

# LINCOLN COUNTY

# HEALTH DEPARTMENT

## 2021

# ANNUAL REPORT

Public health is about protecting the health of the entire population. For us, that means all people who live, learn, work, or spend time in Lincoln County. Lincoln County Health Department provides services, analyzes and shares information, implements policies, and enforces regulations in ways that support healthier lives and benefit everyone in our community. We often work behind the scenes to protect the public's health.

**Mission:** Our mission is to promote a healthy and resilient Lincoln County through collaborative leadership and community involvement.

**Vision:** A unified, thriving and vibrant Lincoln County

### **Values:**

We believe in:

- Collaborating with community members and organizations to develop and promote a health culture.
- Advocating for a healthy and safe environment.
- Empowering our employees to pursue personal and professional growth.
- Providing fair, honest and quality service



# ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & PLANNING

## Air Quality

EPA has designated Libby and the surrounding area as nonattainment for PM2.5. The Environmental Health Program maintains a State of Montana funded air quality program which regulates outdoor burning and EPA compliant solid fuel burning devices (woodstoves) in this area.

Air Quality	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
Woodstove Permits	0	0	0	1	2
AQ Citations	0	2	1	4	2
Burn Permits	~800	838	664	706	580
Management Burn Permits	32	22	9	9	6
Landfill Burns	2	2	2	2	3
AQ Alerts	0	0	1	1	1

In addition to our permitting and enforcement duties, we continually monitor particulate concentrations to keep the public informed of health effects that could be caused by wood smoke from residential sources and wildfire events.

## Sanitation

Protecting the environment protects public health, and one of the many ways we ensure that we maintain a healthy environment is to protect our most precious resource, water. We review proposed subsurface wastewater treatment systems and ground water sources for compliance with state and local regulations to lift the sanitary restrictions from parcels of land and subdivisions in the county. We contract with Montana Department of Environmental Quality (MT DEQ) to conduct these state reviews and write Certificates of Subdivision Approval for MT DEQ to issue to developers. The Environmental Health Program also issues and maintains a database of permits for septic systems to ensure compliance with environmental regulations and to provide information to current and future homeowners.

Sanitation	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
Septic Permits	271	215	172	143	164
Installer Licenses	28	25	19	25	16
DEQ Reviews	14*	27	24	26	19

*\*All reviews after 8/1/2021 were completed by DEQ*



## Planning

Lincoln County Planning seeks to effectively improve the health, safety, and quality of life for all Lincoln County residents through active involvement in community and economic development, natural resource use, and land-use planning. The primary responsibilities of Lincoln County Planning include assisting in all facets of long-range community planning and subdivision review, in promotion of sustainable future land development and use. We administer all land-use planning functions at a local government level and prepare recommendations for the Lincoln County Commissioners on all land development proposals. We work with the Lincoln County Planning Board and municipal planning boards to implement city and county growth policies, prepare land use policy recommendations, conduct project reviews, and administer local subdivision regulations, floodplain regulations, and lakeshore protection regulations.

## Licensed Establishments

Through a cooperative agreement with the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services, Lincoln County Environmental Health is responsible for inspecting licensed establishments, including retail and wholesale food, food manufacturers, public accommodations, body art facilities, campgrounds, and trailer courts. The department observed an increase in paid licenses, from 261 licenses in 2020 to 278 licenses in 2021. See the table below for a breakdown of license categories:

Type of Establishment	Not Inspected	Inspected	Total Number of Licenses Paid	Percentage Complete
Retail Food	16	157	173	91%
Public Accommodations	3	19	22	86%
Body Art	0	8	8	100%
Campgrounds/Trailer Courts	0	58	58	100%
Food Manufacturing	0	12	12	100%
Pools/Spas*	0	5	5	100%
Total of Establishments	19	259	278	93%

*\*Pools/spas are inspected by DPHHS staff*

## Retail Food Establishments



Retail Food, including grocery stores, coffee kiosks, food trucks, full-service restaurants, caterers, convenience stores, and school lunch programs, account for more than 2/3 of the licensed establishments in Lincoln County. In 2021, 157 of the 173 paid licenses were inspected at least once. Inspections included on-site visits, ownership transfers, closures, and consultations. Based on the grading scale adopted by the Lincoln County Board of Health, 67 percent of retail food establishments scored in the “A” range! Grades are posted at each establishment and on our website.

To improve our retail food program, the Lincoln County Health Department applied for and was awarded two grants, one from the National Environmental Health Association and the other from the Association of Food and Drug Officials. This funding will be put towards a complete self-assessment of the Voluntary National Retail Food Regulatory Program Standards (Voluntary Standards), a program set forth by the FDA to establish a standardized approach to retail food safety, and the development of a Comprehensive Strategic Improvement Plan to aid in meeting the audit portion of the Voluntary Standards. By completing these two objectives, other avenues of funding will become available and include, amongst other things, mentor programs that will enable this department to audit and standardize other jurisdictions. We, at the Lincoln County Health Department, are always looking for ways to advance our programming and are excited to expand our scope as it pertains to food safety.

