



**JOHNSON
COUNTY**
Public Health



FY2026

ANNUAL REPORT

July 2025 - June 2026



Table of Content



Message from our Director	01
Administration	02
Community Health	03
Clinical Services	05
Environmental Health	07
Strategic Development	09

MESSAGE FROM OUR DIRECTOR



One of my favorite quotes that has stuck with me over my career comes from Dr. Harrison Spencer, *“Public Health is filled with heroes, both well known and unknown. They are visible on the national or international stage, or they work quietly in communities with individuals and families. When they do their job, they often become invisible.”* Public Health has long been happy to be a convener, a silent partner working in the background, and content to know our work was making our community healthier.

Our modesty and success at prevention efforts have honestly been our greatest downfall. As we say, “when we do our work, nothing happens.” That’s not entirely true of course, because when we do our work, families get access to care. Children get dental screenings and sealants in schools. Restaurants are safe to eat in. Children don’t die from vaccine preventable illnesses. While we see these results as wildly successful, they are not sexy. They aren’t flashy. They don’t make the news. And unfortunately, people are beginning to doubt the need for public health infrastructure that allows them to continue. Public health has become a victim of our own success.

In the last year, we’ve seen significant upheaval in public health funding that weakens so many of the institutions we depend on to provide us with guidance and programmatic dollars. We’ve done the best we can to continue serving the community despite these challenges. To be honest, nothing fills me with more pride than seeing the professionals in your local health department continue to rally despite the circumstances.

Amidst all this upheaval, we were still successful in being awarded PHAB Reaccreditation from the Public Health Accreditation Board, an achievement that has only been granted to six local health departments in the State. Their commitment and dedication to improving how they serve the community is commendable, and I think it warrants being a little less humble about the amazing work we do.

On behalf of the Johnson County Board of Health and the Johnson County Public Health employees, I am proud to share the Fiscal Year 2026 Johnson County Public Health Annual Report with you.

Yours in health,

Danielle

Danielle Pettit-Majewski, BS, MPH, Director
Johnson County Public Health

JOHNSON COUNTY
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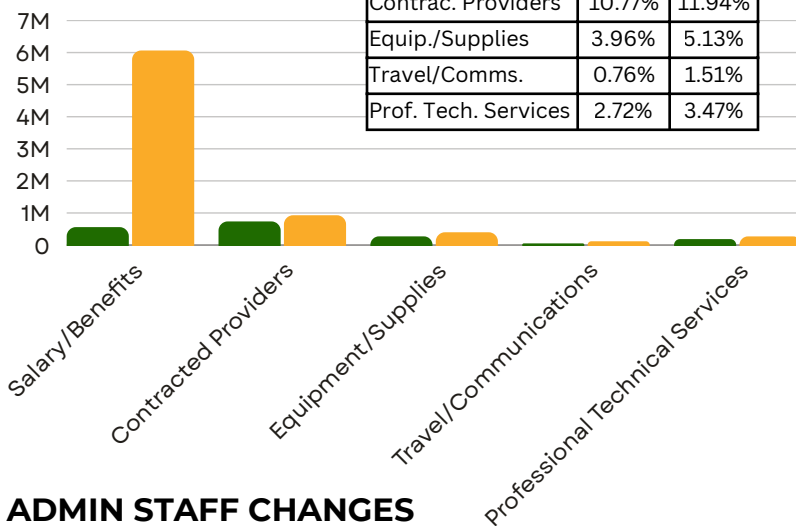
ADMINISTRATION

FY26 ends with strong year-over-year revenue growth. These revenues come from additional grants and increased participation in the programs offered by Johnson County Public Health (JCPH). Beginning FY26, we expected an 8.98% increase in Revenues; we ended the year with 49.55% year-over-year Revenue Growth. We anticipate continued performance by our divisions into FY27, while also navigating headwinds with SAFHER, HHS Alignment, and legislative challenges. As expected, Expenses were higher than FY25. However, due to increased revenue, the tax levy fell from \$3,451,518.09 in FY25 to \$2,691,785.34 in FY26. Operating expenses rose by \$937,002.95, mainly due to pay increases and expansion of Subcontracts with community partners. Expenses are expected to continue rising with future merit and COLA increases. As JCPH moves forward, it will be imperative to monitor spending and revenue as these changes take effect and affect operations. At this time, JCPH remains well-positioned to meet the county's needs and pursue opportunities.

– Matthew Waldschmidt, Fiscal Manager

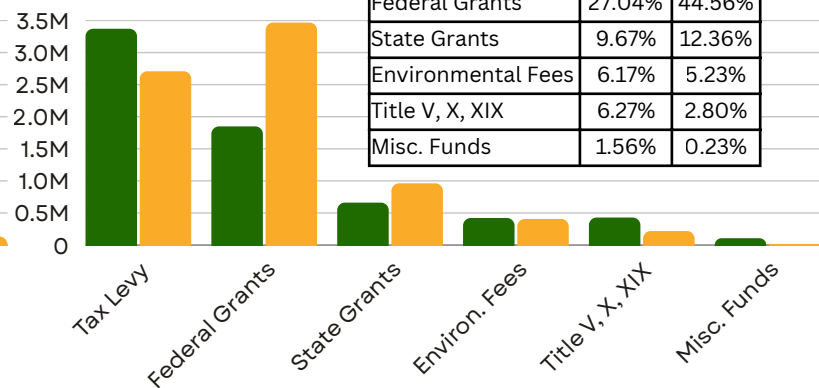
EXPENSES

	FY25	FY26
Salary/Benefits	81.79%	77.95%
Contrac. Providers	10.77%	11.94%
Equip./Supplies	3.96%	5.13%
Travel/Comms.	0.76%	1.51%
Prof. Tech. Services	2.72%	3.47%



