



POST-SECONDARY STUDENT'S
PERSPECTIVES ON OKLAHOMA
WATER ISSUES AND
IMPLICATIONS TO WATER
EDUCATION PROGRAMS

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Background

- o In 2018, the Oklahoma Water Resources Center facilitated a statewide survey of Oklahomans perceptions and attitudes on water issues. In addition to the public's perceptions, student's perspectives at Oklahoma State University (OSU) were of interest.



Methodology

- 56-item Survey
- The 2018 student survey for *Water Issues in Oklahoma* was administered out to two regularly scheduled classes at OSU to 108 students, with 103 completed surveys, resulting in a 95.4% response rate



Demographics

Demographics		2018 % (n)
		(n = 103)
Gender	Male	30.1 (31)
	Female	54.4 (56)
	No response	15.5 (16)
Years lived in Oklahoma	All my life	47.6 (49)
	More than 10 years	10.7 (11)
	5 to 9 years	1.9 (2)
	Less than 5 years	27.2 (28)
	No response	12.7 (13)
Size of residence community	> 100,000	9.7 (10)
	25,000 to 100,000	38.8 (40)
	7,000 to 25,000	14.6 (15)
	3,500 to 7,000	8.7 (9)
	< 3,500	26.2 (27)
	No response	1.9 (2)

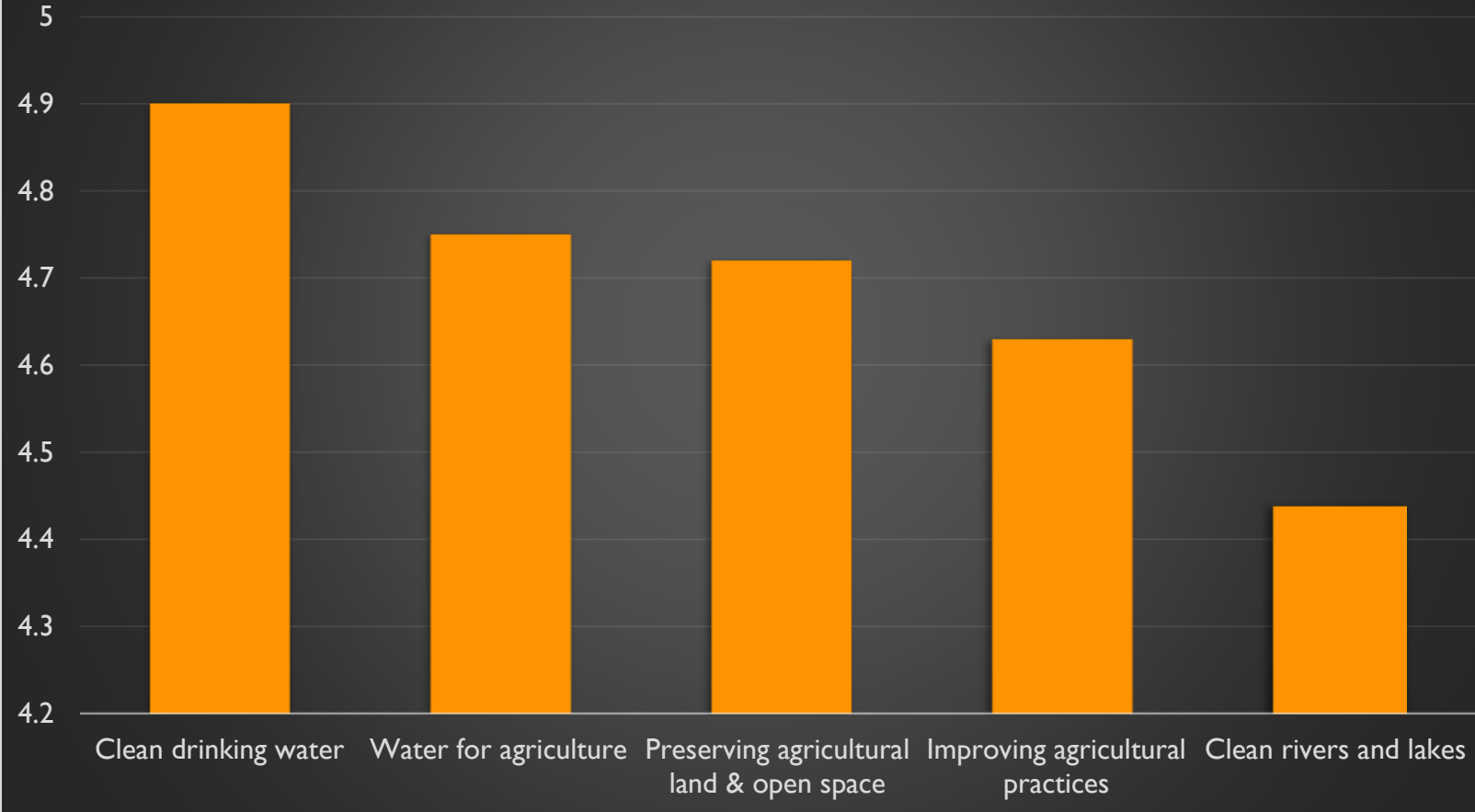
Education	High school graduate	13.6 (14)
	Some college	47.8 (77)
	College graduate	24.0 (96)
	Advanced college degree	7.8 (8)
	No response	3.9 (4)
Age	18 to 20	49.6 (51)
	21 to 23	33.9 (35)
	24 to 27	1.9 (2)
	28 years or older	2.9 (3)
	No response	11.7 (12)

