

El Paso County Public Health Director’s Report

To: The El Paso County, Colorado Board of Health
From: Susan Wheelan, M.B.A. Public Health Director
Date: November 2022 (reflects October 2022)

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In the News

- On Oct. 29, The Colorado Springs Gazette published an article entitled, [*Health board is against measure*](#). This article featured in-depth coverage of the Board of Health's resolution at its October meeting which proclaimed October as National Substance Abuse Prevention Month, as well as the resolution opposing City of Colorado Springs ballot initiatives 300 and 301.

Program Spotlight

November marks Lung Cancer Awareness Month, a time to raise awareness about lung cancer and to promote prevention. According to data from the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#), nearly nine out of 10 lung cancers are caused by cigarettes, and although treatments are getting better, lung cancer kills more men and women than any other type of cancer. This month's program spotlight features El Paso County Public Health's (EPCPH) Tobacco Education and Prevention Partnership (TEPP). During the month of November and in recognition of Lung Cancer Awareness Month, TEPP will promote and celebrate the American Cancer Society's Great American Smokeout® campaign to encourage individuals to start their journey toward a smoke-free life. About 34 million American adults still smoke cigarettes, and smoking remains the single largest preventable cause of death and illness in the world.

Roughly 14.9 percent of adults currently smoke in El Paso County, which is slightly higher than the Colorado average of 14 percent. Data shows that most people who use tobacco want to quit, so TEPP directs individuals to the Colorado QuitLine and local programs providing support groups and evidence-based curriculum to help them quit tobacco. The Colorado QuitLine is a quit tobacco program that provides free coaching calls and one eight-week supply of nicotine replacement therapy (patches, gum, lozenges, or a combination) every six months. A similar resource, My Life My Quit, is available to youth ages 12-18.

EPCPH's TEPP program has a history of providing community-based tobacco prevention, cessation, and education programs in El Paso County, dating back nearly 30 years. The TEPP program currently consists of 5.5 full-time equivalents (FTE), including a full-time program manager, four full-time prevention and policy specialists and a part-time health promotion administrative coordinator.

TEPP is grant-funded by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE). Using evidence-based practices outlined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), TEPP's goals are:

- Promote quitting among adults and youth
- Prevent initiation among youth and young adults
- Eliminate exposure to secondhand smoke
- Eliminate tobacco-related disparities among population groups

Some of the services TEPP provides within El Paso County communities are:



Collaborate with schools to strengthen tobacco-free schools policies and promote youth involvement in prevention efforts.



Assist workplaces, housing properties, local governments and more to enact tobacco-free policies that protect the public from the harmful effects of smoking and secondhand smoke.



Train health care providers to provide counseling and community resources that help people quit.



Educate community members on tobacco-related topics including prevention, new products, and resources to help people quit.

TEPP convenes the Tobacco-Free Alliance (TFA) to mobilize cross-sectional community support around tobacco prevention to help reduce tobacco-related disparities among different populations. These efforts have resulted in a sustainable, strong, and comprehensive local coalition of tobacco control advocates from more than 75 community organizations and stakeholders. The coalition includes representatives from school districts, colleges, and universities, local municipalities, law enforcement, hospitals and health care organizations, and non-profit agencies. Bimonthly meetings allow members to network, discover common goals and interests, and explore opportunities to support and collaborate with one another.

One area that TEPP has demonstrated strong community collaboration is through the Tobacco-Free School mini-grant program, first established in 2015. TEPP has successfully engaged school partners including students, teachers, leadership, and the surrounding community in communicating, strengthening, and enforcing Tobacco Free School policies in El Paso County.

Mini-grants allow TEPP to give funds directly to an impacted community and collaboratively develop a workplan that promotes tobacco free policies, encompasses multiple solutions and outreach efforts. Fox Meadow is one of the 13 TEPP mini grantees. During the first week of November, TEPP participated in Fox Meadow Middle School's STEM night to educate students and parents about the effects tobacco can have on the body.

Youth continue to be a focus of the TEPP program because they are targeted by the tobacco industry and need education and resources to quit. According to the 2019 Healthy Kids Colorado Survey, cigarette smoking among youth in El Paso County continues to decline and is currently 6.4 percent. Although El Paso County data for the 2021 HKCS survey is not available, Colorado data shows declines in youth vaping and an increase in risk perception, which demonstrates that community outreach and education is working. However, there is one alarming statistic among youth who have used electronic vapor products: 22.3 percent tried it for the first time before age 13, which is an increase from 13.2 percent in 2019. This demonstrates the continued need for education, outreach, and prevention.

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 ensure 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 by 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 23-24 of this report.

