

SAN JUAN BASIN public health

Executive Director and Staff Report to the Board of Health for September 2022

Highlights:

- Nine staff members attended the Colorado Public Health Association's Public Health in the Rockies Conference in Keystone, where staff attended many sessions, networked with state partners and each other, and rejuvenated their vigor for public health.
- SJBPH WIC staff created promotional videos done "cooking show" style. The videos will be used on social media and other ways to promote the WIC program.

Staff Reports

Behavioral Health

Thriving Communities Program Team (TCP):

- The Thriving Communities Team **demonstrated a commitment to organizational excellence and improved awareness and acceptance of resources** by promoting their work in the Durango Herald's "Creating Community" Column, linked [here](#).

Communities that Care (CTC)/Communities Organizing for Prevention (COFP):

- The new coordinator re-engaged former members, hosted an initial Recognizing Opportunities for Resilience (ROAR) coalition meeting, and conducted 16 one-on-one meetings to gain a clearer understanding of the work conducted to date. She also completed the Communities That Care facilitator training, associated with this grant. The coordinator's understanding of this critical background knowledge **demonstrates effective administration and governance in supporting community-led coalition work**.

Suicide Prevention (SP)/Gun Shop Project:

- September is Suicide Prevention Awareness month. The SJBPH coordinator team participated in several community events this month, **improving awareness of resources, services, and programs**.
- Specific highlight: the Colorado National Collaborative coordinator worked with Fort Lewis College, the Indigenous Society of Psychologists, the Southern Ute Indian Tribe, and the Grief Center of Southwestern Colorado to organize an expert discussion panel on suicide prevention, specifically in Indigenous communities. This work **demonstrates the use of innovative, equity-based strategies to investigate and address emerging population public health issues**, across the county and within Colorado, Native populations experience higher rates of deaths by suicide. The event engaged 35 participants, 26 of them students.
- The Gun Shop Project's Firearms Advocate completed one final site visit for the contract period and made an early commitment to renew this contract with SJBPH. The advocate continues to work with gun retailers to gain their help as promoters of safe gun storage

practices and mental health resources. This project demonstrates SJBPH's **commitment to work with non-traditional partners to solve public health issues.**

Social Determinants of Health

Health Insurance Literacy (HIL):

- In September, the HIL Program attended the Health Equity Assessment - Primary/Preventative Health Care Access and Utilization meeting hosted by the Archuleta Food Coalition. Possible solutions to fill in health service gaps were discussed. Participating in these discussions shows the SJBPH's dedication to **identify and address gaps in partner agency/stakeholder knowledge and identify and remove barriers to partner agency/stakeholder access.**
- HIL tabled at Fiesta on the Mesa at Fort Lewis College and the Pride Festival at Buckley Park to reach community members where they would already be, **identifying and removing barriers to community/public access.**

Environmental Health

Air Quality and Solid Waste:

Radon

- SJBPH completed the 2021-2022 radon grant.

Waste Tire

- Staff attended waste tire training at the Colorado Environmental Health Association (CEHA) annual conference.

