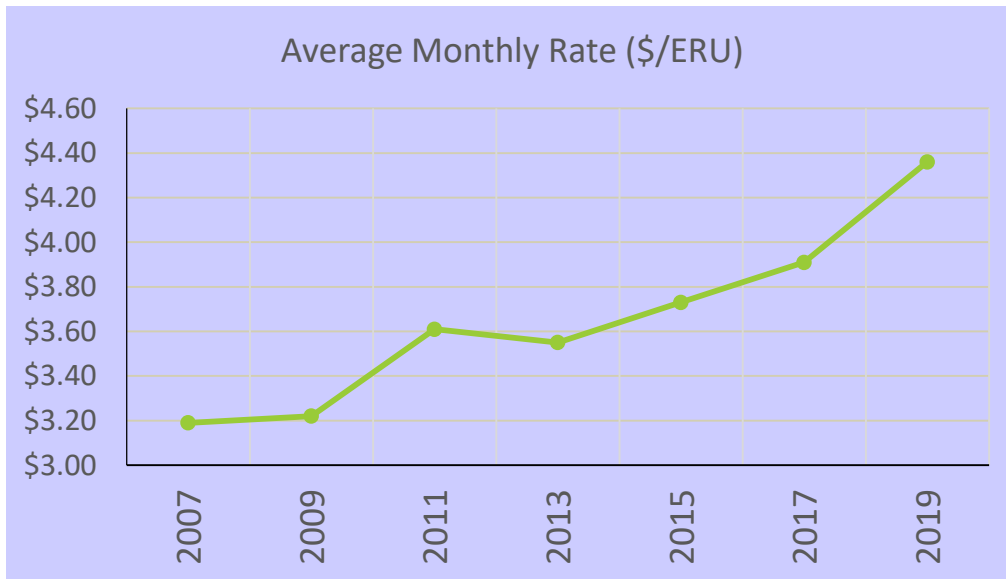
Average Monthly Billing Rates (\$/ERU)



Standardized Monthly Billing Rates (\$ per 1,000 sq. ft.)



Trends In Monthly Rate Data



Interim Rates Prior to Adoption

- 22% of Respondents Said Yes (78% No)

Legal Challenges

- 11% of Respondents Said Yes (89% No)

- 75% - Fee Sustained
- 17% - Settlement Reached
- 0% - Fee Not Sustained
- 8% - Other

FSA Survey

16 (12%) - Challenged

10 (63%) - Sustained or Settled

1 (6%) – Pending (now resolved)

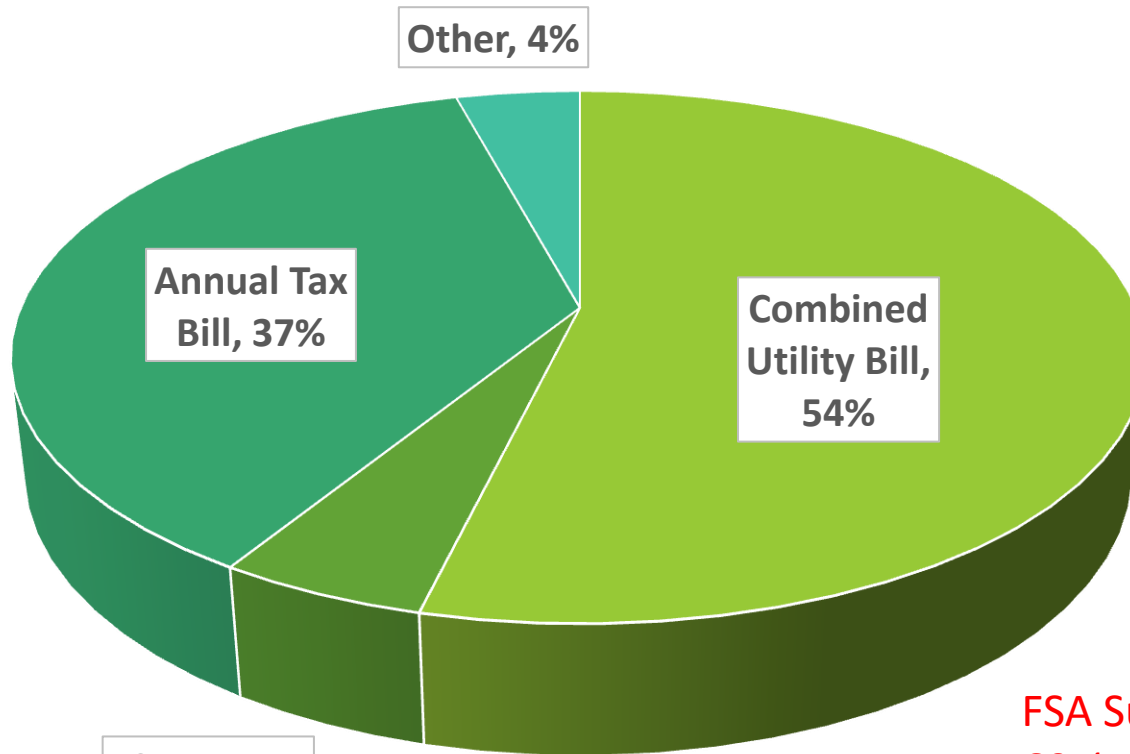
4 (25%) - Not Sustained

Questions About Utility Fees & Rates?



