



Taney County Health Department

2024 Annual Report



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.
Taney County Health Department



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Kayla Klein, DNP, RN, CPH, Community Outreach Manager

Erica Logsdon, Environmental Health Manager

Tiffany Stevens, SHRM-CP, Health Operations Manager

Rick White, Operations Coordinator

Mission:

Our mission is to create a healthy and safe community for people to live, work, and play, today and in the future. Together we save lives.

Vision:

To be a recognized health leader serving Taney County residents and visitors in their pursuit of a healthy lifestyle and environment.

Values:

Caring. Serving. Protecting.



Letter from the Director

As we reflect on the past year, 2024 has been both challenging and full of opportunities for the Taney County Health Department. I am proud to report that our team moved much forward in 2024 and continues to adapt to the ever-changing landscape of public health to enhance our community service. Our team dedicated the past year to a broad range of areas, including strengthening core programs and services, monitoring emerging public health concerns, and everything in between.

Key Highlights of 2024:

- The Women, Infants and Children Program (WIC) served 16,967 participants. Participants redeemed \$1,154,020.00 of nutritious foods at local grocery stores. These dollars not only provided nutritious foods to our youngest residents, but also helped fuel our local economy.*
- A total of 2,645 immunizations were provided by the Clinical team. These vaccinations included childhood vaccines needed to attend public schools, tetanus vaccines, shingles vaccines for older adults, whooping cough vaccines for parents of newborn infants, travel vaccines that are not available anywhere else in the County, and many, many more.*
- Since 2022 over 1,000 individuals have been trained in Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR), a suicide prevention and mental health crisis training provided at no charge across the County.*
- The Environmental Health team conducted a total of 1,856 inspections, all while training three new inspectors. This includes lodging, restaurants, pools, childcare, and other environmental health inspection programs.*

Building on our 2024 accomplishments, our team is strategically planning for future initiatives. A few items our team looks forward to tackling in 2025 include:

- Strengthening our infrastructure to ensure our systems, policies, and technology are all relevant and support our work in serving the community.*
- Evaluating our Emergency Response Plans and monitoring emerging public health threats to ensure we are prepared to respond if needed.*
- Utilizing data-driven decisions to continually look for gaps and needs where TCHD can better serve residents and the community.*

As we enter 2025, we are deeply grateful for the support of our community and the dedication of our staff. Together, we can create a healthier future for Taney County.

Sincerely,



Lisa Marshall, MS, RD, LD
Director, Taney County Health Department

Maternal Child Health

Women, Infants & Children (WIC) Program Celebrates 50 years



The Taney County Health Department (TCHD) cover page highlights the celebration of 50 years of increasing access to healthy food, nutrition education and services, and breastfeeding counseling to women and families in Taney County and throughout the nation. The WIC Program supports over 6.7 million people nationwide every year. The Taney County Health Department (TCHD) is proud to be a part of a network that furthers the mission in striving for a healthy community for all.

Top 5 Risk Factors Identified During Screening, Ranked

Fiscal Year 10/1/23-9/30/24

WIC is a public health nutrition program that provides nutrition education and counseling, breastfeeding education and support, healthy supplemental foods, healthcare referrals and screenings for income-eligible women who are pregnant or post-partum, infants, and children up to 5 years of age. Parents, mothers or fathers, legal guardians, grandparents, and foster parents may enroll infants and children in WIC. Women, infants, and children who are currently active on SNAP, TANF, or Medicaid are automatically income-eligible for the WIC Program.

Prenatal Women	Infants	Children
Inappropriate Nutrition Practices for Women	Infant up to 6 months old of WIC mother or of a woman who would have been eligible during pregnancy	Inappropriate Nutrition Practices for Children
Overweight	Inappropriate Nutrition Practices for Infants	Dietary Risk Associated with Complementary Feeding Practices
High Maternal Weight Gain	Dietary Risk Associated with Complementary Feeding Practices	Overweight or At Risk of Overweight
Low Hematocrit/Low Hemoglobin	Breastfeeding Infant of Woman at Nutritional Risk	Low Hematocrit/Low Hemoglobin
Nicotine and Tobacco Use	Overweight or At Risk of Overweight	Short Stature or At Risk of Short Stature

Mobile Services

WIC mobile services began in April 2023 and continued in 2024 at four locations: The Penleigh and Gateway Church (Branson), Bridge of Faith Church (Rockaway Beach), and White River Mountain Apartments (Hollister). All WIC services are available including nutrition education, certifications, hemoglobin checks, weight checks, and loading electronic WIC benefit cards.



Maternal Child Health

WIC Benefit Overview and Outreach

WIC Participants 16,967

4,102 Women

3,915 Infants

8,950 Children

**WIC Dollars Redeemed by
Participants**

\$1,154,020.00

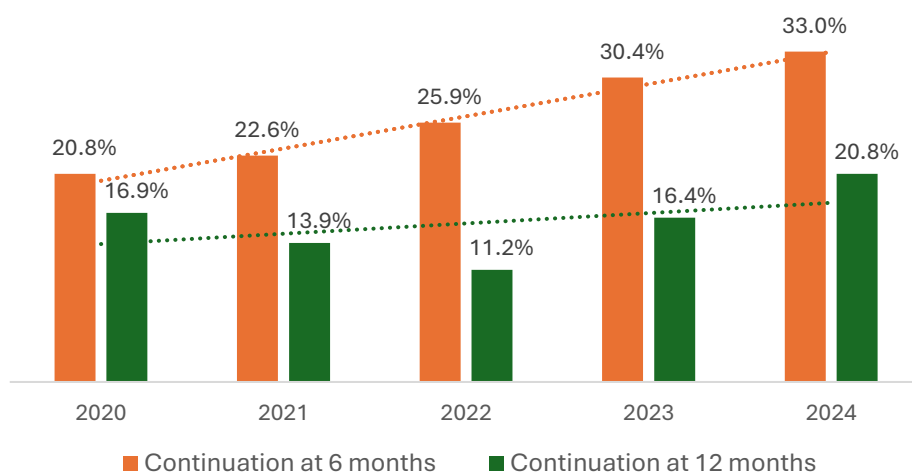
**Farmers Market Nutrition
Program**

**688 WIC Families received
\$20 benefit**

Breast feeding initiation rates have remained steady, however continued feeding has steadily increased during the same timeframe.

