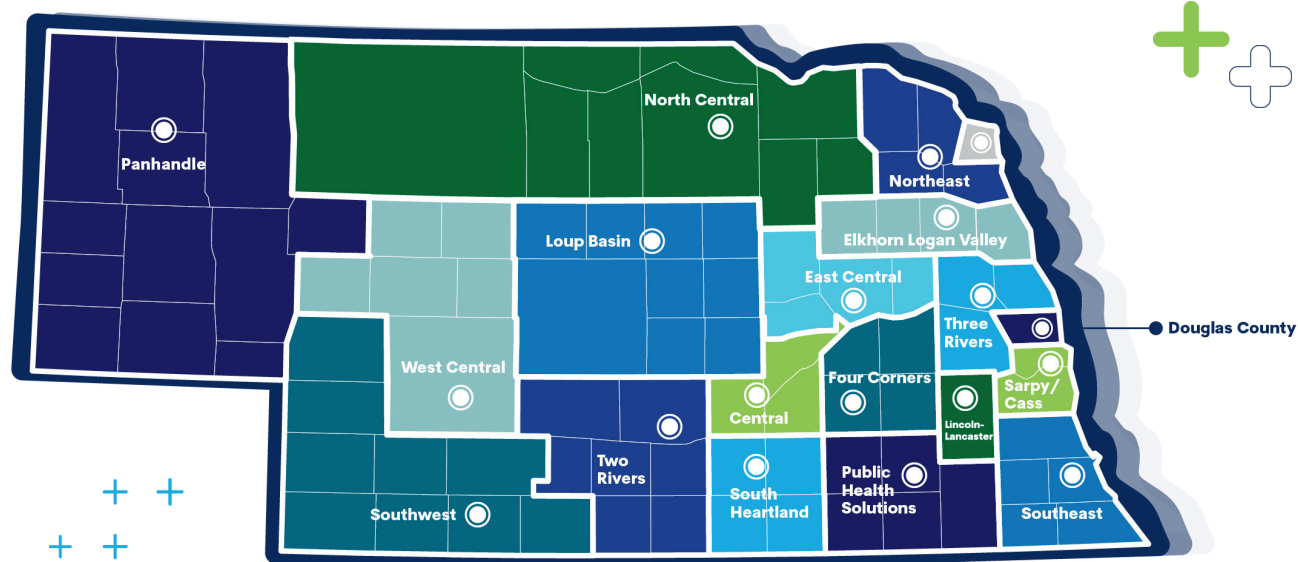


2024-2025 Nebraska Public Health Department Annual Reports

Prevention, Preparedness, & Protection Powered by Local Expertise

*Reporting related to statutory responsibilities across 18 Local Health Departments
from July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025*



Compiled by the Nebraska Association of Local Health Directors

nalhd.org

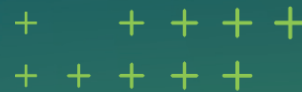


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Understanding Nebraska's Local Public Health Annual Report



+ Reporting Requirements

The **2001 Nebraska Health Care Funding Act (LB 692)** established foundational funding for local health departments (LHDs) through the County Public Health Aid Program (Neb. Rev. Stat. § 71-1628.08) and requires eligible LHDs to submit annual reports highlighting selected activities and programs that support their statutory responsibilities.

This report covers work performed from **July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025**. Individual LHD reports are submitted to DHHS by October and submitted to the Legislature by December 1, 2025.

+ Who's Included in This Report

As of June 30, 2025, 18 local health departments covering 92 counties were eligible to receive funds under the Nebraska Health Care Funding Act (Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 71-1626 to 71-1636). These LHDs and their affiliated counties are listed in Table 1.

Dakota County has a single-county health department that does not meet the population threshold for eligibility or State Public Health Aid. However, DHHS and other partners continue to support the work of all LHDs statewide.

+ Nebraska's Local Public Health Departments

Nebraska's LHDs serve as their communities' chief health strategists, working across sectors to protect and improve the health and well-being of all Nebraskans. While this report includes selected examples of their work to meet statutory responsibilities, it covers only a fraction of their daily public health work.

+ Statutory Foundations of Local Public Health Work

As cited in the Nebraska Health Care Funding Act, LHDs fulfill their public health mission through:

- **Assessment:** Collecting and analyzing data to better understand Nebraska communities' health issues.
- **Policy Development:** Collaborating with partners to apply data, educate the public, and develop policies and programs that address illness, disease, and disability.
- **Assurance:** Promoting effective coordination and use of community resources to protect the health and well-being of Nebraskans.

Core Functions and Services of Nebraska's Local Health Departments

+ Foundational Public Health Services in Action

LHDs in Nebraska address the Three Core Functions of Public Health through their work providing Foundational Public Health Services (FPHS) in the areas of maternal, child, and family health, communicable disease control, access to and linkage with clinical care, chronic disease and injury prevention, and environmental public health.



Maternal, Child,
& Family Health



Chronic Disease &
Injury Prevention



Communicable
Disease Control



Access to & Linkage
with Clinical Care



Environmental
Health

+ Leveraging Other Funds

For over two decades, the Nebraska Health Care Funding Act has served as the financial foundation for LHDs. According to FY2024–25 data collected by NALHD, funding from the Nebraska Health Care Cash Fund and Nebraska General Fund made up an average of 21% of LHDs' total revenue (ranging from 4% to 47%).

To meet statutory responsibilities and respond to community needs, LHDs must regularly seek funding from various sources. These include:

- Federal pass-through funds from DHHS and other state agencies
- Private and direct federal grants (for a few LHDs)
- Fees and reimbursements for limited services

Very few LHDs receive substantial local funding. The foundational support the Legislature provides remains critical to ensuring that Nebraska is prepared for both ongoing and emerging public health threats, large and small.

+ How This Support Improves Nebraskans' Lives

Over the following 40 pages, you'll find hundreds of examples of local public health in action. Whether through mobile clinics, school- and community-based programs, or onsite services, LHDs meet residents' needs where they are.

From school-based dental screenings to home visits with new parents, they provide preventive care, fluoride treatments, and referrals that close critical gaps. They also deliver chronic disease prevention programs, from diabetes education to falls prevention and healthy living classes. LHDs support healthier lives across Nebraska.

Table 1. Counties & People Served by Nebraska's Local Health Districts*

Nebraska Health Districts	District Population
Central District Health Department (CDHD) <i>Hall, Hamilton, and Merrick Counties (3)</i>	79,563
Douglas County Health Department (DCHD) <i>Douglas County (1)</i>	585,461
East Central District Health Department (ECDHD) <i>Boone, Colfax, Nance, and Platte Counties (4)</i>	53,607
Elkhorn Logan Valley Public Health Department (ELVPHD) <i>Burt, Cuming, Madison, and Stanton Counties (4)</i>	57,076
Four Corners Health Department (4CHD) <i>Butler, Polk, Seward, and York Counties (4)</i>	45,491
Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department (LLCHD) <i>Lancaster County (1)</i>	323,673
Loup Basin Public Health Department (LBPHD) <i>Blaine, Custer, Garfield, Greely, Howard, Loup, Sherman, Valley, and Wheeler Counties (9)</i>	29,846
North Central District Health Department (NCDHD) <i>Antelope, Boyd, Brown, Cherry, Holt, Keya Paha, Knox, Pierce, and Rock Counties (9)</i>	44,254
Northeast Nebraska Public Health Department (NNPHD) <i>Cedar, Dixon, Thurston, and Wayne Counties (4)</i>	30,357
Panhandle Public Health District (PPHD) <i>Banner, Box Butte, Cheyenne, Dawes, Deuel, Garden, Grant, Kimball, Morrill, Scotts Bluff, Sheridan, and Sioux Counties (12)</i>	83,365
Public Health Solutions (PHS) <i>Fillmore, Gage, Jefferson, Saline, and Thayer Counties (5)</i>	53,932
Sarpy/Cass Health Department (SCHD) <i>Cass and Sarpy Counties (2)</i>	221,014
South Heartland District Health Department (SHDHD) <i>Adams, Clay, Nuckolls, and Webster Counties (4)</i>	44,592
Southeast District Health Department (SEDHD) <i>Chase, Dundy, Frontier, Furnas, Hayes, Hitchcock, Keith, Perkins, and Red Willow Counties (9)</i>	38,709
Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department (SWNPHD) <i>Johnson, Nemaha, Otoe, Pawnee, and Richardson Counties (5)</i>	37,757
Three Rivers Public Health Department (3RPHD) <i>Dodge, Saunders and Washington Counties</i>	80,896
Two Rivers Public Health Department (TRPHD) <i>Buffalo, Dawson, Franklin, Gosper, Harlan, Kearney, and Phelps Counties (7)</i>	97,826
West Central District Health Department (WCDHD) <i>Arthur, Hooker, Lincoln, Logan, McPherson, and Thomas Counties (6)</i>	37,176

*Sources: US Census Bureau ACS 5-year 2019-2023

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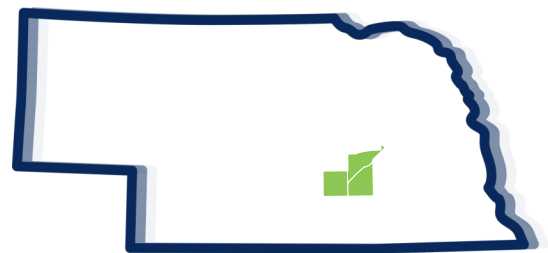
Central District Health Department (CDHD)

 **47** employees 

 **79,563** residents 

CHIP Priorities:

-  Expand Access to Care
-  Increase Availability of Culturally Appropriate Behavioral Health
-  Improve Access to Quality Childcare & Family Support



3 rural & micropolitan counties
Hall, Hamilton, & Merrick Counties



1 of 18

NE LHDs implementing
Nat'l accreditation
standards



5.93

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



19%

of adults report
fair to poor health

"In all our work, we root our actions in science and public health best practices."

