

Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2023



Blue Ridge Health District

Virginia Department of Health



VDH VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT
OF HEALTH

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Who We Are:

The Blue Ridge Health District (BRHD) is one of 35 health districts under the Virginia Department of Health (VDH). We are comprised of five health departments and one community-based clinic that serve the counties of Albemarle, Fluvanna, Greene, Louisa, and Nelson, along with the city of Charlottesville. Our local health departments provide public health services to over 250,000 residents.

Our Mission:

To protect and promote the health and well-being of all Virginians.

Our Vision:

Working together for healthy, equitable communities.

BRHD Locations

Charlottesville/Albemarle Health Department

1138 Rose Hill Drive
Charlottesville, VA 22903
434-972-6200

Greene County Health Department

50 Stanard Street
Stanardsville, VA 22973
434-985-2262

Nelson County Health Department

4038 Thomas Nelson Highway
Arrington, VA 22922
434-263-8315

Fluvanna County Health Department

132 Main Street
Palmyra, VA 22963
434-591-1960

Louisa County Health Department*

101 Woolfolk Ave
Suite 202- Clinical
Suite 203- Environmental Health
Louisa, VA 23093
540-967-3703

***Please note:** new address effective 12/1/2023.

Yancey Community Center

7625 Porters Road
Esmont, VA 22937
434-270-3216



Letter From the District Management Team

Fiscal Year 2023 (July 2022 – June 2023) was a year of growth and challenges for the Blue Ridge Health District (BRHD). In January 2023, we transitioned our community-based COVID-19 response efforts to be a part of our routine operations. This means we cut down on offering community vaccination clinics and testing events and now provide these services through immunization clinics and rapid-test kit distribution. This transition allowed for the District to build upon services that were once impacted during peak COVID-19 response. A number of our programs grew over the past year, and you can read more about them in this fiscal year's Annual Report.

BRHD's District Management Team (DMT) is leading the District beyond the COVID-19 response into the new era of Public Health 3.0. VDH is conducting an ongoing hiring process for a permanent Health Director for BRHD.

BRHD's District Management Team

Thomas Franck, MD, MPH

Acting Director

Ryan McKay

Director of Administration

Erin Callas

Director of Clinical Services

John McClelland

Director of Environmental Health

Kenneth Gordon

Director of Epidemiology

Leanne Knox

Emergency Manager

Kathryn Goodman

Director of Communications & Population Health

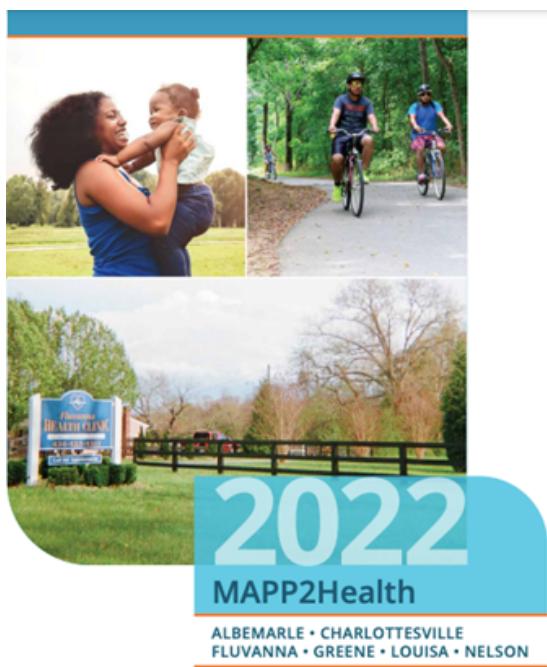
MAPP2Health Report: Community Health Improvement Plan

Since 2009, Blue Ridge Health District (BRHD) has completed five MAPP2Health community health assessments (CHA) and improvement plans (CHIP) in partnership with the other two Core Group members – UVA Health and Sentara Martha Jefferson Hospital – and over 100 community organizations. The Core Group has published the resulting five [MAPP2Health Reports](#), the most recent in 2022.

The [2022 MAPP2Health report](#) was published in September 2022 and BRHD began soliciting participants in mid December 2022 to develop the corresponding Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP). The CHIP is facilitated and managed by BRHD's CHA/CHIP Program Officer and Data Analyst with support from the MAPP2Health Core Group. The [2023-2025 CHIP](#) launched publicly April 3, 2023.

The CHIP takes the policy targets identified in the MAPP2Health Report and unites organizations to identify and implement actionable objectives, as well as garner public support and encourage accountability. Our district's CHIP is updated every three years. CHIP progress will be tracked by the BRHD CHA/CHIP program officer until it's completion on December 31, 2025.

Follow the CHIP and its four policy targets – Transportation, Healthcare Workforce, Digital Access + Skills, and Mental + Behavioral Health – at www.BlueRidgeHD.org.



