



2024 Impact Report

Lewis County Public Health & Social Services

Our Mission

Lewis County Public Health & Social Services strives to encourage local, regional, state and national relationships and opportunities to protect, promote and improve the health of our community.

Our Vision

A Safe, Healthy and Thriving Lewis County.

Contact Information

(360) 740-1223
www.lewiscountywa.gov/departments/public-health/
360 NW North Street
Chehalis, WA 9853

WHAT IS PUBLIC HEALTH?

Health is the foundation of a thriving community. Public Health works with others to build a solid foundation that supports good health for all by making sure everyone has clean air and water, healthy food, and access to healthcare and safe neighborhoods. Within are descriptions of programs and services provided to you by Lewis County Public Health and Social Services.

CODE COMPLIANCE

Our Code Compliance Division receives, investigates, tracks, and coordinates code violation complaints for Lewis County Environmental Health, Community Development, and Public Works. Code Compliance can also assist property owners with the removal of Hulk vehicles from their property by doing inspections and issuing appropriate forms.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Our Community Services Division promotes healthy communities, disease/injury prevention, and maternal, child, and family health. Services include communicable disease and notifiable condition reporting and follow-up, a tuberculosis program, immunization information, maternity/child health support, and services and referrals to help people get the services they need to stay healthy. We also conduct community assessments and improvement plans, community outreach, and collaboration with individuals and organizations to develop and maintain strategies for addressing public health issues.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Emergencies and disasters can impact the public's health in many ways. We are working to enhance our department's internal readiness, in addition to our ability to work more collaboratively with community partners, emergency responders, and elected officials.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Our Environmental Health Division includes several programs that promote and protect the health of our community.

- The Onsite Septic System Program helps ensure safe septic systems, protecting public health, the environment, and ground water.
- The Food Safety Program promotes health and disease prevention through education, trainings, and regulation of food services establishments.
- The Drinking Water Program reviews water system plans for small water systems, site inspections for proposed drinking water wells, ensures building sites have an approved source of drinking water prior to building site approvals, and reviews water quality monitoring data.

LEWIS COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER

The Shelter's goal is to attract responsible pet owners who will provide adopted animals a permanent, loving home. The shelter houses stray, homeless, and unwanted animals. The Lewis County Animal Shelter is open to the public 10am-4pm Tuesday through Saturday. Lost or Found pets please contact the Lewis County Animal Shelter at (360) 740-1290.

SOCIAL SERVICES PROGRAMS

Social Services coordinates funding and leads projects that address:

- Behavioral health, substance use disorder treatment, and substance abuse prevention
- Employment programs for adults with Developmental Disabilities
- Recreation Programs for adults with Developmental Disabilities
- Housing Programs

SNAP-ED

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program – Education (SNAP-Ed) supports evidence-based nutrition education and obesity prevention interventions and projects. We work with community partners to ensure consistent and equitable access to healthy, safe, affordable foods essential to optimal health and well-being.

VETERAN'S SERVICES

The Lewis County Veteran's Assistance Program helps eligible veterans or family members with one-time, emergent financial assistance for basic living expenses such as rent/housing, utilities, and funeral expenses.

VITAL RECORDS (BIRTH AND DEATH CERTIFICATES)

You may order Vital Records (Birth and Death Certificates) in person from Lewis County Public Health & Social Services Department or online through [VitalCheck](#). If you have any questions about the ordering process, please give us a call at (360) 740-1223.

WOMEN, INFANTS & CHILDREN (WIC)

WIC services assure healthy pregnancies, birth outcomes, and growth and development for women, infants, and children up to age five. WIC supports health screenings, breastfeeding, and nutrition and health education. WIC is available at the Public Health Building in Chehalis. WIC staff also make monthly visits to Randle, Mossyrock, and Winlock. Families of all sizes and types may qualify for WIC. Call 360-740-1255 or 1-800-562-6130 ext. 1255.



Community Health

Notifiable Diseases and Conditions

When a notifiable disease or condition is reported for a resident in our community, staff reach out to them for an interview when necessary. We aim to understand the likelihood of the disease or condition spreading to others, provide education, and case management when appropriate. We also work closely with partners to prevent outbreaks of diseases or conditions and provide resources and support in the event an outbreak occurs.

A confirmed case refers to a case that has been definitively diagnosed based on established laboratory tests, clinical signs, other diagnostic criteria, or is epidemiologically linked to a laboratory-confirmed case. A probable case refers to a case that has not yet been definitively diagnosed based on the above listed criteria but meets clinical criteria and has either a laboratory-confirmed link to a confirmed case or strong supportive evidence.

Lewis County Public Health and Social Services investigates most, but not all diseases and conditions; some diseases and conditions are investigated by the state. In September of 2024, our department took over the investigation of STI cases.

