



# Chickahominy Health District 2024 Annual Report



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# A LETTER FROM OUR HEALTH DIRECTOR

The year 2024 was one of transition for the Chickahominy Health District – a “back to the future” year. On the one hand, we witnessed a gradual return to our long-standing public health roots after closing out an era of crisis response due to the COVID-19 pandemic. On the other hand, this past year also displayed our team’s invigorated focus on Public Health 3.0 and the future of public health.



Public Health 3.0 refers to a new era of enhanced public health practice in which local health departments assume the Chief Health Strategist role in their respective communities, working with their community partners – through such activities as Community Health Assessments and Community Health Improvement Plans – to develop strategies that will foster connections within the community, drive collective action, and ultimately improve health outcomes in the population. I am extremely proud of our dedicated team of professionals at Chickahominy Health District! Read on to learn more about a few of their many accomplishments and how they are positively impacting our community.

*Tom Franck*

Thomas Franck, MD, MPH  
Director of the Chickahominy Health District

# WHERE WE ARE

Chickahominy Health District (CHD) is one of 35 health districts under the umbrella of the Virginia Department of Health (VDH). The counties that comprise the health district include Charles City, Goochland, Hanover, and New Kent.

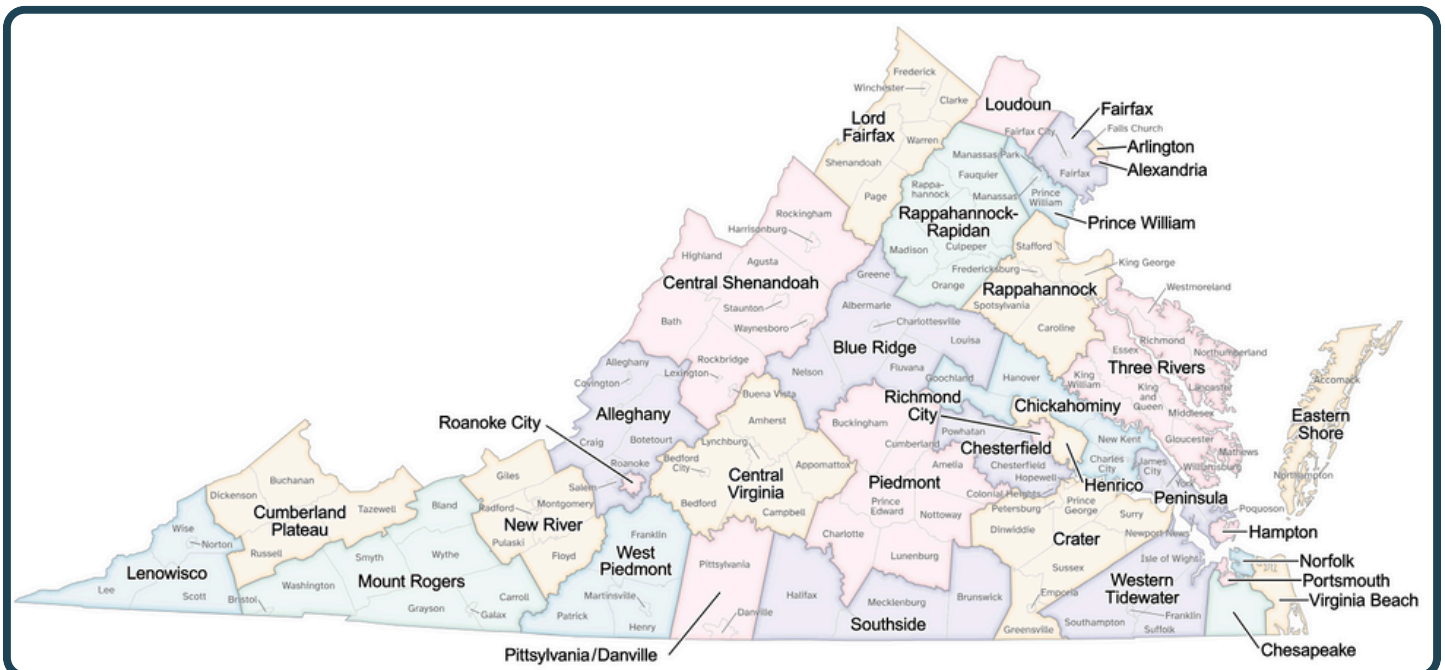
## LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS

Charles City Health Department  
7501 Adkins Road  
Charles City, VA 23030  
(804) 829-2490

Hanover Health Department  
12312 Washington Highway  
Ashland, VA 23005  
(804) 365-4313

Goochland Health Department  
1800 Sandy Hook Road  
Goochland, VA 23063  
(804) 556-5843

New Kent Health Department  
7911 Courthouse Way  
New Kent, VA 23124  
(804) 966-9640



# ABOUT US

Chickahominy Health District serves Charles City, Goochland, Hanover, and New Kent counties, which have a combined population of 174,089 as of July 1, 2023. The most densely populated county in the health district is Hanover, with approximately 114,148 residents. In terms of race and ethnicity, about 82.1% of the population in the health district identify as White, 12.2% identify as Black or African American, 2.2% identify as Asian, 0.8% identify as Native American or Alaska Native, 4.0% identify as Hispanic or Latino, and 2.4% identify as multiple or other races. In terms of age group composition, about 4.5% of the population are under 5 years old, 18.0% are 5-18 years old, 54.5% are 18-64 years old, and 23.0% are 65+ years old.



## OUR MISSION

To improve the health of our community by preventing disease, promoting healthy lifestyles, and protecting people from environmental and other hazards.

## OUR VISION

Healthy People in  
Healthy Communities.

## OUR VALUES

We are proud of our core values: Integrity, Collaboration, Accountability, Respect, Excellence ("I.C.A.R.E."). We truly do care about the individuals and communities that we serve, and we keep these core values at the heart of everything we do as we strive to achieve our mission.

# SERVICES & PROGRAMS

## COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

Surveillance and investigation of all outbreaks and reportable diseases of public health concerns, including suspected food and waterborne illnesses.

## EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

Develops public health emergency plans, and coordinates the local response to disasters and other public health emergencies. Learn more about volunteering with the Medical Reserve Corps: [www.vamrc.org](http://www.vamrc.org).

## ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Approves permits for wells and septic systems. Inspects hotels, motels, restaurants, schools, campgrounds, summer camps, and other venues serving food to the public. Works with animal control to prevent and control rabies.

## POPULATION HEALTH

Facilitates local community health assessments and improvement plans. Collaborates with partners to identify assets, prioritize health topics and improve wellbeing for all. Provides REVIVE! (opioid overdose response) training, the low income child safety seat program, the Healthy Heart Ambassador program, and Mental Health First Aid training.

## IMMUNIZATIONS

Includes school entry vaccinations and adult vaccinations; specialized mobile clinics for flu and COVID-19 vaccines, including home visits for those who are homebound.

## FAMILY PLANNING AND STI TESTING

Services include a physical exam, Pap smear, screening and treatment for sexually transmitted infections, treatment of minor gynecologic disorders, and providing contraceptive method of choice.

## EVERY WOMAN'S LIFE (EWL)

Helps uninsured, low income women gain access to free breast and cervical cancer screening services, which improves treatment options and increases survival.

## MATERNITY SERVICES

Maternity care is available on a sliding fee scale. High-risk pregnancies and labor and delivery are managed by our hospital partners.

## WIC (Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants & Children)

This program provides nutrition education, breastfeeding support, counseling, and eWIC cards for nutritious foods to improve the health of pregnant and postpartum women, and their children up to age five.

# WIC PROGRAM

The WIC program (Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, & Children) serves pregnant and postpartum women, as well as children up to age five. The program provides healthy foods through an eWIC card, which can be used at participating grocery stores.

The WIC team provides nutrition education, breastfeeding support, and referrals to other area services. The WIC program has been shown to reduce premature births and infant mortality, improve the growth and intellectual development of nutritionally at-risk infants and children, decrease the incidence of iron deficiency anemia, improve dietary intake, and improve healthy weightgain during pregnancy. WIC participants are also more likely to receive early prenatal care, to have a regular source of medical care, and have up to date immunizations.

