



# 2024

## MESSAGE FROM THE HEALTH DIRECTOR

Dear Residents of West Piedmont Health District,



I am excited to share with you our inaugural West Piedmont Health District Annual Report. The purpose of this report is to provide you with an overview of our programs and services and the value-added impact these bring to our communities served by the Health District.

While much of the work of the health department does not make the headlines, I am extremely proud of our team and the steadfast and diligent approach they take as they complete their work that transforms lives. Emerging from the COVID pandemic, we have refocused our efforts back to the core work of public health: protecting against health threats, preventing disease, and promoting health and wellness. We could not accomplish this work without the unwavering support of our partner agencies and dedicated community members.

I am honored to serve as the West Piedmont District Health Director and grateful to work alongside such a wonderful group of professionals. Thank you for what you do every day to make a positive impact on our community!

*In health,*

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Penny C. Hall". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Penny C. Hall, BS, MAHS**

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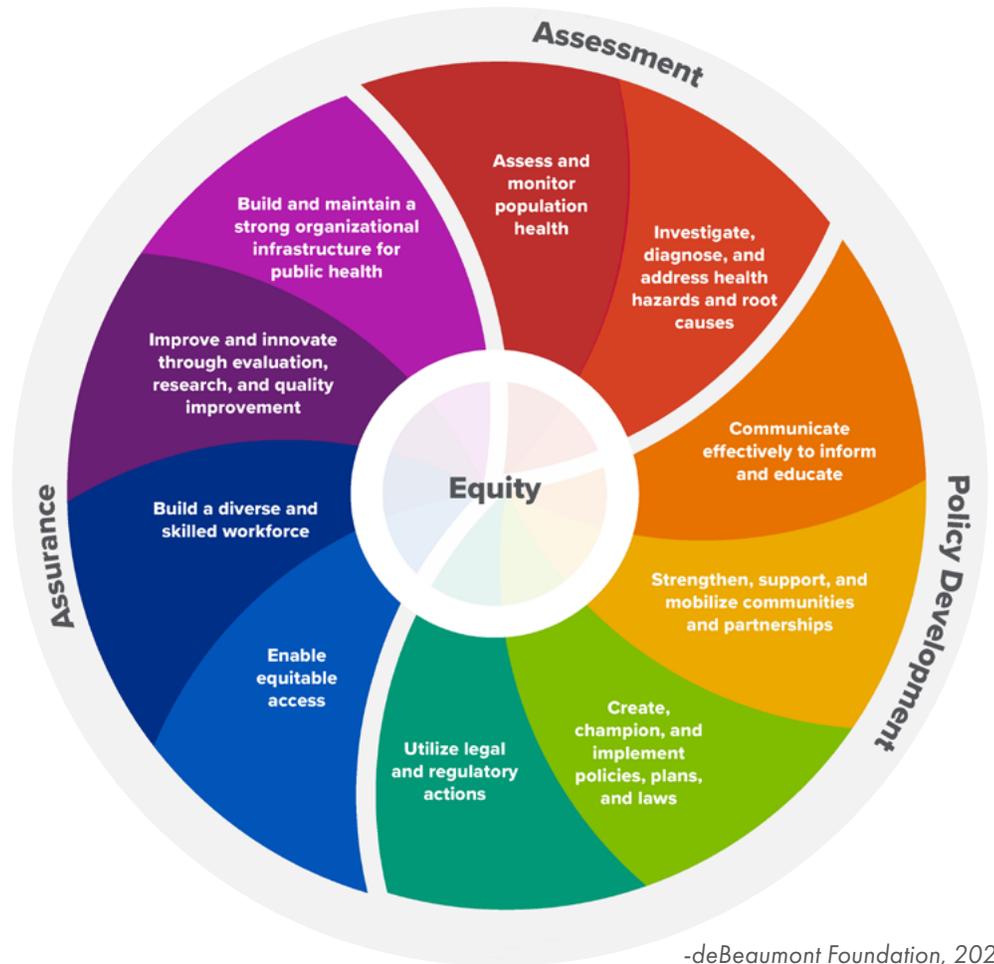
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# TEN ESSENTIAL SERVICES OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Representing one of the 35 local districts of the Virginia Department of Health (VDH), West Piedmont Health District has the shared mission to protect the health and promote the well-being of all people in Virginia. We do this by applying the framework of the 10 Essential Public Health Services, keeping equity at the center of all that we do.

