

# SAN JUAN BASIN public health

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

### Highlights:

- During the month of April SJBPH Women, Infants and Children (WIC) staff conducted several outreach activities in Archuleta County: attended the Archuleta County Food Summit, checked in and distributed rack card at all four area preschools and met with a new Archuleta County Department of Human Services parent advocate.

### Staff Reports

#### Behavioral Health

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

- Members of the Thriving Communities Team partnered with the Colorado School of Public Health to plan a Durango based Rural & Resort Communities Spring Retreat for any collaboratives working on prevention work. The event was hosted the second week of April and 29 participants from across the State came together, both virtually and in person, to learn from and share resources with one another, **increasing organizational capacity and expanding the ability to work with non-traditional partners to solve public health issues.**

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

- The Communities That Care Coordinator partnered with La Plata Youth Services and other youth serving organizations in the area to complete and publish a free or low-cost youth summer programming guide – promoting healthy opportunities for young people ages 12-25. **Working with non-traditional partners to improve access to resources, services, and programs in our communities** – particularly prosocial opportunities for youth in La Plata County - is a core strategy of the coalition.
- The Recognizing Opportunities Around Resilience (ROAR) coalition (which is supported by the Communities That Care grant) continued working with Young People in Recovery to lead a second (of four) community Narcan and Harm Reduction trainings (**using equity-based strategies to address existing population public health issues**), this time targeting parents in the community. ROAR will be supporting two more of these trainings with Young People in Recovery through June 30, 2022, with the desire to continue offering trainings depending on public interest in FY23.

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

- The La Plata County Suicide Prevention Collaborative expanded to include new non-traditional partners and planned to fill a calendar of public awareness events for Mental Health Awareness month in May. The Suicide Prevention coordinator provided **evidence-based public health recommendations to the collaborative** informing best practices for projects to come.

## Social Determinants of Health

### Health Insurance Literacy:

- Although April 15th was the last day for community members to mark that they want to take advantage of the Tax Time Special Enrollment Period (SEP) while filing their taxes, the work still continues. Anyone who is deemed eligible for the SEP will have 60 days to apply on Connect for Health Colorado once they receive a response letter from the IRS. We will continue to support those who are eligible for the Tax Time SEP. We continued to see an increase in Medicaid applicants, including those applying for Emergency Medicaid (non-citizens/not legally present). We also assisted clients from Dolores, Maricopa, and Boulder Counties that found our services through word-of-mouth. I find it important to note that although not all our appointments result in enrollment, all of our appointments always include health insurance literacy. Appointments continued to be offered in a virtual, phone or in-person setting. Our Health Coverage Guide attended the annual Assistance Network Program Manager Summit virtually, and a virtual training hosted by the Colorado Dept. of Health Care Policy and Financing discussing the Public Health Emergency (PHE) transition for Medicaid clients. This is part of HIL's continued effort **to expand organizational capacity by taking advantage of employee growth/training opportunities**. The SJBPH FY23/24 Application was submitted to Connect for Health Colorado to continue our partnership and funding for the Health Insurance Literacy Program.