CHD's WIC program operates out of our four local health department offices and one mobile site at Hanover Human Services in Mechanicsville. WIC currently provides a hybrid model of appointments, with some in person, while others conducted by phone. During the FY2024, the average program participation was 1,178 participants per month, with over 4,710 individual encounters during the year. For more information call 804-365-4335.



# CLINICAL CARE

The clinical services provided by CHD include high-quality care to protect the health and promote the well-being of community members. In FY2024, CHD public health nurses performed 334 pre-admission screenings for children and adults to determine eligibility for services.

## **FAMILY PLANNING AND MATERNITY SERVICES**

Our Family Planning clinics offer services to men and women of reproductive age. Services include gynecological checkups (pap smears and mammogram referrals through Every Woman's Life Program (EWL)) and contraception of their choice. This team provides the tools, whether contraception and/or education, for clients to achieve optimal reproductive health. During FY2024, CHD had 489 Family Planning visits and 58 EWL visits. Maternity services, including prenatal and postpartum care, resulted in 238 maternity visits.

## **IMMUNIZATIONS**

Immunization clinics provide vaccinations to clients of all ages and strive to lower the incidence of vaccine-preventable diseases. Clients can receive vaccines required for school or employment as well as vaccines recommended for optimal health. In FY2024, 1,176 immunization visits took place.

## **SCREENING, TESTING, AND TREATMENT**

Tuberculosis (TB) screening and testing are offered by CHD to individuals and/or groups. Over 870 TB screenings were conducted in FY2024. CHD also provides care for sexually transmitted infections (STIs) through testing, treatment, education, and counseling. During FY2024, there were 139 STI visits.



# ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

The Environmental Health program processes applications and conducts inspections for private wells and onsite sewage systems to protect public health and groundwater resources.

Environmental Health Specialists inspect hotels, motels, restaurants, schools, campgrounds, summer camps, summer feeding sites, and other places that serve food to the public. They collaborate with Animal Control to prevent and control rabies, in addition to providing education on a variety of environmental health topics. During FY2024, these services included:

**1,185** Food establishment inspections

**185** Other regulated inspections\*

**663** Onsite sewage applications processed

**26** Lab confirmed positive or unsatisfactory test results for rabies

**657** Private well applications processed

**583** Permitted food establishments

**557** Rabies exposure investigations



\*This number includes tourist establishments, migrant labor camps, campgrounds, summer camps, and pools.



# EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS & RESPONSE

During calendar year of 2024, the Emergency Preparedness and Response (EP&R) program completed several activities including accreditation, exercises, and real-world responses.

- Received re-recognition through the national standards of the NACCHO Project Public Health Ready assessment process, which recognized our ability to plan for, respond to, and recover from public health emergencies.
- Represented the Public Health and Medical Services Emergency Support Function (ESF-8) during Hanover County's full-scale VOPEX radiological exercise at a local Evacuation Assembly Center (EAC) and the Emergency Operations Center (EOC).
- In partnership with Bon Secours Memorial Regional Medical Center, hosted a tabletop exercise to practice local capacity to respond to large scale chemical exposures.
- Conducted mass vaccinations that resulted in more than 170 influenza vaccines to community members.
- Coordinated with the Environmental Health and Epidemiology teams and external partners during infectious disease (TB, Meningococcus) and water contamination responses.

The EP&R program helps coordinate the Greater Richmond Medical Reserve Corps (GRMRC) in collaboration with the Richmond and Henrico Health District. This local volunteer unit is currently comprised of more than 3,100 active volunteers. In 2024, GRMRC volunteers contributed a total of 1,319 volunteer hours across the region (483 hours specifically to CHD activities) with a monetary value of \$67,549 to CHD.

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# COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

The Communicable Disease Program consists of an interdisciplinary team of epidemiologists and nurses that conduct disease surveillance. The team investigates outbreaks and individual cases of reportable communicable diseases that are of public health concern. They work closely with community partners and other stakeholders to provide education and recommendations to prevent and mitigate the spread of infectious diseases.

