

# NEBRASKA

Good Life. Great Mission.

DEPT. OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES



Jim Pillen, Governor

December 1, 2024

The Honorable Ben Hansen  
Members of the Health and Human Services Committee  
Nebraska Legislature  
P.O. Box 94604  
Lincoln, NE 68509

Subject: Local Health Directors Annual Report

Dear Chairman Hansen:

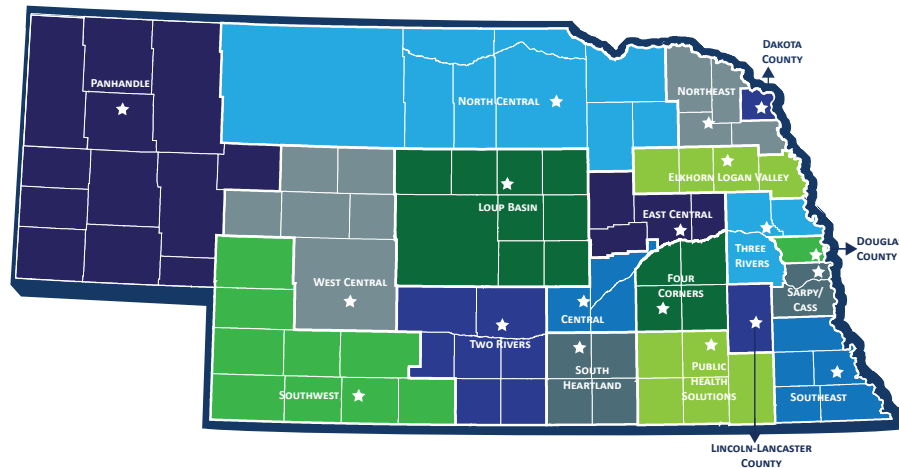
Pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 71.1628.05, DHHS has compiled the annual reports of each of Nebraska's 18 local health departments that are eligible to receive funding under a portion of the Nebraska Health Care Funding Act, outlined in Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 71-1626 through 71-1636. These reports detail the core public health functions carried out by each health department in fiscal year 2024.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Charity Menefee".

Charity Menefee  
Director, Division of Public Health

## NEBRASKA LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS



### Local Public Health in Nebraska

#### *Nebraska Health Care Funding Act*

Nebraska's local health departments (LHDs) act as communities' Chief Health Strategists by assuring that community partners are working together to improve and protect the health and well-being of all Nebraskans. The Nebraska Health Care Funding Act (LB 692) was passed in 2001 by the Nebraska Legislature. This Act provides funding to LHDs through the County Public Health Aid Program (Neb. Rev. Stat. § 71-1628.08) and requires all eligible LHDs to prepare an annual report that provides highlights from selected activities and programs that were achieved throughout the fiscal year to fulfill statutory obligations. These reports do not reflect the totality of the work performed by LHDs. To learn more about the work of any individual LHD, visit their website or reach out to their director. Contact information can be found on the website of the Nebraska Association of Local Health Directors (NALHD) [here](#).

#### The Three Core Functions of Public Health as cited in the Health Care Funding Act:

1. **Assessment:** Collect and analyze information to better understand health issues facing Nebraska communities.
2. **Policy Development:** Work with partners to apply data, educate the public, and develop programs and policies - all to address and prevent illness, disease, and disability.
3. **Assurance:** Promote effective coordination and use of community resources to protect the health and well-being of Nebraskans.

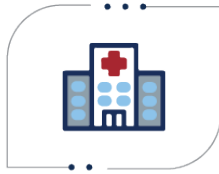
LHDs in Nebraska address the Three Core Functions of Public Health through their work toward providing Foundational Public Health Services (FPHS) in the areas of maternal, child, & family health, communicable disease control, access to & linkage with clinical care, chronic disease & injury prevention, and environmental public health.



**MATERNAL, CHILD, &  
FAMILY HEALTH**



**COMMUNICABLE  
DISEASE CONTROL**



**ACCESS TO & LINKAGE WITH  
CLINICAL CARE**



**CHRONIC DISEASE &  
INJURY PREVENTION**



**ENVIRONMENTAL  
PUBLIC HEALTH**

Examples of work in each of the FPHS areas are featured in the individual health department reports and include:

- Regional community health assessments and planning efforts which improve access to healthcare and behavioral health services through collaborations with hospitals, clinics, schools, and other community-based organizations.
- Supporting local access to resources that impact health; for example access to food, transportation, and housing.
- Assisting with disaster or emergency efforts.
- Helping people find care they need, including preventative dental services, and programs to prevent and manage diabetes and high blood pressure.
- Delivering and supporting local programs to help Nebraskans prevent falls and age in place.
- Helping families manage hazards in their environment; hazards like lead, radon, and issues with air and water quality.
- Working with moms, children and families in home visitation programs to foster lifelong health and well-being.
- Taking action to prevent the spread of diseases like salmonella, rabies, hepatitis, and many more.

### ***Leveraging Other Funds***

For over 23 years, funds from the Nebraska Health Care Funding Act have served as the financial foundation for LHDs. The proportion of individual LHDs' revenue derived from the Nebraska Health Care Cash Fund and the Nebraska General Fund averaged 21% across all LHDs (range from 4% to 47%) according to data collected by NALHD in FY 2023-24.

In order to maintain operations, to meet their statutory obligations, and to meet the needs and priorities of their communities, LHDs must regularly pursue funding from many sources. LHDs rely on federal pass-through awards through Nebraska DHHS, and other State agencies to support much of their work. A few LHDs also receive private or direct federal grants and collect fees and reimbursements for limited services. Very few receive significant local funding.

None of the work of local public health departments would be possible without the foundational resources provided by the Legislature via the Nebraska Health Care Funding Act. These and other funds continue to be necessary to ensure Nebraska's readiness for future small and large-scale public health threats.

### Organizational Coverage

As of June 30, 2024, a total of 18 LHDs covering 92 counties were eligible to receive funds under a portion of the Nebraska Health Care Funding Act, Neb. Rev. Stat. § 71-1626 through 71-1636. The list of eligible LHDs and their affiliated counties is shown in Table 1. Dakota County has a single county health department that does not meet the population requirements of the Health Care Funding Act. Nebraska DHHS's Division of Public Health and other local public health partners continue to support the work of all LHDs.

Table 1. Eligible Nebraska local health departments and affiliated counties.

Nebraska Health Departments	Nebraska Counties Included	Number of Counties
Central District Health Dept.	Hall, Hamilton, Merrick	3
Douglas County Health Dept.	Douglas	1
East Central District Health Dept.	Boone, Colfax, Nance, Platte	4
Elkhorn Logan Valley Public Health Dept.	Burt, Cuming, Madison, Stanton	4
Four Corners Health Dept.	Butler, Polk, Seward, York	4
Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Dept.	Lancaster	1
Loup Basin Public Health Dept.	Blaine, Custer, Garfield, Greeley, Howard, Loup, Sherman, Valley, Wheeler	9
North Central District Health Dept.	Antelope, Boyd, Brown, Cherry, Holt, Keya Paha, Knox, Pierce, Rock	9
Northeast Nebraska Public Health Dept.	Cedar, Dixon, Thurston, Wayne	4
Panhandle Public Health District	Banner, Box Butte, Cheyenne, Dawes, Deuel, Garden, Grant, Kimball, Morrill, Scotts Bluff, Sheridan, Sioux	12
Public Health Solutions	Fillmore, Gage, Jefferson, Saline, Thayer	5
Sarpy/Cass Health Dept.	Sarpy, Cass	2
South Heartland District Health Dept.	Adams, Clay, Nuckolls, Webster	4
Southeast District Health Dept.	Johnson, Nemaha, Otoe, Pawnee, Richardson	5
Southwest Nebraska Public Health Dept.	Chase, Dundy, Frontier, Furnas, Hayes, Hitchcock, Keith, Perkins, Red Willow	9
Three Rivers Public Health Dept.	Dodge, Washington, Saunders	3
Two Rivers Public Health Dept.	Buffalo, Dawson, Franklin, Gosper, Harlan, Kearney, Phelps	7
West Central District Health Dept.	Arthur, Hooker, Lincoln, Logan, McPherson, Thomas	6

### Annual Report Time Frame

As required by statute, LHDs funded under the Health Care Funding Act submit a report to Nebraska DHHS in October, for inclusion in the full Annual Report submitted by Nebraska DHHS on December 1, 2024. These Annual Reports cover July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024.

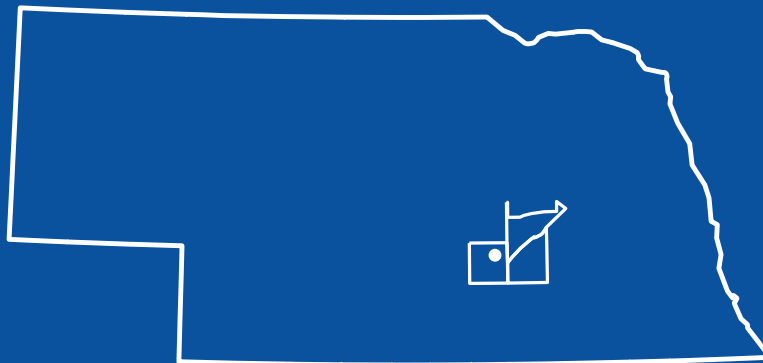




**51** employees serving **79,648** people across **3** counties

DEDICATED TO

- Access to healthcare
- Access to behavioral health
- Access to quality childcare



Hall, Hamilton, & Merrick Counties

**[www.cdhd.ne.gov](http://www.cdhd.ne.gov)**

**(308) 385-5175**

We speak English, Spanish, Arabic, and Somali!

## From the Director

Central District Health Department (CDHD) serves the nearly 80,000 residents of Hall, Hamilton and Merrick Counties. CDHD provides a range of services to address community health needs.

This year we developed our lead certification program and expanded our oral health services, adding screenings for pregnant persons in our WIC program.

A decade long effort to add the Health Families Nebraska-Central District came to fruition this year, providing home visits to pregnant persons and young families.

Our newly developed Community Impact program staff work with clients to assess and address health related social needs (such as food insecurity, transportation challenges, and housing issues). CDHD understands that these factors impact health outcomes more than access to a health care provider.

This report showcases key examples of our efforts over the past fiscal year. Visit our website to explore more about our work and commitment to public health.

“  
**In 2024, CDHD  
added two  
new divisions  
and expanded  
upon 3 public  
health services.**  
”



**Teresa Anderson, MSN, APRN, CNS-BC**

Health Director

[tanderson@cdhd.ne.gov](mailto:tanderson@cdhd.ne.gov)



## Communicable Disease Control

The Epidemiology Team reduces the spread of sexually transmitted diseases through education and case management for early diagnosis and treatment. In FY 23-24, we case-managed 6 newly diagnosed HIV cases, 31 gonorrhea cases, 345 chlamydia cases, and 23 syphilis cases. We educate on the presence and risks associated with STIs.

**In FY 23-24, CDHD completed 405 case investigations associated with STIs.**



## Chronic Disease & Injury Prevention

Based on data from the NE Highway Safety Office, Central District has a disproportionate number of vehicle crashes involving youth drivers. CDHD has applied for and will implement a safety awareness/education program this Fall aimed at reducing accidents and injuries among pedestrians, bikers, and the agricultural community.

**Hall County rates for crashes with high speed (1.40) and youth (6.01) are high compared to statewide rates.**



## Environmental Public Health

Our registered Environmental Health Specialists provided 1,210 food service inspections of grocery stores, restaurants, C-stores, and mobile food units. Our lab technicians tested 5,693 public and private water samples for nitrates and coliform bacteria. CDHD sampled mosquito pools and tick-infested areas to share information with the public on how to avoid insect-borne diseases.

**15.2% of water tests were positive for bacteria & 15% were positive for nitrates.**



## Maternal, Child, & Family Health

CDHD's WIC program provides nutritious food, breastfeeding support, education, and referrals for eligible women and children up to age 5. Over 2,700 women and children received WIC services monthly. Over 300 women enrolled in breastfeeding peer counseling. Of the 1,946 babies in CDHD's WIC program, 89% were "ever breastfed." (The state average is 82%.)

**In FY 23-24, CDHD's WIC served 2,700 women & children.**

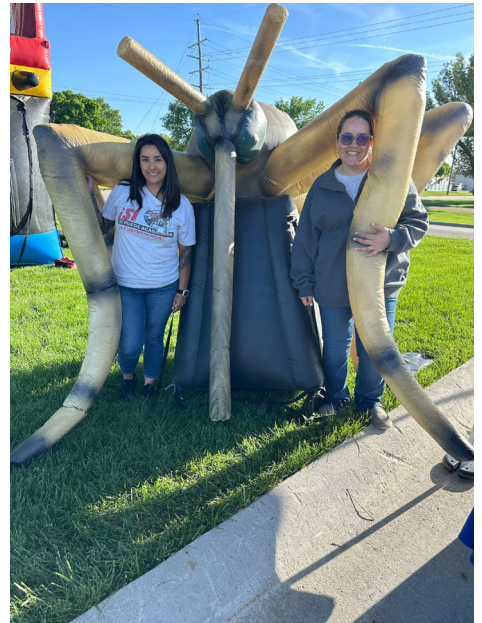
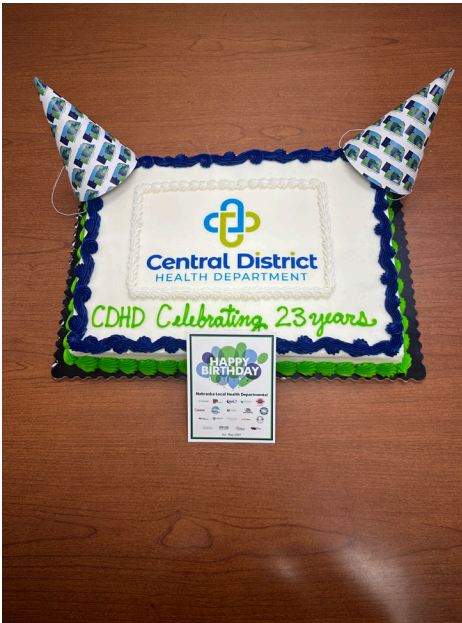


## Access to & Linkage with Clinical Care

Community Health Nurses give shots all day, every day! In 2024, we administered 26,327 vaccines. Of those given, 25% were provided through our VFC (Vaccine for Children) Program. Vaccine appointments were scheduled for 1,333 newcomers who have chosen Central Nebraska as their home. We also offered required tuberculosis testing and assisted with scheduling 375 newcomer physicals through Heartland Health Center.

**In FY 23-24, CDHD nurses gave over 26,327 shots.**



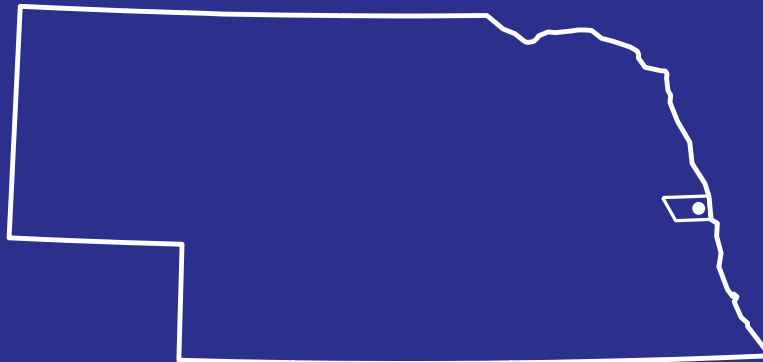




**130** employees serving **582,638** people across **1** metropolitan county

DEDICATED TO

- Regular Community Health Assessments (CHA)
- Regular Community Health Improvement Plans (CHIP)



Douglas County

**[www.douglascountyhealth.com](http://www.douglascountyhealth.com)**

**(402) 444-7471**

We speak English & Spanish!



## From the Director

Douglas County Health Department (DCHD) partners with Sarpy/Cass Health Department in Nebraska, Pottawattamie Health Department in Iowa, and other organizations and medical systems in the Omaha Metro area to complete regular Community Health Assessments (CHA) and Community Health Improvement Plans (CHIP).

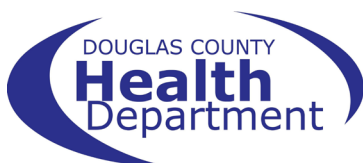
In the fall of 2023, two large public health emergency responses were carried out. After a stray kitten tested positive for a variant of rabies normally found only on the east coast, a large effort began to assure that this variant had not spread to local animals or wildlife. Partnering with the Nebraska Humane Society, the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, US Department of Agriculture, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 18,000 oral rabies vaccines were distributed, 804 animals were vaccinated, and 360 animals were tested. 10 individuals who were exposed to the kitten were given rabies prophylaxis. This response was heralded by state and federal partners as one of the smoothest responses in which many of them had ever been involved. On the heels of this response, an active tuberculosis (TB) exposure necessitated the testing of over 600 children in the metro area, again requiring multiple partnerships. Due to the quick and seamless response of DCHD and our partners, only 2 household contacts contracted latent TB.



**Lindsay Huse, MPH, DNP, RN**

Health Director

[lindsay.huse@douglascounty-ne.gov](mailto:lindsay.huse@douglascounty-ne.gov)





## Communicable Disease Control

We conduct surveillance for communicable diseases, provide investigation and response for diseases of concern, educate the community on risks and prevention, and plan for public health emergencies. Communicable disease control is a foundational public health function. Healthy communities depend on public health to minimize the conditions in which infectious diseases can spread.

**689  
communicable  
disease cases  
investigated.**



## Chronic Disease & Injury Prevention

DCHD secured a 5-year grant to address Overdose in Douglas County, which addresses linkages to and retention in care, harm reduction, stigma reduction, establishment of clinical best practices, and surveillance. Identifying and intervening in patterns of substance misuse creates opportunities to prevent overdose deaths, improve treatment outcomes, and allow for individuals to seek the help they need.

**Overdose  
fatalities in  
Douglas County  
increased 103%  
between 2019-  
2022.**



## Environmental Public Health

We inspect and educate food establishments, food trucks, special events, and pools respond to sanitation complaints as well as monitor air quality via 7 air quality monitors around the Metro. Ensuring safe food, drink, living conditions, and air minimizes the health risks that residents encounter, allowing them to live healthier lives.

**5,500 food safety  
inspections  
conducted.**



## Maternal, Child, & Family Health

We are the primary convener of a variety of community partners through the Baby Blossoms Collaborative and Fetal Infant Mortality Review team. Together we strategize on community approaches to improving birth outcomes. We know that improving maternal and child health takes a community leveraging ideas and resources to solve tough problems, and supporting maternal and child health has impacts across the lifespan.

**Over 25  
community  
partners  
convened  
through May.**



## Access to & Linkage with Clinical Care

Our STI clinic and control program provides free clinical access to testing, treatment, and partner identification/treatment services. We also provide at-home testing and outreach specialist support. Ensuring all people at risk have access to testing and treatment services regardless of ability to pay is an important step in stopping the transmission and harm caused by STIs.

**3805 STI clinic  
visits completed  
in 2023 (29%  
increase).**





# East Central

District Health Department

*Public Health...It's for everyone.*

**21** employees serving **53,545** people across **4** counties

## DEDICATED TO

- Connecting families to needed services
- Providing developmental support
- Providing early intervention services for families



Boone, Colfax, Nance, & Platte Counties

**[www.ecdhd.ne.gov](http://www.ecdhd.ne.gov)**

**(402) 562-7500**

We speak English & Spanish!



**Nationally Accredited**

## From the Director

As we reflect on this past year, I am both honored and excited to share our annual report for 2023. This report encapsulates the significant strides the team ECDHD have made this past year. Our team has worked relentlessly to address the determinants of health that affect our health jurisdiction. From disease surveillance to health promotion, our efforts are guided by science, collaboration, and the voices of our community.

As we move forward, I am committed to fostering an inclusive and evidence-based approach to public health. United in our efforts, we can build thriving, healthier communities for all Nebraskans.

This report showcases key examples of the range of ECDHD's efforts over the past fiscal year. Visit our website to explore more about our work and commitment to public health.

Yours in health,

Molly Pofahl

“  
**We can build  
thriving,  
healthier  
communities  
for all  
Nebraskans.**  
”



**Molly Pofahl, MS**

Chief Public Health Officer  
[mpofahl@ecdhd.ne.gov](mailto:mpofahl@ecdhd.ne.gov)



### Communicable Disease Control

ECDHD investigates, diagnoses, addresses, and communicates health problems and hazards affecting the population. Early detection and timely intervention related to infectious diseases help reduce transmission and directly impact our communities' health. Preventing disease spread helps increase safety.

**ECDHD investigated 220 reportable cases of diseases.**



### Chronic Disease & Injury Prevention

ECDHD offered LivingWell classes to the health district's residents, specifically focusing on diabetes prevention and education. ECDHD also provides resources from My Plate and the American Heart Association to those interested in learning how food choices affect health.

**In FY 2023, 11% of ECDHD residents had diabetes.**



### Environmental Public Health

ECDHD investigates high childhood lead levels within our district. Early detection of lead in blood and environmental evaluations help reduce the long-term effects of lead exposure. Lead is especially toxic to children under age 6 and its negative impacts on the brain and other organs can be irreversible. Lead is often present in structures built before 1979.

**ECHD conducted 60 childhood lead poisoning investigations.**



### Maternal, Child, & Family Health

ECDHD provides nutrition and breastfeeding services to residents in our four counties through our WIC program. The WIC program aims to improve the health and nutrition of low-income women, infants, and children at nutritional risk. We do this through education and support.

**In FY 2023, ECDHD WIC served 1,617 clients.**



### Access to & Linkage with Clinical Care

ECDHD works closely with our Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC), hospitals, and healthcare clinics to promote services and make referrals. Increased access to services and healthcare improves the health of our community.

**1 in 5 ECDHD adult residents does not have a primary care provider.**





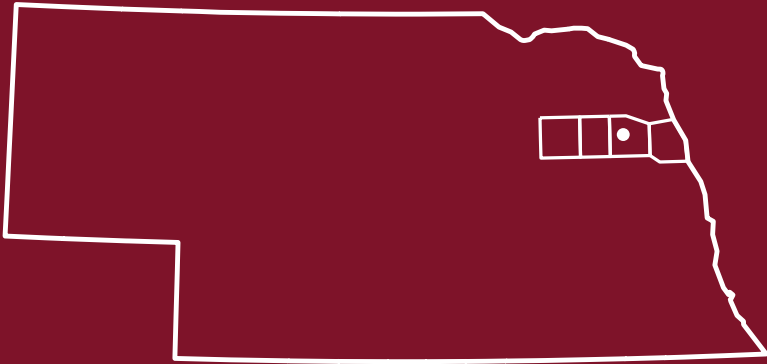




**19** employees serving **57,083** people across **4** rural counties

DEDICATED TO

- Behavioral & mental health
- Cancer prevention & screening



Burt, Cuming, Madison, & Stanton Counties

[www.elvphd.ne.gov](http://www.elvphd.ne.gov)

(402) 529-2233

We speak English & Spanish!



Nationally Accredited

## From the Director

Every three years, the Elkhorn Logan Valley Public Health Department (ELVPHD), along with our hospital partners (Faith Regional Health Services and Franciscan Healthcare), conducts a community health needs assessment to gauge the health status of our communities using primary and secondary data from multiple sources. From the analyzed data, ELVPHD, our hospital partners, and many community-based organizations collectively developed our Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP), which guides our efforts to improve the health of the people and communities throughout our district.

The continued partnerships are vital towards moving the needle to better health outcomes and help us to accomplish our vision: Healthy People Living in Healthy Communities. We look forward to continuing our efforts in our CHIP focus areas in our behavioral/mental health work and cancer prevention and screening work.

“  
**Our vision:  
Healthy  
People Living  
in Healthy  
Communities.**  
”



**Gina Uhing**

Health Director

[gina@elvphd.ne.gov](mailto:gina@elvphd.ne.gov)

In addition to continuing the work outlined in our CHIP, the following notable things occurred:

1. ELVPHD updated its Strategic Plan and adopted digitalization as a top priority. This resulted in the adoption of several new digital platforms and offerings for our community, such as online appointment booking and virtual learning options.
2. Our permanent Norfolk, NE office was completed and opened with a ribbon cutting ceremony. This space is visible and accessible. We are excited for this to be our home!
3. Our Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) reaccreditation documents were completed and submitted for review. The corresponding site visit was conducted, and we received word of our reaccreditation in August 2024.





### Communicable Disease Control

ELVPHD performs public health surveillance, preventing and controlling the spread of illness and disease through monitoring reportable illnesses from labs, clinics, and hospitals.

**In FY 23-24, ELVPHD investigated 160 reportable cases of diseases.**



### Chronic Disease & Injury Prevention

ELVPHD remains CDC-recognized for teaching the National Diabetes Prevention Program and offers in-person and virtual weight loss instruction. During the program, participants complete a year-long course to lose 5% or more of their body weight.

**47% of class participants achieved a 5% or more loss of body weight.**



### Environmental Public Health

ELVPHD provided 189 short-term radon test kits in the district and used traditional and social media to educate people. Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer overall and the leading cause of lung cancer in non-smokers. All counties in ELVPHD have high radon levels - more than 4.0 pCi/l.

**ELVPHD distributed 189 radon test kits.**



### Maternal, Child, & Family Health

Immunizations are considered one of the greatest public health achievements in history. ELVPHD provides a variety of immunizations in the district. ELVPHD gave a total of 6,312 vaccines across all age groups.

**In FY 23-24, 6,312 vaccines given to all ages in the district.**



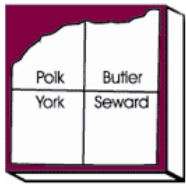
### Access to & Linkage with Clinical Care

ELVPHD's Public Health Dental Hygienist works in local schools and childcare centers, providing preventive dental services—such as screenings, fluoride varnish, and dental sealants. In all, 1,667 children received a total of 2,930 services with 277 referred for additional dental care.

**277 ELVPHD children referred to dental offices.**





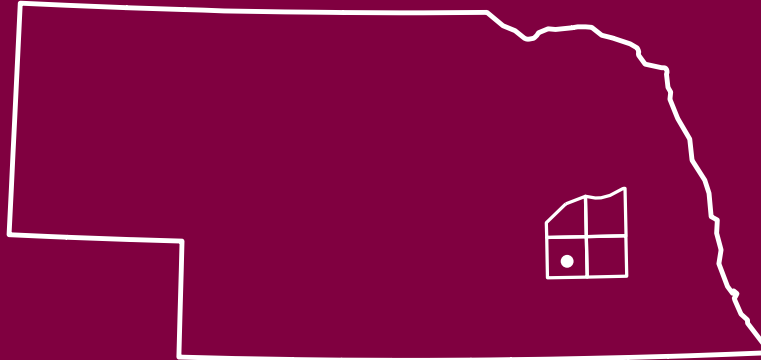


## Four Corners Health Department

**18** employees serving **45,413** people across **4** rural counties

### DEDICATED TO

- Healthy living & aging
- Mental health
- Alcohol misuse prevention
- Chronic disease prevention



Butler, Polk, Seward, & York Counties

**[www.fourcorners.ne.gov](http://www.fourcorners.ne.gov)**

**(402) 362-2621**

We speak English & Spanish!



## From the Director

At Four Corners Health Department (FCHD), we actively collaborate with our community and key partners to identify and address the region's most pressing public health needs. By consistently monitoring local data, we uncover opportunities for improvement and drive our efforts toward impactful change. In recent years, we have prioritized mental health, chronic disease prevention, substance abuse, healthy aging, and promoting healthy lifestyles.

Our commitment is reflected in our diverse programming and educational resources across these focus areas. For mental health, we not only connect individuals to critical resources but also work to reduce stigma by offering educational opportunities and support. With a Licensed Independent Mental Health Practitioner available on-site, we are well-positioned to meet the community's mental health needs. Through initiatives like the Youth Mental Health Assessment and the Youth Mental Health Steering Committee, we have made measurable progress in key areas.

Additionally, we offer chronic disease management, healthy living classes, and a new program, Healthy Families Nebraska-Four Corners, which provides supportive home visits for pregnant moms, new families, and infants.

Our campaigns promoting the prevention of alcohol and drug use reach the community through social media, billboards, and other channels. Every effort is designed to enhance the health and well-being of the residents within our four-county district, and we remain committed to making a positive, lasting impact.

This report showcases examples of our efforts over the past fiscal year. Visit our website to explore more about our work and commitment to public health.

“  
**Every effort is designed to enhance the health and well-being of the residents within our four-county district.**  
”



**Laura McDougall, MS**

Health Director

[lauram@fourcorners.ne.gov](mailto:lauram@fourcorners.ne.gov)



**Four Corners**  
Health Department



## Communicable Disease Control

FCHD nurses play a vital role in safeguarding public health by educating, conducting disease surveillance, and responding swiftly to outbreaks. We offer immunizations to protect community members. Last year, FCHD monitored and followed up on 167 cases of reportable communicable diseases, working to prevent spread and ensure the well-being of our local communities.

**In FY 23-24, FCHD investigated 167 reportable cases of diseases.**



## Chronic Disease & Injury Prevention

FCHD provides classes and outreach to prevent falls, manage chronic diseases, promote safe driving, and prevent accidental drug overdoses. Last year, 297 community members were trained to administer naloxone. This life-saving medication can quickly reverse an overdose, furthering our commitment to building a healthier, safer community.

**In FY 23-24, 297 FCHD residents trained to administer naloxone.**



## Environmental Public Health

Environmental Public Health at FCHD focuses on reducing risks in our living environment through education and outreach on water and air quality, lead exposure, and mosquito and tick-borne diseases. Last year, FCHD collected 889 mosquitoes and 383 ticks, distributed 333 water nitrate test strips, completed 156 radon tests, tested 32 children for lead, and installed an outdoor air monitor. Additionally, two household hazardous waste collections were held to further protect our communities.

**FCHD collected 383 ticks & distributed 156 radon tests.**



## Maternal, Child, & Family Health

Healthy Families Nebraska-Four Corners supports pregnant women, infants, and families through evidence-based home visitation. Through targeted outreach and education, FCHD works to reduce the risk of suicide among 10 to 19-year-olds by promoting awareness, providing resources, and fostering connections between youth, families, and support services.

**Suicide is the 2nd leading cause of death for 10 - 24 year-olds.**

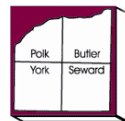


## Access to & Linkage with Clinical Care

FCHD's public health nurses and Community Health Workers (CHWs) connect rural residents to essential dental, medical, and behavioral healthcare. They link patients with social needs to local and state resources. Last year, our team provided over 700 individuals who screened positive for depression and social needs with critical support and resources, improving access to care and overall well-being.

**In FY 23-24, 700+ FCHD residents "feel depressed" and/or have social needs.**

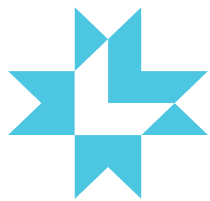




**Four Corners  
Health Department**







Lincoln-Lancaster County  
Health Department

**168** employees serving **322,063** people across **1** metropolitan county

DEDICATED TO

- Access to care
- Chronic disease prevention
- Behavioral health
- Injury prevention



Lincoln-Lancaster County

[www.lincoln.ne.gov/health](http://www.lincoln.ne.gov/health)

(402) 441-8000

We speak English & Spanish!



Nationally Accredited

## From the Director

The Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department (LLCHD) launched Family Connects – a universal home visitation program that’s available to all families with a new baby in Lancaster County. Family Connects offers families a visit from a highly trained public health nurse in the comfort of their own home. Participation is voluntary and the visit is at no cost. Family Connects nurses have made more than 700 home visits since the program started serving families in September 2023.

