

# NEBRASKA

Good Life. Great Mission.

DEPT. OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES



Jim Pillen, Governor

December 1, 2024

The Honorable Ben Hansen  
Members of the Health and Human Services Committee  
Nebraska Legislature  
P.O. Box 94604  
Lincoln, NE 68509

Subject: Minority Health Initiatives Implemented

Dear Chairman Hansen:

In accordance with Neb. Rev. Stat. § 71-1628.07(2), the Division of Public Health in the Department of Health and Human Services submits the 2023 Minority Health Initiatives Implemented Annual Report. This report provides information about minority health initiatives implemented in counties with a minority population of at least five percent of the total population of the county as determined by the most recent federal decennial census for the 2022-2023 state fiscal year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Charity Menefee".

Charity Menefee  
Director, Division of Public Health

Summary of health departments receiving Minority Health Initiative funds for counties within their respective areas with more than 5% minority population in Congressional Districts 1 and 3.

<b>Local Health Departments</b>	<b>Funding</b>
Central District Health Dept	\$231,896.81
Dakota County Health Dept	\$114,244.31
East Central District Health Dept	\$137,980.24
Elkhorn Logan Valley Public Health Dept	\$96,073.54
Four Corners Health Dept	\$37,340.66
Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Dept	\$659,657.03
Loup Basin Public Health Dept	\$14,603.85
North Central District Health Dept	\$36,845.78
Northeast Nebraska Public Health Dept	\$66,865.84
Panhandle Public Health District	\$166,067.44
Public Health Solutions	\$73,738.24
Sarpy/Cass Health Dept	\$352,413.77
South Heartland District Health Dept	\$62,579.93
Southeast District Health Dept	\$42,438.94
Southwest Nebraska Public Health Dept	\$39,096.11
Three Rivers Public Health Dept	\$85,643.55
Two Rivers Public Health Dept	\$191,147.96
West Central District Health Dept	\$48,863.14
	<hr/>
	\$2,457,497.14

# 2024 MINORITY HEALTH INITIATIVE (MHI) REPORT

18

Local Health Departments



\$2,457,497

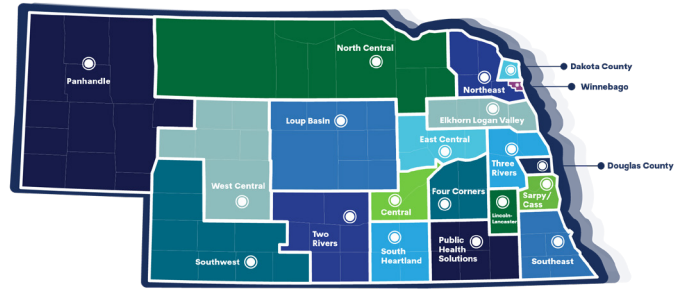
FY 2023-2024

NE Total MHI Funds



260,731

NE Total MHI-Eligible Residents



23% NE Minority Population

Based on total population: 1,961,504



Hispanic

American Indian

Black

Asian

Hawaiian/Pacific Islander



18%

NE residents speak languages other than English



12%

Persons with disabilities



7.5%

Veteran Status



## Selected Examples of LHDs Addressing Disparities

LHDs in Nebraska are addressing disparities as part of providing the Foundational Public Health Services ([FPHS](#)) across their jurisdictions.



### Maternal, Child, & Family Health

- Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department (SWNPHD) implements the Polish Your Pearls program to address oral health barriers for rural children.
- Southeast District Health Department (SEDHD) offers the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program to provide vaccines at no cost to eligible children. Interpretation services are available.
- Sarpy/Cass Health Department (SCHD) provided nearly 50 no-cost car seats and safety education, targeting under-resourced minority populations.
- Central District Health Department (CDHD) began a bilingual Healthy Families America (HFA) program focusing on adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), with 80% of referrals being Spanish-speaking families.



### Communicable Disease Control

- Two Rivers Public Health Department (TRPHD) holds monthly mobile vaccination clinics, offering flu, HPV, and other vaccines in under served and rural communities.
- North Central District Health Department (NCDHD) meets rural needs by offering immunizations at its annual Healthy Living Expo.
- Four Corners Health Department (FCHD) employs bilingual Community Health Workers (CHW) to assist the health department with vaccines for children.



### Access to & Linkage with Clinical Care

- Elkhorn Logan Valley Public Health Department (ELVPHD) employs bilingual Certified Application Counselors (CACs) to help individuals enroll in health insurance programs.
- Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department's (LLCHD) Refugee Health Clinic served over 900 newly resettled refugees within their first three months, offering critical health assessments, lab services, and primary care linkages.



### Chronic Disease & Injury Prevention

- North Central District Health Department (NCDHD) partnered with HeartCorp to implement "Bingocize," a fall prevention and physical exercise program for seniors, with 48 participants across three communities.
- West Central District Health Department (WCDHD) implements Project STOP (Sharing Tool for Overdose Prevention), which focuses on reducing drug overdose risks and provides education on substance use prevention.
- South Heartland District Health Department (SHDHD) launched a diabetes prevention class for Spanish-speaking residents, achieving over 12,000 minutes of participant exercise and an average weight loss of 23 pounds.



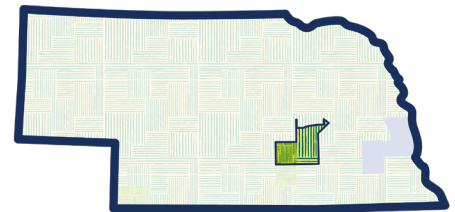
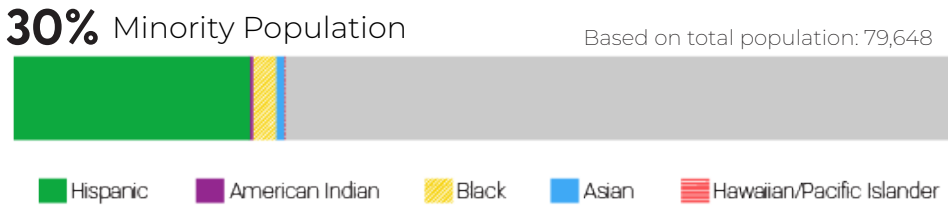
### Environmental Public Health

- East Central District Health Department (ECDHD) investigated 40 cases of elevated childhood blood lead levels, with all cases involving families who spoke languages other than English.
- Panhandle Public Health District (PPHD): Distributed 10 PurpleAir monitors to schools with high Native American and Hispanic enrollment, monitoring air quality and providing guidance during poor air days.

# Minority Health Initiative (MHI) Report 2023-2024

## Central District Health Department

Central District Health Department's (CDHD) impactful work across its 3 county district, is supported through vital funding and collaboration with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (NEDHHS). These efforts have directly addressed disparities within our communities, fostering greater access to care and improved health for all residents. Our ongoing partnership ensures that these initiatives can continue making a difference where needed most.



■ Rural & Micropolitan  
■ Metropolitan

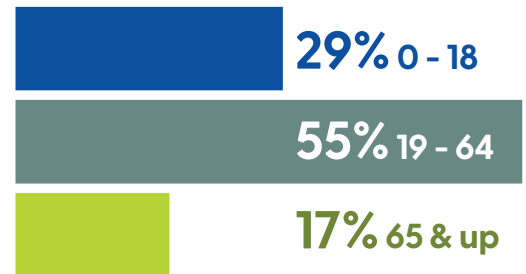


20% of residents speak languages other than English  
Common Languages: Spanish, Arabic, & Somali

### Helping all communities thrive

Over the past two years, CDHD has focused on better ways to reach residents in need of services. Ten Community Health Workers (CHWs) completed this year's formal CHW training through UNMC's College of Public Health. During the past year, CHWs have assisted 346 individuals and completed 1,157 appointments. Of those assisted, 29% were Caucasian, and 58% were Hispanic. The first language of those assisted was 14% English, 20% Arabic, and 53% Spanish. The number one need identified was applying for Medicaid (29%), followed by housing (18%), health needs (16%), and food insecurity (12%). CHWs meet with clients individually to identify needs, assist with navigation and referrals to community resources, and provide case management for clients with multiple needs. In Hall County, 31% of the population is of Hispanic Latino heritage, with 14.6% born outside of the United States. In Merrick County, 5% of residents are Hispanic Latino. Common languages spoken include Spanish, Arabic, and Somali. CDHD has 10 bilingual CHWs who connect newcomers to needed programs and services, focusing on mental and chronic health education for minority populations. They also partnered with Credible Mind, a free online mental health platform with over 200 topics available in English and Spanish.