During FY2024, there were a total of 4,880 communicable disease investigations conducted within the health district. Examples of conditions investigated during this timeframe include (but are not limited to):

- Campylobacteriosis
- Candida Auris
- COVID-19
- Cryptosporidiosis
- Brucellosis
- E. Coli
- Elevated arsenic, mercury, cadmium, and lead levels
- Giardiasis
- Group A Streptococcus
- Haemophilus influenzae
- Hepatitis A, B, and C
- Lyme Disease
- Meningitis
- Neisseria Meningitidis
- Pertussis
- Salmonella
- Shigellosis
- Spotted Fever Rickettsiosis
- Tetanus
- Varicella (Chickenpox)

# COMMUNITY HEALTH

CHD's Community Health Team provided important services via these four community health programs: Healthy Heart Ambassador (HHA), which coaches participants on how to measure their blood pressure and make healthier lifestyle choices; Low Income Safety Seat Distribution and Education Program (LISSDEP), which provides free car seats and booster seats (and installation training) to low-income parents and guardians; Mental Health First Aid (MHFA), which helps people recognize and respond to a mental health crisis; and REVIVE!, the opioid overdose education and naloxone distribution program. They promoted healthy living and wellness through health education presentations and information distribution at community events. In 2024, they presented on tobacco cessation and the harms of vaping, hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette, nutrition, and infection prevention and control.

CHD's Reach Line (804-365-3240), along with the virtual platform UniteUs, allowed the team to connect community members with resources including those provided by the local health departments, external agencies (for example, the Dept. of Social Services) and community-based organizations. In 2024, the team responded to over 300 phone calls, the majority of which were related to COVID-19 (43%), community health services (25%), and clinical services (20%). They also referred 17 questions to Environmental Health and made 10 referrals to WIC.





# COMMUNITY HEALTH

The Community Health Team collaborated with several regional agencies, organizations, and community partners to reduce the harms associated with substance use, share district updates, and address social determinants of health. During the 2024 calendar year, they partnered with the Hanover Community Services Board and Hanover Opioid Task Force to develop a program to mail naloxone to Hanover County residents. The pilot program is set to begin in January 2025.

Highlights from January 2024-December 2024 are below. We are proud to serve our community and look forward to continuing to grow the impact of the community health programs.

**15**

Healthy Heart  
Ambassador participants

**21**

UniteUs referrals made

**18**

Health education  
presentations given  
to 756 attendees

**327**

Reach Line calls answered

**1,064**

Doses of naloxone  
dispensed

**75**

Community events attended

**97**

REVIVE! trainings  
facilitated

**35**

Car seats given to 24 families

**100**

Fentanyl test strips  
dispensed

**7**

Mental Health First Aid  
trainings facilitated with 81  
people trained

# ASSESSMENTS & IMPROVMENT PLANS

In March 2024, the Community Health Team (CHT) published the 2023-2024 Hanover County Community Health Assessment (CHA). The CHA report was a result of the CHT reviewing and analyzing over 100 health indicators, and then developing a comprehensive report to share the community's health status, resources, and challenges. The CHT presented the findings to the Healthy Hanover Coalition and several community organizations. Community input is essential to the CHA process, so the CHT collected additional feedback during the summer using two methods: 1) community health survey; and 2) community conversations. The community health survey was open from July 8 to August 11, 2024 and received 116 responses. The CHT conducted five community conversations with various organizations and groups throughout the county. The results of the survey and the community conversations were presented to the Healthy Hanover Coalition on September 30, 2024. During the meeting, participants reviewed the top eight health issues based upon the CHA findings. After an in-depth review, attendees were invited to participate in a prioritization activity. They were asked to vote for the health issues they believe to be most important to focus on over the next five years. The Healthy Hanover Coalition selected the following three health issues:

**1) Healthy Eating and Food Security**

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**2) Mental Health**

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**3) Affordable, Safe, and Available Housing**

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The CHA is the first step in developing the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) that outlines strategies to address the identified health issues. The CHT has formed workgroups to help develop the CHIP which will be published in 2025.

