

2024 Annual Report of Activities



Prevent ~ Promote ~ Protect



Photo Credit: Thomas Carver

A report of activities and accomplishments of the Joint City-Cowley County Health Department for the year ended December 31, 2024, provided to the elected representatives and citizens of Cowley County, Kansas.


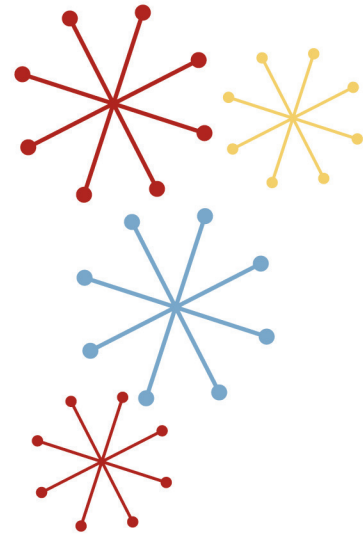
**320 E 9th, Suite B
Winfield, KS 67156**

620-221-1430

www.cowleycountyks.gov/departments/publichealth

LETTER TO THE COMMUNITY

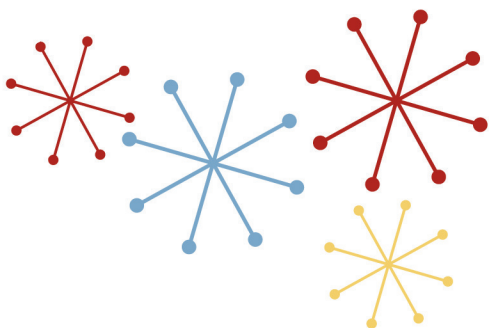
The year 2024 at the Health Department was a rollercoaster ride full of ups, downs and hairpin turns. We endured the ride with more than one jolting quick stop and bottom dropping restart all the while wondering when we would be able to catch our collective breath. Through it all, we worked to be a resource in the community, steady and available whenever the community called. The information provided to you in the following pages details what we did, how we did it and hopefully showcases all the results, good, bad, or otherwise. We hope you will share in our pride at what we accomplished.



This year's visual theme for the Annual Report makes me recall my childhood and watching the Jetson's on TV. In the 1960's the future was bright and full of hints of technology that was to come, so too is it today. We have websites, Podcasts, Mobile Apps, Social Media, Smartphones – and what will AI bring to us? Its's mind boggling. As we continue on the journey in 2025 we will again strive to provide you the very best services we can.

As the Administrator and Public Health Officer I want to personally thank each member of the Health Department team that continues to be there each day as we live up to our promise and "work hard every day to help you stay well".

Thank you once more it is our honor to serve you!



 *Stay well,*
Thomas Langer
Health Department Administrator
County Public Health Officer

78

Years of Service

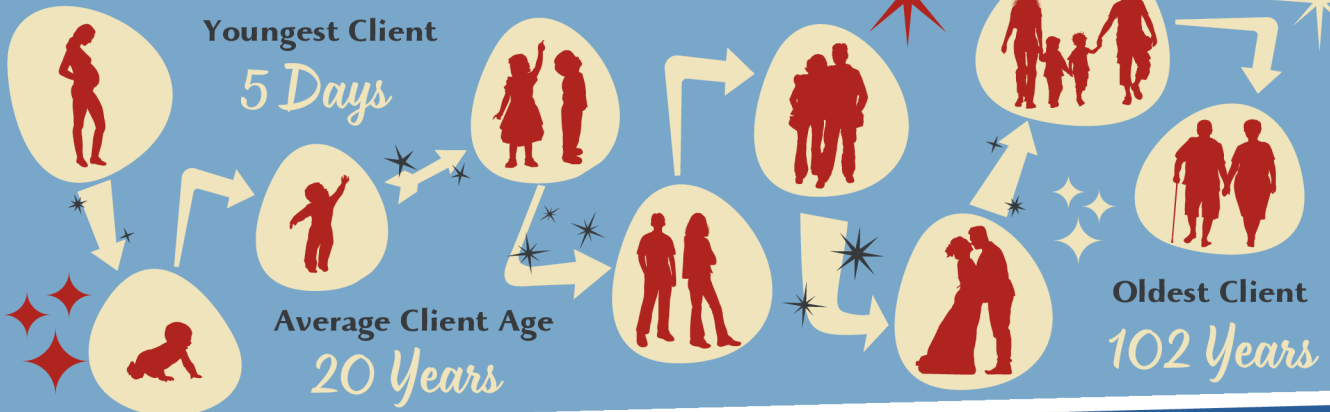
OVER 30

Health & Support Services to
Help You Stay Well

7 Core Programs

- Immunizations
- WIC
- Maternal & Child Health
- Reproductive Health
- Environmental Health
- Emergency Preparedness
- Childcare Licensing

