



ANNUAL REPORT 2024



PREVENT. PROMOTE. PROTECT

Prepared By:
San Juan Public Health Department

www.sanjuanpublichealth.org

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MESSAGE FROM THE INTERIM HEALTH OFFICER



As we reflect on 2024, I am proud of the dedication and resilience demonstrated by our staff, partners, and community members. This year, San Juan County Public Health continued to strengthen services that promote wellness, prevent disease, and protect the health of our diverse communities.



We expanded access to essential health services, exercised our emergency preparedness capabilities through full-scale exercises and coordinated response efforts, and deepened our outreach in both rural and tribal areas. These achievements reflect our focus on access for all, collaboration, and forward-thinking solutions to public health challenges.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our shared mission. Together, we are building a healthier San Juan County—today and for the future.

Mike Moulton

Executive Director / Interim Health Officer



Mission And Vision Statement

San Juan Public Health works to protect and promote the health of all families and communities we serve – including rural, underserved, and tribal – through compassionate support, education, connecting to resources, creative partnerships, healthy environments, and preventing disease and injury.



2024 BOARD OF HEALTH

MEMBERSHIP

- Ron Skinner, Chair
Monticello, Utah
- Sylvia Zhonnie, Vice Chair
Montezuma Creek/Red Mesa, Utah
- Jamie Harvey, Commissioner
Montezuma Creek, Utah
- Suzette Morris, Board Member
White Mesa, Utah
- Revina Talker, Board Member
Monument Valley
- Lois Young, Board Member
Bluff, Utah
- Stephen Haitt, Board Member
Blanding, Utah

According to San Juan County Ordinance 2018-01-A, the San Juan County Board of Public Health is “empowered to enforce all ordinances of the County and all applicable ordinances of the municipalities, and the laws, rules, and regulations and standards of the State of Utah, now in force or that may hereafter be enacted, which relate to the health, sanitation and environment of the County.”

