



SARPY/CASS HEALTH DEPARTMENT

ANNUAL REPORT 2016-2017



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MISSION

The highest quality of life for all Sarpy and Cass County residents.

VISION

To improve the lives of all Sarpy and Cass County residents through prevention, promotion, and protection of the public’s health.

VALUES

Collaboration • Empowerment • Excellence • Integrity • Respect

AT A GLANCE

In 2001, the Nebraska Legislature passed LB 692, which established the system of local public health departments across the state. The Sarpy/Cass Health Department was founded that same year when the Sarpy and Cass County Commissioners created an interlocal agreement for the establishment of a shared local public health department. Public health services have been provided by the Department since that time.



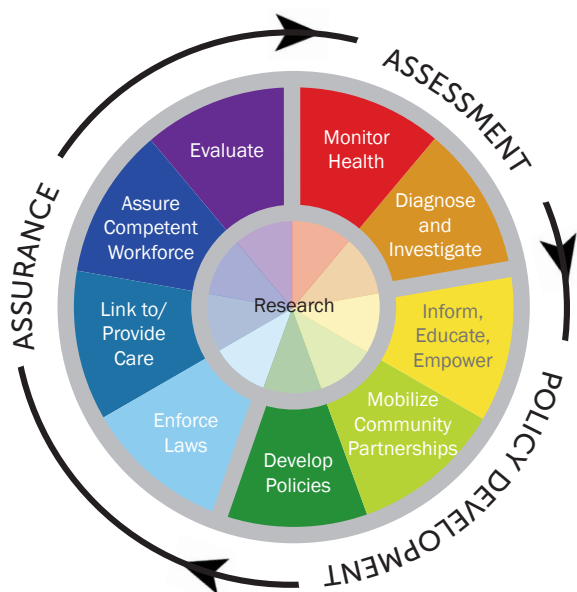
The Department is guided by a nine member Board of Health whose duties include assessment of community health status and available resources for health matters, policy development for proposals to support and improve public health, and assurance that needed services are available through public or private sources in the community.

The Department serves the populations of Sarpy and Cass Counties in east-central Nebraska, which includes 20 cities and villages across 814 square miles, and 204,790 residents.

10 ESSENTIAL SERVICES OF PUBLIC HEALTH

The three core public health functions are assessment, policy development, and assurance. Each core function is divided into services that ensure the functions are being met.

These 10 Essential Services of Public Health describe the basic public health activities that should be conducted in all communities. These essential services are the foundation for all public health activity in the Department.



COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PLAN

In August of 2016, the Department leveraged the results from the 2015 Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) and contracted with the United Way of the Midlands to begin developing a Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP). CHIP planning included the creation and distribution of public surveys, collected both in-person and online, and two community stakeholder meetings. The results of the surveys and meetings were integrated with CHNA data and strategic goals to produce the Departments CHIP.

The top priorities identified in the CHIP process were access to healthcare services, mental health, and nutrition, physical activity, and weight. The Department met with community agencies to align priorities and establish partnerships to address shared priorities, determined funding opportunities to align with each priority area, and mobilized internal resources to implement programs.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

The Department offered programs addressing maternal child health, adolescent health, chronic disease prevention, facility inspections, emergency preparedness, senior health, disease surveillance, and community outreach. The following highlights program successes from the past fiscal year:

FY16-17 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS	
459	459 cases of reportable communicable diseases were investigated. This showed a 14% increase in the number of cases investigated in FY15-16.
442	The Sharing and Caring program provided 342 home visits for pregnant women and children up to age three. The Active Aging program provided 100 visits to homebound seniors.
126	126 child passenger safety seats were installed by Department certified child passenger safety seat technicians. 21 of these seats were provided for no cost to families in need.
768	The Active Aging program provided basic foot care and health screenings to 768 clients through 112 individual clinics. This showed a 79% increase in the number of clients over FY15-16.
1500	Over 1500 residents received information during presentations offered throughout the communities. Topics included nutrition, fire prevention, bike helmet safety, and military cultural competence.

