

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



Uranium Contamination Stakeholder Workshop
November 8-10, 2011 Farmington, NM
Lisa Allee, CNM, Program Director

CUE-JTH Events So Far:

Community Conversations

Facilitated world café process

| | | | |
|--------------------|----------|-----------------|-----------|
| Churchrock Chapter | 1/13/10 | 25 participants | |
| Cove Chapter | 3/16/10 | 36 | |
| Black Falls | 4/18/10 | 30 | |
| Cameron Chapter | 4/19/10 | 18 | |
| Sanostee Chapter | 6/2/10 | 12 | |
| Baca/Prewitt/Hay | 8/4/10 | 22 | |
| Crownpoint | 8/9/10 | 7 | |
| Smith Lake | 11/18/10 | 2 | |
| Smith Lake | 12/6/10 | 6 | |
| Monument Valley | 12/9/10 | 27 | |
| Dennehotso | 8/31/11 | 25 | Total 210 |



Provider Education

Navajo Nation Museum, Window Rock June 30, 2010

~over 100 participants, excellent reviews

Health Screening and Education Events

| CUE-JTH Health Screening Events | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------|-------------|---------|-------------|---------------|--|
| Date | Place | Number seen | exposed | not exposed | not completed | |
| 4/29/2010 | Cove | 24 | 23 | 0 | 1 | |
| 7/7/2010 | Sanostee | 6 | 4 | 2 | 0 | |
| 7/19/2010 | Crownpoint Tech | 24 | 12 | 5 | 7 | |
| 8/9/2010 | Crownpoint I H S | 31 | 26 | 3 | 2 | |
| 8/30/2010 | Baca | 85 | 61 | 9 | 15 | |
| 9/20/2010 | Crownpoint I H S | 24 | 19 | 4 | 1 | |
| 10/4/2010 | Crownpoint I H S | 26 | 23 | 3 | 0 | |
| 10/25/2010 | Crownpoint Tech | 27 | 22 | 5 | 0 | |
| 12/6-7/2010 | Smith Lake | 49 | 43 | 5 | 1 | |
| 1/10/2011 | Smith Lake | 34 | 33 | 1 | 0 | |
| 2/7/2011 | Standing Rock | 33 | 22 | 4 | 7 | |
| 3/28/2011 | Pueblo Pintado | 34 | 17 | 17 | 0 | |
| 4/5/2011 | Iyanbito | 41 | 32 | 4 | 5 | |
| 4/12/2011 | Pinedale | 52 | 52 | 0 | 0 | |
| 4/27/2011 | Gallup | 18 | 17 | 1 | 0 | |
| 5/3/2011 | Churchrock | 74 | 62 | 6 | 6 | |
| 9/28/2011 | Kayenta | 22 | 21 | 1 | 0 | |
| 10/26/2011 | Dennehotso | 20 | 18 | 2 | 0 | |
| | | 624 | 507 | 72 | 45 | |



CUE-JTH Screening Tool Results

Community Uranium Exposure - Journey to Healing Program
 Evaluation of Survey results as of June 30, 2011