## ServSafe Food Protection Manager Class



The State of Montana requires most licensed food establishments to have at least one employee who is certified as a Food Protection Manager. In 2020, Lincoln County Health Department began offering ServSafe exam proctoring and coursework to help establishments meet this requirement. In 2021, 14 tests were administered, and 13 individuals passed on their first attempt.

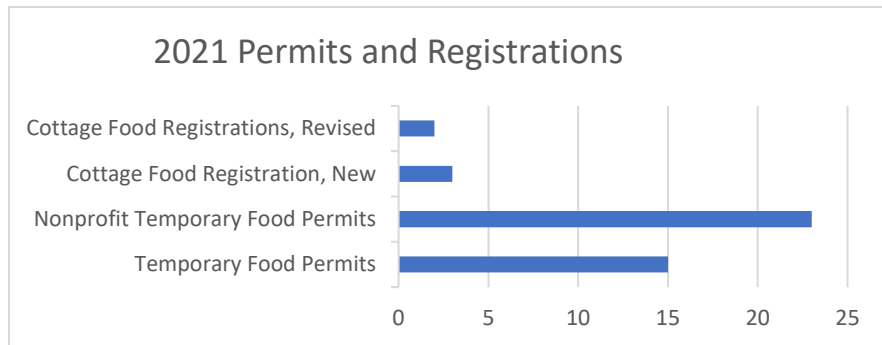
## Temporary Permits & Cottage Food Registrations

In addition to licensing, Lincoln County Environmental Health permits individuals who are interested in temporary on-site food preparation for service to the general public. Temporary permits allow food preparation and service at events within Lincoln County for a limited number of days during the calendar year. Events where temporary food permitting



may be applicable include, but are not limited to, farmer's markets, bazaars, and fairs. Temporary permits are offered at no charge to nonprofit individuals or groups.

Cottage Food Registration allows an operator to produce and sell non-potentially hazardous food items that are prepared within the residential setting. Items that fall within this classification include jam/jellies, baked goods, raw agricultural commodities, and dried spices. Operators looking to obtain this type of registration are subject to a review process but are not required to be inspected. Restrictions and limitations under this registration include direct-to-consumer sales, shelf-stable products, and adequate labeling.



## Other Licensed Establishments

Campgrounds, trailer courts, RV parks, public accommodations, body art facilities, and food manufacturing operations are located in every corner of Lincoln County, all of which require licensing and inspection at least annually. Environmental Health also inspects if there is a complaint and works with operators to resolve any violations.

## Kennel Licensing

Eighteen dog kennels were licensed in Lincoln County during 2021. Through licensing, we inspect kennels to ensure that dogs are up-to-date on their rabies vaccinations and being raised in healthy and safe conditions.

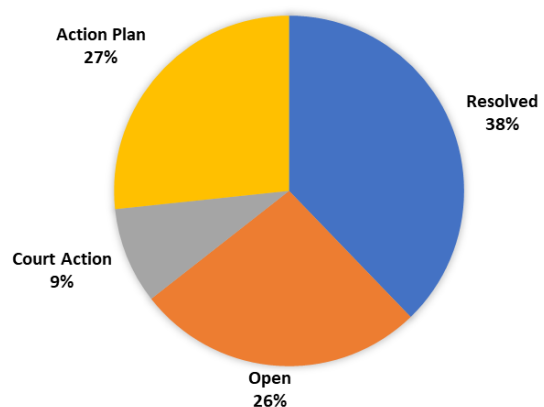
The definition of "kennel" is "Any household or establishment where five (5) or more dogs are kept and maintained exclusively in that kennel, two (2) or more unaltered dogs are kept for the purpose of breeding, or dogs are offered for sale, trade, profit, or barter. All animal rescue organizations, animal shelters and boarding facilities are also deemed to be kennels no matter the number of dogs onsite at any given time."

## Litter Complaints & Junk Vehicles

Lincoln County operates a Junk Vehicle Recycling Program that provides free hauling of junk vehicles through a grant from the Montana Department of Environmental Quality. Seventy junk vehicles were hauled by this program in 2021.

In 2021, Lincoln County Environmental Health received 33 complaints of litter, community decay, and/or junk vehicles. Thirteen of the complaints were resolved and compliance action plans were received for an additional nine properties. The remaining 11 complaints are still in process or have been referred for court action.

**COMPLAINT STATUS - 2021**



# PUBLIC HEALTH

## Immunizations

The Public Health Nurse provides all required and recommended adult and childhood immunizations for both insured and uninsured individuals and families at our offices in Eureka and Libby as well as seasonal vaccines like the influenza shot and pneumonia series. Public Health continues to offer select travel vaccinations and education for people traveling internationally. The nurse travels all over the county to deliver vaccines to all residents that want them. This year over 50 mobile influenza clinics were offered.

