



Whitman County Public Health
2023 Impact Report

Growing a healthier community through every season

Dear Whitman County Residents,

Winter, Spring, Summer, and Fall. Each season is familiar, and yet each season feels fresh. We move from crisp pumpkin days, to snow flurries, to green leaves, to summer heat and harvest. Seasons teach us to adapt as the natural world changes. Whitman County Public Health (WCPH) also changes with each new season's challenges and opportunities.

Winter

Winter is a time to rest and recover. In 2023, we encouraged our ourselves and our community to dedicate time and resources to recover after the challenging years of the pandemic.

Spring

Spring offers new growth and new vision. This year, WCPH grew our programs. We expanded Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) to new towns so resources for good nutrition are more accessible for rural residents. Our Safe Kids program grew to include household safety items like child locks, which we distributed to families through their medical providers. We offered swim lessons to children in Tekoa as a pilot program and set up life jacket stands by boat launches throughout the county to improve water safety.

Summer

Joy and fun characterize summer. At WCPH, we celebrate the strengths of our community. Whitman County is one of the safest places to live in Washington. WCPH has great partnerships with our hospitals, local businesses, and schools so we can all leverage our strengths to achieve better health outcomes for our community members. After the heaviness of the past few years, we are prioritizing connecting with our community.

Fall

Fall is a time for introspection. This year, we reflected on how we can improve as an organization and sought feedback from our residents through two community surveys. We are committed to being transparent and listening to our residents. We developed new ways to connect with folks in a way that is true to how they live their lives. We are meeting people "where they're at:" on digital platforms, at their schools, at hospitals and community events.

This report highlights WCPH's achievements in 2023 "by the numbers" and calls out the initiatives we are excited about.

Please join us as we grow a healthier community through every season!



Chris Skidmore
DIRECTOR



Corrin McMichael
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

Acknowledgements

Project Lead & Data Collection

Corrin McMichael, Deputy Director, Whitman County Public Health

Meghan Johns, Community Health Educator, Whitman County Public Health

Report Writing

Kelly Fonteijn, Lead Writer

2023 Highlights

Personal & Family Health

Supports individuals, children and families to thrive in our community.

Whitman County Community Clinic

218

Vaccines administered in our office



73 Adult
Vaccines

145 Child
Vaccines

30 Clients were uninsured
or underinsured

Whitman County Community Clinics with Sid's Pharmacy

Community Clinics were held where people live, study and work: schools, child care facilities, long-term care facilities, local government agencies, and nonprofits.

Vaccines were given at **NO COST** to individuals.

1,409

Vaccines were given

590 COVID
Vaccines

819 Flu
Vaccines

40% Increase compared
to 2022

"Sid's Pharmacy and WCPH make it as easy as possible for the community; nobody has to pay. We show up with the vaccine and they can walk up and get it!" - Jamie Peters, WCPH Staff

WIC (Women, Infants, and Children)

WIC clients receive nutrition education and nutritious food at no cost to them. This is how many people we have helped over the years.



2023 Highlights

Personal & Family Health – Cont.

Safe Kids

Keeps kids safe while playing, sleeping, and traveling.



367

Medicine
Lockboxes



162

Bike
helmets



100

Safe home bags
(child locks, smoke/CO
detectors, furniture anchors)



23

Car seats &
Booster seats



9

Cribettes
("pack-n-play" safe
sleep cribs)

"We work with WCPH in obtaining the car seats that the public needs, for people who don't already have their seats. The majority of our car seat checks are checks that are performed in conjunction with installation of a seat WCPH is providing. There's a lot of need out in the community and a lot of work we're doing is benefiting people who are getting their first car seat, getting people trained and educated on the proper use of the seat. It's been fun to work with WCPH and we are providing an amazing resource for the community. It's rewarding for us that parents can feel their kids are going to be safe."

– Officer Elizabeth Oje, Pullman Police Department

5

**Life Jacket
stands installed, at:**

Boyer Park & Marina

Wawawai Landing

Blyton Landing

Nisqually John Landing

Rock Lake



Thank you to our community partners in our Safe Kids program

Pullman Police Department

Distributed car seats, cribettes, medicine lockboxes

Local Medical Providers

Distributed safe home bags

Colfax Police Department

Distributed medicine lockboxes

Whitman County Library District

Distributed bike helmets

Substance Use Prevention Education & Resources (SUPER)

Distributed medicine lockboxes

2023 Highlights

Community Health

Harm Reduction

1,220

Syringes returned in the Needle Exchange Program

The Needle Exchange Program exchanges used syringes for sterile syringes, reducing HIV and hepatitis. Collecting used needles prevents them from being dropped in community spaces like parks and playgrounds. It keeps everyone in our community safe, especially children.

44

Narcan distributed

"WCPH gave our group some training on Narcan and how important it is. It's not enabling people with addiction, but it prevents death by overdose, especially with the amount of opioid prescriptions in Colfax. You never know what's going to happen or who you will run across so I keep Narcan with me all the time. I think the training changed some minds on our coalition."

