

SAN JUAN BASIN public health

Executive Director and Staff Report to the Board of Health

for January 2021

Staff Reports

Behavioral Health

Thriving Communities Program Team (TCP):

- Members of the Thriving Communities Team expanded **organizational capacity and identified and provided opportunities for employees to excel/innovate** by participating in the Positive Community Norms Monthly Learning Call with the Montana Institute and Rise Above Colorado.

Communities that Care (CTC):

- Members of the Thriving Communities Team improved access to resources, services, and/or programs by facilitating one collaborative advisory council meeting and three workgroup meetings with a variety of existing and new stakeholders **identifying and removing barriers to partner agency/stakeholder access.**

Suicide Prevention (SP)/Gun Shop Project:

- Members of the Thriving Communities Team **used innovative, equity-based strategies to address existing population and environmental public health issues** by facilitating a new stakeholder workgroup designed to address suicide prevention communications planning using existing demographic and industry specific indicators and by doing so **used data-informed process to evaluate promising practices to develop new programs that respond to community need.**

Social Determinants of Health

Health Insurance Literacy:

- The first half of January was dedicated to Open Enrollment, which ended on January 15th. We had fewer appointments towards the end of Open Enrollment, since most individuals re-applied in December. Most of the appointments during Open Enrollment in January was to make changes to the auto re-enrollment that occurred. The reason was that Friday Health Plans and Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield sent out letters prior to OE that told them their tax credits would remain the same, therefore their monthly premiums would remain the same for 2021. This was in fact, false, due to the introduction of Bright Health Plans. With lower costing Silver Plans, Bright changed the marketplace, and most individuals in La Plata and San Juan Counties experienced a decrease in their tax credits, therefore increasing their monthly premiums. These individuals were unaware of this change until they received their first bill January 1st. Fortunately, they were able to change their plans before the end of Open Enrollment. There were a select few that did not take action before the end of Open

Enrollment. Appointments slowed for the last two weeks of January, but talk of a COVID Special Open Enrollment has been mentioned for some time soon. Dates unknown. Outreach slowed due to the end of Open Enrollment.

Environmental Health

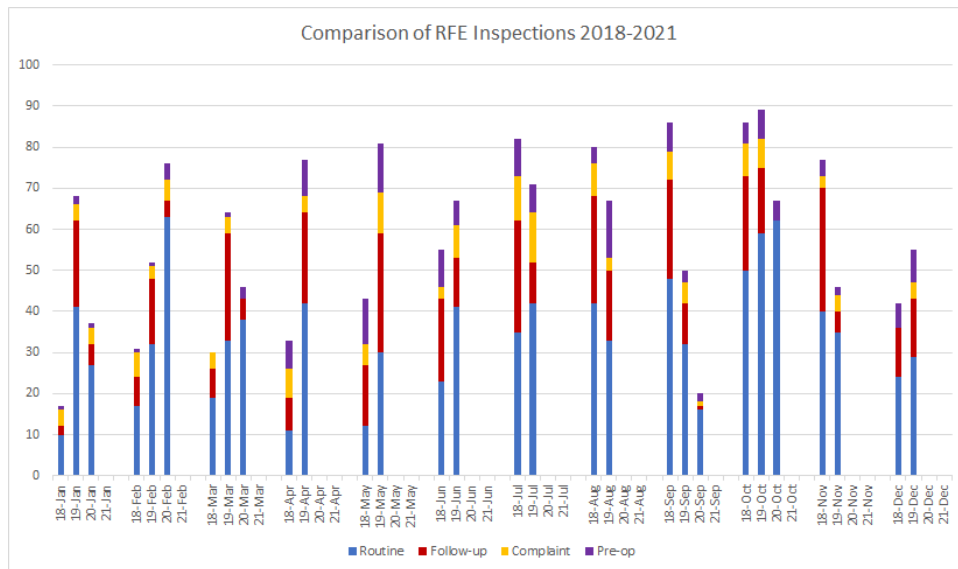
- EH services continue to be offered primarily online due to the COVID-19 pandemic. EH staff are deployed into multiple roles in the COVID-19 response.

Consumer Protection:

Retail Food Program

- Retail Food Renewal packets were sent out to Billable Retail Food Establishments. Renewal Applications were sent out to Fee-waived establishments. RF Staff is processing license renewals.

See reports below:



Childcare Inspection Program

- CDPHE Child Care staff has been assisting SJBP Child Care program by conducting remote routine inspections for our local licensed establishments.