Method of Sending the Bill

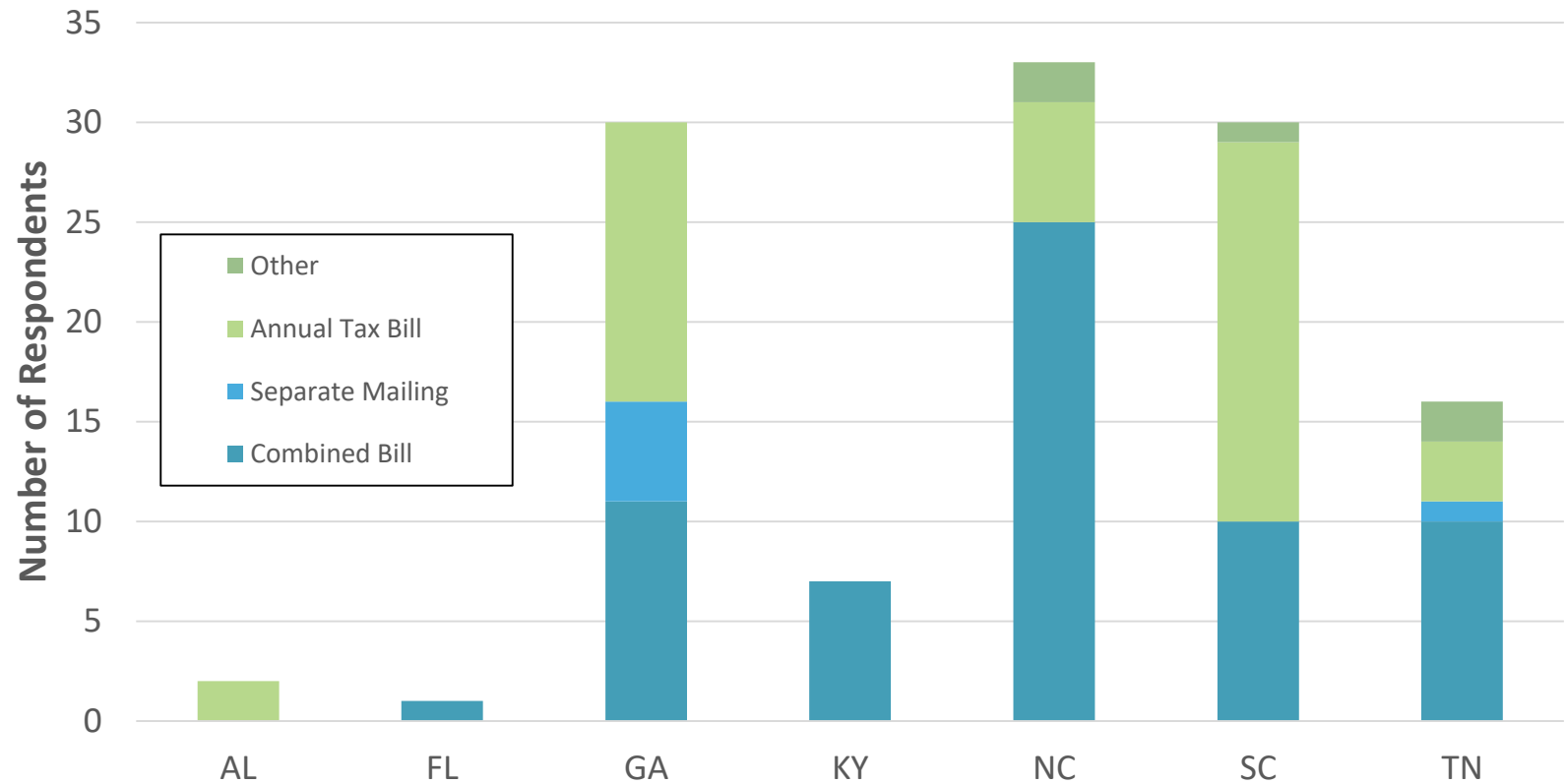
In 2007,
Combined Bill
was 54%, Tax
Bill was 29%



Separate
Mailing 5%

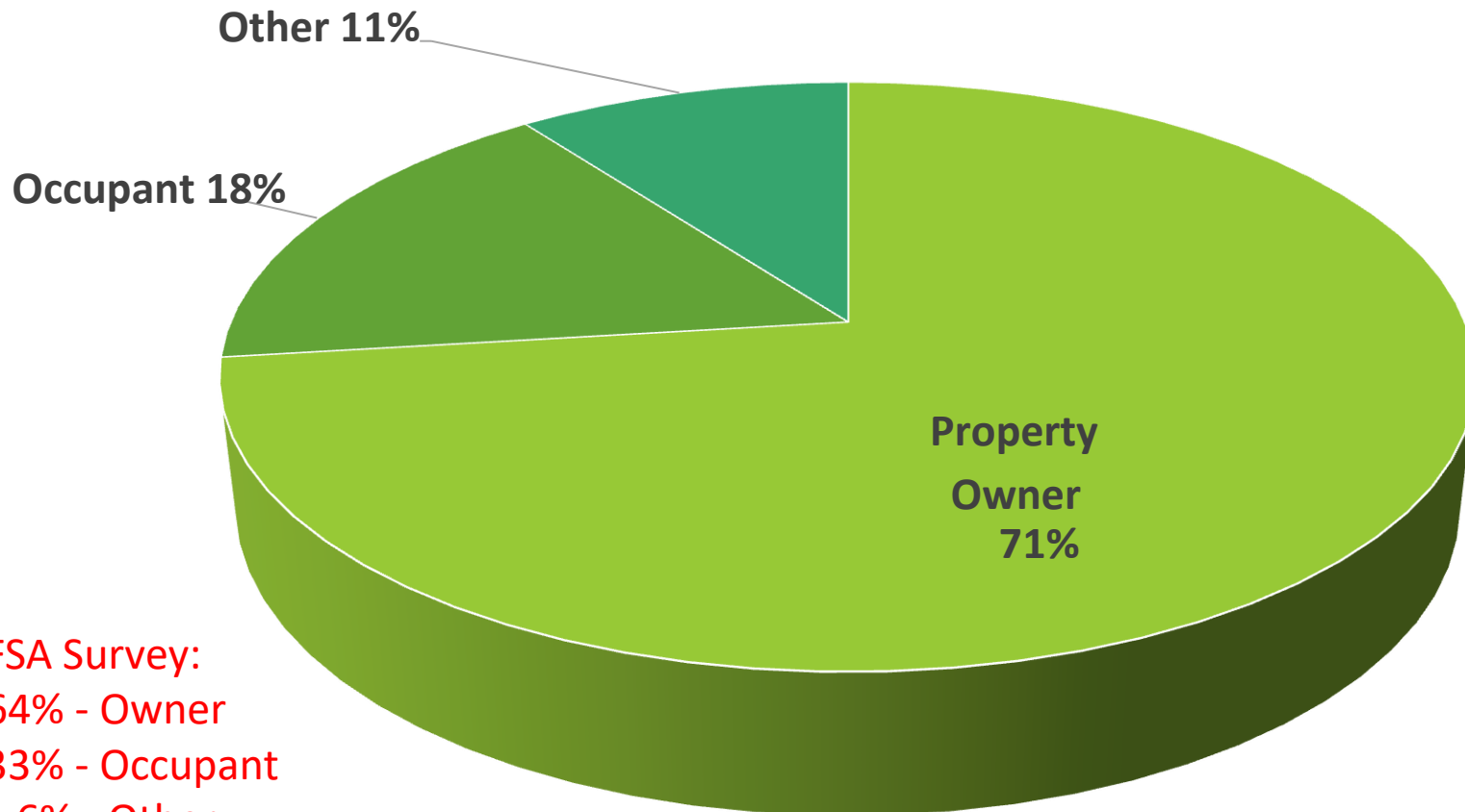
FSA Survey:
60% - Utility Bill
3% - Separate Mailing
31% - Tax Bill

Billing Method by State



Who Pays the Bill?

