CENTRAL SHENANDOAH HEALTH DISTRICT

2023 ANNUAL DISTRICT REPORT

Central Shenandoah Health District

Augusta · Bath · Buena Vista · Harrisonburg · Highland · Lexington · Rockbridge · Rockingham · Staunton · Waynesboro

Public Health in the HEART of the Valley
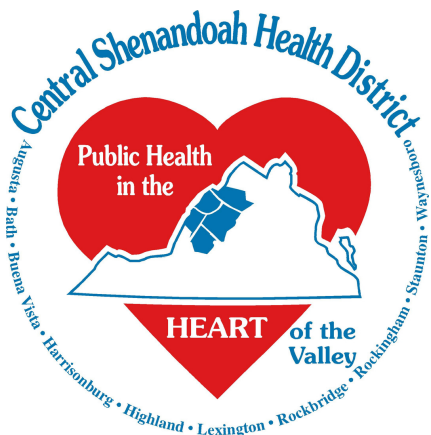
VDH
VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT
OF HEALTH

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ABOUT CSHD

The Central Shenandoah Health District (CSHD) is one of thirty five health districts under the Virginia Department of Health. It is comprised of seven health departments that serve the counties of Augusta, Bath, Highland, Rockbridge and Rockingham along with the cities of Buena Vista, Harrisonburg, Lexington, Staunton and Waynesboro. Our local health departments provide numerous services to approximately 293,000 persons.

CSHD MISSION

To protect and educate the community and to use our expertise to achieve healthy outcomes.

CSHD VISION

The Central Shenandoah Health District aspires to be an accessible, collaborative, trusted community resource to create healthy, thriving communities.

LETTER FROM OUR ACTING HEALTH DIRECTOR

This past year, the Central Shenandoah Health District underwent a significant rebuilding and growth phase after a steadfast focus on the COVID-19 response since 2020. We renewed our efforts to meet the local demand for childhood immunizations and long-term care screenings. Our WIC program re-opened in-person clinics in August of 2023. In October 2023, we were thrilled to officially open our new Waynesboro Augusta Health Department. We extend a heartfelt appreciation to our partner organizations and community members for their patience and support as we continue to work towards achieving a healthy and thriving community in the Shenandoah Valley.
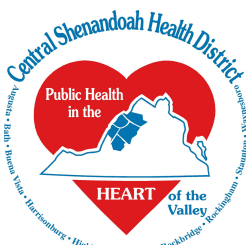
Elaine Perry, M.D.
Acting Health Director
Central Shenandoah Health District

LOCATIONS

BATH COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

51 Courthouse Hill Road
Warm Springs, VA 24484

(540) 839-7246

BUENA VISTA HEALTH DEPARTMENT

2270 Magnolia Avenue
Buena Vista, VA 24416

(540) 261-2149

HARRISONBURG ROCKINGHAM HEALTH DEPARTMENT

110 North Mason St.
Harrisonburg, VA 22803

(540) 574-5101

HIGHLAND COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

140 Fleisher Avenue
Monterey, VA 24465

(540) 468-2270

LEXINGTON ROCKBRIDGE HEALTH DEPARTMENT

300 White Street
Lexington, VA 24450

(540)463-3185

STAUNTON AUGUSTA HEALTH DEPARTMENT

1414 North Augusta St.
Staunton, VA 24401

(540) 332-7830

WAYNESBORO AUGUSTA HEALTH DEPARTMENT

540 Lew Dewitt Blvd, Suite 5
Waynesboro, VA 22980

(540) 949-0137

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Visit our website at vdh.virginia.gov/central-shenandoah

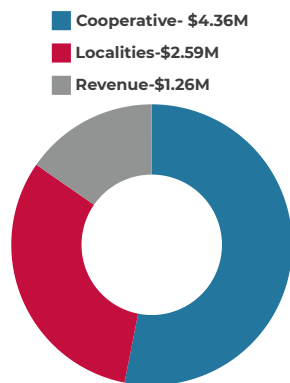Email us at cshdinfo@vdh.virginia.gov
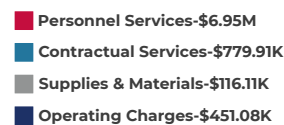
FISCAL INFORMATION

Central Shenandoah Health District receives funding through a variety of sources, including funds from the state, localities, and grants. The 2023 fiscal year runs from June 2022 to July 2023.