Having a child is a life-changing event and it can be overwhelming and stressful for parents as they adjust to a new family dynamic. During a Family Connects visit, friendly and knowledgeable nurses are there to lend a helping hand, listen and answer questions, and provide support and resources for families to get their children off to a healthy start. Families learn about Family Connects from their obstetric provider during pregnancy, through a Family Connects nurse in the hospital after delivery, or from health care providers during initial well baby checks. The Health Department’s public health clinic, the Women, Infants and Children program, community and cultural centers, refugee resettlement agencies and other local organizations are also sharing information about Family Connects. Strong partnerships are helping make this program a success in the community.

“  
**We’re helping  
create a  
brighter,  
healthier  
future for all  
residents.**  
”



**Pat Lopez, RN, MSN**

Health Director

[patdlopez@lincoln.ne.gov](mailto:patdlopez@lincoln.ne.gov)



Lincoln-Lancaster County  
Health Department

LLCHD developed the foundation for the program by working with local hospital systems – Bryan Health and CHI Health St. Elizabeth, health care providers, and experts in the early childhood field.

By prioritizing the health and well-being of both newborns and their families, we’re helping create a brighter, healthier future for all residents.

This report showcases other examples of our work over the past fiscal year. Visit our website to learn more about our commitment to protecting and promoting the public’s health.





### Communicable Disease Control

The Communicable Disease Program responded to 3,404 reported disease cases other than COVID-19 in fiscal year 2024. The program protects the public's health through disease surveillance, outbreak investigations, and prevention of disease spread.

**In FY 23-24, investigated 3,404 reportable cases of diseases.**



### Chronic Disease & Injury Prevention

The Health Promotion team works to strengthen the public's health and safety and improve quality of life through education, mobilizing community action, and developing public health policy. An area of focus has been bike and pedestrian safety education and school zone improvements in identified areas of the community at higher risk for bike or pedestrian crashes.

**In FY 23-24, a safety campaign improved bike & pedestrian safety impacting 350+ elementary students**



### Environmental Public Health

LLCHD provides timely education and guidance to help control the spread of illness in childcare centers and develops communications, future educational resources, and action steps for prevention. Childcare centers electronically submit illness reports on communicable diseases, diarrhea, or vomiting which allows for quick response and identification of illness trends in the community.

**1,674 childhood professionals trained in health and safety in FY 23-24**



### Maternal, Child, & Family Health

LLCHD provides home visitation services through the Healthy Families America and Family Connects (Universal Home Visitation) models to families in Lincoln and Lancaster County. Home visitation services provide a strong foundation for a healthy start for infants and children, support family well-being, and build capacity for a bright future.

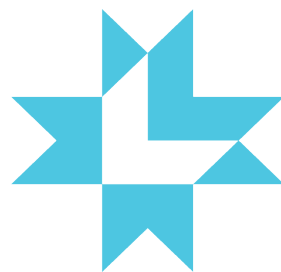
**In FY 23-24, home visitation staff provided 4,750 visits for families.**



### Access to & Linkage with Clinical Care

LLCHD links people to resources such as insurance options (Medicaid/Marketplace) and ensures a connection to a primary care provider medical home. Ensuring access to health insurance and a healthcare provider supports people for preventive care and those with ongoing physical and mental health concerns.

**In FY 23-24, 1,200+ residents linked to primary care medical home.**



Lincoln-Lancaster County  
Health Department



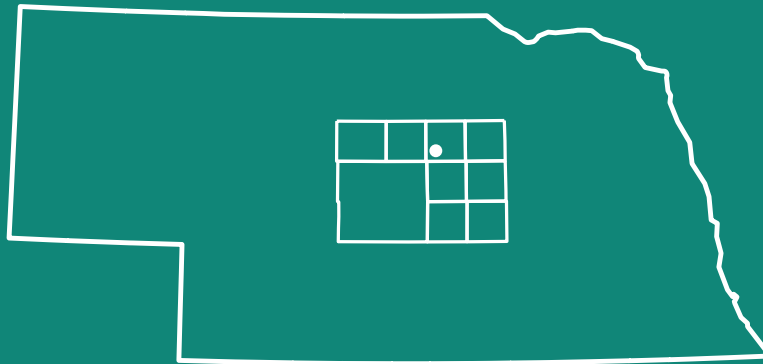


**LoupBasin**  
PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

**15** employees serving **29,894** people across **9** rural counties

DEDICATED TO

- Mental health
- Behavioral health



Blaine, Custer, Garfield, Greely, Howard,  
Loup, Sherman, Valley, & Wheeler Counties

**[www.lbphd.ne.gov](http://www.lbphd.ne.gov)**

**(308) 346-5795**



## From the Director

Loup Basin Public Health Department (LBPHD) strives to improve the overall health and well-being of the community and accomplishes this by collecting population health data to help better understand the range of factors that can impact individuals' health. The health department collaborates with multiple partners including our hospitals, clinics, schools, coalitions, pharmacies, and others to help make this single data report, also called our Community Health Assessment (CHA). This assessment is generated every three years to help align with our area hospitals. When looking through the data, the two biggest health concerns were mental and behavioral health, with a 4.5% increase in mental health issues in LBPHD's district since 2020. LBPHD takes the data from our CHA and creates the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) which was rolled out in March 2023 and is being implemented over the next three years. The CHIP focuses on mental and behavioral health.

This report showcases key examples of our efforts over the past fiscal year. Visit our website to explore more about our work and commitment to public health.

“  
**LBPHD  
strives to  
improve  
the overall  
health of the  
community**  
”



**Amanda Jeffres, RN**

Health Director

[ajeffres@lbphd.ne.gov](mailto:ajeffres@lbphd.ne.gov)



## Communicable Disease Control

We monitor reportable illnesses reported by area labs, clinics, and hospitals. We provide timely and appropriate responses to limit further spread and help those infected navigate their illness. Timely prevention and control activities can stop outbreaks that lead to widespread illness, work and school absences, and other hardships. Many reportable diseases can lead to serious illness or death.

**LBPHD investigated 140 reportable cases of diseases.**



## Chronic Disease & Injury Prevention

Colon cancer is preventable, treatable, and beatable. The key is regular screenings after age 45 for people with average risk. Early detection of colon cancer can mean less extensive treatment, more treatment options, and better chances of survival. LBPHD offers free FIT screening kits and home tests that screen for colon cancer and pre-cancerous polyps.

**LBPHD distributed 65 FIT Screening Kits to district residents.**



## Environmental Public Health

LBPHD participates in the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program. We monitor for high blood lead levels and link exposed children and their families to recommended services and interventions. Lead is incredibly toxic to children under age 6 and is often present in structures built before 1979. Exposure to lead can harm a child's developing brain.

**61.6% of residential homes in LBPHD were built before 1979.**



## Maternal, Child, & Family Health

LBPHD provides home visiting services to families in the district utilizing the Healthy Families America (HFA) model. HFA strengthens relationships between parents and children. By preventing adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), LBPHD helps set children on a healthy path. HFA helps parents succeed. HFA moms are 5 times more likely to enroll in school/training programs.

**Families in HFA decrease the risk of low birthrates by 48%.**



## Access to & Linkage with Clinical Care

Our public health-certified dental hygienist leads Loup Basin Smiles. We provide oral screenings and apply fluoride varnish in Head Start programs, preschools, and elementary schools district-wide. Compared to urban children, rural children receive fewer dental sealants and have higher rates of tooth decay. LBPHD counties are all rural, and 3 are Dental Health Shortage Areas.

**1,926 children received oral health screenings.**



**12** employees serving **44,397** people across **9** rural counties

DEDICATED TO

- Decreasing mortality linked to heart disease
- Achieving positive mental health outcomes
- Improving access to care to support a healthier and more resilient district



Antelope, Boyd, Brown, Cherry, Holt, Keya  
Paha, Knox, Pierce, & Rock Counties

[www.ncdhd.ne.gov](http://www.ncdhd.ne.gov)

(402) 336-2406



Nationally Accredited

## From the Director

North Central District Health Department (NCDHD) continues to have fruitful partnerships that keep our department closely connected to the community. We remain focused on key areas like heart disease, access to care, and mental health, collaborating with partners to drive meaningful improvements in community health.

Over the past year, NCDHD made strides to reduce mortality rates due to heart disease through several key initiatives. A HeartCorp employee was hired through a partnership with the American Heart Association, allocating resources toward blood pressure monitoring, older adult education, food insecurity, and AED access. We established ten permanent blood pressure monitoring stations as easy-access referral points. Forty-eight (48) older adults participate in a 20-session physical activity and nutrition program.

The department travels across our large 9-county area, offering oral health and immunization services to address access to care needs. We strive to improve opportunities for all district residents to access healthcare. Focus groups and 1:1 meetings continue to ensure the needs of Native American, Hispanic/Latino, elderly, and low-income residents align with department efforts to improve access to healthcare. To address underlying barriers to health, the department led a paid media campaign to enhance awareness and support application assistance for Medicaid. In coordination with the Holt Boyd Collaborative, the department sponsors gap assistance and coaching for needy families.

Mental health needs are a top concern of residents. NCDHD is working to reduce deaths by suicide in an area that struggles with mental health provider shortages. We trained thirty (30) individuals in Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR) and 20 in Mental Health First Aid (MHFA). These trainings build community support and encourage early intervention. Two additional full-time Licensed Mental Health Professionals were placed in area schools with the department's support. Media campaigns and community events reinforced the message that "it is okay not to be okay." We increased the number of screenings for social determinants of health and depression assessments. NCDHD continues to perfect a pilot follow-up referral program that supports individuals with needs identified during the screening assessment.



**Heidi Kuklis, MPH**

Health Director  
heidi@ncdhd.ne.gov

Positive change is taking place to contribute to community health. The momentum from the past year propels us forward with a sense of purpose. We look forward to collaborating with our community partners in FY2025 to provide all residents what they need to be happy and healthy.





## Communicable Disease Control

Our staff conducted surveillance, managed outbreaks, and responded to reportable communicable diseases. In 2023, NCDHD completed 239 investigations, the most common being campylobacteriosis, hepatitis, and animal exposures. NCDHD implemented timely interventions that helped reduce transmission, safeguard vulnerable populations, and maintain public safety.

**NCDHD investigated 239 reportable cases of diseases.**



## Chronic Disease & Injury Prevention

NCDHD continued to offer vaccinations to individuals of all ages, races, and income levels across the district. We collaborate with local businesses and healthcare partners to provide traveling vaccine clinics and in-office services. Our outreach efforts emphasize the importance of staying current with vaccinations to prevent disease and injury and improve the overall well-being of our communities.

**NCDHD administered 2,091 vaccinations & held 103 clinics, 54 being mobile.**



## Environmental Public Health

NCDHD expanded our environmental health programming. One new initiative is our air quality program that installed 3 PurpleAir monitors across the district. These monitors measure particulate matter in the air, providing real-time data that empowers our communities to take proactive steps to protect their health based on air quality. Monitors were installed in Ainsworth, O'Neill, and Butte, Nebraska.

**Air quality monitors are now in Valentine, Ainsworth, & O'Neill.**



## Maternal, Child, & Family Health

The Miles of Smiles program delivered preventative oral health screenings to 3,965 children across the district during the 2023-2024 school year. Of those screened, 3,191 received fluoride varnish; 460 referrals were made, including 25 urgent referrals. This program bridges the gap in access to preventative oral healthcare and addresses long-term issues related to tooth decay.

**In FY 23-24, 3,965 students were screened for oral health issues.**

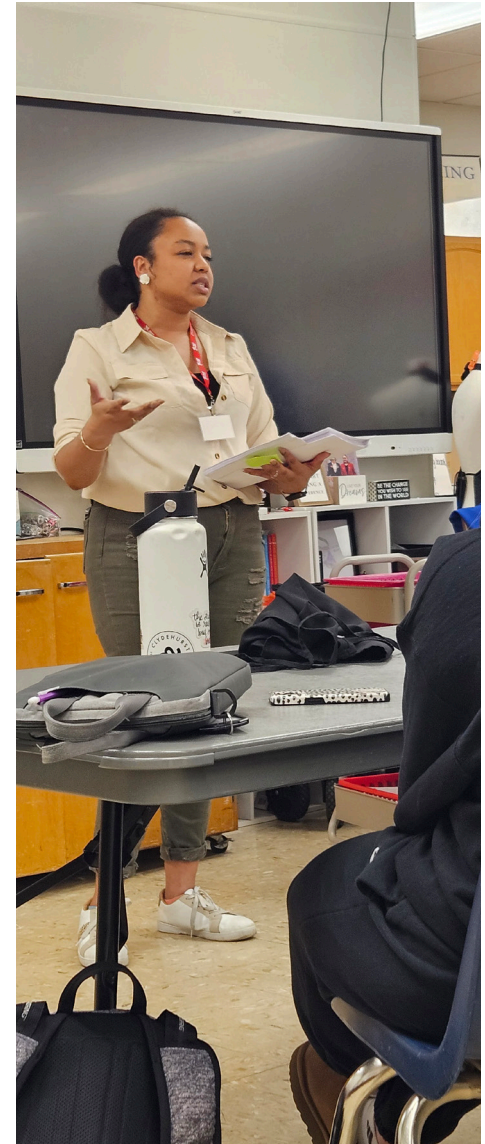


## Access to & Linkage with Clinical Care

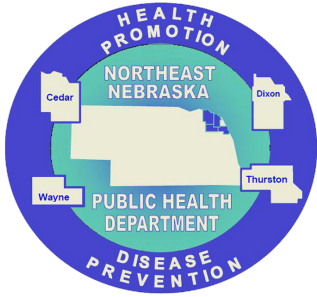
NCDHD integrated digital media display boards as a platform to connect with our district through a network of diverse host locations, including clinics, libraries, grocery stores, and gas stations. These partnerships enhance our ability to serve the community more effectively, providing health education, notification of events, and real-time information during disasters and outbreaks.

**Digital billboards installed in 7 establishments across the NCDHD district.**





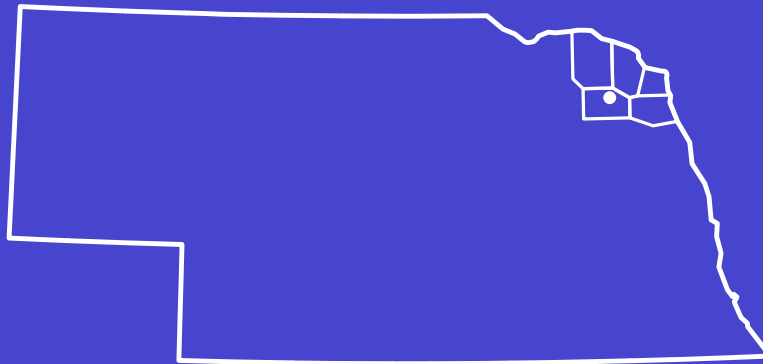




**21** employees serving **30,371** people across **4** rural counties

DEDICATED TO

- Behavioral health
- Health promotion
- Improving access to care



Cedar, Dixon, Thurston, & Wayne Counties

[www.nnphd.ne.gov](http://www.nnphd.ne.gov)

(402) 375-2200

We speak English & Spanish!

## From the Director

NNPHD's growing team tackles public health issues like immunizations, oral health, prevention education, and environmental and emergency preparedness. NNPHD faces increasing challenges from global threats such as avian flu, Mpox, and severe weather, but we are tackling them as they come to keep our community safe and healthy. Access to healthcare services continue to be challenging for many in our district. For example, no dentists in our four counties take Medicaid. Rural communities in our district also deal with health issues linked to social and built environments and transportation is an issue for many.

**“Our new facility will allow us to provide more clinic services and health education opportunities in our health district.”**



**Colleen Hupke, MPH**  
Health Director  
collen@nnphd.ne.gov



Our Community Health Workers (CHWs) and Program Specialists are key to helping residents access resources and take control of their health. Through partnerships with UNMC and Creighton University, we are training the next generation of public health professionals with several students working alongside our staff this year. Through these partnerships, NNPHD had two team members obtain their CHW Certifications.

We serve our district with culturally and linguistically appropriate services, using traditional and digital messages delivered through various media. CHWs and Program Specialists work with translators and a health literacy expert to develop materials and collaborate with partners to promote community, health, and wellness resources. Our new website will go online in the fall of 2024.

NNPHD has secured a new building, set to open in 2025, where we will provide more clinic services and health education opportunities. We are committed to our partnerships with cities, counties, clinics, and hospitals empowering our communities to make healthier choices and improve overall wellness.

This report showcases key examples of our efforts over the past fiscal year. Visit our website to learn more about our work and commitment to public health.





## Communicable Disease Control

NNPHD monitors and investigates infectious diseases to identify and respond to outbreaks. Our STI team works closely with our medical partners to help reduce syphilis infections by 20% from the prior fiscal year. This is the first time in three (3) years that syphilis cases are trending down in our health district.

**In FY 23-24, syphilis cases decreased by 30%.**



## Chronic Disease & Injury Prevention

NNPHD and partners are working to help people with pre-diabetes and diabetes by increasing diabetes screenings and making people aware of the condition, associated risks, and available resources. We have programs to help people with diabetes, including a monthly support group, a weight management program with health coaching, grocery tours, and healthy cooking classes.

**In FY 23-24, 65% of adults are at risk for diabetes.**



## Environmental Public Health

NNPHD has identified three focus areas for environmental health education: childhood blood levels, drinking water quality, and air quality. NNPHD provides free radon and drinking water test kits. NNPHD also sends mosquitos and ticks to the Nebraska Public Health Lab to test for vector-borne diseases, including West Nile Virus and Lyme disease.

**50% of black-legged ticks collected by NNPHD tested positive for bacteria causing Lyme disease.**



## Maternal, Child, & Family Health

NNPHD provides oral health education, cleaning, fluoride, and sealants to people of all ages. Creating New Smiles, our oral health clinic, serves daycares, schools, and assisted living facilities. Dental care continues to be a challenge for our health district. No dentist in our health district will accept new Medicaid patients.

**In FY 23-24, 2,405 NNPHD residents seen at Creating New Smiles.**



## Access to & Linkage with Clinical Care

In FY 23-24, 121 clients used our Community Response Program, which provides support and services for individuals and families that need assistance with health related needs. NNPHD staff also distribute kits to screen for colorectal cancer.

**NNPHD staff went to 6 emergency preparedness training exercises.**

# Panhandle

Public Health District

**30** employees serving **83,770** people across **12** rural counties

## DEDICATED TO

- Cultural Awareness Support
- Expanded Access to Behavioral Health Services
- Innovative Access to Care Strategies



Banner, Box Butte, Cheyenne, Dawes, Deuel, Garden, Grant, Kimball, Morrill, Scotts Bluff, Sheridan, & Sioux Counties



Nationally Accredited

**[www.pphd.ne.gov](http://www.pphd.ne.gov)**

**(308) 487-3600**

## From the Director

With the generous support of a challenge grant from an anonymous donor through the Nebraska Community Foundation, we successfully funded our Dental Health Program for five years, matching local funds to provide essential preventive services to 33 schools, 14 Head Start locations, and three private preschools. We conducted 21,088 dental screenings, applied 16,881 fluoride treatments, placed 4,455 dental sealants, and delivered 178 interactive dental health presentations. As access to dental care for Medicaid recipients and the uninsured becomes increasingly difficult, our program's importance has grown, ensuring treatment for all students regardless of their insurance or economic status. 98% of area schools are committed to continuing the program next year.

“  
**Vital partnership with Panhandle school nurses provided support for over 21,000 dental screenings in five years.**

”



**Kim Engel, MBA**  
Health Director  
kengel@pphd.ne.gov

“Public health dental hygienists like Kendra Lauruhn at PPHD have demonstrated a significantly positive impact in delivering essential oral health services to underserved populations for over 15 years. This program and their outstanding dental personnel are a shining example of what we hope every community in Nebraska can someday achieve to improve oral health outcomes for generations of future Nebraskans,” said Dr. Charles Craft, Director of the Office of Oral Health and Dentistry, for the Nebraska DHHS.

The recent Nebraska Oral Health Survey of Young Children report indicated that statewide dental experience rates for third grade children decreased from 64% in 2016 to 58% in 2022. Decay experience for rural third grade children dropped from 81% in 2016 to 65% in 2022. The dental disease disparity between urban and rural children has been significantly reduced. This unique Nebraska oral workforce averaged more than 100,000 dental services each year from 2017-2019.

This report showcases key examples of our efforts over the past fiscal year. Visit our website to explore more about our work and commitment to public health.



### Communicable Disease Control

PPHD enhanced our immunization program by introducing a walk-in clinic and increasing our partnerships with hospitals, vaccine providers, schools, senior centers, and work sites. We established an outreach team to serve our extensive rural area. As a result, last year, we administered 5,366 vaccines to 2,999 clients, reflecting our commitment to improving public health across the district.

**In FY 23-24, PPHD administered 5,366 vaccines to 2,999 clients.**



### Chronic Disease & Injury Prevention

The Panhandle has some of the highest suicide rates in Nebraska. Local efforts to address this include Hope Squads in schools to empower peer support, QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer) to equip individuals to recognize and respond to suicide warning signs, Suicide Loss Support Groups, and gun lock distribution to reduce access to means of suicide.

**PPHD trained 182 residents in QPR, distributed 782 gun locks, & implemented 10 Hope Squads.**



### Environmental Public Health

PPHD provided PurpleAir monitors to 10 schools in our jurisdiction. These sensors collect data every 10 minutes and help PPHD monitor changes in air quality in the communities we serve. During poor air quality days, PPHD can advise residents to adjust the time they spend outdoors.

**PPHD provided PurpleAir Monitors to 10 schools in the district.**



### Maternal, Child, & Family Health

The PPHD home visitation program uses the Healthy Families America (HFA) model, an approach recognized by Prevent Child Abuse America. HFA strengthens parent-child relationships, promotes healthy child development, and improves family well-being. For families engaged with the child welfare system, HFA has reduced the recurrence of maltreatment by one-third.

**In FY 23-24, PPHD served 136 families in HFA.**

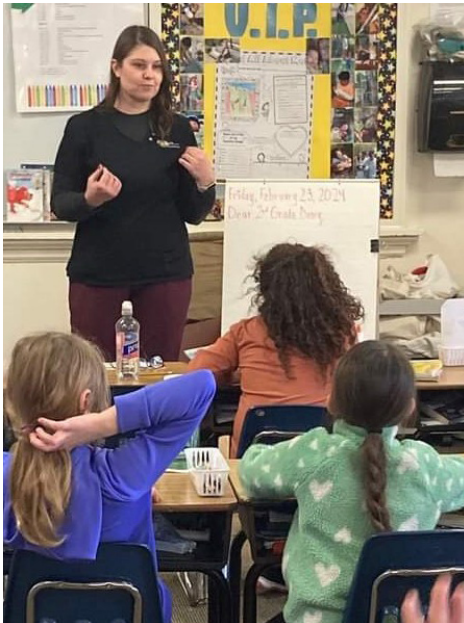


### Access to & Linkage with Clinical Care

The Panhandle Situation Table identifies individuals at acute risk and swiftly connects them to the necessary clinical care while addressing gaps in access to services. PPHD partnered with CredibleMind, an anonymous online mental health platform with evidence-based mental health resources, to empower individuals to seek help before reaching a crisis point. Together, these initiatives enhance access to support for those in need.

**The Situation Table is a NACCHO Model Practice.**





## Panhandle Public Health District





**Public Health**  
*Solutions*

**20** employees serving **53,677** people across **5** rural counties

DEDICATED TO

- Equitable Access
- Equitable Resources
- Equitable Outcomes



Fillmore, Gage, Jefferson, Saline, & Thayer Counties

**[www.phsneb.org](http://www.phsneb.org)**

**(402) 826-3880**

We speak English, Spanish & K'iche!



## From the Director

The past year has been busy for the team at PHS. Moved forward with the identified Community Health Improvement Plan priorities of access to services and access to behavioral health services, projects to develop resources within the district.

The largest and most exciting project this year has been the roll-out of a new health and wellness model, the Thrive Wellness Program. This program combines existing clinical services such as immunizations, dental, and nurse health coaching with new services including community informational classes, Tai chi and walking groups offered in both English and Spanish, and the new Baby & Me Clinic. Our current goal is to provide more services via virtual meetings or to model classes held in the Crete building across the district.

“  
**We value  
our team,  
our clients,  
and our  
communities!**  
”



**Kim Showalter, RN, BSN**

Health Director  
[kshowalter@phsneb.org](mailto:kshowalter@phsneb.org)

Expectant and new parents can take advantage of the Baby & Me Clinic for prenatal education, breastfeeding support, and education on meeting developmental milestones in young children. The newly designed Baby & Me Clinic space offers a comfortable, welcoming area to meet with PHS lactation consultants and peer support mentors, who will provide the support needed for successful breastfeeding.

With five bilingual staff members on the PHS team, we offer services in three languages. We devote a good deal of time and resources to ensure all community members who walk through the door at PHS will find a welcoming environment that supports accessing the resources they need to live the healthiest life possible. We value our team, our clients, and our communities!

This report showcases key examples of our efforts over the past fiscal year. Visit our website to explore more about our work and commitment to public health.



## Communicable Disease Control

PHS monitors communicable diseases year-round and provides evidence-based guidance, surveillance, and immunization practices for schools, businesses, families, individuals, and community partners. PHS communities rely on us for timely and accurate information and immunizations to prevent widespread illness, work and school absences, and other hardships (including death).

**In FY 23-24, PHS provided residents with 24/7 disease surveillance.**



## Chronic Disease & Injury Prevention

PHS provides programs including Tai chi, nurse health coaching, and small group fitness and wellness classes. Last fiscal year, 300+ individuals participated in one or more of these opportunities. A robust support system makes caring for individual health needs easier. To prevent and manage chronic disease, PHS helps district residents achieve their health goals.

**In FY 23-24, PHS provided wellness opportunities for 300+ residents.**



## Environmental Public Health

PHS works to monitor air and water quality through surveillance systems across the district. The addition of PurpleAir monitors in the district allow for quick access to information about air quality issues in the five-county PHS region. PHS Community Health Workers work with families to mitigate exposure to lead and provides ongoing case management to children (and their families) who have been identified as having high blood lead levels.

**30+ children with high blood lead levels were provided ongoing case management.**



## Maternal, Child, & Family Health

Highly trained PHS staff provide in-home visitation and early childhood services to help 80 families become confident parents who can meet their children's physical, mental, and emotional needs. Children with a responsible, caring adult are better prepared for healthy growth and development.

**In FY 23-24, PHS home visiting served over 80 families.**



## Access to & Linkage with Clinical Care

PHS helps individuals access the resources they need to be healthy. PHS provides application assistance, nurse case management, and wellness programs to district residents. Everyone wants to be as healthy as possible. District residents can take charge of their health and health needs by ensuring access to critical health and wellness services.

**In FY 2024, nurse case management helped 50+ people.**



# SARPY/CASS

Health Department

**12** employees serving **218,021** people across **2** metropolitan counties

Dedicated to positively impacting residents' mental health and well being by:

- Connecting people to increased social supports
- Reducing stigma of mental health & substance use disorder
- Increasing connection to mental health & preventative resources
- Understanding trauma



Sarpy & Cass Counties

**[www.schd.ne.gov](http://www.schd.ne.gov)**

**(402) 339-4334**

## From the Health Director

I am pleased to present the 2023 – 2024 annual Sarpy/Cass Health Department report. The Department is committed to improving the lives of all Sarpy and Cass County residents through the prevention, promotion, and protection of the public's health. This annual report outlines the daily work done by department staff to achieve our mission of providing residents with the highest quality of life.

“  
**Committed  
to improving  
the lives of  
all Sarpy and  
Cass County  
residents  
through the  
prevention,  
promotion,  
and protection  
of the public's  
health.**  
”

This year, the Department has experienced many notable achievements, many of which are outlined in the following pages. Continue to read and explore the public health programs, supports, and activities outlined in this report. You can visit our website, [schd.ne.gov](http://schd.ne.gov), or follow us on Facebook, X, or Instagram to learn more about the Department and to stay on top of public health news.

In good health,

Sarah Schram,  
Health Director



**Sarah Schram, MS, RD**

Health Director

[sschram@sarpycasshealth.com](mailto:sschram@sarpycasshealth.com)



## Communicable Disease Control

Our Disease Surveillance Specialists work to protect residents' health by investigating reportable diseases, conducting disease surveillance, and responding to outbreaks in our community. This year, 1,544 investigations of confirmed or probable cases of illness other than COVID-19. Timely and thorough investigation and follow-up limited the spread of illness.

**In FY 23-24, SCHD investigated 1,544 reportable cases of diseases.**



## Chronic Disease & Injury Prevention

Our Safe Kids Sarpy/Cass program provides awareness, education, and resources to help parents and caregivers keep the children in our community safe. This year, program staff provided home, child passenger, and sport safety education to residents through numerous community events. Trained technicians educated caregivers on installing 69 youth car seats.

**SCHD provided child safety education and installed 69 car seats.**



## Environmental Public Health

The Department's childhood lead poisoning and prevention program educated over 30,000 families that reside in homes built before 1978 in Sarpy and Cass County on the potential for lead-based paint, a common source of childhood lead poisoning. The action resulted in an increase in lead screening within the health jurisdiction.

**Provided program education to 30,000+ families.**



## Maternal, Child, & Family Health

Our Peer Educators support mothers and families enrolled in the Nebraska WIC program through peer-to-peer breastfeeding education and referrals to breastfeeding resources. Breastfeeding has health benefits for infants and their mothers. Supportive relationships and one-on-one peer support increase breastfeeding success.

**Peer Health Educators helped 2,500+ WIC mothers.**



## Access to & Linkage with Clinical Care

The Department hosted blood pressure screening events to ensure widespread accessibility to screenings and resources; promoted high blood pressure control, early detection, and regular monitoring; distributed 28 free blood pressure monitors; and connected residents with health-care providers.

**SCHD distributed 28 free blood pressure monitors.**





SARPY/CASS  
Health Department







**26** employees serving **44,733** people across **4** rural counties

DEDICATED TO

- Understanding the needs in our communities
- Communicating effectively
- Supporting individuals and families to be their healthiest



Adams, Clay, Nuckolls, & Webster Counties



**[www.southheartlandhealth.ne.gov](http://www.southheartlandhealth.ne.gov)**

**(402) 462-6211**

We speak English & Spanish!

Nationally Accredited

## From the Director

South Heartland District Health Department is excited to announce the launch of our Healthy Families Nebraska Heartland home visitation program in 2023. Healthy Families is a free and voluntary in-home, relationship-based service designed to promote positive parent child interactions, healthy attachment, and partnerships with parents so they feel more confident.

Focusing on families beginning at pregnancy up through 3 months of age, our nurse home visitors use the Parents as Teachers curriculum and other resources to offer information on safe sleep, parent/child interaction, breastfeeding, child temperament, development screenings, behavioral concerns, and more.

Our staff also have specialized training in Circle of Security to help parents and children feel safe and secure. In just 6 months, we are already partnering with more than 20 families.

As we work toward becoming an accredited Healthy Families America program, we are excited to be supporting the Healthy Families America vision that all children receive nurturing care from their family that leads to a long, healthy, and successful life.

This report showcases key examples of our efforts over the past fiscal year. Visit our website to explore more about our work and commitment to public health.

“  
In just 6 months,  
we are already  
partnering with  
more than  
20 families.  
”



**Michele Bever, PhD, MPH**

Health Director

[michele.bever@shdhd.ne.gov](mailto:michele.bever@shdhd.ne.gov)



### Communicable Disease Control

During the 23-24 fiscal year, the SHDHD 4-county district had 456 confirmed, probable, or suspected cases of reportable infectious diseases other than COVID-19. Staff at SHDHD responded to 31 facility outbreaks of COVID-19 and seven facility outbreaks of non-COVID-19 illnesses. Preventing disease spread helps increase safety.

