



2022 ANNUAL REPORT OF ACTIVITIES

A report of activities and accomplishments of the Joint City-Cowley County Health Department for the year ended December 31, 2022, provided to the elected representatives and citizens of Cowley County, Kansas.

City-Cowley County Health Department
320 E 9th, Suite B
Winfield, KS 67156
620-221-1430

www.cowleycountyks.gov/departments/publichealth



City-Cowley County
Health Department

Prevent ~ Promote ~ Protect

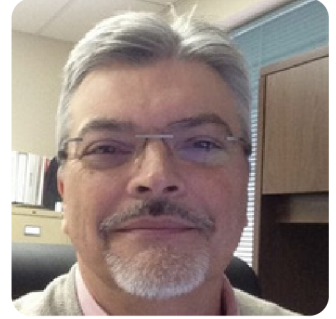
115 E. Radio Lane
Arkansas City, KS
67005

320 East 9th, Suite B
Winfield, KS
67156

A Special Letter to the Community

A look back and a look ahead.

The ebb and flow of the year 2022 began with record breaking illness and ended with renewed hope that the saga of COVID-19 will become less of a daily factor in our lives. As we do every year we have taken time to perform a serious evaluation of our annual operational activities. We examine where we started and where we ended, what we did well and where we can improve. During our evaluation we found information that we believe you should know about. Specific milestones or facts that can provide a better “picture” of what the City Cowley County Health Department has done during the past year.



During the course of the pandemic your Health Department became the focal point of many emotional outpourings and discussions. Nationally Public Health was given a black eye for the way the pandemic was handled. It has professionally saddened me as I have always trusted science and the benefits of preventative medicine. There were days during which local public health was reviled and other days when we were celebrated. It became a never-ending cycle of activities all of which were carried out under our guiding principles; provide the people of the community with the facts, provide them a choice, and do our best to improve the health and wellbeing of all the residents in Cowley County. There were times that I wondered if we would ever be able to return to any type of normalcy again.

However, even in the grim periods, your Health Department did its job. The report contained in the following pages highlights accomplishments of Health Department during 2022 and seeks to illustrate the importance and value to the community that your Health Department provides. This year’s report has taken on a different look, fewer words more descriptive pictures, charts, and graphs. We hope it will provide you a deeper understanding of what has been accomplished in an easy-to-understand format.

As the Health Department Administrator and County Public Health Officer I am very proud, not only of the accomplishments recorded herein, but more so of the people of public health here in our community that made these results possible. The members of the City Cowley County Joint Board of Health, the school nurses across the county, the directors of infection control in health care facilities, the hospitals and long-term care facilities. Most importantly I want to thank the staff of the Health Department. All of them live here in our communities, have families and friends, and are committed to providing you the best public health services that we can.

Our focus moving forward during 2023, will be to further “unwind” from the pandemic mayhem that fundamentally changed our lives, and to continue to provide you with the finest preventative health care service that we can. As always we will work to prevent illness, promote good health, and enforce protective measures to help everyone attain the lifetime benefit of good health. We promise that we will be here each day, that we will be responsive to you and assist you in your quest to be healthy, because at your Health Department we work hard every day to help you stay well!

It remains my honor to serve the Cowley County community.

Thomas Langer, MPA
Administrator & Public Health Officer

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Thomas Langer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

