



Shawn Davis, Chair
Bebe Kleinman, Vice Chair
Kristine Burrows
Dr. Mark Levine
Terrence Walker
Michelle Weinraub
Mark Mcmillan

Arapahoe County

Arapahoe County Board of Health

Agenda

Wednesday, January 15, 2025

DOC Conference Room

3:00 PM

The public is welcome to attend the Board of Health meeting in the Arapahoe Board Room, located at 6162 S. Willow Dr. Greenwood Village CO 80111 or virtually on Teams
https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_NGVjYTk5NzctNDQ2OC00YWRkLWE4MDctMDEyNzUwOTJhYzJi%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%2257d7b626-d71d-47f6-84c1-c43bda19ba16%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22c0695c0a-202a-41ae-9aa5-a71df8e21ec2%22%7d

The Board of Health agenda and materials can be viewed online at

<https://arapahoe.legistar.com/Calendar>.

1. ***CALL TO ORDER**

2. ***APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

2.a. December Meeting Minutes

[25-061](#)

Attachments: [BOH_Meeting_Minutes_20241218](#)

3. ***PUBLIC COMMENT**

Individuals are invited to speak to the Board of Health about any topic. To provide Public Comment, please contact the Board of Health Liaison (aschmidt@arapahoe.gov) at least 30 minutes prior to the start of the respective board meeting. Speakers will be called in the order in which they signed up. Each person has a 3-minute time limit for comments, unless otherwise noted by the Chair. Individuals must state their name and address for the record prior to making remarks. Virtual public comment is allowed during Public Comment

Period by joining the virtual meeting link or calling 1-719-569-5048 and entering the Conference ID: 443 152 952# when prompted.

4. ***DIRECTORS' COMMENTS**

5. ***GENERAL BUSINESS ITEMS**

5.a. Appoint Chair of the Arapahoe County Board of Health

5.b. Appoint Vice Chair of the Arapahoe County Board of Health

6. ***STUDY SESSIONS**

- 6.a. Program Overview: Tobacco Prevention and Control [25-062](#)

Attachments: [BOH_Tobacco Program Presentation](#)

- 6.b. ACPH Director's Report [25-063](#)

Attachments: [BOH_Director's Report 2025](#)

7. **EXECUTIVE SESSION AND COUNTY ATTORNEY LEGAL MEETING**

As required by law, specific agenda topics will be announced in open meeting prior to the commencement of the closed and confidential portion of this session. C.R.S. § 24-6-402(4)

8. ***ADJOURN**

Arapahoe County is committed to making its public meetings accessible to persons with disabilities. Please contact the Planning Division at 720-874-6650 or TTY 711, at least three (3) days prior to a meeting, should you require special accommodations.



Arapahoe County

5334 South Prince Street
Littleton, CO 80120
303-795-4630
Relay Colorado 711

Board Summary Report

File #: 25-061

Agenda Date: 1/15/2025

Agenda #: 2.a.



Shawn Davis, Chair
Bebe Kleinman, Vice Chair
Kristine Burrows
Dr. Mark Levine
Terrence Walker
Michelle Weinraub
Mark Mcmillan

Arapahoe County

Arapahoe County Board of Health

Meeting Minute Summaries

Wednesday, December 18, 2024
3:00 PM

DOC Conference Room
Public Health - Willow

The public is welcome to attend the Board of Health meeting in the Arapahoe Board Room, located at 6162 S. Willow Dr. Greenwood Village CO 80111 or virtually on Teams
https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_NGVjYTk5NzctNDQ2OC00YWRkLWE4MDctMDEyNzUwOTJhYzJi%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%2257d7b626-d71d-47f6-84c1-c43bda19ba16%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22c0695c0a-202a-41ae-9aa5-a71df8e21ec2%22%7d

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<https://arapahoe.legistar.com/Calendar>.

1. *CALL TO ORDER

Present Bebe Kleinman, Shawn Davis, Kristine Burrows, Terrence Walker, Mark Mcmillan, and Mark Levine
Abs/Exc Michelle Weinraub

2. *APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Attachments: [BOH_Meeting_Minutes_20241120](#)

A motion was made by Levine, seconded by Walker, that this Minutes be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Kleinman, Davis, Burrows, Walker, Mcmillan, and Levine

3. *PUBLIC COMMENT

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4. *DIRECTORS' COMMENTS**5. *GENERAL BUSINESS ITEMS****6. *STUDY SESSIONS****6.a.**

Attachments: [2. BOH_FY24 Finaical Update December 2024](#)
[FY 2024 Q3 Financials](#)
[December 2024 BOH Draft Report Review](#)

6.b.

Attachments: [December 2024 BOH Move PH Update for 2025](#)

6.d.

Attachments: [BOH_Director's Report_20241218](#)

7. ADMINISTRATIVE SESSION

7.a. Director Performance Review

8. EXECUTIVE SESSION AND COUNTY ATTORNEY LEGAL MEETING

No Executive Session was held.

9. *ADJOURN

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Board Summary Report

File #: 25-062

Agenda Date: 1/15/2025

Agenda #: 6.a.

