

# Adams County Health Department

An Update to the  
Commerce City Council

November 27, 2023

Monica Buhlig, Health Equity and  
Strategic Initiatives Division Director

Brian Hlavacek, Environmental Health  
Division Director



**ADAMS COUNTY**  
HEALTH DEPARTMENT

— Your Health. Our Mission. —



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# Agenda

- Mission and Vision
- Partnerships & Community Engagement
- Health Equity Overview
- Environmental Health Overview

# Mission & Vision

## **Mission:**

**To responsibly serve the Adams County community with integrity and innovation.**

## **Vision:**

**A community-led county where everyone has the opportunity to be healthy, valued, safe, and thriving.**

## **Purpose:**

**The purpose of the Adams County Health Department is to safeguard and improve our community's health and well-being.**



# Partnerships and Community Engagement

## WHO

- Municipal governments, school districts, other government organizations
- Community-based organizations
- Health systems and clinical providers
- Local businesses and chambers
- Residents

## HOW

- Community Health Improvement Plan
- Listening and Strategic Engagement
- Partnership Requests for Services



# Inaugural Adams County Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP)

## What

- Five-year, **community-centered plan** to address county health priorities
- County-wide priorities with potential for **local strategies and local action**
- Guided by and implemented through **collective action**

## Who

- Created in partnership with community
- Facilitated and evaluated by Adams County Health Department
- Created, guided, and implemented by a community-led coalition: Adams County Community Coalition for Health Improvement

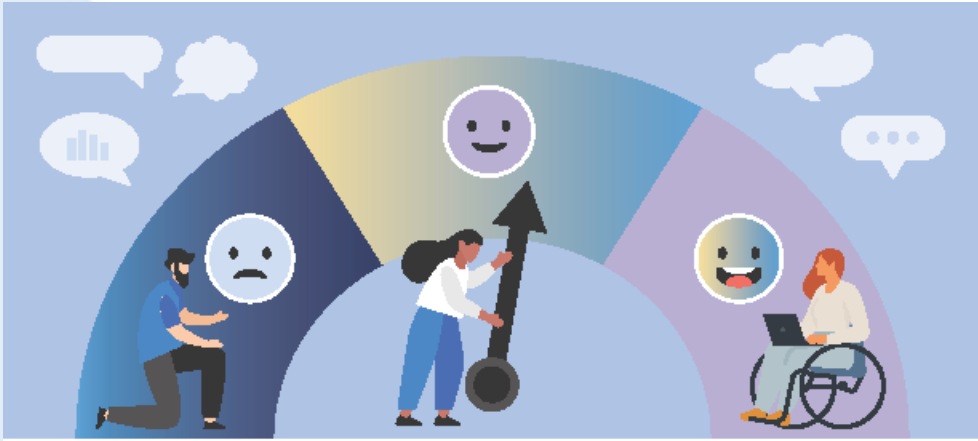


# CHIP: Ways to Get Involved

- ✓ Suggestions or feedback through Monica, Kelly, Brian or any ACHD staff
- ✓ Community Coalition for Health Improvement -> Transition to Priority-Specific Task Forces (early 2024)
- ✓ Focus Groups
- ✓ Survey Participation
- ✓ Community Advisory Group



