

SAN JUAN BASIN public health

Executive Director and Staff Report to the Board of Health

for March 2021

Staff Reports

Behavioral Health

Thriving Communities Program Team (TCP):

- Members of the Thriving Communities team **sought opportunities to work with non-traditional partners to solve public health issues** by participating on food systems coalitions in both La Plata and Archuleta counties and by doing so **used innovative, equity-based strategies to address existing population and environmental public health issues.**

Communities that Care (CTC):

- The CTC Community Mobilizer **improved acceptance of resources, services, and/or programs** by organizing workgroups to deliver positive community norming messaging and promoting pro-social social events and by doing so **identified and addressed barriers to community/public acceptance of evidence-based public health concepts.**

Suicide Prevention (SP)/Gun Shop Project:

- The Thriving Communities Program Manager **used data-informed process to evaluate promising practices to develop new programs that respond to community need** by working with a local non-profit partner to align suicide prevention trainings and promoting of safe storage of firearms to high risk industries and individual in La Plata County and by doing so **identified and addressed barriers to community/public acceptance of evidence-based public health concepts**

Social Determinants of Health

Health Insurance Literacy:

- March's focus was primarily working on outreach due to the continued Uninsured Enrollment Period (UEP). The UEP was extended to August 15th, 2021. Although the UEP has been open for over a month, our numbers have not increased from last year. This is reported common throughout other counties in Colorado. Outreach included investing in Radio Ads, and Durango Herald Pop Up Ad - a new advertising that we are experimenting with. We hosted a UEP webinar, and also participated in the SJBPH's Community Resource Fair Webinar. We reached out to the Durango BID and the local Workforce Center to establish a relationship and to encourage future referrals. Emma also received additional Program Manager training from C4HCO, after review during our Quarterly Meeting. We also applied for additional funding from C4HCO to apply towards our outreach efforts this year. We continued planning for Emma's pregnancy leave, with a couple of bumps along the way (AXIS employment ending, transition of employee to different department, etc.).

Environmental Health

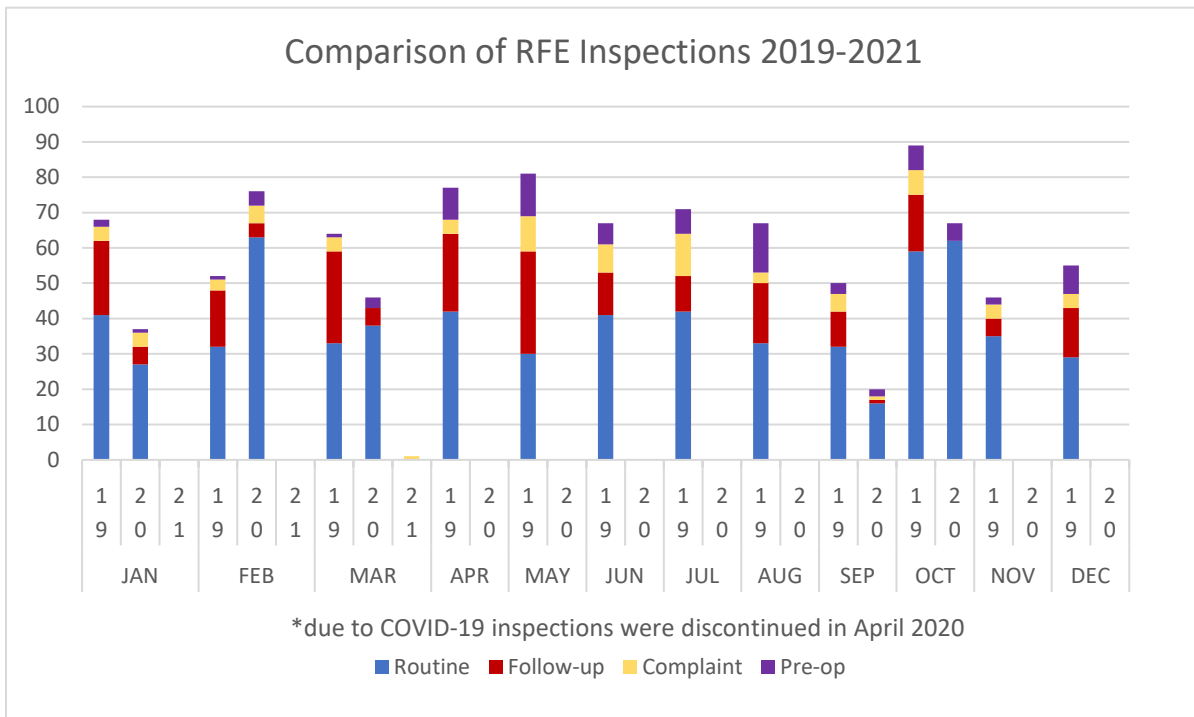
- EH services continue to be offered primarily online due to the COVID-19 pandemic. EH staff are deployed into multiple roles in the COVID-19 response.