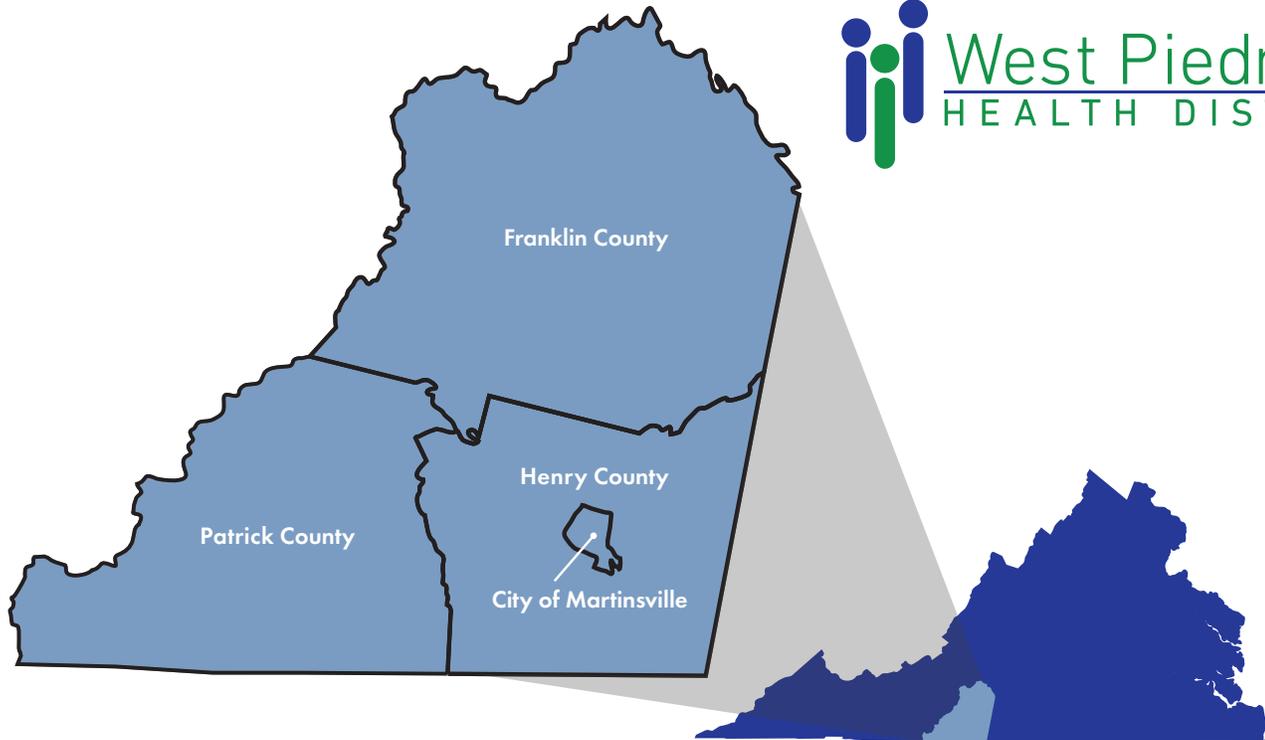
## To protect and promote the health of all people in all communities

The 10 Essential Public Health Services provide a framework for public health to protect and promote the health of all people in all communities. To achieve optimal health for all, the Essential Public Health Services actively promote policies, systems, and services that enable good health and seek to remove obstacles and systemic and structural barriers, such as poverty, racism, gender discrimination, and other forms of oppression, that have resulted in health inequities. Everyone should have a fair and just opportunity to achieve good health and well-being.



## WPHD SERVICE AREA

The Mission of the Virginia Department of Health is to protect the health and promote the well-being of all people in Virginia. The agency's vision statement is "Become the healthiest state in the nation."



## LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT CONTACT INFORMATION

### Henry/Martinsville Health Department

295 Commonwealth Boulevard  
P.O. Box 1032  
Martinsville, VA 24112

**Phone: (276) 638-2311**

**Fax: (276) 638-3537**

### Franklin County Health Department

365 Pell Ave.  
P.O. Box 249  
Rocky Mount, VA 24151

**Phone: (540) 484-0292**

**Fax: (540) 484-0314**

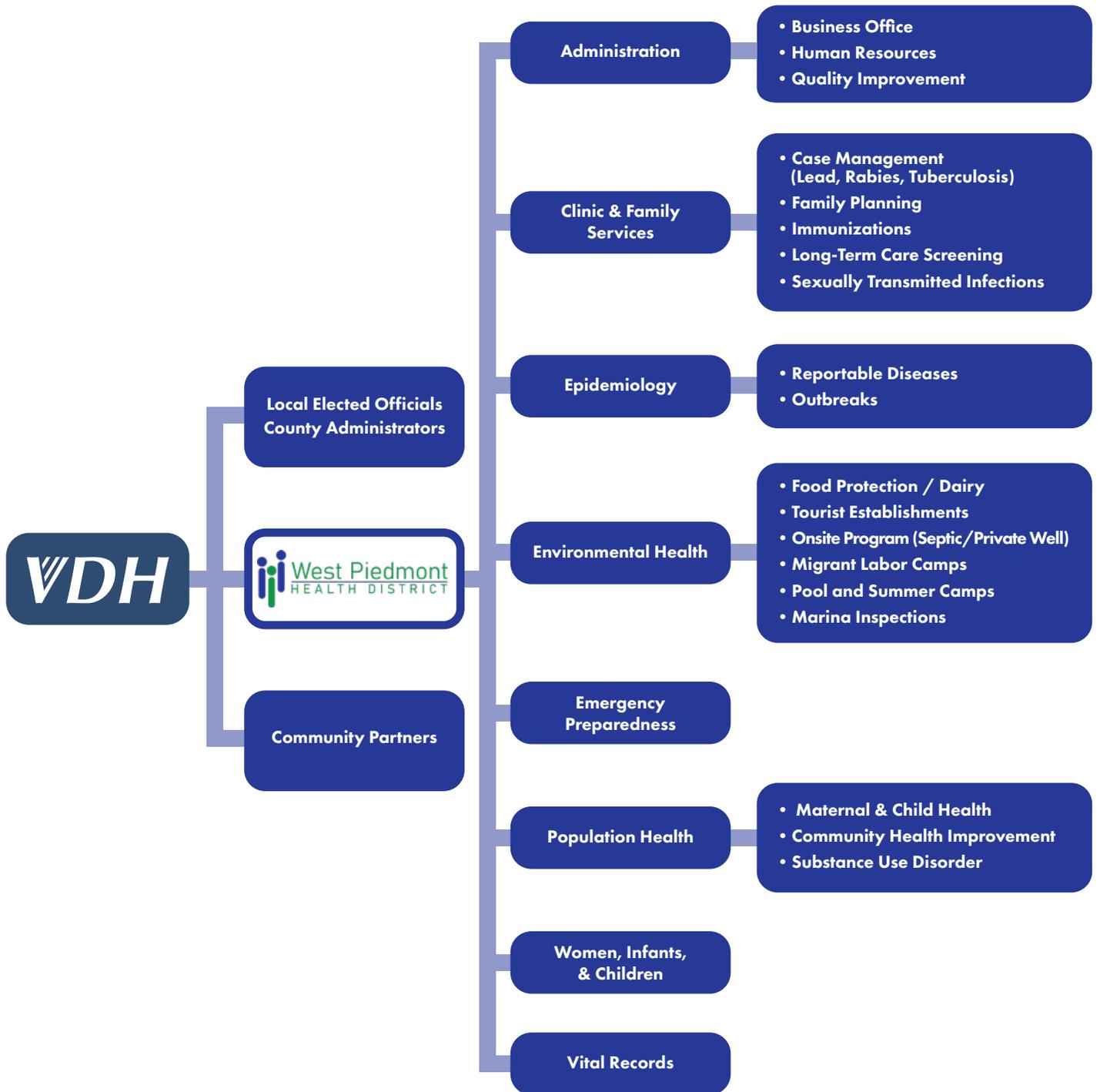
### Patrick County Health Department

106 Rucker Street  
P.O. Box 428  
Stuart, VA 24171

**Phone: (276) 693-2070**

**Fax: (276) 694-6784**

# VDH ORGANIZATION CHART



# ADMINISTRATION

The mission of the Administration Division is to provide the support and services necessary for the successful implementation of district programs and services and to provide transparency to our stakeholders.

## FINANCIAL INFORMATION

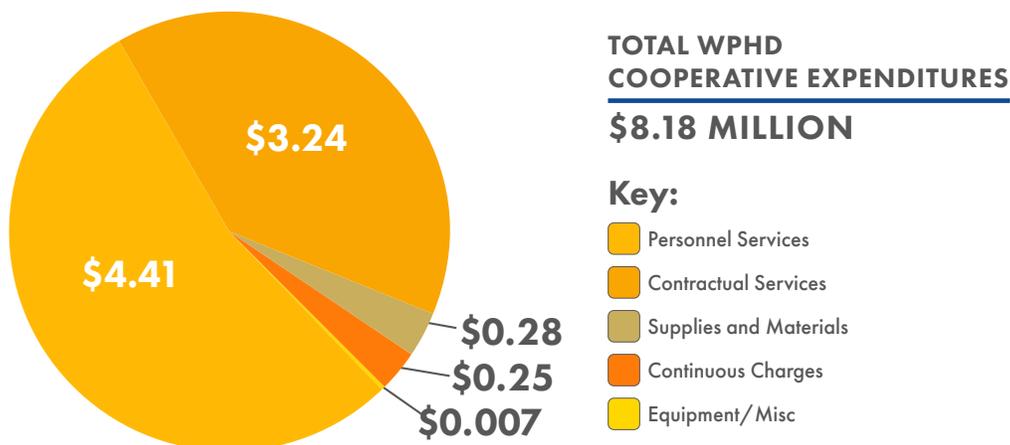
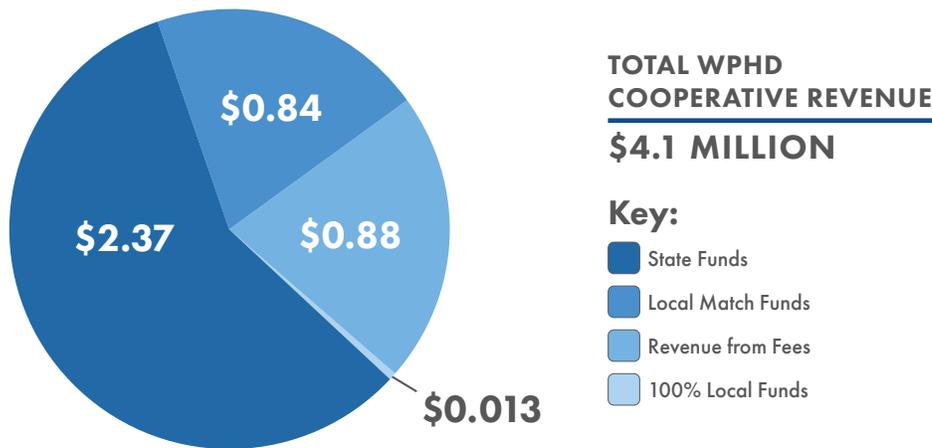
West Piedmont is funded through two main budget categories: **cooperative** and **non-cooperative**.