**SHDHD investigated 456 reportable cases of infectious diseases.**



### Chronic Disease & Injury Prevention

SHDHD expanded the Falls Prevention Stepping On Program to Nuckolls County. A Brodstone Memorial Hospital staff member received the facilitator training and implemented the first class. The program's addition has increased access to fall prevention skills for SHDHD residents.

**In FY 23-24, 2 classes with 23 participants had a 78% completion rate.**



### Environmental Public Health

SHDHD uses two PurpleAir monitors to track air quality around our district, detecting harmful particles like smoke, dust, and other pollutants. The data is uploaded to an online map in real time, allowing for easy monitoring of local air quality conditions. Air pollution can aggravate heart disease and stroke, lung diseases such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, asthma, and diabetes.

**SHDHD reported 18 unhealthy air quality days during April, May, & June 2024.**



### Maternal, Child, & Family Health

Healthy Families Nebraska, a new program for SHDHD, is an evidence-based home-visiting program designed to promote positive parent-child interactions for anyone pregnant or with children under 3 months at home. Three home visitors and one program supervisor partner with parents to help them connect with community resources and feel more confident parenting.

**22 SHDHD families enrolled into the Healthy Family Nebraska Heartland program.**

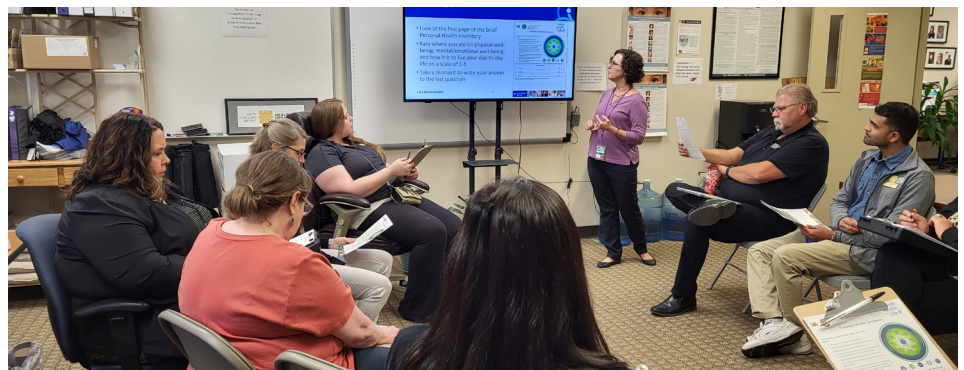
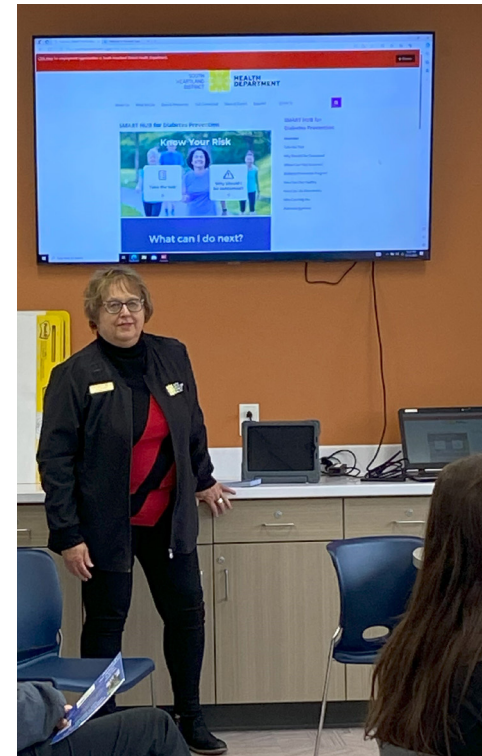
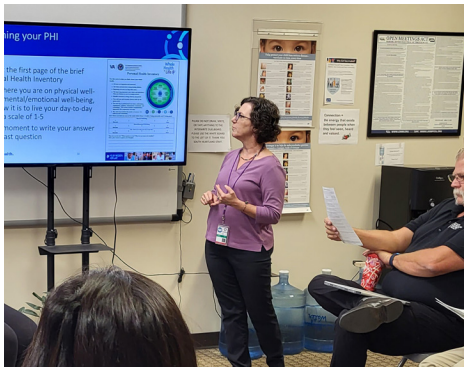
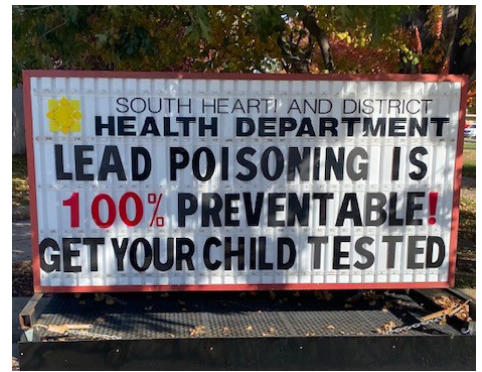


### Access to & Linkage with Clinical Care

SHDHD's oral health program provides education and preventative dental care to children at preschools and day-cares in the South Heartland District. Based on need, the program can provide fluoride varnish, sealant treatments, and 38% silver diamine fluoride (SDF).

**In FY 23-24, SHDHD educated 260 children, 160 received sealants, & 28 received fluoride varnish.**









**16** employees serving **38,711** people across **5** rural counties

### Mission

The mission of the Southeast District Health Department is to prevent disease and promote overall health through outreach, services, and partnerships while educating and empowering all those who live, work, and visit Johnson, Nemaha, Otoe, Pawnee, and Richardson counties.

### Vision

Our vision is to utilize a community-centered approach to ensure all individuals have equal access to quality services to meet their needs and improve the overall health of the population.



**Johnson, Nemaha, Otoe, Pawnee, & Richardson Counties**

**[www.sedhd.org](http://www.sedhd.org)**

**(402) 274-3993**

## From the Director

The past year has brought change and growth to the Department. We have expanded services across the district and continue to grow and implement programs that better serve the residents of Johnson, Nemaha, Otoe, Pawnee, and Richardson Counties.

We have diligently enhanced and expanded our services to fill the gaps in public health services that are lacking in southeast Nebraska and align with the last iteration of the Department's Community Health Assessment and Community Health Improvement Plan.

Additionally, we have focused on enhancing our internal processes to be a more efficient organization and to better serve the public. Our staff work tirelessly and are dedicated to ensuring all communities have access to our public health services.

This report showcases key examples of our efforts over the past fiscal year. Visit our website to explore more about our work and commitment to public health.

“

**Ensuring all communities have access to our public health services.**

”



**Grant Brueggemann, MPH**

Health Director

[grant@sedhd.org](mailto:grant@sedhd.org)



### Communicable Disease Control

SEDHD conducts disease surveillance, responds to outbreaks, and prevents and mitigates the spread of infectious and communicable diseases. Disease surveillance is an important epidemiological tool for monitoring the community's health. Pathogens could spread rapidly throughout a community without it.

**SEDHD investigated 143 reportable cases of diseases.**



### Chronic Disease & Injury Prevention

SEDHD conducts health screenings at community and worksite wellness events for local businesses. We provide education related to diabetes, cardiovascular disease, cancer, and other chronic diseases. Chronic disease and injury prevention and control programs save lives, support the economy through a healthy workforce, improve quality of life, and reduce healthcare expenditures.

**1 in 3 adults has a chronic health condition.**



### Environmental Public Health

SEDHD disseminates free radon test kits throughout the district to assist community members in determining radon levels in their homes and provides education regarding the risks associated with radon exposure. Radon is the number one cause of lung cancer among non-smokers. Although lung cancer can be treated, the survival rate is one of the lowest for those with cancer.

**SEDHD's lung cancer rates are 18% higher than the state's.**



### Maternal, Child, & Family Health

SEDHD provides home visitation services to district families, utilizing the Healthy Families America (HFA) approved curriculum. Enrollment has increased by 51% over the last four years. Home visitation strengthens parent-child relationships, promotes healthy child development, and enhances family well-being.

**In FY 23-24, SEDHD doubled the number of families served in HFA.**



### Access to & Linkage with Clinical Care

SEDHD provides dental services to adolescents who might otherwise lack preventative care and face barriers in accessing oral healthcare. Oral health is linked to whole-body health across the lifespan. Oral disease can lead to pain, heart disease, stroke, and other issues. Public health services can reduce the risk of oral and other chronic diseases.

**SEDHD held dental clinics at 24 sites & conducted 2,181 screenings.**



**20** employees serving **80,433** people across **3** rural counties

DEDICATED TO

- Behavioral Health & Healthy Lifestyles
- Reducing Health Disparities
- Improving Access to Care



Dodge, Saunders, & Washington Counties

**[www.threeriverspublichealth.org](http://www.threeriverspublichealth.org)**

**(402) 727-5396**

We speak English & Spanish!



## From the Director

At Three Rivers Public Health Department (3RPHD), we are dedicated to ensuring the health and well-being of every person in our community. Over the past year, we've made significant strides in protecting public health and promoting safety. I am excited to share some of our achievements with you.

In Fiscal Year 2024, 3RPHD remained steadfast in our commitment to protecting and improving the health of every individual across our region. From disease prevention and environmental health to maternal and child health, chronic disease management, and initiatives that address health disparities, our team has worked tirelessly to address the unique needs of our diverse communities.

We remain committed to fostering a healthy and thriving community. We continue to partner with local organizations, listen to your feedback, and adapt our services to meet the evolving needs of everyone in our region. Together, we are building a healthier future for all.

Thank you for being an essential part of our community's health journey. We look forward to continuing to serve and support you in the year ahead.

This report showcases key examples of our efforts over the past fiscal year. Visit our website to explore more about our work and commitment to public health.

“  
**Addressing  
health  
disparities is  
a focal point  
of all health  
improvement  
efforts**

”



**Terra Uhing**

Health Director

[terra@3rphd.ne.gov](mailto:terra@3rphd.ne.gov)



### Communicable Disease Control

3RPHD investigated about 530 cases (not including respiratory cases of influenza, RSV, or COVID-19) of 140 different reportable diseases in FY 2024. Timely prevention and control activities can prevent and limit outbreaks that may lead to widespread illness, work and school absences, and other hardships. Many reportable diseases can lead to serious illness or death.

**3RPHD investigated 530 reportable cases of diseases.**



### Chronic Disease & Injury Prevention

3RPHD provided Living Well workshops to teach community members how to manage their health. We educated families on the proper selection and installation of car seats and the importance of bike safety. We want to empower individuals and families to take charge of their safety and provide them with the tools needed to do so.

**155 bike helmets distributed & 114 car seats checked.**



### Environmental Public Health

3RPHD provided a variety of environmental tests in FY 2024: Vector surveillance via mosquito and tick testing, home inspections for childhood lead poisoning, radon testing, well water testing, and air quality testing. These tests gather data that provides real-time tracking of environmental conditions in our area and allows us to focus on emerging environmental public health issues.

**3RPHD gave 230 radon test kits to community members.**



### Maternal, Child, & Family Health

3RPHD worked with schools to reduce motor vehicle injuries and deaths among teens. We also hosted assemblies featuring a national speaker, Teens in the Driver's Seat program, and teens in the Driver's Seat conference. Motor vehicle crashes are a leading cause of injury and death among teens. Teens in the Driver's Seat addresses the risks for this age group and strives to save lives and reduce injuries.

**6 student assemblies reached over 1,039 students.**



### Access to & Linkage with Clinical Care

3RPHD provided low-income patients access to reproductive healthcare and family planning services through the Title X program. The addition of telehealth further reduced barriers to accessing healthcare. Family planning and preventive care are essential services. Factors like an inability to pay or lack of transportation should not be barriers. In fiscal year 2024, 70% of our patients were uninsured.

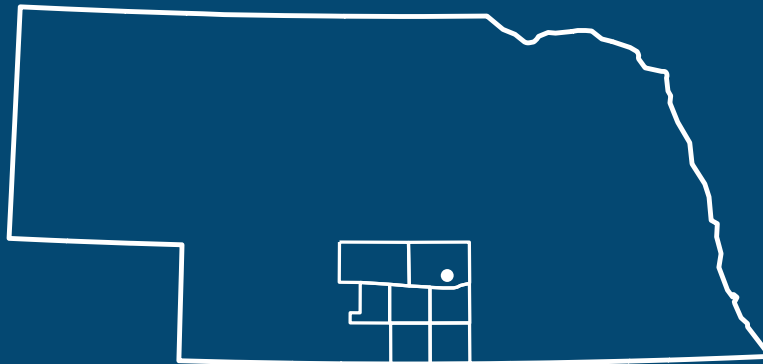
**70% of 3RPHD patients were uninsured.**



**26** employees serving **97,629** people across **7** rural counties

DEDICATED TO

- Creating a safe environment
- Addressing mental health
- Improving access to care
- Preventing suicide



Buffalo, Dawson, Franklin, Gosper,  
Harlan, Kearney, & Phelps Counties



Nationally Accredited

[www.trphd.ne.gov](http://www.trphd.ne.gov)

(888) 669-7154

We speak English & Spanish!

## From the Director

Two Rivers Public Health Department (TRPHD) is working with partners to align the timing of our community health assessment work and community health improvement plan (CHIP) implementation.

Typically, these processes occur on a 3-to-5-year cycle.

TRPHD is in year 3 of the current CHIP cycle.

The priorities of the current cycle are improving access to care, creating a safe environment, addressing mental health, and preventing suicide. The primary objectives for improving access to care include increasing vaccination rates in the district and creating health education materials in various languages.

TRPHD has taken steps to assess the environmental needs in the district, sought staff training, and investigated nuisances to ensure a safe environment. TRPHD has focused on addressing mental health and suicide prevention through the OD2A (Overdose Data to Action) program. TRPHD's OD2A work was recently recognized by the National Association of City and County Health Officials (NACCHO).

This report showcases key examples of our efforts over the past fiscal year. Visit our website to explore more about our work and commitment to public health.

“  
**Two Rivers  
Public Health  
Department's  
OD2A work  
was recently  
recognized  
by NACCHO.**  
”



**Jeremy Eschliman, MBA**

Health Director

[jeschliman@trphd.ne.gov](mailto:jeschliman@trphd.ne.gov)







## Communicable Disease Control

The Two Rivers Public Health Department (TRPHD) takes a comprehensive approach to controlling communicable diseases. The disease investigation team collaborates with the environmental team to address ongoing disease transmission and also works with the home visitation team to focus on disease prevention through immunization.

**In FY 23-24, TRPHD investigated 3,300+ cases of reportable diseases.**



## Chronic Disease & Injury Prevention

TRPHD's opioid awareness and overdose prevention program coordinated the distribution of educational materials and Narcan through local county jails, senior centers, and community events. TRPHD presents information to community partners through local meetings, individual businesses, and library public presentations.

**Over 200 units of Narcan distributed during August and September 2024.**



## Environmental Public Health

TRPHD was granted a HUD Lead Hazard Reduction Grant to enhance housing safety by conducting lead remediation and abatement activities. TRPHD will hire local contractors to conduct abatement activities on 31 housing units. In addition, TRPHD is actively monitoring environmental health issues, including West Nile Virus, lake algae, water violations, radon, lead poisoning, and air quality.

**In FY 23-24, over 250 hours of training completed.**



## Maternal, Child, & Family Health

TRPHD has been part of the Healthy Families of America program for one year serving over 30 families. This program aims to improve the relationship between caregivers and children through a curriculum that addresses child development, reduces stressors such as access to health-care and food, and provides social support.

**TRPHD Family Support Specialists completed 388 in-home visits.**



## Access to & Linkage with Clinical Care

TRPHD has 2 Community Health Workers (CHWs) and 3 Family Support Specialists (FSSs) who connect individuals to clinical care homes. CHWs and FSSs navigate scheduling appointments with the appropriate providers, confirm transportation, and attend appointments if needed. They act as a safety net if unforeseen events arise for individuals and families. CHWs and FSSs are trained in skills such as car seat installation, safe environment, and cultural humility.

**CHW and FSS staff connect community members to services.**

# Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department

PREVENT • PROMOTE • PROTECT

**13** employees serving **38,042** people across **9** rural counties

## DEDICATED TO

- Expanding Public Awareness
- Strong Community Partnerships
- A Healthy Culture with Effective Communication



Chase, Dundy, Frontier, Furnas, Hayes, Hitchcock,  
Keith, Perkins, & Red Willow Counties



**Myra Stoney, BS, HSA**  
Health Director  
director@swhealth.ne.gov

**[www.swhealth.ne.gov](http://www.swhealth.ne.gov)**

**(308) 345-4223**

We speak English & Spanish!



## Communicable Disease Control

We monitor and investigate communicable diseases with local clinics and school nurses to identify and respond to reportable diseases promptly, collecting clues on the infected person and at-risk individuals to stop the spread.

**In FY 23-24,  
SWNPHD  
investigated 605  
reportable cases  
of diseases  
(other than COVID-19)**



## Chronic Disease & Injury Prevention

SWNPHD's Health Hub program provides health screenings, chronic disease prevention education, free health coaching for eligible women, and aims to lower the risk of heart disease through lifestyle changes while enhancing community connections and data collection.

**Heart disease is  
the #1 cause of  
death in SWNPHD  
residents**



## Environmental Public Health

We collaborate with providers and families to reduce children's risk of lead exposure. With NEDHHS's support, we educated 165 families, provided retesting information, and conducted home lead inspections as needed. We also updated the guidelines for lead poisoning diagnoses, resulting in more children being diagnosed. Our efforts to educate providers on the new criteria have contributed to safer and healthier homes for children.

**In FY 23-24,  
assisted 215  
families with  
potential lead  
poisoning in  
children**



## Maternal, Child, & Family Health

Vaccines for Children (VFC) provides free vaccinations to uninsured children, holding clinics at 5 regular locations, including schools, and adding sites for flu shots. This program helps maintain strong herd immunity and ensures easy access to effective public health tools.

**433 shots to  
258 children  
across 9 counties**



## Access to & Linkage with Clinical Care

SWNPHD's Polish Your Pearls staff connects children who need advanced care to pediatric specialists. They build relationships, with a local dentist who agrees to treat a child with multiple cavities. With no Medicaid dental providers in our district, it is challenging for many children to be seen or treated by a dentist. SWNPHD works with parents to overcome barriers and get children the care they need.

**In FY 23-24, 1500+  
children got oral  
health screenings  
& fluoride  
treatments**

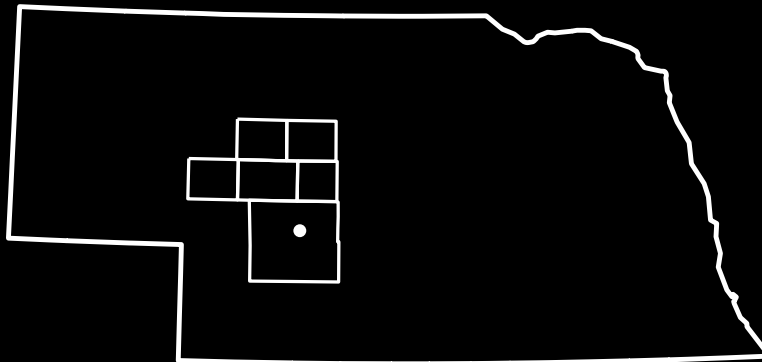




**13** employees serving **37,563** people across **6** rural counties

DEDICATED TO

- Empowering community well-being
- Reshaping the public health story
- Prioritizing our collaborative partnerships



Lincoln, Logan, McPherson, Thomas,  
Hooker, & Arthur Counties

[www.wcdhd.org](http://www.wcdhd.org)

(308) 696-1201

We speak English & Spanish!



Nationally Accredited

## From the Director

Like many public health departments, West Central District Health Department (WCDHD) has shifted focus from the COVID-19 pandemic's risk management back to empowering community well-being.

This year, we completed strategic planning to reorient our focus and stabilize our infrastructure. Our 2022-2025 Strategic Plan priorities are: Develop Connections; Empowered Workforce; Board Engagement; Public Health Strategy; Maintain Standards; and Maximize Resources. This work has reenergized our mission and illuminated updates to our performance management practices as we prepared for reaccreditation.

We have also reinstated and/or expanded several core public health programs that promote healthy outcomes and are updating our Community Health Assessment to inform future efforts. We are committed to reshaping the public health story and will be releasing a new Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) by the end of 2024.

WCDHD is prioritizing our collaborative partnerships to support a strong system of care that empowers us all to do better, together.

This report showcases key examples of our efforts over the past fiscal year. Visit our website to explore more about our work and commitment to public health.

“  
**We are  
committed  
to reshaping  
the public  
health story.**  
”



**Shannon Vanderheiden, BSN, MPH**

Health Director

[vanderheidens@wcdhd.org](mailto:vanderheidens@wcdhd.org)



## Communicable Disease Control

WCDHD investigated 127 probable and confirmed disease cases. Campylobacter, enteroaggregative E. coli (EAEC), and salmonella accounted for 63% of those cases. Timely prevention and control can stop disease outbreaks. In addition to hardships such as illness and absences from work or school, reportable diseases (including hepatitis C) can lead to serious illness or death.

**In FY 23-24, WCDHD investigated 127 reportable cases of diseases.**



## Chronic Disease & Injury Prevention

WCHD works with families and young children in multiple programs. Building Healthy Families is a targeted program to address obesity. For Marathon Kids, 485 elementary age children. (324 during the school year program, and 161 during the summer program.) Programs and events that support physical activity can help to prevent chronic diseases, like diabetes, that affect many WCDHD residents.

**In FY 23-24, 1 in 10 adults in WCDHD are affected by diabetes.**



## Environmental Public Health

WCDHD worked with 25 probable and 3 confirmed cases of children with elevated blood lead levels. We educate families to avoid exposures and connect cases to medical treatment. Lead is especially toxic to children under age 6 and is often present in structures built before 1979. While the effect of lead poisoning may be permanent, if caught early, damage to a child's health can be reduced.

**In FY 23-24, 64% of residential homes in WCDHD were built before 1979.**



## Maternal, Child, & Family Health

WCDHD's Vaccines for Children (VFC) program provides no-cost vaccines to underinsured and uninsured children. In addition to WCDHD's VFC program, WCDHD also has the Vaccines for Adults (VFA) program. 234 vaccines were administered through the VFA program for adults age 19+ who are uninsured or underinsured. In FY 23-24, we provided 3,250 total vaccines including 1,460 childhood vaccines.

**In FY 23-24, 1,460 vaccinations given to kids.**

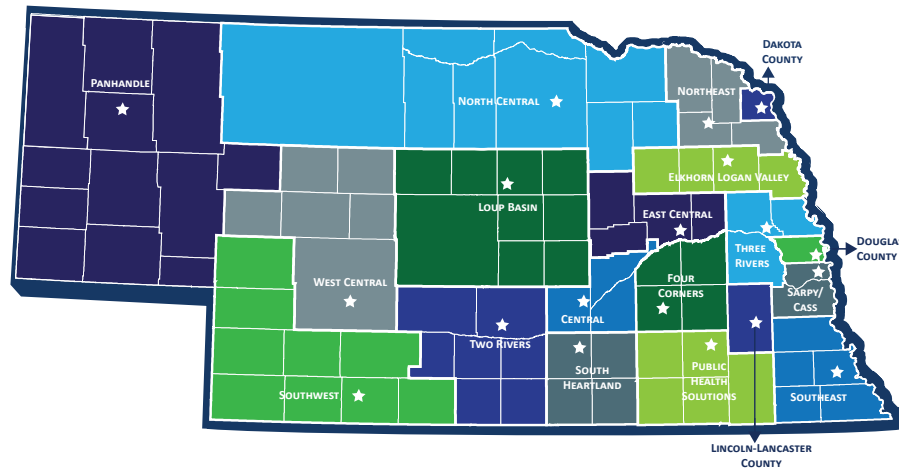


## Access to & Linkage with Clinical Care

WCDHD provides vaccines in all 6 counties, meeting residents where they are. By offering vaccination services across our rural areas, we enable access and support the health of all community members. Our Community Health Workers and Certified Medical Interpreter provided over 1,900 encounters for language access assistance including medical interpretation. Total encounters: 1,740.

**In FY 23-24, 100+ community vaccine events.**

## NEBRASKA LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS



### Local Public Health in Nebraska

#### *Nebraska Health Care Funding Act*

Nebraska's local health departments (LHDs) act as communities' Chief Health Strategists by assuring that community partners are working together to improve and protect the health and well-being of all Nebraskans. The Nebraska Health Care Funding Act (LB 692) was passed in 2001 by the Nebraska Legislature. This Act provides funding to LHDs through the County Public Health Aid Program (Neb. Rev. Stat. § 71-1628.08) and requires all eligible LHDs to prepare an annual report that provides highlights from selected activities and programs that were achieved throughout the fiscal year to fulfill statutory obligations. These reports do not reflect the totality of the work performed by LHDs. To learn more about the work of any individual LHD, visit their website or reach out to their director. Contact information can be found on the website of the Nebraska Association of Local Health Directors (NALHD) [here](#).

#### **The Three Core Functions of Public Health as cited in the Health Care Funding Act:**

- 1. Assessment:** Collect and analyze information to better understand health issues facing Nebraska communities.
- 2. Policy Development:** Work with partners to apply data, educate the public, and develop programs and policies – all to address and prevent illness, disease, and disability.
- 3. Assurance:** Promote effective coordination and use of community resources to protect the health and well-being of Nebraskans.



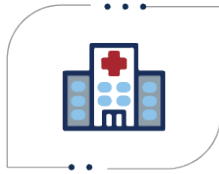
LHDs in Nebraska address the Three Core Functions of Public Health through their work toward providing Foundational Public Health Services (FPHS) in the areas of maternal, child, & family health, communicable disease control, access to & linkage with clinical care, chronic disease & injury prevention, and environmental public health.



**MATERNAL, CHILD, &  
FAMILY HEALTH**



**COMMUNICABLE  
DISEASE CONTROL**



**ACCESS TO & LINKAGE WITH  
CLINICAL CARE**



**CHRONIC DISEASE &  
INJURY PREVENTION**



**ENVIRONMENTAL  
PUBLIC HEALTH**

Examples of work in each of the FPHS areas are featured in the individual health department reports and include:

- Regional community health assessments and planning efforts which improve access to healthcare and behavioral health services through collaborations with hospitals, clinics, schools, and other community-based organizations.
- Supporting local access to resources that impact health; for example access to food, transportation, and housing.
- Assisting with disaster or emergency efforts.
- Helping people find care they need, including preventative dental services, and programs to prevent and manage diabetes and high blood pressure.
- Delivering and supporting local programs to help Nebraskans prevent falls and age in place.
- Helping families manage hazards in their environment; hazards like lead, radon, and issues with air and water quality.
- Working with moms, children and families in home visitation programs to foster lifelong health and well-being.
- Taking action to prevent the spread of diseases like salmonella, rabies, hepatitis, and many more.

### ***Leveraging Other Funds***

For over 23 years, funds from the Nebraska Health Care Funding Act have served as the financial foundation for LHDs. The proportion of individual LHDs' revenue derived from the Nebraska Health Care Cash Fund and the Nebraska General Fund averaged 21% across all LHDs (range from 4% to 47%) according to data collected by NALHD in FY 2023-24.

In order to maintain operations, to meet their statutory obligations, and to meet the needs and priorities of their communities, LHDs must regularly pursue funding from many sources. LHDs rely on federal pass-through awards through Nebraska DHHS, and other State agencies to support much of their work. A few LHDs also receive private or direct federal grants and collect fees and reimbursements for limited services. Very few receive significant local funding.

None of the work of local public health departments would be possible without the foundational resources provided by the Legislature via the Nebraska Health Care Funding Act. These and other funds continue to be necessary to ensure Nebraska's readiness for future small and large-scale public health threats.

### Organizational Coverage

As of June 30, 2024, a total of 18 LHDs covering 92 counties were eligible to receive funds under a portion of the Nebraska Health Care Funding Act, Neb. Rev. Stat. § 71-1626 through 71-1636. The list of eligible LHDs and their affiliated counties is shown in Table 1. Dakota County has a single county health department that does not meet the population requirements of the Health Care Funding Act. Nebraska DHHS's Division of Public Health and other local public health partners continue to support the work of all LHDs.

Table 1. Eligible Nebraska local health departments and affiliated counties.

Nebraska Health Departments	Nebraska Counties Included	Number of Counties
Central District Health Dept.	Hall, Hamilton, Merrick	3
Douglas County Health Dept.	Douglas	1
East Central District Health Dept.	Boone, Colfax, Nance, Platte	4
Elkhorn Logan Valley Public Health Dept.	Burt, Cuming, Madison, Stanton	4
Four Corners Health Dept.	Butler, Polk, Seward, York	4
Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Dept.	Lancaster	1
Loup Basin Public Health Dept.	Blaine, Custer, Garfield, Greeley, Howard, Loup, Sherman, Valley, Wheeler	9
North Central District Health Dept.	Antelope, Boyd, Brown, Cherry, Holt, Keya Paha, Knox, Pierce, Rock	9
Northeast Nebraska Public Health Dept.	Cedar, Dixon, Thurston, Wayne	4
Panhandle Public Health District	Banner, Box Butte, Cheyenne, Dawes, Deuel, Garden, Grant, Kimball, Morrill, Scotts Bluff, Sheridan, Sioux	12
Public Health Solutions	Fillmore, Gage, Jefferson, Saline, Thayer	5
Sarpy/Cass Health Dept.	Sarpy, Cass	2
South Heartland District Health Dept.	Adams, Clay, Nuckolls, Webster	4
Southeast District Health Dept.	Johnson, Nemaha, Otoe, Pawnee, Richardson	5
Southwest Nebraska Public Health Dept.	Chase, Dundy, Frontier, Furnas, Hayes, Hitchcock, Keith, Perkins, Red Willow	9
Three Rivers Public Health Dept.	Dodge, Washington, Saunders	3
Two Rivers Public Health Dept.	Buffalo, Dawson, Franklin, Gosper, Harlan, Kearney, Phelps	7
West Central District Health Dept.	Arthur, Hooker, Lincoln, Logan, McPherson, Thomas	6

### Annual Report Time Frame

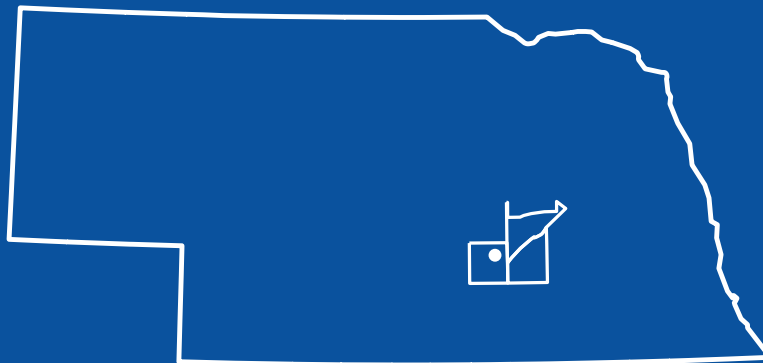
As required by statute, LHDs funded under the Health Care Funding Act submit a report to Nebraska DHHS in October, for inclusion in the full Annual Report submitted by Nebraska DHHS on December 1, 2024. These Annual Reports cover July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024.



**51** employees serving **79,648** people across **3** counties

DEDICATED TO

- Access to healthcare
- Access to behavioral health
- Access to quality childcare



Hall, Hamilton, & Merrick Counties

**[www.cdhd.ne.gov](http://www.cdhd.ne.gov)**

**(308) 385-5175**

We speak English, Spanish, Arabic, and Somali!

## From the Director

Central District Health Department (CDHD) serves the nearly 80,000 residents of Hall, Hamilton and Merrick Counties. CDHD provides a range of services to address community health needs.

