



**Public Education, Participation & Outreach Workgroup
of the Interbasin Compact Committee**

Educational Needs of Colorado's Basin Roundtables

October 7, 2009

Presented to the Sustaining Colorado Watersheds Conference by:



Colorado Water for the 21st Century Act

A framework that provides a permanent forum for broad-based water discussions. It creates two new structures:

- 1) The Interbasin Compact Committee (IBCC), a state-wide committee that will address issues between basins; and
- 2) The Basin Roundtables.
 - **Facilitate discussions on water issues and encourage locally driven collaborative solutions.**
 - **The broad-based, collaborative nature of this process is reflected in the roundtable membership.**

To help the Basin Roundtables accomplish their major responsibility of developing a **basin-wide needs assessment**, they have relied on groundwork completed during the Statewide Water Supply Initiative (SWSI).

Educational Role of the Basin Roundtables

HB 05-1177 indicates that each basin roundtable has powers and responsibilities that include the following:

"(c) ... Basin roundtables shall ***actively seek the input and advice*** of affected local governments, water providers, and other interested stakeholders and persons in establishing its needs assessment, and shall propose projects or methods for meeting those needs.

"(d) ***Serve as a forum for education and debate*** regarding methods for meeting water supply needs; and

"(e) As needed, establish roundtable subcommittees or other mechanisms to ***facilitate dialogue and resolution of issues*** and conflicts within the basin."

Role of the PEPO Workgroup

The Public Education, Participation, and Outreach Workgroup (PEPO) of the Interbasin Compact Committee is tasked with:

- **Creating a process to inform, involve, and educate the public on the IBCC's activities and the progress of the interbasin compact negotiations**
- **Creating a mechanism by which public input and feedback can be relayed to the Interbasin Compact Committee and compact negotiators**
- **Educating IBCC and Roundtable members on water issues**

Purpose of the Education Survey

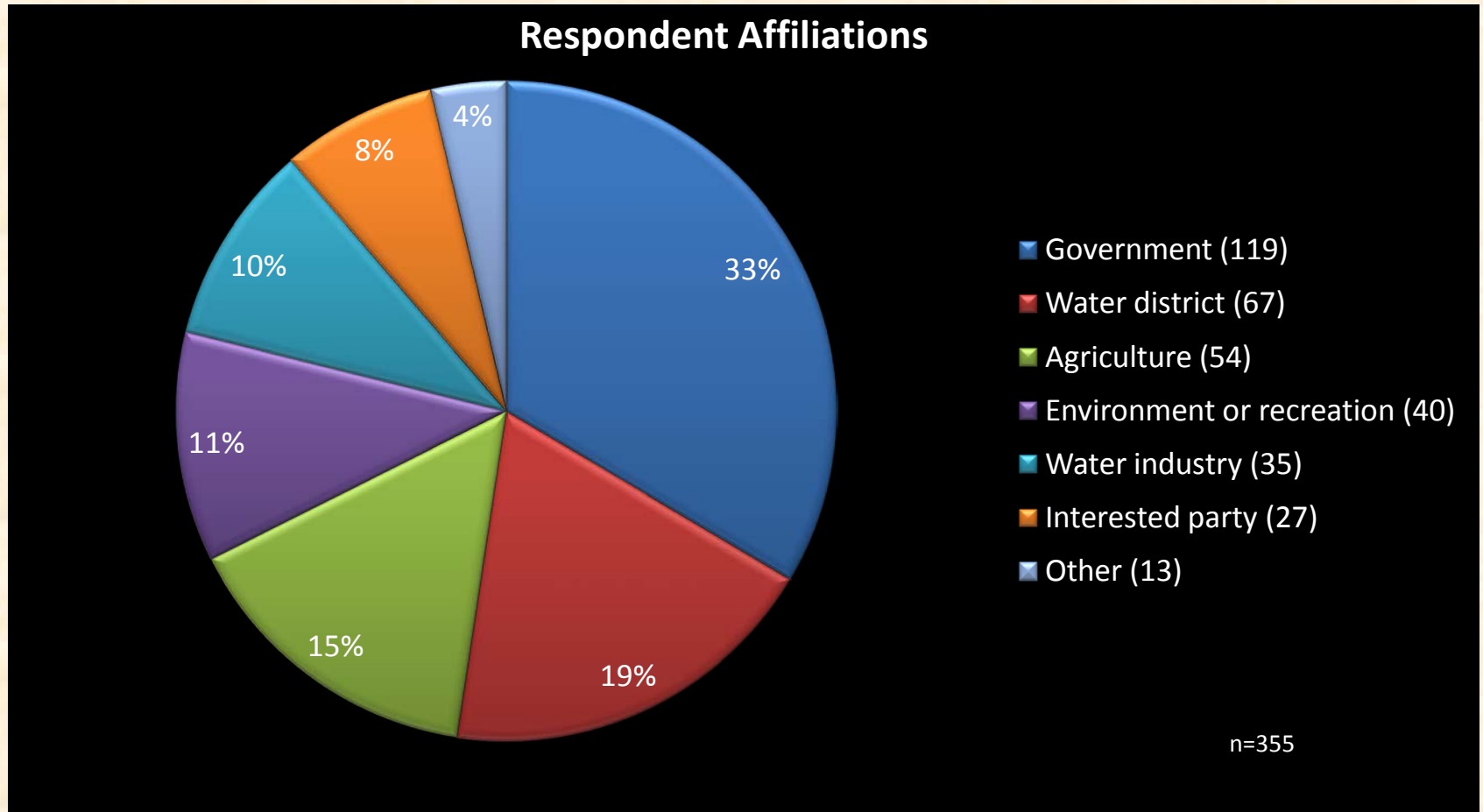
The Workgroup initially aimed to assess each Basin Roundtable's internal and external educational needs



