

SAN JUAN BASIN public health

Executive Director and Staff Report to the Board of Health for February 2022

Highlights:

- SJBPH has concluded its Animas River Water Quality study after six years of data collection. Complete findings will be shared with the Board in a future report.
- Over recent months several community organizations have received grant funding to address the increase in food insecurity related to the COVID 19 pandemic. Among these are Southwest Colorado Area Health Education Center, Mercy Hospital, the Southern Ute Food Distribution Program, La Plata Family Center, La Plata Food Equity Coalition and more. The WIC Program at SJBPH is collaborating with these organizations to ensure appropriate families are referred to WIC and to help connect WIC families with all the food resource programs in our region.

Staff Reports

Behavioral Health
Thriving Communities Program Team (TCP): <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Members of the Thriving Communities Team expanded organizational capacity and identified and provided opportunities for employees to excel/innovate by participating in CDPHE learning calls (Colorado National Collaborative, Communities That Care) and workshops (Positive Community Norms, Montana Institute; Evaluation Team, CNC; Policy Team, STEPP) and by doing do so demonstrated a commitment to organizational excellence.
Communities that Care (CTC): <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The CTC Coordinator strengthened the relationships and strategies to engage youth voice in the community led work of this program. With the help of Fort Lewis College, the CTC coordinator and the ROAR coalition will be collecting important youth input on the strategies of the coalition. Targeted surveys and focus groups will begin in early Q4. The results will be shared back to community partners in summer. This data-informed process will be used to evaluate promising practices to develop new programs that respond to community need.
Suicide Prevention (SP)/Gun Shop Project: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The La Plata County Suicide Prevention Collaborative (LPC SPC) continues to grow with the help of its diligent Suicide Prevention Coordinator identifying and addressing the gaps in sustainability for the work to come. The program coordinator has also been a liaison between the LPC SPC steering committee and Office of Suicide Prevention when laying out a strategic plan for an incoming \$85k amendment (increase) to the program budget this year, to be finalized by April 2022. Of the Colorado National Collaborative “six pillars of suicide prevention,” strong progress has been made on “access to lethal means” by securing a Firearms advocate to work with gun retailers, outfitters, trainers, and shooting ranges in our

region. The firearms advocate is intended as a trusted messenger **for improved awareness and acceptance of resources related to preventing suicide.**

Social Determinants of Health

Health Insurance Literacy:

- February was dedicated to the Special Enrollment Period (SEP) known as Tax Time Enrollment. This Special Enrollment Period is available to Colorado residents who are currently uninsured and file their taxes before April 15, 2022. Although this is a great opportunity to take advantage of, we did not see an increase of Connect for Health Enrollments. We primarily advertised this SEP via socials - Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. We did see an influx of clients who needed assistance with Medicaid applications and recertifications. Appointments were primarily via phone or Zoom and conducted one in-person appointment with appropriate COVID protocols in place, but we did increase the number of in-person appointments. We also participated in SJBPH's Virtual Resource Fair, where we presented our program to other partner organizations in our area. At the end of February, we welcomed our new Program Manager, Tiffani Roberts, and our new Division name: Access & Linkage to Health Care.

