

ANNUAL REPORT 2024

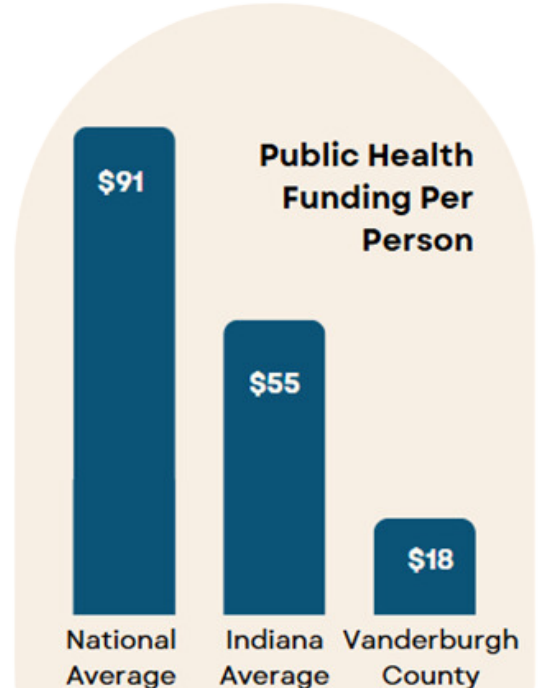


VANDERBURGH COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
EVANSVILLE, IN



EXECUTIVE LETTER

It was a good year for Public Health. The Indiana Legislature awarded Public Health a large increase in funding, making the funding per Indiana resident more consistent with National Trends. Recommendation 9 from the Indiana Governor's Public Health Commission proposes "providing local health departments with stable, recurring, and flexible funding to build and sustain their foundational public health capacities." The goal is to increase public health funding to achieve consistent per capita spending at 2019 national average of \$91 per person as compared to Indiana's \$55 per person.



Dr. R. Kenneth Spear
Health Officer
VCHD

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "R. Kenneth Spear, MD".

It was anticipated that this extra funding would allow Local Health Departments to expand services to the most vulnerable in the population, increase overall health, increase the State's attractiveness to outside businesses, increase longevity, decrease hospital emergency usage, decrease smoking rates, and decrease other health risks such as obesity and falls in the elderly.

These are very lofty goals and will require partnering throughout the Health Care spectrum to achieve these goals. Well trained personnel and reliance on data with immediate feedback will be essential to making progress. The Data Team will need to be expanded along with Education and Outreach. Communicable Disease will need to be expanded and Pre to 3 needs to grow to serve the highest risk population of children. It is critical to maintain the Health First Indiana funding if Public Health is going to achieve the greatest gains for the Indiana residents.

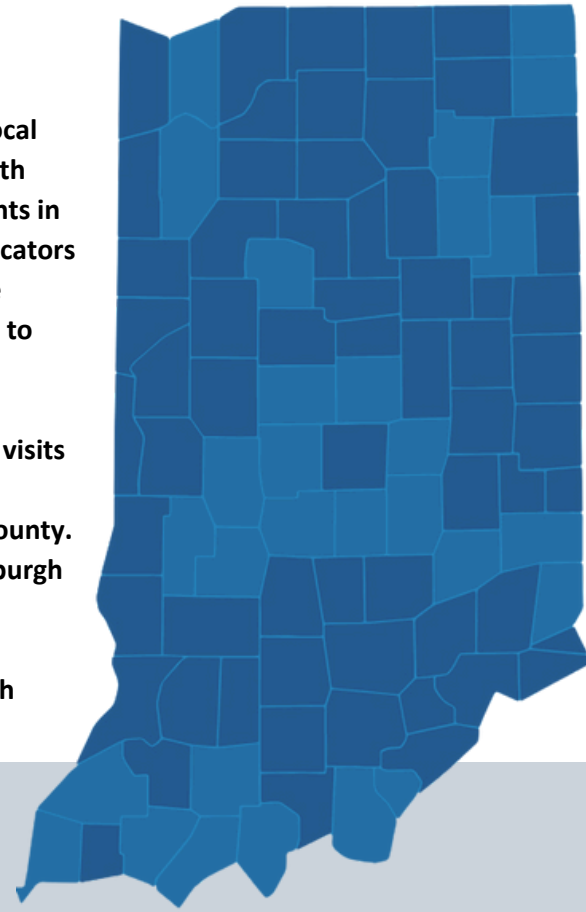
HEALTH FIRST INDIANA

In 2023, the Indiana legislature passed Senate Enrolled Act 4, which allows local health departments to receive additional funding to provide core public health services. As part of the requirements for this funding, local health departments in Indiana were tasked with developing community-wide Key Performance Indicators (KPIs). The Vanderburgh County Health Department (VCHD) developed three community-wide KPIs to ensure that we prioritize health outcomes that lead to meaningful, long-term improvements in community health.

These community-wide KPIs include:

- Decreasing the crude rate of non-fatal fall injury emergency department visits for adults aged 65 and older in Vanderburgh County.
- Increasing blood lead testing among children aged 0-6 in Vanderburgh County.
- Reducing the rate of STI-related emergency department visits in Vanderburgh County.

These KPIs will be achieved by increasing access to care, ensuring culturally competent care, and making intentional efforts to reach high-risk groups with services.



328 people provided treatment for LTBI

394 children tested for blood lead levels

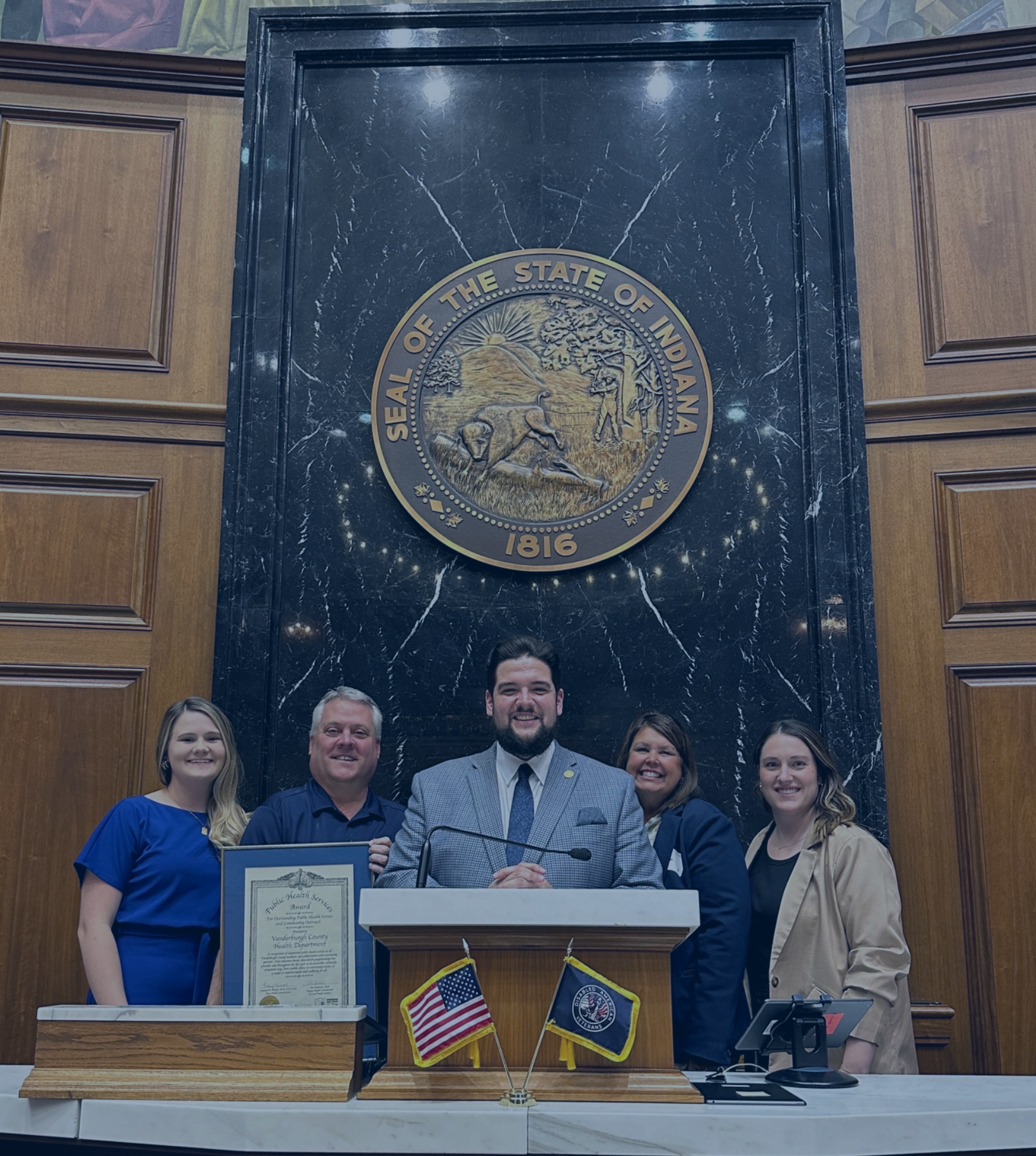
447 youth provided education on the harms of vaping

