



Vantage, WA, overlooking the Columbia River

ANNUAL REPORT

FISCAL YEAR 2014

*To protect and promote the health and the environment of the people of
Kittitas County.*

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Letter from the Administration _____	1
What We Do _____	2
Kittitas County Board of Health _____	4
Kittitas County Board of Health Advisory Committee _____	5
2014 Year in Review: Top Stories _____	6
Data and Figures _____	9



Staff Attending Public Health Legislation Day in Olympia, WA. Left to Right: Robin Read, Skylar Griessel, Kaitlyn Reddick, Alisa Spieckerman, Elizabeth Ketterer, Julia Karns

A NOTE FROM ADMINISTRATION

To Our Customers, Stakeholders & Community Partners,

Every year brings something new to the Kittitas County Public Health Department (KCPHD). KCPHD staff will often say that their favorite part about the job is that every day is a little different. Our shifting roles in the face of changes in health and our environment mean that we are ever evolving. Technology is rapidly changing. The issues and diseases we face change. This means that our services and activities may change, but our mission and vision never waiver. Our job at the Kittitas County Public Health Department is to keep our residents safe and healthy.

These changes can make it difficult for the public to understand what the role of public health is in their community. The purpose of our annual report is to work towards communicating our role to the public better. It is also an opportunity to highlight the issues that we faced and responded to in 2014.

In 2014, national media brought global public health to the forefront with Ebola Virus Disease. The public received an overwhelming amount of information regarding communicable and infectious disease. Terms like outbreak, vaccine, isolation and quarantine, were common topics. Outbreaks, whether global or local, always bring attention to the role of public health.

It is our job to respond to disease outbreaks. It is also our job to try to prevent disease outbreaks and to lessen the impact of diseases that affect our community members. From activities like ensuring clean water to education about eating healthy, the Kittitas County Public Health Department provides a range of services. We assess the community's health, implement programs, and evaluate the effectiveness of those programs.

Locally in 2014, KCPHD worked to address significant issues around water resources and air quality. We responded to communicable disease on a local level and prepared to respond to national concerns. We continued to provide daily services such as birth certificates and routine services such as food inspections.

We hope that you enjoy our annual report. We certainly hope that the report not only reflects highlights of what occurred in 2014, but the passion that our staff works with to keep Kittitas County residents healthy. Each of us at the Kittitas County Public Health Department call Kittitas County home and care about all residents as our neighbors.



Public Health Administrator,
Robin Read



Health Officer,
Dr. Mark Larson

WHAT WE DO



MISSION

To protect and promote the health and the environment of the people of Kittitas County.

VISION

All Kittitas County residents have the freedom and ability to pursue health lives in a healthy environment.

PEOPLE

Kittitas County Public Health Department has several divisions including community health, assessment, environmental health, administrative services, and finance. There are 17.8 full time employees (FTE).



SERVICES

We offer a variety of services and programs within our three different departments. The ranges of services are preventative, regulatory, and informational. We provide preventative services in chronic disease prevention as well as clinic work for things like immunizations and travel consultations. Issuing permits and completing on-site inspections cover our regulatory work. Additionally, residents can access vital records like birth certificates or access health related survey information.

WHAT WE DO

VALUES

The Kittitas County Public Health Department follows our basic standards. Our standards are the values we try for every day. Our values are quality, community, dedication, and integrity.

- **Quality:** Effectiveness, efficiency, consistency, adaptability, customer service
- **Community:** Service, compassion, collaboration, relationships, partnerships
- **Dedication:** committed, hard-working
- **Integrity:** professional, respectful, courteous, ethical, stewardship, honesty



KITTITAS COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

“Each local board of health shall have supervision over all matters pertaining to the preservation of the life and health of the people within its jurisdiction...”

–Revised Code of Washington 70.05.060



2014 Kittitas County Board of Health (BOH)

Left to Right: Obie O'Brien, Kittitas County Commissioner; Dr. John Asriel, Community Health of Central Washington; Gary Berndt, Kittitas County Commissioner; Paul Jewell, Kittitas County Commissioner; Rich Elliott, Kittitas Valley Fire & Rescue Deputy Chief

The Kittitas County Board of Health (BOH) has five members made up of three county commissioners and two appointment members from the community. Each member serves a three year term. The BOH has the power to make rules and regulations within Kittitas County. Washington State law (RCW 70.05.060) requires that a board of health do the following:

- Carry out rules that come from the Washington State Board of Health;
- Handle all health and sanitary measures for the protection of public health with Kittitas County;
- Pass local rules and regulations to keep and increase the public health of Kittitas County;
- Prevent and stop dangerous, contagious, or infectious diseases;
- Control and prevent nuisances harmful to the public's health;
- Report to the Washington State Board of Health;
- Set fees for licenses or permits.