This year we developed our lead certification program and expanded our oral health services, adding screenings for pregnant persons in our WIC program.

A decade long effort to add the Health Families Nebraska-Central District came to fruition this year, providing home visits to pregnant persons and young families.

Our newly developed Community Impact program staff work with clients to assess and address health related social needs (such as food insecurity, transportation challenges, and housing issues). CDHD understands that these factors impact health outcomes more than access to a health care provider.

This report showcases key examples of our efforts over the past fiscal year. Visit our website to explore more about our work and commitment to public health.

“  
**In 2024, CDHD  
added two  
new divisions  
and expanded  
upon 3 public  
health services.**  
”



**Teresa Anderson, MSN, APRN, CNS-BC**

Health Director

[tanderson@cdhd.ne.gov](mailto:tanderson@cdhd.ne.gov)





## Communicable Disease Control

The Epidemiology Team reduces the spread of sexually transmitted diseases through education and case management for early diagnosis and treatment. In FY 23-24, we case-managed 6 newly diagnosed HIV cases, 31 gonorrhea cases, 345 chlamydia cases, and 23 syphilis cases. We educate on the presence and risks associated with STIs.

**In FY 23-24, CDHD completed 405 case investigations associated with STIs.**



## Chronic Disease & Injury Prevention

Based on data from the NE Highway Safety Office, Central District has a disproportionate number of vehicle crashes involving youth drivers. CDHD has applied for and will implement a safety awareness/education program this Fall aimed at reducing accidents and injuries among pedestrians, bikers, and the agricultural community.

**Hall County rates for crashes with high speed (1.40) and youth (6.01) are high compared to statewide rates.**



## Environmental Public Health

Our registered Environmental Health Specialists provided 1,210 food service inspections of grocery stores, restaurants, C-stores, and mobile food units. Our lab technicians tested 5,693 public and private water samples for nitrates and coliform bacteria. CDHD sampled mosquito pools and tick-infested areas to share information with the public on how to avoid insect-borne diseases.

**15.2% of water tests were positive for bacteria & 15% were positive for nitrates.**



## Maternal, Child, & Family Health

CDHD's WIC program provides nutritious food, breastfeeding support, education, and referrals for eligible women and children up to age 5. Over 2,700 women and children received WIC services monthly. Over 300 women enrolled in breastfeeding peer counseling. Of the 1,946 babies in CDHD's WIC program, 89% were "ever breastfed." (The state average is 82%.)

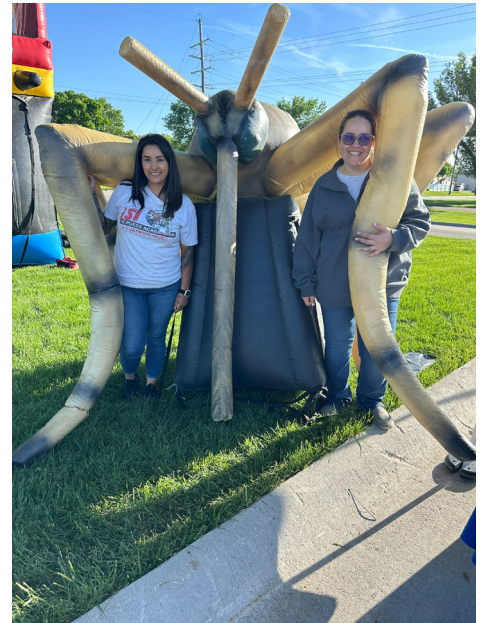
**In FY 23-24, CDHD's WIC served 2,700 women & children.**



## Access to & Linkage with Clinical Care

Community Health Nurses give shots all day, every day! In 2024, we administered 26,327 vaccines. Of those given, 25% were provided through our VFC (Vaccine for Children) Program. Vaccine appointments were scheduled for 1,333 newcomers who have chosen Central Nebraska as their home. We also offered required tuberculosis testing and assisted with scheduling 375 newcomer physicals through Heartland Health Center.

**In FY 23-24, CDHD nurses gave over 26,327 shots.**



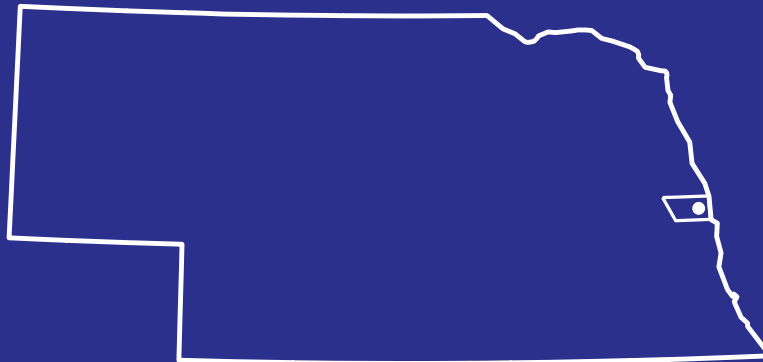




**130** employees serving **582,638** people across **1** metropolitan county

DEDICATED TO

- Regular Community Health Assessments (CHA)
- Regular Community Health Improvement Plans (CHIP)



Douglas County

**[www.douglascountyhealth.com](http://www.douglascountyhealth.com)**

**(402) 444-7471**

We speak English & Spanish!

## From the Director

Douglas County Health Department (DCHD) partners with Sarpy/Cass Health Department in Nebraska, Pottawattamie Health Department in Iowa, and other organizations and medical systems in the Omaha Metro area to complete regular Community Health Assessments (CHA) and Community Health Improvement Plans (CHIP).

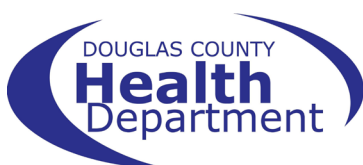
In the fall of 2023, two large public health emergency responses were carried out. After a stray kitten tested positive for a variant of rabies normally found only on the east coast, a large effort began to assure that this variant had not spread to local animals or wildlife. Partnering with the Nebraska Humane Society, the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, US Department of Agriculture, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 18,000 oral rabies vaccines were distributed, 804 animals were vaccinated, and 360 animals were tested. 10 individuals who were exposed to the kitten were given rabies prophylaxis. This response was heralded by state and federal partners as one of the smoothest responses in which many of them had ever been involved. On the heels of this response, an active tuberculosis (TB) exposure necessitated the testing of over 600 children in the metro area, again requiring multiple partnerships. Due to the quick and seamless response of DCHD and our partners, only 2 household contacts contracted latent TB.



**Lindsay Huse, MPH, DNP, RN**

Health Director

[lindsay.huse@douglascounty-ne.gov](mailto:lindsay.huse@douglascounty-ne.gov)







## Communicable Disease Control

We conduct surveillance for communicable diseases, provide investigation and response for diseases of concern, educate the community on risks and prevention, and plan for public health emergencies. Communicable disease control is a foundational public health function. Healthy communities depend on public health to minimize the conditions in which infectious diseases can spread.

**689  
communicable  
disease cases  
investigated.**



## Chronic Disease & Injury Prevention

DCHD secured a 5-year grant to address Overdose in Douglas County, which addresses linkages to and retention in care, harm reduction, stigma reduction, establishment of clinical best practices, and surveillance. Identifying and intervening in patterns of substance misuse creates opportunities to prevent overdose deaths, improve treatment outcomes, and allow for individuals to seek the help they need.

**Overdose  
fatalities in  
Douglas County  
increased 103%  
between 2019-  
2022.**



## Environmental Public Health

We inspect and educate food establishments, food trucks, special events, and pools respond to sanitation complaints as well as monitor air quality via 7 air quality monitors around the Metro. Ensuring safe food, drink, living conditions, and air minimizes the health risks that residents encounter, allowing them to live healthier lives.

**5,500 food safety  
inspections  
conducted.**



## Maternal, Child, & Family Health

We are the primary convener of a variety of community partners through the Baby Blossoms Collaborative and Fetal Infant Mortality Review team. Together we strategize on community approaches to improving birth outcomes. We know that improving maternal and child health takes a community leveraging ideas and resources to solve tough problems, and supporting maternal and child health has impacts across the lifespan.

**Over 25  
community  
partners  
convened  
through May.**



## Access to & Linkage with Clinical Care

Our STI clinic and control program provides free clinical access to testing, treatment, and partner identification/treatment services. We also provide at-home testing and outreach specialist support. Ensuring all people at risk have access to testing and treatment services regardless of ability to pay is an important step in stopping the transmission and harm caused by STIs.

**3805 STI clinic  
visits completed  
in 2023 (29%  
increase).**



# East Central

District Health Department

*Public Health...It's for everyone.*

**21** employees serving **53,545** people across **4** counties

## DEDICATED TO

- Connecting families to needed services
- Providing developmental support
- Providing early intervention services for families



Boone, Colfax, Nance, & Platte Counties

**[www.ecdhd.ne.gov](http://www.ecdhd.ne.gov)**

**(402) 562-7500**

We speak English & Spanish!



**Nationally Accredited**

## From the Director

As we reflect on this past year, I am both honored and excited to share our annual report for 2023. This report encapsulates the significant strides the team ECDHD have made this past year. Our team has worked relentlessly to address the determinants of health that affect our health jurisdiction. From disease surveillance to health promotion, our efforts are guided by science, collaboration, and the voices of our community.

As we move forward, I am committed to fostering an inclusive and evidence-based approach to public health. United in our efforts, we can build thriving, healthier communities for all Nebraskans.

This report showcases key examples of the range of ECDHD's efforts over the past fiscal year. Visit our website to explore more about our work and commitment to public health.

Yours in health,

Molly Pofahl

“  
**We can build  
thriving,  
healthier  
communities  
for all  
Nebraskans.**  
”



**Molly Pofahl, MS**

Chief Public Health Officer  
[mpofahl@ecdhd.ne.gov](mailto:mpofahl@ecdhd.ne.gov)



### Communicable Disease Control

ECDHD investigates, diagnoses, addresses, and communicates health problems and hazards affecting the population. Early detection and timely intervention related to infectious diseases help reduce transmission and directly impact our communities' health. Preventing disease spread helps increase safety.

**ECDHD investigated 220 reportable cases of diseases.**



### Chronic Disease & Injury Prevention

ECDHD offered LivingWell classes to the health district's residents, specifically focusing on diabetes prevention and education. ECDHD also provides resources from My Plate and the American Heart Association to those interested in learning how food choices affect health.

**In FY 2023, 11% of ECDHD residents had diabetes.**



### Environmental Public Health

ECDHD investigates high childhood lead levels within our district. Early detection of lead in blood and environmental evaluations help reduce the long-term effects of lead exposure. Lead is especially toxic to children under age 6 and its negative impacts on the brain and other organs can be irreversible. Lead is often present in structures built before 1979.

**ECHD conducted 60 childhood lead poisoning investigations.**



### Maternal, Child, & Family Health

ECDHD provides nutrition and breastfeeding services to residents in our four counties through our WIC program. The WIC program aims to improve the health and nutrition of low-income women, infants, and children at nutritional risk. We do this through education and support.

**In FY 2023, ECDHD WIC served 1,617 clients.**



### Access to & Linkage with Clinical Care

ECDHD works closely with our Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC), hospitals, and healthcare clinics to promote services and make referrals. Increased access to services and healthcare improves the health of our community.

**1 in 5 ECDHD adult residents does not have a primary care provider.**





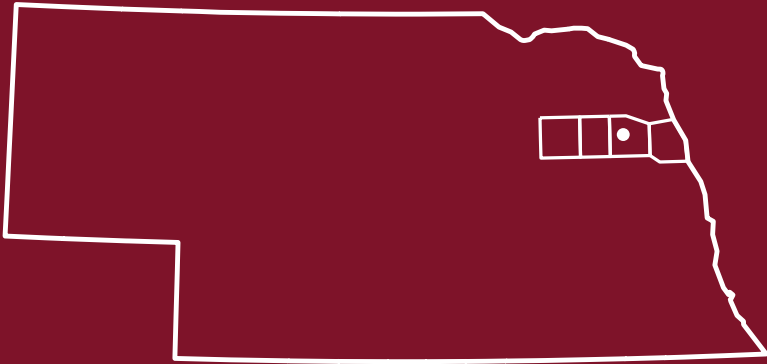




**19** employees serving **57,083** people across **4** rural counties

DEDICATED TO

- Behavioral & mental health
- Cancer prevention & screening



Burt, Cuming, Madison, & Stanton Counties

**[www.elvphd.ne.gov](http://www.elvphd.ne.gov)**

**(402) 529-2233**

We speak English & Spanish!



**Nationally Accredited**

## From the Director

Every three years, the Elkhorn Logan Valley Public Health Department (ELVPHD), along with our hospital partners (Faith Regional Health Services and Franciscan Healthcare), conducts a community health needs assessment to gauge the health status of our communities using primary and secondary data from multiple sources. From the analyzed data, ELVPHD, our hospital partners, and many community-based organizations collectively developed our Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP), which guides our efforts to improve the health of the people and communities throughout our district.

The continued partnerships are vital towards moving the needle to better health outcomes and help us to accomplish our vision: Healthy People Living in Healthy Communities. We look forward to continuing our efforts in our CHIP focus areas in our behavioral/mental health work and cancer prevention and screening work.

“  
**Our vision:  
Healthy  
People Living  
in Healthy  
Communities.**  
”



**Gina Uhing**

Health Director

[gina@elvphd.ne.gov](mailto:gina@elvphd.ne.gov)

In addition to continuing the work outlined in our CHIP, the following notable things occurred:

1. ELVPHD updated its Strategic Plan and adopted digitalization as a top priority. This resulted in the adoption of several new digital platforms and offerings for our community, such as online appointment booking and virtual learning options.
2. Our permanent Norfolk, NE office was completed and opened with a ribbon cutting ceremony. This space is visible and accessible. We are excited for this to be our home!
3. Our Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) reaccreditation documents were completed and submitted for review. The corresponding site visit was conducted, and we received word of our reaccreditation in August 2024.





### Communicable Disease Control

ELVPHD performs public health surveillance, preventing and controlling the spread of illness and disease through monitoring reportable illnesses from labs, clinics, and hospitals.

**In FY 23-24, ELVPHD investigated 160 reportable cases of diseases.**



### Chronic Disease & Injury Prevention

ELVPHD remains CDC-recognized for teaching the National Diabetes Prevention Program and offers in-person and virtual weight loss instruction. During the program, participants complete a year-long course to lose 5% or more of their body weight.

**47% of class participants achieved a 5% or more loss of body weight.**



### Environmental Public Health

ELVPHD provided 189 short-term radon test kits in the district and used traditional and social media to educate people. Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer overall and the leading cause of lung cancer in non-smokers. All counties in ELVPHD have high radon levels - more than 4.0 pCi/l.

**ELVPHD distributed 189 radon test kits.**



### Maternal, Child, & Family Health

Immunizations are considered one of the greatest public health achievements in history. ELVPHD provides a variety of immunizations in the district. ELVPHD gave a total of 6,312 vaccines across all age groups.

**In FY 23-24, 6,312 vaccines given to all ages in the district.**



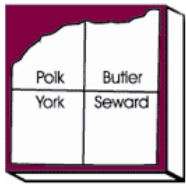
### Access to & Linkage with Clinical Care

ELVPHD's Public Health Dental Hygienist works in local schools and childcare centers, providing preventive dental services—such as screenings, fluoride varnish, and dental sealants. In all, 1,667 children received a total of 2,930 services with 277 referred for additional dental care.

**277 ELVPHD children referred to dental offices.**





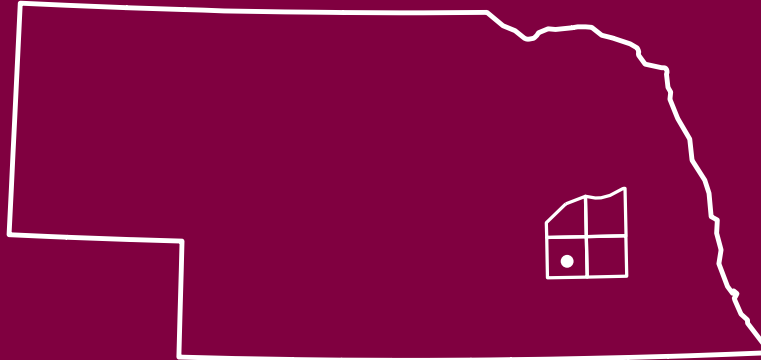


## Four Corners Health Department

**18** employees serving **45,413** people across **4** rural counties

### DEDICATED TO

- Healthy living & aging
- Mental health
- Alcohol misuse prevention
- Chronic disease prevention



Butler, Polk, Seward, & York Counties

**[www.fourcorners.ne.gov](http://www.fourcorners.ne.gov)**

**(402) 362-2621**

We speak English & Spanish!



## From the Director

At Four Corners Health Department (FCHD), we actively collaborate with our community and key partners to identify and address the region's most pressing public health needs. By consistently monitoring local data, we uncover opportunities for improvement and drive our efforts toward impactful change. In recent years, we have prioritized mental health, chronic disease prevention, substance abuse, healthy aging, and promoting healthy lifestyles.

Our commitment is reflected in our diverse programming and educational resources across these focus areas. For mental health, we not only connect individuals to critical resources but also work to reduce stigma by offering educational opportunities and support. With a Licensed Independent Mental Health Practitioner available on-site, we are well-positioned to meet the community's mental health needs. Through initiatives like the Youth Mental Health Assessment and the Youth Mental Health Steering Committee, we have made measurable progress in key areas.

Additionally, we offer chronic disease management, healthy living classes, and a new program, Healthy Families Nebraska-Four Corners, which provides supportive home visits for pregnant moms, new families, and infants.

Our campaigns promoting the prevention of alcohol and drug use reach the community through social media, billboards, and other channels. Every effort is designed to enhance the health and well-being of the residents within our four-county district, and we remain committed to making a positive, lasting impact.

This report showcases examples of our efforts over the past fiscal year. Visit our website to explore more about our work and commitment to public health.

“  
**Every effort is designed to enhance the health and well-being of the residents within our four-county district.**  
”



**Laura McDougall, MS**

Health Director

[lauram@fourcorners.ne.gov](mailto:lauram@fourcorners.ne.gov)



**Four Corners**  
Health Department



### Communicable Disease Control

FCHD nurses play a vital role in safeguarding public health by educating, conducting disease surveillance, and responding swiftly to outbreaks. We offer immunizations to protect community members. Last year, FCHD monitored and followed up on 167 cases of reportable communicable diseases, working to prevent spread and ensure the well-being of our local communities.

**In FY 23-24, FCHD investigated 167 reportable cases of diseases.**



### Chronic Disease & Injury Prevention

FCHD provides classes and outreach to prevent falls, manage chronic diseases, promote safe driving, and prevent accidental drug overdoses. Last year, 297 community members were trained to administer naloxone. This life-saving medication can quickly reverse an overdose, furthering our commitment to building a healthier, safer community.

**In FY 23-24, 297 FCHD residents trained to administer naloxone.**



### Environmental Public Health

Environmental Public Health at FCHD focuses on reducing risks in our living environment through education and outreach on water and air quality, lead exposure, and mosquito and tick-borne diseases. Last year, FCHD collected 889 mosquitoes and 383 ticks, distributed 333 water nitrate test strips, completed 156 radon tests, tested 32 children for lead, and installed an outdoor air monitor. Additionally, two household hazardous waste collections were held to further protect our communities.

**FCHD collected 383 ticks & distributed 156 radon tests.**



### Maternal, Child, & Family Health

Healthy Families Nebraska-Four Corners supports pregnant women, infants, and families through evidence-based home visitation. Through targeted outreach and education, FCHD works to reduce the risk of suicide among 10 to 19-year-olds by promoting awareness, providing resources, and fostering connections between youth, families, and support services.

**Suicide is the 2nd leading cause of death for 10 - 24 year-olds.**



### Access to & Linkage with Clinical Care

FCHD's public health nurses and Community Health Workers (CHWs) connect rural residents to essential dental, medical, and behavioral healthcare. They link patients with social needs to local and state resources. Last year, our team provided over 700 individuals who screened positive for depression and social needs with critical support and resources, improving access to care and overall well-being.

**In FY 23-24, 700+ FCHD residents "feel depressed" and/or have social needs.**









Lincoln-Lancaster County  
Health Department

**168** employees serving **322,063** people across **1** metropolitan county

DEDICATED TO

- Access to care
- Chronic disease prevention
- Behavioral health
- Injury prevention



Lincoln-Lancaster County

[www.lincoln.ne.gov/health](http://www.lincoln.ne.gov/health)

(402) 441-8000

We speak English & Spanish!



Nationally Accredited

## From the Director

The Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department (LLCHD) launched Family Connects – a universal home visitation program that’s available to all families with a new baby in Lancaster County. Family Connects offers families a visit from a highly trained public health nurse in the comfort of their own home. Participation is voluntary and the visit is at no cost. Family Connects nurses have made more than 700 home visits since the program started serving families in September 2023.

Having a child is a life-changing event and it can be overwhelming and stressful for parents as they adjust to a new family dynamic. During a Family Connects visit, friendly and knowledgeable nurses are there to lend a helping hand, listen and answer questions, and provide support and resources for families to get their children off to a healthy start. Families learn about Family Connects from their obstetric provider during pregnancy, through a Family Connects nurse in the hospital after delivery, or from health care providers during initial well baby checks. The Health Department’s public health clinic, the Women, Infants and Children program, community and cultural centers, refugee resettlement agencies and other local organizations are also sharing information about Family Connects. Strong partnerships are helping make this program a success in the community.

“  
**We’re helping  
create a  
brighter,  
healthier  
future for all  
residents.**  
”



**Pat Lopez, RN, MSN**

Health Director

[patdlopez@lincoln.ne.gov](mailto:patdlopez@lincoln.ne.gov)



Lincoln-Lancaster County  
Health Department

LLCHD developed the foundation for the program by working with local hospital systems – Bryan Health and CHI Health St. Elizabeth, health care providers, and experts in the early childhood field.

By prioritizing the health and well-being of both newborns and their families, we’re helping create a brighter, healthier future for all residents.

This report showcases other examples of our work over the past fiscal year. Visit our website to learn more about our commitment to protecting and promoting the public’s health.



### Communicable Disease Control

The Communicable Disease Program responded to 3,404 reported disease cases other than COVID-19 in fiscal year 2024. The program protects the public's health through disease surveillance, outbreak investigations, and prevention of disease spread.

**In FY 23-24, investigated 3,404 reportable cases of diseases.**



### Chronic Disease & Injury Prevention

The Health Promotion team works to strengthen the public's health and safety and improve quality of life through education, mobilizing community action, and developing public health policy. An area of focus has been bike and pedestrian safety education and school zone improvements in identified areas of the community at higher risk for bike or pedestrian crashes.

**In FY 23-24, a safety campaign improved bike & pedestrian safety impacting 350+ elementary students**



### Environmental Public Health

LLCHD provides timely education and guidance to help control the spread of illness in childcare centers and develops communications, future educational resources, and action steps for prevention. Childcare centers electronically submit illness reports on communicable diseases, diarrhea, or vomiting which allows for quick response and identification of illness trends in the community.

**1,674 childhood professionals trained in health and safety in FY 23-24**



### Maternal, Child, & Family Health

LLCHD provides home visitation services through the Healthy Families America and Family Connects (Universal Home Visitation) models to families in Lincoln and Lancaster County. Home visitation services provide a strong foundation for a healthy start for infants and children, support family well-being, and build capacity for a bright future.

**In FY 23-24, home visitation staff provided 4,750 visits for families.**

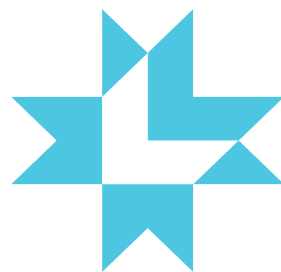


### Access to & Linkage with Clinical Care

LLCHD links people to resources such as insurance options (Medicaid/Marketplace) and ensures a connection to a primary care provider medical home. Ensuring access to health insurance and a healthcare provider supports people for preventive care and those with ongoing physical and mental health concerns.

**In FY 23-24, 1,200+ residents linked to primary care medical home.**





Lincoln-Lancaster County  
Health Department



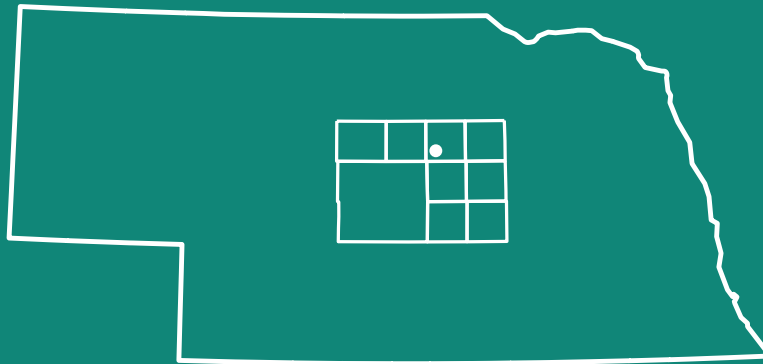


**Loup Basin**  
PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

**15** employees serving **29,894** people across **9** rural counties

DEDICATED TO

- Mental health
- Behavioral health



Blaine, Custer, Garfield, Greely, Howard,  
Loup, Sherman, Valley, & Wheeler Counties

**[www.lbphd.ne.gov](http://www.lbphd.ne.gov)**

**(308) 346-5795**

## From the Director

Loup Basin Public Health Department (LBPHD) strives to improve the overall health and well-being of the community and accomplishes this by collecting population health data to help better understand the range of factors that can impact individuals' health. The health department collaborates with multiple partners including our hospitals, clinics, schools, coalitions, pharmacies, and others to help make this single data report, also called our Community Health Assessment (CHA). This assessment is generated every three years to help align with our area hospitals. When looking through the data, the two biggest health concerns were mental and behavioral health, with a 4.5% increase in mental health issues in LBPHD's district since 2020. LBPHD takes the data from our CHA and creates the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) which was rolled out in March 2023 and is being implemented over the next three years. The CHIP focuses on mental and behavioral health.

This report showcases key examples of our efforts over the past fiscal year. Visit our website to explore more about our work and commitment to public health.

“  
**LBPHD  
strives to  
improve  
the overall  
health of the  
community**  
”



**Amanda Jeffres, RN**

Health Director

[ajeffres@lbphd.ne.gov](mailto:ajeffres@lbphd.ne.gov)





## Communicable Disease Control

We monitor reportable illnesses reported by area labs, clinics, and hospitals. We provide timely and appropriate responses to limit further spread and help those infected navigate their illness. Timely prevention and control activities can stop outbreaks that lead to widespread illness, work and school absences, and other hardships. Many reportable diseases can lead to serious illness or death.

**LBPHD investigated 140 reportable cases of diseases.**



## Chronic Disease & Injury Prevention

Colon cancer is preventable, treatable, and beatable. The key is regular screenings after age 45 for people with average risk. Early detection of colon cancer can mean less extensive treatment, more treatment options, and better chances of survival. LBPHD offers free FIT screening kits and home tests that screen for colon cancer and pre-cancerous polyps.

**LBPHD distributed 65 FIT Screening Kits to district residents.**



## Environmental Public Health

LBPHD participates in the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program. We monitor for high blood lead levels and link exposed children and their families to recommended services and interventions. Lead is incredibly toxic to children under age 6 and is often present in structures built before 1979. Exposure to lead can harm a child's developing brain.

**61.6% of residential homes in LBPHD were built before 1979.**



## Maternal, Child, & Family Health

LBPHD provides home visiting services to families in the district utilizing the Healthy Families America (HFA) model. HFA strengthens relationships between parents and children. By preventing adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), LBPHD helps set children on a healthy path. HFA helps parents succeed. HFA moms are 5 times more likely to enroll in school/training programs.

**Families in HFA decrease the risk of low birthrates by 48%.**



## Access to & Linkage with Clinical Care

Our public health-certified dental hygienist leads Loup Basin Smiles. We provide oral screenings and apply fluoride varnish in Head Start programs, preschools, and elementary schools district-wide. Compared to urban children, rural children receive fewer dental sealants and have higher rates of tooth decay. LBPHD counties are all rural, and 3 are Dental Health Shortage Areas.

**1,926 children received oral health screenings.**





**12** employees serving **44,397** people across **9** rural counties

DEDICATED TO

- Decreasing mortality linked to heart disease
- Achieving positive mental health outcomes
- Improving access to care to support a healthier and more resilient district



Antelope, Boyd, Brown, Cherry, Holt, Keya  
Paha, Knox, Pierce, & Rock Counties

[www.ncdhd.ne.gov](http://www.ncdhd.ne.gov)

(402) 336-2406



Nationally Accredited

## From the Director

North Central District Health Department (NCDHD) continues to have fruitful partnerships that keep our department closely connected to the community. We remain focused on key areas like heart disease, access to care, and mental health, collaborating with partners to drive meaningful improvements in community health.

Over the past year, NCDHD made strides to reduce mortality rates due to heart disease through several key initiatives. A HeartCorp employee was hired through a partnership with the American Heart Association, allocating resources toward blood pressure monitoring, older adult education, food insecurity, and AED access. We established ten permanent blood pressure monitoring stations as easy-access referral points. Forty-eight (48) older adults participate in a 20-session physical activity and nutrition program.

The department travels across our large 9-county area, offering oral health and immunization services to address access to care needs. We strive to improve opportunities for all district residents to access healthcare. Focus groups and 1:1 meetings continue to ensure the needs of Native American, Hispanic/Latino, elderly, and low-income residents align with department efforts to improve access to healthcare. To address underlying barriers to health, the department led a paid media campaign to enhance awareness and support application assistance for Medicaid. In coordination with the Holt Boyd Collaborative, the department sponsors gap assistance and coaching for needy families.

Mental health needs are a top concern of residents. NCDHD is working to reduce deaths by suicide in an area that struggles with mental health provider shortages. We trained thirty (30) individuals in Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR) and 20 in Mental Health First Aid (MHFA). These trainings build community support and encourage early intervention. Two additional full-time Licensed Mental Health Professionals were placed in area schools with the department's support. Media campaigns and community events reinforced the message that "it is okay not to be okay." We increased the number of screenings for social determinants of health and depression assessments. NCDHD continues to perfect a pilot follow-up referral program that supports individuals with needs identified during the screening assessment.



**Heidi Kuklis, MPH**

Health Director  
heidi@ncdhd.ne.gov

Positive change is taking place to contribute to community health. The momentum from the past year propels us forward with a sense of purpose. We look forward to collaborating with our community partners in FY2025 to provide all residents what they need to be happy and healthy.



## Communicable Disease Control

Our staff conducted surveillance, managed outbreaks, and responded to reportable communicable diseases. In 2023, NCDHD completed 239 investigations, the most common being campylobacteriosis, hepatitis, and animal exposures. NCDHD implemented timely interventions that helped reduce transmission, safeguard vulnerable populations, and maintain public safety.

**NCDHD investigated 239 reportable cases of diseases.**



## Chronic Disease & Injury Prevention

NCDHD continued to offer vaccinations to individuals of all ages, races, and income levels across the district. We collaborate with local businesses and healthcare partners to provide traveling vaccine clinics and in-office services. Our outreach efforts emphasize the importance of staying current with vaccinations to prevent disease and injury and improve the overall well-being of our communities.

**NCDHD administered 2,091 vaccinations & held 103 clinics, 54 being mobile.**



## Environmental Public Health

NCDHD expanded our environmental health programming. One new initiative is our air quality program that installed 3 PurpleAir monitors across the district. These monitors measure particulate matter in the air, providing real-time data that empowers our communities to take proactive steps to protect their health based on air quality. Monitors were installed in Ainsworth, O'Neill, and Butte, Nebraska.