885 naloxone doses distributed

1,220 people treated for STIs

1,445 people provided contraceptive education

1,482 people received immunizations



The Vanderburgh County Health Department received the Public Health Service Award for outstanding public health service delivery and community outreach.

SPECIAL EVENTS & ACHIEVEMENTS

PRE TO 3



Pre to 3 Division attended the Labor of Love Conference in Indianapolis, Indiana.

In September, the Pre to 3 Division hosted their 4th annual Family Fall Festival at Wesselman Park. 72 Pre to 3 families, with a total of 290 individuals and 20 community partners were in attendance.



The Pre to 3 Division received the Division Award for project or program by Leadership Everyone at the 2024 Celebration of Leadership.

In June of 2024, Pre to 3 officially welcomed our 500th birth into the program.



SPECIAL EVENTS & ACHIEVEMENTS

ENVIRONMENTAL



Lanae Hyneman and Wendy Smith attended a Body Art Symposium in Indianapolis, Indiana.

The Environmental Division attended the Indiana Environmental Health Association Conference in Bloomington, Indiana.

Indiana Environmental Health Association



Frank Birchfield attended the IDOH winter onsite sewage meeting in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Carol Coudret and Denna Howard attended the National Lead and Healthy Homes Conference in Savannah, Georgia.



Denna Howard and Keith Goy attended the Indiana Vector Control Conference in Terre Haute, Indiana.

SPECIAL EVENTS & ACHIEVEMENTS

HEALTH PROMOTION

Certificate of CDC Full Plus Recognition



National Diabetes Prevention Program Recognition
Presented to

Vanderburgh County Health Department
EVANSVILLE, IN

Effective Date: 08/01/2024
Expiration Date: 04/30/2029



Miriam T. Bell

Miriam T. Bell, MPH
Team Lead, National Diabetes Prevention Program
National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion
U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

The Health Promotion Division has received CDC Full Recognition for our Diabetes Prevention Program. In order to receive CDC recognition, our program has to successfully deliver a quality, evidence-based program. We help our clients create a lifestyle change, which helps them lower their BMI and A1c levels. The ultimate goal of the program is to prevent type 2 diabetes.

The Health Promotion Division was spotlighted by the CATCH Global Foundation for the CATCH My Breath Program.



Tami Morris became a Tobacco Treatment Specialist (TTS). 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.”

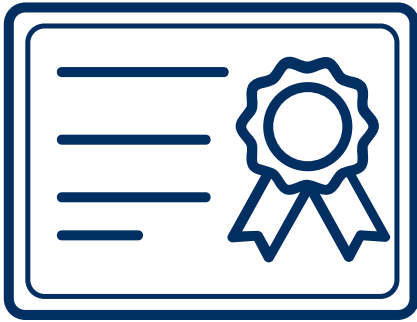
Jami Carlson participated in a peer review and updated SOPHE’s Diabetes Education Toolkit, and attended the Advocacy Summit in Washington, DC.



Jen Healy acquired a National Certificate in Tobacco Treatment Practice.

SPECIAL EVENTS & ACHIEVEMENTS

LABORATORY



In June, the Laboratory passed their bacteriological water inspection conducted by the Indiana Department Board of Health Water Microbiology Certification Program. Passing this inspection keeps our water laboratory certified through 2027.

The Laboratory met a key goal this year, partnering with our Women, Infant, and Children (WIC) Program, offering lead testing to eligible children 0-6 years of age and pregnant or breastfeeding individuals at appointments that align with their WIC appointment here at VCHD. This partnering will make clients more aware of the need for lead testing and make it easier to get tested by eliminating the need for appointments on different days and times.



As we strive to improve social determinants of health outcomes, we implemented a screening clients complete prior to their lead testing appointment which allows us to provide referrals and educational resources as needed. Additionally, we assist clients without transportation so they can attend their appointment and have incorporated translation services to improve communication with our non-English speaking clients.

We were able to hire a full-time phlebotomist to oversee the daily activities of this endeavor as well as the day-to-day lead testing we offer to all members of the community.



SPECIAL EVENTS & ACHIEVEMENTS

PLANNING & ANALYTICS

In May, the Data Team attended the Regenstrief Institute Conference in Indianapolis, Indiana and presented on how VCHD utilizes dashboards for data driven decision making.



In May, the Data Team attended Data Day in Indianapolis, Indiana and presented on how data driven decision making can influence programmatic interventions.

SPECIAL EVENTS & ACHIEVEMENTS

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE, MOBILE UNIT, DIS



The Vanderburgh County Health Department Mobile Unit Team was awarded the High Flyer Award for Immunization Equity. The award was given to an individual or organization that has helped educate and promote immunizations, and to reduce disparities, in diverse communities in Indiana.

The Communicable Disease Division was awarded the Outstanding Health Department Award by the Indiana Public Health Association for the efforts and contributions to creating a healthier Indiana due to their efforts and response during the COVID-19 pandemic, the syphilis outbreak, and increased cases of tuberculosis.



Each member of the Disease Intervention Specialists (DIS) team was able to attend a separate, national conference to learn new skills, stay updated on the latest research and practice, and to make connections with other experts in their fields, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), World Health Organization (WHO), and the National Institutes of Health (NIH)—these conferences were the NMAC HIV Biomedical Conference in Seattle in April, the STI Engage Conference in Washington DC in June, and the CDC STI Prevention Conference in Atlanta in September.



SPECIAL EVENTS & ACHIEVEMENTS

WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN (WIC)



WIC now has four Registered Dietitians on staff for counseling high risk clients. Last May, another nutritionist passed her Registered Dietitian exam.

All WIC staff attended the annual Indiana WIC conference in Indianapolis, Indiana.



Registered Dietitians have completed the National Maternal Nutrition Intensive Course through the University of Minnesota.