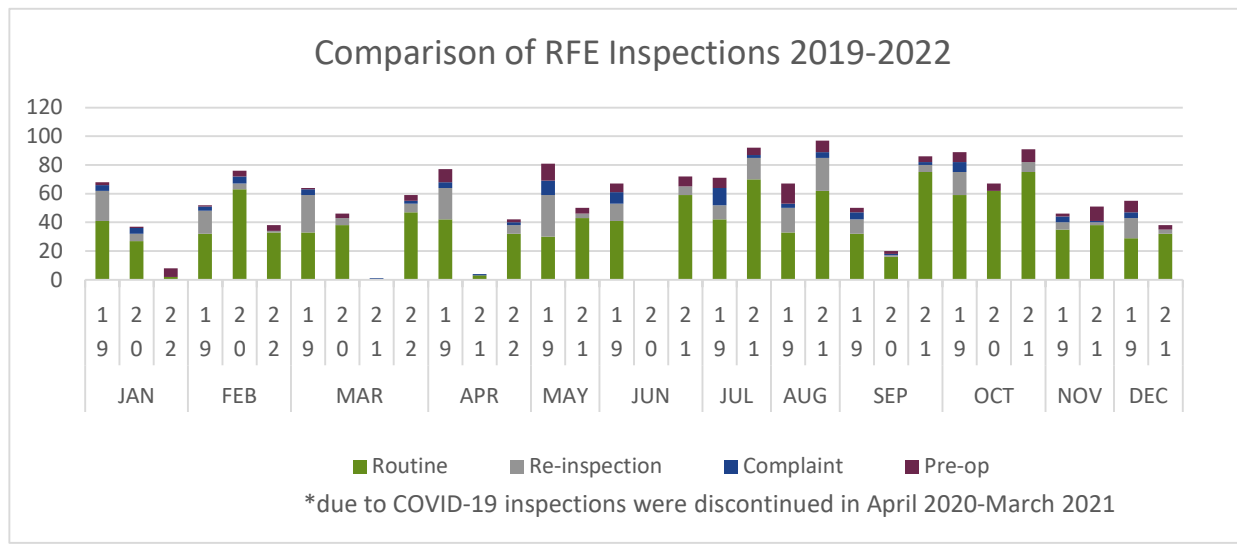
## Environmental Health

### Consumer Protection:

#### Retail Food Program

- Staff conducted Food Safety Basics at SJBPH offices and an on-site Food Safety class for a Durango Retail Food establishment.