76 YEARS OF SERVICE

+ OVER
30

Health &
Support
Services

7 CORE PROGRAMS

TO HELP YOU STAY WELL



Immunizations



Maternal &
Child Health



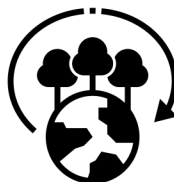
Women, Infants
& Children



Family
Planning



Childcare
Licensing



Environmental
Health



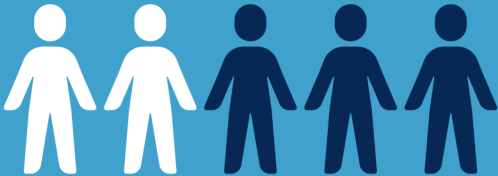
Emergency
Preparedness

Clients Served

16,536 Clients Served

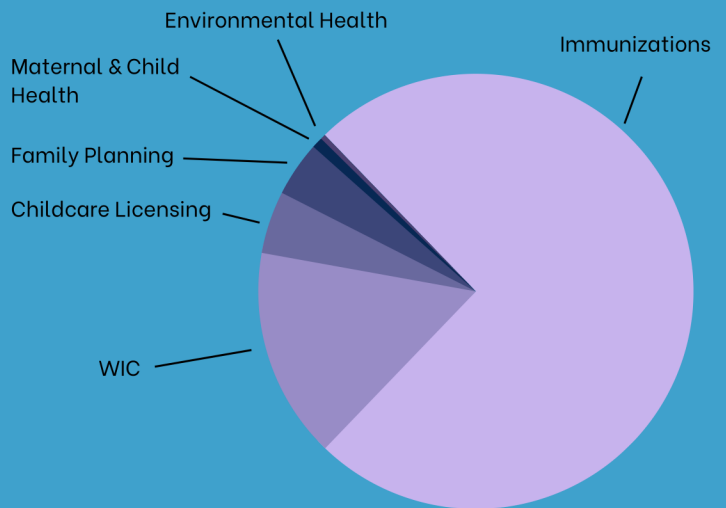
3,193 1st Time Clients

19,324 Appointments

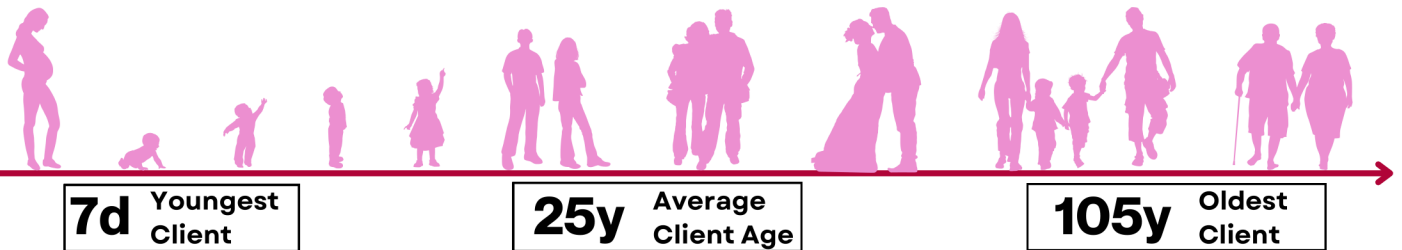


At least 2 in 5 Cowley County residents received a Health Department service.