Board of Health meetings are held on the third Thursday of every month at 10:00 a.m. (unless otherwise stated) in the Commissioners' Auditorium. The meetings are always open to the public. Anyone is welcome to attend.

KITTITAS COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE



2014 Kittitas County Board of Health Advisory Committee (BOHAC)

Left to Right: Hartwig Vatheuer, Mike Smith, Elizabeth Frederick, Monty Sabin, Carin Thomas, Andrew Lyons, Teague McKamey, Nancy Jewett, Patti Canterberry, Dr. Bob Davis, Julia Romanelli (Not pictured: Anne Johansen, Judy Hennessy, Rebecca Pearson, Greg Aubol)

The Kittitas County Board of Health Advisory Committee was formed over twenty years ago in 1993. The group was formed to include public participation in identifying public health matters and concerns. The mission is to provide advisory feedback and formal recommendations to both the Board of Health and the Health Department of Kittitas County, related to policy, funding, initiatives, and emergent needs, in support of the goals and mission of the Kittitas County Public Health Department. BOHAC meets monthly and in December, announced its first Kittitas County Public Health Champion award.

ELLENSBURG

Public Health Champion Award kicks off next month

The Kittitas County Board of Health Advisory Committee is sponsoring the inaugural Kittitas County Public Health Champion award, which is intended to honor and recognize individuals, groups or organizations that have made significant contributions to the health of Kittitas County.

Any individual, group or organization that has positively influenced the health of Kittitas County and its residents may be nominated. Anyone can submit a nomination for the award, including nominations for themselves.

The board advisory committee will review the applications and choose a recipient. An award of \$500 to \$1,000 will be presented for current or future projects that contribute to the health of Kittitas County.

This award is made possible by a donation from former Kittitas County Health Officer Jim Gale.

Nomination forms are available online at the county's website or at the Kittitas County Public Health Department. Nominations should be sent to the department by Jan. 30.

Send nominations to 507 N. Nanum St., Suite 102, Ellensburg, WA, 98926; publichealth@co.kittitas.wa.us; or by fax to 509-962-7581.

The winner will be notified by March 20 and will receive the award on April 16 at the Kittitas County Board of Health monthly meeting.

For more information, contact the Kittitas County Public Health Department at 509-962-7515.

— staff reports
Daily Record 12-17-14

2014 YEAR IN REVIEW: TOP STORIES

RATS IN KITTITAS COUNTY

The Kittitas County Public Health Department (KCPHD) is one of the agencies in our county that deals with animal related complaints. It is our job to monitor and control diseases that are spread by animals like West Nile Virus (spread by mosquitos) and rabies (spread typically by bats). Early in 2014, we received multiple complaints about dead rats being found and rat sightings in Ellensburg. KCPHD staff inspected and provided educational outreach material.



AIR QUALITY

Over six hundred surveys were collected and used to assess residents' attitudes and beliefs about air quality in the county. Survey results show that Kittitas County residents are divided. Half of residents feel strongly that air pollution is an issue and the other half either disagrees or report that they do not know. KCPHD staff will use all of the survey results to create education and an outreach plan, funded by the Washington State Department of Ecology, for future years.

CWU SMOKE FREE CAMPUS POLICY

In 2005, voters passed the Smoking in Public Places law (Revised Code of Washington 70.160) and the latest trend is to expand this to college campuses. KCPHD received funds through a Community Transformation Grant to assist Central Washington University (CWU) to implement a tobacco free campus policy. Results of that work included an assessment of staff and faculty as well as the establishment of no smoking areas around the Student Union and Recreation Center.



2014 YEAR IN REVIEW: TOP STORIES

County ends water, land-use battle

First county-run water bank approved in state

By MIKE JOHNSTON
senior writer

Kittitas County government's seven-year conflict with the state's Growth Management Act came to a close in 2014. While the debate over bringing the county into compliance with state law might have seemed dry and tedious at times, the end result was precedent-setting and historic, making it the top local story of the year. It involved the creation of the state's first county-operated water bank, a major overhaul of the county's zoning rules and an out-of-court settlement with several major stakeholders. Three groups — Kittitas County Conservation Coalition, Futurewise and Upper County's Ridge — began challenging the county's rural lands zoning in 2007, claiming its allowance of



Brian Myrick / Daily Record file photo

Kittitas County Commissioners, from left, Gary Berndt, Paul Jewell and Obie O'Brien. The county settled a years-long conflict involving the state's Growth Management Act and water issues in 2014.

