

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: October 2022 (reflects September 2022)

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**In the News**

- On Sept. 4, Director Wheelan was featured in a [\*Lessons from first jobs\*](#) series in the Colorado Springs Gazette, along with numerous other local community and business leaders. Wheelan notes the importance of a strong work ethic, accountability, being respectful and maintaining integrity as key skills to bring to any job.

## Program Spotlight

Fountain Valley Communities That Care (FV-CTC) is a community-led coalition—convened by El Paso County Public Health (EPCPH)—working to prevent youth substance use in the Fountain Valley by providing resources and education. The Fountain Valley area includes Fountain, Widefield, Security, areas of Fort Carson, School Districts 3 and 8, zip codes 80817, 80911, 80913, 80925, 80926, 80929, and a section of 80902. EPCPH works collaboratively with Fort Carson through numerous schools, partnerships and community events. FV-CTC utilizes the Communities That Care model, which guides communities through a proven five-phase change process. This model uses an evidence-based shared risk and protective factor approach to promote healthy youth development, improve youth outcomes, and reduce problem behaviors such as substance use. FV-CTC formed in 2017 to address youth substance use, violence, and mental health and is currently within Phase 5, Implement and Evaluate. The coalition consists of community members, youth, and partner organizations actively engaged in substance use prevention efforts and working together to create safe spaces for youth. The Teen Action Board serves as an advisory board to the coalition, giving guidance on issues facing youth in the Fountain Valley. Using this model, FV-CTC has built its foundation on youth-driven work and strong cross-sector community partnerships.

During the month of October, which is National Substance Abuse Prevention Month, FV-CTC is highlighting the efforts to respond to concerns around overdose and prescription pain medication misuse.

In October of 2021, FV-CTC was awarded a five-year Drug-Free Community (DFC) grant through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). This funding allows the coalition to focus prevention efforts on any two substances of concern in the community. Based on local data, the coalition chose to address cannabis and prescription pain medication use among youth. The goals of DFC are to build coalition and community capacity to address youth substance use, and reduce substance use and misuse of prescription drugs and cannabis among youth.

FV-CTC addresses youth prescription drug use through safe disposal and safe lockbox initiatives. The coalition hosted its first Drug Enforcement Administration Drug (DEA) Take Back Day at end of April 2022 to encourage families in Fountain to safely dispose of all unused and expired medications. In partnership with Fountain police Department, this event successfully collected 87.2 pounds of prescription drugs. The lockbox initiative encourages families to keep family members, friends, and pets safe by storing all prescription medications in a lockbox provided by the coalition. The Drug Take Back Day and lockbox campaign both work to prevent opioid addiction from ever beginning in the home and to prevent unintentional poisonings.

This October, FV-CTC is participating in two vital events in the community to provide education and resources to reduce and prevent substance misuse.

- On Thursday, Oct. 27, a Fountain Valley Community Conversation is set to take place, entitled *Dangers of Fentanyl and Substance Abuse* at El Paso County Public Health South. This conversation is in partnership with EPCPH and FV-CTC, Widefield School District 3 and Fountain-Fort Carson School District 8, and will also feature presentations from school resource officers from the Fountain Police Department and El Paso County Sheriff's Office.

- The second event is on Saturday, Oct. 29, when FV-CTC will be hosting their second DEA Drug Take Back Day, encouraging families to safely dispose of unused and expired prescriptions drugs. Fountain Police will again partner with FV-CTC and EPCPH for this event.

## 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 and 24 of this report.

## **Foundational Public Health Capabilities**

### **Assessment and Planning**

At the September 2022 meeting, the Healthy Community Collaborative (HCC) completed prioritization of health issues for the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) using a prioritization matrix. Prioritizing issues is phase five of eight of the Colorado Health Assessment

and Planning System (CHAPS), which provides guidance for local and state public health agencies to carry out community health assessment and community health improvement plan activities. Seven health issues were identified for further consideration using the [CHAPS Prioritization Matrix](#). These issues included:

- Access to care (mental health care or counseling services)
- Suicide
- Homelessness
- School safety
- Child or adult abuse-related injury
- Access to care (needed doctor care)
- Substance use (drug overdose)

The HCC completed the prioritization matrix to make a final determination of CHIP focus areas, taking into consideration significance to public health, ability to impact the issues, capacity to address the issues, and whether each issue was a priority in the last CHIP. The CHIP focus areas are slated to be suicide and access to care (both mental health and physical health), pending approval by the HCC steering committee at their next meeting in October. The HCC will begin developing an action plan for each focus area at the Oct. 13 HCC meeting.

### **Communications**

- The Office of Communication (OoC) managed television media inquiries pertaining to emerging issues including the bivalent COVID-19 boosters, the re-opening of the vaccination site at the Citadel Mall, and the current state of the COVID-19 pandemic. The total estimated viewership for these television interviews is nearly 194,000 and the estimated earned media value is more than \$19,000.
- Staff from the OoC participated in a Pikes Peak Crisis Communications Network (CCN) meeting on Sept. 27 which provided an in-depth presentation on the organization, functions and structure of the Pikes Peak Regional Joint Information Center (JIC). The CCN is a core group of communications professionals across numerous sectors who meet regularly to discuss timely and emerging topics and build cross-sector relationships. Learning the structure and unique functionalities of the regional JIC is critical to increasing coordination, enhancing understanding of emergency management and public information principles, and helping to prepare communications professionals ahead of emergencies.
- The agency's website [www.elpasocountyhealth.org](http://www.elpasocountyhealth.org) had 28,879 new visitors in September, with 50,790 unique pageviews.