Service Through Every Stage of Life



CLIENTS SERVED

13,738 Distinct Clients Served

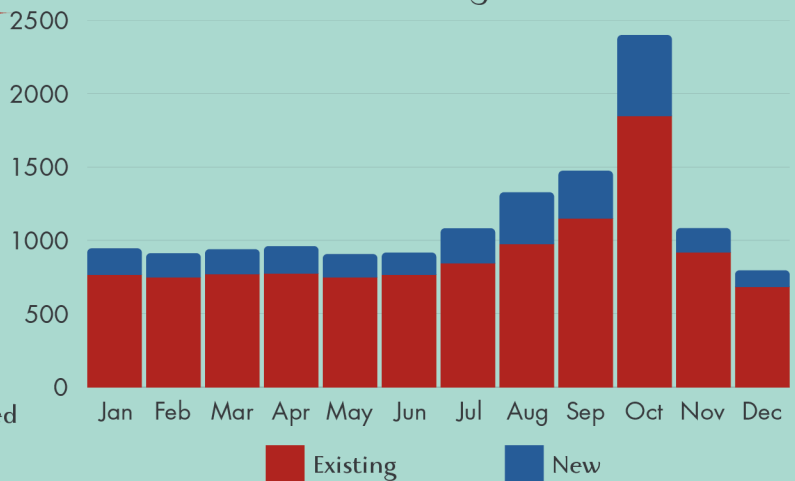
2,742 1st Time Clients

11 New clients per business day.

551 New clients in October!

Cowley County residents received a Health Department service.

Visits Per Month- Existing & New Clients



IMMUNIZATIONS

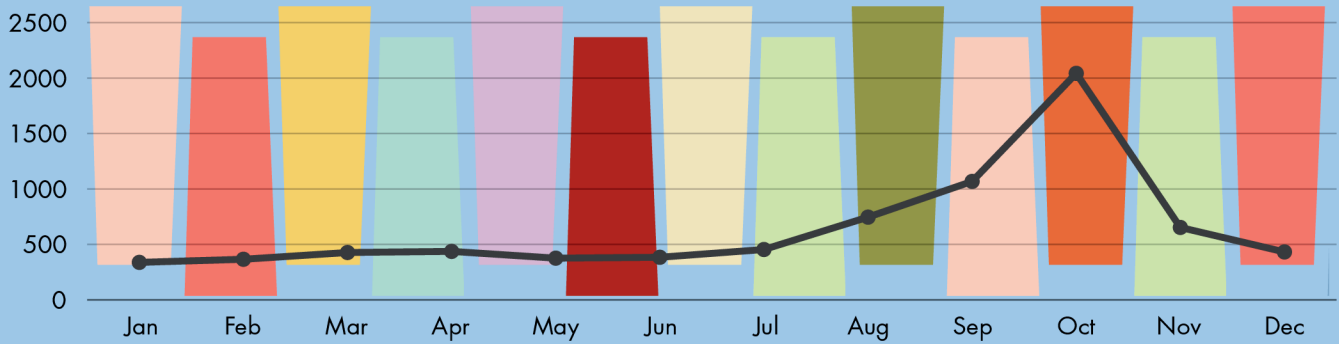
The Health Department offers routine, seasonal, and specialty immunizations required for international travel.

Our expert staff is available to answer all your questions, and registered nurses administer each dose to ensure your safety!

5,179 Routine Immunizations
2,523 Respiratory Immunizations (flu, COVID-19, RSV)
21 Travel Immunizations (typhoid & yellow fever)



Vaccine Doses Administered



Clinics

The Health Department offers immunizations at our clinics in Ark City and Winfield, as well as at community events, local businesses, long-term care facilities, and within unified school districts to ensure everyone has access to necessary immunizations to stay well!

49 Offsite Clinics



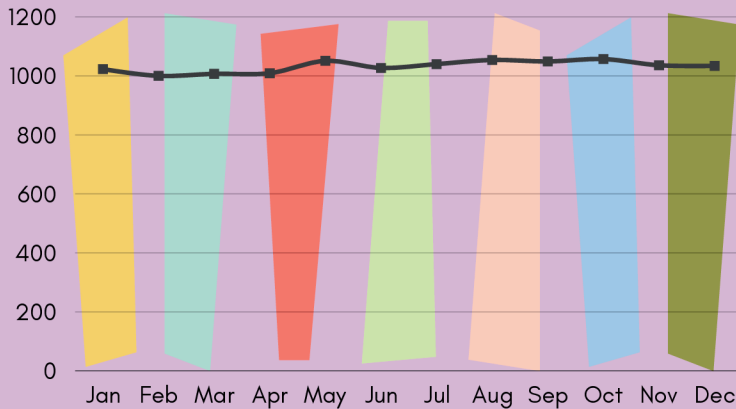
The Health Department's New Lab

The Health Department expanded its testing capabilities with the addition of a new lab.

