

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: February 2023 (reflects January 2023)

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## In the News

- The January edition of the New Falcon Herald—a monthly community newspaper which reaches residents of Falcon, Calhan, Peyton and Black Forest—highlighted an article entitled, “[Community Health: County takes a multi-faceted approach to a healthy community](#)”. The article—which features in-depth interviews and insight from Director Susan Wheelan and co-medical director Dr. Bernadette Albanese—discusses El Paso County Public Health’s (EPCPH) collaborative and innovative approach to strategic partnerships and community efforts to improve population health.
- Director Susan Wheelan and El Paso County Coroner Dr. Leon Kelly were featured in an episode of [COSILoveYou’s podcast](#). Each month, COSILoveYou hosts conversations with civic, business, and faith leaders on issues impacting people in Colorado Springs and the surrounding areas, with the goal of convening leaders in ways that encourage community collaborations and partnerships. In this episode, Director Wheelan and Dr. Kelly (who served as EPCPH’s deputy medical director during the height of the COVID-19 response) reflect on the pandemic, sharing their behind-the-scenes recollections and insights on the County’s response to the crisis. Together they shine a light on the themes of resilience and perseverance, focusing on the importance of mental health supports and how we can work together toward a healthier community.

## **Program Spotlight**

World Tuberculosis (TB) Day, recognized each year on March 24, provides the opportunity to educate the public and partners about the impact of TB. TB is primarily a respiratory disease and is spread when a person who is sick with active (infectious) TB coughs. Today, it remains one of the leading infectious disease killers in the world, killing more people on an annual basis than human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). The World Health Organization estimates that 25-33 percent of all people in the world are currently infected with TB. However, people who are infected with TB are not always sick, and only about five to 10 percent of those people will go on to develop active, infectious TB.

Though TB is prevalent throughout the world, the United States has much lower rates compared to other countries. This is because most areas of the United States have public health programs aimed at identifying, evaluating, and treating people at risk for TB, as well as treating those with active, infectious TB.

The El Paso County Public Health (EPCPH) TB Program consists of two registered nurses and one disease investigation specialist who are responsible for providing a wide range of TB-related services. These include evaluating, testing, and treating people for latent TB (non-infectious TB that can lead to active, infectious TB if not treated early). This is especially important for at-risk populations such as refugees, immigrants, and asylees. EPCPH's TB team also works to diagnose and treat active infectious cases of TB, which includes a minimum of six months of treatment with up to four different TB medications. Once infectious cases are identified, the team conducts a contact investigation to assure all those who may have been exposed receive the appropriate follow-up care. Additionally, the TB program provides subject matter expertise to local medical providers and frequently collaborates with a variety of medical organizations in the community, such as regional hospitals, military partners, and local medical providers.

Another important component of the EPCPH TB Program is to provide Directly-Observed Therapy (DOT) to all infectious TB patients, as well as some pediatric populations. In 2022, the program completed the following:

- Treated 56 patients for latent (non-infectious) TB
- Treated five patients with active (infectious) TB
- Drove over 5,000 miles within El Paso County to provide DOT and other services, for a total of 1,336 patient encounters.

## 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

### Assessment and Planning

### Communications

- The Office of Communication (OoC) managed television inquiries pertaining to radon during the month of January. The total estimated viewership for these television interviews is more than 60,000 and the estimated earned media value is more than \$11,000.

- The OoC also managed several print media inquiries on similar topics, with the addition of stories on [community health](#) and the ‘[triple-demic](#)’ of COVID-19, influenza (flu) and [respiratory syncytial virus \(RSV\)](#) in the New Falcon Herald and the Gazette, respectively.
  - During National Radon Action Month—recognized during January each year—the OoC collaborated with internal and external partners to raise awareness about the dangers of radon across numerous digital and traditional platforms. A news release encouraging residents to test their homes for radon led to media coverage across KOAA, the Gazette, and CBS Colorado. The [El Paso County Courier](#), a monthly newsletter which reaches El Paso County residents in both digital and print format, featured an article on radon (page 13) in its February edition. To further expand digital outreach, the OoC partnered with Environmental Health’s air quality program to launch a series of paid ads on Facebook. In addition to encouraging residents to test their homes for radon, the ads provide information on where to purchase test kits locally and resources for mitigation. .
- The agency’s website [www.elpasocountyhealth.org](http://www.elpasocountyhealth.org) had 29,225 new visitors in January, with 46,450 unique pageviews.