- Staff also implemented announced inspection standard procedure for medium and high-risk retail food operations.

See reports below:



**Childcare Inspection Program**

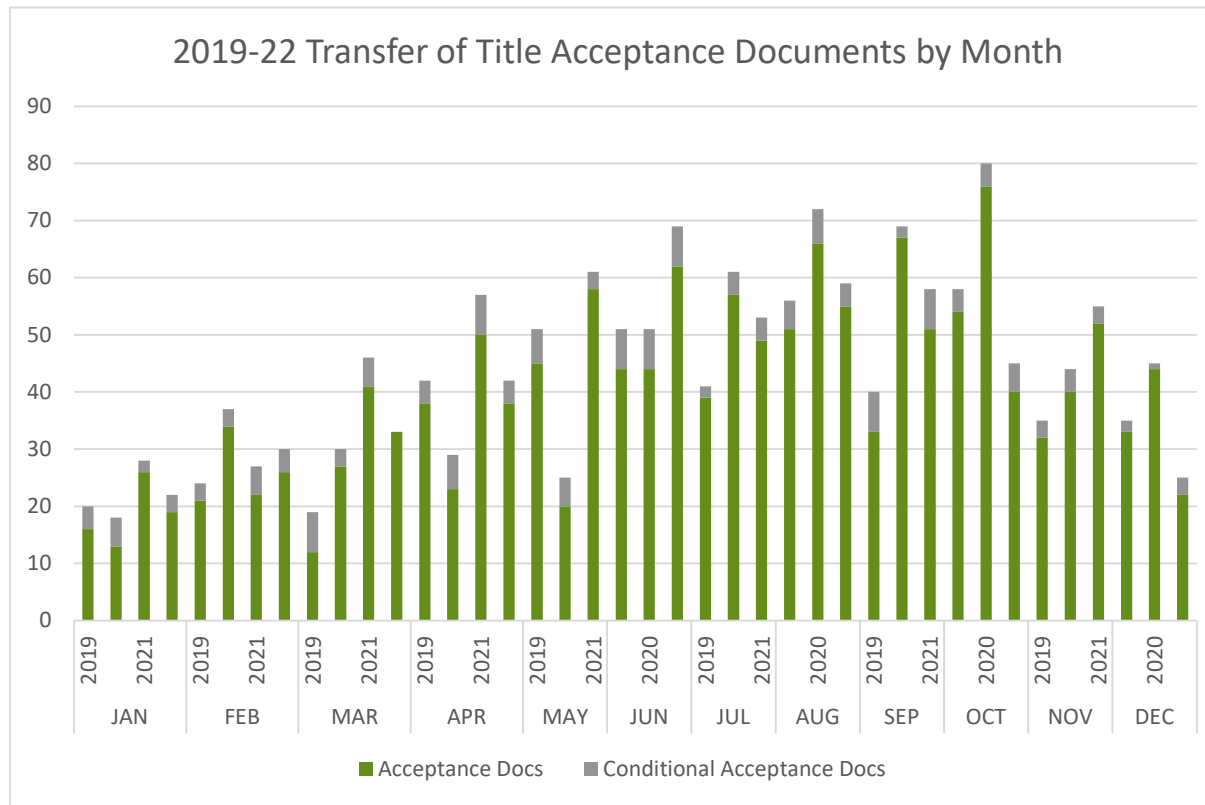
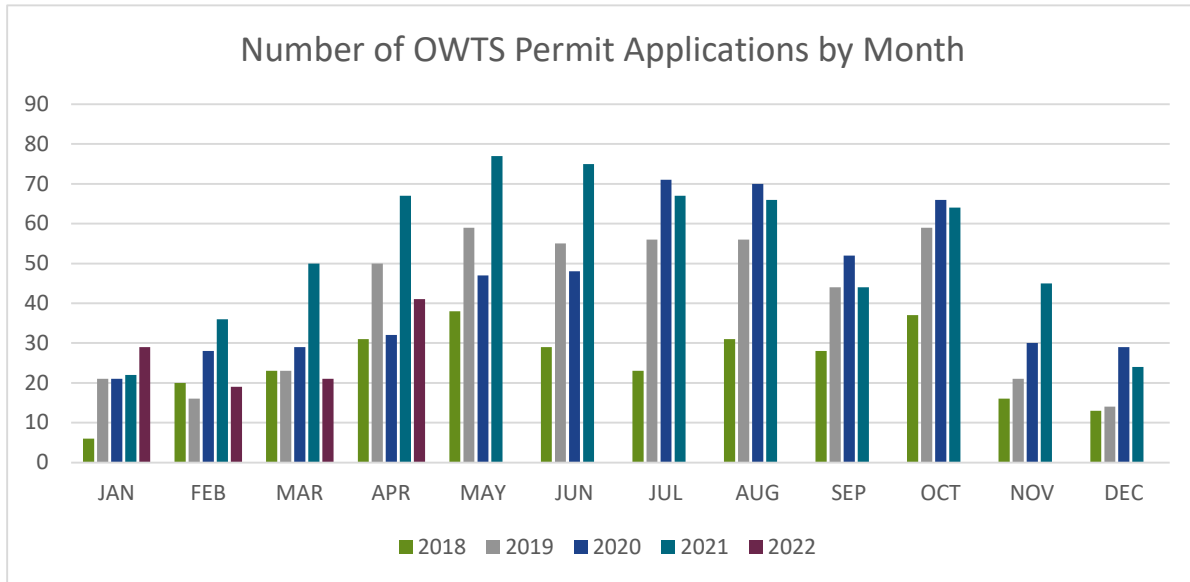
- No updates.