REVENUE

	FY25	FY26
Tax Levy	49.29%	34.81%
Federal Grants	27.04%	44.56%
State Grants	9.67%	12.36%
Environmental Fees	6.17%	5.23%
Title V, X, XIX	6.27%	2.80%
Misc. Funds	1.56%	0.23%

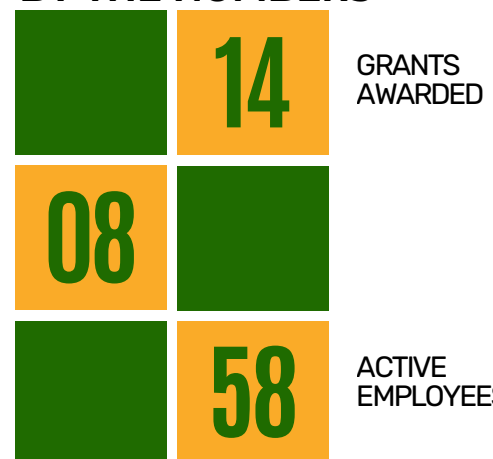


ADMIN STAFF CHANGES



This year we saw some changes in the Administration department. We said goodbye to Chia Fu, our interim Fiscal Manager, after the return of Matthew Waldschmidt from deployment. We also saw the retirement of Susan Denny, Secretary II, after 15 years of service to JCPH. Words cannot express our gratitude for their service to our organization. We wish them well in their future endeavors.

JCPH DEPT BY THE NUMBERS



MATTHEW WALDSCHMIDT
Fiscal Manager



LONISE NORFLEET
Administration Coordinator



CHRISTINE COLE
PH Billing Specialist



ALISSA SOTZEN
PH Grants Analyst



LUIS TORRES
Environmental Health
Administrative Assistant



TUESDAI KEMP
Secretary II



CATALINA HERNANDEZ
Clerk II

COMMUNITY HEALTH

CH PROGRAMS

Community Health includes: Communicable Diseases & Chronic Disease Prevention, Addiction Prevention, Emergency Preparedness, & Community Health Assessment & Improvement Planning.

01
02
03

Communicable Disease Prevention

- Disease Investigation
- Animal Bite and Rabies Prevention
- Tuberculosis Prevention & Control
- School Immunization Record Audits
- Certified Application Counselor for Health Insurance Marketplace
- Refugee Health

Chronic Disease Prevention

- Tobacco & Nicotine Prevention/Cessation
- Immunizations
- Emergency Preparedness
- Overdose Prevention & Education

HealthyJoCo

- Surveying & Focus Groups
- Data Collection & Analysis
- Community Health Assessment
- Health Improvement Planning

Youth groups clean up on No Tobacco Day

Mara Drew for the Daily Gate City Jun 5, 2025



Top: Youth group out doing work on environmental scans in parks on No Tobacco Day. Middle: Representatives at ACSC's Youth Substance Use Prevention Day on the Hill. Bottom: Susan V. led a group of students on a Tobacco wall assessment at local convenience stores.

Tobacco Prevention & Control (Johnson, Iowa, Henry, Des Moines, & Lee Counties)

Healthcare & Social Service trainings with:

- 400 providers

Tobacco/nicotine prevention activities with:

- 1,000 youth and young adults

Facilitated environmental scans in parks and tobacco retailers with youth



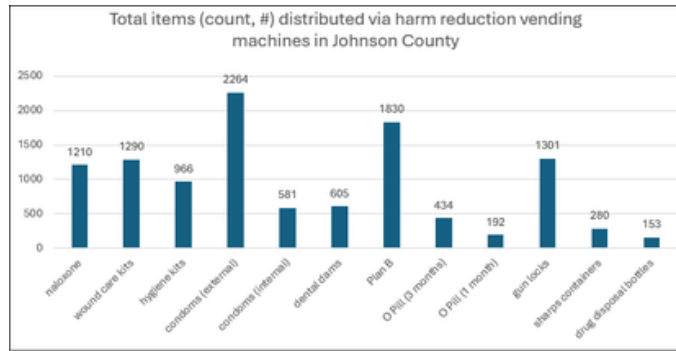
SAM JARVIS, MS, LEHP, CERC
Community Health Manager

Overdose 2 Action (OD2A)

OD2A-S focuses on closing gaps in access to care through reducing harm related to drug use, linkage to care through peer recovery coaches, support programs, public safety collaborations, and community outreach and education. Since August 2025, JCPH has been convening a multi-sector overdose prevention team. The PHAST (Public Health and Safety Team) is comprised of partnerships with 18 organizations, including all sectors that work with or impact individuals at risk of overdose. Our collective goal is not only to save lives but to transform the systems that intersect with substance use, ensuring that prevention, intervention, treatment, and recovery efforts are integrated across Johnson County.

Harm-Reduction Vending Machines

- Four vending machines are placed throughout Johnson County that distribute naloxone, gun locks, sharps containers, drug disposal bottles, and other sexual health items. To date, over 11,000 items have been distributed to the public.



Peer Recovery & Academic Detailing

- Through our partnership with UnityPoint Health - Abbe Center for Community Mental Health, two part-time Peer Recovery Coaches and an Academic Detailer engaged with 30 community and healthcare organizations and 300 individuals to provide direct services, and/or build referral networks.
- Peer Recovery Coaches have helped their clients access services and meet their needs throughout recovery by providing 6 cell phones, 10 rideshare vouchers, and over 100 gift cards to purchase food or other basic needs.

All of the work through the PHAST coalition, our peer recovery coaches, academic detailer, and our team is hosted on our information hub. Throughout the year we have seen over 5,065 views and averaged 13.91 views per day. You can find a vending machine, prescription drug drop off location, and other resources and information at:

<https://www.jocorecovery.org/>

Internships & Practicums

Community Health provided over 1,956 hours of oversight to interns and practicums. 94% were from the College of Public Health. 47% were paid through outside funding sources.