To: Board of Health

Through: Jennifer Ludwig, Public Health Director, Arapahoe County Public Health

Prepared By:

Heather Baumgartner, Division Director, Partnerships, Planning and Community Health Promotion

Presenters: Taylor Roberts, Community Health Promotion Manager; Devan Lorimer, Sr. Community Health Promotion Specialist; Sue Howk, Community Health Promotion Specialist; Leslie Levine, Sr. Community Health Promotion Specialist

Subject:

Program Overview: Tobacco Prevention and Control

Purpose and Request:

The purpose of this agenda item is to present an overview of the ACPH Tobacco Prevention and Control Program, within the Partnerships, Planning, and Community Health Promotion Division.

..**end**

Background and Discussion: ACPH's Tobacco Prevention and Control Program is funded by grants from the State Tobacco Education and Prevention Partnership (STEPP) through the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment (CDPHE). STEPP was created under Colorado Revised Statute Section 25-3.5-804 to support tobacco education programs aimed at reducing tobacco use initiation and promoting cessation among youth and adults. This informational presentation will provide an overview of ACPH's tobacco and vaping prevention and control work. No action is requested of Board of Health members.

Fiscal Impact: The program is grant-funded and involves no fees or billing for services.

Alternatives: N/A

Staff Recommendation: N/A

Motion(s): N/A



ARAPAHOE COUNTY

Tobacco Control Program Overview
Board of Health, January 2025

Tobacco Prevention & Control Program Overview

Presenters

Devan Lorimer, Sr. Community Health Promotion Specialist

Sue Howk, RDN Community Health Promotion Specialist

Leslie Levine, Sr. Community Health Promotion Specialist

Agenda

- Program Foundations
 - Funding Overview
 - Shared Risk and Protective Factors Approach
 - Priority Populations
 - Data Trends
- Prevention Strategies
- Cessation Supports
- Local Policy Work
- On the Horizon
- Questions and Discussion

Program Foundations

Funding, approaches, priority populations, and trends

Funding

- ACPH's Tobacco Control/Prevention program is funded by a State Tobacco Education and Prevention Partnership (STEPP) grant administered by the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment (CDPHE).
- STEPP was created under Colorado Revised Statute Section 25-3.5-804 to support tobacco education programs aimed at reducing tobacco use initiation and promoting cessation among youth and adults.

Funded by Amendment 35 (2004) and Proposition EE (2020).



Risk and Protective Factors Approach

Effective prevention focuses on reducing risk factors, and strengthening protective factors, that are most closely related to the problem being addressed.



- Risk factors are characteristics at the biological, psychological, family, community, or cultural level that precede and are associated with a higher likelihood of negative outcomes.
- Protective factors are characteristics associated with a lower likelihood of negative outcomes or that reduce a risk factor's impact.

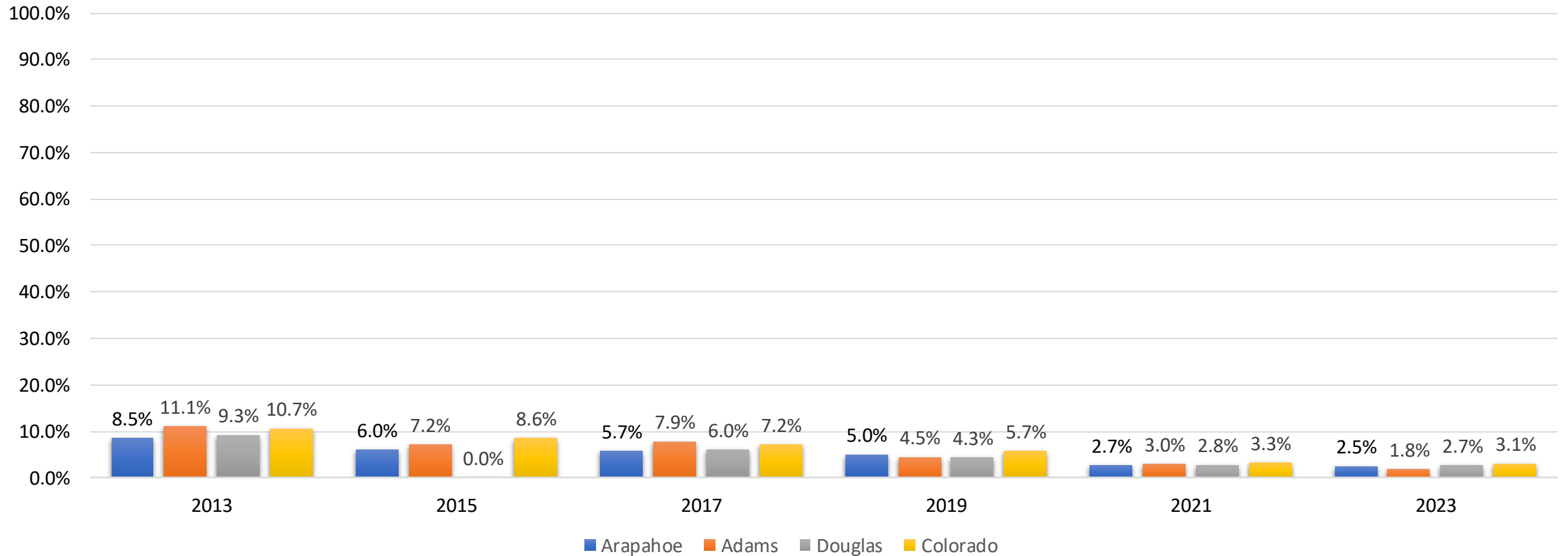
Priority Populations

We acknowledge that the progress and successes of the tobacco control/prevention efforts in Colorado have not been experienced equitably by all Coloradans.

