



TIJUANA RIVER VALLEY & BEACH WATER SEWAGE CRISIS

CASPER AND ACE HEALTH SURVEYS | KEY FINDINGS

BACKGROUND:

Sewage from the Tijuana River is affecting communities in the South Region of San Diego County, raising health and environmental concerns. In response, the County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency worked with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) to conduct two surveys.

The **Community Assessment for Public Health Emergency Response**, or **CASPER**, identified local health needs and household concerns about air and water exposure from the sewage.

The **Assessment of Chemical Exposure** survey, or **ACE**, looked at concerns about air and water exposure, as well as other environmental and health risks at home, at work, and during outdoor activities.

WHO PARTICIPATED?

Survey	Areas Covered	When	Level	Who	How	Languages
CASPER	Imperial Beach, Nestor, San Ysidro	October 17-19, 2024	Household	189 households	In-person interview	English, Spanish
ACE	Imperial Beach, Nestor, San Ysidro, Otay Mesa West, Silver Strand, and Coronado	October 21-November 22, 2024	Individual	2,099 residents, workers, visitors	Self-administered online survey	English, Spanish, Tagalog

COMMON COMMUNITY CONCERNS - WHAT WE HEARD ACROSS BOTH SURVEYS

Strong concern about air and water quality due to the sewage crisis.



Majority use **bottled water** due to concerns about tap water.

Reports of physical and mental health symptoms due to the sewage crisis.



Preferred **sources of information**: word of mouth, TV, internet news, email, text.

Reported **needs**: clean water, air, medical/mental health care, and action.



For more information, visit
sandiegocounty.gov/southregionhealth



LIVE WELL
SAN DIEGO

KEY FINDINGS: CASPER



94% noticed a smell in the past month.



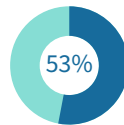
90% of households are concerned about the sewage crisis.



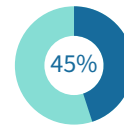
71% do not think their tap water is safe.



59% changed their activities or routines due to the sewage.



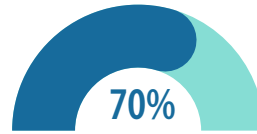
Live in multiple unit structure.



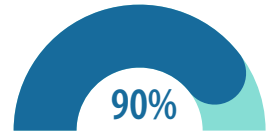
Spanish as primary language.



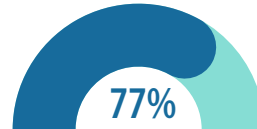
3.2 average number of people in the household.



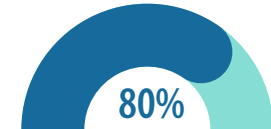
Had household disruptions due to the crisis.



Think the crisis is getting worse.



Believe the air quality is NOT ok.



Say their quality of life is affected.

65% had signs of short-term mental health issues due to the crisis.

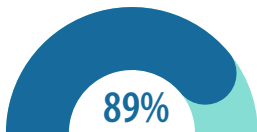
63% had one or more signs of emotional distress.

45% reported at least one health symptom in the past month caused by the crisis.

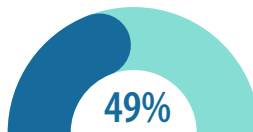
59% had increased stress due to the crisis.



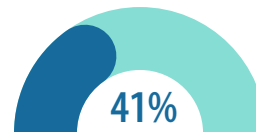
KEY FINDINGS: ACE



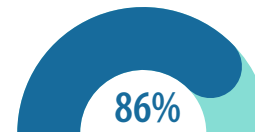
Aged 18 or older



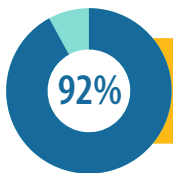
Hispanic/Latino



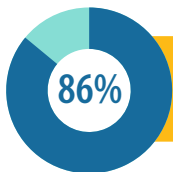
White



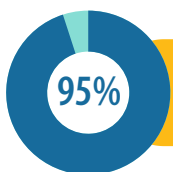
Home was the main reason for being in the affected area.



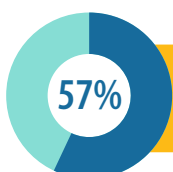
Concerned about air quality.



Concerned about tap water.



Noticed a sewage smell in the past 30 days.



Noticed a strong smell of sewage.



24% had contact with contaminated river or beach water, including workers.



64% had at least one new or worse physical health symptom in the past 30 days because of the crisis.



Headaches and breathing issues were commonly reported.



31% sought care for headaches and breathing issues.



28% had symptoms for anxiety.
21% had symptoms for depression.