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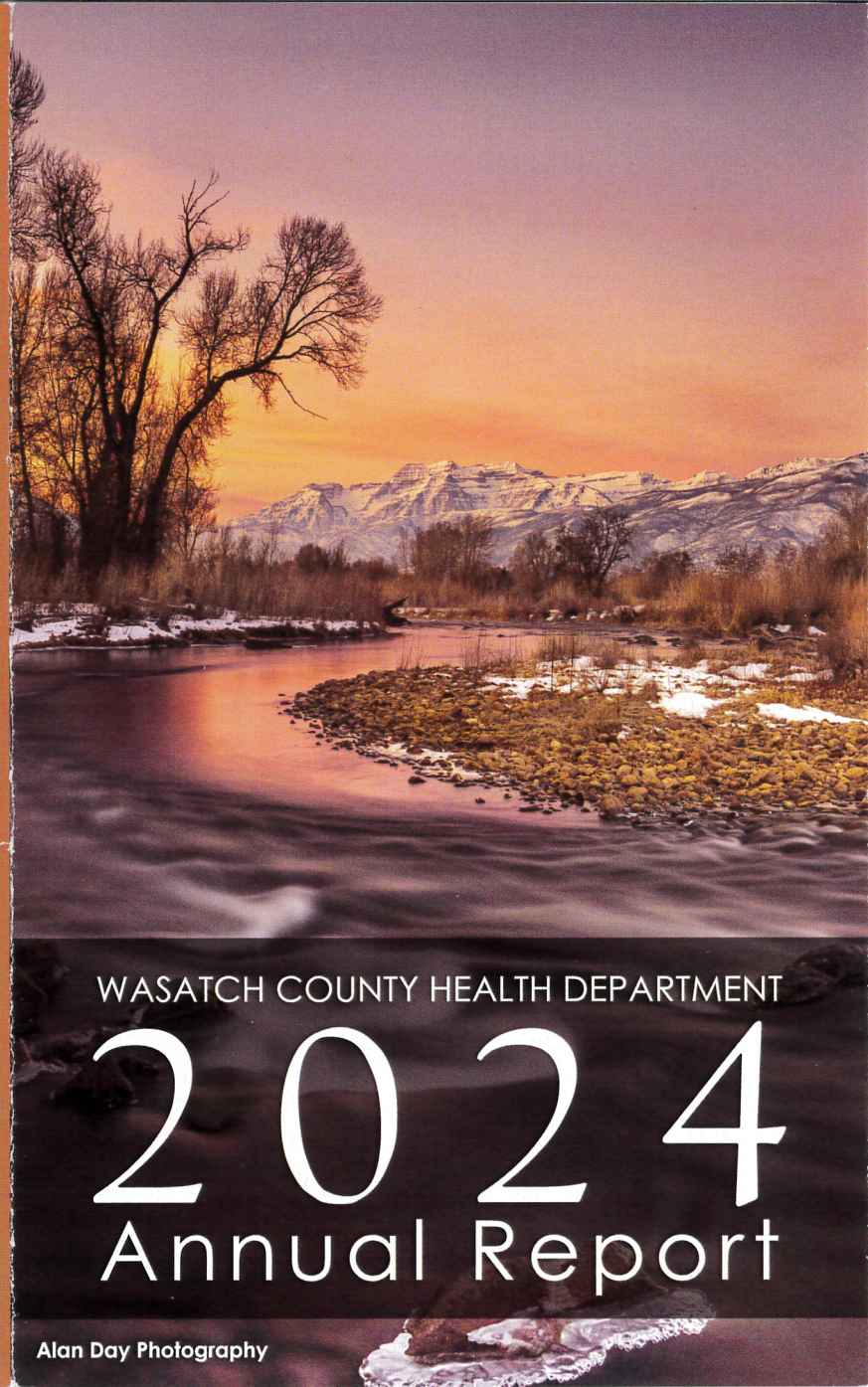


WEBSITE

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WASATCH COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

2024 Annual Report

Alan Day Photography

HEALTH OFFICER MESSAGE



Jonelle Fitzgerald
Health Officer

On behalf of the Wasatch County Health Department and Board of Health, I am pleased to present our 2024 annual report. In our effort to keep current and responsive to the ever-changing public health concerns in our community, 2024 brought new enhancements, services, and staff. The following report highlights a few of the many services and programs that occurred throughout the year. In addition, we have provided an overview of departmental budget and community health statistics.

