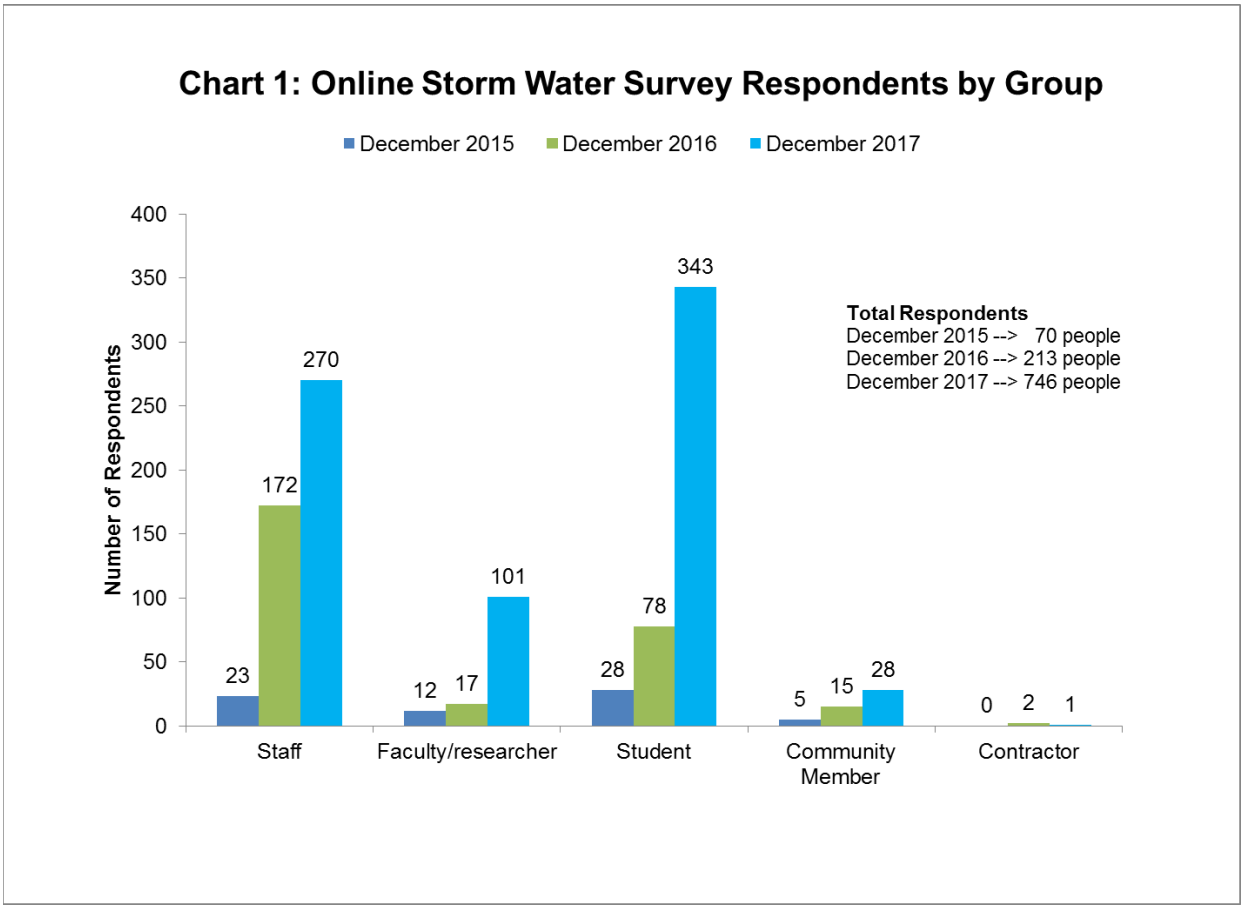
2017-18 UC Berkeley Storm Water Survey Results
February 2018

