

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

VANDERBURGH COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
EVANSVILLE, IN



FROM THE DESK OF THE HEALTH OFFICER

It is once again time for the Annual Report, and what a year it has been. I am completing my 12th year of service, and this will be my final report as I prepare to retire on February 28, 2026. It has been an incredible honor to serve alongside such a dedicated and talented team.

We are currently awaiting the final report from the Public Health Accreditation Board regarding our reaccreditation. Following our initial accreditation five years ago, we are required to undergo reaccreditation every five years to maintain our accredited status. We were the first health department to complete the reaccreditation process virtually, which proved to be both interesting and successful.

Preliminary feedback indicates that we “Fully Met” approximately 70% of the measures and “Mostly Met” the remaining 30%. Our application will be reviewed on February 12, and we expect to receive our official status within two weeks. Based on the feedback provided, we anticipate being successfully reaccredited for another five-year cycle. Our team has already begun preparing documentation for the next reaccreditation, an example of the forward-thinking culture that makes this department so strong. Their dedication is the reason for our success.

Another area of significant progress is our community’s work to reduce infant mortality. When Dr. Jerome Adams served as Indiana State Health Commissioner, he challenged Indiana to improve its Infant Mortality Rate, noting that this metric reflects the health of a society. Since that time, our community has worked collaboratively to reduce our rate from a high of 11.4 per 1,000 births in 2020 to the most recent rate for 2024 of 3.8 per 1,000 births. While there is still work to do, this represents meaningful progress.

The Community Action Team (CAT) continues to meet regularly, with participation from more than 30 organizations. The Health Department convenes the team, with hospitals, nonprofits, and City and County departments working together to align efforts and avoid duplication. Key focus areas include improving access to care, strengthening education, and expanding home visitation programs such as Pre to 3, Nurse-Family Partnership, and Healthy Families. These efforts support pregnant and postpartum women and their families as they navigate the challenges of raising children.

Our Lead Program, as a partnership our laboratory and environmental team, has significantly increased lead testing and collaborated with private partners to remediate homes. Our Communicable Disease team has navigated staffing shortages and the intensive demands of Directly Observed Therapy, demonstrating remarkable commitment despite workforce challenges. Meanwhile, our Immunization Program has expanded school-based vaccine clinics, reaching more children with critical vaccinations.

I am deeply proud of how this Health Department has responded to federal and state budget reductions while continuing to serve our community with excellence and integrity. If we want to ensure the continued health of this community, I encourage you to contact your elected representatives and advocate for sustained investment in public health. It has been an honor to serve this community.

Sincerely,



Dr. R. Kenneth Spear
Health Officer

SPECIAL EVENTS & ACHIEVEMENTS



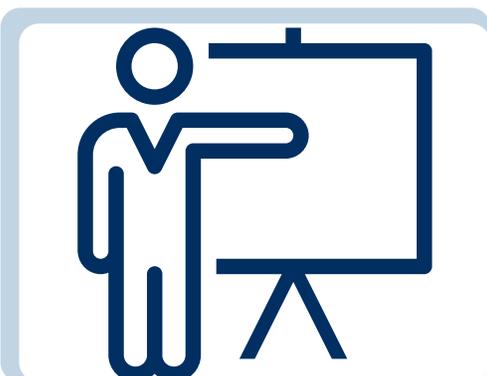
The VCHD Mobile Unit was nominated for Leadership Everyone for community commitment for care for all.



Health Promotion team member, Charlotte Mulvihill, earned her Tobacco Treatment Specialist Certification in August.



Health Promotion team member, Jami Carlson, was appointed chair of the Society of Public Health Education (SOPHE) Professional Development Committee for 2025-2026.



Health Promotion team member, Jen Healy, presented at Grand Rounds on Why the Topic of Tobacco and Nicotine Use Will Never Get Old.

SPECIAL EVENTS & ACHIEVEMENTS



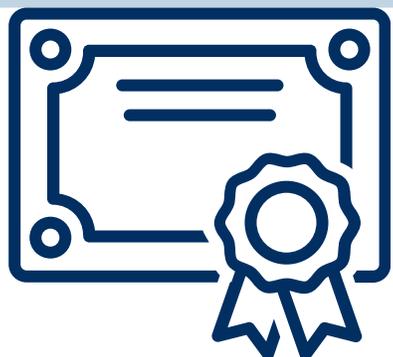
In October, Health Promotion team member, Jami Carlson, presented at the House of Delegates on National Health Education Week.



WIC team members, Amber Lewis and Payton Hashemi, earned their Certified Lactation Specialist Certification and Karina Ramirez earned her Medical Interpretation Certificate in Spanish.



In July, John Dunn was invited by the National Board of Public Health Examiners (NBPHE) to participate in the formation of the national certification exam for Disease Investigators in Alexandria, VA. This exam will go live in 2026 and allow any public health official across the United States and its territories to receive an official certification in all areas of disease investigation.



Leone Hloko completed HealthHIV HIV Prevention Certified Provider (HIVPCP) Certification Program, as an allied health professional (Social Worker) to become a Certified HIV Prevention Provider. This is a nationally recognized certification for the HIV Prevention Workforce.

SPECIAL EVENTS & ACHIEVEMENTS



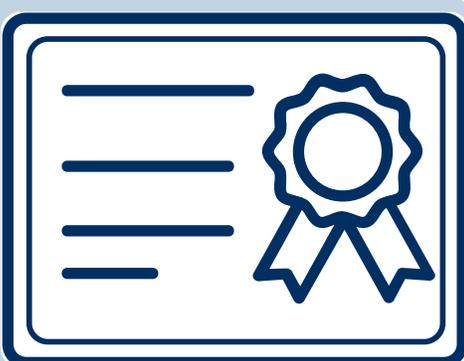
Pre to 3 team member, Angelica Maria Mays, served as a co-author on a peer-reviewed article published in *Advances in Nutrition*, an international review journal of the American Society for Nutrition. The article, “Co-creating and Mapping an Exclusive Breastfeeding Framework among Latino Populations in the United States: An Integrated Framework Adaptation Process and Scoping Review,” was published on July 15, 2025.



Lynn Herr, Sarah Harness, Sophie French, and Dr. Kenneth Spear were listed as authors on an article published in the *Journal of Health Care for the Poor and Underserved* by Johns Hopkins University Press. The article, “Five-Year Outcomes of a CHW-Driven Maternal-Infant Health Model through a County Health Department in a Medically Underserved Region,” was published in November 2025 and highlights the impact and outcomes of a community health worker-driven model within a county health department.

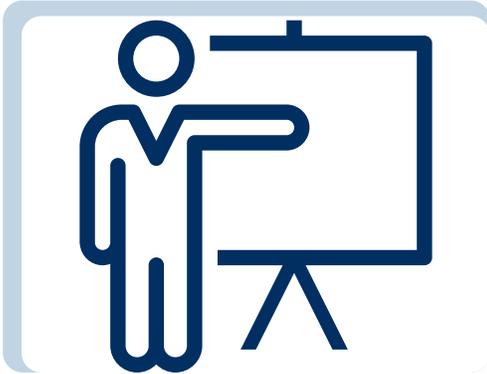


The Pre to 3 Program strengthened staff expertise and program fidelity through ongoing professional development. Team members completed a wide range of trainings, including Growing Great Kids certifications, child abuse prevention, Mental Health First Aid, Child Passenger Safety Technician certification and recertification, and participation in statewide and national conferences.



The Vanderburgh County Board of Health commended the Immunizations Team for the efforts to increase Vanderburgh County’s 19-35 month series completion rate to 77.7%, an increase of 6% in 6 months.

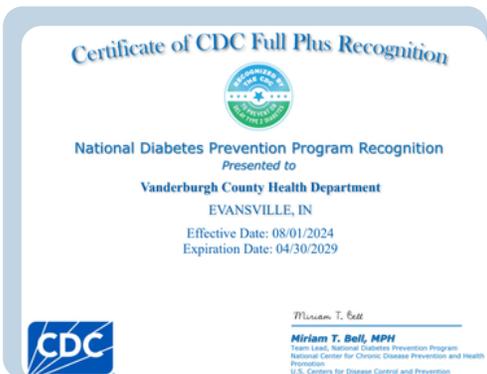
SPECIAL EVENTS & ACHIEVEMENTS



Lynn Herr presented “A Local Perspective of Maternal Child Outcomes and Interventions” at the 2025 Annual Perinatal and Neonatal Symposium.



Erin Reese spoke to the Rotary Club of Evansville about Vanderburgh County’s immunization rates, the mobile clinic, VCHD’s efforts to improve access, current challenges, and immunization grants.



The Health Promotion Division maintained its streak of achieving CDC Full Plus 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 Vanderburgh County Health Department, in partnership with the Foundation for Better Health, hosted a Maternal Child Health Summit in February.

SPECIAL EVENTS & ACHIEVEMENTS



In July, the Lead Team partnered with the NAACP to host a Back-to-School Lead Testing Event.



Pre to 3 hosted its annual Family Fall Fest in September. This event brought 319 individuals, 87 families, and 14 community partners together for an afternoon of resources, food, and meaningful child-parenting interaction.



