

SAN JUAN BASIN public health

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

Highlights:

- WIC staff have been increasing outreach efforts to help increase the WIC caseload. Current outreach activities include contacting area preschools that accept the Colorado Childcare Assistance Program, conversations, and an upcoming presentation for the La Plata County Food Equity Coalition Subgroup Community Voices that's focused on Latino food security, collaboration with Southwest Area Health Education Center's new focus on reducing food insecurity and a meeting with an Axis staff member who conducts Medicaid and SNAP enrollment.
- Four OWTS staff completed the National Association of Wastewater Technicians on-site wastewater design course and became certified OWTS designers. This training and certification confirm that staff can accurately review and approve a wide range of system designs and can consult on complex design challenges faced by property owners.

Staff Reports

Behavioral Health
Thriving Communities Program Team (TCP): <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Thriving Communities Team demonstrated a commitment to organizational excellence and expanded organizational capacity by having two staff participate in Youth Mental Health First Aid training, allowing this team to support schools with interest in the curriculum.
Communities that Care (CTC): <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The ROAR Coalition, supported by the Communities That Care/Community Organizing for Prevention grant, made great strides improving awareness of resources and services by participating in the downtown Durango Snowdown parade and handing out over 400 coalition promotional materials and resource flyers.• The program coordinator also began a collaboration with a Fort Lewis College senior level student. This collaboration will result in youth engagement and program input from high school and college age students, ultimately to identify and address barriers to community acceptance of the evidence based public health concepts promoted through this grant.
Suicide Prevention (SP)/Gun Shop Project: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The La Plata County Suicide Prevention Collaborative continues to find opportunities to work with non-traditional partners to solve public health issues and planned for the incoming \$85,000 of rollover funding. The collaborative focuses on "six pillars of suicide prevention:" (1) Connectedness; (2) Economic Stability; (3) Access to Suicide-Safer Care; (4) Education & Awareness; (5) Lethal Means Safety; (6) Postvention & Bereavement. The Suicide Prevention

coordinator **provided evidence-based public health recommendations to the collaborative informing best practices** for projects to come. The available funds are being proposed to CDPHE to be predominately used for media, trauma informed trainings and workshops, supporting survivors of suicide loss, and other pillar related projects.

Social Determinants of Health

Health Insurance Literacy (HIL):

- January was the last push for 2022's Open Enrollment, which officially ended on January 19th (this date was extended from the usual January 15th deadline). HIL staff worked closely with our wonderful communications team to notify our community members of the upcoming deadline. This included increased social media posts, a new banner across Santa Rita Park & Main Ave in Durango. Our Health Coverage Guide conducted the 5th and final 2022 Open Enrollment Webinar for any Archuleta, La Plata, and San Juan County residents. This webinar included simultaneous Spanish translation provided by Danny Quinlan. Our Health Coverage Guide was also available Saturday, January 15th via phone and Zoom to answer any last-minute questions, or to assist with the application process on Connect for Health Colorado. Appointments were primarily via phone or Zoom with one in-person appointment conducted with the appropriate COVID protocols in place. January 22nd also marked a Special Enrollment Period for C4HCO, which is called the Tax Time Enrollment. This is an opportunity for all uninsured Colorado residents who file their taxes before April 15th (if an extension is requested, they will not be eligible to take advantage of the Enrollment Period).