Foundational Public Health Capabilities

Assessment and Planning

At its October 2022 meeting, the Healthy Community Collaborative (HCC) began action planning for suicide prevention across all ages and demographics, the top identified priority area, for the Community Health Improvement Plan. As part of this planning effort, the group completed the following activities:

- Reviewed data related to the issue of suicide in El Paso County, to include all ages and demographics, not youth exclusively.
- Identified a goal statement related to suicide that aligns with the goal of the Suicide Prevention Collaborative of El Paso County (reducing suicides by 20 percent by the year 2024).
- Began exploring strategies to guide selection of objectives to support this overall goal.

There was consensus that HCC efforts should be aligned with those in the three-year action plan of the Suicide Prevention Collaborative of El Paso County. The intention is to augment and complement existing efforts, making sure not to duplicate efforts. Strategies to support the goal and objectives will be developed and distributed to HCC for feedback. HCC members will determine which strategies should be considered as part of implementation, along with the partners that will need to be involved in these efforts moving forward.

Communications

- The Office of Communication (OoC) managed television media inquiries pertaining to emerging issues including RSV and fentanyl prevention and awareness. The total estimated viewership for these television interviews is more than 94,400 and the estimated earned media value is more than \$17,000.
 - Of note, the panel *Community Conversation on the Dangers of Fentanyl and Substance Abuse*, held in partnership with Widefield School District 3 and Fountain-Fort Carson School District 8, garnered significant media coverage across all four TV news stations (KOAA, KKTU, Fox 21 and KRDO).
- As part of efforts to highlight the need for prevention during National Substance Abuse Prevention Month, during October the OoC shared content across numerous social media and digital platforms.
 - In total, EPCPH published 24 posts about substance misuse. These posts included static graphics and informative videos to share community events, education, and awareness around fentanyl, with a focus on several critical priority areas:
 - Promoting the Community Conversation on the Dangers of Fentanyl and Substance Abuse.
 - Promoting the DEA Drug Take Back Day held in partnership with Fountain Valley Communities That Care (FV-CTC) and Fountain Police Department.
 - Partnering with the District Attorney’s Office to share joint messaging and education on the dangers of rainbow fentanyl.
 - EPCPH saw high levels of engagement with this content across digital platforms, yielding the following:
 - 22,126 impressions
 - 948 engagements
 - 901 video views
- In October, the first phase of a large-scale media campaign was completed. The campaign—funded through the Epidemiology, Laboratory and Capacity (ELC) and Immunizations (IMM) grants—featured COVID-19 prevention messaging and resources in English and Spanish. The first series of ads, which ran across digital and social media

platforms during September and October, yielded the following total metrics across all ad types (including both English and Spanish):

- 3.5 million display ad impressions and over 800,000 Facebook ad impressions.
- The agency's website www.elpasocountyhealth.org had 18,226 new visitors in October, with 36,132 unique pageviews.

Partnerships

Environmental Health (EH) was invited to attend the Youth Health Fair held by Spring Creek Youth Services Center to discuss several topics with the youth in the detention center. EH staff focused primarily on the dangers of unsterile body art procedures, such as disease transmission and infections, due to an increase in minors "tattooing" themselves and each other at the center. EH staff also spoke about and highly recommended getting body art, such as tattoos and piercings, from licensed facilities and explained things to look for in a licensed body art establishment, such as unopened sterile equipment, disinfectants, hand washing, etc. Two EH professionals attended the fair and were able to discuss these topics and many others with about 45 youth participants. They displayed videos created by EPCPH for the youth to view and passed out handouts. Licensed body art establishments have many restrictions when performing body art on minors, including but not limited to consent forms which must have a copy of both the minor's and the parent/guardian's IDs, proof of guardianship if the last names do not match, and the requirement for the parent/guardian to be present throughout the entire procedure.

Fountain Valley Communities That Care (FV-CTC) was asked to speak on the panel at the Fountain Valley Community Conversations about the dangers of fentanyl. Widefield School District 3 (WSD3), Fountain-Fort Carson District 8 (FFC8), and EPCPH partnered to provide this community conversation in an effort to raise awareness and educate families on the dangers of fentanyl. FV-CTC was asked to speak on coalition efforts to reduce and prevent youth substance use. WSD3 and FFC8 representatives are actively involved in coalition efforts to reduce youth substance use. Due to this partnership, FV-CTC was asked to be on the panel to encourage people to join the coalition and to partake in local efforts to make Fountain Valley safer for young people, while also encouraging positive youth development.