The nutrients contained in breastmilk are essential in the child's first twelve months for optimal mental and motor development, growth and immunity (WHO, 2017).

Chart I: Breastfeeding Program in Taney County



Breastfeeding Awareness Walk

21 participants, 11 of which were prenatal, joined the annual breastfeeding one-mile steps for success walk in September to celebrate World Breastfeeding Week and learn breastfeeding facts. All WIC prenatal and breastfeeding clients were invited to join, and area organizations share offerings for the parents in the Taney County community.

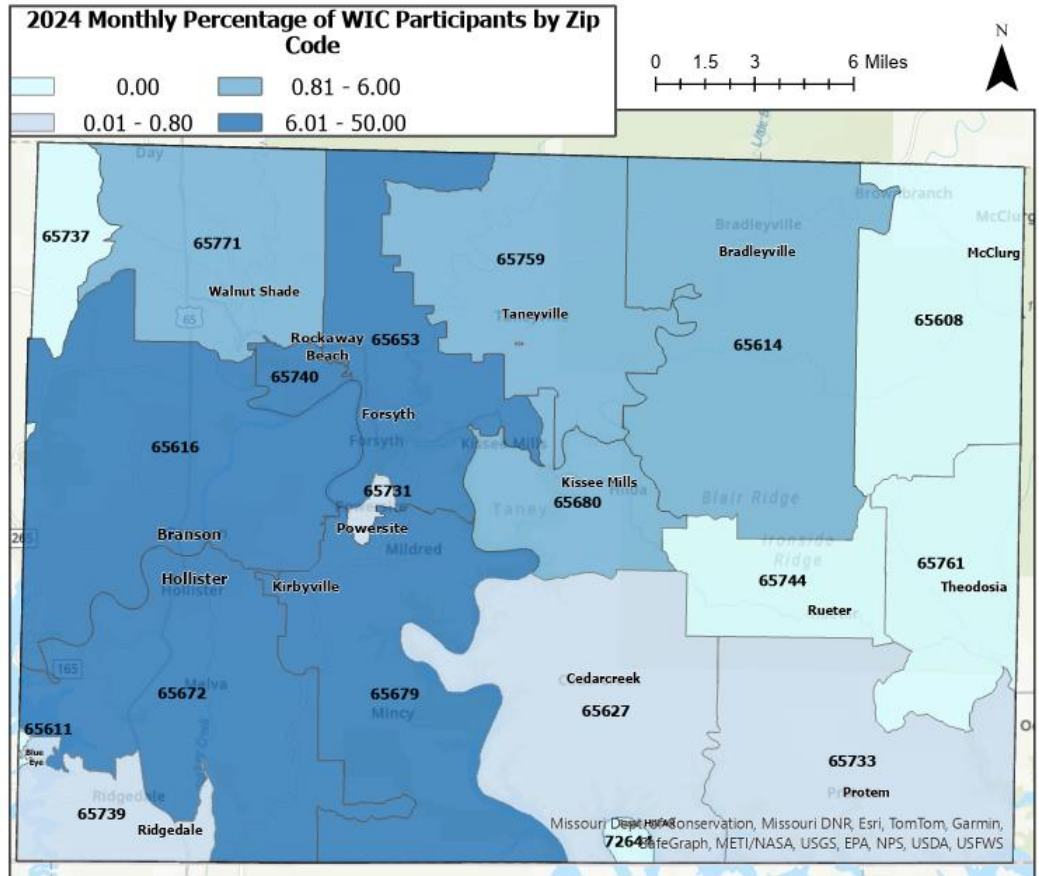
2024 Public Health Accreditation Board Annual Report Feedback:

"The Taney County Health Department's WIC Program is commendably addressing child obesity and promoting maternal health through its comprehensive nutrition and breastfeeding initiatives. By integrating education on healthy eating behaviors with support systems like the Farmers Market Nutrition Program and Breastfeeding Peer Counseling, the program not only supports low-income families in accessing nutritious foods but also actively promotes breastfeeding as a preventive measure against childhood obesity, enhancing overall community health in Taney County."

Maternal Child Health

WIC Participants by Zip Code

Most WIC Services are utilized on the western side of the county including the more populated areas of Branson, Forsyth, and Hollister.

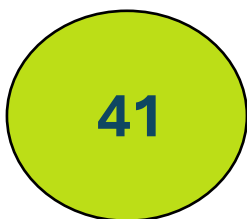


Chronic Disease Prevention

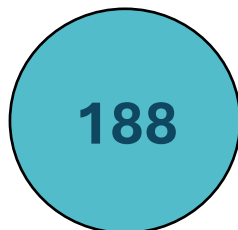
The Taney County Health Department provides various services including breast and cervical cancer screenings through the Show Me Healthy Women Program at no charge for eligible women in Missouri. The Wise Woman Program focuses on heart disease and stroke prevention health screenings for eligible women along with risk counseling to encourage lifestyle changes. Other family planning patient services include sexually transmitted infection (STI) screenings and birth control services, pregnancy testing and diagnostic referrals. Visits for these services are listed below.