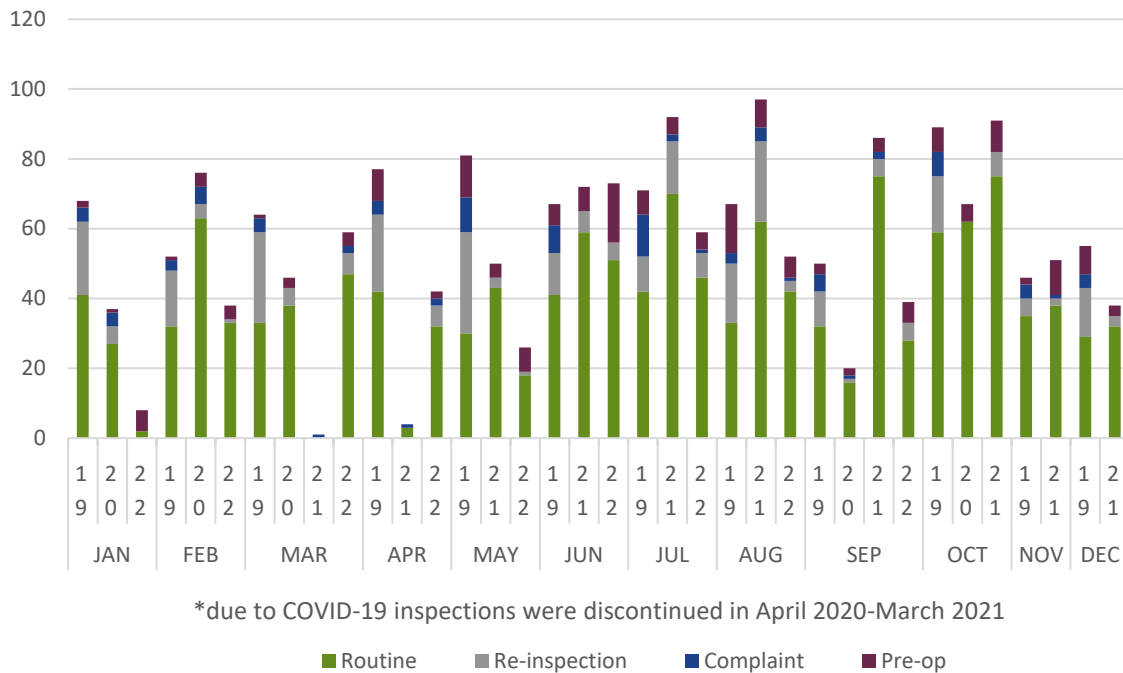
Consumer Protection:

Retail Food Program

- Staff attended the CEHA Conference, therefore, fewer food inspections were conducted than normal. At CEHA Conference, the Consumer Protection team lead attended several presentations regarding food safety and regulation.
- Program Manager and Team Lead attended a meeting of the Durango Chapter of the Colorado Restaurant Association.
- Staff also joined a working group to coordinate partner agencies involved with Community Event permitting.

See reports below:

Comparison of RFE Inspections 2019-2022



Childcare Inspection Program

- Staff developed a plan for continued childcare inspections and began scheduling inspections.

School Inspection Program

- Staff conducted four days of joint inspections with a CDPHE Child Care Inspector and are now qualified to conduct school inspections without state supervision.

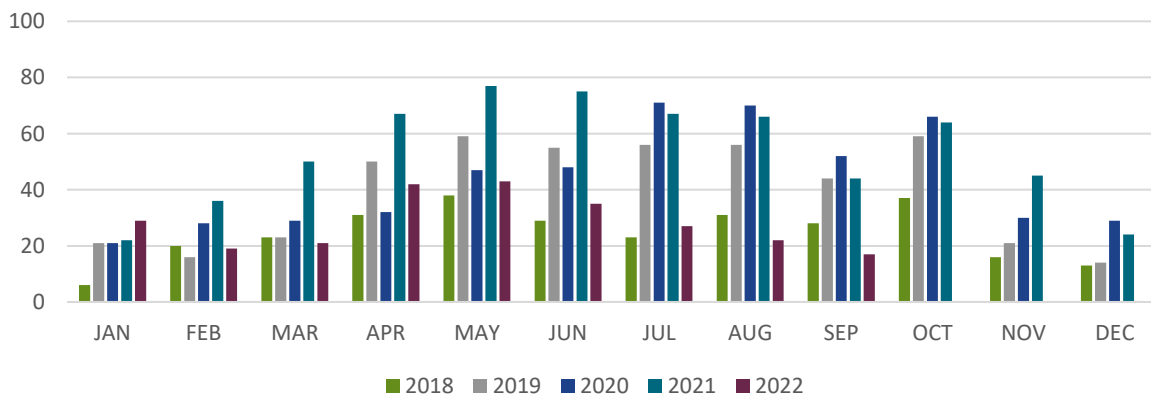
Water Quality:

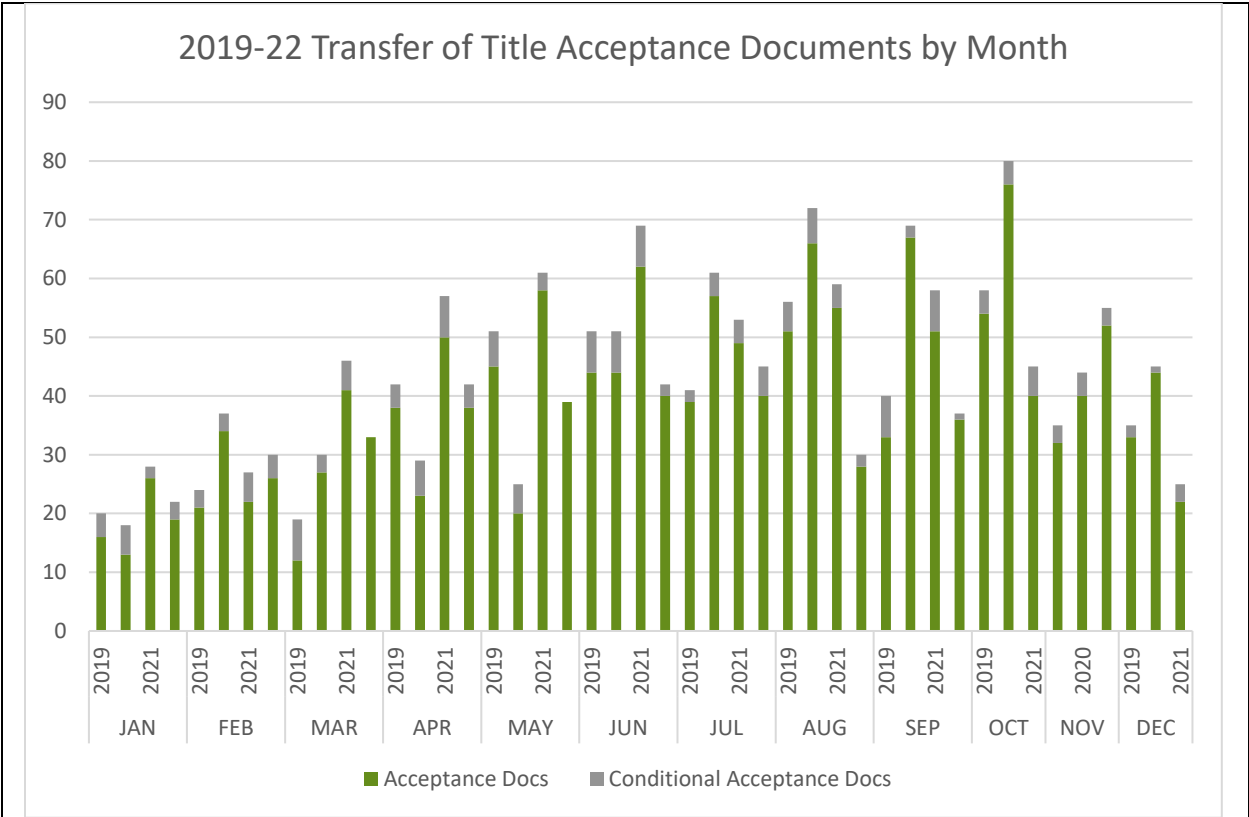
On-Site Wastewater Treatment Systems (OWTS)

- SJBPH staff attended OWTS trainings at the Colorado Environmental Health Association’s annual convention.

See charts below.

Number of OWTS Permit Applications by Month





Surface and Drinking Water

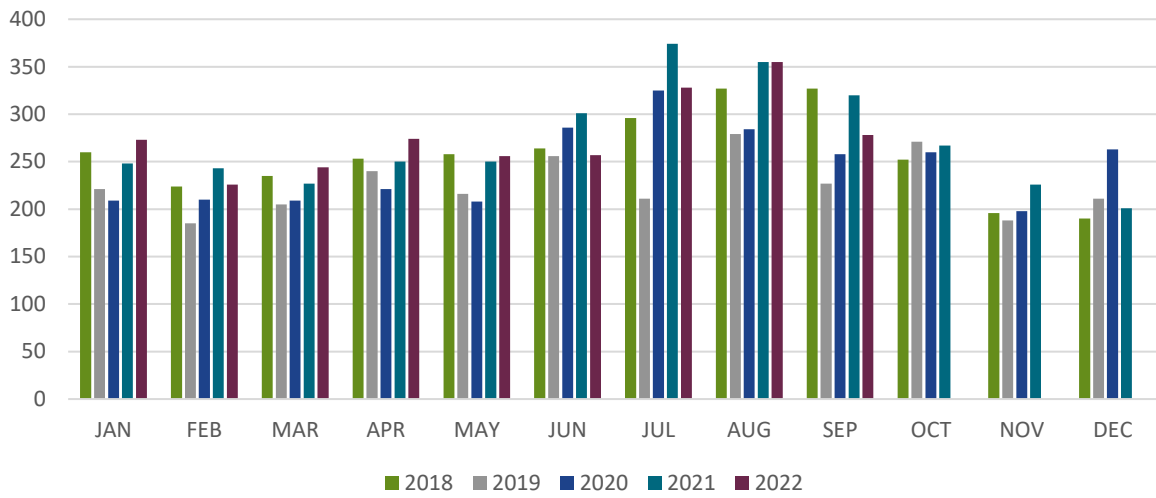
- SJBPH presented at two public events about PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) in well water and described what to expect from SJBPH regarding the state grant to sample wells.