Consumer Protection:

Retail Food Program

- Retail Food staff resolving remaining license renewals and issuing licenses. Working with delinquent establishments to complete renewal. Compliance Assistance calls continue at pace. Two inspectors have moved from response work to primarily EH work.

See reports below:



Childcare Inspection Program

- CDPHE Child Care staff has been assisting SJBPH Child Care program by conducting remote routine inspections for our local licensed establishments. Attended state Childcare program meeting.

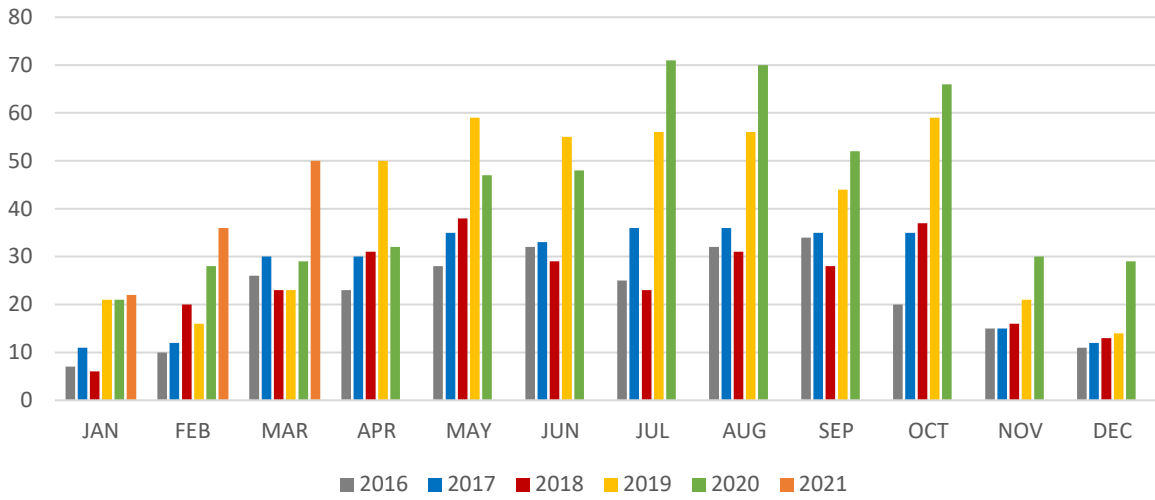
Water and Air Quality:

On-Site Wastewater Treatment Systems (OWTS)

