

# SAN JUAN BASIN public health

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

### Highlights:

- SJBPH was selected for funding under the EPA Enhanced Air Quality Monitoring for Communities grant program. SJBPH will use this funding beginning in 2023 to develop comprehensive outdoor air quality messaging and decision support system providing high-quality real-time data to the public. These non-regulatory data can be used to make informed decisions about outdoor activities in an emergency and to prepare SJBPH to investigate air quality issues identified by partners and the public.
- The Clinic Outreach Coordinator focuses on increasing access to breast and cervical cancer screening through direct assistance. One way they do this is through assisting underserved people, like the Spanish speaking population, gain access to healthcare. Staff supported the health insurance literacy program by scheduling over 30 Spanish speaking families for Colorado Connect appointments. The root of this successful bridge to services is based in the trust developed with the underserved population.

### Staff Reports

#### Behavioral Health

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

- Thriving Communities staff **sought opportunities to work with non-traditional partners to solve public health issues**. Coordinators developed relationships with new partners including, the Hub High School; new staff in Ignacio Schools and Bayfield Schools; Mothers Against Prescription Drug Abuse; and the Neighbors in Need Alliance.

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

- The program coordinator engaged the Recognizing Opportunities Around Resilience (ROAR) coalition participants in a community resource analysis to help develop **innovative, sustainable programs, funding, and infrastructure, as well as identify and address gaps in funding sustainability and identify and address gaps in sustainable infrastructure**.
- To further ROAR participation and improve awareness of prosocial youth services and programs in La Plata County, the coordinator participated in the Hive's community Halloween event - making connections on over 50 families with youth of various ages.

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

- The Suicide Prevention coordinator collaborated with Fort Lewis College on organizing "Fresh Check Day," a campus wide event to promote mental health resources as suicide prevention, **this improved awareness and access of resources and services** available for college-age students. There were over 200 students in attendance. Feedback on the event indicated that

58% of attending students reported being "much more aware" of signs of suicidal ideation after attending the event.

## Social Determinants of Health

### Health Insurance Literacy:

- October was spent preparing for *Connect for Health Colorado* and *Colorado Connect's* open enrollment period (November 1 - January 15). Staff contributed to the Creating Communities Column published in the Durango Herald, presented program information to the La Plata Board of County Commissioners and the Board of Health, and were involved in other outreach opportunities. This is part of ongoing work to **improve awareness of program services**.
- This open enrollment period is a first for *Colorado Connect*, the marketplace where undocumented Colorado residents can shop and apply for health insurance in the OmniSalud Program. Staff targeted eligible community members and appropriate partner organizations to advertise the program. SJBPH hosted a webinar specific to the OmniSalud Program on October 27, 2022. This recorded webinar was sent to community partners to help share information about the program which demonstrates **our commitment to implement practices rooted in equity**.