Residence Location	Inside city limits	52.4 (54)
	Outside city limits, not farming	15.5 (16)
	Outside city limits, farming	32.0 (33)



Findings

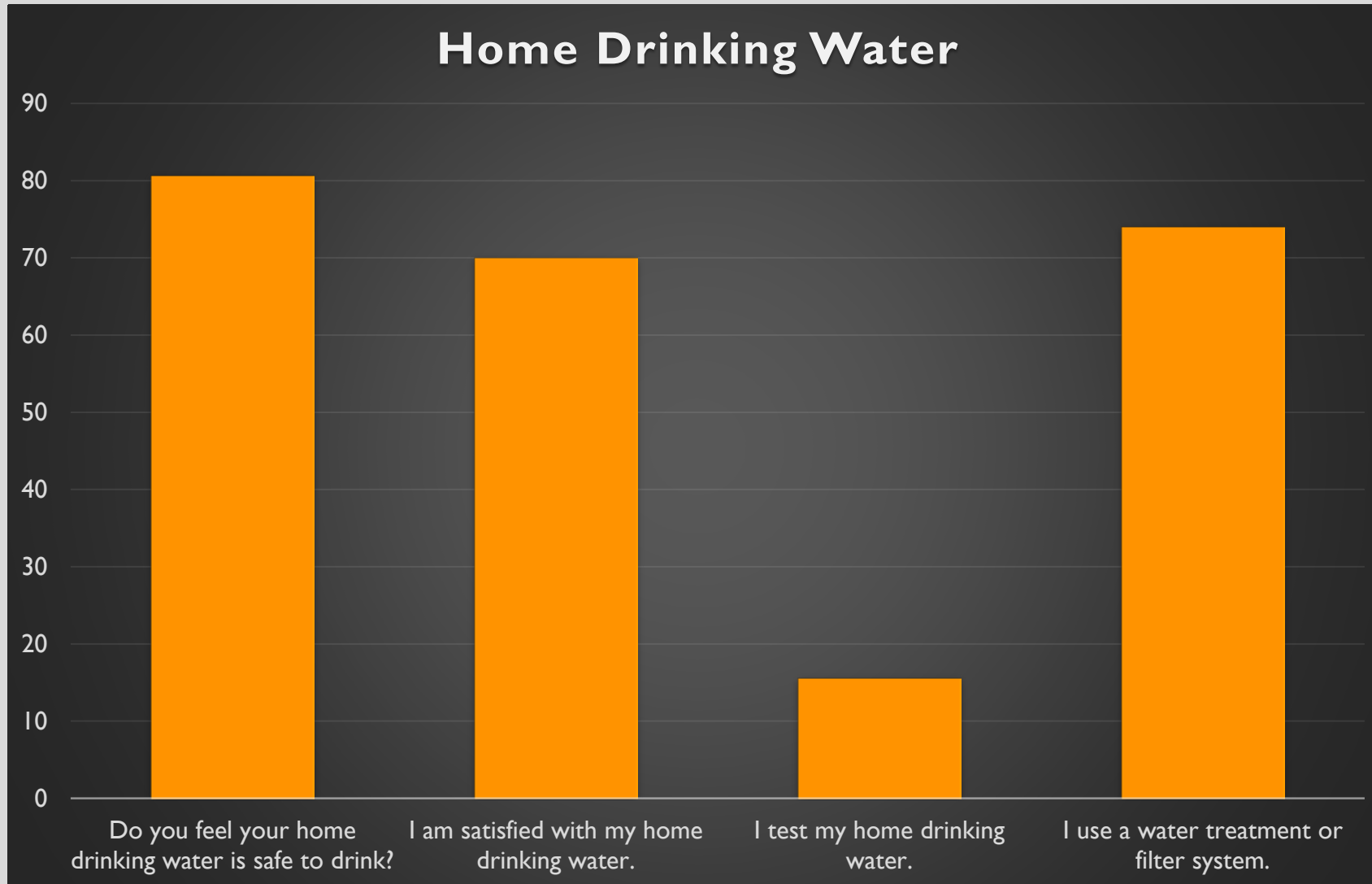
Top Water Issues in Oklahoma Per OSU Students





