

BIENNIAL REPORT

SKAGIT COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH

2017-18



To the Skagit Community,



Skagit County Public Health is dedicated to the health and well-being of all Skagit County residents. As we celebrate the five-year anniversary of a combined Skagit County Public Health and Human Services department, it is a fitting time to reflect on our many initiatives and programs, as well as our accomplishments. In these efforts, we have adapted to the ever-changing landscape of healthcare and addressed emergent health needs. Simultaneously, we have positioned our department to take advantage of future opportunities. We aim to assure transparency, accountability, and collaboration in order to be effective health leaders to our community.

Our strategic goals are grounded in the community health needs of Skagit County, balancing essential public health functions and local community priorities to assure well-being.

Social determinants of health are an effective lens through which to assess the health of the public. These determinants underscore how health is determined largely by our income, where we live, where we work, where our children go to school, and other socioeconomic conditions. The strategic goals and priorities of Skagit County Public Health incorporate the predominant social determinant needs of our community. Addressing and mitigating such broad determinants takes time and many resources. We seek local, state, and national partnerships

Strategic Plan 2018-2020

Our Vision:

Skagit is a leader in convening partners to prevent disease, promote wellness, and protect the health of our community.

Our Mission:

A thriving, collaborative, and cohesive community where everyone has the opportunity to reach their full health potential.

Goal 1

PARTNERSHIPS & COLLECTIVE IMPACT

OUTCOME OBJECTIVES

- Improve alignment and collective impact practices
- Expand efforts to engage and inform policy-makers
- Build trusted relationships throughout the community

STRATEGY OBJECTIVES

- Coordinate health goals and policy agendas with partner organizations
- Actively seek and use community voice in creative ways
- Identify and engage diverse partners

Goal 2

COMMUNICATIONS & MESSAGING

OUTCOME OBJECTIVES

- Improve delivery of information for health promotion and disease prevention
- Increase awareness of public health priorities and accomplishments

STRATEGY OBJECTIVES

- Expand reach of key health messages
- Improve customer feedback processes
- Create language and messaging that supports health equity
- Use data and stories to help communities understand health and wellness

Goal 3

LIFESPAN HEALTH

OUTCOME OBJECTIVES

- Improve programs and care across the lifespan

STRATEGY OBJECTIVES

- Increase programs that support social and emotional wellness
- Increase promotion of healthy eating and active living
- Enhance access to clinical and community services
- Expand behavioral health programs and transition services for incarcerated individuals

to garner diverse financial investments.

Improving population health starts with clarity of vision, a dedication to innovation, and a commitment to all individuals. To achieve crucial and ambitious population health goals, Public Health must collaborate with the Skagit community at large, uniting a wide array of skills, resources, perspectives, and expertise. We are committed to community engagement, creating cross-sector collaborations, and focusing on prevention as a priority in order to reduce health disparities and improve population health outcomes. Working side-by-side, we are creating meaningful change.

We continually work to build a healthy community. It remains our privilege as public servants to exceed expectations of our Skagit County residents. Kindly let us know how we are doing—we welcome your feedback and ideas for improvement.

Thank you for working with us, today and in the future.

In good health,



Jennifer Johnson, Director of Skagit County Public Health

“Wellness is not a destination, it is an active process on a daily basis toward a healthy and fulfilling life...”

– Jennifer Johnson

Goal 4	Goal 5	Goal 6	Goal 7
SYSTEMS & SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH	HEALTH PROTECTION	DATA, ASSESSMENTS & EVALUATION	ORGANIZATIONAL HEALTH & GROWTH
<p>OUTCOME OBJECTIVES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a recovery-oriented system of care • Improve housing opportunities and support • Increase capacity of our community providers <p>STRATEGY OBJECTIVES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build capacity and emphasis on recovery • Increase access to affordable permanent housing solutions • Expand recovery housing • Increase community understanding of housing as a social determinant 	<p>OUTCOME OBJECTIVES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand communicable disease prevention efforts • Reduce risks from environmental exposures and public health emergencies • Reduce opioid-related deaths <p>STRATEGY OBJECTIVES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase use of evidence-based strategies to overcome barriers to immunization • Increase use of education and technical assistance to achieve regulatory compliance • Implement policies to promote and protect health • Develop, lead, and implement opioid solutions for individuals of all ages 	<p>OUTCOME OBJECTIVES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve data assessment and program evaluation <p>STRATEGY OBJECTIVES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the use of data in departmental decision-making • Build capacity and framework for evaluation • Enhance community health assessment and planning processes • Improve monitoring of emerging public health issues 	<p>OUTCOME OBJECTIVES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve the quality and efficiency of operations • Strengthen internal collaboration • Enhance workforce capabilities <p>STRATEGY OBJECTIVES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standardize departmental processes and procedures • Improve customer service • Expand connections and learning • Increase cross-divisional collaboration



Community Outreach is a crucial part of health promotion.



