



SOUTH DAKOTA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH



2023 Annual Report



Melissa Magstadt,
Secretary of Health

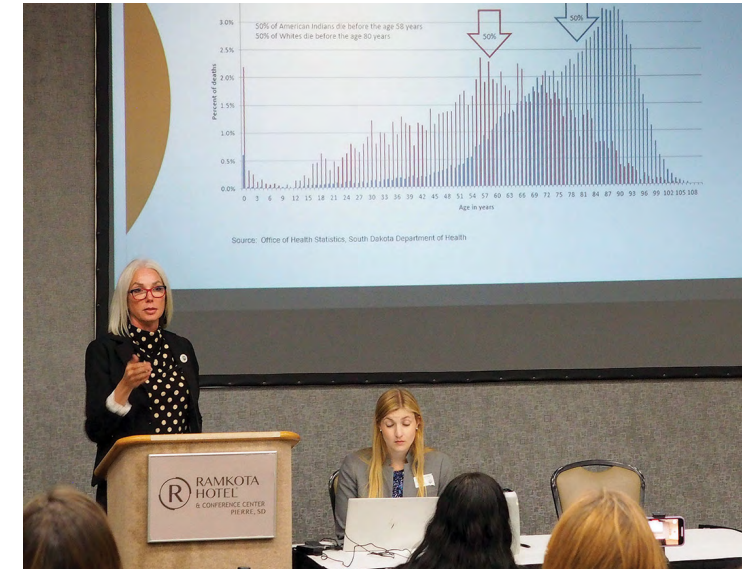
It is with great pleasure that I present the South Dakota Department of Health’s 2023 Annual Report. As we reflect on the past year, I am proud to share the progress and achievements that have shaped our collective efforts in promoting the health and well-being of the people of South Dakota.

Our commitment to excellence is evident in the progress we have made in implementing our strategic plan. We have achieved significant milestones in enhancing healthcare accessibility, improving health outcomes, and fostering collaborative partnerships. With Native American cultural awareness training, 100% completion of Incident Command System training, and updating disease prevention program resources for accuracy and cultural relevance as examples of progress we have made as of 2023. As we look back on the strides made in implementing our strategic plan, our commitment to excellence has translated into tangible achievements. From advancing healthcare accessibility to completing key training objectives, we remain dedicated to enhancing public health outcomes in South Dakota through continuous improvement and strategic initiatives.

In 2023, we achieved significant legislative milestones, including the modification of medical cannabis eligibility, healthcare professional reimbursement, and updates to the controlled substance schedule. Notable accomplishments involve the establishment of the South Dakota Board of Physical Therapy, allocation for the state public health laboratory’s design costs, and support for mental health and suicide prevention programs. Additionally, legislative measures were enacted to include dental practices in rural health care recruitment assistance and authorize employers to acquire and distribute opioid antagonists, illustrating a comprehensive commitment to advancing health and well-being in South Dakota.

Stakeholder engagement has been pivotal to our success, enabling collaboration with diverse partners to tackle unique health challenges in South Dakota. In 2023, the Department of Health actively engaged with the public and stakeholders as part of the State Health Assessment and Improvement Plan. This involved aligning with Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) standards, emphasizing methodologies such as Priority Health Indicator Assessments and Community Conversations. The Health Improvement Coalition, committed to diverse participation, is shaping the State Health Improvement Plan, supported by Priority Task Groups. Notably, a dedicated Emergency Medical Services workgroup convened post-legislative session to address challenges and propose impactful legislation for 2024. This commitment underscores our dedication to transparent governance and a healthier future for South Dakota.

“AS WE REFLECT ON THE PAST YEAR, I EXTEND MY GRATITUDE TO THE DEDICATED PROFESSIONALS WITHIN THE SD DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, OUR VALUED PARTNERS, AND THE COMMUNITIES WE SERVE.”



Left: Secretary Magstadt was honored to present at the State Tribal Opioid and Methamphetamine Prevention Summit (STOMP) – an annual gathering of dedicated minds working together to combat substance abuse.



Right: Secretary Magstadt took center stage at the SDSU Industry Leaders Course alongside Joseph M. Santos, sharing invaluable insights into her journey to becoming the Department of Health Secretary.

The first 1000 days of life, from conception to the 24-month age, form a crucial period that shapes a child’s entire life. South Dakota recognizes the important impact of nutrition, relationships, behaviors, and environments during this time on physical, emotional, and mental development. Despite challenges, such as increased maternal and infant mortality, particularly among Native American communities, South Dakota is committed to a comprehensive statewide effort. This initiative includes programs like SD QuitLine, STI Testing, Pregnancy Care, WIC, Safe Sleep Education, and more, addressing critical aspects of maternal and child health from conception through early development.

Reflecting on the past year, I am reminded of the words of leadership luminary John C. Maxwell, who said, “A leader is one who knows the way, goes the way, and shows the way.” As we reflect on the past year, I extend my gratitude to the dedicated professionals within the South Dakota Department of Health, our valued partners, and the communities we serve. Together, we will continue to lead with purpose, resilience, and a shared vision for a healthier South Dakota.

“TOGETHER, WE WILL CONTINUE TO LEAD WITH PURPOSE, RESILIENCE, AND A SHARED VISION FOR A HEALTHIER SOUTH DAKOTA.”

MELISSA MAGSTADT
SECRETARY
SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

- Letter from the Secretary** 2
- About Us** 5
 - Staff Overview 5
 - Agency Leadership 6
 - DOH Culture 6
 - Awards & Recognition 7
 - Organizational Structure 8
- Finance & Operations** 10
- Public Health Laboratory** 12
- Epidemiology** 15
- Healthcare Access** 18
 - Rural Health 19
 - Emergency Medical Services & Trauma 20
 - Health Information Technology 23
 - Communications 24
 - Public Health Preparedness & Response 25
- Roadshow** 26
- Family & Community Health** 28
 - Disease Prevention and Health Promotion 28
 - Child & Family Services 36
- Licensure & Accreditation** 40
 - Licensure & Safety 40
 - Accreditation & Reporting 44
- Strategic Plan Overview** 50

Our Story

At the heart of our mission is a simple yet profound goal: to protect and improve the health of all South Dakotans. We are entrusted with the vital task of promoting wellness, preventing disease, and ensuring access to quality healthcare for individuals and families across our great state.

Just like a steady hand leading the way, we work closely with healthcare providers, community organizations, and governmental agencies to champion health initiatives and deliver essential services. Our reach extends into every corner of South Dakota, empowering individuals with the tools and resources they need to lead healthier lives.

Our story is also one of adaptability. From addressing emerging health threats to providing swift responses during crises, we are the backbone of public health preparedness in South Dakota. Through these challenges, our commitment to the well-being of our residents remains unwavering.

Just as different parts of nature work together in our state’s landscapes, we recognize the importance of partnerships in public health. By working together with local communities, healthcare providers, and dedicated professionals, we create a strong foundation for a healthier South Dakota.

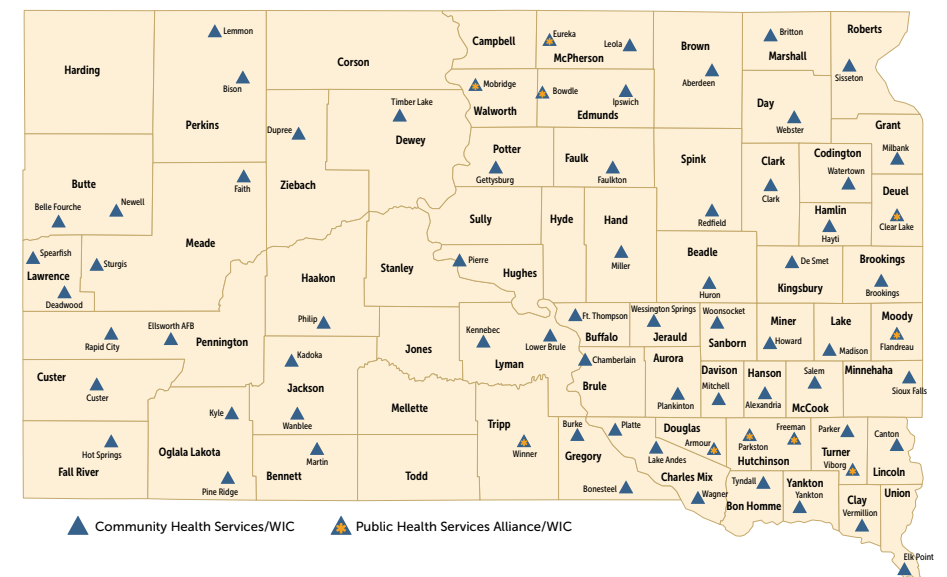
Our narrative is enriched by the lives we touch, the communities we empower, and the individuals who make healthier choices because of our efforts. We celebrate the stories of wellness triumphs, the successes of health promotion campaigns, and the impact of our educational initiatives.

As the gateway to health information in South Dakota, our website serves as a hub of valuable resources, guidance, and up-to-date health information. We are here to support you on your journey to better health, offering information on topics ranging from immunizations and family health to environmental health and disease prevention.

Our commitment to the health and well-being of South Dakotans shapes our vision for the future. We envision a state where every individual has the opportunity to lead a healthy and fulfilling life, where communities thrive through wellness, and where our shared commitment to health unites us.

Join us on a journey toward better health, for yourself, your family, and your community. Together, we are building a healthier South Dakota—one step, one choice, and one story at a time.

Staff Overview



Agency Leadership



Melissa Magstadt,
Secretary of Health



Lynne Valenti,
Deputy Secretary
Division Director,
Licensure and Accreditation



Emily Kiel,
Division Director,
Healthcare Access



Beth Dokken,
Division Director,
Family and
Community Health



Darcy McGuigan,
Division Director,
Finance and Operations



Tim Southern,
Administrator,
Public Health Laboratory



Josh Clayton,
State Epidemiologist

DOH Culture

WORK-LIFE BALANCE

The South Dakota Department of Health values flexibility in the workplace. Part of that flexibility includes the ability to work from home. Working from home is a meaningful way to meet individual needs, wants, and desires when it comes to balancing the entire team's home and work lives. That balance is something we value while allowing most positions the opportunity to work remotely up to 3 days a week. Working from home is a privilege and is subject to review depending upon the position.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

We are committed to the professional growth and development of our employees. We provide opportunities for training, continuing education, and advancement within the organization.

MEANINGFUL WORK

Working at the SD DOH gives employees the opportunity to make a meaningful difference in the lives of South Dakotans. Employees contribute to public health initiatives, disease prevention efforts, emergency preparedness, and much more.

COLLABORATIVE ENVIRONMENT

We foster a collaborative and supportive work environment, where teamwork and idea-sharing are encouraged. You'll have the opportunity to collaborate with professionals from various disciplines and contribute to multidisciplinary projects.

Awards & Recognition

In September, **Lynne Valenti**, Deputy Secretary and Director of the Division of Licensure and Certification, was awarded the prestigious **2023 State Official Award** by the South Dakota Association of Healthcare Organization (SDAHO).



Dr. Tim Southern, our Public Health Laboratory Administrator, was nominated as **President of the Association of Public Health Laboratories**.



Horizon Healthcare was selected as this year's **Outstanding Partner in Health**. This award recognizes an outstanding community partner who has made a significant contribution in helping to advance the work of the department at the community level.



The **National Service Office for Nurse-Family Partnership** presented the **Better Worlds Award** to **Carrie Churchill** for the work she has done for our great state through the Bright Start Program.



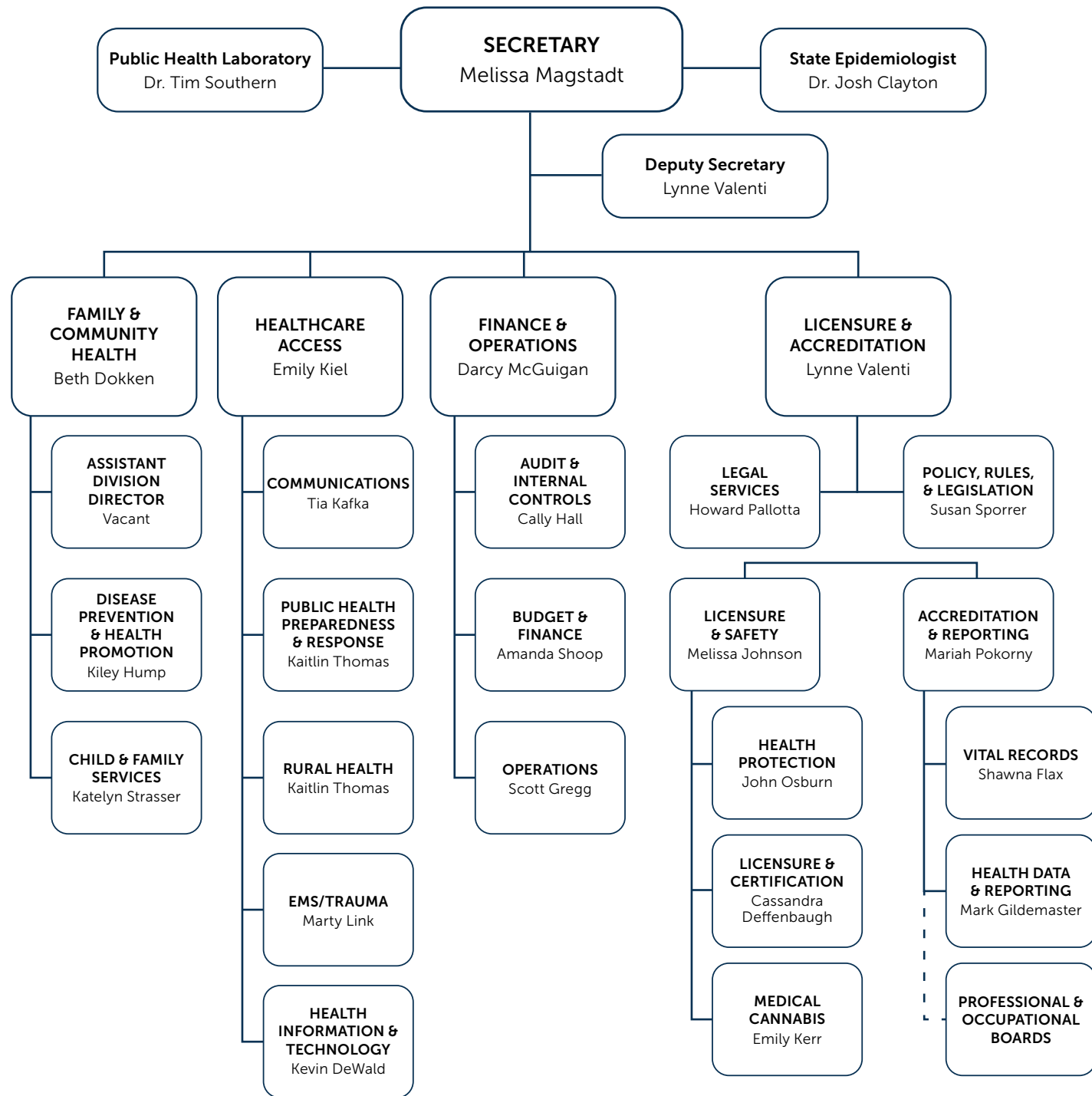
This year, our **EMS and Trauma team** received the **National Emergency Medical Services Information System (NEMMIS) NEMMY Award**. Being one of the first states to

transition to Version 3.5 and signing the 3.5 data use agreement showcases our dedication to EMS Data.



Katelyn Strasser and **Kaitlin Thomas** were part of the graduation class from the **2023 Governor's Leadership Development Program**.

Organizational Structure



STATE PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY

The State Public Health Laboratory provides Medical Microbiology, Environmental Chemistry, and Forensic Chemistry testing services to clients and partners throughout South Dakota. The mission of the public health laboratory is to protect the public's health through high-quality testing services. These services include testing for infectious diseases such as foodborne pathogens, respiratory pathogens, and mosquito-borne diseases. The state public health laboratory also provides comprehensive water testing services to ensure South Dakota's water is safe for consumption, recreation, and agriculture. The state public health laboratory also provides drug and toxicology testing and is one of two laboratories in the state that provides testing services for South Dakota's growing medical cannabis industry.

