



# 2022 Budget Presentation

## El Paso County Public Health

Susan Wheelan, MBA

Public Health Director

October 21, 2021

# El Paso County Public Health

- **Mission**

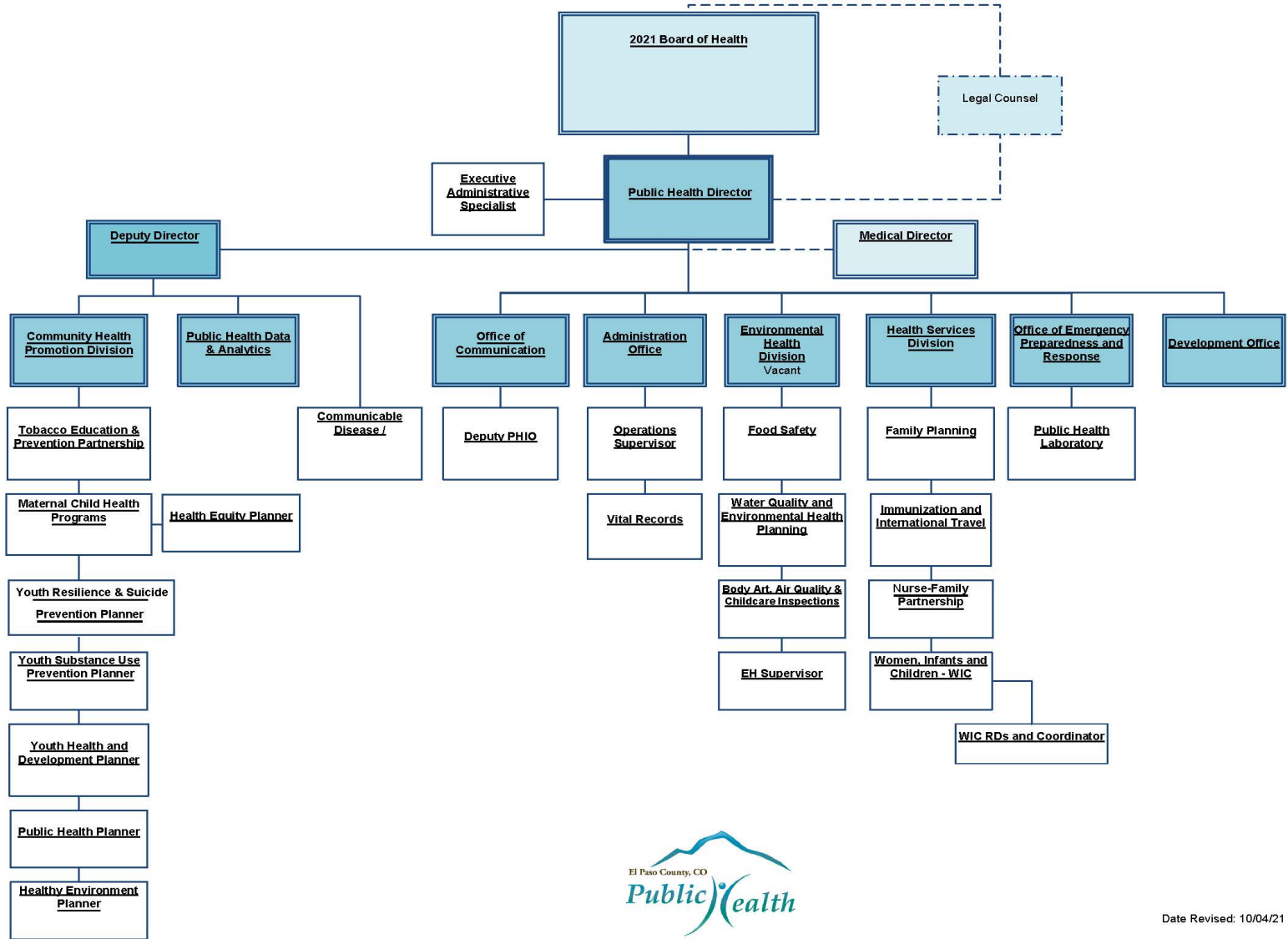
- Our mission is to promote and protect public health and environmental quality across El Paso County through people, prevention and partnerships

- **Vision**

- Our vision is for all El Paso County residents to live in thriving communities where every person has the opportunity to achieve optimal health



