

# Transformational Health: Washington Path Forward

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SECRETARY OF HEALTH, WA

Grays Harbor Health Symposium  
10/20/23 | Grays Harbor



@WaDeptHealth  
@WaHealthSec  
@Ushahmd



# What is Public Health?

“What we as a society do *collectively* to assure the conditions in which people can be healthy.”

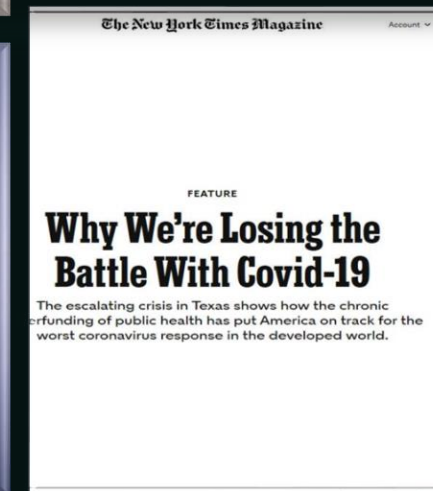
- *The future of the Public's Health in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, Institute of Medicine, 2003*



*Health*

*Where **Equity,**  
**Innovation** and  
**Engagement** meet*

# Public Health Never Sleeps The Long Road Continues



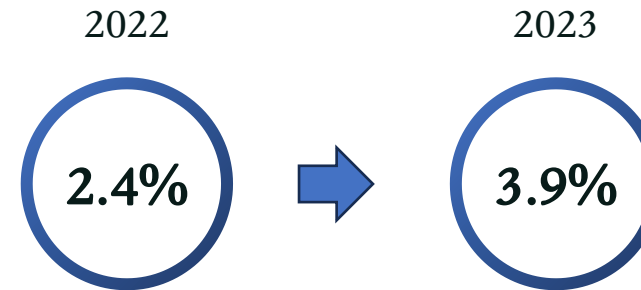
# WA State Leading Causes of Death 2022

1. Malignant Neoplasms
2. Diseases of Heart
3. Unintentional Injury
4. Alzheimer's Disease
5. Cerebrovascular Disease
6. Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease
7. COVID-19
8. Diabetes
9. Chronic Liver Disease
10. Suicide

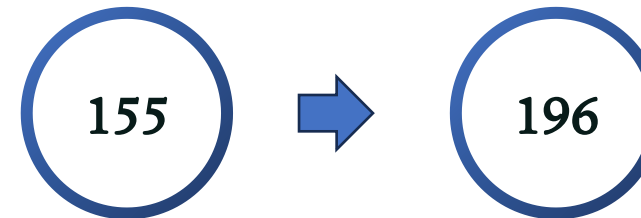


# FROM 2022 TO 2023, SUBSTANTIAL INCREASES IN EMS RESPONSES AND ED VISITS FOR OPIOID OVERDOSES.

Proportion of EMS responses for suspected opioid overdose:



ED visits for suspected opioid overdose (per 100K population):



Data notes: both measures compare Jan-Jul 2022 vs. Jan-Jul 2023. Therefore, these numbers constitute a risk over a 6-month period (and should not be interpreted as an annual risk).

Data sources: WEMSYS (an estimated 93% of EMS responses are reported to WEMSYS); RHINO.



**FROM**

**Transactional  
Health**

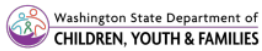
**TO**

***Transformational Health***



# HHS Coalition IT Strategy

2021-2024



## Coalition Vision

### Removing barriers to access for client benefits

All Washingtonians deserve to have their basic needs met – adequate food, health care, access to child care, and a safe and stable home to name a few – and Washington state government programs provide assistance to more than 2.9 million people annually. We are obligated to work together to remove any barriers that prevent Washingtonians from being able to access benefits for which they are eligible.