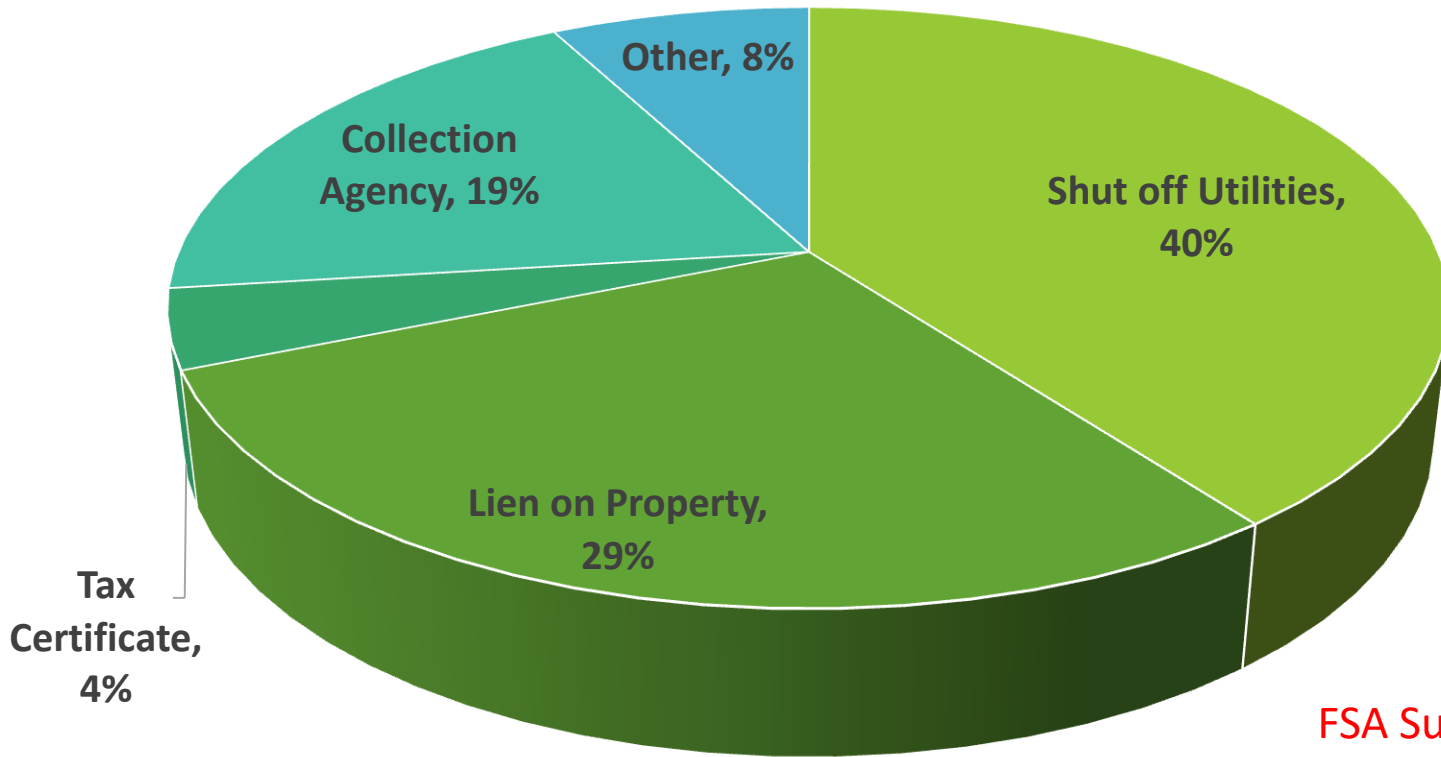
Similar
distribution in
2007 survey



FSA Survey:
64% - Owner
33% - Occupant
6% - Other

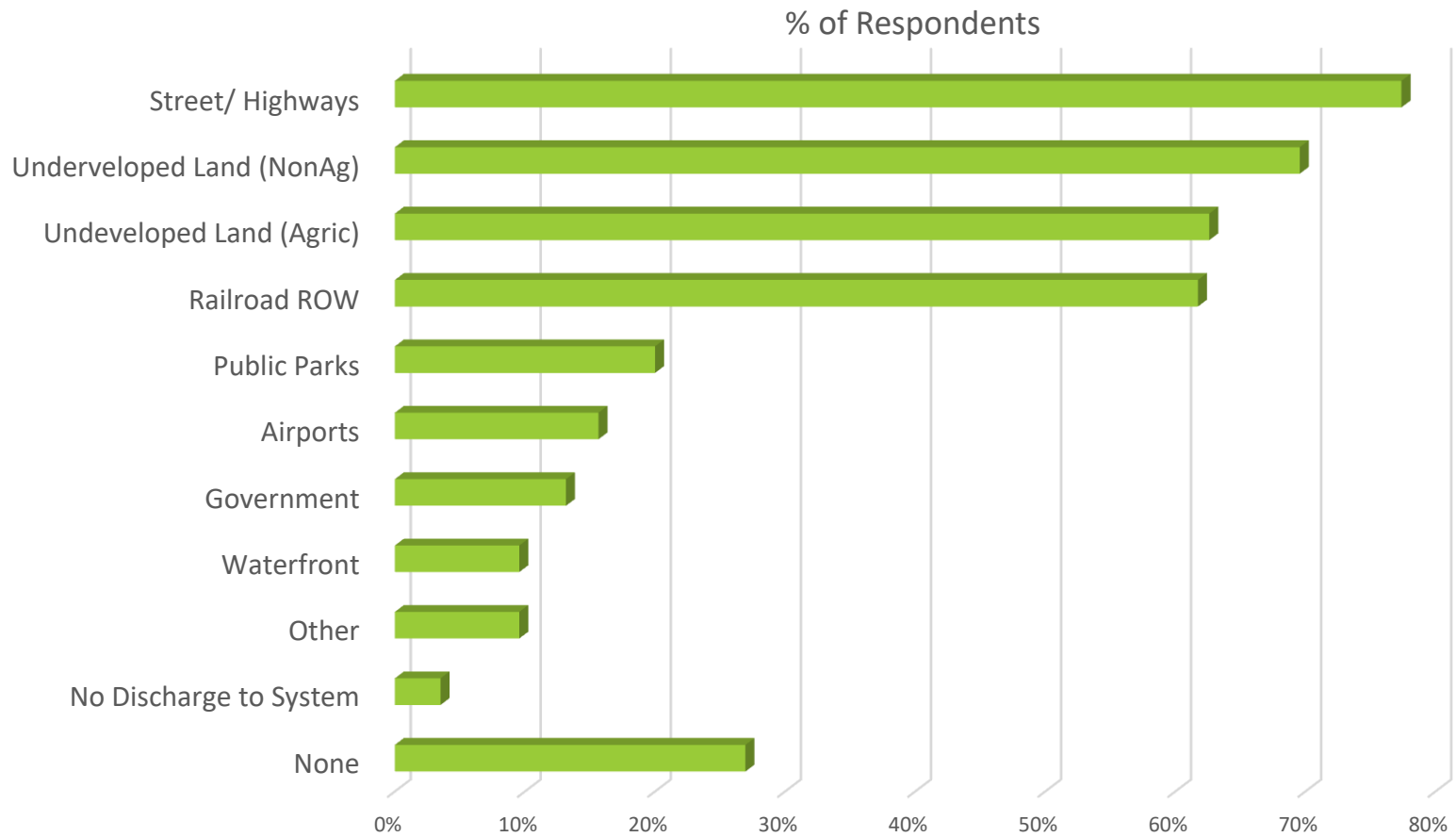
Enforcement

Similar
distribution in
2007 survey



FSA Survey:
48% - Utility Shutoff
35% - Lien on Property
26% - Tax Certificate
5% - Collection Agency

Fee Exemptions



Billing Practices for Government Properties

Type	Exempt		Bill and collect		Bill but don't collect		Not billed	
	2007	2019	2007	2019	2007	2019	2007	2019
Federal	10%	8%	80%	80%	8%	9%	3%	3%
State	13%	9%	68%	73%	13%	12%	8%	5%
County	7%	5%	83%	89%	5%	4%	5%	2%
