



2022-2023

Annual Report



# Why Public Health is important?



"Prevention is paramount for the protection of our community."

-Jeremy Eschliman

We can prevent disease, promote healthy behaviors and environments, and ensure access to healthcare services through public health.

-Dr. Brady Beecham

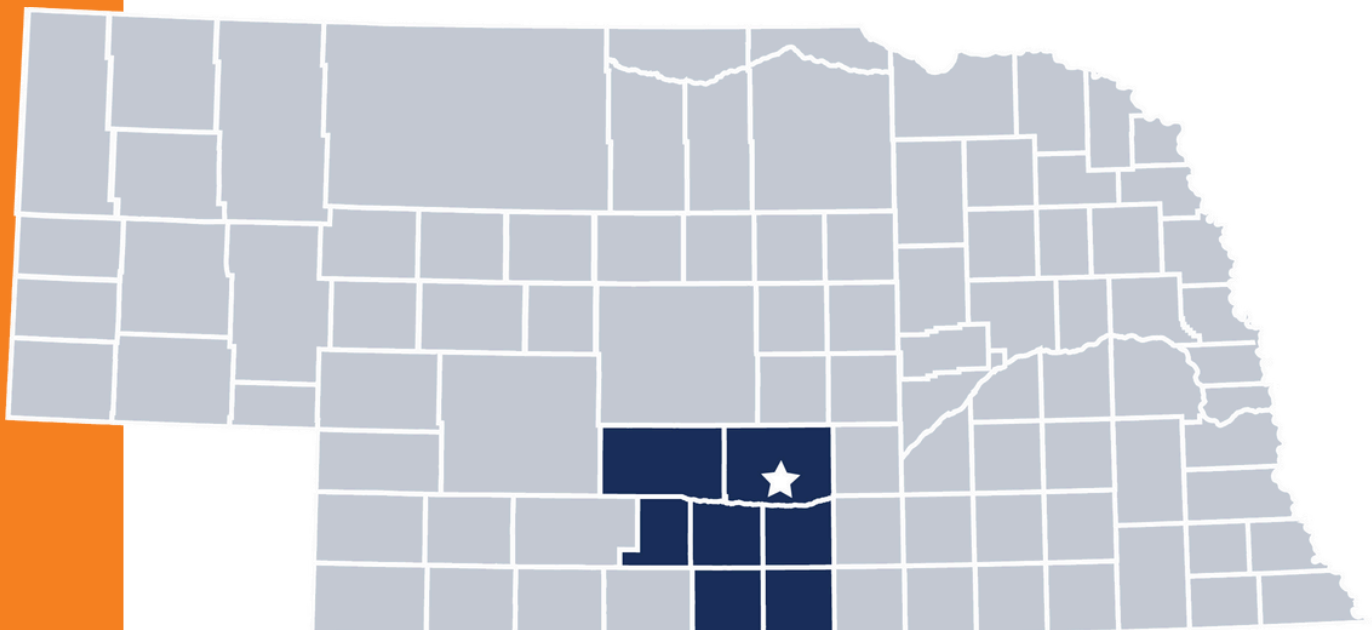


By improving the health of communities, public health interventions can reduce healthcare costs, increase productivity, and improve overall quality of life.

-Sue Hunter, Board of Health President

Public health efforts can help reduce health disparities and promote social justice by addressing the underlying social, economic, and environmental factors contributing to poor health outcomes.

-Dr. Katherine Goodwin





Two Rivers proudly serves communities in Buffalo, Dawson, Franklin, Gosper, Harlan, Kearney, and Phelps Counties.

## Mission

Two Rivers Public Health Department engages collaborative partners, community leaders, and the public to promote healthy lifestyles, provide preventative education, assure environmental quality, and create more healthy and safe communities for all who live within the district.

## Vision

Two Rivers Public Health Department envisions a health district where all are able to safely and actively live, learn, work, and play in their communities. Two Rivers Public Health Department facilitates collaboratives, partnerships, and unique approaches that educate, empower, and engage local community partners, health providers, political decision-makers, community leadership, and the public.