The healthy environment planner convened a core group of partners earlier this year to plan and apply for USDA's [Regional Food System Partnership Grant](#) (RFSP). This funding supports partnerships that connect public and private resources to plan and develop local or regional food systems. The program focuses on strengthening the viability and resilience of regional food economies through collaboration and coordination. RFSP supports public-private partnerships that plan and develop relationships between local and regional producers, processors, intermediaries, and institutional markets or institutional food service operations through local and regional producers and local and regional food systems.

In October, EPCPH, in partnership with Colorado State University Extension, University of Colorado at Colorado Springs (UCCS), City of Colorado Springs Office of Innovation, and Jenileigh Harris Consulting, was awarded a two-year RFSP planning and design grant to support the development of the Central Colorado Foodshed Partnership. EPCPH represents the second partnership funded for planning and design in Colorado. The work plan was developed and

committed to by all partners prior to the application for the funded period through Oct. 31, 2024. Activities will include (but are not limited to):

- Cross-sector food system partner engagement
- Communications development
- Resiliency and agriculture assessments
- Documentation around historical activities within and around El Paso County related to food system initiatives and other influential factors
- Integration with the City's first urban garden program
- Planning and convening an inaugural food summit

EPCPH's healthy environment planner will be the project lead for this grant.

Organizational Competencies

Five staff from the EPCPH Community Health Promotion Division graduated from the Pikes Peak United Way's Leadership, Effectiveness, and Diversity development (LEAD) program. The LEAD program is an in-depth development course which prepares participants to serve in leadership positions and on nonprofit boards throughout Colorado Springs. This 11-week hands-on training helps participants enhance their communication, conflict resolution and networking skills. The program's focus is on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, with the goal of building well-rounded leaders.

Emergency Preparedness and Response

The Emergency Preparedness and Response Program (EPR) continues to monitor several emerging public health concerns.

- **Ebola:** On Oct. 6, 2022, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued a health advisory about a recently confirmed outbreak of Ebola virus disease (EVD) in Uganda caused by Sudan virus (species *Sudan ebolavirus*). Currently, the risk of Ebola cases occurring in the United States associated with the outbreak in Uganda is low, given response measures in place in Uganda and relatively low numbers of travelers to the United States who spent time in Uganda. As part of a layered public health approach, CDC and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security will screen travelers to the United States who have spent time in Uganda in the prior 21 days. The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) will serve as the lead agency with responsibility to assess and monitor travelers to Colorado from Uganda, per to CDC guidance. The EPR team is reviewing and updating appropriate plans to build capacity for local support if needed.
- **Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV):** Infections are currently increasing in Colorado, particularly among infants to children below the age of 2. Increases in RSV activity are currently putting a strain on Colorado's pediatric health care system. EPR continues to maintain situational awareness and work closely with South Central Healthcare Coalition partners and Pikes Peak Regional Office of Emergency Management (PPROEM) to prepare for a medical surge response effort.

October EPR drills and exercises included:

- EPR executed a drill of the Zumro tent, a rapidly deployable, portable, all-weather shelter system that can be used to support response activities such as medical surge, triage, isolation, heating shelter, and command space. The drill included testing of the tent, generator, and HVAC unit to exercise response readiness.
- Communications drill of the regional healthcare coalition. This drill tests communications through the 800MHz radios across the South Central Region. Effective use of radio communications is critical during emergencies to maintain redundancy and monitor for situational awareness.
- EPR participated in United States Air Force Academy (USAFA) full-scale exercise.

EPR participated in PPROEM’s winter workshop and emergency management conference.

- The winter workshop provided an opportunity for community partners to review winter weather protocols and discuss roles and responsibilities for inclement weather emergencies.

Foundational Public Health Services

Communicable Disease Prevention, Investigation and Control

EPCPH continued efforts to reduce barriers to vaccination and increase easy access through mobile vaccination efforts, including facilitation of two community-based monkeypox vaccine clinics. The EPCPH Immunization program also participated in the annual Boo to the Flu event with School District 49, providing 73 flu vaccines and 17 COVID vaccines.

Environmental Public Health

Onsite Wastewater Treatment Inspections (OWTS):

- The Water Quality Program Manager provided a *Public Health Issues in Real Estate* course to area realtors in partnership with the Pikes Peak Association of Realtors. This course—which is given to realtors who earn continuing education credits to maintain their certifications and licenses—focuses on onsite wastewater treatment systems (OWTS) and the property sale program. The intent is to provide education related to the property sale process, which is regulatorily required when selling a property that utilizes OWTS. Additionally, the education provided is around OWTS operation and why and how the impacts of a malfunctioning OWTS are important to public health.

