



OUR MISSION

To optimize the health of the community through individual and population-based services which promote health and safety through prevention and treatment of disease and injury.

OUR VISION

Health People - Healthy Community



Public Health Division **ANNUAL REPORT**

Fiscal Year 2023/24

The Department of Health and Social Services, Public Health Division prevents the spread of diseases, promotes health and protects the public from health problems & hazards.

Our dedicated staff provides services such as conducting public health nurse home visits for moms and babies, providing medical care in our clinics, investigating disease outbreaks, advancing local ordinances to protect residents' health, operating the only regional public health lab in the state, and preparing for public health emergencies. Our passion is in promoting healthy, livable communities for Solano residents and visitors.

The Public Health Division has seven bureaus which include: Emergency Medical Services, Preparedness, Immunization and Communicable Disease (EPIC); Health Promotion and Community Wellness; Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health; Nutrition Services, Older and Disabled Adult Services; Public Health Administration; and the Napa-Solano-Yolo-Marin Public Health Laboratory. We are pleased to share with you the highlights from the Public Health Division for Fiscal Year 2023/24.

PUBLIC HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

The California Governor and Legislature approved continued Future of Public Health Funding (FoPH) to increase capacity of local health jurisdictions (LHJs) to respond to current and future emergencies. Solano Public Health (SPH) was able to expand the workforce, adding an additional 15 full-time employees, including Public Health Nurses, Communicable Disease Investigators, Health Assistants, Public Health Microbiologists, Health Education Specialists, a Deputy Health Officer, and more. This investment positions SPH and other LHJs in a better place to respond to emerging issues and serve more Solano County residents.

Street Medicine

Solano County Outreach for the Unhoused Team (SCOUT) is the new Street Medicine Team in Solano Public Health that provides street outreach to the unhoused community in Solano County and builds relationships and trust with one of the most vulnerable populations we serve. The team consists of a Community Services Coordinator who provides community support resources such as housing, employment, credit repair, benefits and many other resources, and a Public Health Nurse who provides wound care, testing and education, as well as connection to a primary care physician for continued treatment.

In FY2023/24, SCOUT attended more than 20 outreach events with the Behavioral Health Division's Homeless Outreach Partnership Engagement Team, providing resources for food, clothing, medical, rental assistance and benefits. Additional partnerships with Community Action North Bay, Light House Covenant Fellowship, Fairfield Police Department, Vacaville and Rio Vista's Police Department, and the City of Vallejo provide much needed support to expand the reach of SCOUT, and the team is looking forward to expanding their partnerships with other community organizations to enhance the impact for our unhoused community.

Vital Statistics

In 2023, the Vital Statistics Program continued to play a crucial role in serving our community by providing constant and reliable services. Throughout the year, the program processed and provided customers with a total of 2,072 birth certificates, ensuring that new members of our community had their vital records securely documented. Additionally, the program issued 19,868 death certificates, offering timely and compassionate

support to families during their time of loss. The Vital Statistics team also facilitated 5,054 burial permits, demonstrating its efficiency and responsiveness in handling end-of-life arrangements.

The Vital Statistics Program continues to collaborate closely with the Solano County Recorder Division of the Assessor/Recorder's Office to transfer birth and death records for archival purposes. Additionally, the program works in partnership with birth clerks at Solano County hospitals, providing them with up-to-date state information and offering guidance to ensure accurate and timely recordkeeping.

HEALTH PROMOTION & COMMUNITY WELLNESS

McCoy Creek Labyrinth Design

In FY2023/24, Health Promotion and Community Wellness (HPCW), in partnership with the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation, the Suisun City Public Works and the Parks and Recreation Department, redesigned the Suisun City McCoy Creek Trail Labyrinth, eliminating the five dead ends to make it a true labyrinth. The city officially recognized the opening of the McCoy Creek Trail on May 30, 2024.



Bicycle Helmet Safety Program

The Bicycle Helmet Safety Program continued to partner with local agencies in providing bicycle helmet safety education and helmets to local youth. With the help of local partners, the Bicycle Helmet Safety Program was successful in fitting and distributing 212 helmets to Solano school-aged children and youth.

Fentanyl Kills Campaign

In FY2023/24, HPCW ran a county-wide opioid and fentanyl prevention campaign to combat the rising number of opioid-related deaths and overdoses in the community. After interviewing fentanyl users and those that work with them, we developed videos that were watched over three million times and reached 400,000 people.



