

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: January 2023 (reflects December 2022)

Table of Contents

In the News..... 2

Program Spotlight..... 3

Agency Operations..... 4

Appendices

    Appendix A: (Environmental Health Activity)..... 11

    Appendix B: (Laboratory: Public Water System Test Counts) ..... 13

    Appendix C: (Women, Infants and Children Program) ..... 14

    Appendix D: (Immunizations Program Vaccines Administered) ..... 15

    Appendix E: (Nurse Family Partnership) ..... 16

    Appendix F: (Disease Prevention and Control) ..... 17

    Appendix G: (Board of Health Email Tracking) ..... 19

Definitions of Foundational Terms..... 20

## **In the News**

- Director Wheelan, who had the distinct honor of giving the Fall 2022 Commencement speech at the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs (UCCS), was featured in a UCCS Communique article entitled, Commencement Keynote: “[You belong in any space you choose.](#)”
- On Dec. 16, the OoC sent a [news release](#) highlighting Director Wheelan’s recognition with the first Spirit of Fountain award. The news release—which gained [media coverage on Fox21](#)—features glowing remarks from the Mayor of Fountain, who thanked Director Wheelan for her strong leadership, advocacy and partnerships to support the health and well-being of the residents of Fountain.

## **Program Spotlight**

The Vital Records Office (VRO) staff work with families during some of the most joyous or difficult times of their lives, providing excellent customer service while issuing critical birth and death records. A typical day includes navigating technical complexities on documents, comforting a distraught spouse who needs a death certificate, and diffusing emotionally charged interactions regarding access to birth certificates.

In 2022, VRO issued 21,301 birth certificates and 48,066 death certificates, serving the largest county in Colorado with five full-time staff: a chief deputy registrar who manages the office and four deputy registrars. This office provides important demographic data to the Colorado Health Indicators Dataset (COHID), which helps track population and causes of death locally and throughout the state.

By statute, Colorado is a closed record state, meaning that birth and death records are strictly confidential. Applicants are required to establish eligibility through a familial relationship or provide proof of direct and tangible interest in the record, e.g., a life insurance policy or a will. Local vital records offices must adhere to strict regulations surrounding confidentiality and undergo regular audits from the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment's Vital Records Office (CDPHEVR). In addition to reviewing performance for regulatory compliance, VRO is required to accurately account for tens of thousands of pieces of banknote security paper and maintain security controls regarding physical access to their office and vault. VRO staff complete annual training module renewals required by CDPHEVR to maintain a wide range of skills, knowledge and expertise.

VRO works closely with various community partners –including the El Paso County Coroner's Office, five local hospital systems, 18 funeral providers, and multiple independent birthing centers—to assure records are filed in an accurate and timely manner. Staff are on-call on weekends and holidays to assure funeral providers have access to disposition permits. VRO strives to provide the highest possible level of customer service when issuing birth and death records, including support for atypical situations such as home birth registrations and assisting individuals who wish to act as a funeral director or perform burial on private land.

## Agency Operations

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



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

El Paso County Public Health (EPCPH) fulfills its statutory requirement of providing these core public health services through the work of its divisions and programs. Activities supporting these services for the timeframe of this report follow. Definitions of each Foundational Public Health Capability and Services can be found on page 20 of this report.

## **Foundational Public Health Capabilities**

### **Communications**

- The Office of Communication (OoC) managed television media inquiries pertaining to emerging issues including the ‘triple-demic’ of respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), COVID-19 and influenza (flu) and the relocation of the COVID-19 testing site. The total estimated viewership for these television interviews is more than 200,000 and the estimated earned media value is nearly \$23,000.
- The OoC also managed several print media inquiries on similar topics, with coverage in the [Colorado Springs Business Journal](#) on COVID-19 trends and actions people can take to prevent and reduce the spread of disease.

- On Dec. 5, the OoC sent a [news release](#) announcing the move of the COVID-19 community-based testing site from the Citadel Mall to the Colorado Springs Event Center. The news release garnered coverage on this important community announcement across all four local TV stations.
- The agency's website [www.elpasocountyhealth.org](http://www.elpasocountyhealth.org) had 22,395 new visitors in December, with 37,654 unique pageviews.
  - The website continued to see high traffic in 2022, with a yearly total of 360,158 new visitors to the site and 875,315 unique pageviews.
  - The most visited webpages included the COVID-19 data dashboard, COVID-19 testing page, and vital records.
- EPCPH continued to utilize social media and other platforms this year to increase external communication and public awareness on emerging topics. During the course of 2022, EPCPH continued to see steady progress in increasing audiences on social media channels. There was a five percent increase in followers on both Instagram and Twitter, with a modest one percent increase in Facebook followers.

