



Cal-WATCH



Clear Lake Recreational Use HABs Survey Fact Sheet

OBJECTIVE

The Cal-WATCH team sought to collect data on awareness of harmful algal bloom (HABs), resident and visitor behavior and experiences, and the utility and effectiveness of HAB outreach in Clear Lake Area.

METHODS

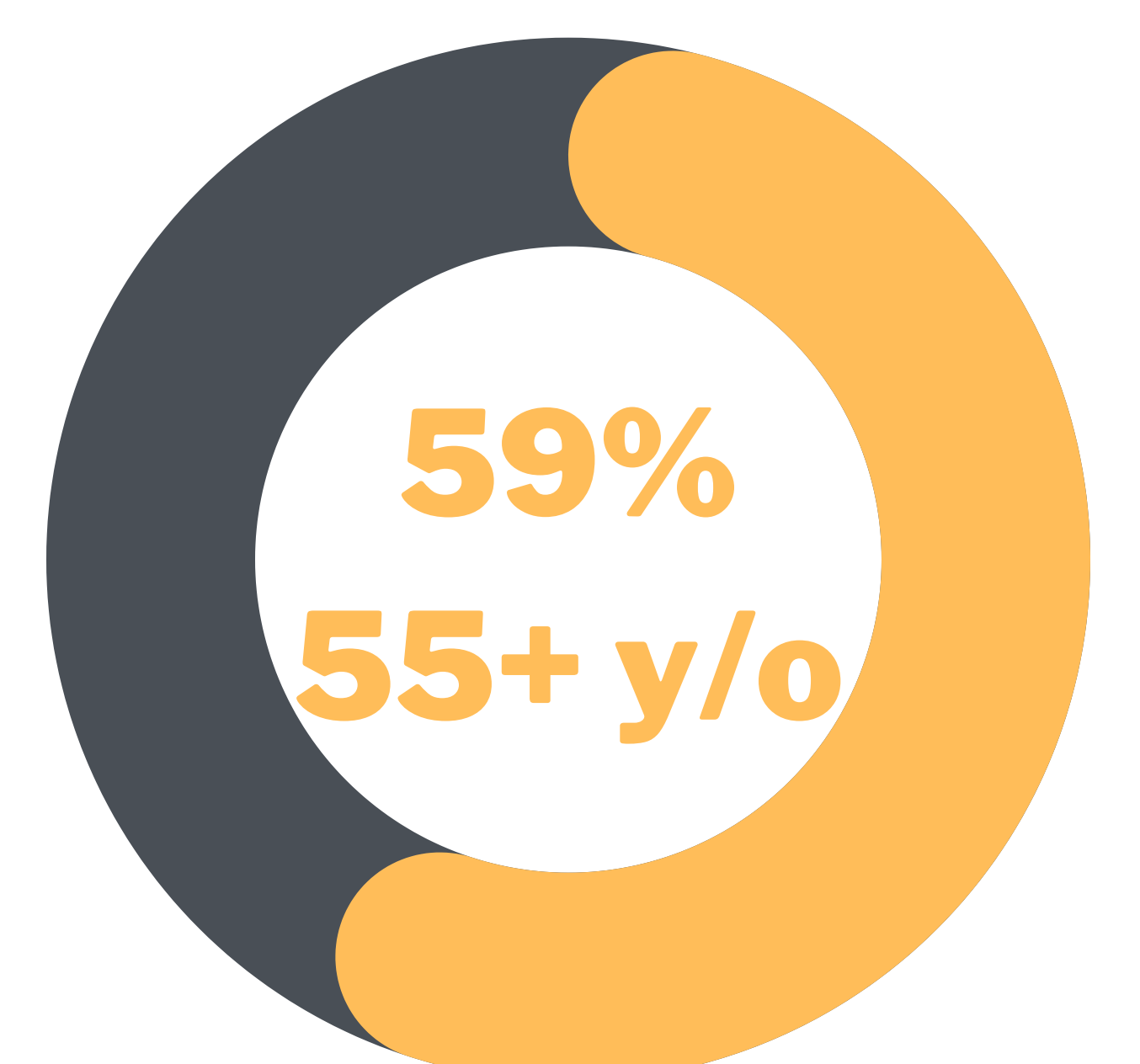