COVID-19 Response

Containment

After the COVID-19 containment team transitioned away from contact tracing in early 2022, efforts turned to case investigations, variant wellness checks, and Quality Assurance (QA). This resulted in the completion of many case investigations, significantly changing COVID-19 statistics for FY22 and FY23. In the final quarter of 2022, outbreak response focus shifted to congregate and school settings. This meant that the majority of the outbreaks we responded to originated within congregate care facilities and schools, including early childcare settings.

11,706 COVID-19 Cases Investigated

1 case = 1-20 close contacts

Charlottesville/Albemarle

7,330

Fluvanna

1,262

Greene

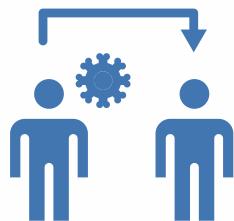
832

Louisa

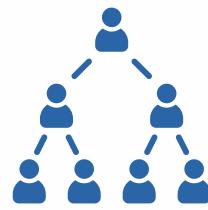
1,702

Nelson

580



88 COVID-19 Outbreaks Closed



Vaccinations

In December 2022, BRHD ended community-based COVID-19 vaccination efforts. During the first half of FY23, BRHD administered 136 during homebound vaccinations. In January 2023, BRHD transitioned to offer all COVID-19 vaccines during regularly scheduled immunization clinics.

14,157 COVID-19 Vaccines Administered

Charlottesville/Albemarle

10,251

Fluvanna

1,214

Greene

754

Louisa

728

Nelson

1,074



Environmental Health

BRHD Environmental Health includes Food Protection, Onsite Sewage Disposal/Water, Vital Records, and General Environmental Health programs.

67 Temporary Event Vendors Permitted

Albemarle

6

Charlottesville

36

Fluvanna

8

Greene

10

Louisa

2

Nelson

5



602 Rabies Cases Investigated

Albemarle

409

Charlottesville

16

Fluvanna

16

Greene

28

Louisa

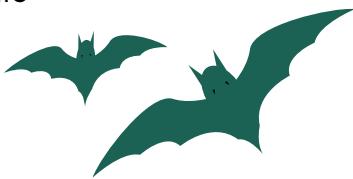
63

Nelson

34

No Locality Given / Other

36



In FY23, the Food Protection team met and audited Standard 5 of the FDA Retail Program Standards. Standard 5 sets specific procedures for the District's response to foodborne illness outbreaks, including requirements related to 1). how quickly the district must initiate investigations, 2). coordination with other stakeholders, and 3). response activities once an outbreak is suspected or confirmed. The prompt response is crucial in identifying the source of contamination, preventing further illnesses, and protecting public health. Meeting Standard 5 and maintaining detailed records provides valuable data for continuous improvement.

1,403 Sewage Disposal System Applications

Albemarle

563

Charlottesville

25

Fluvanna

106

Greene

128

Louisa

437

Nelson

144



20,408 Vital Records Issued

(including duplicate copies)

Albemarle/Charlottesville

14,624

Fluvanna

1,118

Greene

1,448

Louisa

1,956

Nelson

1,262



579 Food Service Establishment Inspections

Albemarle

209

Charlottesville

212

Fluvanna

20

Greene

44

Louisa

71

Nelson

23



Clinical Services

Services include, but are not limited to, pre-admission screenings for long-term care services and family planning, which includes birth control and pregnancy and STI screenings. Tuberculosis (TB) screenings and treatment continue to be provided. Immunizations for school, travel, and general health needs are available.

5,151 Immunization Visits (Non COVID-19)

Charlottesville/Albemarle
Fluvanna
Greene
Louisa
Nelson



3,164
356
1,091
295
245

1,811 Immunization Clients

(Non COVID-19)

556 Pre-Admission Screenings

(for long term services & support)

Albemarle
Charlottesville
Fluvanna
Greene
Louisa
Nelson



160
107
81
37
136
35

554 Tuberculosis (TB) Screenings + Visits

Charlottesville/Albemarle
Fluvanna
Greene
Louisa
Nelson



2,112
329
623
660
25



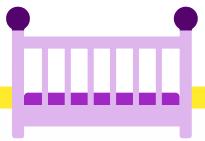
424 Family Planning Clients



Population Health

Maternal Child Health

Continuing the positive trends from FY22, Maternal Child Health (MCH) has continued to build up the Low Income Safe Seat Education Program (LISSDEP) and Safe Sleep Program (SSP). In FY23 our MCH Coordinator teamed up with BRHD's Community Health Workers (CHWs) to expand their reach by hosting multiple car seat & crib events in each of the District's localities. With the addition of the CHW team, demand increased significantly across the board. In particular, their outreach work facilitated new connections with rural and Spanish-speaking communities that hadn't participated before. To improve communication with new immigrant arrivals from Afghanistan, MCH collaborated with the International Refugee Committee (IRC) and UVA International Clinic to make contacting families shortly after their arrival more efficient. Thanks to these successful partnerships, free car/booster seat distribution increased by **370%** and free cribette distribution increased by **420%** compared to FY22!



