El Paso County residents,

After two years of the COVID-19 pandemic, 2022 represented a gradual return to a semblance of normalcy with the pace of acute disease response slowing earlier in the year. This provided El Paso County Public Health (EPCPH) the opportunity to resume core public health activities, which had been put on hold during the pandemic. With the majority of staff fully engaged in response efforts during the height of the pandemic, this required a methodical and strategic approach to re-assess and prioritize programmatic, agency, and community needs. To achieve this, EPCPH evaluated infrastructure, workforce, and processes as a framework to guide the focus of rebuilding and recovery.

During 2022, the agency’s priorities remained centered on addressing the continued impacts of the pandemic with an emphasis on building a sustainable workforce to assure that we are able to continue to be responsive to both ongoing and emergent community needs and expanding partnerships to address complex issues impacting community health, such as homelessness, suicide prevention, substance use, and barriers to accessing health services.

In 2022, planning began for the next five-year iterations of required agency plans, including the agency’s Strategic and Workforce Development Plans. As of the writing of this report, EPCPH is in the final phases of solidifying the 2023-2027 Community Health Assessment (CHA) and Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) in collaboration with the Healthy Community Collaborative (HCC), an active consortium convened by EPCPH consisting of over 60 representatives from local schools, hospitals and health systems, non-profit organizations, county and city government agencies, medical providers, and interested citizens to assess local data and identify strategies to address the top health priorities in our county. The assessment and resultant plans will serve as tools to guide the work of EPCPH in 2023 and well into the future.

In reflecting on the challenges we have experienced together over the last three years, it is clear our strength has been tested in many ways. Yet we, as a community, have persevered and this gives me hope for all that the future will bring. We will continue to build on our successes, leveraging our team’s exceptional public health expertise and region’s collective resources to improve the health and well-being of El Paso County.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Susan Wheelan
El Paso County Public Health (EPCPH) was first established as a city health department and then became an organized county health department in 1939. Public Health provides a broad spectrum of services to address ongoing and critical public health and safety issues for the estimated 756,951 residents of El Paso County. Our vision is for all El Paso County residents to live in thriving communities where every person has the opportunity to achieve optimal health. Our core work is guided by our mission to promote and protect public health and environmental quality across El Paso County through people, prevention and partnerships.

**Administration and Government:**
Establish and maintain programs, personnel and operations; implement public health laws, policies and procedures; secure and manage financial resources.

**Assessment, Planning and Communications:**
Analyze local, regional and state data sources; create Community Health Assessments and Public Health Improvement Plans; develop public health messaging and communications.

**Communicable Disease Prevention, Investigation & Control:**
Monitor, detect and report disease; investigate and control diseases and outbreaks; assure immunizations using established standards.

**Emergency Preparedness and Response:**
Promote preparedness by participating in all-hazards planning and training; prepare for and respond to emergencies; implement an emergency communication strategy; coordinate with other responders.

**Environmental Health:**
Assure food safety; protect and improve air, land and water quality; assist with regulatory compliance; mitigate effects of environmental hazards.

**Prevention and Population Health Promotion:**
Promote healthy living through policies and programs; promote physical and behavioral health with an emphasis on health equity; develop community-specific solutions to address prevention priorities.

**Vital Records and Statistics:**
Record and report vital events (births and deaths); issue birth certificates and death certificates.
ABOUT EL PASO COUNTY, COLORADO

Median Household Income

In 2023 dollars, U.S. Census, American Community Survey 2017-2021

$75,909
Median Household Income

9.6%
Percent in Poverty

2022 Population Counts By Race and Ethnicity

2022 Population By Sex

2022 Forecasts from the Colorado Demography Office

49.9%
Female

50.1%
Male

El Paso County covers 2,158 miles and is home to 756,951 people.

El Paso County

State of Colorado

Educational Attainment After 25

U.S. Census, American Community Survey 2017-2021

Over 95 percent of El Paso County residents over age 25 have at least a high school education.
EPCPH is governed by a nine-member Board of Health, which establishes policy, approves the agency’s budget and appoints the Public Health Director. Each member serves in a voluntary capacity for a maximum of two consecutive five-year terms (or two-year terms for elected officials) upon appointment by the El Paso County Board of County Commissioners. The Board is made up of two current county commissioners, one Colorado Springs City Council member, one elected official from another municipality within El Paso County, an active or retired physician, an active or retired medical professional, a business or financial professional, a nonprofit/private organization or public education professional and a citizen-at-large member. The Board meets regularly once each month and additionally as needed.