## Environmental Health

### Air Quality and Solid Waste:

#### *Radon*

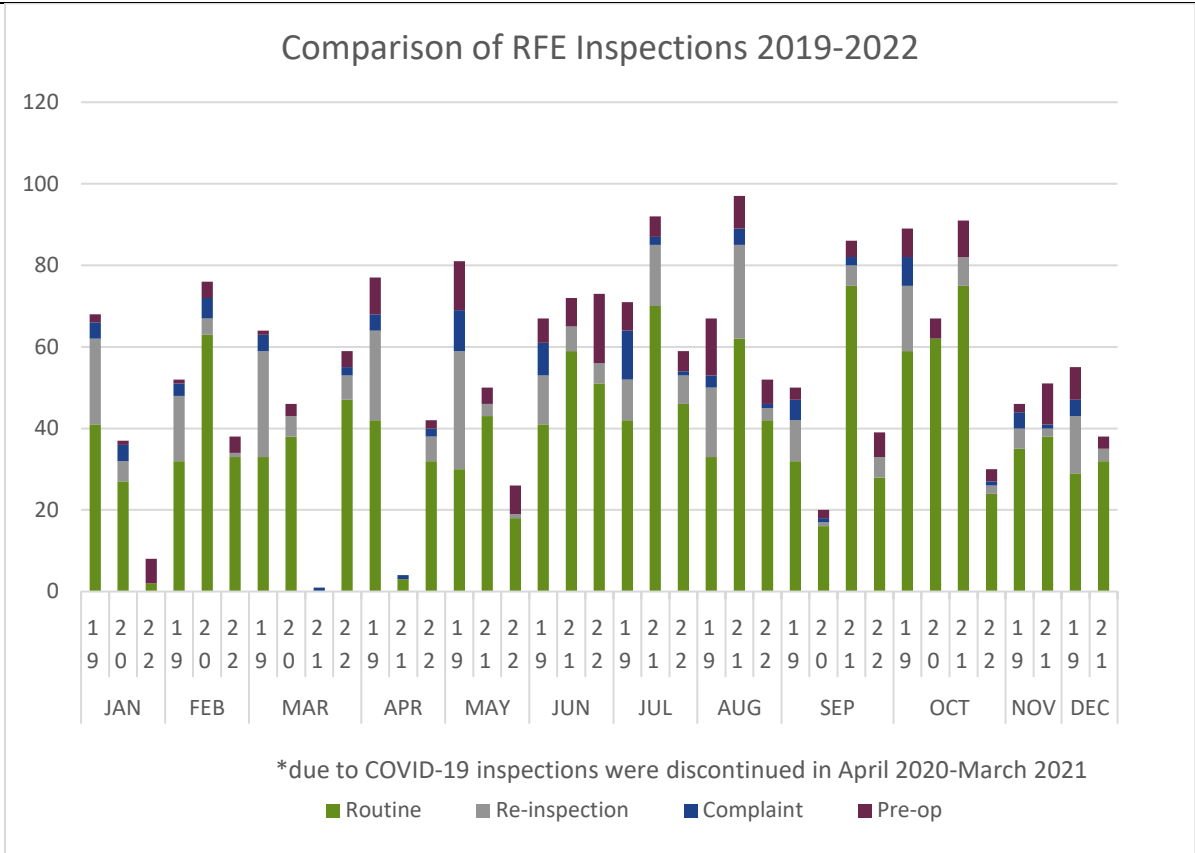
- Staff are expecting to receive a funding award for 2022-23 radon grants. This project usually begins in mid-December.

### Consumer Protection:

#### *Retail Food Program*

- Staff completed a Self-Assessment of Voluntary National Program Standards (VNPS). There are nine VNPS; SJBPH meets four of nine voluntary standards. Staff expects to write a Strategic Plan in 2023 to meet additional standards. For a small, rural health department, compliance with four voluntary standards is a major achievement.

*See reports below:*



**Childcare Inspection Program**

- Staff increased the number of childcare inspections.

**School Inspection Program**

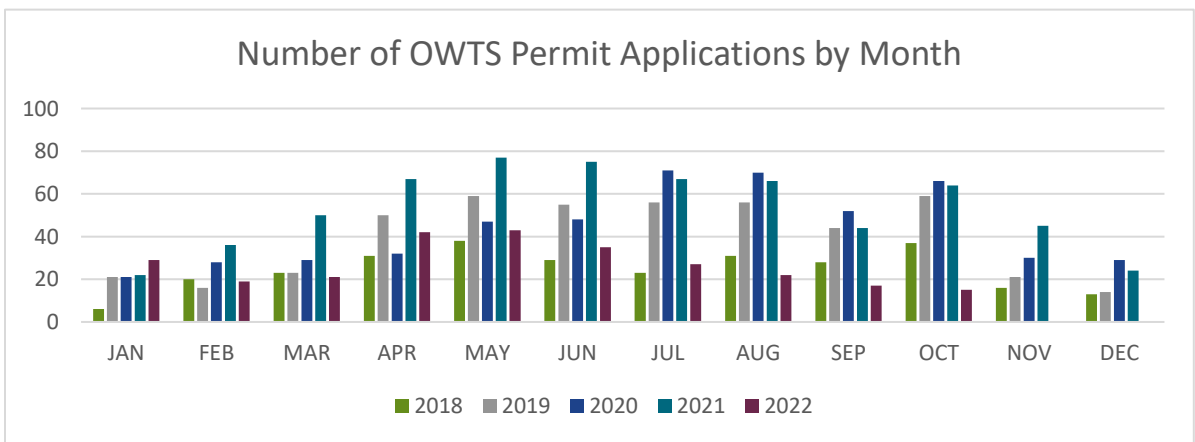
- Staff continued conducting routine school inspections.