Older Adult Falls Prevention

In FY2023/24, HPCW collaborated with our Older and Disabled Adult Services Bureau to further the impact of Meals on Wheels Solano County (MOW) and support senior falls prevention work. Through MOW, Occupational Therapists, Physical Therapists and licensed general contractors are brought in to assess the needs of eligible residents for home modifications or durable medical equipment to prevent older adult falls. During this period, 154 clients were assessed and served, over 1,600 assisted devices were distributed, and 120 home modifications were completed, with the most common one being installation grab bars.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES, PREPAREDNESS, IMMUNIZATION AND COMMUNICABLE DISEASE

Emergency Medical Services and Emergency Preparedness & Response

In Emergency Medical Services, our 911 emergency system performance for the past fiscal year, which includes our contracted Medic Ambulance and all our local Fire Departments, demonstrated exceptional efficiency and consistently maintained response rates above 90%. This is above the national standard for our on-scene response times and reflects the dedication and coordination of all our local partners for pre-hospital care.

The Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR) team ensures that Solano County residents and agencies are ready to respond during disasters and crises. This involves internal activities to improve readiness, exercise activities internally and with our non-county partners, and developing and maintaining response plans.

Tuberculosis Control Program

In 2023, 27 active Tuberculosis cases were provided case management to manage symptoms and reduce the spread of the disease. As a result, contact tracing was conducted with 148 individuals; 32 contacts were out of county; and 81 contacts/patients were screened and tested for Tuberculosis.

Sexually Transmitted Diseases

Our Communicable Disease Investigators (CDIs) and Health Assistants (HAs) continue to combat the increasing rates of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), as well as HIV reported in our county. Effective disease intervention methods and timely investigations are key to STD/HIV prevention and control. In FY2023/24, staff investigated 1,932 cases of chlamydia, 528 cases of gonorrhea, and 313 cases of syphilis.

With our CDIs timely intervention efforts, women who are in their childbearing age and/or test positive for any STDs or HIV during pregnancy are prioritized. Pregnant women who test positive for syphilis are followed closely by an assigned CDI throughout pregnancy to ensure adequate treatment for mother and follow up on baby's birth outcome. Our team of CDIs and HAs understand that effective prevention and detection in our pregnant clients are key to reducing the rates of congenital syphilis in our county.

HIV Surveillance

In FY2023/24, 67 new and transferred HIV cases were reported in our county. Our HIV surveillance coordinator and team have been successful with linking most of these clients into medical care to initiate or re-start ART treatment. 63 of 67 clients who were reported to us were linked into HIV care with Family Health Services clinic, where they are offered Ryan White Services; some clients were referred out to other local health providers due to having private insurance.

MATERNAL, CHILD & ADOLESCENT HEALTH

Healthy Families Solano™

During FY2023/24, Healthy Families Solano (HFS), enrolled 63 new families and provided services to a total of 124 families. The program conducted 1,576 virtual and in-person home visits. Among the births during this period, 96% achieved an optimal birth weight (at or above 2,500 grams or 5.5 pounds) and 96% occurred at an optimal gestational age (37 weeks or more). Additionally, 94% of participants initiated breastfeeding. All participants received a prenatal depression screening, and 100% underwent a postnatal depression screening, with referrals made to services as needed. One hundred percent of children were successfully connected to a medical provider. HFS also conducted routine parent-child assessments to promote healthy interactions, provided health and safety information, performed child developmental assessments, and administered screenings and support for domestic violence and substance use.

Kindergarten Round-Up

In summer 2024, Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health (MCAH) in partnership with La Clinica de la Raza, First 5 Solano, Partnership HealthPlan of California, Kaiser Permanente, Solano County Library, Help Me Grow, Solano Public Health, Touro University and Park-it Market successfully hosted the Kindergarten Round-up in Vallejo and Kindergarten Resource Fair in Fairfield. We were able to provide developmental and dental screenings, backpacks, fresh produce and community resources to more than 170 families with children entering kindergarten in both cities, and the mandatory physicals and vaccines to more than 70 families with children entering kindergarten in Vallejo at La Clinica de la Raza. To help engage families and children, the theme for the Kindergarten Round-Up events was "Super Heroes."

