



Public Health & Social Services

Annual Report to the Community

2017

MESSAGE FROM THE LEADERSHIP TEAM

Local Public Health & Social Services as the Community's Chief Health Strategist

As the nation's healthcare system continues to transform, the role of local public health and social service agencies continue to evolve. In taking on the role of the Community Chief Health Strategist, our department must adapt and consider population health, with an emphasis on underserved groups, along with what is needed to improve specific health outcomes.

What exactly is a Community Chief Health Strategist? According to the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) it is a department that is willing to "acquire new functions and advance current roles to prevent death, disease, and disability; address emerging threats to health, security, and equity; and eliminate the social and structural injustices that result in health disparities".

To help reach such lofty goals, we bring together multi-sector community stakeholders, prioritize the health needs of the community, leverage resources, and utilize data to determine and then address the gaps in service.

Transformation requires change and we acknowledge that some changes are difficult. For example, in 2017, many community members worked to transition the Senior Services programs from county government to a non-profit organization. It was not easy, but it was accomplished and now the programs are running successfully outside of county government. In 2018, we will see another change and the end of an era, when our long-standing immunization clinic closes. Over the past few years, we have experienced a significant increase in the number of places where people can obtain immunizations. With so many options (increased access), it makes sense for our department to stop providing that direct service and focus on ensuring the safety of the vaccines used by other providers.

We anticipate other changes occurring as we continue our work as the Community Chief Health Strategist in Lewis County. But, something that will not change is our commitment to making Lewis County the best place it can be for our citizens to live, work, and thrive!

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Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.



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Who We Are

Mission:

Lewis County Public Health & Social Services strives to promote, enhance, and protect the health and well-being of our community through partnerships, education, and prevention services.

Vision:

Healthy people, strong families, and vibrant communities... a healthy Lewis County.

Values:

Our department fosters and endorses an environment of **respect** in all areas of our daily activities along with a non-judgmental outlook toward the people we serve and those with whom we work.

Integrity guides each employee to uphold professional ethics and serve with honesty, fairness, loyalty, and trustworthiness.

As stewards of the community, we hold ourselves **accountable** for our behavior, performance, and all resources entrusted to our department.

We are **committed** to using the least intrusive method possible to achieve optimal public health; informing and educating wherever possible, directing and regulating only when necessary.

Recognizing individual strengths, we encourage **teamwork** through active collaboration to solve problems, make decisions, and achieve common goals.

Public Health & Social Services Locations

LCPHSS has offices in three different buildings:

- Public Health building across from the historical courthouse
- Public Services building on Kresky Ave
- Animal Shelter on Centralia Alpha Rd

In 2017 the Health Building underwent a remodel. A project that included moving walls, painting, installing new lights, a drop ceiling and some new floors. Program locations:

2nd Floor:

Women, Infants & Children (WIC) program
Emergency Preparedness & Response
Nurse Family Partnership
Director, Health Officer, & Office Manager
Conference Room

3rd Floor:

Immunization Clinic
Vital Records
Food Program
Water Lab
Veterans Relief program
Social & Community Services

What We Do

Lewis County Public Health & Social Services (LCPHSS) serves a population of 75,901 residents over 2,436 square miles. The Department is comprised of the following five divisions:

Administrative Services: Board of Health, Customer Service, Department Contracts, Notary Public, Personnel, Vital Records, Veterans Relief Fund, Emergency Preparedness & Response, Assessment, Accounting

Animal Shelter: Animal Intake, Animal Adoptions, Reuniting lost animals with owners

Social & Community Services: Housing, Behavioral Health, Community Mobilization, Developmental Disabilities, Communicable Disease, Immunizations, Maternal and Child Health, Children with Special Health Care Needs, Nurse Family Partnership, Services (ended December 2017)

Environmental Services: Food Safety, Code Compliance, Water Lab, Water Quality, On-Site Sewage, Solid & Hazardous Waste, Animal Control

WIC Program: Women, Infants, and Children, SNAP-ED

Emergency Preparedness & Response

LCPHSS helped plan and participated in training exercises with healthcare and community partners in Centralia, Chehalis, Onalaska, and greater Lewis County; participation in the Region 3 Healthcare Coalition and Washington State Department of Health (DOH) Disaster Advisory Group; signed on to the DOH Statewide Pharmacy Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which enlists pharmacies to help with mass distribution of medications if the need arises like it did in 2009 with the H1N1 virus

Lewis County Medical Reserve Corps (MRC)

MRC volunteers, overseen by our emergency preparedness coordinator, again assisted with the annual flu shot clinics in senior centers throughout the county. They also helped with "Point of Dispensing" exercise at a local pediatric clinic that provided immunizations to local school children.

