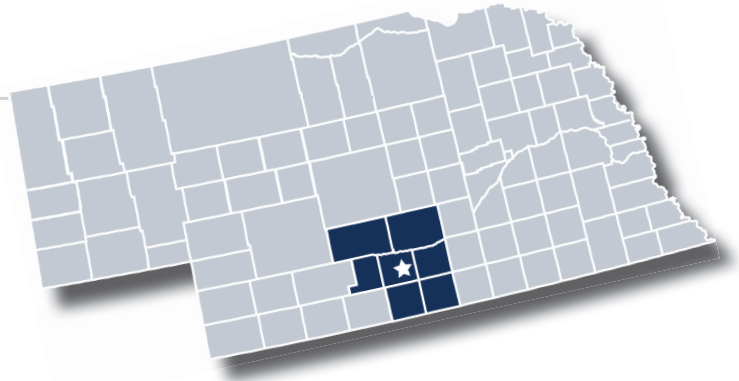


Two Rivers Public Health Department

*Serving Buffalo, Dawson, Franklin, Gosper,
Harlan, Kearney, and Phelps Counties*



Spotlight: Responding to the 2019 Floods



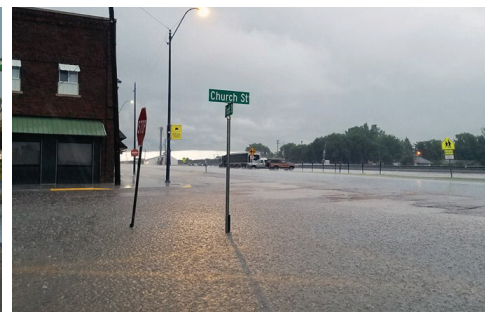
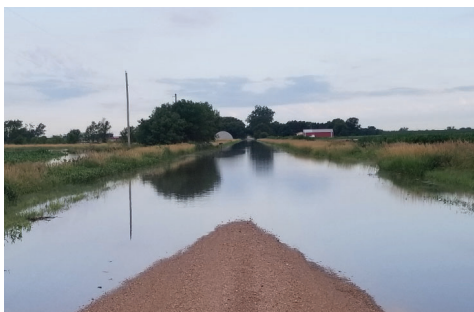
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Two Rivers was able to coordinate the delivery of aid and assistance to impacted sites.

The Two Rivers Public Health Department (Two Rivers) jurisdiction was impacted during the state-wide flooding event in March. Two Rivers was quick to communicate with Emergency Managers across our jurisdiction, which helped to provide timely alerts and advice to individuals in the jurisdiction. Two Rivers was also instrumental in activating local Community Organizations Active

in Disasters (COAD), which is a collaboration of organizations that provides disaster-related resources.

Two Rivers was able to coordinate the delivery of aid and assistance to impacted sites. This leadership helped to increase communication across all agencies involved in the response, and ensure efforts were not duplicated.



This report includes examples of efforts of Two Rivers Public 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**:



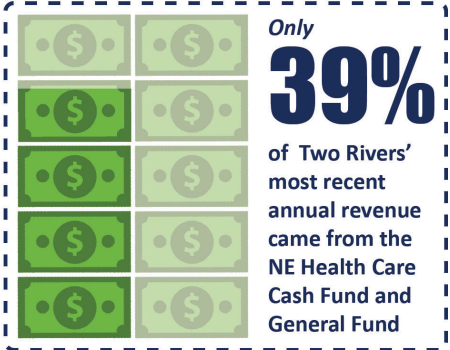
Assessment: Collect and analyze information about health problems in Nebraska communities.



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:



Access to Care



Lifestyle Choices and Personal Accountability



Environmental Issues



Sustainability



Mental/Behavioral Health



Socio-Economic Issues



Effective Education/
Public Relations

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.



Two Rivers Public Health Department (Two Rivers) offers preventative dental services through the Lifesmiles Dental Program. A key component of the dental program is connecting participants to a dental home. This helps to reduce barriers to care associated with dental needs. The program also increases access to preventative services such as routine fluoride treatments and oral health education. Two Rivers is fortunate to partner with many great dentists and clinicians in the district, however the current fee structure in Nebraska is not conducive for many dentists to accept new Medicaid patients in their clinics.

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.



Two Rivers worked with Move Kearney, a local transportation advocacy network, to promote the adoption of a Complete Streets Policy. This effort aims to increase walking and biking in Kearney by promoting safe and accessible transportation infrastructure. With the support of Two Rivers, Move Kearney has made connections in the city of Kearney to help drive the work forward.

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).



A core function of Two Rivers is to continuously monitor the population for potential disease outbreaks. Two Rivers has a Community Health Nurse who serves in this role. Every day, Two Rivers monitors for potential disease clusters and outbreaks, and works to prevent outbreaks by offering health education. Two Rivers presented at the Nebraska School Health Conference and educated school nurses on the importance of the influenza vaccine. School nurses report influenza and other outbreaks to the disease investigator, allowing Two Rivers to monitor trends and support schools during an outbreak. Two Rivers responded to a vibrio cholera cluster in the summer of 2018. By coordinating with state and local entities, Two Rivers was able to provide timely resources for the impacted site and avoid the spread of this disease.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

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



During a flooding event which impacted the health jurisdiction in March, Two Rivers worked to provide impacted community members with education on safe water and on well and septic contamination. Two Rivers responded to two flooding events in March and July that continue to impact the jurisdiction. During the floods and in the immediate aftermath, Two Rivers communicated with Emergency Managers to help create press releases and convened local the Community Organizations Actionable in Disasters (COAD) to help coordinate resources to individuals in need.



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.



Two Rivers monitors cases of carbon monoxide poisoning, which stem from accidental and intentional injuries. This enables Two Rivers to identify any potential trends in our jurisdiction, and create effective campaigns aimed at injury prevention. Two Rivers' community health worker (CHW) provided education on car seat safety to participants of the Lifesmiles Dental Program. As a trained car seat technician, the CHW is able to assist and provide education to safeguard the safety of children traveling in motor vehicles.



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).



The Two Rivers Community Health Nurse monitors cases of lead poisoning among children. Once a child is identified as having elevated blood lead levels, the nurse ensures that education is provided to the parents and encourages continued monitoring of the blood lead level.

Additional public health activities that Two Rivers Public Health Department performs to assure that the health and wellbeing of Nebraskans are protected and improved.

Two Rivers is part of a pilot project called Countering Violent Extremism in partnership with UNL Public Policy Center and Nebraska Emergency Management Agency. This pilot project aims to reduce barriers in reporting potential violence, and ensures community members feel comfortable in relaying signs of violence to authorities. The program was implemented in Lexington and Kearney, where two threat intervention teams formed to provide preventative resources to individuals considering violence as an option. This nationally innovative model of violence prevention using the public health framework has quickly proven effective in addressing several cases brought before the community threat assessment teams. These included instances of domestic assault and road rage.

For more information about *Two Rivers Public Health Department*
please visit: www.trphd.org

