



ANNUAL REPORT 2023

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In reflecting on the past year for Washington County Public Health, the word “*opportunity*” stands out. Every day in our work, we are fortunate to have the opportunity to serve the citizens of Washington County. This year, however, we had many situations that called for staff to go above and beyond the norm. As you will read in this Annual Report, we saw many changes over the past year. From staff turnover and position changes to new program structures, the team at WCPH faced every new challenge head-on and continually sought out opportunities for growth and improvement.

I am extremely proud of the work that has been accomplished in the last year, but what I am even more proud of is the team that we have and the dedication they have shown to Washington County on a daily basis. Among the 15 individuals who are employed by Washington County Public Health, there is a combined 175 years of service. In the midst of all of the changes we experienced in the past year, staff dedication and our mission to protect, nurture, and advance the health of our communities have remained unchanged.

On behalf of the Washington County Board of Health and the employees of Washington County Public Health, I thank you all for reviewing this report and supporting the work we do to promote and protect health in Washington County.

Yours in Health,
Emily Tokheim, MPH, Administrator

Washington County Public Health Staff 2022-2023

		Years of Service
Administrator	Emily Tokheim, MPH	2
Clinical Nurse Manager	Karri Fisher, RN, MSN	13
Fiscal Administrator	Peggy Wood, BA	17
Public Health Nurse	Megan Waterhouse, RN, BSN	8
Home Health Nurses	Jenifer Roberts, RN, BSN	4
	Diane Waldschmidt, RN, BSN	11
	Carman Davis, RN,	1
	Virginia Miller, LPN	10
Home Health Aides	Jackie Brown, CNA	4
	Bonnie Lins, CNA	8
	Irene McDowell, CNA	10
Administrative Support Staff	Susie Beatty – Billing specialist	32
	Maxine Hervey – Program assistant	11
	Jessica Janecek – Billing specialist	10
Social Worker	Sarah Smith, LBSW	2
Dental Assistant	Lori Hobscheidt, RDA	26
I-Smile™ Coordinator	Martha Hernandez-Lopez, RDH	6

Washington County Board of Health 2022-2023

Cathy Buffington, Chairperson
 Jack Seward, Vice Chairperson
 Trevor Martin, DO
 Andrea Leyden (January – June)
 Jenny Morgan (January – June)
 Chris Grier, DC (July – December)
 Connie Larsen (July-December)

Staff News



In July, 2022, Lori Hobscheidt celebrated her 25 year anniversary with Washington County Public Health. Thank you Lori for your dedication and work to support the community!

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

Community Outreach

The staff at Washington County Public Health have taken many opportunities to interact with our local communities as possible this year.

WCPH staff once again participated in some of the traditional community events that we attend annually – Kids’ Day at the Washington County Fair in July 2022, Washington’s Festival Latino in August 2022, Washington Farmers’ Market in August 2022, KidzFest hosted by Washington County Hospitals and Clinics in May 2023, and school-related events such as Kindergarten round-up, registration, and meet-the-teacher nights.

Various programs are represented when we attend events, including: immunizations, emergency preparedness, Hawk-i, I-Smile, Child and Adolescent Health, Maternal Health, 1st Five, and Home Care.



Emergency Preparedness

Public health emergency preparedness is a vital activity for Washington County Public Health. In the event of an emergency, we must be prepared to respond in order to protect the health and safety of our community members. WCPH plays an active role in emergency preparedness by working closely with local, regional, and state partners.



Ongoing emergency preparedness activities include:

- Annual WCPH staff drills and exercises
- Participation in the Washington County Healthcare Coalition, Local Emergency Planning Committee, and Health Care Coalition for Service Area 5 (Southeast Iowa)
- Iowa Health Alert Network test participation and monthly radio tests
- Review and revision of the agency's Emergency Preparedness Plan
- Assure staff competencies in accordance with the Federal National Incident Management System (NIMS)

Fresh Conversations



Fresh Conversations is a free nutrition education program designed to support healthy aging and independence. Each month, Iowans aged 60 and older gather in communities across Iowa to discuss current nutrition and health topics, taste low-cost healthy recipes, and discover new ways to stay active and independent. In FY23, a Washington County staff member held monthly Fresh Conversations classes at the United Presbyterian Home in Washington.