—Teresa Anderson, Health Director
tanderson@cdhd.ne.gov



Central District Health Department (CDHD) 2024-2025

Examples of Foundational Public Health Services



2,100+ children & parents served each month

Maternal, Child, & Family Health

Our WIC, Collective Impact, and Home Visitation programs work to connect families to community resources like food banks, breastfeeding education, employment, healthcare, housing, and utility assistance. This support, from preconception through the age of 19, empowers hundreds of local families to live healthier lives and improve long-term health outcomes by reducing preventable illnesses and addressing social needs that impact health.



400+ residents educated on bicycle safety

Chronic Disease & Injury Prevention

Our community-level work to support safe streets and walkable communities is ongoing. CDHD provided 385+ bike safety booklets and additional handouts on bike and pedestrian safety to children and adults. We gave 50 bikes to the Barr Middle School Summer Program. At the Grand Island Police Department's annual Back-to-School Bash, we educated about bike helmet fit and gave out 25 free helmets.



4,450 public and private water samples tested

Environmental Health

CDHD has a robust Environmental Health division. We sampled public and private water to ensure drinking water is free from harmful bacteria, chemicals, and pollutants. We also completed 1,350 food service inspections and related education, distributed 400 radon test kits, and followed up on 74 elevated blood lead level cases in children. Our 6 PurpleAir sensors allowed residents to access real-time data on local air quality.



384 children given oral health treatments

Access to & Linkage with Clinical Care

Healthy Smiles is CDHD's community-first dental program delivering free in-school screenings, fluoride treatments, and sealants. Led by public health dental hygienists, this is one example of how CDHD removes barriers, reaches families where they are, and connects them to prevention and care.



18,300 vaccinations given

Communicable Disease Control

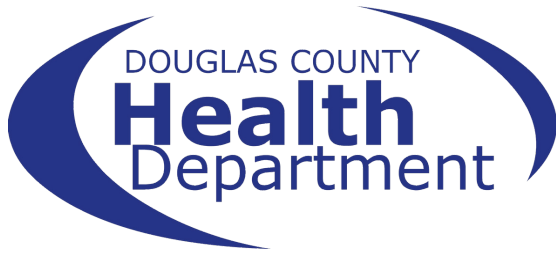
CDHD administered vaccines at our main clinic year-round and at 74 seasonal, off-site clinics. We served 5,780 people in Vaccines for Children (VFC) and other immunization programs. By prioritizing education and outreach, routine vaccination coverage has improved for area children. CDHD also limited the spread of communicable diseases by following up on 605 cases of reportable diseases this year.

From the Director

We continue to expand our existing programs as well as add new programs as opportunities and needs arise. Our key areas of focus continue to be access to healthcare, access to behavioral health, and available and affordable quality childcare. New this year is Healthy Families America - Central District, an evidence-based home visitation program focused on relationship building with families to promote safety, comfort, predictability, and joy. All pregnant persons and families with children aged birth to three months in our district are welcome to participate. HUD awarded us a 3-year HUD grant, enabling us to build capacity to detect and prevent childhood lead poisoning. In partnership with the City of Grand Island, we work with childcare providers to improve childcare settings to meet DHHS standards for licensure. Additional partnerships with Nebraska Children and Families Foundation and DHHS Child and Family Services give us an opportunity to work with families with young children to secure emergency funds to prevent homelessness. Furthermore, we provide coaching on budgets along with ongoing support for families to assist them in securing stable futures. We have expanded our Infectious Disease Program through the Ryan White Program, aimed at improving medical outcomes and access to care for those living with HIV. Long-standing programs continue. One example is our successful WIC Program, which has one of the highest breastfeeding rates in our state. In all our work, we root our actions in science and public health best practices.

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+2024-2025 Annual Report

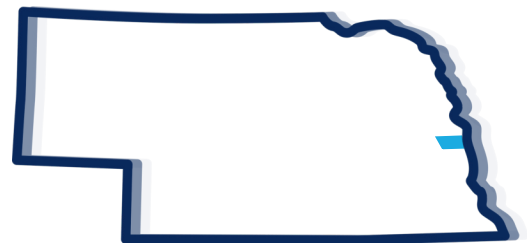
Douglas County Health Department (DCHD)

 **122** employees 

 **585,461** residents 

CHIP Priorities:

-  Connect People to Increased Social Support
-  Reduce Stigma of Mental Health & Substance Use Disorders
-  Increase Connections to Mental Health & Preventive Resources
-  Understanding Trauma



1 metro county
Douglas County



1 of 9
NE LHDs nationally
accredited by PHAB



2.08
FTEs per 10,000
(Nat'l average is 5.6)



16%
of adults report
fair to poor health

"Our core services safeguard the community every day."

—Lindsay Huse, Health Director
lindsay.huse@douglascounty-ne.gov



Douglas County Health Department (DCHD) 2024-2025

Examples of Foundational Public Health Services



9,593 children served by DCHD's WIC program

Maternal, Child, & Family Health

DCHD's WIC and Breast Feeding Peer Support programs served nearly 16,000 people. Our Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Landscape assessment also identified over 1,900 MCH activities in the area, with opportunities to improve alignment and amplify work across Omaha. Our Fetal Infant Mortality Review (FIMR) work included: 8 maternal interviews, 6 case reviews, 2 Community Action Team meetings with 3 community recommendations advanced.



600+ individuals reached

Chronic Disease & Injury Prevention

DCHD provided the Diabetes Prevention Program at various locations, including at the Community Health Collaborative and the Juan Diego Community Center. We also screened 206 individuals for high blood pressure at 10 different community events. Community-level work on systems change that support safe streets and walkable communities are ongoing.



796 elevated blood lead level (EBLL) cases investigated

Environmental Health

Our Environmental Health Section worked with families of 796 children with EBLL to identify sources and provide guidance. We completed 4,316 food service inspections and education on the CDC Risk Factors: poor personal hygiene, improper holding and cooking temperatures, unsafe sourcing, and contaminated equipment. We also collected 57 mosquito and tick samples to monitor for vector-borne disease and monitored local air quality, issuing 3 advisories.



129 individuals connected with medical assistance

Access to & Linkage with Clinical Care

Community Health Workers (CHWs) connected individuals to clinical services through translation, health literacy education, and assistance with Medicaid applications and SNAP benefits.



8,206 investigations of reportable diseases

Communicable Disease Control

This year, DCHD completed 8,206 disease investigations, most commonly related to influenza, COVID, and chlamydia. We also administered 3,403 immunizations through the VFC and VFA (Vaccines for Children and Adults) programs--hosting pop-up clinics community wide. DCHD provided immunization education at community locations, including 31 childcare facilities, and engages in the Nebraska Immunization Task Force.

From the Director

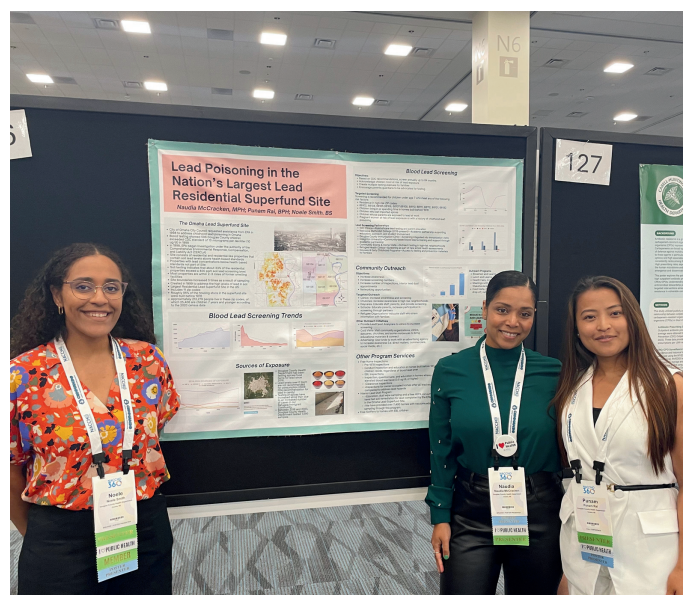
Douglas County Health Department (DCHD) is dedicated to protecting and improving the health of all residents. Guided by data, community voice, and strong partnerships, we advanced major milestones this year: drafting a new strategic plan, completing the 2024 Community Health Assessment (CHA), and achieving Public Health Accreditation.

Our core services safeguard the community every day. The disease surveillance team curbed the spread of illnesses like influenza and syphilis. The Environmental Health Division upheld safety at thousands of food establishments, pools, and childcare facilities. Clinical services teams provided immunizations, STI/HIV testing. WIC supported mothers and children. The Emergency Preparedness Program strengthened protocols and trained with partners to ensure readiness for emergencies.

Beyond immediate services, we focus on long-term solutions. With direction from the CHA, we worked to expand mental health access, prevent chronic disease, and improve maternal and child health. Community Health Workers connected residents to vital resources—from lead prevention to diabetes management—while addressing the social and economic factors that shape health.

Looking ahead, DCHD will continue leveraging data, innovation, and policy to make healthy choices easier and ensure Douglas County remains resilient and prepared.

Lindsay Huse MPH, DNP, RN
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+2024-2025 Annual Report

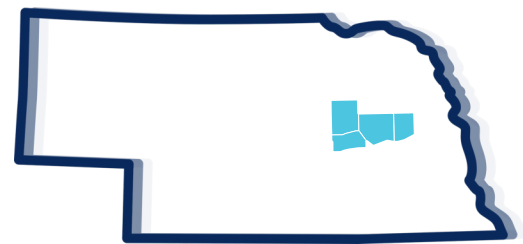
East Central District Health Department (ECDHD)

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21 employees ++
++

++
+++
53,607 residents ++
++

CHIP Priorities:

- ▶ Improve Behavioral Health Access
- ▶ Address Food Insecurity
- ▶ 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
mpofahl@ecdhd.ne.gov



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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DEPARTMENT

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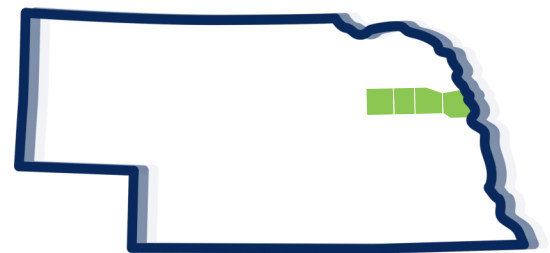
Elkhorn Logan Valley Public Health Department (ELVPHD)

13.8 employees

57,076 residents

CHIP Priorities:

- ▶ Expand Mental Health Services
- ▶ Increase Cancer Screening & Prevention
- ▶ Prevent & Reduce Obesity



4 rural & micropolitan counties

Burt, Cuming, Madison, and
Stanton Counties



1 of 9

NE LHDs nationally
accredited by PHAB



2.42

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



17%

of adults report fair to
poor health

"Our vision: Healthy People Living in Healthy Communities."

