# State of the Pacific

## A look at the environment in the U.S. Affiliated Pacific Islands

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# TODAY'S PRESENTATION

- Overview of environmental conditions in the Pacific
- Accomplishments since last year's conference
- Focus for the future

# EPA REGION 9

# BASIC, SEVERE PROBLEMS

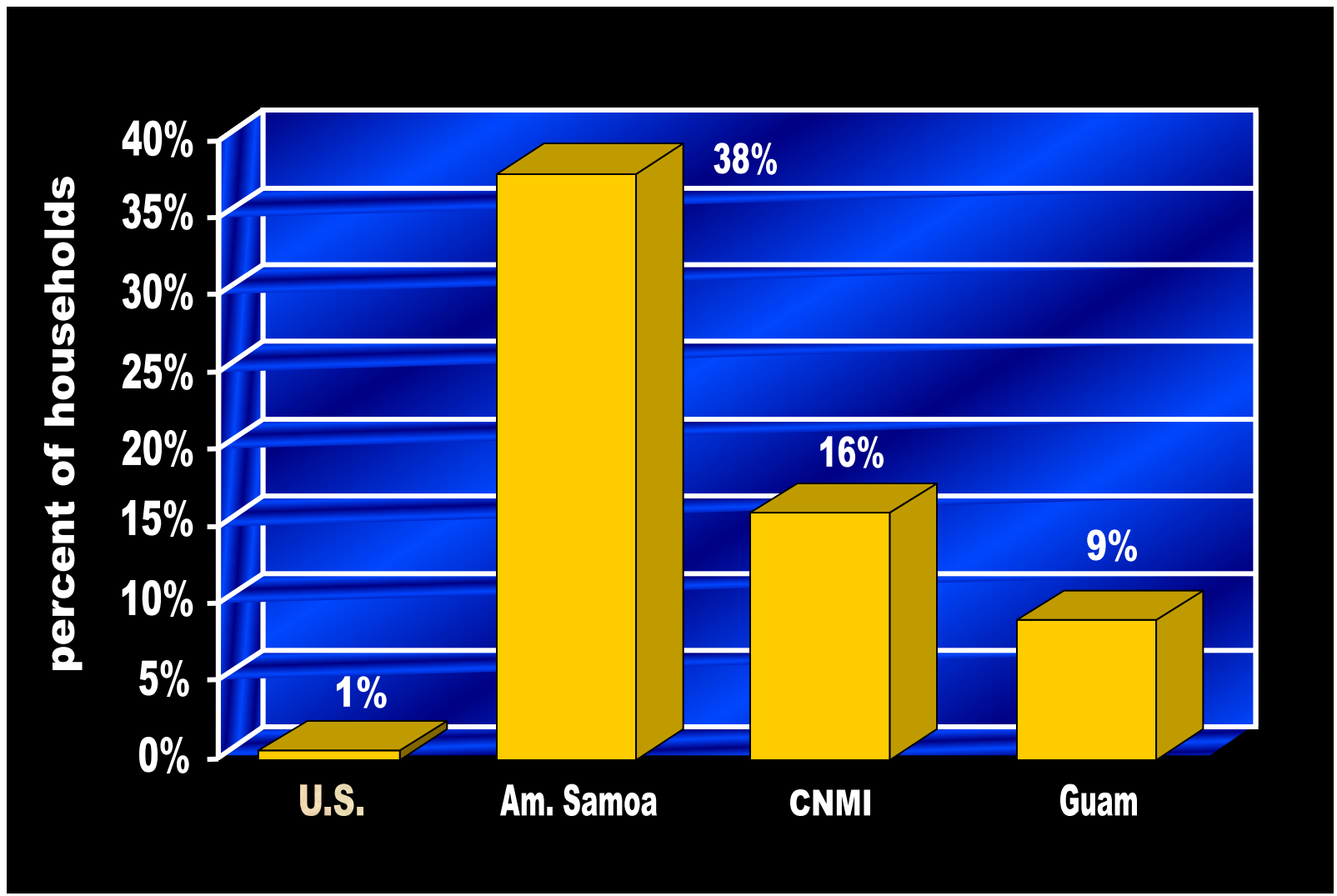
- **Clean water is a challenge, and a top priority**

***Broken drinking water pipe covered in raw sewage***

# DRINKING WATER IN PACIFIC ISLANDS

- Water rationing; unsafe or unpalatable water common indoor plumbing
- Saipan is the only municipality in the U.S. without 24- hour water
- Gap between current funding and need is huge and growing
- High potential for waterborne disease outbreak

