



**MESA COUNTY
PUBLIC HEALTH**

**ANNUAL IMPACT
REPORT
2023**

WORKING TOGETHER FOR A HEALTHY COMMUNITY

OUR VALUES

EXCELLENCE

EMPOWERMENT

WELLNESS

COMMUNITY

Mesa County Public Health (MCPH) provided excellent care to the community in 2023. One hundred dedicated staff brought our mission to life.

We work collaboratively to anticipate and respond to conditions that impact the health of residents and visitors.

There were significant leadership transitions in 2023. Turnover on the Board prompted the Mesa County Board of County Commissioners to appoint a new Board of Public Health. This new expanded Board includes seven qualified community leaders.

Former Executive Director, Jeff Kuhr, also resigned. The new Board of Public Health conducted a nationwide search for a replacement. Xavier Crockett was named the new leader of Mesa County Public Health in December.

Staff were exceptional and steady amidst these transitions. Explore these pages to understand the scope and depth of program delivery in 2023.



SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH

Our teams are all connected to a bigger picture: our Strategic Plan.

The goals in our Strategic Plan are tied to the Social Determinants of Health. These are the conditions in our environment that impact health and well-being.

We're not just working to make things safer and healthier today - we're changing systems that lead to sustained outcomes.

Notice the icons as you read through our 2023 Impact Report to see how programs are supporting the Social Determinants of Health.



ECONOMIC STABILITY

Economic stability means helping people earn steady incomes that allow them to meet their health needs.



EDUCATION ACCESS & QUALITY

Education access and quality means helping children succeed in school. People with higher education are more likely to be healthier and live longer.



HEALTH & HEALTH CARE

Health and Health Care means the presence of medical services and people's ability to access the care they require.



NEIGHBORHOOD & BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Neighborhood and Built Environment means creating neighborhoods and environments that promote health and safety.

Interventions and policy changes can help reduce health and safety risks.



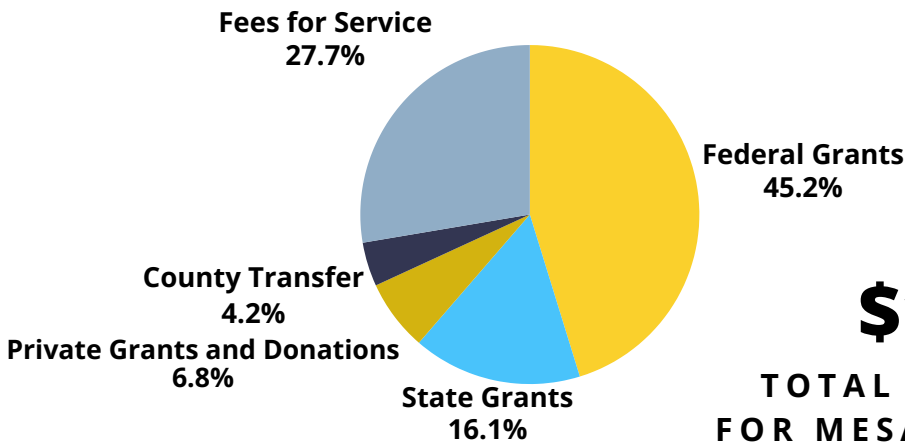
SOCIAL & COMMUNITY CONTEXT

Social and Community Context means helping people get the social support they need. People's relationships and interactions with family, friends, co-workers, and community members can have a major impact on their health and well-being.



ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE

Mesa County Public Health monitors and responds to the things that impact the health of our community and our visitors. The funds to complete this work in 2023 came from 162 different contracts and grants.



\$12.4 million

TOTAL 2023 ADOPTED BUDGET FOR MESA COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH

BOARD OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Our new Board of Public Health appointed an interim and permanent executive director during 2023. The Board provided stability during these major leadership transitions.



Stephen Daniels, MBA

Michael White, MD

Janet Rowland

Trish Weber, MD

John Sheehan, MBA, FACHE

Mona Highline

Marguerite Tuthill, MPH

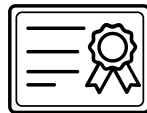
BIRTH & DEATH RECORDS

Our Vital Records team safely handles important documents families need for school and employment. They work with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, hospitals, birthing centers, funeral homes, the coroner’s office, and Colorado Mesa University.

BIRTH & DEATH RECORDS ISSUED IN 2023

3.5k
BIRTH CERTIFICATES
ISSUED

15.9k
DEATH CERTIFICATES
ISSUED



Our team earned the Perfect Performance Award from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment’s Vital Records Office for the third year in a row.

“Our customers approach us with a variety of different issues, and we approach each unique problem with the hope that we can help them by thinking outside of the box,” said Vital Records Supervisor Lisa Snyder.