Foundational Public Health Services

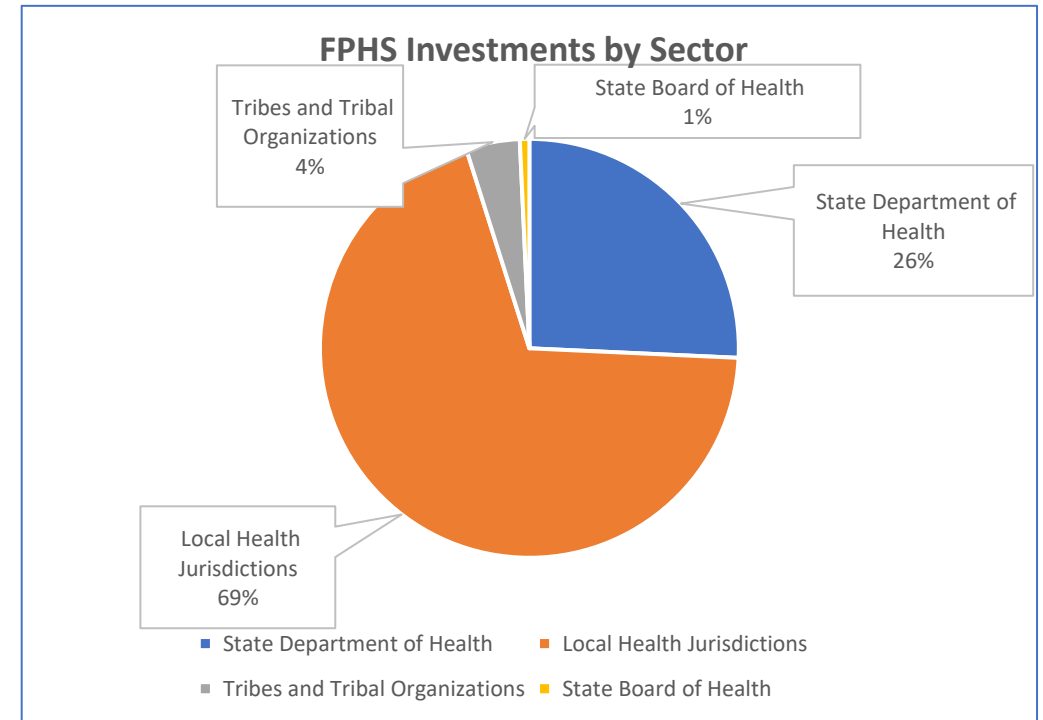
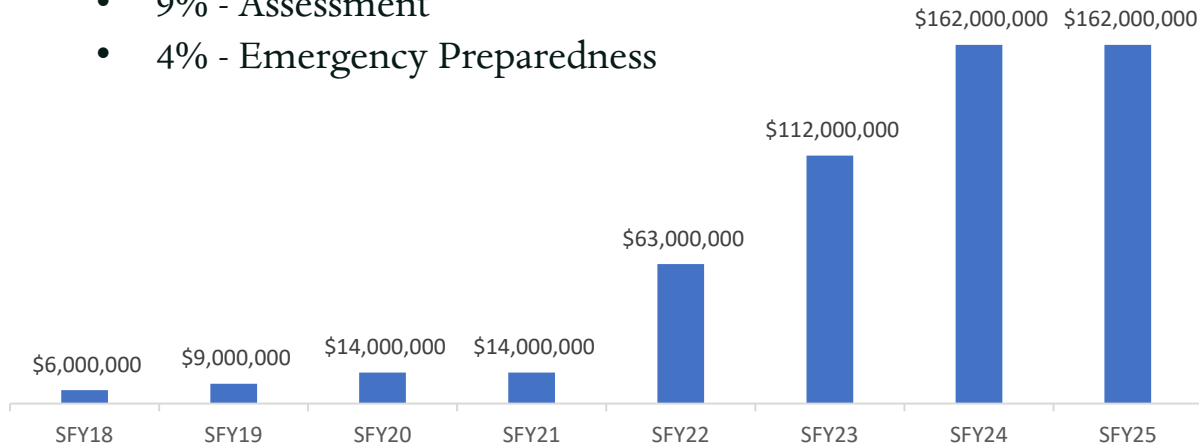
Healthy. Vital. **Everyone.** Everywhere.



# Foundational Public Health Services

- Legislature Appropriated \$324 Million for the 23-25 Biennium (72% of 2018 estimated need)

- FPHS has grown from a \$6M, one-time investment in SFY18 to an ongoing annual investment of \$162M in SFY24
- Investment areas include:
  - 36% - Foundational Capabilities
  - 24% - Communicable Disease
  - 17% - Life course
  - 10% - Environmental Health
  - 9% - Assessment
  - 4% - Emergency Preparedness



