







# Annual Report 2021



#### Mission

Champion positive health outcomes and behaviors through innovative programs and community engagement

#### Vision

Advancing the health and safety of Jefferson County

#### Values

Innovation | Passion | Adaptability | Integrity | Accountability

#### **Table of Contents**

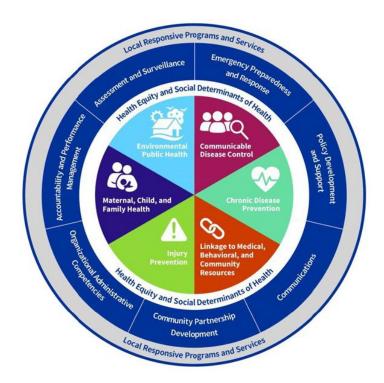
Message From Our Director	3-4
Organizational Structure	5
<u>Financial Profile</u>	6
<u>Client Demographics</u>	7
Agency Programs by the Numbers	8-14
Flu Vaccine Clinics	15
Rotary Golf Tournament Benefit Recipient	16
JCHN ASPEN Tool	17
Upgrading Systems & Smiles	18
JeffCo Wellness Walks	19
JCHD Purchases New Land	20
Take 20 Handwashing Campaign	21
Anyone Can: Addressing the Opioid Crisis	22
COVID-19 Response	23-26

## **Director's Letter**

It would be easy to misinterpret the role of public health given its astounding rise to fame in the past 22 months and its diligent focus on Covid response, mitigation and prevention. If asked what local public health agencies do in March of 2019, many residents would probably have responded that they are places for the uninsured to get vaccines or birth control. Some families might have known that we test well water or that their kids bring home healthy recipes from our school presentations. To an extent, that is true. The reality is we deliver so much more.



I deeply regret that we didn't do a better job of promoting our value before we took center stage at the beginning of a global pandemic. A little-known profession, coupled with fear of an emerging disease and the fever-pitch of a pending election solidified the perfect scenario to misinterpret the public health mission. While Communicable Disease Control is a foundational practice of public health, it is only one facet of the prevention spectrum that we provide to communities. As we transition our agency's Covid response into its final phase, it is my goal to introduce residents properly to the extraordinary mission that is the work of the Jefferson County Health Department.



Public health promotes and protects the health of people and the communities where they live, learn, work and play. While a doctor treats people who are sick, those working in public health try to prevent people from getting sick or injured in the first place.

Health isn't just about the absence of illness. It's about living our healthiest lives – physically, mentally, spiritually, and emotionally. It is the mission of public health to make sure we all have what we need to reach our full potential and help our communities thrive.

Public health experts are trained to diagnose the health of a community by listening to the people who live there and by analyzing data to identify patterns and problems. Instead of waiting to treat people who are sick, public health brings together everyone who has a role in community wellness to develop strategies, policies, and programs that will prevent injuries and disease. This early investment in building a strong foundation for community health saves our communities money and ensures we all have the opportunity to thrive.

Like a building relies on a strong foundation, we depend on foundational public health services to assure safe food and water, prevent injuries, stop the spread of disease, improve health for our families, and connect us to local resources. This public health framework, together with quality education, safe and affordable housing, accessible healthcare, and employment opportunities, creates a healthier environment for all of us.

As we close the chapter on 2021 and embark on a new year of possibilities, I encourage you to read our story and to get to know your public health team better. I am proud to serve with this amazing group of talented and dedicated professionals and look forward to another year of building a healthier and safer Jefferson County.