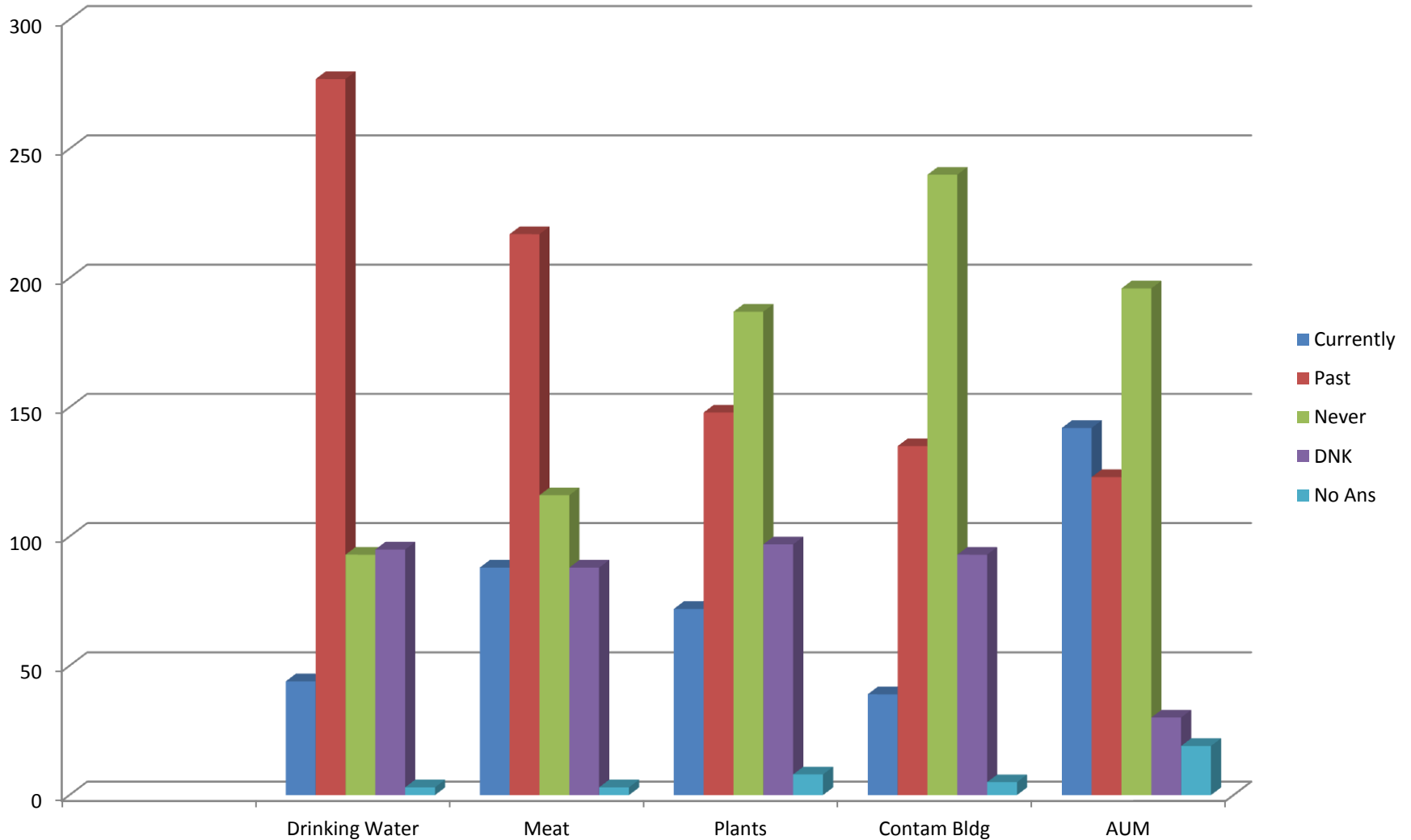
Surveys 512
 Ave Age 57.5
 Min age 12
 Max age 92

| Routes of Exp | Currently | Past | Never | DNK | No Ans | % Exposed | | | %Never Exp | % No Ans | Total Respondents |
|------------------------|------------|-----------|-------|------------|---------------|-------------|------------|----------------|------------|----------|-------------------|
| | | | | | | Current | past | Tot % | | | |
| <i>Drinking Water</i> | 44 | 277 | 93 | 95 | 3 | 8.6% | 54.1% | 62.7% | 18.2% | 0.6% | 512 |
| <i>Meat</i> | 88 | 217 | 116 | 88 | 3 | 17.2% | 42.4% | 59.6% | 22.7% | 0.6% | 512 |
| <i>Plants</i> | 72 | 148 | 187 | 97 | 8 | 14.1% | 28.9% | 43.0% | 36.5% | 1.6% | 512 |
| <i>Contam Bldg</i> | 39 | 135 | 240 | 93 | 5 | 7.6% | 26.4% | 34.0% | 46.9% | 1.0% | 512 |
| <i>AUM</i> | 142 | 123 | 196 | 30 | 19 | 35.1% | 30.4% | 65.4% | 38.4% | 3.7% | 510 |
| Other Exposures | Yes | No | | DNK | No Ans | Yes% | No% | %No Ans | | | |
| | 234 | 188 | | 58 | 32 | 45.7% | 36.7% | 6.3% | | | |
| Other Breakdown | Yes | No | | | No Ans | %Yes | %No | %No Ans | | | |
| <i>Occupational</i> | 167 | 326 | | | 19 | 32.6% | 63.7% | 3.7% | | | |
| <i>Lived w/</i> | 242 | 123 | | | 147 | 47.3% | 24.0% | 28.7% | | | |
| <i>Played</i> | 145 | 206 | | | 161 | 28.3% | 40.2% | 31.4% | | | |
| <i>Contact waste</i> | 189 | 167 | | | 156 | 36.9% | 32.6% | 30.5% | | | |
| <i>Herd</i> | 154 | 205 | | | 153 | 30.1% | 40.0% | 29.9% | | | |
| <i>Shelter</i> | 77 | 274 | | | 161 | 15.0% | 53.5% | 31.4% | | | |
| <i>Lived Camps</i> | 86 | 268 | | | 158 | 16.8% | 52.3% | 30.9% | | | |