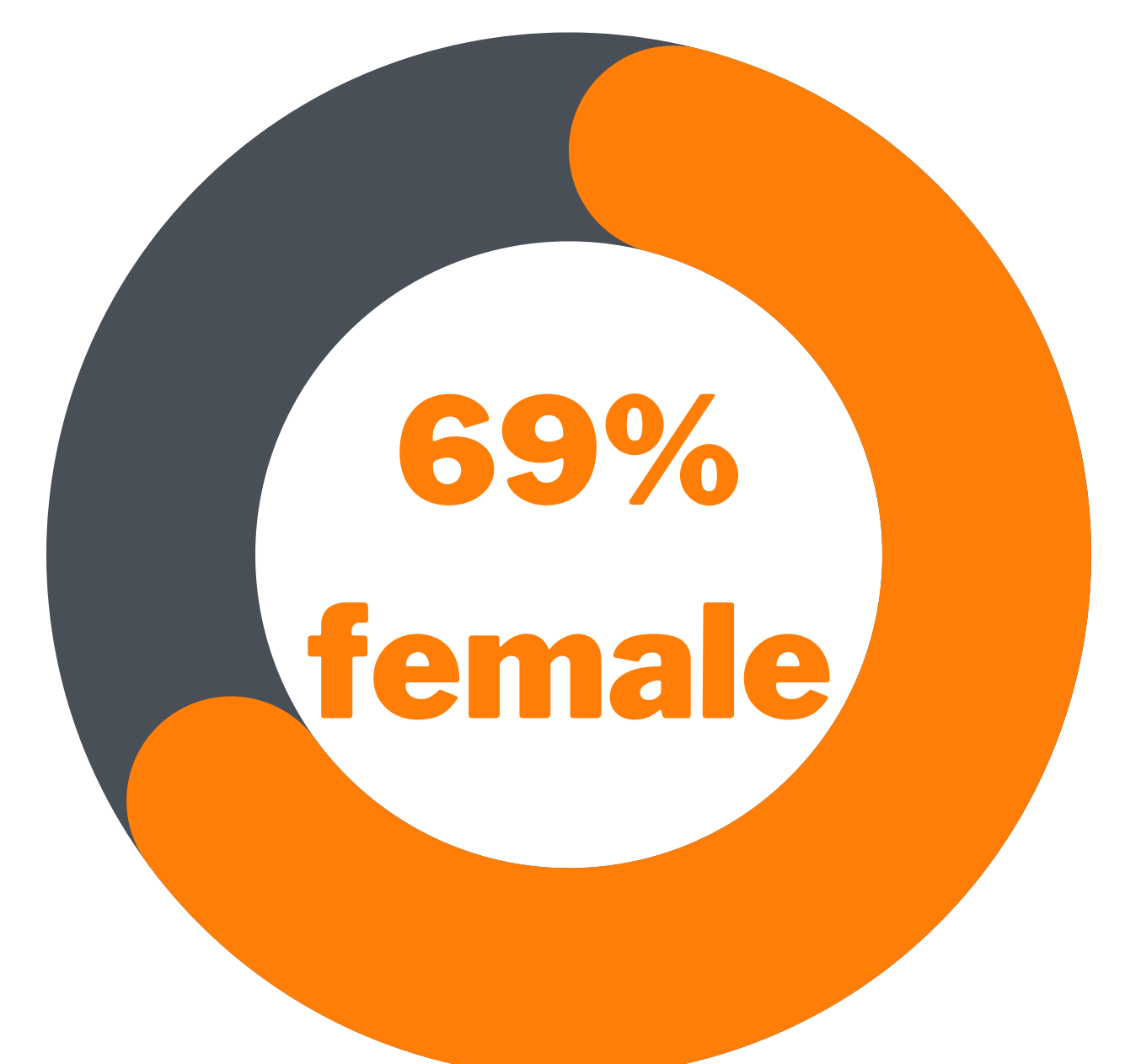
Our online survey was advertised on local radio and news and promoted through facebook posts by Big Valley Rancheria. Spanish and English language posters were posted along the perimeter of the lake. In late July, our team also distributed and collected surveys around Clear Lake in person.