2024 DEPARTMENT **STAFF**



Rebecca Benally
Health Promotion Director



Brittney Carlson
Nursing Director, RN



Tyler Ketron
Business Manager



Bridget Horrocks
Public Health Nurse, RN



Katie Knight
Public Health Nurse, RN



Zoe John
Health Educator



Lourdes Long
Childhood Care Coordinator



Mike Moulton
Emergency Response
Coordinator



Dennis Shumway
Environmental Health Director

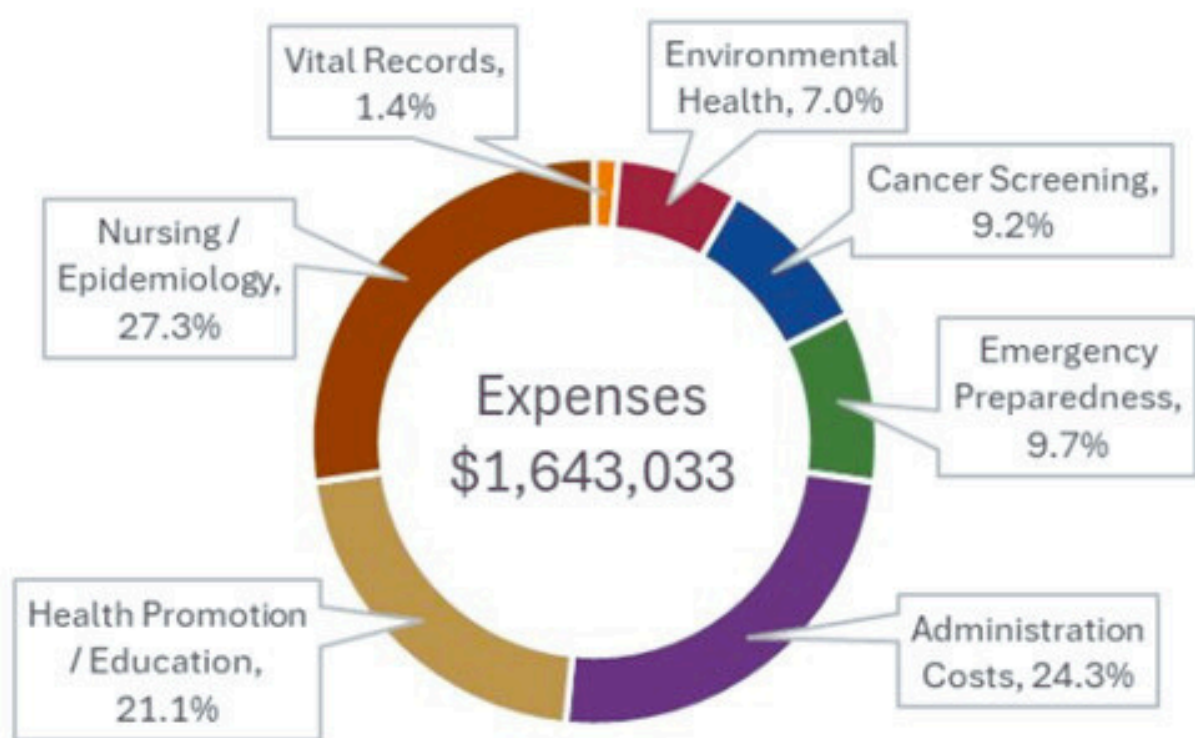
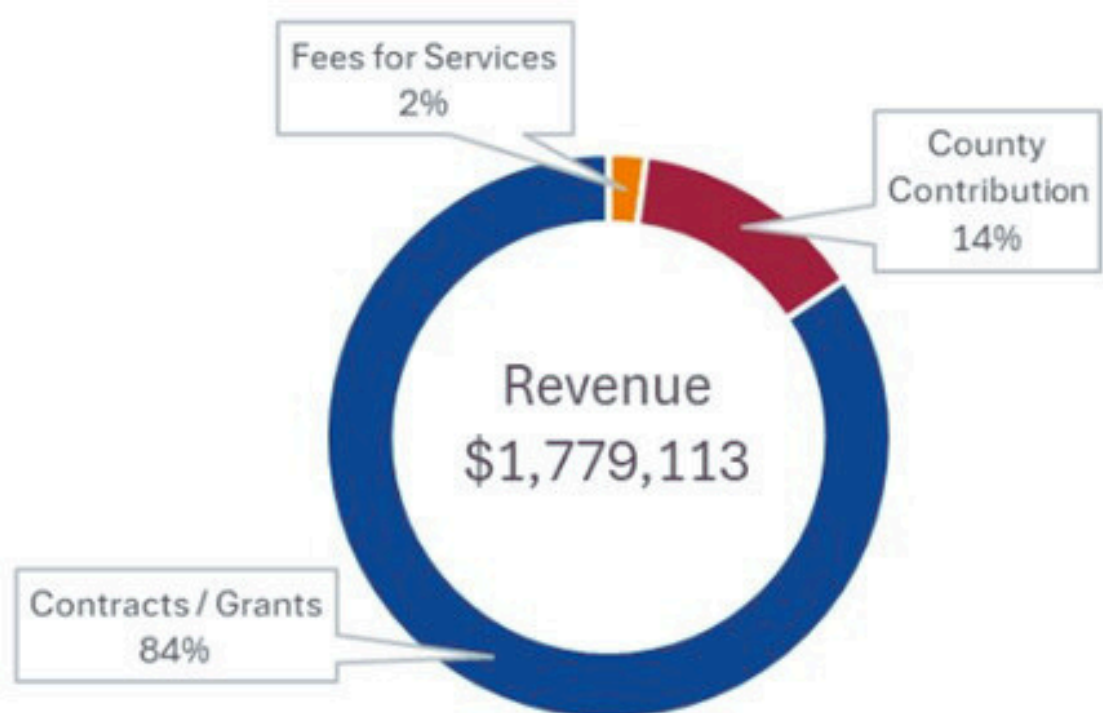


Chante Sherrow
Receptionist



Tisheena Yazzie
Epidemiologist

FINANCIAL SUMMARY



COMMUNITY HEALTH SNAPSHOT

The Utah Healthy Places Index (HPI) displays this community's HPI score, HPI policy action area, and indicator scores, as well as health and racial equity measures for this neighborhood. Additionally, it shows how this community compares to the city, town, county, and state in which it is located.

