Building Healthy Communities

Tri-County Health Department

2017 Annual Report • Published June 2018
From the Executive Director

Dear friends and colleagues,

I am pleased to present Tri-County Health Department's 2017 Annual Report, and share with you the many ways we work to build “Healthy Communities” across our counties.

TCHD has 11 offices along the Front Range, and provides more than 60 programs and services to the 1.5 million people in Adams, Arapahoe and Douglas Counties. The region covers more than 3,000 square miles, and includes 26 municipalities, 12 hospitals, and 15 school districts with more than 360 public schools, serving approximately 218,000 students.

All of our residents enjoy the benefits of our essential services, including immunizations, restaurant inspections, nutrition services, emergency preparedness, and disease control. There is economy of scale in serving the residents of multiple counties; however, with such diverse communities, we never lose sight of the fact that each community has different needs.

Our programs work to improve health at numerous levels—individuals, families, and the overall population—and in order to do this, we work with community partners to target the public health needs of their unique constituents. Collaborations include schools, youth-serving organizations, health care providers and systems, chambers of commerce, faith-based communities, parents, and youth. A particularly important partnership has been through regional collaboration with other health departments, the Metro Denver Partnership for Health (MDPH).

Much of our collaborative work occurs through the platform of our Strategic Plan, particularly our Population Health priorities, and recent highlights of our work in these areas include the following:

1) Obesity and Chronic Disease Prevention
   - WIC: With continued promotion of healthy eating and breastfeeding, we are seeing consistent reductions of overweight/obesity in 2-4 year olds.
   - Healthy Beverage Partnership: This regional collaboration with the MDPH continues work with local coalitions and the Hidden Sugar campaign to promote reductions in consumption of sugar-sweetened beverages.

2) Tobacco and Substance Abuse Prevention
   - Smoke-Free Homes: TCHD continues to support our Public Housing Authorities to implement smoke-free policies and provide cessation support to residents of multi-family properties.
   - Tri-County Overdose Prevention Partnership: TCOPP is growing its comprehensive approach through expanded youth prevention, provider education, drug takeback, naloxone access, and support of expanded treatment options.

3) Health Care System Interactions
   - Health Alliances: TCHD is playing a growing role in supporting efforts of the four Alliances in our counties to address persistent problems with access to health care.
   - Regional Health Connectors: The RHCs are new models of public health workers in each county who are helping to connect health care providers to non-medical community services; and also working with partners in shifting to value-based Medicaid reimbursement, with an increased emphasis on prevention as well as treatment.
4) Healthy Human Environments

- **Land Use and Built Environment:** We have increased our collaborative efforts with community organizations and local governments to promote health considerations related to transit access, street design, land use planning and housing development.
- **Indoor Air Quality:** Our regional collaboration via the MDPH has increased awareness of the importance of testing for and mitigating high levels of radon and will continue for another three-year cycle.

5) Mental Health Promotion

- **Let’s Talk Colorado:** Our mental health stigma campaign, supported by our regional collaboration with the MDPH and almost 300 other partners, has been getting the word out about the importance of talking about mental health as readily as any other health issue.
- **Messaging About Mental Health Stigma:** With support of the Colorado Health Foundation, we commissioned a report by the nationally recognized Frameworks Institute addressing mental health stigma which has been used to update campaign messaging and is now distributed nationwide.

Each of our counties also had specific public health events of note over the past year. Regarding **Adams County**, for example, the Environmental Protection Agency released a new report on the transformation since 1984 of the Rocky Mountain Arsenal from a seriously contaminated Superfund site to a gorgeous National Wildlife Refuge, accurately described as an “Astonishing Oasis,” and visited by more than 330,000 visitors a year. **Arapahoe County** has played a key role in responding to the opiate epidemic with multiple Town Hall meetings, an impressive event commemorating National Drug Overdose Awareness Day, and strong leadership support of our Tri-County Overdose Prevention Partnership. And **Douglas County** continues to play an innovative leadership role through their Mental Health Initiative, launching a Community Response Team in May 2017 which pairs a behavioral health worker with law enforcement to respond to “high utilizers” of the 911 system.

In closing, I am pleased at the growing interest in health across all of our communities and also justifiably proud of the great work we do at TCHD. But don’t just take my word for it. In July 2017, the National Association of County and City Health Officials, presented TCHD with two of their annual Model Practices Awards—for School District Partnerships in Tobacco Prevention, and Rabies Prevention with Community Partners—which means we’ve received a total of 20 Model Practice Awards over 14 consecutive years. Then in November 2017, after a comprehensive review process, we received National Public Health Accreditation. This is a coveted designation, demonstrating that we are meeting a broad array of rigorous national standards and delivering outstanding services ... many of which are highlighted throughout our 2017 Annual Report.

Yours in good health,

[Signature]

John M. Douglas, Jr., MD
Executive Director
9,927 books were given to children through our WIC and Immunization clinics.