RESULTS

412 total responses

- **94%** of respondents are aware of HABs in Clear Lake
- **64%** of respondents live in Clear Lake full time
- **44%** experienced a health issue potentially related to HABs
- **37%** of respondents with pets or livestock reported them experiencing symptoms potentially related to HABs



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Email:

info@trackingcalifornia.org

Website:

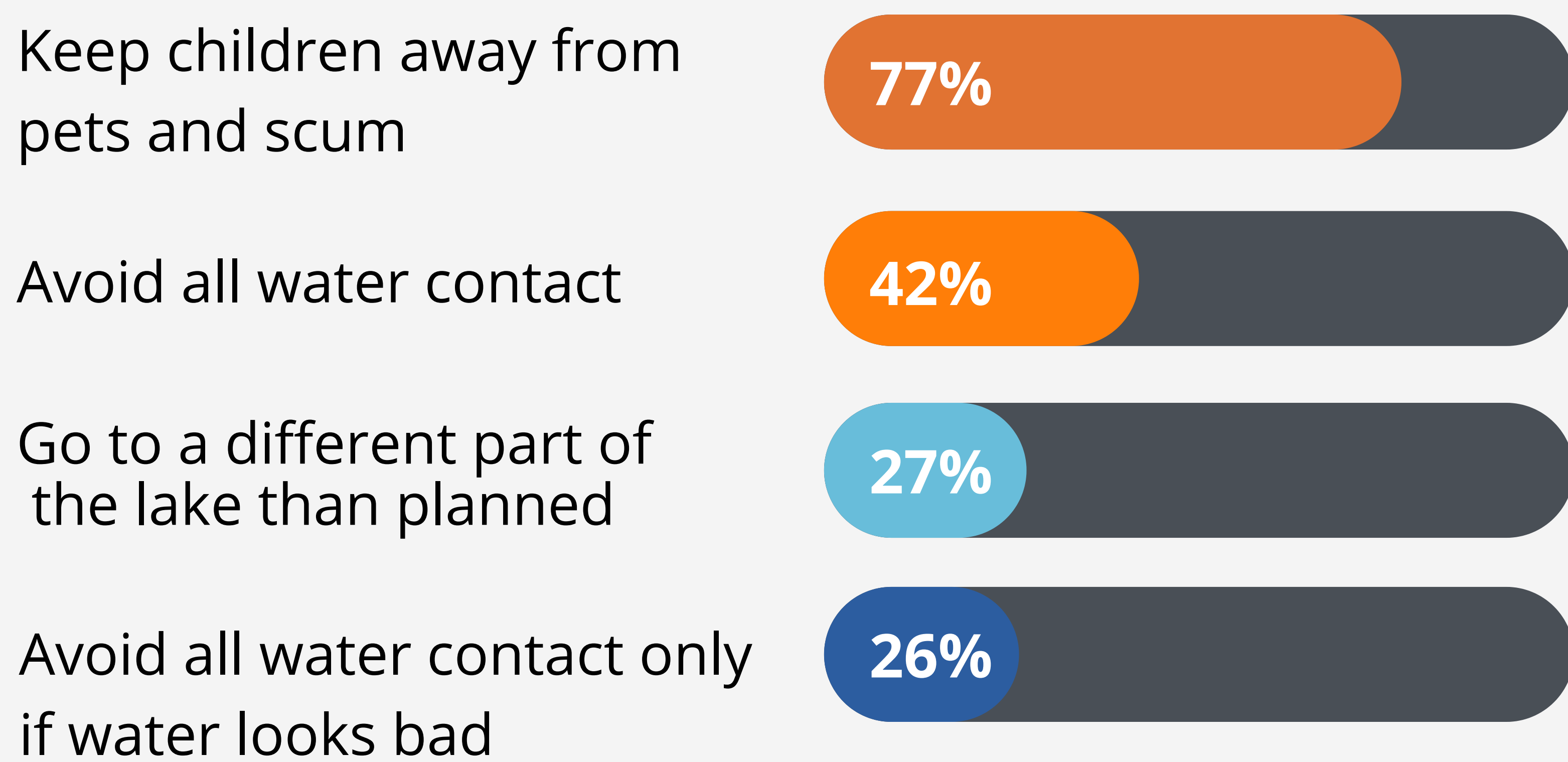
Cal-watch.org

This work is supported by grant 6 NUE1EH001427-02-01 from the CDC as part of the Environmental Health Capacity Building funding program

