



Emerging Stronger

2022 ANNUAL REPORT



SEDGWICK COUNTY
Health Department

LEADERSHIP

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LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Community Member,

It is with great pleasure we present our 2022 Annual Report. This report provides a brief look into some of our key accomplishments over the year.



2022 will go down as the year we started to emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic. In January, it didn't look like it. During that month, the highly contagious Omicron variant caused a spike in cases that strained the community's ability to provide testing and care for all who needed it.

As the year progressed, we faced more challenges — a nationwide infant formula shortage and a global outbreak of the mpox virus, among others. You can read about how we met these challenges in this report.

I am proud to say that we are emerging from COVID stronger than ever. Through partnerships forged during the pandemic, we have improved our ability to provide critical support to those in need and build stronger connections with the communities we serve.

Large groups of these community partners gathered together in April and October to collaborate on a better plan of response for future pandemics. This work continues in 2023.

As we look ahead to the future, I feel gratitude for the tireless dedication of our staff, our partners, and our community. Together, we are building a stronger, healthier future for all of us.

Thank you for your support and your partnership in this important work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Adrienne Byrne".

Adrienne Byrne
Director, Sedgwick County Health Department

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OUR MISSION

To improve the health of Sedgwick County residents by preventing disease, promoting wellness, and protecting the public from health threats.



ABOUT SCHED

The Sedgwick County Health Department (SCHED) is a government agency responsible for promoting and protecting the health of residents in Sedgwick County, Kansas.

We focus on providing essential services to uninsured and underinsured county residents and others who face barriers to healthcare access.

One of our priorities is supporting women's and children's health through several no-cost programs:

- **Women, Infants and Children** provides food vouchers, education and breastfeeding support to make sure that children receive the nutrients they need.
- **Healthy Babies** works to reduce infant mortality and improve birth outcomes through prenatal and parenting education and home visits.
- **The Children's Dental Clinic** provides dental services to eligible children through a network of volunteer dentists and specialists.
- **Early Detection Works** screens eligible women for breast and cervical cancer.

Our Main Clinic provides child and adult immunizations, health screenings, family planning services, sexually transmitted infection testing and treatment, and tuberculosis testing. We deliver these services at a reduced cost to individuals based on their income.

SCHED promotes wellness and keeps the whole community safe from health threats by monitoring disease, responding to outbreaks, preparing for future health emergencies, educating the public on healthy behaviors, and ensuring animals do not pose a health or safety hazard.

ACHIEVEMENT OF REACCREDITATION

Sedgwick County Health Department is proud to have been reaccredited by the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB).



The PHAB is an independent organization that sets standards for and accredits public health departments in the United States. Accreditation by the PHAB is a recognition of a health department's commitment to excellence in public health practice and dedication to ongoing improvement.

This rigorous process involved an in-depth review to ensure that we achieved high standards across 10 essential areas of public health services over a five-year period. Reaccreditation provides validation that our organization is prepared to respond to the unique health challenges facing the community.

The review process helped us identify strengths and some areas where we can enhance our operations. Through our quality improvement program, we continue to strive toward more effective ways to promote community health.



EMERGING STRONGER FROM THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

During January, Sedgwick County experienced the highest number of COVID-19 cases since the start of the pandemic.

During the middle two weeks of the month, the emerging Omicron variant caused more than 1,500 new cases per day. Stores ran out of at-home test kits, and local testing resources could not keep up with demand.

To meet community needs, SCHD opened a drive-through testing site in downtown Wichita and expanded hours at our fixed testing site in south Wichita. Two teams from the Kansas National Guard supported these operations.

The Omicron wave passed as quickly as it had arrived. By early March, we announced plans to wind down mass vaccination and testing for COVID-19. We would shift the focus to vaccinating underserved neighborhoods at mobile vaccine clinics and testing uninsured and underinsured people at our Main Clinic.

During 2022, we held 268 mobile vaccine clinics, mostly in lower-income areas of the county. Of these, 58 were clinics provided in partnership with the Wichita Black Nurses Association.



