



pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



Bureau of Safe Drinking Water

Certification Program External Review

Certification Program Advisory Committee

Harrisburg, PA

May 28, 2015

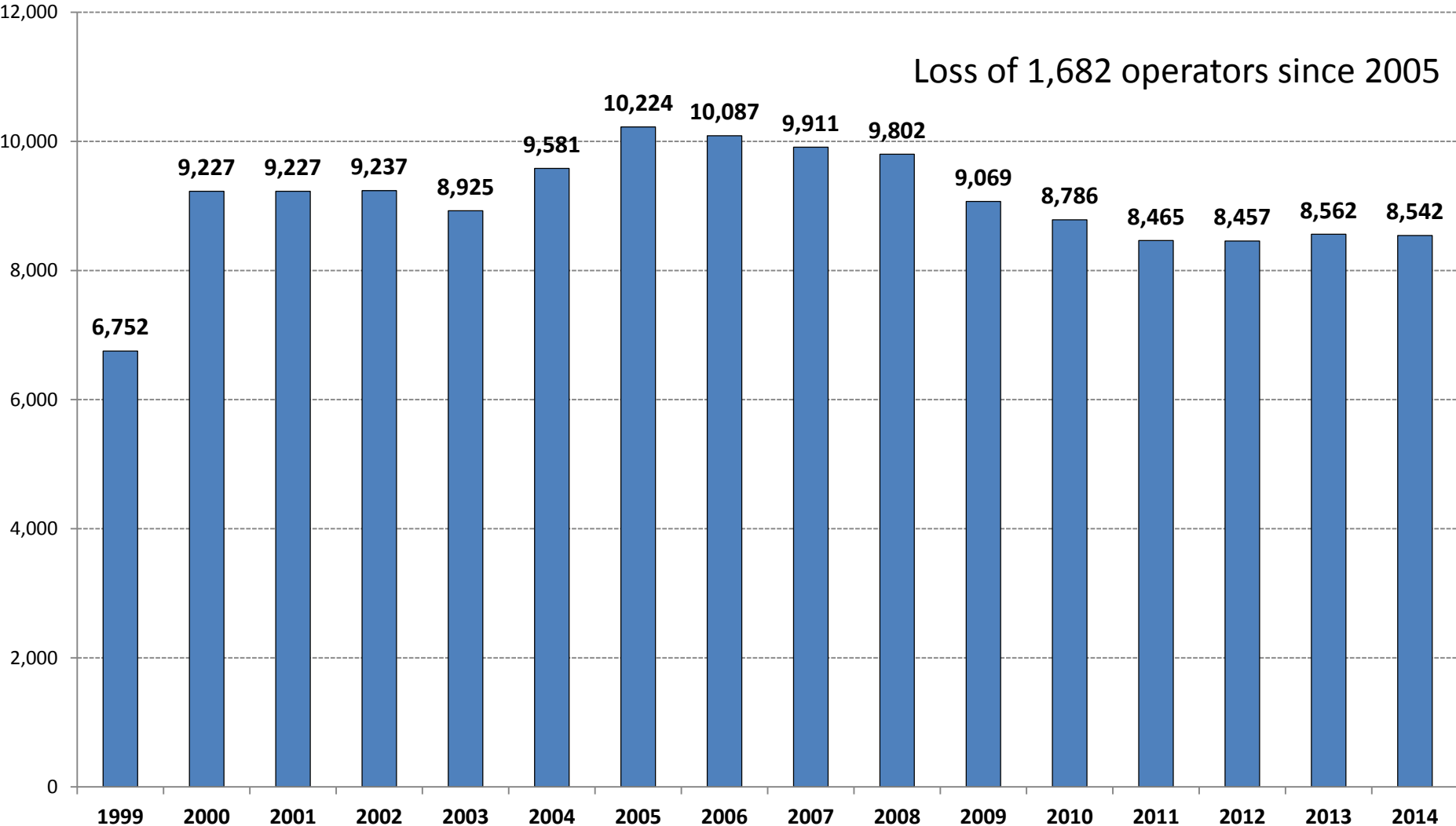
Tom Wolf, Governor

John Quigley, Acting Secretary

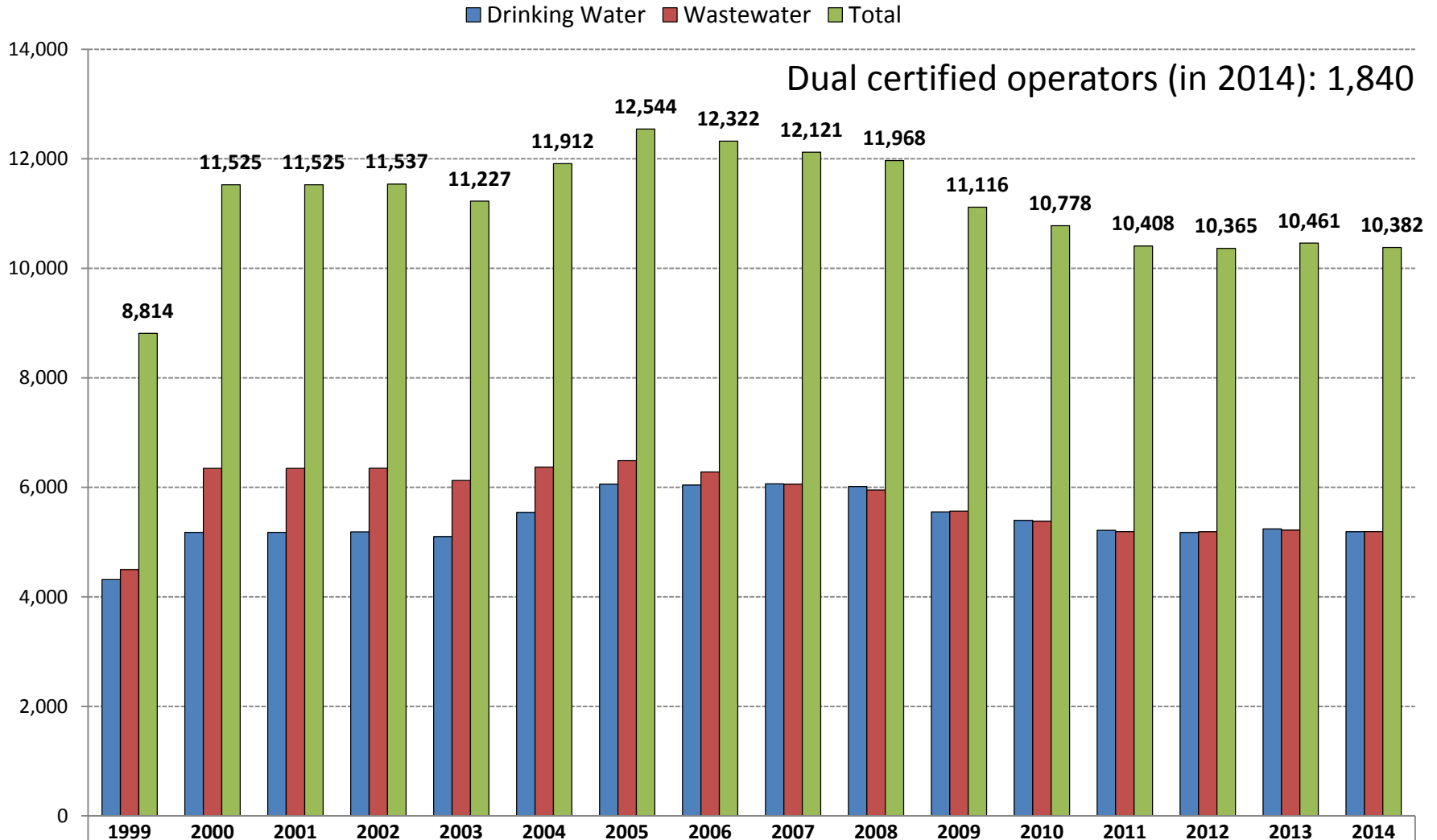
Proposed Timeline

- March 11 – Identify priority elements
- May 28 – DEP provides updates to CPAC on priority elements
- July 22 – Review draft external review report
- Additional meetings?
- December 10 – present findings to the State Board for Certification of Water and Wastewater Systems Operators

▶ Number of Operators (unique client IDs)



Number of Certificates



Drinking Water	4,316	5,179	5,179	5,187	5,101	5,543	6,057	6,042	6,064	6,016	5,551	5,397	5,215	5,176	5,242	5,190
Wastewater	4,498	6,346	6,346	6,350	6,126	6,369	6,487	6,280	6,057	5,952	5,565	5,381	5,193	5,189	5,219	5,192
Total	8,814	11,525	11,525	11,537	11,227	11,912	12,544	12,322	12,121	11,968	11,116	10,778	10,408	10,365	10,461	10,382