In June 2023, we received notification that we will be able to expand the program for the upcoming year in Washington County. Be on the lookout for more information on where and when additional classes will be offered!

Communicable Disease Surveillance

Communicable disease surveillance and follow up is a required function of Local Boards of Health. Under the Board of Health, Washington County Public Health performs this service to the community. Communicable disease cases are reported to local public health departments using the Iowa Disease Surveillance System (IDSS). This system is maintained through communication between public health, private physicians, hospitals, labs, schools, nursing homes, and the Iowa Department of Public Health. Washington County Public Health’s responsibility in communicable disease surveillance is to provide prompt investigation of possible outbreaks and implement control measures to contain further spread of the disease. Through early detection, education, and proper interventions, WCPH strives to keep our community healthy.



Washington County Reportable Diseases 2022-2023

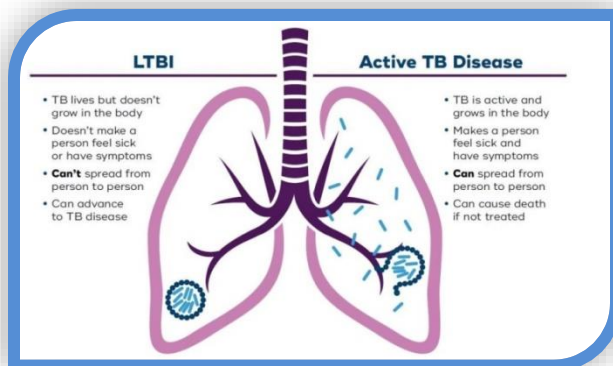
Campylobacter	5
Cholera	1
CPO (Carbapenemase-producing organism)	1
Cryptosporidium	9
E. Coli	6
Giardia	1
Lyme	11
Pertussis	7
Q Fever	1
Salmonella	13
Total	55

COVID-19

On May 11, 2023, the federal COVID-19 Public Health Emergency ended. Although we know COVID-19 remains present in our community, the CDC's ability to collect and share accurate data has changed because COVID-19 is no longer a reportable disease. Because of this, it is now treated like many other respiratory illnesses, such as influenza and RSV, and changes in community transmission are collected using hospital admissions and lab data. COVID vaccines remain available through WCPH.



Latent TB Infection Program



Early detection of tuberculosis (TB) infection in conjunction with public education is crucial in reducing the risk of an active TB infection. By providing timely and effective treatment, WCPH plays a role in ensuring that most people diagnosed with a Latent TB infection do not progress into Active TB. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) statistics show that 5-10% of infected individuals that do not receive treatment for latent TB

infections develop an active TB disease at some point in their lives. In order to decrease that risk, people with a positive TB skin test who also have risk factors (such as diseases that weaken the immune system), are given antibiotics to treat the latent infection. Washington County Public Health works with the Iowa Department of Public Health's TB Control Program and in partnership with the client's physician by providing ongoing case management during the course of treatment. Medications are sent to WCPH for distribution and monthly appointments are scheduled. At the time of this appointment medication is distributed, a nursing assessment completed and adverse reactions noted and reported.

Immunization

The state sponsored Vaccines for Children Program (VFC) allows Washington County Public Health to provide immunizations free of charge for children who meet certain guidelines which includes: children enrolled in Medicaid, uninsured, underinsured, American Indian or Alaskan Native, and 0-18 years of age. In addition, the immunization program provides seasonal influenza vaccines during scheduled clinics and within the community to businesses, schools districts, and at community events.



WCPH continues to work hard to improve vaccination compliance by offering 4 daytime clinics and 2 evening clinics monthly in attempt to be available for all schedules. Our staff also work hard at preventing no-show appointments and cancellations by setting up appointment reminders via text, sending post cards, contacting families of children that are behind on their immunizations, and encouraging medical providers to use the Immunization Registry Information System (statewide database). The immunization program is vital to the overall health of the community.