Providing medical aid stations to two annual events has really earned a reputation for excellence:

- Three medical stations are staffed for two days during the Ride the Willapa bicycle event.
- A major aid station is staffed in concert with Providence Centralia Hospital on the Centralia College campus to serve 10,000 annual Seattle-to-Portland bicycle riders. In 2017, more than 600 riders sought services and medical care. For more information for more information or to volunteer with the Lewis County Medical Reserve Corps, visit www.lewiscountywa.gov/publichealth/medical-reserve-corps

LCPHSS emergency preparedness efforts fall into four categories:

1. Developing plans and training to prepare for response to public health emergencies
2. Working with public and private partners to improve healthcare preparedness and response
3. Representing the interest of Lewis County residents at regional, state, and national levels to learn the latest best practices in preparedness and response
4. Training and supporting our Medical Reserve Corps



Women, Infants and Children Nutrition (WIC)

Lewis County residents served in WIC	3,846
Infants and children under five	2,786
Pregnant, breastfeeding and postpartum women	1,060
WIC referrals for preventive health services	17,814
Nutrition education sessions	8,878

As the nation's premier public health nutrition program, WIC is a cost effective, sound investment – ensuring the health of our children. **WIC provides solid returns on investment.**

WIC and Farmers Market Nutrition program contributions to the local economy:

- WIC program checks to clients: \$1,483,799
- Checks used ONLY for fresh fruits and vegetables: \$ 136,304
- WIC Farmers Market Nutrition program: \$ 5,840

Nurse Family Partnership (NFP)

Lewis County is part of a three-county joint NFP Team. Thurston County is the lead agency and the Nurses who perform the home visitation program are employed by Thurston County Public Health and Social Services. However, there are two full-time nurses dedicated to serving clients in Lewis County. Each nurse can carry a caseload of 25 families each. In 2017 we only had one full-time nurse working the program for the whole year so the number of clients served and visits made were smaller than they will be when the program is at full staff.

Nurse Family Partnership is a community health program that truly changes lives for generations to come. The program empowers first-time moms to transform their lives and create better futures for themselves and their babies.



SOCIAL & COMMUNITY SERVICES

SNAP Ed Program

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education is an evidence based program helping Lewis County residents live healthier lives. Our SNAP-ED program staff person provides education and outreach opportunities to help residents learn how to make the most out of limited food budgets and live a healthy, active life. 2017 programs include:

Breastfeeding Coalition Breastfeeding improves survival rate of infants and reduces the risk for obesity in mothers and child. Our breastfeeding friendly business project grew to over 20 local businesses and social service agencies.

Partnered with the Chehalis Farmers Market to provide an interactive nutrition education program for youth. Youth were taught basic cooking skills and were given kitchen utensils to reinforce the healthy behavior at home. 50-75 youth were served each month, and as a direct result, an increase in the number of shoppers to the market occurred.

Children with Special Health Care Needs

In 2017 we redefined our role in serving children with special healthcare needs. We began implementing a collaborative service model in partnership with community healthcare providers. Meeting with providers and other community stakeholders, we worked to identify local gaps in service, facilitate more effective cross agency collaboration, and develop needs-based interventions designed to support families as they navigate the healthcare system with their children.

We began the process of broadly surveying local families to determine what their highest needs are. These surveys will be used to improve our current plan and ensure families can understand, access, and engage our community's healthcare system to meet the needs of children.

Communicable Disease Control

We receive “reportable” communicable diseases from laboratories, physicians, and veterinarians in Lewis County. We track these conditions to monitor for potential outbreaks, and prevent future infections.

In 2017, we received nearly 200 laboratory reports of newly diagnosed Hepatitis C. This represents the 3rd consecutive year of increases of lab-confirmed Hepatitis C. With our rates well above the state average and still on the rise, this disease is a major focus of our Communicable Disease Control work.

The three most common Enteric (relating or occurring in the intestines) diseases investigated by LCPHSS in 2017 were:

- Campylobacter (23 total lab confirmed cases)
- Salmonella (12 cases)
- E Coli (three cases)

We also investigated six cases of Pertussis (whooping cough).

Tuberculosis



We had two active pan-sensitive (not drug resistant) Tuberculosis (TB) cases caught early and successfully treated in 2017.

