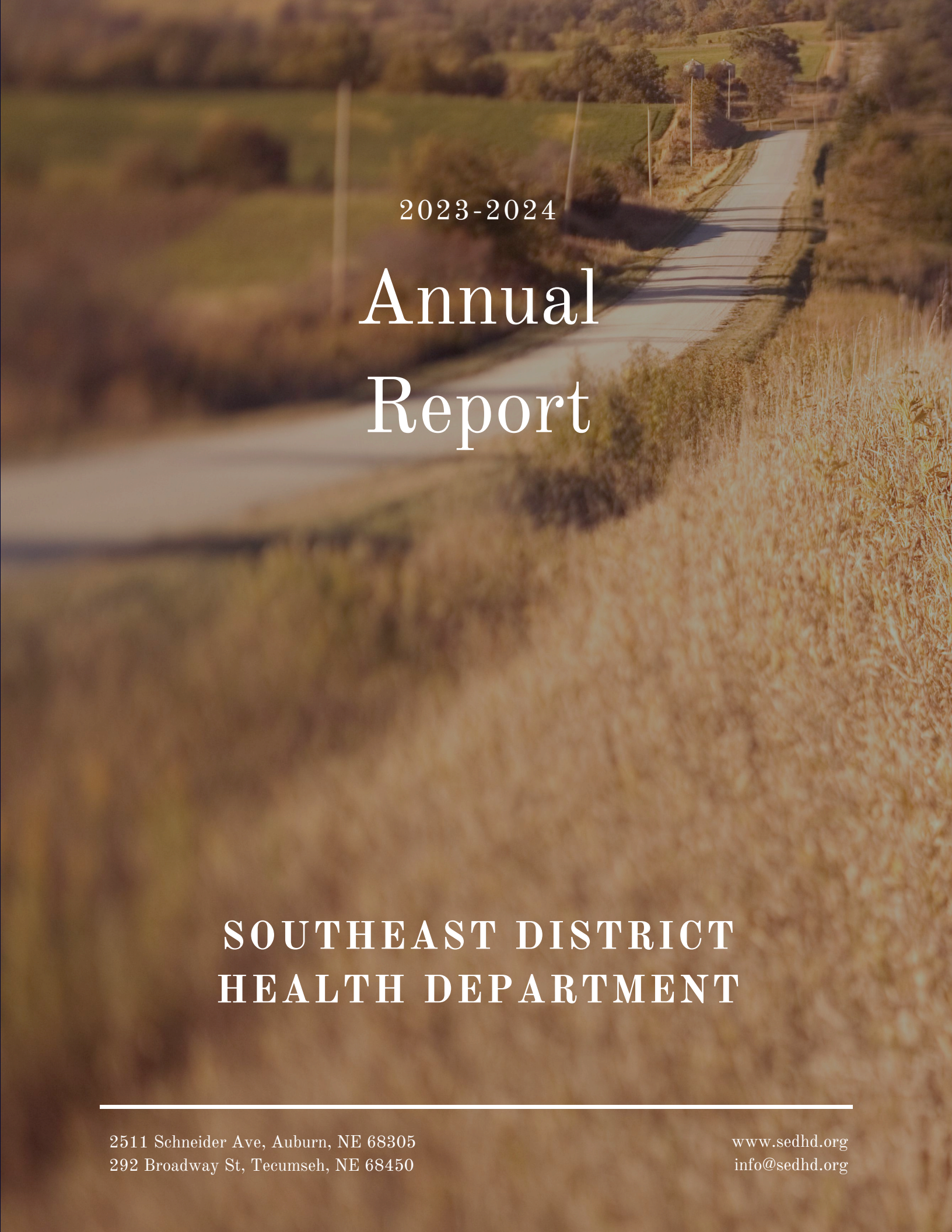




2023-2024

Annual Report

**SOUTHEAST DISTRICT
HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

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292 Broadway St, Tecumseh, NE 68450

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A Message From the Director

I am pleased to present the Southeast District Health Department 2023-2024 Annual Report. This report highlights the significant strides made by the Department as we continue to fulfill our mission with excellence and dedication.

