

El Paso County Public Health Director’s Report

To: El Paso County Board of Health
From: Susan Wheelan, MBA, Public Health Director
Date: May 2023 (reflects April 2023)

Table of Contents

In the News 2
Program Spotlight 3
Agency Operations..... 5
Appendix A: Environmental Health Activity 10
Appendix B: Laboratory Public Water System Test Counts 12
Appendix C: WIC Patient Health Questionnaire-2 for Depression 13
Appendix D: Immunizations Program Vaccines Administered..... 14
Appendix E: Nurse-Family Partnership Client Visits..... 15
Appendix F: Disease Prevention and Control..... 16
Appendix G: Board of Health Email Inquiries 18
Definitions of Foundational Terms 19

In the News

- KOAA Channel 5 promoted two [Drug Enforcement Agency \(DEA\) Drug Take Back Days](#) hosted by El Paso County Public Health's (EPCPH) Fountain Valley Communities That Care Coalition (FV-CTC) on April 22. The events—held in partnership with Fountain Police Department, Colorado Springs Police Department and El Paso County Sheriff's Office—collected 166 pounds of unused or expired prescription drugs across two locations at the Fountain Library and Security Fire Station 1.
- The Colorado Springs Independent published an [in-depth article exploring the topic of mental health resources in Colorado](#). To provide local context, the article featured an interview with EPCPH Director Susan Wheelan, who highlighted EPCPH's foresight in convening the Youth Suicide Prevention Workgroup in 2014 to address the increase in youth suicides. Director Wheelan emphasized the need to keep the momentum going by increasing access to behavioral health resources and reducing stigma. She also underscored the importance of local data in driving community-wide priorities.

Program Spotlight

In recognition of [Mental Health Awareness Month](#), El Paso County Public Health (EPCPH) is highlighting the impact of its programs on improving individual and community mental health, well-being and resilience.

Youth Suicide Prevention: [Suicide prevention research](#) shows building relationships with others and feeling well-connected to the community increases a sense of belonging, enhances emotional well-being, and lowers levels of social isolation or loneliness. This year, the Youth Suicide Prevention (YSP) Workgroup—spearheaded and convened by EPCPH—is championing the suicide prevention strategy of connection and promoting ways to connect youth to their community and trusted adults. [A trusted adult](#) could be a parent, older sibling, relative, employer, teacher, coach, faith leader, or community member—anyone that a young person can reach out to for support. Being connected to a trusted adult is a [proven strategy](#) to foster positive growth, greater engagement in school and community activities, better overall health, and prevention of risky and threatening behaviors. This year for Mental Health Awareness Month, EPCPH is encouraging community members to explore ways to increase connections. Tangible tips and resources can be found [here](#).

Women, Infants and Children (WIC): In addition to providing nutrition and food assistance to pregnant and postpartum clients, WIC is also in a unique position to serve as a trusted component of their care team. Using the Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) [research](#) shows about one in eight women who recently gave birth experience symptoms of postpartum depression. Recognizing that perinatal depression is a preventable cause of maternal morbidity and mortality, EPCPH's WIC program regularly performs Patient Health Questionnaire (PHQ-2) depression screenings on clients during nutritional counseling appointments. In 2022, WIC staff performed 4,288 PHQ-2 screenings, resulting in 199 referrals to behavioral health resources. In addition, approximately 325 WIC clients had nutrition counseling appointments with WIC registered dietitians to address nutrition concerns that can be associated with a depression diagnosis.

Care Coordination: The CDC Health Disparities grant funds three EPCPH care coordinators who identify barriers to care and help individuals and families navigate social service and health care systems so they can access vital supports, services, and resources, including those related to mental and behavioral health. Resource navigation is an evidence-based strategy with significant impact as it relates to improving health outcomes for high-need populations. The care coordinators have received 27 mental and behavioral health referrals since the program launched in Feb. 2022, successfully connecting clients to behavioral health resources for counseling and substance use treatment. Examples of these referrals include:

- A single mother who worked multiple jobs, and care coordinators assisted her in obtaining therapy for her two young children.
- A family struggling with addiction was connected to a team of behavioral health providers.

Through funding from this grant, EPCPH's care coordination program has expanded to include community partner organizations employing health navigators to provide significant mental and

behavioral health support to the community: Between Jan. 1 – March 31, 2023, a total of 272 clients have been actively engaged by navigators with Colorado Springs Fire Department Community Assistance, Referral & Education Services (CARES) program, and there have been 100 referrals to behavioral health and substance abuse treatment providers. These clients include high utilizers of 9-1-1 and emergency departments, individuals experiencing homelessness, the elderly and others with behavioral health needs.

