

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



Ensuring Sustainable Drinking Water Systems



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Environmental Justice/Disproportionate
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EPA's National Priorities for the Future

- ❖ Taking Action on Climate Change
- ❖ Improving Air Quality
- ❖ Assuring the Safety of Chemicals
- ❖ Cleaning Up our Communities



- ❖ Protecting America's Waters
- ❖ Expanding the Conversation on Environmentalism and Working for Environmental Justice
- ❖ Building Strong Partnerships



Road to Safe Drinking Water



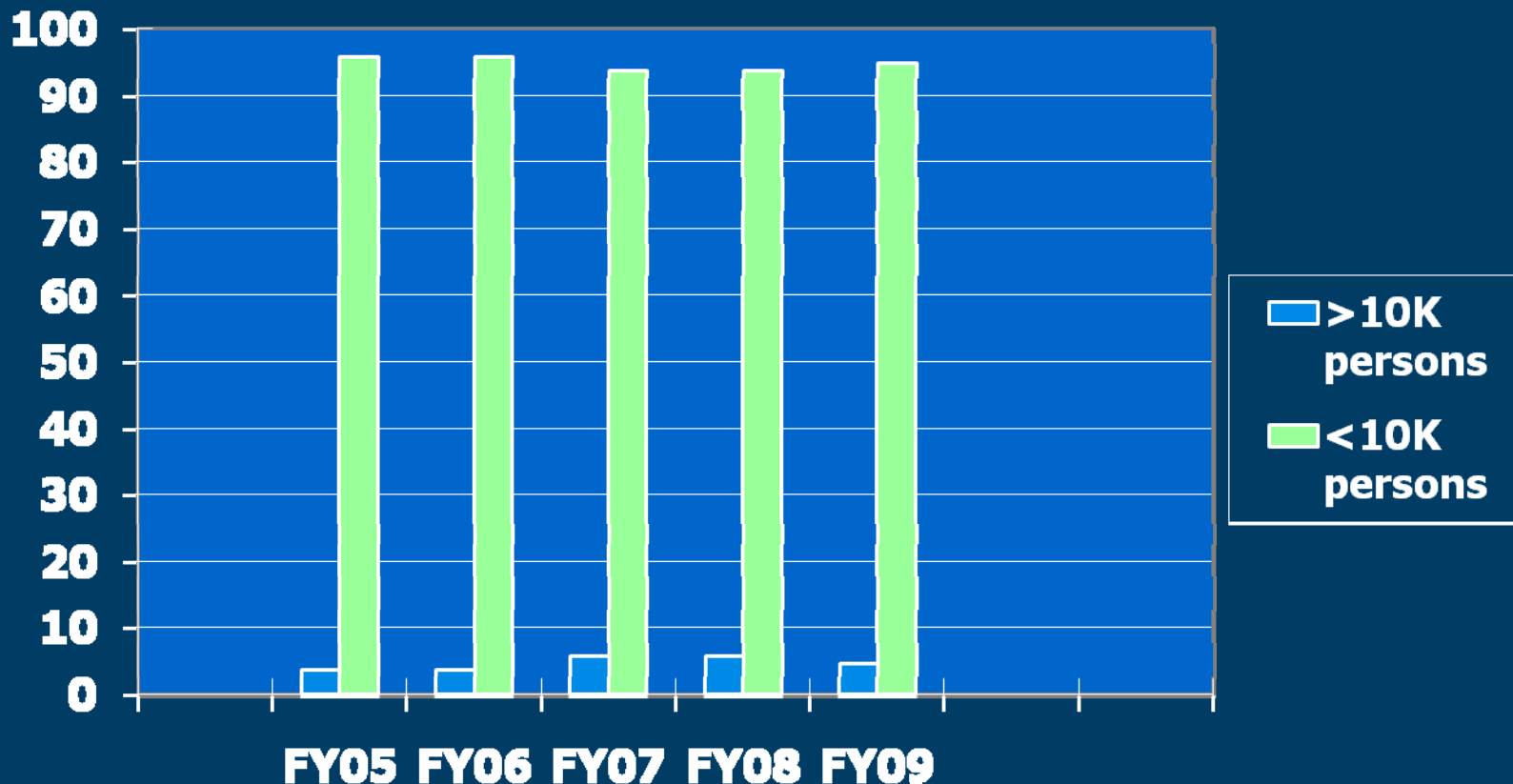


Challenges to Providing Safe Drinking Water

- ❖ Aging Infrastructure
- ❖ Protection of water sources to include climate change adaptation
- ❖ Demands for lower utility costs & trust of water quality
- ❖ Operator retention/recruitment
- ❖ New enhanced and protective regulatory requirements and rules
- ❖ Dis-economies of scale (ie, small systems)