- CO data from 2001 - 2018 show these populations are experiencing the most tobacco-related harm:
 - American Indian and Indigenous people
 - Black and African Americans
 - LGBTQ+ community
 - Rural residents
 - Those covered by Medicaid
 - Those with behavioral health conditions

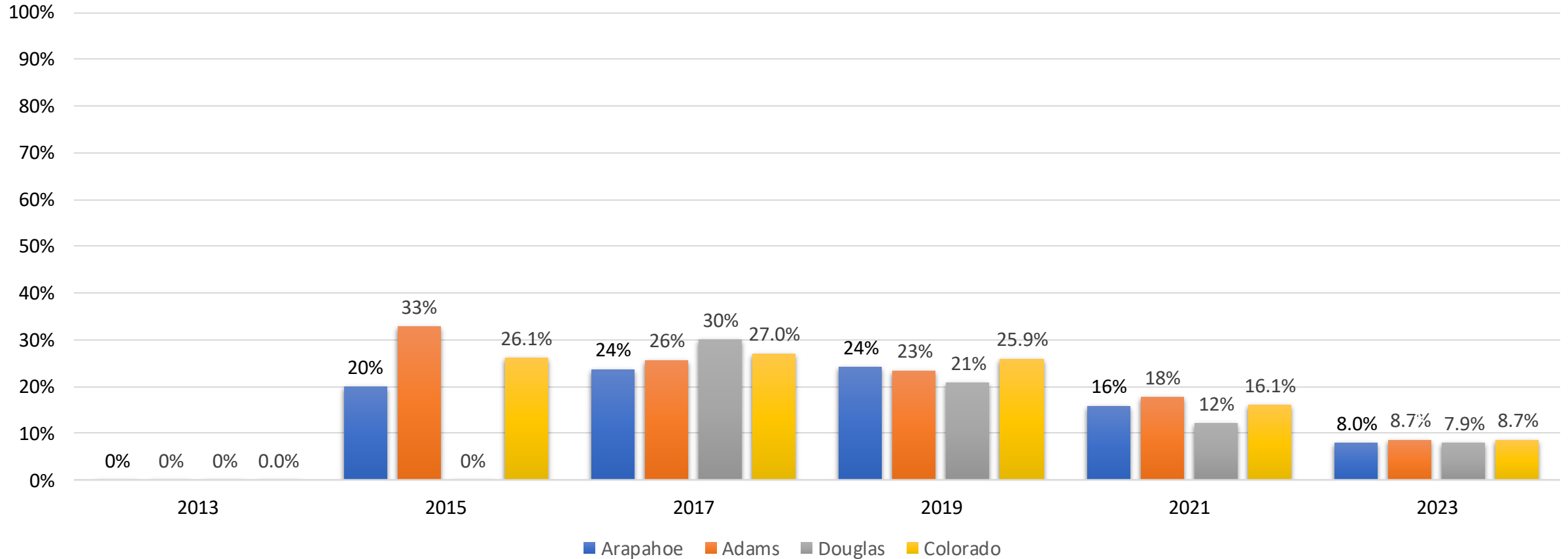


Percent of high school students who smoked a cigarette during the past 30 days by region



Source: Healthy Kids Colorado Survey, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

Percent of high school students who used an electronic vaping device within the past 30 days by region



Source: Healthy Kids Colorado Survey, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment



Prevention

School Engagement and Resources



ARAPAHOE COUNTY
PUBLIC HEALTH

How nicotine affects the brain

Nicotine found in tobacco products, vaping devices, and nicotine pouches can:

- Affect brain development
- Cause issues with learning
- Lead to anxiety
- Increase symptoms of depression
- Cause irritability

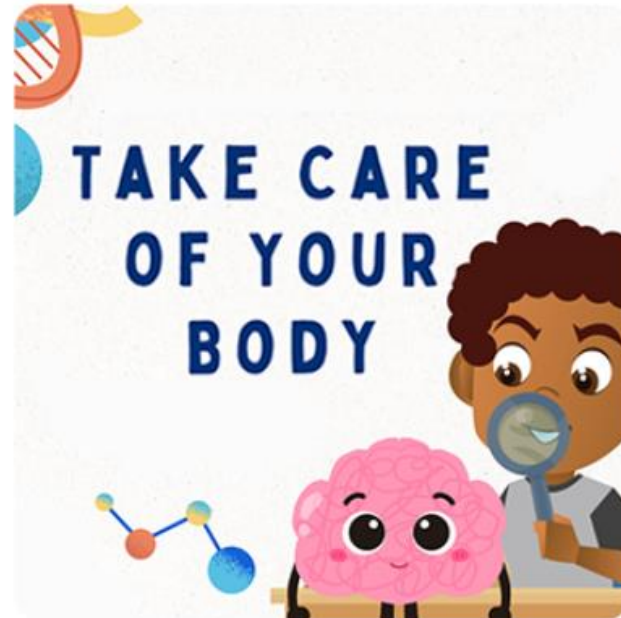
Using products with nicotine can cause addiction or nicotine dependence. This is when someone needs nicotine so that they don't have withdrawal symptoms.

Withdrawal symptoms include nicotine cravings, depression, anxiety, problems focusing and problems sleeping.

Because the brain is not fully developed until age 25, it is easier for younger people to become addicted to nicotine.



