

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

Vanderburgh County
Health Department
Evansville, IN

Vanderburgh County
Health Department



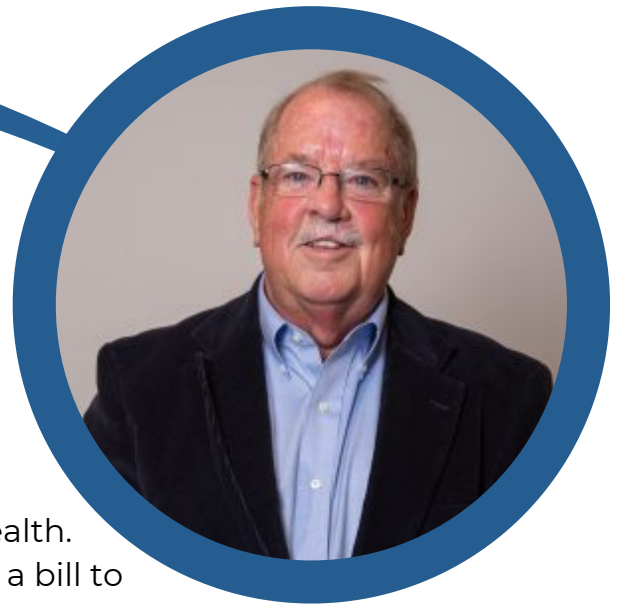
VANDERBURGH COUNTY
**HEALTH
DEPARTMENT**

Prevent. Promote. Protect. Partner.



EXECUTIVE LETTER

Dr. R Kenneth Spear - Health Officer, VCHD



A Year of Promise and a Year of Trial

Following the Pandemic many in government recognized the need to improve and grow Public Health. Indiana was one of those states and pushed forward a bill to improve Public Health funding along with establishing multiple Key Performance Indicators (KPI's). Fortunately, Vanderburgh County Health Department had about 95% of the KPI's met. These additional funds will allow the Health Department to expand services and strengthen the Departments, assuming these funds are not used to supplant the health fund.

In February, the Health Department sponsored a local Infant Mortality Summit with Dr. Jerome Adams as the keynote speaker. It was a very successful event with approximately 300+ people in attendance with multiple engaging speakers.

The Vanderburgh County Health Department was awarded by Indiana Public Health Association (IPHA) Outstanding Local Health Department Award. In the same vein, Pre to 3 was awarded the Community Impact Award by Care Source.

The Health Department is now deep into the reaccreditation process with PHAB (Public Health Accrediting Board). Accreditation has made this Health Department a stronger and more resilient organization.

Now for the trials. CD (Communicable Disease Division) has been working overtime, weekends and nights with STD's and more recently tuberculosis (TB). The Department has been in contact with Indiana Department of Health (IDOH), seeking more help and funding since TB tracking and treatment is a more personnel intensive activity. VCHD asked IDOH to further ask the CDC for resources. Due to budget battles in Washington, the CDC was limited in their ability to help, but did help with Epidemiology and genomic mapping of cases giving all a better view of the TB outbreak. They also vetted our plans and helped lay out plans for future testing paradigms.

This is not something that is going to just go away without significant effort on the part of the CD team, the hospitals and our local businesses. It will be a great time to test collaboration among all community partners.

We will start the new year with no idea of what we might face but the odds are something new and different will challenge us and I for one feel confident due to the work and dedication of the Local Health Department Staff and the Administrator.

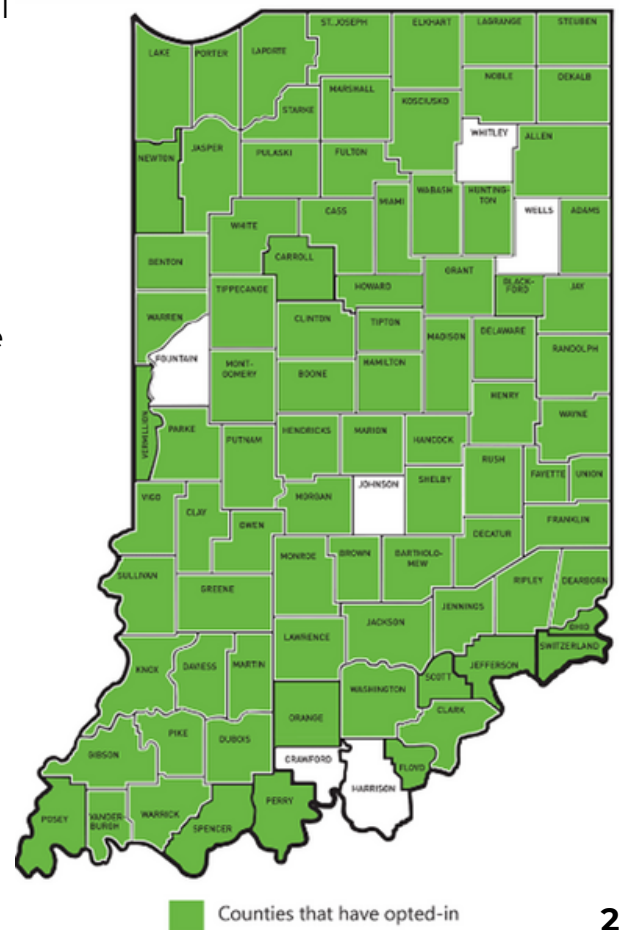
HEALTH FIRST INDIANA

In 2023, Indiana legislature passed Senate Enrolled Act 4, allowing local health departments to receive additional funding to provide core public health services recommended by the Governor's Public Health Commission. Governor Eric Holcomb signed it into law in the Spring of 2023. The new law is the first significant additional appropriation by the State to expand funding for public health in Indiana.

This legislation provides funding so counties can determine the health needs of their community and implement or expand evidence-based programs focused on prevention. The Vanderburgh County Commissioners, Cheryl Musgrave, Justin Elpers, and Ben Shoulders voted to "opt in" to receive the additional funding provided to the Vanderburgh County Health Department. The total funding for 2024 is, \$2,173,718.51.

VCHD leadership submitted a budget in 2024 to the County Council in June of 2023. With the help of the Vanderburgh County Auditor, County Council Executive Assistant, and the County Council, the Health First Indiana budget was approved in October. Included in the budget approval were new salary schedules for VCHD staff. The new schedules recognize the difference between our local health department staff and other administrative offices within county government.

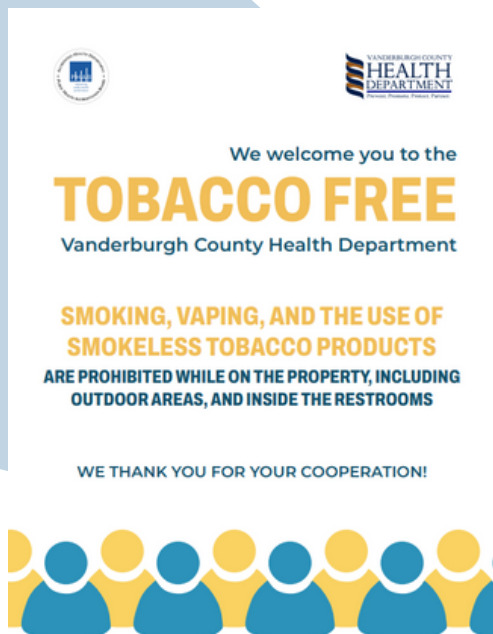
Several new positions were included in the 2024 budget. These positions will help different VCHD divisions expand their services to our community. The additional appropriation of funds allows for an expansion of public health programs in Vanderburgh County to create a better place to live, work, and play. An investment in prevention leads to healthier communities and workforce, which attracts businesses and benefits the economy.



ACHIEVEMENTS



The USDA/FNS awarded the WIC clinic the “Gold Breastfeeding Award of Excellence for Exemplary Breastfeeding Support and Practices.”