Findings

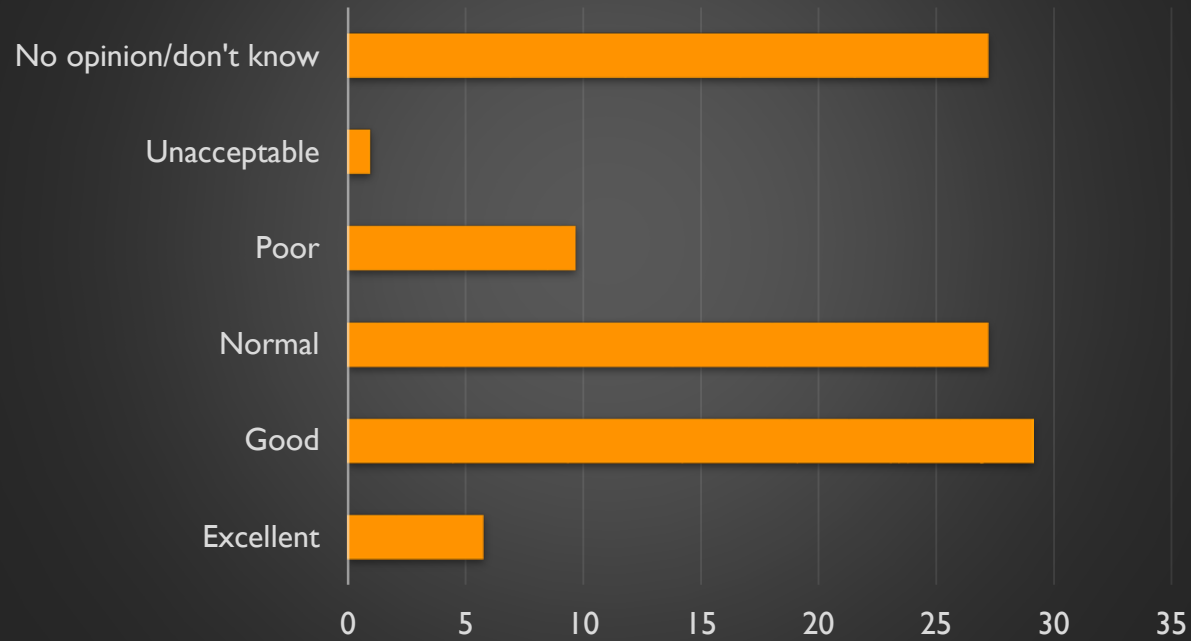
Over 62% of participants utilized public water supplies (i.e. municipal or rural public water supply) for their home source of drinking water.