We earned significant news coverage due to our responsiveness to local media. This expanded our reach for accurate health information.

COMMUNICATION & MARKETING

This team provides accurate, timely, and clear health information to Mesa County residents. The team maintains the main phone line, website, social media, Spanish-language support, printed materials, and organized community outreach.

502
FACEBOOK
POSTS

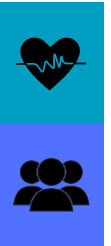
195k
WEBSITE
VIEWS

OVER 48k
FOLLOWERS
ACROSS ALL
SOCIAL MEDIA
PLATFORMS

78
MEDIA
INTERVIEWS

20k
COMMUNITY MEMBER
INTERACTIONS ON THE PHONE
WITH OUR INFO LINE TEAM

DISEASE SURVEILLANCE & EMERGENCY RESPONSE



This team tracks and responds to local and regional reportable diseases and outbreaks. They maintain a warehouse of medical supplies in case of emergencies and stay connected to our medical partners.



We presented to medical staff across Mesa County so they knew how to work with our team on reportable diseases.

33
SUSPECTED
CASES OF
TUBERCULOSIS
INVESTIGATED

80
COMMUNICABLE
DISEASE CASES
INVESTIGATED

30
OUTBREAKS
INVESTIGATED

3.2k
COVID-19 TEST
KITS GIVEN TO
COMMUNITY
MEMBERS

OVER \$50k
SAVINGS FOR
COMMUNITY
DUE TO FREE
COVID-19 TESTS



We taught students proper handwashing technique at the Mesa County Safety Fair.



THE TEAM CREATED
A NEW SURVEILLANCE
SYSTEM FOR
INFLUENZA-LIKE ILLNESS



Provided communicable disease support to Moffat and Rio Blanco counties.



Continued to provide COVID-19 infection prevention guidance to businesses and community members



EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICES

This team supports child care providers so they can offer high-quality early childhood education. They perform licensing and health inspections and support the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP).

261

CHILD CARE LICENSING INSPECTIONS

21

CHILD CARE LICENSING COMPLAINTS INVESTIGATED

53

CHILD CARE HEALTH INSPECTIONS

\$155k

REIMBURSED TO CHILD CARE PROVIDERS FOR HEALTHY MEALS SERVED IN THEIR FACILITIES

200

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIPS ISSUED TO ADULTS OR HIGH SCHOOL LEARNERS

17

FAMILY CHILD CARE HOME PROVIDERS ASSISTED WITH THEIR SMALL BUSINESSES

188

INDIVIDUALS SUPPORTED AS THEY ENTERED THE EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION FIELD THROUGH ADVANCING THEIR EDUCATION OR STARTING A CHILD CARE BUSINESS



We met with elected officials in Washington, D.C. to explain the importance of early childhood education.



MCPH IS THE FISCAL AGENT FOR THE LOCAL EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCIL, MESA COUNTY PARTNERSHIP FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES (PCF).

68

PROVIDERS SIGNED UP FOR THE FIRST YEAR OF UNIVERSAL PRESCHOOL

1.6k

SLOTS FOR 4-YEAR-OLDS IN MESA COUNTY FOR FIRST YEAR OF UNIVERSAL PRESCHOOL

1.8k

CHILDREN IN MESA COUNTY WHO BENEFITED FROM ENHANCED LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS THANKS TO PCF GUIDANCE

\$903k

IN PURCHASES FOR PROVIDERS TO IMPROVE SPACES, INCREASE SLOTS, OR BEGIN A CHILD CARE BUSINESS



Our Early Childhood Services and Mesa County Partnership for Children and Families teams attended the Rocky Mountain Early Childhood Conference in Denver. They learned about innovations in supporting children's resiliency to better serve the community.

“

“Having three regulatory programs for early childhood education providers located under one roof provides holistic regulatory oversight that is efficient and serves our providers better,” said Early Childhood Services Manager Heather Nara.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH



This team ensures the water you drink, the food you eat, and the air you breathe are safe. They monitor air quality, issue burn permits, and partner with retail food and body art businesses, schools, and aquatic facilities.

898

TOTAL INSPECTIONS FOR RETAIL FOOD, BODY ART, SCHOOLS, AQUATIC FACILITIES, AND EVENT VENDORS

184

COMPLAINTS RECEIVED AND RESOLVED

836

PHONE CALLS RECEIVED FROM COMMUNITY MEMBERS AND PARTNERS ABOUT QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS



15

ODOR COMPLAINTS RECEIVED AND ADDRESSED

103

TEMPORARY EVENT VENDORS REVIEWED AND APPROVED

7

SPECIAL EVENTS, LIKE COUNTRY JAM, WHERE THE TEAM CONDUCTED ON-SITE INSPECTIONS



Our team worked with food vendors at Country Jam, an annual music festival in Mack, to make sure the food was safe.