## **Policy Development and Support**

### **Colorado Trust Culmination Grant awarded to Communities That Care (CTC)**

- Award Amount: \$222,219
- Grant Period: Jan. 1 – Dec. 31, 2023
  - This is an invitation-only application process for new or existing programs or capital projects within the 24 communities that were either actively participating in the Community Partnerships for Health Equity (CPHE) strategy of the Colorado Trust or had been identified for participation at the time the strategy concluded.
  - Due to the success and national recognition of Fountain Valley Communities That Care (FV-CTC), the CO Trust invited the FV-CTC to apply for this grant. The funds will expand and enhanced community-driven and efforts and the capacity of the CTC program to carry out their vital work.

## **Workforce Gap Analysis**

- The Trailhead Institute began the first stages of this project with a kick-off meeting to commence planning and collaboration on the Workforce Gap Analysis, which is funded through supplemental funding from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE). This month, Trailhead will start a review of relevant data collected by EPCPH as the first phase in the gap analysis process.

## **Partnerships**

On Dec. 1, 2022, the Retail Food program manager provided a question and answer session with small business owners at The Hive Kitchen Market. The interactive session included resources and licensing information for new business owners with questions on differences between catering, manufactured foods, cottage food and requirements for selling food at special events. This outreach generated positive feedback from participants, who expressed appreciation for the assistance through the various license requirements and options for their business models. This is

an example of how the retail food team utilizes an educational approach to support business owners, assuring they are able to successfully understand and navigate the licensing process.

The Retail Food team worked in partnership with the EPCPH Communicable Disease program to conduct proactive outreach to mitigate the spread of Shigella in response to the identification of cases of shigella among food handlers across various licensed retail food establishments. The Retail Food team worked with the owners and operators of the identified establishments to assure proper sick employee policies were in place, in addition to proper hygienic practices, cleaning and sanitizing procedures. The internal collaborative efforts reduced the risk of shigella spreading to patrons and staff of the identified establishments.

EPCPH hosted students from Colorado University School of Medicine to provide an overview of local public health agency responsibilities and roles. Students toured the agency and received presentations from several program areas. The Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR) team developed, planned, and facilitated a tabletop exercise (TTX) to serve as an interactive forum between the students and agency subject matter experts through a scenario that mirrored the EPCPH response to a hepatitis A outbreak. The TTX included participation from several key departments such as communicable disease, immunizations, environmental health, and communications. Medical students provided feedback that the TTX was an engaging and interactive learning opportunity.

To further strengthen relationships between EPCPH and Fort Carson, EPCPH staff from health services, environmental health, data and analytics, communicable disease and emergency preparedness and response hosted public health nurses from Evans Army Community Hospital. The engaging session provided an overview of agency responsibilities and programming with the goal of increasing understanding regarding the local public health agency role in supporting community health.

### **Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR)**

EPR secured a new contract for the COVID-19 community-based testing site. As part of this transition, EPR worked closely with the MAKO testing team to coordinate the logistical move from the Citadel Mall to the Colorado Springs Event Center. The move was successfully completed on Dec. 6, without any disruption of COVID-19 testing services to the community.

EPR worked closely with the Pikes Peak Regional Office of Emergency Management (PPROEM) and the South Central Healthcare Coalition (SCHCC) to maintain continuous situational awareness for several ongoing situations to include the triple-demic and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) surge, the national migrant crisis, and the extreme cold weather event over the holidays. EPR actively participates in coordination calls and remains prepared to support if needed as the Emergency Support Function (ESF)-8 lead.

EPR worked with community partners including Diversus Health, Peak Vista Community Health Centers, PPROEM, and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE)

to address ways to provide behavioral health resources and support to community members impacted by the Club Q shooting. A key component of these efforts includes weekly meetings to discuss long-term support through the implementation of an intermediate and long-term resiliency center. A member of the EPR team was also invited to attend a roundtable with community partners and the Assistant Secretary for Health, US Department of Health and Human Services, to discuss current and future response efforts and community needs related to the Club Q shooting.

