



Is the Whole Greater than the Sum of the Parts?

Assessing Costs and Benefits of a
Volunteer Monitoring Program

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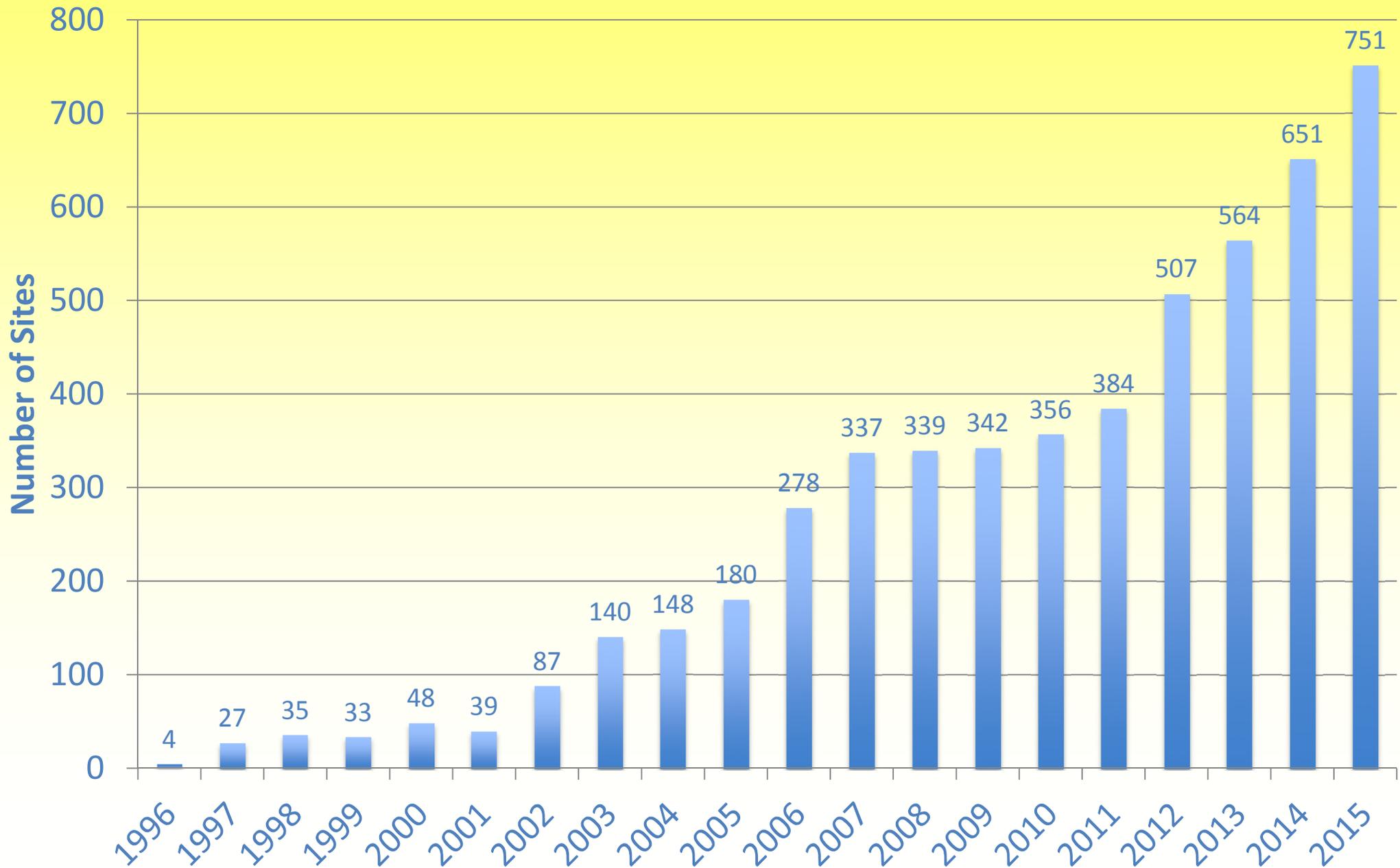
May 4, 2016

Wisconsin's Water Action Volunteers Stream Monitoring Program (WAV)

