

To: Board of Health
From: Susan Wheelan, M.B.A.
 Public Health Director
Date: January 23, 2019 (reflects December 2018)
Re: Director's Report



Acronyms

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

Development and Strategic Initiatives Office

- Submitted Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) Reaccreditation Documentation

Office of Communication

These activities align with EPCPH Strategic Plan Goal area for Communication, Goal 1, “strengthen EPCPH’s capabilities to provide information on public health issues and public health functions to external partners.”

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
Restaurant Report Card – New Rules and Regulations	12/13/2018	KXRM	15,131	\$1,273.61
BOH budget approval	12/19/2018	KXRM	21,530	\$2,516.81
TOTAL			71,970	\$6,271.95

Print/Online

- 12/13/2018- The Colorado Springs Business Journal, “[An epidemic: Experts blame e-cig misinformation, marketing to youth](#)” by Jessica Kuhn. Interview provided by Dacia Hudson, Program Manager and Emma Cook, Community Health Educator.
- 12/20/2018- The Gazette, “[El Paso County Health Department gets first funding increase since recession](#)” by Jakob Rodgers. Interview provided by Susan Wheelan, Director and Elaine Johnsen, El Paso County Funding Optimization Manager.
- 12/20/2018- The Gazette, “[Fearing widespread hepatitis A outbreak among homeless population, El Paso County goes on offensive](#)” by Jakob Rodgers. Interview provided by Dr. Robin Johnson, Medical Director.

Radio

- 12/4/2018 at 7:36 a.m.- KOA-AM News Radio Denver, [Hepatitis A Outbreak](#). Interview provided by Haley Zachary, Epidemiologist.

Public Health Campaigns and Projects

- Responded to emerging communicable disease cases of hepatitis A with the development of print materials and promotion of the vaccine. Also participated in CDPHE’s communication workgroup specific to hepatitis A outreach and planning efforts.
- Began implementation of a countywide teen vaping prevention campaign that targets teens (12-17 years old), parents and other adults. The multi-media campaign includes promotion at movie theaters and shopping malls, in 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.

- 1,430 Facebook page followers with an average of 809 unique users reached monthly
- 5,565 Twitter followers with 18,100 tweet impressions
- 506 Instagram followers

Website statistics

www.elpasocountyhealth.org:

- 7,442 new visitors to the site with 21,485 page views

Disease Prevention

Outreach activities: During December, CD/TB continued outreach to high-risk populations and providers associated with the hepatitis A outbreak.