The Policy Action areas include Transportation, Clean Environment, Neighborhood, Economic, Social, Healthcare Access, Housing, Education of San Juan County.



- Traffic Volume (average annual daily traffic) along nearby major roads.
- Average daily amount of particulate pollution from diesel sources.
- Average amount of ozone in the air (measured for 8 hours a day) during the 10 most polluted days.
- Percent of registered voters who voted in the 2022 general election.
- Percent of 15-17 year olds in school.

- Access to an automobile.
- Percentage of the population with an income exceeding 200% (above) the federal poverty level.
- Percentage of the population aged 20-64 who are employed.
- Percent of adults aged 19 to 64 years with health insurance.
- Percent of people who own their homes.
- Percent of low-income homeowners who pay more than 50% of their income on housing costs.
- Percent of low-income renters who pay more than 50% of their income on housing costs.
- Percent of people over age 25 with a bachelor's education or higher.
- Percentage of 3 and 4-year-olds in school.

- Bike lane access.
- Low percentage of land with trees and other plant life near their home.
- Average income per capita in the past 12 months.
- Percentage of the county households who completed the 2020 decennial census to be able to contribute their voice to the political process and to participate in their communities.
- Percent of households that are not crowded (1 or fewer occupants per room).

map.utah.healthyplacesindex.org/?view=5e4023ff-4403-47b6-aff3-70ac17c39354

Key to Symbols



Our community is performing **BETTER** than the state, and the difference is statistically significant.



Our community is performing **ABOUT THE SAME** as the state. Differences are not statistically significant.



Our community is performing **WORSE** than the state, and the differences is statistically significant.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACROSS THE COUNTY

Public Health Divisions	REGIONS		
	Monticello, La Sal, & Spanish Valley	Blanding & White Mesa	Navajo Mt., Monument Valley, Bluff, & Montezuma Creek
Public Health Nursing Clients	49 Participants 25 Families	100 Participants 58 Families	65 Participants 42 Families
Health Promotion Activities	7	19	31
Emergency Preparedness Drills	1	1	0



Health Promotion collaborated with four local agencies through the SB37 Bill to combat the vaping epidemic. Our Hozho'go lina 365 program hosts annual events focused on vaping prevention and building healthier communities.



