



2019 Annual Report



Benton-Franklin Health District



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Kennewick

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Pasco

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DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR'S LETTER

It is my pleasure to thank everyone in our community for your continued trust in the Benton-Franklin Health District for the past 73+ years. We have seen incredible change over time in our region including cutting-edge science, a modernization of infrastructure, a diverse food and dining scene, and advancing health technology. With a community and economy that continues to grow, BFHD also puts a high priority on meeting the public health needs of our diverse and growing population.

This 2019 Annual Report features highlights of the work performed by our staff to help our community have a healthy place to work, live, and play. This was a year of progress for the Health District. As we gathered data and stories related to our efforts, we were reminded of the far-reaching impacts of the programs we provide.

We are also reminded that we cannot do this work without our caring and committed staff, our Board of Health, and our community partners. I personally thank all of them for their support and for assisting BFHD work towards our mission.

We serve almost 300,000 residents in our two counties and each person residing here has individual, complex, and important public health needs. The Health District has the unique role to help anyone who has gaps in health equity, literacy, or accessibility. This is where our District staff come in – I am more impressed each and every day at the dedication and passion our employees show as they strive for better overall health for those we serve. Our people are doing the hard work to keep programs and services funded and measurably successful for our county residents.

We also work with our Board of Health who is comprised of elected officials from both Benton and Franklin Counties, and provide strategic direction and work with Administration to help ensure your health priorities are heard. Together, we have you and our community at the center of our planning and goals.

In concert with our community partners, the Health District continues to work towards our mission of providing every member of our community the ability to live full, productive lives through our public health programs and services. Please read on to learn more about us and see the great work our teams did in 2019.



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jason Zaccaria".

Jason Zaccaria
Public Health Administrator

2019

Who We Are

The Benton-Franklin Health District (BFHD) has been serving the growing community of Benton and Franklin counties for over 73 years. Made up of nearly 100 staff members, BFHD serves the bi-county population of 296,000 residents, thousands of visitors, and covers almost 3,000 square miles within its jurisdiction. BFHD consists of three internal branches. Healthy People and Communities is made up of three departments that cover programs like Women, Infants, and Children (WIC); Oral Health and ABC Dentistry programs; Safe Kids; Tobacco, Marijuana, and Vapor Prevention; and Nurse-Family Partnership. Surveillance and Investigation consists of five departments that cover programs like Food Safety and Inspections; Land Use, Waste, and Water; Communicable Disease Case Management; Immunizations; Animal Bites; Laboratory Water Testing; and Emergency Preparedness and Response. Finally, the Administrative branch provides BFHD with the leadership, professional expertise, and financial management services that allow it to run efficiently and effectively for both internal staff and the public. Its departments also support additional programs that serve the community, like vital records and data and assessment.

Keep an eye out for these icons to see how each department plays a role in public health!



What We Stand For

VISION, MISSION, VALUES, AND EQUITY STATEMENT

Vision

BFHD is a proactive leader uniting knowledgeable staff and proven practices with strong partners and informed residents to form a resilient, healthy community where all of us can learn, work, play, and thrive to our greatest potential.

Values

- Excellence
- Diversity
- Communication and Collaboration
- Integrity and Accountability
- Effectiveness

Mission

BFHD provides all people in our community the opportunity to live full, productive lives by promoting healthy lifestyles, preventing disease and injury, advancing equity, and protecting our environment.

Equity

BFHD believes everyone in the community should have the opportunity to attain their highest level of health. BFHD values and serves all people regardless of age, race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, socioeconomic status, or physical and mental abilities.

2018-2020 STRATEGIC PLAN

Strategic Plan

Health Strategy

Goal 1: BFHD provides expertise in population health information and promotes health in all policies through our programs, community coalitions, and partnerships.

Health Equity

Goal 2: BFHD promotes positive health outcomes by addressing health equity through our community partnerships and internal programs and policies.

Engagement

Goal 3: BFHD actively engages staff and our community to shape our team and services to meet community needs.

Quality

Goal 4: BFHD utilizes and adheres to a fully integrated, agency wide quality culture.

Risk Management

Goal 5: BFHD strives to manage internal and external risks through regulatory compliance and maintaining a safe and healthy workforce.

Community Health Priorities

Goal 6: BFHD supports healthy living and lifestyles through emphasis on community health priorities and other public health concerns.