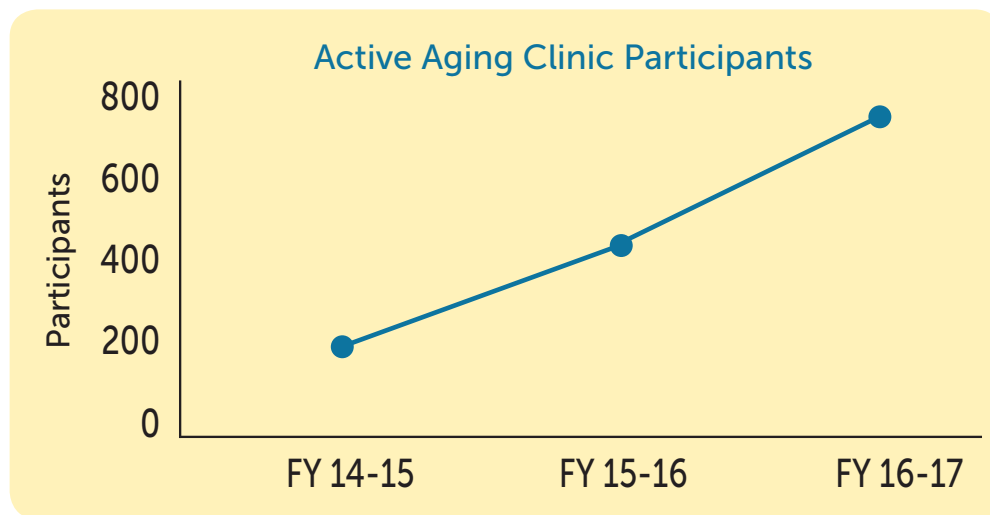
ACTIVE AGING

The Department's Active Aging program serves seniors in both Sarpy and Cass Counties with the goal of helping them remain safe and in their homes for as long as possible. The program focuses on chronic disease prevention, nutrition, and physical activity, and offers low-cost foot care and blood pressure screening, home visitations, and educational presentations.

Foot Care and Blood Pressure Clinics

This year, the Active Aging program offered 112 basic foot care and blood pressure clinics throughout Sarpy and Cass counties, providing services to 768 individuals. Participants received blood pressure screenings, basic foot care and toenail trimming, and health information on topics related to the individual's needs and interests. These same services were also provided to seniors as part of the Active Aging's home visitation program.

The Active Aging program has seen an increase in the number of individuals receiving foot care and blood pressure screenings since 2014. The following is a comparison of the number of clinic participants over the past three years:



Home Visitation

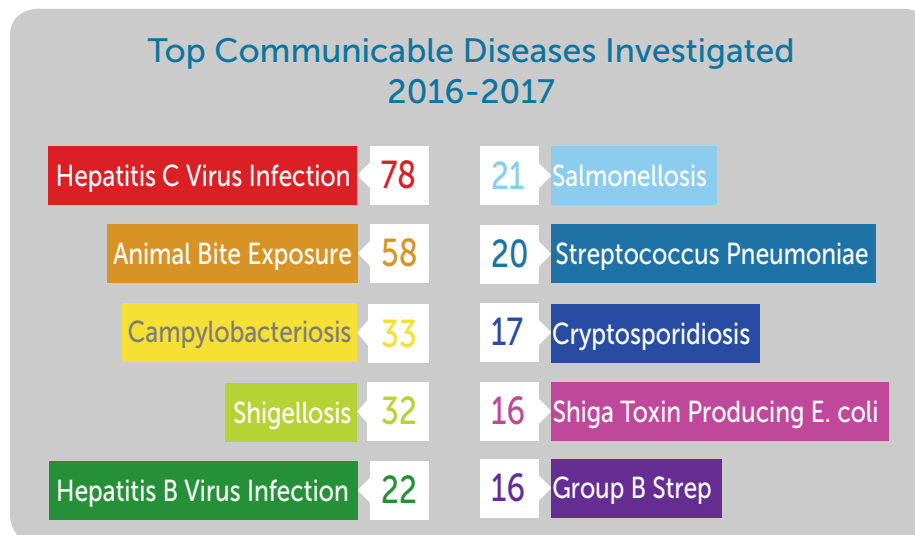
The program provided 100 home visits to homebound seniors.

