

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

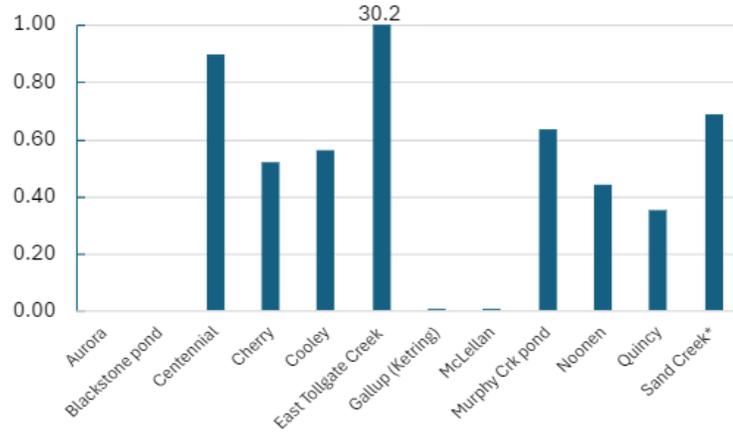
- a. The program has hired two new RNs, and an RN supervisor, and is in the process of hiring a nurse practitioner clinical advisor soon, with a goal to be fully staffed by March 2025.
- b. The new RNs will be providing clinical care as well as collaborating with the Harm Reduction program to provide 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

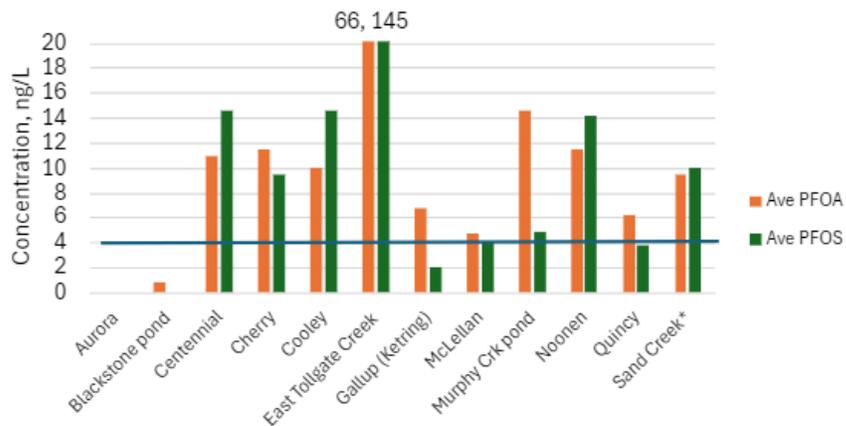
- a. Water Quality Program
 - i. CDPHE PFAS Grant: Following the August and October 2025 Board of Health update regarding the PFAS grant awarded to ACPH by CDPHE, two of the four quarterly samples have been collected. There are six key PFAS compounds of concern to EPA and CDPHE: PFOA, PFOS, HFPO-DA (aka 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.



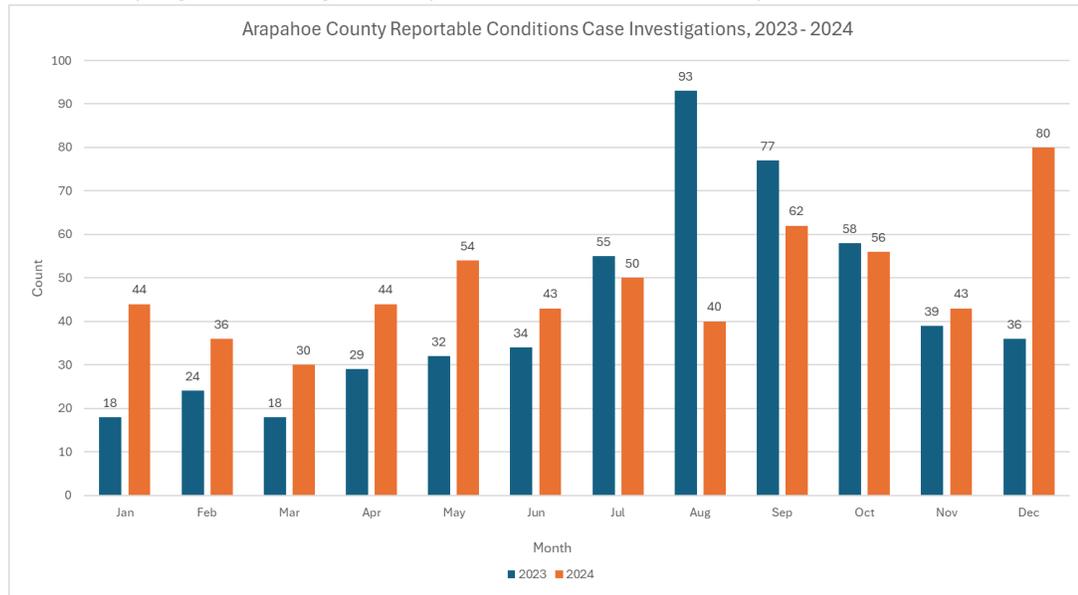
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Several of the project locations had concentrations of PFOA and PFOS greater than 4 ng/L. One location, East Tollgate Creek, had very high concentrations. Noonan Reservoir is located east of Byers and is in the middle of cattle rangeland. Despite the 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.