Workforce training: EPCPH equips its staff with tools to support the mental health of clients, colleagues and individuals in their personal lives through [Mental Health First Aid](#) (MHFA) training. MHFA teaches individuals how to identify, understand, and respond to signs of mental illness and substance use disorders. The training gives individuals the skills they need to provide initial support to someone who may be developing a mental health or substance use problem and help connect them to the appropriate care. EPCPH requires all staff to become certified in MHFA within 90 days of hire.

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.

Foundational Public Health Capabilities

Communications

The Office of Communication (OoC) managed television inquiries pertaining to the DEA Drug Take Back Day events hosted by EPCPH’s FV-CTC coalition. The total estimated viewership for these stories is more than 25,000 and the estimated earned media value is more than \$3,100.

On April 25, the OoC disseminated a [news release highlighting two new awards EPCPH received from the Government Finance Officers Association \(GFOA\)](#): the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting and the Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting (PAFR Award). EPCPH has been noted for excellence in financial reporting for four straight years. These awards demonstrate EPCPH’s commitment to fiscal

transparency and maintaining the highest levels of accountability and excellence in financial management and reporting practices.

There were numerous activities in recognition of EPCPH during National Public Health Week (NPHW), which is celebrated the first week of April each year. EPCPH launched a [video](#)—recently filmed in partnership with the University of Colorado Colorado Springs—which focuses on the EPCPH mission themes of people, prevention and partnerships. The video celebrates the value of local public health and how EPCPH mobilizes partners to achieve core agency work. Additionally, numerous local governing bodies [issued proclamations recognizing NPHW](#):

- El Paso County Board of County Commissioners
- Colorado Springs City Council
- Palmer Lake Board of Trustees
- Fountain City Council

The first [quarterly data brief](#), featuring a spotlight on opioids and mentioned in the Partnerships section below, was disseminated widely via digital platforms—including electronic newsletter, county websites, and social media—yielded strong initial engagement. The brief had an open rate of 43.7 percent and a click rate of 15.1 percent. The open rate measures the percentage of successfully delivered campaigns that registered as an open; in looking at open rates by industry, typically, anything above 20-30 percent is considered good. The click rate is the percentage of successfully delivered campaigns that registered a click; based on industry standards, a good click rate is generally between two to five percent.

EPCPH’s website www.elpasocountyhealth.org had 28,320 new visitors in April, with 43,911 unique pageviews.

Partnerships

On April 12, EPCPH worked with internal agency and county partners to launch a [quarterly data brief](#), referenced above, with the first edition featuring a spotlight on opioids. This quarterly publication is intended to provide county-specific data—with a focus on the impact of opioids—to keep community partners and stakeholders informed with the local data and resources needed to support the health and safety of El Paso County residents. The publication is the culmination of a partnership of several key El Paso County entities, including EPCPH, Coroner’s Office, District Attorney’s Office, Justice Services Department, Department of Human Services, and El Paso County Sheriff’s Office

The Environmental Health division director and program managers met with Colorado Springs Fire Department (CSFD) to review the on-call dispatch process as it relates to fires in retail food establishments. This discussion led to a better understanding of each agency’s roles and responsibilities and helped support increased process efficiencies. One key outcome is CSFD will now release a safe scene to Environmental Health so they can assure an establishment completes the necessary actions to support a safe and sanitary reopening.

Organizational Competencies

Sixteen new staff from the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program completed WIC Lactation Specialist (WLS) training. This is a WIC-specific training—facilitated by Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE)—and allows educators to perform enhanced breastfeeding counseling and issue breast pumps.

Three care coordinators attended the American Case Management Association (ACMA) Conference in Washington, D.C. The conference provided an opportunity to connect with case managers across the country and attend sessions on topics such as social determinants of health, the post-COVID-19 landscape, and best practices to improve care outcomes.

Emergency Preparedness and Response

EPCPH's Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR) team attended the 2023 National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) National Preparedness Summit in Atlanta, GA. During the conference, EPCPH was formally recognized for Project Public Health Ready, an award that demonstrates excellence in emergency preparedness, and successfully meeting a set of rigorous criteria and an all-hazards approach to planning and exercises. Additionally, the EPR program manager presented a session on a best practice guide for onboarding new employees into an EPR program. This guide will be implemented by health departments across the nation.