Age Groups:



7%  
Veteran Status

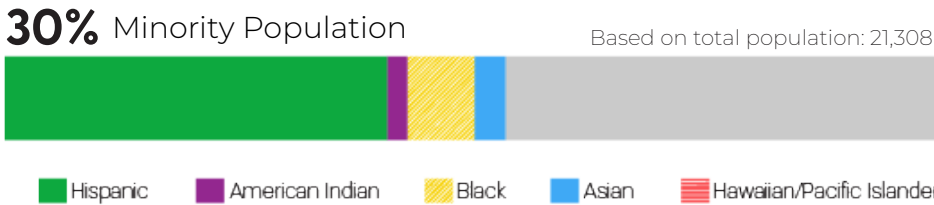


13%  
Persons with disabilities

# Minority Health Initiative (MHI) Report 2023-2024

## Dakota County Health Department

Dakota County Health Department's (DACHD) impactful work across its one county district is supported through vital funding and collaboration with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (NEDHHS). These efforts have directly addressed disparities within our communities, fostering greater access to care and improved health for all residents. Our ongoing partnership ensures that these initiatives can continue making a difference where needed most.



**40%** of residents speak languages other than English  
Common Languages: Spanish & Somali

## Helping all communities thrive

DACHD has four MHI objectives: 1) Teach DPP (Diabetes Prevention Program) class, 2) Meet with Heartland Counseling Services to collect information and destigmatize mental health in the minority population, 3) Improve community outreach for services we provide minority population, 4) Address barriers regarding health care in minority communities.

DACHD addressed health disparities by initiating a quarterly group that discusses and strategizes health disparities in the community. DACHD participated in many cultural festivities to promote DACHD's work.

DACHD has 3 bilingual staff: One Somali and two Spanish-speaking staff. Staff are available to help with immunization clinics and answer questions. We also have a translation device that staff have been trained on if our bilingual staff are not available.

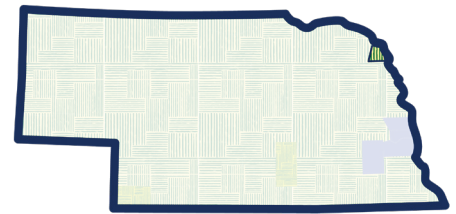
DACHD CHWs continue to help minority clients fill out Medicaid and SNAP applications, set up medical appointments, and obtain transportation to and from appointments.

DACHD collaborated with Siouxland Community Health Center to start a bilingual Diabetes Prevention Program that meets once a week for six months and then one to two a month for the second six months.



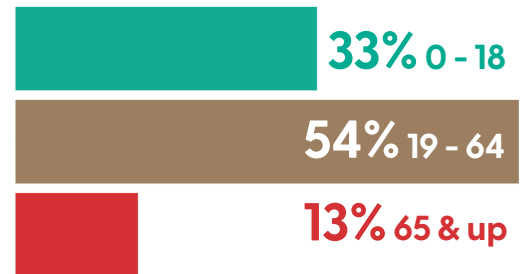
**11,719**   
MHI Eligible Residents

**\$114,244**   
MHI FY 23-24 Funds



 Rural & Micropolitan  
 Metropolitan

Age Groups:



**5%**  
Veteran Status



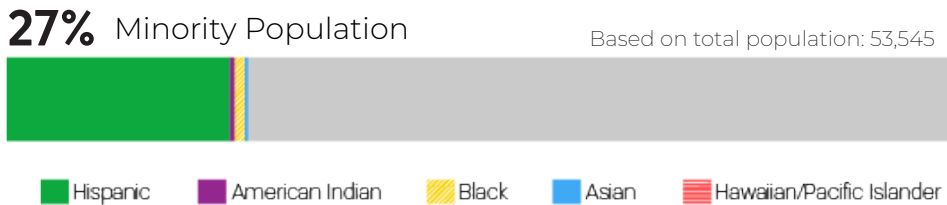
**12%**  
Persons with disabilities



# Minority Health Initiative (MHI) Report 2023-2024

## East Central District Health Department

East Central District Health Department's (ECDHD) impactful work across its 4 county district is supported through vital funding and collaboration with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (NEDHHS). These efforts have directly addressed disparities within our communities, fostering greater access to care and improved health for all residents. Our ongoing partnership ensures that these initiatives can continue making a difference where needed most.



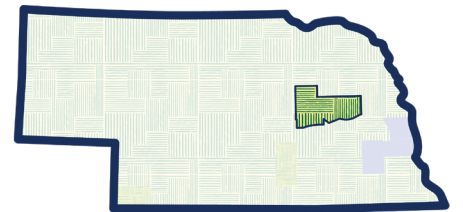
**20%** of residents speak languages other than English  
Common Languages: [Spanish](#)

### Helping all communities thrive

ECDHD's priority is to address the root causes of poor health outcomes in our minority population. Based on data analysis, ECDHD identified mental health, obesity, and diabetes as the top indicators of health outcomes for the minority population. ECDHD held a Minority Health Fair with partners throughout the health jurisdiction. Some services offered included blood pressure, cholesterol, and skin checks (melanoma). Additionally, ECDHD works with manufacturing partners such as Behlen and Cargill to provide chronic disease education to their employees. ECDHD's MHI team actively participates in community events, raising awareness and sharing resources.

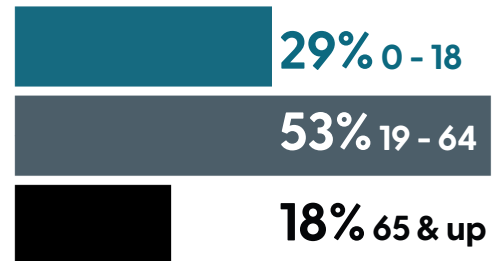
By actively engaging with the community, the ECDHD team aims to cultivate a better understanding of community needs and strengthen relationships with crucial partners. In response to the community's feedback, a resource guide specifically tailored for Platte and Colfax counties has been developed, containing a comprehensive list of resources for community members. This guide includes contact information and details on relevant accommodations, such as language-specific service offerings.

Boone, Colfax, Nance, & Platte Counties



Rural & Micropolitan  
 Metropolitan

Age Groups:



**6%**  
Veteran Status



**12%**  
Persons with disabilities



Nationally Accredited

(402) 562-7500

[www.ecdhd.ne.gov](http://www.ecdhd.ne.gov)

# Minority Health Initiative (MHI) Report 2023-2024

## Elkhorn Logan Valley Public Health Department



Elkhorn Logan Valley Public Health Department's (ELVPHD) impactful work across its four county district is supported through vital funding and collaboration with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (NEDHHS). These efforts have directly addressed disparities within our communities, fostering greater access to care and improved health for all residents. Our ongoing partnership ensures that these initiatives can continue making a difference where needed most.



