Central District HEALTH DEPARTMENT

cdhd.ne.gov
(308) 385-5175

2025-2026 Annual Report

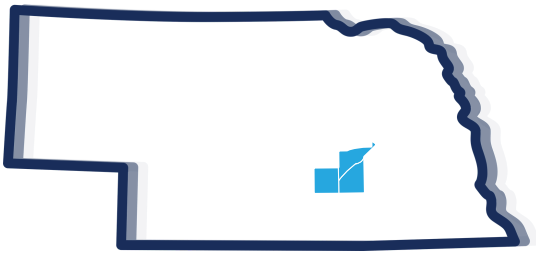
Central District Health Department (CDHD)

56 employees

79,722 residents

CHIP Priorities:

- Expand Access to Care
- Increase Availability of Culturally Appropriate Behavioral Health
- Improve Access to Quality Childcare & Family Support



3 rural & micropolitan counties

Hall, Hamilton, & Merrick counties

Nationally Accredited

7.02

FTEs per 10,000
(Nat'l average is 5.6)

19%

of adults report fair to poor health

"Together, we are building healthier, safer, and more resilient communities."

—Karly Simonson, Health Director
ksimonson@cdhd.ne.gov



Central District Health Department (CDHD) 2025-2026

Examples of Foundational Public Health Services

2,100+ children & parents served in WIC and HFA programs

Maternal, Child, & Family Health

Our WIC and Healthy Families America (HFA) home visitation programs connect families to food and supportive resources. Our Collective Impact Division also screened 506 families for health-related social needs. Across our programs, families are connected to resources such as food banks, breastfeeding education, employment, healthcare, housing, and utility assistance. Together, these efforts empower hundreds of local families to live healthier lives, reduce preventable illness, and improve long-term health outcomes by addressing social needs that impact health.

87+ youth educated on injury prevention

Chronic Disease & Injury Prevention

Our community-level work to support safe streets and walkable communities is ongoing. CDHD Partnered with Merrick County Extension for a 5th grade health fair day that served 87 students across four schools.

5,466 public and private water samples tested

Environmental Health

CDHD has a robust Environmental Health division. We sampled public and private water to ensure drinking water is free from harmful bacteria, chemicals, and pollutants. We also completed 1,543 food service inspections and related education, distributed 200 radon test kits, and followed up on 77 elevated blood lead level cases in children. Our five PurpleAir sensors allowed residents to access real-time data on local air quality.

521 children given oral health treatments

Access to & Linkage with Clinical Care

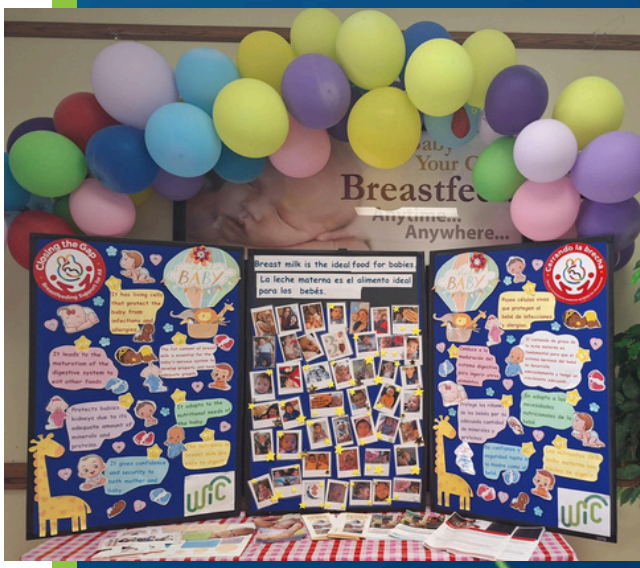
CDHD's Healthy Smiles dental program delivers free in-school screenings, fluoride treatments, and sealants. Led by public health dental hygienists, this is one example of how CDHD removes barriers to preventive services and connects residents to advanced care as needed. Over the year, the CDHD team referred 264 individuals to area dentists, 588 to clinical care providers, and 3,707 to behavioral health services. Access to the Spanish-language version of our CredibleMind site increased by 103%.

6,687 vaccinations given

Communicable Disease Control

CDHD administered 6,687 vaccines, serving 3,432 people in our Vaccines for Children (VFC) and other immunization programs. We worked with area providers to prevent healthcare acquired infections and antibiotic resistance, training over 150 staff in over seven local healthcare facilities. CDHD also limited the spread of communicable diseases by following up on 326 reportable diseases cases this year, including 229 cases of/exposures to Chlamydia and 33 cases of E-coli.





This past year has been one of growth, resilience, and meaningful progress for Central District Health Department (CDHD). As we serve Hall, Hamilton, and Merrick counties, our work remains grounded in a clear purpose: protecting and improving community health through prevention, partnership, and innovation.

One of our most significant accomplishments was earning accreditation through the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB), the national gold standard for governmental public health agencies. Accreditation reflects CDHD's commitment to accountability, continuous quality improvement, evidence-based practice, and responsible stewardship of public resources.

Healthy Families Nebraska–Central District also achieved Healthy Families America (HFA) Fidelity Accreditation through Prevent Child Abuse America. This national recognition affirms that our home visiting program follows a proven, evidence-based model that strengthens families, supports healthy child development, and helps prevent child abuse and neglect from occurring.

We also expanded housing and environmental health services through implementation of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Lead Hazard Reduction Program. CDHD built this program from the ground up by establishing enrollment systems, training specialized staff, obtaining required licensure and equipment, and beginning lead risk assessments and home remediation services. This work builds local capacity to eliminate lead hazards, protect children, and bring new federal resources directly into our communities. CDHD also strengthened the systems needed to support Nebraska's Rural Health Transformation Project. Through strategic growth, expanded partnerships, and investment in workforce capacity, we are improving access to prevention services, advancing health outcomes, and strengthening connections between public health and the broader healthcare system.

None of this work happens in isolation. Our success depends on partnerships with local governments, healthcare providers, schools, community organizations, state agencies, and volunteers. Together, we are building healthier, safer, and more resilient communities.

I am deeply grateful to our staff, Board of Health, elected officials, and community partners for their continued support. Your investment in local public health makes a lasting difference for the people we serve every day.

We also appreciate the Nebraska Legislature's continued support of local public health and its investment in initiatives that strengthen communities and improve the health and well-being of all Nebraskans.

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