FETAL INFANT MORTALITY REVIEW

Fetal Infant Mortality Review (FIMR) and Child Fatality Review (CFR) are 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 3 staff members who review deaths from Vanderburgh, Posey, Gibson, Warrick, and Dubois counties and communicate the recommendations to the community.

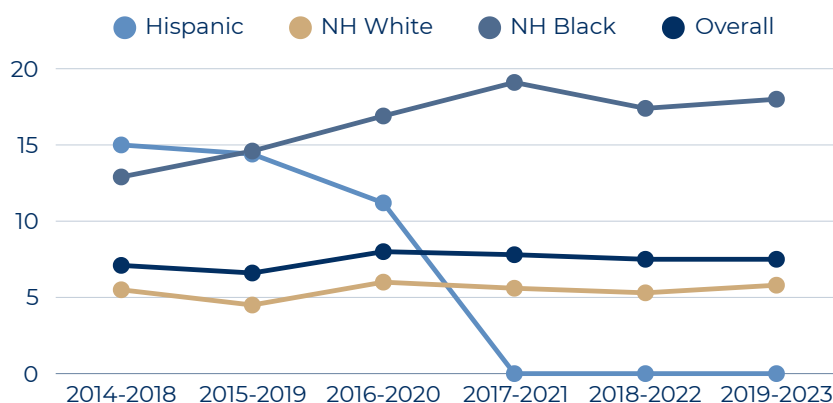
Cases were reviewed in a multidiscipline team format which includes representation from many local community agencies. The teams meet to review the case summaries, local data, and family interviews. Based on the case review and data reviewed by the team, discussions are held and a systematic evaluation utilizing a standard format to identify themes, social determinants of health impacting the case, community conditions, policies, behaviors, and gaps in service systems that may have contributed to the deaths. The teams assist in the analysis of root causes and make recommendations to our community via the community action teams.

The development of a FIMR community action team with more than 40 agencies was formalized, a strategic plan was developed, work groups were established to carry out recommendations, and agencies assessments were completed to improve the culturally and linguistically appropriate care in our community. 2024 successes include the expansion of METS Micro transportation to the 47713-zip code to include the Vanderburgh County Health Department and key health care providers, the submission of the first grant to support Food as Medicine in Vanderburgh County for pregnant individuals living in the Evansville Promise Neighborhoods, expansion of home visitation, development of a social media presence, and team collaboration in the development of a Care Mobile to serve women and infants in our community in 2025.



In February, a fatality team member spoke at the Purdue University Health Equity Summit, addressing local disparities in infant mortality and the intervention of the Pre to 3 home visitation program.

Vanderburgh IMR 5-year Comparison



Recommendations and data provided by the CFR team are put into action by Safe Kids Southwestern Indiana Coalition. This team provides support to the community through education and safety equipment including car seat, gun, safe sleep, bike, all-terrain vehicle, and home safety. More than 10 VCHD staff members are actively involved in both community action teams. Disparities remain apparent in the local data for both infants and child fatality but awareness and community commitment in 2024 is reassuring for change.

PRE TO 3



The Pre to 3 program hit many milestones of success including, expanding program reach, developing community partnerships, and advocating for improved maternal and child outcomes. In June, we officially welcomed our 500th birth into the program. The Pre to 3 program increased the active client base from 240 families in 2023 to 300 families in 2024. Due to the start of funding from Health First Indiana (HFI), The Early Years Initiative by Eli Lilly Foundation, and Evansville Promise Neighborhood (EPN), seven new positions were added including two Registered Nurses (RNs), four Community Health Workers (CHWs), and one Client Advocate (CA).

This allowed the program to serve an additional 60 families. Yet by August the program had to create a waitlist as the need exceeded the program capacity. Currently the program continues to creatively connect with community partners to ensure all families are supported, focusing our open caseloads on the most high-risk families living in Vanderburgh County's Evansville Promise Neighborhood.

Additionally, the program restructured the leadership team to further support the needs of the program as it grows. Creating three leadership positions; Program Manager, CHW/Client Advocate Team Lead, and Public Health Nurse Team Lead, to support the Program Supervisor in the administration of the program. Current staff include a team of six English speaking CHWs, four Spanish speaking CHWs, three Haitian Creole Speaking CHWs, two English speaking CAs, and four English speaking RNs. The program continues to focus the hiring process on intersectional professionals from many backgrounds to ensure culturally and linguistically competent education for the families served.



PRE TO 3



The program has been instrumental in advocating for improved maternal and pediatric health care in Vanderburgh County. An advocacy success came this year when local birthing centers implemented a standard practice to screen for preeclampsia risk and offer low dose aspirin therapy to moderate and high-risk individuals. The program has been educating and advocating that our clients receive low dose aspirin therapy to prevent preeclampsia for the past several years. Other areas of advocacy

that occurred this year include when the Pre to 3 supervisor spoke at the Lieutenant Governor's round table on Mental Health on November 19th, 2024.

Moving forward, the program continues to explore options of self-sufficiency, being the only program to bill Medicaid for CHW home visits. Our partnership with The Foundation for Better Health allows us to seek private and public donations, while raising awareness of community health needs. These efforts resulted in new sources of funding from Early Years Initiative 2.0 through The Eli Lilly Foundation, Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA), ongoing funding from Welborn Foundation, and year two of Health First Indiana (HFI).



1,330
REACH

264
ACTIVE

598
BIRTHS

31,493
VISITS

88.7%
BIRTHS
37+ WEEKS

89.9%
ADEQUATE
PRENATAL
CARE

Public Swimming Pools

The Environmental Division conducted 89 routine pool inspections this year. We had 24 pool closures. We are excited to offer some trainings to pool operators in 2025!

Tattoo and Body Piercing

This was an exciting year for Tattoo inspections. We more than doubled the number of inspections conducted at tattoo and body piercing establishments in Vanderburgh County at 35 inspections compared to 16 in 2023. We were able to dedicate inspectors and train them on the importance of bringing tattoo and body piercing establishments into compliance.

Lead

The lead program is testing more children than ever before. With this important milestone comes the weight of having more children with elevated blood lead levels. Working with families to eliminate the sources of lead from their environments many times means expensive home remediations must take place. We have had increased positive responses from landlords and property management groups for those families that rent their homes. For those that own their homes, it is often difficult to afford the most effective abatement solutions and must opt for interim controls. We were blessed this year with a gift from Joe Bush of Window World who donated the product and labor to install 26 windows into a family's 1919 home. The blood lead levels of the three children in the home decreased drastically within just a few weeks. We asked if we could advertise for him as a thank you for his kindness. Joe replied, "Just donate to St. Jude when they ask."

