

LEADING OKLAHOMA
TO PROSPERITY
THROUGH HEALTH



OKLAHOMA STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Annual Report

2023



OKLAHOMA
State Department
of Health

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Message from the Commissioner



Greetings,

The work taking place across our state that strives to create the healthiest Oklahoma may not always be clearly visible, however much is being done to help improve Oklahoma's health outcomes. The OSDH continues to evolve to meet the needs of Oklahomans through innovative approaches, strong partnerships, and continuous education in our communities.

Oklahomans, like many Americans, suffer from the disproportionate burden of diseases attributable to modifiable risk factors. Based on evidence, four behaviors including smoking, sedentary lifestyle, poor diet, and excessive alcohol use are causally linked or contribute to five chronic diseases – cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes, chronic lower respiratory disease, and Alzheimer's disease. The key here is the risk factors are modifiable, meaning we can address them and begin to reverse the mindset of accepting Oklahoma as an unhealthy state.

We are changing the playbook.

Through Community Health Assessments we are helping to address each community's individual needs. These assessments identify health concerns,

challenges, and possible solutions. One very successful solution has been our Public Health on the Go mobile units. These units bring services to communities throughout the state that may have a difficult time accessing healthcare where they are – for a variety of reasons. Additionally, we've increased services for women during and after pregnancy both in clinics and through home visitation programs.

Throughout this report, you'll read about the progress we've made and will continue to build upon to create a healthier Oklahoma.

I'm confident we can change the health of Oklahoma by continuously addressing each community's needs through thoughtful discussion, data collection and practical solutions. I, along with the team at the OSDH, are committed to this bold vision for Oklahoma's future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Keith Reed". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Keith Reed
Commissioner of Health

Journey of Change

The Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH) has been transforming internally to better serve Oklahomans externally. The transformation efforts began in 2021 and continue today. Over the last year, a significant focus was placed on streamlining efficiency within administrative functions.

Agency Culture Shift

Perhaps one of the largest shifts our transformation process has created is a shift in our priorities. Many of our programs receive federal grant funding, which comes with requirements. However, our focus remains leading Oklahoma to prosperity through health. To do so, we recognize we must put them above federal grant requirements. Therefore, we have adjusted organizational procedures to meet the needs of Oklahomans rather than satisfy federal grant requirements.

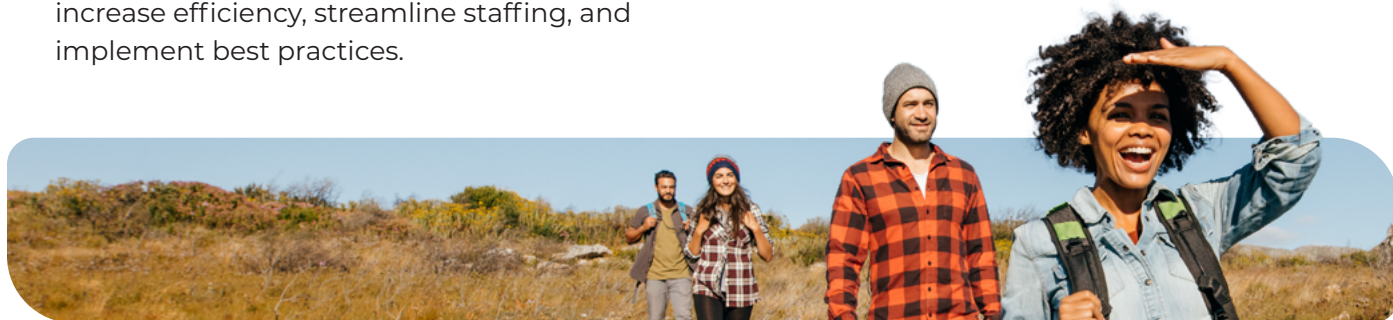
Logistics Division

Leveraging what we have and re-engineering our processes allows us to create a path to success and meet the needs of our future. We are doing this by eliminating siloed supply management and redirecting resources, creating a Logistics Division. This transformation project will increase efficiency, streamline staffing, and implement best practices.