VCCHD became a Tobacco Free Grounds workplace. This fulfilled a requirement for a grant the Health Promotion Division received in the fall of 2022 from the IDOH. New signage was posted outside of the Health Department to inform all employees, clients, and visitors that the use of tobacco products is no longer allowed in the building, grounds, immediate adjacent city sidewalks surrounding the building, parking lots, and vehicles - including personal vehicles in the parking lot and company vehicles.

ACHIEVEMENTS

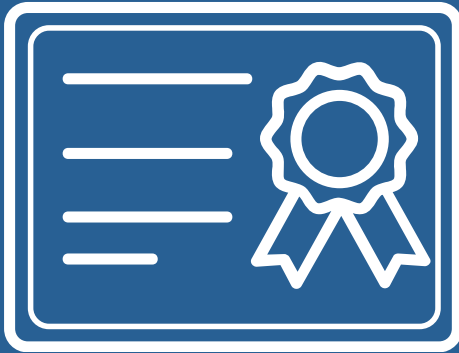


The Vanderburgh County Health Department received an award from the Indiana Public Health Association for “Outstanding Local Health Department” for our work related to health equity.



As public health funding increased through Health First Indiana (HFI), many counties expressed interest in replicating the Pre to 3 program. The Pre to 3 program started the planning process to duplicate the program in other counties in Indiana. Expanding to other counties involves sharing VCHD data infrastructure, policies and procedures, and providing one-on-one training to staff to carry out the program activities and curriculum. Dubois County was the first county to reach out to us to implement the Pre to 3 program in their county. Their team includes 2 RNs with 2 additional CHWs being hired in 2024, one being bilingual, English/Spanish. In the meantime, VCHD has developed an expansion toolkit and orientation process in preparation for adding potentially 2 more counties in 2024.

ACHIEVEMENTS



Health Educator, Jami, received training and passed the Tobacco Treatment Specialist (TTS) exam. According to ReThink Tobacco Indiana, “a TTS is a professional who is specially trained to possess the skills and knowledge to provide effective, evidence-based interventions for tobacco dependence for all forms of tobacco and nicotine use.” Health Educator, Jen, received certification for CHES (Certified Health Education Specialist).



The Pre to 3 program received the Community Impact Award from CareSource for recognition on the services they provide to the community.

ACHIEVEMENTS

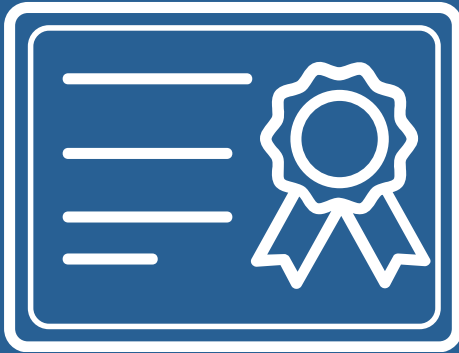


In June, Tamara Sturm, Laboratory Director, passed the American Society of Clinical Pathologists Board Exam. This is a required exam for medical laboratory professionals to become board certified and is a required element in completing the education in their field. Tamara was hired in 2018 as an ASCP board certified Medical Lab Technician with her associate degree. She worked as Laboratory Supervisor until she completed her bachelor's degree program through Austin Peay State University in 2022 and was promoted to Laboratory Director. Becoming board certified has completed the educational requirements in becoming Laboratory Director at VCHD.



In November the lab passed their bi-annual CLIA inspection with no deficiencies. This is a required inspection to maintain their moderate complexity CLIA license. The lab is now certified until July 2026.

ACHIEVEMENTS



Pre to 3 had 2 RNs receive CLC (certified lactation counselor), 2 CHWs receive CLS (certified lactation specialist), 1 CHW receive a Medical Translation certification, and 1 CHW became certified. The program supervisor completed the Region 5 Public Health Leadership Institute.



The Communicable Disease division received an award from Aurora for their work with the unhoused community in the syphilis response.

SPECIAL EVENTS



In February, the Vanderburgh County Health Department organized an Infant Mortality Summit at the Old National Events Plaza with the ultimate purpose of informing and educating attendees on the high black infant mortality rate in Vanderburgh County. 11 community partners and donors provided information about their organization to attendees. The Infant Mortality Summit was attended by 225 individuals, representing 71 unique organizations across the state.



This year, all WIC staff attended the annual Indiana WIC conference in Indianapolis, in addition to WIC staff attending the National WIC Association Annual Education and Training Conference in San Diego, CA.

SPECIAL EVENTS



Health Educators, Jen and Jami, presented in collaboration with Forefront Therapy and the Arthritis Foundation on Stress and the Body, including the Center for Mind Body Medicine, and how stress and arthritis are connected. Jami presented on the Diabetes Prevention Program and the link of arthritis and diabetes. Jen also presented on Mind Body Medicine at Transport Skills Day for Deaconess Employees.



Health Educator, Jen, presented on Produce Rx at the Southern Regional meeting and Health Educator, Jami, presented at the Mid-Regional meeting.

SPECIAL EVENTS



In October the lab partnered with Environmental and WIC to begin visiting local Pediatric offices to present information on VCHD's role in combating lead poisoning for children in our community. These presentations were made by appointment and were designed to educate pediatricians and their staff on lead poisoning, promote testing and to offer assistance in testing as needed. VCHD's goal over the next year is to visit all pediatric offices in our community to share this information.



In September, the Pre to 3 Program hosted its 3rd Pre to 3 Family Fall Festival event at Wesselman Park with the purpose of encouraging parent and child bonding through activities centered around enhancing that bond. 37 Pre to 3 families, with a total of 138 people and 17 Community Partners were in attendance.

SPECIAL EVENTS



Our DIS team has been active in expanding their knowledge, resources, and network by attending the NMAC HIV Biomedical Conference in Las Vegas.



Our DIS team presented their own groundbreaking work on bringing the 2022 Syphilis Outbreak in Southwest Indiana to an end at the STI Unity Conference in Indianapolis.

SPECIAL EVENTS



In June, the Pre to 3 program supervisor and nurse team lead presented at the Public Health Nurse Conference on Pre to 3 program outcomes.



In May, the Pre to 3 program was awarded the Child Safety Advocate Award from Safe Kids Indiana for outstanding dedication in forwarding the issues of child safety.

SPECIAL EVENTS



In May, a Pre to 3 representative attended the Mental Health Matters community town hall. This was a solution-oriented town hall, focused on mental health wellness tools and resources for the youth. Mental health resources were provided for teens and parents.

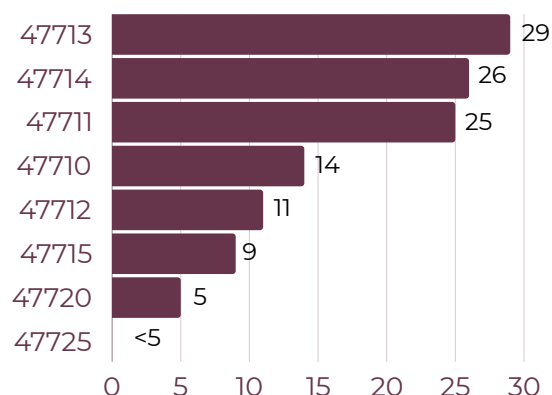
Fetal Infant Mortality Review and Child Fatality Review

VCHD fetal and infant mortality review (FIMR) and child fatality review (CFR) in 2023 were supported by Safety PIN (Protecting Indiana's Newborns) funds through the Indiana Department of Health (IDOH). FIMR and CFR are community based and action-oriented processes to help improve service systems and available resources for women, children, infants, and families. The VCHD team includes 4 staff members who review deaths from Vanderburgh, Posey, Gibson, Warrick, and Dubois counties. A new staff member was added in October 2023 to lead the community in actionable initiatives to address infant mortality with a focus on Black infant mortality in the 47713-zip code. Vanderburgh County has the second highest 5-year average around Black infant mortality in the state of Indiana.

