Untreated sewage is an indicator of bacterial contamination from humans and other warm-blooded animals. High levels of fecal coliform in the water can affect the public health, economy, and environmental quality of a community. https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/publications/publications/0210010.pdf

Pathogens, such as E. coli, hepatitis, and salmonella, can have severe health effects. Other problems with high levels of fecal coliform

- Symptoms of illness associated with fecal coliform pathogens
  - Gastroenteritis
  - Diarrhea
  - Fever
  - Nausea and vomiting
  - Rash
  - Ear infections
  - Upset stomach
  - Blood in stool
  - Bloody diarrhea
  - Anemia
  - Rashes
  - Fainting
  - Kidney failure
  - Death (in severe cases)

What can you do to prevent fecal coliform contamination?

- Report illegal straight pipes discharging into streams.
- Report known failing septic systems.
- Don’t let livestock water in or along streams.
- Clean up after your dog.