Workforce Development

This past year several members of our team took on additional training and experience. Susan, Amelia, Jennifer, Sam served as mentors in Iowa's first New to Public Health (N2PH) Cohort where they supported a new public health professionals by sharing their experiences and knowledge. Sam completed the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials Developing Emerging Leaders in Public Health (DELPH) Scholar program. Rachel Quinn earned her Certificate in Disease Intervention.

Wellness

Wellness hosted 16 events this past FY with 443 participants. A large collaboration we did this year was partnering with Field to Family to offer online local shopping for county employees to be delivered onsite. We piloted a once-a-month delivery from from January to March and then weekly deliveries May to September, we had 79 participants in FY25.

Communicable Disease Prevention

Our disease prevention specialists annually investigate communicable diseases, audit immunization records, and track animal bites.

- School Immunization Audits
 - K-12 students: 21,979
 - Pre-K students: 931
- Number of Animal Bites Investigated: 194
- Number of Reported Infectious Diseases: 355
- Certified Application Counselor (CAC) program: 30
- Active TB Cases: 9 (up from 3 FY25)
- LTBI Cases: 73 (down from 90 FY25)
- TB Screening services: 99, up from 50 FY25.
- Refugee Vaccination (I-693) forms reviewed: 45, down from 110 FY25.



AMELIA SLAICHERT
Disease Prevention Specialist



JENNIFER MILLER
Disease Prevention Specialist



RACHEL QUINN
Disease Prevention Specialist



SUSAN VILETA
Health Educator



MARA DREW
Health Educator



JOSIE DALTON
Emergency Preparedness Planner



JAMIE GADE
Social Determinants of Health Coordinator



GISELLE COREAS
Health Planner



LISA PARLATO
Chronic Disease Prevention Specialist



COLE KRUSE
Public Health Systems Analyst



TASNEEM ALI
Public Health Systems Analyst



KRISTY STUMPF
Clerk II

COMMUNITY HEALTH (cont.)

HealthyJoCo

Community Health Assessment

2025 Community Status Assessment and Data Dashboard

The HealthyJoCo team surveyed Johnson County residents for the 2025 Community Status Assessment. Conducted every three years, the assessment provides a snapshot of community health and well-being and helps identify factors shaping the health of our community. Findings from the assessment will inform the broader Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP). Cole Kruse, Public Health Systems Analyst, designed and launched a data dashboard that makes the assessment findings easier for community members to explore and understand. HealthyJoCo also welcomed two AmeriCorps members, Madison and Miranda, through the University of Iowa College of Public Health from Fall 2025 through Spring 2026. Both members provided tremendous support throughout the Community Status Assessment process, contributing to planning, community outreach, data analysis, and visualization of results. We are grateful for their support and dedication!

PRIORITY UPDATES

Healthcare Access

In November 2025, we welcomed Tasneem Ali to the HealthyJoCo team as a Public Health Systems Analyst. Tasneem leads the healthcare priority work group and developed and facilitated SEHA, a three-class health literacy workshop for Arabic-speaking individuals. More than 20 participants attended the workshop at the Neighborhood Centers of Johnson County to learn more about the U.S. health care system, health insurance, and health resources available throughout the county.

The HealthyJoCo team is also supporting Marion County Public Health through Healthy Hometowns Combat Cancer grant funding. This work focuses on radon testing and mitigation, skin cancer screening, colorectal cancer screening, and lung cancer screening across rural Johnson and Iowa counties.

New this year, the HealthyJoCo team began overseeing and facilitating local AARP Senior Planet classes in partnership with the Iowa City Public Library. The program aims to increase access for older adults in a variety of areas, including health and wellness, through the use of technology. HealthyJoCo focuses on courses related to health and health care, including MyChart and online health resources, while ICPL offers a broader range of courses. Community members can check out new course offerings at <https://johnsoncountyiowa.gov/technology-education-health>.

Mental Health

Community Mental Health and Well-Being Assessment

Lisa Parlato, Social Epidemiologist, led the Community Mental Health and Well-Being Assessment to better understand the challenges faced by individuals seeking mental health and well-being services, as well as factors that contribute to resiliency. Lisa has shared the findings with community partners to help inform service delivery.

Lisa, Giselle, and Cole also support the Johnson County Systems of Care (SoC) workgroup, which meets monthly. The SoC group works to strengthen connections among area agencies serving individuals and families across mental and behavioral health, housing, health care, and the justice system.

Housing

Cole Kruse, Public Health Systems Analyst, leads the HealthyJoCo housing priority. He contributes to the Johnson County Affordable Housing Committee and the Local Homeless Coordinating Board. Cole also participates in Point-in-Time assessments with Shelter House twice each year. These assessments help Shelter House understand the community's need for shelter services from year to year.

Food Security

2025 Food Security Assessment- with support from community partners and under the leadership of Giselle Coreas, Public Health Planner, the HealthyJoCo team surveyed food pantry clients at six pantry sites across Johnson County. The team published the 2025 Food Security Assessment Report in December 2025. Food partners have used the assessment findings to help create routes for food rescue efforts, apply for grants and other funding opportunities, and better understand the needs of pantry clients. The collaboration and partnership among food organizations across the county have been invaluable to this work.

