

Harrison County



HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
HOME HEALTH & HOSPICE

2023 ANNUAL

Report



Harrison County Health Department,
Home Health & Hospice



(660) 425-6324



www.harrisoncountyhealthdept.org



PUBLIC
HEALTH



2023 YEAR IN REVIEW

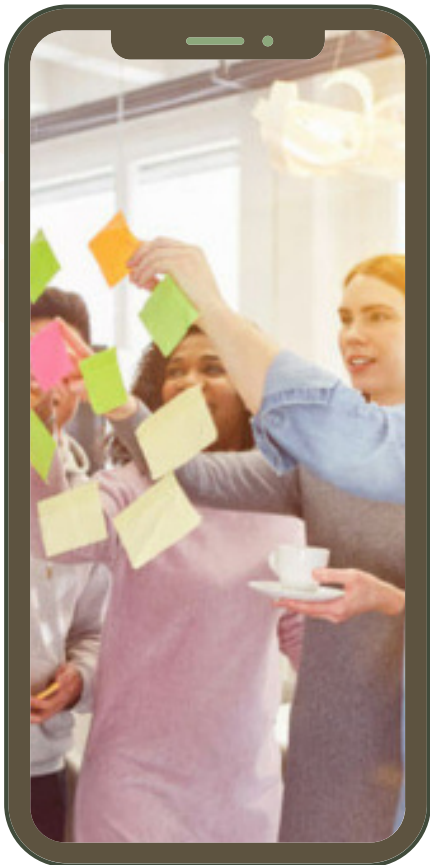
In 2023, public health saw strides in various areas. Working with our partners from the Department of Health and Senior Services, Community of Public Health, we are seeing efforts to increase state spending for public health. Missouri has the lowest per capita spending in the U.S. only spending \$7 per capita compared to other midwestern states, Iowa is \$37 per capita, Nebraska is \$40 per capita, and Minnesota is \$77 per capita. Per capita funding significantly impacts public health as it determines the resources available per person for infrastructure, research and preventative programs. Benjamin Franklin wasn't wrong when he proclaimed, "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.", when advising fire-threatened Philadelphians this in 1736 telling them that preventing fires is better than fighting them. This is public health – preventing problems is more effective than fixing them. Taking small, preventive measures such as eating more fruits and vegetables, increasing physical activity can improve health outcomes. It's about the idea that investing in preventing an issue is more efficient than dealing with the larger consequences that comes from neglecting it. Our health department works diligently to reduce barriers, stigma and increase awareness about available services that we provide and others in our community provide to help everyone have equitable access to appropriate care and resources. Public health is also about preparedness from all hazards. The June weather event in Harrison County was a great example of a community bringing together diverse skills, resources and knowledge to address the needs of our community. After action discussions always take place after an event such as this and because of it, our ESF 8 group was formed as another layer of preparedness and prevention. Fostering collaboration among different organizations and pooling resources to ensure a coordinated and comprehensive response to hazards is essential to restoring our community's functions back to normal.



continued

YEAR IN REVIEW

Home Health began in January of 2023 and we hit the ground running with this service, staying very busy serving our communities! Our hospice department celebrated 30 years of providing quality care, close to home. We are so proud of being able to continue to provide these services to our communities and appreciate when citizens choose a small, local provider like ours to provide the service. We are in the people business and this speaks volumes when our staff treat your family as their own with that small town hospitality.



We have big goals for 2024. We believe that setting high standards for our programs and services will contribute to improve health outcomes for our communities. With this, we will begin working towards public health accreditation. Accreditation means transparency, improving operations and creating opportunities for growth and partnerships, improving our ability to prevent, promote and protect those we serve.

*With gratitude,
Courtney Cross, Administrator
Harrison County Health Department,
Home Health & Hospice*

IN 2024 WE WILL BEGIN
WORKING TOWARDS PUBLIC
HEALTH ACCREDITATION (PHAB)



HOME HEALTH & HOSPICE


The year of 2023 was extremely busy for Harrison County Home Health and Hospice. In January we started providing home health to area patients. The process to acquire home health from Harrison County Community Hospital District began in June of 2022. Harrison County Community Hospital had been providing home health care for many years and made the decision to re-focus their attention on in home services. This presented an opportunity for HCHD to begin home health again and keep the service local. Medicare and Medicaid is not an easy application process but In January of 2023, all paperwork was completed and we finally began providing home health service to Harrison, Daviess, Gentry, Worth and Mercer counties. It was a learning curve for all of the staff with different rules, forms, billing, etc. but our staff accepted the challenge and began providing outstanding care.

