



CAWPCA Fall COVID-19 Survey 2020

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Our intent was to gather valuable information and concerns, in regards to the challenges our members faced due to the pandemic.

We received 39 responses from our members, or about 42 %.

The information will be summarized in this presentation.

During lockdown, the three (3) biggest challenges for WPCAs were:

- Acquiring proper personal equipment (PPE) - 74%
- Staffing and or operations of facility - 64%
- Disrupted supply chains - 59%

WPCAs utilized these top three (3) sources for information during the lockdown:

- CDC
- Local Health districts
- CT DEEP and NEWEA



The top three (3) concerns treatment plant operators had:

- Contracting COVID-19 from wastewater
- Proper Staffing
- Contracting COVID-19 from a family member and/or caring for loved one who may have it

PPE that was not available DURING the lockdown:

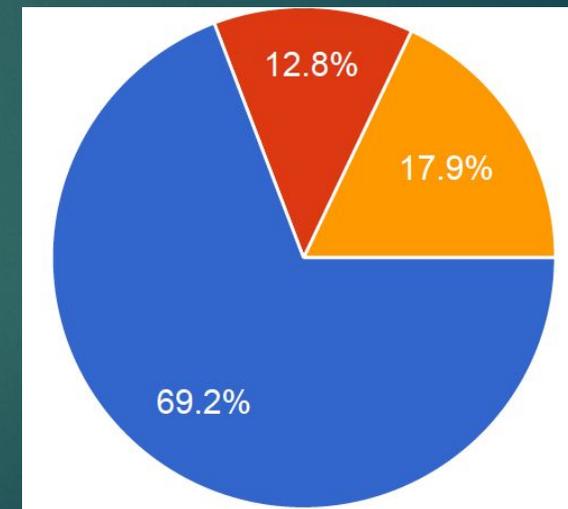
- N95 mask - 77%
- Nitrile or latex gloves
- Face masks

PPE has not been available SINCE the lockdown:

- N95 masks
- Nitrile or latex gloves
- **Tyvek suits**

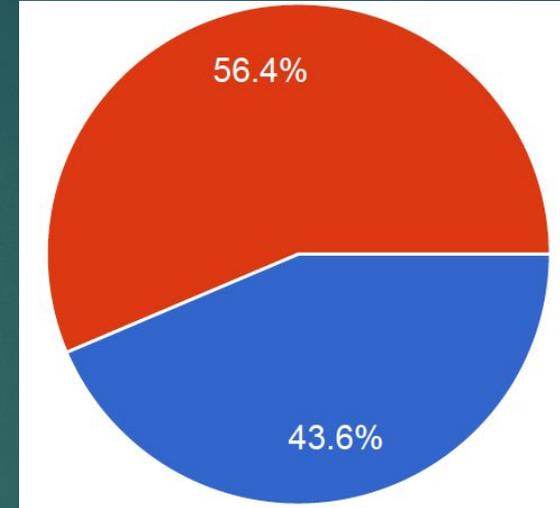
Participation in the CT WARN PPE mask giveaway program:

- Yes - 69.2% (blue)
- No - 12.8% (red)
- Did not know about it - 17.8% (yellow)



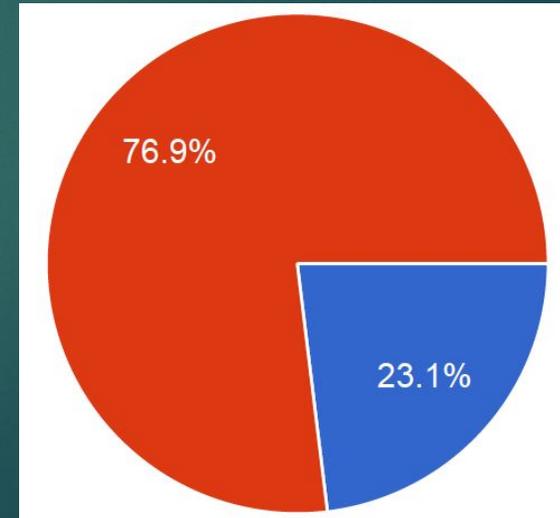
Did your WPCA share resources or network with your municipality for contingency planning?

- No - 56.4% (red)
- Yes - 43.6% (blue)



Did your WPCA share resources or network with another local WPCA?

- No - 79.9% (red)
- Yes - 23.1% (blue)



Shared resources including mutual aid agreements for staffing and PPE supplies and chemicals.



In response to the lockdown this past Spring, WPCA's implemented the these main staffing changes:

- Employees/Commission members worked from home
- Staff was on a rotating schedule
- Reduced staffing
- Split shifts

These mitigation efforts were used during lockdown by WPCAs and Towns to protect workers:

- Sanitized work spaces much more frequently
- Required all employees to wear a face mask
- Allowed no visitors at the POTW
- Installed plexiglass barriers
- Limited staffing



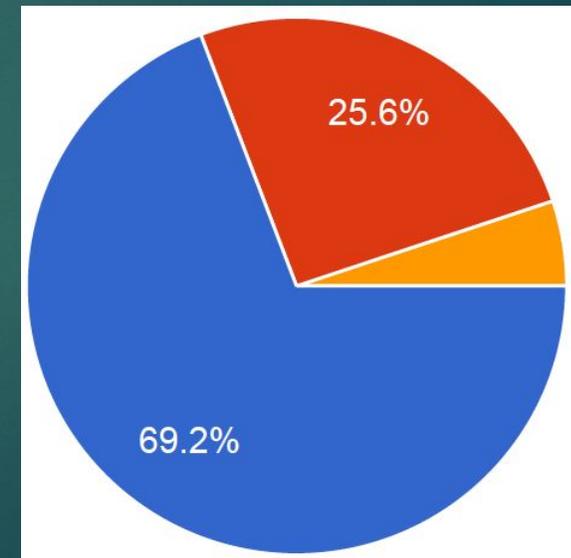
During the lockdown, WPCAs have halted or dramatically reduced the following tasks:

