Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2025

July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025

VDH VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Prevent • Promote • Protect
CHICKAHOMINY HEALTH DISTRICT

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Letter from the Health Director

Dear Reader,

The end of the fiscal year 2025 (FY25) provides us with a moment to reflect on our successes, challenges, and new endeavors. This year can be summarized by our commitment to our values through new collaborations, and continuation of prioritizing the health and well-being of our community members. Chickahominy Health District (CHD) has made great strides across our various program areas.

One of the standout initiatives from FY25 is the launch of the Eggcellence Award Policy, which took effect on January 1, 2025. Developed and facilitated by the Food Safety Team, this quarterly award recognizes food facilities that demonstrate a high standard of safe food handling practices and sanitation in accordance with gold standard Food Regulations.

In our Community Health program, we have continued to expand the Low-Income Car Seat Safety Distribution Program. This program was temporarily paused during the COVID-19 response and was re-established in 2022. In FY25, we achieved the largest distribution to date, providing 54 convertibles and 4 booster seats to community members. This success is largely attributed to an increase in referrals from our maternity clinics, highlighting the power of collaboration.

The Charles City County Health Department Open House was held on October 9th, 2024, welcoming approximately 75 attendees. CHD provided flu vaccines, tours of our newly renovated facility, face painting for kids, and interactive stations showcasing our programs. Our clinical staff administered 41 vaccine doses, both as a public health service and to practice our emergency response capabilities in case of future high-demand vaccination needs. Thanks to all staff and attendees for their support!

These highlights represent only a portion of the various impactful initiatives our agency has undertaken. Our ongoing work includes hosting additional open house events in other localities, giving presentations, and sustaining critical services such as restaurant inspections, disease investigations, and more.

FY25 also presented significant challenges, including federal funding reductions and the departure of several contractors. Despite these challenges, our staff remained resilient and unwavering in their commitment to delivering high-quality programs and exceptional service.

As we enter FY26, we remain committed to our chief health strategist role in this new era of Public Health 3.0, which includes serving as the convener for community health partnerships, participating in innovative health promotion initiatives, and keeping the community needs at the center of all we do. Thank you for your support and I hope you enjoy reading this report.

Tom Franck

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

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

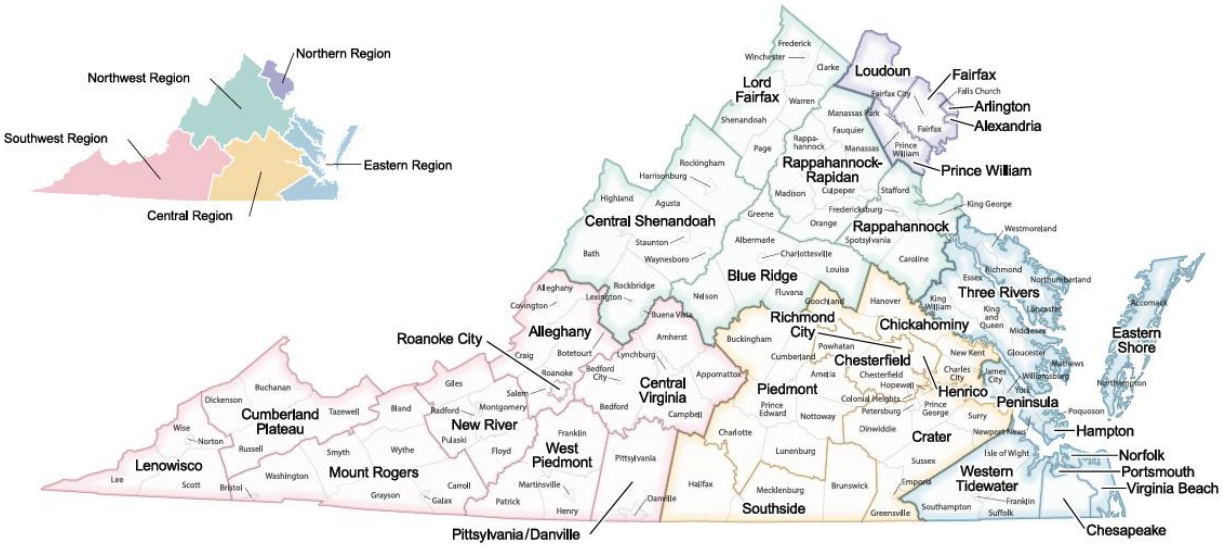
We are proud of our core values: **Integrity**, **Collaboration**, **Accountability**, **Respect**, **Excellence** ("I.C.A.R.E."). We truly do care about the individuals and communities we serve, and we keep these core values at the heart of everything we do as we strive to achieve our mission.

