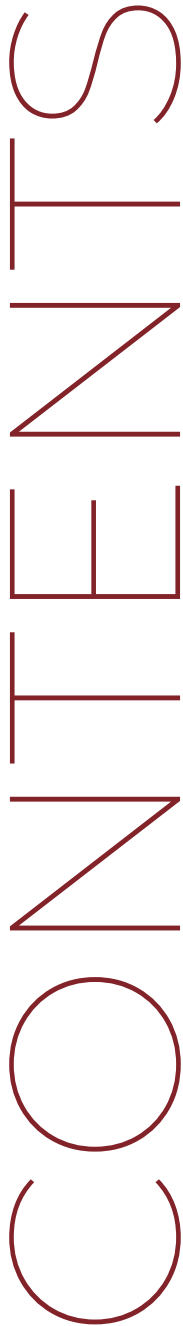


2022 ANNUAL REPORT



THE ELKHART COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT'S MISSION IS TO IMPROVE THE LIVES, HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT OF OUR COMMUNITY.

Table of Contents



01.

Board of Health

02.

Health Administrator Introduction

03.

Administration/ Financial
Report

04.

Community Health Nursing

05.

Environmental Health

06.

Health Education

07.

Healthy Beginnings

08.

Vital Records

09.

Health Officer's Conclusion

ELKHART COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

The Elkhart County Health Department has been established in accordance with Indiana Code 16-23-2-3. In compliance with those rules and regulations, the Elkhart County Board of Health was created to act as the governing body for the department.

Members:

- Paul Shetler Fast, MID, MPH - Chair
- Gordon Hughes, MD - Vice Chair
- Bill Davis, JD
- Danny Sink
- Houman Vaghefi, MS, MD, PhD
- Susan Stiffney, RN
- Mary Graber, MD

The Board of Health works in concert with the Health Officer, Health Administrator and the divisions of the Health Department to provide essential public health services to the citizens of Elkhart County.

The board's regularly scheduled meetings take place every 4th Thursday of the month at 7pm. Meetings are not held in July or November. The December meeting is on the first Thursday of the month. All meetings are open to the public.

MESSAGE FROM OUR HEALTH ADMINISTRATOR

For the Elkhart County Health Department (ECHD), 2022 led to unprecedented changes. For the first time since its inception, ECHD has a full-time Health Administrator. This means that the health officer, a physician, can focus on clinical oversight of the health department rather than doing day-to-day work. The Health Administrator can concentrate on the operational leadership of ECHD, including funding, staffing, community needs, and engagement.

We've also worked to streamline in 2022 and now only have three divisions: Clinical, Environmental, and Community Services. These three divisions will guide all the work that we do. This downsizing allows us to make clear decisions on projects, grants, and work that ECHD can do. We are also working closely with many organizations to assist with pass-through funding. More grants have become available to local health departments but are outside of our scope of practice, but meaningful partnerships make it easy to be a fiscal agent for the excellent work others are doing.

ECHD staff has been able to return to the work we love to do. ECHD's dedicated staff have continuously focused on issues like infant mortality, foodborne illness, childhood vaccines, STIs, food insecurity, clean drinking water, functioning septic systems, pediatric dental, health education and promotion, and lead testing and risk assessments. There is so much good work that ECHD employees do. We are blessed to be able to help keep our community healthy!

As a reminder, the mission of ECHD is to improve our community's lives, health, and environment. Our goals for the next few years are to improve infant and maternal mortality, mental health/brain health, and sexually transmitted infection rates. ECHD does not do this work single-handedly. Numerous partners, collaborators, and subject matter experts help guide us in our work. We appreciate all of them! Here is to a great 2022, but we look forward to what a revitalized, refocused ECHD can do for everyone in the community in 2023. Thank you for entrusting us to our work for everyone in Elkhart County.



”

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Administration

Administration is responsible for overseeing grants and the department budget. The administrative team provides vital services to all three divisions, including payroll, purchasing, invoice processing, claims, accounting and personnel support.

Administration is comprised of the Health Administrator, Health Officer, a Fiscal Manager, an administrative assistant and two bookkeepers.

