



ROANOKE CITY  
and ALLEGHANY  
HEALTH DISTRICTS



**VDH** VIRGINIA  
DEPARTMENT  
OF HEALTH

**ANNUAL  
REPORT**

**2023**

## MESSAGE FROM THE HEALTH DIRECTOR

**Dear Residents of the Roanoke City and Alleghany Health Districts,**

The goal for the 2023 Roanoke City and Alleghany Health Districts' (RCAHD) Annual Report is to provide community members with an overview of our programs and services as we continually strive to improve how we protect the health of all residents of the districts we serve.

As we emerged from the throes of the long-lasting COVID pandemic, in 2023 we refocused our efforts on assessing the community's health and refining how we work with our community partners to improve the health of our districts' residents. Because we believe that that we can do our best work when we are informed by the community, we prioritized engagement activities this past year. To that end:

- In early 2023, anchored by our 2022 Annual Report, we met with county administrators and city managers across the jurisdictions we serve to review their community's health profiles and discuss shared priorities.
- In the summer of 2023, we began a partnership with Virginia Tech's Institute for Policy and Governance to improve community engagement to create and implement more impactful programming, informed by those we serve.
- Throughout the fall of 2023, we worked closely with the Live Well Alleghany Highlands team as well as with Healthy Roanoke Valley and Carilion Clinic teams to kick off their latest Community Health Assessment processes to gather input about health priorities directly from community members.

I am thankful for dedicated RCAHD employees who continue to come to work every day, ready to promote health and to prevent disease. From our clinical team members who provide a wide range of services such as family planning, immunizations, home visits, and tuberculosis management; to our emergency preparedness team who anticipates and plans for threats to our health; to our environmental health team who ensures the safety of our water supply through the onsite (septic and well) program and the safety of our food establishments, hotels, pools, and more; to our epidemiology team who investigates every case of reportable communicable diseases in our districts; to our family services team and WIC team who promote and protect our children's health with Early Intervention services, the car seat program, nutritional services and more; to our population health team who actively link people to much needed services in the community; to our vital statistics team who provides the public with essential documents, each of us works with community partners to improve the health of our community.

*In health,*



**Cynthia B. Morrow, MD, MPH**

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**Editor:** Christie Wills

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**Photos:** Christie Wills, Adobe Stock Photos



# THE 10 ESSENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

Representing two of the 35 local districts of the Virginia Department of Health (VDH), RCAHD 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.

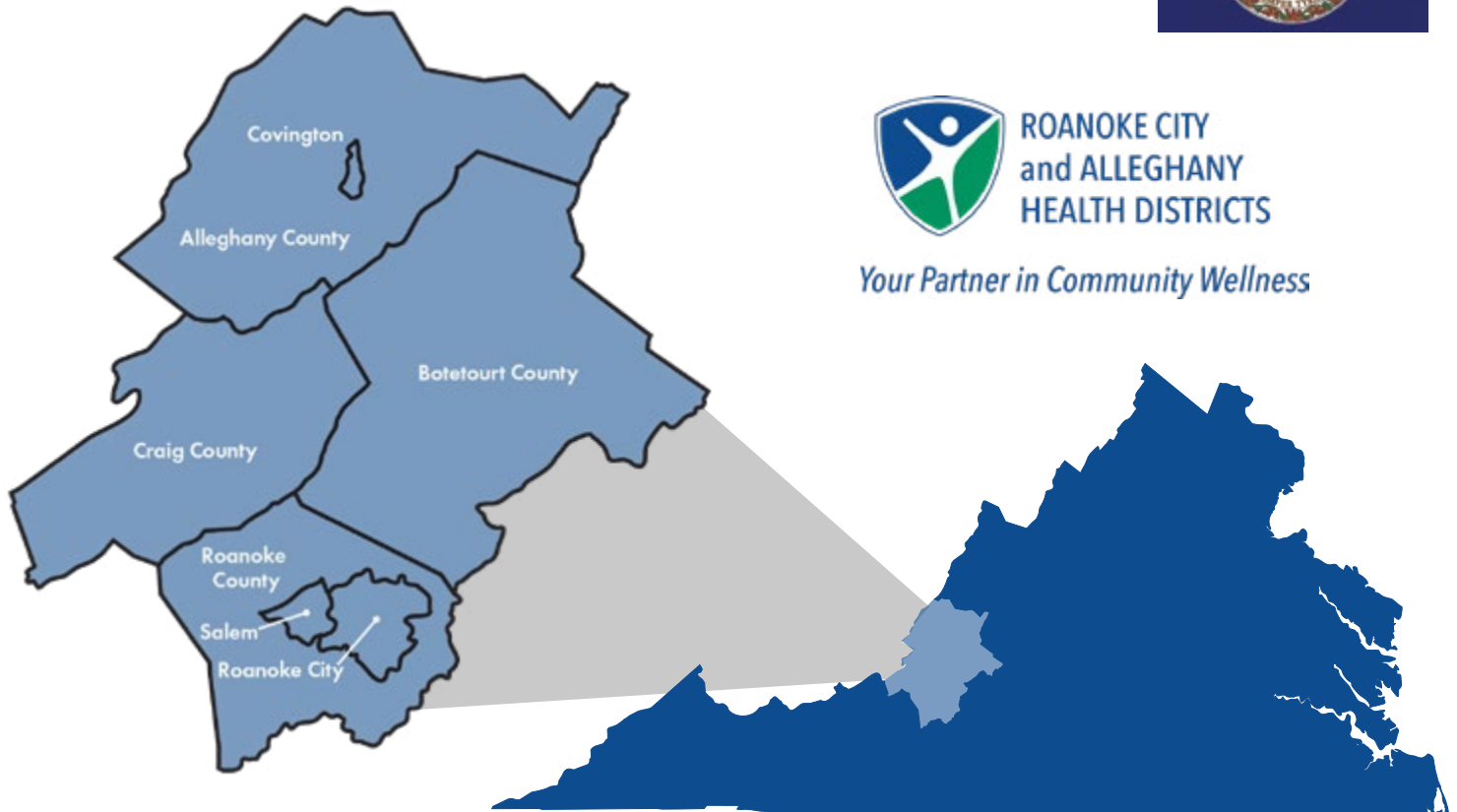
## To protect and promote the health of all people in all communities

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.