Water Recreation:

- EPCPH hosted a two-day Certified Pool Operator (CPO) course at the Citizens Service Center in October. Two environmental health specialists (EHS) and the EH Division Director attended the course along with several school district employees from throughout the county. The CPO course provides training and education on proper operation and maintenance of recreational bodies of water such as swimming pools and spas. The certification is valid for five years. Under current water recreation regulations, all facilities are required to have a CPO either on staff or on contract. Having EHS staff trained helps facilitate education within local water recreation facilities.

Air Quality:

- To meet the contractual obligations required by CDPHE of investigating odor and opacity complaints, several staff members from the Air Quality program attended visible emissions and opacity training and became certified visible emissions evaluators, which

consists of the ability to read the percentage of smoke and/or dust in the air emitted from a source. This is required by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to conduct Method 9 observations which is commonly used during EH complaint investigations for excess smoke or dust in the air. Staff from the Air Quality program also attended and successfully completed the Odor Intensity Rating and Observation Certification Course hosted by CDPHE and became certified to determine and grade odor emissions in terms of Regulation No. 2 of the Colorado Air Pollution Control Commission, which is required to conduct odor readings during complaint investigations.

Maternal, Child, Adolescent and Family Health

Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) nurses conducted 188 visits in the month of October. Of these visits, 123 were conducted in client homes and 65 were conducted through telehealth. EPCPH NFP nurses served 121 families, enrolled eight 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 nurses continue to increase the number of clients receiving in-person home visits, making sure to follow recommended safety and health precautions. This allows for increased nursing assessment capabilities and the development of therapeutic relationships with clients and their children. Continuing to offer telehealth and video conferencing as an alternative to in-person visits during times of illness has helped maintain client engagement and continuity of care. On Oct. 22, Autism Vision of Colorado hosted a sensory-friendly Trunk or Treat event for over 600 children and their families. Several Maternal Child Health (MCH) team members participated in this event by setting up a zoo-themed trunk. This allowed MCH team the opportunity to engage and connect with families of children with autism.

The number of currently active clients served by WIC in October was 13,505. Active clients are defined as those who have received WIC benefits and who have been seen within the previous three months. EPCPH WIC has 2,533 infants on the caseload with 1,394 receiving formula benefits from WIC in October.

Chronic Disease, Injury Prevention and Behavioral Health Promotion

Fountain Valley Communities That Care (FV-CTC) hosted its second DEA Drug Take Back Day on Saturday, Oct. 29 at the Fountain Library. These events aim to provide local residents with convenient and easy-to-access options to safely dispose of unused or expired medications. In partnership with Fountain Police Department, the coalition was able to collect 182.9lbs of unused and expired medications from community members. This is more than double the amount collected at the first DEA Drug take Back Day FV-CTC hosted in April, where 87.2lbs of medications were collected. The events have seen tremendous levels of success this year, and Fountain Police Department has expressed interest in partnering for future DEA Drug Take Back days with the coalition in an effort to safely dispose of medications and make the community safer.

Tobacco Education and Prevention Partnership (TEPP) hosted a Tobacco-Free Alliance meeting with approximately 20 participants. A guest speaker from UCHealth's Cancer Center spoke about the agency's Let's Quit Together tobacco cessation program. Additionally, TEPP provided information about the tobacco industry's deceptive marketing tactics.

TEPP participated in Mitchell High School's parent teacher conferences and engaged with community members and school administration to provide tobacco prevention and cessation education and materials for youth and adults. TEPP promoted My Life My Quit and Quitline resources in English and Spanish to teachers and administrators in support of vaping prevention efforts within the school. The event also provided TEPP staff with the opportunity to connect with teachers to support and help recruit students for the Students Working Against Tobacco group as part of the mini-grant collaboration.

TEPP completed and submitted two grant applications for the State TEPP (STEPP) Fiscal Year 24 (FY24) Innovative Interventions. STEPP's purpose for this request for applications (RFA) is to fund innovative approaches to address commercial tobacco-related inequities, with a focus on interventions that prioritize the groups with tobacco use rates above the state average. These initiatives will focus on collaborating with groups that represent and serve populations experiencing the most tobacco-related harms, with tailored approaches aimed at reaching people where they live, work, play, and receive medical and social services. Grant award notifications are expected in March 2023.

Access to and Linkage with Healthcare

The Reproductive Health Clinic (RHC) continues to provide educational presentations on sexually transmitted infections (STIs) to community providers, including information on STI rates, treatment guidelines, and community resources for care coordination. Additionally, CDPHE has approved the use of the current STI educational grant for targeted monkeypox response.