How often do you do the following activities on/near Clear Lake in summer and fall?

- **49%** kayak, row, or canoe once a month or more
- **48%** drive a motorized boat once a month or more
- **36%** spend times by lake once a month or more
- **30%** wade (no deeper than chest) once a month or more
- **28%** swim once a month or more
- **8%** participate in tribal/cultural activities once a month or more

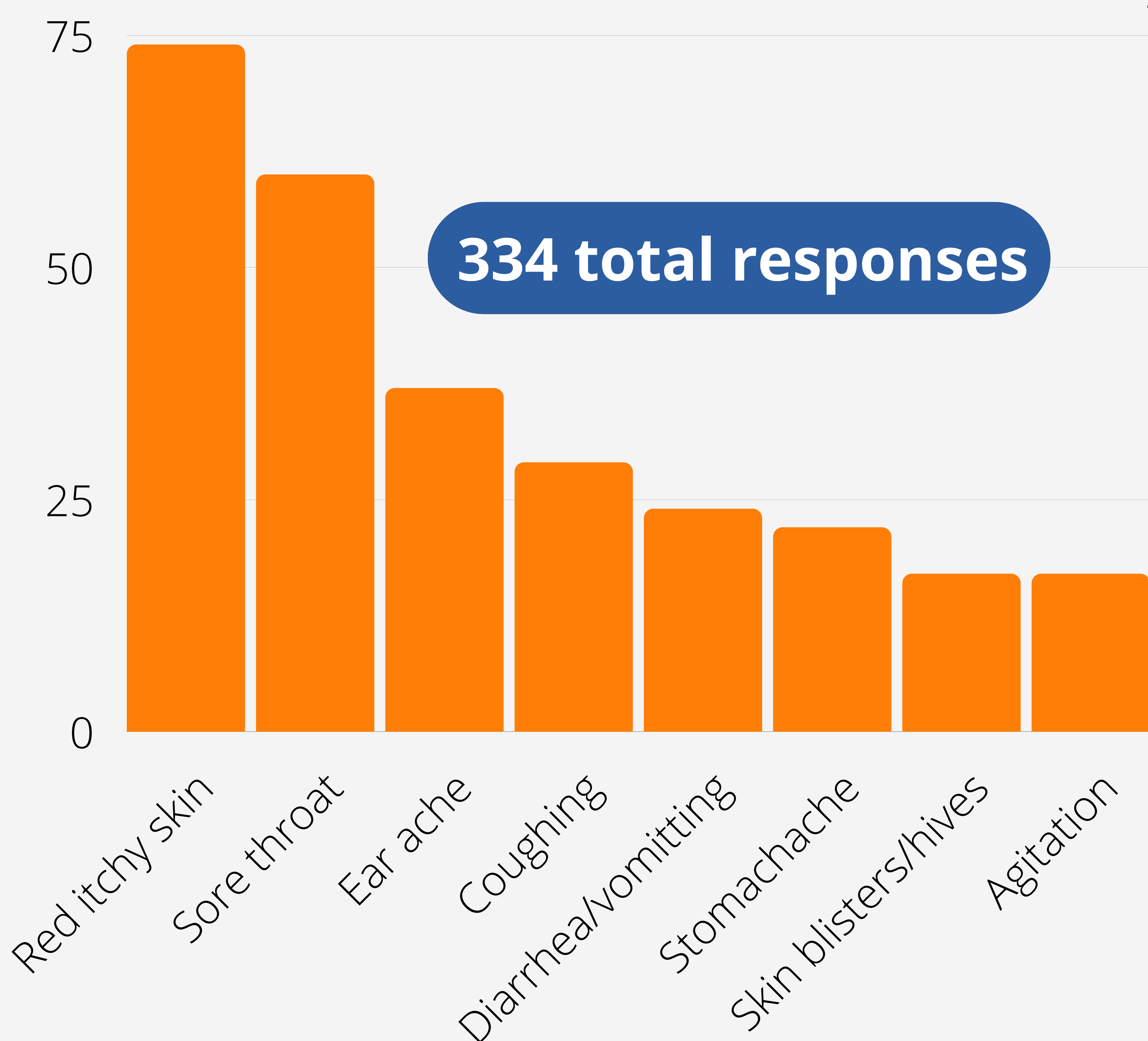
If you learn of a HAB, what action do you take?



