

ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020

 **THREE RIVERS**
PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT
Dodge, Saunders & Washington Counties



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LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR:

Welcome to Three Rivers Public Health Department (3RPHD) where we are protecting health and improving lives. We work to protect our communities from disease and other public health threats, and ensure that everyone is empowered to live healthier, safer lives. 3RPHD is made up of a range of programs providing clinical, environmental, health promotion, and population-based services.

On behalf of the 3RPHD Board and Staff it is my pleasure to present to you our 2019-2020 Annual Newsletter. I hope that you, your loved ones, and colleagues are safe and well. I can honestly say that I have never experienced anything with such a drastic impact on how we live and work as the COVID-19 pandemic has presented.

Our top priority is the health and safety of our employees, patients, and communities. I would like to thank our staff and the Three Rivers Board of Health for their dedication during this crisis and their actions to get our communities prepared to navigate the COVID-19 pandemic. Their commitment is what makes all the difference.

We wish you the best during this unprecedented time and together we will work to overcome the challenges we face during this pandemic and beyond. As always, I am grateful for your flexibility and patience as we continue our journey together through this next year.

Sincerely,

Terra Uhing, MS
Executive Director

Three Rivers Public Health Department

VISION

To empower families while promoting healthy living for the improvement of our communities.

MISSION

In cooperation with our communities, we will always be compassionate and respectful in our public health endeavors.

PUBLIC HEALTH BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ryan Bojanski
(Board Chair)

Mary Specht

Dr. Angela Sukstorf
(Physician)

Scott Sukstorf

Dr. Adam Lamprecht
(Dentist)

Mary Le Arneal

Linda Wardell

Cathi Sampson

Mark Powell Sr.