889

RESIDENTIAL BURN PERMITS ISSUED

1.3k

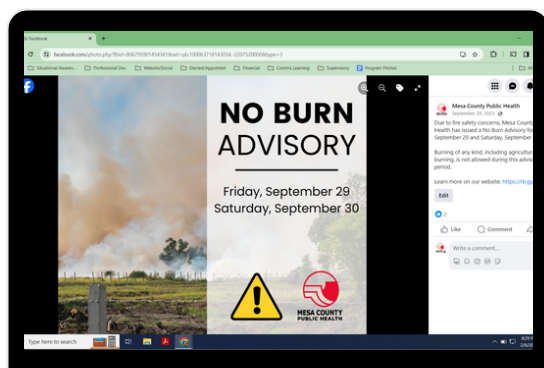
AGRICULTURAL BURN PERMITS ISSUED

43

NO BURN ADVISORIES ISSUED



Our Spanish Language Specialist provided live interpretation during retail food inspections to better serve our Spanish-speaking business community.





GRAND VALLEY CONNECTS

Our Resource Navigators understand that medical, behavioral health, and economic stability are connected. This service is a go-to resource for providers and community partners who want enhanced resource navigation for their clients.

749

REFERRALS FOR
UNIQUE
INDIVIDUALS

94%

INCREASE IN
NUMBER OF
REFERRALS

OVER
200

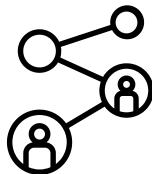
COMMUNITY
PARTNERS CONNECTED
WITH RESIDENTS FOR
RESOURCES

26

PRESENTATIONS
TO DIFFERENT
COMMUNITY
PARTNERS

479

COMMUNITY
MEMBERS
CONNECTED
WITH RESOURCE
INFORMATION
OR SUPPORT



ORGANIZED A CLASS ON BUDGETING IN A CRISIS IN RESPONSE TO THE SNAP EMERGENCY ALLOTMENT ENDING. PARTNERS INCLUDED COOKING MATTERS, FOOD BANK OF THE ROCKIES, HILLTOP COMMUNITY RESOURCES, AND BANK OF THE SAN JUANS.

ASSESSMENT PROCESS IN ACTION



We were contacted by a female community member asking for assistance connecting to counseling services. **Through our assessment process we learned she was also pregnant and did not have a primary care doctor.** She also needed help finding housing, employment, and food assistance.

The Navigator connected this community member to Nurse-Family Partnership ensuring her application was submitted. They also connected her to the Mesa County Workforce Center for employment resources, and sent her information on primary care physician resources. Next, they confirmed her pending application for SNAP benefits and connected her to a local food pantry for immediate assistance.

They assisted her with getting an appointment with behavioral health counseling and scheduled a meeting with this community member to complete housing applications.

The Navigator continued to be engaged with this community member as they worked together to stabilize her circumstances prior to the birth of her child.



Our team connected with community members during Market on Main.



NURSE-FAMILY PARTNERSHIP

This team of Nurse Home Visitors supports first-time families from pregnancy through their child's second birthday. The program leads to better pregnancy outcomes, improved child health & development, and increased economic self-sufficiency.

307

FAMILIES SERVED IN 2023

598

TELEHEALTH VISITS WITH FAMILIES

2.8k

IN-PERSON VISITS

33%

INCREASE IN REFERRALS FROM 2022 TO 2023

OVER **30**

HOURS OF MENTAL HEALTH TRAINING FOR OUR NURSES

OVER **1.9k**

REFERRALS MADE TO COMMUNITY SERVICES



“

“We work to build trust and understand our clients as a first step. The rest of our work relies on this first step,” said Nurse-Family Partnership Manager Erin Andrews.



Our team hosted a summer event for NFP clients that offered food, games for children, a chance to network with other families, and a clothing swap.

PUBLIC HEALTH CLINIC

This team provides all required and recommended vaccines for children and adults, including travel vaccines. We also provide confidential reproductive health services.



2k
FLU VACCINES
GIVEN

5k
COVID-19
VACCINES GIVEN

1
NEW ELECTRONIC
HEALTH RECORDS
SYSTEM IMPLEMENTED
TO IMPROVE
COMMUNICATION
WITH PATIENTS

412
PATIENTS
CHOSE A LARC
METHOD FOR
BIRTH CONTROL



Our team provided more than 1k COVID-19 and flu vaccines during convenient clinics for the community.

“Our clinic operations have stayed at the same level or increased in volume with less staff in 2023, which speaks to the dedication of those who work here,” said Clinical Services Manager Ali Sanchez.