Black Infant Health

The Black Infant Health (BIH) program provided services to 237 clients during the past fiscal year through initiatives such as Mocha Mommas Thrive, peer support groups, Limited Case Management services, community-building and educational events, and the BIH Healthy Families Solano (HFS) program. The BIH HFS program

demonstrated significant impact, with 100% of participants initiating breastfeeding with 63% exclusively breastfeeding for the first two months, 90% receiving a postpartum check-up within two months of birth, and 100% undergoing depression screening at designated intervals. Additionally, 95% of participants were screened for domestic violence and substance use and connected to services as needed. Notably, infants born to BIH clients achieved optimal outcomes, 100% meeting optimal weight standards with only one premature birth. BIH staff conducted 407 in-person and virtual home visits.



OLDER & DISABLED ADULT SERVICES

We have an amazing team of caring, committed, and creative staff and leaders who are often considering how can we provide the best services to our clients. We serve nearly 23,000 people with the services of our five programs.

Public Guardian

This year has been an exceptionally rewarding one as our Public Guardian team successfully passed an audit by participating in “Policy Huddles” to update policies for almost a year; refreshing the process for storing client belongings and being committed to working together as a team despite being short-staffed throughout the year.

In-Home Supportive Services

The In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) team celebrated the milestone of seeing 95% of our most vulnerable clients or nearly 2,755 clients last fiscal year.

Adult Protective Services

Through special state funding, the Adult Protective Services team supported the creation of a Financial Abuse Prevention campaign which includes a new website www.SolanoScamCenter.org, to help educate older adults and other targeted populations on how to avoid becoming a victim of a scam.

Napa-Solano Area Agency Aging

Our Napa-Solano Area Agency on Aging program embarked on a new service with the Independent Living Resource Center, called the Aging Disability Resource Connection (ADRC) in Solano County (www.ADRCSolano.org). The ADRC serves older adults and adults with disabilities, as well as the families, friends, and caregivers who work with and care for them. This is a resource for information and offers referrals on practically any need.

IHSS Public Authority and Provider Enrollment

The IHSS Public Authority and Provider Enrollment teams offer provider orientations throughout the year to support the caregivers who desire to work with IHSS clients and established an emergency back-up caregiver service. We will launch an IHSS survey of our clients and providers by year’s end.

Recently, we received the Local Aging and Disability Action Planning Grant for \$200,000 from the California Department of Aging. In the coming year, this will enable us to develop a plan for aging and disability services in collaboration with our County, community and local cities. We will offer community forums and surveys to hear what our communities need in this area and share the findings and what we learned with the community.

NUTRITION SERVICES

Annual Donor Breast Milk Drive

In 2022, Solano Public Health’s Nutrition Services Bureau entered a contract with the Mother’s Milk Bank of San Jose to establish a Donor Milk Bank Collection Center in Fairfield increasing access availability for mothers along the I-80 corridor.



By partnering with the Mothers Milk Bank, Solano County can ensure a steady supply of safe and nutritious breast milk for infants in Neonatal Intensive Care Units. This collaboration allows Solano County's Nutrition Services Bureau to provide a valuable resource to mothers who may not be able to exclusively breastfeed their babies. The Sixth Annual Donor Breast Milk Drive was hosted on August 17, 2023 with more than 50 families in attendance. The Donor Breast Milk Drive raises awareness about the importance of breastfeeding and encourages community members to contribute to the cause. Through this combined effort, Solano County Nutrition Services and the Mothers Milk Bank are making a significant impact on the health and well-being of infants in Neonatal Intensive Care Units.

Summer Meals

The Summer Meals Program ensures that children continue to receive nutritious meals when school is not in session. Nutrition Services coordinated the Summer Meals Program site at 2101 Courage Drive in Fairfield. The site was one of eight community sites in the Fairfield and Suisun area. In the FY2023/24, a total of 765 lunches were served during the seasonal program. In addition to the meals, CalFresh Healthy Living recipe books were given in English and Spanish.

Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)

The Women, Infants, and Children Program (WIC) continues to see an expanded caseload, resulting in an increased utilization of benefits for fruits and vegetables. In Solano County, WIC clients increased the spending from \$1,600,000 in 2022 to \$1,900,000 in 2023.

In June 2024, 9,411 clients received WIC benefits in Solano County. In April 2020, WIC initiated an online pre-screening form. The form is advertised via social media and through Facebook advertisement. As of June 2024, 1,578 families have been pre-screened for the WIC program.

In 2023, The Breastfeeding Peer Counselor Program has helped Solano County achieve an exclusive breastfeeding rate of 26.4% for 6-month-old infants, helping narrow the Healthy People 2023 goal of 42.4%.

