



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Wyandotte County Public Health Department

# ANNUAL REPORT

# 2024

WYANDOTTE COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

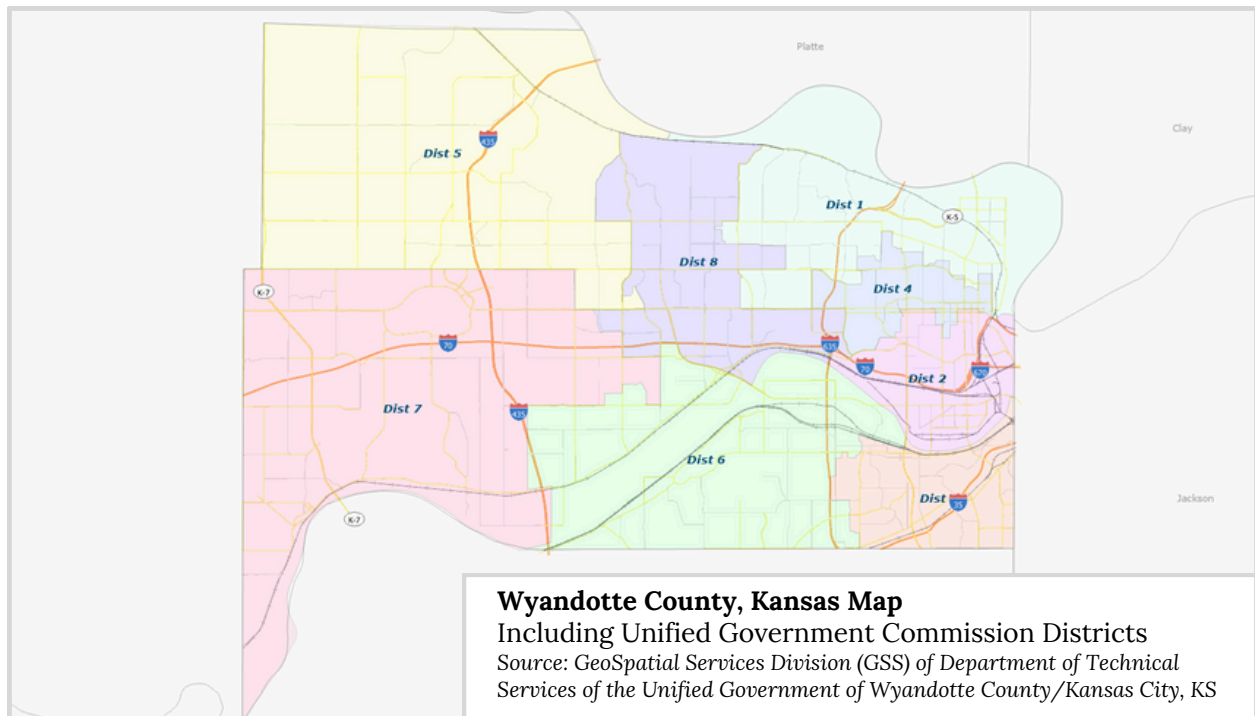
# Mission

*To prevent disease, promote wellness, and protect and improve the environment in Wyandotte County.*

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# Vision

*Healthy Wyandotte County residents living in a safe and clean environment.*



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# LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

**Dear Partners and Community Members,**

As we look back on 2024, I'm excited to share some highlights from the Health Department's work this past year. Here are just a few of the year's notable achievements:

- **Expanded Clinical Services:** We launched new clinical services, including treatment for common symptoms, employment physicals, and sports and camp physicals.
- **Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP):** Together with community partners, we kicked off the 2024-2028 CHIP, focusing on jobs & education, health care access, safe & affordable housing, violence prevention, and behavioral health.
- **Grant Support for Septic System Improvements:** Secured a \$50,000 grant to help underserved residents repair or replace septic systems.
- **Vaccine Outreach:** Implemented a grant project to better understand why some families fall behind schedule on their kids' vaccinations while continuing vaccine outreach efforts.
- **Breast Milk Donation Site:** Established a local breast milk donation site in partnership with The Milk Bank.

