

SAN JUAN BASIN public health

Executive Director and Staff Report to the Board of Health

for August 2021

Staff Reports

Behavioral Health

Thriving Communities Program Team (TCP):

- The Thriving Communities Team **improved access to resources, services, and/or programs** by expanding membership in community led initiatives across La Plata County; strengthened relationships with K-12 School representatives and Fort Lewis College.

Communities that Care (CTC):

- San Juan Basin Public Health hired a new Communities that Care Program Coordinator, who took over facilitation of the Recognizing Opportunities Around Resilience (ROAR) community led coalition. ROAR membership continues to expand as the new coordinator sought opportunities **to work with non-traditional partners to solve public health issues**. The ROAR/CTC program coordinator also demonstrated commitment **to improving awareness of services**, by compiling a list of healthy prosocial opportunities for youth in La Plata County and broadly promoted it.

Suicide Prevention (SP)/Gun Shop Project:

- The Suicide Prevention Coordinator **used innovative, equity-based strategies to address existing population and environmental public health issues** by hosting a trauma informed care training for 20 community partners. By doing so, she used data-informed process to evaluate promising practices to develop new programs that respond to community need.

Social Determinants of Health

Health Insurance Literacy:

- August 15th marked the end of the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Open Enrollment Period. Client inquiries about the ARP Enrollment Period came in last minute, with an increase in calls, although not much enrollment. HIL co-hosted a tabling event in Aspen Springs, alongside WIC, NFP and SafeCare programs. Although there was not much interest, we felt as though it was a wonderful opportunity to show up for that community and establish relationships. We also tabled at Durango Farmer's Market, where most of the inquiring's were about COVID. HIL is preparing for the Annual Open Enrollment, including working closely with our communications team for advertising. We were awarded additional supplemental funding from C4HCO that needs to be spent by December 2021, therefore we focused the funds heavily on advertising. Although we cannot see clients in-person at this time, we are happy to be outside in the community, and look forward to more tabling events, **insuring increased awareness in the community**.

Environmental Health

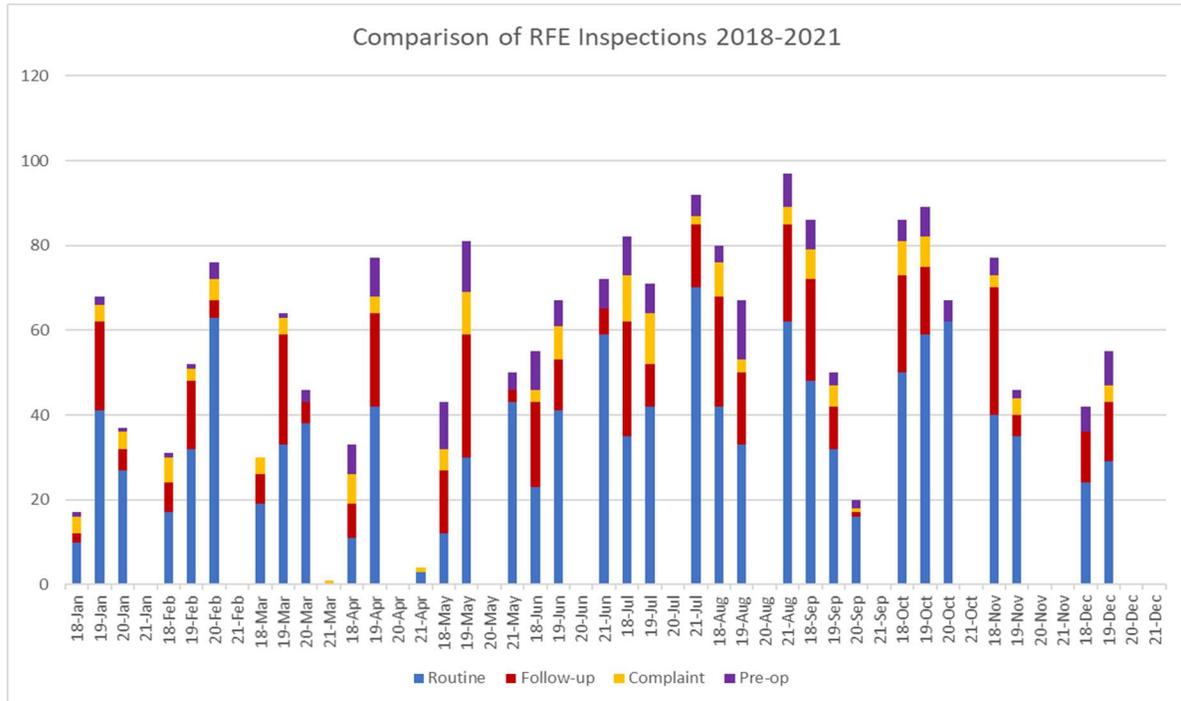
- EH services continue to be offered primarily online due to the COVID-19 pandemic. EH staff are deployed into multiple roles in the COVID-19 response.

