

To: Board of Health
From: Susan Wheelan, M.B.A.
Public Health Interim Director
Date: December 19, 2018 (reflects November 2018)
Re: Director's Report



Acronyms

- EPCPH – El Paso County Public Health
- CDPHE – Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

Office of the Director

Several programs within EPCPH have been working with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) and other local public health agencies to investigate cases of hepatitis A in El Paso County. The source of the outbreak has not yet been determined. However, the majority of cases in El Paso County have several risk factors for hepatitis A in common; these risk factors include homelessness and the use of street drugs. Other high risk factors for hepatitis A infection include living with someone who has hepatitis A and traveling to countries that have higher rates of hepatitis A.

Public Health's Response

- Due to the cross-agency involvement in this investigation, EPCPH has activated the Incident Command System (ICS) for an effective and efficient response.
- EPCPH has conducted an extensive investigation to identify any close contacts who may have been exposed to hepatitis A. EPCPH has proactively provided hepatitis A vaccine to those identified contacts at no cost to the individuals. Staff are also working to ensure appropriate isolation of contagious cases.
- Immunization Clinic staff collaborated with Penrose St Francis Catholic Charities, the University of Colorado Beth-El College of Nursing, and staff from Communicable Disease, Nurse Family Partnership, HCP, and the lab to administer 196 hepatitis A and 16 Immune Globulin at six outreach clinics.
- In addition, Public Health is notifying health care providers and organizations that serve at risk individuals; providing health education to restaurants for food handlers; and working with CDPHE, other local health departments, and community partners to encourage hepatitis A vaccination across the state.
- The Office of Communication has developed print and digital communication materials to promote vaccination and other preventative measures and communicate about the outbreak among the high-risk population, community partners and the public. Distribution is ongoing.
- Retail Food staff provided educational material via email to all current retail food establishments in El Paso County.

Office of Communication (OOC):

Television News Media

Media value dollar figures reflect equivalent costs for 30-second spot advertising during the respective newscasts and times. **There are other stories, as well as coverage and video on local news media outlets' websites that are not included in this news media value report.**

Topic	Date	Media Outlet	Number of viewers	Estimated Value
Teen vaping a health crisis	11/7/2018	KOAA	19,798	\$1,369.96
Romaine lettuce E. coli outbreak	11/21/2018	KRDO	15,511	\$1,111.57
TOTAL			35,309	\$2,481.53

Print/Online

- 11/22/2018- The Gazette, "[El Paso County sees six times normal rabies cases this year, residents should vaccinate pets, stay wary](#)," by Conrad Swanson. Interview provided by EPCPH Epidemiologist.
- 11/24/2018- The Gazette, "[Another sprawling tent city rises in the shadow of downtown Colorado Springs](#)," by Jakob Rodgers.
- 11/29/2018- The Gazette, "[\\$375M El Paso County budget boosts funding for public health, roads](#)" by Rachel Riley.

Radio

- 11/21/2018- KUNC, "[Health Experts Hope Dr. Rich Mahogany and ‘Man Therapy’ can Reduce Suicide in Men.](#)," by Leigh Paterson.

Public Health Campaigns and Projects

- The Office of Communication developed and delivered a staff training about social media for public health professionals and the platforms that EPCPH utilizes. This supports the Strategic Plan goal area on Workforce development, (Goal 1, Strategy 1: provide trainings that develop and strengthen public health core competencies), and the Strategic Plan goal area on Communication, (Goal 2, Strategy 2: increase knowledge and understanding of EPCPH’s brand guidelines to raise brand awareness of public health in the community).
- Completed a paid social media campaign on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter to raise awareness about Women, Infants and Children (WIC), increase caseload, and provide information about EPCPH’s third new location in southeast Colorado Springs. During the month of November, Facebook ads reached 65,645 unique users, and Twitter ads had 61,543 impressions. This supports the Strategic Plan goal area for Communication, (Goal 1, Strategy 2: increase use of digital media to promote public health messages and enhance health marketing materials).
- Secured media buys for a countywide teen electronic cigarette use prevention campaign that targets teens (12-17 years old), parents and other ask-able adults. The multi-media campaign will include promotion at movie theaters and shopping malls, in the local newspapers and on YouTube. This supports the Tobacco Education and Prevention Partnership’s strategic goal to prevent tobacco initiation among youth and young adults.

Online Media

Provided information on public health issues and public health functions to external partners on social media and website.