195

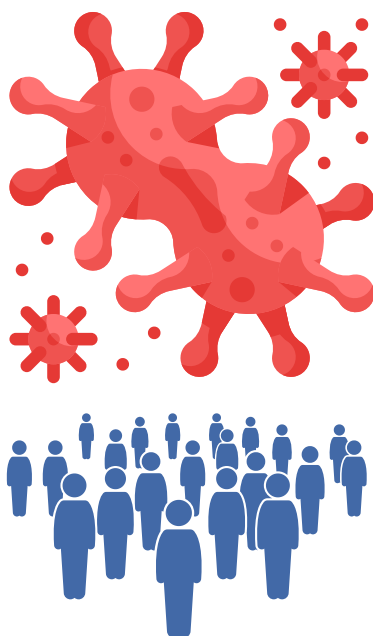
Confirmed or probable cases investigated

384

Confirmed cases of reportable diseases

71

Animal bite reports investigated



Confirmed cases included:

- Pertussis
- Campylobacteriosis
- Cryptosporidiosis
- Highly antibiotic resistant organism
- Malaria
- Coccidioidomycosis
- Giardiasis
- Legionellosis
- Meningococcal disease
- Rabies, suspected human exposure
- Shiga toxin-producing Escherichia coli (STEC)
- Sexually transmitted infections
- Salmonellosis
- Elevated blood lead levels
- Shigellosis
- Diphtheria

Sexually Transmitted Infections

210

Chlamydia

13

Herpes Simplex

48

Gonorrhea

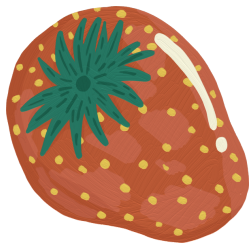
33

Syphilis

Personal & Family Health

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program - Education (SNAP-Ed)

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program – Education (SNAP-Ed) supports evidence-based nutrition education and obesity prevention interventions and projects. We work with community partners to ensure consistent and equitable access to healthy, safe, affordable foods essential to optimal health and well-being.



Farm to Community Projects

- Farmers Markets
- Food Systems Improvements

Access to Healthy Foods Project

- Breastfeeding Support
- Food Skills Assessment
- School Gardens Needs Assessment



Active

Partnerships,
Collaborations,
and Coalitions
in Lewis
County

Women, Infants and Children (WIC)

WIC services assure healthy pregnancies, birth outcomes, and growth and development for women, infants, and children up to age five. WIC supports health screenings, breastfeeding, and nutrition and health education. WIC is available at the Public Health Building in Chehalis. WIC staff also make monthly visits to Randle, Mossyrock, and Winlock. Families of all sizes and types may qualify for WIC. Call 360-740-1255 or 1-800-562-6130 ext. 1255.



3,196

Women, infants &
children participated
during FFY23



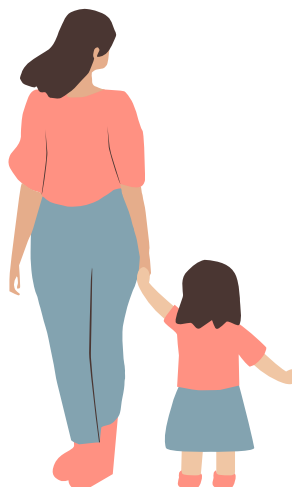
2,363

Infants & children
participated



833

Women
participated



\$1,737,446

WIC food dollars
redeemed

\$6,261

WIC Farmers Market
Nutrition Program
dollars redeemed

\$479,921

WIC Cash Value
Benefits for fruits and
vegetables redeemed

Personal & Family Health

Childhood Immunizations

The Vaccines for Children (VFC) program expands access to vaccines to all children regardless of their family's ability to pay for the administration cost or their insurance status.



16

Clinics enrolled in the Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program

Harm Reduction



190

Medicine
Lockboxes
Distributed



352

Naloxone
Doses
Distributed

Animal Shelter

Cats

Intake

Outcome



183 Surrendered
85 Stray

238 Adopted
2 Returned home

Dogs

Intake

Outcome



79 Surrendered
87 Stray

126 Adopted
36 Returned home

Environmental Health

Environmental Health includes the following programs: Septic, Water, Water Lab, Solid/Hazardous Waste, Food, and Septic & Water Permits. These programs promote public health by ensuring safe septic systems, healthy ground water, disease prevention through food services regulations and education, access to drinking water, and drinking water quality monitoring.



3,376

Water samples
tested

44

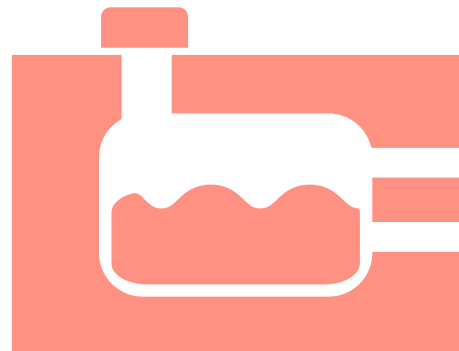
Well site inspections
completed

441

Septic permits issued

109

Septic profession
certifications processed



437

Permanent food
establishments inspected

224

Temporary food
establishments inspected

For more information on our services, or questions about this report, please contact Lewis County Public Health and Social Services at:

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