

Renville County

Public Health

2023 Annual Report



Public Health

Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Renville County

Disease Prevention and Control

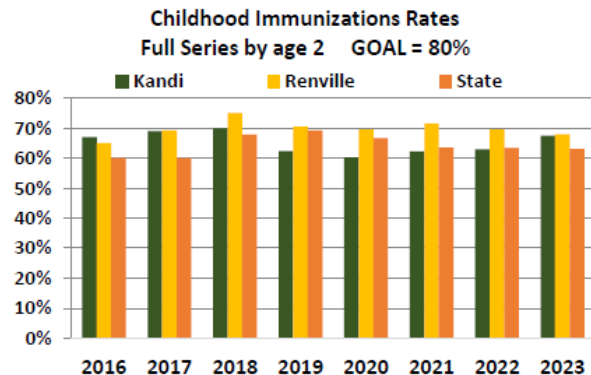
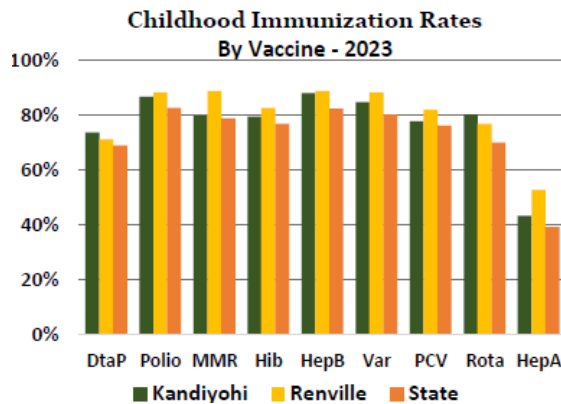
Renville County Public Health (RCPH) works together with Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) and healthcare providers within the communities to prevent the spread of a variety of diseases in the community. Public Health may be involved to screen high-risk populations in the county, assure follow-up testing, and periodically meet with infected persons to assess medication compliance. Medical clinics and hospitals are notified to be on alert for diseases or conditions that affect the public's health at the local, state or federal level.

Immunization & Immunization Registry (MIIC):

Controlling communicable or infectious diseases is one of the oldest and most fundamental public health responsibilities. Immunizations are an integral part of that control. Immunizations protect the health of entire communities and are particularly important in protecting children who are too young to be vaccinated or those that cannot be vaccinated due to medical conditions. RCPH provides influenza vaccinations to students and staff in the local schools each year, as well as to Renville County employees.

	2020	2021	2022	2023
Influenza Vaccinations Administered	349	232	208	153

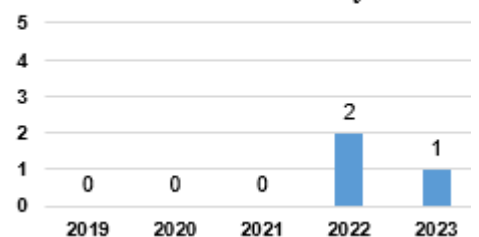
RCPH utilizes MIIC (Minnesota Immunization Information Connection) for vaccine records. MIIC is a statewide system that stores electronic immunization records, and makes keeping track of vaccinations easier and helps ensure Minnesotans get the right vaccines at the right time. *At the end of 2023, the Southwest Minnesota Immunization Information Connection (SW-MIIC) sunset. Most duties of SW-MIIC returned to Minnesota Department of Health with the exception of counties signing on through grants to complete Immunization Quality Improvement for Providers (IQIP) visits to clinics within their own counties; Renville County opted into this and will start visits in 2024.*



Refugee & Immigrant Health and Tuberculosis Case Management:

Public Health serves as the “entry point” for newly arriving refugees and other immigrants to our country. When a referral is received, we spend time initially with families to gather appropriate health and immunization information. New refugee and immigrant arrivals are screened for tuberculosis (TB) and are referred to area providers for health exams and immunizations. Tuberculosis case management is a significant part of the DP&C program, whether this be for latent tuberculosis infection (LTBI) or active TB infection. *We provided medication management to a Renville County resident through May 2023, and assisted another county in providing medication management for one LTBI case through August 2023. We had no active TB cases in 2023.*

New Latent TB Cases in Renville County



DP&C Programs	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Expenditures – DP&C	\$14,393	\$14,963	\$18,944	\$13,234	\$18,333
Expenditures – Immunizations	\$22,408	\$21,516	\$20,226	\$15,787	\$16,512
% Staff Time	1.9%	1.5%	1.5%	1.4%	2.0%

Emergency Preparedness & Response

Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP):

Preparation and response to a disaster can make all the difference to a community in need. Minnesota’s local public health system must be prepared to respond to disasters and assist communities in recovering from disasters. Whether the event is a flood, tornado, infectious disease, or manmade disaster such as terrorism, public health issues are inherent. The essential local activities in this area revolve around public health preparedness and planning to respond to disasters. Renville County Public Health belongs to the Southwest Healthcare Preparedness Coalition, which is comprised of multiple counties working together to plan a coordinated response to events or disasters that would overwhelm any one agency or county’s ability to respond.