- Est. 1996
- UW-Extension and WDNR co-sponsored
- Numerous partner organizations
- Goal: To quantify their contributions

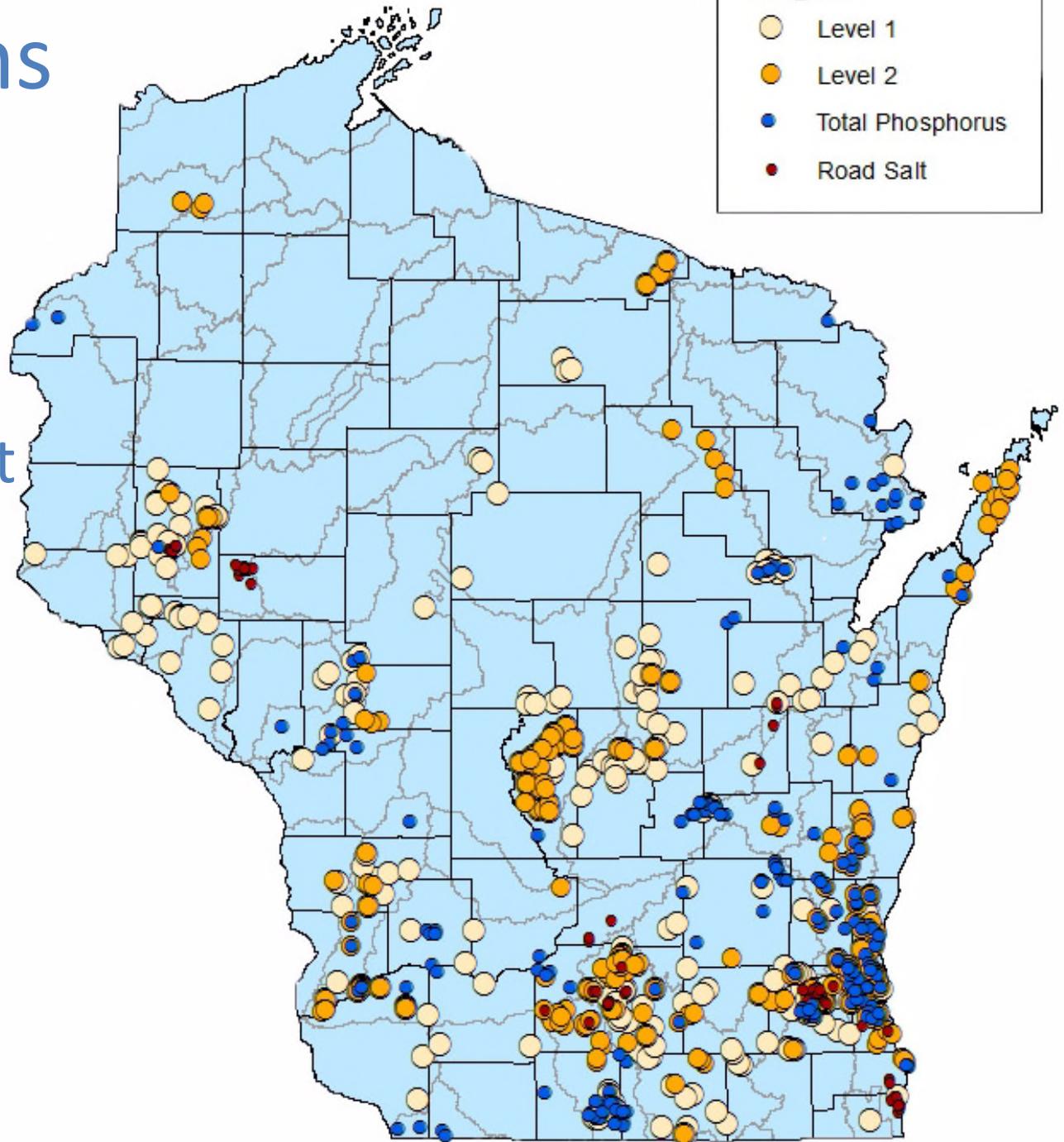


WAV Stream Monitoring Stations Over Time

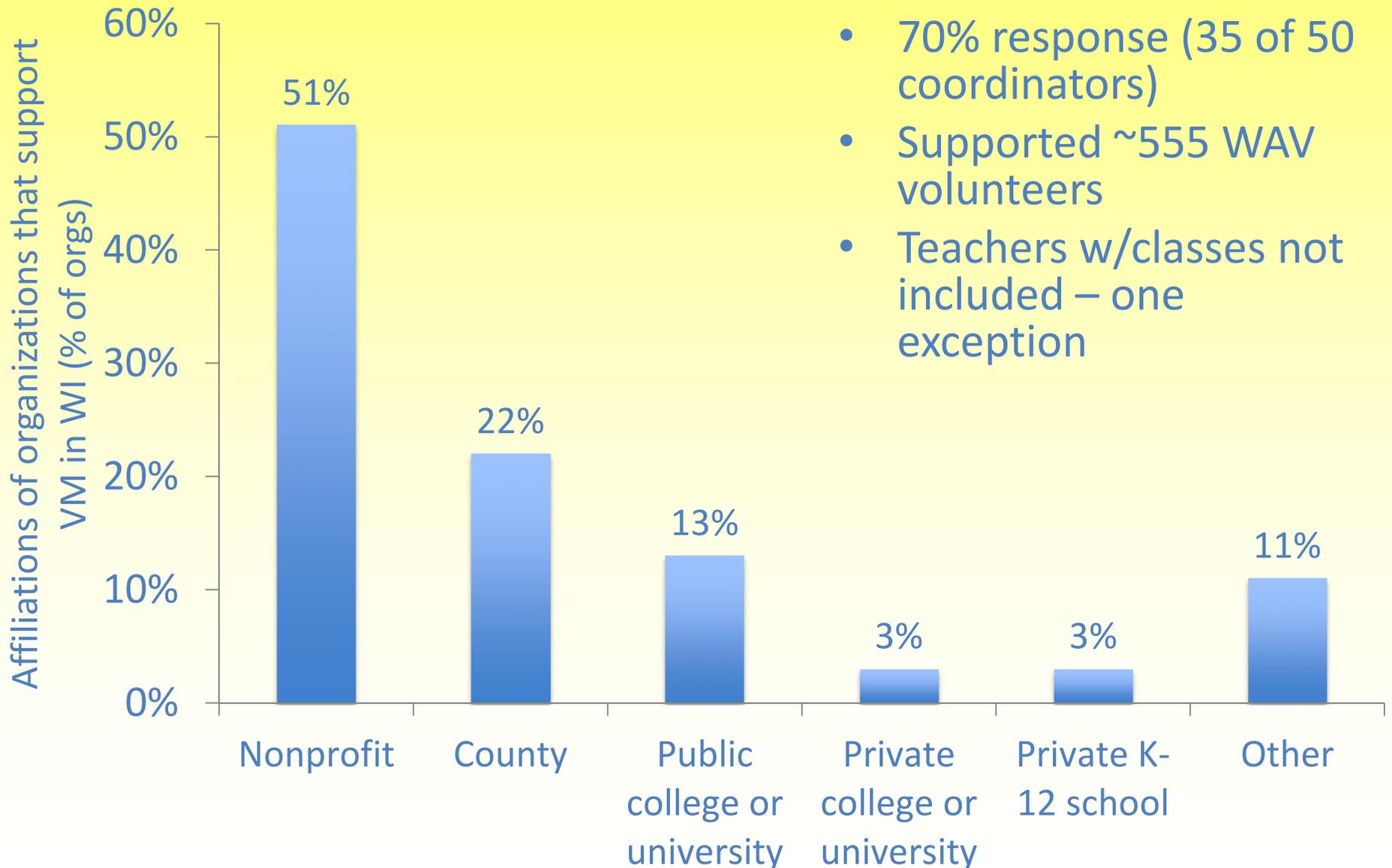


2014 Stations