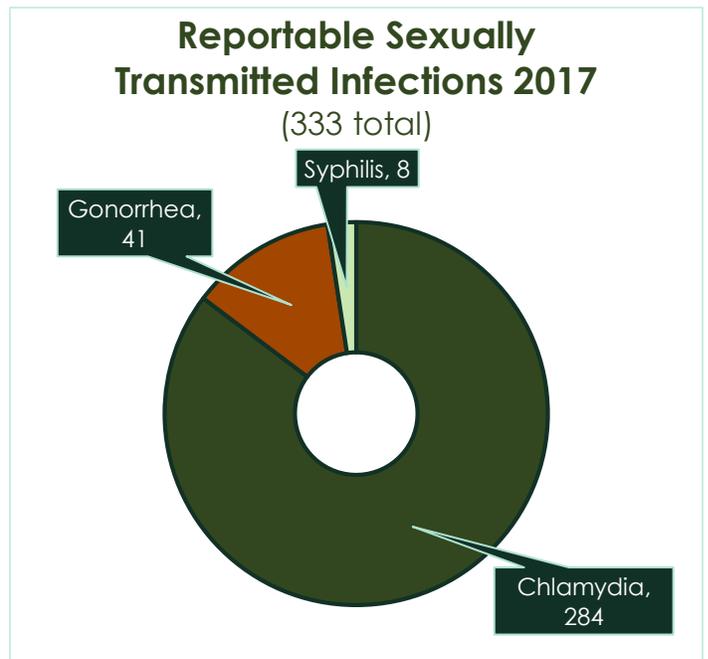
TB is a dangerous and highly contagious infectious disease caused by *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* (MTB). The disease generally affects the lungs but can also affect other parts of the body. The classic symptoms of active TB are a chronic cough (sometimes coughing up blood), fever, night sweats, and weight loss. The disease is spread through the air when people infected with active TB cough, spit, speak, or sneeze. People with latent TB do not spread the disease. Prevention of TB involves screening those at high risk, early detection and treatment of cases.

Immunizations

The list of childhood immunizations can become overwhelming: Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis, Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B, Polio, Measles, Mumps, Rubella, Chickenpox, Meningitis, Hib and Pneumococcal disease, Human Papilloma Virus, Rotavirus, and, finally, Influenza.

In the era before vaccines, many children in the U.S. died or became disabled from these diseases. Many still do in countries and regions with lower vaccination rates.

Vaccines are safe and intended to be of little or no cost to everyone living in Washington State. They are the cornerstone of preventive health. Everyone who can be vaccinated, should be vaccinated.



In 2017, our clinic provided immunizations to the community. We also acted as the supply agent and safe storage monitor for all clinics in Lewis County. In the 2016-17 school year, the required vaccination rate for Lewis County Kindergarten was 84 to 89 percent and for Kindergarten through grade 12 was 88 to 91 percent. Our gratitude goes out to all the clinics giving children's immunizations in Lewis County.

Clinic Immunization Statistics

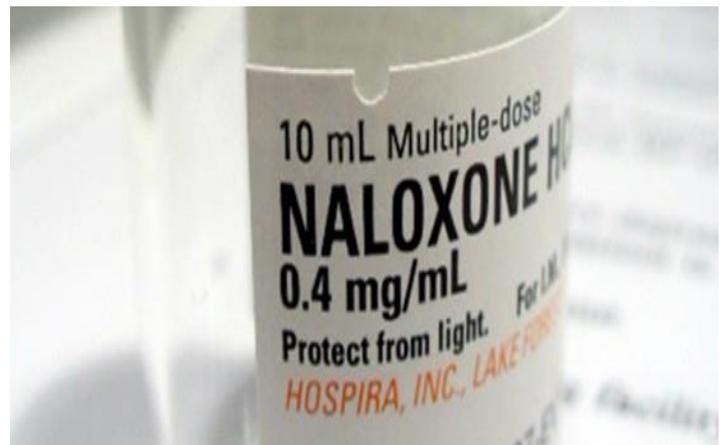
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Encounters for childhood vaccinations	480	491	463	No Data due to change to Patagonia	478	194
Total number of vaccine doses given to children 0-18 years	976	846	1088	1186	1121	422
Encounters for Adult Vaccinations - including TB Skin Tests	1640	1748	1362	No Data	1250	349
Total number of vaccine doses given to adults (not including Flu)	810	513	973	No Data	610	258
Total number of Flu vaccines given to adults	338	707	587	560	360	290

Children who have received required immunizations, by age

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Kindergarteners	87.2%	90.1%	85.0%	89.3%	88.4%	87.1%
6th graders	72.7%	86.6%	83.5%	79.7%	82.6%	87.9%

Combating the Opioid Crisis

Addressing the opioid epidemic went into full force in Lewis County in 2017. Three law enforcement agencies (Centralia Police Department, Chehalis Police Department, and Lewis County Sheriff's Office) were trained and equipped with Naloxone kits, a nasal spray which reverses an opioid overdose as it is occurring. Within the first four months of this program, Centralia Police Department and Lewis County Sheriff's Office each had a successful overdose reversal where the individual survived.



