



Tri-County  
Health Department

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – March 14, 2008  
CONTACTS: Gail Busby, Rocky Mountain PBS – 303-620-5675  
Gary Sky, Tri-County Health Department – 303-846-6245

## **Tri-County Health Department Teams With Rocky Mountain PBS to Promote “Unnatural Causes ... Is Inequality Making Us Sick?”**

Tri-County Health Department and Rocky Mountain PBS have teamed up to promote the landmark television series *Unnatural Causes ... Is Inequality Making Us Sick?* The series will be broadcast throughout Colorado on Rocky Mountain PBS on four consecutive Thursdays, starting March 27, and running through April 17.

The program reveals that the U.S. is one of the richest countries on the planet, yet we rank 29th in the world for life expectancy – among the worst in the industrialized world – even lower than some poor countries like Costa Rica and Chile. We spend more than twice as much per person on health care than the average industrialized country spends, yet we live shorter, less healthy lives.

This four-hour series suggests that there is more to our ill health than bad habits or unlucky genes. The social environment in which we are born, live and work profoundly affects our well-being and longevity. Things we do not usually associate with health – good jobs, affordable housing, a clean environment and a good education – matter as much for health as efforts to get people to eat right, exercise more, and stop smoking. *Unnatural Causes* investigates many of these socioeconomic and racial inequities, which can lead to poor health.

“Tri-County Health Department is pleased to support this PBS series because we provide services that address many of the public health concerns featured in the program,” said Executive Director Richard L. Vogt, M.D. “These include immunizations, nutrition programs, environmental health services and smoking cessation.”

*Unnatural Causes* will be broadcast on four consecutive Thursdays – March 27, April 3, April 10 and April 17. The hour-long episodes will air at 9 p.m. on Rocky Mountain PBS.

For more information on this groundbreaking public health series, visit the companion Tri-County Health Department website page at [www.tchd.org/unnaturalcauses.htm](http://www.tchd.org/unnaturalcauses.htm)

### **About Tri-County Health Department**

Tri-County Health Department is the largest local health department in Colorado, with 11 offices along the Front Range. The agency serves the 1,250,000 metropolitan Denver residents of Adams, Arapahoe and Douglas Counties. It provides disease control and prevention, immunizations, birth and death certificates, nutrition services, tobacco prevention, family planning and prenatal care, environmental health services, restaurant inspections and emergency preparedness. To learn more visit [www.tchd.org](http://www.tchd.org).

### **About Rocky Mountain PBS**

Rocky Mountain PBS celebrated its 52<sup>nd</sup> anniversary on the air in January 2008. The network began in Denver in 1956 as Colorado's first public television station. It is now Colorado's only statewide television network, with stations in Denver (KRMA-TV/DT), Pueblo/Colorado Springs (KTSC-TV/DT), Steamboat Springs (KRMZ-TV/DT), Grand Junction (KRMJ-TV/DT) and Durango (KRMU-DT). Rocky Mountain PBS is committed to serving its viewers and members with award-winning national and local programming and lifelong learning services for children and adults. Rocky Mountain PBS is also a digital technology leader, serving the majority of Colorado with a high-quality 24-hour digital signal. To learn more, visit [rmpbs.org](http://rmpbs.org).

### **About the Production and Broadcast**

*Unnatural Causes* was produced by the San Francisco-based film production and distribution center California Newsreel, in partnership with Vital Pictures of Boston. It is being presented on PBS by the National Minority Consortia of public television. California Newsreel is the nation's oldest nonprofit documentary production and distribution center, dedicated to disseminating social interest films and videos. Vital Pictures is a documentary company dedicated to social justice issues.

The series has received major funding from the Ford Foundation, Corporation for Public Broadcasting, John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, W.K. Kellogg Foundation, the California Endowment, the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies Health Policy Institute, Kaiser Permanente and the Nathan Cummings Foundation. Strategic public engagement partners include the Health Policy Institute of the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, the American Public Health Association, the National Association of County and City Health Officials, Opportunity Agenda and the Praxis Project.