Consumer Protection:

Retail Food Program

- The Consumer Protection (CP) team is training a new inspector to be based in Archuleta County. The CP Team conducted 90 retail food inspections: 63 routine inspections, 23 re-inspections, and four on-site complaint investigations.

See reports below:



Childcare Inspection Program

- Staff assisted in a disease investigation at local resident camp in cooperation with the CDPHE Epidemiology team. Two preoperational inspections were conducted for establishments changing classrooms. The team is receiving an increase in applications and requests for inspections from existing Child Care facilities. This may be partly due to newly available grant funding to create new and expand existing childcare facilities.

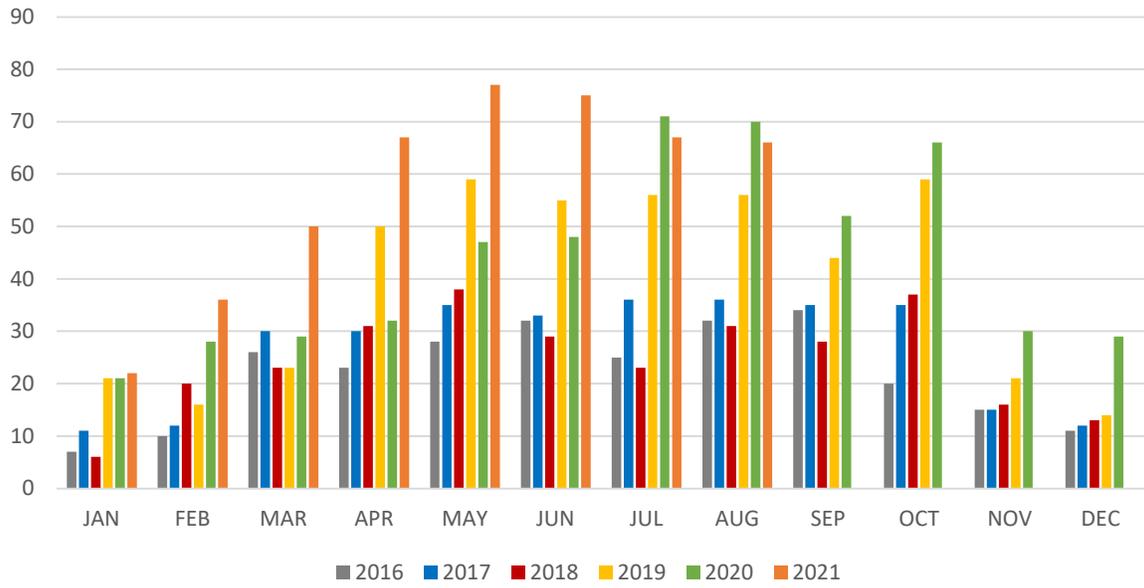
Water and Air Quality:

On-Site Wastewater Treatment Systems (OWTS)