### **Partnerships**

Public Health Data Analytics and the District Attorney's Office co-presented information regarding substance use and its impacts in El Paso County at the Region 16 Opioid Abatement Council (El Paso & Teller Counties).

Fountain Valley Communities That Care (FV-CTC) identified Kidpower as an evidence-based program that would benefit from increased participation by Fountain Valley families. Kidpower's mission is to teach young people personal safety and confidence-building skills,

which serves as a primary prevention strategy addressing later youth substance use and mental health outcomes. Their programs are known worldwide for being positive, practical, safe and age appropriate. In September, 36 children and their grownups learned valuable skills in safety and boundary setting. To make the sessions as convenient and accessible as possible, FV-CTC arranged for two workshops to be free for all families, in addition to offering free meals as well as the option for free child care for any children below the workshop age. This was possible due to coalition involvement and strong partnerships from Fountain-Fort Carson School District 8 (D8) and from Pikes Peak Library District's Fountain branch. Following this success, Kidpower is hosting a third D8 workshop at Fort Carson, and coalition promotion and outreach has led to over 90 kindergarteners at Widefield School District 3 receiving free Kidpower programs. In learning from the success of these community-sponsored workshops, Kidpower aims to replicate this collaborative impact model in other regions of the county and state.

In August 2022, Fountain Valley Communities That Care (FV-CTC) and EPCPH were invited to apply for the Colorado Trust Culmination Grant which was submitted on Sept. 30. FV-CTC was invited due to its notable work with youth spaces, broad partnerships built through the coalition, and its efforts to directly engage youth in advisory roles. After the Colorado Trust met with key leaders and partners in Fountain and listened to their ideas and recommendations, it was evident that there is broad community support for CTC's efforts to create safe spaces for youth. The Colorado Trust shared that each person they spoke with was eager to support and create more opportunities for Youth in Fountain and spoke highly of Fountain Valley CTC.

The School Liaison participated in the Pikes Peak United Way LEAD (Leadership, Effectiveness, and Diversity) program. The 11-week training provides hands-on training to enhance communication, conflict resolution and networking skills with a focus on diversity, equity and inclusion to build more well-rounded leaders in our community.

The School Liaison attended the 2022 Colorado Department of Education Fall Conference held in Colorado Springs, Sept. 29 and 30. The theme of the conference was *Reconnecting and Building Stronger Colorado School Communities*. The conference brought together educators, school personnel, and community partners from across the state. Session topics included substance use, mental health, homelessness, student and staff wellness, leveraging community partnerships, and the Healthy Kids Colorado Survey. The conference provided networking opportunities with school partners in districts in El Paso County including D2, D8, D11, D14, D20, D38, and D49.

TEPP provided approximately 40 "no tobacco, vaping or marijuana smoking" signs, posters, and decals for a multi-housing company with numerous locations and buildings throughout Colorado Springs. These resources help support the housing company's ongoing efforts, including smoke-free policies, to provide an environment free from tobacco and vape pollution that also help to reduce costs due to damages caused by secondhand smoke residue (known as thirdhand smoke).

#### Fiestas Patrias

- TEPP was a bronze level sponsor of the first celebration of the Mexican Independence Day, Fiestas Patrias, which was held Sept. 17 at Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum as part of the National Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration. TEPP promoted My Life My

Quit and Quitline resources in English and Spanish to encourage attendees to visit the website to learn more about tobacco cessation. TEPP also staffed a booth and provided additional tobacco education and cessation resources to attendees.

- Environmental Health (EH) staff also took an active role in supporting event coordination and planning for Fiestas Patrias as it relates to food safety. EH staff participated in several planning meetings to achieve the following:
  - Provide education on how to properly license the food vendors.
  - Offer food vendors assistance in filling out applications and talk through food safety practices for the event.
  - Inspect the food vendors at the event.
- At a debrief meeting with the event coordinators and committee members, coordinator Cory O. Arcarese shared her gratitude for El Paso County Public Health’s partnership throughout the event:
  - *“I could not let the day go by without sending a sincere thanks to your team who helped our vendors participate in last weekend’s Fiestas Patrias. They provided education, guidance, and empowerment to our community. Our vendors now know how to meet the Public Health standards which will enable them to participate as vendors in any event in Colorado Springs. Over 90% of our food vendors had never participated in a city event. The impact of your team is HUGE! I took a picture of them at the event and wanted to share it with you. Thank you for all you and your team do!”*

*Cory O. Arcarese, Chief Executive Officer  
Nursing & Therapy Services of Colorado*

TEPP was one of many community organizations to participate in Fountain Community Night in the Park, which provided staff the opportunity to engage with community members to provide tobacco prevention and cessation education and materials for youth and adults. The event also provided TEPP staff with the opportunity to connect with key leaders and stakeholders within the Fountain community to support the ongoing compliance efforts regarding the city’s Tobacco Retailer Licensing ordinance.

