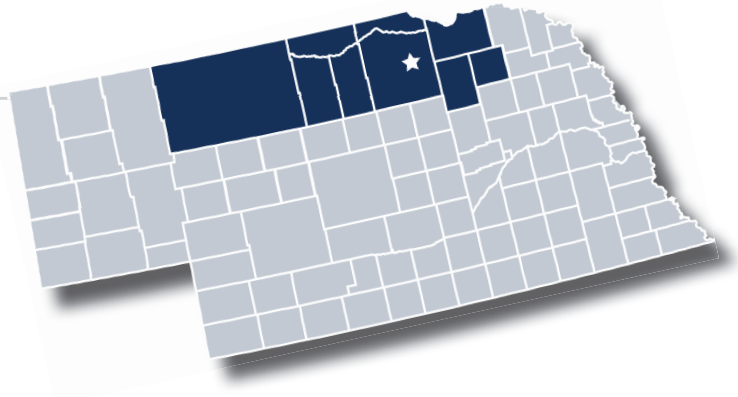


North Central District Health Department

*Serving Antelope, Boyd, Brown, Cherry, Holt,
Keya Paha, Knox, Pierce, and Rock Counties*



Spotlight: Responding to the 2019 Floods & Improving Oral Health



Roger Wiese, Director
roger@ncdhd.ne.gov
(402) 336-2406
www.ncdhd.ne.gov

Miles of Smiles, continue to grow and receive national recognition. Every school (39 total) in the NCDHD Health District now participates. NCDHD's Miles of Smiles partnered with the Nebraska Community Foundation to build the program and serve more clients in the schools. Miles of Smiles was recognized as a 2019 Promising Practice by the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO).

During the 2019 flood disaster, NCDHD led several activities including tetanus vaccine clinics, private well water testing, public health education, sheltering in Lynch, medical surge assistance with bed availability and distribution of cots/bedding for shelters.

During the 2019 flood disaster, NCDHD led several activities including tetanus vaccine clinics, private well water testing, public health education, sheltering in

Lynch, medical surge assistance with bed availability and distribution of cots/bedding for shelters. Many volunteers assisted NCDHD in their efforts. Flood response has continued well into the summer months. Additionally, NCDHD found working with FEMA on reimbursement to be very cumbersome. NCDHD was the first Nebraska organization to submit projects into FEMA for reimbursement. The FEMA reimbursement process is anticipated to still take some time (as is per typical FEMA process). We thank the many volunteers that assisted us!

This past year NCDHD watched our school-based oral health program,



This report includes examples of efforts of North Central District Health Department to make the “Good Life” a healthy one in their jurisdiction. The following examples reflect work supported through multiple sources of funding, including monies from the Nebraska Health Care Funding Act (HCFA).

Local health departments act as communities’ Chief Health Strategists by assuring that the health and wellbeing of Nebraskans are protected and improved. Local health departments do this by working in each of the **Three Core Function Areas of Public Health**:



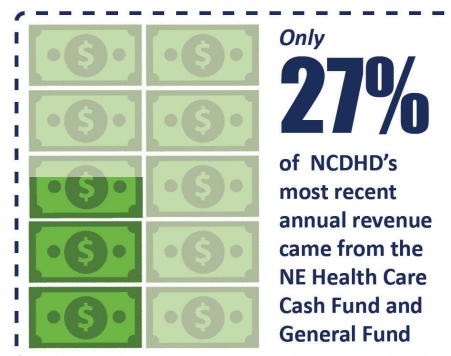
Assessment: Collect and analyze information about health problems in Nebraska communities.



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.



Assurance: Promote effective coordination and use of community resources to protect the health and wellbeing of Nebraskans.



Community Health Assessment (CHA) Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP)

Every 3-6 years, Nebraska’s local health departments (LHDs) engage local partners (including hospitals, clinics, schools, law enforcement, military and veteran organizations, economic development agencies, businesses, foundations, other community organizations, and individual community members) to identify key, local health needs and issues through systematic, comprehensive data collection and analysis. This process is known as the Community Health Assessment (CHA). LHDs take the lead in coordinating this complicated process, synthesizing the outcome data, and prioritizing identified issues. The resulting formal assessment is used to create a community-wide plan aimed at strategically improving health – the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP).