Maternal, Child & Family Planning Health Programs: Visits

Mammograms



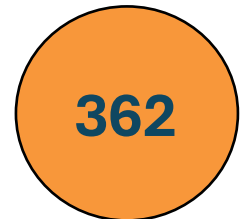
Wise Woman/
Show Me Healthy Women



Women's Clinic



Other



Chronic Disease Prevention

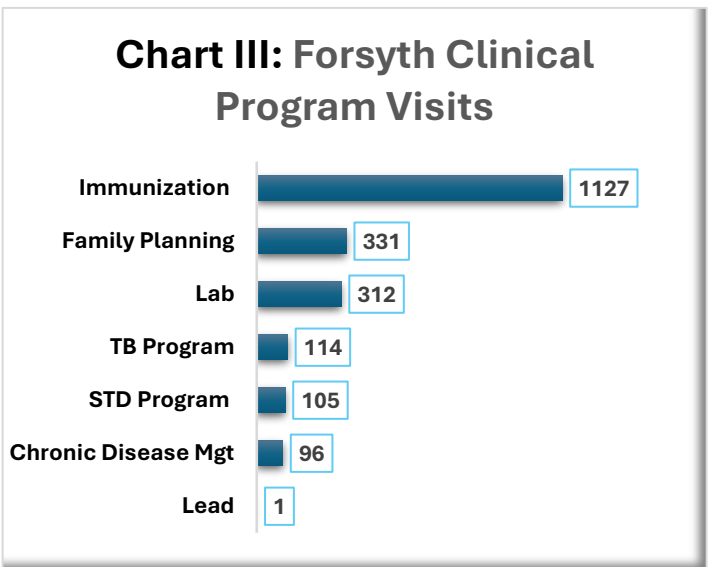
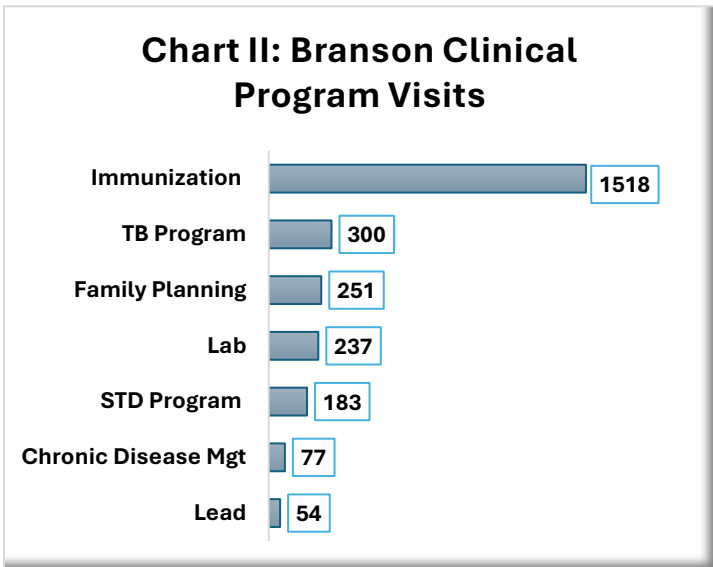


Healthy Aging Grant

In Spring 2024, TCHD began offering mobile heart health, diabetes screenings, and education to adults over 50. This program was funded through the Next50 Foundation and includes free lab testing for those who qualify, educational resources, and glucometer and blood pressure cuffs as supplies last.

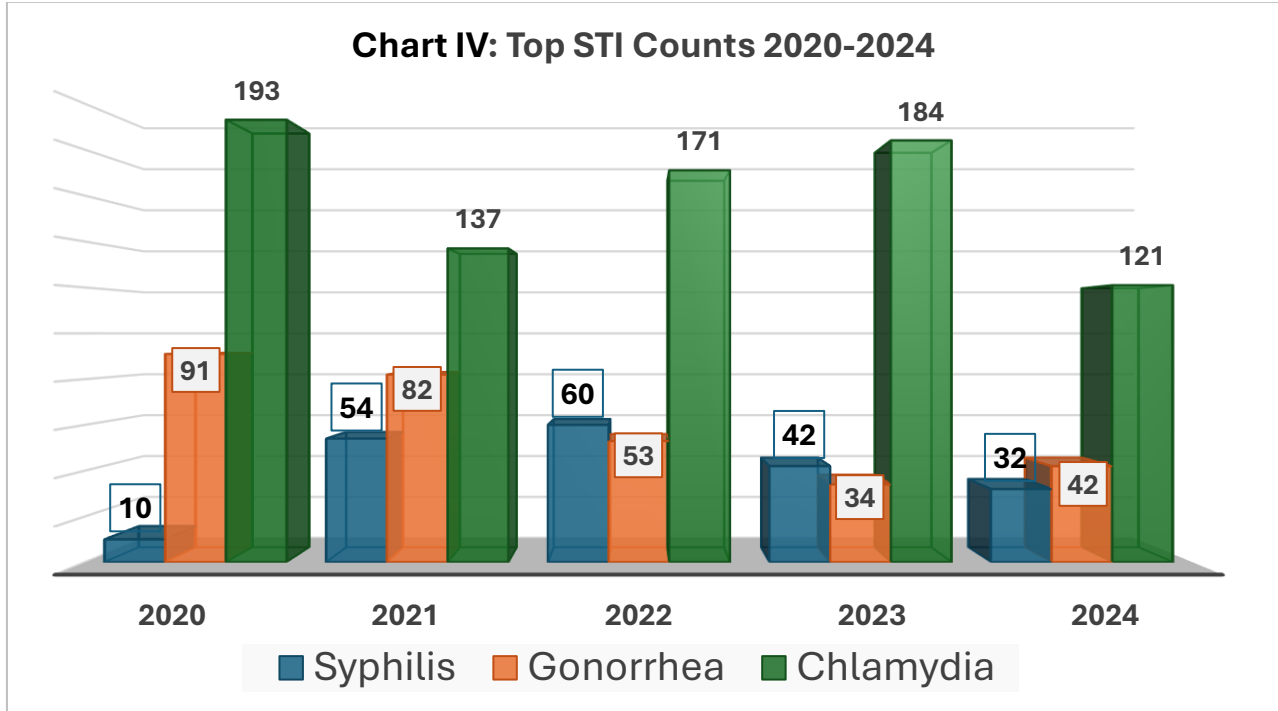
Chronic Disease Prevention/Communicable Disease Control

Clinical services include immunizations, sexually transmitted infection (STI) testing and treatment, doctor ordered labs, lead testing, and chronic disease management. All clinical program appointments are listed below for TCHD locations.