The EPR team facilitated the South Central Regional (SCR) meeting in Park County which was attended by public health directors from Park, Chaffee, Lake, and Teller counties. During this meeting, the EPR team reviewed with attendees the fiscal year 2023-2024 Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) scope of work. Additionally, the EPR team consolidated SCR public health exercise and training information to support the development of the Regional Integrated Preparedness Planning Workshop held in May 2023.

EPCPH is leading updates of the [CHEMPACK](#) plan, which would be activated during an event requiring the quick administration of nerve agent antidotes. The EPR team facilitated a discussion focused on communication center/dispatch protocols. Partners involved included Colorado Springs Police Department (CSPD) and Colorado State Patrol (CSP). Detailed updates are being made to the activation process, distribution, and transportation of CHEMPACK assets to the point of impact. In the fall of 2023, EPCPH will host a tabletop exercise with partners on the updated plan.

April exercises, drills and workshops included:

- Team members participated in the Ute Pass wildfire evacuation tabletop exercise in Green Mountain Falls. During this exercise, EPCPH was the Emergency Services Function (ESF) 8 lead. A full-scale evacuation exercise will be held in October 2023.
- Red Cross provided shelter training on-site at the Citizens Service Center (CSC). This training aimed to strengthen understanding of the role that Red Cross plays in setting up shelters and similar facilities within El Paso County.
- Staff are participating in the planning team for the 2023 Radiation/Chemical Medical Surge Exercise held on May 5, 2023. This exercise tests El Paso County's ability to respond to a radiation/chemical incident that results in a medical surge.

Social Determinants of Health

The Resilient, Inspired, Strong, Engaged (RISE)|Southeast coalition was selected as the 2022 Volunteer Group of the Year by the City of Colorado Springs and was recognized at the April 13 Colorado Springs Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Advisory Board meeting.

RISE|Southeast was funded by a seven-year grant EPCPH received in 2016 from the El Pomar Foundation to support initiatives to enhance southeast Colorado Springs through resident-led change. EPCPH's community outreach coordinator leads the RISE Coalition.

The City of Colorado Springs recognized RISE|Southeast for their “countless hours engaging stakeholders... and bringing the community’s vision to the forefront to create Panorama Park as the most inviting neighborhood park to date,” and for their collaborative efforts with PlanCOS, Circle Drive Bridges Project, Trust for Public Land, Trails and Open Space Coalition and Transforming Safety Grant Program.



Foundational Public Health Services

Communicable Disease Prevention, Investigation and Control

Communicable Disease (CD) staff presented to the Colorado Emerging Infectious Pathogens Committee on two abstracts selected for national recognition at the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE) annual conference in June: *A Cluster of Multi-Serotype Invasive Pneumococcal Disease Among Persons Experiencing Homelessness and Use of Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine, El Paso County, Colorado, 2022.*

EPCPH works closely with Lutheran Family Services of the Rocky Mountains (LFSRM) to provide immunizations to refugees and asylees relocated to El Paso County. In recent months there has been an increased demand for these services from approximately 25 per month prior to Feb. 2023 to 220 appointments per month in April 2023. These appointments are generally more complex as they may require translation services, familiarity with international immunization

records and unique needs related to providing health education to recently arrived refugees and asylees.

The Tuberculosis (TB) clinic evaluated eight individuals for latent tuberculosis. TB clinic staff observed a total of 60 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 16 latent TB cases under the care of EPCPH's TB program.

Environmental Public Health

Environmental Health (EH) staff attended the annual One Health and Zoonoses Conference on April 13. This conference provided an opportunity for EH and Communicable Disease staff across Colorado to learn about emerging zoonotic diseases and how they may affect humans and/or animals, as well as receive an update from CDPHE on previous year's data and lessons learned in preparation for the next year's zoonotic disease season.

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 April, the number of clients enrolled, defined as those who have received WIC benefits within the previous three months, was 13,076.

Through a partnership with Nourish Colorado and Ahavah Farms, 68 WIC Breastfeeding Peer Counselor (BFPC) clients were selected to receive Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) shares through Ahavah Farms. Nourish Colorado provides funding to the farm, which provides CSA in the form of fresh, local produce to WIC clients throughout the summer.

