



Community Health Update – March 2026

Activities:

- **Clinical Services:** DCHD held its first vaccine clinic of the year on February 17, 2026 where 27 children and adults received more than 70 needed vaccines. Additional clinics have been scheduled in March and April 2026 through ongoing partnerships with ColoVAX and the Public Health Institute at Denver Health.

Staff developed a workplace-based outreach program designed to improve access to health education, preventive care, vaccines, and behavioral health resources for construction workers in Douglas County. Many construction workers face long work hours, language barriers, and lack of insurance that create challenges in accessing immunizations and other much needed healthcare services. Through this program, DCHD staff have visited eight different construction sites and met with more than 75 superintendents, supervisors, and workers to provide information and resources including upcoming vaccine clinics that workers and family members can access.

- **Maternal Child Health:** The Healthy Families Partnership continues to expand its reach and impact within Douglas County. In 2025, a total of 4,598 Healthy Families Partnership bags were distributed to families delivering at all four Douglas County hospitals.

In response to hospital partner feedback and community identified needs, educational materials have been expanded to include child passenger safety, developmental milestones, and perinatal mental health, with an emphasis on supporting the entire family unit. In 2026, the program will further strengthen support to families by incorporating breastfeeding education and resources into the Healthy Families Partnership bags.

- **Tobacco Prevention:** Douglas County Health Department is gathering community input on nicotine, vaping, and tobacco use to better understand the knowledge and behaviors of residents in our communities and to inform our programming & local health efforts. The survey is short, 15 questions, and takes about 3 to 4 minutes to complete, and is available for any age group to participate. It is available in English,

Spanish, Russian, Vietnamese, Chinese, and German. The only required information is a ZIP code.

At the end of the survey, participants who request it will receive relevant resources by email. **The [survey](#) is live and will remain open through March 2026 using this link:**

In partnership with the Pines and Plains Library in Elizabeth, DCHD staff will be providing educational sessions to Elbert County residents. As highlighted in the Elbert County Connection, this free event on March 11, 2026 will include a conversation around nicotine and tobacco use in youth.

ELBERT COUNTY CONNECTION
Welcoming Your Engagement. Keeping You Informed.

Have You Prepared Your Home to Defend Against a Wildfire?

If your home is in or near the natural vegetation of Elbert County's rolling hills, grasslands, prairies, or scattered pine forests, you live in the wild-land-urban interface (WUI) and are at risk from wildfire... like almost half of the state's population. Proximity to WUI and our ongoing dry and warmer temperatures elevate wildfire risk for us all, and wildfires, as we have seen, now occur year-round.

If you live in or near the WUI, and have not prepared your home and property to mitigate your risk, please consider these simple, practical, low-cost actions from the Live Wildfire Ready campaign from Colorado State University and the Colorado Department of Natural Resources:

- Regularly clear leaves, pine needles and other debris from your deck, roof and gutters.
- Rake and remove pine needles and leaves five feet from your home.
- Store firewood at least 30 feet from your home, preferably uphill, and never on or under your deck.

THIS SPACE IS PAID FOR BY ELBERT COUNTY GOVERNMENT

In addition to preparing your home, living wildfire ready also means being ready to evacuate during a fire:

- Make an evacuation plan with Ready, Set, Go! for people and pets.
- Prepare a go-bag and disaster supplies kit with Ready, Set, Go!
- Sign up for ElbertCountAlert.com wildfire notifications - it's free!

For more info about wildfire mitigation and the tools and resources available download this check-list prepared by LWR_Checklist_Mountains_EngSpa_2025.indd