# CHIP Community Survey

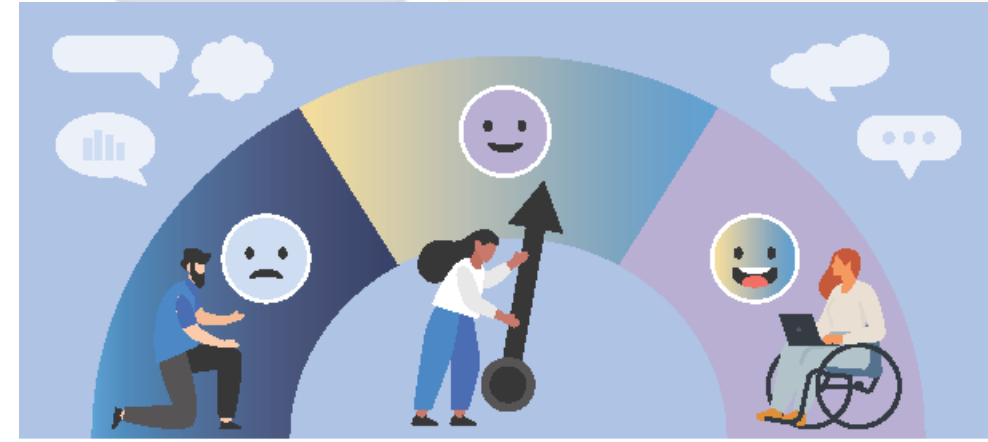


## WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Please help us learn what makes you and your community healthy and happy by completing this short survey. You could win one of several \$50 gift cards.



COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT (CSBG)  
COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PLAN (CHIP)



## ¡QUEREMOS SABER DE TI!

Completa esta breve encuesta para saber qué hace feliz y saludable a ti y a tu comunidad. Podrías ganar una de varias tarjetas de regalo de \$50.



ADAMS COUNTY  
HUMAN SERVICES

PROGRAMA DE SUBSIDIOS PARA SERVICIOS COMUNITARIOS  
(CSBG, POR SUS SIGLAS EN INGLÉS)



ADAMS COUNTY  
HEALTH DEPARTMENT

PLAN DE MEJORAMIENTO DE LA SALUD EN LA COMUNIDAD  
(CHIP, POR SUS SIGLAS EN INGLÉS)

# CHIP Community Survey



<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/adamscol>





# Listening and Strategic Engagement

## Listening

- One-on-One Meetings
- Summary of Community Resources
- Asset Mapping

## Strategic Engagement

- Adams County Health Alliance
- Behavioral Health Coalition
- Communities that Care Coalition
- Love My Air
- School Coalition
- Participate in Existing Coalitions



# About Adams County Health Department

## ☰ MENU

- About ▾
- Environmental Health ▾
- Vital Records ▾
- Community Services ▾
- Health Care Services ▾



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[Join the Adams County Health Department  
Newsletter List](#)

[Community Engagement Request Form](#)



# Health Data & GIS Resources

Adams County Health Department

## Open Data

Access selected geospatial datasets published by Adams County Health Department below.

\*Please note the open data site is still under development



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Resources &  
Boundaries



Demographics



Environment



Health Behaviors



Health Outcomes

# Health Equity: Overview

Inequitable Systems

Length & Quality of Life

Health Behaviors (30%)

Tobacco

Diet & Exercise

Alcohol & Drug Use

Sexual Activity

Physical Environment (10%)

Air & Water Quality

Parks

Housing & Transit

Food Access

Social & Economic Factors (40%)

Education

Family & Social Support

Employment

Community Safety

Income

Race/Ethnicity

Clinical Care (20%)