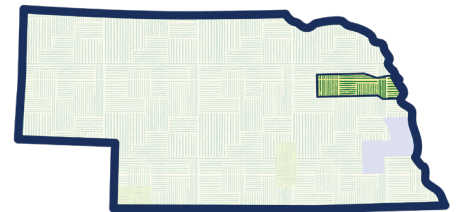
**18%** Minority Population Based on total population: 57,083



Hispanic American Indian Black Asian Hawaiian/Pacific Islander



**10%** of residents speak languages other than English  
Common Languages: *Spanish & Karen*



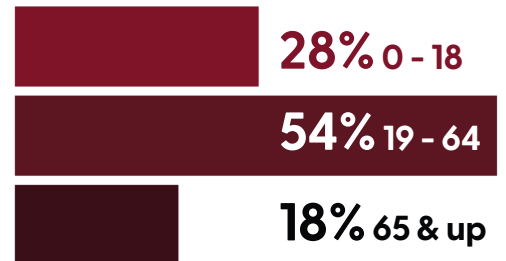
■ Rural & Micropolitan  
■ Metropolitan

## Helping all communities thrive

ELVPHD continues to utilize the evidence-based Eating Smart, Being Active (ESBA) program to increase health and wellness and address health disparities in our district's minority populations. A total of 21 people completed the ESBA program in the 2023-24 fiscal year. Along with ESBA, the MHI Coordinator served as a referral resource for clients to address health disparities and social determinants of health. Pre/post-tests were administered to 100% of ESBA participants with the following outcomes: 21 out of 21 reported 100% satisfaction with the class. 76% reported an increase in physical activity. 62% increased fruit/vegetable intake. 20% reported weight loss. Certified Application Counselors (CACs) help people enroll in health insurance programs.

ELVPHD employs two bilingual CACs, both who help clients understand and choose the right health plan, complete applications, and support clients through enrollment. Since becoming certified in January 2024, they have assisted 83 individuals with insurance enrollment. Each person presenting to an ELVPHD office without insurance is offered CAC services free of charge in an attempt to move more people into insured status.

Age Groups:



**6%**  
Veteran Status



**12%**  
Persons with disabilities



Nationally Accredited

(402) 529-2233

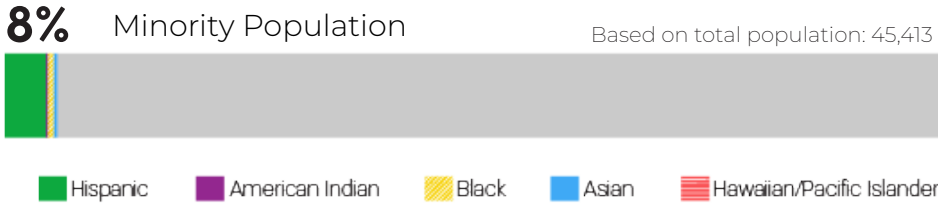
[www.elvphd.ne.gov](http://www.elvphd.ne.gov)



# Minority Health Initiative (MHI) Report 2023-2024

## Four Corners Health Department

Four Corners Health Department's (FCHD) impactful work across its four county district is supported through vital funding and collaboration with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (NEDHHS). These efforts have directly addressed disparities within our communities, fostering greater access to care and improved health for all residents. Our ongoing partnership ensures that these initiatives can continue making a difference where needed most.



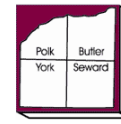
**5%** of residents speak languages other than English  
Common Languages: [Spanish](#)

### Helping all communities thrive

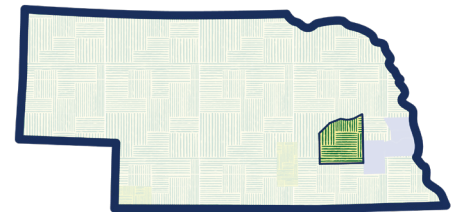
FCHD has 3 MHI objectives: 1) Build a strong public health department workforce, 2) Create organizational policies and practices around social determinants of health (SDOH), and 3) Foster community leadership and voice.

FCHD held a "Cultural Humility" training for all staff in Spring 2024 to examine their built-in biases. FCHD staff receive Monthly Tips to enhance understanding of implicit bias when working with at-risk populations, including older adults, rural adults living alone, and Hispanic community members who need public health services. FCHD implemented health-literate language policies now featured on the website and used for new hires and community outreach. FCHD established a Hispanic Community Group and successfully transferred its sponsorship to the York Chamber, Economic Development. The Hispanic Community Group addresses various topics including: local Park & Recreation opportunities, transitioning children from middle school to high school, and hosting a Cultural Festival in September 2024. FCHD has a bilingual Community Health Worker (CHW) who supports Healthy Families America. CHWs also assist at the health department with vaccines for children, addressing high lead levels, providing preventative oral health services, and work site wellness. Staff were trained to use our new translation device for communicating with clients when the bilingual CHW is not available. The media team reviews materials with health literacy software before sharing them.

Butler, Polk, Seward, & York Counties

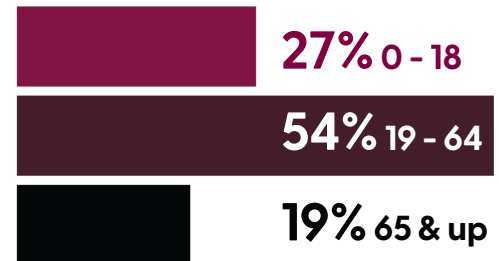


**Four Corners**  
Health Department



 Rural & Micropolitan  
 Metropolitan

Age Groups:



**8%**  
Veteran Status



**13%**  
Persons with disabilities

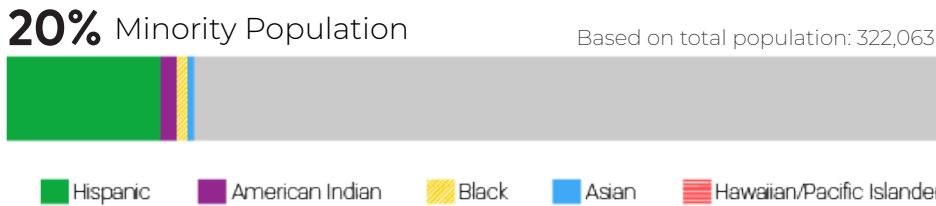
**(402) 362-2621**

**[www.fourcorners.ne.gov](http://www.fourcorners.ne.gov)**

# Minority Health Initiative (MHI) Report 2023-2024

## Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department

Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department's (LLCHD) impactful work across its one county district is supported through vital funding and collaboration with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (NEDHHS). These efforts have directly addressed disparities within our communities, fostering greater access to care and improved health for all residents. Our ongoing partnership ensures that these initiatives can continue making a difference where needed most.



**12%** of residents speak languages other than English  
Common Languages: Spanish, Arabic, & Kurdish

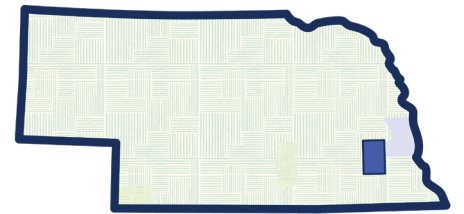
### Helping all communities thrive

In a joint effort to address health disparities in our community, the LLCHD continues to partner with the Cultural Centers of Lincoln (CCL) to better serve our diverse communities. Over the past year, these efforts have focused on mental health and chronic disease. This initiative has supported further development of our collaborative workforce who directly serves our communities. Bilingual/bicultural advocates from the Cultural Centers have been trained as Community Health Workers and Certified Peer Support Specialists. CCL staff advocates are instrumental in providing support groups, basic peer-based mental health education, providing a better understanding of treatment options, and instilling a sense of hope and support that clients and families need through one-on-one sessions, home visits, group educational/support activities and interpretation for mental health appointments. Community members are provided health navigation services, as well as support and education needed to follow health care treatment recommendations.

