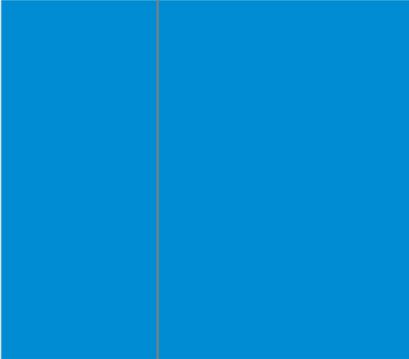


2023

Annual Report



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Mission Statement:

Our mission is to safeguard and enhance the well-being of our community by promoting public health, preventing diseases, and ensuring equitable access to healthcare resources. Through evidence-based practices, community engagement, and collaborative partnerships, we strive to create a healthier and more resilient society.

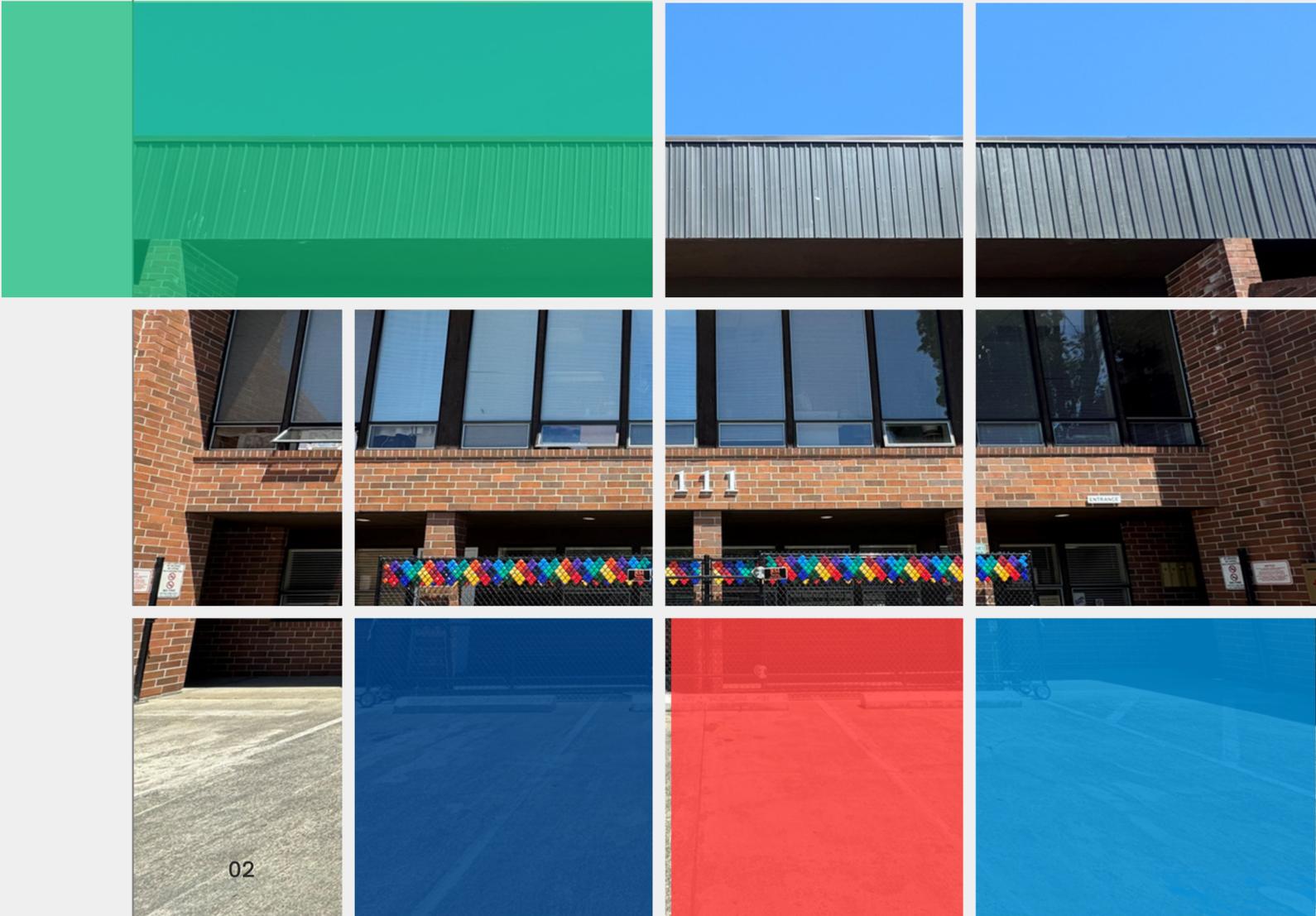


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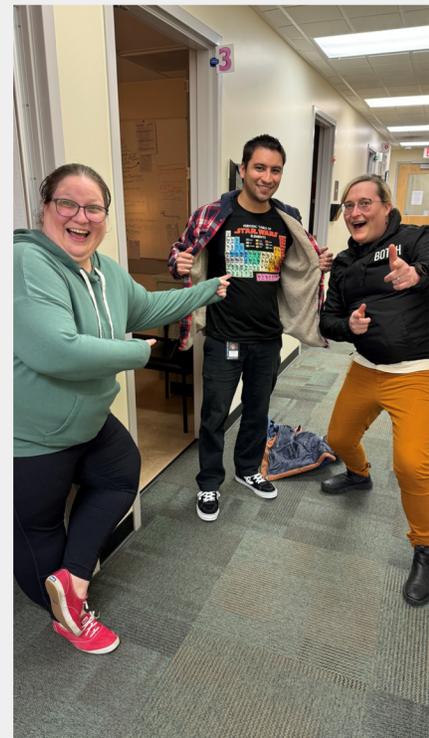
- Social Media
- Response to Public Inquiries



Department Overview

The year 2023 was a unique year for our team - we faced challenges with staffing and office space issues as well as a transition mid-year that saw Washington state moving out of the COVID-19 state of emergency. With the state of emergency order ending, our team did a significant amount of outreach to community providers and stakeholders to explain the ongoing change to supplies and services.

In February of 2023, the Public Health Nurse Manager, Karissa McLane, left the department for a clinical nursing role at a local healthcare partner. As a result, the rest of the management team and the Health Officer, Dr. Allison Berry, stepped in to collectively fill this crucial role in the department. We were very pleased to welcome a new PH Nurse Manager, Madison Gallentine, in September of 2023. Madison has brought a wealth of local healthcare and nursing knowledge to this role and already improved our day-to-day operations and program management.