Number of Operators

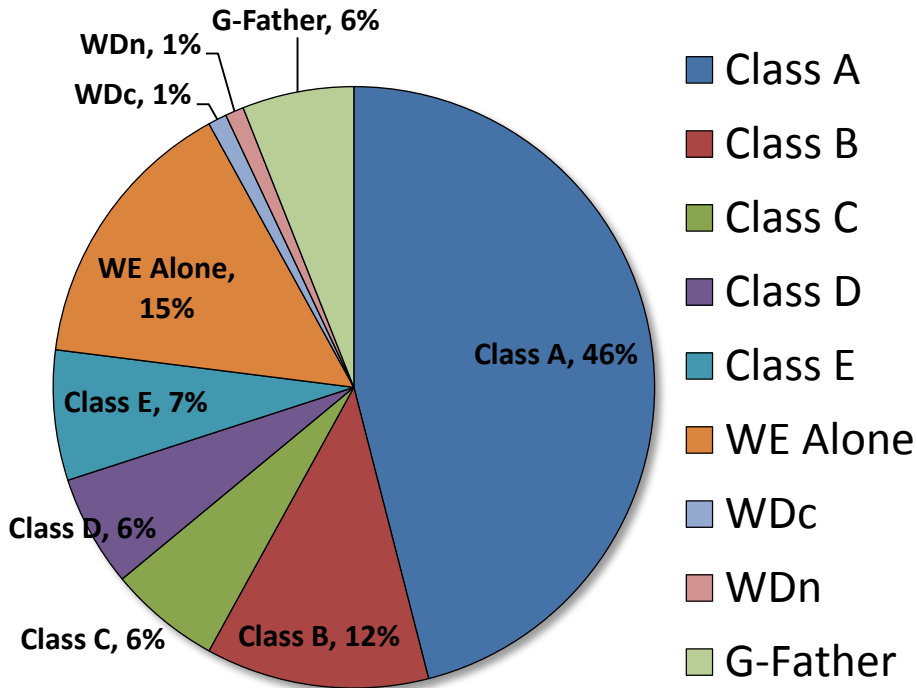
- Total number of operators – 8,542
- Operators not connected to a facility – 2,386 (28 percent)
 - Drinking water operators – 1,423
 - Wastewater operators – 1,225
 - Dual certified operators (both water and wastewater certificates) – 262

Circuit Rider Operators

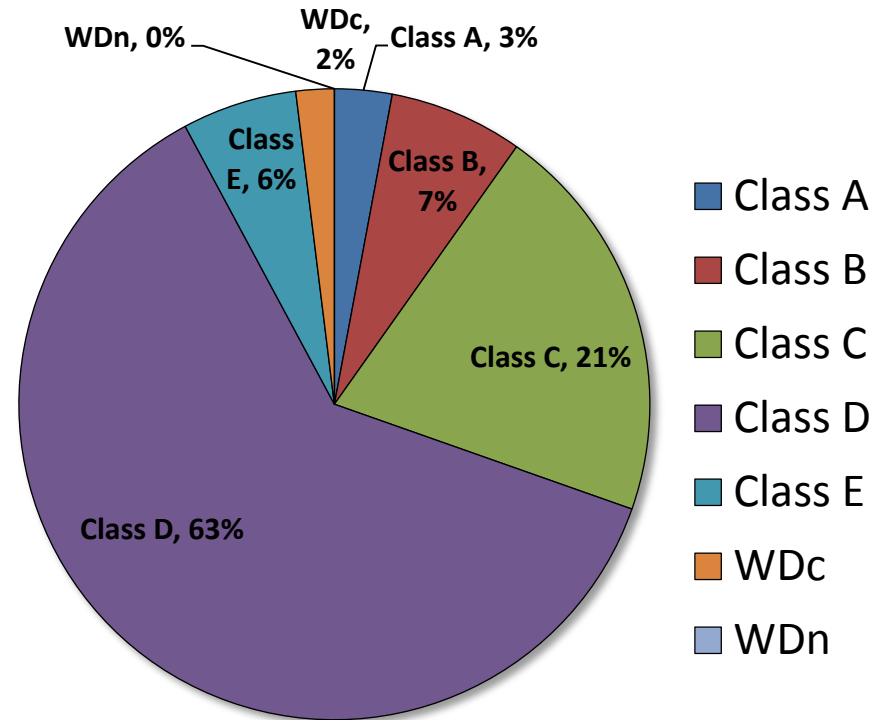
- A circuit rider is a certified operator who works at more than one drinking water and/or wastewater facility with different owners
- About 200 water and about 200 wastewater operators are circuit riders
- In 2008, circuit riders operated 21 percent of the water and wastewater systems
- Today, circuit riders operate 46 percent of water systems and 36 percent of wastewater systems