The additional space and testing equipment will enhance the Health Department's ability to perform a variety of tests to monitor and protect the health of the community.

WOMEN, INFANTS, & CHILDREN (WIC)

Cowley County WIC Participants*



*Participation is determined by benefits expended in a month.

1,033

Average Monthly Participants

246

Infants in the Program

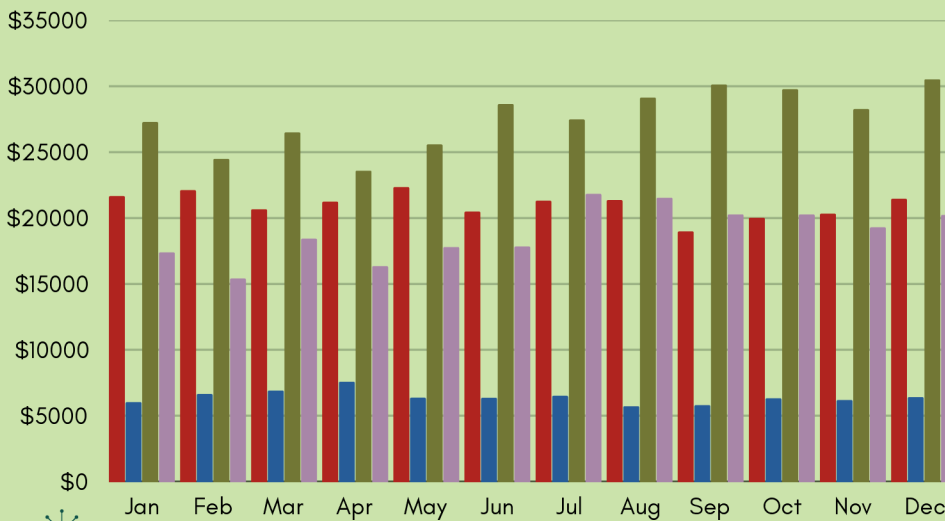
522

New Participants



This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

WIC Dollars Spent at Local Grocery Stores



- Dillons - Ark City
- Dillons - Winfield
- Walmart - Ark City
- Walmart - Winfield

29,381

Transactions

Over \$885K

added to the local economy in 2024

\$303,484

spent in Winfield stores

\$583,360

spent in Ark City stores

Coming Soon!

Group education and support classes covering several topics selected by WIC Program participants, including:

- Breastfeeding
- Encouraging picky eaters to try new foods
- Healthy meals with a busy schedule



MATERNAL & CHILD HEALTH

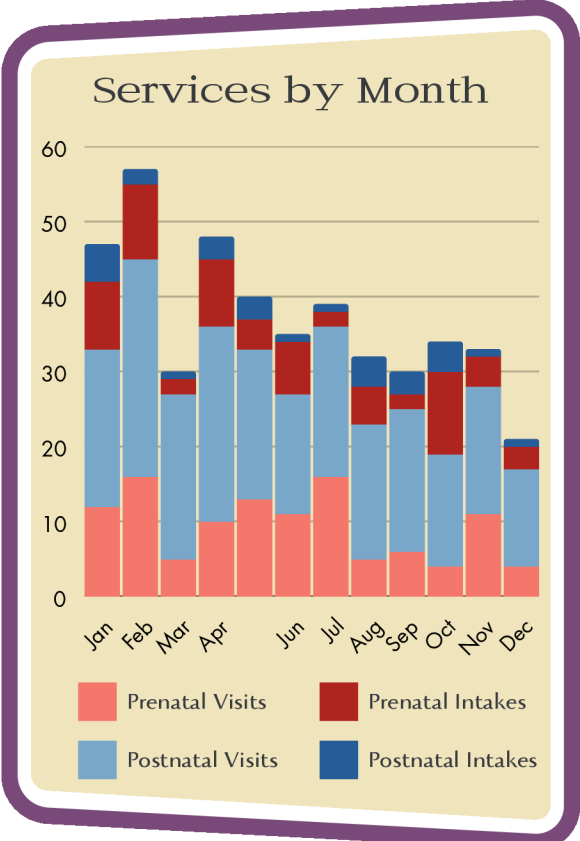
The MCH Program provides specialized one-on-one visits between our Home Visitor and families who are expecting a new baby or have welcomed a baby within the past year. These visits are customized to meet the unique needs of each family and emphasize healthy behaviors essential for the well-being of both mothers and infants during the critical early stages of development.



These services are available with **No Out of Pocket Costs!**

“ I really enjoyed the MCH program. It was nice to have someone come to the house to visit. Jean helped with stuff that we couldn't afford or find and gave little tips to us as first-time parents. Jean is a very sweet woman, and my daughter absolutely loves her. As a first-time mom, I was constantly worried about anything and everything. Jean always helped me if I had any concerns or questions.”