LaKeisha Roach and Ashly McCain accepting the 2025 Sustainability award from Leadership Everyone on behalf of the Community Action Team for Infant and Maternal Morality (CAT).



Charissa Schuetz and Sophie French presented their poster, "Community Health Worker Based Home Visiting Model to Improve Maternal/Child Health Outcomes," at the 2025 Early Intervention Conference in Bloomington, Indiana.

SPECIAL EVENTS & ACHIEVEMENTS



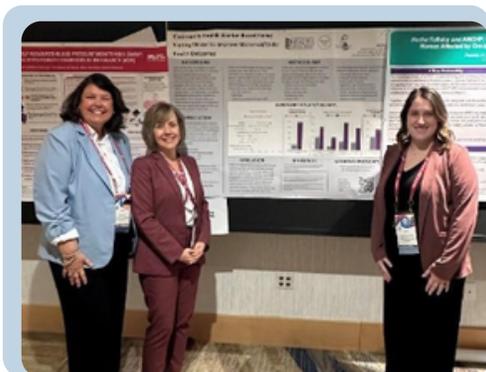
Hannah Wright and Crystal Elderbrook presented their poster, "Growing Is Fun," at the 2025 Early Intervention Conference in Bloomington, Indiana.



Kaylee Rideout presented her poster, "Nourishing Minds: Exploring the Connection Between Food Security and Mental Health," at the 2025 Early Intervention Conference in Bloomington, Indiana.



LaKeisha Roach and Ashly McCain presented at the 2025 National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) Conference.



Charissa Schuetz, Lynn Herr, and Sophie French presented at the Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs in Washington, D.C.

SPECIAL EVENTS & ACHIEVEMENTS



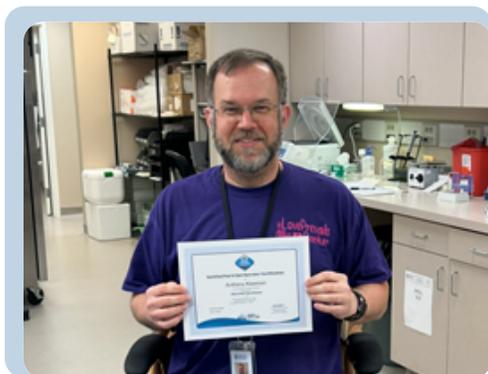
Charissa Schuetz speaking at the 4th annual Health Equity Summit hosted by Purdue University.



Nancy Londono and a Pre to 3 client speaking at the 4th Annual Health Equity Summit hosted by Purdue University.



Lakeisha Roach was honored as Young Professional of the Year by the Young Professional Alliance in partnership with the Evansville Regional Economic Partnership and was also recognized as a Top 20 Woman in Leadership by the The Junior League of Evansville and a Top 20 Under 40 honoree by the Rotary Club of Evansville.



In April, Tony Kleeman completed the Indiana Department of Health (IDOH) course to become a Certified Pool Operator Trainer and played a key role in educational videos produced for YouTube and the VCHD website, helping operators prepare their pools for the season and guiding clients on proper collection of pool and drinking water samples.

SPECIAL EVENTS & ACHIEVEMENTS



In May, the Data Team attended the Regenstrief Institute Conference in Indianapolis, Indiana and presented on program evaluation and equitable approaches to address demographic changes. This conference led to some wonderful networking opportunities including a funding partnership for the VCHD to further serve the Vanderburgh County community.



In November, John Dunn presented the STI Team's Condom Distribution Program and interventional study "Effective Intervention Prevention Methods to Combat Growing Chlamydia and Gonorrhea Rates Among At-Risk Populations: A Yearlong Surveillance Study of the Effects of a Condom Distribution Program in Vanderburgh County, IN" at the 152nd American Public Health Association (APHA) Conference in Washington, D.C. This program has led to a significant decrease in STI rates in Vanderburgh County.



In April, Leone Hloko, was awarded a full travel and registration scholarship to attend the 2025 NMAC BioMedical HIV Prevention Summit in Atlanta, GA with the theme "Innovation and Futurism to End the HIV Epidemic." This conference is nationally recognized as the leader for Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) innovation and education in the fields of medicine and public health.



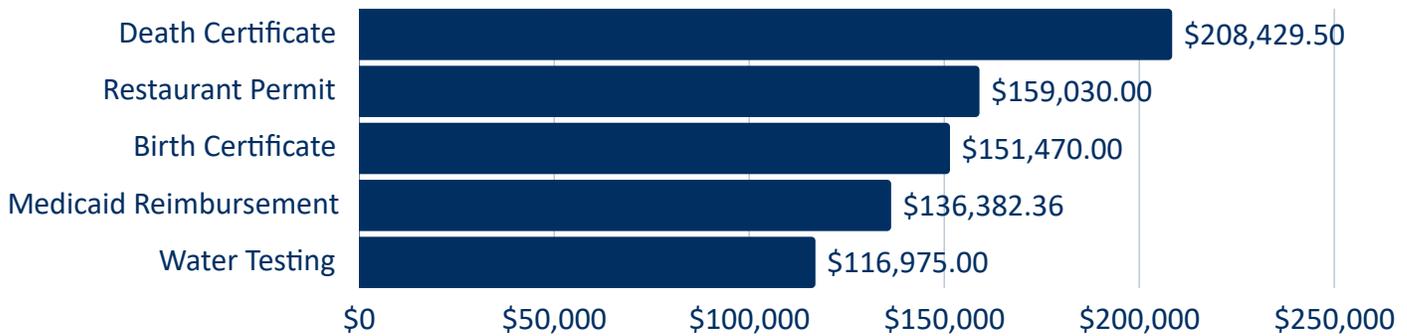
LaKeisha Roach and Ashly McCain accepted the 2025 Best Practices by the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) on behalf of the Pre to 3 Program.

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS

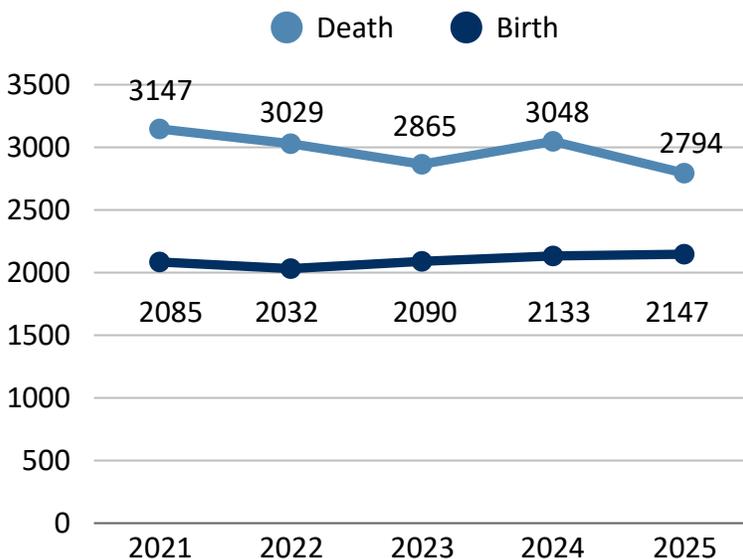
This year, the Administrative Support Professionals (ASPs) expanded their reach within the community by forging meaningful partnerships. ASPs collaborated with shelters and agencies serving the unhoused to provide essential birth certificates, helping individuals access critical services and opportunities. The team continued their outreach with local hospitals, supporting new parents with vital documentation and resources. Through these efforts, ASPs demonstrated their commitment to strengthening and empowering families at every stage of life.

Every year, ASPs attend Homeless Connect, an event specifically to provide important services and resources to those who are unhoused. VCHD provided 55 birth certificates to those who attended free of charge.

Top 5 Gross Sales Items



Birth and Death Total 5 Year Comparison



7,991

death certificates issued to individuals that died in Vanderburgh County, and were residents

5,163

death certificates issued to individuals that died in Vanderburgh County, and were not residents

10,697

birth certificates issued to Indiana residents

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE

DISEASE INVESTIGATION AND COMMUNICABLE DISEASE CONTROL

Throughout 2025, the Disease Investigation Team managed a consistently high caseload of communicable diseases, with a significant focus on tuberculosis (TB) prevention, treatment, and surveillance. The team monitored a total of 12 active TB cases among both pediatric and adult patients during the year, including six cases that carried over from 2024, all of which successfully completed treatment in 2025. To ensure treatment adherence and prevent transmission, approximately 2,900 doses of TB medication were administered through Directly Observed Therapy (DOT). In addition to active TB management, the team oversaw 109 cases of latent tuberculosis infection (LTBI), reflecting ongoing efforts to prevent progression to active disease and protect community health.