The Wichita Black Nurses Association focuses on the health and well-being of minority communities through education, advocacy and community outreach. WBNA provides opportunities for networking, continuing education, and professional development for its members, and it advocates for policies that promote health equity and increase diversity in the nursing profession.



FESTIVALS OF FRIENDSHIP

On April 30, SCHED closed down our Community Vaccine Clinic at the former public library in downtown Wichita.

For just over a year, the library had served as the hub for COVID-19 vaccinations in the county.

Before closing the clinic, we held three mass vaccination events in partnership with KanCare providers Aetna, Sunflower Health Plan and United HealthCare. These events included face painting, balloon artists, photo opportunities with local sports mascots, free health screenings, and more.

The “Festivals of Friendship” brought the Community Vaccine Clinic to a celebratory close. More than 2,000 people were vaccinated at the three events. This brought the total number of vaccines administered since the location opened to 202,767.



PARTNERING FOR A HEALTHIER SEDWICK COUNTY

In 2022, SCHD began developing a Community Recovery Plan to identify key improvement areas from the COVID-19 response and shape a framework for the future. The plan provides a roadmap for the community's recovery from the pandemic and prepares Sedgwick County for future health emergencies.

APRIL

Over 100 community partners met to **determine key improvement areas.**

OCTOBER

40 community representatives came together to **identify goals and strategies** to improve plans and operations for the next public health emergency.

DECEMBER

Workgroups of like organizations formed to **implement improvement steps.**

EARLY 2023

These groups began meeting to **refine the recovery plan.**



COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PLAN

In 2022, SCHD finished work on the 2020-22 Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) and began developing a new plan for 2023-25. A CHIP is a long-term, collaborative effort to address public health problems in a community.

APRIL

We held a series of **listening sessions** to gather input from community members about their top health concerns.

SEPT

We presented listening session input and community health data to a group of almost 150 people working in healthcare and related fields at our first **Community Health Summit**.

NOV

We met with community partners to select **key health issues** and establish goals for the new CHIP.

2023

Community workgroups dedicated to each of the key health issues — education, healthcare access, mental health, and food access — began meeting and charting a path to progress.



2020-22 CHIP HIGHLIGHTED ACHIEVEMENTS

3X increase in calls

to **United Way** 211 about mental health, healthcare or substance abuse from priority ZIP Codes

10X increase in referrals

made through **IRIS**, a community referral platform that supports integrated community care

3X increase in participation

in evidence-based trainings for mental illness, substance abuse and suicide prevention, including Wichita State University's **#WeSupportU** program

For more on 2020-22 CHIP outcomes, visit schd.online/chip



WeSupportU is a suicide prevention training program that provides skills and knowledge to identify and respond to individuals who may be experiencing suicidal ideation or mental health crises. The program offers a range of training options, including online modules, in-person workshops, and custom training for specific groups.



ENGAGING PARTNERS TO PREVENT DISEASE

SYPHILIS OUTBREAK

Sedgwick County has more recent cases of syphilis than any other Kansas county, highlighting the importance of disease control in our community.

Through the fall and winter, SCHD partnered with the ICT Street Team to investigate cases of syphilis in Wichita's homeless population.

These cases stemmed from a case of syphilis in a person who had previously been part of Wichita's unhoused community. Our Disease Intervention Specialists (DIS) interviewed people from the community every week for several months to identify possible contacts. We also partnered with the Kansas Department of Health (KDHE) to conduct field draws for testing.

The DIS identified 41 cases and 96 contacts associated with the original case. We also worked with KDHE to provide medication in the field to people who tested positive for syphilis.

Syphilis was common throughout history until penicillin was introduced in the 1940s. Today, syphilis remains a significant public health problem, and measures to control the disease must remain constant. Testing and treatment in the early stages of infection are the best way to control its spread.



ICT Street Team provides healthcare services and education to vulnerable populations, including the homeless, individuals struggling with addiction, and people affected by mental health issues. The team consists of volunteer healthcare professionals, social workers and community advocates dedicated to improving the health of underserved populations.