REGIONAL LAB

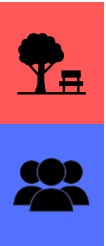
This team conducts residential and commercial water testing in our certified lab.



3.8k
WATER SAMPLES
TESTED



RESEARCH & PLANNING



This team supports strategic community initiatives and internal process improvement. It includes three main functions: community health planning, data analysis, and non-motorized trail maintenance.

COMMUNITY HEALTH PLANNING CURRENT INITIATIVES

- CLIFTON COMMUNITY TRANSFORMATION
- TRAILS
- SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION
- SUICIDE PREVENTION
- MENTAL HEALTH
- SPANISH ADVISORY GROUP



Our Hispanic Outreach Coordinator provides real-time interpretation during community events, including the Spanish Advisory Group.

10

DOCUMENTS TRANSLATED INTO SPANISH FOR THE MESA COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

25

INTERPRETERS TRAINED IN COMMUNITY SIMULTANEOUS INTERPRETATION

\$207k

ADDITIONAL FUNDING SECURED TO CONTINUE CLIFTON WORK

132

BOXES OF NALOXONE DISTRIBUTED SINCE AUGUST OF 2023

100

HOUSEHOLDS ENROLLED IN OMNISALUD, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH CONNECT FOR HEALTH, MIGRANT EDUCATION, SCHOOL DISTRICT 51, SPANISH ADVISORY GROUP, AND LA PLAZA

3

MILES OF NEW TRAIL BUILT

50

MILES OF TRAIL MAINTAINED

\$430k

GRANT FUNDING SECURED FOR LOCAL TRAILS



The Trail Crew conducted a signage inventory this year. Signs help keep participants safe on the trail.

OVER
1.7k
NEW CLIENTS
ENTERED INTO
CONNEXA,
SOFTWARE THAT
ENHANCES
COMMUNICATION
& REFERRALS

24
PROGRAMS AND
INITIATIVES
SUPPORTED BY
DATA TEAM

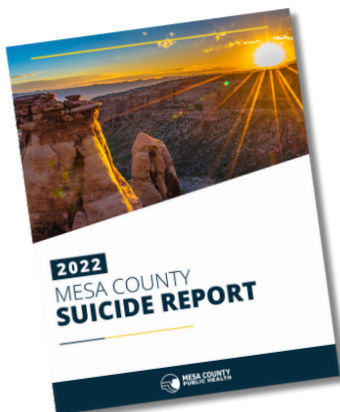
6
SPECIAL REPORTS
CREATED ON
HEALTH TOPICS
IMPORTANT TO
THE COMMUNITY



Created a Partner Planning Committee of community health care provider partners to advise and support the 2024 Community Health Needs Assessment process.



Our team hosted a workshop for local media about Safe Reporting Guidelines for Suicide with our partners at the Mesa County Suicide Prevention Coalition.



Special reports were shared broadly through digital platforms and presentations.

Partners reported using the information in decision-making and grant writing.



SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION PROGRAM FOR WOMEN, INFANTS, & CHILDREN (WIC)

This team provides support for pregnant and postpartum women and families with children from birth to age 5. Support includes access to healthy foods, nutrition education, baby feeding assistance, and connection to community resources.

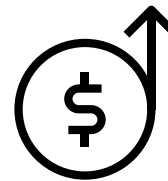
11%
INCREASE IN
CLIENT CASELOAD

6%
RATE INCREASE OF
FULLY BREASTFED
BABIES AMONG
WIC PARTICIPANTS
IN MESA COUNTY

258%
INCREASE IN
REFERRALS

88%
PERCENT OF
BENEFITS
PARTICIPANTS
USED, INCREASED
FROM 85%

**\$2.5
million**
SPENT AT LOCAL
GROCERY STORES



PARTICIPATION IN THE WIC PROGRAM IN MESA COUNTY HAS INCREASED BY 7% SINCE MARCH OF 2023, WHEN THE SNAP BENEFITS WERE REDUCED TO PRE-PANDEMIC AMOUNTS.



“WIC benefits the local economy. We partner with local farm stand Okagawa Farms and with two local community supported agriculture farms, Green Junction Farmstead and Lobato Farms,” said WIC Manager Karla Klemm.



Our team attended the National WIC Association Annual Education and Training Conference. They brought back new ideas in nutrition and breastfeeding to better serve the community.

LOOKING FORWARD

The Mesa County Public Health team is ready to make the most of 2024.

Our teams will be working on innovations to improve community health including:

- Expanding services in the Regional Lab.
- Releasing the 2024-2026 Community Health Needs Assessment.
- Creating an updated Strategic Plan to guide the future work of the Agency.
- Implementing resource navigation at Mind Springs and Mesa County Central Library through Grand Valley Connects.





**MESA COUNTY
PUBLIC HEALTH**

