

# SAN JUAN BASIN public health

## Executive Director and Staff Report to the Board of Health for September 2021

### Highlights:

- SJBPH resumed its study of the regional groundwater system after more than two years. Under a contract with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, SJBPH will sample water from private wells in San Juan County and far north La Plata County; these findings will be used to inform decision-making at the Bonita Peak Mining District superfund site and will help the residents who participate protect themselves against contaminants in their drinking water.
- SafeCare, NFP, and WIC have created a shared marketing tool and have been attending outreach meetings and events together to shared partners.

### Staff Reports

#### Behavioral Health

##### Thriving Communities Program Team (TCP):

- The Thriving Communities Team has done a great job engaging new partners in La Plata County communities and **demonstrating a commitment to organizational excellence** by engaging in a variety of trainings, including those focused on policy knowledge and skill building for facilitation.

##### Communities that Care (CTC):

- The Communities that Care Program coordinator **used data-informed processes to evaluate promising practices to develop new programs that respond to community need** as she collaborated with ROAR Coalition members to structure youth engaged projects promoting connection, leveraging the Forward Together state media campaign, and sought funding to make monthly projects sustainable. The CTC Model allowed the coordinator to seek **nontraditional partners to solve public health issues** and start building the framework for youth leadership projects.

##### Suicide Prevention (SP)/Gun Shop Project:

- The Suicide Prevention Program coordinator build a website that is now live representing the Community led Suicide Prevention Collaborative, **which improves access to resources, services, and/or programs**. Additionally, a committed group of K-12 school representatives are now leading a specified work group dedicated to Suicide Prevention and response at schools; Another workgroup includes members of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe and health care providers putting together appropriate resources for providers to share with patients in need (as it has been determined that this would be a useful thing to have).

## Social Determinants of Health

### Health Insurance Literacy:

- Since the closing of the American Rescue Plan Open Enrollment Period in August, the number of calls/enrollments have decreased, as expected. In September, there was a focus on Outreach and Marketing. Working closely with our communications team, we started implementing our HIL communications plan for the next four months. We tabled at two outdoor events and presented to our community partners. We also asked to be a part of the Health Insurance Affordability Enterprise (HAIE) Panel, to present Outreach in Rural Colorado to the HAIE board. HAIE is the program that provided the additional funding for our Outreach efforts. As always, we are preparing for the upcoming 2022 Open Enrollment period, which includes annual training completion.