EPA Region 9 Pacific Southwest: Percent of Public Water Systems with Health-based Violations



Total # of PWS w/HB violations: 2,157

Total # of PWS: 10,146

CWSs with Violations by Size

CWS only	Total Systems	Systems with Health Based Violations	Percent of Systems with Health Based Violations	Systems with Non-Health Based Violations	Percent of Systems with Non-Health Based Violations	Systems with any Violations	Percent of Systems with any Violations
<=100	12,985	1,491	11.5%	5,196	40.0%	5,775	44.5%
101-500	16,000	1,778	11.1%	5,681	35.5%	6,498	40.6%
501-3,300	13,868	1,471	10.6%	4,351	31.4%	5,142	37.1%
3,301-10,000	4,857	527	10.9%	1,254	25.8%	1,570	32.3%
10,001-100,000	3,758	382	10.2%	856	22.8%	1,091	29.0%
> 100,000	408	19	4.7%	65	15.9%	77	18.9%



EPA's National Strategic Plan (2009-2014)

GOAL 2: Clean and Safe Water

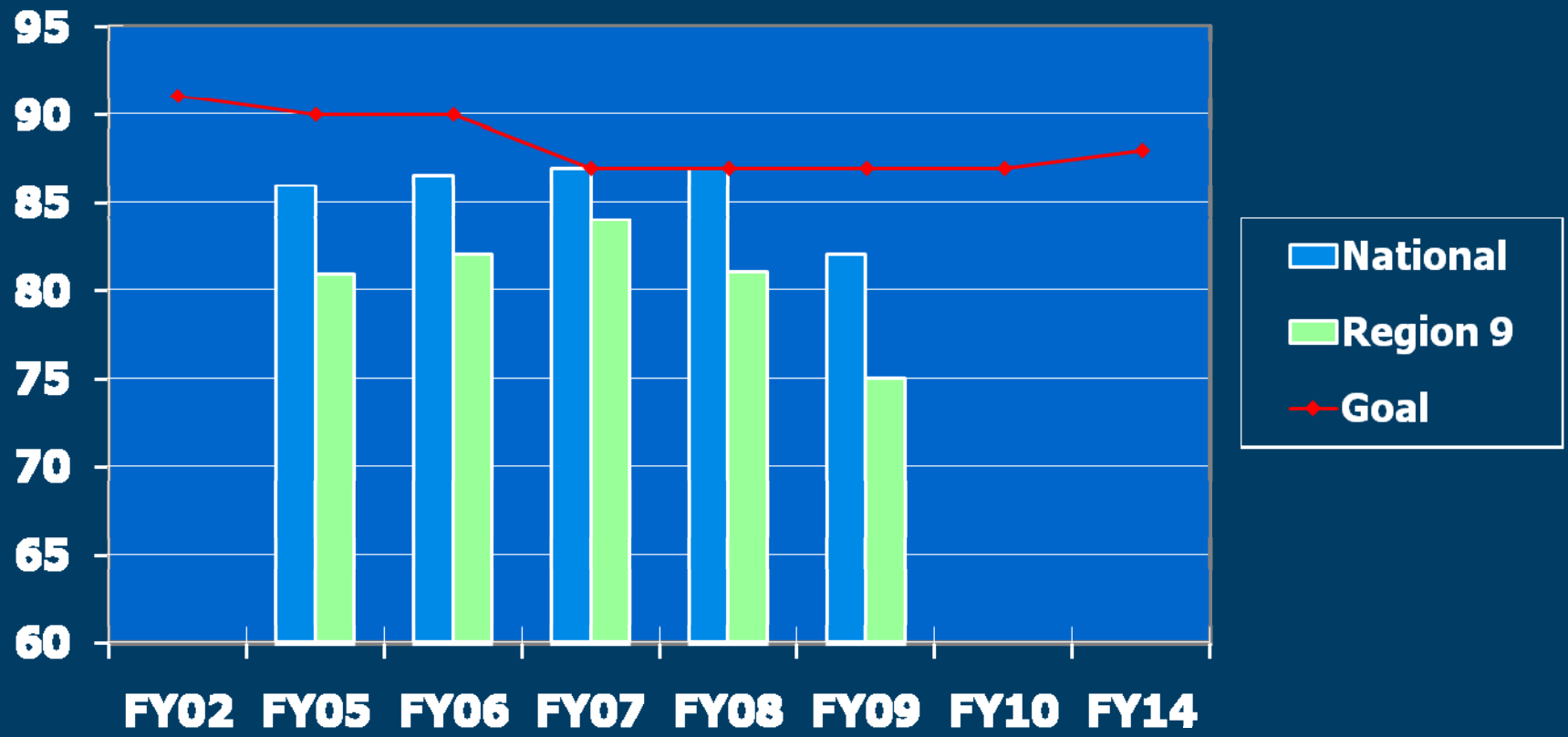
By 2014, 88% percent of the population in **Indian Country** served by community water systems will receive drinking water that meets all applicable health-based drinking water standards.
(Strategic Target 3)





