

# ISSUE: Inadequate Water Systems and Services Threaten Public Health

**GOOD NEWS!** Water and wastewater operators are constantly at work maintaining the high standard of clean water in America.

## WASTEWATER

- The U.S has 14,478 publicly owned treatment works that serve more than 238 million Americans.
- 5% of Americans are served by systems that get less than secondary treatment, while 21 million Americans re on septic systems.
- A wastewater system includes the travel of wastewater from sinks, toilets, etc. from homes/businesses to a POTW and outlier pipes that carry clean, treated water back to the environment. Wastewater goes through different levels of treatments.



## DRINKING WATER

- This system transports water from its source to homes and businesses.
- 300 million Americans receive at least some of their drinking water from a community water system (CWS).
- CWSs pull water from designated bodies and treat it for harmful contaminants, in accordance with EPA standards.
- It is critical that drinking water treatment is appropriately matched to the particular water source available to the water system.



## STORMWATER

- In the past 50 years, precipitation from the most intense 1% of storms has increased by 20%.
- Many cities and towns have separate utilities and fees for managing stormwater sewer systems.
- The EPA estimates that there are between 23,000 and 75,000 sanitary sewer overflows each year that contaminate water and threaten the environment.
- More than 770 communities across the U.S have combined sewer systems that carry wastewater and stormwater and face the issue of overflows. This can cost as much as \$48 billion in 20 years.