HEALTH OFFICER'S LETTER



From big data to individual genetic profiles, there are numbers to describe health at every level. BFHD's role as a health strategist is to turn those numbers into information that helps the residents of Benton and Franklin counties understand how to improve their health, helps businesses keep employees and customers safe and healthy, and helps community agencies advocate for programs and prioritize funding to meet the needs of the community. The 2019 annual report highlights some of the ways BFHD has been able to fulfill that role in the community.

In order to effectively investigate outbreaks in community settings, the Health District developed a core team using staff from Environmental Health, Communicable Disease, and Assessment. This group gathers and analyzes facts and data, not just to understand how the outbreak happened, but even more importantly, to determine how future outbreaks can be prevented.

Through the Community Health Needs Assessment process, we understood that it's not enough to know what the average health status in Benton and Franklin Counties is, but that it's equally, or perhaps even more important, to understand the differences. These disparities, particularly when there are systematic barriers, can have significant impacts on people's ability to reach their best health and quality of life.

BFHD expanded the ability to share information with the community through an updated website and expanding array of fact sheets describing issues of public health significance in the community. Information was shared with partners outside our boundaries as well as through presentations at state and national meetings, highlighting the role of public health as a chief health strategist in both local and statewide communities.

As you review the 2019 annual report, it should be clear that BFHD has worked across the agency to translate population and public health data from just numbers on a page into tools that can be used to strengthen the health of the community. Our focus on health disparities and health equity will continue next year and beyond so that we can continue the critical work to eliminate racism and other systematic barriers and provide every resident in Benton and Franklin Counties the opportunity to achieve their highest health potential.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amy Person MD".

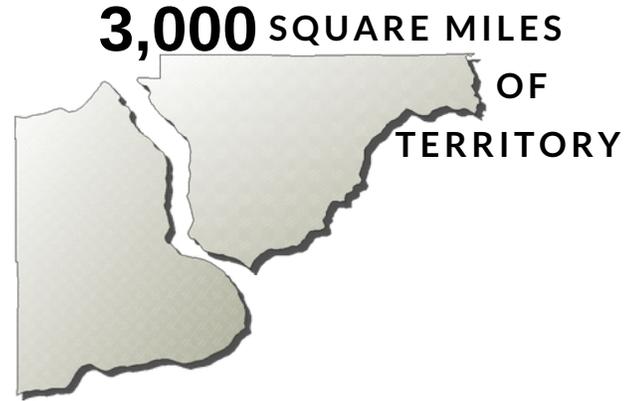
Dr. Amy Person, MD
Health Officer

2019

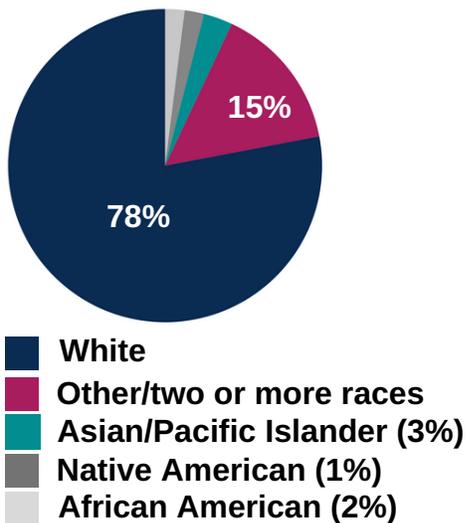
Who We Serve



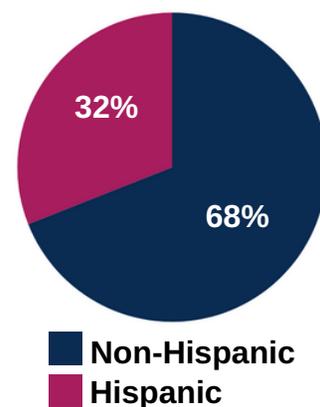
296,480
TOTAL BI-COUNTY
POPULATION



POPULATION
BY RACE



POPULATION
BY ETHNICITY



*Race and ethnicity are based on 2018 population numbers

2019 Community Health



BENTON & FRANKLIN COUNTIES
**COMMUNITY HEALTH
NEEDS ASSESSMENT**
2019

Photo Credit: Michele Baumbach/Shutterstock

The Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) is a systematic and shared process for identifying and analyzing community needs and assets throughout Benton and Franklin counties. It helps determine on which critical health needs the community will focus over the next three to five years and informs the creation of a Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP).