The past year has been one of progress and innovation for the Department. We have further expanded services across the district, enhancing and implementing programs to address the evolving needs of residents in Johnson, Nemaha, Otoe, Pawnee, and Richardson counties. In alignment with our Community Health Assessment and Community Health Improvement Plan, we have worked diligently to fill critical gaps in public health services across southeast Nebraska. Internally, we have streamlined processes to improve efficiency and ensure we are delivering services that meet the highest standards of public health practice. The tireless efforts and unwavering dedication of our staff remain at the heart of ensuring that every community has access to our services.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the Board of Health, community partners, and the incredible staff of the Southeast District Health Department. Your commitment, expertise, and collaboration are essential to advancing the Department's mission and ensuring the well-being of our community.

Looking ahead, the Southeast District Health Department remains steadfast in our efforts to foster a community where healthy choices are accessible and supported, and where residents can thrive in long, healthy lives.

Please enjoy this report and feel free to reach out to any of our team members with your concerns, questions, or suggestions.

Grant Brueggemann, MPH

Nebraska Local Health Departments

In 2001, The Nebraska Legislature passed the Nebraska Health Care Funding Act (LB 692), which established the system of local public health departments throughout the state. As a part of Nebraska Health Care Funding Act, Nebraska local health departments work to meet the Three Core Functions of Public Health.



Assessment: Collect and analyze information about health problems in Nebraska communities.



Policy Development: Work with partners to apply data, educate the public, and develop programs and policies — all to address and prevent illness, disease, and disability.

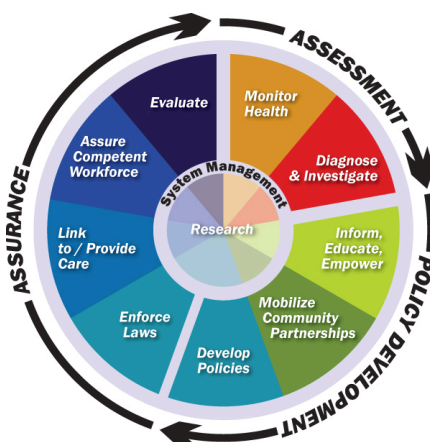


Assurance: Promote effective coordination and use of community resources to protect the health and well-being of Nebraskans.

The activities and programs of the Southeast District Health Department (SEDHD) are summarized under the 10 Essential Services of Public Health. The 10 Essential Services provide a working definition of the public health system and a guiding framework for the responsibilities of local public health partners.

The 10 Essential Services include:

1. Monitor health status to identify and solve community health problems.
2. Diagnose and investigate health problems and health hazards in the community.
3. Inform, educate, and empower people about health issues.
4. Mobilize community partnerships and action to identify and solve health problems.
5. Develop policies and plans that support individual and community health efforts.
6. Enforce laws and regulations that protect health and ensure safety.
7. Link people to needed personal health services and assure the provision of health care when otherwise unavailable.
8. Assure competent public and personal health care workforce.
9. Evaluate effectiveness, accessibility, and quality of personal and population-based health services.
10. Research for new insights and innovative solutions to health problems.



Board of Health

SEDHD is governed by the Southeast District Board of Health which includes one county commissioner from each county, one public-spirited community member from each county, a physician, a dentist, and a veterinarian.