Office of Communications

Internal and external communications are a core function within OSDH. To improve efficiency and ensure consistent and appropriate messaging and branding, communications efforts were centralized. This adjustment in structure allowed the OSDH to build a full-service, in-house communications function, saving the agency over \$1 million.

Our local county health departments are critical to achieving our vision of “leading Oklahoma to prosperity through health.” Therefore, each district employs a Communications Coordinator. Through the transformation efforts, a bridge has been built between the Office of Communications and each of the 10 district Communications Coordinators. This structure has created a cohesive, two-way relationship allowing for more meaningful marketing and communications efforts.



2023 Snapshot & Accomplishments

Cost Savings

The agency disabled 421 mobile devices that were not being used, saving OSDH more than \$116,000.

Community Health Workers

Nearly all districts have at least one Community Health Worker (CHW), utilized to connect their fellow citizens with critical resources.

Pregnancy Resource Navigators

Launched the Pregnancy Resource Navigators program, utilizing community health workers to connect existing programs and resources within the community to help ensure pregnancies are safely carried to term and families with new babies have access to vital resources and services.

Improved Processes

Electronic Health Records project started. This system will provide clients with more access to their health records, ease the check-in process and allow for online scheduling.

Convened relevant stakeholders to improve the death certificate process to Oklahomans during their most vulnerable times.

Reports

State Health Assessment report was completed and published.

Reproductive Services

Continued to provide reproductive services and women's health services while pushing back on the federal government's removal of Title X funding.



Local Impact

District 1 | Northwest Oklahoma

District 1 staff engaged in new partnerships including securing a permanent location at the Southwestern Oklahoma State University campus.

Public Health on the Go, the district's mobile van, set up monthly, remote location clinics and performed 1,639 hearing screenings at various schools.

The district extended their reach with a remote WIC clinic at the hospital in Harper County and a school in Cimarron County.

District 2 | Northwest Central Oklahoma

The Kingfisher County Health Department opened their new building, and construction began on the new Canadian and Grant County's sites.

Canadian and Kingfisher County Health Department WIC programs were awarded the GOLD WIC Breastfeeding Award of Excellence by the USDA's Food and Nutrition Service.

The Garfield County Health Department received the 2023 CDC U.S. Tuberculosis Elimination Champion Award.



District 3 | Northeast Central Oklahoma

This District completed appointments with 17,388 clients in 2023.

Community Health Workers conducted 7,051 client contacts.

The Kay County Health Department participated in the 30th Annual Herb Fest in Ponca City where more than 700 attendees visited their booth.

District 4 | Northeast Oklahoma

The Community Health Workers screened 2,265 clients in the PRAPARE system, completed 270 Medicaid applications, provided 819 referrals, and conducted 489 follow-ups.

The Health Education program conducted 153 presentations and attended more than 280 community and school events.

Twenty-one schools and 168 classes participated in the CATCH program.

The district distributed 502 car seats and hosted six car seat events throughout the year. Additionally, five new techs were certified.



Local Impact

District 5 | Southwest Oklahoma

Caddo County began offering Maternity Services and responded to the surge in syphilis and STI cases and for the first time used rapid syphilis tests in partnership with the Caddo County Detention Center.

The Community Health Worker in Greer County issued 284 car seats to Greer and Beckham county residents.

The Jackson County Health Department created a raised bed community garden.

District 6 | Central Oklahoma

The team hosted A Point of Grace event, where 40 known unhoused individuals received a backpack full of supplies, flu vaccination, syphilis checks, a shower, haircut and warm meal. Community programs and tribal partners offered blood pressure and glucose checks, mental health information, education on Narcan and housing.



District 7 | East Oklahoma

The district's Community Engagement team hosted a Leadership and Health Equity Summit where leaders from multiple community sectors were invited to hear engaging presentations and participate in an interactive leadership forum. At the end of the summit several individuals were presented with "Leading in Excellence" awards. Each recipient was selected based on their exceptional alignment with the health department's core vision, mission, and values.

The District 7 Community Engagement Team commemorated Hispanic Heritage month with a vibrant community fiesta, "Fiesta de Bienestar Latina." The event featured live music, food trucks, and

informative classes with community partners, emphasizing the areas of financial guidance, physical and mental wellness, and legal assistance. Health Educators were present to conduct car seat checks and offer valuable resources.

