



LAWRENCE-DOUGLAS COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH 2023 ANNUAL REPORT





THE C.H.I.P. (COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PLAN)

LDCPH, our community partners, and residents of Douglas County collaborate via a community health improvement process designed to identify health disparities which result from inequitable conditions, resources, and opportunities for health and wellbeing in Douglas County. Our 2024-2029 community health plan has identified several notable and important health disparities which were evident in health outcomes when data was disaggregated by race, ethnicity, disability status, educational attainment, income level, and geography. Equity is a foundational component of our community health plan, and each focus area is expected to integrate equity as a consideration into their strategies and objectives. The focus areas of our current community health plan include the following areas, which were chosen by our community through the community health improvement process. Along with the focus areas you will find some, but not all the specific public health issues that exist in Douglas County:

- **Access to health services:** Hispanic, Multiracial & Native American populations have statistically lower rates of insurance coverage. Black residents have higher hospitalization rates for: CHF, COPD, Asthma, Diabetes, Stroke.
- **Birth outcomes:** Douglas County low birth weight rates (7.6) are slightly higher than the Kansas average (7.4). Black babies are more likely to be small for gestational age (1.5 per 1000) compared to white babies (0.9)
- **Food security:** 11.5% identify as food insecure. 29% of the County is within 1 mile of health food compared to the state average 43.7%.
- **Anti poverty:** 16.5% of Douglas County lives in poverty. 1 in 10 children live in poverty.
- **Behavioral Health:** 1 in 4 residents have been diagnosed with depression. Overdose deaths are rising in our County (12.3 per 100,000).
- **Safe and affordable housing:** 48.8% of Douglas County renters are cost burdened. Unfortunately, there has been a steady rise in the number of people in Douglas County experiencing homelessness in recent years.

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Executive Director's Message:

For many of us at Lawrence-Douglas County Public Health (LDCPH), change is one of the words that became synonymous with 2023. Notably, we adopted a new strategic plan, tasking LDCPH with delivering on the following public health objectives:

- 1. Cultivate a positive, supportive work culture.**
- 2. Build community trust through communication, engagement, and partnerships.**
- 3. Develop a diverse and inclusive workforce to deliver the 10 essential PH services.**
- 4. Commit to quality improvement at all levels.**

In 2023, our community partners, staff, Health Board, Health Equity Advisory Board, and residents of Douglas County helped us develop a new Community Health Plan, designed to implement long-term, systematic efforts to address public health issues that are specific to Douglas County.

Another significant change that 2023 brought to LDCPH was a leadership transition, with the retirement of Dan Partridge. I want to take this opportunity to thank Dan for his many years of service, and his commitment to public health. Thank you, Dan! Lastly, it would not be possible for us to create abundant and equitable opportunities for good health without the work of our talented team. I hope you enjoy this annual report, which highlights the important work done by a team that isn't afraid of change, but a team who embraces it.

Take care, Jonathan Smith MPH

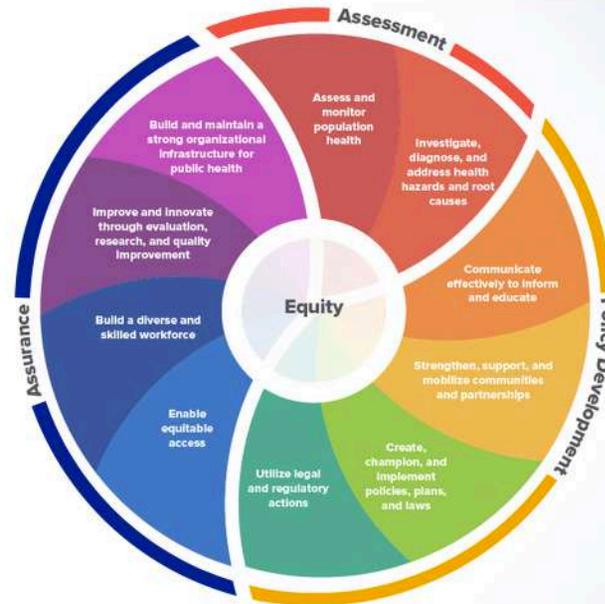
CENTERING EQUITY

Equity is at the center of the 10 Essential Public Health Services to actively promote policies, systems, and overall community conditions that enable optimal health for all. Centering equity involves recognizing that different populations experience health outcomes differently due to social, economic, and environmental factors that are often beyond their control, and taking action to address those factors to ensure that everyone has a fair and just opportunity to be healthy. Centering equity in public health requires understanding and addressing the social determinants of health, such as poverty, discrimination, housing, education, and access to healthcare. It involves engaging and empowering communities to participate in decision-making and to advocate for their own health and wellbeing. It involves creating and implementing policies, programs, and practices that are tailored to the specific needs and priorities of different populations and addressing the root causes of health disparities.



THE 10 ESSENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

To protect and promote the health of all people in all communities



The essential public health services are split into three core functions. This report highlights related output metrics to show how LDCPH delivers on these functions.

ASSESSMENT

Assessment is primarily a diagnostic analysis of current population health and an investigation into issues that could lead to possible future negative public health outcomes.

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

Policy Development is looking at the impacts of local laws and regulations and how changes to those policies may improve possible future public health outcomes.

ASSURANCE

Assurance is the act of reviewing impact and accessibility to make sure that the delivery of services is achieving the intended public health outcomes.

Creating abundant and equitable opportunities for good health.

