

El Paso County Public Health Director’s Report

To: The El Paso County Board of Health
From: Susan Wheelan, M.B.A., Public Health Director
Date: April 2023 (reflects March 2023)

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In the News

- El Paso County Public Health (EPCPH) Director Susan Wheelan and El Paso County Coroner Dr. Leon Kelly were featured in a March Gazette article entitled, “[Rocked by deadly pandemic, Colorado public health faces needed rebuild.](#)” The article explores the numerous challenges faced during the COVID-19 pandemic and how public health agencies across the state are rebuilding and refocusing on key priorities. Director Wheelan emphasized the importance of mental wellness and preventing substance abuse as priority areas, along with continuing to build community and agency resilience. Of particular note are EPCPH’s low turnover rates as compared to agencies across the state and nation.

Program Spotlight

In 2016, EPCPH received the El Pomar Foundation's Possibilities grant, a seven-year commitment totaling \$375,000 to help fund RISE | Southeast, an initiative to enhance southeast Colorado Springs led by resilient, inspired, strong, and engaged (RISE) residents of the 80910 and 80916 zip codes. Through the funding, El Paso County Public Health (EPCPH) hired a community outreach coordinator to lead these efforts. The grant ends on Dec. 31, 2023 and RISE | Southeast is pursuing a 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(6) so it can operate independently as a nonprofit organization as of Jan. 1, 2024.

The vision of RISE is for a vibrant, connected community that provides opportunities for all to thrive, and the mission is to enhance southeast Colorado Springs through resident-led change. One of many highlights of the work of RISE | Southeast is the Youth Advisory Council (YAC) and their recent work on the Parks, Schoolyards and Trails Project. Led by EPCPH's community outreach coordinator and an assistant youth coordinator, the YAC is made up of nine youth ages 13-19 who reside in southeast Colorado Springs. In July 2021, the YAC launched the project with an assessment of six neighborhood parks, five schoolyards, and the Sand Creek Trail using the Quality Index of Parks for Youth (QUINPY) assessment. After completing the QUINPY assessment, the YAC presented their findings to stakeholders, including a survey of southeast residents, in order to prioritize a location for an enhancement project. The Sand Creek Trail was selected as a priority.

The YAC researched ideas to improve the safety and comfortability of the trail, including cost, maintenance and options for solar energy. Additionally, the YAC received financial commitments from the Trails and Open Spaces Coalition (\$1,500) and the Trust for Public Land (\$5,000) toward their vision for the Sand Creek Trail.

In February 2023, the YAC presented their recommendations to increase safety and comfortability of the Sand Creek Trail to the eleven member Colorado Springs Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services Advisory Board. Board members expressed appreciation for the youth presentation and were complimentary of their efforts. Parks staff were also supportive of the ongoing collaborative initiative to improve parks and recreation in southeast Colorado Springs.

Photos of the YAC and the Sand Creek Trail:



Agency Operations

In 2008, the Colorado Public Health Act required the State Board of Health to establish, by rule, the core public health services that each county and district public health agency must provide or assure as well as establish minimum quality standards for those public health services. A revised ruling ([6 CCR 1014-7](#)), effective January 1, 2020, now requires state and local health departments in Colorado to ensure provision of seven Foundational Capabilities and five Foundational Services.



Image courtesy of the [Colorado Association of Local Public Health Officials](#).

El Paso County Public Health (EPCPH) fulfills its statutory requirement of providing these core public health services through the work of its divisions and programs. Activities supporting these services for the timeframe of this report follow. Definitions of each Foundational Public Health Capability and Services can be found on page 22 of this report.

Foundational Public Health Capabilities

Communications

On March 28, [Colorado Springs City Council unanimously passed a proclamation recognizing National Public Health Week](#) (NPHW), celebrated the first week of April each year. Board of Health (BoH) member and City Councilman Dave Donelson read the proclamation into record and was joined by numerous councilmembers in praising the work of the EPCPH team to support community health.

In recognition of National Nutrition Month—which is celebrated each March—the Office of Communication (OoC) worked closely with the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program to raise awareness about the importance of nutrition in maintaining health. To support these educational efforts, the team produced and shared:

- A [blog post](#) featuring quick, easy and actionable tips to support people in eating a healthier diet.
- A series of [cooking videos](#) featuring nutritious and affordable recipes.
- Educational posts across EPCPH digital platforms, including website and social media (Facebook, Twitter and Instagram).

The agency’s website www.elpasocountyhealth.org had 28,338 new visitors in March, with 44,706 unique pageviews.

Partnerships (reflecting activities in March)

Environmental Health provided an overview of the Onsite Wastewater Treatment System Program (OWTS) to a group of eight local realtors. The course –which covers basic OWTS operation, maintenance, and property sale requirements—increases the understanding of the inspection process and helps realtors provide improved service to residents. Another course will be offered in October.