Drinking Water Operators/Facilities

% of Operators by Class

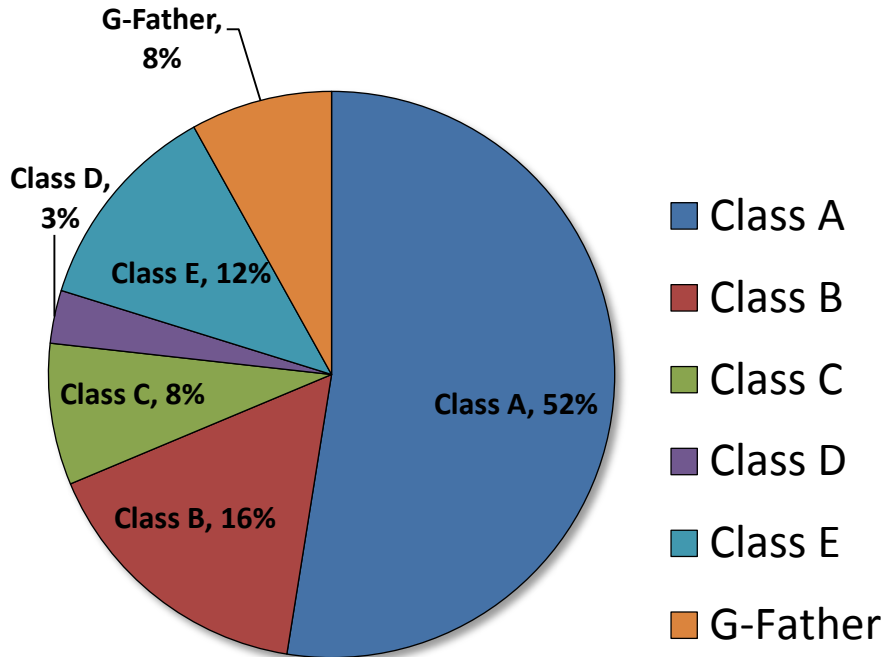


% of Facilities by Class

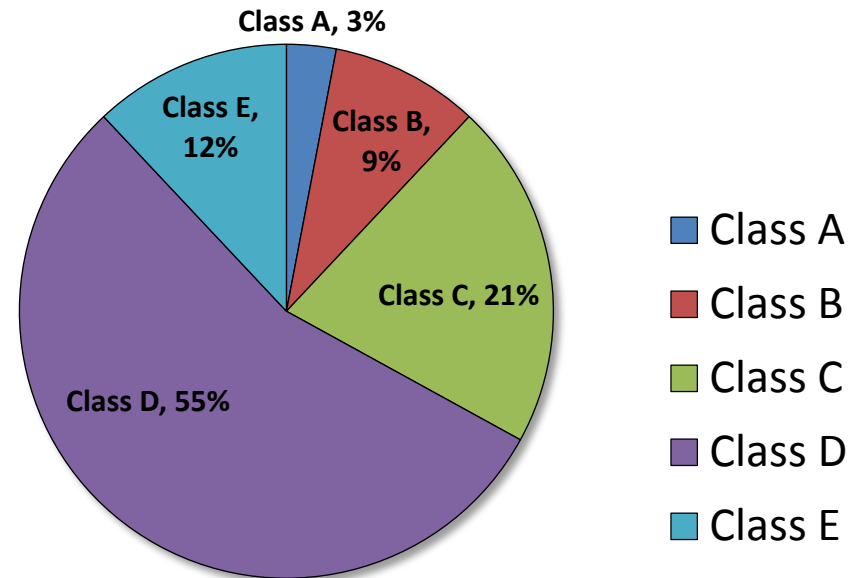


Wastewater Operators/Facilities

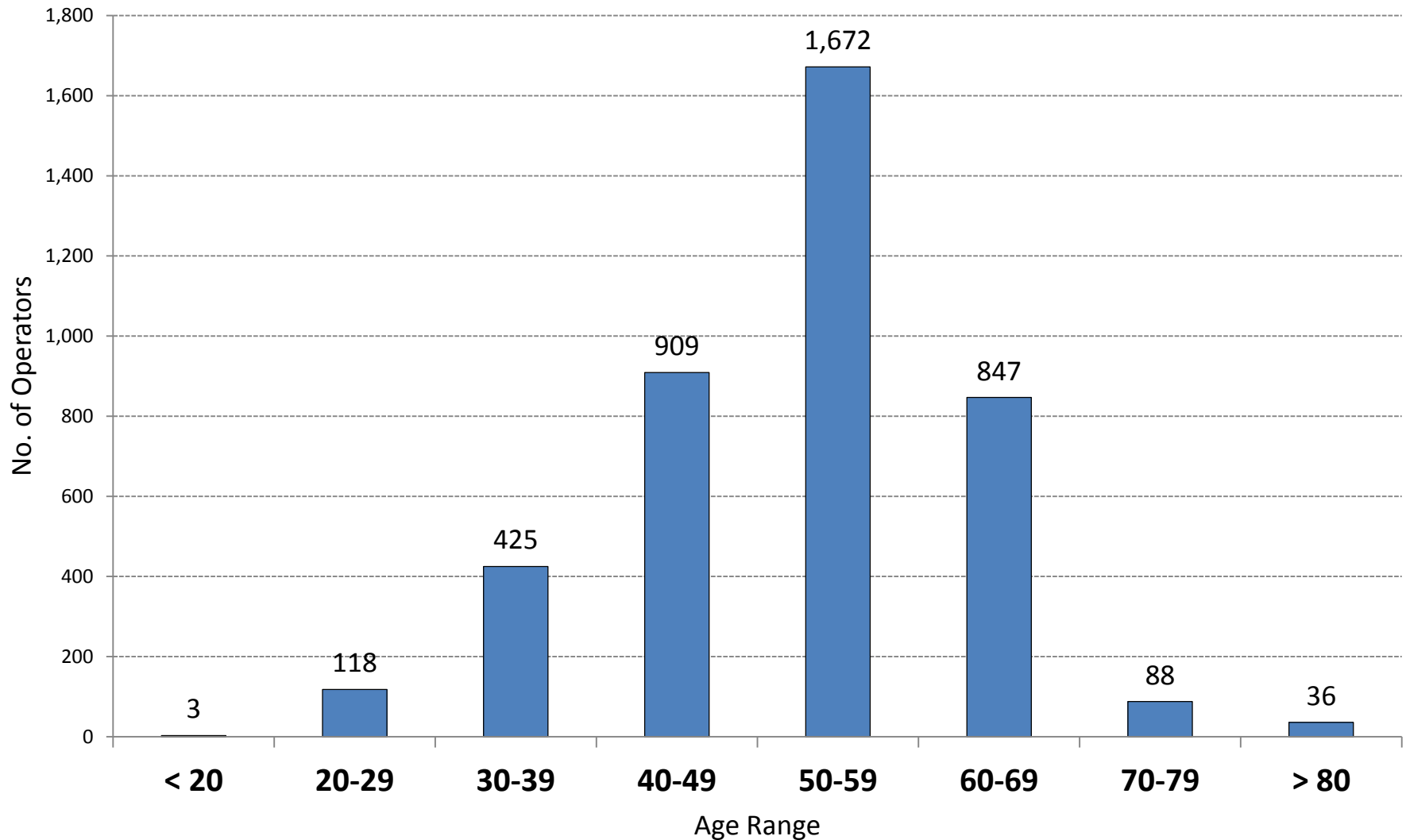
% of Operators by Class



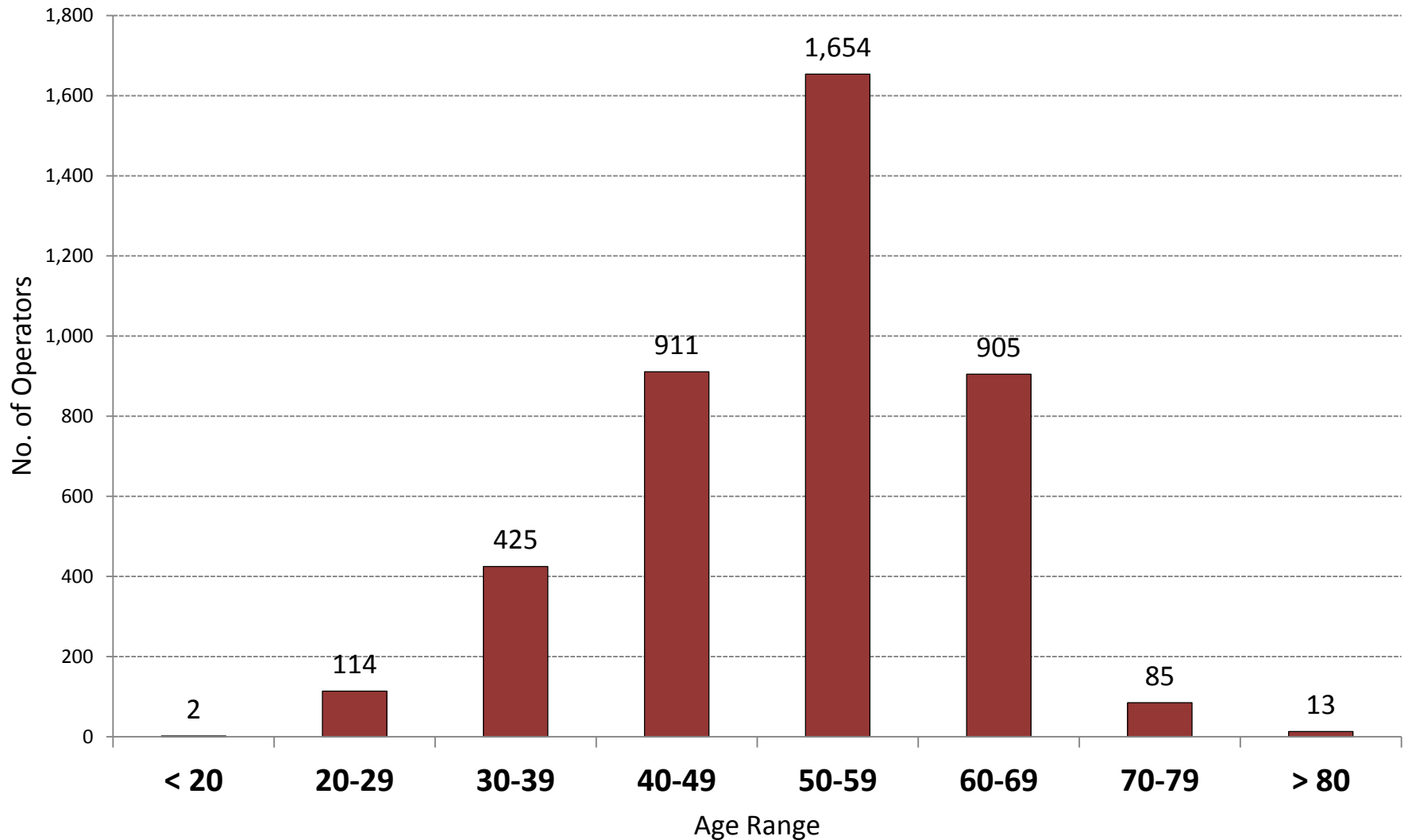
% of Facilities by Class



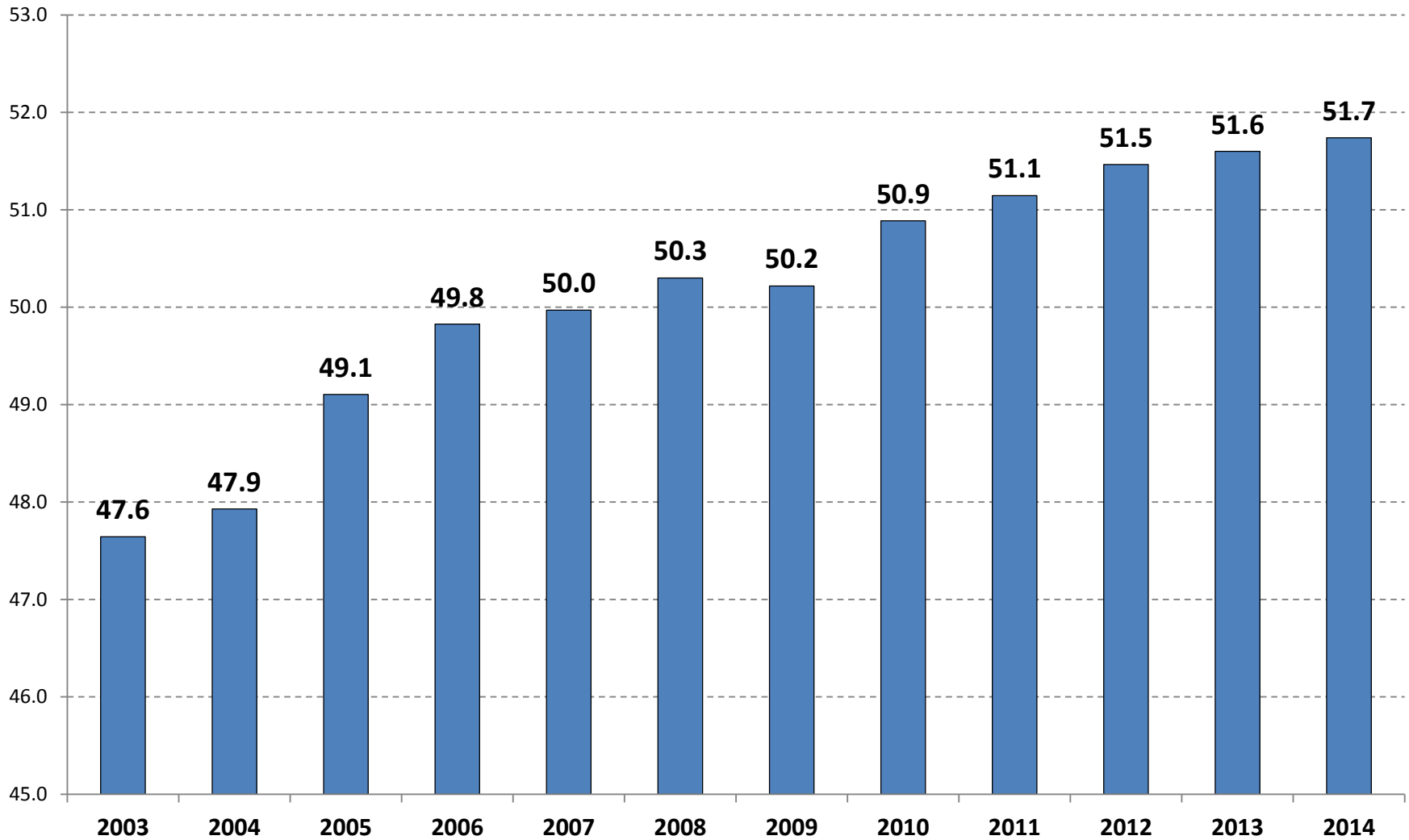
Age Distribution: Drinking Water Operators



