# PLANNING AND POLICYMAKING FOR COASTAL RESILIENCE: THE COUNTY PERSPECTIVE

Jen Horton Program Manager National Association of Counties August 2014



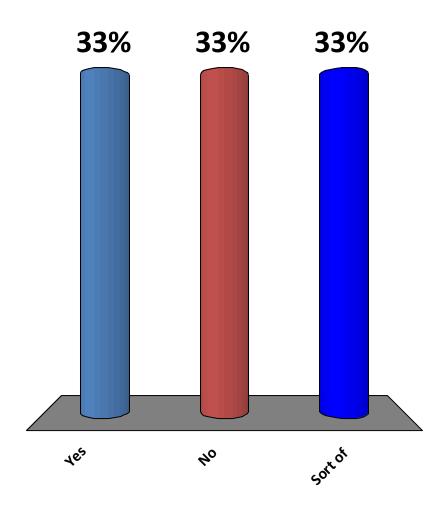
#### About NACo.



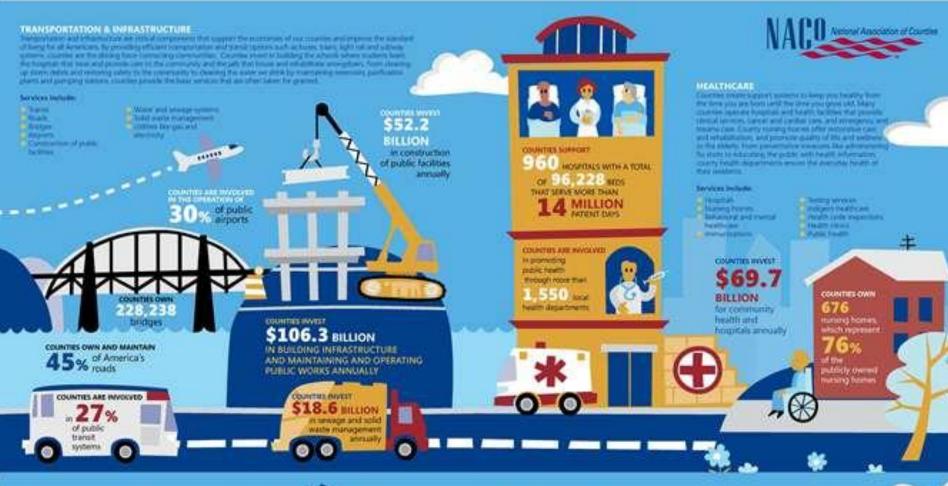
- Represent 3,069 counties
- Provide advocacy, research, training, peer networks
- Focus areas:
  - Health Care
  - Justice
  - Community and Economic Development
    - Resilient Counties
    - Coastal Counties

# Before this presentation, had you ever heard of the National Association of Counties (NACo)?

- A. Yes
- B. No
- C. Sort of



# WHY COUNTIES MATTER!



\$70.2 auttion
TOTAL in justice and public safety services amounts of



#### COUNTY MANAGEMENT

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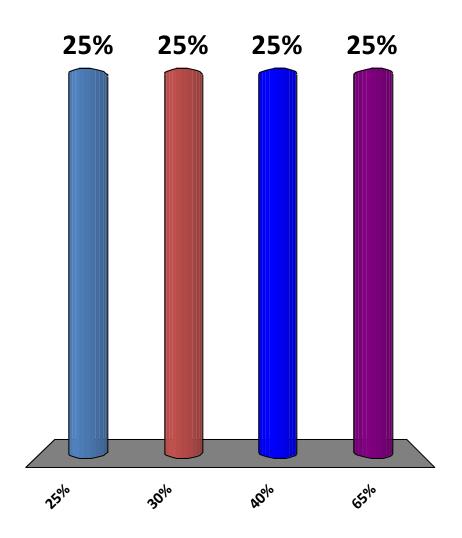
NACo.org/CountiesMatter

#### Working with Coastal Counties.

- Provide resource support to counties in adopting innovative management approaches.
- Highlight best practices for coastal resiliency related to:
  - Infrastructure improvements
  - Environmental restoration
  - Long-term planning efforts

# What percentage of Americans live in coastal counties?

- A. 25%
- B. 30%
- ✓C. 40%
  - D. 65%



#### Coastal Communities.

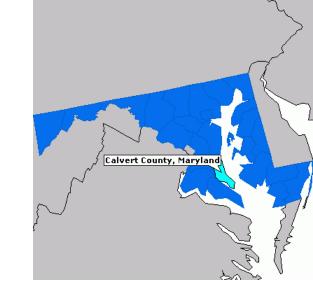
- Home to nearly 40% of Americans
- Over half of Americans live within 50 miles of the coast
- Population grew faster than national average over last 40 years
- Contribute more than 55% to the U.S. GDP