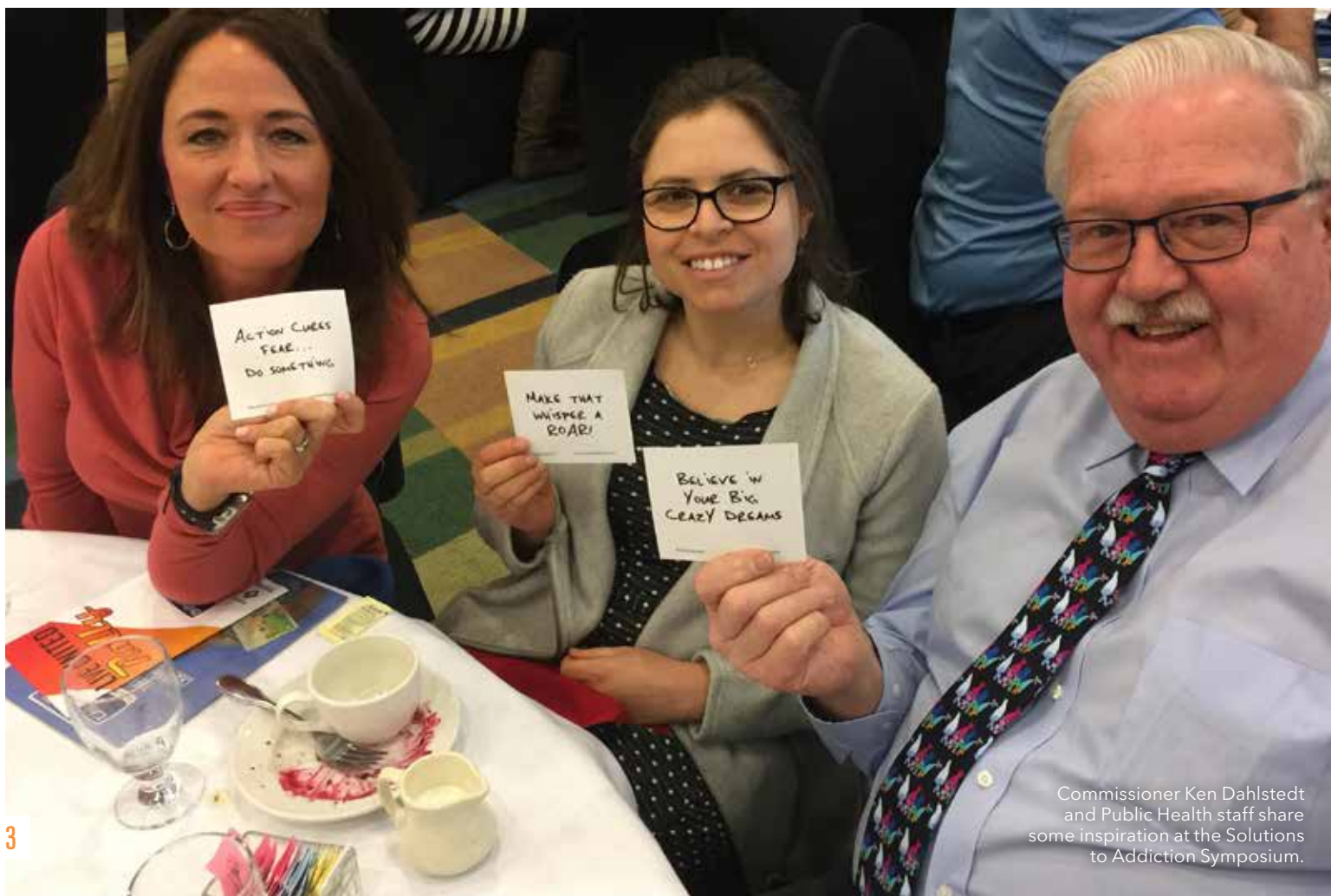
Public Service Announcements are a cornerstone of Public Health communication.



Skagit County Public Health staff get out in the community to promote healthy choices.

“No sector will do its best work operating in a silo. Collaboration is essential.”

– Mary Ellen Lykins, Skagit County Head Start Director



Commissioner Ken Dahlstedt and Public Health staff share some inspiration at the Solutions to Addiction Symposium.

CHIEF HEALTH STRATEGIST: THE STORY OF TRUST

STATE AND LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS ARE CHANGING the way they approach their work to make sure we address healthcare system changes impacting communities. Changes in insurance and access to care, integration of behavioral health with physical healthcare, and many other complex social and medical challenges are big forces of change. With these changes, public health has stepped in to take on a role of system “assurance,” or assuring that high-quality services are provided to residents in our community. In this role, we have refocused our service delivery on population rather than individual health. Emphasizing population health means recognizing that health is the result of access to quality care, healthy natural environments, opportunities for work in a healthy workplace, access to good nutrition, easily accessible places to recreate, and of course, a roof over our heads.

So how does Public Health serve as the Chief Health Strategist and assure that Skagit County is a healthy place to live? We first recognized the complexity of creating healthy environments and acknowledged the power of community partnerships and community knowledge to transform health. We realized the necessity of working across sectors to create partnerships that would tackle the complex challenges facing our

health care system. To that end, Public Health gathered leaders from across our community, representing sectors such as healthcare, education, philanthropy, social services, law enforcement, environmental health, among others to explore new ways of thinking about health and new strategies for health promotion. This group became the Population Health Trust (also known as PHT or the Trust).

With Public Health serving as the backbone agency, The Population Health Trust is a key mechanism for coordinating health goals and policy agendas in its role as advisory committee to Skagit County’s Board of Health. The Trust focuses on achieving the following goals of collective impact:

- Working on a common agenda to solve specific health problems
- Shared initiatives and activities, coordinated through on-going communication
- A commitment to cross-systems collaboration on proven solutions to improve community well-being

The Trust has been a leading force for community collaboration around pressing health concerns such as opioids, family and child health (The First 1,000 Days), and housing. This improved community-wide collaboration on health is a primary method of carrying out Public Health’s role as Chief Health Strategist.