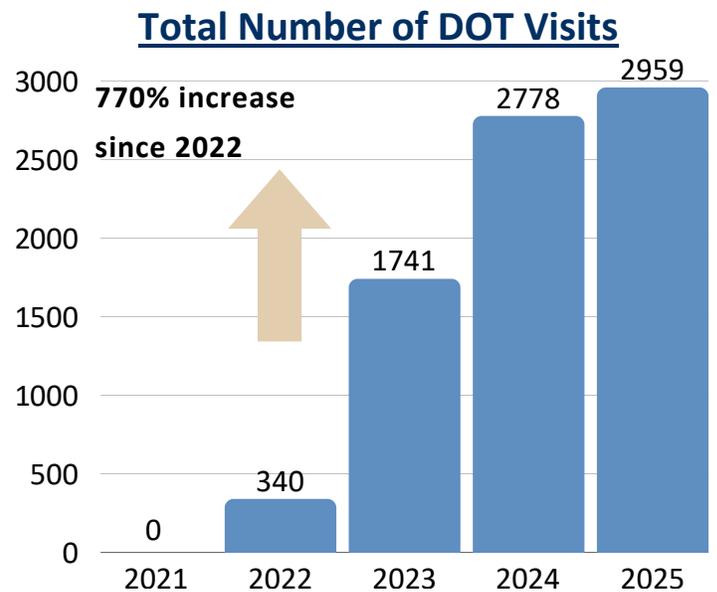
Under Indiana Administrative Code 16-41-2-1, approximately 70 communicable diseases are required to be reported to local health departments due to their public health significance. In response, VCHD public health nurses investigated 475 reported disease cases in 2025, conducting case investigations to determine status, assess public risk, ensure appropriate testing and treatment, and implement necessary mitigation and infection control measures. These efforts underscore the department's critical role in safeguarding community health through timely disease surveillance and response.

SPECIALTY CLINIC SERVICES

The Specialty Clinic provided a substantial volume of services addressing sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and related public health needs. During this period, the clinic completed more than 1,143 specialty exam and express visits, which included evaluation and treatment as appropriate. In addition, the clinic conducted 282 treatment-only visits, collected 360 specimens, primarily in collaboration with Disease Intervention Specialists (DIS) and distributed 53 Expedited Partner Therapy (EPT) prescriptions. These services reflect the clinic's critical role in timely diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of STI transmission within the community.

The Specialty Clinic maintained a treatment rate for STI patients well above the state average and achieved multiple all-time highs for both examinations and treatments. This achievement is particularly notable given the global shortage of primary medication used to treat syphilis, which prompted the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to require rationing to the most critical cases nationwide. Even under these constraints, the clinic successfully provided treatment access to 1,143 patients, surpassing the 933 patients served in 2024. Clinic nursing staff also assumed client advocacy responsibilities, ensuring continuity of care and access to resources.

Enhancements included the development of medication calendars for patients requiring extended doxycycline therapy, creation of educational materials on free contraception, updates to policies and procedures, and a comprehensive restructuring of clinic workflow to improve efficiency following staffing and protocol changes. These efforts collectively strengthened service delivery and reinforced the clinic's commitment to high-quality, patient-centered public health care.



COMMUNICABLE DISEASE

MOBILE CLINIC SERVICES AND SCHOOL HEALTH

Recognizing the impact of social determinants of health, particularly access to health care and transportation barriers, the Health Department's Mobile Clinic Unit, established in 2022, continues to be an effective strategy for delivering essential clinical services directly to underserved populations across Vanderburgh County. In 2025, the Mobile Clinic team conducted 228 community-based clinics, providing free immunizations through a state-funded program and free STI testing and treatment. Through these efforts, 207 individuals were tested and 285 individuals received vaccinations. The success of the Mobile Clinic is supported by strong community partnerships, including United Caring Shelter, Evansville Rescue Mission, St. Anthony Church, Hope Dot Com, and other local organizations, allowing services to be delivered where they are most needed.

School-based health services also reached record levels in 2025 through continued collaboration with the Evansville Vanderburgh School Corporation (EVSC). During the spring and fall school clinic sessions, the Mobile Clinic team hosted 18 school clinics, serving 294 students and administering a total of 1,130 vaccines. The largest clinics to date occurred during the fall session, including Lodge Elementary (45 students), Washington Middle School (35 students), and Plaza Park Middle School (31 students).

In addition to community and school-based services, the Mobile Clinic team continued to support homebound residents and their caregivers by offering influenza and COVID-19 vaccinations through the Homebound Hoosier Program, further expanding access to preventive care for vulnerable populations.

IMMUNIZATION INITIATIVES AND VACCINE COVERAGE

Improving pediatric immunization rates remains a priority public health objective in Vanderburgh County. In 2025, the Immunization Team strengthened its approach by collaborating more intentionally with community partners and local physician offices to address barriers to childhood vaccination. To better understand parental decision-making, the team developed and distributed a survey to identify factors influencing vaccine acceptance and hesitancy. Survey results reinforced that parents place the highest level of trust in their child's healthcare provider, leading the Health Department to focus efforts on deeper provider engagement and shared messaging around the importance of routine immunizations.

In response to rising measles cases nationwide, the Health Department partnered with pediatric healthcare providers to implement a targeted reminder-recall initiative. This evidence-based strategy involved contacting parents and guardians of children who were missing required vaccines, with particular emphasis on the measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine. As a result of this coordinated effort, pediatric immunization rates increased from 71.7% percent in the early months of 2025 to 77.7% percent by the summer, marking significant progress toward pre-COVID vaccination levels. Combined with the continued success of school-based clinics, these efforts represent a meaningful advancement in protecting children and the broader community from vaccine-preventable diseases. The Health Department looks forward to building on this momentum in 2026 through sustained partnerships and continued community engagement.

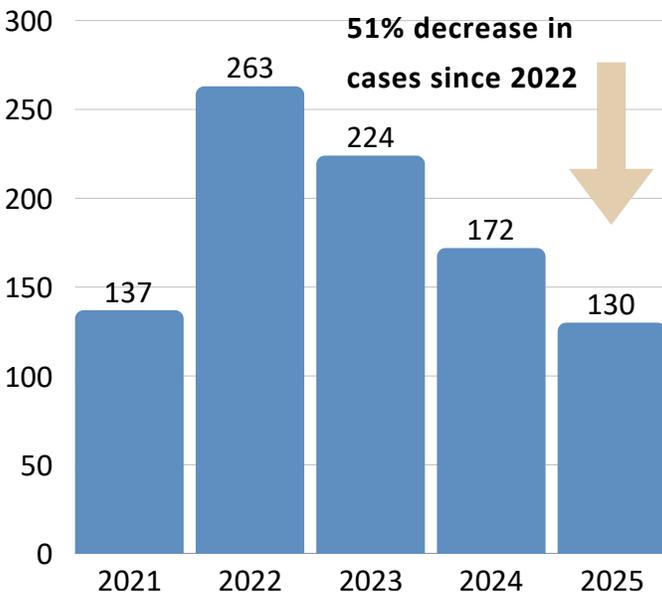
DIS

The Disease Intervention Specialist (DIS) team continued to build upon the successes from the previous year. Due to the strong work, concentrated efforts, and coordination with many community partners, the syphilis burden in our District continued to decrease rapidly year to year following the 2022 syphilis outbreak. From 2022 to 2025, there was a 51% decrease in syphilis cases, which for the second year in a row, outpaced the national average of 1% decreases between 2022 to 2025.

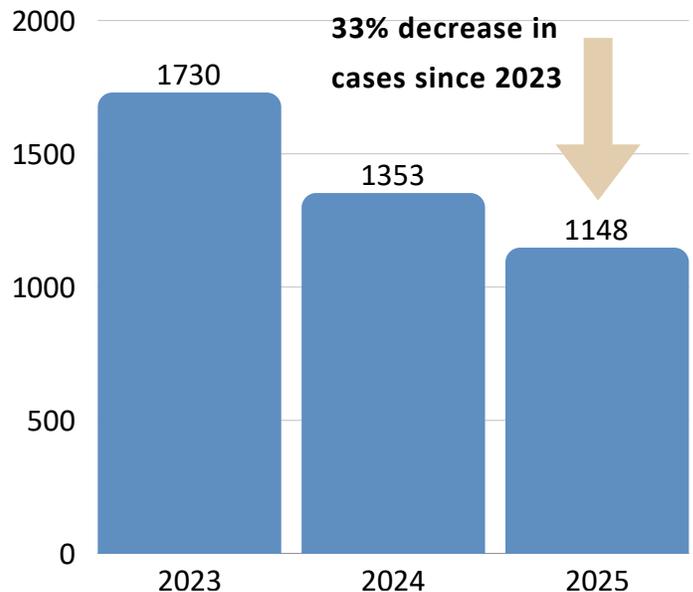
In 2024, the team began a program with several community partners that established condom dispensers at key community locations to help target high rates of chlamydia and gonorrhea in Vanderburgh County, and in the span of a single year, almost 36,000 condoms and lube packets were handed out with a significant decrease in the rate of gonorrhea especially. In fact, since the establishment of the Condom Distribution Program, chlamydia and gonorrhea cases in Vanderburgh County have decreased 33.6% and 42.7% respectively! This program was so profound that it was even acknowledged and presented at the American Public Health Association's National Convention in Washington DC in November to highlight the impact it had on Vanderburgh County. The DIS team has also been able to participate in several educational and outreach events at local universities, community programs, and even establish testing events within the Vanderburgh County Jail.