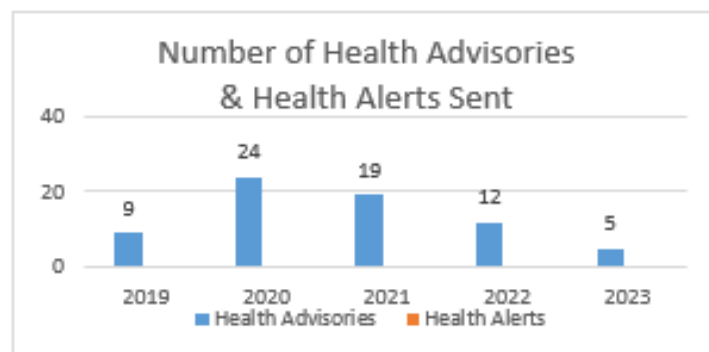
Between Kandiyohi and Renville Counties, there has been a standing goal to have at least one staff person in the local public health departments to have ICS-300 and ICS-400 training. Our PHEP Coordinator in Renville County fulfills this goal, and the Renville County Public Health Director completed ICS-300 training in 2022 and ICS-400 training in 2023 in order to work towards having a management staff at that level as well.

Along with continued response to COVID-19 (see Public Health Emergency Response section), Public Health maintained situational awareness for a number of events including Avian influenza.

One of our PHEP grant duties in 2022 was the COPEWELL project. One component of response is how we care for ourselves in order to care for others, and this project focuses on just that. We continued to utilize data from the 2022 project into 2023, providing opportunities for training with other local facilities and departments related to Emergency Preparedness and Response. Additionally, all sections of our PHEP policies and procedures were updated with staff input. We continue to put a heavy emphasis on our community and partners in the space of Emergency Preparedness. We worked with local, regional, and state partners to share research, resources, programs, ideas, and much more to ensure the best possible resources and services for those that we serve in our departments.

Health Alert Network (HAN):

The Health Alert Network (HAN) is a notification system designed to quickly distribute reliable information when a disease or event threatens the health of Minnesotans. from public health to hospitals, clinics, emergency management, and others. Renville County is responsible for acknowledging the message received from the Minnesota Department of Health and forwarding the message to appropriate community partners (such as hospitals, clinics, emergency management, and others as applicable) within one hour for alerts and within 24 hours for advisories.



Public Health Emergency Preparedness	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Expenditures - PHEP	\$46,194	\$34,738	\$45,506	\$60,959	\$44,246
% Staff Time	2.4%	1.7%	2.3%	3.7%	2.7%

Public Health Emergency Response – COVID-19:

Public Health continued responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, through disease investigation, public communication and inquiry, providing connection to resources, provision of over-the-county COVID-19 test kits, and holding immunization clinics for Moderna COVID-19 vaccines (including primary series, booster doses, and bivalent booster doses to those eligible age 18 years and older). Our last immunization clinic was held on 5/5/23. The Public Health Emergency for COVID-19 was declared ended on 5/11/23; our Department Operations Center (DOC) held their final meeting on this date and then closed. Emergency response duties transitioned to routine Emergency Preparedness, Immunization, and Disease Prevention & Control duties.

Over the course of our department’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic:

- Our Department Operation Center was open February 3, 2020 through May 11, 2023 (1,193 days).
- We received notice of the first confirmed case of COVID-19 in Renville County on February 15, 2020.
- Our County’s Emergency Operations Center was open April 1, 2020 through May 5, 2021 (399 days).
- Between our DOC, EOC, and Whole Community meetings, we formally met at least 64 times (not including the many meetings held at the clinic, or for planning and other response topics internally).
- Renville County Public Health held 113 COVID-19 vaccine clinics.
 - A total of 5,879 COVID-19 vaccines were administered by our staff and volunteers.
- We utilized 23 volunteers for a total of 243 hours.
- Renville County Public Health staff completed 17 essential service requests while our DOC was open.
- Our department completed 577 contact tracing calls to COVID-19 positive residents in Renville County.
- Numerous cloth masks, KN95 masks, and COVID-19 test kits were distributed.
- Staff from other departments within Renville County helped with registration calls and roles during mass vaccination clinics; one of our dual-language staff was ready to manage a Spanish-language calling line.
- The general public provided donations, and helped out their friends, family and neighbors.
- Partnerships within our Renville County government agency as well as outside agencies strengthened, with cities/municipalities, volunteers, mental and behavioral health agencies, non-profits, faith communities, funeral homes, schools, clinics, LTC, private businesses, dental offices, grocery stores, transportation, jail, food shelf, National Guard, and many, many more.
- Our staff, from 2/3/20 through 5/11/23, dedicated over 9,477 hours to the COVID-19 response.

Overall, our county’s emergency preparedness was a success in leading us to a well-coordinated response!

