



Whitman County Public Health
2024 Impact Report

Growing a Thriving Community

Dear Whitman County Residents,

What does it look like to thrive locally? And how did Whitman County Public Health work toward growing a thriving community in 2024? The word “thrive” encompasses much more than an absence of physical illness. “Thriving” implies the presence of joy, growth, and good health.

This report highlights public health data and initiatives from the past year that illustrate how we carry out our mission and help people thrive. Some aspects of our focus in 2024 included:

Social Connections

Our Disconnect to Reconnect initiative gives youth and their families tools to talk about social media, put down their phones, and find ways to engage face-to-face. The campaign responds to the negative effects of social media on youth mental health. We held an art contest in rural schools together with the Whitman County Library District.

Preventing Drug Use & Overdose

Our 1Whitman initiative prevents youth drug use, and prevents drug overdoses. To prevent youth drug use, we made and distributed a card game, called Big Talk, to spark family conversations on boundaries, emotions, and risks of drug use. To prevent overdoses in Whitman County, we equipped the general community by distributing Narcan and medicine lockboxes.

Nutrition & Exercise

We’re supporting our community to go “back to basics” because eating right and moving your body are so important to health. We offer education on low-cost ways to eat healthy and exercise so you can do the activities that allow you to thrive.

Please join us as we grow a thriving community through every season!



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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2024 Highlights

Personal & Family Health

Supporting individuals, children and families to thrive in our community

Unless otherwise stated, data was collected from January 1st - December 31, 2024.

Whitman County Community Clinic

255

vaccines administered in our office



98 adult vaccines

157 child vaccines

58% clients were uninsured or underinsured

>100 vaccines given for school entry

Whitman County Community Clinics with Sid's Pharmacy

Mobile Community Clinics take place where people live, study, and work. Flu and COVID vaccines were given at no cost to individuals.

343

individuals received vaccines

12 schools visited

1 early learning / child care site visited

3 government agencies visited

319 flu shots given

242 covid shots given

WIC (Women, Infants, & Children)

Data from January 1st - November 30th.

WIC clients receive nutrition education and nutritious food at no cost to them.

441 women, infants, and children were served from January–November 2024.

117 of the 441 are at high risk of poor nutrition without the program.

2024 Highlights

Personal & Family Health – Cont.

Safe Kids

Keeps kids safe while playing, sleeping, and traveling



196

medicine
lockboxes



152

bike
helmets



55

car seats &
booster seats



13

cribettes
("pack-n-play" safe
sleep cribs)



12

sleep
sacks

"We work with WCPH in obtaining the car seats that the public needs, for people who don't already have their seats. The majority of our car seat checks are checks that are performed in conjunction with installation of a seat WCPH is providing. There's a lot of need out in the community and a lot of work we're doing is benefiting people who are getting their first car seat, getting people trained and educated on the proper use of the seat. It's been fun to work with WCPH and we are providing an amazing resource for the community. It's rewarding for us that parents can feel their kids are going to be safe."

– Pullman Police Department

312

swim
lessons
paid for

We pay for swim lessons for children to protect them from drowning. This activity is in partnership with rural community pools and Pullman Parks & Recreation.

Thank You to Safe Kids Community Partners!

Pullman Police & Fire Department

Distributed car seats, safe
sleep cribs, medicine lockboxes

Local Medical Providers

Distributed safe home bags

Colfax Police Department

Distributed medicine lockboxes

Whitman County Library District

Distributed bike helmets

Substance Use Prevention Education & Resources (SUPER)

Distributed medicine lockboxes

2024 Highlights

Community Health

Harm Reduction

We aim to minimize the injury, disease, and death associated with substance use at both the individual and community level.

Narcan Rescue Kits

Narcan is a medication that saves lives if it's administered on time during an opioid overdose.

650

syringes returned in the
Needle Exchange Program



The Needle Exchange Program exchanges used syringes for sterile syringes, reducing HIV and hepatitis. Collecting used needles prevents them from being dropped in community spaces like parks and playgrounds. It keeps everyone in our community safe, especially children.