Nosotros hablamos  
español



888-669-7154

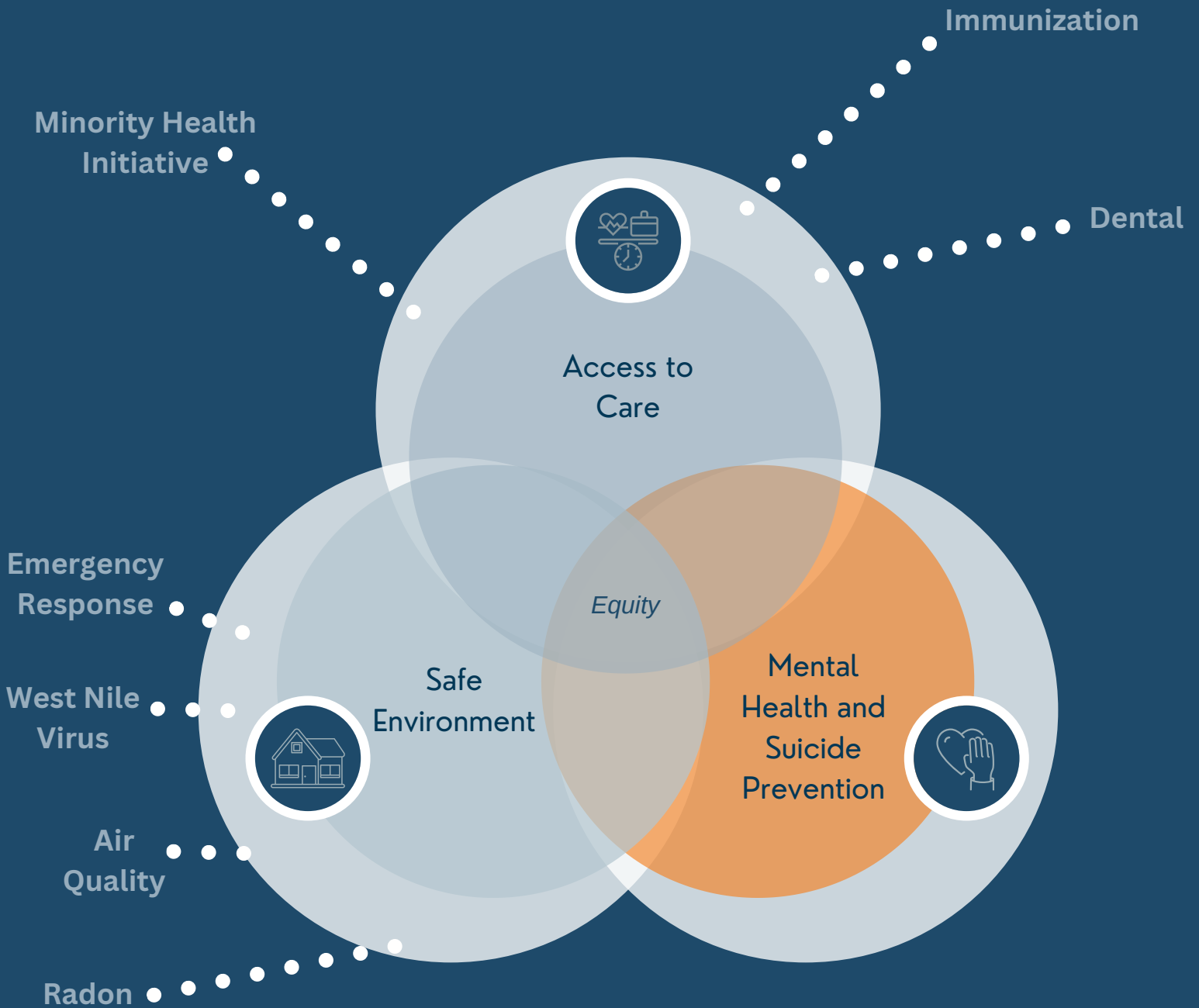


[www.trphd.org](http://www.trphd.org)



[orders@trphd.org](mailto:orders@trphd.org)

# COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PLAN PRIORITIES





The LifeSmiles Dental Health Program's objective is to collaborate with community-based groups, healthcare providers, and organizations to provide preventive dental services and improve access to dental care. TRPHD collaborates with local schools to provide dental care to children through visits to schools twice each school year. This past year we partnered with 27 head starts, preschools, and schools. This was an additional 9 locations than done the previous year.