Local Public Health departments received a COVID-19 Public Health Workforce Development Grant at the end of 2021. Through this grant, Renville County Public Health was able to increase the time available for the PHEP Coordinator to allocate to the program in order to provide additional training to department staff on emergency preparedness and response, develop and enhance the PHEP orientation for new staff, and develop a community impact assessment related to COVID-19 effect on general public mental well-being and resiliency. In 2023, the work in this position shifted to allow our hiring of a Public Health Planner.

MNResponds:

MN Responds is a national network of local groups of volunteers committed to improving the public health, emergency response, and resiliency of their communities. Public Health manages MNResponds, a group of volunteers credentialed, enrolled and trained to help locally or regionally with Public Health emergencies or needs. To assist in our COVID-19 vaccinations clinics, 2 volunteers were utilized in 2023, totaling 6 hours served (in 2022, 5 volunteers were used for 24 hours served, and in 2021, 18 volunteers were used for 213 hours).

Public Health Emergency Response	2020	2021	2022	2023
Expenditures - PHER	\$231,330	\$172,779	\$52,659	\$35,719
Expenditures – Workforce Development	n/a	\$660	\$12,855	\$12,653
% Staff Time	10.6%	8.5%	2.9%	1.4%

Environmental Health

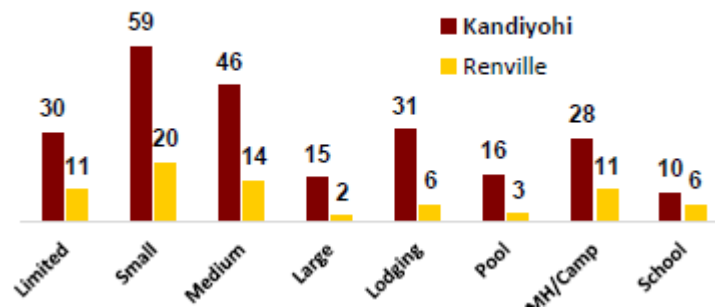
Environmental health activities include areas such as clean air, clean water and sanitation, safe food, healthy communities, and preparation for disasters. The Environmental Health Program is governed by the Kandiyohi-Renville Community Health Board. The environmental health program licenses and inspects food, beverage, and lodging establishments, manufactured home parks, campgrounds, pools, and spas; they also review and approve for special event food stands and mobile food trucks. The Environmental Health Specialists respond to public health nuisance complaints as well as rental tenant issues and general home conditions. Staff also provides education and consults with the community on issues such as methamphetamine lab clean up, pest infestations, water, lead, mold, radon and other environmental health issues. We do have an Environmental Health Ordinance. We started a new Environmental Health Specialist in 2023.

Food, Pools, and Lodging Licensing & Inspection:

A delegation agreement with the Minnesota Department of Health allows local licensing of establishments. Kandiyohi-Renville counties operate under this combined this program. Staff carry out routine inspections as determined by state statute for all licensed establishments, and complete post-inspection reports and share them with each establishment manager. Education during inspections and follow-up for problem areas are important components of this program.

Our program is evaluated annually by MDH to determine our compliance with the terms of our delegation agreement. The evaluation process is broken into 8 standards. Each year, two standards are evaluated. In 2023, standards 3 and 8 for policy and program resources were evaluated; we will be adding additional details to our current policies in order to satisfy requirements asked from MDH.

2023 Establishments by License Category



The Numbers (KaRe)	2021	2022	2023
Licensed FPL Establishments	267	274	273
Inspections Completed	359	340	331
FPL Complaints	4	7	5
FPL Complaints which required enforcement action	0	2	2
Special Events Licensed	390	332	368

Food Violations Issued (KaRe)	2022	2023
Priority 1	317	249
Priority 2	200	192
Priority 3	394	333

Priority 1 violations: items that directly impact hazards associated with foodborne illness or injury (such as cooking, reheating, cooling, and handwashing).
 Priority 2 violations: items supporting Priority 1 items (such as personnel training, documentation, and labeling).
 Priority 3 violations: item that relates to good retail practice (such as cleaning frequency, operational controls, equipment management and general maintenance).

Healthy Housing:

Started in Renville County Public Health in 2022, this program focused on healthy homes assessments and interventions, as well as primary prevention activities through the development and distribution of educational materials to the general public. Because of this grant program, 7 home assessments were completed in Renville County, and a number of educational campaigns through social media, radio messaging, and direct partner outreach were provided. The grant for this program ended in June 2023.

Tobacco Licensing and Compliance Checks:

Following our Renville County Tobacco Licensing Ordinance, unannounced compliance checks are completed annually to retailers of tobacco to determine if they are selling to persons under age 21. Education is required of all establishment employees annually and upon new hire; this is attested upon renewal of their license each year.