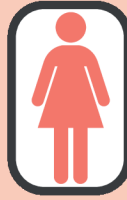
MCH Program Participant Testimonial



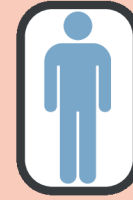
REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

Reproductive health services play a crucial role in supporting the well-being of both men and women. At the Health Department, we're proud to offer these vital services to everyone, regardless of age or income. Best of all, our services are confidential and available on a sliding fee scale to ensure accessibility for all!

281 Total Participants

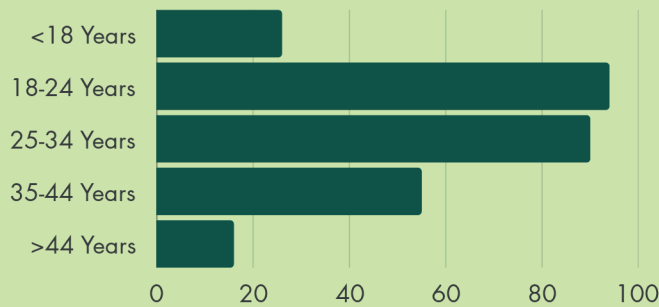


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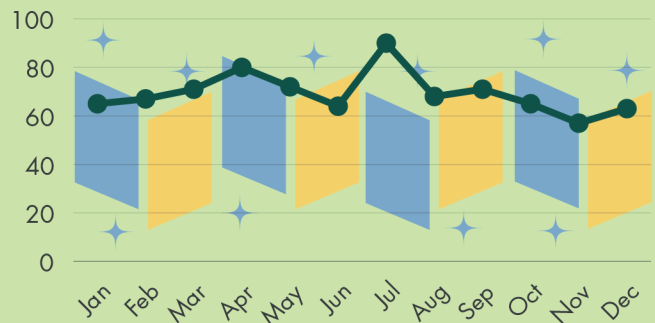


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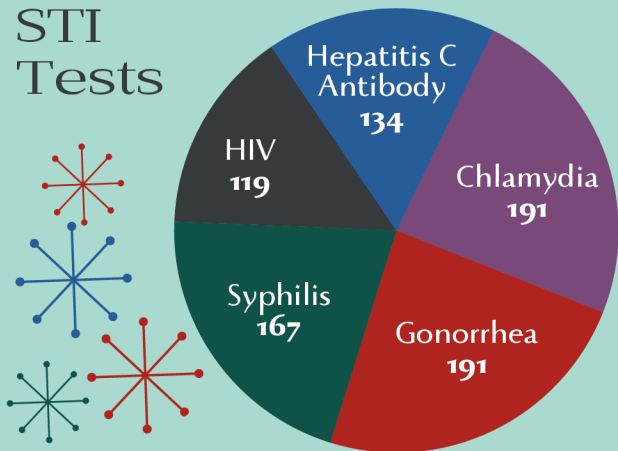
Clients by Age



Client Visits



STI Tests



802

STI Tests

38

STI Treatments

Contraceptives

3,500+ **237**

Condoms

Pill packs (1 mo. supply)

324

Depo-Provera

11

Nuvarings

9

Nexplanons

Now Offering Nexplanon!

Contraceptive Education Books



210 Pregnancy Tests

42 Well-Woman Exams

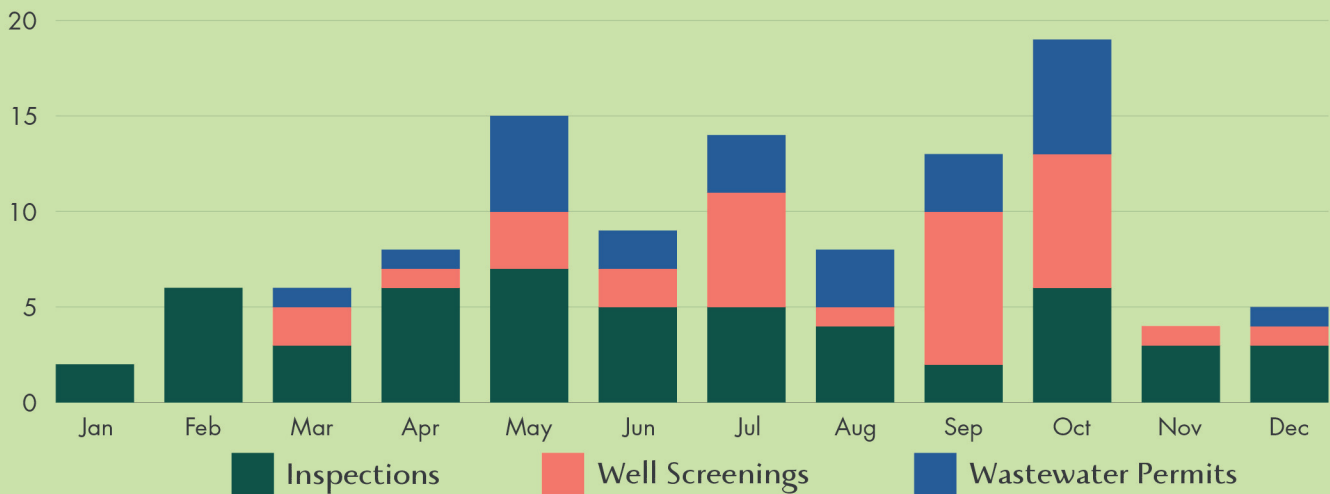
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH



Protecting our environment and water resources is essential for our well-being. The Health Department has the expertise to conduct wastewater inspections, perform well-water screenings, issue construction permits for new systems, and provide guidance for system repairs.

52 Residential Inspections Conducted
30 Private Wastewater Permits Issued
19 Private Well Health Screens Conducted

Environmental Health Services



Animal Bites

Zoonotic diseases are illnesses that can spread from animals to people. When someone is bitten by an animal, the Health Department works with local law enforcement and medical professionals to investigate the incident and provide guidance.

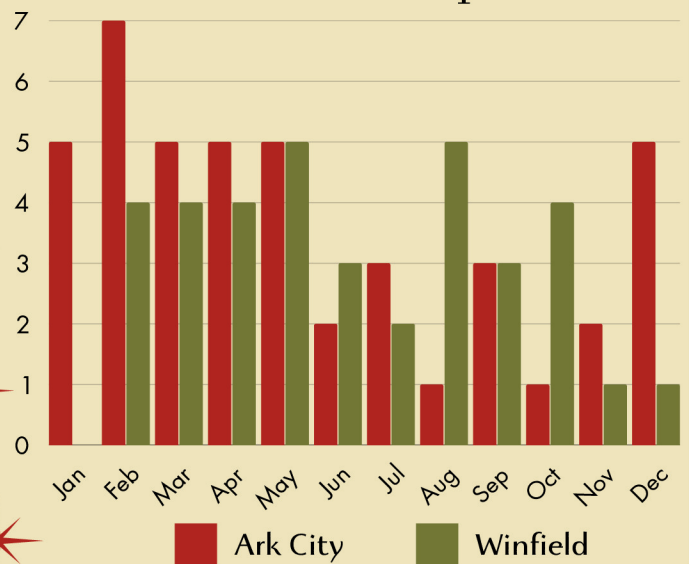
80 Total Animal Bite Reports

44 Reported bites in Ark City

36 Reported bites in Winfield

76 Reported dog bites **4** Reported cat bites

Animal Bite Reports



EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Messaging ✨

Equipping citizens with the knowledge and resources to prepare for disaster is a key part of developing overall community readiness. Throughout 2024, we used our various communications channels to highlight important safety topics, resources, & educational opportunities to help citizens prepare for emergencies



Local Partnerships

Alongside community partners like Cowley County Emergency Services & first responders, the Health Department plays a pivotal role in local emergency response. Each day, we are tasked with thinking about the worst disasters that could strike the community and devising plans to respond. Through strong partnerships, we continue to refine our preparedness strategies in order to improve overall community readiness.



Regional Leadership ✨

We play a central role in regional leadership. Partnerships with adjacent counties ensure that emergency response is strong and that the Health Department is always ready for disaster.



National Preparedness Summit ✨

Representatives from the Health Department attended the National Preparedness Summit in Cleveland, where Allyson Payne, the Epidemiologist & Assistant Administrator, delivered a presentation about our organization's Emergency Plans.

Healthcare Coalition Preparedness Summit

A representative from the Health Department was also present at the regional Healthcare Coalition Preparedness Summit, where speakers from across the nation presented on topics like cyber security, disaster preparedness, active assailant training, and more.



LEAD POISONING PREVENTION

Lead poisoning happens when a person is exposed to high levels of lead. Children are especially vulnerable, often becoming poisoned by consuming lead from buildings built before 1960. This type of poisoning can have lifelong effects on children, including developmental delays and potential brain damage.

There is no safe level of lead!

