

# Seacoast Private Well Initiative Update

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NEW HAMPSHIRE DRINKING WATER  
& GROUNDWATER TRUST FUND

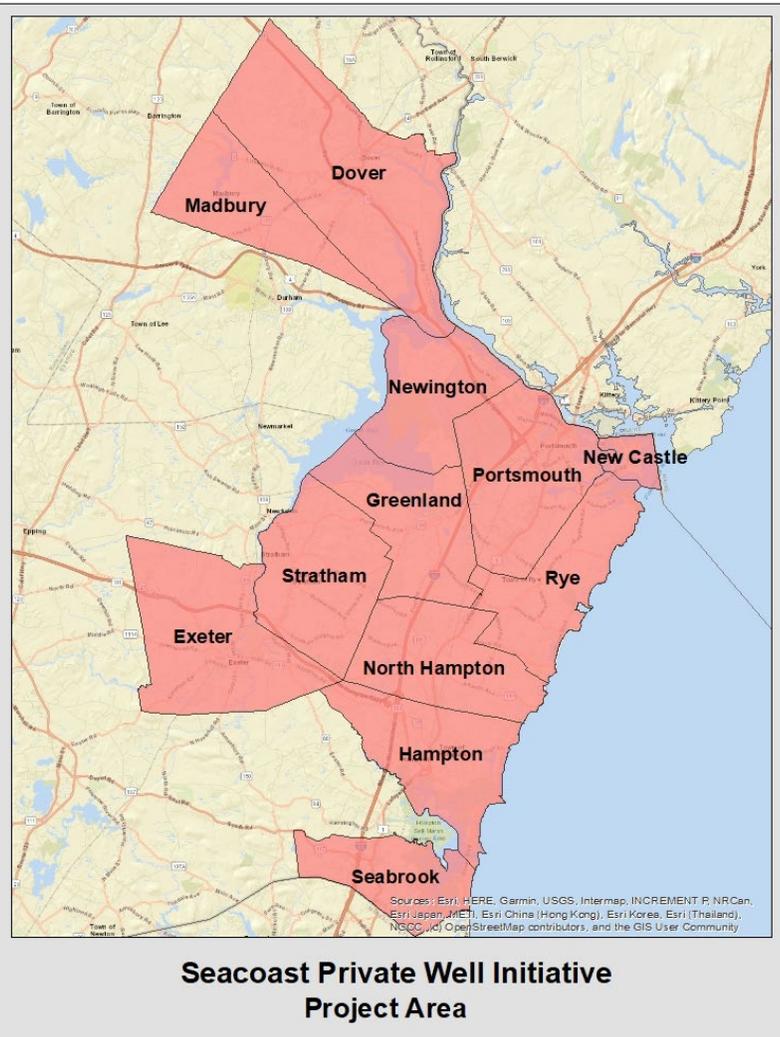


Seacoast Commission  
on Drinking Water



NEW HAMPSHIRE  
DEPARTMENT OF

**Environmental  
Services**



# Free workshop & well testing for interested private well users

**Workshop:** focus on common NH well contaminants, health impacts, and water treatment options. Hand out test kits.