—Gina Uhing, Health Director
gina@elvphd.ne.gov



Elkhorn Valley Public Health Department (ELVPHD) 2024-2025

Examples of Foundational Public Health Services



675 children educated on substance use prevention

Maternal, Child, & Family Health

ELVPHD provided education to prevent substance use among youth at schools by addressing drug, alcohol, and vaping prevention. As part of these efforts, we introduced the CredibleMind digital mental well-being platform which provides access to evidence-based information & tools that support emotional health.



326 people educated on injury prevention

Chronic Disease & Injury Prevention

Throughout the district, our evidence-based programming supported improvements in healthy eating, physical activity, weight and blood pressure. There were clear improvements in nutrition and physical activity indicators, weight, and healthy behavior changes. Falls prevention programs served 90 residents who showed improvement in mobility and risk reduction strategies.



36 follow-ups conducted for high radon test results

Environmental Health

ELVPHD's Environmental Health program provided a range of services. Our 3 PurpleAir sensors monitored air quality. We helped ensure safe drinking water by providing free nitrate test strips, promoting water testing, and tracking water compliance. We provided 88 radon test kits to residents. Our team followed up on 23 local children with elevated blood lead levels.



1,814 people received oral health care

Access to & Linkage with Clinical Care

Our Smile in Style program provided community dental services to over 1,800 individuals (1,790 children) over the past year. Notably, 53% of those served reported not receiving regular dental care, underscoring the critical need for this program. Since its inception, Smile in Style has steadily expanded to address the critical oral health needs in the district.



7,167 vaccines provided

Communicable Disease Control

ELVPHD limited the spread of infectious disease through 527 disease investigations, most commonly, enteric illnesses. We also administered 7,167 immunizations as part of our VFC, VFA (Vaccines for Children and Adults), and private pay programs. We offered vaccines at our 3 sites and at district-wide, off-site events. These efforts support health and reduce healthcare costs.

From the Director

During this past year, the Elkhorn Logan Valley Public Health Department (ELVPHD), along with our hospital partners Faith Regional Health Services and Franciscan Healthcare, and many other stakeholders and community partners, embarked on the community health needs assessment process to gauge the health status of our communities. This process is conducted every three years, and the data analyzed will result in adopting our new/updated Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) in the next fiscal year. The CHIP becomes our guiding document to ensure that we prioritize our work to meet the unique needs of our communities. We look forward to finalizing this process, which is vital to moving the needle to accomplish our vision: Healthy People Living in Healthy Communities. In addition to continuing the work outlined in our CHIP, the following notable achievements occurred: 1. ELVPHD continued digitalization as a Strategic Plan top priority to improve efficiency and the delivery of services. This resulted in expanding several new digital platforms and virtual learning options, and adopting a comprehensive electronic health record to ensure we can best serve our communities most efficiently. 2. Our Tekamah, NE office underwent renovations during the year to ensure a comfortable and inviting facility that can readily and most effectively meet the needs of people accessing our services on the Eastern side of our district. We are excited to finalize this space in the coming year! 3. ELVPHD received official notice of reaccreditation from the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) in August 2024. Achieving reaccreditation requires meeting rigorous quality and excellence standards, and this achievement demonstrates our health department's commitment to ensuring effective, efficient, and high-quality public health programming to assist with improving health outcomes throughout our district.



Gina Uhing
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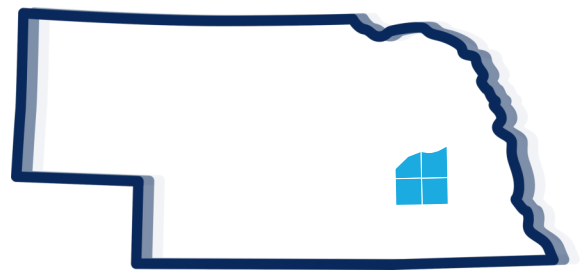
Four Corners Health Department (FCHD)

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15 employees ++
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++
++
45,491 residents ++
++

CHIP Priorities:

- ▶ Create Thriving Communities
- ▶ Address Mental Health Needs
- ▶ Prevent Injuries
- ▶ Identify & Heal Substance Misuse
- ▶ Transform Systems & Improve Access to Care



4 rural & micropolitan counties

Butler, Polk, Seward, and York Counties



1 of 18

NE LHDs implementing
Nat'l accreditation
standards



3.35

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



15%

of adults report
fair to poor health

"Innovation in public health transforms challenges into opportunities, creating healthier communities by bringing fresh solutions to the most pressing health needs."

—Laura McDougall, Executive Director
lauram@fourcorners.ne.gov



Four Corners Health Department (FCHD) 2024-2025

Examples of Foundational Public Health Services



448 participants in seminars/workshops

Maternal, Child, & Family Health (MCH)

We launched our Healthy Families America program, serving 25 families. Nearly 450 people participated in workshops for parents and caregivers. Guided by our Youth Mental Health Steering Committee, we also continued work to prevent youth deaths by suicide. Capacity-building strategies include QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer), Youth Mental Health First Aid, ASIST (Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training), WRAP (Wellness Recovery Action Plan), and mental health system navigation.



3,961 participants in injury prevention programs

Chronic Disease & Injury Prevention

Four Corners empowers residents with chronic disease prevention classes, safe driving education, child car seat checks, and naloxone training. Whether in schools or senior centers, we provide the public with vital health information. These programs save lives, prevent injuries, and build confidence, creating healthier, safer, and more resilient communities.



42 elevated blood lead level (EBLL) cases investigated

Environmental Health

Four Corners mitigates the risk of diseases related to environmental exposure. We worked with the families of 42 area children with EBLLs to identify possible causes and provide guidance. We also collected 532 mosquito samples to monitor for vector-borne disease, provided supplies to test over 130 private well water samples for contaminants, and distributed 258 radon test kits to help residents monitor their exposure to this cancer-causing gas.



933 children given oral health treatments

Access to & Linkage with Clinical Care

Four Corners screened 363 residents for health-related social needs and connected 40 of them to vital resources (counseling, medication, dental services, and chronic disease support). As part of our preventative oral health program, we directly served 933 children at 20 schools/preschools and 4 residents of long-term care facilities.



199 vaccinations provided

Communicable Disease Control

Four Corners limited the spread of infectious disease and strengthened the health of the entire region by investigating 207 cases of reportable diseases, most often related to animal exposures (n=85). We also administered 199 immunizations to 67 individuals as part of our VFC (Vaccines for Children) program.

From the Director

On behalf of the Four Corners Health Department, I am proud to share the important work being done to protect, promote, and improve the health of the people we serve across Butler, Polk, Seward, and York Counties. Public health is the foundation of thriving communities, and with your ongoing support, our department continues to deliver innovative, impactful services that reach every corner of our four-county region.

Four Corners addresses urgent community needs by investing in drug and alcohol counseling, prevention education, and mental health resources that connect people to the care they need when they need it most. Through coordinated care teams, we are reducing barriers, improving outcomes, and creating a safety net of services that no single organization could provide alone.

We educate to create safer roads and farms by reinforcing safe driving practices and teaching the safe operation of agricultural equipment—critical initiatives for a rural region like ours.

We believe that vibrant, connected communities start with healthy individuals. Our team provides education and local classes to help residents manage chronic conditions such as diabetes, high blood pressure, and depression, as well as programs to prevent injuries like falls, which are a major health risk for older adults. These programs empower community members with the tools and knowledge to take control of their health, improving quality of life while reducing strain on our healthcare systems.

An investment in public health makes all of this possible. It allows us to deliver life-saving programs, respond quickly to emerging health concerns, and lead innovative initiatives that strengthen our region's overall health. From ensuring rural residents have access to essential care, to addressing mental health and substance use challenges, to building a culture of prevention, your support helps create a healthier Nebraska for every resident—today and for generations to come.



With gratitude,
Laura McDougall, MS
lauram@fourcorners.ne.gov



Lincoln-Lancaster County
Health Department

www.lincoln.ne.gov/health
(402) 441-8000

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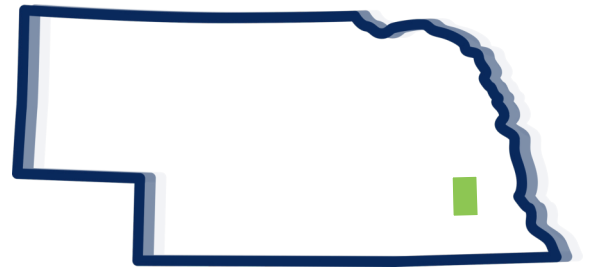
Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department (LLCHD)

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183 employees
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323,673 residents
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CHIP Priorities:

- ▶ Access to Care
- ▶ Addressing Depression
- ▶ Suicide Prevention



1 metro county
Lancaster County



1 of 9
Nebraska LHDs
nationally
accredited by PHAB



5.65
FTEs per 10,000
(Nat'l average is 5.6)



15%
of adults report fair to
poor health

"Working collaboratively is creating real change in Lincoln and Lancaster County."