EPIDEMIOLOGY, SURVEILLANCE, AND INFORMATICS CENTER (ESIC)

The Epidemiology, Surveillance, and Informatics Center (ESIC) is responsible for infectious disease investigations related to enteric, respiratory, vaccine-preventable, vectorborne, and zoonotic diseases. ESIC maintains and enhances our electronic disease surveillance system, ensures receipt of electronic data from hospitals, labs, and medical providers, and creates data visualizations such as maps and dashboards to make data more accessible. ESIC's mission is to improve the health and well-being of South Dakotans by monitoring disease, providing education, communicating timely, and collaborating with community partners to prevent disease.

FINANCE AND OPERATIONS

The Division of Finance and Operations is responsible for financial operations and administrative services for the department. The Division works efficiently to maintain proper internal controls and to ensure federal, state, and department policies and regulations are met. The Finance team is responsible for accounting services, financial reporting, cost allocation, purchasing, contracts, subrecipient monitoring, records management, and accounts payable. The Operations team supports the department with space management and administrative support.

HEALTHCARE ACCESS

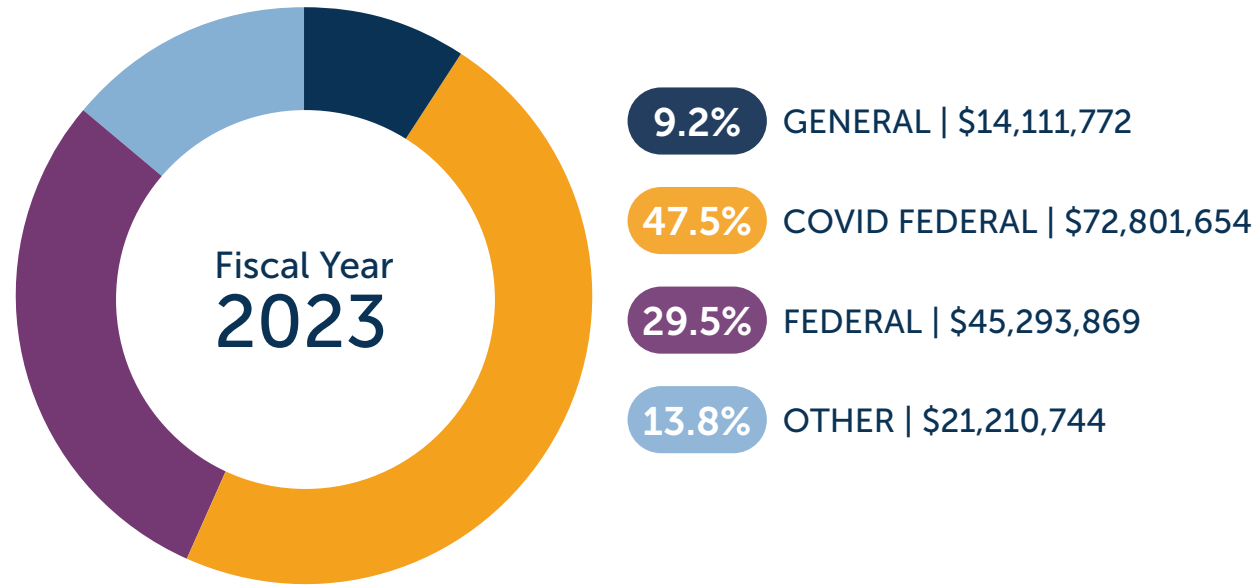
The Division of Healthcare Access's purpose is to provide and enhance access to timely, high-quality healthcare services while maintaining relevancy. The Division exists to expand rural emergency medical services via telehealth and other life-saving equipment, enhance recruitment and retention opportunities while proactively building a pipeline to the healthcare workforce, and effectively plan and prepare for public health threats to ensure individuals and families are well-informed. None of these can be done without using the latest information systems, technology, and communication strategies to ensure we provide excellent customer service and meet our customers where they are in their healthcare journey.

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY HEALTH

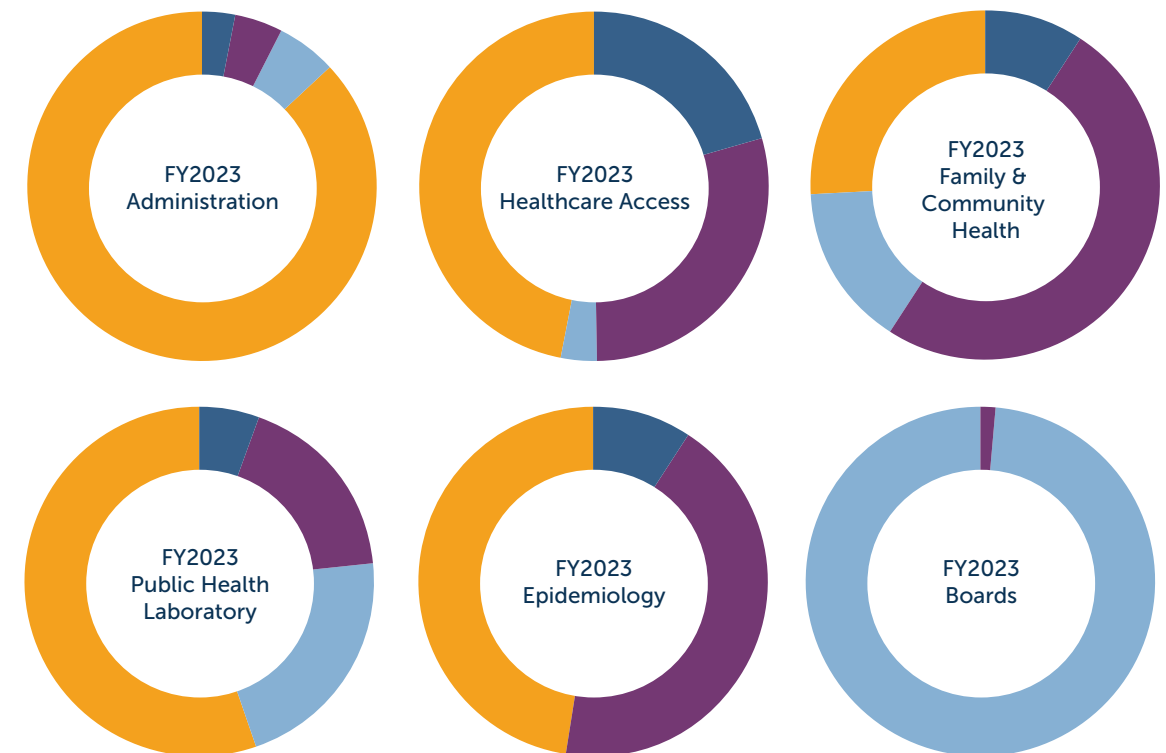
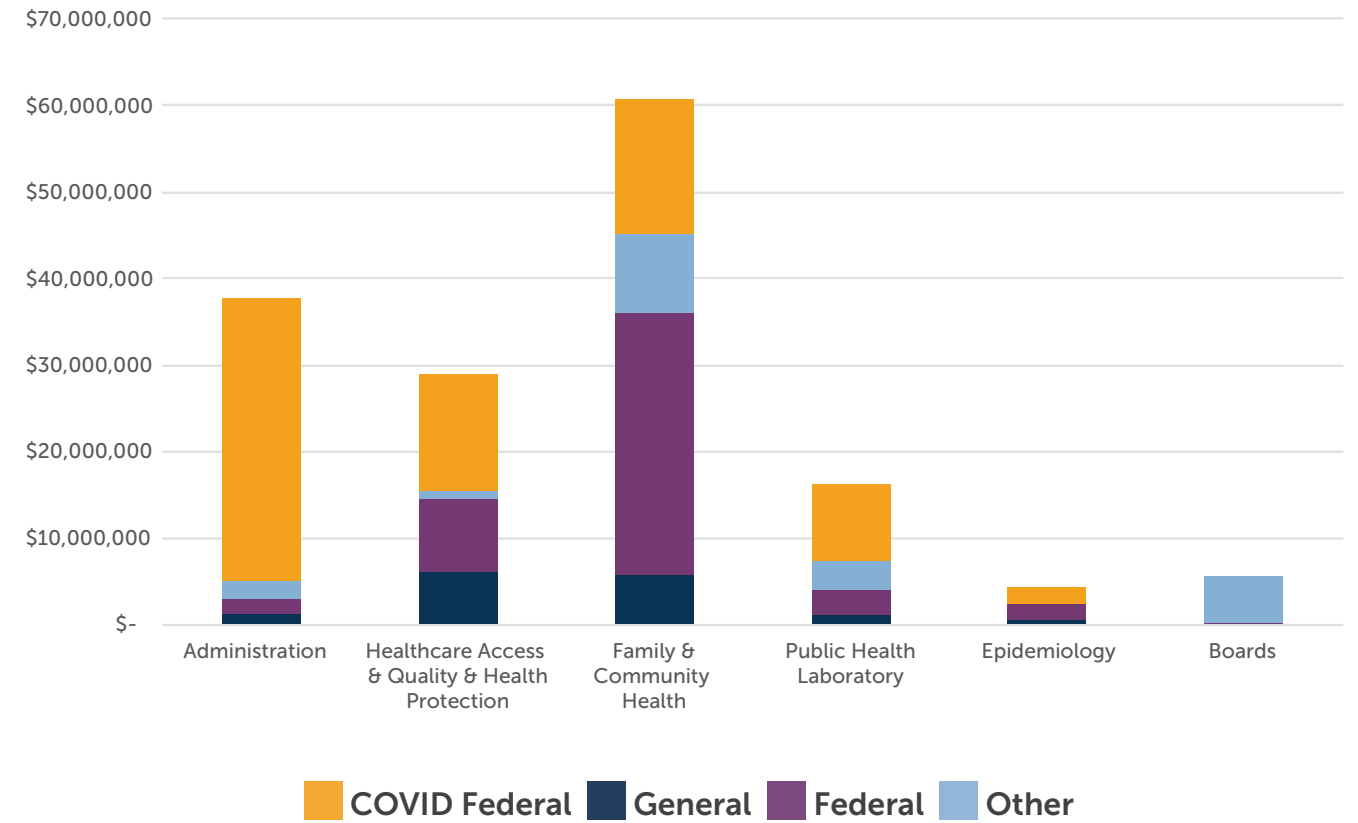
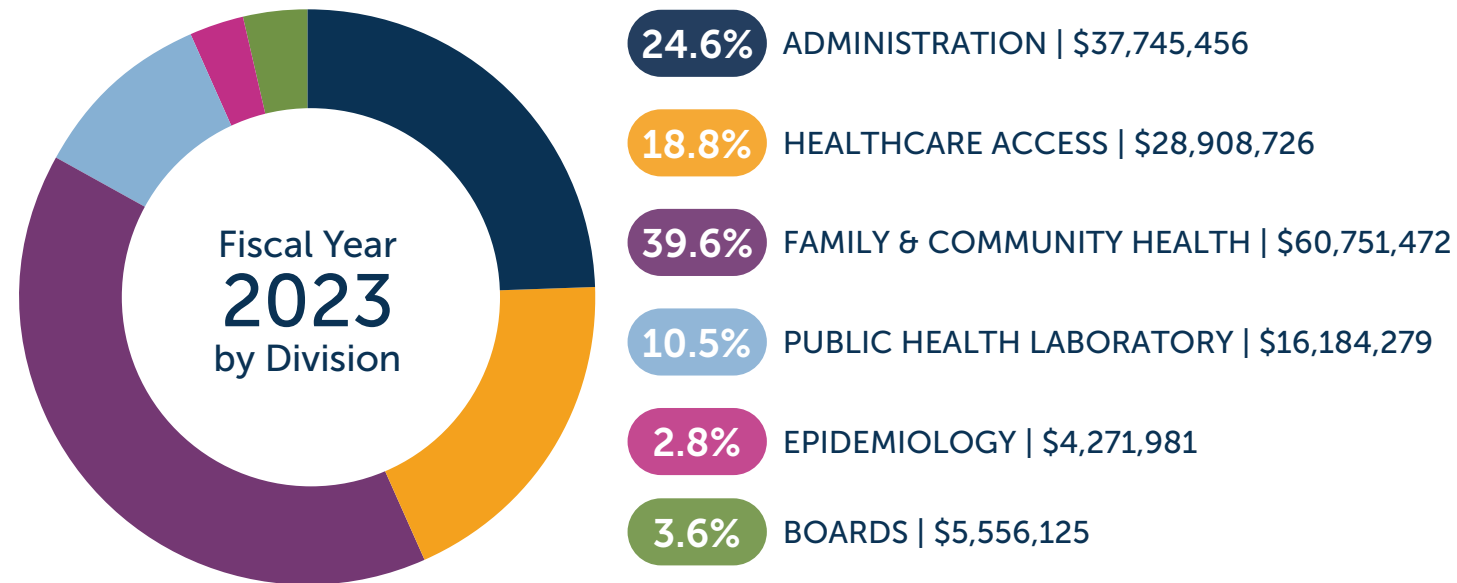
The Division of Family and Community Health's mission statement is to design, implement, and administer a network of health services, education, and prevention programs to aid the residents of South Dakota to develop and maintain a healthier lifestyle and achieve the highest possible quality of life. The division accomplishes this mission under two offices: the Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion and the Office of Child and Family Services. The Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion has multiple programs under three main areas of focus, which include Infectious Disease Prevention and Control, Chronic Disease Prevention, and Injury Prevention. The Office of Child and Family Services also has multiple programs under three main areas of focus, which include Maternal Child Health, Supplemental Nutrition for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), and Public Health Nursing Services.

LICENSURE AND ACCREDITATION

The mission of the Division of Licensure and Accreditation is to protect and promote the health and well-being of SD citizens by surveying and licensing healthcare facilities; protecting the public from sanitation and safety hazards by inspecting and licensing food services, lodge establishments, and campgrounds; operating the state's medical cannabis program ensuring an accessible, safe and responsible program; maintaining the state's vital records data including birth, death, marriage, and divorce records; overseeing the collection of quality data; overseeing the evaluation and dissemination of our state's health data; and spearheading our agency work regarding accreditation and continuous quality improvement.



FY23 Expenditures | \$153,418,039



The **State Public Health Laboratory** provides Medical Microbiology, Environmental Chemistry, and Forensic Chemistry testing services to clients and partners throughout South Dakota. The mission of the public health laboratory is to protect the public's health through high-quality testing services. These services include testing for infectious diseases such as foodborne pathogens, respiratory pathogens, and mosquito borne disease. The state public health laboratory also provides comprehensive water testing services to ensure South Dakota's water is safe for consumption, recreation, and agriculture. The state public health laboratory also provides drug and toxicology testing, and is one of two laboratories in the state that provides testing services for South Dakota's growing medical cannabis industry.

Development of a Medical Cannabis Laboratory Testing Program

PROJECT GOAL

Develop a high-quality medical cannabis testing program that supports health and safety of South Dakotans that use medical cannabis products.

PROJECT SCOPE

The South Dakota Public Health Laboratory (SDPHL) developed a testing program to detect a wide range of contaminants in medical cannabis products including harmful bacteria, pesticides, solvents, heavy metals, and toxins. SDPHL can also determine levels of cannabinoids through testing.

COMMUNITY IMPACT

Medical cannabis testing services can be used to ensure medical cannabis products are safe to enter the commercial market and can be used to investigate products in certain circumstances. Testing services support growers, manufacturers, and retail establishments in communities throughout South Dakota.

PATIENT IMPACT

Medical cannabis testing services help ensure products are safe for consumers, and if illness occurs associated with medical cannabis use, testing services can be used to investigate products.

FUTURE IMPACT

As the medical cannabis industry in South Dakota continues to grow, the need for safe medical cannabis products will also grow. The South Dakota Public Health Laboratory (SDPHL) maintains readiness to test medical cannabis products to ensure product safety and consumer health.

NOTABLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The South Dakota Public Health Laboratory (SDPHL) has successfully tested a wide variety of medical cannabis products including floor, tinctures, oils, and edible products. SDPHL aided several investigations into medical cannabis products that led to the removal of select products from the commercial market due to contamination with harmful substances.