Behavioral Health

Behavioral healthcare integration (combining mental health, substance use, and primary health care) is well underway in Lewis County. While many of these efforts are performed on the Federal and State level, the effectiveness of our local service delivery system will largely be defined by the work in our County and region. In 2017 we continued our close collaboration with local behavioral health providers as well as our region's funding and regulatory agency, the



Great Rivers Behavioral Health Organization (GRBHO). In 2017, the number of Medicaid-funded behavioral health treatment providers in the county increased from two agencies to five: American Behavioral Health Systems, Cascade Mental Health, CORE Health, Eugenia Center, and True North.

Developmental Disabilities

Our Developmental Disabilities program coordinates services for children birth to three, and for adults 21 and over. We administer state and federal funds destined for our local service providers. Lewis County recognizes persons with developmental disabilities are important community members and we believe their inclusion makes our community stronger.

Early intervention services provided through Reliable Enterprises Infant Toddler Development Center (INTOT) assists families with young children in obtaining vital services for development. These services include: occupational therapy, physical therapy, speech therapy, and resource coordination. In the 2015-2017 timeline, an average of 63 children received early intervention services in our area.

Individuals with disabilities who are age 21 and over, are eligible for services through the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA), and are interested in employment have access to four local partners to assist them. Compass Career Services, Lewis County Work Opportunities, Morningside, and Reliable Enterprises utilize client centric plans to assist individuals on their pathway to employment. Services like Community Inclusion, Group Supported Employment, and Individual Employment served an average of 100 clients during 2015-2017. There were 54 jobs paying at or above minimum wage held by persons with developmental disabilities locally.

Child Restraint Program

We provided 53 child safety seats to low income families. In addition to the car seat, families received child passenger safety education and installation instruction by a certified car seat technician.

Technicians participated in three Car Seat Inspection Clinics, inspecting 17 seats for Lewis County families. Among the seats inspected, technicians found a 71% misuse rate.



Community Prevention Wellness Initiative (CPWI)

The Morton UP Coalition, a broad community-wide substance use prevention effort, built and strengthened partnerships in East County. This led to increased capacity in substance abuse prevention programs in Morton and surrounding areas. The Morton UP Coalition expanded services into the Randle community and White Pass School District, deploying a prevention specialist in the school two days per week providing school-based curriculum and



treatment. We also used these CPWI funds to support in-home parenting case management through Centralia College and Nurse Family Partnership, and local prevention campaigns reaching families and youth in the Randle community.

In 2017 over 40 community members received training on Adverse Childhood Experiences, Trauma Informed Care, and Poverty Awareness through the five-part community education series, Healthy Community, Healthy Youth. The training series was a collaboration with the Morton UP Coalition, Morton General Hospital, and Morton Chamber of Commerce. The Coalition also partnered with the Morton Police Department to provide education on secure medication drop boxes. Over 100 pounds of medication were collected and 80 in-home lockboxes were distributed at DEA sponsored Take Back Events in April and October 2017.

Housing

Through the administration of State and Federal funds we support local nonprofits to meet the shared mission of serving neighbors without homes. In 2017 we administered funds to 8 Lewis County partner agencies with the goal of making homeless rare, brief, and one time

Additionally, we held two Homeless Connect events. These events provide area residents an opportunity to hear from local agencies and non-profits working to serve those who are homeless. During the January Homeless Connect event, a "point in time" count is conducted. In 2017 our community surveyed 150 individuals who met the state definition of being "homeless".



Work began on updating Lewis County's "10-year Plan to Address Homelessness" which will be finalized and adopted in 2018. This document will act as a guide to direct how our local, State, and Federal funds will be spent in the coming years.

If you are interested in learning more about our work to address homelessness in Lewis County or would like to hear more regarding our 10-year plan, please contact our Housing Services Coordinator, Meja Handlen at (360) 740-1434.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

Administrative Services provides the following services:

- ✓ Birth Certificates
- ✓ Death Certificates
- ✓ Immunizations
- ✓ Notary Public
- ✓ Veterans Relief Fund
- ✓ Clerk of Board of Health

Births during 2016 (2017 not yet available)	970
Deaths during 2017 in Lewis County	2,182
Birth Certificates issued	2,800
Death Certificates Issued	3,244

In addition to the services above, our customer service clerks also help with annual and temporary food permits, food handler classes, well water testing, and general public health questions.