—Kerry Kernen, Health Director
kkernen@lincoln.ne.gov



Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department (LLCHD) 2024-2025

Examples of Foundational Public Health Services



1,287 families served by home visitation programs

Maternal, Child, & Family Health

LLCHD provides home visitation services through the Healthy Families America and Family Connects (Universal Home Visitation Model) to families in Lincoln and Lancaster County. Home visitation services provide a strong foundation for a healthy start for infants and children, support family well-being and build capacity for a bright future.



22,851 participants in prevention programs

Chronic Disease & Injury Prevention

Health Promotion staff implemented a proper vape disposal project in area schools along with youth tobacco cessation and education on the impact nicotine has on mental health. Three Youth Sports Sign-Up Events were organized with community partners to increase the accessibility of affordable youth sports.



2,446 food service inspections completed

Environmental Health

In Lancaster County, we protect and promote the environmental health and safety of residents by ensuring healthy childcare environments, preventing illness through food safety and mosquito and tick surveillance, responding to HazMat spills, ensuring good air and water quality, and recommending safer options for disposing of hazardous waste.



10,318 residents served by oral health programs

Access to & Linkage with Clinical Care

The Health Department's Dental Program serves low-income, uninsured pregnant women, children, and adults, and those enrolled in Medicaid, who often have limited access to affordable dental care, regular dental services, or other barriers such as language needs.



17,556 vaccinations given

Communicable Disease Control

Safe and effective vaccines play a critical role in overall health at any age. LLCHD's public health clinic provides vaccinations for children and adults in its public health clinic and at community-based events to protect against vaccine-preventable diseases, improve community immunity and support refugee and other underserved populations.

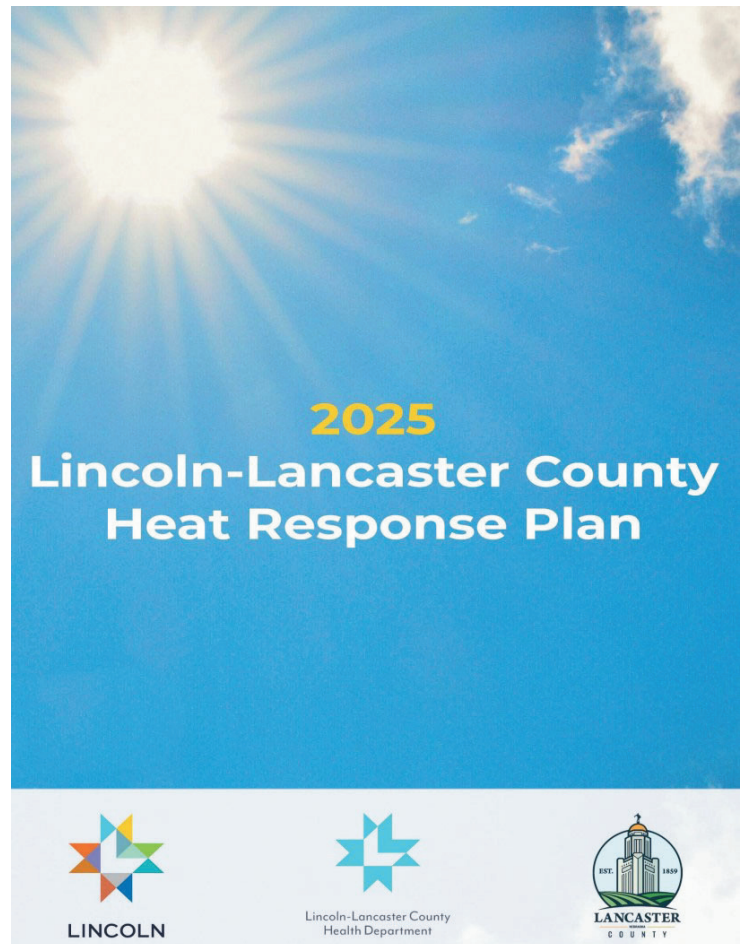
From the Director

It's been a highly productive year at the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department as we launched several new public health initiatives that advance our mission of protecting and promoting the public's health. We've lifted priorities in our Community Health Improvement Plan, focusing on mental health. The "6 Pillars for Emotional Wellbeing – A Parent's Guide" is a new video series designed to help families build healthy rhythms and routines into everyday life that support youth emotional health. This is a resource created by our community for our community. The series features local and national health experts, partners, and parents. It focuses on six core elements: sleep, physical activity, nutrition/hydration, relational connectedness, mastery, and quieting. Watch and learn more – lincoln.ne.gov/6Pillars.

Simultaneously, the Health Department and health system partners launched CredibleMind. This online mental wellbeing platform provides community members with access to evidence-based mental health resources. CredibleMind is a tool that can be used to better understand and take charge of our own mental wellbeing. It's a one-stop shop to learn new skills, take assessments, and find helpful information and local resources. It's free, confidential, and available 24/7. Visit myhealthymind.crediblemind.com.

We know extreme heat can be dangerous and pose a threat to people's health. The Health Department created a Heat Response Plan to help the community prepare for and respond to extreme heat events and help residents stay safe as temperatures rise. The plan lays out clear action steps for the City and County, partners, and residents during extreme heat, including offering extended hours at cooling centers, heat relief kits, and helpful information and resources. View the plan and learn more at lincoln.ne.gov/Heat.

Working collaboratively with partners and the community is creating real change that's leading to a healthier and safer Lincoln and Lancaster County.



Kerry Kernan, MPA, MSN, RN
kkernan@lincoln.ne.gov



Lincoln-Lancaster County
Health Department



Loup Basin
PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

lbphd.ne.gov
(308) 346-5795

+ 2024-2025 Annual Report

Loup Basin Public Health Department (LBPHD)



15 employees

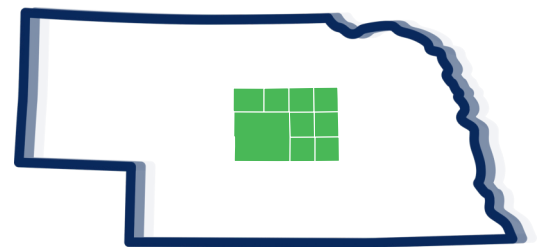


29,846 residents



CHIP Priorities:

- ▶ Expand Access to Mental Health Services
- ▶ Improve Access to Childcare
- ▶ Prevent Diabetes
- ▶ Reduce Harm from Alcohol, Drugs, & Tobacco
- ▶ Promote Cancer Detection & Prevention



Blaine, Custer, Garfield, Greeley, Howard,
Loup, Sherman, Valley, and Wheeler Counties



9

rural counties



4.89

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



17%

of adults report
fair to poor health

"We deeply appreciate the Legislature and the Division of Public Health for their ongoing support of local health departments, which makes this work possible."

—Amanda Jeffres, Executive Director
ajeffres@lbphd.ne.gov



Loup Basin Public Health Department (LBPHD) 2024-2025

Examples of Foundational Public Health Services



392 home visits completed

Maternal, Child, & Family Health

Through regular in-home visits, our Healthy Families America program offered parenting education, child development screenings, and connections to community resources—helping parents build confidence, strengthen family bonds, and ensure children grow up healthy and safe.



27 car seat safety checks at community events

Chronic Disease & Injury Prevention

Certified car seat technicians provide safety checks and education at community events. We also provided 12 car seats to families in need. We serve parents and caregivers across the area, ensuring children travel safely. This work prevents injuries and promotes child passenger safety in our communities.



23 elevated blood lead level (EBLL) cases investigated

Environmental Health

LBPHD mitigates the risk of diseases related to environmental exposures. We helped the families of 23 area children with EBLLs to identify and address sources of exposure. Other environmental work involved collecting 198 mosquito and tick samples to monitor for vector-borne disease and distributing 66 radon test kits to help residents monitor their exposure to this cancer-causing gas.



2,145 children given oral health treatments

Access to & Linkage with Clinical Care

By bringing care directly into 29 schools and long-term care facilities across our district, LBPHD reduced transportation and financial barriers, helped identify dental needs early, and supported overall health and well-being. This work makes a substantial impact, as oral health is directly linked to physical health, academic performance, and quality of life.



785 vaccinations administered

Communicable Disease Control

LBPHD completed 118 disease investigations, with campylobacteriosis being the most common reportable disease (n=24). We also administered 785 immunizations for all ages, regardless of insurance, with the help of our VFC and VFA (Vaccines for Children and Adults). We vaccinated 309 individuals at district-wide, bimonthly clinics. Timely disease investigation and accessible vaccinations help prevent the spread of illnesses in our communities.

From the Director

Loup Basin Public Health Department (LBPHD) is proud to share the work we are doing to improve health, safety, and access to care in our rural communities. Our department is in the process of building a new facility that will allow us to expand services and increase access to care for the people we serve. This investment will strengthen our ability to deliver public health programs more effectively, and we are grateful to our Board of Health for their guidance and support throughout this process. Like many local health departments, LBPHD has had to adapt to reduced financial support. We have been proactive in seeking new funding opportunities and braiding resources together in order to sustain essential services. Despite these challenges, we remain committed to protecting and improving the health of our community. We are actively pursuing PHAB accreditation, recognizing the many benefits it brings to our organization, our partners, and the people we serve. Accreditation will help us strengthen our systems, demonstrate accountability, and ensure that we are delivering the highest quality public health services. LBPHD is proud of our Healthy Families Loup Basin home visitation program, which continues to grow and flourish.

This program provides critical support to families, encouraging healthy child development, positive parenting and safe home environments. We see many inspiring stories from families whose lives have been strengthened through this program. In addition, we have expanded our services to include CPR classes and coordination of the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) unit. These programs help fill important gaps in rural health services by equipping community members with lifesaving skills and strengthening local emergency preparedness. LBPHD's mission is to improve the health and well-being of our nine-county district by providing accessible, high-quality public health services, promoting disease prevention and addressing health disparities through education, outreach, and collaboration. This mission guides every program we offer and every decision we make. We deeply appreciate the Legislature and the Division of Public Health for their ongoing support of local health departments, which makes this work possible.





