



**DOUGLAS COUNTY**  
HEALTH DEPARTMENT COLORADO

# ANNUAL REPORT 2024



Working with our community to **prevent** diseases and injury, **protect** the environment, and **promote** health.

[www.douglas.co.us/health-department](http://www.douglas.co.us/health-department)

# MESSAGE FROM OUR DIRECTOR

**MIKE HILL**  
Executive Director



Welcome to the 2024 edition of Douglas County Health Department's Annual Report. We have now completed our third year of operations serving the people of Douglas County. Our team has worked hard to build the right health department for our residents, providing the services you need while being fiscally responsible.

During 2024, we completed our first strategic plan and are making good progress toward meeting the goals in that plan. We took the initial steps toward national accreditation with the Public Health Accreditation Board, which will validate what we have done to build the department and ensure that we meet all standards for a local health department. My staff and myself hope that you will enjoy reading this report and that you will see how far we have come in three years.

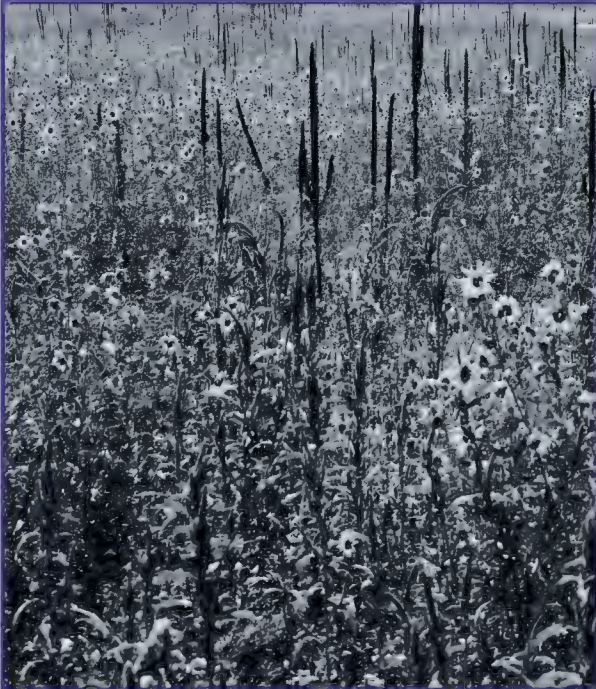
I want to thank the many partner agencies without whom we could not be successful. Our staff works with many other state, county, and local government agencies as well as numerous nonprofit and for-profit organizations serving the needs of our community. Our Board of Health and the Douglas County Board of County Commissioners continue to be very supportive and helpful in our journey. The residents of Douglas County are fortunate to have these dedicated leaders working on their behalf.

Please enjoy our report, and we look forward to serving you in 2025.

Sincerely,  
Michael Hill, MPH, MPA, FACHE  
Executive Director



# INDEX



**01 | Letter from the Director**

**03 | Mission, Vision and Values**

**03 | Board of Health**

**04 | Vital Records**

**05 | Community Health**

**06 | WIC**

**07 | Administration**

**08 | Environmental Health**

**09 | Epidemiology**

**10 | Emergency Preparedness**

**11 | DC Early Childhood Council**

**12 | Thank you Letter**

## VISION

Douglas County residents have access to opportunities for achieving their healthiest possible lives.

## MISSION

We provide education and evidence-based services to improve health in Douglas County.

## VALUES

Collaboration, Education, Inclusiveness, Professionalism, Responsiveness, and Transparency.



## BOARD OF HEALTH

- **Douglas H Benevento (President)**
- **George Teal (Commissioner)**
- **Kevin Van Winkle (Commissioner)**
- **Dr. Linda M Fielding**
- **Kim M Muramoto**



# VITAL RECORDS

The Vital Records office at Douglas County Health Department is responsible for maintaining and issuing official records of life events, including birth certificates, death certificates, and fetal death records.