Cases are reviewed in a multidiscipline team format which includes representation from many local community agencies. These agencies include VCHD, Ascension St. Vincent - Evansville, Deaconess Health System and Deaconess Women's Hospital, ARK Crisis Nursery, Department of Child Services, child advocacy center, mental health service agencies, county coroner's office, home visitation professionals, WIC, ECHO Clinic, managed care entities, local EMS, local police, and sheriff departments, along with several other community partners. The team meets to review the case summaries and local data. The case summaries may include family interviews with their perspective of the death. Based on the case review and data reviewed by the team, discussions are held and a systematic evaluation utilizing a standard format to identify themes, social determinants of health, community conditions, policies, behaviors, or gaps in service systems that may have contributed to the deaths. The teams assist in the analyzation of root causes and make recommendations to our community.

VCHD and community partners continue to focus on addressing social determinants of health, safe sleep behaviors, social support programs and referral to medical providers to impact infant mortality in our community. Members of the fatality team attended and presented local data at the 2023 Infant Mortality Summit. Black infant mortality remains 2.5 to 3 times higher than White infant mortality in Indiana and locally it is close to 4 times. From the years 2017-2021, Vanderburgh County White infant mortality was 5/1000 live births while the Black Infant mortality was 19/1000 live births.

Zip Codes in Rank of Number of Infant Deaths
2017-2021



Pre to 3

1,131
Reach

233
Active

478
Births

25,038
Visits

88.5%
Births 37+
Weeks

89.7%
Adequate
Prenatal
Care

The Pre to 3 Program has experienced a great 2023, with program growth, new funding sources and continued support to families. The Pre to 3 Program increased the active client base from 175 families in 2022 to 240 families in 2023. The program is fortunate to have 4 Spanish speaking and 2 Haitian Creole speaking CHWs, enriching the learning environment and breaking down barriers for families and the community.

At the end of 2023, Pre to 3 staff were trained on the Healthy Family Parenting Inventory (HFPI) with a plan to implement this tool in 2024. Working with Dan Diehl Evaluation and Consulting, a logic model was developed to frame implementation and measure progress toward program outcomes. The HFPI is a valid and reliable outcome measure utilized by early childhood educators and home visitors to assess change in nine parenting domains.

The Pre to 3 Program continues to be the only home visiting program in Indiana billing Medicaid for CHW services. VCHD Finance and Pre to 3 supervisor have lead discussions through My Healthy Baby Indiana and Region 5 U.S Department of Health and Human Services to advocate for increased reimbursement for CHW services and to increase sustainability of programming. Medicaid reimbursement for 2023 was \$79,891.68, while total charges were \$237,408.50. Pre to 3 continues to be primarily grant funded. Program Grant Award totals for 2023 were \$4,426,407.49 with a portion of this funding running through 2028. 2023 Grant Revenue was \$1,071,980.59 and includes funding from the Foundation for Better Health, supporting VCHD programming. Program donations were \$21,750.00 including a \$5000 award from CareSource. Program Expenditures for the year were \$1,467,057.80.

While our Pre to 3 Program outcomes continue to show positive change for the families served, Vanderburgh County remains 2nd in black infant mortality rates (IMR) within Indiana. The IMR in the 47713 zip-code is 42/1000 live births. The programmatic goal for 2024 is intentional outreach in 47713 neighborhoods. Pre to 3 staff and VCHD will continue to collaborate with community partners to build awareness, provide support, develop trust-building to address this multifaceted situation.

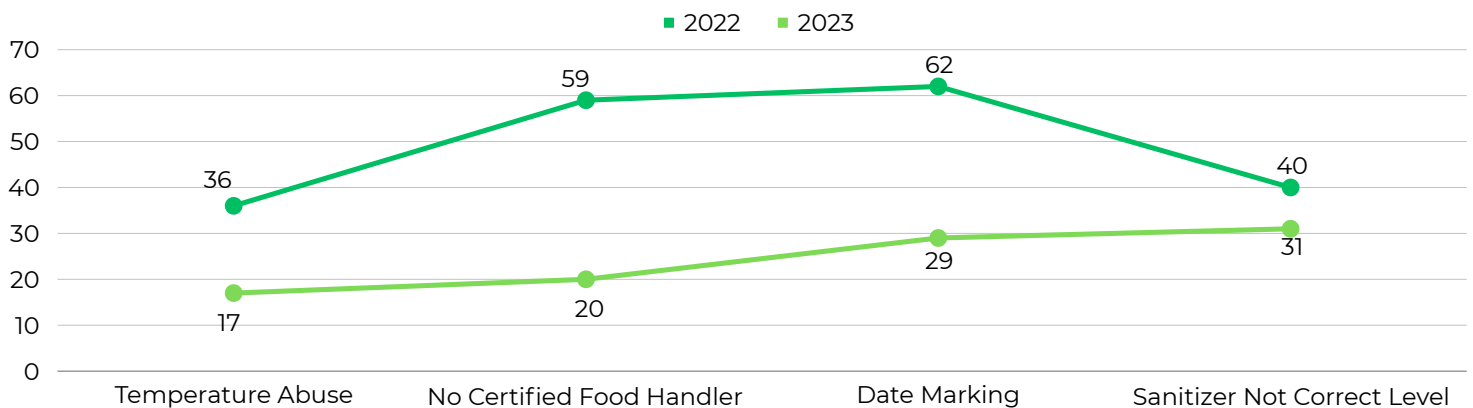


Environmental Health

FOOD

In 2023 the Environmental Division has adopted the regulatory philosophy of educate before and while we regulate. In 2022 and 2023 the 4 most cited violations were: temperature abuse, operations not having a certified food handler, date marking, and sanitizers not being at the correct level. VCHD Environmental Health Specialists have been working very hard to educate food establishment employees and owners on food safety. We saw an overall 50% decreases in the violation counts for 2023 as compared to 2022.

Common Retail Food Violations 2022 vs 2023



LEAD

During 2023 our program managed 135 total lead cases compared to 94 cases in 2022 (30% increase). The highest rate of confirmed cases were located in zip codes 47711, 47713 and 47714. In 2023, we completed 29 risk assessments compared to 18 in 2022. This year we were able to assist several families with remediating the lead in their homes. We were able to purchase new rugs for a family who had completed renovations but needed a little extra assistance with the final touches. We were also able to provide mulch to a family whose soil had a high level of lead.



BODY ART AND MODIFICATION

In 2023, 11 new Body Art and Tattoo establishments were opened in Vanderburgh County. This is a 63% increase in new establishments compared to the 4 establishments opened in 2022. The environmental team has focused heavily on working with tattoo artists and providing education throughout the year, this has led to an increase in artists opening a new shop where previously they were operating illegally out of their homes.

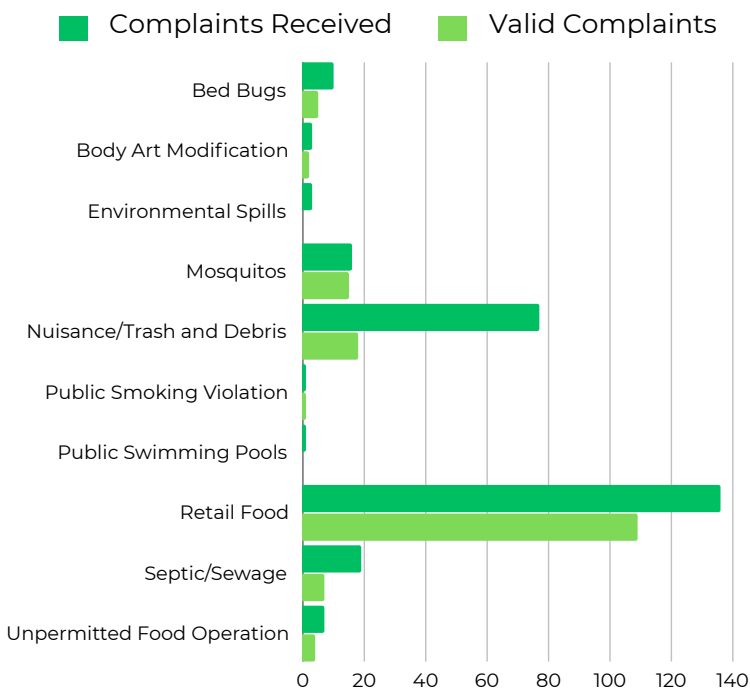
Environmental Health

PUBLIC/SEMI-PUBLIC SWIMMING POOLS

A major focus for the VCHD Environmental Division was making sure indoor pool operators did not use stabilizers in their pools. We found 3 pools that were using stabilizer in their indoor pools. We shut each pool down and educated pool operators what the problems were with using stabilizer. The Vanderburgh County Health Department is here to teach the community safety standards across each inspection. Eliminating stabilizer in indoor pools will create a safer environment for the public.