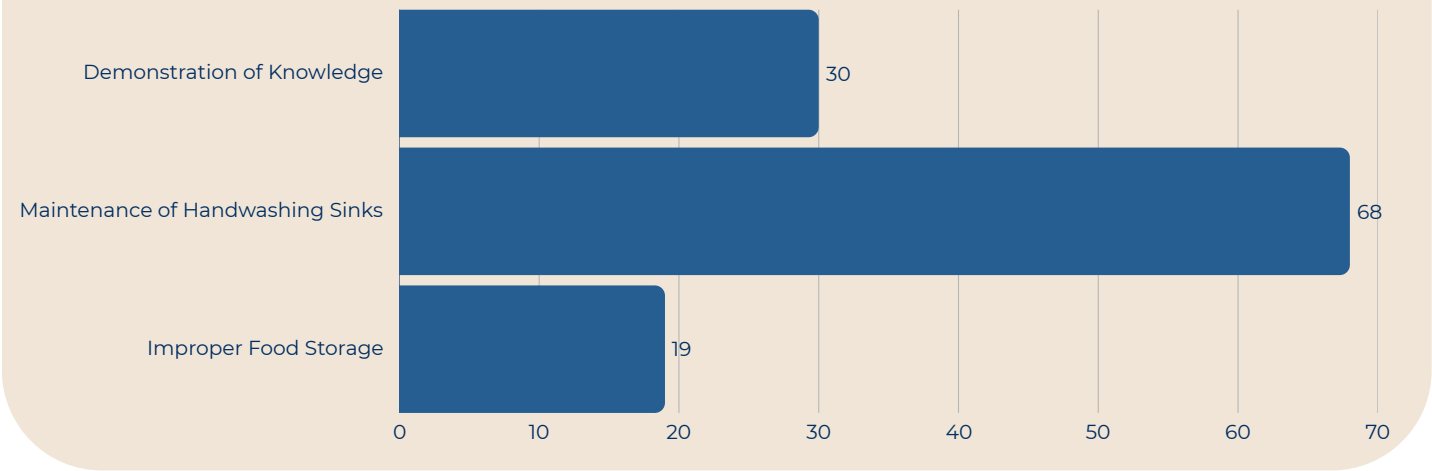


ENVIRONMENTAL

Food

Environmental Health Specialists conducted over 1500 retail food inspections this year. Compared to 2023, nearly 25% more inspections were conducted. 100 new retail food establishments opened in Vanderburgh County in 2024. Most facilities are inspected twice a year.

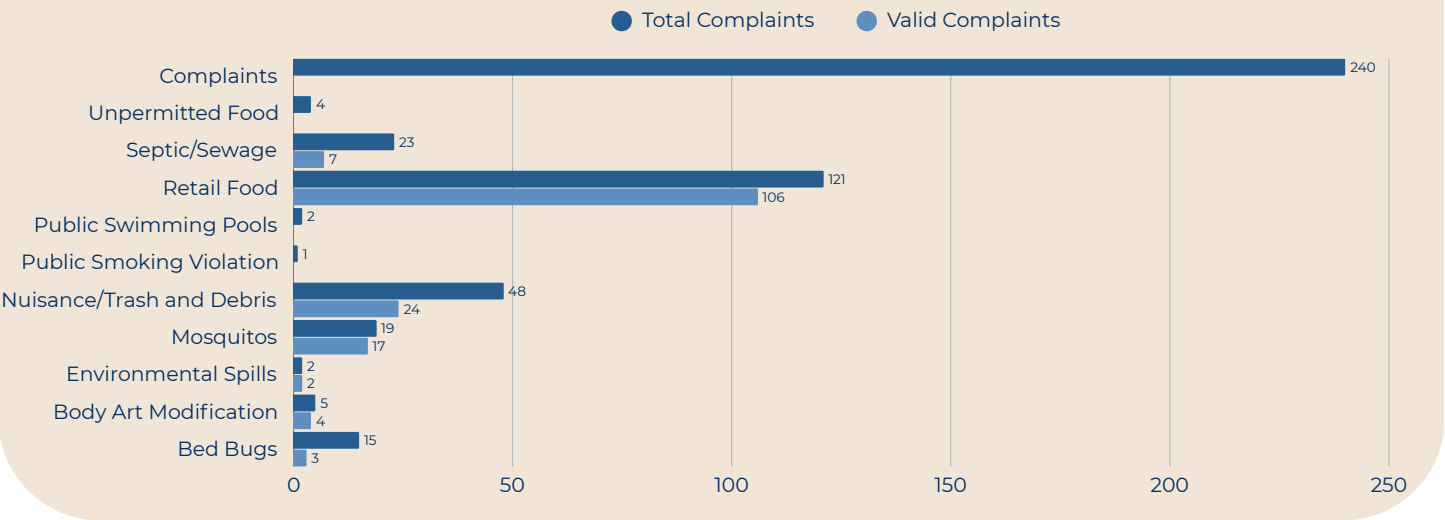
Common Retail Food Violations



Septic

We processed 100 applications for onsite septic systems. 67 applications were for the repair or replacement of old systems while 37 applications were for new home construction. Each septic installation requires 3 inspections or consultations with installers.

Environmental Complaints



Emergency Preparedness

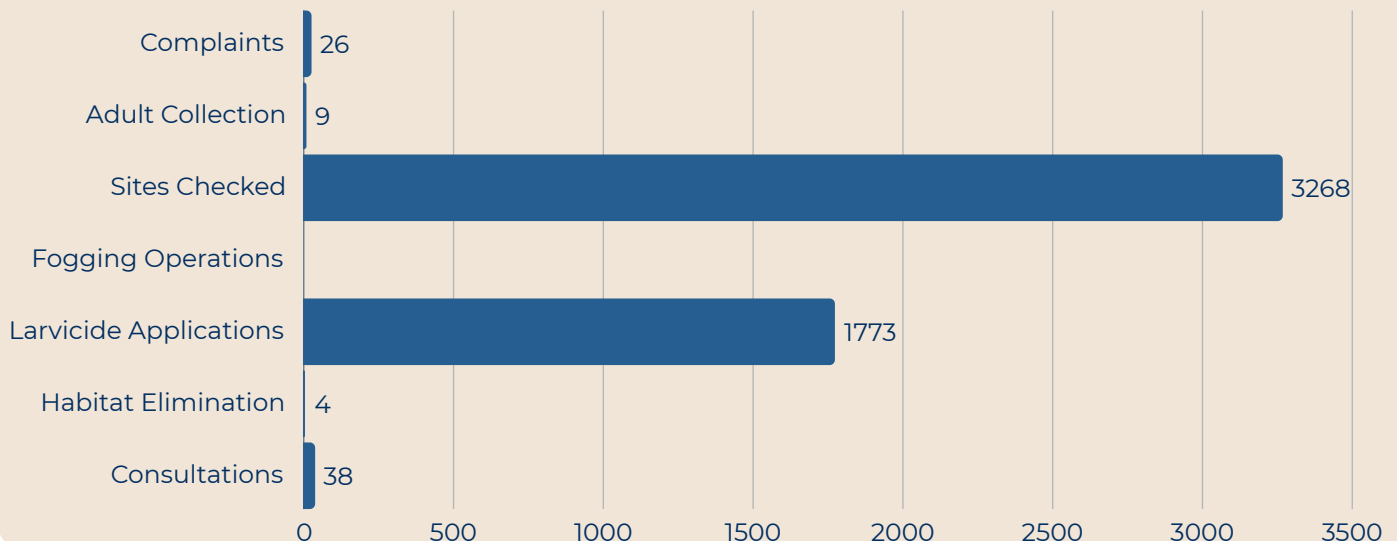
Staff received 856 doses of Naloxone for training and dispensing to first responders, healthcare providers, and community organizations through an IDOH Grant. We participated in local communication drills, the District 10 Medical Response and Surge Exercise with healthcare coalition partners, and the US Environmental Protection Agency Extremely Hazardous Substance Tabletop Exercise with county emergency response agencies.



Vector Control

Mosquito control activities started in March with mosquito larvicide treatment of standing water areas and continued through the third week of October. A wet spring transitioned to dry summer conditions which created ideal mosquito breeding sites in sewer catch basins and ponded water sites 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. Numerous conversations and educational opportunities were had with the public regarding best practices in preventing and eliminating bed bug infestations.