- 1,432 Facebook page followers with an average of 41,484 unique users reached monthly
- 5,538 Twitter followers with 97,800 tweet impressions
- 497 Instagram followers

Website statistics

www.elpasocountyhealth.org:

- 8,278 new visitors to the site with 22,795 page views

Strategic Development and Initiatives Office

The Healthy Environment Planner provided input to the City of Colorado Springs' strategic plan update, specifically related to topics of transportation and older adults. The City hosted several stakeholder focus groups to perform an analysis of current and potential operating procedures and core strategies. EPCPH staff participation in these types of processes represents an opportunity to influence health outcomes and policy, including those that address the social determinants of health, in alignment with the agency's Strategic Plan, in the Health Equity goal area.

Disease Prevention and Control

Table 1: Notifiable diseases reported to El Paso County Public Health through Nov 2018

Disease	YTD 2018	Total 2017
Food/Waterborne Diseases		
Campylobacter	100	107
Cryptosporidium	11	14
Cyclosporiasis	3	0
Giardia	34	33
Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome (HUS)	0	3
Hepatitis A	5	12
Legionellosis	18	5
Salmonella	105	92
Shigella	11	4
Shiga Toxin-producing E. coli (STEC)	15	24
Vibriosis	7	0
Food/Waterborne Diseases Total	309	294
Viral Hepatitis		
Hepatitis B (acute)	4	1
Hepatitis B (chronic)	58	66
Hepatitis C (acute)	6	4
Hepatitis C (chronic)	655	670
Viral Hepatitis Total	723	741
Healthcare Associated Infections		
Carbapenem Nonsusceptible Enterobacteriaceae (CRE)	31	32
Carbapenem-Resistant Pseudomonas Aeruginosa (CRPA)	50	70
Healthcare Associated Infections Total	81	102
Vaccine Preventable Diseases		
Haemophilus influenzae (H. flu)	8	2
Measles	0	0
Meningococcal Disease	0	1
Mumps	4	1
Pertussis	36	59
Rubella	0	0
Varicella	14	29
Vaccine Preventable Diseases Total	62	92

Hospitalized Influenza*	333	495
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*Flu Season 2017: October 2, 2016 - May 27, 2017.

*Flu Season 2018: October 1, 2017 - May 26, 2018.

*Flu Season 2019: September 30, 2018- May 18, 2019.

Hospitalized Influenza: Five adults and one child have been hospitalized for influenza this season.

Foodborne Illness Complaints:

- 16 possible foodborne illness complaints, two were referred to Environmental Health

Rabies:

- There were 14 calls regarding human or pet exposures to potentially rabid animals, and other rabies-related concerns.
- Four cats and one skunk were tested for rabies. The cats tested negative, the skunk tested positive.
- Total rabid animals for 2018: 67(60 skunks, one raccoon, six bats).

Tuberculosis (TB):

- New active TB cases investigated: 0
- New suspect TB cases investigated: 0
- Cases on Direct Observed Therapy (DOT): 2
- Cases on Directly Observed Preventive Therapy (DOPT): 4
- Total DOT/DOPT/VDOT visits: 181
- General TB skin tests done: 14
- Number of contacts screened/tested: 0
- Total number of evaluations: 11
- Latent TB Infection (LTBI) cases under treatment: 11
- LTBI cases completing treatment this month: 2

Maternal Child Health (MCH)

HCP, A Program for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs:

- HCP Team participated in a Front Range Regional HCP meeting which connected team to other HCP Programs and facilitated exchange of information from Denver Health, TriCounty and Jefferson Public Health. This activity resulted in suggested changes in workflow.
- Client activity this month included
 - 37 current active care coordination case load
 - 15 new case management referrals received
 - 18 new information only referrals received
 - 7 assessments were completed or reviewed
 - 7 action plans were completed or reviewed

Child Health/Early Childhood Obesity Prevention (ECOP):

- MCH filled a vacant positions due to retirement with a new health educator with previous experience in WIC and physical activity/fitness joined the MCH team in November and began her orientation process.

Promoting Connectedness, Resiliency and Life Skills (PCRLS):

- This position is currently in the hiring process.

