



# ANNUAL REPORT

## FISCAL YEAR 2025

INSIDE:

Key activities, achievements,  
challenges, and impact on  
community health.

A black and white photograph of a family. A father is holding a young child in his arms. A mother is smiling and looking towards the camera. A daughter is sitting on the father's shoulders, holding a teddy bear. They are outdoors in a natural setting with a blurred background.

# HEALTHY PEOPLE

## Healthy Communities



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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## WHAT WE DO

Our mission is to protect health, prevent disease, and empower every person in Mohave County to live a healthier life.

## FISCAL YEAR 2025 HIGHLIGHTS

- 43,873 Mohave County residents were served through immunizations, WIC nutrition support, and health screenings.
- Delivered prevention education through innovative and accessible formats to promote healthy lifestyles across the community.
- Expanded mental health and substance use prevention efforts, including suicide prevention training for schools, first responders, and community partners.
- Strengthened emergency preparedness through stakeholder trainings, extreme heat safety education, cooling center coordination, and school preparedness planning support.

## WORKING TOGETHER

In collaboration with hospitals, clinics, tribal nations, schools, libraries, nonprofits, faith communities, shelters, food banks, as well as numerous local partners, Mohave County Department of Public Health (MCDPH) delivered prevention medications, mobile services, and culturally responsive health education to Mohave County residents. We strengthened health literacy countywide and conducted community surveys to ensure that residents from every region and every background had a voice in shaping the county's public health priorities.

## STEWARSHIP YOU CAN TRUST

Effective management of grant and program funding supports MCDPH's ability to deliver services that contribute to measurable community outcomes. Together, we are strengthening the foundation for a healthier Mohave County.



**Prevention, collaboration, and innovation remain the foundation of a stronger, healthier future. This year brought significant challenges, including reduced funding and limited resources across several programs. Yet our commitment has never wavered. Our team continued to show up for our residents every day, adapting, problem-solving, and finding new ways to serve. Working alongside community leaders, healthcare partners, and local organizations, we're strengthening the systems that helped our neighbors live longer, healthier lives and ensuring these efforts are sustainable, well into the future.**

—Melissa Palmer, Health Director



# COUNTY DEMOGRAPHICS & HEALTH SNAPSHOT

## COUNTY POPULATION

**Population:** 226,479 residents (2024 estimate)

**Age:** Median age 53.2 years; seniors (65+) make up 32% of the population.

**Diversity:** Majority Caucasian (75%), Hispanic/Latino (11-12%), Native American, Black, Asian, and Pacific Islander populations (13%).

**Growth:** Increased 4%

## SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH

**Income:** Median household income \$55,799, lower than Arizona's \$81,000+.

**Poverty:** 16.8% overall poverty level.

**Education:** 88.2% of residents had a high school diploma, or higher with 18.6% holding a bachelor's degree or higher.

**Insurance Coverage:** 85.6% insured.

**Access to Care:** Primary care provider ratio = 1:1,877; mental health provider ratio = 1:1,284.

**Life Expectancy:** 73.8 years, nearly three years shorter than the Arizona average.

## MAJOR HEALTH CONCERN

**Chronic Disease:** Cancer, heart disease, chronic lower respiratory disease, and Alzheimer's disease continue to contribute significantly to morbidity and mortality in the county.

**Mental Health:** Suicide and mental health remain significant issues locally. Community health assessments have consistently identified mental health and suicide prevention as priorities.

**Substance Use:** Substance use, particularly opioid-related morbidity and overdose deaths continue to be a major community health focus.

## KEY TAKEAWAY

Mohave County's health landscape reflects a combination of persistent chronic disease challenges, evolving infectious disease risks, and underlying social and economic factors that shape health outcomes across the community. Public health activities emphasize practical prevention strategies, emergency preparedness, and services that help strengthen health and safety throughout the county.

### Sources:

- U.S. Census Bureau ([census.gov](https://census.gov))
- Census Reporter ([censusreporter.org](https://censusreporter.org))
- DataUSA ([datausa.io](https://datausa.io))
- USAFacts ([usafacts.org](https://usafacts.org))
- Arizona Department of Health Services ([AZDHS.gov](https://azdhs.gov))
- Arizona Office of Economic Opportunity ([oeo.az.gov](https://oeo.az.gov))
- Data Commons ([datacommons.org](https://datacommons.org))
- County Health Rankings & Roadmaps ([countyhealthrankings.org](https://countyhealthrankings.org))
- CHNA ([mohave.gov](https://mohave.gov))
- CHIP ([mohave.gov](https://mohave.gov))
- Center for Disease Control ([cdc.gov](https://cdc.gov))

# STRATEGIC GOALS & PRIORITIES

MCDPH strengthened its impact by deepening community engagement and partnerships and advancing its commitment to high-quality public health services. Despite significant staffing and funding challenges, MCDPH continued to protect, promote, and improve the health of all residents while earning reaccreditation from the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB).

## STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY HEALTH THROUGH COLLABORATION

During FY25, MCDPH facilitated multiple Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) groups as well as focus groups across the county, ensuring that diverse voices shaped departmental priorities. Beyond department-hosted sessions, MCDPH expanded its involvement with community-led coalitions, school groups, healthcare partners, and grassroots organizations. This shift toward a more collaborative public health model supported wider community connections, improved coordination, and created shared ownership in addressing community health needs.

## IMPROVING COMMUNITY HEALTH OUTCOMES

Through prevention, education, and early intervention, MCDPH continued to focus on reducing the burden of the county's leading causes of death: heart disease, cancer, chronic lower respiratory disease, and Alzheimer's disease. The department's approach emphasized evidence-based strategies designed to support healthier lifestyles and improve long-term outcomes for residents of all ages.

## SUPPORTING MATERNAL & CHILD HEALTH

MCDPH remained committed to supporting families through every stage of pregnancy, birth, and early childhood development. Programs such as prenatal education, breastfeeding support, nutrition assistance, and immunizations helped Mohave County families lay a strong foundation for lifelong health. These services remained essential in a county where access to care and resources varied widely across communities.

## PROMOTING PREPAREDNESS AND PROTECTING PUBLIC HEALTH

The Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) team played a critical role in maintaining community readiness. During FY25, the team facilitated multiple tabletop exercises, bringing local facilities and partners together to clarify roles, strengthen communication, and enhance understanding of emergency responsibilities. These efforts reinforced community resilience and improved coordination during real-world events.

## ACHIEVING REACCREDITATION: A SIGNIFICANT MILESTONE

One of the most notable accomplishments during FY25 was successfully achieving PHAB reaccreditation. This milestone reflected the dedication of every program and team member and reaffirmed the department's commitment to excellence, accountability, and continuous improvement. Reaccreditation recognized that MCDPH met national standards for delivering high-quality public health services and positioned the department to better serve the community in the years ahead.