**Air quality monitors are now in Valentine, Ainsworth, & O'Neill.**



## Maternal, Child, & Family Health

The Miles of Smiles program delivered preventative oral health screenings to 3,965 children across the district during the 2023-2024 school year. Of those screened, 3,191 received fluoride varnish; 460 referrals were made, including 25 urgent referrals. This program bridges the gap in access to preventative oral healthcare and addresses long-term issues related to tooth decay.

**In FY 23-24, 3,965 students were screened for oral health issues.**

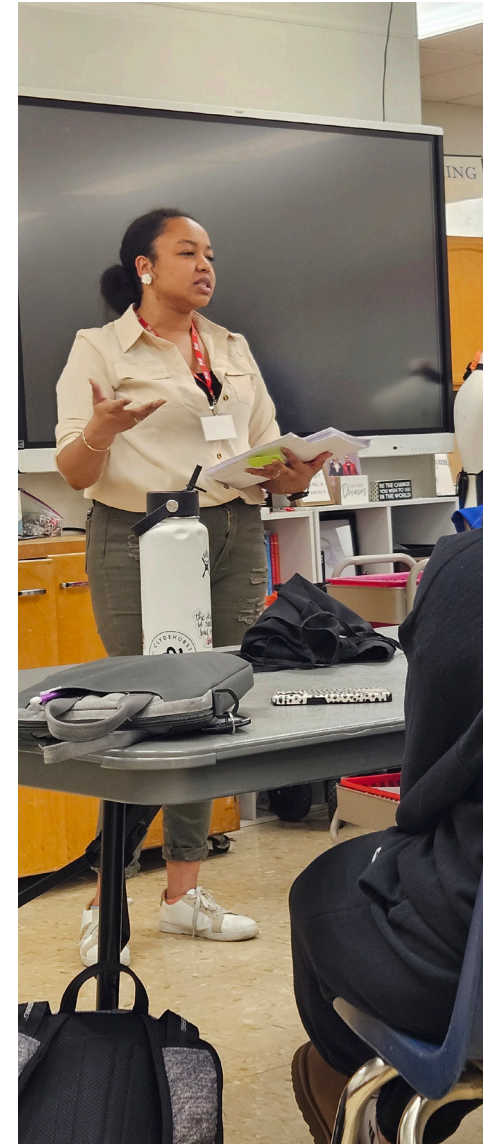


## Access to & Linkage with Clinical Care

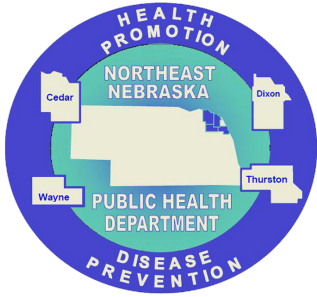
NCDHD integrated digital media display boards as a platform to connect with our district through a network of diverse host locations, including clinics, libraries, grocery stores, and gas stations. These partnerships enhance our ability to serve the community more effectively, providing health education, notification of events, and real-time information during disasters and outbreaks.

**Digital billboards installed in 7 establishments across the NCDHD district.**





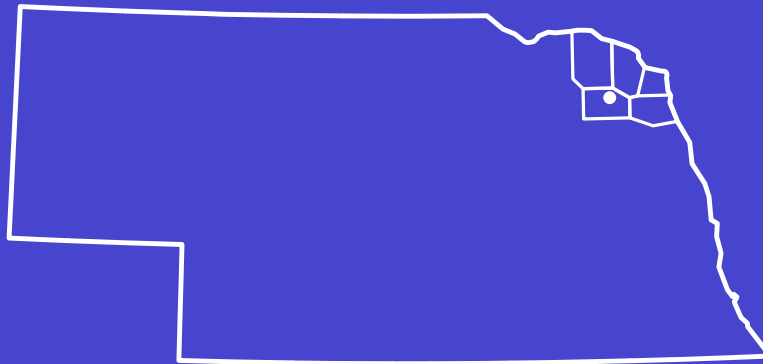




**21** employees serving **30,371** people across **4** rural counties

DEDICATED TO

- Behavioral health
- Health promotion
- Improving access to care



Cedar, Dixon, Thurston, & Wayne Counties

**[www.nnphd.ne.gov](http://www.nnphd.ne.gov)**

**(402) 375-2200**

We speak English & Spanish!

## From the Director

NNPHD's growing team tackles public health issues like immunizations, oral health, prevention education, and environmental and emergency preparedness. NNPHD faces increasing challenges from global threats such as avian flu, Mpox, and severe weather, but we are tackling them as they come to keep our community safe and healthy. Access to healthcare services continue to be challenging for many in our district. For example, no dentists in our four counties take Medicaid. Rural communities in our district also deal with health issues linked to social and built environments and transportation is an issue for many.

“  
**Our new facility will allow us to provide more clinic services and health education opportunities in our health district.**  
”



**Colleen Hupke, MPH**  
Health Director  
collen@nnphd.ne.gov



Our Community Health Workers (CHWs) and Program Specialists are key to helping residents access resources and take control of their health. Through partnerships with UNMC and Creighton University, we are training the next generation of public health professionals with several students working alongside our staff this year. Through these partnerships, NNPHD had two team members obtain their CHW Certifications.

We serve our district with culturally and linguistically appropriate services, using traditional and digital messages delivered through various media. CHWs and Program Specialists work with translators and a health literacy expert to develop materials and collaborate with partners to promote community, health, and wellness resources. Our new website will go online in the fall of 2024.

NNPHD has secured a new building, set to open in 2025, where we will provide more clinic services and health education opportunities. We are committed to our partnerships with cities, counties, clinics, and hospitals empowering our communities to make healthier choices and improve overall wellness.

This report showcases key examples of our efforts over the past fiscal year. Visit our website to learn more about our work and commitment to public health.



## Communicable Disease Control

NNPHD monitors and investigates infectious diseases to identify and respond to outbreaks. Our STI team works closely with our medical partners to help reduce syphilis infections by 20% from the prior fiscal year. This is the first time in three (3) years that syphilis cases are trending down in our health district.

**In FY 23-24, syphilis cases decreased by 30%.**



## Chronic Disease & Injury Prevention

NNPHD and partners are working to help people with pre-diabetes and diabetes by increasing diabetes screenings and making people aware of the condition, associated risks, and available resources. We have programs to help people with diabetes, including a monthly support group, a weight management program with health coaching, grocery tours, and healthy cooking classes.

**In FY 23-24, 65% of adults are at risk for diabetes.**



## Environmental Public Health

NNPHD has identified three focus areas for environmental health education: childhood blood levels, drinking water quality, and air quality. NNPHD provides free radon and drinking water test kits. NNPHD also sends mosquitos and ticks to the Nebraska Public Health Lab to test for vector-borne diseases, including West Nile Virus and Lyme disease.

**50% of black-legged ticks collected by NNPHD tested positive for bacteria causing Lyme disease.**



## Maternal, Child, & Family Health

NNPHD provides oral health education, cleaning, fluoride, and sealants to people of all ages. Creating New Smiles, our oral health clinic, serves daycares, schools, and assisted living facilities. Dental care continues to be a challenge for our health district. No dentist in our health district will accept new Medicaid patients.

**In FY 23-24, 2,405 NNPHD residents seen at Creating New Smiles.**



## Access to & Linkage with Clinical Care

In FY 23-24, 121 clients used our Community Response Program, which provides support and services for individuals and families that need assistance with health related needs. NNPHD staff also distribute kits to screen for colorectal cancer.

**NNPHD staff went to 6 emergency preparedness training exercises.**

# Panhandle

Public Health District

**30** employees serving **83,770** people across **12** rural counties

## DEDICATED TO

- Cultural Awareness Support
- Expanded Access to Behavioral Health Services
- Innovative Access to Care Strategies



Banner, Box Butte, Cheyenne, Dawes, Deuel, Garden, Grant, Kimball, Morrill, Scotts Bluff, Sheridan, & Sioux Counties



Nationally Accredited

**[www.pphd.ne.gov](http://www.pphd.ne.gov)**

**(308) 487-3600**



## From the Director

With the generous support of a challenge grant from an anonymous donor through the Nebraska Community Foundation, we successfully funded our Dental Health Program for five years, matching local funds to provide essential preventive services to 33 schools, 14 Head Start locations, and three private preschools. We conducted 21,088 dental screenings, applied 16,881 fluoride treatments, placed 4,455 dental sealants, and delivered 178 interactive dental health presentations. As access to dental care for Medicaid recipients and the uninsured becomes increasingly difficult, our program's importance has grown, ensuring treatment for all students regardless of their insurance or economic status. 98% of area schools are committed to continuing the program next year.

“  
**Vital partnership with Panhandle school nurses provided support for over 21,000 dental screenings in five years.**

”



**Kim Engel, MBA**  
Health Director  
kengel@pphd.ne.gov

“Public health dental hygienists like Kendra Lauruhn at PPHD have demonstrated a significantly positive impact in delivering essential oral health services to underserved populations for over 15 years. This program and their outstanding dental personnel are a shining example of what we hope every community in Nebraska can someday achieve to improve oral health outcomes for generations of future Nebraskans,” said Dr. Charles Craft, Director of the Office of Oral Health and Dentistry, for the Nebraska DHHS.

The recent Nebraska Oral Health Survey of Young Children report indicated that statewide dental experience rates for third grade children decreased from 64% in 2016 to 58% in 2022. Decay experience for rural third grade children dropped from 81% in 2016 to 65% in 2022. The dental disease disparity between urban and rural children has been significantly reduced. This unique Nebraska oral workforce averaged more than 100,000 dental services each year from 2017-2019.

This report showcases key examples of our efforts over the past fiscal year. Visit our website to explore more about our work and commitment to public health.



### Communicable Disease Control

PPHD enhanced our immunization program by introducing a walk-in clinic and increasing our partnerships with hospitals, vaccine providers, schools, senior centers, and work sites. We established an outreach team to serve our extensive rural area. As a result, last year, we administered 5,366 vaccines to 2,999 clients, reflecting our commitment to improving public health across the district.

**In FY 23-24, PPHD administered 5,366 vaccines to 2,999 clients.**



### Chronic Disease & Injury Prevention

The Panhandle has some of the highest suicide rates in Nebraska. Local efforts to address this include Hope Squads in schools to empower peer support, QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer) to equip individuals to recognize and respond to suicide warning signs, Suicide Loss Support Groups, and gun lock distribution to reduce access to means of suicide.

**PPHD trained 182 residents in QPR, distributed 782 gun locks, & implemented 10 Hope Squads.**



### Environmental Public Health

PPHD provided PurpleAir monitors to 10 schools in our jurisdiction. These sensors collect data every 10 minutes and help PPHD monitor changes in air quality in the communities we serve. During poor air quality days, PPHD can advise residents to adjust the time they spend outdoors.

**PPHD provided PurpleAir Monitors to 10 schools in the district.**



### Maternal, Child, & Family Health

The PPHD home visitation program uses the Healthy Families America (HFA) model, an approach recognized by Prevent Child Abuse America. HFA strengthens parent-child relationships, promotes healthy child development, and improves family well-being. For families engaged with the child welfare system, HFA has reduced the recurrence of maltreatment by one-third.

**In FY 23-24, PPHD served 136 families in HFA.**

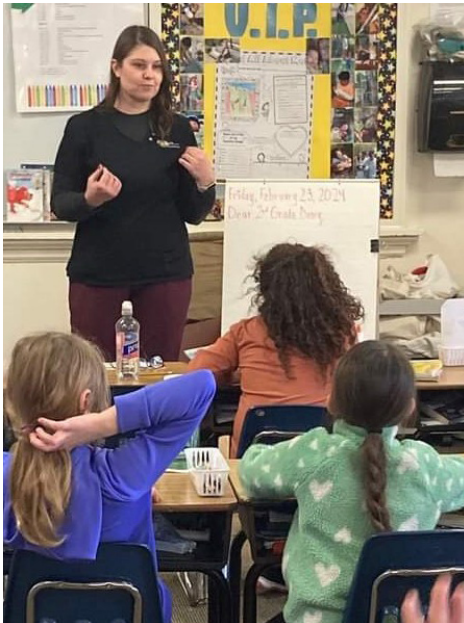


### Access to & Linkage with Clinical Care

The Panhandle Situation Table identifies individuals at acute risk and swiftly connects them to the necessary clinical care while addressing gaps in access to services. PPHD partnered with CredibleMind, an anonymous online mental health platform with evidence-based mental health resources, to empower individuals to seek help before reaching a crisis point. Together, these initiatives enhance access to support for those in need.

**The Situation Table is a NACCHO Model Practice.**





## Panhandle Public Health District





**Public Health**  
*Solutions*

**20** employees serving **53,677** people across **5** rural counties

DEDICATED TO

- Equitable Access
- Equitable Resources
- Equitable Outcomes



Fillmore, Gage, Jefferson, Saline, & Thayer Counties

**[www.phsneb.org](http://www.phsneb.org)**

**(402) 826-3880**

We speak English, Spanish & K'iche!



## From the Director

The past year has been busy for the team at PHS. Moved forward with the identified Community Health Improvement Plan priorities of access to services and access to behavioral health services, projects to develop resources within the district.

The largest and most exciting project this year has been the roll-out of a new health and wellness model, the Thrive Wellness Program. This program combines existing clinical services such as immunizations, dental, and nurse health coaching with new services including community informational classes, Tai chi and walking groups offered in both English and Spanish, and the new Baby & Me Clinic. Our current goal is to provide more services via virtual meetings or to model classes held in the Crete building across the district.

“  
**We value  
our team,  
our clients,  
and our  
communities!**  
”



**Kim Showalter, RN, BSN**

Health Director  
[kshowalter@phsneb.org](mailto:kshowalter@phsneb.org)

Expectant and new parents can take advantage of the Baby & Me Clinic for prenatal education, breastfeeding support, and education on meeting developmental milestones in young children. The newly designed Baby & Me Clinic space offers a comfortable, welcoming area to meet with PHS lactation consultants and peer support mentors, who will provide the support needed for successful breastfeeding.

With five bilingual staff members on the PHS team, we offer services in three languages. We devote a good deal of time and resources to ensure all community members who walk through the door at PHS will find a welcoming environment that supports accessing the resources they need to live the healthiest life possible. We value our team, our clients, and our communities!

This report showcases key examples of our efforts over the past fiscal year. Visit our website to explore more about our work and commitment to public health.



### Communicable Disease Control

PHS monitors communicable diseases year-round and provides evidence-based guidance, surveillance, and immunization practices for schools, businesses, families, individuals, and community partners. PHS communities rely on us for timely and accurate information and immunizations to prevent widespread illness, work and school absences, and other hardships (including death).

**In FY 23-24, PHS provided residents with 24/7 disease surveillance.**



### Chronic Disease & Injury Prevention

PHS provides programs including Tai chi, nurse health coaching, and small group fitness and wellness classes. Last fiscal year, 300+ individuals participated in one or more of these opportunities. A robust support system makes caring for individual health needs easier. To prevent and manage chronic disease, PHS helps district residents achieve their health goals.

**In FY 23-24, PHS provided wellness opportunities for 300+ residents.**



### Environmental Public Health

PHS works to monitor air and water quality through surveillance systems across the district. The addition of PurpleAir monitors in the district allow for quick access to information about air quality issues in the five-county PHS region. PHS Community Health Workers work with families to mitigate exposure to lead and provides ongoing case management to children (and their families) who have been identified as having high blood lead levels.

**30+ children with high blood lead levels were provided ongoing case management.**



### Maternal, Child, & Family Health

Highly trained PHS staff provide in-home visitation and early childhood services to help 80 families become confident parents who can meet their children's physical, mental, and emotional needs. Children with a responsible, caring adult are better prepared for healthy growth and development.

**In FY 23-24, PHS home visiting served over 80 families.**



### Access to & Linkage with Clinical Care

PHS helps individuals access the resources they need to be healthy. PHS provides application assistance, nurse case management, and wellness programs to district residents. Everyone wants to be as healthy as possible. District residents can take charge of their health and health needs by ensuring access to critical health and wellness services.

**In FY 2024, nurse case management helped 50+ people.**

# SARPY/CASS

Health Department

**12** employees serving **218,021** people across **2** metropolitan counties

Dedicated to positively impacting residents' mental health and well being by:

- Connecting people to increased social supports
- Reducing stigma of mental health & substance use disorder
- Increasing connection to mental health & preventative resources
- Understanding trauma



Sarpy & Cass Counties

**[www.schd.ne.gov](http://www.schd.ne.gov)**

**(402) 339-4334**

## From the Health Director

I am pleased to present the 2023 – 2024 annual Sarpy/Cass Health Department report. The Department is committed to improving the lives of all Sarpy and Cass County residents through the prevention, promotion, and protection of the public's health. This annual report outlines the daily work done by department staff to achieve our mission of providing residents with the highest quality of life.

“  
**Committed  
to improving  
the lives of  
all Sarpy and  
Cass County  
residents  
through the  
prevention,  
promotion,  
and protection  
of the public's  
health.**  
”

This year, the Department has experienced many notable achievements, many of which are outlined in the following pages. Continue to read and explore the public health programs, supports, and activities outlined in this report. You can visit our website, [schd.ne.gov](http://schd.ne.gov), or follow us on Facebook, X, or Instagram to learn more about the Department and to stay on top of public health news.

In good health,

Sarah Schram,  
Health Director



**Sarah Schram, MS, RD**

Health Director

[sschram@sarpycasshealth.com](mailto:sschram@sarpycasshealth.com)





## Communicable Disease Control

Our Disease Surveillance Specialists work to protect residents' health by investigating reportable diseases, conducting disease surveillance, and responding to outbreaks in our community. This year, 1,544 investigations of confirmed or probable cases of illness other than COVID-19. Timely and thorough investigation and follow-up limited the spread of illness.

**In FY 23-24, SCHD investigated 1,544 reportable cases of diseases.**



## Chronic Disease & Injury Prevention

Our Safe Kids Sarpy/Cass program provides awareness, education, and resources to help parents and caregivers keep the children in our community safe. This year, program staff provided home, child passenger, and sport safety education to residents through numerous community events. Trained technicians educated caregivers on installing 69 youth car seats.

**SCHD provided child safety education and installed 69 car seats.**



## Environmental Public Health

The Department's childhood lead poisoning and prevention program educated over 30,000 families that reside in homes built before 1978 in Sarpy and Cass County on the potential for lead-based paint, a common source of childhood lead poisoning. The action resulted in an increase in lead screening within the health jurisdiction.

**Provided program education to 30,000+ families.**



## Maternal, Child, & Family Health

Our Peer Educators support mothers and families enrolled in the Nebraska WIC program through peer-to-peer breastfeeding education and referrals to breastfeeding resources. Breastfeeding has health benefits for infants and their mothers. Supportive relationships and one-on-one peer support increase breastfeeding success.

**Peer Health Educators helped 2,500+ WIC mothers.**



## Access to & Linkage with Clinical Care

The Department hosted blood pressure screening events to ensure widespread accessibility to screenings and resources; promoted high blood pressure control, early detection, and regular monitoring; distributed 28 free blood pressure monitors; and connected residents with health-care providers.

**SCHD distributed 28 free blood pressure monitors.**





SARPY/CASS  
Health Department

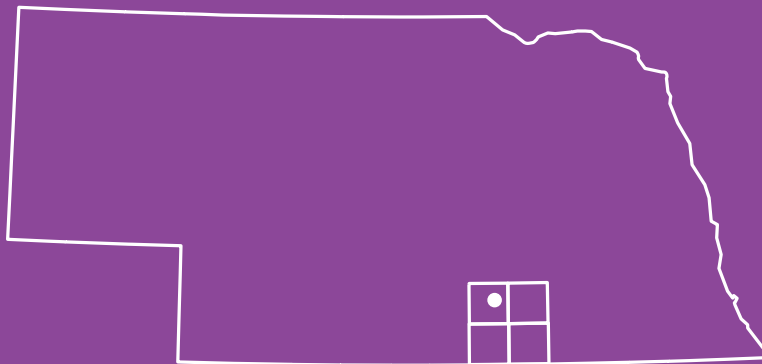




**26** employees serving **44,733** people across **4** rural counties

DEDICATED TO

- Understanding the needs in our communities
- Communicating effectively
- Supporting individuals and families to be their healthiest



Adams, Clay, Nuckolls, & Webster Counties



**[www.southheartlandhealth.ne.gov](http://www.southheartlandhealth.ne.gov)**

**(402) 462-6211**

We speak English & Spanish!

Nationally Accredited



## From the Director

South Heartland District Health Department is excited to announce the launch of our Healthy Families Nebraska Heartland home visitation program in 2023. Healthy Families is a free and voluntary in-home, relationship-based service designed to promote positive parent child interactions, healthy attachment, and partnerships with parents so they feel more confident.

Focusing on families beginning at pregnancy up through 3 months of age, our nurse home visitors use the Parents as Teachers curriculum and other resources to offer information on safe sleep, parent/child interaction, breastfeeding, child temperament, development screenings, behavioral concerns, and more.

Our staff also have specialized training in Circle of Security to help parents and children feel safe and secure. In just 6 months, we are already partnering with more than 20 families.

As we work toward becoming an accredited Healthy Families America program, we are excited to be supporting the Healthy Families America vision that all children receive nurturing care from their family that leads to a long, healthy, and successful life.

This report showcases key examples of our efforts over the past fiscal year. Visit our website to explore more about our work and commitment to public health.

“  
In just 6 months,  
we are already  
partnering with  
more than  
20 families.  
”



**Michele Bever, PhD, MPH**

Health Director

[michele.bever@shdhd.ne.gov](mailto:michele.bever@shdhd.ne.gov)





### Communicable Disease Control

During the 23-24 fiscal year, the SHDHD 4-county district had 456 confirmed, probable, or suspected cases of reportable infectious diseases other than COVID-19. Staff at SHDHD responded to 31 facility outbreaks of COVID-19 and seven facility outbreaks of non-COVID-19 illnesses. Preventing disease spread helps increase safety.

**SHDHD investigated 456 reportable cases of infectious diseases.**



### Chronic Disease & Injury Prevention

SHDHD expanded the Falls Prevention Stepping On Program to Nuckolls County. A Brodstone Memorial Hospital staff member received the facilitator training and implemented the first class. The program's addition has increased access to fall prevention skills for SHDHD residents.

**In FY 23-24, 2 classes with 23 participants had a 78% completion rate.**



### Environmental Public Health

SHDHD uses two PurpleAir monitors to track air quality around our district, detecting harmful particles like smoke, dust, and other pollutants. The data is uploaded to an online map in real time, allowing for easy monitoring of local air quality conditions. Air pollution can aggravate heart disease and stroke, lung diseases such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, asthma, and diabetes.

**SHDHD reported 18 unhealthy air quality days during April, May, & June 2024.**



### Maternal, Child, & Family Health

Healthy Families Nebraska, a new program for SHDHD, is an evidence-based home-visiting program designed to promote positive parent-child interactions for anyone pregnant or with children under 3 months at home. Three home visitors and one program supervisor partner with parents to help them connect with community resources and feel more confident parenting.

**22 SHDHD families enrolled into the Healthy Family Nebraska Heartland program.**

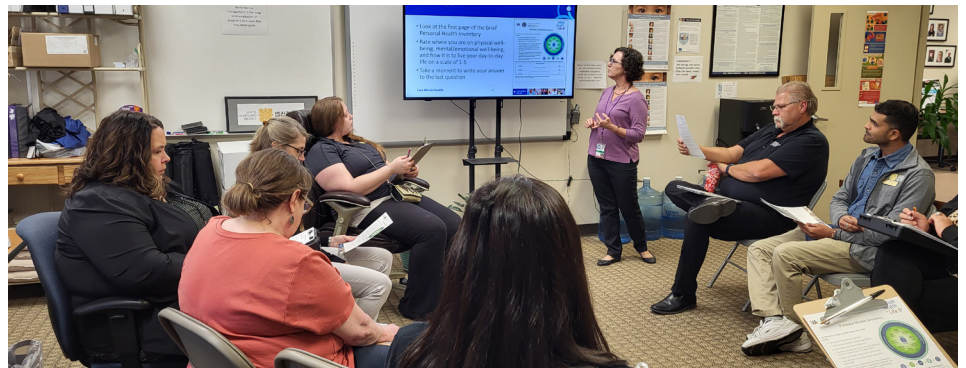
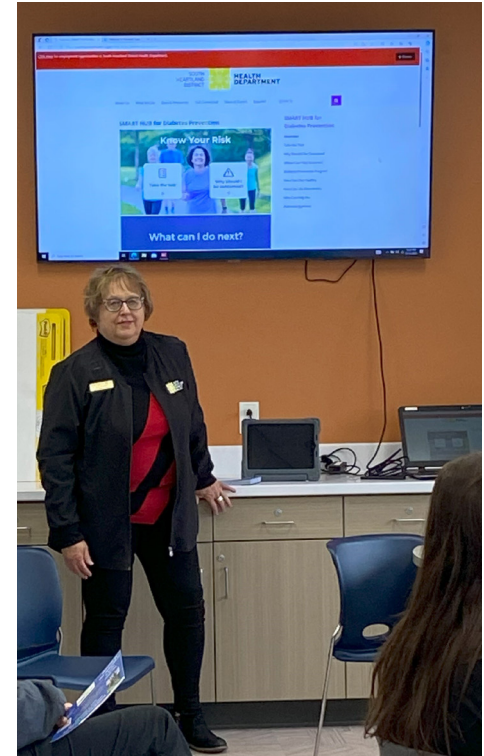
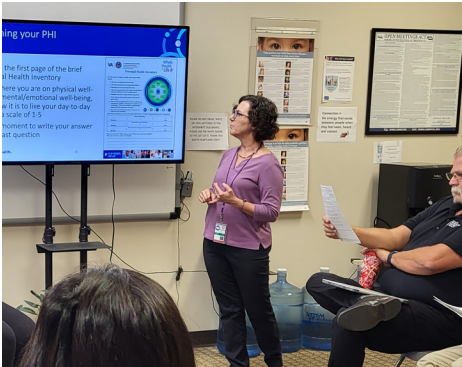
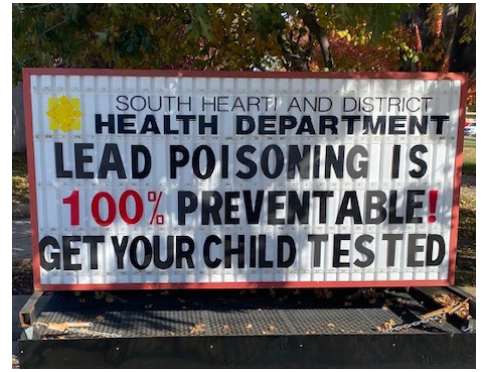


### Access to & Linkage with Clinical Care

SHDHD's oral health program provides education and preventative dental care to children at preschools and day-cares in the South Heartland District. Based on need, the program can provide fluoride varnish, sealant treatments, and 38% silver diamine fluoride (SDF).

**In FY 23-24, SHDHD educated 260 children, 160 received sealants, & 28 received fluoride varnish.**







**16** employees serving **38,711** people across **5** rural counties

### Mission

The mission of the Southeast District Health Department is to prevent disease and promote overall health through outreach, services, and partnerships while educating and empowering all those who live, work, and visit Johnson, Nemaha, Otoe, Pawnee, and Richardson counties.

### Vision

Our vision is to utilize a community-centered approach to ensure all individuals have equal access to quality services to meet their needs and improve the overall health of the population.



**Johnson, Nemaha, Otoe, Pawnee, & Richardson Counties**

**[www.sedhd.org](http://www.sedhd.org)**

**(402) 274-3993**



## From the Director

The past year has brought change and growth to the Department. We have expanded services across the district and continue to grow and implement programs that better serve the residents of Johnson, Nemaha, Otoe, Pawnee, and Richardson Counties.

We have diligently enhanced and expanded our services to fill the gaps in public health services that are lacking in southeast Nebraska and align with the last iteration of the Department's Community Health Assessment and Community Health Improvement Plan.

Additionally, we have focused on enhancing our internal processes to be a more efficient organization and to better serve the public. Our staff work tirelessly and are dedicated to ensuring all communities have access to our public health services.

This report showcases key examples of our efforts over the past fiscal year. Visit our website to explore more about our work and commitment to public health.

“

**Ensuring all communities have access to our public health services.**

”



**Grant Brueggemann, MPH**

Health Director

[grant@sedhd.org](mailto:grant@sedhd.org)





### Communicable Disease Control

SEDHD conducts disease surveillance, responds to outbreaks, and prevents and mitigates the spread of infectious and communicable diseases. Disease surveillance is an important epidemiological tool for monitoring the community's health. Pathogens could spread rapidly throughout a community without it.

**SEDHD investigated 143 reportable cases of diseases.**



### Chronic Disease & Injury Prevention

SEDHD conducts health screenings at community and worksite wellness events for local businesses. We provide education related to diabetes, cardiovascular disease, cancer, and other chronic diseases. Chronic disease and injury prevention and control programs save lives, support the economy through a healthy workforce, improve quality of life, and reduce healthcare expenditures.

**1 in 3 adults has a chronic health condition.**



### Environmental Public Health

SEDHD disseminates free radon test kits throughout the district to assist community members in determining radon levels in their homes and provides education regarding the risks associated with radon exposure. Radon is the number one cause of lung cancer among non-smokers. Although lung cancer can be treated, the survival rate is one of the lowest for those with cancer.

**SEDHD's lung cancer rates are 18% higher than the state's.**



### Maternal, Child, & Family Health

SEDHD provides home visitation services to district families, utilizing the Healthy Families America (HFA) approved curriculum. Enrollment has increased by 51% over the last four years. Home visitation strengthens parent-child relationships, promotes healthy child development, and enhances family well-being.

**In FY 23-24, SEDHD doubled the number of families served in HFA.**



### Access to & Linkage with Clinical Care

SEDHD provides dental services to adolescents who might otherwise lack preventative care and face barriers in accessing oral healthcare. Oral health is linked to whole-body health across the lifespan. Oral disease can lead to pain, heart disease, stroke, and other issues. Public health services can reduce the risk of oral and other chronic diseases.

**SEDHD held dental clinics at 24 sites & conducted 2,181 screenings.**



**20** employees serving **80,433** people across **3** rural counties

DEDICATED TO

- Behavioral Health & Healthy Lifestyles
- Reducing Health Disparities
- Improving Access to Care



Dodge, Saunders, & Washington Counties

**[www.threeriverspublichealth.org](http://www.threeriverspublichealth.org)**

**(402) 727-5396**

We speak English & Spanish!

## From the Director

At Three Rivers Public Health Department (3RPHD), we are dedicated to ensuring the health and well-being of every person in our community. Over the past year, we've made significant strides in protecting public health and promoting safety. I am excited to share some of our achievements with you.

In Fiscal Year 2024, 3RPHD remained steadfast in our commitment to protecting and improving the health of every individual across our region. From disease prevention and environmental health to maternal and child health, chronic disease management, and initiatives that address health disparities, our team has worked tirelessly to address the unique needs of our diverse communities.

We remain committed to fostering a healthy and thriving community. We continue to partner with local organizations, listen to your feedback, and adapt our services to meet the evolving needs of everyone in our region. Together, we are building a healthier future for all.

Thank you for being an essential part of our community's health journey. We look forward to continuing to serve and support you in the year ahead.

This report showcases key examples of our efforts over the past fiscal year. Visit our website to explore more about our work and commitment to public health.

“  
**Addressing  
health  
disparities is  
a focal point  
of all health  
improvement  
efforts**

”



**Terra Uhing**

Health Director

[terra@3rphd.ne.gov](mailto:terra@3rphd.ne.gov)



### Communicable Disease Control

3RPHD investigated about 530 cases (not including respiratory cases of influenza, RSV, or COVID-19) of 140 different reportable diseases in FY 2024. Timely prevention and control activities can prevent and limit outbreaks that may lead to widespread illness, work and school absences, and other hardships. Many reportable diseases can lead to serious illness or death.

