

TriCounty Health Department

2024 Annual Report



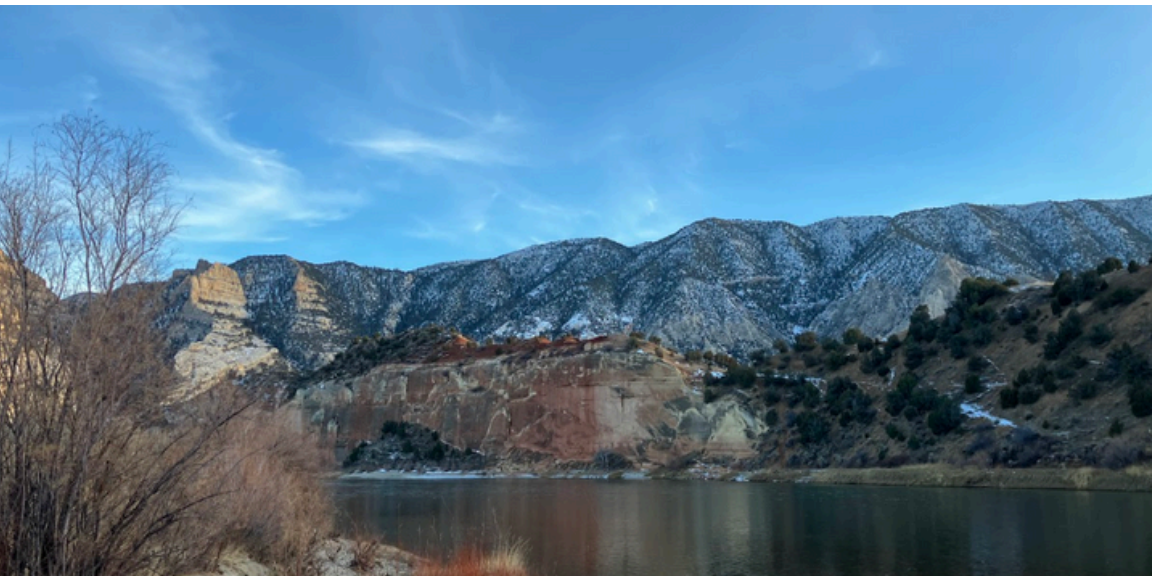
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About Us

Our mission is to protect and promote the health and wellbeing of our communities in Daggett, Duchesne, and Uintah Counties.



TriCounty Health Department (TriCHD) has served Daggett, Duchesne, and Uintah counties since 1978, focusing on:

- Environmental health: Ensuring clean water and air.
- Family health: Providing programs for children and parents, STI education, car seat safety, immunizations, and nutrition.
- Community support: Assisting with home building and testing, promoting healthy lifestyles, and smoking cessation.
- Partnerships: Collaborating with community partners, businesses, and government to enhance local health and well-being.

Creating a community where your family can stay healthy and enjoy peace of mind as you live, work, and play.

Message from our Director



Kirk Benge, MPH
Health Officer

I am honored to present the 2024 TriCounty Health annual report, providing an overview of the remarkable work, accomplishments, and milestones achieved over the past year.

As we reflect on our collective efforts, it is evident that the commitment of our staff, the collaboration with our community partners, and the support of our counties has helped us promote the well-being of Daggett, Duchesne, and Uintah Counties.

