

+2024-2025 Annual Report

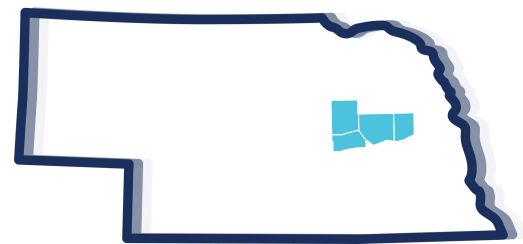
East Central District Health Department (ECDHD)

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21 employees ++
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53,607 residents ++
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CHIP Priorities:

- ▶ Improve Behavioral Health Access
- ▶ Address Food Security
- ▶ Expand Access to Healthcare
- ▶ Increase Access to Childcare
- ▶ Support Housing Stability & Reduce Homelessness



4 rural & micropolitan counties

Boone, Colfax, Nance, and Platte Counties



1 of 9

NE LHDs nationally
accredited by PHAB



3.92

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



18%

of adults report fair to
poor health

"United in our efforts, we can build thriving, healthier communities for all Nebraskans."

—Molly Pofahl, M.S., Chief Public Health Officer
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East Central District Health Department (ECDHD) 2024-2025

Examples of Foundational Public Health Services



1,060 children served through our WIC program

Maternal, Child, & Family Health

Our WIC program increased the percentage of infants breastfed at 6 months of age, from 13% in 2023 to 23% in 2024. WIC increased the number of participants with nutrition benefits from 1,172 in 2023 to 1,333 in 2024.



215 residents trained in naloxone use

Chronic Disease & Injury Prevention

ECDHD works to prevent harm associated with substance misuse. We hosted 7 substance misuse and drug trends training events in FY24, reaching 215 individuals. We also conducted 32 car seat checks, including individual appointments and events.



55 elevated blood lead level (EBLL) cases investigated

Environmental Health

We reached out to over 50 families whose children had EBLLs to identify possible causes and provide guidance. ECDHD kept the community informed of mosquito and tick surveillance results and distributed 66 radon test kits. Our 2 PurpleAir sensors allowed residents to access real-time data on local air quality.



100 residents connected to providers

Access to & Linkage with Clinical Care

We connected with several thousand community members through outreach events, partnering with manufacturing businesses, and in partnership with the FQHC (Good Neighbor Community Health Center). Community Health Workers took on most of this work, connecting 100 residents to services that address health-related social needs.



228 investigations of reportable diseases

Communicable Disease Control

ECDHD worked to limit the spread of infectious disease through disease investigations (228). We also administered over 4,500 immunizations for a range of diseases as part of our VFC and VFA (Vaccines for Children and Adults) programs. Both of these areas are crucial to stopping the spread of infectious diseases in the community. Our on-time investigation rate was 99%.

From the Director

As my first year as East Central's health director ends, I would like to take this opportunity to share some of the highlights. Last year was a year of growth for the health department. Community stakeholders identified priority health needs and created plans to address them. This work is vital to grow our collective impact within the communities we serve. Some of these initiatives include recruiting specialty care providers, efficiently connecting community members to accessible behavioral health services, and lowering food insecurity rates. East Central has grown and fostered several partnerships with local non-profits and businesses through these efforts. These partnerships remain a central focus for ECDHD as larger networks create more visible community-wide impact. East Central's surveillance team spent significant time investigating two genetically linked tuberculosis cases. The team held two testing clinics with a 100% response rate for exposed individuals. This exceeded our goal of 90% and allowed ECDHD to appropriately measure and address the linked cases, enabling the team to mitigate further spread. The WIC team has successfully increased and surpassed the breastfeeding rate goal set by DHHS. As a five-person team serving an average of over 1,000 families at a time, this was a lofty goal to achieve. Additionally, our Early Development Network (EDN) team continues to excel in providing care coordination and case management to underserved families with children who have high medical needs or developmental delays. Looking ahead, East Central is focused on data collection, community engagement, and chronic disease prevention. We look forward to sharing our measurable impacts with community members and stakeholders. Thank you for your continued support in creating a healthier Nebraska.

Molly Pofahl, M.S
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