- The **cooperative budget** includes state general funds that are legally matched by local contributions under the Code of Virginia. It also incorporates income from fees and service-based revenue.
- The **non-cooperative budget** consists of funding from federal and various other grants.

These figures reflect allocations for the **2025 Virginia Department of Health fiscal year**, which spans from **July 2024 to June 2025**, and are presented in millions.

The West Piedmont Health District administrative team remains committed to strategically distributing scarce resources to achieve the greatest impact on public health. Their responsibilities span budget oversight, staffing strategies, and efficient resource deployment.

As the pandemic recovery progressed, federal funding tied to COVID-19 grants saw a sharp reduction—decreasing by over 50% from 2023 levels.



**GRANT DETAILS**

To support ongoing community recovery efforts in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, West Piedmont Health District effectively leveraged federal grant funding to expand local health initiatives. This included targeted investments from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), which helped strengthen community engagement and programming through the hiring of a Community Engagement Specialist. This position explored community needs assessments and connected opportunities to collaborate with external partners to bolster health related program development across the district.

On-Going/Continuous Grants	Amount
WIC	\$661,924
Immunization IAP/Pan Flu	\$65,342
Title X Family Planning	\$23,001
MCH	\$54,019
PHEP/EPI	\$229,693
Breast and Cervical Component	\$74,000
TB Outreach	\$2,020

One-time Grants:	Amount
COVID Funding	\$2,371,992
Rural Health Partner Mobilization	\$10,535
ARPA Community Engagement Specialist	\$243,000
Public Health Infrastructure	\$207,835

**TOTAL WPHD GRANT FUNDING      \$4,094,048**



# CLINIC SERVICES

The mission of the Clinical Services Division is to support disease prevention, community health, and wellness in collaboration with community partners.

## FAMILY PLANNING

The mission of the Family Planning Program is to provide quality reproductive health services to vulnerable populations regardless of ability to pay. Services provided include physical exams as well as 1:1 counseling on contraceptive methods, preconception health, general reproductive health, and prevention of sexually transmitted infections with the goal of decreasing unplanned pregnancies and improving maternal and infant outcomes. Clinical services are provided in a confidential and caring atmosphere, and in the most effective and efficient manner possible.



Family Planning	Franklin	Henry /Martinsville	Patrick	Total
<b>Clients Served</b>	51	175	25	251
<b>Encounters</b>	82	326	42	450

## IMMUNIZATIONS

The mission of the immunization program is to protect individuals from vaccine preventable diseases, decreasing illness and preventing deaths. We follow the expert guidance of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) at the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to provide vaccines to persons along the entire age continuum in our health department clinics as well as in community locations such as schools or businesses. As a Virginia Vaccines for Children (VVC) provider, our aim is to reduce barriers to immunizations. Federally and state purchased vaccines are provided at no cost to the public for those meeting eligibility requirements. Expert consultation is also available for individuals travelling internationally.



Federally and state purchased vaccines are provided at no cost to the public for those meeting eligibility requirements. Expert consultation is also available for individuals travelling internationally.

Immunizations	Franklin		Henry /Martinsville		Patrick		Total	
<b>Immunizations (Served / Encounters)</b>	420	491	1,174	1,500	237	294	1,831	2,285
<b>Immunizations Overseas Travel (Served / Encounters)</b>	8	8	5	5	5	11	18	24

**LEAD MANAGEMENT**

When a child is found to have high lead levels, our team springs into action. A public health nurse and environmental health specialist work together to manage the case, conducting home assessments to pinpoint and mitigate lead sources. Our public health nurse provides ongoing support, educating parents and caregivers on nutrition that can help reduce lead exposure, and collaborating with the child’s healthcare provider to monitor progress until lead levels return to a safe range.



**PRE-ADMISSION SCREENING**

Our program offers timely screenings for Medicaid-eligible individuals who require nursing home care or in-home services. We focus on supporting older adults, people with disabilities, and children who need long-term care or waiver services. Working closely with the Department of Social Services, our nurse and social worker team assess each client’s needs, evaluating their functional capacity - such as ability to perform daily tasks like bathing and dressing - and medical needs, like wound care, to determine Medicaid eligibility.

Pre-Nursing Home Screening	Franklin	Henry /Martinsville	Patrick	Total
Clients Served	203	412	148	763
Encounters	209	418	159	786



### SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS (STI)

Our STI program takes a proactive approach to stopping the spread of sexually transmitted infections. Through education, outreach, and clinical services, we empower individuals to take control of their health. Our clinics provide confidential counseling, testing, treatment, and partner services for those at risk or affected by STIs.

Sexually Transmitted Infections	Franklin	Henry /Martinsville	Patrick	Total
<b>Clients Served</b>	43	173	17	233
<b>Encounters</b>	46	252	27	325

### TUBERCULOSIS MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

At West Piedmont Health Department, our Tuberculosis Management program works to prevent, control, and ultimately eliminate tuberculosis in our community. We offer confidential risk assessments, screenings, and testing to identify those at risk. For individuals diagnosed with TB or latent TB infection, our team collaborates closely with their medical providers to deliver comprehensive case management, including medication support and care coordination. We also conduct contact tracing to identify individuals exposed to an active case of TB and perform Directly Observed Therapy (DOT) for active cases of TB, ensuring patients adhere to their treatment plans.