Water Lab

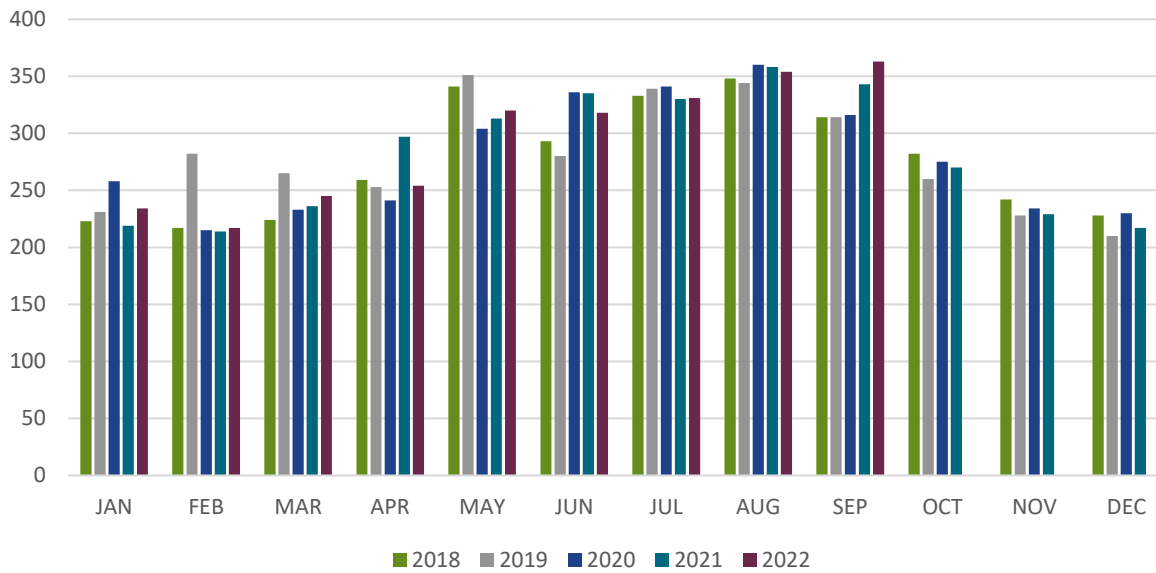
- The water lab performed 363 drinking water tests and 278 wastewater and surface water tests. The lab also installed a new incubator for drinking water and wastewater/surface water Total Coliform/E Coli incubations.

See charts below.

Comparison of Waste Water Tests 2018-2022



Comparison of Drinking Water Tests 2018-2022



Health Behaviors

Clinic:

- As a part of the La Plata County Syphilis Alert mini grant the sexual health clinic staff attended the Durango Pride event to provide information for free syphilis testing and other SJBPH services **to increase awareness of and access to sexual health services at SJBPH.**
- The clinic continues to provide monkeypox testing and vaccinations as needed **to increase access to services.**

Immunizations:

- The SJBPH clinic was one of the first locations to start vaccinating the communities with the new Bivalent COVID boosters **to increase access to services.**
- The COVID vaccine nurse provided Bivalent COVID vaccines to La Plata and Archuleta County jail inmates and staff **to increase access to vaccines.**
- The SJBPH clinic sent out over 400 vaccine reminder letters to Pagosa Spring students who are not up to date on Tdap, HPV or Meningococcal vaccines to **increase awareness of vaccine recommendations and increase access.**

Nurse Family Partnership (NFP):