Vector Control



HEALTH PROMOTION

The Health Promotion Division expanded the division from two to five employees. We were able to add three highly qualified, experienced, and educated staff members. We were able to further the growth of our department through continued trainings to maintain program efficiency and success. Additionally, a leadership position was established within the division due to our progress. To meet Key Performance Indicators, our division planned for and successfully piloted three new programs: Healthy Lifestyles, Matter of Balance, and Not-On-Tobacco (N-O-T).



N-O-T (NOT ON TOBACCO)

Not On Tobacco is an evidence-based program produced by the American Lung Association with the goal of helping youth quit vaping and using tobacco products.

MATTER OF BALANCE

Matter of Balance is an evidence-based program that helps participants set goals to reduce the fear of falling, increase activity levels, and encourage small changes to reduce fall risks at home while providing exercises to increase strength and balance.

HEALTHY LIFESTYLES

Healthy Lifestyles is a voluntary program working to prevent obesity and chronic disease. This program combines the evidence-based material with supplemental information to create a six-month initiative to encourage lifestyle change.

The division streamlined the process of offering and collecting data for our youth vaping prevention program to youth in Vanderburgh County. The program was offered to five different Evansville Vanderburgh School Corporation (EVSC) schools, seven cohorts of students in 5th through 8th grade, and 430 students.

We received continued funding from IDOH for Produce Rx, which is a produce prescription program offered to clients who are identified as being food insecure.

Through this continued funding, we were able to offer this service to clients who are in our Healthy Lifestyles program, in addition to those who are in our Diabetes Prevention Program (DPP).

DIABETES PREVENTION PROGRAM

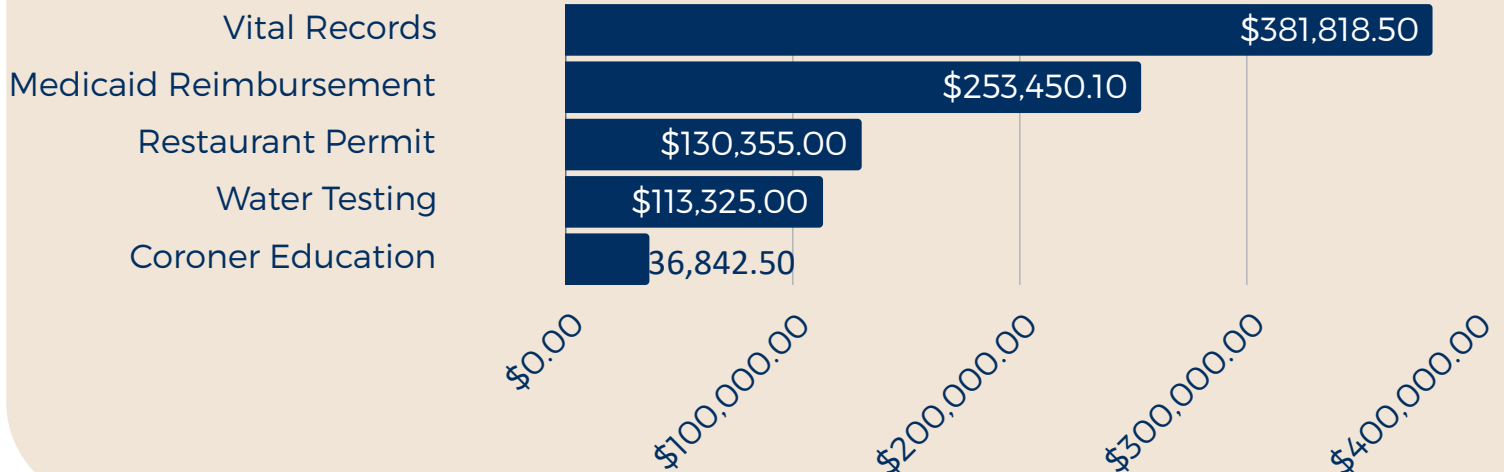
“ ————— SUCCESS STORY ”

In 2023, I found myself at 296 pounds and facing diabetes with an A1c of 5.7. This caused me to investigate choices to turn my life around and take control again. The Vanderburgh County Health Department's Diabetes Prevention program provided me with the education I needed and the tools to help me put healthy eating and physical activity into practice. A little over a year later I am at my lowest weight in decades resting at 192. My A1c is below the pre-diabetic range because of the physical activity, weight loss and healthy food choices. I also enjoy having more energy and feel like exploring more and more of this beautiful world and this thing we call life.

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS

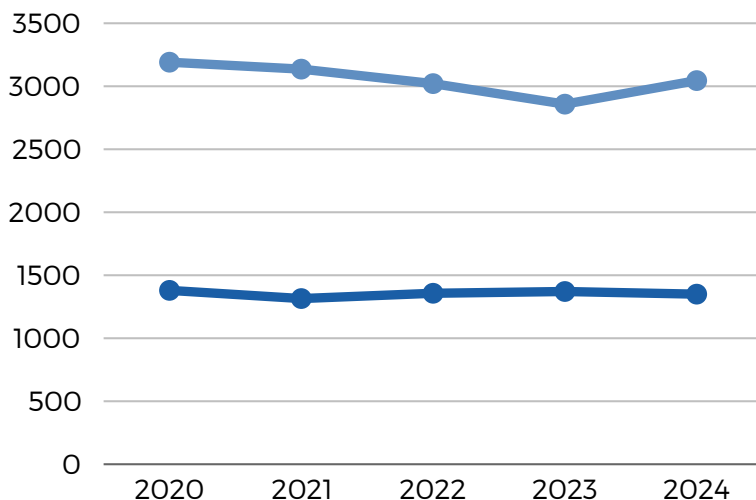
This year has been a remarkable period of growth, adaptation, and excellence for our team of Administrative Support Professionals (ASPs). Our dedicated staff have demonstrated exceptional flexibility, skill, and dedication, ensuring the smooth operation of our organization's daily functions. ASPs expanded their outreach services to the community through the development of flyers with a QR code linking to an online birth certificate request and delivered to Ascension St. Vincent Evansville to be given to new parents. This new process allows new parents the ability to order the baby's birth certificate online and can choose to either pick-up or have the certificate mailed. ASPs daily flow process continues to grow and adjust based on needs of internal divisions as VCHD expands. ASPs continue to be an invaluable asset, driving efficiency and collaboration.

Top 5 Gross Sales Items



Birth and Death Total 5 Year Comparison

● Birth ● Death



536

birth certificates issued were born outside of Vanderburgh County

404

of the birth certificates issued were born in Warrick County

6,342

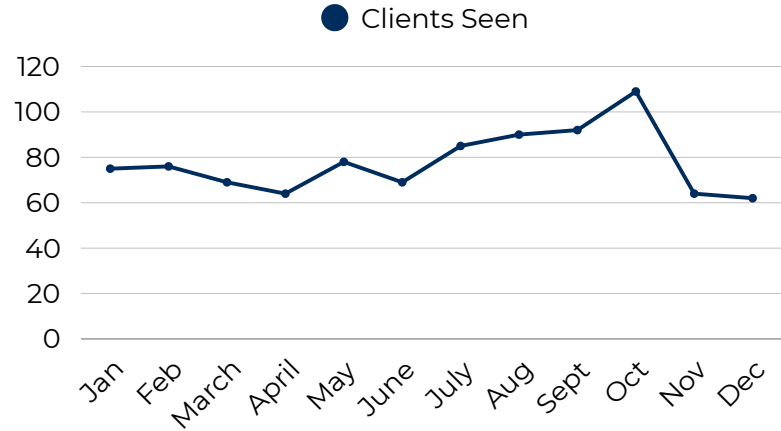
out-of-county resident death certificates issued

DIS & SPECIALTY CLINIC

Specialty Clinic

The Specialty Clinic has continued to maintain a record treatment rate for STI patients well above the state average and has also achieved all-time high records for treatments and exams several times throughout the course of the year, despite staffing challenges. This accomplishment is especially exceptional, as one of the main medications used to treat Syphilis was on a global shortage and the CDC ordered all health departments, hospitals, and healthcare providers to ration this medication to only the most-needed cases. Despite this limitation, the VCHD Specialty Clinic was able to provide access to treatment for 933 patients, well over the 710 seen in 2023.

