

Introduction

This report highlights overall participation in the Nashua Region Solid Waste Management District's (NRSWMD) Household Hazardous Waste Program. This program is funded by municipal assessments, user fees, and a grant received by the Nashua Regional Planning Commission from the NH Department of Environmental Services. The following tables and figures reflect data from waste collection events held during 2022.

After a two year pause on detailed survey questions due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the district began using iPads to collect survey data and resumed asking residents how they heard about events and what types of waste they brought.

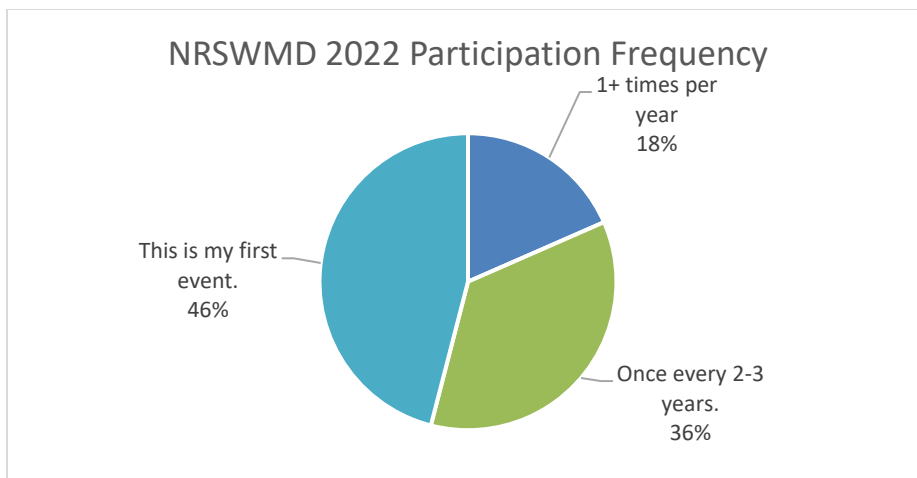
Collection Overview

Six events were held during 2022: five in Nashua and one satellite event in Milford. Residents from any of the eleven NRSWMD member municipalities could participate in any event. In odd-numbered years, a satellite event is typically held in Pelham.

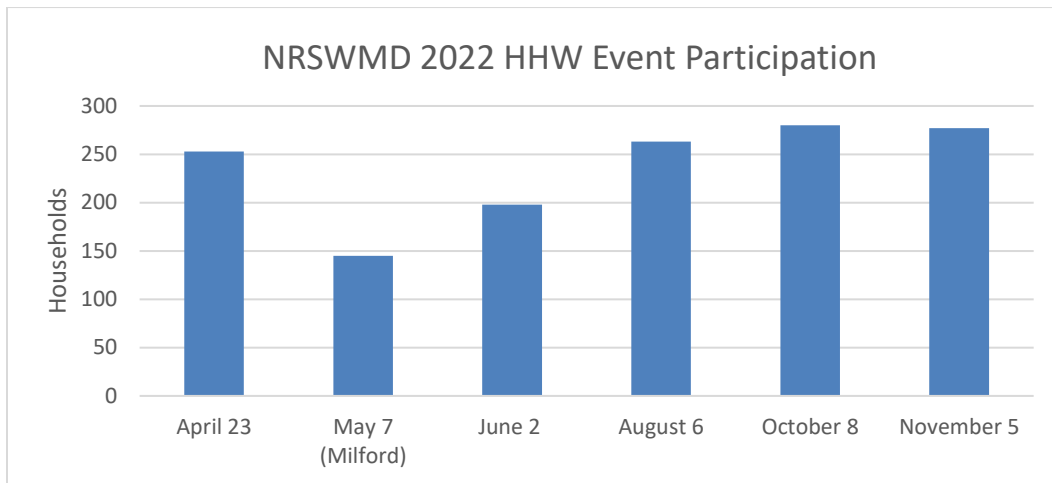
Saturday April 23, 8am-12pm, in Nashua	Saturday August 6, 8am-12pm, in Nashua
Saturday May 7, 8am -12pm, in Milford	Saturday October 8, 8am-12pm, in Nashua
Thursday June 2, 3pm-7pm , in Nashua	Saturday November 5, 8am-12pm, in Nashua

Participation

In 2022, a total of 1,416 households participated in the HHW collections. As pictured in the pie chart below, 36% of the participants indicated attending HHW collections every few years, 46% reported attending for their first time, and 18% reported attending at least one event every year.