## RCAHD 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."



**ROANOKE CITY  
and ALLEGHANY  
HEALTH DISTRICTS**

*Your Partner in Community Wellness*

### LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT CONTACT INFORMATION

#### **Alleghany County / Clifton Forge**

322 Jefferson Street • Clifton Forge, VA 24422  
**(540) 962-2173**

#### **Alleghany County / Covington**

321 East Beech Street • Covington, VA 24426  
**(540) 962-2173**

#### **Botetourt County**

21 Academy Street • Fincastle, VA 24090  
**(540) 666-4275**

#### **Craig County**

161 Main Street • New Castle, VA 24121  
**(540) 864-5136**

#### **Roanoke City**

1502 Williamson Road • Roanoke, VA 24012  
**(540) 283-5050**

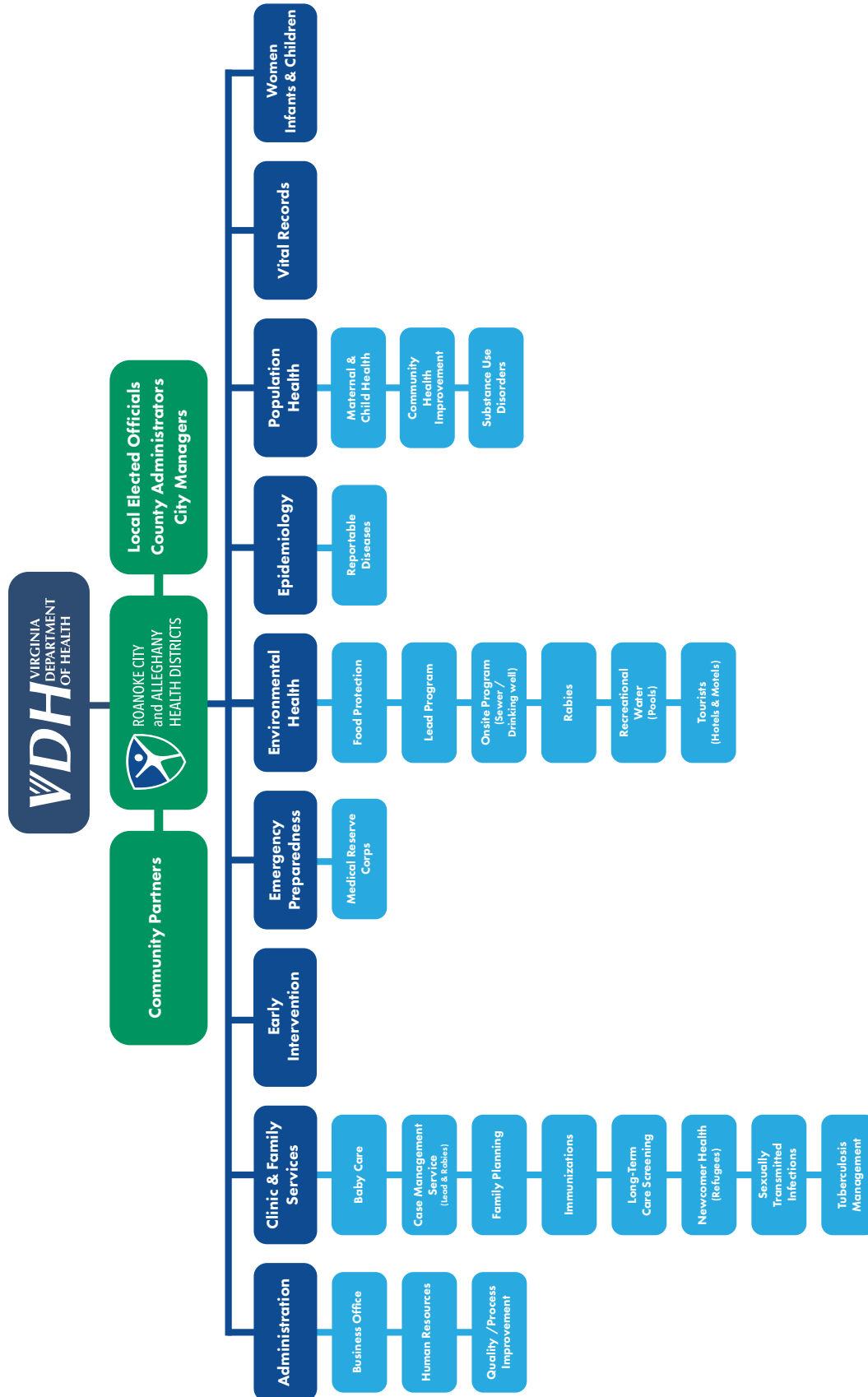
#### **Roanoke County**

227 South Pollard Street • Vinton, VA 24179  
**(540) 857-7800**

#### **Salem**

105 East Calhoun Street • Salem, VA 24153  
**(540) 387-5530**

# 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.

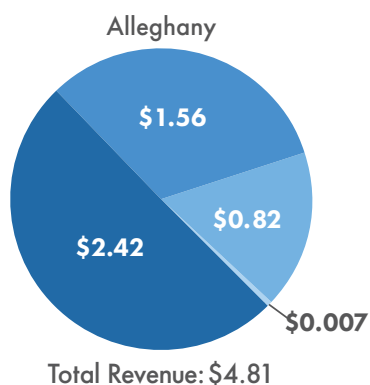
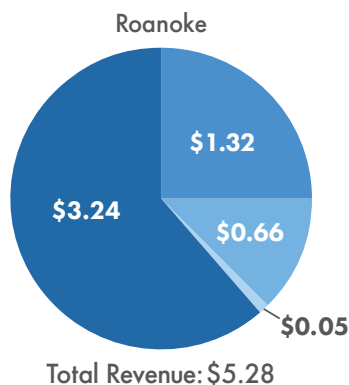
### HIGHLIGHTS

- In 2023, RCHAD's leadership team created "State of the Locality's Health" presentations for the city managers and county administrators of the jurisdictions we serve. The presentations described both the top health concerns facing the jurisdictions and the RCAHD services and programs that address those concerns.
- In partnership with Virginia Tech's Institute for Policy and Governance, and with financial support from the American Rescue Plan Act (APRA) funding, RCAHD embarked on strategic planning to improve community engagement.
- RCAHD continued to receive and administer federal grants to improve public health infrastructure and community recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

### FINANCIAL INFORMATION

RCAHD receives funding through a variety of sources divided into the "cooperative budget" and the "non-cooperative budget." The cooperative budget includes state general funds that are matched by local funds as mandated by the Code of Virginia, as well as revenue from other sources such as services and fees. The non-cooperative budget includes federal and other grants. (The 2023 VDH fiscal year is from June 2022-June 2023. Amounts listed in millions.)

#### RCAHD COOPERATIVE REVENUE

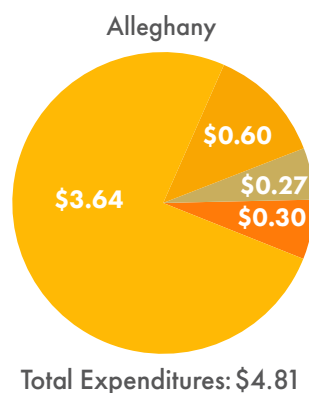
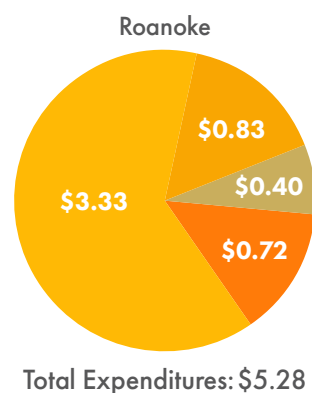


#### TOTAL RCAHD COOPERATIVE BUDGET \$10.1 MILLION

##### Key:

- State Funds
- Local Match Funds
- Revenue from Fees
- 100% Local Funds

#### RCAHD COOPERATIVE EXPENDITURES



#### TOTAL RCAHD COOPERATIVE EXPENDITURES \$10.1 MILLION

##### Key:

- Personnel Services
- Contractual Services
- Supplies and Materials
- Continuous Charges



## FEDERAL GRANT DETAILS

RCAHD continued to implement federal grant funding to assist with increased community recovery following the COVID-19 pandemic. Federal grants included American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds for community engagement and workforce development.