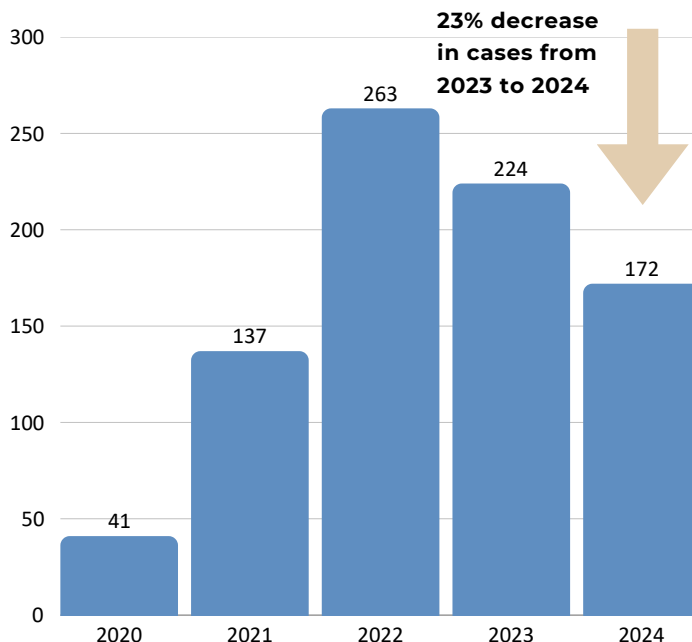
2024 Specialty Treatment



DIS

2024 was a year of great success for the Disease Intervention Specialist (DIS) Team. Across the board, disease burden from Chlamydia, Gonorrhea, and Syphilis decreased thanks to the continued effort and focus of the DIS and Nursing staff. In previous years, the country experienced massive increases in STI rates, with Southwestern Indiana particularly affected. This led to a Syphilis outbreak in 2021, reaching as high as 263 cases overall in 2022. In 2023, the DIS/Nurse team was able to achieve a 15% decrease in cases of Syphilis. With the strong work and efforts put forth by this team for another year, Syphilis cases decreased by a further 23% between 2023 to 2024, and approximately a 35% decrease from 2022 to 2024!

District 8 Syphilis Cases 2020-2024



This outpaces the national average of a 1% decrease in Syphilis cases between 2023 and 2024. Because of this, the DIS team was able to expand their prevention efforts in the community by establishing a Condom Distribution Program at key locations. Condom Dispensers were established at these key community locations, containing packs of condoms, lube, and information on prevention, testing, and contact for VCHD if needed. By the end of 2024, the STI Program established more than 20 locations across Vanderburgh County and gave out over 3,000 condoms monthly on average.

MOBILE CLINIC, COMMUNICABLE DISEASE INVESTIGATIONS & TUBERCULOSIS

Mobile Clinic

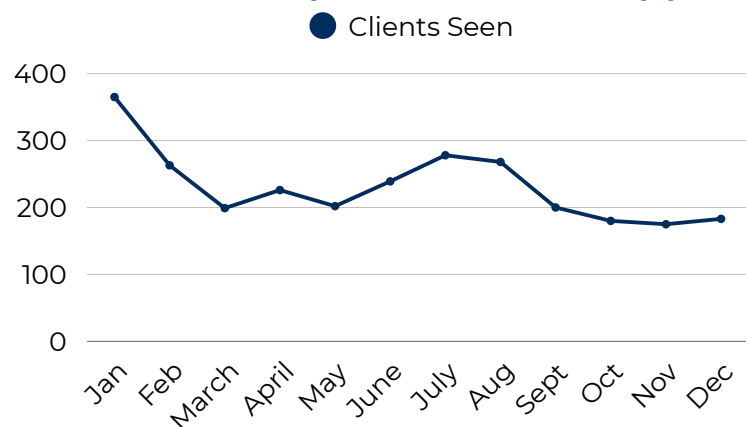
In 2022, VCHD added the mobile clinic, and it has since made a huge presence within the community. In 2024, the mobile clinic team had 292 clinics within the community, working to reduce barriers by offering free immunizations and STI testing. By partnering with EVSC, the mobile team was able to offer 17 school clinics in the spring and fall of this year and vaccinate 230 children. The Homebound Hoosier program was able to provide flu and COVID-19 immunizations to 40 patients in the community with the help of many community partners. The mobile team partnered with United Caring Shelter to host an immunization and STI testing blitz in conjunction with other community organizations and offered incentives such as survival supplies, Narcan, and harm reduction kits. The mobile team saw 16 STI patients and 26 immunization patients at the event, which is the highest number of patients seen in one day.

Communicable Disease Investigations & Tuberculosis

Our disease investigation team continued to see a high case load of tuberculosis (TB). With 10 active cases among pediatric and adult patients. The disease investigation team managed the 14 cases of tuberculosis from 2023 into 2024 and all patients successfully completed treatment. The 9 new cases are on track to successfully complete treatment as well. 2,795 doses of TB medication were administered via Direct Observation Therapy (DOT). This is a substantial increase from 2023 due to the increase in active cases and window prophylaxis provided to children that were exposed to active cases. Regarding all other reportable communicable disease cases that were investigated by the team, the disease burden remained stable. Due to the teams' efforts, there has been a significant increase in successful treatment for Hepatitis C in Vanderburgh County.



2024 Directly Observed Therapy



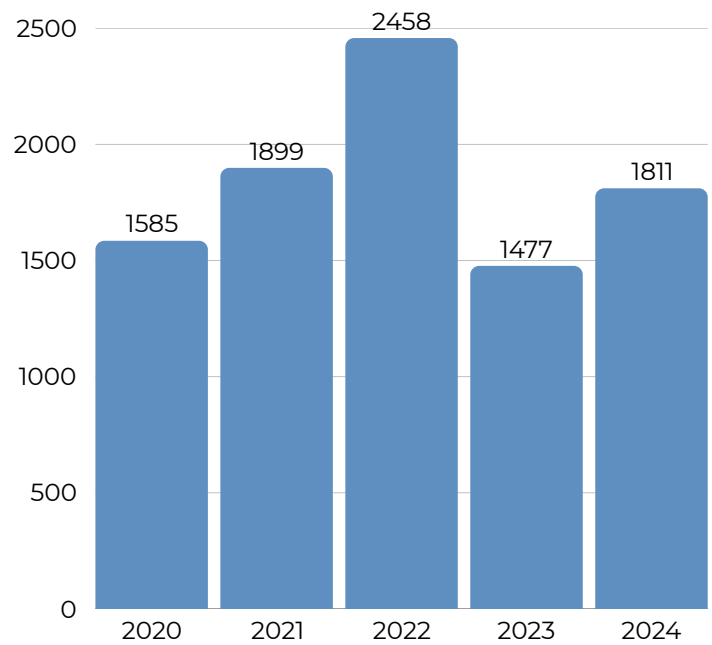
IMMUNIZATIONS & CLIENT ADVOCATES

Immunizations

Our Immunization clinic worked to improve vaccination rates within Vanderburgh County. This year we maintained close to the same number of travel consults with 148, from those 128 were seen in the clinic. The Immunization team had a total of 1,811 immunization appointments. From those appointments, 1,362 of those appointments were for pediatric patients and 317 of the appointments were for adults. In an effort to increase immunization rates in Vanderburgh County, VCHD hosted after hours clinics as well as weekend clinics to increase availability for residents.