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

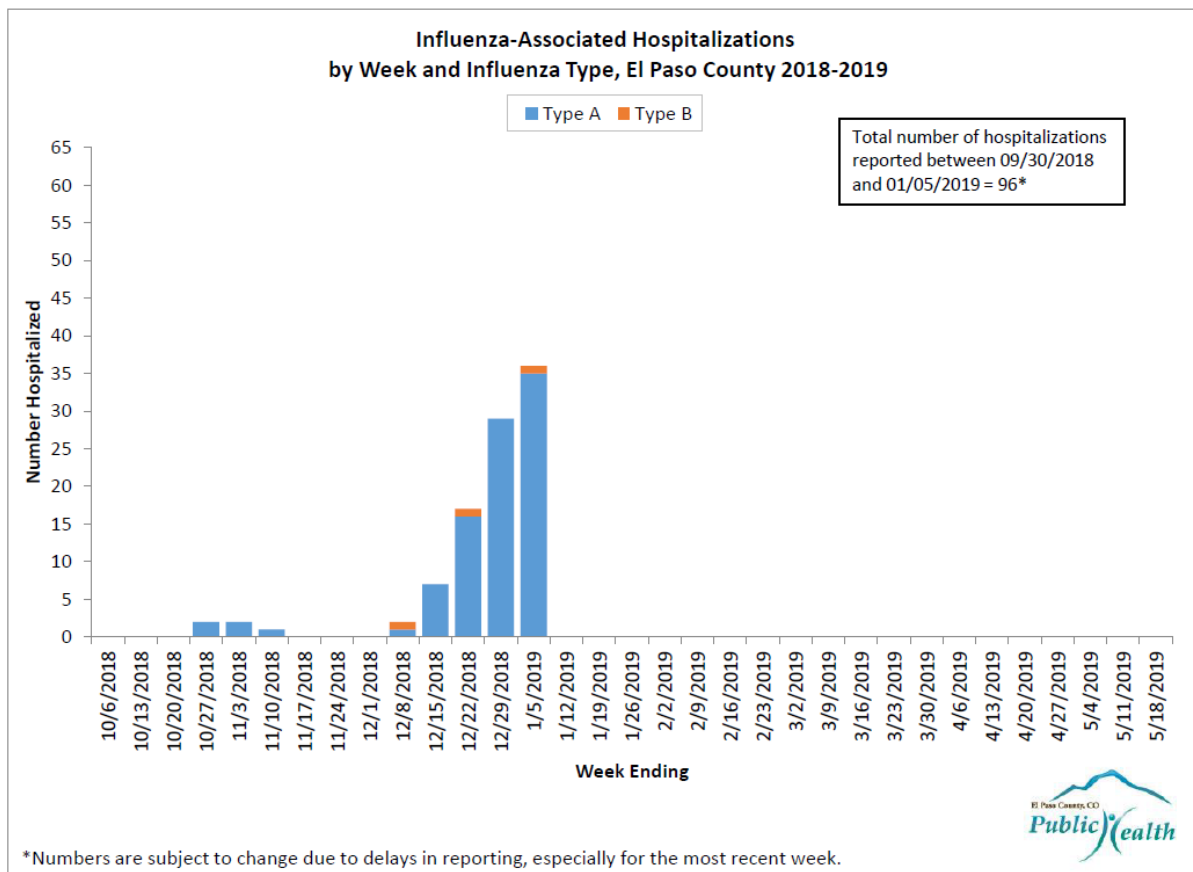
Disease	YTD 2018	Total 2017
Food/Waterborne Diseases		
Campylobacter	110	107
Cryptosporidium	11	14
Cyclosporiasis	3	0
Giardia	39	33
Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome (HUS)	0	3
Hepatitis A	10	12
Legionellosis	18	5
Salmonella	110	92
Shigella	12	4
Shiga Toxin-producing E. coli (STEC)	16	24
Vibriosis	7	0
Food/Waterborne Diseases Total	336	294
Viral Hepatitis		
Hepatitis B (acute)	4	1
Hepatitis B (chronic)	64	66
Hepatitis C (acute)	8	4
Hepatitis C (chronic)	697	670
Viral Hepatitis Total	773	741
Healthcare Associated Infections		
Carbapenem Nonsusceptible Enterobacteriaceae (CRE)	34	32

Carbapenem-Resistant Pseudomonas Aeruginosa (CRPA)	51	70
Healthcare Associated Infections Total	85	102
Vaccine Preventable Diseases		
Haemophilus influenzae (H. flu)	9	2
Measles	0	0
Meningococcal Disease	0	1
Mumps	5	1
Pertussis	46	59
Rubella	0	0
Varicella	18	29
Vaccine Preventable Diseases Total	78	92
Hospitalized Influenza*	333	495

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

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

Hospitalized Influenza: 72 adults and 24 children have been hospitalized for influenza this season between September 30, 2018 and January 5, 2019.



Foodborne Illness Complaints:

- 23 possible foodborne illness complaints; three were referred to Environmental Health.

Rabies:

- There were 14 calls regarding human or pet exposures to potentially rabid animals, and other rabies-related concerns.
- Two skunks were tested for rabies. Both were positive.