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
COVID-19	-	-	-	-	9,801
Influenza	509	534	508	623	747
Other	452	622	485	191	156
Total Immunizations	961	1,165	993	814	10,704



## COVID-19 immunizations

Starting January 21, 2021, Lincoln County Health Department started offering COVID-19 vaccines to the public for individuals that were over 70 and those with high-risk medical conditions. Eventually all residents over the age of 5 were eligible for COVID-19 vaccinations. Lincoln County Health Department employees all jumped on board to assist at mobile clinics in Libby, Troy and Eureka.



First Vaccine Clinic at the Memorial Center on January 21, 2021.



< First COVID-19 vaccine clinic for children 5 – 11 was held on November 12, 2021.



Volunteers were essential in ensuring our clinics went smoothly. Rain or shine, indoor or outdoor clinic, they always showed up! >



## Other Nursing Services

- Recertified as a CPR instructor
- CPR instruction to all Troy school staff, Lincoln County Sheriff's Office, Libby Clinic, and Libby Care Center
- Lead tests at Kootenai Valley Headstart
- Continue to partner with Lincoln County Detention Center to offer 10 hours per week of health services in the jail.





## Communicable Disease

Lincoln County Health Department's public health team are responsible for monitoring communicable diseases and foodborne illnesses that are reportable to Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services. Communicable diseases, also known as infectious diseases, are illnesses that result from the infection, presence and growth of pathogenic (capable of causing disease) biologic agents in an individual human or other animal hosts. Public health is responsible for investigating communicable diseases to stop them from spreading and affecting more people.

Reported Communicable Diseases in Lincoln County							
Disease	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
2019 Novel Coronavirus	2613	1176	-	-	-	-	-
Campylobacteriosis	3	0	7	5	3	8	6
Chlamydia	40	22	41	51	53	60	38
Cholera	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Coccidioidomycosis	0	0	1	0	0	1	0
Cryptosporidiosis	0	0	0	1	1	1	0
Giardiasis	0	0	3	4	1	2	0
Gonorrhea	3	8	2	6	2	3	4
Haemophilus influenzae	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Hepatitis A, acute	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
Hepatitis B, acute	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Hepatitis B, chronic	0	0	1	0	2	1	0
Hepatitis C, acute	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
Hepatitis C, chronic	16	8	24	40	25	20	19
Influenza	1	332	273	154	106	65	191
Influenza hospitalization	0	8	2	10	9	1	4
Lead poisoning	1	0	0	2	1	3	0
Lyme Disease	0	0	0	0	0	3	0
Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Mumps	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Pertussis	0	0	0	10	13	0	4
Q Fever	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Salmonellosis	2	2	3	2	3	1	1
Shiga toxin-producing e. Coli (STEC)	0	0	3	4	0	1	0
Shigellosis	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Spotted Fever Rickettsiosis	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
Streptococcus pneumoniae	3	0	2	0	1	0	1
Syphilis	5	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tuberculosis	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Varicella	0	0	0	1	4	0	4
Vibriosis	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Total:	2692	1559	369	292	227	171	275

## Rabies post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP)

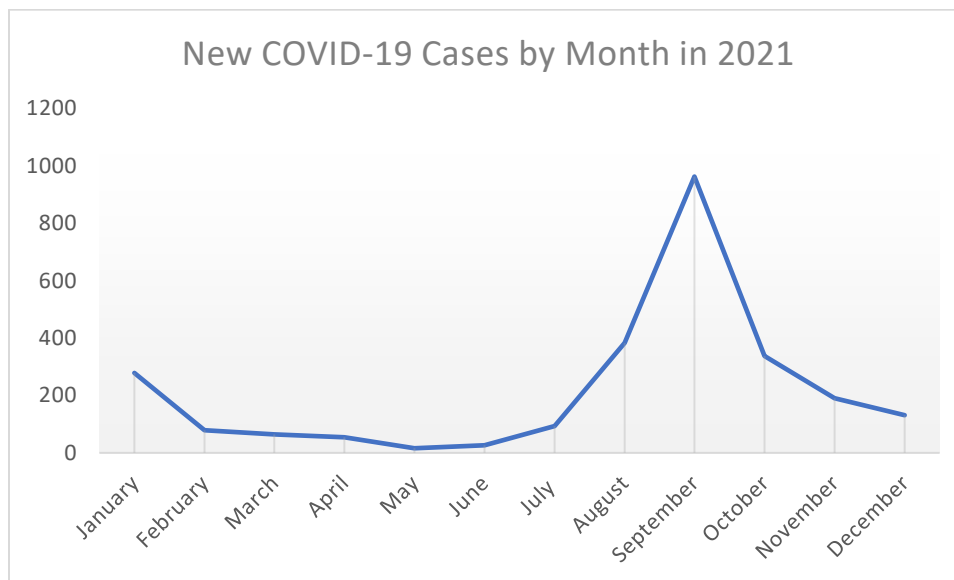
Lincoln County Health Department evaluates all animal bites for risk of exposure to rabies. After extensive risk exposure assessment and coordination with animal control to assess the availability of the animal, PEP may be recommended for the victim. The following chart is the number times PEP was recommended, not how many times PEP was given.