IDENTIFYING AND ELEVATING DISPARITIES



Identifying disproportionately poor and preventable health outcomes is a critical and necessary element of public health's effort to center equity. LDCPH's Informatics and Community Health Teams work collaboratively to identify and communicate about health disparities which result from inequitable conditions, resources, and opportunities for health and well-being in Lawrence and Douglas County. In the 2023 Community Health Assessment, the team identified several notable and important health disparities which were evident in health outcomes when data were disaggregated by race, ethnicity, disability status, educational attainment, income level, and geography. Examples of these include:

- Higher rates of low-birth weight among Black babies (1.6 vs per 1k live births) than white babies (0.9 per 1k).
- Higher rates of depression among people with an income <\$35k or education level of high school degree or less.
- Disparities in life expectancy among Black/Native American populations compared to Douglas County overall.

The work to identify and elevate information about disparities in health outcomes is an important step to support elimination of disproportionately poor health outcomes and the creation of more equitable conditions and opportunities for health and well-being.

Our clinic strives to promote the health and wellbeing of the community by providing equitable clinical services such as immunizations, physical examinations, tuberculosis screening, and sexually transmitted infection testing and treatment. In 2023, the clinic saw 3,754 clients through various visits and outreach events. Several of our outreach events were conducted using our mobile unit where we were able to increase accessibility to care within our community and specifically among vulnerable populations. In doing outreach events we have had the opportunity to collaborate with several community partners that have strengthened our efforts to better the health of Douglas County residents.



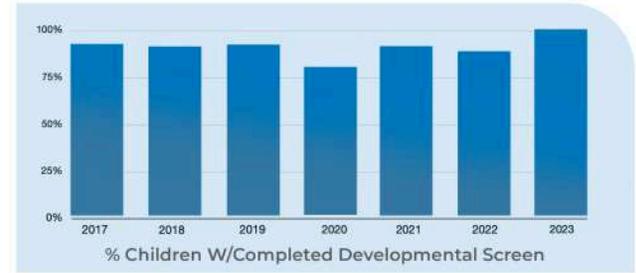
CLINIC SERVICES



FAMILY SUPPORT PROGRAMS

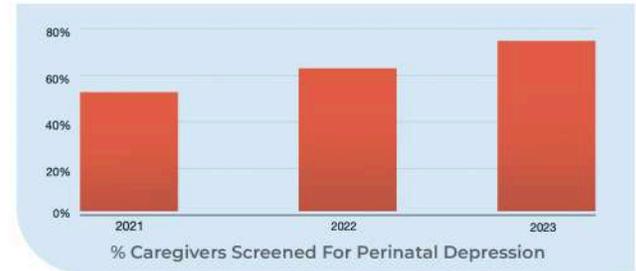
% CHILDREN W/COMPLETED DEVELOPMENTAL SCREEN

Home visitors monitor the development of participating infants and children with the Ages and Stages Questionnaire 3 the Ages and Stages: Social Emotional 2 at least twice a year with all focus children, unless developmentally inappropriate. Staff track all children suspected of developmental delay, with appropriate referrals and follow-up as needed. Activities are used during home visits that support the parents and caregivers in guiding each child to reach their developmental milestones. The target for this metric is >90% and 2023 saw a **100%** screening rate.



% CAREGIVERS SCREENED FOR PERINATAL DEPRESSION

Parents and caregivers are screened several times each year for perinatal mood and anxiety disorders using the Edinburgh Depression Scale and the Patient Health Questionnaire; when appropriate the Columbia- Suicide Severity Rating Scale may also be used to screen for the risk of suicide. Additional screens are also used to support parents and caregivers such as the Social Determinants of Health as well as tools that screen for family protective factors, parental attachment and engagement to child, and home safety. Ensuring the wellbeing of caregivers is a crucial function of our assessment services. With a target of 70% this metric has steadily risen of the past three years, from **51%** to **62%** and finally achieving **74%** screening rate in 2023.



STRATEGIC ALIGNMENTS:

- Prosperity and Economic Security-2
- Safe and Secure-5
- Safe and Secure-6
- Safe and Secure-7



Family Support programs work with families who are pregnant or have newborns and we have a specific program designed to support parents under the age of 22 years. We offer case management and home visiting services focusing on family protective factors, connecting to resources, and supporting the parent-child bond. Once enrolled, we can continue to work with the family until the child is ready to transition to preschool. While we prefer to work with the family in the home environment, we understand that this may not be an option for all families; we can also meet at the health department, a local park or other location, or even virtually if that is preferred.

Healthy Families - Home visiting program serving families prenatally until their child enters preschool, offers families home visits, links to community resources, prenatal support and child development education, and monthly playgroups.

Baby Steps - Case Management and home visiting program providing baby care essentials, and additional services for young parents (under 22 years) who are pregnant/ parenting.

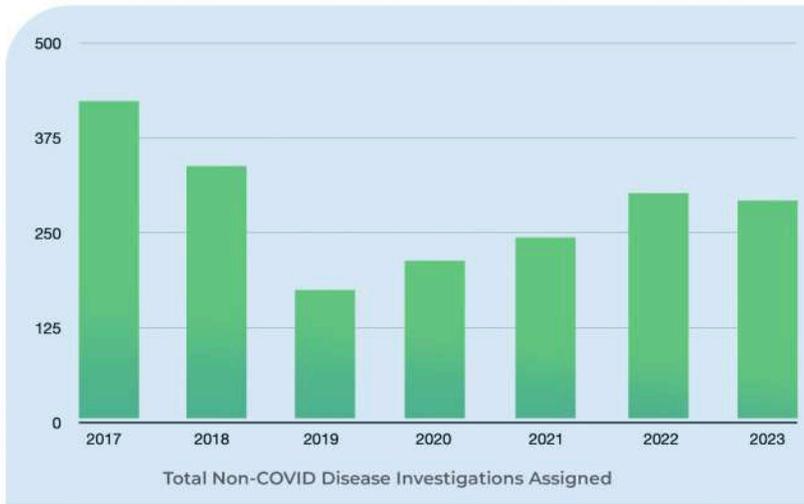
Mi Apoyo Prenatal (formerly called Prenatal Rotation Program) - Home visiting and case management program offering prenatal support and education using the Comenzando Bien® curriculum and offers referrals for prenatal care for those ineligible for insurance.