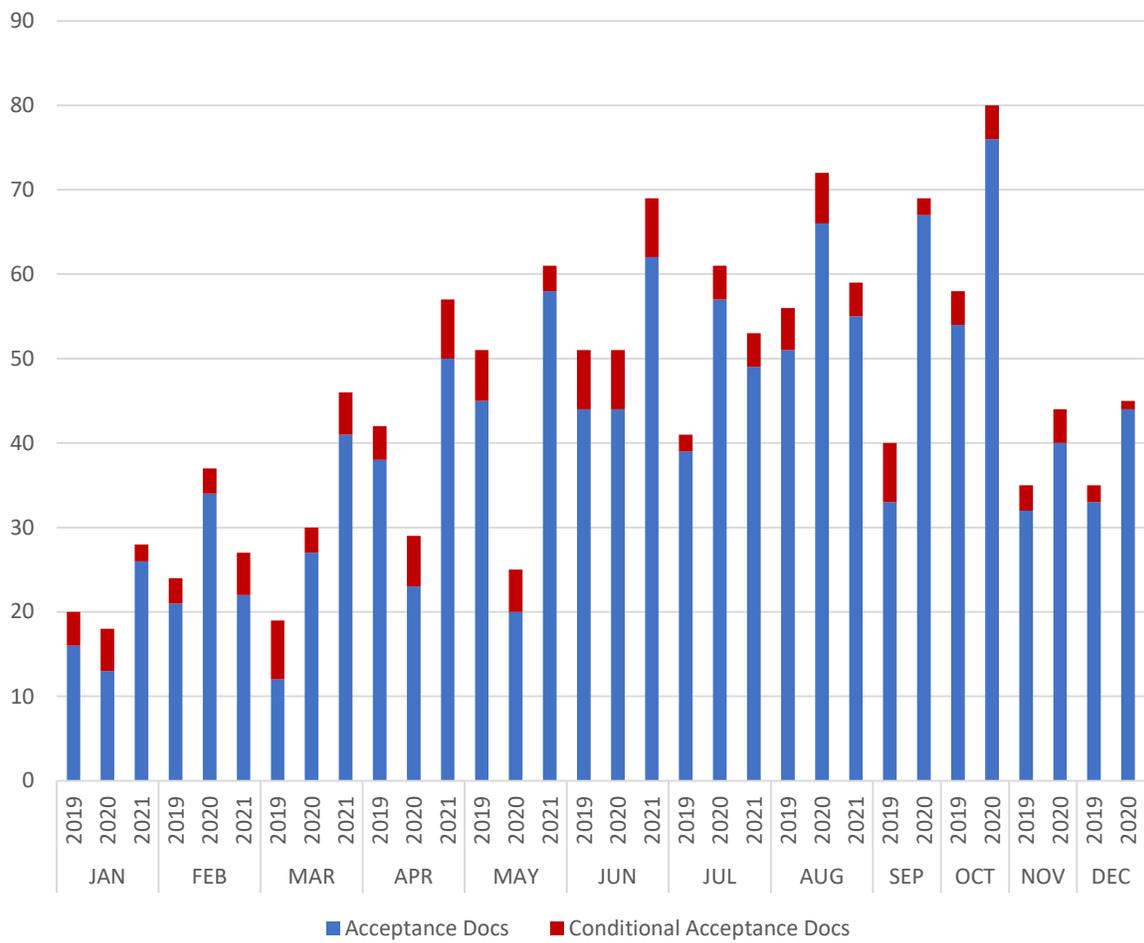
- Demand for services in the OWTS program continues to be extreme. SJBPH received 66 permit applications and issued 52 permits. Staff issued 55 Transfer of Title Acceptance Documents and six Conditional Acceptance Documents. Staff conducted 68 inspections.

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.

