

ANNUAL REPORT 2010

# 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.*”

*“Compared to the made-for-TV drama of medical care,  
the seemingly mundane benefits of public health are often  
invisible: the people who benefit from our numerous public  
health services don’t even realize it, or the results of our  
prevention efforts often manifest themselves somewhere in  
the future.*”

*However; unlike medical treatment, which is only needed  
on occasion, the numerous public health services detailed  
in this report are with you every single day, and  
throughout your lifetime.”*

*Source: Tri County Health Department*

**A small group of thoughtful  
people could change the  
world. Indeed, it's the only  
thing that ever has.**

*Margaret Meade*





*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.

School Based Health Centers Meetings  
 Senior Wellness Committee  
 Mentor Mesa State nursing students  
 Aspen to Parachute Dental Health Alliance  
 Suicide Prevention Coalition  
 Mental Health America Reach Out and Read Human Services Commission  
 Transitional Housing Coalition  
 FACET (Family & Community Engagement Team)  
 IOG  
 CPT (Child Protection Team)  
 Headstart Advisory Board  
 Roaring Fork Family Resource Center Advisory Board  
 Nurse Family Partnership Advisory Board  
 Early Childhood Counsels for Re1, Re2, Re16

*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 2010.

Child & Adult Immunizations  
 Travel Immunizations  
 WIC (Women Infant Children Nutrition Program)  
 Healthcare Program for Children with Special Needs  
 Dental Fluoride Varnishes  
 HIV testing  
 TB & Communicable Disease Control  
 Environmental Health Services  
 Car Seat Checks  
 Prenatal Education  
 Blood pressure screenings  
 Baby and Me Tobacco Free Program  
 Tobacco Prevention Program

*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.

9Health Fairs  
 Safety Fairs  
 Senior Lunches  
 Carbondale Immunizations Clinic  
 Kindergarten Round Ups  
 Vote and Vaccinate Outreach Immunizations Clinics  
 Community Suicide Prevention Presentations



## *Prenatal & Newborn Services:* Growing Healthy Families

Garfield County offers a range of services for families that allow them to access to 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:* The team expanded the criteria for making post partum home visits, allowing 160 women to receive this form of support in 2010.

Improvements in the prenatal electronic database has improved services to clients, decreasing response time, and increasing our success with providing early post partum home visits.

*Prenatal Plus:* focuses specifically on women at risk for a low birthweight baby. 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:* participation increased 64% this year, helping pregnant women quit smoking and stay smoke free by providing them education and free diapers for up to a year. 8 women are currently receiving free diapers.

*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. In 2010 she made over 1775 client contacts.

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



*Interesting Fact: The National Birthrate is the lowest it has been in a century.*

## Environmental Health

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



### Air Quality Management Planning

- Researched model air quality management plans
- Working with the State, NWCCOG, and other stakeholders on a woodstove exchange program
- Working with stakeholders on a reduced idling program
- Completed EPA RGI Grant, including:
  1. Targeted air quality monitoring around 4 drilling sites and four flowback operations
  2. Updated emissions inventory for Garfield County
  3. Countywide air quality assessment
  4. Development and distribution of the first "Citizen's Guide to Air Quality in Garfield County"

### Garfield New Energy Communities Initiative

- Acted as grant administrator of the DOLA New Energy Communities Initiative Grant and DOE Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant. Both Grants are working to successfully implement energy efficiency and renewable energy strategies across Garfield County.

### Air Quality Monitoring

- Updated our meteorology equipment with newer technology.
- Moved Rulison monitoring station to Battlement Mesa.
- Completed 2008 health risk assessment report, 2009 annual air monitoring report, and all 2010 quarterly reports.
- Secured another monitoring contract with the State Air Division.