Estimated Number of Tests Performed at the SPHL in FY2023

59K
Chemistry Lab

55K
Microbiology Lab

17K
Forensics Lab

Public Health Laboratory Accreditation

PROJECT GOAL

Maintain laboratory accreditation in support of public health laboratory quality management.

PROJECT SCOPE

The South Dakota Public Health Laboratory (SDPHL) maintains accreditation of its testing programs as a component of good quality management. SDPHL has three primary sections including the Medical Microbiology Section, Environmental Chemistry Section, and Forensic Chemistry Section. The Medical Microbiology Section is accredited by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), the Environmental Chemistry Section is accredited by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the Forensic Chemistry Section is accredited by the ANSI National Accreditation Board (ANAB).

COMMUNITY IMPACT

Laboratory accreditation is a critical and sometimes required activity for laboratories that perform public health testing. Communities benefit from public health laboratory accreditation because good regulatory standing is a strong indicator of compliance with applicable laws and standards and that high-quality laboratory testing is performed.

PATIENT IMPACT

Individual patients also benefit from laboratory accreditation. The Medical Microbiology Section at the state public health laboratory performs testing in support of patient care. Services provided by the Medical Microbiology Section includes testing for sexually transmitted infections, bloodborne pathogens, foodborne pathogens, season infectious agents like West Nile Virus and influenza, and agents of biological terrorism. The Medical Microbiology Section maintains accreditation with the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA) enforced by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). Good standing with CLIA regulations is one indication that the state public health laboratory provides high-quality testing services that directly impact the care of patients.

FUTURE IMPACT

South Dakota Public Health Laboratory (SDPHL) supports the health of South Dakotans and visitors to our state. SDPHL performs surveillance for infectious agents, compounds that could impact our states water including drinking water, and novel illicit substance that threaten human health and safety. High-quality public health testing helps ensure a healthy and safe future for our state.

NOTABLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The South Dakota Public Health Laboratory (SDPHL) provides high quality laboratory testing services for clients and partners throughout South Dakota. As a part of the laboratory-wide quality management program, SDPHL meets federal regulatory standards for water testing and medical microbiology testing, as well as industry standards for drug and toxicology testing. In 2023, SDPHL continued its long history of good regulatory standing with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) who regulates water testing in the Environmental Chemistry Section and achieved a no-deficiency survey from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) in the Medical Microbiology Section. In late 2023, the SDPHL Forensic Chemistry Section was evaluated by the ANSI National Accreditation Board (ANAB), and while the results of that survey are pending, the surveyors described the laboratory as extraordinary and complemented staff and leadership on strong drug and toxicology testing services. In November 2023, the SDPHL Forensic Chemistry Section was evaluated by the ANSI National Accreditation Board (ANAB). Surveyors from across the country described the laboratory as extraordinary and complemented staff and leadership on strong drug and toxicology testing programs. By December 2023, SDPHL attained ANAB accreditation for drug and toxicology testing services.

Expansion of Testing to Detect Harmful, Antibiotic Resistant Bacteria

PROJECT GOAL

Detect harmful bacteria that are resistant to antibiotics used to treat human infections.

PROJECT SCOPE

The South Dakota Public Health Laboratory (SDPHL) implemented additional testing to detect harmful bacteria that cause severe infections and death.

COMMUNITY IMPACT

Detection of harmful bacteria through testing helps public health authorities keep communities safer through implementation of education as well as mitigation and prevention strategies.

PATIENT IMPACT

In partnership with clinical laboratories and healthcare providers throughout South Dakota, testing performed by the South Dakota Public Health Laboratory (SDPHL) may influence patient care, use of antibiotics to treat infections, and efforts to reduce the spread of harmful, antibiotic resistant bacteria.

FUTURE IMPACT

The spread of antibiotic resistant bacteria continues to outpace the development of new antibiotics to treat these harmful bacteria. The work of the South Dakota Public Health Laboratory (SDPHL) allows clinical and public health professionals to identify these pathogens and work towards their elimination. In coordination with clinical and public health partners, SDPHL continues to provide surveillance for these pathogens and improve antibiotic use which helps preserve antibiotic effectiveness and reduce the spread of harmful, resistant bacteria.

NOTABLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

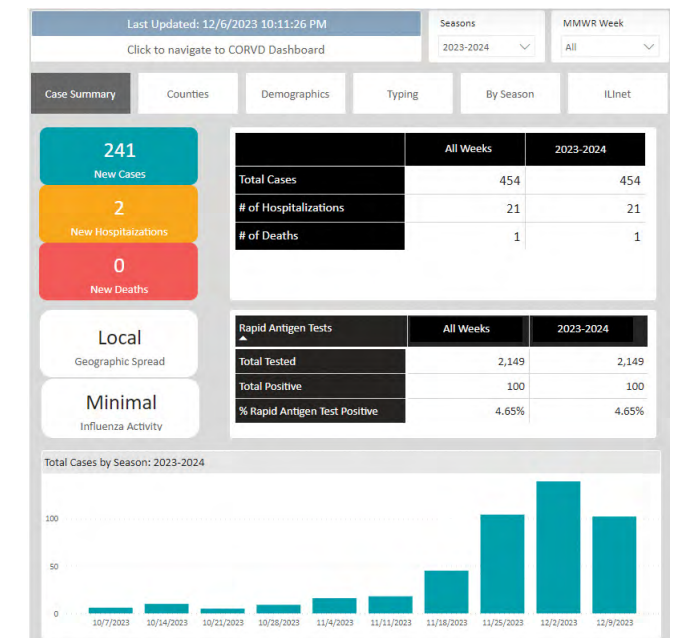
The South Dakota Public Health Laboratory (SDPHL) has identified antibiotic resistant organisms throughout South Dakota that impact individual patients, healthcare facilities, long-term care facilities, as well as other populations. In 2022, SDPHL assisted clinical and public health partners to stop the spread of harmful bacteria with emphasis on long-term care facilities and other healthcare facilities.

The South Dakota Department of Health’s **Epidemiology, Surveillance, and Informatics Center (ESIC)** is responsible for infectious disease subject matter expertise related to enteric, respiratory, vaccine-preventable, vectorborne, and zoonotic diseases. ESIC maintains and enhances our electronic disease surveillance system, ensures receipt of electronic data from hospitals, labs, and medical providers, and creates data visualizations such as maps and dashboards to make data more accessible. ESIC’s mission is to improve the health and well-being of South Dakotans by monitoring disease, providing education, communicating timely, and collaborating with community partners to prevent disease.

Respiratory Disease Data Dashboards

Access to data on reportable conditions in the community is essential for individuals, employers, and medical professionals to make informed health decisions for oneself, employees, or patients.

ESIC epidemiology and informatics staff continue to expand the information available on the [SD-DOH website](#). Building on success with the [infectious disease](#) and [West Nile Virus](#) dashboards, ESIC expanded the COVID-19 dashboard to include [Coronavirus and Other Respiratory Viral Diseases \(CORVD\)](#) and create the seasonal [influenza](#) dashboard. The CORVD dashboard maintains information about COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations, and deaths overall, by county, by patient demographics, and by respiratory disease season. One major addition was including the counts of emergency department visits for COVID-19-like illness, influenza-like illness, and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), which is a major cause of hospitalization among young children and the elderly. The influenza dashboard was based on the information ESIC shared in weekly website and email updates, but now includes a way for dashboard users to interactively explore the influenza data. The dashboard shows cases, hospitalizations, and deaths overall, by county, by patient demographics, and by respiratory disease season.



Influenza Dashboard

SUCCESSES

- South Dakotans, employers, and medical providers now have access to more information about infectious diseases circulating in the state.
- The information contained in dashboards offers an interactive way to explore data on infectious diseases, such as the influenza and RSV.



2023 Biennial Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA)

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services successfully concluded the 2023 Biennial Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA) survey for the South Dakota Public Health Laboratory, identifying no deficiencies in their operations.

Maintaining Readiness to Respond to Clusters and Outbreaks

SD-DOH staff maintain an on-call phone service to ensure our community partners can alert us during nights, weekends, and holidays of any threat to human health.

Threats to the health and well-being of South Dakotans are not confined to normal business hours. That's why members of the public, medical providers, or other partners can connect with trained on-call staff 24/7. Our 800-592-1861 toll-free phone number offers consultation to individuals who may have been exposed to rabies, response, and investigation when a [reportable disease](#) such as measles or novel influenza is reported, and guidance when a health care facility reports an outbreak.

During Fall 2023, more than 28 detections of avian influenza in turkeys and other poultry occurred in South Dakota. ESIC's influenza epidemiologist responded by calling the impacted producer,

providing education about the risk of influenza infection among individuals having contact with the sick turkeys, and providing monitoring and follow-up during the 10 days following the last exposure to sick turkeys. If an upper respiratory infection occurred during the monitoring period, the individual was advised to call the on-call staff to arrange for a respiratory specimen to be collected and submitted to the SD Public Health Laboratory for testing.

SUCCESSSES

- More than 222 individuals were monitored by ESIC and no transmission of influenza from a sick turkey to humans were identified.
- Due to planning efforts across state agencies, turkey producers were connected with the right information at the right time to minimize operation disruptions while managing the health of their workforce.

Accelerating the Speed of Reporting from Healthcare to DOH

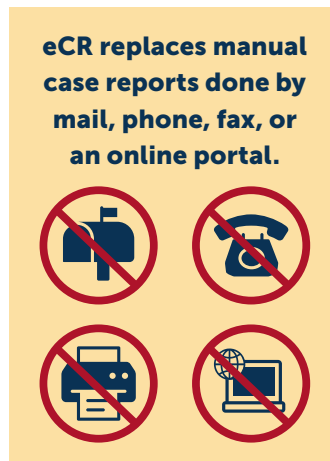
As part of the nation-wide data modernization for public health, ESIC staff created electronic case reporting (eCR) guidelines that hospital electronic medical record (EMR) systems will use to report a condition to SD-DOH.

The current process of reporting case information to SD-DOH for investigating infectious diseases relies on hospital or clinic staff manually pulling the data from the EMR and calling the Disease Intervention Specialist. Unfortunately, this adds time before the case is counseled about how their infection can spread to others or notification to the case's close contact (e.g., family, friend, or co-worker) about their exposure and starting necessary medical follow-up. Using the new EMR capability of automatically checking if a condition is reportable, SD-DOH epidemiologists created an eCR guideline for each

condition. The eCR guidelines let the EMR confirm reportability and, if criteria are met, seamlessly submit data on the condition to SD-DOH in real-time.

SUCCESSSES

- The new process is designed to decrease the burden of manual reporting from hospitals and clinics.
- Simultaneously, the new process will decrease the duration between physician diagnosis and receipt of the report at the SD-DOH.



Increasing Blood Lead Investigation Capacity with an Academic Collaboration

CHALLENGE

The South Dakota Department of Health (SD-DOH) was newly funded to develop and conduct activities of a Child Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (SD CLPPP). Prior to this CDC funding, the state had no public health surveillance, interview, referral, or case management activities established for childhood lead poisoning. Due to the existing public health workforce focused on the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and its collateral impact of increased nationally notifiable conditions, SD CLPPP sought an alternative model to conduct activities by engaging a student interview team.

INTERVENTION

SD-DOH established a partnership with the University of South Dakota School of Health Sciences (USD) to create an MPH student interview team, named the Community Action Response Epidemiology (CARE) team. The goal of the partnership was to increase lead hazard awareness in the state and conduct blood lead surveillance activities for children aged six years and younger. SD CLPPP developed program policies and trained the CARE team on the following:

- Conducting telephone interviews with families of children with blood lead levels at 10 µg/dL or greater to determine possible lead exposure sources.
- Educating families about lead hazards and its health effects and poisoning prevention activities.
- Providing case management for lead-exposed children, such as monitoring follow-up blood lead testing, engaging with medical providers during follow-up, and making referrals to supportive services.



IMPACT

The partnership between SD CLPPP and the USD CARE team enhanced the state's public health workforce capacity while offering MPH students the opportunity to learn and practice applied skills. Specifically, SD CLPPP activities ensured early identification of lead-exposed children and prompt linkages to supportive services. In addition, all contacted parents, caregivers, and guardians of children received educational materials about lead poisoning prevention. Data collected during interviews will continue to increase the program's ability to target interventions for high-risk geographic areas and populations.

The purpose of the **Division of Healthcare Access** is to provide and enhance access to timely, high-quality healthcare services while maintaining relevancy. The Division exists to expand rural emergency medical services via telehealth and other life-saving equipment, enhance recruitment and retention opportunities while proactively building a pipeline to the healthcare workforce, and effectively plan and prepare for public health threats to ensure individuals and families are well-informed. None of these can be done without using the latest information systems, technology, and communication strategies to ensure we provide excellent customer service and meet our customers where they are in their healthcare journey.

Governor Noem Takes Action to Address Prescription Drug Shortages

In May, Governor Noem issued Executive Order 2023-07 directing the Department of Health to investigate the medication shortages and identify all opportunities to mitigate medication or raw material shortages in South Dakota. In the Secretary of Health's final report to the governor, Secretary Melissa Magstadt outlined two courses of action to mitigate the threat of medication shortages to South Dakotans.

First, agreements were put in place to expand the state's medical cache to five additional cities – Aberdeen, Hot Springs, Mobridge, Pierre, and Yankton. These agreements ensure these five locations can stockpile additional doses of key medications frequently in shortage and of high consequence. In addition to the antibiotics currently stockpiled, the department added Albuterol, Epinephrine, Insulin, Prednisone, and Pediatric Amoxicillin to the medical cache.

Second, a partnership with the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists was established to conduct an in-depth study of epidemiologic and supply chain factors likely to impact medication shortages in South Dakota. The result of this analysis will be longer-term with strategic actions the state can use against this public health threat.



“*When our drugs are manufactured in just one or two countries, then any serious event can create a shortage. And those shortages hurt the young, the elderly, and the sick more than anyone else. When we started hearing from pharmacies across the state, we immediately began notifying the Governor and working towards a solution.*”

Secretary Melissa Magstadt

Rural Health Strategic Analysis

The purpose of the Office of Rural Health is to improve the delivery of healthcare services to rural and medically underserved communities while focusing on access to care. To achieve this, the office supports the recruitment of healthcare professionals and healthcare facilities. Additionally, the office serves as a partner to healthcare facilities, healthcare professionals, and educational institutions that provide healthcare programming to middle schools through graduate and professional-level programs. The office provides programming for healthcare career camps, a state loan repayment program, and recruitment assistance programs. South Dakota's primary care office also ensures communities and professionals can participate in the Federal National Health Service Corps programs.

In 2023, an RFP was solicited seeking a partner to complete a comprehensive assessment of all rural healthcare access needs across the state. This is not just another strategic plan. This assessment will discover and gather both qualitative and quantitative data, implement stakeholder sessions, and review/evaluate practices in supporting access to healthcare across our great state – on behalf of the Department of Health. Guidehouse was selected as the department's partner who will work very closely with the Office of Rural Health team to develop an environmental scan with supportive research, data analysis, stakeholder engagement, best practice identification, and final recommendations to understand the factors that impact healthcare access in South Dakota. After the project, we expect identified priorities to improve programming and address workforce gaps to ensure access to care for all South Dakotans.

80
Estimated # of Health Professionals Receiving Recruitment Incentives in 2023

45
Estimated # of Rural Communities Receiving Recruitment Incentives in 2023



Students participate in our Rapid City Scrubs Camp

Healthcare Workforce Development

The work of the Office of Rural Health also supports a key department-wide objective to strengthen and support a qualified workforce by increasing healthcare workforce recruitment and retention in South Dakota.

3,000
Estimated # of Students Reached Through Health Career Camps

Some of the key activities underway to meet this objective include:

- planning for a healthcare workforce revolution summit on August 12-13, 2024;
- developing a workforce pipeline website;
- the rural health strategic analysis referenced here;
- and increasing attendance at healthcare career camps at middle and high schools.



The Rosebud Ambulance team receives Telemedicine In Motion training.

\$20 Million Investment into Emergency Medical Services

Thanks to Governor Noem and the South Dakota Legislature, \$20 million (ARPA federal funding) was infused into the South Dakota Department of Health to support three statewide Emergency Medical Services (EMS) initiatives. These dollars have significantly advanced EMS across South Dakota in the past two years; including the development of a one-of-a-kind Telemedicine in Motion concept, LIFEPAK 15 replacement monitors, and a Regional Services Designation assessing the sustainability of EMS.

