

OAKLAWN ACTIVITY CENTER | AETNA BETTER HEALTH OF KANSAS | UNITED HEALTHCARE OF KANSAS | BABY TALK | KS BIRTH JUSTICE SOCIETY | SAFE FAMILIES | WESLEY BIRTH CENTER | THE KIDS NETWORK | FETAL AND INFANT MORTALITY ACTION TEAM | HEALTHCORE CLINIC | URBAN LEAGUE OF KANSAS | OVERDOSE DATA 2 ACTION | USD 259 | SEDGWICK COUNTY HEALTH ALLIANCE | ICT STREET TEAM | THE LORD'S DINER | CHIP WORKGROUPS | KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT | SEDGWICK COUNTY MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS | OAKLAWN ACTIVITY CENTER | AETNA BETTER HEALTH OF KANSAS | UNITED HEALTHCARE OF KANSAS | BABY TALK | KS BIRTH JUSTICE SOCIETY | SAFE FAMILIES | WESLEY BIRTH CENTER | THE KIDS NETWORK | FETAL AND INFANT MORTALITY ACTION TEAM | HEALTHCORE CLINIC | URBAN LEAGUE OF KANSAS | USD 259 | OVERDOSE DATA 2 ACTION | SEDGWICK COUNTY HEALTH ALLIANCE | ICT STREET TEAM | BABY TALK | THE LORD'S DINER | CHIP WORKGROUPS | WESLEY BIRTH CENTER | KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT | SEDGWICK COUNTY MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS | OAKLAWN ACTIVITY CENTER | AETNA BETTER HEALTH OF KANSAS | UNITED HEALTHCARE OF KANSAS | BABY TALK | KS BIRTH JUSTICE SOCIETY | SAFE FAMILIES | WESLEY BIRTH CENTER | THE KIDS NETWORK | FETAL AND INFANT MORTALITY ACTION TEAM | HEALTHCORE CLINIC | URBAN LEAGUE OF KANSAS | OVERDOSE DATA 2 ACTION | OAKLAWN ACTIVITY CENTER | AETNA BETTER HEALTH OF KANSAS | UNITED HEALTHCARE OF KANSAS | BABY TALK | KS BIRTH JUSTICE SOCIETY | SAFE FAMILIES | WESLEY BIRTH CENTER | THE KIDS NETWORK | FETAL AND INFANT MORTALITY ACTION TEAM

# PARTNERSHIPS IN ACTION

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**2023**  
**ANNUAL REPORT**

[www.sedgwickcounty.org/health](http://www.sedgwickcounty.org/health)



SEDGWICK COUNTY  
Health Department



General Clinic staff

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*Director, Health Department*

**Christine Steward**  
*Deputy Director, Health Department*  
*Division Director, Health Protection*

**Jason McKenney**  
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**SEDGWICK COUNTY  
MANAGEMENT**

**Tom Stolz**  
*County Manager*

**Tim Kaufman**  
*Deputy County Manager*



**Ryan Baty, Chair**  
4th District



**Pete Meitzner**  
1st District



**Sarah Lopez**  
2nd District



**David Dennis**  
3rd District



**Jim Howell**  
5th District

**LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR**

Dear Community Members,

It is my honor to present to you the Sedgwick County Health Department's 2023 Annual Report, aptly titled "Partnerships in Action."



Our purpose at the Sedgwick County Health Department is unwavering: to protect and promote the health and well-being of all residents in Sedgwick County. From addressing public health threats to improving access to essential services, our achievements have been significantly amplified through our partnerships with agencies, organizations, and businesses across the county. These partnerships have not only expanded our reach but also deepened our impact, bringing us closer to realizing our vision of a healthier Sedgwick County for all.

I invite you to read on to learn about the collaborative work of the Fetal and Infant Mortality Action Team, the launch of the Community Health Improvement Plan, and our path toward recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, among others.

Our community faces health challenges that are often complex. Continuing to work toward goals shared with our partners, we can move closer to a healthier future for Sedgwick County.