“Policy is the best tool we have to address population health. Through policy, we can help create the conditions for people to live full and healthy lives.”

– Kayla Schott-Bresler, Assistant Director, Skagit County Public Health

Skagit County Public Health and Public Works partner with Washington Ecology to round up thousands of waste tires. Leaving tires outside increases the risk of vector-borne diseases, fire, and toxic smoke. Through events like this, Public Health assures safe, healthy environments for communities across Skagit County.

United Way awarded the Population Health Trust with the Sustainable Partner Award in April 2019.

The Population Health Trust helps Public Health achieve key priorities and serves as the voice of health promotion in the community.



OPIOID RESPONSE

Members of the OWLT share their expertise at the regional Edge of Amazing conference

OPIOID ACTION PLAN

Between 2016 and 2017, the Population Health Trust launched its first community-wide planning effort to combat the opioid crisis. A group of 30 leaders known as the Opioid Workgroup Leadership Team (OWLT) convened over six months to:

- Understand the scope of the opioid problem in Skagit county.
- Clarify what was being done throughout the community to address the problem.
- Identify opportunities to change the course of the crisis.
- Develop an action plan.

The result was a **Community-Wide Call to Action** that identified four Goals, nine Strategies, and 31 Action Steps. The plan set community leaders on a course of collaboration, investment, and expansion. Their plan has resulted in significant benefits to the community, but more profound than a solid action plan, has been the new level of understanding of community resources, connections built between agencies previously

working in isolation, and a commitment to a common vision of change.

OWLT continues to meet monthly and is a template for how passionate and coordinated community involvement leads to collective impact. Because most of the actions steps in the original plan have been initiated or completed, the workgroup has looked to the next phase of action planning.



Key Outcomes of the Community-Wide Action Plan and Call to Action

- Secure Medicine Return Ordinance
- Overdose as a Notifiable Condition Ordinance
- Opioid Dashboard
- Solution to Addiction Symposium
- MAT expansion in community and the Skagit County Justice Center
- New prevention coalitions
- Community education, outreach and training regarding prevention, treatment, stigma and more
- Additional programs and services such as Recovery Care Coordination for those struggling with Opioid Use Disorder



The Solution to Addiction Symposium was a Skagit call to action. Families in our community

have been deeply affected by the opioid crisis. The Symposium gathered 500 participants to learn about the disease of addiction and how collectively we can foster recovery. For the first time ever, the symposium brought together Skagit behavioral health professionals, people in recovery, families, and the general public to learn how we have to work together to create opportunities and improve the conditions for recovery. The event concluded with asking participants to commit to an action step.

MV HOPE and CPWI

Public Health, with the WA Health Care Authority, supports three Community Prevention and Wellness Initiatives (CPWIs) in Skagit County – Concrete Resource Coalition, Mount Vernon HOPE, and Sedro-Woolley RISE. With County oversight, CPWIs implement community-tailored prevention strategies through stakeholder voice and school district partnerships. All CPWIs supported the medication lock-up and disposal initiative, with each community distributing medication lockboxes and sponsoring National Drug Take Back Days. This initiative helps to ensure that medications don't fall into the wrong hands simply because they are easily accessible at home.

Public Health held a special role as Coordinator of the MV HOPE Coalition. A favorite prevention strategy was the PAX Good Behavior Game, implemented campus-wide at Centennial Elementary in Mount Vernon. PAX is an evidenced-based program with outcomes proven to decrease substance use and mental health disorders, and increase school performance/graduation rates. This is achieved by developing students' coping and self-regulation mechanisms, and improving social emotional competence.

SECURE MEDICINE RETURN

Keeping unused, unwanted, or expired medicines:

- ✓ Out of the reach of children, youth, and other vulnerable people
- ✓ From being dumped down the drain and into our waterways
- ✓ Out of our solid waste landfills

For the past several years, Skagit County residents have had a few medicine return drop boxes, all of which were located at law enforcement agencies. The types of medicines allowed in the boxes were limited, and access was not readily available throughout the county.

The Opioid Action Plan identified secure medicine return as a primary

prevention strategy. Public Health took the first step toward achieving this goal. During 2017, Public Health worked with stakeholders to develop a comprehensive, producer-funded product stewardship ordinance designed to expand the medicine take-back program. After a period of public comment, the Skagit County Board of Health adopted the Secure Medicine Return Ordinance in February 2018.

The Secure Medicine Return Program

provides a means for every local pharmacy to request a medicine return drop box from MedProject, an organization selected and funded by the pharmaceutical industry to be the stewardship organization responsible for operating the take-back program.



Now, you can dispose of your unwanted or expired medications at local pharmacies!

Supporting Long-term Recovery



In 2018, Public Health funded **two new Recovery Houses** (one for women and one for men) creating 14 new beds of recovery housing.

We fund the **REACH Center**, which employs highly skilled peers to provide a touch point for people seeking direction toward recovery.



Public Health's focus on recovery made us an ideal county to receive **State Opioid Response (SOR) funding** from the Washington State Health Care Authority. This funding offers support to people with opioid use disorder who need assistance with housing, work preparation, education, and basic needs.