CCHHS Public Health Office

Health Officer:

Dr. Allison Berry, MD

Public Health Nurse Manager:

Madison Gallentine, BSN, RN

Director of HHS:

Kevin Lopiccolo

Deputy Director of HHS:

Jenny Oppelt



Communicable Disease Prevention and Response

Public Health Nurse:
 Summer Richardson
 Samantha Beacham (New Hire)
 Ann Johnson (Part time)

PH Support Specialist:
 Stephen Basubas (0.5 FTE with Harm reduction)
 Sean McAtee (0.5 FTE with Harm Reduction)
 Erin Hendrix (Covid Contact Tracer)

Epidemiologist:
 Mondana Madjdi



Harm Reduction Programs

Harm Reduction Coordinator:
 Siri Forsman-Sims

Prevention Specialist (New Position):
 Lari Karan (New Hire)

Customer Service Specialist (New Position):
 Kim Warren



Maternal/Child Health Programs

Children & Youth w/ Special Needs Coordinator:
 Tina Moody (Forks Office)

WIC Coordinator:
 Ruby Nelson (Forks Office)

WIC Specialist II:
 Kelsey Hamilton (PA Office)

WIC Specialist I:
 Kyriisa Duncan (Forks Office & New Hire)



Vital Records and Support

Communications Specialist:
 Lisa Bridge (New Hire)

Customer Service Specialist:
 Lois Blank
 Samuel Mitchell (New Hire)



Communicable Disease

In 2023, the communicable disease team engaged in efforts to assess and avert the spread of a wide variety of notifiable conditions occurring in our jurisdiction. Along with the baseline general communicable disease and STD case investigations, we performed extensive efforts in the following categories.