Access/Link to Care

Quality of Care





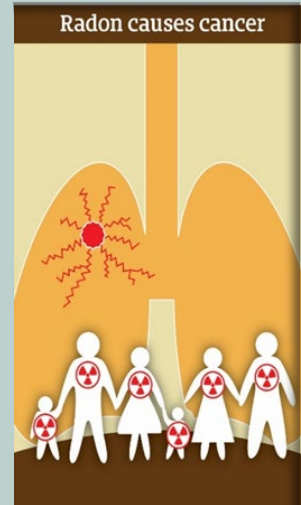
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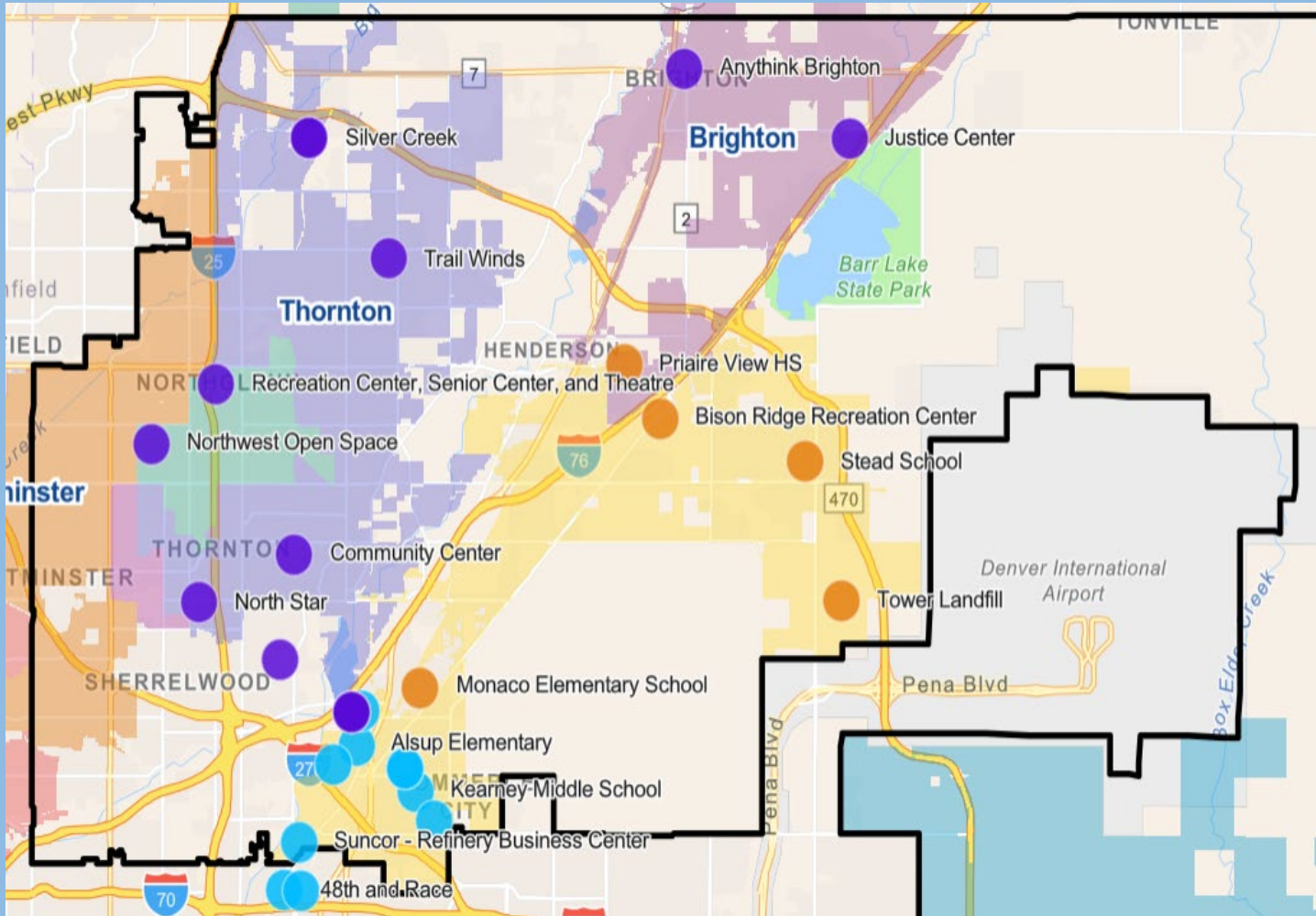
# Environmental Health Division

Environmental Health programs focus on preventing communicable diseases and environmental conditions that could be harmful to your health.

- Restaurant inspections
- Childcare center inspections
- Body art inspections
- Pool/spa inspections
- Onsite wastewater (septic system) permitting
- **Water quality (emerging contaminants - PFAS)**
- Indoor air quality/Healthy Homes/Industrial Hygiene
- Vector surveillance (West Nile virus, plague)
- Animal control/Rabies
- **Solid/hazardous waste/Rocky Mountain Arsenal**
- Schools
- Disease prevention
- **Air quality**



# LOVE MY AIR PROGRAM (LMA) – COLORADO LOCAL ENTITY AIR NETWORK (CLEAN)



- 20 Clarity Node-S sensors for detecting  $PM_{2.5}$
- 10 partners:
  - Adams County
  - Adams12 Five Star School District
  - Anythink Libraries
  - Arapahoe Libraries
  - Arapahoe County
  - City of Commerce City
  - City of Northglenn
  - City of Sheridan
  - City of Englewood
  - Thornton Parks and Recreation Department
- <https://clean.lovemymyair.com/clean>



# LMA MISSION AND STRATEGIES

To empower communities to live better, longer by reducing air pollution and limiting exposure through behavior changes, advocacy, and community engagement.