For Elementary Schools (Click here to view lessons)



Lesson 1



Lesson 2



<https://med.stanford.edu/tobaccopreventiontoolkit/you-and-me-together-vape-free-curriculum.html>



Vape Prevention Resources

Talking
with
youth
about
vaping

Get the facts

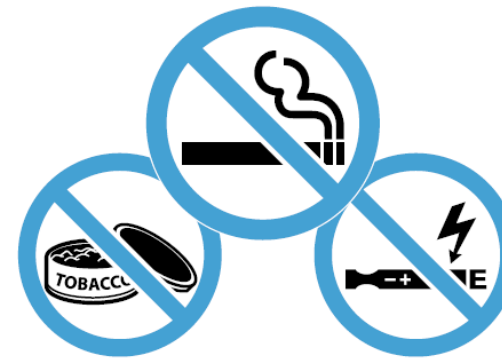
Start by listening

Use teachable moments

Focus on positive messages



**WELCOME TO OUR TOBACCO-
AND NICOTINE-FREE SCHOOL**
**BIENVENIDOS A NUESTRA ESCUELA
LIBRE DE TABACO Y NICOTINA**



Thank you for keeping our school safe and healthy.

**Gracias por mantener nuestra
escuela segura y saludable.**

Tobacco-Free Schools Law
C.R.S. 25-14-103.5



COLORADO
Department of Public
Health & Environment

Tobacco and Nicotine-free Schools Policy

- Curriculum requirements
- Enforcing policy
- Communication
- Updating policy
- Discipline
- Alternatives to suspension



Alternatives to Suspension

SECOND CHANCE

Helping youth re-think their relationship with tobacco, vaping, and other nicotine products.



COLORADO
Department of Public
Health & Environment



Health
Healthy Schools Start Here

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Second Chance is a free, web-based, interactive, self-directed program designed for middle and high school students to be used as an educational alternative-to-suspension for tobacco policy infractions. The program may also be helpful for youth who may be curious about tobacco or other nicotine products and would benefit from education.

Alternatives to Suspension

- Catch My Breath
- Healthy Futures
- INDEPTH

BE ~~VAPE~~ FREE BeVapeFree.org

Certificate of Completion

This is to certify that

Student Name

has successfully completed the module:

Vaping Risks Revealed

School

Teacher Signature



Generously supported by

Public Policy

Education and Engagement

Local Public Policy Work

- Relationship building with city and county elected officials, staff (e.g., city managers; licensing and code enforcement), and community organizations
- Monitoring council agendas, reaching out to offer support (e.g., education, draft ordinance language)
- Tracking compliance checks and violations for state-licensed retailers
- Mapping retailer proximity to youth-serving locations

Tobacco Signage Policy — Partnership with Open Spaces Department



Dove Valley Regional Park



 **ARAPAHOE COUNTY**
Park shelters now



150
Ways to Enjoy *Open Spaces*

On the Horizon

Evolving Landscape; Increasing Capacity

- Needs remain high among school districts
- Aurora Zyn factory
- State legislative session
- Menthol CO Quitline incentives
- Youth Advisory Board!
- Increasing team capacity for Clean Indoor Air Act response and more!



Questions and Discussion

Contacts

Devan Lorimer, Sr. Community Health Promotion Specialist

Sue Howk, RDN, Community Health Promotion Specialist

Leslie Levine, Sr. Community Health Promotion Specialist

Taylor Roberts, Community Health Promotion Manager



Arapahoe County

5334 South Prince Street
Littleton, CO 80120
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Board Summary Report

File #: 25-063

Agenda Date: 1/15/2025

Agenda #: 6.b.

Partnerships, Planning, and Community Health Promotion

Equity and Engagement

- 1) Please reach out to [Grace Soulen](#) or visit our [Community Engagement Event Request Form](#) to suggest upcoming outreach opportunities.
 - a. 388 community engagement touchpoints (community events or external partner meetings) were recorded in 2024 across ACPH
 - i. 45 of those were coordinated by the Community Engagement Peer Learning Group, which means they were cross-programmatic events.
 - b. Highlights from December include:
 - i. Community resource event supporting residents of Club Valencia apartments
 - ii. Lavished with Love with Iron Sharp Foundation supporting McKinney-Vento and Title 1 students and family members in Aurora Public Schools
 - iii. Visit the Village with Arapahoe County
 - iv. Soccer with Santa with Sheridan Rec Center

Strategic Planning

2025 Summarization of ACPH’s Strategic Development & Deployment Initiative

We are excited to share with you our new and improved Strategic Development and Deployment Initiative. In the past you may have heard this referred to as a Strategic Plan. In order to demonstrate the forward and continuous calibration of our strategy the new name is Development and Deployment Initiative demonstrating the progressiveness of our work. This initiative outlines the vision for our future work.

Arapahoe County Public Health (ACPH) is committed to focusing on one of the most important attributes of an effective, strategic health department—agility. That is the basis for the 2025 Strategic Development and Deployment Initiative. In 2024, ACPH adopted the CDC’s *CORE Commitment to Health Equity* as the foundation for which we operate. The overall structure of CORE is logical, ensuring there are clear links and substantiation to the County’s larger strategic vision, the health equity framework, the Community Health Assessment and Improvement Plan, Performance Management, Public Health Ready, and the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) standards.

By taking such posture of continuous learning and improvement by way our 2025 Strategic Development & Deployment Initiative, we are building a foundation for effective, strategic, and participatory work at ACPH.