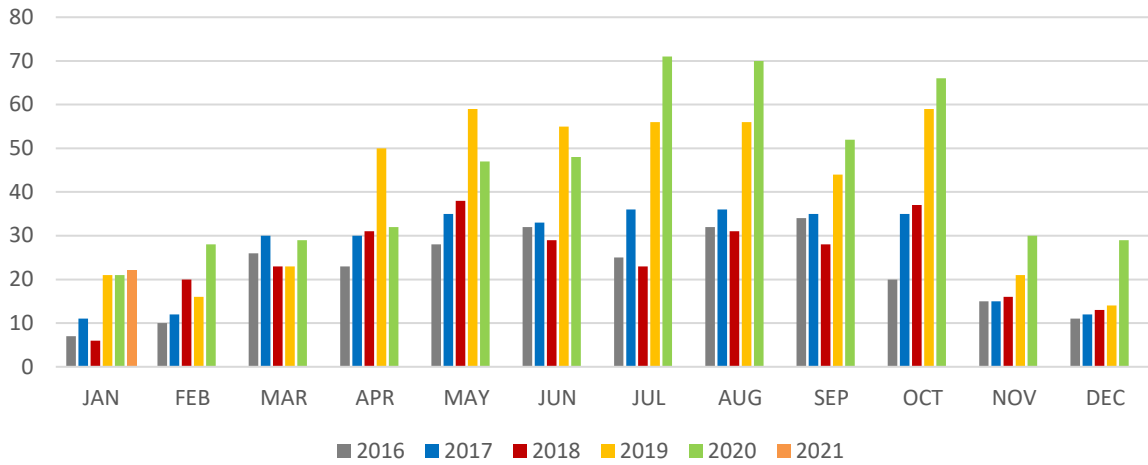
Water and Air Quality:

On-Site Wastewater Treatment Systems (OWTS)

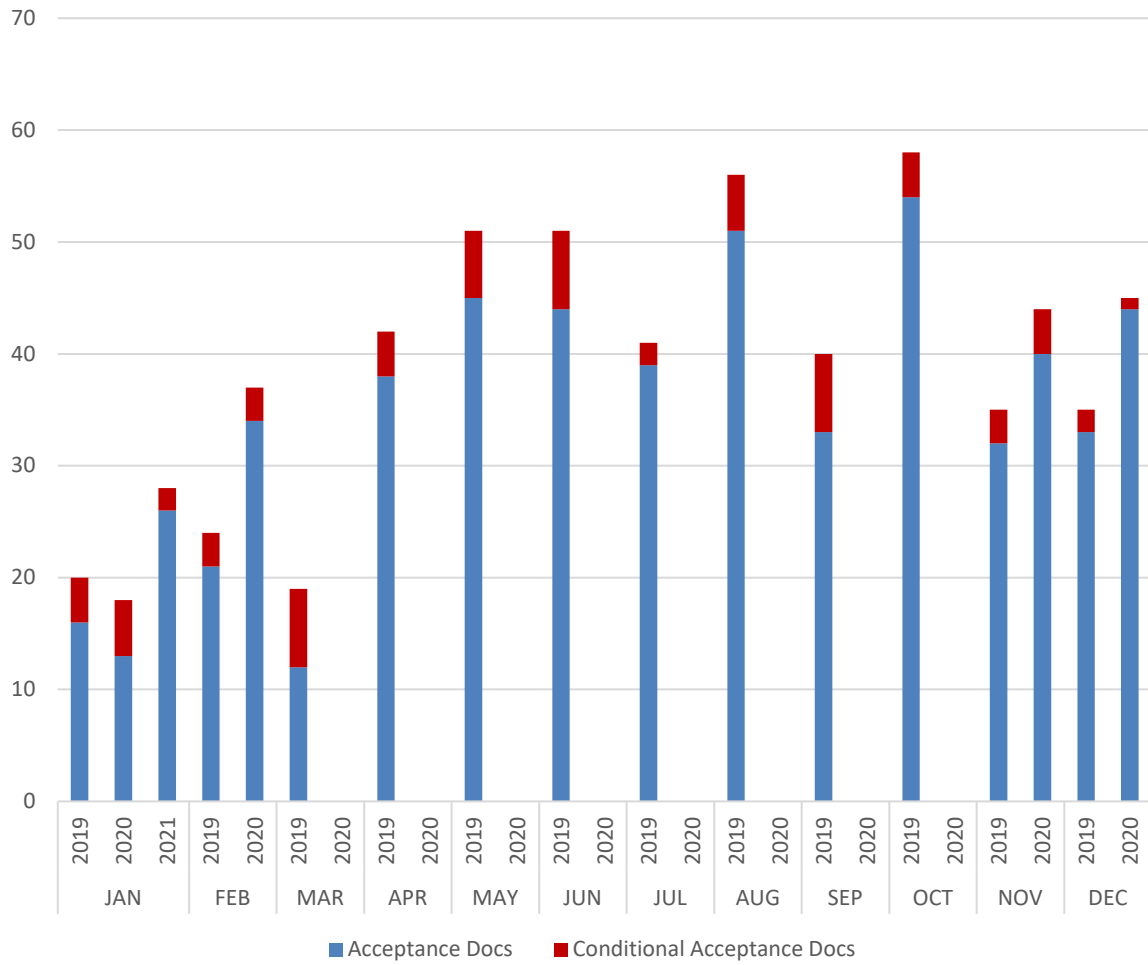
- SJBPH received 22 applications and issued 13 permits. Staff issued 26 Transfer of Title Acceptance Documents, and 2 Conditional Acceptance Documents. 19 inspections were conducted.