START

Benton-Franklin Community Health Alliance members, additional community partners, and interested stakeholders were invited to a planning session to help select the top health-related needs of the community. Over 50 community partners were in attendance which included stakeholders from all four local health care systems, public health, emergency responders, behavioral health, student nursing programs, local chambers, long-term care facilities, and other service oriented community-based organizations.



Community stakeholders participate in a guided activity to prioritize and select the top health needs in the community. (Left and Above)

Needs Assessment

The steering committee consisted of representatives from all of the local health care systems (Kadlec, Trios Health, Lourdes Health, and Prosser Memorial Health), the Benton-Franklin Community Health Alliance (BFCHA), and the Benton-Franklin Health District (BFHD).



120

Data Points Reviewed

250

Surveys Collected

16

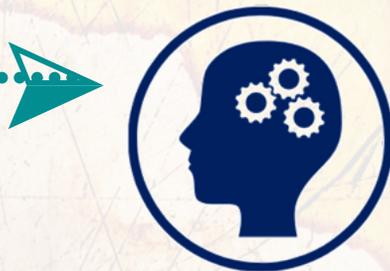
Interviews Conducted

10

Listening Sessions Facilitated

The steering committee began work in March 2019 and, over the course of six months, compiled and reviewed over 120 health related data points, conducted 16 key informant and stakeholder interviews, facilitated 10 community member listening sessions in various settings, and collected over 250 surveys from community partners and stakeholders.

Those in attendance participated in structured, facilitated activities to review the data and organize them into overarching categories. The group then prioritized those categories and identified the top three health-related needs for the community. The work now shifts to the CHIP steering committee, with whom BFHD is actively involved, to develop and monitor the 2020 Community Health Improvement Plan based on these three health-related needs:



BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CHALLENGES



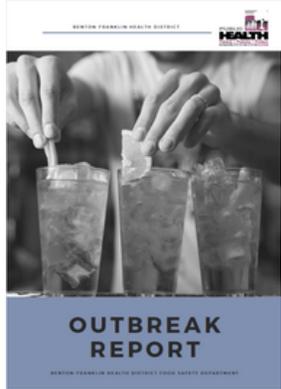
ACCESS AND COST OF ALL HEALTHCARE



SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH

2019 Year in Review

Strategic Plan NOROVIRUS OUTBREAK



Early in 2019, an outbreak of norovirus was linked to an ill food worker at a local Tri-Cities restaurant. 30 BFHD staff from several departments were mobilized to deal with the active outbreak situation. The restaurant was closed for 48 hours for cleaning and staff education. By the conclusion of the investigation, 26 of the 31 people interviewed, from 10 separate dining parties, reported illness (vomiting, diarrhea, cramps, etc.) within 72 hours of eating at the restaurant. 300 staff hours were spent on this investigation totaling approximately \$10,000 in cost to the Health District.

FATHERHOOD SUMMIT

Strategic Plan



Attendees at the 2019 Fatherhood Summit

In May, BFHD partnered with You Medical and the National Fatherhood Initiative to host a local summit on fatherhood. 73 attendees from 48 agencies and 10 different sectors came together to brainstorm community gaps, which were then used to inform a community action plan with the goal of offering better supports for local fathers. You can read the full report [here](#) on our website.

At the beginning of 2019, BFHD launched its brand new, improved website. The new website provides a clean, modern interface for visitors and allows for BFHD staff to make more timely updates. When the website went live, 40 pages were considered essential content. Since then, the website has grown to over 130 pages. Some highlights of the new website include a latest news blog to help the public stay up-to-date, a data and reports section with community education resources, and a calendar of events happening at the Health District.



Strategic Plan

NEW WEBSITE LAUNCHED



Sean Domagalski at the 2019 NACCHO Annual Conference.

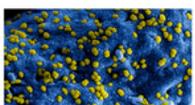
Strategic Plan



NACCHO CONFERENCE PRESENTERS

During the summer of 2019, BFHD was invited to present at the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) Annual Conference in Florida to discuss a business practice model developed by the Health District. BFHD created an innovative organizational and meeting structure that better facilitates communication and transparency in cross-departmental work units. It has had the added benefits of increased staff engagement in work affecting the agency and improved internal security and communication practices.

LATEST NEWS



SAFE DRIVING TIP: 'Tis' The Season for Giving
Benton-Franklin County residents report that...