The Okfuskee County Health Department received their first shipment of food boxes through the SPINE (State Partnerships Improving Nutrition and Equity) program. The program screens households at risk of being food insecure, and if they're eligible, they can receive a box of food from the on-site pantry. Additionally, clients are referred to nearby resources for extra assistance and for available services at the county health department.



Local Impact

District 8 | South Central Oklahoma

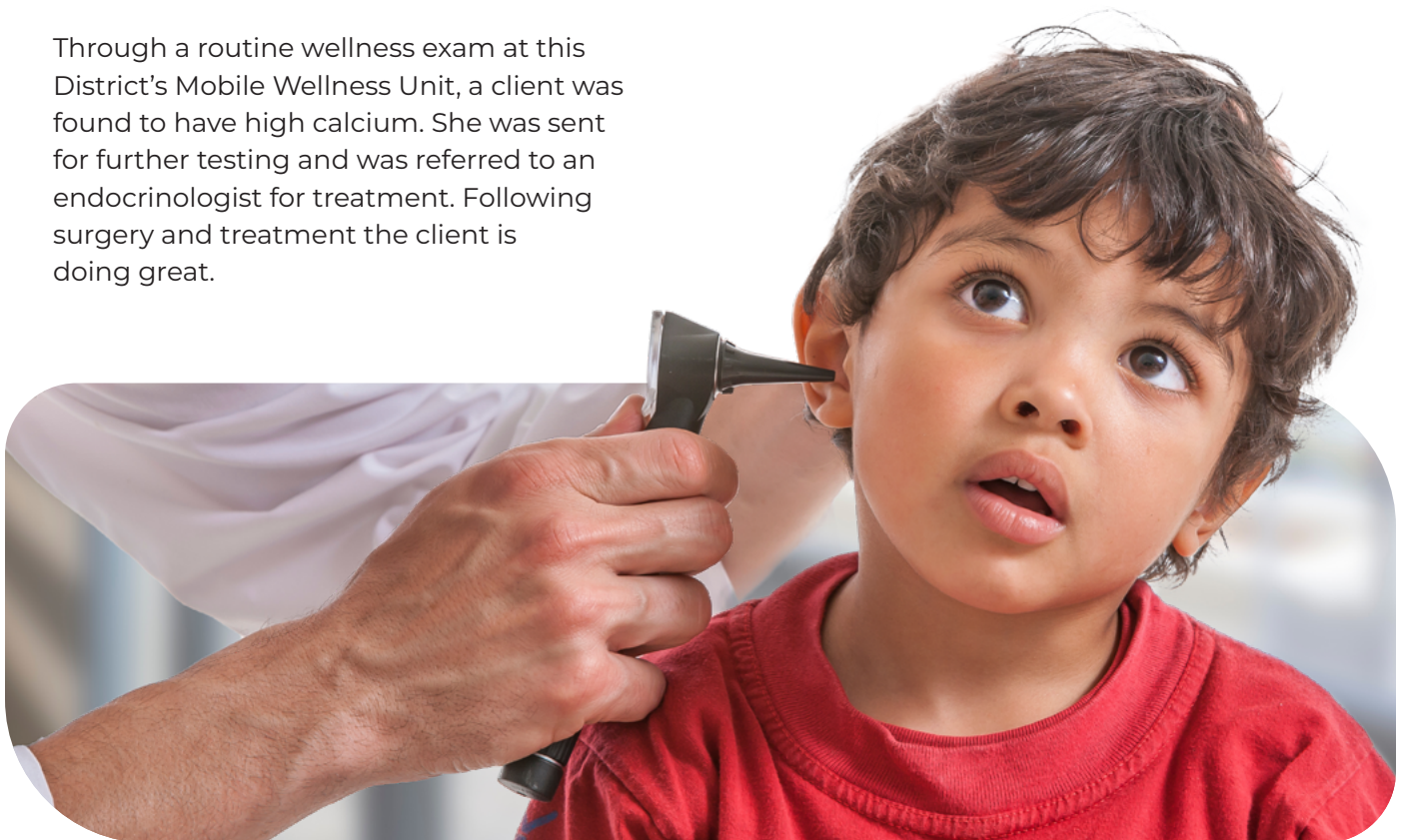
The Mobile Wellness team and Community Health Workers in this district helped a young man diagnosed with testicular cancer complete paperwork to receive financial assistance for surgery and after care.

