

2017 | ANNUAL REPORT

OUR
FUTURE
IS
BRIGHT



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Director's Welcome



The past few years we have worked hard to lay a solid foundation and strengthen our infrastructure to provide quality essential services to Butte County residents. Achieving national accreditation this past year has been an enormous accomplishment, not only for us, but for the entire community. We are headed in the right direction and will continue to work hard to maintain these credentials.

2017 did not come without its challenges. Emergency situations directed our attention to protecting some of our most vulnerable residents and their animals. Thousands of people were evacuated from their homes during the Oroville Dam Spillway crisis. During the many fires of 2017, thousands of residents were evacuated, many of whom lost their homes.

Homes, buildings and structures destroyed during a wildfire cause enormous amounts of debris and hazardous material, which if not addressed and removed, threaten to pollute local creeks, streams, rivers and drinking water. For the first time in our history, Dr. Miller, Butte County Health Officer, declared a local health emergency to expedite the debris removal process, protecting the health of our residents.

Emergencies such as these require a quick response from the entire department. Animal Control works to rescue and shelter animals. Our nursing and emergency preparedness staff help to establish human shelters and procure the necessary supplies to sustain the event. The Environmental Health Division assesses property damage and provides health and safety guidelines for those returning home after an emergency.

As challenging as these emergencies are, they provide important opportunities to strengthen and improve our response to the unexpected. Throughout this report, you will learn about what we did and what we improved upon during the past year.

As we continue to improve our workforce, processes, services, programs, and partnerships, our future remains bright.

Cathy Raevsky
Public Health Director

On September 13, 2017, the department received national accreditation for five years through the national Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB). This means that our department stands out as among the best in the nation! We were the tenth county health department in California and one of fewer than 210 nationally that has achieved accreditation through PHAB. During the past four years, the department has worked with hundreds of organizations and community members to describe the community's health status, define areas of improvement and identify assets that can be mobilized to improve the health of our residents.

The accreditation process has provided the framework to develop leadership, improve management, prioritize improvement opportunities and strengthen relationships with the community. This milestone accomplishment demonstrates the excellence and hard work of the department's committed staff, who dedicate themselves to providing high-quality services. Achieving accreditation demonstrates the department meets or exceeds the rigorous standards established by PHAB and is better equipped to improve and protect the health of our community.



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Emergency Shelter Support

The emergency events that occurred during 2017 required a medical response by the Nursing Division.

The Spillway crisis resulted in an estimated 188,000 evacuees from the local area. Two shelters were identified as needing medical staffing: the Silver Dollar Fairgrounds and Neighborhood Church in Chico.

Over a four-day period, 22 Public Health Nurses worked in shifts of two to three nurses at the shelters to provide medical services under the direction of the Health Officer. The Fairgrounds medical shelter assessed and/or treated 160 individuals or family units. The Neighborhood Church shelter assessed and/or treated 21 individuals or family units for medical needs.