December exercises, drills and workshops included:

- PPROEM gap analysis workshop. During large incidents, the Emergency Coordination Center (ECC) supports incident command with resources, as well as managing the impacts of the incident on the community and residents. The workshop was designed for ECC sections to review relevance of the current documentation and update the Decision and Resource Support Reference Guide for the use during ECC activations. EPR participated in this workshop as part of the Human Service Group.
- PPROEM Alternate ECC exercise. Building on the success of the COVID-19 response, this exercise tested the ability of EPR and other ECC members to set up the ECC and build a common operating picture at an alternate location.

## **Foundational Public Health Services**

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

The Communicable Disease (CD) program, along with infection prevention partners from UCHealth, identified a cluster of invasive pneumococcal disease among people experiencing homelessness. EPCPH epidemiologists and co-medical director consulted with partners at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and CDPHE to discuss this cluster and similar clusters identified in other states. EPCPH worked with partner agencies to offer pneumococcal vaccine to people experiencing homelessness.

CD presented an update regarding infectious disease concerns currently impacting people experiencing homelessness at a meeting of the Colorado Springs shelter roundtable. Topics included the newly identified pneumococcal disease cluster, an ongoing outbreak of shigella and respiratory season.

The CD Program was invited to the Penrose Hospital Infection Prevention and Control meeting and provided an update regarding communicable disease epidemiology and trends.

The Immunization program continued preventive efforts during respiratory season by increasing appointment capacity to offer COVID-19 bivalent boosters, in addition to providing 111 flu vaccinations. The team also continued to support Operation House Call with flu and COVID-19 vaccines. The immunization program administered 21 monkeypox (mpox) vaccines in the month of December.

The Tuberculosis (TB) clinic team evaluated eight individuals for latent tuberculosis in the month of December. TB Clinic staff observed a total of 55 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 two active TB cases and 14 latent TB cases under the care of EPCPH's TB program.

## **Environmental Public Health**

### **Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (OWTS)**

The OWTS team continues to provide education to the industry related to application submissions. There has been an increase in professional installer applications in El Paso County, as the pace slows for other counties in the region but remains fairly steady within El Paso County. Nearly half (16) of the forty new installers during the last year reside outside of El Paso County. The OWTS is taking additional time with each new installer to help support them in better understanding the regulations in El Paso County.

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

The Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program continued to serve pregnant and postpartum women, infants, and children up to age 5 through food benefits, community referrals, nutrition education and breastfeeding support. In December, the number of currently enrolled clients—defined as those who have received WIC benefits within the previous three months—was 13,395. Federal waivers tied to the Health and Human Services Public Health Emergency continue to be in place. Due to the physical presence waiver, EPCPH WIC continues to offer phone appointments. Clients are extended the choice of an in-person appointment or phone appointments, which will be in effect until at least mid-April 2023. WIC staff began work on determining extending clinic flexibilities for clients even when federal waivers are no longer in place.

- The national formula shortages continue to present challenges for families across the nation, state, and in El Paso County; 1,380 infants received formula benefits from EPCPH WIC in December. WIC staff continued to assist clients with changing food package options as appropriate, working with providers for new prescriptions, and ordering a larger volume of specialty formula.
- WIC staff continued strong partnerships with internal resources such as Nurse-Family Partnership, Reproductive Health Clinic and Maternal and Child Health Care Coordination, with 43 referrals made between the programs.
- EPCPH WIC remains committed to educating and supporting breastfeeding. In 2022, 417 clients completed the virtual breastfeeding class. Each month, an average of 1,065 clients were enrolled in the Breastfeeding Peer Counselor texting program with an average of 189 new clients each month in 2022.

Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) nurses conducted 189 visits in December 2022. Of these visits, 115 were conducted in client homes and 74 were conducted through telehealth. In December, EPCPH NFP nurses served 148 families, enrolled 10 new clients to the program, and graduated three clients who had participated in the NFP program for a full two and a half years. Following recommended safety precautions, NFP nurses continue to increase the number of clients receiving in-person home visits. 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.