INFORMATICS

The work of our informatics team delivers the assessment core function of the 10 Essential Public Health Services, which is made up of assessing and monitoring population health, and investigating, diagnosing, and addressing health hazards and their root causes. Our informatics team turns data into information and information into actionable knowledge to improve health for all that live in Douglas County. This work is completed through the creation of data briefs, health equity reports, data analysis for our community health assessment and plan, monitoring population health and behavioral health, conducting disease investigations, analyzing suicide and drug overdoses, and leading public health preparedness efforts for Douglas County. In 2023 our Informatics released two public facing data briefs, one on cause of death in Douglas County and one on pediatric suicidal ideation. Our informatics team is focused on getting ahead of new diseases or outbreaks of known pathogens by conducting epidemiological assessments including outbreak investigations of reportable diseases to determine potential causes of the diseases, and providing education to Douglas County residents to make sure our community knows how to prevent and treat conditions.



**Inclusion of COVID case data would dramatically increase the numbers between 2020-22 but obfuscate the underlying metric.*



TOTAL (NON-COVID*) DISEASE INVESTIGATIONS ASSIGNED

Disease investigation is an important part of LDCPH's principal responsibility to protect the public's health. We conduct general epidemiological assessments which includes outbreak investigations of reportable diseases to determine potential causes of these diseases and provide guidance to residents so that they know how to prevent and treat these conditions. Following the COVID-19 pandemic, the importance of disease investigation is more apparent than ever. It is important to stay ahead of the curve and be prepared to handle any situation, whether it is a new disease or an outbreak of a known pathogen. Data points range from **420** in 2017 to **288** in 2023, and while there is no target for this metric, the cases investigated indicate our capacity to track emerging situations.

STRATEGIC ALIGNMENTS:

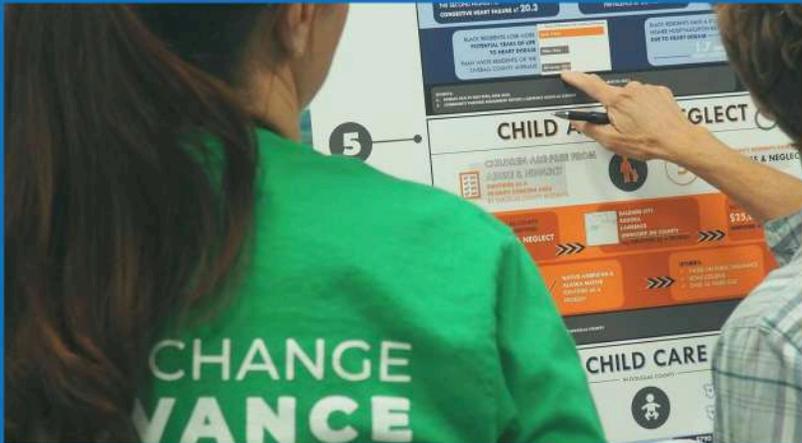
- Along with other County emergency response services LDCPH maintains crisis preparedness.



STRATEGIC ALIGNMENTS:

- Safe and Secure-1
- Safe and Secure-6





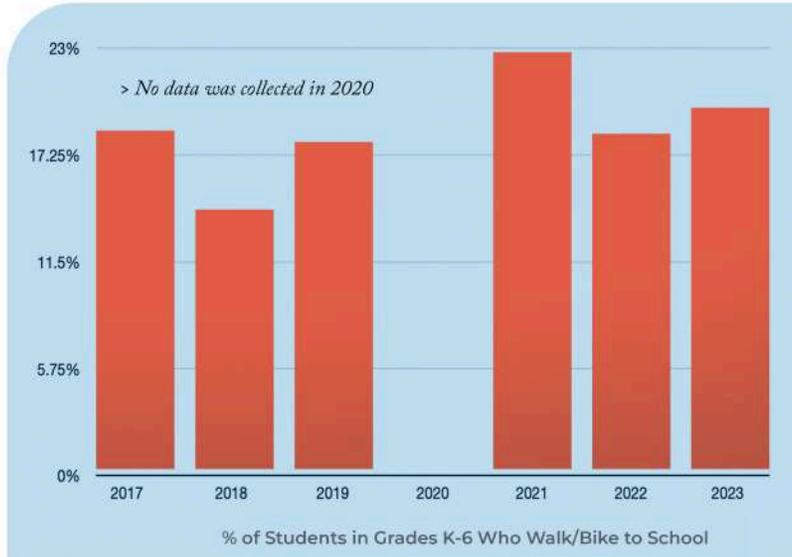
Community Health

Our community health team is made possible by our partnership with the University of Kansas Medical Center School of Public Health. Our community health team conducts and supports the Douglas County community health assessment, and community health plan. Our community health assessment is a process which identifies health needs and issues, specific to Douglas County through systematic, comprehensive data collection and analysis. The community health assessment leads to the creation of our community health plan, which is a long term, systematic effort to address the public health issues that were identified in the community health assessment. Additionally, our community health team drives our policy agenda, leads grant driven approaches to reduce chronic disease by focusing on three key behaviors (tobacco use, physical activity, and healthy eating), and provides support to our Health Equity Advisory Board (HEAB) which consists of residents of Douglas County who identify as Black, Indigenous, or People of Color and have intersections with other populations experiencing inequitable conditions for health. Our HEAB supports our community health assessment efforts, reviews internal policies and procedures, and provides guidance to LDCPH to ensure that equity is at the center of current and new initiatives.