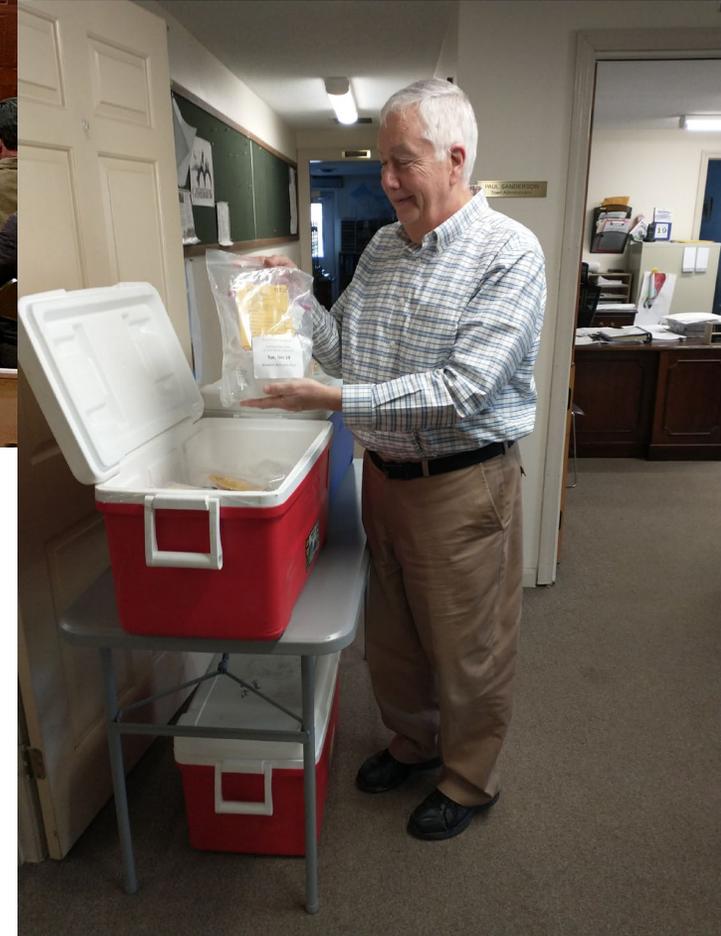
## Free Water Test:

- Standard Analysis: arsenic, copper, manganese, lead and a few others
- Radon
- 4 PFAS that have NH health limits

**Participants receive** results, a *Be Well* Informed report with treatment recommendations, our contact info if they need further help. Those with PFAS exceedances referred to PFAS Treatment Rebate.