In March, Environmental Health hosted the Retail Food Program Food Safety Advisory Group (FSAG) meeting. Nineteen industry members from diverse business sectors discussed proposed changes to the Colorado Retail Food Code and revisions to the fee schedule. Significant changes to the food code include a requirement to always have a certified food protection manager on-site when food is being prepared and lowering the temperature of handwashing water. Industry feedback provided group members with valuable information to assist with writing policy and fostering collaboration.

Environmental Health finalized Phase I (education and outreach) and began Phase II of the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) grant. Phase II consists of assisting child care facilities, including some Family Child Care Homes (FCCH), with conducting water sampling to assess for lead in drinking water. This allows EPCPH to build upon existing relationships with regulated child care facilities and create new partnerships with the FCCHs.

Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) and the Colorado Community Health Alliance (CCHA) jointly hosted a quarterly Community Advisory Board meeting, bringing together a variety of health care professionals and community resources serving families and young children in El Paso County. Presenters included a representative from Colorado Crisis Services, who spoke about access to crisis services in El Paso County, in addition to updates from local partners serving families with young children.

The EPCPH Partner Engagement Grant application closed on March 19. This initiative is funded through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Future of Public Health funding. The evaluation committee received and reviewed 43 applications. Ten organizations were

selected to receive up to \$36,000 each (totaling \$324,000) to support community programs such as access to care and behavioral health. The 10 awardees form a cohort of partners that will engage with EPCPH in a collaborative process designed to address the critical areas of need in El Paso County.

The healthy environment planner, who convenes the Regional Food System Partnership (RFSP), attended Pueblo Food Project's Sun, Soil, Water Agriculture Summit, sponsored by Colorado Springs Utilities Extension. This summit provided an opportunity to learn more about Pueblo-area food systems, network with local/regional farm and agriculture partners, and for the RFSP to reflect on logistics and ideas to aid in current planning of the Central Colorado Foodshed Partnership inaugural food summit convening next year. Hosting a local food summit in 2024 is a requirement of the United States Department of Agriculture grant that funds the RFSP.

The Tobacco Education and Prevention Partnership (TEPP) presented to approximately 20 Widefield School District 3 staff on tobacco cessation resources and alternatives to suspension such as Second Chance. Second Chance is a free, web-based, interactive, and self-directed alternative to suspension for youth who have violated a tobacco free school policy. The program aims to help schools support young people who are addicted to nicotine by addressing tobacco violations through a non-punitive approach.

TEPP was invited to participate in a Mustang Strong event hosted by Manitou Springs High School. Students signed up for different sessions throughout the day to learn about mental health, physical health, and life skills. TEPP developed a teen-friendly game called, "Tobacco: All Facts, No Cap" to engage the students in learning about the dangers of tobacco use and vaping, the tobacco-free school policy, and resources available to help youth quit tobacco. Approximately 20 students attended the class.

Fountain Valley Communities That Care (FV-CTC) hosted a community board meeting with 20 coalition and sector members in attendance. EPCPH's Data and Analytics team presented local data on risk and protective factors influencing youth behavior and substance misuse. As a result, attendees voted to mobilize support behind a new risk factor known as Accessibility of Substances in the Community. This risk factor is currently being addressed by Drug-Free Community Funding and will now be expanded upon with FV-CTC funding.

Organizational Competencies

Three EPCPH managers from each of the main divisions (Clinical Services, Community Health Promotion and Environmental Health) were selected to participate in the 2023 [Center for Creative Leadership](#) (CCL)'s Community Leadership Program occurring in May. CCL is a nationally recognized resource in leadership development and research and the program is designed to strengthen leadership skills and confidence.

The EPCPH Vital Records Office scored 100 percent on all application and security paper audits for 2022, accounting for 69,367 total certificates. The state vital records office (through the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment) conducts two application audits and four security paper audits each year to measure performance standards of every local office. This

helps Vital Records staff provide consistent, technically accurate information regarding identification and eligibility requirements to applicants. Confidentiality and standards related to banknote security paper, tracking, and physical operations help protect personal identity and prevent identity theft and other forms of fraud.

In addition, the Vital Records Office met all criteria to receive CDPHE's annual 5-star award, which encompasses performance standards from eight categories to include:

- Policy receipts and confidentiality agreement renewals
- Survey responses
- Responsiveness to state inquiries and billing corrections and payments
- Registration and quality assurance Q&A and follow up
- Timeliness of Death Registration and Drop to Paper worksheets
- Tracking of security paper
- Co-Train module renewals
- Customer information security

Emergency Preparedness and Response

EPCPH and the Pikes Peak Regional Office of Emergency Management (PPROEM) disseminated a joint memorandum to first responder agencies with recommendations to assess personal protective equipment (PPE) stock and develop a plan to maintain an internal supply/cache based on need. This memorandum demonstrates EPCPH and PPROEM's commitment to addressing challenges and gaps identified throughout the COVID-19 pandemic after actions assessment process, helping to better prepare local jurisdictions for the next event.