A total of 404 PHQ-2s (Patient Health Questionnaires) were completed to screen for perinatal depression, resulting in 21 referrals to behavioral health resources. WIC staff continued to maintain strong partnerships with internal programs, with a total of 46 referrals made across programs such as Nurse-Family Partnership, Reproductive Health Clinic, and Care Coordination. Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) nurses conducted 220 visits in April.

- A total of 171 visits were conducted in client homes and 49 were conducted through telehealth.
- A total of 159 families were served and nine new clients were enrolled to the program.
- Connecting NFP clients to community resources is a key function of the program. NFP nurses made 21 referrals on behalf of 19 individual families. These referrals were to housing, mental health treatment, childcare, lactation support, WIC, dental services, and Medicaid, among other resources.

Access to and Linkage with Healthcare

EPCPH care coordinators received 36 new referrals, three of which were primarily Spanish speaking. These El Paso County residents were provided with resources for housing, food, utility and rental assistance, mortgage assistance, transportation, health insurance, disability, childcare, infant supplies, employment, COVID-19 information and COVID-19 testing.

Appendix A: Environmental Health Activity

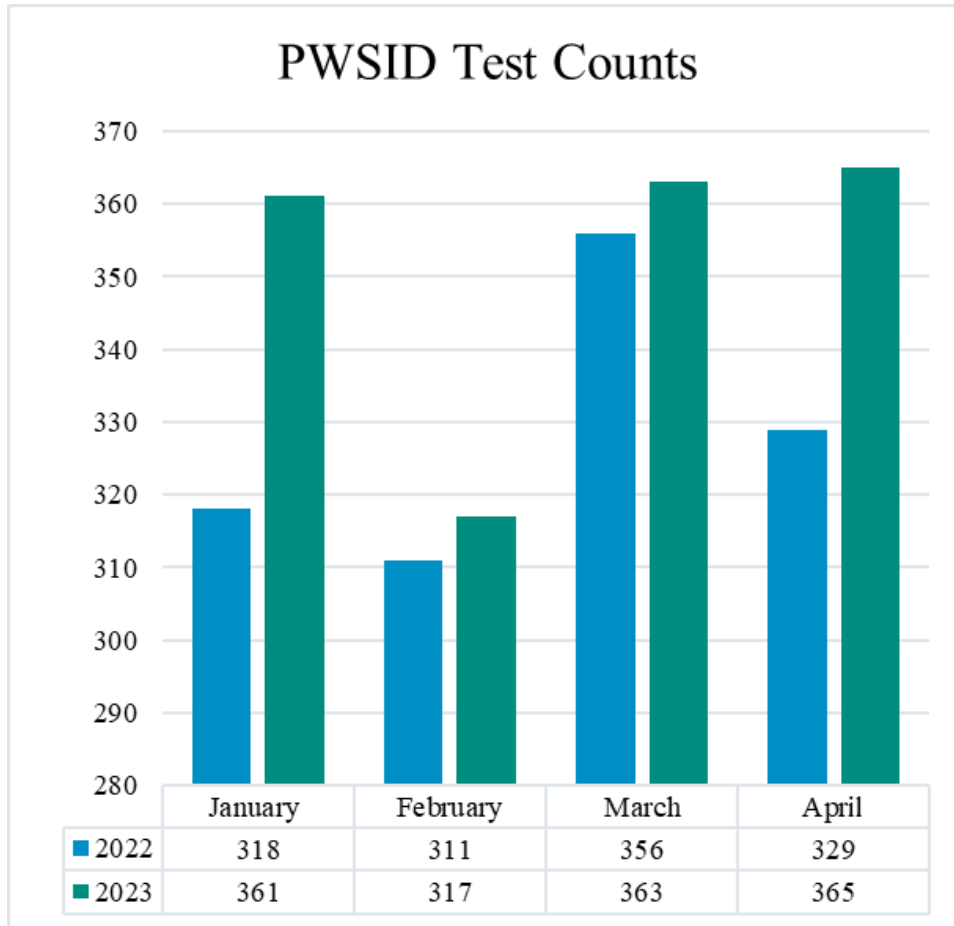
The table below is a snapshot of activities across the Environmental Health (EH) Division. This work is accomplished through science-based risk assessment and policy development, inspections, consultation, education, and regulations designed to protect the food we eat, the water we drink, the air we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