Doug Backens

Steve Dethlefs

Three Rivers Public Health Department

MEET OUR STAFF



Terra Uhing
Executive Director



Sofia Toben
Manager of Business Operations



Erin Kopietz, APRN
Nurse Practitioner



Allison Dye
Emergency Preparedness
Coordinator



Amy Roberts, MPH
Disease Surveillance



Coartney DiGiorgio
Lead Health Educator



Reina Muro
Financial Administration Assistant



Alexis Patino
Receptionist



Lacey Taylor, MSW
Sexual Health Educator



Gladys Felipe
Medical Assistant



Alison Shanahan, RN
Manager of Nursing Services



Melissa Poessnecker, LPN
Public Health Nurse

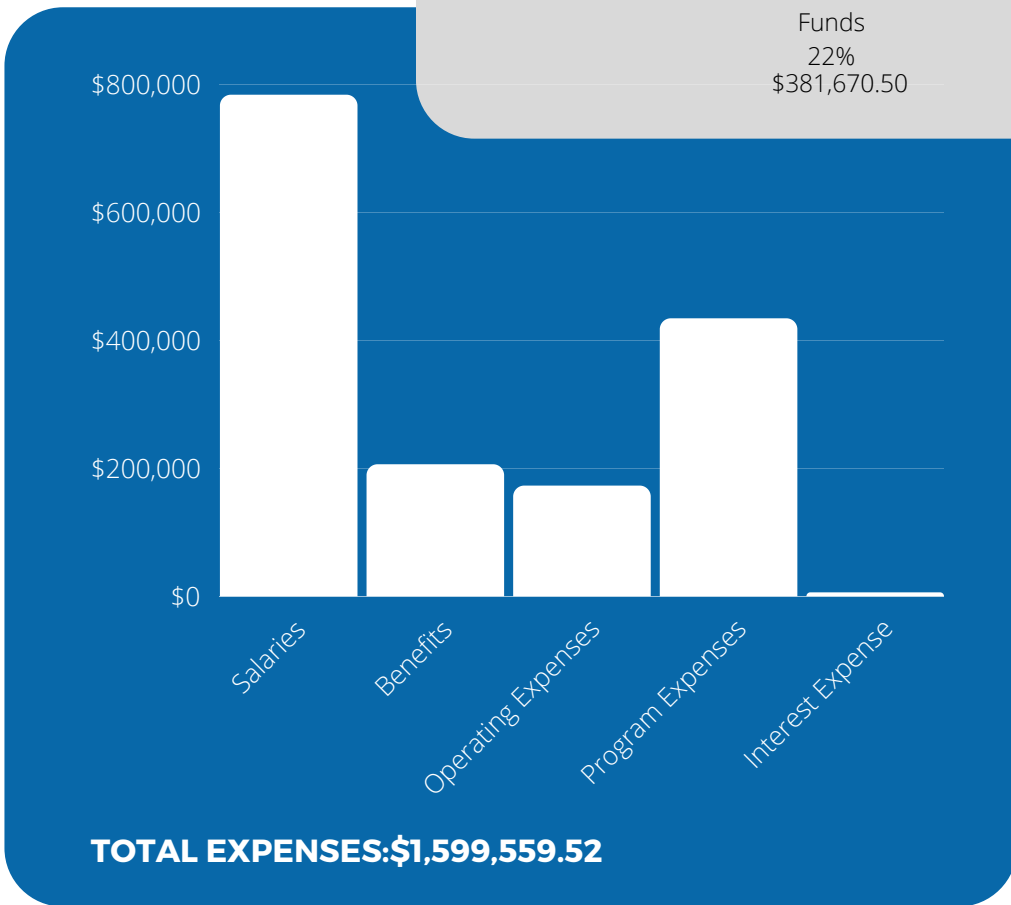
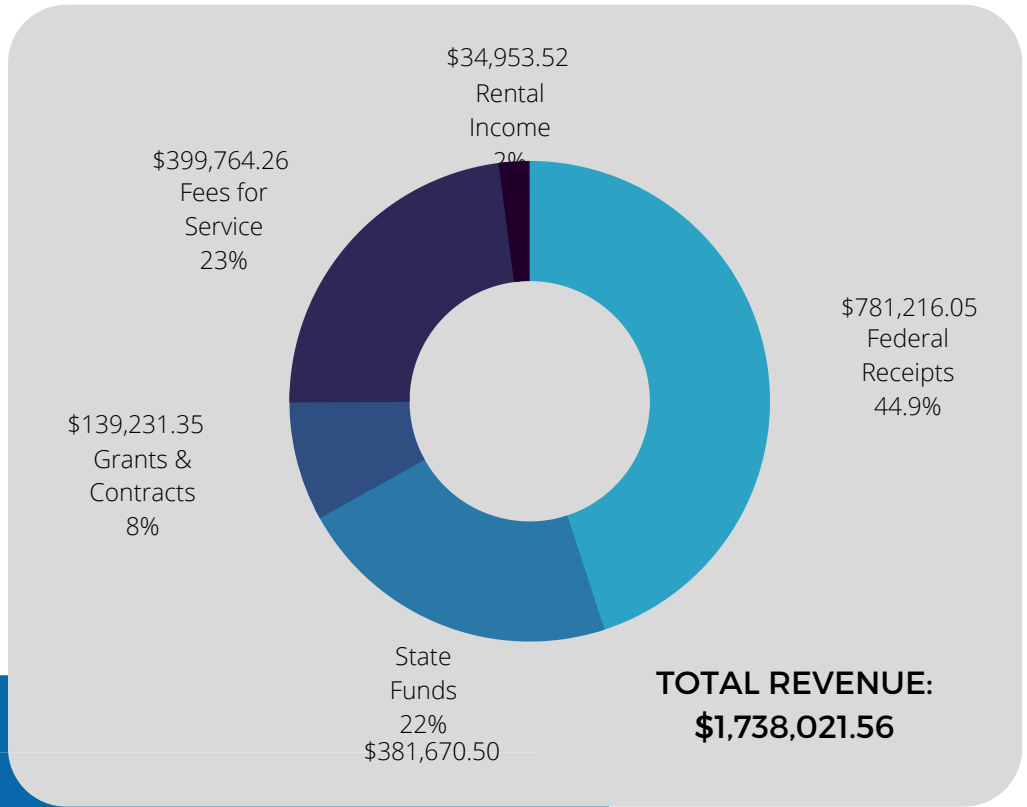