Partner collaboration at the local, state and national level remains a top priority for the Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR) team. This is accomplished through several key forums such as the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) Preparedness Policy Advisory Group and Preparedness Planning Committee, the South Central Healthcare Coalition (SCHCC) Executive Council, regional CDPHE Office of Emergency Preparedness and Response (OEPR) monthly update meetings, and bi-weekly PPROEM staff meetings. These unique groups provide opportunities to stay informed, provide feedback and strengthen collaborations with other responding agencies and partners.

As part of efforts to update the family assistance center (FAC) plan for El Paso County (EPC), the EPR team facilitated a meeting with key stakeholders, to include PPROEM, Colorado Springs Police Department Victim Advocacy, El Paso County Sheriff's Office Victim Advocacy, American Red Cross, Diversus Health, SCHCC, and El Paso County Department of Human Services. During an emergency, this plan can be activated to quickly stand up a family assistance center to support relatives impacted during an event such as a shooting, transportation accident, or other mass casualty producing event. The updated plan will be exercised in September 2023 during the Colorado Springs full-scale exercise.

March exercises, drills and workshops included:

- EPCPH leadership received training on the Public Health Emergency Operations Plan (PHEOP) which highlighted activation procedures and provided an in-depth look at the improvement plans from the COVID-19 response.
- Staff attended the pediatric respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) surge after-action meeting. This after-action meeting included key partners such as Children’s Hospital and the SCHCC. As part of the improvement plan, EPCPH will be working with the SCHCC and hospitals to discuss future surge needs for acute care settings.
- The EPR team attended the CHEMPACK planning meeting at UC Health Memorial Hospital Central with key stakeholders to include PPROEM, Colorado State Patrol, Colorado Springs Fire Department (CSFD), CSPD, El Paso County Sherriff’s Office, American Medical Response (AMR), SCHCC, and Monument Fire Department. EPCPH is leading the update of this plan, which would be activated during an event that required the quick administration of nerve agents. The group is in the process of making detailed updates to the activation process, distribution, and transportation of CHEMPACK assets to the point of impact. To test the updated plan, EPCPH will host a tabletop exercise in fall 2023.

Foundational Public Health Services

Communicable Disease Prevention, Investigation and Control

Two abstracts submitted by staff were selected for presentation at the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE) national conference in June.

- *A Cluster of Multi-Serotype Invasive Pneumococcal Disease Among Persons Experiencing Homelessness and Use of Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine, El Paso County, Colorado, 2022*
- *Unvaccinated Dogs Exposed to Rabid Bat — an Atypical Public Health Response with Dog Owner Who Was a Person Experiencing Homelessness, El Paso County, Colorado, 2022*

Communicable Disease (CD) staff presented information regarding the 2022 outbreak of Shigellosis affecting people experiencing homelessness as part of the statewide Foodborne Illness Task System virtual meeting.

During the spring and summer months, there is typically an increase in zoonotic diseases— infections spread between people and animals—such as rabies, plague and tularemia. In anticipation, the CD program conducted outreach and coordination with the following partners:

- Internal stakeholder coordination meeting for EPCPH staff
- Childrens Hospital Colorado emergency department
- UCHealth emergency departments (hospital-based as well as freestanding facilities)

The Immunization program administered 10 mpox vaccines and 129 flu vaccines in the month of March.

Environmental Public Health

Retail Food Program:

- The Retail Food program received a total of 25 plan reviews in the month of March, six of which were for mobile units and 17 for brick-and-mortar facilities. Historically, the program typically receives 10-15 total plan reviews per month. The increase is likely due to the continued growth of the county. For reference, seventeen mobile unit plan reviews were completed in 2022 and nine have been completed to date this year.

Water Recreation Program:

- The water recreation team completed a higher-than-normal volume of pool inspections in March with 110 inspections as compared to ~35 monthly inspections during a normal year. This increase is the result of residual impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic—which was still impacting business operations during 2022—and the team expects to resume normal frequency moving forward with inspections spread out consistently throughout the year. El Paso County has 280 active pools and spas that are scheduled to receive 457 inspections annually.

Maternal, Child, Adolescent and Family Health

The Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program continued to serve pregnant and postpartum women, infants, and children up to age 5 through food benefits, community referrals, nutrition education and breastfeeding support. In March, the number of enrolled clients, defined as those who have received WIC benefits within the previous three months, was 13,065.

WIC continues to maintain strong internal partnerships with Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP), Reproductive Health Clinic and Care Coordination. A total of sixty-three referrals were made between these programs during March.

NFP nurses conducted 254 visits in March. Of these visits, 202 were provided in client homes and 52 were provided through telehealth. NFP nurses served 159 families, enrolled 10 new clients to the program, and graduated two clients who had participated in the NFP program for a full two and a half years.