Home health care is provided to patients who are homebound (confined to the home), need intermittent skilled nursing, physical therapy, speech therapy or continued occupational therapy. The patient must be under the care of a physician. Home health is paid for by Medicare, Medicaid and most private insurances.

Home health served 115 patients during our first year. Providing 764 nursing visits, 344 physical therapy visits, 21 speech visits, 63 occupation therapy visits, 85 aide visits and 2 social work visits. We also had to turn down referrals related to a contract issue with United Health Care Insurance. Medicare Advantage plans do not pay for home health.

“
The goals of home health care services are to help individuals to improve function, live with greater independence, and to promote the client's optimal level of well-being.
”

American Nurses Association



HOME HEALTH & HOSPICE

Hospice **CELEBRATED 30 YEARS** of providing hospice services in 2023. During the year we cared for 46 patients in Harrison, Daviess, Mercer, Worth and Gentry counties. Of these patients 27 were at home, 14 were in a skilled nursing home and 5 were in a hospital. With our wonderful hospice volunteers, we provided 101 hours of volunteer services to hospice patients and families. We again had our Memorial Christmas lunch for bereaved families and had the biggest attendance we have had since I have been here.

Hospice is more than just treatment for those facing a life limiting illness. It is a philosophy of care. Harrison County Hospice takes care of the emotional, physical and spiritual well-being of each patient, along with caring for their family and caretakers.

Reva Rocha, SW went from part-time to full-time dividing her time between home health and hospice and public health. Her main goal for 2024 in hospice is to build a better support system for bereaved in our area and increase and improve the volunteer program. She will be providing bereavement support to hospice families and anyone in the community who is dealing with loss. She will be starting a support group in February.

Both Home Health and Hospice are needed services in our community and we are excited to continue to bring you quality of care, close to home as your local Home Health and Hospice provider as we move into 2024.

Pam Walker, RN Hospice Nurse Supervisor

"We are all just walking each other home. Let me hold your hand; someday, someone will be holding mine."