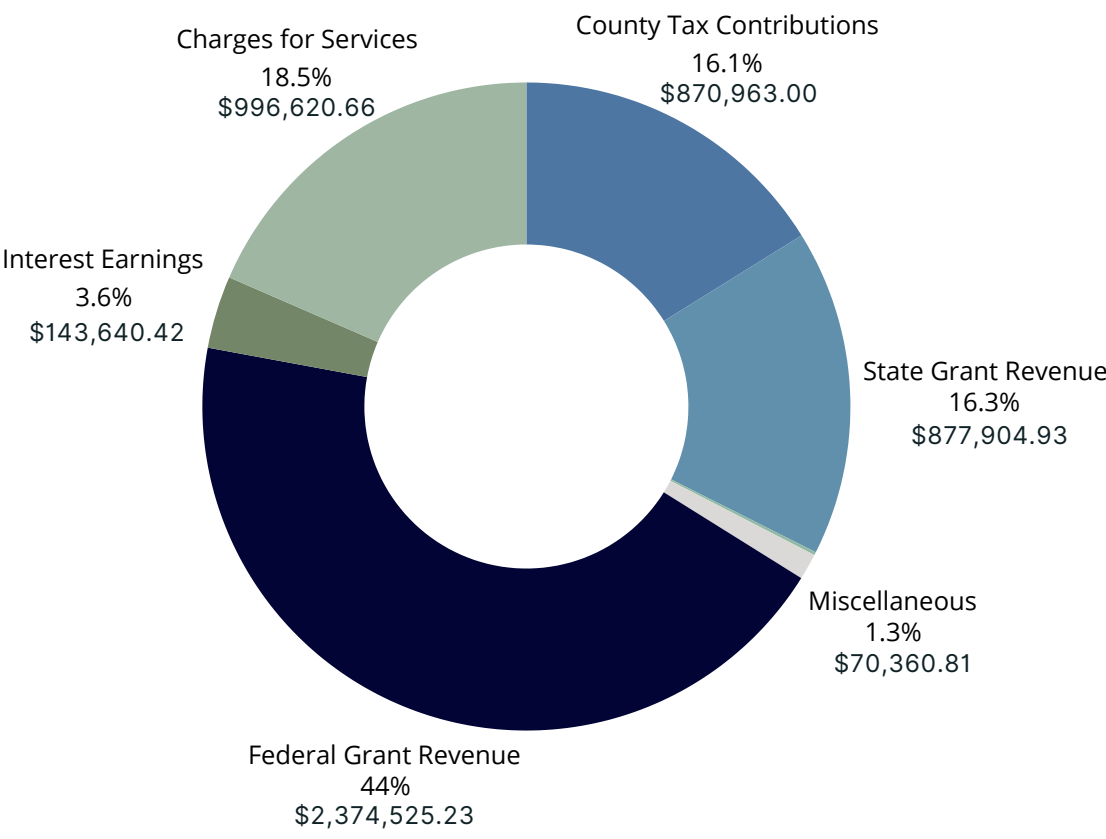
Throughout the year, our dedicated staff have worked tirelessly to address the evolving health needs of our community. Whether it was enhancing vaccination outreach, addressing the immediate needs of those we served in-person, extending services to those previously not served with new programs, or providing nutrition education to parents and children. Our team demonstrated resilience, innovation and a steadfast commitment to our mission, vision and values.

In the spirit of continuous improvement, I am confident that our collaborative efforts will lead to even greater achievements in the upcoming year. Together, we will navigate the challenges that lie ahead and continue to be at the forefront of public health innovation. Our commitment to the well-being of the community remains steadfast, and I am excited about the positive impact we will collectively make in the coming year.

I extend my appreciation to all of our dedicated staff that have been instrumental in helping us accomplish this great work. It is with great optimism and enthusiasm that we look forward to the opportunities and accomplishments that await us this upcoming year.