NUSIANCE COMPLAINTS

The Environmental Division received 77 nuisance complaints. Of the complaints received there were 18 complaints that were valid and investigated. This is a 33% decrease in investigated complaints compared to 2022.



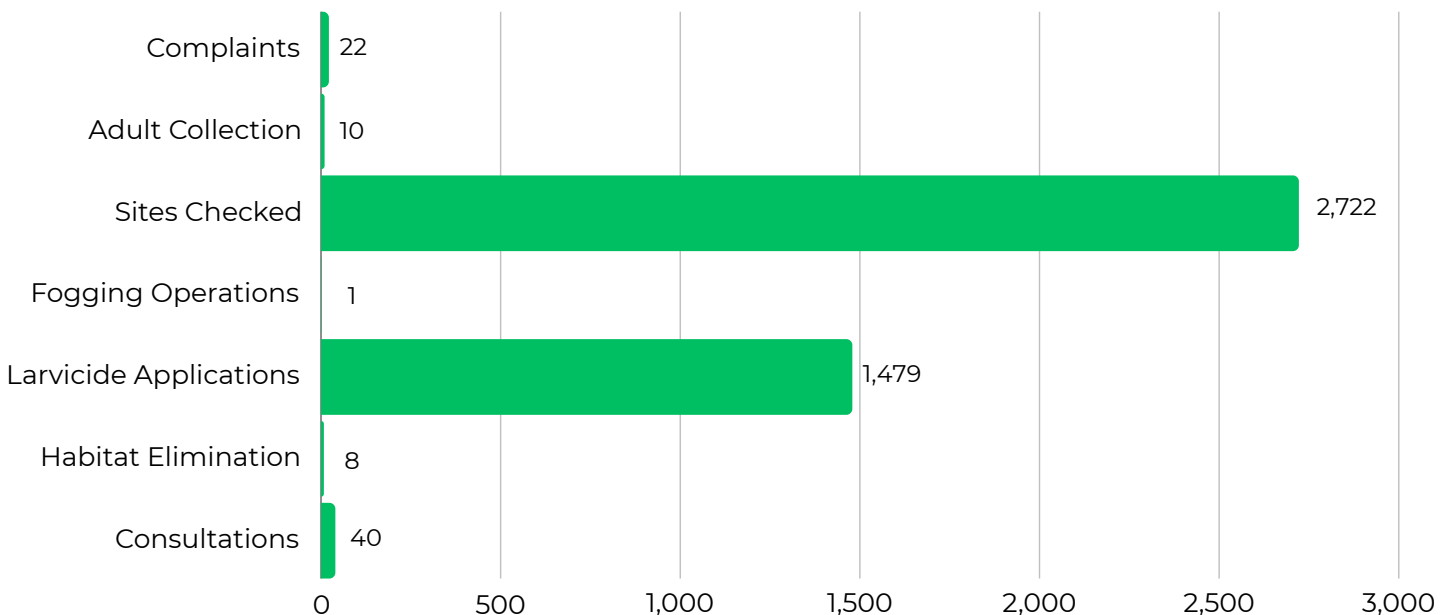
ONSITE SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The environmental division saw a 17% increase of septic inspections at 109 inspected installations compared to last year's 93 inspections. There were approximately 327 site visits overall and each septic installation takes around 3 visits per inspection. Soil consults raised from 48 in 2022 to 90 this year. This is due to the large number of problematic sites needing replacements this year. Most issues were caused by poorly drained soils, small lot sizes, poor contours, and site disturbances.

Environmental Health

VECTOR CONTROL

Mosquito control activities started in March with mosquito larvicide treatment of standing water areas and continued through the third week of October. Very dry summer conditions created ideal mosquito breeding sites in sewer catch basins resulting in extensive larvicide treatment and monitoring by Vector Control staff. Although West Nile Virus was found in mosquito populations through surveillance trapping, there were no reported human disease cases of West Nile Virus in Vanderburgh County. However, there was a case of equine West Nile Virus. Numerous conversations and educational opportunities were had with the public regarding best practices in preventing and eliminating bed bug infestations.



EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

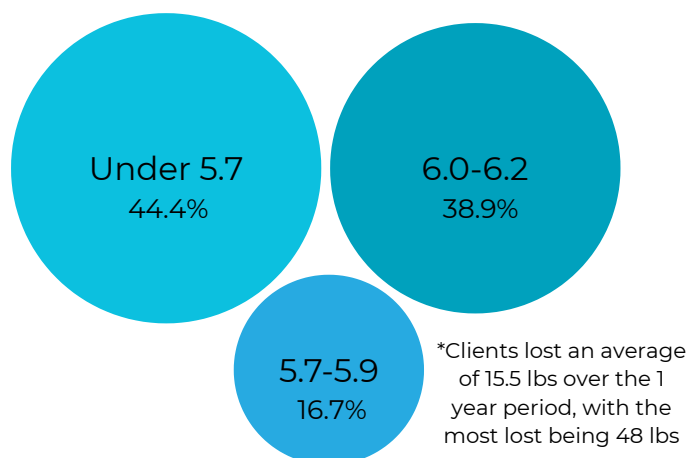
Staff received 768 doses of Naloxone for training and dispensing to first responders, healthcare providers, and community organizations through an Indiana State Department of Health Grant. Participated in local communication drills, as well as the District 10 Medical Response and Surge Exercise with healthcare coalition partners. Instructed long-term care facilities on emergency communication and information sharing.

Health Promotions

Freedom from Smoking - Pregnancy

Dr. Kristina Box, the previous Indiana State Health Commissioner, gave the approval for the Indiana Quitline to provide Nicotine Replacement Therapy (NRT) for pregnant individuals with permission from their provider. We made a change to our program to reflect the new guidelines. We updated our policy, flyer, and referral form to include NRT.

Starting A1c for DPP



CATCH Youth Vaping

In December, health educators piloted a youth vaping program in one of the local Evansville Vanderburgh School Corporation (EVSC) elementary schools, Evans Elementary. We used the evidence-based curriculum, CATCH, and provided 4, 35-minute sessions to 5th graders. Health educators were also trained and certified in the NOT on Tobacco Youth Vaping Cessation program produced by the American Lung Association to be able to offer virtual, youth vaping cessation services in 2024.

Safe Sleep Program

In 2023, we solidified the process for community partners to share the demographic information and required forms electronically (rolled out January 2024). We are now able to offer the Safe Sleep video in Spanish to qualifying clients.

Diabetes Prevention Program (DPP)

Our DPP facilitators continued collaboration with Nourish to meet the needs of our clients who are qualified as being food insecure in our program. According to the CDC, research shows that food and nutrition insecurity increase one's risk for diabetes by 50%. Our program has grown to assist 42% of our currently enrolled clients with food insecurity, this is higher than Evansville's average of 19% and that in Indiana of 11%.