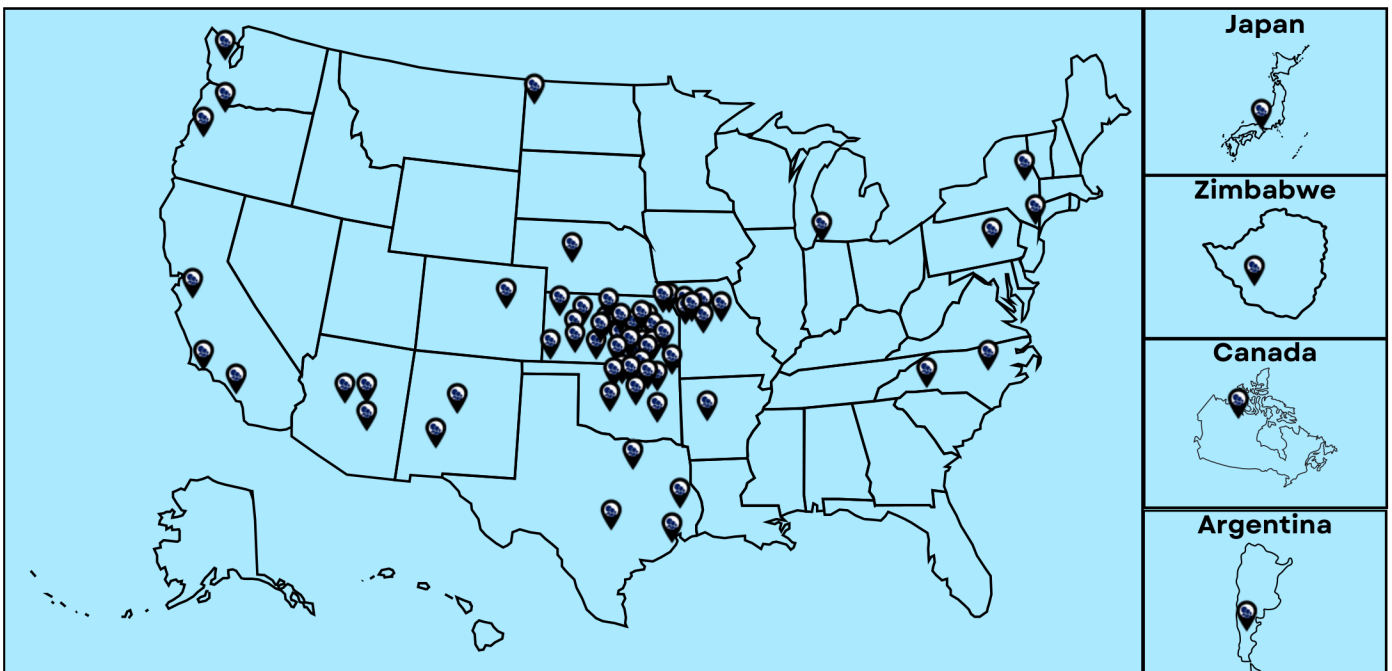
Service Visits by Program



Service Through Every Stage of Life



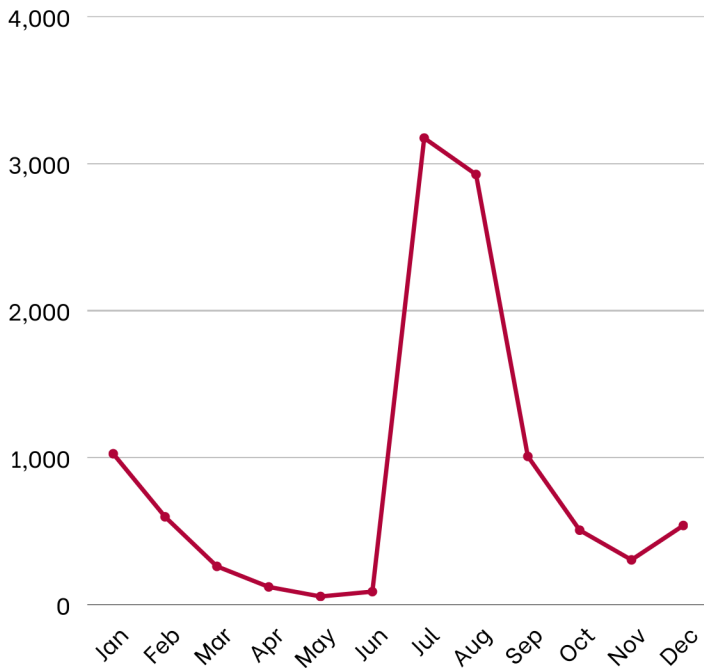
Clients Served From Around the World*



*Based on address provided at the time of service

Pandemic Response

COVID-19 Home Tests Distributed During 2022



1,709

COVID-19 Tests Administered

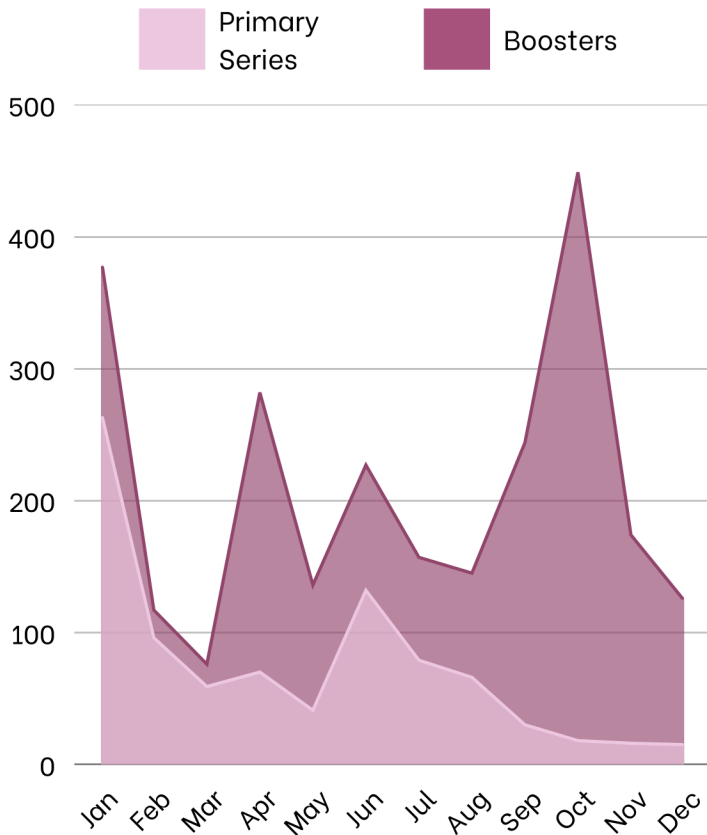
2,509

COVID-19 Vaccines Administered

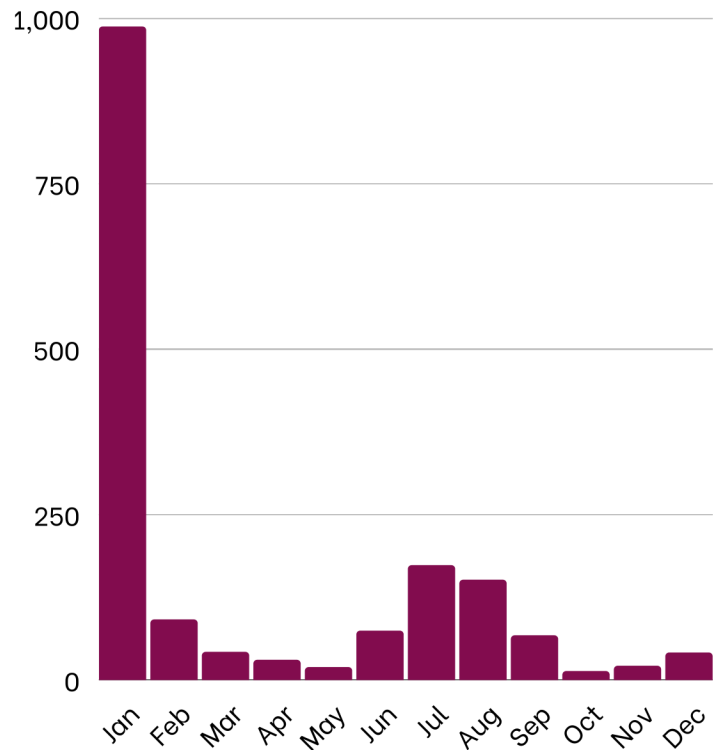
10,602

Home Test Kits Distributed

COVID-19 Vaccines Administered During 2022



COVID-19 Tests Administered During 2022



Communicable Disease Control

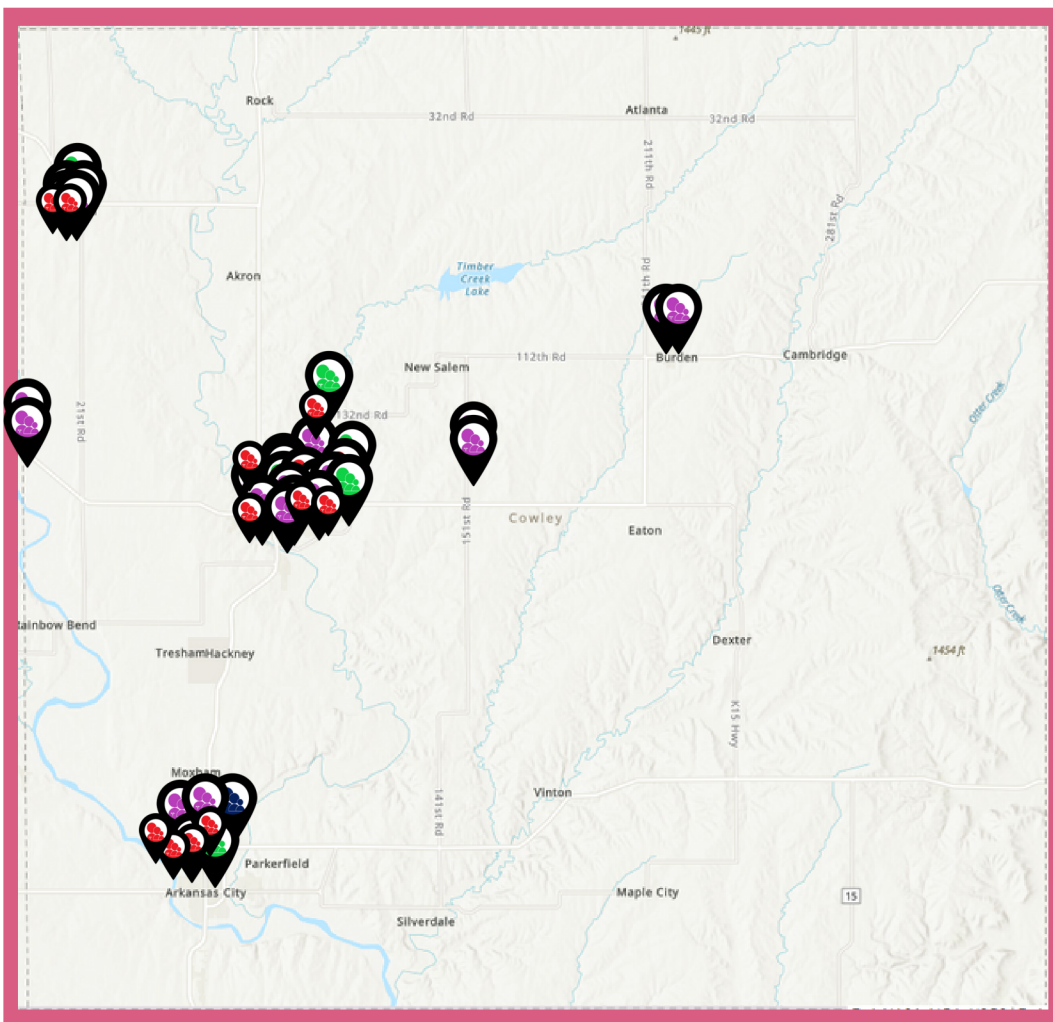
We continue to monitor disease trends that may impact health and work to educate the community on preventative strategies to stay well. For example, in 2022, we investigated suspect cases of sensitive communicable diseases (see left). In addition, we work to reduce illness by offering competitive new-to-market vaccines and vaccination opportunities throughout the county.

Diseases Monitored in 2022*

Shigellosis	Lyme Disease	Varicella
Gonorrhea	Chlamydia	Tuberculosis
Mumps	Clostridium	Ebola

*Among others

Offsite Vaccine Clinics



COVID-19



Influenza



Combination
(vaccines offered for more than one virus)



Vaccination clinic provided at location more than once

55 Total Clinics

Healthy Start-Home Visitation Services