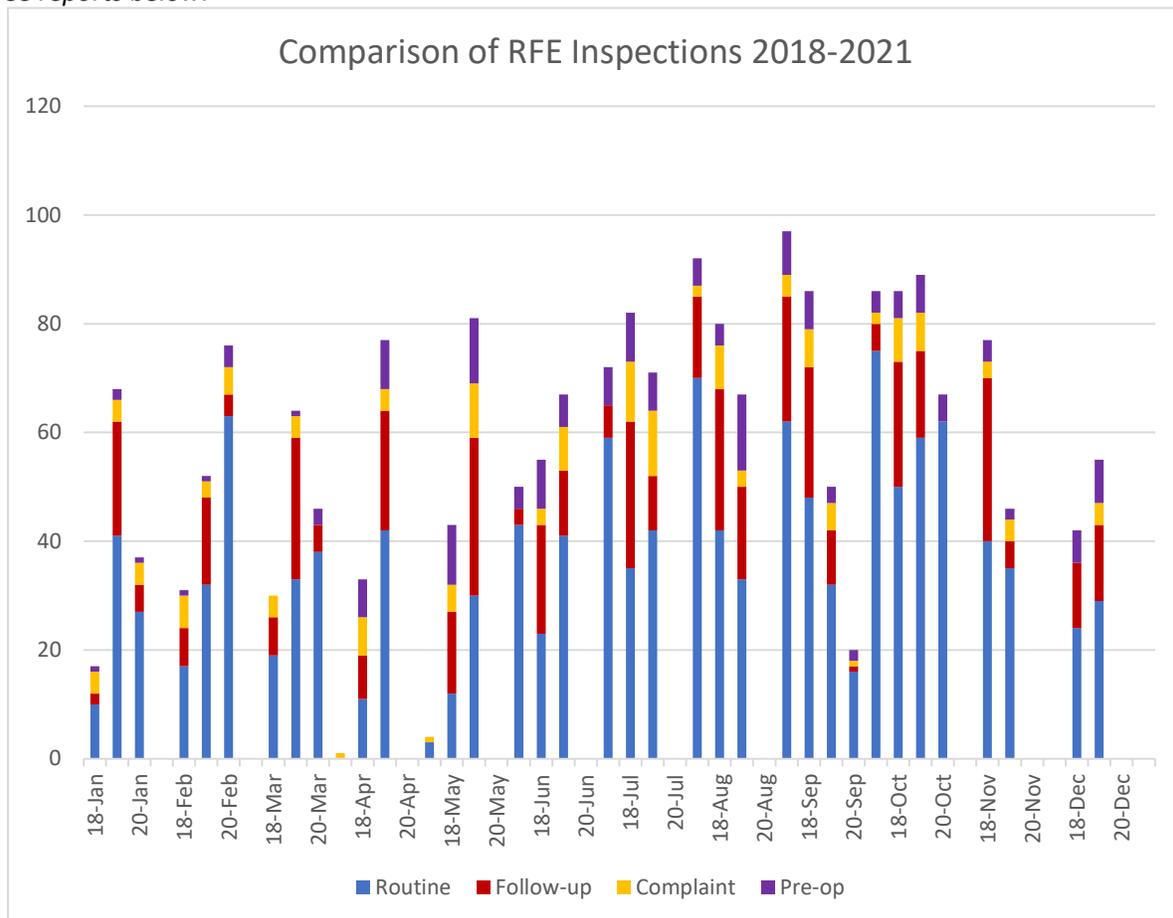
## Environmental Health

### Consumer Protection:

#### Retail Food Program

- The newest inspector for Consumer Protection completed the initial training and is conducting solo routine inspections at this time. The team is making good progress on completing the inspections and facility contacts as required by the Colorado Retail Food fee waiver.

See reports below:



*Childcare Inspection Program*

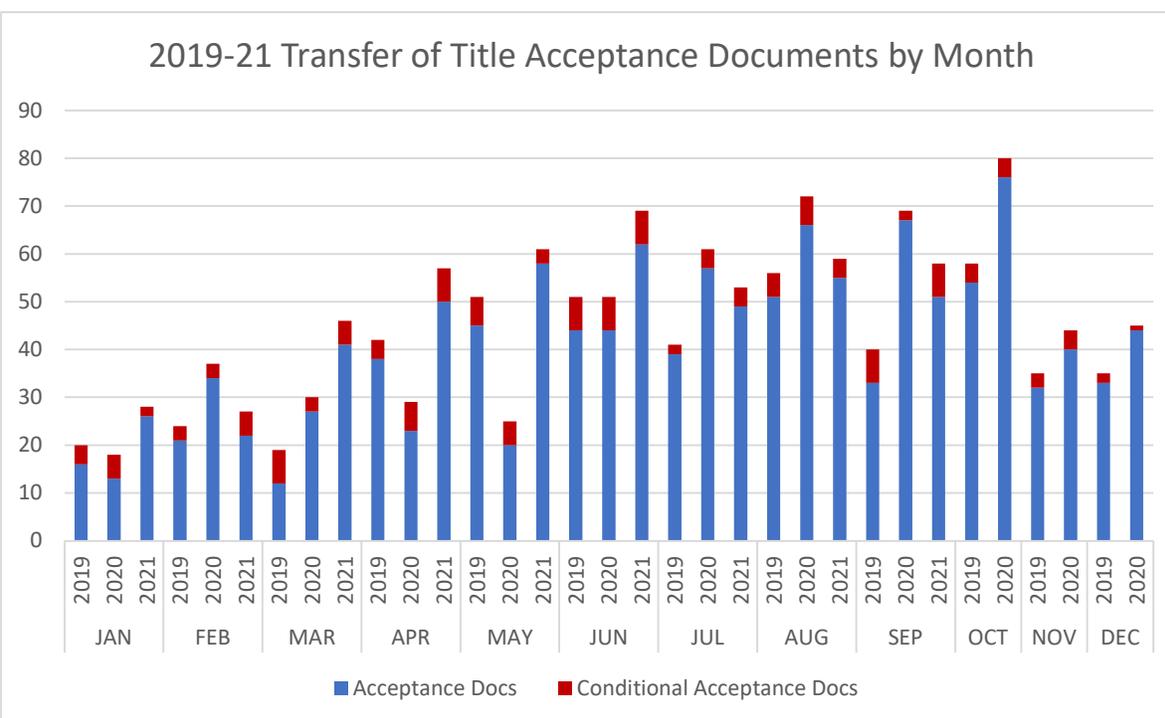
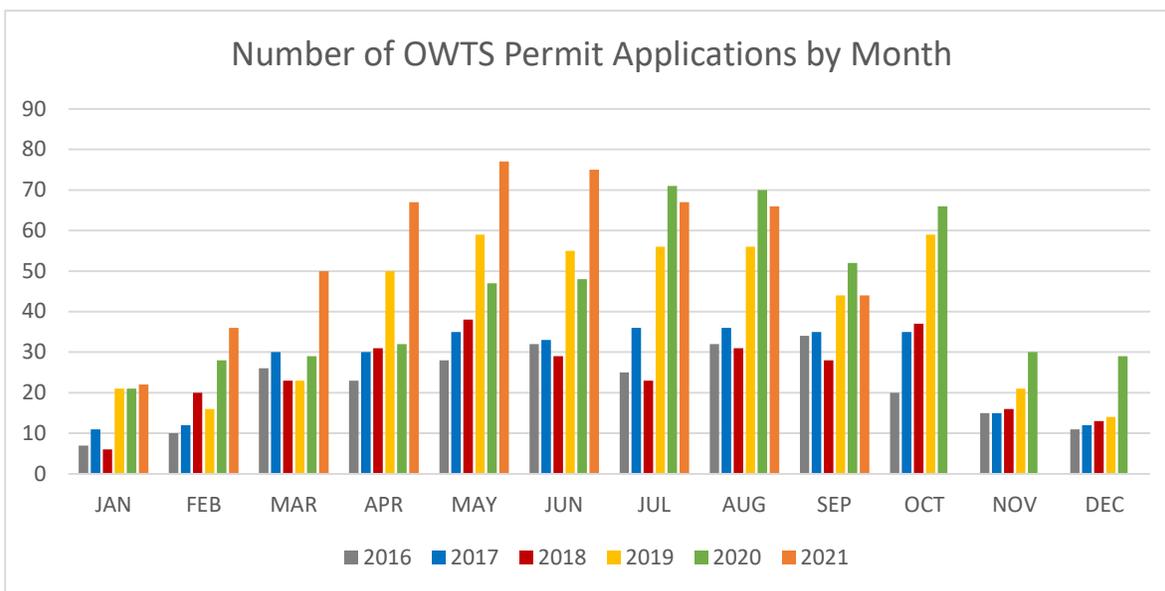
- Staff conducted several pre-operational inspections for facilities making changes to their current operations (classroom changes, capacity increase, etc.). Two applications for new facilities were received.

**Water and Air Quality:**

*On-Site Wastewater Treatment Systems (OWTS)*

- The September OWTS inspections were the second highest for any month on record. Demand for services continues to be extreme.

See charts below.



*Surface and Drinking Water*

- Staff resumed testing private well drinking water in San Juan County under contract with CDPHE. This is a capstone to sampling and analysis work dating back to the Gold King Mine Spill.

