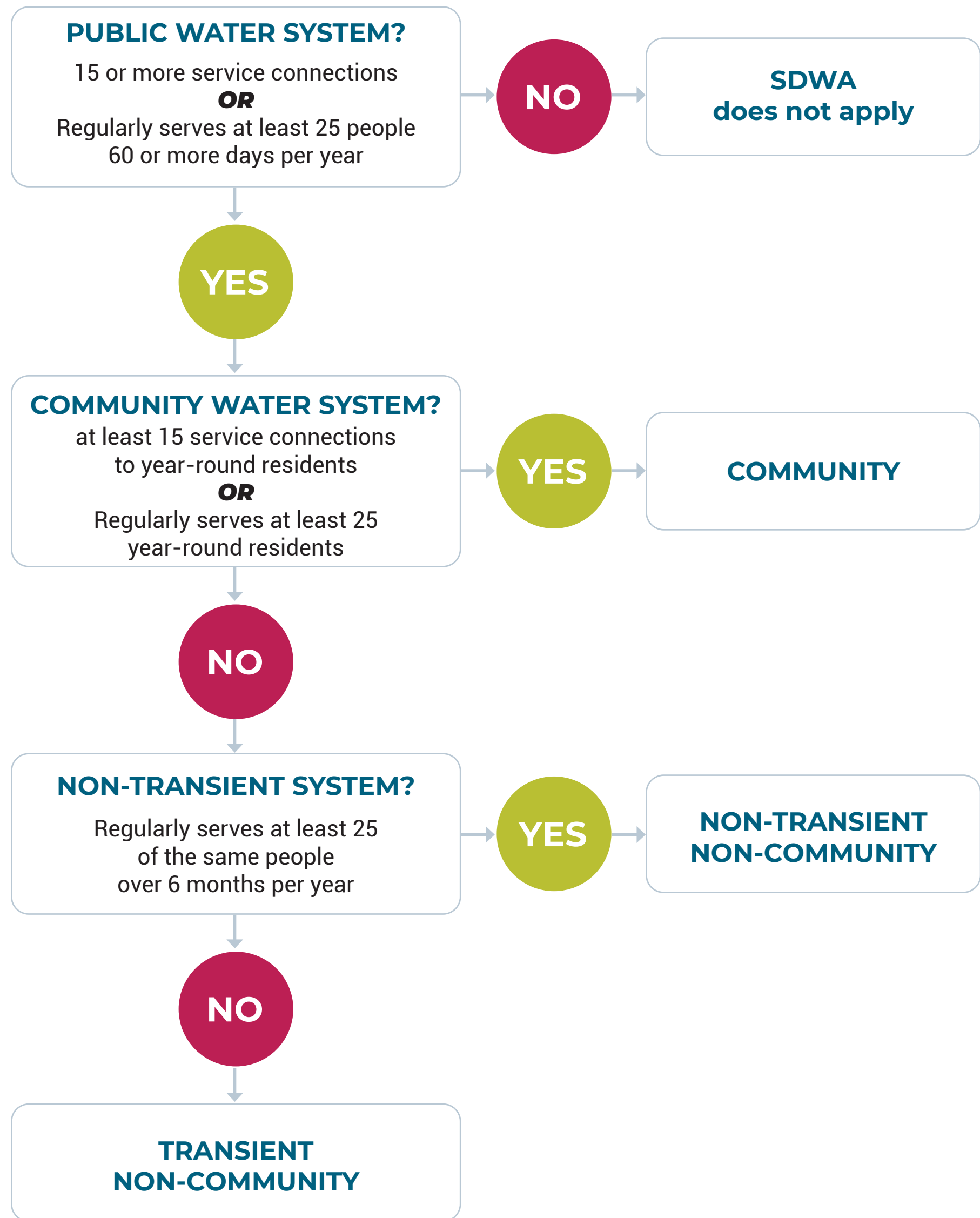


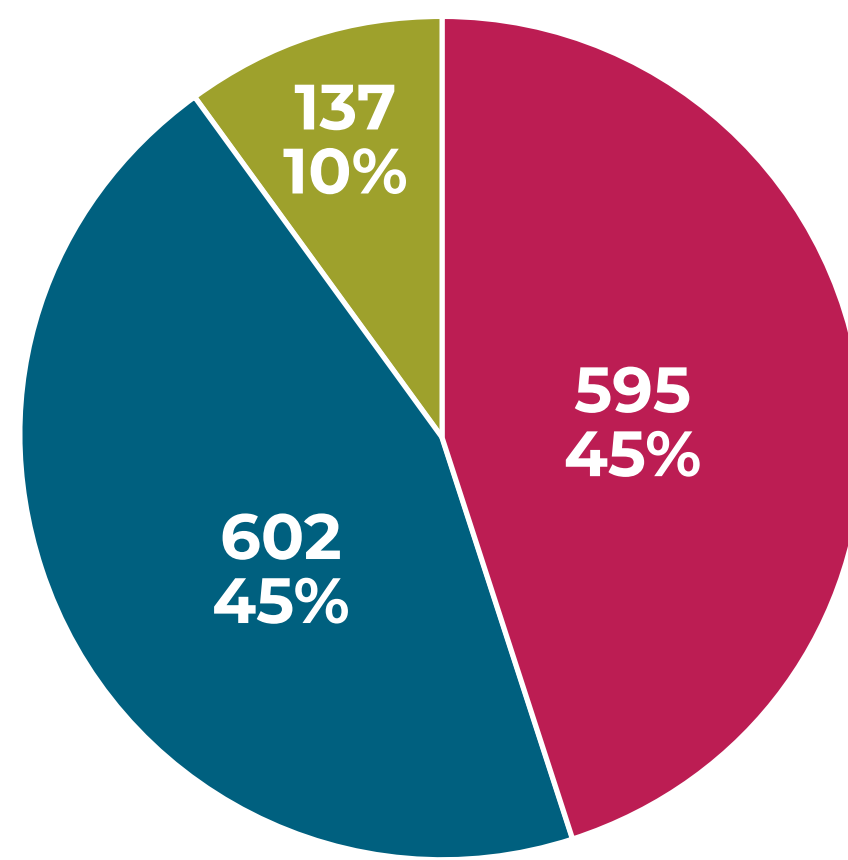
PUBLIC WATER SYSTEMS

Public Water Systems (PWS) and Nitrate

PUBLIC WATER SYSTEMS (PWS) ARE...



NUMBER OF PUBLIC WATER SYSTEMS BY TYPE



Community Water System:
Cities, Villages, Political Subdivisions, Nursing Homes

Non-Transient Non-Community Water System:
Schools, some RV Parks, Manufacturing/Industrial Facilities

Transient Non-Community Water System:
Gas Stations, Convenience Stores, Campgrounds, Churches

PWS MUST COMPLY WITH THE SAFE DRINKING WATER ACT (SDWA)

- The SDWA sets maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) for certain compounds in drinking water – including nitrate – and requires regular monitoring. The MCL for nitrate in PWSs is 10 milligrams per liter.
- The public can access PWS water quality data at NDEE's Drinking Water Watch webpage.



WHAT HAPPENS WHEN A PWS VIOLATES THE NITRATE MCL?



PWS must notify customers within 24-hours and provide alternate sources (e.g. bottled water) to vulnerable populations.