Tobacco Education and Prevention Partnership (TEPP)

Youth Initiatives

- Recent data from the Healthy Kids Colorado Survey shows that Colorado teens have the highest incidence of electronic cigarettes in the country. On Friday, November 2, 2018, Governor Hickenlooper signed an executive order and proclamation aimed at reducing tobacco use and electronic cigarette use among youth, and recognizing “Vape-free November.” The story was covered locally by KRDO, and TEPP provided an on-air interview with KOAA. Information about “Vape-free November” was also shared on EPCPH’s social media accounts.
- Met with the Principal at Fountain Fort-Carson Middle School, to discuss potential tobacco prevention efforts within the middle school.
- Met with leaders from Colorado Springs School District 11 to strategize and plan efforts to provide education and awareness about electronic cigarettes to students, staff, and parents. TEPP will be providing student education through health classes, and will be involved in the district’s upcoming Family Learning Institute. Staff education is planned for the new year.
- Presented to 150 ninth grade students at Air Academy High School in District 20 on electronic cigarettes and nicotine.
- Presented to 250 high school students at St. Mary’s High School on electronic cigarettes and nicotine.
- Presented to 80 middle school students at Panorama Middle School and 40 sixth graders at Fox Meadow Middle School in District 2 on tobacco, nicotine, and electronic cigarettes. This is District 2’s first year teaching health, so they requested assistance with the tobacco section of their curriculum.
- Facilitated bi-monthly task force meeting the tobacco-free schools mini-grantees. The five mini-grant schools participated in the Great American Smokeout on November 13, 2018. This is a national smoke-free holiday that occurs each year. This year the schools participated in a variety of events to honor the holiday, including designing and handing out “Vape-free” t-shirts to students, hosting a family night, having students pledge to be smoke-free, raffling off prizes, and handing out educational resources and swag.

Tobacco Education, Cessation and Prevention

- During the month of November EPCPH referred five clients to the Colorado QuitLine Fax Referral program for tobacco cessation assistance.
- Attended State Tobacco Education and Prevention Partnership Training: How to talk about the price of tobacco. Learned about the importance of educating around the price of tobacco.
- Attended Trusted Adult training on starting the conversation with youth on marijuana presented by InsideOut Youth Services. Gained tools in starting difficult conversations, building connections and trusted relationships between adults and LGBTIQ youth.
- Hosted the quarterly meeting for the Tobacco-Free Alliance of El Paso County with about 35 community members in attendance. The main focus of the meeting was to highlight the results of the 2017 Healthy Kids Colorado Survey data as it pertains to tobacco and electronic cigarette use, as well as other related topics.
- As part of its Tobacco Focused Community Profile assessment, TEPP hosted two focus groups in the City of Fountain to learn more about community member opinions and perceptions of tobacco and electronic cigarette use and where local tobacco prevention efforts could be focused. Attendees of these meetings included member of Fountain Community Services, Communities That Care, and representatives from the construction industry. TEPP hosted a third focus group for members of the Tobacco-Free Alliance to further learn about and understand community interests in tobacco prevention.
- TEPP has collaborated with the Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual, Transgender (LGBT) Tobacco Policy Project being led by the Colorado School of Public Health (CSPH) in Colorado Springs. The CSPH is working with Inside Out Youth Services and the Southern Colorado Health Network to raise awareness and educate the LGBT community about how they are targeted by the tobacco industry, and therefore use

tobacco at much higher rates than the general public. The goal of the project is to implement policies that will help LGBT people quit tobacco and reduce exposure to secondhand smoke.

Multi-unit Housing Grant

- Held three events at Colorado Springs Housing Authority (CSHA) low-income public housing complexes. There are nine total CSHA low-income public housing complexes in Colorado Springs. In response to the implementation of a United States Department of Housing and Urban Development policy, these buildings became smoke and electronic cigarette-free in July. As part of an innovative grant, TEPP will train residents that live in these buildings to become “Resident Cessation Connectors” (RCC) trained in basic patient navigation and tobacco cessation techniques. The events were held to recruit residents interested in working with TEPP to help their neighbors quit tobacco. TEPP provided tobacco cessation resources and promotional materials emblazoned with QuitLine logos such as stress balls, pens, chapstick, cups, and nail files. Approximately 100 residents were engaged during these three events. Residents that expressed interest in the RCC position are being interviewed and screened during the month of December and will begin training in January 2019.