One-Time Grants	Roanoke	Alleghany	Total
<b>Public Health Workforce</b>	\$129,600	\$387,406	\$517,006
<b>COVID-19 (all related grants)</b>	\$1,257,292	\$2,683,775	\$3,941,067
<b>Epidemiology Laboratory Capacity</b>	\$2,516,559	\$2,478,495	\$4,995,054
<b>ARPA Community Engagement Specialist &amp; Goals</b>	\$512,338	\$550,147	\$1,062,485
<b>ARPA Community Health Epidemiologists</b>	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$120,000
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	\$45,474	\$3,000	\$48,474
<b>Total</b>	\$4,521,263	\$6,162,823	\$10,684,086

Ongoing Grants	Roanoke	Alleghany	Total
<b>Early Intervention</b>	\$729,469	N/A	\$729,469
<b>Emergency Preparedness</b>	\$104,800	\$109,109	\$213,909
<b>Family Planning</b>	\$53,765	\$37,991	\$91,756
<b>Immunization</b>	\$61,006	\$65,342	\$126,348
<b>Maternal &amp; Child Health</b>	\$39,201	\$32,353	\$71,554
<b>STI / HIV (all related grants)</b>	\$380,082	\$251,328	\$631,410
<b>WIC (all related grants)</b>	\$886,948	\$535,577	\$1,422,525
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$14,000
<b>Total</b>	\$2,262,271	\$1,038,700	\$3,300,971





## CLINIC & FAMILY SERVICES

The mission of the Clinic & Family Services Division is to provide services to support health promotion, disease prevention, and community health and wellness across the entire lifespan through collaboration with community partners.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- RCAHD staff worked with numerous community partners to address increases in reported cases of communicable diseases, particularly tuberculosis and syphilis.
- During 2023, staff improved lead and rabies case management workflows and increased outreach for mobile STI testing with community partners.

### BABY CARE SERVICES

The Baby Care program improves pregnancy and birth outcomes by providing home visits from registered nurses to high-risk pregnant women and infants up to 24 months of age. With community partner providers such as CHIP and Healthy Families Roanoke, the program provides intensive case management, coordination of care, and education about prenatal care, birthing and parenting.

2023	Alleghany	Botetourt	Craig	Roanoke City	Roanoke County	Salem	Total
<b>Baby Care Visits</b>	299	264	27	0	35	2	627

### FAMILY PLANNING

The Family Planning program provides individuals with knowledge about and access to methods of birth control to empower them to improve pregnancy outcomes and decrease unintended pregnancies. A broad range of effective family planning birth control methods and services are available, including contraception, physical exams, infertility education, counseling, and family planning education for adults and teens.

2023	Alleghany/ Covington	Botetourt	Craig	Roanoke City	Roanoke County	Salem	Total
<b>Family Planning Visits</b>	400	79	56	1610	156	257	2558

### IMMUNIZATIONS

The Immunization program reduces the morbidity and mortality associated with vaccine-preventable diseases. Vaccines are provided to adults and children following the guidelines set forth by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention). On-site and off-site immunization clinics provide vaccination opportunities for flu, pneumonia, tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis, and all other adult and childhood vaccines.

2023	Alleghany/ Covington	Botetourt	Craig	Roanoke City	Roanoke County	Salem	Total
<b>Office Visit Immunizations</b>	750	681	339	4121	945	1424	8260

**LEAD CASE MANAGEMENT**

When a child is diagnosed with an elevated blood lead level, a public health nurse and an environmental health specialist respond to provide case management and, when indicated, a home assessment for the family. The goal is to identify and control the source of lead in the environment. Ongoing case management is provided by a public health nurse to educate the child's parents or caregivers on the child's nutritional needs and work with the child's healthcare provider to monitor blood lead levels until they reach an acceptable range.

2023	Alleghany	Botetourt	Craig	Roanoke City	Roanoke County	Salem	Total
<b>Lead Cases</b>	13	3	5	83	4	15	123

**LONG-TERM CARE PRE-ADMISSION SCREENINGS:**

This program provides a timely screening assessment for Medicaid or Medicaid-eligible clients needing nursing home placement or services in the home or community. Screenings are targeted to older adults, people with disabilities, and children needing a long-term placement waiver or home-based care. In partnership with the Department of Social Services, a nurse and social worker determine whether clients meet Medicaid's eligibility criteria for either 1- functional capacity: the degree of assistance needed to complete activities of daily living (bathing, toileting, dressing) or 2- medical or nursing need (wound care).

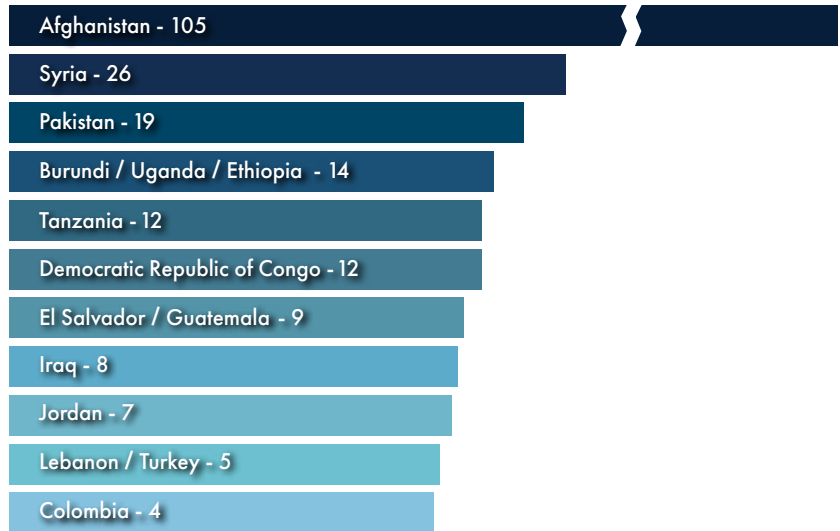
2023	Alleghany	Botetourt	Craig	Roanoke City	Roanoke County	Salem	Total
<b>Pre-Admission Screenings</b>	100	62	18	408	206	91	885



## NEWCOMER HEALTH PROGRAM

The Newcomer Health program provides select clinical services for newcomers who are sponsored by Commonwealth Catholic Charities (CCC), a local refugee resettlement agency. Within 45 days of arrival in the United States, newcomers who come through CCC receive all necessary immunizations, general health and mental health screenings, and any indicated referrals. The RCAHD clinical team also provides family planning services and encourages families to establish a local medical home.

### Number of Clients by Country of Origin



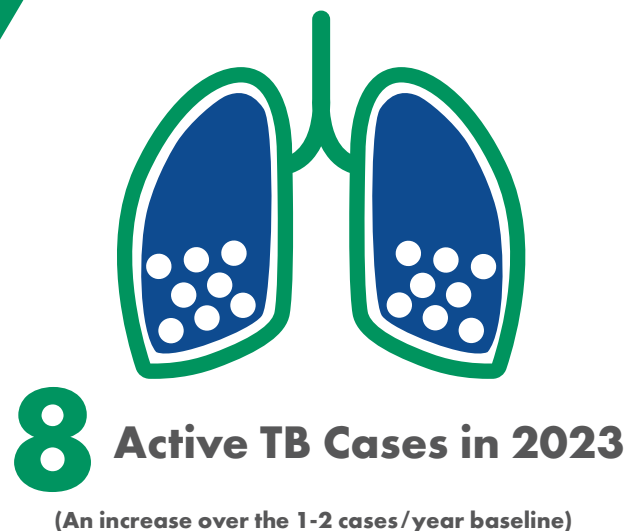
## SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS (STI)

The Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) program aims to prevent the spread of STIs through education, outreach and clinical services. STI clinics offer counseling, testing, treatment, and partner referral services for patients at risk of or currently experiencing STIs. In 2023, efforts with community partners led to increased opportunities for mobile STI testing in targeted areas.

2023	Alleghany/ Covington	Botetourt	Craig	Roanoke City	Roanoke County	Salem	Total
<b>STI Visits</b>	72	19	0	1069	95	64	1319

## TUBERCULOSIS (TB) MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

The Tuberculosis (TB) Management program aims to prevent, control and eliminate tuberculosis in the community. The program offers confidential TB risk assessment screenings and testing. The TB team collaborates with the medical provider of individuals diagnosed with TB or a latent TB infection to provide case management, including the provision of medication and care coordination. The team also assists with the identification and testing of contacts for individuals with active TB, provides transportation for appointments and home visits to deliver medication to perform Directly Observed Therapy (DOT).



2023	Alleghany/ Covington	Botetourt	Craig	Roanoke City	Roanoke County	Salem	Total
<b>Tuberculosis Services Rendered</b>	234	111	20	1193	164	87	1809

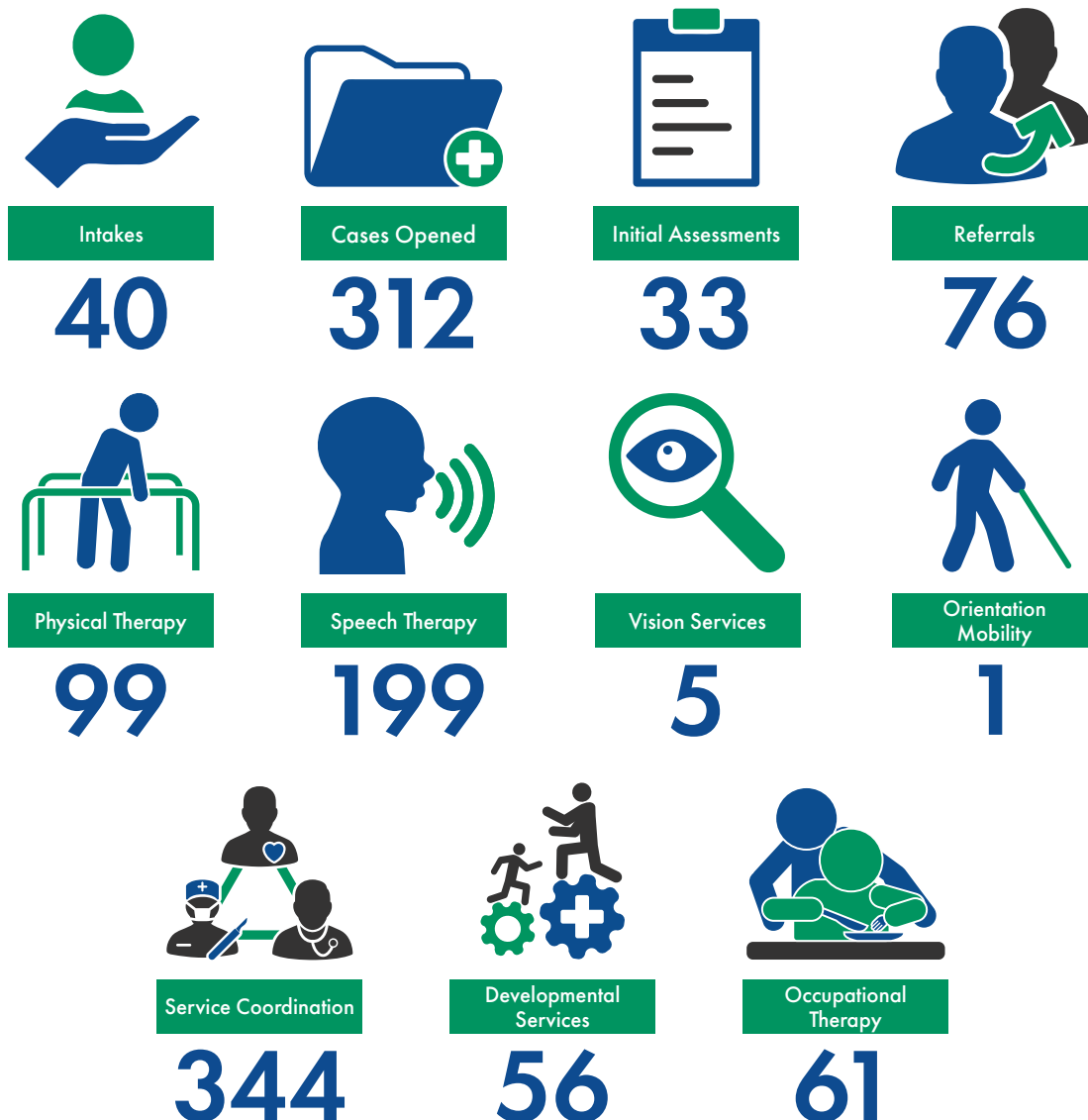


## EARLY INTERVENTION

The Early Intervention program provides assessment and services for infants and toddlers from birth through age three who are not developing as expected or who may have a developmental delay, atypical development, or a medical condition that may delay normal development. The focus of early intervention is to provide support and services to increase the child's participation in family and community activities. In addition, support is provided to parents and other caregivers to help their children learn during everyday activities. The program serves residents of Botetourt County, Craig County, Roanoke City and County, and the City of Salem.



Early Intervention averages per month for 2023:



## EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

The mission of the Office of Emergency Preparedness and Response (EP&R) is to protect the residents of RCAHD through all-hazards planning and response.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- As the need for logistical support for COVID outreach decreased in 2023, staff efforts continued to re-establish the necessary priorities of other EP&R activities, particularly for training and accreditation.

### 2023 RCAHD EP&R ACTIVITIES INCLUDED:

- To ensure a comprehensive update of RCAHD's emergency preparedness plans, EP&R staff reviewed and updated application goals required to participate in Project Public Health Ready (PPHR), administered by the National Association of City and County Health Officials (NACCHO).
- EP&R staff provided direct logistical support for 64 outreach and vaccination community events, including 25 mobile vaccine clinics and 11 STI Test & Go clinics.
- EP&R staff supported a request by a neighboring health district for equipment and personnel assistance for the Blue Ridge Rock Festival.
- Using the Incident Command System training matrix, more than 75 RCAHD staff were instructed on emergency response procedures. Clinical staff received instruction on Stop The Bleed techniques.
- With colleagues in other agencies, EP&R staff participated in multiple tabletop exercises for preparedness, including with local emergency services responders and local airport staff.

### MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS

In 2023, the Near Southwest Medical Reserve Corps increased administrative support to our local health department offices, public outreach events with community partners, and training volunteers to be prepared for future needs.

Highlights of 2023 MRC activities included:



**828**

Approved Volunteers

**99%**

Deployable Volunteers



**\$29K**

Workforce Savings



OVER  
**1,100**

Deployment Hours

OVER  
**670**

Training /  
Exercise Hours

## MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS CONT.

### VOLUNTEER IMPACT



8% Public Health  
55% Administrative Support  
37% Training/Exercise

### 2023 VOLUNTEERS BY CATEGORY

463

Non-Medical



362

Medical



## MRC VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

### VOLUNTEER NEED

Early Intervention Program

RCAHD seeks a consistent person to assist with chart filing and verification of Medicaid eligibility, 4-8 hours per week. Computer skills needed to use the Medicaid portal to verify eligibility for EI clients, additional training will be provided.

MRC Laura Hill of Salem committed 222 volunteer hours, a workforce savings of \$5,476. Appreciative staff welcomed her visits each week as part of their team and the greater VDH family. Of her work at the health department, Laura said it filled a void for her engagement with colleagues. Laura described her work with the health department team as “a blessing to me!”

***[Volunteering] has been a blessing to me!”***

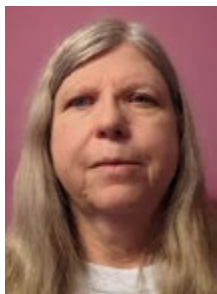
– Laura Hill,  
Salem

### VOLUNTEER NEED

Records Retention

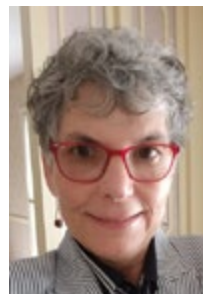
RCAHD seeks an individual to review, sort, organize, and file individual client records to determine if records are eligible to be purged based on the Library of Virginia’s Medical Records Retention Schedule.

Originally intended as a project to help clear outdated records beyond their retention date, the scope grew to prepare the health department for electronic record keeping. By year-end, volunteers completed reviews of 90 boxes of school and immunization records, marking them for purge or retention. Reviews of clinic charts are expected to extend into 2024. As a result of this request for assistance, 31 individual volunteers have given over 650 total hours to this project, a workforce savings of \$16,269.



*“I have enjoyed working on this project and the VDH employees that we are working with.”*

– Dorothy Cleary,  
Salem



***“Always happy to assist! :)”***

– Hope Trachtenberg-Fifer,  
Roanoke



## ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

The mission of the Environmental Health Division is to work with our community partners to protect and improve the overall health of our residents through the assurance of a safe environment.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- For the second year in a row, the Environmental Health division was awarded a National Environmental Health Association grant to continue compliance progress for all nine voluntary retail food regulatory program standards to improve foodservice regulation procedures.
- Environmental Health staff increased joint inspections with local fire departments of mobile food units during temporary events to improve the safety of these mutually inspected facilities.

### FOOD PROTECTION

The Food Protection program inspects and permits food service establishments including restaurants, mobile food units (food trucks) and public food service such as hospitals, schools and child/adult care facilities. Our inspectors also assist in the investigation of potential foodborne illness outbreaks. Reviews are conducted on construction plans for new or remodeled food service establishments:

2023 Permits	Roanoke City	Roanoke County	Salem	Botetourt	Craig	Covington	Alleghany	Total
<b>Food Permits</b>	550	214	162	89	15	31	43	1104

2023 Food Inspections	Roanoke City	Roanoke County	Salem	Botetourt	Craig	Covington	Alleghany	Total
<b>Mandatory</b>	802	297	269	198	20	53	93	1632
<b>Follow Up</b>	21	10	29	0	0	0	3	63
<b>Complaint</b>	16	10	3	0	0	1	1	31
<b>Other</b>	61	30	17	7	0	3	2	120
<b>Total</b>	900	347	318	205	20	57	99	1946



## RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

The Recreational Facilities program provides health and safety inspections at regulated public facilities including public swimming pools, children's summer camps, campgrounds and fairs/festivals.

2023 Permits	Roanoke City	Roanoke County	Salem	Botetourt	Craig	Covington	Alleghany	Total
Fairs/Festivals	33	5	13	12	1	2	5	71
Summer Camps	0	3	0	2	2	0	0	7
Campgrounds	1	4	0	7	0	0	2	14

2023 Recreation Inspections	Roanoke City	Roanoke County	Salem	Botetourt	Craig	Covington	Alleghany	Total
Pools	38	69	24	4	0	0	1	136
Summer Camps	0	3	0	2	2	0	0	7
Campgrounds	1	4	0	7	0	0	2	14



## LODGING

The Lodging program provides annual health and safety inspections along with complaint investigations of regulated public facilities including hotels, motels, bed & breakfasts, and migrant farm worker housing. Reviews are conducted on construction plans for new or remodeled facilities.

2023	Roanoke City	Roanoke County	Salem	Botetourt	Craig	Covington	Alleghany	Total
Permits	20	14	10	12	2	2	7	67
Inspections	14	14	10	11	2	1	4	56
Complaints	2	3	5	1	0	0	2	13



## ANIMAL DISEASE PREVENTION (RABIES)

The Animal Disease Prevention (rabies) program deals with the concerns of rabies and its potential spread to the human population. The program investigates reports of possible exposure to rabies, submits animal specimens to the Virginia Division of Consolidated Laboratory Services for rabies testing, and follows up on both animal and human exposure, including posting public notices to ensure protection for all.

2023	Roanoke City	Roanoke County	Salem	Botetourt	Craig	Covington	Alleghany	Other**	Total
<b>Rabies Investigations</b>	304	115	81	142	27	27	45	13	754
<b>Human Victim Exposures</b>	279	106	71	114	23	26	44	13	676*
<b>Animal Victim Exposures</b>	13	4	10	33	2	1	0	0	63

\*\*These rabies incidents occurred outside of our district, however the victim or the source animal (domestic) was a resident of our jurisdiction.

\* Post-exposure prophylaxis was given to 149 human exposure victims in 2023.

2023 Source Animal Types	Roanoke City	Roanoke County	Salem	Botetourt	Craig	Covington	Alleghany	Other**	Total
<b>Domestic<sup>1</sup> Animals</b>	266	95	69	114	21	24	40	10	639
<b>Bat<sup>2</sup></b>	24	11	2	1	3	2	5	1	49
<b>High Risk<sup>3</sup> Wildlife</b>	12	7	9	24	2	0	0	1*	55
<b>Low Risk<sup>4</sup> Wildlife</b>	2	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	5
<b>Livestock</b>	0	1	0	2	1	0	0	0	4
<b>Unknown</b>	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1

Definitions provided by the Compendium of Animal Rabies Prevention and Control (NASPHV).

1. Domestic Animals are defined as pet dogs and cats.

2. Bats (scientific order Chiroptera) pose the highest risk for rabies.

3. High Risk Wildlife includes mammals in the scientific order Carnivora, such as raccoons, skunks, foxes, opossums, groundhogs and beavers.

4. Low Risk Wildlife includes small rodents such as squirrels or mice, and lagomorphs (rabbits).

\*wild monkey \*\*These rabies incidents occurred outside of our districts, however the victims or the source animals (domestic) resided in our jurisdictions.

2023 Source Animal Testing	Domestic Animals	Bats	High Risk				Low Risk	Total
			Skunk	Raccoon	Fox	Other		
<b># Tested</b>	45**	22	11	7	1	8(1)	3	98
<b># Positive</b>	0	0	7	1	1	1*	0	10

(Numbers in parentheses reflect those specimens that were unsatisfactory for testing.) \*Groundhog \*\*Includes 2 livestock



## WATER & WASTEWATER

The Water and Wastewater program provides surveillance, inspection and regulatory oversight of private wells, onsite sewage systems and sewage handlers. System designs are submitted by the private sector for RCAHD staff review. Most private wells and onsite sewage systems are in the more rural areas of our districts.

2023	Roanoke City	Roanoke County	Salem	Botetourt	Craig	Covington	Alleghany	Total
Well Applications	0	61	2	45	16	1	19	144
Well Permits Issued	0	56	1	39	15	1	15	127
Well Inspections	0	32	0	40	8	0	15	95
Sewage Applications	4	82	0	106	16	0	25	233
Sewage Applications Denied	0	8	0	6	1	0	0	15
Sewage Construction Permits Issued	2	75	0	94	14	0	24	209
Sewage Operation Permits Issued	0	28	0	65	2	0	11	106
Sewage Inspections	0	8	0	26	8	0	11	53
Sewage Complaint Inspections	8	13	0	10	1	1	4	37
Sewage Handler Permits Issued	5	0	23	1	0	0	1	30
Sewage Handler Inspections	4	0	23	0	0	0	1	28



## EPIDEMIOLOGY

The mission of the RCAHD Epidemiology Division is to monitor and investigate reportable and emerging communicable diseases, investigate outbreaks, and provide guidance and recommendations to stop the further spread of communicable diseases for the wellbeing of our communities.

### HIGHLIGHTS

In 2023, the Epidemiology team responded to the following priority issues:

- Investigations and outbreaks of invasive Group A Streptococcus (iGAS) continued to increase. In total, 57 individuals with iGAS were associated with either ongoing community-acquired or facility-associated transmission of the disease. This is a 104% increase over 2022 (28 cases). There were two confirmed iGAS outbreaks in 2023.
- We continue to monitor an increase in reported cases of Lyme disease: 91 individuals were diagnosed, a 57% increase over 2022 (58 cases), likely due in part to changed case definitions.
- During 2023, over 9,600 cases of COVID-19 were identified in RCAHD residents.

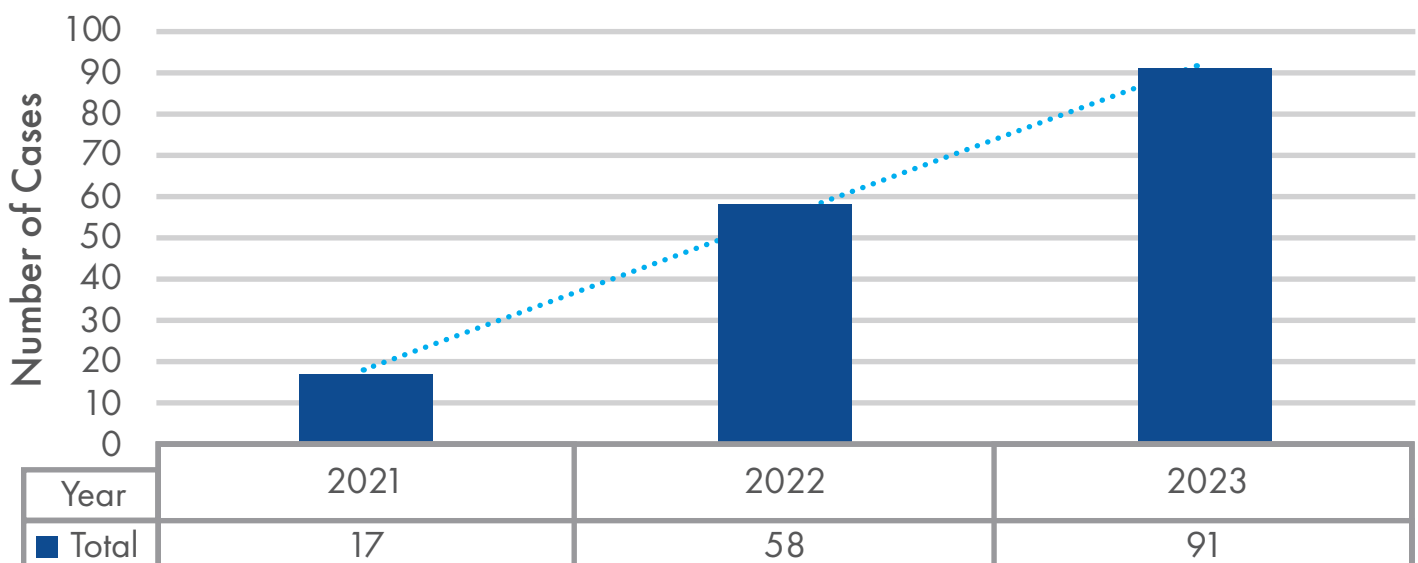
### INVASIVE GROUP A STREPTOCOCCUS (IGAS) CASE INVESTIGATIONS

In 2023, the Epidemiology team investigated an ongoing increase in the number of cases iGAS reported to RCAHD. In comparison to 2022, the most impacted age group was older, aged 51-60 (compared to those aged 31-40 in 2022). Furthermore, cases reported in 2023 were more likely to be associated with healthcare facilities (32% of the cases).

### LYME DISEASE CASE INVESTIGATIONS

In 2023, RCAHD noted an increase in the number of Lyme disease cases reported (91 cases), a 57% increase over 2022 (58 cases). The Lyme disease case definition changed in 2022, resulting in a reclassification of Virginia cases that may not have been captured prior to 2022.

#### RCAHD Lyme Disease Cases • 2021-2023



## 2023 RCAHD COMMUNICABLE DISEASES (REPORTABLE)

To optimally protect the public's health, healthcare professionals and laboratories are required to report over 70 diseases or conditions in Virginia. In 2023, RCAHD investigated over 690 incidences of reportable diseases (excluding COVID-19).