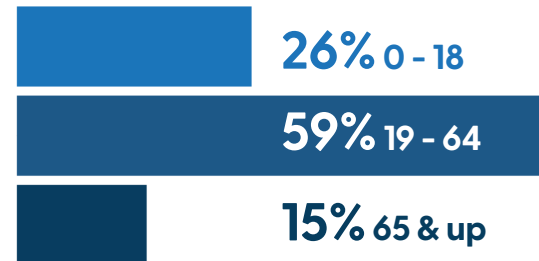
Over the past year, our collaborative has supported CCL advocates in serving over 5,600 individuals from 45 different countries, speaking 35 languages. This broad engagement addresses health disparities and meeting the diverse needs of the community. LLCHD is committed to providing essential services and vital programs to all members of our community. Our role is to protect and promote the public's health and prevent disease and injury.



Lincoln-Lancaster County  
Health Department



Age Groups:



**6%**  
Veteran Status



**11%**  
Persons with disabilities



Nationally Accredited

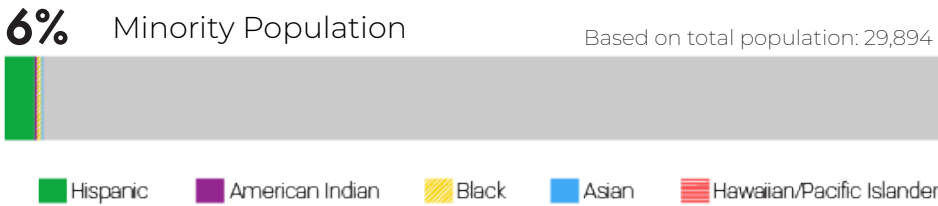
(402) 444-7471

[www.lincoln.ne.gov/health](http://www.lincoln.ne.gov/health)

# Minority Health Initiative (MHI) Report 2023-2024

## Loup Basin Public Health Department

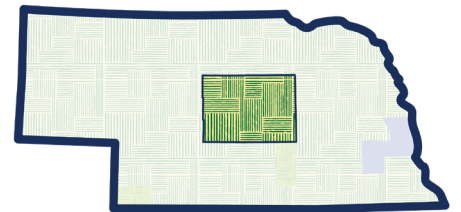
Loup Basin Public Health Department's (LBPHD) impactful work across its nine county district is supported through vital funding and collaboration with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (NEDHHS). These efforts have directly addressed disparities within our communities, fostering greater access to care and improved health for all residents. Our ongoing partnership ensures that these initiatives can continue making a difference where needed most.



**3%** of residents speak languages other than English  
Common Languages: [Spanish](#)

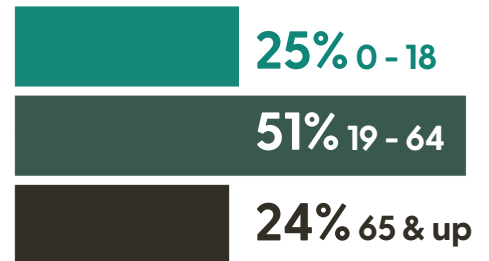
### Helping all communities thrive

LBPHD has identified the locations of our minority communities and developed a strategy using data from the Community Health Assessment. This strategy addresses potential barriers and adverse effects faced by these populations. Key concerns identified include access to healthcare, behavioral health, and cancer. To address these issues, LBPHD employs the Propio interpretation platform at on-site and off-site clinics, events, and home visits. Additionally, LBPHD has incorporated Spanish content across the website, social media, CHA/CHIP, and other public documents.



 Rural & Micropolitan  
 Metropolitan

Age Groups:



**8%**  
Veteran Status

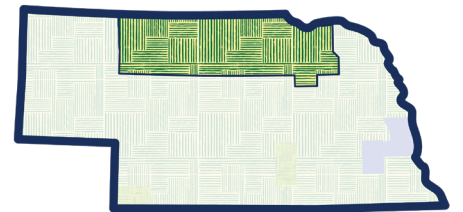
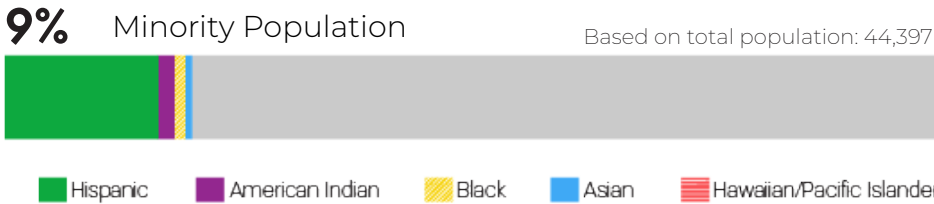


**15%**  
Persons with disabilities

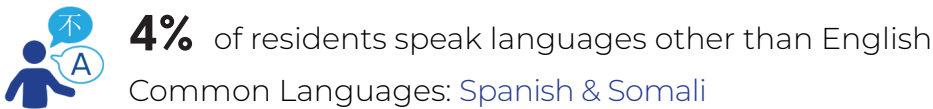
# Minority Health Initiative (MHI) Report 2023-2024

## North Central District Health Department

North Central District Health Department's (NCDHD) impactful work across its nine county district is supported through vital funding and collaboration with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (NEDHHS). These efforts have directly addressed disparities within our communities, fostering greater access to care and improved health for all residents. Our ongoing partnership ensures that these initiatives can continue making a difference where needed most.



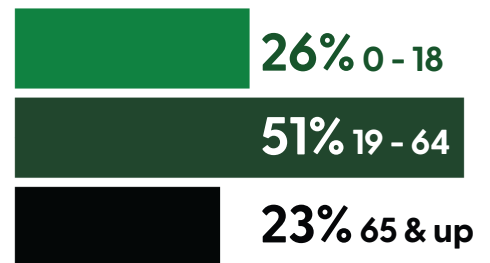
■ Rural & Micropolitan  
■ Metropolitan



### Helping all communities thrive

NCDHD remains dedicated to building strong relationships with all people, including the American Indian and Hispanic communities within our district. We've connected with trusted community members by identifying key businesses and gathering places. Monthly outreach helps us maintain these connections and foster meaningful relationships to help us understand and address community health concerns. We're committed to reducing language barriers by integrating translation services and using apps to improve communication and accessibility for everyone in our community. North Central District Health Department partnered with Niobrara Public Schools to host our first annual Healthy Living Expo in June 2024, featuring over 40 exhibitors. The expo offered a wide range of essential services, including immunizations, injury prevention demonstrations, severe weather preparedness, free or low-cost health screenings such as blood lead level testing, hemoglobin A1C, blood pressure checks, Lions Club vision screenings, Medicare/Medicaid resources, oral health education, mental health support, and environmental initiatives. By serving ~50 community members who attended the event, primarily those 65+, this outreach effort played a crucial role in improving access to preventative care and education. The event brought critical services directly to underserved populations, empowering them with the knowledge and resources needed to make informed health decisions. Hosting events like the Healthy Living Expo is vital for prevention and control measures. We look forward to expanding our reach and impact with future events.

Age Groups:



**8%**  
Veteran Status



**14%**  
Persons with disabilities



Nationally Accredited

(402) 336-2406

[www.ncdhd.ne.gov](http://www.ncdhd.ne.gov)

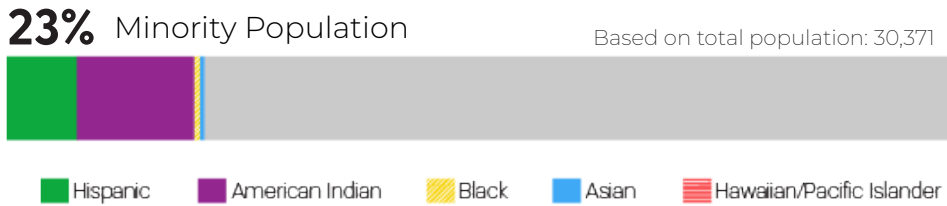
Antelope, Boyd, Brown, Cherry, Holt, Keya Paha, Knox, Pierce, & Rock Counties



# Minority Health Initiative (MHI) Report 2023-2024

## Northeast Nebraska Public Health Department

Northeast Nebraska Public Health Department's (NNPHD) impactful work across its 12 county district is supported through vital funding and collaboration with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (NEDHHS). These efforts have directly addressed disparities within our communities, fostering greater access to care and improved health for all residents. Our ongoing partnership ensures that these initiatives can continue making a difference where needed most.