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Pass Rate	15/20	n/a	21/21	17/21	19/20

Renville County Public Health also administers a Tobacco Educate & Congratulate program. This is funded through the Department of Human Services. Staff complete unannounced visits to retailers of tobacco to determine if they are selling to persons under age 21. There is no penalty associated with these checks. If an establishment passes, they are presented with a congratulatory certificate; if they fail, education is provided.

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Pass Rate	18/20	n/a	n/a	21/21	19/19

<i>Environmental Health Programs</i>	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Expenditures - Environmental Health	\$94,407	\$78,684	\$95,392	\$93,776	\$79,103
Expenditures - Healthy Housing	n/a	n/a	\$827	\$4,437	\$11,518
% Staff Time	5.1%	4.4%	5.4%	6.0%	5.1%

Adult Health

Case Management:

Renville County administers a county-based Medical Assistance program through PrimeWest Health to provide a quality, accessible and cost-effective health plan. Case management from Nurses in Public Health and Social Workers in Human Services (a best practice dual-case management model) is provided to targeted groups, such as elderly, those in nursing homes, those with special needs such as mental illness or chemical dependency, and complex health issues. Preventative and primary care is emphasized. Consultation and monitoring are provided to assure the best care possible. *Starting in 2023, PrimeWest incorporated drive time to and from a client visit into billable case management time. Blue Plus entered as a Medical Assistance program option in 2023 for members in Renville County. RCPH staff do not provide case management services for Blue Plus; Human Services does.*

RCPH also participates in providing case management services, along with Social Workers from Renville County Human Services, to Renville County members receiving state-funded waiver services. *Due to the end of the Public Health Emergency in 2023, medication reconciliation went back to face-to-face only.*

PrimeWest County Case Management	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Average Number of Members Receiving Services	165	175	204	214	220
Long Term Care Consultations/ Health Risk Assessments/ Skilled Nursing Facility Assessments Completed	189	173	211	155	112
Contacts Made by RN Case Manager	1,539	1,486	1,440	1,303	1,354
Medication Reconciliation Visits Made by RN	17	11	10	17	11

State-Funded Waiver County Case Management	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Average Number of Clients Eligible for State-Funded Waiver Programs	48	62	66	56	62
Case Management Contacts Made by RN	402	514	488	449	534

MnCHOICES Assessments:

Staff are trained and certified as MnCHOICES assessors. Nurses, often in conjunction with a social worker, assess client needs and levels for services for a variety of placements and services in the community including home care, nursing homes, adult foster care, assisting living, personal care assistant (PCA), and traumatic brain injury services. *In 2023, staff spent time completing training for an anticipated update to the MnCHOICES platform. The rollout of MnCHOICES 2.0 began for phases 1 and 2 in 2023; 30% of assessments are to be completed in the new platform.*

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Screening Assessments Completed	138	115	109	131	158

Home Health Care:

Renville County Public Health operates a Medicare-certified home health care service, in place since May 1977. Nurses provide services including monitoring a health problem, getting needed medical equipment and supplies, instructing the person and family on medications, meal plans, wound care management and dressing changes, or lifestyle changes caused by illness, and coordination of care. Home Health Aides help people with personal cares such as bathing, shampoo, exercises, meals, laundry, and light housekeeping. Therapy services may be ordered for those who are homebound and qualify for the service. While some of the persons served are acutely ill, the majority of persons served have chronic health conditions. They need support services to remain in their homes and communities, saving taxpayers money by preventing or delaying nursing home placement.

A Medicare licensing survey is to occur every 3 years, however due to the COVID-19 pandemic these timelines were delayed. RCPH had their Medicare survey completed in January 2023 (5 years since the last survey) and passed with no unmet standards.

Our department started preparing for Electronic Visit Verification (EVV) in October 2023; this is a new requirement for home care staff to clock-in and clock-out of a home visit which is tied to GPS coordinates of a client's home. RCPH signed on with a free software, HHAeXchange, and registered all home care staff for use. Mandated use of an EVV program for home care agencies was to begin 1/1/24, however due to issues at the Department of Human Services level, this has been postponed.

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Average number of Home Care Clients	61	68	72	60	68
Nurse Visits Made	2,084	2,325	1,925	1,112	2,249
Home Health Aide Visits Made	1,678	1,686	1,423	1,180	1,211
Therapy Visits Made (PT, OT, SLP)	293	518	144	223	287

<i>Adult Health Programs</i>	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Expenditures - Waivered Services	\$300,664	\$250,755	\$234,539	\$225,255	\$231,765
Expenditures - Home Health	\$462,857	\$568,492	\$489,341	\$493,821	\$548,513
Expenditures - Home Health Aide	\$85,044	\$80,148	\$72,920	\$72,862	\$85,118
% Staff Time	42.9%	44.1%	42.3%	42.4%	48.5%

Family Health

Car Seat Education:

Public Health has certified Car Seat Technicians, providing one-to-one demonstrations for installing car seats as well as education. We also provide car seat education for foster care and daycare, known as C.A.R.S. class. Car seats are available to PrimeWest and Blue Plus members as well as others who may qualify through a grant.