In Service,

Kelley K. Vollmar

#### **Organizational Structure**

#### **Board of Trustees**



Dennis Diehl



James Prater



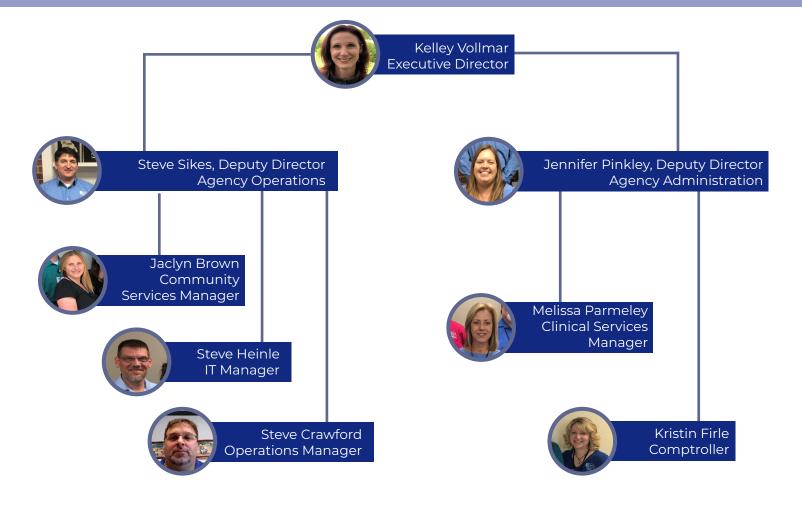
Tim Pigg



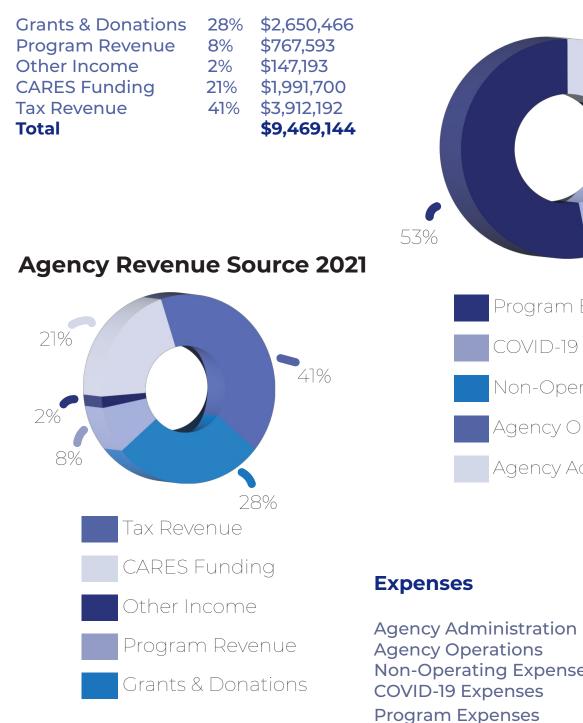
Suzy Davis



Dr. Amber Henry



## **Financial Profile**

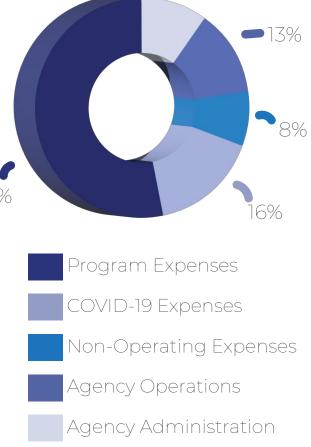


Total

Income

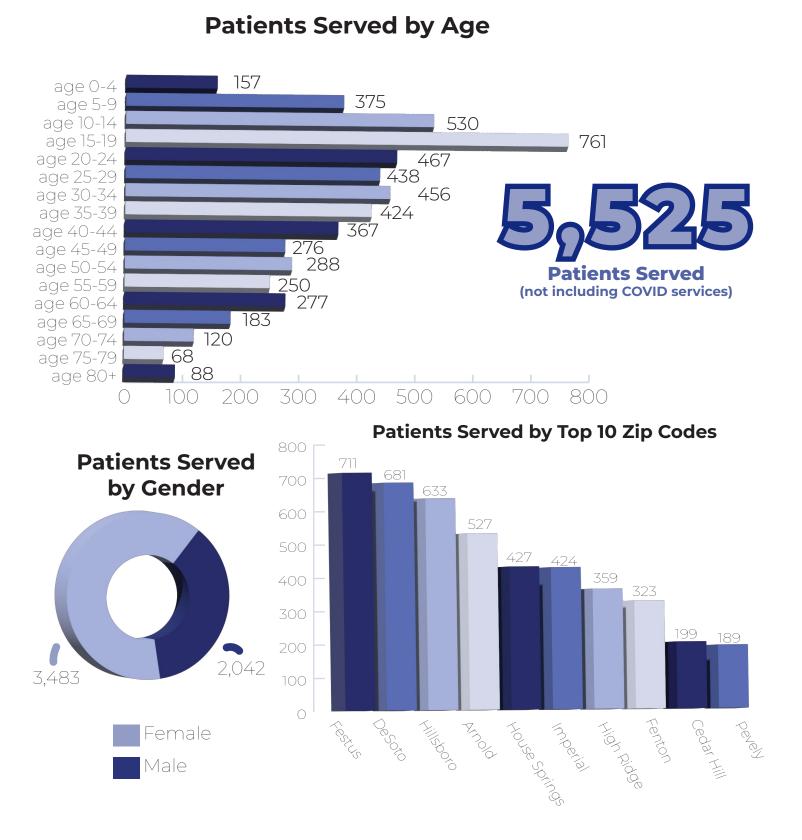
#### Agency Expense Category 2021

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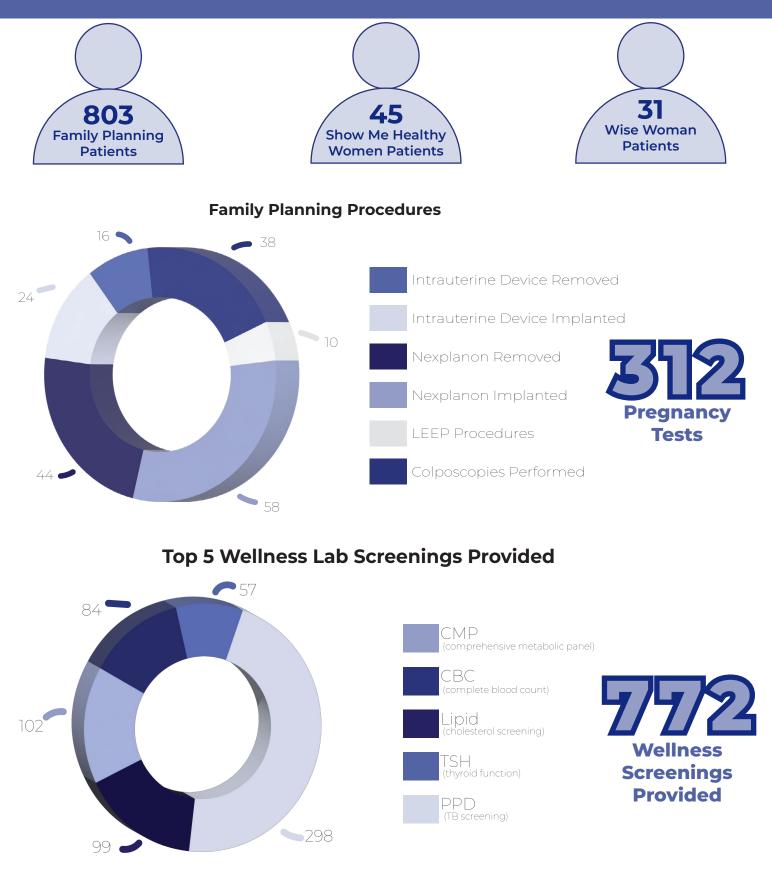


