



The Effect of Plant Composition on Water Use

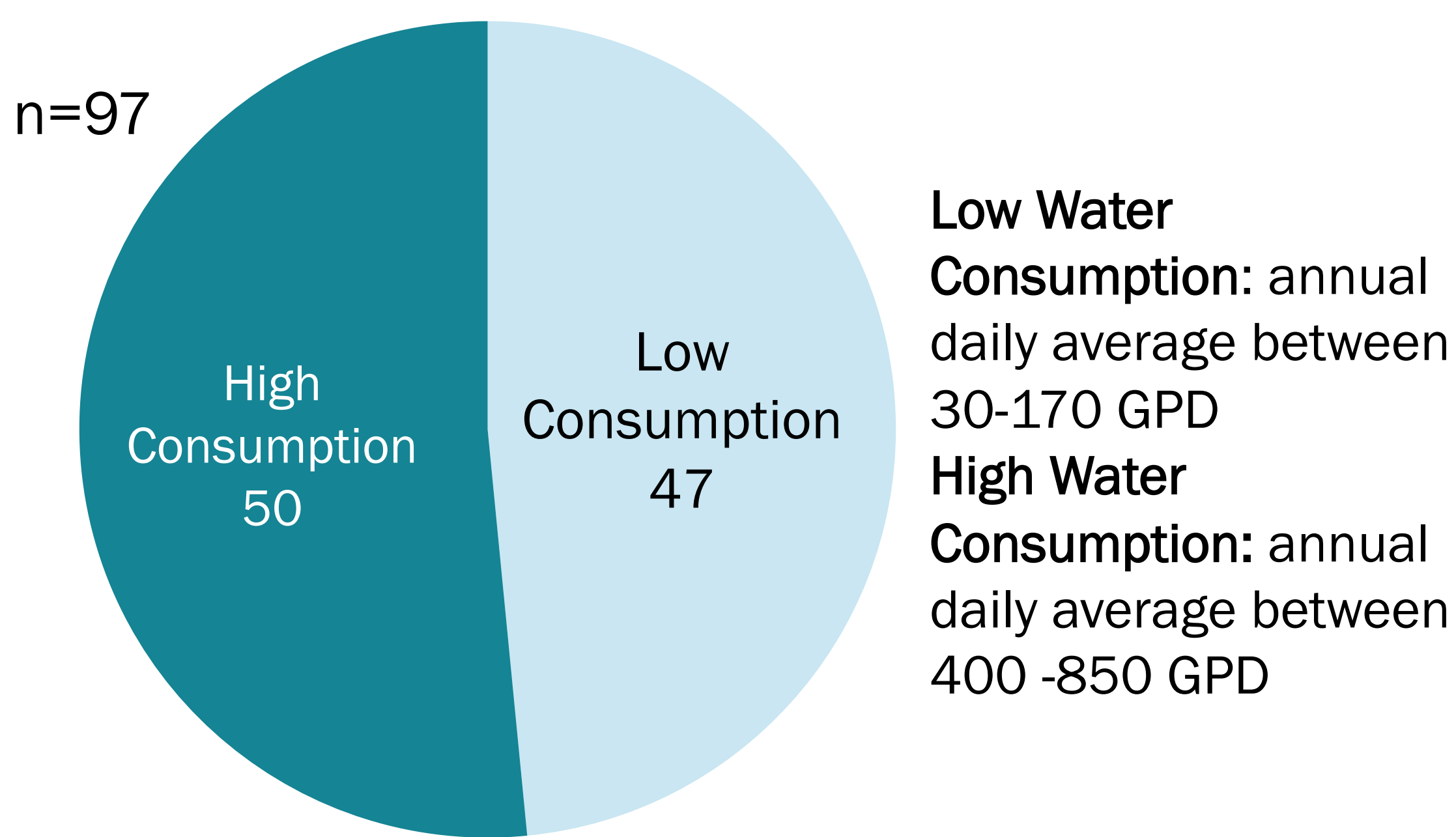
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This poster examines plant compositions impacts on water use in residential landscapes using a sample of parcels classified as "moderate" by the City of Phoenix Water Services Department (WSD). A moderate landscape has less than 35% of the total parcel covered with turf, a mix of native and tropical plants and numerous trees. WSD considers moderate landscapes to be the 3rd most water intensive type of landscape, ahead of sparse and arid but behind extensive and turf.