1 County GMA

Top 10 of 2014

The Daily Record is recapping the top 10 local stories of 2014.

- No. 10 — Murder cases in Ellensburg, Cle Elum
- No. 9 — New Ellensburg City Manager John Akers
- No. 7 — EHS baseball team wins state title
- No. 6 — Wildfires
- No. 5 — Wanapum Dam crack
- No. 4 — Morgan Middle School
- No. 3 — Marijuana

WATER MITIGATION

New regulations requiring that new uses of water in the county be mitigated were put into effect in 2014. In order to offer options to homeowners, Kittitas County began offering water mitigation packages for indoor domestic use through a leased water right agreement with the City of Roslyn. The program is being operated by KCPHD. Thirty-one mitigation certificates were issued in 2014.

SNAG CANYON FIRE AND AIR QUALITY

The talk in Kittitas County is that we will continue to see more and more wildfires in our area. KCPHD staff has assisted in multiple wildfire responses – Taylor Bridge, Table Mountain, and in 2014 the Snag Canyon Fire. We make sure that the public is aware of air quality conditions and our environmental health staff work with homeowners to make sure they have clean drinking water and working septic systems.

CONFIRMED TUBERCULOSIS

On average, about every ten years, Kittitas County has one confirmed case of active pulmonary tuberculosis (TB). By Washington State law, the local health department has the job of protecting the public from the spread of TB. After being notified of a confirmed case of TB in 2014, staff contacted the adult patient to request voluntary isolation, make sure the patient was complying with medication, and to conduct an investigation as to whether others might have been exposed. In this case, exposure was limited to family members who were monitored for signs of tuberculosis.

2014 YEAR IN REVIEW: TOP STORIES

DRIVE THRU FLU CLINIC

Every year, staff gets a chance to practice emergency response at our annual drive thru influenza clinic. The more people that drive through and use the clinic, the more realistic the emergency drill is for our staff. This year, we vaccinated 362 people. That is the second highest number of vaccinations given since we started the drive thru clinics in 2003.



WORKING AT A POLICY LEVEL –WORKPLACE WELLNESS

Leading by example is a good idea and Kittitas County did just that in 2014. KCPHD worked with Kittitas County Human Resources and created a wellness policy for all of its employees. Kittitas County Commissioners supported the policy, which means employees who work here can be in an environment that supports a healthy lifestyle.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Strategic planning means looking ahead. What goals do we have? What's our long term plan? But, before we look ahead, we have to look at what is happening now. What are the strengths and weaknesses, challenges, and potential opportunities? A lot of information is gathered and a lot of people have input, resulting in a road map that will guide our department for years to come. The 2015-19 plan will be released in early 2015.



DATA AND FIGURES

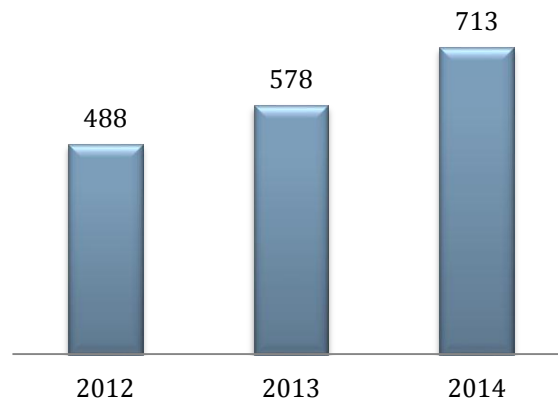
“You can have data without information, but you cannot have information without data.”

-Daniel Keys Moran

Department-Wide	2012	2013	2014
New Grants and Fund Sources	3	8	3
Active Volunteers	12	10	19
Health Data Requests	4	9	14
Quality Improvement Projects	2	0	0
Media Contacts	182	147	112
Health Care Provider Releases	35	13	29
Community Engagements	488	578	713
Updates to Codes and Policies	12	3	7

KCPHD Community Engagement

■ Number of Community Engagements



Community Engagement is a term that describes the way we bring public health out into the community we serve. The staff of KCPHD is often called upon to represent the department in a variety of ways, including community meetings, events, and presentations to the public. KCPHD keeps track of all collaborative interactions with community members and community partners. We are constantly striving to increase our presence in the community and strengthen existing partnerships. Our increasing numbers reflect this ongoing effort.