COVID-19:

As the COVID-19 pandemic continued through 2023, so did the increased workload on all public health staff, particularly the communicable disease team. With the ending of the governor’s State of Emergency order at the end of 2022 and the subsequent ending of the national Public Health Emergency order by the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services in 2023, Clallam County saw significant changes to state and federal support programs. COVID-19 outbreaks in skilled nursing and memory care facilities continued, even as state Department of Health disease guidance changed repeatedly to align with CDC recommendations.

COVID-19 Outbreaks By Year	
2022	32
2023	48



Outbreak Management:

The PH team collaborated with the local infection preventionists, Washington State Department of Health, CDC and partner local health jurisdictions (LHJ) in the course of two separate highly antibiotic resistant organism (HARO) outbreak investigations. The team provided outbreak consultation and support for numerous COVID, influenza and RSV outbreaks in long term care facilities, often concomitantly. Additionally, we provided extensive infection prevention support for multiple facilities with gastrointestinal illness outbreaks. A sizable common-source foodborne outbreak occurred within our jurisdiction as well.

Case Management:

The PH Team provided extensive long term case management, contact investigation and consultative support for two cases of pulmonary tuberculosis in our jurisdiction. We also provided as-needed infection prevention and consultation for TB services in both inpatient and outpatient healthcare settings. TB takes an extensive amount of time and resources to work. It requires multiple home visits frequently throughout the week, collection of multiple sputum samples that have to be packaged and sent to the Public Health Lab, daily observation of the patient taking their medications for 6-9 months, and repeated consultations with pulmonologists, the Washington State Department of Health, and TB specialists.

Communicable Disease Trends:

2023 saw a rise in chronic Hepatitis C, HIV, and syphilis cases for Clallam County. Reported COVID-19 cases decreased, and Clallam public health staff continued to distribute at-home tests to the public through partnerships with North Olympic Library System to help keep the spread of disease low. Salmonella cases rose significantly, primarily due to one large identified outbreak. There were also small increases in shigella, giardia, and other foodborne illnesses. Detected chlamydia and gonorrhea cases trended downward significantly.

Confirmed CD Cases

Sexually Transmitted Infections & Hepatides	2022	2023
Chlamydia	126	106
Gonorrhea	41	19
HIV (New Diagnosis)	0	3
Syphilis	4	5
Hepatitis A	0	0
Hepatitis B	Acute: 0 Chronic: 4	Acute: 0 Chronic: 3
Hepatitis C	Acute: 1 Chronic: 43	Acute: 3 Chronic: 72
Herpes Simplex	8	9

General Communicable Diseases	2022	2023
Arboviral Disease	0	1
Campylobacteriosis	16	16
Coccidiomycosis	1	2
COVID-19	8,966	1,578
Cryptosporidiosis	5	5
Giardiasis	6	8
Highly Antibiotic Resistant Organism (HARO)	3	4
Legionellosis	0	1
Listeriosis	0	1
Lyme Disease	0	1
Mumps	0	2
Pertussis	0	1
Salmonellosis	3	23
Shigatoxin producing E. coli (STEC)	0	1
Shigellosis	2	4
Tuberculosis	1	1
Tularemia	1	0
Typhoid fever	1	0
Vibriosis	2	0
West Nile Virus	1	0

Case Counts Vs. Staff Efforts

Context when reviewing communicable disease case statistics is important. Public health staff, primarily the public health nurses, support staff and epidemiologist, spend varying amounts of time depending on the type of illness, the risk to the public, and the extent of what is required by Washington State law. For example, a standard case of chlamydia may take several days to a week to work, including phone interviews, documentation, and contact tracing. In contrast, one case of tuberculosis requires 6 to 9 months of staff time and involves multiple home visits per week for directly observed therapies as well as continual collaboration with patient care teams and extensive contact tracing.