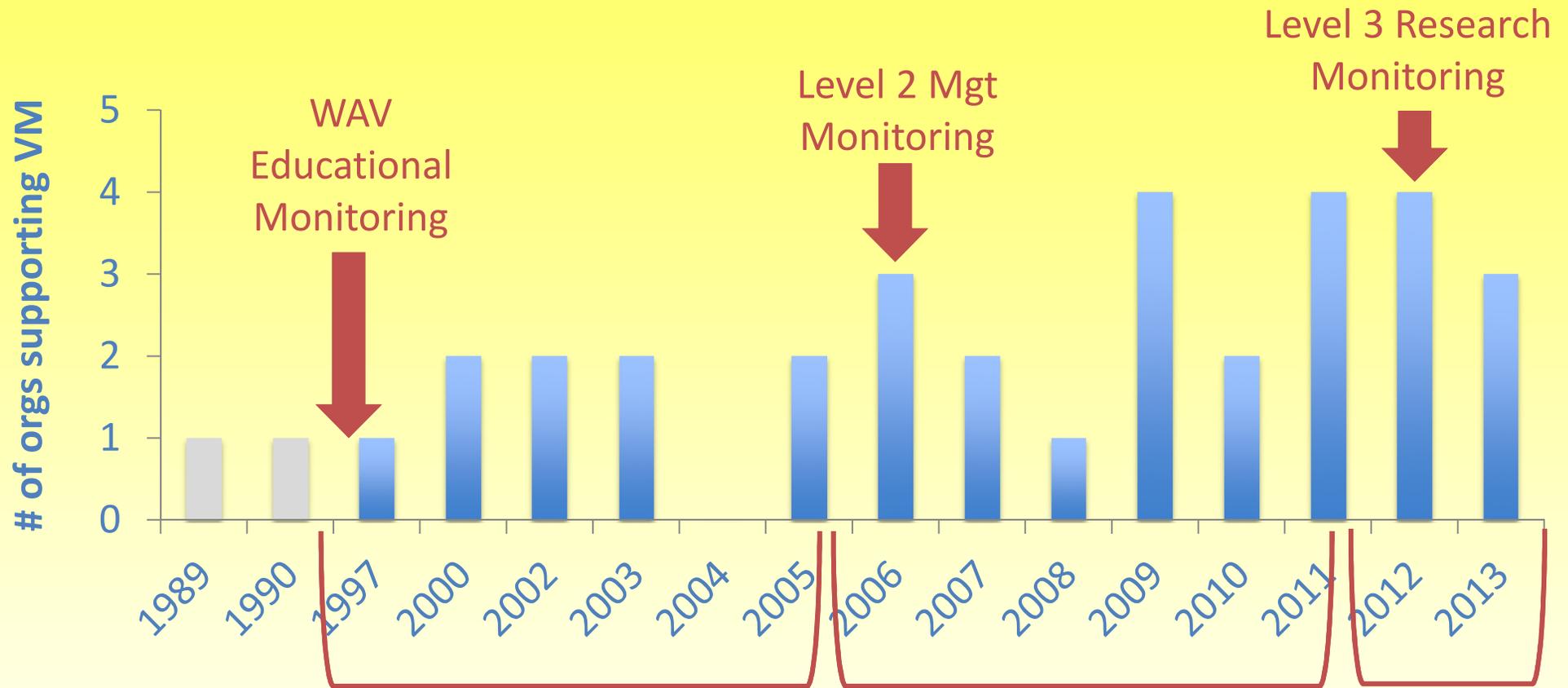
- 3 levels:
 - Educational
 - Management
 - Research
- Builds trust
- Data uses shift