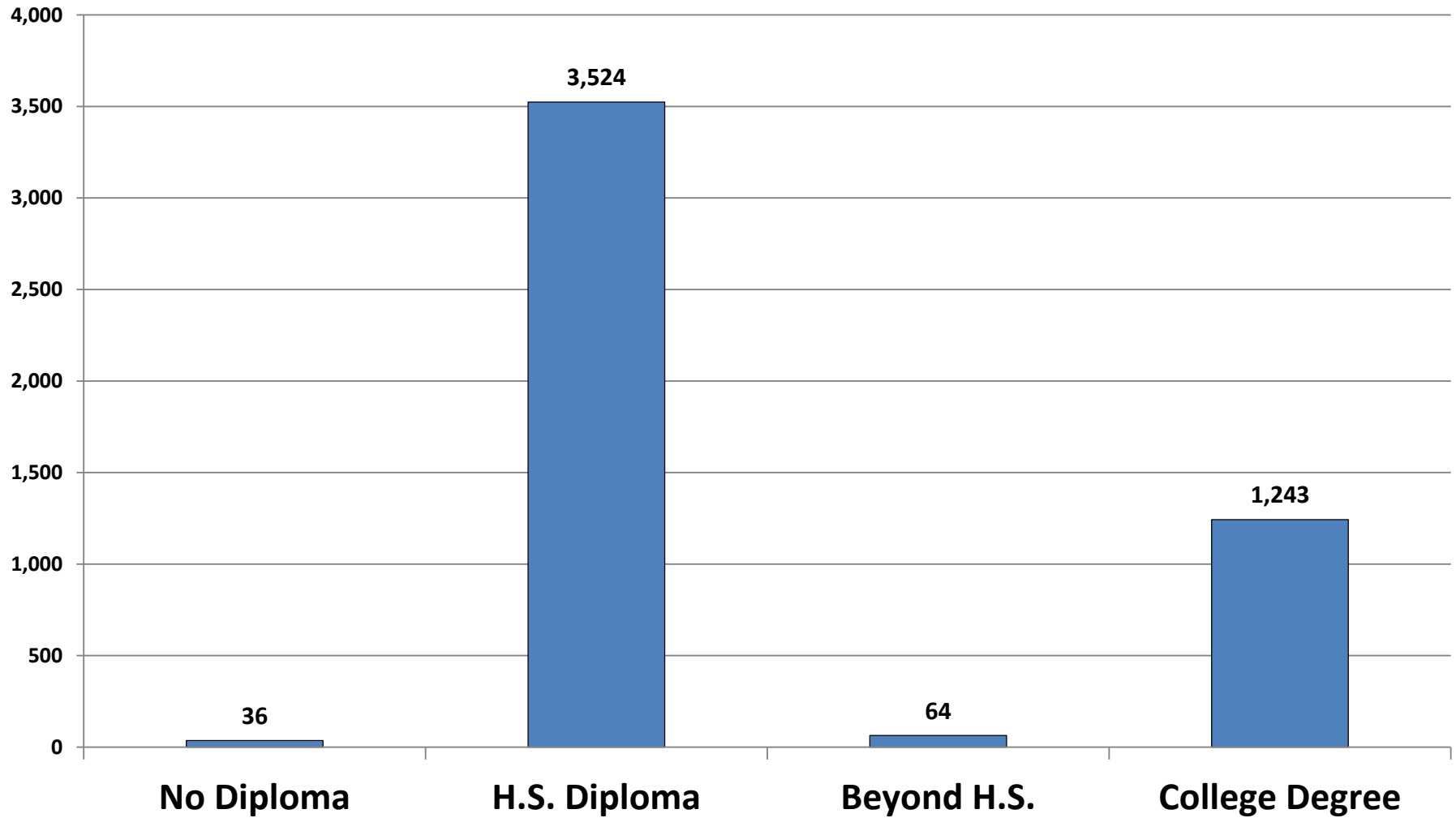
Age Distribution: Wastewater Operators



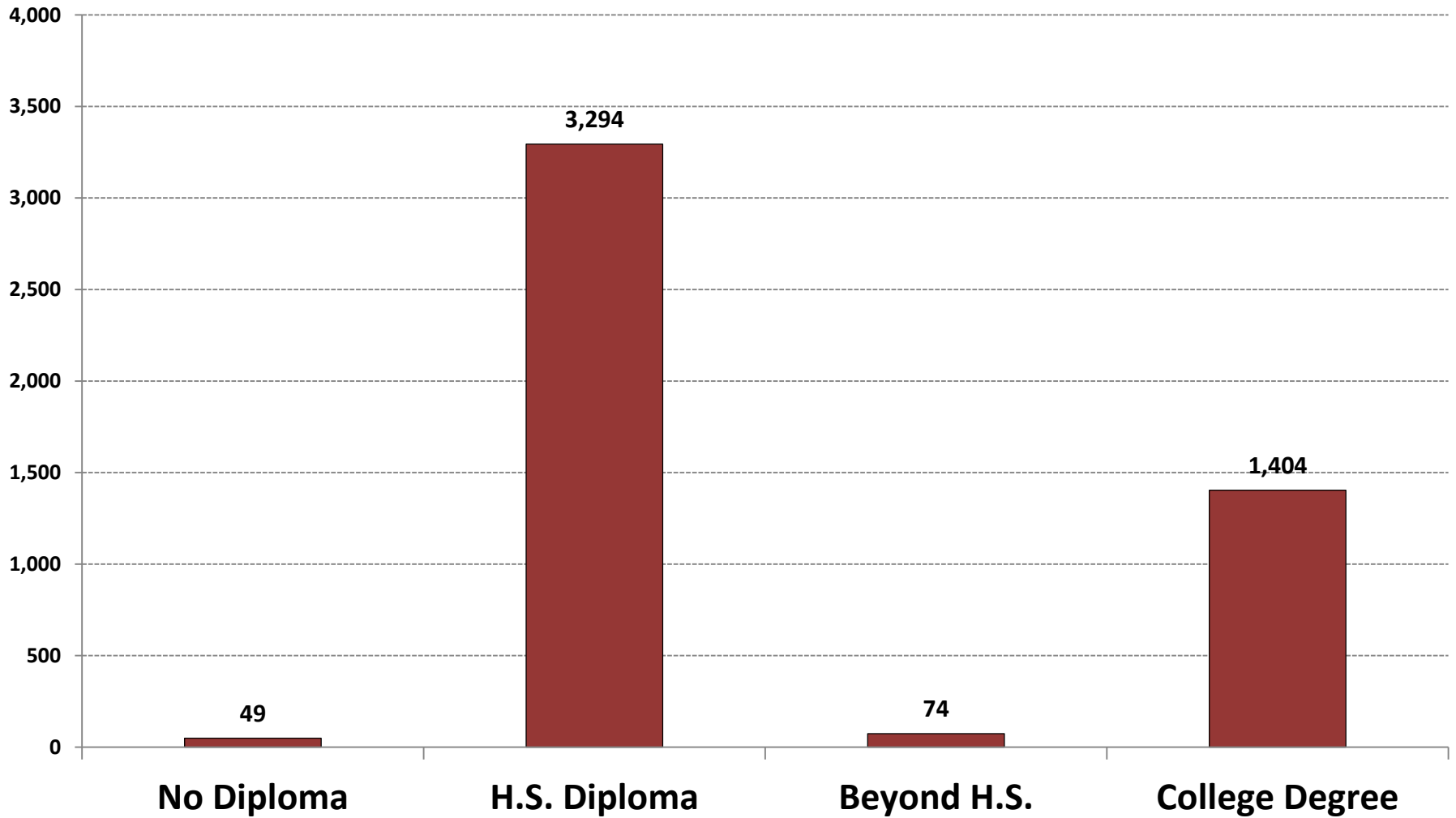
Average Operator Age



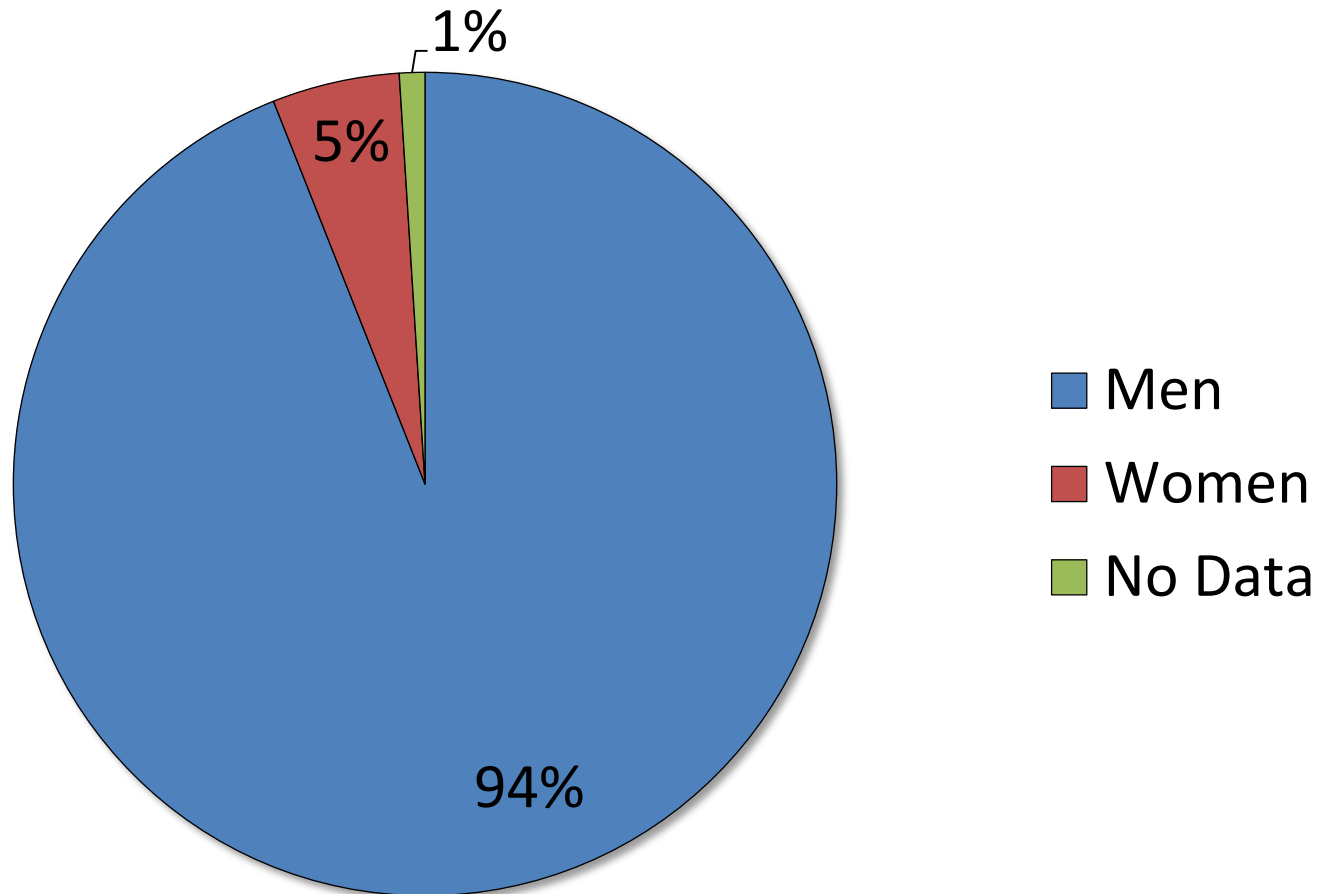