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

- The Youth Suicide Prevention Workgroup has developed a community action plan, which will guide youth suicide prevention efforts through June 2023. In December, the Connectedness, Awareness, Resources and Education Action groups shared specific action items with the whole workgroup. A snapshot of the action items include:
  - Composing a list of where youth spend time outside of school and home and providing suicide prevention training and resources to the adults in those spaces.
  - Creating resource navigation one pagers to help parents/caregivers and youth navigate the behavioral health system and how to utilize insurance when available.
  - Curating a list of behavioral health and suicide prevention terminology, as a form of stigma reduction, which will provide clarity and understanding around the terms used, and why.
- The Tobacco Education and Prevention Partnership (TEPP) hosted a holiday luncheon for the Tobacco-Free Alliance with approximately 20 participants. This meeting provided a time for community partners to reflect on how collective roles make an impact on tobacco prevention, education, and cessation. TEPP presented information regarding current tobacco data and trends, as well as information about free cessation programs for teens and adults in Colorado.

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

Reproductive Health Clinic 2022 education impact includes:

- 20 STI education presentations conducted from February to December 2022
- 500+ individuals have attended educational presentations
- One monkeypox (mpox) specific community education session completed

The care coordinators provided outreach and information to three partner organizations (Leadership Pikes Peak, Christmas Unlimited, and City of Colorado Springs Homeless Prevention Program) and attended a community event where they shared flyers in English and Spanish. From these and other ongoing partnership efforts, the care coordinators received 88 new referrals (eight Spanish-speaking) seeking housing, infant resources, utility and rental assistance, mortgage assistance, medical transportation, health insurance, dental services, senior care, Christmas gift distribution events, COVID-19 information, and COVID-19 testing.

For outreach within the community, care coordinators met with the City's homeless prevention and response coordinator on Dec. 28 to streamline efforts in connecting clients to housing. Coordinators also volunteered with Christmas Unlimited on Dec. 21 and shared flyers about the care coordination program and the numerous resources available to the community. Additionally, care coordinators distributed 87 COVID-19 testing kits and provided 11 households with care packages which include hygiene products, personal protective equipment and more.

Lastly, care coordinators were able to successfully navigate clients to several key resources including:

- Connecting several new mothers to infant resources and supplies

- Assisting in getting clients applied to several resource programs such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- Delivering emergency food boxes to multiple families
- Providing direct supports to elderly clients with housing and accessing technology
- Connecting several families to rent and utility assistance resources
- Assisting a client in getting approved for Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP)
- Submitting numerous referrals to First Visitor program, COSILoveYou, and The Resource Exchange to help further connect clients to high need services
- Connecting parents to Christmas distribution events providing food and presents taking place in the community

## Appendix A: Environmental Health Activity

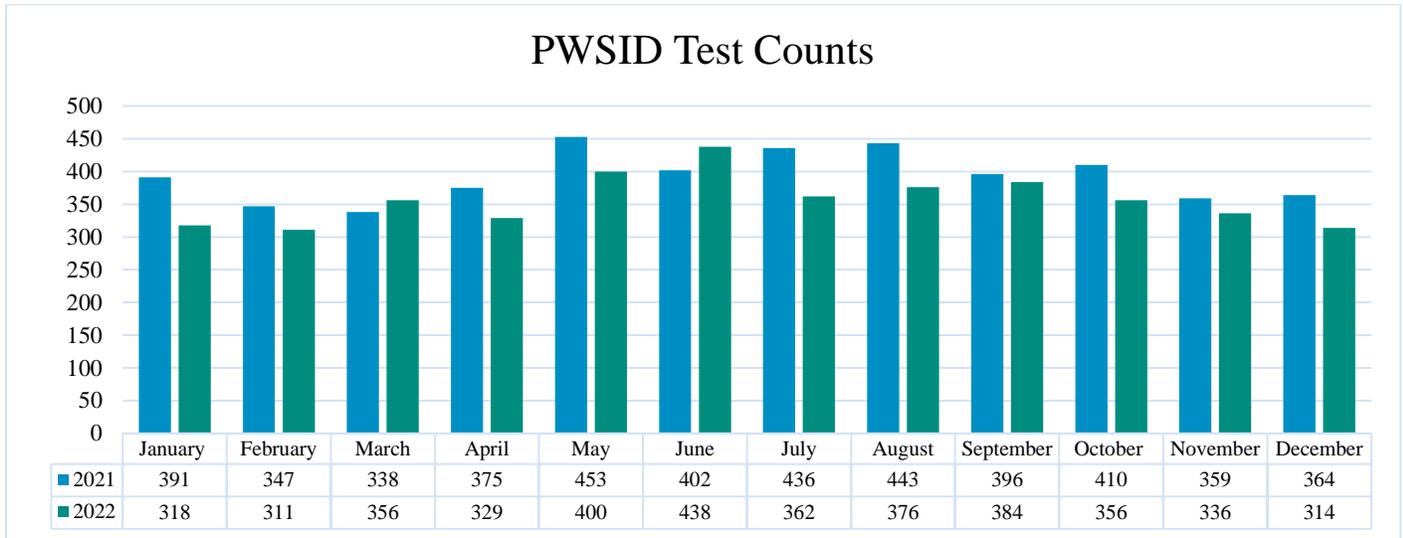
The table below captures a snapshot of activities across the Environmental Health (EH) Division. This work is accomplished through science-based risk assessment and policy development, inspections, consultation, education, and regulations designed to protect the food we eat, the water we drink, the air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