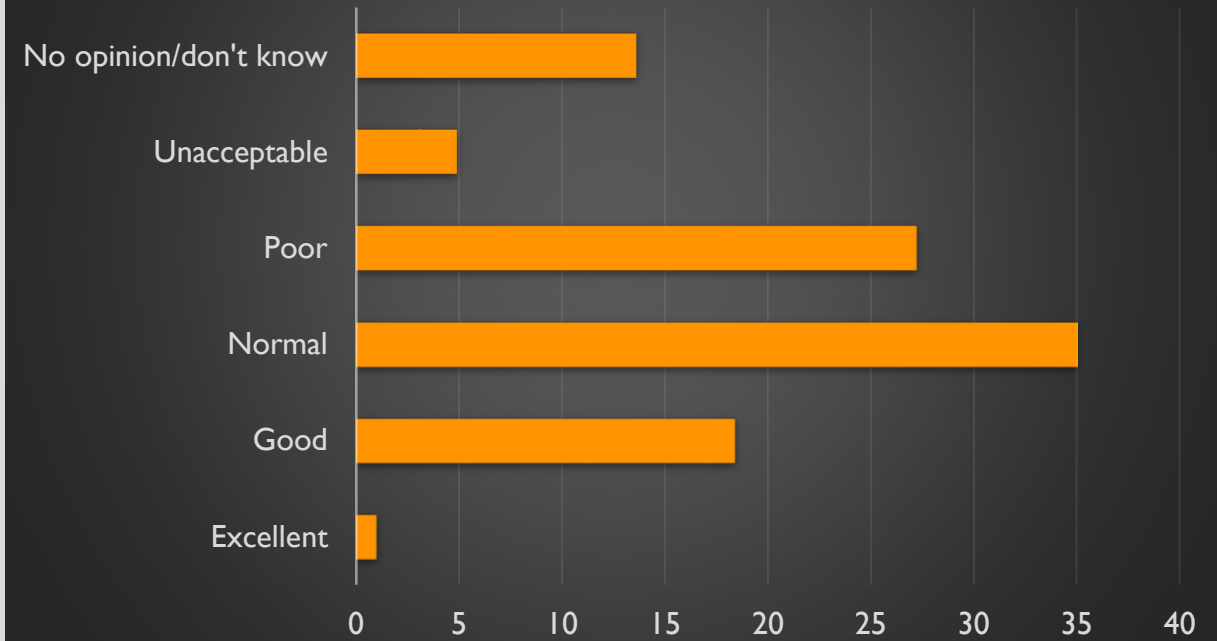


Findings

In your opinion what is the quality of groundwater in your area?



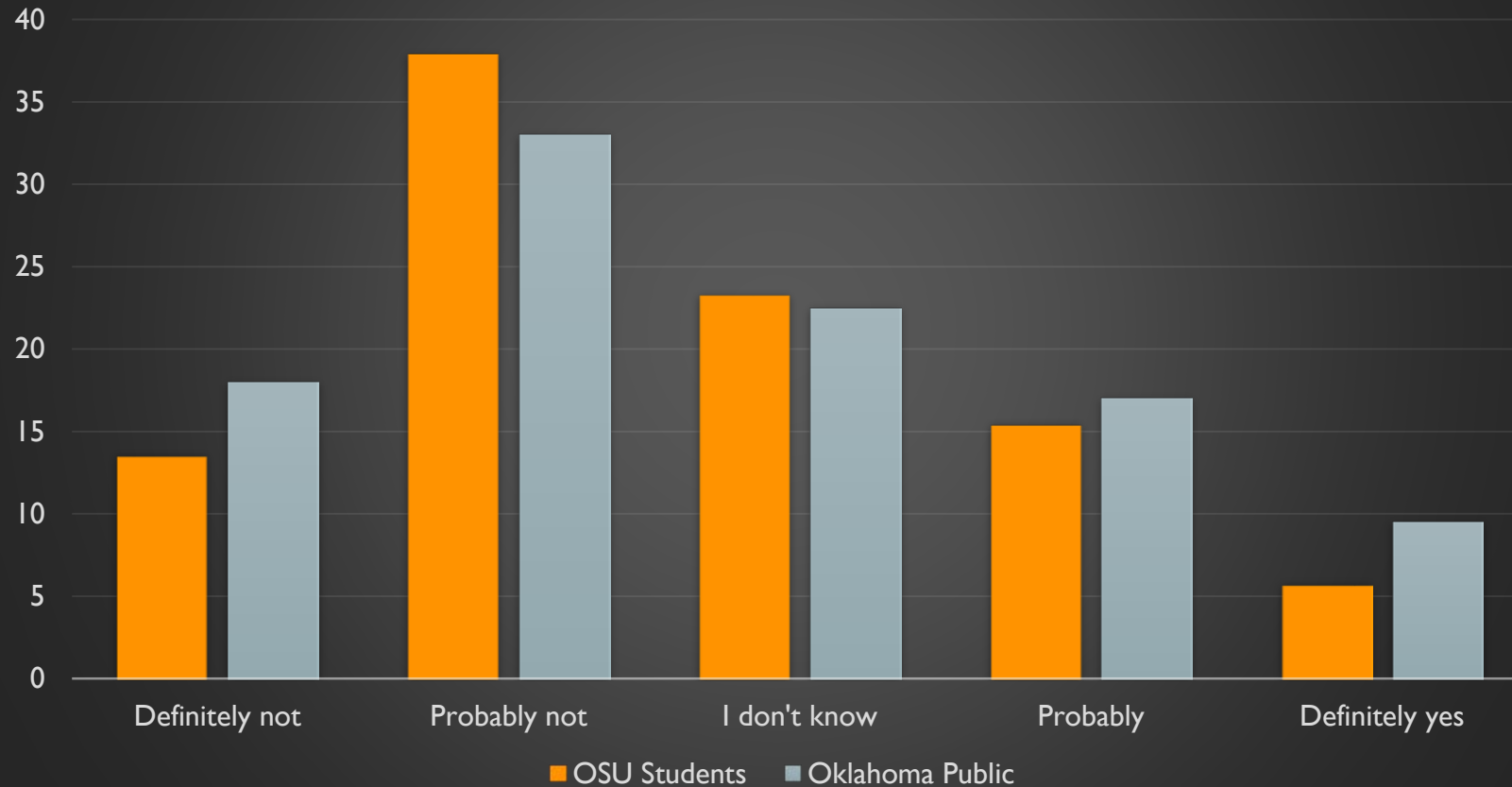
In your opinion what is the quality of surface waters where you live?