- **Raise awareness** about air quality concerns through data collection, communications, education, and public outreach.



- Empower individuals to **change behaviors to reduce air quality impacts.**



- Empower individuals and families to **change behaviors to protect their health and reduce exposure** to harmful air pollutants.



- **Identify and pursue opportunities for programming or policy changes** that reduce air quality and/or protect public health.





# CLEAN PARTNERS & SENSOR DASHBOARD

The dashboard features a header with the "love my air" logo on the left, a navigation menu (HOME, MAP VIEW, ABOUT, WIDGETS, RESOURCES, EN) in the center, and the "Colorado Local Entity Air Network" title on the right. Below the header is a grid of 20 partner logos, each with a corresponding sensor location name.

Partner Logo	Sensor Location
ADAMS COUNTY COLORADO	Adams County Health Department Commerce City
ADAMS COUNTY COLORADO	Adams County Sheriff's Substation
anythink	Anythink Bennett
anythink	Anythink Brighton
Sheridan	Broken Tee Golf Course
CITY OF Englewood	Cushing Park
ADAMS COUNTY COLORADO	Justice Center
ARAPAHOE LIBRARIES LET'S FIND OUT	May Library
Adams12 Five Star Schools	North Star
CITY OF Englewood	Northwest Greenbelt
Northglenn	Northwest Open Space
Northglenn	Recreation Center, Senior Center, and Theatre
ADAMS COUNTY COLORADO	Rotella Park
ARAPAHOE LIBRARIES LET'S FIND OUT	Sheridan Library
Sheridan	Sheridan Square Park
Adams12 Five Star Schools	Silver Creek
ARAPAHOE LIBRARIES LET'S FIND OUT	Smoky Hill Library
THORNTON	Thornton Community Center
THORNTON	Trail Winds Recreation Center

# MONITOR AND DASHBOARD



**love my air** Colorado Local Entity Air Network

Recreation Center, Senior Center, and The... [HOME](#) [MAP VIEW](#) [ABOUT](#) [WIDGETS](#) [RESOURCES](#) [EN](#)

### Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups

**127**  
PM2.5

NowCast (5/19/2023, 06:10 PM)

### Who needs to be concerned?

Sensitive groups include people with heart or lung disease, older adults, children and teenagers.

### Suggested Action

Sensitive groups: Reduce prolonged or heavy exertion. It's OK to be active outside, but take more breaks and do less intense activities. Watch for symptoms such as coughing or shortness of breath. People with asthma should follow their asthma action plans and keep quick relief medicine handy. If you have heart disease: Symptoms such as palpitations, shortness of breath, or unusual fatigue may indicate a serious problem. If you have any of these, contact your health care provider.

Good 0 - 50	Moderate 51 - 100	Unhealthy for Sensitive 101 - 150	Unhealthy 151 - 200	Very Unhealthy 201 - 300	Hazardous 301 - 500
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Last 7 days (1 hour avg)

Microsoft Bing

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# EPA COMMUNITY AIR MONITORING GRANT

- EPA funds support continuation and expansion of previous efforts - \$404,000 over 2 years, 1 FTE
- Transitioned award to Adams County Health Department – continue to work across both Adams and Arapahoe Counties
- Build on established community air monitoring network, expand cohort partner participation, expand community engagement, continue working towards policy and systems changes to promote public health.
- Goal is to install 8 additional monitors (28 total)
- Data will be uploaded to the Love My Air Dashboard
- Beyond the 2-year grant period, the partner will need to contribute approximately \$1200 – \$1,400 annually per sensor.





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# Water Quality and Emerging Contaminants

- Water Quality Specialist: resource for community to support water quality issues/emerging contaminants, answer questions from well owners, etc.
- Per and Polyflourinated Substances (PFAS): contaminant of concern in water supplies, TCHD involved in 2018 response, ACHD continues to be a resource for the community.