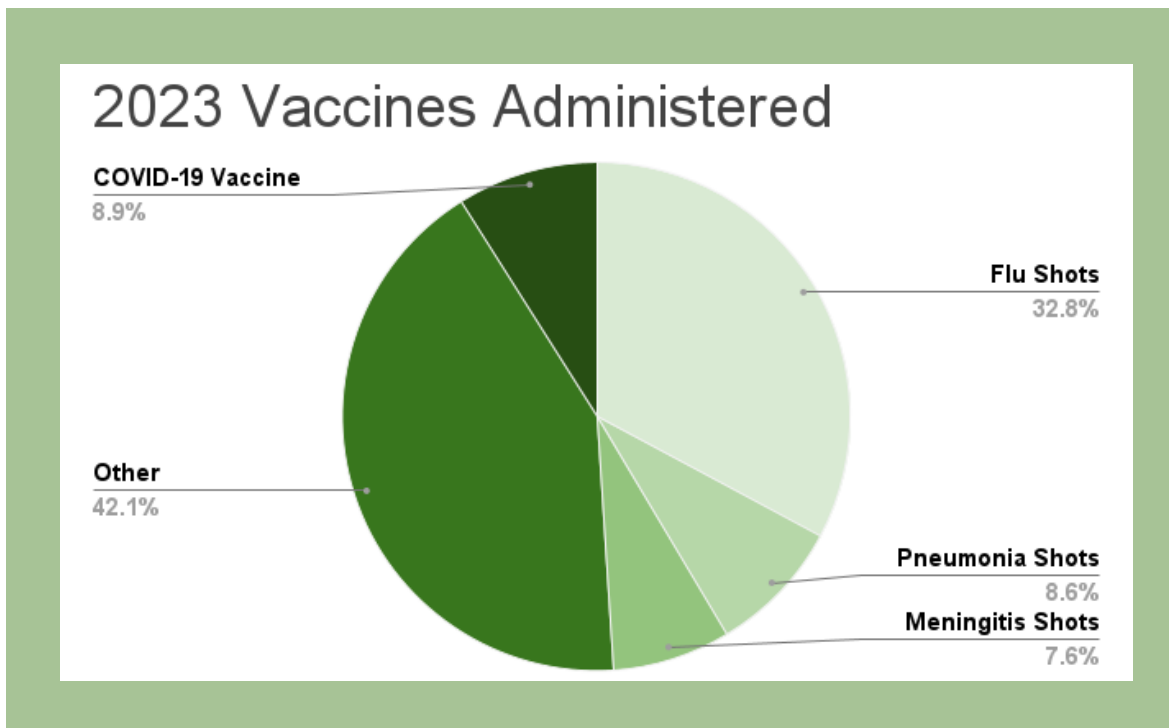
~Hospice Nurse



PUBLIC HEALTH

Public Health promotes and protects the health of all people and their communities, and that is exactly what we worked towards in 2023!

This year we gave a little over 1,500 vaccines. Vaccines are important because they help provide immunity to children before they are exposed to potentially harmful diseases. Immunizations work by triggering our immune systems to fight against certain diseases. Here at the health department, we spend much of our time educating families on the importance of vaccines and explaining the vaccine schedule.



- Flu Vaccine 493
- Pneumonia Vaccine 130
- Meningitis Vaccine 114
- Other (tetanus, Hep A & B, HPV, Varicella, etc.) 634
- COVID-19 Vaccine 134



continued

PUBLIC HEALTH

Animal Bites

This year, I also spent a lot of time investigating animal bites. We mostly receive dog and cat bite reports, however there is a state requirement that all mammalian animal bites should be reported to the local health department. It is important that we are aware of these bites and can investigate them due to the potential zoonotic transmission of rabies disease. Investigating the animal bite helps determine the risk of rabies, therefore helping decide what other safety measures are appropriate. Depending on the scenario, we could recommend that you talk with your health care provider about Rabies Post Exposure Prophylaxis. There is a common misconception that “rabies isn’t that big of a deal” or that “animals don’t have rabies here.” Unfortunately, the survival rate of clinical rabies in humans is very low and there were 33 animals that tested positive for rabies in the state of Missouri in 2023. This year I investigated 27 animal bites in Harrison County with 9 cases requiring rabies prophylaxis administration to the bite victim.



Emergency Preparedness

This year, we also focused on emergency preparedness and how we can improve our emergency plan. We joined the Local Emergency Planning Committee for Harrison County and attended several meetings. In these meetings, we discussed and started plans to better prepare our community. We also formed an Emergency Support Function group with emergency personnel from the county to discuss barriers and talk about how we can fix them. We have created some great partnerships this year and look forward to continuing to build those relationships and work together to protect our community!

~Breann Bennett RN, BSN

ENVIRONMENTAL SPECIALIST

During the year of 2023 I performed 83 inspections on restaurants, schools, lodging facilities and daycares. There were 2 new drink trucks, 1 food truck and 4 new food establishments opened throughout the year. I had 3 truck wreck's involving food for the whole year. In May there was a truck carrying 33,000 pounds of shelled eggs and liquid eggs that overturned on the interstate. I have never seen such a pool of liquid eggs running out of a semi in my life, and of course it was during an unusually hot week in May and the refrigerator unit on the truck was not working. Some truck wrecks I have had in the past are usually wrapped up in a few days, but not this one. By the time the owner and insurance company bickered back and forth it was 10 days later before the load could be unloaded and disposed. The smell of the rotten eggs still haunts me. Also makes me wonder if the owner/insurance company could have come to a quicker resolution had the truck been sitting in their driveway? The other significant thing to happen this year was large recall involving apple sauce that was contaminated with lead. Lead is toxic to humans and can affect people of any age or health status.

Protecting children from exposure to lead is particularly important because they are more susceptible to lead toxicity. Most children have no obvious immediate symptoms. Parents should consult a healthcare provider if you suspect a child may have been exposed to lead. Short term exposure to lead could result in headache, abdominal pain/colic, vomiting, and anemia. Longer term exposure could result in irritability, lethargy, fatigue, muscle aches, muscle burning, constipation, difficulty concentrating, muscular weakness, tremor, and weight loss. If you ever find a food product in your home that has been affected by a recall, either throw it away or return it to the store you purchased it from.