Source: NOAA <a href="http://oceanservice.noaa.gov/facts/population.html">http://oceanservice.noaa.gov/facts/population.html</a>

### Calvert County, Md.

- Regional sea level rise 3 to 4 times faster than the average global sea rise rate
- Pilot project to enhance outreach and communication about hazard impacts and resource availability
  - Sea level rise trainings
  - Sharing Army Corps of Engineers' info
  - Online and interactive shoreline development tool for property owners

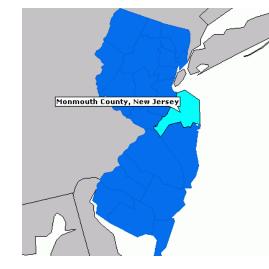




- Housing elevation project for most flood-prone areas
- Becoming more educated about changes to flood insurance due to Biggert-Waters Flood Act

#### Monmouth County, NJ

- Lack of municipality capacity to implement NFIP Community Rating System (CRS)
- March 2014 Monmouth County created the CRS Assistance Program
  - Provide technical assistance mapping services
  - Lower insurance costs
  - Facilitate a regional forum
  - Created participation guidelines
  - Convened meetings
  - Established online library
- Went from 8/53 to nearly half of all municipalities participating
- Public outreach critical role of county's strategy









### **Bucks County, Penn.**

- Half of 418 miles of streams required additional pollution reduction to restore water quality
  - 75% due to erosion
- Neshaminy Creek Watershed Sediment Reduction Plan for Municipal Implementation (SR Plan)
  - Guide to restore watershed over 20-30 year period
  - BMP and priority areas in watershed
- Led field work effort and identified challenged areas
- Convened neighboring counties that share watershed to create and adopt SR Plan
- Comprehensive approach to restoring water quality – strategy sharing and feedback across communities



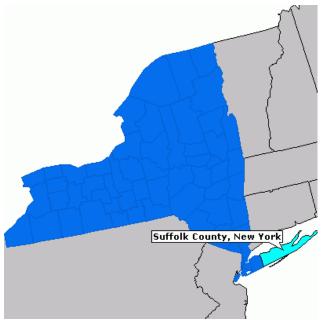




## **Suffolk County, NY**

- Released the Suffolk County Comprehensive Water Resources Management Plan (WRM Plan) in 2014
  - Upgrades to septic systems in 74% of county households
  - Mitigation of nitrogen pollution
- Hosted water quality teleconference that attracted 9,700 residents
- Partnerships were critical to WRM Plan
  - New York State
  - Federal agencies
  - Private firms
  - Academic institutions





### Monterey County, Calif.

- Needed new, updated hazard mitigation plan to consider
   41 natural hazard events \$32 million in damages
- Worked with municipalities to update plan and integrate with local plans and future development
- Used NOAA Digital Coast resources to shape the planning process
- Process for updating plan established sharing GIS documents/tracking flood-related projects
- Community participation was key to success of new 2014 plan





#### Digital Coast.



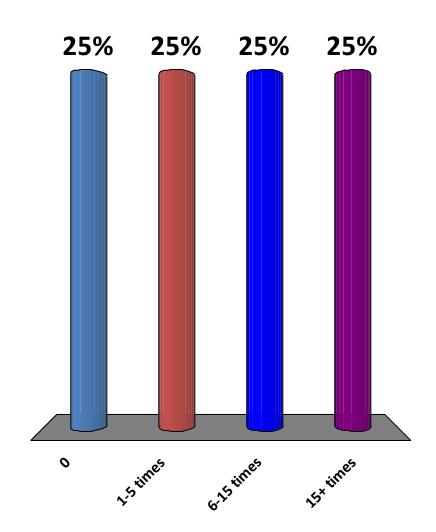
- Suite of tools, data and training
- Focus on coastal management

#### csc.noaa.gov/digitalcoast



# In the past six months, how many times have you visited the Digital Coast website?

- A. C
- **B.** 1-5 times
- C. 6-15 times
- D. 15+ times



#### Digital Coast Tools.



- Coastal County Snapshots Tool
  - Allows users to tell a story about their county
- Sea Level Rise Viewer
  - Observe varying scenarios and impacts to infrastructure



#### Recent Activities & Resources.



#### Resources and Contacts.

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www.NACo.org/Resilience