**Water and Air Quality:**

*On-Site Wastewater Treatment Systems (OWTS)*

- SJBPH hosted a full installers class on the 29th. All tests have been graded and licenses sent out.

See charts below.



*Surface and Drinking Water*

- An Environmental Health Technician attended the Southwestern Water Conservation District Seminar.

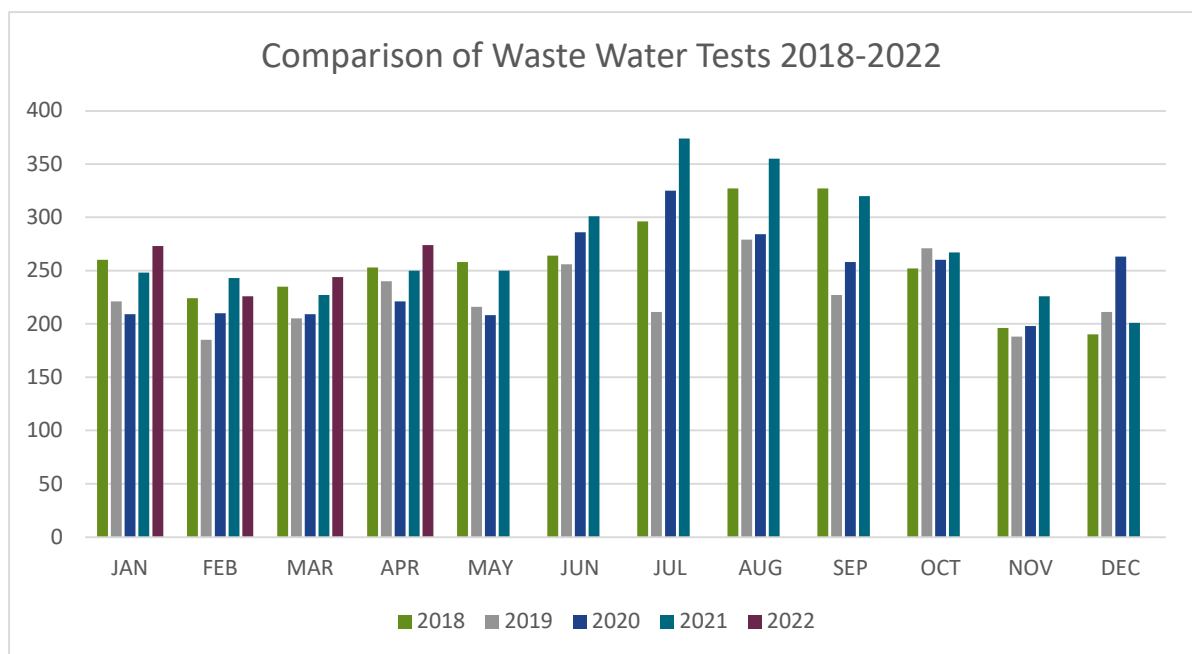
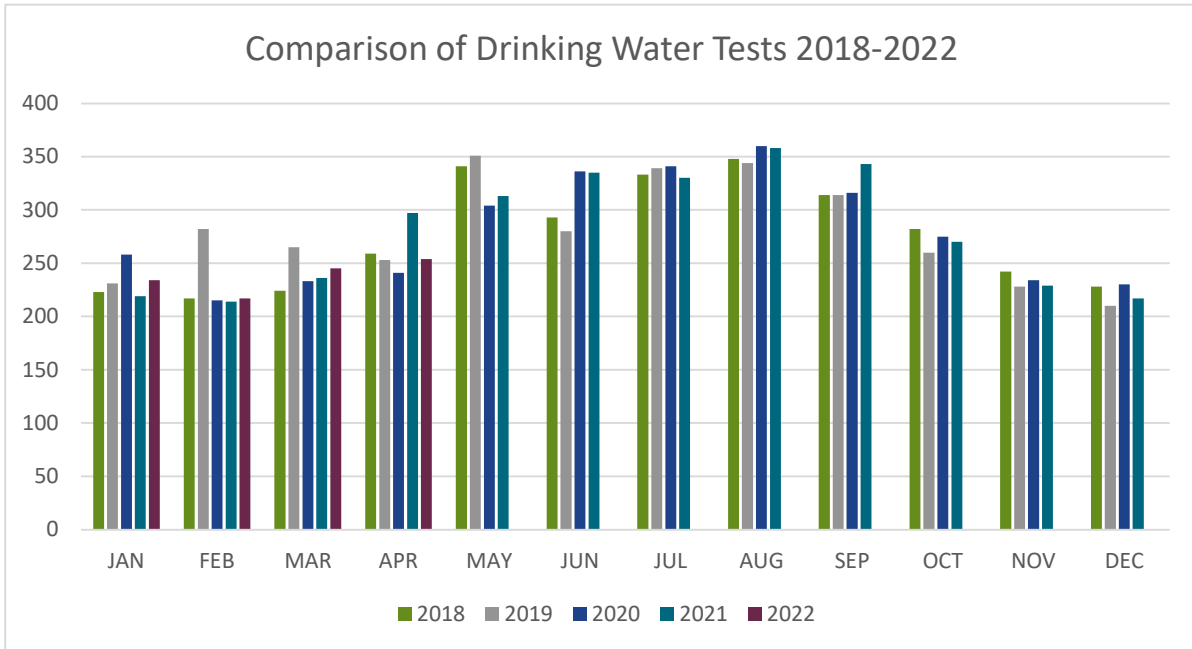
*Radon*

- SJBPH hosted a webinar put on by the state on Radon and Real Estate.

*Water Lab*

- The water lab conducted 254 drinking water tests and 274 wastewater tests.

See charts below.



## Health Behaviors

### Clinic:

- The clinic coordinator attended a training on PrEP **to address gaps in workforce development and increase access to information.**
- The clinic shared a Health Advisory Network alert and press release regarding an increase in syphilis cases in La Plata County **to increase community knowledge of testing, treatment, and prevention efforts.**

### Immunizations:

- The immunization clinic is collaborating with the COVID vaccine team by sharing inventory and logistics **to increase access to COVID vaccines at all immunization and sexual health appointments.**

### Nurse Family Partnership (NFP):

- An NFP consultant attended a team meeting providing a review of the San Juan FY22-23 Nurse Home Visitor Program Award Letter received **demonstrating commitment to organizational excellence.**
- NFP team members attended a Suicide Prevention for Indigenous Communities Virtual workshop, Cultural Consciousness Innovations Advisory Committee, and a Navajo Nation Breastfeeding Coalition, **improving access to resources and services by integrating culturally responsive health equity.**
- The NFP Quarterly report was reviewed during our team meeting on 4/26/22 **utilizing data-informed quality improvement process to examine program for areas of improvement.**

### SafeCare:

- SafeCare tabled at three public libraries during story time and kindergarten readiness programs during the month of April, **improving awareness of SJBHD's SafeCare program.**

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

- The STEPP coordinator provided education on the harms of vaping and young persons, impact on mental health, cessation support, local data on youth use, and cessation support to approximately 300 Bayfield Students and parents in the community, **addressing gaps in community knowledge and barriers to public acceptance of evidence-based public health concepts.** This event combined **non-traditional partners** including the Bayfield School District, LPC Drug Task Force, and the Bayfield Marshall, **working together to solve public health issues.**