See charts below.

Number of OWTS Permit Applications by Month



2019-21 Transfer of Title Acceptance Documents by Month



Surface and Drinking Water

- No updates.

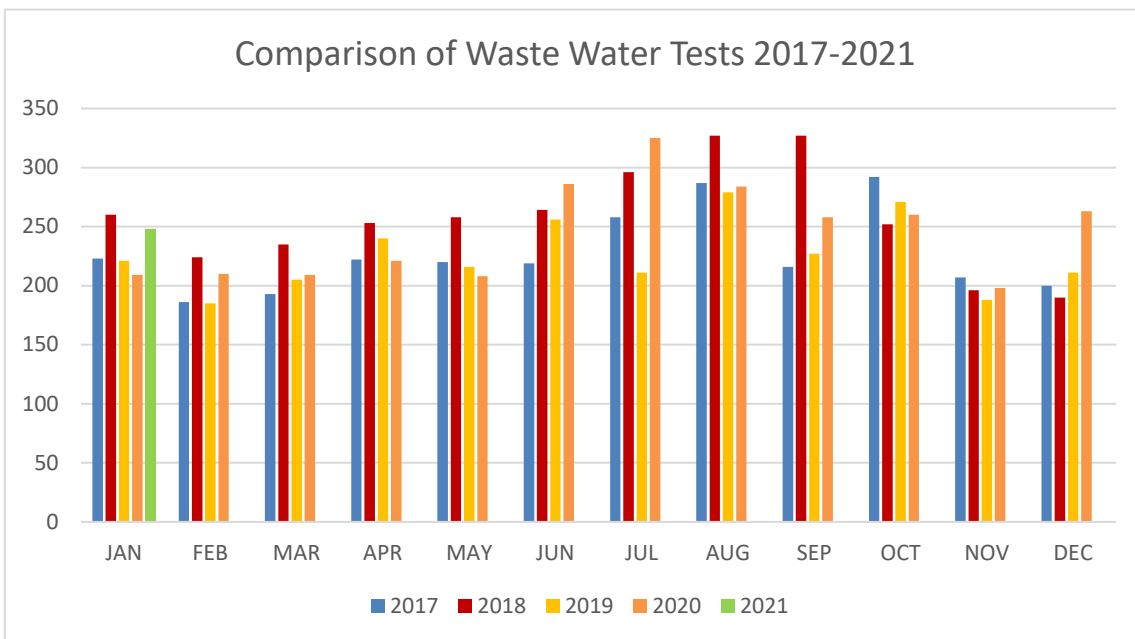
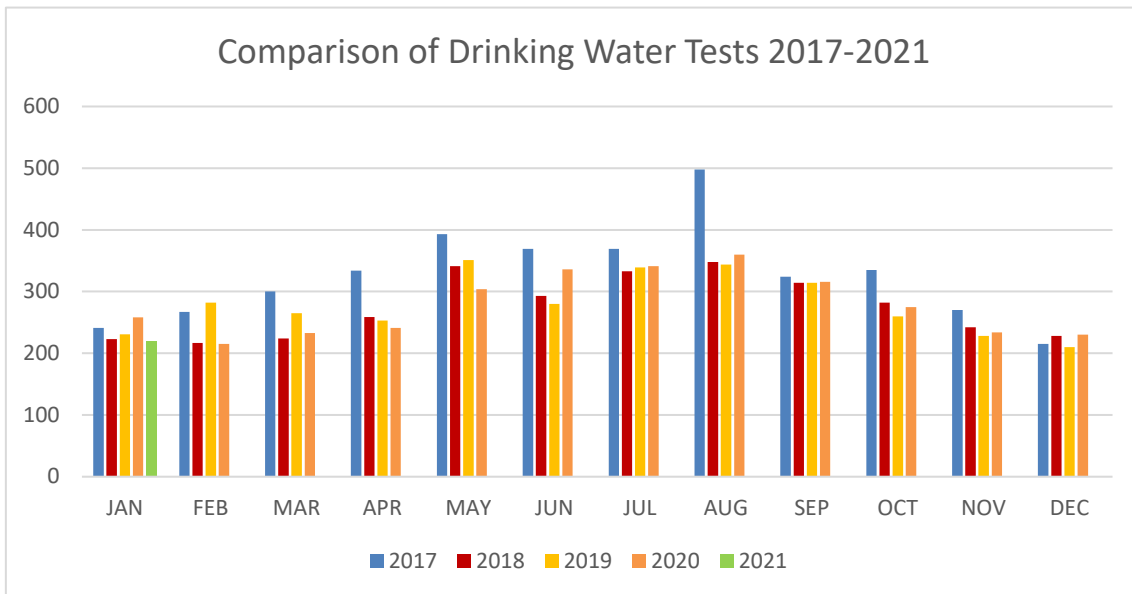
Radon