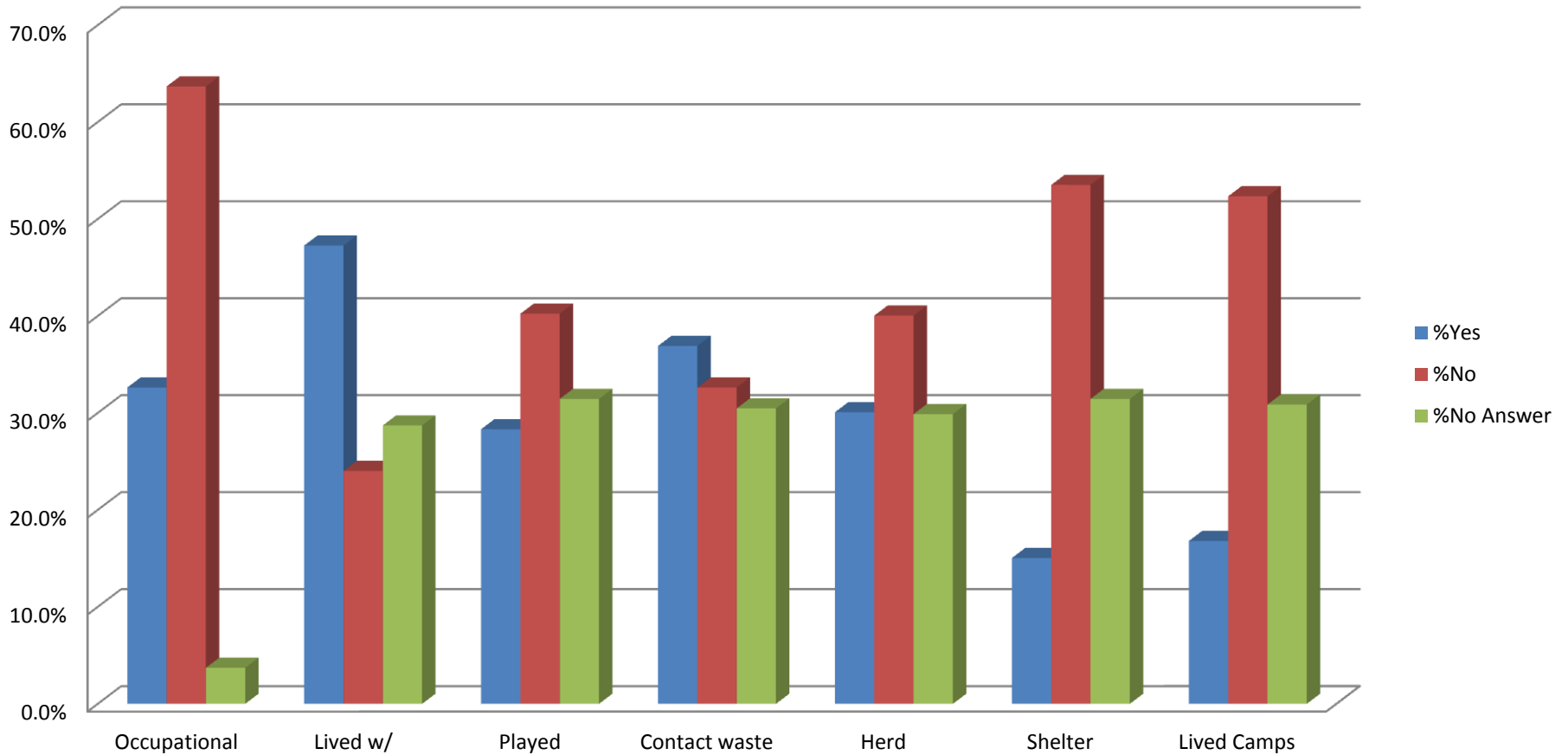
Total number and percentage health concerns conveyed by respondents on CUE survey form