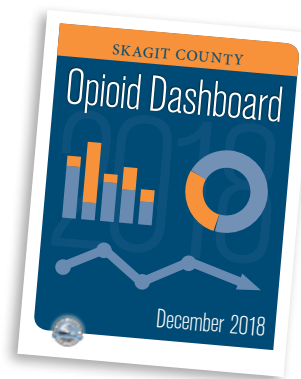
Public Health is using grant funds to support an **opioid outreach coordinator**, whose goal is to engage hard-to-serve people and connect them with service providers.



Public Health is starting a **Recovery Care Coordination** program with local and state dollars. This program will help people with behavioral health disorders actively engage in services designed to stabilize and initiate treatment. The goal of the program, during and following treatment, is a smooth transition back into the community where long-term recovery is supported.

OPIOID DATA DASHBOARD

The opioid epidemic is highly complex and there are a multitude of agencies and sectors responding to different facets of the epidemic. Until 2018, there was no systematic effort to collect and analyze all of this information. Yet data is crucial for decision-making for preparedness and response. With funding from the CDC Prescription Drug Overdose Prevention Grant, Public Health explored, collected, and analyzed all existing data sources on opioid use, abuse, and overdose in Skagit County. This included collaborating with EMS, hospitals, the Coroner's Office, Adapt Pharma, Phoenix Recovery Services, and the State Department of Health. From that effort, epidemiologists were able to provide the first comprehensive local picture of the opioid crisis, down to the community level. This became the Skagit County Opioid Dashboard.



“Data helps us ensure our efforts are positively impacting the community.”

-Lea Hamner, Communicable Disease & Epidemiology Lead

A photograph of a baby crawling on a grassy lawn. The baby is wearing a red and black plaid shirt and is looking up with a joyful expression. Two adult hands are reaching down towards the baby, one from the left and one from the right. The person on the left is wearing a white top with floral embroidery and a gold bracelet. The person on the right is wearing a gold bracelet and a ring. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with trees and other people sitting on the grass.

"Our Nurse Family Partnership provider was an invaluable resource and support in those first two years and helped provide education that made us better parents, helped me through complications from the birth, and helped give us the confidence to create a lasting and joyful bond with our daughter. I felt like our NFP provider cared about our family and genuinely wanted what was best for us. She helped us succeed as parents because of all the support and love she gave us."

—NFP Recipient



FROM THE BEGINNING

The Population Health Trust convened *The First 1,000 Days* Workgroup to address maternal and child health.

About 30 community partners contributed almost 1,000 hours to complete data analysis, an assets and gaps analysis, and strategic planning activities for The First 1,000 Days Plan. Significant parent involvement and participation through a survey, a parent workshop, and two focus groups honed our efforts on the needs of families currently raising small children in Skagit County. The four-goal plan endorsed by the Skagit County Board of Health in September 2018 is already bearing fruit. We have started projects and have received funding related to three serious gaps identified by The First 1,000 Days Workgroup:

The local non-profit agency Brigid Collins received a Home Visiting Services Account grant from the Washington State Department of Children, Youth, and Families to start a Parents as Teachers (PAT) home visiting program for both English- and Spanish-speaking families. Public Health received a grant to build perinatal behavioral health capacity.

In order to improve coordination among resources for families and to foster the social norm that all families deserve help and support through the first

1,000 days of life, United Way, in

collaboration with First 1,000 Days partners, has created a Skagit Bright Beginnings website unitedwayskagit.org/skagitbrightbeginnings.



LIFESPAN HEALTH



SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH

School-Based Behavioral Health has been a Skagit County focus for many years. This Public Health partnership addresses behavioral health issues and conditions among children and youth through prevention and early intervention strategies. This effort increases equitable access to high-quality school-based clinical care.

2018 brought significant changes to the model and approach to school-based behavioral health. In partnership with the University of Washington School Mental Health Assessment, Research, and Training (SMART) program and Skagit County School Districts, Public Health launched a social worker model grounded in Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS). MTSS provides prevention and early intervention for all students.

Initial data indicates the program resulted in 23% more services provided to Skagit students over the prior year.

“Access to care and getting behavioral health into the schools has been huge, and possible with Population Health Trust.”

– Phil Brockman, Sedro-Woolley School District Superintendent

“Senior centers allow our senior population to have a great meal with friends, to participate in classes that promote life-long learning, and to exercise and socialize. They help alleviate the epidemic of loneliness, which creates a gambit of complicated challenges. Our centers are a home away from home, filling diverse needs for many people. In short, senior centers help people maintain their independence and enjoy life.”

– Jackie Cress, *Burlington Senior Center Coordinator*



“I commend the Meals on Wheels delivery drivers on their friendliness and a job well done.

I am very grateful and very blessed.”

– Richard H.,
Meals on Wheels Client

SENIOR SERVICES

The Senior Nutrition Program is a crucial service promoting health and independence. Skagit is one of the few Washington counties to offer homemade, hot, delivered meals. The nutrition program ensures seniors have nutritious food, which protects them from malnutrition, loneliness, and chronic disease. **The number of Meals on Wheels clients has increased more than 23% since 2016, demonstrating the urgent need for delivered meals.** In addition, the program recruits, trains, and supports a group of more than 200 daily volunteers. These volunteers provide a health benefit beyond the meals through daily check-ins to assess seniors’ well-being.