Education

Health Educators provided information to over 500 residents on topics ranging from healthy cooking, My Plate, senior fitness, and talking to your physician.

DISEASE SURVEILLANCE & INVESTIGATIONS

All communicable disease investigations conducted by the Department were reported into the Nebraska Disease Surveillance System (NEDSS), which is linked to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. This year, 459 cases of reportable diseases were investigated by Department disease investigators. Each patient was interviewed, pertinent information collected, and recommendations made to prevent, promote, and protect the health of community members. Following is a summary of the most frequently investigated diseases this year and the number of investigations conducted:



School Surveillance

During the school year, school absentee data is collected through the cooperation of all Sarpy and Cass County schools. Once each week the schools inform the Department of the number of students that are absent from school due to specific medical reasons, including influenza-like illness, gastrointestinal illness, strep, asthma, fever, or rash. This data is uploaded into the State of Nebraska's Guardian computer system, and is used to identify trending illnesses in schools.

Tuberculosis

The Department provided case management and education for residents with Tuberculosis. Public health nurses collected sputum samples, oversaw Direct Observation Therapy, and conducted contact investigations. In addition, the Department worked with the Nebraska DHHS Tuberculosis Program and a Civil Surgeon to determine if Tuberculosis treatment was needed for Class B1 and Class B2 immigrants that moved into our jurisdiction.

Zika Virus

The Department approved physician-recommended Zika Virus testing for individuals who met the criteria for exposure. This year, the Department approved 41 requisition forms for Zika Virus testing. None of these individuals tested positive for Zika Virus.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

The Emergency Preparedness program is responsible for identifying risks that could impact the public health of our communities. We create, maintain, and practice emergency response plans designed specifically to address the potential disasters. Department staff work closely with many local and federal agencies to help ensure the continued well-being of the residents should we face a disaster.

In June, a tornado hit several communities in Sarpy and Cass counties. Houses were destroyed, trees were down, and some neighborhoods were without power for several days. The Department's Emergency Preparedness Coordinator partnered with local emergency response agencies to provide vaccine and food safety information.

The Department's Emergency Preparedness Coordinator was accepted into the Center for Preparedness Education's Public Health Immersion Program. The program was designed to help preparedness professionals master both the basic skills of preparedness and the implementation skills of exercise design, facilitation, community engagement, and conflict resolution.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

West Nile Virus Surveillance and Mosquito Education

Every summer, the Department's West Nile Virus (WNV) surveillance program provides mosquito-prevention education and products to our communities. This year, over 2,000 packages of mosquito repellent were distributed. Six mini-grants were awarded to cities within our service area to provide WNV-related prevention activities, including mosquito prevention, city-wide junk clean-up days, and public education. The Department also participated in state-wide mosquito surveillance by conducting bi-weekly trapping for invasive Aedes mosquitoes.

Radon Awareness

This year, the Department was the recipient the Radon Awareness and Risk Reduction Grant from DHHS which allowed the Department to purchase and distribute short-term radon gas testing kits to homeowners in Sarpy and Cass counties. Over 100 test kits were analyzed for radon, and follow-up information was given when requested.

Swimming Pool Inspections

The Department conducted inspections of public swimming pools in Sarpy County. Under the guidance of the DHHS Swimming Pool Program, Department staff inspected 42 swimming pools for compliance with Nebraska Regulation Title 178 Chapter 2: Operation and Management of Public Swimming Pools.