Community Health Grants & Awards FY26

- o CHaRT Research Project - \$2,500.00
- o IPHA's Emerging Leader - Giselle Coreas
- o IPHA Partner of the Year - Johnson County Food Access Network

Emergency Preparedness & Medical Reserve Corp

PHEP:

Exercises (facilitated or participated):

- Cybersecurity Incident Management
- Legionella Outbreak
- Severe Winter Weather
- Tornado
- Blizzard

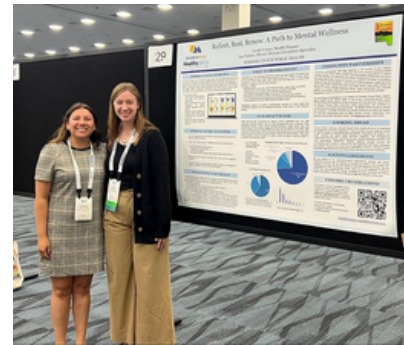
MRC:

Events (Non-emergency)

- Jazz Festival First Aid
- Johnson County Fair First Aid
- Healthy Kids Iowa Food Distribution
- Latino Festival First Aid
- Iowa Mission of Mercy Dental Clinic
- Africa Festival First Aid
- Johnson County Employee Vaccine Clinic
- CCAN-Con First Aid
- Libraries with Heart Blood Pressure Screenings
- Arts Festival First Aid

By the Numbers:

- Activities (including events, activations, and other Administrative Activities: 48
- Total Volunteer Participation- 144
- Total Volunteer Hours - 304
- Total Value of Volunteer Work - \$6558
- Number of people served: 480



Top: Giselle & Lisa presenting on the CredibleMind project at NACCHO 360, Middle: Halloween wellness activity featuring Sabrina "Carpenter," Bottom: Ribbon Cutting for the new North Liberty Community Pantry.

Area	Metric	Number
CredibleMind	Total Users since Launch	5351
	Total Sessions (or site visits)	6540
	Total Assessments Taken	1490
Engagement	Public Presentations	18
	Substack Newsletters Sent	6
	Substack Subscribers	120
	Healthyjoco.com Views	21000

CLINICAL SERVICES



Clinical Services had another successful and productive year. Throughout the year, the team worked collaboratively and efficiently to meet the needs of those we serve, with each team member contributing to an increase in service numbers. The team also experienced growth across several other areas, reflecting the continued development and positive impact of Clinical Services. These achievements demonstrate the team's ongoing commitment to delivering high-quality, responsive services while adapting to evolving needs and opportunities.

Women, Infants, & Children (WIC)

Clinical Services continues to administer WIC services to qualifying Johnson and Iowa County residents through a subcontract with HACAP in Cedar Rapids. The average monthly caseload in Johnson County for FY26 was 2,814 clients, an increase of 102 clients from FY25.

The total average monthly caseload across the full service area reached 2,928 clients, reflecting an overall increase of 94 from the previous fiscal year.

The subcontract with HACAP includes the Breastfeeding Peer Counselor (BFPC) Program through which WIC mothers are trained to provide breastfeeding education and support to other WIC mothers. JCPH employs two BFPCs who each work 15 hours per week. During FY26, 153 mothers participated in the BFPC Program. While 183 mothers participated during federal FY25, this decrease was due to our program having only one BFPC from September to December 2025.

HACAP and JCPH were honored with the USDA WIC Breastfeeding Award of Excellence Premiere Award in 2026. This national award recognizes the exemplary breastfeeding promotion, support, and education provided to WIC participants in our service area. The premiere level of this award was built upon the gold level HACAP obtained in the past. Breastfeeding peer counselors Randa Ibrahim and DiJonnaise Haymond, greatly contributed to our award recognition. They have an insight to WIC participants' challenges and use their passion and knowledge of breastfeeding to truly create peer-to-peer connections. Their work leads to participants' successful breastfeeding journeys and a healthier community.

Clinical Services has four clinic sites in Johnson County, with locations in Iowa City, Coralville, two sites in North Liberty and two sites in Iowa County. The Coralville WIC clinic relocated from the Coralville United Methodist Church to the Coralville Public Library in April 2026. The library has programming for families and children that we hope to utilize with our future outreach and services.

Child & Adolescent Health & Oral Health Services

JCPH continues to administer the Child and Adolescent Health and Oral Health (CAH) grant, which supports the delivery of essential public health services across counties within the service area. Grant-funded services include Oral Health, Immunizations, Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT), and Child Care Nurse Consultant services.

Through the CAH grant, JCPH directly provides services to residents of Johnson and Iowa counties. JCPH subcontracts with HACAP to provide CAH-funded services in Benton, Jones, and Linn counties. The following sections provide an overview of the services delivered by JCPH and highlight program activities and outcomes during the reporting period.

WIC, BRIGHT SMILES, HEAD START, PRESCHOOL, AND CHILDCARE PROGRAMS

Screens Provided	816
Fluoride Varnish	799
SDF Application	281



SYDNEY WAGNER
Clerk II



ALISON ALLDREDGE
Clerk II



NOY VONGMOUKDA
Clerk II



AMBER GORVIN
Clerk II



CARA DELANEY
Clerk II



AMY PRESLICKA
Clerk II



JESSICA ROJAS
CPA - Dietician



CHUCK DUFANO
Lead Dietitian



AMY HACKMAN
Registered Dietitian



SUSAN SZMYRGALA
Registered Dietitian



KRITZIA RODRIGUEZ
Registered Dietitian



DEB VANDERGAAST
Child Care Nurse Consultant



HIANCA ANDRADES
Maternal, Child, & Adolescent Health Coordinator



BECKY HACKETT-LEAS
Oral Health Coordinator



MISSY RINGNALDA
Dental Hygienist



TAMMY FORSEEN
Dental Hygienist



JESSICA ERHART
Dental Assistant



BRYCEN MYERS
Health Outreach Specialist II



EMILY JANSSEN
Clinical Services Coordinator



HEATHER DEBRUIN
Public Health Nurse



ABBY KORE
Public Health Nurse



BETH HORA
Public Health Nurse



KARREY SHANNON
Community Health Nurse



FATOUMATA TRAORE
Health Outreach Specialist I



ROBERTA SLOAT, LBSW
Clinical Services Manager



RANDA IBRAHIM
Breastfeeding Peer Counselor



DIJONNAISE HAYMOND
Breastfeeding Peer Counselor

Maternal Health

The Healthy Pregnancy Program continues to provide education-focused services to pregnant individuals with the goal of improving birth outcomes through prenatal and postnatal education, breastfeeding support, and promotion of overall health and wellness. Through a partnership with Vitamin Angels, the program distributed prenatal vitamins to individuals of reproductive age regardless of income or program eligibility. Additionally, the program provides blood pressure cuffs to enrolled clients who have blood pressure concerns during pregnancy. Through partnerships with HHS and I-Smile, the Healthy Pregnancy Program distributed electric toothbrushes during FY26 to pregnant individuals who completed a dental screening during their pregnancy. This project will continue into FY27.