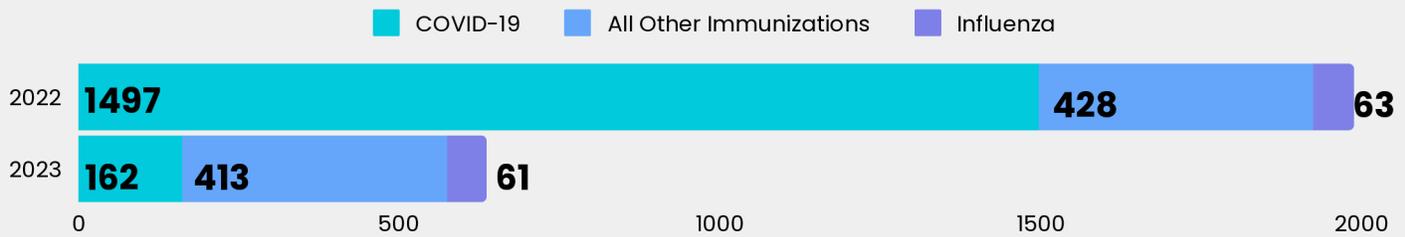
2023 Snapshot: Communicable Disease				
Challenges	Trends	New Things	Successes	Looking Ahead
Staffing	Tuberculosis	New Staff	New Department Head (PHNM)	Immunization Outreach
Community Partner Collaboration	Hepatitis C (in IDU)	Rabies Protocol	SOPs	Kaizen workflow management
Guidance Interpretation	Syphilis		Completed two TB cases fully	State lab data modernization
End of State Emergency Order	Continued COVID-19 Outbreaks		Implementation of new digital case tracking system(s)	Communicable Disease self-surveys



Immunizations

Immunization services in the Port Angeles department are offered two times a week (Mondays and Wednesdays), and twice a month at the Forks Department. In addition, blood lead testing was added to the schedule. Vaccines are provided to children, the uninsured/underinsured, those covered by Medicaid, and the American Indian/Alaskan Native population.

Immunizations Given By Category, 2022-2023



2023 Snapshot: Immunizations

Challenges	Trends	New Things	Successes	Looking Ahead
Vaccine hesitancy	Respiratory illnesses	New MA-R certification for PHSS staff	3rd highest rate of influenza immunizations given in WA	Promotion of vaccines to LTCF staff & residents
Staffing	Changes in vaccine costs due to end of emergency order	Planning service expansions		Childhood immunization clinics
Low vaccination rates in long-term care facilities				Support for school nurses with imm records

Harm Reduction

In 2023 The Harm Reduction Health Center goals continued to be preventing overdoses, in addition to the spread of communicable disease, through a participant-centered program where everyone is treated with dignity and respect. The HRHC focuses on reducing stigma in addition to providing services and education. Harm reduction incorporates a spectrum of strategies which includes safer use, managed use, abstinence, meeting people who use drugs “where they’re at,” and addressing conditions of use along with the use itself.

Clallam County’s Harm Reduction Health Center (HRHC) program grew despite facing several challenges in 2023. The program had been housed within the Port Angeles Public Health office, operating from a small conference room. This required moving all supplies in and out of the space each direct service day. The program began the year with one full-time staff member: a Prevention Specialist. In the spring, a Customer Support Specialist was assigned part-time. In the late spring, a building on W 2nd Street in Port Angeles was identified which would be suitable to house the HRHC and allow for growth. The HRHC opened in this new space mid-October.



In the fall, the department’s Communications Specialist was hired for the newly created Program Coordinator position. At this time, two Public Health Support Specialists were hired to work half-time in the HRHC. The Prevention Specialist position went unfilled until the end of November.