- A NFP staff member attended the Colorado Public Health Association's Public Health in the Rockies Conference **demonstrating commitment to organizational excellence.**
- The NFP team attended a virtual NFP symposium **demonstrating commitment to organizational excellence.**
- NFP utilized e-newsletters, posted flyers, social media posts, in person tabling, email introductions/updates, telephone introductions/updates, and Zoom meetings **to improve awareness of NFP program.**

SafeCare:

- The SafeCare team has reached out to the Mercy Family Birthing Unit to set up a staff presentation to share information about SJBPH's SafeCare program and what it has to offer high risk families in our community. By collaborating with the Family Birth Unit at Mercy, we aim **to improve awareness and acceptance of public health resources, services, programs and value to the community.**
- SafeCare Supervisor and Parent Support Provider (PSP) attended the Strengthening Families Conference in Pueblo, CO, **demonstrating commitment to organizational excellence.**
- The SafeCare Supervisor obtained full certification this month; she is now certified to take on a full client caseload, **demonstrating a commitment to organizational excellence and expanding organizational capacity.** SJBPH's PSP is working toward certification.

Statewide Tobacco Education and Prevention Partnership (STEPP):

- The coordinator worked with state equity and policy partners to develop an implementation plan for contract year 2023 that is **rooted in equity and based on best practices.** These practices strategically identify ways to prevent youth from starting use of nicotine products and support cessation for youth caught in school vaping; policy opportunities to reduce tobacco use; and effective cessation resources to provide existing tobacco product users.

Women, Infants, and Children (WIC):

- September outreach time was devoted to the creation of several WIC promotional videos for use in social media, **demonstrating commitment to increase awareness of services.**

- In addition, the SJBPH WIC manager worked with the National WIC Association staff to customize free WIC videos to be used in social media and/or other promotions, **demonstrating commitment to increase awareness of services.**

Clinical Care Linkage

Cancer Prevention and Early Detection (CPED – Women’s Wellness Connection):

- The SJBPH Cancer Prevention and Early Detection outreach program was highlighted in an article on the CDC website (highlighted in the report last month).
- The Cancer Prevention and Early Detection staff attended the Fiesta on the Mesa event to **increase awareness of cancer screenings and access to breast and cervical cancer screenings through the CPED program to underinsured people.**

Health Care Coordination:

- The Nurse Navigator assisted 11 clients, with information, referrals, and care coordination to assist with **improving access to care and resources.**

Language Services:

- The clinic provided immunization services using the language line interpretation services for Ukrainian immigrants **to increase access to services.**
- The clinic outreach coordinator met with Cover All Colorado regarding the new healthcare insurance options for undocumented immigrants **to increase access to health insurance and healthcare for Limited English-Speaking individuals.**

Regional Oral Health Specialist (ROHS):

- The Program Manager & Division Director have been supporting ROHS duties as appropriate. They assisted with one dental referral in September, **improving access to care and resources.**

Specialty Clinics/Maternal Child Health (MCH):

- The MCH Nurse provided information and referrals to 13 families to **increase access to care and resources.**

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF):

- The Parents Plus Coordinator/ TANF Nurse performed assessments on 14 new families which included education as well as referrals to area providers, **improving access to care and resources.**

Communicable Disease

Diseases reported September 1-September 30, 2022:

6 Animal bites (5 Archuleta County, 1 La Plata County)
 1 Giardiasis (La Plata County)
 1 Chronic Hepatitis C (La Plata County)
 3 Salmonellosis (1 Archuleta County, 2 La Plata County)
 2 Shiga Toxin Producing E. coli (STEC) (La Plata County)
 1 Varicella (Chicken Pox) (La Plata County)

Communicable Disease:

- Communicable disease follow up is being done by CDPHE, except for respiratory disease outbreaks and zoonotics. Hand foot and mouth disease has been identified at several day care facilities. This is not a reportable condition and so multiple cases are not considered an outbreak.

Tuberculosis (TB):

- There are two active TB cases. Both are participating in video recorded observed treatment (VDOT).