~Colt Bohannon

Environmental Specialist

8 Of 10 Customers



SCHOOL HEALTH

School health services play a crucial role in benefiting students, staff, and the school community by focusing on promoting health, preventing illnesses, and providing necessary care. The services offered a range of health-related activities. Here's an overview of how health services within the school benefit others:

Preventative Care & Health Screenings

Benefit: Early detection & prevention of health issues.

School health services conduct screenings, vaccinations, and referrals. This service provides opportunities to identify potential health concerns at an early stage, allowing for timely treatment. For example, vision and hearing screenings can lead to the identification of issues that may affect academic performance.

Health Promotion & Education

Benefit: Improved health literacy and informed decision-making.

School health services involve health promotion and education programs that cover topics such as nutrition, physical activity, hygiene, and mental health. This includes health education during screenings, requested topic education sessions, and handouts for students, parents, and staff to receive information to make healthier lifestyle choices and remain informed.

Reducing Absences

Benefit: Improved attendance and academic performance

By addressing health issues promptly and providing preventive care, school health services contribute to reducing absenteeism. Working with school staff to monitor sickness and addressing factors that may contribute to students missing school promotes consistent attendance and academic success.



continued

SCHOOL HEALTH

In Harrison County, 1848 screenings were completed in 2023! Thank you to the local professionals that volunteered to help complete screenings!



581 Dental Screenings



815 Hearing Screenings



196 Vision Screenings



256 Headlice Exams

Referrals were made for those needing further assessment and treatment. Immunization clinics at the schools were completed including required immunizations for Kindergarten, 8th, and 12th grades.

Health education information was offered to students and staff during screenings, safety events, and consultations.

The results from these services contribute to the well-being of students, staff, and the entire school community, which creates an environment where everyone can thrive academically and personally. Overall, school health services benefit others by promoting health, providing preventive care, and addressing health-related challenges.

~Alisha Noble RN, BSN



WIC

In 2023, an average of 152 participants per month were served at our agency in the Missouri WIC program. That is **up 32 participants per month** from last year! WIC is a supplemental food program that provides foods with specific nutrients that are often missing from the participants' diets. Just some of the items included in the food packages are fresh or frozen fruits and vegetables, whole grains, milk, eggs, infant foods, formula and more.

These items are placed on an eWIC card for convenience for the WIC participant. In addition to the nutritious foods, WIC offers nutrition education, breastfeeding support, and referrals to other services.

Children under five, new mothers, and pregnant mothers may qualify if they meet the income guidelines listed below.

Missouri WIC Income Guidelines—April 1, 2023
Guidelines reflect gross (pre-tax) income.

Family Size	Annual	Monthly	Twice-Monthly	Bi-Weekly	Weekly
1	\$26,973	\$2,248	\$1,124	\$1,038	\$519
2	\$36,482	\$3,041	\$1,521	\$1,404	\$702
3	\$45,991	\$3,833	\$1,917	\$1,769	\$885
4	\$55,500	\$4,625	\$2,313	\$2,135	\$1,068
5	\$65,009	\$5,418	\$2,709	\$2,501	\$1,251
6	\$74,518	\$6,210	\$3,105	\$2,867	\$1,434
7	\$84,027	\$7,003	\$3,502	\$3,232	\$1,616
8	\$93,536	\$7,795	\$3,898	\$3,598	\$1,799
9	\$103,045	\$8,588	\$4,294	\$3,964	\$1,982
10	\$112,554	\$9,380	\$4,690	\$4,329	\$2,165
11	\$122,063	\$10,172	\$5,086	\$4,695	\$2,348
12	\$131,572	\$10,965	\$5,483	\$5,061	\$2,531
13	\$141,081	\$11,757	\$5,879	\$5,427	\$2,714
14	\$150,590	\$12,550	\$6,275	\$5,792	\$2,896
15	\$160,099	\$13,342	\$6,671	\$6,158	\$3,079
16	\$169,608	\$14,134	\$7,067	\$6,524	\$3,262
Each additional family member	Plus \$9,509	Plus \$793	Plus \$397	Plus \$366	Plus \$183

