



August Newsletter

San Juan County Partnership

Healthy Kids Healthy San Juan County

Submitted by Patience Williams

Special points of interest:

- Health and safety of student trail improved.
- 1,024 SJC residents respond to Community Survey
- AmeriCorps programs focus on supporting and helping local veterans and military families.
- Save the date! 5th Annual San Juan County's Got Talent auditions coming up!

Inside this issue:

Substance Free Activities for Youth	2
2018 NM Community Survey Findings	4
Tse Daa K'aan AmeriCorps Program	6
Don't Be a Party to Underage Drinking!	7
Auditions for San Juan County's Got Talent	8

Healthy Kids Healthy San Juan County has been busy with summer projects. A community garden was created through a partnership with State Representative James Strickler, Molly Jackson Neilson from Farm Farmington and Bonnie Hopkins with NMSU. Rep. Strickler donated his Old Farmhouse 20th St. property and irrigation for this project. This is the pilot year so there have been a few bumps but 23 rows have been planted and many community members and friends have participated. Rep. Strickler's only request of the community members is that 25% of the produce be donated to ECHO Food bank. Brewers Green House, Kutips Nursery, San Juan Nursery and Tesuque Farms have donated plants.

All of the plants have been put in the ground and harvest season is almost upon us. Community centers and schools will host garden lessons and fresh vegetable tastings for the students and families. Times and dates of the garden lessons will be posted so that the community can participate. If you have any questions or would like to participate in the community garden please contact at: williamsp@sjcpartnership.org or 505-566-5876



Substance Free Activities for Youth

Submitted by: SFC. Matthew Martin / Renae Begay

As a DFC grantee, **Dine' Ba' Hozho Coalition** focuses on strategies that impact the *environment*, not just *individuals*. These strategies include: (1) creating incentives for positive behavior and consequences for negative behavior; (2) reducing barriers/enhancing access to supports and services in the community; (3) changing the physical design of the environment (ex: cleaning up an area – removing trees, 100% visibility; receiving school policies on alcohol, tobacco and other drugs), and, (4) creating policies and systems that impact substance use.

Creating incentives for positive behavior has been implemented with support from National Guard Counter Drug by presenting to students on the harms of using illegal drugs, such as marijuana. Camps attended this spring and summer included: Law Enforcement Day held on May 04, 2018 – promoting positive community engagements, building community trust for future undertaking and promoting a drug free scenario for the community of Shiprock, N.M.



On June 14-15, 2018 - The Colorado Joint Counter Drug Task Force and New Mexico Joint Counter Drug Task Force (NMJCDDTF) conducted a joint camp support venture for Native American youth from the Navajo Nation. This Camp has requested counterdrug support since 2016 and this year CO and NM Counterdrug Civil Operation efforts have proudly made support available to this remote location in southern Colorado. Camp Dibe Nitsaa' is a camp for at risk diabetes youth who need mentorship, encouragement, and positive role models to follow a healthy lifestyle. For this camp, CO and NM civil operators hosted a National Guard activity day along with an evening campfire speech on "making the right decisions" when it comes to peer pressure concerning drugs and alcohol abuse. Overall, this joint effort has opened more opportunities for cross-training more counterdrug soldiers and improves trust in future community based organization support requests.



The Dine' Ba' Hozho Coalition's and NMJCDF environmental strategy projects are continuing to produce results and gain positive outcomes for the community of Shiprock, NM. As shown below, this particular water shed was used by transients to use illegal substances and to "hang out" every day. Community members and residents nearby have been concerned for a few years as the shed was located off of the student trail adjoining Shiprock HS, Office of Dine Youth Complex, Dine College, and Career Prep HS. The shed and the area have been cleaned and locked several times over the course of the student trail construction, but now, Dine' Ba' Hozho Coalition's efforts to have the shed demolished is a new mile marker for the community. Since its destruction the student trail has seen a reduction of individuals loitering in the area and has improved the health and safety of this student trail.



Community coalitions have the potential to prevent and reduce substance abuse in communities. Coalitions can strengthen collaboration between public and private organizations in communities, address factors in the community that increase the risk of substance misuse, and support interventions that promote environmental strategies to address substance misuse in the community.

2018 New Mexico Community Survey Findings

submitted by Natalie Salvatore PhD. and Shannon Dee



“When is it ok, if ever to share prescription painkillers?”