		\$9,756,016
	<b>53</b> %	\$5,164,675
	16%	\$1,566,842
enses	8%	\$768,796
	13%	\$1,240,459
tion	10%	\$1,015,244

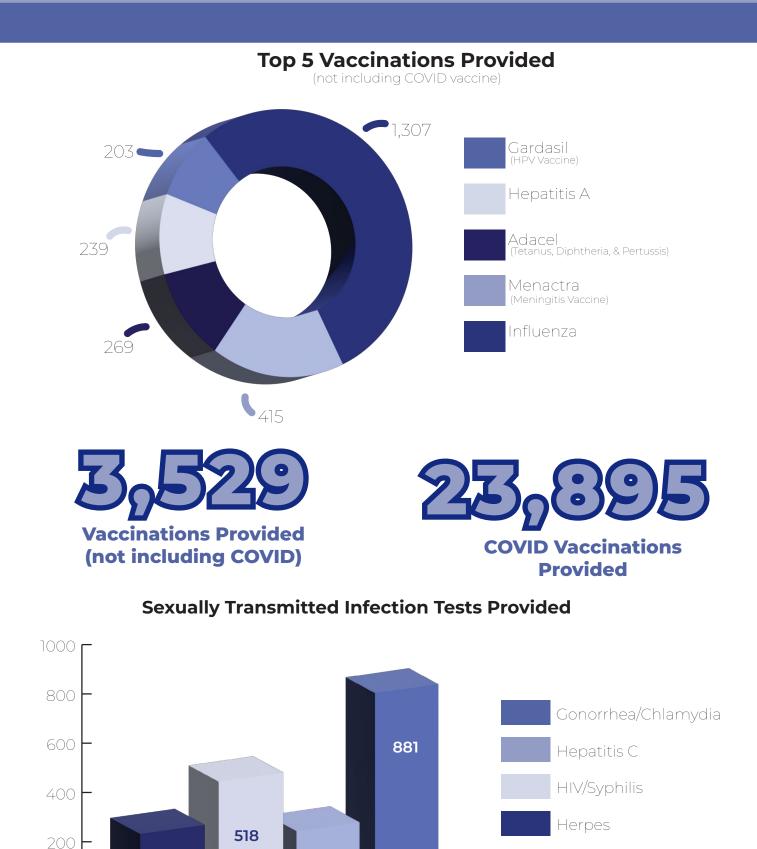
#### Health Center Client Demographics (non COVID client services)



#### Health Center Clinical Services (non COVID client services)



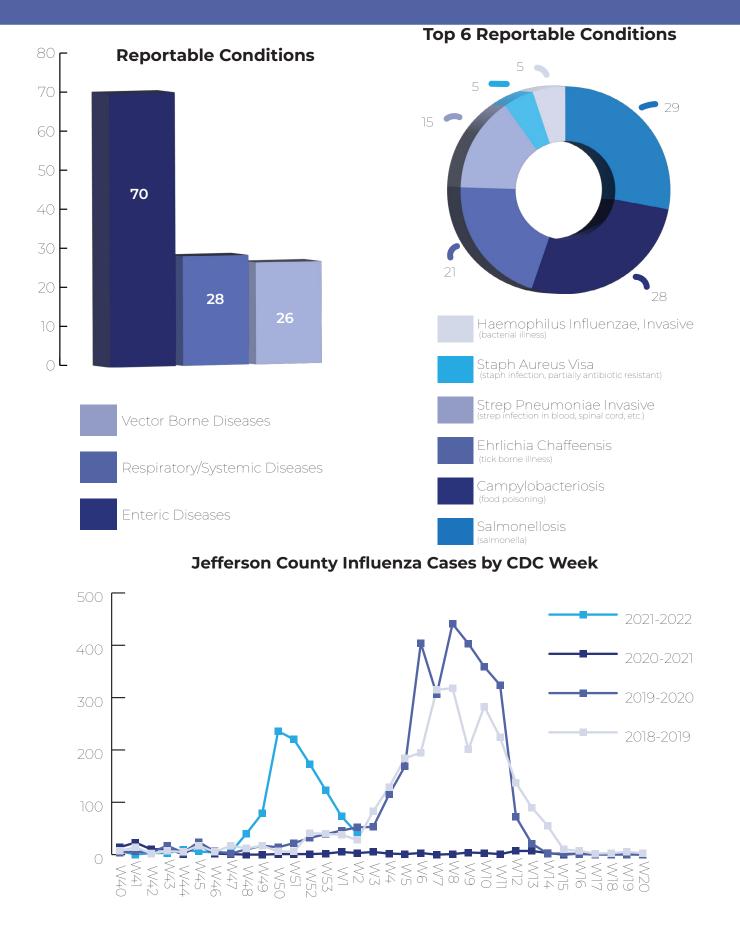
#### Health Center Clinical Services (cont'd) (non COVID client services)



