



Benton-Franklin Health District Annual Report 2016



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Mission

Benton-Franklin Health District provides all people in our community the opportunity to live full productive lives by promoting healthy lifestyles, preventing disease, reducing injury and protecting our environment.

Vision

Benton-Franklin Health District is a proactive leader uniting knowledgeable staff and proven practice 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:** We deliver the highest quality services incorporating community assessment data and evidence-based practices to produce the best possible health outcomes.
- **Diversity:** We feel a stronger community is based on engaging all cultures, attitudes, and beliefs.
- **Communication and Collaboration:** We share information and talents to best serve our community.
- **Integrity and Accountability:** We make informed decisions to earn the trust of those we serve and strive to do what's right.
- **Effectiveness:** We maximize resources to provide proactive and relevant services that improve our community's health.

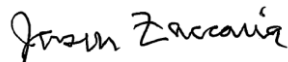
A Message from Leadership

In 2016, Benton-Franklin Health District (BFHD) employed 90.4 full-time equivalent staff, serving a population of 279,170 people across Benton and Franklin Counties. In 2013, BFHD began the rigorous and challenging journey to national accreditation, and on August 17th, 2016 the Health District was awarded this achievement by the Public Health Accreditation Board ([PHAB](#)). Accreditation illustrates the value BFHD places on continuously improving the quality of programs and services offered to the community. More information on how this work aligns with national public health standards is included throughout this report.

2016 also marked the culmination of statewide efforts to modernize the public health system. To advocate for this in the 2017 legislative session, a coalition of health groups and public health leaders from the Washington State Association of Local Public Health Officials (WSALPHO) developed a proposal to invest more dollars into the public health system. However, it's not just about infusing money; it's also about modernizing public health's service delivery and infrastructure to ensure that it's positioned to meet the evolving demand. The proposal identifies core public health services that should be available to every resident in our state. It also asks the state to make a down payment to begin filling the most critical service gaps for things like disease prevention and response that can help avoid costly epidemics.

This down payment from the state would also streamline and modernize the public health system by designating services that can be effectively shared between local health departments and across regions. That means making the best use of available staff and resources to serve the growing population. We hope you enjoy reading about BFHD's accomplishments this past year!

Sincerely,



Jason Zaccaria, M.H.A.
District Administrator



Amy Person, M.D.
Health Officer



The 2016 Board of Health

Washington State law maintains that each local board of health shall have oversight on all matters pertaining to the preservation of life and health of the people within its jurisdiction. The Benton-Franklin District Board of Health governs the Benton-Franklin Health District, and meets monthly to consider policies, programs and provide direction to strengthen the health of communities in Benton and Franklin Counties. The 2016 Board of Health members are listed below:

Benton County Commissioners	Franklin County Commissioners
Jerome Delvin (Vice-Chair)	Bob Koch (Chair)
James Beaver	Rick Miller
Shon Small	Brad Peck

Journey to National Public Health Accreditation

The goal of the voluntary national accreditation is to improve and protect the health of the public by advancing the quality, performance and transparency of state and local public health departments.



10 Essential Public Health Services (cdc.gov)

BFHD began the process of accreditation in 2013. This illustration shows how the agency integrates the Ten Essential Public Health Services into daily practice.

The timeline toward accreditation:

- BFHD committed to achieving accredited status in 2013.
- Documentation was collected and submitted in fall of 2015.
- The PHAB site visit took place May 2016.
- On August 17, 2016, BFHD joined Whatcom, Kitsap, Tacoma-Pierce, Spokane and Washington State Department of Health as PHAB accredited agencies. At the time, BFHD was one of only 151 accredited health departments in the country.

The PHAB site visit identified the following four greatest strengths of the Benton-Franklin Health District:

1. Culture of collaboration and trust
2. Staff dedication and passion for public health
3. Solid public health infrastructure and extensive use of technology
4. Community engagement with both the public at large and community partners

In order to maintain national accreditation status for five years, BFHD will report annually to the National Public Health Accreditation Board regarding activities and efforts to improve the quality programs, services, and information to the public. Throughout this report, at the end of highlight, PHAB standards and measures that link most closely to the program or service are referenced in blue text.

Preventive Health Key Highlights

BFHD's Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) Program expanded to Benton County through funding from the Benton County Public Safety Sales Tax. This expansion will enable the program to serve an additional 50 vulnerable first-time mothers. NFP allows nurses to provide the support first-time moms need to have a healthy pregnancy, become knowledgeable and responsible parents and provide their babies the best possible start in life. Initial staff was hired in October and by the end of 2016, BFHD had the first Benton County nurse fully trained with the rigorous evidenced-based curriculum and had enrolled seven families.