**Our final workshop January 30, 2024 in Dover**



**December Greenland sample collection**

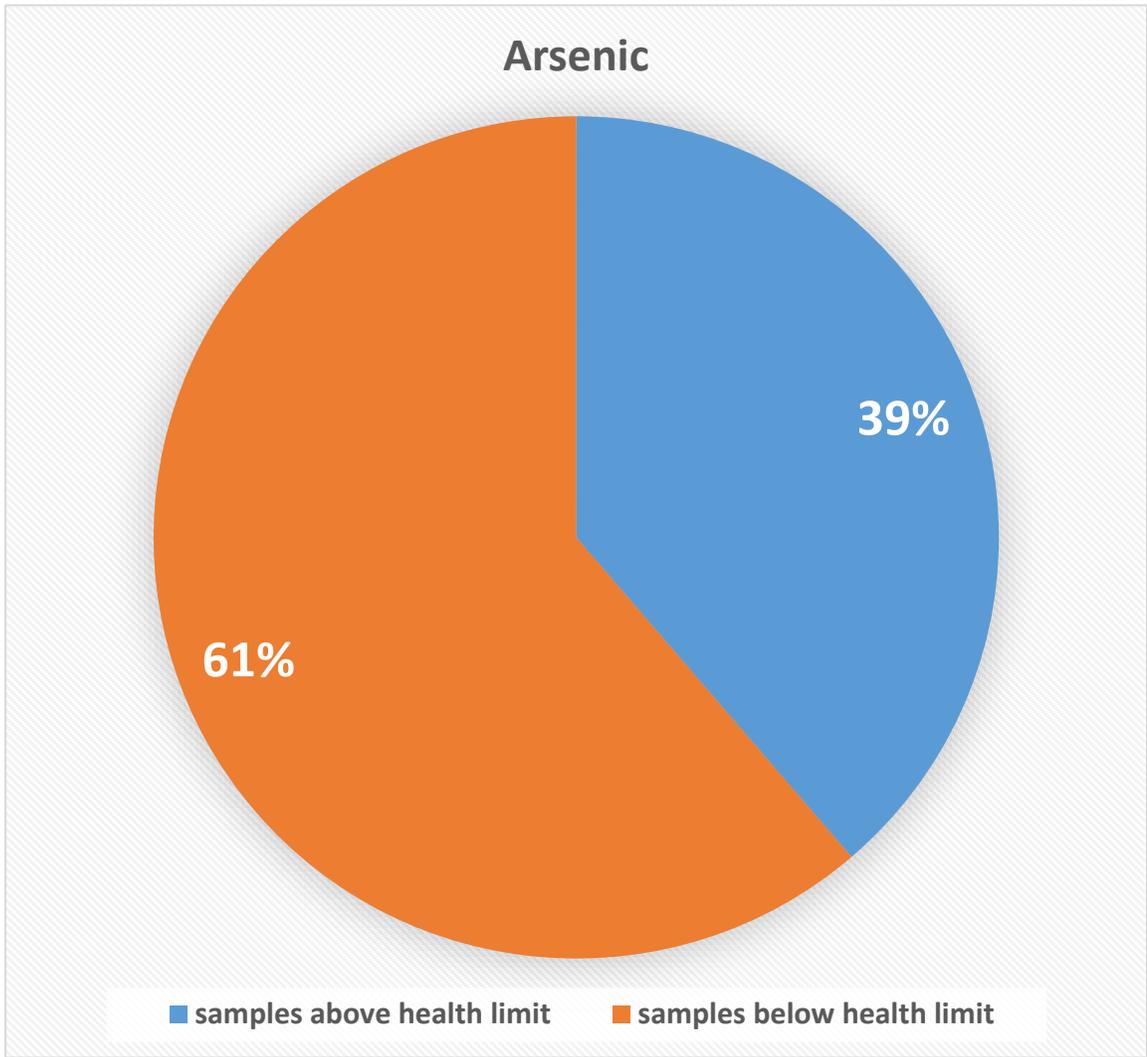


**The last sample pick up Feb 14**



**733** households fully participated = about 1,830 residents impacted!

Towns included	Workshop held:	Households returning water samples:
Madbury	September 2022	84
North Hampton & Exeter	January 2023	108
Stratham	February 2023	276
Hampton & Seabrook	September 2023	40
Greenland, Rye, Portsmouth & Newington	November 2023	161
Dover	January 2024	64



# most prominent above health limits: Arsenic

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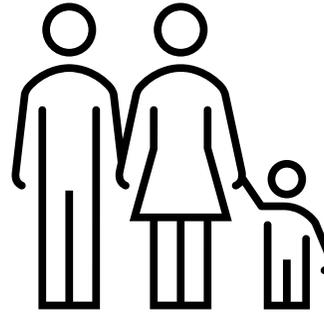
39% of households were above NH health limit of 5 parts per billion

Dover results not included (not yet available)

# Arsenic

Arsenic is a naturally-occurring **element** common in NH bedrock.

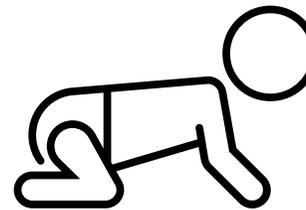
>5 ppb ( $\mu\text{g/L}$ )  
or  
0.005 mg/L



