

# TRI-COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

*1999 Annual Report*



Public health focuses on improving the health of the entire population, not just individuals. It utilizes proven strategies to help keep people healthy and strives to continually improve the quality of life for the community. From decreasing infant mortality or reducing chronic disease to keeping our environment healthy, public health has one preeminent goal — increasing the proportion of people who live long and healthy lives.



For over fifty years Tri-County Health Department has pursued this goal. Our mission statement is simple — to protect, promote and improve the health, environment and quality of life of the nearly 1,000,000 residents of Adams, Arapahoe and Douglas Counties.

The department provides services in environmental health, personal health, nutrition and dentistry. All Tri-County programs focus on health promotion, disease prevention and wellness, with goals of:

- Preventing epidemics and the spread of disease
- Promoting healthy behaviors
- Preventing illness and injury
- Assuring that medical services are high quality and accessible
- Responding to disasters
- Protecting against environmental hazards
- Monitoring the health of the population

As we enter the 21st century, we are proud that successful public health initiatives are directly responsible for 25 years of the 30 year life expectancy gained by Americans in the 20th century.

Detailed in this report are many of Tri-County Health Department's programs that strive to continually improve the health and quality of life for our residents.



*Healthy People, Healthy Communities*

ADAMS, ARAPAHOE AND DOUGLAS COUNTIES

## PREVENTING EPIDEMICS AND THE SPREAD OF DISEASE

It is estimated that two out of every three meals we eat are prepared outside the home. This is one reason that we work with restaurants and retail food establishments to educate employees about safe food handling procedures.



In 1999, our food safety specialists performed 5,816 inspections of restaurants and food service establishments in an effort to ensure a safe food supply and to reduce the occurrence of food-borne diseases.

We also investigate and control communicable diseases to prevent further spread of illness and to protect the rest of the community. In an outbreak, the disease control staff trace the cause of an illness, determine who else is at risk of contracting the disease and put control measures into place—such as immunizing the at-risk population to prevent further spread of the disease or issuing glove orders for restaurant workers.

In 1999, Tri-County's Disease Control staff received 991 reports of communicable disease investigations including diseases such as meningitis, hepatitis A, E. coli O157:H7, pertussis and salmonella.



## PROMOTING HEALTHY BEHAVIORS

One of the most visible tasks for public health departments is to promote healthy behaviors that keep people well, including clinical exams, breast-feeding, nutritious eating habits and family planning.



Tri-County provides confidential, high-quality women's health services that promote reproductive health and prevent unintended pregnancies and sexually transmitted infections. In 1999, our family planning clinics served 7,377 clients.

In our Prenatal Plus program, nurses, nutritionists and mental health professionals work with pregnant women who are at high risk for poor pregnancy outcomes to improve the chances of a healthy outcome for mother and baby.

Tri-County staff help clients access prenatal care, counsel them on proper diet during pregnancy and connect them with other community resources. In 1999, 280 pregnant women were enrolled in Prenatal Plus, receiving 1,934 visits.

We also provide postpartum/newborn home visits, usually within 24-48 hours after a mother returns home from the hospital. A Tri-County nurse visits the home to provide a physical exam for both mother and child and to educate the mom on caring for a newborn, proper breast-feeding and infant safety.



Nurses also offer appropriate referrals to health care and community resources. Our nurses made 6,678 postpartum/newborn home visits in 1999.

## PREVENTING ILLNESS AND INJURY

In 1999, our Children and Youth clinic in Aurora provided pediatric care to 1,441 children. Services include well- and sick-child care with a special emphasis on immunizations, physical examinations, violence prevention, hearing and vision screening and injury prevention.

Fourteen registered dietitians and 45 WIC (Women, Infants and Children) educators provide nutrition services to the community. Good nutrition is critical to good health, and poor dietary practices have been associated with four of the ten leading causes of death in the U.S. including coronary heart disease, some types of cancer, stroke and Type II diabetes.

Our WIC nutrition program provides income-eligible women, infants and children up to age five with nutrition education and vouchers to purchase nutritious foods that supplement their diet.



Clients learn the importance of good nutrition while they are pregnant and the numerous benefits of breast-feeding their newborn baby.

Mothers and children are provided with nutritious foods including cereal, milk, cheese, eggs, peanut butter, beans, fruit juices and infant formula.



Clients also receive a yearly calendar, which contains nutrition information, weekly meal plans and healthful recipes that all family members can make together.