City	10%	8%	79%	83%	0%	4%	10%	8%
School District	8%	8%	93%	88%	0%	5%	0%	0%
Special District	0%	5%	96%	89%	0%	0%	4%	6%



Increasing



Decreasing

Statistics Re: Credits

- Average # of Accounts that Receive Credits: 8%
- Average Credit Reduction: 23.2%
- Possible Credit Range: 0% to 100%



Credits for Private Detention Facilities

- Local Code Requires Private Detention/Retention Facilities – 102 (90%) of the Respondents Said Yes
- Credits Provided for Private Detention/Retention Facilities – 66 (61%) of the Respondents Said Yes

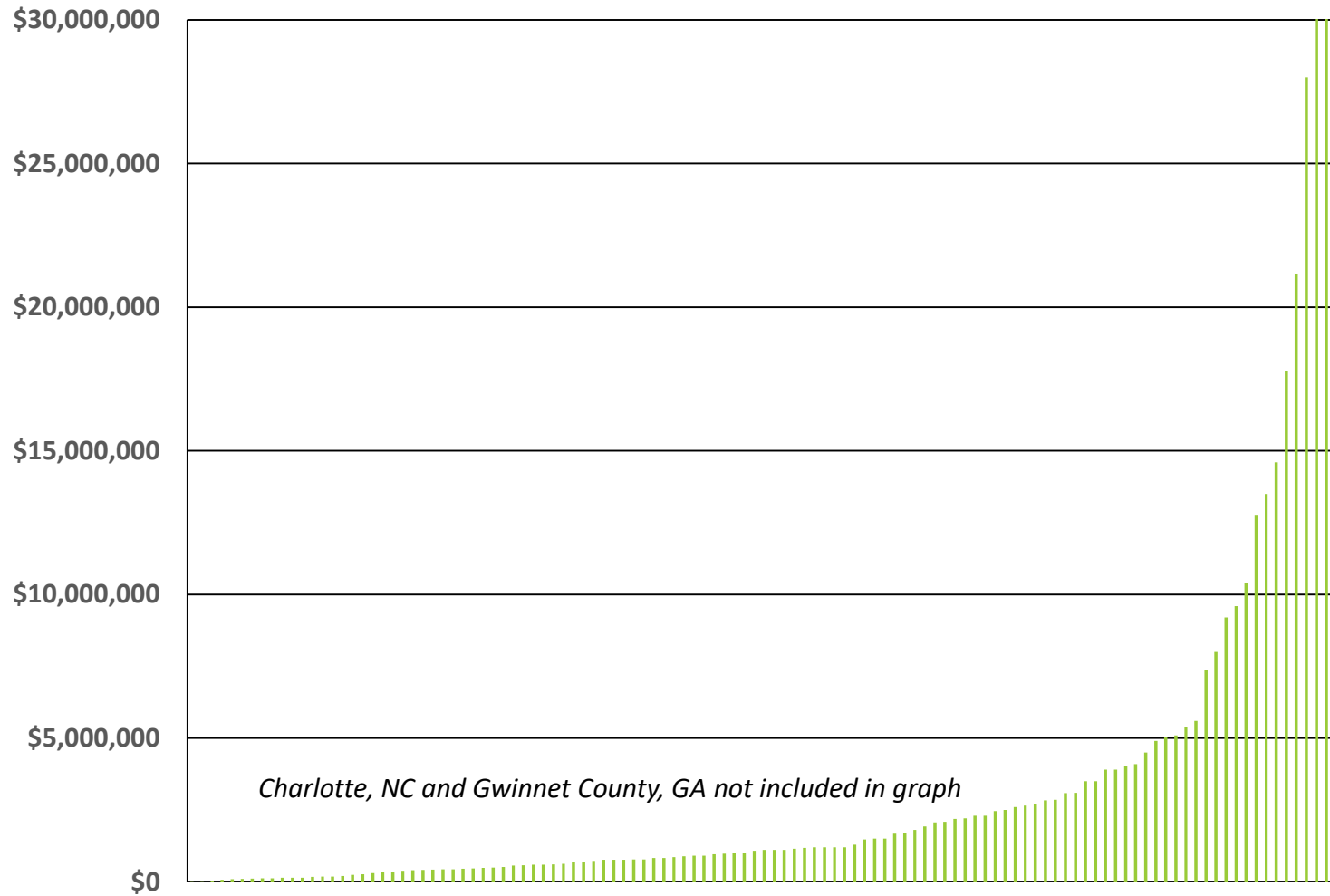
FSA 2018 Survey:

Local Code Requires Ponds – 83%

Credits for Private Ponds – 43%

\$389M for 115 SWUs

Stormwater Utility Revenue



2019 Per Capita Revenue

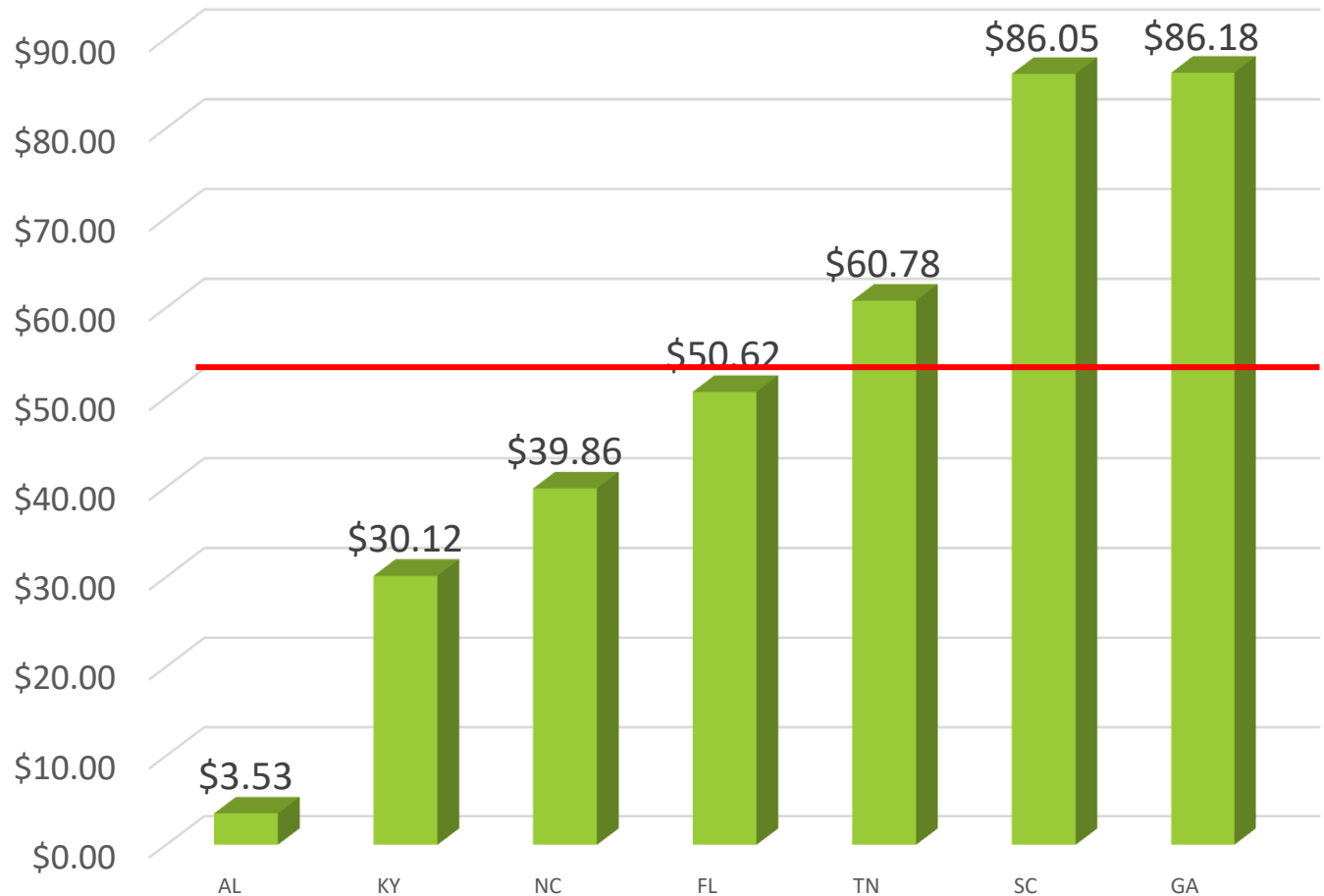
Average Per Capita Revenue in 2007 was \$32.50