34.8
 $\mu\text{g/dL}$ ($1.93 \mu\text{mol/L}$)
 Highest Confirmed Blood Lead Level in Cowley County (2024)

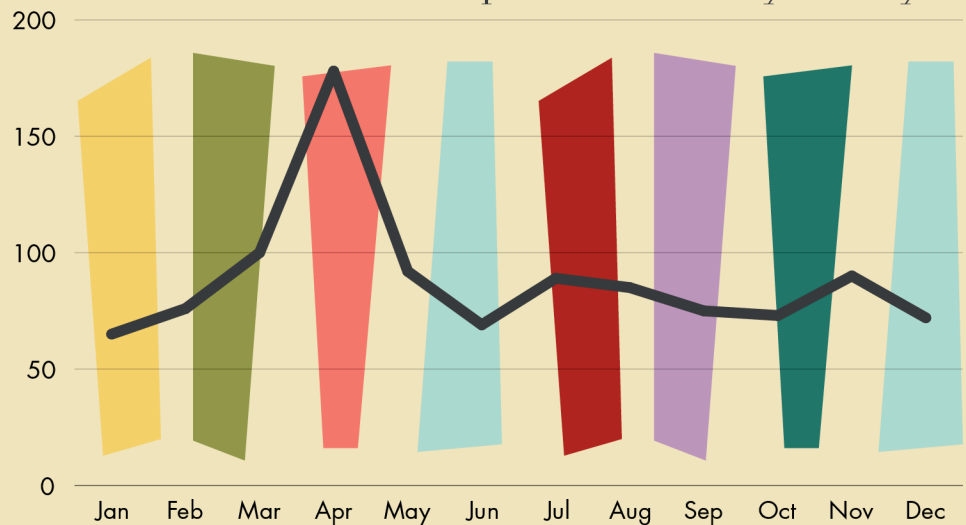
Children Blood Lead Levels ($\mu\text{g/dL}$)

- 25.0+** MEDICAL INTERVENTION
- 15.0 - 25.0** CASE MANAGEMENT
- 5.0 - 14.9** INVESTIGATING
- 3.4 - 4.9** MONITORING
- 0 - 3.3** NORMAL

Blood Lead Tests by Zip Code

Zip	Area	Lead Tests
67005	Ark City & Parkerfield	587
67008	Atlanta	5
67019	Burden	25
67038	Dexter	19
67102	Maple City	1
67119	Oxford	4
67131	Rock	3
67146	Udall	21
67156	Winfield	297
67203	Cambridge	6

Blood Lead Tests Reported in Cowley County



CHILDCARE FACILITY LICENSING

This program monitors Cowley County daycares and enforces compliance with state regulations to protect the health & safety of children in attendance. In the county, a shortage of providers who will accept infants exists.

- 86** Surveys Performed
- 4** Complaints Investigated
- 51** Family Childcare Homes
- 4** Childcare Centers



COMMUNICATIONS

In 2024, we continued to refine & expand our communications strategies. This involved expanding our presence in both traditional and new media.

We also further streamlined our communications efforts, allowing us to communicate more effectively with the Cowley County community.

On the Air

In 2024, we bolstered our relationships with local radio stations and increased our presence on the airwaves. Weekly PSAs, informational spots, and regular in-studio appearances allowed us to highlight important safety topics and promote our efforts in the community.

Health Department Podcast Season 2

2024 saw the return of our podcast **For The Health Of It: Cowley County** for its second season.

This year, we featured numerous community partners and other guests in studio to discuss important public health issues and how they affect the Cowley County community.



Social Media

Over **4,300**

Facebook followers

Over **6,800**

Facebook page visits

Over **19,100**

Facebook page reach

Over **54,100**

Facebook content views

Our Tools



Podcast



Radio



Website



Newsletter



Newspaper



Mobile App



Social Media

Public Health Update Vol. 3

Over the course of 2024, we released 25 issues of our bi-weekly newsletter, **The Public Health Update**.

This publication plays a pivotal role in informing residents about public health issues, and other important topics in the community.

VOL. 3 | IS. 12 | CITY-COWLEY COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT | 28 JUN 2024

PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

What's New in Public Health?

FIREWORKS SAFETY

Independence Day is next week and plenty of folks will be celebrating with BBQs, parties, and, of course, fireworks.

While fireworks are a fun, dazzling way to celebrate this great American holiday, remember that they can also be very dangerous. If you plan on lighting up some fireworks, keep these tips in mind to stay safe!

Before Using Fireworks

Before you light up the fireworks, here's a few steps you can take to prepare.

Be Informed

- Check your local regulations and make sure there are no firework bans in place.

- Check the weather forecast and avoid lighting fireworks during fire weather conditions (e.g. high winds and dry).

Pick the Right Spot

- Only use fireworks on open, flat, inflammable, & sturdy spaces.

- Only light fireworks away from people, homes, and flammable material.

Plan for Fires

- Keep a bucket of water, water hose, or fire extinguisher handy in case a fire breaks out.

Use Fireworks Safely

When you light up your fireworks, use the best practices to stay safe, such as:

Get Moving

- Always maintain a safe distance from lit fireworks and move away quickly once lit.

Pace Yourself

- Only light one firework at a time. Lighting multiple fireworks at once increases the likelihood of injury.

Supervise Your Kids

- Never let children light fireworks unsupervised. Even sparklers can be dangerous.