| Health Concern | Yes | No | % Yes | Total Respondents |
|--------------------|-----|-----|-------|-------------------|
| Diabetes | 201 | 311 | 39.3% | 512 |
| Hypertension | 253 | 259 | 49.4% | 512 |
| Heart Problems | 86 | 426 | 16.8% | 512 |
| Resp Problems | 131 | 381 | 25.6% | 512 |
| Digestive Probs | 95 | 417 | 18.6% | 512 |
| Skin Problems | 102 | 410 | 19.9% | 512 |
| Kidney Problems | 77 | 435 | 15.0% | 512 |
| Hairloss | 96 | 416 | 18.8% | 512 |
| Headaches | 224 | 288 | 43.8% | 512 |
| Speech delay | 63 | 449 | 12.3% | 512 |
| Learning diff | 72 | 440 | 14.1% | 512 |
| Develop delay | 32 | 480 | 6.3% | 512 |
| Autoimmune Dz | 15 | 497 | 2.9% | 512 |
| Arthritis | 183 | 329 | 35.7% | 512 |
| Depression | 157 | 355 | 30.7% | 512 |
| PTSD | 67 | 445 | 13.1% | 512 |
| Anxiety | 117 | 395 | 22.9% | 512 |
| Muscle Weak | 165 | 347 | 32.2% | 512 |
| Loss of Appetite | 111 | 401 | 21.7% | 512 |
| Eye Problems | 289 | 223 | 56.4% | 512 |
| Infertility | 12 | 500 | 2.3% | 512 |
| Child w/ BD | 20 | 492 | 3.9% | 512 |
| Stillbirth | 17 | 495 | 3.3% | 512 |
| Miscarriages | 68 | 444 | 13.3% | 512 |
| Breast CA | 5 | 507 | 1.0% | 512 |
| Cervical CA | 8 | 504 | 1.6% | 512 |
| Uterine CA | 3 | 509 | 0.6% | 512 |
| Ovarian CA | 4 | 508 | 0.8% | 512 |
| Prostate CA | 6 | 506 | 1.2% | 512 |
| Bladder/Kidney CA | 4 | 508 | 0.8% | 512 |
| Bone CA | 5 | 507 | 1.0% | 512 |
| Lymphoma | 1 | 511 | 0.2% | 512 |
| Skin CA | 6 | 506 | 1.2% | 512 |
| Colon CA | 4 | 508 | 0.8% | 512 |
| Stomach CA | 2 | 510 | 0.4% | 512 |
| Pancreatic CA | 2 | 510 | 0.4% | 512 |
| Liver CA | 5 | 507 | 1.0% | 512 |
| Leukemia | 2 | 510 | 0.4% | 512 |
| Total CA responses | 57 | | | |
| Total CA people | 31 | 481 | 6% | 512 |