Tuberculosis Cases	Franklin	Henry /Martinsville	Patrick	Total
<b>Clients Served</b>	230	155	131	516
<b>Encounters</b>	479	243	180	902



## EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Emergency preparedness and response at a health department level involves implementing steps to protect and secure the nation's health during public health emergencies. This approach includes four phases: prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery.

### HIGHLIGHTS

The WPHD participated in or assisted in the response to:

- The statewide shelter exercise
- National Night Out – Rocky Mount
- Tornado (January '24)
- Hurricane Helene response

### WPHD EP&R ACTIVITIES FOR 2024 INCLUDED:

- West Piedmont was recognized as Project Public Health Ready (PPHR) compliant, a designation administered by the National Association of City and County Health Officials (NACCHO). In Virginia, health districts are required to participate in this comprehensive review process of emergency-preparedness and training plans every five years.
- EP&R and Point of Information staff assisted in the planning and served as presenters and evaluators for a district tabletop exercise involving a simulated hazardous materials spill on a main highway and near a school.
- EP&R staff provided direct logistical support for an outreach and vaccination large-scale mobile flu clinic last October.
- To support other agencies' occasional needs for public messaging and materials, EP&R staff supported requests for emergency resources, such as evaporative industrial fans, safety markers, and staff planning assistance.
- Following weather emergencies of 2024, EP&R staff coordinated safety messaging and outreach shared across our district for staff and other agencies.



# ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

West Piedmont Environmental Health Staff have a broad range of regulatory oversight for programs in addition to the Onsite Sewage and Food Safety programs. This data highlights our staff’s role ensuring public health across a diverse range of environmental health programs.

## FOOD SAFETY PROGRAM

The West Piedmont Health District food safety program promotes safe food handling practices through education and regulatory inspection to reduce the risk factors in food facilities that may increase the occurrence of foodborne illnesses. Our program conducts plan reviews for new and extensively modified food facilities. Environmental Health (EH) Staff inspect and permit food service establishments such as restaurants, mobile food units, and temporary food facilities. In 2024, EH also issued 138 temporary food event permits. Our EH staff also assist with food-borne illness outbreak investigations.



**Permits  
Issued**



**Inspections  
Conducted**

2024	Franklin	Henry / Martinsville	Patrick	Total
<b>Food Permits</b>	155	50	191	396
<b>Routine / Risk</b>	322	233	219	774
<b>Follow-Up</b>	23	2	27	52
<b>Complaint</b>	14	3	6	23
<b>Other</b>	26	4	17	47
<b>Totals</b>	385	242	269	896

2024	Franklin	Henry / Martinsville	Patrick	Total
<b>Food Violations</b>	708	576	667	1951



**GENERAL ENVIRONMENTAL**

In addition to the Retail Food Safety and Onsite Septic and Private Well programs, West Piedmont Environmental Health through the Code of Virginia, has regulatory oversight of several general environmental health programs such as: Grade A Milk, Marinas, Pools, Summer Camps, Hotel/Motels, and Migrant Labor Camps. Environmental Health staff provides oversight through permitting and routine inspections to maintain sanitary standards to protect public health.



Inspection Type	Franklin	Henry /Martinsville	Patrick	Total
Campground	7	15	3	25
General	11	4	24	39
Grade A Milk Plant	7*	n/a**	n/a**	7
Marina	38	n/a**	1	39
Migrant Labor Camp	9	6	1	16
Pools	9	10	4	23
Summer Camps	3	5	n/a**	8
Tourist Establishment	8	5	15	28
<b>Totals</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>171</b>

\* Does not include monthly product sampling.

\*\* Not applicable

Tourist Establishments include hotels, motels and Bed and Breakfast facilities.

Pools are only inspected when associated with a tourist establishment inspection.

General inspections are on request from the DSS, DOE, DBHDS for child and adult care centers.





### RABIES CONTROL PROGRAM

The rabies control program’s goal is to reduce the risk of rabies and its potential spread to the human population. Environmental Health staff, with the assistance of local animal control officers, investigate reports of possible exposure to rabies and tracks both human and animal victims. They also confine or observe source animals and facilitate testing when required to eliminate the possibility of rabies spread to domestic animals and humans. The observation period for these cases is typically done at home or at an animal shelter.

2024	Franklin	Henry /Martinsville	Patrick	Total
<b>Rabies Incidents</b>	186	72	138	396
<b>Human Victims</b>	192	70	148	410
<b>Animal Victims</b>	22	2	3	27

Source Animals	Franklin	Henry /Martinsville	Patrick	Total
<b>Bat<sup>1</sup></b>	3	3	7	13
<b>Domestic Animals<sup>2</sup></b>	175	66	124	365
<b>High Risk<sup>3</sup></b>	12	3	1	16
<b>Livestock</b>	2	n/a <sup>**</sup>	0	2
<b>Low Risk<sup>4</sup></b>	2	2	4	8

<sup>1</sup> Bats (scientific order Chiroptera) pose a significant risk for rabies transmission to humans.

<sup>2</sup> Domestic Animals are defined as pet dogs, cats, and ferrets.

<sup>3</sup> High Risk wildlife includes mammals such as raccoons, skunks, foxes, groundhogs and beavers.