- 113 pregnant and postpartum clients were enrolled in the Healthy Pregnancy Program in Johnson County. Education topics included seatbelt safety, post-birth warning signs, breastfeeding, safe sleep, nutrition, and physical activity, and more.
- 34 pregnant clients received oral screenings.

Oral Health

I-Smile at School FY26 #'s:

Oral Health services are delivered through a variety of programs supported by the Oral Health component of the Child and Adolescent Health Grant. These services provide children with access to preventive and comprehensive dental care across multiple settings. Children receive oral health services through WIC, the Bright Smiles program, which serves children who are uninsured or underinsured, as well as through the I-Smile@School and Back-to-School programs. In addition, dental services are provided to children participating in Head Start, preschool, and childcare programs. Through these collaborative efforts, Oral Health Services continues to expand access to essential dental care and promote positive oral health outcomes for children in the community.

	FY25	FY26	B2S Clinics- Dental	
Oral screening conducted	932	974	Dental Screenings provided	89
Sealants placed	4,415	4,955	Fluoride Varnish	85
			Children with Decay	59
			Children received SDF	58

Clinical Services Nursing Team

CAH Nurses kept busy providing immunizations, lead tests, tuberculosis tests, vision screens, and developmental screens throughout the year. Additionally, Back to School clinics during the summer brought an increase in services as the school year began.

Child & Adolescent Health:

Lead Tests: 720 (FY25 572)

Immunizations: 2546 (FY25 1968)

Tuberculosis: 57 (FY25 56)

Car Seat Distribution Services

The CS Car Safety Technician team continues to provide education and new car safety seats through a collaborative effort with the Social Services department has been able to provide car seat education to families in several different languages, utilizing Boostingo interpretation services, multilingual staff, bilingual CPSTs from other organizations, and student volunteers. Approximately 30% of families served spoke English, 30% spoke Arabic, 21% spoke Spanish, and 19% spoke French. Additional languages for a few families included Haitian Kreyol, Tigrinya, Lingala, and Kinyarwanda. By working with families in their preferred languages, we empower caregivers to feel confident using car seats and take an active role in keeping their children safe.

CS staff have cultivated an ongoing partnership with the Antelope Lending Library, who can receive, clean, and redistribute gently used car seats. Through this program, families being served by JCPH can help other families in the community who need a car seat—and have peace of mind that the used car seat is safe, clean, not expired, and not recalled.

- 121 car seats checked
- 100 new car seats distributed.

98% of the car seats checked in FY26 were installed incorrectly when the family arrived for their appointment.

Integrated Testing Service (ITS)

This year the ITS team advanced its targeted efforts to address the syndemics of STIs, HIV, and viral hepatitis across our 5-county service region. Brycen and Fatou expanded their knowledge by convening with national partners in Los Angeles, Minneapolis, and Baltimore and continued the development of robust local partnerships across the service area to reach more people than before! To address the clear intersection of communicable disease and substance use, the team fully integrated specialized harm reduction services, incorporating a Persons Who Inject Drugs supplemental assessment, Hepatitis B and C screenings, substance use screenings and referrals, and injection site health education. Furthermore, ITS continues our robust partnership with Iowa TelePrEP to provide low barrier access to HIV PrEP and DoxyPEP for bacterial STI prevention.

Harm Reduction Services Provided:

- 53 PWID assessment
- 255 Individuals trained in Overdose Identification & Naloxone administration
- 1571 Hygiene Kits distributed
- 2276 Wound Care Kits distributed
- 834 Sharps Containers distributed
- 682 Bleach Bottles distributed
- 76,066 Prophylactics distributed (internal/external condoms, lube)
- 1747 doses of Plan B Emergency Contraceptive distributed
- 366 O Pill OTC Contraceptive

STI Tests Administered	FY25	FY26
HIV	682	709
HEP C	96	124
Syphilis	218	378
Chlamydia/Gonorrhea	300	543
PrEP Panels	16	31

CS PROGRAMS

Clinical Services provides dental, immunizations, & nutrition support for families of Johnson County as well as sexual health education, testing, & products.

01
02
03

Women, Infants, & Children (WIC)

- Nutrition Education
- Food Assistance
- Breastfeeding Peer Counselors & Support
- Maternal Health

Immunizations & Screenings

- Child & Adult vaccinations
- Care for Kids/Hawki
- Developmental screenings
- Integrated Testing Services

Oral Health

- Infant Oral Health Program
- Bright Smiles
- I-Smile
- Dental Care Coordination

EPSDT Informing and Presumptive Eligibility

Clinical Services provides outreach and education to all newly eligible Medicaid clients in Johnson County under the age of 21. This process includes an initial letter with information about Medicaid coverage and available resources, followed by two phone calls and a postcard, providing multiple opportunities for clients to connect with our staff. Clerks reach out to an average of 190 clients each month during FY26.

This outreach requires a significant investment of staff time and effort to ensure clients understand their Medicaid medical benefits, receive assistance establishing medical and dental homes, and are connected to additional resources and services based on their individual needs.