Environment Health Activity	2022 Total as of 12/31/22	2021 Total
Air Quality Construction Permits	163	129
Air Quality Open Burn Permits	19	15
Air Quality Complaints	38	50
Animal Bites Reported	665	1,385
Body Art Routine Inspections	86	85
Body Art Follow-up Inspections	8	6
Body Art Complaints	22	21
Child Care Regular Inspections	138	214
Child Care Follow-up Inspections	15	0
Child Care Complaints	8	4
Child Care High Risk Field Consults	18	0
Land-Use Planning Review	232	162
Onsite Wastewater Treatment System (OWTS) Pumper Truck Inspections	85	72
OWTS Final Inspections	576	516
OWTS Partial Inspections	235	170
OWTS Application Design Reviews	558	703
OWTS Design Revision Requests	221	272
OWTS New Permit Applications	351	387
OWTS Repair Permit Applications	276	282
OWTS Modification Permit Applications	15	11
OWTS Acceptance Doc for Title Transfer	866	1,048
OWTS Soil and Site Evaluations	425	518
OWTS Complaints	27	29
OWTS O&M Systems	65	179
Recreational Water Safety Inspections	295	320
Recreational Water Follow-up Inspections	17	28
Recreational Water Complaints	9	13
Retail Food Establishment (RFE) Regular Inspections	1908	2,960
RFE Re-Inspections	171	119
RFE Complaint Investigations	391	153
RFE Plan Reviews	193	153
School Safety Regular Inspections	13	0
School Safety Complaints	4	6

<b>Environment Health Activity</b>	<b>2022 Total as of 12/31/22</b>	<b>2021 Total</b>
School Safety Self-Certification Audits	15	9
School Safety Self-Certifications Returned	332	295
Waste Tire Facilities Regular Inspections	115	117
Waste Tire Follow-up Inspections	1	5