In addition to home delivered meals, the Skagit County Senior Centers offer an additional protective factor of a hot communal meal, educational opportunities, healthy activities, and social programs to support and encourage their patron’s ongoing wellness. Seniors gather at centers in Anacortes, Burlington, Clearlake, Concrete, La Conner, Mount Vernon, and Sedro-Woolley. Seniors don’t only receive services, they take an active role in operations through volunteering at the center, working on-call positions, and serving on the centers’ advisory boards.



Meals on Wheels delivered

98,473 meals in 2018

to seniors in Skagit County

360 clients

received 1 meal per day

2-5 days /week

Collaborating to Meet the Needs of Seniors

In the last two years, Public Health has collaborated with partner agencies in the interest of supporting our senior population.

- Community Action of Skagit County has assumed center operations in East County.
- American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) provides tax preparation assistance.
- Swinomish Tribal Community provides Farmers Market vouchers and other nutritional support to areas of need.
- Anacortes Senior Activity Center provides Chronic Disease Self-Management Education.
- CPWI coalition provides medicine lock boxes along with education materials.
- Local law enforcement offers education on fraud and safety.

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES PROGRAM

In collaboration with the Skagit County Developmental Disabilities Advisory Board, Public Health distributes more than \$1.5 million in local, state, and federal funds annually, promoting pride, hope, independence, and respect for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families.

Program at a Glance



66 children served

for a total of 300 hours of Child Development Services



MORE THAN
15 thousand hours

of employment support for eligible adults



APPROXIMATELY

70%

of individuals enrolled in employment services are employed in paid positions



106 local employers

have hired individuals with developmental disabilities



\$576,000

Combined wages of employed adults with developmental disabilities

SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH: HOUSING + SHELTER



Anacortes Family Center breaks ground on 20 apartments for families.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Skagit County faces a growing affordable housing crisis, with those living in poverty most directly affected. Rents have continued to rise while people with lower income, in particular, have experienced slow or stagnant wage growth. Public Health has responded to this crisis by assuming the role of Chief Health Strategist and making recommendations on innovative funding strategies.

Skagit County was one of only a few jurisdictions across Washington that decided to use Real Estate Excise Taxes (REET) to build more affordable housing. Thanks to the commitment of the Skagit County Board of Commissioners, \$750,000 of REET funds were committed to new housing projects, which will provide at least 34 affordable homes for low-income families in Anacortes.

Partnership Highlight

Public Health has partnered with the City of Mount Vernon on a **Law Enforcement-Embedded Social Worker Program**. The program's social worker and the Mount Vernon Police Department collaborate to identify people experiencing homelessness who have behavioral health disorders. The social worker fosters long-term relationships and helps people access needed services. The program also offers training to law enforcement on these complex issues. To date, the program has served more than 300 individuals.

“You can't imagine what it feels like to be living back in society with a roof over my head and a job that allows me to give back and help others who are in need. I've come full circle.”

– Chad Barrett, Former resident, Pioneer Transitions House

LIHI Homeless Service Center Tour



WINTER SHELTER

On any given night, there are nearly 300 individuals experiencing homeless in Skagit County. Public Health recently assumed oversight of the County's homeless crisis response system and has advocated tirelessly for adequate access to shelter. The community answered this call in 2017 when the Seventh Day Adventist Church and Friendship House partnered to open a new winter shelter, funded by Skagit County Public Health. The shelter became much more than a roof over peoples' heads. It was a place for people to connect, access needed services, and find housing. After seeing the complex medical needs of people in the shelter, Skagit Regional Health joined the partnership and provided basic care to shelter guests through medical residents. We were thrilled to add a new winter shelter in Anacortes last year, and hope to continue to expand shelter capacity countywide.

“Communicable disease investigators make important decisions on a daily basis. Stopping the spread of disease in an efficient and timely manner will reduce the impact of disease in our community.”

*– Jaxon Lee, Communicable Disease
Investigation Specialist*

HPV IMMUNIZATION PROJECT

In 2018, Public Health began working on a yearlong project to promote immunizations and increase the vaccine series completion rates of Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine among adolescents and teens in the seasonal farmworker population in Skagit County. There are thousands of cases of cancer diagnosed every year in the US stemming from HPV infections, with certain populations being disproportionately affected. In particular, African American and Hispanic women are affected by HPV-associated cervical cancer at higher rates than are White and non-Hispanic women. This project educates Skagit residents on the importance of HPV vaccination, reducing the occurrence of cervical cancer and other forms of cancer caused by HPV. An additional benefit of this project is the strengthening of partnerships with local healthcare providers, and a better understanding of the diverse and unique cultures that exist in Skagit County, which will inform future initiatives.

“During a disease investigation, we are able to collect puzzle pieces from an array of different sources and put together a complete picture of an issue, a picture other agencies may not be able to fully depict on their own.”