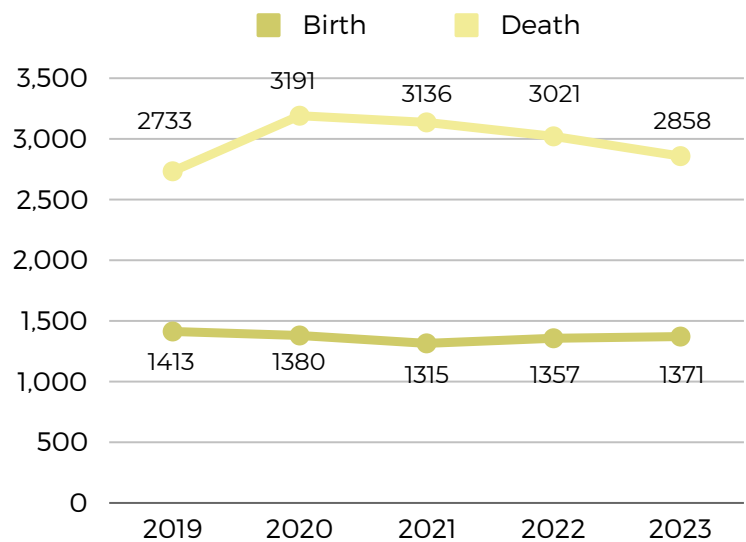


Health Educator at
Evans Elementary

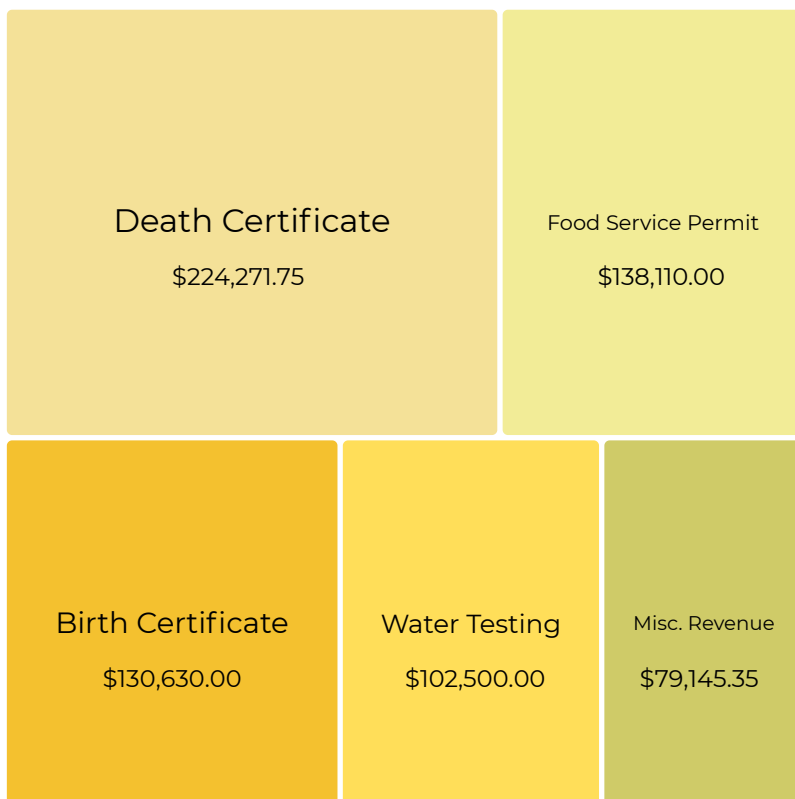
Administrative Aides

The Administrative Aides team continues to adjust flow processes based on the needs of departments and the public. As departments expand services and programs to other county health departments, the administrative aides continue to assist those counties by verifying universal consents and insurance status on clients being serviced. They also process billing for services completed by other county health departments utilizing our services and programs.

Birth and Death Total 5 Year Comparison



Top 5 Gross Sales Items



In April, the team participated in Homeless Connect, a one-day event that provides those impacted by homelessness with direct access to essential services in one place, issuing 59 birth certificates at no cost.

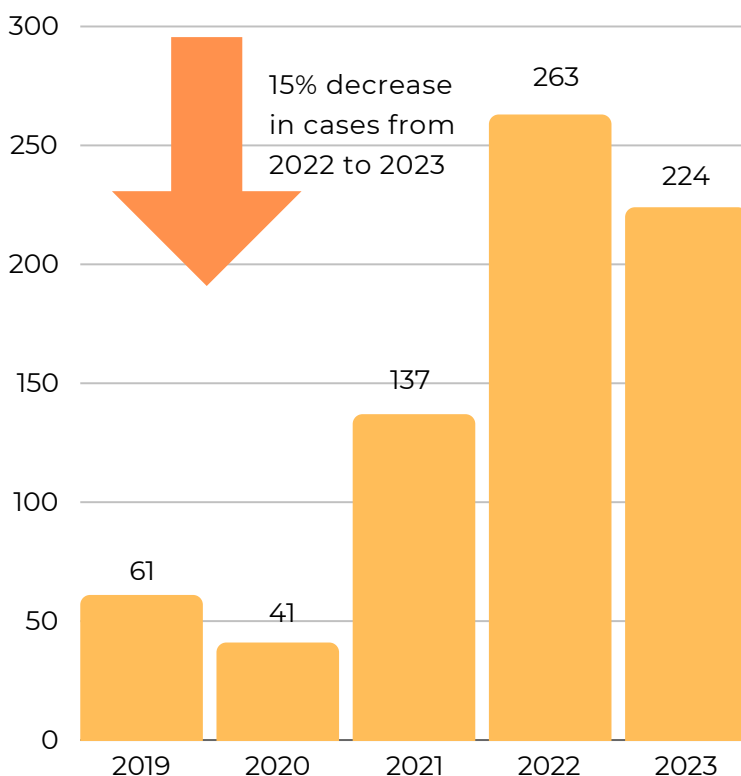
In November, IDOH gave health departments the ability to issue birth and death certificates to out-of-county residents. The team started issuing out-of-county birth and death certificates, allowing further convenience for Vanderburgh County residents. To-date, the team has issued a total 47 birth and 1 death certificates to out-of-county residents. The majority of these out-of-county requests were from Warrick County residents.

STD/Specialty Clinic

In 2022, Vanderburgh County was recovering from the syphilis outbreak. With the dedicated work of the Disease Intervention Specialists (DIS), the Communicable Disease (CD) Division was able to decrease syphilis cases in Vanderburgh County by 15.2% in 2023. This decrease in cases of syphilis allowed for a shift in focus towards chlamydia and gonorrhea cases and implementation of a new process, Expedited Partner Therapy (EPT), to address the increase in disease burden. EPT is founded in the philosophy giving the option to “...treat... sexual partners of patients diagnosed with an STD (specifically chlamydia and/or gonorrhea) without an intervening medical evaluation” (IDOH, 2022). Utilization of this treatment option allows VCHD staff to treat partners of positive chlamydia and gonorrhea clients who are not willing or able to be seen. Although this is not the most preferred treatment, it is effective in increasing the likelihood that sexual partners will receive treatment to reduce the further spread of disease within the community. From March to December 2023, staff treated 16 individuals with the EPT protocol. The team implemented provider visits in the District 10 region, this allows an increase knowledge of updated CDC testing and treatment guidelines, build stronger partnerships, and facilitates linkage to care.