Drinking Water Operator Education Level



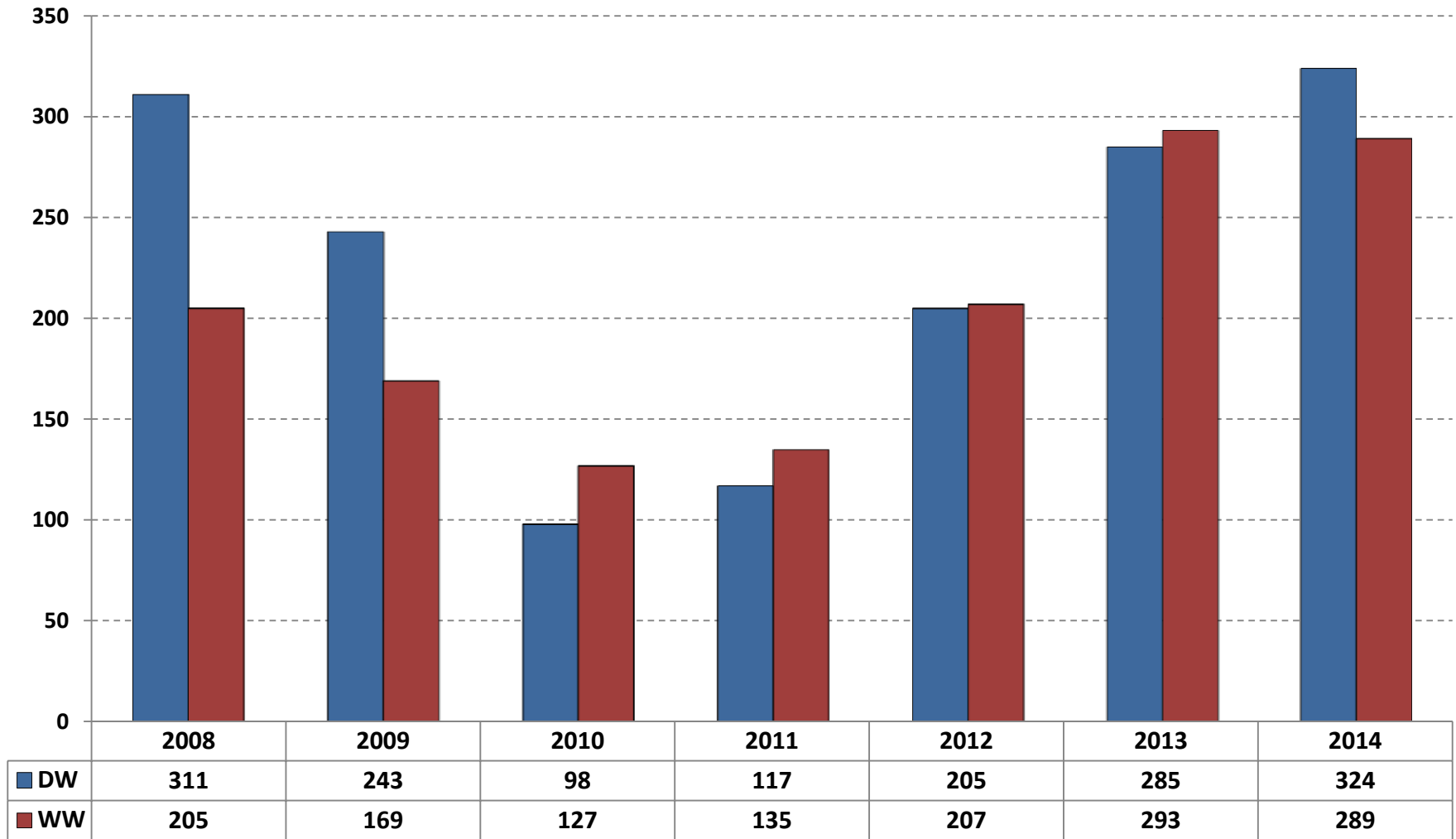
Wastewater Operator Education Level



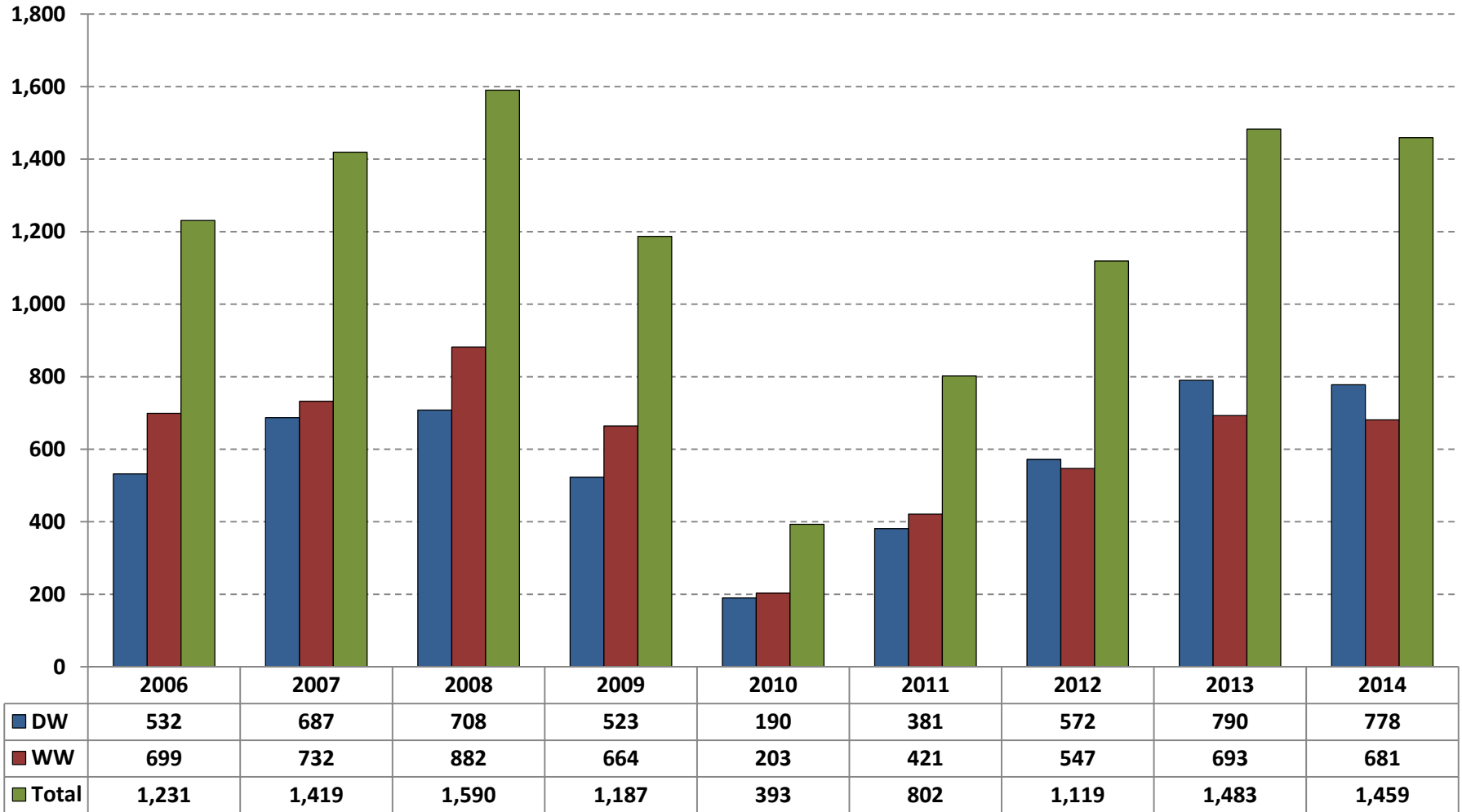
Gender of Operators



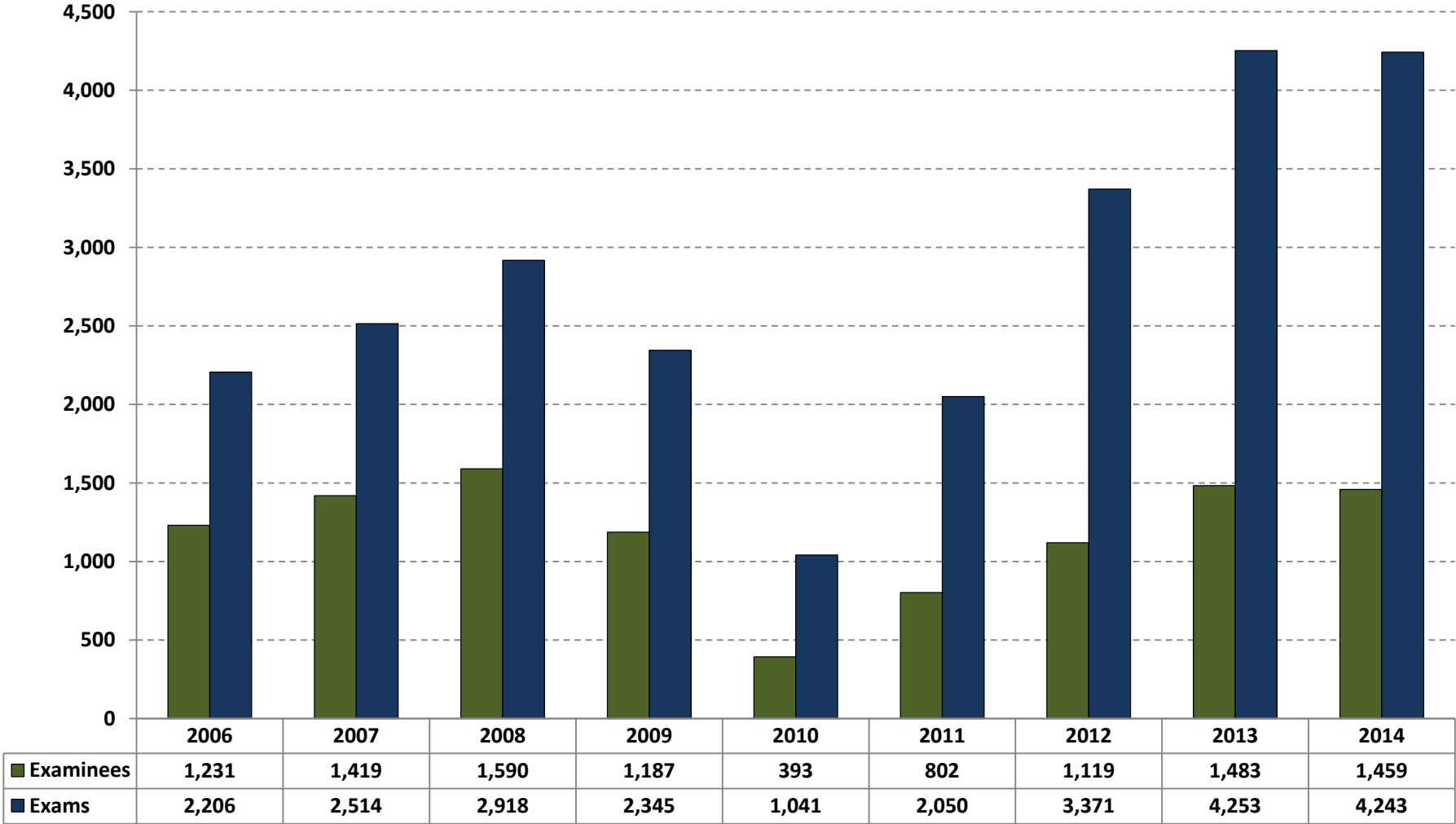