# Organizational Chart



Date Revised: 10/04/21



# Governance—Board of Health

- **Dr. James Terbush**, President
- **Doris Ralston**, Vice President
- **Susan Wheelan**, Secretary to the Board
- **Longinos Gonzalez, Jr.**, El Paso County Commissioner
- **Cami Bremer**, El Paso County Commissioner
- **Dave Donelson**, Colorado Springs City Council
- **Sam Gieck**, Fountain City Council
- **Dr. Richard Vu**, Matthews-Vu Medical Group
- **Ted Collas**, Colorado Springs Fire Department Chief (Retired)
- **Kari Kilroy**, UCHealth



# Mandates/State Statutes Required

## **Colorado Public Health Act**

### Title 25, Article 1 of Colorado Revised Statutes

- Assessment, Planning, and Communication
- Communicable Disease Prevention, Investigation, & Control
- Emergency Preparedness and Response
- Environmental Health
- Prevention and Population Health Promotion
- Vital Records and Statistics (Birth and Death Certificates)
- Administration and Governance



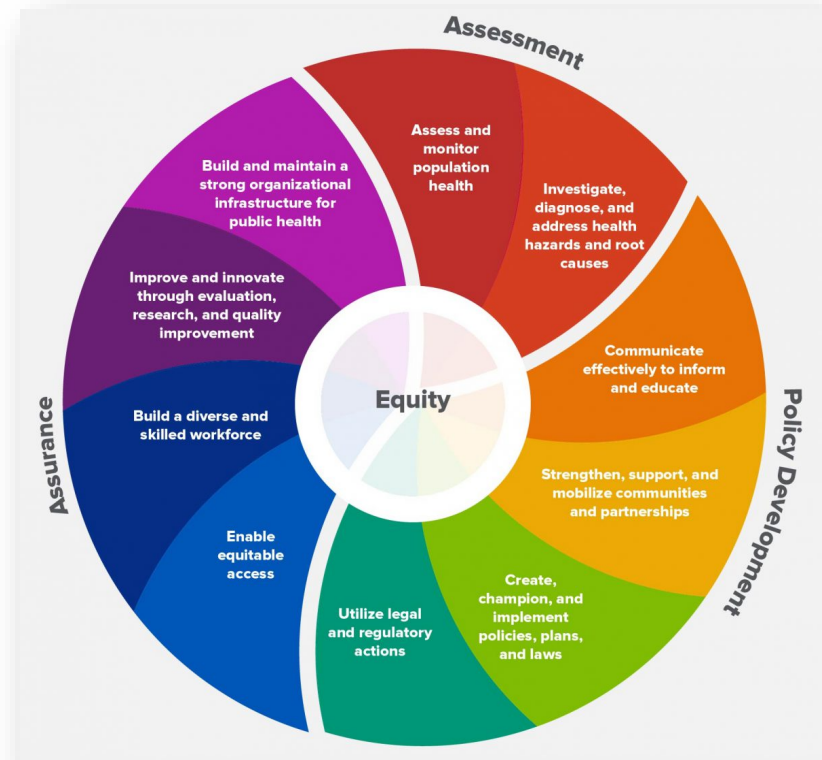
# Mandates/State Statutes Required

## Colorado Public Health Act

Title 25, Article 1 of Colorado Revised Statutes

### The 10 Essential Public Health Services

- Provides a framework for public health to protect and promote the health of all people in all communities
- Promotes policies, systems, and services that enable optimal health and seeks to remove obstacles and systemic and structural barriers



# Mandates/State Statutes Required

## **Colorado Public Health Act**

Title 25, Article 1 of Colorado Revised Statutes

### **Required duties of all local public health agencies:**

- Complete a community health assessment
- Create community health improvement plan
- Advise the local board of health on public policy issues necessary to protect public health and the environment
- Child Fatality Review Team



# Strategic Plan Goals 2021

## **El Paso County Strategic Goal #5: Strive to ensure a safe, secure, resilient, and healthy community**

- Enhance El Paso County Public Health involvement in the transportation, land use, and environmental planning processes
- Expand carbon monoxide and radon awareness, outreach, and detection
- Develop a public outreach campaign to provide information on outdoor air pollution, source of pollutants, and corrective actions