Each Spring, San Juan County Partnership administers the New Mexico Community Survey in San Juan County. The survey is conducted across New Mexico by prevention programs that are funded by the Office of Substance Abuse Prevention (OSAP) to help assess progress in reducing substance abuse and risk behaviors, such as drinking and driving. The survey asks about alcohol use, drinking and driving, misuse of prescription drugs, and also about respondents’ perceptions and attitudes. For example, “how easy do you think it is for teens to get alcohol from stores and restaurants?” and “when is it ok, if ever, to share prescription painkillers?” The questions on the survey are geared toward assessing the progress with specific prevention strategies that are funded by OSAP.

“If you were driving after drinking too much now likely is it that you would be stopped by police?”

This year, in Spring 2018, a total of 1,024 San Juan County residents responded to the survey, with 66% of these completing the survey online. The survey is not a “random” survey, rather it is a “targeted convenience sample,” so we are cautious to assume our results reflect the entire population of San Juan County. As in all years of the survey, the sample generally reflects the demographics of our County by race/ethnicity and by geographic area of the county. We have comparatively larger proportions of young people and of college students, so we also need to take that into account when interpreting our data.

DWI Perception of Risk.

As part of an effort to reduce drinking and driving, SJCP works with local law enforcement to publicize DWI enforcement, like checkpoints and arrests. Remember, this is *not* to alert the community about where a checkpoint is. Rather, it is to increase general publicity that lets the public know that police are actively patrolling, setting up checkpoints and making DWI arrests, because we know that as people become more aware of the risks and consequences of illegal behavior, they are less likely to engage in that behavior.



“How easy do you think it is for teens to get alcohol from stores and restaurants?”

To measure perception of risk of DWI, the survey asks, “if you were driving after drinking too much how likely is it that you would be stopped by police?” Over the years of the survey we have seen an overall improvement on this measure. In 2009, 73% said it was ‘very likely’ or ‘somewhat likely,’ which increased incrementally to 82% by 2017. This year, in 2018, the value was 77%. It’s not clear why the number decreased in the past year, but with just a one-year dip, we need to see what happens in future years to determine if there is a trend. The Partnership is increasingly using social media to publicize enforcement. Look for the ads and posts on the SJCP Facebook page and share them around!

Retail Access to Alcohol by Minors and Intoxicated Patrons.

There are indicators on the survey that suggest improvement in this area. Respondents on surveys over time perceive that it is more likely someone would be arrested if caught selling alcohol to an intoxicated person. Also, more respondents are reporting they were asked to show their ID to buy alcohol than in previous years.

These improvements mirror the heightened enforcement activity by Special Investigations Unit (SIU) which gives citations for non-compliance among alcohol outlets, such as for sales to minors and sales to intoxicated patrons. As part of its prevention program, SJCP has worked with alcohol retail merchants over many years, offering Retail Merchant Training for servers of alcohol, in collaboration with Farmington PD. SIU citation data, as well as community perception, suggest that getting alcohol from stores and restaurants is gradually getting tougher for minors and for those who are intoxicated.

Social Access to Alcohol by Minors.

The most common ways that minors report getting alcohol are social – in other words, someone gave it to them, such as, an adult family member, someone unrelated over 21 or a parent/guardian. In an effort to help reduce social access to alcohol, SJCP aims at increasing community awareness about the 4th degree felony law – that it is a 4th degree felony to purchase for or provide alcohol to a minor. This involves distributing flyers, putting posters up in alcohol outlets, and media releases.

When asked on the survey, 3% of the respondents report they provided alcohol to a minor in the past year. Providing alcohol to minors is higher among young adults, age 21-25, with 8% reporting having done so. From 2017 to 2018, there was an improvement among this age group, from 11% in 2017 to 8% this year. Getting at the issue from a different angle, the survey also asks, “do you know of parents who host parties where teens are being served alcohol?” In 2014, 28% of the respondents reported they did. By 2017, this had decreased to 19%. And, the percentage of survey respondents age 18 to 20 who reported they obtained alcohol from someone giving it to them has decreased somewhat in recent years of the survey. These indicators lend support that the climate is gradually improving with regard to reducing social access to alcohol by teens in San Juan County.

Access to and Perceived Risk of Misuse of Prescription Painkillers.