### **Partnerships**

The Tobacco Education & Prevention Partnership (TEPP) participated in the 2023 Educating Children of Color Summit (ECOC) event at Colorado College. The event provides a unique opportunity for educators, juvenile justice, and child welfare professionals to enhance their ability to retain and inspire students. It was also an opportunity for students to learn about themselves while they explored higher education. TEPP staffed a booth and promoted My Life My Quit and Quitline resources to encourage attendees to visit the website to learn more about tobacco cessation, vaping myths and facts and additional resources if needed.

Environmental Health’s Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (OWTS) team held several industry-specific stakeholder meetings in January, which included licensed installers, certified inspectors, and engineers. These meetings—which were held to discuss pertinent information related to each industry area— including information sharing and clarification regarding OWTS regulations, permit application submissions, inspections, and final record drawing. Partners also had the opportunity to share concerns and bring forward ideas which may aid in improving the program in El Paso County. Numerous stakeholders expressed appreciation for the stakeholder meetings.

Public health nurses (PHN) participated in a half-day clinical skills refresher hosted by UCCS Beth-El College of nursing. Beth-El faculty created customized training scenarios allowing PHNs to practice relevant clinical skills in to be prepared to respond to adverse events whether in EPCPH clinical settings are working in the community. This effort is part of an ongoing partnership with Beth-El to support collaboration and training opportunities for current and future public health nurses focused on clinical excellence.

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

EPCPH received recognition by the National Association of City and County Health Officials (NACCHO) for its ability to plan for, respond to, and recover from public health emergencies.

EPCPH demonstrated these capabilities by meeting the comprehensive preparedness benchmarks required by Project Public Health Ready (PPHR), a unique partnership between NACCHO and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Originally recognized with PPHR in 2008—with successful re-recognitions in 2013, 2018 and most recently, 2023—EPCPH has demonstrated an outstanding and ongoing commitment to preparedness in earning this prestigious recognition for more than 15 years.

The Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR) team was activated by PPROEM to support the Regency Tower power outage and subsequent resident evacuation. At the request of PPROEM, EPCPH took immediate action to coordinate resources, which included identifying an oxygen supplier and a temporary housing location for five displaced residents who tested positive for COVID-19. EPCPH took immediate action to coordinate requested resources.

EPR attended the Club Q after actions meeting, which served as a forum to discuss the sequence of events, communication, notification procedures and identify strengths and challenges to address future events within the local jurisdiction. Also in attendance were numerous partner agencies, including law enforcement, fire, EMS, hospitals, dispatch, PPROEM and public health.

EPR assisted with the closure of the last community-based testing site (CBTS) in El Paso County. Over the course of the pandemic, EPR provided ongoing logistical support and served as a primary point of contact to multiple testing sites across El Paso County. Since the first site opened on Aug. 11, 2020, the CBTS reduced barriers and increased easy, free, and convenient access to testing, resulting in a total of 429,521 tests conducted over nearly two and a half years.