Women, Infants, & Children (WIC)

The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) is a federal assistance program aimed at promoting the health and well-being of income eligible pregnant, postpartum, and breastfeeding women, infants, and children up to age five. WIC provides nutritious foods, nutrition education provided by registered dietitians, breastfeeding support from a peer counselor, and referrals to health care and social services. Participants receive benefits to purchase specific foods, such as fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and dairy products, tailored to meet their nutritional needs. The program plays a crucial role in improving health outcomes, reducing food insecurity, and supporting the development of young children during critical stages of growth.

COMMUNITY HEALTH



% OF STUDENTS IN GRADES K-6 WHO WALK/BIKE TO SCHOOL

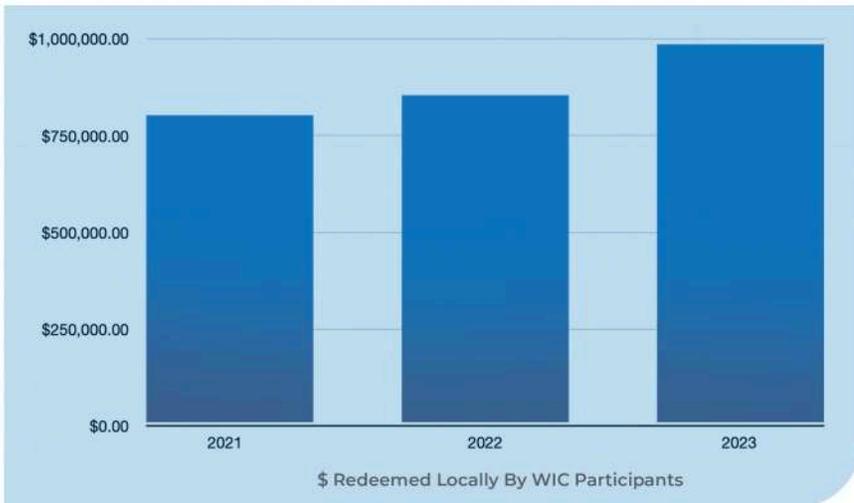
The Community Health team works collaboratively with partners to promote Safe Routes to School. The team engaged with City of Lawrence staff to promote the changes to routes, in light of school closures. We worked with school staff to pilot a new signage approach to promote walking/ biking around specific Bike/Walk to School days twice a year. Every school year, we partner with three school districts in Douglas County to measure the number of students walking or biking to school in order to support better understanding of the extent to which students are engage in active transportation. In fall of 2023, **19.6%** of area students reported walking or biking, which is very close to the City's goal of 20%.



STRATEGIC ALIGNMENTS:

- Connected City-2
- Connected City-5
- Connected City-11
- Strong Welcoming Neighborhoods-13

WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN (WIC)



\$ REDEEMED LOCALLY BY WIC PARTICIPANTS

Our WIC (Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children) program is for pregnant/postpartum women, infants, & children up to age 5 who are determined to be at a nutritional risk and meet income guidelines. Federal assistance is made available to WIC participants. In 2023 WIC participants redeemed **\$977,413.02** at 12 Douglas County grocery stores. The financial impact of this program has only increased over the past seven years.



STRATEGIC ALIGNMENTS:

- Strong Welcoming Neighborhoods-1
- Prosperity and Economic Security-1
- Prosperity and Economic Security-2



Childcare Licensing (CCL)

Our child care licensing team works with childcare providers to reduce the risk of predictable harm to children while in out-of-home settings by providing education to those who are interested in becoming licensed childcare providers, conducting initial inspection visits of day care home or center to verify compliance with state regulations, conducting on-site annual evaluations of licensed facilities, providing consultation visits, and investigating complaints. In 2023, our child care licensing team visited 172 home care providers, child care centers, preschools and drop-in day care programs in Douglas County. Our child care licensing team works with childcare providers to reduce the risk of predictable harm to children while in out-of-home settings by providing education to those who are interested in becoming licensed childcare providers, conducting initial inspection visits of day care home or center to verify compliance with state regulations, conducting on-site annual evaluations of licensed facilities, providing consultation visits, and investigating complaints. Access to childcare is a critical public health issue for Douglas County based on the 2023 Community Health Assessment.

Environmental Health

Environmental Health is one part of LDCPH's regulatory services. In 2023 our environmental health department completed 528 inspections including septic, pool, cereal malt beverage (CMB), and water testing. Our environmental health team enforces environmental health and safety regulations throughout Douglas County to protect environmental quality to promote the health and safety of the Douglas County community. The services provided by our environmental health team include onsite sewage management septic system permits and inspections, private water supply (well) permits and inspections, well water sample screenings, public swimming pool and spa inspections, cereal malt beverage inspections, septic hauling equipment permits and inspections, responding to resident complaints regarding environmental health issues, and tobacco retail licensing.