This year, we also focused on planning for the future. In 2024, we launched a 5-year Strategic Plan to guide us forward. We also began getting ready for reaccreditation through the Public Health Accreditation Board, which we'll apply for in 2025. Maintaining our accreditation reinforces our commitment to providing essential, high-quality public health services.

In this Annual Report, you'll also find insights into our financial stewardship. Most of our funding comes from grants, while less than one-third comes from local taxes. As we go into 2025, we will continue to look for new funding opportunities to help support our work.

As you are likely aware, Wyandotte County has historically faced many health challenges and inequities. Our county fares worse than Kansas and the U.S. on many factors that impact health, such as poverty and lack of health insurance, and we see poorer health outcomes, including lower life expectancy. We also see stark disparities across race and ethnicity, like higher infant mortality rates among Black residents. Because of this, we will continue to strive to build a focus on health equity and social determinants into our strategic plan implementation, reaccreditation efforts, our involvement in the CHIP, and our ongoing programs and services.

It's been an honor to serve Wyandotte County and work with the WyCo PHD throughout my first full calendar year as Health Department Director. I am incredibly proud of our team's hard work and deeply grateful for the collaboration of our community partners in 2024. I can't wait to see what we'll achieve together in 2025.

Thank you for your shared commitment to a healthier, stronger community.

Sincerely,



*Dr. Elisha Caldwell*

**Dr. Elisha Caldwell**

Director, Wyandotte County Public Health Department

# PHAB ACCREDITATION & STRATEGIC PLAN

## PHAB Accreditation

Health departments in the United States are not legally required to be accredited, and the accreditation process is instead a voluntary undertaking that helps accredited health departments demonstrate their ability to provide the 10 Essential Public Health Services. Throughout 2019-2020, the Wyandotte County Public Health Department (WyCo PHD) worked hard to achieve initial accreditation through the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB), and, through our annual reports to PHAB in each following year, have continued to show our dedication towards remaining accredited. Reaccreditation is due in 2025, and the WyCo PHD has dedicated much time throughout 2024 preparing for the upcoming reaccreditation cycle.



WyCo PHD's accredited status shows its dedication to improving the health and wellbeing of the residents of Wyandotte County. By working collaboratively with multiple divisions both within the health department and throughout the Unified Government, the accreditation requirements and health needs of local residents continue to be met, showcasing our dedication to improving not just WyCo PHD's capabilities, but also the health of our community entirely.

## Strategic Plan

The 2024-2028 strategic plan began development in 2023. Seven priority areas were chosen as the points of focus for the WyCo PHD over the next 5 years:

- Maternal and Infant Mortality
- Mental Health
- Substance Use
- Environmental Health
- Violence Prevention
- Organizational Effectiveness
- Clinical Services Evaluation

Multidisciplinary workgroups made up of staff from different divisions and programs focus on two subdivisions: clinical and community health services and organizational effectiveness. The clinical and community health services workgroups implement strategies and activities to work towards improvement in the priority areas of Maternal and Infant Mortality, Substance Use, Mental Health, Violence Prevention, and Environmental Health. The organizational effectiveness workgroups focus on safety, communications, clinical workflow, and internal systems, such as document management.

Monitorization and evaluation will be essential over the next four years to determine which areas are showing progress and which areas are remaining stagnant. In order to meet the needs of Wyandotte County residents to the best of our abilities, strategies that show lack of progress will need to be reworked and possibly replaced. Improvement, both internal through the WyCo PHD's organizational effectiveness and external through the community's improved health, will continue to remain our health department's highest priority.

**WYANDOTTE COUNTY  
PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

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**DIVISIONS**



# CLINICAL SERVICES

## Overview

Our Clinical Services Division provides an array of healthcare services, including low-cost or sliding scale services for people who are uninsured or underinsured. Service areas include:

- **Family Planning:** Well-woman exams; breast and cervical cancer screenings; Universal Home Visiting; pregnancy testing; reproductive planning and counseling; and birth control, including oral contraceptives and long-acting birth control options (IUDs, implants, Depo-Provera).
- **Immunizations:** Childhood immunizations, travel vaccinations, and seasonal vaccines.
- **Laboratory:** Pregnancy testing, tuberculosis testing, and a variety of commonly requested direct access labs.
- **Limited Primary Care:** Treatment for common conditions, work physicals, and sports and camp physicals.
- **Prenatal Care and Resources:** Prenatal classes, low-cost prenatal care for uninsured women in the county.
- **Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) Services:** Testing and treatment; HIV Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP)
- **Free Naloxone (Narcan) and Fentanyl Test Strips** available at the front desk.