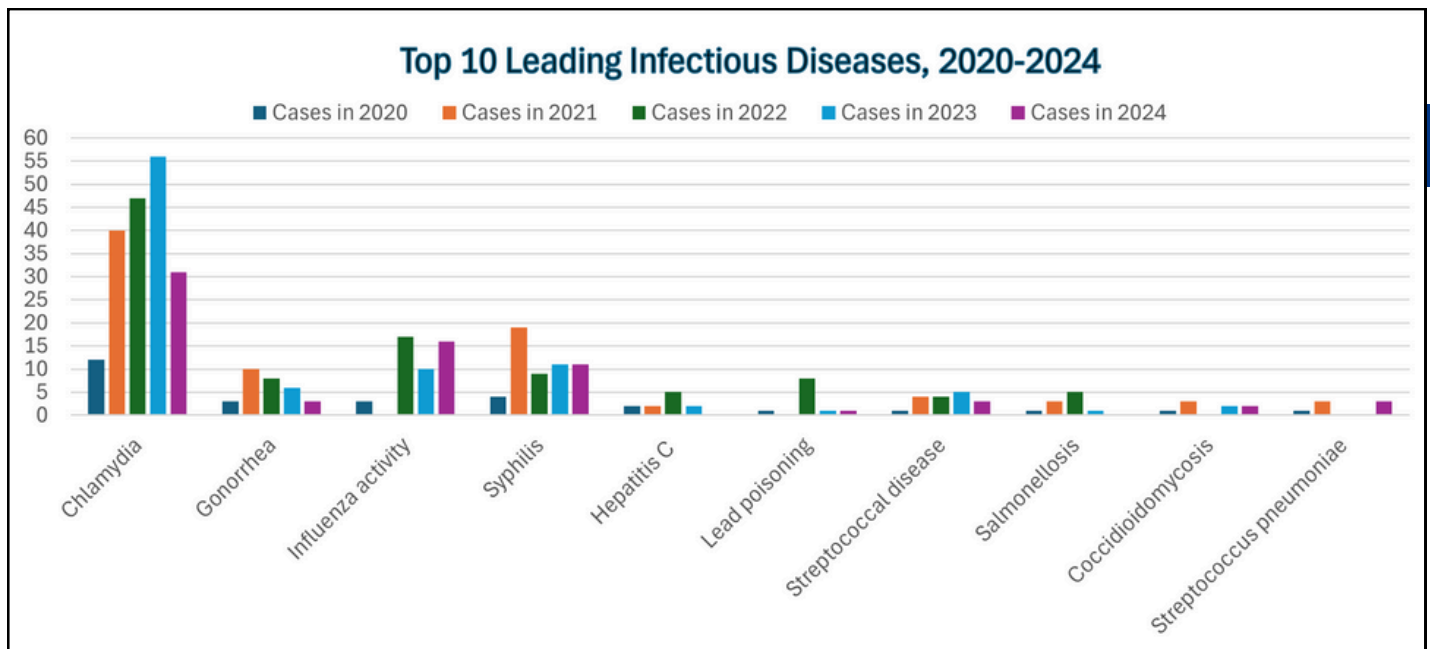
We also distributed 50 COVID-19 care packages—with cleaning supplies—to help prevent household spread among those who tested positive.



In July, SJPH joined UNHS's Annual Teddy Bear Clinic, where 500+ attendees received health education, school supplies, and immunizations.

EPIDEMIOLOGY

DISEASE INVESTIGATIONS



**All cases are a total of confirmed, Probable, Suspect, and Unknown cases.

**Influenza activity cases includes Influenza-associated hospitalization cases.

**Syphilis disease includes Early Non-Primary Non Secondary, Primary, Secondary, Unknown Duration, or Late cases.

**Streptococcal disease includes Group A and other.

Total Cases Investigated in San Juan County

642

Total Cases Investigated by Jurisdiction

San Juan Public Health: 285
Utah Navajo Health System: 357

**Case Counts include all Confirmed, Probable, Suspect, and Unknown Cases by San Juan and Utah Navajo Health System Jurisdictions

HEALTH EDUCATION & PROMOTION

2024 HEALTH EDUCATION & PROMOTION ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Health promotion aims to educate and provide the tools and resources for communities to become healthier and stronger. It helps to motivate individuals to take control of their health and wellbeing and the factors that impact it.



Tobacco Prevention & Cessation

- **90%** of tobacco retailers are compliant with underage sales laws.
- Participated in **18** community outreach events and health fairs where tobacco education and prevention were provided.
- **54** tobacco compliance checks were successfully completed.
- **54** tobacco retail store inspections were completed in 2024.



Poison Control & Prevention

- Partnered with University of Utah's Poison Control Center and provided poison control education community presentations.
- Attended **13** community health events.
- Provided poison prevention education to over **2,000** attendees in **14** events.



Car Seats

- **1** free car seat inspection was provided by our certified car seat technicians.
- (#) of Infant car seats were given.
- (#) of Rear and Forward Facing care seats were given.
- (#) of Backless Booster seats were given.



HEALTH EDUCATION & PROMOTION

BUILDING STRONGER, HEALTHIER COMMUNITIES

The process of enabling people to increase control over their health and improve their lifestyle through community partnerships, protecting the community, and minimizing health disparities.