NFP plays a critical role in connecting NFP clients to other needed community resources is a significant role of the NFP program. In March, NFP nurses made 23 referrals on behalf of 19 individual families. These referrals were to mental health treatment, childcare, lactation support, WIC, dental services, GED programs and Medicaid among others.

Access to and Linkage with Healthcare

The mobile vaccine team provided clinics at the following community-based clinics:

- COVID-19 vaccines at Memorial Hall in Manitou on 3/22
- The mobile team held one MPOX clinic at the CSC on 3/16

WIC relaunched their mobile clinic with a new site at Fort Carson Army Community Services. The mobile clinic provides on-base services to military families to include enrollment, full appointments, general questions, and opportunities for e-WIC card pick-up. Seven families were enrolled in March. In addition, WIC participated in two outreach events with childhood development centers in partnership with Fort Carson public health nurses. WIC continues to plan for expansion of the mobile clinic with a goal of fully re-launching by the end of summer.

EPCPH care coordinators provided outreach and information during two community events in the month of March and toured five service facilities (RJ Montgomery, Mary's Home, Myron Stratton, Care & Share and Family Promise). They also attended the Health and Wellness Expo hosted by School District 49's Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Department and the Fox Meadows Special Education Night. At each event, they distributed flyers in English and Spanish about care coordination and information on numerous resources available to the community. The care coordinators received 75 new referrals, 12 of which were primarily Spanish-speaking. These El Paso County residents were provided with resources for housing, food, utility and rental assistance, mortgage assistance, transportation, health insurance, disability, childcare, infant supplies, employment, COVID-19 information and COVID-19 testing. Forty-five COVID-19 test kits were also distributed during the month of March.

Care coordinators provided hygiene products and personal protective equipment to nine individuals in the community and partnered with the Pikes Peak Library District to provide high-need hygiene items (toothbrushes, hand sanitizer, etc.) for distribution at two libraries in the county.

Care coordinators successfully navigated clients to several key resources including:

- A new crib and a furniture voucher through COSILoveYou
- A bus pass and disability application for an individual experiencing homelessness who recently became disabled
- A referral to the Resource Exchange for a child's speech and hearing concerns
- A connection to First Visitor, NFP, WIC, Medicaid & Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) for a first-time mother that is new to the country
- Therapy services for an 11-year-old with mental and behavioral concerns
- Food bags to support an individual during their COVID-19 isolation period
- Emergency food delivery was coordinated through COSILoveYou for a hard of hearing client in isolation with COVID-19
- Twenty bus passes provided to multiple clients in need of transportation to work, to run errands, and to access community agencies
- Affordable housing option was provided to a family
- Referral for a young father to multiple general education degree (GED) test preparation sites to assist in obtaining a GED
- Referral to scholarship programs for a family to continue their education

Appendix A: Environmental Health Activity

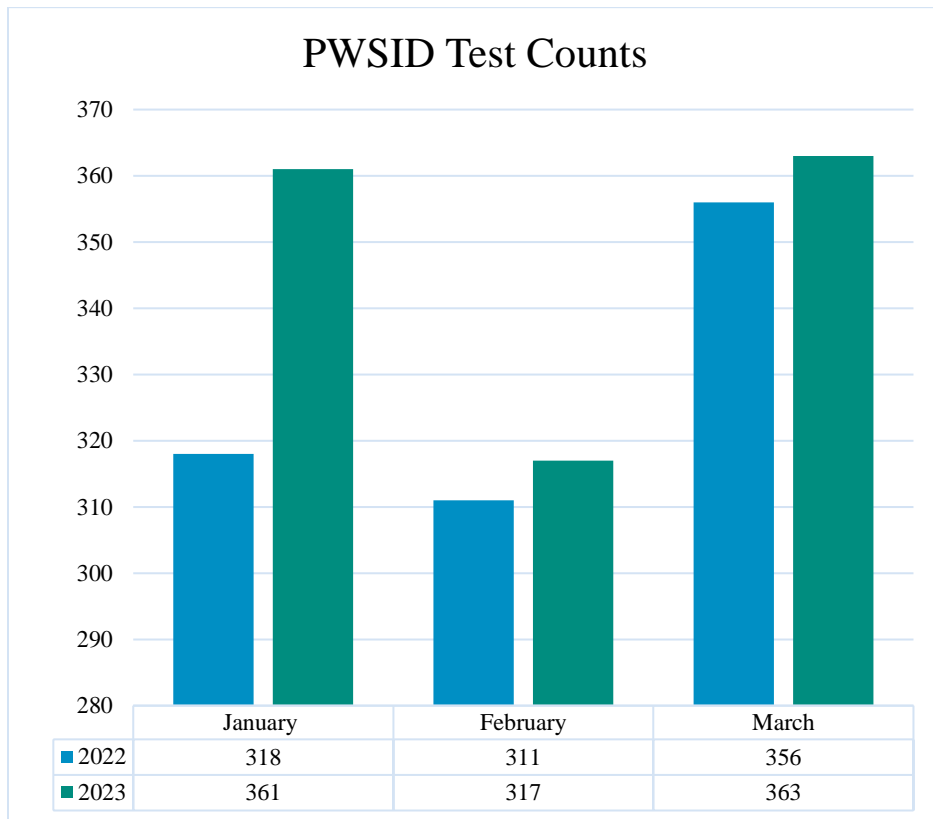
The table below captures a snapshot of activities across the Environmental Health (EH) Division. This work is accomplished through science-based risk assessment and policy development, inspections, consultation, education, and regulations designed to protect the food we eat, the water we drink, the air we breathe, and the places we live, work and play.