Total rabid animals for 2018: 69 (62 skunks, one raccoon, six bats)

Tuberculosis (TB):

- New active TB cases investigated: 0
- New suspect TB cases investigated: 1
- Cases on Direct Observed Therapy (DOT): 1
- Cases on Directly Observed Preventive Therapy (DOPT): 7
- Total DOT/DOPT/VDOT visits: 159
- Number of contacts screened/tested: 1
- Total number of evaluations: 4
- Latent TB Infection (LTBI) cases under treatment: 17
- LTBI cases completing treatment this month: 2

Tobacco Education and Prevention Partnership (TEPP)

Youth Initiatives

- Met with the Principal at Fountain-Fort Carson Middle School to discuss potential tobacco prevention efforts within the middle school.
- Participated in the Manitou Springs District 14 monthly wellness meeting and provided information and resources on youth vaping in schools.
- Met with Second Chance Through Faith, a faith-based program for at-risk youth and juveniles ages 12-21. This organization received an innovative grant from the state tobacco program to implement a social justice movement around youth tobacco prevention.
- Presented with Students Working Against Tobacco (SWAT) to the staff at Sand Creek High School in District 49. The presentation included information about vaping and how to address the problem within the school environment. Sixty staff attended the presentation.
- Facilitated a focus group with the Communities that Care Teen Advisory Board to gather insight on tobacco use among youth in the Fountain Valley area. There were 13 youth participants in the focus group. Data collected from this focus group were used in the Tobacco Focused Community Profile (TFCP), required for TEPP to submit to CDPHE.

Tobacco Education, Cessation and Prevention

- During the month of December, EPCPH referred six clients to the Colorado QuitLine Fax Referral program for tobacco cessation assistance.
- TEPP completed and submitted the TFCP to the State Tobacco Education and Prevention Program at the CDPHE. Two municipalities from El Paso County were assessed for the TFCP based on the availability of data, a strong interest in strengthening existing relationships and projects, and community readiness. The two municipalities selected were Colorado Springs and Fountain. The TFCP will inform the evidence-based interventions and strategies chosen for TEPP's next funding cycle (2019-2021).
- TEPP staff attended a Training of Trainers for "Start the Conversation: How to Talk With Young People About JUULs and Other Electronic Nicotine Products." This training provided TEPP the information and resources needed to present to parents and community members, so they can be armed with information to talk to young people about vaping.

Multi-unit Housing Grant

- Interviewed and screened six candidates for the Resident Cessation Connector positions. These individuals will begin orientation in early 2019. They will receive training in basic patient navigation and tobacco cessation techniques.

Youth Health and Suicide Prevention

- Met with community partners from the faith community in Monument to discuss the efforts of the Youth Suicide Prevention Workgroup and ways to better engage the Monument community in current youth suicide prevention efforts. This new partnership aligns with the agency's strategic plan goal to expand participation from non-traditional partners on EPCPH-led collaborations.
- Facilitated the December Youth Suicide Prevention Workgroup meeting with over 30 partners in attendance. The agenda focused on reviewing the proposed strategy map and sub-group work on community action plan goals. The Youth Suicide Prevention Workgroup supports goals and strategies within the Community Health Improvement Plan.
- Met with community partners from Inside/Out Youth Services to discuss more intentional alignment of resources to support the LGBTQ youth population. The strengthening of this partnership aligns with the agency's strategic plan goals on community partnerships and health equity, as well as goals in the Community Health Improvement Plan.

Youth Substance Use Prevention (YSUP)

- YSUP Planner was selected to serve on the Public Health Transformation Steering Committee, a statewide partnership convened by the Colorado Association of Local Public Health Officials and the CDPHE. This supports EPCPH's goal to develop and maintain strong relationships with key community partners to support public health or assure the provision of health care services.
- YSUP Planner was invited to participate in the 2Generation Opportunities (2GO) Committee. Joint Initiatives for Youth and Families was awarded one of 10 grants from the Colorado Department of Human Services intended to support innovative ways of ensuring CO families achieve educational and economic success. This supports EPCPH's goal to develop and maintain strong relationships with key community partners to support public health or assure the provision of health care services.
- Staff facilitated meetings of the Community/Key Leader Board and the Teen Advisory Board in order to vote on strategies for implementation, and programs to support, that address the selected risk and protective factors commonly associated with underage use or abuse of substances and prevalence in the Fountain Valley. The two strategies chosen were: Build Public Support for Creating Community Spaces for Youth; and Build Public Support for Quality Child Care Early in Life. The coalition has now completed three of the five phases of CTC. 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.

