



OKLAHOMA STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

# ANNUAL REPORT

2024

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### MISSION

To protect and promote health, to prevent disease and injury and to cultivate conditions by which Oklahomans can thrive.

### VISION

Leading Oklahoma to prosperity through health.

### VALUES

- Service
- Respect
- Collaboration
- Accountability



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# MESSAGE FROM THE COMMISSIONER



## Greetings,

As I reflect on the year, it's apparent that public health is advancing in Oklahoma. The OSDH began transforming the agency in 2021 by identifying three key aspects that will lead us to create a stronger public health infrastructure in Oklahoma: **strengthening the core, managing the portfolio, and innovating public health.**

We started by strengthening our core through improving customer service at all levels, identifying and correcting inefficiencies, and working directly with staff to improve culture. Next, we focused on managing our portfolio by directing efforts to areas where the OSDH could have the greatest impact. These efforts led us to our third focus, innovating public health.

Innovation doesn't always have to be big and flashy. We are approaching this with a people-centric lens. Through Mobile Wellness Units and Public Health on the

Go vans, we deliver services to Oklahomans where they are, breaking transportation barriers. Through our Community Health Worker program, we've integrated peers into the community to assist with navigating clients' health journey by connecting them with resources and services. Additionally, we spent the year building the backend of our Electronic Health Records system that will be piloted in 2025 with a full rollout in 2026. This new system will allow for better communication between clients and county health departments and give clients easier access to their health records.

Transforming public health and, in turn, the OSDH does not stop here. We are dedicated to this continuous journey for years to come. Our focus will ebb and flow with the needs of our communities, but one thing will remain the same — our vision of leading Oklahoma to prosperity through health.

Sincerely,

Keith Reed  
Commissioner of Health







# 2024 SNAPSHOT AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Delivered **more than 1.2 million** core medical services through our network of rural county health departments across the state.

**Continued to provide reproductive services** and women's health services while pushing back on the federal government's removal of Title X funding, utilizing supplementary funding provided by the Oklahoma Legislature.

Piloted the **Pregnancy Resource Navigator** program in several counties before launching statewide mid-year.

**Improved oral health outcomes** for Oklahomans by funding and supporting 23 dentists through the OK Dental Loan Repayment Program.

Through food benefits alone, **WIC infused \$59.8 million into local communities**, directing federal funds into neighborhood grocery stores and helping families access nutritious foods critical for early childhood development and maternal health.

Beckham, Craig, Texas, Washington and Woodward counties saw an **average 8.9% increase** in blood lead testing.

Executed the legislatively transitioned **Office of Client Advocacy** and the **RX for Oklahoma program** under the OSDH oversight.

Eliminated 135 pieces of unused machine hardware saving taxpayers more than **\$158,000**.

# CHOOSING CHILDBIRTH

“ The single most shining star in the darkest of my nights... I was offered so much when I could not afford any of it. ”

– mother who received services supported by  
**Choosing Childbirth** funding

The **Choosing Childbirth** program provides opportunities like this to thousands of women throughout Oklahoma. Through the Choosing Childbirth Act, the Oklahoma State Department of Health provides grants to not-for-profit organizations to reimburse reasonable expenses of programs providing services, education, and resources to pregnant women and women who believe they may become pregnant.

## Support Services Include:

- Counseling
- Parenting classes
- Medical and mental health services
- Doula services
- Family Resource Centers
- Home visiting
- Referrals and connections to other resources
- Adoption services
- Nutritional support services
- Transportation and housing assistance

## \$18 MILLION

AWARDED THROUGH  
CHOOSING CHILDBIRTH

- **13 organizations** were awarded funding in November 2024
- A **Community of Practice** is being established
- A **comprehensive evaluation plan** is being developed to specifically address primary and secondary drivers of infant and maternal mortality and implementation of evidence-based intervention strategies







# MATERNAL SUPPORT

## PREGNANCY RESOURCE NAVIGATORS

Supporting Oklahoma  
parents before, during  
and after birth.

The OSDH successfully launched the **Pregnancy Resource Navigator (PRN)** program in 2024. The PRN program works within communities to provide access to resources, programs and services that support pregnant and newly parenting families through a vast network of in-home visitation programs, partnerships and family-serving organizations.

Governor Stitt's H.E.L.P. Task Force led to the creation of the PRN program, which the OSDH developed in cooperation with other state agencies and family-serving partners, using the Community Health Worker model.