310

301

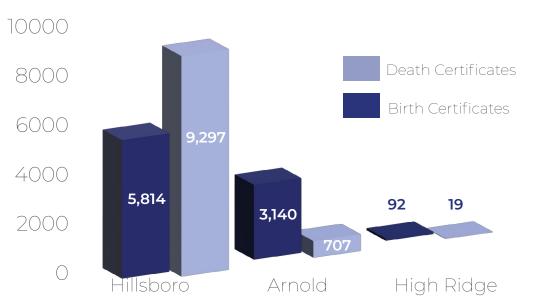
#### Communicable Disease (data incomplete, pending until March 2022)



### **Vital Records Provided**

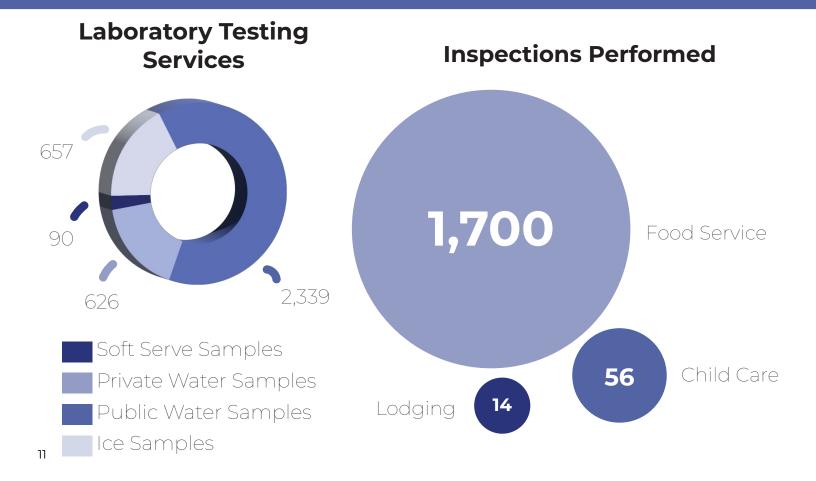
Because of our continued COVID-19 response in 2021, our agency impact looks different from previous years.

Program numbers are reduced when compared to years prior to 2020, however, we are proud to have been able to continue providing services and programs to our community.



