

PUBLIC HEALTH CONNECTION

Healthy Youth Survey Results and What they Mean for Kittitas County

The Healthy Youth Survey (HYS) is a voluntary survey administered every two years in middle schools and high schools in Kittitas County. The HYS data is given to students in grades 6, 8, 10, and 12.

Using the data, we get an understanding of issues that our kids are facing and can use the information to make informed decisions about how to best help our youth.

For example, we know that 33 percent of high school seniors in Kittitas County have used an e-cigarette or vape product in the last month. The same percentage have had a glass, can, or bottle of alcohol in the last month. Forty-six percent of high school seniors

report having sexual intercourse. When it comes to perceiving risk, seniors report “great risk” from tobacco at 79 percent, risk from alcohol at 40 percent, and only 27 percent of seniors perceive “great risk” from using marijuana at least once or twice a week.

All of this information gives us insight of where to focus our prevention efforts. Some of the information is positive, such as 91 percent of high school seniors say that they feel safe in school. Some of the information is surprising, like 65 percent of twelfth graders say that in the last month they were riding with a driver who was texting or emailing while driving.

HYS information is available online. In addition, KCPHD sends every school a copy of the “In Your Classroom” datasheet annually, which breaks down HYS information, so school staff can have a quick factsheet with the most recent and highlighted information. Previous In Your Classroom datasheets can be found on our website. The most recent datasheet is at <http://www.co.kittitas.wa.us/uploads/documents/health/assessment/in-your-classroom/2014-In-Your-Classroom.pdf>.



KCPHD Completes the new Strategic Plan

The KCPHD Strategic Plan 2015-2019 is complete. The Strategic Plan is a report that talks about strategic initiatives as well as our timeline and processes.

Essentially the plan includes major goals for the department. It also includes when and how we plan to achieve our goals.

Determining goals was a process that included working with staff, our Kittitas County Board of Health Advisory Committee, as well as the Board of Health. The plan includes the following goals:

- Increase sustainability and stability of public health funding.
- Increase community partnerships and awareness of public health’s role in the community.
- Become accredited through the Public Health Accreditation Board.
- Implement an ongoing, sustainable system and culture of Quality Improvement and Performance Management.
- Improve internal collaboration and communication between KCPHD divisions and teams.



Photo by Bill Abbott

Department-Wide

New Grants /Fund Sources	4
Active Volunteers	4
Health Data Requests	3
Quality Improvement Projects Completed	0
Media Contacts	53
Health Provider Releases	5
Community Engagements	150
Code/Policy Updates	1

Vital Records

Births Registered	92
Birth Certificates Issued	262
Deaths Registered	57
Death Certificates Issued	156

Access to Baby and Child Dentistry

Outreach Contacts	183
Referrals to Dentists	9

Communicable Disease (CD)

Tuberculosis Investigations	0
TB Tests Administered	35
CD Investigations	40
Confirmed CD cases	11
Sexually Transmitted Diseases Reported	60

Immunization

Total Vaccinations	188
Flu Vaccinations	45
Travel Vaccinations	10
Adults Receiving Vaccine	73
Children Receiving Vaccine	34
Travel Consultations	12

HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis C

HIV Tests	0
Hepatitis C Tests	2
Syringe Exchange Participants	39
Syringes Exchanged	2633
Education Participants	116

New Staff Starts at KCPHD

The Kittitas County Public Health Department has welcomed new staff in Environmental Health and in Health Promotion. New personnel include Fiske Firebaugh, Daniel Hinz, Amy Kocher, and Zach Vavricka.

Fiske Firebaugh is the new Environmental Health

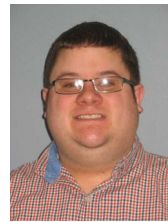
Specialist I, hired to head up the onsite septic program.

Mr. Firebaugh moved from Indiana to Ellensburg with his wife, who works at CWU.

Daniel Hinz was hired as the Air Quality Project Specialist. Mr. Hinz is a student at CWU and is currently working on his

thesis, which centers around soot analysis.

Amy Kocher, Community Health Specialist I, most recently worked as the Developmental Disabilities Coordinator for KCPHD. She will be graduating from CWU with her master's degree in June 2016.



Zach Vavricka, Community Health Specialist I, comes to KCPHD after working for Elmview. Mr. Vavricka worked for twelve years as a

KCPHD Receives New Funds

New grant funding sources are benefitting various departments at KCPHD.

Environmental Health received funds to address air quality and continue work around assessing attitudes and behaviors as well as educating residents about air quality.

Health Promotion has received an extension of funding to assist

residents in signing up for health insurance, as well as funding for chronic disease prevention. Chronic disease prevention funds include grant money to complete work with smoke free policy work and policy work around e-cigarettes. The Health Promotion department will receive grant funds to work with the local food banks to

complete assessments about food distribution and complete worksite wellness policy work in the county.

KCPHD also received regional funds to purchase equipment and train staff on air monitors for use in wildfire response.

Total new funds this quarter reach \$96,500.98.

KCPHD Staff are Trained and Ready to Respond

Erin Moore, Environmental Health Specialist I, and Tristen Lamb, Environmental Health Specialist I, completed Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response Standard (HAZWOPER), which is a 40 hour training required for solid waste inspectors.

Candi Blackford, Administrative Assistant II,

attended advanced Incident Command System trainings I-300 and I-400 for emergency response. Ms. Blackford will continue to train in order to respond in the Kittitas County Emergency Operation Center.

Holly Myers, Environmental Health Supervisor, and Fiske Firebaugh, Environmental Health Specialist I, completed a two day training with the

Washington Onsite Septic Association regarding Washington Administrative Code review 272. The training covered wastewater and reclaimed water use fees.