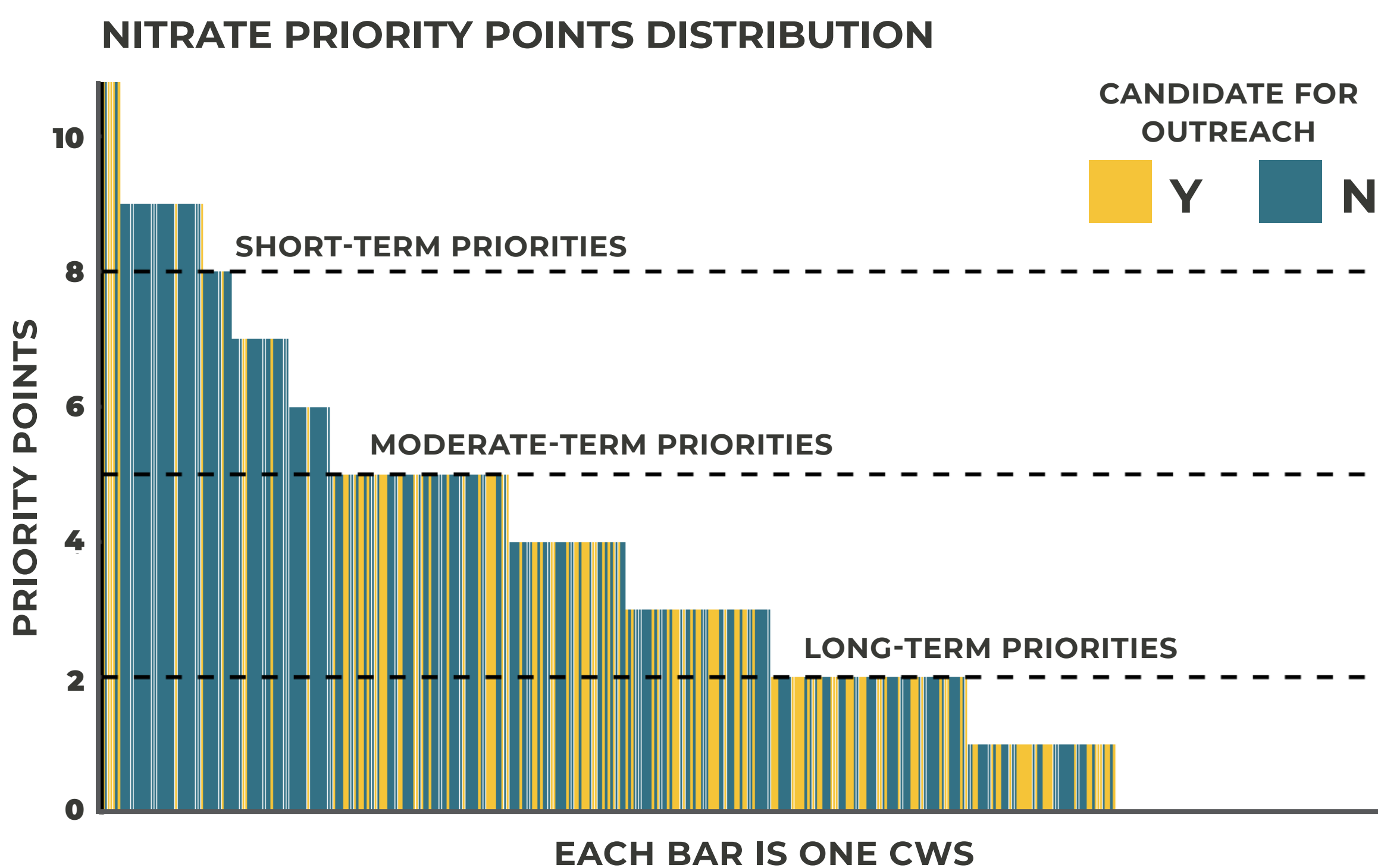
NDEE works with PWSs to return to compliance, but repeat violations lead to an administrative order (AO)



AOs legally mandate compliance with the SDWA within 3 years.

- This can mean expensive engineered solutions.
- Often leads to a large increase in water bills for very small communities.
- 93% of the State's CWSs are classified as small systems serving less than 3,300 people.

NDEE ANALYZES TRENDS IN CWS NITRATE DATA TO IDENTIFY OPPORTUNITIES TO PREVENT AOS



LONG-TERM PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT CAN PREVENT NITRATE CONTAMINATION IN DRINKING WATER.

NDEE partners with the Natural Resource Districts (NRDs) and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) to assist communities with:

- Wellhead protection planning
- Source water protection planning and aid
- Non-point source and watershed management planning
- Technical, financial, and managerial capacity building
- Connecting with technical assistance providers
- Low interest rate water infrastructure loans through the State Revolving Funds (SRFs)