January exercises, drills and workshops included:

- EPR facilitated the South-Central regional meeting in Teller County. This meeting serves as an opportunity to collaborate with regional partners and address deliverables through the public health emergency preparedness (PHEP) scope of work. During this meeting, the EPR team provided a comprehensive overview of the regional strategic national stockpile (SNS) plan and discussed strengths and gaps experienced during the COVID-19 pandemic. The EPR team will update this regional plan with input from regional partners by June 30, 2023.
- EPR attended a CHEMPACK planning meeting with local first responders and members of PPROEM. This meeting discussed the management of nerve agent antidote kits, controlled substances, and other medical supplies contained within the CHEMPACK containers as resources for responding to terrorist acts and other life-threatening emergencies. The assigned workgroup is updating the CHEMPACK plan with a completion goal of June 30, 2023.
- As part of a coordinated agency training plan, EPR has developed trainings specific to the EPCPH leadership team. In January, EPR delivered a training to EPCPH leadership that provided an overview of the updated Public Health Emergency Operations Plan (PHEOP) and heard from the El Paso County Attorney regarding public health legal authorities during an emergency. Second quarter trainings will be delivered to the EPCPH

management team, third quarter will focus on all staff, and the final quarter will be dedicated to a tabletop exercise.

- EPR team provided a Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) overview to the leadership team. The COOP plan is developed to ensure that Primary Mission Essential Functions (PMEFs) continue to be performed during a wide range of emergencies, including localized acts of nature, accidents and technological or attack-related emergencies.

### **Social Determinants of Health**

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

- Assisted a client with starting the disability process
- Assisted a client with applying for SNAP benefits
- Shared resources for formula and diapers with families in need
- Provided a bus pass to a client
- Assisted a client with securing housing for the next year
- Assisted a family with finding resources for shelters and supports in Denver for the weekend
- Assisted a client in procuring a replacement social security card
- Delivered a one-way bus ticket to a client so they could meet with their lawyer
- Found multiple daycare options for a client's child
- Assisted a client with signing up for vocational rehabilitation
- Assisted two clients with obtaining 31-day bus passes
- Assisted a client with obtaining a gift card for very specific food need through a partnership with COSILOVEYOU

### **Foundational Public Health Services**

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

Communicable Disease (CD) epidemiologists conducted numerous partnership meetings to improve county wide coordination as it relates to infectious disease prevention, control, and response. These meetings included:

- Attendance at UCHealth and Penrose Hospital Infection Prevention and Control Meetings. CD provided an update related to communicable disease trends in El Paso County.
- On-going weekly meetings with the Criminal Justice Center (CJC) and the onsite medical provider, Wellpath, regarding community infectious disease activity and impacts in the jail setting.
- Participation in the Shelter Roundtable which brings together entities serving people experiencing homelessness (PEH) to discuss the need for an isolation shelter and recuperative care options for PEH following the closure of City Hope.
- CD hosted infection prevention partners from local hospitals to discuss roles/responsibilities and strengthen relationships with the health care partners. Participants expressed a desire to continue this local coordination moving forward.

CD began planning activities for the 2023 Colorado Epidemiology Conference. This is the fifth year EPCPH has facilitated this collaborative effort between the CD program and CDPHE to support professional training and development of communicable disease epidemiologists and infection prevention partners across Colorado.

The Tuberculosis (TB) clinic team evaluated ten individuals for latent tuberculosis in the month of January. TB Clinic staff 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 two active TB cases and 12 latent TB cases under the care of EPCPH's TB clinic.

The Immunization program continued preventive efforts during respiratory season by providing 114 flu vaccinations. As part of ongoing response to monkeypox (mpox), the Immunization team also provided 17 mpox vaccines. The mobile outreach team conducted numerous outreach clinics to support the response to an identified cluster of invasive pneumococcal disease impacting persons experiencing homelessness (PEH). Through these outreach clinics, PEH were able to receive both pneumococcal and influenza vaccine.

### **Environmental Public Health**

**Retail Food:** Annual retail food license renewals were due on Jan. 1., Of the 2,512 renewal invoices sent last November, there were over 700 unpaid license renewals as of Jan. 6. To resolve the issue, the Retail Food team conducted extensive outreach via several modalities—including phone calls, emails and on-site visits—to facilities to make them aware of the outstanding invoice and to prevent incurring potential civil penalties. Many facilities expressed appreciation for the outreach. As of Jan. 31, there were only 37 outstanding renewal invoices, and many of the facilities expressed appreciation for the outreach. The Retail Food team continually demonstrates a strength-based approach in building rapport with business owners while obtaining compliance and helping prevent or civil penalties.