In addition, Hawki outreach staff provide education and assistance regarding Hawki and Medicaid services and assist clients with Presumptive Medicaid applications. During FY26, staff completed 17 Presumptive Medicaid applications. Through a strong partnership with Family Medicine at Iowa Healthcare, many Presumptive Eligibility applications for pregnant clients are completed directly by Family Medicine staff. Family Medicine serves many of our clients who do not qualify for Medicaid or do not have other medical insurance, making this partnership an important resource for connecting clients to coverage and care. The Iowa City Community School District Student Family Advocates are also a valuable referral resource, helping connect families to assistance with Medicaid, Hawki, and Presumptive Eligibility applications.

Childcare Nurse Consultant

This year our Childcare Nurse Consultant (CCNC) had another incredibly busy year.

- Providers Participating in the program: 144 (86.7%)
- Childcare Site Visits provided: 180
- Technical assists provided: 379
- Healthy Childcare Iowa Classes: 2 with a total of 14 participants
- CPR/First Aid : 24 serving 127 participants
- Children with special healthcare needs identified: 264



ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH



Inspections & Reporting

JCPH EH staff inspected and responded to a variety of scenarios throughout the year.

- Tanning Inspections - 14
- Tattoo Inspections - 21
- Pool and Spa Inspections
 - 65 Pool
 - 15 Spa
- Radon Kits Sold - 139
- Nuisance Cases - 32
 - 14 Wastewater System failures



Mosquito Surveillance

Mosquito collection season ran from June 2nd through October 3rd.

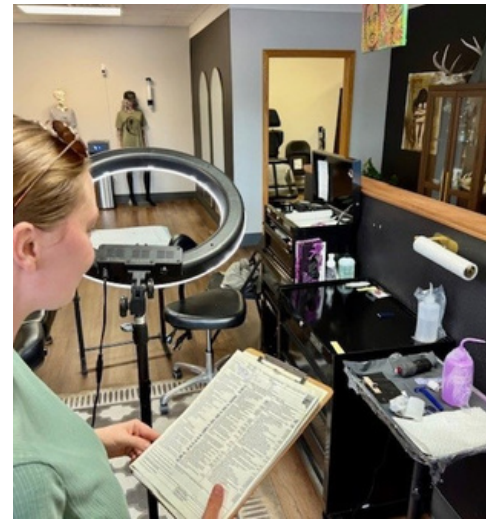
- ISU lab confirmed six mosquitos positive for West Nile Virus found through collection and testing.
- Press Releases were sent & social media best practices shared to educate the public on ways to stay safe.



Food Program

JCPH is fully staffed & Inspectors were out in our community helping to educate restaurants on proper food safety.

- CFPM Tests Proctored-11
- Routine Food Inspections - 680
- Rechecks - 156
- Pre-Openings - 110
- Complaints - 95
 - Illness - 27
 - Non-illness - 68



Top: James and Laura attend the National Environmental Health Conference in LaCrosse, WI, Middle: Emma inspecting a tattoo facility, Bottom: Tim and Laura present at Iowa City Schools on Cottage Food Licensing.



Nuisance Cases: 14 nuisance cases this year were related to Time of Transfer wastewater system inspections which identified that the systems were failing. Systems were repaired & brought into compliance.



Wastewater systems

136 Time of Transfer wastewater reviews were completed in FY26.

- Septic Pumper Trucks
 - Inspections 9



Water Testing

In FY26, 16 PFAS samples were taken

- 5 wells were over the PFAS limit.

- Manganese samples: 212
 - 1 was over the health advisory.
- Nitrate Samples: 294
 - 1 was over the maximum contaminant level.
- Bacteria Samples: 321
 - 63 were positive for coliform bacteria
 - 3 were positive for e.coli



Wells

\$94,550.52 of \$95,454.00 in PWG funds awarded to Johnson County were dispersed to private residential water well owners.

- Wells Plugged: 19
 - Cisterns Plugged: 1
 - Wells Rehabilitated: 4
 - Well Shockings: 29
- This is the largest amount the EH program has ever received in PWG funds.

In FY26, our Environmental Health division continued to expand our offerings, continuing to increase the number of Food Inspections while seeing a decrease in Rechecks as well as giving out a record amount of Private Well Grant dollars.

EH PROGRAMS

The EH division is responsible for food establishment education & inspections, as well as Watershed protections, & the inspection of community facilities.

01
02
03

Food Establishment

- Restaurant Inspections & Licensing
- Consumer Food Safety
- Food Bourne Illness Reporting
- Serv Safe Proctoring
- Farmers Markets & Mobile Food Unit Licensing

Watershed Protection Program

- Free Private Well Testing & Monitoring
- Permitting of Private Wells & Septic Systems
- Well Plugging & Rehabilitation

Community Environmental Protection

- Swimming Pool & Spa testing
- Tanning Facility Inspections
- Tattoo Establishment Inspections
- Radon Testing kits available for sale



ROB THUL, REHS, CP-FS
Environmental Health Manager



JAMES LACINA
EH Specialist II



JESSE BOCKELMAN
EH Specialist II



EMMA NELSON
EH Specialist



TIMOTHY JAMES
EH Specialist



LAURA SNELLER
EH Specialist



EVAN KERR
EH Specialist



AHMED MOHAMMED
EH Specialist

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH (cont.)

Events FY26

July 2025-

- Tim completed the Summer Feeding Program inspections. This is a joint inspection program between the Iowa Department of Education and JCPH. Tim will organize and complete these inspections.

August 2025-

- Tim and Laura worked with the University of Iowa Healthcare-Master in Clinical Nutrition students to provide food inspection "ride along" field experiences.