Consolidated Financial Report

Unaudited

Revenue	
Fees	\$1,235,300.66
Taxes	\$2,791,712.04
Total fees	\$4,027,012.70
Expenditures	
Personal Services	\$3,061,760.00
Supplies	\$52,215.39
Other Services & Charges	\$158,573.50
Capital Outlay	\$29,775.77
Total expenses	\$3,302,324.66
Grants	\$2,552,030.04
Dental	
Revenue	
Fees	\$413,943.80
Expenditures	
Personal Services	\$267,186.76
Supplies	\$22,123.14
Other Services & Charges	\$24,205.61
Capital Outlay	\$7,776.08
Total expenses	\$321,291.59

Community Health Nursing

Community Health Nursing promotes the health of our community through assessment, prevention, surveillance, screening and treatment of communicable diseases.

01

Immunizations

The overall goal of the immunization program is to provide vaccines to both children and adults. The primary focus is on childhood vaccines given from 2 months through 18 years of age that provide protection from 16 different diseases. We continue to administer the Vaccine for Children (VFC) program which is a federally funded program that covers the cost of the vaccines for children who might not otherwise be vaccinated because of an inability to pay. We also continue to offer vaccines through the Adult Vaccine Program (317) which provides publicly funded vaccines for adults who meet the financial criteria. In March of 2022, we partnered with VaxCare, a third-party billing organization, to be able to offer vaccines to fully insured adults and children.

We continue to see clients at the Elkhart office as well as several remote sites throughout the county. In 2022, 2508 children and 266 adults were seen for routine immunizations and 3296 persons were seen for COVID-19 vaccination. A total of 9718 vaccines were given. Approximately 89% of those seen qualified for the VFC or 317 programs with 20% having Medicaid and 69% being uninsured or underinsured and 11% had private insurance.

In 2022 the immunization program has focused on improving completion rates for childhood immunization. We began a quality Improvement (QI) project in June to increase completion of the initial vaccine series for children by age two by 10 % over the next 12 months. We utilize a report available through the state immunization registry to monitor completion rates for each vaccine. ECHD Community Health Workers initiated community outreach to provide education on vaccines and assist with scheduling. We also offered extended evening hours once a week throughout the summer and fall months and partnered with Mosaic Health and Healing Arts to provide a clinic at their office one Saturday a month from July through September. We did one walk-in clinic for Goshen Community Schools at Chandler Elementary school on a Saturday in July and a walk-in clinic for Concord Schools at their administration building in September. From the 2nd to 3rd quarter each vaccine showed an increase in completion rates by 2-5%.



02

Childhood Lead Prevention

CHN provides case management to children who have had exposure to lead as outlined by Indiana Statute. The confirmed lead level to begin case management was dropped from 10 µg/dL to 5 µg/dL July 1, 2022. CHN began the year with 18 children on case management. We had 26 new confirmed cases this year and 23 home visits were completed. CHN provides free lead screening for children. In 2022 we partnered with Head Start to provide lead screening for their students and completed 90 tests. We screened an additional 108 children. There were 4236 tests performed for children younger than 7 years old living in Elkhart County in 2022.

Our goal for the lead program is to increase outreach efforts and educate healthcare providers on changes to the Indiana Lead Rule and the new requirements for testing children. We are also wanting to increase the number of screening lead tests being done in Elkhart County. We hired a full time Lead Case Manager in October.



03

Communicable Disease

Indiana's Communicable Disease Rule (410 IAC) identifies a list of reportable CDs and establishes control measures. The rule requires the local health department to ensure that these control measures, which may include reporting, monitoring and preventive procedures, are carried out. In 2022 there were 169 confirmed reportable CDs, 15,986 reported cases of COVID-19. In November there was an Ebola outbreak in Uganda and individuals traveling from that area were monitored for symptoms for 21 days. CHN provided symptom monitoring for two travelers.

04

Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI)

The goal of the STI program is to reduce the spread of sexually transmitted diseases by providing cost effective clinical services aimed at minimizing physical, social, and economic barriers by patients seeking care. CHN employs one full time and one part time Disease Intervention Specialist (DIS) to provide contact tracing and case investigation for STIs. The DIS also provide education, prevention counselling, case management and make appropriate referrals to other services as needed. There were 1367 STIs recorded in Elkhart County in 2022 and 1664 clinic visits completed.

In May of 2022 the first U.S. case of monkeypox was confirmed. August 4, 2022 the US Department of Health and Human Services declared monkeypox a public health emergency. Elkhart County had a total of 8 confirmed cases of monkeypox and provided case investigation, contact tracing and provided education. We also received Jynneos vaccine to treat close contacts and high-risk individuals, distributing 79 doses.