(PHAB 1.0 Standard 10.1; Identify and use the best available evidence for making informed public health practice decisions)



In 2016, BFHD received a Breastfeeding Hospital Education Grant to support implementation of the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) strategy to decrease childhood obesity by increasing breastfeeding rates. Benton and Franklin Counties' rates for hospital formula initiation are higher than the state average so the Health District partnered with Tri-Cities Community Health on a US Department of Agriculture/Washington State Women, Infants, and Children grant to improve breastfeeding support in the first 30 days post-partum. BFHD hosted hospital-focused breastfeeding trainings for local physicians, nurses and health care workers. In addition, BFHD arranged for Evergreen Perinatal Education to provide a year of technical support to the hospitals. The grant funding will help local hospitals and partners work towards Breastfeeding Friendly Washington Hospital certification.

(PHAB 1.0 Standard 3.1; Provide health education and health promotion policies, programs, processes, and interventions to support prevention and wellness)

138 NFP Graduates

10,138 WIC Clients

Preventive Health Key Highlights

Modernizing immunization tracking was also a key focus in 2016. As clinical services move toward compliance with federal Electronic Medical Records (EMR) requirements, BFHD was given the opportunity to work with a contractor to create an interface between BFHD's EMR and the Washington State Immunization Information System (WAIS) registry. This transition took several months and required close partnership between BFHD, the EMR vendor (Champ Software) and WAIS. As a result, immunization documentation occurs electronically and allows real time uploading to the registry, which prevents duplication of effort for staff and allows everyone who is caring for clients to have the most up to date and accurate immunization records.

(PHAB 1.0 Standard 11.1; Develop and maintain an operational infrastructure to support the performance of public health functions)



BFHD works hard to be an engaged community partner and to provide information about evidence-based interventions to improve the community's health. In 2016, BFHD worked with key community partners to provide several community trainings.

- Trauma-Informed Care 101 was held at BFHD to help partnering organizations implement trauma-informed approaches and to be more effective in their roles by emphasizing physical, emotional and psychological safety for consumers and providers.
- One Circle Training was provided to local organizations to promote resiliency and healthy relationships in children, youth, adults and communities through research based, gender-responsive program models and best practices.
- Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) training was offered to increase awareness of this new promising practice for Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) prevention. PrEP is a way for people who don't have HIV but who are at very high risk of getting it to prevent HIV infection by taking a pill every day.

(PHAB 1.0 Standard 4.1; Engage with the public health system and the community in identifying and addressing public health problems through collaborative processes)

Environmental Health and Emergency Preparedness Key Highlights

In August of 2016 Environmental Health staff responded to a report of an algae bloom at Scootenev Reservoir, a popular fishing, swimming and camping area in north Franklin County. Water samples collected from the reservoir revealed elevated level of toxins produced by algae growth. This toxin level resulted in the closure of the reservoir to recreation and swimming activities that extended for approximately six weeks until toxin levels fell below a safe threshold. BFHD Environmental Health staff collected samples on a weekly basis and, in cooperation with King County Environmental Lab, monitored the toxin levels until the middle of October 2016. This is the second year that an algae bloom has been reported in this body of water and is the first and only recreational body of water within the district with a documented algae bloom.

(PHAB 1.0 Standard 2.2; Contain/Mitigate health problems and environmental public health hazards)



BFHD worked in close partnership with the Pasco School District and a third-party consultant to test drinking water fixtures for lead. There is no established safe level of lead so public health works to reduce environmental exposures and to promote appropriate screening. Lead exposure can adversely affect our children's developing brains. Children under age 7 are the most susceptible to the effects of lead because their smaller bodies absorb more lead than adults. Children are still growing and their brains and nervous systems are therefore more sensitive to the damaging effects of lead. While drinking water is not usually the primary source of lead exposure, it is important to ensure that students are supplied safe water in the classroom to prevent adverse effects on healthy human development and learning.

(PHAB 1.0 Standard 2.1; Conduct timely investigations of health problems and environmental public health hazards)

11,000 Water Samples Tested

524 Sewage System Permits

Environmental Health and Emergency Preparedness Key Highlights

The most noteworthy addition to BFHD's Food Safety program in 2016 was the publication of results from the routine and follow-up inspections in the Tri-City Herald. Based on the Herald's request for public disclosure, the BFHD food program began to create and submit a weekly summary. The first article was published on July 3rd, 2016 and has generated widespread response from both the public and the food industry.