## YEAR IN REVIEW



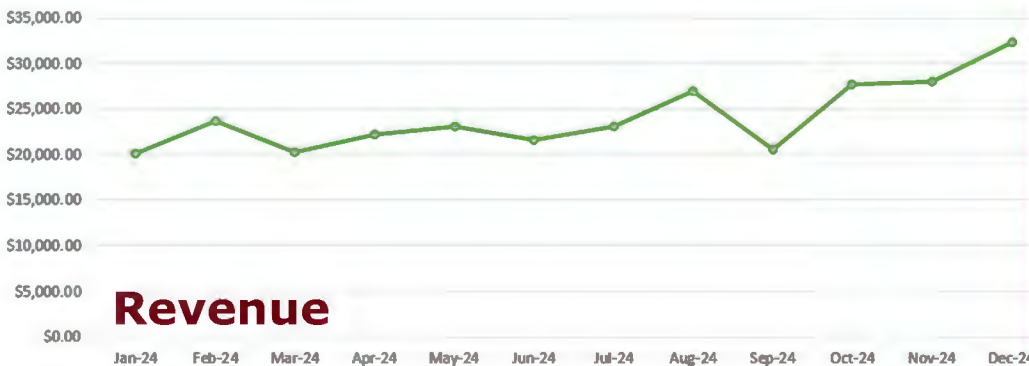
**13,048**  
**Birth**  
**Certificates**



**3,285**  
**Death**  
**Certificates**



**\$290,969**  
**Total**  
**Revenue**



The Vital Records office has demonstrated consistent year-over-year revenue growth. This steady increase highlights the rising demand for services and the department's efficiency in meeting community needs. The trend reflects strong operational performance and a commitment to service excellence, contributing to sustained financial growth.



# COMMUNITY HEALTH

The Community Health Division is dedicated to improving the overall well-being of our community through prevention, education, and strategic partnerships. Our main efforts focus on reducing the impact of chronic diseases by promoting healthy lifestyles, tobacco cessation, and improved nutrition. In 2024, we expanded maternal and child health services, providing essential prenatal support, immunizations, and early childhood development programs to ensure a strong foundation for families. Our team also worked to increase vaccination access and promote disease prevention through community education. Collaboration remained a cornerstone of our approach, as we worked closely with local organizations, schools, and community groups to address health disparities and provide residents with the resources they need to lead healthier lives.



EVENTS PARTICIPATED IN

**112**

In December 2023, the Douglas County Health Department and the Department of Human Services were charged with developing an initiative to get infant sleep sacks into the hands of all new birthing families in Douglas County. To make this the most meaningful opportunity to support families through resources and education, DCHD and DCHS brought together 13 additional partner agencies to create the Health Families Partnership of Douglas County. Over the course of the year, this group of subject matter experts developed laminated educational cards on how to use a sleep sack, how to keep your infant safe while sleeping, and “all babies cry” - how to manage your emotions when caring for an infant. The cards are part of a Health Families Partnership bag that also includes a sleep sack, sticker with important phone numbers for families, Douglas County Library’s Cuddle Up and Read care package, and visual acuity cards from Developmental Pathways. Families can connect with community partners and access a variety of resources on the new Health Families Partnership webpage ([yourhealthyfamily.org](https://yourhealthyfamily.org)).





## Mental Health FIRST AID

On October 16 – 18, 2024, Douglas County Health Department and Douglas County Libraries sent a total of six staff members to attend Mental Health First Aid Instructor Candidate Training through the National Council for Mental Wellbeing. This three-day intensive prepared staff to deliver the eight-hour Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) training to businesses, organizations, and community partners throughout the County, beginning in 2025. Each instructor is required to deliver three MHFA classes per year, to keep their instructor credentials, and conversations are already occurring with churches, law enforcement, and probation to determine how to roll out training with their teams. The instructor training was made possible through the ARPA grant awarded to the Douglas County Mental Health Initiative.



## COLORADO at Douglas County Health Department

Women, Infant, and Children (WIC) is a nutrition program that provides nutrition education, breastfeeding support, healthy food, and other services free of charge to Colorado families who qualify. Pregnant women, breastfeeding women (with a child under one year), and families with children under the age of five years may qualify.



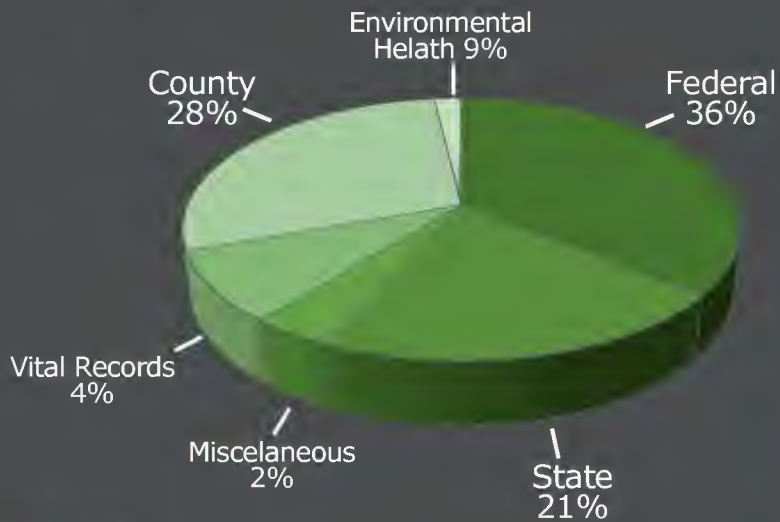
- Unduplicated Families Served 2,871
- 24 Retail locations
- \$1.4 million redeemed by WIC recipients at WIC retail locations