**Board of Health Members**

- **Dr. James Terbush**
  President
  2013 - 2023

- **Doris Ralston**
  Vice President
  2017 - Present

- **Ted Collas**
  2021 - Present

- **Dr. Richard Vu**
  2021 - Present

- **Longinos Gonzalez, Jr.**
  2017 - Present

- **Cami Bremer**
  2019 - Present

- **Dave Donelson**
  2021 - Present

- **Kari Kilroy**
  2012 - 2022

- **Ron Stephens**
  2022 - 2023

- **Jack Briggs**
  2022 - Present

**EPCPH Staff**

**Organizational Chart**

- **BOARD OF HEALTH**
- **LEGAL COUNSEL**
- **MEDICAL DIRECTOR(S)**
- **DEPUTY DIRECTOR**
- **ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DIVISION**
- **COMMUNITY HEALTH PROMOTION DIVISION**
- **CLINICAL SERVICES DIVISION**
- **PUBLIC HEALTH DATA & ANALYTICS OFFICE**
- **OFFICE OF EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS & RESPONSE**
- **OFFICE OF COMMUNICATION**
- **ADMINISTRATION OFFICE**
- **DEVELOPMENT OFFICE**
- **STRATEGIC INITIATIVES OFFICE**
AGENCY ACTIVITY

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE
358 Confirmed Infectious Disease Outbreaks (includes COVID and non-COVID outbreaks)
88,130 COVID-19 Cases
2,473 COVID-19 Hospitalizations
452 COVID-19 Deaths

CLINICAL SERVICES
1,631 Tests Performed For Sexually Transmitted Infections
1,609 Reproductive Health Visits
9,602 Immunizations Provided
61 Total Active And Latent Cases Tuberculosis Under EPCPH Care

VITAL RECORDS
21,301 Birth Certificates Issued
48,066 Death Certificates Issued

LAB
8,311 Water Tests
6,846 Radon Tests
6,414 Clinical Tests
7,705 Drug And Alcohol Tests

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH
2,870 Retail Food Establishment Inspections
193 Retail Food Establishment Plan Reviews
1,234 Individuals Provided Food Safety Education Classes
182 Air Quality Permits Issued
168 Body Art Establishment Inspections
642 Onsite Wastewater Permits Issued
314 Public Pool Inspections

COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES
283 Child Care Inspections
364 School Safety Inspections
12,699 Women, Infants & Children Average Total Monthly Enrollment
3,314 Nurse-Family Partnership Home Visits
253 referrals for Care Coordination for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs
  • Care Coordination
    - 626 referrals
    - 254 points of community outreach connection
    - 32 community events

EPCPH divisions, programs and services are aligned with Colorado’s eight foundational capabilities and five foundational service areas to assure high-quality public health services for all El Paso County residents and fulfill our agency’s mission and vision.
GENERAL FUND SUMMARY

The General Fund is the only operating fund of EPCPH. The three-year history of revenues and expenditures shows that overall, both have increased from 2020 to 2022, following a slight decrease in 2021. Between 2020 and 2022, revenues increased by 3.7 percent or $1.2 million, and expenditures increased by 11.7 percent or $3.5 million.

EPCPH continued ongoing COVID-19 response and recovery efforts in 2022, though the pace of acute disease response began to slow. EPCPH received funding from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and two Epidemiology & Laboratory Capacity (ELC) grants from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE). These large grants—which are time limited—impacted revenue received and expenditures incurred in 2022.

SUMMARY STATEMENT

This chart summarizes the data found in the El Paso County Public Health Annual Comprehensive Financial Report, Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances for the General Fund.

This chart is presented on non-GAAP (generally accepted accounting principles) basis. A more detailed GAAP basis financial detail can be found in the El Paso County Public Health Annual Comprehensive Financial Report in its entirety, available online at [www.elpasocountyhealth.org/sites/default/files/2023-06/El%20Paso%20County%20Public%20Health%20%202022%20FINAL%20ACFR-compressed.pdf](http://www.elpasocountyhealth.org/sites/default/files/2023-06/El%20Paso%20County%20Public%20Health%20%202022%20FINAL%20ACFR-compressed.pdf).
### REVENUES

#### TOP REVENUE SOURCES

1. Intergovernmental revenue
2. Licenses, fees, and permits
3. Charges to El Paso County for programs

Intergovernmental and other grants represent the largest source of revenue for EPCPH in the amount of $28.7 million. EPCPH had an increase in Intergovernmental and other grants of $2.0 million from 2021 to 2022. EPCPH continued to receive ARPA and ELC grant funding in 2022. EPCPH also received two new grants: mpox funding from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and Drug-Free Communities funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. All these grants are time limited and can only be utilized for specific scopes of work and programs.