**Body Art:** All outstanding 2023 body art license renewal payments were collected, with only seven Notice of Violations (NOV) issued, requiring payment by Jan. 27.

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

The Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program serves pregnant and postpartum women, infants, and children up to age 5 through food benefits, community referrals, nutrition education and breastfeeding support. In January, the number of currently enrolled clients, defined as those who have received WIC benefits within the previous three months, is 12,775. Federal waivers tied to the Health and Human Services Public Health Emergency continue to be in place and were extended to mid-April. Due to the physical presence waiver, EPCPH WIC continues to offer phone appointments through mid-July.

WIC staff began to prepare for the end of formula waivers on March 1, 2023. Clients will be required again to purchase Enfamil products for standard formula. Staff are also preparing for decreases to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits on March 1, which



will affect the 3,904 clients who are enrolled in the SNAP program. This included staff training, referrals to care coordinators, and material preparation.

In January, WIC staff completed 381 Patient Health Questionnaire (PHQ) - 2 screenings for postpartum depression, which yielded 20 referrals to behavioral health resources. WIC staff continued strong partnerships with internal stakeholders such as Nurse-Family Partnership, Reproductive Health, and Care Coordination. A total of 49 referrals were made between internal programs.

Nurse Family Partnership (NFP)'s seven nurses conducted 237 visits in January 2023. Of these visits, 162 were conducted in client homes and 75 were conducted through telehealth. In January, El Paso County Public Health NFP nurses served 150 families, enrolled 12 new clients to the program, and graduated 4 clients who had participated in the NFP program for a full 2 ½ years.

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

The Child Fatality Review Team (CFRT) reconvened in January to begin the review process for child fatalities which occurred in 2022. The team is currently set to review 30 fatalities from 2022. While this is a preliminary number—pending further information regarding deaths which occurred in November and December 2022—the caseload is anticipated to remain lower than the 42 cases reviewed by CFRT in 2021. The standard of practice is to prioritize infant deaths, followed by youth suicides. With each case CFRT reviews, they identify life stressors and challenges faced by the children and their families, positive elements in the child's life, and potential prevention health and wellness strategies. The goal for 2023 is to increase the operationalization of identified prevention strategies through community partnerships.

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

The care coordinators provided outreach and information to one new organization (Parents Challenge Health and Outreach) and attended three community events where they shared flyers in English and Spanish. From these and other ongoing partnership efforts, the care coordinators received 75 new referrals (9 Spanish-speaking) seeking housing, food access, utility and rental assistance, mortgage assistance, transportation, health insurance, disability assistance, childcare, infant supplies, employment, COVID-19 information, and COVID-19 testing.

The care coordinators also assisted with two COVID-19 vaccine clinics on Jan. 20 and 27. Additionally, care coordinators distributed 214 COVID-19 test kits and provided four households with care packages which included hygiene products, personal protective equipment and more.