Strategic Goals

1. **Goal 1:** Maintain a competent and valued workforce.
2. **Goal 2:** Foster healthy, connected, and resilient communities.
3. **Goal 3:** Be a trusted source of public health information and services.
4. **Goal 4:** Assure the conditions that improve health opportunity.
5. **Goal 5:** Provide internal systems that deliver consistent and responsive support.

About Us

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 Department Locations

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

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

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

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

Population: 181,183 residents

The four counties served by CHD have a combined population of 181,183 as of July 1, 2024. Hanover County is the most densely populated, with approximately 116,724 residents. Charles City and New Kent counties are entirely rural (100%), Goochland County is 99.7% rural, and Hanover County is 37% rural.

Across the health district, the population is approximately 78.5% White, 11.3% Black or African American, 4.2% Two or more races, 3.7% Hispanic or Latino, 1.7% Asian, 0.4% Native American or Alaska Native, and 0.4% another race. The age distribution shows that about 4.7% of residents are under 5 years old, 24.0% are ages 5–20, 52.8% are ages 21–64, and 18.5% are age 65 and older.

Data Sources: Charles City County, Virginia Population 2025; New Kent County, Virginia Population 2025; Goochland County, Virginia Population 2025; Hanover County, Virginia Population 2025; Urban and Rural, U.S. Census Bureau

Our Amazing Staff

Abi Nimitz, Nurse Epidemiologist

Aida Zayas, Public Health Nurse

Alex Neal, Epidemiologist, Sr.

Alyssa Lewis, MRC Unit Coordinator

Amelia Swafford, Community Health Coordinator

Andrew Burgmeier, Environmental Health Specialist, Sr.

Ann Gladstone, Fiscal Technician Sr.

Brad Kern, Deputy Epidemiologist

Bryanda Amillano, Community Engagement Specialist

Brittany Burrell, Fiscal Technician Sr.

Caitlin Hodge, Population Health Manager

Carol Lien, Environmental Health Manager

Caroline Glastetter, Environmental Health Specialist, Sr.

Carrington Walker, Public Health Nurse

Cindy Moss, Public Health Nurse, Sr.

Christina Jennings, Nurse Practitioner

David Bauer, Environmental Health Specialist, Sr.

David Wachsmann, Environmental Health Specialist, Sr.

Eboni Anderson, Office Service Specialist

Emily Hines, Population Health Planning and Improvement Coordinator

Emma Atkinson, Environmental Health Specialist, Sr.

Eric Smither, Environmental Health Supervisor

Gregory DeBoe, Environmental Health Technical Specialist

Jeanelle Rogers Horton, Environmental Health Specialist, Sr.

Jenny Parrish, Office Service Specialist

Joi Archer, Program Support Technician

Kacie Maslock, Office Service Specialist

Karri Markle, Human Resource Analyst

Leslie Durgin, Office Service Specialist

Lisa Hill, Environmental Health Supervisor

Lynn Shearin, Public Health Nurse, Sr.

Malia Chavis, WIC Nutritionist Associate

Marla Ricart, Community Health Worker

Melissa Janes, WIC Coordinator

Nick Kass, Public Health Nurse

Pamela Perkins, Program Support Technician

Petra Alayyash, Community Engagement Specialist

Preethi Rani Ravindran, Environmental Health Specialist

Samantha Lewis, Program Support Technician

Sarah Flippo, Fiscal Tech

Sarah Walker, WIC Nutritionist Associate

Shannon Wigley, WIC Nutritionist

Shaun Berben, Environmental Health Technical Specialist

Tammi Fox, Office Service Specialist Supervisor, Sr.

Tina Carney, Public Health Nurse, Sr.

Thomas Franck, Health Director

Thomas Sakach, Public Health Nurse Supervisor

Toccara Wilson, WIC Breastfeeding Peer Counselor

Tollen McIntyre, Business Manager

Victoria Fox, Office Service Specialist

Zach Revene, Local Health Emergency Coordinator

Zarmina Faqeer Wahedi, Office Service Specialist

Staff Recognition and Professional Development Highlights

In FY25, Chickahominy Health District proudly honored **20 outstanding team members** with Recognition Awards. These awards celebrate individuals who were nominated by their peers and supervisors for going above and beyond in service to our mission, vision, and values.