	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
PEP Recommendations	6	12	6	6	1	4	0

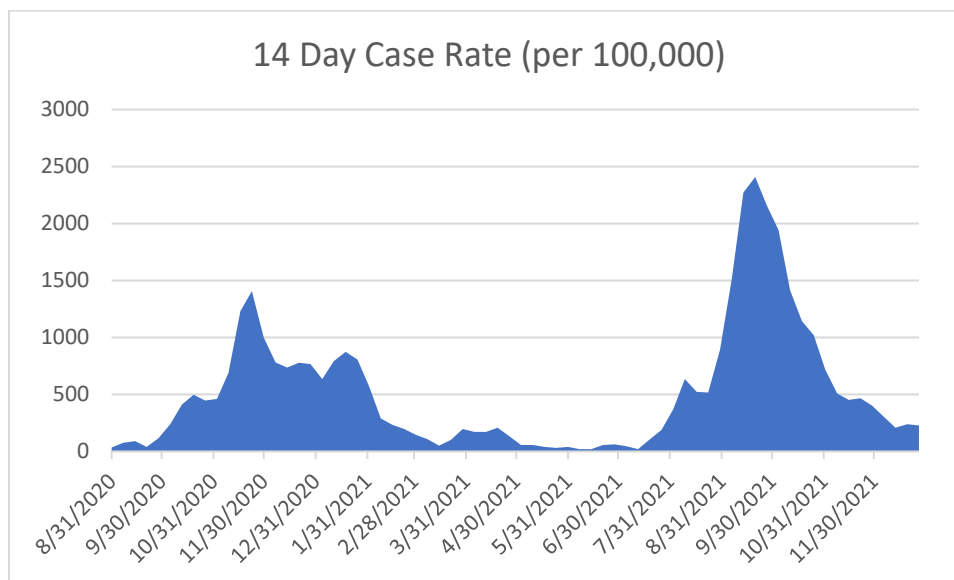
## COVID-19 PANDEMIC RESPONSE

In 2021, Public Health continued the pandemic response to COVID-19 through testing, contact tracing and vaccination efforts. COVID-19 is a reportable disease, and all reportable diseases are reported to the LCHD. For positive cases, LCHD staff reach out to individuals to assess health, provide guidance about care and exposure prevention and collect information about others who may have been exposed to COVID-19. Then they reach out to people identified as close contacts with instructions about quarantine in an effort to slow transmission.

Lincoln County saw **2615** new reported cases of COVID-19 in 2021.



This graph shows the number of cases in the county over 14 days per 100,000 people by date of new case. Population is based on 2010 Census data of 19,687 Lincoln County residents.