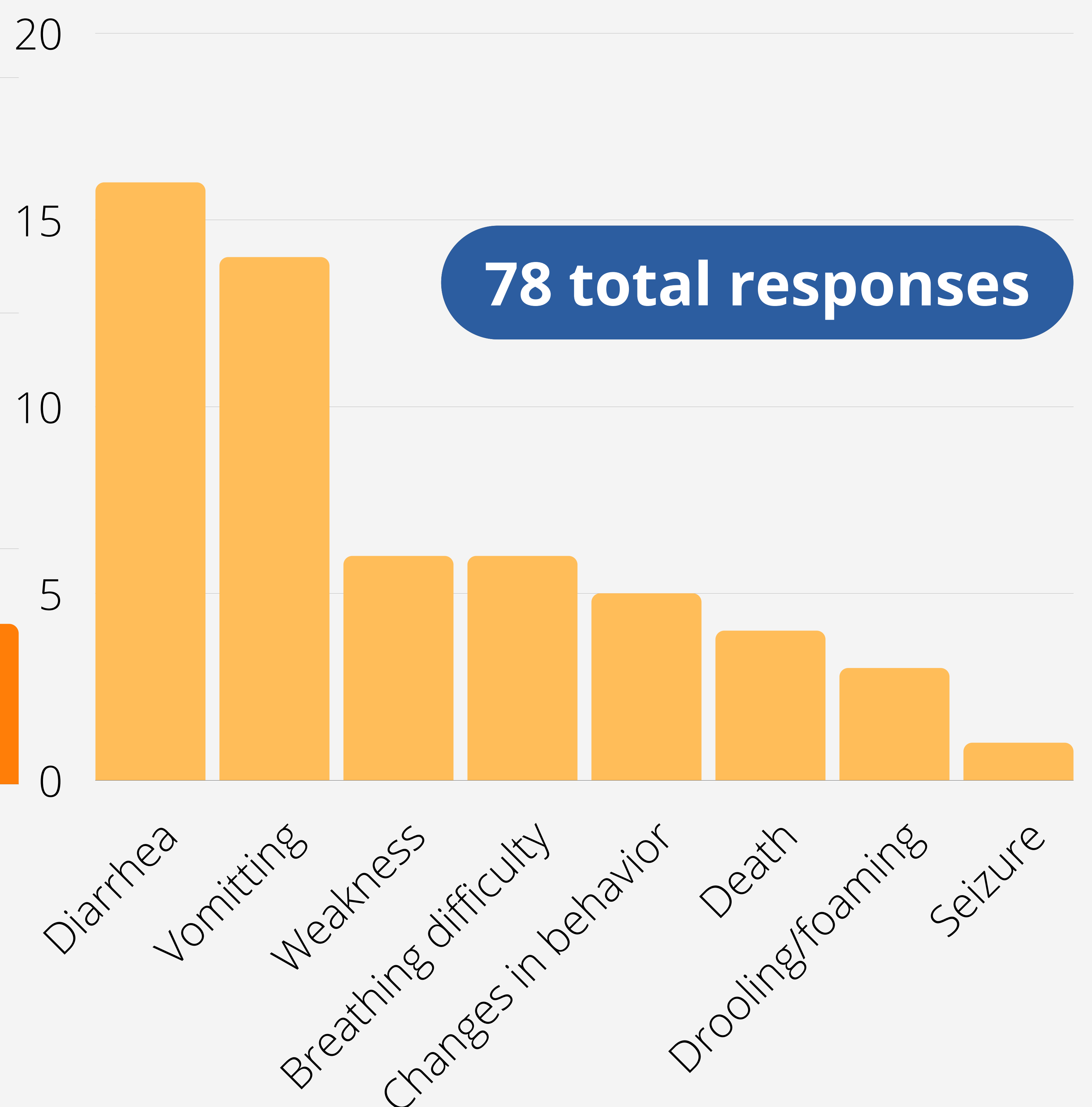
How have your activities at or in the lake changed over time due to HABs?

