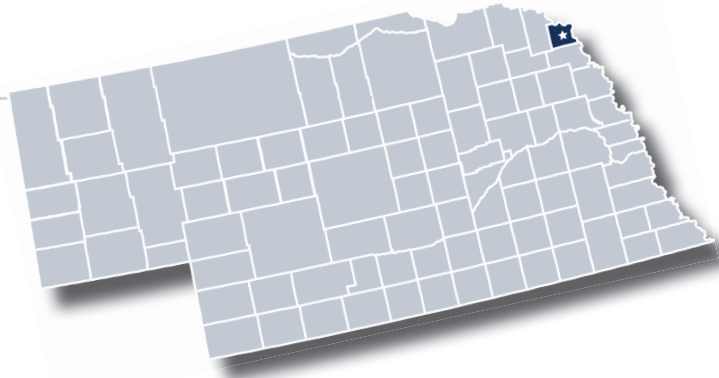


# Dakota County Health Department

*Serving Dakota County*



## Spotlight: Increasing Child Immunizations



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last year, DakCHD provided 585 children with 2,130 immunizations (a 2% increase in rates from the previous) by working collaboratively with schools, local hospitals and clinics, law enforcement, and other community agencies.

Our nursing staff provide technical assistance to school nurses and medical clinics on best practices for communicable disease prevention, disease investigation methods, and educational materials for parents of children in need of immunizations—all to decrease the risk of communicable disease outbreaks and transmission.

Improving immunization rates is a top priority for Dakota County Health Department (DakCHD). DakCHD, in collaboration with the Board of Health, developed a strategic plan that focuses on disease prevention, including immunization programs. Immunization programs are effective at reducing the number and severity of communicable disease outbreaks in a community. Despite this, many vaccine-preventable diseases persist and, in some cases, have increased in prevalence due to the lowered immunity in the general population.

There is a direct correlation between rates of infant immunization and the rates of vaccine-preventable diseases

within a community. While childhood vaccinations prevent a large number

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of diseases, some diseases require boosters throughout adulthood.

In Dakota County, the immunization rates among school-aged children are 72%. Healthy People 2020 provides a target of 80%. In the

This report includes examples of efforts of Dakota County 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**:



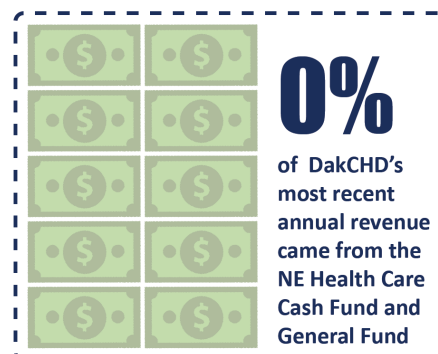
**Assessment:** Collect and analyze information about health problems in Nebraska communities.



**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:



Weight Management



Emergency Planning and  
Preparedness



Disease Prevention and  
Education

## 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.



In collaboration with community leaders and agencies, Dakota County Health Department (DakCHD) assesses the gaps to access care and educates the community about prevention services and practices. Staff navigate clients to agencies and services throughout the county. DakCHD staff link clients to primary care providers and follow up with providers to ensure continuity of care and community health and wellbeing.

## 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.



Based on the information from our Community Health Assessment (CHA), the community and DakCHD identified diabetes and obesity as health-related priorities for the county. DakCHD works within each of our programs to promote education through our Living Well with Chronic Condition self-management and diabetes prevention workshops. Staff educate the community on lifestyle changes such as diet, easy exercises and being active.

## 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).



Utilizing our Electronic Reporting System, training, and community resources, DakCHD Disease Surveillance Team works daily to ensure that each lab report received is reviewed and placed in a category designated by Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). If a report is elevated to an investigation, DakCHD nursing staff conducts all interviews and informs patients and the public on all communicable diseases and prevention measures.

## ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

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



DakCHD works with community partners to gather input related to preparedness capabilities and conduct trainings throughout the community. Staff assist agencies in planning for emergencies and conduct trainings for community members who serve as volunteers during emergencies. Staff work at many community events to provide education and to increase awareness about the risks of radon and lead exposures.

## 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.

DakCHD does not currently focus on Injury Prevention, but we are eager to expand our services in the future.

## 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).



Working in collaboration with local school districts, clinics and other agencies that serve the families of Dakota County, DakCHD staff assess the immunization needs of children in the county. DakCHD receives referrals from all agencies within the county and served 585 clients by giving 2130 vaccinations. DakCHD collaborates with each of those agencies to educate parents on the importance of all vaccinations.

*Additional public health activities that Dakota County Health Department performs to assure that the health and wellbeing of Nebraskans are protected and improved.*

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For more information about *Dakota County Health Department* please visit:  
[www.dakotacountyne.org](http://www.dakotacountyne.org)