Total Immunization Appointments

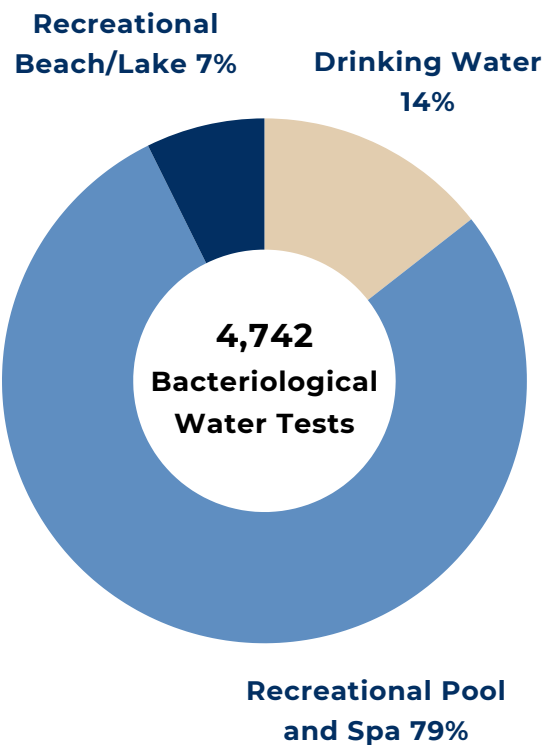
2020-2024



Client Advocates

The Communicable Disease Division began to offer Client Advocate services to patients seen in the VCHD Clinic. Client Advocates are a resource for patients that links them to services. Since July, there have been 702 priority screenings completed to address housing, food, and transportation needs with 406 patients accepting resources. With the help of community partners, the Client Advocates were able to provide insurance navigation, primary care provider referrals, free transportation to medical appointments and more. This valuable service was implemented to help eliminate barriers and address social determinants of health.

LABORATORY

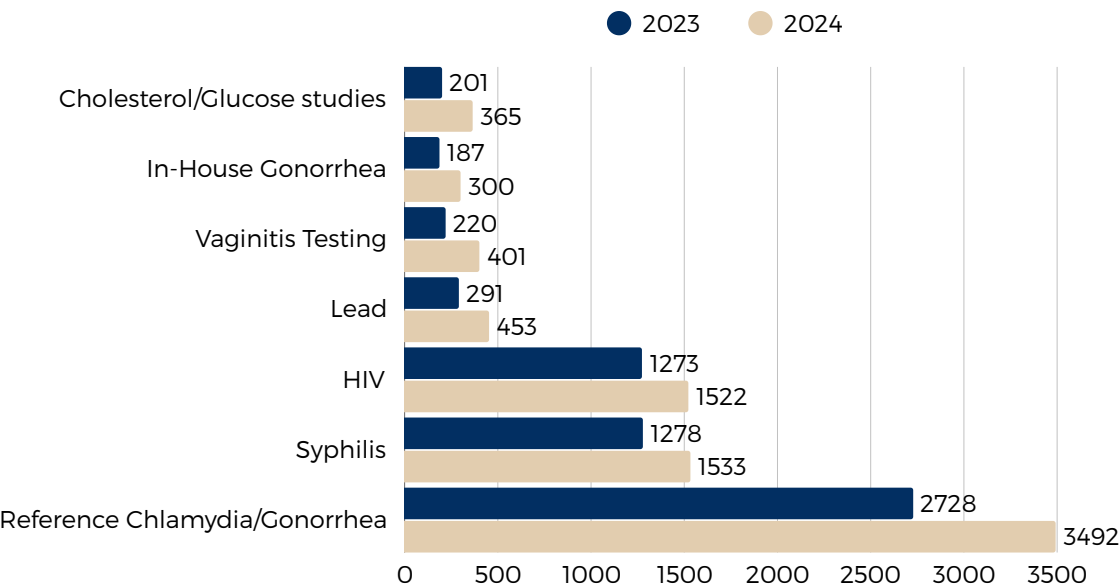


The Laboratory continued to grow and increase testing rates in 2024. We added a full-time ASCP board certified phlebotomist in July to assist us with our goal of increasing children’s lead testing rates in Vanderburgh County. The phlebotomist is also available to assist the Clinical and DIS team with blood draws as needed. They are responsible for the daily blood draws that we do for lead testing as well as glucose & cholesterol testing that we provide for our Health Promotion Division. They are qualified to draw the blood samples and run the analysis on the point of care instruments for a quick turnaround time on these tests for our clients and supporting staff.

Laboratory partnered with our WIC program this year to receive lead referrals from their program. The phlebotomist offers to coordinate appointments for needed lead testing to clients with upcoming appointments in WIC, reducing the need for multiple trips to VCHD. This endeavor has proven successful as our in-house lead testing rates continue to rise, showing a significant increase from last year of 43%.

The number of glucose and cholesterol tests that we performed increased tremendously as we continued to offer Hemoglobin A1c testing to our Health Promotion Diabetes Prevention Program and started providing biometric screenings to the Healthy Lifestyles program participants. All our STI test numbers showed significant increase as we provide testing to our expanding Clinical/DIS team and mobile clinic.

Medical Tests Performed



8,066 total medical tests performed in 2024

In April, the Laboratory became the IDOHL Regional Courier Site for District 10. This means our Laboratory is the regional courier site for submitters in both our county and surrounding counties to drop off specimens that need to arrive at the IDOH Laboratory without issue.

PLANNING & ANALYTICS

The Planning and Analytics division provides support to all VCHD divisions by providing guidance in planning, evaluating, and analyzing the effectiveness of programs and services offered to the community. The division is also responsible for ensuring VCHD meets the requirements to be accredited through the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB). In September, VCHD submitted the application for reaccreditation. The Planning and Analytics division worked diligently to ensure VCHD met the requirements and were able to provide the supporting documents. In December, VCHD submitted all 115 required documents necessary to be considered for reaccreditation. In 2025, PHAB will conduct a site visit, which will complete the reaccreditation process. VCHD is confident PHAB will recognize the work done, to continuously improve efforts and measure outcomes, to continue to recognize VCHD as an accredited Health Department for another five years.

Throughout the year, the division assisted with quality improvement and quality assurance efforts, division goal setting and monitoring, data collection and analysis, and program planning and expansion of services. The division took this year to dive deeper into the data collected through various services and programs offered at VCHD to make sure data being collected was consistent across all divisions. This helped pave the way to focus on sharing data publicly with the community in 2025.

In June, the division added a Systems and Communications Specialist to the team. This has allowed VCHD to improve effective communication both internally and with the community on various social media platforms.