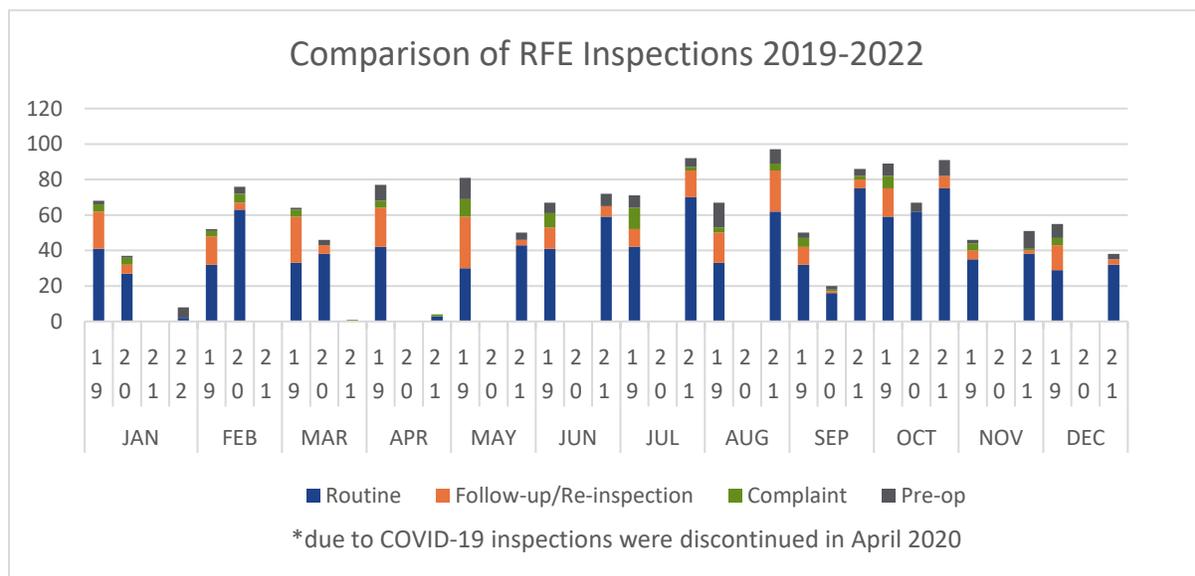
Environmental Health

Consumer Protection:

Retail Food Program

- Inspections were paused for most of the month during the Omicron COVID-19 surge. Staff primarily processed license renewals for 2022. The