- *I won't let my child go or I **don't go into the water** if there is any algae*
- *No more dog walks, no dogs on the beach, I **don't let my dog swim** in the lake*
- *I **fish less or stopped eating the fish** there / we take extra measures to wash hands and any fish we catch*
- *I **travel to other lakes** out of the county (i.e. Blue Lakes, Barryessa, Hidden Valley)*
- *I **no longer jet ski, boat, kayak** in the lake*
- *I have a boat and **go to other areas of the lake** that are not impacted/go to deep water areas*
- *I've sold my house, boat, kayak, **moved away***

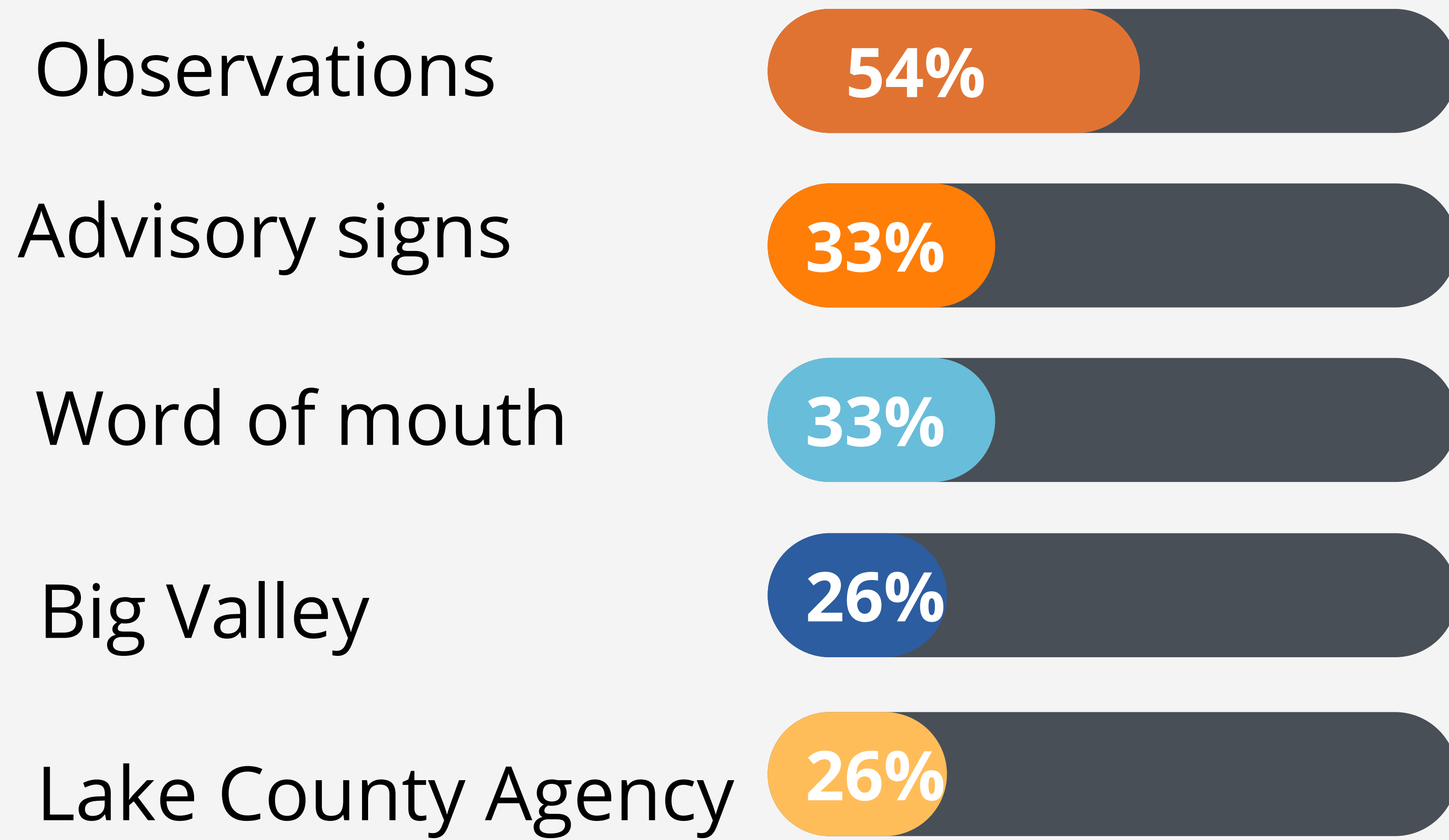
Have you or anyone living in your household had any of these health issues potentially related to HABs?