05

Tuberculosis (TB)

The goal of TB control is to reduce the morbidity and mortality caused by TB by preventing transmission of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* (M. tuberculosis) from persons with active (contagious) forms of the disease to uninfected persons and to prevent the progression from latent TB infection (LTBI) to TB disease. The priority of TB control is early identification of persons with active TB disease and to ensure completion of treatment through Direct Observed Therapy (DOT) which involves a CHN nurse observing the patient take their TB medication every day either in person or through a secure video link. The second priority is to identify untreated individuals who have LTBI and offer treatment. In 2022 CHN completed treatment for 6 persons with active TB and had one new active case. There were 26 cases of LTBI. 697 home visits and video DOT visits were completed. We also provide TB testing in the form of a skin test or blood draw. We provided 43 TB tests and completed 758 clinic visits. All immigrants and refugees coming to the U.S. are required to have a medical exam to rule out TB. If the pre-immigration exam has positive TB results other than active TB disease they are given a class B designation and they are to have a follow-up evaluation within 30 days of arriving in the U.S. ECHD provides that follow-up for persons arriving in Elkhart County. These exams are scheduled in the TB clinic and conducted by the Health Officer. We completed 5 immigration Class B exams in 2022.

06

Animal Bites/ Rabies Control

There were 445 animal bites report investigations completed in 2022. Sixteen animal heads were shipped to the Indiana Department of Health Laboratory for rabies testing including 5 dogs, 1 cat, 3 raccoons and 7 bats. All were negative for rabies. The State of Indiana mandates that all animal bites be reported to local health departments.

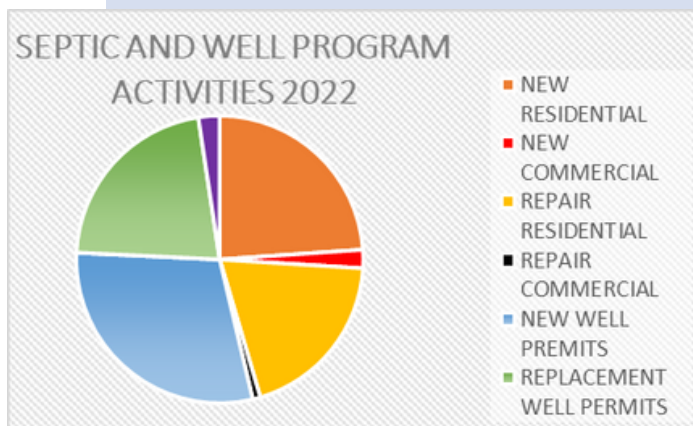
Environmental Health

Environmental Health Services programs serve to prevent disease, preserve the environment and improve the quality of life in Elkhart County through Education, Assessment, and Assurance.

01

Septic and Well

There has been a slight increase in the number of septic and well permits over the 2021 totals. New septic permits continue to outnumber the replacement permits with about a 60-40 split. The septic program addressed 32 sewage complaints and the MS4 program addressed 17 illicit discharge complaints as well as helping correct 7 failing septic systems through its cost share program. Work began in Southwest, Foraker and Tecumseh Acres to address a number of failing septic systems in those areas with the receipt of grant money and the hiring of a consultant to work on implementing a solution for the problem of numerous lots that are too small for the installation of replacement septic systems. The plans to install a collection system to send effluent to the City of Nappanee will begin construction in the spring of 2023. This is a critically needed solution to an on-going problem that has existed for several decades. We have hit the 5-year anniversary of our Private Water Well Ordinance for the installation of drinking water wells in the county. This program has been quite beneficial to the community by preventing the installation of wells into areas of contaminated ground water and ensuring that wells are not installed too close to other sources of contamination. On average we have issued about 550 well permits per year with this year being slightly below average at just under 500 permits.



02 Food Safety

The food team continues to have high demands on their evening and weekend time with temporary events that need to have temporary food services licensed and inspected. We performed over 900 licensing and re-inspections on temporary units at 231 events for the year with 203 of those events taking place over the 200 days between April 30th and mid-November. That is an average of 7 events per week. Unfortunately, this decreases available time to perform routine facility inspections. Plan reviews for new facilities continue to remain steady at about 50 per year and staff investigated over 150 complaints, many of which related to unlicensed food services being operated out of private homes. These complaints require a great amount of time and detective work to figure out who they are as most of them are reported from advertising seen on social media. The food program issued 1105 regular food service licenses for the 2022 licensing period, completed 1241 routine food facility inspections as well as 144 public swimming pool inspections.



