

ANNUAL REPORT 2011

GARFIELD COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND MILESTONES





*“Healthy People... at Every Stage of Life
Public Health has made a lifelong
commitment, to work to protect you,
your health and your environment
throughout all stages of your life.”*

“Today we are confronted by changing societal and global conditions affecting health- environmental degradation including climate change, globalization, urbanization, aging populations, and the increasing chronic and communicable disease burden. This is the world in which we live; one that poses new challenges and calls for a new level of innovation and leadership. These challenges cannot be solved only one person at a time- solutions must improve health for whole populations in order to protect each person’s health.”

Linda Fried, MD, MPH
Dean of the Columbia University
Mailman School of Public Health

**“We are not tinkers who merely patch and mend
what is broken...we must be watchmen,
guardians of the life and the health of our
generation, so that stronger and more able
generations may come after.”**

**Dr. Elizabeth Blackwell (1821-1910), The First
Woman Doctor**





Other Things We Do: One core element of Public Health is to identify gaps and build capacity. Therefore you will see Public Health team members involved in making the community better through program improvement and development. We are involved with the following community coalitions and task forces.

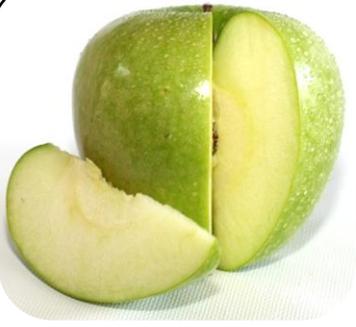
- Garfield Clean Energy
- School Based-
- Health Centers
- Senior Wellness
- Air Quality Task Force
- Mentor University nursing students
- PREP Program
- Aspen to Parachute Dental Health Alliance
- Suicide Prev. Coalition
- Middle Colorado Watershed Partnership
- Reach Out and Read
- -Human Services Commission
- Transitional Housing Coalition
- FACET
- Source Water Protection
- IOG
- CPT
- Headstart Advis. Board
- Roaring Fork Family Resource Center Advisory Board
- Nurse Family Partnership Advisory Board
- Early Childhood Counsels for Re1, Re2, Re16

Where we're at: When you walk into Public Health you will be offered any number of the following services, as well as be connected to a multitude of other community offerings through partnerships we have developed with health and human service entities throughout the State.

- Community Health Fairs
- Safety Fairs
- Senior Lunches
- Carbondale Satellite Clinic
- Kindergarten Round Ups
- Outreach Immunization Clinics
- Community Suicide Prevention Presentations
- Presentations to service clubs and organizations
- Community Flu Clinics

Our Programs: If you attend a community event or participate in a community group that has a connection to human or environmental health and safety, chances are Public Health will be there. Here is just a sampling of the places that Public Health presented information in 2011.

- Child & Adult Immunizations
- Woodstove Exchange
- Travel Immunizations
- WIC Program
- Radon Awareness
- Healthcare Program for Children with Special Needs
- Dental Fluoride Varnishes
- HIV/Hep C Testing
- TB & Communicable Disease Control
- Car Seat Checks
- Prenatal Education
- Blood pressure screenings
- Baby and Me Tobacco Free Program
- Tobacco Prevention Program
- Environmental Health Concern and Response



Prenatal & Newborn Services: Growing Healthy Families

Garfield County offers a range of services for families that allow them to access support from our prenatal nursing staff. These programs allow our nurses to deliver the support that families need to have a healthy pregnancy, and become knowledgeable and responsible parents, and provide their babies with the best possible start in life.

This year: Public Health served 271 Prenatal Clients and 188 new babies.

There were 34 teen mom's participating in our prenatal program. Prenatal Staff became part of the PREP program that teaches personal responsibility and sexual health education. One of the program's main goals is to prevent unintended pregnancy.

Prenatal Plus: focuses specifically on women at risk of delivering low birthweight babies. Nurses, a dietitian, and a mental health professional work together to provide support and up to ten home visits for women enrolled.

Bright Beginnings: gives parents books and materials for education and support. Our nursing staff focuses on each parents' needs by creating a personalized, interactive visit. Visits are offered during a child's first, second, and third year of life.