# SERVICES, PROGRAMS, & BUDGETS

## PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAMS

- Accreditation
- Arizona Health Zone
- Behavioral Health
- Breastfeeding Peer Counselor Program
- Child Fatality, Suicide, & Overdose Review Boards
- Family Planning
- Food Safety & Sanitation
- Health in Arizona Policy Initiative (HAPI)
- Health Start
- High-Risk Perinatal (HRPP)
- HIV Prevention
- Immunization Program
- Medical Examiner's Office
- Mobile Health Unit (MHU)
- Nuisance Prevention & Control
- Occupational Health
- Overdose Data to Action (OD2A)
- Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP)
- Senior Programs
- Smoke-Free Arizona
- Tobacco Prevention
- Tuberculosis Program
- Vital Records
- Women, Infant, & Children Supplemental Food Program

*Programs are listed in alphabetical on this page, however they are organized by department throughout the remainder of the report.*

## BUDGET JULY 1, 2024 - JUNE 30, 2025

### Revenues

Federal Grants	\$2,612,008
AHCCCS & Insurance Revenue	\$131,463
Fees from Services	\$1,716,896
State Grants & Contracts	\$830,614
County General Funds	\$1,685,953
Miscellaneous Transfers In	\$85,212
Miscellaneous & Donations	\$516,081
Rent	\$3,586
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$7,581,813</b>

### Expenditures

Personnel Services	\$5,540,549
Operating Supplies	\$472,415
Other Charges/Services	\$1,568,849
Capital Outlay	-
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$7,581,813</b>

*NOTE: These figures do not include medical examiner or opioid settlement dollars.*



# NURSING



# CHILDHOOD IMMUNIZATIONS

The Childhood Immunizations Program helped protect the health of Mohave County's youngest residents. By offering CDC-recommended vaccines for children and teens, the program prevented the spread of serious, vaccine-preventable diseases. Services were provided through public health clinics, school-based events, and outreach in underserved areas, helping families facing transportation barriers access care. The program also offered education and support so parents could make informed decisions about their child's health. Each vaccine administered not only protected the child who received it but also helped protect schools, families, and the broader community by reducing the spread of disease.



## PROGRAM ACHIEVEMENTS & MILESTONES

- Successfully administered more than 4,000 vaccines to more than 1,600 children during FY25.
- Responded to the ongoing measles outbreak in the Colorado City area beginning in August 2025.
- Achieved the Dr. Daniel T. Cloud Outstanding Practice Immunization Awards for 2024 and 2025.
- Navigated evolving federal vaccine recommendation changes, creating opportunities to shift guidance from the CDC to the AAP, ADHS, and other credible sources.
- Prepared for the release of 2025–2026 School IDR data in May 2026, which will show immunization and exemption trends in Mohave County and across Arizona.

## CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES

The nursing team maintained strong partnerships with schools, healthcare providers, and community organizations, creating meaningful opportunities to improve vaccination access and coverage. By expanding outreach, offering flexible clinic options, and sharing clear, reliable information, the program better supported families in keeping their children healthy. Ongoing collaboration and trusted local relationships remained key to building confidence, increasing access, and strengthening community protection.

The Mohave County Department of Public Health worked year-round to protect children from serious, preventable diseases. The Child Immunization Program focused on making vaccines easy to access, providing accurate information, and supporting families and schools across the county. Vaccines were available to all children, regardless of insurance status. Through the federally funded Vaccines for Children (VFC) program, eligible children received vaccines at no cost, including those who were uninsured, underinsured, enrolled in AHCCCS, or Native American. Vaccines were also provided to children with private insurance using standard insurance billing.

The program's goal was simple: to keep Mohave County children healthy, in school, and protected. By improving access, sharing clear information, and working closely with families and schools, the program helped build a healthier community for everyone.

[LEARN MORE AT HEALTH.MOHAVE.GOV](http://HEALTH.MOHAVE.GOV)

# ADULT IMMUNIZATIONS

Along with childhood vaccinations, the Nursing Division provided important vaccines for adults ages 19 and older. These vaccines protected against preventable diseases and helped keep the community healthy. Most insurance plans were accepted, and for adults without insurance, the Vaccine for Adults (VFA) program ensured that cost did not prevent anyone from getting vaccinated. MCDPH also worked with local employers, including healthcare and dental offices, to offer recommended vaccines directly to their staff. Vaccinations for college students were available as well, either through insurance or through the VFA program.

## PROGRAM ACHIEVEMENTS & MILESTONES

- Administered 238 vaccines to 170 adults through Mohave County Department of Public Health clinics and targeted outreach events.
- Expanded community vaccination opportunities by participating in health fairs, Mobile Health Unit visits, and collaborative public health initiatives.
- Provided education and counseling to address misconceptions about adult vaccines, emphasizing their role in preventing severe disease and complications.
- Served as a resource to Mohave County providers, hospitals, schools, and daycare centers by providing information and recommendations on adult vaccines.
- Provided recommended vaccines to parents, family members, and caregivers to decrease the risk of vaccine-preventable infections in fragile infants.

## CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES

- Low awareness of adult vaccine recommendations continued to limit coverage rates, particularly among older adults and those with chronic conditions.
- Misinformation and vaccine hesitancy remained significant barriers, often fueled by online sources and social media.
- Barriers to access continued, including cost, transportation, and scheduling which can prevent adults from receiving recommended vaccines.
- Opportunities existed to expand outreach through employer partnerships, provider education, and targeted campaigns focused on high-risk populations.

Many serious illnesses, such as influenza and shingles, could be prevented with safe and effective vaccines. When adults stayed up to date on recommended vaccinations, it protected their health, reduced the spread of disease, and helped keep the community stronger and more resilient. By offering affordable vaccines and providing education to help Mohave County residents make informed choices, the Adult Immunizations Program supported families and empowered them to live longer, healthier lives.



# FAMILY PLANNING

MCDPH's Family Planning Program provided comprehensive reproductive health education, counseling, and referral services to low-income, uninsured, and underinsured residents. Services included health education, counseling, and referrals to medical, social, and educational resources.

When individuals were able to plan and space pregnancies, outcomes improved for parents, babies, and families. Research showed that access to family planning:

- Increased the likelihood of early and continuous prenatal care.
- Reduced the risk of birth defects, infant mortality, and low birth weight.
- Supported healthier families and lowered the risk of child abuse and neglect.

On average, 200–300 new clients received services through MCDPH's Family Planning clinics each year, demonstrating ongoing community need.

## ACHIEVEMENTS & MILESTONES

- Continued coordination of the Mohave County Special Needs Advocacy Coalition through Title V Maternal and Child Health funding, brought together agencies and community members to promote inclusion and support for children with special needs.
- Maintained partnerships with local healthcare providers, hospitals, and the Arizona Department of Health Services to strengthen referral networks and community support.
- Sustained delivery of education, counseling, and referral services despite clinical staffing challenges.

## CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES

- Provider shortage: Clinical services were suspended during FY25 due to the lack of a healthcare provider.
- Opportunity: Active recruitment efforts were underway to restore in-clinic services and expand access.
- Access & awareness: Continued opportunities existed to increase outreach, education, and awareness of available reproductive health resources across Mohave County.

Access to reproductive healthcare was important for personal choice, healthy families, and a strong community. Family planning services helped people prevent unplanned pregnancies, reduce the spread of STIs, and support healthier pregnancies and babies. These services also gave individuals clear information and tools so they could make decisions that were right for them and their future.

## NURSING OFFICE LOCATIONS:

Kingman 928-753-0714

Lake Havasu City 928-453-0703

Bullhead City 928-758-0703

Colorado City 928-753-8675

# STI & HIV PREVENTION

The Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) and HIV Prevention programs worked to protect community health, reduce the spread of infection, and support residents through education, testing, treatment coordination, and linkage to care. These programs focused on early detection, rapid response, and removing barriers to services so individuals could access care confidentially and without stigma.