[www://ncdhd.ne.gov](http://www.ncdhd.ne.gov)
(402) 336-2406

+ 2024-2025 Annual Report

North Central District Health Department (NCDHD)



12 employees



44,254 residents



CHIP Priorities:

- ▶ Improve Access to Affordable, High-Quality Healthcare
- ▶ Address Mental Health & Behavioral Health Needs
- ▶ Promote Healthy Living & Chronic Disease Prevention



9 rural counties

Antelope, Boyd, Brown, Cherry, Holt, Keya Paha, Knox, Pierce, and Rock Counties



Accredited

1 of 9 NE LHDs
nationally accredited
by PHAB



2.59

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



15%

of adults report fair to
poor health

"We have made meaningful progress in addressing our community's top health needs."

—Heidi Kuklis, Executive Director
heidi@ncdhd.ne.gov



North Central District Health Department (NCDHD) 2024-2025

Examples of Foundational Public Health Services



85 families received direct assistance

Maternal, Child, & Family Health

NCDHD offers central navigation as the local partner of the Nebraska Children and Families Foundation (NCFF) and DHHS. We helped 85 families and their children access NCFF's direct financial assistance for essentials like rent, utilities, and local food purchases of fresh, nutritious foods.



970+ participants in prevention programming

Chronic Disease & Injury Prevention

We advanced healthy living by delivering anti-vaping education to students, training alcohol servers, and providing hypertension classes, blood pressure checks, and discounted pool passes. Food prep classes taught portion control and low-sodium cooking, building lasting skills that reduce chronic disease in our communities.



151 private well water samples tested

Environmental Health

Our 3rd Grade Citizen Science Project engaged 400+ students from 23 schools in testing home water samples for nitrates, nitrites, and phosphates—providing results and resources to participating families. NCDHD also followed up on 26 cases of elevated blood lead levels (EBLL) in local children, collected over 15,000 mosquitos and 572 ticks, monitoring for vector-borne diseases, and gave out 58 radon test kits.



4,000+ children given oral health treatments

Access to & Linkage with Clinical Care

NCDHD provided district-wide preventive oral care directly in 33 schools and 14 daycares, serving 4,031 children. Additionally, we screened and referred 680 residents to other dental providers, and 17 residents to mental health providers. As part of our work to address local behavioral health access, the CredibleMind website supported 1,702 users (222 under age 18).



2,177 vaccinations administered

Communicable Disease Control

To prevent the spread of illnesses, we provided 2,177 vaccines to children and adults, investigated and followed up on 254 reportable disease cases, visited 20 long-term care sites to enhance emergency readiness, and developed a daycare infection-control course launching in Fall 2025. Our efforts protect vulnerable residents, prevent outbreaks, and ensure the health of rural communities.

From the Director

We have made meaningful progress in addressing our community's top health needs: heart disease, access to care, and mental health. Heart disease was addressed through physical activity classes, food prep classes, blood pressure checks, access to community blood pressure stations, disease screenings, CPR training, community education events, and 1:1 health coaching. We expanded access to health services by offering 100+ mobile immunization and 68 school-based dental clinics across our district, reaching individuals regardless of income or mobility. Our mental health efforts included expanding the number of trainers for suicide prevention training, hosting our first suicide awareness and prevention walk, supporting social-emotional learning applications for schools, and promoting the Credible Mind online mental wellness tool.

We are also proud to highlight several new initiatives. Part of our office was remodeled to accommodate a **clinical space and 6 private offices**. The new space allows us to deliver immunizations, screenings, and other health services in a more private setting. In partnership with local hospitals, we expanded access to preventive lung cancer screenings, helping residents at risk for radon exposure and smoking-related illness. We began offering **CPR training** to better equip our community members with lifesaving skills. We started **visiting daycares to provide dental health education**, encouraging healthy habits to start early. Catch My Breath **vaping curriculum** was offered to area schools, educating 170 youth.

This year, we also completed a new Community Health Needs Assessment (CHA) in partnership with local hospitals and stakeholders that will guide our 2025–2027 Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP). Focus will be on:

- Supporting lifestyle changes to improve physical activity, sleep, and nutrition
- Enhancing socioeconomic stability through housing and food security efforts
- Improving access to transportation, health care, and childcare

Thank you to our partners, staff, and residents for your continued support. We look forward to building a healthier future together.





nnphd.ne.gov
(402) 375-2200

+2024-2025 Annual Report

Northeast Nebraska Public Health Department (NNPHD)



16 employees

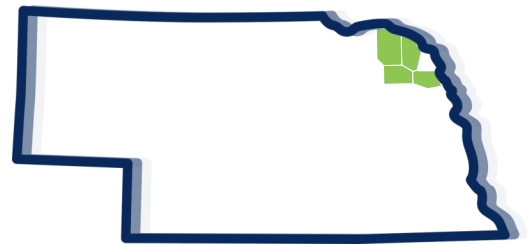


30,357 residents



CHIP Priorities:

- ▶ Expand Access to Mental Health Support
- ▶ Promote Healthy Living



4 rural & micropolitan counties

Cedar, Dixon, Thurston, and
Wayne Counties



1 of 18

NE LHDs implementing
Nat'l accreditation
standards



5.27

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



18%

of adults report
fair to poor health

“Our collective hard work makes a difference in the lives of the Nebraskans we serve.”

—Colleen Hupke, Executive Health Director
colleen@nnphd.ne.gov



Northeast Nebraska Public Health Department (NNPHD) 2024-2025

Examples of Foundational Public Health Services



Ready to vaccinate in 2025

Maternal, Child, & Family Health

We support maternal and child health efforts locally. We planned and secured resources necessary to start providing childhood immunizations at clinics across our area in FY 2025. The new program will protect children from preventable diseases and help families keep kids healthy, school-ready, and on track with recommended vaccines.



278 A1c screenings completed at no cost

Chronic Disease & Injury Prevention

This year we screened 278 residents' A1c and then connected 66 of those individuals (with prediabetes or diabetes readings) to clinical care. Other programs addressing chronic disease included Sweet Talk, weight management coaching, and coordinating the Diabetes Coalition meetings, monthly. Over 200 people received education and resources at 18 additional outreach events.



8 elevated blood lead level (EBLL) cases investigated

Environmental Health

NNPHD worked with families of the 8 area children with EBLL to identify possible causes and provide guidance; each week, we collected 9 mosquito samples to monitor for vector-borne disease; we distributed 26 radon test kits and provided education to help residents monitor their exposure to this cancer-causing gas in their homes; and our PurpleAir sensor monitored local air quality issues. Our website tracks air quality on a daily basis.



1,575 children given oral health treatments

Access to & Linkage with Clinical Care

Residents from preschool to 100+ years old received screenings, fluoride varnish, cleaning, sealants, and education in NNPHD's oral health program. We served 1,651 residents, mostly children, at 16 sites districtwide, including Head Starts, daycares, schools, long-term care and assisted living facilities, and community events. We also connected 113 residents to clinical care.



108 communicable diseases investigated

Communicable Disease Control

NNPHD completed 108 disease investigations for reportable diseases, most commonly related pertussis and animal exposures, as well as for sexually transmitted infections. Timely disease investigation and accessible vaccinations prevent diseases in rural communities like ours.

From the Director

As Executive Health Director, I am both proud and humbled by the dedication of our team, the support of our partners, and the resilience of our communities. Together, we are committed to ensuring access to healthcare and supporting the well-being of those we serve. By collaborating with cities, schools, healthcare providers, and community organizations, we have amplified our impact and filled gaps across our counties.

This year, we expanded innovative programs, built strategic partnerships, and used data-driven interventions to achieve measurable progress. We brought new resources such as health kiosks to rural areas, grew our oral health program to address provider shortages, and expanded our Health and Habits program for diabetes and weight management. Our emergency response and environmental coordinator strengthened statewide and national relationships to enhance disaster preparedness, while our nurses continue to guide communities on infectious disease prevention and vaccines.

Looking ahead, Northeast Nebraska Public Health Department will keep building safer, healthier communities through collaboration, resourcefulness, and a commitment to excellence. We are grateful to all who contribute to our efforts and successes. Our collective hard work makes a difference in the lives of the Nebraskans we serve.

Kindly,

Colleen Hupke, MPH
colleen@nnphd.ne.gov



+ 2024-2025 Annual Report

Panhandle Public Health District (PPHD)



31 employees

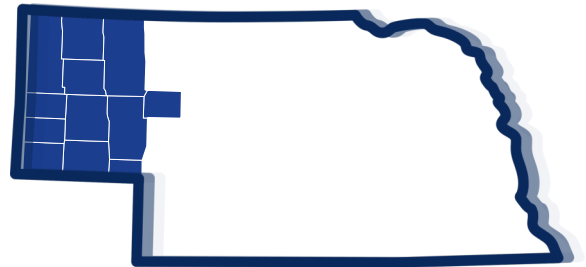


83,365 residents



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
jdavies@pphd.ne.gov



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 third 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
jdavies@pphd.ne.gov

Panhandle
Public Health District





Public Health
Solutions

[www:// phsneb.org](http://phsneb.org)
(402) 826-3880

+2024-2025 Annual Report Public Health Solutions (PHS)



20 employees



53,932 residents



CHIP Priorities:

- ▶ Expand Access to Mental Health Services
- ▶ Prevent Chronic Disease
- ▶ Expand Access to Health Resources & Opportunities
- ▶ Protect Environmental Health



5 rural counties

Fillmore, Gage, Jefferson, Saline,
and Thayer Counties



1 of 18

NE LHDs implementing
Nat'l accreditation
standards



3.71

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



18%

of adults report
fair to poor health

"Rapid change creates tremendous challenges and incredible opportunities"

—Kim Showalter, Health Director
kshowalter@phsneb.org



Public Health Solutions (PHS) 2024-2025

Examples of Foundational Public Health Services



104 families served by home visitation programs

Maternal, Child, & Family Health

Baby in Bloom classes served 20 individuals. 22 families received instruction on infant massage. All 104 Healthy Families American (HFA) families completed family literacy and met benchmarks of reading to their children every night. We completed 1,275 home visits and 97% of our HFA child welfare-involved families remained safe at home 6 months after discharge from the program.