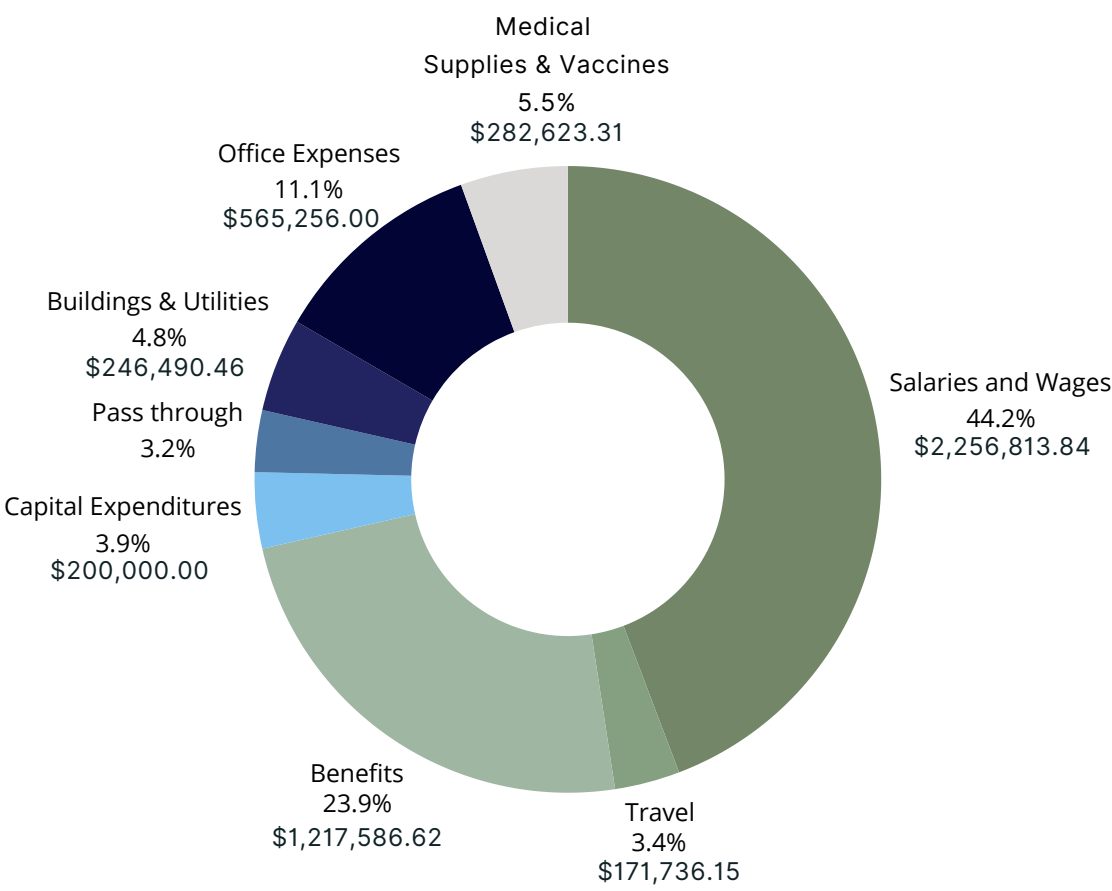
Financial Summary

REVENUE \$5,342,328.81



Financial Summary

EXPENSE \$5,103,099.38



Community Health Improvement Plan

Our future is one where the TriCounty Health Department continues to work to keep our community healthy, provides the best quality services and works with our community partners to address all aspects of health.

The TriCounty Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) shifts our attention away from downstream health effects and focuses on upstream, root-cause prevention. It calls on us to collaborate with new and existing partners to meet the needs of those we serve. It's a simple idea: we improve as an agency and community not because of changes to any single program or health outcome but because of how we work together. This plan unites all units of the health department to work collaboratively to address the system-level challenges that create barriers to our success.

The five pillars of our plan are:

- Advancing Health Equity
- Promoting Healthy Living
- Improving Mental Health & Reducing Illicit Drug Use
- Providing an Excellent Client Experience
- Maintaining a Healthy Environment



Our strategic plan is a 25 year vision in the making. As we evaluate our efforts from 2024, we do so with respect to the impact that the pandemic has had on public health. We aim to look back and learn from the past so that we can move toward a brighter, healthier future.

Community Health Review

As we look back on 2024 it's important to note the specific community health needs of the Daggett, Duchesne, and Uintah counties.

By identifying the obstacles to creating a healthier community, we can implement new services and tailor our strategies to prevent adverse health affects.

Leading Causes of Death in TriCounty

Recognizing the leading causes of death in our health district is crucial for several reasons. Understanding and addressing the impact of diseases helps prioritize healthcare resources and guide preventive measures. These conditions, which rank high on the list of causes of death, often involve modifiable risk factors such as lifestyle choices, environmental exposures, and early detection.

1 Heart Disease

2 Cancer

3 Unintentional Injuries

4 Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease

5 Diabetes Mellitus

6 Suicide

7 Cerebrovascular Disease

8 Alzheimer's Disease

9 Chronic Liver Disease & Cirrhosis

10 Kidney Disease

A Year in Review

FAMILY & CLINICAL SERVICES

Under the umbrella of our nursing division, we provide services focused on improving the health and well-being of individuals and families in the community.



WOMEN, INFANTS, & CHILDREN APPOINTMENTS - 3,683

The Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program provides nutrition and breastfeeding services, and supplemental foods to pregnant women, mothers, infants, and children up to their 5th birthday.



TARGETED CASE MANAGEMENT CLIENTS - 153

Targeted case management (TCM) is a service that helps Medicaid members gain access to needed medical, social, educational, and other services. TCM helps Medicaid members access needed services and ensures that services are coordinated among all agencies and providers involved.



CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL HEALTH CARE NEEDS CLIENTS - 87

Children with Special Health Care Needs (CSHCN) is a part of the Utah Department of Health and Human Services. CSHCN works by providing early screening and detection, data integration, care coordination, education, intervention, and life transitions to children with special needs.



PRESCHOOL DEVELOPMENT GRANT CLIENTS - 26

The Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five (PDG-5) helps states collaborate across child care programs, systems, and agencies.