Baby and Me Tobacco Free: This year 20 pregnant smokers stopped smoking and are staying tobacco free on the Baby and Me program. The program helps pregnant women quit smoking, and stay smoke free, by providing them education and free diapers for up to a year.

Linking to Care: We have a staff person dedicated to helping clients navigate the Medicaid & CHP+ healthcare system, connecting them with doctors and other community resources.

Prenatal is an excellent example of collaboration between Public Health, the Hospital, Women's Health Providers, & Family Visitor Program.



Environmental Health

Responding to concerns with air, water, waste, food safety, and everything in-between



Air Quality Management

- Developed the first-ever Garfield County air quality management program plan.
- Implemented a pilot woodstove exchange program.
- Initiated a stakeholder-led reduced idling project at local schools.
- Carried out a multi-county media campaign aimed at heightening awareness regarding a number of regional air quality issues.

Air Quality Monitoring

- Completed full year of air quality monitoring at our four established monitoring station in Parachute, Battlement Mesa, Rifle and Dry Hollow
- Completed Air Monitoring Program Quality Assurance Project plan
- Completed 2010 annual air monitoring report along with 1st and 2nd quarter 2011 quarterly reports
- Secured slightly larger air quality monitoring contract with CDPHE
- Received BOCC approval and funding to develop an air monitoring station in the Roaring Fork Valley
- Worked with CSU, industry, Federal/State Government and community partners to initiate development of an oil and gas emission characterization and dispersion study

Garfield Clean Energy

- Administered the DOLA New Energy Communities Initiative Grant and two DOE Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants.
- All three grants are working to successfully implement energy efficiency and renewable energy strategies across Garfield County.

Battlement Mesa Health Impact Assessment / Environmental Health and Monitoring Study Design

- Completed DRAFT HIA project.
- Received EHMS Design at the end of December

Environmental Health

Responding to concerns with air, water, waste, food safety, and everything in-between



Partnership Support

- Middle Colorado River Watershed Partnership
- USGS Water Quality Data Repository Task Force
- Colorado Rural Water Association Source Water Protection projects in both the Roaring Fork and Colorado River Valleys
- Roaring Fork Conservancy Watershed Plan Implementation Project
- Garfield County Public Safety Council
- Public Information Officer's Group of Garfield County

Radon

- Distributed over 900 coupons for free test kits
- 188 households tested for radon
- Conducted extensive outreach and education regarding health risks associated with radon exposure, importance of testing and radon mitigation.
- CDPHE renewed the radon grant for 2012

Interagency Support

- Assisted vegetation management and mosquito abatement contractor with extensive public health outreach during the periods of spring runoff flooding and hot summer months
- Provided air quality screening support to the GC Oil and Gas Department during several dust, odor and other emission events
- Conducted approximately 20 land use application review for the GC Building and Planning Department
- Conducted several CDPHE application reviews for water and wastewater providers across Garfield County.
- Collaborated on several O&G land use proposals on both public and private lands
- Collaborated with USFS on development of smoke awareness outreach campaign.

Disease Intervention



Listeria tainted cantaloupe caused the deadliest recorded U.S. outbreak of foodborne illnesses in 2011. This outbreak serves to highlight the need for food safety and communicable disease management procedures. Garfield County Public Health nursing staff are trained in Communicable Disease management & work closely with State health officials to contain the spread of any infectious diseases.

In 2011 there were **100 reportable diseases** for the County. These include 26 cases of foodborne illnesses. These numbers are similar to the number of cases in 2010.

This year Health Department nursing staff assisted with the Re-2 **investigation** of an unknown substance that evacuated a local school. Staff also assisted a Regional and State **investigation** of a Salmonella outbreak at a summer camp.

In 2011 Public Health offered free HIV testing, serving 42 clients. In July we began a grant-funded Hep C testing program serving 4 clients. Cases have been identified through this program.

There were only **8 reported** cases of varicella (chickenpox), a positive testament to the increased use of the varicella vaccine. Before the licensing of the chickenpox vaccine in 1995, almost all persons in the United States had suffered from chickenpox by adulthood. Each year the virus caused an estimated 4 million cases of chickenpox, 11,000 hospitalizations, and 100-150 deaths.

