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## Tri-County Health Department Recognized for Excellence in Public Health

Tri-County Health Department (TCHD) has received three National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) Model Practice Awards, one on behalf of work at TCHD and two on behalf of collaborative work with the Metro Denver Partnership for Health (MDPH). Model Practices demonstrate exemplary qualities in response to a local public health need and these innovative solutions can be replicated by others across the country.

TCHD received a Model Practice award for its Opiate Mapping project. The MDPH — a growing collaboration between TCHD and other local public health departments in the Metro Region — received two Model Practice awards, one for the Partnership itself (submitted by TCHD) and one for the Healthy Beverage Partnership (submitted by DPH), both of which are growing evidence of the power of collaboration in moving the needle on public health priorities. In addition, TCHD received a Promising Practice award for its work in Public Health Cybersecurity, as well as a National Advocate of the Year award. This is the 15<sup>th</sup> consecutive year that one or more TCHD programs have received a Model Practice Award, for a total of 23 awards. No other local health department has accomplished this feat.

*The awards recognize:*

- TCHD's [interactive Opiate Mapping website](#), displaying data that can be visualized at the neighborhood level to identify the scope of the opioid overdose problem, along with community-based resources including where to purchase [Naloxone](#), syringe disposal locations, and [substance abuse treatment facilities](#).
- The Metro Denver Partnership for Health, led by the six public health agencies serving the seven-county Denver metropolitan region, including Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Broomfield, Denver, Douglas and Jefferson counties for their novel regional collaboration. Nearly 3 million Coloradans, 60 percent of the state's population, live in the metro region, and the Partnership promotes Behavioral Health, Healthy Eating/Active Living, Data Sharing, Environmental Health, and aligning the Community Benefit Plans of local not-for-profit hospitals.
- The [Healthy Beverage Partnership](#) of the MDPH is sponsored by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment through the Cancer, Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Disease Grants Program and was created in response to rising childhood obesity rates. Each agency is facilitating local coalitions to reduce sugary beverage consumption, to improve healthy nutrition, and to promote water or other healthy beverages.
- TCHD's comprehensive plan to address cybersecurity in a public health setting, enhancing protection of both internal communications as well as extensive databases containing personal health information and environmental health data.
- TCHD's policy work to improve population health by consistently voicing policy concerns to Congress, advocating for evidence-based federal public health policies. TCHD also frequently leads Congressional

communications for the MDPH. 2018 is the inaugural year for NACCHO's National Advocate of the Year Award and TCHD was one of only two awardees nationwide.

Since 2003, NACCHO's Model Practice Awards have honored programs that demonstrate how local health departments and their community partners can effectively collaborate to address local public health challenges. All previous Model Practices are online at [www.naccho.org/topics/modelpractices/database](http://www.naccho.org/topics/modelpractices/database).

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*Tri-County Health Department serves over 1.5 million people in Adams, Arapahoe and Douglas Counties. It provides over 60 programs and services including birth certificates, immunizations, food/WIC, restaurant inspections, family planning, STI/HIV Testing and infectious disease investigations. For more information, visit [www.tchd.org](http://www.tchd.org) Twitter @TCHDHealth or Facebook @cotchd.*

*The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) represents the nation's nearly 3,000 local governmental health departments. [www.naccho.org](http://www.naccho.org).*