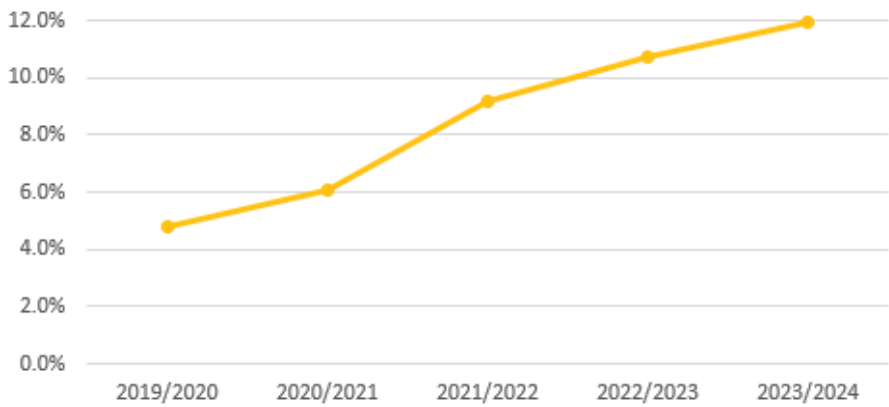
A Year in Review

IMMUNIZATIONS

Immunizations are also administered under our nursing department. We offer universal vaccines along with travel vaccines for those going out of the country.

Over the last five years we have seen a trend of increasing immunization exemption rates for school-aged children along with decreasing immunization rates overall. In response, our Board of Health partnered with local health care providers to write a letter to the community in hopes of bringing awareness to the issue.

Kindergarten Vaccine Exemptions



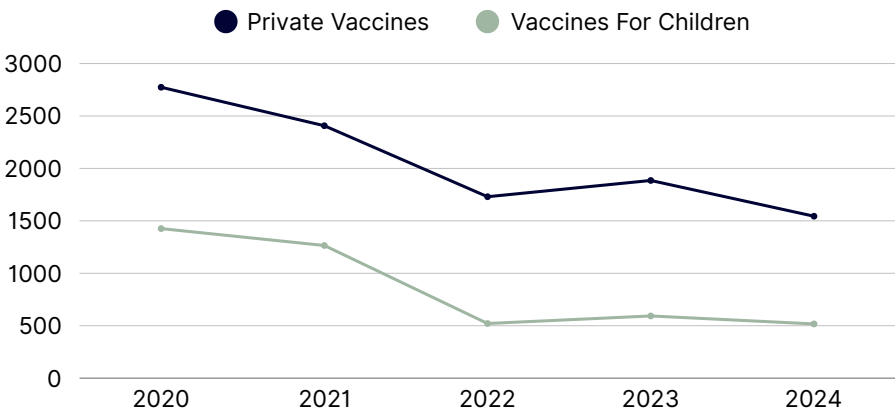
Kindergarteners Adequately Immunized



A Year in Review

IMMUNIZATIONS

Vaccines administered at TriCounty facilities excluding COVID-19



Vaccines for Children (VFC)

The VFC program covers the cost of vaccines for children whose parents or guardians may not be able to afford them.

Private Pay

Private vaccines are classified as having been paid for either by the client or by the client's insurance.

We encourage members of our community who have questions and concerns about immunizations to come in and speak with our nurses. Our goal is to offer knowledge, support, and comfort to our clients so that they feel empowered to make the best decisions for themselves and their families.

We are proud to offer immunization services to our community as the value of vaccines has been proven to prevent the spread of disease, outbreaks and epidemics.

A Year in Review

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS & RESPONSE

This program works to plan, prepare, train and exercise public health staff, professionals, first responders, businesses and community members in preparedness efforts.

Public Health Emergency Preparedness



18 Drills 10 Trainings 24 Exercises

Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) focuses on preventing disease and reducing deaths during emergencies and disasters by building resilient communities and leveraging existing public health systems and partnerships.

The core elements of TriCounty Health emergency preparedness are:

Prevention Mitigation Preparedness Response Recovery

The key activities and exercises in public health emergency preparedness are:

- **Community Resilience:** Preparing communities to respond to and recover from emergencies.
- **Incident Management:** Coordinating an effective response to emergencies.
- **Information Management:** Ensuring people receive timely and accurate information.
- **Countermeasures and Mitigation:** Ensuring access to necessary supplies and medications.
- **Surge Management:** Managing increased demands on healthcare resources.
- **Communication:** Ensuring clear and consistent communications with the public and other stakeholders.
- **Surveillance:** Monitoring for disease and other public health threats.
- **Laboratory Services:** Providing accurate and timely laboratory testing.