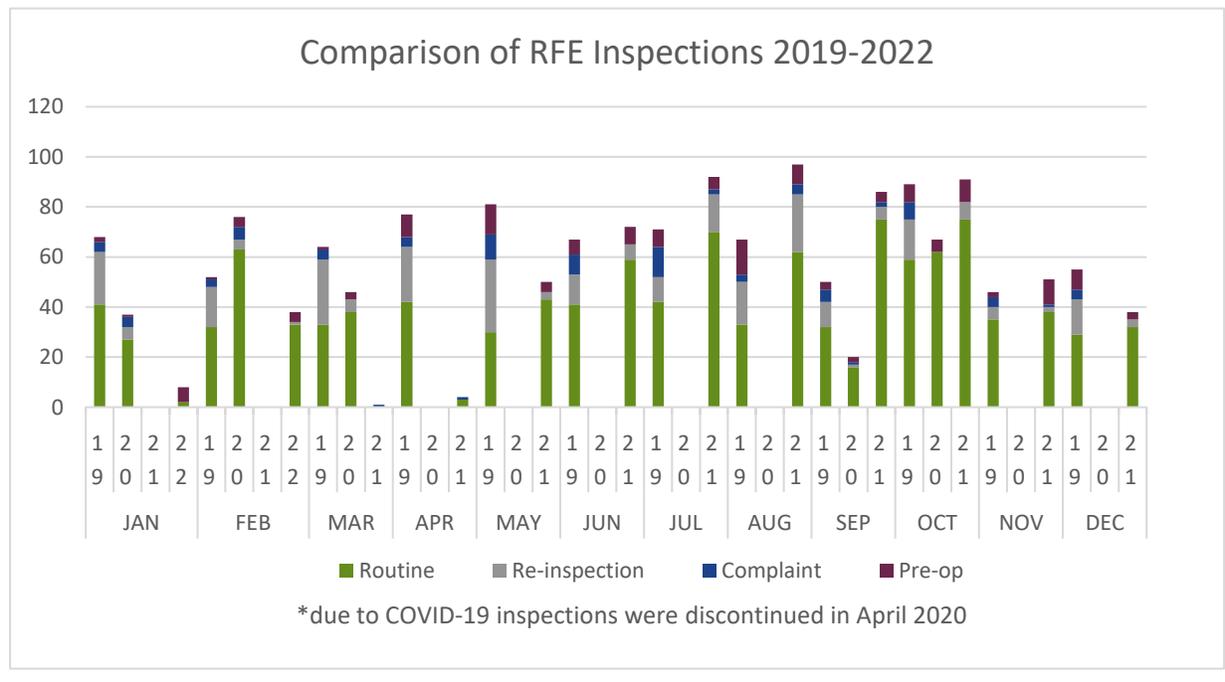
Environmental Health

Consumer Protection:

Retail Food Program

- Normal inspection schedules resumed in February as COVID-19 cases decreased. The team lead completed Food Code Standardization