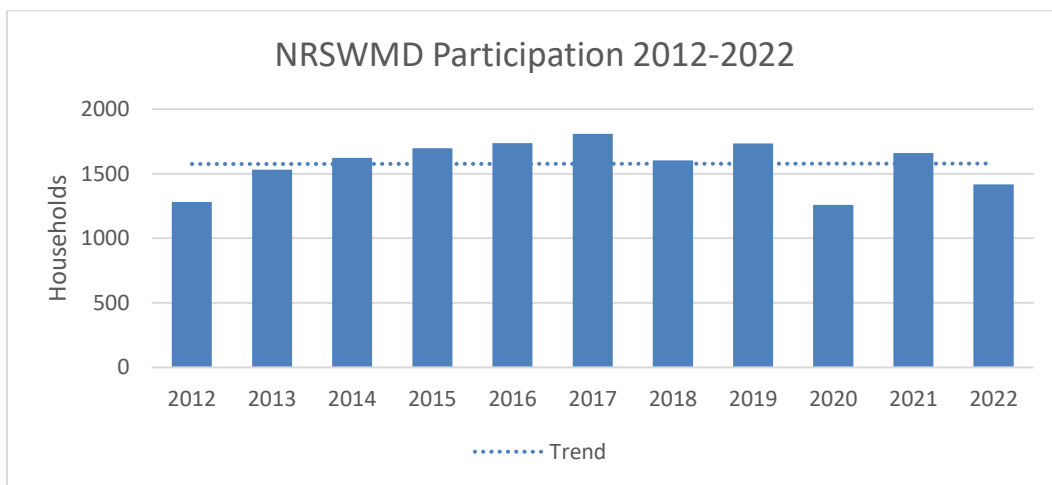


The most popular event in 2022 was the October 8 Nashua event, with 280 households participating, as shown in the bar chart below.