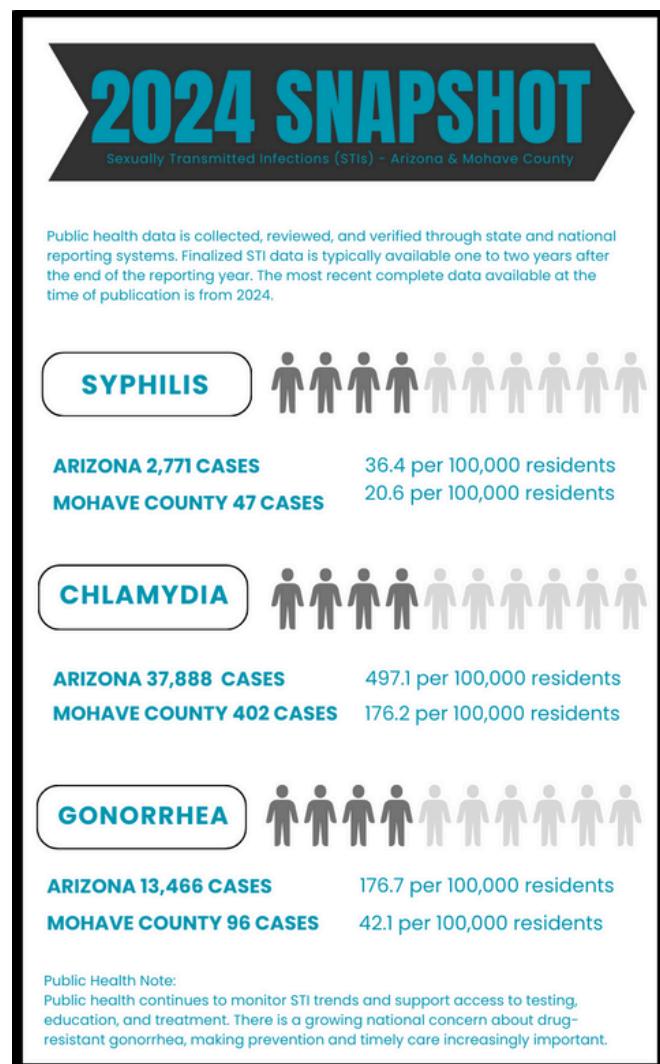
## ACHIEVEMENTS & MILESTONES

- Exceeded state performance standards for timely STI case investigations and closures.
- Maintained high completion rates for chlamydia, gonorrhea, and syphilis investigations.
- Established improved coordination with the Arizona State Prison Complex–Kingman to support timely case follow-up.
- Approved and began implementation of the Injectable Syphilis Treatment Delivery Program to better serve pregnant individuals and partners.
- Continued HIV linkage to care services for newly diagnosed and relocated clients.
- Strengthened partnerships with local healthcare providers, hospitals, mental health services, CAN Community Health, Cornerstone Mission, North Country Health Care, and the Arizona Department of Health Services.

## CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES

- Rising STI rates: Continued increases in syphilis and other STIs highlighted the need for sustained prevention and education.
- Drug resistance: Growing national concern regarding treatment-resistant gonorrhea underscored the importance of surveillance and timely treatment.
- Service disruptions: Reproductive Health/STI clinics were suspended but were scheduled to resume, expanding access to care.
- Opportunity: Increased outreach, education, and community engagement created opportunities to reduce stigma and encourage early testing.

Through early detection, timely treatment, and community education, the STI Prevention & Control Program not only protected individuals but also strengthened the overall health of Mohave County.



LEARN MORE AT [HEALTH.MOHAVE.GOV](http://HEALTH.MOHAVE.GOV)

# HIGH RISK PERINATAL

The High-Risk Perinatal Program (HRPP) provided specialized, in-home nursing support for families with infants who required intensive care at birth. The program eased the transition from the NICU to home by offering up to three years of individualized guidance, education, and monitoring to support the growth and development of high-risk infants. Community Health Nurses worked closely with families to track developmental milestones, supported medical follow-up, taught caregiving skills, and connected parents with important resources and services.



## PROGRAM ACHIEVEMENTS & MILESTONES

- Received 66 referrals and completed 274 in-home visits by Mohave County Public Health Nurses, ensured continuity of care for medically fragile infants transitioning from the NICU to home.
- Served 78 infants and their families through HRPP in FY25, provided family-centered, developmentally appropriate, and culturally responsive nursing support.
- Was re-awarded HRPP grant funding in FY25, securing program sustainability and continued services for Mohave County families through FY28.
- Continued delivery of evidence-informed, in-home community health nursing services focused on infant development, caregiver education, family support, and connection to community resources.
- Provided ongoing support for caregivers' well-being reducing the risk of poor birth outcomes in subsequent pregnancies and promoted long-term family stability.

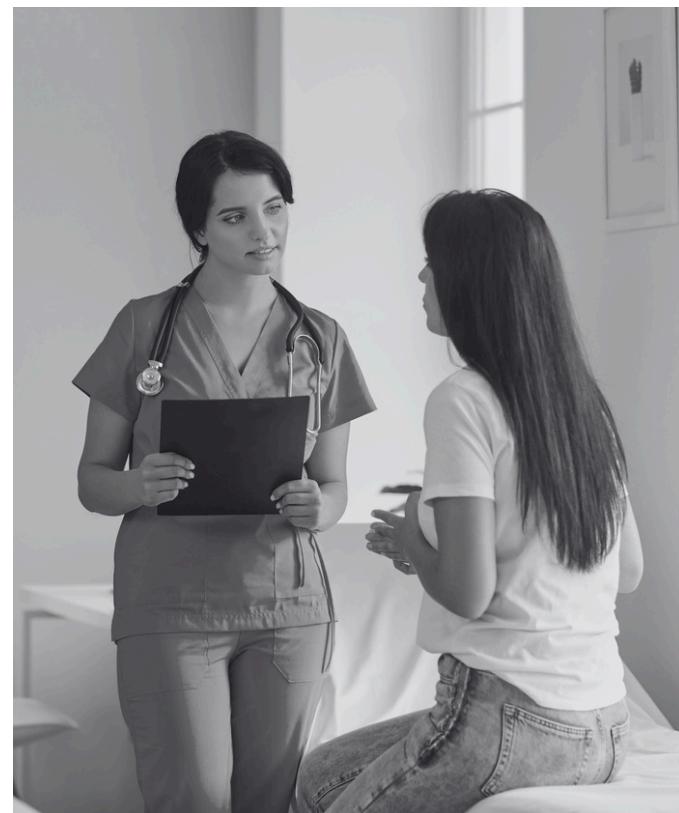
## CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES

- Geographic barriers and rural access challenges continued to impact timely referrals and service delivery, particularly in more remote areas of the county.
- Strengthening partnerships with hospitals and NICUs serving Colorado City presented an opportunity to expand outreach and ensured more families in that region received HRPP support.
- Ongoing workforce capacity and scheduling demands highlighted the importance of sustaining funding, staffing, and administrative support to meet growing community needs.
- Mohave County's infant mortality rate (six per 1,000 births) exceeded the Arizona state rate (five per 1,000 births), underscoring the continued need for targeted support services like HRPP to improve outcomes for medically fragile infants and their families.

Families with medically fragile infants often needed extra support during this time. Early support helped prevent avoidable health problems and gave families the knowledge and confidence they needed to build a strong, healthy future.

# OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH

The Occupational Health Program aimed to minimize Mohave County employees' exposure to human blood and other potentially infectious materials in compliance with the United States Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) standards. The program was designed to protect personnel by eliminating or minimizing exposure to bloodborne pathogens and by offering vaccines and tuberculosis (TB) skin testing to job classifications with reasonably anticipated exposure to blood or other potentially infectious materials. When an employee experienced a bloodborne pathogen exposure in the course of their job duties, the program referred them to a medical provider and coordinated blood draw testing and follow-up for up to 12 months.