New Certificates Issued



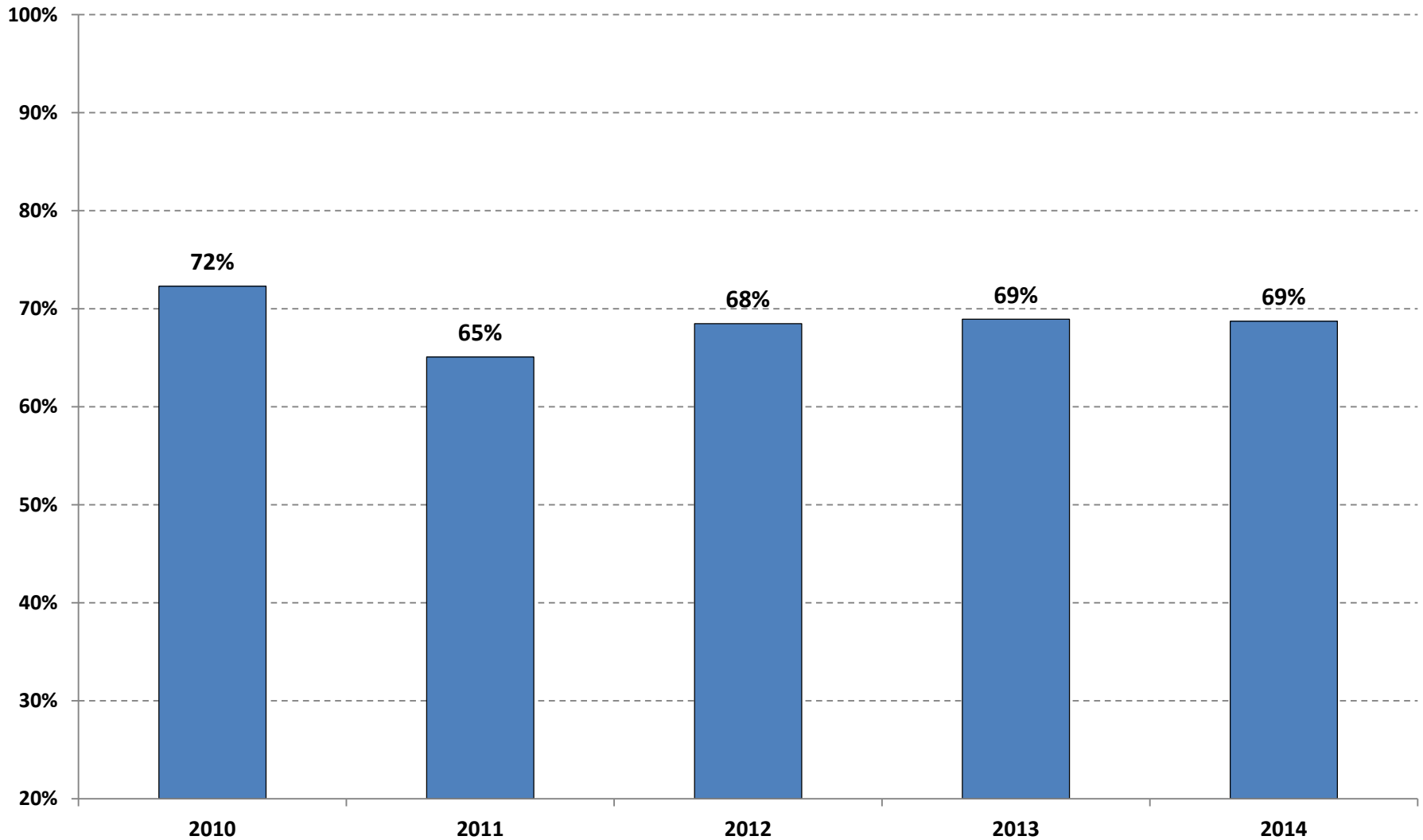
Water and Wastewater Examinees



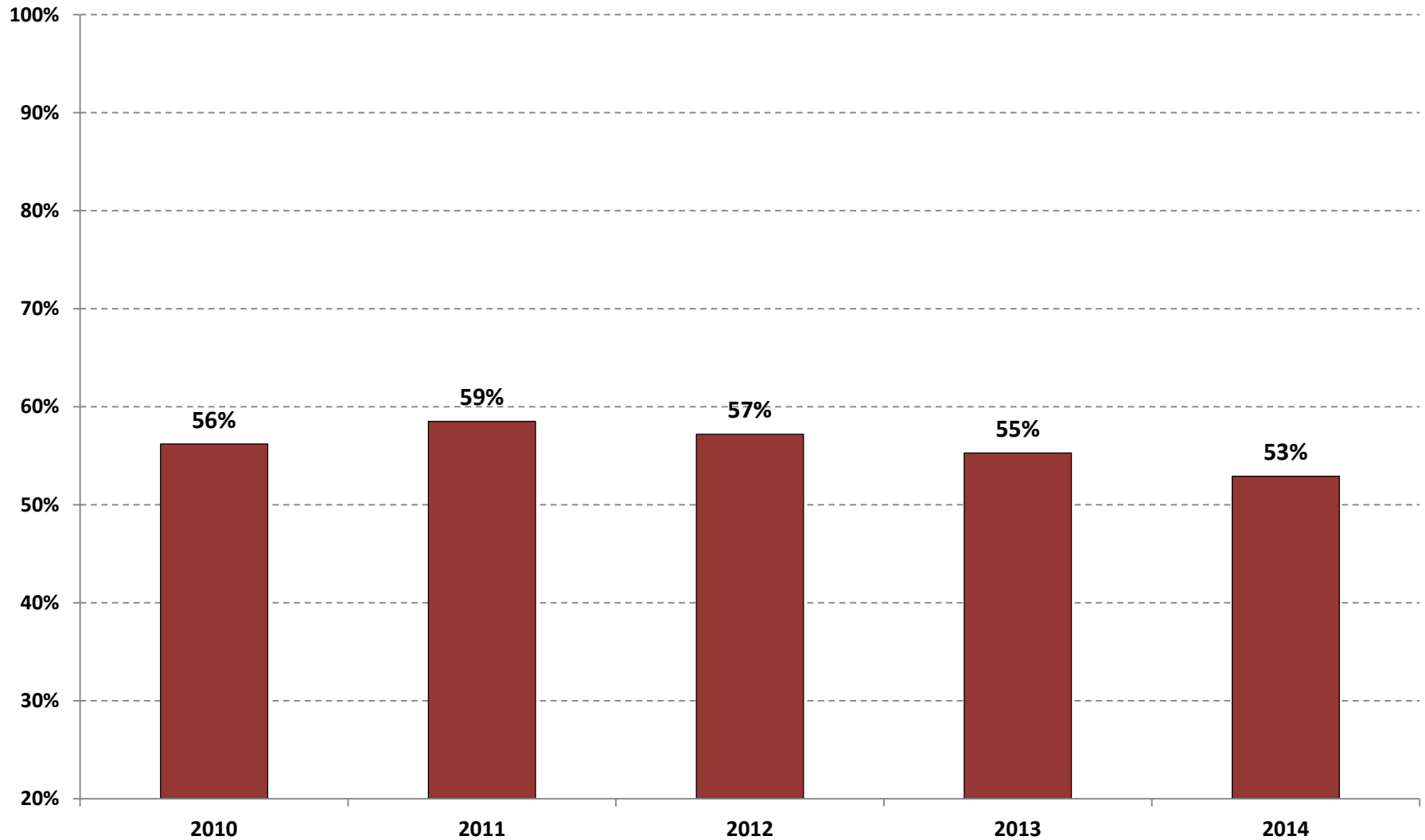
Total Examinees and Total Subclass Exams