Staff in this district worked together to treat and refer a child with chronic ear infections to the Pittsburg County Health Department for a hearing screening as well as an appointment with an ENT for further treatment, at no cost.

Through a routine wellness exam at this District's Mobile Wellness Unit, a client was found to have high calcium. She was sent for further testing and was referred to an endocrinologist for treatment. Following surgery and treatment the client is doing great.

District 9 | Southeast Oklahoma

The District 9 Community Engagement Team facilitated a Poverty Simulation with Atoka Public Schools staff. Participants were so moved by their experience in the Poverty Simulation, APS re-implemented their backpack program. This program provides backpacks filled with food for any child to take home on the weekend.



District 10 | Mid-Central Oklahoma

The Cleveland County Health Department hosted a car seat program at The Well each Friday of the month to provide parents and caregivers car seats and installation. Additionally, this program helped provide certification and re-certification to car seat technicians.

With a focus on injury prevention, District 10 worked with local partners to highlight prevention measures. To do this they brought attention to the most common types of preventable injuries with an

awareness campaign, hosted a community walk and worked with the Board of Cleveland County Commissioners to have November 20, 2023 proclaimed as Injury Prevention Day in Cleveland County.

The county health department hosted a Back to School Bash in partnership with local businesses, emergency services and the library system. Attendees received free haircuts, played games, decorated cookies, participated in “Touch A Truck,” enjoyed live music and food trucks.



Health Outcomes Highlights

Over the last decade, Oklahomans have made great strides in improving health outcomes in relation to tobacco use. Through education, news reports, advertising campaigns and the Oklahoma Tobacco Helpline, residents better understand the risks of tobacco and the benefits of quitting.



The needle is moving in the right direction.

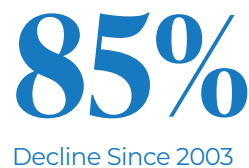
Among Adults

A decade ago, 1 in 4 Oklahomans were smoking. **In 2022, that has fallen to about 1 in every 6 Oklahomans.**

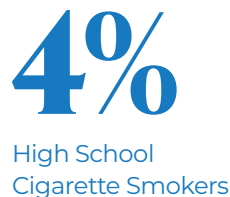


Since 2011, Oklahoma has seen a **40% decline** in adult smoking prevalence **from 26.1% to 15.6%** in 2022 – ranking Oklahoma 40th in the nation.

Among Youth



Youth smoking has declined tremendously – **85% decline – since 2003.**



Currently, only 4% of high school students report smoking cigarettes.

Oklahoma Tobacco Helpline

The Helpline is partially funded by the OSDH. During FY 2023:



+22%

increase in tobacco users registering for services compared to the previous year.

40.7%

of smokers who used the Oklahoma Tobacco Helpline to quit reported staying quit at the seven-month follow-up.

33.7%

of e-cigarette users who used the Oklahoma Tobacco Helpline to quit reported staying quit at the seven-month follow-up.

Over the past decade, the per capita consumption of cigarettes has been steadily decreasing in Oklahoma. In FY 2013, the per capita consumption of cigarettes was 67.2 packs per capita, per year. In FY 2022, the per capita consumption was 44.6 packs per capita, per year. This decrease is due to the legislative state increase in excise tax by one dollar per cigarette pack. The cigarette tax is currently \$2.03 per pack.



Health Preparedness

Syphilis Response

Syphilis and Congenital Syphilis have been on the rise in Oklahoma. While these diseases are preventable and treatable, we are still seeing outbreaks throughout the state. In response, the OSDH Sexual Health and Harm Reduction Service (SHHRS) and Infectious Disease Systems and Collaboration teams partnered to create and implement a syphilis training curriculum for Community Health Workers and Community Health Educators. This activity has since expanded to include a partnership with Southern Plains Tribal Health Board to provide the same curriculum to Community Health Representatives.