Moving to a larger space has allowed for changes in our program. The new building came equipped with one office which was dedicated for agency partners (REdisCOVERY, Peninsula Behavioral Health, and Reflections) to hold private meetings with participants in order to complete assessments and intakes for substance use treatment. Those agencies are present during our twice-weekly open hours to engage with participants. REdisCOVERY has been opening the Forks HRHC on the Mondays when our staff is not on site. There is a large warehouse for storing and distributing all of our harm reduction, hygiene, warmth, and nutrition supplies. A clothing closet is in this space along with a private area set aside for wound care which is staffed by OPCC. Wound care kits have become one of our most requested items.

The new space inspired the creation of the HRHC Menu. The Menu is a two-sided sheet of paper with a list of all available harm reduction supplies on one side, and all hygiene, warmth, and nutrition items on the other. The Menu informs the participants and allows the team to better track inventory. Each direct services day, this menu is updated to reflect current supplies. Use of the HRHC Menu has enabled the team to record more data, giving the team a better picture of participants’ needs. Often, an anonymous, point-in-time survey has been added to the daily Menu to capture information important to the HRHC or our agency partners.

Other 2023 Q4 HRHC Stats of Interest!

637 Participant Encounters!

987 Fentanyl test kits given out!

500 Xylazine test kits given!

458 Safer snorting kits given out!

935 Safer smoking kits given out (straight pipes)

252 Safer smoking kits given out (bubble pipes)

161 Alternative route administration kits given out!

677 Wound care kits given out!



The new building includes a reception area and a central sitting area, along with a kitchen and dining area which also serves as a conference room. Each participant is greeted when they walk in the Center by staff working at the front counter. They are given a clipboard with a menu and encouraged to ask questions, get a cup of coffee and some food (where they encounter another staff member) then find a place to sit. During the time they wait for their supplies, they can rest, chat with the other participants, get to know Center or partner agency staff, and even work on a puzzle.

Direct service activities in the HRHC are held twice per week and the range of options has expanded. Forks continues to be a twice-monthly service and mobile outreach has been added. The HRHC van is now meeting participants from Clallam Bay and Forks outside the Port Angeles BAART clinic each Thursday morning.

HRHC staff work hard to keep participants safe and to support them in accessing treatment when they are ready.



Narcan Distribution Boxes

Forks:

- Mariposa House
- CCPH

Port Angeles:

- [OPCC/REdisCOVERY](#)
- HRHC & CCPH
- Currently working to place a box in Clallam Bay

2023 Q4 Narcan Distribution:

Nasal	435
IM	182



2023 Snapshot: Harm Reduction

Challenges	Trends	New Things	Successes	Looking Ahead
Supply chain issues	Syringe use decreased, use of injection alternatives increased	Hygiene and warming supplies	Increasing participant engagement	PA Community Paramedics leave-behind buprenorphine partnership
Care navigation	Heroin use declined, replaced with fentanyl use	New increase in staff	Menu with point in time surveys	Increasing partnerships with tribal neighbors & NOHN
Xylazine related wounds	Contaminated fentanyl increasing	New building	Partnership with BAART	Additional outreach locations and dates
Lack of drug testing ability	WA DOH now providing safer smoking supplies	Wider range of supplies	5 new naloxone boxes placed around the county	FTIR Lite
		Expanded partnerships	Pioneered safer smoking supply distribution	Increased community naloxone trainings & boxes