Board of Health meetings are the second Monday of each month, 1:30 pm in the Commissioners Hearing Room and are open to the public. Visit our website at lewiscountywa.gov/public-health for details, including dates and agenda.

	Resolution	Agreement	Proclamation
Processed by Board of County Commissioners	9	9	0
Processed by Board of Health	1	13	1
Processed by LCPHSS Director	N/A	66	N/A
Total processed	10	88	1

Veteran's Relief Services

The Veteran's Relief Fund provides emergency financial assistance to Veterans and qualified dependents in need. Our Veterans Benefit Specialist is in the office Monday through Thursday from 9 am to 3 pm.

In 2017, 124 veterans received funds for living expenses, and 22 received funeral benefits.



Fuel	\$1,653.13
Rent	\$16,477.77
Food	\$5,178.75
Utilities	\$22,513.61
Miscellaneous (includes mini-grants and medical expenses)	\$15,695.45
Funeral	\$14,138.45
Salaries & Benefits	\$29,977.71
Total	\$105,634.87

Senior Services

At the end of 2017 Lewis County Senior Services transitioned from a county program to a 501(c)3 nonprofit corporation.

2017 was the 12th year for the Senior Farmer's Market Nutrition Program in Lewis County. The program is well known, and seniors waited eagerly for the opportunity to apply for and receive benefit checks to purchase fresh fruit and vegetables.



ANIMAL SHELTER SERVICES

The Lewis County Animal Shelter is sustained mainly by county general funds and public donations. It also receives some fees for services.

The Animal Shelter also graciously accepts generous donations made in the form of bequests.

Donations may be sent directly to the Animal Shelter:
P.O. Box 367 Chehalis WA 98532

Visit the Shelter today to find your perfect family pet: 560 Centralia Alpha Road, Centralia WA 98531

The animal shelter is always looking for individuals who would like to volunteer. Volunteers must be at least 14 years old and all volunteers must complete a one-hour training class. *If you or a family member would like to volunteer, contact the shelter at (360)740-1290*



2017 Animal Shelter Statistics

Animals Received (dogs & Cats)	1,274
Animals Adopted	953
Animals Returned to owner	183
Animals Destroyed *	157
Percent Destroyed	12%

**Animals are destroyed as a last resort, mainly due to illness, injury or being feral*

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

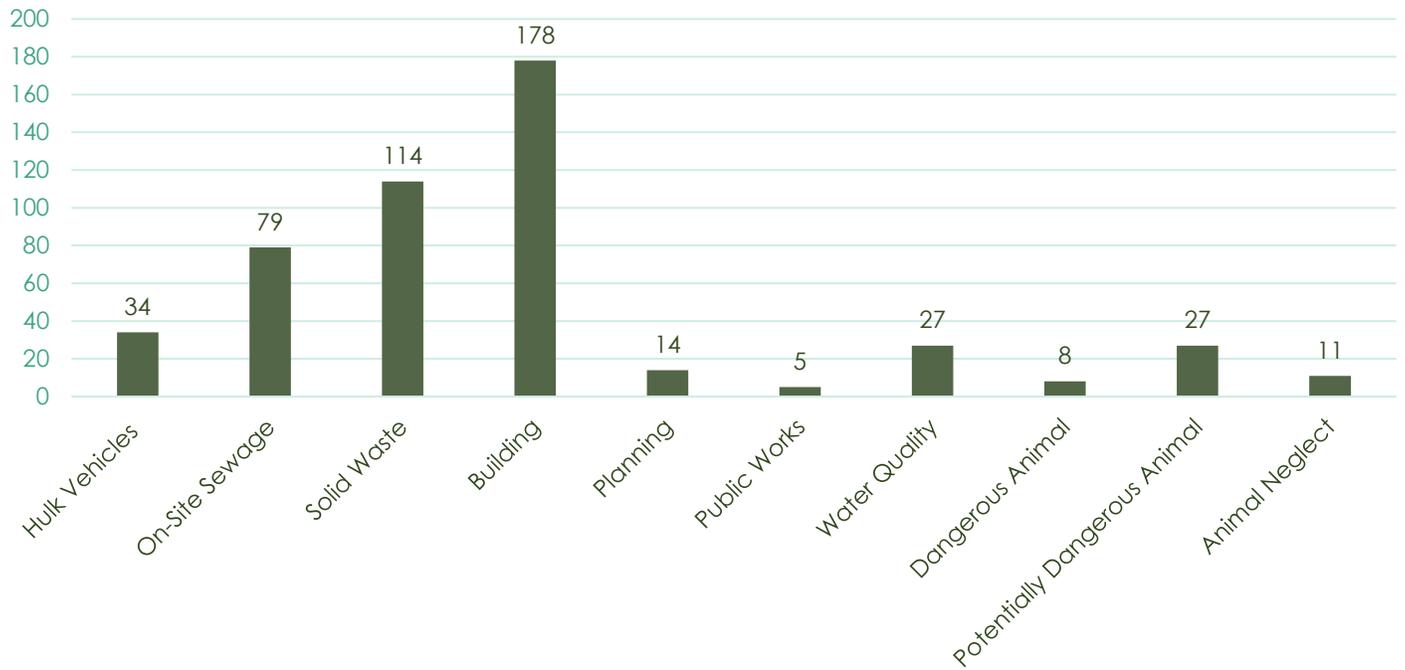
Our Environmental Services Division protects public health by focusing on safe drinking water, food safety, solid waste, on-site/wastewater management, water lab services, vector borne disease, and general environmental health. In addition, we maintain the county's code enforcement activities related to both nuisance and development activities in Lewis County. Environmental Services also regulates dog kennel operations and investigates animal neglect issues while working closely with other county departments.