– Sara Golden, SUPER Colfax

Child Care Health Program

Promotes healthy child development and behaviors by supporting childcare providers with hard-to-find consultation services, immunizations, and health records review. We work with Community Child Care Center, Sunnyside, and Pullman Christian Childcare.

29

Health intake forms reviewed

11

Immunization records reviewed and entered into the state system

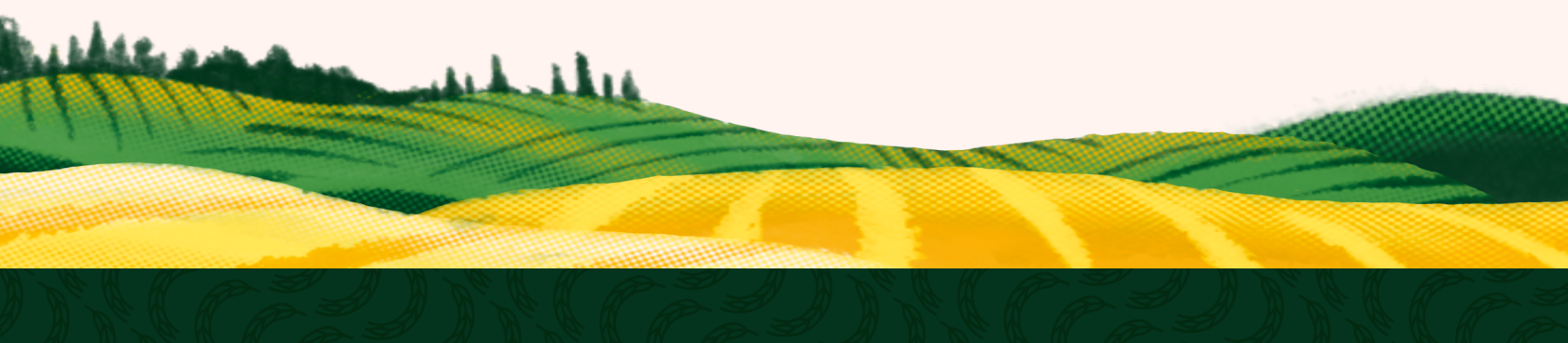
16

Families received all needed vaccinations for child care entry

14

Children received blood lead testing through our pilot program

We now have the licensing and equipment to start offering blood lead testing during WCPH clinic hours, and will start that service in 2024.



2023 Highlights

Community Health – Cont.

Disease Prevention

WCPH protects the community from serious illnesses and educates the community to prevent disease outbreaks.

For each positive lab report we received, we conduct a case investigation when necessary. We interview the person who has tested positive to find the source of the notifiable condition and the likelihood that the disease has spread to others in the community. We provide education so the person who is sick does not spread the disease. We also alert medical providers about potential outbreaks and give them guidance.

2023

59

cases of reportable diseases investigated

- 22 Campylobacter
- 12 Hepatitis C
- 8 Hepatitis B & D
- 6 Elevated Blood Lead
- 3 Shigellosis
- 2 HARO (highly antibiotic resistant organism)
- 1 E. coli
- 1 Cryptosporidium
- 1 Cyclosporiasis
- 1 Lyme Disease
- 1 Pertussis
- 1 Salmonellosis
- 1 Shiga toxin E. coli (STEC)

81

animal bite reports investigated

2022

27

cases of reportable diseases investigated

43

animal bite reports investigated



Community Data

WCPH provides public health data for Whitman County so community organizations have the data they need to improve our county's health. You can also request public health data! The service is open to any nonprofit, government entity, or school at no cost.

Scan to Explore Reports

Or visit whitmancountypublichealth.org



Birth & Death Records

1,255

Birth Certificate orders processed

1,426

Death Certificate orders processed

2023 Highlights

Environmental Health

Supports communities to be healthier places to live, learn, work and play.



Onsite Sewage Systems

28 Site Evaluations

16 Final Evaluations

Solid Waste

5 Responded to solid waste complaints with inspections

NEW THIS YEAR!

Water Recreation

All drinking water reports for our towns are on our website. Scan for your town's drinking water report.

Scan to Explore Reports

Or visit whitmancountypublichealth.org/environmental-health/drinking-water



17

Pools & spas inspected



86%

of all pools & spas inspected, excluding WSU pools

.5%

of water recreation facilities failed first inspection

Food Protection

101

food establishments inspected

60%

of all restaurants and caterers inspected

17%

decrease in 2023 compared to 2022

3

School cafeterias inspected



NEW THIS YEAR!

Food Inspection Reports

We are publishing all food inspection data – creating a database where the community can see what restaurants got on their last inspection.

Scan to Explore Reports

Or visit whitmancountypublichealth.org and visit our Food Safety section under the Environmental Health Division



Our mission is to protect & improve the health & wellbeing of Whitman County.



**Whitman County
Public Health**

PULLMAN

1205 SE Pro Mall Blvd
#203 Pullman, WA 99163
(509) 332-6752

communityhealth@whitmancounty.net

COLFAX

310 N Main Street Ste.
108, Colfax, WA 99111
(509) 397-6280

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about what WCPH?**

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