team lead began to work on a Food Code Standardization process with CDPHE Retail Food Staff.

See reports below:



Childcare Inspection Program

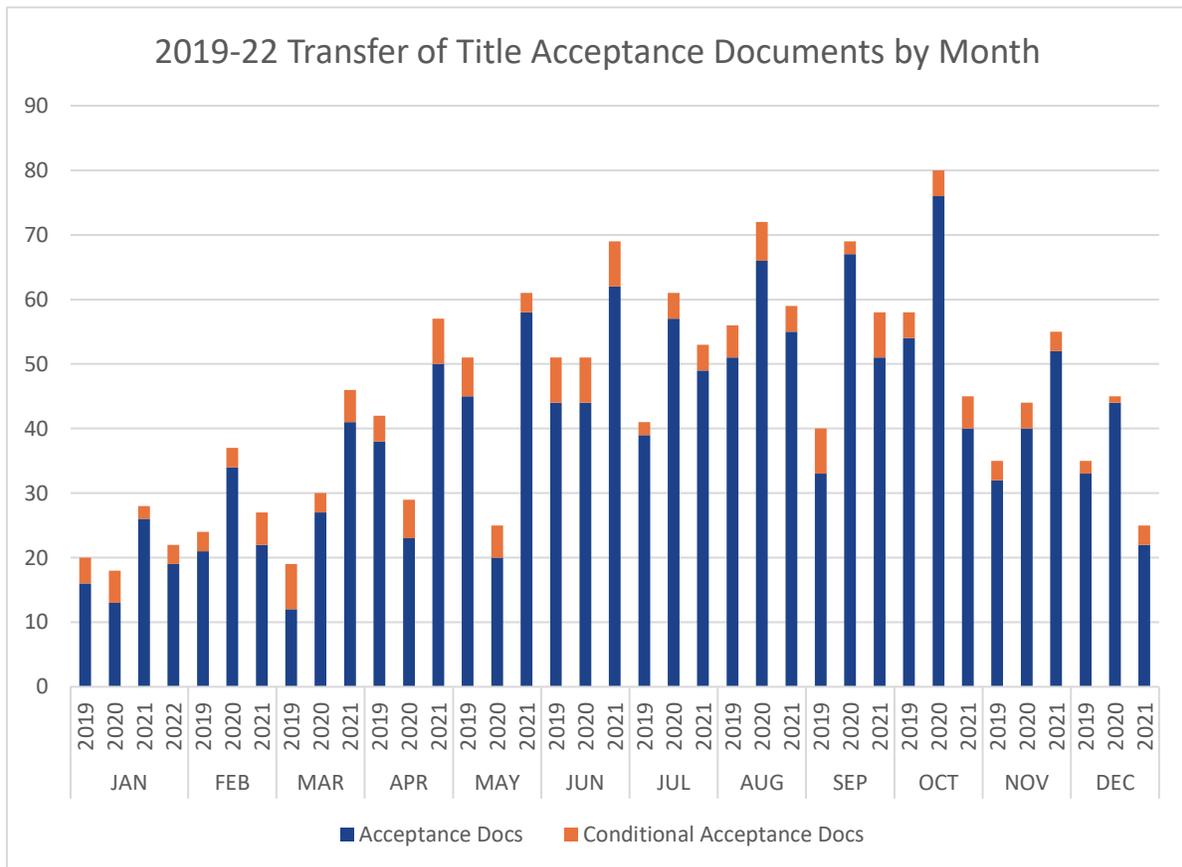
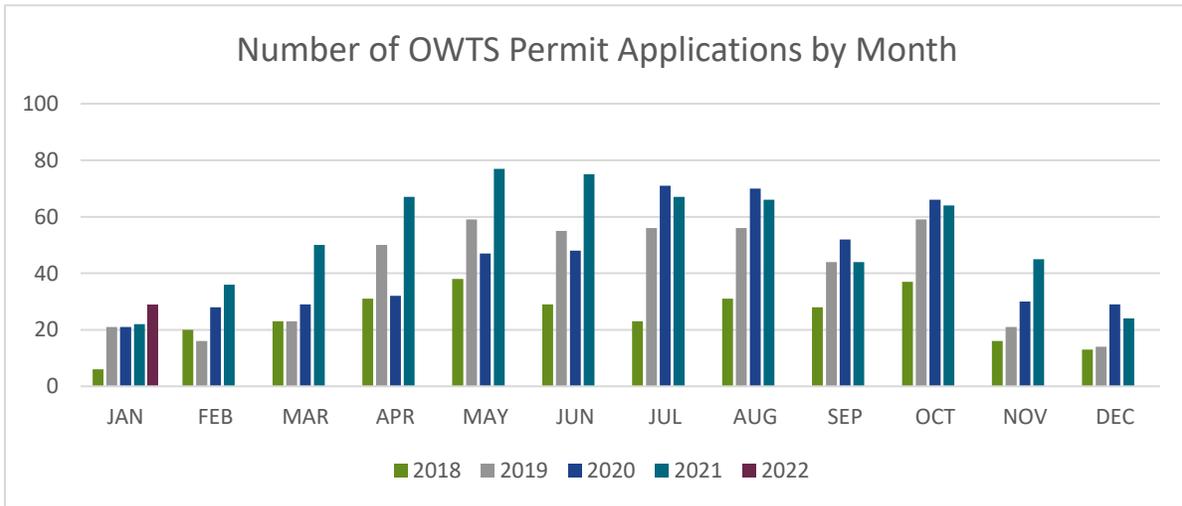
- No updates.