## Appendix A: Environmental Health Activity

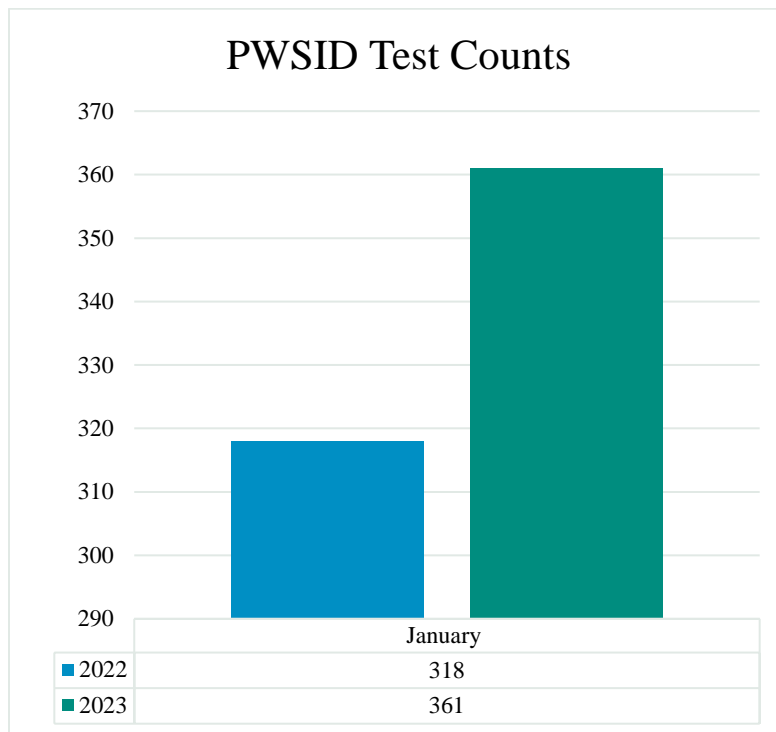
The table below captures a snapshot of activities across the Environmental Health (EH) Division. This work is accomplished through science-based risk assessment and policy development, inspections, consultation, education, and regulations designed to protect the food we eat, the water we drink, the air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

Environmental Health	January 2023	2023 Total	2022 Total
Air Quality Construction Activity Permits	13	13	163
Air Quality Open Burn Permits	5	5	19
Air Quality Complaints	1	1	38
Animal Bites Reported	79	79	864
Body Art Routine Inspections	4	4	86
Body Art Follow-up Inspections	0	0	8
Body Art Complaints	2	2	22
Child Care Routine Inspections	3	3	138
Child Care Follow-up Inspections	0	0	15
Child Care Complaints	1	1	8
Child Care High Risk Field Consults	0	0	18
Land-Use Planning Review	7	7	162
OWTS Pumper Truck Inspections	0	0	85
OWTS Final Inspections	32	32	576
OWTS Partial Inspections	14	14	235
OWTS Application Design Reviews	39	39	558
OWTS Design Revision Requests	11	11	221
OWTS Design Revision (add) Requests	9	9	
OWTS New Permit Applications	19	19	351
OWTS Repair Permit Applications	21	21	276
OWTS Modification Permit Applications	3	3	15
OWTS Acceptance Doc for Title Transfer	45	45	866
OWTS Soil and Site Evaluations	30	30	425
OWTS Complaints	0	0	27
OWTS O&M Systems	8	8	179
Recreational Water Safety Inspections	11	11	295
Recreational Water Follow-up Inspections	0	0	17
Recreational Water Complaints	0	0	9

RFE Regular Inspections	163	163	1908
RFE Re-Inspections	22	22	171
RFE Complaint Investigations	40	40	391
RFE Plan Reviews	12	12	193
School Routine Inspections	2	2	13
School Complaints	0	0	4
School Self-Certification Audits	6	6	15
School Self-Certifications Returned	0	0	332
Waste Tire Facilities Routine Inspections	13	13	115
Waste Tire Follow-up Inspections	0	0	1

