



Public Health Department of Mendocino County

Healthy People, Healthy Communities



Environmental Health

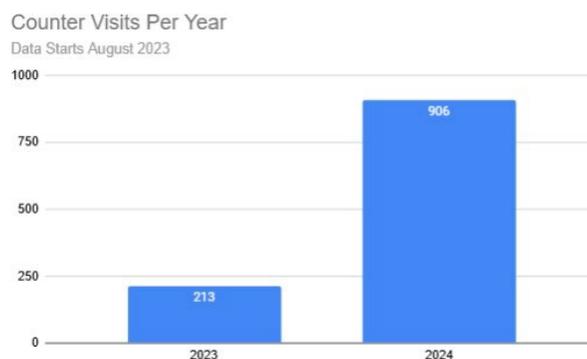
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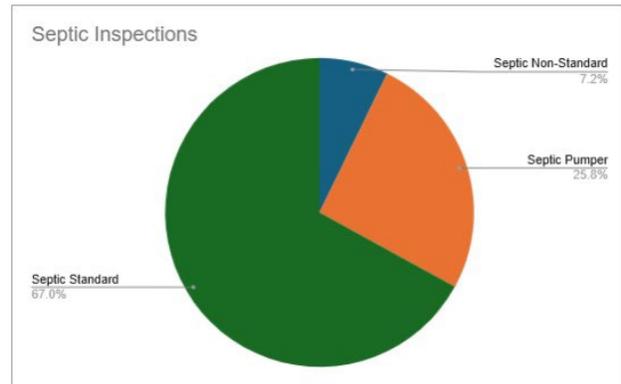
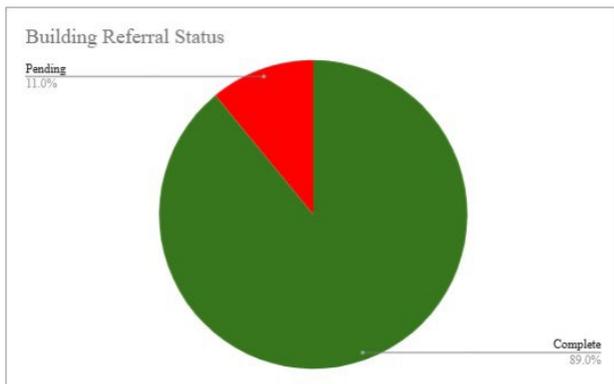
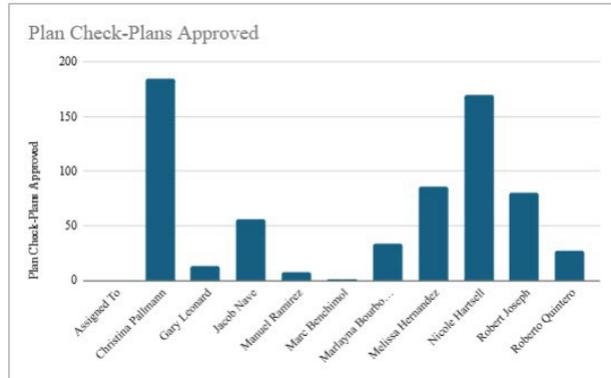
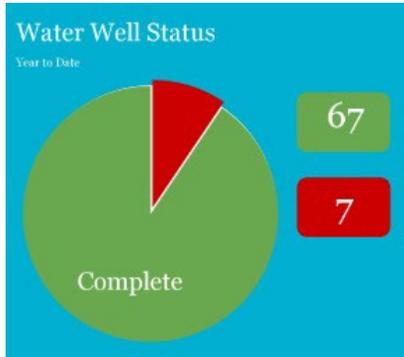
In 2024, the Environmental Health Division continued its commitment to ensuring the safety and well-being of Mendocino County residents by delivering essential services across various programs. Despite facing challenges such as an average 35% vacancy rate, our dedicated team successfully managed significant workloads and contributed to community resilience. From permitting events and inspecting facilities to supporting post-pandemic recovery, the Division has been instrumental in maintaining public health and protecting the environment. This report highlights our key accomplishments and the ongoing efforts to enhance our services for a healthier, more resilient community.