Johnson County

Dr. Ted Evans - County Commissioner

Gina Kerner - Community Member

Nemaha County

Mike Hall - County Commissioner

Marvin Bohling - Community Member

Dr. Mike Speece - Veterinarian

Dr. Michael Zaruba - Medical Director

Otoe County

James Parsons - County Commissioner

John Groathouse - Community Member

Dr. Sonya Kummer - Dentist

Pawnee County

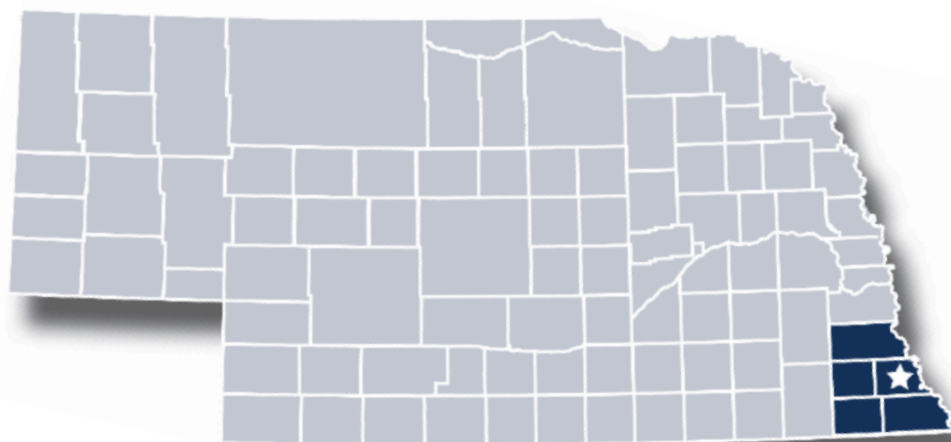
Jan Lang - County Commissioner

Karly Black- Community Member

Richardson County

David Sickle - County Commissioner

Beth Vonderschmidt - Community Member



The Department

Mission

To prevent disease and promote overall health through outreach, services, and partnerships while educating and empowering all those who live, work, and visit Johnson, Nemaha, Otoe, Pawnee, and Richardson counties.

Vision

To utilize a community-centered approach to ensure all individuals have equal access to quality services to meet their needs and improve the overall health of the population.

Department Staff

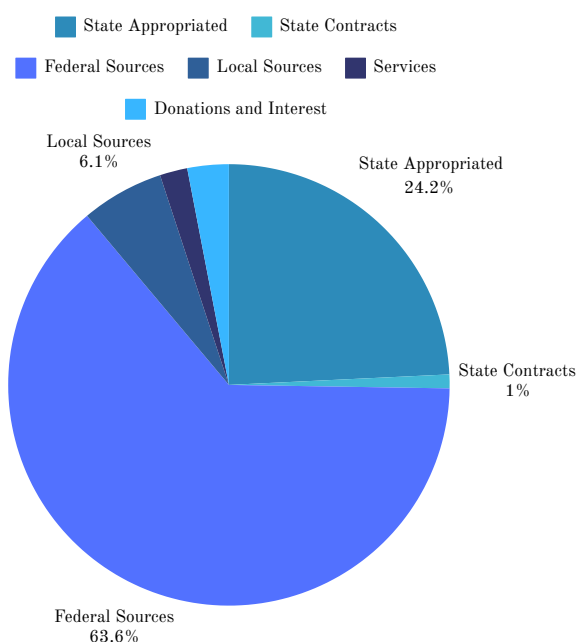
Grant Brueggemann	Executive Director
Courtney Gerdes	Office Coordinator
Stephanie Parde	Financial Coordinator
Rosanne Rothfuss	Public Health Nurse
Christine Eltiste	Public Health Nurse
Brittany Rogge	Public Health Dental Hygienist
Hannah Kirkendall	Emergency Response Coordinator
Courtney Tanner	Environmental Health Coordinator
Melissa Greedy	Community Health Program Coordinator
Devin Topp	Public Health Educator
Megan Piper	Growing Great Kids Supervisor
Jayne Vice	Growing Great Kids Program Coordinator
Krystal Nickels	Family Support Specialist
Natalie Smith	Family Support Specialist
Melanie Aultz	Family Support Specialist
Kaleigh Beethe	Family Support Specialist

Financials

Revenue

State Appropriated	\$ 478,073
State Contracts	\$ 22,323
Federal Sources	\$ 1,237,519
Local Sources	\$ 110,657
Services	\$ 45,478
Donations and Interest Income	\$ 57,877