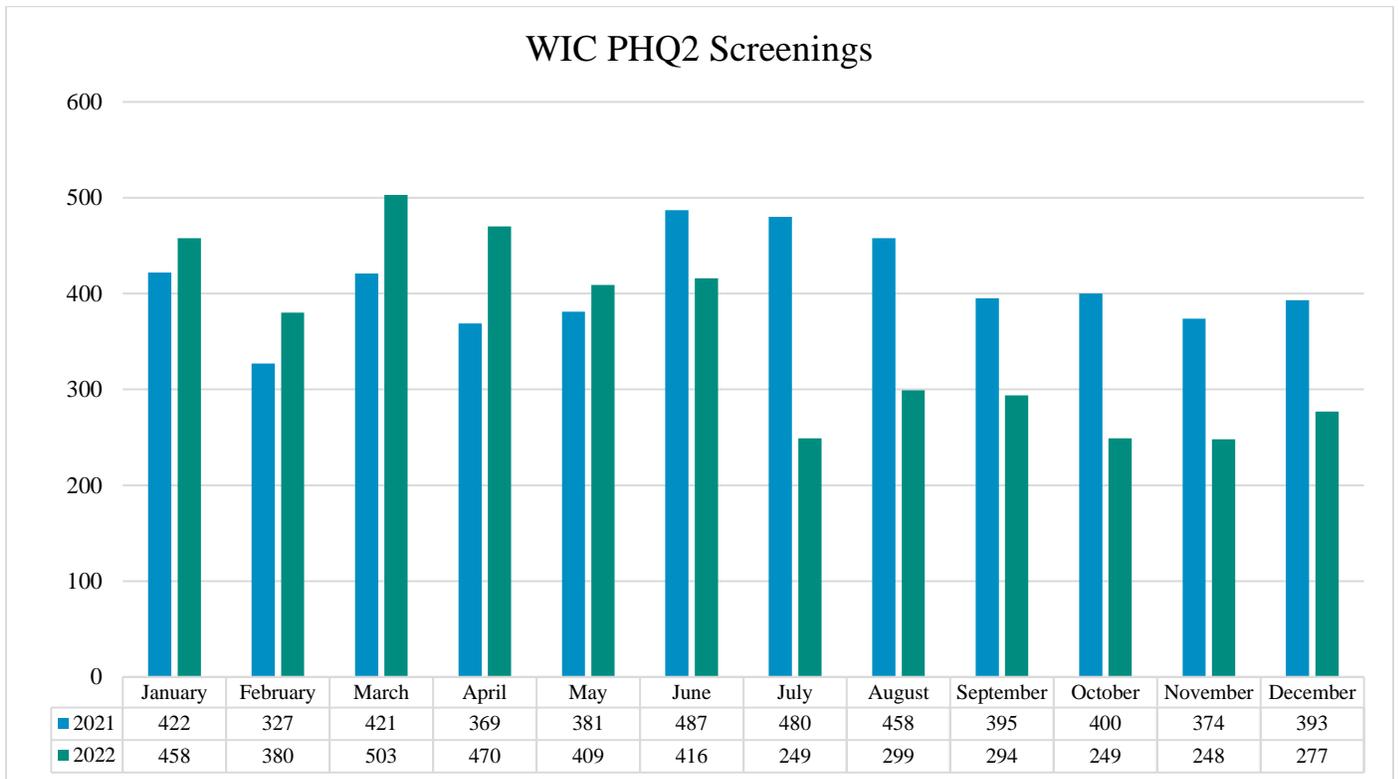
**Appendix B: Laboratory Public Water System Test Counts**

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 277 Patient Health Questionnaire-2 (PHQ2) screening see chart below.



The screenings led to a total of 19 referrals:

- Eight referrals were made to local behavioral health resources.
- Five referrals were made to Colorado Community Health Alliance (CCHA) for further evaluation and connection to meet their specific behavioral health needs.
- Three clients on Tricare were referred to active-duty resources on base; one client on Tricare were referred to non-active-duty case management.
- Two clients were already receiving services and declined a referral for that reason.

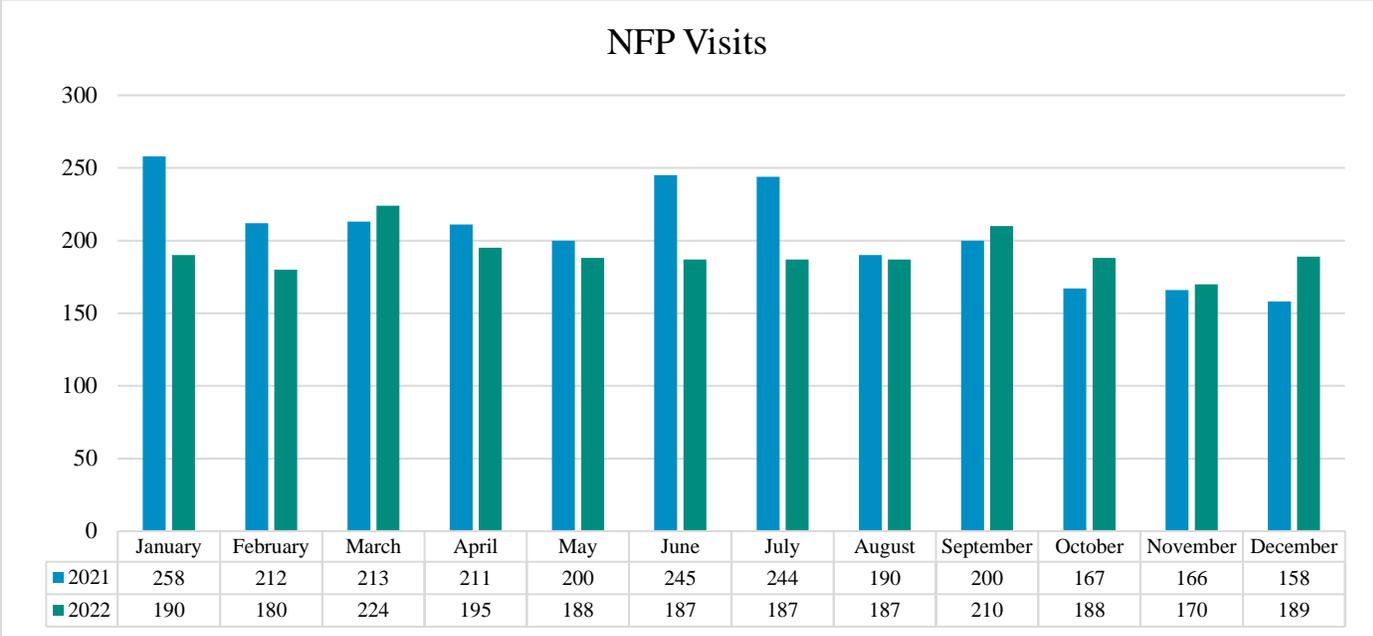
## Appendix D: Immunizations Program Vaccines Administered