Suicide Prevention

- (#) of free car seats inspections was provided by our certified car seat technicians.
- (#) of Infant car seats were given.
- (#) of Rear and Forward Facing care seats were given.
- (#) of Backless Booster seats were given.



Diabetes Program

- In partnership with Utah Navajo Health System, we offer pre-diabetes and diabetes education.
- Health promotion assisted with the Annual UNHS Turkey Trot, which amassed over **50** participants!



Healthy Environments Active Living

- Quarterly Newsletter Highlights:
 - Upcoming community events
 - Healthy recipes
 - Self-care tips
 - Outreach Activities
- In 2024, the newsletter was inserted into the San Juan Record with an outreach of about **1,200** residents across San Juan County.
- Supported and assisted the Bluff Food Pantry and served over **4,000** community members.
- San Juan County welcomed three new Utah Food Bank locations that offered assistance to local residents.



HEALTH EDUCATION & PROMOTION

2024 HEALTH PROMOTION ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

January

- Bluff Food Pantry
- Montezuma Creek School Event

February:

- Blanding Event (?)
- Create Better Health and Red Mesa Chapter House Event

March:

- Bluff Food Pantry
- Sexual Assault Prevention Conference
- Blanding Elementary Family Night

April:

- Tobacco Prevention Event with HI365

May:

- Women's Health Fair (Blanding & Montezuma Creek)

July:

- Teddy Bear Clinic (Blanding, Montezuma Creek, & Monument Valley)
- Shi Doo Shima Suicide Prevention Event-Aneth Chapter

August:

- Teddy Bear Clinic (Navajo Mountain)
- San Juan County Fair
- Bluff Elementary School Prevention Night
- HI365 Native Idol Event
- Blanding Elementary Back to School Night

August (cont'd):

- Whitehorse High School Back to School Night
- Monticello Elementary Back to School Night
- Montezuma Creek Back to School Night

September:

- Bluff Food Pantry
- Blanding 5K Suicide Awareness Walk
- Indigenous Men's Conference
- Dine Bich'iiyaan Binaho'aah Halchita Event
- USU Weaving Our Stories Conference

October:

- Mic Drop! Our Voices Against Sexual Assault Event
- USU Health Fair
- UNHS Halloween Carnival Event
- Blanding Elementary Prevention Night
- SJPH Halloween Event

November:

- Diabetes Health Fair and Turkey Trot
- Dine Bi Chiy'ann Event-Halchita
- Bluff Food Pantry
- UNHS Sexual Assault Prevention Event
- USU Thanksgiving Community Event

December:

- Halchita Community Center Event
- Santa Drive Through

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Food Service - Protecting the citizens and visitors of San Juan County by enforcing food safety regulations is a primary role of San Juan Public Health.

The Environmental Health Director regularly inspects day-care facilities, swimming pools, hotels, and motels to help ensure our public is safe and protected from diseases and hazardous agents commonly spread in such facilities.

2024 Total Environmental Health Inspections

Food Establishment Permits	57
Food Establishment Inspections	74
Food Establishment Plan Reviews	7
Food Handlers Permits Issued	191
Public Swimming Pool Inspection and Permits	18
Public Swimming Pool Water Samples	126
Septic System Permits	61
Used Oil Inspections	8
School and Adult Living Inspections	21



WATER & ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



Drinking Water

San Juan Public Health's Environmental Director works with the State of Utah and the Department of Environmental Quality to inspect drinking water systems at public campground schools and municipalities in San Juan County ensuring regulations are followed and safeguarding the health of residents and visitors alike.



Waste Water

All septic wastewater systems in San Juan County are inspected and permitted by San Juan Public Health. In 2023 the Environmental Director conducted septic systems inspections, permit provisions, and recertifications. In addition to inspections, records of septic systems within the county are maintained and provided to residents upon request.