District 8 Syphilis Cases

2019-2023



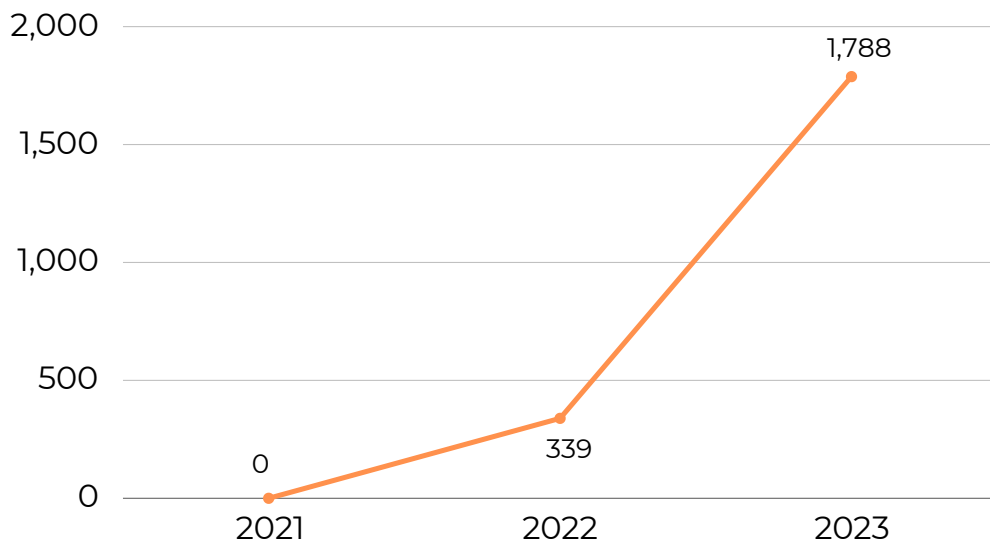
2023 was a successful year for the DIS/RN team and is reflected in 98% treatment rate and strong community partnerships. In 2024, the team has plans to expand EPT in the region to reduce the gonorrhea and chlamydia disease burden. In addition, we will utilize our mobile unit to expand in reaching more vulnerable populations within the community. In 2023, we were able to see 126 STD clients on the mobile unit at the 70 clinics offered. Our final goal for 2024 is to expand primary prevention techniques by implementing condom distribution and Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) services for the community by collaborating with community partners.

Clinical Division

In 2023, the community witnessed a sharp increase in tuberculosis (TB) disease and latent tuberculosis (LTBI). TB is caused by a bacteria called mycobacterium tuberculosis and spreads when a sick individual coughs, talks, or sings. Due to the nature of TB, some conditions such as living with someone with active TB, traveling to a country where TB is more prevalent, or having a weakened immune system can increase your chance of contracting TB. There was a large exposure in the local school that resulted in secondary cases of active disease, as well as 38 LTBI cases. Multiple clusters of unrelated TB cases have been identified through contact tracing. The team has worked diligently to test and treat the necessary populations for TB in hopes to prevent further spread of the disease. In 2023, VCHD drew 829 QuantiFERON Gold Tests (QFTs) and placed 240 TB skin tests (TSTs) in response to TB investigations. QFT's are a blood test that is performed to test for TB. As a result of the increase in the TB disease burden, VCHD staff experienced an exponential increase in Direct Observation Therapy (DOT) and medication pickups. DOT is performed daily by a public health nurse, assures medication compliance and symptom assessments for side effects. From 2022 to 2023 there was a 427% increase in DOT visits and 513% increase in medication appointments or medication deliveries. In 2023, the community had 22 suspected and/or confirmed cases of active TB disease and 195 latent tuberculosis infections that required case investigation and management by VCHD staff. With assistance from both the CDC and the Indiana Department of Health (IDOH) Emergency Preparedness Team, we are still working diligently to reduce the spread of TB within the community.

Direct Observation Therapy

2021-2023



427% increase
in cases from
2022 to 2023

*For active cases of
tuberculosis and window
prophylaxis for high risk
contacts

Clinical Division

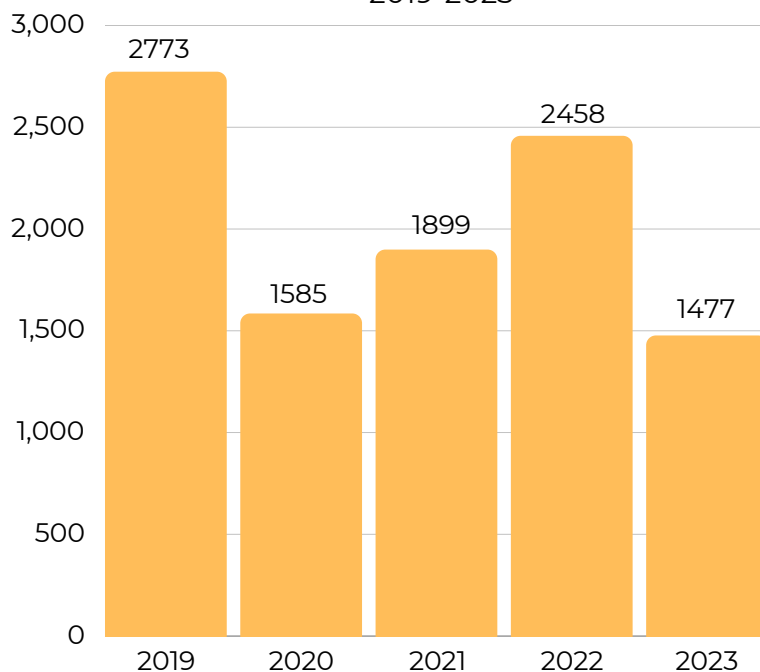
VCHD added a mobile unit in 2022 to provide immunizations and STD services in the community. The mobile unit reduces access barriers and increases vaccine rates and STD testing. The team was able to provide 112 vaccine clinics within the community. Through our school clinics and our partnership with EVSC, we were able to take our vaccine services to area schools and vaccinate 115 children to ensure up-to-date vaccinations. Our onsite clinic was able to see and vaccinate 955 children and 290 adults. The Home Bound Hoosiers program was implemented to provide services to vulnerable populations unable to leave their home easily or safely. By implementing this service, we were able to provide flu and COVID-19 vaccinations to 27 patients within our community.

In effort to improve vaccination rates and access, VCHD hosted immunization clinics in alternative times and locations including a drive-through flu clinic, pediatric vaccine clinics and COVID-19 clinics held after hours and on weekends. Drive-through flu clinic resulted in 61 clients receiving flu vaccine. The pediatric clinic resulted in 112 children receiving more than 300 vaccines. The year also had an increased number of foreign travel consultations. In total, 143 travel consults resulted in 157 clinical visits for foreign travel vaccines. These appointments ensure that residents are safe when traveling internationally.

In 2023, the team continued to monitor Hepatitis A in the community. The team continues to administer Hepatitis A vaccine to at risk populations. Even with the cases reported in 2023, Vanderburgh County is seeing a steady decrease since the initial outbreak in 2021.

There are approximately 70 diseases that local health departments investigate. Public health nurses use forms of primary, secondary, and tertiary prevention to prevent the spread of communicable diseases within the community. Due to the strong partnerships with local hospital systems and community partners we were able to quickly and effectively initiate infection control measures to stop the spread of disease. The team of public health nurses will continue to provide education and resources to help mitigate communicable diseases within the community.

Total Immunization Appointments
2019-2023



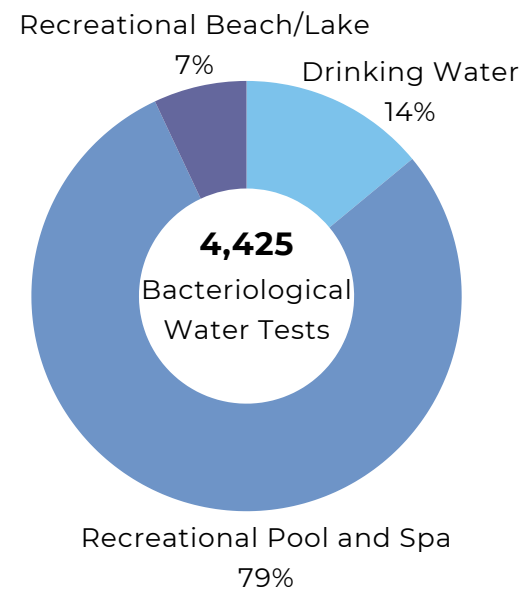
Laboratory

VCHD laboratory had a busy and expansive 2023. The lab was remodeled in the summer, and we added a larger, more updated waiting and phlebotomy room. We hired an additional full-time medical laboratory technician. We now have 2 full-time lab technicians, a part-time lab technician and a full-time Director on staff.

We worked with our Communicable Disease (CD) clinic to offer lab testing to clients seen on the mobile unit. Lab developed procedures and trained nursing and DIS staff to collect and process laboratory specimens on the mobile unit. A mobile unit lab testing menu was added to our electronic medical record to be able to perform accurate data tracking for the CD clinic as needed.