Code Enforcement

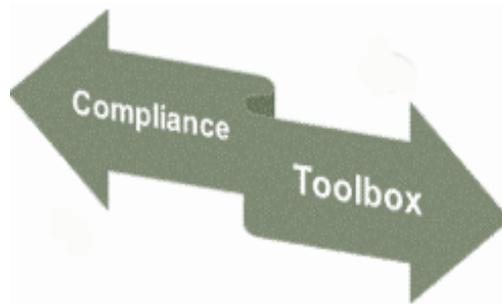
Hulk Vehicle Inspections	368
Tons of Illegal Tires Disposed	227.08
County Abatements (other-illegal dumping)	2

Total Complaints (by type) Received
(332 total)



Infractions issued for multiple individual violations

Solid Waste	10
Hulk Vehicle	1
Littering	2
Building	8
On-site Sewage	5
Water	1



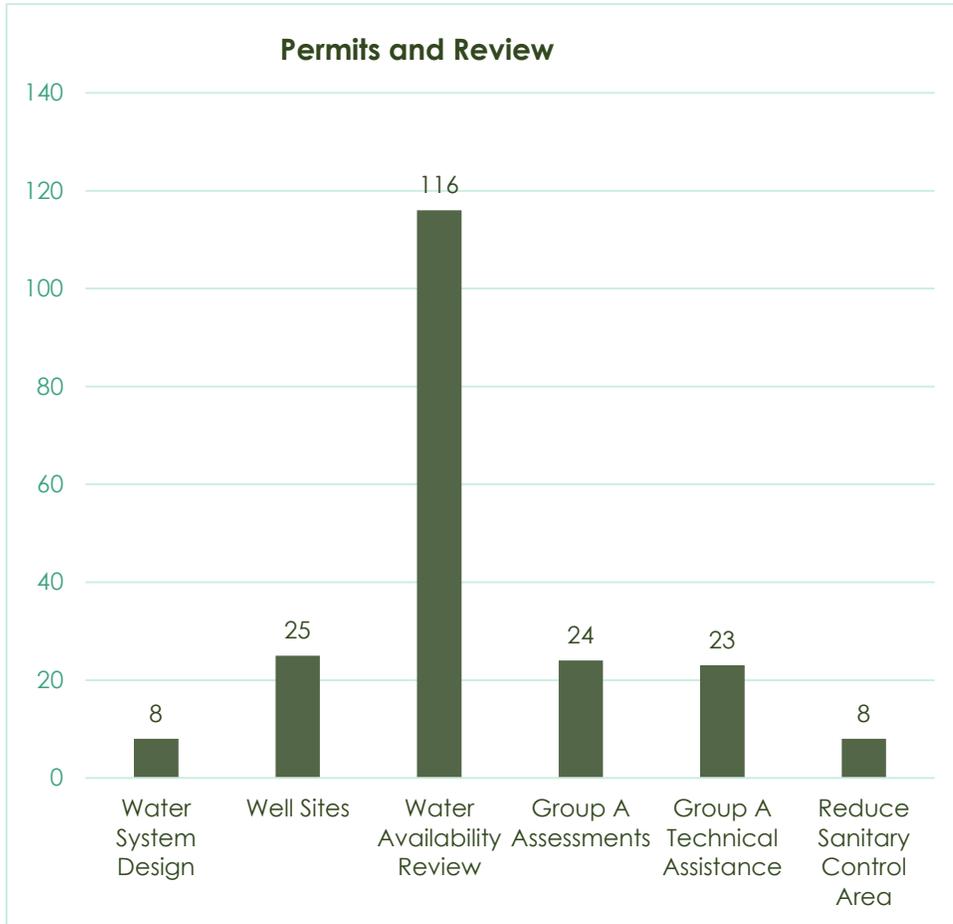