Screenings

2,612

Flouride  
Treatments

1,453

Teeth  
Sealed

3,293



Two Rivers partnered with Lexington Public School and helped transport 54 children to UNMC Dental College in Lincoln to assist in gaining dental treatment. Each child was seen and provided treatment free of charge. These children previously did not have a dental home or insurance to cover treatments needed.



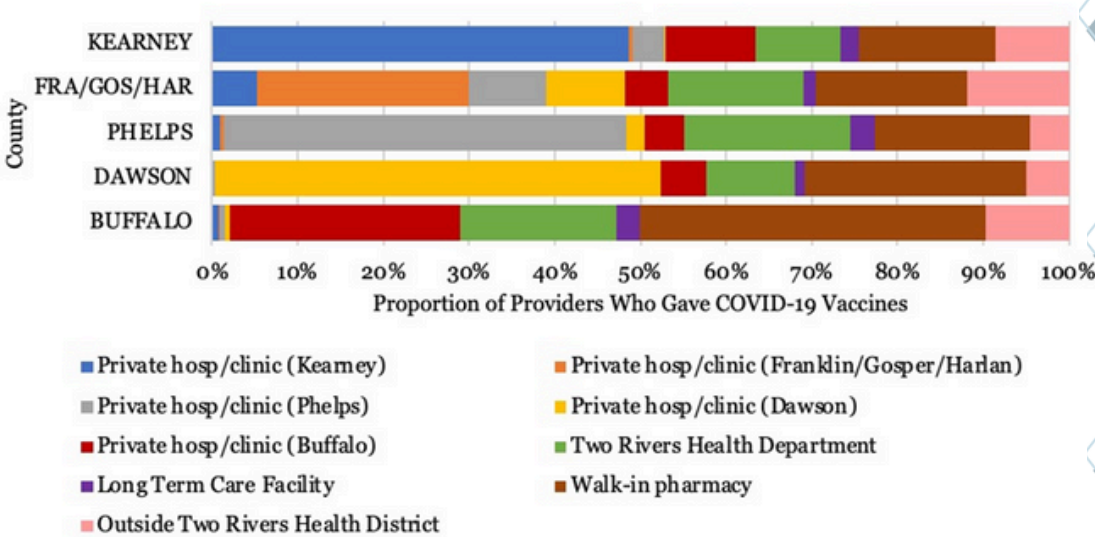
Dr. Von Lutz  
Clinical Section  
Manager



# COVID-19 Response

Men and women adopt public health initiatives at different rates, and this must inform public health policy and communication initiatives

Vaccine Provider for TRPHD Residents Who Received any COVID-19 Vaccine Dose



TRPHD, Private hospitals and clinics within the county were mostly responsible for first and second doses of vaccine.

Residents mostly accessed COVID vaccine booster doses from walk-in pharmacies across the district.

Two Rivers Public Health Department was the only entity with a significant contribution to vaccine provision across all 7 counties.

Although a small proportion of residents in smaller counties (Franklin, Gosper, Harlan) crossed county lines to access vaccinations in larger counties (Buffalo or Dawson counties), the reverse phenomenon (residents of Buffalo and Dawson traveling to Kearney, Franklin, Gosper, Harlan, Franklin for vaccines) did not occur.

