

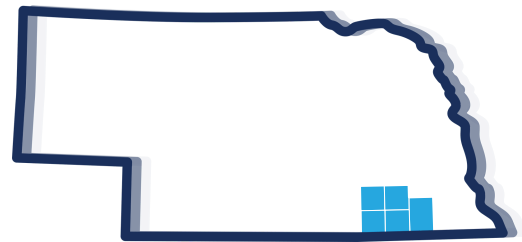
+2024-2025 Annual Report
Public Health Solutions (PHS)

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20 employees ++
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53,932 residents ++
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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 taught through senior centers 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.