TELEMEDICINE IN MOTION (\$1.7 MILLION)

Telemedicine in Motion connects physician and nurse medical professionals with first responders in the field improving efficiencies in patient assessment, treatment, and transfer to definitive care centers. This initiative supported tablets for EMS providers, training, telehealth service including unlimited data, software, professional support service, and project implementation. As of December 1, 2023, there were nearly 90 live sites (out of 122 ambulance services), nearly 900 patient encounters, and over 94 percent of live sites with at least one utilization.



DOH leadership attended the 2nd Annual Avel eCare Customer Forum and Innovation Summit to showcase South Dakota's Telemedicine in Motion initiative and the community impact of pre-hospital care and support in the back of an ambulance truck. Pictured here are Heath Secretary Melissa Magstadt, EMS Office Administrator Marty Link, and Avel's VP of Emergency and EMS Services Becky Vande Kieft. John Gruber is Avel's EMS Operations Manager who moderated the panel.

LIFEPAK 15 REPLACEMENT MONITORS (\$11.6 MILLION)

The LIFEPAK initiative provided 308 LIFEPAK monitors to participating ambulance services statewide that included training, distribution, implementation and installation, and full data support. This initiative assists EMS personnel in caring for critical patients experiencing heart related illnesses allowing for EKG (the patient's heart rhythm) to be transmitted to the receiving facility allowing hospital staff sufficient time to prepare for the patient. What's more is that the Eagle Butte and Pine Ridge ambulance services were two tribal agencies who received updated equipment (as part of the replacement effort) through a participation agreement mutually agreed upon by Indian Health Services (IHS) and the state.



LIFEPAK training in Eagle Butte (above) and Pine Ridge (below).

REGIONAL SERVICE DESIGNATION ASSESSMENT (\$8 MILLION)

The South Dakota Department of Health partnered with Healthcare Strategists to complete a comprehensive analysis of the current state of EMS. The report was generated through a compilation of over 400 stakeholder interviews in eight months and a comprehensive review of historical performance data and surveys. EMS stakeholders participated at meetings within each ambulance district, during the annual conferences for the South Dakota Ambulance Association, the statewide trauma conference, and EMS Association, remote interviews, and seven virtual listening sessions.



Ambulance agencies across the state received their new LIFEPAK 15's and training in Aberdeen, Eagle Butte, Mitchell, Mobridge, Pierre, Pine Ridge, Rapid City (pictured below), Sioux Falls, Watertown, and Yankton.

Understanding the current ambulance system and identifying the strengths and improvement opportunities was essential in this initiative. A key objective is an ambulance response time of 30 minutes or less to any resident or visitor who calls 9-1-1. Several key findings and best management practices have been identified and will be shared with key stakeholders to ensure implementation throughout 2024.

Additionally, by July 1, 2024, the Department of Health will implement planning grant opportunities – with approximately \$7.5 million to distribute - for the development and implementation of regional hubs, billing software solutions, supply procurement systems, and more.



Naloxone for Business: Everyone has the power to save a life

During the 2023 legislative session, a bill was introduced and signed into law by Governor Noem that authorized businesses to acquire and make available opioid antagonists on their premises. The law specifies that an employer may acquire and make available on the employer's premises an opioid antagonist that is dispensed or distributed by a licensed healthcare professional if the employer completes the following:

1. Develop a protocol for the transport, storage, maintenance, and location of the opioid antagonist;
2. Provides training and instruction, developed by the Department of Health, and made available on the Department of Health website, to employees or personnel authorized to administer an opioid antagonist on the employer's premises; and
3. Prominently posts instructions on the administration of an opioid antagonist and post-administration protocol, if the employer makes it accessible to the public.

The law further states an employer, employee, or other authorized personnel of an employer may not be held liable for any death, injury, or damage that arises out of the administration of, the self-administration of, or the failure to administer

an opioid antagonist if such action or inaction constitutes ordinary negligence.

The Department of Health led efforts to ensure Naloxone for Business training was available on the department's website effective July 1, 2023. As part of our department's strategic plan, is committed to providing Naloxone training for all staff by May 2024. In addition, Naloxone coordinators were assigned for each DOH state-owned or leased building across the state, and training was conducted on November 20, 2023, for those coordinators. Naloxone and Naloxone wall-mounted boxes were made available to each coordinator by late December 2023.



Together, the Departments of Health and Social Services continue to support the Naloxone Project overall. This initiative has provided over 10,000 boxes of Naloxone to first responders across South Dakota; including Emergency Medical Services (EMS), law enforcement, fire departments, public schools, and treatment centers. Data collected through the state's ambulance reporting database shows an average of 40 percent of patients have an improved condition following the administration of Naloxone.



Marty Link and Tia Kafka joined our partners Avel eCare, Stryker, and healthcare strategists at the South Dakota EMS conference in Rapid City to highlight and discuss department initiatives.



South Dakota Health Link embarked on a 1,000 mile journey across the state to take our show on the road and announce our Health Insights suite of tools to assist with population health and other analytic needs.

Information Technology Strategic Plan

The goal of the department-wide IT Strategic Plan has always been to ensure a thoughtful approach to the information and technology infrastructure while ensuring those systems interoperate to provide maximum benefits and return on investments. The department identified the need to create an inventory of IT systems to ensure system use is maximized, outdated or obsolete systems are updated/replaced/sunset, strategic systems are maintained/upgraded/enhanced, and address systems that do not meet the needs of our various programs and departments. Additionally, through this process, an IT Steering Committee was developed and a framework to address data governance and the IT workforce has been created.

Priority Areas Include:

- Establish an IT Steering Committee
- Facilitate planning and prioritizing the needs and gaps in the IT Roadmap

- Create supporting documents and a timeline
- Address and develop data governance
- Create an internal communication plan
- Complete an IT System Profile analysis
- Evaluate ongoing needs of the department-wide IT enterprise
- Perform an IT Workforce Assessment

To achieve these priority areas, the IT Steering Committee will lead the way in addressing current department IT needs, assess expansion or enhancements as necessary, and ensure all systems within the department IT infrastructure are interoperable and maximized while working with staff across program areas to maintain data governance and inventory management.

South Dakota Health Link: Better Communication. Better Care.



South Dakota Health Link is a multi-state Health Information Exchange (HIE) with the core foundation to improve care and coordinate information sharing. South Dakota Health Link allows medical information to be shared between medical professionals through a secure platform to improve the quality, safety, and efficiency of care provided. The network lets providers access real-time clinical histories and customizable notifications to facilitate better care through more complete information. Health Link provides several services to deliver timely information when caring for patients, clinical event notifications, and population health and analytic tools.

The network currently consists of 67 hospitals, 450+ primary care, and other ancillary provider organizations across 6 states covering more than 95,000 square miles.

2023 Highlights:

- Two project abstracts were selected for presentation at the National Health Information Management Systems Society (HIMSS) conference in Chicago, Illinois.
 - > Transforming Care with an HIE in the Behavioral Health Setting
 - > State HIE Partnerships with Pharmacy Organizations and Educators
- Onboarded 15 new member organizations encompassing more than 1,100 new end users.
- Convened the Advisory Council in quarterly meetings to update and enhance the strategic planning roadmap.

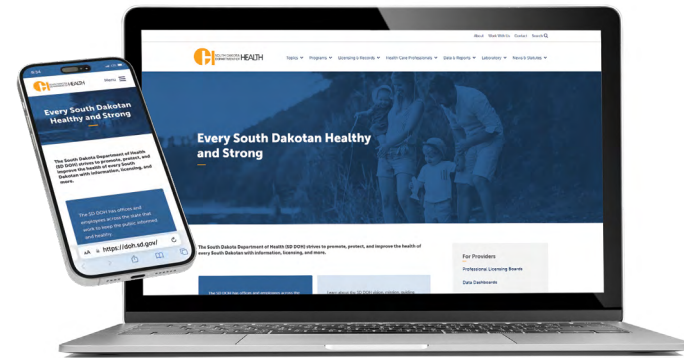
DOH Website Redesign

After thorough evaluation of the existing Department of Health website, we recognized the need for a significant upgrade to better serve our users and fulfill our commitment to the health and well-being of all South Dakotans.

Primary goals of the new website were to enhance communication and provide valuable guidance on community health issues and programs.

Key highlights of the new South Dakota Department of Health website include:

- 1. Improved Accessibility:** We have designed the website with a mobile-first approach, ensuring easy access and enhanced usability for all users.
- 2. Enhanced Search Features:** Our upgraded site search functionality enables swift access to specific information, enabling users to find what they need quickly and effortlessly.
- 3. Streamlined News Feed:** With a restructured news feed, we can now pull content into appropriate channels, ensuring better visibility and accessibility of essential updates and announcements.



- 4. Upgraded Disease Listings and Categorization:** For the convenience of both providers and the public, we have updated disease listings and organized information in a more user-friendly manner.
- 5. Optimized Navigation:** Our streamlined navigation system empowers users to find the information they seek more efficiently, making their overall experience on the website more pleasant.

4,400
Estimated # of
Individuals Served
by SD Quit in
2023



MarCom Awards, one of the world's largest and most respected creative competitions, honors excellence in marketing and communication, recognizing industry professionals' creativity, hard work, and generosity; the South Dakota Department of Health Tobacco Program achieved Platinum Winner status for its "Vaping Sucks" and "The Last Smoke" campaigns, along with a Gold Winner designation for its "More Good Years" campaign in the annual submission of about 6,500 print and digital entries from numerous countries.

Optimal Readiness for Public Health Threats

The purpose of the Office of Public Health Preparedness and Response (PHPR) is to develop and maintain the relationships, infrastructure, and expertise necessary to prepare for and respond to public health emergencies. To this end, the office manages the Public Health Emergency Preparedness program with a strong focus on epidemiological data and laboratory surveillance for public health threats. This program also provides the tools and structure to lead a response to any public health threat. Furthermore, the Healthcare Preparedness Program works with healthcare facilities of all types to ensure preparedness to respond to threats they are vulnerable to.

The department's emergency operations plan guides the statewide response in the event of a public health incident. This plan includes specific sections for specific hazards (pandemic influenza, Sturgis motorcycle rally, surge in medical patients) as well as sections that describe a response applicable to any threat. As part of this strategic plan objective, all DOH staff have conducted training to their appropriate level on this plan and know how to use it. To test the effectiveness of the plan and related training, PHPR organizes and conducts several discussion-based exercises. In 2023 the PHPR team led a discussion-based exercise with the scenario being pandemic influenza. This exercise was a great example of public health coordination (department-wide and statewide). In 2024, an ebola scenario exercise will be executed.



The Office of Public Health Preparedness and Response gathered in Chamberlain with community members from across the state to discuss the status of points of dispensing intended to be used to distribute life-saving medical countermeasures in an emergency.

Attendees also heard from federal partners from the Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response and the Strategic National Stockpile.

Great conversations were facilitated to help make South Dakota Communities ready to respond in an emergency and to continue to strengthen public health partnerships.



Sturgis



Lower Brule



Sioux Falls



Philip

Rapid City



Pierre

Rapid City



Rapid City



Sioux Falls



Madison



Howard

The mission statement of the **Division of Family and Community Health** is to design, implement, and administer a network of health services, education, and prevention programs to aid the residents of South Dakota to develop and maintain a healthier lifestyle and achieve the highest possible quality of life. The division accomplishes this mission under two offices: the Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (ODPHP) and the Office of Child and Family Services (OCFS). The Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion has multiple programs under three main areas of focus, which include Infectious Disease Prevention and Control, Chronic Disease Prevention, and Injury Prevention. The Office of Child and Family Services also has multiple programs under three main areas of focus, which include Maternal Child Health (MCH), Supplemental Nutrition for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), and Public Health Nursing Services. Staff across the division work very collaboratively with each other, healthcare professionals, and community partners across the state to strategically implement programs and initiatives that reduce disease prevalence and positively impact overall health and wellness of South Dakotans. Our division has an annual budget of \$60.5M and employs 195.5 FTE, with 78% of our budget coming from federal grant funding. Family and Community Health has accomplished an extraordinary amount of progress and success throughout 2023, as outlined below.

Disease Prevention & Health Promotion

COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS

To date, there are currently 115 Community Health Workers (CHW) in South Dakota and 70 that have gone through the certification process. Having CHWs go through the certification process helps organizations with applying and receiving reimbursement. The Department of Health (DOH) continued to contract with 63 sites throughout 2023 to expand their CHW programming. To support tribal health programs, who have long-standing Community Health Representative (CHR) programs, the DOH started to offer scholarships to cross train their CHR or train new employees, and as of October 2023, we have approved six individuals to attend the training program at either Lake Area Technical College or Southeast Technical College. This scholarship opportunity is an ongoing application process, with another training cohort starting in early 2024. To build the CHW profession internally within the Department of Health, the Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion created a CHW classification and reclassified three Public Health Assistant (PHA) positions to CHW positions. These three staff are now completing the certification training.

NEXUS SD

(Community Information Exchange)

Nexus SD, also known as the Community Information Exchange, is a statewide collaboration of health care, human service, and social service providers sharing information using an integrated technology platform and referral system to coordinate whole-person care. This network has the shared vision of streamlining connection between multi-sector providers to address social needs and drive positive outcomes among populations at higher risk and who are underserved.

Beginning in August 2023, the Department of Health partnered with [findhelp](#), one of America's leading social care network providers. Additionally, the Department of Health partnered with the [Helpline Center](#), the State's 211 and 988 service provider to incorporate the 211 resource directory into the network. This provides users access to 6,000+ resources and services in South Dakota to help address social needs such as housing, transportation, food security, etc.



Two platforms are being developed as part of the Nexus SD technology solution. The first platform will be used by participating organizations. It will provide several screening tools that can be utilized to help assess client needs, contains an extensive resource directory of local, regional, and national service providers, offers a comprehensive social care history for each seeker, and allows multiple organizations to collaborate on care for individuals as well as share service outcomes.

The second platform will be utilized by the client and will contain all the same resources and tools as the other platform but will also allow individuals to search for resources anonymously for themselves, friends, and family members. They can also request referrals through the platform. Both sites will have translation capabilities with over 100 languages available.

Several organizations within Rapid City and Mitchell will have the opportunity to pilot the system beginning in January 2024 with plans to roll out across the state in March 2024.

NEW SD IMMUNIZATION INFORMATION SYSTEM (SDIIS)

Immunization Information Systems (IIS) are confidential, population-based, computerized databases that record all immunization doses administered by participating providers to persons residing within a given area. All states have an IIS. At the point of clinical care, an IIS provides consolidated immunization histories for use by a medical provider to help determine appropriate client immunizations. At the population level, an IIS provides aggregate data on vaccinations for use in surveillance and program operations, and in guiding public health action with the goals of improving vaccination rates and reducing vaccine-preventable disease.

South Dakota had one of the first IIS in the nation, beginning in the mid-90s, and the application was supported by Avanza Systems. The original IIS allowed users to enter vaccinations, manage

vaccine inventory, run facility-based immunization coverage rates, and perform Reminder/Recall activities. The first bi-directional interfaces between the South Dakota Immunization Information System (SDIIS) and an electronic medical records (EMR) systems occurred in 2014. However, the need arose for a more modern IIS, so DOH began the search for a new vendor platform. A new system, provided by STChealth, was chosen to operate as the new SDIIS, and it went live on May 1, 2023.

The new SDIIS provides all the same functions for providers as the old system plus so much more. STChealth provides a Learning Management System (LMS) for users to obtain training on the various functions of the new application as well as a full-time Help Desk to support end users. The new SDIIS also provides improved bi-directional interfacing with EMRs, more accurate vaccination forecasting, a more sophisticated deduplication process to manage duplicate patient records and vaccinations, and various other perks.

The new SDIIS offers so many more benefits to the department also. DOH can more closely monitor vaccine inventories in the field, approve orders and transfers, support providers with monthly reporting and annual VFC Program enrollment, and monitor various data quality issues that may arise. DOH looks forward to other capabilities in the future, such as enhanced data exchanges and enhanced surveillance for immunization dashboards.

