

WESTERN PLAINS PUBLIC HEALTH
(WPPH)

ANNUAL
REPORT 2025



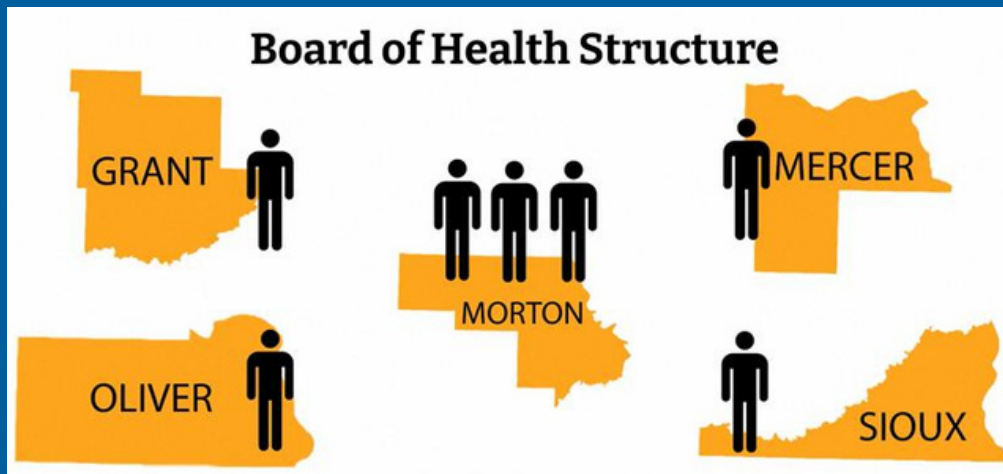


MISSION

Ensuring a healthy community through promotion, protection, and prevention.

VISION

For a healthier way of life.



Board of Health Members

- Grant County: Charles Steinkuehler
- Mercer County: Jamee Folk
- Morton County: Shila Blend, Jackie Buckley & Dan Ulmer
- Oliver County: Tom Kaspari, MD
- Sioux County: Angela Eagle

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Planned and participated in North Dakota’s inaugural statewide Public Health Conference, promoting collaboration and the sharing of best practices.
- Celebrated the 75th Anniversary of Custer Health/Western Plains Public Health, honoring a legacy of service and continued innovation.
- Launched the “Public Health Matters” podcast to expand outreach and share timely public health information.
- Delivered education to partners, stakeholders, and policymakers on key legislative and policy issues, including the septic bill, to facilitate informed decision-making.
- Completed the organization’s strategic plan, establishing priorities and a roadmap for future initiatives.
- Facilitated ongoing community engagement, communications, and education through coalition work, events, and partnerships that address local health needs.





CELEBRATING
75 Years



In 2025, Western Plains Public Health marked 75 years of service to our region. Established as Custer District Health Unit on July 13, 1950, through the collaboration of county commissioners from Morton, Mercer, Grant, and Sioux Counties (with Oliver County joining shortly after), the health district began with a small team focused on public health nursing and sanitation services.

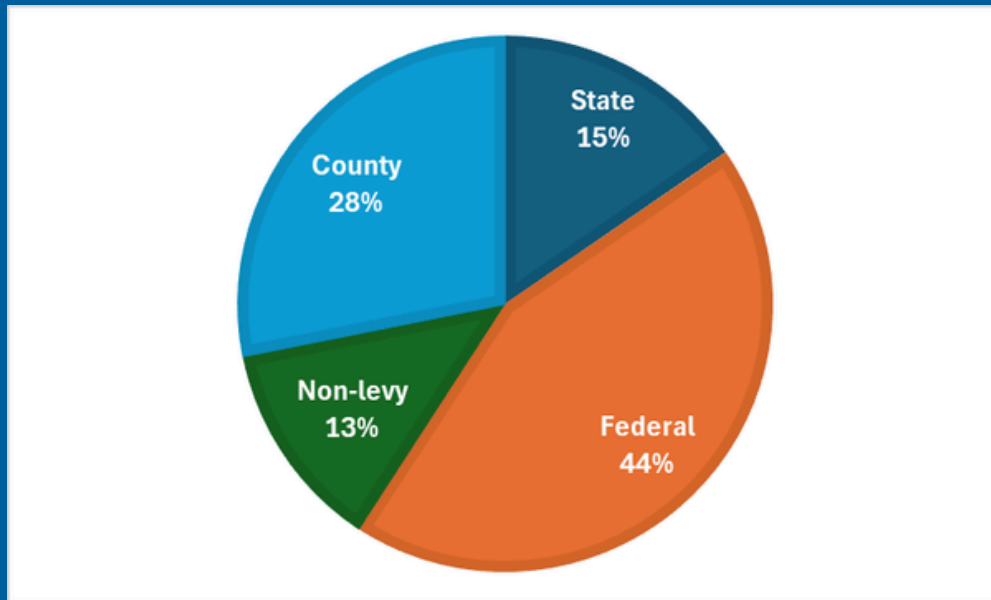
Over the past 75 years, Western Plains has grown to 27 full-time staff across four offices, with its main office remaining in Mandan. As community needs have evolved, so have the programs, partnerships, and funding sources.

To commemorate this milestone, a 75th anniversary gathering was held in July 2025, welcoming former employees for an afternoon of connection and reflection. The event highlighted the lasting impact of our workforce, the strong relationships built over decades of service, and the continued commitment of retired staff who remain engaged as volunteers. This anniversary served as a meaningful reminder of the dedication that has defined Western Plains Public Health for 75 years and continues to guide our work today.