Top Award Categories:

- **Exceptional Teamwork** – Collaborating seamlessly to achieve shared goals
- **Outstanding Work Ethic** – Demonstrating dedication and perseverance
- **Mission-Driven Volunteerism** – Contributing beyond routine duties to advance the districts mission, vision, and values

Staff Training & Certifications

Our team continues to elevate their expertise through education and training. This year, we're proud to spotlight our staff. These accomplishments reflect our district's commitment to continuous learning, professional excellence, and public health leadership. We're proud of our team and excited for what's ahead.

NOVEMBER 2024

Tammi Fox and **Kacie Maslock** completed the *Community Health Worker Education and Training Program* hosted by Richmond and Henrico Health Districts.

MARCH 2025

Emily Hines passed the Project Management Professional (PMP) exam, becoming CHD's first certified PMP.

JANUARY 2025

Karri Markle earned her *SHRM-CP certification*, becoming a Society for Human Resource Management Certified Professional.

MAY 2025

Emma Atkinson completed training in the *VDH Food Program* and became a Standardized Food Environmental Health Specialist.

FY2025 By the Numbers

51 Employees Working Toward a Healthy CHD

760 Vaccinations Given

1,667 Inspections Conducted (swimming pools, hotels/motels, etc.)

1,838 Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Requests Processed

7,714 Certified Copies of Vital Records Issued

58 Car Safety Seats Distributed

1,830 Volunteer Hours Spent Helping with CHD Events

4,539 Individual WIC Client Encounters

522 Rabies Exposure Investigations

Service and Program Updates

Clinical Care

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 tools, whether contraception and/or education, for clients to achieve optimal reproductive health. During FY25, CHD had 450 Family Planning visits and 70 EWL visits. CHD also offered Maternity care services including prenatal and postpartum care. In FY25, CHD had 313 maternity visits for prenatal care.

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 FY25, 760 immunization visits took place.

Screening, Testing and Treatment

Tuberculosis (TB) screening and testing are offered by CHD to individuals and/or groups. Over 596 TB screenings were conducted in FY2025. CHD also provides care for sexually transmitted infections (STIs) through testing, treatment, education, and counseling. During FY2025, there were 128 STI visits.

WIC Program

Wholesome Informed Choices WIC Virginia Women, Infants & Children

804-365-4335

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 food options through an e-WIC 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 weight gain 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. The program currently has 1 registered dietitian, 1 lactation consultant, and 3 certified breastfeeding specialists on staff. One staff member is fluent in English/Spanish, as well. WIC currently provides a hybrid model of appointments, with some in person, while others are conducted by phone. During FY2025, the **average program participation was 1,135 participants per month**, with over **4,539 individual encounters** during FY25.

Environmental Health

The Environmental Health (EH) 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 FY25, the Environmental Health Team completed the following services:

1,425 Food establishment inspections *(+240 more than FY24)*

583 Permitted food establishments

765 Onsite sewage applications processed

649 Private well applications processed

185 Other regulated inspections *

522 Rabies exposure investigations

13 Lab confirmed positive or unsatisfactory test results for rabies *(50% decrease from FY24)*

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

As our health district experiences ongoing population and economic growth, the EH team is working diligently to keep pace with the rising number of new restaurants, and other structural developments. This is reflected in the increased numbers for food inspections and permitted food establishments. We anticipate this growth will continue and want to take a moment to recognize the outstanding efforts of our EH team.

Emergency Preparedness and Response

The Emergency Preparedness & Response (EP&R) program responded to multiple real-world events and planned for preparedness activities.

- EP&R and other Chickahominy Health District staff responded to the January 2025 "Richmond Water Crisis", which impacted Hanover and Goochland counties. We were in-person at the Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs) of those counties and provided timely and accurate public health information to our communities and local businesses.
- Ensured continuity of operations during staff reductions and office closures due to the end of COVID-19 related funding. This included conducting a Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) tabletop exercise and Program Space Needs (PSN) assessment.
- Represented the Public Health and Medical Services Emergency Support Function (ESF-8) at the New Kent County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) during the VOPEX radiological exercise.
- In coordination with Bon Secours Memorial Regional Medical Center, began planning for a large-scale exercise to practice response to large scale chemical / bioterrorism incident in our region.
- Helped facilitate Strategic Plan progress review.