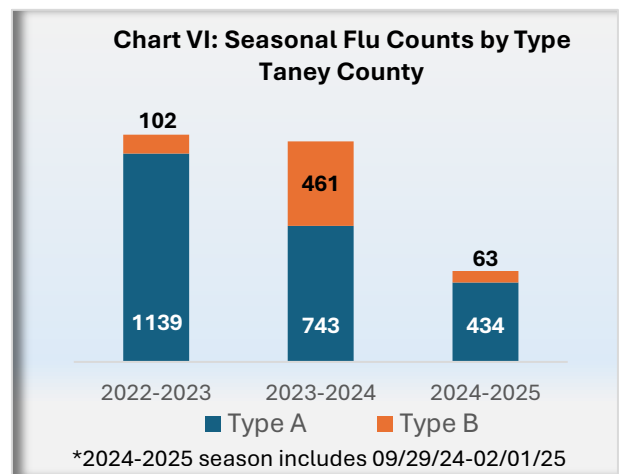
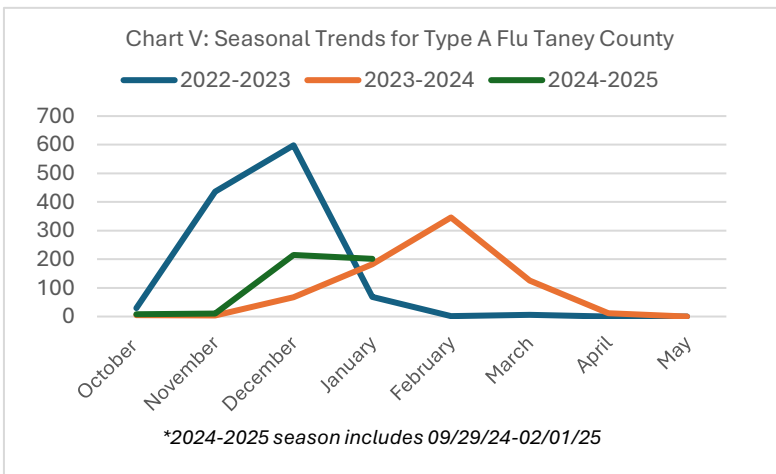


Communicable Disease Control

Clinical services include, but are not limited, to immunizations, sexually transmitted infection (STI) testing and treatment, and case management of reportable communicable diseases. Please see the annual data below for STI reports, seasonal influenza totals, and total immunizations administered at Taney County Health Department.

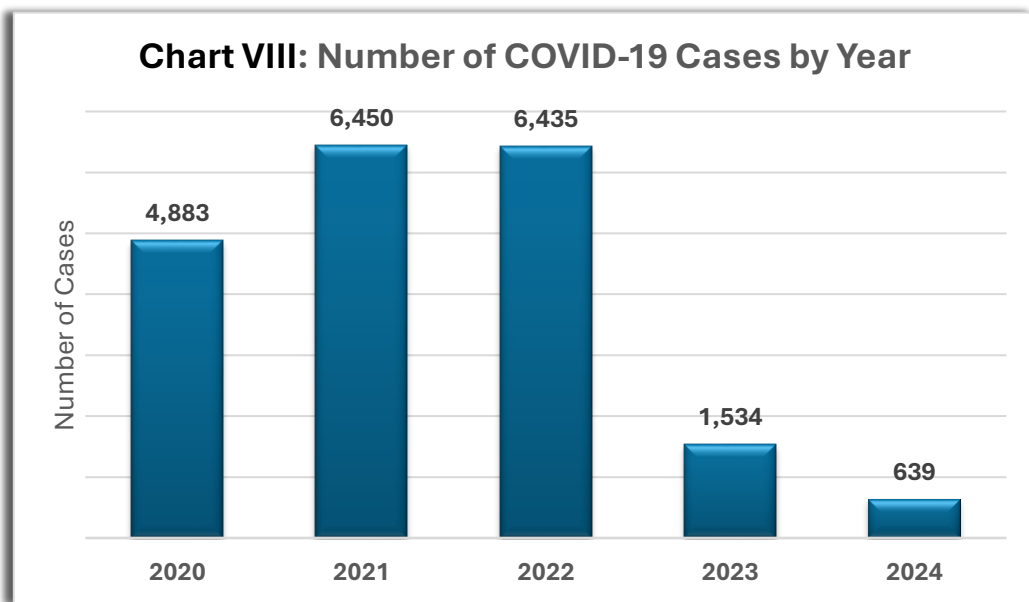
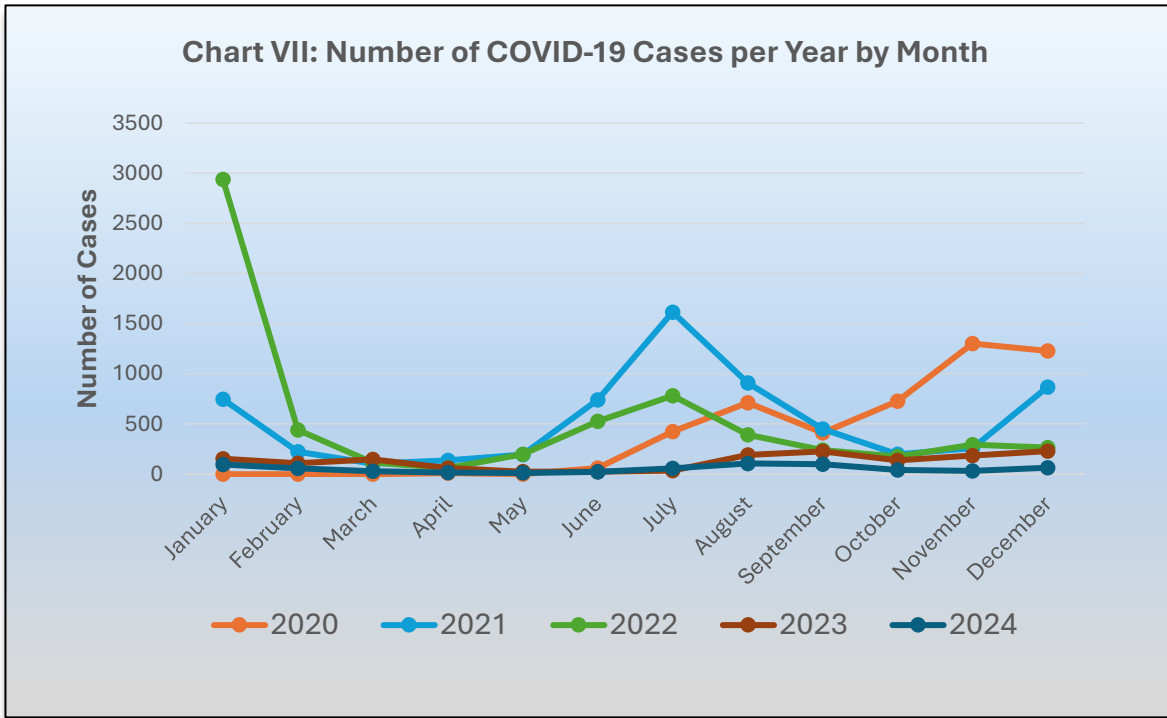


The Taney County Health Department continues surveillance to identify differences in seasonal Influenza trends. The data below show seasonal trends in Type A Influenza, as well as total cases annually by Type A and B. The Influenza season occurs October-May each year.



