“Our work helps to provide community organizations with the tools, resources, and support they need to become more autonomous and sustainable”

- Yvonne Long
Garfield County Public Health Director

Community Health Assessment (CHA)

Identified Regional Issues
At a regional level, the major issues identified were mental health and housing.

Prioritized Issues
At a county level, the major issues identified were opioid misuse and safe drinking water.

Completed Work
Content was compiled and edited to ensure information going out to state, regional, and local partners was both accurate and easy to understand.

The CHA will guide Public Health decision making and priorities through 2022.

Public Health’s efforts are changing the local culture, and creating a demand amongst the population to have access to healthy lifestyle choices. The county has embraced health and wellness as an economic driver, and is working hard to give a voice to residents that are struggling to be heard. By taking the health of our population seriously, Garfield County is on the way to making big strides in the health and wellness of the population.
Garfield County Healthy Communities

The Garfield Healthy Communities Coalition (GHCC) builds community partnerships, to ensure all people within Garfield County have full, equal and equitable access to opportunities that enable them to lead healthy lives.

A **$1.57 million** Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) Inspire grant supports youth internships, environmental education and recreation programming in western Garfield County.

**$20,652** in mini-grants provided to organizations to increase opportunities for health.
- Projects include school and community gardens, telehealth equipment, bike helmets, and soccer programs.

20 water bottle filling stations installed in schools and municipal buildings to promote greater hydration.

The GHCC also provided
- **$4,500** in grant writing support for Garfield School District 16 and the Roaring Fork School District, enabling the schools to create two new district wellness coordinator positions.
- **$40,000** of built environment projects in Carbondale, Glenwood Springs, New Castle, and Rifle.

These projects include
- Thompson Trail connection, Carbondale
- Flashing beacon near Sopris Elementary, Glenwood Springs
- Adding bike lanes in New Castle
- Constructing the Hubbard Gulch Trail in Rifle

“After years of impactful and effective measures to improve the health of its population, Garfield County is the first community to receive the Governor’s Healthy Community Award, presented by the Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade and LiveWell Colorado.”
Nearly 30 percent of Garfield County’s population is Hispanic, many of whom are lower-income, second-language learners, with limited access to healthcare. In September 2017, Cultivando, a leadership and advocacy organization, conducted a four-day leadership training workshop for 25 Hispanic women in the community. Participants learned the basics of healthy living; how to empower one another; and how to take control of their health and the health of their families.
Public health emergency preparedness is the capability of the public health and health care systems, communities, and individuals, to prevent, protect against, quickly respond to, and recover from health emergencies.

Garfield County Public Health (GCPH) participated in the final segment of a three-part preparedness drill, which began in 2015. A hypothetical health crisis was designed to test the ability of public health agencies statewide to handle a communicable disease outbreak.

During the drill, medical supplies and empty pill bottles from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Strategic National Stockpile were flown into Grand Junction.

GCPH opened up a point of dispensing (POD), which is used to distribute medications to the public in a real emergency.

Staff practiced response roles, such as inventory management, medical screening, mental health consultation, and medical dispensing, as if in a real scenario.

Roughly 50 Garfield County volunteers, thousands of statewide volunteers, and over 200 partnering agencies, participated in the drill throughout Colorado.
Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) provides families with supplemental nutritious foods, nutrition and breastfeeding information, along with support and encouragement.

- WIC serves **53** percent of all infants born in the United States.
- Colorado WIC now offers a convenient WIC shopper app for participants.
- In Garfield County, **90** percent of WIC moms initiate breastfeeding.
- Garfield County’s caseload for WIC was **1,030** participants in 2017.
- The Garfield County WIC farmers market vouchers are accepted at all **six** farmers markets in Garfield County.
- **$650,000** WIC dollars were spent in Garfield County grocery stores in 2017.
- Garfield County WIC offers **satellite** clinics in Parachute every month.
Cooking Matters helps families shop for and cook healthy meals on a budget.

- **356** Cooking Matters participants served
- **239** took six-week, evidence-based, behavior-change courses
- **17** six-week courses were provided in Garfield County, with an average class size of **14** participants
- **117** participants attended Cooking Matters at the Store classes

Presented at Meals on Wheels of America National Conference on administering Cooking Matters in senior congregate meal settings.

“**I love Cooking Matters. I would encourage everybody to volunteer. You don’t have to be a chef or nutritional expert; you learn so much through the curriculum and get more out of it than you ever put in.”**

- Kim Doyle Wille
Oral Health

Fewer Colorado children have cavities now than they did 10 years ago. This positive trend is attributable to programs such as the Garfield County Smiles for Students.

Cavities are preventable, yet too many children are still at risk. Toothaches lead to pain when eating, missed school days, costly complications, and physical and emotional stress.

- 19 schools and 1,199 students have received free hygiene appointments, fluoride varnishes, and dental sealants in school through the Smiles for Students dental program
- 25 percent of students require immediate treatment by a dentist
- 760 cavities were identified
- 2,167 sealants placed
- After nine years of protecting children, the program has provided dental appointments to 10,162 children (2009-2017)

“Expanding preventative oral health programs like the school sealant program will help protect and improve the oral health of all Colorado children,”

-Dr. Katya Mauritson, DMD, MPH
Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment dental director.
“Because of the dental program, this child had a place to go. She needed so much more than just her shots,”

- Barb Kelly

GCPH Immunization Nurse

“I had a nine-year-old come in for vaccinations. She and her mother were recently new to this country.”