Water and Air Quality:

On-Site Wastewater Treatment Systems (OWTS)

- See Highlight above.

See charts below.



Surface and Drinking Water

- No updates.

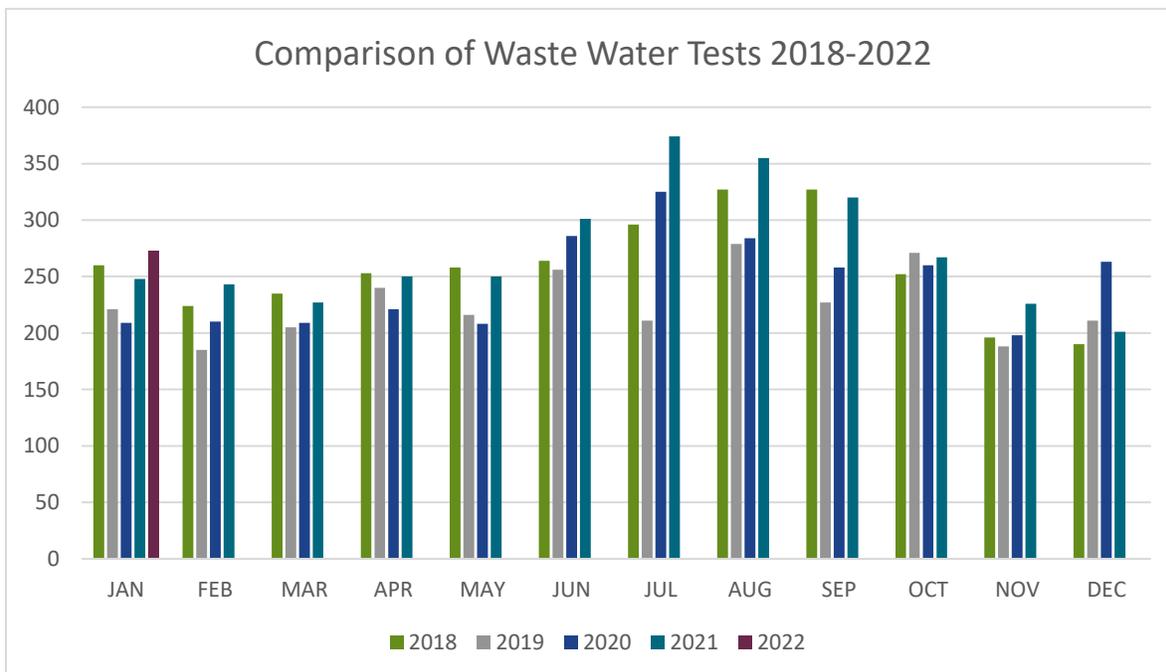
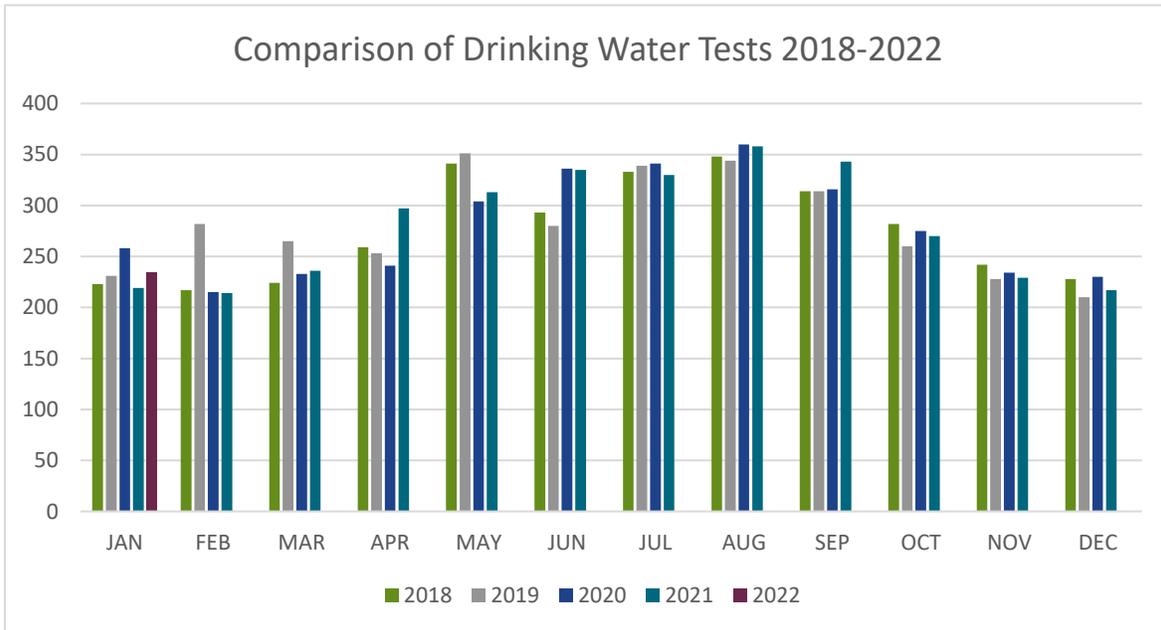
Radon

- The Radon team held two virtual workshops and began a video, web, and radio campaign for radon awareness. January was National Radon Action Month.

Water Lab

- The water lab conducted 234 drinking water tests and 273 wastewater tests.

See charts below.



Health Behaviors

Clinic:

- The sexual health clinic continues to provide STI screening, STI treatment, PrEP and annual exams at our Durango and Pagosa Springs clinics and serves as a referral source for other clinics **to increase access to high quality sexual health services.**
- The sexual health clinic is updating CDPHE with our current stock of benzathine penicillin G which is currently in shortage so information can be shared with local providers **to increase access to effective syphilis treatment.**

Immunizations:

- The immunization clinic continues to provide routine and travel immunizations to patients through drive up vaccine clinics at the SJBPH offices during the Omicron COVID surge **to increase access to vaccines.**
- The COVID vaccine nurse continues to provide flu shots throughout La Plata and Archuleta County where underserved populations live including Espero apartments, Lumien apartments, Manna Soup Kitchen, and the senior centers **to increase access to vaccines.**

Nurse Family Partnership (NFP):

- Social media ads were placed in three separate channels, flyers were emailed to three community partners, one flyer was placed in a partner agency e-newsletter, and two emails were sent introducing NFP, **all in order to improve awareness of the NFP program.**
- A Telehealth training offered by the NFP National Service Office was attended by two nurses, **demonstrating commitment to organizational excellence.**

SafeCare:

- No updates.