The second iteration of the Goochland County Health Assessment (CHA), facilitated by CHD's Community Health Team, was completed in December 2024. They have successfully gathered and analyzed various health indicators and shared the data with partners. They hosted a Community Health Input Session in September 2024 to share findings and gained feedback from community members regarding the issues they believe are most important.



After a multi-voting process, the Goochland Community Partner members selected three health priorities to focus on over the next five years:

- 1) Aging Population and Support Services**
- 2) Mental Health**
- 3) Affordable, Safe and Available Housing**

Starting in January 2025, the CHT will form workgroups to develop goals and strategies to address these health priorities. A report detailing the findings is planned for release in 2025. The 2024 Goochland County CHA will be available on this section of CHD's website: [Community Health Assessment & Improvement Plan](#).



# 2024 HIGHLIGHTS

## FOIA

Over 1,900 Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests were processed. A majority were related to environmental health.



## Vital Records

Over 7,450 certified copies of Vital Records were issued resulting in over \$89,000 in revenue.



## WIC

Over 4,700 appointments were conducted and they provided nutritious foods and education to women, infants, and children.



## Medical Reserve Corp

MRC volunteers contributed over 480 volunteer hours with a monetary value of over \$67,500 to the health district.



## Environmental Health

Over 1,180 food establishment inspections were conducted to reduce the risk of foodborne illness outbreaks in the community.



## Community Health

More than 90 REVIVE! opioid overdose response trainings were provided, and over 1,000 doses of naloxone were dispensed.





# FINANCIAL SUMMARY

The Chickahominy Health District receives funding through a variety of sources, generally divided into the "cooperative budget" and the "non-cooperative budget." In accordance with the Code of Virginia, the cooperative budget consists of state general funds which are matched by local funds, which is supplemented by local revenues generated through local health department services and fees. The non-cooperative part of the budget consists of a variety of federal grants passed through the Virginia Department of Health. The following is a summary of the District's FY2024 budget (covering the period July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024) as well as a chart showing expenditures in the four main categories: personnel services, supplies and equipment, contractual services, and continuous charges.

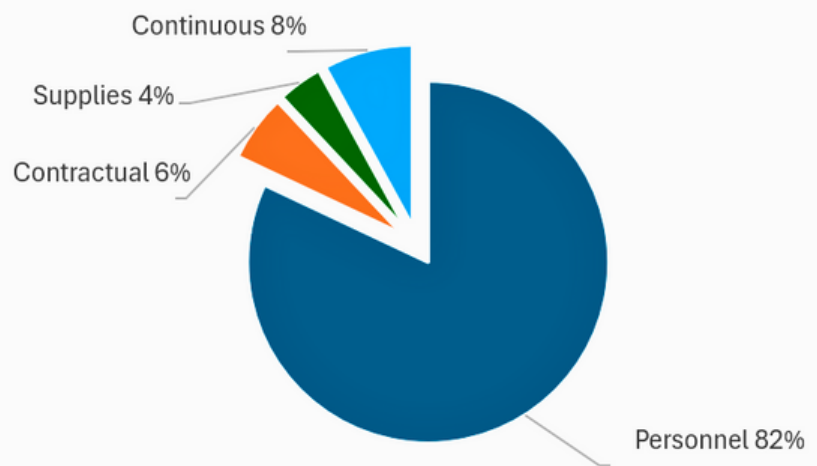
## FY2024 Budget

**Total Budget= \$8,624,422**

Cooperative Budget = \$4,448,566

Non-Cooperative Budget = \$4,175,876

## FY2024 Expenditures



# MOVING FORWARD

It will continue to be our privilege to serve the community as we move forward into 2025. This year we resolve to (1) continue engaging with our community members, sharing information and resources, and finding the best way to meet their needs; (2) maintain excellent customer service as one of our guiding principles; (3) utilize our continuous quality improvement process to optimize our programs and business practices; (4) cultivate the adaptability and flexibility needed to respond to changes in our community; and (5) maintain a well-trained and valued workforce. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or feedback.



# Chickahominy Health District

Visit us Online:  
[VDH.Virginia.gov/Chickahominy](https://VDH.Virginia.gov/Chickahominy)

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