A new car seat technician was trained in 2023 to administer this program, bringing us to 2 techs.

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Number of Car Seats Given	75	61	61	44	85

Child & Teen Checkup Outreach (C&TC):

RCPH provides outreach activities for Child and Teen Checkups (C&TC), helping families connect with medical and dental providers, as well as other programs and services. C&TC is a comprehensive child health program provided to children and teens from newborn through the age of 20 who are enrolled in Minnesota Health Care Program. We created billboards to promote well-child checkups which were displayed in Fairfax and Renville, along with other ads in the Renville County Register and Youth Connections magazine.

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total Phone Calls Made	83	1,026	349	89	56
Total Letters Sent	2,688	2,531	2,710	2,541	2,268
Face-to-Face Contacts Made	1,315	302	582	561	520

Child Care Consultations:

By Minnesota Administrative Rules, Child Care Centers must have a health consultant who reviews the center's health policies and practices and certifies that they are adequate to protect the health of children in care. Renville County Public Health employs licensed public health nurses, qualified to provide early consultation services. These consultation services include annual and monthly site visits, as well as phone consultation and training sessions as requested. In addition to contracts already held with The Learning Funhouse in Bird Island and Little Stangs Learning Center in Buffalo Lake for provision of these health consultation services, RCPH added a contract with Cedar Mountain Cougar Cub Child Care Center in Franklin in January 2023.

Early Childhood Screening & School Health:

Early Childhood Screenings (ECS) is a screening program which offers comprehensive health and developmental components in accordance with the rules of the Department of Education. Components of the screening include health history review, nutrition assessment, immunization review, and hearing and vision screening. Renville County Public Health contracted with two school districts throughout 2023 to assist in completing these screenings (BOLD and RCW); 47 screenings were completed.

EHDI/BHDI - Early Hearing Detection / Birth Defects:

Agency nurses receive referrals from Minnesota Department of Health on infants born in Renville County with any one of the identified birth defects conditions. The Public Health Nurse contacts the families to assist them with connections to community resources and helps to coordinate care as needed.

	2021	2022	2023
Number of Children Served	5	7	7

In 2023, congenital CMV (cytomegalovirus) was added to the birth defects list. CMV is related to the viruses that cause chickenpox, herpes simplex and mononucleosis, and some babies born with congenital CMV will have symptoms or long-term health problems, such as hearing loss.

Follow Along Program (FAP):

Family Health offers the Follow Along Program as a way for parents of children from birth to age 3 to learn about their child's healthy growth and development. Parents can use the program to learn if their child is playing, talking, growing, moving and acting like other children the same age.

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Number of Children Served	857	394	333	128	112

Participating parents receive Follow Along questionnaires related to the child's growth and development when their child reaches 4, 8, 12, 16, 20, 24, 30 and 36 months of age; a public health nurse follows up with any concerns parents may have about their child's development.

Family Home Visiting:

Home visits are made to pregnant women, newborns/toddlers and their parents, and preschool children with physical or developmental conditions, using the Growing Great Kids curriculum. The goal of the Family Home Visiting program is to foster healthy beginnings. The relationships are often long-term visiting with the child and parents until about age two. Referrals may also be made to Help Me Grow, where infant and toddler intervention staff help set up an appointment with the family to determine if the child is eligible for services through an evaluation process.

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Number of Infants and Children Served	1,097	761	904	712	733
Number of Home Visits Made	838	736*	727	632	664

*mostly telephone/ video visits in 2020

PACT for Families:

PACT For Families Collaborative (Putting All Communities Together) is a five-county, multi-agency partnership with operates as a Children’s Mental Health Collaborative and a Family Services Collaborative. Renville County Public Health Nurses support PACT and actively participate in their meetings and initiatives.

Universal Contact:

A Public Health Nurse contacts all mothers of newborns in Renville County to offer a home visit. The nurse visits with the family about the baby's weight, sleeping and eating patterns, breastfeeding and normal newborn characteristic. Other topics are well child check-ups, immunizations, car seat usage, bonding with the baby, and how to comfort the baby when fussy or crying. This program is a “gateway” to many other community services, as the nurse determines needs.

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Number of Families with Newborns who Received a Home Visit	60	22	46	37	39

Talking is Teaching

This campaign was launched in Renville County in 2018. It is a collaborative effort between many organizations to support the early brain and language development of young children through educating and empowering parents and other caregivers to find daily opportunities to "talk, read, and sing" with children. Currently with the help of grants, the nurses are handing out Family Toolkits when they make a new baby visit. They are also dispersing Milestone boxes to the families that are enrolled in our Family Home Visiting program. The boxes are age specific and designed to promote appropriate development activities.