Our Healthy Start Home Visitors (HSHV) connect new and expecting mothers with the education, resources, and support they need to ensure their newborn has a healthy start in life.

HSHV Program staff recently updated their curriculum to include screenings and support services on relevant health-inducing topics, including intimate partner/domestic violence, health homes, and much more. In addition, program recruitment was expanded to provide care to ANY pregnant and/or postpartum woman up to 12 months after delivery.




Pediatric & Adolescent Health Assessments


Purpose




Identify
Health Concerns



Initiate
Corrective Action




Improve
Health




Educate
Families


Action




Growth & Developmental Screening




Blood Lead Screening




Hemoglobin Screening



Auditory Screening




Vision Screening




Dental Screening


2 mo. → 18 yrs.




Completed in 2022 by age




- <1 years
- 1-3 years
- 4-5 years
- 6-9 years
- 10-13 years
- 14-15 years
- 16+ years



Medicaid



Private Pay



Self Pay

Women, Infants, & Children (WIC)

Benefits

Participants experience improved health through essential education and supplemental food assistance.



Over \$600k added to the local economy in 2022

Local Impact

987 Participants
228 Newborns
2634 WIC Appointments



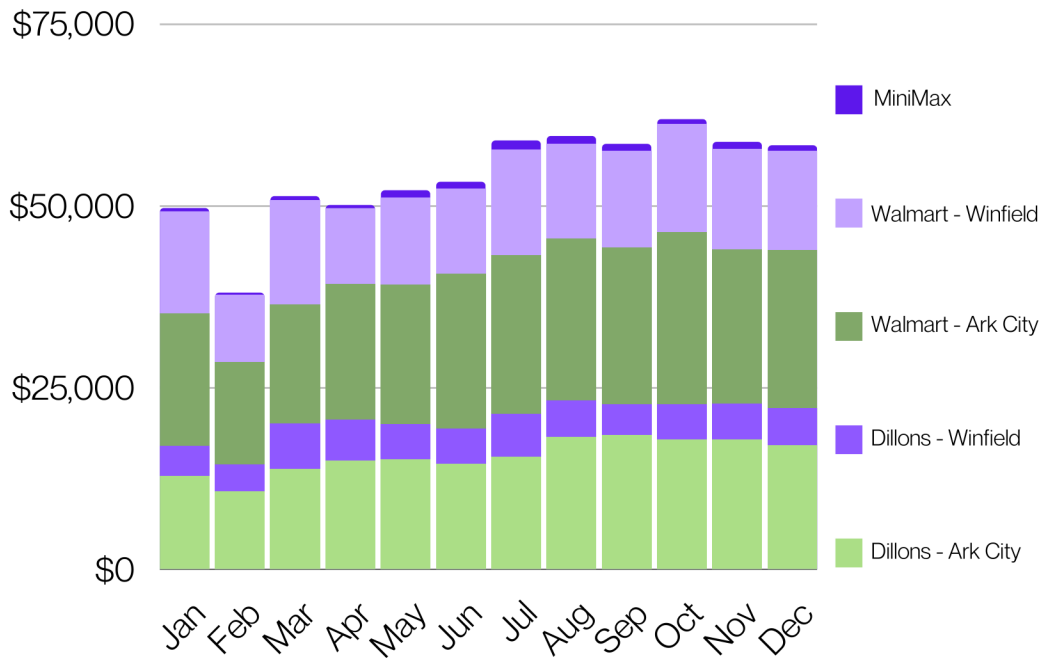
Participants

Income-eligible new & growing families including:

- Pregnant women
- Postpartum women up to 1 year after birth
- Infants & children up to age 5



WIC Dollars Spent at Local Grocery Stores



Our Success

65.4%

of Newborns were initially breastfed

16.7%

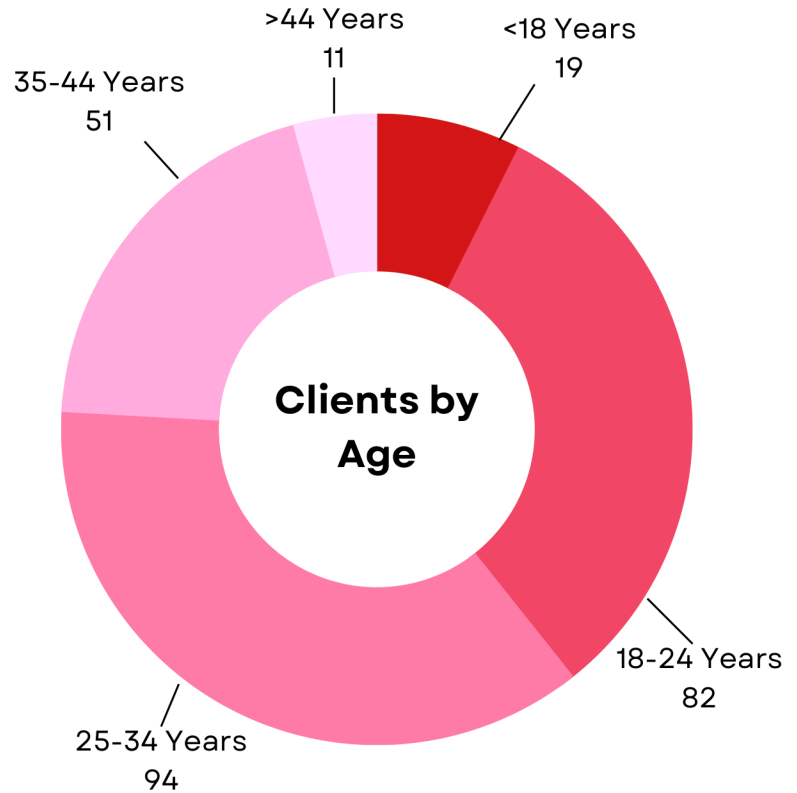
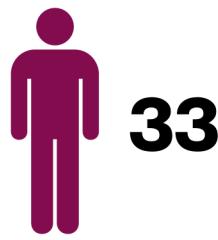
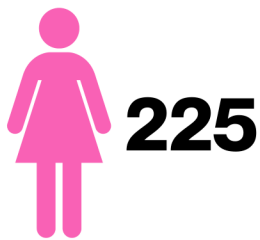
of Newborns were exclusively breastfed at 3 months

Benchmark Set by Healthy People 2030

Family Planning

Reproductive health services are available to men and women of all ages. Program policies prioritize your health needs. Fees are determined by income level and ability to pay.

173 Pregnancy Tests	55 Well-Woman Visits	617 Contraceptive Services
782 Service Visits	700 STI Tests	55 STI Treatment



Childcare Facility Licensing

This program guarantees that Cowley County daycares comply with state regulations to protect the health and safety of children in attendance.

If you are interested in establishing a daycare in Cowley County, contact **Patty Wimmer** at 620-221-1430.

If you are seeking licensed child care providers in your area, please contact ChildCare Aware of Kansas:

1-877-678-2548

www.ks.childcareaware.org

4 Daycare Centers	51 Daycare Homes (Residences)
4 Integrated Daycare Groups	80 Surveys Performed



Environmental Health

Program Updates

The Environmental Health program updated the policy and procedure regarding residential wastewater inspections. These updates were made in the interest of transparency and clarity and were approved by the Cowley County Board of Commissioners on November 15th, 2022, and the Joint Board of Health on December 6th, 2022. The update can be found on the Health Department’s website under the Local Environmental Protection Program page.

49	Residential Inspections Performed
21	New Residential Wastewater System Installations
7	Residential Wastewater System Rehabilitations
28	New Building Permits Issued
32	Private Well Water Screenings



Above: flexible corrugated pipe is installed for a wastewater absorption field.

Below: perforated pipe is installed in a bed configuration with gravel beneath



Residential Inspections

Properties in the county with private wastewater systems are required to have those systems inspected should those properties be sold. These inspections search for any evident problems within the system.

New Residential Wastewater System Installations

All new wastewater system installations are required to be designed, inspected, and permitted by our subject matter experts prior to installation.

Residential Wastewater System Rehabilitations

Wastewater systems require maintenance and occasional repairs. These repairs are permitted to ensure proper design and installation.

Building Permits

We permit new building constructions in Cowley County outside of incorporated areas. This provides a secure record of the property and maintains county compliance with the National Flood Insurance Program.

Well Water Screening

Private wells are always prone to contamination. We screen private wells for coliform bacteria and harmful nitrates. Contact the Environmental Health Department for more details if you would like to request a water screening.

Emergency Preparedness

One of the key roles of the Health Department within the community is in Public Health Emergency Preparedness. Alongside our community partners, we strive to continually engage with preparedness efforts to fortify our capabilities to respond to emergencies.