### Battlement Mesa HIA and EHMS

- Completed DRAFT HIA in accordance with the terms of the Professional Services Agreement. Received BOCC approval for 4-month PSA Extension in December
- Finalized Intergovernmental Agreement with UC Denver in July. Received BOCC approval for 1-year extension in November
- Invited to present at University of Pittsburgh, Graduate School of Public Health conference

# Environmental Health

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



## EPA CARE Grant

- Successfully completed the grant deliverables including:
- Environmental Health Issues assessment
- Outreach and public information campaign plan

## Radon Program

- Received small CDPHE grant to provide free radon test kits, and to conduct extensive outreach and education regarding health risks associated with radon exposure.

## Partnership Support

- Middle Colorado River Watershed Partnership
- USGS Water Quality Data Repository Task Force
- Colorado Occupational Safety and Health Advisory Committee
- Tri-county Solid Waste Diversion initiative
- Colorado Rural Water Association Source Water Protection project
- Roaring Fork Conservancy Watershed Plan Implementation Project

## Interagency Support

- Provided air quality consulting, complaint response and public information support to the airport management staff during the airport construction project.
- Assisted vegetation management in RFP review and selection of Mosquito abatement contractor.
- Provided air quality screening support to the GC Oil and Gas Department during Battlement Mesa odor events
- Conducted approximately 20 land use application review for the GC Building and Planning Department
- Conducted 8 CDPHE application reviews for water and wastewater providers across Garfield County.
- Supported USFS and BLM with air quality reporting and health concerns during the Meadow Creek fire and several prescribed burns.

## *Immunizations & Disease Intervention*

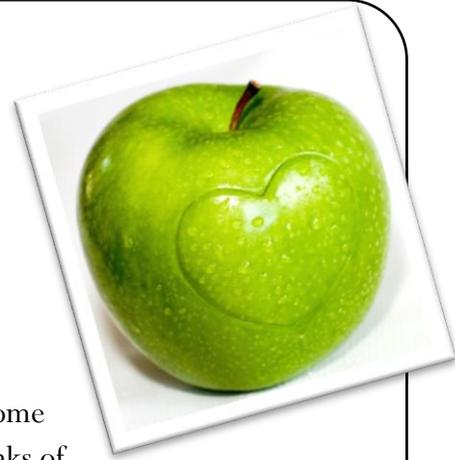
Immunizations are one of the greatest public health achievements in history, and they help to prevent many diseases.

Many childhood immunizations provide a lifelong resistance to disease, but some American children remain under-vaccinated, leaving the potential for outbreaks of disease. In 2010 we focused on increasing the number of adults who became vaccinated against preventable disease. As we age we tend not to think about immunizations (aside from our annual flu shot) when in fact many adults are at risk of spreading disease.

***Vaccines for Children:*** We gave 7,450 vaccinations to children 0-18 years old. That was to over 2,000 unduplicated children. Children's shots are always \$10 or less depending upon an individual's ability to pay.

***Adult & Travel Vaccines:*** This year we gave 4,220 vaccinations (1,108 unduplicated adults) at our two clinic locations. We also saw an additional 236 clients through our travel clinic.

***Flu:*** We gave 3,766 doses of flu vaccine (these numbers included in totals above).



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

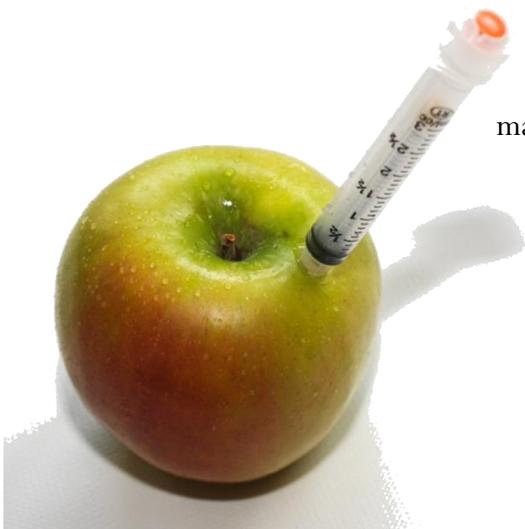
***Tuberculosis:*** We case managed 24 clients for latent TB infection (11 of these were identified in 2010).

