Nursing Division

Social Factors

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Health Care Access

Prevention and Treatment

Tri-County Health Department

2016 Annual Report • Published August 2017
From the prevention of communicable diseases to assuring healthier individuals and families, the Nursing Division continues our commitment to providing preventative and health promotion activities to impact the health of the entire community.

Good health is affected by not only one’s individual genetics but also the social determinants of health, including culture, education, income, access to health care and environment, which all impact an individual’s ability to make healthy choices.

Working to influence these social determinants of health, programs across the Nursing Division focus on vulnerable individuals and families and through improving their access and health, strengthen the health of the larger community.

No single agency can do it alone. Strong partnerships and collaborations are vital to improving population health. These partnerships focus on a number of different issues affecting the health of the communities and involve partners from multiple sectors.

While focused on specific topics, these larger efforts also aim to impact social determinants of health that limit individuals’ ability to be healthy. Through collaboration with our partners and community members we see better health outcomes for the entire population.

As the needs of our communities continue to change, we will work to find new and creative solutions to the multitude of public health problems. These program highlights showcase the innovative work that our public health nursing program staff and our partners have and will continue to accomplish.
Social Factors

Having access to health services alone is not solely responsible for how healthy someone will be. To improve an individual or families’ health, and thus the health of the community, there must be a focus on the factors that have an even greater impact on one’s health, such as improving education, employment and income. Living in poverty puts all individuals at higher likelihood of poorer health outcomes and decreased life expectancy. To address these social factors, programs across the Nursing Division work to not only support individual families in improving their health by improving access to education and employment but also by changing the systems that support individuals and families.

The Nurse Family Partnership program served 687 low-income first time mothers in Adams, Arapahoe and Douglas Counties and provided 7,566 home visits.

The Nurse Support Program received 2,020 referrals and completed 1,833 home visits for families with children at risk of abuse or neglect in Adams and Arapahoe counties.

Through participation in Reach Out and Read, the Immunization program provided 3,745 new and gently used books to children ages 6 months to 5 years.

The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) has been called the country’s “largest and most successful anti-poverty program” (Brookings Institution, 2009). It has also been shown to improve a number of health outcomes, improve children’s development, and promote work (Center on Budget and Policy Priorities). An outreach campaign was developed to make sure that all people eligible for tax credits received them—including the Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit. Through this campaign, Tri-County staff referred clients to Tax Help Colorado and other volunteer income tax assistance sites in our counties. Tax Help Colorado saw nearly 8,000 people this past tax season, saved $2 million tax preparation fees, and helped taxpayers claim $4.5 million from the EITC.

In 2016 Tri-County worked with Colorado Access to maximize the effectiveness and efficiency of care coordination services provided by Colorado Medicaid’s Accountable Care Collaborative (ACC) and HCP, a program for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs (CYSHCN), birth to age 21, enrolled in Medicaid. This group worked toward aligning care coordination for CYSHCN and their families, with the goal of reducing duplication, strengthening referrals systems, identifying gaps and opportunities for systems improvement.

Providing care coordination for children and youth with special healthcare needs, HCP worked with 279 children and their families.
Behavioral Factors

In addition to impacting the social factors that influence health, it is important to support and educate individuals on changes they can make to improve their health, whether that be changing diet to increase intake of fruits and vegetables, increasing physical activity and decreasing smoking. Programs across the Nursing Division target the individual behavioral factors of health from providing education on behavior change for those at risk of diabetes to preventing pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections.

Aurora Syringe Access provided comprehensive health services for people who inject drugs in the Aurora Colfax area, collecting 1,331 syringes and distributing 2,205 syringes and 17 Naloxone kits.

To promote physical and mental health and to increase connections within the community, 63 community members participated in 14 Tri-County Walks events.

The Community Health Team enrolled 154 individuals in diabetes and cardiovascular disease prevention services through classes and one-on-one coaching with clients, in partnership with four primary care clinics.

In October 2016, Tri-County Health Department was one of three local public health agencies to partner with CDPHE to launch a pregnancy-related depression and anxiety campaign. The campaign utilizes social media, community partners and health care providers to raise awareness about the symptoms, health consequences and treatment of pregnancy-related depression and anxiety. It includes Colorado-specific resources for new and expectant mothers, as well as referrals to Postpartum Support International for free help and resources. The digital campaign is the first of its kind in the nation.

Core Nurses provided 10 class presentations on birth control methods, sexually transmitted infections, and services provided by TCHD and other community resources at eight middle and high schools.

Core and Immunization Nurses conducted 160 Child Care Center visits, screening 7,634 immunization records to ensure that children in those centers were up-to-date on immunizations.
Health Care Access

Having a regular and consistent source of health care is an important component to ensuring that individuals are supported in preventing disease and maintaining their health. While the Nursing Division does not provide primary care, the services highlighted below support families by providing access to essential preventative health services and linkages to insurance and a regular source of care.

The HIV/STI Prevention and Outreach Program completed 707 rapid HIV tests, 71 rapid Hepatitis C tests, 51 Syphilis rapid tests and 793 tests for Chlamydia and Gonorrhea.

Presumptive Eligibility supports Medicaid and CHP+ enrollment, and received and processed 1,659 applications.

Healthy Communities made 45,953 linkages for Medicaid enrolled families to primary care and community resources.

The Arapahoe County Senior Dental Program provided dental services for 879 seniors for a total of 1,855 visits to the clinic.

The Linkage to Care Program received 73 referrals and worked with 25 HIV positive clients to increase access to and coordination of HIV treatment and care.

The Immunization Program gave 22,378 immunizations to both adults and children who could not easily access vaccines or were uninsured.

The Call Center received 26,699 calls, providing support to Family Planning, Immunizations and Access to Care.

Providing birth control and reproductive health exams and counseling, the Family Planning Program provided 12,141 visits.

Core Nurses dispensed and monitored medications for 32 clients being treated for Latent Tuberculosis Infection. This prevents the reactivation of TB and spread to others in the community.

Long acting reversible contraceptives (LARC) are the most effective reversible birth control available. The Family Planning Program provided 678 LARCs in 2016.
The Nursing Division is funded through a variety of revenue sources, the largest percentages being federal and state funds as well as general funds. The majority of the division funding goes directly to staffing our programs followed by operational costs.