Emergency Preparedness and Response**Emergency Preparedness and Response:**

- Staff participated as an evaluator for the SW Memorial Hospital Active Shooter Exercise and Rocky Mountain MRC (Medical Reserve Core) pandemic exercise which **provided opportunities for employees to excel/innovate.**
- Staff presented on Tribal and Rural implementations of incident management teams during the COVID-19 pandemic during the Colorado Incident Management Team Conference, **providing an opportunity to work with non-traditional partners to solve public health issues.**

Universal Activities**Human Resources:**HIPAA Compliance:HIPAA Queries/Investigations:

| Description of Event | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | 2022 Total | % of Total |
|---|----|----|----|----|------------|------------|
| HIPAA Breach (of PHI) | 0 | 0 | 0 | | 0 | 0% |
| Failure to Follow Protocols and/or Policies | 1 | 0 | 0 | | 1 | 100% |
| Unsubstantiated/Not Reportable HIPAA Breach | 0 | 0 | 0 | | 0 | 0% |
| HIPAA Security Incident | 0 | 0 | 0 | | 0 | 0% |
| Staff HIPAA Inquiries | 0 | 0 | 0 | | 0 | 0% |
| Total HIPAA Queries/Investigations | 1 | 0 | 0 | | 1 | 0% |

| Total Employees Involved & Outcomes CY 2021 | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | 2022 Total | % of Total |
|---|----|----|----|----|------------|------------|
| Performance Improvement Plans | 0 | 0 | 0 | | 0 | 0% |
| Retraining | 0 | 0 | 0 | | 0 | 0% |
| Termination | 0 | 0 | 0 | | 0 | 0% |
| Monitoring | 0 | 0 | 0 | | 0 | 0% |
| No Action Required | 0 | 0 | 0 | | 0 | 0% |
| Total All Events | | | 0 | | 0 | 0% |

HR Staffing Updates

October

- The following vacancies were filled since the last report:
 - Assessment and Planning Specialist, Dental Hygienist, Medical Officer (Interim)
- The following vacancies have been hired for with future start dates:
 - Programs Supervisor - Specialized (Opioid Risk Reduction program) Internal Move
- Recruitment continues for the following staff positions:
 - Administrative Support Assistant (I or II), Environmental Health Specialist I, Finance Manager

Assessment and Planning:

- Staff held the second Community Health Assessment/Public Health Improvement Plan Advisory Committee meeting **seeking opportunities to work with non-traditional partners to solve public health issues.**
- Staff supported data requests from internal and external partners who were then able **to provide evidence-based public health recommendations.**
- Staff went to the Colorado Public Health Association's Public Health in the Rockies Conference attending many sessions, several keynotes, and meeting partners face to face, **increasing organizational capacity.**
- Staff facilitated the second local Child Fatality Review Team meeting of 2022, **seeking opportunities to work with non-traditional partners to solve public health issues and provide evidence-based public health recommendations.**

Communications:

- In September, SJBPH communications focused both on COVID-19 information, and non-COVID public health and agency information. Topics included localized (state and local) reporting, information on COVID-19 state and local data, COVID-19 testing, COVID precautions, vaccine distribution, and collaboration with community partners **to improve awareness and acceptance of public health resources, services, programs, and value to the community.** Agency communications were shared on client-focused programs such as Emergency Preparedness, ROHS, NFP, Sexual Health Clinic, SafeCare, Communicable Disease, Monkeypox and WIC, Care Coordination, Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (OWTS), and suicide awareness. Communications were through a variety of channels including print, radio, tv, social media, and email.
- In September, SJBPH communications staff distributed **one** agency e-newsletter (September), **two** semi-monthly COVID updates, wrote and distributed **three** media releases, responded to **seven** media inquiries, posted **105** tweets, and **97** Facebook posts to both SJBPH's main and COVID-19 Facebook pages. Posts were focused on the coronavirus outbreak, local COVID-19 data, vaccine distribution, COVID-19 prevention, COVID-19 testing info, and promoting SJBPH programs and services. SJBPH was featured in **21** articles/radio/tv stories in newspapers, online news outlets, and local radio stations. In September, SJBPH had over **89,558** Facebook impressions (# of eyes on our posts), and **13,406** Twitter impressions. SJBPH's Facebook engagement (action taken such as commenting or sharing a post) was over **5,488** and Twitter had **260** engagements. These activities help **to improve awareness and acceptance of public health resources, services, programs, and value to the community.**

Facilities/Fleet:

- No updates.

