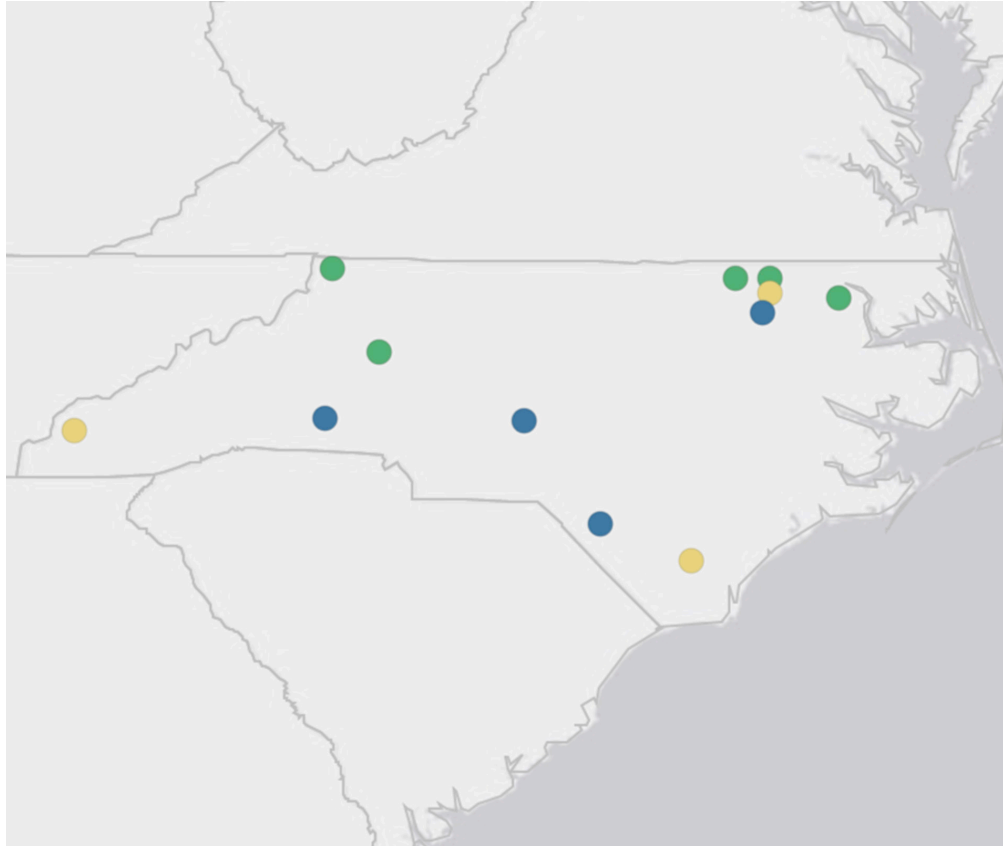


# The Impact of COVID-19 on Rural and Tribal Water and Wastewater Systems



## NORTH CAROLINA



**12** respondents

**91%** of respondents were small systems  
 ≈ **2,927** residents  
 Average system size of respondent

**FACILITIES TYPE:**  
**17%** water | **75%** both  
**8%** wastewater

**7:** 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**  
**17% : No**  
**8% : Not sure**

**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

**33% of respondents are not sure how long they can cover all costs under current financial conditions**

**57% of small systems** indicated they experienced a **decrease in revenues**, comparing April 2019 to April 2020 (n = 7)

**\$16,200**  
 NC small system respondent median monthly revenue decrease (n = 4)

- Challenges faced because of financial conditions:
- Delays/limitations to capital improvement
  - Paying back existing debt
  - Paying bills
  - Maintenance

**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.



The Southeast Rural Community Assistance Project (SERCAP), the Southeast RCAP, provides accessible and affordable water and wastewater facilities, promotes community development, and helps residents become fully self-sufficient. SERCAP's staff administer long-term technical assistance to Water/Wastewater Utilities, Rural Communities, Public Service Authorities, and Planning District Commissions in order to improve compliance, efficiency, capacity, and long-term sustainability. Visit [sercap.org](http://sercap.org) for more info.