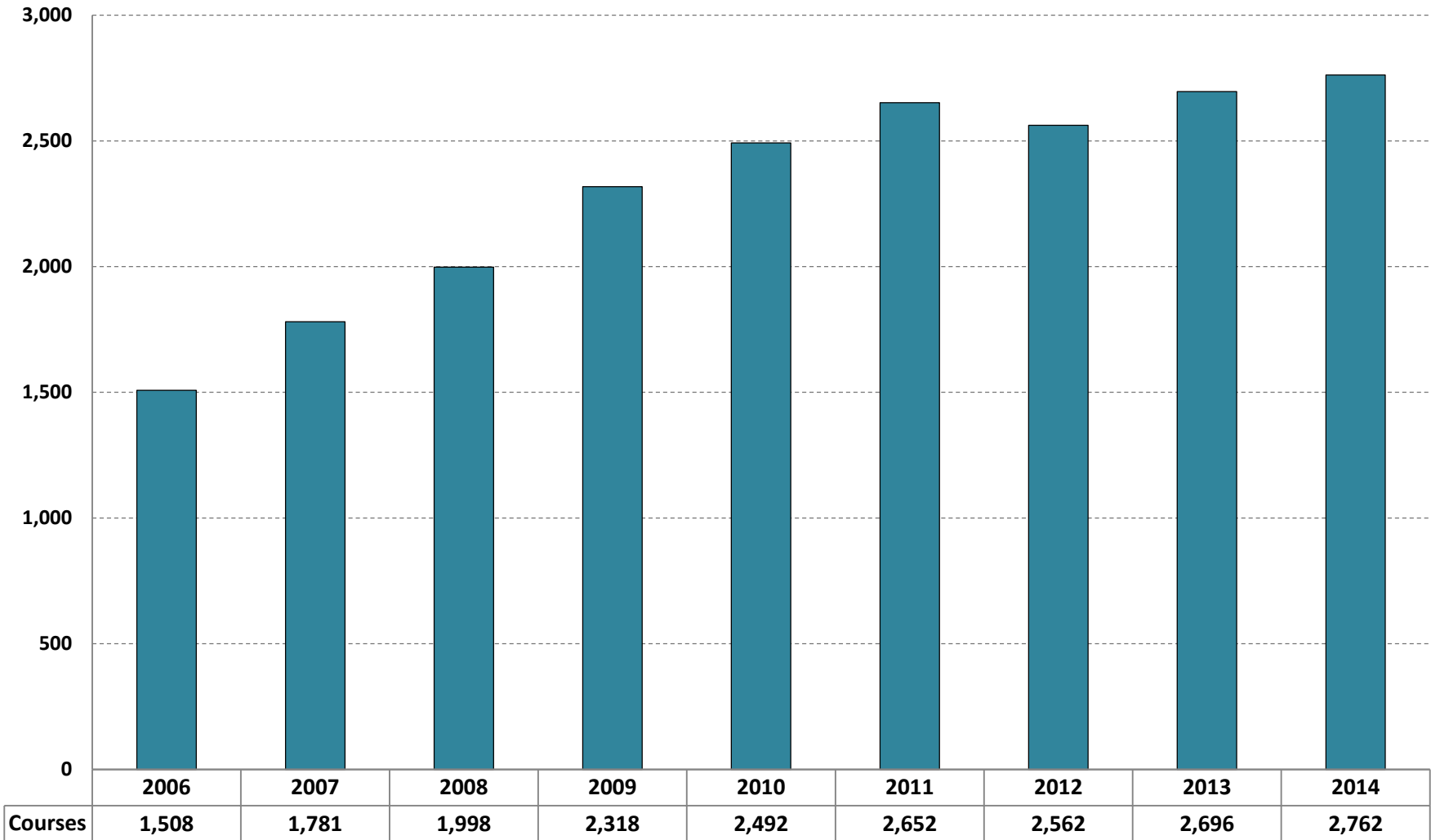
Overall Exam Passing Rates: DW



Overall Exam Passing Rate: WW



Cumulative Approved Courses



Chapter 302 Regulations

System Owner Responsibilities:

- Ensure process control decisions are made by an available operator
- Provide copies of permits to operators
- Respond to reports from operators
- Provide names of available operators to DEP
- Pay annual service fee

Chapter 302 Regulations

Operator Responsibilities:

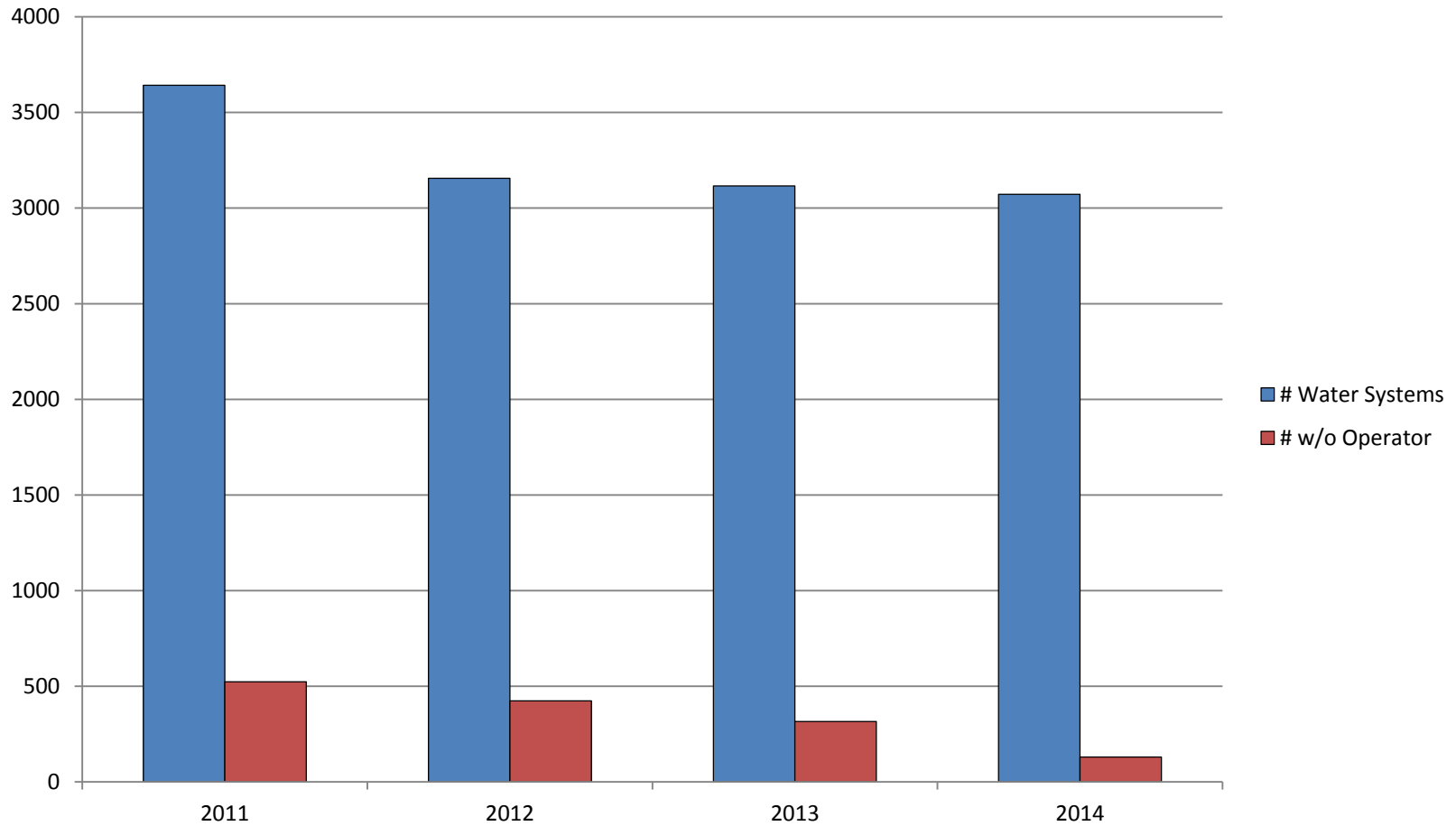
- Suitably operate and maintain facility to comply with rules, regulations, and permits
- Follow Standard Operating Procedures unless identified as an available operator
- Provide report to system owner concerning problems and/or violations

Op Cert Program Compliance

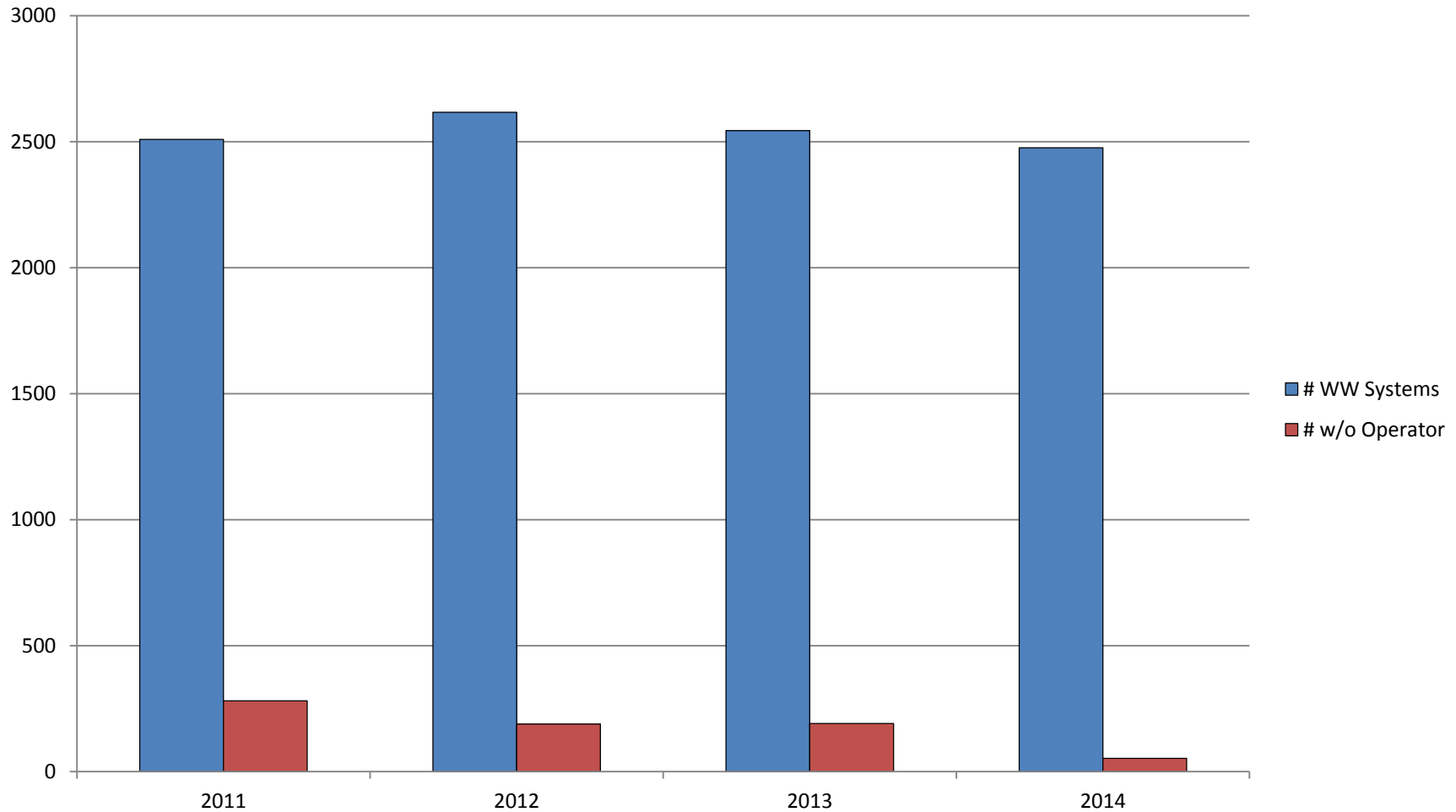
Environmental Facility Application Compliance Tracking System (eFACTS) is the database for the Operator Certification Program that provides:

- List of each system's operators
- System operator certification type – required class and subclass(es)
- Circuit rider information
- Links the operators to systems
- History of each operator's certification

▶ Drinking Water Operator Compliance



Wastewater Operator Compliance



Op Cert Program Enforcement

- Field staff evaluate compliance during inspections
- Central Office tracks fee payments and Available Operator Report compliance
- Potential enforcement actions:
 - Notice of Violation or Summary Citation
 - Field Order/COA/Administrative Order
 - Penalties (if in violation of an Order)
 - Suspension or revocation of certificate

Op Cert Program Enforcement

- Draft compliance and enforcement technical guidance document – publish in June 2015 for violations of Chapter 302 regulations
- Severity of a violation under Chapter 302 often depends on subsequent violation of water or wastewater program regulations



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Bureau of Safe Drinking Water

Questions?

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