Youth Health and Suicide Prevention

- Observed Sources of Strength peer leader training at Mesa Ridge High School. Sources of Strength is a best practice, upstream school suicide prevention program that emphasizes resilience and positive youth development. Participating in and promoting the implementation of Sources of Strength supports the goals of the Community Health Improvement Plan.
- Met with the new social worker for the Pikes Peak Library District, based at the Penrose Library, to discuss the efforts of the Youth Suicide Prevention Workgroup and other EPCPH programs relevant to the library patron population. This potential partnership aligns with the agency’s strategic plan goal to strengthen EPCPH’s capabilities to provide information on public health issues and public health functions to external partners.
- Supported the Child Fatality Review Team in reviewing 32 child fatality cases in 2018. Local teams are required to review child fatality cases and provide prevention recommendations to the statewide Child Fatality Prevention System and local partners in accordance with state requirements.
- Provided information about local youth suicide prevention efforts at an event held by School District 49, Peak View Behavioral Health, and The Jason Foundation. This community engagement is in alignment with the agency strategic plan.

Youth Substance Use Prevention

- Staff facilitated meetings of the Community Board, Teen Advisory Board and Resource Assessment Workgroup to complete activities associated with Phase 3 of the Communities That Care (CTC) process. The CTC process is in alignment with the Community Health Improvement Plan’s goal of decreasing the incidence of poor mental health and substance use and misuse.
- Planner attended a one-day training, “Conflict Strategies”, as part of El Paso County’s Leadership Training Series. This training supports skills building for individuals who have leadership roles within the agency, and supports EPCPH’s organizational competencies, as identified in the Workforce Development Plan.
- Planner facilitated conversations about marijuana with young people at a local middle school. This activity aligns with the Community Health Improvement Plan’s goal of decreasing the incidence of poor mental health and substance use and misuse.
- Staff attended a two-day training, “Influencing the Systems Change Process.” This training supports skills building for staff to facilitate the application of Public Health Core Competencies within EPCPH, including Policy Development, Communication, and Systems Thinking, as identified in the Workforce Development Plan.

Environmental Health (EH) Division

Body Art

- EPCPH held a Body Art Advisory Group (BAAG) meeting to share the final social media campaign items and a flyer to help promote consumer awareness around body art safety and the benefits of utilizing licensed facilities to prevent health risks. These meetings help maintain a community partnership between EPCPH and the body art industry.

Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (OWTS)

- Staff hosted the National Association of Wastewater Technicians (NAWT) Certified Inspector training for industry on November 15, and 16. This class was the result of a collaborative effort by the CDPHE, Colorado Professional Onsite Wastewater, and EPCPH. The knowledge gained by inspectors, enabling a thorough inspection of an OWTS for possible failure or limiting conditions, is key in providing a homeowner the necessary information to mitigate system issues and to protect drinking water. This aligns with the Public Health Strategic Plan, Community Partnerships Goal 1, Strategy 2.

Emergency Preparedness and Response

- Emergency Preparedness and Response Coordinator attended Bold Planning training at the Colorado Springs Office of Emergency Management. This training will help to strengthen preparedness, response, and recovery plan development throughout the South Central Region.
- Emergency Preparedness and Response Team attended Planning Section Chief Training presented by The Blue Cell Command School and sponsored by the El Paso County Office of Emergency Management. This training provided an opportunity to strengthen skill sets that will be required to work effectively and efficiently in the planning section of an Emergency Operations Center.
- Emergency Preparedness and Response Team attended the All-Hazards Advisory Council hosted by the Northeast Teller County Fire Protection District. This meeting allowed for multiple partners throughout the South Central Region to discuss past and present events and coordinate preparedness for possible future events.
- Emergency Preparedness and Response Team attended the 2018 Office of Emergency Preparedness and Response Annual Partners Meeting in Denver. This two-day conference was a great opportunity for networking and provided a multitude of training opportunities focused on strengthening the State's readiness posture.
- Emergency Preparedness and Response Team facilitated the South Central Region Public Health partners meeting with public health directors and leaders from Teller, Lake, Chaffee, Park, and El Paso counties. This meeting focused on the emergency preparedness and response grant deliverables for the first and second quarter.

Laboratory

- Performed 489 bacteriological water tests, 266 for public water systems and 223 for private wells. Sixty-seven tests were performed for inorganic anions.
- Radon Measurements Laboratory moved from the UCCS campus into the Public Health Laboratory. The move went smoothly and testing resumed on schedule.