Women, Infants, and Children (WIC):

Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) is a nutrition and breastfeeding program for pregnant women, breastfeeding and postpartum mothers, infants, and children up to age five. Eligible families receive nutrition counseling, food prescriptions to improve and maintain health, breastfeeding support, and referrals to health and other social services. *The WIC program was offered virtually throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, and resumed in-person visits in August 2023. In May 2023, we had a new staff transition into the WIC Coordinator role. In October 2023, our program underwent a Management Evaluation from the Minnesota Department of Health, and passed this evaluation with no unmet standards. We also had a nurse who completed coursework for becoming a lactation consultant and is now certified for that.*

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Estimated Value of Food Prescriptions	\$59 per child, \$70 per pregnant mom, \$133 per fully breastfeeding mom *per month	→	→	\$78 per child, \$112 per pregnant mom, \$170 per fully breastfeeding mom *per month	→
Number of Participants Served	589	547	547	582	543
Average Monthly Participants	368	374	364	380	420

Supporting Hands Nurse Family Partnership (SHNFP):

Renville County collaborates with twenty-one other counties to offer this program. SHNFP is an evidence-based home visiting program that helps transform the lives of first-time pregnant women. Visits begin during pregnancy and continue through the child's second birthday, offering education and support throughout the time together. Renville County Public Health serves as the fiscal and billing agent for this collaborative.

<i>SHNFP</i>	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Expenditures - SHNFP	\$49,919	\$49,744	\$48,291	\$77,903	\$66,269
% Staff Time (SHNFP)	3.0%	3.0%	2.8%	4.6%	4.2%

<i>Family Health Programs</i>	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Expenditures - Family Health	\$45,092	\$39,834	\$41,613	\$32,212	n/a
Expenditures - C&TC	\$53,244	\$42,368	\$53,038	\$41,785	\$39,304
Expenditures - School Health	\$86,784	\$93,682	\$78,932	\$9,189	\$2,824
Expenditures - WIC	\$105,792	\$84,711	\$93,924	\$110,771	\$107,861
Expenditures - MCH Prenatal	\$382,026	\$283,629	\$331,796	\$286,641	\$292,016
Expenditures - Follow Along	\$10,133	\$6,751	\$4,953	\$3,479	\$3,766
% Staff Time (except SHNFP)	35.6%	27.6%	28.9%	27.0%	25.6%

Health Promotion

Renville County Public Health works to promote the health of all those living, working, and playing within Renville County. Blood pressure checks are offered free of charge from our office. We offer foot care clinics. We provide public education and referral to resources.

Statewide Health Improvement Partnership (SHIP):

The Minnesota Statewide Health Improvement Partnership (SHIP) supports community-driven solutions to expand opportunities for active living, healthy eating and commercial tobacco-free living and well-being. Using a health equity lens, SHIP seeks to make positive changes in policies, systems, and environments.

Over the last three grant periods (2020-2023) SHIP has awarded \$162,408 in partner grants.

Renville County partners included:

- *Active Living Plans in the cities of Olivia, Renville, and Buffalo Lake*
- *Community Gardens in Franklin and Fairfax*
- *Renville County Food Shelf SuperShelf transformation*
- *BLHS, Cedar Mountain, BOLD, GFW, and RCW Schools*
- *Renville County Parks trail projects*
- *Farmers Markets in Bird Island, Buffalo Lake, Fairfax and Olivia*
- *Renville County Masters Gardeners and UMN Extension*
- *ACTS (Adult Client Training Services)*
- *Dakota Wicohan*
- *Tobacco projects with RAPAD, Educate & Congratulate and Tobacco Free Parks initiatives*

The SHIP coordinator connects community with health strategist time and technical assistance to these groups:

- *ACEs Coalition*
- *Kandiyohi-Renville CLT (Community Leadership Team), established in 2023*
- *Feeding Renville Coalition*
- *BOLD Community Education Board*
- *Renville County Food Shelf Board*
- *RAPAD Coalition*
- *City of Olivia Park & Rec Board*
- *Island HUB Board*
- *Renville County Wellness, Housing and ARPA committees*
- *Transportation Groups- CCT Board of Directors, MMRTCC and ATP-SW Transportation Partnership*
- *Renville County Pickleball Group*
- *PACT for Families*
- *Educate & Congratulate licensed tobacco store checks*

ACES Coalition:

The Kandiyohi-Renville Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) Coalition evolved from the 2019 Kandiyohi-Renville Community Health Improvement Plan, based on the Community Health Assessment that was completed in March 2019. Adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) are potentially traumatic events or environments a person experiences or is exposed to before age 18. ACEs can include experiencing and/or witnessing violence, abuse, or neglect and living in an environment where there is mental illness, domestic violence, substance abuse, or instability due to parental separation/divorce or a household member's incarceration. Research shows that the adversity experienced as children can affect us into adulthood. The health improvement goal of this focus is increasing awareness and understanding of the impact ACEs on individuals throughout their lifespan, as well as on the community.

A 2023-2024 coalition work plan was developed that includes: 1) Production and distribution of 10,000 Youth Connections magazines; 2) Development of a positive community norms campaign; and 3) Continuing ACEs presentations and securing additional trauma-informed trainers for our area.

Renville Alliance for the Prevention of Alcohol and Drugs (RAPAD):

The RAPAD coalition is made up of concerned individuals and entities such as volunteers, parents, students, law enforcement, businesses, local government, schools, media, healthcare, spiritual and civic groups that are dedicated to the prevention of underage abuse of alcohol, tobacco and other drug use. Renville County Public Health supports RAPAD and actively participates in their meetings and initiatives.

Opioids Settlement:

Renville County started receiving funds in 2022 from a nation-wide Opioid Settlement. Local Public Health is tasked with providing strategist expertise in determining how to best utilize this funding to support our communities in response to opioid-related challenges. Staff at RCPH spend time learning about best practices and participating in listening sessions. *In 2023, information about the settlements was compiled and shared to inform our community members through the Renville County Messenger, and an open community meeting was held in December 2023 to share information. Additionally, a community input survey was completed and results analyzed which will be shared in the Renville County Messenger in 2024.*

<i>Health Promotion Programs</i>	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Expenditures – Health Promotion	\$17,775	\$9,371	\$25,172	\$24,224	\$22,608
Expenditures – SHIP w/Projects;	\$152,294	\$129,494	\$136,759	\$109,926	\$142,714
Expenditures – SHIP w/out Projects	\$90,756	\$80,162	\$72,619	\$72,616	\$75,193
% Staff Time	5.4%	5.0%	5.2%	6.2%	6.0%

Community Health Services Administration

In Minnesota, Public Health responsibilities are shared between state and local governments as specified in the Local Public Health Act (Chapter 145A) and can best be described as a partnership. Locally-governed Community Health Boards (CHB) oversee local health departments that work in tandem with the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) to fulfill public health responsibilities. This interlocking, statewide system, known as the Community Health Services (CHS) system, enables state and local governments to combine resources to serve public health needs in an efficient, cost-effective way. Public Health departments from Kandiyohi County and Renville County are joined as a Community Health Board, in which Renville County Public Health serves as the Community Health Services Administrator and Kandiyohi County Public Health serves as the fiscal host.

Funding for local public health is a mix of local, state and federal funds as well as fees and reimbursements. It is a critical component of an effective response to public health threats as well as efforts to improve the health of Minnesotans. The system is structured to be flexible so it can meet the different needs of communities around the state and promote direct and timely communications between state and local health departments. The CHS system relies on shared goals and a desire to work together to improve the lives of all Minnesotans. This partnership is the basis of Minnesota’s public health system—one entity cannot function without the other.

The CHS Administrator for Kandiyohi-Renville Community Health Board oversees all grants for the departments, including applying for grants and assuring completion of required grant reporting. They share communication with key leaders in the public health departments to ensure updates from MDH are implemented. The CHS Administrator coordinates (or assures) the Local Public Health assessment and planning cycle, and possesses oversight and approval of Local Public Health Act annual reporting. This Administrator also facilitates CHB meetings and assures the CHB meets the responsibilities outlined in the Local Public Health assurances and agreements, possesses signature authority for routine matters of the CHB (serves as the Agent of the Board), and participates in State Community Health Services Advisory Committee (SCHSAC) meetings and workgroups.

2023 Kandiyohi-Renville Community Health Board (CHB) Members:

- Commissioner Greg Snow, Renville County – Chair
- Commissioner Dave Hamre, Renville County
- Commissioner Steve Gardner, Kandiyohi County – Vice-Chair
- Commissioner Roger Imdieke, Kandiyohi County
- Pat Berg, Kandiyohi County Community Member
- Julie Remer, Renville County Community Member
- Chery Johnson, Community Member At Large

Staff Ex-Officio and Other Members:

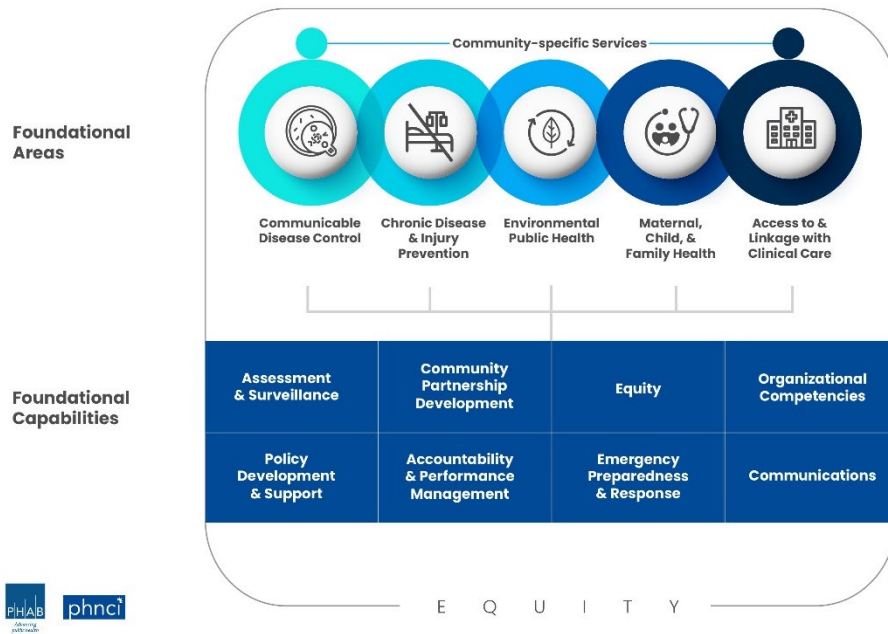
- Cindy Firme, Renville County Public Health Supervisor, and CHS Administrator thru 6/23
- Sara Benson, Renville County Public Health Director, and CHS Administrator start 6/23
- Jennie Lippert, Kandiyohi County Health & Human Services Director and Fiscal Agent thru 4/23
- Caroline Chan, Kandiyohi County Health & Human Services Director and Fiscal Agent start 7/23
- Lisa Herges, Renville County Administrator
- Larry Kleindl, Kandiyohi County Administrator thru 2/2023
- Kelsey Baker, Kandiyohi County Administrator start 2/2023
- Dr. Thomas Gilles, Renville County Medical Consultant
- Dr. Mary Amon, Kandiyohi County Medical Consultant
- Kelsie Kingstrom, Renville County Attorney
- Shane Baker, Kandiyohi County Attorney
- Kristin Erickson, Minnesota Department of Health Public Health Systems Consultant

<i>CHS Program</i>	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Expenditures – CHS Admin	\$104,251	\$68,549	\$88,244	\$116,489	\$89,837
% Staff Time	3.7%	2.3%	3.1%	5.9%	4.4%

Renville County Public Health Services

We continue to use the Cost & Capacity Assessment completed in 2022, which measured the expertise and capacity of local health jurisdictions, to focus on the implementation of Foundational Public Health Responsibilities (FPHR) within our county. With new funding coming in 2024, we are spending time looking at best practices, quality improvement and performance measures, agency partnerships, gaps in services, etc. to find ways to improve the health of our communities and assure that the services being provided are equitable and meeting baseline needs.

Foundational Public Health Services



February 2022

In 2023, we started updating our Community Health Assessment (CHA); this is required to be updated at least every five years. Through a start with grant funding, we were able to hire a Public Health Planner who is a lead in this work. We completed multiple surveys within the community, and gathered already existing data from other sources and community partners to help inform our CHA. More work to finalize our CHA and create an updated Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) will occur in 2024.

Our Finance Officer started dividing time in Public Health to support the county's Administration office, and therefore our Medical Accounting Technician's workload altered to accommodate for some of the changes.

We continue to work with colleges to offer Student Nurse Experiences. Our staff mentor works with the student to arrange a schedule of vast public health experiences.

<i>Student Nurse Experiences</i>	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Number of Students	4	3	2	6	3
Number of Student Hours	306+	168+	150+	170+	71+

We were fortunate to host Public Health Project Coordinators through the Public Health AmeriCorps program. These service members helped build capacity within our agency and worked on a variety of projects including: creation of opioid settlement presentation materials and information dissemination; PrimeWest Health grant for member well-being bags; updates to our department's orientation PowerPoint; focus on chlamydia disease awareness; and focus on improving childhood immunization rates and well-child check-ups rates.

<i>All RCPH Programs</i>	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Expenditures	\$2,183,585	\$2,189,214	\$2,055,818	\$1,858,261	\$1,817,208
Staff Full-Time Equivalents (FTE's)	21.06	20.88	19.71	18.56	18.16

Credit to Renville County Public Health Staff in 2023:

- Amy Agre, Medical Accounting Technician
- Polly Ahrens, Public Health Nurse
- Alaa Alzahrani, Environmental Health Specialist
- Taylor Amsden, Home Health Aid
- Sara Benson, Public Health Director & Kandiyohi-Renville CHS Administrator
- Sam Best, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator
- Rhonda Buboltz, Home Health Aide
- Dave Distad, Environmental Health Specialist
- Britany Egge, Public Health Nurse
- Kim Erickson, Administrative Assistant
- Jeff Filipek, SHIP Coordinator
- Cindy Firme, Adult Health Supervisor & Kandiyohi-Renville CHS Administrator
- Stacey Larson, Public Health Nurse
- Carol Loftness, Licensed Practical Nurse
- Melanie Netland, Public Health Nurse
- Kaylee Padrnos, Public Health Nurse
- Kendra Rigge, Public Health Nurse
- Jen Scharfencamp, Finance Officer & Office Support Supervisor
- Krista Schneider, Administrative Assistant
- Katie Slagter, Family Health Supervisor
- Avi Sukhwal, Public Health Planner
- Laurie Thielen, Public Health Nurse
- Tara Wertish, Licensed Practical Nurse
- Kendra Wubben, Public Health Nurse
- Lacy Zeitz, Registered Nurse