## 2024 Highlights

**Tuberculosis outbreak response in collaboration with Kansas Department of Health and Environment and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention** - TB outreach and in-house labs - **Satellite health clinic launched in Bonner Springs** - Launched new services, including treatment for common symptoms and employment physicals (ages 18+) and sports and camp physicals (ages 12+) - **Ongoing outreach vaccine events in partnership with school nurses** - Clinical/Maternal and Child Health services provided to Spanish-speaking families - **Immunization events for students behind schedule** - Expanded services for HPV and cervical cancer screening by providing colposcopies - **Vaccine outreach programs for Hepatitis A** - Neighborhood based clinics via American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds and facilitated by Community Health - **Narcan distribution in collaboration with UG departments and WyCo libraries**

## PHAB Measures

7.1.1: Engage with health care delivery system partners to assess access to health care services

7.1.2: Implement and evaluate strategies to improve access to healthcare services

7.2.1: Collaborate with other sectors to improve access to social services

7.2.2: Collaborate with other sectors to ensure access to care during service disruptions

## Strategic Plan & Clinical Services Evaluation (CSE)

**SP 1:** Reduce barriers that prevent Wyandotte County residents of childbearing age from accessing family prenatal care and other needed healthcare services before -or early in- pregnancy | **SP 1:** Increase accessibility of WyCo PHD prenatal and other health services for Wyandotte County residents of childbearing age | **SP 1:** Increase trust in public health and healthcare systems by WyCo residents of childbearing age | **CSE Goal 1:** Increase the utilization of WyCo PHD STI and Family Planning Clinics | **CSE Goal 2:** Improve Clinical Flow Process from Scheduling to Checkout | **CSE Goal 3:** Improve internal and external customer satisfaction | **CSE Goal 4:** Enhance EMR utilization | **CSE Goal 5:** Close gaps in coverage, access, and quality of care among clients served

# COMMUNITY HEALTH

## Overview

- **Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP):** Providing backbone support to implement the CHIP, a plan to improve health across our county, created every 5 years based on health data and community input collected during a Community Health Assessment.
- **Health Equity Task Force (HETF):** A collaboration between the community and WyCo PHD dedicated to improving health equity in Wyandotte County, Kansas.
- **Community Health Education Program:** Trained staff educate middle and high school students on puberty, abstinence, contraception, and adulthood preparation subjects.
- **Substance Use:** Programs and resources include a Peer Support Program, free naloxone (NARCAN®), free fentanyl test strips, and connecting people to other Kansas City Metro Area resources.
- **Tobacco:** Programs include treatment services to help people quit tobacco and stay quit and coordinating a Tobacco Free Wyandotte Action Team to reduce the burden of tobacco-related disease in our county.
- **Violence Prevention:** Initiatives to address community risk factors for violence and increase community protective factors against violence.

## 2024 Highlights

**Launched the 2024-2028 Community Health Improvement Plan** – Secured \$1.3M to provide sexual health education to KCK middle school students – **Fentanyl/Overdose PSA campaign with 1.5M impressions and 22K clicks for help** – Organized moms who lost children to fentanyl to pass Kansas Good Samaritan Overdose Law – **Peer support recovery program served 35 residents who use drugs** – Established new Local Tobacco Retail License program – **Implemented KanQuit and My Life My Quit campaigns with Spotify and bus ads** – Completed Legal Assistance project (ARPA) with Kansas Legal Services, 450 served, 55 evictions prevented – **Youth Fatality Review Committee expanded capacity through \$70,000 grant** – Hosted 14 neighborhood-based clinics through Health Equity Task Force, providing 621 clinical service engagements