MPOX

A global outbreak of mpox (formerly monkeypox) in the summer and fall disproportionately affected members of the LGBT community. SCHD was determined to respond quickly and effectively to this threat.

Before local mpox cases had been identified, our response team was working to secure doses of the scarce mpox vaccine. We developed a novel communications strategy to educate those at risk, and we reached out through community partners Positive Directions and M-Care Healthcare to promote vaccinations.

In September, we vaccinated more than 100 people at the Wichita Pride event. We held a second vaccine event with Positive Directions in October, increasing the number of vaccinations to 285.

Our rapid response helped to stop the spread of mpox in our community. There were 12 local cases, and many members of the LGBT community are now immunized against any future outbreaks.



Positive Directions provides HIV/AIDS prevention, education, and support services to individuals and families affected by the virus. They offer free HIV testing, case management and prevention programs to promote the health of those impacted by HIV/AIDS. Positive Directions also works to reduce the stigma and discrimination surrounding the virus.

PROVIDING FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

COMMUNITY BABY SHOWER

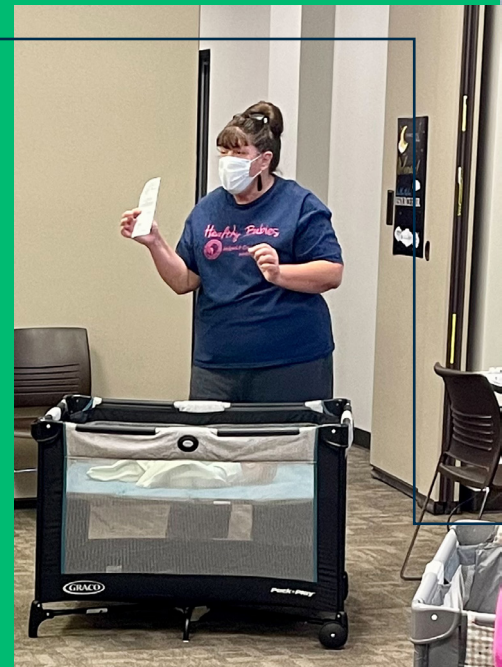
In October our Healthy Babies program held its annual Community Baby Shower and Resource Fair with community partners Childcare Aware, Birth Justice, Kansas Children's Service League, and KanCare.

The event aimed to promote the health and well-being of newborns and their families, and drew approximately 300 attendees, including 125 new or expecting parents.

A highlight of the event was the Safe Sleep demonstrations, where participants learned about infant sleep safety. This effort aims to reduce sleep-related deaths, which number about 3,500 infant deaths in the U.S. each year. Everyone who attended the demonstration received a Pack N Play portable crib.

The event also featured a baby shower bingo game with prizes and a bilingual presentation about using the guide "What To Do When Your Child Gets Sick" to encourage health literacy.

Over 100 people signed up to continue with Healthy Babies' program offerings, which include home visitations and a peer-support group for fathers. Two Community Baby Showers are planned for 2023.



The Kansas Infant Death and SIDS Network provides support to families and caregivers who have lost an infant or child under 5 through bereavement services, counseling and referrals. The KIDS Network also provides training to healthcare providers and community members on infant safe sleep practices.



Kansas Children's Service League



INFANT FORMULA SHORTAGE

In 2022, the United States faced a significant shortage of infant formula due to a large-scale product recall and supply chain issues.

Throughout the crisis, SCHD's Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program worked with local stores and the Kansas WIC program to help ensure clients had access to the formula they needed.

The shortage created immense stress for families who struggled to feed their infants. Unlike other food products, infant formula doesn't have many acceptable substitutes. In response, national and state WIC programs expanded the program's benefits to cover products from a wider range of manufacturers.

Our WIC staff provided clients with regular updates on available products and which products they could substitute for their usual formula. Staff also monitored local store shelves to help clients track formula down.

Many infants must have specialty or prescription formulas due to allergies or other health issues, and these formulas were especially difficult to find. Our staff worked with Kansas WIC to receive shipments of these formulas direct from the manufacturers and distributed them to clients whose babies needed them.