CHILDCARE LICENSING

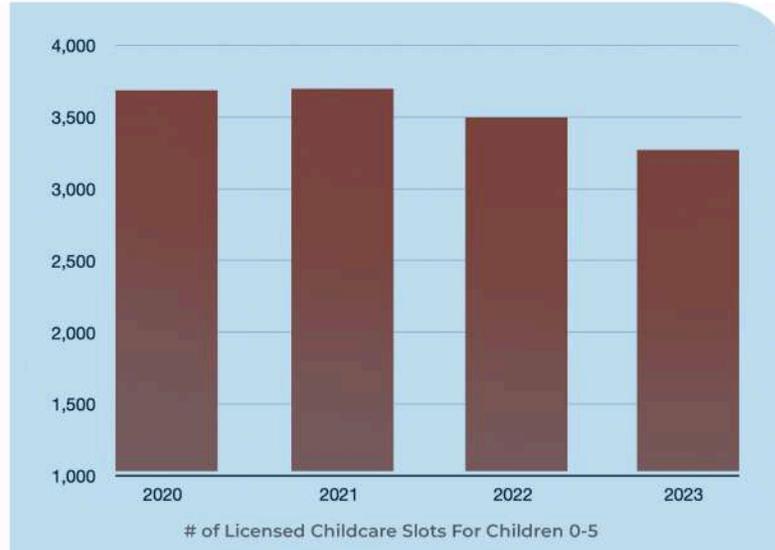
OF LICENSED CHILDCARE SLOTS FOR CHILDREN 0-5

Our Childcare Licensing Specialists are committed to working with all area providers offering expert subject matter support and providing necessary feedback, with the goal of maintaining and increasing quality childcare availability in our area. While the number of slots can fluctuate year to year, ranging from **525** in 2022 to **458** in 2023, the overarching trend is stability. The availability of quality childcare is well known to impact community's economic outcomes and a variety of individual outcomes

for children and parents that can influence the desirability of a city for young families.

STRATEGIC ALIGNMENTS:

- Strong Welcoming Neighborhoods-1
- Prosperity and Economic Security-2
- Safe and Secure-1
- Safe and Secure-7

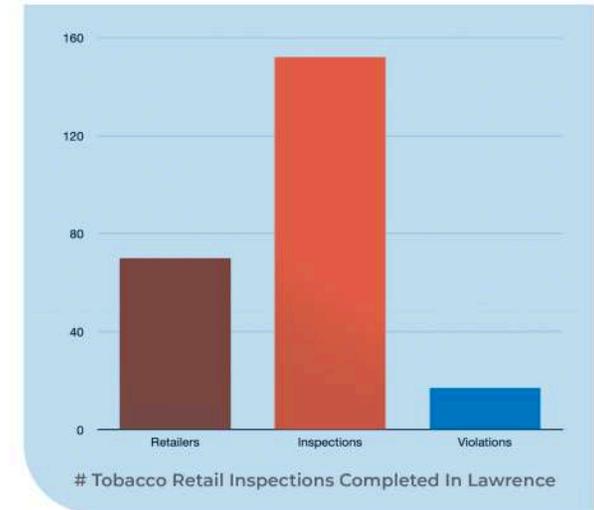


REGULATORY SERVICES



TOBACCO RETAIL INSPECTIONS COMPLETED IN LAWRENCE

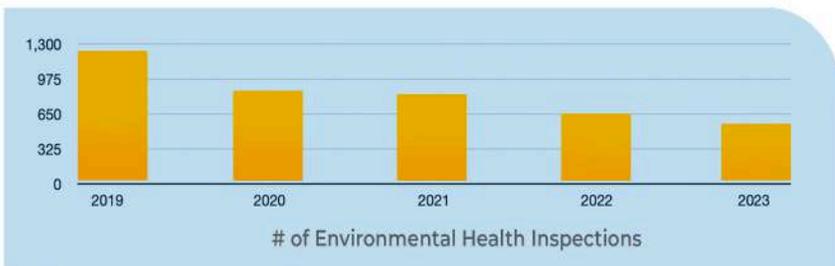
Beginning in 2022, the Community Health team provided support to community-led efforts to advance a municipal ordinance establishing a tobacco retail licensing program in the City of Lawrence. In 2023, the Community Health and Regulatory Services teams worked together to develop and launch the tobacco retail licensing program. The Regulatory Services team conducted more than **152** compliance checks at more than **70** tobacco retail locations, leading to the detection of **17** violations in which retailers sold to underage buyers. This effort yielded important information about youth access to tobacco and ongoing trends in tobacco products (e.g., the increased sales of tobacco toothpicks at cash registers) in Lawrence. Preventing youth access is a critical strategy for preventing initiation and lifelong use of cancer-causing substances.



CROSS DEPARTMENTAL DATA

Over the past several years, Lawrence-Douglas County Public Health (LDCPH) has made significant strides towards maintaining or improving a variety of important health outcomes which align with both City and County funding priorities. The snapshot below displays some of these services from 2019 to 2023.