Lindsey Cork, MPH
Community Health Planner



Evelyn Martinez
Community Health Worker

FINANCIAL REPORT



BY THE NUMBERS



1,939 Total
Clinic Visits



3,834
Influenza
Vaccinations
Given to
Children &
Adults

*1149 Total Disease
Investigation Cases*

399 Chlamydia &
Gonorrhea Tests
Administered



817 Total
COVID-19
Investigations



*560 Reproductive Health
Visits to Youth 24 & Under*



1,437 Immunizations
(other than flu) Given
to Children & Adults

EMERGENCY RESPONSE: COVID-19

Shortly after the New Year of 2020, the eyes of the world were captivated by an emerging, unknown virus sweeping through multiple countries at an increasingly rapid rate. Three Rivers Public Health Department staff began regular monitoring of various media sources as well as emerging data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) & the World Health Organization (WHO). Preparation efforts began to ensure our department & community partners would be prepared in the event this emerging infectious disease lead to a public health emergency.



On January 28th, 2020 our health department activated the Public Health Communications Center (PHCC) & started developing situational reports. The situational reports were sent daily to critical infrastructure partners, such as local hospitals, county emergency management agencies, & first responders. Our staff came together in the following 6 months to support the continued internal operations of our health department. A large emphasis was placed on continuous problem-solving of the best ways to provide public health information & resources to the community.



As personal protective equipment (PPE) became more scarce, staff in logistics positions established communication with state agencies and local partners to determine PPE needs and supply statuses. They also received, distributed & provided guidance on CDC recommendations for critical use of these scarce PPE resources. Volunteers from the Dodge County Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) proved invaluable to our distribution operations. Our planning section staff ensured internal communications were continuous and streamlined so that response efforts were regularly shared across the health department. This section also collected, reviewed and tracked down any missing documentation from every responding staff member.



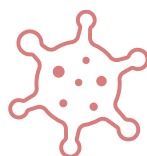
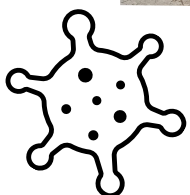
Three Rivers Public Health Department

EMERGENCY RESPONSE: COVID-19

Communications with our community has always been one of our top priorities at Three Rivers Public Health Department and became even more imperative during the evolving pandemic. When the situation emerged, very little was known about what would later be labeled the "Coronavirus Disease of 2019" or COVID-19. As the scientists discovered more about the virus, information and guidance was continuously evolving at a rapid rate. Our staff formed a community liaison team, with many staff members filling multiple positions. Many hours were spent reviewing the most up-to-date information on COVID-19. This information was then used to answer phone calls, social media messages and to create accurate communication materials for dissemination to our community members.



Epidemiology efforts almost immediately became overwhelming as Nebraska began to experience their first wave of cases. Our staff again proved how dedicated they are to the health and safety of those residents living and working in the Three Rivers health jurisdiction. We began brainstorming inventive solutions to the increasing need for case investigators to perform contact tracing efforts. The first to do so, Three Rivers Public Health Department activated the Medical Reserve Corps volunteer group to help divide epidemiology efforts among staff and the available volunteers. As this emerging infectious disease pandemic continues, our staff works tirelessly to continue our public health mission - protect the health and safety of our community.