Environmental Health 2024 Highlights

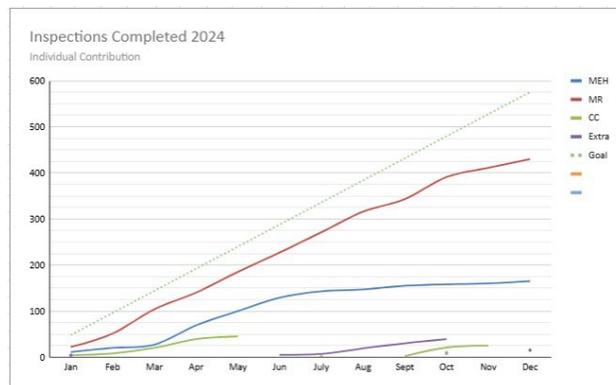
In 2024, our administrative team served 906 customers at our front counter, in addition to responding to them by phone and email.



Our Land Use inspectors approved 723 building permits, 63 Site Evaluation Reports, and 67 Water Well Applications, in addition to 97 septic inspections. This does not include the Water Well inspections that were also completed, or the reviews that were done but pending more information from the homeowners/contractors/etc.

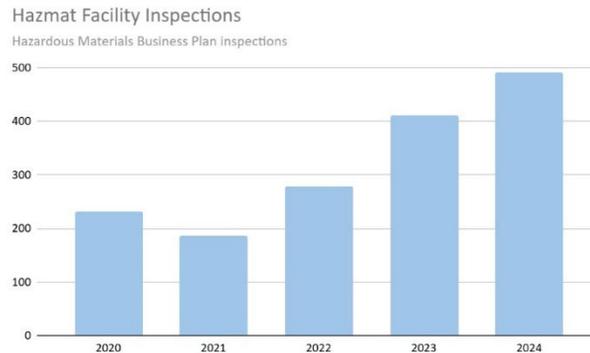


Our Consumer Protection inspectors completed 771 facility inspections, in addition to signing off on temporary event permits, temporary food booth applications, cottage food applications, and new facility plan checks, the biggest one being Starbucks in Willits.



Mendocino County demonstrated its post-pandemic resilience by permitting 69 community events in 2024, ranging from the Apple Fair in Bonville to the Redwood Spring & Summer Fairs in Ukiah, along with various other large and small events. The Consumer Protection Team looks forward to continuing these community-building events in 2025.

In 2024, our Hazmat Program Inspectors completed 491 Hazardous material Business Plan inspections, which is 80 more inspections than we completed 2023 or a 19.5% increase in the number of HMBP inspections.



These numbers were all accomplished while having an average 35% vacancy rate in our department during the entirety of the year. The vacancies were mainly in our Consumer Protection and Land Use Programs.

A Prepared and Resilient County:

In 2024, The Division collaborated with Planning & Building Services to host a well-attended stakeholder meeting in Fort Bragg, where participants provided valuable constructive feedback. Key suggestions focused on increasing housing and streamlining coastal permit processes. The public also expressed satisfaction upon learning that administrative staff and inspectors must meet certification standards for their roles.

The Division met regularly with the CEOs office & PBS to coordinate the upcoming move from the 120 W. Fir Street to the Avila Center in Fort Bragg. This move should be completed by the end of fiscal year.

The Division launched a complaint portal on our website to address the growing number of odor complaints related to composting facilities. This was very helpful in streamlining our complaint process.

The Division also continued its coordination with CDFA to facilitate the composting of affected chicken carcasses to contain the spread of Avian Flu.

The Division continued to conduct Ocean Beach Monitoring, which requires an inspector to travel to the coast and take beach water samples around 7am from multiple beaches and have them sent off for testing to monitor the safety of the water. In addition, we also continued the testing of mussels at Ten Mile Beach, which occurs once per month at low tide, and those are sent off for testing as well.