



**2017**

# DENVER PUBLIC HEALTH ANNUAL REPORT

LEVERAGING PARTNERSHIPS AND ENGAGING THE  
COMMUNITY TO IMPROVE HEALTH FOR ALL



**DENVER  
PUBLIC HEALTH™**



## TO OUR PARTNERS

Denver Public Health’s mission is improving health with our community. Public health improvements take time and many resources—from people to partners to financial investments. There is no question; we cannot produce sustainable change on our own.

To acknowledge those working on improving health in Denver, our report this year focuses on partnerships and community engagement. Four different types of partnerships are highlighted to showcase the breadth of public health collaboration in Denver. Working with departments, organizations and communities increases the impact of our work by addressing health issues from multiple angles. Also featured is how we are using community-based participatory research to engage and empower youth to assess and improve the health of their peers.

The success of these partnerships (and many more not described) is due to the meaningful relationships that exist between staff, partners and communities. Working side-by-side, we are creating meaningful change. In 2018, we expect to see more collaboration happen across the Denver metro region to address health inequities and improve the health of all people.

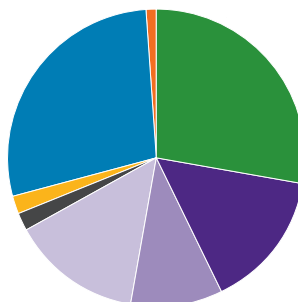
Thank you for your partnership.  
Denver Public Health



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## FUNDING SOURCES 2017

**TOTAL \$23,072,496**



- State Only 28%
- Federal Pass-through State 15%
- Federal Pass-through Other Entity 10%
- Federal Direct 14%
- Private Foundations 2%
- Other 2%
- City 28%
- County 1%

## CLINICAL CONNECTIONS

# SUPPORTING UNIVERSAL PREGNANCY-RELATED DEPRESSION SCREENING ACROSS A HEALTH SYSTEM



In September 2017 Denver Public Health and Denver Health celebrated a major milestone—universal screening for pregnancy-related depression in all of Denver Health’s women’s care, family medicine and pediatric clinics.

Pregnancy-related depression affects one in seven women during or after pregnancy, and addressing it supports the health of mom and baby. Identification is the first step in treatment, and universal screening increases the likelihood of identification across all populations. Universal screening also reduces stigma and sends the message to patients that mental health is an important component of health and well-being.

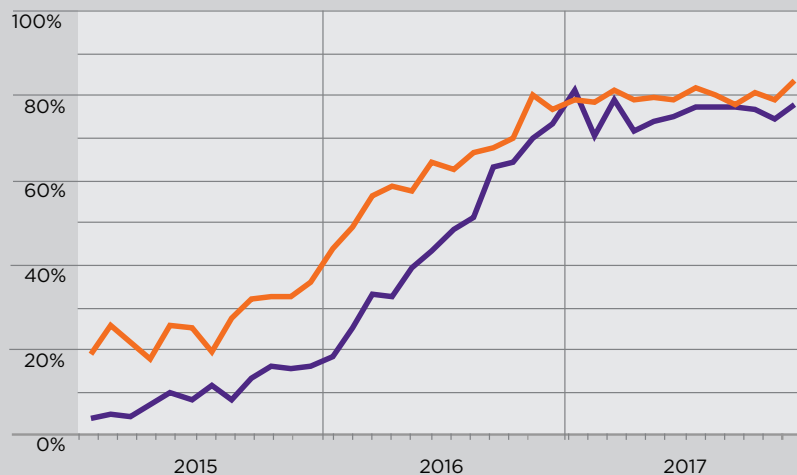
To ensure all moms seen at Denver Health affected by pregnancy-related depression are identified, Denver Public Health and Denver Health worked together to identify and remove barriers to screening. This included developing a sustainable model to place integrated behavioral health consultants in primary care and creating a Maternal Mental Health Referral Guidance Tool to simplify the screening/referral process.