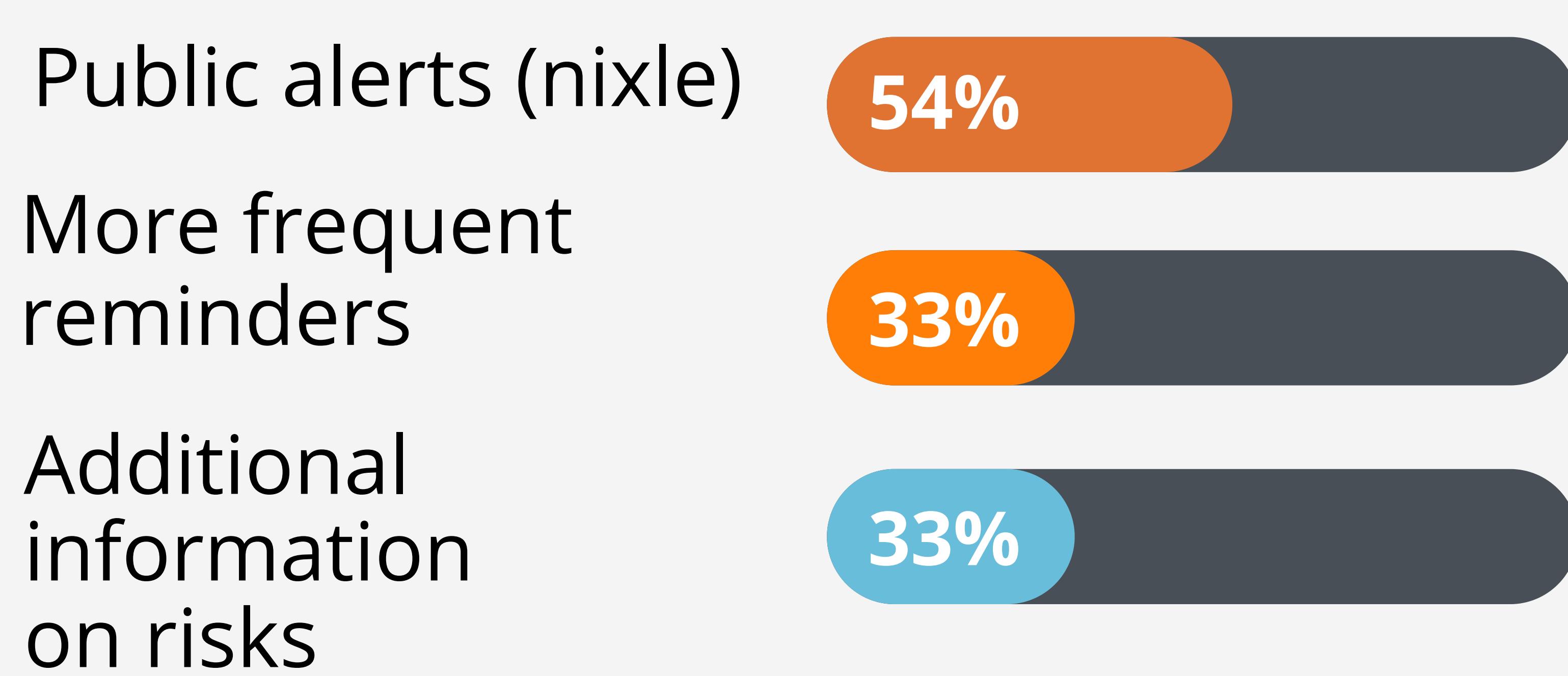
Have your pets or livestock ever experienced any of the following after drinking, swimming, or being near lake water?