PUBLIC HEALTH CONNECTION

Water Advisory Committee Makes Final Recommendation

The Kittitas County Water Quantity Citizen Advisory Committee was formed to research and formulate a formal recommendation for the water quantity that will be available to residents to purchase from the Kittitas County Water Bank for domestic water use mitigation.

On March 27, the committee submitted a formal recommendation to the Kittitas County Commissioners after six months of meetings, research, and discussion.

The formal recommendation provides for two packages: Package A and Package B. Package A (for households with access to irrigation water

for outdoor use) includes 275 gallons per day use. Package B (for households who do not have access to irrigation water) includes 300 gallons per day, which includes the watering of lawn and garden up to 500 square feet in addition to the 275 gallons per day domestic use. The committee took into account fluctuating outdoor water use due to seasonal needs, and calculated an average that uses 25 gallons per day for the year for Package B outdoor use.

The Citizen Advisory Committee fulfilled the charter of the committee. The next steps include the county determining metering,

and enforcement for the Kittitas County Water Bank. The water quantity recommendation was presented and well received by the Board of County Commissioners during the March presentation. The additional process development for metering, monitoring, and enforcement will all be presented together to the Kittitas County Board of Health and Board of County Commissioners at a public hearing. The public hearing is currently scheduled for July 7.

KCPHD Responds to Two Spills- Biosolids and Septic

KCPHD responded to two separate spill incidents during the beginning of 2015 - one biosolid spill and one septic spill.

On January 19, KCPHD was notified that a semi-truck hauling Class B biosolids from a King County wastewater treatment plant had overturned on Highway 97. The result was nearly 15 tons of dried biosolid material dumped into Swauk Creek.

KCPHD worked with King County, and the Washington State Department of Ecology to ensure that the spill was correctly cleaned and the creek was properly monitored. In addition, KCPHD sent messaging out to media to inform residents to stay out of the area until fecal coliform

levels were determined to be safe downstream from the spill.

On March 16, KCPHD was notified of a different contamination that involved leaking septic waste. The contamination site was located at the west branch of Wilson Creek near the Canyon Road Bridge.

The contamination was a result of a damaged sewer line transporting septic waste from Millpond Mobile Manor's sewage lift station to the City of Ellensburg's wastewater treatment plant. Repairs were immediately initiated by Millpond Mobile Manor and KCPHD

worked closely, again, with responding agencies to ensure that the contamination was cleaned up and the creek was properly monitored. Ongoing monitoring for fecal coliform is scheduled by Ecology and the parties involved are meeting in April to discuss long-term, permanent solutions to this recurring issue of septic lines imbedded in the county bridge.



Environmental Health (EH)

EH Complaints	26
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Living Environment

Schools

Building Inspections	18
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Public Pools & Spas

Permits Issued	0
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Inspections	0
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Camps & Parks

Permits Issued	0
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Inspections	0
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Solid Waste

Permits Issued	0
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Inspections	7
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On-Site Sewage

Installation Permits Issued	31
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Finalized Permits	35
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Site Evaluations	38
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Inspections	21
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Food Safety

Permits

Permanent Food Establishment Applications	23
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Temporary Food Establishment Applications	7
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Food Handler's Permits	826
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Inspections

Establishment Inspections	121
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Temporary Event Inspections	0
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Drinking Water

Group A Water System Sanitary Surveys	0
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Group B Water System Inspections	0
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Individual Well Site Application Reviews	21
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Adequate Water Supply Determination Applications	75
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Well Delegation Inspections	10
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? **Did you know** ?

- Some sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs) are on the rise in Kittitas County.
- STDs such as chlamydia, gonorrhea, herpes, and syphilis are reported to KCPHD by county medical providers.
- Kittitas County is seeing an increase in gonorrhea and chlamydia.
- In 2014, gonorrhea cases in Kittitas County tripled.
- According to the Washington State Department of Health (DOH) “about 1 in 4 young adults have an STD.”
- Some STDs are curable - chlamydia, gonorrhea, and syphilis. Herpes is controllable, but not curable.
- All STDs are preventable diseases.
- DOH recommends that anyone sexually active under the age of 25 should get tested for STDs every year.



BOHAC Names First Annual Public Health Champion

The Kittitas County Board of Health Advisory Committee has nominated its first Public Health Champion in 2015.

The award recognizes individuals, groups, or organizations that make significant contributions to the health of Kittitas County. The

recipient in 2015 is the City of Ellensburg Parks and Recreation Department. BOHAC recognizes the breadth of programming by the City of Ellensburg Parks and Rec for local residents across the

lifespan. The award includes \$500.00 for current or future projects that contribute to the health of Kittitas County.



New BOHAC member, Jacob Butler

In January, BOHAC added a new member, Dr. Jacob Butler. Dr. Butler, DMD, is a dentist providing care at Ellensburg Dental Care.

Dr. Butler has a Doctor of Dental Medicine from the University of Puerto Rico School of Dental Medicine and



a Bachelor of Arts in Spanish from Southern Utah University. He previously practiced in Arizona.

QI Projects in the Works at KCPHD

The KCPHD Quality Improvement Team is working on utilizing the coaching model for quality improvement (QI). The coaching model is based on the “train the trainer” model, where quality improvement coaches are trained at KCPHD and can work within their divisions to coach others.

Multiple QI projects are occurring at KCPHD: the car

checkout process, the purchase order process, pool inspections, and temporary event inspections.

In addition, in March, Environmental Health Specialist Erin Moore attended a two day Open Forum for Quality Improvement in Public Health located in San Antonio, Texas. Ms. Moore presented an abstract poster about KCPHD’s QI Coaching

Method and attended sessions with topics ranging from accreditation to QI tools used in the field.