TCHD partners with local business communities to bring wellness to the workplace.

There are 60 employers participating, reaching over 80,000 employees through worksite settings.

A HEALTHY COMMUNITY IS...
- Where healthy eating and active living is encouraged and accessible
- Where everyone can obtain safe, affordable, and healthy food
- Where there is an emphasis on education and lifelong learning

TCHD WIC Supplemental Nutrition Program’s average monthly client caseload

107,097 individual client contacts

$53.41 average monthly food benefit per client

$14,650,751 in food benefits to TCHD WIC clients—money that goes back into the local economy

3,218 pounds of free organic produce distributed through WIC Community Gardens

We provide public health newsletters to our 15 school districts, which serve 266,510 students and their parents
TCHD nurses made 10,089 home visits for prenatal care, child development, parenting skills and community referrals. This nurtures successful parents, and gives their children the best possible start in life.

TCHD’s Immunization Program provides vaccines to protect against life-threatening and debilitating diseases to clients of all ages. 23,080 immunizations were given for measles, mumps, rubella, HPV, influenza, whooping cough, hepatitis and tetanus. Immunizations are available in our clinics as well as various community locations including schools, childcare centers, fire stations, shopping malls, and health fairs.

The Arapahoe County Senior Dental Program provided dental services for 334 seniors for a total of 1,672 visits. Services include exams, x-rays, cleanings, fillings, crowns, extractions, and dentures.

TCHD provides family planning/birth control services, and also provides cervical cancer screenings, sexually-transmitted infection screenings and treatments, and helps educate thousands of young adults about sexual health. In 2017, TCHD had 11,012 client visits, and distributed over 65,000 free condoms to prevent sexually transmitted diseases and unplanned pregnancy.

TCHD’s Immunization Program provides vaccines to protect against life-threatening and debilitating diseases to clients of all ages.

A HEALTHY COMMUNITY IS...
- Where all people, regardless of income, can access quality, affordable health care
- Where healthy habits and continual self-improvement are encouraged across the lifespan

62,501 linkages to Medicaid and interactions for clinical services, medications, and health education

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15.5% of U.S. adults smoke, a monumental decrease since 1965, when 42.4% of adults were smokers. However, tobacco use still remains the #1 cause of preventable death. TCHD works with community partners to prevent kids from smoking and vaping, to help smokers quit, to increase tobacco-free environments, and to reduce exposure to secondhand smoke.

Local Rates for Adults:
- Adams County: 19%
- Douglas County: 8%
- Arapahoe County: 15%
- Colorado: 16% (2016)
Four unhealthy behaviors—tobacco use, physical inactivity, unhealthy diet, and excessive alcohol consumption—are the leading causes of preventable disease, disability and premature death in the U.S. each year.

In its first year of operation, the Aurora Syringe Access Program safely disposed of 31,773 used syringes, and distributed 37,967 new sterile syringes in order to prevent the spread of HIV and hepatitis C. The program also offers addiction counseling, and provided 136 Naloxone kits for opioid overdose prevention, almost 20% of which were used to reverse overdoses.

In 2017, 29 alerts were sent to our network of 5,176 providers including municipalities, schools, hospitals, medical providers, and emergency response agencies.

In Adams County: 69%  
Arapahoe County: 60%  
Douglas County: 58%  
Colorado: 58% (2016)

Serious health conditions from being overweight or obese include high blood pressure, diabetes, heart disease, stroke, depression, and cancer.

Emergency Preparedness and Response helps us respond to and recover from incidents through training and exercise, coordinating with partner organizations, and communicating with the public when natural disasters and infectious disease outbreaks occur.

TCHD is leading a partnership to promote the “Let’s Talk Colorado” campaign to help reduce the stigma associated with mental health issues and had 41,357,628 media impressions nationwide.

A HEALTHY COMMUNITY IS...
- Where residents can get critical health and emergency information
- Where physical, emotional and mental health is a priority
- Where people are supported when facing the challenges of their lives

TCHD’s Communicable Disease Epidemiology Team investigated 111 disease outbreaks such as norovirus, influenza, and Salmonella and interviewed 1,887 individuals with suspect rabies exposures, or diseases such as whooping cough, Campylobacter, West Nile virus, mumps, and hepatitis A.

65% of Americans are overweight/obese—among the highest rates in the world.

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Colorado: 58% (2016)

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TCHD operated five, one-day Household Chemical Roundup events, collecting 515,118 pounds of hazardous waste from almost 4,500 Adams and Douglas County households, which might otherwise end up in our creeks and stormwater systems, or be illegally dumped on public or private property.

TCHD inspects public child-care centers to help reduce the risk of exposure to infectious diseases and foodborne illnesses. Some facilities with young children also receive an audit by our nurses to ensure that immunization records are up-to-date. In 2017, TCHD conducted 925 health inspections of child-care centers, serving approximately 67,000 children.