SDIIS is currently used by nearly 1300 facilities in South Dakota, including clinics, hospitals, county health offices, pharmacies, schools, and daycares. Over 1.5 million patient records are housed in SDIIS to which over 20 million immunizations have been provided!



SOUTH DAKOTA VIOLENT DEATH REPORTING SYSTEM (SD-VDRS)

The South Dakota Violent Death Reporting System (SD-VDRS) is an anonymous



surveillance system that collects information on violent deaths in South Dakota. The findings of SD-VDRS are used to support prevention strategies, including disseminating useful and actionable data to guide and improve local, state, and national prevention policies, programs, and practices. The SD-VDRS program completed their second year of statewide data collection from violent deaths in 2021. For this data year, the SD-VDRS program received excellent rankings in case initiation and informative descriptive data. An area that the SD-VDRS program can improve on is the collection of circumstance information related to violent deaths. To improve data quality and performance, the SD-VDRS program completed three regional coroner trainings in 2023, which included a presentation on data quality. The SD-VDRS program staff continue to make data quality a priority by building relationships with providers and making data available on the SD Department of Health [SD-VDRS web page](#).

STATEWIDE SUICIDE PREVENTION EFFORTS

DOH facilitates an active Statewide Suicide Prevention Workgroup that includes executive level leadership from multiple



state agencies and meets quarterly to ensure collaboration, monitor progress, and prioritize strategies. A separate sub-workgroup with agency representatives, as well as statewide partners, meets monthly to ensure implementation and ongoing progress of the South Dakota Suicide Prevention State Plan. Throughout 2023 the workgroup has developed and updated several data resources, including infographics and data dashboards,

coordinated statewide trainings and conferences, and developed and disseminated means safety resources.



As part of the statewide suicide prevention efforts, an inter-agency Data to Action group meets monthly to review provisional data to identify communities experiencing high rates of suicide deaths and suicide ideation. When a high-risk community is identified, workgroup members proactively reach out to the healthcare, behavioral health, local organizations, schools and other partners in that community to make them aware of the changes in data and provide additional support and resources. Four counties were identified and contacted in 2023 (Bon Homme, Spink, Beadle, and Minnehaha), and ongoing support is offered to previously identified counties.

Through an appropriation from the 2023 Legislative Session, the DOH received funds to contract with three organizations to enhance suicide prevention programs. Contracts are in place with the following organizations:

- Lost&Found** - Lost&Found's (L&F) mission is to deliver comprehensive, data-driven, and resilience-focused suicide prevention and postvention programs and services for youth, young adults, and their support networks. L&F has a Peer2Peer Mentoring program implemented in five post-secondary institutions and plans to extend implementation to three additional post-secondary institutions. The program connects students with campus and community supports and resources. Peer2Peer Mentoring program helps both mentors and mentees become familiar with support services available on campus and in the community, so the resources are more likely to be used by students when needed. L&F is also offering the Campus Resilience Index (CRI) to all South Dakota post-secondary institutions. The CRI is a tool that assesses the suicide prevention capacity of college and technical school campuses and their communities; identifies areas of strength in prevention; and recommends programs, policies, or resources that can reduce suicide risk. L&F will also be offering consultation and support to all South Dakota post-secondary institutions on the preparation and response to suicide loss.
- Mountain Plains Evaluation, LLC** - Mountain Plains Evaluation, LLC provides research and evaluation service for health and human service programs at the local, state, and national level. They provide support to the Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion by assisting with community mental health and suicide prevention data services. Mountain Plains Evaluation, LLC is currently conducting a comprehensive assessment of national, state, and local data sources and statewide suicide prevention activities and are providing the state with recommendations on standardizing and coordinating the evaluation of suicide prevention efforts across the state.
- Helpline Center** - The Helpline Center offers a wide range of suicide prevention and postvention support services throughout the state including the 24/7 operated 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline.

The Helpline Center is focused on capacity building and program implementation within the K-12 system. They are currently in the process of implementing the evidence-based peer support program, Hope Squad, in nine South Dakota K-12 schools. The Hope Squad is a peer-to-peer suicide prevention program where members are nominated by their classmates as trustworthy peers and trained by advisors to reduce the risk of youth suicide through peer intervention. The Helpline Center is developing a comprehensive toolkit and implementing an outreach plan for K-12 schools focused on suicide loss response planning. They are currently working with five K-12 schools in South Dakota to develop customized suicide loss protocols throughout the schools.

The DOH contracted with First Responder's Resiliency to provide online trainings to Public Safety officials across the state. In 2023, 130 first responders were trained on tools to proactively mitigate the physiological, psychological, emotional, and physical effects of trauma & stress that they face in the course of their jobs.



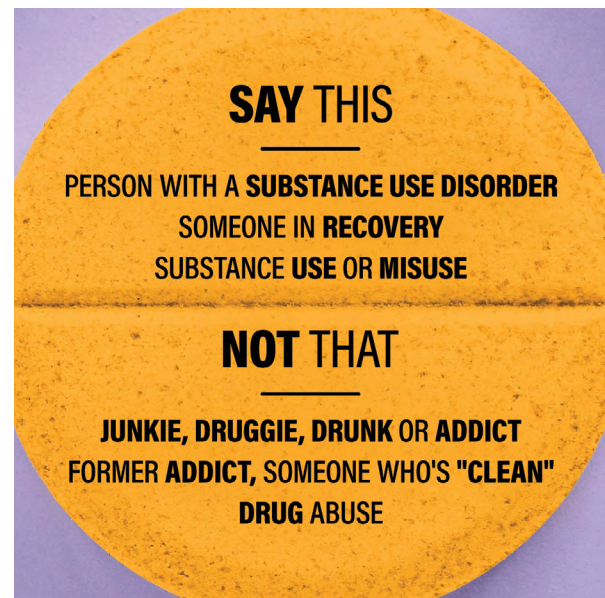
Secretary Magstadt, Beth Dokken, and Laura Streich traveled to Rapid City to meet with Gene Tyon and his team at Oaye Luta Okolakiciye (Moving Forward in a Sacred Way). Oaye Luta Okolakiciye is a Lakota-based community organization that provides substance abuse prevention, intervention, and recovery education while instilling hope, promoting wellness, and revitalizing cultural identity in youth, adults, families, and communities. DOH staff enjoyed learning about the program's successes and discussing potential collaborative opportunities in the future.

OVERDOSE PREVENTION EFFORTS

In 2023, the Opioid program collected and disseminated data on suspected drug overdoses and drug overdose deaths. County specific data reports have been disseminated to local communities to inform them of increases in drug overdoses and to identify ways to assist them with resources.



The Avoid Opioid Campaign shares relevant and educational information focused on saving lives by raising awareness of the risk and signs of overdose, safe ways to respond, best practices for prescribing, treatment, and recovery to those most impacted, such as family members and friends, prescribers, pharmacists, behavioral health professionals, and other professionals. In 2023, a new campaign was launched to warn of the dangers of counterfeit pills. Corresponding website content was developed to help South Dakotans learn that counterfeit pills are widely available and increasingly deadly, how to keep your family safe, and how to help raise awareness. Over the next six months after launching the new campaign, website visits reached an all-time high with over 187,000 visits. A Drug Overdose Resource Packet of print materials was created to call attention to the dangers of counterfeit pills and polysubstance use to be distributed by law enforcement partners statewide, along with existing educational materials. In October 2023, media strategies were implemented to increase the public's awareness around the dangers of xylazine. Messaging also focused on reaching audiences who will see the effects of this drug firsthand such as law enforcement, first responders, educators, veterinarians, and others.



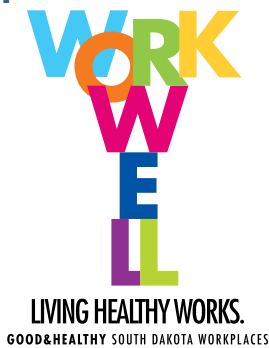
Through a partnership with the DOH Opioid program, the South Dakota Association of Healthcare Organizations (SDAHO) continues to engage in provider education, focusing on topics such as reducing stigma around overdose use disorder (OUD), identifying and diagnosing OUD, referral to treatment, and access and utilization of the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP). In 2023, SDAHO has also expanded beyond the technical assistance they previously provide for the Emergency Department toolkit. They have branched out to additional healthcare facilities and clinics after seeing success with providing individualized tools to help providers implement new practices into their workflow.



DOH partnered with South Dakota Health Link and Avera Behavioral Health System to implement the Navigator program that provides coordination of services by being a point of contact for patients in the behavioral health system as well as providers across the system who may need assistance in directing their patients to behavioral health services. The Navigator program has hosted multiple community education sessions on mental health, substance use, and how to navigate the behavioral health system. The enhanced referral system receives referrals from hospitals, emergency departments, and individuals to help link patients to the appropriate level of care. The Navigator program has hosted trainings to teach professionals to utilize the South Dakota Health Link to connect providers to electronic health information from other providers to improve continuity of care among providers.

WORKWELL MENTAL HEALTH FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

In 2023, 11 worksites across South Dakota were selected to implement strategies focused on mental wellness. Worksites awarded could select interventions addressing individual, environmental, or organizational factors. Contracts were executed with the following organizations in 2023: YMCA of Rapid City, Children's Home Society, American Bank & Trust, Augustana University, Blend Interactive, City of Box Elder, Integrated Care & Consultation, Black Hills Special Services Coop, Boys & Girls Club of the Sioux Empire, Helpline Center, and Monument Health Custer Hospital.



WORKWELL FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

In 2023, the WorkWell Program supported 14 worksites implementing strategies focused on nutrition & physical activity, tobacco prevention, breastfeeding support, and heart disease/stroke &

diabetes prevention. Some examples of interventions include healthy vending/meetings, installing on-site garden, physical activity challenges, on-site physical activity room, AED/CPR training, tobacco free policy, breastfeeding support policy or designating a private lactation space. Contracts are in place with the following organizations: Avera Medical Group Behavioral Health of Brookings, Black Hills Badlands Tourism Association, City of Box Elder, City of Huron, Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribal Health Center, GENPRO Energy Solutions, LLC, Inegrated Care and Consultation, Monument Health RC, Monument Health Spearfish, Monument Health Lead-Deadwood, Oahe Family YMCA, Sioux Valley Energy, and Well 365.

ALZHEIMER'S AND DEMENTIA FUNDING

The Department of Health (DOH) received a five-year federal Building Our Largest Dementia Infrastructure (BOLD) grant for \$1.25 million to aid in the department's development and implementation of a prevention program centered around Alzheimer's disease or other related dementias (ADRD). This is the first time South Dakota has received a grant of this kind. The department will use best practices and optimize evidence-based strategies to create a bold and sustainable public health approach in addressing this ever-growing issue in South Dakota.

The DOH will collaborate with the Alzheimer's Association South Dakota Chapter; SDSU Extension; the Better Choices, Better Health SD program; other state agencies; and healthcare industry partners to establish a coalition to reduce the burden of ADRD through a prevention-focused public health approach aligned with the Center for Disease Control's Healthy Brain Initiative. The coalition will assist the department with improving public health infrastructure and increasing capacity in the field, as well as increasing awareness of the disease and improving access to resources for individuals and caregivers affected by ADRD.

STI MEDIA CAMPAIGN

The Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) Program ran a successful STI Media Campaign from July 17 to November 16, 2023, that strategically utilized social media to increase the awareness of syphilis in South Dakota. This campaign consisted of four main topics including: Syphilis-5 Ways to Protect You and Your Baby, Syphilis Can Be Cured, Syphilis is Sneaky, and Syphilis Dangerous Link. When visited, each infographic would provide a link giving the user the ability to redirect to the South Dakota Department of Health website to provide access to resources, education to provide more in-depth understanding of syphilis and HIV, and encourage individuals in high morbidity age ranges (18-39 years old) to visit the department's web page that provides additional education and information on STI and HIV testing sites.



Of the 330,942 Snapchat users that saw the campaign, 6,637 visited the website for more information.

Of the 892,207 Facebook users that saw the campaign, 4,725 visited the website for more information.

Web page Visits

- > SD DOH HIV/STI Testing Sites web page was displayed 855 times and out of those 519 viewers actively navigated the content within the site.

- > SD DOH Syphilis web page was viewed 3,468 times and out of those 2,184 viewers actively navigated the content within the site.
- > SD DOH Congenital Syphilis web page was displayed 2,450 times and out of those 2,004 viewers actively navigated the content within the site.

CASE INVESTIGATION, CASE MANAGEMENT, AND CONTACT TRACING

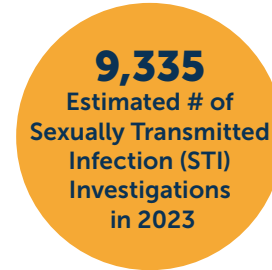
Disease Intervention Specialists (DIS) consist of nurse and non-nurse DIS and provide investigation, education, and contact tracing for reportable diseases and conditions. Through November 2023, DIS investigated almost 13,000 cases.

DIS nurses also provide comprehensive tuberculosis case management including daily administration of medication for patients with tuberculosis, side effects assessments, and coordination with healthcare providers. DIS travel across the state weekly to look for individuals infected with syphilis and their contacts to stop the spread of disease.

STI PREVENTION

Disease Intervention Specialists across the state have enhanced their local collaboration during 2023, building stronger partnerships with healthcare providers and community partners in high morbidity areas across the state by providing educational sessions and assisting in testing and treatment events. Key partners and champions of the testing events include: tribal partners, Indian Health Services (IHS), correctional facilities, behavioral health facilities, unstable housing organizations, committee clubs, and local healthcare facilities.

- Total number of educational and testing events across the state: 50
 - > Northeast-Central Region: 36 events, reaching approximately 500 individuals.
 - *Focused counties: Buffalo, Dewey, Todd



- > Southeast: 6 events, reaching 56 individuals.
 - *Focused counties: Charles Mix, Minnehaha
- > West Region: 8 events, reaching 58 individuals.
 - *Focused counties: Pennington County

STI/HIV Program Managers hosted 6 Statewide educational events.

- These events were provided, in collaboration with partners, including the Bright Start Program, SDSU, Great Plains Tribal Health Leaders, Community Health Representatives, USD Medical Students Infectious Disease Coalition, and Title X Family Planning Facilities.
- The STI Program and Disease Intervention Specialists presented at the 2023 South Dakota Infection Control Council Conference and 2023 Sanford Perinatal, Neonatal Women's Health Conference addressing STIs diagnosis, assessment and treatment recommendations as well as providing updates on South Dakota statewide data. Between the two conferences there were approximately 200 participants.
- The STI Program offered an Educational Lunch and Learn opportunity regarding Syphilis and Congenital Syphilis for providers in collaboration with the University of Washington in St. Louis. The syphilis educational sessions were held in collaboration with the STD Prevention Training Center, St. Louis STI/HIV Prevention Training Center, and Great Plains Tribal Epidemiology Center. There was participation from 29 states, with a total of 621 registrations, and out of those 304 participants were from South Dakota.

SOUTH DAKOTA CANCER REGISTRY

The South Dakota Cancer Registry (SDCR) achieved gold certification from the North American Association of Central Cancer Registries (NAACCR) and national recognition from CDC's National Program of Cancer Registries (NPCR) as a Registry of Distinction for the 2022 Call for Data. The

NAACCR certification measures were for data completeness, quality, and timeliness. In addition to this certification, South Dakota cancer data was published in the Cancer in North America 2016-2020 report and is available on the [Cancer in North America CiNA Volumes](#) web page. The NPCR recognition measures excellence in the areas of completeness of case ascertainment, accuracy of data, and timeliness. In conjunction with this recognition, the high-quality cancer data is included in CDC's incidence and mortality statistics, [United States Cancer Statistics](#).

