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Hot-Spotting Saving Weld County Money
New Approach To Health Care Cutting Down On ER Visits
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POSTED: 8:24 pm MDT August 19, 2012
UPDATED: 8:46 pm MDT August 19, 2012

GREELEY, Colo. — A way of looking at numbers has cut emergency room visits in Weld County.

It's called hot-spotting. But for Weld County hospitals it can be called saving money

Dr. Mark Wallace of the North Colorado Health Alliance has been crunching data and picking low-hanging fruit for over a decade now.

What he has discovered is that a small number of Medicaid recipients were costing a lot of money. Furthermore, a lot of those accumulated costs were for preventable visits.

Wallace said that 200 Medicaid patients accounted for \$40 million in emergency room costs, compared to the thousands of other people on Medicaid accounting for \$56 million.

Wallace used an example of a man whose home paramedics visited six times because of minor injuries. The man was never transported to a hospital but the North Colorado Health Alliance found out it could have been preventable if the man had grab bars for his bath tub. Wallace said that is an example of how his group saves thousands of dollars.

"Two hundred people is not unreasonable for us to get to understand the challenges they have differently than what our current system does for them," Wallace said.