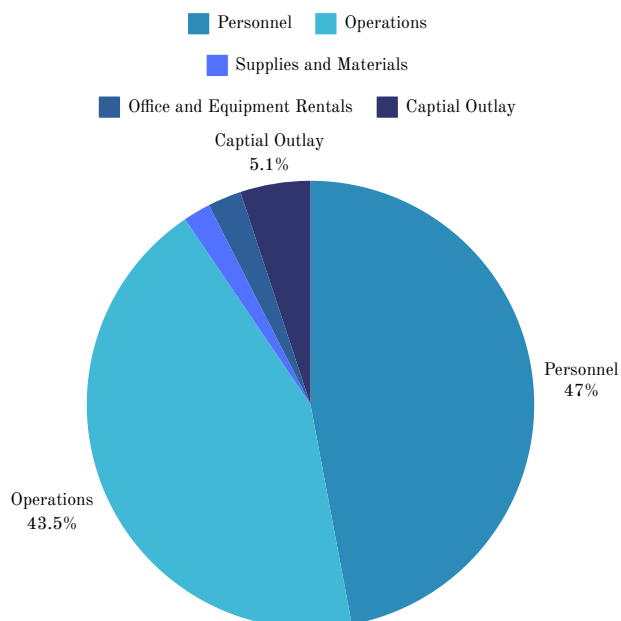
Total Revenue: \$1,951,927



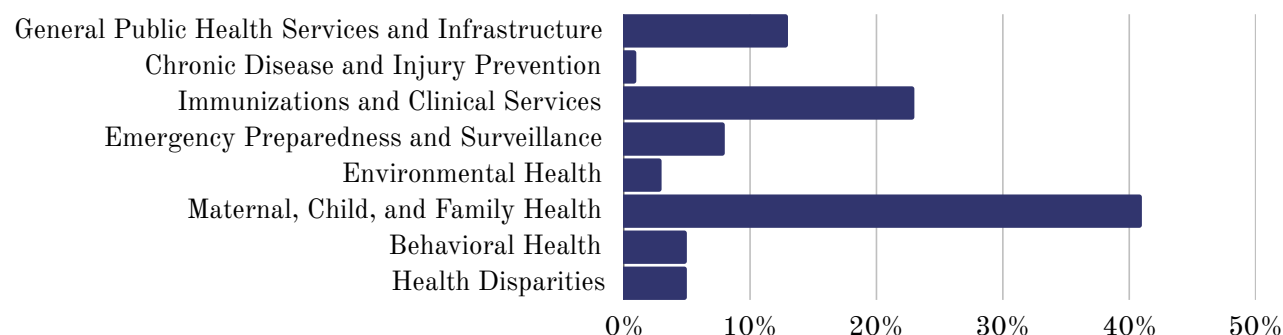
Expenses

Personnel	\$ 606,786
Operations	\$ 560,878
Supplies and Materials	\$ 25,462
Office and Equipment Rental	\$ 31,285
Capital Outlay	\$ 65,420