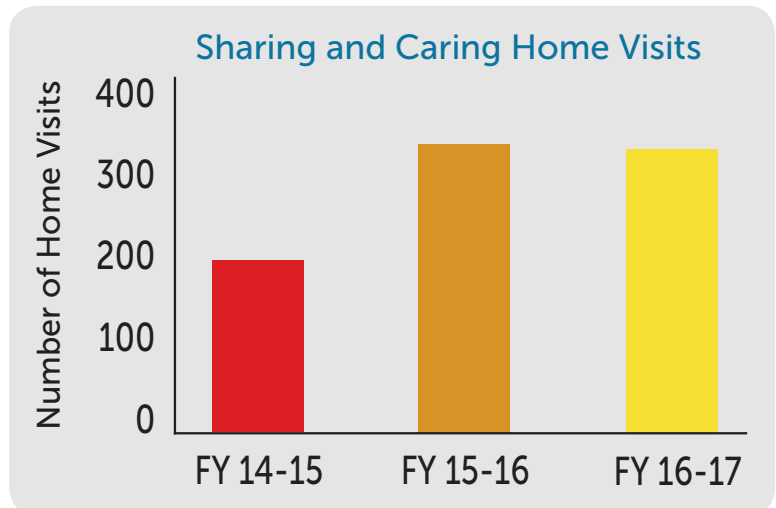
MATERNAL CHILD HEALTH

The Department's Sharing and Caring Program offers a variety of maternal and child health services to our community. Goals of the program are to promote healthy families, empower parents through education and support, improve breastfeeding success, and develop community connections. Maternal Child Health (MCH) nurses provide education and support on a variety of pregnancy and parenting-related topics.

Home Visitation

Department MCH nurses utilize the Growing Great Kids curriculum during home visits for pregnant women and families parenting children up to age three. The evidence-based curriculum aims to engage parents, bolster child development, build parenting and life skills, and strengthen family support networks. The MCH nurses tailor the curriculum with each family, based on their specific needs at each visit. The nurses provided 342 home visits this year.

MCH nurses established partnership agreements with Head Start programs to provide healthy pregnancy education to pregnant women enrolled in the Early Head Start programs, and continue to provide breastfeeding support and health assessments after the women deliver their babies. In conjunction with the Head Start staff, the MCH nurses encourage regular contact with medical providers and health services, and provide information and referrals to community services as appropriate.



Lactation Support

Department MCH nurses launched a workplace lactation support initiative last fall with funding awarded through the Nebraska Breastfeeding Coalition's Community Breastfeeding Initiative. The initiative consisted of mailings to over 500 community businesses regarding their State and Federal legal responsibilities in supporting lactation in the workplace for employees. Support services, consultations, and educational presentations were also offered to the employers.

Community Engagement

The Department engaged in a collaborative process with Douglas County Health Department's Baby Blossoms program to launch an initiative to reduce our area's premature birth rate, based on reports from Nebraska Vital Statistics and the March of Dimes.

VETERANS OUTREACH

The Department's veterans outreach program, VetSET, is a rural veteran coordination project that aims to support veterans and their families who reside in rural or underserved areas. The following services were provided this year by the VetSET program:

- Provided military cultural competence training for rural health care providers and organizations.
- Connected veteran family members with community resources.
- Partnered with Offutt Air Force Base Family Support Center to offer a child passenger safety seat installation event for military families.
- Organized a veterans health fair in collaboration with the Plattsmouth VFW in which over 75 residents received information and services from a variety of community agencies.
- Presented information on the VA's disability compensation for service members, veterans, and their families that were exposed to contaminated water at Camp Lejeune and Camp Pendleton between August 1, 1953, and December 31, 1987.
- Participated in the formation of the Nebraska Veteran and Family Task Force.
- Distributed information to over 350 active duty and retired military at the Stratcom Health and Resilience Fair.