Total Doses Administered by Vaccine Type Comparison

	2021-22	2022-23		2021-22	2022-23
DTap	87	63	Hep B, adult	9	13
Tdap	75	85	Hep A, child	167	166
Tdap (Adult)	21	11	HPV	108	102
DTap-Hep B-IPV	77	40	PCV	231	226
DTap-IPV	65	58	Meningitis B	70	57
Td (total doses)	2	6	Meningitis (MCV4)	145	124
IPV (Polio)	29	29	Rotavirus	76	91
MMR	95	54	Seasonal Influenza,child	215	166
MMRV	73	74	Seasonal Influenza,adult	567	492
Varicella	105	65	Covid, adult	643	213
Hib	101	70	Covid, child	234	197
Hep B, Child	35	15	TB test	5	17
DTap-HepB-Hib-IPV	117	153	Total	3352	2587

School and Child Care Immunization Audit Data

School and child care immunization audits are conducted yearly per Iowa Code to ensure required vaccines have been received in an effort to prevent diseases from spreading that can cause serious health problems among children. Our department is responsible for all children enrolled in Washington county School District and for all children attending a licensed daycare or after school program.

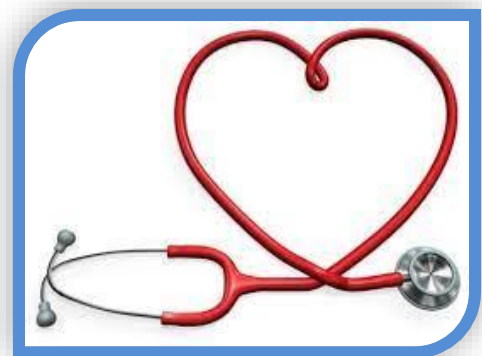
School Audits	2021-22	2022-23
Number of schools audited	13	13
Total enrollment	4150	4282
Immunization certificates	3571	3685
Medical exemptions	18	15
Religious exemptions	251	322
Invalid or no certificate	301	100
Provisional certificates	9	160
Child Care Audits	2021-22	2022-23
Number of schools audited	17	15
Total enrollment	686	897
Immunization certificates	624	837
Medical exemptions	0	0
Religious exemptions	8	15
Invalid or no certificate	46	10
Provisional certificates	8	35

Home Health Services

Washington County Public Health (WCPH) continues to take a holistic approach toward both population and non-population health through our Medicare Certified home health division. As the state of Iowa continues to age, more and more county residents are making the choice to age in place by taking advantage of the services provided in their homes by our agency. Our agency receives referrals from as far away as Des Moines and Cedar Rapids for Washington County residents. Staff longevity is an integral part of providing uninterrupted care which prevents hospitalization and decreases emergency room use among the elderly. The WCPH nursing staff collectively hold nearly 30 years of service to the agency and residents of the county. Our skilled nursing, aide services and in-home therapy options are viewed by many as a local alternative to institutional care. We provide services that are personalized to fit the patient and family needs at a fraction of the cost of institutional care by focusing on efficiency and excellence in the services provided.

Skilled Nursing

Skilled nursing services provided to the residents of Washington County are based on the rules and regulations handed down by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid. The Medicare benefit may cover such tasks as complicated wound care, maintenance and care of central lines, teaching about and evaluation of many chronic diseases such as diabetes and heart failure. WCPH also provides services to many chronically ill patients that would otherwise require institutional levels of care. Nurses are able to collaborate with physicians and pharmacies to assist patients with navigation of new medications and instructions for care which studies have shown may decrease re-hospitalization and emergency room use. As we see the population age, there is a trend toward acute care stay lengths shortening resulting in heightened patient acuity level in the home which in turn, increases these risks. Staff members have provided 1,954 skilled nursing visits for 2022-2023.



Contracted Therapy

Washington County Public Health continues to partner with three area therapy agencies to provide our patients with physical, occupational and speech therapies in their homes. The provision of these services is integral to improving the conditions of the patients in our county and allowing them to remain in their homes. Our therapy partners collaborate with the nurses at Washington County Public Health to develop and implement an

individualized plan of care that meets the needs of the patient. In the past fiscal year there were a total of 235 therapy visits.

