

Servicing Sewage Treatment Systems in Ohio

Ohio Department of Health

Bureau of Environmental Health & Radiation Protection
Residential Sewage Program

Presented at NOWRA 2025 Mega-Conference, October 19-22, 2025.



Service Provider Requirements in Ohio

- OAC 3701-29-03(C)(3) Proof of compliance with any system specific training, qualification, or certification required as a condition of a system's approval by the director, or one of the following:
 - (a) Provide proof of status as an Ohio waste hauler association qualified service provider, or proof of certification in the national association of wastewater transporters O&M or inspector programs;
 - **(b) Other certification programs developed and/or authorized by the director; or**
 - (c) Hold a current Class A, I, II, III or IV treatment works operator certification from Ohio EPA as authorized under Chapter 3745-7 of the Administrative Code.

Service Provider Requirements in Ohio

- This course-
 - Is valid for two years.
 - Excludes you from the CEU requirement (for 2026 and 2027).
 - Counts as your system specific training requirement.
 - Certifies you to service all onsite systems (exclusions below).

- This course does **NOT**-
 - Certify you to service NPDES or Drip systems

Service Provider Requirements in Ohio

- You Must-
 - Complete all 12 hours of this course
 - No exceptions or substitutions
 - Submit your certificate from this course to your local health departments when registering



Household Sewage Treatment System Failures in Ohio

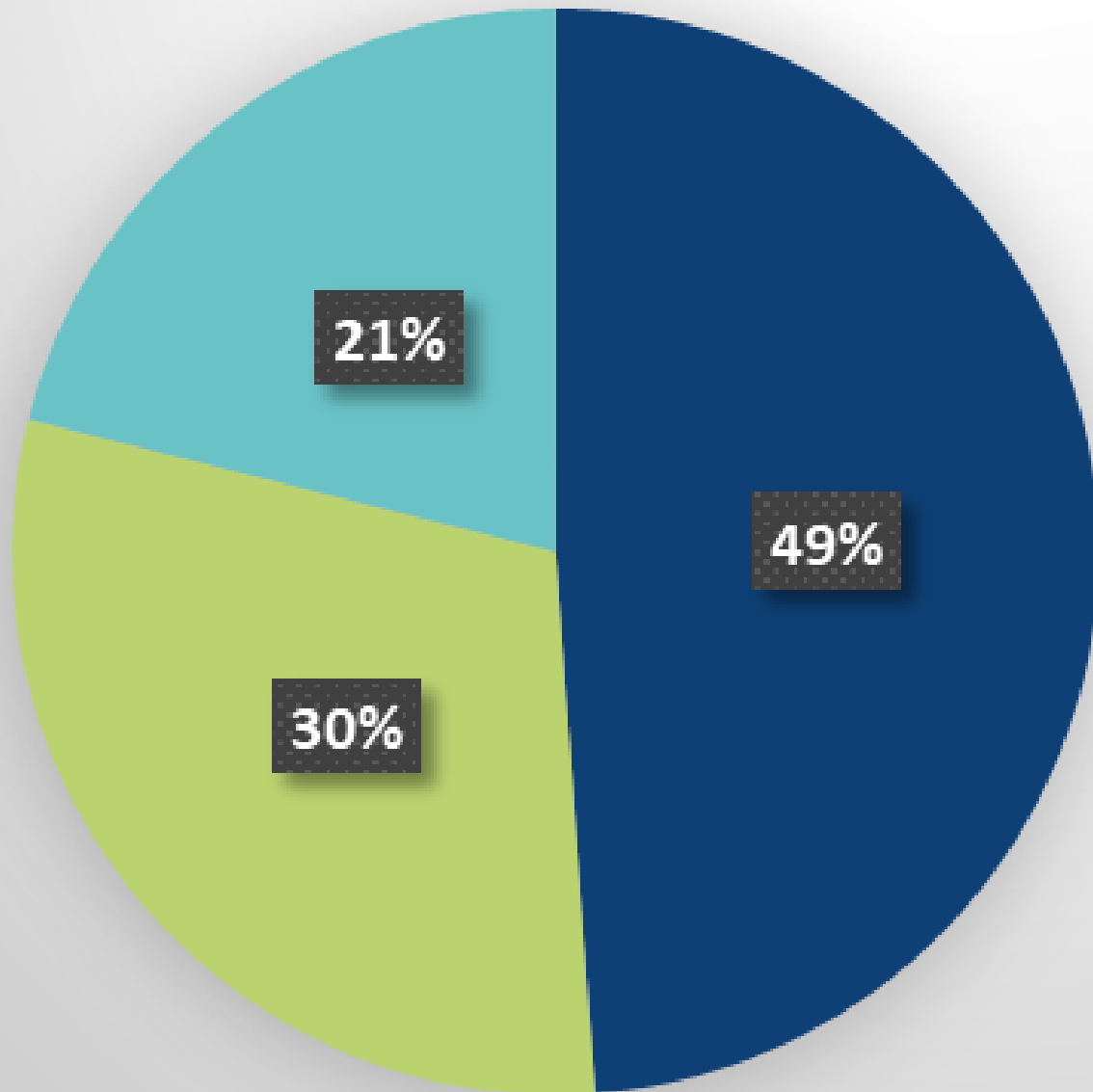
District	Central	Northeast	Northwest	Southeast	Southwest	Total of All Districts
Counties Responding*	6	11	17	10	11	55
Counties in District	10	15	24	23	16	88
County Response Rate	60%	73%	71%	43%	69%	63%
Change from 2012	-3(30%)	-2(14%)	-6(25%)	-5(22%)	-3(19%)	18(20%)