- **53 Oklahoma counties** have active PRN services available
- PRNs/CHWs helped **2,297 individuals apply for Medicaid**, 545 of which were families that were pregnant or newly parenting
- **More than 1,055 hours** of PRN training have been completed

# SHIP

The **2023-2028 Oklahoma State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP)** was developed through input from the public during various health assessments conducted throughout the state. Five traditional priorities, **cardiovascular disease, diabetes, mental health, obesity, and substance misuse**, were identified. Additionally, a theme emerged among the qualitative data for Social Determinants of Health, or Drivers of Health, resulting in an additional priority for a total of six, with each establishing workgroups and associated work plans over the past year.

Year one of the SHIP involved around 250 stakeholders from across Oklahoma. Approximately 110 individuals attended the Inaugural SHIP Annual Hybrid Meeting in October 2024. Currently, 132 items are being tracked across the SHIP of which **36% have been achieved in the first year.**

## Cardiovascular Disease (CVD)

Partners involved in the SHIP reported that 54 clinics are using multidisciplinary care teams adhering to evidence-based guidelines to identify the social service and support needs of patients in order to improve the management and treatment of hypertension and high cholesterol. The target set for this strategy was 30 clinics.

## Diabetes

The number of community health workers who are actively involved in evidence-based diabetes prevention and management programs and services increased by 16% surpassing the goal of a 10% increase.

## Social Drivers of Health

Based on a target to provide 3,500 data driven programming concepts and collaborative trainings across the state between October of 2023 and October of 2024, SHIP partners reported 4,850 convenings.

## Mental Health

SHIP partners collaborated to increase participation in trauma training across the state, with a year one target of 3,500, and reported holding a total of 5,942 trainings.

## Obesity

State Obesity Plan group members partnered to improve support for physical activity and nutrition in the early care environment. They set a target of participation from 40 licensed childcare and education programs in high-risk areas in the Go Nutrition and Physical Activity Health Assessment for Childcare (GoNAPSACC) program and **reported participation data of 78.**

## Substance Misuse

SHIP partners sought to improve Oklahoma's substance use disorder rate by increasing primary substance use prevention education. The workgroup set a target of identifying 20 sites offering prevention education and **reported 176 sites** at the end of year one.



# ANSWERING THE CALL

Tornadoes, a large fire, a hurricane, and a solar eclipse—no, it's not the start of a bad joke. It's what kept the OSDH Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPRS) team and other OSDH staff busy this year. Let's look at a few significant events that took place and how OSDH answered the call.

## Severe Weather

Oklahomans are accustomed to severe weather, but this spring, a significant number of tornadoes struck, leaving a trail of destruction.

- OSDH Emergency Preparedness staff provided support in the State Emergency Operations Center, distributed detailed weather forecasts and activation notices, deployed Plum Cases to restore internet connectivity for impacted health districts, and assisted at the local level with donation Points of Distribution (PODs).
- Local CHD staff provided support in impacted areas, including the Mobile Wellness Unit, nursing staff, community health workers, and communication staff. They provided tetanus shots and collaborated with local, regional, and state Department of Human Services staff to assist residents with immediate and future needs.

## Shattuck Fire

- The OSDH EPRS team supported the State Emergency Operations Center.
- The team also coordinated and supported the safe evacuation of a Shattuck Nursing Home and Newman Memorial Hospital ensuring continuity of care for residents.



*Flooding damage  
from Hurricane Helene  
Western North Carolina*





## Hurricane Helene

A 10-person team, including Emergency Response staff, Registered Nurses, Sanitarians and Community Engagement staff deployed to North Carolina to assist the State Health Department and Emergency Operations Center.

### The Team:

- Processed and submitted numerous resource requests to support emergency operations.
- Coordinated communication and response efforts with external health departments at the State EOC.
- Responded to a high volume of calls at the SEOC ESF-8 desk, ensuring timely communication and resolution of critical issues.
- Organized and coordinated the deployment of nurses and Environmental Health Specialists (EHS) to assist with shelter operations and public health response initiatives, including vaccine strike teams, Points of Dispensing (PODs), and facility inspections.
- Developed a comprehensive map detailing the operational status of local County Health Departments (CHDs).
- Provided vital assistance to fatality management teams by reconciling lists of missing persons and potential victims.

## Solar Eclipse

- Southeast Oklahoma was in the path of totality for the historical solar eclipse this spring. While many Oklahomans enjoyed the eclipse, the OSDH team spent months planning and preparing for the influx of visitors to the area.
- The EPRS and District 9 staff worked through a comprehensive tabletop exercise to prepare for the event.
- The teams worked with local and state partners to align planning initiatives.
- The EPRS team activated the Public Health Emergency Operations Center and led briefings and situational updates to ensure operational readiness.
- The District 9 team created materials about eye safety, protection of pets, and preparation for crowds, as well as eclipse glasses so residents could safely enjoy the historical event.