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
November	378	204	12
December	588	102	0**

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

\*\* Mobile van team supported PCV-20 and flu vaccination in December

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



## Appendix F: Disease Prevention and Control

Category	Disease	2022	2021	2019
<b>Food/Waterborne Diseases</b>				
	Campylobacter	117	75	89
	Cryptosporidium	25	14	16
	Cyclosporiasis	10	4	3
	Giardia	45	52	42
	Hepatitis A	3	0	127
	Legionellosis	11	10	7
	Salmonella	54	65	71
	Shigella	57	8	29
	Shiga Toxin-producing E. coli (STEC)	42	29	26
	Vibriosis	6	2	4
<b>Food/Waterborne Diseases Totals</b>		<b>370</b>	<b>259</b>	<b>414</b>
<b>Viral Hepatitis</b>				
	Hepatitis B (acute)	3	0	3
	Hepatitis B (chronic)	90	81	76
	Hepatitis C (acute)	2	0	10
	Hepatitis C (chronic)	285	245	614
<b>Viral Hepatitis Totals</b>		<b>380</b>	<b>347</b>	<b>703</b>
<b>Healthcare Associated Infections</b>				
	Carbapenem-Resistant Acinetobacter baumannii (CRAB)	1	0	0
	Carbapenem Non-susceptible Enterobacteriaceae (CRE)	45	42	40
	Carbapenem-Resistant Pseudomonas Aeruginosa (CRPA)	44	66	32
<b>Healthcare Associated Infections totals</b>		<b>90</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>72</b>

Category	Disease	2022	2021	2019
<b>Vaccine Preventable Diseases</b>				
	Haemophilus influenzae (H. flu)	14	11	13
	Measles	0	0	0
	Meningococcal Disease	0	0	1
	Mumps	3	0	3
	Pertussis	30	10	75
	Rubella	0	0	0
	Varicella	22	10	45
<b>Vaccine Preventable Diseases Totals</b>		<b>69</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>137</b>
<b>COVID-19</b>		<b>103,140</b>	<b>85,884</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Hospitalized Influenza*</b>		<b>519</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>506</b>
<b>Monkeypox</b>		<b>24</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

\*Flu Seasons:

- September 27, 2020- May 22, 2021; 2
- October 3, 2021- May 21, 2022; 188
- October 2, 2022- May 20, 2023; 311