220 participants in prevention programs

Chronic Disease & Injury Prevention

PHS provided Living Well classes in English and Spanish which evolved into ongoing walking groups. We also offered district-wide tai chi classes at several locations and a 6-month chronic disease management program led by a nurse health coach. Also, 60 participants took part in preventing/managing hypertension classes at senior centers taught in both English and Spanish.



44 EBL (elevated blood lead level) cases investigated

Environmental Health

PHS supported the families of 44 local children with EBLs. Our lead prevention program now includes a "Lead Detective" who works with children in local libraries and an interactive "Lead House" with activities that teach children about lead prevention. We also distributed 64 radon test kits. Our 4 PurpleAir sensors allowed residents to access real-time data on local air quality.



817 children served by oral health programs

Access to & Linkage with Clinical Care

We provided oral health screenings at 3 area schools and regular dental clinics at the PHS office in Crete. In partnership with Crete Public Schools, PHS provided comprehensive dental screening, services, and referral for children designated as homeless. Through this program, PHS saw over 100 homeless children in our Crete Dental Clinic.



1,928 vaccinations given

Communicable Disease Control

PHS limited the spread of infectious diseases by investigating and following up on 44 reportable disease cases. We also gave 1,928 immunizations to 1,606 individuals. We provided on-site clinics in Crete, district-wide SkipFlu clinics in schools, and at larger community clinics throughout the year. PHS also provided vaccinations to long-term care and assisted living facilities in the district.

From the Director

For the Public Health Solutions (PHS) staff and Board of Health members, this year has been a period of rapid change, tremendous challenges, and incredible opportunity. In the spring of 2024, the PHS team embarked on a series of planning sessions to refocus the organization's work and clearly define organizational values. Through this work, it became clear that traditional ways of approaching public health service would need to be evaluated and, at times, made more current, to better meet the needs of the individuals and families living in the PHS district. Our work throughout the year clearly demonstrates this willingness to adapt and move forward, even when the way forward was ever-changing. Driven by data, the PHS team went to work developing a full array of services for expecting and new mothers & their partners, programs to support healthy child development, chronic disease prevention, and population protection. The "Baby in Bloom" series was created to provide pregnant women with education, peer support, and resource navigation so that their newborn baby has the best possible start in life. The PHS "Baby and Me" space is home to a lactation and consultation room, an educational classroom designed for parents and young children, and the opportunity to work with lactation consultants and peer support mentors to track baby's weight and development. PHS also continues to offer a comprehensive home visitation program to parents wanting extra support during those early childhood years. Chronic disease programs continue to help those struggling to manage diabetes, obesity, hypertension, and other chronic conditions to live healthier lives, hopefully prolonging their life and slowing disease progression. These services include nurse health coaching and case management.

Our report is a great overview of all the work being done at PHS and we hope you will take a minute to read about our efforts in environmental health, emergency preparedness, clinical services, disease surveillance, and many more community-based programs. On behalf of our staff and Board of Health members, thank you for taking the time to learn more about our organization and the important work being done in our communities.



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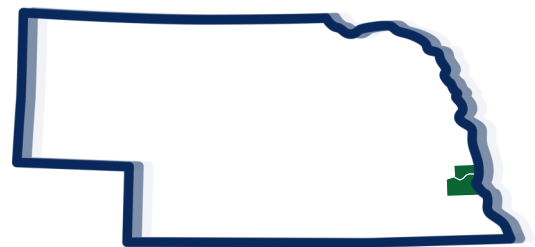
Sarpy/Cass Health Department (SCHD)

 **11 employees** 

 **221,014 residents** 

CHIP Priorities:

- ▶ Connect People to Increased Social Support
- ▶ Reduce Stigma of Mental Health & Substance Use Disorders
- ▶ Increase Connections to Mental Health & Preventive Resources
- ▶ Understanding Trauma



2 metro counties

Cass and Sarpy Counties



1 of 18

NE LHDs implementing
Nat'l accreditation
standards



0.48

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



13%

of adults report
fair to poor health

"...we look for opportunities to provide programs that help residents of every age achieve and maintain good health."

—Sarah Schram, Health Director
sschram@schd.ne.gov



Sarpy/Cass Health Department (SCHD) 2024-2025

Examples of Foundational Public Health Services



1,404 postpartum peer support encounters

Maternal, Child, & Family Health

Breastfeeding is ideal nutrition for babies. The WIC Breastfeeding Peer Educator Program provides personalized, culturally sensitive support to help WIC families succeed with breastfeeding. Peer Educators offer one-on-one and small-group guidance, connect families to resources, and empower mothers to reach their breastfeeding goals.



2,900 residents in chronic disease & injury programs

Chronic Disease & Injury Prevention

Unintentional injuries, many of which are preventable, are a leading cause of death and disability in children. We promoted childhood injury prevention and healthy living through education and programming on nutrition, fitness, oral health, child passenger safety, home safety, water safety, and mental health for children and families.



58 elevated blood lead level cases investigated

Environmental Health

Lead exposure in children can cause serious, long-term health effects on brain development, growth, and learning. SCHD worked with families to reduce lead exposure and lead poisoning of 58 children. We identify risks and sources, educate guardians, connect families to services, and address medical, environmental, nutritional, and developmental needs.



1,134 children served by oral health program

Access to & Linkage with Clinical Care

Early dental care is key to lifelong healthy teeth and gums, supporting a child's ability to eat, speak, and succeed in school. To promote good oral health habits, we offered our district-wide oral health education program at 17 sites, including preschools, elementary schools, community events, and maternity homes. We served 1,230 residents, mostly children.



1,917 communicable disease cases investigated

Communicable Disease Control

Communicable diseases can significantly impact individuals, communities, and public health systems. Effective control of such diseases reduces healthcare costs, protects vulnerable populations, and prevents outbreaks. SCHD responded to 1,917 cases of reportable diseases through case investigations, contact tracing, and implementing control measures. Chlamydia was the most common reportable disease encountered, especially in adolescents and young adults.

From the Director

Our department remains dedicated to improving the health and well-being of all Sarpy and Cass County residents through prevention, promotion, and protection of public health. This report highlights some of the day-to-day work of our staff in pursuit of our mission to support the highest quality of life for the communities we serve. From breastfeeding education for new families to chronic disease prevention classes for adults and seniors, we look for opportunities to provide programs that help residents at every age achieve and maintain good health.

Over the past year, we celebrated key milestones, including the opening of a new Cass County satellite office in Louisville and a coordinated response to a pertussis outbreak in fall 2024. Our team partnered with schools, childcare centers, and healthcare providers to limit the outbreak to just over 60 cases—combining case investigation with timely communication and education. This effort reflects just one example of how we routinely respond to public health challenges, many more of which are highlighted throughout this report.

To learn more about our ongoing programs and public health updates, I invite you to visit our website at schr.d.ne.gov or follow us on social media.

—Sarah Schram
sschram@schr.d.ne.gov



+2024-2025 Annual Report

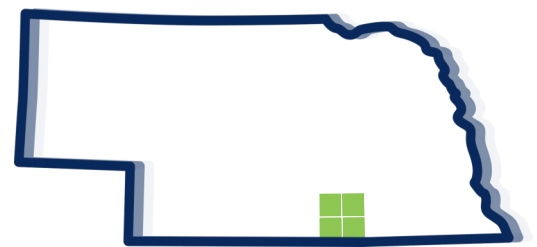
South Heartland District Health Department (SHDHD)

++
++
++
26 employees ++
++

++
++
++
44,592 residents ++
++

CHIP Priorities:

- ▶ Expand Access to Care
- ▶ Improve Mental Health
- ▶ Prevent Substance Misuse
- ▶ Reduce Obesity
- ▶ Increase Cancer Screening & Prevention



4 rural & micropolitan counties

Adams, Clay, Nuckolls, and
Webster Counties



1 of 9

NE LHDs nationally
accredited by PHAB



4.60

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



17%

of adults report fair to
poor health

"Growing strong local partnerships and supporting our communities to be healthier."

—Michele Bever, Executive Director
michele.bever@shdhd.ne.gov



South Heartland District Health Department (SHDHD) 2024-2025

Examples of Foundational Public Health Services



39 families served through visitation

Maternal, Child, & Family Health

Healthy Families America (HFA) is a free, voluntary, in-home, relationship-based service for low-income, at-risk residents of our district who are pregnant or brand-new mothers of infants up to three months. Our work is designed to promote positive parent-child interactions, create healthy parent-child attachment, and build confidence in new parents.



50 program participants

Chronic Disease & Injury Prevention

Our Falls Prevention classes help older adults improve balance, mobility, and reduce fall risk. Classes were held at community sites with input from physical therapists and experts on vision, meds, and movement. We also offered Diabetes Prevention using HALT and promoting healthy lifestyle changes.



48 EBL (elevated blood lead level) cases investigated

Environmental Health

We worked with the families of 48 area children with lead poisoning to identify possible causes and provide guidance. We collected mosquito samples to monitor for vector-borne disease, distributed 61 radon test kits to help residents monitor their exposure to this cancer-causing gas, and our 3 PurpleAir sensors allowed residents to access real-time data on local air quality.



83 children served by the oral health program

Access to & Linkage with Clinical Care

Our new oral health program served children in 5 daycare and preschool sites with screenings, cleanings, fluoride treatments, sealants, and education. Our team promotes habits like brushing and healthy eating to prevent tooth decay. These efforts improve access, reduce future dental issues, and support lifelong oral health.



1,442 vaccinations administered

Communicable Disease Control

Chlamydia and lead poisoning were the most common disease investigations (418 investigations overall completed with our residents). We also administered 1,442 immunizations. We serve both VFC and VFA (Vaccines for Children and Adults) populations, with the majority being uninsured. We offer walk-in clinics to allow clients flexibility around both work and/or school hours. We work closely with school nurses to get students in our community up to date on their vaccinations.