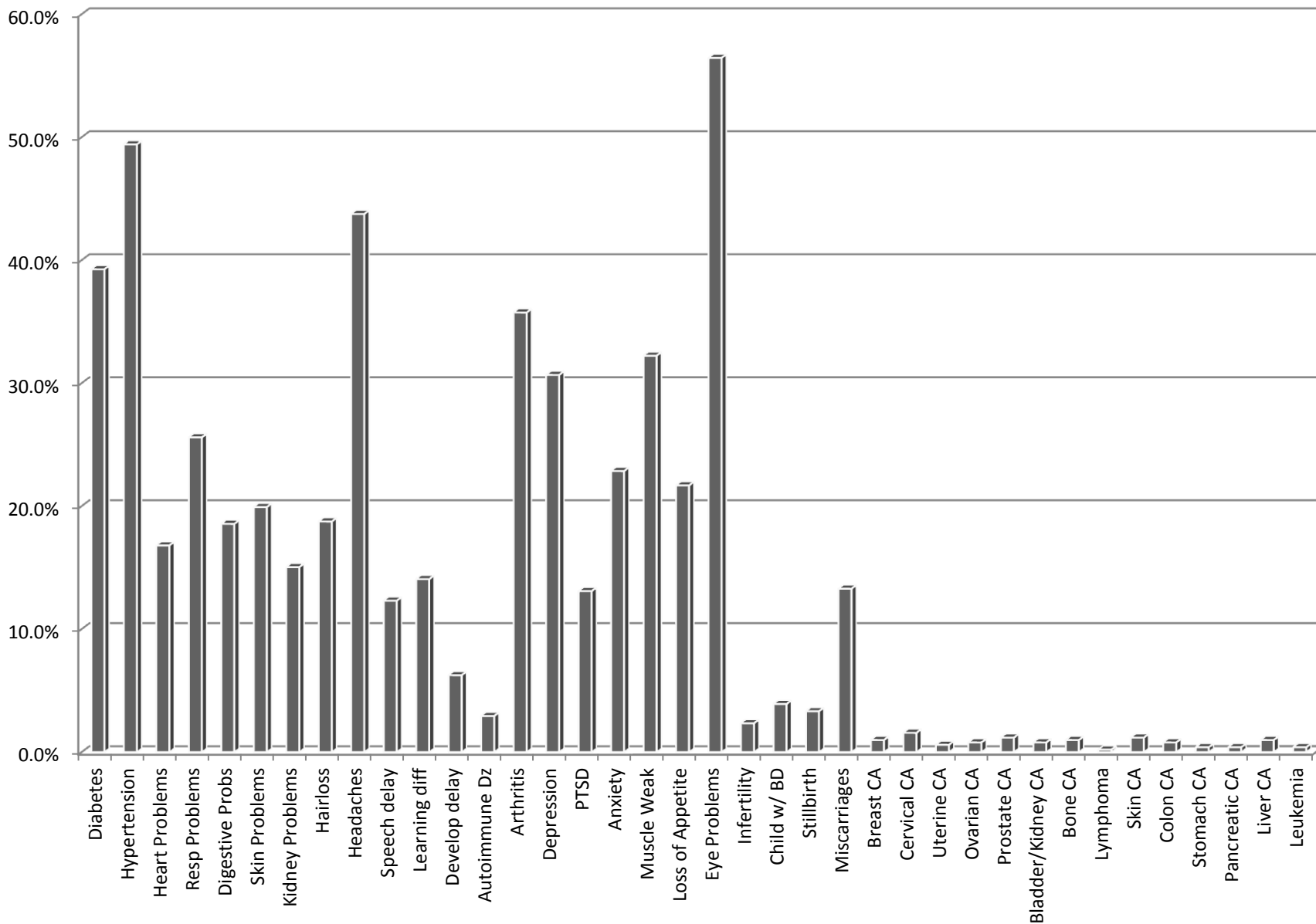
CUEJTH survey results: Respondents answers by routes of exposure (Out of 512 Total Respondents).



CUEJTH Survey Results for Other Exposures.



% of Respondents who answered yes to listed health concerns (Out of 512 Total Respondents).



Beyond the numbers—giving voice to community members

Based on these two premises of public health:

1. Ask people what they need and listen because they know.
2. An ounce of prevention is worth a ton or two of cure, we ask people at our Community Conversations to answer three questions related to uranium:
 1. What health issues are you concerned about for you, someone in your family, or other community members? Share stories.
 2. What needs to happen now related to health? What do you think needs to happen in the future related to health?
 3. What can you as an individual and as a community do about this issue?

Here is what we heard at the most recent Community Conversation:

Health concerns:

If a young women is exposed to uranium and is pregnant, will her unborn child be exposed?

When will the uranium tailings, still existing, be closed?

What about the livestock that are drinking contaminated water and livestock owner eating it.

Colon cancer – husband, breast cancer – daughter, dizziness, fatigue, blindness, loss of sight. Kidney problem – son, diabetes – self, 5 years dealing with it, and high blood pressure. All these problems mentioned are with my family, many are referred back to the uranium mine that was near this place (Dennehotso). Mom & brother died of cancer. Many of this concern makes her think of her family, don't sleep well and why do we have to have these health problems. I have lots of questions concerning this uranium. Many times my food do not taste right to enjoy. I hope none of these disease continue in my family.

Lake with Uranium, we used it as drinking water also to cook our meals. Used the water for laundry using our hands.

Our kids are dealing with patches (white) on their skins and it gets itchy.