## PHAB Measures

- 4.1.1: Foster cross-sector collaboration to advance equity
- 4.1.2: Participate actively in a community health coalition
- 4.1.3: Engage with community members to address public health issues and promote health
- 5.1.1: Examine and contribute to improving policies and laws
- 5.2.1: Adopt a community health improvement plan (CHIP)
- 5.2.2: Encourage and participate in collaborative implementation and revision of the CHIP
- 5.2.3: Address factors that contribute to specific populations' higher health risks and poorer health outcomes

## Strategic Plan

**SP 2:** WyCo PHD has increased collaboration with community partners to implement the behavioral health strategies in 2024-2028 CHIP | **SP 3:** Increase WyCo PHD internal capacity and resources to connect clients to needed SUD services and supports | **SP 3:** Increase collaboration between WyCo PHD community health and clinical programs regarding substance use and SUDs | **SP 4.2.4:** Increase retail tobacco compliance with UG's tobacco retail license requirements | **SP 5:** Support evidence-based Community Violence Intervention initiatives through collaborating and coordinating with the justice system, community organizations, and county residents | **SP 5:** Improve community partnerships, internal education and resources, and collaboration with intimate partner violence/domestic violence related services to reduce IPV/DV rates in Wyandotte County



# EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE & CORONER

## Overview

The Emergency Preparedness and Response program champions WyCo PHD's readiness and efforts to mitigate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from a variety of public health threats, such as infectious diseases, natural disasters, biological, chemical, nuclear, and radiological events. Our department's Emergency Preparedness and Response program is part of and funded by the national Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) program and Cities Readiness Initiative (CRI).

## 2024 Highlights

**Started a new 5 year grant period with funding provided by the CDC through the Public Health Emergency Preparedness cooperative agreement and the Cities Readiness Initiative program** - Updated the Public Health Emergency Response Plan (PHERP) which includes the Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP), Community Disease Containment Plan (CC), and the Public Information and Communication Plan (PIC) - **Emergency Preparedness staff completed training on chemical preparedness with the Department of Homeland Security, comprehensive resource management and credentialing, and psychological first aid** - Health Department staff completed annual training plans that included HIPAA courses, incident command classes, and emergency action plans - **Emergency Preparedness staff coordinated and completed a workshop exercise on the Community Disease Containment Plan and a full-scale exercise on use of the Propio One communications tool** - Safety and Security Committee completed updates on the Emergency Action Plan and the plan was approved by the Unified Government Safety Team - **Safety and Security Committee completed the annual Tornado Drill and a full scale fire and evacuation exercise**

## PHAB Measures

- 2.2.1: Maintain a public health emergency operations plan (EOP)
- 2.2.2: Ensure continuity of operations during response
- 2.2.3: Maintain and expedite access to personnel and infrastructure for surge capacity
- 2.2.4: Ensure training for personnel engaged in response
- 2.2.5: Maintain a risk communication plan and a process for urgent 24/7 communications with response partners
- 2.2.6: Assess potential hazards, vulnerabilities, and resources in the jurisdiction
- 2.2.7: Conduct exercises and use After Action Reports (AARs) to improved preparedness and response

## Strategic Plan

**SP 6:** WyCo PHD actively promotes the physical and psychological safety and security of staff and clients in the building and in the field

# ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

## Overview

The Environmental Health Division includes a variety of programs to monitor and address environmental conditions that can impact public health. Our Environmental Health programs work to improve the quality of life of our residents through education, inspection and the enforcement of environmental health laws and regulations in Wyandotte County. Our Environmental Health Division consists of four program areas:

- Our local **Air Quality** program works to provide a cleaner, healthier environment for the residents of Wyandotte County. We regularly inspect facilities operating under air permits to ensure that they abide by local, state, and federal air quality laws. We also monitor the ambient air quality of Wyandotte County at our local monitoring site, allowing for informed decisions on relevant environmental programs.
- The **Child Care Licensing (CCL) Program** works with all child care providers in Wyandotte County. The CCL team completes child care-related inspections, offers KDHE-approved trainings for child care providers, presents orientation meetings for new providers, and provides resources for licensed providers.
- **Environmental Inspections** is responsible for annual inspections of aquatic facilities (pools, spas, spray parks) and septic systems. Issues permits for: septic systems, septic installer licensing, and aquatic facilities.
- The **Lead Hazard Control Program (kNow Lead KCK)** provides services to lessen lead poisoning exposure and other home health hazards.