# LOCAL IMPACT

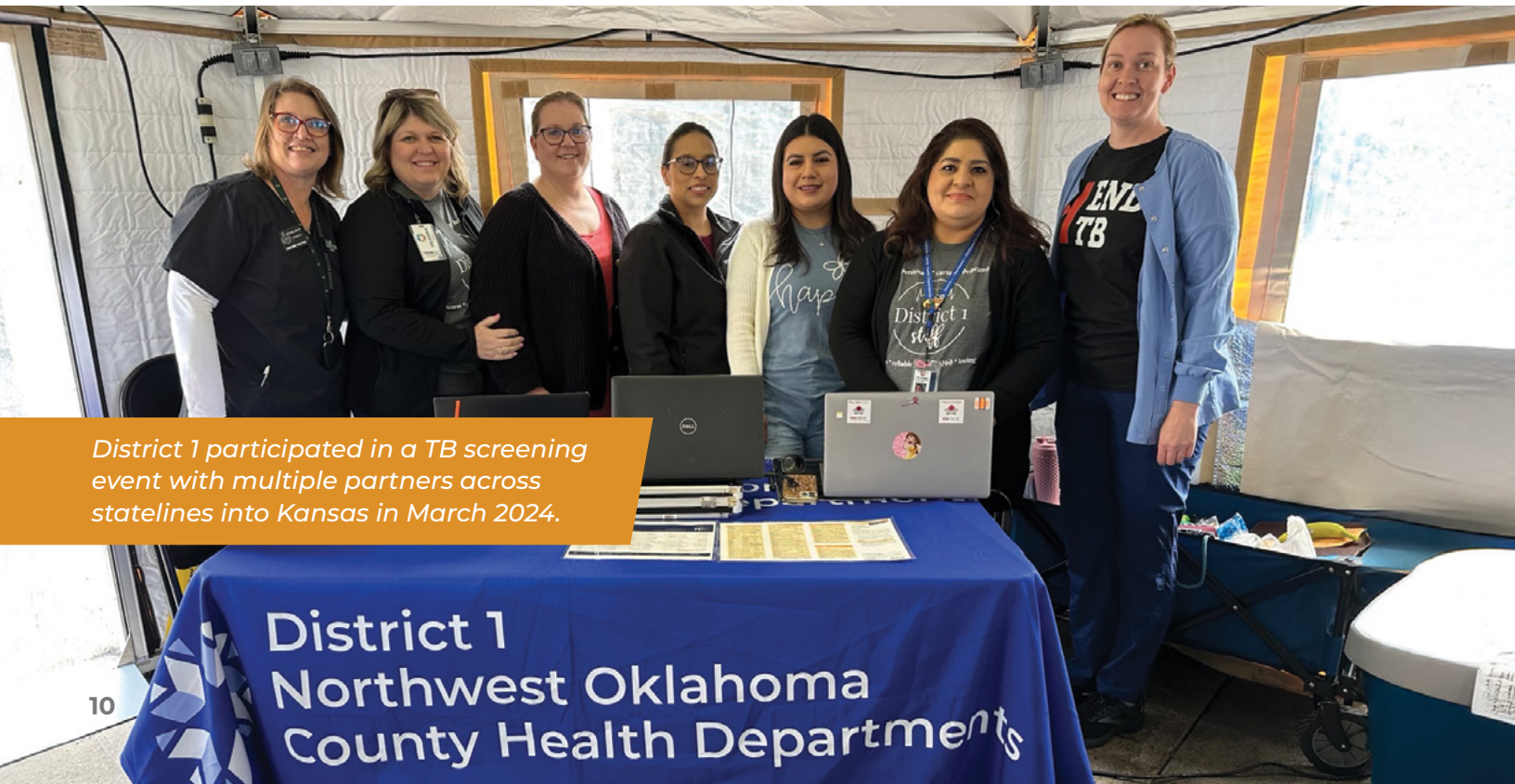
## DISTRICT 1 | NORTHWEST OKLAHOMA

The District 1 team partnered with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Seward County Health Department, Seward County Community College, the CDC, and a Kansas employer with over 5,000 employees to conduct a mass Tuberculosis (TB) screening event. The OSDH District 1 team was key, as 600 employees are Oklahoma residents. Texas and Beaver County Health Departments were tasked with the assessment and follow-up treatment of individuals who tested positive. It was a great example of collaboration between many out-of-state partners to assure the health and safety of Oklahoma residents.

