

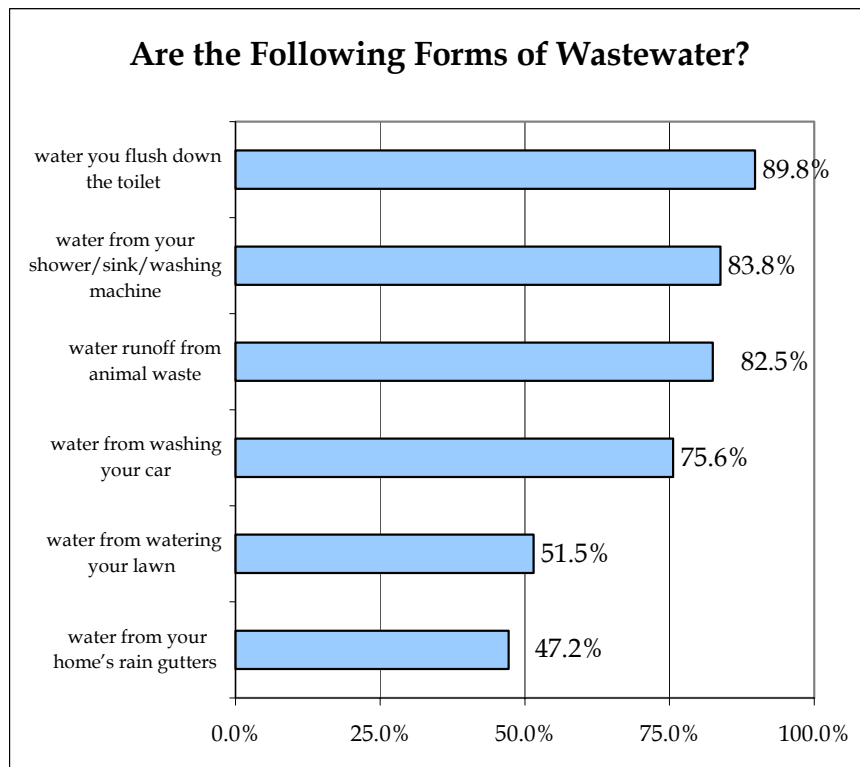
# Cape Cod Wastewater Survey Summary

## A. Use and Quality:

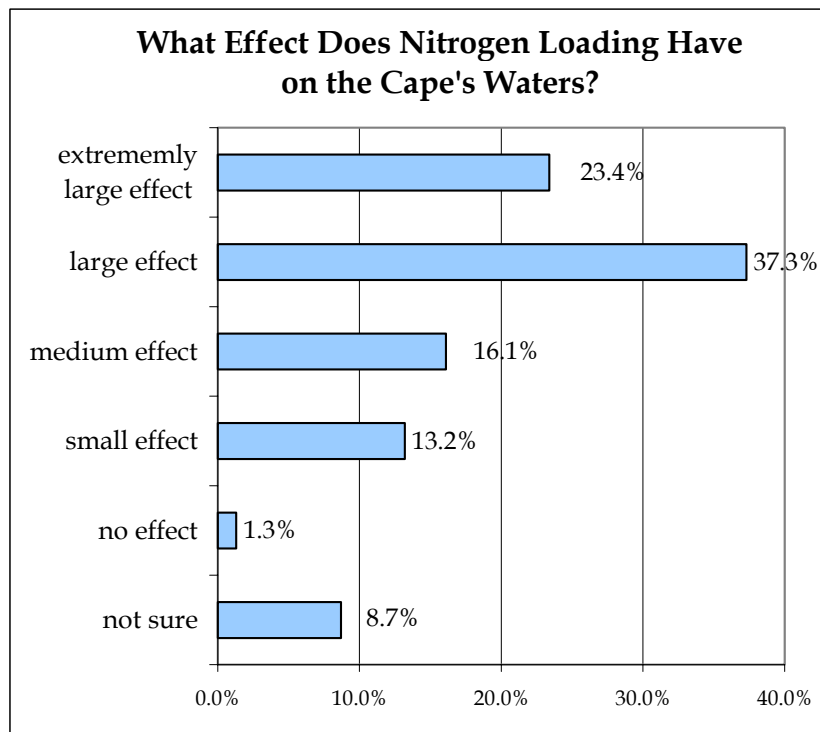
- Respondents use Cape Cod’s coastal waters and bays frequently (34.5% at least once/day and 68.6% at least once per week), although 31.4% use the Cape’s waters less than once per week (23.2%) or never (8.2%).
- A majority of respondents (59.0%) feel that the water quality of the Cape’s coastal waters and bays is good (42.4%) or very good (16.6%). Twenty-eight percent (28.5%) feel that the Cape’s water quality is average, while 8.7% feel that it is poor (7.1%) or very poor (1.6%).
- More than a third of respondents (35.2%) feel that the quality of the Cape’s coastal waters and bays has grown worse in the last 10 years, although 46.1% say the quality has stayed the same.
- When respondents were asked how they feel the water quality of the Cape’s coastal waters and bays will be ten years from now, almost half (46.1%) feel that the waters will grow worse, while 25.8% feel they will stay about the same and 16.3% say the quality will improve.

