

# SEPTIC to SEWER

## Knowledge and Perceptions of Martin County Residents

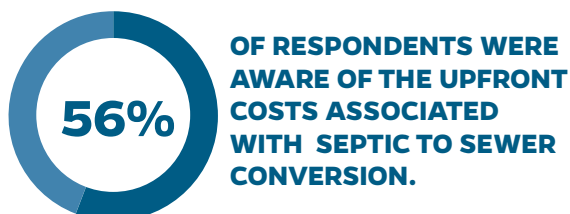
The purpose of this study was to examine Martin County residents' knowledge, attitudes, and perceptions regarding septic to sewer conversion projects. This information will assist local governments in facilitating homeowners' conversion from an onsite wastewater treatment system to a centralized sewer system. Data was collected in November and December 2020 with 118 Florida homeowners in Martin County who currently use a septic system as their wastewater treatment system.



### KNOWLEDGE OF SEPTIC & SEWER SYSTEMS

Respondents were asked about their knowledge on a variety of septic and sewer system topics. The majority of respondents (85%) could explain the difference between how septic systems and sewer systems work. More respondents were aware of the homeowners' responsibility in maintaining a septic system (87%) than a sewer system (39%). When asked about financial costs, 56% reported being aware of the upfront costs associated with septic to sewer conversion, while 52% reported being aware of recurring costs of conversion.

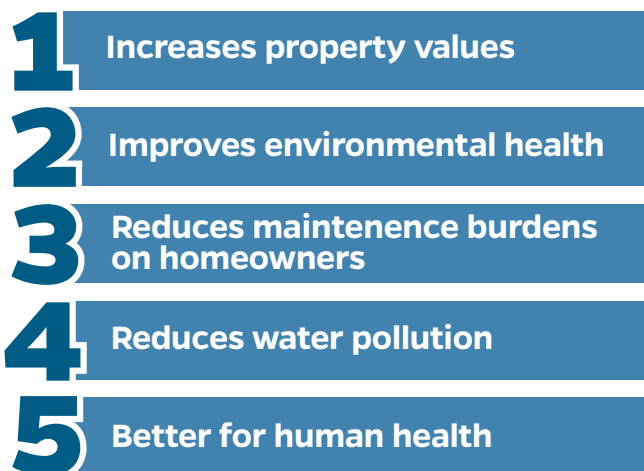
The majority of respondents (80%) indicated they knew the advantages and disadvantages of having a septic system. Seventy-four percent of respondents knew the advantages and disadvantages of having a sewer system. Only 33% of respondents were knowledgeable of the steps involved in septic to sewer conversion.



### PERCEIVED BENEFITS TO CONVERSION

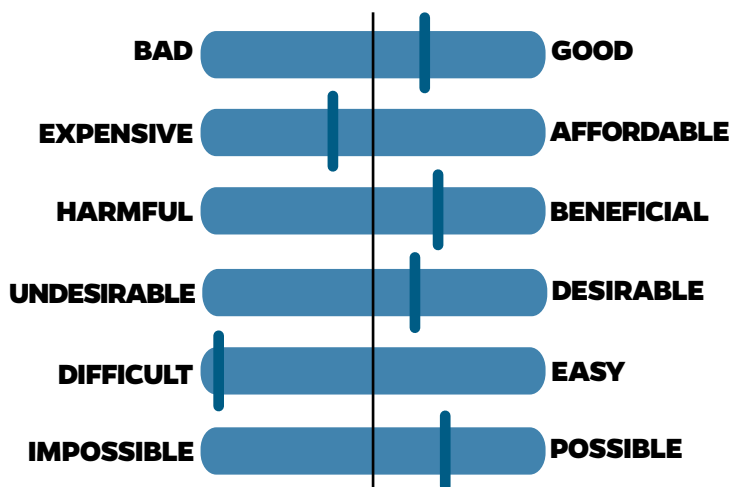
When asked about their perceived benefits of converting from a septic to sewer system, respondents agreed most that converting from a septic system to a sewer system increases property values, improves environmental health, reduces maintenance burdens on homeowners, reduces water pollution and is better for human health.

### PERCEIVED BENEFITS TO CONVERSION



### ATTITUDES TOWARDS CONVERSION

Respondents were asked about their attitudes regarding septic to sewer conversion. Overall, respondents felt that conversion was good, beneficial, possible and desirable. Respondents expressed concerns that the conversion process was expensive and difficult.



Rampold, S. D., Krinsky, L., Telg, R. W., & Warner, L. (2021). Florida homeowners' knowledge, perceptions, and informational needs regarding septic to sewer conversion: A look at Martin, Brevard, and Miami-Dade Counties. PIE2020/21-06. Gainesville, FL: University of Florida/IFAS Center