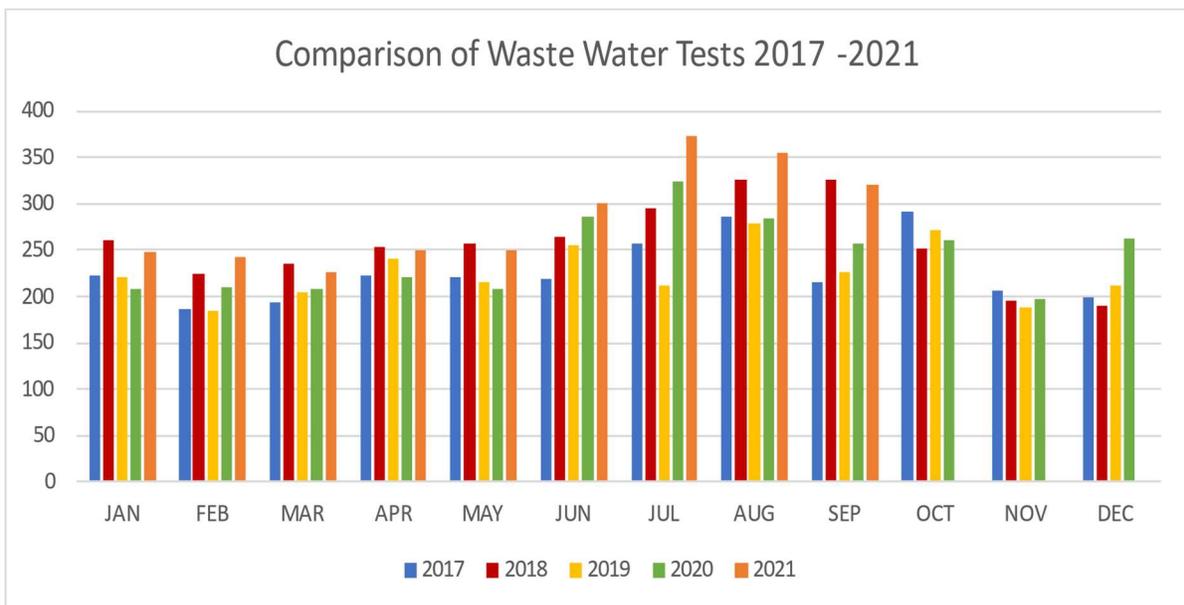
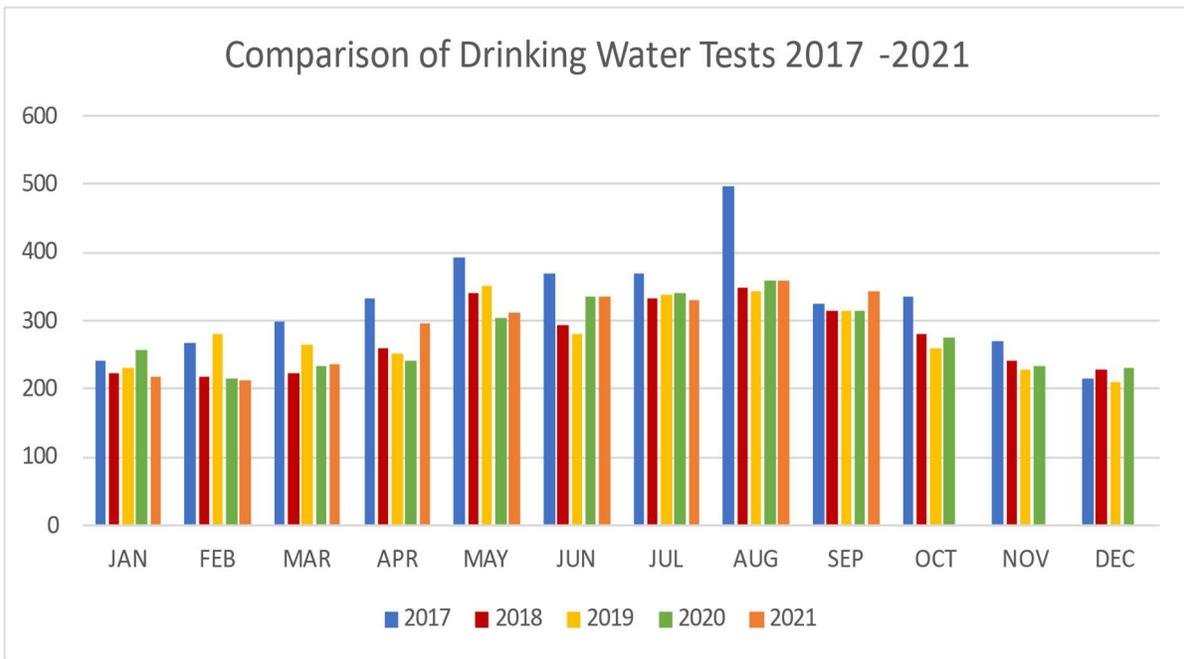
*Radon*