Loss of hair.

There was no safety on these mines.

Children worked in the mines also 2-3 generations.

Long time – exposure for long time.

Lack of protective clothes for millers.

Do not give out information exposure or X-ray.

Problems with kidney – live near mine.

Problem with leg – walking – lived near mine.

Diabetic x 2.

Was two years old when participant walked to mine site.

Swim in water when it rained – 5 years old (1952)

- **What needs to happen now and in the future related to health:** Participants see the big picture right away without any prompting and they come up with excellent ideas for that ounce of prevention!
- Sue the government! What else can we do?
- Find the answer on what effects the health.
- The tribe needs wiser decision choices on mining explosive.
- Do extensive medical testing on all other organs beside the lungs.
- Public education through the radio, newspaper, school, pamphlets, etc. What resources do we have and how do we get referred to them.
- All uranium mining should be shut down. If windmills have been exposed they should be demolished.
- Follow-up back to the people, community of test results!
- Being exposed to uranium affected my health and my children. Many people I heard got compensated. But where is my compensation? My husband was a medicine man. He died of this explosive.
- Isn't there a medication, many doctors, researchers have gone through our Dennehotso community. Isn't there a cure by now? We have been exposed and researched to long now give us the cure, medication. You get paid as a researcher, where is our compensation?
- Develop a method for Doctors doing health screening or providing medical services to "Red Flag" additional questions or examination to occur if there patient has been exposed to uranium.
- Ensure that "treatment" is patient-driven. Quite a few of us continue to practice our ceremonial and medicinal lifestyle.

- Ensure that service/ health providers are culturally- sensitive.
- Ensure that health facilities are patient friendly.
- Ensure that medical facilities have accessible area for ceremonial purpose- more so if the patient has been hospitalized.
- Participant travels to Phoenix for kidney problems, searching for kidney transplant.
- What is there to say when there is no cure.
- Need more definite research to check to see if it's safe.
- Can uranium cause TB? Can (livestock) animals get and/ or spread uranium. What kind of health problems can uranium cause?
- Is it possible to make treatments for patients with active uranium in or on the body?
- Recommend development methodology for studying specific communities impacted by uranium – study to supplement report titled “Cancer among the Navajo 2005-2004. Need to disseminate CDC’s recent work to local chapter, based on the report. Certain windmills have been classified as contaminated how we are informing residents of those identified as contaminated. Federal agencies have engaged in work in the VCA area to remove contaminants from the ground water – yet no one is informing the chapter on its present state. In recent visit to VCA the residents have noticed the water coming out w/ white (likely alkaline & other) also, discoloration on their swamp coolers.

What can you as an individual and as a community do about this issue?

- Speak-out= let people be aware of the uranium.
- Help provide preventive education to my community people, esp. the young.
- Establish a point of contact @ the chapter level to facilitate info on uranium going out and in.
- As a chapter be intentional in versing ourselves on the dynamics of uranium.
- As an individual take the initiative to take care of your health including completing annual physical examination.
- Establish support system to family members & other community members.
- Work with respective entities to establish resource info system on-line. This includes developing downloadable forms & available resources.
- I can help with herbs, but don't have any.
- Tell community in any conversation anywhere not to handle those things that the mine has used.
- Do not drink or use the water.
- Take care of your health if you are diagnose with any of the disease I mentioned in question one.
- Announce the issue about active uranium at local chapter houses and how it affects the community.
- Make displays & charts of what active uranium can cause in or on the body.
- Announce the issue on KTNN.
- Educate the children on uranium mine after effect. Need to post warning sign near water wells that are contaminated.

Some additional quotes from the community conversations:

“Land board member needs to be involved so they can educate the public where to graze and should require meat testing for contaminants.”

“Health studies to convince the government that they should not allow companies to mine.”

“All levels of government need to listen.”

“Virtually everyone agreed that doctors who are committed and knowledgeable and know culture are needed.”

“Use this information in a proactive way – many peoples’ experience is not being listened to.”

“Thanks for coming out to us....We need people to come out here to where we live, what we are going through.”

“This was good for the community members since it gave them an opportunity to think and voice their concerns. More meetings like this since they’re informal are good.”

Thank you for listening and thank you for your interest in this important topic.



And in the words of two participants:
Words need to turn into action.
Future will be good.



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