

Data regarding water debt from public water utilities

The data outlined below comes from Freedom of Information Law requests that were submitted by the Western NY Law Center and the National Center for Economic Law and Justice in Fall 2021 to 10 large water utilities across the state of New York. The data provides the public with a snapshot into the growing water debt crisis New York is facing. Data has been received by the four utilities listed below. The utilities that have not responded or provided data are: New York City Department of Environmental Protection, City of Rochester, Albany Water Department, Orange County Water Authority, Syracuse Water Department, and City of Yonkers.

Suffolk County Water Authority (SCWA)

- In October 2021, SCWA had at least 216,000 residential customers in arrears.
 - These customers had a total of \$31,053,114 in residential arrears.
 - SCWA conducted 2,637 residential shutoffs for nonpayment from January 2019 through March 2020. The number of shutoffs per month ranges from 125 to 245.
 - SCWA placed 3,941 liens in 2019 and 3,681 liens in 2020.
- *SCWA figures include residential accounts only*

Mohawk Valley Water Authority (MVWA)

- In 2021, MVWA had 3,006 residential customers with an outstanding balance for their water bills.
 - In 2021, MVWA had \$817,547.47 due in residential arrears.
 - MVWA residential arrears increased by \$265,059 from 2019.
- *MVWA figures include residential accounts only*

Erie County Water Authority (ECWA)

- All arrears totaled \$7,906,110.57 in October 2021.
 - The amount of total arrears owed increased by \$2,748,919.19 from the figures reported two years prior in October 2019.
 - ECWA does not track disconnections for nonpayment.
 - ECWA does not have the ability to place liens against account owners.
- *ECWA figures include residential and commercial accounts*

Monroe County Water Authority (MCWA)

- 3,534 accounts were in arrears in early December 2021.
 - In October 2021, \$358,033 dollars were overdue by 360 days. This is a 910% increase from the amount reported in October 2019 (\$35,427).
 - Conducted 1,834 shutoffs for nonpayment in 2019 and 403 shut offs between January 2020 and March 2020.
 - MCWA does not enforce unpaid water bills via liens.
- *MCWA figures include commercial and residential accounts*