Income guidelines are based on 185% of the poverty level.
This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

WIC Guidelines & Qualifications



Pregnant Women



Breastfeeding Women



Non-Breastfeeding Women



Postpartum Women Regardless of Pregnancy Outcome



Infants and Children up to 5 years of age



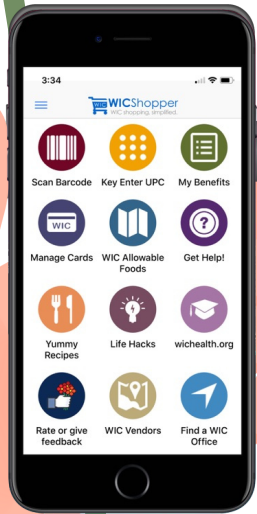
Foster Families & Caretakers with a child under 5

To qualify for WIC you must meet the income guidelines and be in any of the categories listed. ↑ →



WIC

DID YOU KNOW?



The WICShopper is a specialized WIC smartphone application. The app allows participants to register their eWIC cards to help track the benefits on the card throughout each month. The app allows participants to scan an item's Universal Product Code (UPC) to identify WIC-approved food items before checking out. The app also features nutritional information, food preparation tips, and recipes to help WIC participants get the most out of the WIC program.

Of all the families served at our agency \$162, 540 worth of benefits were issued in Fiscal Year 2023!

*This is money spent in our local community!

“I mean, there are no words to explain how thankful I am for the WIC program. Since birth, you guys have provided me with nutritional milk, grains, fruits, and vegetables each month. Giving us some hope of still having some food you know just in case.”

Synthia

HEALTH EDUCATOR

BCBH

This year was our second year of Cohort 2 of our Building Communities through Better Health (BCBH) contract. In February, Courtney and I attended a team building training in Columbia with the other departments and groups involved in the contract.

PHYSICAL ACTIVITY: Our goal for this cohort is to increase the number of people with access to physical activity opportunities.

In March MRT (Missourians for Responsible Transportation) updated the Priority Network Map and project phasing so the efforts are more complimentary between the Bethany Trail Plan and the city of Bethany's 10-year strategic sidewalk plan.

This summer the city of Bethany mowed a path on the new city property to show case what the future paved bike/walking trail will look like. The coalition came up with names for the trail to get the community more involved and excited about it. We voted on naming it "Legacy Lane". In June the coalition hosted an event at Legacy Lane north of Babe Adams ballfield. 5 coalition members, 3 community members, and 6 children joined in on the event. Information about the connectivity plan and updates the Parks and Rec have done were handed out along with popsicles.



HEALTH EDUCATOR

BCBH

Dallis Baker created a map/poster of the future Bethany Trails and sidewalks and the connectivity it will bring to the community. Dallis started working on the poster in April 2023. It was approved by the coalition and 100 copies were made! The posters will be displayed at:

**Harrison County
Health Department**

**Bethany
Court House**

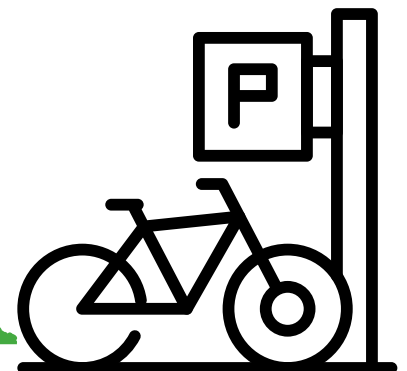
**Bethany
Community Gym**

**Bethany
Memorial Park**

**Bethany
Public Library**

**Bethany
City Hall**

- 3 benches were purchased for the new trails.
- 2 bike repair stations purchased. One will be placed at the swimming pool parking lot and the other at the community gym
- 1 water bottle filling station/water fountain purchased for the new snack shack/restrooms at Babe Adams Ballfield.



HEALTH EDUCATOR

BCBH

TOBACCO CESSATION: Our goal for this cohort is to eliminate nonsmokers' exposure to secondhand smoke.