## B. Knowledge:

- Respondents are least likely to agree that water from watering one’s lawn and water from their home’s rain gutters are forms of wastewater.

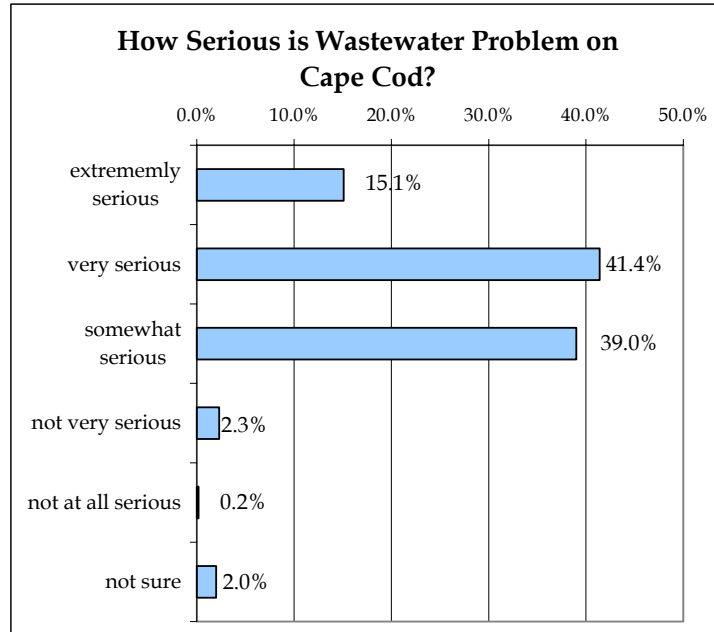


- 88.5% of respondents indicate that they have a septic system, while 1.9% have a cesspool, 0.6% are connected to a sewer system, and 0.2% to a condominium system.
- More than seventy percent of respondents (71.3%) indicate that wastewater affects drinking water quality, while 19.8% feel that it does not affect drinking water quality and 8.8% are not sure.
- Only 40.3% of respondents know what nitrogen loading is and of these respondents, 60.7% think that nitrogen loading has a large (37.3%) or extremely large (23.4%) effect on water quality:

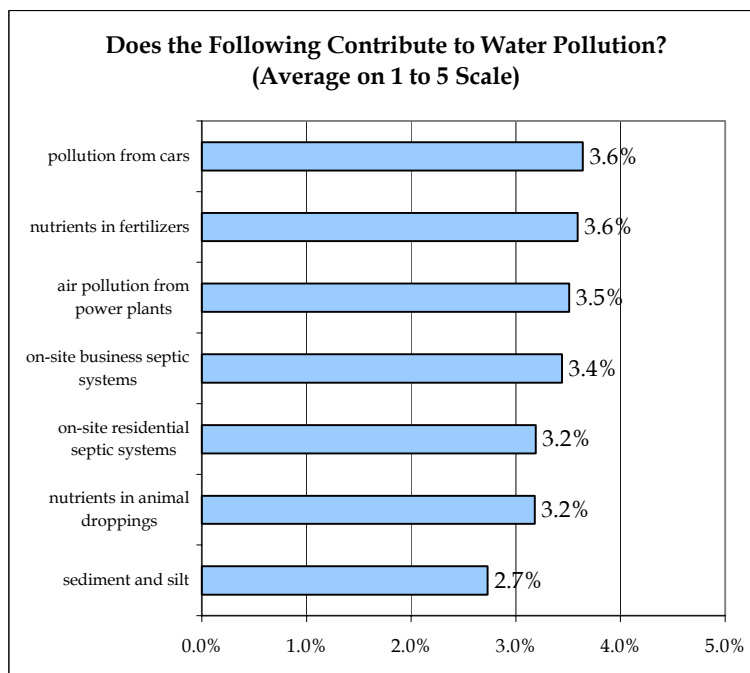


### C. Attitudes about Wastewater

- Nearly three-quarters of respondents (72.0%) think there is a wastewater pollution problem on the Cape. Of these, 56.5% indicate that it is a very serious or extremely serious problem:

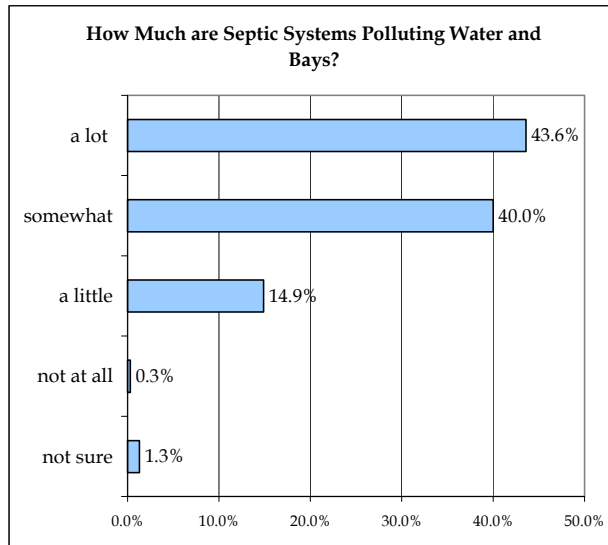


- Respondents are most likely to indicate that pollution from cars and nutrients in fertilizer are most likely to cause water pollution.

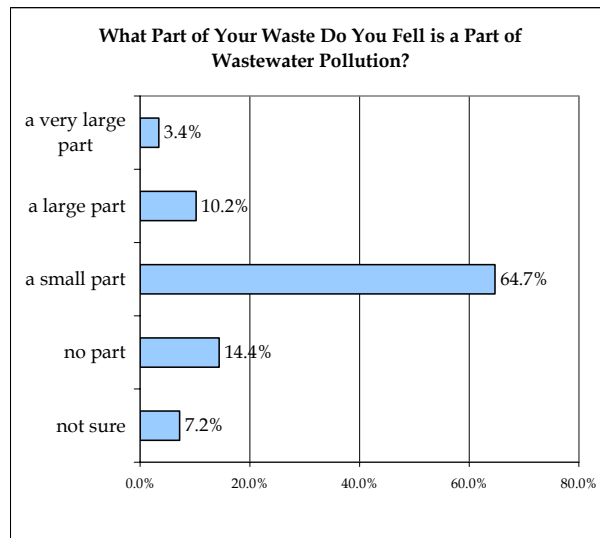


#### D. Knowledge about Septic Systems

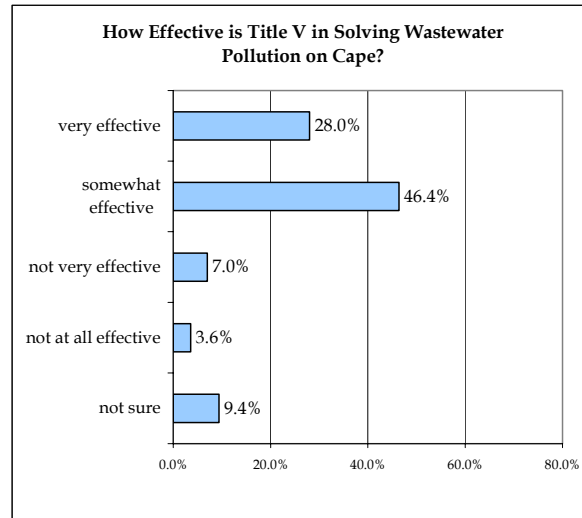
- Over ninety percent of respondents (91.6%) have a septic system. Ninety-seven percent (96.8%) indicate that they know where their septic system is located. Over thirty percent (30.6%) have replaced a septic system in the last 10 years.
- More than half of respondents (57.8%) believe that septic systems are polluting the Cape’s waters and bays, 26.0% believe they are not polluting, and 16.2% are unsure. Of respondents who believe that septic systems are a cause of pollution, most feel that septic systems are polluting “a lot” (43.6%) or “somewhat” (40.0%):