FY 2023 CSHD COOPERATIVE BUDGET

■ Cooperative- $4.36M
■ Localities-$2.59M
■ Revenue-$1.26M

There are three main sources making up the CSHD budget. The cooperative budget consists of Commonwealth general funds, locality funds, and projected revenue. CSHD generates revenue from clinical services, environmental health permitting fees, and vital record requests.

TOTAL EXPENSES FY 2023

■ Personnel Services-$6.95M
■ Contractual Services-$779.91K
■ Supplies & Materials-$116.11K
■ Operating Charges-$451.08K

Expenditures consist of personnel services, contractual services, supplies and materials, transfer payments, and continuous charges.

FEDERAL GRANTS

The health district receives federal grants for different programs. Each grant has specific guidelines as to how the money can be used as well as varying timeframes in which the money can be used.

TOTAL GRANT EXPENSES

All COVID-19 Related	$2,233,675.76	Immunizations	$70,371.75
Breastfeeding Peer Counselor	$18,307.54	Maternal Child Health	$78,987.32
Disease Intervention	$2,258.00	NACCHO	$29,160.28
Disease Surveillance	$70,149.76	Public Health Workforce Grant	$308,651.16
Emergency Preparedness	$290,269.01	Tuberculosis	$14,653.81
Family Planning	$13,719.00	All WIC Related	$775,875.58

*Grant funding for Family Planning (Title X Federal Funds) are no longer allocated to CSHD moving forward

VITAL RECORDS

The Vital Records program allows community members to access essential documents. In 2023, over 5,700 requests were made with over 20,000 documents provided to CSHD residents.

VITAL RECORDS REQUESTS BY SITE

Residents may obtain certified copies of birth, death, and divorce certificates, and marriage licenses as long as the event occurred in Virginia.

	Bath County	Harisonburg City/ Rockingham County	Highland County	Lexington City/ Rockingbridge County	Staunton City/ Augusta County	Waynesboro City/ Augusta County
Birth Certificates	43	768	40	142	449	20
Death Certificates	77	1648	104	477	1653	144
Death Verifications	0	0	0	0	0	0
Divorce Certificates	0	2	0	0	3	0
Marriage Licenses	0	13	0	2	22	0

*Buena Vista City office does not offer Vital Record Services. The Waynesboro Health Department was closed August 2022 through October 2023.

DO YOU KNOW HOW TO ACCESS YOUR VITAL RECORDS?

Vital Record requests can be made for one's self or an immediate family member, with vaild identification by the following methods:

IN PERSON

Applications can be made at most CSHD local health department offices during regular business hours. Please bring a valid ID.

ONLINE

Visit vdh.virginia.gov/vital-records/ to complete an application.

BY MAIL

Applications can be printed from online and mailed with enclosed check or money order for $12 per requested copy to :
Division of Vital Records
PO Box 1000
Richmond, VA 23218-1000

WIC SERVICES

The WIC program strives to improve the health of pregnant women, infants and children (under 5 years) through better nutrition and access to health care. This is achieved through nutrition education, breastfeeding promotion and support, supplemental nutritious foods, counseling, and screenings and referrals to other health, welfare, and social services.

AVERAGE NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS SERVED PER MONTH

WOMEN

Pregnant	308
Breast Feeding	239
Post Partum	293

INFANTS

939

CHILDREN

2,285

Numbers are a monthly average for FY 2023 (October 2022 - September 2023). WIC services did not return to in-person until August 2023.

INTERESTED IN APPLYING FOR WIC?

Visit: www.myvawic.org

Call your local health department

To be eligible for the WIC program, applicants must meet categorical, residential, income, and nutrition risk requirements

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

The Environmental Health program covers a variety of areas focused on protecting residents and the environment.

FOOD SAFETY PROGRAM

The Food Safety program inspects and permits food service establishments. Inspectors work with food establishments to prevent and address foodborne illness.

CSHD saw a 3.97% increase in permitted food establishments from 2022 to 2023

	Augusta County	Bath County	Buena Vista City	Harrisonburg City	Highland County	Lexington City	Rockbridge County	Rockingham County	Staunton City	Waynesboro City
Permits	190	44	28	310	13	67	114	191	139	108
Inspections	259	67	34	213	18	44	108	136	184	97

*inspections include complaint, follow-up, pre-opening, risk factor, routine, and other

LODGING AND RECREATIONAL

These programs provide permits and health and safety inspections for public facilities. Tourist lodging includes hotels, motels, and bed & breakfasts.