- The coalition along with the help of Community Tobacco Specialist, Jamie Baker created a community survey. The survey was about the individual's knowledge and opinion of tobacco and its effects. The survey was handed out at our Back-to-School Safety Fair, The Northwest Missouri State Fair, Hy-Vee and Walmart Pharmacy, Library, Senior Center, Harrison County Community Hospital and clinics. The survey was also put on social media. We had a total of 93 participants. The data showed that Harrison County needed a lot of education in the effects of tobacco.
- Courtney and I met with the 12th Street Apartment manager to discuss how to make the apartments tobacco free. We had a meet and greet at the apartments community room and provided a free lunch and resources.
- A new billboard was created and put up on mile marker 93 northbound on I-35
- 200 quit kits were made and given out at health fairs, health department, and health clinics.
- The coalition went out and visited local business to see what their smoke free policies are:
 - ~29 businesses visited
 - ~23 are smoke free
 - ~3 have smoke free policies

We are now currently working on programs for the schools to help with the youth vaping epidemic.



A single e-cigarette can contain the **SAME AMOUNT OF NICOTINE** – or even more as an entire pack of cigarettes, making them **HIGHLY ADDICTIVE.**


HEALTH EDUCATOR

MCH

This was our 2nd year out of 5 in this current contract. Our selected priority health issue is to promote protective factors for youth and families that are addressed through adolescent suicide prevention. The Northwest Suicide Prevention coalition is still going strong with 10 active members and continues to bring awareness to mental health issues and breaking the stigma. Here are some of the amazing things the coalition has done this past year:

- We continue to update and disperse our Resource guides throughout the region.
- Our Facebook page (Northwest Missouri Suicide Prevention Coalition) continues to go strong with 484 followers and 419 likes.
- We set up a booth at the Back-to-School Safety Fair with free resources and mental health awareness goodies (notebooks, pens, gunlocks, stickers, bags) We had 170 people in attendance.
- Set up a booth at the Northwest Missouri State Fair. Two individuals filled out paperwork with contact information because they were interested in joining our coalition.
- On May 20th 2023 the coalition hosted a Mental Health Awareness Walk at Memorial Park. We had 60 participants.
- In January 2023 teachers at South Harrison High School and Middle school received certification in Youth Mental Health First Aide.

What can you do to help prevent suicide?

1 
Don't underestimate the problems they face

2 
Be a good listener

3 
Support someone who is struggling

4 
Don't leave it alone

5 
Suggest seeing a psychiatrist

HEALTH EDUCATOR

Public Education

BACK TO SCHOOL SAFETY FAIR

On August 9th HCHD held their annual Back to School/Safety Fair. We handed out 125 backpacks. With the help from BTC Area Youth Benefit Corp, the Health Department was able to purchase backpacks filled with school supplies. The Health Department asked the community to donate gently used and/or new shoes for the fair. We had an amazing contribution from the community with close to 100 shoes donated. Bullseye Trading was kind enough to let us borrow their large bounce house for the kiddos at the fair. We had multiple booths set up with free resources and safety information. The Missouri State Highway patrol was able to bring out their car crash simulator which was a big hit. We also handed out free hotdogs and water. It was a rainy day but we still had around 170 people come and see us!!



Northwest Missouri State Fair

The Health Department, with the help of the Northwest Missouri Suicide Prevention Coalition and the Health and Wellness Coalition, set up a booth with multiple resources and handouts. We focused on mental health awareness, suicide prevention, the effects of tobacco (first and secondhand), and outdoor safety. We also had a breastfeeding booth set up for moms to have a quiet and private place to nurse. WIC resources were also handed out and promoted at this booth.



HEALTH EDUCATOR

Public Education



On October 4th the Health department participated in the National Walk to School Day sponsored by Safe Kids Worldwide. We started at the Hy-Vee parking lot with registration and give aways. With the help of the Bethany Police Department, HD staff, parents, and teachers we successfully and safely walked 108 kiddos to school! The class with the most participants won a pizza party!

FITNESS CHALLENGE



On April 3rd we hosted a Get Up and Move Challenge. It was an 8-week challenge with different physical activity goals every day they had to do. On Saturdays they would have to do a Mental Health goal. We had 98 participants sign up. On average there were about 20 people that finished the goal and sent in confirmation that they completed them. There was a prize drawing at the end of every week. One of our local gyms donated a 3-month membership to be given out as grand prize and the Health Department purchased another 3-month membership so we were able to have 2 grand prize winners.