Maternal Child Health

- MCH hosted a training on Screening, Brief Intervention, Referral to Treatment, known as SBIRT, which is an evidence-based approach to improve health by preventing and reducing alcohol and drug use. Partners in DHS, schools and other agencies were invited to attend along with EPCPH staff. Two sessions were held with 42 individuals receiving training.

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

- Client activity this month included
 - 32 current care coordination case load
 - 10 new case management referrals received

- Nine new information-only referrals received
- Five assessments were completed or reviewed
- Two action plans were completed or reviewed

Environmental Health (EH) Division

Retail Food

- Retail Food program staff conducted over 4,200 routine inspections of the 2,600 Retail Food Establishments in El Paso County in 2018. The inspections were conducted on a risk-based system developed by the CDPHE.

Air Quality

- The Air Quality program is contracted to respond to outdoor air quality complaints and also issues open burning and construction permits. In 2018, we responded to 43 complaints the majority of which were about fugitive dust.

Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (OWTS)

- The OWTS team hosted a quarterly Technical Advisory Group meeting. The meeting had a tremendous turnout with a variety of industry participants including installers, engineers, inspectors, cleaners and retail sales representatives. These meetings are held to keep open lines of communication between industry partners and Public Health. They are an integral part of education and keeping all entities on the same page with new regulations and new technology that may be employed in practice.

Emergency Preparedness and Response

- Emergency Preparedness and Response Team continues to support a public health response to a hepatitis A outbreak in people experiencing homelessness and/or using street drugs within El Paso County. Specifically, the Emergency Preparedness and Response Team is facilitating the development of the incident action plan and conducting meetings in accordance with the principles of the incident command system. The Emergency Preparedness and Response Team is also providing technical support and guidance to the command and general staff on incident management principles. The Regional Epidemiologist provided education to the targeted population about hepatitis A during outreach at EPCPH points of dispensing (PODs) related to the outbreak.
- Emergency Preparedness and Response Coordinator attended the CDPHE Strategic National Stockpile Distribution tabletop exercise. This exercise was a great opportunity to hear from subject matter experts and collaborate with local, state and federal partners on medical countermeasure distribution timelines and processes.
- Emergency Preparedness and Response Coordinator conducted a closed POD orientation brief to Community Partnership for Child Development. This brief discussed the roles, responsibilities and expectations of closed POD partnerships with Public Health. The presentation also helped El Paso County meet a public health emergency preparedness grant requirement.