## Fully Vaccinated

Proportion of Females who Received the COVID-19 Vaccine in TRPHD

	GOSPER	FRANKLIN	HARLAN	KEARNEY	PHELPS	DAWSON	BUFFALO	TOTAL
0-9 YRS	10%	5%	5%	10%	8%	7%	13%	10%
10-19 YRS	26%	31%	23%	39%	31%	51%	38%	39%
20-29 YRS	72%	46%	32%	47%	50%	64%	45%	50%
30-39 YRS	63%	53%	51%	51%	54%	67%	64%	62%
40-49 YRS	50%	60%	52%	75%	58%	69%	70%	68%
50-59 YRS	82%	51%	60%	64%	65%	74%	71%	70%
60-69 YRS	79%	85%	81%	80%	82%	83%	85%	84%
70-79 YRS	72%	82%	73%	78%	86%	84%	100%	92%
80+ YRS	100%	78%	81%	80%	100%	80%	91%	88%
TOTAL	64%	56%	51%	56%	57%	60%	58%	58%

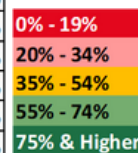
Counties are arranged in order of increasing population from left to right. Age categories are grouped in order of increasing age from top to bottom.

Vaccination rates are higher in larger compared to smaller counties. Rates are also higher among older residents when compared to younger adults

Proportion of Males Who Received the COVID-19 Vaccine in TRPHD

	GOSPER	FRANKLIN	HARLAN	KEARNEY	PHELPS	DAWSON	BUFFALO	TOTAL
0-9 YRS	6%	3%	3%	10%	5%	8%	14%	10%
10-19 YRS	27%	29%	28%	31%	25%	51%	32%	35%
20-29 YRS	100%	18%	34%	35%	30%	60%	38%	42%
30-39 YRS	26%	32%	41%	36%	38%	53%	49%	47%
40-49 YRS	44%	49%	41%	73%	45%	66%	59%	59%
50-59 YRS	75%	41%	45%	53%	60%	62%	65%	61%
60-69 YRS	81%	69%	66%	65%	68%	79%	78%	75%
70-79 YRS	59%	100%	78%	61%	81%	79%	85%	83%
80+ YRS	72%	70%	73%	70%	86%	74%	100%	90%
TOTAL	52%	45%	43%	46%	43%	54%	49%	49%

Women have consistently higher rates of vaccination compared to men. This difference is seen across all counties and for all ages above 10 years.



Aravind Menon, PhD, MPH, MBBS, Epidemiologist





# 115

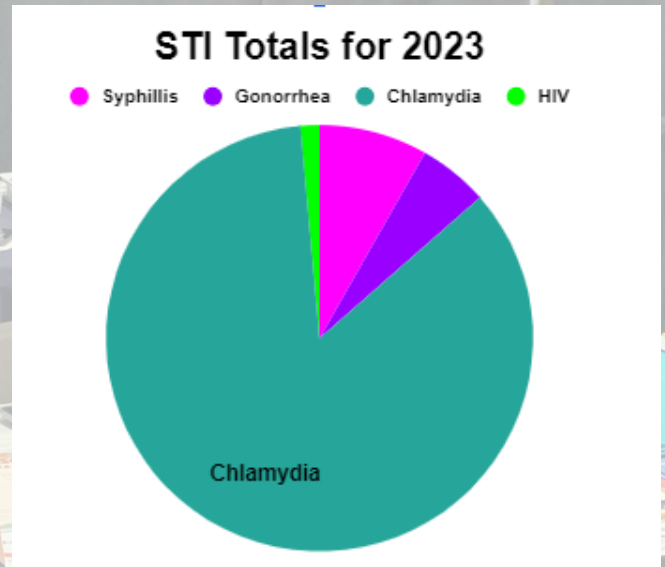
## ELIGIBLE VFC IMMUNIZATIONS ADMINISTERED

The Vaccines For Children (VFC) program is a federally funded program that provides vaccines at no cost to children who might not otherwise be vaccinated because of inability to pay. The CDC buys vaccine at a discounted rate for distribution to registered VFC providers. Children who are eligible\* for VFC vaccines are entitled to receive those vaccines recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). TRPHD helps provide these at mobile clinics and at our office.

TRPHD took over disease investigations for STIs in September of 2022. In 2023, TRPHD nurses investigated the following totals:

- Chlamydia: 352
- Gonorrhea: 22
- Syphilis: 34
- HIV: 6

TRPHD nurses offer education, resources, and most importantly, Partner Services. This is a service to help clients notify partners discretely and anonymously.