Environment Health Activity	2023 Total As of 3/31/2023	2022 Total
Air Quality Construction Permits	29	163
Air Quality Open Burn Permits	10	19
Air Quality Complaints	3	38
Animal Bites Reported	151	877
Body Art Routine Inspections	15	86
Body Art Follow-up Inspections	0	8
Body Art Complaints	2	22
Child Care Regular Inspections	23	138
Child Care Follow-up Inspections	0	15
Child Care Complaints	2	8
Child Care High Risk Field Consults	0	18
Land-Use Planning Review	30	232
Onsite Wastewater Treatment System (OWTS) Pumper Truck Inspections	8	85
OWTS Final Inspections	75	576
OWTS Partial Inspections	32	235
OWTS Application Design Reviews	66	558
OWTS Design Revision Requests	24	221
OWTS Design Revision (add) Requests	15	0
OWTS New Permit Applications	39	351
OWTS Repair Permit Applications	33	276
OWTS Modification Permit Applications	3	15
OWTS Acceptance Doc for Title Transfer	108	866
OWTS Soil and Site Evaluations	30	425
OWTS Complaints	0	27
OWTS O&M Systems	14	65
Recreational Water Safety Inspections	110	295
Recreational Water Follow-up Inspections	11	17

Recreational Water Complaints	2	9
Retail Food Establishment (RFE) Regular Inspections	321	1908
RFE Re-Inspections	48	171
RFE Complaint Investigations	82	391
Environment Health Activity	2023 Total As of 3/31/23	2022 Total
RFE Plan Reviews	34	193
School Safety Regular Inspections	4	13
School Safety Complaints	1	4
School Safety Self-Certification Audits	12	15
School Safety Self-Certifications Returned	0	332
Waste Tire Facilities Regular Inspections	25	115
Waste Tire Follow-up Inspections	0	1

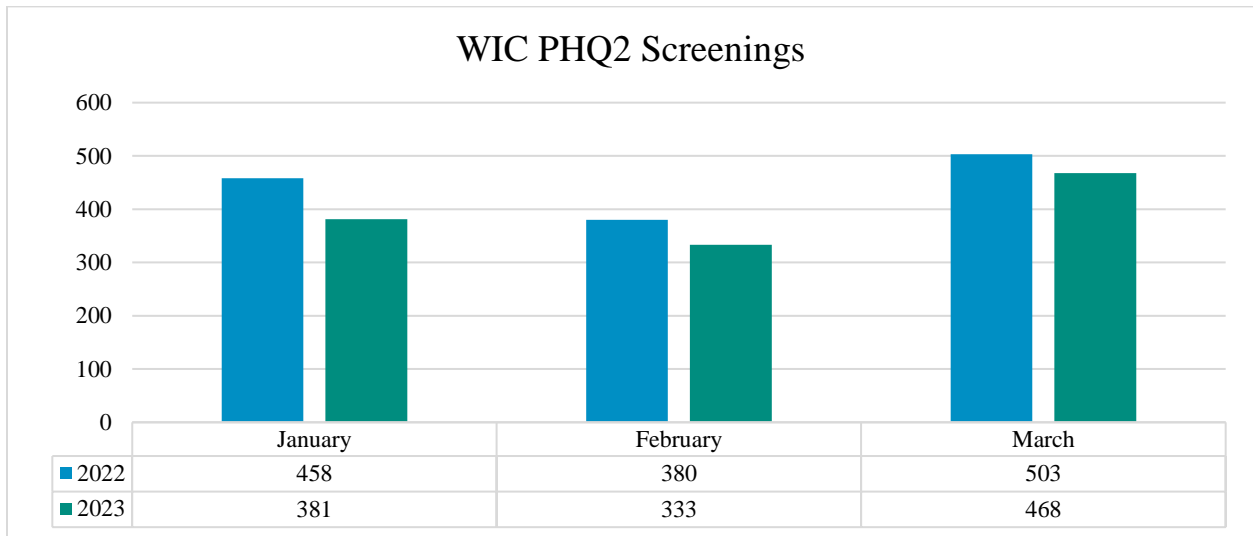
Appendix B: Laboratory Public Water System Test Counts

The EPCPH Laboratory is certified to test drinking water and wastewater for naturally occurring contaminants in which the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has defined contamination limits. The laboratory performs testing for El Paso County and several surrounding counties specific to public water systems and private wells to assure safe water sources and protect public health. Testing includes bacteriological tests for pH, coliforms and E. coli, and inorganic anions such as nitrates, nitrites, fluoride, and chloride. The graph below shows data for public water system identification (PWSID) counts for public water system tests.