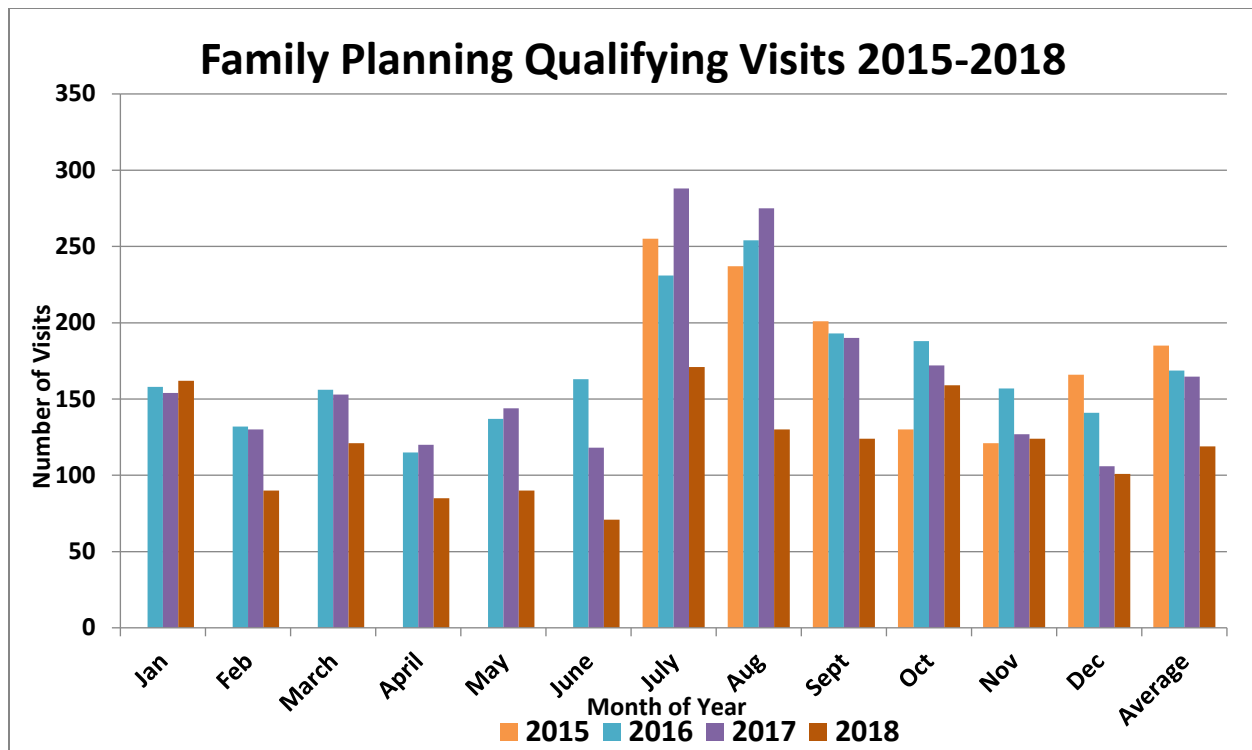
Laboratory

- During the month of December, the laboratory performed 432 bacteriological water tests; 289 for public water systems and 143 for private wells. Forty water samples assayed for inorganic anions.
- A Certification Officer for CDPHE inspected the Laboratory. The Laboratory successfully received the State of Colorado Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) Chemistry Certification.

Environment Health Activity	December 2018	2018 Total	2017 Total
Air Quality Construction Permits	2	79	66
Air Quality Open Burn Permits	3	32	32
Air Quality Complaints	0	43	42
Animal Bites Reported	90	1470	N/A
Body Art Inspections	15	73	75
Body Art Follow-up Inspections	0	4	3
Body Art Complaints	0	8	14
Child Care Regular Inspections	28	174	183
Child Care Follow-up Inspections	3	23	35
Child Care Complaints	2	8	2
Land-Use Planning Review	20	222	198
OWTS Final Inspections	39	535	512
OWTS Soil And Site Evaluations	28	451	480
OWTS New Permit Applications	22	337	322
OWTS Repair Permit Applications	13	277	285
OWTS Application Design Reviews	39	571	582
OWTS Acceptance Doc for Title Transfer	41	996	910
OWTS Pumper Truck Inspections	3	84	77
OWTS Complaints	1	38	36
Recreational Water Safety Inspections	0	353	402
Recreational Water Follow-up Inspections	0	37	20
Recreational Water Complaints	1	16	8
RFE Regular Inspections	279	4264	4312
RFE Follow-up Inspections	36	867	842
RFE Complaint Investigations	18	321	233
RFE Plan Reviews	8	172	122
School Safety Regular Inspections	0	38	60
School Safety Follow-up Inspections	0	0	0
Waste Tires Facilities Regular Inspections	5	122	140
Waste Tires Follow-up Inspections	0	12	25