Additional Activities Conducted to Address the Syphilis Crisis:

- SHHRS partnered with county health department districts to implement syphilis point-of-care testing.
- SHHRS partnered with the Homeless Alliance to begin routine testing activities, offering rapid HIV, HCV and syphilis testing, as well as treatment and referrals to care. SHHRS conducted 22 Homeless Alliance screenings in 2023, identifying 36 cases and treating 28 persons. At these bi-monthly screenings, SHHRS Disease Intervention Specialists (DIS) also distributed resource materials, safe sex kits, as well as incentive items to promote testing.
- The DIS established partnerships with organizations that focus on the unstably housed in Oklahoma County. Screening at these sites allows DIS to reach a population that may not access services anywhere else.
- In response to an increased number of syphilis cases identified in Caddo County, a DIS team went to the Caddo County Jail for a targeted mass screening. The DIS team tested 117 patients in the pods that shared risk factors and/or were from the local area. This screening effort resulted in identifying 11 new infections, two previously untreated infections and 10 preventatively treated.
- In October 2023, DIS partnered with the Southern Plains Tribal Health Board (SPTHB) to conduct a screening in Anadarko. They had four screening locations with preliminary numbers showing 177 people tested and at least 12 new positives; partner services were offered to most patients. SPTHB nurses, through their caring van, were available to treat syphilis on-site.
- To prevent new syphilis infection and promote safer and less risky health practices, the SHHRS program distributed over 720,000 condoms and over 450,000 lubricants in Oklahoma.

Emergency Preparedness & Response Service

Following the devastating tornado in Pottawatomie County and additional storm damage to surrounding counties on April 19, the OSDH Emergency Preparedness and Response Service team worked with other response officials to provide support.

- The Tetanus Strike Team provided 610 tetanus shots to residents in the affected area.
- The Medical Facilities Division worked with medical facilities in the affected area for quality assurance purposes.
- The Oklahoma Medical Reserve Corps (OKMRC) Stress Response Team was deployed to Pottawatomie and McClain counties to provide psychological support.
- A Public Health Specialist Strike Team was deployed to support restaurant sanitation follow-ups.