Social Media Campaigns



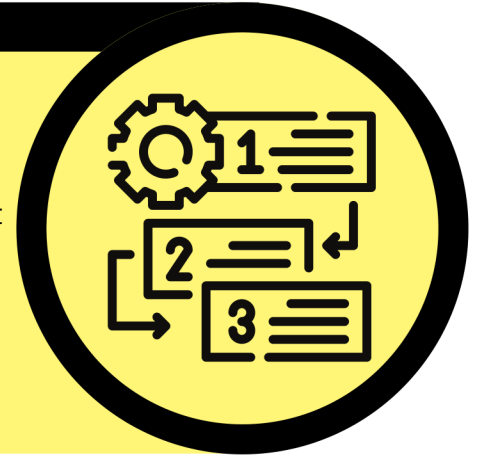
In an effort to help bolster community preparedness, the Health Department participated in two month-long preparedness campaigns on social media. These campaigns highlighted safety topics, resources, and educational opportunities to help citizens prepare for emergencies.



Emergency Staffing Plan



In 2022, the Health Department secured a key grant from the National Association of County & City Health Officials (NACCHO). This grant enabled the Health Department to develop a new Emergency Staffing Plan. The plan lays the groundwork for ensuring that our agency can expand its workforce in response to emergencies in Cowley County.



Community Readiness



In partnership with Cowley County Emergency Management, the Health Department hosted a Mass Care tabletop exercise in June. This exercise focused on the long-term care facilities within the community, allowing them to test their emergency plans and create better connections with community partners.



Communications

Throughout the pandemic, we learned that the residents of Cowley County wanted more consistent and transparent communications from the Public Health Officer. So, in 2022, we made efforts to expand significantly our ability to inform and communicate with the public.

Through multiple forms of communication, we have significantly broadened our ability to disseminate messages to the community effectively.



Health Department Mobile App

In July, we released our mobile app, making the City-Cowley County Health Department the first in our state to do so. The app has become a crucial part of our communications efforts with the community. It allows us to disseminate important messages in real-time without competing with algorithms developed by social media platforms. In addition, our communications team worked strategically to guarantee that the public is informed about the app's availability and usefulness. Downloading the app will allow users to access other features:

- Requesting Appointments
- Information About Health Department Services
- NWS Notifications
- Health Department Contact Information
- Community Resource Information

You can download the mobile app from the Apple or Google Play store by searching for "Cowley County".



Social Media Expansion

Facebook



Our page reaches over **50,000** people
Over **12,000** profile visits during the year.
Our page is followed by over **4,000** people

Twitter



Over **500** Tweets made during 2022
Over **23,000** Tweet Impressions from these tweets
Over **4,000** profile page visits during the year.

Communications



The Public Health Update

In March, we released a bi-weekly newsletter to communicate with the public: *The Public Health Update*. This publication evolved from COVID-19 reports issued in 2020-21 by the Public Health Officer. *The Public Health Update* informs readers about relevant health topics and upcoming events.

You can access the Public Health Update on our website, social media pages, and mobile app and by subscribing to the Health Department mailing list.

21 Issues released during 2022

The Public Health Minute

Tune into 102.5 The River on Wednesdays to hear the *Public Health Minute*: a valuable message about improving your health and accessing essential services from the Health Department. In 2022, the *Public Health Minute* evolved from regular pandemic updates to include various health-inducing topics.

156 Radio spots played during 2022

Propio ONE

An estimated 7% of Cowley County's population speak a language other than English at home, and many more speak English as a second language. In order to better engage this segment of the population, the Health Department expanded its interpretation services through the use of Propio ONE.

Propio ONE is a telehealth, video-based interpretation service with access to 350 languages, including sign language and dialects. This service has proven to be a valuable tool in connecting our clients with vital Health Department services and community resources.



35 Different Languages **24/7** Availability

Health & Safety Fair



In June, the Health & Safety Fair engaged community members with essential information to improve their well-being. Local and state community partners showcased available resources and health prevention strategies. Attendees learned tips for healthy eating, CPR techniques, etc., and had the chance to win exclusive door prizes.

Over **400** Attendees
Over **40** Community Partners



Walnut Valley Festival

The Health Department supported the festival by offering influenza and COVID-19 vaccines, home test kits, and sanitizer. Festival goers were engaged through our mobile app and provided opportunities to win prizes, including two tickets to next year's event!

18	52	940
Influenza Vaccines	COVID-19 Vaccines	Home Test Kits



COPE Community Health Worker



In partnership with the Communities Organizing to Promote Equity (COPE) Project, we proudly host a Community Health Worker, **Carmelyna Andres**. Carmelyna connects our clients with resources that the Health Department does not provide (i.e., food and housing assistance, etc.). Her ability to assist in English and Spanish and her knowledge of the Ark City community make her a solid asset to our clients.

Board of Health

The Board of Health is assembled by nine appointments made from local governing bodies. The Cowley County Commission appoints three at large members, one physician, and one dentist. The cities of Arkansas City and Winfield each appoint one member. Unified School District Boards #462 and #471 each appoint one member. Once appointed, members of the Board serve three-year terms. The Board annually elects a Chair and Vice-Chair in January. The Health Department's Administrator serves at the pleasure of the Board as Secretary-Treasurer. A Licensed Physician is contracted to serve as a Medical Consultant to advise the Public Health Officer/Administrator on medical matters. The Board maintains two offices, one in Winfield and another in Arkansas City.