Water Safe to Drink Measure Performance

Goal 2: % of population served by tribal CWSs meeting all health-based standards





Non-Public Water Systems: Lack of Access in Indian Country

- ❖ 30% of Navajo families (54K) haul drinking water from livestock wells, springs, and other unregulated sources compared to <1% nationwide.
- ❖ Of 235 unregulated sources tested, >10% are contaminated with uranium and radionuclides. Majority also positive for coliforms.



Livestock Well Used for Water Hauling



Lack of Access in Indian Country

- ❖ Continue outreach and education
- ❖ Oversee waterline construction projects
- ❖ Implement pilot water hauling program
- ❖ Provide alternative regulated water sources

Díí baa' ádahotłchijh!
Water from these wells* in Baca-Prewitt-Haystack is NOT safe to drink



Advisory issued jointly by DiNEH Project and NNEPA-PWSSP

Dec. 2007, Rev. Feb., Mar. 2008
Call 505-262-1862 or 928-871-7755
or visit www.navajopublicwater.org



**Navajo Nation policy is that these wells are for livestock use only and are not to be used for human drinking water.*



Factors that Challenge Water Systems

	All Public Water Systems	Small PWS <10,000	Not a PWS
Aging infrastructure	X	X	X
Operator retention	X	X	X
Climate change adaptation	X	X	X
Increased number of regulations	X	X	X
Lack of technical, managerial and financial capacity		X	X
Jurisdictional barriers			X
Personal preferences			X



Guiding Principles

- ❖ Access not based on ability to pay
- ❖ Provide a hand-up not a hand-out
- ❖ Employ a variety of strategies to address full spectrum of needs
- ❖ Better targeting of assistance
- ❖ Ensure long-term sustainability of small systems





Strategic Approach to Ensuring Water System Sustainability

- ❖ Technical: Training and technical assistance.
- ❖ Managerial: System asset management
- ❖ Financial: Revenue > operational costs
- ❖ Community outreach and awareness
- ❖ What else should we be doing?



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