2015 Survey of Partners

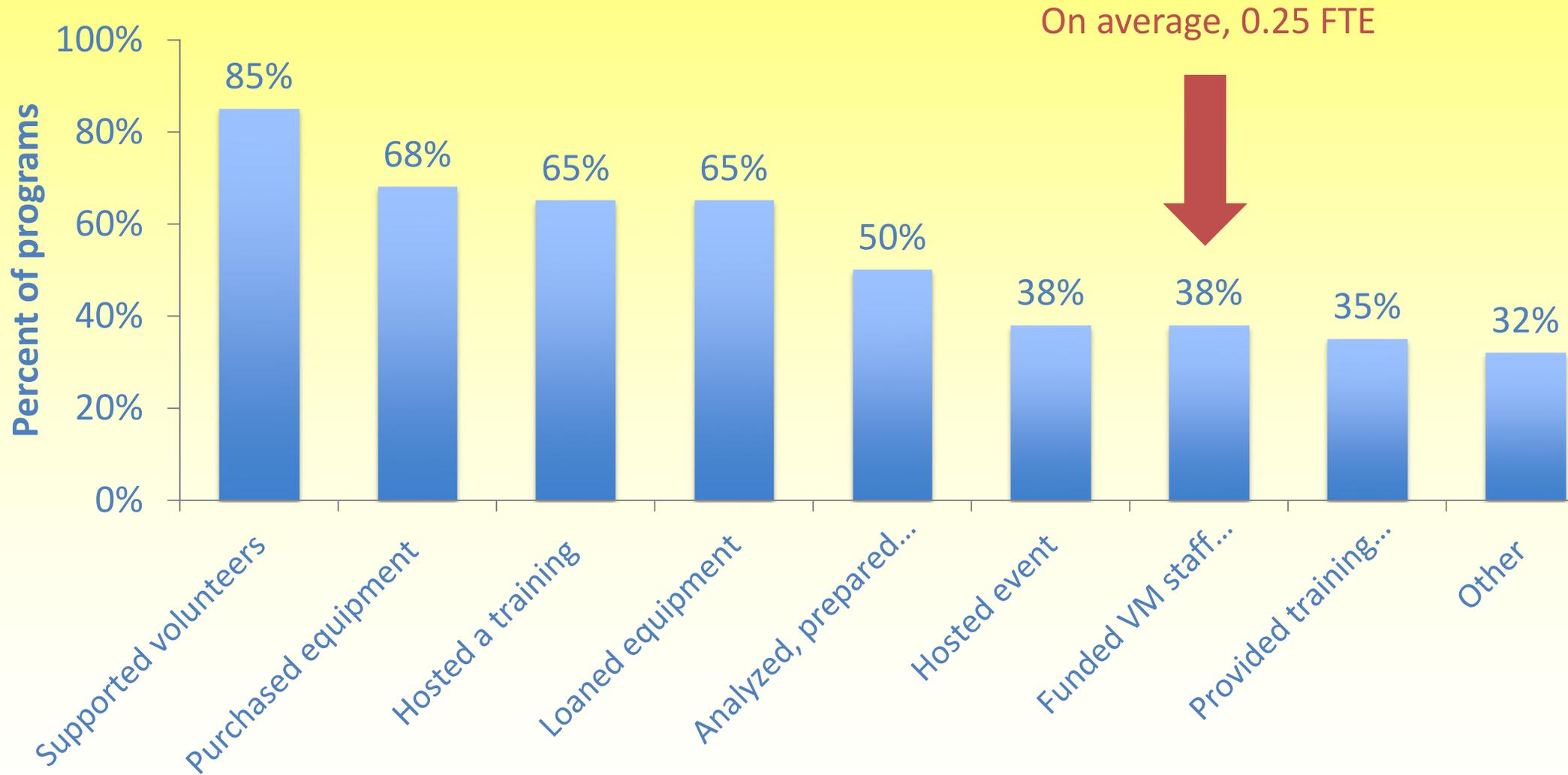


Joining in to Support Volunteer Monitoring



- 1997-2005: 1.5 new organizations/year
- 2006-2011: 2.7/year
- 2012-2013: 3.5/year
- 2014: 0

Types of Organizational Support



Other Types of Organizational Support

- Mentored volunteers at stream site
- Cleared access to sites
- Paid for lab analyses
- Connected with Legislators
- Spoke in classes
- Entered data
- Coordinated among partners



Time Spent Supporting VM in 2014

Type	Min. Hours/Or g	Mean Hours/Or g	Max. Hours/Or g	Cumulative Hours Across Organizations
Site selection; check data; answer q's	0.5	79	1000	2215
Review/analyze data/Prep. Reports	1	55	700	1316
Conduct trainings	0	27	175	691
Host events	0	22	127	395
Seek funding	0	19	100	335
Purchase equipment	0	13	68	323
Loan equipment	0	11	40	209
Other	5	29	60	173