# Strategic Plan Goals 2021

## **El Paso County Strategic Goal #5: Strive to ensure a safe, secure, resilient, and healthy community**

- Implement a “Communities That Care” model to assess and implement prevention strategies to reduce youth substance abuse
- Convene community partners to implement strategies to reduce teen suicide
- Continue to actively support the El Paso County Community Health Improvement Plan
- Support community efforts to combat substance abuse
- Reduce foodborne illness through increased food worker education and expanding compliance efforts of food safety standards at retail food establishments





# Strategic Plan Goals 2021

## **El Paso County Strategic Goal #5: Strive to ensure a safe, secure, resilient, and healthy community**

- Participate in efforts to prevent water contamination and if warranted, support mitigation efforts with community stakeholders
- Test the public health pandemic disease response plan, including points of distribution and update plan as warranted



# Ongoing Critical Needs Positions

## Ten critical needs positions

- Administrative (one)
- Epidemiologist (one)
- Chief Data Scientific Strategist (one)
- Public Health Nurse (one)
- Health Equity Planner (one)
- Emergency Preparedness and Response Coordinator (one)
- Youth Resilience and Suicide Prevention Planner (one)
- Youth Health and Development Planner (one)
- Environmental Health Specialists (two)



# Ongoing Critical Needs Positions

## Administrative

- Supporting the shift to virtual operations during COVID-19 response by:
  - Mobilizing staff to work effectively in a hybrid virtual environment and with expanded teams
    - Maintaining and enhancing streamlined intra- and inter-agency communication
    - Implementing new processes and protocols to assure successful agency operations in a remote atmosphere
- Provides support to increase efficiencies, in coordination with technical staff, to convene and collaborate with large, multidisciplinary groups
  - Includes expanding support for schools, Child Fatality Review Team, Youth Suicide Prevention Workgroup, behavioral health initiatives, and data and analytics



# Ongoing Critical Needs Positions

## Chief Data Scientific Strategist and Epidemiologist

- Increasing access to hyper-local, real-time, transparent and accurate data and trends
- Dashboard is a resource for the public and partners – consistently the top viewed page on the Public Health website
  - Since the COVID-19 dashboard launched in April 2020, there have been 1,954,525 total pageviews
- Credible research webpage with peer-reviewed literature and journal articles on emerging topics
- Children and youth data COVID-19 data brief keeps partners and public informed about disease trends among this age group



*Epidemiologist presents El Paso and Teller County data and metrics at a Colorado Springs Health Foundation Board Retreat on Sept. 24, 2021*



# Ongoing Critical Needs Positions

## Public Health Nurse

- This position supports 18 long-term care facilities (of a total of approximately 70 long-term care facilities in El Paso County), providing technical assistance to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19 among most vulnerable populations, assisting them with outbreaks, educating staff on guidance, and collecting data
- Provides support to long-term care facilities in planning and implementation of booster shot clinics
- As vaccination lead for many clinics at El Paso County Public Health South, oversees vaccination logistics in the vaccine administration area
- Manages vaccine deployment for Operation House Call
- Plans, prepares, and executes back-to-school vaccination clinics at several schools and community events



*Public Health nurse working with families to provide routine childhood vaccines at the Annual Backpack Bash*



# Ongoing Critical Needs Positions

## Health Equity Planner

- Vital role in coordinating vaccine equity clinics throughout El Paso County, with more than 140 events across 30 community-based partners
  - Community health centers, faith-based organizations, homeless services, agencies serving LGBTQ youth, agencies serving individuals with disabilities, and more
- Facilitates the translation and creation of culturally relevant outreach materials in Spanish for large multi-media vaccination campaign
  - Includes ads for Spanish radio and television, social media, print, outdoor, website, and more
- Actively coordinates with senior-living organizations to provide information on vaccine phases, availability and resources