Appendix C: WIC Patient Health Questionnaire-2 for Depression

The WIC program works with pregnant and post-partum women to identify depression, refer for behavioral health treatment, and reduce the stigma of seeking behavioral health services for this at-risk group of women. CDC research shows about one in eight women with a recent live birth experiences symptoms of postpartum depression. Screening can provide a referral and connection to treatment resources. WIC staff completed 468 Patient Health Questionnaire-2 (PHQ2) screening see chart below.



The screenings led to a total of 21 referrals:

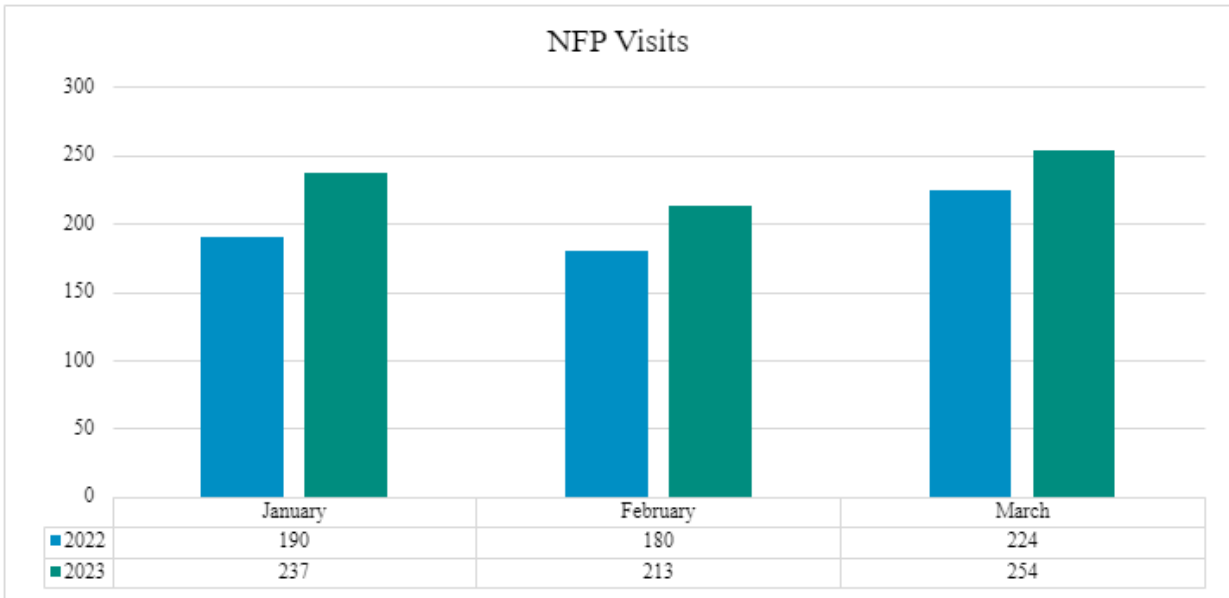
- 12 referrals were made to local behavioral health resources.
- 5 referrals were made to Colorado Community Health Alliance (CCHA) for further evaluation and connection to meet their specific behavioral health needs.
- 1 client on Tricare were referred to active-duty resources on base; xx clients on Tricare were referred to non-active-duty case management.
- 2 clients were on private insurance and were advised on next steps for behavioral health resources.
- 38 clients were already receiving services and declined a referral for that reason.

Appendix D: Immunizations Program Vaccines Administered

Month	Non-COVID Vaccines	COVID Vaccine Administered in Clinic/Distributed (Long-Term Care Facilities and Operation House Call)	COVID Vaccine Administered by EPCPH Mobile Team
January	502	115	14
February	592	89	0*
March	878	150	8

*The mobile team supported other vaccine efforts in the community (PCV20, flu, mpox)

Appendix E: Nurse-Family Partnership Client Visits



Appendix F: Disease Prevention and Control

Table 1 – Notifiable diseases reported to El Paso County Public Health through March 31, 2023
All 2022/2023 numbers are preliminary