With CHIPs in place, LHDs take a lead driving the work toward meeting CHIP goals and monitoring progress. Much of this work is done collaboratively through partnerships and workgroups that include the diverse sectors mentioned above.

The CHA/CHIP process ensures that local communities are able to work together toward a Good, Healthy Life for all Nebraskans.

CURRENT CHIP PRIORITIES:



Chronic Care
Management



Mental Health

ACCESS TO AND LINKAGE TO CLINICAL CARE

Access to and Linkage to Clinical Care includes (but is not limited to) coordination of services between medical providers and providers of health-related social needs, oral health/dental services, and behavioral/mental health.



North Central District Health Department (NCDHD) works to gather data for mental health, oral health and chronic disease conditions. NCDHD educates and develops programs based on data-indicated needs around oral health. NCDHD is working on a partnership with the local Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) to provide mental health services through telehealth technology. NCDHD is working to coordinate chronic care management with our providers throughout our district. NCDHD utilizes our schools and clinics for education and program purposes.



CHRONIC DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

Chronic Disease Control and Prevention includes (but is not limited to) asthma, cancer, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, obesity, tobacco control, and worksite wellness.



NCDHD collects data and analyzes information on diabetes and cardiovascular disease. NCDHD worked with our community partners, including local hospitals, through our community health improvement planning efforts. Efforts identified through the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) process will focus on establishing partnerships for chronic care management in our district. NCDHD will be working with our health care providers to establish a system to fill gaps and barriers in the education and care management cycle.



COMMUNICABLE DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

Communicable Disease Control and Prevention includes (but is not limited to) communicable disease epidemiology (disease outbreak management/response), tuberculosis (TB), immunizations, sexually transmitted infections, and surveillance (tracking and following up on reports and provider/school reports).



NCDHD collects and analyzes data from hospitals, clinics, schools and DHHS. NCDHD works with schools to advance policies and procedures for infection management. NCDHD continues to work with community partners, e.g., schools, hospitals and all partners to promote coordination efforts.



ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Environmental Health includes (but is not limited to) radon, lead, emergency response, hazardous substances and sites, and Complete Streets initiatives.



NCDHD continues to work with all community partners to analyze data on radon, lead, and hazardous substances. NCDHD works with homeowners to mitigate potential hazardous radon levels in dwellings. NCDHD has supported legislation that protects the health and wellness of its citizens. This includes the 2019 radon bill.



INJURY PREVENTION

Injury Prevention includes (but is not limited to) motor vehicle injuries, occupational injuries, senior fall prevention, substance abuse, car seat safety, binge drinking, and distracted driving.



NCDHD continues to gather data to monitor injuries. NCDHD works with community partners to educate and establish policies to reduce preventable injuries. Through the CHIP process, NCDHD continues to work with partners to assure coordination efforts.



MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH

Maternal and Child Health includes (but is not limited to) Women, Infant, and Children (WIC), family planning, newborn screening, evidence-based home visitation, Early Preventative Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT).



NCDHD continues to collect data through the Health Hub program, a cancer prevention program administered by the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). NCDHD continues to work with our providers and clients through the Health Hub program. NCDHD continues to work with partners regarding referrals directed through Health Hub.



Additional public health activities that North Central District Health Department performs to assure that the health and wellbeing of Nebraskans are protected and improved.

NCDHD does much work in the area of substance abuse and distracted driving. NCDHD collaborates on numerous programs with our schools, e.g., distracted driving and substance abuse education. NCDHD also works with local businesses providing Responsible Beverage Server Training (RBST) classes throughout our district in efforts to decrease underage alcohol use. NCDHD has also worked with elected officials in our local township governments and county governments to establish policies regarding RBST for bars, restaurants, and county fairs.