Water Quality

One of the many responsibilities of San Juan Public Health is monitoring water quality issues associated with specific public health concerns. Lakes, rivers, streams, ground water, standing water, etc. are monitored for possible problems associated with E. Coli, Harmful Algal Blooms and other public health concerns.



Air Quality

Works in conjunction with the Division of Air Quality to ensure compliance and address air quality issues.



Waste Management

In an effort to protect the public and the environment from exposure to contamination caused by the improper treatment, storage and disposal of waste. San Juan Public Health ensures compliance with waste management regulations including hazardous waste radiation control, solid waste, and used oil.



Response and Remediation

San Juan Public Health is in charge of protecting the public health of San Juan County's environment through investigating chemically contaminated sites to ensure proper cleanup. We coordinate with the Department of Environmental Quality who inspects underground gasoline and other storage tanks to ensure proper use.

NURSING SERVICES

What We Offer

Women, Infants, & Children (WIC)

The Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program provides nutrition and breastfeeding services, as well as supplemental foods, to pregnant women, mothers, infants, and children up to their 5th birthday.

- Total number of Certifications and Recertifications Appointments
550
- Total number of Education Classes
522
- Total number of Mid-Certification Appointments
202
- Total number of participants in 2024
257

Preschool Development Grant (PDG)

The preschool Development Grant Birth through five helps states collaborate across child care programs, systems, and agencies.

- Total Number of children that received services
8
- Total number of Children Receiving One-time Assistance
22
- Total number of Outreach Material Distributed
548
- Total number of ASQ-3 and ASQ SE-2 Screening Evaluations
60
- Total number of referrals made to other programs or agencies
11

Goal Met in 2024:

In August of 2024 we met with the Mayor of Bluff to expand our mobile WIC services to the Bluff Community Center to start seeing WIC participants in an area closer to them.



Mobile WIC services provided in Bluff, Utah.



WIC Community Outreach at the Utah Navajo Health System's Women's Health Fair Event in Blanding, Utah.

NURSING SERVICES

What We Offer

Breastfeeding Support

San Juan Public Health nurses and WIC peer counselors offer monthly community breastfeeding classes. We offer individual breastfeeding support. There are no fees. Every pregnant or postpartum parent is eligible to participate.

- Total number of people served
21



*Promotional Breastfeeding Bags were given to new mothers as a way to advocate for and support breastfeeding by including educational materials, resources, and products within the bag.

Immunizations

Immunizations is a service to improve access to vaccines from birth through adults. We also provide information and education to the public about immunizations.

- Total number of outreach and education material given
238

Maternal and Child Health (MCH)

Maternal and child health is a service to provide core public health services and activities that address maternal, infant, child and/or adolescent health population needs.

- Total women served in San Juan County
90
- Total infants served ages 1 year old & younger
93
- Total Children served 1 -22 years old
133

Children with Special Health Care Needs (CSHCN) Program

Children with Special Health Care Needs is a program that is part of the Utah Department of Health and Human Services. CSHCN works by providing early screening and detection, data integration, care coordination, education, intervention, and support for life transitions to children with special needs.

- Families Served in CSHCN Program
33
- Community Outreach Activities
37



Lourdes Long (CSHCN) promoting her services at the UNHS's Teddy Bear Clinic in Navajo Mountain, UT.