The team expanded their Type II Diabetes education classes throughout the district

by adding more dates. The class serves Custer, Harper, Woods, and Woodward counties by providing individuals with education to help them better manage their diabetes and daily challenges. The team is working to add more locations as it strives to reach the at-risk population with education and resources.

District 1 staff attended and held Back to School events to kick off the school year, including the Back to School Block Party hosted by the Harper County Health Department. The event had various booths providing food, children's services such as immunizations, sports physicals, resources, and hands-on activities with back-to-school supplies, including backpacks, as prizes.



*District 1 participated in a TB screening event with multiple partners across statelines into Kansas in March 2024.*





*District 4 distributed 405 car seats and conducted 102 car seat safety inspections in 2024.*

## DISTRICT 2 | NORTHWEST CENTRAL OKLAHOMA

District 2 had a big year, moving into two new Canadian and Grant County buildings. The Canadian County Health Department moved to a new location, consolidating the two previous locations. All services are in one location, enhancing the ability to serve the community effectively. During the transition, the mobile team provided services. In Grant County, a new building was constructed, allowing the health department to expand services in a larger space.

The Mobile STRIKE team assisted in tornado response efforts in Rogers County following the devastating weather. The team provided tetanus shots, directed residents to local resources for meals, showers, clothing, and hygiene products, and worked with the American Red Cross to distribute food and water.



*District 3 provided support via the Mobile Wellness Unit to Barnsdall after an F4 tornado hit the small Osage County town in May 2024.*

District 3 hosted a *Bridges Out of Poverty* workshop in Pawhuska, educating staff and community partners about the stigma around poverty and how to reframe one's mindset when working with those living in and working toward getting out of poverty.

The D3 Children First team represented Oklahoma on a national stage when they presented a poster at the American Public Health Association Annual Meeting titled "Combating misinformation: Educating mothers on marijuana's impact on pregnancy and children."

On the evening of May 6, an F4 tornado struck the small Osage County town of Barnsdall. District 3 was on the scene the following day, providing support via the Mobile Wellness Unit, nursing staff, and community health workers and assisting the Osage County Emergency Manager with communication needs. The team collaborated with local, regional, and state Oklahoma Department of Human Services staff to help the community and citizens with current and future needs and services.

Since 2002, the Lincoln County Health Department and numerous partners have provided fifth graders in Lincoln County Schools with an opportunity to learn skills necessary for adult roles. This year, approximately 400 students had this experience.

District 3 participated in 900 outreach events, 242 community events, 90 coalition meetings, 324 classes taught, and 121,182 people reached.





## DISTRICT 4 | NORTHEAST OKLAHOMA

Along with multiple successful events, District 4 significantly impacted the communities they serve, both in their county health departments and within their communities.

### Community Engagement and Outreach

- The Health Education Program delivered 200 presentations and participated in 64 community and school events to promote health awareness.
- Community Health Workers successfully served 2,201 clients.
- The district's Food Pantry program, in partnership with the Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma, provided 383 food boxes and assisted 1,432 individuals.
- The Northeastern Oklahoma CATCH Coordinated School Health Initiative engaged with 37 schools and organizations, conducting 310 evaluations that significantly contributed to student health education.
- The district distributed 405 car seats and conducted 102 car seat safety inspections.

### Public Health and Consumer Safety

- Public Health Specialists conducted 3,084 inspections and issued 192 new licenses.

### Clinical Services

- 2024 has been an impactful year for our community, as we proudly delivered 23,594 clinical services.
- Our Child Guidance Program made a significant impact by welcoming 290 new clients and completing 1,208 visits.
- In addition, our dedicated nurses within the Children First program conducted 1,372 visits, ensuring that children receive the essential care and support they need to thrive.
- SoonerStart reached new milestones with 2,929 completed visits. This program plays a crucial role in early intervention, helping young children get the support they need right from the start.



*The Comanche County Health Department hosts a community garden initiative that promotes healthy eating, and community engagement, and helps reduce food insecurity.*

## LOCAL IMPACT

### DISTRICT 5 | SOUTHWEST OKLAHOMA

District 5 community engagement efforts, such as health education campaigns and outreach programs, helped raise awareness of available health services and promote healthy behaviors across the region. These initiatives have improved access to essential services, including immunizations, health screenings, and social support programs. Social services have played a critical role by assisting individuals and families with resources, referrals, and advocacy to address complex health and social needs, ultimately contributing to better health outcomes and increased community resilience.

The District prioritized expanding access to health care through the Mobile Wellness Unit (MWU). The

MWU provided over 1,200 services to underserved populations, conducting health screenings, immunizations, and educational sessions on nutrition, chronic disease prevention, and healthy lifestyles. Additionally, mobile services have empowered individuals with the knowledge to make informed health decisions, helping to reduce health care disparities in rural and underserved areas.