In 2026, the DIS and STI team will be expanding their scope of services into Warrick County to provide disease investigation, education, and prevention to this community as well in hopes to have the same level of impact. The DIS and STI team are looking forward to seeing how their efforts can have a positive impact on the rates of STIs in neighboring counties and to improve the overall district health.

District 8 Syphilis Cases 2021-2025



Total Chlamydia Cases Vanderburgh County 2023-2025



ENVIRONMENTAL

DENNA BRINGS HOME \$130,000 FOR LEAD REMEDIATION

We are proud to highlight the incredible work of Denna Howard, our Lead Risk Assessor, who recently secured over \$130,000 in remediation funding from the Hoosier Environmental Council. This support will help three local families make essential safety repairs to their homes, reducing lead exposure risks for their children. Denna's dedication from completing detailed assessments to guiding families through the application process has made these life-changing improvements possible. Her work reflects the very best of public health: protecting families, creating safer homes, and building a healthier future for our community.

STRENGTHENING SAFETY STANDARDS: TATTOO ARTIST TRAINING HOSTED BY LANAE AND WENDY

The Vanderburgh County Health Department continued its commitment to public health and professional education through a successful tattoo safety training hosted by Lanae Hyneman and Wendy Smith. The one-day training brought together 21 local tattoo artists for focused instruction on best practices in infection prevention, bloodborne pathogen control, and safe tattooing procedures. The training was led by Jeremy Pettigrew, whose expertise and engaging instruction provided artists with practical, real-world guidance they could immediately apply in their studios.



By offering this training locally, VCHD helped ensure artists had access to up-to-date safety information while strengthening collaboration between regulators and the tattoo community. These proactive efforts support safer practices, protect clients and artists alike, and reinforce consistent health standards across Vanderburgh County. Lanae and Wendy's leadership in coordinating this event reflects the Environmental Division's broader mission: combining education, partnership, and prevention to promote a healthier community.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Emergency preparedness participated in local communication drills, the District 10 Medical Response and Surge Exercise with healthcare coalition partners, and the Indiana Department of Health Chemical Incident Tabletop Exercise with statewide emergency response agencies. Staff conducted community Jurisdictional Risk and Healthcare Readiness Assessments and also attended Incident Command System trainings in Benton and Henderson, Kentucky.

ENVIRONMENTAL

POOLS

The Vanderburgh County Health Department's Public Swimming Pool Program works to ensure that public pools operate safely and in compliance with state regulations, protecting swimmers from preventable injuries and waterborne illness. Through routine inspections, water quality monitoring, and operator guidance, our Environmental Health Specialists focus on proper disinfection, water chemistry balance, filtration systems, and overall facility safety. Education remains a central component of our approach.

The program partnered with the VCHD laboratory to develop educational videos for pool operators. These resources provide practical guidance on water testing, chemical safety, and regulatory requirements, strengthening operator knowledge and promoting consistent compliance across facilities. Through inspection, education, and collaboration, the Public Swimming Pool Program continues to support safe and healthy recreational water environments throughout Vanderburgh County.

FOOD

VCHD's Food Protection Program protects public health through a balanced approach of education and regulation. Our philosophy is simple: educate first, regulate when necessary, and always focus on prevention. Our Environmental Health Specialists provided guidance to food operators before, during, and after inspections. From reviewing plans for new facilities to coaching staff on priority risk factors such as time and temperature control, employee health, and cross contamination prevention, our team works to build strong food safety systems, not just enforce code.

We permitted nearly 100 new retail food establishments, including brick and mortar restaurants, food trucks, grocery stores, and caterers. Each new establishment received plan review support, preoperational education, and regulatory oversight to ensure safe food practices were in place from day one. This growth reflects continued economic momentum in Vanderburgh County and increasing demand for safe, high quality food service options. Through education, risk-based inspections, and collaborative partnerships with industry, the Environmental Division remains committed to protecting the health of our community before, during, and beyond every inspection.

SEPTIC

VCHD's Onsite Septic Program protects public health and local water quality by ensuring residential wastewater systems are properly designed, installed, and maintained. In 2025, 115 residential onsite sewage systems were installed or repaired, an increase from 101 systems in 2024. This growth reflects continued residential development and reinvestment in properties across Vanderburgh County.

Each onsite septic project includes site evaluation, soil review, permitting, and inspection to ensure compliance with state and local regulations. Through education, technical guidance, and consistent oversight, the Onsite Septic Program helps prevent groundwater contamination and protects the health of our community.

ENVIRONMENTAL

VECTOR CONTROL

Mosquito control activities started in April with mosquito larvicide treatment of standing water areas and continued into the third week of October. A wet spring transitioned into drought conditions through the summer which created ideal mosquito breeding sites in sewer catch basins and brackish water sites resulting in extensive larvicide treatment, monitoring, and complaint response by Vector Control staff. In July the West Nile Virus infection rates in mosquito populations saw a sharp increase and stayed elevated the rest of the summer. West Nile Virus infected mosquitoes were found through surveillance trapping in Vanderburgh County with ten human disease cases reported.

Vector Control



Total Mosquito Samples Tested for West Nile Virus

- Mosquito samples tested negative for West Nile Virus
- Mosquito samples tested positive for West Nile Virus
- Not enough mosquitos gathered for the sample to be tested for West Nile Virus



FETAL INFANT MORTALITY REVIEW

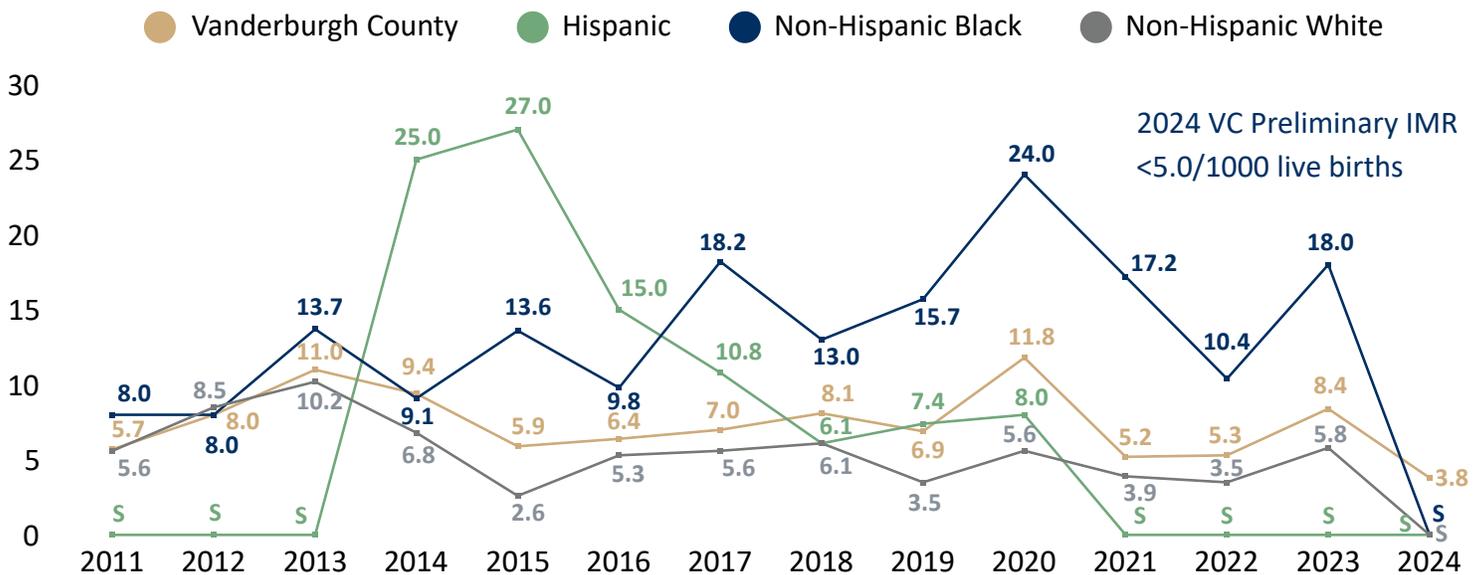
Fetal Infant Mortality Review (FIMR) Team includes the maternal and infant data abstractor, child fatality review data abstractor, and the Fetal, Infant, and Child Mortality Coordinator. Together, they implement review team recommendations and lead the Community Action Team (CAT) to address preventable deaths. FIMR’s mission is to drive local and system-wide improvements based on reviews of fetal infant deaths, with a vision of ensuring families have access to safe, equitable, high-quality maternal, newborn, and child health services.

In 2024, the goal was to reduce infant mortality to below 5.0 per 1,000 live births. Data, reviewed one year behind, showed leading causes of infant death include prenatal risk factors, unsafe sleep, and congenital anomalies. Recent recommendations emphasize reducing disparities, improving patient-provider communication, supporting maternal attendance at medical appointments, and strengthening home-visiting referral pathways. CAT met six times this year, advancing strategic priorities such as supporting METs Micro, collaborating with birthing hospitals on aspirin use in pregnancy, expanding the Ronald McDonald Care Mobile, and leading consistent safe sleep outreach. The team also received the Leadership Everyone Nancy Sieben Koehler Sustainability Award.