The second highest portion of revenue came from licenses, fees and permits in the amount of $3.5 million. In 2022, EPCPH worked to resume core public health activities that were previously put on hold during the pandemic, which is reflected in the revenue received from licenses, permits and fees.

### EXPENDITURES

#### TOP EXPENDITURE SOURCES

1. Personnel
2. Operating
3. Capital Outlay

The EPCPH General Fund provides support for a wide range of core public health activities. EPCPH strives to promote and protect public health and environmental quality across El Paso County through people, prevention, and partnerships. Programs and services are designed to provide all residents with the opportunity to live in thriving communities and achieve optimal health.

Health and Welfare expenditures in the General Fund represent the largest source of expenditures for EPCPH in the amount of $33 million in 2022. As EPCPH phased out of acute pandemic response in 2022, the focus continued to be the provision of core public health services, many of which had been temporarily paused due to the emerging needs of the COVID-19 pandemic. Thus, EPCPH incurred additional expenditures related to those services. EPCPH also incurred additional expenditures due to a 3.5 percent salary increase in January and a mid-year salary adjustment determined by a thorough compensation study.
COVID-19 RESPONSE, CORE PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES, AND OTHER EMERGING THREATS

In 2022, EPCPH gradually resumed core public health activities — many of which had been on hold since early 2020 — while strategically leading rebuilding and recovery efforts after three grueling years of COVID-19 pandemic response. The federal and state funding used to address the pandemic is highly restrictive; these funds are specific to COVID-19 response activities and time limited.

Recognizing the impact of the pandemic on the most vulnerable communities, EPCPH saw the need to provide additional support to individuals and families experiencing barriers to accessing community resources. To address these needs, one of EPCPH’s key focal areas in 2022 was expanding mobile outreach to bring services such as vaccines, Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) benefits, and care coordination directly into the community.

EPCPH also successfully navigated numerous emerging threats in 2022, such as an infant formula shortage, an outbreak of the monkeypox (mpox) virus, a triple-demic of respiratory viruses (respiratory syncytial virus, influenza, and COVID-19), and a mass shooting at a local nightclub.

Vaccine Clinic at NAMI Walks Your Way

COVID-19 FUNDING SUMMARY

EPCPH continued to receive ARPA funding in 2022 to support COVID-19 response.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funding Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>State ARPA</td>
<td>$1,038,870</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>County ARPA</td>
<td>$16,000,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>CDC Health Disparities</td>
<td>$2,196,324</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Immunizations</td>
<td>$3,669,528</td>
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<tr>
<td>Emergency Preparedness</td>
<td>$1,271,827</td>
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<tr>
<td>Epidemiology &amp; Laboratory Capacity 1</td>
<td>$5,167,385</td>
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<tr>
<td>Epidemiology &amp; Laboratory Capacity 2</td>
<td>$6,498,345</td>
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<td>Mpox funding for 2022</td>
<td>$28,537</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*CDC Workforce Infrastructure</td>
<td>$7,830,856</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*El Paso County Public Health (EPCPH) received a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) grant (not included in the pie chart above) titled, “Strengthening U.S. Public Health Infrastructure, Workforce, and Data Systems.” This grant was received in late 2022. However, no funding from this specific grant was expended in 2022. This CDC Workforce Development grant extends through 2027 to assist EPCPH in strengthening its workforce and supporting infrastructure improvements.
The 2023 EPCPH budget totals $31.3 million, which is an increase of five percent from 2022. The budget includes one-time funding to increase the safety and functionality of the Public Health South building. Personnel costs are an anticipated 66 percent of the budget and include a five percent cost of living adjustment to offset the rapidly increasing cost of living experienced throughout the state and nation. Most of the anticipated revenues for 2023, totaling $31.1 million, continue to come from time-limited and restrictive program-specific grants.

During 2022, EPCPH transitioned back to more routine operations, away from the large COVID-19 pandemic response that began in December 2019. As an agency that serves all 756,951 El Paso County residents without support from any local municipality, EPCPH simultaneously completed non-pandemic related responsibilities such as Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) activities, immunizations, restaurant inspections, and mitigating the spread of 60+ other reportable infectious diseases. While collaborating with partner organizations, businesses, and the community, EPCPH addressed complex community health issues including homelessness, suicide prevention, mental health and substance use disorders to improve the health and well-being of El Paso County residents.