03 Ground Water

The ground water team investigated over 85 various complaints with about a third of them being spills. The groundwater team participated in hosting 2 Hazmat Trainings in Elkhart County for qualified members of the community as well as participating in several outreach events covering different aspects of Environmental Health. They performed over 950 facility inspections under the Ground Water Protection Ordinance. Mid-way through the year we were faced with a rule change lowering the blood lead level for lead poisoned children from 10 micrograms of lead per deciliter to 5 micrograms of lead per deciliter. Although this increased the workload for environmental risk assessments with additional cases, we were able to receive some state grant money to help cover the cost. With the help of the summer vector technicians just over 18,000 adult mosquitoes and larva were collected for identification paying special attention to look for Coquillettidia, the carriers of Eastern Equine Encephalitis.



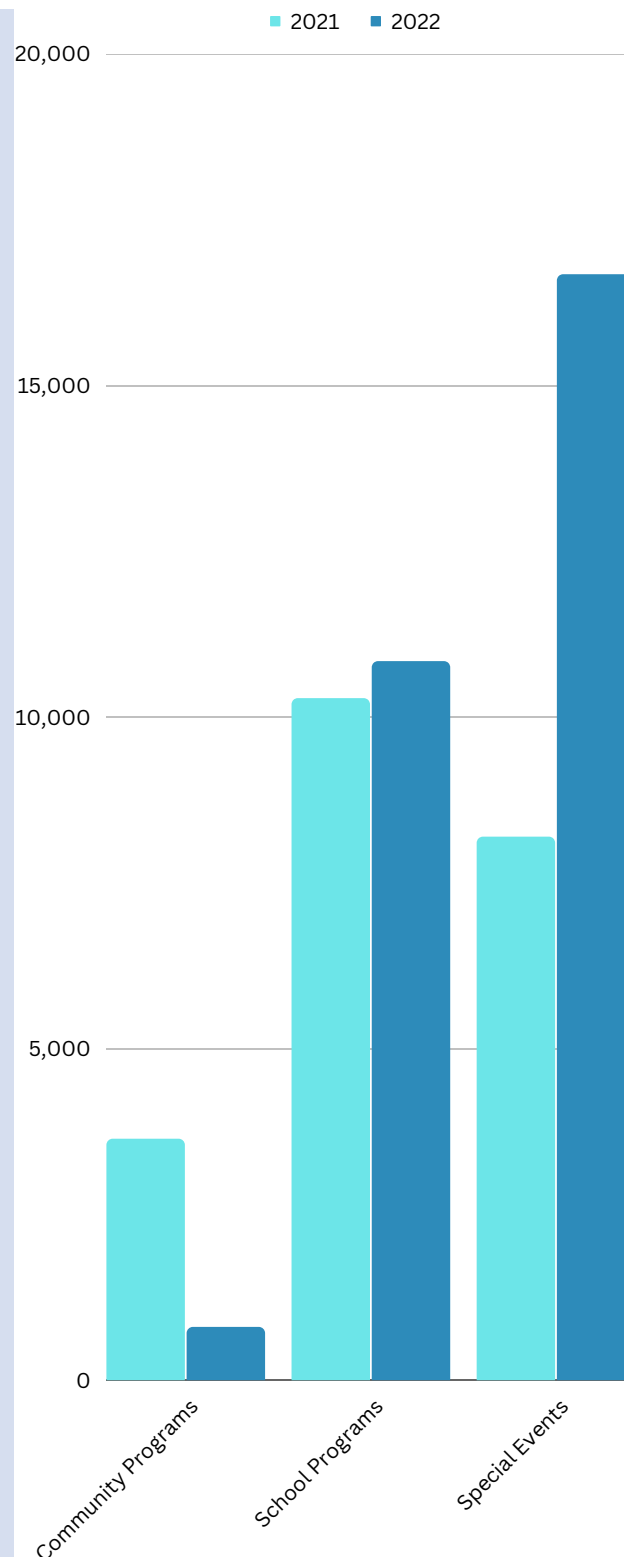
Health Education

Health Education focuses on promoting health and wellness in the community through education and engagement. The division works with schools, healthcare centers, nonprofits and citizens to teach Elkhart County residents how to reach their maximum health potential.