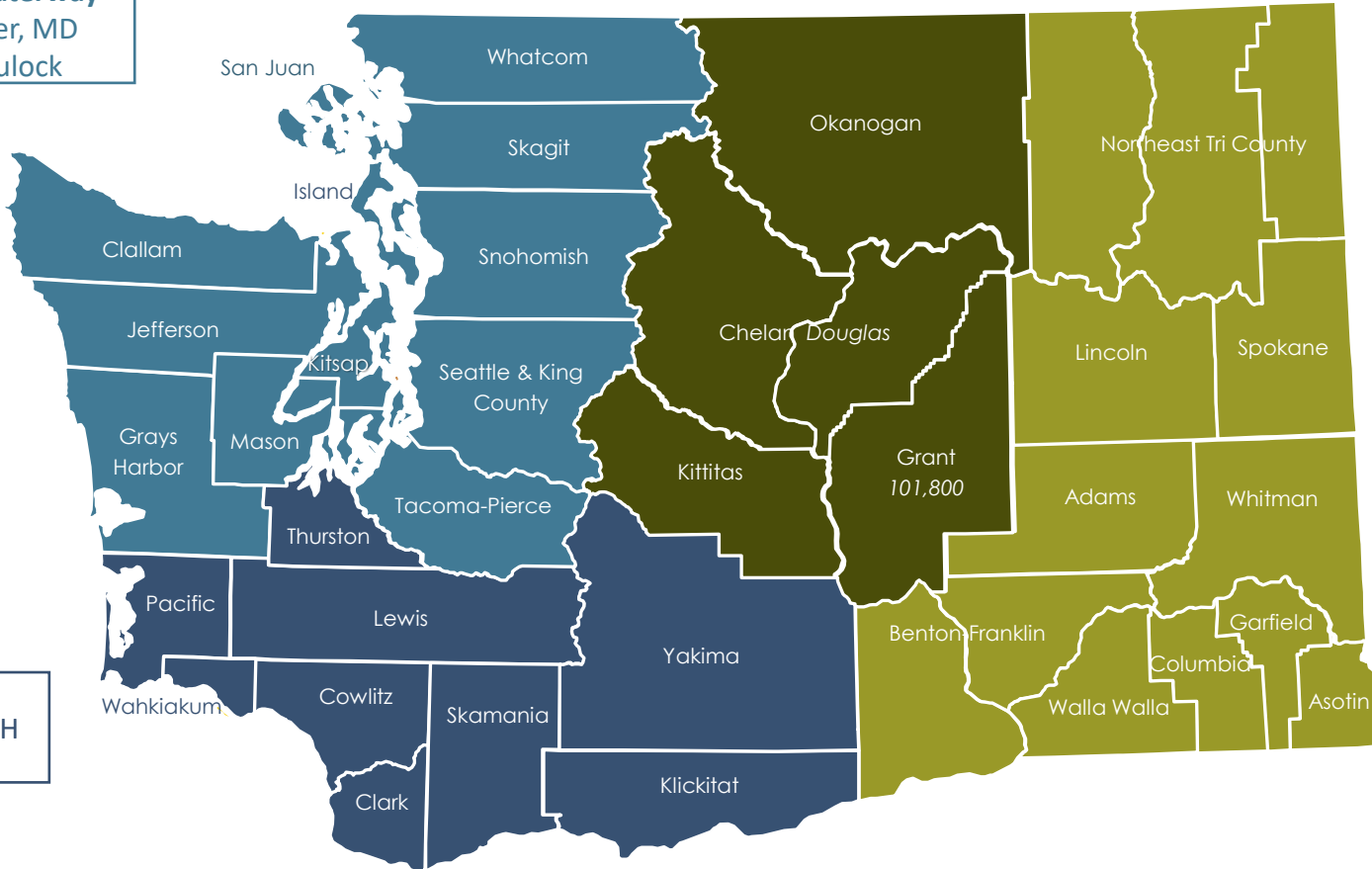
# REGIONAL HEALTH OFFICE TEAMS

**Region 4 – NW Waterway**  
**RMO:** Herbie Duber, MD  
**RHL:** Katherine Shulock

**Region 1 – Central Corridor**  
**RMO:** Amy Person, MD  
**RHL:** Jeanne Colvin, MA

**Region 2 – Eastern Plains**  
**RMO:** Bob Lutz, MD, MPH  
**RHL:** Melissa Lantz, BS, MSML, CHES

**Region 3 – South Gorge**  
**RMO:** Jay Miller, MD, MPH  
**RHL:** Melissa Couture



# TRIBAL NATIONS

- 29 Federally Recognized Sovereign Nations in Washington State
- WA-DOH Collaboration and Consultation
- WA-DOH Office of Tribal Public Health & Relations
- Strong partners in emergency response and other public health efforts
- On the horizon: Tribal Data Sovereignty



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
PO Box 47830 | Olympia, WA 98504-7830  
(360) 236-3000 | 711 Washington Relay Service

May 31, 2023

**RE: Washington State Department of Health Launching *\*\*New\*\** Office of Tribal Public Health & Relations (OTPHR)**

Greetings Honorable Tribal Leaders and Tribal Partners,

Thank you for your continued leadership and commitment to serving the needs of Tribal people and the communities in which they live across Washington and beyond. In accordance with chapter [43.376 RCW](#), the [Washington State Centennial Accord of 1989](#), and Washington State Department of Health (DOH) [Consultation and Collaboration Procedure](#), we invite collaboration with sovereign tribal nations and tribal organizations in the development of policies, agreements, and program implementation that directly affects Indian tribes and tribal people.