## PROGRAM ACHIEVEMENTS & MILESTONES

- As of December 2025, 473 Mohave County employees in Safety Sensitive Positions had been offered vaccines and/or annual TB testing.
- Hepatitis B vaccine tracking: 442 employees received the vaccine, 30 signed a declination form, and one had a partial vaccine series.
- Hepatitis A vaccine tracking: 223 employees received the vaccine, 28 signed a declination form, and 17 had a partial vaccine series.
- Annual tuberculosis testing: 180 employees received annual testing, and 29 signed declination forms.
- In 2025, Mohave County employees completed eight Supervisor's Reports of Industrial Injury related to exposure incidents.
- Five employees sought or were seeking exposure exams and follow-up care.
- Three employees signed a Bloodborne Pathogens Medical Testing and Treatment Refusal Form.
- As of December 2025, Mohave County Occupational Health was seeking court-appointed restitution related to six exposure incidents that occurred during 2024 and 2025.
- A total of \$2,869.63 in restitution was collected to offset the cost of exposed employees' initial exams and follow-up care.

In alignment with the Mohave County Bloodborne Pathogens and Exposure Control Plan, employees in safety-sensitive roles received required vaccines and testing within 10 days of assignment, were provided medical evaluation and follow-up after exposure events, and were tracked through a centralized vaccination and exposure database developed in collaboration with Mohave County's Information Technology (IT) department.

# MOBILE HEALTH UNIT (MHU)

The Mohave County Department of Public Health Mobile Health Unit (MHU) is a vehicle-based clinic that delivered preventive healthcare directly to rural and remote communities, including Meadview, Dolan Springs, Yucca, Valle Vista, Chloride, Golden Shores, White Hills, Golden Valley, Wikieup, and Kingman.

The program removed barriers created by distance, transportation challenges, cost, lack of insurance, and limited internet access by bringing care directly to residents where they lived.

By reaching communities that were often underserved, the unit improved access to early detection, routine screenings, and health education, helping prevent small issues from becoming serious health problems.



## PROGRAM ACHIEVEMENTS & MILESTONES

- Provided 597 preventive services and screenings to uninsured and underinsured residents during FY 2024–2025.
- Expanded service locations to include Valle Vista, Golden Shores, and Cornerstone Homeless Shelter.
- Noted a significant increase in community participation compared to the previous fiscal year.
- Continued delivery of care despite transportation, geographic, and connectivity barriers.

## CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES

Many residents were not aware that public health services were preventive and focused on keeping people healthy rather than treating illness. This created an opportunity to better explain and demonstrate the value of early screenings and routine care. Internet access was limited in some rural areas, and social media posts were not always approved in community groups in time to reach residents which added to lack of awareness. Strengthening local partnerships, expanding community-based promotion, and exploring additional outreach methods helped improve awareness however the team is still working on a systematic solution.

Rural Arizonans were more likely to be uninsured, and many rural areas were designated Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs). Arizona is in need of 660 additional primary care providers to meet demands. In Mohave County, the uninsured rate was approximately 9.7%, with areas such as Kingman and Bullhead City closer to 11.5%. Mobile Health Units were a proven solution, saving \$21 for every \$1 invested and reducing non-essential emergency room visits by providing early, preventive care.

# NUTRITION & HEALTH PROMOTION



**Mohave County**  
Department of Public Health  
Count On Us.



# WOMEN, INFANT, AND CHILDREN

The Women, Infants & Children (WIC) Program helped keep mothers, babies, and young children healthy. WIC provided nutrition education, breastfeeding support, and access to healthy foods for pregnant women, new parents, infants, and children under age five. Along with food benefits, WIC staff offered one-on-one nutrition guidance, helped families with breastfeeding, and connected them to healthcare and other support services. By reducing food insecurity and encouraging healthy habits early in life, WIC strengthened family well-being and supported long-term health for children.



## PROGRAM ACHIEVEMENTS & MILESTONES

- Served 43,873 participants across Mohave County through in-person and remote WIC services.
- Provided nutrition education and counseling tailored to each family's needs, including guidance on healthy eating, infant feeding, and chronic disease prevention.
- Offered breastfeeding support services, including peer counseling, lactation consultation, and postpartum education.
- Partnered with healthcare providers and social service agencies to connect families with prenatal care, immunizations, and early intervention services.
- Expanded program efficiency with the integration of an enhanced software program.
- Transfer of the Colorado City WIC program from Coconino County to Mohave County in March 2025.

## CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES

- Rising food costs and economic pressures continued to impact family food security and increased demand for services.
- Transportation and access barriers in rural and remote areas limited participation for some eligible families.
- Opportunities existed to expand outreach, strengthen provider partnerships, and integrate additional community-based nutrition and wellness initiatives.

Having access to healthy food and good nutrition information early in life made a big difference in health and development. The WIC Program helped families have healthier pregnancies, supported strong growth for infants and young children, and promoted positive parenting. By giving families the resources, knowledge, and support they needed, WIC helped build stronger families and healthier children, contributing to a healthier future for the whole community.

**SIGN UP FOR WIC OR TO LEARN MORE CALL 928-753-0794.**

# BREASTFEEDING PEER COUNSELING

The Breastfeeding Peer Counseling Program supported new and expectant mothers by giving them the knowledge, encouragement, and guidance they needed to breastfeed successfully. Breastfeeding provided important nutrition, helped strengthen immune systems, and supported long-term health for both mother and child. Peer counselors and mothers with their own breastfeeding experience offered one-on-one help through visits, phone calls, classes, and community events. They assisted with common challenges such as latching, milk supply, pumping, and returning to work, and they connected families with lactation specialists or healthcare providers when needed.



## PROGRAM ACHIEVEMENTS & MILESTONES

- Provided 3,546 personalized breastfeeding support sessions to pregnant and breastfeeding WIC participants who were referred to the breastfeeding peer counseling program through texting, one-on-one sessions, phone consultations, and follow-up calls.
- Provided encouragement and support to postpartum clients in overcoming common challenges such as latching difficulties, milk supply concerns, and pumping techniques.
- Provided breastfeeding information and support to pregnant women to help prepare them for their breastfeeding journey upon the birth of their baby.
- Partnered with healthcare providers, hospitals, and lactation consultants to ensure comprehensive support for families.
- Participated in community outreach and education events, promoting the health benefits of breastfeeding and available WIC services.

## CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES

- Returning to work or school, perceived low milk supply, and lack of support for the breastfeeding mother were major factors that contributed to early weaning.
- Opportunities existed to expand education for healthcare providers, partners, and family members; collaboration with employers to support breastfeeding-friendly workplaces; provide tips for stress management for new mothers, and integrate virtual counseling to reach more clients.

Breastfeeding provided critical health benefits for both infants and mothers, including protection from illness, support for healthy growth and development, and reduced risk of certain cancers and heart disease. Through peer-based and culturally sensitive support, the Breastfeeding Peer Counseling Program helped families make informed feeding decisions and supports healthy starts for their new additions. By providing education, encouragement, and trusted peer support, our program is made a lasting impact on the health of mothers, babies, and families across Mohave County.

# SENIOR NUTRITION

The Senior Nutrition Program provided important services that supported the health, independence, and quality of life of older adults in Mohave County. By offering meals at senior centers and delivering Meals on Wheels to homebound residents, the program ensured seniors had regular access to nutritious food, wellness checks, and social connection.