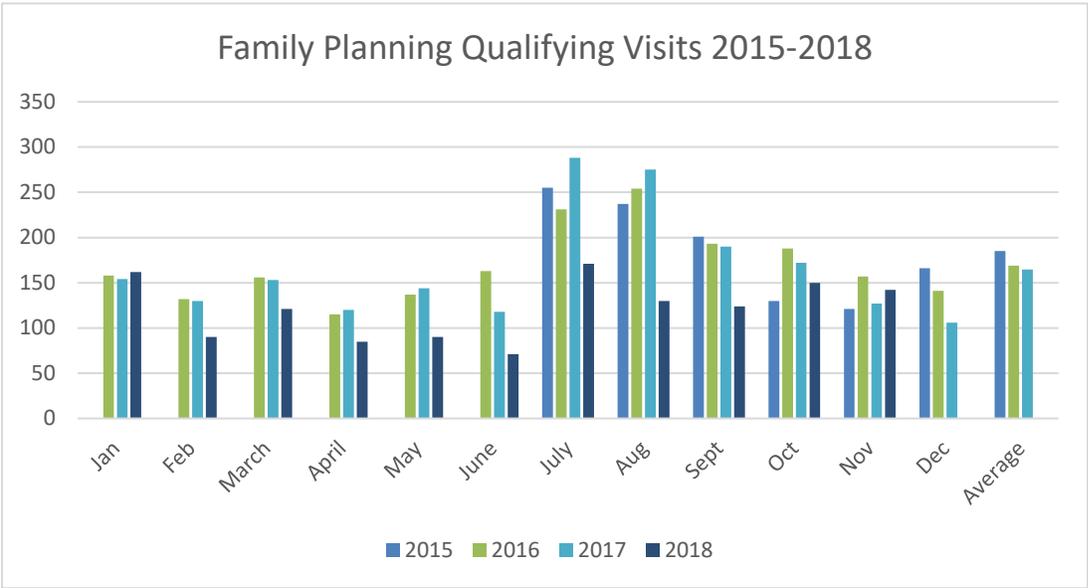
Environment Health Activity	November 2018	2018 Total	2017 Total
Air Quality Construction Permits	0	77	66
Air Quality Open Burn Permits	6	29	32

Air Quality Complaints	3	44	42
Animal Bites Reported	116	1379	N/A
Body Art Inspections	10	58	75
Body Art Follow-up Inspections	1	4	3
Body Art Complaints	0	8	14
Child Care Regular Inspections	18	146	183
Child Care Follow-up Inspections	1	20	35
Child Care Complaints	0	6	2
Land-Use Planning Review	14	202	198
OWTS Final Inspections	48	496	512
OWTS Soil And Site Evaluations	41	423	480
OWTS New Permit Applications	26	315	322
OWTS Repair Permit Applications	15	264	285
OWTS Application Design Reviews	43	532	582
OWTS Acceptance Doc for Title Transfer	50	955	910
OWTS Pumper Truck Inspections	0	81	77
OWTS Complaints	4	37	36
Recreational Water Safety Inspections	15	353	402
Recreational Water Follow-up Inspections	0	37	20
Recreational Water Complaints	1	15	8
RFE Regular Inspections	343	3980	4312
RFE Follow-up Inspections	51	831	842
RFE Complaint Investigations	24	303	233
RFE Plan Reviews	8	164	122
School Safety Regular Inspections	0	38	60
School Safety Follow-up Inspections	0	0	0
Waste Tires Facilities Regular Inspections	6	117	140
Waste Tires Follow-up Inspections	0	12	25