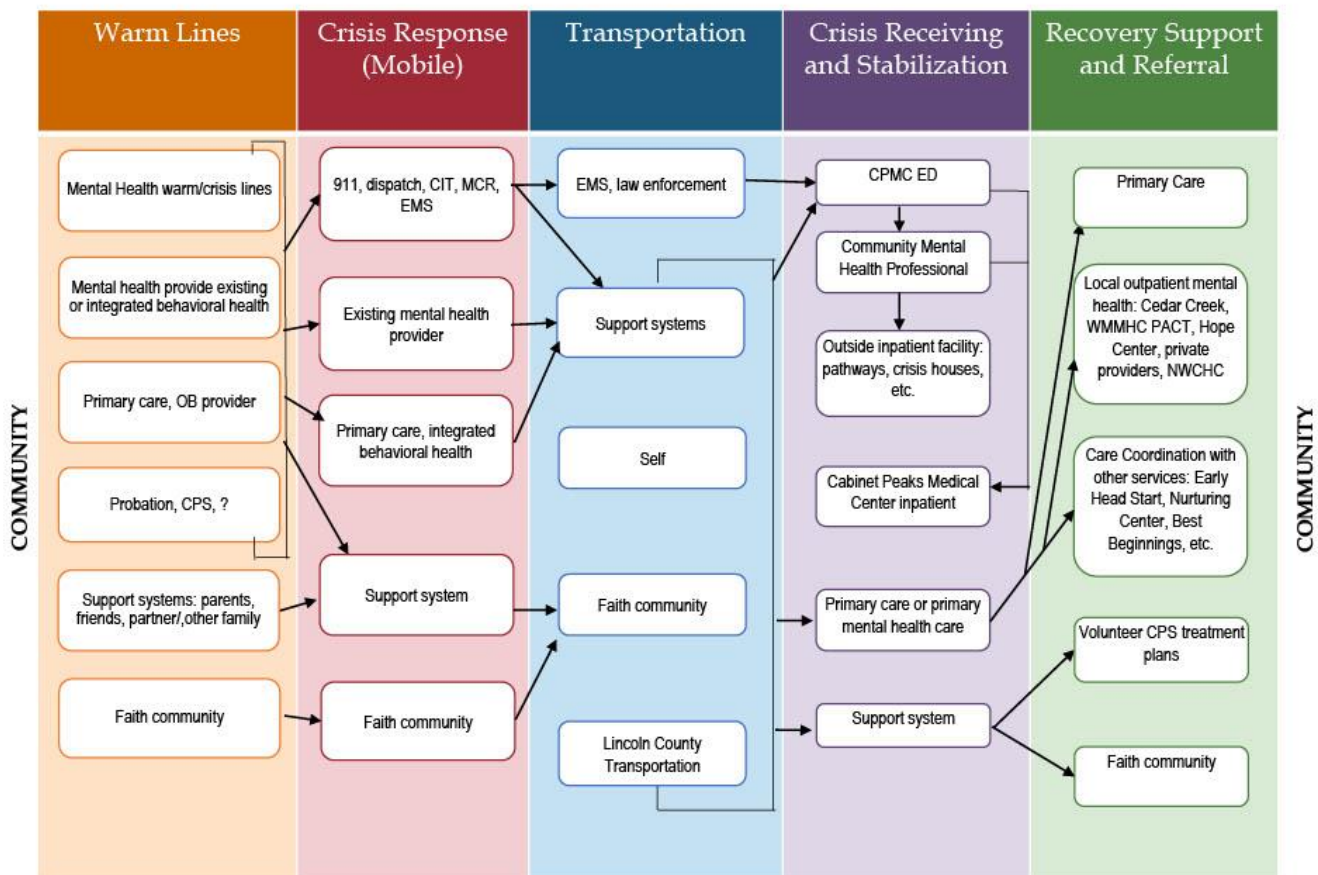
## Sequential Intercept Mapping

In 2020 Lincoln County Health Department, Zero to Five and other partners participated in a Sequential Intercept Mapping (SIM) Workshop, with funding support from Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies, to map the experience of justice involved people with mental health and/or substance use disorders. In 2021, we took a deeper dive into how a woman experiencing post-partum crisis experiences the system.

SIM is an evidence-based community strategic planning tool to assess available resources, determine gaps in services and plan for community change by advancing community-based solutions for justice involved people with mental and substance use disorders. Together, with a team of multidisciplinary stakeholders including but not limited to, mental health, substance use, law enforcement, pretrial, courts, detention centers, probation, housing, health, social services, emergency services, we:

- Developed a comprehensive picture of how people with mental and substance use disorders flow through the criminal justice system.
- Identified gaps, resources and opportunities at each intercept for adults with mental and substance use disorder and
- Developed priorities for action designed to improve system and service-level responses for adults with mental and substance use disorders.

### Postpartum Crisis System Map



## Tobacco Prevention

Lincoln County Tobacco Prevention Specialist (TPS), through affiliation with the Montana Tobacco Use Prevention Program (MTUPP), works collaboratively with diverse local organizations and community members to promote tobacco free lifestyles and policies to achieve the goals of decreasing tobacco use, nicotine addiction, and secondhand smoke exposure in Lincoln County.

To increase public awareness and support of tobacco use prevention and cessation, TPS shared information by submitting press releases and ads to local media outlets; conducted presentations to professional groups, decision makers, students, and the public, and participated in local events. TPS offered support, resources and signage to local businesses and organizations to educate about secondhand smoke and the Montana Clean Indoor Air Act.

TPS assisted local organizations, agencies, and businesses with the development and implementation of policies that support tobacco use prevention and continued to work with local schools and youth groups to engage students in youth advocacy activities in the schools and community. TPS worked to promote tobacco cessation and the many services of the Montana Tobacco Quit Lines; The Montana Quit Line Program, Pregnancy & Post-Partum Program, American Indian Commercial Tobacco Quit Line, and My Life My Quit Program for youths under the age of 18.



MONTANA TOBACCO



# Zero to Five Collaborative

*We envision a Lincoln County where all families with children ages 0-5 are valued, connected and empowered through community supported parenting (supported families).*

Zero to Five Lincoln County is a multi-sector, county wide collaborative working together with a variety of partners, agencies, and community members to make a positive impact in the lives of families with young children. We strive for a county in which all families with young children are valued, connected, and empowered because we believe that “every kid in every corner of Lincoln County counts.”