By providing flu vaccinations, health screenings, and maternal and child health services, the nursing team helped reduce the disease burden and improve overall health outcomes. The nursing staff also promoted health education in schools and communities, addressing STI prevention, breastfeeding support, and lead exposure prevention.



## DISTRICT 6

## CENTRAL OKLAHOMA

The McClain County Health Department had a great turnout for the first Annual McClain County Community Baby Shower. Forty-two people represented their community agencies and hosted resource tables promoting the services they provide for infants, children, and pregnant women, and 119 community members attended the event.

Staff from the Grady County Health Department, along with other community members and OSDH leadership, officially opened the new building. The new site nearly triples the space of the previous building and is in the middle of downtown Chickasha, opening the opportunity to serve many more clients.

Pottawatomie County Health Department administered 302 flu shots at schools and senior centers within the county.

The Hughes County Health Department offered critical public health services to the community of Holdenville after a tornado ripped through the county in April. County staff oversaw incident command for the tornado response efforts. The team coordinated resources, facilitated a resource pickup line, and provided 17 tetanus shots to community members and first responders.



*The McClain County Health Department hosted the first Annual McClain County Community Baby Shower in 2024.*

# LOCAL IMPACT

## DISTRICT 7 | EAST OKLAHOMA

The District 7 team recognized and celebrated the strength and resilience of seniors within their community at the Elderbration Celebrating Senior Wellness event. The no-cost health fair in Tahlequah featured a keynote speaker, breakout sessions, resource tables, fall prevention giveaway items, and mobile wellness unit services.

When the temperature dropped significantly in February, the Sequoyah

County Health Department teamed up with community partners to provide a warming shelter in the Sallisaw Farmers Market parking lot. The tent served as an overflow shelter for those experiencing homelessness.

To help their community be safe and healthy, the Haskell County Health Department partnered with the Choctaw Nation to provide a no-cost, drive-thru flu clinic.



*District 7 provided 2024 Elderbration event attendees with medication lockboxes, fall prevention tools, and promotional health and injury prevention information.*





*The Murray County Health Department collaborated with Oklahoma Human Services and Chickasaw Nation to host Health and Hope on Wheels, a community resource event.*

## DISTRICT 8

## SOUTH CENTRAL OKLAHOMA

The Pontotoc County Health Department held an STI/HIV screening event at the Ada Public Library, serving more than 23 clients. The event was held in partnership with the Pontotoc County Homeless Task Force, Lighthouse Behavioral Wellness Centers, Mama T's B&B, and Ada Homeless Services. Individuals tested received warming supplies, including socks, hats, and hand warmers. The District 8 Mobile Wellness Unit also provided additional services at the event.

In a first-of-its-kind collaborative effort, Oklahoma Human Services, the Murray County Health Department, and Chickasaw Nation partnered to host Health and Hope on Wheels, a community resource event. The event,

held at the Artesian Hotel overflow parking lot, featured services from the participating agencies' mobile units.

The Love County Health Department sustained significant damage from the April 27, 2024, EF-4 tornado that impacted Love and Carter counties. Days after the tornado hit, the Love County staff began relocating to their temporary location, the former Marietta City Hall building. Services, including immunizations, resource referrals, and WIC replacement forms, were offered to residents of the impacted counties. Murray County was also affected by an EF-3 tornado on April 27, with staff response including immunizations and resource referrals for residents. In total, 197 tetanus shots were administered.

# LOCAL IMPACT

## DISTRICT 9

## SOUTHEAST OKLAHOMA

With the total solar eclipse covering much of the District 9 area, the team spent months preparing for and successfully responding to the event. They distributed 31,000 eclipse glasses and provided educational resources to ensure a safe viewing experience across the district. They also provided helpful information about protecting pets and the impact on local infrastructure. The collaborative effort included partnerships with schools, city officials, law enforcement, emergency management, veterinarians, and other key stakeholders to guarantee safety during this event.

The LeFlore County Health Department partnered with 633 Recovery Ranch

and the Health and Wellness Center to provide a men's health outreach in honor of Men's Health Month. Over 20 men participated and were connected to the following resources: SoonerCare enrollment, blood/blood pressure screenings, biometric scale, nutrition counseling, depression screening, mental health appointment, health and wellness appointment, voter registration, and HIV self-test.

The Pittsburg County Health Department, OSDH Pediatric Audiology, and McAlester Public Schools once again partnered to conduct annual hearing screenings for students. The screenings occurred at four different schools, and 994 students

were screened. Of those, 116 were referred for further evaluation. Additionally, at least one kindergarten student was identified with profound hearing loss and connected to resources for hearing equipment.