688 61

Narcan Rescue Kits distributed

Narcan distributed

"Narcan gives us the chance to save lives—our neighbors, our friends, our mothers and fathers—reminding us that every overdose is a tragedy that touches an entire community."

— Corrin McMichael, MPH, CPH, Deputy Director, WCPH



1,950

fentanyl test strips distributed

Fentanyl and xylazine test strips are a simple, fast tool that can detect the presence of fentanyl or xylazine in drugs, which is crucial in preventing accidental overdoses. By using these test strips, individuals can check whether fentanyl or xylazine is in their drugs, helping them make safer choices and reduce the risk of overdose.

WCPH worked with WSU to distribute test strips on the WSU campus, along with a packaging that explains how to use the test strips correctly.



2024 Highlights

Community Health – Cont.

Disease Prevention

Protects the community from serious illnesses and educates the community to prevent disease outbreaks

After receiving positive lab report from medical providers, we conduct a case investigation:

1. Interview the person who tested positive for the illness
2. Find source of notifiable condition
3. Determine likelihood the disease has to spread
4. Provide education so the person who is sick does not spread the disease
5. If needed, follow up with others who may have been exposed

185

cases of reportable diseases investigated (not including COVID)

12

COVID outbreaks in long-term care

2

Norovirus outbreaks with 54 cases

1

Pertussis outbreak declared on Oct 2 with 88 cases

85

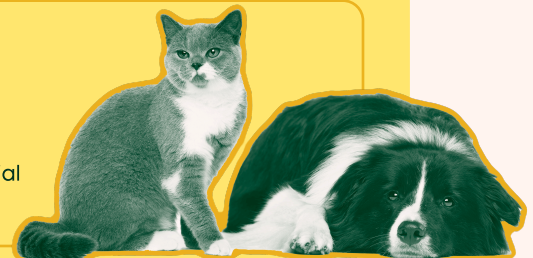
animal bite reports investigated

0

animals tested positive for rabies

5

people received treatment recommendations for potential rabies exposure



Highly Pathogenic Disease Surveillance

10

people monitored who were exposed to avian flu

Ebola Monitoring

Worked closely with hospitals, WSU, and SEL to be on alert for travelers coming from international areas with Ebola outbreaks

Community Data

WCPH provides public health data for Whitman County so community organizations have the data they need to improve our county's health. You can also request public health data! The service is open to any nonprofit, government entity, or school at no cost. Please go to WhitmanCountyPublicHealth.org to explore community health reports and request data.



Scan to View Reports

Or visit WhitmanCountyPublicHealth.org and go to our Community Data Page under the Community Health tab.

2024 Highlights

Environmental Health

Working to make our communities healthier places to live, work, and play

Onsite Sewage Systems

Supporting our community to build new homes & developments on their land

44 site evaluations

21 final evaluations

Solid Waste

5 responses to solid waste complaints

Water Quality & Safety

We evaluate water systems & recreational facilities to ensure safety. All town water system reports are on our website. Scan the QR code below to view your town's water system report.

Drinking Water

3
drinking water systems evaluated

Recreation

20
pools & spas inspected

0%
of water recreation facilities failed first inspection

Food Protection

Scan the QR code below to view food inspection scores.

195
food establishments inspected

81%
of all food establishments inspected

37 school cafeterias inspected
19 total Schools in Whitman County
Each school cafeteria is inspected twice throughout the school year.



Scan to View
Water Reports

Or visit WhitmanCountyPublicHealth.org and go to our Water Quality page under the Environmental Health tab.



Scan to View
Food Reports

Or visit WhitmanCountyPublicHealth.org and go to our Food Safety page under the Environmental Health tab.

Our mission is to
protect & improve the
health & wellbeing of
Whitman County.



Whitman County
Public Health

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**Want to learn more
about what WCPH?**

Visit our Website

WhitmanCountyPublicHealth.org

**Pullman Location is moving! Soon we will be located at:
1240 SE Bishop Blvd, Ste. P, Pullman, WA 99163**

Follow us to
stay up to date