Statewide Tobacco Education and Prevention Partnership (STEPP):

- The STEPP coordinator **simultaneously demonstrated a commitment to organizational excellence and investigated emerging population and environmental public health issues** through continuing Tobacco prevention education and trainings - including but not limited to trainings regarding Tobacco Free Schools; Catch My Breath Curriculum; E-cigarette Waste Storage and Disposal Guidance for Schools; Youth Mental Health First Aid.

Women, Infants, and Children (WIC):

- San Juan Basin Public Health WIC staff is contacting area preschools that accept Colorado Childcare Assistance Program to ensure they have WIC rack cards and other information to facilitate appropriate referrals to WIC, **demonstrating commitment to improve awareness of services.**
- The San Juan Basin Public Health WIC Program Manager developed a detailed job breakdown for five key workflows which impact client experience, caseload retention and staff efficiency, **demonstrating commitment to implement procedures based on best practices.**

Clinical Care Linkage

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

- The Cancer Prevention and Early Detection program continues to navigate women to breast cancer screening and diagnostics **to increase access to care.** This month the navigation provided resulted in a breast cancer diagnosis of an Archuleta County patient.

Health Care Coordination:

- The Nurse Navigator provided care coordination to 18 families/individuals, **improving access resources.**

HCP Specialty Clinics/Maternal Child Health (MCH):

- The MCH Nurse gave information and referrals to three families and assisted five others to **improve access to care and resources.**

Language Services:

- The agency interpreter continues to provide language access services including COVID response interpretation at vaccine clinics targeting the Spanish speaking population, translation of press releases and other printed materials, interpretation for the health insurance literacy webinar and translation of retail food establishment applications **to increase access to services.**

Regional Oral Health Specialist (ROHS):

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

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF):

- Several clients were educated about benefits and what to expect in counseling as well as supported and referred for behavioral health counseling (both private therapists and Axis.), **improving their access to resources.**

Communicable Disease**Diseases reported January 1-January 31, 2022:**

1 Animal bites (La Plata County)
1 Campylobacteria (La Plata County)
2 Cryptosporidiosis (2 La Plata County)
1 Lyme Disease (1 La Plata County)
3 Strep Pneumo Invasive (2 Archuleta County, 1 La Plata County)

Communicable Disease:

- Communicable disease follow up is being done by CDPHE, except for respiratory disease outbreaks and zoonotics. Staff closed 1 RSV Outbreak.

Tuberculosis (TB):

- An LTBI case was sent to CDPHE due to person residing in New Mexico. We are working with a high risk LTBI case at the jail.

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

- Staff applied for and was awarded a \$10,000 MRC (Medical Reserve Corps) grant after identifying gaps in SWCMRC sustainable infrastructure.

Universal Activities

Administrative Services:

HR Staffing Updates

February

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

Assessment and Planning:

- Staff completed new monthly reports which will help program managers **use data-informed quality improvement process to examine programs/services for areas of improvement, plan upgrades.**
- Staff participated in multiple meetings led by the Office of Public Health Practice, Planning, and Local Partnerships, including one to provide input on the updated Colorado Health Indicators Dashboard **to help provide evidence-based public health recommendations to partners and policymakers** through data.
- Staff participated in several webinars focused on topics such as racial equity, combatting substance use, modernizing data, and creating technology infrastructure, **allowing for opportunities to excel and innovate**

Communications:

- In January, SJBPH communications balanced a drastic spike in media requests and communications support needs driven by the Omicron surge with non-COVID public health projects (health insurance open enrollment, radon workshops, etc.). 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, COVID-19 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 Health Insurance Literacy, Emergency Preparedness, Radon, Sexual Health Clinic, Thriving Communities 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), **two** semi-monthly COVID updates, wrote and distributed **four** media releases, responded to **29** media inquiries, posted **84** 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, contact tracing, and promoting non-COVID SJPBH programs and services. SJBPH was featured in **69** articles/radio/tv stories in newspapers, online news outlets, and local radio stations. In January, SJBPH had over **534,232** Facebook impressions (# of eyes on our posts), and **33,670** Twitter impressions. Our FB engagement (action taken such as commenting or sharing a post) was over **14,053**, and Twitter had **1,229** engagements. These activities help to

improve awareness and acceptance of public health resources, services, programs, and value to the community.

Facilities/Fleet:

- No updates.