



# ARAPAHOE COUNTY





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# Communicable Disease Epidemiology Program

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# Story Time!

Over the past 3 years, I've built a strong partnership with the Arapahoe County Detention Center as the communicable disease POC. This partnership is grounded in trust, consistency, and shared purpose. Beyond coordination, we've developed genuine relationships and care for one another. Across all ACPH programs, we've created a strong public health support system to protect one of our most vulnerable populations and highlighting that correctional health is public health.

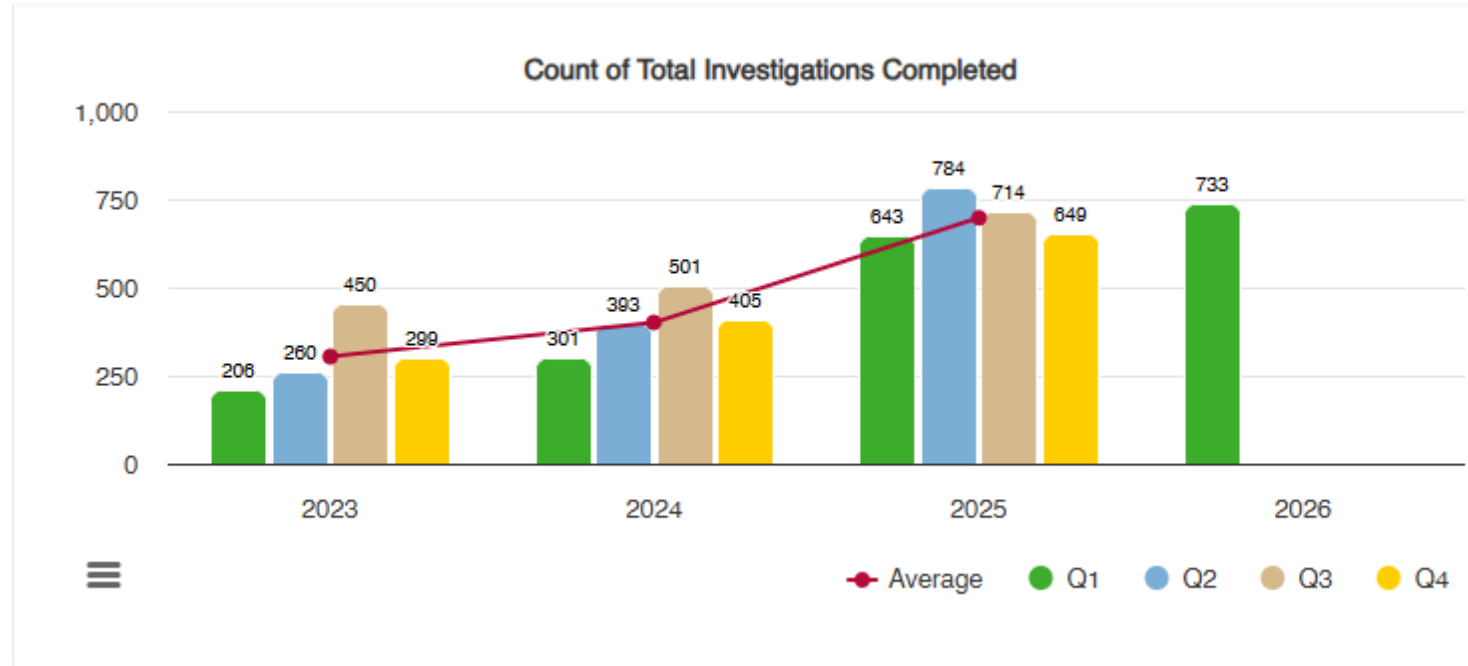
A recent client was scratched by a bat outside her home. She was nervous and overwhelmed about the process for getting rabies vaccines and was also traveling to NY during her vaccine schedule. I explained the process in detail to her, provided her vaccine options for her doses in Colorado, and called the NYC DOH to find out where she could go while she was on her trip. She was able to get all her vaccines on schedule. She sent me a really nice text which reminded me how impactful our work can be.

I know you said it's "your job", but I just want to tell you that I've never ever ever received so much care and kindness from a government agency in my life. I didn't expect your advocacy and I so appreciate it. You have helped me take it very seriously because of your example of your diligence. Just a big, 💖 THANK YOU 💖 again and I hope you have a upcoming great weekend!