CALENDAR

- NOV 05** Tri-Cities Diabetes Coalition Meeting 12:00PM - 1:00PM
- NOV 11** Healthy Young Parent Collaborative 3:30PM - 5:00PM
- Free Car Seat Safety Checks by

HEP A INVESTIGATION



In September 2019, BFHD was notified by another county's health department that an inmate who had spent time in Franklin County Jail (FCJ) had tested positive for Hepatitis A and would have been infectious during her stay at FCJ. During her time of incarceration at FCJ, the inmate likely came in contact with approximately 39 inmates. BFHD leaders activated the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) at level 1 (lowest level) to closely monitor and coordinate resources to respond to this incident. BFHD staff obtained a list and attempted to contact current and former inmates who may have been exposed. BFHD staff also worked with FCJ staff to improve sanitation guidelines within the jail and hosted two vaccination clinics for jail inmates and staff. BFHD staff administered 47 vaccines to inmates and employees.



WIC EBT CARDS

The Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program began implementing a new platform to provide clients with a more flexible, convenient way to shop for nutritious foods. WIC participants can now scan an EBT card at the grocery store checkout to purchase WIC foods. All checks for multiple children will now be available on one card for the family and clients will no longer have to buy all food items at once. The free WICShopper app gives clients access to up-to-date food benefit balances and notifications when benefits are about to expire. BFHD staff began training in the new platform in February 2019 and cards were distributed beginning in November 2019.



Kathleen Clary-Cooke (center) accepting her award.

BFHD STAFF RECOGNITION



Kathleen Clary-Cooke, the Safe Kids Benton-Franklin Coordinator at BFHD, was awarded the Emilie Crown Safety Vanguard Award for Outstanding Local Coordinator in July 2019. The award is presented every two years at the Safe Kids Worldwide International Conference and recognizes local coordinators who demonstrate exemplary leadership and innovative strategies in getting the job done. Safe Kids Benton-Franklin implements evidence-based programs, such as car-seat checkups, life jacket loan boards, and safety presentations throughout the community. Congratulations, Kathleen!

At the 2019 Annual Conference for the Washington State Public Health Association (WSPHA), three BFHD staff members were invited to present on a topic related to public health planning and evaluation. Sean Domagalski and Janae Parent presented on an innovative organizational structure developed internally at BFHD and Bethany Hickey presented on data visualization tools, in collaboration with colleagues from Tacoma Pierce County Health Department. Nine staff in total were able to attend the educational and networking event in October.

WSPHA CONFERENCE PRESENTERS



(Left to Right) Janae Parent, Melissa Lantz, Bethany Hickey, Shelley Little, Sean Domagalski, Carla Prock, Dr. Amy Person, Heather Hill, and Chas Hornbaker.



Other Highlights

HIV COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD (CAB)



The HIV Case Management program wanted to improve client engagement in shaping the services and supports offered by the Health District. In 2018, the Community Advisory Board (CAB) was established and all active case management clients were invited to participate. The CAB provided a forum for clients to express their wants and needs to program staff, which allowed BFHD to improve the services offered to those who were being served. In 2019, the CAB functions and purpose formalized an official charter and mission statement and assigned officers.

As a result of these efforts, 2019 also brought some client requested changes to the HIV Case Management program. Monthly yoga classes were hosted at the Health District and taught by a volunteer yoga instructor. A Healthy Eating class taught by a BFHD nutritionist was well attended. The CAB also led to the creation of bimonthly support groups and weekly social activities for clients. These activities flourished in 2019, offering clients opportunities to build stronger social and community bonds. In addition to improving the services for the case management program, some of the HIV CAB members also participated in the 2019 Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) process via listening sessions.

BENTON-FRANKLIN FEEDING TEAM



BFHD staff actively participates on the Benton-Franklin Feeding Team (BFFT). The BFFT is a community-based team providing interdisciplinary team feeding case conferencing of infants and young children with feeding or nutrition concerns. Infants and children with special needs are at a high risk for feeding problems, developmental delays and relationship difficulties. The purpose of the Feeding Team is to bring together multi-disciplinary team members and community professionals to work with the parents and child to coordinate, collaborate and make recommendations on a plan of care.

Membership of the BFFT is comprised of individuals and organizations, both public and private. This includes, but is not limited to, school districts, early learning, community health agencies, and local health care systems. In August 2019, BFHD members of the BFFT were able to attend a national conference from the Fragile Infant Feeding Institute. At the conference, they learned more techniques to support optimal growth of infants with special needs specifically related to the quality of the feeding experience and the parent-child relationship. This is a shift from traditional practice that focused solely on the quantity of food consumed. Recent research has highlighted the importance of neurodevelopment aspects of infant feeding and now the BFFT is well versed and prepared to bring those practices to our local community.