Communicable Disease Control

This year TCHD observed a reduced number of COVID-19 reports compared to last year. Data in Chart VII shows the total number of cases over time from 2020-2024, and the total number of cases by month throughout the year is reflected in Chart VIII.

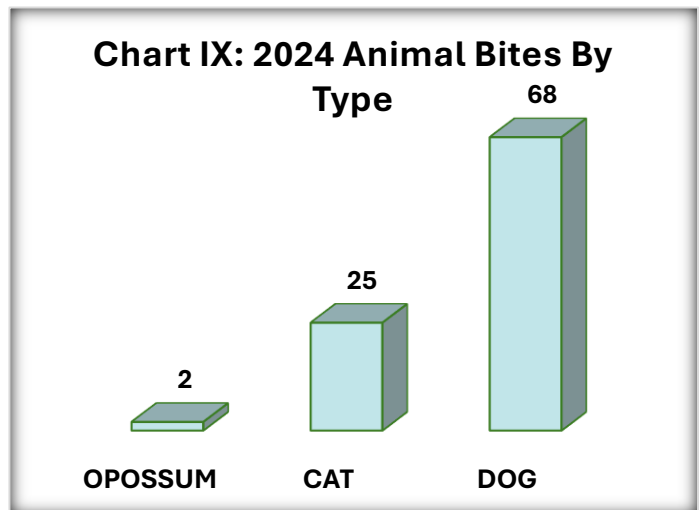


Communicable Disease Control

TCHD participates in the no cost Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program and the Section 317 immunization program through CDC. The Section 317 program may provide vaccines to adults who are uninsured or whose insurance doesn't cover vaccines. This program may also be used in response to an outbreak. Total annual immunizations by program are noted in Table 1.

317 Program	4
Not VFC eligible	644
Vaccine for Children (VFC) Program	
CHIP	170
VFC eligible- American Indian/Alaskan Native	4
VFC eligible- Uninsured	2,898
VFC eligible- Medicaid/Medicaid Managed Care	1,772
Total	5,492

Taney County Health Department works with local authorities such as the Taney County Sheriff's Department and health care providers to respond to animal bites in the community. The TCHD team strives to prevent rabies infections. Bite wounds have a high risk of infection. Chart IX provides the total animal bite reports received throughout the year.



Adult Immunization Grant

The COVID-19 and Adult Vaccination Supplemental contract supports local efforts to plan, develop and maintain a public health

workforce to increase COVID-19 and adult vaccination rates across the county. TCHD has extended clinic hours to allow for flexibility in scheduling appointments. TCHD has also increased community messaging through social media outlets, radio public service announcements, press releases, and billboard communications.

Communicable Disease Control

Table 2 provides a summary of the communicable disease cases reported from 2019-2024. TCHD monitors tick borne conditions such as Ehrlichia Chaffeensis and Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever which are transmitted from the Lone-Star tick and the American Dog tick respectively. Areas of interest also include Salmonellosis, which is a bacterial infection that causes diarrhea, fever, and stomach pain. Tuberculosis (TB) is an illness that affects the lungs. Active TB disease refers to bacteria actively growing in the body that can be spread to another person. Latent TB infection cannot be spread to others. Long-term antibiotic treatment is available for TB. Staff respond to communicable disease investigations to identify community risks and threats.

Table 2: Communicable Disease Cases 2019-2024

Communicable Disease Condition	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Anaplasma	0	<5	<5	<5	0	0
Campylobacteriosis	16	<5	<5	<5	13	10
Coccidioidomycosis	0	0	0	0	<5	<5
Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD)	<5	0	0	0	0	0
Cryptosporidiosis	<5	0	<5	<5	<5	0
E coli Shiga Toxin Positive	<5	<5	<5	<5	0	<5
E. Coli O157 H7	<5	<5	0	<5	<5	0
Ehrlichia Chaffeensis	14	15	<10	<10	17	10
Giardiasis	<5	0	<5	<5	<5	0
Haemophilus Influenzae, Invasive	<10	<5	<5	<5	<5	5
Hepatitis A Acute	0	<10	<5	0	0	0
Hepatitis B Acute	<5	<5	<5	<5	0	<5
Legionellosis	<10	<5	0	<5	<5	<5
Lyme	0	0	<5	0	0	0
Mycobacteria other than TB (MOTT)	<5	<10	<5	<10	<10	<10
Pertussis	<10	0	0	0	<5	<5
Q Fever	0	<5	<5	<5	0	<5
Rabies Prophylaxis	<5	<10	13	12	25	14
Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever	<10	17	21	20	14	<10
Salmonellosis	15	<10	<10	<5	12	<10
Shigellosis	<5	<5	0	<5	0	<5
Strep Disease, Group A Invasive	0	0	0	0	0	<5
Strep Pneumoniae Invasive	<10	6	<5	<10	<10	<10
TB Disease	<5	0	0	0	<10	<5
TB Latent Infection	12	<10	<10	25	55	16
Toxic Shock (STREP) Syndrome	<5	0	0	<5	<5	0
Tularemia	<10	<5	<5	0	<5	<5
Varicella	<5	0	0	<5	0	<5
Vibriosis	0	0	0	0	0	<5
Yersiniosis	0	0	0	0	0	<5

Source: Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services Disease counts for selected range Jurisdiction for 1/1/2019 thru 12/31/2024 for Taney

Linkage to Behavioral Health, Medical and Community

Resources

Community Outreach Events and Services

The Community Outreach team attends events throughout the year to promote the Department’s mission in supporting a healthy and safe community for people to live, work and play. Efforts include continuing education and delivering in-depth training across academic institutions and partner organizations.