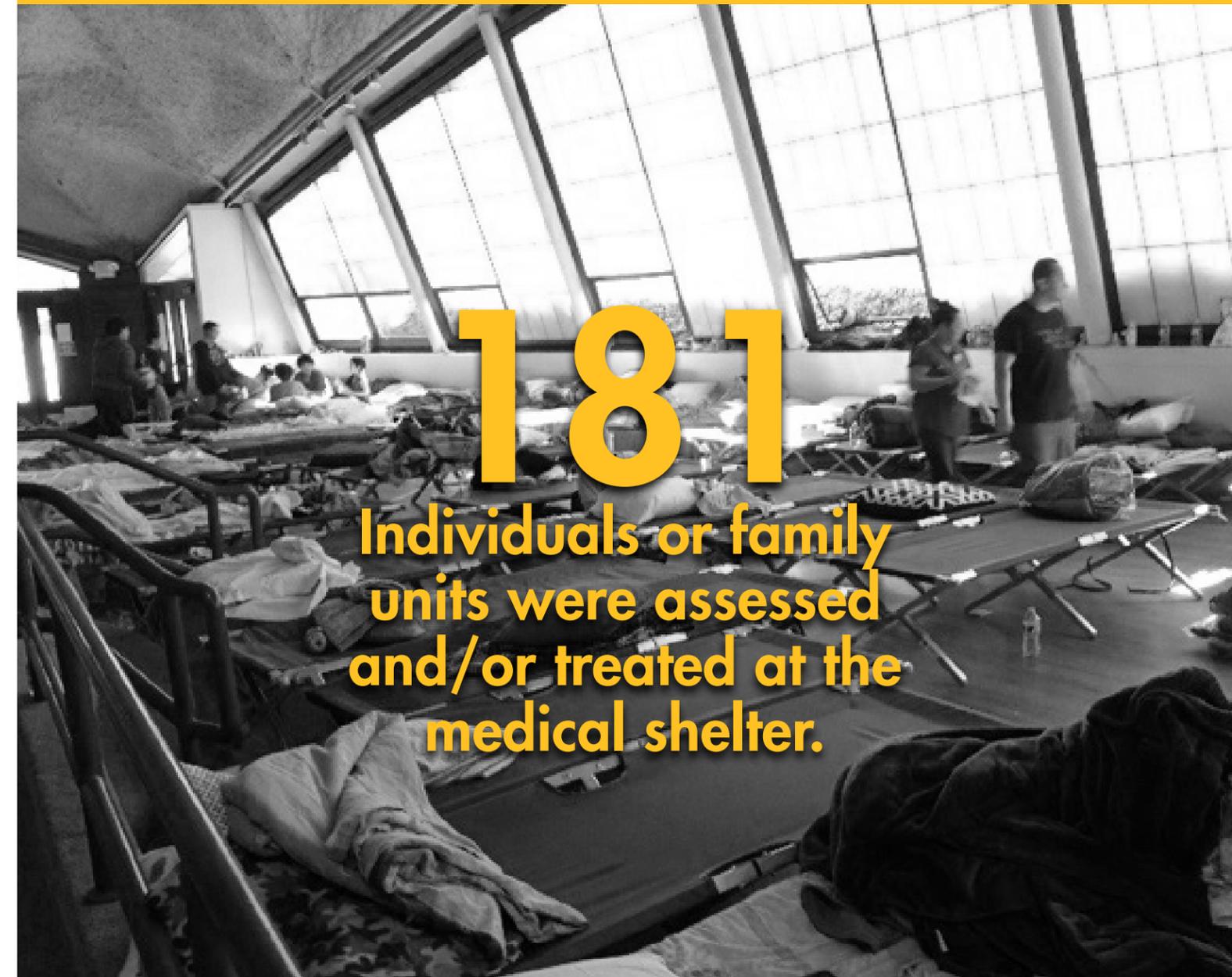
Services provided during the evacuation included medical assessment, medication ordering and administration, blood glucose testing, insulin administration, nebulizer treatments, oxygen administration, provision of durable medical equipment, case management, discharge planning, assistance with

activities of daily living, and referrals to the local emergency department. Car seat technicians from our Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) program worked with General Services to provide assessments and car seats to evacuees housed at the shelters. Despite the challenges, lessons learned provided significant improvements for nursing support in the shelters.

During the fire responses, nursing support was coordinated for the general shelter at the Oroville Nazarene Church. Public Health Nurses provided on-site nursing assessment and care for evacuees. The nursing shelter staff was better equipped to respond, due to the recent trainings and updated resources. The progressive improvements following each incident allowed the Nursing Division response team to confidently provide the essential medical services needed during an emergency response.

IMPROVEMENTS

As part of the recovery and improvement plan, the Nursing Division worked with Emergency Preparedness staff to develop new shelter documentation, shelter go-boxes, and a shelter assessment team. Trainings with these updates were provided for nursing and support staff who respond to shelters during an evacuation.



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Individuals or family units were assessed and/or treated at the medical shelter.



The Butte County Substance Abuse Task Force, working with a coalition of concerned physicians, have created the following Butte County Opioid Prescribing Guidelines.



269
Naloxone kits
distributed within
the community.

Opioid Epidemic

The department was awarded two grants that address the nationwide opioid epidemic by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), Safe and Active Communities Branch. The Opioid Overdose Prevention Grant provides funding to assist the local drug abuse coalition in addressing opioid misuse and abuse. The Naloxone Distribution Grant's goal is to reduce the number of fatal overdoses in California from opioid drugs, including prescription opioids and heroin, by increasing access to the life-saving drug naloxone.