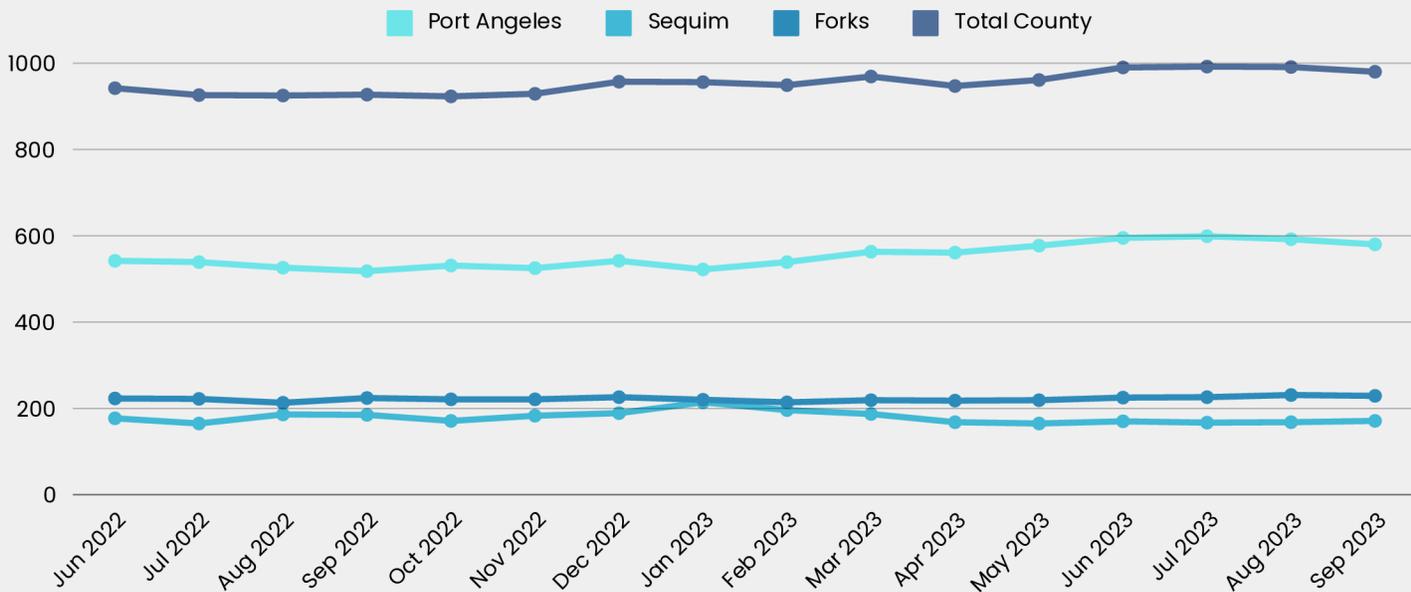


Maternal & Child Health

WIC

WIC is a nutrition education, health promotion, and supplemental food program to assist eligible women, infants, and children who have nutritional needs. We host two clinics, one in Port Angeles and one in Forks. The department closed the Sequim office due to staffing issues and the continuation of virtual visits.

WIC Caseloads By Month, June 2022–September 2023



Maternal & Child Health

Maternal Child Health

The maternal child health program helps connect families with special needs to specialty care. Last year there were 14 clients that were termed/closed, and 3 new clients were added to the program in 2023. January-June of 2023 there were 177 client contacts. July -December of 2023, there were 86 client contacts. That makes 263 client contact/visits for the year!

MCH Client Contacts By Year	
2022	346
2023	263

2023 Snapshot: Maternal Child Health				
Challenges	Trends	New Things	Successes	Looking Ahead
Transportation for appointments in Seattle	More people using WIC	Lead testing for children	Teamwork	New Staff
Difficulty using telehealth for children living with autism		Return to in-person appointments	Cleaned and organized WIC office and storage	Working with community partners for Safe Sleep campaign
Staffing across the county		Sequim office closed	Increased WIC participant numbers	Adding additional lead testing machine
Lack of dental services in Forks				Working with First Step to increase resource access for WIC clients

Vital Records

Birth & Death Certificates

Clallam County Public Health Vital Records staff play a crucial role for the county by ensuring births and deaths are certified and that residents have access to official certificates when needed. Because vital records staff also work the front desk and maintain several phone lines, they are also often scheduling immunizations, handling and forwarding WIC and Communicable Disease calls, and directing Environmental Health calls to the appropriate department.