2024 Events and Services	
Battle of the Badges Safety Fair	Kirbyville Family Library Night
Senior Resource Fair	Back to School Bash- First Baptist Church - Rec Plex
YMCA Healthy Kids Day	Serenity 5k Mental Health Awareness-Ozarks Serenity Club
Tiger Academy Adult Education-Hollister	Hollister Night of the Tiger-Hollister School Football Field
Illicit Fentanyl Training-MOCIC with Brian Townsend	Penleigh Family Fun Nights-Charis Group
Veterans Military Coalition of the Ozarks-QPR Suicide Prevention Training	Brook Wellness Center Heart for Recovery Banquet
Taneyville Independence Day Celebration Sullenger Park	Recovery Jamboree-Sanctuary of Hope
Family Fun Day-Brook Wellness Center-Forsyth-Shoals Bend Park	Ozarks Technical College Picnic
Community Health Workers Network Meeting	Breastfeeding Walk Steps for Success-Branson Rec Plex
Pinwheels for Prevention-Branson Rec Plex	Veterans Appreciation Day-Branson Events Center
Cinco de Mayo-Celebration of Hispanic Culture-Branson Chamber and Hispanic Workforce Coalition	Harvest Moon Festival -Shoals Bend Park Forsyth
	Hollister Grape and Fall Festival
Boys and Girls Club Parent Education Nights	Fall Festival Sanctuary of Hope
Cedar Ridge Career Fair Day -Careers on Wheels	Trunk or Treat on Downing Street- Hollister
Visa Exchange Visitor Work Program (J1) Presentations (6)-Branson Bridge USA- Branson Chamber of Commerce	Santa Train-Santa in the Park-Chad Fuqua Park Hollister
Brook Wellness Family Fun Day-Shoals Bend Park Forsyth	Restoration Connection- Trunk or Treat
Forsyth Spring Fling-Forsyth Chamber of Commerce	We Serve Agency Fair -Lions Club

Linkage to Behavioral Health, Medical and Community

Resources

Community Health Assessment/Community Health Improvement Plan

Three community health improvement priority areas resulted from the 2022 Community Health Assessment. The goals in the plan aim to provide support for affordable housing initiatives, offer community education to priority populations, expand substance use data sharing among partners, continue distribution of Narcan, and engage with partners on mental health awareness.

Regional Community Health Needs Assessment

Every three years since 2016, organizations comprising the Ozarks Health Commission collectively publish a Regional Health Assessment. The Taney County Health Department participated in this assessment throughout the year to further understand health status and behaviors and key findings in the county. The assessment finalization and recommendations will be finalized in the Spring of 2025.

Maternal Child Health Grant



Penteigh Family Fun Night

This state funded contract aims to empower change by increasing opportunities and education to support the positive outcomes

for youth and families. The goal is to reduce the suicide death rate among youth 10-19 years old. To achieve this goal, the Taney County Health Department trains the community in suicide awareness through **Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR) Training**.

Taney County Health Department staff trained 269 students as QPR Gatekeepers (grades 7-12) in the Forsyth and Bradleyville schools. TCHD trained 136 adults as QPR Gatekeepers across multiple organizations including Christian Action Ministries, City of Branson Staff, Taney County Sheriff’s Department, and College of the Ozarks.

Since offering this service in 2022, a milestone was reached in 2024.

Over 1,000 people in Taney County have completed the QPR gatekeeper training.

Injury Prevention

The Taney County Health Department plays a critical role in injury prevention by promoting the distribution of Narcan to reverse opioid overdoses, which helps reduce preventable deaths and supports community safety.

Other injury prevention initiatives focus on educating families and caregivers on the proper use of car seats, ensuring children are safely transported and minimizing the risk of injury during car accidents.

Car seat safety education was provided to 25 families, and 38 seats were supplied to families. The Taney County Health Department has certified child passenger safety technicians to assist the community to transport children safely.



By making Narcan accessible, and spreading awareness about car seat safety, public health professionals can significantly decrease injury related fatalities. These efforts align with broader goals to improve public safety, reduce healthcare costs, and promote healthier communities.



Narcan Distribution began in Spring 2022 to promote the availability of Narcan and help reduce deaths due to opioid overdose. Since May 2022, approximately 908 doses have been distributed.

Environmental Public Health

Facility inspections are completed for multiple programs, some of which are highlighted below. TCHD’s Environmental Health Inspection Team oversees robust lodging, pool, and food programs. The data tables below show various inspection types for these programs. The charts represent routine inspections across Branson, Hollister, and Taney County.

Table 3	City of Branson			
Inspection Type	Lodging	Pools	Food	Total
Routine	112	319	276	737
Revisit	108	189	195	492
Pre-Opening	4	22	57	83
Revisit-Pre-Opening	5	22	33	60
Complaint	15	3	62	80
Revisit- Complaint	4	2	4	10
Consultation	1	16	21	38
Fire/Flood/ Emergency Incident	1	0	7	8
Total	250	573	655	1478

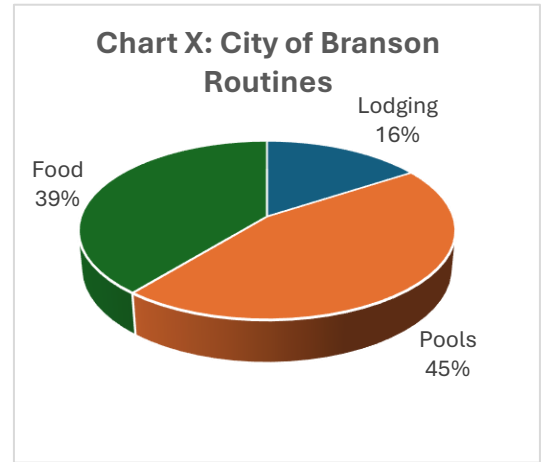


Table 4	City of Hollister			
Inspection Type	Lodging	Pools	Food	Total
Routine	4	5	20	29
Revisit	7	0	4	11
Pre-Opening	1	1	9	11
Revisit-Pre-Opening	3	1	3	7
Complaint	2	0	1	3
Revisit- Complaint	3	7	0	10
Consultation	0	0	2	2
Fire/Flood/ Emergency Incident	0	0	2	2
Total	21	14	41	76

