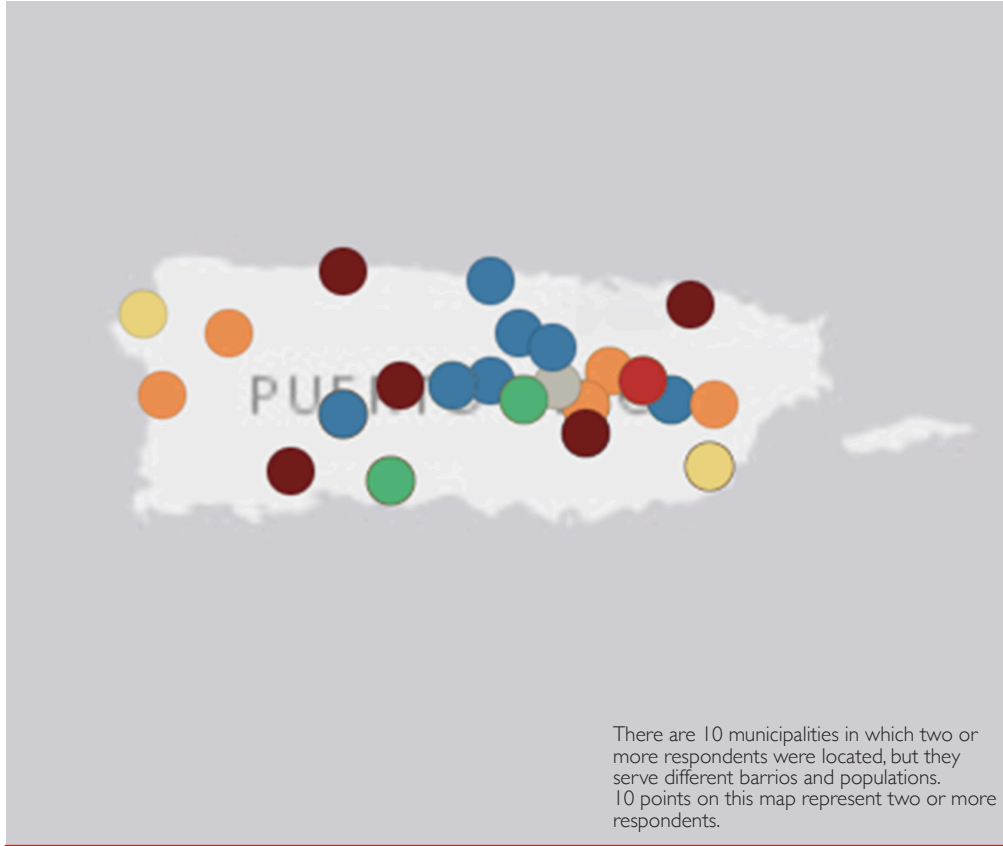


The Impact of COVID-19 on Rural and Tribal Water and Wastewater Systems



PUERTO RICO



40 respondents

100% of respondents were small systems
 ≈ **452** residents
 Average system size of respondent

FACILITIES TYPE:
97% water | **0%** both
3% wastewater

0-1: Average full-time staff size
 Many supplement with part-time, contract or volunteer staff

Has the COVID-19 pandemic negatively impacted your system's financial position, or do you anticipate negative impacts?
75% : Yes
7.5% : No
17.5% : Not sure

88% of small systems indicated they experienced a **decrease in revenues**, comparing April 2019 to April 2020 (n = 26)

\$1,350
 PR small system respondent median monthly revenue decrease (n = 23)

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

How long respondents can continue to pay for all system expenses under the current financial circumstances due to COVID-19:

N/A: Already could not cover all costs	Less than 2 months	2 to 6 months	7 to 12 months	More than a year	Don't know/ too early to tell	Don't want to answer

45% of all PR respondents cannot sustain losses for more than six months of current financial conditions

- Challenges faced because of financial conditions:
- Paying for chemicals
 - Paying bills, like electricity
 - Maintaining their system
 - Compliance

About the survey: In early May, the RCAP Network surveyed communities to understand the financial impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on rural and tribal water and wastewater systems. Results are from systems the RCAP Network serves and are not representative of all small systems. These results, however, provide an important snapshot of rural and tribal experiences so policymakers can make informed decisions on how to address these issues during COVID-19 recovery.



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