inspections with CDPHE. The Retail Food team attended online FDA Specialized Processes Training.

See reports below:



Childcare Inspection Program

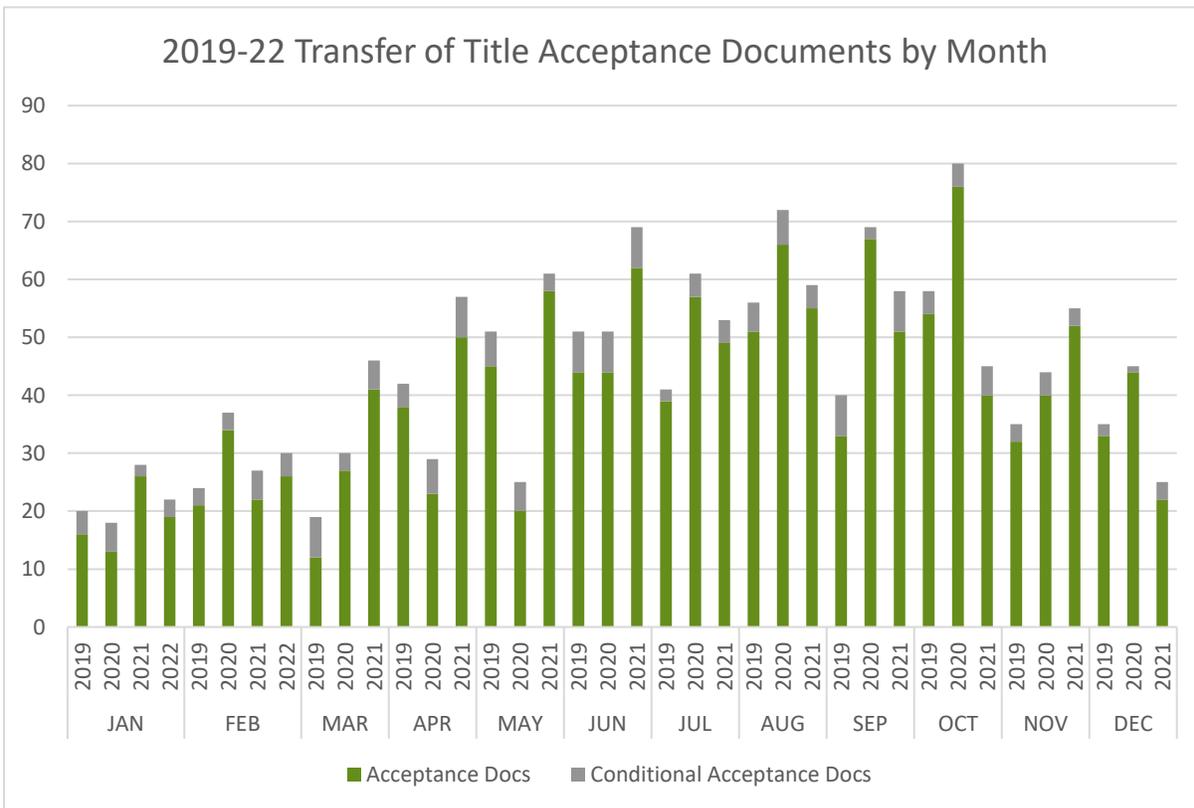
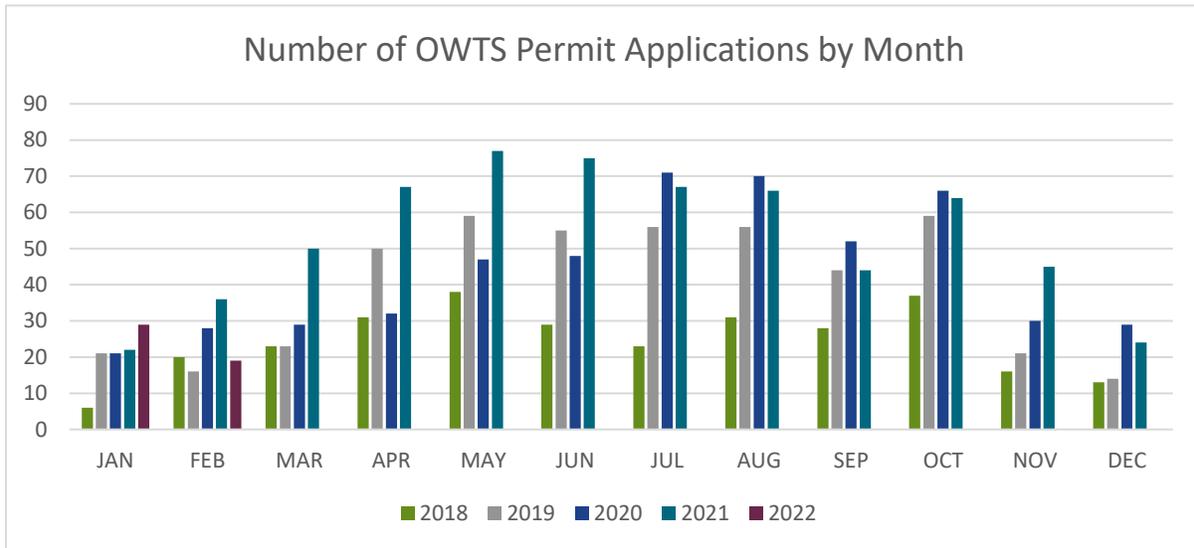
- No updates.