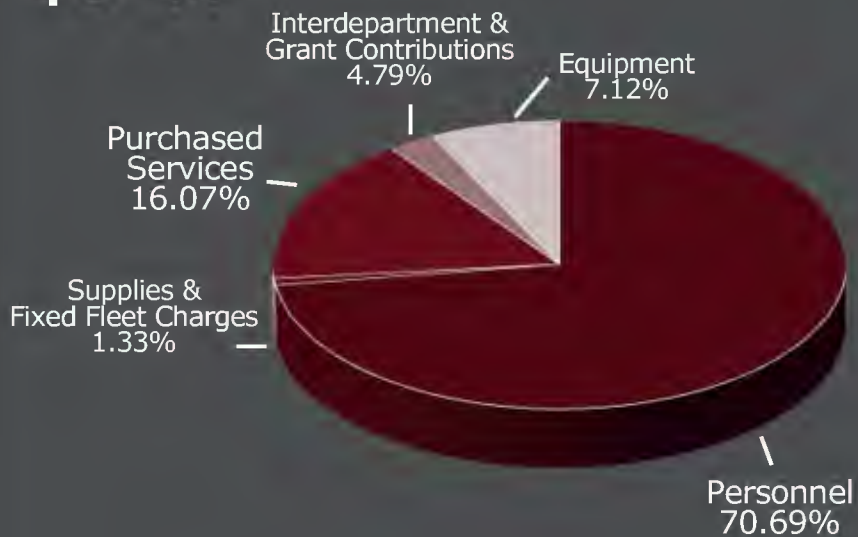
# ADMINISTRATION

The Executive Director oversees the Quality Improvement, Performance Management, and Accounting functions of the department. They are a conduit that provides information to the County Board of Health and to the State of Colorado.

REVENUE  
**\$7.4M**



EXPENSES  
**\$6.2M**





# ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Environmental Health focuses on preventing the spread of diseases through the environment, such as through food or water. Environmental Health staff inspect restaurants, childcare facilities, body art facilities, septic system installation, and landfills. We also review land use cases.



In 2024, the Environmental Health team supported over 50 events where food was being sold. This includes reviewing event set-up with coordinators and ensuring that foods that are sold at the event are licensed and are set up appropriately to prevent the spread of foodborne illnesses.

We conducted inspections at Parker Days, Renaissance Festival, 2024 Douglas County Fair and Rodeo, and the PGA BMW Golf Tournament. Our largest special event this year had 42 food vendors!

We partnered with Castle Rock Fire Department, Larkspur Fire Department and the Town of Castle Rock Zoning and Business Licensing on a Food Truck Jamboree event. We organized a one stop shop event with our partners and industry to provide educational presentations on what each department is looking for regarding food trucks and provided licensing inspections for the 2024 calendar year. We had 26 mobile trucks sign up to attend and have plans to conduct this event again.



**634 Permits Issued**



**98 Plan Reviews**



**68 Special Events**



**1,112 Inspections**



**10 Waste Tire Inspections**



**195 Complaints investigated**



**9 Landfill inspections**



# EPIDEMIOLOGY



The Epidemiology Team at Douglas County Health Department is responsible for monitoring, investigating, and controlling diseases and health trends within the community. Key functions include:

- **Disease Surveillance:** Tracking infectious diseases (e.g., flu, COVID-19), chronic illnesses, and environmental health concerns.
- **Outbreak Investigation:** Identifying sources of disease outbreaks and implementing control measures.
- **Data Analysis & Reporting:** Collecting and analyzing health data to identify patterns, risk factors, and disparities.
- **Public Health Response:** Collaborating with healthcare providers, laboratories, and government agencies to prevent and control the spread of diseases.
- **Health Promotion & Policy Development:** Providing data-driven recommendations for health interventions, vaccination programs, and policy changes.