*In April 2024, District 9 distributed 31,000 eclipse glasses during the total solar eclipse. They worked closely with local officials to ensure safety during the event that drew more than 100,000 spectators to the area.*





*District 10 hosted an eight-week wellness program in 2024. The series covered various health topics including sleep, stress management and nutrition education.*

## DISTRICT 10 MID-CENTRAL OKLAHOMA

District 10 launched an eight-week OSDH pilot program, *A Way to Wellness*, for community members across the county. The series focused on overall wellness through intentional goal-setting and peer support. Sessions covered various health topics, including sleep and stress management, nutrition education, and managing triggers. Screening days and weekly Habit Trackers were also incorporated into the program to encourage long-term behavior change.

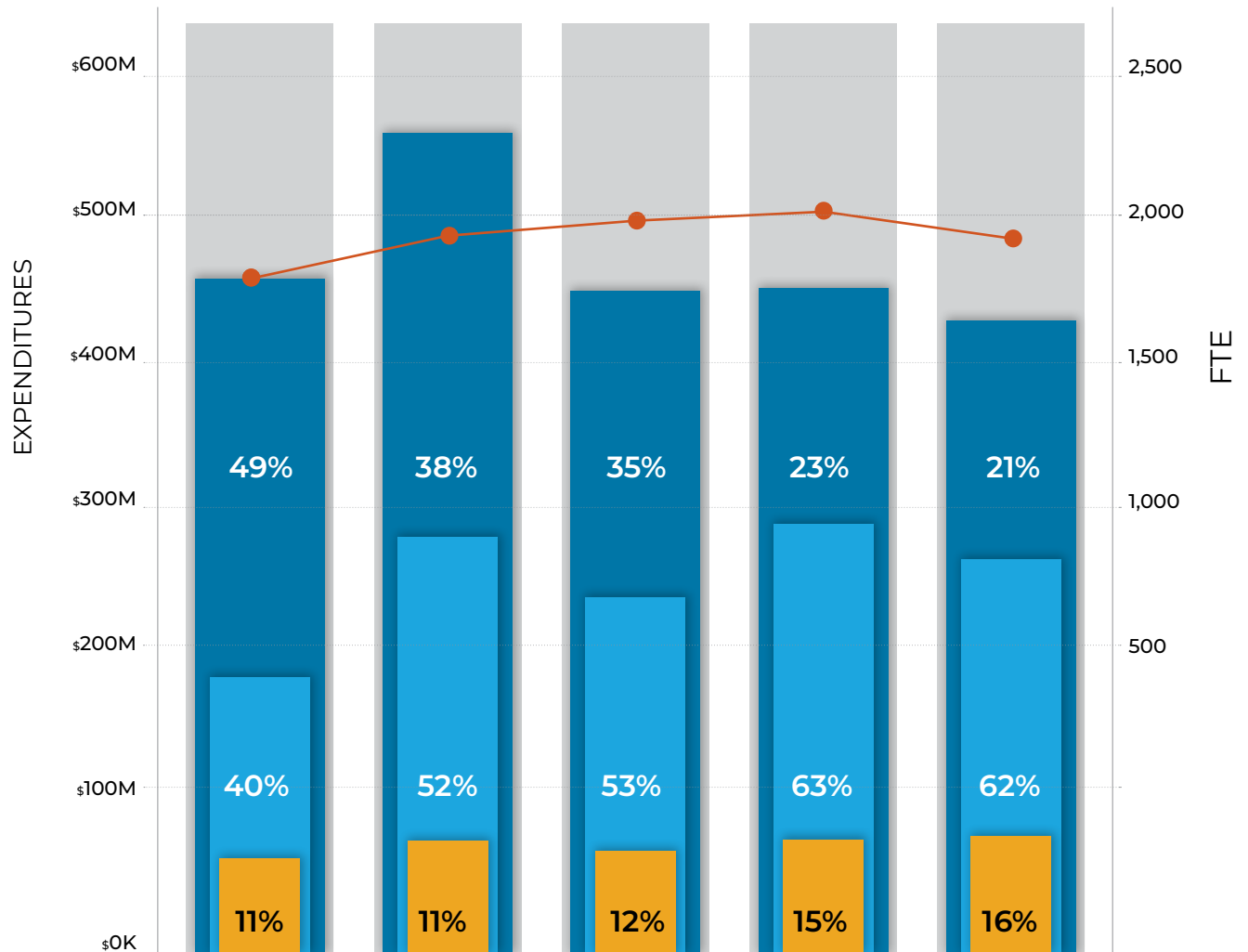
The Cleveland County Health Department assisted with two DEA Take Back Day drive-thru events in collaboration with the DEA's National Take Back Day. Events were hosted in April and October in partnership with Cleveland County Health Improvement Plan Substance Abuse Community Coalition, Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics, OU Southwest Prevention, Little Axe Health Center Tribal Opioid Response, The Virtue Center, Norman Veterans Home, OU Health, Product

Stewardship Institute and Capital Waste Solutions. Medication lockboxes and Naloxone were distributed to attendees by OU Health and The Virtue Center. Between the spring and fall take-back days, 608 pounds of medications and 602 pounds of sharps were collected.