**3RPHD investigated 530 reportable cases of diseases.**



### Chronic Disease & Injury Prevention

3RPHD provided Living Well workshops to teach community members how to manage their health. We educated families on the proper selection and installation of car seats and the importance of bike safety. We want to empower individuals and families to take charge of their safety and provide them with the tools needed to do so.

**155 bike helmets distributed & 114 car seats checked.**



### Environmental Public Health

3RPHD provided a variety of environmental tests in FY 2024: Vector surveillance via mosquito and tick testing, home inspections for childhood lead poisoning, radon testing, well water testing, and air quality testing. These tests gather data that provides real-time tracking of environmental conditions in our area and allows us to focus on emerging environmental public health issues.

**3RPHD gave 230 radon test kits to community members.**



### Maternal, Child, & Family Health

3RPHD worked with schools to reduce motor vehicle injuries and deaths among teens. We also hosted assemblies featuring a national speaker, Teens in the Driver's Seat program, and teens in the Driver's Seat conference. Motor vehicle crashes are a leading cause of injury and death among teens. Teens in the Driver's Seat addresses the risks for this age group and strives to save lives and reduce injuries.

**6 student assemblies reached over 1,039 students.**



### Access to & Linkage with Clinical Care

3RPHD provided low-income patients access to reproductive healthcare and family planning services through the Title X program. The addition of telehealth further reduced barriers to accessing healthcare. Family planning and preventive care are essential services. Factors like an inability to pay or lack of transportation should not be barriers. In fiscal year 2024, 70% of our patients were uninsured.

**70% of 3RPHD patients were uninsured.**

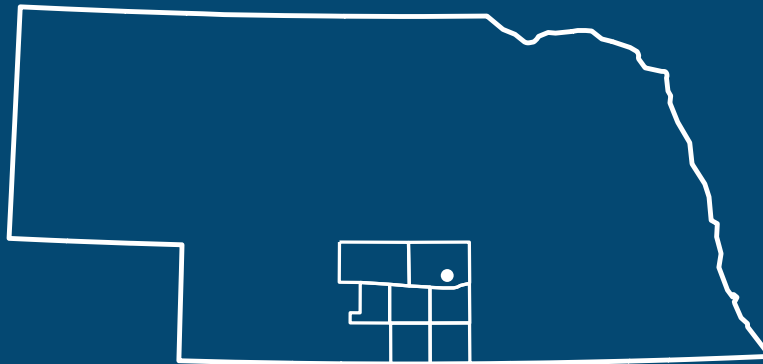




**26** employees serving **97,629** people across **7** rural counties

DEDICATED TO

- Creating a safe environment
- Addressing mental health
- Improving access to care
- Preventing suicide



Buffalo, Dawson, Franklin, Gosper,  
Harlan, Kearney, & Phelps Counties



Nationally Accredited

[www.trphd.ne.gov](http://www.trphd.ne.gov)

(888) 669-7154

We speak English & Spanish!

## From the Director

Two Rivers Public Health Department (TRPHD) is working with partners to align the timing of our community health assessment work and community health improvement plan (CHIP) implementation.

Typically, these processes occur on a 3-to-5-year cycle.

TRPHD is in year 3 of the current CHIP cycle.

The priorities of the current cycle are improving access to care, creating a safe environment, addressing mental health, and preventing suicide. The primary objectives for improving access to care include increasing vaccination rates in the district and creating health education materials in various languages.

TRPHD has taken steps to assess the environmental needs in the district, sought staff training, and investigated nuisances to ensure a safe environment. TRPHD has focused on addressing mental health and suicide prevention through the OD2A (Overdose Data to Action) program. TRPHD's OD2A work was recently recognized by the National Association of City and County Health Officials (NACCHO).

This report showcases key examples of our efforts over the past fiscal year. Visit our website to explore more about our work and commitment to public health.

“  
**Two Rivers  
Public Health  
Department's  
OD2A work  
was recently  
recognized  
by NACCHO.**  
”



**Jeremy Eschliman, MBA**

Health Director

[jeschliman@trphd.ne.gov](mailto:jeschliman@trphd.ne.gov)





## Communicable Disease Control

The Two Rivers Public Health Department (TRPHD) takes a comprehensive approach to controlling communicable diseases. The disease investigation team collaborates with the environmental team to address ongoing disease transmission and also works with the home visitation team to focus on disease prevention through immunization.

**In FY 23-24, TRPHD investigated 3,300+ cases of reportable diseases.**



## Chronic Disease & Injury Prevention

TRPHD's opioid awareness and overdose prevention program coordinated the distribution of educational materials and Narcan through local county jails, senior centers, and community events. TRPHD presents information to community partners through local meetings, individual businesses, and library public presentations.

**Over 200 units of Narcan distributed during August and September 2024.**



## Environmental Public Health

TRPHD was granted a HUD Lead Hazard Reduction Grant to enhance housing safety by conducting lead remediation and abatement activities. TRPHD will hire local contractors to conduct abatement activities on 31 housing units. In addition, TRPHD is actively monitoring environmental health issues, including West Nile Virus, lake algae, water violations, radon, lead poisoning, and air quality.

**In FY 23-24, over 250 hours of training completed.**



## Maternal, Child, & Family Health

TRPHD has been part of the Healthy Families of America program for one year serving over 30 families. This program aims to improve the relationship between caregivers and children through a curriculum that addresses child development, reduces stressors such as access to health-care and food, and provides social support.

**TRPHD Family Support Specialists completed 388 in-home visits.**



## Access to & Linkage with Clinical Care

TRPHD has 2 Community Health Workers (CHWs) and 3 Family Support Specialists (FSSs) who connect individuals to clinical care homes. CHWs and FSSs navigate scheduling appointments with the appropriate providers, confirm transportation, and attend appointments if needed. They act as a safety net if unforeseen events arise for individuals and families. CHWs and FSSs are trained in skills such as car seat installation, safe environment, and cultural humility.

**CHW and FSS staff connect community members to services.**



# Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department

PREVENT • PROMOTE • PROTECT

**13** employees serving **38,042** people across **9** rural counties

## DEDICATED TO

- Expanding Public Awareness
- Strong Community Partnerships
- A Healthy Culture with Effective Communication



Chase, Dundy, Frontier, Furnas, Hayes, Hitchcock,  
Keith, Perkins, & Red Willow Counties



**Myra Stoney, BS, HSA**  
Health Director  
director@swhealth.ne.gov

**[www.swhealth.ne.gov](http://www.swhealth.ne.gov)**

**(308) 345-4223**

We speak English & Spanish!





## Communicable Disease Control

We monitor and investigate communicable diseases with local clinics and school nurses to identify and respond to reportable diseases promptly, collecting clues on the infected person and at-risk individuals to stop the spread.

**In FY 23-24,  
SWNPHD  
investigated 605  
reportable cases  
of diseases  
(other than COVID-19)**



## Chronic Disease & Injury Prevention

SWNPHD's Health Hub program provides health screenings, chronic disease prevention education, free health coaching for eligible women, and aims to lower the risk of heart disease through lifestyle changes while enhancing community connections and data collection.

**Heart disease is  
the #1 cause of  
death in SWNPHD  
residents**



## Environmental Public Health

We collaborate with providers and families to reduce children's risk of lead exposure. With NEDHHS's support, we educated 165 families, provided retesting information, and conducted home lead inspections as needed. We also updated the guidelines for lead poisoning diagnoses, resulting in more children being diagnosed. Our efforts to educate providers on the new criteria have contributed to safer and healthier homes for children.

**In FY 23-24,  
assisted 215  
families with  
potential lead  
poisoning in  
children**



## Maternal, Child, & Family Health

Vaccines for Children (VFC) provides free vaccinations to uninsured children, holding clinics at 5 regular locations, including schools, and adding sites for flu shots. This program helps maintain strong herd immunity and ensures easy access to effective public health tools.

**433 shots to  
258 children  
across 9 counties**



## Access to & Linkage with Clinical Care

SWNPHD's Polish Your Pearls staff connects children who need advanced care to pediatric specialists. They build relationships, with a local dentist who agrees to treat a child with multiple cavities. With no Medicaid dental providers in our district, it is challenging for many children to be seen or treated by a dentist. SWNPHD works with parents to overcome barriers and get children the care they need.

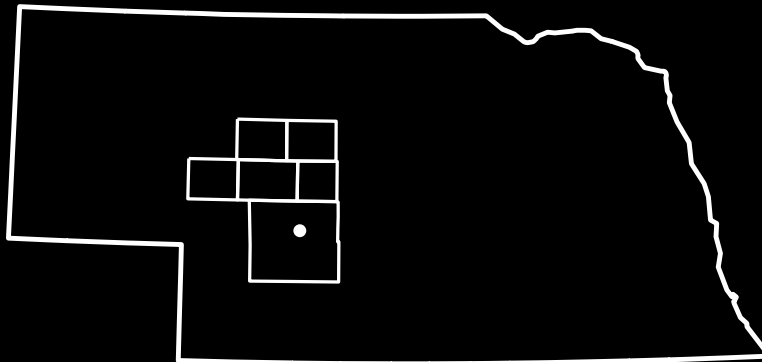
**In FY 23-24, 1500+  
children got oral  
health screenings  
& fluoride  
treatments**



**13** employees serving **37,563** people across **6** rural counties

DEDICATED TO

- Empowering community well-being
- Reshaping the public health story
- Prioritizing our collaborative partnerships



Lincoln, Logan, McPherson, Thomas,  
Hooker, & Arthur Counties

[www.wcdhd.org](http://www.wcdhd.org)

(308) 696-1201

We speak English & Spanish!



Nationally Accredited

## From the Director

Like many public health departments, West Central District Health Department (WCDHD) has shifted focus from the COVID-19 pandemic's risk management back to empowering community well-being.

This year, we completed strategic planning to reorient our focus and stabilize our infrastructure. Our 2022-2025 Strategic Plan priorities are: Develop Connections; Empowered Workforce; Board Engagement; Public Health Strategy; Maintain Standards; and Maximize Resources. This work has reenergized our mission and illuminated updates to our performance management practices as we prepared for reaccreditation.

We have also reinstated and/or expanded several core public health programs that promote healthy outcomes and are updating our Community Health Assessment to inform future efforts. We are committed to reshaping the public health story and will be releasing a new Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) by the end of 2024.

WCDHD is prioritizing our collaborative partnerships to support a strong system of care that empowers us all to do better, together.

This report showcases key examples of our efforts over the past fiscal year. Visit our website to explore more about our work and commitment to public health.

“  
**We are  
committed  
to reshaping  
the public  
health story.**  
”



**Shannon Vanderheiden, BSN, MPH**

Health Director

[vanderheidens@wcdhd.org](mailto:vanderheidens@wcdhd.org)



## Communicable Disease Control

WCDHD investigated 127 probable and confirmed disease cases. Campylobacter, enteroaggregative E. coli (EAEC), and salmonella accounted for 63% of those cases. Timely prevention and control can stop disease outbreaks. In addition to hardships such as illness and absences from work or school, reportable diseases (including hepatitis C) can lead to serious illness or death.

**In FY 23-24, WCDHD investigated 127 reportable cases of diseases.**



## Chronic Disease & Injury Prevention

WCHD works with families and young children in multiple programs. Building Healthy Families is a targeted program to address obesity. For Marathon Kids, 485 elementary age children. (324 during the school year program, and 161 during the summer program.) Programs and events that support physical activity can help to prevent chronic diseases, like diabetes, that affect many WCDHD residents.

**In FY 23-24, 1 in 10 adults in WCDHD are affected by diabetes.**



## Environmental Public Health

WCDHD worked with 28 probable and confirmed cases of children with elevated blood lead levels. We educate families to avoid exposures and connect cases to medical treatment. Lead is especially toxic to children under age 6 and is often present in structures built before 1979. While the effect of lead poisoning may be permanent, if caught early, damage to a child's health can be reduced.

**In FY 23-24, 64% of residential homes in WCDHD were built before 1979.**



## Maternal, Child, & Family Health

WCDHD's Vaccines for Children (VFC) program provides no-cost vaccines to underinsured and uninsured children. In addition to WCDHD's VFC program, WCDHD also has the Vaccines for Adults (VFA) program. 234 vaccines were administered through the VFA program for adults age 19+ who are uninsured or underinsured. In FY 23-24, we provided 3,250 total vaccines including 1,460 childhood vaccines.

**In FY 23-24, 1,460 vaccinations given to kids.**



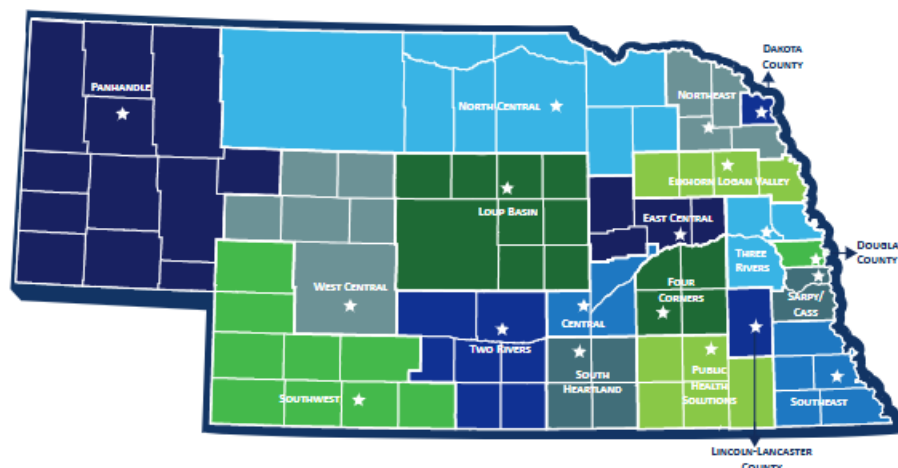
## Access to & Linkage with Clinical Care

WCDHD provides vaccines in all 6 counties, meeting residents where they are. By offering vaccination services across our rural areas, we enable access and support the health of all community members. Our Community Health Workers and Certified Medical Interpreter provided over 1,900 encounters for language access assistance including medical interpretation. Total encounters: 1,740.

**In FY 23-24, 100+ community vaccine events.**



## NEBRASKA LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS



### Local Public Health in Nebraska

#### *Nebraska Health Care Funding Act*

Nebraska's local health departments (LHDs) act as communities' Chief Health Strategists by assuring that community partners are working together to improve and protect the health and well-being of all Nebraskans. The Nebraska Health Care Funding Act (LB 692) was passed in 2001 by the Nebraska Legislature. This Act provides funding to LHDs through the County Public Health Aid Program (Neb. Rev. Stat. § 71-1628.08) and requires all eligible LHDs to prepare an annual report that provides highlights from selected activities and programs that were achieved throughout the fiscal year to fulfill statutory obligations. These reports do not reflect the totality of the work performed by LHDs. To learn more about the work of any individual LHD, visit their website or reach out to their director. Contact information can be found on the website of the Nebraska Association of Local Health Directors (NALHD) [here](#).

#### **The Three Core Functions of Public Health as cited in the Health Care Funding Act:**

- 1. Assessment:** Collect and analyze information to better understand health issues facing Nebraska communities.
- 2. Policy Development:** Work with partners to apply data, educate the public, and develop programs and policies - all to address and prevent illness, disease, and disability.
- 3. Assurance:** Promote effective coordination and use of community resources to protect the health and well-being of Nebraskans.

LHDs in Nebraska address the Three Core Functions of Public Health through their work toward providing Foundational Public Health Services (FPHS) in the areas of maternal, child, & family health, communicable disease control, access to & linkage with clinical care, chronic disease & injury prevention, and environmental public health.



Examples of work in each of the FPHS areas are featured in the individual health department reports and include:

- Regional community health assessments and planning efforts which improve access to healthcare and behavioral health services through collaborations with hospitals, clinics, schools, and other community-based organizations.
- Supporting local access to resources that impact health, for example access to food, transportation, and housing.
- Assisting with disaster or emergency efforts.
- Helping people find care they need, including preventative dental services, and programs to prevent and manage diabetes and high blood pressure.
- Delivering and supporting local programs to help Nebraskans prevent falls and age in place.
- Helping families manage hazards in their environment, hazards like lead, radon, and issues with air and water quality.
- Working with moms, children and families in home visitation programs to foster lifelong health and well-being.
- Taking action to prevent the spread of diseases like salmonella, rabies, hepatitis, and many more.

### ***Leveraging Other Funds***

For over 23 years, funds from the Nebraska Health Care Funding Act have served as the financial foundation for LHDs. The proportion of individual LHDs' revenue derived from the Nebraska Health Care Cash Fund and the Nebraska General Fund averaged 21% across all LHDs (range from 4% to 47%) according to data collected by NALHD in FY 2023-24.

In order to maintain operations, to meet their statutory obligations, and to meet the needs and priorities of their communities, LHDs must regularly pursue funding from many sources. LHDs rely on federal pass-through awards through Nebraska DHHS, and other State agencies to support much of their work. A few LHDs also receive private or direct federal grants and collect fees and reimbursements for limited services. Very few receive significant local funding.

None of the work of local public health departments would be possible without the foundational resources provided by the Legislature via the Nebraska Health Care Funding Act. These and other funds continue to be necessary to ensure Nebraska's readiness for future small and large-scale public health threats.

### Organizational Coverage

As of June 30, 2024, a total of 18 LHDs covering 92 counties were eligible to receive funds under a portion of the Nebraska Health Care Funding Act, Neb. Rev. Stat. § 71-1626 through 71-1636. The list of eligible LHDs and their affiliated counties is shown in Table 1. Dakota County has a single county health department that does not meet the population requirements of the Health Care Funding Act. Nebraska DHHS's Division of Public Health and other local public health partners continue to support the work of all LHDs.

Table 1. Eligible Nebraska local health departments and affiliated counties.

Nebraska Health Departments	Nebraska Counties Included	Number of Counties
Central District Health Dept.	Hall, Hamilton, Merrick	3
Douglas County Health Dept.	Douglas	1
East Central District Health Dept.	Boone, Colfax, Nance, Platte	4
Elkhorn Logan Valley Public Health Dept.	Burt, Cuming, Madison, Stanton	4
Four Corners Health Dept.	Butler, Polk, Seward, York	4
Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Dept.	Lancaster	1
Loup Basin Public Health Dept.	Blaine, Custer, Garfield, Greeley, Howard, Loup, Sherman, Valley, Wheeler	9
North Central District Health Dept.	Antelope, Boyd, Brown, Cherry, Holt, Keya Paha, Knox, Pierce, Rock	9
Northeast Nebraska Public Health Dept.	Cedar, Dixon, Thurston, Wayne	4
Panhandle Public Health District	Banner, Box Butte, Cheyenne, Dawes, Deuel, Garden, Grant, Kimball, Morrill, Scotts Bluff, Sheridan, Sioux	12
Public Health Solutions	Fillmore, Gage, Jefferson, Saline, Thayer	5
Sarpy/Cass Health Dept.	Sarpy, Cass	2
South Heartland District Health Dept.	Adams, Clay, Nuckolls, Webster	4
Southeast District Health Dept.	Johnson, Nemaha, Otoe, Pawnee, Richardson	5
Southwest Nebraska Public Health Dept.	Chase, Dundy, Frontier, Furnas, Hayes, Hitchcock, Keith, Perkins, Red Willow	9
Three Rivers Public Health Dept.	Dodge, Washington, Saunders	3
Two Rivers Public Health Dept.	Buffalo, Dawson, Franklin, Gosper, Harlan, Kearney, Phelps	7
West Central District Health Dept.	Arthur, Hooker, Lincoln, Logan, McPherson, Thomas	6

### Annual Report Time Frame

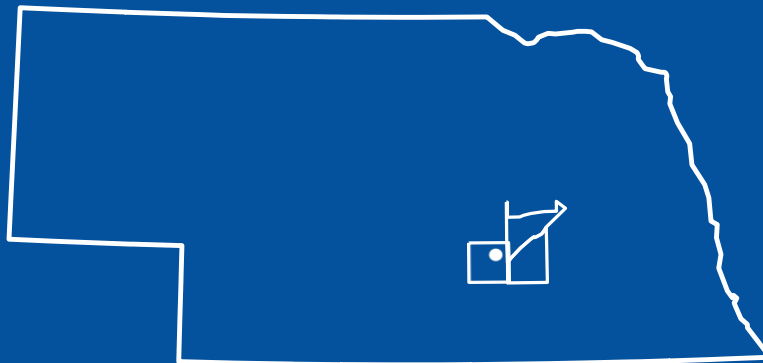
As required by statute, LHDs funded under the Health Care Funding Act submit a report to Nebraska DHHS in October, for inclusion in the full Annual Report submitted by Nebraska DHHS on December 1, 2024. These Annual Reports cover July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024.



**51** employees serving **79,648** people across **3** counties

DEDICATED TO

- Access to healthcare
- Access to behavioral health
- Access to quality childcare



**Hall, Hamilton, & Merrick Counties**

**[www.cdhd.ne.gov](http://www.cdhd.ne.gov)**

**(308) 385-5175**

We speak English, Spanish, Arabic, and Somali!



## From the Director

Central District Health Department (CDHD) serves the nearly 80,000 residents of Hall, Hamilton, and Merrick Counties. CDHD provides a range of services to address community health needs.

This year we developed our lead certification program and expanded our oral health services, adding screenings for pregnant persons in our WIC program.

A decade long effort to add the Health Families Nebraska-Central District came to fruition this year, providing home visits to pregnant persons and young families.

Our newly developed Community Impact program staff work with clients to assess and address health related social needs (such as food insecurity, transportation challenges, and housing issues). CDHD understands that these factors impact health outcomes more than access to a health care provider.

This report showcases key examples of our efforts over the past fiscal year. Visit our website to explore more about our work and commitment to public health.

“  
**In 2024, CDHD added two new divisions and expanded upon 3 public health services.**  
”



**Teresa Anderson, MSN, APRN, CNS-BC**

Health Director

[tanderson@cdhd.ne.gov](mailto:tanderson@cdhd.ne.gov)



## Communicable Disease Control

The Epidemiology Team reduces the spread of sexually transmitted diseases through education and case management for early diagnosis and treatment. In FY 23-24, we case managed 6 newly diagnosed HIV cases, 31 gonorrhea cases, 345 chlamydia cases, and 23 syphilis cases. We educate on the presence and risks associated with STIs.

**In FY 23-24, CDHD completed 405 case investigations associated with STIs.**



## Chronic Disease & Injury Prevention

Based on data from the NE Highway Safety Office, Central District has a disproportionate number of vehicle crashes involving youth drivers. CDHD has applied for and will implement a safety awareness/education program this Fall aimed at reducing accidents and injuries among pedestrians, bikers, and the agricultural community.

**Hall County rates for crashes with high speed (1.40) and youth (6.01) are high compared to statewide rates.**



## Environmental Public Health

Our registered Environmental Health Specialists provided 1,210 food service inspections of grocery stores, restaurants, C-stores, and mobile food units. Our lab technicians tested 5,693 public and private water samples for nitrates and coliform bacteria. CDHD sampled mosquito pools and tick infested areas to share information with the public on how to avoid insect borne diseases.

**15.2% of water tests were positive for bacteria & 15% were positive for nitrates.**



## Maternal, Child, & Family Health

CDHD's WIC program provides nutritious food, breastfeeding support, education, and referrals for eligible women and children up to age 5. Over 2,700 women and children received WIC services monthly. Over 300 women enrolled in breastfeeding peer counseling. Of the 1,946 babies in CDHD's WIC program, 89% were "ever breastfed." (The state average is 82%.)

**In FY 23-24, CDHD's WIC served 2,700 women & children.**

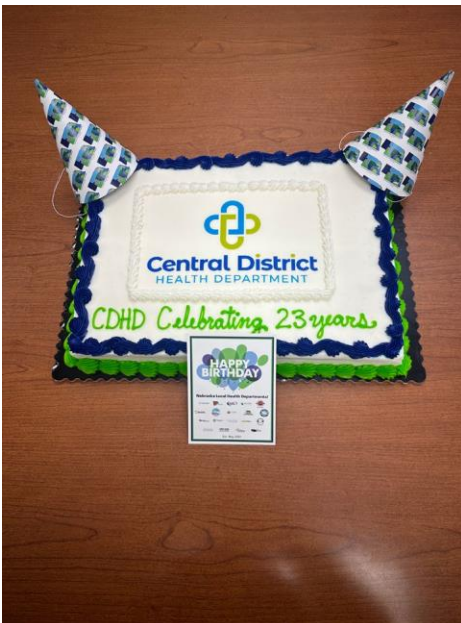


## Access to & Linkage with Clinical Care

Community Health Nurses give shots all day, every day! In 2024, we administered 26,327 vaccines. Of those given, 25% were provided through our VFC (Vaccine for Children) Program. Vaccine appointments were scheduled for 1,333 newcomers who have chosen Central Nebraska as their home. We also offered required tuberculosis testing and assisted with scheduling 375 newcomer physicals through Heartland Health Center.

**In FY 23-24, CDHD nurses gave over 26,327 shots.**







**130** employees serving **582,638** people across **1** metropolitan county

DEDICATED TO

- Regular Community Health Assessments (CHA)
- Regular Community Health Improvement Plans (CHIP)



**Douglas County**

**[www.douglascountyhealth.com](http://www.douglascountyhealth.com)**

**(402) 444-7471**

We speak English & Spanish!



## From the Director

Douglas County Health Department (DCHD) partners with Sarpy/Cass Health Department in Nebraska, Pottawattamie Health Department in Iowa, and other organizations, and medical systems in the Omaha Metro area to complete regular Community Health Assessments (CHA) and Community Health Improvement Plans (CHIP).

In the fall of 2023, two large public health emergency responses were carried out. After a stray kitten tested positive for a variant of rabies normally found only on the east coast, a large effort began to assure that this variant had not spread to local animals or wildlife. Partnering with the Nebraska Humane Society, the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, US Department of Agriculture, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 18,000 oral rabies vaccines were distributed, 804 animals were vaccinated, and 360 animals were tested. 10 individuals who were exposed to the kitten were given rabies prophylaxis. This response was heralded by state and federal partners as one of the smoothest responses in which many of them had ever been involved. On the heels of this response, an active tuberculosis (TB) exposure necessitated the testing of over 600 children in the metro area, again requiring multiple partnerships. Due to the quick and seamless response of DCHD and our partners, only 2 household contacts contracted latent TB.



**Lindsay Huse, MPH, DNP, RN**

Health Director

[lindsay.huse@douglascounty-ne.gov](mailto:lindsay.huse@douglascounty-ne.gov)





## Communicable Disease Control

We conduct surveillance for communicable diseases, provide investigation and response for diseases of concern, educate the community on risks and prevention, and plan for public health emergencies. Communicable disease control is a foundational public health function. Healthy communities depend on public health to minimize the conditions in which infectious diseases can spread.

**689  
communicable  
disease cases  
investigated.**



## Chronic Disease & Injury Prevention

DCHD secured a 5-year grant to address Overdose in Douglas County, which addresses linkages to and retention in care, harm reduction, stigma reduction, establishment of clinical best practices, and surveillance. Identifying and intervening in patterns of substance misuse creates opportunities to prevent overdose deaths, improve treatment outcomes and allow for individuals to seek the help they need.

**Overdose  
fatalities in  
Douglas County  
increased 103%  
between 2019-  
2022.**



## Environmental Public Health

We inspect and educate food establishments, food trucks, special events, and pools respond to sanitation complaints as well as monitor air quality via 7 air quality monitors around the Metro. Ensuring safe food, drink, living conditions, and air minimizes the health risks that residents encounter, allowing them to live healthier lives.

**5,500 food safety  
inspections  
conducted.**



## Maternal, Child, & Family Health

We are the primary convener of a variety of community partners through the Baby Blossoms Collaborative and Fetal Infant Mortality Review team. Together we strategize on community approaches to improving birth outcomes. We know that improving maternal and child health takes a community leveraging ideas and resources to solve tough problems, and supporting maternal and child health has impacts across the lifespan.

**Over 25  
community  
partners  
convened  
through May.**



## Access to & Linkage with Clinical Care

Our STI clinic and control program provides free clinical access to testing, treatment, and partner identification/treatment services. We also provide at-home testing and outreach specialist support. Ensuring all people at risk have access to testing and treatment services regardless of ability to pay is an important step in stopping the transmission and harm caused by STIs.

**3805 STI clinic  
visits completed  
in 2023 (29%  
increase).**



# East Central

District Health Department  
*Public Health...It's for everyone.*

**21** employees serving **53,545** people across **4** counties

## DEDICATED TO

- Connecting families to needed services
- Providing developmental support
- Providing early intervention services for families



**Boone, Colfax, Nance, & Platte Counties**

**[www.ecdhd.ne.gov](http://www.ecdhd.ne.gov)**

**(402) 562-7500**

We speak English & Spanish!



**Nationally Accredited**

## From the Director

As we reflect on this past year, I am both honored and excited to share our annual report for 2023. This report encapsulates the significant strides the team ECDHD have made this past year. Our team has worked relentlessly to address the determinants of health that affect our health jurisdiction. From disease surveillance to health promotion, our efforts are guided by science, collaboration, and the voices of our community.

As we move forward, I am committed to fostering an inclusive and evidence-based approach to public health. United in our efforts, we can build thriving, healthier communities for all Nebraskans.

This report showcases key examples of the range of ECDHD's efforts over the past fiscal year. Visit our website to explore more about our work and commitment to public health.

Yours in health,

Molly Pofahl

“  
**We can build  
thriving,  
healthier  
communities  
for all  
Nebraskans.**  
”



**Molly Pofahl, MS**

Chief Public Health Officer  
[mpofahl@ecdhd.ne.gov](mailto:mpofahl@ecdhd.ne.gov)





## Communicable Disease Control

ECDHD investigates, diagnoses, addresses, and communicates health problems and hazards affecting the population. Early detection and timely intervention related to infectious diseases help reduce transmission and directly impact our communities' health. Preventing disease spread helps increase safety.

**ECDHD investigated 220 reportable cases of diseases.**



## Chronic Disease & Injury Prevention

ECDHD offered LivingWell classes to the health district's residents, specifically focusing on diabetes prevention and education. ECDHD also provides resources from My Plate and the American Heart Association to those interested in learning how food choices affect health.

**In FY 2023, 11% of ECDHD residents had diabetes.**



## Environmental Public Health

ECDHD investigates high childhood lead levels within our district. Early detection of lead in blood and environmental evaluations help reduce the long-term effects of lead exposure. Lead is especially toxic to children under age 6 and its negative impacts on the brain and other organs can be irreversible. Lead is often present in structures built before 1979.

**ECHD conducted 60 childhood lead poisoning investigations.**



## Maternal, Child, & Family Health

ECDHD provides nutrition and breastfeeding services to residents in our four counties through our WIC program. The WIC program aims to improve the health and nutrition of low-income women, infants, and children at nutritional risk. We do this through education and support.

**In FY 2023, ECDHD WIC served 1,617 clients.**



## Access to & Linkage with Clinical Care

ECDHD works closely with our Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC), hospitals, and healthcare clinics to promote services and make referrals. Increased access to services and healthcare improves the health of our community.