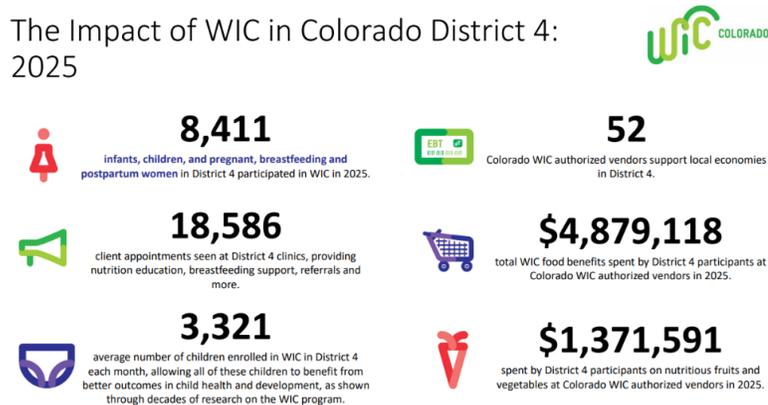
What is known about tobacco use and young children may surprise you!

Nicotine use among young people has changed. Today's products are easier to hide, deliver nicotine quickly, and can affect developing brains. Prevention works best when adults, schools, and communities share clear, consistent messages.

Join us for the Youth **Nicotine & Tobacco Use Community Conversation** March 11, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. at the Pines and Plains Library, 651 Beverly St, Elizabeth, a presentation by Elbert County Public Health And the Douglas County Health Department.

- WIC:** WIC staff, in partnership with the Community Health Educator that supports tobacco prevention in Elbert County, recently developed a partnership with Pines and Plains Library in Elizabeth that has allowed the program to provide monthly WIC services to families and library attendees. The co-location, offered on the 2nd Wednesday of the month from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., kicked off in February and was well attended by families with pre-scheduled appointments as well as walk-ins at the library. This is an exciting partnership that will better serve Elbert County residents that have difficulty accessing services in Douglas County.

The State of Colorado shared the following graphic that highlights the impact of WIC in Congressional District 4. As this district includes Elbert County and the six counties Northeast Colorado Health Department serves, it is a good representation of the reach of Douglas County WIC's program and the partnerships that have been created.



Source: WIC Administrative Data 2025. Please note data is an estimate based on participant zip codes located within the district during calendar year 2025. For questions, please contact cdphc_mdbdata@state.co.us

- **Grant Awards:**

- **Chronic Disease Prevention** – DCHD has been awarded a \$100,000.00 pilot grant (January – June 2026) to conduct a chronic disease community assessment that will support the development of evidence-based strategies to support chronic disease prevention and management. The Department has identified healthy food distribution and breastfeeding as strategies that will inform the work in phase two (July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027).
- **Lactation Mini Grant** - In February 2026, the Maternal and Child Health and WIC Programs were awarded a mini grant through the 2026 Human Milk Feeding Supporting Funding initiative, administered by the Colorado Breastfeed Coalition and La Leche League of Mountain Plains. The \$200 award will support the launch of the Douglas County Health Department’s Baby Café, anticipated in fall 2026.
- **Overdose Fatality Reviews** – DCHD received a \$19,999.00 grant from CDPHE to establish a County overdose fatality review (OFR) team to decrease the incidence of preventable overdose deaths. Douglas County is one of nine Colorado counties charged with creating an OFR in accordance with Senate Bill 24-047, Part 23.

- **Community Partner Highlights:**

The Community Health team participated in the following community presentations and events from December 1, 2025 – February 28, 2026:

Date	Event	Location
12/13/25	DCHD Overview Presentation at Parker United Methodist Church	Parker
1/27/26	Douglas County Strive to Thrive	Castle Rock
1/29/26	Mental Health First Aid training with DCHD Environmental Health, Maternal Child Health, and WIC teams	Englewood
2/11/26	WIC co-location with Pines and Plains Library	Elizabeth
2/12/26	Mental Health First Aid training with Developmental Pathways	Aurora
2/13/26	Valentine’s Day Dance at Highlands Ranch Senior Center	Highlands Ranch
2/17/26	Immunization Clinic at DCHD	Englewood
2/20/26	Mental Health First Aid training with AdventHealth	Parker
2/20/26	Spring Advisory Board Chefs Table Lunch at Legacy Campus	Parker
2/21/26	YANA Rock Your Wellness Event	Centennial
2/24/26	Narcan Training with Probation	Englewood
2/25/26	Mental Health Conversation with Douglas County School District Board of Education	Parker