Along with meals, the program provided education on healthy eating, managing chronic diseases, and food safety. It also worked closely with healthcare providers, long-term care partners, and volunteers to help seniors remain safely in their homes. For many participants, each meal was more than food; it was a lifeline that supported health, dignity, and a sense of community.

## PROGRAM ACHIEVEMENTS & MILESTONES

- Provided 24,746 nutritious congregate meals at senior centers in Kingman, Lake Havasu City, and Golden Shores, supporting social engagement and wellness.
- Delivered 51,672 home-delivered meals to homebound seniors in Golden Shores, Kingman, and Lake Havasu.
- Integrated educational workshops and classes focused on healthy eating, physical activity, social interaction, disease prevention, and chronic condition management.
- Offered post-hospital meal support to assist seniors recovering at home and reduced hospital readmissions.
- Partnered with the supporting nonprofit organizations associated with the Senior Centers, WACOG, AHCCCS, and ALTCS to enhance service coordination and eligibility assessments.
- Expanded volunteer engagement, provided critical delivery support and strengthened neighborhood connections.

## CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES

- Rising food costs, increased demand, and funding fluctuations created ongoing program sustainability challenges.
- Transportation barriers and geographic isolation made meal delivery and outreach difficult in remote rural areas.
- Continued opportunities existed to expand partnerships, increase volunteer capacity, and integrate additional health and wellness services into meal delivery programs.

Having access to nutritious meals supported healthy aging. It helped lower the risk of chronic disease, prevented malnutrition, and supported both physical and mental health. The Senior Nutrition Program provided healthy meals and helped reduce loneliness, encouraged independence, and allowed older adults to stay in their homes and communities longer. By supporting our seniors, the program strengthened the health and connection of the entire Mohave County community.

# ARIZONA HEALTH ZONE

The Arizona Health Zone (AzHZ) program worked to prevent chronic disease and support overall wellness by promoting good nutrition, physical activity, and healthy lifestyle habits across Mohave County. The program focused on reducing obesity, improving healthy eating, and expanding access to nutritious foods. AZHZ combined hands-on education with community projects such as school gardens, nutrition classes, and local coalitions to create environments where the healthy choice was the easy choice.

## ACHIEVEMENTS & MILESTONES

- Delivered nutrition education that reached 2,669 youth with lessons focused on healthy eating, physical activity, and sustainable nutrition practices such as gardening.
- Expanded community outreach through the development of social media messaging, newsletters, and participated in community events, engaging 1,705 SNAP-eligible participants to promote healthy lifestyle habits and disease prevention through healthy eating, physical activity, and nutrition sustainability.
- Supported school wellness initiatives by providing guidance and training to 14 schools and four Head Start programs to strengthen wellness policies and to equip staff to support healthy lifestyles for school-aged and preschool children.
- Strengthened community partnerships by building collaborative relationships and gathering community input to better target activities that promote healthy habits among SNAP-eligible participants.



## CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES

- With the closure of the Arizona Health Zone program, there was an opportunity to leverage other initiatives, such as the WIC Program and the Health in Arizona Policy Initiative (HAPI) to continue promoting healthy lifestyle activities aimed at preventing long-term health conditions.
- Rising food and living costs, combined with a decrease in SNAP funding, increased demand for programs that provided nutritious foods, practical resources, and support for nutrition sustainability in Mohave County.

Through education, partnerships, and community-driven initiatives, Arizona Health Zone played an important role in promoting healthy eating, physical activity, and chronic disease prevention across Mohave County. While the program came to a close, its impact continued through strengthened school wellness efforts, engaged community partners, and the integration of nutrition and wellness strategies into programs such as WIC and the Health in Arizona Policy Initiative. Together, these efforts helped ensure that residents continued to have access to resources and support that made healthy choices easier and more attainable.

# THE HEALTH IN ARIZONA POLICY INITIATIVE

The Health in Arizona Policy Initiative (HAPI) focused on preventing and managing some of Mohave County's most common and serious health conditions. Through education, early detection, and community based support, HAPI helped residents lower their risk for chronic diseases.

## ACHIEVEMENTS & MILESTONES

- Engaged 1,705 community members by providing prevention education on heart disease (including blood pressure monitoring), Alzheimer's disease (with fall risk education and Tai Chi classes), and overall healthy lifestyle practices. Outreach also included offering low-cost or free screenings for lung disease, skin cancer, fall prevention, and blood pressure, delivered through social media campaigns, health event promotions, and targeted newsletters to Mohave County residents.
- Promoted sun safety policies and delivered education to four early childhood education centers, reaching 85 students and their parents with information on the importance of sun protection and skin cancer prevention activities.



## CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES

- Limited attendance in self-monitoring classes presented an opportunity to expand outreach by offering education at health fairs, senior centers, and through the Mobile Health Unit, increasing engagement among rural residents and event attendees.
- Continued collaboration with community wellness committees to advocate for free screenings and other preventive health activities.
- Rising costs for fall prevention reinforcement items, coupled with growing community interest in classes that reduce fall risk, highlighted the need for creative solutions and partnerships.
- The growing need for program activities contrasted with limited resources, created an opportunity to seek additional funding, partnerships, and innovative delivery methods.

Through prevention education, screenings, and community-based support, HAPI helped Mohave County residents take proactive steps to reduce their risk of chronic disease and improve overall well-being. By expanding partnerships, exploring new outreach methods, and meeting residents where they were, HAPI strengthened prevention efforts and supported healthier, safer communities across the county.

# SPECIAL NEEDS ADVOCACY COALITION

The Special Needs Advocacy Coalition (SNAC) supported youth and young adults with special health care needs and their families across Mohave County. Families in this community often faced challenges accessing specialized medical care, educational accommodations, transportation, and transition planning services. SNAC addressed these gaps by convening families, schools, healthcare providers, and community partners to identify barriers, share resources, and advocate for more accessible and inclusive systems of support.

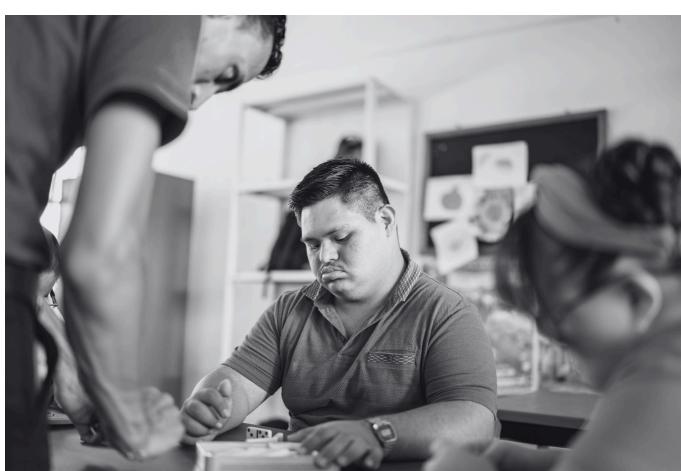
## PROGRAM ACHIEVEMENTS & MILESTONES

- Expanded advocacy coalition membership to better reflect the needs of families across Mohave County.
- Provided ADA accessibility recommendations to Lake Havasu City and Kingman Parks & Recreation to improve inclusivity in public spaces.
- Delivered targeted parent education sessions on navigating Individualized Education Programs (IEPs), 504 plans, child safety restraints, and financial planning for the transition to adulthood.
- Continued monthly online support group connecting families and stakeholders across the county to share resources, build peer networks, and collaborate on solutions.

## CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES

- Youth with special health care needs continued to face significant challenges in accessing medical care, education accommodations, transportation, and social inclusion.
- Limited community awareness and understanding of available services created barriers to care and advocacy.
- The program identified opportunities to strengthen partnerships, enhance rural outreach, and advance systemic improvements related to accessibility and inclusion.

Through advocacy, education, and collaboration, the Special Needs Advocacy Coalition helped reduce barriers, strengthen support systems, and improve access to services for youth and families across Mohave County. By expanding partnerships and raising community awareness, SNAC advanced inclusion and created more equitable opportunities for young people with special health care needs.



# TOBACCO USE PREVENTION

Tobacco use continued to harm the health and well-being of people in the community. Preventing youth from starting, helping individuals quit, and supporting families with accurate information remained key strategies for reducing these harms. The Mohave County Tobacco Use Prevention Program (MCTUPP) worked with schools, parents, retailers, and community partners to educate youth, enforce tobacco laws, and create healthier environments. Across the county, meaningful progress was observed as more young people chose to avoid vaping and tobacco products. This improvement reflected the strong impact of consistent education, community collaboration, and ongoing prevention efforts.



## PROGRAM ACHIEVEMENTS & MILESTONES

- Reached 5,155 students through evidence-based prevention programs, including MD Anderson's ASPIRE and CVS Health's Catch My Breath.
- Expanded diversion programming using Stanford University's Healthy Futures curriculum into Bullhead City, increasing geographic reach.
- Provided diversion services to 257 students across 12 schools countywide, with five repeat offenses reported.
- Expanded youth coalitions from two to four, engaging 45 youth leaders who increased community outreach through targeted awareness campaigns.
- Launched provider outreach efforts to promote ASHLine and strengthen referral systems, resulting in a 6% increase in countywide tobacco cessation referrals.

## CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES

- Tobacco retail compliance check violations increased in FY25, largely due to process changes and the Attorney General's Office conducting compliance checks at vape shops for the first time. Previously, vape shops were not included in the CounterStrike program. In response, the Mohave County Tobacco Use Prevention Program initiated outreach to vape retailers to provide education and training on Arizona tobacco laws.
- An increase in youth use of Zyn nicotine products contributed to higher diversion rates. This trend created an opportunity to introduce targeted education and technical assistance to schools

Preventing nicotine addiction early is one of the strongest ways to protect community health. By teaching youth about the risks, supporting families, working with retailers to follow tobacco laws, and helping people quit, the Mohave County Tobacco Use Prevention Program worked to create a healthier future for our county. These efforts reduced preventable illness and help residents lead longer, healthier lives.

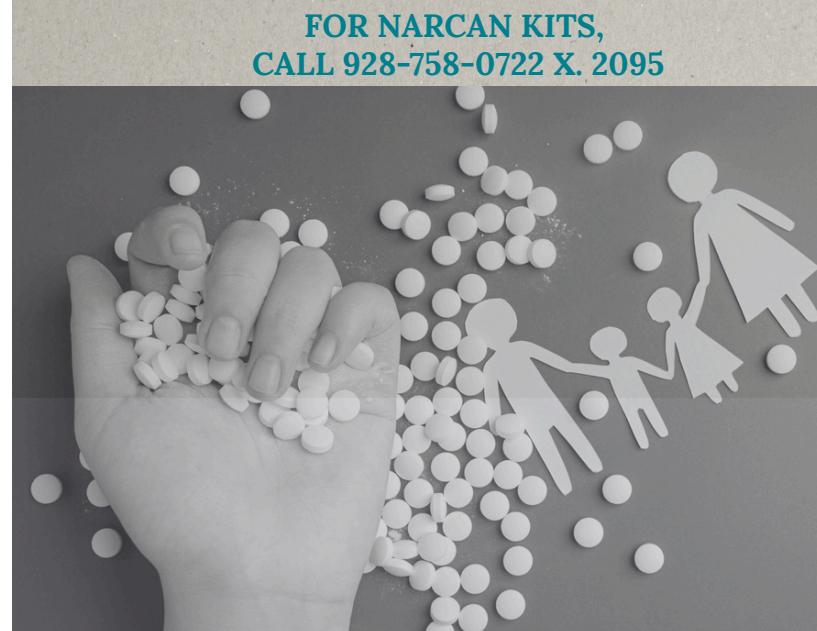
**QUIT NICOTINE TODAY, CALL: 1-800-556-6222.**

# OVERDOSE DATA 2 ACTION

The Overdose Data to Action (OD2A) program worked to prevent overdoses, reduce opioid misuse, and support a safer, healthier community. The program combined education, community partnerships, and data-driven strategies to reach individuals and communities where help was needed most.

## PROGRAM ACHIEVEMENTS & MILESTONES

- Prevention & Education: Provided year-round youth programming in schools and education sessions for Lake Havasu City Justice Court participants. Conducted multiple one-on-one life skills and prevention sessions with specialty court participants.
- Diversion & Justice Partnerships: Maintained a strong presence in the Project IMPACT diversion program across Kingman, Bullhead City, and Lake Havasu City. Expanded services in collaboration with Specialty Courts, integrating overdose prevention education and support into justice settings.
- Community Outreach: Attended health and resource fairs each month, distributed resources and educated residents about opioid risks and delivered 18 community-wide education sessions for the public.
- Hope Garden Program: Completed a cohort with the Juvenile Detention Center integrating wellness, prevention, and recovery support into youth rehabilitation.
- Overdose Fatality Review: Completed a comprehensive review of 2023 overdose deaths, generating data-driven recommendations to prevent future fatalities.
- Naloxone Distribution: MCDPH distributed 6,432 naloxone kits either directly or to partners who assist in naloxone distribution throughout Mohave County.



## CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES

- Staffing reductions limited program capacity but highlighted the need for sustainable funding and workforce investment.
- Persistent stigma surrounding substance use continued to impact prevention and treatment engagement.
- Geographic disparities in access to services posed barriers to rural distribution and outreach.
- Opportunities existed to expand harm reduction training, increased distribution sites, and strengthened cross-sector collaboration with healthcare providers, schools, and community organizations.

Opioid overdoses continued to take a heavy toll on families and communities in Mohave County, but many of these deaths were preventable. Each naloxone kit distributed, each prevention class taught, and each overdose review completed helped save lives and strengthened the community's response. By bringing together education, data, and on-the-ground action, the OD2A program not only helped prevent overdoses but also supported recovery, resilience, and hope for the future.



# ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH



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# FOOD SAFETY & SANITATION

The Food Safety & Sanitation Program protected public health by reducing the risk of illness and disease in places where people ate, stayed, swam, and gathered. Through permitting, licensing, inspections, education, and enforcement when necessary, the program ensured that food establishments, lodging facilities, pools, and other regulated environments met state and local environmental health standards. This work helped prevent foodborne, waterborne, and rodent-borne illnesses before they occurred.

Operating under delegated authority from the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) and the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ), MCDPH enforced Arizona Revised Statutes and local ordinances to keep residents, visitors, and workers safe.