Findings

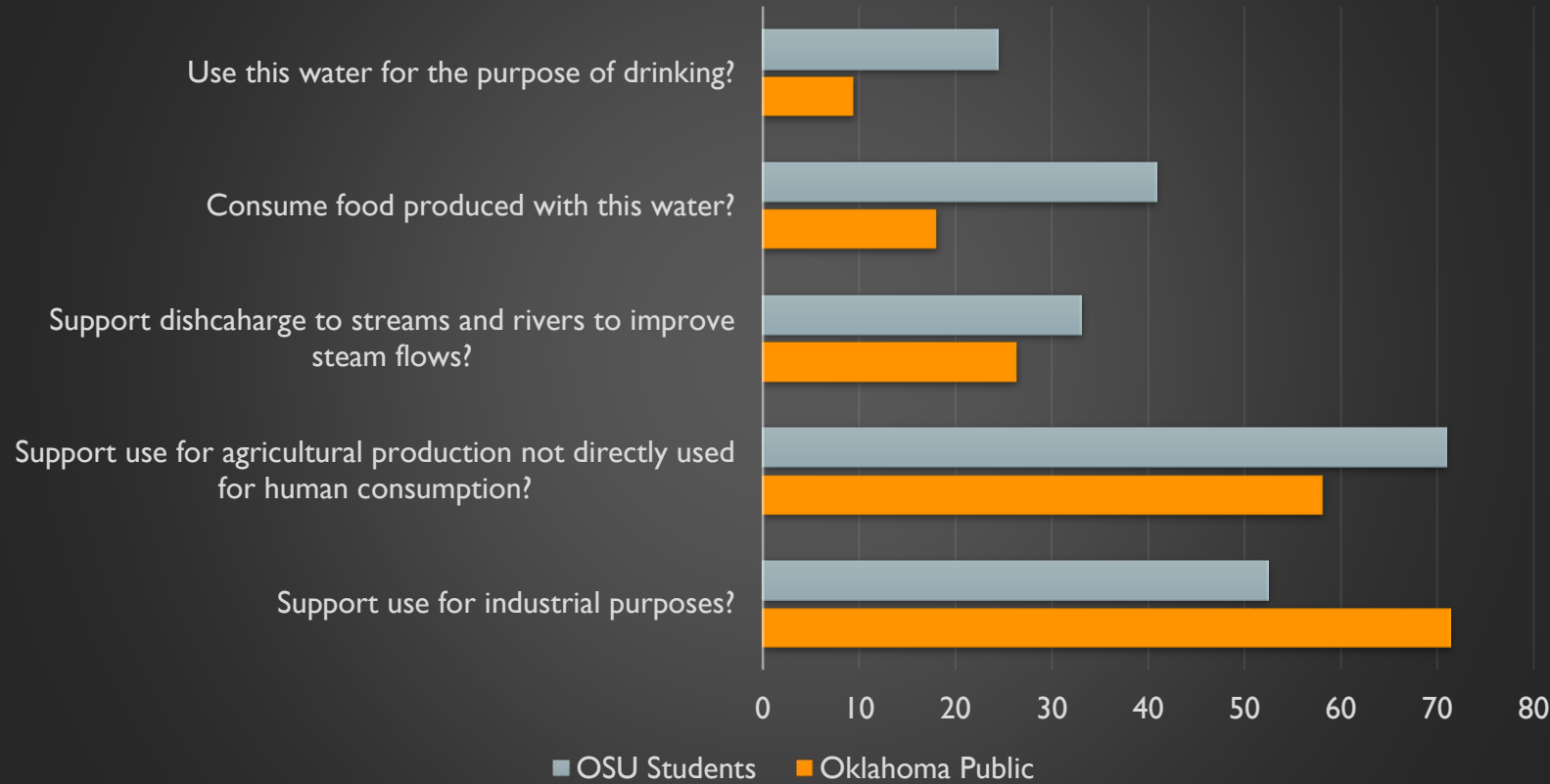
Do you regard water quantity as a problem in the area where you live?