HEALTH HUB

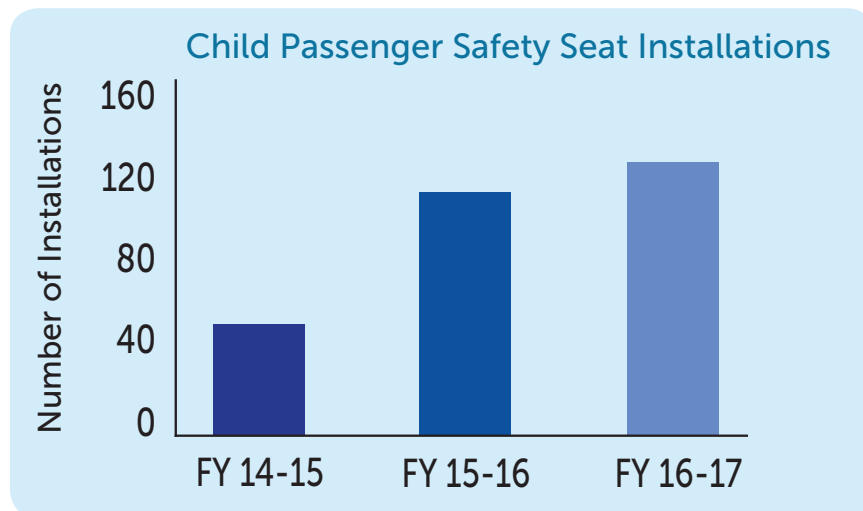
This year, the Department implemented a new Health Hub program, which primarily provides women with services that encourage them to become more invested in their breast, cervical, and colon health so that they can live longer, fuller lives. The program provided health coaching to over 30 women, distributed 40 colon cancer home test kits, and gave 10 community presentations on breast, cervical, and colon cancer prevention and awareness. During March, the program implemented a colon cancer awareness campaign that included key messages on social media, newspapers, and a billboard.

The Health Hub program, through a partnership with the DHHS Every Woman Matters program, is able to offer financial assistance for child care services and vehicle gas to women in order to remove barriers to accessing health care.

SAFE KIDS SARPY/CASS

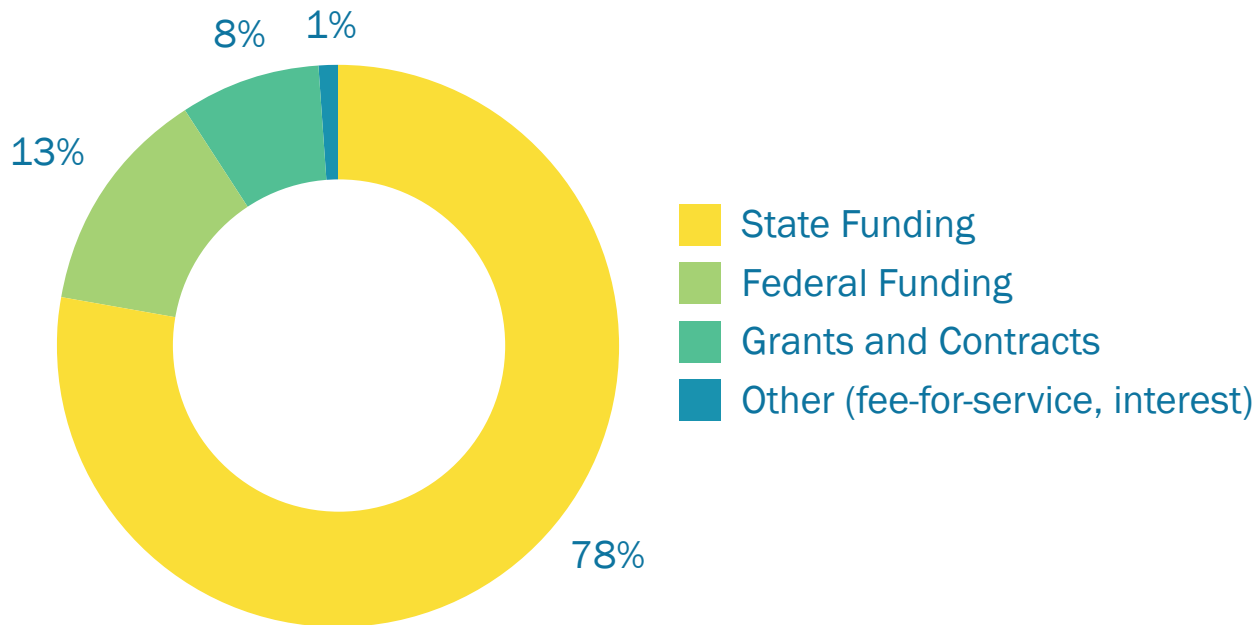
Safe Kids Sarpy/Cass is dedicated to educating families about childhood safety and injury prevention. The program offers no-cost child passenger safety seat inspections and safety presentations to parent groups, elementary schools, daycare centers, and camp groups. The following services were provided this year by the Safe Kids program:

- Safety presentations were given to over 500 adults and children, with topics including child passenger safety, handwashing, fire prevention and planning, home safety, hydration, and bike safety.
- Over 120 bike helmets were fitted and distributed, for no cost, to residents of Sarpy and Cass Counties.
- A parent child passenger safety seat education course was developed and provided to expectant parents at the Bellevue Medical Center.
- Department certified child passenger safety technicians installed 126 child passenger safety seats. Twenty-one seats were provided for no cost to families in need.

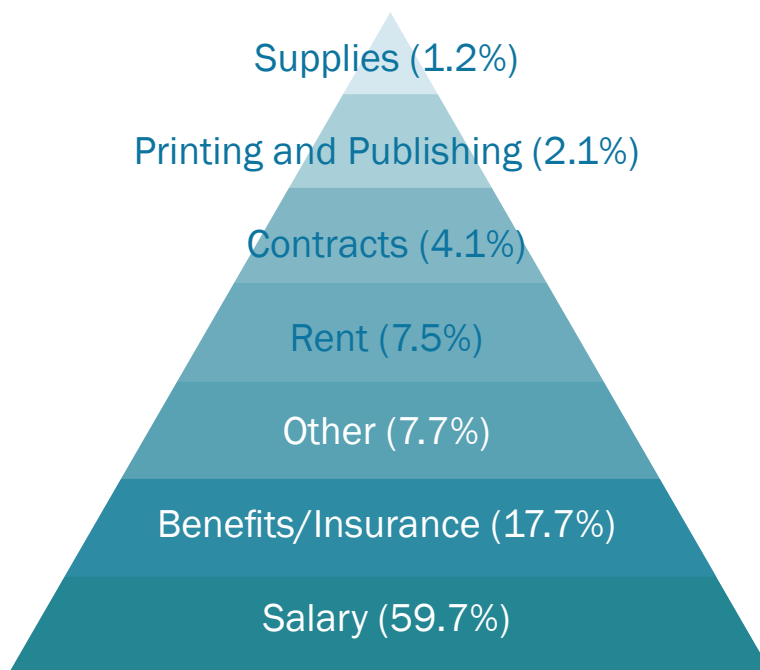


FINANCIALS

The Health Department receives funding from a variety of sources, including appropriated legislative funding, federal funding, various grants and contracts, and fee-for-service. Following is the Department's funding source breakdown for the last fiscal year:



Following is the Department's expense breakdown for the last fiscal year:



SARPY/CASS HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Shavonna Lausterer, Health Director
Jenny Steventon, Assistant Health Director
Erin Ponec, Office Manager
Monica Ulises, Public Health Nurse
Katie Graves, Public Health Nurse
Leslee Campbell, Health Educator
Rachel Dysico, Health Educator
Michelle Leahy, Public Health Nurse
Arlene Williams, Public Health Nurse
Brittney Hensley, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator
Gbadero Yerokun, Health Educator

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Gary Mixan, Sarpy County Commissioner
Ruth Cover, Cass County Resident
Demetria Geraldts, Sarpy County Resident
Linda Finney, Sarpy County Resident



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