130 **Cribettes Distributed**
via the Safe Sleep Program (SSP)

179 **Car & Booster Seats Distributed** via the Low Income Safe Seat Education Program (LISSEP)

Albemarle/Charlottesville	95
Fluvanna	23
Greene	18
Louisa	27
Nelson	16



Community Health Workers

BRHD's Community Health Worker (CHW) program blossomed in FY23. The team consists of five CHWs, three of which are bilingual in English/Spanish. This is the largest team of CHWs that the District has ever had. The CHWs conduct community outreach (door-to-door, health fairs, hotline calls), collaborate with local partners to share public health information, connect community members with resources, and provide education on different health topics. In Spring of 2023, the CHWs began hosting office hours in every locality in the District. These Office Hours included providing information on available health department services, health resources, and referrals to community programs such as housing or food support.



55+ **Community Events Attended**



158+ **Office Hours Hosted**



Population Health Cont.

Communications

Over the course of FY23, BRHD's Communications Team began prioritizing digital accessibility and ADA compliance in our communication methods. Digital accessibility encompasses a wide variety of standards, so the team participated in multiple trainings designed to cover different areas.



To kick off our new efforts, BRHD updated the website code to ensure individuals using assistive technology, like screen readers, could navigate and use our webpages. Next, the team ensured all promotional materials (ex: flyers, social media graphics, etc) met the minimum color contrast ratio required for low vision and colorblind individuals to distinguish text and images. Another major accomplishment was integrating alternative text (alt text) into the bi-weekly public newsletters. Alt text allows the visually impaired to hear descriptions of photos via a screen reader device.

Over the next fiscal year, the primary goal is to integrate alt text into all PDFs available on the BRHD website, as well as social media.

672 Social Media Posts

on Facebook, Instagram, and X
(formerly known as Twitter)



60 Public Newsletters

published & sent via email



13 Articles Published in the Cville Daily Progress

via online article & print newspaper



Over 150 Graphics & Flyers Created

Population Health Cont.

BRHD Mobile Unit, AKA 'Mobi'

BRHD used it's mobile health unit 'Mobi' in a variety of ways during FY23. During the first half of the year, Mobi was driving around the District providing COVID-19 vaccines in community-based settings. Mobi's efforts changed in January 2023 and shifted to be used primarily for population health education and maternal child health programs, distributing car seats, cribs, rapid at-home COVID-19 test kits, etc.



82 Total Events Hosted

68 COVID-19 Vaccine Clinics Hosted

Medical Reserve Corps

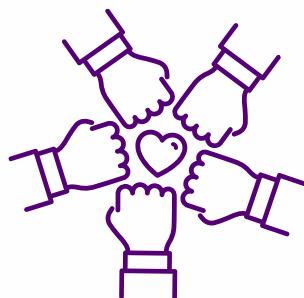
MRC Response

In FY23, nine Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) volunteers received the Presidential Bronze Award for 100+ hours of volunteer service.

In addition, one MRC volunteer received the Presidential Silver Award for 500+ hours of volunteer service.

1,084 Hours Volunteered by MRC

Albemarle
Charlottesville
Fluvanna
Greene
Louisa
Nelson



60	686.75
115.25	115.25
28.5	28.5
43.25	43.25
150.25	150.25

Harm Reduction

485 Boxes of Naloxone Nasal Spray Distributed

Charlottesville/Albemarle

377

Fluvanna

16

Greene

14

Louisa

55

Nelson

23



Harm reduction programs aim to reduce negative impacts associated with drug use through public health intervention. BRHD provides Naloxone free of charge to community members, first responders, and local organizations to prevent fatal opioid overdoses in our district. In an effort to make Narcan more accessible to all, BRHD provides monthly drive-thru and walk-up Narcan distribution events. During these events, participants receive Rapid Revive training on how to recognize and respond to an opioid overdose, in addition to instructions on how to administer Narcan. Each participant leaves with a box of Narcan and safety kit that provides protection to them during an opioid response emergency. In FY23, BRHD assisted the HAVEN in developing their own Naloxone Partner Site and provided training for many school nurses across the district.

Sexual Health Services

Sexual health clinics offer testing for a variety of sexually transmitted infections (STIs), as well as appropriate follow up and education.

At BRHD, our sexual health services team consistently strives to decrease the stigma associated with STI testing by hosting inclusive and discreet services. We also offer case management for HIV prevention medication (PrEP) to anyone at high risk of getting HIV.

