Water Quality Perceptions of Latine Populations

Introduction

Water quality perceptions can influence whether a person uses their tap water. These perceptions can be positive or negative

Objective

Understanding perceptions arms communities and governments with information that affects policy, management, engagement, and success in tackling water quality issues

Methods

Interviews

- Participant Selection:
  - Previously part of RTI study
  - Elaborated on their thoughts about water quality
- Conducted in Spanish
- Transcribed & analyzed for general themes

Literature Review

- Article Selection:
  - 91/188 for Latin America
  - 22/36 for the United States
  - Only used articles that mentioned perceptions related to tap water quality
- Analyzed general and common themes
- Completed literature review

Interviews

Management Issues

"That people exploit other people's resources…who regulates that? No one and they are profiting from a resource that should not be exploited in that manner"

" I think it is because we don't know where our water comes from…and your afraid that it could come with some sort of parasite"

Water Quality Mistrust

Water Quality Mistrust

"Drinking from the tap… is very common in lower socioeconomic levels, not always, but it is very common and because oftentimes it is the only source of water in my zone"
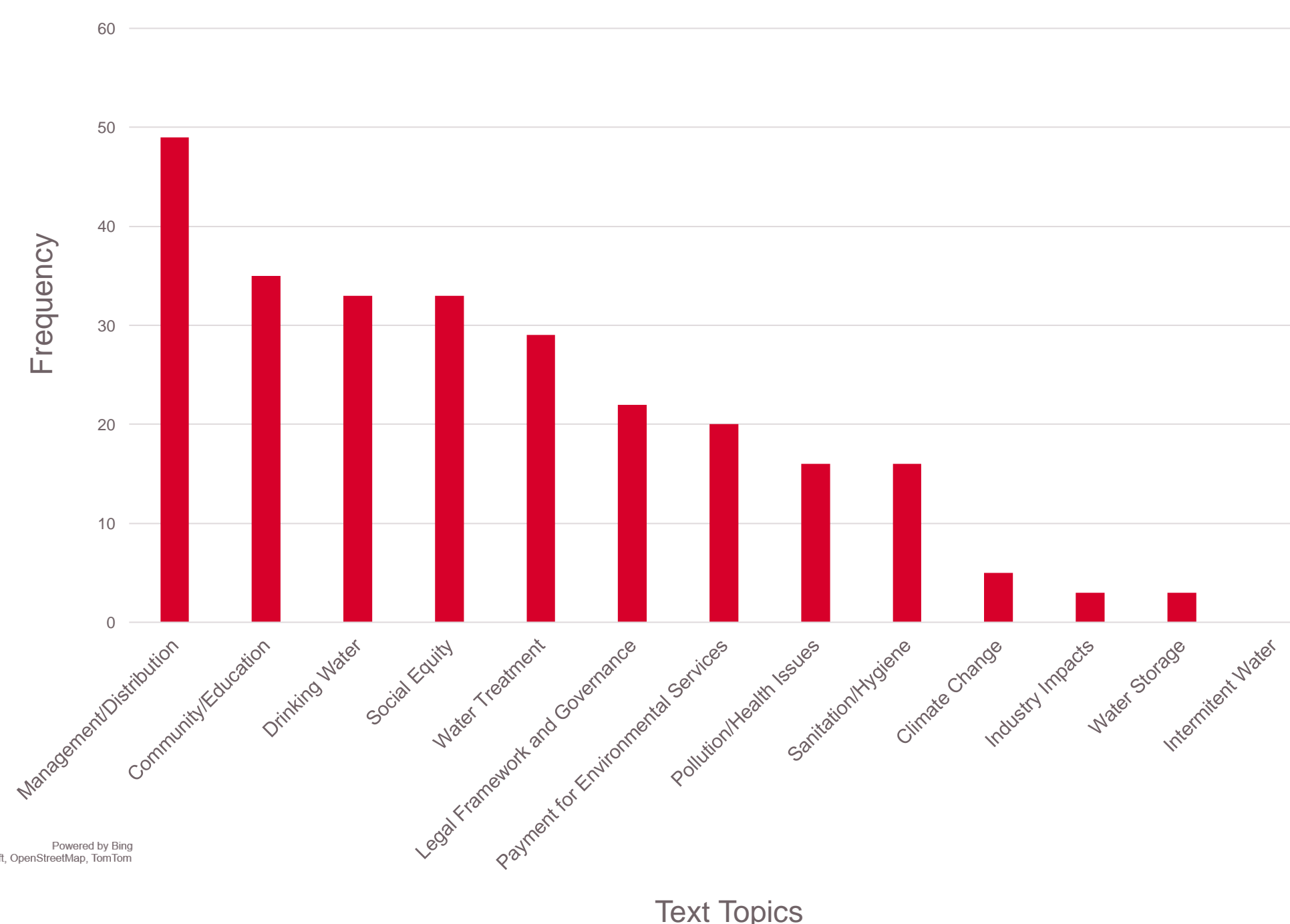
Literature Review

Frequency of each country

Frequency 1 – 19

Frequency of Text Topics

Text Topics: Management/Distribution, Community/Education, Drinking Water, Social Equity, Water Treatment, Legal Framework and Governance, Payment for Environmental Services, Pollution/Health Issues, Sanitation/Hygiene, Climate Change, Industry Impacts, Water Storage, Intermitent Water

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Major Themes

Mistrust of Tap Water

- Mistrust in Latine populations in the U.S. is heavily influenced by mistrust from Latin America
- Aesthetic attributes are a major influence
- Influenced by lack of knowledge and cultural habits

Health

- Mental health is affected due to stress from the perception of water quality
- Increase in oral diseases (ex. cavities)
- Low rates of water intake

Cost

- Communities understand the importance of water as a resource but refuse to pay more
- Influenced by the idea of "water as a human right"
- Inconsistent cost/management and exploitation lead to negative perceptions

Water Security

- Perpetual scarcity limits the success of solutions to solve water scarcity issues

Education

- An increase in knowledge about water systems reduces misconceptions and negative perceptions
- Community ownership and involvement is crucial