Partners' *Time* Contributions

In 2014:

- 5,656 hours
- Independent Sector value of \$22.24/hr
- \$125,800

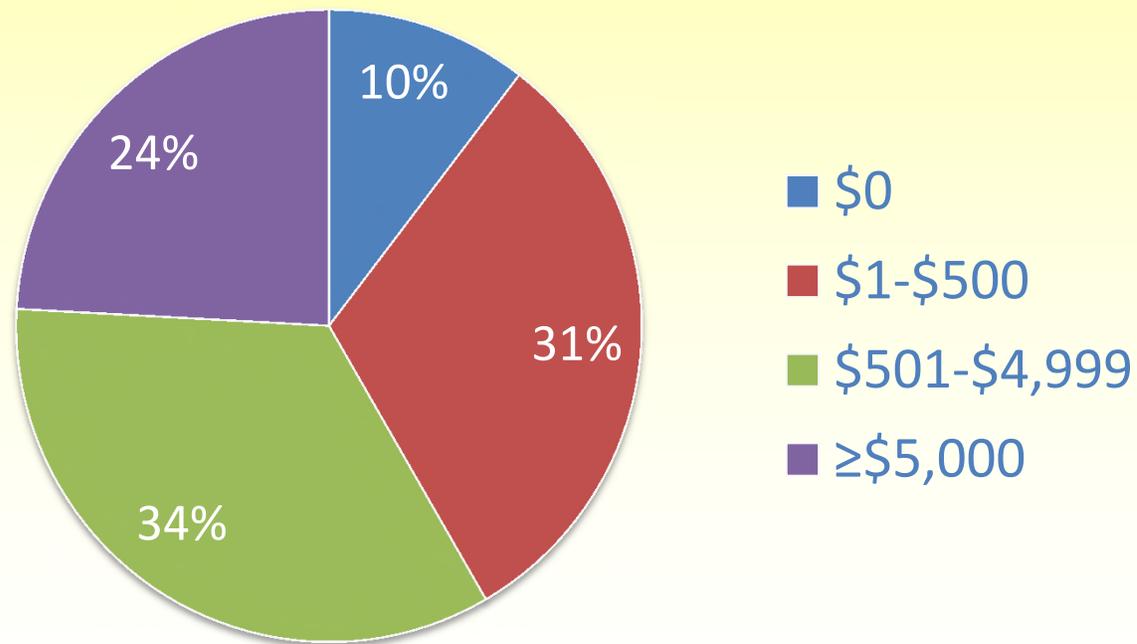
Total since WAV began:

- 57,128 hours
- Varied hourly values over time
- \$1,067,077



Partners' 2014 VM Budgets

- Ranged from \$0 to \$85,000
- 75% ranged from \$0 to \$4,999



How do Partners Spend VM Money?

What	Mean Percent of Budget	Maximum Percent of Budget
Equipment	14	100
Lab/Shipping	21	100
Salaries	32	91
Supplies	5	43
Travel	5	25
Printing data sheets	1	15
Printing other	1	10
Office	0.5	5
Other	3	50

Additional Partner Contributions

- \$69,500 in 2014 and est. \$646,500 over time
 - Equipment
 - Lab analyses
 - Shipping



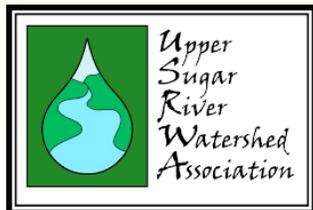
What About the Volunteers' Time?

- 32,000 site visits
- 1 hour each
- \$22.24/hour
- \$711,680
- Plus average 8 hours training each
- If 555 volunteers, \$98,745
- Total: \$810,505

Partners' and Volunteers' Contributions

Partners' Time		Partners' Cash		Volunteers' Time		Total
\$1,067,077	+	\$646,500	+	\$806,782	=	\$2,520,359

Water Action Volunteers



The Sum Is Greater Than The Parts

- On average, for every dollar DNR and UWEX spent, external partners contributed \$1.12*

*Value does not include volunteer time

- With volunteer time included: \$1.40





Report Available At:

<http://watermonitoring.uwex.edu/wav/monitoring/news.htm>

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