2022 Board of Health Members

Appointed By:

K.C. Colvin - Chair	USD #471 Board of Education
Mary Benton - Vice-Chair	Arkansas City Commission
Anita Judd-Jenkins	Cowley County Commission
Dared Price, PharmD	Winfield City Commission
Ed Trimmer	Cowley County Commission
John Seitz, DDS	Cowley County Commission
Rick Shaffer	USD #462 Board of Education
Sandra Jirak, BSN, RN	Cowley County Commission
Physician Vacant	Cowley County Commission
Thomas Langer, MPA - Secretary-Treasurer	Health Department Administrator

Health Department Staffing

Thomas Langer, MPA	Administrator/Public Health Officer
Allyson Payne, MPH	Executive Assistant/Epidemiologist
Karen Sattler, RN	Director of Nursing/MCH Supervisor
Kelli Waggoner, RN, BSN	Public Health Nurse/WIC Coordinator
Rochelle Graham, RN	Public Health Nurse
Karen Hardin, RN	Public Health Nurse
Tara Finuf	Fiscal Accounts Manager
Teri Bruner	Medical Services Accounts Coordinator
Tanner D. Langer	Environmental Health Officer/PHEP
Daniel Vildasol	Public Information Officer/PHEP
Josephine Olivarez	Healthy Start Home Visitor
Jessie Percell	Healthy Start Home Visitor/WIC Breastfeeding Peer Counselor
Patricia Wimmer	Child Care Licensing Surveyor
Gretchen Walker	Office Assistant
Jessica Dorman	Office Assistant
Aleashia Tanner	Office Assistant
Ashley Leighty	Office Assistant

Contracted Professionals:

Medical Officer:
Adam Keesling, MD

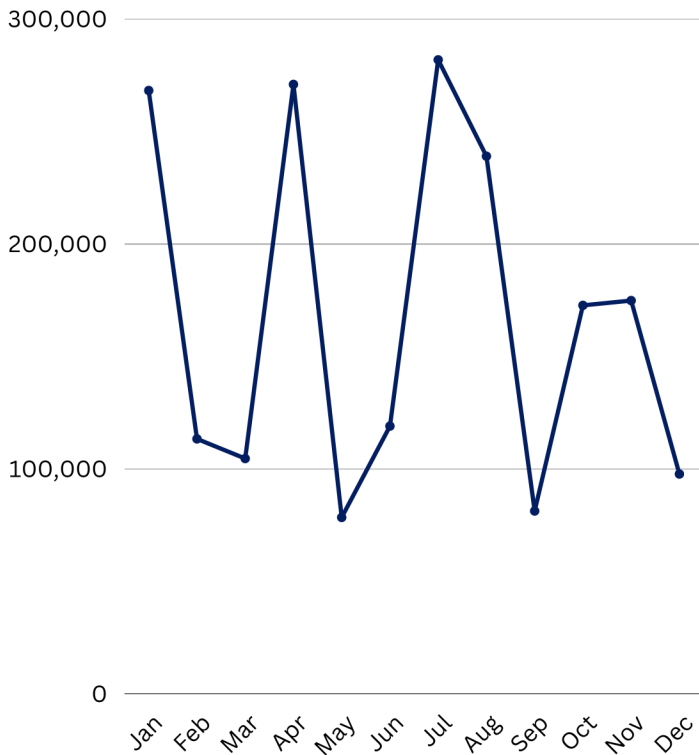
Family Planning:
Ginger Bahruth, PA

Consulting Pharmacist:
Renee Price, PharmD

WIC Nutritionist:
Alicia Ramey, RD

Financial Report

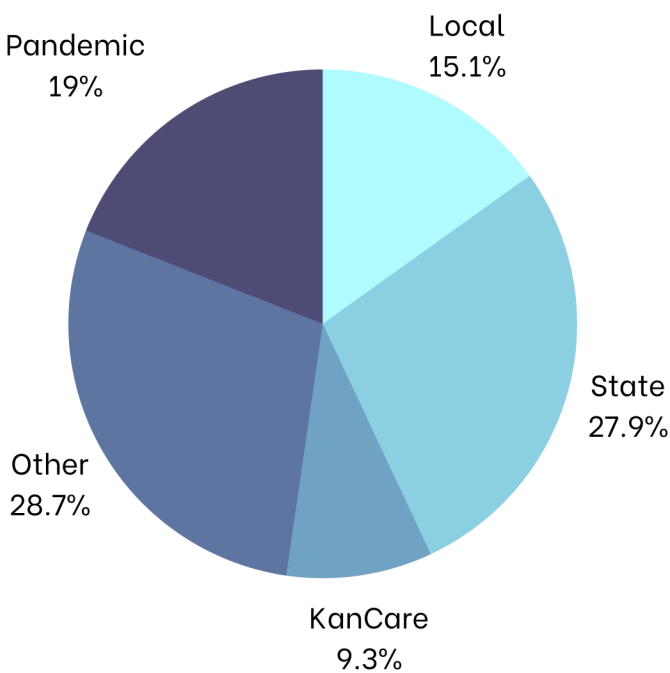
Revenue by Month



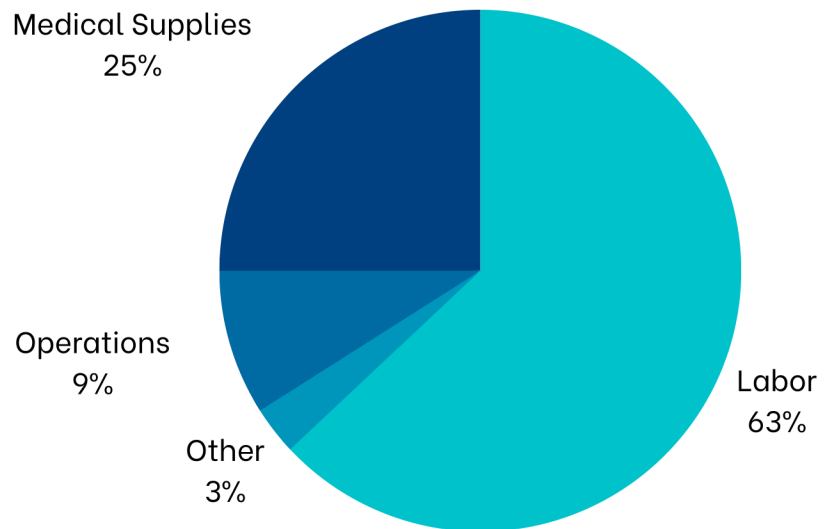
We continue to practice responsible fiscal management to provide the best services for Cowley County residents and visitors. As a result, the fiscal condition of the Health Department remains stable. Thus, we improved care capacity for recipients by expanding inventory to accommodate new-to-market vaccines, augmenting home visitation services, implementing supplemental interpretation services, expediting residential inspections, and much more.

Moving into 2023, we will prepare for an annual budgetary audit to guarantee fiscal practices align with the accepted accounting principles for governmental entities and public law. We anticipate everything running smoothly as we regularly submit all state-required reports and filings accounting for the expenditure of funds to the Joint Board of Health (JBOH) and remain compliant with the approved budget. Safeguards have been established and are monitored by the JBOH to certify that all operations are satisfactory for our clientele and the local, state, and federal governments.

2022 HD Revenue by Source %



2022 HD Expenditures by Type %



Coming In 2023

Winter & Spring

Public Health Update Vol. 2

2023 will see the 2nd volume of our newsletter, the *Public Health Update*. New features and formats will make this new volume more effective and engaging.

Community Wide Baby Shower

The Community Wide Baby Shower will help to educate new and expecting mothers while also connecting them to community providers. With prize opportunities and free professional baby pictures, this event will be both fun-filled and educational.

Health & Safety Fair 2023

Our annual Health & Safety Fair will return to Winfield in 2023. This fun and educational event helps to engage the community and connect them with resources and educational opportunities.

Public Health Update
JANUARY IS NATIONAL RADON ACTION MONTH
Test Your Home. Protect Your Health.

What's New in Public Health?
National Radon Awareness Month
Did you know that radon exposure is the second-leading cause of lung cancer after smoking? January is Radon Awareness Month in Kansas and now is the best time to test your home for radon. Radon is a naturally occurring gas that seeps from the soil. Prolonged exposure can lead to an increased risk of lung cancer. Visit eds.gov/radon for more information about radon exposure. Testing is very simple with a home test kit and, right now, we are partnering with the Extension Office to provide radon home test kits for FREE! Contact the extension office to pick up your free test kit today!
Cowley County Extension Office:
311 E 9th Ave., #101
Winfield, KS 67156
Phone: (620) 223-5450

Public Health Update Volume 2
Welcome to Public Health Update Volume 2! This new volume features 2 big changes!
COVID Dashboard
The first big change is that our old COVID & Illness Data section has been converted into the new COVID Dashboard. This section will provide a better picture of the local situation through two new features. First, the COVID Community Level, this level is based on hospitalization and case data. Each level will come with guidance on how you can help protect yourself and others. The second addition is the new dots on display. We will now be displaying the Rolling 7-Day Average of Daily New COVID cases. This chart will display data from past 3 months for Cowley County and will help point a better picture of current case trends in county.
Presentation Format
The second big addition to this new volume of Public Health Update is the online presentation format! This user-friendly format is easier to use and will feature some exclusives such as embedded videos and animations. Check it out for yourself by clicking the link posted with this issue!

Upcoming Events:
Community Wide Baby Shower
On Saturday, February 4th, the Community Wide Baby Shower will be held at the Brown Center in Cowley College from 9:00am to 12:00pm. This fun and educational event is free to attend and features the opportunity to win some excellent prizes! Don't miss out!
Health & Safety Fair 2023
This year, the annual Health & Safety Fair returns to Winfield! The fair will be held at the Winfield Fairgrounds on May 6th from 9:00am to 12:00pm. Attendance is free for this fun and educational event. Be sure to mark your calendar!

COVID Dashboard
COVID Community Level
7 Day Rolling Average of Daily New COVID Cases

Guidance
The current Community Level is Low. We recommend following our usual guidance for staying safe from COVID-19.
• Stay home if you feel unwell until you have fully recovered.
• If ill, isolate from others to avoid spreading illness, get tested & determine if you are infected.
• Wash your hands frequently with soap and water.
• Clean high touch surfaces, counters, or disinfecting surfaces.
• If desired, wear a mask properly covers you and mouth while in public.

Health and Safety Fair
Cowley County

Summer & Fall



New Patient Portal

The Health Department's new patient portal will make its debut in 2023. This secure portal will allow clients to schedule appointments, access their records, update their information, and more.

CPR & First Aid Classes

Next year, the Health Department will resume teaching CPR & First Aid Classes. These classes will help bolster community preparedness through life-saving education.

Vaccine Clinics

In 2023, we will continue our efforts to provide vaccines to the community. Through off-site clinics, we help to bring vital protection to schools, long-term care facilities, employers, and many others in Cowley County.





CITY-COWLEY COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Our Vision

Cowley County residents enjoying healthy lives, exercising personal responsibility for their health and the health of their family members.

Our Mission

The City-Cowley County Health Department works to promote excellent health, prevent disease, and to protect the environment to benefit all our citizens.

Our Values

Prevent ~ Promote ~ Protect