– Amber Jordan, Skagit County Public Health Epidemiologist

ON-SITE SEPTIC PROGRAM

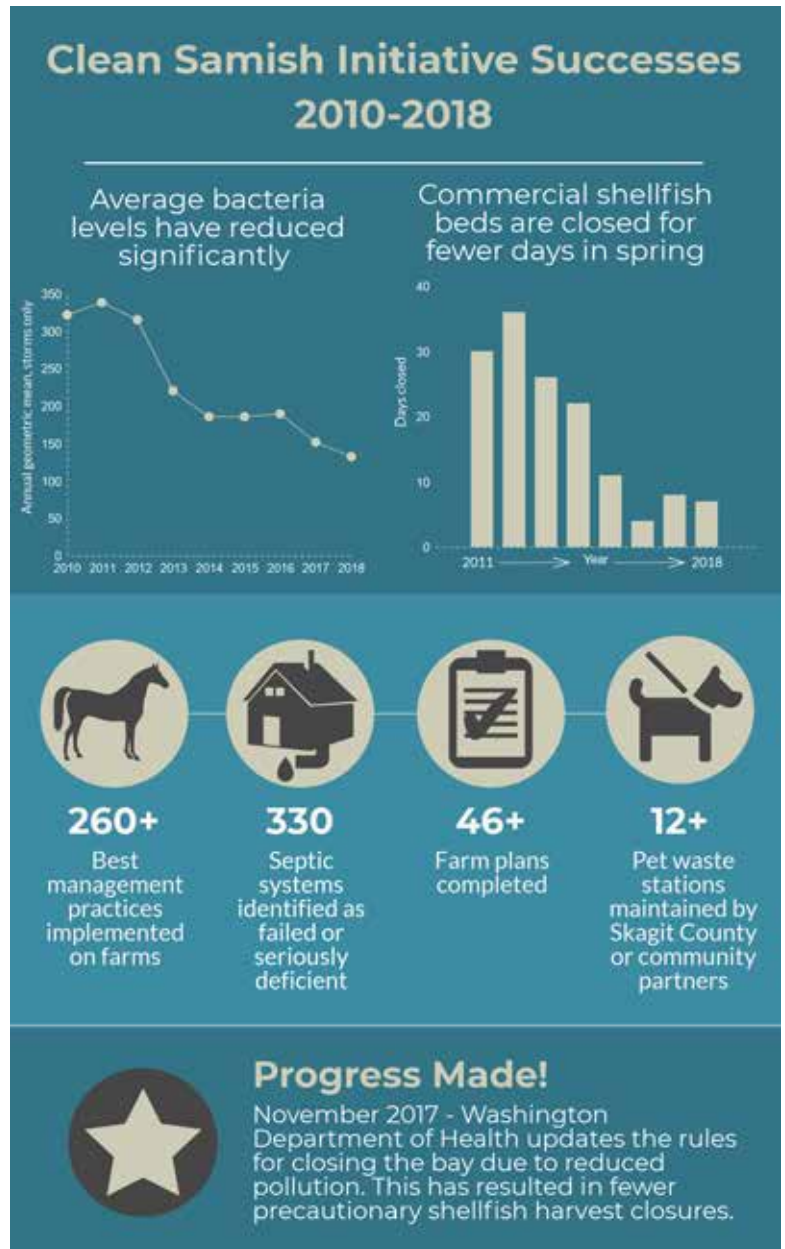
Properly containing and treating human waste has been a fundamental role in assuring human health for centuries. Although large-scale municipal sewer systems handle much of the sewage in Skagit County, in rural areas, On-Site Septic Systems (OSS) collect the wastewater from homes and businesses. Septic systems, properly designed and maintained, help prevent pathogens from entering the water returned to the environment. Public Health’s OSS program oversees the design, installation, and proper functioning of septic systems through a combination of regulation and education.



Septics 201, Skagit Grange

Clean Samish Initiative

The shellfish industry is a multi-million dollar agribusiness in Skagit County, contributing economically through both employment and tourism. Recreational shellfish harvesting is also a popular hobby. Consumption of shellfish contaminated with fecal bacteria or viruses can result in serious illness. As a key partner in the Clean Samish Initiative, Public Health is focused on improving water quality affecting more than 4,000 acres of commercial shellfish beds in Samish Bay through oversight of onsite septic systems.



Led by Skagit County Public Works, the Clean Samish Initiative (CSI) is a collective of more than 20 governmental, business, and non-profit organizations actively interested in improving water quality in the Samish River and in the Samish Bay.

“To have a safe environment is really, quite frankly, the very foundation of being able to be healthy.”

– Dr. Connie Davis, Chief Medical Officer, Skagit Regional Health

FOUNDATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES: BY THE NUMBERS

As public health continues its role as Chief Health Strategist in the 21st century, it is imperative to maintain the core foundational public health functions embedded in Communicable Disease, Environmental Health, Emergency Preparedness and Response, Maternal and Child Health, and Vital Records. These are the basic functions performed every day that help ensure Skagitonians are safe and healthy where they work, go to school, live, and play. The activities in these areas are unique to public health and provide the public with key services not delivered elsewhere in the medical or broader community. Investigating sources of disease, corralling health threats and outbreaks, assuring clean drinking water, assessing and removing chemical or microbial threats from the environment, and responding to emergencies that threaten our community's health are an essential and basic responsibility of government.

“Environmental Public Health provides a key regulatory assurance role for protecting public health by preventing and remediating potential sources of contamination and disease transmission within Skagit County.”

– Britt Pfaff-Dunton, *Environmental Health Specialist Lead*

Public Health is With You from Birth to Death

The Vital Records program is a longstanding and key foundational public health service provided by Public Health. Departmental administrative staff issue birth and death certificates to individuals, families, and funeral home operators. These documents are needed by county residents during times of great joy and sorrow. In addition, records serve to provide Skagitonians proof of citizenship, to obtain government documents such as a passport or driver's license, to enroll a child in school, to obtain Social Security, or to enroll in benefits.

Certificates Issued by Type and Year

Year	Birth Certificates	Death Certificates	Total Certificates
2017	5,212	6,821	12,033
2018	5,136	6,784	11,920

Note: Public Health routinely provides multiple certificates to the individuals requesting documents, so the figures above are not related directly to the number of births or deaths in any given year.

Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response

Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response (PHEPR) program is a critical function of Public Health. During emergencies, Public Health is here to address the health and safety needs of Skagit residents.

PHEPR promptly acts before, during, and after major emergencies. Before an emergency, PHEPR is responsible for educating, training, and bringing resources to Public Health staff so we may respond effectively and efficiently to the emergency. During the event, PHEPR assists Public Health leadership in mitigating the disaster and leading recovery efforts. After the emergency, PHEPR develops the after action and improvement process so we strengthen our capability for future response and recovery efforts.



ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH CONCERNS



Skagit County Public Health responded to:

619
concerns in 2017

443
concerns in 2018

FOOD ESTABLISHMENTS

1,645
inspections
at 734 food
establishments
in 2018

PLUS
338
temporary
food permits
issued.

Public Health
investigated and
promptly addressed

four
food-borne
outbreaks
in 2018,
preventing
further illness.

Zero
food-borne
outbreaks
occurred in 2017.



6,302
food handlers
cards
were issued
in 2018.

RECREATIONAL SAFETY

In 2018,
44
permits
were issued
with a total of

59
inspections
conducted on
commercial
swimming pools
and spas.



Nine
camps were
inspected
and permitted
in 2018.



POLLUTION PREVENTION

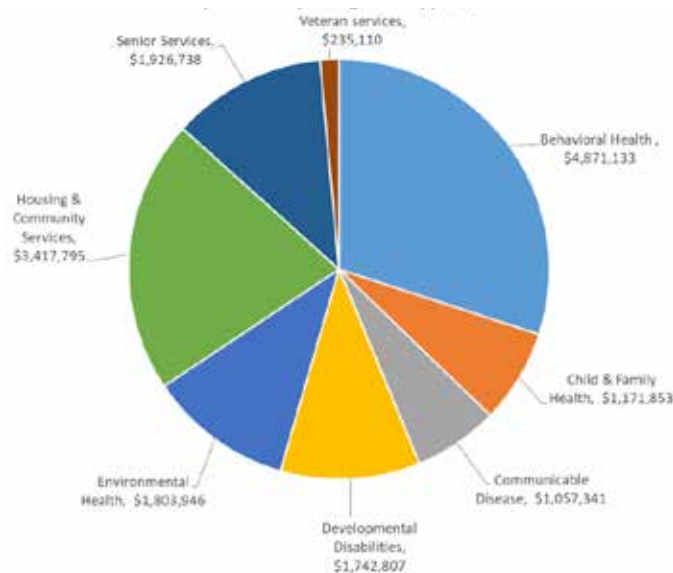
In 2018,
133
facilities
were provided with
**technical
assistance**
to learn safe
chemical practices
and safer chemical
alternatives to
prevent pollution
to our soil
and water.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Budgetary and financial management are primary foundational public health business competencies. The great majority of department funds originate from governmental sources.

PUBLIC HEALTH PRIORITIZES CONSCIENTIOUS STEWARDSHIP OF PUBLIC DOLLARS.

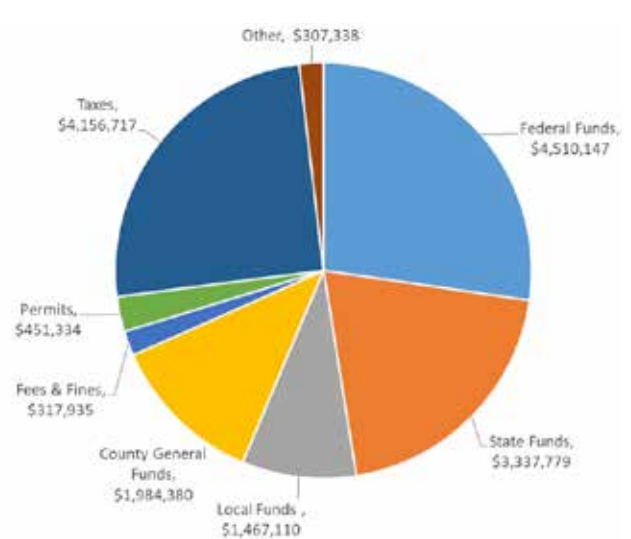
Skagit County Public Health
2018 Expenses by Program Type



EXPENSES

Public Health expenses are largely dictated by the availability of dedicated revenue to programming. We actively seek collaboration in all of these areas, either by securing new grants and contracts or through partnering with community organizations to advance their community initiatives and programming when compatible.