17 civil infractions issued

Solid Waste Enforcement

Facilities Designated as Exempt Sites	6
Facilities with Permits	4
Environmental Report Tracking System (ERTS) Toxics Cleanup Program (TCP) Initial Investigations	6

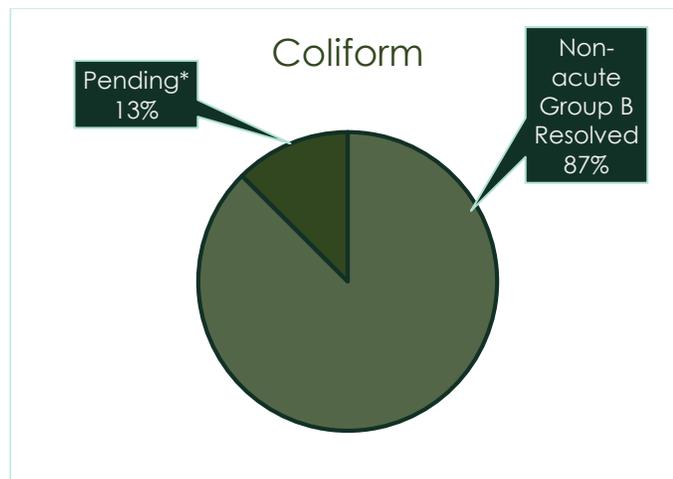
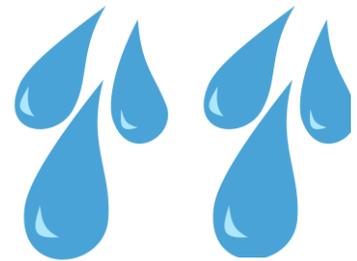


Drinking Water



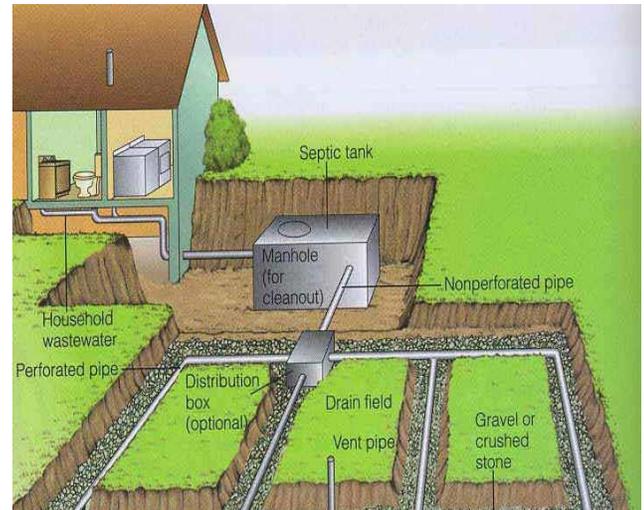
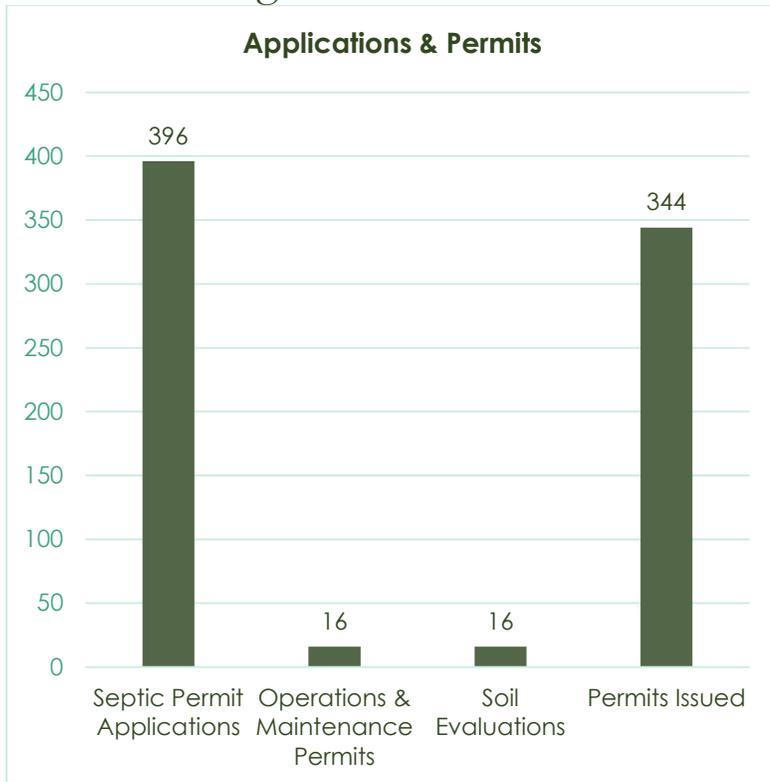
Group B Water Systems