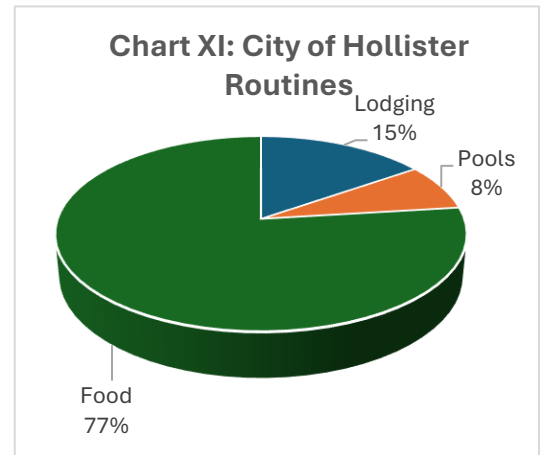
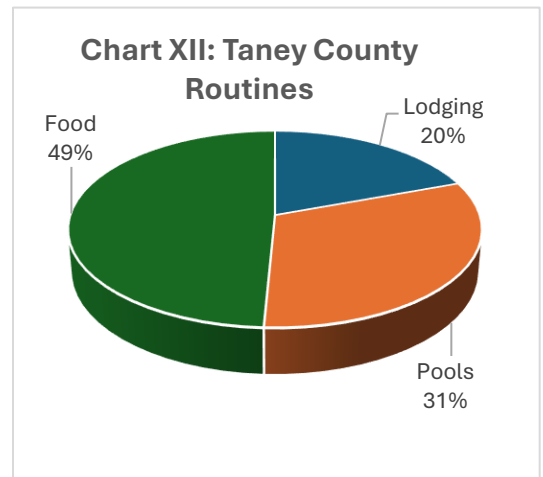


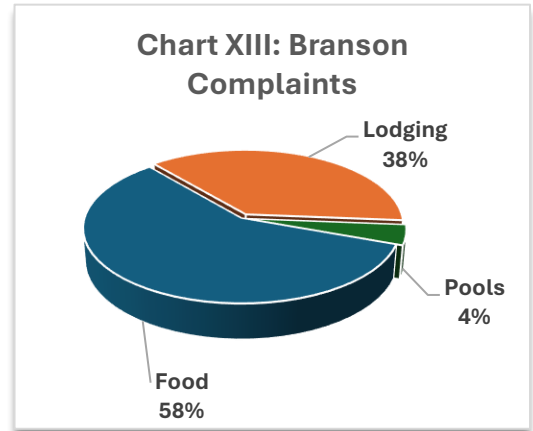
Table 5	Taney County			
Inspection Type	Lodging	Pools	Food	Total
Routine	26	43	66	135
Revisit	19	9	19	47
Pre-Opening	5	6	37	48
Revisit-Pre-Opening	4	12	15	31
Complaint	0	0	9	9
Revisit- Complaint	0	0	2	2
Consultation	2	0	4	6
Fire/Flood/ Emergency Incident	0	0	24	24
Total	56	70	176	302



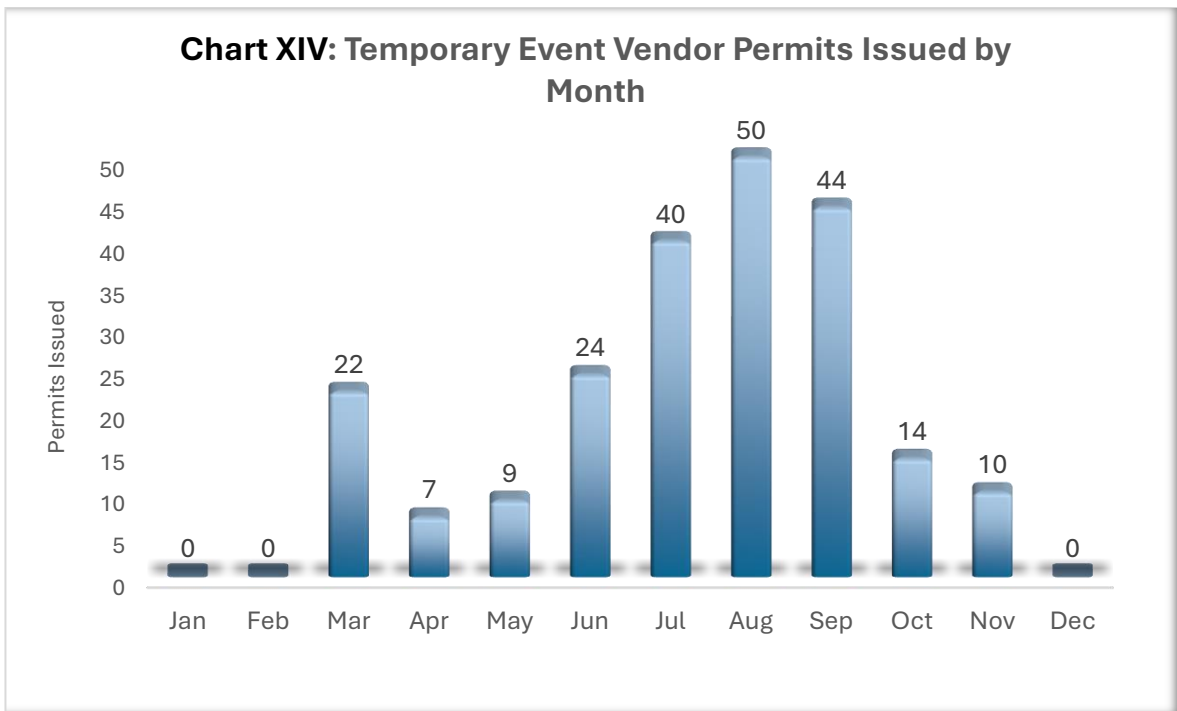
Environmental Public Health

The Environmental Health team investigates complaints to make sure facilities are operating according to applicable codes and regulations. Education and additional training with facilities help reduce safety and sanitation risks in the community.