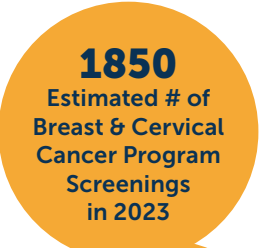
SD BREAST & CERVICAL CANCER EARLY DETECTION PROGRAM

For over 25 years, the All Women Count! (AWC!) Program has been providing breast and cervical cancer screening and diagnostic services to uninsured and underinsured South Dakota women aged 30-64 with

If there are this many people in your house:	Your yearly household income can be up to:
1	\$36,450
2	\$49,300
3	\$62,150
4	\$75,000
5	\$87,850
6 or more	call 1-800-738-2301

Call 1-800-738-2301 (in SD only), for more information

a family income at or below 200% Federal Poverty Level. As Medicaid Expansion took effect this summer, the AWC! Program announced a change in income guidelines that will make approximately 16,000 additional women eligible for breast and cervical cancer screening and diagnostic services. Effective July 1, 2023, the AWC! Program began covering South Dakota women with a family income at or below 250% Federal Poverty Level. Updated income guidelines were sent to all participating clinic sites and social media posts directing individuals to <https://www.getscreenedsd.org/awc> have been shared widely to help spread the word about this change.



Child & Family Services

OFFICE OF CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES RESTRUCTURE

For several years, the Department of Health's Office of Child and Family Services (OCFS) has been assessing how to continue providing high-quality public health services while being good stewards of federal and state funding, increasing employee engagement, and improving client satisfaction. In September 2023, OCFS started a staffing and service delivery restructure that aims to address all these issues and designs a statewide public health infrastructure that can meet current and future needs.

Several decades ago, the community health infrastructure of South Dakota was built around nurses delivering the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program along with other public health nursing services. In recent years, the future feasibility of this structure was questioned as WIC expenses were consistently over its federal budget, employee engagement surveys indicated that staff were expected to stay knowledgeable in too many different programs and competencies, and client satisfaction surveys showed clients wanted different service delivery options.

In September 2023, OCFS separated its staff to work in either the WIC program or Public Health Nursing Services. The WIC program staffing will, over time, change to utilize only dietitians and public health assistants. This will provide clients with staff whose expertise is nutrition, while also aligning with other WIC state models and keeping the program within budget. At the same time, OCFS will utilize most of the nurses for a dedicated public health nursing workforce. Removing nurses from the WIC program allows for more focus on the nursing services that are needed in communities across the state, including immunizations, school health services,

14,551
Estimated
Average # of
Monthly WIC
Participants
in 2023

and pregnancy care support. All nurses will soon be trained in a formal curriculum to enhance the current pregnancy care program, which provides one-on-one nursing support and education for women during pregnancy and postpartum. Public health nurses will also provide a critical role in the Medicaid Pregnancy Health Home program, which is expected to begin in early 2024. Both WIC and Public Health Nursing will be utilizing mobile units and telehealth to offer new service delivery options for clients. OCFS will continue to monitor data and feedback from clients and stakeholders to evaluate these changes and shift resources to meet the needs of families statewide.

WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN (WIC) MOBILE UNITS

South Dakota has large pockets of underserved populations identified as high-risk due to poverty rates and the impact of other social determinants of health. In some rural and frontier areas, a lack of infrastructure prevents an adequate location for staff to set up equipment and administer public health services. Access to reliable transportation and the long distances necessary to reach service sites are additional barriers in these areas. An initiative to improve access to public health services that DOH has been working on throughout 2023 is to bring our services to underserved areas through the use of mobile clinics.



Mobile clinics, branded as Wellness on Wheels, will offer a one-stop shop for multiple public health programs. Plans include delivery of WIC services, routine childhood and adult vaccinations, breastfeeding support, pregnancy education and monitoring, oral health screenings, fluoride varnish applications, Cribs for Kids distribution, basic health

screenings, special immunization clinics, maternal depression screening, substance use screening and referral, developmental screenings, school services, infectious disease testing, and other referrals to health and social service programs. Services may be expanded to include other programs as additional needs are identified.



The WIC program has led the efforts to implement the Wellness on Wheels service delivery model. Five units will be ready to provide services across the state beginning in Spring 2024. Three units will be ready to provide services across the state beginning in March 2024, after staff complete a driver training course led by Highway Patrol. Partner sites will be established within communities to park the unit and communication will be sent to WIC participants and other DOH clients informing them of this new option to receive services.

INDIGENOUS LACTATION COUNSELOR TRAINING

In June 2023, five OCFS staff were provided the opportunity to participate in a week-long Indigenous Lactation Counselor training provided by the Omaha Sioux Nation WIC Program. This specialized training was specifically tailored for individuals of Indigenous descent who can effectively connect with and offer culturally sensitive breastfeeding support to the Native American population residing within our state. All five employees expressed their appreciation for this extensive training, and they know they are better equipped to serve the diverse needs of the residents of our state. It is our hope that the knowledge and counseling skills gained by our staff members will contribute to an increase in breastfeeding rates within their communities.

BRIGHT START HOME VISITING

The Bright Start Home Visiting program seeks to improve pregnancy outcomes, child health and development, to build economic self-sufficiency for families, and to support early childhood systems. Registered nurses support families from pregnancy through the child's second or third birthday to achieve these goals. Our 2023 highlights include:

1,062
Estimated # of
Bright Start Home
Visiting Program
Clients in
2023

- There was a 14% increase in the number of families served by Bright Start in SFY23 compared to the prior year.
- During FY2023, the Bright Start Home Visiting Program newly enrolled 283 mothers and 204 infants.
- In addition to the increase in the number of families served, the program has seen an increase in the communities served with expanded service delivery as new nurse home visitors came on board. We have more than doubled the number of counties where Bright Start services are provided in just over one year since our expansion efforts began.
- The Office of Child and Family Services implemented a 2-Year Media Campaign. The request outlined the need for Bright Start and Pregnancy Care Program branded materials, social media platform development, and brand awareness. During 2023, the Bright Start program worked with the Fresh Produce marketing agency on these initiatives. The team developed an updated Bright Start brand, which was rolled out in March 2023. Since then, Bright Start has initiated a marketing campaign, which included both print and social media marketing.

"They support the direction that you want to go."
—Bright Start Mom

FAMILIES FIRST HOME VISITING

In 2023, the Office of Child and Family Services partnered with Black Hills Special Services Cooperative (BHSSC) to expand home visiting services in SD using the evidence-based **Parents as Teachers (PAT)** home visiting model. The BHSSC PAT program, called Families First Home Visiting, has begun services in the following counties: Fall River, Lawrence, and Butte. Expansion to Pennington County is planned for January 2024. Services are open to families with children from birth to kindergarten entry who are not enrolled in kindergarten. Families First educators support parents in building nurturing relationships, promoting optimal development, and achieving their family goals.

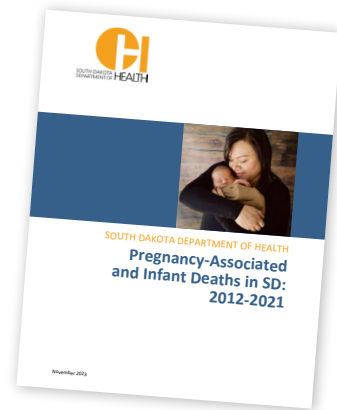


MATERNAL AND INFANT MORTALITY

In 2023 the Office of Child and Family Services created the Mortality Prevention Workgroup. The workgroup includes members of the Child Death Review Committees, the Maternal Mortality Review Committee, and other stakeholders with an interest in improving the outcomes for mothers and infants in South Dakota. 2023 accomplishments include:

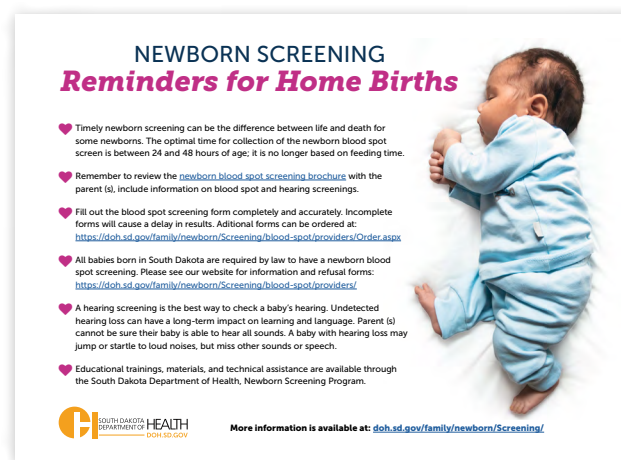
- OCFS was awarded the Enhancing Reviews and Surveillance to Eliminate Maternal Mortality (ERASE MM) grant through the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The grant will continue to support the work of the Maternal Mortality Review Committee, as well as assist OCFS in implementing programs to prevent future maternal mortality.
- OCFS was awarded a second CDC grant, the Sudden Unexpected Infant Death (SUID) Case Registry. Outcomes with this grant will include increased access to high-quality data for SUID with information on disparities and social determinants of health and increased implementation of community and data driven prevention strategies to reduce the risk factors for infant death.

- The Mortality Prevention Workgroup held their first meeting in October 2023. The workgroup has established priorities for addressing maternal and infant mortality that OCFS began working on in 2023 and will continue to work on in 2024.
- The OCFS Epidemiology team created and published the first infant and maternal mortality report. This report titled "Pregnancy-Associated and Infant Deaths in SD: 2012-2021" has been published on the DOH website and is available for stakeholders.



NEWBORN SCREENING

The South Dakota Newborn Screening Program (NBS) has partnered with the South Dakota Early Hearing Detection Intervention (EHDI) Collaborative with the University of South Dakota (USD) to make sure that infants in South Dakota are receiving their initial hearing screening and ensuring the infants who do not pass their hearing screening are being seen by a pediatric audiologist. If the child is diagnosed with a hearing impairment, the program works to ensure early intervention services and treatment are coordinated.



- The NBS program has worked with Certified Professional Midwives and Certified Nurse Midwives to make sure they have resources

such as bloodspot kits and educational materials to provide newborn screening services to families who are having home births. The NBS program has also developed a newborn hearing screener loan program to ensure the home birth community has access to the equipment needed to ensure infants are receiving timely hearing screening.

- The NBS program has worked closely with the Newborn Screening Advisory Committee throughout 2023 to establish a nomination form, a nomination committee, and a list of criteria to ensure conditions that are not already screened for have a formal review process for potential addition to the newborn screening panel.
- DOH will be formally proposing to add newborn hearing screening to Administrative Rules of South Dakota in early 2024, after close collaboration throughout 2023 with the Newborn Screening Advisory Committee and many other interested partners.
- The NBS program has been providing follow up with birthing facilities to make sure that all infants are getting their initial hearing screening. As a result of the follow up, the number of missed hearing screening has decreased by 88.2%.
- A partnership has been developed with USD to provide follow up services for infants who have failed their hearing screening. USD Audiology students are working with families to coordinate an appointment with an Audiologist, as well as making sure they get referred to intervention services such as the South Dakota School for the Deaf and Birth to Three.
- The NBS program and EDHI program were one of four states chosen to participate in a national learning collaborative in 2023 to unite bloodspot and hearing programs. Upon completion of the year-long project, the progress and findings will be presented at a national level and will be used as guidance to aid in creating national standards.

LONG TERM FOLLOW-UP

The Office of Child and Family Services, in collaboration with the Sanford Children's Medically Complex Care (MCC) program, has expanded services to include long-term follow up with a licensed social worker. The program aims to improve health outcomes and quality of life for children with medical complexity and their families through better care coordination.



- In July 2023 a social work position was added to the program to provide long-term follow up services for infants diagnosed with a complex condition through metabolic newborn screening.
- The long-term follow up program has enrolled eight patients who met eligibility criteria in 2023. The program is expanding and will begin to enroll patients with complex medical needs who received a diagnosis between 2021-2023.
- The MCC program has demonstrated a positive impact on patients through care coordination, which ensures families have the supports they need to address medically complex conditions. The addition of the long-term follow up social worker will only enhance the services provided in the MCC program.
- In the first quarter of 2023, the program documented 94 favorable outcomes achieved, including increased adherence to care plans, emerging or urgent medical needs addressed timely and appropriately, better care management at home by families, and appointments getting scheduled timely. In the second quarter of 2023, 95 favorable outcomes were achieved across the same categories and 65 adverse outcomes were prevented through care coordination.

The mission of the **Division of Licensure and Accreditation** is to protect and promote the health and well being of SD citizens by surveying and licensing health care facilities; protect the public from sanitation and safety hazards by inspecting and licensing food services, lodge establishments, and campgrounds; operate the state's medical cannabis program ensuring an accessible, safe and responsible program; maintaining the state's vital records data including birth, death, marriage and divorce records; overseeing the collection and quality of that data; and overseeing the evaluation and dissemination of our state's health data; and spearheading our agency work regarding accreditation and continuous quality improvement.

Licensure & Safety

HEALTH PROTECTION

The Office of Health Protection remains dedicated to our mission of protecting the visitors and citizens of South Dakota. This is achieved with our partners in the Department of Public Safety and the Sioux Falls Health Department by licensing and inspecting over 6,000 food, lodging, and campground establishments scattered throughout the entire state. The focus of our efforts is to educate and promote those best practices recognized in the area of food and environmental safety.

6,020
Estimated # of
Food, Lodging,
& Campground
Licenses Issued
in 2023

The impact of our activity can be evident each summer as we work tirelessly with our partners at many temporary, public celebration events such as the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally. During the 83rd Rally alone, over 300 hundred temporary food vendor inspections were completed along with numerous campground, swimming pool, tattoo, and mobile food service inspections. These inspections and interactions with the operators are an essential component in helping prevent illnesses and outbreaks during the summer event season.

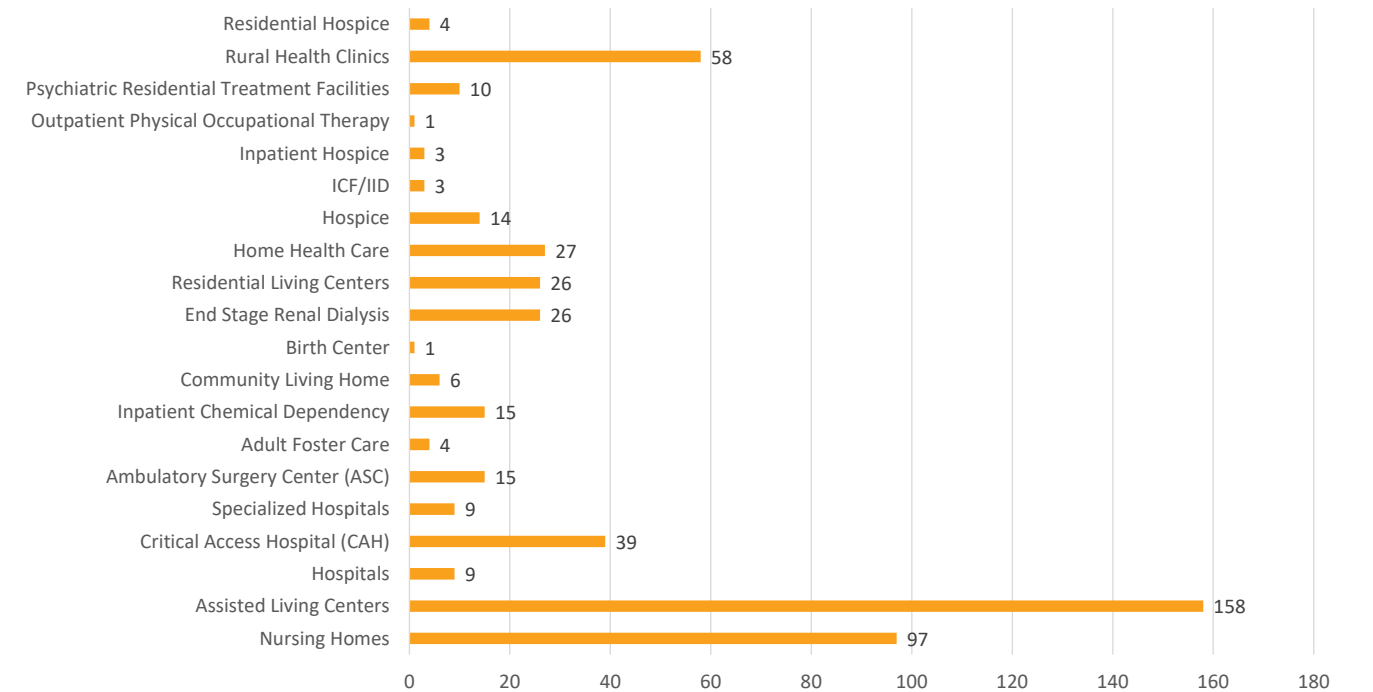


LICENSURE & CERTIFICATION

The Department of Health's Office of Licensure and Certification is responsible for ensuring the health and safety of patients and residents in South Dakota through the federal regulation and state licensure of healthcare facilities.