ENVIRONMENT

## South Adams County water district is buying Denver's water to dilute "forever chemicals"

The district, serving Commerce City and surrounding areas, will need a \$130 million plant to meet the EPA's radically lower guidelines for what's healthy in drinking water.



Michael Booth 4:08 AM MDT on Jul 27, 2022

Credibility: Original Reporting Sources Cited



**BREAKING NEWS** Teenager who was killed in Denver was shot, stabbed and beaten

NEWS > ENVIRONMENT • News

## "No safe level": A lot of Colorado drinking water could contain potentially hazardous levels of "forever chemicals" under new EPA standard

To ensure the water stays free of the contaminants, however, officials must also track down the sources of contamination and clean them up, Grandjean said. That's another massive and expensive undertaking.





# Previous PFAS Investigation Efforts

## Timeline of Previous Efforts

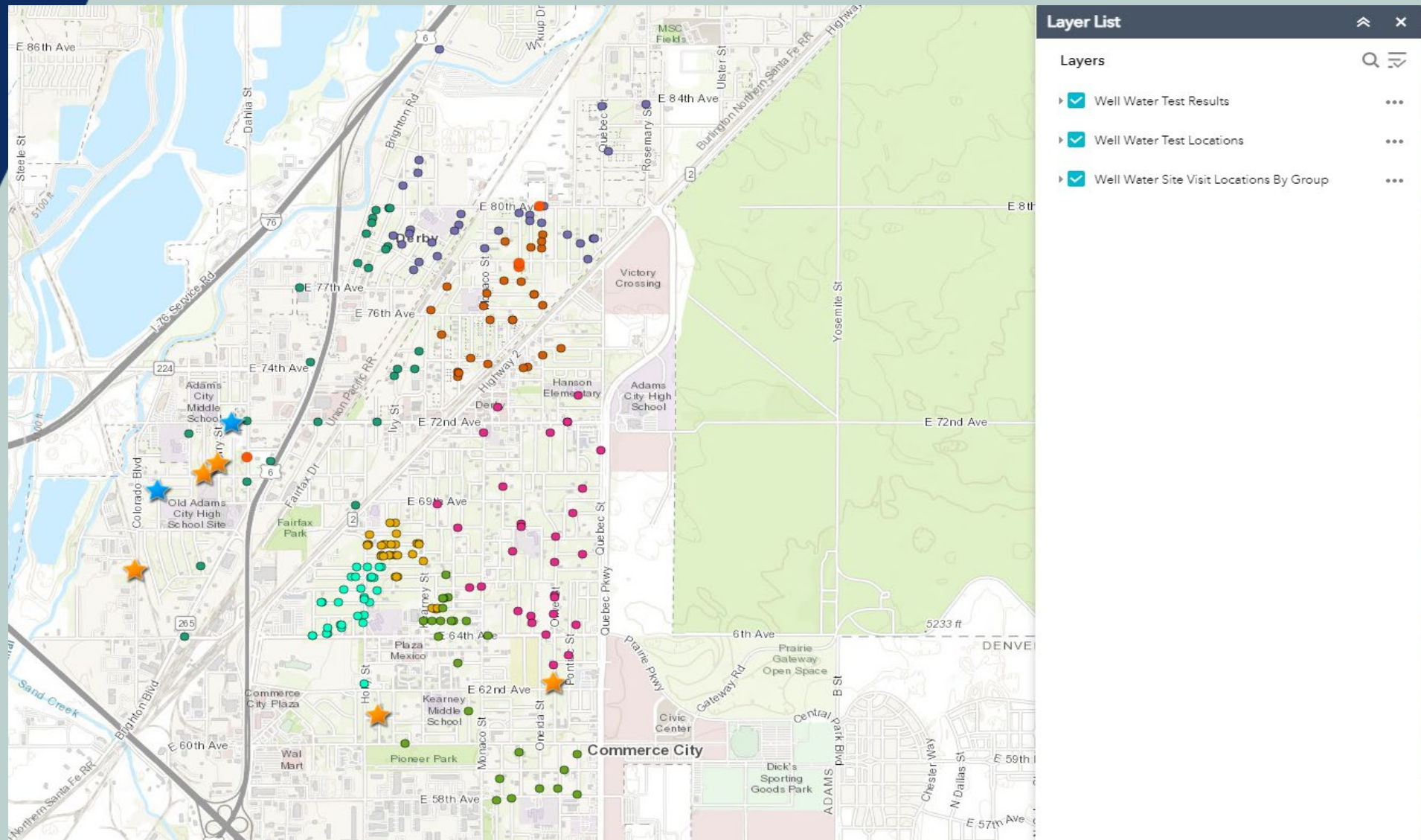
- Aug 2018: TCHD sends outreach letter to over 200 homeowners with private wells that may be impacted by PFAS.
- Sept 2018: 2 wells sampled in Commerce City area
  - 1 well slightly above HA
  - 1 well was non-detect
- March 2019: 5 additional wells were sampled in CC area after door-to-door canvassing.
  - 2 wells had PFAS levels above the EPA HA
  - 2 wells had PFAS levels below the EPA HA
  - 1 well was non-detect for PFAS.