Permits	Augusta County	Bath County	Buena Vista City	Harrisonburg City	Highland County	Lexington City	Rockbridge County	Rockingham County	Staunton City	Waynesboro City
Campgrounds	8	3	0	0	2	0	13	4	0	0
Summer Camps	3	7	0	0	1	0	5	5	0	0
Tourist Lodging	21	12	1	29	4	10	27	9	14	15

Inspections	Augusta County	Bath County	Buena Vista City	Harrisonburg City	Highland County	Lexington City	Rockbridge County	Rockingham County	Staunton City	Waynesboro City
Campgrounds	9	0	0	0	2	0	9	5	1	0
Summer Camps	4	3	0	0	0	0	3	2	0	0
Tourist Lodging	8	4	1	4	1	1	7	2	1	14

*inspections include complaint, pre-opening, and routine

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

WATER & WASTEWATER

This program provides surveillance, inspection, and regulatory oversight of private wells, on-site sewage systems, and sewage handlers.

CSHD SAW A 4.84% INCREASE IN WELL PERMIT APPLICATIONS FROM 2022 TO 2023

	Augusta County	Bath County	Buena Vista City	Harrisonburg City	Highland County	Lexington City	Rockbridge County	Rockingham County	Staunton City	Waynesboro City
Well Permits	158	17	0	0	18	0	82	157	1	0
Sewage Permits	162	15	0	0	11	0	93	169	0	1

LOOKING FOR THE MOST EFFICIENT METHOD TO GET YOUR ONSITE SEWAGE SYSTEM RECORDS? Make a request for public records through the online VDH FOIA request portal! visit: vdh.nextrequest.com

ANIMAL DISEASE PREVENTION

Also known as the rabies program, this program is responsible for handling concerns of rabies and its potential spread to the human population. Duties include investigating reports of possible exposure to rabies, submitting animal specimens for rabies testing, and following up with both animal and human exposures.

REPORTED INCIDENTS

Augusta County	271
Bath County	6
Buena Vista City	9
Harrisonburg City	73
Highland County	5
Lexington City	18
Rockbridge County	98
Rockingham County	242
Staunton City	101
Waynesboro City	114
Other	98

*Other includes incidents handled by staff outside of the district or the location was unable to be determined

ANIMAL TESTING RESULTS

	Negative	Positive
Augusta/Staunton Health Department	81	9
Bath Health Department	4	0
Highland Health Department	0	0
Rockbridge/Lexington Health Department	13	0
Rockingham/Harrisonburg Health Department	35	7

*Specimens are sent out by health department locations.

POSITIVE RESULTS BY ANIMAL TYPE

RACOON: 8

CAT: 1

COW: 1

BEAVER: 1

SKUNK: 5

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS & RESPONSE

This program works with local emergency response partners to enhance readiness to respond to all hazards, including bioterrorism, infectious disease outbreaks, and other public health emergencies.

ACTIVITIES AND HIGHLIGHTS

Successful Project Public Health Ready recognition:
The criteria-based training and recognition program assesses local health department capacity and capability to plan for, respond to, and recover from public health emergencies. The project included significant investment from Emergency Preparedness & Response and other disciplines to prepare and refine submissions for in-state and national review.

Flu Vaccination Exercise at James Madison University.
Over 600 students, faculty, and staff were administered flu shots over three days leveraging staff and volunteers from both CSHD and JMU. Collaboration between CSHD and the University Health Center ensured successful vaccine distribution and provided staff with valuable insights into further refining process and procedure.

Further strengthen relationships with community partners.
Building upon relationships previously established as a result of the COVID-19 public health response, Emergency Preparedness & Response staff attended Local Emergency Planning Committee meetings, engaged in local, regional, and statewide trainings and exercises, and collaborated with non-governmental organizations and coalitions.

Yearly reevaluation and revision of emergency plans.
Thorough assessment of previous exercises and emergency events, integration of evolving standards in emergency management and healthcare, and feedback from staff and community partners informed changes to CSHD's Emergency Operations Plan. This all-hazards plan details the mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery process for emergencies in and involving the Health District.