- No updates.

*Water Lab*

- Water Lab performed 343 drinking water tests and 320 wastewater tests.

See charts below.



## Health Behaviors

### Clinic:

- The clinic met with the CDPHE disease investigation team to discuss action items related to increase in HIV and Syphilis cases in La Plata County to **increase awareness of the increase in cases.**
- The clinic staff continues to attend HIV testing training to **increase access to high quality STI services at the SJBPH clinic, and to increase workforce capacity.**

### Immunizations:

- The clinic continues to provide immunizations for children and adults **to increase access to immunization clinic services,** including routine vaccines as well as travel vaccines.

### Nurse Family Partnership (NFP):

- NFP team attended the NFP Virtual National Symposium 9/28/21 - 9/30/21, **demonstrating commitment to organizational excellence.**
- NFP/SafeCare/WIC held an outreach meeting with Southwest Midwives **improving awareness of resources, services, and/or programs.**
- Rack cards were distributed to community partners, staff had an outreach table at the FLC Fiesta on the Mesa event, and there was a newspaper ad in the Silverton Standard **improving awareness of resources, services, and/or programs.**

### SafeCare:

- In individual meetings with key community partners, SafeCare staff decided to check in on a monthly basis to provide information on how many referrals were received by the agency as well as provide SafeCare updates and other relevant information, **establishing a systematic way to keep our partners aware of our services.**
- SafeCare has worked to raise **awareness of services** of numerous SJBPH Prevention and Population Health programs by working collaboratively in our outreach efforts. WIC, NFP, and SafeCare created a joint rack card months ago and distribute them throughout the community, and we also jointly present to respect our partners time and **to demonstrate our inter-connectedness.**

### Statewide Tobacco Education and Prevention Partnership (STEPP):

- Following the program's implementation plan, staff completed the series of Tobacco Free Schools training and building new relationships **with nontraditional partners to solve public health issues.** The STEPP coordinator also set up the framework for work with UpRISE youth coalition and Rainbow Youth Center (which will take course over the next 10 months).

### Women, Infants, and Children (WIC):

- San Juan Basin Public Health WIC program manager collaborated with Cooking Matters and Compañeros at a Durango Farmer's Market outreach event, **demonstrating commitment to improve awareness of services.**
- San Juan Basin Public Health WIC Program Manager collaborated with Nurse Family Partnership and Safe Care at a Southwest Midwives outreach meeting, **demonstrating commitment to improve awareness of services.**

## Clinical Care Linkage

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

- The community outreach coordinator attended the Fiesta on the Mesa at Fort Lewis College to **increase awareness of breast and cervical cancer screening and increase access to services of attendees.**

### Health Care Coordination:

- The Delta Care Coordinator provided care coordination, information, and referrals to 10 clients in two counties, **fostering resiliency and improving access to care.**

### Language Services:

- The agency medical interpreter continues to translate important COVID-19 information as well as print materials for other programs to **increase access to information** for the Spanish speaking community.