#### **Vital Records Provided**

### **Environmental Services**

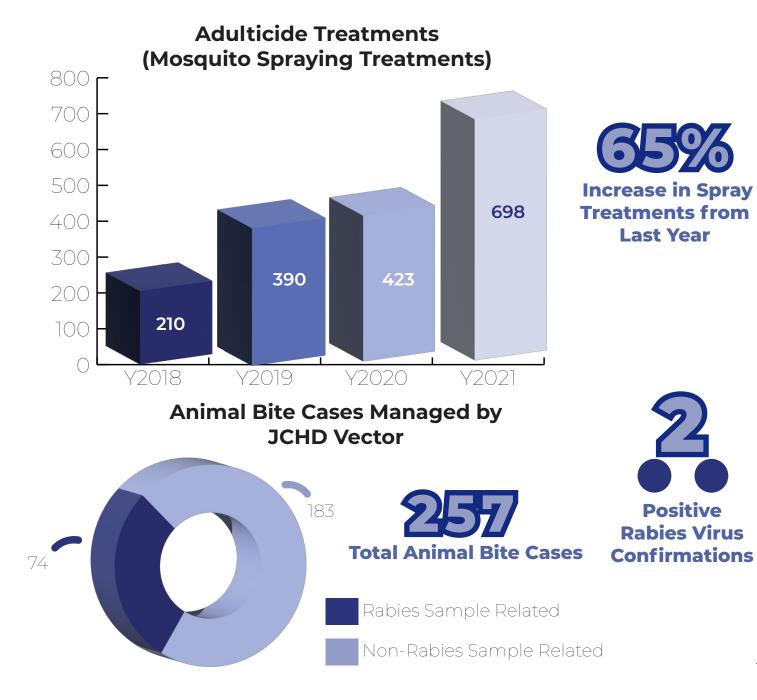


#### **Vector Surveillance**

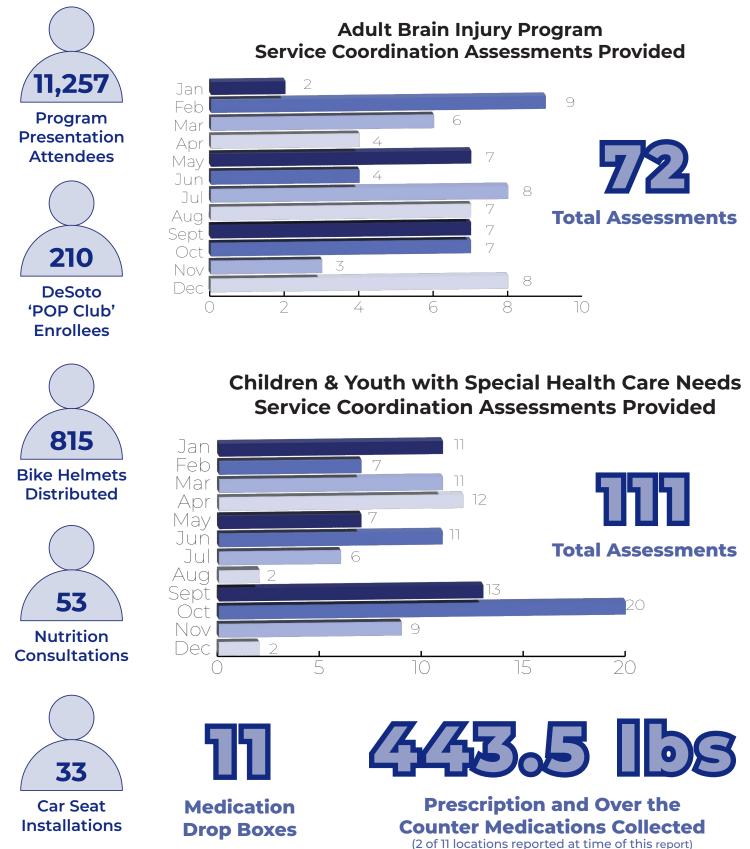
Tested for West Nile Virus



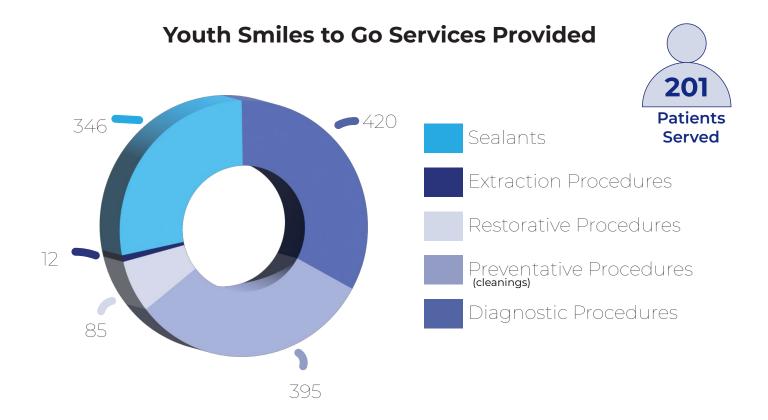




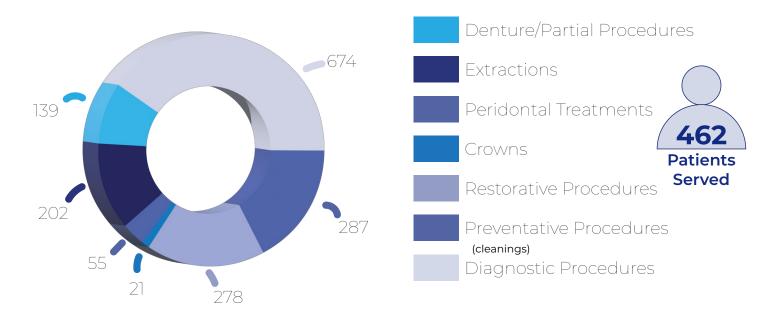
## **Health Network Services**



#### **Dental Services**



#### **Senior Smiles to Go Services Provided**



# Community Impact



## **Flu Vaccine Clinics**

 ၂၇ G Flu Vaccines Provided



Providing flu vaccinations is a core service that our health department provides the community. We pride ourselves on making public services easily accessible by finding new ways to reach our populations who need it most.

Our agency collaborated with local partners and provided 1,406 flu vaccines through on-site school and community clinics. Throughout the months of October and November 2021, we provided 956 flu vaccines at on-site school flu vaccination clinics for both staff and students. Six local school districts participated including Hillsboro R3, Jefferson R7, Sunrise, Grandview, Desoto #73, and Northwest R1.

This year we also provided flu vaccines to homebound individuals with the use of our Sprinter vans. While in the community providing COVID vaccinations, we became aware that some individuals did not have access to flu vaccination. Our homebound team went out at least once a month from September through December hitting all four corners of the county and everything in between.