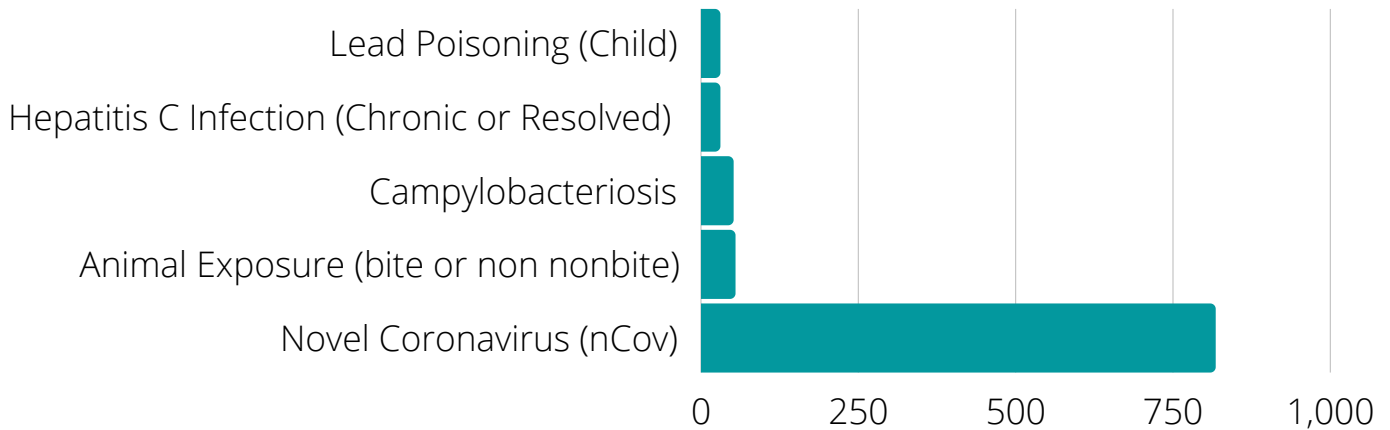
DISEASE SURVEILLANCE

Three Rivers Public Health Department works to prevent the spread of disease through investigation and follow-up of reportable illnesses. From July 2019 to June 2020, a total of 1149 disease cases were investigated. This included investigation of cases of COVID-19 (Novel Coronavirus), a case of acute Hepatitis A, and a case of extra-pulmonary tuberculosis. The most commonly investigated diseases are shown in the chart below.



Total cases investigated (Confirmed, probable, and suspect):

Top 5 Investigated Diseases or Conditions:



*Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, reported case counts are provisional and may change at a later date. Suspect COVID-19 cases (antibody tests only) are not reported in these numbers.

DISEASE SURVEILLANCE

Influenza Surveillance

During influenza season, Three Rivers partners with local schools, hospitals, and long-term care facilities to monitor levels of influenza in the community and provide guidance as needed. During the winter of 2019-2020, Three Rivers investigated 5 influenza outbreaks at long term care facilities in Dodge and Saunders counties. Three Rivers also received reports of influenza outbreaks at two schools in Saunders County and one school in Dodge County. Four influenza associated deaths were also reported.

West Nile Virus Surveillance



During the summer months, Three Rivers conducts surveillance for West Nile virus (WNV) through bi-weekly collection of mosquitoes at 5 sites in Dodge County. By the end of the trapping season, no positive mosquito pools were identified. Additionally, Three Rivers investigated a total of 3 West Nile virus cases, all of which were neuroinvasive.

SAFE KIDS & BUCKLE UP FOR LIFE

Safe Kids Three Rivers works to prevent unintentional injuries in children in Dodge, Saunders, and Washington Counties. The two main focus areas include child passenger safety and bike safety.

Every summer, a car seat check event and bike rodeo are held in each of the three counties. During the 2019-2020 year, 85 car seat inspections were performed and 42 car seats were distributed to families in need. Only one bike rodeo was held during this fiscal year and that was the Dodge County bike rodeo in August 2019. A total of 45 children were in attendance and 34 bike helmets were distributed to children who needed one.



Additionally, Three Rivers had the pleasure of being awarded the Buckle Up for Life (BUFL) gift of safety grant to help protect children through child passenger safety education and car seat distribution.