The Child Fatality Review (CFR) program examines child deaths to prevent future fatalities. Its mission is to identify contributing factors and strengthen protective systems through coordinated community action. Over the past five years, leading causes of child death have included unsafe sleep, gunshot wounds, and motor vehicle collisions. Safe Kids serves on CAT for CFR, focusing on safe sleep, gun safety and lock distribution, and motor vehicle crash prevention. Car seat safety remains a major priority, supported by strong collaboration among pre-hospital providers, public health, and health care partners. A joint public health-Ascension St. Vincent Pediatrics effort led to an abstract on inpatient nursing education being accepted for presentation at the Society of Pediatric Nursing Spring Conference.

Vanderburgh County IMRs by Race and Ethnicity 2011-2024



HEALTH PROMOTION

The Health Promotion division experienced a mix of progress, transition, and new collaboration during 2025, all while maintaining the ongoing commitment to serving the residents of Vanderburgh County. While funding shifts created several obstacles, including the loss of Produce Rx, which previously supported nutrition access for clients in the Diabetes Prevention and Healthy Lifestyles Programs, and put limitations on hiring additional team members, the division managed to expand several initiatives and strengthen community partnerships.

Despite changes to data collection and a temporary pause for data submission to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Diabetes Prevention Program (DPP) maintained its streak of achieving Full Plus Recognition in June. Furthermore, the division extended services to offer full lipid profiles for the DPP program to strengthen data collection and improved tracking of participant outcomes from start to finish. The Health Promotion team supported 54 individuals in the Diabetes Prevention Program and 46 individuals in the Healthy Lifestyles Program as they worked toward achieving a healthier weight and increasing their physical activity levels.

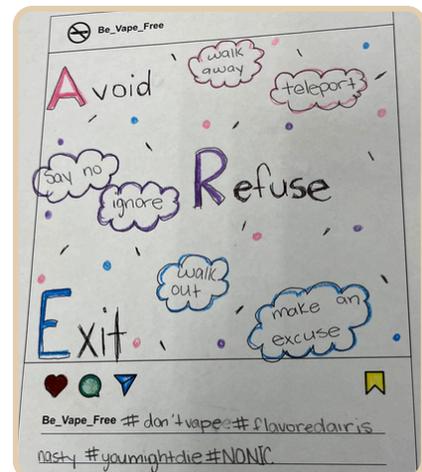
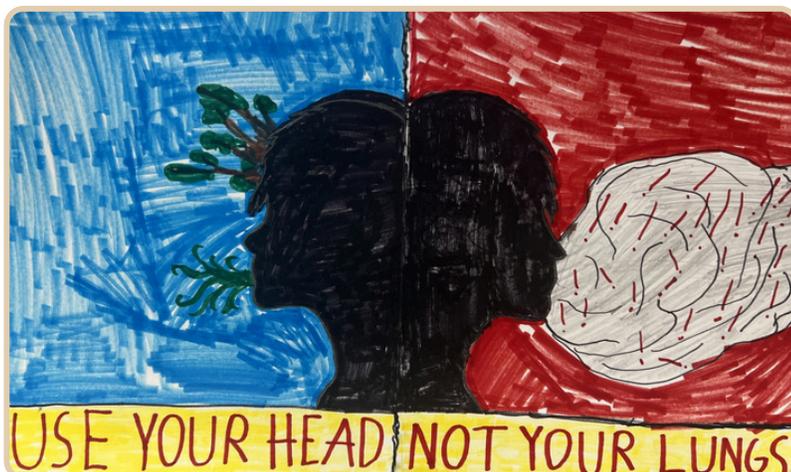
Legislative changes affecting Health First Indiana funding resulted in modified eligibility requirements for the Freedom from Smoking program, reducing the service being offered to the general population seeking to quit smoking. Despite the changes, smoking prevention and cessation efforts remained strong among the youth in grades 5-12, particularly regarding the use of electronic cigarettes in the CATCH My Breath Program. The Health Promotion team was recognized by the CATCH Global Foundation and served 794 students in the CATCH My Breath program.

The Matter of Balance program continued to gain momentum with extended partnerships and in the development of new cohorts planned for 2026 in organizations across the community.

To further advance efforts reducing trauma and injury in infant mortality, the Safe Sleep program continued services to both English and non-English-speaking clients, underscoring the shift in community needs. The Health Promotion team provided safe sleep education to 83 primary caregivers.

Together, these efforts highlight the division's resilience and dedication, laying a foundation for the continued growth and community impact expected the year ahead.

The CATCH My Breath program curriculum has students incorporate what they have learned into a warning label, or social media campaign post. Here are some examples of what the students have completed.



LABORATORY

VCHD Lab dedicated significant effort this year to community education regarding lead poisoning prevention and the crucial need for testing. Several fun and informational videos were created by VCHD posted to social media as an awareness campaign. A primary focus was also educating local physicians on these topics and the importance of accurate reporting of lead results to IDOH, which ensures more reliable statistical data concerning the county's lead testing rates.

In 2023, the lab collaborated with the Environmental Division and WIC to launch "lead lunch and learn" educational sessions for local physician offices. These sessions, which provided information on Indiana State testing and reporting requirements and VCHD services, continued into 2025. To date, this initiative has reached over 50 family practice physicians and pediatricians across various clinics within the top three local healthcare providers. Our lab partnered with several community organizations this year and participated in 14 health fairs, where we provided lead education, lead testing, and biometric screenings. In July, our lead team collaborated with the NAACP to host our own back-to-school lead testing event, offering testing-status checks for children under age 7, along with a meal and a backpack.

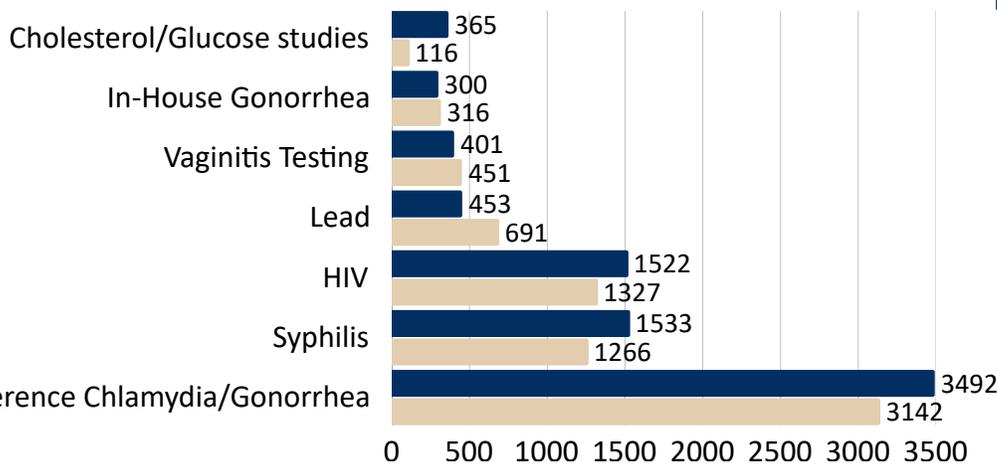
Budget cuts at both the local and state levels created challenges for the lab, decreasing the number of STI samples received from the mobile unit due to staff reductions, as well as reducing available funds for the STAT Courier system at IDOH. Despite these constraints, VCHD Lab retained a once-weekly pickup as a regional site and coordinates transport for the remainder of the week using department staff.

Water testing volumes remained steady throughout the year. In April, Tony Kleeman completed the IDOH course to become a Certified Pool Operator Trainer and played a key role in creating educational videos for operators. VCHD Lab successfully passed its biannual CLIA inspection with no deficiencies, maintaining its moderate-complexity certification.