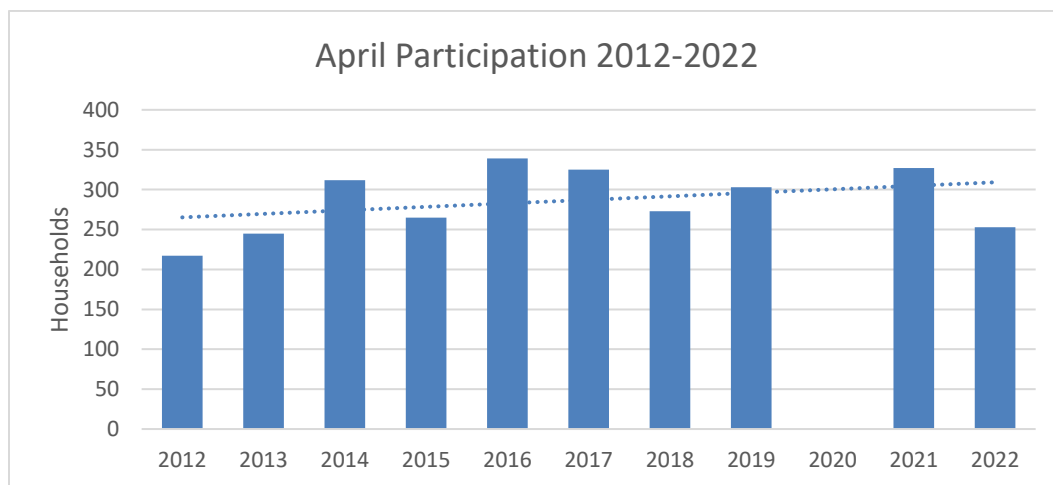
Historic Participation Trends

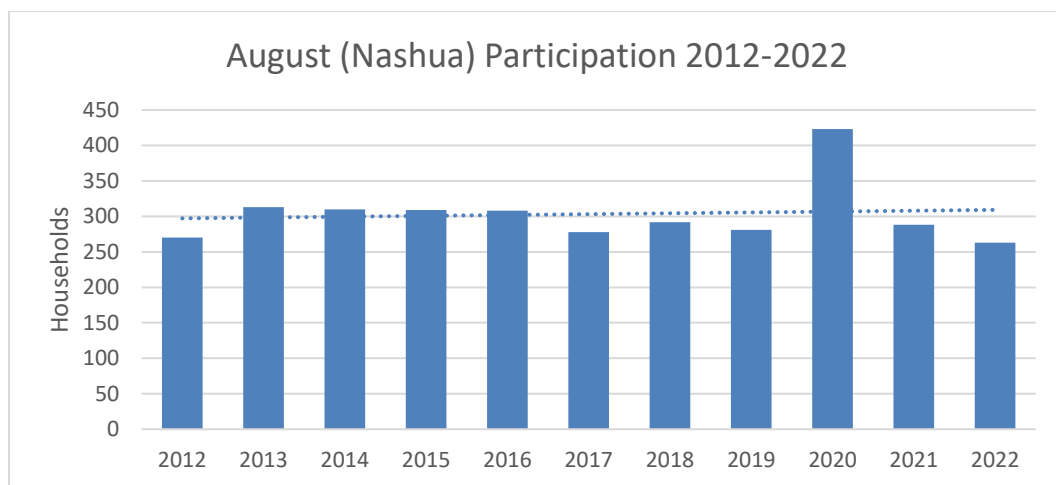
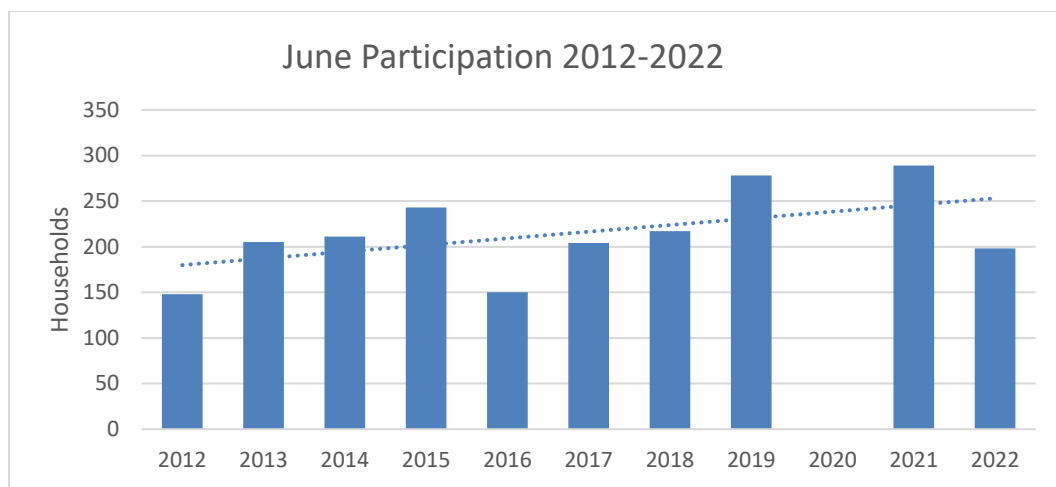
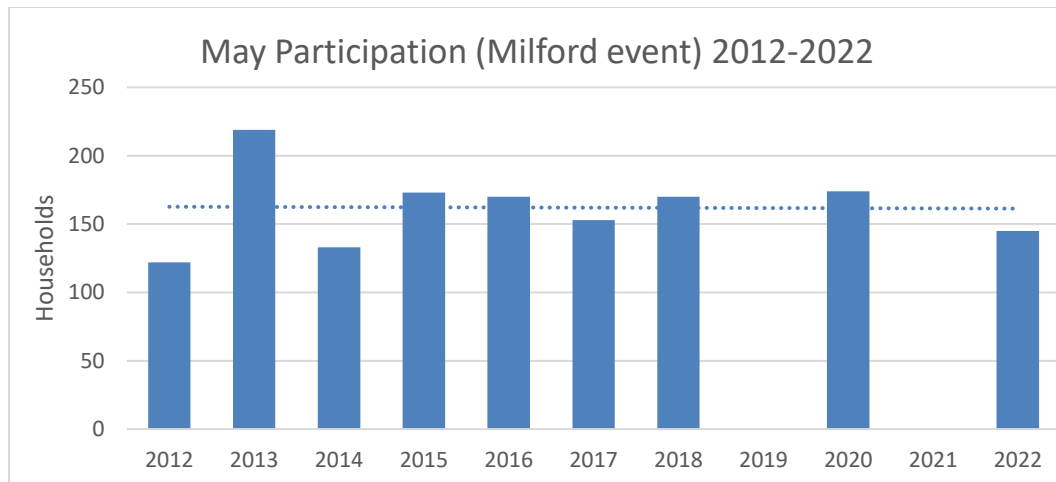
NRSWMD began charging a \$10 user fee per vehicle in 2008, which was raised to \$15 in 2019. While participation rates trended consistently upward between 2012 and 2017, they have fluctuated up and down since 2018. The district went from holding seven events to six events in 2018, and only four events were held in 2020 due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. The 2021 season showed rebounding attendance and record volumes of waste. 2022 attendance dipped back down, perhaps related to the record low number of houses listed for sale and fewer people preparing to move.