## PROGRAM ACHIEVEMENTS & MILESTONES

- Issued 2,079 annual licenses and 314 temporary event permits for food and regulated establishments.
- Conducted 4,420 routine inspections to ensure compliance with environmental health standards including 3,285 food establishment inspections and 1,135 sanitation inspections (including monthly pool and spa inspections).
- Completed 134 complaint investigations, including suspected foodborne illness reports and lodging facility concerns.
- Certified 76 food handlers through monthly training classes across Bullhead City, Kingman, and Lake Havasu.
- Delivered four high school food handler sessions reaching 99 students.
- Proctored 29 Food Protection Manager exams, certifying 60 participants at no cost.
- Achieved full conformance with two FDA Retail Program Standards: Risk-Based Inspection Program as well as the Industry & Community Relations.
- Improved inspection timeliness and quality through recruitment and retention of experienced inspection staff.

## CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES

- Many foodborne and waterborne illnesses are undiagnosed, making early detection and education critical.
- Arizona continued to see thousands of enteric disease cases annually, including Campylobacter, Salmonella, Shigella, and E. coli.
- Flooding and urban growth increased rodent populations and disease risk.
- Continued education, early intervention, and consistent enforcement helped prevent outbreaks before they started.

The team worked behind the scenes to prevent illness, protect families, and ensure safe environments across the county. This preventive work reduced healthcare costs, protected businesses, and kept Mohave County communities healthy and resilient.

# NUISANCE PROGRAM

The Nuisance Program protected community health by addressing environmental conditions that increased the risk of illness, disease, or injury. These included properties or areas that supported the breeding or harboring of disease-carrying insects, rodents, and other pests, as well as feral honeybee colonies. Through surveillance, education, investigation, and abatement, the program reduced public health risks before they escalated.

Operating under delegated authority from the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) and Mohave County ordinances, the program enforced state law and helped maintain safe, healthy environments across the county.



## PROGRAM ACHIEVEMENTS & MILESTONES

- Conducted 184 complaint-driven investigations for reported public health nuisances, resulting in 10 enforcement actions and one formal abatement.
  - Successfully resolved many cases through education and voluntary compliance.
- During the 2025 mosquito season (April–October):
  - Deployed 129 dry ice traps in high-risk areas across the county.
  - Identified and tested 892 Culex mosquitoes for West Nile Virus.
  - Tested 42 mosquito pools, with three positive for West Nile Virus, resulting in targeted fogging in three zones.
- Increased public awareness of vector- and rodent-borne disease prevention.
- Improved efficiency and reduced operational costs through targeted intervention and interagency collaboration.

## CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES

- Cases increased significantly nationwide, with West Nile Virus accounting for a large share of Arizona's cases.
- Wet winters, flooding, and urban growth contributed to higher mosquito and rodent populations
- Many residents were unaware of environmental health regulations and disease risks, creating opportunities for expanded education and outreach.

The Mohave County Department of Public Health Nuisance Program worked to identify and eliminate conditions that put residents at risk. Through proactive surveillance, community education, targeted intervention, and strong partnerships with ADHS, as well as with the La Paz County Health Department and Indian Health Services, the program helped prevent illness, protect neighborhoods, and keep Mohave County communities safe and healthy.

# SMOKE-FREE PROGRAM

The Smoke-Free Arizona Program protected workers, customers, and the public from the harmful effects of second-hand smoke by ensuring compliance with the Smoke-Free Arizona Act. Through education, routine inspections, and investigation of reported concerns, the program helped create healthier environments across Mohave County.

## PROGRAM ACHIEVEMENTS & MILESTONES

- Conducted 1,989 inspections at businesses and places of employment.
- Received 21 complaints and investigated 15, with six determined to be outside the scope of the Act.
- Expanded inspections to non-regulated establishments to strengthen overall compliance.
- Continued education and outreach to businesses regarding Smoke-Free Arizona requirements.
- Maintained a strong partnership with the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) for guidance, enforcement support, and public resources.



## CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES

- Second-hand smoke remained a serious health risk. There is no safe level of exposure, and even brief exposure can cause immediate harm.
- Public awareness continued to be a challenge, highlighting the need to educate both businesses and residents about where smoking is prohibited and why it matters.
- Continued education, consistent inspections, and accessible reporting options presented opportunities to maintain high compliance and protect vulnerable populations.

Secondhand smoke contains thousands of harmful chemicals and has increased the risk of heart disease, lung cancer, stroke, and respiratory illness. Infants, children, pregnant individuals, and people with existing health conditions were especially vulnerable. Over the past several decades, millions of non-smokers died from health conditions linked to secondhand smoke exposure.

Through nearly 2,000 inspections, complaint investigations, and ongoing education, the Mohave County Department of Public Health Smoke-Free Arizona Program worked quietly but consistently to protect indoor air quality and support healthier workplaces and public spaces. This preventive work reduced long-term health risks and helped ensure Mohave County residents could live, work, and gather in safer environments.

# ADMINISTRATION



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# BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

The Behavioral Health Program worked to improve mental wellness, reduce stigma, and increase access to support services for individuals and families throughout Mohave County. Mental health remained one of the county's most important public health needs, and the program focused on reaching residents and connecting them to the help they need.

## PROGRAM ACHIEVEMENTS & MILESTONES

- Conducted eight Suicide Mortality Review meetings reviewing 115 cases, generating data-driven recommendations for prevention strategies.
- Hosted two countywide mental health symposiums, connecting experts, advocates, and community members to share knowledge and resources.
- Delivered QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer) suicide prevention training and Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) education to schools, service providers, and community organizations.

## CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES

- Long distances and limited transportation made it difficult for rural residents to reach services.
- Limited availability of mental health professionals led to long wait times for appointments.
- Privacy concerns, fear of judgment, and stigma discouraged individuals from seeking help.
- The cost of care, especially for those without insurance, remained a major barrier.

Mental health is essential to the well-being of individuals, families, and the community. Every life saved, every supportive conversation, and every barrier removed propelled Mohave County toward a stronger and more resilient future.

# YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID

The Youth Mental Health First Aid (YMHFA) program trained adults to recognize the signs of mental health challenges in adolescents ages 12–18 and taught how to respond with confidence and care. The program provided practical tools to support youth in crisis and strengthened protective relationships in schools, families, and the community.

## PROGRAM ACHIEVEMENTS & MILESTONES

- Delivered YMHFA training in schools, nonprofit organizations, and community settings.
- Facilitated conversations with providers about the importance of early intervention.
- Provided post-training toolkits and ongoing resource support to help participants sustain their skills and knowledge.

## CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES

- Instructor capacity remained limited, which constrained the number of trainings that could be offered despite sustained demand from schools and youth-serving organizations.
- Geographic distance and scheduling challenges affected participation levels, especially in rural areas.
- The length of the training time created barriers for some partners when balancing instructional time, staffing availability, and operational needs.

Early intervention helps young people navigate challenges. By equipping adults in schools, families, and the community with practical skills and awareness, the program strengthened support systems around youth and promoted long-term well-being.

# PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

The Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) program worked to protect the health and safety of Mohave County residents before, during, and after emergencies. The program strengthened planning, coordination, and communication so the community was better prepared when emergencies occurred.

## PROGRAM ACHIEVEMENTS & MILESTONES

- Delivered CPR and Stop the Bleed training to county employees, community members, and partner organizations, strengthening life-saving response capabilities across the county.
- Coordinated with County Emergency Management to establish and implement a Situation Unit, improving countywide situational awareness, information sharing, and operational decision-making during incidents affecting multiple jurisdictions.
- Completed a comprehensive review and update of the All-Hazards Emergency Response and Recovery Plan, ensuring the department's primary response framework remains current, compliant, and aligned with county and state emergency management structures.
- Facilitated multiple trainings on sheltering and cooling station operations in partnership with County Emergency Management, CERT, the American Red Cross, and AUXCOMM, enhancing readiness for extreme heat events and mass care operations.
- Helped plan and conducted a full-scale emergency exercise with a local correctional facility and Kingman Regional Medical Center to evaluate interagency coordination, communications, and healthcare response capabilities.
- Procured essential equipment to support Access and Functional Needs (AFN) sheltering operations, expanding the county's ability to safely serve vulnerable populations during emergencies.

## CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES

- Reductions in available funding affected disease surveillance, mobile health services, and vaccination outreach, limiting surge capacity and overall emergency response readiness.
- The county's geographic size, remote communities, and infrastructure limitations continued to complicate disaster response operations and timely resource deployment.
- The increasing frequency and complexity of extreme weather events and communicable disease outbreaks necessitate expanded preparedness planning, enhanced public education efforts, and strengthened cross-sector coordination.
- Opportunities remained to expand the Medical Reserve Corps, deepen regional and cross-jurisdictional partnerships, and further enhance preparedness and response capabilities through targeted investments in technology, training, and workforce development.

By strengthening our systems and building a culture of readiness, the Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) program helped to ensure Mohave County is prepared for whatever challenges come our way.

# PUBLIC HEALTH IMPROVEMENT

Public Health Improvement strengthened the Mohave County Department of Public Health's (MCDPH) effectiveness, accountability, and ability to meet community needs. Through accreditation by the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB), MCDPH demonstrated its commitment to national public health standards and continuous quality improvement. During FY25, the department advanced community engagement, strategic planning, service coordination, and customer-centered improvements to support a responsive and resilient public health system for Mohave County residents.

## PROGRAM ACHIEVEMENTS & MILESTONES

- Completed a full Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) in partnership with Kingman Regional Medical Center (KRMC), using countywide surveys, outreach events, and in-person engagement to identify community priorities.
- Achieved strong CHNA survey participation and conducted seven focus groups, including four in remote and underserved areas to ensure rural representation.
- Convened multiple Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) workgroups, with activities continuing into FY25 and focused on identified priority areas.
- Advanced CHIP priorities across the county, including:
  - Education, access to healthcare, and navigation services (Kingman)
  - County-wide medical coalition development, stigma-reduction training, early childhood education, and youth activities (Lake Havasu City)
  - Access to care, pediatric care, and nutrition (Bullhead City)
  - Recreation and physical activity spaces, access to specialty care, and behavioral health supports in schools and communities (Colorado City)
- Completed facility and customer-experience improvements, including cleanup and reorganization of shared WIC and Vital Records space and a full refresh of the main lobby to improve clarity, accessibility, and the overall client experience.
- Successfully achieved PHAB reaccreditation, a significant milestone following multiple leadership transitions and staffing changes.
- Revised and expanded the department-wide Communications Plan, strengthening consistency in messaging.



## CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES

Opportunities existed to expand stakeholder and community engagement and leverage accreditation to support resource development and system improvements.

Public Health Improvement and PHAB reaccreditation reflected MCDPH's commitment to quality, accountability, and continuous improvement. These efforts reinforced public trust, strengthened partnerships, and ensured programs aligned with national standards, supporting a public health system that remained responsive to the evolving needs of Mohave County.

# VITAL RECORDS

The Vital Records Program safeguarded and issued some of the most important documents in a person's life: birth and death certificates. These records helped establish legal identity, allowed individuals to access essential services, and supported public health planning across Mohave County.

Along with issuing certified copies, the program worked closely with hospitals, funeral homes, and the Arizona Department of Health Services (AZDHS) to ensure every birth and death in the county was accurately registered. By maintaining secure, reliable, and timely records, the Vital Records Program supported individual families while also contributing to community health tracking and statewide reporting systems.

## PROGRAM ACHIEVEMENTS & MILESTONES

- Issued 2,910 birth certificates and 20,504 death certificates to residents and agencies throughout Mohave County.
- Delivered secure, efficient customer service through in-person, drop box, and mail-in options.
- Performed quality assurance and data verification to maintain the accuracy and integrity of vital records.
- Supported public health surveillance efforts by providing vital statistics data to state and federal health agencies.

## CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES

Staffing and training needs continued to grow as demand for services increased and regulatory requirements evolved. Maintaining data accuracy and security remained a top priority amid increasing cybersecurity risks and ongoing technology upgrade needs. Opportunities existed to expand digital service capabilities, enhance system interoperability, and strengthen public education on the importance of accurate vital records.

Vital records will always be more than just documents. They formed the legal foundation for identity, citizenship, and access to essential services such as healthcare, education, and social support. These records also provided critical data that guided public health decisions, emergency response, and resource allocation across the community. By maintaining secure, accurate, and accessible records, the Vital Records Program supported both individual well-being and the overall health of Mohave County.



# GLOSSARY OF KEY TERMS & ACRONYMS

## PUBLIC HEALTH & ACCREDITATION

- **PHAB (Public Health Accreditation Board):** The national organization that accredits health departments to ensure they meet high standards for quality and performance.
- **Accreditation:** A process that shows the health department meets national standards and is continuously improving services.

## COMMUNITY HEALTH TOOLS

- **CHNA (Community Health Needs Assessment):** A comprehensive report that looks at health needs, strengths, and challenges across Mohave County.
- **CHIP (Community Health Improvement Plan):** A community-driven plan that sets goals and strategies to address the top health priorities identified in the CHNA.
- **Strategic Plan:** The health department's internal roadmap that outlines goals, priorities, and measurable objectives over several years.
- **Health Literacy:** Making health information clear and easy to understand so residents can make informed decisions about their health.

## PROGRAMS & SERVICES

- **WIC (Women, Infants, and Children Program):** Provides nutrition education, breastfeeding support, and healthy food benefits to pregnant women, new mothers, and children under five.
- **HRPP (High Risk Perinatal Program):** Health Start / Healthy Families Home Visiting and Reproductive Health Promotion Program
- **ASQ-3:** 21 age-specific, parent-completed questionnaires (one month to 5.5 years) covering five domains. The domains include communication, gross motor, fine motor, problem solving, and personal-social to flag potential developmental delays.
- **ASQ:SE:** Parent-completed tool focused on social-emotional development (i.e., self-regulation, compliance, communication, autonomy, affect, interaction).
- **Edinburgh Postnatal Depression Scale (EPDS):** a 10-item self-report screen of mood symptoms over the past seven days to identify risk for perinatal/postnatal depression (and includes an item on self-harm thoughts).
- **MCTUPP (Mohave County Tobacco Use Prevention Program):** Local efforts to reduce tobacco and vaping use through education, youth engagement, and community outreach.

## COMMUNICABLE DISEASES & PREVENTION

- **RSV (Respiratory Syncytial Virus):** A common virus that can cause severe respiratory illness, especially in infants and older adults.
- **Immunization:** A vaccine that protects people from getting certain diseases.
- **Surveillance:** Monitoring the spread of diseases to detect outbreaks and respond quickly.

## EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

- **Emergency Operations Plan (EOP):** The health department's plan for responding to natural disasters, disease outbreaks, and other emergencies.
- **Preparedness Drills/Exercises:** Practice events that help staff and community partners get ready for real emergencies.

## EQUITY & ACCESS

- **Health Equity:** Ensuring everyone has a fair opportunity to achieve their best health, regardless of where they live, income, race, or other barriers.
- **Underserved Populations:** Groups that may not have regular access to health care or information, often in rural or remote areas.





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