Table 1. County Response Rate by District

Existing Systems & Failures by District

District	Central	Northeast	Northwest	Southeast	Southwest	Total
Existing Systems Reported	37,501	157,348	80,211	79,300	144,969	499,358
Failing Systems Reported	1,287	38,167	18,904	4,915	5,235	68,508
Failure Rate (calculated)	3%	24%	24%	6%	4%	14%

Existing HSTS Reported Statewide

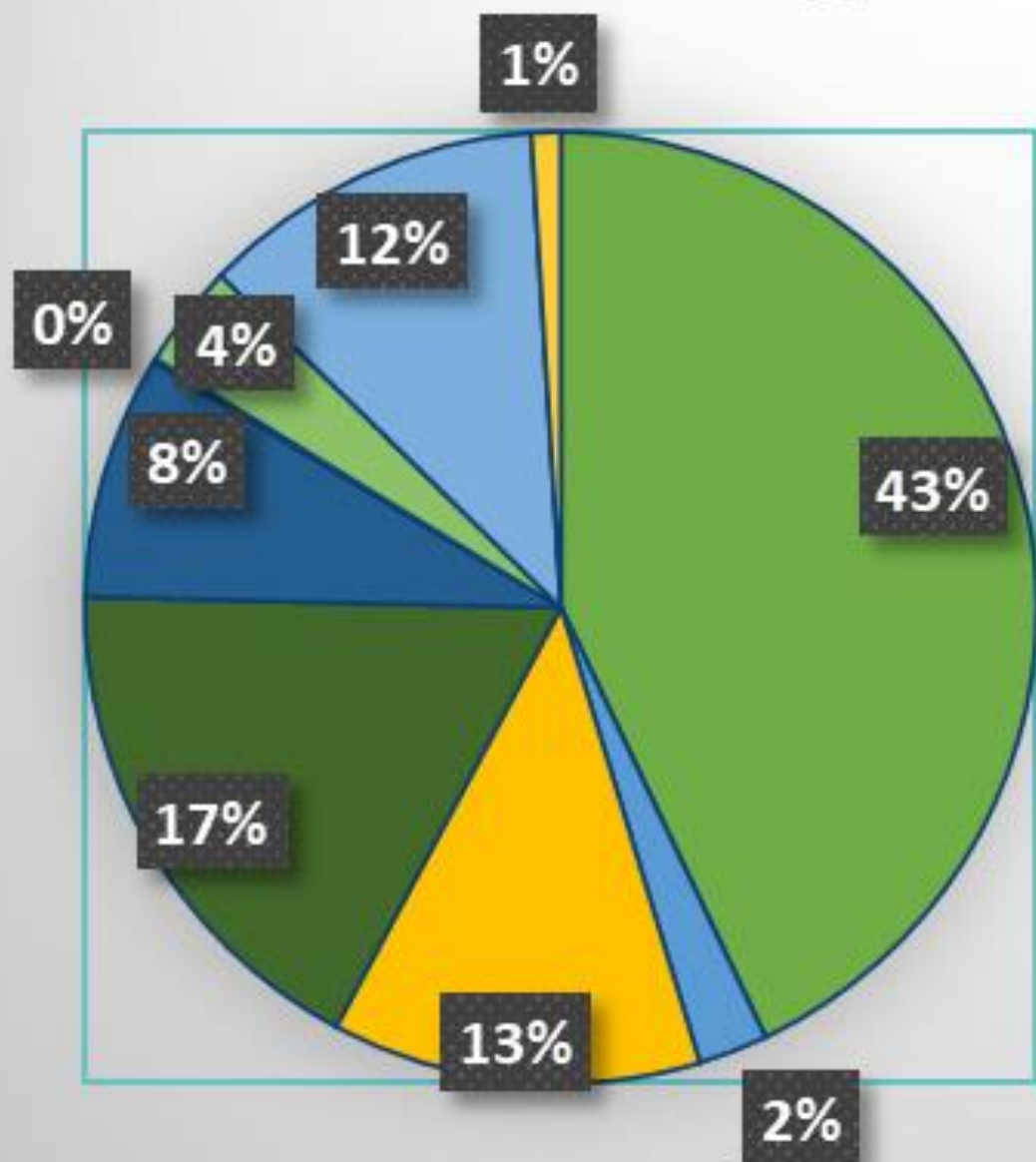


■ On-Site

■ Discharging Systems

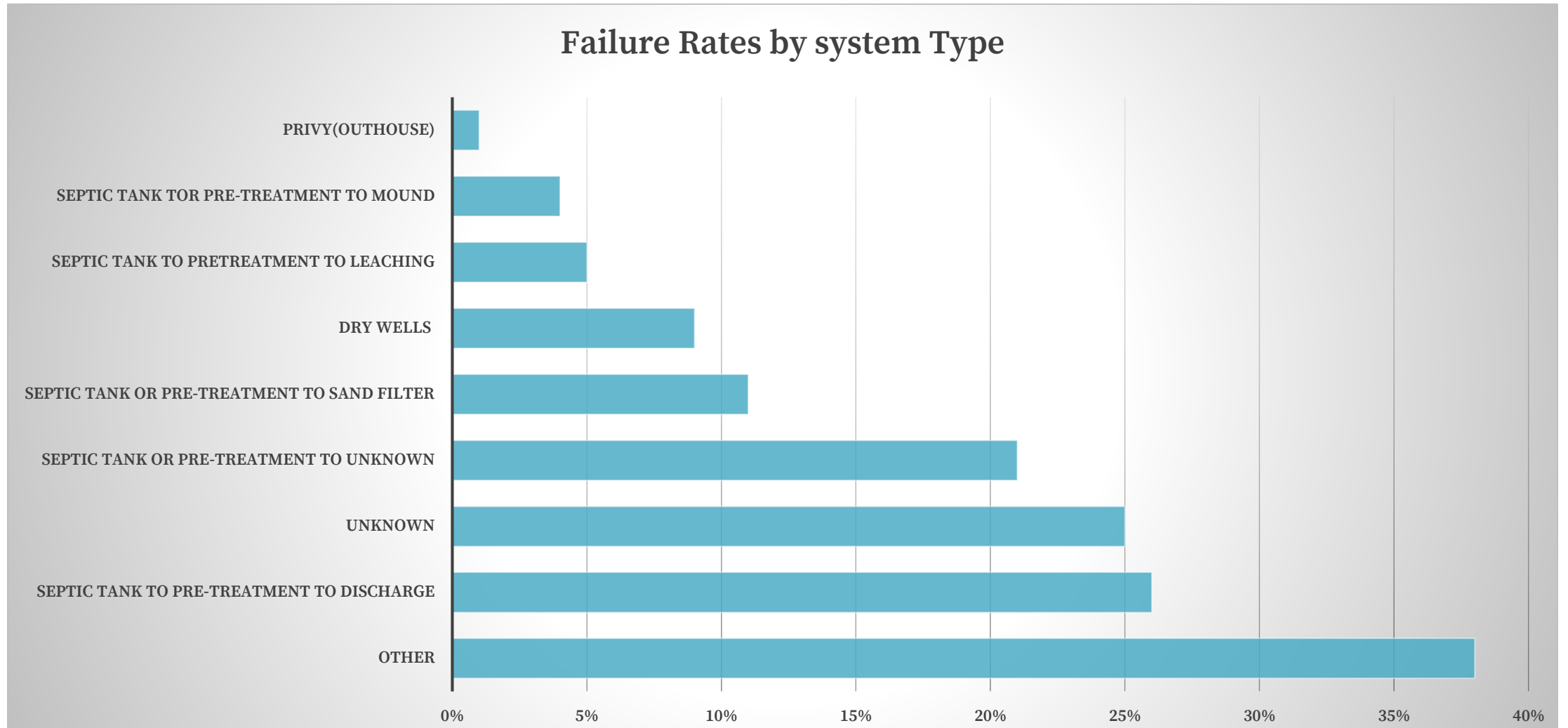
■ Other

Existing Ohio HSTS by Type



- Septic Tank or Pretreatment to Leaching
- Septic Tank or Pre-treatment to Mound
- Septic Tank or Pre-treatment to Sand Filter
- Septic Tank or Pre-treatment to Discharge
- Septic Tank or Pre-treatment to Unknown
- Privy (Outhouse)