Department	Performance Indicators	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Trend
Family Support Services	# of Personal Visits provided to Perinatal families			262	428	637	
Family Support Services	% of children with completed developmental screen	92%	80%	91%	88%	100%	
Family Support Services	# of uninsured women connected to prenatal care		17	20	30	47	
Family Support Services	% of Caregivers screened for Perinatal Depression			51%	62%	74%	
Family Support Services	# of families with open DCF Case for CAN			2	1	1	
Clinic Services	% of clients below 100% of federal poverty level in income based program	67%	57%	60%	57%	66%	
Clinic Services	% of racial minority population clients in income based program	41%	43%	43%	43%	45%	
Clinic Services	# of clinic visits (non-WIC)		7,921	80,214	12,102	3,754	
Clinic Services	\$ redeemed by WIC participants			\$ 793,980.13	\$ 846,556.79	\$ 977,413.02	
Regulatory Services	Average number of days to complete real estate inspection	3.9	5.2	5.5	6.2	6.9	
Regulatory Services	# of Environmental Health inspections (septic, pool, CMB, school, water testing)	1,207	839	804	624	528	
Regulatory Services	# of licensed childcare slots for children aged 0-5 years		3,660	3,670	3,470	3,247	
Regulatory Services	# of licensed childcare slots per 1,000 children aged 0-5 years		497	523	524	458	
Regulatory Services	# of childcare licensing surveys completed		38	126	171	172	
Regulatory Services	% of childcare licensing surveys completed timely	95%	100%	100%	100%	100%	
Regulatory Services	# of childcare facilities complaints investigated		31	23	24	24	
Community Health	# of community or system change events	20	16	17	8	11	
Community Health	% students in grades K through six who walk or bike to school	17.8%		22.6%	18.2%	19.6%	
Community Health	Tobacco retail inspections completed					152	
Community Health	Percent of tobacco retailers with 0 non-compliance					81%	
Informatics	Total Disease (non-COVID) reportable cases	98	101	168	117	194	
Informatics	Total disease (non-COVID) investigations assigned	171	207	240	298	288	
Informatics	Total disease investigations assigned	171	50,444	41,790	19,199	288	



OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH INSPECTIONS

Though this report highlights several important metrics, there are a variety of additional functions that LDCPH carries out regularly that are also worth noting. While the Regulatory Services Department has recently begun doing inspections of tobacco retailers, they have long ensured that Lawrence pools and Douglas County septic tank installations are both safe and sound. When considering the goals and achievements of LDCPH it is important to remember the routine as well as the new and innovative.

HEALTH EQUITY ADVISORY BOARD



Chair
SIERRA
Two Bulls



Vice Chair
NAFIZA
Akbar



Member
LAURA
Canelos



Member
JANINE
Coulter



Member
ROBERTO
Gonzalez



Member
CHRISTINA
Haswood



Member
SANDRA
Otero



Member
JOSE
Eduardo
Romero



Member
ARIANNA
Siddique



Member
BEVERLY
Victoriano

Members of LDCPH's Health Equity Advisory Board (HEAB) serve on a voluntary basis but are reimbursed for their time.

What does the H.E.A.B. do?

LDCPH's commitment to health equity requires a commitment to meaningful and sustained community engagement. The HEAB is an important part of fulfilling those commitments. The HEAB consists of up to ten community members who identify as Black or African American, Indigenous or Native American, Latino, or another minoritized racial or ethnic group. Several members also identify with groups which have experienced inequitable opportunities for health and well-being, such as being a person who is disabled or sexual orientation or gender identity. The HEAB serves LDCPH by:

- Guiding LDCPH's community engagement and outreach efforts
- Advising LDCPH's strategic/community health planning efforts and supporting implementation
- Informing & recommending decisions around new initiatives for LDCPH

The HEAB has contributed significantly to our work. They helped design the community health assessment (CHA) process and helped create COVID-19 communications promoting testing. The HEAB is an important element of LDCPH's work to advance equity in Douglas County. In 2023, they focused on supporting CHA efforts and reviews of internal policies (including health impact assessments and de-escalation/safety policies and procedures). They also provided feedback on the implementation of our workforce development grant.



HEALTH BOARD



Chair
Erika DVORSKE,
City/County Appointee
2021-2024



Vice Chair
Erica HILL
City Appointee
2020-2026



Treasurer
Rev. Verdell TAYLOR Jr
City Appointee
2018-2024



Kevin CORONADO
County Appointee
2023-2026



Shanda HURLA
County Appointee
2019-2025



Dr. John NALBANDIAN
City Appointee
2022-2025



Dr. Graig NICKEL
KU Appointee
2022-2025



Michael WILLIAMS
County Appointee
2018-2024

A LETTER FROM OUR CHAIR

Photographs and measured outputs only tell us part of the story when it comes to LDCPH's accomplishments in 2023. In addition to a planned leadership transition, LDCPH charted the course for the next Community Health Improvement Plan, while continuing to serve families from throughout Douglas County.

None of this work happened without heavy lifting on the part of staff, partners and board leaders and we are grateful to everyone for showing up, voicing your ideas and creating abundant and equitable opportunities for good health. And the work is not yet done. When we read some of our current Douglas County health metrics you may find yourself saying, "That isn't good enough for me." And that spirit will keep us moving forward.

Public Health touches everything and therefore demands a focused effort on equity. LDCPH will continue to understand the systems that foster equity, and we will work to systematically dismantle that which keeps health out of reach for our neighbors who are marginalized. This is not my work, and this is not your work; this is our work. Thank you for all you do! - Erika Dvorske, Chair

The Lawrence Douglas-County Health Board Members serve 3-year terms, with no member serving more than 2 consecutive full terms. Members of the board are appointed by the Douglas County Commission, by the Lawrence City Commission and 1 by joint action of the 2 governing bodies. 1 ex officio member from the University of Kansas is selected by the KU Chancellor. The board's duties include: Establishing and formulating policies for the operation of LDCPH, Hiring and evaluating the Director, Reviewing the annual budget, and Reviewing Health Department programs and activities