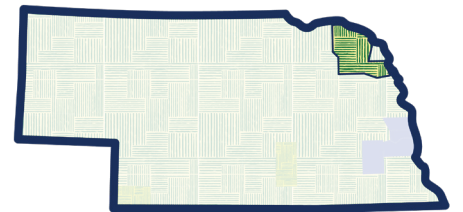
**6%** of residents speak languages other than English  
Common Languages: [Spanish](#)

### Helping all communities thrive

Everyone's path to optimal health is different. Certain groups experience adverse health conditions due to factors beyond their control. Reducing barriers to health requires active, ongoing participation from a variety of stakeholders. NNPHD has an internal health disparities committee that regularly meets to check in and assess NNPHD's programs and services. Our Health Equity Advisory Council (HEAC) brings together partners from across the health district, using data to identify barriers, share success stories, and brain-storm solutions. Each group met six times in FY '24. NNPHD's HEAC focused our internal efforts on including more community members with lived experience in guiding our programs. By reviewing our internal Community Response numbers, we learned that 64% of clients reporting food insecurity were Hispanic. NNPHD staff went to two public events to learn how Spanish-speaking community members experience food insecurity. Gathering this information will help us collaborate with the Hispanic community to see what solutions might work best.

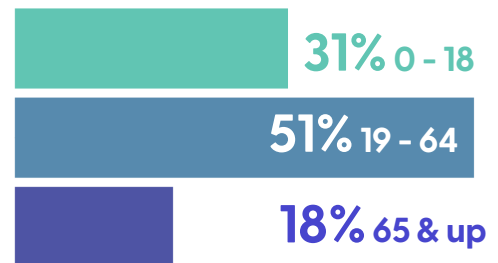
The new NNPHD building will be a game-changer for the community, providing a space where health services can be delivered more effectively and efficiently. With improved facilities and more room to grow, the building will allow NNPHD to expand its programs and services, such as immunizations, health screenings, and educational workshops. This new space will also make it easier to collaborate with local partners, host community events, and respond to public health emergencies.

Cedar, Dixon, Thurston, & Wayne Counties



 Rural & Micropolitan  
 Metropolitan

Age Groups:



**7%**  
Veteran Status



**13%**  
Persons with disabilities

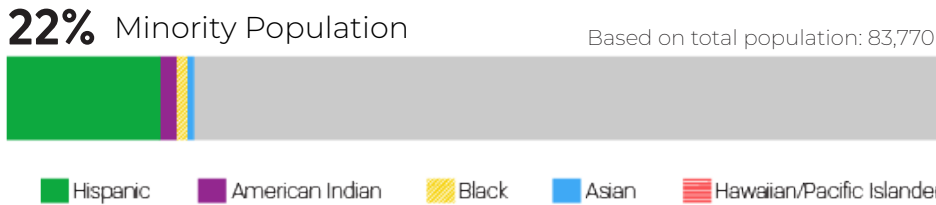
(402) 375-2200

[www.nnphd.ne.gov](http://www.nnphd.ne.gov)

# Minority Health Initiative (MHI) Report 2023-2024

## Panhandle Public Health District

Panhandle Public Health District's (PPHD) impactful work across its 12 county district is supported through vital funding and collaboration with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (NEDHHS). These efforts have directly addressed disparities within our communities, fostering greater access to care and improved health for all residents. Our ongoing partnership ensures that these initiatives can continue making a difference where needed most.



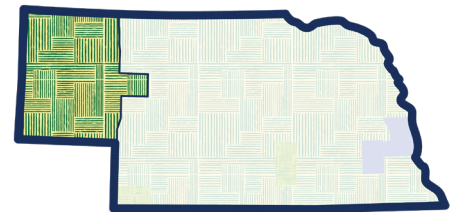
**8%** of residents speak languages other than English  
Common Languages: [Spanish](#)

## Helping all communities thrive

At PPHD, we prioritize addressing health disparities in all our systems and initiatives, including performance management and quality improvement. The PPHD team works to access data through mySidewalk to analyze a range of demographic factors impacting health in our area. In the past year, the PPHD team has engaged a network of mental health providers who can work with Spanish-speaking clients, helped partner organizations with minority populations do data analysis, and developed a dashboard to track and share information about health disparities. We have also provided three scholarships to bilingual community members to take medical interpreter training. Internally, PPHD continues ongoing training to increase staff confidence in serving various populations and has incorporated some reflective questions into our performance management process to help each team identify places where our programs can be more accessible. Members of our team continue to serve on committees addressing social determinants of health, such as housing and mental health.

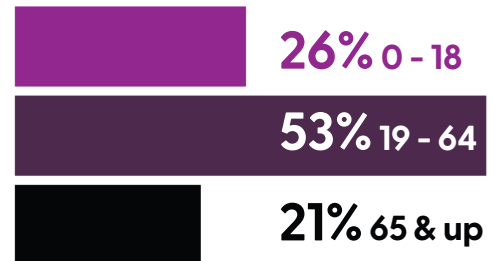
## Panhandle

Public Health District



 Rural & Micropolitan  
 Metropolitan

Age Groups:



**8%**  
Veteran Status



**15%**  
Persons with disabilities



Nationally Accredited

**(308) 487-3600**

**[www.pphd.ne.gov](http://www.pphd.ne.gov)**

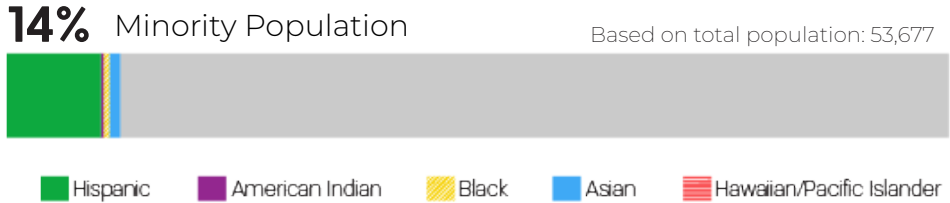
Banner, Box Butte, Cheyenne, Dawes, Deuel, Garden, Grant, Kimball, Morrill, Scotts Bluff, Sheridan, & Sioux Counties



# Minority Health Initiative (MHI) Report 2023-2024

## Public Health Solutions

Public Health Solution's (PHS) impactful work across its five county district is supported through vital funding and collaboration with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (NEDHHS). These efforts have directly addressed disparities within our communities, fostering greater access to care and improved health for all residents. Our ongoing partnership ensures that these initiatives can continue making a difference where needed most.



**9%** of residents speak languages other than English  
Common Languages: *Spanish & Mayan Languages*

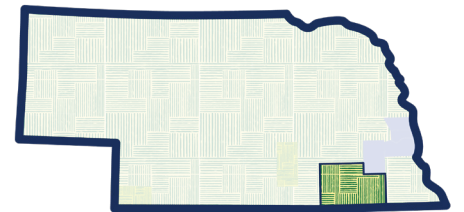
## Helping all communities thrive

Helping all communities thrive involves developing essential resources that empower individuals to live their healthiest lives. This includes investing in accessible healthcare services, nutritious food options, safe recreational spaces, and mental health support. By fostering collaboration among local organizations, governments, and residents, we can create tailored programs that address specific community needs.

