

+ 2024-2025 Annual Report

Panhandle Public Health District (PPHD)



31 employees

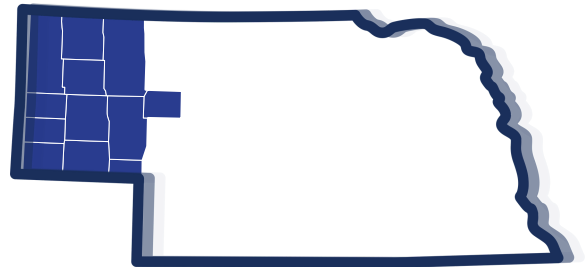


83,365 residents



CHIP Priorities:

- ▶ Strengthen Childcare Systems
- ▶ Support Affordable Housing Systems
- ▶ Increase Access to Mental Health Services
- ▶ Build Community Capacity Through Education
- ▶ Expand Language Access



12 rural & frontier counties

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



1 of 9

NE LHDs nationally
accredited by PHAB



3.72

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



18%

of adults report fair to
poor health

"As the expectations of our communities continue to evolve, we are committed to adapting, listening deeply, and leading through our values and purpose."

—Jessica Davies, Health Director



Panhandle Public Health District (PPHD) 2024-2025

Examples of Foundational Public Health Services



1866 family home visits completed

Maternal, Child, & Family Health

With Healthy Families America (HFA), we served 156 Panhandle families with prenatal education, parenting guidance, and child development. Home visitors build trust, link families to resources, and promote healthy starts. Additional MCH efforts include car seat education/distribution, and currently expanding Maternal Self-Monitoring Blood Pressure, and Group Prenatal Support.



966 participants in prevention programs

Chronic Disease & Injury Prevention

Over the past year, we expanded health programs across our region, both in person and online. Residents engaged in National Diabetes Prevention Program (66), Living Well workshops (59), CarFit for older driver safety (95), fall prevention (46), and Kids Fitness and Nutrition Day (841)—we focus on meeting people where they are with tools for healthier living.



29 Elevated Blood Lead Level cases investigated

Environmental Health

PPHD limits the risk of exposure to environmental hazards by monitoring radon, air quality, and vector-borne diseases. We educated 842 3rd graders across the Panhandle about how to use the air quality index. We provided Radon and lead training to 50 public housing employees, trained 8 contractors in lead safe work practices, tested 16 homes for lead, and distributed 246 radon tests.



6,950 residents served by oral health program

Access to & Linkage with Clinical Care

PPHD's Dental Health Program was offered at 51 sites, serving 6,942 children and 8 adults. We go to where children are, in schools, to provide dental screenings, fluoride treatments, sealants, education, and referrals. These services create healthier teeth so children can concentrate on playing and learning without pain.



4,315 vaccinations given

Communicable Disease Control

PPHD limited the spread of infectious diseases by investigating 406 cases of reportable diseases. The most common were E. coli, campylobacteriosis, salmonellosis, hepatitis C, and lead poisoning. We also brought vaccines directly to our communities—to 46 businesses, 32 schools, 28 long-term care facilities, 30 community events, and in-office on 190 days. A team of three investigated 406 reportable communicable diseases.

From the Director

I am pleased to share an update on the work of the Panhandle Public Health District over the past year, highlighting the vital role of public health in protecting lives, preventing disease, and keeping Nebraska communities healthy, safe, and strong.

In May, Nebraska confirmed its first measles case in nearly a decade—identified here in the Panhandle. Our team quickly coordinated with Gordon Memorial Hospital, local providers, and DHHS to identify exposures, provide post-exposure protection, and share accurate information. This swift response prevented further spread, avoided disruptions, and saved significant healthcare costs, made possible by years of preparedness investment.

Our programs in maternal and child health, environmental health, injury prevention, mental health and suicide prevention, and services supporting our aging population continue to expand and evolve.

Our updated strategic plan emphasizes adaptability, stronger communications, cross-sector collaboration, and improved technology and data systems. Public health capacity is a strategic investment—every prevention dollar saves in treatment costs. These successes are possible through strong partnerships and a dedicated workforce. We remain committed to ensuring every Nebraskan has the opportunity to live a healthy, safe life.

With gratitude,

Jessica Davies, MPH
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Panhandle
Public Health District