Health Services Division

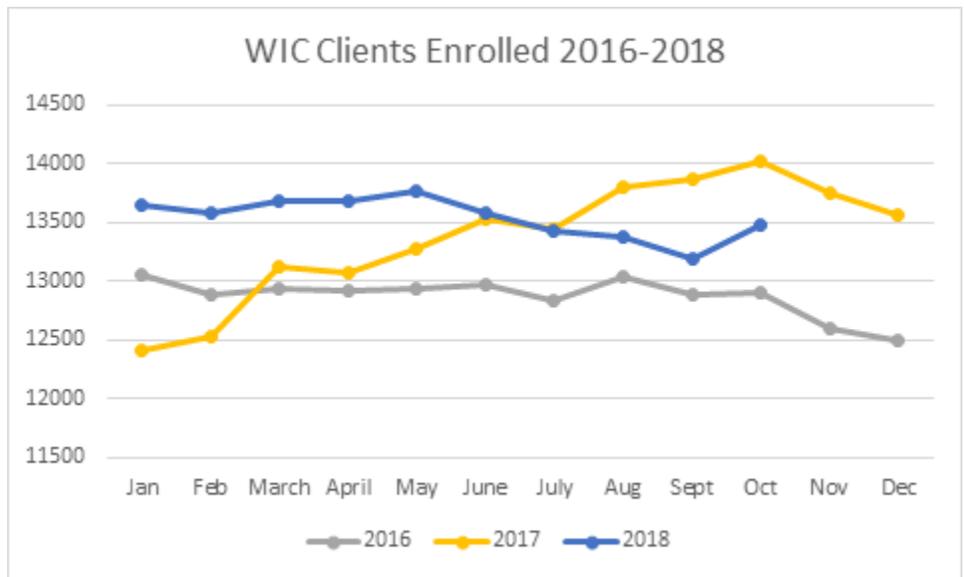
Family Planning Clinic

- The Family Planning clinic is currently fully staffed, and we will begin training a part time employee from Immunization to fill the need at the front desk. Training is set to begin in December. We continue to work towards staff being fully cross-trained in the positions to meet the need of our front desk.
- The Family Planning program manager attended the El Paso County Human Trafficking Coalition and was able to provide staffing updates and contacts from the Family Planning clinic, as well as report resources back to the Family Planning team.
- The Family Planning program manager attended two trainings in November on the topic of professional development and leadership. This is part of a 12-week leadership and development training course offered by El Paso County and is consistent with the workforce development goals of the Strategic Plan.



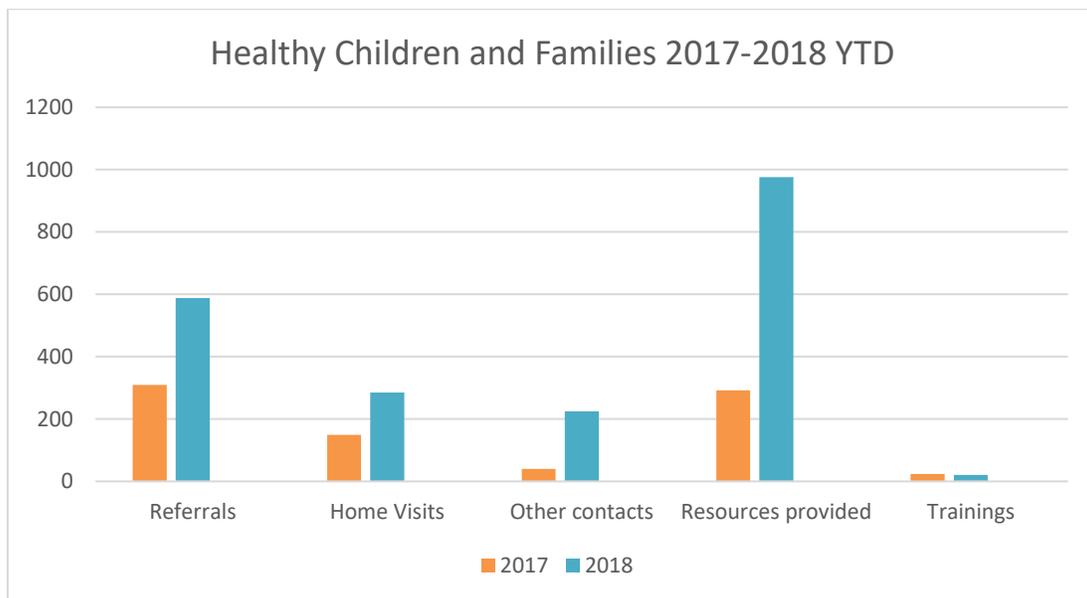
Women, Infants and Children (WIC)

- October caseload showed great gains as it grew by 297 clients to 13,485. In addition to multiple ongoing efforts towards reaching those who may be eligible but aren't currently enrolled and retaining current clients.
- Since launching April 23, 2018, our work to improve pregnancy-related depression screenings and referrals for WIC participants had resulted in 1,501 completed two-question Patient Health Questionnaires (PHQ-2s) and 84 referrals to AspenPointe for further evaluation and connections to meet their specific behavioral health needs. These activities positively impact the health and wellbeing of our clients and reduce the stigma of seeking behavioral health services.
- Helena Stockman, WIC Educator, attended the rigorous, week-long training towards becoming a Certified Lactation Counselor (CLC) and passed the exam. This certification verifies training and competency in breastfeeding and human lactation support, ensuring WIC clients receive up to date breastfeeding information and support.