OVERDOSE DATA TO ACTION GRANT



The Opioid Crisis is considered a top priority by national and state officials. Benton and Franklin Counties have seen a significant increase in opioid overdose hospitalizations and deaths over the past decade. Benton County has one of the highest prescribing rates in the state for opioid drugs.

Substance use disorder was highlighted as a top local issue during the 2019 Community Health Needs Assessment process. BFHD began to look for funding sources to help address the issue of opioid use in the community. One such funding source was the Overdose Data to Action Grant. BFHD partnered with Washington State Department of Health by becoming a subcontractor to the state. The money received from this grant is designated to fund an Opioid Response Coordinator.

Jessica Garcia, long time employee of the Health District, moved from the HIV program into the Opioid Response Coordinator role in December 2019. Over the next year, she will be working on developing a community wide opioid response plan, improving communication and data sharing between different sectors related to opioid overdose, and establishing an opioid fatality review board.



Jessica Garcia as the "Get Yourself Tested" Superhero for Halloween

BFHD PUBLIC HEALTH ADVOCACY



HIGHLIGHTS

2019 was a busy year for public health in the legislative branch which meant more work for BFHD from an advocacy standpoint. Washington State passed a bill requiring the state government to fund Foundational Public Health Services, or mandated services that only governmental public health is able to do. This will ensure that public health is seen as a funding priority and responsibility for the state legislature going forward. Washington State also passed Tobacco and Vapor 21 legislation, restricting the sale of any tobacco and vapor products to only people who are 21 and older. Research shows that raising the age of sale for tobacco and vapor products to 21 will reduce the number of youth who develop a lifelong addiction to nicotine and save thousands of lives. Another piece of legislation that was passed in 2019 relates to improved child passenger safety laws. The law was updated to comply with the recommendations of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and applies to all passengers under age 16. BFHD is committed to continuing to provide the community and policy makers with expert population health information so that all Benton and Franklin County residents can live full, productive lives.



BFHD staff member Kathleen Clary-Cooke met with Senator Patty Murray (Left) and Senator Maria Cantwell (Right) on behalf of Safe Kids Benton-Franklin.



BFHD staff members (Left to Right) Rick Dawson, Dr. Amy Person, and Bethany Hickey attended Legislative Education Day to meet with local legislators about issues related to public health.

Financial Update

Financial Highlights



- In 2019, BFHD received 18 separate, indirect federal grants and 11 state grants, which provided funding for 24 different programs.
- 32% of operating revenue was generated by the permit and fee for service activities.
- The Health District expended \$34.00 per capita providing public health services in Benton and Franklin Counties.
- Three-quarters of the Health District expenditures go towards covering personnel costs. This ensures that qualified staff are able to provide the needed and often mandated services supported by public health.