Category	Disease	2023	2022	2021	2019
Food/Waterborne Diseases					
	Campylobacter	23	118	75	89
	Cryptosporidium	7	25	14	16
	Cyclosporiasis	0	10	4	3
	Giardia	18	47	52	42
	Hepatitis A	1	3	0	127
	Legionellosis	2	11	10	7
	Salmonella	8	54	65	71
	Shigella	10	57	8	29
	Shiga Toxin-producing E. coli (STEC)	7	42	29	26
	Vibriosis	1	7	2	4
Food/Waterborne Diseases Totals		77	373	259	414
Viral Hepatitis					
	Hepatitis B (acute)	2	3	0	3
	Hepatitis B (chronic)	25	92	81	76
	Hepatitis C (acute)	0	3	0	10
	Hepatitis C (chronic)	69	296	245	614
Viral Hepatitis Totals		96	394	347	703
Healthcare Associated Infections					
	Carbapenem-Resistant Acinetobacter baumannii (CRAB)	0	1	0	0
	Carbapenem Non-susceptible Enterobacteriaceae (CRE)	14	47	42	40

	Carbapenem-Resistant Pseudomonas Aeruginosa (CRPA)	16	43	66	32
Healthcare Associated Infections totals		30	91	108	72
Vaccine Preventable Diseases					
	Haemophilus influenzae (H. flu)	3	14	11	13
	Measles	0	0	0	0
	Meningococcal Disease	1	0	0	1
	Mumps	1	3	0	3
	Pertussis	7	29	10	75
	Rubella	0	0	0	0
	Varicella	8	21	10	45
Vaccine Preventable Diseases Totals		20	67	31	137
COVID-19		4778	103,347	85,884	0
Hospitalized Influenza*		69	529	17	506
Mpox		0	24	-	-

*Flu Seasons:

- September 27, 2020- May 22, 2021; 2
- October 3, 2021- May 21, 2022; 188
- October 2, 2022- May 20, 2023; 390

Table 2 – Foodborne illness complaints received at El Paso County Public Health in March

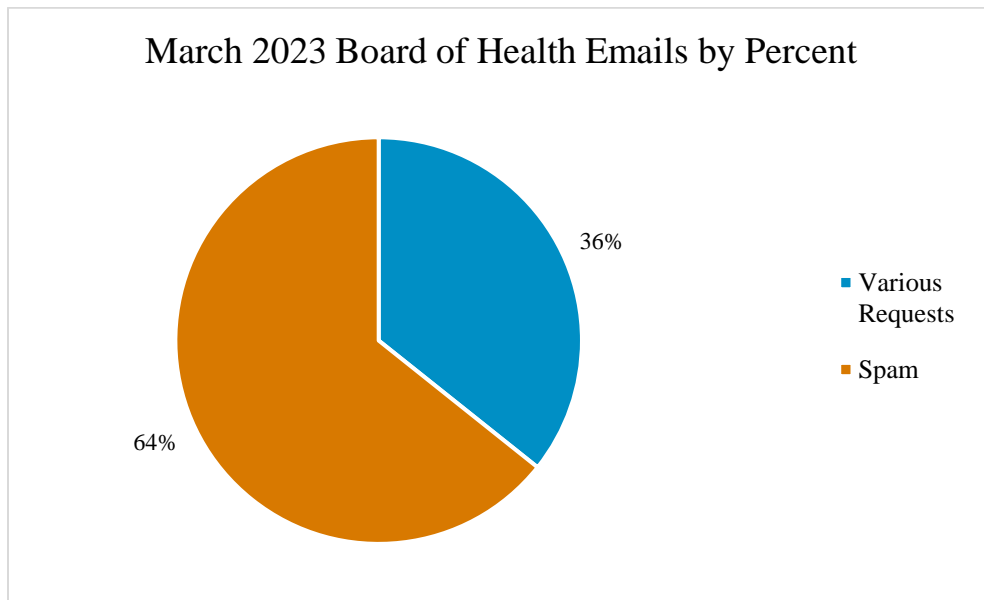
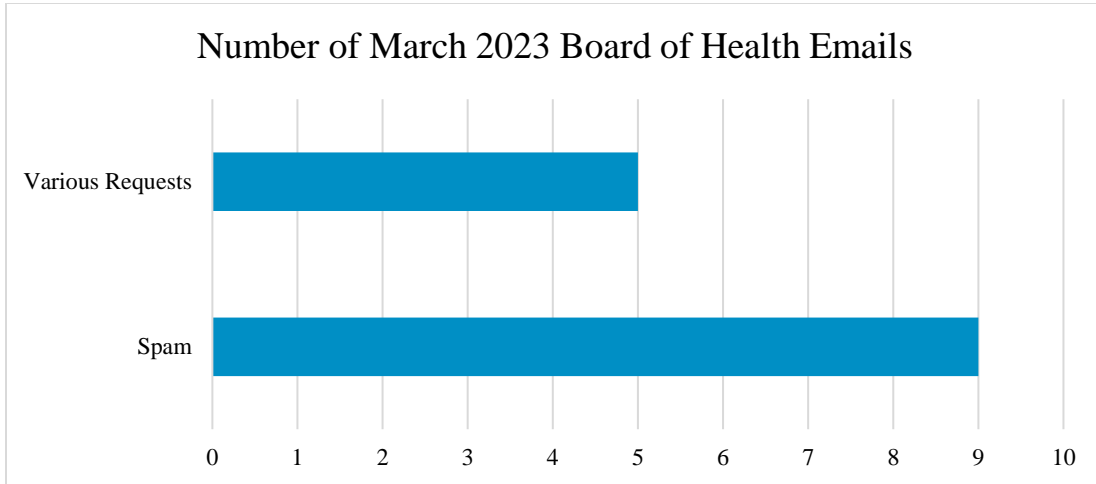
Foodborne Illness Complaints	# Referred to Env. Health
34	3