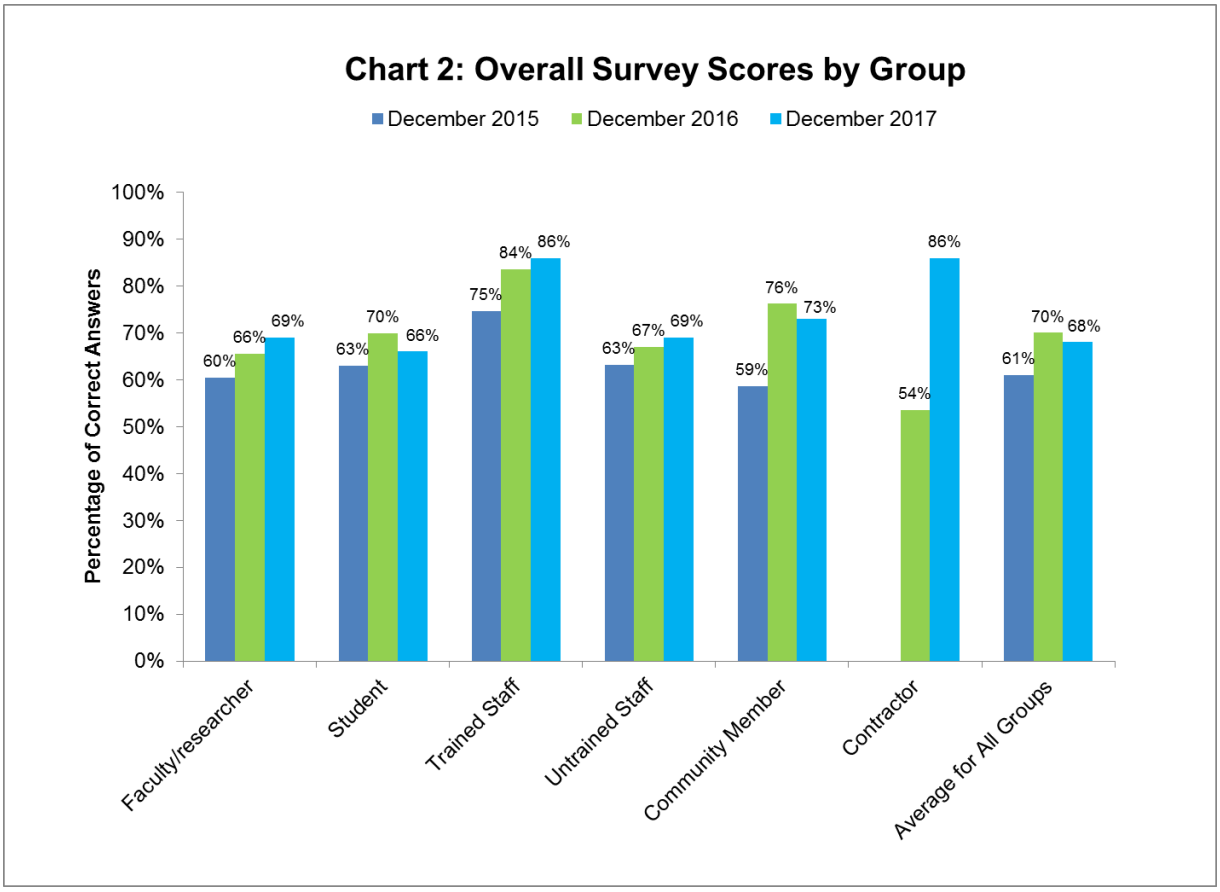
Thanks to everyone who filled out the UC Berkeley Storm Water Survey in December 2017! We had an incredible response, as you will see from the following facts and figures.

Summary and Discussion

The December 2017 survey received 746 responses, more than triple the respondents from the December 2016 survey, and ten times the baseline survey in 2015 (**Chart 1**). The reason for this surge is most likely due to the survey being promoted through Environment, Health & Safety (EH&S) email listserves that serve the campus laboratory and research community, in addition to being sent out to the existing creek-related listserve as in previous years.

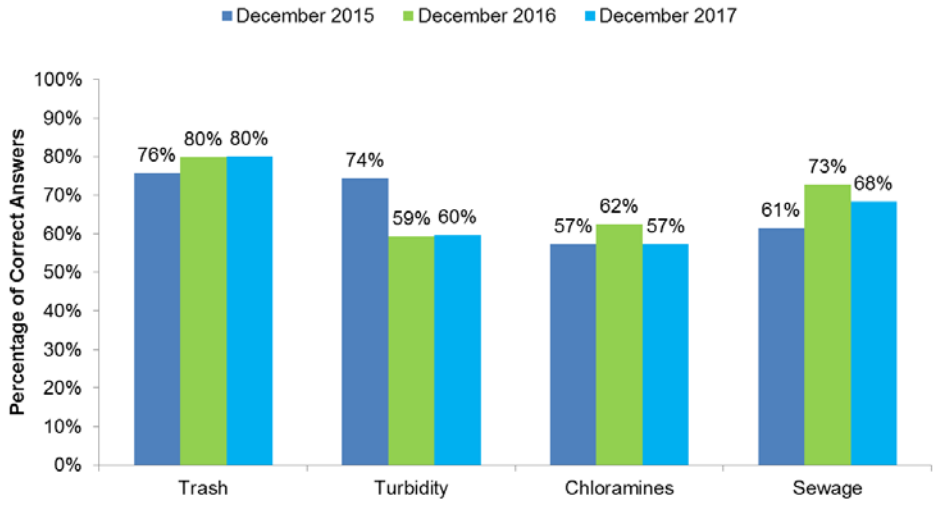


The December 2017 survey responses had an average score of 68%, a slight decrease from 2016 levels, which may be explained by the marked increase in participants that were not reached in previous years (**Chart 2**). Trained staff continue to receive the top scores (86%), with community members ranking second (73%) and faculty/researchers and untrained staff tied for third place (69%). Students now rank the lowest in overall scores (66%), which again may be due to the large influx of previously unreached participants.



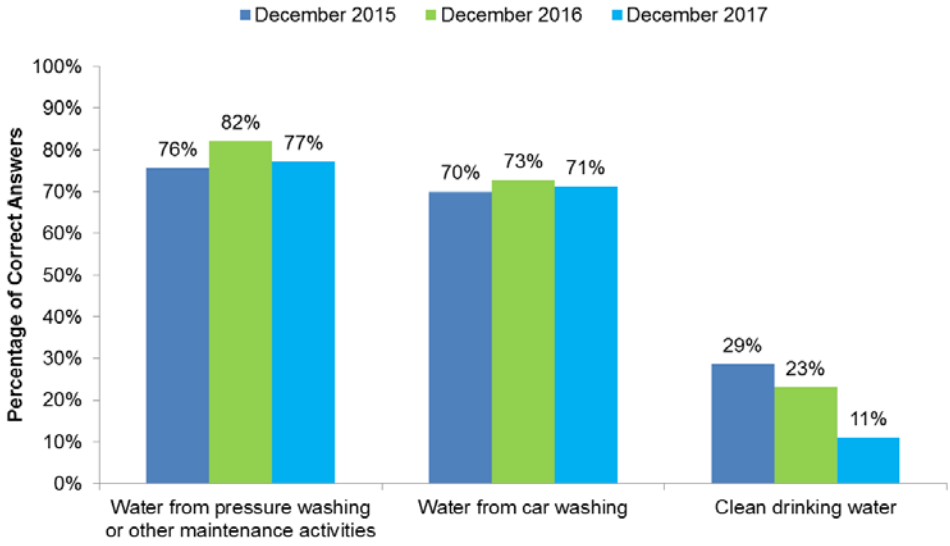
There are no clear trends in the respondents year to year, other than the trained staff perform better than all other groups, including untrained staff. Survey respondents slightly increased their scores in identifying turbidity as a water quality issue, maintained their scores in identifying trash, but decreased their scores in identifying chloramines and sewage as issues that impact water quality (**Chart 3**)**.** Participants reduced their scores in understanding surface washing prohibitions, with a marked decrease in the knowledge that clean drinking water is not allowed into storm drains due to the presence of chloramines (**Chart 4**). Click here for more information on how clean drinking water and other pollutants can impact creeks and the Bay.

Chart 3: Which of the following are major water quality issues for the San Francisco Bay Area? (*Select all that apply*)



Correct Answer: All of them.

Chart 4: Which of the following are not allowed to flow to a UC Berkeley storm drain? (*Select all that apply*)



Correct Answer: All of them.

Almost all respondents in both years know to call EH&S at (510) 642-3073 and/or contact the UC Police Department when they witness a chemical or sewage spill in the creek, and almost half know that if someone is trained and it is safe, they can try to stop the spill and clean the area, an increase from previous years (**Chart 5**). Click here for information on how to identify and report emergency and non-emergency situations.

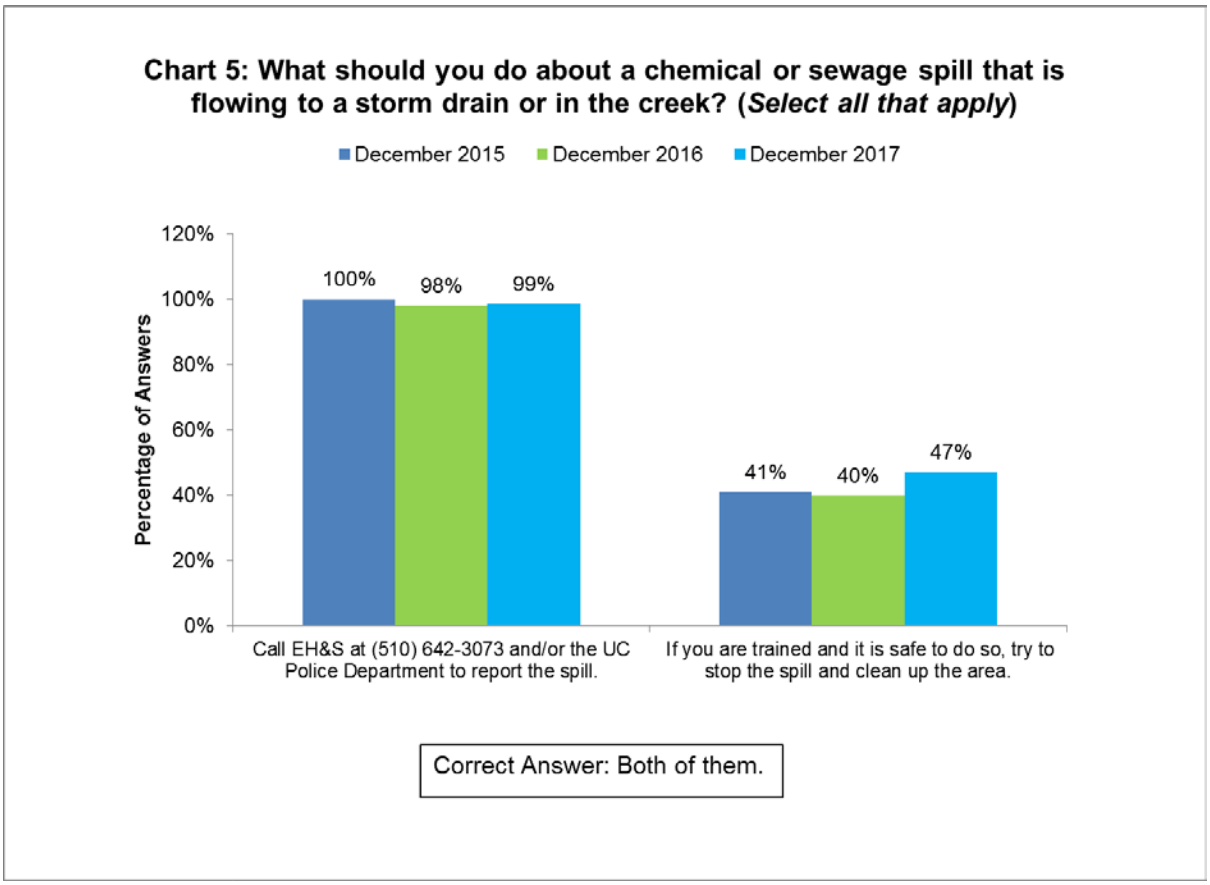
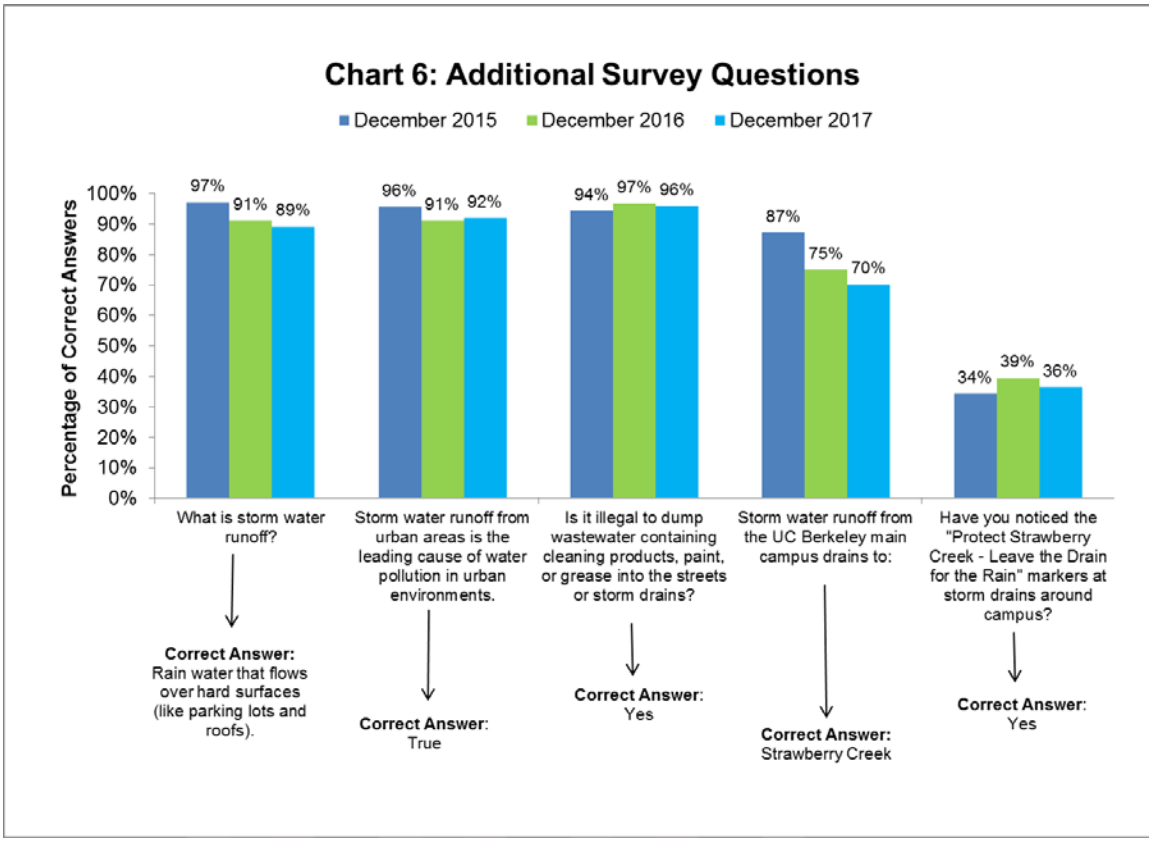


Chart 6 presents the responses to other questions on the survey, indicating similar scores as in previous years in identifying storm water runoff as a leading cause of water pollution and knowing it is illegal to dump chemicals and grease down drains and into streets. Participants decreased their scores in properly defining storm water runoff and knowing where runoff from the main campus goes.



In summary, there are no clear trends in the survey respondents year to year, other than more people are taking the survey each year and trained staff consistently perform better than other groups. More improvements in outreach about the definition and fate of storm water runoff and the impact of chloramines on water quality are needed.

For more information, go to creeks.berkeley.edu to learn about the many ways people can protect and enhance our creeks.

Attachment A: UC Berkeley Storm Water Survey

1. What is storm water runoff?

a) Rain water that soaks into the ground.
b) Rain water that flows over hard surfaces (like parking lots and roofs).
c) Water in the sewage system.
d) Don't know.

2. Storm water runoff from urban areas is the leading cause of water pollution in urban environments.

a) True
b) False

3. Which of the following are major water quality issues for the San Francisco Bay Area? (Select all that apply)

a) Trash
b) Turbidity (muddy water)
c) Chloramines from drinking water
d) Sewage
e) Don't know

4. Is it illegal to dump wastewater containing cleaning products, paint, or grease into the streets or storm drains?

a) Yes
b) No

5. Which of the following are not allowed to flow to a UC Berkeley storm drain? (Select all that apply)

a) Rain water
b) Water from pressure washing or other maintenance activities
c) Water from car washing
d) Clean drinking water

6. What should you do about a chemical or sewage spill that is flowing to a storm drain or in the creek? (Select all that apply)

a) Do nothing - someone else must be taking care of it.
b) Call EH&S at (510) 642-3073 and/or the UC Police Department to report the spill.
c) If you are trained and it is safe to do so, try to stop the spill and clean up the area.

7. Storm water runoff from the UC Berkeley main campus drains to:

a) EBMUD wastewater treatment plant
b) Strawberry Creek
c) Codornices Creek
d) Don't know

8. Have you noticed the "Protect Strawberry Creek - Leave the Drain for the Rain" markers at storm drains around campus?

a) Yes
b) No

9. How are you connected with UC Berkeley?

a) Student
b) Staff
c) Faculty/researcher
d) Community (resident, alumni)
e) Contractor working on UC property

10. If you are staff, faculty or a contractor working on UC Berkeley property, have you been trained on storm water pollution prevention as part of your job?

a) Yes
b) No
c) Not applicable - I am a student or community member

(The following two questions were offered in the December 2016 and December 2017 survey.)

11. If you would like to enter a raffle to win a limited-edition Creeks of UC Berkeley mug and prize package, please enter your email address here.

12. Would you like to receive occasional emails about volunteer events and education opportunities on the creek?

a) Yes, sign me up!

b) No, thanks.