- While most respondents have septic systems and most feel that septic systems are at least somewhat the cause for pollution of the Cape’s coastal waters and bays, nearly eighty percent (79.1%) of respondents feel that their waste plays only a small part (64.7%) or no part (14.4%) in polluting the Cape’s waters:

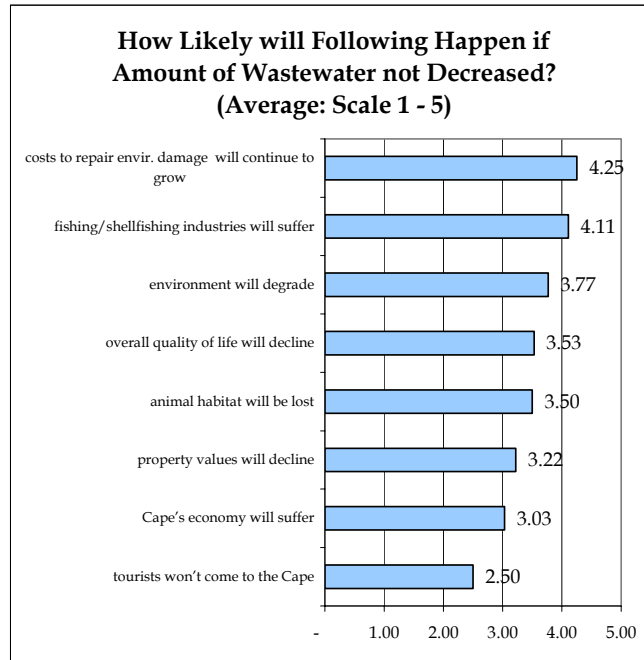


- A third of respondents (33.9%) believe that improving wastewater disposal will lead to residential growth, while 43.3% disagree and 22.8% are unsure.
- Nearly eighty percent of respondents (79.1%) know of the Title V law. Most respondents feel that the law has been at least somewhat effective in solving wastewater pollution on the Cape:



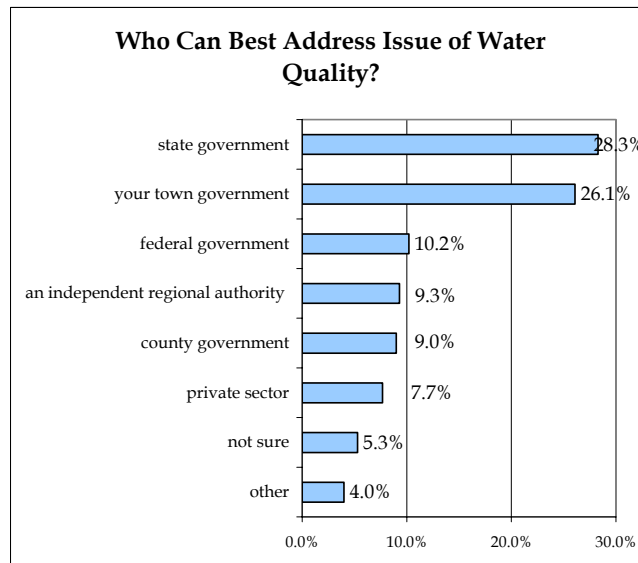
- More than sixty percent of respondents (60.5%) feel that septic tank pumping helps to alleviate wastewater pollution, while 1.9% indicate that it completely eliminates the problem, 7.8% say it does nothing, 17.5% say it transfers the problem, and 12.3% are not sure.
- Twenty-seven percent (26.9%) believe there is a chemical additive that cleans wastewater, while 36.2% say there is no such additive and 36.8% are not sure.