1. Accomplished Federal Recertification Survey Workload
 - a. The Office of Licensure and Certification has conducted 829 federal and state surveys in FFY23 (October – September) and FY23 (July – June). Nationally, state survey agencies have been challenged to catch-up with federal recertification survey backlog as a result of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) cessation of surveys during COVID-19. OLC was able to resolve the backlog caused by COVID by its dedicated staff completing 800 plus surveys in 14 months.
 - b. South Dakota maintained focused infection control surveys (FICS) and complaint surveys to ensure the health and safety of patients and residents even when federal surveys were not being conducted.

REGULATED PROVIDERS



***Excludes CLIA and Radiology Providers

MEDICAL CANNABIS

The Department of Health's Office of Medical Cannabis is responsible for ensuring patient safety and responsible access to medical cannabis products through the regulation of medical cannabis cardholders and medical cannabis establishments in South Dakota.



1. **Effectively stood up the Medical Cannabis program** – The law legalizing medical cannabis took effect in July of 2021. This was a new industry for South Dakota. It took a tremendous amount of effort to stand up a fully functioning medical cannabis program
 - a. 2023 was our first "full year" of all aspects of the program being up and running,

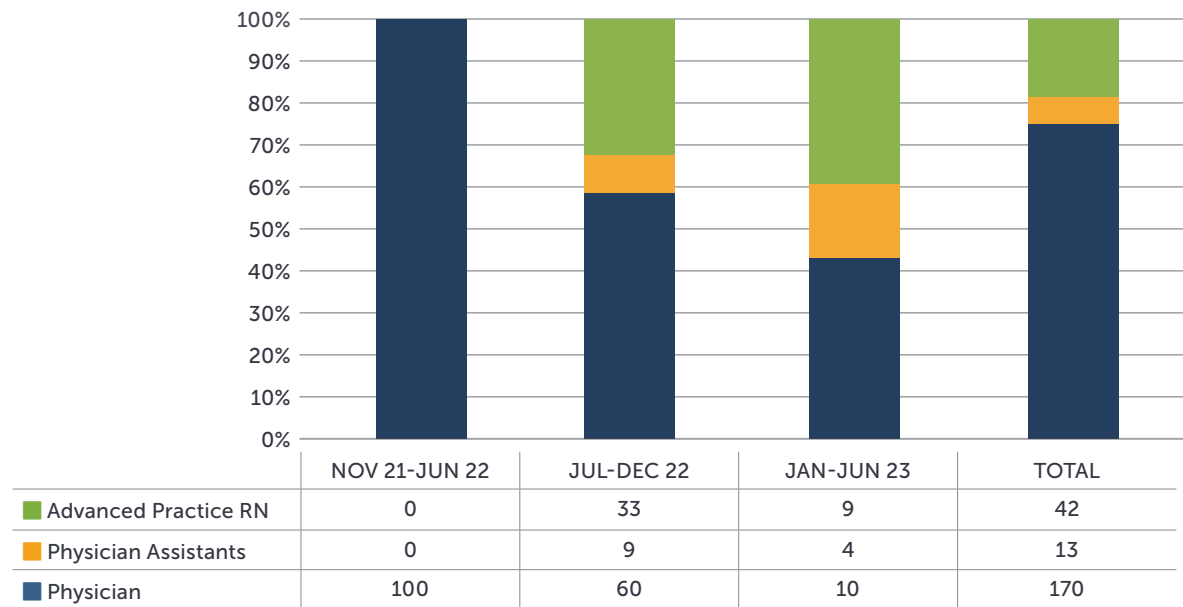
including our inspection program and our seed to sale inventory tracking program. To date, Patient/Caregiver cards far exceeded our initial projections and as of November 20, 2023, we are at 12,791 patients, 651 caregivers, 254 practitioners, and 145 certified establishments.

- b. Our inspections are on schedule and we are averaging approximately seven inspections per month.
2. **Administrative Rules of South Dakota (ARSD) Updates**
 - a. In 2023, the Office of Medical Cannabis updated administrative rules to make needed changes to the program to clarify definitions and make changes to ensure efficient and effective operations.

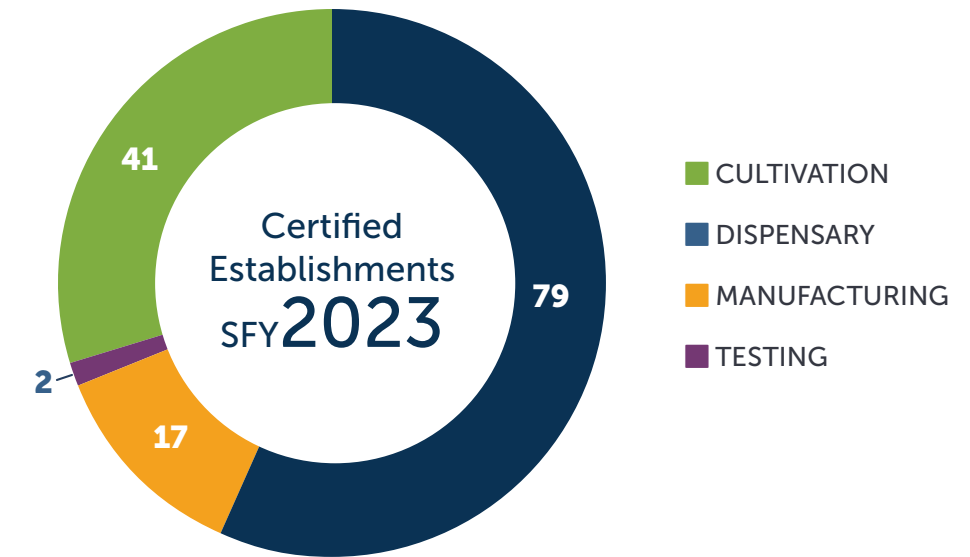
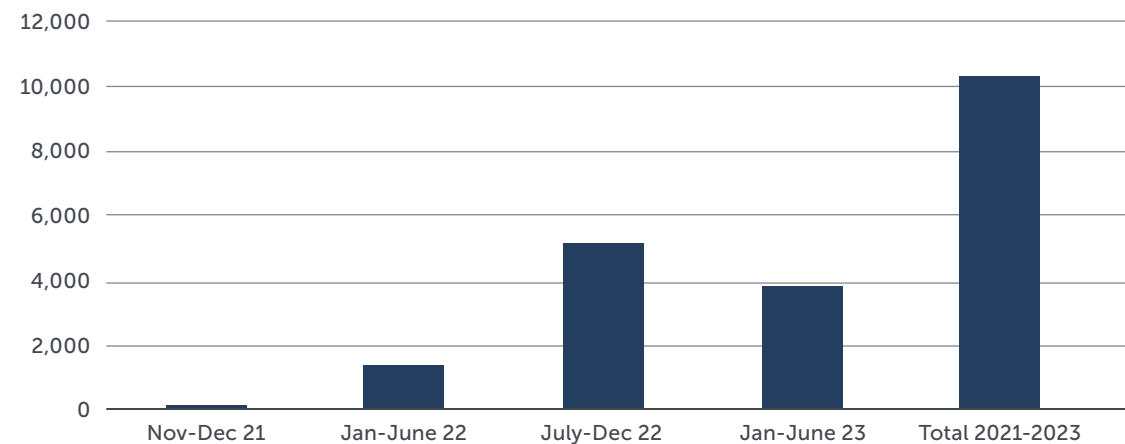
MEDICAL CANNABIS DATA

As of 6/26/23, a total of 11,004 patient applications and 471 caregiver cards had been processed with only one revocation. The charts below depict the number and type of certified practitioners and establishments and shows the overall progression of approved patients.

TOTAL APPROVED PRACTITIONERS



APPROVED PATIENTS



POLICY, RULES, AND LEGISLATION

The following is a global picture of the accomplishments for the entire DOH with respect to rulemaking changes completed this year:

The DOH successfully passed 6 administrative rules packages impacting 212 sections of administrative rules.

- Updated rules for the Rural Healthcare Facilities Recruitment Assistance Program to extend eligibility for the program to dental hygienists and dental offices.
- Updated the reportable disease list to respond to new communicable disease concerns in the state as well as expanded reporting for lead levels to assist in identifying testing rates of, and monitoring children for, lead poisoning.
- Updated the regulations for assisted living centers needed to maintain the health and safety of residents. Included in the updates was allowing assisted living centers to stock naloxone for emergency use.
- Updated the rules related to radiation safety to provide for the health and safety of both patients undergoing radiologic procedures as well as the radiology operators.
- Updated the rules related to medical cannabis maintain patient health and safety and to reflect industry standards. The rule repealed the petition process for individuals wanting to add conditions to the list of debilitating medical conditions thereby allowing those policy decisions to be made by the state Legislature.
- Updated the regulations for hospital necessary to maintain the health and safety of patients including requirements for facilities to maintain an antibiotic stewardship program to improve antibiotic use and reduce antibiotic-resistant organisms and a quality assessment and performance improvement program to improve health outcomes for patients and prevention and reduce medical errors. The rules included the addition of regulations for rural emergency hospitals which were authorized by legislation in 2022.

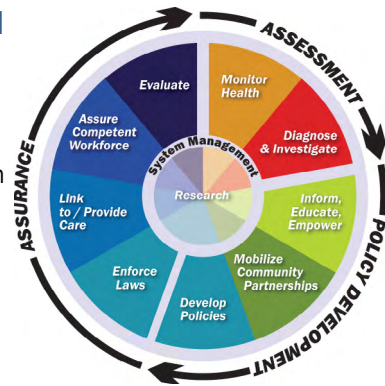
Accreditation & Reporting

The Accreditation and Reporting programs within the Division of Licensure and Accreditation are responsible for organizational support through data collection and reporting, health assessment, and workforce development. Key programs are the Office of Vital Records and the Office of Health Data and Reporting. Priority projects such as gaining national accreditation and supporting health department infrastructure through the Public Health Infrastructure and Workforce Grant are also housed in this division.

ACCREDITATION

South Dakota Department of Health is working to achieve accreditation as a public health department. In 2024 we started the prerequisite work to apply for Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) Health Department Accreditation in 2024. Accreditation is a measurement of how well a health department meets the 10 Essential Public Health Services framework. Accreditation promotes public trust and demonstrates a commitment to quality and performance improvement to better serve the community. Through this process, we have an opportunity to share our story on how we are meeting essential services. Accreditation promotes accountability and transparency. Both are critical tenants of the Noem administration.

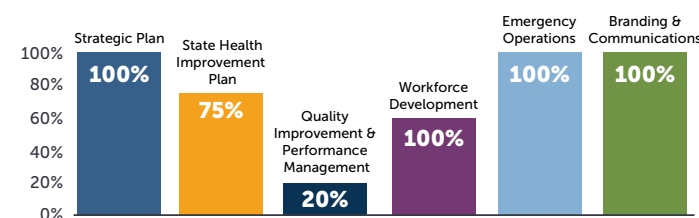
The South Dakota Department of Health (SD DOH) believes in a vision of every South Dakotan being healthy and strong. Strengthening community health and improving the capacity of the public health department will advance the mission of working together with community partners to promote, protect, and improve health. To aid our work, SD DOH completed its first-ever State Health Assessment (SHA) in 2023. Originally started in 2019, the assessment was interrupted by the demands to manage and prevent the spread of COVID-19 and relaunched in October 2022. Three primary data collection strategies were used to engage stakeholders in the collaboration and assessment process:



- 1. Priority Health Indicator Assessment** - Using an established list of 46 health indicators, over 700 community and healthcare leaders helped establish a condensed list of 24 priority health indicators.
- 2. Community Conversations** - Stakeholder feedback was gathered in eight communities with diverse populations and geographic areas.
- 3. Key Informant Interviews** - Personal interviews were conducted with individuals representing or serving population groups with a higher risk of health disparity.

Combining the direct feedback of South Dakotans with existing health data enhances the ability to identify priority health issues and move toward a Statewide Health Improvement Plan (SHIP). Secondary data sources were incorporated within the assessment to determine the impact of general health status, health behaviors, and socioeconomic and environmental factors. A completed copy of the SHA can be found [here](#) or by visiting the Health Equity page of the department website at doh.sd.gov.

To qualify for accreditation, a health department must have formalized organizational plans that demonstrate a commitment to quality improvement, workforce sustainability, and community engagement. SD DOH continues to make substantial progress in completing and operationalizing these plans and anticipates being ready to apply for accreditation in late 2024.

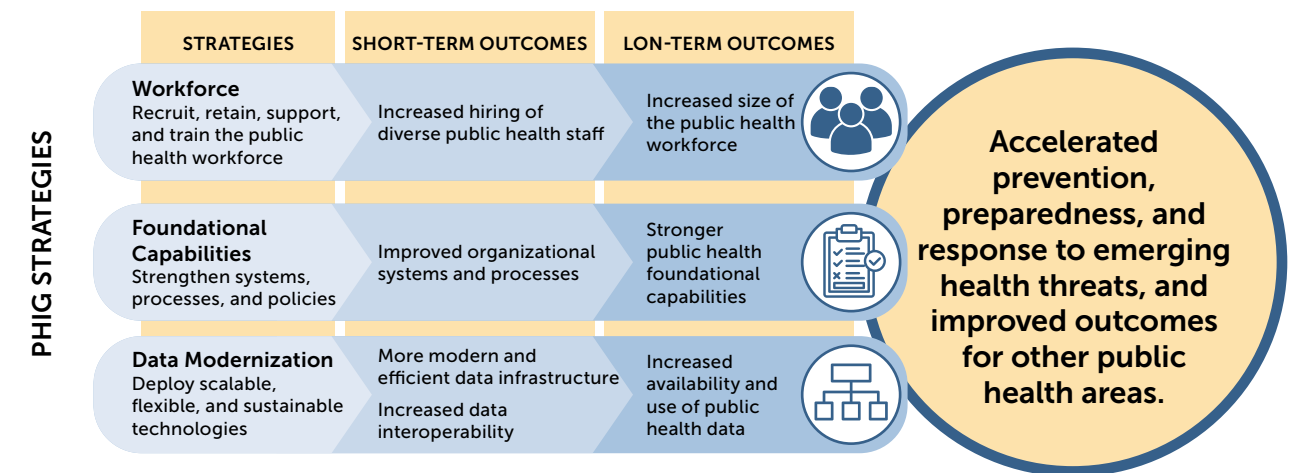


PUBLIC HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE AND WORKFORCE GRANT (PHIG)

In 2022, SD DOH received over \$10 million from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to help support and strengthen the public health systems. Award amounts were based on a funding formula that included population size and community resilience.

While the funding and project work plans continue, South Dakota has made progress with the establishment of an internal grant governance team to assist with oversight and guidance to the entire DOH to unify projects across the department, provide oversight for more efficient use of grant funds, and offering creative solution building across divisions. This corresponds with a deliverable to provide templates, training, and fiscal management to new and upcoming grant/ project managers at DOH. This process will lead to continuous quality improvement.

The three main strategies of this grant are Workforce, Foundational Capabilities, and Data Modernization with the result being accelerated prevention, preparedness, and response to emerging health threats, and improved public health outcomes.