The Cleveland County Health Department experienced a fantastic turnout at its first Community Baby Shower hosted by the Community Health Worker-Pregnancy Resource Navigator at The Well. Thirteen partner agencies and organizations participated, offering information and services for infants, children, and pregnant women. More than 125 community members attended, with over 115 door prizes given out, including bath sets, breastmilk storage bags, diaper bags, as well as big-ticket items such as strollers, kick and plays, baby carriers, and changing pads donated by The Well and the Cleveland County Health Department.

# FINANCIALS

## TOTAL ACTUAL EXPENDITURES

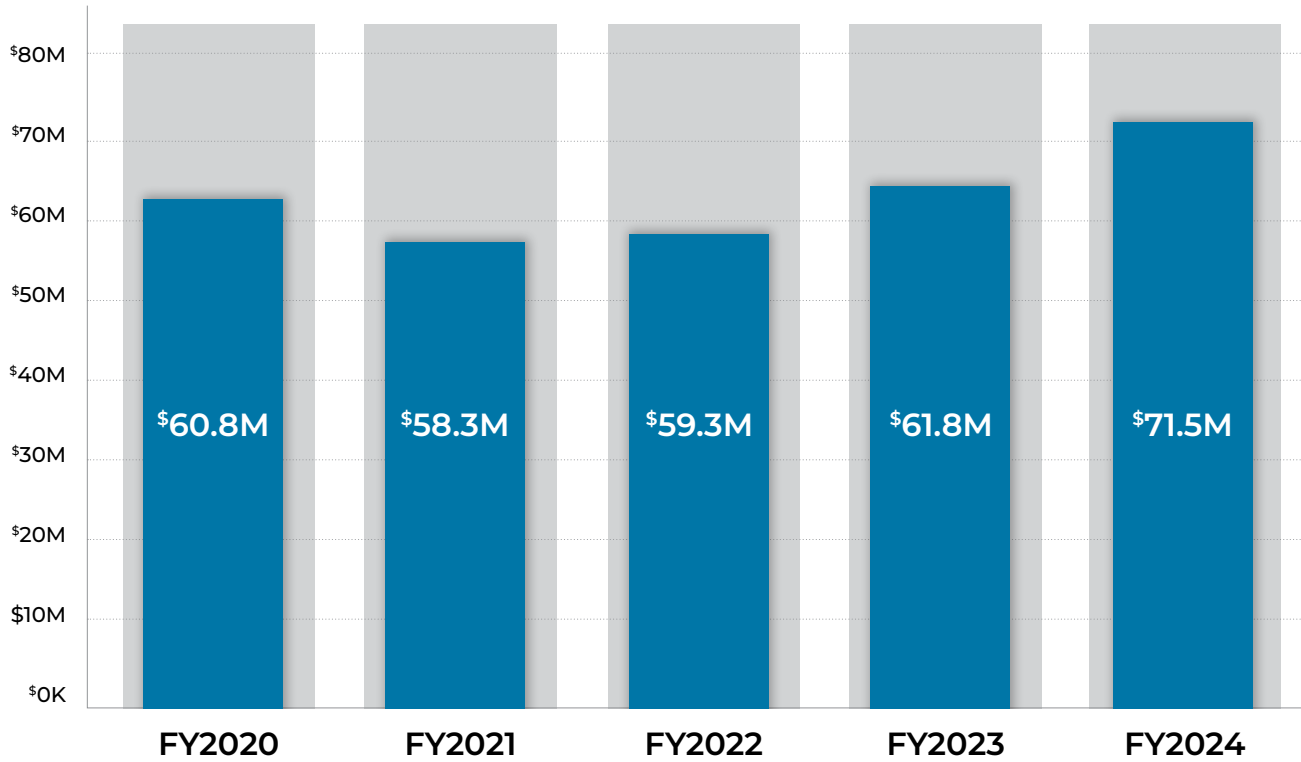


	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY2024
Appropriated	\$49.6M	\$60.6M	\$54.0M	\$65.9M	\$69.8M
Revolving	\$221.7M	\$211.5M	\$155.4M	\$103.1M	\$91.8M
Federal	\$183.4M	\$289.1M	\$240.8M	\$281.8M	\$267.2M
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$454.7M</b>	<b>\$561.2M</b>	<b>\$450.2M</b>	<b>\$450.8M</b>	<b>\$428.8M</b>
FTE	1,776	1,974	2,060	2,067	1,967