- Capital Projects (Sewer Rehabilitation Work)
- The preventative jetting of sewer lines
- Entering manholes

Spending and operational budgets have been affected by the pandemic:

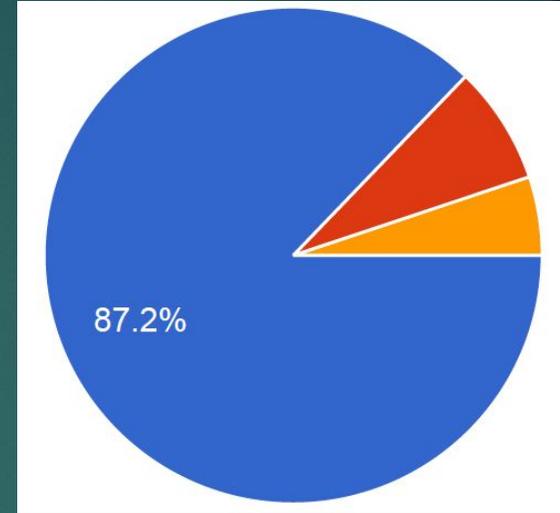
- Slightly - 69.2% (blue)
- Moderately - 25.6% (red)
- Severely - 5.2% (yellow)

Increase in spending due to PPE supplies, overtime and technology (Zoom).



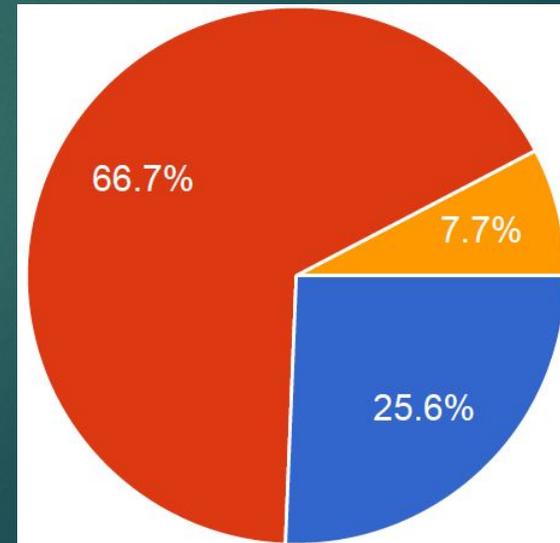
The pandemic has influenced WPCA revenue collection:

- Slightly - 87.2% (blue)
- Moderately - 7% (red)
- Severely - 5.8% (yellow)



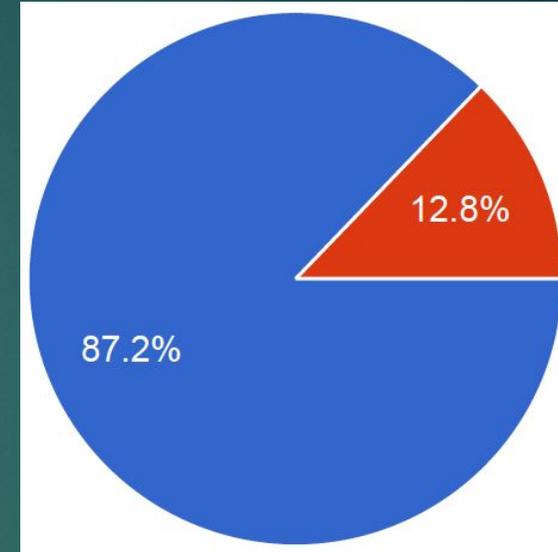
The majority of WPCAs are somewhat concerned with the potential of lost revenue from closed commercial businesses in their service areas.

- Somewhat - 66.7% (red)
- Not at all - 25.6% (blue)
- Greatly - 7.7% (yellow)



The majority of WPCAs surveyed, feel that their facility is well prepared to deal with a resurgence of the pandemic in CT:

- Yes. 87.2 % (blue)
- No. 12.8% (red)

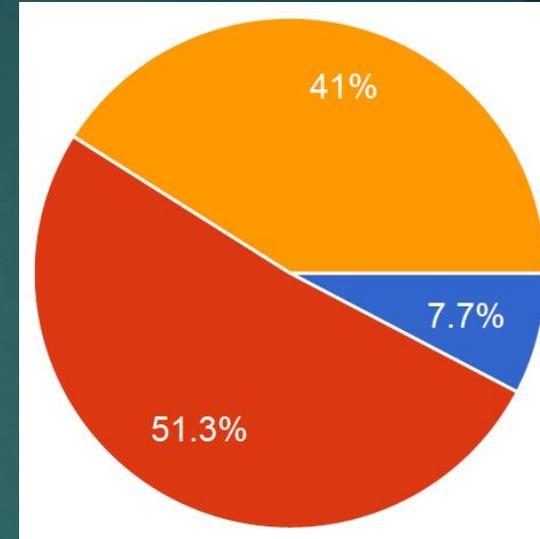


The facilities that answered NO, their biggest concerns were:

- Employee outbreak - 90%
- Staffing
- Obtaining proper PPE
- Guidance from state officials

WPCA's report that managing workloads are:

- Almost back to normal - 51.3% (red)
- Back to normal - 41% (yellow)
- Still struggling - 7.7 % (blue)



WPCAs also mentioned that they would like CAWPCA to provide the following support:

- Communicate pertinent information to its members
- Direct WPCAs to appropriate resources for support
- Communicate member's needs and challenges to elected officials
- Email surveys to gather valuable information and opinions



Thank you for your participation and stay safe.

Questions or comments?