### Heart Health

What to know:

- Avoid foods high in saturated & trans fats and cholesterol
- Be active
- Know your family history



Jacki Haley, BSN, RN  
Clinical Section Manger





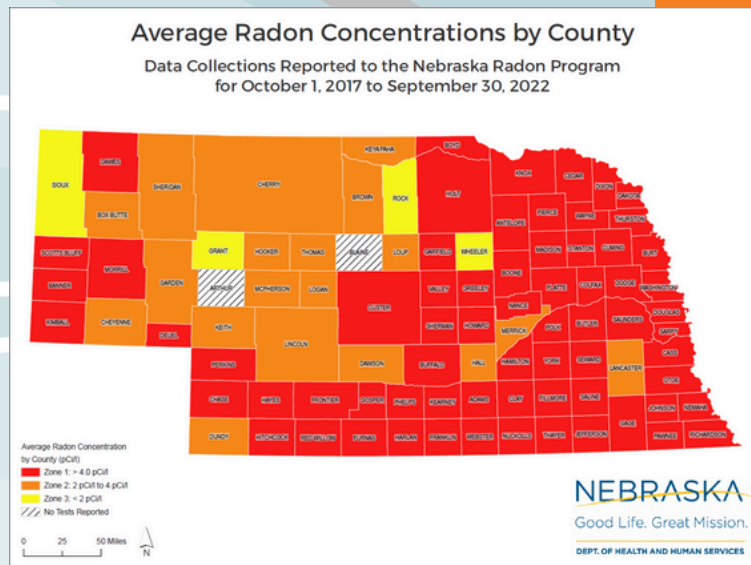


TRPHD has been working on building Environmental Health (EH) capacity in the last year! At the end of 2022, TRPHD hired McKenzie Petersen as the division's Environmental Health Specialist. McKenzie monitors and tracks environmental health issues and diseases that impact our communities such as vector-borne diseases, radon, lead poisoning, lake algae, public health water violations, and air quality.



TRPHD distributed 100 free at-home radon test kits in 2022. Radon is an undetectable radioactive gas that can cause lung cancer over time. Testing is the first step in reducing radon-induced lung cancer in the district!

**# OF PROFESSIONAL AND AT-HOME RADON TESTS COMPLETED IN 2022**



In her time so far, she has applied for several grants, attended several conferences, and shadowed other EH departments in order to determine the next steps for the EH department.

McKenzie Petersen,  
Environmental  
Health Specialist



ENVIRONMENTAL health



# OPIOIDS

Two Rivers Public Health Department participates in the Drug Overdoses Prevention Program through the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services Division of Public Health. This program strongly emphasizes on the collection of data, distribution of educational materials to both the public and medical providers, access to Naloxone, and connecting individuals with treatment options. Two Rivers has partnered with district bars to distribute naloxone and education on the signs of overdose, what to do during an overdose and where to get free Naloxone. Lockboxes have been distributed at district senior centers to encourage medication storage safety.

## PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE

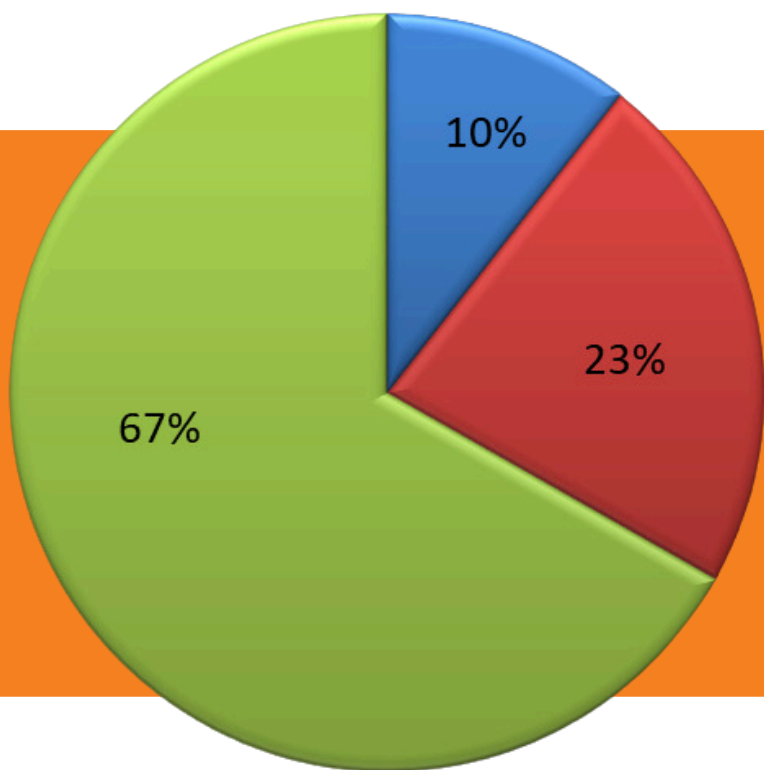
The Two Rivers Emergency Preparedness program has spent the last year preparing for future emergencies. TRPHD staff helped to plan tabletop exercises for train derailment and wildfire. TRPHD staff participated in the several community exercises including preparations for: radiation exposure, decontamination, and .....



# Finances

## 2022-2023 Funding

Federal State Local



**Increased public health funding can save lives.**

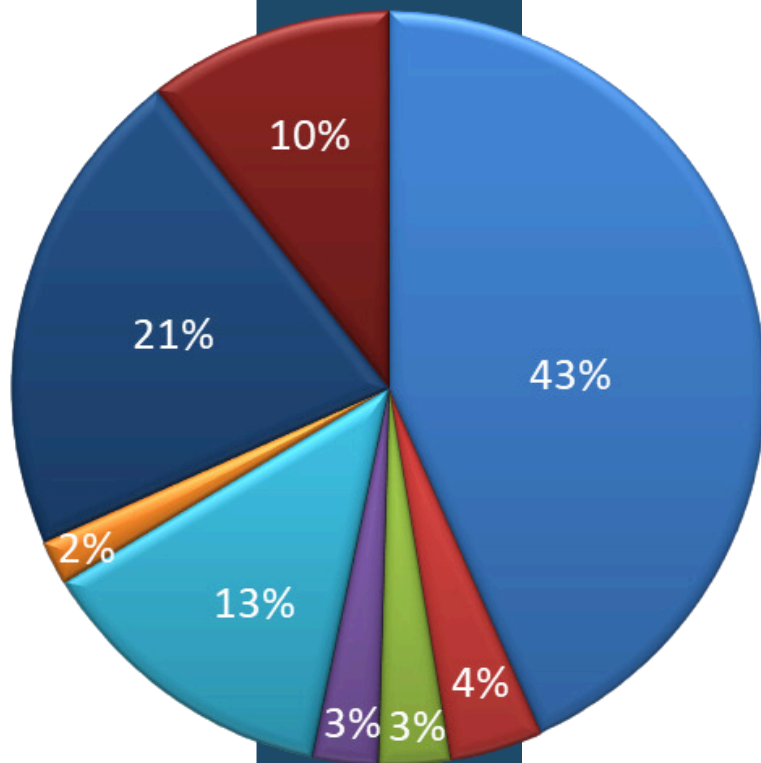
According to the American Public Health Association (APHA), every 10% increase in funding for community-based public health programs has the potential to reduce deaths due to largely preventable causes by 1% to 7%. "Chronic conditions—the most common, costly, and preventable of all health problems—account for 90% of the nation's \$3.8 trillion in annual healthcare costs," the APHA reports.

## 2022-2023 Expenses

Wages/Benefits Contract Services  
Rent/Office Program Supplies  
Equip Capital/Rent IT  
PGE Other

**Increased public health funding can save lives.**

According to the American Public Health Association (APHA), every 10% increase in funding for community-based public health programs has the potential to reduce deaths due to largely preventable causes by 1% to 7%. "Chronic conditions—the most common, costly, and preventable of all health problems—account for 90% of the nation's \$3.8 trillion in annual healthcare costs," the APHA reports.







**Two Rivers**  
PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT