Lexington-Fayette County Health Department Fiscal Year 2023 Annual Report

2023 LEXINGTON-FAYETTE COUNTY DIABETES EXPO

Nancy Hiner had dreamed of a hosting a citywide event concentrating on diabetes for more than 20 years. In April 2023, it came true.

The first Lexington-Fayette County Diabetes Expo was held April 29 at the University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension, with more than 25 vendors coming together to offer expertise to a diverse crowd wanting to learn, connect and empower themselves against the challenges of diabetes.

Almost 14% of all Kentuckians have diabetes and 34% have prediabetes, making the state the 8th highest in the country for diabetes prevalence. This meant the information provided at the Expo could make an immediate impact on attendees, who got to experience cooking demonstrations, Primary Care and Education services, vision screenings, Q&A with experts, free vaccines and much more!

The event proved to be such a success that it ended with immediate plans to hold it again in 2024. LFCHD staff in our diabetes program look forward to engaging with community partners to make the next one even bigger and better!

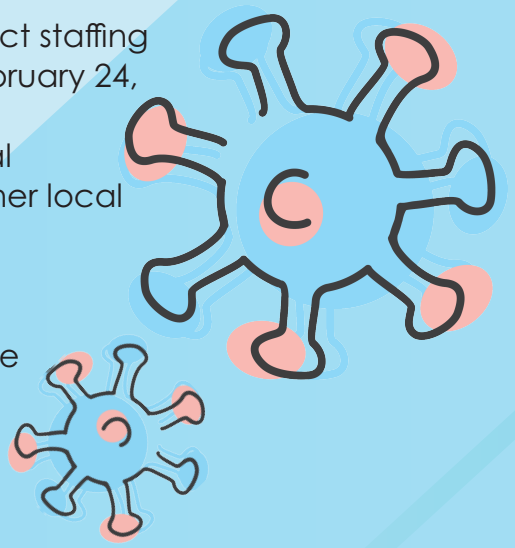
View our 2022-2023 financial statements online at: www.lfchd.org/about-us

COVID-19 RESPONSE HIGHLIGHTS

The COVID-19 pandemic response was the overriding focus and driver of much of LFCHD's activities during FY 2023. As the community lead for public health, LFCHD provided expertise and guidance through communications, clinical services, outreach/education and more to ensure the community had trusted information and access to available personal protective equipment, testing and vaccinations.
Strategies for risk reduction and virus control included early case investigation and isolation, quarantine of close contacts, behavior modification like physical distancing and mask-wearing, testing and vaccination. Highlights of the response through June 30 are as follows:

• From July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023, **21,661** COVID-19 reported cases in Lexington residents were received. More than half of these reports (**11,351**) were from the first quarter ofFY23, July 1 through September 30, 2022, with reports significantly decreasing (355) following the federal declaration to the end of the public health emergency on May 11, 2023.

• As COVID-19 cases steadily declined throughout FY23, contract staffing decreased on July 1, 2022 from 54 to 17 staff, then again on February 24, 2023, from 17 to 4 staff, then again on June 30, 2023 from 4 to 2 people. This consists of one local assignee and one regional assignee. The regional assignee also serves as a resource for other local health departments as needed.



• Between July 1, 2022, and June 30, 2023, public health nurses provided **2,376** COVID-19 vaccinations. These vaccinations were provided through a combination of 10 community clinics, homebound services, and through same day appointments in the public health clinic.

COMMUNITY HEALTH ASSESSMENT

LEXCHIP

Throughout the period from July 2022 to June 2023, LFCHD made significant progress in completing the Community Health Assessment (CHA). The department engaged in 13 meaningful conversations with diverse community groups, collected **700** responses through a community health survey, and initiated a PhotoVoice project to gain insights into behavioral health. LFCHD is in the final stages of consolidating data and anticipate releasing the comprehensive CHA report in October 2023.

SOCIAL MEDIA

LFCHD continued to serve as a primary source of COVID-19 information for Fayette County. From July 2022 to July 2023, the health department's social media increased significantly.

17,305 followers to **18,000+** followers

1,699 followers to **1,994** followers

5,398 followers to ***5,563*** followers

FLU SHOTS

During FY 23, LFCHD provided a total of **1,021** FLU shots through the Public Health Clinic and community clinics, including **497** given during a free flu vaccine event in October 2022.

VACCINE PROMOTION

The department launched a "Get Vaxxed Y'all!" campaign to increase awareness on both flu shots and COVID-19 vaccines, using billboards, bus ads, doorhangers and online marketing to direct people to our Public Health Clinic.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Within Fayette County, Environmental Health (EH) staff provided regulatory inspections of all foodservice establishments, public swimming pools, hotels and motels, schools, tattoo and piercing studios, and grocery stores. This equated to **11,912** field services. EH also investigated and monitored all animal bite reports and constituent-reported, health-related complaints. In addition, EH designed, permitted, and inspected all septic system sewer treatment systems within the county.

Environmental Health continued to improve on processes for payment of Environmental fees. In order to assure proper documentation of credit card fees paid over the phone, a work group convened and developed a form to be filled out to document the transaction in addition to the receipt. The form has worked well and will continue to be evaluated.