(PHAB 1.0 Standard 3.2; Provide information on public health issues and public health functions through multiple methods to a variety of audiences)

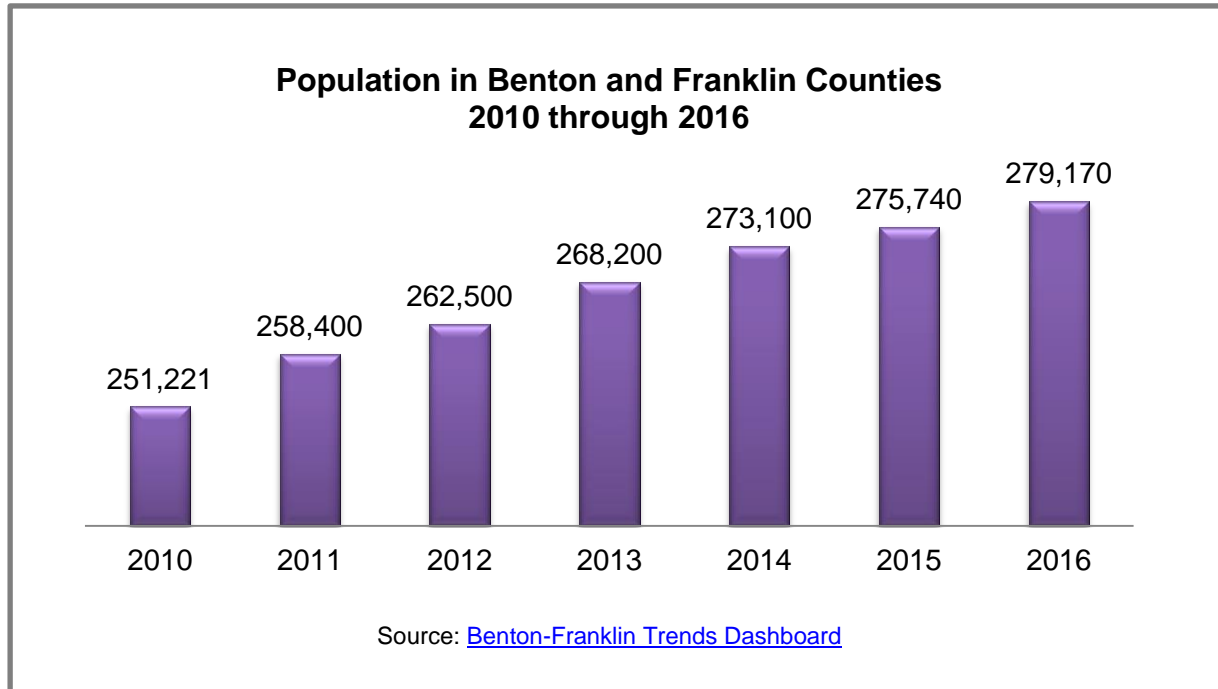


Cascadia Rising was a national emergency preparedness exercise integrating a number of events across several states into a massive, multi-agency event. The Benton-Franklin Health District Emergency Preparedness group planned and hosted the *Region 8 Cascadia Rising: 2016 Cascadia Subduction Zone Tabletop Exercise*. This exercise was developed in order for the Region 8 Healthcare Coalition to test the Regional Emergency Response and Coordination Plans in preparation for a possible catastrophic earthquake on the west coast of the United States. Agencies across the five county region participated in the exercise totaling 65 people representing 38 different organizations. This exercise provided an opportunity for healthcare partners to work together and develop new relationships.

(PHAB 1.0 Standard 5.4; Maintain an All Hazards Emergency Operations Plan)

1,300 Food Establishments Permitted

Public Health and Population Change



The combined population in Benton County and Franklin County grew by 1.2% in 2016. This population increase is the result of the number of births and people who have migrated to the area. Approximately 1,000 people moved here from other communities between 2015 and 2016 (Source: Benton-Franklin Trends Dashboard).

The median age in Benton and Franklin Counties combined was 33.5 years old, compared to 37.5 years old in Washington, with a younger median age in Franklin County of 29.3, and 35.5 in Benton County (Source: U.S. Census Bureau).