From the Director

South Heartland has new health priorities!

Working with our community partners over the past year, we dove deep to explore our current community health needs. This is something we do every six years to assess whether health outcomes and access to care are improving and where we still have work to do. We summarized data from focus groups, community surveys, and local health statistics, then shared these at a community health meeting in September 2024. The district-wide meeting virtually connected physical locations in each of our four counties, with a central facilitator plus staff at each site – for maximum participation across the district. Community organizations, government officials (including one candidate for state senator who later won his bid for office), education, health care and behavioral health representatives, business leaders, community members from various walks of life, and other stakeholders, reviewed the results and contributed to the discussion that helped us prioritize areas to focus on over the next six years. The three priority areas selected are: Mental Wellbeing, Chronic Disease Conditions, and Senior Health. We continued district-wide inclusive meetings in November 2024 and January 2025 to identify proven strategies that we will use to advance mental wellbeing, reduce chronic disease risk, and improve senior health outcomes. The resulting Community Health Improvement Plan is also aligned with Nebraska's health improvement priorities, so our local efforts will be contributing to the bigger state picture. SHDHD and local partners are excited to be launching the new plan in the fall of 2025!



Michele Bever, PhD, MPH, Executive Director
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+ **2024-2025 Annual Report**

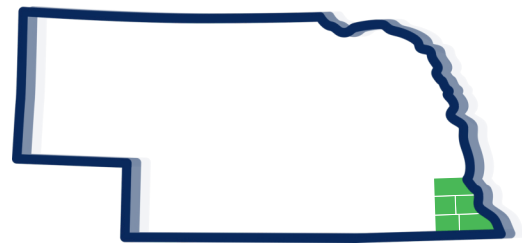
Southeast District Health Department (SEDHD)

 **11** employees 

 **38,709** residents 

CHIP Priorities:

- ▶ Improve Access to Behavioral Health Services
- ▶ Reduce Transportation Barriers



Johnson, Nemaha, Otoe, Pawnee,
and Richardson Counties



5

rural counties



2.8

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



17%

of adults report
fair to poor health

"Our staff work tirelessly to make sure all communities have access to the public health services they deserve."

—Grant Brueggemann, Executive Director
grant@sedhd.org



Southeast District Health Department (SEDHD) 2024-2025

Examples of Foundational Public Health Services



526 home visits completed

Maternal, Child, & Family Health

Growing Great Kids (GGK) completed hundreds of home visits to 46 enrolled families. A Family Support Specialist completed depression screenings on the primary caregivers, developmental questionnaires on the focus children, referred families to community resources, and promoted positive parent child interactions. These steps are crucial in reducing child abuse and neglect.



153 referrals to clinical care

Chronic Disease & Injury Prevention

SEDHD conducts health screenings at community and worksite wellness events for local businesses. We educated related to diabetes, cardiovascular disease, cancer, and other chronic diseases. We also provide referrals. Chronic disease and injury prevention and control programs save lives, support the economy through a healthy workforce, and improve quality of life.



40 EBL (elevated blood lead level) cases investigated

Environmental Health

SEDHD worked with the families of 40 area children with lead poisoning to identify possible causes and provide guidance, collected 27 mosquito samples to monitor for vector-borne disease, and distributed 75 radon test kits and provided education and guidance to help residents monitor their exposure to this cancer-causing gas in their homes.



2,184 children served through oral health programs

Access to & Linkage with Clinical Care

Our oral health program partners with 23 schools, Head Start locations, and preschools to provide free oral health screenings, engaging dental education, fluoride varnish, and fluoride applications. Our program promotes healthy smiles, decay prevention and detection, and helps build and support lifelong oral health habits in children.



153 communicable disease cases investigated

Communicable Disease Control

SEDHD prevented and limited the spread of infectious diseases by conducting disease surveillance, responding to outbreaks, investigating 153 cases of reportable diseases, and providing 460 vaccinations. Our work is important for monitoring our community's health and helping improve health outcomes.

From the Director

The past year has brought continued growth and progress to the Department. We have expanded services across the district and remain committed to implementing programs that meet the needs of residents in Johnson, Nemaha, Otoe, Pawnee, and Richardson Counties. Guided by the Community Health Assessment and Community Health Improvement Plan, we have enhanced our programming in key priority areas. This includes strengthening chronic disease prevention and management efforts, expanding behavioral health outreach and education, and building on maternal and child health initiatives that support families and improve early childhood outcomes. These investments allow us to fill longstanding gaps in public health services in southeast Nebraska while addressing emerging needs in our communities. We have also continued to refine our internal processes to ensure the Department operates efficiently and effectively. Our staff work tirelessly to make sure all communities have access to the public health services they deserve, and their dedication remains the foundation of our success. This report highlights examples of our work and the impact we have made over the past fiscal year. We invite you to visit our website to learn more about our programs, partnerships, and ongoing commitment to improving the health of southeast Nebraska.

Grant Brueggemann, MPH
grant@sedhd.org



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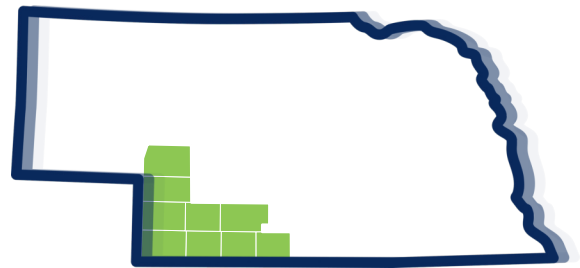
Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department (SWNPHD)

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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



Examples of Foundational Public Health Services



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.



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.



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.



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.



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



+2024-2025 Annual Report

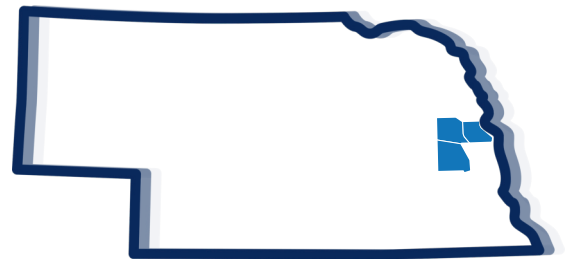
Three Rivers Public Health Department (3RPHD)

 **20** employees 

 **80,896** residents 

CHIP Priorities:

-  Improve Access to Behavioral Health Services
-  Reduce & Prevent Obesity



3 rural & micropolitan counties

Dodge, Washington, and Saunders Counties



1 of 18

NE LHDs implementing
Nat'l accreditation
standards



2.44

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



15%

of adults report
fair to poor health

"Public Health forms the backbone of a healthy, thriving Nebraska."

—Terra Uhing, Executive Director
terra@3rphd.ne.gov



Three Rivers Public Health Department (3RPHD) 2024-2025

Examples of Foundational Public Health Services



19,073 adolescents reached

Maternal, Child, & Family Health

We led two MCH-Title V adolescent projects: one on preventing motor vehicle crashes and another on chlamydia/gonorrhea prevention and testing. To address motor vehicle safety, we partnered with nine high schools to host a national speaker on the topic. The STI project included testing clinics at Midland and education with various adolescent groups that reached over 19,000 via media campaign and outreach.



3,684 residents served by injury prevention programs

Chronic Disease & Injury Prevention

Through our Safe Kids coalition, we work to keep kids safe through targeted outreach efforts in both child passenger and bike safety. We engaged hundreds of teens with a national speaker to address the importance of safe driving and the consequences of risky behavior behind the wheel. Our chronic disease program educated 89 residents on heart health, physical activity, and diabetes.



72 EBLL (elevated blood lead level) cases investigated

Environmental Health

Our Environmental Health Program protects the community from diseases related to environmental exposures. We followed up on 72 EBLL cases in local children, collected 34 mosquito and tick samples to watch for vector-borne diseases, and gave out 197 radon test kits and followed up on 35 out-of-range results. Two new HUD grants (Healthy Homes and Lead Hazard Capacity Building) will allow more work toward healthy living environments for everyone.



200 residents served by oral health program

Access to & Linkage with Clinical Care

We provided oral health education, screenings, and fluoride varnishes for first-grade students at Deerfield and Logan View Elementary Schools, dental cleanings for residents at Dunklau Gardens long-term care facility, and oral education at several daycare facilities, including Little Blossoms, Salem Little Saints, and the Fremont YMCA daycare.



2,010 vaccinations administered

Communicable Disease Control

3RPHD completed 477 disease investigations, most commonly related to chlamydia (91) lead poisoning (72), and pertussis (60). We also administered 2,010 immunizations by appointment, for walk-in patients, and at over 100 on-site clinics in our community. We also have a strong partnership with our area schools and held monthly vaccination clinics at schools during 2024/2025.