**1 in 5 ECDHD adult residents do not have a primary care provider.**



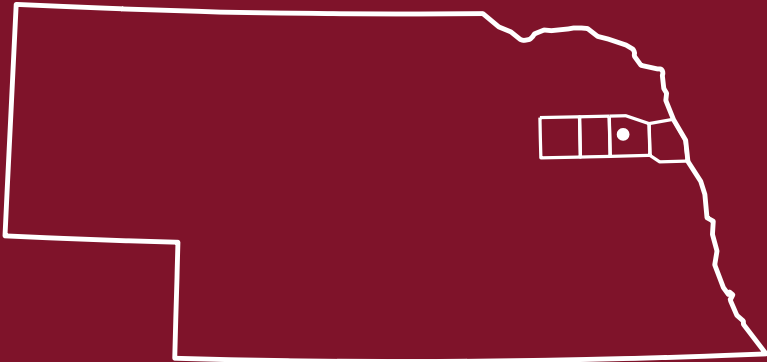




**19** employees serving **57,083** people across **4** rural counties

DEDICATED TO

- Behavioral & mental health
- Cancer prevention & screening



**Burt, Cuming, Madison, & Stanton Counties**

**[www.elvphd.ne.gov](http://www.elvphd.ne.gov)**

**(402) 529-2233**

We speak English & Spanish!



**Nationally Accredited**



## From the Director

Every three years, the Elkhorn Logan Valley Public Health Department (ELVPHD), along with our hospital partners (Faith Regional Health Services and Franciscan Healthcare), conducts a community health needs assessment to gauge the health status of our communities using primary and secondary data from multiple sources. From the analyzed data, ELVPHD, our hospital partners, and many community-based organizations collectively developed our Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP), which guides our efforts to improve the health of the people and communities throughout our district.

The continued partnerships are vital towards moving the needle to better health outcomes and help us to accomplish our vision: Healthy People Living in Healthy Communities. We look forward to continuing our efforts in our CHIP focus areas in our behavioral/mental health work and cancer prevention and screening work.

“  
**Our vision:  
Healthy  
People Living  
in Healthy  
Communities.**  
”



**Gina Uhing**

Health Director

[gina@elvphd.ne.gov](mailto:gina@elvphd.ne.gov)

In addition to continuing the work outlined in our CHIP, the following notable things occurred:

1. ELVPHD updated its Strategic Plan and adopted digitalization as a top priority. This resulted in the adoption of several new digital platforms and offerings for our community, such as online appointment booking and virtual learning options.
2. Our permanent Norfolk, NE office was completed and opened with a ribbon cutting ceremony. This space is visible and accessible. We are excited for this to be our home!
3. Our Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) reaccreditation documents were completed and submitted for review. The corresponding site visit was conducted, and we received word of our reaccreditation in August 2024.







## Communicable Disease Control

ELVPHD performs public health surveillance, preventing and controlling the spread of illness and disease through monitoring reportable illnesses from labs, clinics, and hospitals.

**In FY 23-24, ELVPHD investigated 160 reportable cases of diseases.**



## Chronic Disease & Injury Prevention

ELVPHD remains CDC-recognized for teaching the National Diabetes Prevention Program and offers in-person and virtual weight loss instruction. During the program, participants complete a year-long course to lose 5% or more of their body weight.

**47% of class participants achieved a 5% or more loss of body weight.**



## Environmental Public Health

ELVPHD provided 189 short-term radon test kits in the district and used traditional and social media to educate people. Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer overall and the leading cause of lung cancer in non-smokers. All counties in ELVPHD have high radon levels - more than 4.0 pCi/l.

**ELVPHD distributed 189 radon test kits.**



## Maternal, Child, & Family Health

Immunizations are considered one of the greatest public health achievements in history. ELVPHD provides a variety of immunizations in the district. ELVPHD gave a total of 6,312 vaccines across all age groups.

**In FY 23-24, 6,312 vaccines given to all ages in the district.**



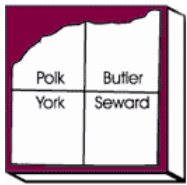
## Access to & Linkage with Clinical Care

ELVPHD's Public Health Dental Hygienist works in local schools and childcare centers, providing preventive dental services—such as screenings, fluoride varnish, and dental sealants. In all, 1,667 children received a total of 2,930 services with 277 referred for additional dental care.

**277 ELVPHD children referred to dental offices.**





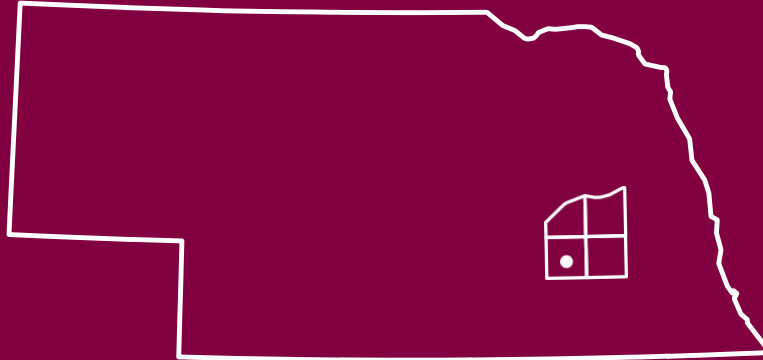


## Four Corners Health Department

**18** employees serving **45,413** people across **4** rural counties

### DEDICATED TO

- Healthy living & aging
- Mental health
- Alcohol misuse prevention
- Chronic disease prevention



**Butler, Polk, Seward, & York Counties**

**[www.fourcorners.ne.gov](http://www.fourcorners.ne.gov)**

**(402) 362-2621**

We speak English & Spanish!

## From the Director

At Four Corners Health Department (FCHD), we actively collaborate with our community and key partners to identify and address the region's most pressing public health needs. By consistently monitoring local data, we uncover opportunities for improvement and drive our efforts toward impactful change. In recent years, we have prioritized mental health, chronic disease prevention, substance abuse, healthy aging, and promoting healthy lifestyles.

Our commitment is reflected in our diverse programming and educational resources across these focus areas. For mental health, we not only connect individuals to critical resources but also work to reduce stigma by offering educational opportunities and support. With a Licensed Independent Mental Health Practitioner available on-site, we are well-positioned to meet the community's mental health needs. Through initiatives like the Youth Mental Health Assessment and the Youth Mental Health Steering Committee, we have made measurable progress in key areas.

Additionally, we offer chronic disease management, healthy living classes, and a new program, Healthy Families Nebraska-Four Corners, which provides supportive home visits for pregnant moms, new families, and infants.

Our campaigns promoting the prevention of alcohol and drug use reach the community through social media, billboards, and other channels. Every effort is designed to enhance the health and well-being of the residents within our four-county district, and we remain committed to making a positive, lasting impact.

This report showcases examples of our efforts over the past fiscal year. Visit our website to explore more about our work and commitment to public health.

“  
**Every effort is designed to enhance the health and well-being of the residents within our four-county district.**  
”



**Laura McDougall, MS**

Health Director

[lauram@fourcorners.ne.gov](mailto:lauram@fourcorners.ne.gov)



**Four Corners**  
Health Department





## Communicable Disease Control

FCHD nurses play a vital role in safeguarding public health by educating, conducting disease surveillance, and responding swiftly to outbreaks. We offer immunizations to protect community members. Last year, FCHD monitored and followed up on 167 cases of reportable communicable diseases, working to prevent spread and ensure the well-being of our local communities.

**In FY 23-24, FCHD investigated 167 reportable cases of diseases.**



## Chronic Disease & Injury Prevention

FCHD provides classes and outreach to prevent falls, manage chronic diseases, promote safe driving, and prevent accidental drug overdoses. Last year, 297 community members were trained to administer naloxone. This life-saving medication can quickly reverse an overdose, furthering our commitment to building a healthier, safer community.

**In FY 23-24, 297 FCHD residents trained to administer naloxone.**



## Environmental Public Health

Environmental Public Health at FCHD focuses on reducing risks in our living environment through education and outreach on water and air quality, lead exposure, and mosquito and tick-borne diseases. Last year, FCHD collected 889 mosquitoes and 383 ticks, distributed 333 water nitrate test strips, completed 156 radon tests, tested 32 children for lead, and installed an outdoor air monitor. Additionally, two household hazardous waste collections were held to further protect our communities.

**FCHD collected 383 ticks & distributed 156 radon tests.**



## Maternal, Child, & Family Health

Healthy Families Nebraska-Four Corners supports pregnant women, infants, and families through evidence-based home visitation. Through targeted outreach and education, FCHD works to reduce the risk of suicide among 10 to 19-year-olds by promoting awareness, providing resources, and fostering connections between youth, families, and support services.

**Suicide is the 2nd leading cause of death for 10 - 24-year-olds.**

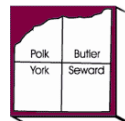


## Access to & Linkage with Clinical Care

FCHD's public health nurses and Community Health Workers (CHWs) connect rural residents to essential dental, medical, and behavioral healthcare. They link patients with social needs to local and state resources. Last year, our team provided over 700 individuals who screened positive for depression and social needs with critical support and resources, improving access to care and overall well-being.

**In FY 23-24, 700+ FCHD residents "feel depressed" and/or have social needs.**





**Four Corners  
Health Department**





Lincoln-Lancaster County  
Health Department

**168** employees serving **322,063** people across **1** metropolitan county

DEDICATED TO

- Access to care
- Chronic disease prevention
- Behavioral health
- Injury prevention



Lincoln-Lancaster County

[www.lincoln.ne.gov/health](http://www.lincoln.ne.gov/health)

(402) 441-8000

We speak English & Spanish!



Nationally Accredited



## From the Director

The Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department (LLCHD) launched Family Connects – a universal home visitation program that’s available to all families with a new baby in Lancaster County. Family Connects offers families a visit from a highly trained public health nurse in the comfort of their own home. Participation is voluntary and the visit is at no cost. Family Connects nurses have made more than 700 home visits since the program started serving families in September 2023.

Having a child is a life-changing event and it can be overwhelming and stressful for parents as they adjust to a new family dynamic. During a Family Connects visit, friendly and knowledgeable nurses are there to lend a helping hand, listen and answer questions, and provide support and resources for families to get their children off to a healthy start. Families learn about Family Connects from their obstetric provider during pregnancy, through a Family Connects nurse in the hospital after delivery, or from health care providers during initial well baby checks. The Health Department’s public health clinic, the Women, Infants and Children program, community and cultural centers, refugee resettlement agencies and other local organizations are also sharing information about Family Connects. Strong partnerships are helping make this program a success in the community.

“  
**We’re helping  
create a  
brighter,  
healthier  
future for all  
residents.**  
”



**Pat Lopez, RN, MSN**  
Health Director  
[patdlopez@lincoln.ne.gov](mailto:patdlopez@lincoln.ne.gov)

LLCHD developed the foundation for the program by working with local hospital systems – Bryan Health and CHI Health St. Elizabeth, health care providers, and experts in the early childhood field.

By prioritizing the health and well-being of both newborns and their families, we’re helping create a brighter, healthier future for all residents.

This report showcases other examples of our work over the past fiscal year. Visit our website to learn more about our commitment to protecting and promoting the public’s health.



Lincoln-Lancaster County  
Health Department





## Communicable Disease Control

The Communicable Disease Program responded to 3,404 reported disease cases other than COVID-19 in fiscal year 2024. The program protects the public's health through disease surveillance, outbreak investigations, and prevention of disease spread.

**In FY 23-24, investigated 3,404 reportable cases of diseases.**



## Chronic Disease & Injury Prevention

The Health Promotion team works to strengthen the public's health and safety and improve quality of life through education, mobilizing community action, and developing public health policy. An area of focus has been bike and pedestrian safety education and school zone improvements in identified areas of the community at higher risk for bike or pedestrian crashes.

**In FY 23-24, a safety campaign improved bike & pedestrian safety impacting 350+ elementary students**



## Environmental Public Health

LLCHD provides timely education and guidance to help control the spread of illness in childcare centers and develops communications, future educational resources, and action steps for prevention. Childcare centers electronically submit illness reports on communicable diseases, diarrhea, or vomiting which allows for quick response and identification of illness trends in the community.

**1,674 childhood professionals trained in health and safety in FY 23-24**



## Maternal, Child, & Family Health

LLCHD provides home visitation services through the Healthy Families America and Family Connects (Universal Home Visitation) models to families in Lincoln and Lancaster County. Home visitation services provide a strong foundation for a healthy start for infants and children, support family well-being, and build capacity for a bright future.

**In FY 23-24, home visitation staff provided 4,750 visits for families.**



## Access to & Linkage with Clinical Care

LLCHD links people to resources such as insurance options (Medicaid/Marketplace) and ensures a connection to a primary care provider medical home. Ensuring access to health insurance and a healthcare provider supports people for preventive care and those with ongoing physical and mental health concerns.

**In FY 23-24, 1,200+ residents linked to primary care medical home.**



Lincoln-Lancaster County  
Health Department



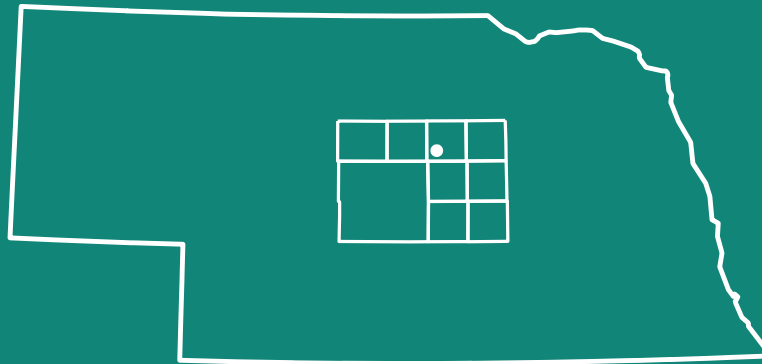


**Loup Basin**  
PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

**15** employees serving **29,894** people across **9** rural counties

DEDICATED TO

- Mental health
- Behavioral health



**Blaine, Custer, Garfield, Greeley, Howard, Loup,  
Sherman, Valley, & Wheeler Counties**

**[www.lbphd.ne.gov](http://www.lbphd.ne.gov)**

**(308) 346-5795**



## From the Director

Loup Basin Public Health Department (LBPHD) strives to improve the overall health and well-being of the community and accomplishes this by collecting population health data to help better understand the range of factors that can impact individuals' health. The health department collaborates with multiple partners including our hospitals, clinics, schools, coalitions, pharmacies, and others to help make this single data report, also called our Community Health Assessment (CHA). This assessment is generated every three years to help align with our area hospitals. When looking through the data, the two biggest health concerns were mental and behavioral health, with a 4.5% increase in mental health issues in LBPHD's district since 2020. LBPHD takes the data from our CHA and creates the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) which was rolled out in March 2023 and is being implemented over the next three years. The CHIP focuses on mental and behavioral health.

This report showcases key examples of our efforts over the past fiscal year. Visit our website to explore more about our work and commitment to public health.

“  
**LBPHD  
strives to  
improve  
the overall  
health of the  
community**  
”



**Amanda Jeffres, RN**  
Health Director  
[ajeffres@lbphd.ne.gov](mailto:ajeffres@lbphd.ne.gov)





## Communicable Disease Control

We monitor reportable illnesses reported by area labs, clinics, and hospitals. We provide timely and appropriate responses to limit further spread and help those infected navigate their illness. Timely prevention and control activities can stop outbreaks that lead to widespread illness, work and school absences, and other hardships. Many reportable diseases can lead to serious illness or death.

**LBPHD investigated 140 reportable cases of diseases.**



## Chronic Disease & Injury Prevention

Colon cancer is preventable, treatable, and beatable. The key is regular screenings after age 45 for people with average risk. Early detection of colon cancer can mean less extensive treatment, more treatment options, and better chances of survival. LBPHD offers free FIT screening kits and home tests that screen for colon cancer and pre-cancerous polyps.

**LBPHD distributed 65 FIT Screening Kits to district residents.**



## Environmental Public Health

LBPHD participates in the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program. We monitor for high blood lead levels and link exposed children and their families to recommended services and interventions. Lead is incredibly toxic to children under age 6 and is often present in structures built before 1979. Exposure to lead can harm a child's developing brain.

**61.6% of residential homes in LBPHD were built before 1979.**



## Maternal, Child, & Family Health

LBPHD provides home visiting services to families in the district utilizing the Healthy Families America (HFA) model. HFA strengthens relationships between parents and children. By preventing adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), LBPHD helps set children on a healthy path. HFA helps parents succeed. HFA moms are 5 times more likely to enroll in school/training programs.

**Families in HFA decrease the risk of low birth rates by 48%.**



## Access to & Linkage with Clinical Care

Our public health-certified dental hygienist leads Loup Basin Smiles. We provide oral screenings and apply fluoride varnish in Head Start programs, preschools, and elementary schools district wide. Compared to urban children, rural children receive fewer dental sealants and have higher rates of tooth decay. LBPHD counties are all rural, and 3 are Dental Health Shortage Areas.

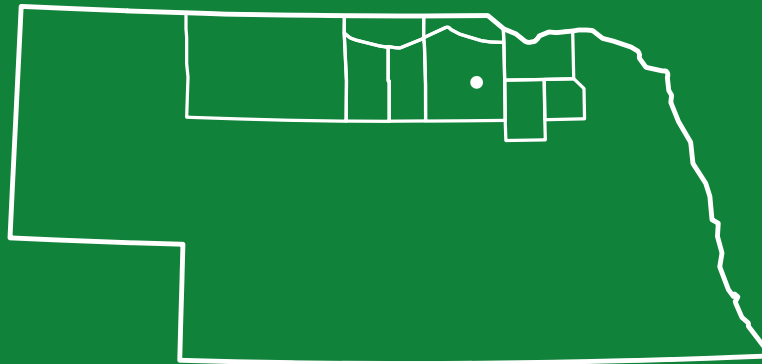
**1,926 children received oral health screenings.**



**12** employees serving **44,397** people across **9** rural counties

DEDICATED TO

- Decreasing mortality linked to heart disease
- Achieving positive mental health outcomes
- Improving access to care to support a healthier and more resilient district



**Antelope, Boyd, Brown, Cherry, Holt, Keya  
Paha, Knox, Pierce, & Rock Counties**

**[www.ncdhd.ne.gov](http://www.ncdhd.ne.gov)**

**(402) 336-2406**



**Nationally Accredited**

## From the Director

North Central District Health Department (NCDHD) continues to have fruitful partnerships that keep our department closely connected to the community. We remain focused on key areas like heart disease, access to care, and mental health, collaborating with partners to drive meaningful improvements in community health.

Over the past year, NCDHD made strides to reduce mortality rates due to heart disease through several key initiatives. A HeartCorp employee was hired through a partnership with the American Heart Association, allocating resources toward blood pressure monitoring, older adult education, food insecurity, and AED access. We established ten permanent blood pressure monitoring stations as easy-access referral points. Forty-eight (48) older adults participate in a 20-session physical activity and nutrition program.

The department travels across our large 9-county area, offering oral health and immunization services to address access to care needs. We strive to improve opportunities for all district residents to access healthcare. Focus groups and 1:1 meetings continue to ensure the needs of Native American, Hispanic/Latino, elderly, and low-income residents align with department efforts to improve access to healthcare. To address underlying barriers to health, the department led a paid media campaign to enhance awareness and support application assistance for Medicaid. In coordination with the Holt Boyd Collaborative, the department sponsors gap assistance and coaching for needy families.

Mental health needs are a top concern of residents. NCDHD is working to reduce deaths by suicide in an area that struggles with mental health provider shortages. We trained thirty (30) individuals in Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR) and 20 in Mental Health First Aid (MHFA). These trainings build community support and encourage early intervention. Two additional full-time Licensed Mental Health Professionals were placed in area schools with the department's support. Media campaigns and

community events reinforced the message that "it is okay not to be okay." We increased the number of screenings for social determinants of health and depression assessments. NCDHD continues to perfect a pilot follow-up referral program that supports individuals with needs identified during the screening assessment.



**Heidi Kuklis, MPH**  
Health Director  
heidi@ncdhd.ne.gov

Positive change is taking place to contribute to community health. The momentum from the past year propels us forward with a sense of purpose. We look forward to collaborating with our community partners in FY2025 to provide all residents what they need to be happy and healthy.



## Communicable Disease Control

Our staff conducted surveillance, managed outbreaks, and responded to reportable communicable diseases. In 2023, NCDHD completed 239 investigations, the most common being campylobacteriosis, hepatitis, and animal exposures. NCDHD implemented timely interventions that helped reduce transmission, safeguard vulnerable populations, and maintain public safety.

**NCDHD investigated 239 reportable cases of diseases.**



## Chronic Disease & Injury Prevention

NCDHD continued to offer vaccinations to individuals of all ages, races, and income levels across the district. We collaborate with local businesses and healthcare partners to provide traveling vaccine clinics and in-office services. Our outreach efforts emphasize the importance of staying current with vaccinations to prevent disease and injury and improve the overall well-being of our communities.

**NCDHD administered 2,091 vaccinations & held 103 clinics, 54 being mobile.**



## Environmental Public Health

NCDHD expanded our environmental health programming. One new initiative is our air quality program that installed 3 PurpleAir monitors across the district. These monitors measure particulate matter in the air, providing real-time data that empowers our communities to take proactive steps to protect their health based on air quality. Monitors were installed in Ainsworth, O'Neill, and Butte, Nebraska.

**Air quality monitors are now in Valentine, Ainsworth, & O'Neill.**



## Maternal, Child, & Family Health

The Miles of Smiles program delivered preventative oral health screenings to 3,965 children across the district during the 2023-2024 school year. Of those screened, 3,191 received fluoride varnish; 460 referrals were made, including 25 urgent referrals. This program bridges the gap in access to preventative oral healthcare and addresses long-term issues related to tooth decay.

**In FY 23-24, 3,965 students were screened for oral health issues.**

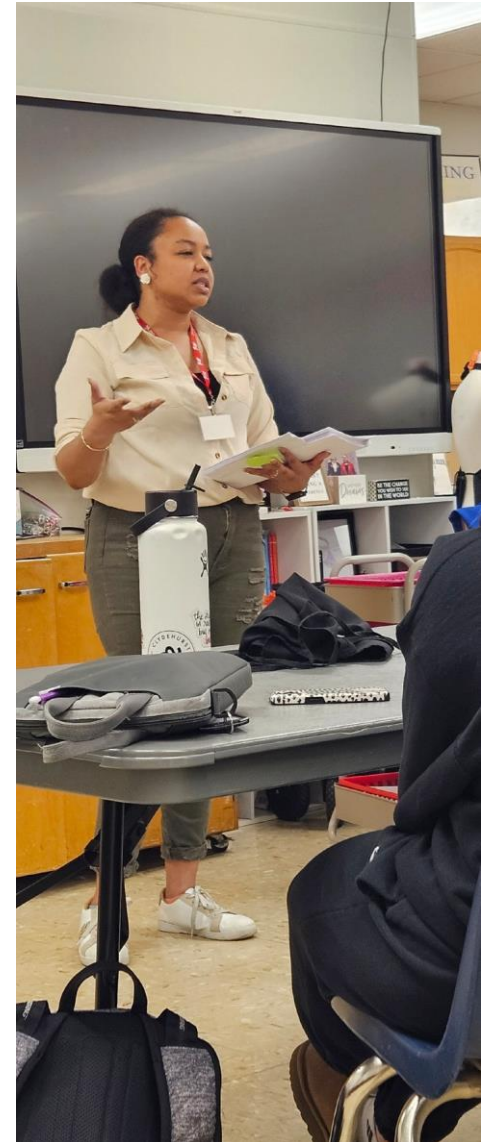


## Access to & Linkage with Clinical Care

NCDHD integrated digital media display boards as a platform to connect with our district through a network of diverse host locations, including clinics, libraries, grocery stores, and gas stations. These partnerships enhance our ability to serve the community more effectively, providing health education, notification of events, and real-time information during disasters and outbreaks.

**Digital billboards installed in 7 establishments across the NCDHD district.**



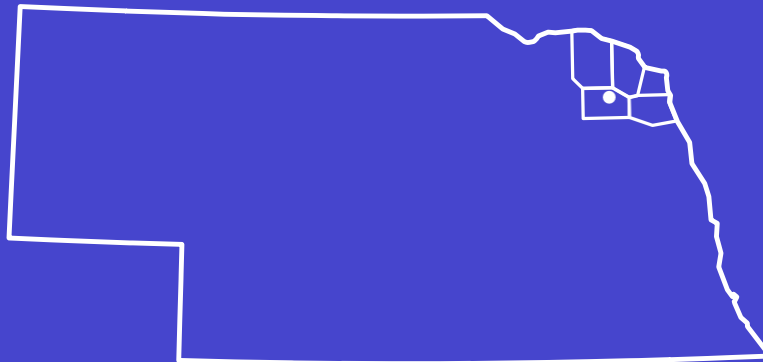




**21** employees serving **30,371** people across **4** rural counties

DEDICATED TO

- Behavioral health
- Health promotion
- Improving access to care



**Cedar, Dixon, Thurston, & Wayne Counties**

**[www.nnphd.ne.gov](http://www.nnphd.ne.gov)**

**(402) 375-2200**

We speak English & Spanish!



## From the Director

NNPHD's growing team tackles public health issues like immunizations, oral health, prevention education, and environmental and emergency preparedness. NNPHD faces increasing challenges from global threats such as avian flu, Mpox, and severe weather, but we are tackling them as they come to keep our community safe and healthy. Access to healthcare services continue to be challenging for many in our district. For example, no dentists in our four counties take Medicaid. Rural communities in our district also deal with health issues linked to social and built environments and transportation is an issue for many.

“  
**Our new facility will allow us to provide more clinic services and health education opportunities in our health district.**  
”



**Colleen Hupke, MPH**  
Health Director  
collen@nnphd.ne.gov



Our Community Health Workers (CHWs) and Program Specialists are key to helping residents access resources and take control of their health. Through partnerships with UNMC and Creighton University, we are training the next generation of public health professionals with several students working alongside our staff this year. Through these partnerships, NNPHD had two team members obtain their CHW Certifications.

We serve our district with culturally and linguistically appropriate services, using traditional and digital messages delivered through various media. CHWs and Program Specialists work with translators and a health literacy expert to develop materials and collaborate with partners to promote community, health, and wellness resources. Our new website will go online in the fall of 2024.

NNPHD has secured a new building, set to open in 2025, where we will provide more clinic services and health education opportunities. We are committed to our partnerships with cities, counties, clinics, and hospitals empowering our communities to make healthier choices and improve overall wellness.

This report showcases key examples of our efforts over the past fiscal year. Visit our website to learn more about our work and commitment to public health.



## Communicable Disease Control

NNPHD monitors and investigates infectious diseases to identify and respond to outbreaks. Our STI team works closely with our medical partners to help reduce syphilis infections by 20% from the prior fiscal year. This is the first time in three (3) years that syphilis cases are trending down in our health district.

**In FY 23-24, syphilis cases decreased by 30%.**



## Chronic Disease & Injury Prevention

NNPHD and partners are working to help people with pre-diabetes and diabetes by increasing diabetes screenings and making people aware of the condition, associated risks, and available resources. We have programs to help people with diabetes, including a monthly support group, a weight management program with health coaching, grocery tours, and healthy cooking classes.

**In FY 23-24, 65% of adults are at risk for diabetes.**



## Environmental Public Health

NNPHD has identified three focus areas for environmental health education: childhood blood levels, drinking water quality, and air quality. NNPHD provides free radon and drinking water test kits. NNPHD also sends mosquitos and ticks to the Nebraska Public Health Lab to test for vector-borne diseases, including West Nile Virus and Lyme disease.

**50% of black-legged ticks collected by NNPHD tested positive for bacteria causing Lyme disease.**



## Maternal, Child, & Family Health

NNPHD provides oral health education, cleaning, fluoride, and sealants to people of all ages. Creating New Smiles, our oral health clinic, serves daycares, schools, and assisted living facilities. Dental care continues to be a challenge for our health district. No dentist in our health district will accept new Medicaid patients.

**In FY 23-24, 2,405 NNPHD residents seen at Creating New Smiles.**



## Access to & Linkage with Clinical Care

In FY 23-24, 121 clients used our Community Response Program, which provides support and services for individuals and families that need assistance with health-related needs. NNPHD staff also distribute kits to screen for colorectal cancer.

**NNPHD staff went to 6 emergency preparedness training exercises.**



# Panhandle

Public Health District

**30** employees serving **83,770** people across **12** rural counties

## DEDICATED TO

- Cultural Awareness Support
- Expanded Access to Behavioral Health Services
- Innovative Access to Care Strategies



**Banner, Box Butte, Cheyenne, Dawes, Deuel, Garden, Grant,  
Kimball, Morrill, Scotts Bluff, Sheridan, & Sioux Counties**



**Nationally Accredited**

**[www.pphd.ne.gov](http://www.pphd.ne.gov)**

**(308) 487-3600**

## From the Director

With the generous support of a challenge grant from an anonymous donor through the Nebraska Community Foundation, we successfully funded our Dental Health Program for five years, matching local funds to provide essential preventive services to 33 schools, 14 Head Start locations, and three private preschools. We conducted 21,088 dental screenings, applied 16,881 fluoride treatments, placed 4,455 dental sealants, and delivered 178 interactive dental health presentations. As access to dental care for Medicaid recipients and the uninsured becomes increasingly difficult, our program's importance has grown, ensuring treatment for all students regardless of their insurance or economic status. 98% of area schools are committed to continuing the program next year.

“  
**Vital partnership with Panhandle school nurses provided support for over 21,000 dental screenings in five years.**”



**Kim Engel, MBA**  
Health Director  
kengel@pphd.ne.gov

“Public health dental hygienists like Kendra Lauruhn at PPHD have demonstrated a significantly positive impact in delivering essential oral health services to underserved populations for over 15 years. This program and their outstanding dental personnel are a shining example of what we hope every community in Nebraska can someday achieve to improve oral health outcomes for generations of future Nebraskans,” said Dr. Charles Craft, Director of the Office of Oral Health and Dentistry, for the Nebraska DHHS.

The recent Nebraska Oral Health Survey of Young Children report indicated that statewide dental experience rates for third grade children decreased from 64% in 2016 to 58% in 2022. Decay experience for rural third grade children dropped from 81% in 2016 to 65% in 2022. The dental disease disparity between urban and rural children has been significantly reduced. This unique Nebraska oral workforce averaged more than 100,000 dental services each year from 2017-2019.

This report showcases key examples of our efforts over the past fiscal year. Visit our website to explore more about our work and commitment to public health.



## Communicable Disease Control

PPHD enhanced our immunization program by introducing a walk-in clinic and increasing our partnerships with hospitals, vaccine providers, schools, senior centers, and work sites. We established an outreach team to serve our extensive rural area. As a result, last year, we administered 5,366 vaccines to 2,999 clients, reflecting our commitment to improving public health across the district.

**In FY 23-24, PPHD administered 5,366 vaccines to 2,999 clients.**



## Chronic Disease & Injury Prevention

The Panhandle has some of the highest suicide rates in Nebraska. Local efforts to address this include Hope Squads in schools to empower peer support, QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer) to equip individuals to recognize and respond to suicide warning signs, Suicide Loss Support Groups, and gun lock distribution to reduce access to means of suicide.

**PPHD trained 182 residents in QPR, distributed 782 gun locks, & implemented 10 Hope Squads.**



## Environmental Public Health

PPHD provided PurpleAir monitors to 10 schools in our jurisdiction. These sensors collect data every 10 minutes and help PPHD monitor changes in air quality in the communities we serve. During poor air quality days, PPHD can advise residents to adjust the time they spend outdoors.

**PPHD provided PurpleAir Monitors to 10 schools in the district.**



## Maternal, Child, & Family Health

The PPHD home visitation program uses the Healthy Families America (HFA) model, an approach recognized by Prevent Child Abuse America. HFA strengthens parent-child relationships, promotes healthy child development, and improves family well-being. For families engaged with the child welfare system, HFA has reduced the recurrence of maltreatment by one-third.