- Staff held three virtual radon workshops that provided education for 33 La Plata County residents and 4 Archuleta County residents. 36 test kits were distributed (33 La Plata, and 3 in Archuleta).

Water Lab

- Water lab staff processed 219 drinking water samples and 248 wastewater samples.

See charts below.



Health Behaviors

Baby and Me Tobacco Free:

- A pregnant mom and her partner enrolled in the Baby and Me Tobacco Free program to help them successfully quit their tobacco habit, **demonstrating the accessibility of this effective program.**

Clinic:

- The clinic initiated the transition from paper charts to an electronic health record system to **address gaps in sustainable infrastructure** by moving to a system that will allow for enhanced medical billing and patient tracking.
- The clinic continues to provide screening and treatment for sexually transmitted infections (STI) to **improve access to comprehensive STI care.**

Immunizations:

- The immunization clinic continues to provide routine immunizations to children and adults to **increase access to prevention services.**

Nurse Family Partnership (NFP):

- NFP nurses completed Danger Assessment Certification and HIPAA re-certification increasing staff knowledge and **demonstrating commitment to organizational excellence.**
- NFP team goal is to receive ongoing Motivational Interviewing/Stages of Change training 2X/month in 2021 from Mental Health Consultant **demonstrating commitment to organizational excellence.**
- SJBPH Sexual Health Clinic Program Manager provided in-service on clinic services at NFP team meeting **demonstrating commitment to organizational excellence.**

SafeCare:

- SafeCare has **addressed workforce development gaps** by attending the SafeCare Colorado Support & Empowerment Series on a monthly basis. For the month of January, the topic was Intimate Partner Violence, presented by Beth Collins of CDHS. In addition, SafeCare Supervisor attended two of a three-part series on Leading Improvement Projects through the Rocky Mountain Public Health Training Institute.
- Due to the resignation of 1.0 FTE Parent Support Provider, SafeCare has **addressed workforce development gaps** by creating staffing plan for the remainder of this fiscal year and the following fiscal year.

Statewide Tobacco Education and Prevention Partnership (STEPP):

- Position vacant

Women, Infants, and Children (WIC):

- SJBPH WIC manager met with the patient advocate at Mercy Family Medicine to provide overview of WIC, WIC rack cards, and how to refer to WIC, **demonstrating commitment to improve awareness of services.**
- SJBPH WIC manager met with the owner of The Community Treehouse in Bayfield to provide an overview of WIC, WIC rack cards and how to refer to WIC, **demonstrating commitment to improve awareness of services.**

Clinical Care Linkage

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

- The CPED program created a media campaign for Cervical Cancer Awareness month to **increase awareness to importance of preventative breast and cervical cancer screening.**
- The community health worker has focused health navigation of Spanish speaking patients to receive breast and cervical cancer screening to Axis Health Systems due to Title X program transition in order **to increase access to essential services.**

Delta Dental:

- Delta Care Coordinator provided care coordination, information and referrals to 22 clients in 5 counties, **fostering resiliency and improving access to care.**

Dental/Regional Oral Health Specialist (ROHS):

- ROHS team assisted with 2 referrals, **improving access to care.**

HCP Specialty Clinics/Maternal Child Health (MCH):

- HCP Team coordinated referrals and established appointments for 9 clients for Neurology telehealth clinic 1/22/21, **fostering resiliency and improving access to care.**

Language Services:

- The agency interpreter continues to translate SJBPH documents and website content to **increase awareness of COVID related information and general SJBPH information.**
- The SJBPH clinic continues to provide Spanish interpretation and health navigation to patients **to increase access to sexual health and immunization services.**

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF):

- TANF nurse educated and supported clients in accessing mental health services, **improving access to care.**
- Child, Adult and Family behavioral health services were referred and accessed depending on individual family's particular need.

Communicable Disease

Diseases reported January 1-January 31, 2020:

3 Animal Bites (1 La Plata; 2 Archuleta)
1 Pertussis (Archuleta)
1 Salmonellosis (La Plata)
1 Shiga Toxin Producing E. Coli (STEC) (La Plata)
1 Varicella (Chicken Pox) (La Plata)

Communicable Disease:

COVID-19 outbreak. Regional Epi has been involved with:

- providing guidance to health care partners including screening information, disinfection protocols, and general best practices for facilities.
- Immunizations/public health nurse began training in communicable disease.

Tuberculosis (TB):

- Worked to get testing results in to start treatment on possible LTBI clients. Also worked to get testing performed on clients who had not responded to initial calls.
- Training the “new” immunizations nurse on TB, the database and our protocols.

Emergency Preparedness and Response

Emergency Preparedness and Response:

- Staff participated in the La Plata/Durango Airport full scale exercise planning meeting to ensure infection prevention measures are included in the exercise **by identifying and addressing gaps in partner agency/stakeholder knowledge.**
- By participating in the strategic planning of the Community COVID Vaccine Team's Point of Dispensing (POD), **staff integrated culturally responsive health equity concepts into new and existing programs.**

Equity in Emergency Preparedness:

- Health Equity meeting – team is working on finding health equity training for an upcoming all-staff meeting.
- Task Force continues to suggest ideas for a project. To be finalized in February.

Universal Activities

Administrative Services:

HR Staffing Updates

February

- The following vacancies were filled since the last report:
 - Communicable Disease Specialist I x 1, COVID-19 Liaison Officer
- The following vacancies have been hired for with future start dates:
 - Substance Use Prevention Coordinator (internal move)
- Recruitment continues for the following staff positions:
 - Communicable Disease Specialist I, Communicable Disease Specialist II, Health Educator, Communicable Disease Manager, Environmental Health Assistant

Assessment and Planning:

- Staff supported **data requests** from internal and external partners who were then able to **provide evidence-based public health recommendations.**
- Staff met with the Child Fatality Prevention System's state facilitator to discuss improving our process and **increasing community partnerships.**
- Staff participated in several webinars focused on topics including "Culture Inclusion and Equity Action Collaborative" and "Data Saving Lives: How ODMAP can Support Community Efforts to Stop Overdose Death", **allowing for opportunities to excel and innovate.**

Communications:

- In January, 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, contact tracing, COVID dial information, COVID precautions, COVID 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 the Regional Oral Health program, Emergency Preparedness, Nurse-Family Partnership, SafeCare, and WIC. Communications were through a variety of channels including print, radio, tv, social media, and email.
- In January, SJBPH communications staff distributed **one** agency e-newsletter (January), **4** weekly COVID updates, wrote and distributed **5** media releases, responded to **34** media

inquiries, posted **176** tweets, and **164** Facebook posts to both SJBPH's main FB page, and to its COVID-19 page. Posts were focused on the coronavirus outbreak, local COVID-19 data, vaccine distribution, COVID-19 prevention, mental health during COVID-19, COVID-19 testing info, contact tracing, and promoting SJPBH programs and services. SJBPH was featured in **48** articles/radio/tv stories in newspapers, online news outlets, and local radio stations. In January, SJBPH had over **400,000** Facebook impressions (# of eyes on our posts), and **134,285** Twitter impressions. Our FB engagement (action taken such as commenting or sharing a post) was over **25,000**, and Twitter had **2,765** engagements. **These activities help to improve awareness and acceptance of public health resources, services, programs, and value to the community.**

Facilities/Fleet:

- No updates.