Books for Kids

WIC collaborated with the Solano County Library to provide an early literacy program through the California Department of Public Health's Books for Kids grant. During FY2023/24, WIC received just over \$89,640 to provide book bundles that are age and culturally appropriate for WIC families. The book bundles are provided by the Solano County Library staff to WIC clients with the option to enroll into the 1000 Books Before Kindergarten program and get a library card. A total of 1,800 book bundles have been given to Solano County WIC families.



CalFresh Healthy Living (CFHL)

The CalFresh Healthy Living program continues to promote health and wellness in Solano County. In 2024, four CalFresh Healthy Living partnering school sites in the Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District (FSUSD) were recipients of the 2023 Leaders in Eating and Activity Practices (LEAP) Award. FSUSD school awardee winners received special recognition for physical activity, nutrition and garden efforts.

The WIC Farmer's Market Nutrition Program

The WIC Farmer's Market Nutrition Program (FMNP) was established by Congress in 1992 to provide fresh, unprepared and locally grown fruits and vegetables to WIC participants and to expand the awareness, use of, and sales at farmers markets. During FY2023/24, 500 booklets were issued to WIC participants. To increase redemption rates of the FMNP booklet, the FMNP checks were issued at the Vallejo, Fairfield, and Vacaville farmers' markets. The booklets added \$15,000 of revenue to local farmers.

PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY

The Public Health Laboratory serves Napa, Solano, Yolo, and Marin counties. In FY2023/24, the Public Health Laboratory performed 16,300 tests on 11,900 specimens. The laboratory successfully implemented new methodologies for fast and reliable identification of yeasts and carbapenemase-producing organisms. The laboratory maintains proficiency in testing for emerging bacteria, viruses, fungi and parasites, as well as bioterrorism threat organisms. The laboratory continues to work with state-of-the-art technology to successfully identify novel COVID-19 variants. The laboratory partners with the California Department of Public Health to train future laboratorians, which has served as a pipeline for Solano County to fill vacancies in the lab.



Program Highlights

In 2023, Public Health, Vital Statistics Unit issued 2,072 birth certificates, 19,868 death certificates, and 5,054 burial permits.

SPH was able to increase staffing by 15 full-time employees due to new funds to support LHJs.

In FY2023/24, the Solano Oral Health Education Program screened 609 students, 305 students received fluoride varnish, 295 Kindergarten Oral Health Assessments (KOHA) were completed, and 910 students received an oral health lesson.

In FY2023/24, Health Promotion and Community Wellness partnered with Older and Disabled Adult Services and Meals on Wheels Solano County to distribute more than 1,600 assistive devices, such as grab bars, to prevent older adult falls.

In FY2023/24, the Solano Car Seat Connection Program conducted 113 car seat inspections and distributed 125 new car seats to Solano families in need. The Bicycle Helmet Safety Program distributed 212 helmets to Solano school-aged children and youth.

In 2023, the Communicable Disease Program tracked 1,932 cases of chlamydia, 528 cases of gonorrhea, and 313 cases of syphilis.

In FY2023/24, there were 293 Emergency Medical Technicians certified, recertified, and/or registered in Solano County and a total of 168 Paramedics were newly accredited or recertified.

The Immunization Program operated 88 vaccine clinic events throughout Solano County in FY2023/24 and administered 1,166 vaccines, including COVID-19, Tdap, flu, and Mpox vaccines.

In FY2023/24, Community Nursing IMPACT program enrolled 520 clients and completed 1,404 in-person visits.

The Central Referral Team processed 1,884 referrals during FY2023/24. Additionally, the team made 643 in-person appointments to provide services including translation, transportation, and assistance with completing forms.

In FY2023/24, Nurse-Family Partnership served 228 families and completed 2,135 home visits. 82 clients were enrolled, 74 infants were born, with 98.6% initiating breastfeeding at birth.

In-home Supportive Services served 95% of their most vulnerable clients or nearly 2,755 clients during FY2023/24.

The Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program received over \$89,000 for their Books for Kids program to provide book bundles that are age and culturally appropriate for WIC families. In FY2023/24, the program distributed a total of 1,800 book bundles to Solano County WIC families.

The Summer Meals Program served 785 lunches during FY2023/24

The Public Health Laboratory tested 11,900 human, animal, tick, and environmental specimens in FY2023/24.



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