2023 FINANCE REPORT

OPERATING FUND

Beginning Balance:	\$2,852,302
Revenues:	
Federal:	\$1,059,769
County:	\$893,116
City:	\$819,000
Fees:	\$791,314
State:	\$526,598
Other:	\$2,609
Total Revenue:	\$4,092,406
Expenditures:	
Salaries and Wages:	\$1,939,424
Payroll Related Expenses:	\$551,264
Commodities:	\$269,578
Contractual:	\$986,050
Capital Equipment Expenditures:	\$0
Total Expenditures:	
Transfers to other Funds:	\$260,000
Ending Balance:	\$2,938,392
Net Revenue over Expenditures:	
Ending Balance:	\$86,090

RESERVE FUND

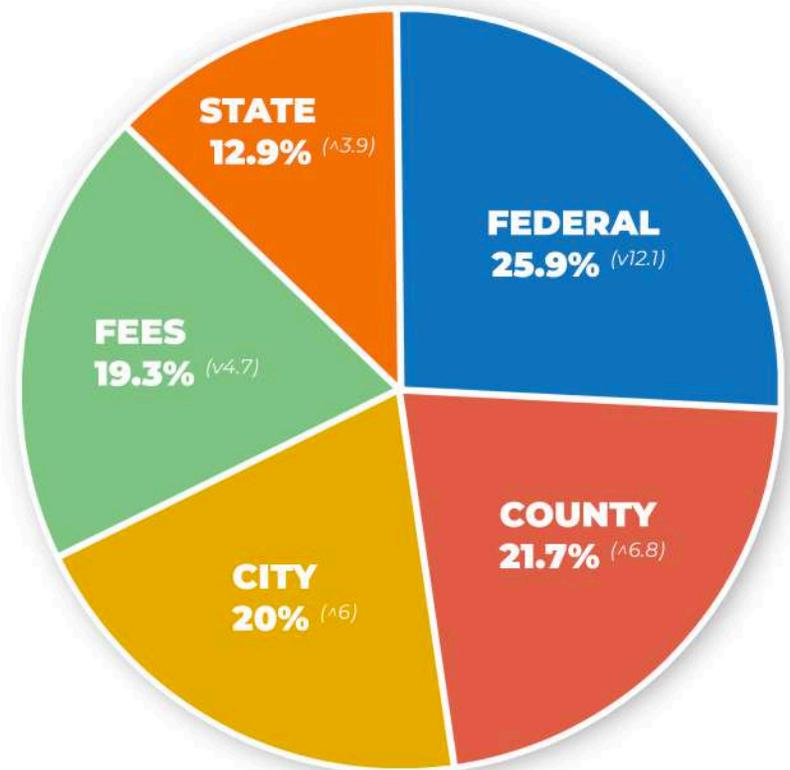
Beginning Balance:	\$2,365,918
Revenue:	
Interest:	\$46
Transfer from other Funds:	\$0
Expenditures	\$0
Total Expenditures:	
Net Revenue over Expenditures:	\$46
Ending Balance :	\$2,365,964

FUNDED DEPRECIATION FUND

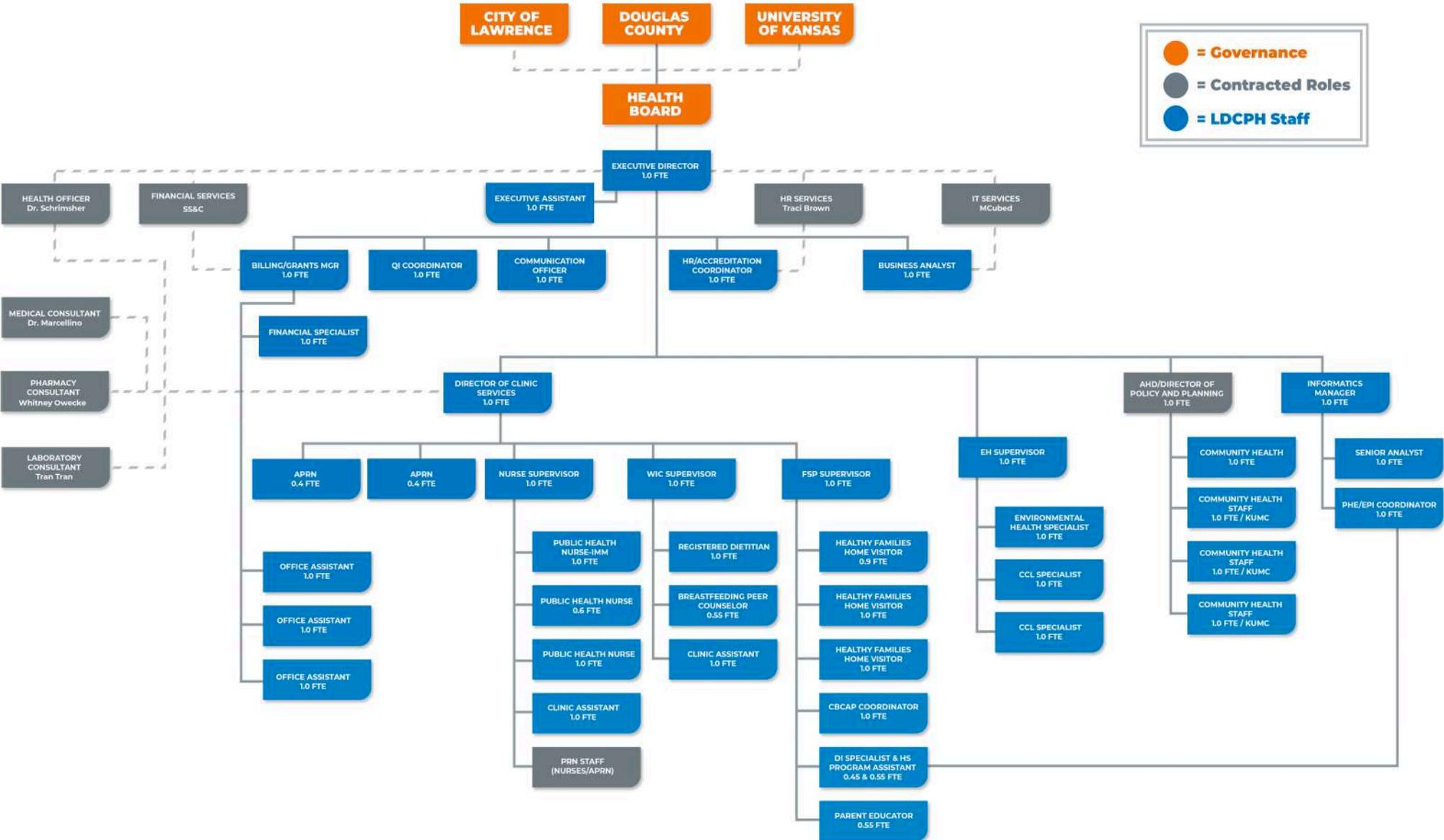
Beginning Balance:	\$254,862
Revenue:	\$0
Transfer from Operating Fund:	\$260,00
Interest Income:	\$187
Capital Equipment Expenditures:	\$0
Net Revenue over Expenditures:	\$0
Ending Balance:	\$463,758