Reproductive Health Clinical Services 2022 education impact includes:

- Sixteen STI education presentations conducted from February to October 2022
- Over 450 individuals have attended educational presentations
- Two STI presentations scheduled for December in collaboration with University of Colorado Medical Student rotation at Public Health
- Two Monkeypox specific community education sessions scheduled

The COVID-19 care coordinators provide individualized assistance in navigating community resources for those who may have difficulty seeking access to COVID-19 resources, food, transportation, child care, housing, behavioral health, and more.

The COVID-19 care coordinators provided outreach and information to two partner organizations with whom they shared flyers in English and Spanish. From these ongoing efforts, the care coordinators took on 29 new referrals and provided rapid support to 35 individuals seeking housing, transportation, utility and rental assistance, dental care, food assistance, health insurance, employment, behavioral health supports, senior care, COVID-19 information, and COVID-19 testing.

The COVID-19 care coordinators attended two community events with Fountain Valley Communities That Care (Oct. 19) and WIC (Oct. 24) where they provided program information and made client connections. Additionally, care coordinators distributed 166 COVID-19 free test

kits and provided five households with care packages which include hygiene products, personal protective equipment (PPE) and more.

Care coordinators successfully provided several key resources, including:

- Connecting a client with utility assistance to get electricity in their home
- Securing food delivery for a family in partnership with COSIloveyou
- Connecting elderly clients to transportation in partnership with Silver Key Senior Services
- Referring multiple families to services through the First Visitor program, providing bus passes to several clients with transportation barriers
- Securing stable housing for a family with pets
- Connecting several clients to SNAP benefits, assisting a family with connecting to Colorado Community Health Alliance with child therapy services, and providing clinic support and information about monkeypox vaccinations in the community.

Appendix A: Environmental Health Activity

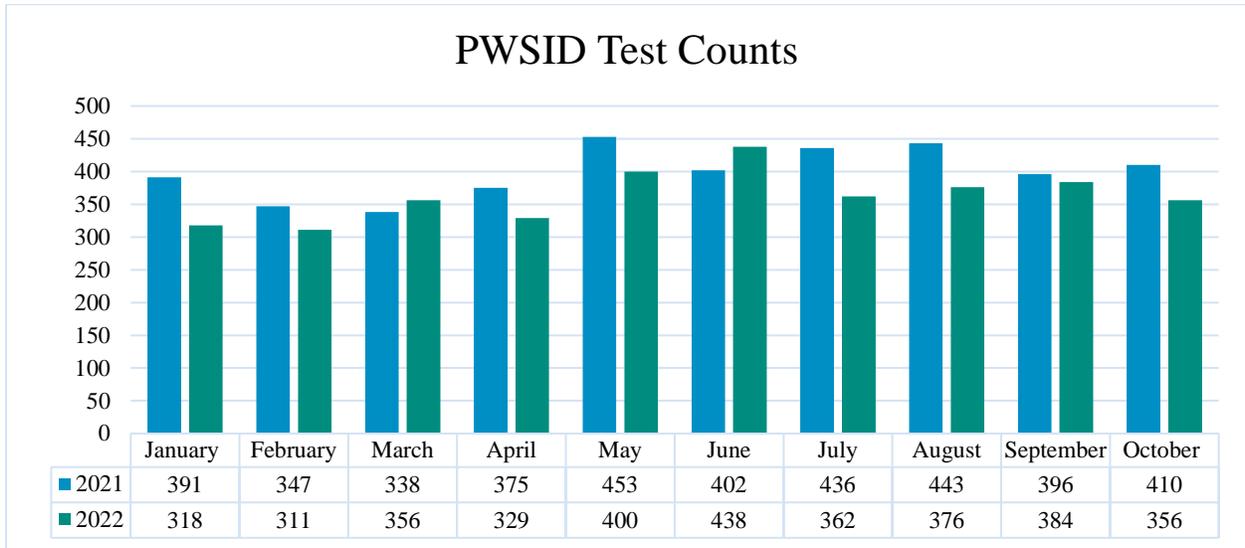
The table below captures a snapshot of activities across the Environmental Health (EH) Division. This work is accomplished through science-based risk assessment and policy development, inspections, consultation, education, and regulations designed to protect the food we eat, the water we drink, the air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