Survey analysis was presented at an Education Liaison Workshop, at which point we recognized the importance of the survey in providing data to help *move the entire Roundtable process forward*



Diverse Representation



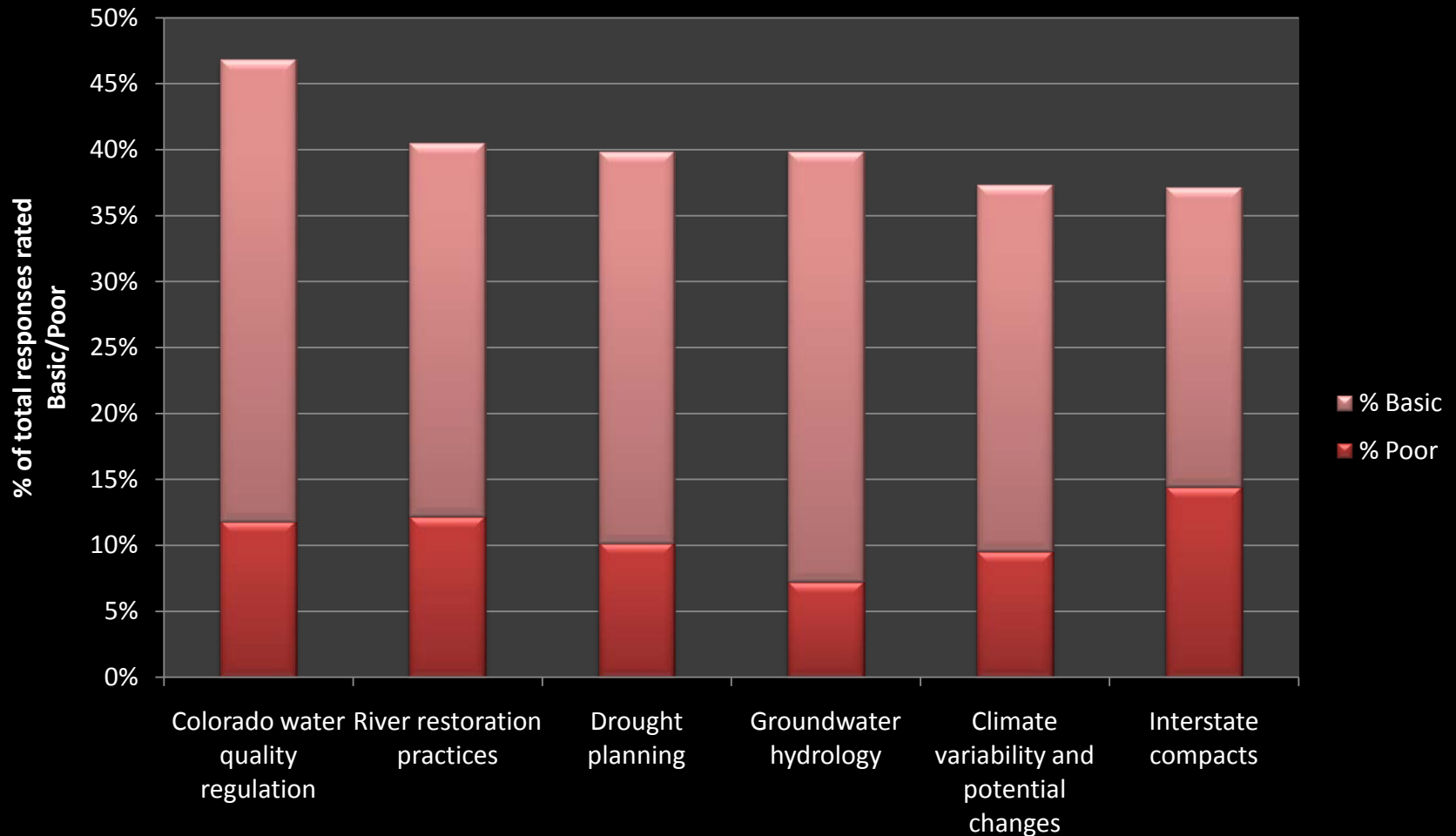
Response Rate:

178 voting members (out of 299)

69 regular attendees/non-voting members = **247 total**

What do the Roundtables need to know to best fulfill their role and function?