01

Health Promotion

The Health Promotion Team spent 2022 learning how to navigate a post-pandemic world; reengaging old partners while building new relationships. School outreach numbers remain similar to 2021 totals, with a trend towards fewer programs, but larger class sizes resulting in similar student engagement levels. A welcome shift away from virtual programs has seen the Health Promotion team largely return to in-person classroom based teaching. In 2022, Health Promoters provided 202 school programs reaching 10,839 students in all seven public school systems across the county. Community events saw a major rebound from 2021, as the county continued to open up. In 2021, Health Education attended only 34 special events across the county, by the end of 2022, that number increased to 106 events where 16,674 individuals were engaged. 2022 also saw the Department's first major Health and Resource fair thanks to Health Education on August 9th. Over 500 attendees and 31 local organizations participated in the first annual "Community Block Party."



02

Tobacco Control of Elkhart County (TCEC)

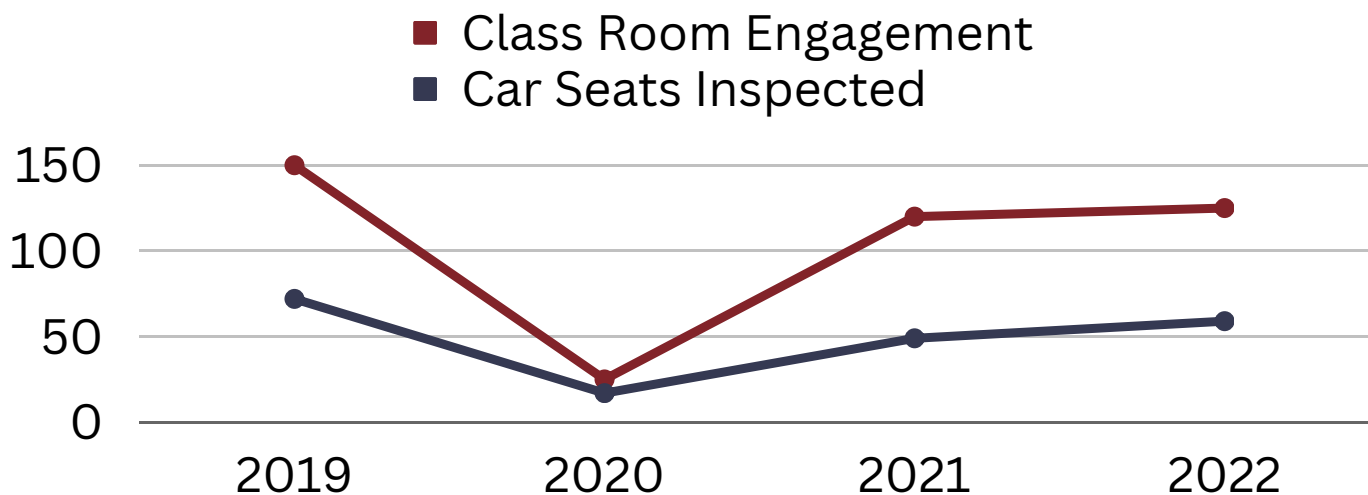
Tobacco Control of Elkhart County continues to work to reduce tobacco usage amongst our community. In 2022, TCEC increased efforts to engage youths through partnerships with school systems and increased participation in community events. TCEC also completed a Youth Tobacco Survey in 2022, an important method of collecting accurate information on tobacco usage trends in Elkhart County.



03

Safe Kids of Elkhart County (SKEC)

Safe Kids of Elkhart County's goal is to reduce accidental death and injury amongst children. SKEC was able to re-build it's presence in schools by providing Wheel and Pedestrian Safety programs to over 1,200 local students. Car Seat inspections are still well below pre-pandemic levels, but are steadily increasing as we move forward.



Healthy Beginnings

Elkhart County's Healthy Beginnings offers programs aimed at prevention, education, and early intervention to enhance the health and lives of infants, young children, and pregnant and/or breastfeeding women.