Total Budget Expenditures: \$10,079,298

2019 Revenue Sources:

Indirect & Federal Grants **\$3,164,912**

Charges for Goods & Services **\$1,766,617**

State & Public Health Assistance **\$1,614,337**

Licenses & Permits **\$1,387,899**

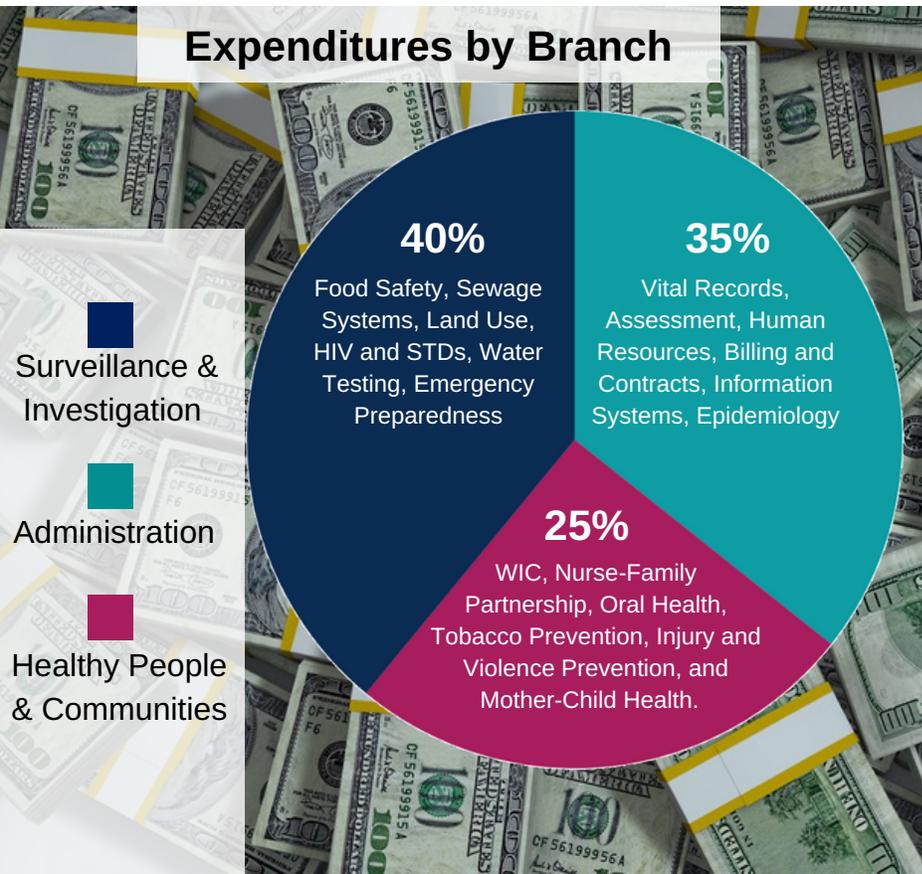
State Grants **\$1,050,597**

County Contributions **\$996,607**

Miscellaneous **\$110,804**

State Foundational Public Health Services **\$78,995**

Expenditures by Branch



2019 BOARD OF HEALTH MEMBERS

The Board of Health is made up of the county commissioners from both Benton and Franklin Counties. The Board of Health coordinates with the District Administrator and Health Officer to develop the strategic direction for BFHD, oversee the financial status of the agency, and ensure the health and welfare of citizens by enacting rules and regulations as deemed necessary by the board.



SHON SMALL
BENTON COUNTY



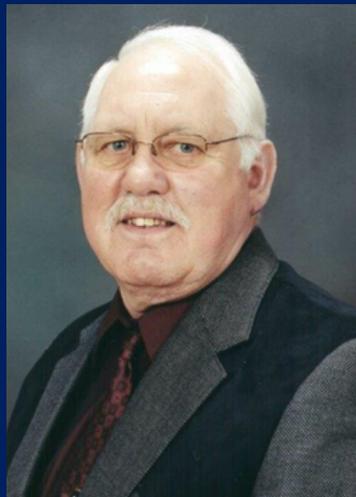
JAMES BEAVER
BENTON COUNTY



JEROME DELVIN
BENTON COUNTY



BRAD PECK
FRANKLIN COUNTY



ROBERT KOCH
FRANKLIN COUNTY



CLINT DIDIER
FRANKLIN COUNTY

BOARD OF HEALTH

Connect With Us!

Health District Programs & Services

Animal & Insect Bites	509.460.4200
Birth/Death Certificates	509.460.4205
Children & Youth with Special Health Care Needs	509.460.4204
Chronic Disease & Diabetes Self-Management	509.460.4264
Communicable Disease	509.460.4216
Community & Family Health	509.460.4200
Data & Reports	509.460.4225
Dental/Oral Health (ABCD)	509.460.4558
Drinking Water	509.460.4254
Emergency Preparedness	509.460.4205
Feeding Team	509.460.4205
Food Safety (Restaurants)	509.460.4248
Food Worker Cards	509.460.4205
HIV/AIDS	509.460.4205
Immunizations	509.460.4200
Injury Prevention/Safe Kids/Falls Coalition	509.460.4200
Nurse-Family Partnership	509.460.4214
Nutrition	509.460.4229
Public Pool/Spa Inspections	509.460.4246
Sewage Systems (Septic Systems)	509.460.4205
Solid Waste (Facility Permits/Inspections)	509.460.4205
Tobacco & Vapor Product Prevention	509.460.4205
Travel Clinic	509.460.4258
Water Lab	509.460.4200
Women, Infants & Children (WIC)	509.460.4206
Youth Marijuana Prevention	509.460.4202
Youth Suicide Prevention	509.460.4258
	509.460.4275



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Benton-Franklin
Health District



Twitter.com/BFHD



Pinterest.com/
bfhealth