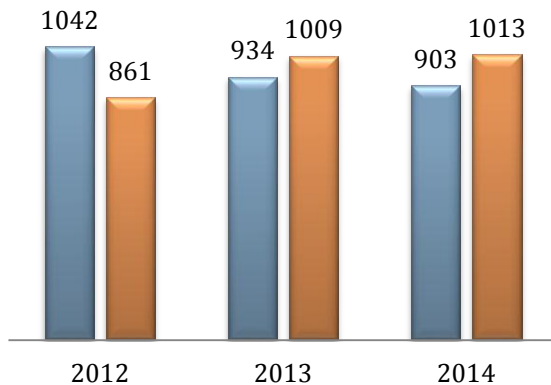
DATA AND FIGURES

Vital Records

	2012	2013	2014
Births			
Births Registered	363	355	335
Birth Certificates Issued	1042	934	903
Deaths			
Deaths Registered	226	250	197
Certified Copies of Death Certificates Issued	861	1009	1013

KCPHD Trends in Vital Records

■ Number of Birth Certificates Issued ■ Certified Death Certificates issued



Vital Records: A historical activity of local health departments is issuing birth and death certificates. Up until recently, KCPHD was only able to issue birth certificates for people born in Kittitas County and death certificates for deaths occurring in the county in the previous thirty days. With new technology and statewide systems, we are now able to issue birth and death certificates for all Washington State counties. These changes may be having an influence on the trend in the number of certificates KCPHD issues each year.

Access to Baby and Child Dentistry (ABCD)

	2012	2013	2014
Outreach Contacts Made	296	150	376
Referrals to Dentists	13	2	18

Communicable Disease (CD) & Tuberculosis (TB)

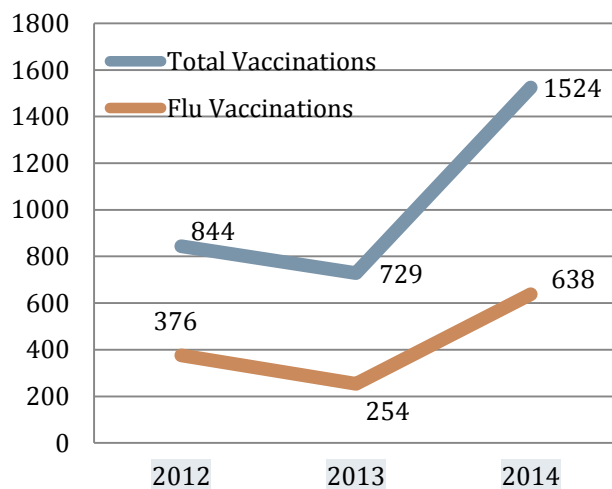
	2012	2013	2014
Investigations			
TB Investigations	2	0	1
CD Investigations	131	117	139
Cases			
Confirmed CD Cases	80	62	69
Sexually Transmitted Diseases Reported	211	179	204
Testing			
TB Tests Administered	106	105	107

DATA AND FIGURES

Immunization

	2012	2013	2014
Total Vaccinations Given	844	729	1524
Flu Vaccinations Given	376	254	638
Specialty Travel Vaccinations	48	74	30
Adults Receiving Vaccinations	302	283	760
Children Receiving Vaccinations	316	207	406
Travel Consultations	63	56	47

KCPHD Vaccinations

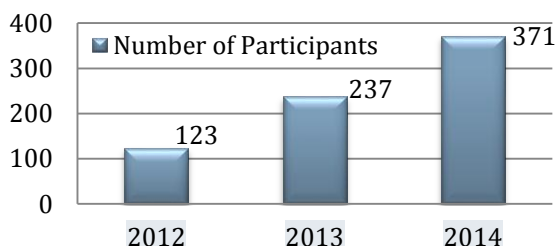


Vaccinations: KCPHD provides many types of vaccines including influenza, polio, hepatitis A and B, measles/mumps/rubella (MMR), tetanus/diphtheria/pertussis (Tdap), as well as vaccinations for overseas travel such as yellow fever and typhoid. We saw a significant increase in the number of vaccinations given in 2014 compared to previous years. This is partially due to a successful annual drive-thru flu vaccine clinic where we vaccinated more people than any other previous year, with the exception of the 2009 H1N1 outbreak. In addition, we had access to free vaccines for uninsured and underinsured adults such as shingles and hepatitis A and B.

HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis C

	2012	2013	2014
Testing			
HIV Tests	24	19	15
Hepatitis C Tests	22	22	9
Syringe Exchange			
Syringe Exchange Participants (duplicated)	156	72	103
Syringes Exchanged	2999	1349	1928
Education			
HIV and Hepatitis C Education Participants	123	237	371

HIV/Hepatitis C Presentations



HIV/Hepatitis C Presentations: Staff regularly conducts educational presentations in the county jail and during drug treatment groups. This was a significant activity in 2014 as seen by the increase in the number of participants compared to previous years.