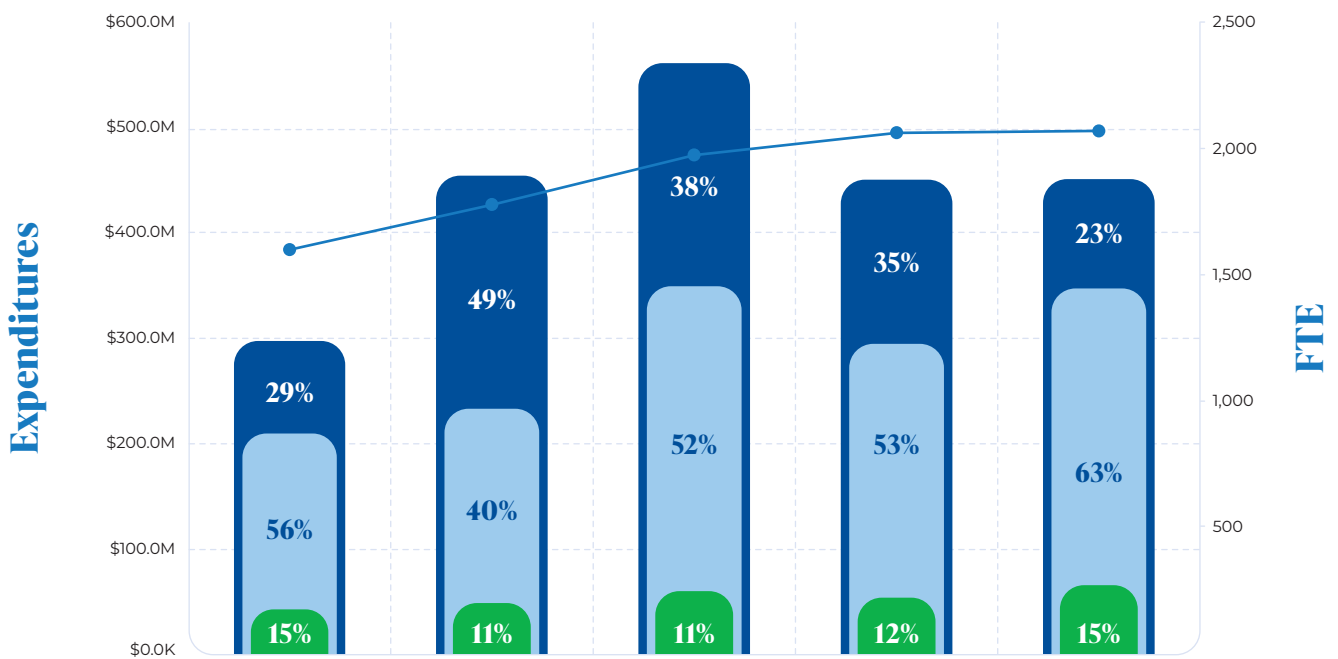
ViralView

To help Oklahomans understand the risk of illness from respiratory viruses, the OSDH created ViralView, a comprehensive, data filled website. The ViralView provides summaries of influenza, RSV and COVID-19 surveillance data (outpatient influenza-like illness and influenza, RSV and COVID-19 laboratory testing percent positivity); severity of illness data (hospitalizations and deaths); and OSDH Public Health Laboratory testing data.

Interactive dashboards provide residents with up-to-date data including activity level, positivity, wastewater surveillance and hospitalizations.