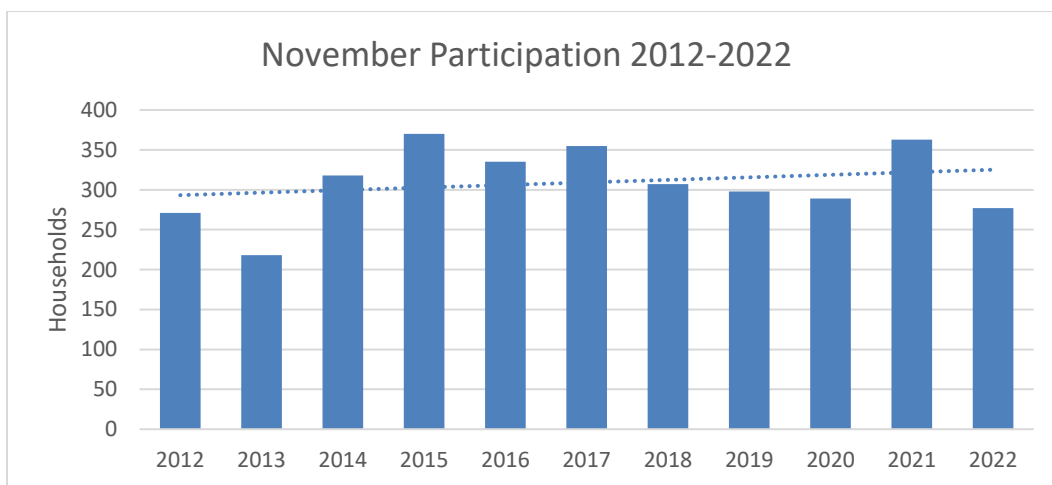
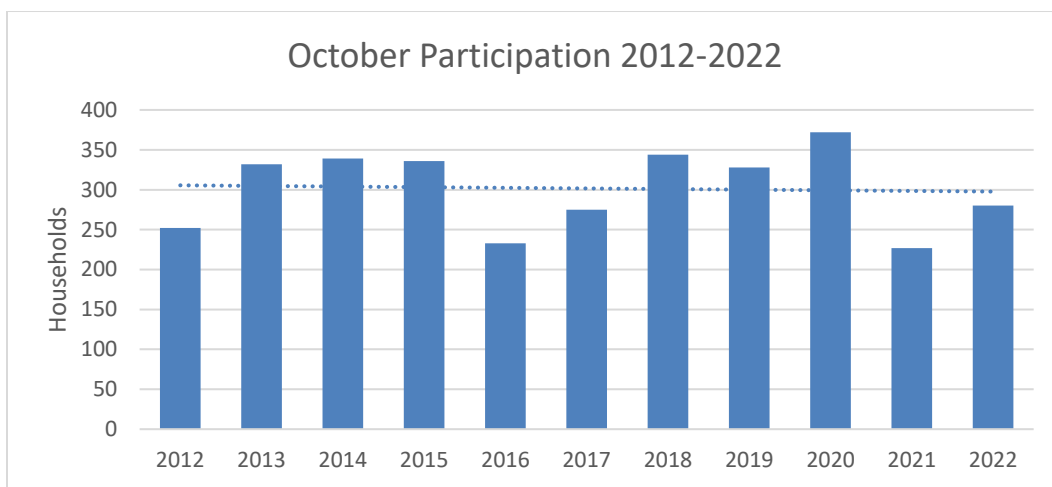
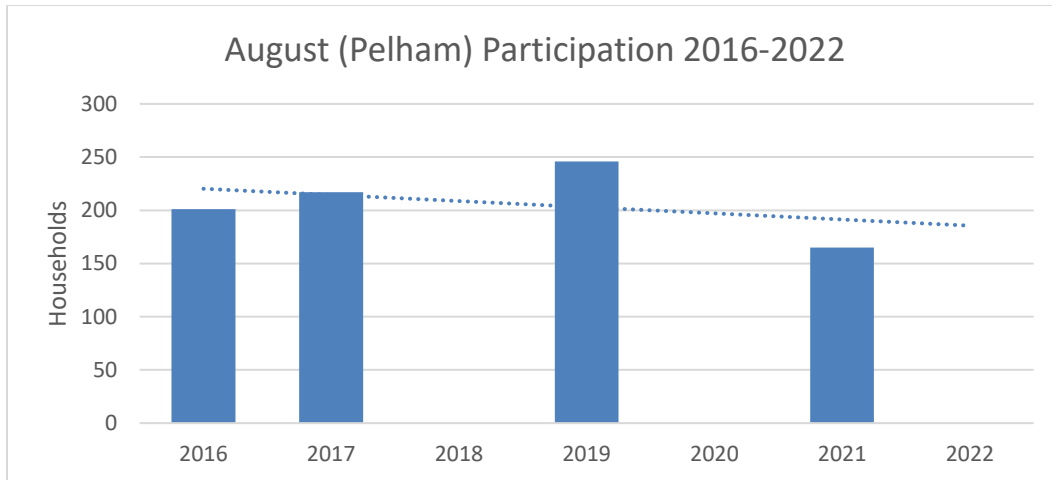