Pictured to the right are the bike raffle winners from the Dodge County bike rodeo in August of 2019. This raffle was made possible thanks to the Dodge County Fair Board.



Many safety events came to an abrupt halt at the beginning of 2020 due to the outbreak of COVID-19 in our area. Due to COVID-19, car seat and bike rodeo events had to be cancelled for the 2020 year. COVID-19 also contributed to the significantly lower number of car seat checks performed this year due to the need to pull staff to perform other tasks.



TITLE X: REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES

Three Rivers continues to receive Title X funding to support the delivery of low or no cost reproductive health services such as testing of sexually transmitted diseases and provision of birth control options. For the 2019-2020 fiscal year, our clinic served 976 unduplicated patients of which 846 were female & 130 were male. There were 560 youth age 24 years or younger served.

Starting in March of 2020, modifications had to be made in the delivery of services due to COVID-19. Despite this, service delivery remained steady.

Per Title X requirements, there continues to be an emphasis on serving those in need. This year, 761 of our patients were at or below 150% of the poverty level.



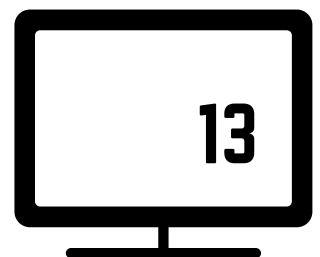
REGION 6 BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

The main focus of this prevention effort is to address youth underage drinking and substance abuse in Dodge and Washington counties. This grant funding is an opportunity for our health department to take a new approach to prevention following the "Communities that Care" framework. This framework guides the formation of a community coalition who will identify community priorities and select which programs to implement. Over the course of the past year, Three Rivers was able to identify community members to begin development of a core team to lead the way in Washington County. The Key Leader Orientation was set to take place at the end of March 2020 before COVID-19 made its way to our communities. Due to the pandemic, progress slowed significantly with the health department's crucial response to the public health pandemic.

EDUCATION & OUTREACH

Three Rivers extends public health education to the community by participating in outreach events. All staff spend time at various events in the community educating on our services, offering offsite services when possible and educating on applicable topics such as breast cancer awareness, sexual health topics, nutrition and exercise, bike and pedestrian safety, and radon prevention.

These efforts proceeded as normal through the first half of the 2019-2020 year. However, in early March many of these events came to an abrupt halt due to the COVID-19 pandemic. From March to June of 2020, classes & outreach were limited to virtual or online venues. Our staff worked diligently to adapt to the changes & learn online facilitation skills.



Three Rivers Public Health Department

WE'RE SOCIAL! FOLLOW US



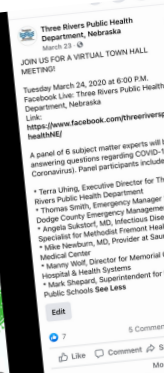
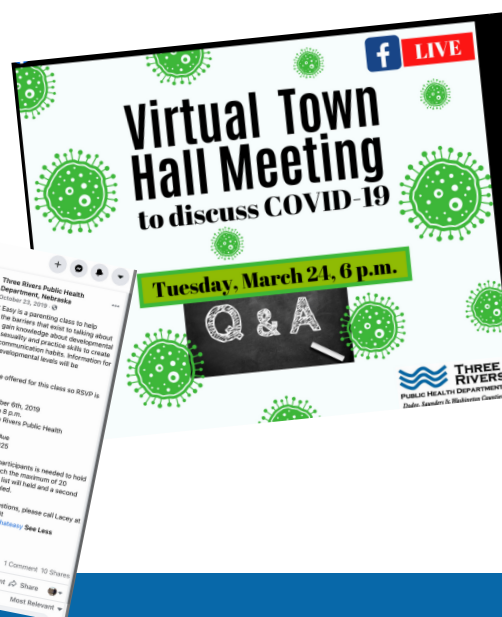
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