Water and Air Quality:

On-Site Wastewater Treatment Systems (OWTS)

- Staff performed 26 inspections and issued eight permits in February. February is traditionally the slowest month for OWTS activity due to the frozen ground.

See charts below.



Surface and Drinking Water

- SJBPH has completed its study of water wells in the Animas Valley and San Juan County with a total of 143 wells tested since 2016. Contamination was identified above a health standard in approximately 17% of wells tested. The presence of more than one contaminant above a health standard was rare. A full report for the Board of Health will be prepared at a later date.

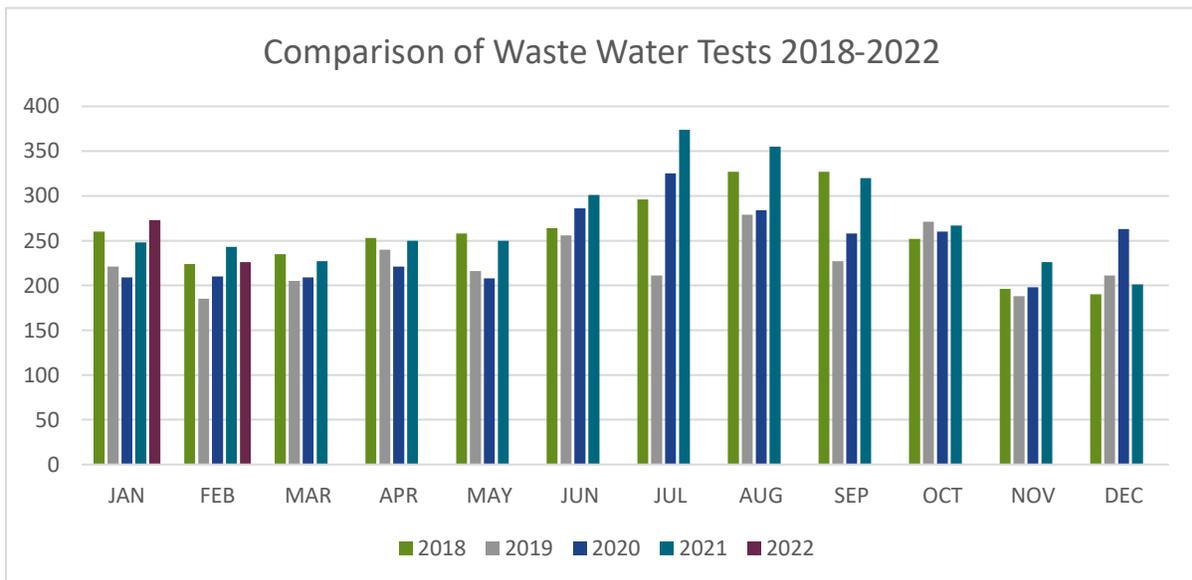
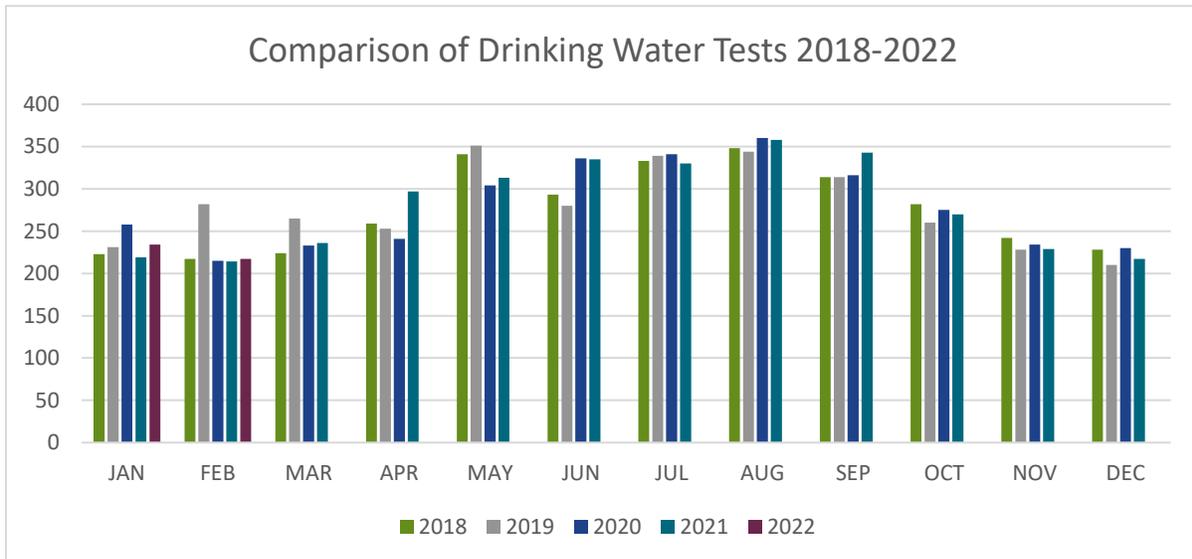
Radon

- Staff held three virtual radon workshops with 76 attendees. The SJBPH radon awareness video campaign was viewed 27,824 times in January and February. Radon testing training and awareness are now available by appointment only as the winter campaign has concluded.

Water Lab

- The water lab conducted 217 drinking water tests and 276 wastewater tests.

See charts below.



Health Behaviors

Clinic:

- The sexual health clinic provided free rapid HIV testing at Fort Lewis on several days to **increase access to sexual health services.**
- The sexual health clinic updated sexual health and PrEP websites and marketing campaign to **increase awareness of sexual health services.**

Immunizations:

- The immunization clinic continues to provide routine and travel vaccines to the public in order to **increase access to vaccines.**

Nurse Family Partnership (NFP):

- NFP/SafeCare/Parents as Teachers Community Advisory Board meeting for La Plata/Archuleta counties was held 2/17/22 via ZOOM **improving awareness of the NFP program.**
- The NFP Continuation Report was completed and submitted to the Colorado Coordination Team **using data-informed quality improvement process to examine program.**
- NFP presented at two virtual resource fairs: one on 2/18/22 and one at Four Corners OB/Southwest Midwives on 2/28/22, **improving awareness of NFP program.**

SafeCare:

- Re-investing in staff and caseload due to challenges of home visitation service delivery during pandemic.

Statewide Tobacco Education and Prevention Partnership (STEPP):

- In a **demonstration of commitment to organizational excellence**, the STEPP Coordinator was trained as a trainer for "Start the Conversation: How to talk with young people about Vaping, JUULs, and other Electronic Nicotine Products." This is a 90-minute virtual session that she is now able to offer community partners, including school district staff and administration.