Due to this work, approximately 80 percent of women seen at Denver Health during pregnancy care or at well-child visits through 6 months of age are now screened for pregnancy-related depression.

Denver Health’s Ambulatory Care Services department is now monitoring pregnancy-related depression screening rates monthly to maintain this progress.

### WOMEN SCREENED EVER DURING PREGNANCY CARE & WELL-CHILD VISITS

- During Pregnancy Care
- During Well-Child Visits





## SERVING THE COMMUNITY

# EAST DENVER'S EFFORT TO ELIMINATE HEALTH DISPARITIES FOR YOUNG CHILDREN



Families living on Denver’s Eastside, including the Cole, Clayton, Five Points, Skyland and Whittier neighborhoods (the 80205 zip code), are engaging in a new initiative called East5ide Unified that acknowledges the potential all young children have—and that Denver needs the talents and contributions of every child to make it the best place to live.

East5ide Unified is a community-driven team of residents, health care, and public health partners who work, live, pray or play in East Denver. Denver Public Health and The Civic Canopy organized an effort that included Denver Health, Saint Joseph Hospital, Kaiser Permanente and Presbyterian St. Luke’s Medical Center. These institutions agreed to support the community in leading a planning and assessment process, but not to direct it.

While this approach took time and involved risks, East5ide Unified engaged more than 200 residents in activities (i.e. feedback sessions, surveys, community meetings) on everything from health care in the community to issues of social justice and racial bias.

Now that it is well established, East5ide Unified is planning its next phase where the community cohesion can be mobilized for concrete changes that benefit young children. These youth are our future leaders, workers and neighbors—East5ide Unified is focused on giving them a great place to grow up.

**East5ide Unified engaged more than 200 residents in activities**

## COMBINING LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT RESOURCES

# WORKING ACROSS COUNTY LINES TO SUPPORT REGIONAL HEALTH

Denver Public Health is a member of the Metro Denver Partnership for Health (MDPH), a collaboration among the public health agencies serving the seven-county Denver metropolitan region made up of Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Broomfield, Denver, Douglas and Jefferson Counties. Approximately three million Coloradans (60 percent of the state's population) live in this region, and local health directors know that health challenges do not end at county lines.

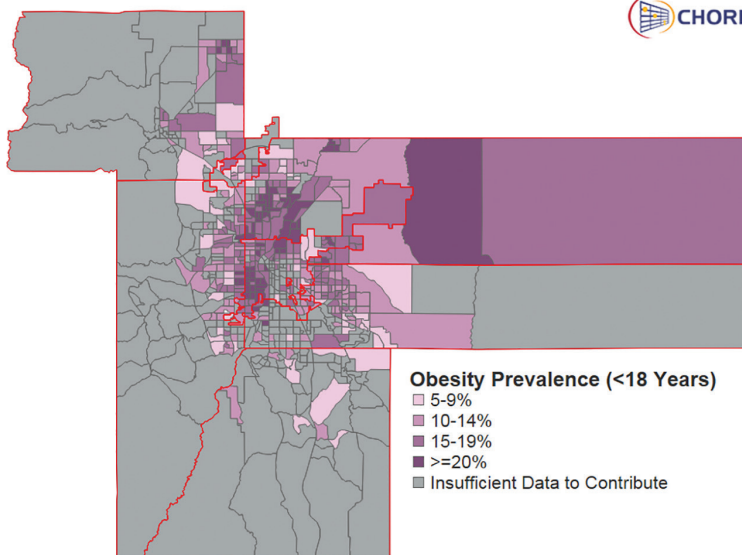
The MDPH aims to enhance regional capacity to improve population health. One of its four focus areas is sharing, analyzing and publishing regional information that will enable community mobilization, program and policy evaluation, and drive policy changes that promote equity across the Metro Denver area.