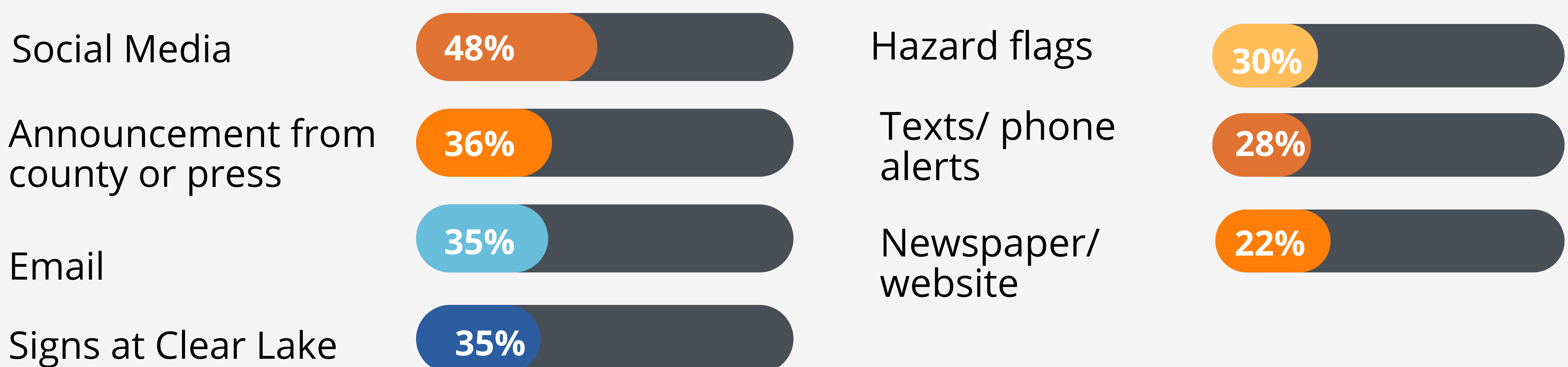
From whom do you find out about HABs in Clear Lake?



How can notification of HABs be improved?



Select your preferred method to be notified about HABs, cyanobacteria, blue-green algae, in the future



What is the best language for you to receive information about HABs, cyanobacteria, or blue-green algae?

- 336 English
- 4 Spanish
- 1 Mandarin
- 1 English audio

What is the greatest number of meals per week you or members of your household eat fish, bivalves, or crustaceans from the lake?

- 98% less than once a week or never
- 1% 1-3 meals in a week
- <1% 4-7 meals in a week or more

CONCLUSIONS AND NEXT STEPS

Results showed a high awareness of HABs among respondents although less than half of participants interacted monthly or more with the lake directly. Observation is the primary method that respondents use to assess HAB risk although they would like more information through avenues such as public alerts and social media. A substantial number of respondents reported a family member or pet experiencing a symptom potentially related to HABs. More outreach should be done to hear from non-English speaking communities and subsistence fishers.