	Branson	Hollister	County	Total
Food Establishment	95	13	20	128
Lodging Establishment	61	4	0	65
Pool Establishment	7	0	0	7
Total	163	17	20	200



There are several Temporary Events held in Taney County each year. Any vendor offering food at these events must obtain a Temporary Event Permit to operate. The Environmental Health Team inspects all permitted food vendors present at the events. The total annual temporary event permits are shown below in Chart XIV.



Environmental Public Health

Water Sampling

The Taney County Health Department is certified to test drinking water sources. Water samples are tested for Escherichia coli (E. coli) and coliforms which are bacteria that can make people ill if consumed. Table 7 shows the number of drinking water samples tested and their results in 2024.

Table 7: 2024 Public Drinking Water Lab Sample Counts					
Type	Private	Public Community	Public Non-Community	Water Source Not Identified	Total
No E. coli or coliforms present	306	65	42	27	440
Coliform present; no E. coli present	75	10	14	4	103
Coliforms and E. coli present	29	2	1	1	33
Total	410	77	57	32	576

Water Sample Types Defined

Private: A well that is not part of a public system and exists on private property serving a household.

Public Community: A public water system that supplies water to at least 15 service connections or 25 people year-round.

Public Non-Community: A public water system that provides water to a service connection where people do not remain for long periods of time and no more than six months out of the year.

The stream sampling program, which began in 2015, monitors the amount of E. coli present in the stream at the site collected. E. coli bacteria is used as an indicator of how safe each site is for recreational use. Stream samples are collected and tested weekly from Memorial Day through Labor Day at the sites listed in Table 8.

Table 8: 2024 Stream Sampling Collection	
Turkey Creek	Hulland Park, Hollister, MO 65672
Table Rock Lake	5272 Historic Hwy 165, Branson, MO 65616
Roark Creek	625 Stockstill Ln, Branson, MO 65616
Swan Creek	Shadow Rock Park, Forsyth, MO 65653
Bull Shoals	1220 State Hwy O, Kisse Mills, MO 65680
Swan Creek	Swan Creek Bridge, Taneyville, MO 65759



Workforce Development and Preparedness

Taney County Health Department supports ongoing professional development for its employees.

Employee of the Quarter

These employees are recognized for their dedication in furthering the mission, vision, and values of the health department.

<i>Qtr 1: Cailin Dawley</i>	<i>Qtr 3: Nicholas Walker</i>
<i>Qtr 2: Cassandra Henne</i>	<i>Qtr 4: Jacob Williams</i>

Employee Trainings

Patagonia Electronic Health Record Training	Child Passenger Safety Advisory Committee Training	Laboratory Service Workshop	MO School Health Coalition Conference
MO Immunization Conference	STI/HIV Program Director Training	Suicide Prevention Conference	Tuberculosis Contact Investigation Training
ID & Preventing Human Trafficking Conference	Communicable Disease Interviewing Skills Training	2024 Billing Workshop	Principles of Epidemiology
QPR-Suicide Prevention Training	The Illicit Fentanyl Crisis and Drug Poisoning Training	NACCHO Preparedness Summit	Council State Territorial Epidemiologist Data Collection Interview
FD215: Managing Retail Food Safety	FD112: Food Code	FD207: Plan Review	Advanced Inspector Boot Camp
Summer Food Program Training	FEMA Leveraging Tools for Disaster Coordination	Winter Weather Hazards; Science and Prep	MO Environmental Health Association Conference
Hazardous Waste Operators Response Training	ServeSafe Manager	Four Corners	Fall Preparedness Summit
Emergency Mgt Training	Continuity of Govt Operations Planning	MO Emergency Management Conference	Childcare Training
Certified Pool Operation Training	Incident Command System 400	Incident Command System 300	Incident Command System 220
Incident Command System 100	Incident Command System 200	Incident Command System 700	Incident Command System 800
Lactation Consultant Bridge Course	WIC Conference	Breastfeeding Peer Counselor Training Conference	Nourishing the Future
MO Society for HR Mgt. Conference	Branson Tri-Lakes HR Association Chapter Trainings	Employee Law Training	Springfield HR Conference
STC Squared	American Academy Professional Coders Billing Training	National Network Public Health Institute Public Health Improvement Training Conference	

Workforce Development and Preparedness

Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) Grant

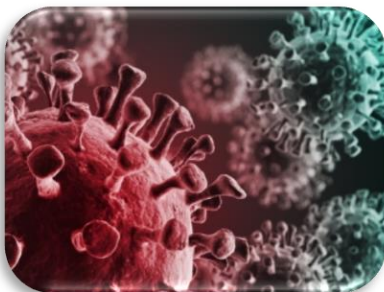
The purpose of the PHEP grant is to demonstrate measurable and sustainable progress toward achieving public health and healthcare preparedness capabilities. The Taney County Health Department has selected these areas to enhance efforts throughout 2024-2025.

Community Preparedness and Emergency Operations Coordination

TCHD continues to strengthen partnerships through the healthcare coalition preparedness meetings and ensure that the Local Public Health Agencies (LPHA) roles are represented and structured within the Local Emergency Operations Plan (LEOP).



Public Health Surveillance and Epidemiological Investigation



TCHD maintains ongoing public health surveillance through the statewide system, WebSurv, which provides communities with disease trend data to ensure a timely threat response. Preparations are underway across divisions for the implementation of the Show Me World Care system, the replacement for WebSurv.

LOCATIONS



Branson
320 Rinehart Road.
Branson, MO 65616
417-334-4544



Forsyth
15479 State Highway 160
Forsyth, MO 65653
417-546-4725

Follow us on Social Media



Taney County Health Department

SERVICE AREA

The health department is responsible for all of Taney County.

Taney County Health Department serves a

population of nearly 57,000 residents, nearly 10.2 million visitors per year, and provides a variety of services throughout the county.



Eligibility criteria for acceptance and participation in the programs of this agency are administered on a nondiscriminatory basis regardless of race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, genetic information, or disability.

