

+2024-2025 Annual Report

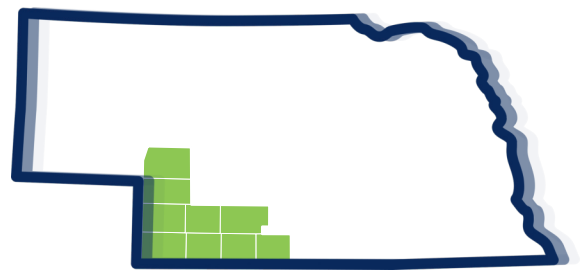
Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department (SWNPHD)

 **12 employees** 

 **37,757 residents** 

CHIP Priorities:

-  Prevent & Detect Cancer
-  Promote Physical Activity
-  Reduce Heart Disease



9 rural & micropolitan counties

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



1 of 18

NE LHDs implementing
Nat'l accreditation
standards



3.18

FTEs per 10,000
(Nat'l average is 5.6)



18%

of adults report
fair to poor health

"Our dental program provides screenings, fluoride treatments, and education to children and long-term care residents."

—Myra Stoney, Health Director
director@swhealth.ne.gov



Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department (SWNPHD) 2024-2025

Examples of Foundational Public Health Services



Getting ready for home visits starting in July 2025

Maternal, Child, & Family Health

In 2024, we partnered with DHHS to host community meetings in Keith and Red Willow counties, which had been identified as priority areas. This free, voluntary, relationship-based service is for residents of our district who are pregnant or are new parents. Healthy Families America (HFA) will promote positive parent-child interactions and attachment and build new parents' confidence and skills.



80 participants in chronic disease prevention programs

Chronic Disease & Injury Prevention

SWNPHD went to senior centers and local agriculture businesses to bring preventive screenings and chronic disease education to the public. We checked blood pressure, cholesterol, and blood sugar. Nurses from local clinics educated participants about their test results. We also partnered with Extension educators on bilingual healthy cooking classes.



144 private water samples tested

Environmental Health

SWNPHD mitigates the risk of diseases related to environmental exposures in many ways. With the UNL Citizen Science Water Quality Project, we tested 144 private well samples for nitrate, nitrite, and phosphate. Completing the well water screening in-house helped with timely follow-up education and recommendations. SWNPHD also followed up on 14 cases of elevated blood lead levels (EBLL) in local children, collected 31 mosquito and tick samples to watch for vector-borne diseases, and gave out 60 radon test kits.



2,472 residents served through oral health programs

Access to & Linkage with Clinical Care

We provided Oral Health Services at 28 sites (schools, preschools, daycares, and long-term care [LTC] facilities). LTC residents received teeth and denture cleanings, and fluoride treatments. Over 1,900 children received screenings, fluoride treatments, and oral health education. Many of the individuals served had not received dental services in multiple years prior to our outreach and care.



1,144 vaccinations administered

Communicable Disease Control

SWNPHD completed 1,299 disease investigations, most commonly related to respiratory illnesses, hepatitis, E. coli, and norovirus. We also administered 1,144 immunizations. Community vaccination clinics in 6 counties served rural families, agricultural workers, and senior citizens. We provided rabies vaccines for the veterinary students at Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture. We are the only provider of travel vaccines in our area. We gave 112 vaccinations, which help protect travelers as well as the community when they return.

From the Director

Since receiving additional funding from the legislature in 2021, 2022 and 2023, Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department has been able to sustain programs for our extremely rural, nine-county health district. While other health districts often launch new programs due to funding they have received, Southwest NE Public Health Department is often overlooked in these funding opportunities due to our location and size. We currently are working with the DHHS Division of Public Health on our oral health program. SWNPHD has limited access to Medicaid network dentists and services. We had intentions of sustaining our dental program which provides screening, fluoride treatments and education to children and screening, cleaning and some treatment in long term care facilities utilizing our state legislation funding. However, with the recent cuts in state legislative funding, this program may not be sustainable unless an additional funding source is located.

Myra Stoney, BS, HSA
director@swhealth.ne.gov



PREVENT • PROMOTE • PROTECT