There are 65 different infectious diseases and conditions that must be reported by health care providers and laboratories

Tuberculosis: There were no active TB cases in the County in 2011. Public Health did 200 TB skin tests. Nurses did 48 client visits for Latent TB medication management. There were 15 Latent TB cases managed by Garfield County in 2011, ranging in age from 9-57 years old.

Flu: There were **15 reportable** cases of influenza hospitalizations early in the year, with one pediatric death. Later in the year, Public Health worked with this family to launch a touching influenza awareness campaign that ran State-wide. This year 2,300 pediatric and 3,050 adult flu vaccines were given. Public Health held clinics at 12 different sites throughout the county, as well as going into the schools and 20 businesses.



Immunizations-

Immunizations are one of the greatest public health achievements in history, and they help to prevent many diseases. Many childhood immunizations provide a lifelong resistance to disease, but some American children remain under-vaccinated, leaving the potential for outbreaks of disease.



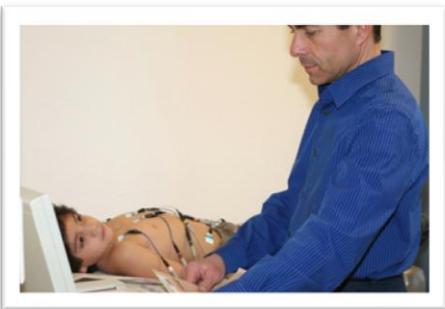
Vaccines for Children: We gave 7,800 vaccinations to 1,900 children 0-18 years old. Children's shots are always **\$10 or less** depending upon an individual's ability to pay.

Adult & Travel Vaccines: This year we gave **4,860 vaccinations** to 1,180 adults. This includes **227 international travelers**. These numbers are very similar to numbers in 2010.

Outreach: We hold twice monthly outreach clinics in Parachute and Carbondale. We collaborated with local schools and physicians to adopt the CIIS immunization registry database, and worked with elementary schools to provide records screenings at Kindergarten round-ups.

In May, Public Health recognized National Infant Immunization Week by providing free vaccines to all children, serving 173 kids with 400 vaccines. In Rifle there was a special clinic to bring 57 middle school students up to date on Tdap. Public Health received \$13,000 from the RIZO project to begin billing CHP+ for immunizations. We also received federally funded vaccines, so that we could provide \$10 vaccinations for adults. We worked with the Family Birth Place and Pediatricians in a special project designed to vaccinate new parents.

Seniors- Public Health continues to be involved in Senior Wellness programs and gave over 500 blood pressure checks in 2011.

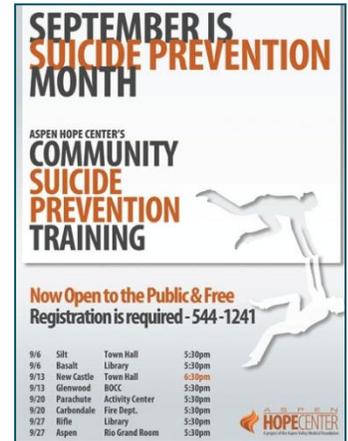


Healthcare for Children with

Special Needs- Public Health offers supportive services to families who have children with special healthcare needs. In 2010 we saw 24 cardiology patients and 42 neurology patients. A new cardiologist moved to the area and will now see patients, closing down the Public Health Cardiology clinic.

Other Outreach- Provided free car seat education and installations at Safety Fairs and by appointment. Provided pregnancy tests for 44 women in the Rifle office. Did 7 Headstart physical assessments. Gave children over 2,300 books through the Reach Out and Read program and educated their parents on the importance of literacy.

Suicide Prevention This year there were **15** suicides in Garfield County. Garfield County Public Health staff continue to organize the Garfield County Suicide Prevention Coalition. The Coalition joined with the Aspen Hope Center in September to complete Suicide Prevention Trainings in each municipality from Aspen to Parachute training **90** people in suicide prevention techniques. In addition, to September's presentations, 12 other presentations were made to schools, law enforcement, government, churches, and other organizations training over **500 people** and identifying 9 at risk of suicide.



Total suicides occurring in Garfield County	
2011	15
2010	7
2009	12
2007	11

Emergency Preparedness

Like a boy scout Public Health will “always be prepared.” Part of this effort involves staying up to date on the latest news in emergency preparedness.