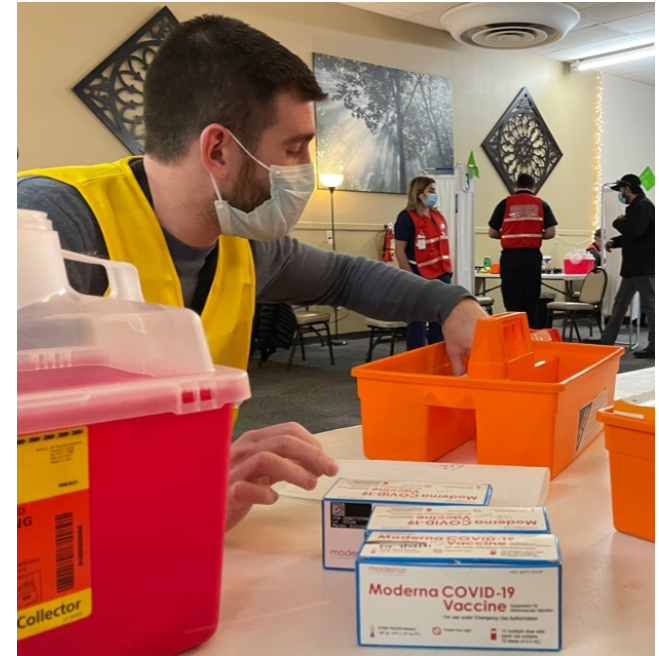
*Health Equity Planner checks individuals in at a COVID-19 vaccine clinic at El Paso County Public Health South*



# Ongoing Critical Needs Positions

## Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR) Coordinator

- Serves as point of dispensing (POD) manager for high-volume testing sites at El Paso County Public Health South
  - Develops POD floor plans to support access and functional needs and promote efficient flow and process for the public
  - 39 POD events at EPCPH South from February – October 2021, resulting in approximately 20,000 doses administered
- Spearheading the implementation of PrepMod, which allows for real-time scheduling of vaccine appointments
  - This enhances convenience for the public, in addition to streamlining capacity and staffing logistics and coordination on the back end



*EPR Coordinator preps vaccine supplies at COVID-19 vaccine POD at El Paso County Public Health South*





# Ongoing Critical Needs Positions

El Paso County Public Health's Emergency Preparedness and Response Program serves a five-county region



Colorado Health Care Coalitions (HCC)

For Additional Information Contact CDPHE OEPR

Map Prepared by CHED/GIS Unit | March 15, 2017



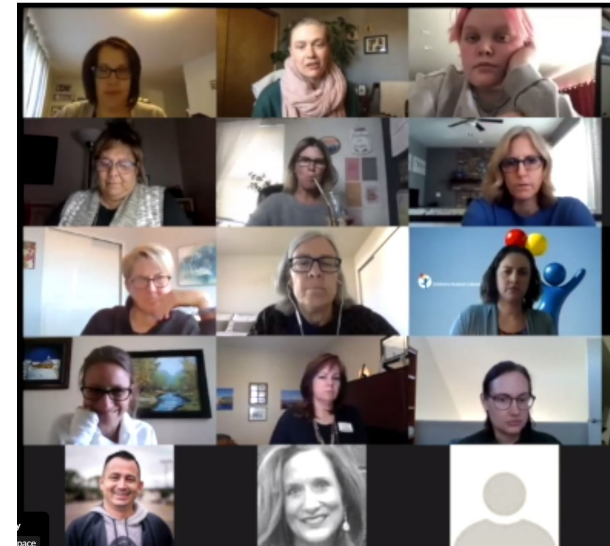
COLORADO  
Department of Public  
Health & Environment



# Ongoing Critical Needs Positions

## Youth Health and Wellness Staff

- Youth Suicide Prevention Workgroup convenes more than 90 community partners to address youth suicide with a collective impact model
- In January 2021, proactively hosted a youth panel on connectedness and support during the pandemic
- Prioritizing case review of all 2020 youth suicide fatalities in the Child Fatality Review Team to identify prevention opportunities sooner and operationalize solutions
  - To date in 2021, there are three youth suicides in El Paso County per Coroner's Office data
- Updating needs assessment and gap analysis to strengthen the focus of the Community Action Plan
  - Working toward universal release of information form to enhance communication and coordination of care among youth-serving agencies for youth who are at risk for suicide
  - Expansion of local parent-informed resources on youth suicide and mental health issues



*Youth panel in January 2021 on connectedness and support during the pandemic*



# Public Health Infrastructure

## Ongoing Critical Needs Positions

### Environmental Health Specialists

- Consistent increase over past five years in permitting and licensing activities associated with Water Quality programs
- Onsite wastewater treatment systems (OWTS) continue to grow in El Paso County
  - Since 2016, El Paso County Public Health has routinely issued one of the highest number of OWTS construction permits in the state
  - Approximately 34,400 active OWTS systems, translating to roughly 11 million gallons of wastewater being treated daily