Programs of the Wasatch County Health Department are driven by hard-working and dedicated employees who strive every day to serve the community and meet public health challenges head on. In addition to professional staff, we acknowledge and express appreciation to many volunteers, community partners, and organizations whose efforts advance our mission to promote and protect the health and well-being of individuals, families, and our community. I am thankful for an engaged and dedicated Board of Health that carefully studies and thoughtfully considers community needs. Board members are appointed by the Wasatch County Council and serve voluntarily. The board oversees planning, establishes public health policy, rules, and standards, and provides guidance and direction to enhance service delivery.

We hope you enjoy this report and find it helpful. We welcome your comments and feedback. It is truly our desire to be responsive to the needs of the community and provide exceptional public health services.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jonelle Fitzgerald".

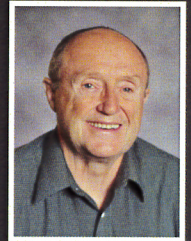
BOARD OF HEALTH

MISSION

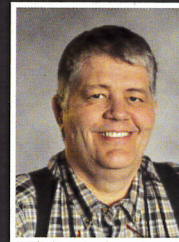
To promote and protect the health and well-being of individuals, families, and our community

VISION

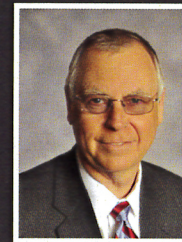
Optimal community health through collaboration in a highly integrated community health system



Neal Burton
Chair



Kendall Crittenden



Jay Eckersley



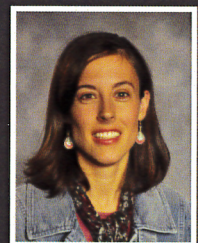
Michele Ludlow



Britt Manning



Coleen Nielsen



Sara Simonsen
Vice-Chair

PROGRAMS & SERVICES

ADMINISTRATION

- Public Policy, Budget and Finances, Public Relations
- Vital Records: Birth & Death Certificates, Marriage Certificates

EMERGENCY SERVICES

- Preparedness & Response Planning and Coordination
- Hazardous Materials Incident Response
- Volunteer Management (Medical Reserve Corps)

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

- **Permitting & Inspections:** Body Art Facilities; Food Handlers; Food Service Establishments; Liquid Waste Haulers; Mass Gathering Events; Mobile Home & RV Parks; Public Lodging Facilities; Public Swimming Pools; Public Water Systems; Schools; Septic Systems; Solid Waste Facilities; Tanning Facilities; and Used Oil Facilities
- **Air Quality Monitoring & Promotion**
- **Radon Testing & Awareness**

EPIDEMIOLOGY

- Disease Surveillance & Data Analysis
- Case Investigations & Infection Prevention

HEALTH PROMOTION

- **Chronic Disease Awareness & Prevention:** Diabetes Prevention; Senior Nutrition Program; Physical Activity Promotion Events
- **Injury Prevention:** Wasatch Safe Kids; Trail and Bike Safety; Child Passenger Safety; Suicide Prevention; Senior Fall Prevention; Zero Fatalities; Life Jacket Loaner Station
- **Substance Misuse Prevention & Control:** Naloxone Training; Safe Medication Disposal; Utah Indoor Clean Air Act; Youth Tobacco Access Regulation; Tobacco Prevention; Tobacco Cessation

CLINICAL SERVICES

- **Health Clinic:** Blood Sugar; Cholesterol; Urinalysis; BMI & Weight; Blood Pressure
- **Children's Services:** Well Child Exams; Home Visitation
- **Dental Clinic**
- **Immunizations:** Childhood and Adult Vaccines; International Travel Clinic
- **STD & TB Testing and Treatment**
- **Women's Clinic:** Breast & Cervical Cancer Screening; Family Planning & Birth Control; Lifestyle Coaching for Women 40 to 64 Years Old

WOMEN, INFANTS, & CHILDREN (WIC)

- eWIC Debit Cards for Healthy Foods
- Community and Healthcare Referrals
- Nutrition Assessment, Counseling, and Breastfeeding Support

HEALTH SNAPSHOT: HIGH

SENIOR FARMERS MARKET



The Wasatch County Health Department proudly launched our first Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program in July 2024, with the goal of supporting our community's low-income senior citizens. Through this initiative, eligible seniors received \$100 in vouchers to purchase fresh produce and honey from local farmers, enhancing their access to nutritious food.

In partnership with the Wasatch County Senior Center we successfully enrolled 91 seniors as part of this 14 week program. Each week, a diverse selection of fresh produce was delivered to the Senior Center, resulting in the distribution of over 2,880 pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables. Any remaining produce was generously donated to local food pantries, further supporting those in need within our community.