TEPP is providing mini-grants to 13 El Paso County schools to help strengthen, communicate, and enforce their Tobacco-Free School policy. Total funding available for the 2022-23 school year is \$35,000. TEPP provided a Tobacco Free Schools Mini-Grant orientation to go over grant requirements, how to get started, and numerous resources.

The selected schools are:

- James Irwin Charter Middle School
- James Irwin Charter High School
- Palmer High School
- Welte Education Center
- Jack Swigert Aerospace Academy
- Calhan Middle School
- Mountain Ridge Middle School
- Fox Meadow Middle School
- Sierra High School

- o Mitchell High School
- o Manitou Springs Middle School
- o Manitou Springs High School
- o Discovery High School

Environmental Health (EH) staff from the child care and schools program met with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) and District 11 staff members to discuss the implementation of the Test and Fix Water for Kids Program, which stemmed from the passing of House Bill 22-1358: Clean Water in Schools and Child Care Centers. This bill requires all licensed child care programs and all public and charter schools serving any grades preschool through fifth to test their drinking water for lead by May 31, 2023, and remediate if necessary. By meeting with District 11 staff and CDPHE, EPCPH EH staff were able to seek clarification on any questions while facilitating a more streamlined process with D11 to understand these new processes.

### **Emergency Preparedness and Response**

The Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR) team organized and facilitated the first Emergency Support Function-8 (ESF-8) Collaborative at the Pikes Peak Regional Office of Emergency Management (PPROEM). The goal of this group is to build and maintain strong relationships with health and medical response partners and develop a collaborative approach to response activities through a continuous cycle of planning, training, exercise, and evaluation. This collaborative also aims to establish strategies that allows ESF-8 to accomplish its mission in the most effective way possible while maximizing the benefit to residents and enhancing the resilience of health care systems to deliver coordinated and effective care during public health emergencies and mass casualty events.

The Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR) team integrated an emergency preparedness and response coordinator into the Pikes Peak Regional Office of Emergency Management (PPROEM) to serve as a dedicated liaison, streamline planning initiatives, and enhance emergency support function-8 (ESF-8) coordination activities. The COVID-19 response highlighted the importance of this close coordination with PPROEM, and EPCPH remains dedicated to this strong partnership through coordinated planning to address vulnerabilities and prepare for emergencies that have environmental and public health implications within the local jurisdiction.

EPCPH has been highlighted in a National Association of County & City Health Officials' (NACCHO) best practices guide for local public health agencies across the nation. Several excerpts that highlighted strengths in the COVID-19 after-action reports were submitted, and three of the examples were chosen to be featured in the national resource. The highlights captured information sharing through the Public Health Data and Analytics dashboard, the mobile vaccination strategy, and the Operation House Call partnership between EPCPH, Colorado Springs Fire Department, Medical Reserve Corps, and Matthews Vu Medical Group. The EPR team, along with other first responders and community partners, participated in two exercises to increase coordination and readiness to respond to emergencies.

- An intensive five-hour airport tabletop exercise aimed at improving preparedness for an aviation-related disaster. The exercise simulated a plane crash that affected traffic on Powers Blvd. with the scenario beginning after the fire had been extinguished to focus on recovery and intra-agency coordination.
- The EPR team participated in the Colorado Springs Utilities (CSU) Dam tabletop exercise (TTX). The purpose of the TTX was to educate community response partners on the local dam infrastructure, how it is maintained, and to discuss response activities for a dam failure.

EPCPH continues to use multiple prevention strategies to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and make prevention and treatment resources available to the community. The COVID-19 rapid at-home testing program is another layer to complement EPCPH's other testing strategies within the community, which help assure that residents have access to numerous free COVID-19 testing options. As part of the EPCPH rapid test kit distribution efforts, EPR distributed 1,000 kits to numerous community partners, including Citizens Project, Department of Human Services, Family Promise, Care and Share, Stand Down for Homeless Veterans Event, and through care coordination activities.

## **Foundational Public Health Services**

### **Communicable Disease Prevention, Investigation and Control**

The Tuberculosis (TB) Clinic evaluated six individuals for latent tuberculosis in the month of September. TB staff have observed a total of 68 doses of medications taken for both active (infectious) TB cases and latent (non-infectious) pediatric TB cases via in-person and video visits. There are currently one active TB case and 13 latent TB cases under the care of this team.

TB nurses collaborated with and provided clinical guidance to UCHHealth regarding a rule out pulmonary TB case in one of their hospitals that was ultimately discharged and was not diagnosed with TB.

Additionally, the team continues to provide clinical consultations to community partners such as Peak Vista Community Health Centers and Lutheran Family Services, answer routine phone calls from the general public with TB questions or concerns, and collaborate with our CDPHE colleagues around on-going case management of local TB cases.

The Immunization Program continued efforts to protect individuals at risk from monkeypox, administering 189 monkeypox vaccines in the month of September.

### **Environmental Public Health**

Retail Food:

- Staff from the Retail Food program inspected the food vendors at Labor Day Lift Off on Saturday, Sept. 3. Food safety is addressed through education and working with the operators.