Year	April (Nashua)	May (Milford)	June (Nashua)	Aug. (Nashua)	Aug. (Pelham)	Oct. (Nashua)	Nov. (Nashua)	Total Households
2022	253	145	198	263	N/A	280	277	1,416
2021	327	N/A	289	288	165	227	363	1,659
2020	N/A	(Aug) 174	N/A	423	N/A	372	289	1,258
2019	303	N/A	278	281	246	328	298	1,734
2018	273	170	217	292	N/A	344	307	1,603
2017	326	153	204	278	217	275	355	1,808
2016	339	170	150	308	201	233	335	1,736
2015	265	173	243	309	N/A	336	370	1,696
2014	312	133	211	310	N/A	339	318	1,623
2013	245	219	205	313	N/A	332	218	1,532
2012	217	122	148	270	N/A	252	271	1,280

Attendance at each event tends to fluctuate from year to year, as seen in the table above and charts below. In 2020, two events were cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the Milford satellite event was postponed from May until August.





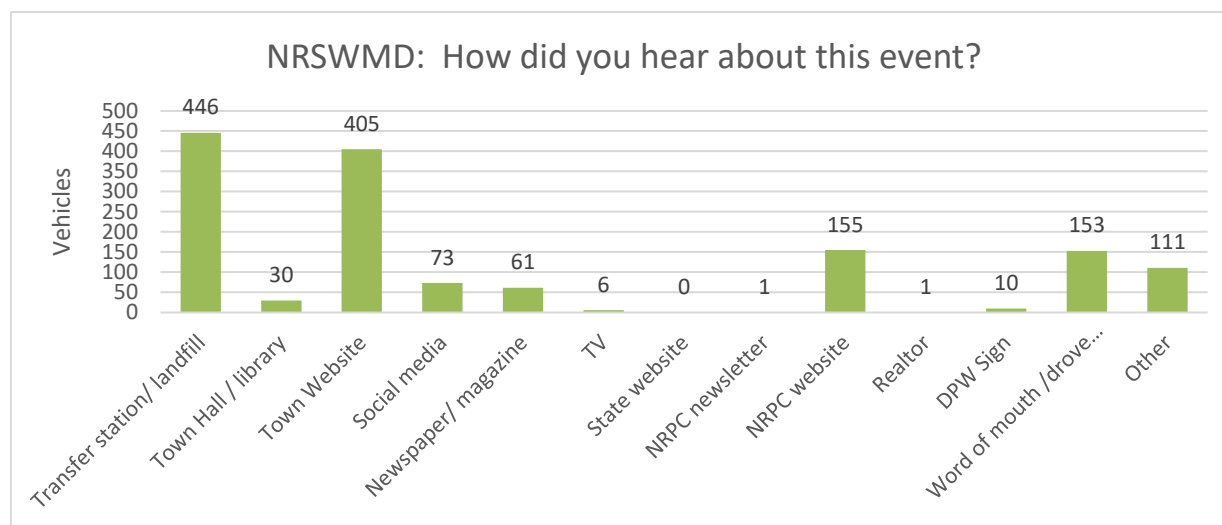


Marketing & Outreach

By tracking how participants learn about HHW events, the district can better target its marketing and outreach. In 2022, most participants learned about the collection events from their local transfer station

(446 vehicles), but many also learned about the events from their town website (405 vehicles), the NRPC website (155 vehicles), or by word of mouth (153).