# COMMUNITIES LACKING COMPLETE PLUMBING FACILITIES

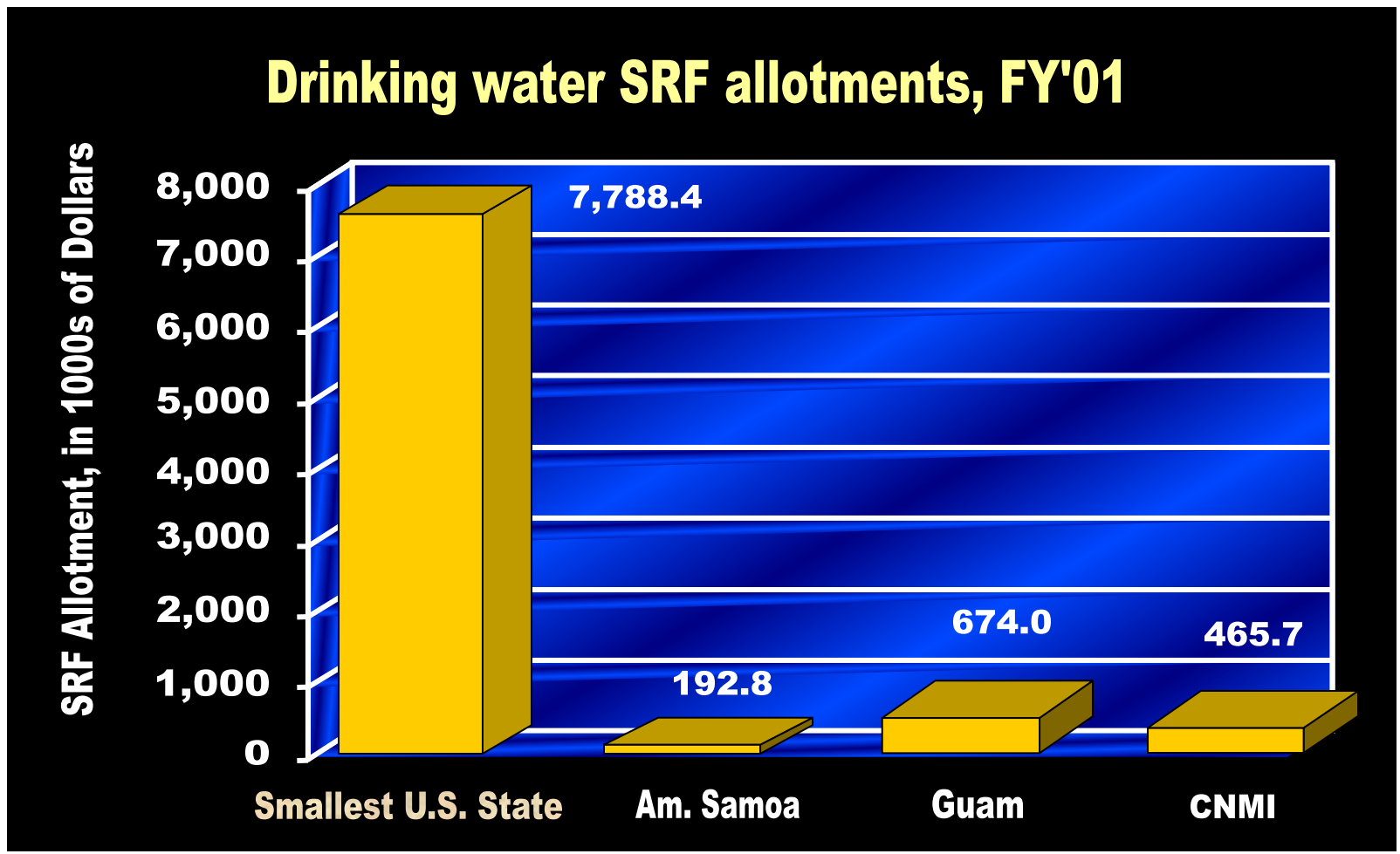


# SAIPAN's DRINKING WATER CHALLENGES

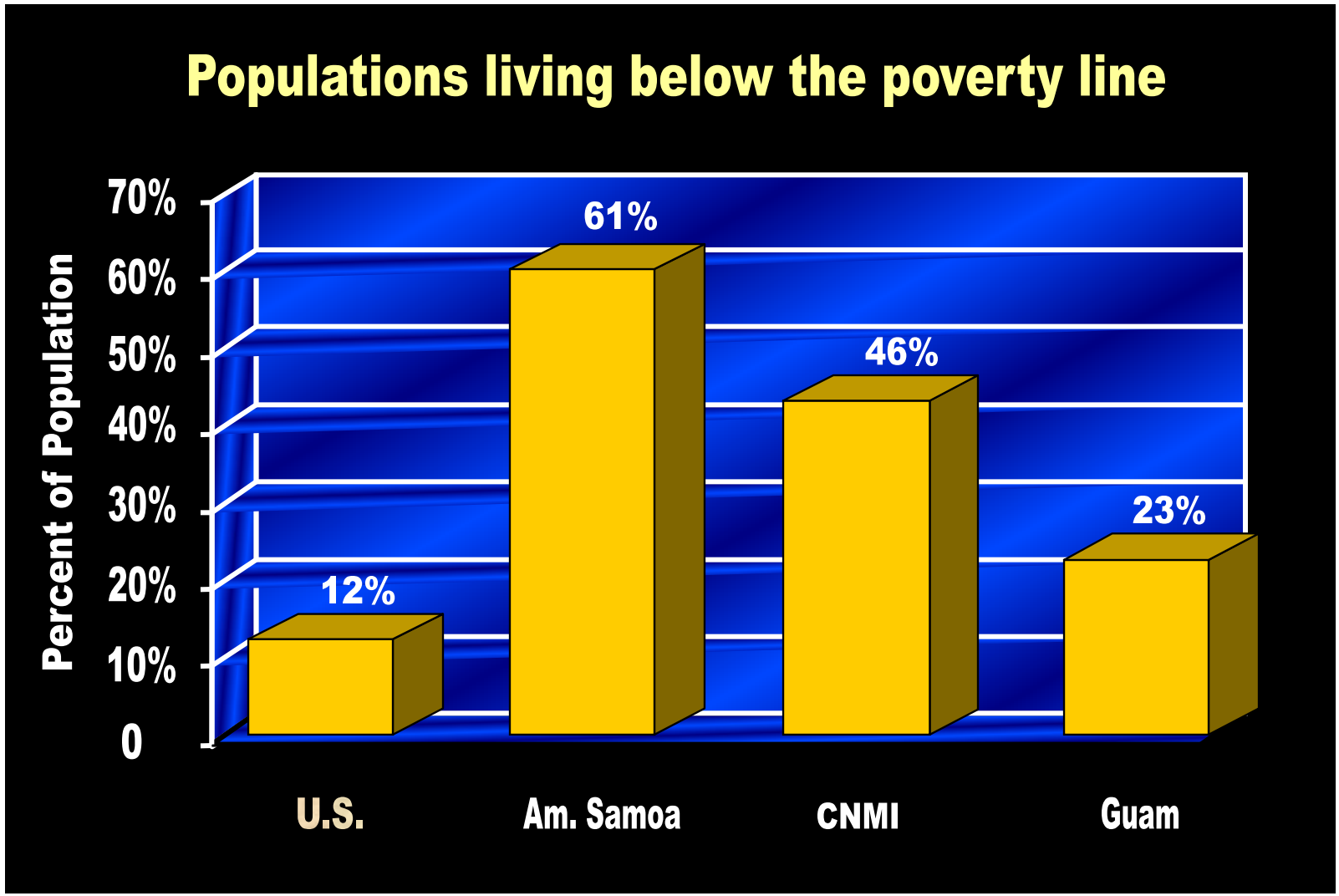
- Residents cannot drink the water; too salty
- 45% of residents don't have access to running water 24/7
- Cost to fix - $90 million

# EPA INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING

- Funds disproportionately low for smaller islands



# ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN TERRITORIES LAG US



# SOLID WASTE PROBLEMS

***Background: Ordot dump fire on Guam***

# INADEQUATE RECYCLING

# UNEXPLODED ORDNANCE

# ILLEGAL DUMPING

# CORAL REEFS

***Background: Sedimentation impacts***

***Below: Tumor on coral***

# EPA's STRATEGIC GOALS IN THE PACIFIC

- To protect health and the environment in the U.S. Pacific Islands and freely associated states
- To work in partnership with local governments to build their environmental protection capacity

# ACCOMPLISHMENTS SINCE LAST YEAR

## AMERICAN SAMOA

- Coastal NPS Progam Approval
- Work with CDC to better identify Leptospirosis
- ASPA intiative to manage SW better: Glass crusher, can crusher

# ACCOMPLISHMENTS SINCE LAST YEAR

## CNMI

- Implementing new ISWM plan
  - Marpi Landfill
  - MRF
- Water Task Force
  Goal: "24/24"
- Coastal NPS Progam approval
- Tanapag PCB site restored

# ACCOMPLISHMENTS SINCE LAST YEAR

## Guam

- Solid Waste
  - Program toward new LF
    - Court approved plan in Feb.
  - New legislation to reduce waste
- Water: Lots of progress
  - GM Selected
  - CFO
  - Engineering improvements
  - Overall direction

# OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- IGIA - Better interagency coordination
- Infrastructure Financing- workgroup to look at better ways
- Regional Recycling- seeds sown
  - APIL resolution
- Coral Reefs
  - Task Force Meeting in Saipan and Guam
  - Local Action strategies
- Capacity Building
  - New IPA's
  - Leadership training

# UPCOMING AREAS OF FOCUS

- Increase number of people with potable water
- Infrastructure Financing
- Coastal Zone & Coral Reef protection
- Regional recycling
- Better technical assistance in freely associated states
- Be more effective

# EPA's PACIFIC ISLANDS OFFICE

# LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- Where the job gets done

# CNMI

# GUAM

# AMERICAN SAMOA

# ULTIMATE GOAL

- Healthy environment for future generations

# *In Memoriam: Togipa Tausaga*