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

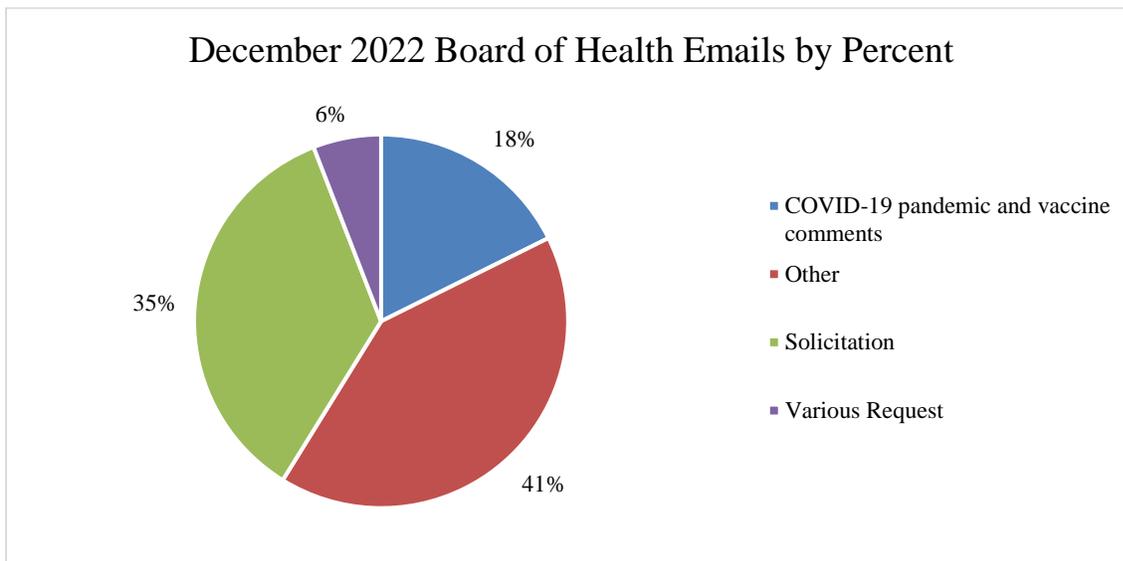
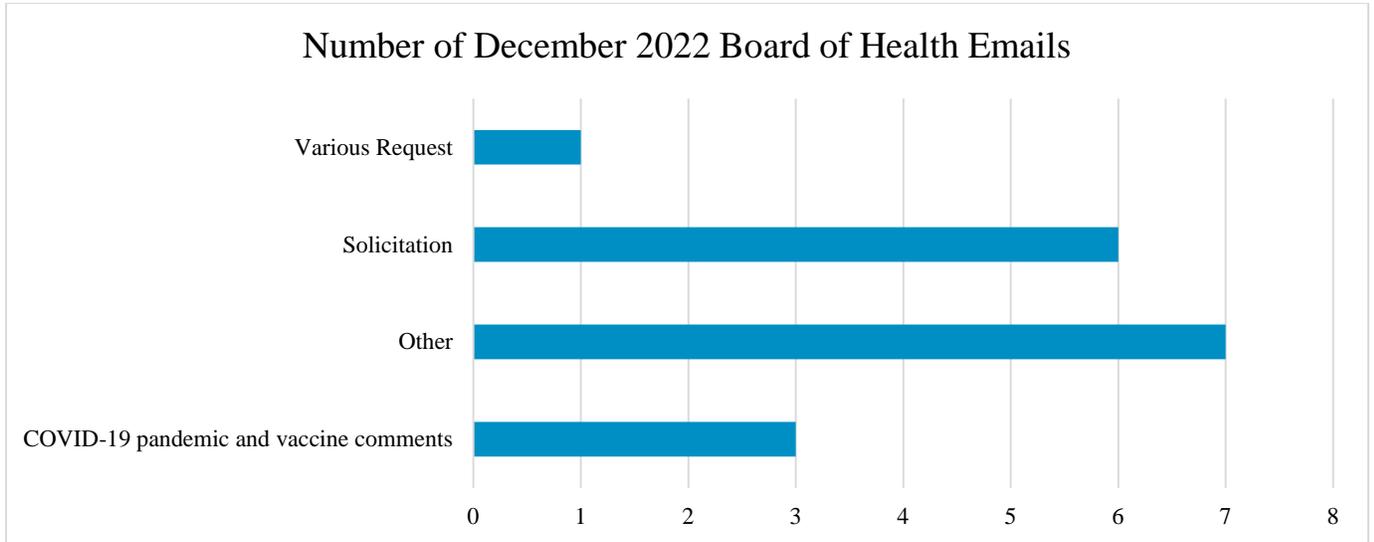
Foodborne Illness Complaints	# Referred to Env. Health
<u>18</u>	<u>2</u>

Table 3 – Annual 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](mailto:boardofhealth@elpasoco.com)) received 17 unique emails during the month of December. Seven of the emails were categorized as other requests, six emails were solicitations, and three emails were COVID-19 pandemic and vaccine comments.



## **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.