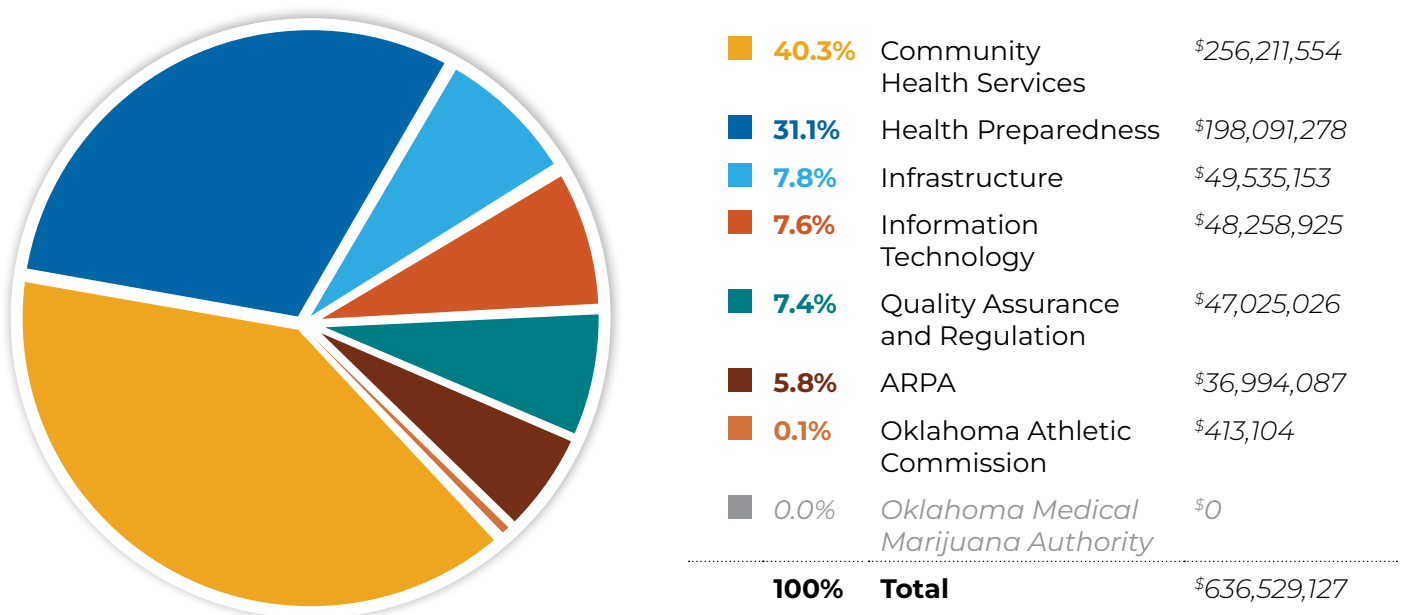
The total expenditures incurred by the OSDH increased dramatically in 2020 and 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Higher expenditures continued through 2022 and 2023 due to the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Grant funds related to COVID-19.



## FIVE-YEAR STATE APPROPRIATION HISTORY



## OSDH SPENDING BY CATEGORY





## LOOKING AHEAD TO 2025

The OSDH is simply one part of the public health infrastructure. Partnerships with other entities allow us to collectively contribute to improving Oklahoma's health. We will continue to expand our role as a convener and collaborator at the state and local levels, which allows for innovation and resource maximization.

We are also continuing our journey to help Oklahomans believe they can be healthier, ultimately improving our state's health rankings. In 2025, we will build on the success of improving our health outcome ranking from 41 in 2023 to 39 in 2024. Through partnerships, intentional programming, and services, we will focus on five key areas identified in our State Health Improvement Plan: Obesity, Diabetes, Heart Disease, Substance Use/Abuse and Behavioral Health. Health improvement is a journey; even small improvements can lead to big change.



## BOARD OF HEALTH LIST

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## OSDH LEADERSHIP

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#### **MISSION**

To protect and promote health, to prevent disease and injury and to cultivate conditions by which Oklahomans can thrive.

#### **VISION**

Leading Oklahoma to prosperity through health.

#### **VALUES**

Service | Respect | Collaboration | Accountability