In 2017, a MDPH data workgroup led work on a regional health data network called the Colorado Health Observation Regional Data Service (CHORDS). CHORDS uses de-identified electronic health record (EHR) data to map population health concerns and improve care and prevention efforts. Funded by The Colorado Health Foundation, CHORDS partners include 12 health care organizations, five metro Denver public health agencies, the Colorado Regional Health Information Organization (CORHIO), and the Colorado Health Institute.

Initiating use of CHORDS in 2017 was a crucial step toward optimizing how data is shared and analyzed across jurisdictions. The trust and foundational relationships that now exist among MDPH members will be leveraged in the future to advance how regional health data is used to evaluate the impact of regional population health interventions.



**CHORDS uses de-identified electronic health record (EHR) data to map population health concerns and improve care and prevention efforts.**





## CONNECTING WITH PARTNERS ACROSS THE CITY

# PRACTICING A COMPREHENSIVE PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY RESPONSE



**52 partners, including state and federal agencies, and regional hospitals and businesses, participated in activities.**

It's not the focus of television dramas, but a critical success factor in any disaster is how partners work together under stress. The time to develop partnerships, plans and trust is before a crisis happens, not in the middle of one. Denver Public Health's Emergency Preparedness Unit builds these relationships and tests them in exercises.

Denver Public Health has led the development of plans to rapidly distribute drugs or vaccines to Denver's residents and visitors. In June, Denver Public Health, the Denver Department of Public Health & Environment, and other local response partners participated in PHED Ex (Public Health Emergency Dispensing Exercise) 2017. This full-scale emergency preparedness event tested Denver's ability to rapidly assess a public health emergency, receive and deliver federal supplies, and provide "medication" at mock dispensing sites.

Fifty-two partners, including state and federal agencies, and regional hospitals and businesses, participated in activities. Over three days, they tested emergency communications, mobilized staff, and tested processes for delivering medications to the public. More than 100 community members, including several with disabilities, visited an open (all-welcome) dispensing site managed by Denver Public Health at Denver Health's Federico F. Peña Southwest Family Health Center.

This groundwork has resulted in the recruitment of more than 275 participants into the Metro Foothills Healthcare Coalition, which supports the health care preparation, mitigation, response and recovery for any emergency.