Areas of Low Water Knowledge



Preferred Methods of Receiving Information

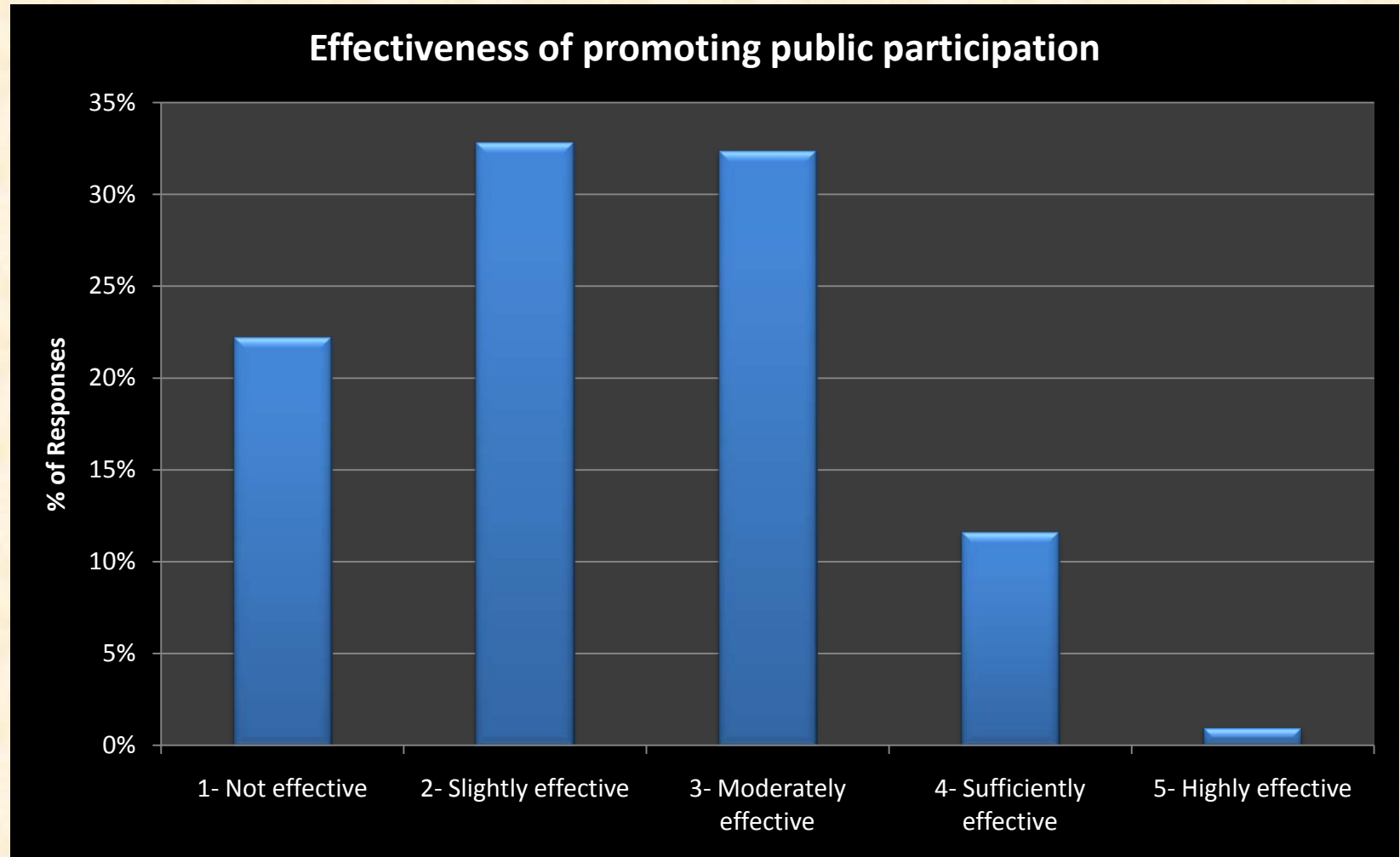
Interactive & Collaborative



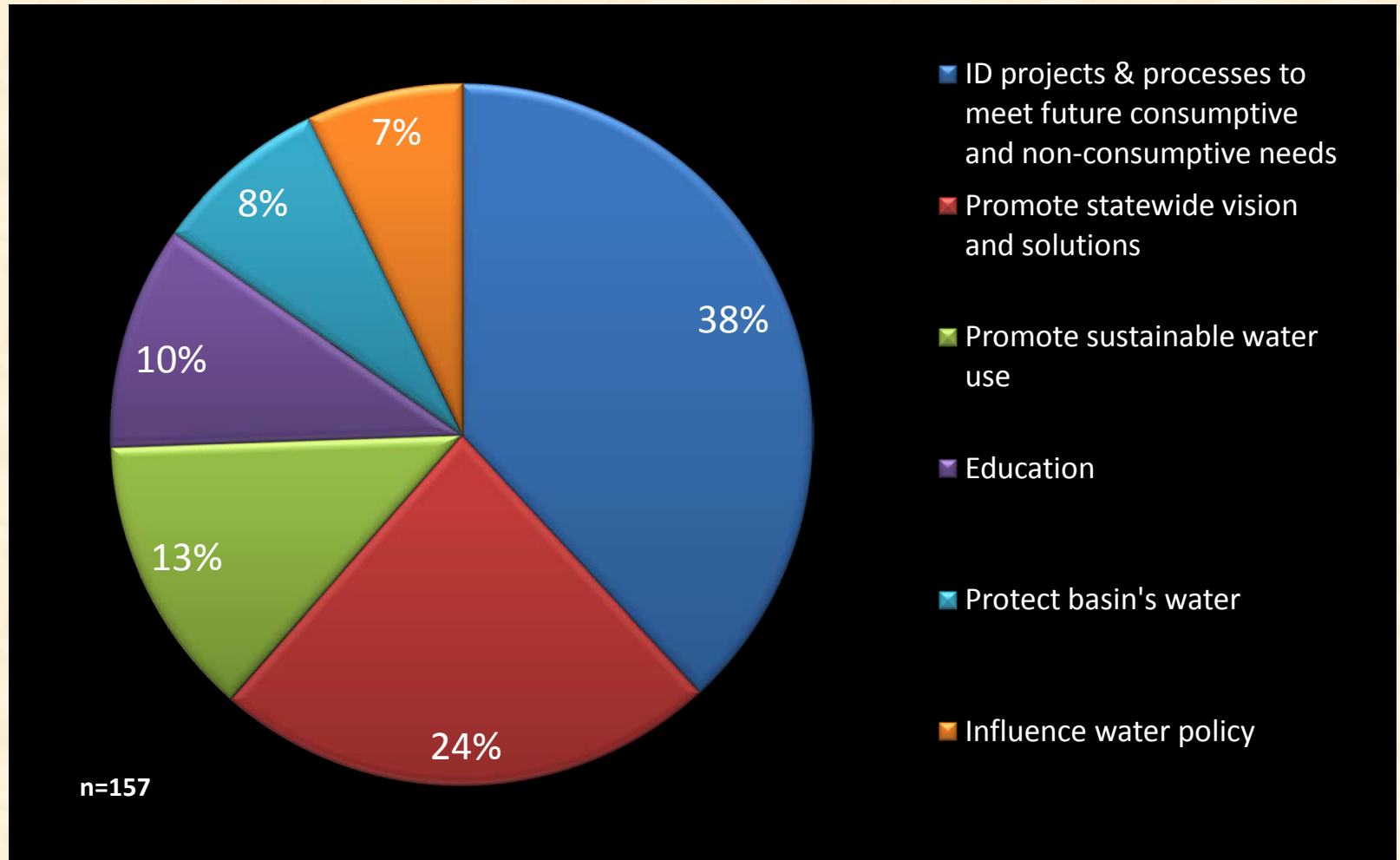
Presentations & cross-Roundtable
events/meetings

CWCB staff & IBCC representative reports

How can the Roundtables fulfill their public education mandate?



Stated Priority of the Roundtable Process



Strengths & Weaknesses

What works best on the Roundtables?

PROCESS: Open discussions and relationship building

What is not working so well?

OUTCOMES: Progress towards solutions and addressing the gap

The PEPO Workgroup is now tasked with designing solutions-oriented educational programs

Conclusions

Take-home lessons:

- Interactive education is most effective for members
- Potential for increased public involvement
- Engage in greater collaboration between the Basin Roundtables and the IBCC

Next steps:

- Final report and recommendations
- Continued PEPO Workgroup activities
 - Education Action Plan for each RT
 - Opportunities for cross-Roundtable interaction