Looking ahead, EPCPH continues to maintain and build the sustainable infrastructure, funding and systems that are needed to respond to community needs. EPCPH is also working to address ongoing challenges related to recruiting and maintaining a qualified and resilient workforce. EPCPH Director Susan Wheelan’s core vision for 2023 and the future of EPCPH centers around strengthening infrastructure, increasing sustainable funding, creating and maintaining adequate staffing models, and focusing on the needs of the public health workforce.
AGENCY RECOGNITION & AWARDS

Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting (PAFR Award)
EPCPH submitted for the PAFR Award for the first time in 2022. The award is in recognition of the 2021 Popular Annual Financial Report. This award represents significant achievement, with eligibility criteria dependent upon submission and receipt of the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the current fiscal year.

Government Finance Officers Association Distinguished Budget Award
The Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) recognized EPCPH with its highest honor for transparency in budgeting with the 2022 Distinguished Budget Presentation Award. The award was in recognition of the 2022 budget book, which marks the third consecutive year EPCPH has received this award.

Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting
The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management. The award is in recognition of the 2021 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report. The report has been judged by an impartial panel to meet the high standards of the program, which includes demonstrating a constructive “spirit of full disclosure” to clearly communicate its financial story. EPCPH has been recognized with the Certificate of Achievement for four consecutive years, demonstrating an ongoing commitment to financial excellence.

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Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting
Government Finance Officers Association

Presented to
El Paso County Public Health
Colorado

For its Annual Financial Report
For the Fiscal Year Ended
December 31, 2021

Executive Director/CEO

Pikes Peak Women’s Heroines of the Pandemic

Pikes Peak Women’s annual event this year focused on honoring and celebrating ‘Heroines of the Pandemic.’ Among the group of honorees were Director Wheelan and Joyce Salazar, community outreach coordinator for EPCPH. Director Wheelan and Salazar were among a group of women in the community recognized for their contributions in navigating El Paso County communities through the pandemic over the past two years, modeling the way with innovative partnerships and strategies.

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Pikes Peak Nightingale Awards: Excellence in Advocacy, Innovation and Leadership

In May 2022, Deputy Director DeAnn Ryberg was nominated for the Nightingale Awards in the category of ‘Practice as Administrator, Educator, Researcher, and/or Nontraditional Nurse in Leadership’. As a highly skilled and dedicated nurse and public health leader, Deputy Director Ryberg was recognized for her role in the COVID-19 response, serving as Incident Commander in the EPCPH and Pikes Peak Regional Office of Emergency Management joint response.

El Paso County Sheriff’s Office Civilian Award

In January 2022, the El Paso County Sheriff’s Office (EPSO) honored Marigny Klaber, EPCPH regional epidemiologist and planner, with the Civilian Achievement Award. Klaber was recognized in her role as liaison to the El Paso County Criminal Justice Center during the COVID-19 pandemic, for which her efforts significantly contributed to the safety of the inmates and staff.

NACCHO Award – Vaccine Consortium

The El Paso County and Colorado Springs Vaccine Consortium was honored with the 2022 Bronze Innovative Practice Award by the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO). The award celebrates local public health agencies for developing initiatives to meet the needs of their communities during the COVID-19 pandemic. The designation as a Bronze Innovative Practice demonstrates a high level of innovation and reflects collaborative, adaptable and resilient approaches.

University of Colorado, Colorado Springs (UCCS) Fall Commencement

In December 2022, EPCPH Director Wheelan had the distinct honor of giving the commencement speech at the UCCS Fall 2022 Commencement Ceremony. At their December Commencement, UCCS has a tradition of selecting a distinguished UCCS alumnus to address graduates.

NACo Achievement Award – Vaccine Consortium

The El Paso County and Colorado Springs Vaccine Consortium—spearheaded and led by El Paso County Public Health—was recognized with a 2022 Achievement Award from the National Association of Counties (NACo). NACo’s Achievement Awards honor innovative, effective county government programs that strengthen services for residents.

Spirit of Fountain Award

In December 2022, Fountain City Council recognized EPCPH Director Wheelan with the first Spirit of Fountain award. This new award was developed to recognize individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to serve the community and who epitomize the “Spirit of Fountain”. As the first recipient of the award, Director Wheelan was recognized for her efforts over the past several years to improve the overall health and wellness of the residents in the Fountain Valley.

Mayor’s Young Leader Award

In September 2022, Michelle Beyrle, public health information officer, was a finalist in the Sports, Health & Wellness Category of the Colorado Springs Mayor’s Young Leader Awards. These awards celebrate young professionals – age 40 or under – who are making a significant positive impact in Colorado Springs.