



Southeast

District Health Department

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Local health departments act as communities' Chief Health Strategists by assuring that the health and wellbeing of Nebraskans are protected and improved. Local health departments do this by working in each of the **Three Core Function Areas 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 wellbeing of Nebraskans.

ACCESS TO AND LINKAGE TO CLINICAL CARE

Access to and Linkage to Clinical Care includes (but is not limited to) coordination of services between medical providers and providers of health-related social needs, oral health/dental services, and behavioral/mental health.



Southeast District Health Department (SEDHD) works to assure access and linkages to clinical care. Our Growing Great Kids program screens for and collects/monitors data on behavioral and mental health risks among children while also providing referrals when applicable. Through our involvement in the Health Hub we collect data and help to navigate clients with increased risk for breast, cervical, and other cancers to screenings and care. Our oral health program (Brighter Smiles) provides dental care for elementary-aged children who might otherwise lack preventive care and face barriers in accessing oral healthcare.



CHRONIC DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

Chronic Disease Control and Prevention includes (but is not limited to) asthma, cancer, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, obesity, tobacco control, and worksite wellness.



Through our community health assessment (CHA) process, SEDHD looks at community data to determine health priorities—among these priorities are preventing and addressing chronic diseases, cancer, behavioral health issues and substance abuse. Examples to address chronic diseases, such as obesity, cardiovascular disease, and diabetes, include: 1) the Health Hub program performs health assessments for clients and appropriate clients receive health coaching and/or referral to the Diabetes Prevention Program (DPP) and 2) through partnerships with University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) and a regional hospital, we are offering our communities a cardiovascular disease risk reduction program and can provide referrals for further evaluation with health clinics.



COMMUNICABLE DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

Communicable Disease Control and Prevention includes (but is not limited to) communicable disease epidemiology (disease outbreak management/response), tuberculosis (TB), immunizations, sexually transmitted infections, and surveillance (tracking and following up on reports and provider/school reports).



SEDHD offers programs that monitor, prevent and address communicable diseases, including those that are prevented through immunizations. We partner with schools to educate students and families on disease prevention and immunizations. We also provide referrals to immunization clinics for children and adults.



Our disease surveillance and public health emergency preparedness programs collect and analyze data to monitor disease incidence across our five-county region. With support



from a mini grant from NE-DHHS Comprehensive Cancer Control Program we worked to prevent cancers by increasing human papillomavirus (HPV) immunization rates.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Environmental Health includes (but is not limited to) radon, lead, emergency response, hazardous substances and sites, and Complete Streets initiatives.



SEDHD recognizes that radon exposure is the leading cause of lung cancer for non-smokers in the U.S. and is a serious health risk throughout our five-county region. SEDHD collects and monitors radon levels across the region. We partner with other organizations to distribute educational materials and radon test kits.



SEDHD then tracks test kit results and refers community members to radon mitigation services. Through our Epidemiology program we also follow up on and monitor reported



instances of lead exposure.

INJURY PREVENTION

Injury Prevention includes (but is not limited to) motor vehicle injuries, occupational injuries, senior fall prevention, substance abuse, car seat safety, binge drinking, and distracted driving.



SEDHD's commitment to injury prevention is evident in our robust programs in this area including substance abuse screening through our Growing Great Kids program. Our opioid prevention programming in partnership with Region V Behavioral Health Systems includes assessing data on opioid use within our five counties and placing five medication drop-off boxes across the region.



Our Safe Kids program includes a certified staff member who offers car seat checks. This program



provides low income families with car seats.

MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH

Maternal and Child Health includes (but is not limited to) Women, Infant, and Children (WIC), family planning, newborn screening (hearing, screening for PCP, environmental hazards, etc.), evidence-based home visitation, Early Preventative Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT).



SEDHD work in Maternal Child Health includes collecting data to understand needs in this area. We offer Growing Great Kids developmental screenings and use secondary data sources (i.e. BRFSS) to collect and share maternal/child/family data. For those children and families who present with a developmental delay, SEDHD refers to the Early Development Network. SEDHD work in family planning includes supporting curriculum for family planning and providing referrals.



Additional public health activities that Southeast District Health Department performs to assure that the health and well-being of Nebraskans are protected and improved.

SEDHD has emphasized prevention as its primary focus in all activities. Programs such as disease surveillance, emergency preparedness, immunizations, and Health Hub have been at the forefront of SEDHD prevention efforts. Additionally, community-based programs have been implemented to further push prevention strategies. Such programs include an innovative cardiovascular risk reduction pilot program in partnership with the UNMC and one of the regional critical access hospitals within the five-county jurisdiction. Also, in partnership with UNMC and one of the region's public-school districts, SEDHD has started a wellness-based program which aims to increase physical activity among youth.

SEDHD continues to strengthen existing and implement new community-based coalitions to promote healthy communities. The Southeast Nebraska Breastfeeding Coalition has developed a strategic plan to emphasize efforts to support and normalize breastfeeding and to work with employers within the region to create breastfeeding-friendly work environments and provide support and education to breastfeeding mothers. SEDHD is currently partnering with Region V Behavioral Health Systems to develop a regional coalition to drive substance abuse prevention strategies, including youth programming, for our five counties. Additionally, SEDHD is in its second year of serving as fiscal agent for the Southeast Nebraska Healthcare Coalition, a 16-county regional coalition that coordinates disaster preparedness between healthcare facilities, public health, emergency management, and emergency medical services. SEDHD has also assumed a role as fiscal agent for the Nebraska Plains Healthcare Coalition, serving 15 counties in Southwest Nebraska.

SEDHD collaborates with six regional critical access hospitals and other partner organizations in completing the community health assessment (CHA) and community health improvement plan (CHIP). The 2018-2019 CHA and CHIP will provide a county-specific and regional outlook of the health status of SEDHD communities. Additionally, the health priorities that are identified through the assessment and improvement plan will inform future healthcare service-based strategic initiatives and program development across the region.

PRIORITIES

Chronic Disease

Cancer

Behavioral Health

Substance Abuse

For more information about *Southeast District Health Department* please visit:
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