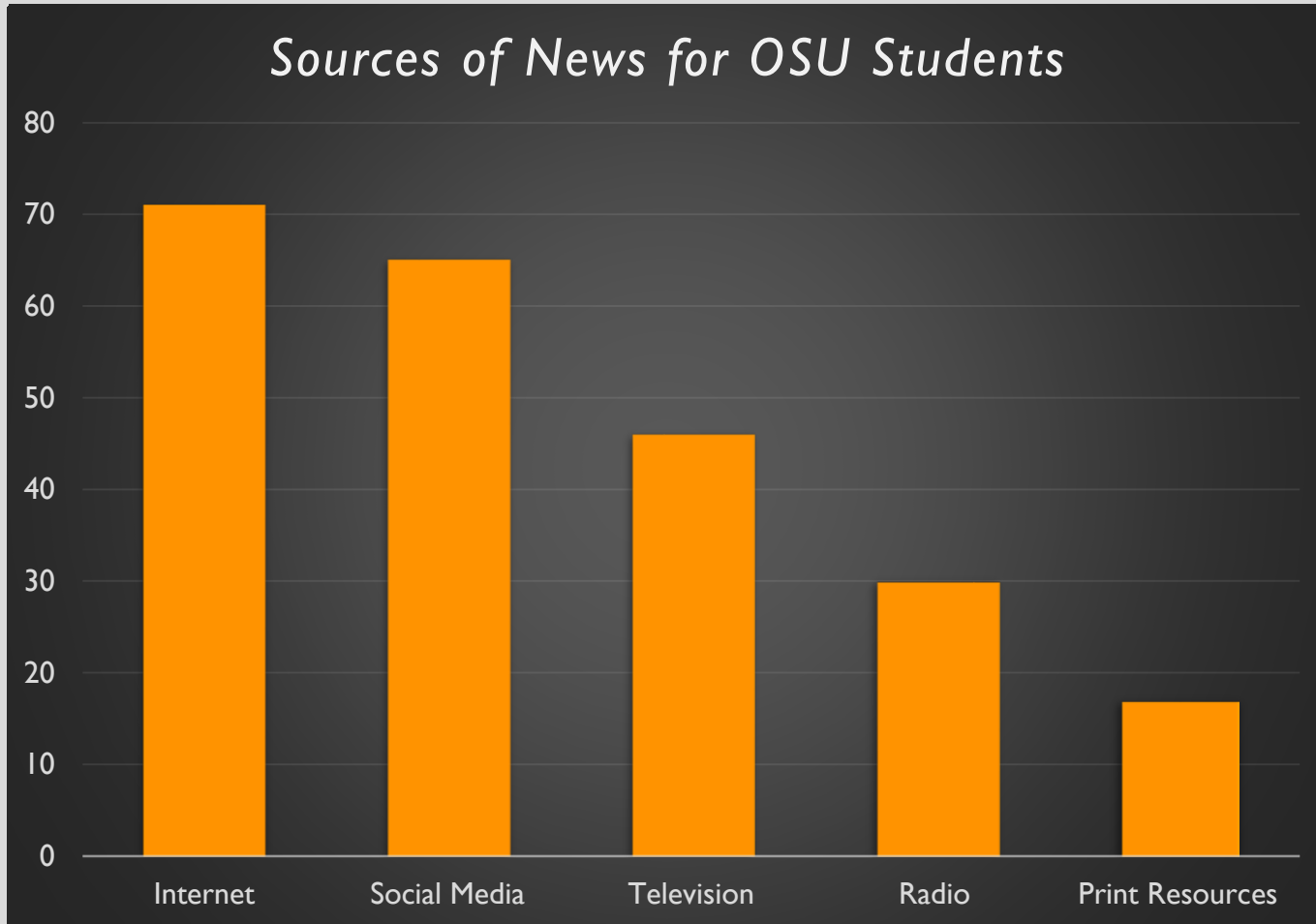
Findings

Treatment and Reuse of Produced Water





Findings

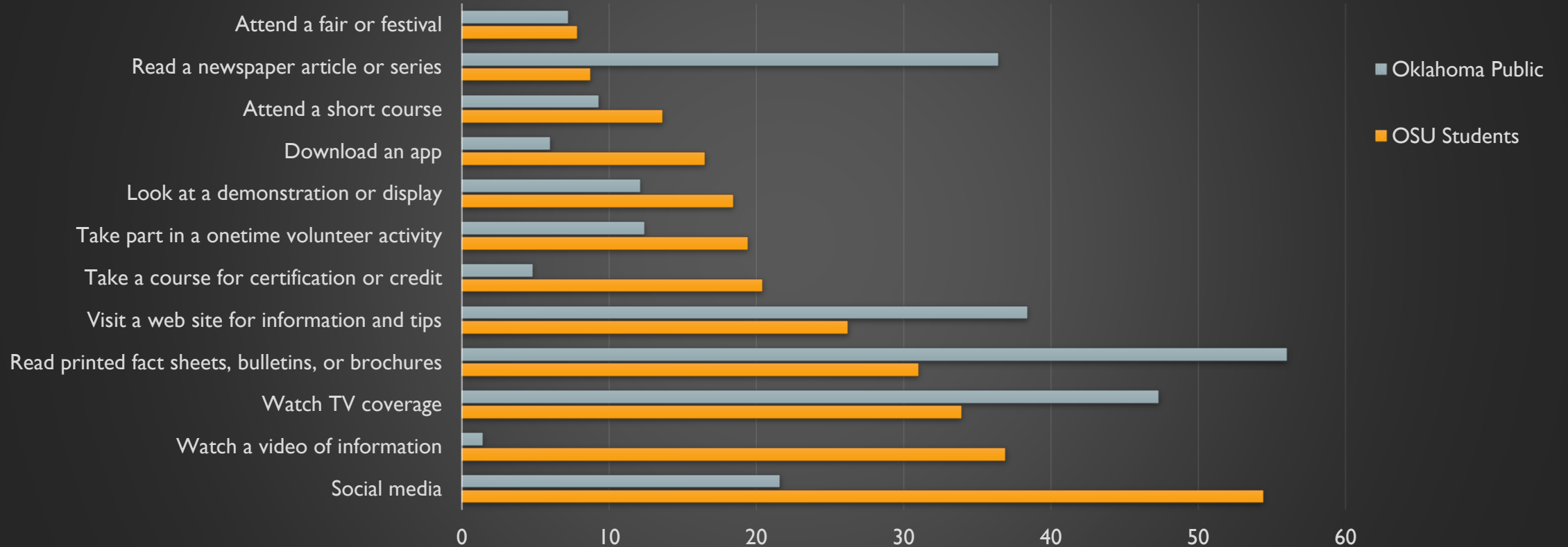


Students were equally influenced to change their mind about a water related issue by personal conversations (41%), class presentations (41%), or financial considerations (41%).