## 2024 Highlights

**Received a KDHE wastewater grant (\$50,000) to assist underserved residents in repairing/replacing septic systems** - Began digitizing septic records to identify underserved areas and sewer charge errors - **Offered lead testing and assessments throughout the year** - Conducted indoor aquatic inspections - **Implemented HUD grant activities to mitigate lead exposure in homes** - Collaborated with Children's Mercy Hospital for Healthy Homes inspections - **Conducted ambient air monitoring** - Provided training sessions on new childcare regulations - **Ongoing collaboration with USD 500 for Kindergarten Transition Kit training** - Hosted ITSN-approved training for childcare providers to earn required license renewal hours - **Focused on daycare provider recruitment efforts, including promoting startup grant resources and orientation sessions**

## PHAB Measures

- 6.1.1: Monitor/improve inspection activities
- 6.1.2: Monitor/improve enforcement activities
- 6.2.1: Identify/implement improvement opportunities increasing compliance
- 6.2.2: Ensure investigation/enforcement activities are equitable

## Strategic Plan

**SP 4.1.1:** Increase property owner awareness of- and access to- resources to address lead-based paint and other | environmental hazards | **SP 4.2.1:** Reduce the number of swimming pools that have unsafe drains | **SP 4.2.2:** Reduce the number of antiquated or failing septic systems in Wyandotte County | **SP 4.2.3:** Increase communication/collaboration between WyCo PHD divisions or programs and other UG departments that have a role to play in enforcing environmental health laws and policies | **SP 4.3.1:** Reduce health impacts of excessive heat and heat waves on Wyandotte County residents

# EPIDEMIOLOGY

## Overview

Our Epidemiology team collects, analyzes and interprets data about our community's health and works to stop the spread of diseases in the county. The Epidemiology Division's work includes:

- **Communicable Disease Control (Infectious Disease Epidemiology):** Monitors infectious disease data, investigates reports of communicable diseases in Wyandotte County, investigates potential outbreaks of disease, and works to prevent the spread of disease.
- **Social Epidemiology:** Collects and analyzes data relating to non-infectious diseases and social determinants of health.
- **Informatics and Hot Spot Mapping:** Collects and analyzes health-related data including population-level data and data gathered from WyCo PHD's EMR system.

## 2024 Highlights

**Assisted in the outbreak response for a large tuberculosis outbreak** - Led work for a NACCHO grant evaluating vaccine hesitancy and improving childhood vaccination rates - **Published data and interactive website regarding the Heat Mapping campaign conducted in 2023** - Conducted influenza surveillance during flu season as reported by medical providers in Wyandotte County - **Provided data and evaluation support for CHIP work** - Provided support and data to expedited partner therapy policy efforts - **Investigated a variety of communicable diseases in the county including campylobacteriosis (17 cases), cryptosporidiosis (8), hepatitis C (94), legionellosis, pertussis, shigellosis (14), and streptococcus pneumoniae (25)**

## PHAB Measures

- 1.2.1: Collect non-surveillance public health data
- 1.2.2 T/L: Participate in data sharing with other entities
- 1.3.1: Analyze data and draw public health conclusions
- 1.3.2: Use data to recommend and inform public health actions
- 2.1.1: Maintain and improve surveillance systems
- 2.1.2: Ensure 24/7 access to resources for rapid detection, investigation, containment, and mitigation of health problems and EH hazards
- 2.1.3: Improve and collaboratively implement practices for investigation, containment, and mitigation of health problems and environmental hazards

# STRATEGIC OPERATIONS & COMMUNICATIONS

## Overview

The Strategic Operations and Communications Division supports WyCo PHD operations as a whole through:

- **Accreditation:** Coordinated initial accreditation and facilitates efforts to maintain our accreditation status through the Public Health Accreditation Board.
- **AmeriCorps:** Supervises, manages, and facilitates the placement of 10-15 members (VISTA and Public Health Corps) per year throughout Unified Government departments and community partners.
- **Communications:** Works to promote and support the department's communication efforts through multiple channels, such as press releases, social media, etc.
- **Performance Management and Quality Improvement:** Facilitates standard operating procedures (SOPs) for the WyCo PHD and creation/oversight of the Workforce Development Plan.
- **Strategic Planning:** Reinforces and aligns goals and activities of the WyCo PHD with the evidence-based practice of accrediting bodies.

## 2024 Highlights

**AmeriCorps VISTA Program: New members joined in Summer 2024** - \$204,800 workforce development grant allocated for staff education benefits: funded by KDHE - **Began Public Health and Accreditation Board (PHAB) reaccreditation application and data collection (to be submitted in 2025)** - Developed and built a performance management system for the WyCo PHD strategic plan implementation - **Launched WyCo PHD Communications Ambassadors Program for each WyCo PHD division**

## PHAB Measures

- 3.1.1: Maintain procedures to provide ongoing, non-emergency communication outside WyCo PHD
- 3.1.2: Inform the public about public health's role and functions, and build a positive reputation of the health department in the community
- 3.1.3: Use a variety of methods to make information available to the public and assess communication strategies
- 3.2.1: Design and assess communication strategies to encourage actions to promote health
- 3.2.2: Implement and evaluate health communication efforts to encourage actions to promote health and well-being
- 8.1.1: Recruit and promote the development of a qualified and diverse public health workforce
- 8.2.1: Develop and implement a workforce development plan and strategies
- 8.2.2: Build a supportive work environment
- 9.1.1: Implement a performance management system
- 9.1.2: Establish a process that guides health department QI efforts across the department
- 9.1.3: Implement quality improvement projects
- 9.1.4: Nurture a culture of quality across the health department
- 9.2.1: Base programs and interventions on the best available evidence
- 9.2.2: Foster innovation

## Strategic Plan

- SP 1:** Increase trust in public health and healthcare systems by Wyandotte County residents of childbearing age |
- SP 6:** Increase community awareness of and trust in the WyCo PHD STI, Family Planning and other clinical and community programs and services, particularly by populations experiencing health inequities

# WIC/EARLY INTERVENTION & PREVENTION SERVICES

## Overview

### Women, Infants and Children (WIC)

The Wyandotte County WIC program protects the health of low-income women who are pregnant or breastfeeding for up to one year or recently delivered up to six months, infants, and children under age five by providing:

- Nutritious foods at local grocery stores
- Breastfeeding support, including breastfeeding peer counseling
- Nutrition counseling
- Referrals to other health sources and social services

### Early Intervention and Prevention (EIP)

Early Intervention and Prevention (EIP) programs include:

- Healthy Families Wyandotte (HFW) – Intensive Home Visiting program for pregnant moms. Caseworkers work with the moms until their child turns 3 years old. The program focuses on child development, breastfeeding support, and birth outcomes.
- Youth Empowerment Services (YES) – Free case management for pregnant and parenting teens and young adults. Eligibility for the YES program: 1) age 21 or younger, 2) on Kansas Medicaid, 3) live in Wyandotte County, and 4) pregnant OR have a child under 12 months old.