Nutrition Division

- 1) ACPH WIC and Village Exchange Center Awarded the WIC CIAO Grant, \$474K over two years.

- a. Together, ACPH WIC and Village Exchange Center (VEC) partnered to apply for the second round of the WIC Community Innovation and Outreach Project grant (WIC CIAO). The WIC CIAO Project is funded through a five-year cooperative agreement between the Food Research & Action Center (FRAC) and USDA. To build upon the current partnership, WIC and VEC will help to enroll migrant/refugee/asylee community into the WIC program through increased frequency of WIC co-location efforts at VEC, provide Cultural Navigation for wrap around services, and grocery shopping tours. VEC will also be providing Cultural Navigation training to the ACPH WIC staff to help better serve community members from all of our WIC locations. This is a two year grant cycle that will run through December 31, 2026. More about the WIC CIAO Project can be found at www.hellowic.org.

Community Health Nursing Division

1) Harm Reduction

- a. The program recently purchased a Binx rapid STI testing machine, which will enable the team to test patients for chlamydia and gonorrhea in real time, and work with Sexual Health to provide same-day treatment. We are still developing policies and procedures for this service but hope to start using it in the field by March.
- b. The program is planning to start offering pregnancy testing to clients to expand available services.
- c. This month, the team identified one unhoused patient with newly diagnosed HIV and syphilis, and our care coordinator is working to connect that person to treatment and support in the Sexual Health clinic and with the CDPHE Linkage to Care program.

2) Immunizations

- a. The program is currently analyzing clinic schedule models that best utilize resources and enables them to see the maximum number of clients. The goal is to be accessible to clients and achieve a successful mobile model while promoting same-day and walk-in appointments for clinics in Altura and Englewood to best meet the community needs.
- b. In December, the program administered 1,095 immunizations
 - i. 874 to children; 273 to adults
 - ii. 273 in Englewood; 821 in Altura
- c. The program applied for a Model Practice through NACCHO for their School Outreach Vaccine Clinic program.

3) Maternal and Child Health Program

- a. The MCH Team has secured \$118,000 in grant funding, including funding from Colorado Access, Public Health Institute at Denver Health and Illuminate Colorado, to officially launch Family Connects in Arapahoe County. Family Connects is an evidence-based nurse home visitation program available to any family with a new baby. Funding will support the initial program launch, supplies, community engagement, infrastructure building, and staffing. Arapahoe County will join four existing Family Connects sites (Denver, Jefferson, Boulder, and Eagle counties) as well as a handful of new sites launching in 2025 (Adams, Broomfield, Weld, Garfield, Pitkin, and Mesa counties). The MCH team is working on securing additional funding for program sustainability, and collaborating closely with the Public Health Institute at Denver Health as our initial referrals will come from births at Denver Health. Family Connects aligns with the ACPH Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) priority of supporting Access to Affordable Physical and Behavioral Care.
- b. With grant funding from Gary Community Ventures and in collaboration with the Maternal and Child Health (MCH) teams at the Adams County Health Department and Jeffco Health Department, the ACPH MCH team will provide in-person Volunteer Income Tax Assistance

(VITA) services to eligible families during the upcoming tax season. The IRS VITA program offers free basic tax return preparation for households earning \$67,000 or less annually. VITA services will be available at the Arapahoe County CentrePoint Plaza on February 14, February 28, March 14, and March 28 from 9:00am to 4:00pm. Tax preparation assistance will be offered in English, Spanish, French, and Arabic. By offering VITA services, families will receive help in claiming valuable tax credits they've earned. This initiative aligns with the ACPH Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) priority of supporting Economic Security and Mobility.

4) Nurse Liaison Program

- a. The Nurse Liaison Program (NLP) continues to experience a significant increase in referrals from the Child Protection Services teams at Arapahoe County Department of Human Services. In December 2024, the program received 179 referrals, a substantial rise compared to the 39 referrals received in December 2023.
- b. For the first time since January 2023, the NLP is fully staffed, positioning the team to better manage the increased referral volume and effectively meet the needs of vulnerable children and families.

5) Sexual Health

- a. The program has hired two new RNs, and an RN supervisor, and is in the process of hiring a nurse practitioner clinical advisor soon, with a goal to be fully staffed by March 2025.
- b. The new RNs will be providing clinical care as well as collaborating with the Harm Reduction program to provide STI treatment and basic family planning services on Prevention Point, provide STI testing and treatment services in the Arapahoe County Detention Center, and deliver Field Delivered Treatment for syphilis in the community.
- c. The program has exhausted the Cancer Prevention and Early Detection funding for the State fiscal year due to overwhelming demand, screening 281 women for breast and cervical cancer in just 6 months. Funding will be renewed in July 2025.
- d. In partnership with Pueblo County Department of Public Health and Environment, the program applied for a Model Practice through NACCHO for their Syphilis Field Delivered Treatment program.