"We always strive to bring public health services to the community. Providing homebound flu vaccines this year, during the pandemic, was especially rewarding." - Sarah Warncke, Nursing Supervisor

### Jefferson County Rotary Clubs Benefit Golf Tournament



Jefferson County Health Department (JCHD) recently received a monetary donation of \$6,750 from the Jefferson County Rotary Clubs, Inc. Benefit Golf Tournament.

Jefferson County Rotary Clubs, Inc. held a benefit golf tournament on September 17 at Oak Valley Golf Course & Resort in Pevely, MO. The event attracted 144 golfers and 52 sponsors, raising a total of \$13,830.

This was the 3rd annual benefit golf tournament hosted by the Jefferson County Rotary Clubs and the third year they chose JCHD's Wellness Van Program as one of the recipients of the proceeds from the tournament.

"We are thankful to all the players, sponsors, and volunteers for helping to make this tournament a success," states Hillsboro Rotary Club President, Doug Wright. "The annual tournament grew by over 20% from our last one two years ago, and with everyone's help, we can grow the tournament and help even more people in Jefferson County."

Donated funds go directly into the JCHD Wellness Van program providing healthcare services for Jefferson County residents who need it most.

"We are grateful for the continued generosity of the Jefferson County Rotary Clubs," states Jefferson County Health Department Executive Director, Kelley Vollmar.



"It's rewarding to see such great community participation in support of a program that in turn provides vital health services to their friends and neighbors who may be struggling with access to care." - Kelley Vollmar, Executive Director

### Jefferson County Health Network Builds Resource Tool-ASPEN

The Jefferson County Health Network (JCHN) spearheaded a collaborative group of community stakeholders interested in improving behavioral health outcomes for county youth. The group reviewed data from as far back as 2008, which showed an increase in depressive episodes, hospitalizations for mental health crises, and an alarming rise in self-reports of self-harm, specifically in high school populations. An additional local survey in 2021 identified needs exacerbated by the ongoing pandemic. Findings included: 9% of all



survey respondents indicated they had at least one child with a mental health need and 47% of those with children indicated that more mental health services and screenings are needed in the community.

JCHN reviewed current school and community behavioral health screening and referral systems to see what needs existed. The group found gaps in access to screening and referral systems that created barriers for families trying to access care. To address these barriers, the group designed a unique universal assessment tool that can quickly identify student risk levels for substance use and behavioral health issues and connect them to appropriate resources.



This led to the development of a virtual platform that houses a robust resource database and unique behavioral health triage systems, Accessing Services Providing Essential Needs (ASPEN). This one-of-a-kind tool helps link students, families, counselors, and other services into one system that can be utilized in the field while

working directly with individuals or larger populations. ASPEN acts as an interconnected root system with the ability to link resources to individuals, families, and entire school systems. Early development was made possible with grant opportunities through the Jefferson Foundation, Missouri Foundation for Health, and Overdose Data to Action.

"Much like an Aspen Forest, this unique platform has the ability to rejuvenate health and well-being in the community." - Jaclyn Brown, Community Services Manager

### Smiles to Go: Upgrading Systems and Smiles

Our mobile youth and senior dental vans have been a pillar of our public health services in the community for over 10 years. With the beginning of the year being heavily focused on COVID response, our dental vans were not in the community as much, however, that did not stop this program from growing!

As the 2021-2022 school year began, our dental van was able to visit schools and provide services to students on site utilizing our youth van, Smiles to Go. From September through December we provided services to over 200 students.

This year we began partnering with a school district that we have not worked with before, Festus R6 School District providing services to



149 students. In addition to adding a new school district to our youth dental program schedule, we also upgraded our dental practice software allowing us to provide more for the community.



Curve Dental, a web-based practice management system, was fully implemented in August. Prior to implementation our two mobile dental vans, Smiles to Go and Senior Smiles to Go, operated separately making it difficult for our dental team to work seamlessly between the two.

This new system also allows our dental team to go inside a facility to provide services, which is beneficial to many of our nursing home residents. Curve not only streamlines our dental practice software, it also makes teledentistry possible. Teledentistry offers our agency the ability to serve more patients, meet the needs of vulnerable populations, and continue providing essential dental services during COVID-19.

"This year was a big year for program growth! We look forward to utilizing Curve Dental to it's fullest capacity, helping us meet the dental needs of the community." - Rachel Beasley, Dental Supervisor

### JeffCo Wellness Walks Enhance Activity at Local Parks & Schools

In early fall of 2021, we launched a new community health program, JeffCo Wellness Walks, which focuses on encouraging physical and mental health activities while enjoying local parks and walking trails.



JeffCo Wellness Walks program consists of 10 activity signs posted along walking paths in local parks. The signs encourage physical activity prompts such as jumping jacks or lunges as well as mental health prompts such as taking a few deep breaths or giving yourself compliments.

Each physical activity sign also includes a QR code which links to videos showing how to complete the exercise as well as how to modify each exercise to be easier or more challenging.