The EP&R program helps coordinate the Greater Richmond Medical Reserve Corps (GRMRC) in collaboration with the Richmond and Henrico Health District.

Medical Reserve Corp Volunteer Contributions Overview

- 3,102 volunteers ready to serve in the MRC Greater Richmond area
- 2,775 total hours of volunteers work for MRC Greater Richmond area
- 1,830 volunteer hours spent helping with CHD events
- $63,674.40 – the total value of time donated for CHD events

Communicable Diseases

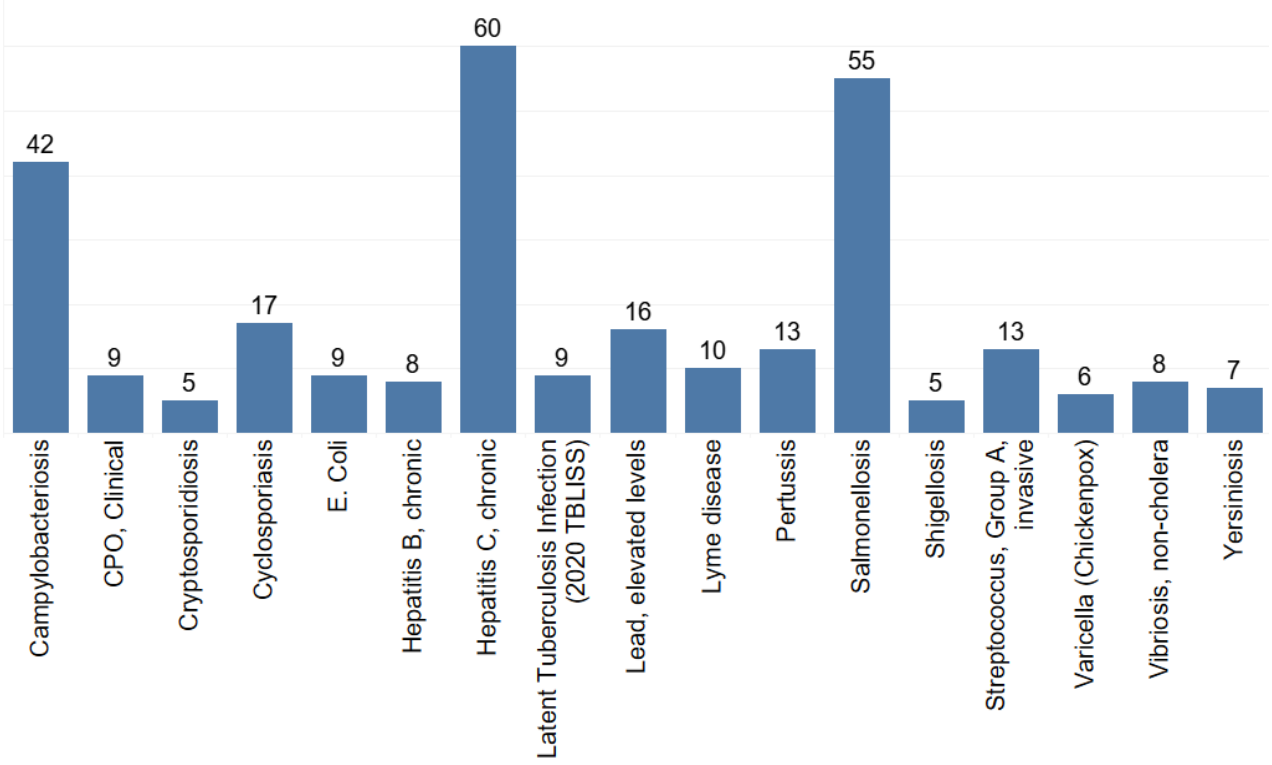
The Communicable Disease Program consists of an interdisciplinary team of Epidemiologists and Nurses that conduct disease surveillance. The team investigates outbreaks and individual cases of reportable communicable diseases that are of public health concern. They work closely with community partners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

During FY2025, there were a total of **3,190 communicable disease investigations** conducted within the health district. This represents a decrease from previous years because during FY25 the team stopped investigating individual cases of COVID-19. Examples of conditions investigated during this timeframe include (but are not limited to):

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

For a breakdown of the communicable disease cases reported during FY25, please see Figure 1 below. Note this figure excludes COVID-19 and sexually transmitted infections (STIs) as well as conditions where the case total was less than five.