A Year in Review

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS & RESPONSE

Health care coalitions play a vital role during both preparedness and response serving as communication hubs, resource coordination, and facilitate implementation of policies and practices during an emergency.

Health Care Coalition (HCC)



4	4	4	4
Drills	Trainings	Exercises	Special Plans

The Uintah Basin Healthcare Coalition (HCC) is a group of local health care and responder organizations that work together to improve emergency preparedness and the health and safety of our communities, focusing on planning, organizing and executing responses to emergencies and other public health challenges.

The TriCounty HCC includes core member of the community like:

- Hospitals
- Emergency Medical Services (EMS)
- County Emergency Management
- Public Health Agencies
- Other potential partners can include behavioral health, long term care facilities, pharmacies, tribal entities, public safety, volunteer organizations, and community-based organizations.

Medical Reserve Corps



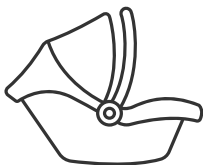
4	7	4	2
Drills	New Recruits	Trainings	Exercises

MRC volunteers supplement existing emergency and public health resources. These volunteers include medical professionals and other non-medical individuals who want to help prepare for and respond to emergencies and promote healthy living throughout the year.

A Year in Review

HEALTH PROMOTION

Health promotion is the process of enabling people to increase control over, and to improve, their health. It moves beyond a focus on individual behavior towards a wide range of social and environmental interventions.



CAR SEATS

28 Inspections 73 Distributed

We offer free car seats to Medicaid recipients who are in need of them. We also offer free car seat inspections performed by our certified car seat safety technician.



CHILD INJURY PREVENTION

Each year we hold our annual Safe Kids Day event where we invite community partners to come and offer resources and demonstrations to improve child safety and development. This year we distributed:

24	30	100
Bike Helmets	Life Jackets	Water Bottles
96	50	
Bookbags	Pencil Bags	



HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT ACTIVE LIVING

This year over **1,600,000 steps** were logged during our annual Walking Challenge. Each year we hold a challenge for the community to try to increase the number of steps they get in a day to promote an active lifestyle.

We've also published **12 podcast episodes** focused on bringing awareness to organizations and community resources for better health.

A Year in Review

HEALTH PROMOTION

A large part of health promotion is prevention and harm reduction. We work to provide community members with information and resources to prevent adverse health outcomes.



TOBACCO PREVENTION & CESSATION

99 Quitline Referrals 31 Scholarships Awarded

Through the Students Working Against Tobacco Scholarship (SWAT) program, we are able to award scholarships to high school students who join the program and complete projects in peer-to-peer tobacco prevention.



QUESTION, PERSUADE, & REFER TRAINING

63 Community Members Trained

Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR) is an emergency mental health intervention used to interrupt a suicidal crisis and direct the person in need to proper care.



HARM REDUCTION/OPIOID PREVENTION

21 Narcan Trainings 533 Bottles Distributed

Naloxone (Narcan) is a nasal spray that reverses and stops an opioid overdose.

A Year in Review

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

This team works to ensure the water you drink, the food you eat, and the air you breathe are safe. They monitor air quality, and partner with food, body art, schools, and pool facilities.

FOOD PROTECTION



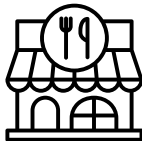
248

Restaurant
Inspections



193

Temporary Food
Inspections & Permits



264

Restaurant
Permits



3

Mass Gathering
Inspections & Permits

BUSINESS IMPACT



Body Art

36

Inspections

20

Permits



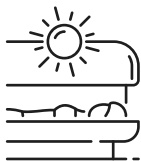
Schools

29

Inspections

13

Permits



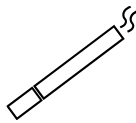
Tanning Facilities

3

Inspections

4

Permits



E-cigarette &
Tobacco Retailers

13

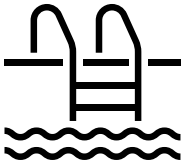
Violations

64

Permits

A Year in Review

WATER QUALITY



Public Pools

39

Inspections

45

Permits

511

Samples



Public Drinking
Water Systems

15

Inspections

744

Samples



DO YOU NEED US?

For Family & Clinical Services

Vaccinations, WIC, STD & STI Testing and more:

- 435-247-1177

For Environmental Health

Water testing, food permits & complaints, wastewater system and property history:

- 435-247-1160

For Health Promotion

Tobacco, nutrition, active living, suicide and overdose prevention trainings and presentations:

- 435-247-1177



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Vernal, UT 84078

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www.tricountyhealthut.gov



For Health's Sake

Apple Podcast

Spotify