**Water Quality:**

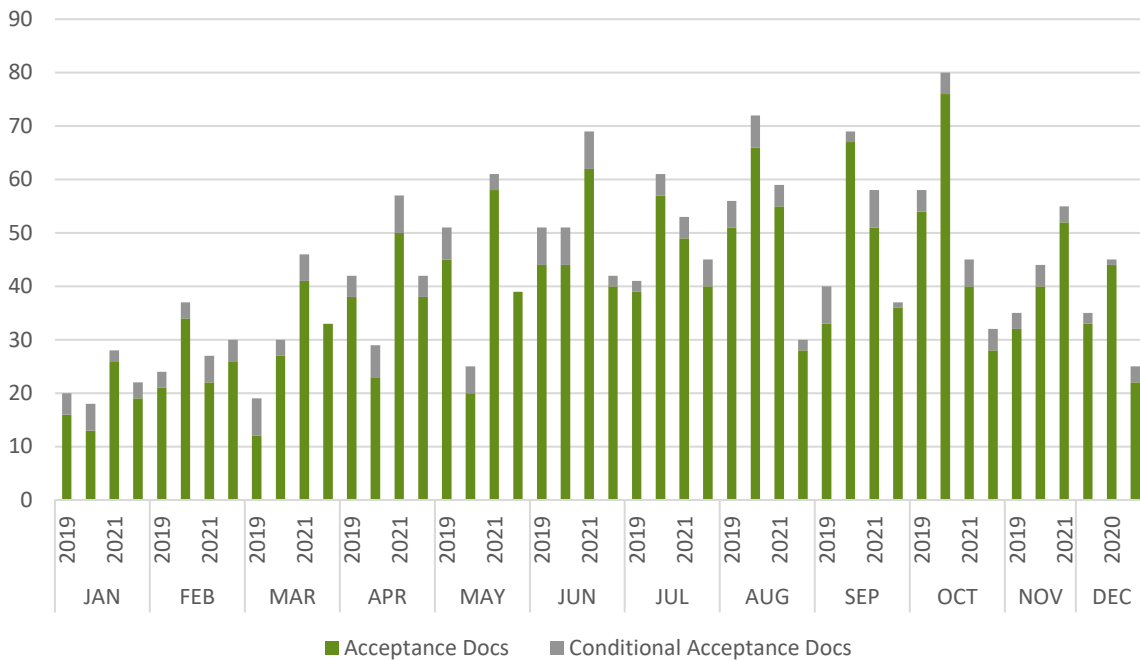
**On-Site Wastewater Treatment Systems (OWTS)**

- SJBPH has received over 500 wastewater permit application and over 400 transfer of title applications so far this year.

See charts below.