Figure 1 – Communicable Disease Cases (FY25)



Spotlight: H5 (Avian) Influenza

Influenza A virus H5N1 (A/H5N1) is a subtype of the influenza A virus, which causes the disease avian influenza (often referred to as "bird flu"). Bird flu is widespread in wild birds and is causing outbreaks in poultry and U.S. dairy cows with several recent human cases in U.S. dairy and poultry workers. Recently H5 bird flu has caused die-offs of wild black vultures and small backyard poultry flocks in Virginia.

During FY2025, our communicable disease team has responded to a number of these incidents, providing recommendations to people who have been exposed and monitoring them for the development of symptoms. There have been no confirmed human cases of H5N1 bird flu in Chickahominy Health District.

Community Health

The Community Health Team (CHT) at CHD includes two Community Engagement Specialists, a Community Health Coordinator, a Population Health Planning and Improvement Coordinator, and a Population Health Manager.

The team focuses on **five core programs**:

1. Virginia's Healthy Heart Ambassador (HHA) Blood Pressure Monitoring Program
2. Low Income Safety Seat Distribution and Education Program (LISSDEP)
3. Mental Health First Aid Training (MHFA)
4. REVIVE! Naloxone Training and Naloxone by Mail
5. Health Education

REVIVE! DBHDS

HHA-BPSM

Mental Health FIRST AID

Program Highlights and Achievements

Community Engagement

In 2025, the CHT represented the health district at more than 60 community and educational events. These events provided opportunities to promote healthy lifestyles, increase awareness of health department services, and strengthen partnerships with community organizations.

Resource Connection and Navigation

Through CHD's Reach Line (804-365-3240) and the Unite Us virtual platform, the team connected residents with essential resources offered by local health departments, external agencies, and community-based organizations. In 2025, the team responded to over 300 calls, with inquiries primarily related to: Clinical programs and vaccinations (44%); Car seat program (25%); and Environmental health (12%). Additional calls were referred to the Epidemiology Team and partner organizations as appropriate.

Mental Health First Aid and Education

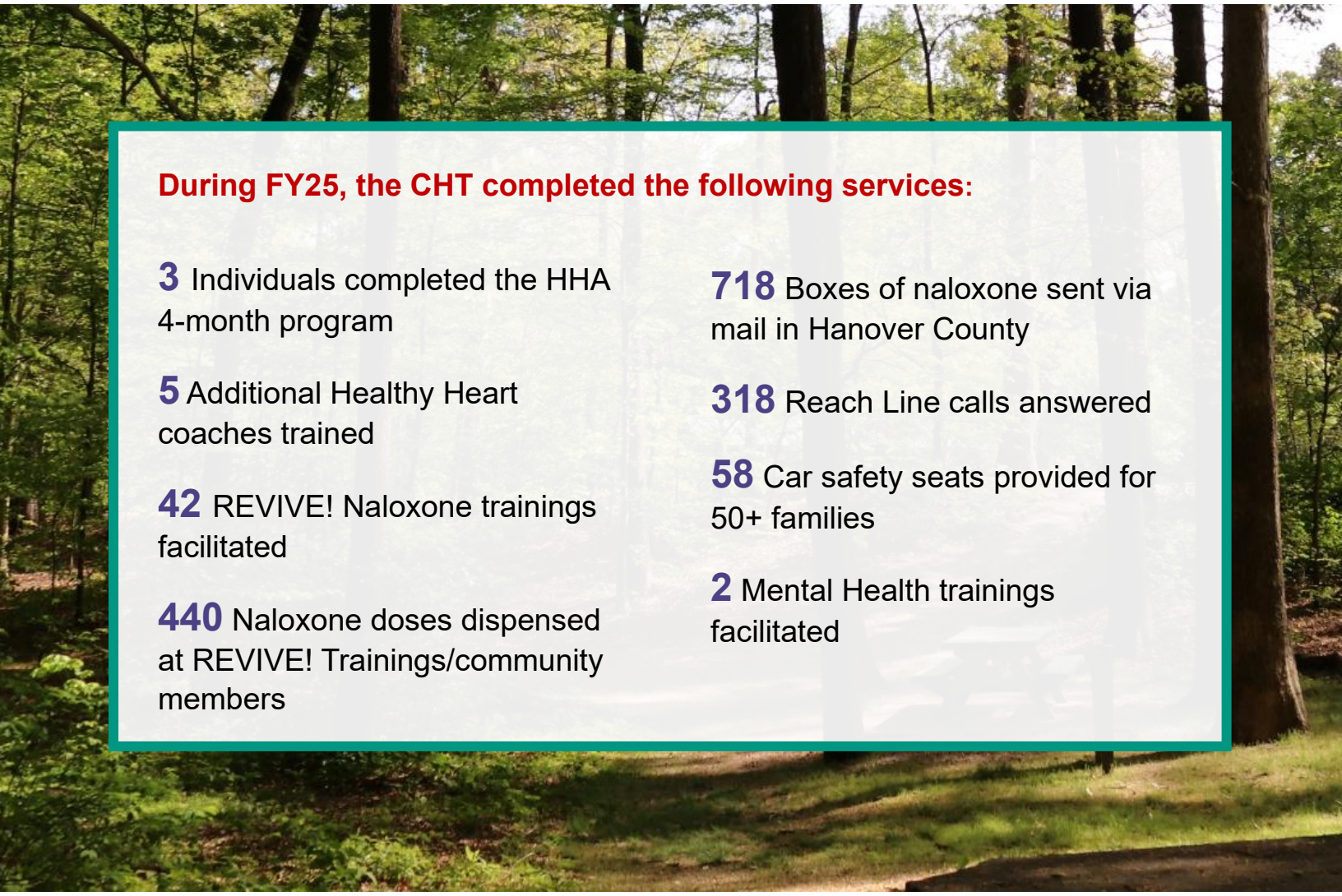
The CHT collaborated with the Goochland-Powhatan Community Services Board (CSB) to deliver an Adult Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) training for 15 healthcare students. Additionally, the team provided mental health education to 34 PreK–5th grade teachers at New Kent Elementary School, enhancing staff awareness and capacity to support student well-being.