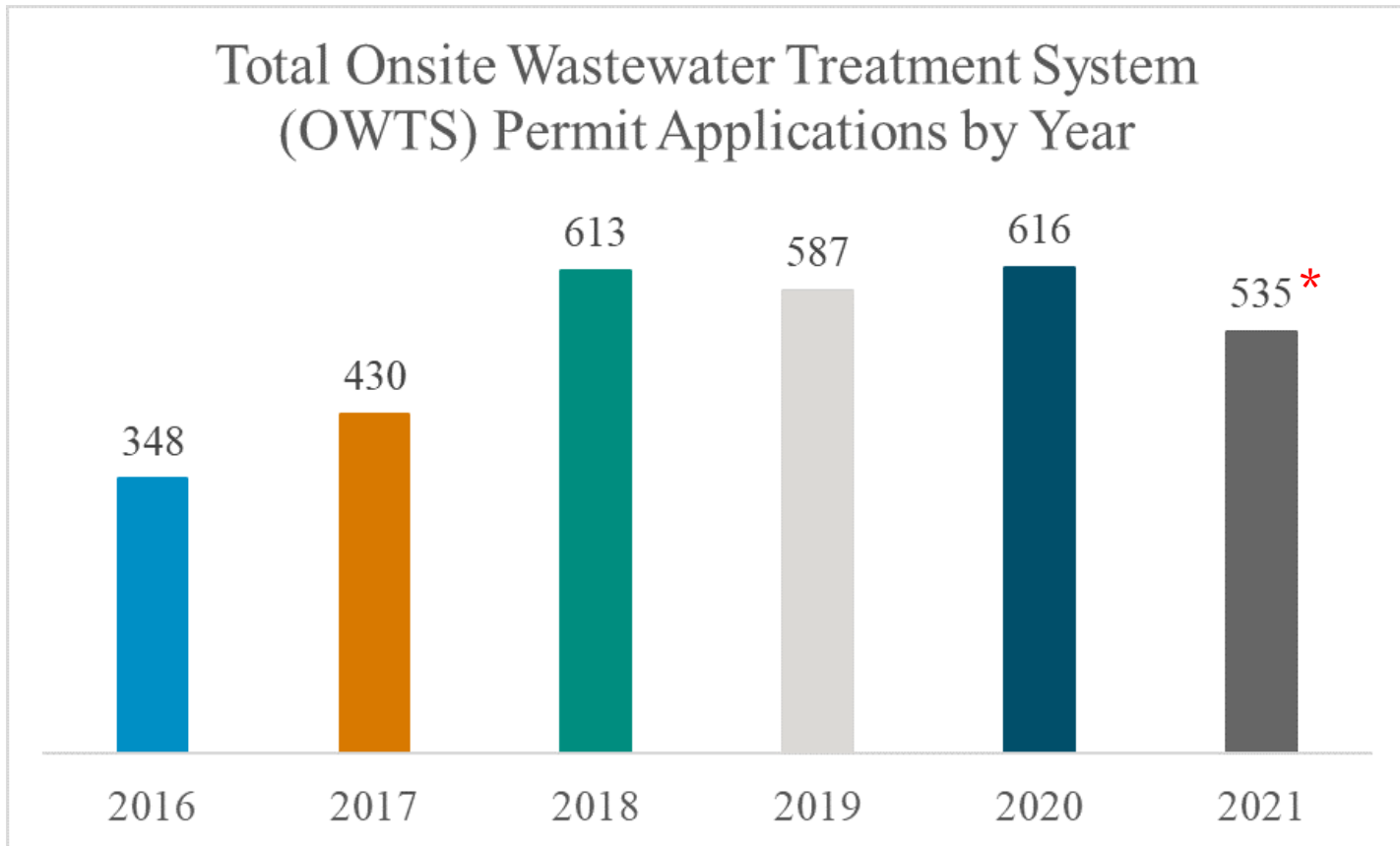


*Water Quality Program Manager in the field performing an OWTS inspection*



# Public Health Infrastructure

## Ongoing Critical Needs Positions



# Public Health Infrastructure

## Ongoing Critical Needs Positions

### Environmental Health Specialists

- Supporting businesses during the pandemic
  - Working with Colorado Springs Downtown Partnership to offer COVID-19 vaccine clinic for restaurant workers
  - El Paso County Board of Health waives 2021 license fees for full-service retail food establishments, bars and taverns
- El Paso County Public Health currently licenses and inspects over 2,800 retail food establishments (RFE), an 11% increase since 2016
- Despite challenges posed by the pandemic, 2021 represents an all-time high number of licensed RFEs in El Paso County