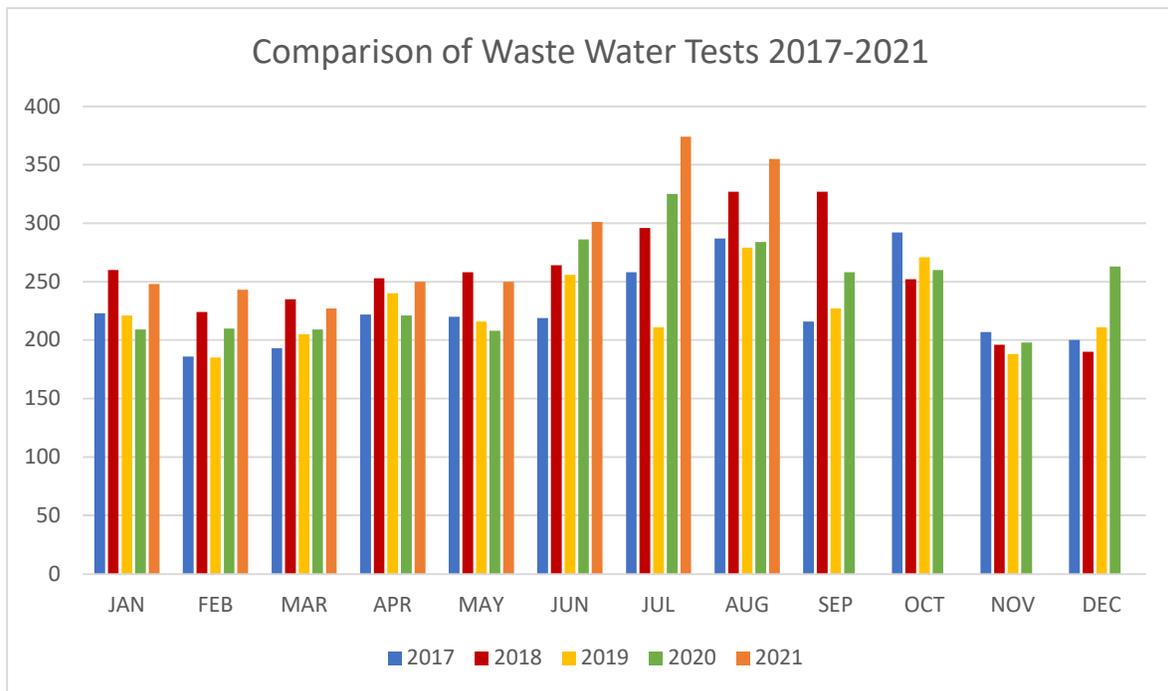
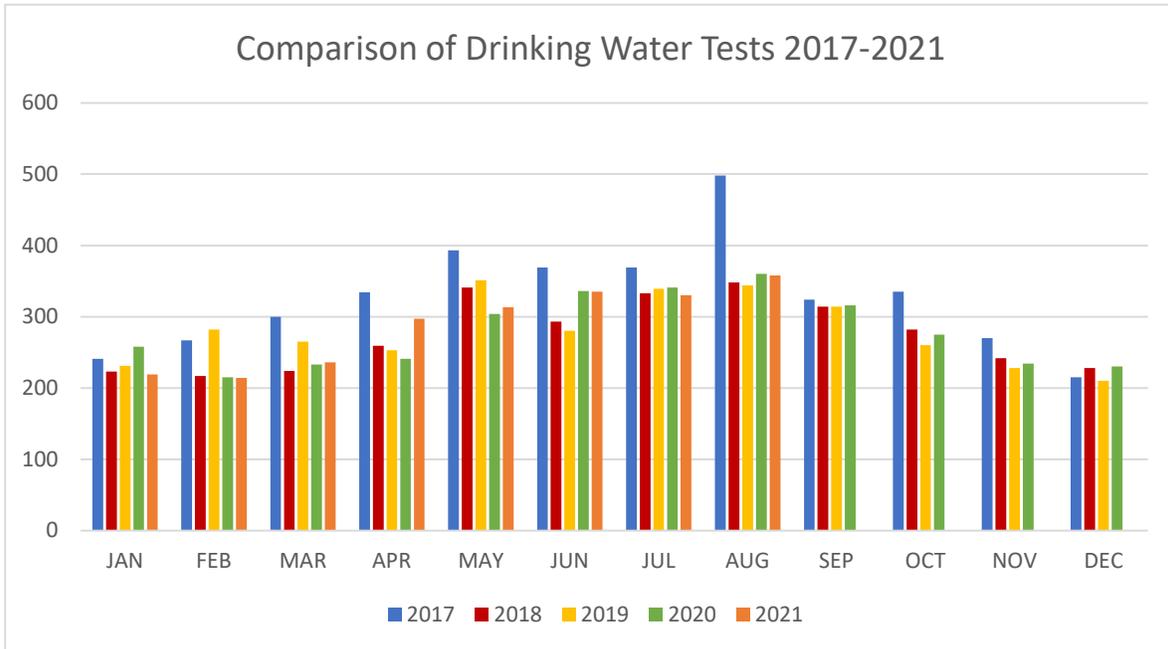
Radon