October 2025-

- Tim presented to the U of I Masters in Clinical Nutrition class about our local food safety program.
- Emma and Laura participated in the annual JCPH Public Health Showcase Day. They presented on our local food and watershed programs. Students and interested professionals attended a series of public health presentations throughout the day.
- Food program received official verification audit from DIAL for Standard 9 (Risk Factor Study) of the Voluntary National Retail Food Regulatory Program Standards.

November 2025-

- James joined the IEHA Legislative Committee and Laura joined the IEHA board as a Member at Large.

January 2026-

- James participated in a KCRG story about radon awareness and rates in Johnson County.
- James presented to the BOH on our local JCPH PSDS (Private Sewage Disposal System) program. Highlighting how systems work, regulations, and EHS duties.
- Laura received the JCPH Mission, Vision, Values quarterly Rockstar Award.
- James assisted with social media posts for National Radon Awareness Month.

February 2026-

- Tim and Ahmed presented to Dr Pentella's U of I College of Public Health Field Experience Class. This included a food inspection demonstration for the students at the Hillcrest dorm cafeteria.
- James presented again to the BOH on our local JCPH PSDS (Private Sewage Disposal System) program. Highlighting the PSDS density requirements and sensitive watershed areas in our county

March 2026-

- Tim, Ahmed, and Laura presented to Iowa City School District school food workers on topics of food safety, best practices, and Q & A's
- Ahmed and Emma assisted Hianca on March 2 with Dr. Will Story's class project evaluating the impact of the Medicaid extension on our clients. The students will also be learning more about public health in practice.
- Food Program received \$17,323.10 from NEHA/FDA FFM grants for work completed on Voluntary National Retail Food Regulatory Program Standards.
- Ahmed and Laura's routine food inspection reports were featured amongst others from around the State in Clark Kauffman's "Iowa Capital Dispatch- Restaurant Inspection Update." A monthly publication Clark writes after checking DIAL's inspection database for establishments that have the most concerning reports.
- Tim worked with a DIAL food inspector at Estella's downtown IC to investigate a suspected food borne illness outbreak.
- Cory Frank with the IDNR virtually attended the JCPH BOH meeting and had a discussion with members about the counties efforts to maintain a strong local onsite wastewater program.

April 2026-

- Emma and Ahmed participated in the annual JCPH Public Health Showcase Day. They presented on our local food and watershed programs. Students and interested professionals attended a series of public health presentations throughout the
- Laura participated in a CPH student panel organized by Susan Vileta for Health Services professor Trish Welter. Staff attended and discussed their jobs as well as answered questions..
- James and Jesse took Board of Health member Joni Bosch to a wastewater final septic installation inspection as well as a routine food inspection.
- James received the IEHA Environmental Health Professional of the Year award.
- Laura was elected to the IEHA Board as a full voting member.
- Food program received \$4000 from NEHA/FDA FFM grants for staff travel & training opportunities.

May 2026-

- James participated in a Gazette story on radon mitigation and testing for homeowners.
- James joined the JCPH Social committee.

June 2026-

- Watershed staff utilized \$94,550.52 of \$95,454 in PWG funds.
 - This is the largest amount ever received and returned to private well owners in Johnson County.
- Ahmed's routine food inspection reports were again featured amongst others from around the State in Clark Kauffman's "Iowa Capital Dispatch- Restaurant Inspection Update."

Professional Development FY26:

- Rob & Jesse attended NEHA Annual Conference
- James & Laura attend NEHA & IEHA joint conference in LaCrosse
- Emma attended Well-Assessment training in Cedar County.
- Laura completed Certified Pool Operator (CPO) course & will be assisting with the Pool/Spa Inspection program.
- Food staff attended the Mid-Continental Association of Food & Drug Officials Conference.
- James & Emma attended the Iowa Onsite Waste Water Association (IOWWA).
- Food staff attended Inspector Boot Camp presented by the Association of Food & Drug Officials (AFDO)
- Food staff attended Bed Bugs Uncovered hosted by NEHA.
- Jesse completed the NEHA Certified Professional in Food Safety (CP-FS) credential.
- Rob & Emma attended the DNR's county sanitarian workshop.
- James attended a Time of Transfer refresh course in Linn County.
- Tim & Ahmed attended the annual Public Health Conference of Iowa.
- Food staff attended the NEHA Retail Program Standard Symposium 2026.



Top: Laura received the Rockstar Award as nominated by her peers, 2nd: Jesse celebrates his 5th anniversary with JCPH, Bottom: James receives IEHA Environmental Health Professional of the Year.

STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT

PHAB Reaccreditation

Welcome back, in the FY25 Annual Report we left you with quite the cliffhanger...JCPH is scheduled for their final PHAB (Public Health Accreditation Board) reaccreditation site visit review on 9/11/25! Picking up where we left off, by mid-August our assigned PHAB specialist, Carrie Thomas, sent a rough draft of the Reaccreditation site visit agenda indicating all staff expected to participate in the visit. This included the Director, PIAC (me), Domain Leads and two representatives from the BOH. Staff prepared as much as they could without having any idea what questions would be asked about pre-selected Measures in multiple Domains. We knew some of the questions would be specific, to expand on the narrative/example we provided while others were just there to test our staff's general knowledge of accreditation. Staff gathered physically and virtually and weathered a barrage of questions the Accreditation Committee hurled our way to test our true understanding of the PHAB core concepts and challenge the examples we submitted as proof of demonstration.

While that was intimidating, JCPH staff did an excellent job of responding to very niche questions as well as providing presentations on our department's processes-yours truly got to present a demo about the Performance Management system used at JCPH. Honestly, a dream come true! We completed the site visit, which included several compliments from the Accreditation Committee on the department as a whole, and we waited for our verdict. On 11/13/25, after many nights of restless sleep for JCPH staff, the Accreditation Committee informed us that they made the decision to continue accreditation of JCPH for another five years! Out of hundreds of documents only three measures were flagged as areas that JCPH could strengthen. Staff will work towards solidifying these identified areas and will prepare for the submission of the Annual Report to PHAB in a year to show our efforts toward continuous improvement.