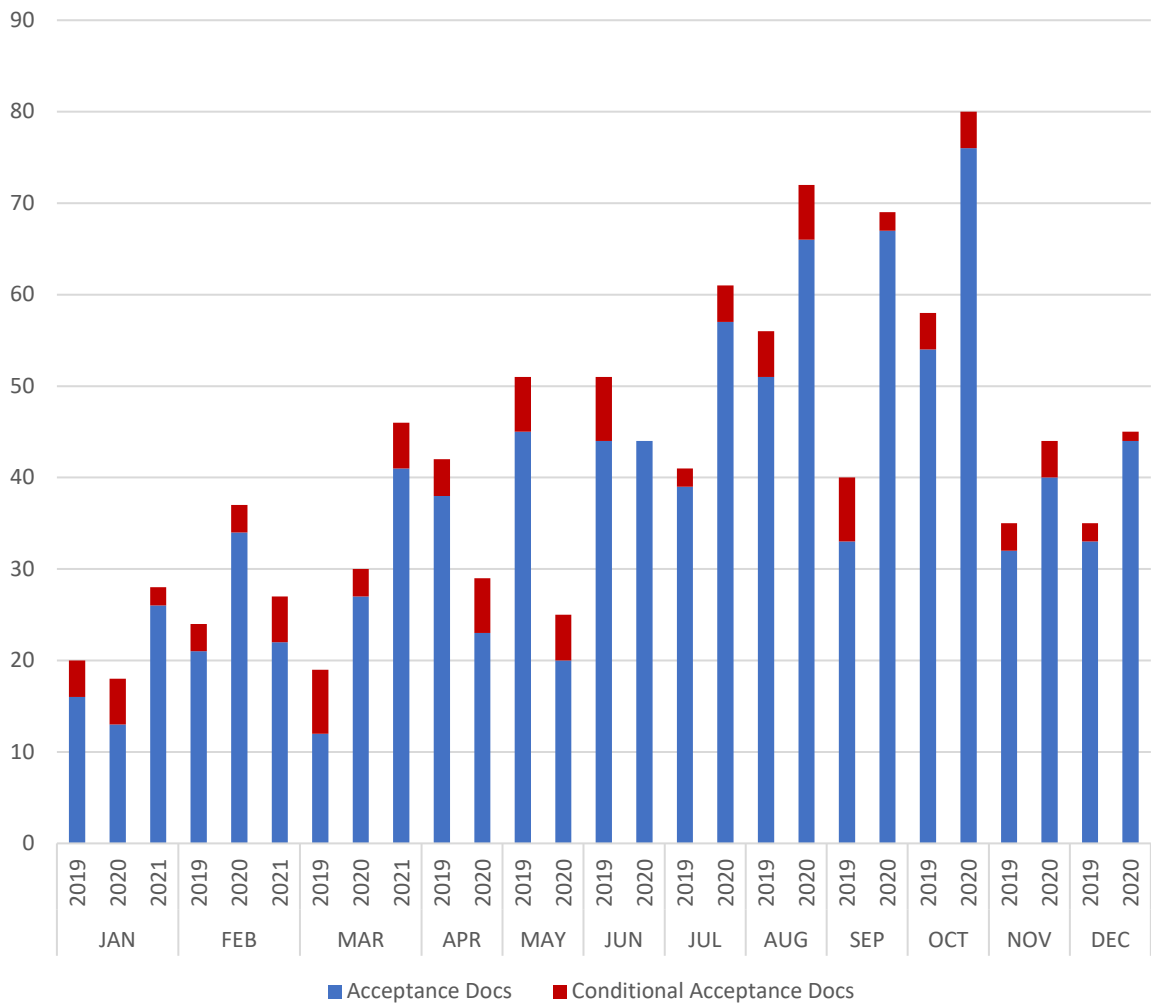
- SJBPH received 50 applications and 28 issued permits. Staff issued 41 Transfer of Title Acceptance Documents, and 5 Conditional Acceptance Documents. 24 inspections were conducted.

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.