- Staff expect to hear about a potential funding renewal for radon education programming in late September or early October.

Water Lab

- Water Lab performed 358 drinking water tests and 355 wastewater tests.

See charts below.



Health Behaviors

Clinic:

- The clinic has contracted with Cigna insurance **to increase access** to sexual health and immunization low barrier services at SJBPH.
- The clinic continues to provide sexual health services to **increase access to STI testing**.

Immunizations:

- The clinic initiated a media campaign for back-to-school vaccines **in order to increase awareness and access to vaccines** during a time when routine vaccination rates are low.

Nurse Family Partnership (NFP):

- NFP/SafeCare/Parents as Teachers Community Advisory Board meeting for La Plata/Archuleta counties was held 8/19/21 per ZOOM **improving awareness of NFP program**.
- NFP team completed an Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) training series provided through National Service Office **demonstrating commitment to organizational excellence**.
- NFP tabled at the Durango Farmer's Market and Pagosa/Aspen Springs event **improving awareness of NFP program**.

SafeCare:

- SafeCare has increased its outreach effort during this summer month **to raise awareness of services** to the general public, via outdoor tabling events. This will hopefully encourage community members to enroll in our program.

Statewide Tobacco Education and Prevention Partnership (STEPP):

- Following the program's implementation plan, staff engaged in Tobacco Free Schools training and building new **relationships with nontraditional partners to solve public health issues**. The STEPP coordinator also **demonstrated a commitment to organizational excellence** by participating in a series of several Tobacco Free Schools trainings.

Women, Infants, and Children (WIC):

- San Juan Basin Public Health WIC program manager met with the enrollment staff person at Tri-county Head Start to review how best to refer families to the WIC program, **demonstrating commitment to improve awareness of services**.
- San Juan Basin Public Health WIC program incentivized pregnant WIC clients to attend an online breastfeeding class and receive a gift set related to World Breastfeeding Month, demonstrating commitment **to improve awareness of services**.

Clinical Care Linkage

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

- The clinic outreach coordinator delivered rack cards door to door at a Pagosa Springs mobile home park **to increase awareness and access** to breast and cervical cancer screenings.
- The clinic outreach coordinator attended Manna Soup Kitchen resource day **to increase access** to breast and cervical cancer screening services.

Health Care Coordination:

- Delta Care Coordinator provided care coordination, information and referrals to 11 clients in three counties, **fostering resiliency and improving access to care**.

Language Services:

- The agency interpreter continued to translate COVID related releases and information into Spanish in order **to increase awareness** of COVID information.
- The agency interpreter provided interpretation for NFP clients **to increase access** to all SJBPH programs for Limited English Proficiency (LEP) clients.