CPR

CPR-or cardiopulmonary resuscitation-is an emergency lifesaving procedure performed when the heart stops beating. Immediate CPR can double or triple chances of survival after cardiac arrest. Preparing lay responders to recognize the signs of sudden cardiac arrest, call 9-1-1, and perform CPR in public and private locations is crucial to increasing survival from this public health problem. I hold CPR classes once a month and alternate between Heartsavers and BLS. In 2023 I taught and certified 44 individuals.



This year we had 2 community members utilize the community garden. One member donated over 200lbs of food back to the community!

HEALTH EDUCATOR

Public Education

Every year during the first full week of April we celebrate public health. We take time to recognize the contributions of public health and highlight issues that are important to improving our community's health. This is what we did this year:

MONDAY

- Kick off the Get up and Move 8-week challenge
- Community walk at Memorial Park at noon (we had 8 participants)

THURSDAY

- Did a FB video going over our Mental Health resource booklet and one page resource sheet
- Promoted Mental health awareness and wellness on social media

TUESDAY

- Handout local resources on violence prevention and shelters
- Promote Random act of Kindness with a Facebook live at noon with a giveaway

FRIDAY

- Narcan awareness and training through FB posts and video

WEDNESDAY

- \$1 off a smoothie at Blak Barrel Coffee
- Promote healthy eating choices through social media posts
- FB video of a tour of our community garden



2023 PUBLIC HEALTH, HOME HEALTH & HOSPICE TOTALS

Public Health Totals					
Public Health Visits	194	Head Lice Screenings	256	Lead Tests	104
Other Office Visits (not listed below)	488	Flu shots	493	TB Tests	41
WIC Caseload as of 12/31/2023	164	All Immunizations Given	1505	Animal Bites	27
Blood Pressure Clinics	241	CPR Classes	10	CPR Attendees	44
Dental Screenings	581	Birth Certificates	362	Hearing Screenings	815
STD Cases	4	Death Certificates	1042	Vision Screenings	196
New Driver Bags	1	Meningitis Shots	114	COVID Positive Cases	167
Blood Pressure Checked in Office	8	Pneumonia Shots	130	COVID Probable Cases	7
HAWC Meetings	10	Communicable Disease Cases	15	COVID Offsite Clinics	2
HAWC Attendees	71	Car Seats Given	9	COVID Vaccine Given	134
Food Inspections	63	Back to School/Health Safety Fair	170	County Commissioners Mtg. Attendees	13
Licensed Childcare Inspections	3	Safe Cribs Given	2	Car Seat Inspections	3
Lodging Inspections	4	Food Follow Ups	13	Licensed Childcare Consultations	3
Valid Complaints	5	Licensed Childcare Follow Ups	0	Loding Consultations	0
Recalls	54	Lodging Follow Ups	4	Environmental Consultations	10
Onsite Wastewater Consultations	33	Food Consultations	29	Rotary Attendees	17
NWMO Suicide Prevention Mtg.	12	NWMO Suicide Prevention Mtg. Attendees	102	Walk To School Day Participants	108
Summer Safety Presentation Participants	57	HCCH Health Fair	42	Suicide Prevention Walk Participants	60
Car Seat Safety Presentation	7	SHHS Senior Day Presentation	40	Offsite Flu Vaccines Given	41
SHHS STD Presentation	32	Truck Wrecks	3	Free Emergency Contraceptive Kits	100
Free Medication Disposal Bags Distributed	50	Free N95 Masks Distributed	200	Free At-Home COVID Tests Distributed	1,000
Free Narcan Bags Distributed	159	Free Condoms	100		
Hospice Totals					
Hospice Skilled Visits	798	Hospice Social Worker Visits	88	Hospice Aide	277
Hospice PT Visits	0	Hospice Chaplain	144	Hospice Homemaker	0
Hospice OT Visits	0	Hospice Speech Therapy Visits	0		
Home Health Totals					
Home Health Skilled Visits	764	Home Health Physical Therapy	344	Home Health Speech Therapy	21
Home Health Occupational Therapy	63	Home Health Aide	85	Home Health Social Worker	2

Harrison County



HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
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