#### Colorado Environmental Health Annual Conference:

- Ten EH staff attended the Colorado Environmental Health Association's Annual Education Conference in Crested Butte from Sept. 13 – 16. Attendees had the opportunity to learn about emerging environmental health topics, such as a new national pool code, creating a rating system for foodborne complaints, waste tires, and increasing stress in the EH field. There were also presenters from local health departments that shared their experiences such as the environmental health team that responded to the Marshall Fire in Boulder, Colorado.

#### Schools:

- The Schools program began conducting routine inspections for the 2022-23 school year in September. These inspections typically occur in a middle or high school setting with an extensive science program that includes chemical storage and laboratories. These inspections assess the storage, handling, use and disposal of toxic or hazardous materials or equipment.
- Self-certifications for CDPHE's school regulations were sent to all 250 schools on Sept. 14, 2022. The deadline for self-certification submission is Oct. 17, 2022.
  - o In the fall of 2021, EPCPH implemented CDPHE's mandatory self-certification form under a state contract. The online form contains state-mandated questions but is accessed through EPCPH's local platform. The form is comprised of "yes" or "no" questions designed to assess compliance with the school regulations. While there was a learning curve for schools in the last school year, EPCPH has observed improvement in the processes being implemented at the district level and throughout the individual schools. The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted an opportunity for improvement in educating schools on proper sanitization, disinfection and other disease mitigation techniques. On-site audits, based on the self-certification forms, have allowed EH to partner with the schools and districts to educate personnel in all areas of the school that may not have been inspected in the past.

#### **Maternal, Child, Adolescent and Family Health**

Maternal Child Health (MCH) staff, including three care coordinators, one health equity planner and the MCH program manager, attended the CityMatCH Leadership conference in Chicago. Sessions examined upstream approaches to data, programs and policies in Maternal and Child Health. The information learned at this conference will help to inform strategic efforts to promote children's health, address disparities in maternal and infant mortality, identify gaps in mental health and substance use resources and employ sustainable public health practices that are community centric.

Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) nurses conducted 210 visits in the month of September. Of these visits, 117 were conducted in client homes and 93 were conducted through telehealth. EPCPH NFP nurses served 145 families, enrolled 14 new clients to the program, and graduated three clients who had participated in the NFP program for a full 2 and a half years.

The number of active clients served by Womens, Infants and Children (WIC) is 11,914. Active clients are defined as those who have received WIC benefits and who have been seen within the

previous three months. WIC welcomed additional types of appointments back into the clinic in July for the first time since the COVID-19 pandemic began. Federal waivers tied to the Health and Human Services Public Health Emergency mandate allow WIC programs continue to offer phone and virtual appointments through at least Jan. 9, 2023. Virtual appointments provide WIC educators the opportunity to manage appointments and potential clients with greater flexibility and greater access to EPCPH services and resources. The WIC team quickly pivoted in providing these types of appointments during the pandemic and clients appreciate this flexibility to meet their needs.

WIC staff continue to partner with multiple organizations such as CPCD (Community Partnership for Child Development) Head Start, SafeCare, Fort Carson Public Health Nurses, and Pikes Peak Library District (PPLD) to provide appropriate community referrals and assistance for clients.

To increase access to WIC services for El Paso County residents, the EPCPH WIC mobile clinic provided services at Lutheran Family Services, Catholic Charities, CPCD Head Start, and Hillside Community Center. Planning activities took place with Homeward Pikes Peak, Fort Carson, and Calhan Community Outreach Center. The goal is to improve accessibility and awareness of WIC, especially in populations facing barriers to service and food security.

### **Chronic Disease, Injury Prevention and Behavioral Health Promotion**

The Tobacco Education and Prevention Partnership (TEPP) team are among the EPCPH staff who attended the 2022 Public Health in the Rockies (PHiR) conference, held Sept. 27-29 in Keystone. The theme for the conference was *Forging Forward Together* to reflect on and celebrate public health successes in responding to COVID-19 and addressing other health crises, while recognizing that the work continues with regard to health equity, emerging issues, and community engagement to enhance the health and well-being of all Coloradans. The conference provides an opportunity for education, networking and skill development of public health professionals throughout Colorado. PHiR is designed to provide a forum for public health professionals to develop new skills, demonstrate best practices, exchange lessons learned, share current research, and discover valuable resources. Internal learning sessions will be offered to share information for internal collaboration.

September was Suicide Prevention Awareness Month, which was filled with community events and trainings across El Paso County. This month started with this Board signing a proclamation, recognizing community partnerships, and honoring the lives of those impacted by suicide loss. The Youth Resilience and Suicide Prevention Planner represented EPCPH by attendings events such as the *Race Against Suicide* in support of the [Pikes Peak Suicide Prevention](#) who provides free suicide prevention resources and suicide support services to our community in efforts to increase awareness, provide education and to connect individuals and organizations to resources. These events and trainings are integral to seeing youth suicides decrease in our county, because they help increase awareness, reduce stigma, and improve care for our youth.

The Youth Suicide Prevention (YSP) Workgroup gathered in person this month, to discuss potential action items for the 2022-23 Community Action Plan. The YSP Workgroup is structured around new CARE objectives of Connectedness, Awareness, Resources and

Education. These [evidence informed suicide prevention strategies](#) will guide community collaboration for youth suicide prevention and create alignment with broader El Paso County suicide prevention efforts.