This team plays a vital role in protecting community health by using science and data to prevent and mitigate disease impact.

## Top 5 Infectious Diseases

**PERTUSSIS**  
**Campylobacter** **E. coli**  
**Giardia** **Salmonellosis**

*Note: Does not include respiratory illnesses (Flu, influenza, RSV, etc.)*

**92 Reported Outbreaks**



Schools, child cares, long term care, or other settings.

**19% Increase  
from 2023**



## Reportable Conditions 2024

We received 415 cases of reportable conditions in 2024 (excluding COVID). Our non-COVID case count increased 28% over 2023. We followed up on all 415 non-COVID cases (depending on the pathogen, we either conducted a full interview, completed a medical record review, sent a letter, contacted a medical provider or lab, or did some combination of these activities).

**411 Animal Bite Reports**



## 2024 SUMMARY

The Douglas County Health Department Epidemiology Team was busy in 2024. Epidemiologists attended multiple conferences including the 2024 Colorado One Health and Zoonoses Virtual Conference, the 2024 Colorado Epidemiology Conference in Colorado Springs, the Council for State and Territorial Epidemiologists Conference in Pittsburgh, and Public Health in the Rockies in Keystone. Two Epidemiologists became CIC certified, and one became a-IPC certified after months of study. Staff continued to process improve, including changes to the afterhours phone tree and creating wild animal decision trees for the Sheriff's Department in response to an unusually high number of raccoon related calls. The Epidemiology team was also involved in a multi-jurisdictional investigation and response effort involving puppies at an adoption agency that tested positive for rabies. The team attended many trainings on topics including measles and ICS. They also transitioned from the state's old data system CEDRS to EpiTrax, as part of continuing data modernization efforts in public health. The year concluded with a response to a norovirus outbreak amid unusually high norovirus season.



# EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

The Douglas County Health Department's Emergency Preparedness and Response Team (EPR) works with many local, regional, and state partners to plan and prepare for public health emergencies. EPR staff focus on planning, training, and exercising the response to public health emergencies like pandemics, bioterrorism events, and natural disasters. Staff integrates an all-hazards approach to planning and exercise functions to remain agile and swift with hazard identification, mitigation, and response. We embrace proactive collaboration with partners, peers, and public elements in all of our processes.

The DCHD Emergency Preparedness and Response team participated in the County-wide Colorado Emergency Preparedness Assessment (CEPA) to identify key risk areas and vulnerabilities. The team has done a complete rewrite of all components included in the Public Health Emergency Operations Plan to reflect CEPA results and close any gaps in departmental capabilities.

The team has participated in numerous trainings over the last year, focusing on the following topics:

- Medical countermeasures
- Local and regional healthcare readiness
- Collaborative emergency planning between local and state agencies
- Identification and planning considerations for vulnerable populations

We continue to participate in exercises with various agencies to better test our capabilities, as well as our coordination with our numerous partners in the Denver Metro area.

This is all part of ongoing efforts to better serve the specific Public Health needs of Douglas County residents and community stakeholders.





# DOUGLAS COUNTY EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCIL

The Douglas County Early Childhood Council (DCECC) supports all early childhood programming in Douglas County. One of our activities is to help families and preschool providers connect for the Universal Preschool Program.

The DCECC is one of 34 regional Early Childhood Councils in Colorado that work to ensure that young children are ready for school and that families have the support they need to thrive. Early Childhood Councils were established by legislation through HB07-1062 to increase and sustain the availability, accessibility, capacity, and quality of early childhood services throughout the state and to facilitate local collaboration of public and private stakeholders. As fiscal agent, the Health Department would assist in the fiscal management of grant funds from the Colorado Department of Early Childhood, Buell Foundation, and others.



**150 PRESCHOOL  
PROVIDERS**



**3,028 CHILDREN  
ENROLLED**



**1,754 COACHING  
HOURS**



# THANK YOU

The Douglas County Health Department sincerely appreciates its committed staff, valued community partners, frontline professionals, Board of Health, County Commissioners, and all county stakeholders for their shared dedication to enhancing the health and well-being of our residents. Your insights, efforts, and innovative ideas are instrumental in our county's success. We extend a heartfelt thank you to the Douglas County community members who engaged with us over the past year. We look forward to keeping you informed about our ongoing progress in the year ahead.



410 South Wilcox St.,  
Castle Rock, CO 80104



(720) 643-2400



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