The Opioid Overdose Prevention Grant has been utilized to develop and implement specific activities related to increasing coalition partnerships, develop safe prescribing guidelines, and provide face-to-face education to prescribers. Upcoming goals include a CDC and CDPH sponsored media campaign, and sponsorship of training opportunities.

Focus groups were initiated within the medical community by Dr. Andrew Miller, Health Officer, to develop safe prescribing guidelines for prescribers in primary care, pain management, and emergency care. Presentations on "Opioids and Butte County" were delivered to the medical community through Grand Rounds at four local hospitals and at meetings with community stakeholders. Dr. Miller actively worked to generate support and endorsements for the safe prescribing

guidelines, which are now finalized and printed.

In an effort to better understand local issues surrounding the opioid epidemic, coalition members partnered with Assembly Members Kevin McCarty and James Gallagher to hold a legislative forum on November 14, 2017. The panelists included representatives from the opioid coalition, including Law Enforcement, Public Health, Behavioral Health, Aegis, a family member, and a private pain specialist. The forum allowed the opportunity to educate, share concerns and provide potential solutions through future legislation to address California's opioid epidemic.

In addition to the Opioid Overdose Prevention grant, major work was accomplished in the Naloxone Distribution Systems grant. Meetings were conducted with Behavioral Health, the Sheriff's Office, and municipal police departments within Butte County to establish criteria for Naloxone distribution, including a standing order, staff training, and department policy for each agency. In December, Public Health received 269 kits for distribution within the community through Behavioral Health and for use by local law enforcement. Reversals of opioid overdose will be tracked and reported to the State.

Shelter Assessment & Air Quality Monitoring

On February 20, 2017, Environmental Health responded to the human shelter at the Silver Dollar Fairgrounds to conduct an assessment of the shelter kitchen in response to a reported Norovirus outbreak. Our staff worked with the Salvation Army to educate the volunteers on safer food handling and hygiene practices. These practices included checking for proper cooking temperatures of potentially hazardous foods, proper cooling of cooked foods and proper hand washing.

Early shelter assessment and education prevents illness from spreading during an emergency.

Once the shelter had been closed, Environmental Health staff responded to concerns of Norovirus contamination remaining at the facility. Staff provided disinfection guidelines and oversight