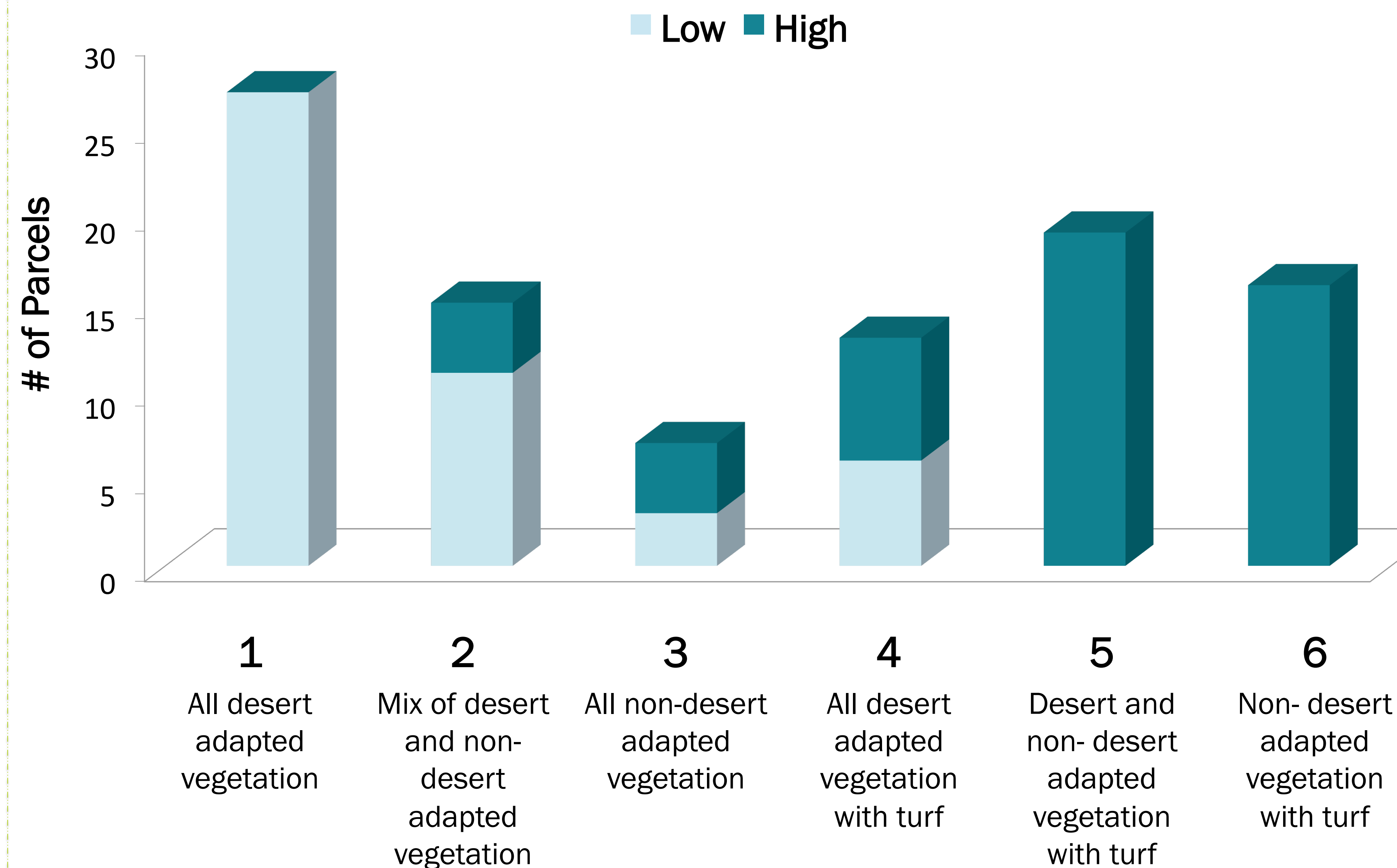


Sample Population

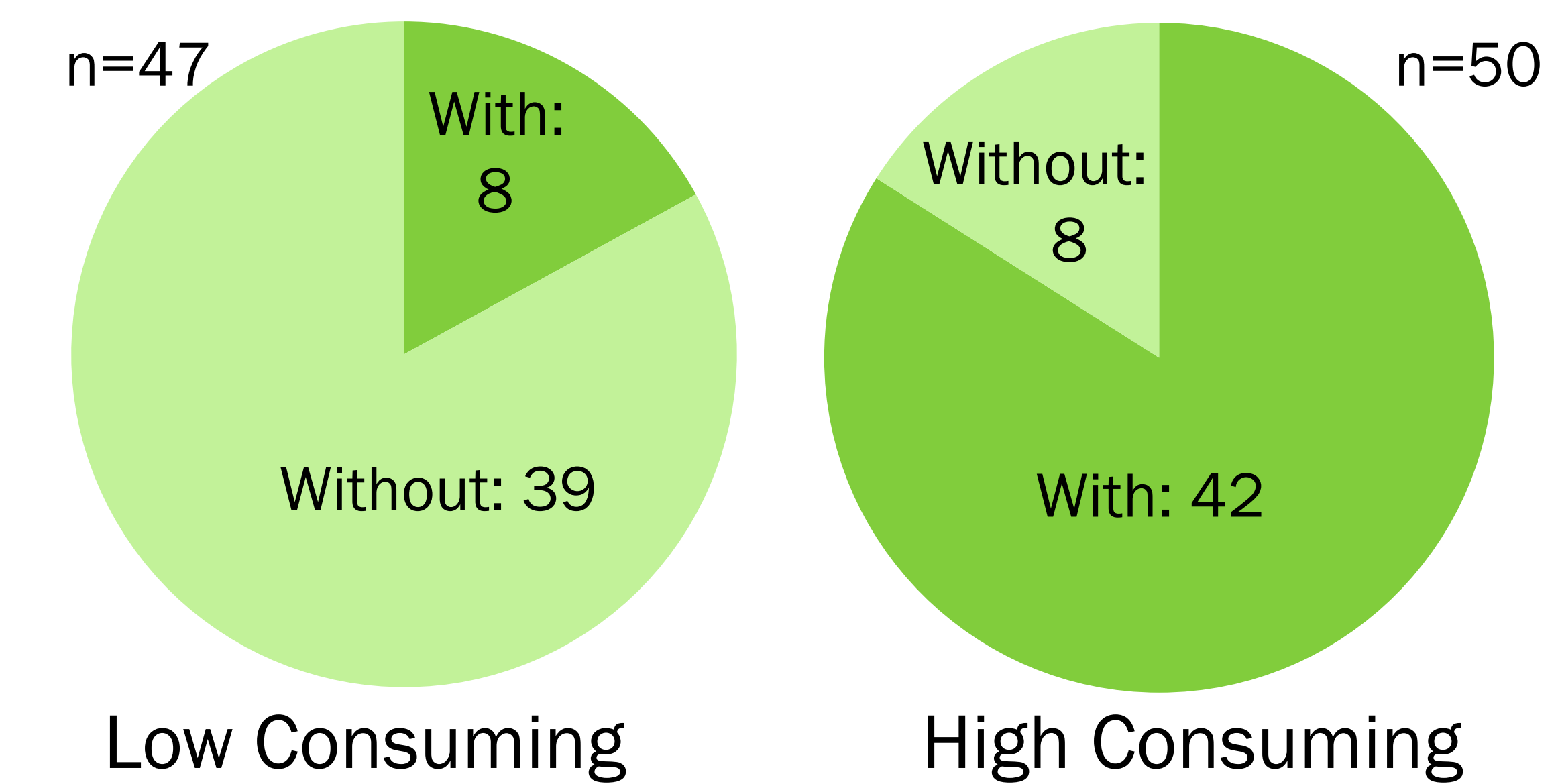


How does plant composition affect water use in moderate landscapes?