- Dry Wells
- Unknown
- Other

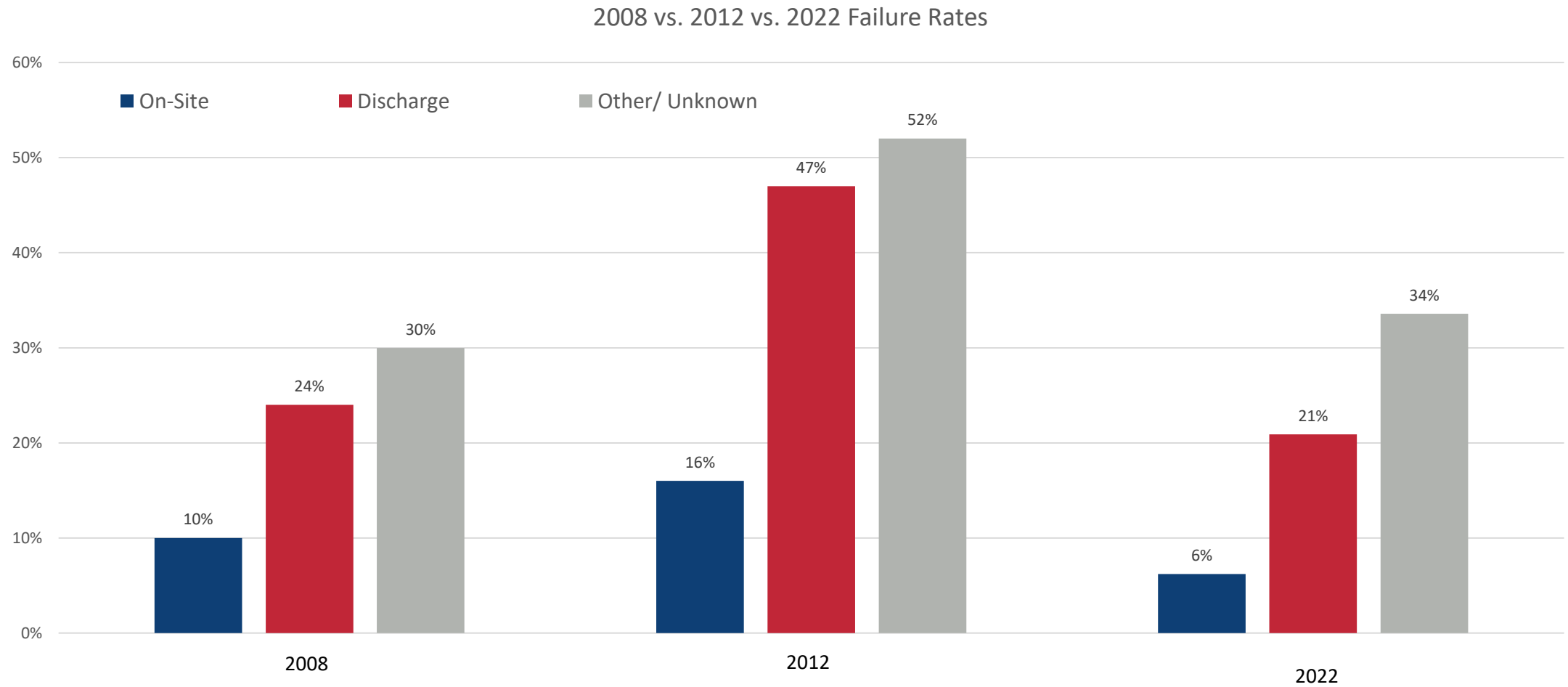
System Failure Rates by Type



Reported Reasons for HSTS Failure

Principle Reasons for Failure	
Old System (age)	35%
Site Limitations	19%
Direct Discharge Exceeds Limits	17%
System Owner Abuse	16%
Soil Limitations	14%
No Leach Field	13%
Unapproved System	7%
Installation Issues	3%
Design Issues	3%
Other	1%