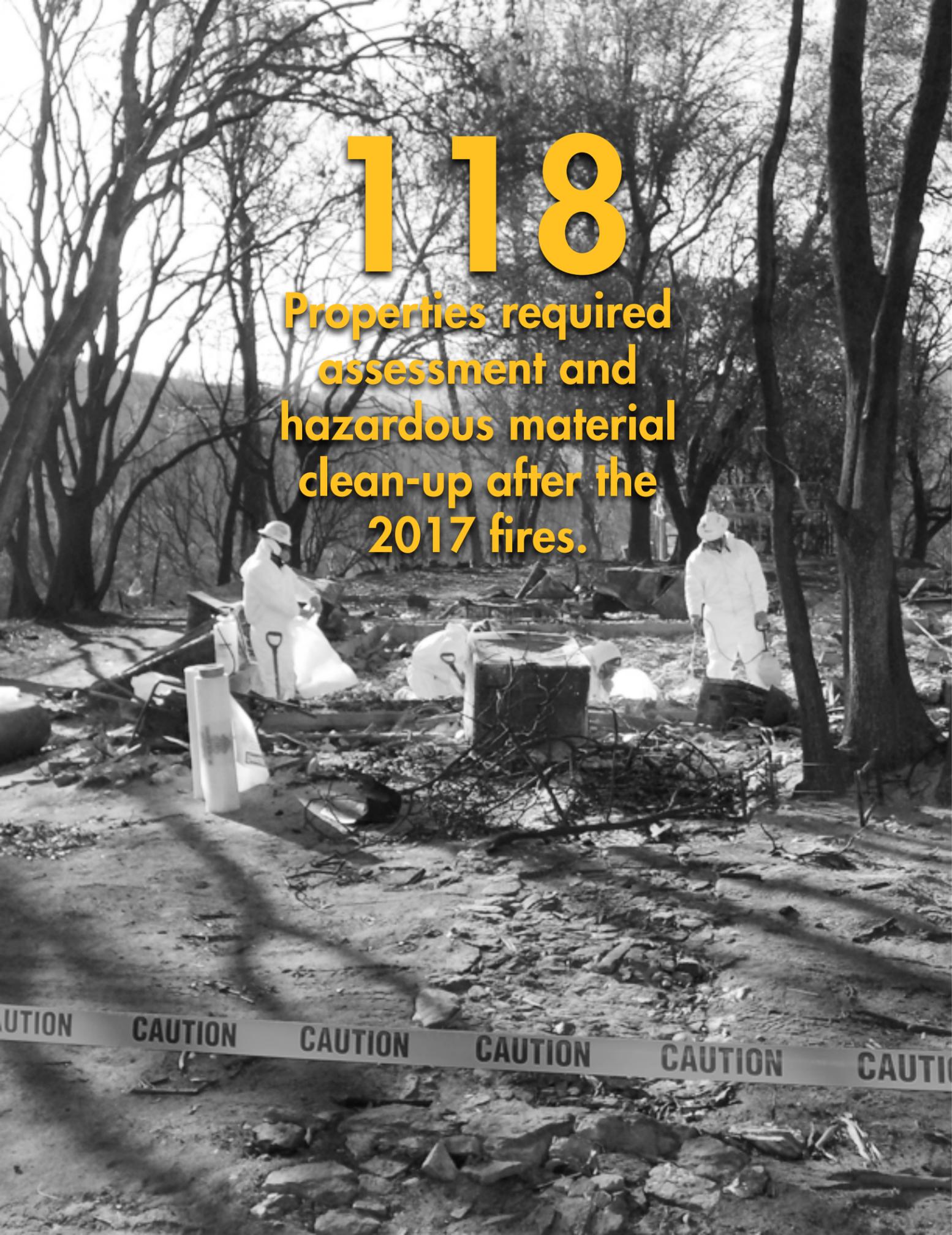
during the cleaning of buildings, picnic tables and benches that were used for shelter occupants.

Environmental Health also worked with the Butte County Air Quality Management District (BCAQMD) to monitor the level of asbestos in the air released into residential areas due to the construction operations at the Oroville Spillway remediation site. Asbestos occurs naturally in the serpentine rock which is present throughout the Sierra Nevada, including around the Oroville Dam. Rock movement or crushing can release the asbestos into the air. Air monitors were installed by BCAQMD and readings were reported to Environmental Health. No levels above thresholds considered healthy have been reported.

IMPROVEMENTS

One of the most important lessons learned and implemented was to activate the Department's Operation Center (DOC) upon activation of the County's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and to have the shelter assessment team respond to the shelters as they are activated. This allows for proper volunteer education at the time of shelter set-up in safe food handling and hygiene practices and prevents foodborne illnesses and communicable diseases from spreading throughout the shelter.



A black and white photograph showing a scene of fire damage. In the foreground, a yellow caution tape with the word "CAUTION" repeated is stretched across the frame. Behind it, several workers wearing white protective suits and hard hats are engaged in cleanup or assessment work. They are surrounded by debris, including charred wood and rubble. In the background, there are bare trees and a hazy sky, suggesting a rural or wooded area affected by a wildfire.

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Properties required assessment and hazardous material clean-up after the 2017 fires.

Fire Recovery & Clean-up

Environmental Health worked with the Department Operations Center (DOC) in responding to three separate fire events that occurred throughout the summer and fall of 2017. The three events were the Wall Fire in July, Ponderosa Fire in September and the 2017 Wildfire Complex (La Porte and Cherokee Fires) in October.

Environmental Health was a part of the Department's Shelter Assessment Team in assessing the health and safety of shelter occupants and volunteers. Additionally, safe food handling, healthy hygiene practices and disease prevention education was provided as needed.

In response to the amount of devastation created by the 2017 fires, the County established a Disaster Response Operations Center (DROC). Comprised of several County departments, including Environmental Health, the DROC developed standardized forms, provided educational information to the public, coordinated with external agency partners for hazardous material, ash and debris removal and planned for the recovery/rebuilding phase. Part of this teamwork

was staffing the Local Assistance Centers (LAC), Fire Assistance Centers (FAC) and community meetings to help support victims of the fire and provide them with resources to recover and rebuild.