<sup>4</sup> Low Risk Wildlife includes small rodents such as squirrels or mice and Lagomorphs(rabbits).

Definitions provided by the compendium of Animal Rabies Prevention and Control (NSAPHV)

\*\* Not applicable

### RABIES POST EXPOSURE PROGRAM

WPHD provides care coordination services for clients who are recommended to receive the rabies post exposure prophylaxis vaccination series after an exposure to a potentially rabid animal. Our nurses work with the environmental health department, emergency departments, private physicians’ offices, and insurance companies to ensure that clients receive all recommended doses of vaccine and immune globulin according to the CDC schedule.

2024	Franklin	Henry /Martinsville	Patrick	Total
<b>Rabies PE Prophylaxis</b>	15	28	7	50

**WATER & WASTEWATER**

The Private Well and Onsite Sewage program provides permitting, inspection, and regulatory oversight of private wells, onsite sewage systems, as well as sewage handlers. Onsite sewage system designs are submitted by private sector Onsite Soil Evaluator and/or Professional Engineers for Environmental Health staff to review.

2024	Franklin	Henry / Martinsville	Patrick	Total
<b>Combined Well &amp; Septic Applications</b>	146	61	43	250
<b>Combined Well &amp; Septic Permits Issued</b>	140	58	38	236
<b>Safe, Adequate, and Proper Applications</b>	45	21	34	100
<b>Safe, Adequate, and Proper Evaluations Approved</b>	38	16	28	82
<b>Septic Only Applications</b>	142	39	40	221
<b>Septic Only Permits Issued</b>	139	37	38	214
<b>Septic Repair Applications</b>	24	14	24	62
<b>Septic Repair Permits Issued</b>	24	14	24	62
<b>Well Only Applications</b>	83	38	34	155
<b>Well Only Permits Issued</b>	78	38	27	143
<b>Operation &amp; Maintenance review for AOSS</b>	238	n/a**	n/a**	238

\*\* Not applicable



# EPIDEMIOLOGY

The mission of the WPHD Epidemiology Program is to monitor and investigate reportable and emerging communicable diseases, investigate outbreaks, and provide guidance and recommendations to stop further spread of communicable diseases for the well-being of our communities.

## HIGHLIGHTS

In 2024, the Epidemiology team responded to the following priority issues:

- Investigations of invasive Group A Streptococcus (iGAS) continued to increase. In total, 20 individuals were associated with either community-acquired or facility-associated transmission of the disease. This is a 122% increase over 2023 (9 cases). No outbreaks of iGAS were reported or identified.
- We observed an increase in the number of reported cases of Pertussis (whooping cough): 4 individuals were diagnosed; this is a 300% increase over 2023 (1 case). There was one confirmed Pertussis outbreak in 2024.
- We continued to monitor an increase in reported cases of elevated lead levels in blood in residents of WPHD. Fourteen individuals with results of elevated lead levels in blood were reported, a 133% increase from 2022 (6 cases) and 17% increase over 2023 (12 cases).

## REPORTABLE DISEASES

To optimally protect the public’s health, healthcare professionals and laboratories are required to report over 70 diseases or conditions in Virginia. During 2024, the WPHD investigated over 760 reports of reportable diseases or conditions, excluding COVID-19. A complete list of reportable diseases can be found here:



Reportable Condition	Total
Anaplasma phagocytophilum infection	*
Campylobacteriosis	19
Candida auris, clinical	*
Chlamydia trachomatis	343
Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)	4,689
CPO, Clinical	*
CPO, non-Enterobacteriaceae	*
Cryptosporidiosis	*
Ehrlichia chaffeensis infection	10
Giardiasis	*
Gonorrhea	100
Haemophilus influenzae, invasive	*
Hepatitis A	*

Reportable Condition	Total
Hepatitis B, acute	*
Hepatitis B, chronic	14
Hepatitis C, acute	*
Hepatitis C, chronic	116
HIV	*
Latent TB infection	*
Latent Tuberculosis Infection (2020 TBLISS)	8
Lead, elevated levels	14
Legionellosis	*
Lyme disease	20
Mumps	*
Pertussis	*
Salmonellosis	25
Shigellosis	*

Reportable Condition	Total
Spotted Fever Rickettsiosis (including RMSF)	*
Streptococcus, Group A, invasive	20
Syphilis, early	28
Toxic-shock syndrome, streptococcal	5
Tuberculosis (2020 RVCT)	*
Varicella (Chickenpox)	*
Vibriosis, non-cholera	*
Yersiniosis	*
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,451</b>

\* Values between 1-4 are suppressed  
Data is preliminary and subject to change

## COVID-19 INVESTIGATIONS

The WPHD COVID-19 Epidemiology team investigated and managed over 4,600 cases, including 19 outbreaks.

The team continued to work with businesses, schools, childcare centers, long-term care and assisted living facilities, congregate living facilities, and other healthcare facilities to assist in investigations and provide the most-up-to-date information guidance to help reduce the number of local outbreaks and severe illnesses.

Additionally, in July 2024 our team began interviewing individuals suspected of suffering from long COVID.

Condition	Franklin	Henry /Martinsville	Patrick	Total
<b>COVID-19</b>	1,652	2,277	760	4,689

## OUTBREAKS

The WPHD Epidemiology Team investigated 24 outbreaks in the district. Includes outbreaks of 5 different etiologic agents. These outbreaks occurred in different settings including assisted living facilities, long-term care facilities, independent living/retirement homes, multi-care facilities and nursing homes.