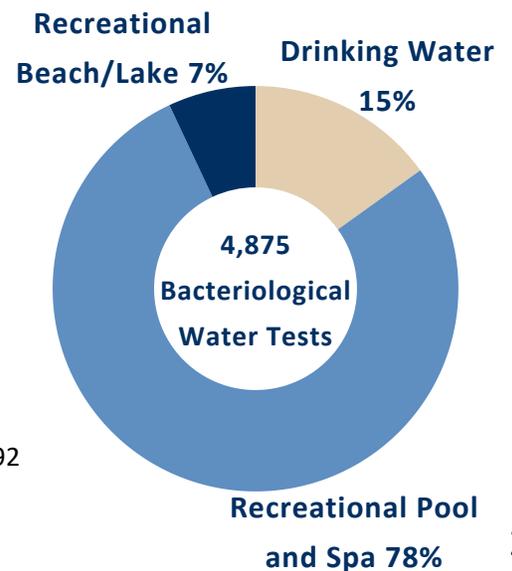


Medical Tests Performed

● 2024 ● 2025



7,309 total medical tests performed in 2025



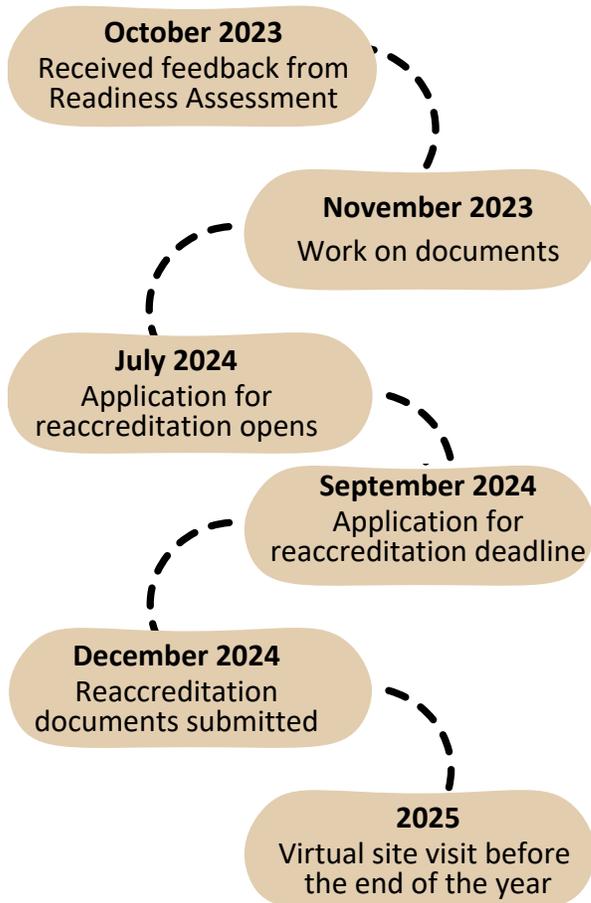
PLANNING & ANALYTICS

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 October, VCHD participated in a virtual site visit as part of the requirements for reaccreditation. PHAB recognized the work VCHD has done to continuously improve efforts and measure outcomes. This recognition from PHAB has allowed VCHD to remain an accredited Health Department for another five years.

Throughout the year, the division assisted with quality improvement and quality assurance efforts, data collection and analysis, and program planning and expansion of services. The division has continued to focus on sharing data publicly with the community through dashboard visualizations and one-page information sheets, which are available on our website.

Our presence on various social media platforms was a main focus this year to improve effective communication with the community. The focus was to share relevant and timely information that was both factual as well as innovative. The content created for National Lead Week received 60,178 views across seven videos between TikTok, Facebook, and Instagram. In 2026, VCHD will continue to take a forward-thinking approach to engage with the community.

Reaccreditation Timeline



2025 Social Media



Content views*: 749,069
Posts created: 307
Content Interactions:** 12,900
Followers: 8,963



Content views*: 11,100
Posts created: 307
Content Interactions:** 290
Followers: 200



Content views*: 27,310
Videos created: 19
Content Interactions: 808
Followers: 140

*The number of times your content was played or displayed. Content includes videos, posts, stories and ads.
 **The number of likes or reactions, saves, comments, shares and replies on your content, including ads. Content can include formats such as posts, stories, reels and more.

PRE TO 3

The Pre to 3 Home Visiting Program continues to serve as a critical resource in addressing the social determinants of health that contribute to maternal and infant mortality in our community. Grounded in trusted relationship-building, evidence-based curriculum, and strategic community outreach, the program delivers intensive, individualized support to high-risk families throughout pregnancy and the child's earliest years.

Over the past year, our interdisciplinary team of nurses, community health workers, and client advocates completed 5239 home visits, each tailored to meet the unique needs of enrolled families. Visits emphasized maternal health, birth preparedness, infant care education, mental wellness, and family safety. Through these interactions, staff identified social drivers of poor clinical outcomes including housing instability, food insecurity, transportation challenges, and limited access to healthcare and worked alongside families to reduce or eliminate these barriers. Proactive case management ensured timely referrals to WIC, prenatal care providers, behavioral health services, and an array of community support.

In 2025, the program introduced a comprehensive substance-use screening protocol, integrating several validated tools: the 5Ps Prenatal Substance Use Screening, the NIDA Quick Screen, the AUDIT-C, and the NIDA-Modified ASSIST. All clients are screened within two months of program entry and annually after that. Since its implementation, 125 clients have been screened.

The program's home-based education model continues to demonstrate measurable impact. This year, families received 632 developmental screenings, 79 car seat safety checks, and 24 breastfeeding support sessions. These services have contributed to improved birth outcomes, increased engagement in early prenatal care, and strengthened families. Through this work, the Pre to 3 Program remains a driving force in reducing disparities and building healthier futures for mothers, children, and communities.

Sustained and diversified funding has been essential to the program's success. The Family and Social Services Administration, in partnership with the Indiana Department of Health, funded 24 program positions for 2025–2026, while the Evansville Promise Neighborhood supported 2 positions. The Eli Lilly Foundation, through the Foundation for Better Health, provided funding for 4 additional positions. As the only program in Indiana billing Medicaid for CHW home visits, Pre to 3 generated \$150,642.06 in revenue in 2025, that can be accesses for program stability.

Looking ahead, continued growth of Medicaid reimbursement and philanthropic partnership with the Foundation for Better Health will be vital in maintaining the 32 positions currently funded through two-year grants. Securing long term funding is essential for the Pre to 3 Program to persist in providing services to families most in need.

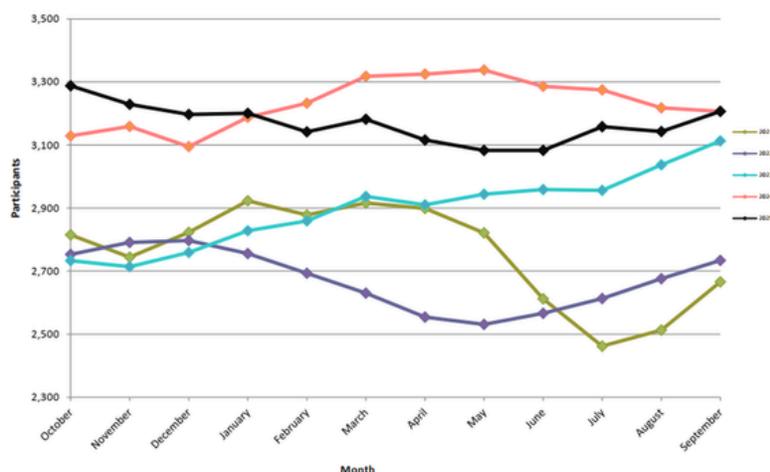


WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN (WIC)

The Vanderburgh County Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program continues to serve as a vital resource for our community, safeguarding the health of eligible women, infants, and children up to age 5. As a federal supplemental nutrition program, WIC offers a wide range of services including access to nutritious foods, health screenings, referrals to other Indiana health social services, as well as essential education and counseling focused on nutrition, breastfeeding support and overall health.

This year has been a time of learning and development with the WIC team. We welcomed five new team members to our staff of eleven: including a breastfeeding peer counselor, three nutritionists, and a new local director. These new team members have brought fresh perspectives and expertise to the program, allowing us to continue providing high quality services to our families. Our team's hard work is shown by our caseload numbers trending up from midyear. We are ready to provide superior, client-focused nutrition services and breastfeeding support for our clients. On top of new faces in our office, Karina Ramirez who is part of our clerical support staff was able to hone her bilingual skills and earned her Medical Interpretation Certificate in Spanish.

Agency 9 Monthly Participation, FY2021-2025



Vanderburgh County WIC served approximately 3,300 clients. Of this, 29% were infants, 53% children aged 1-5, and 18% were pregnant or post-partum mothers. Our client demographic reflects a diverse community; 77% English speaking, 10% Spanish speaking, 12% Haitian Creole speaking, and 1% speak other languages.

During the summer months, WIC offers Farmers Market benefits for produce from local farmers. WIC staff were present at both Wednesday and Saturday Evansville farmers markets to issue benefits and answer questions from both farmers and WIC families. We issued \$2,360.94 to our families for fresh, local fruits and vegetables. We also used this time as a recruitment opportunity; allowing families who qualify to sign up for WIC.



We are proud to highlight the achievements of Amber Lewis and Payton Hashemi, who both earned their Certified Lactation Specialist certification in 2025. Their dedication to supporting breastfeeding mothers has already had a significant impact on the families we serve. In August, we celebrated Breastfeeding Awareness Month by offering extra incentives to our breastfeeding mothers. We had a breastfeeding initiation rate of 70%, mostly breastfeeding at 3 months rate of 39%, mostly breastfeeding at 6 months rate of 27%, and mostly breastfeeding at 12 months rate of 7%.

IN MEMORY OF CHARLES CULVER

It is with heavy hearts that we share the loss of Charles, a valued member of our Environmental Division and a friend to so many across VCHD.

Charles was more than an exceptional employee, he was a steady presence, a team player, and someone who genuinely cared about the people he worked with and the community he served. He approached his work with dedication, integrity, and pride, always willing to step up, help others, and do what was needed for the good of the division and VCHD as a whole.