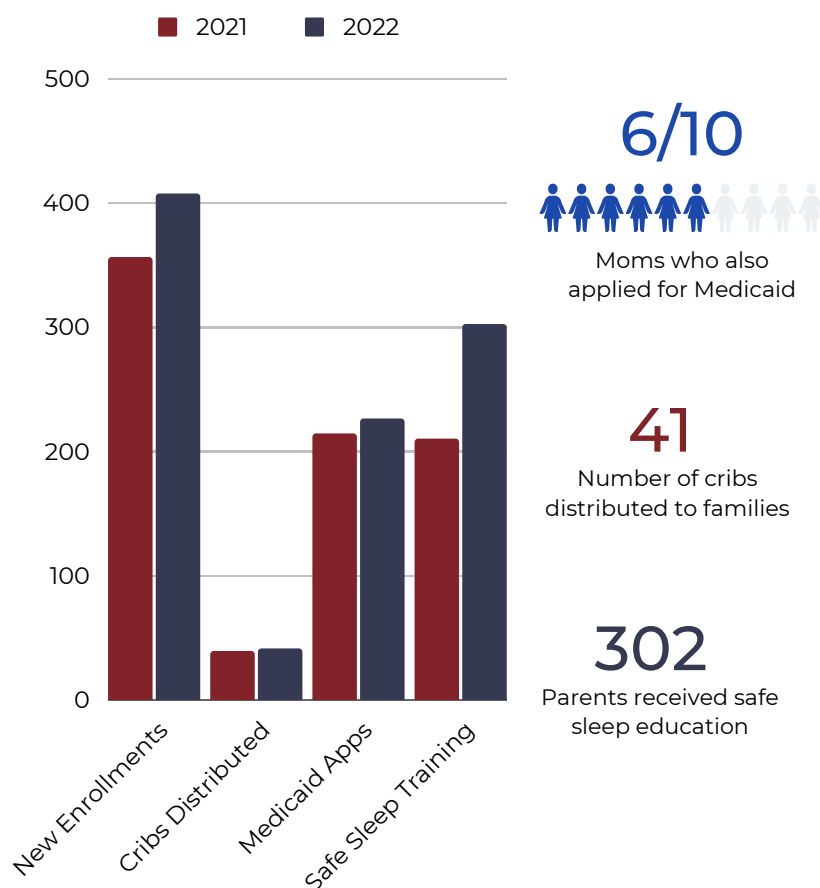
01 Healthy Babies Prenatal Care Coordination

The Healthy Babies program serves pregnant women through Prenatal Care Coordination of low-income, Medicaid eligible, high-risk moms. Many Healthy Babies clients deal with multiple issues and barriers in accessing prenatal care, and these challenges can lead to complications and poor birth outcomes for babies. Clients served by the Healthy Babies program is up 14% over 2021, with minority moms making up a large portion of these newly served people.

In addition to being a Medicaid Enrollment Center for Pregnant Women, Healthy Babies staff provide ongoing prenatal & parenting education and support throughout the pregnancy and the first months of baby's life. Our goal is to provide services to support positive outcomes for both Mom and baby.

Prenatal Care Coordination

Number of pregnant people who accessed prenatal care coordination services



New Enrollments	407
Medicaid Apps	226
Medicaid Assist Apps	93
Safe Sleep Education	302

02

Women, Infants and Children (WIC)

WIC is a supplemental nutrition program for women who are pregnant up till their child is either 6-months old or 12-months old if the child is mostly breastfeeding. Children can participate till their 5th birthday. Income eligibility and nutrition/medical risk is required to participate.

During fiscal year 2022, \$4,083,554.95 dollars were redeemed in 21 local stores and pharmacies, supporting the Elkhart County economy. WIC continued to see a slight decline in participants in 2018. We hope that this is because the economy is still in a good place. The table below shows how many women, infants and children were enrolled and participated in the program.

The total enrolled are those eligible to participate. Total participating are those that redeemed their benefits.

All Healthy Beginnings staff promotes breastfeeding as the best source of infant nutrition. Elkhart County initiation rate was 80.3% for 2022, while the State of Indiana was 72.5%.

Breastfeeding rates decline sharply after about a month.

Support for breastfeeding moms going back to work is getting better. Many employers now offer breastfeeding lounges for moms to pump during breaks and mealtimes. This support helps mom and baby bond and build a healthy immune system for the baby.



	2019	2020	2021	2022
Total Enrolled	6641	6123	6320	6399
Total Participating	5188	5407	5667	5529

03

The Robbins Dental Clinic

The Robbins Dental Clinic at Healthy Beginnings provides high-quality pediatric dental services to our community. The clinic offers routine preventative services and restorative work at cost-effective rates for the community.