Environmental Health's Hazmat Team was the county lead in coordinating cleanup efforts with Cal OES and CalRecycle which included obtaining and approving Right of Entry Agreements and providing information and notification of completion of cleanup to affected property owners. As part of the property assessments, the team posted property identification markers and health and safety information regarding hazardous material, ash and debris safety. The team partnered with the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) to assess potential asbestos and remove hazardous materials from all three fire events and partnered with CalRecycle in removing ash and debris from properties affected by the October 2017 Wildfire Complex.

Oral Health Grant

In 2017 the Department was awarded an oral health grant from funds made available through the Proposition 56 Tobacco Tax Initiative. The purpose and goal of the project is to educate our community about oral health and dental disease prevention while providing linkage to treatment for dental disease.

Oral health is vital for overall health and wellness. Chronic gum inflammation can lead to life-threatening diseases such as cancer, heart disease, low fertility, cognitive dysfunction and other infections. Severe tooth decay can cause pain and in turn, affects eating, speaking and learning. While largely preventable, tooth decay disproportionately affects some groups of people more than others, especially children. In fact, childhood tooth decay has become an epidemic nationally and

With a coordinated, community based approach, the oral health of our residents can be greatly improved.

is the most common childhood disease. Screenings by Ampla Health Dental Program (2012) show that 35-45% of children in Butte County have untreated decay, of which 6% needed urgent treatment. Delaying treatment until abscesses and decayed teeth result in excruciating pain, sometimes requiring surgery, is sadly the norm for many county residents. One of the goals of the Oral Health program is to prevent this stage of tooth decay for as many residents as possible.

The Oral Health Program will establish a local oral health coalition comprised of diverse community partners to help evaluate local oral health data in order to inform activities and services to promote oral health. The coalition will be a learning community to establish quality improvement practices and identify best practice recommendations regarding dental care for high-risk populations throughout the county.

Emergency Preparedness

In 2017, the program responded to the Oroville Dam Spillway crisis as well as supported County response to evacuations caused by flooding and three fire events. In addition to providing shelter support, the program worked with other agencies in the region to assist with the evacuation of local healthcare facilities, placement of evacuated residents from neighboring skilled nursing facilities, and support of local healthcare facilities and private shelters.

IMPROVEMENTS

The emergencies of 2017 provided great opportunities to increase our capacity to respond and strengthen partnerships both in the community and with our neighboring agencies. This has allowed us to improve our support of residents with access and functional needs during an evacuation and has enhanced many partnerships throughout the county.