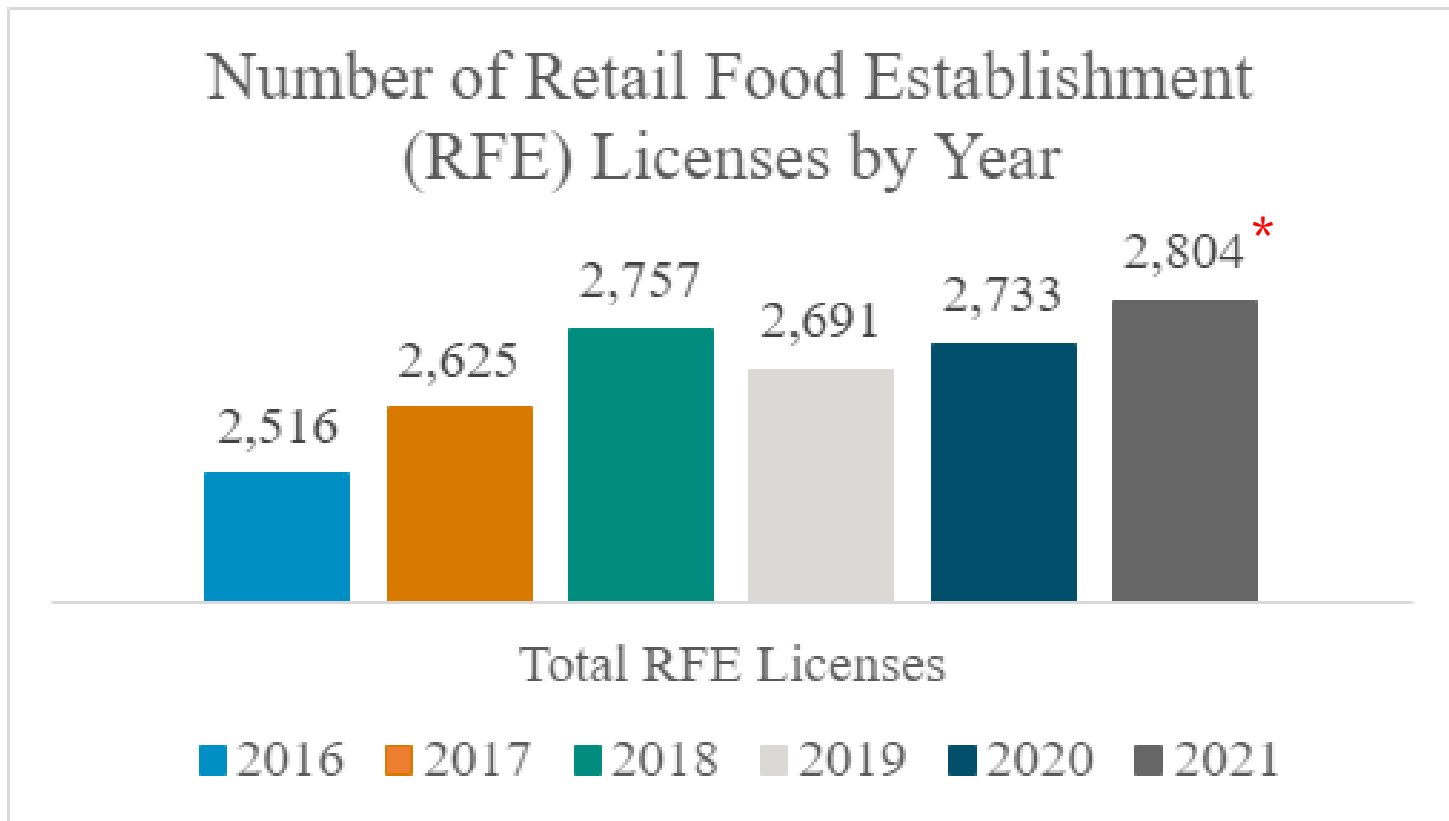


*Public Health and the Downtown Partnership of Colorado Springs team up to offer COVID-19 vaccines at a clinic for restaurant workers*