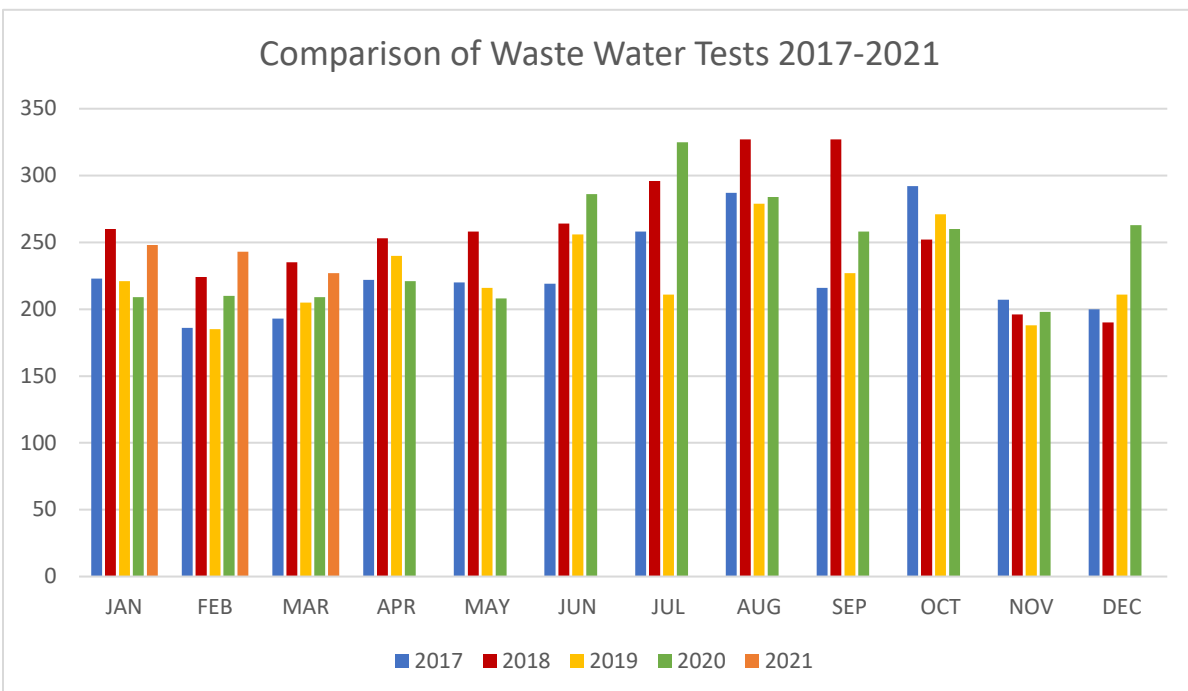
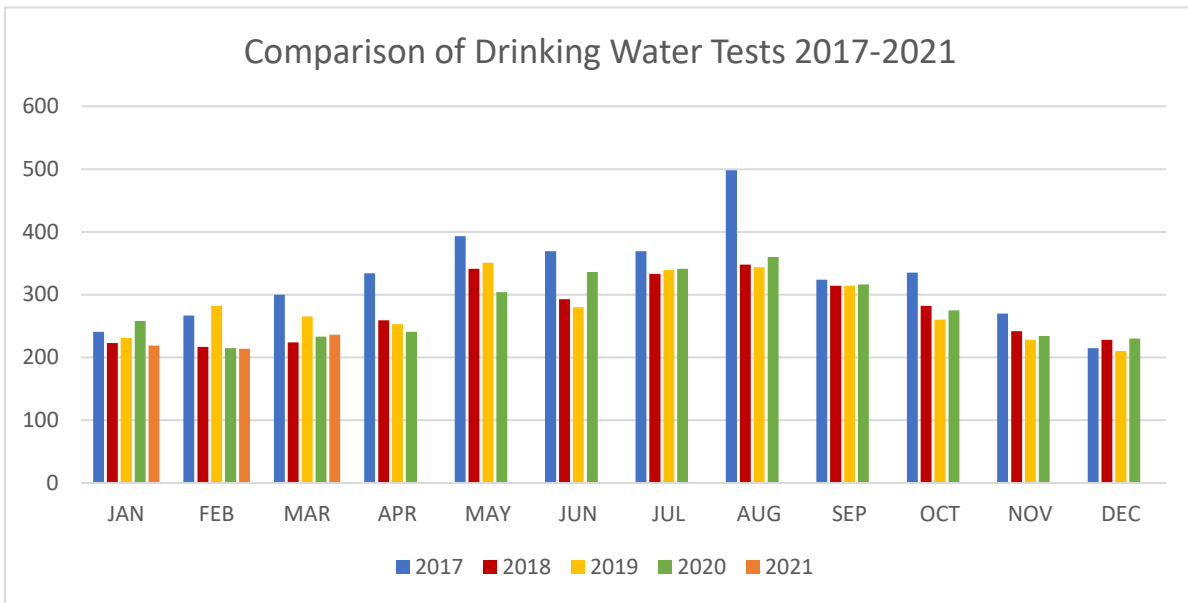
Radon

- Staff held one virtual radon workshop for 12 Fort Lewis College students. 49 test kits were distributed (3 in Archuleta and 46 in La Plata).

Water Lab

- Water lab staff processed 236 drinking water samples and 227 wastewater samples.

See charts below.



Health Behaviors

Baby and Me Tobacco Free:

- SJBPH communications team released a Baby and Me Tobacco Free Facebook post this month, **demonstrating commitment to improve awareness of services.**

Clinic:

- SJBPH clinic distributed condoms to community clinics and partners to **remove barriers to accessing STI prevention materials.**
- 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):

- Rocky Mountain Planned Parenthood and Axis SEES Program presentations at team meeting **increasing staff knowledge and demonstrating commitment to organizational excellence.**
- NFP team working with Field Ops team from NFP National Service Office to improve processes within the team, **demonstrating commitment to organizational excellence.**
- Radio and tv ads in La Plata county **improving awareness of NFP program.**

SafeCare:

- SafeCare continues to **address workforce development gaps** by participating in relevant training opportunities. SafeCare Supervisor has attended the last two of the series of the Brazelton Touchpoints Center Webinar Series on using strength-based approaches to engage families.
- SafeCare has **improved awareness of services** among educators by providing an outreach presentation to two of the elementary schools: Needham Elementary Counselor & Animas Valley Elementary Asst. Principal.