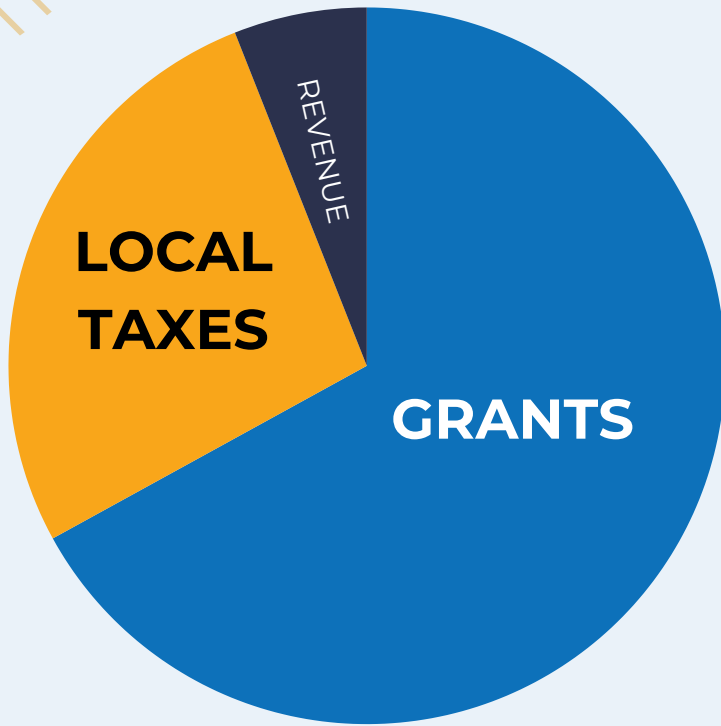
## 2024 Highlights

**WIC celebrated 50 years with proclamation from Kansas Governor's Office** - Mom & Baby Fair, hosted by WIC and the Wyandotte County Breastfeeding Coalition - **Established a breast milk donation site in partnership with The Milk Bank** - WIC served over 5,300 clients per month

## PHAB Measures

**7.2.1:** Collaborate with other sectors to improve access to social services

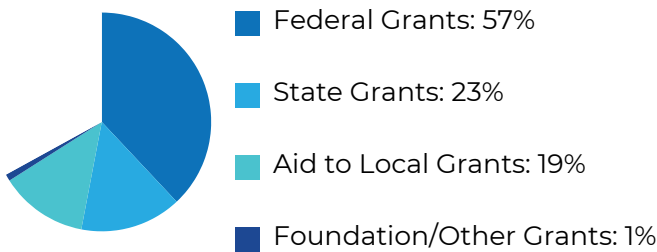
# FINANCIALS



**2024 Total Operating Revenue:**  
\$12,335,402

Approximately two thirds of the WyCo PHD's 2024 operating revenue came from grants, including a combination of federal, state, and foundation grants. Local tax dollars make up 27% of the budget, the majority of which come from the Health Tax Levy. Only 6% of the budget comes from other sources, including charges for some clinical services or for licenses, permits, and fees.

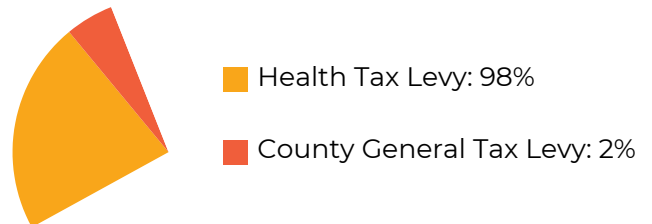
## Grants: \$8,220,032 (67%)



In 2024, WyCo PHD received funds from nearly 40 different grants. These grants supported a wide array of service areas, including:

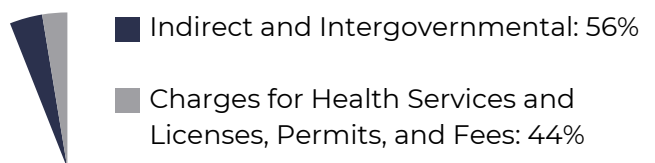
- Clinical services, such as Family Planning and Immunizations
- Women, Infants and Children (WIC)
- Home visiting for people who are pregnant or have young children
- Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP)
- Environmental health programs, such as lead paint remediation
- Community health initiatives, such as overdose prevention efforts
- Communicable disease control
- Public health emergency preparedness
- WyCo AmeriCorps program

## Local Taxes: \$3,374,170 (27%)



County tax levies come from sources like real estate property taxes and motor vehicle taxes. The Health Tax Levy is meant to fund Health Department services.

## Revenue: \$741,200 (6%)



Charges for health services include laboratory fees, immunizations, and other clinical services. Licenses, permits and fees include child care licenses, pool permits, and septic permits.



All-Staff Photo  
November 14, 2024



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