The PHS team is addressing health disparities among staff, cultural and linguistic competency, and disparities in the community. PHS conducted a Minority Needs Assessment via 524 surveys and developed a Health Equity sub-committee. Their focus includes developing the PHS Language Access Plan and offering Basic Interpreters Workshops to community partners.

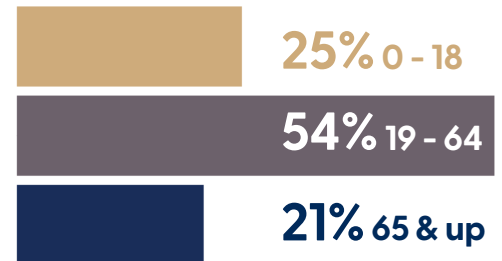


**Public Health**  
*Solutions*



Rural & Micropolitan  
 Metropolitan

Age Groups:



**7%**  
Veteran Status



**15%**  
Persons with disabilities

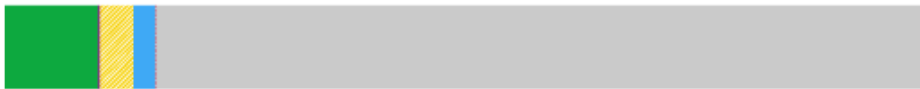
# Minority Health Initiative (MHI) Report 2023-2024

## Sarpy/Cass Health Department

Sarpy/Cass Health Department's (SCHD) impactful work across its two county district is supported through vital funding and collaboration with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (NEDHHS). These efforts have directly addressed disparities within our communities, fostering greater access to care and improved health for all residents. Our ongoing partnership ensures that these initiatives can continue making a difference where needed most.

### 20% Minority Population

Based on total population: 218,021



Hispanic American Indian Black Asian Hawaiian/Pacific Islander



**8%** of residents speak languages other than English

Common Languages: [Spanish](#)

## Helping all communities thrive

In 2023-2024, SCHD's Minority Health Initiative (MHI) activities focused on advancing the understanding and application of Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Standards (CLAS). By conducting a CLAS assessment, SCHD identified and prioritized areas for improvement, such as integrating CLAS into departmental programs and translating essential public health educational resources.

SCHD also emphasized increasing knowledge and awareness of Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) through internal staff training, discussions, and hosting training sessions for community partners. Nearly 25 community partners gathered for a half-day facilitated workshop to identify, enhance, and maximize existing and new collaborations. The culmination of these efforts contributed to building a health equity team and fostering collaborative work to promote health for all.

Additionally, SCHD developed a Minority Health Needs Assessment which focused on resource availability and accessibility within the community. The assessment was launched near the end of this fiscal year with nearly 40 residents completing the survey during this fiscal year. The results from this assessment, which will conclude in the fall of 2024, will inform ongoing collaboration and discussions with community partners to advance community health.

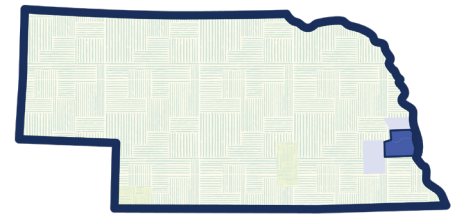
**43,168**

MHI-Eligible Residents



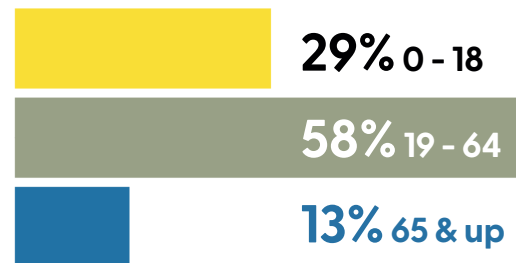
**\$353,414**

MHI FY 23-24 Funds



Rural & Micropolitan  
Metropolitan

Age Groups:



**13%**

Veteran Status



**10%**

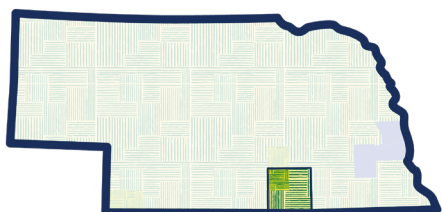
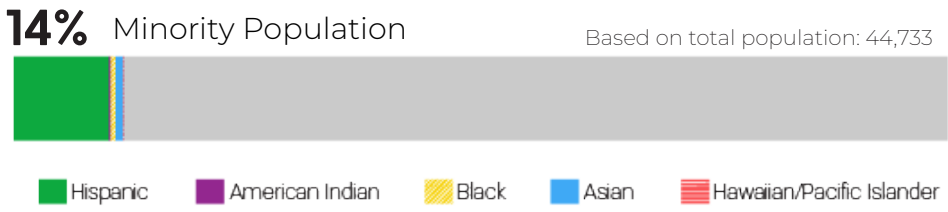
Persons with disabilities

# Minority Health Initiative (MHI) Report 2023-2024

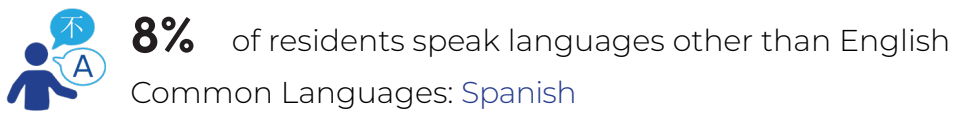


## South Heartland District Health Department

South Heartland District Health Department's (SHDHD) impactful work across its four county district is supported through vital funding and collaboration with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (NEDHHS). These efforts have directly addressed disparities within our communities, fostering greater access to care and improved health for all residents. Our ongoing partnership ensures that these initiatives can continue making a difference where needed most.



■ Rural & Micropolitan  
■ Metropolitan

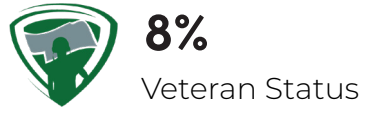
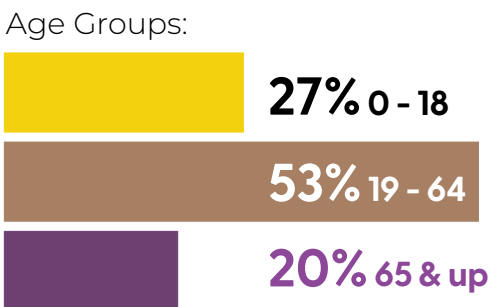


### Helping all communities thrive

SHDHD's minority health advisory group (AG) is invigorated by some reorganization and new members who assisted in editing the Spanish version of our Community Health Survey, helped distribute the completed survey to the Hispanic community, and encouraged their participation.

A Vietnamese business owner ensured surveys reached the Vietnamese community with translators when needed. Results from the 114 surveys from Hispanic and Vietnamese community members, as well as results from a focus group conducted in Spanish, will help the AG understand community needs and decide what to focus on to help their communities thrive. In collaboration with SHDHD, the AG and interested community members will use the results to form goals for a new minority health improvement plan.

In addition to paying careful attention to health literacy to make health and safety accessible to all, we assess the effectiveness of information-sharing with Hispanic and Vietnamese residents. Our minority health advisory group is helping to identify avenues for trusted communication. We are using these to share monthly communications so that these same pathways can spread critical information in health emergencies.