In early 2022, the district provided new metal signs for each community to advertise the HHW collection events at their transfer stations.



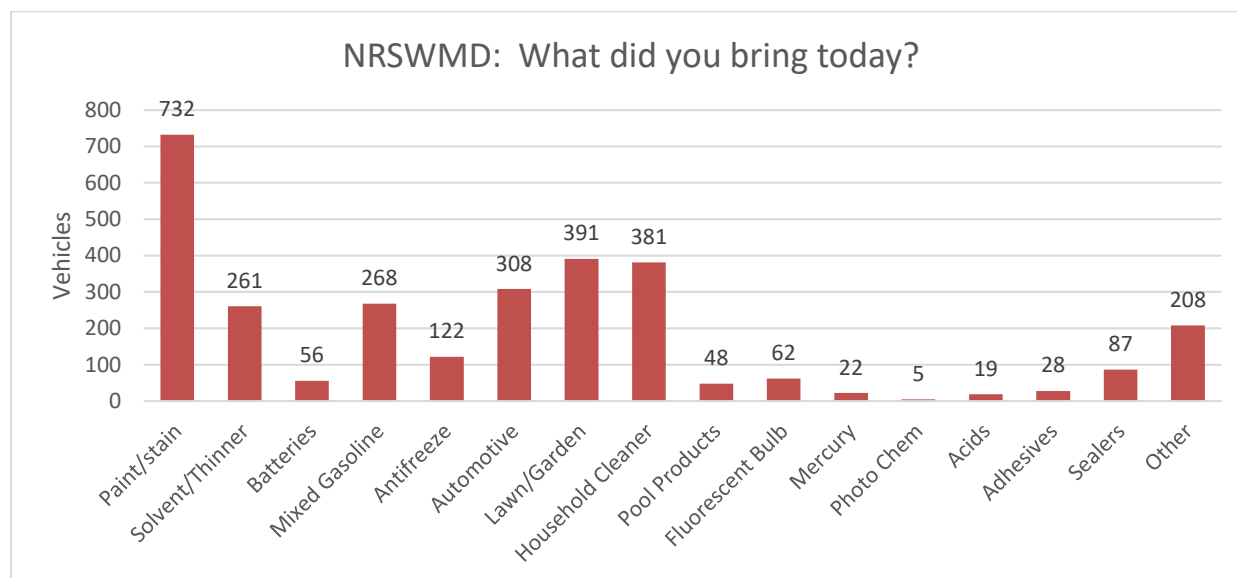
Materials Collected

The district manifested a total of 135,736 pounds of waste during the 2022 collection season. Of this, 121,857 pounds were hazardous, and 13,879 pounds were universal wastes. This is an increase of 1,492 pounds from the 2021 total (134,244 total pounds of waste in 2021: 123,347 pounds hazardous and 10,897 pounds universal).

2022 Volume by Event (Pounds)			
Date	Haz	Non-Haz	Total
4/23	27,452	4,642	32,094
5/7	10,151	700	10,851
6/2	14,286	1,721	16,007
8/6	34,255	2,669	36,924
10/8	18,705	2,006	20,711
11/5	17,008	2,140	19,148
2022 Totals	121,857	13,879	135,736

Participant surveys provide more detailed information on the types of waste being collected from each community. The types of waste collected in 2022, as reported on participant surveys, are shown in the figure below.

Participants reported paint/stain (732 vehicles), lawn/garden (391 vehicles), and household cleaner (381 vehicles) as the three most common types of waste.



Conclusions

Total event attendance decreased since last year. Meanwhile, the volume of waste has continued to increase. A tight housing market and busy post-pandemic schedules may have impacted household interest and participation. The Covid-19 pandemic's lingering impact on labor, supply chains and waste streams has put pressure on our communities and environmental contractor. The proper disposal of household hazardous waste is enormously important as it lessens our impact on the environment and the risks of accidental poisonings in the home. The dedication of our members and professional expertise of our environmental contractor have been vital to the success of this program: Thank you.