72,073



Condoms Distributed

4,070 Sexual Health Visits

Charlottesville/Albemarle

3,775

Fluvanna

98

Greene

63

Louisa

109

Nelson

25



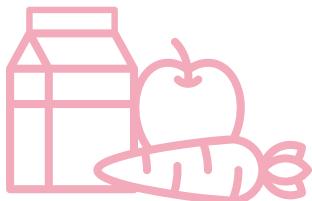
417 Sexual Health Clients

172 Rapid HIV + Hep C Tests Provided



Women, Infants, & Children (WIC)

WIC experienced an increase in clients in FY23. WIC programs and operations continued to be offered remotely by phone, including individual counseling appointments with a nutritionist, one-on-one nutrition education with staff, and breastfeeding consults. All WIC services and appointments will return in-person during FY24.



2,993 Average Monthly Client Caseload

Charlottesville/Albemarle	1,707
Fluvanna	207
Greene	330
Louisa	499
Nelson	250



Epidemiology

BRHD investigates communicable disease reports from healthcare providers and labs to identify community health problems. When communicable disease outbreaks occur, BRHD works to determine the source and to stop the spread of disease through education, infection control measures, post-exposure prophylaxis recommendations, community surveillance, and immunization. BRHD also conducts surveillance in conjunction with the state by monitoring health data from emergency departments and urgent care centers. During FY23, Enteric events increased significantly. This may be due to several factors, including GI events attributed to multiple cases among students returning from international spring break trips plus the usual GI events. Invasive strep events and tickborne events declined significantly as well.

644 Reported Disease Cases Investigated

Albemarle	238
Charlottesville	137
Fluvanna	76
Greene	33
Louisa	102
Nelson	58



Human Resources (HR)



July 2022	
Full-Time	78
Wage	3
Contract (Non-COVID)	18
COVID Contractors	45
Total:	144

June 2023	
Full-Time	70
Wage	4
Contract (Non-COVID)	13
COVID Contractors	10
Total:	97

Fiscal Information

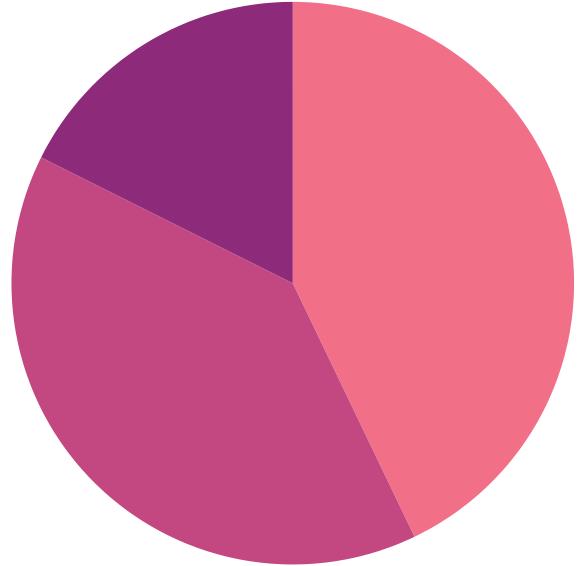
Funding:

 State **\$3,477,720**

 Local **\$3,204,262**

 Revenue **\$1,429,074**

\$8,111,056 Total



Revenue:

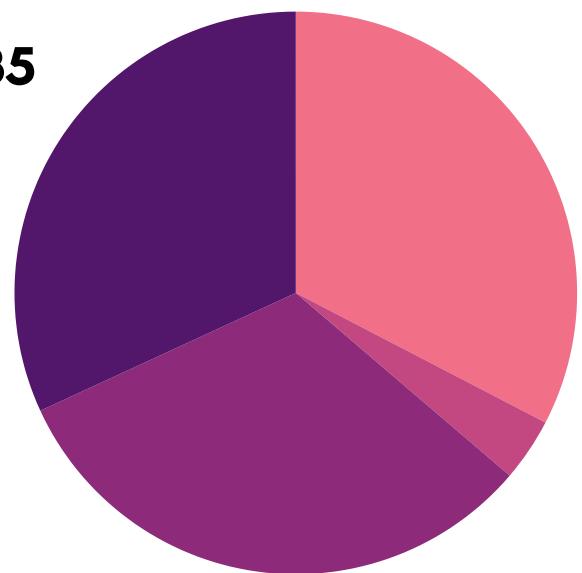
 Environmental Health **\$555,085**

 Family Planning **\$61,746**

 General Medicine **\$542,358**

 Administrative **\$542,358**

\$1,429,074 Total



Fiscal Information Cont.

Expenses:

- Personnel **\$4,737,501**
- Contractual Services **\$2,678,464**
- Supplies **\$398,009**
- Continuous Charges **\$550,370**
- Equipment **\$58,787**
- Transfers Payments **\$8,313.06**

\$8,431,444.06

Total