**WORKING WITH OUR COMMUNITY MEMBERS**

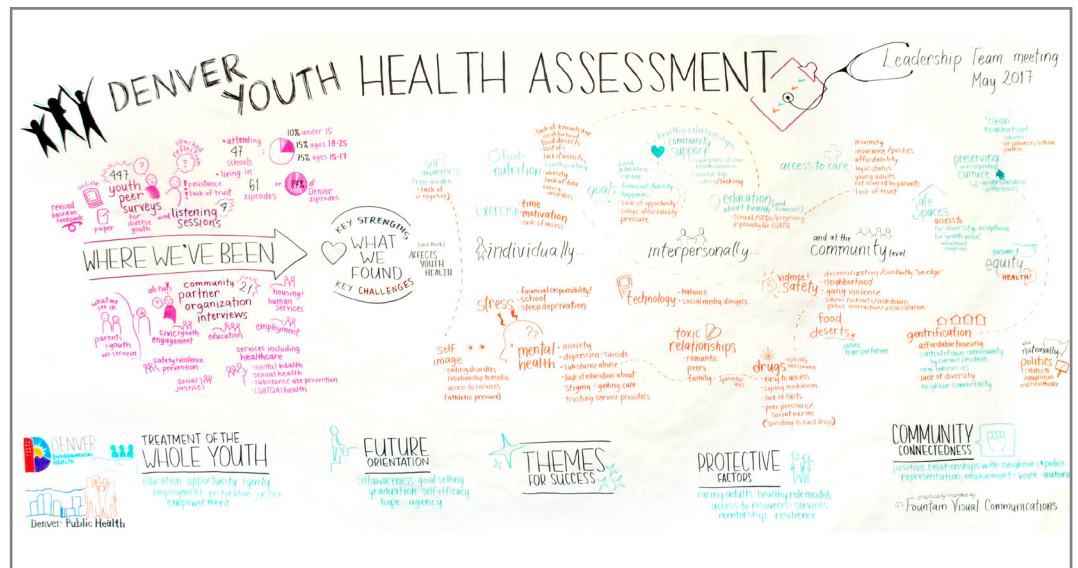
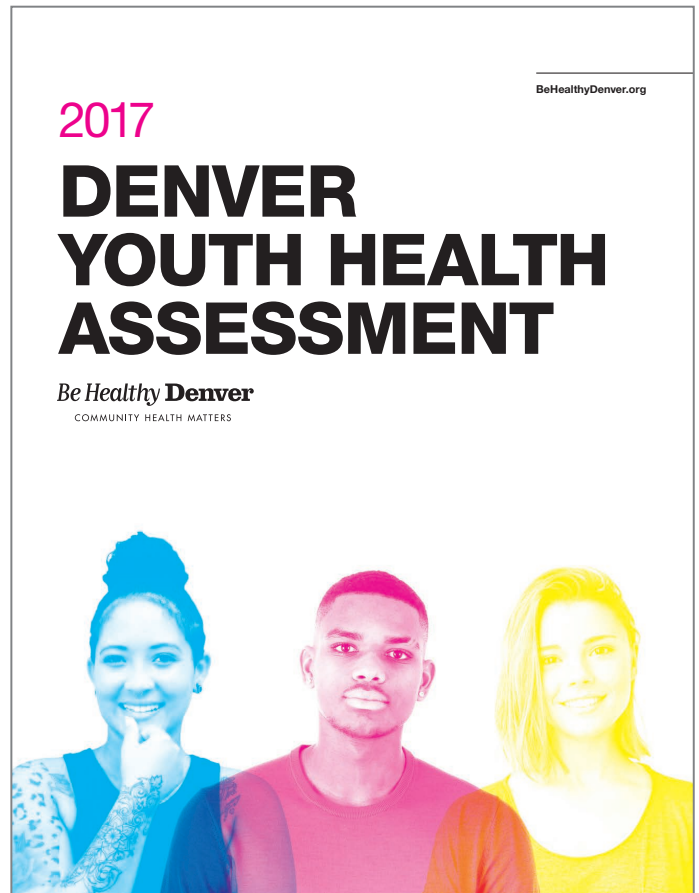
**EMPOWERING YOUTH TO ASSESS AND IMPROVE THE HEALTH OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN DENVER**

In 2017, Denver published its first Youth Health Assessment, a thoughtful report illustrating what a complex time it is to be growing up in Denver.

Using the principles of community-based participatory research and positive youth development, Denver Public Health and the Denver Department of Public Health & Environment employed nine youth leaders to guide the assessment. These leaders surveyed 400+ peers, analyzed qualitative data, shaped the report's content and design, and shared findings at a launch event attended by more than 100 partners focused on supporting youth health.

Empowering young people to tell the story of youth health proved to be invaluable for health assessment work. Based on this success, additional teams at Denver Public Health began using community-based participatory research principles.

For example, Denver Public Health hired five LGBTQ+ youth through Communities That Care to lead the Youth PRIDE Coalition. Their task: to assess the health of LGBTQ+ youth and to help design a prevention strategy to reduce substance use and violence among this population in Denver. Similar to the Youth Health Assessment, youth were involved from the very beginning of this work. They began gathering data at the end of 2017 through a peer-to-peer survey and through interviews with LGBTQ+ youth. Their work will continue into 2018 when they assess findings, choose a prevention strategy, and help identify the best ways to share information and messages with other LGBTQ+ youth.



Denver Public Health is an innovative, nationally recognized health department that works with the Denver Department of Public Health & Environment and many other partners to **make Denver a healthy community for all people**. Through our combined programs, Denver residents have easy access to high quality public health services in clinical and community settings.



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