Naloxone Distribution and Harm Reduction Efforts

In partnership with the Hanover CSB and the Hanover Opioid Task Force, the CHT launched the Naloxone by Mail Program in January 2025, expanding access to life-saving opioid overdose prevention resources for Hanover County residents. Since its inception, the program has distributed 1,437 naloxone doses by mail.

Low-Income Safety Seat Distribution and Education Program (LISSDEP)

To improve accessibility, the CHT transitioned the **LISSDEP** application process to an online **REDCap** form, available in both **English and Spanish**. This update streamlined the application process and expanded access for families seeking car seat distribution and education services.



During FY25, the CHT completed the following services:

3 Individuals completed the HHA 4-month program

5 Additional Healthy Heart coaches trained

42 REVIVE! Naloxone trainings facilitated

440 Naloxone doses dispensed at REVIVE! Trainings/community members

718 Boxes of naloxone sent via mail in Hanover County

318 Reach Line calls answered

58 Car safety seats provided for 50+ families

2 Mental Health trainings facilitated

Assessments and Improvement Plans

This fiscal year, the Community Health Team published the 2024 Goochland County Community Health Assessment (CHA), the 2025-2029 Hanover County Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP), the 2025-2029 Goochland County CHIP, and continued its work on the 2023-2027 New Kent County CHIP and 2024-2028 Charles City County CHIP. Community health assessments, improvement plans, and quarterly progress reports can be found on our website: https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/chickahominy/community-health-assessment/

Hanover County Community Health Assessment and Improvement Plan Progress

The Community Health Team published the 2023-2024 Hanover County CHA in March 2024. We shared its findings with the Healthy Hanover Coalition and other community-based organizations. Based on their feedback, from July 8 to August 11, 2024, the team conducted a community health survey and received 116 responses. We also facilitated five community conversations with organizations and community groups. Based on survey responses and community conversation themes, eight health priorities for the county were established.

We presented survey results and conversation themes to the Healthy Hanover Coalition in September 2024. Attendees reviewed the top eight health priorities and voted for the health issues they believed to be most important for the next five years.

Those in attendance chose the following as their top three health priorities:

1. Healthy Eating and Food Security
2. Mental Health (this was renamed “Youth Mental Health” during the improvement plan phase)
3. Affordable, Safe, and Available Housing

The CHT formed workgroups to better understand these priorities. Workgroup members included health department staff and many community partners, including representatives from county agencies, regional organizations, and other community-based organizations. They met from the fall of 2024 through March 2025. The workgroups wrote issue statements and drafted goals, objectives, and strategies to address the health priorities. The results of the workgroups are summarized in the 2025-2029 Hanover County Community Health Improvement Plan, which was published in June 2025.