To learn more, visit westernplainsph.org/our-story

WESTERN PLAINS PUBLIC HEALTH FUNDING

2025 Percent of Total Funding



Western Plains Public Health (WPPH) maintains a diverse and balanced funding structure that allows us to deliver essential public health services across our region. Federal funding represents 44% of our revenue and supports many of our core programs, while the county mill levy contributes 28%, reflecting strong local investment and partnership in protecting community health. State aid accounts for 15% of our budget, helping ensure alignment with statewide public health priorities. The remaining 13% comes from private grants, service fees, insurance reimbursements, and other sources, demonstrating our commitment to pursuing additional resources and maximizing sustainability. This diversified funding portfolio strengthens WPPH's ability to remain responsive, accountable, and adaptable to emerging public health needs.

MEASURING PROGRESS

PROGRAMS



Beyond Birth Education

- 459 Total Births
- 232 Program Referrals
- 7 Home Visits
- 207 Breastfeeding Referrals



- 41 Active Enrollments (annual average)
- 50 Families Served (annual average)
- 44 New Enrollments
- 795 Home Visits
- 19 Graduates



Car Seats

- 23 Seats Distributed



- 1,539 Clients Enrolled (average per quarter)
 - 103 Pregnant Women
 - 131 Breastfeeding Women
 - 92 Delivered Women
 - 846 Children
 - 368 Infants
- 2,386 Client Participation (unduplicated annual)
- 7,887 Nutrition/Breastfeeding Contacts (annual total)
- 134 Wichealth.org Users
- 595 Nutrition ONE App Users
- 73 Breastfeeding Assistance (individual mothers)
- 19 Authorized Vendors/Grocery Stores

PROGRAMS



Vision Screening

- 22 Screening Events Held
- 2,237 Students Screened
- 328 Students Referred



Foot Care

In-Home

- 123 Clients Served (average per quarter)
- 614 Visits (annual)

Senior Center

- 236 Clients Served (average per quarter)
- 960 Services (annual)



Home Visitation

- 46 Clients Served (average per quarter)
- 1,339 Visits (annual)



One Rx Program

- 72 Medication Questionnaires Completed



CPR/First Aid

- 68 People Trained - Heart Saver
- 16 People Trained - Basic Life Support

PROGRAMS



Nasal Narcan Training

- 15 Trainings
- 320 Individuals Trained (non-GNP)



Tobacco Prevention & Treatment

- 66 Enrollments (phone & online)



Women's Way

Paid Services

- 64 Screened*
- 16 New Enrolls
- 48 Re-Enrolls

Patient Navigation

- 19 Screened*
- 0 New Enrolls
- 19 Re-Enrolls

*Breast, cervical or both



Environmental Health

- Inspections (WPPH)
 - 139 Onsite Septic Systems
 - 22 Aquatic Venues
 - 6 Water Quality (wells)
 - 16 Nuisances
 - 527 Food & Beverage
 - 20 Body Art
 - 19 Lodging
 - 86 MHP/RV Park/Campground
 - 10 Tanning
- Local Health (Kidder/Emmons)
 - 29 Onsite Septic Systems
 - 3 Aquatic Venues
 - 0 Water Quality (wells)
 - 3 Nuisances

PROGRAMS



Infectious Disease Testing

- 237 Tested for HIV/HCV
 - 0 Positive HIV
 - 42 Positive HCV (rapid)
- 88 Tested for Gonorrhea/Chlamydia
 - 1 Positive Gonorrhea
 - 3 Positive Chlamydia
 - 2 CT/GC Positive (dual)
- 169 Tested for Syphilis
 - 10 Positive Syphilis



Tuberculosis (TB)

- 0 New Active TB
- 13 New Latent TB



Ryan White HIV/AIDS

- 9 Clients Served

Good Neighbor Project

- 403 Clients Seen
- 1,009 Visits
- 585 Total Enrollment
- 71 New Clients
- 8 New HCV RNA+
- 0 New HIV+
- 219 Doses of Naloxone Used for Saves
- 2,299 Fentanyl Strips Provided
- 903 Xylazine Strips Provided



Immunizations

- 2,365 Total Vaccine Administered (Pfizer added for COVID vaccines)

PROGRAMS



- 386 Pounds of Sharps Disposed (annual for Mandan & Beulah)



Maternal Child
Health (MCH)
Nutrition

- Nutrition & Physical Activity Education Provided to:
 - 952 Children
 - 258 Adults
- 34 Events



(Above) WPPH staff, provided a variety of nutrition and physical activity education in multiple communities.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

is the ongoing practice of building meaningful, trusted relationships and working alongside community partners to address health challenges, promote well-being, and achieve positive, measurable health outcomes.

Community engagement sparks action and collaboration that lead to positive changes in behaviors, environments, policies, programs, and everyday practices across communities.

WPPH focuses on building strong relationships, sharing resources, strengthening policies and processes, and delivering clear communication that educates and empowers communities.



(Above) WPPH staff participated in a number of community outreach events including the Standing Rock Community Fair in October 2025.



(Right) WPPH, in partnership with Dakota Media Access, launched the *Public Health Matters* podcast in July 2025.

To learn more: westernplainsph.org/public-health-matters-podcast

Questions? Contact us.

westernplainsph.org

ourada@westernplainsph.org

701.667.3370



Western Plains
PUBLIC HEALTH