Sincerely,

Adrienne Byrne  
*Director, Sedgwick County Health Department*

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West Central Clinic staff wear blue to observe Men's Health Week

## OUR MISSION

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



## ABOUT SCHD

The Sedgwick County Health Department (SCHD) provides public health services to all 523,000 residents in Sedgwick County, Kansas. The Public Health Accreditation Board reaccredited SCHD in 2022.

Many SCHD services fill gaps for low-income and/or uninsured or underinsured people who face barriers to accessing health services. These services include income-based, sliding-fee-scale clinical services and no-cost Children's Dental Clinic, Healthy Babies, and Women, Infants and Children (WIC) programs for people who qualify.

Medications to treat sexually transmitted infections and tuberculosis are provided at no cost through an arrangement with the state health department. Serving people who would not otherwise have access to medications and treatment protects the health of all citizens of Sedgwick County.

SCHD keeps the community safe by monitoring disease, responding to outbreaks and health emergencies, and ensuring animals do not pose a health or safety hazard. Also, SCHD staff educate the public on healthy behaviors. SCHD collaborates with agencies, organizations and businesses to connect people to services and work together on policies and projects to improve community health.

Working to support a high-functioning health department, some SCHD staff assist with grants, contracts and budgeting; performance measures; strategic planning; and workforce development. Staff participate in planned activities to make progress towards the 2022-25 strategic plan pillars shown below:

- STRENGTHEN A SKILLED AND INNOVATIVE WORKFORCE
- PROMOTE & SUSTAIN A POSITIVE WORK CULTURE
- IMPROVE COMMUNICATION & COLLABORATION
- MAXIMIZE PARTNERSHIPS

## COLLABORATING ON BETTER OUTCOMES FOR FAMILIES & CHILDREN

### FETAL AND INFANT MORTALITY ACTION TEAM

Infant mortality, defined as the death of a child before their first birthday, serves as a crucial indicator of a community's health. SCHD's Fetal and Infant Mortality Action Team (FIMAT) fosters collaborations among social service agencies, healthcare professionals, and community stakeholders to promote the health and welfare of women, infants and families in Sedgwick County. By focusing on enhancing the availability and quality of resources and services, FIMAT aims to reduce instances of fetal and infant mortality.



In 2023, FIMAT organized quarterly meetings and more frequent workgroup meetings, providing a platform for ongoing dialogue with community allies. These gatherings focused on refining and expanding services for families, as well as adapting to the changing needs of the community.

Beyond direct intervention, FIMAT members are committed to increasing public awareness by addressing broader issues facing women, infants and families. Team members contribute to a more informed and responsive community by making educational presentations, talking to the media and providing reports.

FIMAT's multifaceted approach demonstrates the significance of collaborative efforts to tackle infant mortality through a community-wide commitment to creating a healthier environment for its youngest members and their families.

### COMMUNITY BABY SHOWER



In April and October, SCHD's Healthy Babies program hosted Community Baby Showers at Riverwalk Church of Christ and Oaklawn Activity Center. These free events provided training on safe sleep practices for infants, health education for young and expecting families, and resources from more than 11 community partners including Aetna Better Health of Kansas, UnitedHealthcare of Kansas, Baby Talk, the KS Birth Justice Society, Safe Families, Wesley Birth Center, HealthCore Clinic and the Urban League of Kansas.

The October event attracted a record attendance with more than 285 adults and an equal number of infants and children, a significant increase from past baby showers.

### SCHOOL IMMUNIZATION CLINICS



During the early summer and fall, medical staff from SCHD's West Central Clinic partnered with USD 259 Wichita Public Schools to provide school immunization clinics. At three clinics held in October, a total of 876 children and teenagers received their required school vaccinations. These shots brought these students in compliance with the state's immunization laws and kept them in school beyond exclusion day on Oct. 11.

Kansas law (K.A.R. 28-1-20) defines the immunizations required for school entry. Immunization laws exist to reduce the spread of communicable diseases and to protect those who are unable to get vaccinated.

