

Community Health Update – March 2025

Activities:

- **Clinical Services:** DCHD is in the process of contracting with the Public Health Institute at Denver Health and ColoVAX to provide ongoing immunization services in the County. Each entity will hold up to 12 vaccine events annually to support uninsured and underinsured individuals and families in the community. The Department is also looking to partner with Julissa Soto Health Equity Consulting to continue working to address vaccine access in the Hispanic community.

- **Healthy Families Partnership:** The Healthy Families Partnership has continued to have great success in supporting newly birthing families in Douglas County. With the formal launch of the program at all four hospitals in the County, 1,500 Healthy Families Partnership bags that includes sleep sacks and safe sleep education have been distributed to families. The Partnership is currently working on adding educational information around car seat safety and developmental milestones in the first 18 months of life.



The Partnership held its first meeting of 2025 on February 27th and heard a presentation on men’s mental health from defyThemAll, a social marketing firm that the County partnered with around men’s mental health in 2024. The Partnership is now looking at how it can integrate resources on mental well-being for both mothers and fathers in educational materials and on the Healthy Families Partnership [webpage](#).

- **Nurse Support Program:** Since late 2022, DCHD has partnered with the Department of Human Services and their child welfare team to offer home visits from a registered nurse, as part of the Nurse Support Program. This program supports the Child Maltreatment Prevention Plan for the County through prevention, education, support, and resources.

In 2024, 88 cases that were screened out by case workers were referred to the Nurse Support Program and 20 cases that were engaged in 2023 continued their engagement with the nurse in 2024. A variety of resources and education were provided to families for conditions including but not limited to: complex medical issues, mental health and substance misuse, developmentally appropriate growth and behavior, disease management, breastfeeding support, bed bug eradication, mold remediation, and tick-borne illnesses.

- **WIC:** The partnership with Northeast Colorado Health Department (NCHD) has continued to be a positive one. DCHD was able to bring on a registered dietician at the beginning of January that provides remote nutrition support for pregnant women and families identified as high risk. DCHD and NCHD have met with state staff to discuss the progress of the partnership, challenges, and successes. This partnership is seen as a model for other WIC agencies across the state and both agencies have been happy to share best practices with this type of partnership model.

The annual Food Dollars Report from CDPHE showed that WIC families redeemed \$1,440,269.48 during the 2024 calendar year at one of 24 participating retail stores in the County.

- **Community Partner Highlights:** DCHD was approached by the 23rd Judicial District to provide HIV testing to out of custody defendants who are bound over for trial for any sexual offense as per CRS 18-3-415. As the Department previously received funding from CDPHE for STI testing and has staff trained as certified phlebotomy technicians, this is a wonderful opportunity to expand partnership and support for the 23rd.

The Community Health team participated in the following community presentations and events from December 6, 2024 – February 28, 2025:

Date	Event	Location
12/11/2024	Healthy Activities Night at Castle Rock Middle School	Castle Rock
12/18/2024	DCHD Interview with Telemundo	Denver
12/20/2024	Tobacco Prevention Presentation for Douglas County Sheriff's Office SROs	Highlands Ranch
1/9/2025	Vaccine Clinic with CAHEP at DHCD	Lone Tree
1/13/2025	Older Adult Vaccine Clinic with ColoVAX at DCHD	Castle Rock
1/28/2025	Strive to Thrive	Castle Rock
1/31/2025	Resource Table at SECORCares	Parker
2/4/2025	Mental Wellbeing in Older Adults Presentation	Parker
2/7/2025	Health Screenings for Douglas County School District Transportation Department	Castle Rock
2/12/2025	Sky Ridge Community Council Meeting	Lone Tree
2/12/2025	Valentine's Rose Delivery to Friends of Highlands Ranch Senior Center Luncheon	Highlands Ranch
2/14/2025	Valentine's Rose Delivery at the Highlands Ranch Senior Center's inaugural Valentine's Dance	Highlands Ranch
2/20/2025	Older Adult Health & Resource EXPO	Highlands Ranch
2/22/2025	FREE Health Fair for Metro Area Residents	Aurora
2/28/2025	Health Screenings for Douglas County School District Transportation Department	Castle Rock