

Statewide Potable Water Reuse Survey Research Analysis



This research was funded through the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to gather a statewide baseline of citizen attitudes and perceptions about recycled water, including indirect and direct potable reuse. The online survey was conducted in March 2020 with 1,980 respondents, and the results are statistically valid with a +/-2.2% statewide margin of error.

Drinking Water Behaviors

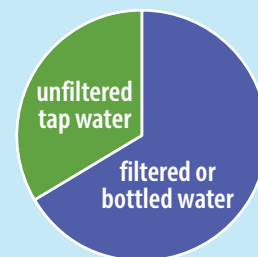


Nearly half of respondents

47%

believe that tap water is unsafe.

About 2/3 of respondents drink **filtered or bottled water**.



Reclaimed Water

Prior to answering questions related to reclaimed water, respondents were provided the following definition:

Reclaimed water is highly treated wastewater that can be used for irrigation, industrial uses or other non-drinking water purposes.

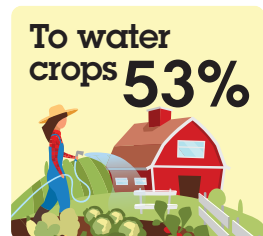


75%

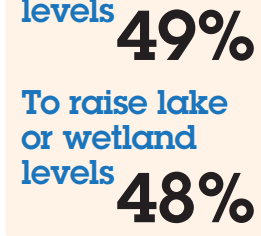
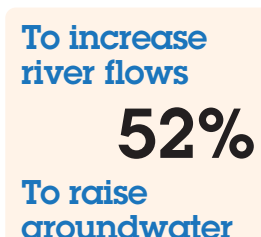
of respondents are familiar with the concept of **reclaimed water**.

Respondents are more likely to agree with using **reclaimed water** for **personal uses** than **environmental uses**.

Personal Uses:

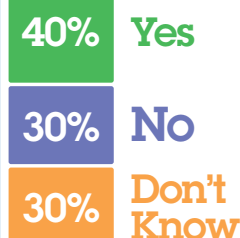


Environmental Uses:



40%

of respondents believe it is possible to further treat reclaimed water to standards that make it safe for drinking.



Indirect Potable Reuse

Prior to answering questions related to potable reuse, respondents were provided the following definition:

Indirect potable reuse is highly treated wastewater that receives additional natural treatment in an aquifer or a wetland, then is withdrawn and treated all the way to drinking water standards and sent directly to homes and businesses for all purposes.

and

Direct Potable Reuse

Prior to answering questions related to potable reuse, respondents were provided the following definition:

Direct potable reuse is wastewater that is treated all the way to drinking water standards and then sent directly to homes and businesses for all purposes.

Respondents have similar agreement with using **indirect** and **direct potable reuse** for personal reasons, and they are considerably more agreeable to use **indirect potable reuse** for **personal uses** than **environmental uses**.

Personal Uses:



To water vegetables in your garden

69%

68%



To take a shower or bath

64%

66%



To swim in

61%

62%



To add to local drinking water supplies

59%

61%

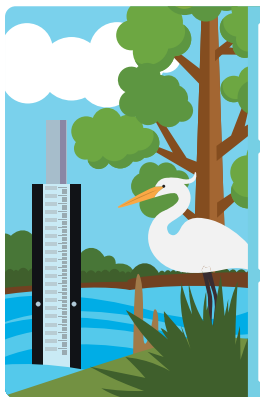


To drink

58%

61%

Environmental Uses:



To raise lake or wetland levels

42%

To raise groundwater levels

41%

To increase river flows

41%



Three out of five respondents were confident in using indirect and/or direct potable reuse based on specific facts provided about each. The highest confidence was in these facts:



- Florida's water complies with strict state and federal drinking water standards.
- Indirect and/or direct potable reuse could supply a portion of Florida's drinking water supplies in the future.

Throughout the survey, respondents read facts, as well as positive and negative opinions about direct and indirect potable reuse water. At the end of the survey, respondents were asked if they support or oppose indirect and direct potable reuse in their community for all household purposes (including drinking) now that they have heard more about it.

SUPPORT

65%

Neither Support nor Oppose

29%

Oppose

6%