Table 3 – Annual rabies control activities

Year	Rabid animals total	Animal type
2023	0	--
2022	4	Bat (4)
2021	7	Bat (3), Skunk (3), Cat (1)
2020	10	Bat (5), Skunk (4), Coyote (1)

Appendix G: Board of Health Email Inquiries

The Board of Health email (boardofhealth@elpasoco.com) received 14 unique emails during the month of March. Nine of the emails were solicitations and five emails were various requests.



Definitions of Foundational Terms

Foundational Public Health Capabilities

Assessment and Planning- Colorado’s governmental public health system will apply the principles and skilled practice of epidemiology, laboratory investigation, surveillance and program evaluation to support planning, policy and decision making in Colorado.

Communications - Colorado’s governmental public health system will be a trusted source of clear, consistent, accurate and timely health and environmental information.

Policy Development and Support - Colorado’s governmental public health system will inform and implement policies to meet the community’s changing health needs. Public health policies will aim to eliminate health disparities, reduce death and disability, and improve environmental quality and health outcomes for all people in Colorado.

Partnerships - Colorado’s governmental public health system will create, convene, and support strategic partnerships, engage community members and cross-sectoral partners, agencies, and organizations to achieve public health goals.

Organizational Competencies – No official definition from CDPHE but this section will be used to report on QI, accreditation, finance/budget, governance, awards, etc.

Emergency Preparedness and Response - Colorado’s governmental public health system, in coordination with federal, state and local agencies and public and private sector partners, will have the capability and capacity to prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergencies with health, environmental and medical impacts.

Social Determinants of Health - Colorado’s governmental public health system will intentionally focus on improving systems and institutions that exacerbate health disparities so that all people and communities in Colorado can achieve the highest level of health possible. Governmental public health will have the requisite skills, competencies, and capacities to play an essential role in creating comprehensive strategies needed to address health inequities, and social and environmental determinants of health.

Foundational Public Health Services

Communicable Disease Prevention, Investigation and Control - Colorado’s governmental public health system will carry out state and locally coordinated surveillance, disease investigation, laboratory testing, and prevention and control strategies to monitor and reduce the incidence and transmission of communicable diseases. Programs will target illnesses that are vaccine-preventable, zoonotic, vector-borne, respiratory, food- or water-borne, bloodborne, healthcare associated, and sexually transmitted as well as emerging threats. Communicable Disease Control will collaborate with national, state, and local partners to ensure mandates and guidelines are met and timely, actionable information is provided to the public and to health professionals.

Environmental Public Health - Colorado's governmental public health system will use evidence-informed practices to understand the cause and effect relationships between environmental changes and ecological and human health impacts, to protect, promote, and enhance the health of the community and environment. Agencies will participate in the protection and improvement of air quality, water, land, and food safety by identifying, investigating, and responding to community environmental health concerns, reducing current and emerging environmental health risks, preventing communicable diseases, and sustaining the environment in a coordinated manner with agencies at the federal, state, and local levels as well as industry stakeholders and the public.

Maternal, Child, Adolescent and Family Health - Colorado's governmental public health system will develop, implement and evaluate state-wide, regional and local strategies related to maternal, child, adolescent and family health to increase health and wellbeing, reduce adverse health outcomes and advance health equity across the life course. Strategies may include but are not limited to identifying and providing information, promoting evidence-informed and multi-generational approaches, identifying community assets, advocating for needed initiatives, and convening partners.

Chronic Disease, Injury Prevention and Behavioral Health Promotion - Colorado's governmental public health system focuses on common risk and protective factors that affect social, emotional and physical health and safety. To prevent chronic disease and injuries and promote behavioral health, Colorado's governmental public health system will use policy, systems and environmental change strategies to comprehensively address the root causes of poor health outcomes and advance health equity. Priority areas include, but are not limited to, nutrition, physical activity, oral health, access to care and disease management, injury prevention, violence prevention, suicide prevention, mental health and substance use (including tobacco, alcohol and other substances).

Access to and Linkage with Healthcare - All Coloradans should be connected with and have access to needed personal health care services that include primary care, maternal and child health care, oral health care, specialty care, and mental health care. All Coloradans should be connected with and have access to needed personal health care services that include primary care, maternal and child health care, oral health care, specialty care, and mental health care.