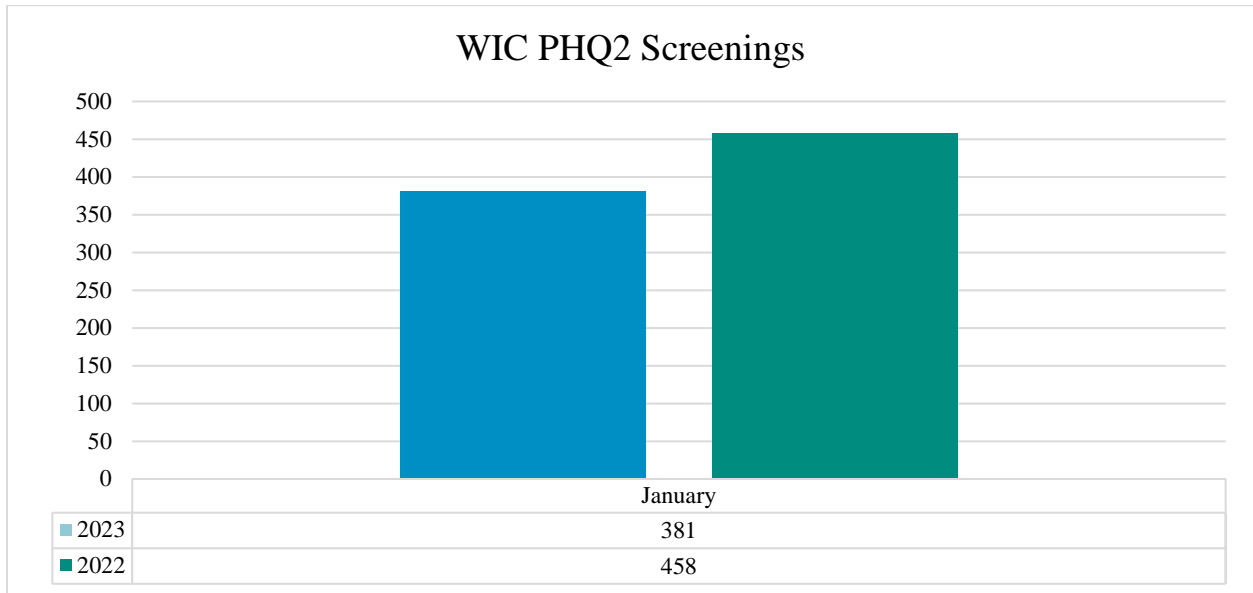
### Appendix B: Laboratory Public Water System Test Counts

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. The increase in tests from 2022 to 2023 is due to the implementation of a new software that allows the laboratory to capture and track testing on a larger variety of samples.



### 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 381 Patient Health Questionnaire-2 (PHQ2) screenings in January 2023- see chart below.



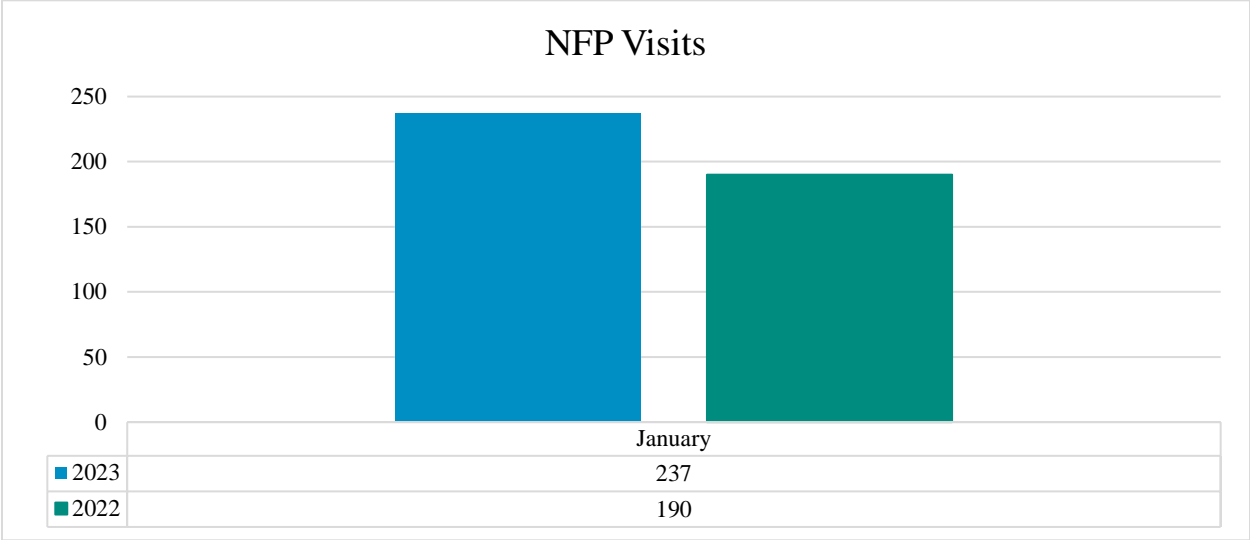
The screenings led to a total of 20 referrals:

- Eight 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.
- Eight clients requested contact information for resources so they could reach out themselves.