### 2019-22 Transfer of Title Acceptance Documents by Month



#### Surface and Drinking Water

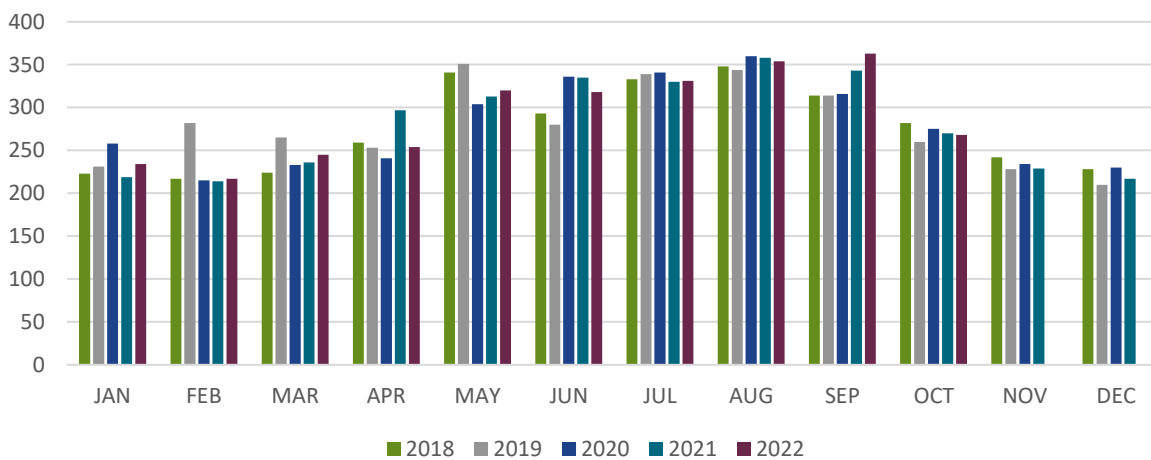
- SJBPB has been keeping a detailed sheet of willing participants in the area to have their wells tested for PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) through the recently awarded CDPHE PFAS grant.

#### Water Lab

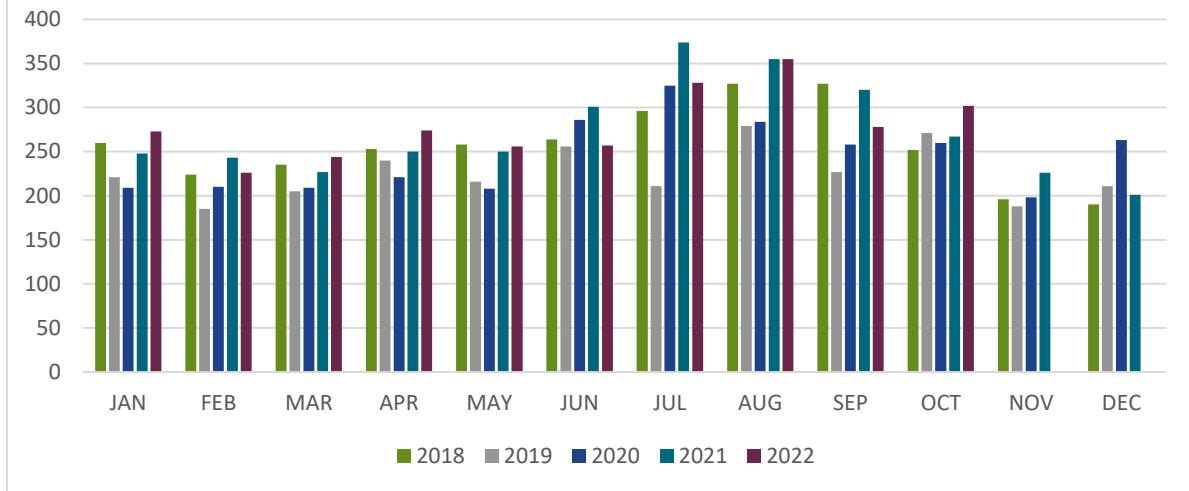
- The water lab performed 268 drinking water tests and 302 wastewater and surface water tests.

See charts below.

