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Contact: Gary Sky, Public Information Officer, (303) 846-6245

Tri-County Health Department Receives National Award

The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) honored Tri-County Health Department for their Community Based Injury Prevention Program. The Model Practice Awards program honors local health departments, and their community partners, as they strive to improve local public health concerns.

The Department is one of only 18 local public health programs selected from across the nation to receive NACCHO's Model Practice Award, their highest honor.

This is the third consecutive Model Practices Award for Tri-County Health Department. Prior honors include the "Fight the Bite" West Nile virus prevention campaign and the "Shots for Tots" community-based immunization program.

From 2002 to 2005, the Injury Prevention Program worked with numerous community organizations in the seven-county metro Denver region to implement innovative unintentional injury prevention programs. The Program was funded by The Colorado Trust, and Tri-County Health Department was the Regional Coordinating Agency for the program, administering the grants and providing technical assistance to grantees.

"We are proud that Jana Smith and Stacy Weinberg received this recognition from NACCHO," said Richard L. Vogt, MD, Executive Director of the agency. "The award is evidence of our commitment to develop responsive and innovative public health programs that prevent disabilities in our citizens."

Unintentional injuries are among the leading causes of injury and death for all age groups, and the number one cause of death for ages one to 44. Despite being labeled "accidents" many unintentional injuries and deaths are very predictable and preventable. These include motor vehicle crashes affecting passengers or pedestrians, falls, drowning, choking, suffocation, residential fires/burns, and occupational and recreational activities.

Tri-County Health Department serves the 1,250,000 residents of Adams, Arapahoe and Douglas Counties. For more information on this award-winning program, contact Jana Smith at (303) 846-6243 or visit www.tchd.org.

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