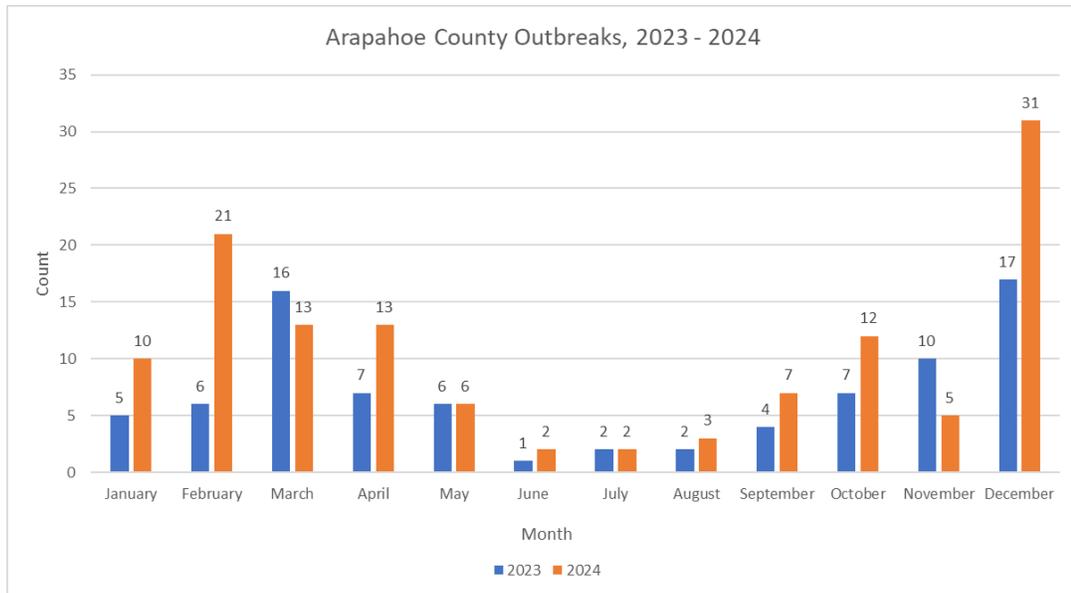
b. Solid and Hazardous Waste Program:

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.



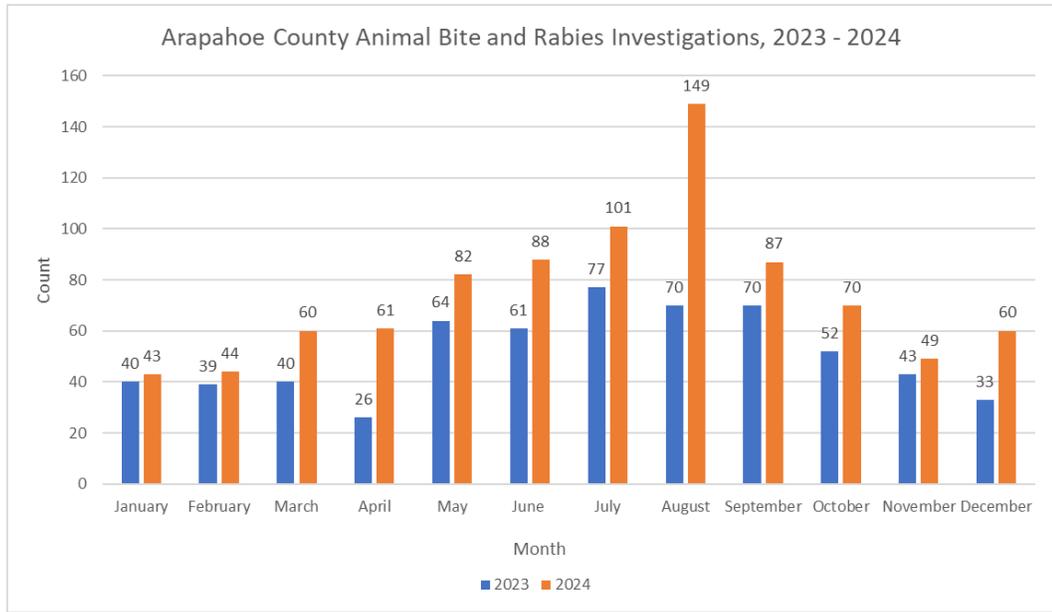
b. 2024 Outbreaks

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.