### **Access to and Linkage with Healthcare**

The COVID-19 care coordinators—who provide individualized assistance in navigating community resources— provided outreach and information to five partner organizations and attended four community events where they shared flyers in English and Spanish. From these efforts and internal referrals, the care coordinators received 45 new referrals seeking housing, transportation, utility and rental assistance, dental care, food assistance, health insurance, employment, child care, senior care, COVID-19 information, and COVID-19 testing.

On Sept. 12, the care coordinators and the Nurse-Family Partnership program gave a presentation to the Colorado Community Health Alliance (CCHA) about the services available to individuals and families seeking resources and how to send over client referrals.

The COVID-19 care coordinators participated in two Pikes Peak United Way food distribution events Sept. 1 and again on Sept. 15 where over 95 families were provided care coordination information and 12 households received COVID-19 test kits. Additionally, care coordinators have assembled household care packages which include hygiene products, personal protective equipment (PPE) and more, which were provided to 15 individuals and families this month.

Care coordinators were also able to successfully provide several key resources including connecting an aging client to the Pikes Peak Area Agency on Aging (PPACG), securing food delivery for a family in partnership with COSIloveyou, connecting elderly clients to food assistance programs, referring multiple families to services through the First Visitor program, and providing information about monkey pox vaccination in the community.

### **Reproductive Health Clinical Services (RHCS)**

Screening, diagnosing and providing treatment for STIs requires a community network of providers to reduce disease transmission and prevent negative health outcomes. 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.

RHCS 2022 education impact includes:

- Fifteen STI education presentations conducted from February to September 2022
- Over 400 individuals have attended educational presentations

## Appendix A: Environmental Health Activity

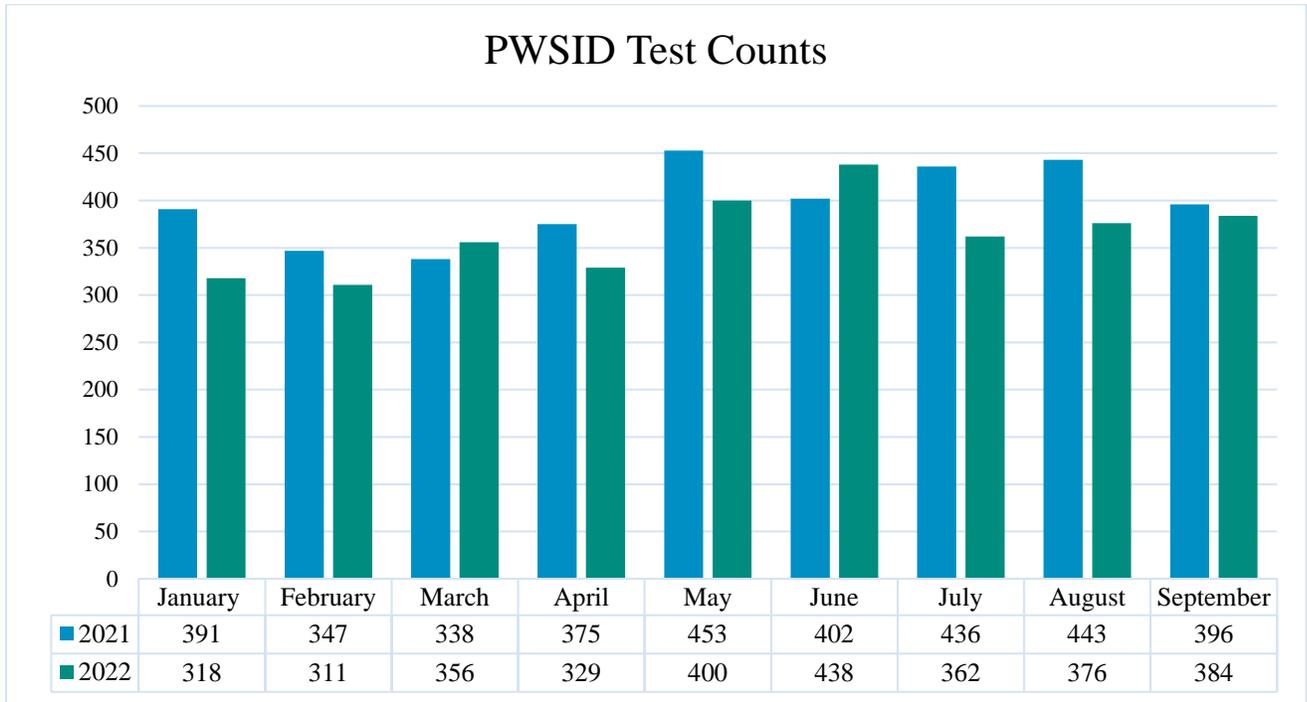
The table below captures a snapshot of activities across the Environmental Health (EH) Division. This work is accomplished through science-based risk assessment and policy development, inspections, consultation, education, and regulations designed to protect the food we eat, the water we drink, the air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