Skagit County Public Health
2018 Revenues

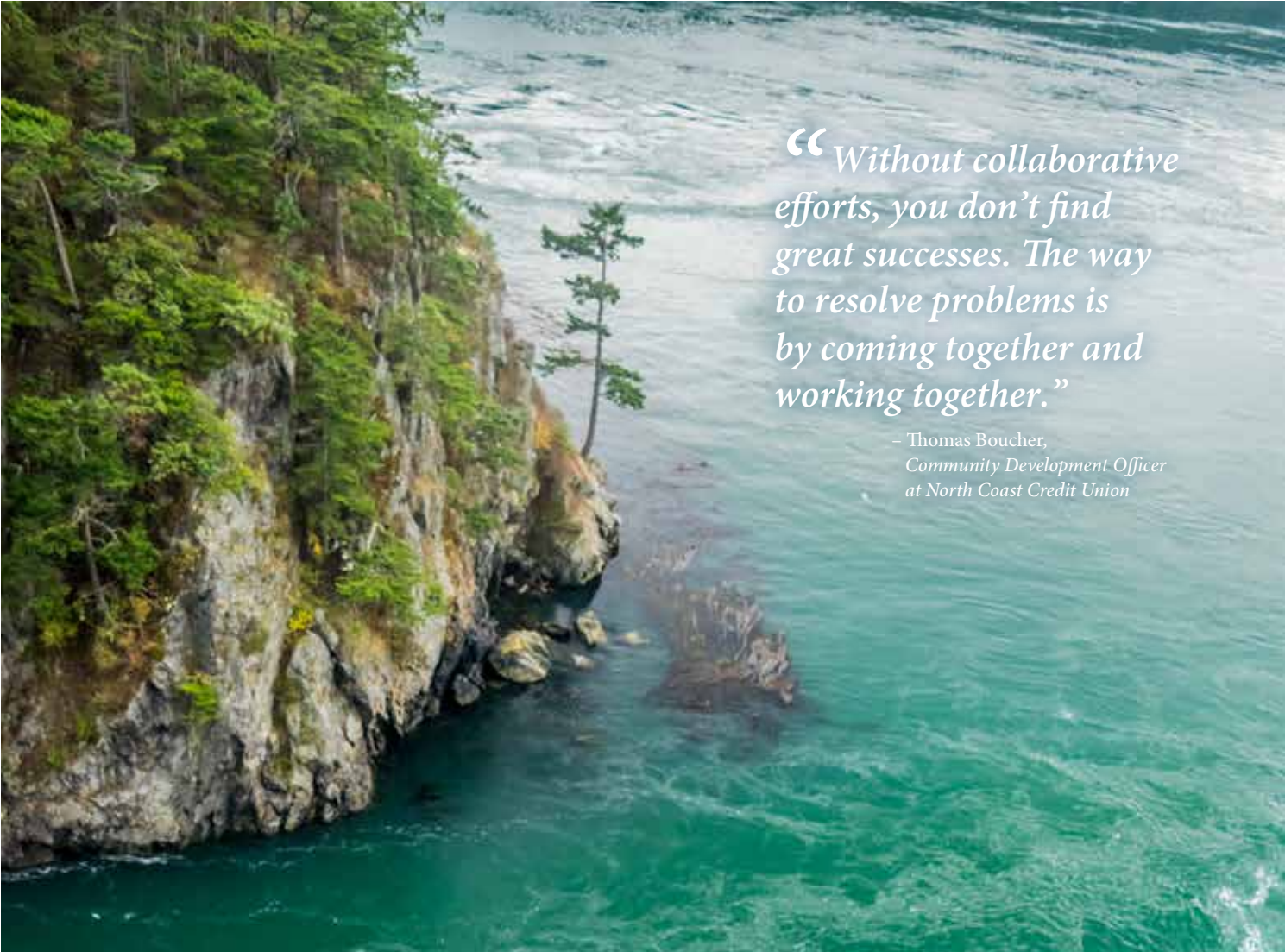


REVENUES

Public Health receives revenues from a variety of sources (see graph). Federal dollars were the highest means of support for initiatives and programming in 2018, totaling approximately \$4.5 million. Taxes were also a significant funding source (totaling approximately \$4.2 million), but the great majority of these funds—approximately \$3.8 million—is dedicated by state law to behavioral health services (1/10th of 1% sales tax and millage property tax serving as the sources). State dollars are also sizable, totaling approximately \$3.3 million. Lastly, Skagit County contributes a high level of support from County General Funds, totaling approximately \$2 million. Public Health is on the constant outlook for non-local funds, which expand much-needed Skagit programs and creates innovative initiatives.

“Working together helps us all see the picture of what a prosperous community looks like.”

– John Sternlicht, CEO at Economic Development Alliance of Skagit County



“Without collaborative efforts, you don’t find great successes. The way to resolve problems is by coming together and working together.”

– Thomas Boucher,
Community Development Officer
at North Coast Credit Union

Future Directions

PUBLIC HEALTH CREATES A TRANSFORMATIVE EFFECT on the life of people of all ages, enabling them to fulfill their potential, achieve wellness, and grasp opportunities. We are particularly dedicated to improving health among marginalized communities. In our role as Chief Health Strategist and purveyor of foundational public health services, we will continue to lead community mobilization, gauge our community’s health through diverse data analysis and sharing, evaluate initiative and program effectiveness, and drive policy changes that promote health equity across the lifespan.

Guided by the goals of our 2016 Community Health Assessment and 2018 Strategic Plan, we are well aware of the enormous amount of work

that remains unfinished. Skagit County Public Health is optimistic that, collectively with our community, we can accomplish much more.

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