Women, Infants, and Children (WIC):

- The San Juan Basin Public Health WIC Program Manager met with Southwest Area Health Education Center and Mercy Hospital staff to explore ways to collaborate on their new focus areas of reducing food insecurity, **demonstrating commitment to explore innovative opportunities to raise awareness of services.**
- The San Juan Basin Public Health WIC Program Manager met with the new family advocate at Tri County Head Start to share best practices regarding WIC referrals, **demonstrating commitment to improve awareness of services.**

Clinical Care Linkage

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

- The clinic outreach coordinator assisted various Spanish speaking clients from Silverton with appointments and transportation for annual exams and cervical cancer screening to **increase access to breast and cervical cancer screening.**

Health Care Coordination:

- The Nurse Navigator provided care coordination to 12 families/individuals in two counties, **improving access to resources.**

<p>Language Services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The agency interpreter worked with the environmental health department to translate the septic system presentation and installer's test into Spanish to increase access to information. • The agency interpreter worked with the retail food program and several prospective business owners to get started with plan reviews to increase access to services and information.
<p>Regional Oral Health Specialist (ROHS):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ROHS team assisted with one referral and provided preventative dental services to 30 preschool students, and nine elementary students improving access to services.
<p>Specialty Clinics/Maternal Child Health (MCH):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The MCH Nurse gave information, referrals and assistance to eight families, thereby improving their access to care and resources.
<p>Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving access to needed resources: Parents Plus Nurse collaborated with Los Compañeros and SJBPB interpretation services regarding services for families affected by immigration laws.

<p>Communicable Disease</p>
<p>Diseases reported February 1-February 28, 2022:</p> <p>11 Animal bites (7 La Plata County, 4 Archuleta County)</p> <p>2 Campylobacteriosis (2 La Plata County)</p>
<p>Communicable Disease:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communicable disease follow up is being done by CDPHE, except for respiratory disease outbreaks and zoonotics.
<p>Tuberculosis (TB):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No new TB activity.

<p>Emergency Preparedness and Response</p>
<p>Emergency Preparedness and Response:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff participated as the Safety Officer at the Colorado Emergency Management Conference which provided opportunities for employees to excel/innovate.

Universal Activities

Administrative Services:

Human Resources:

HR Staffing Updates:

March

- The following vacancies were filled since the last report:
 - Executive Assistant, SafeCare Provider (internal move), Senior Program Manager, SafeCare Programs Supervisor, Communications Director, Administrative Support Assistant II
- The following vacancies have been hired for with future start dates:
 - Finance Manager
- Recruitment continues for the following staff positions:
 - Administrative Assistant - Dental

Assessment and Planning:

- Staff participated in multiple meetings for our Health Disparities Grant, both with our sub-contractors and the Office of Health Equity **to help provide evidence-based public health recommendations to partners and policymakers through data.**
- Staff supported data requests from internal and external partners who were then able **to provide evidence-based public health recommendations.**
- Staff participated in several webinars focused on topics such as health systems in an equitable tomorrow, measuring and aligning across sectors, and network, partner, and relationship mapping, **allowing for opportunities to excel and innovate**

Communications:

- In February, SJBPH communications informed the public about a rapidly changing pandemic environment marked by a precipitous decline in COVID-19 cases on the backside of the Omicron surge. This brought with it changing community guidance from the CDC and SJBPH, in addition to a roadmap from the State of Colorado for 'normalizing' COVID-19 response areas. 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-19 precautions, emerging treatments, vaccine/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 Emergency Preparedness, ROHS, NFP, Sexual Health Clinic, Thriving Communities and WIC. Communications were through a variety of channels including print, radio, tv, social media, and email.
- In February, SJBPH communications staff distributed one agency e-newsletter (February), **two** semi-monthly COVID updates, wrote and distributed **three** media releases, responded to **14** media inquiries, posted **89** tweets, and **83** 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, treatments, contact tracing, and promoting SJBPH programs and services. SJBPH was featured in **28** articles/radio/tv stories in newspapers, online news outlets, and local radio stations. In February, SJBPH had over **78,069** Facebook impressions (# of eyes on our posts),

and **21,441** Twitter impressions. Our FB engagement (action taken such as commenting or sharing a post) was over **3,580**, and Twitter had **525** engagements. These activities help to improve awareness and acceptance of public health resources, services, programs, and value to the community.

Facilities/Fleet:

- No updates.