The feedback from participants and community partners has been overwhelmingly positive and we are excited to be offering the program again in 2025.

GROWING YOUTH GROUPS

Our dedicated health promotion staff has teamed up with Wasatch Behavior Health to oversee a youth advocacy club. The group is called "THRIVE" and has gained significant popularity at Wasatch High School and Middle Schools. The goal of the THRIVE club is to educate and advocate with students and the community, focusing on alcohol, tobacco, and drugs, as well as promoting mental health awareness and digital literacy. Their advocacy efforts during 2024 included developing leadership skills, meeting with legislators at the state capitol, and supporting tobacco prevention events during the Wasatch County Fair.

WIC NOW OFFERS VIRTUAL APPOINTMENTS



In 2024, the Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) updated their food

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE YEAR

benefit system to allow clients to receive assessments, education, and benefits remotely. This virtual option has reduced the number of trips clients have needed to take to come into the clinic. WIC also certified more stores to allow self-checkout with the WIC card. Clients who prefer a more private transaction have appreciated this process. WIC continues to plan and make shopping for healthy WIC foods easier.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE SURVEILLANCE

The Wasatch County Health Department completed 428 disease investigations in 2024. During these investigations 234 confirmed cases of reportable infectious disease were identified. Disease investigations are vital in protecting the health of our community and ensuring that appropriate measures are taken to control the spread of illness. Our team remains committed to identifying, tracking, and addressing public health concerns to reduce the risk of transmission and protect vulnerable populations.

This year we observed notable increases in several infectious diseases such as chlamydia, syphilis, salmonellosis, and hospitalized influenza, when compared to the 5 previous year average. COVID-19 hospitalizations and deaths decreased in 2024. These trends underscore the importance of surveillance and preventative measures to understand and address public health threats.

We would like to extend our deepest gratitude to Dr. Erick Christensen, who

serves as Medical Director and Clinical Advisor for the Wasatch County Health Department. His expertise and guidance in disease management and treatment has been invaluable to the success of our investigation team.



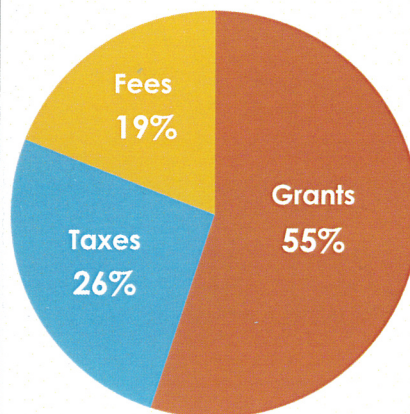
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS DEVELOPMENT & TRAINING

The Emergency Services Program aims to enhance staff preparedness and response effectiveness in public health emergencies through targeted training and skills-based exercises. A training needs assessment was conducted to evaluate staff members' knowledge, skills, and abilities. The data collected from this assessment was combined with lessons learned from real-world experiences and exercises to inform our workforce development initiatives. In June 2024, staff participated in an in-depth training focused on developing personal leadership, communication skills, teamwork, disability awareness, and practical applications of incident command.

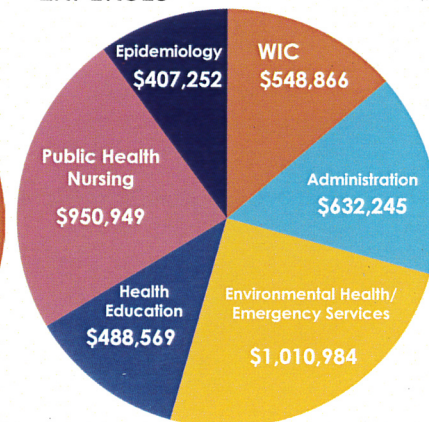
AT A GLANCE

2024 BUDGET

REVENUE



EXPENSES



TOTAL EXPENDITURES:

\$4,038,865

FEATURED STATISTICS

80.3 yrs

UT: 79.5 | US: 78.8

LIFE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH

11.2%

UT: 14.8 | US: 17.9

FAIR/POOR GENERAL HEALTH

7.5%

UT: 8.6 | US: 8.4

NO HEALTH INSURANCE

8.6%

UT: 8.9 | US: 12

ADULTS WITH DIABETES

18.1%

UT: 24.5 | US: 21.4

DEPRESSION PREVALENCE

26.2%

UT: 31.9 | US: 33.3

ADULT OBESITY

Sources: CDC BRFSS PLACES 2022; CDC NCHS USALEEP 2010-2015; US Census Bureau ACS 5-year 2019-2023