"Part of our goal through our Maternal & Child Health grant funding is to encourage physical activity and healthier lifestyles within families," states Community Engagement Team Lead, Adam Peters. "We saw great success with some of our previous programs in the park, so we decided to expand on that and provide something for families to engage with when it fits their schedule best."



"We are getting positive feedback from the community about the JeffCo Wellness Walk signs on our walking path, and we have a lot of people that are walking," states Peace Pantry Board President, Linda Schroeder.



JeffCo Wellness Walks have been implemented in eight parks, walking trails, and schools so far with more planned in the new year.

"I have been able to engage with some of those using the trail and it's wonderful to see the impact projects like this have on residents." - Linda Schroeder, Peace Pantry Board President

### Looking to the Future: Purchasing Land for New Facilities

Updating our public health infrastructure to meet tomorrow's emerging needs has been a long-term goal for JCHD. The need for patient-centric clinical facilities, more sophisticated environmental and clinical labs, hybrid workspaces and room to engage community members in learning and planning are guideposts for our future development.

The need grew ever more apparent as we worked through the last 22 months of pandemic response.





As we began the work to transition our Covid-19 response back to Core Public Health Services, we reinvigorated our Building Sub-Committee to begin the process. A subcommittee of board members and employees was created to identify local sites for a future health department.

The Committee reviewed options and determined that a property available in Hillsboro's Peachtree Plaza would be in the best interest of the agency. In February 2021, our Board of Trustees voted to approve the purchase of 7.75 acres at the location for \$762,953.40.

"It's exciting to be looking to the future of our agency and public health in the community. We are eager to continue offering programs and services and meeting the needs of the community." - Kelley Vollmar, Executive Director

### *Take 20* Campaign Promotes Handwashing in Food Service



There are thousands of germs on a human hand at any given moment. When hands come into contact with food or contaminated objects, they can pick up dangerous germs. Hands easily transfer dangerous bacteria and viruses to food, leading to dangerous and even deadly foodborne illnesses. Taking just 20 seconds to wash your hands can prevent an illness or save a life.

*Take 20* is a reminder for individuals to remember to wash their hands for at least 20 seconds. This program was designed to encourage food handler handwashing practices through a variety of tools.

In order to help spread the Take 20 message, our Environmental Public Health Specialists (EPHS) delivered 2021 annual calendars to food service establishments. Over 1,100 calendars were distributed to food service establishments across the county.

## 1000 Calendars Distributed

Each calendar had 12 monthly themes centered around the importance of washing your hands, especially within the food service industry. Establishments were encouraged to highlight the monthly message with their staff and take the pledge as a facility.

In addition to the messaging calendars, education was shared through social media as well as in conversations when our EPHS staff go into establishments to perform routine inspections.



"Proper handwashing among food service workers was something we want to improve, so our team put together 'Take 20' and we have seen improvements!" - Nicole Thornton, Environmental Supervisor

### Anyone Can: Addressing the Opioid Epidemic

Our agency, in collaboration with the Jefferson County Drug Prevention Coalition (JCDPC) took incredible strides to address the ongoing opioid epidemic in 2021. Generous grant funding through the Jefferson Foundation and Overdose Data to Action enabled JCHD and JCDPC to enhance prevention and education programs, including access to Narcan (Naloxone).



A survey conducted in April showed though most Jefferson County residents know what Narcan is, they don't know it is available or how to obtain it. These results were a determining factor to shift focus of this campaign to education and Narcan availability.

The *Anyone Can* Campaign began in 2021 and included education shared through billboards, newspaper ads, stickers for JCHD pool cars, and a mobile phone targeted ad. Each ad directed the community to JCHD's website providing information on how to recognize the signs of an overdose, what to do in the event of an overdose, the 911 Good Samaritan Law, and where to get Narcan in Jefferson County at no cost.

Narcan is available at the Hillsboro and Arnold JCHD offices as well as Sana Lake Recovery Center and COMTREA.





"Having Narcan available to the community is a HUGE step for Jefferson County. By offering support, education, and HOPE to people in active addiction we increase their chances of getting better." - Jillian Bissell, Prevention Specialist

# COVID-19 Response

### Overview

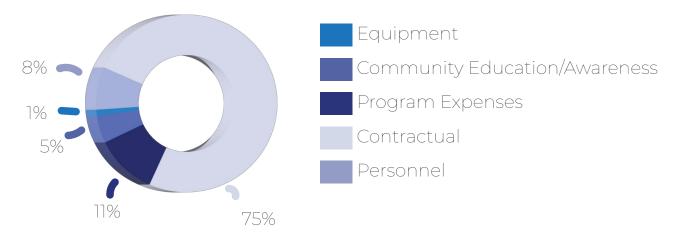


The COVID-19 pandemic continued to present new stresses and challenges for the public health system. Jefferson County experienced more COVID cases in 2021 than 2020, with 23,690 cases.

Mitigation strategies continued to play a key role in response and lowering transmission. Our agency provided the latest CDC guidance, recommendations, and data as well as testing. One of the most effective prevention measures, COVID-19 vaccination, became available to our residents in January 2021.