The Tri-County WIC program is the largest in the state, with 18,500 clients served through this program in 1999. With a monthly average of \$47 worth of groceries per person, this federal program provides \$10,434,000 in assistance to local families.

Prevention of illnesses and injuries is a crucial function of public health, ranging from immunizations to safety training. Immunization is a critical tool in preventing childhood illness and all children should be properly immunized.

Tri-County clinics provide childhood immunizations for measles, mumps, rubella, chicken pox, whooping cough, tetanus, hepatitis B, diphtheria, polio and Haemophilus influenzae. In 1999, our nurses gave 40,888 childhood immunizations.



We also have a fee-based international travel clinic that provides vaccines and important localized health and safety information for anyone traveling abroad. In 1999, 3,575 immunizations were given by our international travel clinic, including tetanus, hepatitis A and B, meningitis, yellow fever, typhoid and malaria.

Travel immunizations are available at three of our regional offices, and a Tri-County nurse will also administer shots on location anywhere in the Denver metro area for groups of 20 or more people.



Early detection of breast and cervical cancer increases a woman's chance of survival. Tri-County provides underserved women with free mammograms, Pap tests, cancer screenings and referrals to additional care. In 1999, we provided 1,143 women's cancer screenings.

In 1999, we conducted the "Ticket to Ride" campaign in Douglas County that encouraged teens to gain more adult-supervised driving experience in order to reduce their risk on the road. The project facilitated nearly 1,000 such driving experiences.

## ASSURING THAT MEDICAL SERVICES ARE HIGH QUALITY AND ACCESSIBLE

Tri-County staff members inspect child care centers to assure safe and healthy facilities for our children and to reduce the risk of exposure to diseases or foodborne illness.



Staff members provide consultations on handwashing, disease prevention and safety practices as well as childhood growth and development issues. In 1999, we inspected 304 child care facilities, serving approximately 55,000 enrolled children.



Tri-County also inspected 460 public swimming pools in 1999, checking for proper maintenance and chemistry that helps prevent gastrointestinal or respiratory diseases that can be spread in pools and spas.

**A**chievements in public health and medical science continue to increase the healthy lifespan of Americans, but the cost of healthcare is creating a wide gap in who receives care. People who are economically or socially disadvantaged are at highest risk for disease, disability and premature death. We offer services that help to narrow this disparity in access to care, so that all members of our community can benefit from improvements in health.

In 1999, our Early Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) program assisted 24,445 Medicaid-eligible clients in receiving medical care and benefits.

We also help clients access private health insurance through Colorado's Child Health Plan Plus program (CHP+) which provides very low cost insurance for children up to age 18. Monthly premiums that cover all children in a family are a maximum of \$30 with a copayment of only \$2 to \$5 for each office visit.

In 1999, the Health Care Program for Children with Special Needs (HCP) linked 500 families who have children with disabilities to numerous community services, including healthcare providers, dietitians, speech therapists, social workers and physical therapists. These professionals work together with the family to give a disabled child the utmost independence and quality of life.

Virtually 100% of the population is affected by dental problems, but dental care for uninsured individuals is difficult to access due to high costs and lack of public programs.



Tri-County served 2,585 childhood dental patients in the three-county region in collaboration with Kids in Need of Dentistry, an organization that helps us provide examinations, x-rays, cleanings, and fillings. Our senior dental program provides clients in Arapahoe County with comprehensive dental services and dentures.

## RESPONDING TO DISASTERS

**E**nvironmental health specialists, nurses and disease control staff assist communities as they recover from natural disasters or hazardous materials accidents when a health threat exists.

We may assist firefighters with a fire or spill that spreads toxins into the environment or we may provide evacuation and shelter assistance after a flood, tornado or blizzard.



Y2K was the main concern for disaster response in 1999. Though worldwide computer system failures never materialized, Y2K concerns were the impetus for agencies to collaborate in their emergency preparedness plans and also made individual citizens acutely aware of their need for food, water and supplies in the event of an emergency.

## PROTECTING AGAINST ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS

Unseen health hazards can exist in the air we breathe and the water we drink. The dramatic growth in our region has increased the potential for environmental health risks, since new development impacts air and water quality and population increases create more pollution.



Household sewage that is improperly disposed of may create surface or groundwater contamination which could put the public at risk of serious disease. Tri-County works to prevent this threat by assuring that individual sewage disposal systems are properly built and maintained. Tri-County issued 1,066 new septic system permits in 1999.