# Public Health Infrastructure

## Ongoing Critical Needs Positions



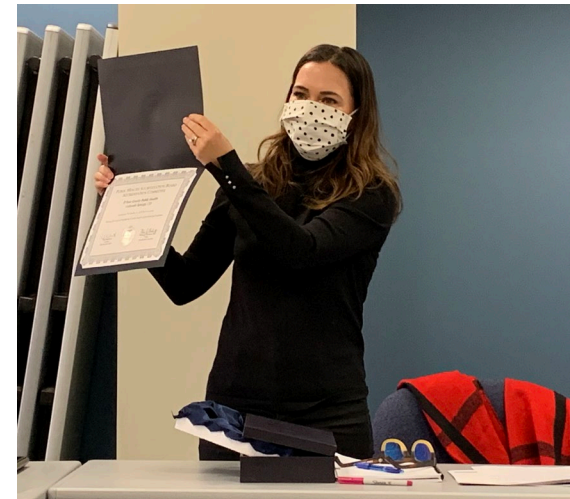
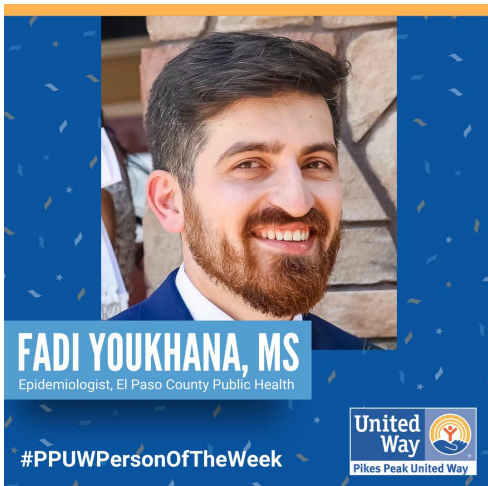
\*Not a full year of data



# The Colorado Springs BUSINESS JOURNAL

## Colorado Springs pandemic recovery council receives national recognition

John Miller May 5, 2021 Updated May 5, 2021



COLORADO  
PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION

El Paso County Public Health



# Awards, Recognitions and Accolades

- Regional Recovery Council receives national recognition for pandemic recovery program innovation from the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO)
- El Paso County Public Health receives bronze award from NACCHO's 2021 Innovative Practice Awards for the efforts to support data-based dialogue during the COVID-19 pandemic
- El Paso County Public Health receives 2021 Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from the Government Finance Officers Association
- Stephen Goodwin, chief data scientific strategist, receives the Award for Technical Innovation in Public Health from the Colorado Public Health Association
- Fadi Youkhana, epidemiologist, recognized as Pikes Peak United Way's Person of the Week in February
- Kristi Durbin, immunization program manager, a finalist in the Mayor's Young Leader Award





# Awards, Recognitions and Accolades

- In 2021, El Paso County Public Health received Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for 2019 Financial Annual Report
- Communities That Care (CTC) received a 2021 Achievement Award for its program, "Teen Advisory Board: Amplifying Youth Voice in the Community" from the National Association of Counties (NACo)
- El Paso County Public Health's Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program receives the 2021 Premiere Level Breastfeeding Award of Excellence for exemplary breastfeeding support and practice
- Joyce Salazar, community outreach coordinator, selected as one of the 2021 Women of Influence through the Colorado Springs Business Journal
- Three El Paso County Public Health abstracts were selected through a competitive process to be presented at the annual Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE) conference. The abstracts covered the topics of hepatitis A outbreak response, botulism, and sexually transmitted infections