**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	502	115	14

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



## Appendix F: Disease Prevention and Control

Category	Disease	YTD 2023	2022	2021	2019
<b>Food/Waterborne Diseases</b>					
	Campylobacter	11	118	75	89
	Cryptosporidium	4	25	14	16
	Cyclosporiasis	0	10	4	3
	Giardia	8	46	52	42
	Hepatitis A	0	3	0	127
	Legionellosis	0	11	10	7
	Salmonella	2	54	65	71
	Shigella	5	57	8	29
	Shiga Toxin-producing E. coli (STEC)	4	42	29	26
	Vibriosis	0	6	2	4
<b>Food/Waterborne Diseases Totals</b>		<b>34</b>	<b>372</b>	<b>259</b>	<b>414</b>
<b>Viral Hepatitis</b>					
	Hepatitis B (acute)	2	3	0	3
	Hepatitis B (chronic)	10	92	81	76
	Hepatitis C (acute)	0	3	0	10
	Hepatitis C (chronic)	24	293	245	614
<b>Viral Hepatitis Totals</b>		<b>36</b>	<b>391</b>	<b>347</b>	<b>703</b>
<b>Healthcare Associated Infections</b>					
	Carbapenem-Resistant Acinetobacter baumannii (CRAB)	0	1	0	0
	Carbapenem Non-susceptible Enterobacteriaceae (CRE)	4	46	42	40
	Carbapenem-Resistant Pseudomonas Aeruginosa (CRPA)	3	43	66	32
<b>Healthcare Associated Infections totals</b>		<b>7</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>72</b>



<b>Vaccine Preventable Diseases</b>					
	Haemophilus influenzae (H. flu)	0	14	11	13
	Measles	0	0	0	0
	Meningococcal Disease	1	0	0	1
	Mumps	0	3	0	3
	Pertussis	6	29	10	75
	Rubella	0	0	0	0
	Varicella	5	22	10	45
<b>Vaccine Preventable Diseases Totals</b>		<b>12</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>137</b>
<b>COVID-19</b>		<b>1502</b>	<b>103,343</b>	<b>85,884</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Hospitalized Influenza*</b>		<b>49</b>	<b>527</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>506</b>
<b>Monkeypox</b>		<b>0</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; 368