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TCHD’s Retail Foodservice Inspection Program is the largest in the state, and we performed 436 plan reviews and 9,259 health inspections of the 4,935 food service establishments in our region in order to prevent foodborne illness. Critical inspection items include proper temperatures for cooking and refrigeration, effective hand washing, sanitation, and preventing cross-contamination.

TCHD reminded over 10,000 residents about the importance of maintaining their septic system; and issued 1,465 septic system permits.

The environments in which we live, work, and play can have a profound impact on our health. TCHD promotes public health considerations in land use planning and community development, and provided comments on 512 land development applications.

A HEALTHY COMMUNITY IS...

• Where everyone enjoys clean air and water, and a pristine environment
• Where people have access to good jobs, housing, schools, parks, transportation, and other amenities that contribute to the quality of life

Body art includes tattooing, piercing, and scarification. TCHD inspects all 65 body art facilities in our jurisdiction annually to ensure that the facility is in compliance with health regulations, and are taking proper precautions to prevent the spread of bloodborne diseases such as hepatitis C and HIV.

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29,413 mosquitoes trapped for West Nile virus testing.

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Administration:
John M. Douglas, Jr., MD
Executive Director
Michele Askennazi, MPH, CHES
Director of Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Communicable Disease Surveillance
Jill Bonczynski, MS, RD
Director of Nutrition
Ronnae Brockman
Executive Assistant
Theresa Fox, MBA
Director of Administration and Finance
Mame Fuhrman, MA, SPHR
Director of Human Resources
Brian Hlavacek, MAS, REHS
Director of Environmental Health
Jennifer Ludwig, MS
Deputy Director
Jeanne North, RN, MS
Director of Nursing
Stacy Weinberg, MA
Director of Epidemiology, Planning and Communication

In Memoriam: 3/16/1965 – 3/26/2018

Board of Health:
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Arapahoe County
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Adams County
Naomi Steenson, MS, RD
Adams County, Vice President

Annual Report:
Gary Sky
Public Information Officer and Head of Creative Services–Annual report author/designer

We welcome your comments. Contact: gsky@tchd.org.
For individual county health profiles, to read a yearly review of each division, or for more information visit www.tchd.org.

2017 County Appropriations
Adams County $3,408,628
Arapahoe County $4,336,932
Douglas County $2,215,429
Total County Appropriations $9,960,989
(A per capita contribution of $6.66)

2017 Population Base
Adams County 511,806
Arapahoe County 651,191
Douglas County 332,647
Estimated Total Population 1,495,644

2017 Statement of Revenue and Expenses
(Audited) Total Revenue $40,020,872
Total Expense $39,381,960
Change in Fund Balance $638,912

TCHD Balance Sheet
Total Assets $24,377,296
Total Liabilities $4,049,542
Fund Balance $20,327,754

2017 Total Revenue $40,020,872
State and federal appropriations and grant funds $20,410,393
Grants and contracts $1,077,742
In-kind contributions $1,523,023
Medicaid $522,550
Medicaid linkage and educational interactions 62,501

2017 Total Expenses $39,381,960
Salaries, wages and benefits $27,673,373
Capital improvements $1,296,375
In-kind contributions $1,523,023
Operating costs $8,889,189

Select Public Health Services Provided in 2017

Communicable Disease Control:
Communicable disease investigations – individuals 1,887
Disease outbreak investigations – incidents 111
Outbreaks – Child Care Centers 15
Outbreaks – Long-Term Care Facilities 78
Outbreaks – Restaurants 15
Outbreaks – Other (Church potlucks, catering, etc.) 3

Emergency Preparedness and Response:
Health alerts sent / network recipients 29 / 5,176

Environmental Health Services:
Childcare center inspections 925
Land use plan reviews 512
Pounds of household hazardous waste collected 515,118
Public swimming pool/spa inspections 969
Restaurant/retail food establishment inspections 9,259
Septic system permits 1,465

Healthcare Access:
Medicaid/CHP+ applications: 1,897
Medicaid linkage and educational interactions 62,501

Nursing Services:
Family Planning program clients / visits 5,279 / 11,012
Immunizations given 23,080
Nurse-Family Partnership clients / visits 791 / 7,994

Nutrition Services:
Breastfeeding peer counseling contacts 11,121
Community nutrition class attendees 3,855
WIC food vouchers – retail value $14,650,751
WIC – Total clients / contacts 22,444 / 107,097

Public Health Communications:
Twitter followers 1,891
Website visits 235,417

Tobacco Prevention and Cessation:
Youth-created media campaign impressions 22,606,193

Vital Records:
Birth certificates 22,698
Death certificates 72,968

Information sources and credits: American Public Health Association; Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System; CDC; Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment; Robert Wood Johnson Foundation; Thinkstock; Tri-County Health Department; and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

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