

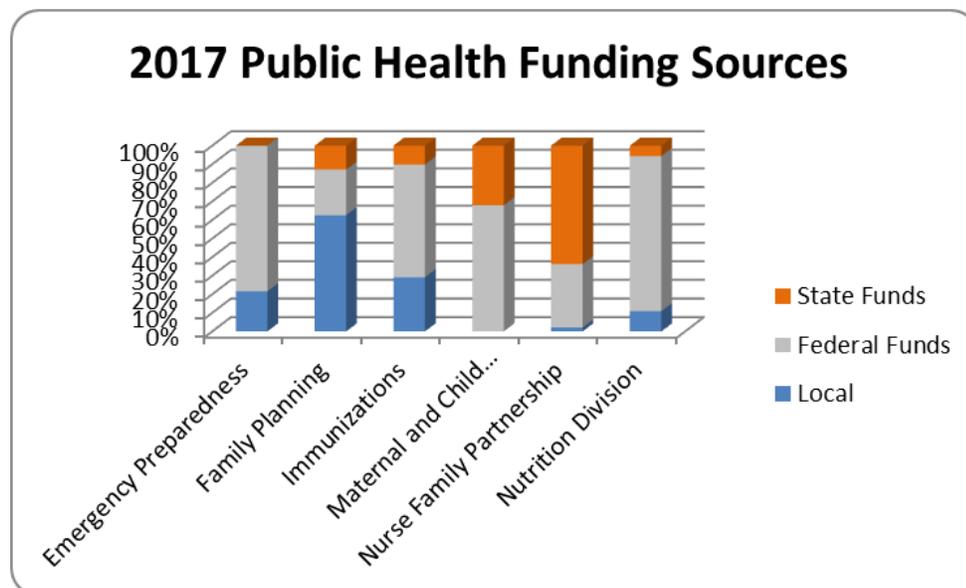
**Top Priorities:**

- Core Public Health Services
- Obesity
- Tobacco and Substance Abuse
- Mental Health

**What we do:**

- Emergency Preparedness
- Vital Records
- Tobacco Control
- Immunization
- Maternal and Child Health
- Food Safety
- Teen Pregnancy Prevention
- Communicable Disease Control

**About TCHD:** Established in 1947, Tri-County Health Department serves over 1.5 million people who live in Adams, Arapahoe, and Douglas Counties, representing 25% of Colorado’s population. Our counties include a diverse population; for example, the city of Aurora is the largest “minority majority” city in Colorado and over 25% of its residents are foreign born. Although Colorado has had a robust economic expansion in the last 5 years, 10% of our residents have incomes below the federal poverty level and affordable housing is a growing problem. In addition to providing a range of core public health services, our Strategic Plan goals focus on obesity, tobacco, substance abuse and mental health. All of our efforts are grounded in a commitment to promote health equity.



**Public Health Funding:** Our funding comes from diverse sources, including 29% from our counties, 22% from our state, and over 30% from the federal government. As charted above, federal support for our largest programs ranges from 25% to 84%. Medicaid expansion has been particularly important in providing health care in our counties, now covering more than 20% of our residents in

Adams and Arapahoe Counties. This has positively impacted our programs, both because of direct Medicaid billing for services, and, more importantly, because an increasing number of our residents can receive prevention services in their medical home. However, since 6% of our residents still lack health insurance coverage, the safety net prevention services we provide remain essential.

**Priority Issue: Maintain Health Insurance Gains:** The Tri-County area, like all of Colorado, has experienced a sharp decline in uninsured residents in recent years. From 2013-2015 there was a 61.5% decrease in the number of uninsured in Adams County, a 52% decrease in uninsured in Arapahoe County and a 64.7% decrease in uninsured in Douglas County and as of 2017, the uninsured rate is below 6% in each of our counties. Increased access to health insurance, which TCHD helped facilitate, has enabled more residents to get the health care they need, which

ultimately will lead to healthier lives and declines in many of the leading causes of death for people in our area. Having health insurance coverage provides our residents with essential health benefits such as substance abuse and mental health treatment, FDA-approved family planning methods that have reduced teen pregnancy, and funding for preventive services.

## Important Accomplishments

Our accomplishments are measured in part by the high quality services provided every day to protect and promote optimal health for our residents. Examples from the most recent year for which data are available (2016) are as follows:

--Communicable disease investigations	1,987
--Immunizations given	22,379
--Restaurant inspections	8,909
--Pounds of household hazardous waste recycled	478,339
--Women Infant Children services	22,943 clients/107,127 visits
--Community Nutrition classes	4,186 attendees
--Family Planning services	9,991 clients/12,141 visits
--Nurse Family Partnership services	2,005 clients/7,565 visits
--Medicaid linkage/educational interactions	45,953
--Public Health Communications	231,307 website views

Other recent highlights include efforts to address several population health goals of our Strategic Plan:

- 1. Obesity.** Obesity is a growing problem in our counties as it is across Colorado and the U.S. We work with partners to develop policies and programs that increase access to healthy food and beverages, support breastfeeding, and decrease consumption of unhealthy foods and beverages in our communities, schools, and workplaces. We use evidence-based strategies for policy, systems, and environmental changes that help make healthy choices more accessible, appealing, and affordable, such as improving nutrition in school cafeterias. Recent efforts have led to permanent and sustainable improvements in all 15 school districts in our counties, reaching over 250,000 students.
- 2. Tobacco.** Tobacco use is the leading cause of preventable death in our counties. We work with community partners to develop policies that reduce youth initiation, increase cessation, and reduce exposure to secondhand smoke. In particular, we work with our school districts to strengthen Tobacco-Free Schools policies and promote tobacco prevention education and with public housing projects to implement no-smoking policies. We are now coordinating new efforts to address similar efforts related to the emerging hazards of e-cigarettes and legal recreational marijuana.
- 3. Mental health and substance abuse.** The citizen of our counties worked with us to develop a Public Health Improvement Plan in 2013, which focused on mental health as its top priority. Colorado has one of the highest suicide rates in the U.S., and our Plan works with community partners to reduce mental health stigma, improve community-based prevention, enhance integration of physical and behavioral health services, and improve data systems. We are now working with our State Innovation Model grant in collaboration with four other Local Public Health Agencies in the Denver Metro area to address these goals. Substance abuse is a related concern, with large increases in deaths due to prescription opiate overdoses and recent troubling increases in heroin-related deaths as well. We are now leading the Tri-County Overdose Prevention Partnership—a coalition of health care providers, law enforcement, elected officials, and concerned citizens--to address substance abuse across our three counties.