We employ 5 major strategies in our collaborative efforts to support families with children:

- Strategically aligning community collaboratives for efficiency and effectiveness
- Strengthening partner capacity through commitment and support
- Connecting families with resources in ways that are respectful, accessible, and easy to navigate
- Co-creating with parents/caregivers
- Collaborating with partners to provide opportunities for family engagement

## **1000 Books Before Kindergarten:**

This collaborative program offered through Lincoln County Library is designed to promote reading to newborns, infants, and toddlers. 1000 Books Before Kindergarten provides a simple, innovative approach to establishing strong early literacy skills and encourages parent and child bonding through reading. Together, families can read books, reach milestones, and win prizes. In 2021, we enrolled 111 children across the county who read a total of 5,544 books.

## **Bright By Text:**

Bright by Text is a free program for parents and caregivers that sends tips and resources promoting child development, targeted to a child’s age from prenatal to 8 years old, right to their cell phone. Each text message has a link to a landing page with more information, including short modeling videos, related books, games, and other resources. Partner agencies are also able to share local messages about upcoming opportunities and resources. Current enrollment includes 95 subscribers for a total of 119 children.







## Kid's Corner at the Market:

Kid's Corner at the Market is a collaborative program that provides a safe, fun space for families with young children to gather at local farmers' markets. Collaborative partners team up to provide fun, engaging activities including games, crafts, projects, and free play. Additionally, local social service agencies provide a wide range of resources and incentives for families with young children. In the summer of 2021, Zero to Five Lincoln County and our partners provided 11 Kid's Corners throughout the county including in Libby, Troy, Eureka, Yaak, and Trego.

## Troy Library and Opportunity Center (TLOC):

Troy Library and Opportunity Center (TLOC) collaborates with local partners including Zero to Five Lincoln County to create a welcoming, safe place where community members can congregate, learn new skills, and discover opportunities that will build resiliency in families and provide support to parents and caregivers. Zero to Five Lincoln County is proud to partner with Lincoln County Library to share resources, to connect with

other agencies, and to provide staff support for projects such as 1,000 books before Kindergarten, Mother Goose on the Loose, Story Time, Troy's Community Connections Dinner, and Kid's Corners at the Market.

## Family Strong-Eureka:

Family Strong is a collaborative program that offers regular gatherings at the Creative Arts Center and in the greater Eureka area. Families with young children can engage in a variety of fun-filled opportunities that foster connection. Activities include playgroup, arts and crafts, special projects, and holiday events. Additionally, Family Strong hosts guest speakers, provides community resources, and offers snacks and incentives.



## Ongoing Outreach Efforts:

Zero to Five Lincoln County participates in a variety of outreach opportunities throughout the county. More specifically, we connect with families at special events, holiday programs, picnics, partner agency offerings, and school events. We also invest in a wide range of partner programs including but not limited to local holiday programs, welcome baskets for new parents, and provision of supplies such as diapers, wipes, and sleepers.

## Partner Capacity:

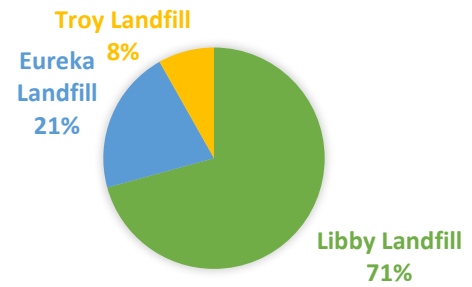
Zero to Five Lincoln County partners with other coalitions and agencies to help build local capacity and sustainability in early childhood efforts. For example, we work closely with partners to share in the provision and promotion of collaborative trainings. These trainings include but are not limited to Search Institute's Developing Relationships and Engaging Families, Linking Systems of Care -Trauma Informed Approaches, Transformational Leadership, Collaborative Essentials, and GPS Peer Support Training. Additionally, we have collaborated with a variety of statewide and local partners to help facilitate projects such as collaborative mixers, maternal mental health mapping, community visioning sessions, and resource inventory development.



# SOLID WASTE & RECYCLING

Lincoln County's solid waste district is county wide! In addition to the class II landfill in Libby and class III landfills in Eureka and Troy, there are 15 residential-use and 22 specific-use green box (dumpster) sites dispersed throughout the county to allow for the disposal of refuse without having to travel long distances.

In 2021, the landfills in Lincoln County received a total of 93,304 user visits. The Libby Landfill received 66,613 visits from private vehicles, the Eureka Landfill received 19,851 visits, and the Troy Landfill received 7,710 visits.