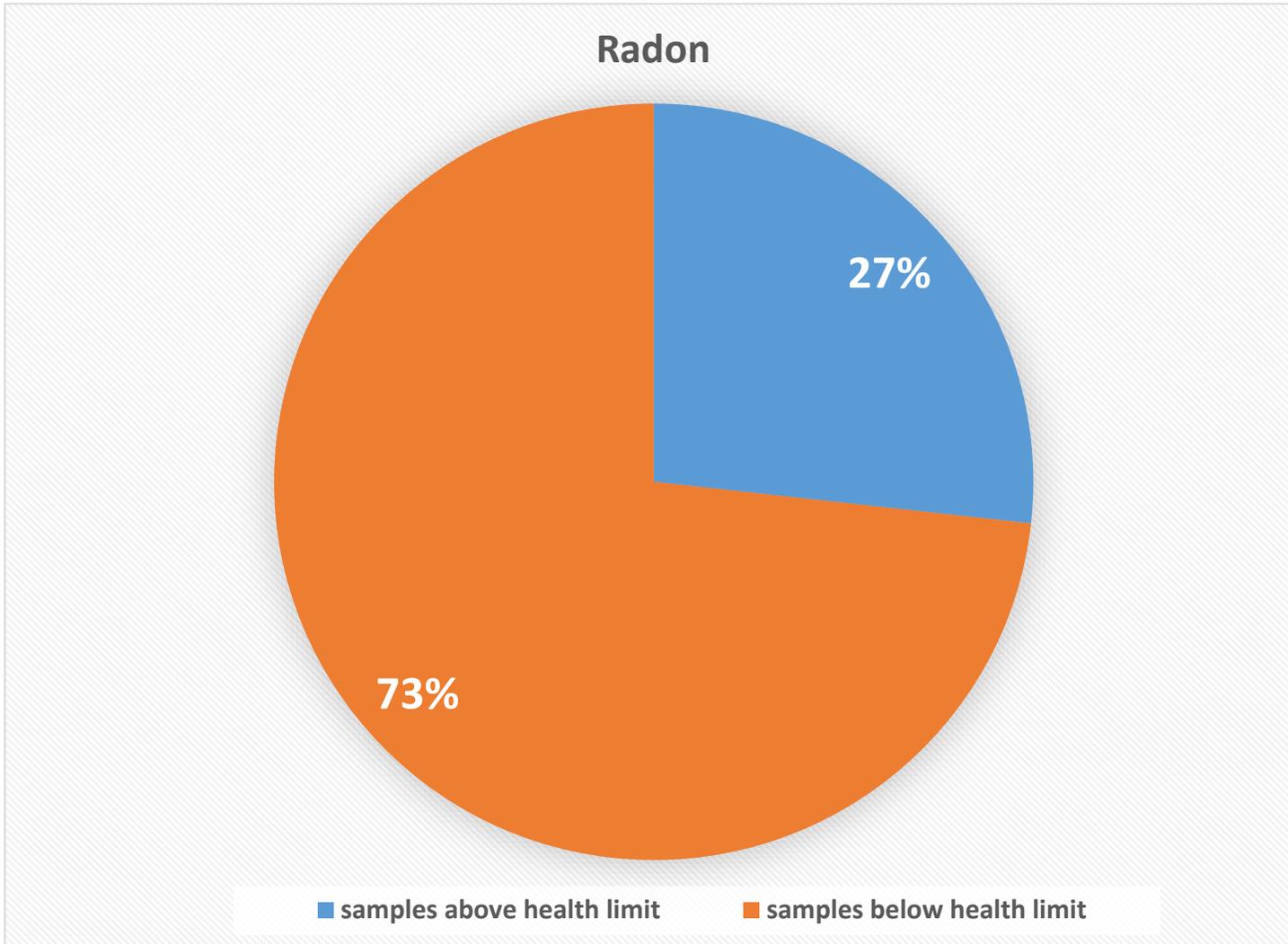
- ↑ risks for certain cancers (e.g., lung and bladder)
- ↑ risk for diabetes
- ↑ risk for cardiovascular disease
- ↓ immune system function



- ↓ fetal growth and birth weight
- ↓ early immune system function



- ↑ lifetime risk for cancer
- ↑ lifetime risk of respiratory diseases
- ↓ IQ and brain development



Also  
prominent  
= radon

27% of households had radon in water above NH Health Limit of 2,000 pi/L

Dover results not included (not yet available)

Other  
contaminants  
found above  
health limits in  
significant  
numbers of  
samples:

Sodium

Coliform bacteria

PFAS



Free Zero Water pitcher for low-income households with arsenic:

**18 have received free pitchers**

# PFAS:

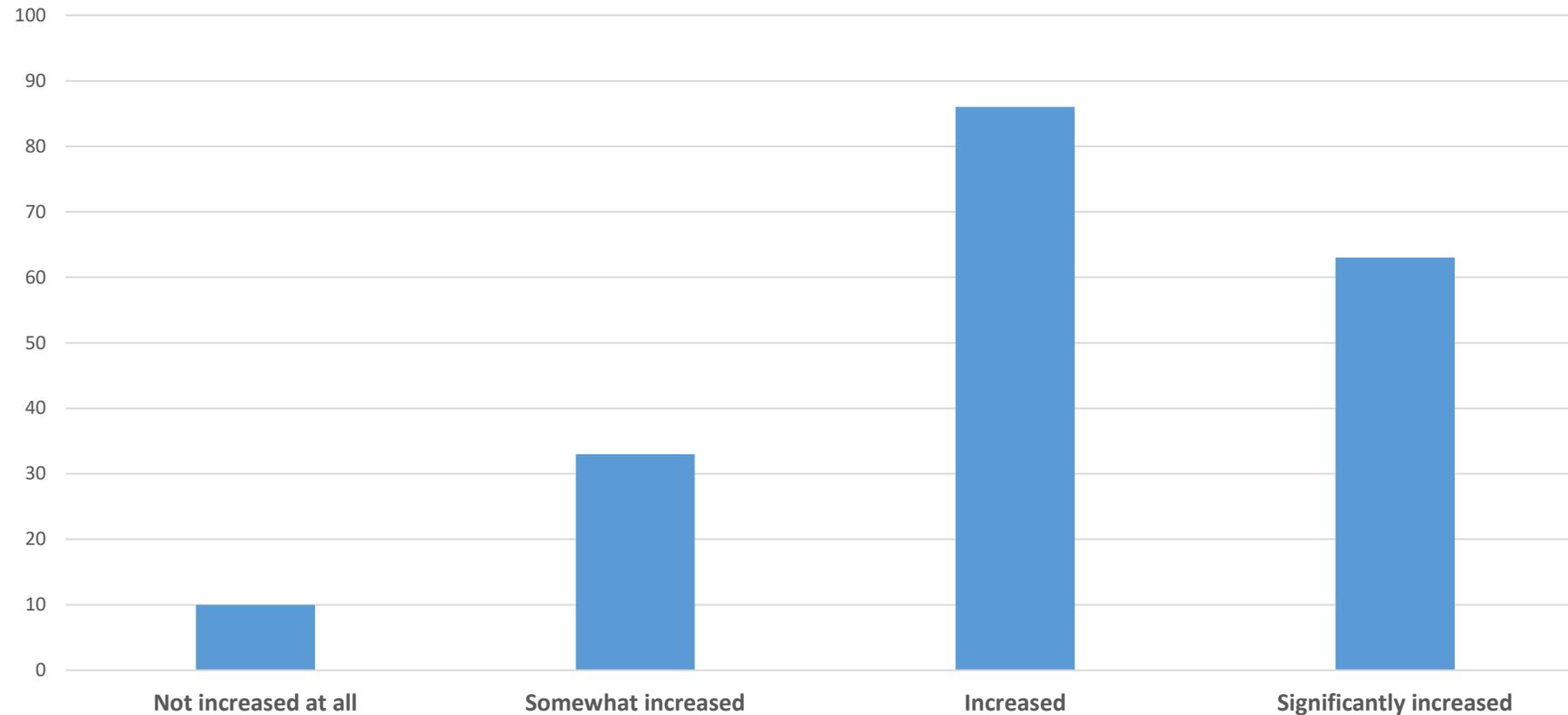
We tested for the 4 PFAS with NH health limits.

The screenshot shows the website header with navigation links: Home, Health Impacts, PFAS Occurrences, Response Areas, Firefighting Foam, Funding Opportunities, and Information Center. The main content area features a large landscape image of New Hampshire. Below the image is a breadcrumb trail: Home > Funding > PFAS Removal Rebate Program for Private Wells. The main heading is "PFAS Removal Rebate Program for Private Wells" with a sub-heading: "Funding for eligible private well owners to install a treatment system or connect to a water system." There are two callout boxes: one with a question mark icon titled "Urgent information regarding rebate payment processing!" and another titled "Arsenic Payments" with links to "Form 1099-G Guidance" and "Division of Accounting (DAS) Services Bulletin - IRS Form 1099-G". A "How To Apply" section is partially visible at the bottom.