Findings

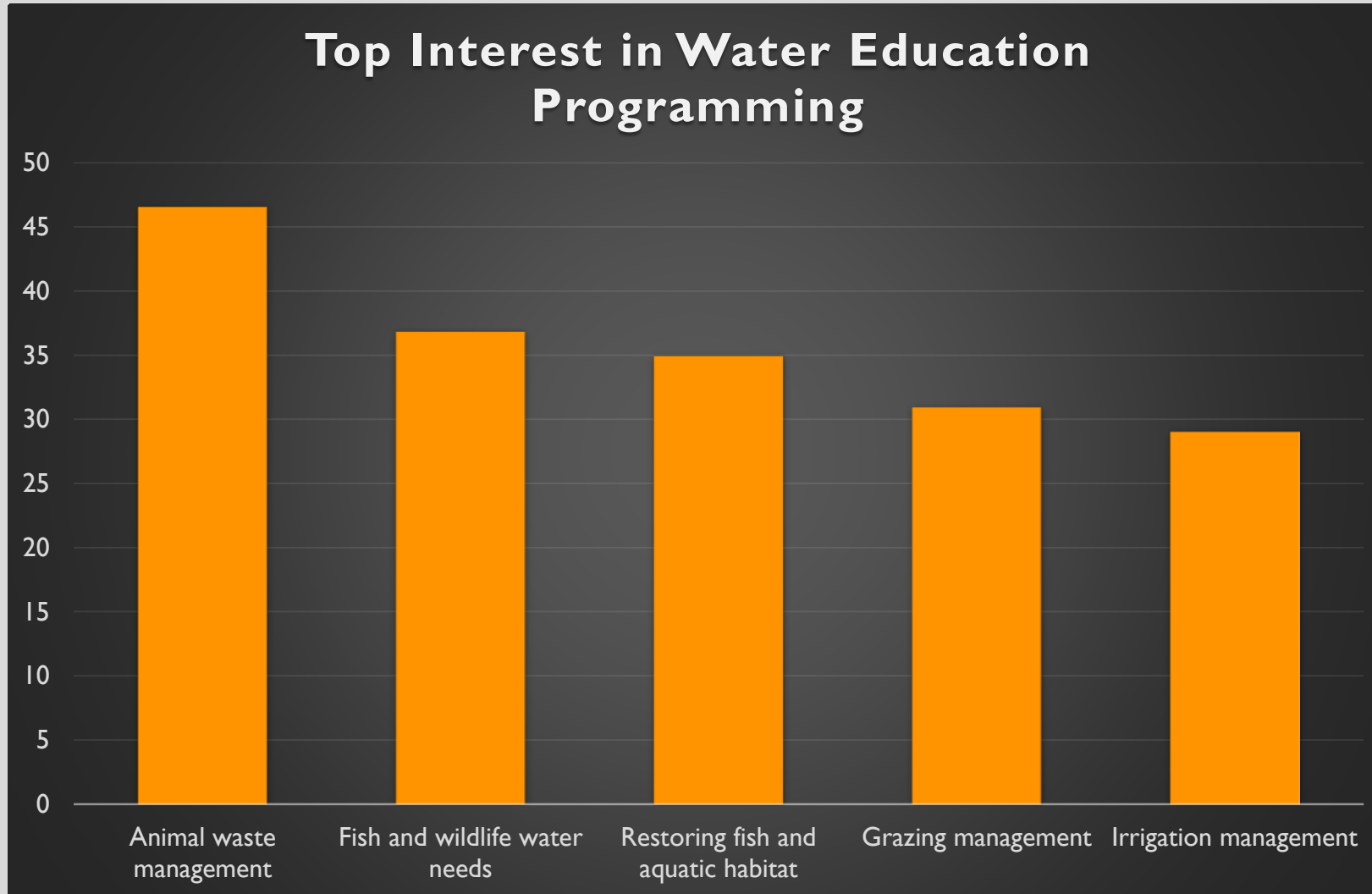
Preferred Learning Methods





Findings

Although 76% of students had not participated in any water resource related activity, they showed great interest in potential educational programming related to water issues.





Conclusions

OSU students who participated find:

- Clean drinking water to be the top priority.
- Water for agriculture and agricultural practices to be of great importance.
- Their home drinking water to be safe, although the majority employ water treatment practices.
- Ground and surface water quality to be good.
- Water quantity to not be a problem.
- Support the treatment and reuse of produced water.
- Technology to serve as their primary source for news and their preferred learning method.



Recommendations

- Students found themselves balanced between the need for natural resource usage and the need for environmental protection, leading to the need for targeted programming efforts.
 - Students want to learn more about water related issues they deem important.
 - Programming developed and offered through online platforms is of the greatest interest i.e., Social media and short web-based videos.