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

- San Juan Basin Public Health WIC met with new staff at the Fort Lewis College Grub Hub to share information on WIC eligibility, benefits and how to enroll as well as WIC rack cards, **demonstrating commitment to improve awareness of services.**
- The San Juan Basin Public Health WIC Educator in Pagosa Springs met with the new Archuleta County Department of Human Services parent advocate to share information about WIC eligibility, benefits, how to refer and WIC rack cards, **demonstrating commitment to improve awareness of services.**

## Clinical Care Linkage

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

- The clinic outreach coordinator attended the Deer Woman Cuts and Clips self-care event to **increase awareness of breast and cervical cancer screening information.**
- The CPED program promoted breast and cervical cancer screening education through radio ads **to increase access to information and knowledge of direct services available.**

### Health Care Coordination:

- The Nurse Navigator received 11 referrals, from two counties for Care Coordination to assist with **improving access to care and resources.**

### Language Services:

- The agency interpreter translated documents including the STI press release, COVID press releases, vaccine flyers, and infectious disease materials **to increase access to information for the Spanish speaking population.**
- The agency interpreter provided interpretation for restaurant inspections and food safety basics class with environmental health **to increase access to environmental health services.**

### Regional Oral Health Specialist (ROHS):

- ROHS provided clinical dental services to 89 children in April and provided care coordination to five clients, **improving access to care and resources.**

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

- The MCH Nurse gave information and referrals to eight families to **improve access to care and resources.**

### Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF):

- The Parents Plus Nurse educated a new parent to the area about the availability of local IHS services in Ignacio, as well as Medicaid Providers in Durango for the whole family, **improving access to care and resources.**

## Communicable Disease

### Diseases reported April 1-April 30, 2022:

3 Animal bites (2 La Plata County, 1 Archuleta County)  
1 Campylobacteriosis (La Plata County)  
1 Giardiasis (La Plata County)  
1 Haemophilus Influenzae (La Plata County)  
6 Pertussis (5 La Plata County, 1 Archuleta County)  
1 Strep Pneumo Invasive (La Plata County)  
1 Varicella (La Plata County)

### Communicable Disease:

- Communicable disease follow up is being done by CDPHE, except for respiratory disease outbreaks and zoonotics.

### Tuberculosis (TB):

- One LTBI case is being treated. One active case has been identified, a chest x-ray and sputum test has been performed, and QFT and HIV labs have been sent out.

## Emergency Preparedness and Response

### Emergency Preparedness and Response:

- Staff facilitated a patient surge exercise into the SW Region due to a hospital evacuation **to identify and address gaps in sustainable regional infrastructure.**
- Staff participated in La Plata County Wildfire Exercise as ESF8 lead which provided **opportunities for employees to excel/innovate.**

## Universal Activities

### Administrative Services:

#### Human Resources:

#### HR Staffing Updates

May

- The following vacancies were filled since the last report:
  - None
- The following vacancies have been hired with future start dates:
  - None
- Recruitment continues for the following staff positions:
  - Suicide Prevention Coordinator, Facilities Technician

### 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 Colorado Public Health Association's Culture of Data Conference and attended the American Association of Suicidology Conference, **demonstrating a commitment to organizational excellence.**
- Staff participated in several meetings with both state and other local partners for the Colorado National Collaborative's Evaluation Committee, and with the Office of Public Health Practice, Planning, and Local Partnerships, **demonstrating a commitment to organizational excellence and developing opportunities for collaboration across divisions.**

### Communications:

- In April, SJBPH communications focused both on COVID-19 information, and non-COVID public health and agency information. Non-COVID topics included increases in STI's and information about emergency preparedness. Topics also 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 Emergency Preparedness, ROHS, NFP, Sexual Health Clinic, Thriving Communities,

Immunizations and WIC. Communications were through a variety of channels including print, radio, social media, and email.

- SJBPH communications staff distributed one agency e-newsletter (April), **two** semi-monthly COVID-19 updates, wrote and distributed **two** media releases, responded to **15** media inquiries, posted **81** tweets, and **77** 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, wastewater surveillance 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 **21** articles/radio/tv stories in newspapers, online news outlets, and local radio stations. In March, SJBPH had over **115,130** Facebook impressions (# of eyes on our posts), and **13,729** Twitter impressions. Our FB engagement (action taken such as commenting or sharing a post) was over **3,905**, and Twitter had **356** engagements. These activities help to **improve awareness and acceptance of public health resources, services, programs, and value to the community.**

**Facilities/Fleet:**

- No updates.