Type of Facility	Suspected Etiologic Agent					Total Outbreaks
	Sars-CoV-2	Influenza	Pertussis	RSV	Scabies	
<b>Assisted Living</b>	6	1	0	0	0	7
<b>Community</b>	0	0	1	0	0	1
<b>Independent Living / Retirement Home</b>	2	0	0	0	0	2
<b>Multi-care (e.g., ALF/Nursing Home / Skilled Nursing)</b>	1	1	0	0	0	2
<b>Nursing Home</b>	10	0	0	1	1	12
<b>Total</b>	19	2	1	1	1	24

## A NOTE ABOUT QUALITY ASSURANCE

Quality Assurance (QA) is an ongoing comprehensive process to ensure the accuracy and integrity of reported data. The WPHD Epidemiology program reconciles and reviews all reportable disease case reports, labs, whole genome sequencing results, and outbreaks to keep our database, public-facing dashboards, and reports clean, up-to-date, and accurate.

It is the policy of the Virginia Department of Health Office of Epidemiology to not report data at a level that may be identifiable. Therefore, the exact number of confirmed cases of disease where less than 5 total cases have been identified has been removed from the tables.



# POPULATION HEALTH

The mission of the Population Health Division is to foster diverse community relationships to overcome health inequities across the district through education, outreach, community mobilization and partnerships.

## COMMUNITY HEALTH ASSESSMENT & IMPROVEMENT PLANNING

All Community Health Assessments (CHA) and Community Health Improvement Plan's (CHIP) are finalized in each locality.

- In Franklin County, the CHIP has workgroups divided by prioritized needs. Franklin County Health Department, in partnership with Carilion Clinic and Healthy Franklin County, prioritized health equity, chronic disease prevention, mental health, substance use, and interpersonal violence. Their work is to not only advocate for change but provide data and best practice solutions in their communities.
- Henry/Martinsville solution teams have worked to identify best practices and evidence-based solutions around prioritized assessment outcomes. Henry/Martinsville Health Department, working with Healthy Henry/Martinsville, emphasized maternal health disparities, access to mental health services, substance use and overdose response, transportation, and support for unhoused residents. One of those solutions included a maternal health resource directory, which has been completed and linked to the WPHD website. The full implementation plan completed this spring is available on the WPHD website.
- In Patrick County, issues and solutions have been identified but stigma is strong against some top prioritized issues like opioid use and substance use services. Patrick County, in coordination with Healthy Patrick County, developed implementation plans to address maternal and infant mortality, mental health and substance use, and access to healthcare. A consultant working with the county was also able to identify the best use of opioid settlement funding and provided recommendations to leadership in Patrick County last winter.

## COMMUNITY HEALTH ASSESSMENT

Each county has adopted a new survey instrument to better capture community needs. These surveys, reviewed by hospital systems and health districts, were simplified for clarity and administered in the field by CHWs and Virginia Tech graduate students using tablets.

This allowed for the inclusion of historically underrepresented populations. Geocoded data enabled the development of more precisely targeted interventions.

WPHD received a NACCHO Model Practice Award in Fall 2024 for our innovative survey approach.

### COMMUNITY HEALTH ASSESSMENT RESOURCES AND DATA



## TARGETED PROGRAMMING

- Following the data, there are two major needs that will have hyper focus in the next three years: maternal mortality and substance use.
- WPHD recently received OAA funding to add a full-time Harm Reduction Strategist to our contract staff. This grant funded initiative will renew at least one more time, taking us through Fall of 2026.
- West Piedmont welcomes two full-time maternal health personnel. These direct hire positions allow continuity of care for our family planning clinics, immunizations, and WIC populations served within the health department.
- Title V maternal health funding will provide care coordination for services to provide a more sustainability model for a nursing position and the maternal and child health community health workers. This position starts in Fall of 2025.

## SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER (SUD) RESPONSE

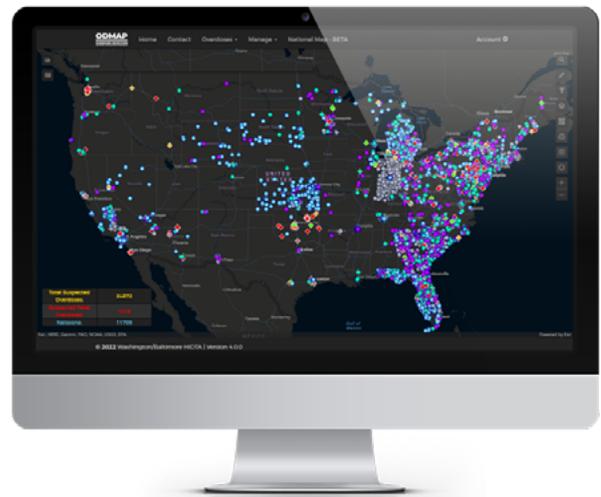
In 2024, WPHD continued to provide overdose education; to increase availability of naloxone (Narcan) and harm reduction methods to the public; and to partner with harm reduction and peer recovery programs for outreach to this population. We are active partners of local prevention coalitions such as the FRESH Coalition, the Healthy Franklin County, Piedmont Community Service Drug Free Henry Martinsville and Patrick Coalitions, VA Harm Reduction Rapid Response System.