Nationally Accredited

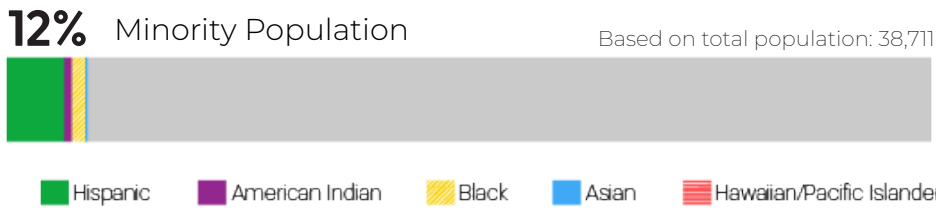
(402) 462-6211

[www.southheartland.ne.gov](http://www.southheartland.ne.gov)

# Minority Health Initiative (MHI) Report 2023-2024

## Southeast District Health Department

Southeast District Health Department's (SEDHD) impactful work across its five county district is supported through vital funding and collaboration with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (NEDHHS). These efforts have directly addressed disparities within our communities, fostering greater access to care and improved health for all residents. Our ongoing partnership ensures that these initiatives can continue making a difference where needed most.



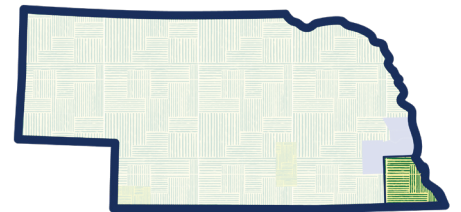
**6%** of residents speak languages other than English

Common Languages: [Spanish](#)

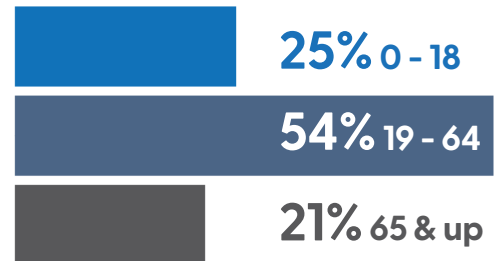
## Helping all communities thrive

SEDHD focused on minority community engagement in the last fiscal year. Our workgroup includes community leaders representing the area's minority populations. Our workgroup is expanding, and new relationships are being built throughout the communities. As the workgroup continues to gather new ideas for more activities for all ages, we have added local community activities for the minority populations we serve. We are currently in the process of adding a Certified Application Counselor to help those completing their Medicaid applications. The workgroup is supporting SEDHD's efforts to build our relationships across a wide range of communities and address minority health disparities.

SEDHD's Vaccines for Children (VFC) program addresses barriers to care rural communities experience. This program provides vaccines at no cost to children who are uninsured, underinsured, or enrolled in Medicaid. The department's Brighter Smiles program provides oral health screenings, fluoride varnish, and dental sealants in daycares, schools, and nursing homes. Translation services are available as needed to families who seek these services.



Age Groups:



**9%**

Veteran Status



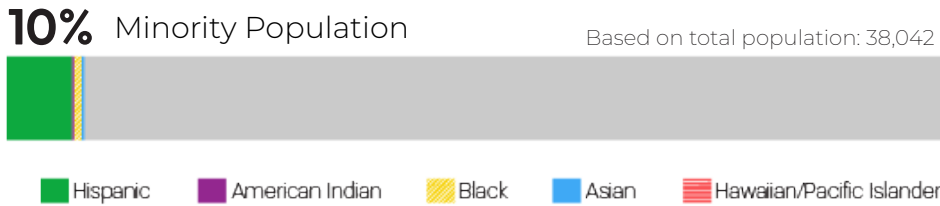
**16%**

Persons with disabilities

# Minority Health Initiative (MHI) Report 2023-2024

## Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department

Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department's (SWNPHD) impactful work across its nine county district is supported through vital funding and collaboration with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (NEDHHS). These efforts have directly addressed disparities within our communities, fostering greater access to care and improved health for all residents. Our ongoing partnership ensures that these initiatives can continue making a difference where needed most.



**5%** of residents speak languages other than English  
Common Languages: [Spanish](#)

### Helping all communities thrive

SWNPHD's MHI Coordinator sought out people in each county to share information and get feedback about the health needs within their minority community. Preventive screening clinics were then held to offer free blood pressure, glucose, and cholesterol checks, education and health coaching, and flu vaccines. Each person was connected to a local medical facility and other social services. Public outreach was increased via social media, champions and advisory committee members within each community. The MHI Coordinator also made numerous in-person visits. Data collected at each screening clinic is being used to update the Community Needs Assessment and plan future strategies.

The Polish Your Pearls dental program addresses rural children's barriers to oral healthcare, regardless of the language their family speaks at home. SWNPHD has increased the number of children getting oral health screenings and fluoride varnish in our health district. The program manager collaborates with the schools where families speak languages other than English at home to ensure those families get forms in their primary language, understand the program, and can give informed consent for oral health services.

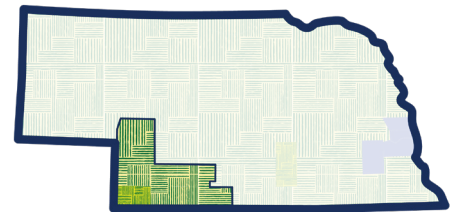
Chase, Dundy, Frontier, Furnas, Hayes, Hitchcock, Keith, Perkins, & Red Willow Counties

## Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department

PREVENT • PROMOTE • PROTECT

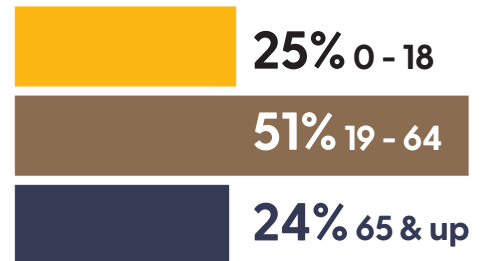
**3,880**   
MHI-Eligible Residents

**\$39,096**   
MHI FY 23-24 Funds



 Rural & Micropolitan  
 Metropolitan

Age Groups:



**8%**  
Veteran Status



**16%**  
Persons with disabilities

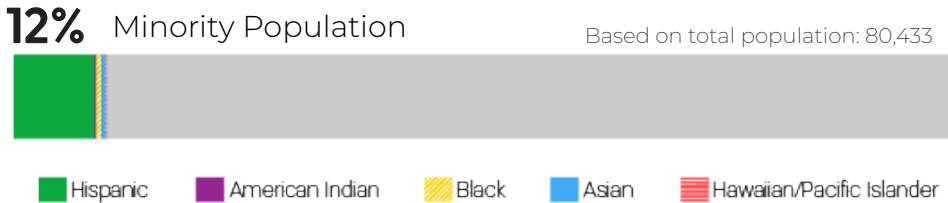
**(308) 345-4223**  
**[www.swhealth.ne.gov](http://www.swhealth.ne.gov)**



# Minority Health Initiative (MHI) Report 2023-2024

## Three Rivers Public Health Department

Three Rivers Public Health Department's (3RPHD) impactful work across its three county district is supported through vital funding and collaboration with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (NEDHHS). These efforts have directly addressed disparities within our communities, fostering greater access to care and improved health for all residents. Our ongoing partnership ensures that these initiatives can continue making a difference where needed most.

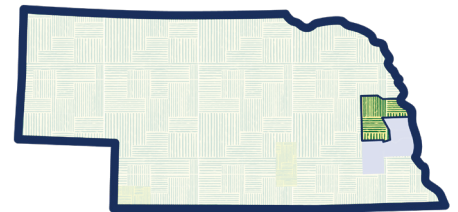


**8%** of residents speak languages other than English  
Common Languages: [Spanish](#)

### Helping all communities thrive

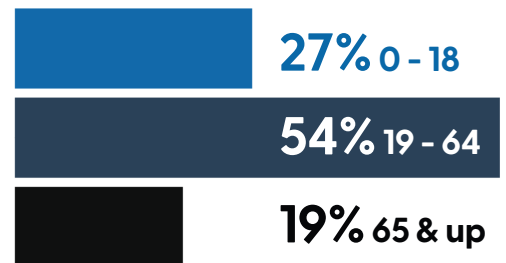
3RPHD minority communities' concerns include healthcare, oral health, diabetes, healthy foods, heart disease, mental health, cancer, vaccines, substance use disorder, exercise, and transportation. They also have language barriers, difficulty accessing legal counsel, and face unemployment. 3RPHD continues to expand and strengthen our connections with our established partners and actively seek new ones. We work with the Fremont Family Coalition and are part of their Community Response Advocate team. In this role, we work with families and individuals to address their immediate needs while helping them create a sustainable plan to avoid falling into similar situations in the future.