Reaccreditation Timeline



WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN (WIC)



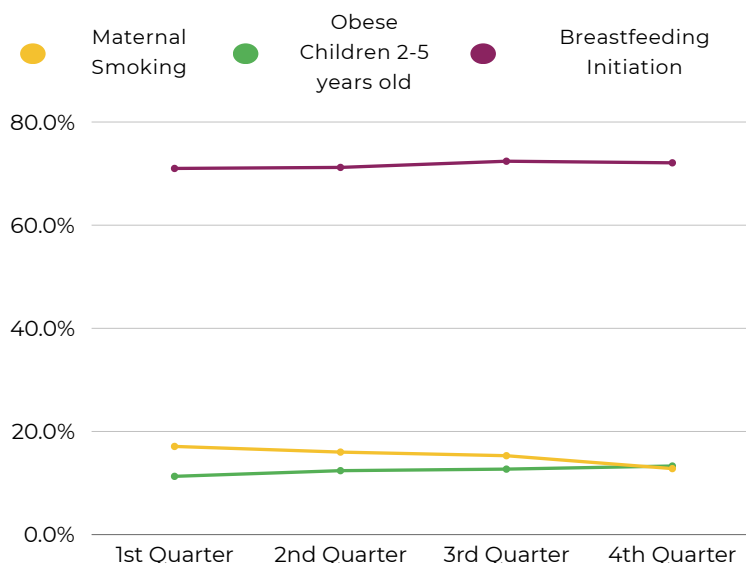
The goals of the Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) are to teach the relationship between proper nutrition and health, to help individuals develop better dietary habits, and to prevent nutrition-related problems by showing participants how best to use the WIC foods with other nutritious foods for a proper diet.

Our caseload rose to just over 3000 participants/month and ending at 122% of the assigned caseload. WIC continues to offer breastfeeding education classes 5 times per week for prenatal clients including infant feeding practices and the many benefits of breastfeeding. WIC currently employs a bilingual peer counselor to assist our Spanish speaking clients and teach prenatal 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. In addition to completing nutrition education appointments by phone, clients may also watch a nutrition education module on the WIC App. This counts as their WIC appointment and



requires less trips to the clinic. The USDA permanently increased WIC's Cash Value Benefits (CVB) increasing fruit & vegetable purchases. Children receive \$24/month, while pregnant and postpartum women receive \$41 to \$47/mo. As a result, redemption rates for fruits and vegetables increased 30%, as clients view the CVB amount beneficial and entices to new fruits and vegetables at home. In September, our WIC clinic was chosen as a pilot clinic for Propio virtual translation services using iPads to help communicate with non-English speaking clients. Currently, we serve clients of 8 different languages.

Every year, WIC creates a Nutrition Education plan which focuses on top community concerns. In addition to prenatal smoking rates decreasing, breastfeeding initiation rates rose throughout the year. 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 (FMNP) will help the obesity rate slow. The FMNP got a slow start this season. With our new paperless process using a QR code, we had a 59% redemption rate.



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 Teague, MLS (ASCP)	Director Laboratory Division
Mary Ellen Stonestreet, RD, LD	Director WIC

Department Supervisors

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>
Ginger Patton	Administrative Support Professionals
Ashley Libbert, BSN, RN	Clinical Nursing
Sarah Harness, MPH	Data Team/IT
Kelly Holzmeyer	Financial Officer
Sophie French, BSN, RN	Pre to 3
John Dunn, MS, MPH	DIS

FINANCIAL REPORT

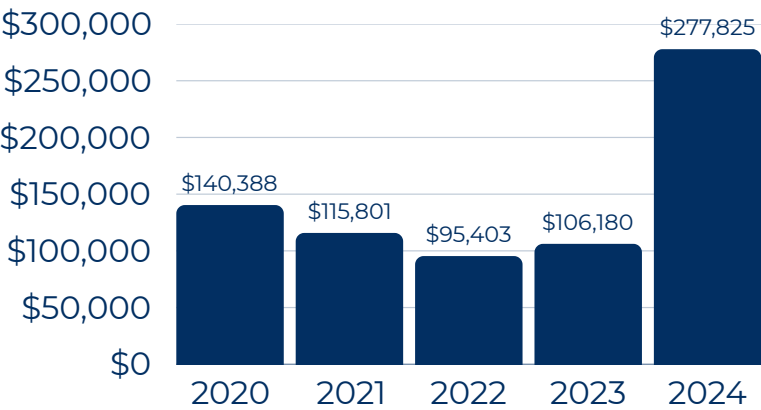
As support for public health funding in Indiana continues to grow and Vanderburgh County continues to face ongoing health challenges, it is important for us to keep the public informed about the VCHD’s financial status. This report highlights our achievements for the fiscal year, the factors contributing to our successful revenue growth, and the expenditures associated with these developments.

As noted by the Health Officer, we have seen significant revenue growth following the Indiana Legislature's allocation of Health First Indiana (HFI) funding to increase per capita spending. We are excited to announce a 59% increase in overall revenue compared to the previous fiscal year. This growth is mainly due to HFI funding, which constitutes 58% of the total revenue increase. Other contributing factors include a 52% rise in grant revenue and a remarkable 162% increase in Medicaid revenue. Additionally, local funding increased by 2%. However, it is worth mentioning that tax revenue decreased slightly by about 1%, and VCHD services increased by 6% compared to the previous fiscal year.

The financial growth we have experienced this year is not just a result of increased funding; it reflects the commitment of our board of health, state and local elected officials, and the department to improve population health. This revenue has enabled us to maintain, expand, and significantly enhance our services. Our dedicated department is continuously identifying opportunities for funding, program enhancement, and innovative health solutions that positively impact the lives of our residents. Moving forward, we will remain focused on financial transparency, responsible financial management, and maximizing every dollar received through local, grant, and state funding.

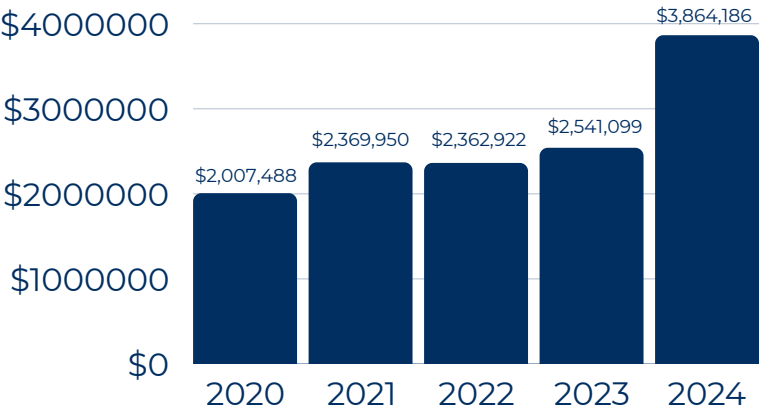
98% increase from 2020 to 2024

Medicaid Revenue 5 Year Comparison



92% increase from 2020 to 2024

Grant Revenue 5 Year Comparison



FINANCIAL REPORT

While our revenue has demonstrated an upward trend, it is imperative to acknowledge that overall expenditures have also increased by 35% in comparison to the previous fiscal year. These expenditures are crucial for funding new health initiatives designed to address health disparities, enhance targeted community health outreach programs, invest in essential resources for data analysis aimed at identifying disparities, and improve the quality of care provided to the residents of Vanderburgh County.

Annual Health Fund Revenue