From the Director

Public health saves lives every day—often quietly, without headlines. At Three Rivers Public Health Department, we see the results of this work across Dodge, Saunders, and Washington Counties. I'm proud to share the impact of our efforts over the past year and the essential role local health departments play in keeping Nebraska healthy, safe, and strong. In Maternal, Child, and Family Health, we expanded access to prenatal and early childhood care. A key success was implementing presumptive eligibility for pregnant women, connecting them to Medicaid quickly to receive care without delays. In Communicable Disease Control, our team addressed both everyday public health needs and unexpected emergencies. After the 2024 Arbor Day tornado, we launched an immediate response and followed up in 2025 with outreach and disease surveillance to protect affected residents. We also lead year-round monitoring and public education efforts around vaccinations and respiratory illness. By providing vital services like immunizations and chronic disease screenings, we connect residents with clinical care. Our mobile vaccine unit reduces barriers by reaching underserved and rural areas. In Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention, we work with community partners to address obesity, diabetes, heart disease, and injury through evidence-based programs that support long-term health. Our Environmental Public Health team secured two HUD grants to support lead remediation and healthy housing, helping prevent childhood lead poisoning, improving living conditions for families, and bringing important federal funding to our state. While we face challenges like workforce shortages and uncertain funding, our team remains dedicated, innovative, and focused on protecting public health. This vital work often happens behind the scenes, but forms the backbone of a healthy, thriving Nebraska. On behalf of our staff, Board of Health, and communities we serve—thank you for your continued support. Your investment allows us to protect the health of Dodge, Saunders, and Washington Counties—today and for future generations.





www.trphd.ne.gov
(888) 669-7154

+ 2024-2025 Annual Report

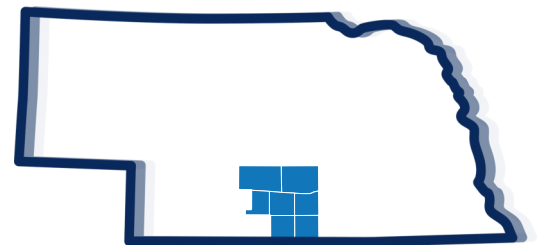
Two Rivers Public Health Department (TRPHD)

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++
23 employees ++
++

++
+++
97,826 residents ++
++

CHIP Priorities:

- ▶ Access to Care
- ▶ Chronic Disease
- ▶ Environmental Health
- ▶ Behavioral Health



7 rural & micropolitan counties

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



1 of 9
NE LHDs nationally
accredited by PHAB



2.31
FTEs per 10,000
(Nat'l average is 5.6)



17%
of adults report fair to
poor health

*"Our focus is simple: protect families, safeguard taxpayer dollars,
and strengthen our community."*

—Jeremy Eschliman, Health Director
jeschliman@trphd.ne.gov



Two Rivers Public Health Department (TRPHD) 2024-2025

Examples of Foundational Public Health Services



746 home visits completed

Maternal, Child, & Family Health

The Healthy Families America (HFA) program empowers parents through home visits, education, and support, helping children thrive from birth. By strengthening parent-child bonds, promoting healthy development, and connecting families to resources, we help build strong, resilient families and healthier communities for the future.



1,588 residents trained on substance misuse prevention

Chronic Disease & Injury Prevention

Substance abuse is a growing concern in our communities, leading to overdoses and preventable injuries. TRPHD works to expand education about substance use and promote local resources to reduce stigma and connect people with support. TRPHD has also distributed over 1,100 boxes of Narcan (naloxone) to community members, helping ensure this lifesaving tool is widely available. Narcan training empowers families, first responders, and residents to act quickly in an emergency, and together these efforts save lives and strengthen the health and resilience of our community.



2 new programs added thanks to partnerships

Environmental Health

TRPHD worked with the families of 7 area children with lead poisoning to identify possible causes and provide guidance. We collected 700+ mosquito samples to monitor for vector-borne disease, distributed 200 radon test kits, and our 9 PurpleAir sensors provided information on local air quality. We furthered our capacity to limit harms related to environmental exposures: launching swimming pool inspections through a partnership with the Department of Water, Energy, and Environment and receiving an HUD Lead Hazard Reduction grant that will help eliminate lead risks from homes at zero cost to tenants.



1,255 children served by the oral health program

Access to & Linkage with Clinical Care

District-wide oral health work served over 12,000 children at 27 sites. This work prevents disease, reduces pain, and supports overall health. Poor oral health can lead to infections, heart disease, and diabetes complications. Promoting good dental care improves quality of life, boosts confidence, and lowers long-term healthcare costs.



4,230 vaccinations administered

Communicable Disease Control

TRPHD completed 734 disease investigations, most commonly related to chlamydia, enteropathogenic Escherichia coli (EPEC), and animal exposure. We also administered 4,230 immunizations. Our unique mix of in-office and mobile clinics bring essential vaccines to individuals, reducing travel needs. This initiative has increased routine childhood vaccinations at select locations, supporting TRPHD's mission of fostering a "Healthy Community for All."

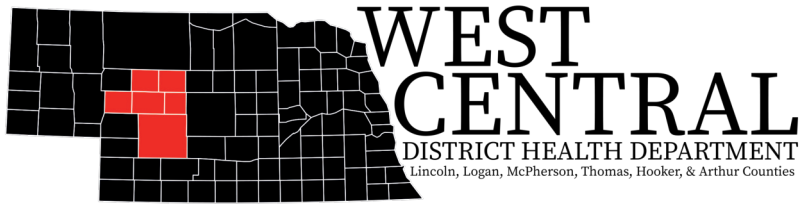
From the Director

Dear Members of the Governing Body,

I want to provide an update on how our local health department is working to improve efficiency in programming, protect families, and reduce long-term costs to our community. By conducting swimming pool inspections locally, we have cut through red tape and ensured issues are addressed quickly, without waiting on state agencies. This approach helps keep children and families safe while streamlining compliance for pool operators. Local oversight means problems get solved faster, at less cost, and with accountability close to home. Our recent initiatives are not about growing government, but about making government work smarter. For example, our pool inspection system allows us to identify hazards early, avoiding expensive fixes later. These types of practical steps save taxpayer dollars while ensuring our community continues to thrive. We also introduced confidential, community-requested health screenings to address gaps residents identified in timely care. By providing these services locally, we reduce the likelihood of broader health problems that would otherwise lead to higher medical costs for families and taxpayers. This is a straightforward, cost-effective approach that keeps solutions close to home. Your continued support ensures that we can maintain local oversight, prevent costly state or federal intervention, and deliver practical solutions that reflect Nebraska values. Our focus is simple: protect families, safeguard taxpayer dollars, and strengthen our community through efficient, accountable action.

Jeremy Eschliman, MBA
jeschliman@trphd.ne.gov





[www:// wcdhd.org](http://wcdhd.org)
(308) 696-1201

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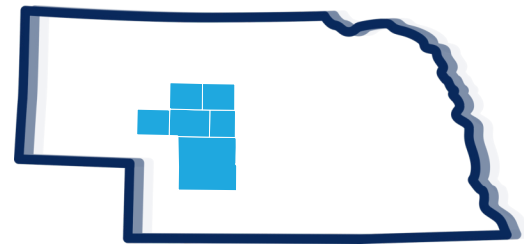
West Central District Health Department (WCDHD)

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12 employees ++
++

++
++
+++
37,176 residents ++
++

CHIP Priorities:

- ▶ Strengthen Mental Health
- ▶ Reduce Substance Misuse
- ▶ Improve Health Literacy
- ▶ Expand Access to Preventative Care



6 rural & micropolitan counties

Arthur, Hooker, Lincoln, Logan,
McPherson, and Thomas Counties



1 of 9
NE LHDs nationally
accredited by PHAB



3.23
FTEs per 10,000
(Nat'l average is 5.6)



18%
of adults report fair to
poor health

"The future of public health is local, and we are building it together—one partnership, one program, and one person at a time."

—Meghan Trevino, Executive Director
trevinom@wcdhd.org



West Central District Health Department (WCDHD) 2024-2025

Examples of Foundational Public Health Services



30+ organizations working together for healthier families

Maternal, Child, & Family Health

We support maternal child health efforts locally by providing routine childhood immunizations at clinics across our six counties, protecting children from preventable diseases and helping families keep kids healthy, school-ready, and on track with recommended vaccines.



1,488 participants in chronic disease prevention programs

Chronic Disease & Injury Prevention

WCDHD promotes healthy lifestyles across all ages. We supported 563 children through Marathon Kids, who collectively ran 2,065 miles while building endurance and confidence. WCDHD provided ARC First Aid/CPR training to 173 students and 7 staff to increase emergency readiness in schools. Water safety education reached 63 participants. Our workplace wellness initiative engaged 80 adults, with 51 actively participating. The Platte River Fitness Series hosted 19 events, logging 3,189 entries from participants ages 3 to 83.



23 EBLL (elevated blood lead level) cases investigated

Environmental Health

WCDHD mitigates the risk of harms related to environmental exposures. We worked with families of the 23 area children with EBLL to identify possible causes and provide guidance; we collected 33 mosquito and tick samples to monitor for vector-borne disease; our 5 PurpleAir sensors monitored local air quality, and we distributed 61 radon test kits and helped residents understand their exposure to this cancer-causing gas in their homes.



509 connected to clinical care services

Access to & Linkage with Clinical Care

West Central District Health Department helped residents access healthcare by providing interpretation services and offering materials in English, Spanish and other languages. This work helps ensure clear communication between community members and local healthcare providers.



3,319 vaccinations given

Communicable Disease Control

WCDHD completed 194 disease investigations, most commonly related to Campylobacteriosis and E. coli. We also administered 3,319 immunizations to children and underserved residents in offices, in schools, in nursing homes, and at community events in the communities of Mullen, Arthur, Thedford, Tryon, Stapleton, Wallace, North Platte, Sutherland, and other surrounding rural areas. We worked to remove barriers to care and protect those with limited access to health services.

From the Director

This past year has been one of growth, resilience, and impact at West Central District Health Department. As we reflect on the work accomplished across our six-county rural region, I am filled with pride in our team and gratitude for the partners who made this progress possible.

Together, we have trained community members to respond to health emergencies, promoted physical activity among youth and families, increased access to preventive services, and delivered health education in schools, workplaces, and neighborhoods. We have strengthened our ability to prevent disease outbreaks, respond to environmental health risks, and provide tools that support mental health, chronic disease prevention, and substance use education. These are not isolated efforts. They are the result of collaboration with schools, clinics, law enforcement, nonprofits, businesses, and local leaders who share our vision for healthier people in healthier communities.

As we look to the future, we are excited to deepen these partnerships and launch new initiatives that will continue to move the needle on community health. From expanding access to care and prevention services to launching innovative outreach strategies and workforce development efforts, we are building something strong and sustainable—together.

If you haven't had the chance to visit our department recently, I invite you to stop by. Our team would be honored to walk you through the work we are doing, introduce you to the people behind it, and hear your ideas for how we can continue to support the communities we all care about. Public health is local, and there is no substitute for being on the ground, listening and learning from one another.

Thank you for your continued support, encouragement, and partnership. We are proud of what we have accomplished—and even more excited for what lies ahead.



Meghan Trevino
trevinom@wcdhd.org