COVID-19 and Mpox response.
CSHD further addressed community vaccination needs by transitioning isolated events into in-office clinics, providing reliable access for both children and adults. Newly hired Emergency Preparedness & Response staff assisted in operational changes and enabled other staff to resume necessary responsibilities and tasks of various programs.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS & RESPONSE

MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS (MRC)

Central Shenandoah MRC volunteers supported CSHD COVID-19 vaccine clinics until the official end of the federal COVID-19 emergency response on May 11, 2023, with five MRC volunteer vaccinators contributing 95.7 hours of service in 22 deployments over 15 days, at 8 different event locations throughout the beginning of the year. Volunteers also supported various daily public health activities, such as assembling kits for sexual health outreach, supporting back-to-school immunization clinic events and other non-emergency CSHD vaccination clinics held at community events for a total of 36 volunteer hours over 6 separate vaccination events, supporting one walk-in STI-testing clinic, and three REVIVE! Naloxone Education and Opioid Overdose Response training outreach events. During a local and regional emergency preparedness exercise, volunteers participated as either as exercise "players" or "patient actors," at 4 events in 17 deployments, with 11 unique volunteers contributing a total of 60.5 hours. Additionally, CSMRC volunteers supported a Chart Filing Project for Harrisonburg-Rockingham Health Department throughout June and July of 2023, with 8 volunteers contributing 82.25 hours in 19 deployments over 14 days. This project helped strengthen coordination between the MRC coordinator and CSHD Office Support Services and enabled the Harrisonburg-Rockingham Health Department to serve the public with greater efficiency due to significant improvements in their record storage system.

VOLUNTEERS

542 Approved Volunteers

99% Deployable Volunteers

WORKFORCE SUPPORT

Over **$24K** in workforce savings

Over **635** hours of support

90 total deployments

VOLUNTEERS BY CATEGORY

Support (non-medical)	171
Medical	299

Sign up to become a Medical Reserve Core Volunteer! Visit: vdh.virginia.gov/mrc

VIRGINIA
medical reserve corps

DEPLOYMENTS BY TYPE

Administrative Support	Emergency Response	Routine Public Health Activities
19	22	49

CLINICAL SERVICES

The Clinical program strives to support health promotion, disease prevention, and community health and wellness across the entire lifespan by offering different clinical services. The Immunization program offers vaccines to adults and children to reduce morbidity and mortality associated with vaccine-preventable diseases. The Newcomer Health program provides screenings and services for newly arrived refugees and other qualified individuals. Services include immunizations, general and mental health screenings, and follow-up referrals. The Sexually Transmitted Infections program strives to prevent the spread of STIs through education, outreach, and providing counseling, testing, treatment, and referral services. Tuberculosis management is also offered through risk assessment screenings and testing. Screenings for long-term care pre-admission are offered.

IMMUNIZATIONS

4,158 TOTAL PATIENTS   **15,169 TOTAL VISITS**

FROM 2022-2023 WE SAW:
77.3% increase in total visits
35.2% increase in pediatric patients
50.24% of patients in 2023 were pediatric

VISITS BY OFFICE LOCATION

Bath County	537
Buena Vista City	0
Harrisonburg City/ Rockingham County	10,441
Highland County	330
Lexington City/ Rockbridge County	1,190
Staunton City/ Augusta County	2,454
Waynesboro City/ Augusta County	217

NEWCOMER HEALTH

459 TOTAL PATIENTS

5,392 TOTAL VISITS

The Newcomer Health program provides screening and services for newly arrived refugees and other qualified individuals. Most clients utilizing this service are within the areas of Harrisonburg City and Rockingham County. Newcomers receive all necessary immunizations, general health and mental health screenings, and follow-up referrals, within 45 days of arrival.

26 OFF-SITE CLINICS

CSHD hosted 26 community based clinics in 2023. Immunizations were the focus of these clinics.
Vaccines that were provided:
- COVID-19
- Tetanus
- Diphtheria
- Pertussis
- Human Papillomavirus (HPV)
- Meningococcal
- Hepatitis A
- Flu

CLINICAL SERVICES

STI TESTING & TREATMENT

The STI program is offered at all locations, but appointments for 2023 were predominantly made at the Harrisonburg City/Rockingham County and Staunton City/Augusta County office locations. Clinics offer counseling, testing, treatment, and partner referral services for patients at risk of or currently experiencing STIs.