Beyond his professional contributions, Charles was kind, approachable, and deeply respected. He had a way of making people feel supported and valued, and his impact reached far beyond his job duties. The relationships he built and the work he accomplished will not be forgotten.

Charles leaves behind a legacy of service, compassion, and friendship that will continue to shape our division and our department. He will be deeply missed, but his impact will always remain a part of VCHD.



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 W Ehrley, MD	Member	2023
Margaret Musgrave	Member	2023
Ashley Hammer, NP	Member	2025

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 Services
JoAnna Beck, MPA	Director Environmental Health Division
Mikelle Herron, MPH	Director Expansion and Accreditation
Charissa Schuetz, BSN, RN, MHA	Director Outreach Services
Tamara Teague, MLS (ASCP)	Director Laboratory Division
Lacy Wilson, MS, RDN	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
John Dunn, MS, MPH	DIS
Kelly Holzmeyer	Finance
Jen Healy, MPH	Health Promotion
Sophie French, BSN, RN	Pre to 3

FINANCIAL REPORT

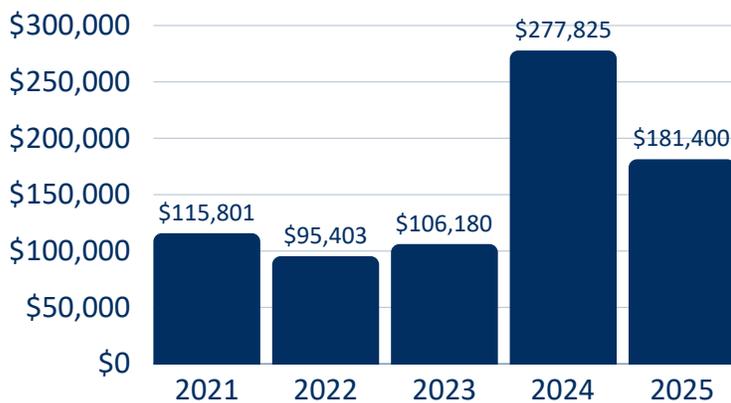
Vanderburgh County Health Department continued protecting and promoting community health while navigating significant funding changes. Through strong partnerships with healthcare providers, community organizations, and county leadership, VCHD remained adaptable and financially stable. Compared to 2024, total revenue increased by 11%, while expenditures increased by 4%, reflecting strategic fiscal management despite shifting funding sources.

Several federal funding streams were eliminated during the year. Federal immunization funding, passed through the State, was pulled back and discontinued going forward. This funding had previously supported vaccine outreach, staffing, and infrastructure. VCHD realigned allowable costs to maintain core vaccination services. Similarly, federal Produce Rx funding, also passed through the State, was discontinued. This program supported food insecurity efforts through produce prescriptions and served as a component of the Healthy Lifestyle and Diabetes Prevention programs. Without dedicated funding, VCHD is exploring alternative strategies to support healthy nutrition among program participants.

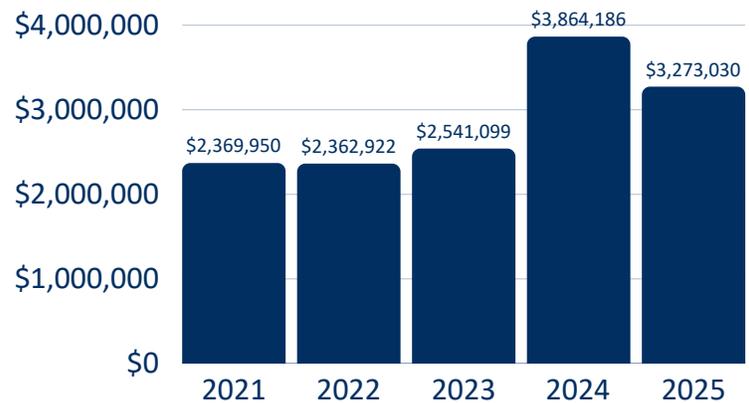
In addition, supplemental Communicable Disease funding was not received in 2025. These prior funds had enhanced STI prevention and response activities. In their absence, VCHD prioritized essential surveillance and case management within existing resources.

VCHD continued supporting families through the Pre to 3 program with Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funding. While this ensured continuity of maternal and early childhood services, TANF funding restrictions reduced Medicaid billing revenue, shifting VCHD's revenue mix.

Medicaid Revenue 5 Year Comparison



Grant Revenue 5 Year Comparison

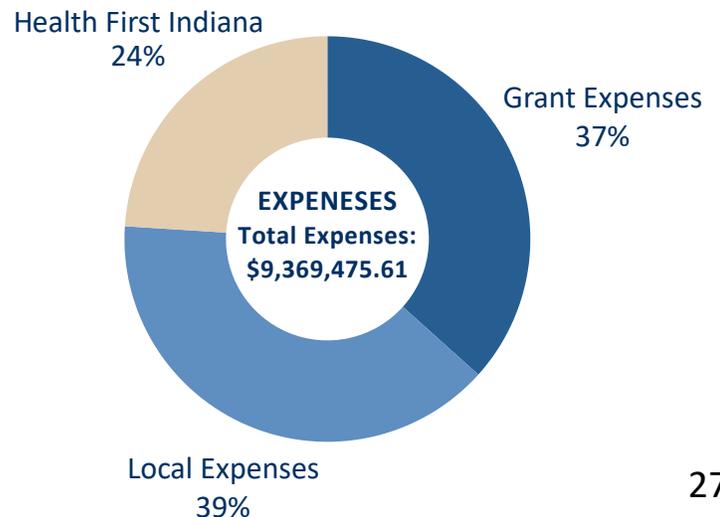
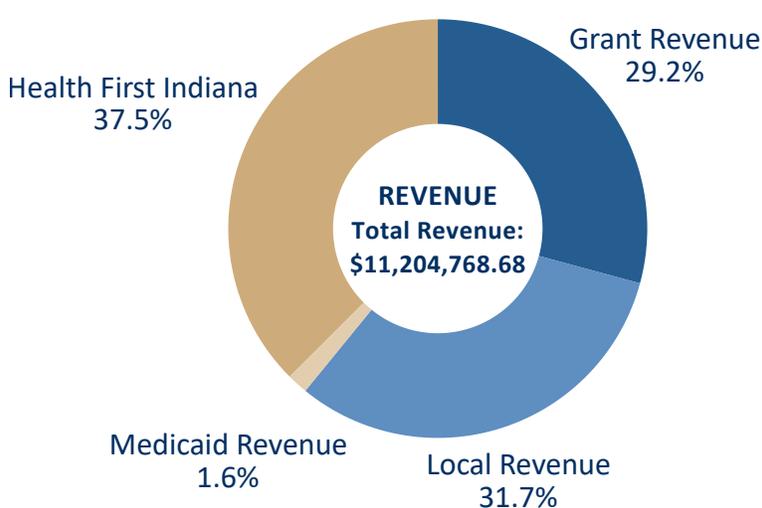
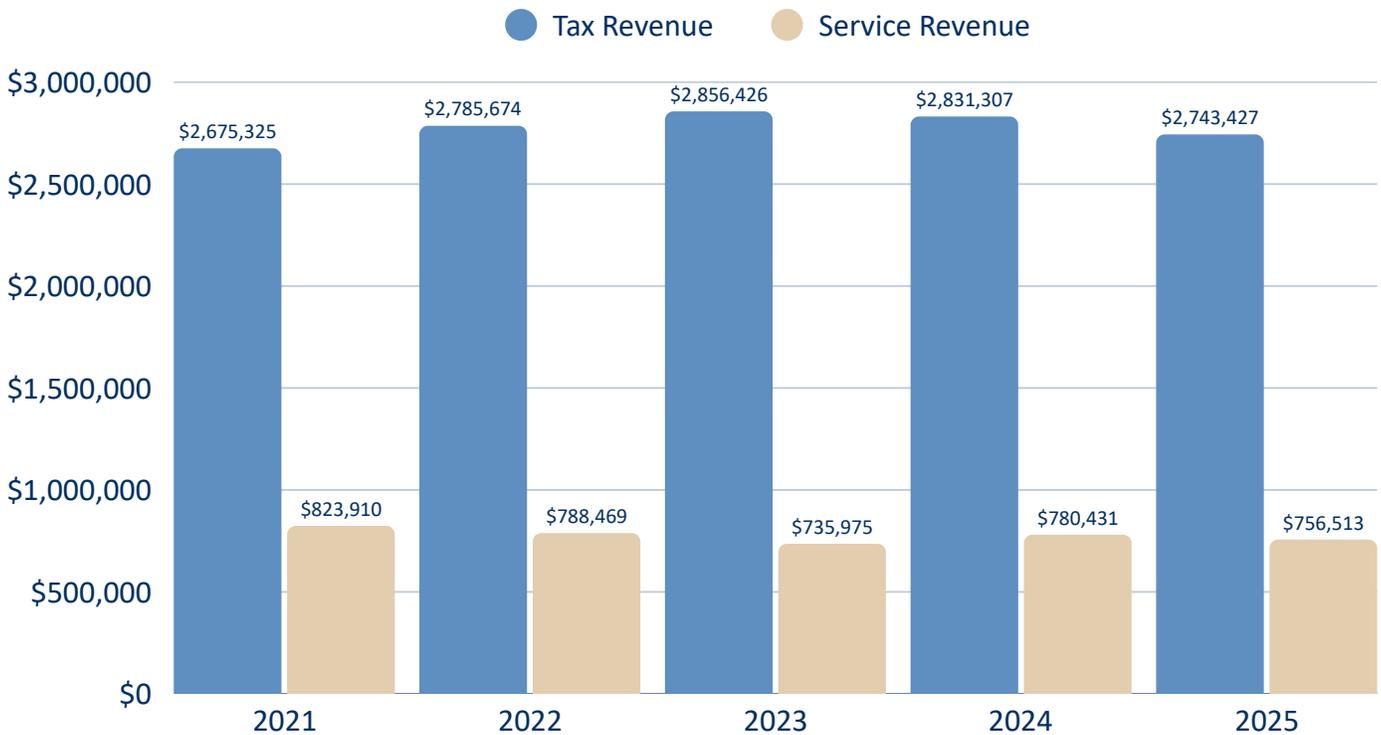