At the beginning of the year, our focus was case investigation, survelliance and providing vaccinations to the community. We hosted several mass vaccination clinics where our staff played a key role. By spring, most of our staff returned fully to their regular programs and services.

As misinformation, politics, and new variants surged throughout 2021, we remained committed to sharing accurate information and data, investigating cases, and providing testing and vaccinations.

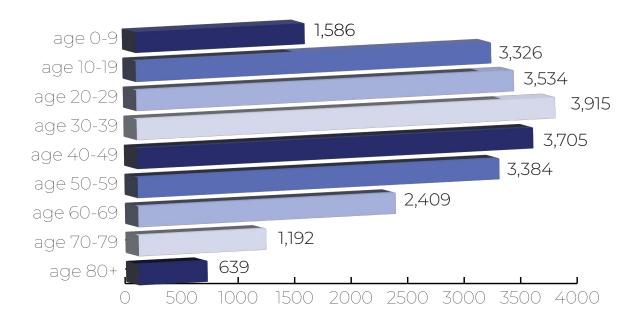


#### **COVID Expense by Category**

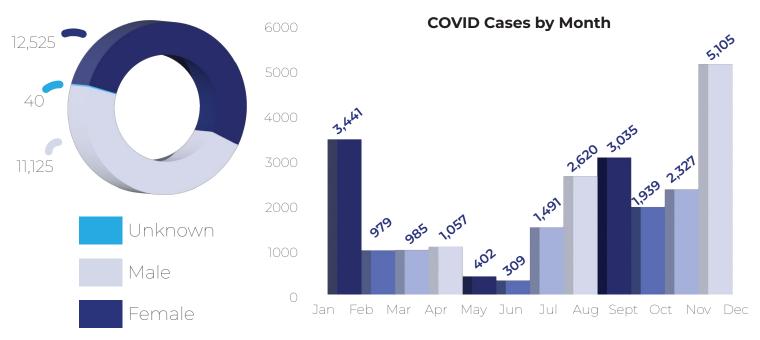
#### **COVID Case Data**



**COVID** Cases by Age



#### **COVID Cases by Gender**



# 216 COVID-19 Deaths in 2021

## **COVID-19 Testing**

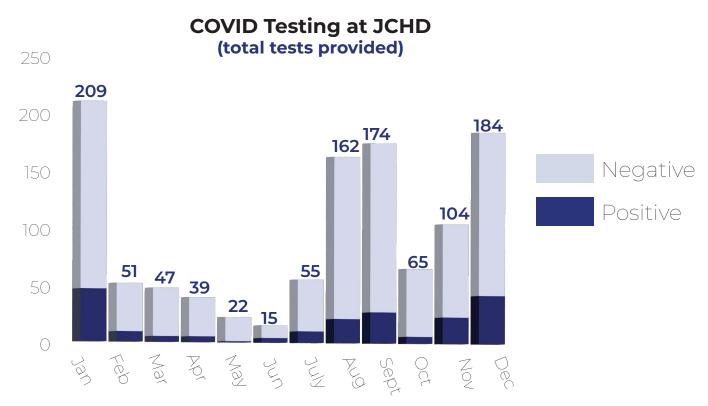
Providing adequate testing to the community has been a main priority and mitigation strategy from the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. We added COVID-19 rapid molecular testing utilizing the Abbott ID NOW™ Point of Care testing platform in April 2020.

In 2021, the majority of JCHD COVID-19 tests were performed utilizing the Arnold drive-up laboratory setting. This system allows for patients to drive up, complete the test collection process, and receive their results within a few hours. Additional testing was performed in the community utilizing the COVID-19 testing van over the past year.

COVID-19 testing kits were provided to us through a MDHSS program at no cost to the agency. No patient has been charged for COVID-19 testing at a JCHD testing location.



In 2021, we received 2,569 online application requests for COVID-19 testing and reported a total of 1,127 test results. Of those test results, 199 results were positive and 928 results were negative.



## **COVID-19 Vaccination**



As COVID-19 vaccination became available to the public in limited quantities, we began hosting small vaccine clinics (providing 300 doses a day) out of our High Ridge office. We also partnered with faith based partners to provide clinics in DeSoto and Arnold.

As demand increased in the first few months of 2021, our board voted to approve a lease in a larger space in Festus to host mass vaccination clinics.

The 60,000 sq ft facility allowed us to provide up to 2,400 doses each day with the assistance of the Missouri National Guard. From April through Mid-June, we provided 9,724 COVID vaccines at this facility. These clinics were staffed by JCHD employees, Missouri National Guard, and community volunteers.

As demand for vaccination decreased, our method of providing vaccine shifted from mass clinics to smaller,



pop-up clinics. This allowed us to meet the needs of the community who wanted to get vaccinated, but couldn't make it to a mass clinic. Our vaccination team visited several local businesses providing COVID vaccination on site for employees. We also provided COVID vaccination at community locations and bedside to our homebound population with our mobile immunization van.



As of CDC Week 52, 47.77% of Jefferson County residents were fully vaccinated against COVID.



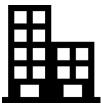
COVID Vaccinations Provided by JCHD

# Jefferson County Health Department





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