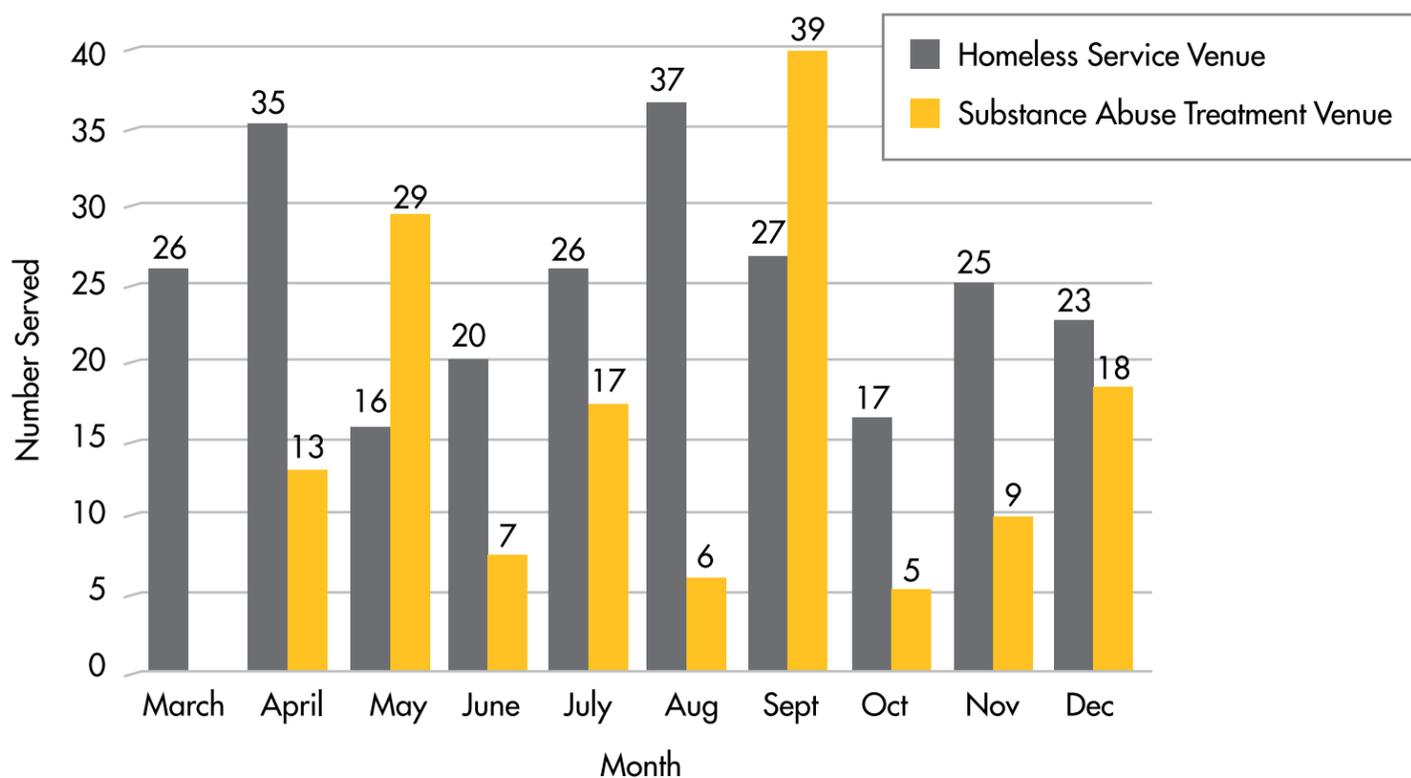


Ambulance strike teams were deployed during the Spillway incident.

Communicable Disease staff conducting syphilis outreach in the Mobile Medical Unit van.



The Number of Individuals Receiving Syphilis Related Services by Month and Venue in Butte County: March - December 2017



Syphilis Outreach

Syphilis is a sexually transmitted infection that can cause serious health problems if it is not treated. It can also be spread from an infected mother to her unborn baby. According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), there has been a steady increase in the rate of syphilis infections in the US since 2000. Butte County has also seen an unprecedented increase in syphilis infections.

Surveillance data for Butte County indicates that in 2015, there was a seven fold increase in syphilis rates after many years of rates as low as 1 case per 100,000 people. This steep increase continued into 2016. A disproportionate number of syphilis cases occur among people experiencing homelessness and who use drugs. These populations also face significant challenges accessing health services and have an increased risk of HIV and Hepatitis C infection.

In 2017, our Communicable Disease program was awarded a grant to provide

syphilis education, outreach, and testing to high-risk individuals, in order to address Butte County's syphilis epidemic. Between March and December, staff tested 369 county residents for syphilis, HIV and Hepatitis C at 24 community events, 11 homeless service sites, and 13 substance use treatment facilities.

With increased access to syphilis testing, those who are at highest risk of infection can be identified and treated.

Ninety-six percent received rapid syphilis testing, 95% received HIV rapid testing and 82% received HCV testing. Of these, 16 people tested positive for syphilis, 33 people were positive for HCV, and one person tested positive for HIV. Two participants tested positive for both syphilis and HCV. Rapid testing is used for initial screening but cannot be used to diagnose a disease or condition. A follow up test must be performed to confirm the person actually is infected with the disease. Among persons who had follow-up testing, 18% were confirmed to have syphilis and 73% were confirmed to have HCV. They were then connected to medical providers to receive treatment and other linkages to care as applicable.