Environment Health Activity	2022 Total as of 9/30/22	2021 Total
Air Quality Construction Permits	122	129
Air Quality Open Burn Permits	10	15
Air Quality Complaints	27	50
Animal Bites Reported	514	1,385
Body Art Routine Inspections	39	85
Body Art Follow-up Inspections	7	6
Body Art Complaints	15	21
Child Care Regular Inspections	105	214
Child Care Follow-up Inspections	13	0
Child Care Complaints	6	4
Child Care High Risk Field Consults	15	0
Land-Use Planning Review	213	162
Onsite Wastewater Treatment System (OWTS) Pumper Truck Inspections	66	72
OWTS Final Inspections	383	516
OWTS Partial Inspections	171	170
OWTS Application Design Reviews	418	703
OWTS Design Revision Requests	144	272
OWTS New Permit Applications	288	387
OWTS Repair Permit Applications	216	282
OWTS Modification Permit Applications	10	11
OWTS Acceptance Doc for Title Transfer	703	1,048
OWTS Soil and Site Evaluations	313	518
OWTS Complaints	19	29
OWTS O&M Systems	57	179
Recreational Water Safety Inspections	270	320
Recreational Water Follow-up Inspections	16	28
Recreational Water Complaints	8	13
Retail Food Establishment (RFE) Regular Inspections	1420	2,960
RFE Re-Inspections	105	119
RFE Complaint Investigations	300	153
RFE Plan Reviews	154	153
School Safety Regular Inspections	5	0
School Safety Complaints	4	6

<b>Environment Health Activity</b>	<b>2022 Total as of 9/30/22</b>	<b>2021 Total</b>
School Safety Self-Certification Audits	13	9
School Safety Self-Certifications Returned	45	295
Waste Tire Facilities Regular Inspections	78	117
Waste Tire Follow-up Inspections	1	5

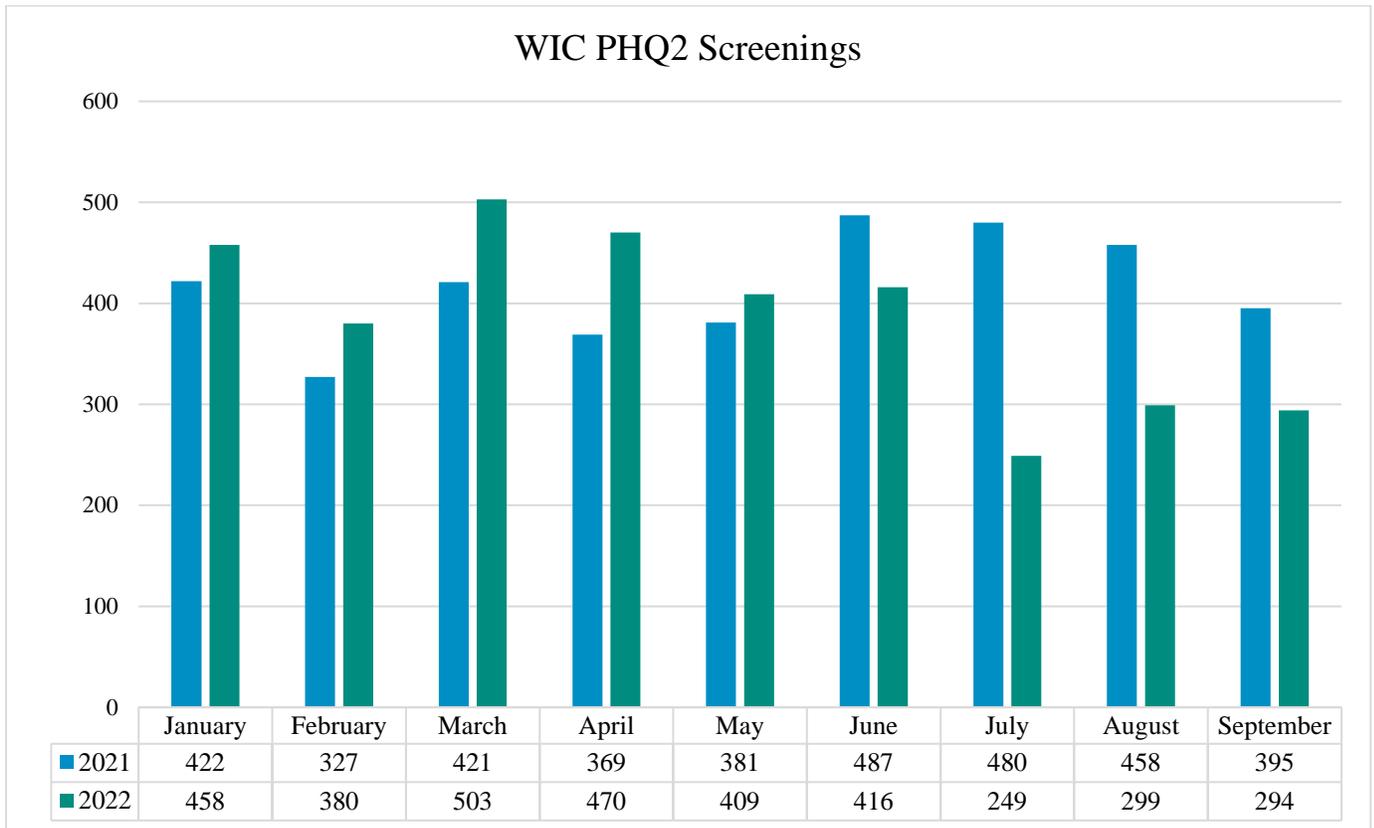
**Appendix B: Laboratory Public Water System Test Counts**

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. Screenings can provide a referral and connection to treatment resources. WIC staff completed 294 Patient Health Questionnaire-2 (PHQ2) screenings.