# Count of Communicable Disease Investigations Completed

- **Total communicable disease investigations completed**
  - Colorado reportable conditions, outbreaks, animal investigations (domestic and rabies reservoir species)
  - Increase in infectious diseases (post COVID-19, reporting changes, measles, emerging infections)
  - Average over use of targets
- **Monitor changes in disease trends over time**
  - Climate change, travel, spillover events, vaccination rates
  - Protect health and safety of residents (not just Arapahoe County) from communicable disease threats
- **Understanding resource needs**
  - Staffing and capacity to respond in required timeframe



# Count of Community Engagement and Education Events Hosted by the Communicable Disease Epidemiology (CDE)

- **Total Engagement and Education Events**

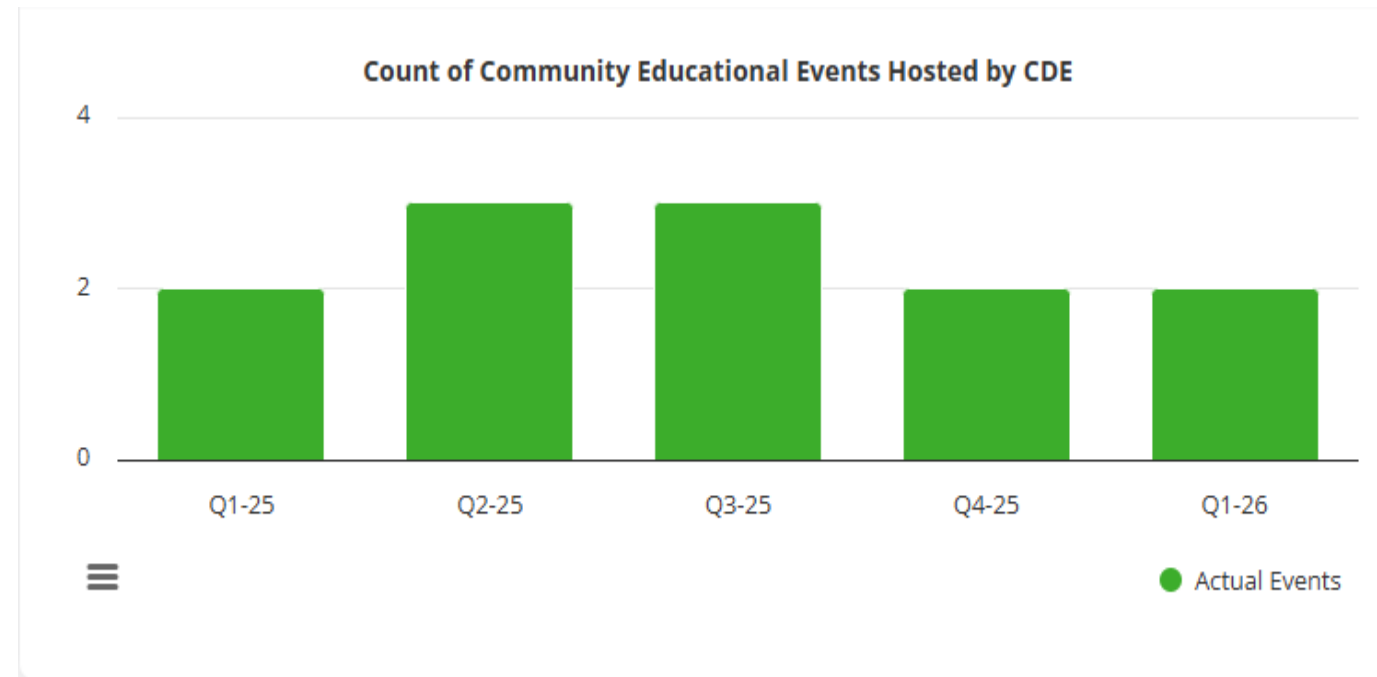
- Preventive communicable disease education
- Develop strong, trusting relationships

- **Objectives**

- Present data, provide education, share information, and develop relationships to build trust, increase reach and connections
- Identify gaps in our outreach efforts so we can enhance equitable access to public health and communicable disease information across the county

- **Gaps**

- Does not account for informal calls, emails, and other interactions where education and data is shared





# Learning Opportunities



- Challenges:
  - Significant increases in communicable diseases, constrained staff capacity, limited resources for individuals/families impacted by illness, staff burnout
  - Gaps in capturing true number of educational interactions
- Actions Taken:
  - Increased coordination with Communications/County Departments for preventive education opportunities
  - Hired a 5<sup>th</sup> Communicable Disease Epidemiologist in September 2024
  - Workload prioritization
  - Creative resource navigation
  - Continuous focus on staff wellbeing
  - Continuous focus on partner outreach and relationship building



# Path Forward

- **Wins:**

- Support residents and facilities with infection prevention and control every day!
- Incredible team
- Continue to reach cases within state required timeframe
- Hired an additional staff member in 2024
- Resident and partner support and ongoing relationship building/strengthening
- Strong partnership with other LPHAs and CDPHE
- Employee support

- **Opportunities:**

- Prioritization/workload management
- Communications, education, and engagement
- Employee support





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# Questions?



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