# WORKING TOGETHER TO IMPROVE COMMUNITY HEALTH

## COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PLAN

The 2023-25 Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) is a three-year community health improvement process that identifies priority issues, develops and implements strategies for action, and establishes accountability to ensure measurable health improvement.

Since October 2022 and throughout 2023, SCHD led fifty 2023-25 CHIP partner workgroup meetings that included 126 community partners. These workgroups established strategies and planned activities to achieve measurable outcomes on four key issues: Food Access, Mental Health, Education, and Healthcare Access.

These strategies and outcomes for each of the four health issues are summarized below and on the following page:

2023 - 25 CHIP



### FOOD ACCESS

#### STRATEGIES

- Create and distribute a list of food resources in the community
- Increase knowledge about SNAP, DCF and WIC locations and application processes
- Develop a collaborative grant committee to advocate for increased funding

#### OUTCOMES

- Sustain and connect more households to identifiable food sources and food assistance resources in high-priority ZIP codes
- Increase the percentage of households on SNAP, TEFAP, and Senior Commodities in high-priority ZIP codes
- Improve coordination among community resources and partners within the food ecosystem

### MENTAL HEALTH

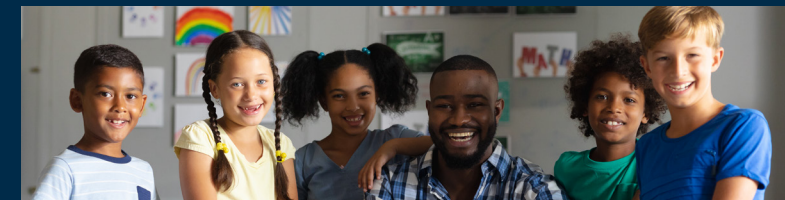


#### STRATEGIES

- Increased awareness of community resources
- Expand community education for prevention intervention and postvention
- Reducing stigma cross-culturally

#### OUTCOMES

- Reduce deaths from suicide by 20%
- Reduce deaths from overdose by 20%
- Increase engagement with non-traditional community partners to increase strategies for mental health



### EDUCATION

#### STRATEGIES

- Engage with key influencers in high-priority ZIP Codes to determine available education resources
- Identify current community education activities and collaborate to amplify results
- Establish sustainable resources to keep communities informed of education opportunities
- Empower people who access education resources to empower others in similar circumstances

#### OUTCOMES

- Increase by 10% the number of children in high-priority ZIP Codes enrolled in early literacy and K-3 reading programs
- Increase the number of adults enrolled in programs outside of USD 259 to earn a diploma by 10% in high-priority ZIP Codes
- Increase the percentage of enrollment into technical programs and higher education by 10% in high-priority ZIP Codes

### HEALTHCARE ACCESS



#### STRATEGIES

- Spread awareness about the importance of community health workers and the certification process
- Educate community organizations and agencies on the importance of hiring community health workers
- Increase awareness about multilingual resources for organizations and staff
- Expand access to the IRIS referral system

#### OUTCOMES

- Increase by 20 the number of certified community health workers to improve access to knowledge of community resources through education and care coordination
- Increase by 13 the number of agencies and providers that have a process to serve Sedgwick County residents in high-priority ZIP Codes who are non-English speaking by enhancing the knowledge of language and interpretation services available

SCHD continues to welcome involvement in the workgroups from community partners and interested individuals. For more information on becoming involved, email [HealthCHIP@sedgwick.gov](mailto:HealthCHIP@sedgwick.gov).