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

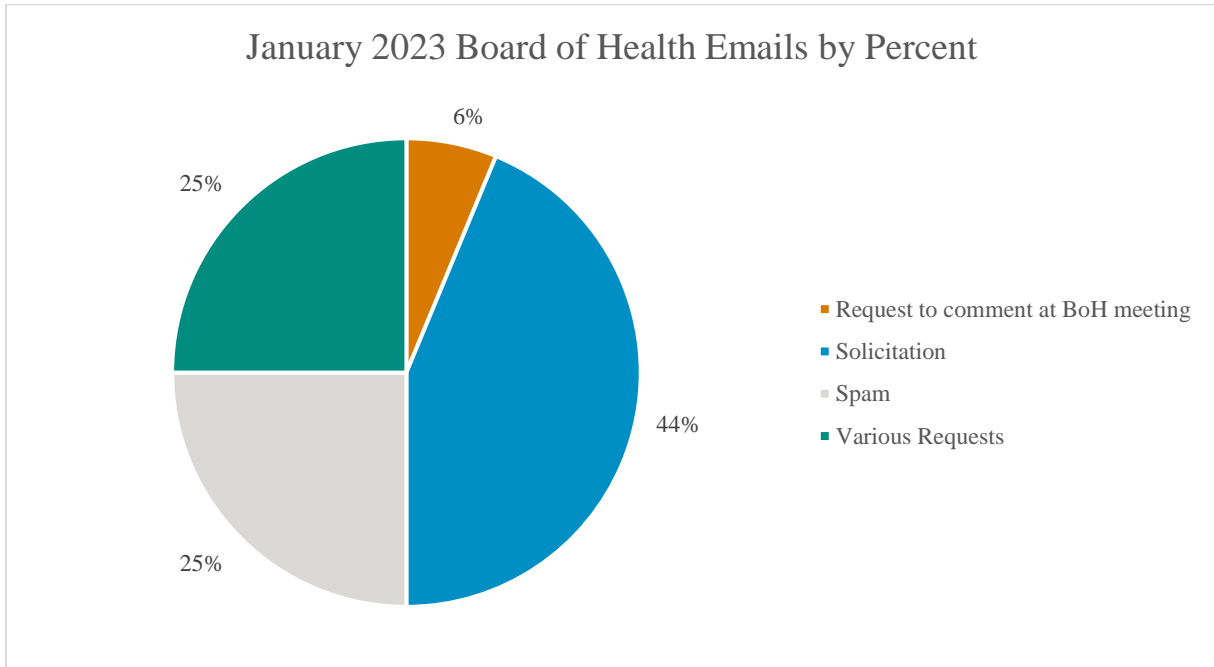
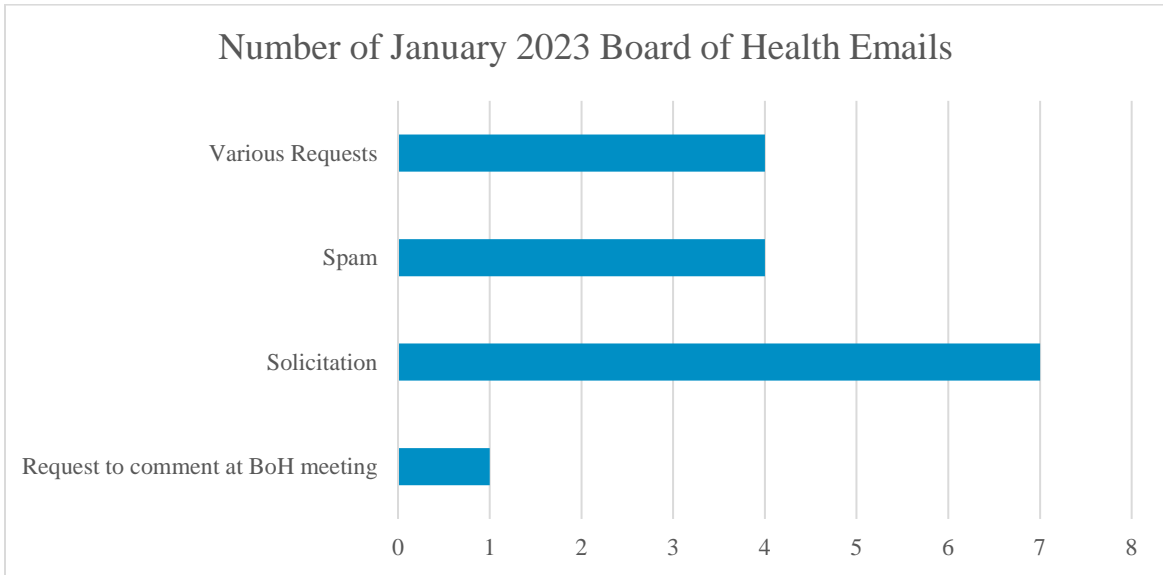
Foodborne Illness Complaints	# Referred to Env. Health
23	2

Table 3 – Annual rabies control activities

Year	Rabid animals total	Animal type
2023	0	--
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 16 unique emails during the month of January. Seven of the emails were solicitations, one email was a request to comment at the Board of Health meeting, four emails were spam, and four emails were various requests for birth certificates or student projects.



## **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.