DATA AND FIGURES

Environmental Health

	2012	2013	2014
Environmental Health Complaints	50	75	61

Living Environment

	2012	2013	2014
Schools			
Inspections	25	30	29
Public Pools & Spas			
Permits Issued	41	33	34
Inspections	42	30	30
Camps & Parks			
Permits Issued	16	17	16
Inspections	10	13	17

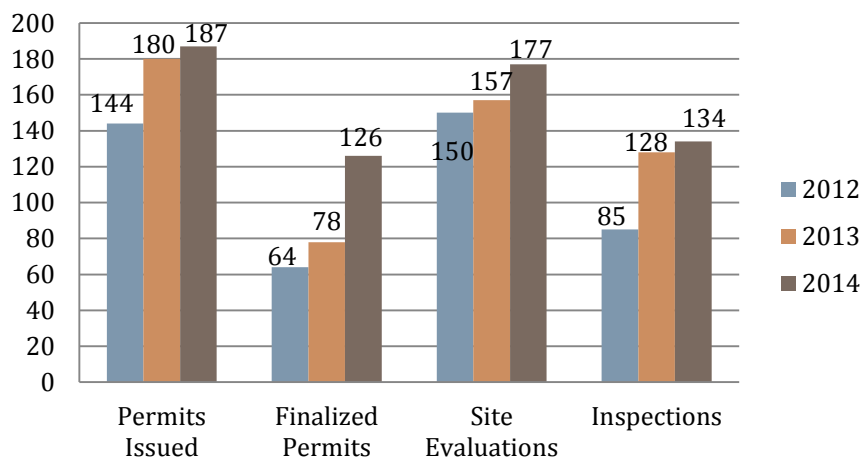
Solid Waste

	2012	2013	2014
Permits Issued	8	9	9
Inspections	33	30	30

On-Site Sewage (OSS)

	2012	2013	2014
Permits Issued	144	180	187
Finalized Permits	64	78	126
Site Evaluations	150	157	177
Inspections	85	128	134

On-Site Sewage Services



OSS: After the 2008 recession hit the country, KCPHD saw a decrease in many of its environmental health services like on-site septic and drinking water services as building and development slowed significantly. Fortunately, we are starting to see those numbers climb back up gradually.

DATA AND FIGURES

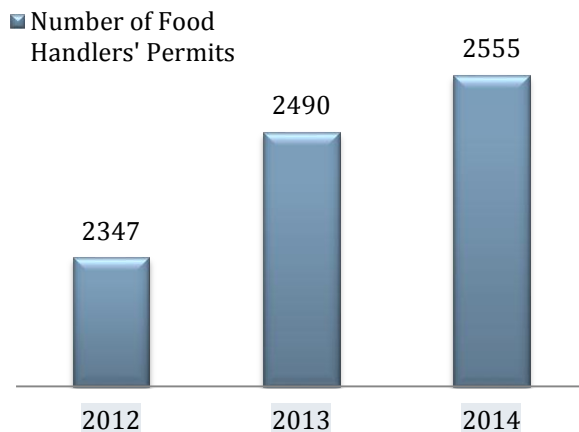
Land Use

	2012	2013	2014
Plat Applications	10	11	6
Soil Logs	15	6	2

Food Safety

	2012	2013	2014
Permits			
Permanent Food Establishment Applications	318	309	288
Temporary Food Establishment Applications	77	87	61
Food Handler's Permits	2347	2490	2555
Inspections			
Food Establishment Inspections	469	390	373
Temporary Event Inspections	65	158	96

Safe Food Handling in Kittitas County



Safe Food Handling is the most effective way to prevent food borne illness. Training in this area is required for those who work in licensed food establishments. Previously, food workers had to come to our office to take a computer tutorial and pay cash only for their permit. In 2012, KCPHD transitioned to an online system allowing individuals to get their permit from any place with a computer, printer, and internet. In Kittitas County, all food workers can take the course and test from their homes, local libraries, or from the KCPHD office. We suspect the increase in permits issued is partly due to the food establishment industry increasing hiring with the economy getting better and partly due to increased accessibility online.

Drinking Water

	2012	2013	2014
Group A Water System Sanitary Surveys	7	9	15
Group B Water System Inspections	3	7	0
Individual Well Site Application Reviews	50	79	58
Adequate Water Supply Determination Applications	179	443	317
Well Delegation Inspections	19	28	21

ANNUAL REPORT FY 2014



2014 Kittitas County Public Health Department Staff



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