2008 vs. 2012 vs. 2022 Failure Rates



Results

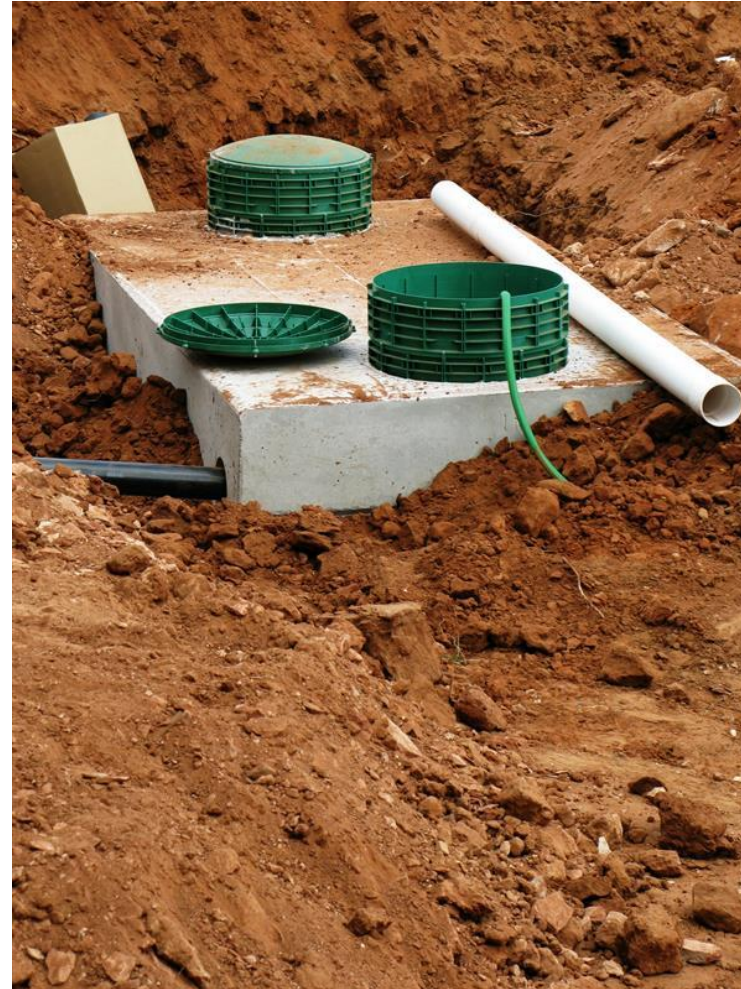
- The survey results showed moderate improvement in the failure rate of combined discharging systems since 2008 and considerable improvement in overall failure rates since the 2012 survey.
- While septic tank or pretreatment to leaching was the most common reported system type, with a modest overall failure rate of approximately 14%, the failure rate of leaching systems was considerably higher in the northeast and northwest districts (27% and 20%, respectively) than the central, southeast, and southwest districts (12%, 7%, and 4%). This is likely due to the flat land and shallow seasonal water table that is prevalent across the northern part of the state. This serves as clear illustration that there is no single system type that can be utilized across the state and administrative rules for household sewage treatment systems must be expanded to include technological advances and provide flexibility to address varied site and soil conditions throughout Ohio.

Bonds/ Registration Renewal

- Original & Power of Attorney to ODH
 - You may email to sewagebonds@odh.ohio.gov
 - Do NOT mail and email. One or the other
- **Everything else to LHD when registering**
 - Copy of Bond
 - General Liability (Certificate Holder)
 - CEUs/ Alternative
 - Manufacturer Training Documentation
 - Test Certificate
 - Missing Paperwork
- Board of Health may hold up on registration if outstanding paperwork is needed to be turned in. (OAC 3701-29-03 (C)(7))

Program Updates

- Website
 - Approved Products
 - Bond Lists
 - Approved Health District List
- Survey Update
 - 30 surveys complete in 2025



QUESTIONS?

ODH.OHIO.GOV

Residential Sewage Program

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**Department of
Health**



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