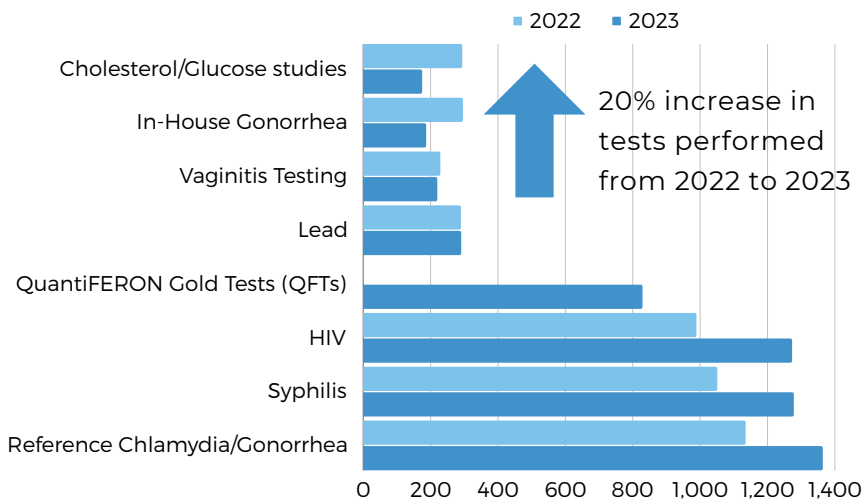
Throughout 2023 we participated in various TB Clinics conducted by VCHD in response to the TB outbreak that occurred this year. The lab was responsible for overseeing the ordering of supplies needed for these clinics as well as the entry of samples into VCHD and IDOH reporting databases. The lab prepared all samples for delivery to IDOH and was responsible for tracking and distributing all test results in a timely manner.

Lab continues to assist our DPP program to provide Hemoglobin A1c testing to their clients throughout the year as well as performing biometric screenings at local health fairs by request.



Medical Tests Performed

2022 vs 2023



7,063 total medical tests performed in 2023

We worked hard with our lead program with the goal of increasing lead testing rates for all at-risk youth under the age of 7 years in our community. We created an immediate response program to raise awareness during 2 national recalls this year involving products for children that were found to contain lead. We developed QR codes for parents to use to easily request testing for their children as well as translated many of our materials for non-English speaking clients. We partnered with WIC and our Environmental division to present lead education to area physicians and providers.

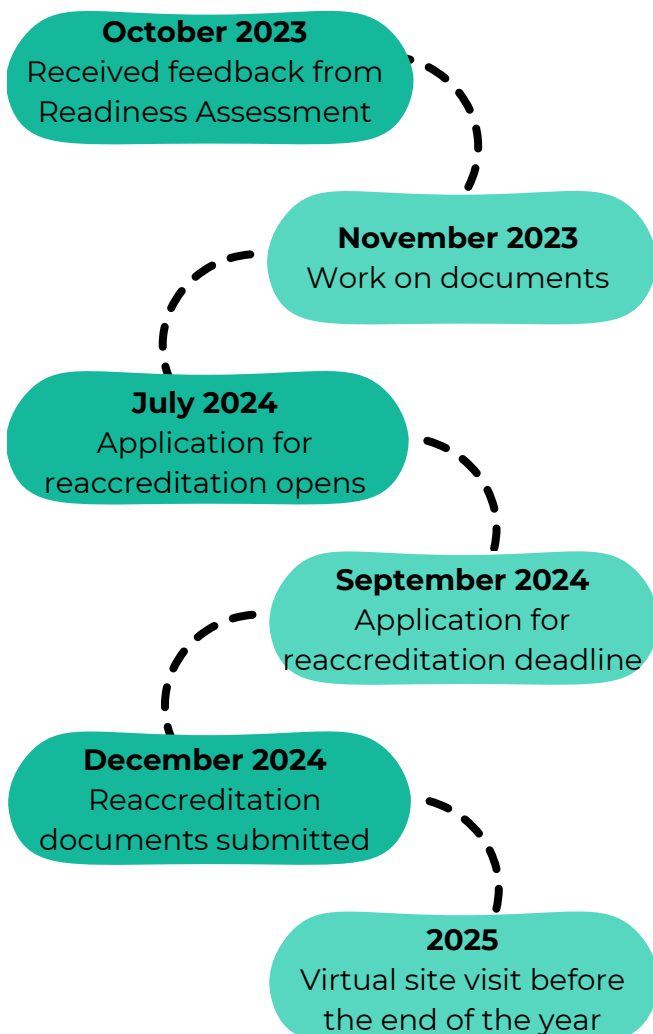
Planning & Analytics



The Vanderburgh County Health Department added a new division this year – Planning and Analytics. This division of the Health Department includes Data Analysts, Data Supervisor, Program & Evaluation Specialist, and Director of Accreditation and Expansion. This division provides support to other Health Department programs in planning, evaluation, and analyzing the effectiveness of interventions.

VCHD received initial accreditation status in 2019. As part of accreditation, VCHD is focused on continuous improvement and measuring outcomes. The Vanderburgh County Health Department will be seeking reaccreditation this year through the Public Health Accreditation Board.

Reaccreditation Timeline



Division Projects/Responsibilities

- Quality Improvement
- Quality Assurance
- Performance Management
- Community Health Improvement Plan
- Strategic Planning
- Workforce Development
- Annual Reports
- Public Health Accreditation
- Program Expansion
- Program Planning
- Data Infrastructure
- Program Data Collection
- Data Analytics

Goals for 2024:

- Further develop data collection and create a data hub for all VCHD programs and activities.
- Improve communication internally and externally related to data, software, and training.
- Foster a culture of data-driven decision making and quality.

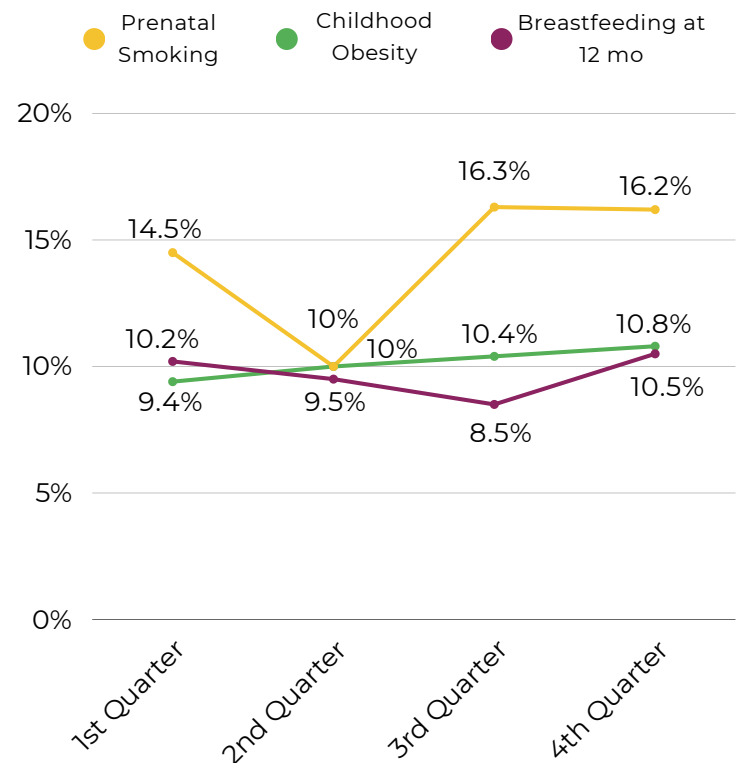
Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)

In 2023, our average caseload increased to 2759 participants/mothers. The year ended with 111% of the assigned caseload. Currently, WIC has three Registered Dietitians on staff for counseling high risk clients. WIC continues to offer prenatal classes 5 times a week, educating prenatal clients on infant feeding practices and the benefits of breastfeeding. These classes are taught by the breastfeeding Peer Counselors. Beginning January 2023, WIC hired a bilingual peer counselor to assist our Spanish speaking clients and teach classes in Spanish. Our WIC breastfeeding support staff strives to meet the goals the USDA/FNS have put in place to support our breastfeeding clients.