In this section

**Rural Health**

[COVID-19 Resources](#)

[Data, Maps and Other Resources](#)

[Primary Care Office](#)

[Programs and Services](#)

[Rural Health Systems](#)

[Useful Links](#)

[Workforce Recruitment and Retention](#)

## Rural Health

### What's Happening in Rural Health

#### J-1 Visa Program

The new 2024 J-1 Visa Waiver Program application cycle opens October 1, 2023, and closes September 30, 2024. [See the Workforce and Recruitment webpage](#) for more information about the program.

#### NHSC Recertification Cycle is Open

The [National Health Service Corps \(NHSC\) Recertification Cycle](#) is open through October 12, 2023. Recertifying sites can start by [reviewing the NHSC Site Reference Guide \(PDF\)](#). Site applicants can also [contact the Washington State Primary Care Office for assistance with the application process](#).


#### 2023 Northwest Rural Health Conference

The 2023 Northwest Rural Health Conference was a great success! We had 488 attendees! This year's success would not have been possible without the organizations that dedicated their time to planning this event. We would like to recognize and thank the Oregon State Office of Rural Health, the WWAMI AHEC Programs, Washington Rural Health Association, and Fred Hutch. **Save the Date:** 2024 NW Rural Health Conference will be on March 25-27, 2024.


### What we do

The Washington State Office of Rural Health and Primary Care Office support health systems planning and development in Washington's rural and underserved communities to improve health and healthcare across the life span. Check out our new Rural Health Infographic below to learn more about the work we do and services we provide.

 [COVID-19 Rural Health Resources](#)

 [Rural Health Infographic](#)

 [Workforce Recruitment & Retention](#)

 [Rural Health Systems](#)

[Direct recruitment](#) | [loan repayment](#) | [J-1 Visa Waiver](#)


[Small Hospital Improvement](#) | [Rural Health Centers](#) | [Critical Access Hospitals](#) | [Medicare Beneficiary Quality Improvement Project](#)

**WA PORTAL** Healthier Washington Collaboration Portal  
A resource for the state's health and wellness professionals

News & Success Stories | Partners | Resources | About Us | [My Portal](#) | [How to](#) | [Log in](#)

What is the Community Collaborative?

# THE COMMUNITY COLLABORATIVE



Welcome to the Community Collaborative Portal. This is an external platform for partners to connect with each other, share efforts, leverage resources, and facilitate opportunities to collaborate. Formerly the Vaccine Implementation Collaborative and envisioned jointly by community leaders and DOH staff in February of 2021, the Community Collaborative is a collective comprising of members who are involved from many different sectors in uplifting communities that have experienced the devastating impacts of COVID-19 through co-designing recovery efforts with the goal of eliminating further harms on Black, Indigenous, communities of color and all those facing harm due to systemic racism and oppression.

The Community Collaborative ensures an equity and social justice lens is applied in the Department of Health's (DOH) planning and decision-making opportunities related to recovery efforts, beyond its vaccine equity body of work. We will continue to prioritize and center communities most impacted by health inequities, by honoring their labor and voices in our decision-making process, while simultaneously creating space to foster collaboration with community-based organizations, impacted businesses, cross-sector partners, health care entities, and public health agencies. Here you will find:

- Updates and News:** Recent updates and news about the Collaborative, opportunities and resources
- Calendar:** Invites and details for all upcoming Collaborative sessions and serves as a great way learn about upcoming partner events
- Community Resources:** COVID-19 and other health equity-related material and resources created or produced by community partners



# WORK AS A SYSTEM TO CONNECT WITH EACH OTHER

## *WA Governmental Public Health System*

- Workforce Development
- FPHS
- Behavioral Health
- Leader Connect Opportunities

Only by working together as a system will we be able to achieve our common goal of a healthy Washington



# Health in WA

## Moving Forward

- Transformational Health
- Investment/Workforce
- Behavioral Health/FOCUS Taskforce
- Digital Health/Tech
- Climate and Health
- Social Drivers of Health
- Healthcare Delivery/Access to Care
- Respiratory Season Response





IN IT TOGETHER!

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