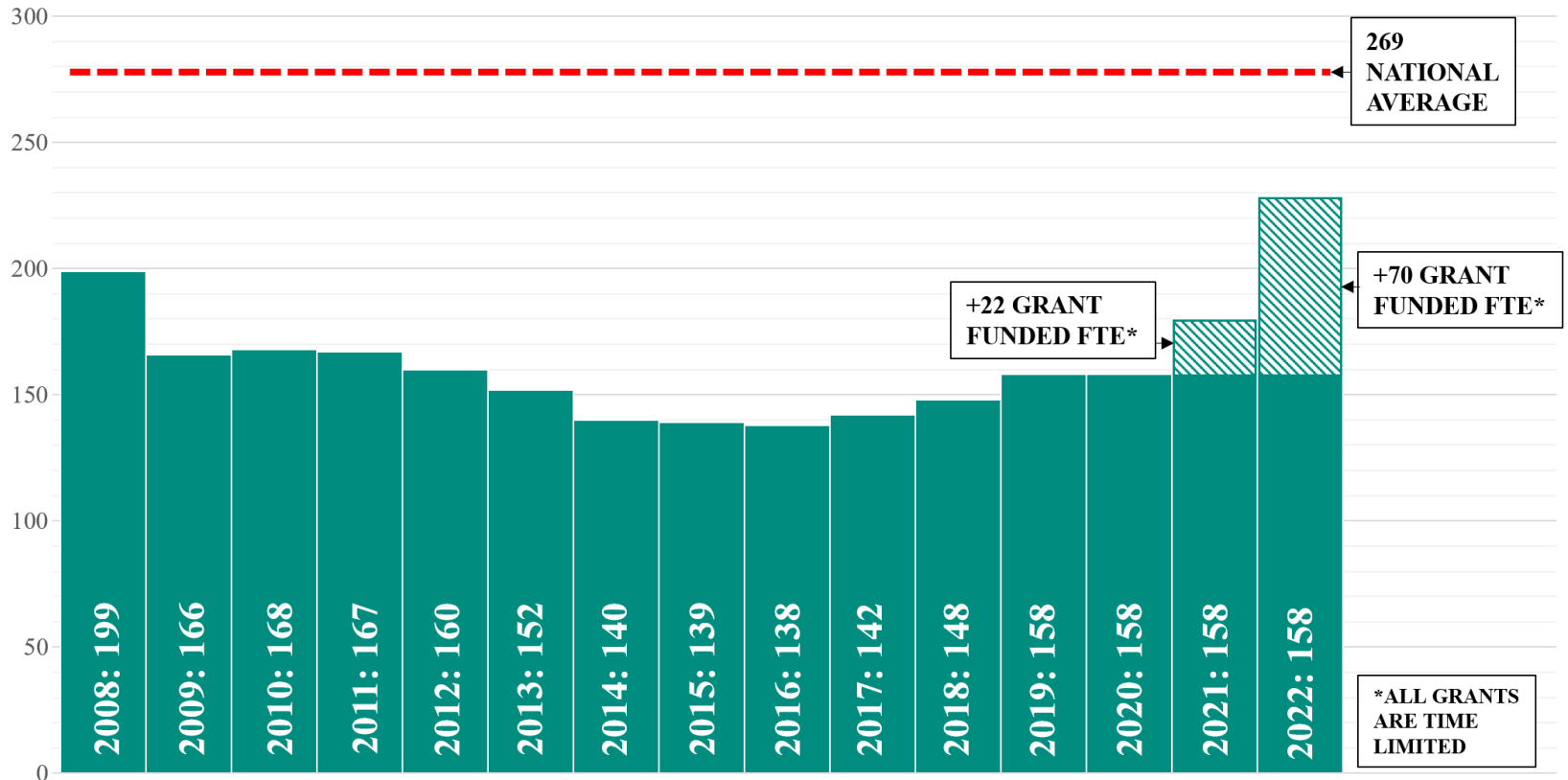


# Budgetary Highlights

- El Paso County's population has increased from 599,060 in 2008 to an estimated 748,098 in 2022, a 25% increase
- Health departments that serve 500,000 to 999,999 have an average of 269 employees; we have 158 on-going FTEs with an additional 70 FTEs temporarily funded with restricted COVID-19 specific grants
- Need capacity to respond to emerging issues such as deployment of personnel in response to COVID-19 pandemic
- Many grants are restricted and time limited



# Budgetary Challenges Historical Staffing



# Base Budget and Critical Needs

- 2019-2023 Critical Needs funding phased over five years
- Continued support for meeting the increasing demand for public health protections, services, and emergencies
- Increased safety by addressing emerging health issues
- Continued support by Board of Health to utilize savings during the phase-in of county support to address unmet needs
- As part of the five-year road-map, received ongoing critical need funding of \$200k in 2019, no increase in 2020, and \$250k in 2021; currently that is \$450k in ongoing funding
- Requesting additional county support of \$150k in 2022 as part of the five-year roadmap



# Questions?