Healthy Children and Families (HCF)

- Healthy Children and Families (HCF) has continued to work with the Department of Human Services (DHS) to provide support and resources to the families of El Paso County.
- We are continuing work with DHS in their development of a unit prioritizing at-risk children aged zero to three years, as this is a particularly vulnerable population.
- In November, the HCF staff member completed:
 - 29 referrals from DHS staff
 - 15 home visits with assessments
 - 15 other contacts
 - 87 community resources were given to families
 - One training provided to DHS staff members

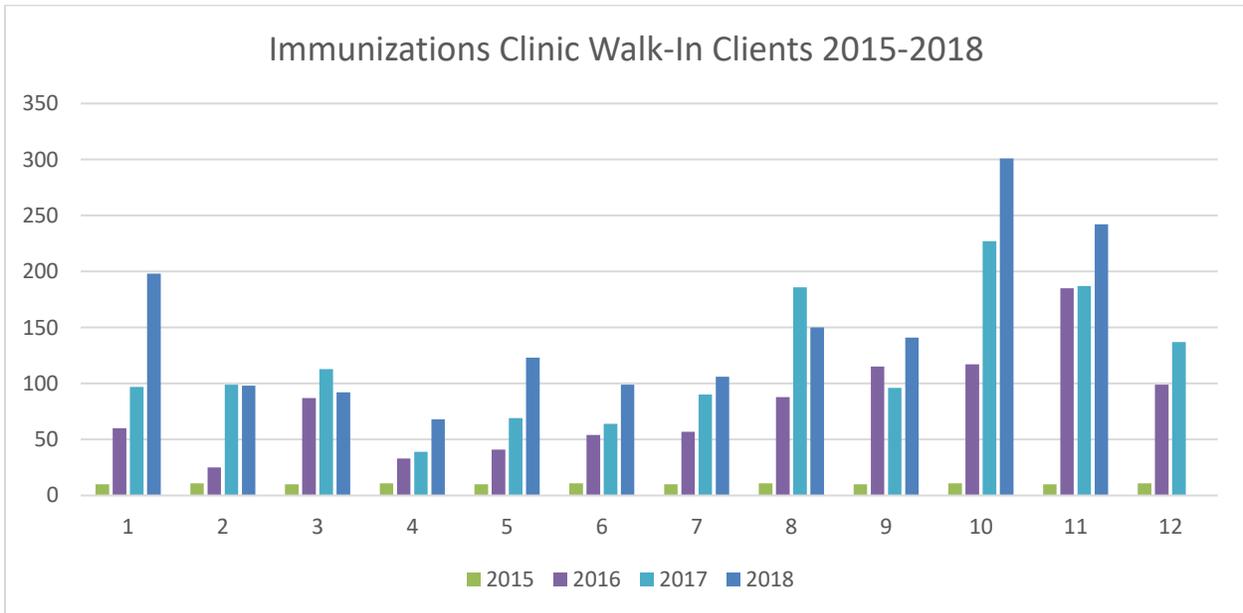


Immunization/Travel Program (IZ)

- IZ nurses administered 106 flu vaccines at outreach clinics at the request of two local businesses. IZ also partnered with Colorado Springs Fire Department paramedics to administer 10 flu vaccines at a walk-in clinic at the southeast WIC location. IZ nurses have administered 943 flu vaccines since the beginning of this flu season. These activities meet the goal of disease prevention and maintaining strong relationships with community partners to assure the provision of health care services.
- To prevent infectious diseases and remove barriers to care, IZ Clinic served 242 walk-in clients and 17 refugees in November in addition to the regularly scheduled clients.

Year to Date Immunizations Data

Dates	Children Served	Adults Served	Travel Clients	Total Number Vaccines Given
November 2018	226	463	34	1203
Through November 2018	1676	1845	737	8224
January-December 2017	2033	2220	705	11,100



Nurse Family Partnership (NFP)

The Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) Community Advisory Board (CAB) held a meeting in partnership with March of Dimes to discuss how to reduce the rates of low birth weight in El Paso County. The goal to work with community partners to reduce the low birth weight rates in El Paso County is consistent with our Community Partnerships and Health Equity Strategic Plan goals.

Report Summary	NOV 2018
Clients Served	120
Completed/ Attempted Visits	153
Client Graduations	4

NFP Referral Data for November 2018

total referrals = 22