Environment Health Activity	2023 Total As of 4/30/2023	2022 Total
Air Quality Construction Permits	52	163
Air Quality Open Burn Permits	23	19
Air Quality Complaints	8	38
Animal Bites Reported	315	877
Body Art Routine Inspections	34	86
Body Art Follow-up Inspections	4	8
Body Art Complaints	5	22
Child Care Regular Inspections	62	138
Child Care Follow-up Inspections	3	15
Child Care Complaints	7	8
Child Care High Risk Field Consults	4	18
Land-Use Planning Review	74	232
Onsite Wastewater Treatment System (OWTS) Pumper Truck Inspections	32	85
OWTS Final Inspections	172	576
OWTS Partial Inspections	65	235
OWTS Application Design Reviews	133	558
OWTS Design Revision Requests	39	221
OWTS Design Revision (add) Requests	20	0
OWTS New Permit Applications	69	351
OWTS Repair Permit Applications	76	276
OWTS Modification Permit Applications	10	15
OWTS Acceptance Doc for Title Transfer	252	866
OWTS Soil and Site Evaluations	99	425
OWTS Complaints	5	27
OWTS O&M Systems	21	65
Recreational Water Safety Inspections	147	295
Recreational Water Follow-up Inspections	12	17
Recreational Water Complaints	6	9

Retail Food Establishment (RFE) Regular Inspections	816	1908
Environment Health Activity	2023 Total As of 4/30/23	2022 Total
RFE Re-Inspections	109	171
RFE Complaint Investigations	183	391
RFE Plan Reviews	77	193
School Safety Regular Inspections	9	13
School Safety Complaints	5	4
School Safety Self-Certification Audits	40	15
School Safety Self-Certifications Returned	2	332
Waste Tire Facilities Regular Inspections	55	115
Waste Tire Follow-up Inspections	0	1

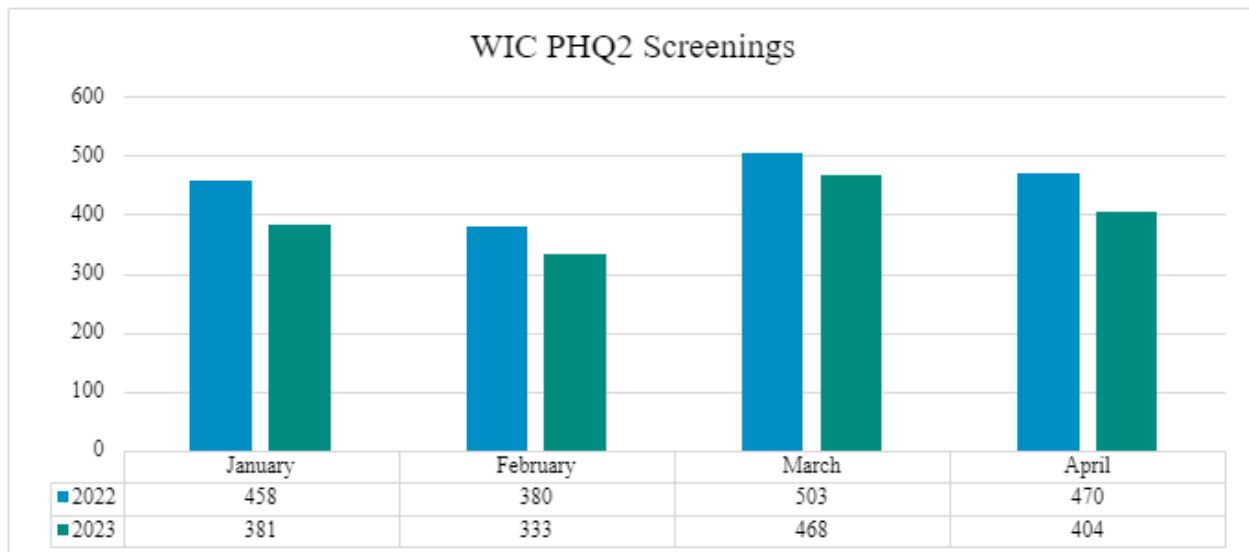
Appendix B: Laboratory Public Water System Test Counts

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.