Total Expenses: \$1,289,831

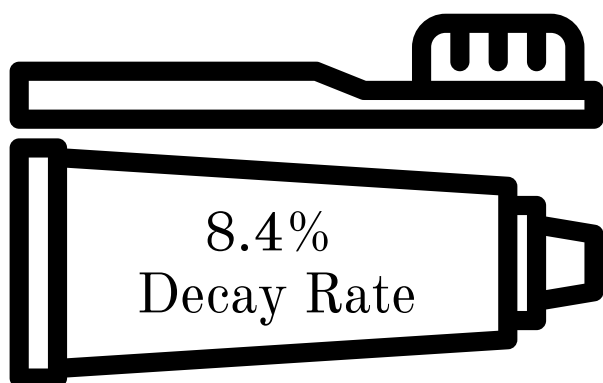


Expenses by Program

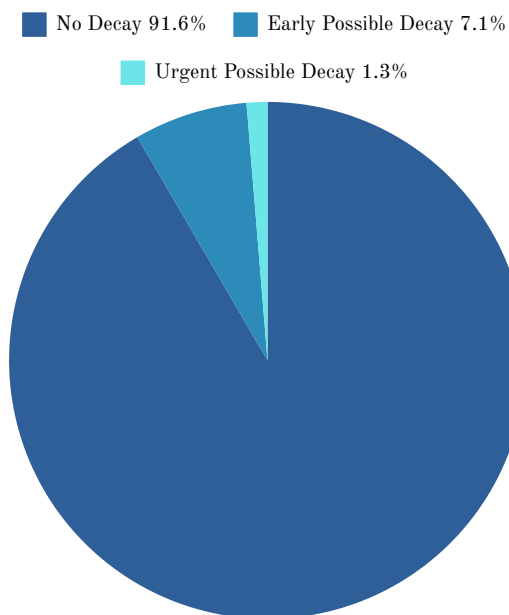


Oral Health

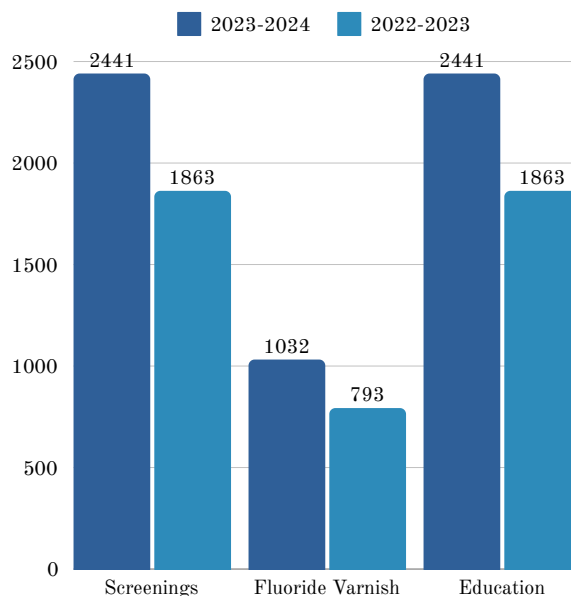
The Department's Brighter Smiles program has been an effective preventative oral health program since its startup in 2016. The program continues to grow and provides dental care in southeast Nebraska to our local schools, daycares, head start programs, and nursing facilities. The program's focus is preventative screenings, oral health education, fluoride varnish treatments, silver diamine fluoride treatments, and providing preventative dental care to children and residents in southeast Nebraska.



Screening Results



Preventative Services



Environmental Health

Environmental public health activities are vital to safeguarding community well-being by addressing the environmental factors that impact health. Local health departments play a crucial role in monitoring air and water quality, and vector control programs. These efforts help mitigate risks from environmental hazards, promote healthier living conditions, and enhance overall public health resilience. By prioritizing these activities, local health departments contribute to creating safer, healthier environments for all residents.

Air Quality

SEDHD has provided several PurpleAir Monitors throughout the district to expand testing range for outdoor air quality in southeast Nebraska. These monitors measure real-time PM2.5 concentrations.

Visit www.purpleair.com to view real time air quality measurements.

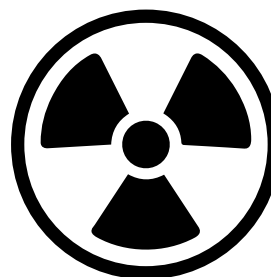
Vector Born Disease

Vector control programs are essential for protecting public health by preventing the spread of vector-borne diseases such as West Nile Virus, Lyme Disease, and Dengue Fever. Local health departments play a critical role in monitoring vector populations, promoting awareness, and providing solutions to the district to reduce exposure risks.

Radon

Radon is a radioactive gas that forms naturally when uranium, thorium, or radium break down in rocks, soil, and groundwater. People can be exposed to radon primarily from breathing radon in air that comes through cracks and gaps in buildings and homes.

Radon is the leading cause of lung cancer among non-smokers



The results of more than half of radon tests in Nebraska are above the action level of 4.0 pCi/L

Immunizations

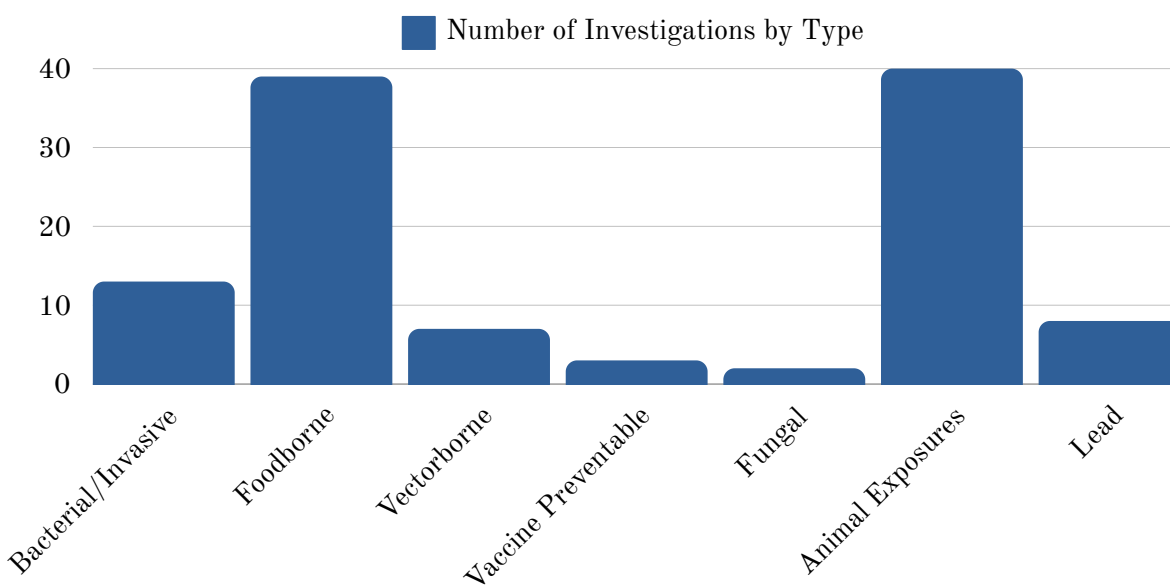
An immunization program is a cornerstone of public health, protecting individuals and communities from vaccine-preventable diseases. By ensuring access to vaccines, providing education on their safety and efficacy, and addressing barriers to immunization, local health departments help reduce disease outbreaks, hospitalizations, and healthcare costs. Immunization programs also play a critical role in safeguarding vulnerable populations, including children, the elderly, and those with compromised immune systems.