**Percentage of Landfill Users**

## Landfill Expansion

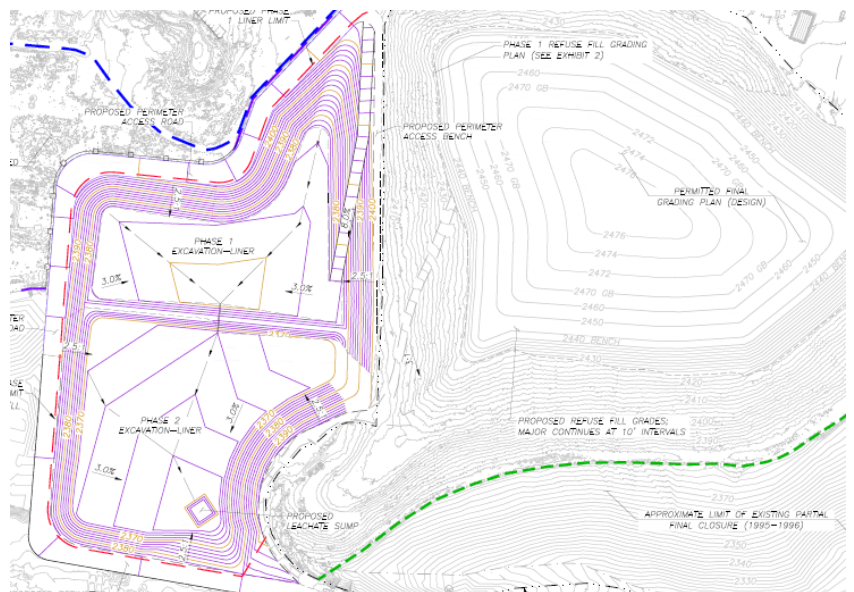


The Libby Class II Landfill is surveyed every fall. October 2021 data shows that this landfill received approximately 51,617 cubic yards of compacted refuse and cover soil since the previous October. This is an approximate 22% increase over 2020 volumes; however, most of this increase was determined to be from the demolition of the Troy Mine site. The survey data indicates that there is approximately 281,173 cubic yards, or six years, of capacity remaining in the currently permitted landfill cell.

The Libby Landfill is in the planning stages of an 11.9 acre expansion on the western edge of the current landfill cell. This expansion will be completed in two phases, with Phase 1 totaling almost six acres. The new landfill cell will be engineered and constructed with a bottom liner, landfill gas collection and treatment, leachate storage and treatment, and final cover to meet current regulations. Landfill staff began preliminary clearing of the future expansion area to provide access to suitable clay soils for covering of the existing landfill cell.

Phase 1 of expansion is projected to cost \$5.8 million and will extend the life of the permitted landfill by approximately 10 years, to 2036. Lincoln County was awarded a \$2 million American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Water & Sewer Grant and the County Commissioners have committed an additional \$900,000 in ARPA Local Fiscal Recovery Funds towards the cost of this major project.

The Health Department is in the process of selecting an engineering firm for the design, licensing, and construction of the expansion. Engineer selection will be finalized in February 2022. Design and licensing are expected to be completed in 2023. Construction should be completed in the fall of 2024.



## Recycling

While recycling revenue may not translate into a direct profit for the landfill, any materials that can be diverted save valuable landfill space and increase the lifespan of the landfill, delaying costly expansion.

Geographic Area	PAPER	ALUMIUM CANS	STEEL CANS	CARDBOARD
Eureka	15939	3879	-	101040
Libby	16135	3094	1419	210705
Troy	-	3810	1549	32974
Totals	32074	10783	2968	344719

**In 2021, Lincoln County recycled 469,680 lbs. (234.84 tons)  
of paper, cans, and cardboard!**



In addition to the recycled materials listed above, the following materials are diverted from disposal at Lincoln County landfills:

- **Used Motor Oil:** 2970 Gallons of used oil was sent to the Troy Road department shop to be utilized in their oil heating system in Libby and 870 gallons was utilized by Big Sky Tire in Eureka.
- **Anti-Freeze:** 200 Gallons of used anti-freeze from Libby and Eureka were picked up to be recycled by Tri-State recyclers.
- **CFC containing appliances:** 489 Refrigerators, Freezers, and AC systems had the refrigerant removed by landfill staff for recycling by Johnstone Corporation in Missoula.
- **Batteries:** 523 automotive and small equipment batteries for cores were sold for recycling to Interstate Battery Corporation of Spokane.
- **Scrap Metals:** 1,062.71 Tons scrap metal was collected and sold for 2021. The metal storage area at the Libby Landfill was doubled in size to allow the program to increase time between metal baling events to maximize revenues by taking advantage of fluctuations in scrap prices.
- **Tires:** 2,200 cubic yards, or approximately 23,375 tires, were transported to the Greenwood Tire disposal facility in Flathead County.
- **Concrete:** 505.25 Cubic Yards of concrete was deposited in the class IV cells in Libby, Troy, and Eureka.
- **Rechargeable Batteries:** 239 lbs. of rechargeable batteries were sent to Call2Recycle.
- **E-Waste:** 1212 lbs. of e-waste was sent to Yellowstone Recycling Solutions for processing.
- **Asphalt:** 250 Cubic yards of Asphalt was delivered to the Libby landfill for use on-site.
- **Junk Vehicles:** 70 junk vehicles were accepted for recycling through the Junk Vehicle Program



## Junk Mobile Homes

Montana legislation allows Lincoln County's Junk Vehicle Program to use up to 20% of their annual grant to dispose of junk mobile homes and junk nonmotorized vehicles such as campers and boats. This flexibility in funding allowed Solid Waste & Recycling to accept 32 unlivable or abandoned mobile homes and numerous nonmotorized vehicles for disposal in 2021.