In addition, STI testing, free flu vaccines, hygiene kits, safer use supplies, Medicaid enrollment support, and meals for community members were connected to resources through these partnerships.

The CDC reports a nearly 24% decline in drug overdose deaths in the United States for the 12 months ending in September 2024, compared to the previous year. This translates to about 87,000 drug overdose deaths from October 2023 to September 2024, down from around 114,000 the previous year.

As the lead agency in our district, WPHD provides licenses to community partners for ODMAP, Overdose Mapping system. This is monitored and reported internally to government partners.

Using the ODMAP platform, a system designed to alert agency subscribers to local trends, provide a coordinated response to alert community provider partners of increased local overdose activity. The software enables Martinsville, Henry, Patrick, and Franklin to interact in real time with drug overdose reports and provide tracking of illegal substances forecasting for our district.



## COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS

At the heart of our public health team is the Community Health Worker, a vital link between our community and the healthcare services they need. This role is all about building connections, fostering trust, and empowering individuals and families to take control of their health. By providing culturally sensitive support and guidance, our Community Health Workers help bridge gaps in care, particularly for priority populations. From promoting healthy habits and disease prevention, serving as a peer recovery specialist, and creating connections to vital resources. This role is crucial in driving positive change and improving overall well-being. Through partnerships and community engagement, we identify and address the most pressing health needs, working together to create a healthier, more vibrant community.

All our CHWs are training to be Virginia certified, some with specialist certifications in peer recovery, heart health advisors, and REVIVE educators.

## CAR SEAT PROGRAM

The Car Seat Program provides the car seats to clients and families who need help with obtaining a car seat to keep their children safe. As a state agency we provide training and give clients an opportunity to learn state laws to keep their children safe in a motor vehicle while traveling on state highways. These classes are led by a Low-Income Safety Seat instructor, and our classes are offered in both English and Spanish. They are done in person and also available online.

If you meet the following criteria, you may be eligible:

- Live in Virginia (citizenship not required)
- Custodial parent, legal guardian, or foster parent
- Child is seven years old or younger
- Pregnant mother must be in last trimester of pregnancy
- Income eligible for WIC, SNAP, Medicaid, TANF, or FAMIS
- Available to attend a training either online or in person, to learn how to correctly use and install a safety seat and booster seat.



# VITAL RECORDS

The mission of the WPHD Vital Records program is to assure access to essential documents, including birth, death, marriage and divorce certificates.

## 2024 VITAL RECORDS REQUESTS BY SITE

Applications for vital records such as birth, death, marriage, and divorce certificates can be obtained at all district offices Henry/ Martinsville, Patrick County and Franklin County between 8am - 4 pm. for an event that occurred in the state of Virginia only.

2024 Record Requests	Franklin	Patrick	Henry	Martinsville	Total
Birth Certificates	292	73	370	343	1,078
Death Certificates	698	301	830	639	2,468
Death Verifications	6	2	21	10	39
Marriage Licenses	8	6	16	9	39
Divorce Certificates	3	1	1	0	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>1007</b>	<b>383</b>	<b>1238</b>	<b>1001</b>	<b>3,628</b>

### IN PERSON

- Please bring a valid ID. The fees for these vital records requests are \$12.00 per copy to print or \$12.00 for a search of a record.

### ONLINE

- Online applications are accepted through the VDH website at <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/vital-records/>

### BY MAIL

- Print a vital record application at home and mail it to: Division of Vital Records, PO Box 1000, Richmond, VA 23218-1000.
- Enclose a check or money order for \$12.00 for each requested copy with a copy of valid ID.

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT REQUESTS

FOIA requests: The Virginia Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), located § 2.2-3700 et. seq. of the Code of Virginia, guarantees citizens of the Commonwealth and representatives of the media access to public records held by public bodies, public officials, and public employees. A public record is any writing or recording -- regardless of whether it is a paper record, an electronic file, an audio or video recording, or any other format -- that is prepared or owned by, or in the possession of a public body or its officers, employees or agents in the transaction of public business. All public records are presumed to be open, and may only be withheld if a specific, statutory exemption applies.

All FOIA Request may be made through our preferred method at:

<https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/commissioner/administration/freedom-of-information-act/>

When making a request it is helpful to submit all information you have about your request.

We have 5 business days starting the next business day to return your request. We will send you an email with an invoice and how to pay your invoice once we have found your FOIA information. Our office may reach out to you with any questions regarding your request as well if needed.

# WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN (WIC) PROGRAM

The mission of the WPHD Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) is to improve the health of low income pregnant, post-partum, or breastfeeding women, as well as infants and children under the age of 5, through better nutrition and access to health care.

## WIC INFORMATION

Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) - Helps mothers and young children stay healthy and maintain a nutritious diet. The WIC program serves eligible women who are breastfeeding, pregnant, or have just given birth, as well as infants less than one year old and children less than five years old. WIC provides nutrition education, private and group consultations with a nutrition expert, free nutrition assessments, support and help with breastfeeding, referrals to other medical and health care services, and access to healthy foods. The WIC Program serves approximately 150,000 participants in Virginia through local health departments and satellite sites.



**1,881**

**Average district WIC  
Monthly Enrollment 2024**