Number of systems in Lewis County	338
Number of systems required to monitor	252
Annual Operating Certification compliance	98%
Bacterial Sampling compliance	87%
Nitrate Sampling compliance	98%



* Pending: working with the water system to resolve a current issue, i.e., developing a chlorination system, nitrate exploring treatment or new source.

On-Site Sewage



Combined EH Reviews

State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA)	43
Administrative Approval	7
Boundary Line Adjustment	34
Large Lot Subdivision	2
Short Plat	11

Animal Control

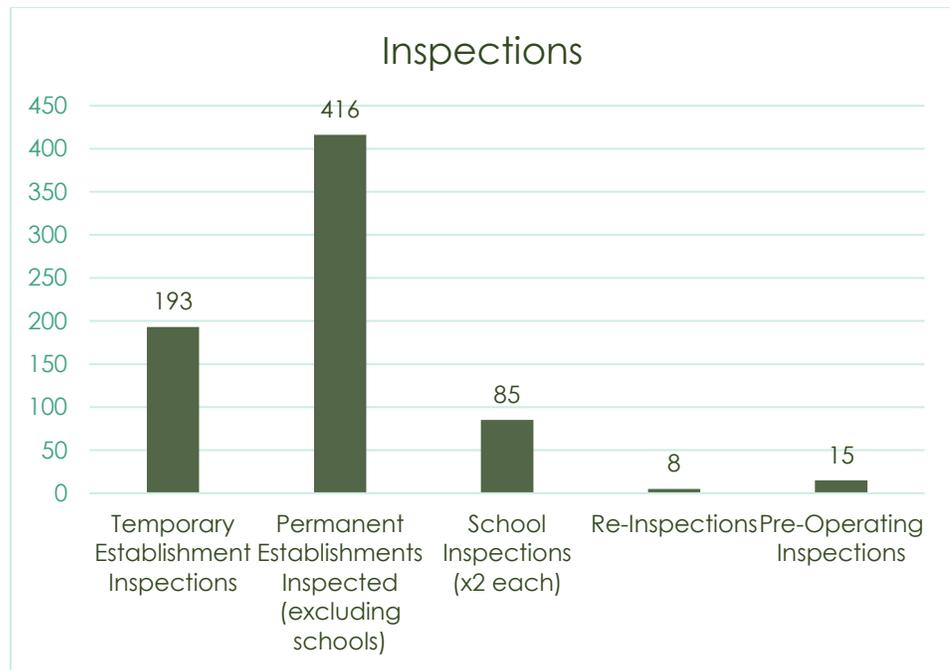
Permitted Kennels	34
Unpermitted Kennels (unresolved)	4
Animal Impound	2
Humane Officer Field Contacts	172

Permitting and inspecting dog kennels in Lewis County is a priority for the Humane Officer position. However, the Humane Officer also responds to other animal issues through the county each year.



Food Safety

Annual Permanent Permit	434
Seasonal Permits	3
Temporary Permits	335



OPERATING BUDGET

2016 and 2017 Expenditures:

Public Health

2016	• \$2,547,170.30
2017	• \$2,541,544.80

Social Services

2016	• \$2,262,990.61
2017	• \$2,503,187.54

Animal Shelter

2016	• \$ 357,964.69
2017	• \$ 372,382.29

**Lewis County Public Health
& Social Services**

**360 NW North St.
Chehalis WA 98532**

(360) 740-1223

[www.lewiscountywa.gov/public health](http://www.lewiscountywa.gov/public%20health)



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.