Environment Health Activity	2022 Total as of 10/31/22	2021 Total
Air Quality Construction Permits	138	129
Air Quality Open Burn Permits	14	15
Air Quality Complaints	29	50
Animal Bites Reported	602	1,385
Body Art Routine Inspections	56	85
Body Art Follow-up Inspections	7	6
Body Art Complaints	18	21
Child Care Regular Inspections	118	214
Child Care Follow-up Inspections	14	0
Child Care Complaints	7	4
Child Care High Risk Field Consults	18	0
Land-Use Planning Review	213	162
Onsite Wastewater Treatment System (OWTS) Pumper Truck Inspections	77	72
OWTS Final Inspections	448	516
OWTS Partial Inspections	193	170
OWTS Application Design Reviews	466	703
OWTS Design Revision Requests	168	272
OWTS New Permit Applications	318	387
OWTS Repair Permit Applications	239	282
OWTS Modification Permit Applications	11	11
OWTS Acceptance Doc for Title Transfer	759	1,048
OWTS Soil and Site Evaluations	365	518
OWTS Complaints	23	29
OWTS O&M Systems	63	179
Recreational Water Safety Inspections	277	320
Recreational Water Follow-up Inspections	17	28
Recreational Water Complaints	8	13
Retail Food Establishment (RFE) Regular Inspections	1598	2,960
RFE Re-Inspections	132	119
RFE Complaint Investigations	334	153
RFE Plan Reviews	213	153
School Safety Regular Inspections	7	0
Environment Health Activity	2022 Total as of 10/31/22	2021 Total
School Safety Complaints	4	6
School Safety Self-Certification Audits	13	9
School Safety Self-Certifications Returned	257	295

Waste Tire Facilities Regular Inspections	90	117
Waste Tire Follow-up Inspections	1	5

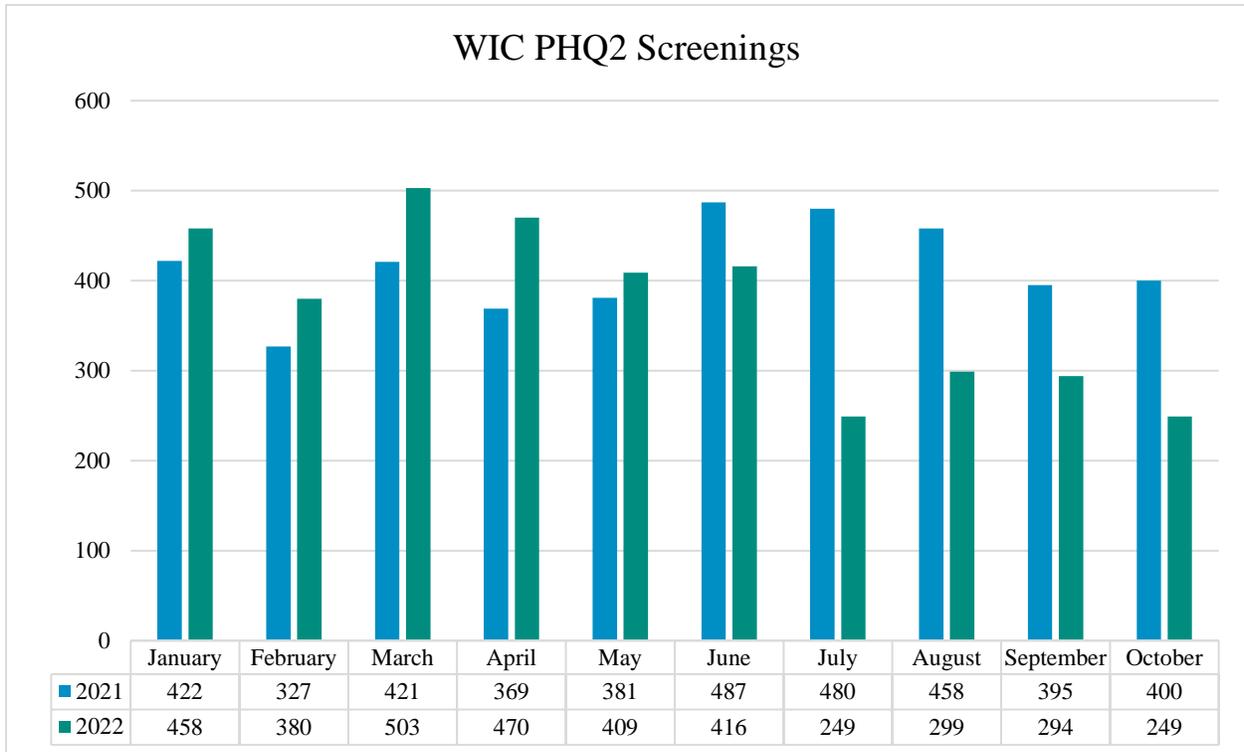
Appendix B: Laboratory Public Water System Test Counts

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 county’s 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 249 Patient Health Questionnaire-2 (PHQ2) screening see chart below.