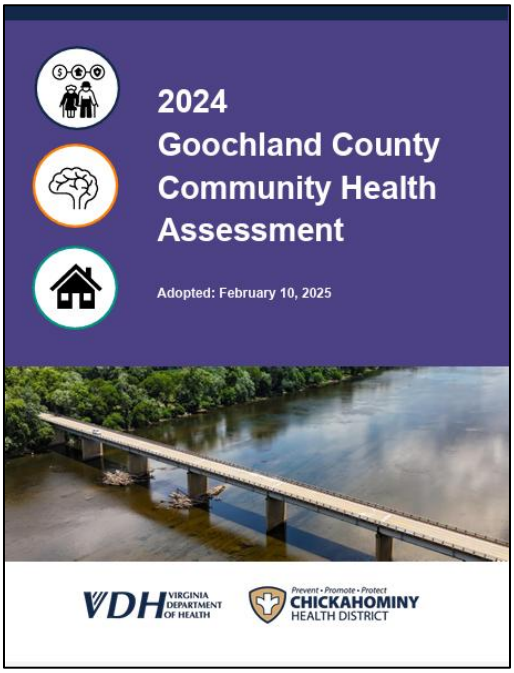
Goochland County Community Health Assessment and Improvement Plan Progress

During the summer of 2024, the Community Health Team began work on the Goochland County CHA. They held four community conversations, three key informant interviews, and collected key measures of health and wellbeing for the county. In September 2024, the team presented these data at a Community Input Session and provide a space for the community to share their thoughts on health issues. The results of this process can be read in the 2024 Goochland County CHA, which was published in December 2024.

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

1. Aging Population and Support Services (renamed “Older Adult Support and Services” during the improvement plan process)
2. Mental Health
3. Affordable, Safe and Available Housing (renamed “Attainable and Safe Housing” during the improvement plan process)

The Community Health Team formed workgroups to understand and address these health issues. Workgroup members included local health department staff, local agency staff, regional organization members, and other community partners. They met regularly from February-June 2025 to write issue statements and draft goals, objectives, and strategies to address these health priorities. The CHIP report was adopted in August 2025.



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 FY2025 budget (covering the period July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025) as well as a chart showing expenditures in the four main categories: personnel services, supplies and equipment, contractual services, and continuous charges.

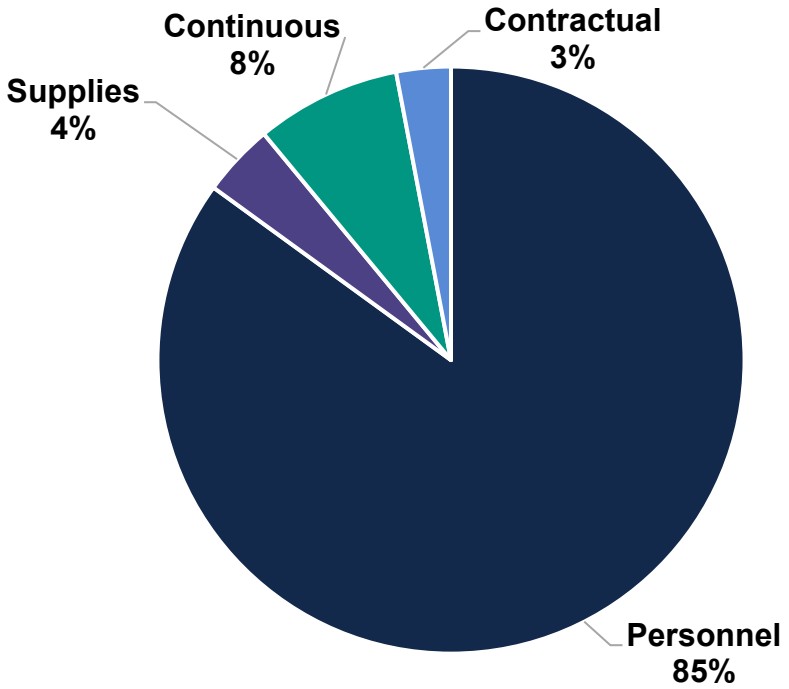
FY2025 Budget

Total Budget: $7,542,030

Cooperative Budget: $4,577,280

Non-Cooperative Budget: $2,964,750

FY2025 Expenditures



Academic Health Department

In the summer of 2024, the Chickahominy Health District and Randolph-Macon College (RMC) created an Academic Health Department (AHD), which is a formal partnership between public health and academic entities. The main goals of this joint effort are to 1) train future health professionals, 2) offer experiential learning for students, 3) provide professional development for staff, and 4) promote collaborative research. Our Academic Health Department completed its pilot year from June 2024-July 2025 with many successes.