Regional Oral Health Specialist (ROHS):

- Staff educated families on oral health and the ROHS program services at Fort Lewis Mesa open house, **improving awareness of resources and access to care.**
- Staff participated in the Health Careers Fair educating 16–18-year-olds on oral health careers, **fostering resiliency and improving access to care.**

Specialty Clinics/Maternal Child Health (MCH):

- The HCP Team coordinated an on-site Pediatric Neurology Clinic and follow up for seven children and assisted with access to other specialty care for three children and youth with special health care needs (CYSHCN), **fostering resiliency and improving access to care.**

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF):

- Staff helped a new client with recent leg surgery that was having difficulty getting to doctor's appointments. They were unaware of Medicaid Transportation services. Staff explained the benefit, both mileage reimbursement and cab transport as well as the newly reinstated process to direct client contact with cab companies, **improving access to care.**

Communicable Disease**Diseases reported August 1-August 31, 2021:**

5 Animal bites (5 Archuleta County)

1 Salmonellosis (Archuleta County)

2 Campylobacteriosis (1 La Plata County, 1 Archuleta County)

Communicable Disease:

- Communicable disease follow up is being done by CDPHE.

Tuberculosis (TB):

- Staff transferred one latent tuberculosis infected (LTBI) patient to another state. One patient is currently being tested and evaluated for potential treatment. We will have to transfer this patient out of state as well.

Emergency Preparedness and Response**Emergency Preparedness and Response:**

- Staff was invited to join the La Plata County Incident Management Team as Safety Officer to provide subject matter expertise **providing an opportunity for staff to excel/innovate.**

Universal Activities

Administrative Services:

Human Resources:

HR Staffing Updates

September

- The following vacancies were filled since the last report:
 - Environmental Health Specialist I (Pagosa office), Public Health Nurse (COVID-19 Team), Communicable Disease Specialist II, Environmental Health Technician, Communications Specialist I (internal move) Communicable Disease Specialist I x 3, Communicable Disease Coordinator (testing)
- The following vacancies have been hired for with future start dates:
 - Environmental Health Specialist III
- Recruitment continues for the following staff positions:
 - Communicable Disease Specialist I, Communicable Disease Specialist II, COVID-19 Equity Outreach Coordinator, Administrative Support Assistant, Water Quality Laboratory Technician, Communicable Disease Coordinator, Chief Strategy Officer, Facilities Technician, Executive Assistant, COVID-19 Communicable Disease Senior Program Manager, Disease Investigation and Control Consultant

Assessment and Planning:

- Staff participated in the Child Fatality Prevention System Investigative and Data Quality Subcommittee and the Suicide Death Investigation Form workgroup meetings, **increasing organizational capacity.**
- Staff participated in the Public Health Planner Networking Kickoff meeting to begin building partnerships and sharing ideas from partners around the state as we prepare to start the next Colorado Health Assessment and Planning System (CHAPS) cycle, **demonstrating a commitment to organizational excellence.**
- Staff met with program managers and directors to update monthly reports to include the most useful data points leading to **increased data driven decision making.**

Communications:

- In August, 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, COVID precautions, COVID vaccine distribution (including upcoming booster doses), 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, Immunizations, Health Insurance Lit, Emergency Preparedness, Nurse-Family Partnership, SafeCare, Sexual Health Clinic and WIC. Communications were through a variety of channels including print, radio, tv, social media, and email.
- In August, SJBPH communications staff distributed one agency e-newsletter (August), **two** semi-monthly COVID updates, wrote and distributed **nine** media releases, responded to **23** media inquiries, posted **136** tweets, and **129** 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 (local public health advisory), mental health during COVID-19, COVID-19 testing info, contact tracing, and promoting SJPBH programs and

services. SJBPH was featured in **79** articles/radio/tv stories in newspapers, online news outlets, and local radio stations. In July, SJBPH had over **658,356*** Facebook impressions (# of eyes on our posts), and **59,507** Twitter impressions. Our FB engagement (action taken such as commenting or sharing a post) was over **22,400**, and Twitter had **1,400** engagements. **These activities help to improve awareness and acceptance of public health resources, services, programs, and value to the community.** *Includes some paid traffic from ads, excludes COVID Facebook group stats (unavailable this month due to error with Facebook).

Facilities/Fleet:

- No updates.