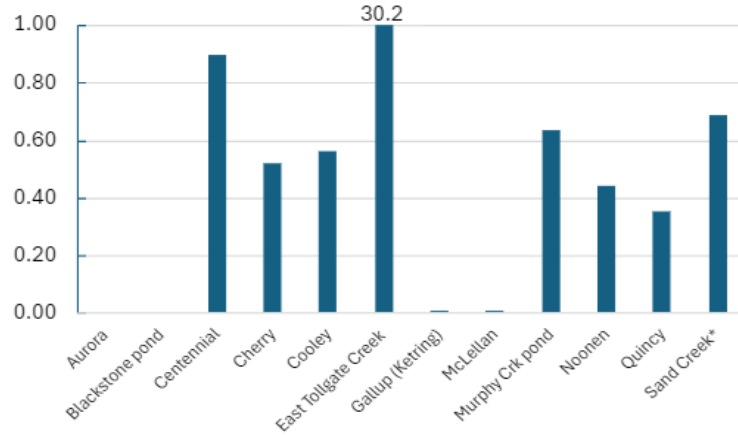
Health Protection and Response

1) Environmental Health Programs

a. Water Quality Program

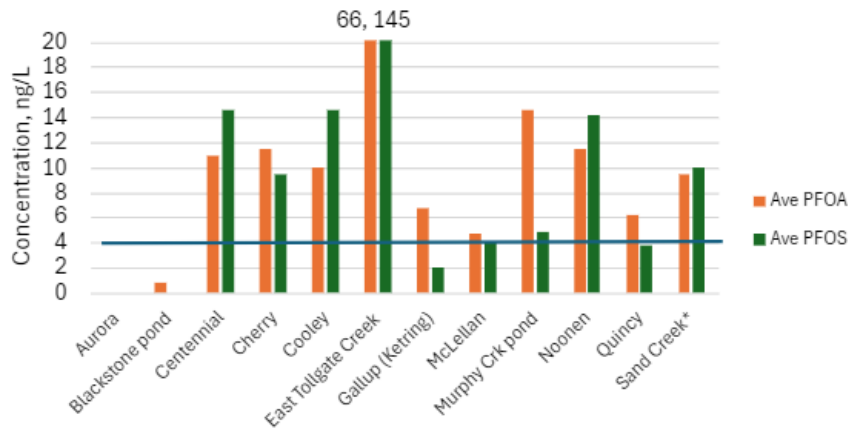
- i. CDPHE PFAS Grant: Following the August and October 2025 Board of Health update regarding the PFAS grant awarded to ACPH by CDPHE, two of the four quarterly samples have been collected. There are six key PFAS compounds of concern to EPA and CDPHE: PFOA, PFOS, HFPO-DA (aka GenX), PFBS, PFHxS, and PFNA. Of these, PFOA and PFOS are of greater concern, with maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) of 4 ng/L. The other four compounds have MCLs of 10 ng/L. The other four also have a Hazard Index value that accounts for the combined levels of these PFAS in drinking water. For mixtures that contain two or more of PFHxS, PFNA, HFPO-DA, and PFBS, the desired annual average Hazard Index MCL is less than one (1), which is a unitless number. Only one project location, East Tollgate Creek, has a Hazard Index greater than one; although, it is very high at 30.2.

Figure 1: Average Hazard Index.



* Sand Creek has only one data point.

Figure 2: Average PFOA & PFOS concentrations. The line at 4 ng/L represents the MCL for drinking water.



* Sand Creek has only one data point.

Several of the project locations had concentrations of PFOA and PFOS greater than 4 ng/L. One location, East Tollgate Creek, had very high concentrations. Noonan Reservoir is located east of Byers and is in the middle of cattle rangeland. Despite the location's isolation, PFOA (11.45 ng/L) and PFOS (14.15 ng/L) were still detected.

Studies show that PFAS concentrations accumulate within fish tissue. In July 2024, the EPA added PFAS to the recommendations to states for monitoring freshwater fish. Sixteen states already monitor for certain PFAS in fish and use local data for fish consumption advisories. CDPHE is currently working on a fish monitoring protocol for the state and ACPH is engaging with contractors to determine potential cost for future grant submissions.

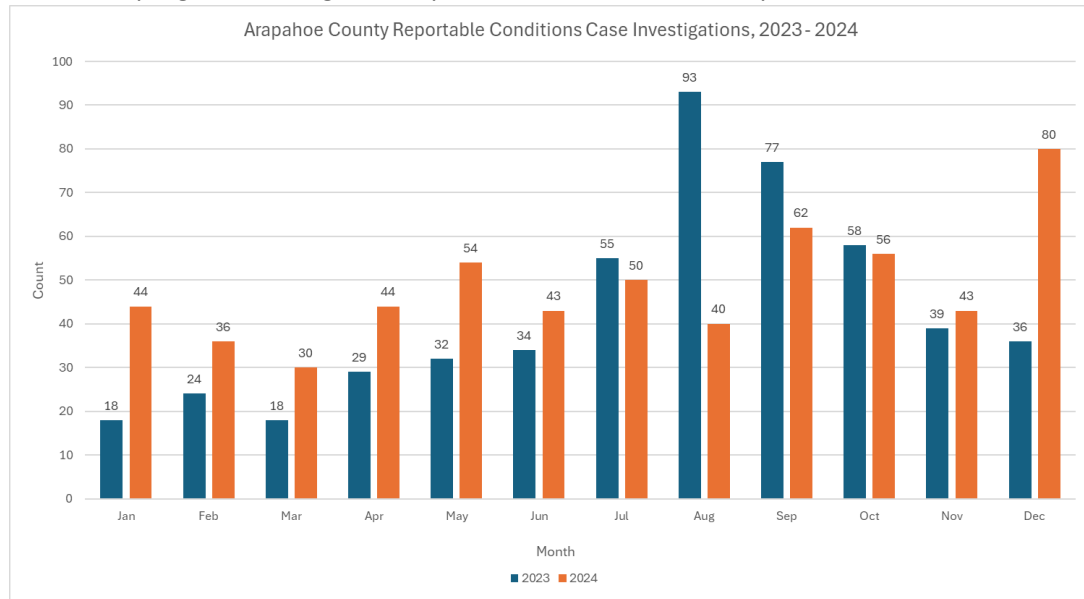
b. Solid and Hazardous Waste Program:

- i. Lowry Landfill Superfund Site: The EPA, CDPHE, and ACPH will be hosting an Open House at the Arapahoe County Fairgrounds on January 15, 2025, at 5:30-7:30 p.m. and invite community members and other interested parties to learn about the Lowry Landfill Superfund Site and the actions being taken to ensure cleanup activities remain protective of human health and the environment. The most recent updates on the Site:
 - 1. [Executive Summary](#) and the [Most Recent Site Status Report](#) for the [Lowry Landfill Superfund Site](#)
 - 2. For more background on the site: <http://www.epa.gov/superfund/lowry-landfill>
 - c. The Early Childhood and Schools Program:
 - i. The program team continues to engage with school districts across the county to prepare them for the school inspection roll out in fall 2025. In December, the team conducted mock inspections with school and district staff in Aurora Public Schools, Cherry Creek School District, and Regis Jesuit High School at their individual schools to walk them through the requirements of the regulations, what to expect during an inspection, offer advice on how to prepare, and answer any questions they may have. The Arapahoe County Sheriff Bomb Squad and Arapahoe County Communications joined a mock inspection at Vista Peak (Aurora Public Schools) on December 20 to better understand the scope and purpose of the inspections and how they may continue to partner and support ACPH with inspections.
- 2) Emergency Preparedness and Response
- a. The Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR) program reviewed and updated the Public Health Emergency Operations Plan (PHEOP) for Executive Leadership approval in January. Annual review and revision is best practice and this plan, along with supporting annexes, attachments, and appendices, is used to outline how public health will prioritize and adjust operations in response to incidents impacting Arapahoe County. Last year, EPR presented the PHEOP Base plan for review, and this year, along with the updated plan, we included a number of supporting documents outlining more detailed information on our internal and partner operations. As we continue to navigate being a new health department, we are adding appropriate documents to our plan as they are developed. All updates to these documents are based on lessons learned, changes to local, regional, state, and federal systems, and updated legislation.

A. Communicable Disease Report

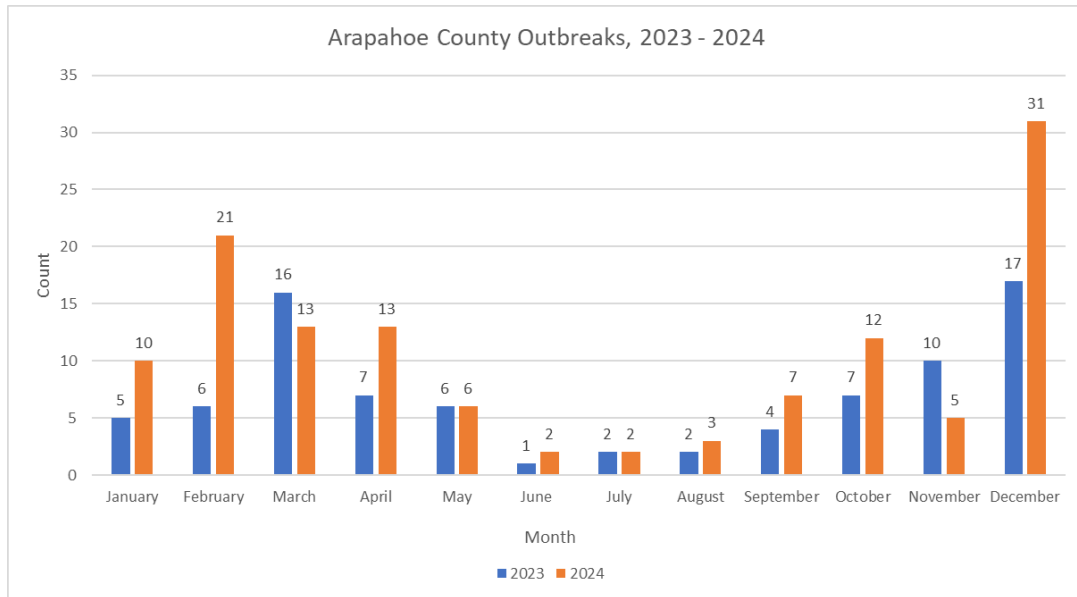
- a. 2024 Case Investigations - Colorado Reportable Conditions
 In 2024, the Arapahoe County Public Health (ACPH) Communicable Disease Epidemiology Program (CDE) completed 582 case investigations for Colorado reportable conditions compared to 513 in 2023. This only includes investigations completed by ACPH CDE staff and does not account for communicable diseases that are managed by CDPHE including viral hepatitis, sexually transmitted infections, and healthcare acquired infections. Case investigations typically increase during the summer months and decline through fall and winter. However, case investigations remained steady throughout all of 2024. Of note, case investigations routinely peak in August. However, in August 2024 CDPHE managed routine

case investigations for ACPH for approximately two weeks while the ACPH CDE program responded to the rabies incident. Due to this, case investigations in August appear lower than in previous years. The most common reported conditions included salmonellosis (108), pertussis (85), shigellosis (82), Shiga-toxin producing E. coli (48), and hospitalized influenza (40). Notable pathogen specific increases in 2024 include pertussis “whooping cough” following the statewide increase and appears to be returning to pre-pandemic levels. The ACPH CDE program investigated 85 pertussis cases in 2024 compared to 44 in 2023.