## PREPARING FOR A MORE RESILIENT FUTURE

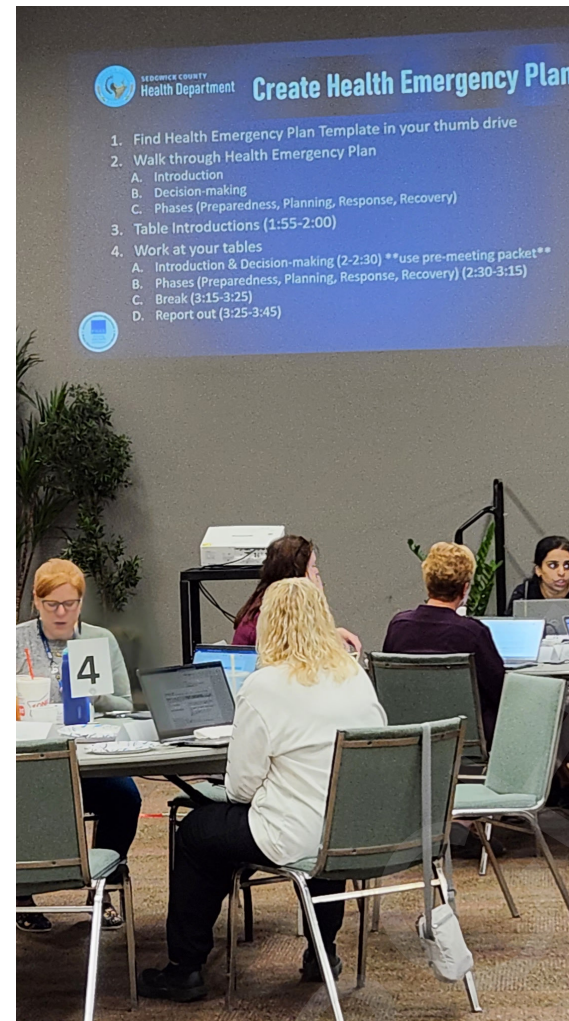
# COVID-19 COMMUNITY RECOVERY

In 2023, SCHD continued making significant strides in developing and refining a Community Recovery Plan and laying the groundwork for improved responses to future public health emergencies.

Throughout the year, SCHD's Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) team coordinated 15 individual COVID-19 Community Recovery Workgroup meetings with community partners to establish and implement activities around two focused objectives and other workgroup-specific objectives.

One outcome of the planning was the PHEP team's development of a Health Emergency Plan. In April 2023, the team coordinated with more than 40 other South Central Kansas partners to implement a Health Emergency Workshop. At the workshop, partners worked on their plans to help their organizations improve their response to another health emergency.

A second outcome of Community Recovery Planning was the establishment of a Health Emergency Operations Center (Health EOC). On Feb. 6, 2024, SCHD conducted a virtual drill to exercise the Health EOC. The team plans another drill for the fall of 2024.



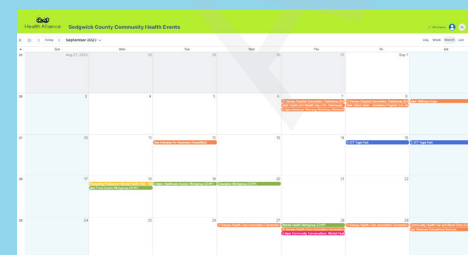
## MRC



In March 2023, the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) held a volunteer recognition ceremony to honor the more than 112 volunteers who provided over 3,440 volunteer hours since 2020.

The MRC is a local group of medical and non-medical volunteers who promote healthy living throughout the year and prepare for and respond to public health emergencies.

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR



In September, collaborating with the Sedgwick County Health Alliance, SCHD launched the Sedgwick County Community Health Calendar to inform the public about events to improve their health and well-being.

To view the calendar, visit <https://schr.online/events>

## PROTECTING THE COMMUNITY FROM HEALTH THREATS

# PREVENTING DISEASE



Sedgwick County and Kansas have mirrored national trends with a rise in syphilis rates across various demographics, notably among individuals facing unstable housing or homelessness.

Historically prevalent until the advent of penicillin in the 1940s, syphilis has persisted as a significant health challenge that requires ongoing efforts to control. Early detection and treatment are critical in curbing its spread.