All Respondents

Max - \$975

Avg - \$50

Min - \$0.03



FSA Survey

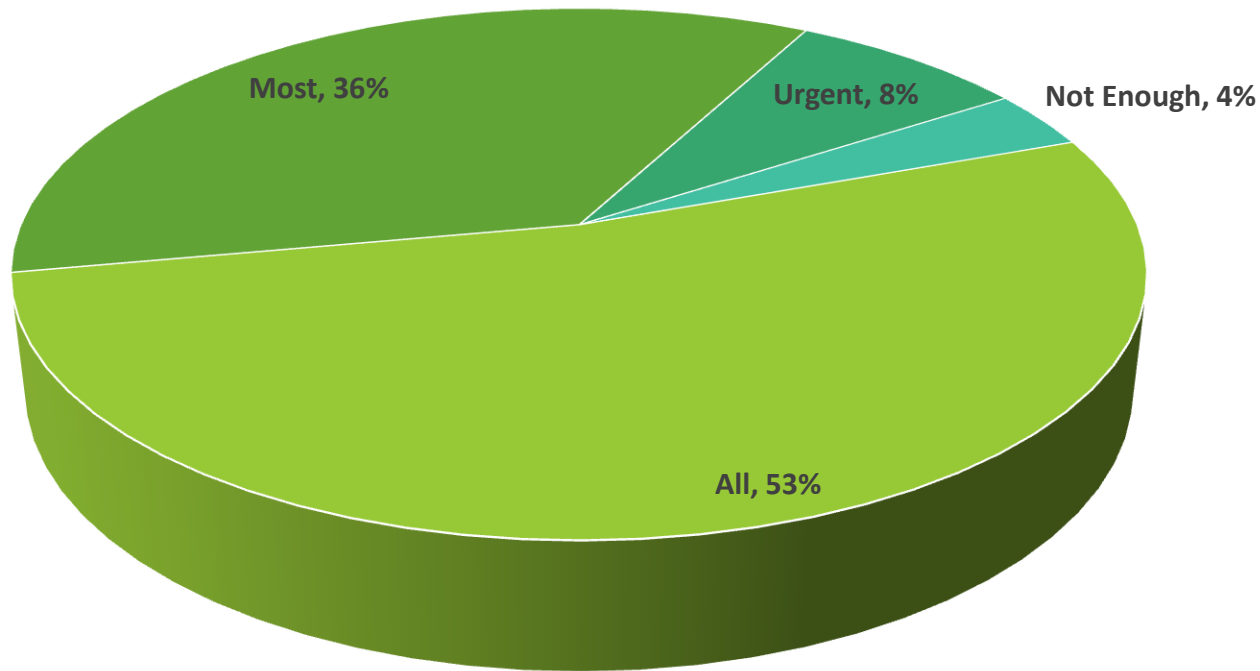
Max - \$2,134

Avg - \$75

Min - \$3

Adequacy of Fees

Administrative Costs



FSA Survey:

All – 57%

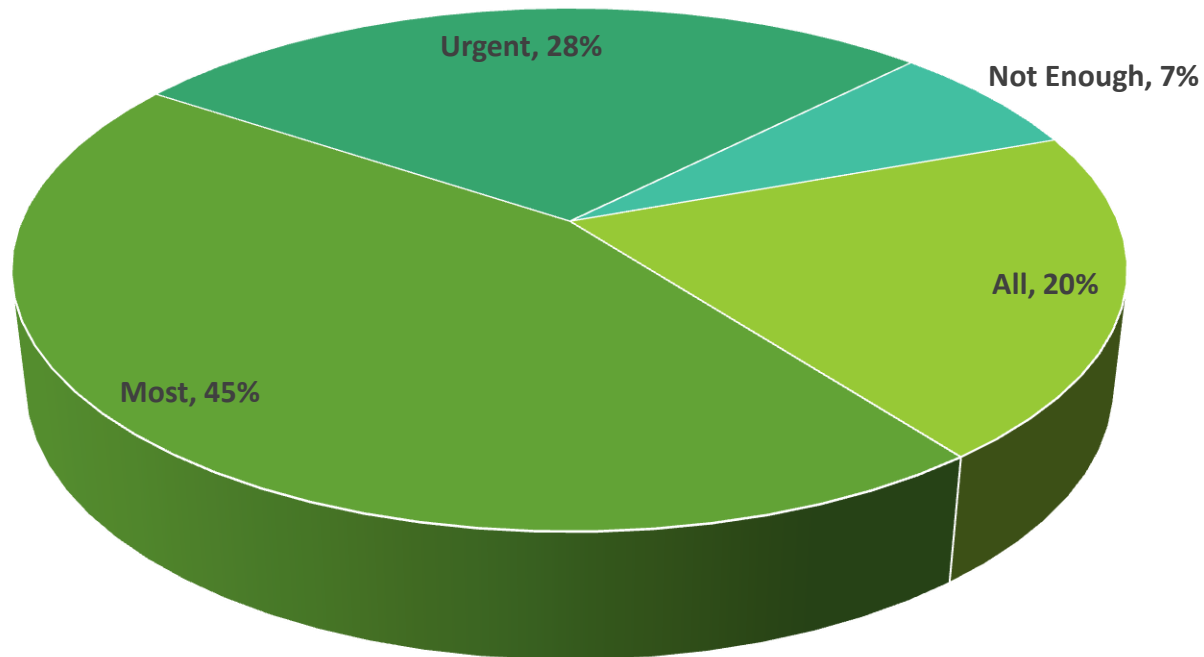
Most – 34%

Urgent – 7%

Not Enough – 2%

Adequacy of Fees

Operations & Maintenance Costs



FSA Survey:

All – 22%

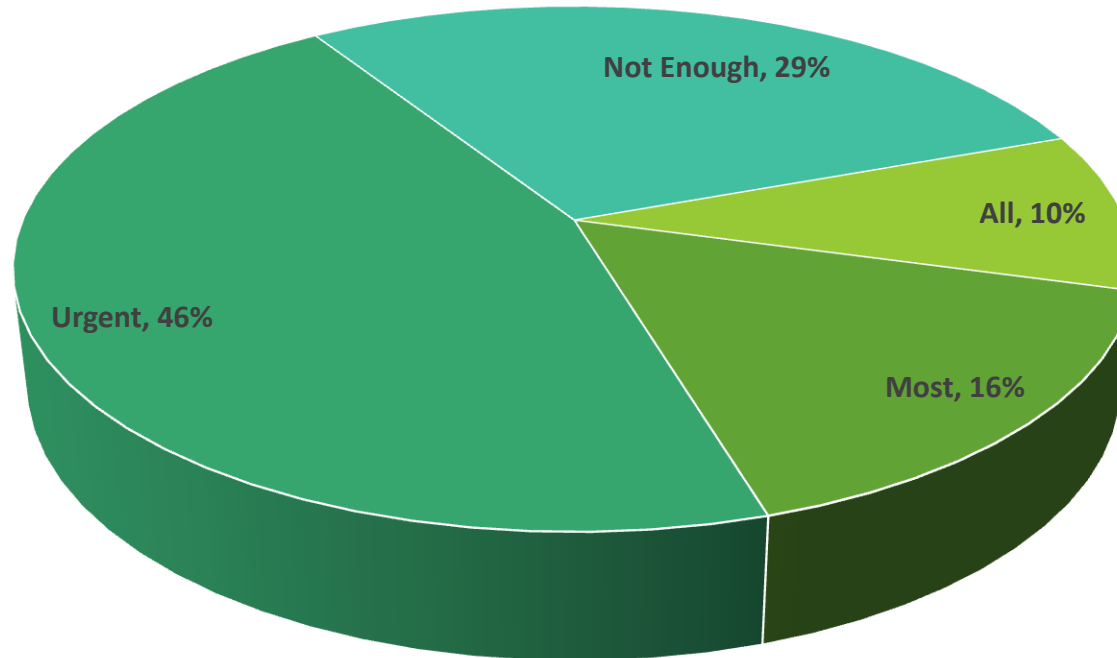
Most – 44%

Urgent – 27%

Not Enough – 6%

Adequacy of Fees

Capital Construction Costs



FSA Survey:

All – 10%

Most – 23%

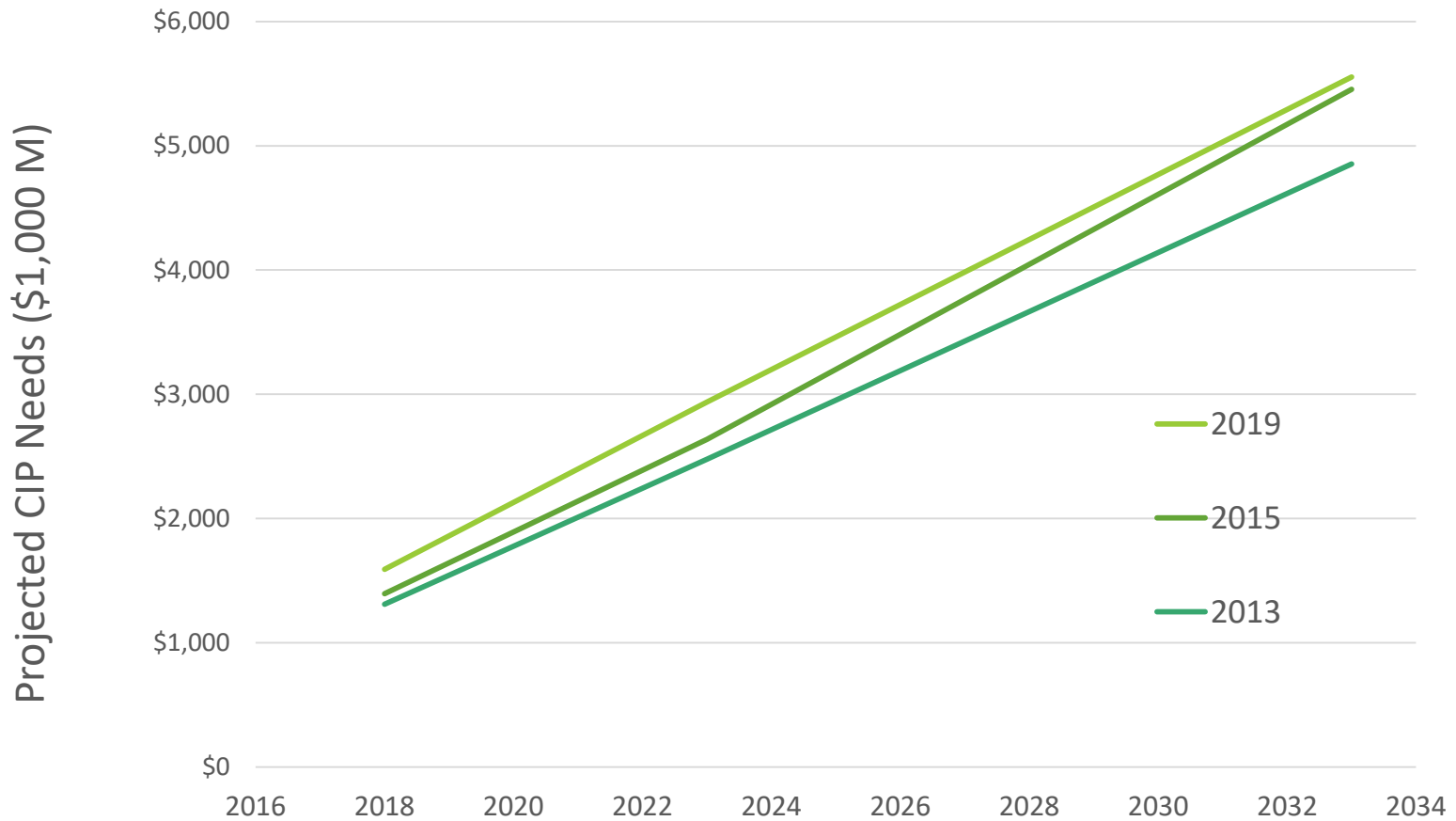
Urgent – 41%

Not Enough – 26%

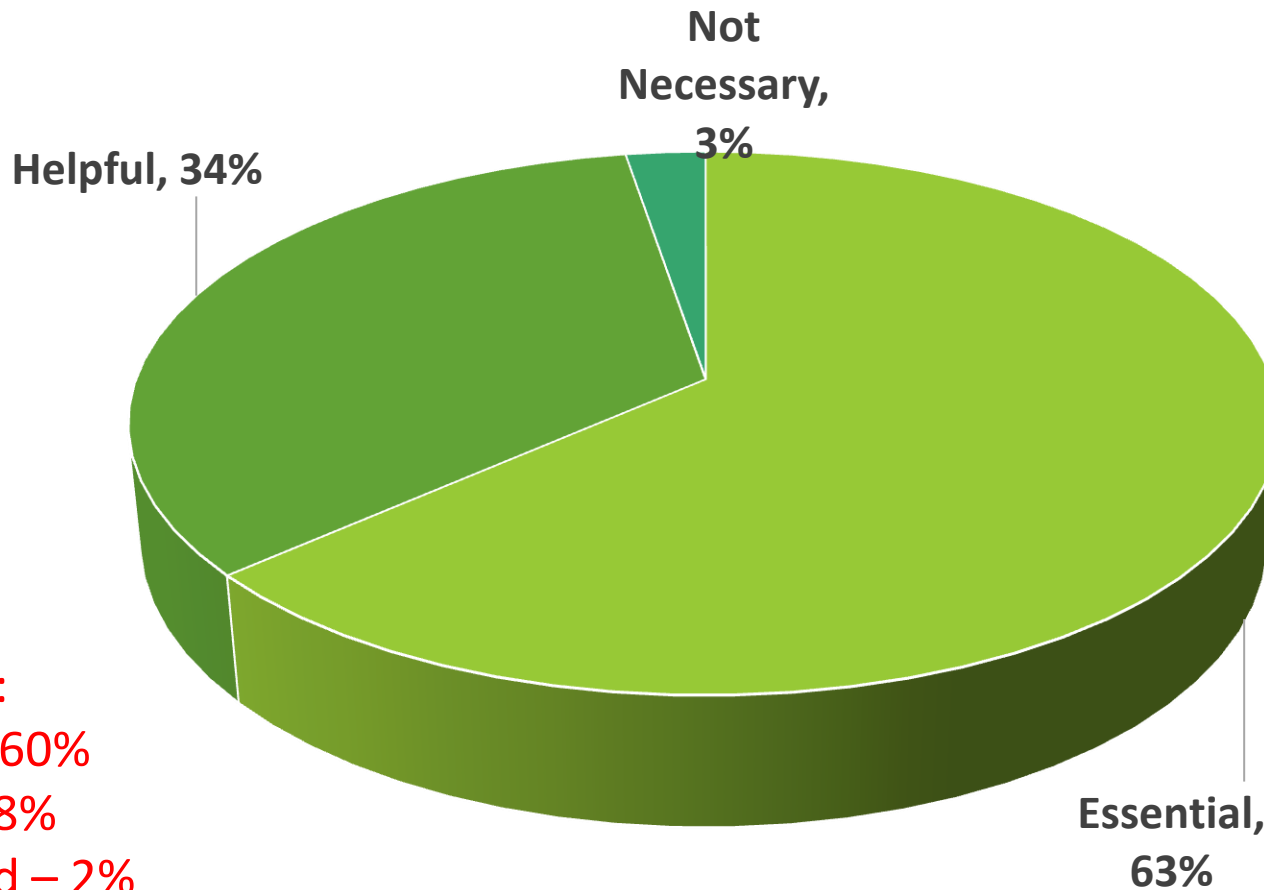
Adequacy of Fees

Adequacy	Administration	Operation & Maintenance	Capital Improvements
All or Most	89%	65%	26%
Urgent or Not Enough	11%	35%	74%

Projected Future Capital Needs

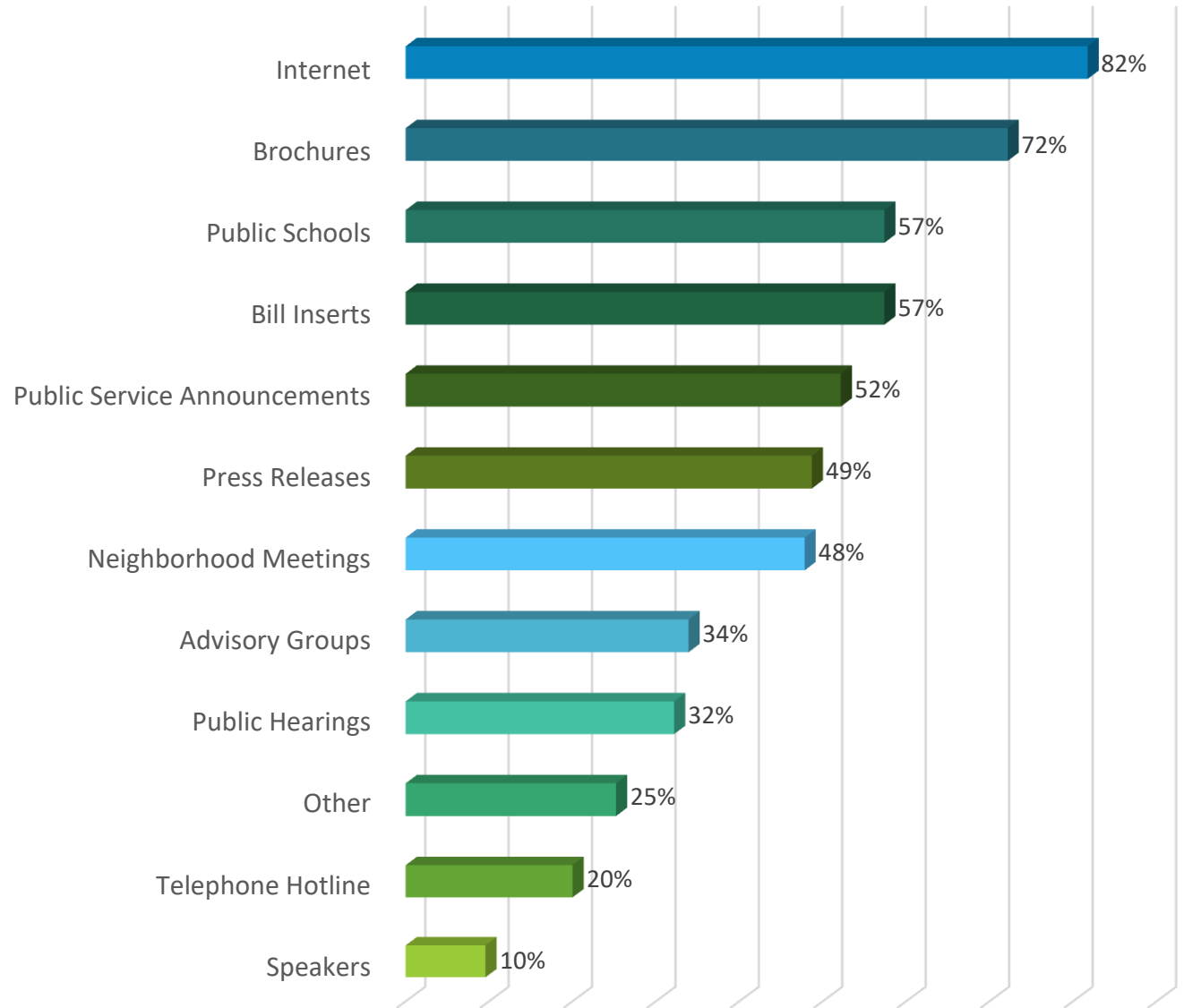


How Important is Public Education?



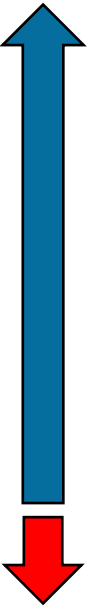
FSA Survey:
Essential – 60%
Helpful – 38%
Not Needed – 2%

Most Effective Methods for Public Education



Other Interesting Stormwater Survey Tidbits

Survey Question	2007	2019
Require O&M Permits for Private BMPs	64%	88%
Have an Adopted Stormwater Master Plan	42%	52%
Is Local Comprehensive Plan Coordinated with Master Plan	83%	95%
Is Operating Budget Funded Only From Fee Revenue	70%	84%
Monitor Water Quality Improvements	69%	73%
100% of System Mapped	20%	55%
Average Reported FTEs Funded	22	17





Questions?





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