Our efforts to strengthen the Minority Health Coalition are ongoing, with a focus on ensuring representation from every sector in our community that works with minority populations. We are also prioritizing the inclusion of community members with lived experiences. This coalition is currently identifying data gaps and planning to address them. We aim to better understand the community's needs and amplify their voices. The insights gathered will guide our future events and outreach efforts. Lastly, our bilingual community health workers are trained and equipped to assist with Medicaid and Medicare marketplace sign-ups.



 Rural & Micropolitan  
 Metropolitan

Age Groups:



**8%**  
Veteran Status



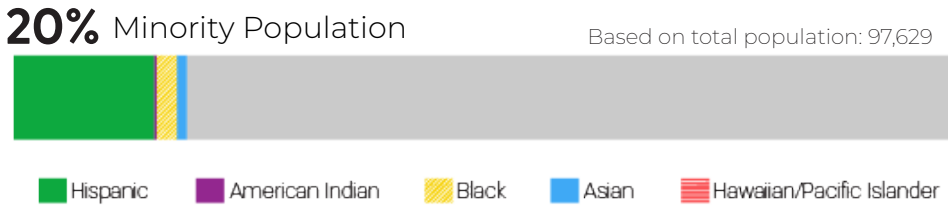
**13%**  
Persons with disabilities



# Minority Health Initiative (MHI) Report 2023-2024

## Two Rivers Public Health Department

Two Rivers Public Health Department's (TRPHD) impactful work across its seven county district is supported through vital funding and collaboration with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (NEDHHS). These efforts have directly addressed disparities within our communities, fostering greater access to care and improved health for all residents. Our ongoing partnership ensures that these initiatives can continue making a difference where needed most.

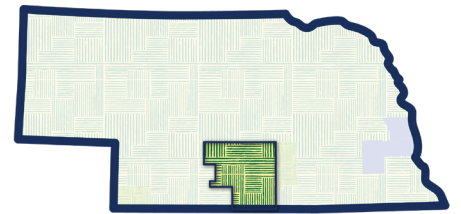


**13%** of residents speak languages other than English  
Common Languages: [Spanish](#) & [Somali](#)

## Helping all communities thrive

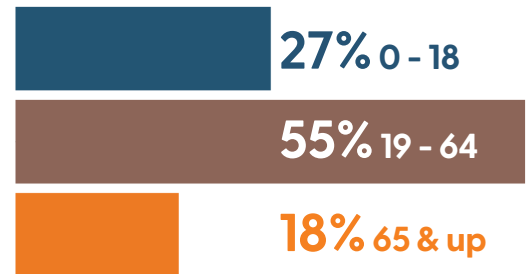
TRPHD's Minority Health Initiative (MHI) connects disproportionately affected communities with appropriate healthcare services. TRPHD operates mobile vaccination clinics, providing routine vaccinations such as flu, HPV, and others. These mobile clinics are held every month, with the most popular location being a nightclub in Lexington before it opens for the evening. The Community Health Workers at TRPHD offer information in multiple languages and help improve access to transportation by covering some individuals' transportation fees. Moreover, TRPHD collaborates with key community partners in an advisory board for minority health.

TRPHD plays a crucial role in helping communities thrive by promoting and protecting the health and well-being of all individuals through work that assists with access to healthcare, a safe environment, and improving knowledge of disease prevention. TRPHD promotes healthy lifestyles, ensuring everyone can access quality healthcare services. TRPHD is conducting and supporting initiatives addressing social and environmental health determinants, such as access to clean water, safe housing, and education. By working to create healthier environments and advocating for policies that support community well-being, the efforts of TRPHD contribute to the overall prosperity and vitality of all communities.



 Rural & Micropolitan  
 Metropolitan

Age Groups:



**7%**  
Veteran Status



**13%**  
Persons with disabilities



Nationally Accredited

(888) 669-7154

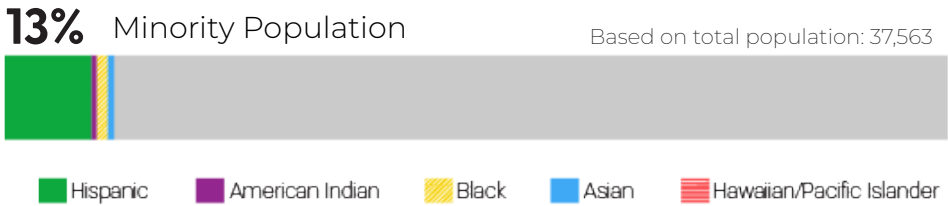
[www.trphd.ne.gov](http://www.trphd.ne.gov)

Buffalo, Dawson, Franklin, Gosper, Harlan, Kearney, & Phelps Counties

# Minority Health Initiative (MHI) Report 2023-2024

## West Central District Health Department

West Central District Health Department's (WCDHD) impactful work across its six county district is supported through vital funding and collaboration with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (NEDHHS). These efforts have directly addressed disparities within our communities, fostering greater access to care and improved health for all residents. Our ongoing partnership ensures that these initiatives can continue making a difference where needed most.



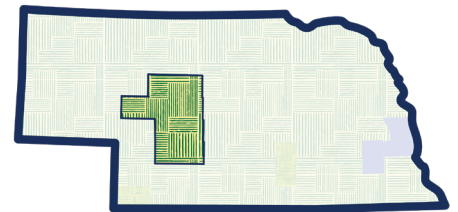
**5%** of residents speak languages other than English  
Common Languages: [Spanish](#)

### Helping all communities thrive

In collaboration with local nonprofit organizations, the West Central District Health Department (WCDHD) hosted a community health fair to help families prepare their children for the school year. WCDHD provided essential vaccinations, ensuring students were up-to-date and ready to attend school safely. Partners contributed by offering school physicals and distributing backpacks filled with school supplies, lightening the financial burden on families. This event not only supported children's health and readiness for school but also strengthened community bonds through collaboration, ensuring every child had the resources needed for a successful start to the academic year.

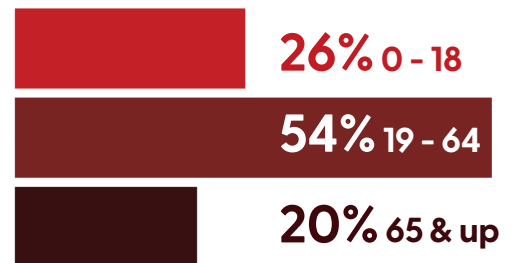
In 2024, WCDHD continued its commitment to improving community well-being through key programs like Project S.T.O.P. (Sharing Tool for Overdose Prevention) and the Environmental Health Initiative. Project S.T.O.P. focuses on reducing the risks of drug overdose by providing vital tools and education on substance use prevention, supporting both individuals and families in rural communities. Meanwhile, the Environmental Health Initiative, utilizing advanced PurpleAir monitors, tracks and reports air quality across the region in real-time. This data helps residents make informed decisions to safeguard their health, particularly during periods of poor air quality. Together, these programs are helping the community thrive by addressing both immediate health risks and long-term environmental concerns.

Lincoln, Logan, McPherson, Thomas, Hooker, & Arthur Counties



 Rural & Micropolitan  
 Metropolitan

Age Groups:



**9%**  
Veteran Status



**15%**  
Persons with disabilities



Nationally Accredited

**(308) 696-1201**

**[www.wcdhd.ne.gov](http://www.wcdhd.ne.gov)**