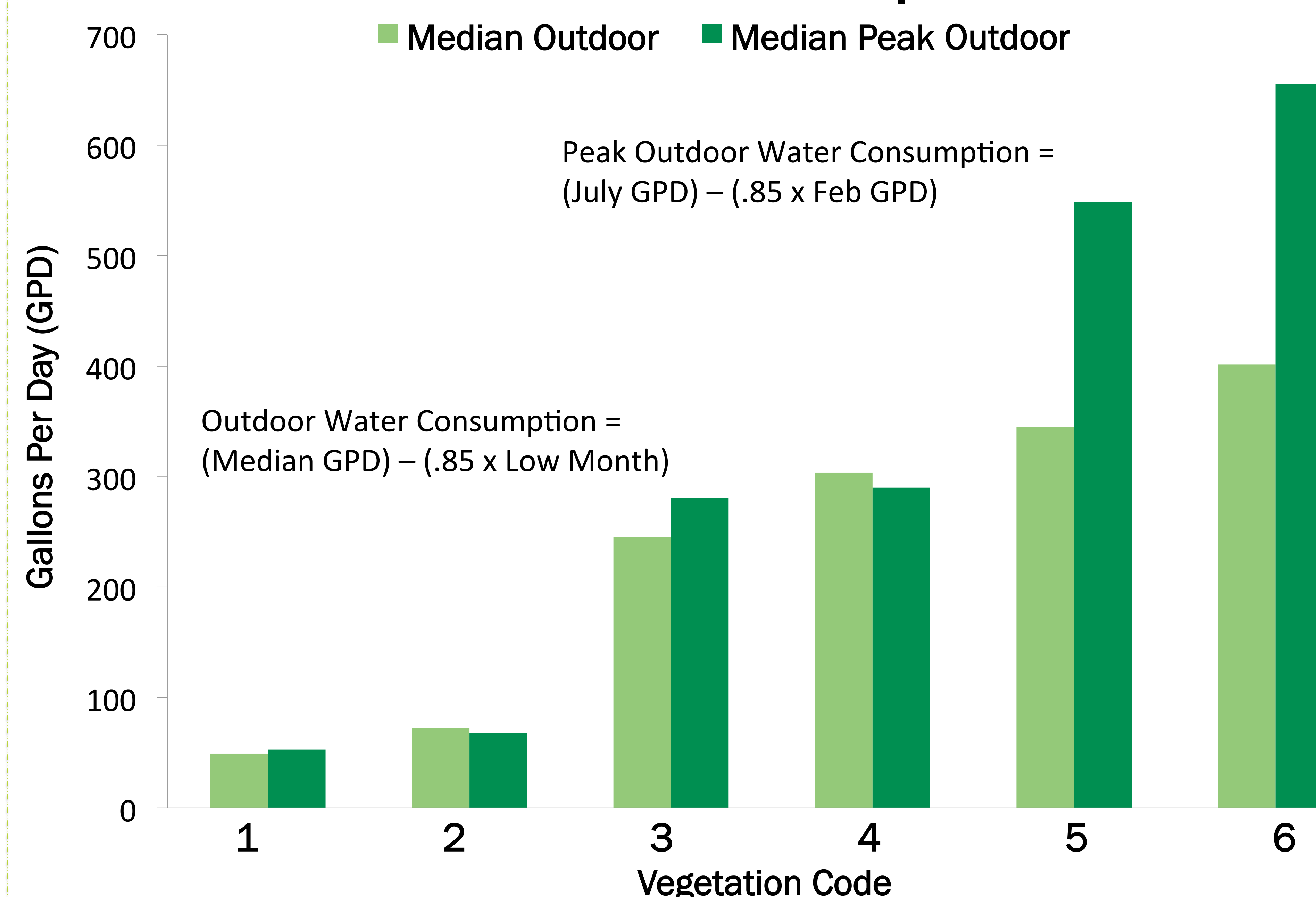
Vegetation Code and Water Consumption



Presence of Turf



Median Consumption



Significant Findings

- Moderate landscapes have a wide variety of plant compositions as well as water consumption.
- Desert adapted vegetation in moderate landscapes correlates to lower outdoor water consumption.
- Average outdoor GPD increases with use of non-desert vegetation.
- As shown by other research the presence of turf correlates to increase outdoor water consumption .
- Preliminary research indicates that WSD should continue to investigate the plant compositions in moderate landscapes and consider dividing it into two or more new categories.

Acknowledgements

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Methods