The screenings led to a total of 19 referrals:

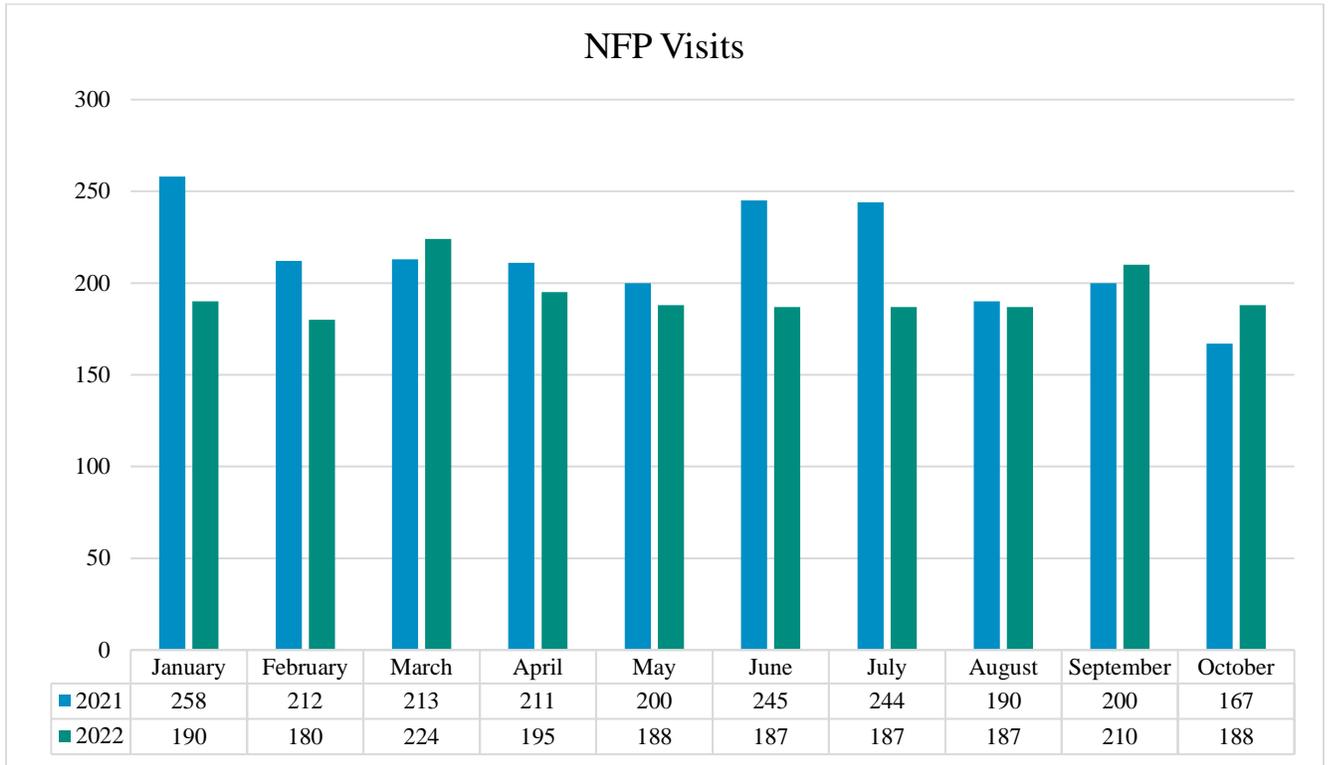
- Eleven referrals were made to local behavioral health resources.
- Four referrals were made to Colorado Community Health Alliance (CCHA) for further evaluation and connection to meet their specific behavioral health needs.
- One client on Tricare was referred to active-duty resources on base; two clients on Tricare were referred to non-active-duty case management.
- Three 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	335	95	897
February	342	81	390
March	314	71	192
April	410	129	321
May	417	121	196
June	406	159	155
July	548	139	102
August	635	142	0*
September	601	203	120
October	558	203	36

*Mobile van team supported monkeypox vaccination clinics for the month of August.

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 October 31, 2022

Category	Disease	YTD 2022	2021	2019
Food/Waterborne Diseases				
	Campylobacter	94	75	89
	Cryptosporidium	22	13	16
	Cyclosporiasis	10	4	3
	Giardia	41	52	42
	Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome (HUS)	0	0	0
	Hepatitis A	3	0	127
	Legionellosis	8	10	7
	Salmonella	51	65	71
	Shigella	28	8	29
	Shiga Toxin-producing E. coli (STEC)	35	29	26
	Vibriosis	5	2	4
Food/Waterborne Diseases Totals		297	258	414
Viral Hepatitis				
	Hepatitis B (acute)	0	0	3
	Hepatitis B (chronic)	78	80	76
	Hepatitis C (acute)	2	0	10
	Hepatitis C (chronic)	228	217	614
Viral Hepatitis Totals		309	297	703
Healthcare Associated Infections				
	Carbapenem-Resistant Acinetobacter baumannii (CRAB)	0	0	0
	Carbapenem Non-susceptible Enterobacteriaceae (CRE)	33	16	40
	Carbapenem-Resistant Pseudomonas Aeruginosa (CRPA)	35	43	32
Healthcare Associated Infections totals		68	59	72