### Class IV Asbestos Cell

During 2021, qualified Libby landfill personnel operated the Class IV asbestos cell to provide safe and convenient disposal of 1,533 cubic yards of asbestos containing material removed from Lincoln County properties.

The EPA's former Operations and Maintenance plan for the Class IV landfill is in the process of being updated to show new operating steps as procedures are developed for different dumping scenarios.

## Troy Landfill Improvements

A new and improved gate shack was installed at the Troy Landfill. The new building is bigger and has more efficient heating and cooling. Additional windows allow the site attendant to better observe vehicles entering the landfill and disposal areas.

New directional and informational signs have been installed to complete the landfill's makeover.

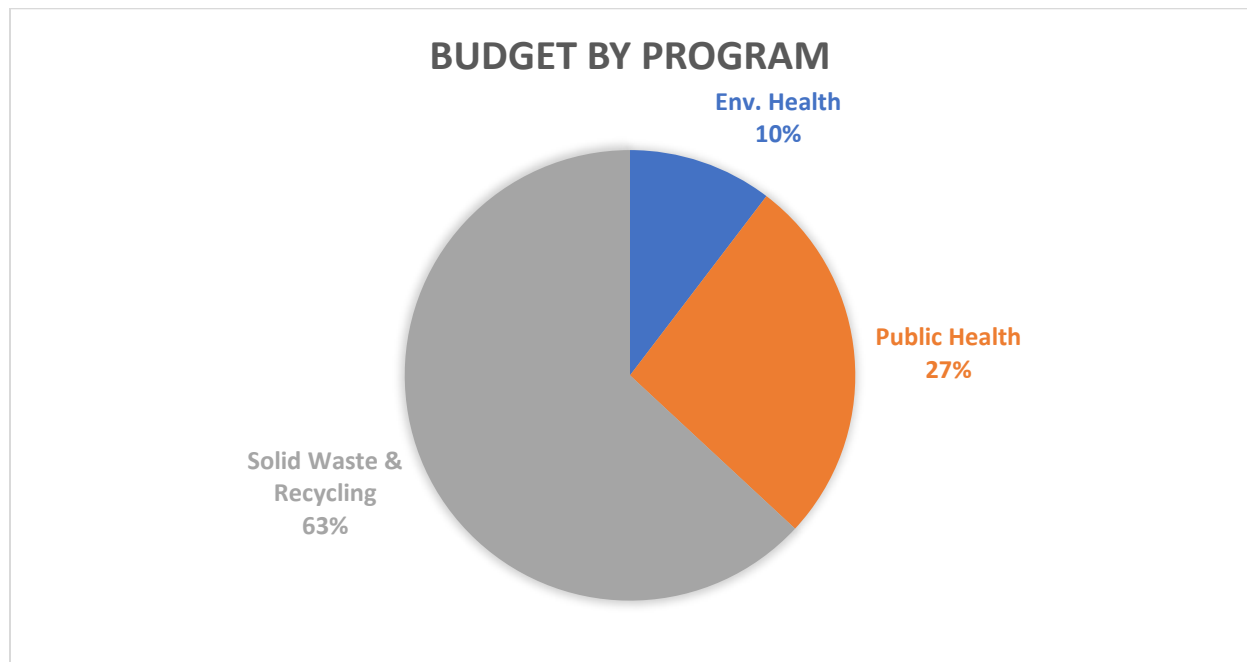
The Troy Landfill now has internet and there are plans for a video monitoring/security system to be installed next year.



# HEALTH DEPARTMENT

## BUDGET

### Fiscal Year 2020 - 2021



From July 2020 to June 2021 (FY21), the Lincoln County Health Department employed 22 people, including full time, part time and seasonal employees. Thirteen of these employees worked in Solid Waste and Recycling, four worked in Environmental Health and Planning, and five worked in Public Health.

The Health Department works hard to utilize grants, contracts and other available funding sources to support our programs. The Solid Waste & Recycling budget is entirely supported through refuse assessment fees, landfill tipping fees and the sale of recyclable materials. All Environmental and Public Health programs are at least partially funded by grants, cooperative agreements, contracts and permit/license fees. In FY21, less than 5% of the Health Department's annual budget was supported by local taxes through the county's General Fund.

The Health Department finished FY21 at 3% under budget, with an allocated budget of \$2,787,924 and actual expenditures of \$2,698,439.