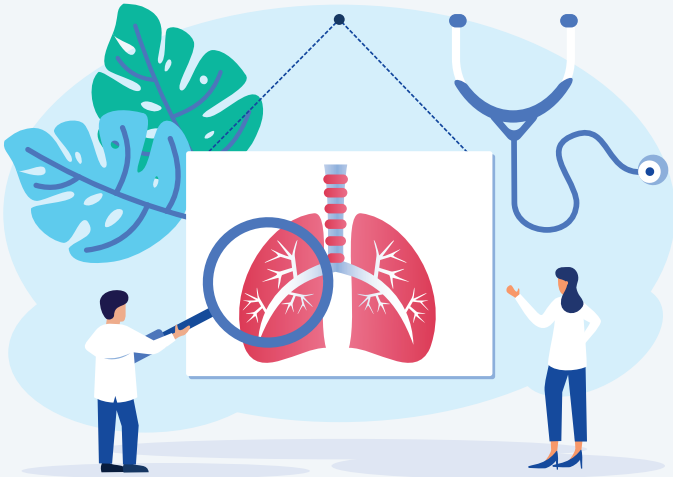
COMMUNITY HEALTH, EDUCATION & EQUITY

Community Education Health Equity Education (CHEE) staff attended and provided nutrition and handwashing education and resources at the following events: Fire Prevention Event, Roots and Heritage Festival, HIV Testing Event-KIRP, Kentucky Black Pride Event, LTMS Health Fair for Families, Self-care Fair Event, Green Acres Hollow Creek, and Breckenridge Day, Rock the Block Community Fest and Back to Bash, Community Resource Fair at Bluegrass Community and Technical College, Token ClubAlcoholism Treatment Program: HIV Testing Event, Family Fun Day at Duncan Park, POP Club, and Back to School Rally and Resource event in Winburn.

- Staff provided HIV testing to **12** students and provided HIV-related materials/resources to the Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority at UK campus.

Also, CHEE provided nutritional, hydration, and handwashing materials for the youth at the Breakfast with Santa event. CHEE hosted an HIV testing event at Galaxy Salon de Belleza in celebration of National Latino AIDS Awareness Day. Staff also provided a nutritional and handwashing educational station for the youth at the fire prevention event.

TUBERCULOSIS



From July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023, 11 Fayette County residents diagnosed with active tuberculosis (TB) disease received monitoring and treatment via LFCHD's TB control program. During this time period, LFCHD clinic staff provided surveillance to **138** clients referred to the TB program for evaluation, management and treatment of TB disease versus TB infection.

HARM REDUCTION

In FY 2023, LFCHD's Harm Reduction Program served **1791** unique clients during **16,102** participant visits, received **738,138** syringes, and distributed **829,075** sterile needles (**89.03%** return rate for FY23). The program connected **160** individuals to treatment referrals for substance use disorder.

In partnership with LFUCG, **3,566** free naloxone kits were distributed to participants at the Harm Reduction Program and to community members at **86** community events. Kits were funded through a FR-CARA SAMHSA grant. Due to the success of this 4-year project, SAMHSA selected it as a "Shining Star" to share with Congress. In FY 2023, LFCHD received **$427,320** in funding to purchase **6,900** 2-dose kits of this lifesaving medication. This grant has been renewed for another 4 years and the cost of naloxone has dropped significantly as it becomes available over-the-counter and generic versions drive down the price. LFCHD also partnered with Fayette County Public Schools to purchase and stock overdose boxes containing naloxone to install on the wall with other emergency devices in every school. High schools received 3 overdose boxes, middle schools received 2 and elementary schools received 1. Each box will contain two 2-dose kits of naloxone and a CPR mask.

• LFCHD received **$150,000** in grant funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Kentucky Injury Prevention and Research Center (KIPRC) to expand naloxone training and distribution to justice-involved individuals. In addition, these grantors provided **$166,000** to support expanded naloxone distribution and education in the community to individuals in treatment facilities, the unsheltered, and people of color.

FACILITIES

Upon discovery of mold during the winter of FY 23, the health department put together a two-phase mold remediation plan. The first phase of the plan was completed when both air handlers were professionally cleaned and air scrubbers were placed throughout the building. The second phase involves replacing ceilings, cleaning air ducts, and cleaning/replacing carpet. This is in the budget and will be completed in FY24 and FY25 as part of a larger building improvement plan.

WIC - Women, Infants and Children

The Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program has been operating under physical exemption waivers since the start of the pandemic, March 2020. The public health emergency waiver ended in May of this year, allowing an additional 90 days to transition prior to moving toward in-person visits. The USDA, however, announced additional waiver flexibilities for remote services, which would allow a hybrid model.

From July 2022-June 2023, the program saw a dramatic increase in caseload from **5,858** to **6,881**. During this timeframe, the WIC program also underwent a formula recall with the newly contracted formula company, Abbott. This proved to be taxing on staff when navigating the increase in caseload and reaching concerned families regarding their infant and formula. In the new fiscal year, the goal is to maintain the caseload while navigating a new way of seeing WIC patients.

H.A.N.D.S.

The LFCHD Health Access Nurturing Development Services (HANDS) staff averaged **68.3%** productivity rate for FY23. The loss of staff members and subsequent hiring/training of new staff impacted productivity and monthly averages. Additionally, HANDS staff experienced a high degree of illness, both in the families served and the staff themselves, that resulted in loss of potential visits. Monthly productivity numbers were as follows: July 70%; August 63%; September 79%; October 70%; November 64%; December 64%; January 53%; February 69%; March 80%; April 72%; May 64%; June 72%.

• HANDS ran a 6-month billboard campaign with Lamar advertising. Five Lexington billboards promoting HANDS were placed in targeted regions of Fayette County each month from July through December of 2022.

Kentucky's HANDS
Every parent needs a second pair of HANDS

SCHOOL HEALTH

During the 2022-23 school year, school nurses documented **69,077** health office visits, with **86%** of the student visits being sent back to class. The contract was amended twice to provide **1,080** additional summer school nurse hours to help cover FCPS Summer Ignite classes, and to increase staffing, allowing the placement of full-time nurses in schools. With the last amendment, all traditional schools and the preschool center have full-time nursing coverage