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



The screenings led to a total of 23 referrals:

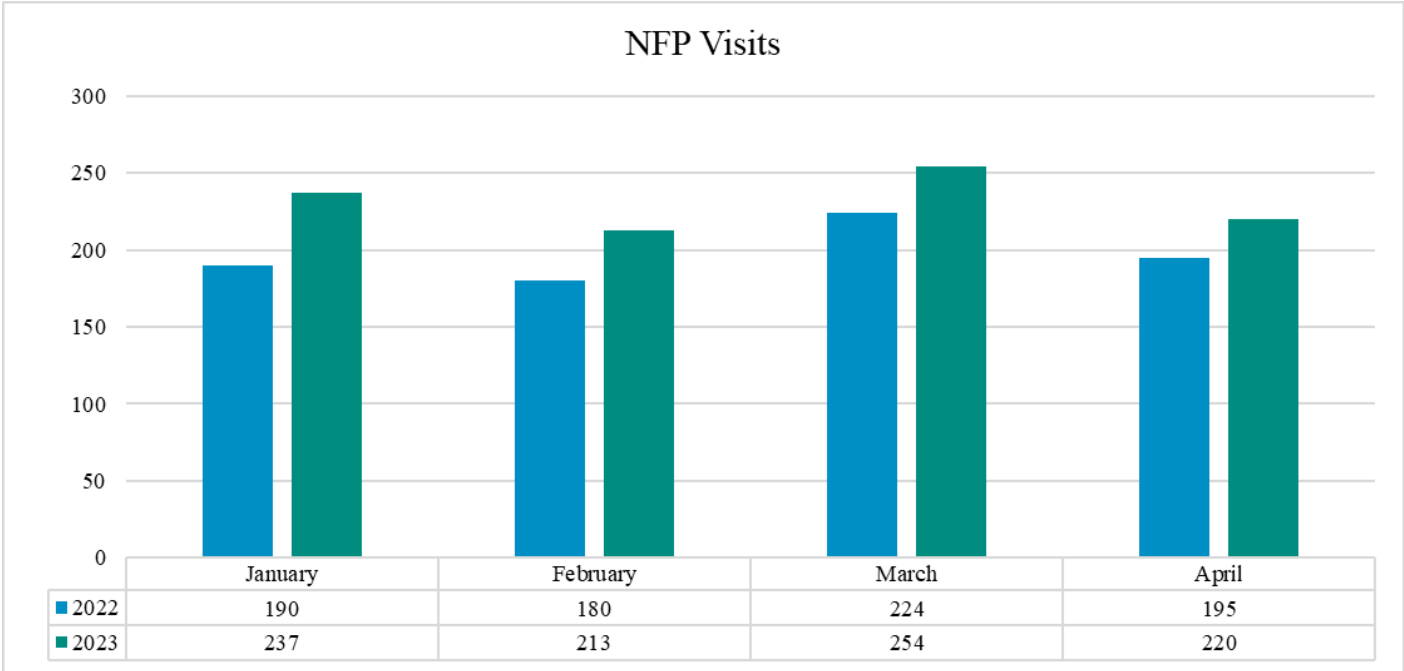
- 6 referrals were made to local behavioral health resources.
- 15 referrals were made to Colorado Community Health Alliance (CCHA) for further evaluation and connection to meet their specific behavioral health needs.
- 0 clients on Tricare (active duty or non-activity duty) were referred to behavioral health resources.
- 44 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	502	115	14
February	592	89	0*
March	878	150	8
April	956	119	0*

*The mobile team supported other vaccine efforts in the community (PCV20, flu, mpox)

Appendix E: Nurse-Family Partnership Client Visits



Appendix F: Disease Prevention and Control

Table 1 – Notifiable diseases reported to El Paso County Public Health through April 30, 2023
All 2022/2023 numbers are preliminary.

Category	Disease	2023	2022	2021	2019
Food/Waterborne Diseases					
	Campylobacter	46	118	75	89
	Cryptosporidium	9	25	14	16
	Cyclosporiasis	0	10	4	3
	Giardia	22	47	52	42
	Hepatitis A	1	3	0	127
	Legionellosis	5	11	10	7
	Salmonella	19	54	65	71
	Shigella	14	57	8	29
	Shiga Toxin-producing E. coli (STEC)	12	42	29	26
	Vibriosis	1	7	2	4
Food/Waterborne Diseases Totals		129	373	259	414
Viral Hepatitis					
	Hepatitis B (acute)	2	3	0	3
	Hepatitis B (chronic)	37	92	81	76
	Hepatitis C (acute)	0	3	0	10
	Hepatitis C (chronic)	87	296	245	614
Viral Hepatitis Totals		126	394	347	703
Healthcare Associated Infections					
	Carbapenem-Resistant Acinetobacter baumannii (CRAB)	0	1	0	0
	Carbapenem Non-susceptible Enterobacteriaceae (CRE)	16	47	42	40
	Carbapenem-Resistant Pseudomonas Aeruginosa (CRPA)	20	43	66	32