**581 children and
adult vaccinations
administered**

Communicable Disease Control and Surveillance

Communicable disease control and surveillance are foundational activities of local health departments, essential for protecting public health. Through the systematic monitoring of infectious diseases, health departments can quickly identify outbreaks, track disease trends, and implement targeted interventions to prevent further spread. These efforts include immunization programs, education campaigns, and collaboration with healthcare providers to ensure timely diagnosis and treatment. By maintaining robust surveillance and control measures, local health departments safeguard the community against the impact of infectious diseases, reducing illness, saving lives, and enhancing overall health security.



Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention

Chronic disease and injury prevention program activities are vital for improving quality of life and reducing healthcare costs in the community. These programs address leading health challenges such as heart disease, diabetes, and unintentional injuries by promoting healthy behaviors, supporting environmental changes, and providing education on risk reduction. Through initiatives like health screenings at community events, worksite wellness events for local businesses and providing education and resources related to diabetes, cardiovascular disease, cancer, and other chronic diseases, local health departments empower individuals to make healthier choices and create safer environments.

**1 person dies every
33 seconds from
cardiovascular
disease**

**1 in every 5 deaths
is from heart
disease**

**38.4 million people
have diabetes
(11.6% of the U.S.
population)**

**22.8% of adults
with diabetes are
undiagnosed**

Minority Health

Minority health program activities are essential for addressing health disparities and promoting equity within the community. These programs focus on improving access to healthcare, raising awareness about cultural and linguistic barriers, and addressing social determinants of health that disproportionately affect minority populations. By fostering partnerships, providing targeted outreach, and delivering culturally competent services, local health departments ensure that all community members have the opportunity to achieve optimal health.

Emergency Preparedness

Emergency preparedness program activities are critical for ensuring that communities are ready to respond effectively to public health emergencies, such as natural disasters, disease outbreaks, and bioterrorism threats. Local health departments play a key role in developing response plans, conducting drills, training staff, and collaborating with community partners to build a coordinated response network. These efforts enhance the community's ability to mitigate risks, protect vulnerable populations, and recover swiftly from crises.

Maternal, Child, and Family Health

Maternal and child health home visitation programs are foundational to improving the health and well-being of families in our community. These programs provide tailored, one-on-one support to pregnant individuals, new parents, and families with young children, helping them navigate critical stages of life. Home visits address a wide range of needs, including prenatal care, parenting education, breastfeeding support, and guidance on child development. By building trust and providing culturally responsive care, these programs empower families to create safe, nurturing environments that promote healthy growth and development for their children. They also connect families to essential community resources, such as healthcare, nutrition assistance, and mental health services, reducing barriers that can lead to adverse outcomes.

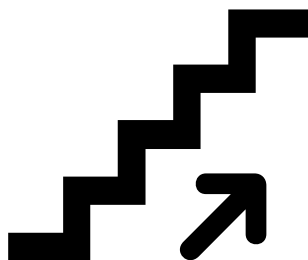
In addition to improving individual and family health, home visitation programs have a broader impact on public health. They contribute to lower rates of infant mortality, preterm births, and childhood injuries while fostering better long-term educational and health outcomes. These efforts also promote equity by addressing disparities faced by underserved populations, ensuring that all families have access to the support they need to thrive.



580 visits completed

49 families served

46 focus children



Over the last year,
21 families met the
criteria to move to a
new HFA level of
service.



4 families
participated in the
program for three or
more years and
graduated from the
program



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