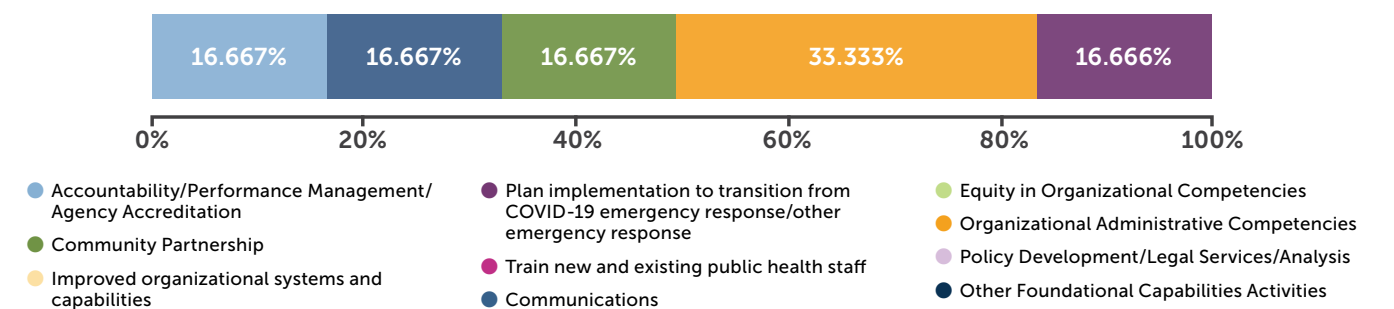


Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/infrastructure/phig/program-overview.html>

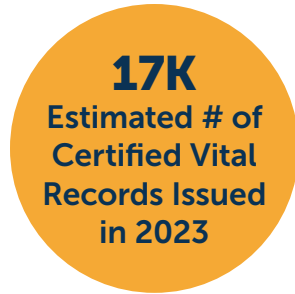
Priority projects funded with this grant include supporting the department with contract and data systems to ensure efficiency and reliability, workforce support placed throughout the state to help prevent the spread of disease, and development of a continuous quality improvement program to ensure the department introduces and practices innovative approaches to keep all South Dakotas healthy and strong.

This grant is also assisting major projects with funding that include two symposiums directed toward partners in rural and Tribal communities – Grant Symposium in partnership with Wellmark and the 2024 Healthcare Revolution, both anticipated to occur in 2024.

SOUTH DAKOTA FUNDING BREAKDOWN



The Office of Vital Records (OVR) is responsible for the registration, modification, and issuance of birth, death, fetal death, marriage, and divorce records for events occurring in the state of South Dakota. The Office of Vital Records was the first vital records office in the country to receive accreditation. OVR follows the national standard of birth and death records as developed by the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) and is responsible for data quality and assurance of all vital events that occur in South Dakota as well as events for South Dakota residents that occur in other jurisdictions.



The Office of Health Data and Reporting collects and analyzes data used by the department of Health and the public. Annually, the office compiles and publishes the department's Vital Statistics [report](#).

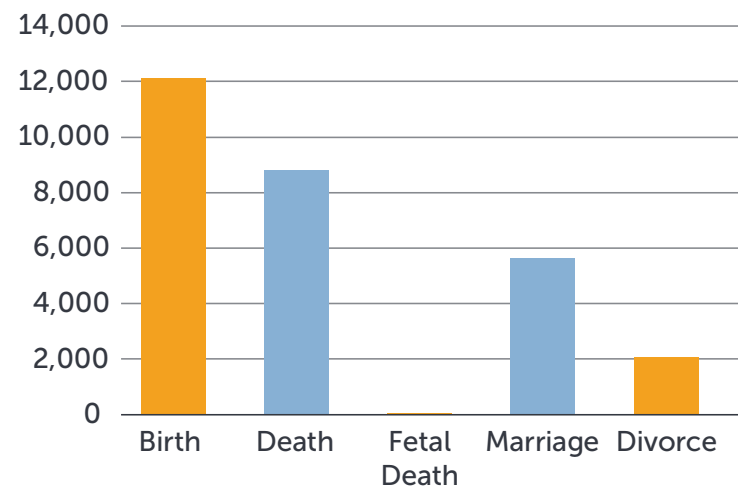
The office also partners with the CDC to administer the Behavior Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) and Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS).

Office of Vital Records and Office of Health Data and Reporting

REGISTRATION

In FY23, the Office of Vital Records (OVR) registered and certified

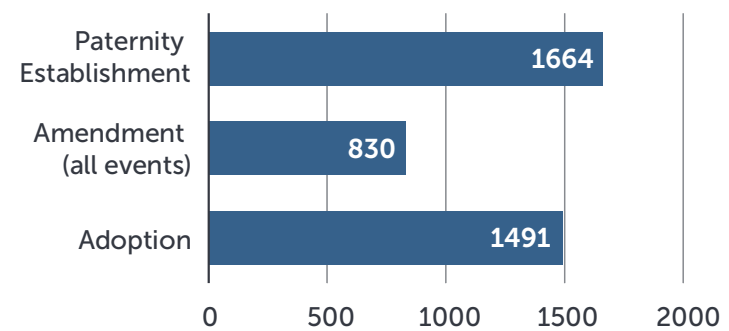
- 12,113 births
- 8,820 deaths
- 71 fetal deaths
- 5,642 marriages
- 2,056 divorces



Source: Office of Vital Records

MODIFICATIONS

The Office of Vital Records is also responsible for legal modifications to all vital events. Modification types include voluntary and court order paternity establishment, amendments by affidavit or court orders, and adoptions.

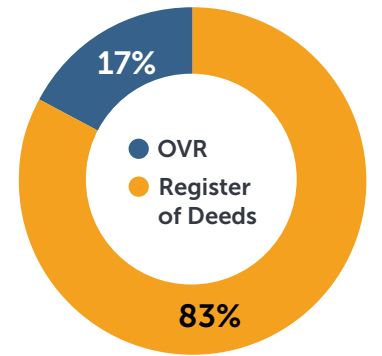


Source: Office of Vital Records

ISSUANCE

Issuance of informational and certified copies of vital records is completed by both the OVR and 64 County Register of Deeds offices. Issuance can be in person, through the mail, or online.

In FY23, 105,649 copies of certificates (all events) were issued statewide. This number includes records from 1905-present. OVR maintains the electronic registration and issuance system and provides access to local counties.

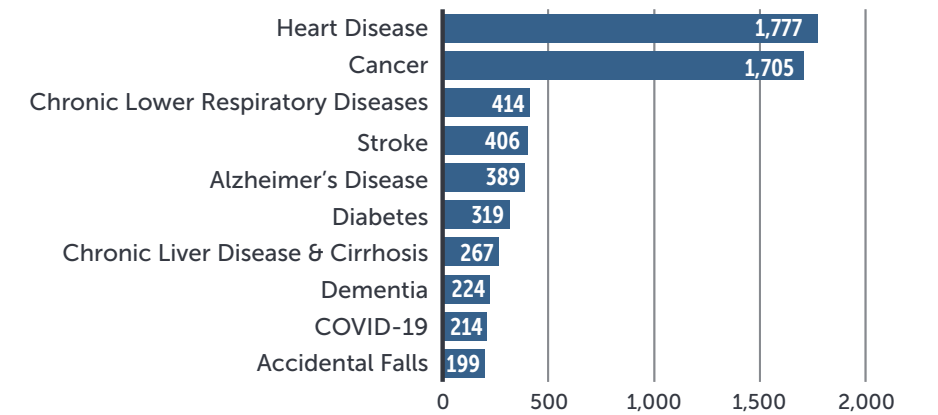


LEADING CAUSES OF DEATH

In FY23, the Office of Health Data and Reporting collected and analyzed 8,602 South Dakota resident deaths. This includes the deaths registered by OVR as well as death records of residents that occurred in other jurisdictions that were reported to South Dakota.

The leading causes of death for South Dakota residents for FY23 are shown on the right.

SOUTH DAKOTA RESIDENT LEADING CAUSES OF DEATH, FY23



Source: South Dakota Department of Health

BEHAVIORAL RISK FACTOR SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM

The Behavior Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) is an annual telephone survey administered by the South Dakota Department of Health in conjunction with the CDC. The survey collects data on the general health and health risks of South Dakota residents. The survey consists of questions aimed at tracking and trending the prevalence of health behaviors and conditions over time.

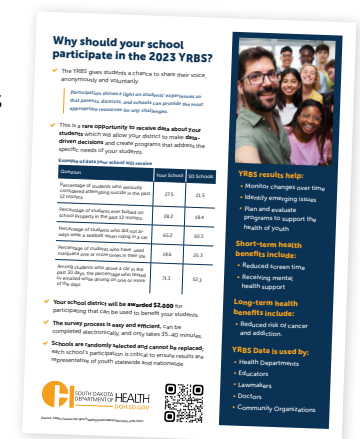
The survey is administered to households with adults aged 18 years or older. All information collected is strictly confidential.

5,455 surveys were administered during FY23 to collect valuable information on various health behaviors, chronic conditions, and risk factors that affect the health of South Dakota communities.

YOUTH RISK BEHAVIOR SURVEY

The Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) survey is conducted every two years with districts, schools, and students randomly selected. Each selected school's participation is critical to ensure results are representative of youth statewide and nationwide. Participation shines a light on students' experiences so that parents, districts, and schools can provide the most appropriate resources for any challenges.

15 schools are currently administering the 2023 YRBS survey.

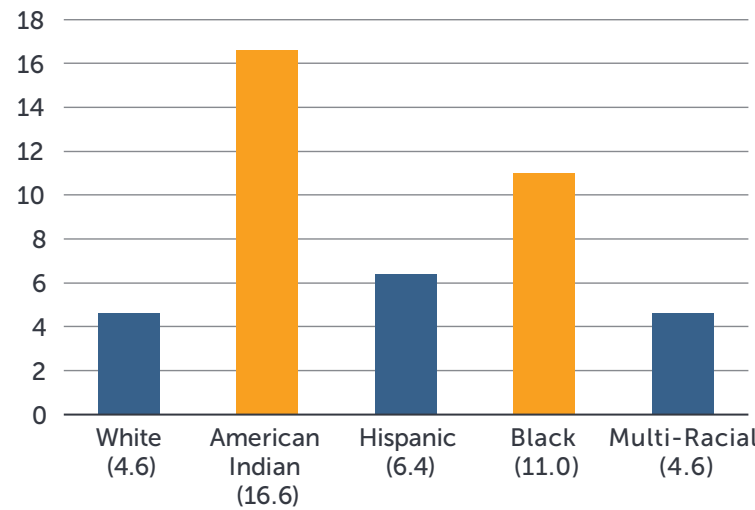


PRIORITY PROJECTS

The Offices of Vital Records and Health Data and Reporting work together on priority projects to aid the department in surveillance and prevention efforts. The data collected and monitored through these priority projects helps other DOH programs utilize birth and death statistics to make data-driven decisions on public health efforts. In addition to the regular work of our programs, we have prioritized the quality review of statistics on infant mortality and the effect of syphilis on birth and deaths.

INFANT MORTALITY

In FY23, South Dakota resident infant deaths were reported for an infant mortality rate of 6.5 per 1,000 live births. For comparison, in FY22 the infant mortality rate was 7.9 per every 1,000 live births.

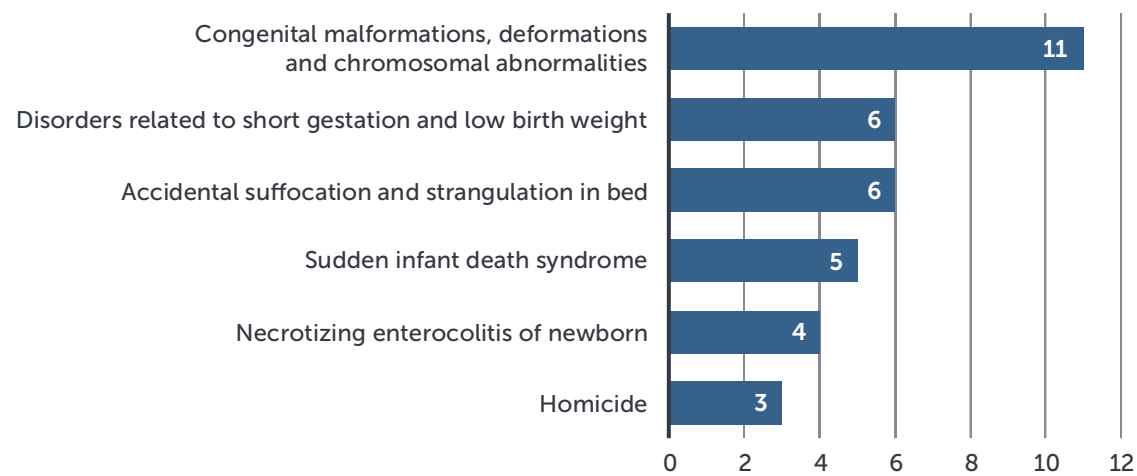


Race is assigned based on standards set forth by the National Center for Health Statistics and the US Census Bureau for South Dakota's race data to be comparable to other areas.

The remaining race categories (Asian, non-Hispanic and Pacific Islander, non-Hispanic) are included in the totals but are not necessarily shown specifically in any tables.

Source: South Dakota Department of Health

SOUTH DAKOTA RESIDENT LEADING CAUSES OF INFANT DEATH, FY23



Source: South Dakota Department of Health

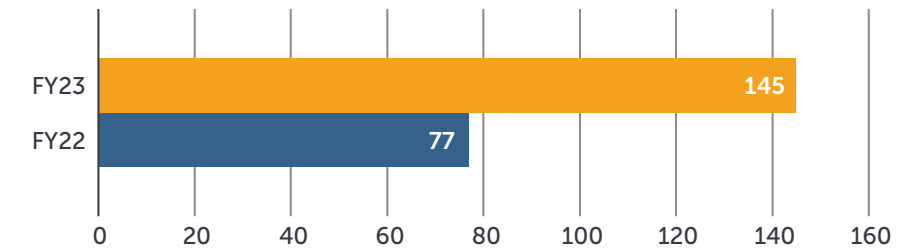
SYPHILIS MONITORING

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that over 10 times as many babies were born with syphilis in 2022 than in 2012. In South Dakota specifically, 2022 data (as of 08/22/2023) shows that there were 1,504 adult syphilis cases and 40 congenital and 3 syphilitic stillbirths reported.

The Offices of Vital Records and Health Data and Reporting are continuing to monitor the number of mothers delivering with syphilis and any infant deaths where a syphilis infection has contributed.

Before registration, verification of positive syphilis infection is completed with the birthing facility registering the birth. In addition to this verification, the Office of Health Data and Reporting runs weekly queries to identify birth records indicating delivering mother was treated for syphilis during pregnancy which requires the Office of Vital Records to complete additional verification with the birthing facility and medical records confirming a positive syphilis case to ensure accurate data is being reported.

BIRTHS REGISTERED INDICATING DELIVERING MOTHER TREATED FOR SYPHILIS



Source: Office of Vital Records



STRATEGIC PLAN

2020–2025

VISION

Every South Dakotan Healthy and Strong

MISSION

Working together to promote, protect, and improve health

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Serve with integrity, respect, and compassion

Focus on evidence-based prevention and outcomes

Support data-driven innovation

Achieve health equity in all communities

Demonstrate proactive leadership and strengthen partnerships

Exhibit transparency and accountability



GOAL 1

Enhance the accessibility, quality, and effective use of health resources.

OBJECTIVES

1. Increase screening for depression
2. Increase knowledge and understanding of the impact of population determinants of health on public health outcomes
3. Increase statewide access to public health services
4. Ensure statewide access to emergency medical services in South Dakota



GOAL 2

Provide services to improve public health.

OBJECTIVES

1. Reduce high school tobacco use
2. Reduce infant mortality
3. Reduce the percentage of WIC participants aged 2 through 4 with obesity
4. Reduce the percentage of school-aged children who are obese
5. Increase vaccination rates



GOAL 3

Plan, prepare, and respond to public health threats.

OBJECTIVES

1. Exercise emergency operation plan
2. Develop and test statewide emergency capability plans
3. Establish data governance structure for the Department of Health



GOAL 4

Maximize partnerships to address underlying factors that determine overall health.

OBJECTIVES

1. Reduce suicide attempts and deaths
2. Reduce unintentional or accidental drug overdoses
3. Decrease rates of sexually transmitted infections
4. Assess the impact of medical cannabis on the public



GOAL 5

Strengthen and support a qualified workforce.

OBJECTIVES

1. Develop an internal recruitment plan to attract qualified applicants to Department of Health positions
2. Develop a retention plan to maintain a qualified and diverse Department of Health workforce
3. Enhance training opportunities for Department of Health employees
4. Increase healthcare workforce recruitment and retention in South Dakota



VISION

Every South Dakotan
Healthy and Strong

MISSION

Working together to
promote, protect, and
improve health



SOUTH DAKOTA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

DOH.SD.GOV