Healthcare Associated Infections Totals		36	91	108	72
Vaccine Preventable Diseases					
	Haemophilus influenzae (H. flu)	6	14	11	13
	Measles	0	0	0	0
	Meningococcal Disease	1	0	0	1
	Mumps	1	3	0	3
	Pertussis	7	29	10	75
	Rubella	0	0	0	0
	Varicella	15	21	10	45
Vaccine Preventable Diseases Totals		30	67	31	137
COVID-19		5,845	103,347	85,884	0
Hospitalized Influenza*		74	529	17	506
Mpox		0	24	-	-

*Flu Seasons:

- September 27, 2020- May 22, 2021; 2
- October 3, 2021- May 21, 2022; 188
- October 2, 2022- May 20, 2023; 395

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

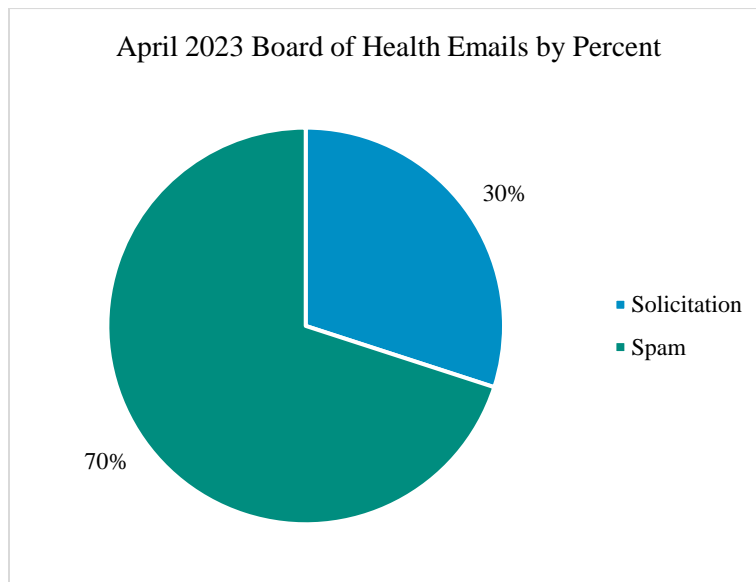
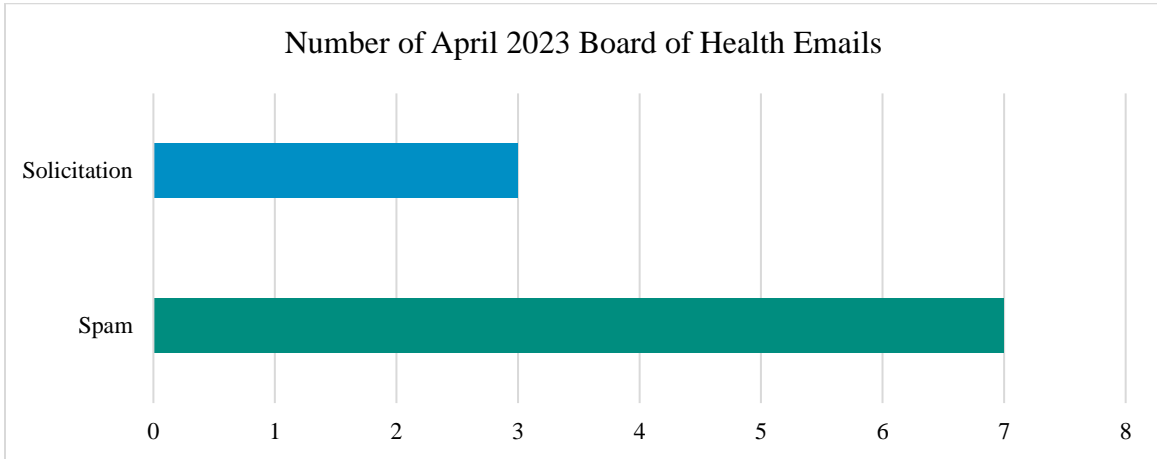
Foodborne Illness Complaints	# Referred to Env. Health
25	4

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) received 10 unique emails during the month of April. Three of the emails were solicitations and seven emails were spam.



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.