During the 2017 emergencies, thousands of animals required emergency assistance:

<p>2000+ ANIMALS SHELTERED IN PLACE</p>	<p>1000+ ANIMALS HOUSED</p>	<p>600+ REQUESTS FOR ANIMAL SERVICES</p>
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Animal Evacuation & Shelter

Butte County was pressed to the extreme with disasters throughout 2017. Animal Control and North Valley Animal Disaster Group (NVADG) assisted community members by opening animal shelters as well as dispatching highly trained personnel into the evacuation areas to care for the animals that could not be evacuated by their owners. Butte County was at the center of the largest evacuation in California’s history. Animal Control sheltered over 400 animals throughout to course of the event. Encompassing all the disasters in 2017, Animal Control and NVADG housed over 1000 animals, sheltered in place over 2000 animals, and responded to over 600 requests for animal services.

Although no one wants to see their community effected by disaster, the emergency events of 2017 paved the way for new friendships, new agency agreements and new perspectives. In 2018, Animal Control and NVADG will conduct animal disaster service training to expand the availablilty of personnel during future emergencies.

Mothers Strong

Supported by First 5 Butte County since 2011, Mothers Strong, a local community collaborative dedicated to bringing vital mental health information and resources to moms and families in Butte County, was awarded the best “Community Solutions Award” by the Maternal Mental Health Innovations Awards Program. This national award recognizes programs that are closing gaps in awareness, delivery of care, access to care or prevention in innovative ways and which should be lifted up for adoption across the country. Over 50 submissions from across the U.S. were judged on innovation, impact, sustainability, and replicability. The award enabled the Mothers Strong program to be presented at the 2017 Perinatal Mental Health Society’s national conference in Chicago. The focus of Mothers Strong is the development of effective and sustainable systems of services for families struggling with Perinatal Mood and Anxiety Disorders (PMAD). Dedicated perinatal professionals from 12 agencies, private therapists and champion moms within Butte County work to develop links between local resources, medical providers and new mothers that help address challenges connected to PMAD.

Early Literacy

With a strong commitment to actively supporting early learning opportunities throughout Butte County, First 5 staff began working with the local Women, Infants, Children (WIC) program in 2017 to design and implement an early literacy project for WIC families. Children newborn to age 5 now receive a new, age appropriate book at each of their WIC visits. WIC staff have enthusiastically embraced this new opportunity to enrich the lives of those children to whom they provide resources. Over 2000 children’s books have been distributed through the Oroville and Chico sites.

**Over
2000 books
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in Oroville
and Chico.**

Based out of Stanford, Ready4K is a free research-based text messaging program for caregivers that is designed to help boost a young child’s learning and readiness for kindergarten. Caregivers can easily sign up to receive fun facts and easy learning tips that build on existing family routines and home learning activities a caregiver already does with a child, such as meal time, grocery shopping, and bath time. First 5 is working closely with Ready4K to inform caregivers about this unique opportunity.

Expenditures

Total: \$17,037,119

Salaries & Employee Benefits	\$11,846,302
Services & Supplies	\$3,923,963
Other Charges	\$1,162,085
Other Financing	\$104,769

Revenue

Total: \$19,530,382

Licenses, Permits and Franchises	\$88,839
Fines, Forfeitures and Penalties	\$6,907
Use of Money and Property	\$24,450
Intergovernmental Revenues	\$14,309,720
Charges for Services	\$3,559,772
Miscellaneous Revenues	\$29,273
Other Financing Sources	\$511,421



MONICA SODERSTROM

Award of Excellence

Creative work and collaboration in improving the health status of people living in Butte County.

Monica is involved in so many initiatives in our community to improve people's health status, including her work with access to care, ACES, the Drug Abuse/Opioid Taskforce, the Children's Services Council, the Butte County Healthcare Collaborative, and many others.



DARREN JONES

Outstanding Customer Service

Demonstrates a customer focused approach by creating and implementing a service standard in a program or division.

Darren keeps the office running smoothly, both internally and externally. Customers have come to rely on his extensive knowledge and positive attitude, making him a central asset of Environmental Health.



RYAN SOULSBY

Quality Improvement

Improved a process or program in a way that demonstrates methods of efficiency relating to time and/or money.

Ryan has shown great initiative in improving quality in the Animal Control program. He continues to be one of the early adopters of QI in the department and works hard everyday to have continuous QI in his program. His focus on QI will continue to have a large impact on the department.