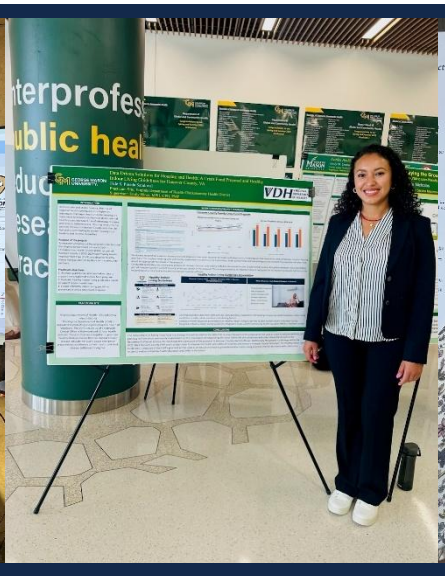
Internships

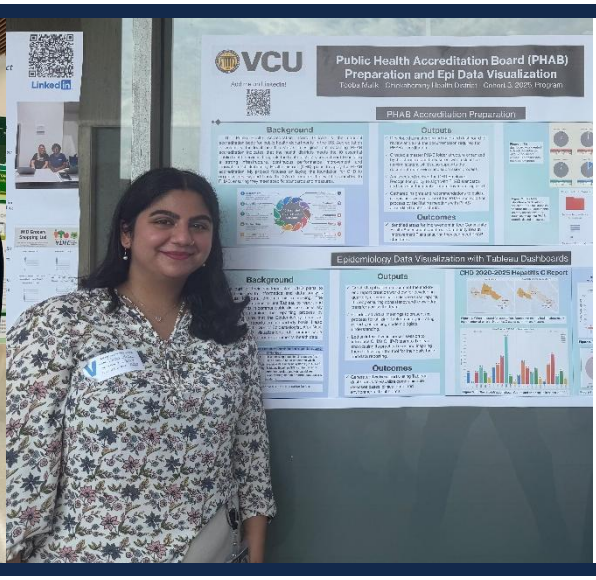
The department hosted its first AHD interns in 2025, two undergraduate RMC students in January, one undergraduate RMC student during the Spring Semester, and four interns, including one undergraduate RMC student, during the Summer Semester. We plan to host an MPH student for the Fall Semester 2025. Interns completed an array of projects for our community health and epidemiology teams, including Spanish listening sessions, disease dashboards, research on food security and housing initiatives, Public Health Accreditation Board groundwork, and health education materials. Summer Semester students attended our first intern writing workshops, which were designed to strengthen their skills in public health and scientific communication and polishing final drafts. Some of our Summer Semester interns were able to attend regional public health events, like the 2025 Virginia Public Health Summit on Cancer.

Chickahominy and RMC staff planned a “Paths to Public Health” event for the fall semester to provide information to undergraduates about careers in several public health fields and to recruit interns. The team also attended RMC’s student career fair in the 2024 and 2025 Fall Semesters.

Professional Development

Professional development efforts began during the summer of 2025. Dr. Berina Yerkic Husejnovik, Assistant Professor in RMC’s Department of Economics, Business, and Accounting, began planning a project management training for health department staff. It is planned to take place in September. Future project management training opportunities will likely take place in early 2026.





Looking Forward

We hope you have found this report to be both informative and interesting. As we enter this next fiscal year, we remain focused on our mission of improving the health of our community. We are committed to advancing Public Health 3.0, building new partnerships, driving innovation, and centering our work on the needs of our community. We want to express our sincere gratitude to you, our community partners, for your ongoing support and collaboration.

CONNECT WITH CHICKAHOMINY HEALTH DISTRICT!

804-365-3240

CHDWellness@vdh.virginia.gov

www.vdh.virginia.gov/chickahominy

Facebook and Instagram