NEW PODCAST EPISODE

Check out the latest episode of our podcast, **For The Health Of It!** This week's episode features one of our awesome local partners, **Cowley County's K-State Research and Extension Office!**

Becky Reid joins Tom & Ally in studio to discuss a variety of topics including the farmers markets, the county fair, food preservation, and much more!

Give this episode a listen on any of your favorite podcast platform! Or check it out on our website.

FOR THE COMMUNITY

Presumptive Eligibility ✨

Our presumptive eligibility (PE) team conducts screenings to identify individuals without health insurance coverage who are likely to qualify for Medicaid or CHIP.

110 Individuals were screened for presumptive eligibility



Health & Safety Fair ✨

The Health Department played a key role in the planning and execution of the 2024 Health & Safety Fair. The event returned to the Agri-Business Building in Arkansas City, had over 50 organizations participate, and drew in hundreds of community members.

Highlights this year included:

- An EagleMed Helicopter
- The Extension Office Blender Bike
- Breakfast from the Girl Scouts of Troop 45321
- Live 102.5 Radio Broadcast

Over **400** Attendees

Over **50** Participating Organizations

HealthCounts

The Health Department participated in the local community health needs assessment (CHNA), which included a HealthCounts survey collect feedback from the community on various topics impacting health. Survey responses were collected by household.

2,451 Households were surveyed

17.5% of Cowley County households

HEALTH COUNTS
in Cowley County

COMING SOON

★ 2025 ★

Video Content

To better educate & connect with the public, the Health Department will begin producing video content. Videos will cover topics like important public health issues, Health Department programs, local events & initiatives, and more. Follow the Health Department on YouTube, Facebook, & X for all of the latest updates and content:

 @cowleycountyhealth

 @cowleycountyhealth

 @cowleyhealth



Health & Safety Fair

The fair returns to the Winfield Fairgrounds on May 17th. With more community partners, resources, freebies, & attractions than ever before, this year's fair promises to be the biggest & best yet! So, save the date & don't miss out!

Follow the Facebook page for all the latest updates:

 @cowleycountyhealthfair

Community Health Improvement Plan

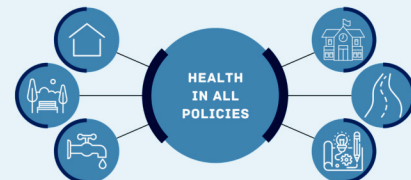
The Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) is a written document that is based on the Community Health Needs Assessment. Areas of focus for 2025 include:

- Housing
- Food & Nutrition
- Healthcare Access
- Transportation



Health in All Policies Workshop

Health in All Policies (HiAP) is a decision-making approach that evaluates both the short- and long-term impacts of policies. This method emphasizes collaboration across various sectors to enhance community health. In 2025, we will host a local workshop where organizations can practice this approach and learn from each other.