Condition	Alleghany	Roanoke City	Total
Amebiasis	0	0	0
Anaplasma phagocytophilum infection	0	*	*
Campylobacteriosis	21	8	29
Candida auris, clinical	*	*	5
Candida auris, colonization/screening	0	*	*
Chickungunya	0	0	0
Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)	6563	3123	9686
CP-CRE (E. coli, Enterobacter and Klebsiella spp)	6	*	8
CP-CRE, other	0	0	0
CPO-non-Enterobacteriaceae	*	*	*
Cryptosporidiosis	7	*	8
E. coli infection, shiga toxin-producing	6	*	9
Ehrlichia chaffeensis infection	*	*	5
Giardiasis	6	*	8
H. influenzae, invasive	*	*	*
Hepatitis A, acute	*	0	*
Hepatitis B, acute	*	*	*
Hepatitis B, chronic	29	27	56
Hepatitis C, acute	0	0	0
Hepatitis C, chronic	111	151	262
Hepatitis E, Acute	0	*	*
Histoplasmosis	0	0	0

Condition	Alleghany	Roanoke City	Total
Latent TB infection	16	30	46
Lead, elevated levels	11	35	46
Legionellosis	*	*	*
Listeriosis	0	0	0
Lyme disease	63	28	91
Malaria	0	*	*
Meningococcal	*	*	*
Mpox	0	0	0
Mumps	*	0	*
Pertussis	*	*	*
Salmonellosis (non-Typhi, non-Paratyphi)	15	5	20
Shigellosis	0	*	*
Spotted Fever Rickettsiosis (including RMSF)	5	0	5
Streptococcus, Group A, invasive	29	28	57
Streptococcus pneumoniae, invasive (age limit 5)	0	0	0
Tuberculosis	*	*	8
Unusual occurrence of public health concern	0	0	0
Varicella (Chickenpox)	*	*	*
Vibriosis, non-cholera	*	0	*
West Nile Virus (neuroinvasive)	0	0	0
Yersiniosis	*	*	5
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>6910</b>	<b>3471</b>	<b>10,381</b>

Values between 1-4 are suppressed

## COVID-19 CASE INVESTIGATION AND OUTBREAK MANAGEMENT

- In 2023, the RCAHD COVID-19 Epidemiology team investigated and managed over 9,600 cases, including 59 outbreaks.
- To help reduce the number of local outbreaks and severe illness, the team continued to work with businesses, K-12 schools, childcare centers, long-term care and assisted living facilities, congregate living facilities, and other health care institutions to assist in investigations and provide the most up-to-date guidance.

## A NOTE ABOUT QUALITY ASSURANCE

Quality Assurance (QA) is an ongoing, comprehensive process to ensure the accuracy and integrity of reported data. In 2023, RCAHD's QA team reconciled and reviewed COVID-19 case reports, labs, whole genome sequencing results, and outbreaks to keep our database, public-facing dashboards, and reports clean, up-to-date, and accurate.



## POPULATION HEALTH

The mission of the RCAHD Population Health division is to work with partners to improve health strategies to allow RCAHD residents to achieve optimal health.

### HIGHLIGHT

- 2023 saw sustained growth in resident participation in infant and child safety initiatives.
- Population health staff expanded community engagement on multiple important initiatives, including teen reproductive health and substance use disorder work.
- The RCAHD population health team was heavily involved in the new Community Health Assessment cycle across the Roanoke Valley and Alleghany Highlands.

### MATERNAL & CHILD HEALTH

RCAHD helps to protect children's lives by ensuring that families have resources to keep their children safe.

#### Car Seat Program:

- This program connects families with necessary resources to comply with state laws for safely transporting infants and children in vehicles. Taught by a certified Low Income Safety Seat Distribution and Education Program (LISSDEP) educator, the class is offered in both English and Spanish.

↑ Demand for car seat education in Roanoke City increased 50% in 2023, following a 60% increase in 2022.



2023 Yearly Data	Alleghany/ Covington	Botetourt	Craig	Roanoke City	Roanoke County	Salem	Total
<b>Car Seat Distribution &amp; Education</b>	34	28	8	320	32	43	465

#### Safe Sleep Program:

↑ Following a successful 2022 launch, participation in the safe sleep program has grown six-fold. In 2023, 387 families received safe sleep education, including free portable cribs for income-eligible families.

↑ After completing the safe sleep program, 136 out of 142 respondents (96%) agreed that they would "make some changes to keep my baby safe."



2023 Yearly Data	Alleghany/ Covington	Botetourt	Craig	Roanoke City	Roanoke County	Salem	Total
<b>Portable Cribs Provided</b>	34	62	28	193	34	36	387

## Adolescent Reproductive Health:

- RCAHD hosted a May 2023 Adolescent Reproductive Health summit with 73 participants from 22 local organizations that work with adolescents.
- The Collaborative for Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health (formerly the Teen Pregnancy Prevention Collaborative) meets monthly, averaging 15 community partner participants per gathering.
- The Collaborative's mission is to promote unbiased, comprehensive sexual and reproductive health education for adolescents, caregivers, and communities across our service region. Staff also worked with community-based organization educators who provide adolescent reproductive health within school-settings to assess gaps and identify future opportunities.
- In 2023, RCAHD staff held multiple Reproductive Health Listening Sessions with caregivers, teen parents, and youth representing various zip codes, races, and ethnicities. When asked how to best navigate adolescent reproductive health, participant comments included:
  - "Have a conversation, but just talk instead of it feeling like a lecture." -RCAHD teen
  - "[I] want to do things differently [with my child]. I want him to be more aware. The barrier is how can I do this differently?" -RCAHD caregiver
- Multiple themes to address potential solutions emerged from the conversations in the community, including:



**Access to Reliable Contraceptives**



**Consent, Choice & Empowerment**



**Reduced Stigma (e.g. teen moms)**



**Accurate Information**



**Communication with Guardians**



**Education for LGBTQIA+ Youth**



**Confidential Healthcare**



**Role Models & Peer Support**

## Lactation Support:

In 2023, RCAHD continued efforts to be designated as a "Breastfeeding Friendly Health Department" with the creation of a new internal Workforce Lactation Policy. Other accomplishments included:

- Created a breastfeeding/chestfeeding/lactation support webpage with resources for education and local in-person support.
- The launch of a community social media campaign (earning 695,000 impressions and 4,200 clicks) to increase awareness of local and national lactation resources.







## COMMUNITY HEALTH ASSESSMENT

In 2023, the Community Health Assessment cycle was re-launched in the Roanoke Valley (in partnership with Carilion Clinic and Healthy Roanoke Valley) and in the Alleghany Highlands (with Live Well Alleghany Highlands). Hundreds of surveys designed to collect input from community residents and focus groups with targeted populations were distributed. The process to document strategies to address identified community priorities will continue through 2024.

Read more in the  
Live Well Alleghany Highlands  
Resource Guide

Learn more about  
Healthy Roanoke Valley



## HEALTHY BEHAVIORS - WALKABILITY

To address walkability safety in a heavily traveled neighborhood, RCAHD staff led a team of local partners (Roanoke Alleghany Regional Planning Commission, Carilion Clinic, and the City of Roanoke) to study pedestrian access to Northwest Roanoke's new Melrose Plaza. The goals of the project include increased safety for drivers and walkers, increased bus accessibility, increased access to healthy forms of outdoor recreation, and increased access to community resources for over 5,000 people.

- Supported by a Virginia Walkability Action Institute and Equitable Cities grant, 2023 accomplishments included a road safety assessment for Melrose Avenue, Orange Avenue, and Salem Turnpike and community engagement to develop an ADA accessible sidewalk, relocation and installation of a new bus stop shelter, and permanent infrastructure to improve a pedestrian crossing next to the community Envision Center. The City of Roanoke and the Virginia Walkability Action Institute contributed funds to the project.