### Comparison of Drinking Water Tests 2018-2022



Comparison of Waste Water Tests 2018-2022



## Health Behaviors

### Clinic:

- The sexual health clinic staff attended the Manna Resource Center on October 13 to provide HIV testing, conduct surveys with people who use drugs and provide referrals for comprehensive STI (sexually transmitted infection) testing at SJBPH office with incentives **to increase access to sexual health services.**
- The sexual health clinic continues to provide specialized sexual health visit appointments for individuals including PrEP (Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis) for HIV, STI screening and treatment, syphilis treatment, pap tests, wellness exams, emergency contraception, and colposcopies for insured, uninsured, and underinsured individuals **to increase access to sexual health services and cancer screening.**

### Immunizations:

- The clinic provided over 100 vaccines at offsite COVID-19 and influenza vaccine clinics held in October at Sunshine Gardens Assisted Living, Pine River Library, Pine River Senior Center, and Espero Apartments **to increase access to vaccinations.**
- The clinic provided 20 monkeypox vaccines in October and continues to serve as the primary location for individuals to be vaccinated **increasing access to vaccination services.**

### Nurse Family Partnership (NFP):

- NFP staff presented program information at the Durango Library and to the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners **improving awareness of NFP program.**
- Radio ads are running in La Plata and Archuleta counties **improving awareness of the NFP program.**
- The NFP team completed a Team Meeting Education Module from NFP National Service Office on depression and anxiety **demonstrating commitment to organizational excellence.**

**SafeCare:**

- SafeCare staff created community connections with the Southern Ute Indian Tribe in Ignacio **to improve awareness and acceptance of public health resources, services, programs and value to the community.**
- The SafeCare Supervisor completed an 8-hour Motivational Interviewing Training **demonstrating commitment to organizational excellence.**
- After recent closure of a local, homeless camp, both the SafeCare Supervisor and SafeCare Parent Support Provider tabled at Manna Soup Kitchen to **improve awareness of the program.**
- The SafeCare Supervisor visits a local motel where people experiencing homelessness receive temporary housing. The visits provide an opportunity to share information about other SJBPH services that may be needed. Staff distribute program contact information **using innovative, equity-based strategies to address emerging population and environmental public health issues.**

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

- Innovation division leaders **identified opportunities for employees to excel/innovate** by encouraging the STEPP coordinator to apply for a seat on the State Tobacco Review Committee. The coordinator now sits on the committee, which will help SJBPH stay up to date on policy news and relevant action related to tobacco prevention work. This willingness to go above and beyond **demonstrates a commitment to organizational excellence.**

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

- SJBPH WIC staff emailed community partners updates about the WIC program **demonstrating commitment to increase awareness of services.**
- SJBPH staff capitalized on "National WIC Enrollment Week" this month and conducted extra WIC enrollment promotion via social media, **demonstrating commitment to increase awareness of services.**

**Clinical Care Linkage****Cancer Prevention and Early Detection (CPED – Women’s Wellness Connection):**

- The Clinic Outreach Coordinator participated in several events including the Construyendo Poder retreat for Spanish speaking women and the Shining Mountain Health and Wellness Breast Cancer Awareness Dinner to strengthen relationships and **increase access to breast and cervical cancer screening for underserved populations.**
- The Clinic Outreach Coordinator coordinated a training for community organizations serving the Latinx and immigrant population with Omnisalud to learn of the new insurance options for undocumented residents in 2023.

**Health Care Coordination:**

- The Health Care Coordinator received referrals for and reached out to 13 individuals for various needs, **improving access to care and resources.**

**Language Services:**

- The SJBPH agency interpreter provided translation of press releases, SJBPH monthly newsletter, and material for the SJBPH website **to increase access to information for Spanish speaking individuals.**

- The SJBPH agency interpreter provided interpretation services for the Health Insurance Literacy program events to **increase access to medical insurance for Spanish speaking individuals.**

**Regional Oral Health Specialist (ROHS):**

- The new ROHS dental hygienist started in early October. Meetings with internal partners were part of the onboarding process. These meetings help establish relationships and **identify and develop opportunities for collaboration across divisions.**
- Staff scheduled and started Head Start pre-school screenings at all six locations in the region **to identify and remove barriers to community/public access.**
- The ROHS worked with internal resources to develop a risk stratification tool to identify priority populations for School-Based Oral Health Program (SBOHP) **to use data-informed quality improvement process to examine programs/services for areas of improvement, plan upgrades.**