In 2023, SCHD intensified its efforts to combat syphilis. Disease Intervention Specialists (DIS) expanded partnerships

with local shelters, the ICT Street Team, The Lord's Diner, other community organizations, and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE). These collaborations aimed to locate, test and treat individuals who tested positive for syphilis and their contacts.

Over the year, STI Control investigated 1,268 reports of people with confirmed or suspected syphilis or HIV infection and their contacts.

# REDUCING DRUG OVERDOSES

In September 2023, SCHD was awarded the Overdose Data to Action (OD2A): LOCAL, a five-year cooperative agreement with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

## OVERDOSE DATA2ACTION

The goal of this funding is to use data to drive actions to reduce overdoses and overdose deaths by working with the community, healthcare organizations and public safety with a focus on reducing health inequities in priority populations.

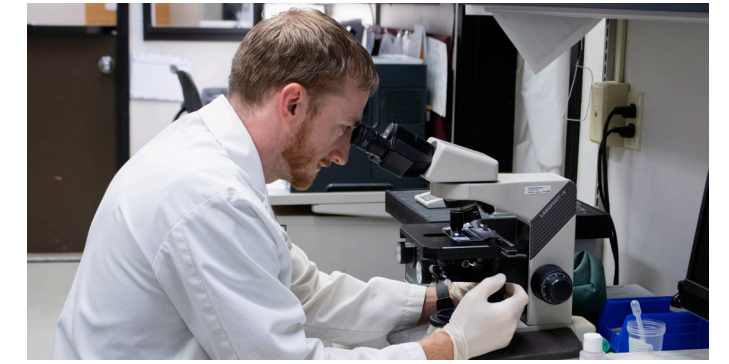
SCHD received funding to support five areas:

LINKING PEOPLE NEEDING CARE TO TREATMENT & SUPPORTING RETENTION IN TREATMENT	REDUCING THE HARMS OF SUBSTANCE USE THROUGH NALOXONE DISTRIBUTION	IDENTIFYING & ADVOCATING FOR CLINICIAN AND HEALTH SYSTEMS BEST PRACTICES	ESTABLISHING AN INFRASTRUCTURE TO MONITOR OVERDOSE PATTERNS IN THE COMMUNITY	ENHANCING DRUG AND/OR PARAPHERNALIA TESTING (PARTNERING WITH THE REGIONAL FORENSIC SCIENCE CENTER)
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# Financials

2023	Budget	Actual	Difference Budget to Actual	Percentage of Budget
Federal	\$9,980,238.89	\$4,890,225.41	\$(5,090,013.48)	55.47%
State	\$954,299.00	\$1,077,925.01	\$123,626.01	5.3%
User Fees	\$1,066,706.92	\$856,324.31	\$(210,382.61)	5.93%
Taxes	\$5,965,823.73	\$4,719,881.83	\$(1,245,941.90)	33.16%
Other	\$23,474.97	\$51,673.83	\$28,198.86	0.13%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$17,990,543.51</b>	<b>\$11,596,030.39</b>	<b>\$(6,394,513.12)</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

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%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$18,168,869.76</b>	<b>\$12,262,219.20</b>	<b>\$(5,906,650.56)</b>	<b>100.00%</b>



## CLIENT VISITS & CLIENTS SERVED

	Visits	Served
Breast & Cervical Cancer Screenings	292	284
Children's Dental Clinic	10,524	433
Family Planning	3,407	1,824
Healthy Babies	2,418	895
Immunizations & Health Screenings	11,811	8,582
Sexually Transmitted Infection Clinic	1,678	1,238
Tuberculosis Clinic	2,727	274
Women, Infants & Children (WIC)	38,079	15,992

### LAB SERVICES

15,183

In-House Tests

3,662

Tests for Other Clinics

### DISEASE INVESTIGATIONS

960

Epidemiology

529

STI Control

186

TB Control

### ANIMAL CONTROL

1,707

New Investigations

39

Animal Bite Investigations



**SEDGWICK COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

1900 E. 9th Street Wichita, KS, 67214

**MAIN CLINIC**

2716 W. Central Wichita, KS, 67203