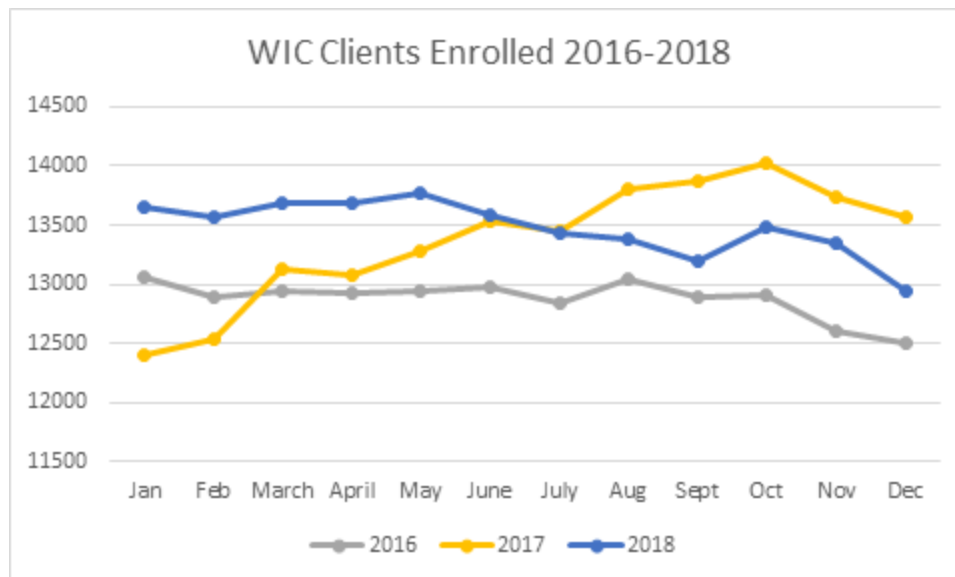
Health Services Division

- As part of the EPCPH Strategic Plan goal of health equity, in December the Family Planning clinic served:
 - 191 clients
 - 101 were qualifying visits
 - 809 total qualifying visits during the contract cycle which began 07/01/2018
 - 60 walk-in clients
 - 26 percent of December clients were Medicaid clients, while 64 percent were self-pay



Women, Infants and Children (WIC)

- Construction in the classroom at the Citizens Service Center location is completed. These amenities will enable WIC staff to provide a variety of nutrition classes to our clients. The launch of the “Eating on a Budget” and “Grocery Store Tour” classes will occur in March and April 2019 respectively. Teaching WIC clients how to make the most of their food dollars and how to make informed decisions at the grocery store will help reduce household food insecurity and will demonstrate how to incorporate a variety of healthy, cost-conscious foods.
- Since launching on April 23, 2018, our work to improve pregnancy-related depression screening and referrals for WIC participants has resulted in 1,745 completed two-question Patient Health Questionnaires (PHQ-2s) and 94 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.
- November’s caseload was 13,353 and December’s caseload was 12,941. The average monthly caseload for 2018 was 13,476, which was a slight increase from the average caseload in 2017. Staff will continue to work to increase the number of new and current clients in 2019.



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, consistent with the Strategic Plan goals to build and maintain strong relationships with community partners to support public health and ensure the provision of health care services.
- A priority for HCF has been assisting DHS in their development of a unit serving at-risk children aged 0-3 years, as this is a particularly vulnerable population. The unit is continuing to coordinate with community partners in the development process.
- Completing a successful year with significant increases in services, the HCF staff member provided in December:
 - 31 referrals from DHS staff
 - 16 home visit with assessments
 - 11 other contacts
 - 61 community resources to families

Immunization/Travel Program (IZ)

- IZ supported Public Health’s continued response to reach populations at risk for hepatitis A. In December, we administered 139 hepatitis A vaccines at five outreach clinics in the community, supported by staff from CD/TB, EH, NFP, WIC, and Operations, as well as students and an instructor from the University of Colorado Beth-El College of Nursing and staff from CDPHE. These activities meet the goal of disease prevention and maintaining strong relationships with community partners to ensure the provision of health care services.
- To prevent infectious disease during international travel, Immunization staff planned and staffed an off-site clinic for the University of Colorado Colorado Springs Global Medical Brigade traveling to Ghana. IZ staff served a group of 22 students and instructors, most of whom needed the Stamaril yellow fever vaccine.
- Consistent with the health equity goal of the EPCPH Strategic Plan to prevent infectious diseases and remove barriers to care, IZ Clinic served 116 walk-in clients and seven refugees in December in addition to the regularly scheduled clients. IZ Clinic served 1,734 walk-in clients in 2018, an increase of 330 clients over 2017. The IZ Clinic had a record-setting year conducting 25 outreach Points of Dispensing (PODs) in 2018, reaching hundreds of clients who would not have otherwise been served.

Year to Date Immunizations Data

Dates	Children Served	Adults Served	Travel Clients	Total Number Vaccines Given
December 2018	137	252	57	737
Through December 2018	1,813	2,097	794	8,961
January-December 2017	2,033	2,220	705	11,100

Nurse Family Partnership (NFP)

Report Summary	DEC 2018
Clients Served	123
Completed and Attempted Visits	200
Client Graduations	3