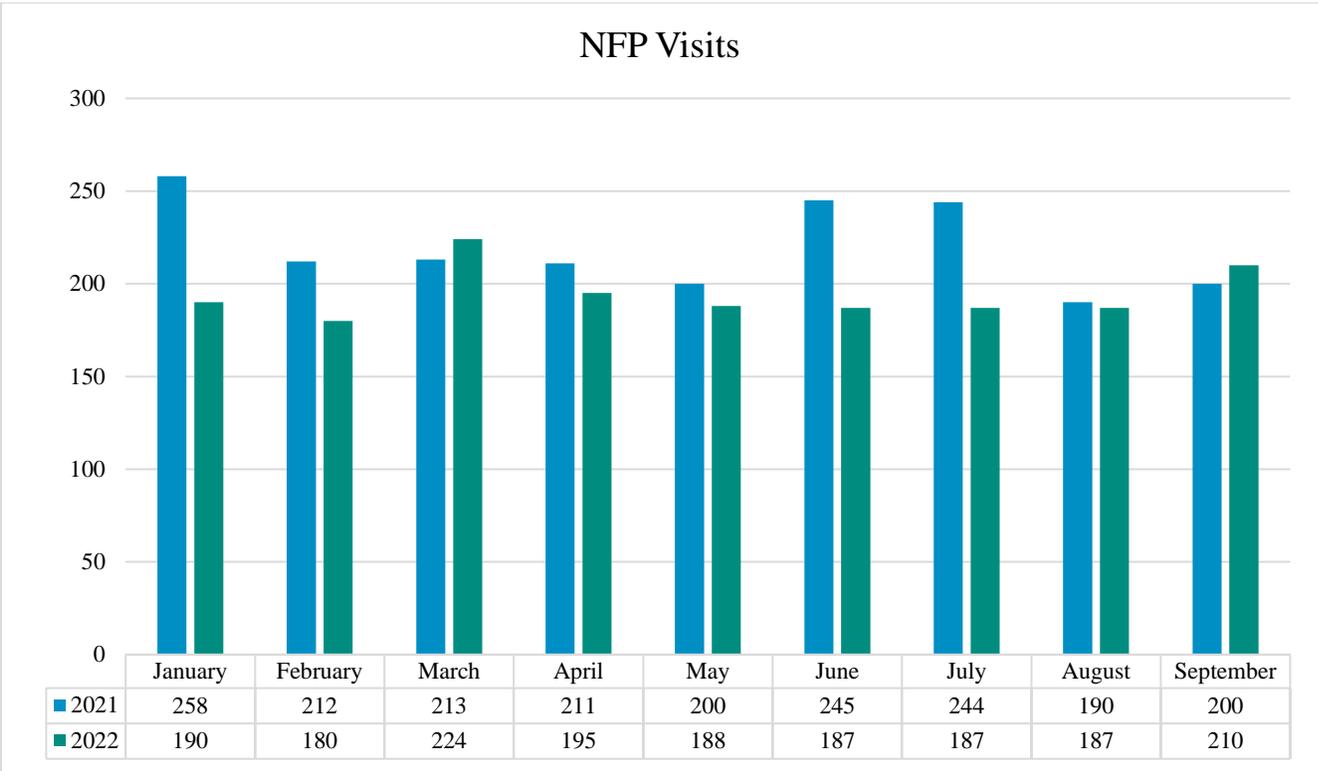
The screenings led to a total of 21 referrals:

- Eight referrals were made to local behavioral health resources.
- Two 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 were referred to active-duty resources on base; two clients on Tricare were referred to non-active-duty case management.
- 22 clients were already receiving services and declined a referral for that reason.

**Appendix D: Immunizations Program Vaccines Administered**

<b>Month</b>	<b>Non-COVID Vaccines</b>	<b>COVID Vaccine Administered in Clinic/Distributed (Long-Term Care Facilities and Operation House Call)</b>	<b>COVID Vaccine Administered by EPCPH Mobile Team</b>
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