Since 2012, the NMCS has included questions about prescription and painkiller misuse, on the heels of increased prescription painkiller overdoses across the state and nation. SJCP’s prevention program involves reducing access to non-prescribed medications and increasing perception of risk of Rx misuse. SJCP publicizes Rx take back events and distributes guidebooks, including those tailored for seniors and parents, which discuss safe storage and disposal of unused medications, and the dangers of misuse, to reduce the possibility of meds getting in the hands of those who were not prescribed them. A new strategy this year has been to work with local pharmacists to provide prevention information and encourage them to discuss storage and risks of painkillers with their patients.

To measure safe storage, the survey asks, “do you keep your painkillers locked or safely stored away where others cannot get to them?” Of the respondents who have painkillers, 43% say yes, they do. This number has increased from 39% in 2015, with particular improvements among seniors and parents. There have not been significant changes in sharing of Rx medications, with consistently around 6% of the sample reporting they had shared prescription medications with someone else. On a new question about a related attitude, 71% of the respondents reported they think it is “never ok to share Rx painkillers with someone else.” So far, we have not seen changes in perceived risk of painkiller misuse, although it is noted that a majority of respondents (86%) feel there is moderate to great risk involved in painkiller misuse, for example, using painkillers for non-medical reasons or for reasons other than prescribed. A noteworthy finding in disposal of unused Rx medications was an increase in the percent of respondents reporting they had participated in a take back event or taken Rx meds to a permanent drop-off location. The increases in safe storage and disposal of Rx meds lend support that access to non-prescribed medications and painkillers is gradually being reduced.

Tse Daa K'aan AmeriCorps Program

Submitted By: Dori Williams

AmeriCorps is a nationally recognized program and formally began in 1993 to provide community service and strengthen communities. The Tse Daa K'aan/Hogback AmeriCorps program chose to focus on local veterans and military families support which helps veterans access vital resources, and do weatherization and minor home improvement service projects.

Tse Daa K'aan AmeriCorps members began their initiative by developing an outreach plan. Members engaged with veterans at monthly veterans meetings and have connected veterans to basic healthcare information, counseling, transportation services, healthy eating options, alternative farming methods, and have provided fire safety and first aid training. Service projects have included: building wood sheds, ramp installations, drywall repair, house painting, yard-clean up, weed removal for access to wood sheds, and non-perishable food assistance. Since many veterans use wood stoves as their main heating source, Tse Daa K'aan AmeriCorps members have coordinated several wood and coal hauls to keep veterans and their families warm during the cold winter season. Tse Daa K'aan AmeriCorps members successfully served over fifty-five veterans and their families and created a unique bond that has boosted veterans' confidence.



The Tse Daa K'aaan AmeriCorps program is seeking individuals who are eager to earn an education award through serving local veterans in the Tse Daa K'aaan community. AmeriCorps membership offers the opportunity for community service, a Segal Education Award and valuable training experience. Education awards and living allowance stipends are based upon AmeriCorps members' participation level, which range from 450 to 1700 hours over the program year. Eligibility starts at age seventeen with no age limit thereafter.

For more information, please call the Hogback AmeriCorps program at (505) 368-1585 or email the Program Manager, williamsd@sjcpartnership.org.

For more information about AmeriCorps, log onto this link: www.nationalservice.gov



DON'T BE A PARTY TO UNDERAGE DRINKING!

In New Mexico, purchasing or providing alcohol to youth under 21 other than your own child is illegal.



Providing alcohol to minors is a fourth degree felony punishable by up to **eighteen months in jail and a fine up to **five thousand dollars (\$5,000)**.**

For more information contact San Juan County Partnership at 566-5867 or www.sjcpartnership.org



Auditions for the 5th Annual

SAN JUAN COUNTY'S

GOT



October 20, 2018

**Submit a completed audition application by
Monday, October 1st, 2018**

**Auditions will be held October 5th and 6th.
Contestants will be contacted to schedule an audition
time.**

Contestants may submit a video audition.



For applications and more info:
San Juan County Partnership, 3535 E. 30th St., Ste. 105,
Farmington, NM, 87402 (505) 566-5867,
website: sjcpartnership.org

THIS EVENT IS A FUNDRAISER TO SUPPORT SAN JUAN COUNTY PARTNERSHIP'S COMMUNITY PROGRAMS