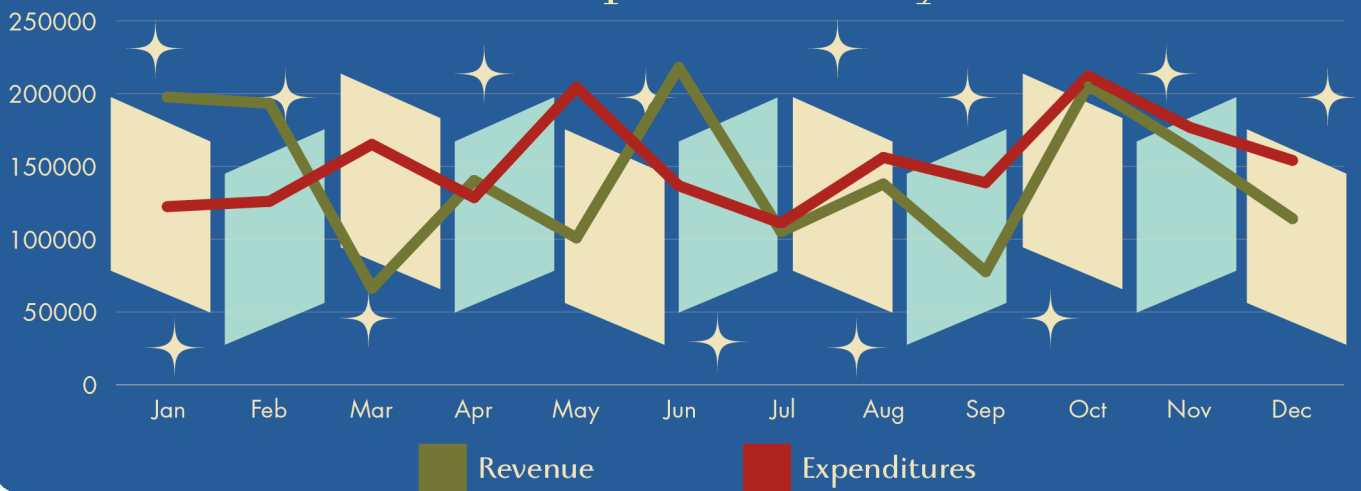


FINANCIAL REPORTS

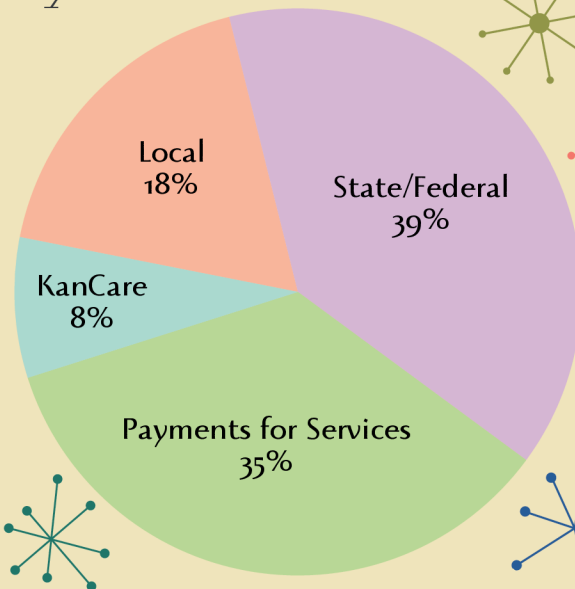
We are committed to responsible financial management and quality services for the residents and visitors of Cowley County. The Health Department's stable financial condition allows us to assess community needs and adapt our services to improve health in the area.

In 2025, we will conduct our annual budget audit to ensure compliance with accounting principles for governmental entities. We foresee no issues, as we regularly submit required reports and provide updates to the Joint Board of Health (JBOH), which reviews our financial status to meet local, state, and federal requirements.

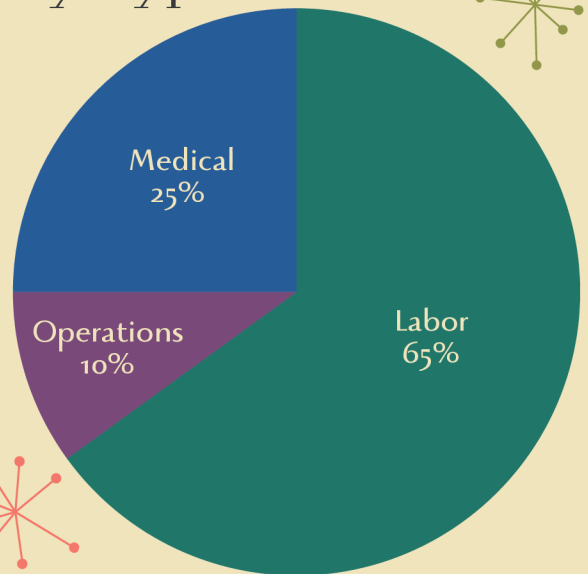
Revenue & Expenditures by Month



2024 Revenue by Source



2024 Expenditures by Type



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.

2024 Joint Board of Health Members

Appointed By:

K.C. Colvin	USD #471 Board of Education
Joyce Jordan	Arkansas City Commission
Anita Judd-Jenkins	Cowley County Commission
Melinda Current, RN, MSN, DHSc- Vice Chair	Winfield City Commission
Ed Trimmer	Cowley County Commission
John Seitz, DDS- Chair	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	H.D. Administrator
Allyson Payne, MPH	H.D. Assistant Administrator

HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF

Thomas Langer, MPA
 Allyson Payne, MPH
 Karen Sattler, RN
 Kelli Waggoner, RN, BSN
 Karen Hardin, RN
 Kathy Broce, RN
 Jillian Rinehart, RD
 Tara Finuf
 Teri Bruner
 Daniel Vildasol
 Jean Tapia
 Patricia Wimmer
 Aleashia Tanner
 Ashley Leighty
 Katie Lawhon
 Sarah Cantu
 Carmelyna Andres

Administrator/Public Health Officer
 Assistant Administrator/Epidemiologist
 Director of Nursing
 Public Health Nurse/WIC Coordinator
 Public Health Nurse
 Public Health Nurse
 Registered Dietician
 Fiscal Accounts Manager
 Medical Services Accounts Coordinator
 Public Information Officer/PHEP
 Maternal & Child Health Home Visitor
 Child Care Licensing Surveyor
 Office Assistant
 Office Assistant
 Office Assistant
 Office Assistant
 Community Health Worker

Contracted Professionals:

Medical Officer:
 Adam Keesling, MD

Reproductive Health:
 Rebekah Ross, MD

Consulting Pharmacist:
 Angela Norton, PharmD

WIC Nutritionist:
 Alicia Ramey, RD



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. At the Health Department, we work hard every day to help you stay well.

Our Values

Prevent ~ Promote ~ Protect