**Appendix E: Nurse-Family Partnership Client Visits**



## Appendix F: Disease Prevention and Control

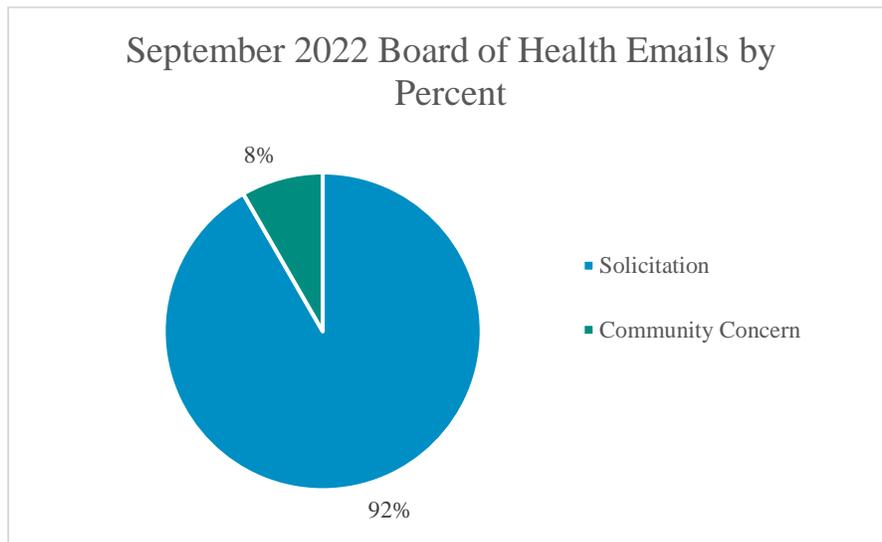
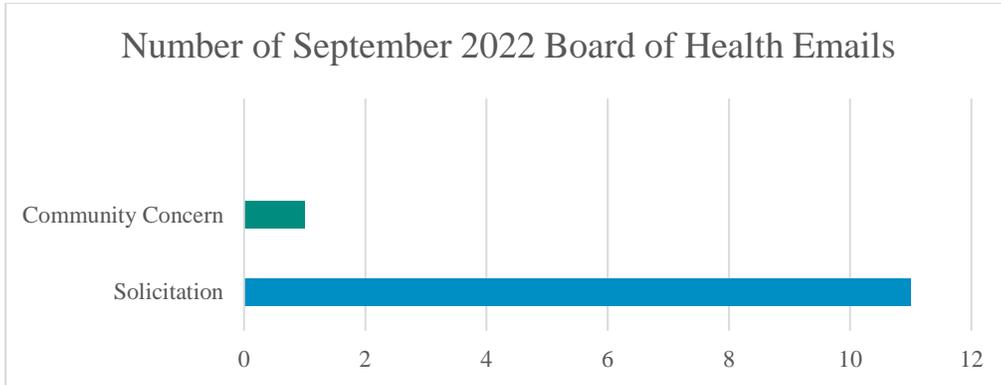
Category	Disease	2022	2021	2019
<b>Food/Waterborne Diseases</b>				
	Campylobacter	77	75	89
	Cryptosporidium	17	13	16
	Cyclosporiasis	10	4	3
	Giardia	38	52	42
	Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome (HUS)	0	0	0
	Hepatitis A	2	0	127
	Legionellosis	7	10	7
	Salmonella	44	65	71
	Shigella	11	8	29
	Shiga Toxin-producing E. coli (STEC)	30	29	26
	Vibriosis	4	2	4
<b>Food/Waterborne Diseases Totals</b>		<b>240</b>	<b>258</b>	<b>414</b>
<b>Viral Hepatitis</b>				
	Hepatitis B (acute)	0	0	3
	Hepatitis B (chronic)	70	80	76
	Hepatitis C (acute)	1	0	10
	Hepatitis C (chronic)	199	217	614
<b>Viral Hepatitis Totals</b>		<b>270</b>	<b>297</b>	<b>703</b>
<b>Healthcare Associated Infections</b>				
	Carbapenem-Resistant Acinetobacter baumannii (CRAB)	0	0	0
	Carbapenem Non-susceptible Enterobacteriaceae (CRE)	30	16	40
	Carbapenem-Resistant Pseudomonas Aeruginosa (CRPA)	31	43	32
<b>Healthcare Associated Infections totals</b>		<b>61</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>72</b>

<b>Vaccine Preventable Diseases</b>				
	Haemophilus influenzae (H. flu)	10	11	13
	Measles	0	0	0
	Meningococcal Disease	0	0	1
	Mumps	1	0	3
	Pertussis	23	10	75
	Rubella	0	0	0
	Varicella	12	10	45
<b>Vaccine Preventable Diseases Totals</b>		<b>46</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>137</b>
<b>COVID-19</b>		<b>91,720</b>	<b>85048</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Hospitalized Influenza*</b>		<b>208</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>506</b>
<b>Monkeypox</b>		<b>21</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

- Responded to 29 foodborne illness complaints and referred 4 to Environmental Health for follow up for retail food
- Responded to 26 calls regarding human or pet exposures to potentially rabid animals, or other rabies-related concerns. From those inquiries, 2 animals (1 bat, 1 dog) were tested for rabies, 0 tested positive for rabies and 1 bat was untestable.
  - Persons recommended for rabies post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP): 3
  - Total rabid animals for 2022: 4 (bats)
    - 2021: 7 (3 bats, 3 skunks, 1 cat)
    - 2020: 10 (5 bats, 4 skunks, 1 coyote)

### Appendix G: Board of Health Email Inquiries

The Board of Health email ([boardofhealth@elpasoco.com](mailto:boardofhealth@elpasoco.com)) received twelve unique emails during the month of September. Eleven of the emails were solicitations and one email was a community concern regarding polio in the USA.



## **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.