Financials

2022	Budget	Actual	Difference Budget to Actual	Percentage of Budget
Federal	\$10,558,549.22	\$5,304,285.45	\$(5,254,263.77)	58.11%
State	\$878,379.00	\$860,337.44	\$(18,041.56)	4.83%
User Fees	\$1,018,835.12	\$973,962.00	\$(44,873.12)	5.61%
Taxes	\$5,694,331.38	\$5,079,479.42	\$(614,851.96)	31.34%
Other	\$18,775.04	\$44,154.89	\$25,379.85	0.10%
TOTAL	\$18,168,869.76	\$12,262,219.20	\$(5,906,650.56)	100.00%

2021	Budget	Actual	Difference Budget to Actual	Percentage of Budget
Federal	\$9,805,547.24	\$4,900,639.35	\$(4,904,907.89)	56.81%
State	\$ 784,768.72	\$862,793.37	\$78,024.65	4.55%
User Fees	\$1,300,128.02	\$1,018,172.53	\$(281,955.49)	7.53%
Taxes	\$5,344,713.22	\$4,860,872.33	\$(483,840.89)	30.97%
Other	\$ 25,196.45	\$70,934.16	\$45,737.71	0.15%
TOTAL	\$17,260,353.65	\$11,713,411.74	\$(5,546,941.91)	100.00%

CLIENT VISITS & CLIENTS SERVED

	Visits	Served
Breast & Cervical Cancer Screenings	211	211
Children's Dental Clinic	6,363	305
Family Planning	3,398	1,834
Healthy Babies	2,324	936
Immunizations & Health Screenings	9,941	6,845
Sexually Transmitted Infection Clinic	2,141	1,850
Tuberculosis Clinic	2,933	278
Women, Infants & Children (WIC)	38,910	15,156

LAB SERVICES

14,524

In-House Tests

3,425

Tests for Other Clinics

DISEASE INVESTIGATIONS

82,652

Epidemiology

1,238

STI Control

165

TB Control

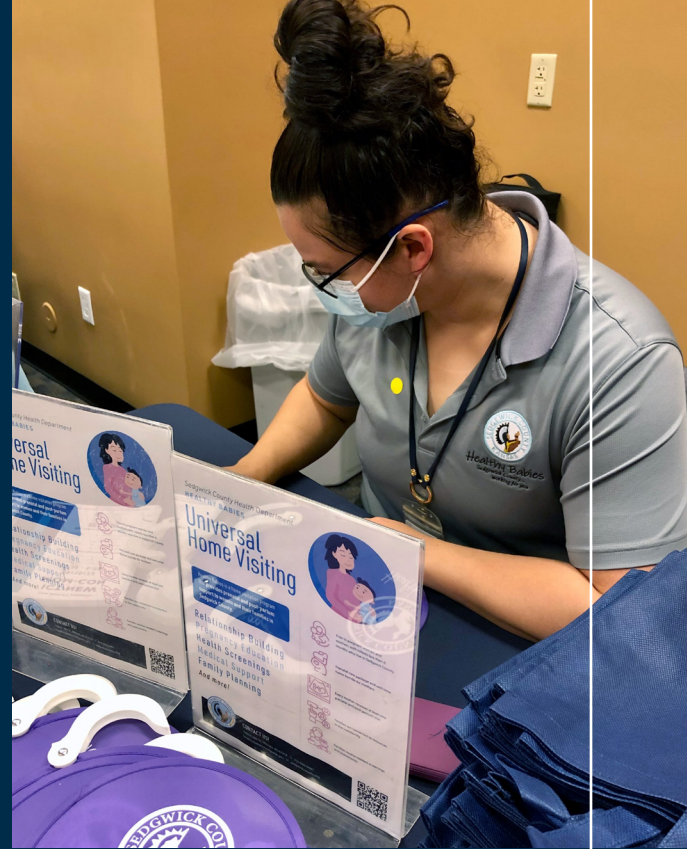
ANIMAL CONTROL

1,807

New Investigations

40

Animal Bite Investigations



SEDGWICK COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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MAIN CLINIC

2716 W. Central, Wichita KS 67203