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# Sampling Locations & Door to Door Efforts: Commerce City





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# Updated PFAS Health Advisories (HAs)

- June 2022, the EPA released four drinking water advisories
- Established new HAs for Gen X and PFBS and lowers for PFOA and PFOS
  - Interim updated health advisory for PFOA = 0.004 ppt
  - Interim updated health advisory for PFOS = 0.02 ppt
  - Final health advisory for GenX chemicals = 10 ppt
  - Final health advisory for PFBS = 2,000 ppt
- The previous HA for PFOA and PFOS, as established by the EPA, was 70 ppt combined
- Advisories are based on human health studies and reflect the most current science, which shows the potential for health effects at lower levels than previously understood.
- EPA Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) Development
  - Released draft MCL's in March 2023
  - Proposed at 4 ppt for PFOA and 4 ppt for PFOS, MCLG is “zero”.
  - EPA anticipated finalizing rule end of 2023



# Consumer Information

- EPA/CDPHE Message to Consumers:
  - No need to stop drinking their water as current health advisories are based on a lifetime of exposure
- If Concerned:
  - Consider at-home filtration to reduce exposure
- While many at-home water filters exist, they haven't all been certified to remove PFAS. Look for manufacturers that have demonstrated the water filter can remove PFAS to non-detectable levels. Examples to consider include:
  - [Purefast Pitcher Filter Cartridge](#)
  - [Aquasana Claryum Countertop](#)
  - [Hydroviv undersink filter](#)
  - [Zero water faucet mount](#)
  - Various Samsung and LG refrigerator filters are also certified to remove PFOS/PFOA certified

## Treating your Water at Home

### Treating your water to remove PFAS

If your drinking water has levels of PFAS above the health advisory, you can either seek another source, such as bottled water, or find a way to reduce or remove PFAS from your water. Boiling water will not remove PFAS, and common consumer filters, such as pitchers or refrigerator filters, are not effective either.

#### How can I treat my water to remove PFAS chemicals?

We recommend under-sink reverse osmosis as the safest, most effective method. Whole house reverse osmosis, which is far more expensive, is not needed because the primary health concern is swallowing contaminated water. This means that it is only necessary to treat water used for drinking and cooking.

At this time, we cannot recommend granular activated carbon until its effectiveness has been studied further. Boiling water will not remove PFAS chemicals. Nor will common consumer filters, such as pitchers or refrigerator filters.

#### How does reverse osmosis work?

Reverse osmosis removes contaminants by forcing water under pressure through a semipermeable membrane. While reverse osmosis usually costs more than granular activated carbon, it also removes more contaminants.

The cost of an under-sink reverse osmosis system will vary depending on the brand, but is usually \$500 or less. Remember to replace filters and membranes according to the manufacturer's schedule. This helps the system treat water properly.

Reverse osmosis systems generate some wastewater. The wastewater from an reverse osmosis system can go down the drain, and used membranes can go in your household trash. The wastewater from under-sink systems is far less than everyday use, like toilet flushing, showering, and washing dishes and clothes.

#### Which system should I choose?

We recommend any reverse osmosis filtration unit that has NSF 58 certification as long as you follow the manufacturer's recommendations for changing the filters. This method has proved effective for homes in Colorado that had PFAS levels between 60-600 parts per trillion. After treatment, water from these wells had non-detectable levels of PFAS chemicals.