TOTAL NET REVENUE FOR ALL FUNDS

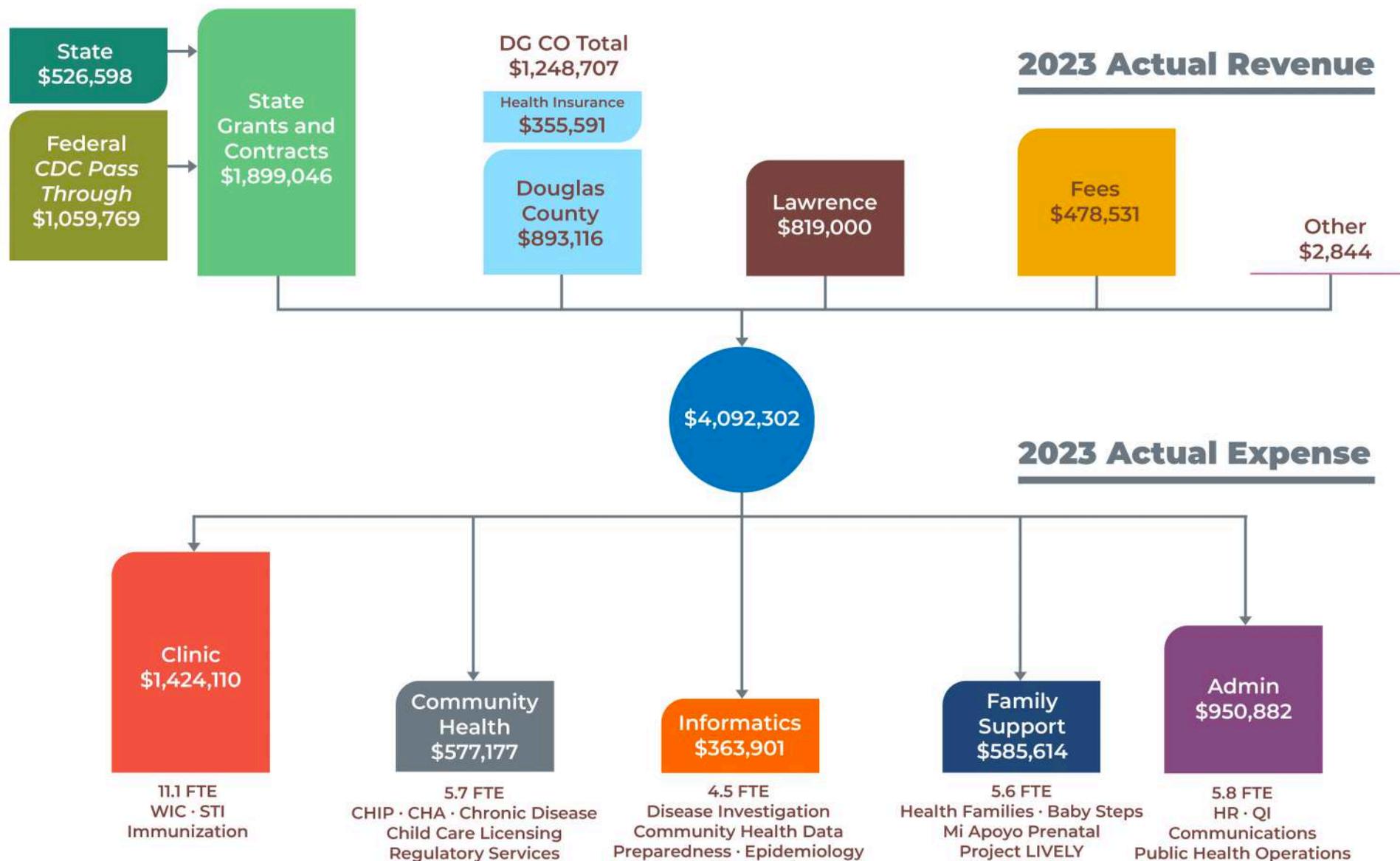
\$297,032



ORG CHART



FUNDING SOURCES



2023 Actuals. 32.7 Total FTE.







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