IN 2023 CSHD SAW:

417 TOTAL CLIENTS   5,047 TOTAL VISITS

SCAN HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION
ON OUR STI PROGRAM

TUBERCULOSIS MANAGEMENT

IN 2023 CSHD SAW: 380 TOTAL CLIENTS
3,111 TOTAL VISITS

VISITS BY OFFICE LOCATION

Bath County	47
Buena Vista City	0
Harrisonburg City/ Rockingham County	2,557
Highland County	31
Lexington City/ Rockbridge County	332
Staunton City/ Augusta County	127
Waynesboro City/ Augusta County	17

LONG-TERM CARE PRE-ADMISSION SCREENING

IN 2023 CSHD SAW: 717 TOTAL CLIENTS
1,341 TOTAL VISITS

CSHD saw a **3.46%** increase among clients needing Long-Term Pre-Admission Screening services from 2022 to 2023

VISITS BY OFFICE LOCATION

Bath County	Buena Vista City	Harrisonburg/ Rockingham County	Highland County	Lexington City/ Rockbridge County	Staunton City/ Augusta County	Waynesboro City/ Augusta County
10	28	600	13	66	350	274

EPIDEMIOLOGY

The Epidemiology program is responsible for monitoring and investigating reportable and emerging communicable diseases, investiagating outbreaks, and providing guidance and recommendations to prevent and control the spread of communicable diseases within our communities.

CASE INVESTIGATIONS BY PROGRAM AREA

	Augusta County	Bath County	Buena Vista City	Harrisonburg City	Highland County	Lexington City	Rockbridge County	Rockingham County	Staunton City	Waynesboro City
Communicable Diseases	79	4	0	26	3	1	22	77	11	12
Healthcare Associated Infections	1	0	0	3	0	0	1	0	2	0
Hepatitis	48	2	2	56	1	4	14	50	27	24
Toxic Substance Exposures	9	0	0	9	2	3	1	12	6	4
Vaccine Preventable Diseases	7	0	0	7	1	1	1	23	1	1
Zoonotic/ Environmental	34	16	2	22	17	2	11	46	6	10

*COVID-19 numbers have been excluded from the Communicable Diseases program area. Total investigation counts is based on the patient's county at the time of the investigation and the earliest report to public health date was used to determine if the investigation occured during 2023.

COVID-19

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT COVID-19 TRENDS VISIT:

- vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus
- cdc.gov/coronavirus

OUTBREAKS BY TYPE

Dermatological	7
Gastrointestinal	6
Respiratory	9
Other	5

*COVID-19 outbreaks have been excluded from the Respiratory counts. The date Virginia Department of Health was notified was used to determine if the outbreak occurred during 2023.

MY MEAL DETECTIVE

To report a suspected foodborne illness, visit :
vdh.virginia.gov/environmental-health/foodborne-illness-report

POPULATION HEALTH

Within the scope of the local health district, the population health department goes beyond traditional public health department functions and programs to include cross-sectoral collaborations and community capacity-building activities. This encompasses coalition involvement, health service partnerships, stakeholder engagement, health resource networking, communications and media engagement, health equity strategizing, health education programming, harm reduction, as well as community outreach and engagement. While these activities are meant to serve the health of the general population, an equity-driven approach is taken to address the needs of communities experiencing greater vulnerability.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH EVENTS

TOTAL EVENTS ATTENDED: 114

Augusta County	7
Bath County	2
Buena Vista City	1
Harrisonburg City	18
Highland County	6
Lexington City	6
Rockbridge County	8
Rockingham County	5
Staunton City	13
Waynesboro City	48

CONNECTION2CARE

823 Referrals Provided

432 Clients Assisted

COVID-19 TESTS

5,932 Test Kits Distributed

HARM REDUCTION SERVICES

967 Individuals Trained in Opioid Overdose Response

890 Doses of Naloxone Distributed

337 Fentanyl Test Strips Distributed

MATERNAL CHILD HEALTH INITIATIVES

Safe Sleep Cribette Distribution

47 Cribettes Distributed

Car Seat Safety Program

Coming in 2024! This program will be launched this coming year and will provide free car seats and a vehicle safety class to eligible families in our health district. Stay up to date on launch date details by visiting our website or social media page.

*Cribette distribution began July 2023. Fentanyl Test Strip distribution began April 2023. Connection2Care referrals services represents the number of cases opened in 2023