Our air quality program monitors the air from sources as varied as petroleum refineries, industrial sites and dusty rural roads. In 1999, staff members performed 169 air quality monitoring inspections.

Environmental health specialists provide information to residents and industry regarding the proper storage and disposal of hazardous waste. We emphasize pollution prevention and resource conservation through educational programs that target auto body shops, truck fleets and restaurants.

Tri-County also helps communities to organize household chemical roundups that properly dispose of paint products, automotive fluids, batteries, tires, scrap metal and house and garden chemicals.



Tri-County also monitors landfills and responds to hazardous materials spills. In 1999, staff members filed 74 hazardous materials reports, ranging from gasoline and chemical spills to investigating corroded drums that contain unknown substances.

Our occupational health specialists work to prevent hazards in the workplace. Staff members provide consultations that offer safety recommendations, monitor indoor air quality and address noise complaints.



Tri-County works in cooperation with other agencies to cleanup the Rocky Mountain Arsenal during its conversion into a wildlife refuge. We monitor domestic wells, oversee contractors in order to assure that the public's health is protected during the cleanup, and report our findings to the community.

## MONITORING THE POPULATION

Our epidemiologists monitor health trends within our communities and work with our planning staff to develop public health programs that are tailored to local needs.

Tri-County tracks communicable disease information throughout our region through the Colorado Electronic Disease Reporting System (CEDRS). This system allows us to follow disease trends and put prevention measures into place.

Tri-County also records all births and deaths in the three-county region. 56,132 vital record certificates were issued in 1999, including 16,211 birth certificates and 39,921 death certificates. Certified birth certificates are often needed for work, passport applications and many school programs.

# 1999 REVENUES

January 1 - December 31, 1999, Unaudited

Adams County	\$1,549,750
Arapahoe County	2,254,614
Douglas County	706,425
<b>TOTAL COUNTY APPROPRIATIONS</b>	<b>\$4,510,789</b>

*A per capita contribution of \$4.70*

Total grants and contracts	\$1,091,946
Total fees from service	2,125,720
Total state appropriations and grant funds	5,272,503
Total Medicaid	373,825
In-kind contributions	163,625
Interest income and general fund	95,412
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>\$13,633,820</b>

## 1999 EXPENDITURES

Total salaries, wages and benefits	\$9,956,062
Total operating costs	3,514,133
Total contributed services	163,625
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$13,633,820</b>

## COUNTY POPULATION FIGURES

Adams County	479,705
Arapahoe County	329,734
Douglas County	150,303
<b>TOTAL POPULATION</b>	<b>959,742</b>

## TRI-COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT - OFFICE LOCATIONS AND SERVICES

**ADMINISTRATION** 7000 E. Belleview Ave., Suite 301, Englewood, CO 80111 (303) 220-9200 **B E N O**

**AURORA** 15400 E. 14th Place, #309, Aurora, CO 80011 (303) 341-9370 **C D E F H I M P S V W**

**BRIGHTON** 33 N. Main St., Brighton, CO 80601 (303) 659-2335 **N W**

**CASTLE ROCK** 101 Third St., Castle Rock, CO 80104 (303) 663-7650 **E F H I M T V W**

**COMMERCE CITY** 4301 E. 72nd Ave., Commerce City, CO 80022 (303) 288-6816 **A D E O R W**

**ENGLEWOOD** 4857 S. Broadway, Englewood, CO 80110 (303) 761-1340 **D E F H I M N P S T V W**

**HAVANA** 10330 E. Colfax Ave., Aurora, CO 80010 (303) 361-6010 **N W**

**ILIFF** 15559 E. Iliff Ave., Aurora, CO 80013 (303) 745-5858 **N W**

**NORTHGLENN** 10190 Bannock St., Suite 100, Northglenn, CO 80221 (303) 452-9547 **E F H I M P T V W**

**PECOS** 7290 Samuel Dr., Suite 130, Denver, CO 80221 (303) 426-5232 **N W**

- A** Air Pollution   **B** Birth & Death Certificates   **C** Child & Youth Healthcare   **D** Dental Clinic  
**E** Environmental Health   **F** Family Planning/Women's Health   **H** HCP Health Care Program for Children with  
Special Needs   **I** Immunizations   **M** Medicaid Outreach   **N** Nutritionists   **O** Occupational Health  
**P** Prenatal Case Management   **R** Rocky Mountain Arsenal   **S** Senior Dental   **T** Travel Clinic  
**V** Home Visits for Newborns   **W** WIC Nutrition Office

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