FINANCIAL REPORT

Expenditure growth was modest and driven by personnel adjustments, program expansion, inflationary pressures, a new facility lease to accommodate service growth, and continued investment in systems that support compliance and accountability.

Looking ahead, the State’s announced 75% reduction in Health First Indiana funding beginning in 2026, which presents planning challenges, requires careful planning. VCHD is proactively evaluating staffing, services, service delivery, and opportunities to diversify funding sources to help ensure continued services for Vanderburgh County residents.

Annual Health Fund Revenue



FINANCIAL REPORT

2025 FUNDING ALLOCATION OVERVIEW

In 2025, the Vanderburgh County Health Department (VCHD) utilized federal, state, and local funding to support essential public health services, protect community health, and strengthen internal capacity to meet statutory and programmatic requirements. Funding across all revenue sources, including county appropriations, state grants, federal pass-through funds, and service-based reimbursements were allocated to the following key areas:

1. Core Public Health Operations

Funds supported day-to-day departmental operations, including administration, finance, and program oversight necessary to comply with state and local public health laws. This included personnel costs, staff development, technology systems, insurance, and routine operating expenses that ensure continuity of public health services.

2. Communicable Disease Prevention & Response

Resources were used to conduct surveillance, respond to reportable diseases, perform investigations, coordinate with healthcare partners, and implement evidence-based strategies for preventing communicable disease spread in Vanderburgh County.

3. Maternal, Child, and Family Health Services

Funding supported home-visiting, WIC, child fatality review coordination, safety education, developmental screening, breastfeeding support, and family navigation services aimed at promoting healthy pregnancies, early childhood development, and improved family well-being.

4. Environmental Public Health & Regulatory Services

Local and state funds were used to conduct inspections, enforce health and safety standards, monitor environmental hazards, and provide education to protect residents from foodborne illness, lead exposure, vector-related risks, and other environmental threats.

5. Clinical and Community-Based Health Services

Funding supported the delivery of immunizations, STI testing and treatment, harm-reduction services, public health nursing, school-based outreach, and community health education programming designed to improve population health outcomes.

6. Public Health Emergency Preparedness

State and federal preparedness funding supported planning, training, exercises, and response coordination for emergencies, including disease outbreaks, natural disasters, and other events requiring public health involvement.

7. Data, Reporting, and Quality Improvement

Funds were used to support data management systems, required reporting, quality improvement initiatives, and performance-focused activities that strengthen accountability and data-driven decision-making across programs.

8. Infrastructure, Equipment, and Technology

Resources supported necessary infrastructure improvements, facility maintenance, technology upgrades, equipment purchases, and modernization efforts to enhance efficiency, staff safety, and service delivery capacity.

FINANCIAL REPORT

2025 ANNUAL REVENUE REPORT

REVENUE TYPE	FUND NUMBER	REVENUE CATEGORY	2025 TOTAL
VCHD	1159	PROPERTY TAX	\$2,521,711.78
VCHD	1159	EXCISE TAX	\$187,287.62
VCHD	1159	IN LIEU OF TAXES	\$199.88
VCHD	1159	FINANCIAL INSTITUTION	\$15,351.42
VCHD	1159	COMMERCIAL VEHICLE EXCISE TAX	\$18,876.94
VCHD	1159	POOL PERMIT FEES	\$15,500.00
VCHD	1159	TATTOO PERMIT FEES	\$18,950.00
VCHD	1159	PATIENT FEES	\$9,244.00
VCHD	1159	MEDICAID FEES	\$38,531.82
VCHD	1159	RESTAURANT PERMIT FEES	\$161,515.00
VCHD	1159	SEWAGE DISPOSAL FEES	\$9,860.00
VCHD	1159	FOREIGN TRAVEL FEES	\$23,470.00
VCHD	1159	VITAL RECORDS	\$353,412.24
VCHD	1159	WATER SAMPLES	\$116,350.00
VCHD	1159	MISCELLANEOUS	\$9,680.44
HEALTH FUND REVENUE			\$3,499,941.14

FINANCIAL REPORT

2025 ANNUAL REVENUE REPORT

REVENUE TYPE	FUND NUMBER	REVENUE CATEGORY	2025 TOTAL
OTHER	4107	DONATIONS	\$14,490.10
OTHER	4901	PRE TO 3 NON REVERTING MEDICAID	\$142,868.64
OTHER	4920	EXPORT HEALTH CERTIFICATES	\$5,960.00
OTHER	4932	VAXCARE	\$8,740.01
OTHER	4933	OUT OF COUNTY CORONER'S FEE	\$24,433.00
OTHER	4935	LEAD NON REVERTING	\$3,368.76
OTHER	7106	CORONER'S EDUCATION	\$30,872.00
HEALTH FUND REVENUE			\$230,732.51

FINANCIAL REPORT

2025 ANNUAL REVENUE REPORT

REVENUE TYPE	FUND NUMBER	REVENUE CATEGORY	2025 TOTAL
GRANT	8403	WIC NSA	\$812,742.01
GRANT	8406	WIC BFPC	\$31,836.92
GRANT	8408	IMMUNIZATIONS	\$281,176.16
GRANT	8416	STD SUPPLEMENTAL	\$5,580.87
GRANT	8422	STD RYAN WHITE	\$31,795.20
GRANT	8429	EMERGENCY PREPARDNESS	\$23,752.67
GRANT	8433	PRODUCE RX	\$2,448.17
GRANT	8435	PRE TO 3 EXPANSION FEDERAL	\$67,131.33
GRANT	8437	MHB WORKFORCE STABILIZATION	\$1,616.64
GRANT	8439	PROMISE NEIGHBORHOOD	\$103,420.96
GRANT	8442	TANF	\$658,764.34
GRANT	8443	STRENGTHENING PREVENTION AND CONTROL FOR HEALTH DEPARTMENTS	\$59,773.13
GRANT	9405	FETAL INFANT DEATH REVIEW	\$34,093.61

FINANCIAL REPORT

2025 ANNUAL REVENUE REPORT

REVENUE TYPE	FUND NUMBER	REVENUE CATEGORY	2025 TOTAL
GRANT	9415	SAFETY PIN	\$768,411.65
GRANT	9423	PRE TO 3 EXPANSION STATE	\$67,831.94
GRANT	9427	EARLY LEARNING	\$199,442.84
GRANT	9429	EARLY LEARNING 2.0	\$123,211.92
GRANT REVENUE			\$3,273,030.36
STATE	1161	HEALTH FIRST INDIANA	\$4,201,064.67
TOTAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT REVENUE			\$11,204,768.68

FINANCIAL REPORT

DONATIONS

Community partnerships and staff-led fundraising efforts continued to strengthen Vanderburgh County Health Department programming in 2025. Contributions from local partners, universities, and staff-supported initiatives enhanced lead prevention efforts, maternal and child health programming, workforce initiatives, and healthy aging programs. These investments reflect strong community collaboration and shared commitment to improving public health outcomes in Vanderburgh County.

Total Donations

→ \$14,490.10

Lead Prevention & Education

→ \$2,349.05

Pre to 3 Program Support

→ \$1,035.00

Healthy Aging - Matter of Balance

→ \$10,000.00

Workforce Recruitment & Retention

→ \$106.05

General Health Department Support

→ \$1,000.00

During 2025, the department continued and expanded upon modernization efforts initiated in 2024, strengthening internal systems, enhancing data reporting capabilities, advancing public health preparedness, and improving overall service delivery efficiency. Building on prior progress, VCHD also prioritized the development of structured training content to promote consistent messaging, standardized processes, and clear expectations across staff and divisions.

Throughout the year, the department engaged in cross-agency collaborations, community education initiatives, quality improvement activities, and data-driven planning to address emerging public health priorities. Together, these efforts supported mandated public health functions while reinforcing coordinated, strategic, and community-focused approaches aimed at improving population health outcomes in Vanderburgh County.