***These numbers reflect the number of birth and death certificates made, not the total number of births and deaths for the county.**

2023 Snapshot: Vital Records

Birth Certificates Issued:	1,590
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Death Certificates Issued:	5,174
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Challenges	Trends	New Things	Successes	Looking Ahead
Adapting to new WHALES system	Office traffic increased	EDRS/WHALES merger	Continued to serve community through staffing decreases	Forks office to begin issuing birth & death certificates
Delays in death certificate approvals		Pay by card accepted for the public	Expanded services using pay by card	Return of expedited birth & death certificate process
Delays in birth certificate approvals				



Assessment

Community Health Assessment

Work continued in 2023 on the Clallam County Community Health Assessment (CHA), with 100% of the work done by CCHHS staff as opposed to the 2017 assessment which involved several outside contracted agencies. With the department leadership transition of nurse managers, project management for the CHA reverted to the staff epidemiologist. The epidemiologist worked with public health support staff to do a thorough analysis of the data collected in 2022 during the community wide survey and the key leader survey. In addition, data collection and analysis began for the health indicators status assessment. Several progress reports were prepared and given to the Clallam County Board of Health.

Assessment Committee

The staff epidemiologist represented Clallam County on the Washington State Assessment Committee as CCHHS’s Assessment Coordinator, attending monthly meetings to collaborate with other assessment staff at the state and LHJ level and also attending the yearly in-person Assessment Committee Conference in May of 2023.

2023 Snapshot: Assessment

Challenges	Trends	New Things	Successes	Looking Ahead
Staffing (primarily support staff)	Increased need for data support in all departments	Completed Health Status Assessment	Maintained public facing COVID-19 dashboard	Completing CHA in 2024
Limitations in software	Increased data availability at the state level	Developed and maintained CD case tracking system	Supported Harm Reduction program in developing data collection systems	Transition to Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) Workgroup
		Implementation of weekly respiratory report	Continued progress on CHA including data analysis	Data modernization using Teams & OneDrive

Communications

Social Media

Clallam County Public Health continued to use social media platforms to deliver messaging and content to residents. There was an average of two posts per week. Notices for warming centers were shared throughout the winter months along with cooling center alerts in the summer months. In January, bivalent boosters and influenza vaccine were encouraged.

WIC clients had targeted messaging for continuing remote appointments, alerts about lead found in products commonly used by families with children, SNAP benefits being expanded to allow for more vegetables and fruit, along with information on the Farmers Market Nutrition Program. Posts were shared to promote Children & Youth vaccine along with School & Childcare vaccine requirements. In addition, Summer Meals and Back-to-School events from the Boys & Girls Club were promoted.

Throughout the year, CCPH used social media to promote awareness of gun violence, National Black HIV/AIDS Day, Transgender Day of Rights, mental health, masking, and how to find a COVID test expiration date. In addition, the platforms were used to promote Public Health Week, Smoke Ready Week, and a screening of “Love in the Time of Fentanyl” supported by the CCPH Harm Reduction Health Center.

With the end of the COVID Public Health Emergency, changes were made to who qualifies for Washington Apple Health/Medicaid. Messaging to help residents understand the changes and how to get assistance were a regular part of the scheduled posts. Smoke Ready Week, 03A Homeshare notices, and informing our neighbors about the Department of Social and Health Services Mobile Community Services Unit rounded out the social media campaigns.

Due to the Communications Specialists’ other duties supporting other programs during the first half of the year, other media campaigns were limited. After the Communications Specialist moved to the Harm Reduction Coordinator role mid-year, the Communications Specialist role remained unfilled for the remainder of the year, limiting communications campaigns.

Response to Public Inquiries

Clallam County Public Health receives many messages via the Health & Human Services website contact forms. In 2023, the CCPH Communications Specialist responded to more than 100 requests for information regarding the COVID dashboard, obtaining Narcan, pest issues, avian influenza, and much more. During the time that the communication specialist position was vacant, agency staff shared the duties of responding to public inquiries.

2023 Snapshot: Communications				
Challenges	Trends	New Things	Successes	Looking Ahead
Comms Specialist 0.5 FTE for first half of the year	Concerns about changes to COVID-19 reporting and public dashboard		Responding to emailed queries from the public within a week	New Comms Specialist beginning in 2024
Comms Specialist job unfilled for second half of the year	Restaurant complaints		Social media campaigns to increase disease awareness	