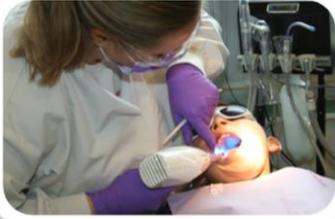
*There were no new cases of active tuberculosis (TB) diagnosed in 2010!*

### ***Other Reportable Diseases:***

Public Health received information on 62 reportable diseases. Of those, 34 required follow-up investigation. The vast majority of these involved food-borne illnesses.

It is important to note that only 5 of the 62 reportables were potentially vaccine preventable diseases.





## Dental Health

In collaboration with the Aspen to Parachute Dental Health Alliance, Public Health was able to do more in 2010 to further oral health care efforts in Garfield County than ever before. The approach is two-fold; create a consistent model for delivering prevention education and work towards building an indigent dental care clinic to provide individuals of all ages with treatment.

**Treatment:** The Alliance received funding through Garfield & Pitkin Counties to hire a consulting firm to develop a business plan for 'GreatTeeth' dental clinic. The plan was completed in Dec. 2010 and the coalition is actively fundraising for the nearly 1 million dollar project.

**Prevention:** Through County & State contributions the Alliance was able to hire a 'Regional Oral Health Consultant' to further promote the importance of oral health care in our region. This position has been essential to improving the quality of our School-Based Dental Sealant program, and educating our Dentists and local Physicians on new oral health care practices. As a result, oral health care is being viewed as more important in our community.

The following photos and statistics are from our 2010 school-based dental sealant program. Through grant funding Public Health was able to place Registered Dental Hygienists into Garfield County Schools, providing 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> graders with a professional dental cleaning, sealants (to seal out tooth decay) and

Public Health, Pediatric Partners, Roaring Fork Family Resource Centers and several other health and human service providers are now doing oral screenings and applying fluoride varnish to clients' teeth!

*In the schools, we did over 580 professional dental cleanings at no cost to parents! Of those, 19% of the kids had an immediate need to see a dentist (severe, potentially permanent issues), and 25% needed to see a dentist soon (cavities, pain present).*

fluoride varnish (a 'paint' that protects against cavities).



*JVA conducted a Dental Health Survey; 58% of respondents said there was a strong need for affordable dental health services. 34% said there was some need, and only 8%*



## WIC Nutrition Services

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.

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.

There are 1460 active clients on WIC services. 60% of these clients are seen in our Glenwood Springs office.

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

*The 2010 WIC case load is larger than it has ever been. In 1999 the total WIC case load was 850. Right now the case load in Glenwood Springs (alone) is 822!*

This year clients received vouchers that were redeemable at local farmers markets. We issued over \$7,000 worth of farmers market vouchers.

Breastmilk is the best food for a baby, and because of this, breastfeeding is always an important aspect of WIC education and support. In 2010 we wrote a grant to begin a

breast feeding peer counselor program that allows WIC clients who have had success at breastfeeding to mentor and support other clients. This program is currently being set up and will begin in 2011.



## *Emergency Preparedness Efforts*



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. In 2010 numerous staff attended various levels of FEMA Incident Command emergency training.

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.

Here are some of this year’s highlights:

*Completed difficult NACCHO accreditation process*

*Participated in Northwest Incident Management Team exercise in Carbondale*

*Continue to meet with the ESF8 group on monthly basis*

*Completed Emergency Preparedness Response grant cycle for 2009-2010*

*Coordinate with ESF14 group, participating in trainings and risk assessment analysis*

*Continued the organization of the Medical Reserve Corp.*

*Continued to develop planning strategies around alternate care sites and mass case with ESF8*

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## *Healthcare Program for Children with Special Needs*



Public Health continues to run special clinics and offer supportive services to families who have children with special healthcare needs. In 2010 we brought in a cardiologist for 3 cardiology clinics (serving 24 children) and a neurologist for 4 neurology clinics (serving 25 children).

We also work with children who have suffered Traumatic Brain Injury and worked with one of these clients this past year.