## ARPA ENGAGEMENT

To enhance bi-directional communication with the public, American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Targeted Community Outreach funds were used to seek increased engagement through community input. RCAHD team members received feedback at numerous engagement events from targeted populations such as: adolescents, teen parents, LGBTQIA+ community members, asset-limited, income-constrained, employed (ALICE) individuals, persons who use drugs, and low-income populations residing in public housing sites. Examples of outcomes that resulted from these events include:

- New Spanish translations of adolescent reproductive health listening session material with training for peer-led facilitation.
- Increased understanding of the health, needs, and perspectives of clients of the Virginia Harm Reduction Coalition who identify as using drugs or being in recovery.
- The creation of a LGBTQIA+ Health Alliance with diverse community and clinic-based stakeholders to explore how to best support the health of the LGBTQIA+ community.



110

Community members  
participated in **9** focus groups



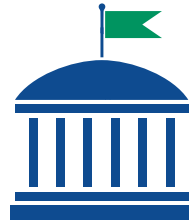
315

Community members  
participated in **28** listening sessions



1,775

Community members  
participated in **9** surveys



250

Community members  
participated in **7** feedback events

### Based on community feedback, some implemented recommendations include:

- Increased opportunities for STI testing in coordination with harm reduction partners
- More inclusive language on website, flyers, and surveys
- More access to menstrual cups and sexual health informational items as requested by adolescents, caregivers, and young adults





## CARE COORDINATION AND OUTREACH

In 2023, the RCAHD COVID outreach team refocused their efforts on resource coordination to improve community health while also promoting vaccinations and addressing inequities resulting from the pandemic. To optimize resident access to resources available from local partner agencies, staff implemented the “Unite Us” care coordination platform for use with clients who visit RCAHD clinics and outreach events.

- RCAHD staff supported 107 outreach events and mobile clinics in 2023, and continued to monitor local trends in communicable disease transmission with the addition of a community health epidemiologist.

## SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER (SUD) RESPONSE

In 2023, RCAHD continued to ramp up overdose education and availability of naloxone (Narcan) to the public, increase availability of harm reduction test strips, and increase partnership outreach opportunities with our harm reduction and peer recovery programs. We are active partners of local prevention coalitions such as the Collective Response, the Healthy Roanoke Valley Mental Well-Being workgroup, Connection 2 Care, and the EMS Community Risk Reduction workgroup.

Opportunities for community education included:

- RCAHD staff presented a “Trends in Substance Use Disorder” data summit to SUD outreach professionals from 20 local organizations.
- Using the ODMAP platform, a system designed to alert subscribers to local trends, RCAHD staff developed a coordinated response to alert community provider partners to local increased overdose activity.



EMS provider trainings on Substance Use Disorder and Adverse Childhood Experiences



Virtual and in-person community overdose trainings (REVIVE)

### Naloxone (Narcan) & Harm Reduction Test Strip Program Data:

2023	Naloxone (Narcan)	Fentanyl Test Strips	Xylazine Test Strips
<b>Monthly Average</b>	104	212	86
<b>Total Units:</b>	1249	2546	1028

### Spotlight on Appalachian Save a Life Day

In September, RCAHD joined other community partners as one of 150 sites in 13 East Coast states for a coordinated day of action in the community. Event highlights included STI prevention and sexual health education, medical and wound care, and the provision of 100 doses of life-saving naloxone opioid reversal medication and harm reduction test strips, free of charge.



Credit: Roanoke Valley Collective Response / Brett Winter Lemon Photography

## VITAL RECORDS

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

### HIGHLIGHTS

- In 2023, RCAHD staff fulfilled over 27,000 vital records documents requests.

### 2023 VITAL RECORDS REQUESTS BY SITE

Certified copies of birth, death, marriage, and divorce certificates can be obtained from the Virginia Department Health (as long as the event occurred in Virginia).

2023	Alleghany / Covington	Botetourt	Craig	Roanoke City	Salem	Total
<b>Birth Certificates</b>	120	51	47	1,596	307	2,121
<b>Death Certificates</b>	2,291	1,292	305	12,382	8,528	24,798
<b>Death Verifications</b>	11	2	4	66	20	103
<b>Divorce Certificates</b>	1	-	1	14	-	16
<b>Marriage Licenses</b>	3	6	2	52	25	88

The Roanoke County/ Vinton office does not offer Vital Records services.

#### IN PERSON

- Applications can be made at most RCAHD local health department offices between 8am - 4 pm.
- Please bring a valid ID.

#### 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.



## WOMEN, INFANTS & CHILDREN (WIC) PROGRAM

The mission of the RCAHD Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) is to improve the health of low-income pregnant, post-partum, or breastfeeding women and young children through better nutrition and access to health care. WIC provides nutrition education, breastfeeding support, access to healthy foods and referrals to other needed health-related services.

### HIGHLIGHTS

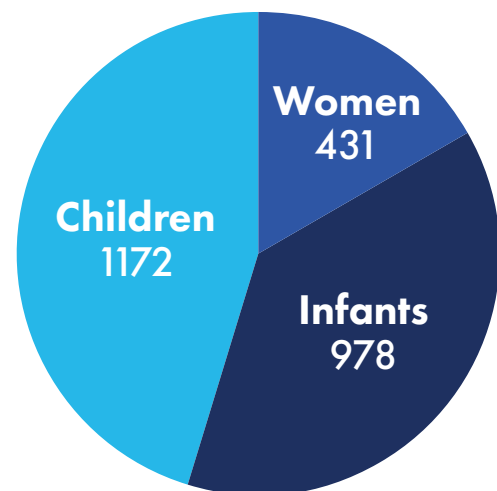
- In 2023, the RCAHD WIC program welcomed a new director, and staff returned to in-person visits for the first time since the beginning of the pandemic in 2020.

### AVERAGE NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS SERVED PER MONTH

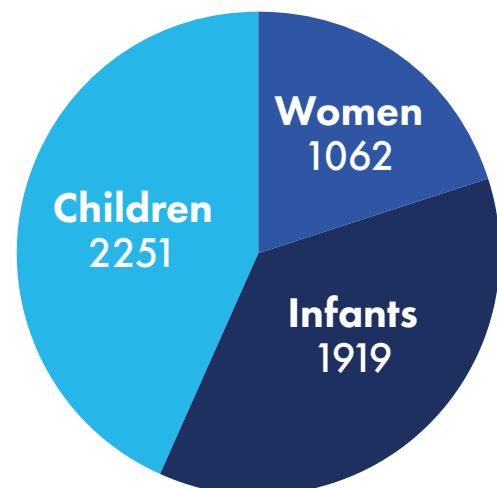
Alleghany Health District	Women	Infants	Children
Alleghany/Covington Health Department	45	62	120
Botetourt Health Department	33	41	127
Craig Health Department	37	31	87
Roanoke County/Vinton Health Department	81	86	244
Alleghany/Clifton Forge Health Department	26	31	71
Salem Health Department	148	163	401
Roanoke Health District	Women	Infants	Children
Belmont WIC Clinic	198	216	563
Roanoke City Health Department	311	342	1065
First Church of the Brethren WIC	217	270	565

### Total Served\*

Alleghany District



Roanoke City District



\*Federal Fiscal Year Oct 2022-Sept 2023