In 2022, the clinic served 2168 1-16 year-olds while 3,559 services were provided. 78% of our clients are on Medicaid and 8% were self-pay using our sliding fee scale. The last 14% had private insurance. All patients must financially qualify for services at or below 220% of poverty. 86% of our clients are considered low-income at 133% of poverty or below.

No one is ever refused services for the inability to pay.



Vital Records

Vital Records works to quickly and accurately issue birth and death certificates for Elkhart County. Records are held dating back to 1882 for all births and deaths in Elkhart County. Services provided by Vital Records include Home Birth Registration, Genealogy Searches, Birth Record Notification Alterations, Amendments, Paternity Affidavits, Adoptions and Court Orders.

Vital Records works closely with funeral homes, Elkhart County Courts and the Coroner's office.

Elkhart County Vital Records 2022

Births and deaths recorded by Vital Records in Elkhart County for year 2022

Vital Records 2022													
	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	2022 YTD Total
LIVE BIRTHS													
Males	113	103	131	105	111	90	119	124	113	77	72	83	1241
Females	112	92	104	115	101	111	104	118	103	74	71	88	1193
Total Births Elkhart County	225	195	235	220	212	201	223	242	216	151	143	171	2434
LOCATION													
Hospital	204	170	208	199	186	181	203	223	193	130	134	153	2184
Birth Center	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		14	14	4	7	39
Home Delivery Planned	13	16	12	15	13	13	12	13	8	7	4	9	135
Home Delivery Not Planned	7	9	14	5	12	5	7	5	1	0	0	0	65
Home Delivery Unknown if Planned	1		1	1	1	2	1	1	0	0	1	2	11
FETAL DEATHS													
Total	3	1	2	1	3	1	1	0	0	3	7	0	22
BIRTH CERTIFICATES ISSUED													
TOTAL	550	658	974	735	671	746	853	912	574	721	656	684	8734
TOTAL DEATHS ELKHART COUNTY													
TOTAL	226	189	137	154	165	138	145	172	142	166	170	161	1826
DEATH CERTIFICATES ISSUED													
TOTAL	1062	1352	1032	981	792	899	897	815	960	856	974	861	11481
Adoptions	0	2	29	1	3	2	4	9	1	0	2	5	58
Paternity Affidavit	6	4	6	2	14	4	3	5	2	6	2	4	58
Correction by Notification	15	8	11	13	8	12	12	14	13	10	4	11	131
Affidavit of Amendment	1	3	2	4	3	1	3	0	1	2	2	2	24
Verifications	2	2	1	0	3	0	1	1	0	1	3	1	15
Copies of Paternity Affidavit	20	8	11	5	8	10	9	10	7	7	12	14	121
Non-Certified Death Certificate	12	20	15	17	6	16	9	12	15	14	14	19	169
Non-Certified Birth Certificates	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3

MEDICAL OFFICER'S CONCLUSION

As you may be aware the leadership and administrative structure of the ECHD has undergone some changes this past year. The primary administrative work of the Medical Officer has largely been entrusted to a newly empowered Health Administrator. This last year has seen the benefits of this change and some of the growing pains as well. The obvious consequences are that of a much less visible presence of the health officer but significant cost savings. This change mirrors that of many other counties administrative structure but has been a new growing experience for us in Elkhart County.

I feel it is important to highlight the many valuable services that the Health Department provides for the benefit our community. From being assured that your food being safe whether you eat at the Elkhart county fair or from your favorite local Food establishment to knowing that the water you drink or play in is safe for your family. Keeping track of mosquitos and the diseases they may transmit seems far removed from ones daily summer thoughts but can be critical to avoid many a deadly threat.

The many services we offer to new or pregnant mothers and children are often critical for a healthy start to a productive a life. The vaccination services and education programs are highly valuable to the younger members of the county.

It is my hope that when difficult decisions need to be made for the safety of the whole county that our citizens will continue to remember that the Health Department has always had their best interests in mind knowing the significant cost and difficulty some of those decisions have caused. Our aim is to be transparent, honest, and cost conscience as we seek to fulfill our mission to "Improve the Lives, Health and Environment of our community."

Richard Hostetter MD FACS
ECHD Health Officer



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Main Office

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Healthy Beginnings-Elkhart Office

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574-535-6765

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608 Oakland Ave.
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Robbins Dental Clinic

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health.elkhartcounty.com



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.