Home Health Aide/Homemaker

This program provides personal care and light housekeeping tasks to the residents of our county enabling them to remain safely in their homes. Aide services promote appropriate adequate hygiene, skin care and safety of our patients helping them avoid worsening of many chronic conditions. Home Health Aides completed 2,819 visits for 52 patients over the past fiscal year. Homemakers completed 1,710 visits for 52 patients in the same time period.

CSA/Services Transition

Maternal Child and Adolescent Health

In October 2022, the State of Iowa took on a massive change, impacting how we provide Maternal, Child, and Adolescent Health services, as well as the 1st Five Program with the introduction of “*Collaborative Services Areas*.” For nearly the last 20 years, Washington County held the grant for these programs and provided services in Washington and Henry Counties in collaboration with Henry County Public Health. With the transition to the CSA model, Washington County is now a member of CSA 13 which includes: Washington, Henry, Lee, Des Moines, Louisa, and Muscatine Counties. Lee County Health Department holds the Maternal Health, Child and Adolescent Health, and 1st Five grants on behalf of the CSA.

The staff at Washington County Public Health have worked very closely with Lee County Health Department and Trinity Muscatine Public Health for the last two years as we anticipated this transition. Our collective goal has been to continue serving our local communities throughout the transition to CSAs. While this transition has certainly been noticed internally as we adjust to working with our new partners, it is our hope that you and your families felt this transition minimally, if at all. Washington County Public Health staff continue to provide many of the same services we have for years – including I-Smile @ School, fluoride varnish at preschools, vision screening, developmental screening, and lead testing to name a few.

Dental Services

Fluoride Varnish

The Preschool Fluoride Varnish program provided dental services including, dental screening, fluoride Varnish application, dental referrals and care coordination to all 13 participating centers in Washington and Henry Counties. Each center received three visits throughout the school year. A total of 1,289 students were served.

Dental Sealants

I-Smile @ School program provided dental screening, sealants, fluoride varnish, oral hygiene instruction, care coordination and referral to a total of 8 schools in Washington and Henry counties. Besides the benefits of these services, this program helps identify students with dental needs and allows the dental hygienist to provide additional dental support for the families such as scheduling a dental appointment or coordinating transportation.

Washington and Henry counties have a total of 9 dental offices (some with multiple providers in each office) but NONE taking new or existing Medicaid clients. This continues to be the biggest dental barrier. The WCPH Fluoride Varnish and I-Smile at School programs are essential in filling in this gap for dental services.

School	# Dental Screenings provided	# Fluoride Varnish applications	# of Risk Assessments	# of Kids that received sealants	# of Sealants Placed	# of Kids with Decay
New London	73	72	73	24	87	23
WMU	31	31	31	6	22	8
MPCSD Lincoln	27	27	27	7	29	7
MPCSD Harlan	25	25	25	11	39	8
MPCSD Van Allen	42	41	42	17	58	21
WCSD Lincoln	73	72	73	26	75	29
WCSD Stewart	41	41	41	18	80	9
Waco/Crawfordsville	38	38	38	14	51	15
Totals	350	347	350	123	441	120

Savings	New London	WMU	MPCSD Lincoln	MPCSD Harlan	MPCSD Van Allen	WCSD Lincoln	WCSD Stewart	Waco Crawfordsville
Value of dental Screening	\$1,423	\$604	\$526	\$487	\$819	\$1,423	\$799	\$741
Value of Fluoride Varnish	\$1,018	\$432	\$377	\$349	\$572	\$1,004	\$572	\$530
Value of Oral Hygiene instruction	\$125	\$0	\$78	\$0	\$203	\$63	\$78	\$16
Value of Sealant applications	\$1,735	\$439	\$578	\$778	\$1,157	\$1,496	\$1,595	\$1,017
Value of Risk assessments	\$73	\$31	\$27	\$25	\$42	\$73	\$41	\$38
Total per school	\$4,374	\$1,506	\$1,586	\$1,639	\$2,793	\$4,059	\$3,085	\$2,342
	Henry County Total					Washington County Total		
	\$11,898					\$9,486		