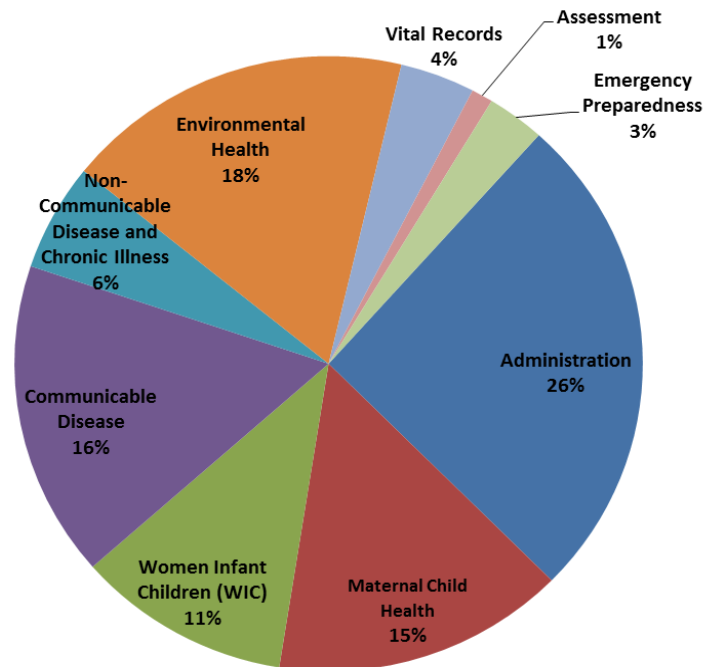
With the rising population, BFHD has experienced an increase in the demand for its services, creating an opportunity to improve efficiency and expand to meet the needs of the community. Over the last several years, BFHD has observed an increase in the number of food service establishments, on-site sewage system permits and the number of water recreation facilities that BFHD regulates. With little to no growth in program capacity in 2016, this has reduced the response time to address environmental health issues. The Health District also experienced increased volumes in reporting and investigating the number of clients with notifiable conditions (e.g., gonorrhea, chlamydia, Hepatitis, E. coli) and refugees in need of health screenings or connection to community services.

Funding, Expenditures and Return on Investment

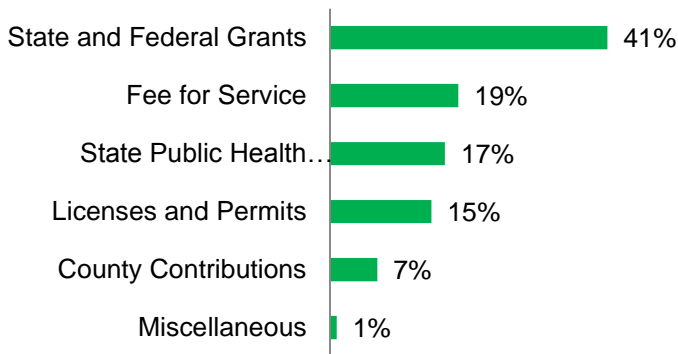
In Fiscal Year (FY) 2016, the Health District expended \$9.2 million which employed 90.4 full-time equivalent staff and provided 30 different programs and services to the community. Funding for these programs came from a variety of sources including 29 state and federal grants, state and local discretionary funding and revenue from fees and permits. Fees and permit revenue originate primarily from immunizations, food service establishments, land use planning, water sample testing and vital records.

(PHAB 1.0 Domain 11; Maintain administrative and management capacity)

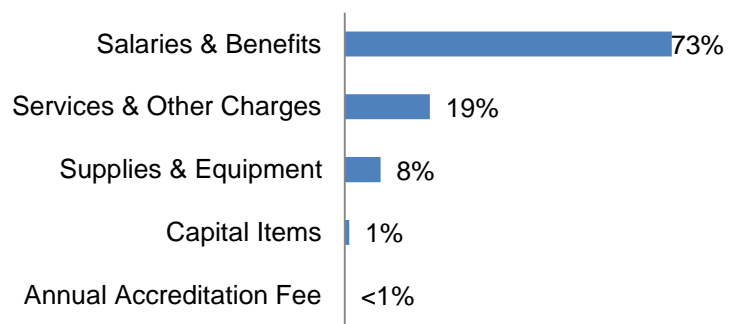
FY 2016 Expenditures by Service



FY 2016 Revenue by Source



FY 2016 Expenditures



Do you have questions or comments? Please [contact us!](#)

Benton-Franklin Health District

Kennewick Office
7102 West Okanogan Place
Kennewick, WA 99336

Pasco Office
412 West Clark Street
Pasco, WA 99301

On the Web: www.bfhd.wa.gov

Phone: 509.460.4200

Toll Free: 800.814.4323

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