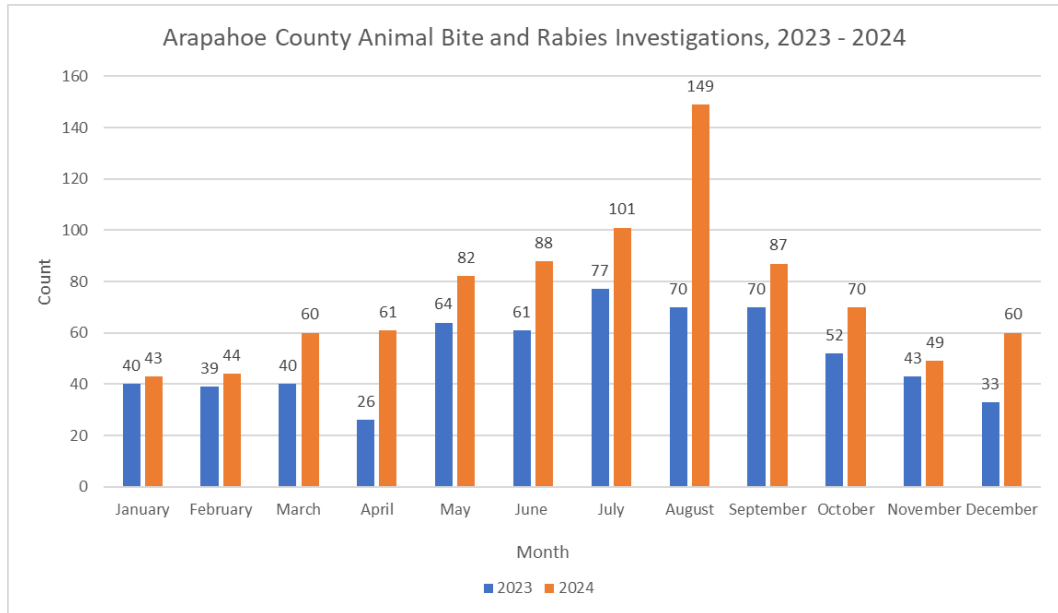
b. 2024 Outbreaks

The ACPH CDE Program managed 125 confirmed outbreaks in 2024 compared to 83 in 2023. Outbreaks typically increase beginning in fall and continue through spring when respiratory illnesses are more common, and people spend additional time indoors. This seasonal trend was seen in 2024 as noted in the graph below. The majority of outbreaks were reported in schools (40) and childcare facilities (36) followed by long-term care facilities (32). The most common pathogens reported for outbreaks were viral gastroenteritis and/or norovirus (45), COVID-19 (23), hand, foot, and mouth disease (14), and influenza (12). Of note, the ACPH CDE program began managing COVID-19 outbreaks in residential care facilities in October 2024 and it is expected this will increase annual outbreaks to manage locally by approximately 100 outbreaks. These outbreaks were previously managed by CDPHE. An additional, 50 suspect outbreaks were also monitored and managed by ACPH CDE staff in 2024 compared to 31 in 2023 which are not accounted for the graph below.



c. 2024 Animal Bites and Rabies Investigations

The ACPH CDE program investigates all domestic animal bites (i.e., dog or cat bite to a human) and rabies reservoir species (RRS) encounters with either a human or domestic pet. In Colorado, RRS include bats, raccoons, skunks, foxes, and coyotes. In 2024, the CDE program investigated 894 total animal encounters compared to 620 in 2023. Of the 894 investigations in 2024, 670 involved a domestic animal bite and 196 involved an RRS. The ACPH CDE program recommended rabies post-exposure prophylaxis to 72 people in 2024 compared to 33 in 2023. In Arapahoe County, three bats and 1 domestic dog tested positive for rabies in 2024 compared to 1 bat in 2023. The ACPH CDE program also responds to public inquires related to other non-RRS or domestic animal bites such as bites from rodents (squirrels, mice, rats), prairie dogs, horses, and other international wildlife. The purpose of any animal bite investigations is to assess for infectious disease risk, determine if any post-exposure treatment is recommended and if any action (i.e., testing or quarantine) is required for the animal involved. The increase in animal bite and rabies investigations in 2024 can partially be attributed to the large-scale rabies incident the ACPH CDE program managed in August involving the positive domestic dog and a general increase in migratory bats in Colorado this previous summer season.



d. COVID-19 Reporting and Investigation Updates

- i. Beginning in January 2025, individual cases of COVID-19 cases will no longer be a nationally reportable condition. However, COVID-19-associated hospitalizations and deaths due to COVID-19 will remain reportable. This is similar to influenza and RSV reporting requirements and management. The ACPH CDE Program will continue to review all COVID-19 hospitalizations and deaths to determine if the individual resided in a residential care facility or other group facility to assess for a suspect outbreak. All COVID-19 outbreaks will continue to be managed to provide disease control guidance, monitor illness trends, provide recommendations, and implement enhanced cleaning and PPE usage to reduce the spread of illness.