#### How do I install an at-home system?

Many at-home filtration systems are designed so you can install them yourself. We recommend hiring a certified plumber if you are not comfortable installing the filter system or to safeguard against any possible issues.

#### TREATING PFAS LEVELS THAT ARE BELOW THE HEALTH ADVISORY

Some people might want to use a reverse osmosis system or bottled water even if their water is below health advisory levels. We only recommend this action when PFAS chemicals in your water are above the health advisory level. Please consider the following points:

- Reverse osmosis systems remove fluoride, which is important to prevent tooth decay. Most public water systems have water with fluoride.
- Bottled water may not contain fluoride.
- Bottled water may not be tested for PFAS chemicals. Large, commercial water bottlers use treatment processes that likely remove these chemicals.
- Bottled water is not regulated as strictly as tap water.
- Bottled water generates plastic waste.
- Tap water is a lot less expensive than bottled water.

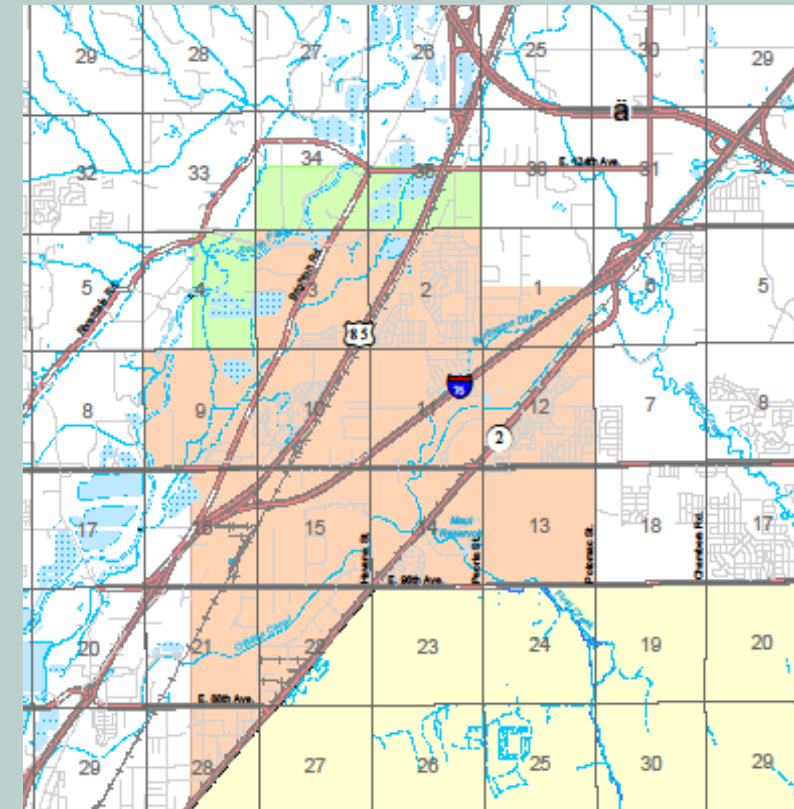






# Rocky Mountain Arsenal Oversight

- Key Program Elements
  - ✓ Community private well sampling program and well permit monitoring
  - ✓ Remedy oversight with a focus on assuring no community impacts and to ensure remedy remains fully protective of human health & environment
  - ✓ Full participation in project related activities (on site inspections, monitoring report reviews, etc.)





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# Rocky Mountain Arsenal Oversight

## 2023 Activities

- Updated Oversight Designation Agreement between ACHD with Adams County BOCC (2023-2027)
- Updated MOA with US Army to fund ACHD RMA Activities (2023-2027)
- Hired RMA Field Specialist Position
- Conducted private well sampling in August – Sept 2023





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# Tower Road Landfill Oversight

- Agreement between ACHD/City
- Scope includes:
  - ✓ Review the Engineering Design and Operations Plan
  - ✓ Operational Oversight
  - ✓ Construction Oversight
  - ✓ Waste Characterization and Disposal Plan (WCDP) Oversight
  - ✓ Other Consultation Services as needed
  - ✓ Reporting





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