**In FY 23-24, PPHD served 136 families in HFA.**

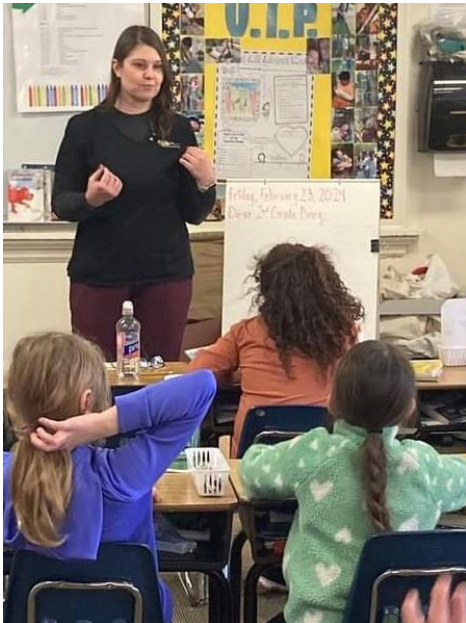


## Access to & Linkage with Clinical Care

The Panhandle Situation Table identifies individuals at acute risk and swiftly connects them to the necessary clinical care while addressing gaps in access to services. PPHD partnered with CredibleMind, an anonymous online mental health platform with evidence-based mental health resources, to empower individuals to seek help before reaching a crisis point. Together, these initiatives enhance access to support for those in need.

**The Situation Table is a NACCHO Model Practice.**





## Panhandle Public Health District







**Public Health**  
*Solutions*

**20** employees serving **53,677** people across **5** rural counties

DEDICATED TO

- Equitable Access
- Equitable Resources
- Equitable Outcomes



**Fillmore, Gage, Jefferson, Saline, & Thayer Counties**

**[www.phsneb.org](http://www.phsneb.org)**

**(402) 826-3880**

We speak English, Spanish & K'iche!

## From the Director

The past year has been busy for the team at PHS. Moved forward with the identified Community Health Improvement Plan priorities of access to services and access to behavioral health services, projects to develop resources within the district.

The largest and most exciting project this year has been the roll-out of a new health and wellness model, the Thrive Wellness Program. This program combines existing clinical services such as immunizations, dental, and nurse health coaching with new services including community informational classes, Tai chi, and walking groups offered in both English and Spanish, and the new Baby & Me Clinic. Our current goal is to provide more services via virtual meetings or to model classes held in the Crete building across the district.

“  
**We value  
our team,  
our clients,  
and our  
communities!**  
”



**Kim Showalter, RN, BSN**  
Health Director  
[kshowalter@phsneb.org](mailto:kshowalter@phsneb.org)

Expectant and new parents can take advantage of the Baby & Me Clinic for prenatal education, breastfeeding support, and education on meeting developmental milestones in young children. The newly designed Baby & Me Clinic space offers a comfortable, welcoming area to meet with PHS lactation consultants and peer support mentors, who will provide the support needed for successful breastfeeding.

With five bilingual staff members on the PHS team, we offer services in three languages. We devote a good deal of time and resources to ensure all community members who walk through the door at PHS will find a welcoming environment that supports accessing the resources they need to live the healthiest life possible. We value our team, our clients, and our communities!

This report showcases key examples of our efforts over the past fiscal year. Visit our website to explore more about our work and commitment to public health.



## Communicable Disease Control

PHS monitors communicable diseases year-round and provides evidence-based guidance, surveillance, and immunization practices for schools, businesses, families, individuals, and community partners. PHS communities rely on us for timely and accurate information and immunizations to prevent widespread illness, work and school absences, and other hardships (including death).

**In FY 23-24, PHS provided residents with 24/7 disease surveillance.**



## Chronic Disease & Injury Prevention

PHS provides programs including Tai chi, nurse health coaching, and small group fitness and wellness classes. Last fiscal year, 300+ individuals participated in one or more of these opportunities. A robust support system makes caring for individual health needs easier. To prevent and manage chronic disease, PHS helps district residents achieve their health goals.

**In FY 23-24, PHS provided wellness opportunities for 300+ residents.**



## Environmental Public Health

PHS works to monitor air and water quality through surveillance systems across the district. The addition of PurpleAir monitors in the district allow for quick access to information about air quality issues in the five-county PHS region. PHS Community Health Workers work with families to mitigate exposure to lead and provides ongoing case management to children (and their families) who have been identified as having high blood lead levels.

**30+ children with high blood lead levels were provided ongoing case management.**



## Maternal, Child, & Family Health

Highly trained PHS staff provide in-home visitation and early childhood services to help 80 families become confident parents who can meet their children's physical, mental, and emotional needs. Children with a responsible, caring adult are better prepared for healthy growth and development.

**In FY 23-24, PHS home visiting served over 80 families.**



## Access to & Linkage with Clinical Care

PHS helps individuals access the resources they need to be healthy. PHS provides application assistance, nurse case management, and wellness programs to district residents. Everyone wants to be as healthy as possible. District residents can take charge of their health and health needs by ensuring access to critical health and wellness services.

**In FY 2024, nurse case management helped 50+ people.**

# SARPY/CASS

Health Department

**12** employees serving **218,021** people across **2** metropolitan counties

Dedicated to positively impacting residents' mental health and well-being by:

- Connecting people to increased social supports
- Reducing stigma of mental health & substance use disorder
- Increasing connection to mental health & preventative resources
- Understanding trauma



**Sarpy & Cass Counties**

**[www.schd.ne.gov](http://www.schd.ne.gov)**

**(402) 339-4334**



## From the Health Director

I am pleased to present the 2023 – 2024 annual Sarpy/Cass Health Department report. The Department is committed to improving the lives of all Sarpy and Cass County residents through the prevention, promotion, and protection of the public's health. This annual report outlines the daily work done by department staff to achieve our mission of providing residents with the highest quality of life.

“  
**Committed  
to improving  
the lives of  
all Sarpy and  
Cass County  
residents  
through the  
prevention,  
promotion,  
and protection  
of the public's  
health.**  
”

This year, the Department has experienced many notable achievements, many of which are outlined in the following pages. Continue to read and explore the public health programs, supports, and activities outlined in this report. You can visit our website, [schd.ne.gov](http://schd.ne.gov), or follow us on Facebook, X, or Instagram to learn more about the Department and to stay on top of public health news.

In good health,

Sarah Schram,  
Health Director



**Sarah Schram, MS, RD**

Health Director

[sschram@sarpycasshealth.com](mailto:sschram@sarpycasshealth.com)



## Communicable Disease Control

Our Disease Surveillance Specialists work to protect residents' health by investigating reportable diseases, conducting disease surveillance, and responding to outbreaks in our community. This year, 1,544 investigations of confirmed or probable cases of illness other than COVID-19. Timely and thorough investigation and follow-up limited the spread of illness.

**In FY 23-24, SCHD investigated 1,544 reportable cases of diseases.**



## Chronic Disease & Injury Prevention

Our Safe Kids Sarpy/Cass program provides awareness, education, and resources to help parents and caregivers keep the children in our community safe. This year, program staff provided home, child passenger, and sport safety education to residents through numerous community events. Trained technicians educated caregivers on installing 69 youth car seats.

**SCHD provided child safety education and installed 69 car seats.**



## Environmental Public Health

The Department's childhood lead poisoning and prevention program educated over 30,000 families that reside in homes built before 1978 in Sarpy and Cass County on the potential for lead-based paint, a common source of childhood lead poisoning. The action resulted in an increase in lead screening within the health jurisdiction.

**Provided program education to 30,000+ families.**



## Maternal, Child, & Family Health

Our Peer Educators support mothers and families enrolled in the Nebraska WIC program through peer-to-peer breastfeeding education and referrals to breastfeeding resources. Breastfeeding has health benefits for infants and their mothers. Supportive relationships and one-on-one peer support increase breastfeeding success.

**Peer Health Educators helped 2,500+ WIC mothers.**



## Access to & Linkage with Clinical Care

The Department hosted blood pressure screening events to ensure widespread accessibility to screenings and resources; promoted high blood pressure control, early detection, and regular monitoring; distributed 28 free blood pressure monitors; and connected residents with health-care providers.

**SCHD distributed 28 free blood pressure monitors.**





SARPY/CASS  
Health Department





**26** employees serving **44,733** people across **4** rural counties

DEDICATED TO

- Understanding the needs in our communities
- Communicating effectively
- Supporting individuals and families to be their healthiest



**Adams, Clay, Nuckolls, & Webster Counties**



**Nationally Accredited**

**[www.southheartlandhealth.ne.gov](http://www.southheartlandhealth.ne.gov)**

**(402) 462-6211**

We speak English & Spanish!



## From the Director

South Heartland District Health Department is excited to announce the launch of our Healthy Families Nebraska Heartland home visitation program in 2023. Healthy Families is a free and voluntary in-home, relationship-based service designed to promote positive parent child interactions, healthy attachment, and partnerships with parents, so they feel more confident.

Focusing on families beginning at pregnancy up through 3 months of age, our nurse home visitors use the Parents as Teachers curriculum and other resources to offer information on safe sleep, parent/child interaction, breastfeeding, child temperament, development screenings, behavioral concerns, and more.

Our staff also have specialized training in Circle of Security to help parents and children feel safe and secure. In just 6 months, we are already partnering with more than 20 families.

As we work toward becoming an accredited Healthy Families America program, we are excited to be supporting the Healthy Families America vision that all children receive nurturing care from their family that leads to a long, healthy, and successful life.

This report showcases key examples of our efforts over the past fiscal year. Visit our website to explore more about our work and commitment to public health.

“  
**In just 6 months,  
we are already  
partnering with  
more than  
20 families.**  
”



**Michele Bever, PhD, MPH**

Health Director

[michele.bever@shdhd.ne.gov](mailto:michele.bever@shdhd.ne.gov)



## Communicable Disease Control

During the 23-24 fiscal year, the SHDHD 4-county district had 456 confirmed, probable, or suspected cases of reportable infectious diseases other than COVID-19. Staff at SHDHD responded to 31 facility outbreaks of COVID-19 and seven facility outbreaks of non-COVID-19 illnesses. Preventing disease spread helps increase safety.

**SHDHD investigated 456 reportable cases of infectious diseases.**



## Chronic Disease & Injury Prevention

SHDHD expanded the Falls Prevention Stepping On Program to Nuckolls County. A Brodstone Memorial Hospital staff member received the facilitator training and implemented the first class. The program's addition has increased access to fall prevention skills for SHDHD residents.

**In FY 23-24, 2 classes with 23 participants had a 78% completion rate.**



## Environmental Public Health

SHDHD uses two PurpleAir monitors to track air quality around our district, detecting harmful particles like smoke, dust, and other pollutants. The data is uploaded to an online map in real time, allowing for easy monitoring of local air quality conditions. Air pollution can aggravate heart disease and stroke, lung diseases such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, asthma, and diabetes.

**SHDHD reported 18 unhealthy air quality days during April, May, & June 2024.**



## Maternal, Child, & Family Health

Healthy Families Nebraska, a new program for SHDHD, is an evidence-based home-visiting program designed to promote positive parent-child interactions for anyone pregnant or with children under 3 months at home. Three home visitors and one program supervisor partner with parents to help them connect with community resources and feel more confident parenting.

**22 SHDHD families enrolled into the Healthy Family Nebraska Heartland program.**

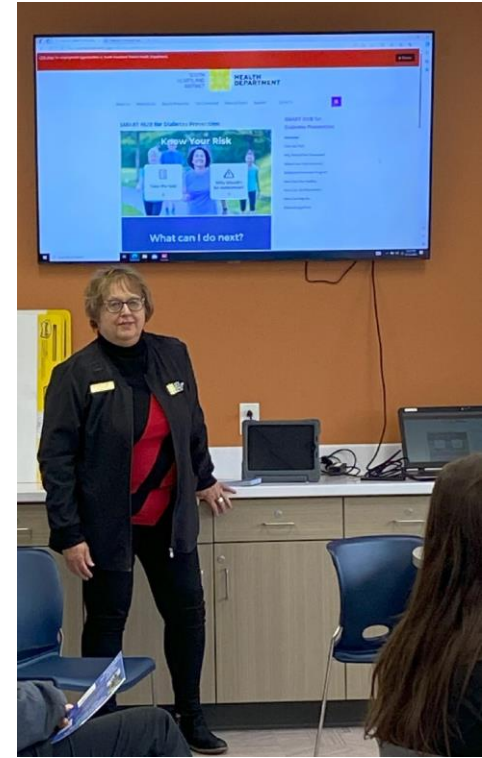
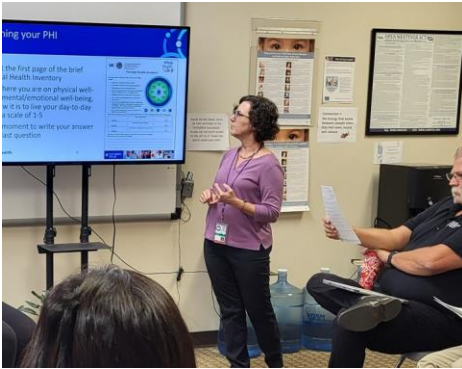


## Access to & Linkage with Clinical Care

SHDHD's oral health program provides education and preventative dental care to children at preschools and day-cares in the South Heartland District. Based on need, the program can provide fluoride varnish, sealant treatments, and 38% silver diamine fluoride (SDF).

**In FY 23-24, SHDHD educated 260 children, 160 received sealants, & 28 received fluoride varnish.**







**16** employees serving **38,711** people across **5** rural counties

### Mission

The mission of the Southeast District Health Department is to prevent disease and promote overall health through outreach, services, and partnerships while educating and empowering all those who live, work, and visit Johnson, Nemaha, Otoe, Pawnee, and Richardson counties.

### Vision

Our vision is to utilize a community-centered approach to ensure all individuals have equal access to quality services to meet their needs and improve the overall health of the population.



**Johnson, Nemaha, Otoe, Pawnee, & Richardson Counties**

**[www.sedhd.org](http://www.sedhd.org)**

**(402) 274-3993**



## From the Director

The past year has brought change and growth to the Department. We have expanded services across the district and continue to grow and implement programs that better serve the residents of Johnson, Nemaha, Otoe, Pawnee, and Richardson Counties.

We have diligently enhanced and expanded our services to fill the gaps in public health services that are lacking in southeast Nebraska and align with the last iteration of the Department's Community Health Assessment and Community Health Improvement Plan.

Additionally, we have focused on enhancing our internal processes to be a more efficient organization and to better serve the public. Our staff work tirelessly and are dedicated to ensuring all communities have access to our public health services.

This report showcases key examples of our efforts over the past fiscal year. Visit our website to explore more about our work and commitment to public health.

“  
**Ensuring all  
communities  
have access  
to our public  
health services.**  
”



**Grant Brueggemann, MPH**

Health Director  
[grant@sedhd.org](mailto:grant@sedhd.org)



## Communicable Disease Control

SEDHD conducts disease surveillance, responds to outbreaks, and prevents and mitigates the spread of infectious and communicable diseases. Disease surveillance is an important epidemiological tool for monitoring the community's health. Pathogens could spread rapidly throughout a community without it.

**SEDHD investigated 143 reportable cases of diseases.**



## Chronic Disease & Injury Prevention

SEDHD conducts health screenings at community and worksite wellness events for local businesses. We provide education related to diabetes, cardiovascular disease, cancer, and other chronic diseases. Chronic disease and injury prevention and control programs save lives, support the economy through a healthy workforce, improve quality of life, and reduce healthcare expenditures.

**1 in 3 adults has a chronic health condition.**



## Environmental Public Health

SEDHD disseminates free radon test kits throughout the district to assist community members in determining radon levels in their homes and provides education regarding the risks associated with radon exposure. Radon is the number one cause of lung cancer among non-smokers. Although lung cancer can be treated, the survival rate is one of the lowest for those with cancer.

**SEDHD's lung cancer rates are 18% higher than the state's.**



## Maternal, Child, & Family Health

SEDHD provides home visitation services to district families, utilizing the Healthy Families America (HFA) approved curriculum. Enrollment has increased by 51% over the last four years. Home visitation strengthens parent-child relationships, promotes healthy child development, and enhances family well-being.

**In FY 23-24, SEDHD doubled the number of families served in HFA.**



## Access to & Linkage with Clinical Care

SEDHD provides dental services to adolescents who might otherwise lack preventative care and face barriers in accessing oral healthcare. Oral health is linked to whole-body health across the lifespan. Oral disease can lead to pain, heart disease, stroke, and other issues. Public health services can reduce the risk of oral and other chronic diseases.

**SEDHD held dental clinics at 24 sites & conducted 2,181 screenings.**



**20** employees serving **80,433** people across **3** rural counties

DEDICATED TO

- Behavioral Health & Healthy Lifestyles
- Reducing Health Disparities
- Improving Access to Care



**Dodge, Saunders, & Washington Counties**

**[www.threeriverspublichealth.org](http://www.threeriverspublichealth.org)**

**(402) 727-5396**

We speak English & Spanish!

## From the Director

At Three Rivers Public Health Department (3RPHD), we are dedicated to ensuring the health and well-being of every person in our community. Over the past year, we've made significant strides in protecting public health and promoting safety. I am excited to share some of our achievements with you.

In Fiscal Year 2024, 3RPHD remained steadfast in our commitment to protecting and improving the health of every individual across our region. From disease prevention and environmental health to maternal and child health, chronic disease management, and initiatives that address health disparities, our team has worked tirelessly to address the unique needs of our diverse communities.

We remain committed to fostering a healthy and thriving community. We continue to partner with local organizations, listen to your feedback, and adapt our services to meet the evolving needs of everyone in our region. Together, we are building a healthier future for all.

Thank you for being an essential part of our community's health journey. We look forward to continuing to serve and support you in the year ahead.

This report showcases key examples of our efforts over the past fiscal year. Visit our website to explore more about our work and commitment to public health.

“  
**Addressing  
health  
disparities is  
a focal point  
of all health  
improvement  
efforts**  
”



**Terra Uhing**  
Health Director  
terra@3rphd.ne.gov





## Communicable Disease Control

3RPHD investigated about 530 cases (not including respiratory cases of influenza, RSV, or COVID-19) of 140 different reportable diseases in FY 2024. Timely prevention and control activities can prevent and limit outbreaks that may lead to widespread illness, work and school absences, and other hardships. Many reportable diseases can lead to serious illness or death.

**3RPHD investigated 530 reportable cases of diseases.**



## Chronic Disease & Injury Prevention

3RPHD provided Living Well workshops to teach community members how to manage their health. We educated families on the proper selection and installation of car seats and the importance of bike safety. We want to empower individuals and families to take charge of their safety and provide them with the tools needed to do so.

**155 bike helmets distributed & 114 car seats checked.**



## Environmental Public Health

3RPHD provided a variety of environmental tests in FY 2024: Vector surveillance via mosquito and tick testing, home inspections for childhood lead poisoning, radon testing, well water testing, and air quality testing. These tests gather data that provides real-time tracking of environmental conditions in our area and allows us to focus on emerging environmental public health issues.

**3RPHD gave 230 radon test kits to community members.**



## Maternal, Child, & Family Health

3RPHD worked with schools to reduce motor vehicle injuries and deaths among teens. We also hosted assemblies featuring a national speaker, Teens in the Driver's Seat program, and teens in the Driver's Seat conference. Motor vehicle crashes are a leading cause of injury and death among teens. Teens in the Driver's Seat addresses the risks for this age group and strives to save lives and reduce injuries.

**6 student assemblies reached over 1,039 students.**



## Access to & Linkage with Clinical Care

3RPHD provided low-income patients access to reproductive healthcare and family planning services through the Title X program. The addition of telehealth further reduced barriers to accessing healthcare. Family planning and preventive care are essential services. Factors like an inability to pay or lack of transportation should not be barriers. In fiscal year 2024, 70% of our patients were uninsured.

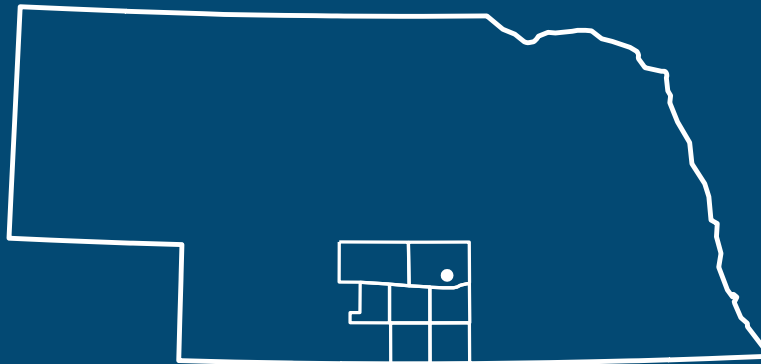
**70% of 3RPHD patients were uninsured.**



**26** employees serving **97,629** people across **7** rural counties

DEDICATED TO

- Creating a safe environment
- Addressing mental health
- Improving access to care
- Preventing suicide



Buffalo, Dawson, Franklin, Gosper,  
Harlan, Kearney, & Phelps Counties

[www.trphd.ne.gov](http://www.trphd.ne.gov)

(888) 669-7154

We speak English & Spanish!



Nationally Accredited

## From the Director

Two Rivers Public Health Department (TRPHD) is working with partners to align the timing of our community health assessment work and community health improvement plan (CHIP) implementation.

Typically, these processes occur on a 3-to-5-year cycle.

TRPHD is in year 3 of the current CHIP cycle.

The priorities of the current cycle are improving access to care, creating a safe environment, addressing mental health, and preventing suicide. The primary objectives for improving access to care include increasing vaccination rates in the district and creating health education materials in various languages.

TRPHD has taken steps to assess the environmental needs in the district, sought staff training, and investigated nuisances to ensure a safe environment. TRPHD has focused on addressing mental health and suicide prevention through the OD2A (Overdose Data to Action) program. TRPHD's OD2A work was recently recognized by the National Association of City and County Health Officials (NACCHO).

This report showcases key examples of our efforts over the past fiscal year. Visit our website to explore more about our work and commitment to public health.

“  
**Two Rivers  
Public Health  
Department's  
OD2A work  
was recently  
recognized  
by NACCHO.**  
”



**Jeremy Eschliman, MBA**

Health Director

[jeschliman@trphd.ne.gov](mailto:jeschliman@trphd.ne.gov)





## Communicable Disease Control

The Two Rivers Public Health Department (TRPHD) takes a comprehensive approach to controlling communicable diseases. The disease investigation team collaborates with the environmental team to address ongoing disease transmission and works with the home visitation team to focus on disease prevention through immunization.

**In FY 23-24, TRPHD investigated 3,300+ cases of reportable diseases.**



## Chronic Disease & Injury Prevention

TRPHD's opioid awareness and overdose prevention program coordinated the distribution of educational materials and Narcan through local county jails, senior centers, and community events. TRPHD presents information to community partners through local meetings, individual businesses, and library public presentations.

**Over 200 units of Narcan distributed during August and September 2024.**



## Environmental Public Health

TRPHD was granted a HUD Lead Hazard Reduction Grant to enhance housing safety by conducting lead remediation and abatement activities. TRPHD will hire local contractors to conduct abatement activities on 31 housing units. In addition, TRPHD is actively monitoring environmental health issues, including West Nile Virus, lake algae, water violations, radon, lead poisoning, and air quality.

**In FY 23-24, over 250 hours of training completed.**



## Maternal, Child, & Family Health

TRPHD has been part of the Healthy Families of America program for one year serving over 30 families. This program aims to improve the relationship between caregivers and children through a curriculum that addresses child development, reduces stressors such as access to health-care and food, and provides social support.

**TRPHD Family Support Specialists completed 388 in-home visits.**



## Access to & Linkage with Clinical Care

TRPHD has 2 Community Health Workers (CHWs) and 3 Family Support Specialists (FSSs) who connect individuals to clinical care homes. CHWs and FSSs navigate scheduling appointments with the appropriate providers, confirm transportation, and attend appointments if needed. They act as a safety net if unforeseen events arise for individuals and families. CHWs and FSSs are trained in skills such as car seat installation, safe environment, and cultural humility.

**CHW and FSS staff connect community members to services.**



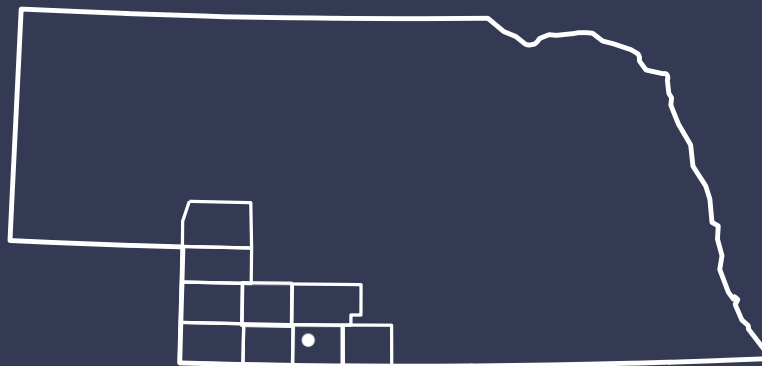
# Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department

PREVENT • PROMOTE • PROTECT

**13** employees serving **38,042** people across **9** rural counties

## DEDICATED TO

- Expanding Public Awareness
- Strong Community Partnerships
- A Healthy Culture with Effective Communication



**Chase, Dundy, Frontier, Furnas, Hayes, Hitchcock,  
Keith, Perkins, & Red Willow Counties**



**Myra Stoney, BS, HSA**  
Health Director  
director@swhealth.ne.gov

**[www.swhealth.ne.gov](http://www.swhealth.ne.gov)**

**(308) 345-4223**

We speak English & Spanish!



## Communicable Disease Control

We monitor and investigate communicable diseases with local clinics and school nurses to identify and respond to reportable diseases promptly, collecting clues on the infected person and at-risk individuals to stop the spread.

**In FY 23-24,  
SWNPHD  
investigated 605  
reportable cases  
of diseases  
(other than COVID-19)**



## Chronic Disease & Injury Prevention

SWNPHD's Health Hub program provides health screenings, chronic disease prevention education, free health coaching for eligible women, and aims to lower the risk of heart disease through lifestyle changes while enhancing community connections and data collection.

**Heart disease is  
the #1 cause of  
death in SWNPHD  
residents**



## Environmental Public Health

We collaborate with providers and families to reduce children's risk of lead exposure. With NEDHHS's support, we educated 165 families, provided retesting information, and conducted home lead inspections as needed. We also updated the guidelines for lead poisoning diagnoses, resulting in more children being diagnosed. Our efforts to educate providers on the new criteria have contributed to safer and healthier homes for children.

**In FY 23-24,  
assisted 215  
families with  
potential lead  
poisoning in  
children**



## Maternal, Child, & Family Health

Vaccines for Children (VFC) provides free vaccinations to uninsured children, holding clinics at 5 regular locations, including schools, and adding sites for flu shots. This program helps maintain strong herd immunity and ensures easy access to effective public health tools.

**433 shots to  
258 children  
across 9 counties**



## Access to & Linkage with Clinical Care

SWNPHD's Polish Your Pearls staff connects children who need advanced care to pediatric specialists. They build relationships, with a local dentist who agrees to treat a child with multiple cavities. With no Medicaid dental providers in our district, it is challenging for many children to be seen or treated by a dentist. SWNPHD works with parents to overcome barriers and get children the care they need.

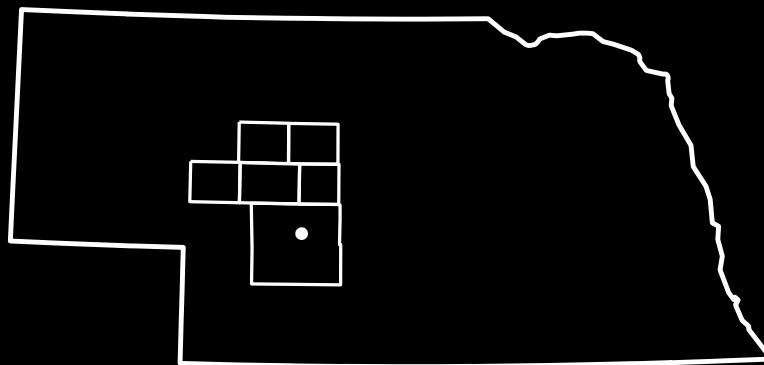
**In FY 23-24, 1500+  
children got oral  
health screenings  
& fluoride  
treatments**



**13** employees serving **37,563** people across **6** rural counties

DEDICATED TO

- Empowering community well-being
- Reshaping the public health story
- Prioritizing our collaborative partnerships



Lincoln, Logan, McPherson, Thomas,  
Hooker, & Arthur Counties

[www.wcdhd.org](http://www.wcdhd.org)

(308) 696-1201

We speak English & Spanish!



Nationally Accredited

## From the Director

Like many public health departments, West Central District Health Department (WCDHD) has shifted focus from the COVID-19 pandemic's risk management back to empowering community well-being.

This year, we completed strategic planning to reorient our focus and stabilize our infrastructure. Our 2022-2025 Strategic Plan priorities are: Develop Connections; Empowered Workforce; Board Engagement; Public Health Strategy; Maintain Standards; and Maximize Resources. This work has reenergized our mission and illuminated updates to our performance management practices as we prepared for reaccreditation.

We have also reinstated and/or expanded several core public health programs that promote healthy outcomes and are updating our Community Health Assessment to inform future efforts. We are committed to reshaping the public health story and will be releasing a new Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) by the end of 2024.

WCDHD is prioritizing our collaborative partnerships to support a strong system of care that empowers us all to do better, together.

This report showcases key examples of our efforts over the past fiscal year. Visit our website to explore more about our work and commitment to public health.

“  
**We are  
committed  
to reshaping  
the public  
health story.**  
”



**Shannon Vanderheiden, BSN, MPH**

Health Director

[vanderheidens@wcdhd.org](mailto:vanderheidens@wcdhd.org)







## Communicable Disease Control

WCDHD investigated 127 probable and confirmed disease cases. Campylobacter, enteroaggregative E. coli (EAEC), and salmonella accounted for 63% of those cases. Timely prevention and control can stop disease outbreaks. In addition to hardships such as illness and absences from work or school, reportable diseases (including hepatitis C) can lead to serious illness or death.

**In FY 23-24, WCDHD investigated 127 reportable cases of diseases.**



## Chronic Disease & Injury Prevention

WCHD works with families and young children in multiple programs. Building Healthy Families is a targeted program to address obesity. For Marathon Kids, 485 elementary age children. (324 during the school year program, and 161 during the summer program.) Programs and events that support physical activity can help to prevent chronic diseases, like diabetes, which affect many WCDHD residents.

**In FY 23-24, 1 in 10 adults in WCDHD are affected by diabetes.**



## Environmental Public Health

WCDHD worked with 28 probable and confirmed cases of children with elevated blood lead levels. We educate families to avoid exposures and connect cases to medical treatment. Lead is especially toxic to children under age 6 and is often present in structures built before 1979. While the effect of lead poisoning may be permanent, if caught early, damage to a child's health can be reduced.

**In FY 23-24, 64% of residential homes in WCDHD were built before 1979.**



## Maternal, Child, & Family Health

WCDHD's Vaccines for Children (VFC) program provides no-cost vaccines to underinsured and uninsured children. In addition to WCDHD's VFC program, WCDHD also has the Vaccines for Adults (VFA) program. 234 vaccines were administered through the VFA program for adults age 19+ who are uninsured or underinsured. In FY 23-24, we provided 3,250 total vaccines including 1,460 childhood vaccines.

**In FY 23-24, 1,460 vaccinations given to kids.**



## Access to & Linkage with Clinical Care

WCDHD provides vaccines in all 6 counties, meeting residents where they are. By offering vaccination services across our rural areas, we enable access and support the health of all community members. Our Community Health Workers and Certified Medical Interpreter provided over 1,900 encounters for language access assistance including medical interpretation. Total encounters: 1,740.

**In FY 23-24, 100+ community vaccine events.**