Financials

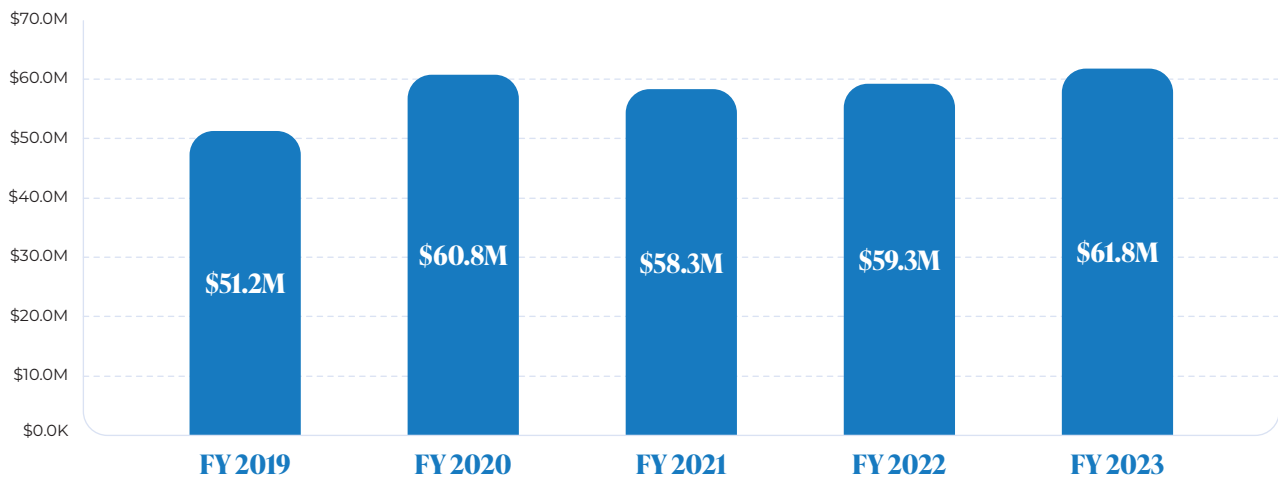
Total Actual Expenditures



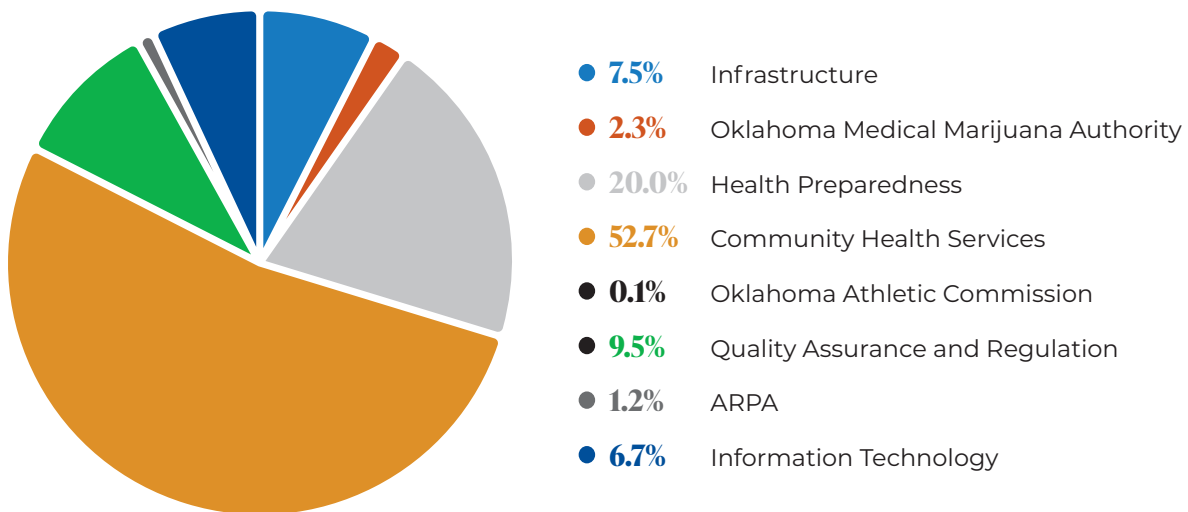
	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
Appropriated	\$43.3M	\$49.6M	\$60.6M	\$54.0M	\$65.9M
Revolving	\$87.7M	\$221.7M	\$211.5M	\$155.4M	\$103.1M
Federal	\$166.7M	\$183.4M	\$289.1M	\$240.8M	\$281.8M
Total	\$297.7M	\$454.7M	\$561.2M	\$450.2M	\$450.8M
FTE	1,599	1,776	1,974	2,060	2,067

The total expenditures incurred by the OSDH increased dramatically in 2020 and 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Higher expenditures continued through 2022 and 2023 due to the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Grant funds related to COVID-19.

Five Year State Appropriation History



OSDH Spending by Category



State appropriated funds have remained relatively stable over the reporting period.

Looking Ahead to 2024

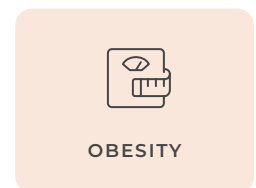
Leading Oklahoma to prosperity through health looks different for every Oklahoman. Therefore, the OSDH conducted a State Health Assessment to determine a starting point for the **State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP)**. Working with residents, stakeholders, leaders and partners, the OSDH gathered critical information to identify common themes to help guide the path forward.

From the assessment, five areas of focus emerged – cardiovascular disease, diabetes, obesity, mental health and substance use/abuse. These represent areas local communities are ready to address and serve as a starting point for the plan. We recognize there are additional critical elements to improving Oklahoma’s health, however, to achieve success we must start with the areas Oklahomans are ready to act on.

The SHIP includes measurable objectives to help reach the goal of improving Oklahoma’s health rankings. Each focus area has a dedicated workgroup that will identify and implement solutions to address prevention opportunities, access to quality care, social drivers of health, workforce, and priority populations. This work will set Oklahoma on the path to improving health rankings. However, it is imperative we acknowledge our state hasn’t necessarily become less healthy, rather Oklahoma has been slower to progress than other states. The momentum being built around the new SHIP will drive the progress at a more rapid pace, setting Oklahomans up for a healthier future.

Learn more about how communities are working to improve Oklahoma’s health with the **State Health Improvement Plan**.

Five areas of focus



BOH List

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OSDH Leadership

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Mendy Spohn | Deputy Commissioner | Community Health Services

Dr. LaTrina Frazier | Deputy Commissioner | Quality Assurance & Regulatory

Jan Fox | Deputy Commissioner | Health Preparedness

Dr. Gitanjali Pai | Chief Medical Officer

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Buffy Heater | Chief Strategy & Business Performance Officer

Jackie Shawnee | Chief of Staff



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MISSION

To protect and promote health, to prevent disease and injury and to cultivate conditions by which Oklahomans can thrive.

VISION

Leading Oklahoma to prosperity through health.

VALUES

Service | Respect | Collaboration | Accountability