After securing our Reaccreditation status JCPH hit the ground running and shifted focus to revamping existing plans. We started with the Workforce Development plan which needed some adjustments to better reflect current issues in our workforce. It was at this time that I brought out my favorite tool, the Core Competency Survey! This survey was completed by 100% of the staff and is vital to assessing workforce issues that staff felt were important and resolution was attainable. As a department, we will continue to modify our Workforce Development Plan to ensure it reflects the department's current goals and demonstrates how JCPH works towards relevant achievements in our community. It has been a privilege to be part of this great adventure this past year. We have accomplished so much as a department, particularly achieving our goal of PHAB Reaccreditation. In the meantime, I continue to provide quarterly updates to the BOH to share department accomplishments and areas of growth and progress. The PI (Performance Improvement) Team has also begun focusing on auditing and strengthening KPI's (Key Performance Indicators) for the department alongside other projects. In summary, months of hard work paid off for JCPH and we had a PHABulous year!



The Board of Health and Staff accept the PHAB Accreditation plaque after a ton of hard work!



Outreach & Engagement

This year we focused on best practices for messaging with our clients. Sarah had an intern working with her during the final quarter of FY26 who researched what populations JCPH isn't reaching and where they are getting their information. The results of that work are slowly coming in, but this important work will help us choose the type and location for our outreach into FY27. In previous years, vaccine messaging saw the most engagement however, in FY26 we saw the greatest engagement on our posts about the OD2A vending machines as well as Radon testing. On LinkedIn we saw the largest engagement with our carousels about the Community Health Needs Assessment. On all platforms, we saw positive follower growth as well as exceptional engagement rates. For government agencies an engagement rate of between 1-5% is considered good with anything above 3.5% considered excellent. We achieved an excellent engagement rate across Facebook and LinkedIn. While engagement with Instagram was lower, it was still considered good. Our growth on LinkedIn was enormous even with limited posting.

Internally, Sarah still publishes the monthly JCPH Herald with news from Staff and Management Team as well as the human element of personal successes. We've just kicked off year five of the newsletter which reaches staff, the Board of Health, and the Board of Supervisors monthly.



SARAH GRUNEWALDT
Outreach & Engagement
Coordinator

Engagement Rates	Facebook	Instagram	LinkedIn
FY25	5.35%	3.28%	8.49%
FY26	5.5%	1.7%	33.9%

Johnson County Community Violence Intervention

CVI had an incredibly busy year, we planned and hosted many events as well as attended a handful other community events. In April 2026, when a shooting occurred on the Ped Mall in Downtown Iowa City, we were able to partner with the University and WayPoint to allow students to have a safe place to talk. We were able to bring in therapy dogs and crisis counselors to assist. In addition, Marques, CVI's Outreach Worker, walked the Ped Mall the following Saturday with Law Enforcement to engage with students. Currently, our program is funded through ARPA, and we're currently looking for additional funding streams to continue this important work.

COMMUNITY EVENTS WE PLANNED, HOSTED, ATTENDED, OR VOLUNTEERED:

- Wear Orange/Gun Violence Awareness
- Juneteenth
- Three sessions of Hope 4 Real (CBT programming) completed. One was 1st ever for Juveniles!
- CVI 3 on 3 Basketball (8 week program)
- JOCO Services Camp
- DreamCity DreamFest
- Ready, Set, School Event
- NCJC End of Summer Jam
- Volunteered/Represented CVI at DVIP Shop for Survivors at HyVee
- Hosted Project FUN art event with local Law Enforcement
- Jes & Marques were panelists for UI Public Health class along with other PH staff members
- Created public awareness videos about gun violence and CVI in Johnson County
- Marques was a panelist on "Be Well & Inspiring Success" at Dream City.

OTHER BIG ACHIEVEMENTS:

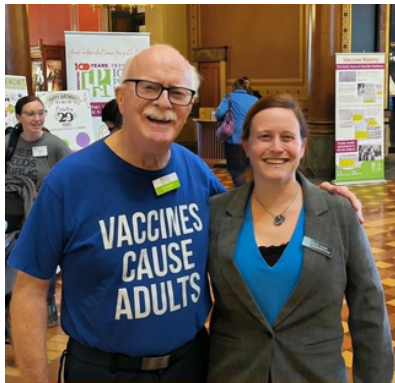
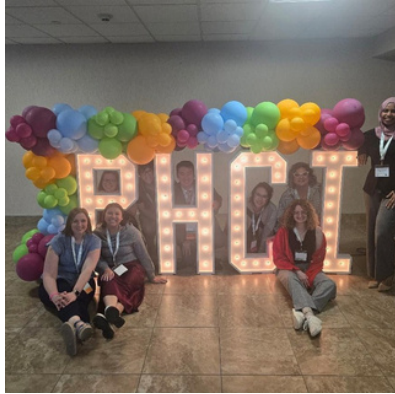
- Completed building database with UI Center for Social Science Innovation (UI CSSI) and began utilizing it
- CVI follow up interviews currently being conducted by UI CSSI with participants and community partners
- Continued Outreach being conducted in the schools and with individuals
- Partnered with ICCSD Threat Assessment Team
- Conducted two Community Partner interventions at UAY
- Obtained office space at DreamCity and spent time there over the summer engaging with kids in programming



Top left: Sheriff deputy and child at Project FUN, Bottom left: Marques at DreamCity event, Right: Marques and Jes representing CVI at a community event.



MARQUES BROOKS
Community Violence Intervention
Outreach Worker



PUBLIC HEALTH PHUN!