Lead Monitoring

Washington County Public Health offers lead testing for children receiving WIC services and for those entering kindergarten that have no prior recorded level. Mandatory lead testing helps protect children from lead poisoning which often has no symptoms but can have long term effects on their brain. We obtain capillary (finger stick) samples and those results are provided to the family within minutes. During their visit a Registered Nurse discusses the long-term effects of elevated lead levels, possible causes, ways to prevent lead poisoning, and case management if arrangements are needed for follow-up care and re-testing.



Vision Screening

Vision disability is the single most prevalent disabling condition among children. Our agency has been able to incorporate vision screenings into our Child Health programming.

The Welch Allyn Sure Spot Vision Screener is an acceptable child vision screening method approved by the Iowa Department of Public Health to meet the child vision screening requirements pursuant to Iowa code for kindergarten and 3rd graders. This screener can be used on all patients regardless of age, eye color, disability, or other limiting factors.



The Sure Spot Vision Screener ensures children get appropriate and timely referral to an optometrist if necessary. Failing to detect and treat vision disorders has been shown to negatively impact child development, academic achievement, self-esteem, social-emotional behavior and juvenile delinquency. Providing the screening during the provision of other services improves accessibility for low-income children.

Women Infant and Children (WIC) Program

WIC (Women Infants, & Children) is a supplemental nutrition program for babies, children under the age of 5, pregnant women, breastfeeding women, and women who have had a baby in the last 6 months. WIC helps families by providing healthy foods, nutrition education, and referrals to other health care agencies. Income guidelines must be met for eligibility for the program.



This program utilizes an EBT system which is an efficient method for families to utilize their benefits. WIC was one of the many programs impacted by the introduction to Collaborative Service Areas, and is now provided by Community Action of Southeast Iowa two days each month in Washington County.

Washington County Public Health provides a social worker for vision screenings, referral to The Family Connection, resource and referral and a dental hygienist for oral screenings and referral, and developmental screenings at all WIC clinics in Washington County. MCAH staff continues to look at new and innovative ways how important enhanced services can be provided within the community.

Healthy and Well Kids in Iowa (Hawki)

Hawki (Healthy and Well Kids in Iowa) is Iowa's effort to make affordable health insurance coverage available to children in working families with incomes too high to qualify for Medicaid, but too low to afford private family coverage. If a family's income meets certain guidelines, and the family does not qualify for Medicaid, the uninsured children may be eligible for coverage under a plan sponsored by AmeriGroup or Iowa Total Care. The amount a family pays for the insurance is based on their income. Some families pay nothing, while other families may have to pay between \$0 and \$40 a month for Hawki coverage. Hawki will provide coverage for children and teens under the age of 19 and does not provide insurance for other family members.



All children deserve to start life with healthy bodies and healthy minds. To do this, children need access to health and mental services that can provide them with preventive care and treatment for illness. Washington County Public Health provides assistance to families in answering questions about the program and providing assistance in the application process. Our agency serves as an advocate for families to ensure their children receive necessary coverage.

1st Five Healthy Mental Development Initiative

Early identification of developmental delays followed by appropriate intervention has been proven to be extremely beneficial in helping children achieve their optimal potential. The 1st Five Healthy Mental Development Initiative was created as a result of this research with an aim to identify all children, ages 0-5, with a possible delay. 1st Five partners with local medical providers to promote the use of developmental screening tools that have been designed to help with early identification and have been recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics. 1st Five provides training for medical providers and clinic staff regarding the proper use of developmental screening tools during well-child visits. Children who are identified as having a possible delay are then referred to 1st Five for care coordination services.



1st Five is the final program impacted by the CSA's, with Lee County taking on CSA 13 in January 2023. WCPH continues to provide assistance to families referred to the 1st Five program in Washington and Henry Counties.

Appendix A