We continue to provide Health Alert Network faxes and emails to a long list of health care providers, responders and other officials, both to practice our emergency communication and to alert them of necessary health announcements.

Received National Recognition from NACCHO for Preparedness Public Health Readiness

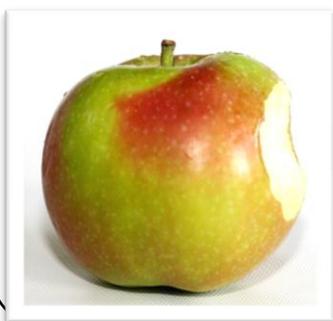
Work with regional and state staff to improve public health plan

Work with Medical Reserve Corps.

Continue to meet with the ESF8 group

Involvement with Public Safety /LEPC

Stood up ICS and POD for mass vaccination of flu shots



WIC -

WIC is a federal assistance program that provides nutrition counseling and vouchers for nutritious foods to income-eligible women who are pregnant or breastfeeding, and children from 0-5 years. Every dollar invested in WIC saves up to \$3.13 in health care costs within the first 60 days after birth.



*60% of babies
born in Colorado
will be on WIC*

WIC provides specific nutritious foods and infant formula. Through our clinics, we also screen for anemia, determine body mass index and counsel on the benefits of breastfeeding.

Highlights This Year:

- Began the Breastfeeding Peer Counselor Program that provides education, encouragement, and referrals to keep mom's breastfeeding.
- Partnered with the Cooking Matters Program to teach healthy cooking/eating skills. Two, six week courses were taught in 2011.
- WIC distributed Farmers Market vouchers to 650 families. Vouchers were spent at 6 different markets in the County.
- Two WIC staff are Lactation Management Specialists, certified to counsel High Risk breastfeeding clients.
- WIC became paperless!
- Partnered with Re2 to weigh and measure all 3rd and 4th graders.
- Precepted 2 students from Yampah Mountain High School.
- Provided nutrition classes to senior meal sites, Re1, and Mountain Valley Developmental Services.
- Helped to start a senior garden plot at the Glenwood Community Gardens.



Dental Programs-

Public Health continues to serve on the Board of Directors for the Aspen to Parachute Dental Health Alliance. In its second year of existence, the Alliance continues to receive notoriety and attention for its efforts. This year the Alliance was acknowledged by the CDPHE Oral Health Unit, The Denver Based Caring for Colorado Foundation, and at Northwest Rural Philanthropy Days for its exceptional accomplishments.

Through the Alliance, Senior Mobile Dental, a program out of Colorado Springs came twice in 2011 to treat Garfield County Seniors in Senior Living Sites.

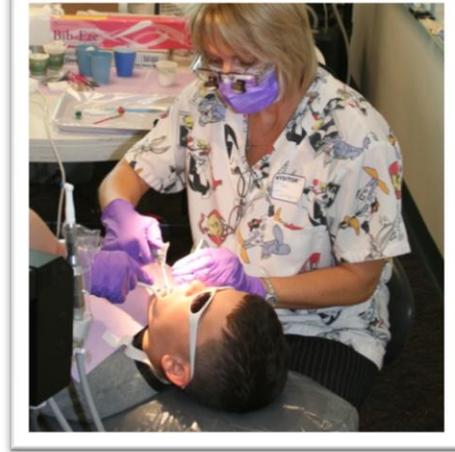
The Alliance worked on water fluoridation issues and educated the public as well as dental and medical professionals on emerging oral health topics, best practices, and recommendations.

The School Oral Health Program provided **795** professional dental cleanings to elementary and middle school children in 9 Garfield County schools (in all three Districts). The program is grant funded, and allows these services to be provided at no cost to students or the schools.

Of children seen, **24%** had a need to see a dentist right away (due to decay/cavities, pain, or potentially permanent issues). **62%** of the kids needed and received dental sealants.

In 2010, only 3% of Colorado Children had visited a dentist by their 1st birthday (as recommended). By age 5, 1/3 still had never seen a dentist.

In one of the middle schools **44%** of children had an immediate need to see a dentist.



Governor Hickenlooper is focusing his leadership on improving oral health, the Governor's office and the CDPHE named oral health one of Colorado's 10 Winnable Battles