Indiana WIC's COVID waivers for certification expired on August 9, 2023. A few specific appointment types have permanently changed to permit the completion of an appointment by phone. These policies allow clients to continue to receive benefits when transportation or illness hinder keeping their clinic visit. Clients may also complete a nutrition education appointment using the WIC App.

The USDA temporarily increased WIC's Cash Value Benefits (CVB), which increases fruit & vegetable purchases from \$9 and \$11 to \$24 and \$41. Congress is working to make these CVB amounts permanent.

During 2023, WIC's top community concerns varied from quarter to quarter. While prenatal smoking rates slightly increased, breastfeeding rates at 12 months stayed about the same. Obese children, ages 2-5 years, also had a slight increase. These values are represented on the graph. It is our hope that bringing back the Farmers Market program will help the obesity rate slow. Due to technical issues, the annual Farmers Market Nutrition Program (FMNP) did not take place this season and will resume next summer (2024).



MEMBERSHIP

Vanderburgh County Board of Health

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Original Appointment Year</u>
Dr. Mark Royer, MD, MBA	Chair	2023
Sandie Strader-McMillen, MHA, MBA	Vice-Chair	2016
Dr. Mark E. Wohlford, DDS, PhD	Member	2008
Dr. R Michelle Galen, MD, FAAFP, FAWM	Member	2013
Dr. Maria Del Rio Hoover, MD	Member	1989
Dr. Julie Wohrley, MD	Member	2023
Margaret Musgrave	Member	2023

Administration and Core Management Team

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>
Dr. R. Kenneth Spear, MD	Health Officer
Joe Gries	Administrator
Lynn Herr, BSN, RN, CPN	Director Clinic and Outreach Division
JoAnna Beck, MPA	Director Environmental Health Division
Charissa Schuetz, BSN, RN, MHA	Director Expansion and Accreditation
Tamara Sturm, MLS (ASCP)	Director Laboratory Division
Mary Ellen Stonestreet, RD, LD	Director WIC

Department Supervisors

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>
Ginger Patton	Administrative Aides
Ashley Libbert, BSN, RN	Clinical Nursing
Sarah Harness, MPH	Data Team/IT
Kelly Holzmeyer	Financial Officer
Sophie French, BSN, RN	Pre to 3
Keith Goy, BS	Rodent & Vector Control
John Dunn, MS, MPH	STD



Financial Report

Since 2019, the Health Department has seen a 15% increase in revenue and a 25% increase in expenditures. This growth is due to the department's ongoing efforts to improve population health in Vanderburgh County by expanding services and building partnerships.

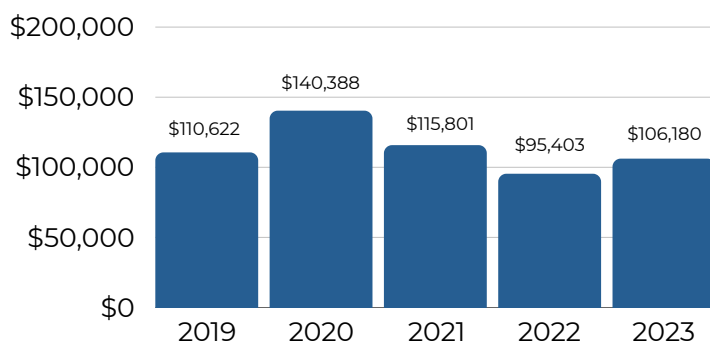
As a result of the expansion, the finance department continuously seeks to improve efficiency, to keep up with the increased workload. In 2023, the finance team collaborated with other departments to automate and streamline processes. Thanks to grant funding and strong leadership support, the finance team has been able to hire new team members and anticipates further growth in upcoming years.

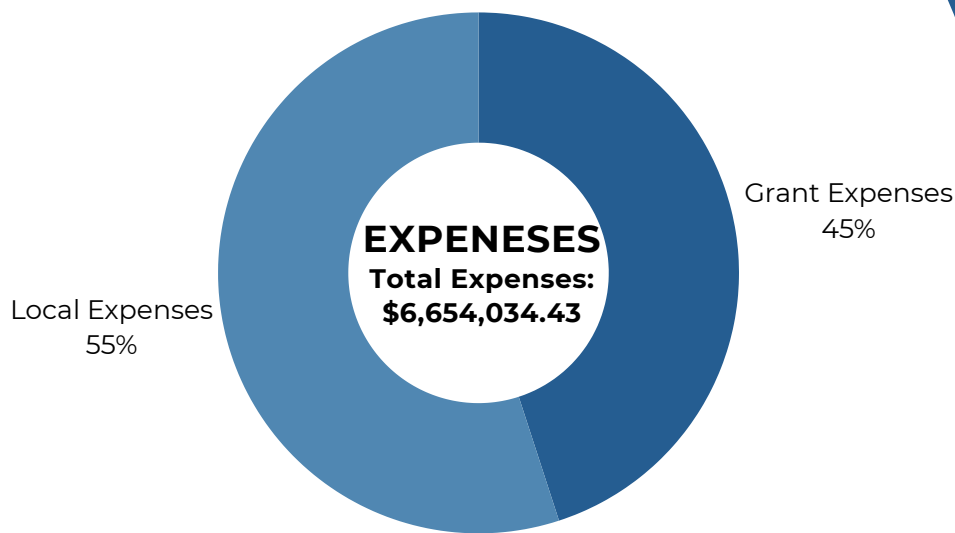
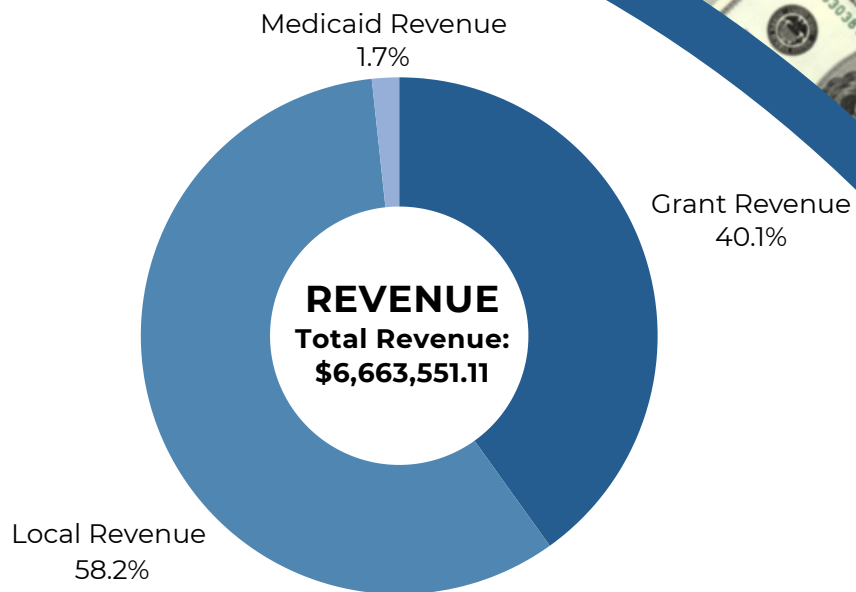
In 2023, the department was awarded more than 5 million in state and federal grant funds with fiscal years spanning from 2022 to 2028. Grant funding allows our department to expand our services by providing funding for the following activities:

- Salary and Fringe Expenses
- Travel Expenses
- Equipment
- Education and Training Spaces
- Communication Enhancements
- Promoting Community Programs
- Liability Insurance Coverage

In addition to grant funding in 2023, the Indiana State Legislature passed a state-wide initiative to improve population health called Health First Indiana. The initiative includes the enhancement of state funding, awarding Vanderburgh County Health Department \$2,173,718.51 to increase services in 2024. The Finance Team is committed to supporting all working divisions within the Health Department to maintain organizational values.

Medicaid Revenue 5 Year Comparison





Grant Revenue 5 Year Comparison

21% increase from 2019 to 2023