MONTICELLO FREE CANCER SCREENING PROGRAM

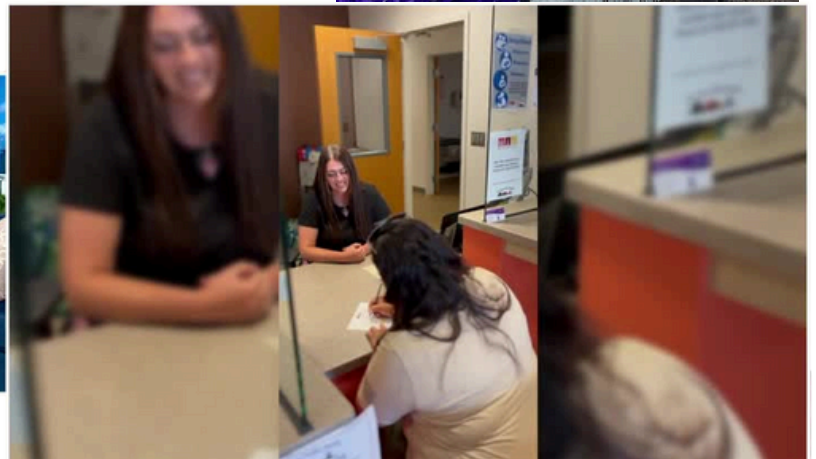
In 2024, San Juan County Public Health successfully covered the cost of cancer screenings for

187

past and present residents of Monticello, UT, and the surrounding area who may have been exposed to hazardous uranium mill tailings.



*VMTE Monticello Cancer Screening Program was televised on Fox 13 News, KUTV News, Good Things Utah, & ABC4 Utah



The goal of The Monticello Victims of Mill Tailing Exposure (VMTE) Committee and the Monticello Free Cancer Screening Program is to encourage and support current and past residents in detecting and addressing cancer at its earliest stages among those at heightened risk.

Monticello, Utah, was home to uranium milling operations that, prior to the Department of Energy clean-up that ended in 2002, left a legacy of radioactive contamination. Prolonged exposure to mill tailings has been associated with an increased risk of various cancers, including leukemia, lung, thyroid, and others. Recognizing the urgent need for early detection, Monticello's Free Cancer Screening Program provides comprehensive cancer screening payment vouchers to eligible individuals, covering 100% of all screening costs with or without insurance. This program underscores the commitment to public health and the well-being of the Monticello community and beyond.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) plays a crucial role in the health and safety of our communities in San Juan County in preparing for, responding to, and mitigating public health disasters, such as disease pandemics and epidemics, and chemical and radiological releases, severe weather, and natural disasters.



Emergency Services

Emergency Training and
Drills Completed by Staff

21

Completed **1** Full-Scale
Mass Casualty Active
Shooter Exercise



PARTNERS RECOGNITION FOR 2024

We Appreciate You!

- San Juan Counseling Center
- Drug Safe Utah
- USU Create Better Health
- Navajo Nation Diabetes Program
- San Juan Foundation
- Bountiful Rotary Club
- St. George Rotary Club
- San Juan School District Heritage Language Program
- Bluff Elementary
- Whitehorse High School
- Monument Valley High School
- Women, Infants, & Children (WIC)
- Utah-Children with Special Health Care Needs (CSHCN) Program
- Utah Navajo Health System
 - Hozogo' lina 365
 - Behavioral Health
 - Diabetes Program & Hypertension Program
- Red Mesa Chapter
- Aneth Community School
- Albert R. Lyman Middle School
- Four Corner Regional Health Care-Health Promotion Program
- San Juan County Prevention Action Collaboration (SJCPAC)
- Blue Mountain Hospital
- San Juan Clinic
- Utah State University - Montezuma Creek

FAREWELL

San Juan County Public Health sincerely thanks three outstanding team members for their service and dedication.

Grant Sunada, former Health Director, led with vision and collaboration for three years before accepting a new role in Tooele County in December 2024.

Brittney Carlson, RN, served San Juan since 2008 and became Director of Nursing in 2016. Her 9 years of leadership and advocacy greatly shaped our services. She joined Utah Navajo Health System in November 2024.

Lourdes Long made a lasting impact supporting children with special health care needs and connecting families to vital resources. She now continues her work with Mesa County DHS.

We are grateful for their contributions and wish them all the best in their next chapters.



OUR VALUES

- W** – We improve
- E** – Empower families and communities to make healthy decisions
- C** – Collaborate with community partners
- A** – Act on data we collect with communities
- R** – Respect the diversity of everyone we serve
- E** – Empathy and making a difference in all we do



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