“I noticed, that when she was talking, there seemed to be black spots on her teeth,” she continued. “After she received her vaccinations, I asked her to open her mouth. The majority of her teeth had cavities, and the ones that did not, had the typical white spots that are precursors to cavities.”

“The mother had a friend with her that spoke English. I found out that the little girl would be attending elementary school in Carbondale, where the Garfield County Smiles for Students program would be visiting,” Kelly said. “I explained that the dental team would be able to examine and clean her daughter’s teeth and help her get in to see a dentist.”

“Several week later, I followed up with the dental program,” she added. “The child had been seen and was now under the care of a dentist for additional work to be done on this little girl’s teeth.”
Communicable Disease

Quick response, investigation, and control measures reduce the spread of contagious diseases.

Annual influenza hospitalizations in Garfield County

Garfield County offers free hepatitis C testing

- Up to 75 percent of people living with Hepatitis C do not know they are infected.
- Many can live with Hepatitis C for decades without symptoms.

Hepatitis C cases in Garfield County

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Cases</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Cases of vibriosis (often times linked to the consumption of raw oysters) showed a significant increase in 2017.

T-Spot

Public Health participates in a pilot program providing a new, more effective tuberculosis test (T-spot), free to qualifying patients. The test costs upwards of $280 elsewhere in Garfield County.
Immunizations

Vaccination programs are one of the most successful achievements of the last 100 years, and provide enormous benefits to community health.

- **265** foreign travel vaccinations
- **1250** kids served in the immunizations program and **67%** were eligible for Vaccines for Children
- **325** adults received vaccinations under the 317 fund program
- **2,036** people received the annual flu vaccine
- There has been a **16** percent decrease in overall vaccines given by GCPH since 2016

Vaccination rates in children, ages 9-35 months

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>National</th>
<th>Colorado</th>
<th>Garfield County</th>
<th>Garfield County PH</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>71.60%</td>
<td>72.80%</td>
<td>57.20%</td>
<td>77.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>72.20%</td>
<td>75.40%</td>
<td>58.60%</td>
<td>57.10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>75.40%</td>
<td>61.77%</td>
<td>57.67%</td>
<td>66.45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>76.40%</td>
<td>61.69%</td>
<td>57.02%</td>
<td>67.13%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Community Health

Through collaboration with community partners, Garfield County Public Health works to strengthen systems that improve the health and wellbeing of the entire community.

100% of Garfield County high schools (Carbondale to Parachute) received suicide-awareness training.

The Valley Well Workplace Partnership works with public and nonprofit employers to expand wellness programs. Wellness programs have impacted over 2,000 employees in the region.

Garfield County Public Health is the Childcare Nurse Consulting agency for five preschools, teaching medication administration, standard precautions, and reviewing immunization records.
Family Health

Promoting the healthy development of children through stable, nurturing families.

- **$1,425** worth of free diapers were distributed through the Baby and Me Tobacco Free program.
- **14** pregnant women are receiving one-on-one support to quit smoking, including information on marijuana and e-cigarettes.
- Provided care coordination services for **three** families of children with special health care needs, and **1,500** families needing referrals to Medicaid and CHP+ medical services.
- **1,387** new books and **600** gently used books were given to children to promote early reading through the Reach Out and Read program.

Twelve Pack n’ Plays were given to low-income families to promote safe sleep environments.

“I’m seeing change in our community. Now, when I ask parents if they are reading to their children, I’m finding more and more positive responses,” said one Public Health nurse. “Parents are beginning to realize the importance of reading to their children starting at birth and beyond.”
Environmental Health

Provides services to help ensure a safe, clean and healthy environment in order to improve human health.

- Reviewed 21 land-use permit applications
- Assisted pediatricians with eight families with elevated blood-lead-level results
- Helped to host a film festival and river clean-up with a local watershed group
- Secured $75,000 for a volatile organic compound (VOC) source apportionment study

Air Quality in Garfield County (Ozone and Particulate Matter) is considered good 85-90% of the days in the year.

Forty percent of homes tested in Garfield County showed elevated radon levels. Public Health provided 354 test kits to the community (59 percent of those individuals completed their home test).

Volatile organic compound sampling began at a natural gas well pad in the community of Battlement Mesa. This sampling will evaluate air quality and health impacts of natural gas development.

Collected hourly ozone and particulate matter samples at 3 sites across the county and 379 volatile organic compound samples from 5 sites across the county.
Consumer Protection

Provides food protection services through the retail food regulatory program and promotes safety and sanitation in our child care facilities and schools.

**Retail food**

- There are **342** licensed and inspected retail food establishments in Garfield County.
- That equates to **513** routine unannounced inspections annually.
- **30%** of routine inspections result in a follow-up.
- The average inspection time is **90** minutes.
- **39** Temporary Event plans were reviewed.
- **91** temporary food vendors were approved to operate in Garfield County events.
- **41** Plan reviews for retail food establishments were completed.
- **206** restaurant workers attended quarterly food safety classes.

**Institutions**

- **35** Child care facilities receive inspections by public health. This includes preschools, day cares, camps, before & after school programs, and guest child care at ski resorts.
- **13** low-risk schools are inspected every **3** years. **10** high-risk schools are inspected annually. Schools that have intensive art, science, and vocational programs are considered high-risk.