Vaccine Preventable Diseases				
	Haemophilus influenzae (H. flu)	10	11	13
	Measles	0	0	0
	Meningococcal Disease	0	0	1
	Mumps	1	0	3
	Pertussis	28	10	75
	Rubella	0	0	0
	Varicella	17	10	45
Vaccine Preventable Diseases Totals		56	31	137
COVID-19		94,792	85048	0
Hospitalized Influenza*		213	16	506
Monkeypox		23	-	-

*Flu Seasons: September 27, 2020- May 22, 2021; October 3, 2021- May 21, 2022; and October 2, 2022- May 20, 2023.

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

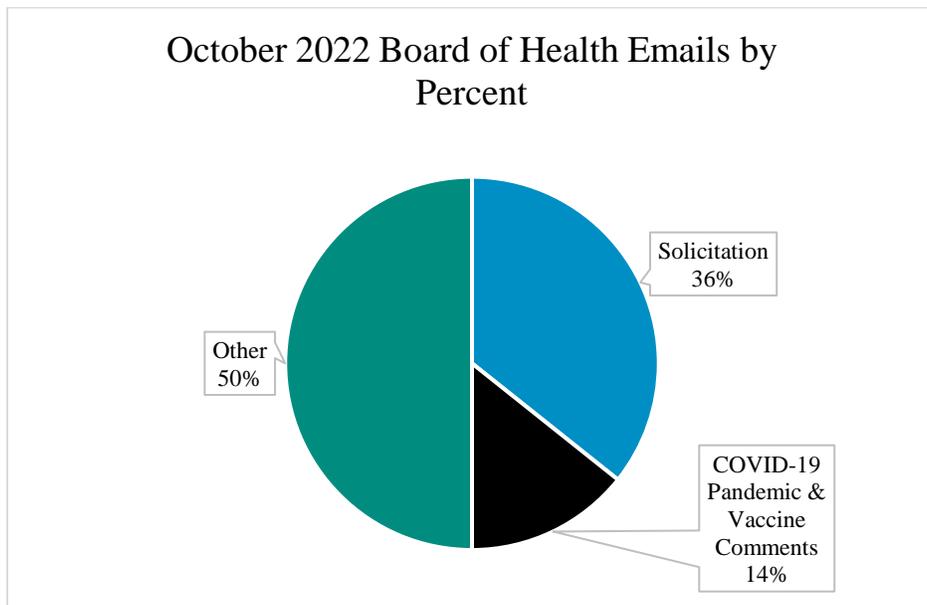
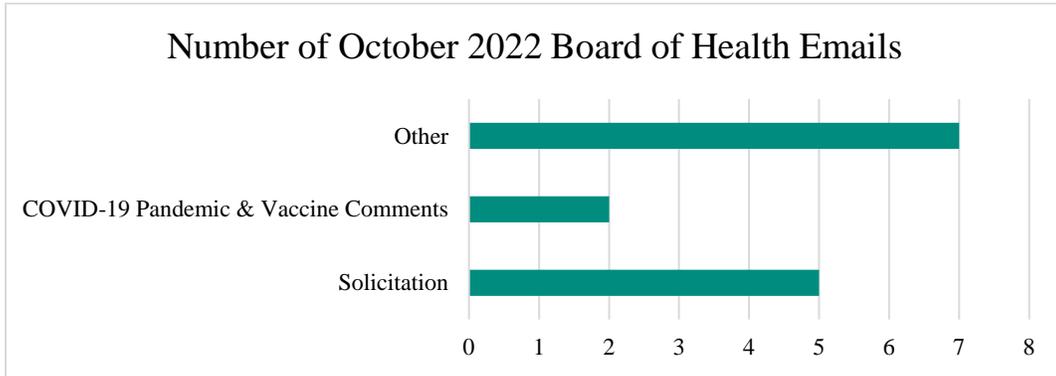
Foodborne Illness Complaints	# Referred to Env. Health
8	0

Table 3 – Rabies control activities

Year	Rabid animals total	Animal type
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 October. Five of the emails were solicitations, two were COVID-19 pandemic and vaccine comments, and seven emails were other varying email topics including two from Springs Recovery Connection to join their open house on Thursday, Nov. 10.



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.