Statewide Tobacco Education and Prevention Partnership (STEPP):

- Members of the Thriving Communities Team **sought opportunities to work with non-traditional partners to solve public health issues** by working with a youth intern to develop a focus group process to provide feedback on tobacco prevention messaging and by doing so **used innovative, equity-based strategies to address existing population and environmental public health issues.**

Women, Infants, and Children (WIC):

- The SJBPH WIC program manager met with staff and distributed WIC rack cards at several Ignacio agencies (ELHI, SU Academy, Ignacio Early Learning Program and SU Health Clinic) **demonstrating commitment to improve awareness of services.**
- SJBPH WIC program manager provided an overview of the WIC program at a ZOOM meeting with the providers at Pediatric Associates practice, **demonstrating commitment to improve awareness of services.**

Clinical Care Linkage

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

- The CPED program continues to provide breast and cervical screenings and diagnostics to patients **to increase access to services.**

Delta Dental

- Delta Care Coordinator provided care coordination, information and referrals to 21 clients in 2 counties, **fostering resiliency and improving access to care.**

Dental/Regional Oral Health Specialist (ROHS):

- Due to COVID restrictions and not being able to provide School Based Oral Health programs, the ROHS team created 4 age specific oral health educational videos that will be shared with area schools, **increasing access to preventive oral health interventions.**

HCP Specialty Clinics/Maternal Child Health (MCH):

- HCP Team coordinated referrals and scheduled appointments for 9 clients with Physiology/Rehabilitation Pediatric Specialist outreach clinic, **fostering resiliency and improving access to care.**

Language Services:

- The agency interpreter worked with the communications department to develop Spanish education materials about the COVID-19 vaccine **to increase awareness and acceptance of vaccination information.**
- The clinic staff collaborated with the Family Center to provide COVID-19 vaccines to the immigrant community **to increase access to COVID-19 vaccines.**
- The agency interpreter provided simultaneous Spanish interpretation during the zoom virtual SJBPH resource fair to **increase awareness of public health programs to this underserved population.**

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF):

- Educated about each and assisted with referral to Orthodontist, Endodontist, and Oral Surgeon for client with malocclusion causing difficulty with eating, **thereby increasing access to care.**

Communicable Disease

Diseases reported March 1-March 31, 2021:

1 Animal Bite (La Plata)
1 Campylobacteriosis (Archuleta)
3 Salmonellosis (La Plata)

Communicable Disease:

- Regional Epi continues to be 100% in response. Other communicable disease follow up is being done by CDPHE.

Tuberculosis (TB):

- TB nurse has started two people on LTBI medicine. Two others are being tested/investigated.

Emergency Preparedness and Response

Emergency Preparedness and Response:

- Staff were awarded 4,000 Johnson & Johnson COVID vaccine doses and were able to turn around within two weeks **by identifying opportunities for collaboration across divisions.**

Equity in Emergency Preparedness:

- Task Force is working to bring training to first responders that will help them work with people with C-MIST needs. Health Equity Workgroup is bringing Health Equity specialist to all-staff training. Equity Case Investigator is working on resource list for case investigators to enhance their work.

Universal Activities

Administrative Services:

Human Resources: HR Staffing Updates

April 10th

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

Assessment and Planning:

- Staff supported data requests from internal and external partners who were then able **to provide evidence-based public health recommendations.**
- Staff participated in the state Child Fatality Prevention System's first legislative report meeting and the 2015-2019 Data meeting, **increasing organizational capacity.**
- Staff participated in several coalition meetings including the La Plata County Suicide Prevention Collaborative, ROAR (Recognizing Opportunities around Resilience), Pine River Shares and the Colorado National Collaborative Evaluation Committee, **seeking opportunities to work with non-traditional partners to solve public health issues.**

Communications:

- In March, 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 outbreaks, COVID-19 testing, contact tracing, COVID dial information, COVID precautions (especially for parents of school-aged children), covid vaccine distribution, covid vaccine eligibility phases, SJPBPH's new data dashboard, 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, the new open enrollment

period, Nurse-Family Partnership, SafeCare, and WIC. Communications were through a variety of channels including print, radio, tv, social media, and email.

- In March, SJBPH communications staff distributed **one** agency e-newsletter, **two** weekly COVID updates, wrote and distributed **14** media releases, responded to **13** media inquiries, posted **168** tweets, and **93** 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 information, COVID-19 prevention, mental health during COVID-19, COVID-19 testing info, contact tracing, and promoting SJPBH programs and services. (See above) SJBPH was featured in articles/radio/tv stories in newspapers, online news outlets, and local radio stations. **These activities help to improve awareness and acceptance of public health resources, services, programs, and value to the community.**

Facilities/Fleet:

- Roof replacement has started at the Pagosa Springs office this week. It is expected that it will take a week to complete the project.