- The following chart presents the average score (1-5 scale) when asked how likely each is to happen if amount of wastewater is not decreased:

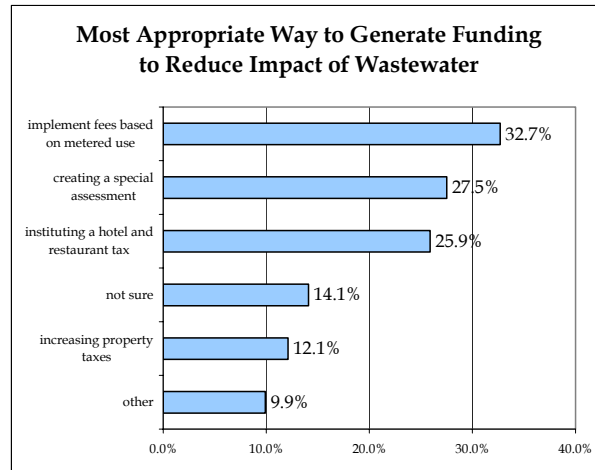


### E. Solutions

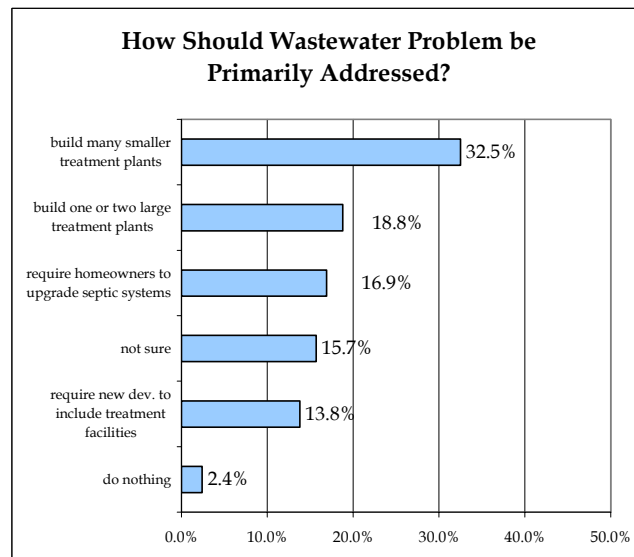
- Respondents indicate that the issue of wastewater can best be addressed by state government (28.3%), town government (26.1%), federal government (10.2%), a regional authority (9.3%), county government (9.0%), and the private sector (7.7%). Five percent of respondents (5.3%) are not sure.



- More than half of respondents think that improving the quality of the Cape’s coastal waters and bays will be expensive (59.6%), while 30.7% indicate that it will be somewhat expensive, 3.1% feel it will be inexpensive, and 6.6% are not sure.
- Respondents indicate that implementing fees based on metered use (32.7%), creating a special assessment (27.5%), and instituting a hotel and restaurant tax (25.9%) are the most appropriate ways to generate funding to reduce the impacts of wastewater:



- More than sixty percent of respondents (61.3%) are willing to pay \$100 to \$500 annually to reduce the pollution effects of wastewater, while 24.6% are not sure what they would be willing to pay.
- In addressing the wastewater issue, respondents indicate that the problem should be primarily addressed by building smaller treatment plants (32.5%), constructing one or two large plants (18.8%), requiring homeowners to upgrade septic systems (16.9%), or requiring new developments to include treatment facilities (13.8%). Sixteen percent of respondents (15.7%) are not sure how to address the problem.



## **F. How Do You Get Your News?**

- Respondents primarily get their news from the newspaper (70.5%) or local TV news (14.9%). The frequency that respondents read watch, or listen to the news is high; 33.6% at least twice a day and 60.5% at least once a day. Thus, 94.1% of respondents read, watch, or listen to the news at least once per day.
- When respondents see stories about water issues they read or watch them almost always (46.0%), frequently (29.1%), sometimes (18.7%), rarely (4.4%) or never (1.8%).
- A quarter of respondents (25.0%) have attended a meeting that focused on wastewater issues on the Cape. The types of meeting are varied but are primarily town meetings.
- Almost half of respondents (45.5%) have received informational literature about wastewater issues on the Cape, primarily fliers/informational brochures from the newspaper and literature from the town in which they live.

## **G. Demographics**

- Ninety percent of respondents (89.7%) own property on the Cape.
- Sixty-one percent (61.4%) of respondents are female.
- Almost half (49.4%) of respondents have a bachelor's degree or higher.
- The average age of respondents is 54.1 years, with 40.2% being 65 years of age or older. Almost half (46.3%) have lived on the Cape for 20 or more years.
- Nearly two-thirds (65.3%) voted in a town election this year and 41.7% attended a town meeting.
- The average number of people living in each respondent's household is 2.4.