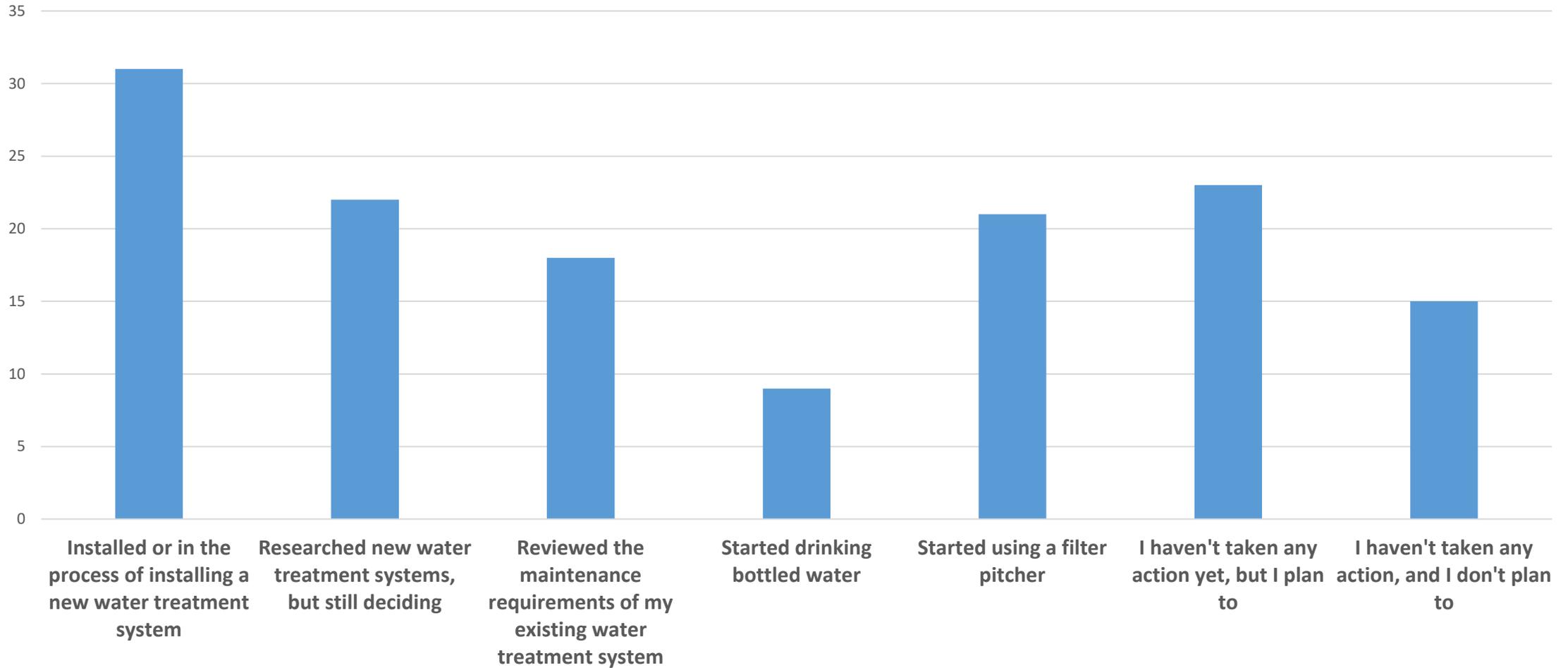
- Identified **26** households with at least 1 PFAS above health limit
- Encouraged each household to utilize PFAS Treatment Rebate of up to \$5,000

# Surveys survey results from Madbury, N. Hampton, Exeter & Stratham

**How has your knowledge of private well water contaminants increased as a result of participation?**



## For respondents with contaminants above health limits, we asked, “What action(s) have you taken?”



# Next steps:

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- Finish Dover—send results to participants
- Surveys to Dover and Greenland participants
- Further analysis of water quality results and survey responses
- Report on final project
- Analysis of project design, lessons learned, potential adaptations  
Advisory committee meetings March 20—this will be the topic!
- Identify resources & support to implement project state-wide