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

- The HCP nurse received referrals for two families with multiple needs and gave information and referrals to seven families, **to improve access to care and resources.**

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

- The Parents Plus Coordinator (TANF Nurse) educated clients about the importance of establishing a medical home, then referred and assisted those clients on initial appointments with primary care providers, **improving access to care and resources.**

**Communicable Disease**

**Diseases reported October 1-October 31, 2022:**

5 Animal bites (4 Archuleta, 1 La Plata)  
 2 Campylobacteriosis (Archuleta),  
 1 Carbapenem-Resistant Pseudomonas Aeruginosa (CRPA - La Plata)  
 1 Dengue Fever (due to travel - La Plata)  
 1 Giardiasis (La Plata)  
 8 Chronic Hepatitis C (2 Archuleta, 6 La Plata)  
 13 Salmonellosis (Most likely associated with outbreak - 11 Archuleta, 2 La Plata)  
 1 Strep Pneumo Invasive (Archuleta)  
 1 Varicella (La Plata)

**Communicable Disease:**

- Communicable disease follow up is being conducted by CDPHE, except for respiratory disease outbreaks and zoonotic diseases.
- One RSV outbreak is being followed at a day care.
- One potential salmonella outbreak is being followed by CDPHE with testing assistance from SJBPH (sample collection and submission).

**Tuberculosis (TB):**

- There are two active TB cases. Both are doing video recorded observed treatment (VDOT).

## Emergency Preparedness and Response

### Emergency Preparedness and Response:

- Staff facilitated flu and COVID-19 vaccine clinics with Sunshine Gardens and the Pine River Senior Center with Medical Reserve Core (MRC) volunteers **to remove barriers to community/public access.**
- Staff facilitated a Concepts & Objectives meeting with Pagosa Springs Medical Center (PSMC) leadership staff as the first step in a PSMC Active Shooter exercise planning **which provided opportunities for staff to excel/innovate.**

## Universal Activities

### HR Staffing Updates

November

- The following vacancies were filled since the last report:
  - Administrative Support Assistant I
- The following vacancies have been hired for with future start dates:
  - Programs Supervisor - Specialized (Opioid Risk Reduction program) Internal Move
- Recruitment continues for the following staff positions:
  - Administrative Support Assistant I, Environmental Health Specialist I, Interpreter, Staff Accountant

### 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 partnership meetings with the Office of Health Equity, Colorado National Collaborative colleagues, other local Child Fatality Review Team Coordinators from around the state, and the Office of Public Health Practice, Planning and Local Partnerships meeting, **increasing organizational capacity.**

### Communications:

- In October, SJBPH communications focused on COVID-19 information as well as other public health information including warnings about increased respiratory virus circulation. Other topics included localized COVID reporting, vaccination information and encouragement as the remainder of the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) vaccine grant is spent. Agency communications were shared on client-focused programs such as Emergency Preparedness, ROHS, NFP, Sexual Health Clinic, SafeCare, Communicable Disease, Immunizations, Monkeypox, WIC, and Care Coordination. Staff prepared for the upcoming insurance open enrollment period, from November 1 through January 15, developing communications materials and outreach plans. Communications included print media, radio, social media, and email.
- SJBPH communications staff distributed **one** agency e-newsletter (October), **two** semi-monthly COVID updates, wrote and distributed **five** media releases, responded to **seven** media inquiries, posted **97** tweets, and **99** Facebook posts to both SJBPH's main Facebook page, and to the COVID-19 webpage. Posts were focused on the coronavirus outbreak, local COVID-19 data, vaccine distribution, COVID-19 prevention, COVID-19 testing info, and promoting SJBPH programs and services. SJBPH was featured in **18** articles/radio/tv stories in newspapers, online news outlets, and local radio stations. SJBPH had over **88,839** Facebook impressions and **12,721** Twitter impressions. Our Facebook engagement was over **3,361** and



Twitter had **311** engagements. These activities help to **improve awareness and acceptance of public health resources, services, programs, and value to the community.**

**Facilities/Fleet:**

- No updates.