### Regional Oral Health Specialist (ROHS):

- The ROHS assisted five clients with dental navigation and care coordination, **fostering resiliency and improving access to care.**
- Staff also donated 18 dental kits with information on ROHS program to be given out at Fiesta Days for Spanish speaking families, **improving awareness of resources and access to care.**

### Specialty Clinics/Maternal Child Health (MCH):

- The HCP Team coordinated an on-site Pediatric Rehab Clinic and follow up for eight 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):

- The Parents Plus Nurse assisted a new to area TANF family with education and referrals to primary care providers, dentists, orthodontists, and private practice counselors who accept Medicaid and are welcoming new patients, **fostering resiliency and improving access to care.**

## Communicable Disease

### Diseases reported September 1-September 30, 2021:

3 Animal Bites (3 Archuleta County)

6 Giardiasis (5 La Plata County, 1 Archuleta County)

1 Listeriosis (La Plata County)

1 Salmonellosis (Archuleta County)

### Communicable Disease:

- Communicable disease follow up is being done by CDPHE.

### Tuberculosis (TB):

- No new activity in TB.

## Emergency Preparedness and Response

### Emergency Preparedness and Response:

- Staff provided logistical subject matter expertise at a partner test site to identify and address gaps in **partner agency/stakeholder knowledge on successful execution of test site management.**
- Staff provided Safety Officer subject matter expertise in planning of a La Plata County Forest Management Educational site **to identify and address gaps in partner agency/stakeholder knowledge.**

## Universal Activities

### Administrative Services:

#### Human Resources:

#### HR Staffing Updates

#### October

- The following vacancies were filled since the last report:
  - Disease Investigation and Control Senior Program Manager, COVID-19 Equity Outreach Coordinator (Archuleta Office), Water Lab Technician, Assessment & Planning Supervisor (internal move), Disease Investigation and Control Consultant, Communicable Disease Specialist II (1 new hire, 1 internal move), Communicable Disease Specialist I x 3
- The following vacancies have been hired for with future start dates:
  - Environmental Health Specialist III, Communicable Disease I
- Recruitment continues for the following staff positions:
  - Communicable Disease Specialist I, Communicable Disease Specialist II, COVID-19 Equity Outreach Coordinator (La Plata), Administrative Support Assistant II, Communicable Disease Coordinator, Chief Strategy Officer, Facilities Technician, Executive Assistant, Communications Director, Administrative Assistant - Dental, PT Nurse Practitioner

### Assessment and Planning:

- Staff participated in the Child Fatality Prevention System second annual equity training, **increasing organizational capacity.**
- Staff supported data requests from internal and external partners who were then able to **provide evidence-based public health recommendations.**
- Staff participated in multiple community partner meetings including an Office of Public Health Practice, Planning, and Local Partnerships (OPHP) open house and trainings in Serving 2SLGBTQIA+ populations and Data Literacy and Public Health Messaging, **demonstrating a commitment to organizational excellence.**

### Communications:

- In September, SJBPB 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-19 precautions, COVID-19 vaccine and booster 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, Immunizations, Health Insurance Literacy, Emergency Preparedness, Nurse-Family Partnership, Safe Care, Women's Wellness, Sexual Health Clinic and WIC. Communications were through a variety of channels including print, radio, tv, social media, and email.

- In September, SJBPH communications staff distributed one agency e-newsletter (August), **two** semi-monthly COVID updates, wrote and distributed **six** media releases, responded to **15** media inquiries, posted **128** tweets, and **120** 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 **34** articles/radio/tv stories in newspapers, online news outlets, and local radio stations. In September, SJBPH had over **154,900** Facebook impressions (# of eyes on our posts), and **36,900** Twitter impressions. Our FB engagement (action taken such as commenting or sharing a post) was over **9,388**, and Twitter had **905** engagements. **These activities help to improve awareness and acceptance of public health resources, services, programs, and value to the community.**

**Facilities/Fleet:**

- No updates.