



Garfield County Public Health

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

Caring For Our Community

TABLE OF CONTENTS

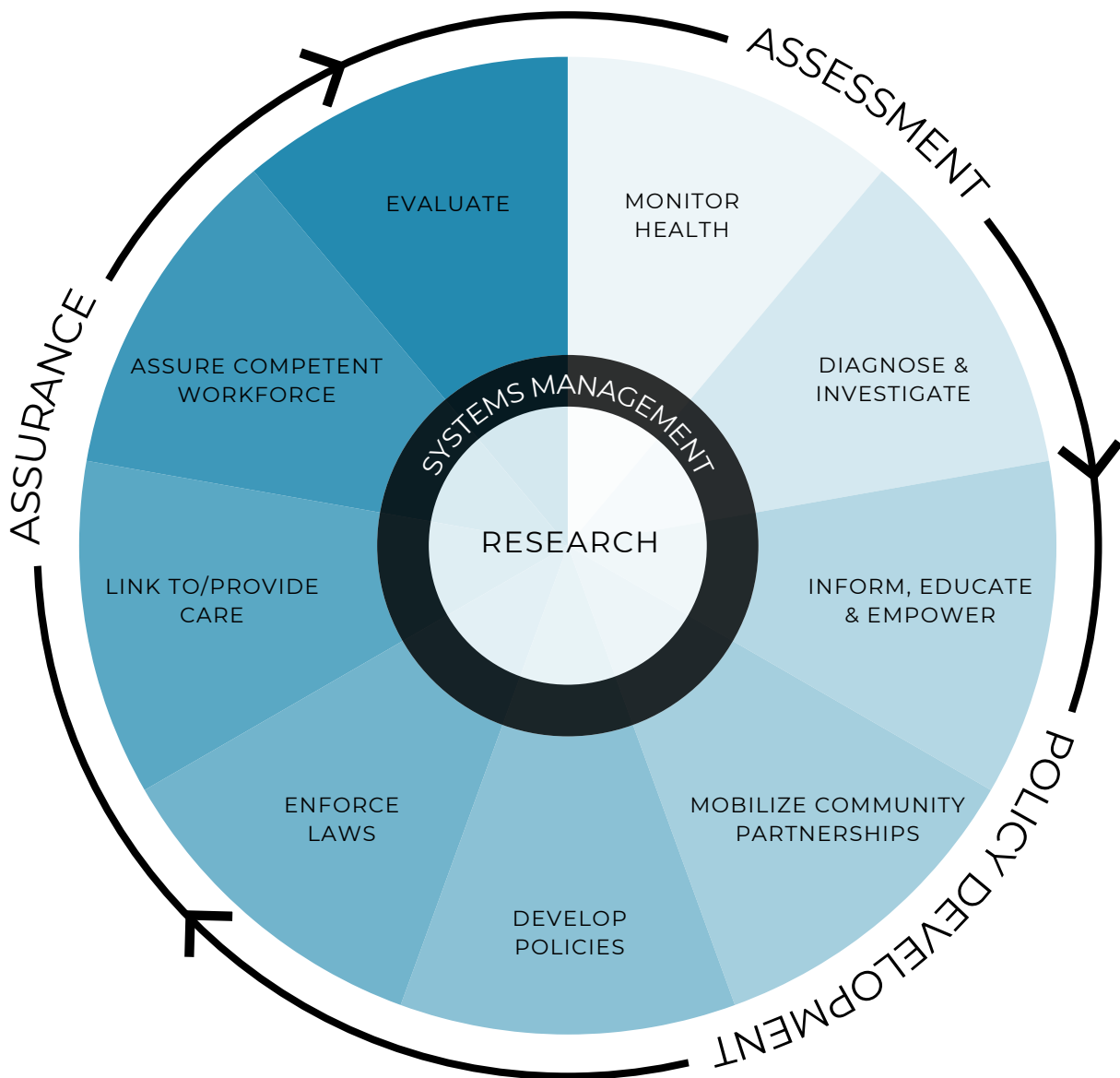
Our Acronyms	2
Essential Services of Public Health	3
Who We Are	6
Prevention Initiatives	10
Emergency Preparedness	10
Maternal Child Health	14
Community Health Assessment	15
Farm to Table	17
Farmer Appreciation Day	17
Environmental Health	19
Public Health Nursing	19

OUR ACRONYMS

Accountable Communities of Health	ACH
Children with Special Health Care Needs	CSHCN
Communicable Disease	CD
Community Health Assessment	CHA
Community Health Needs Assessment	CHNA
Department of Health	DOH
Environmental Health	EH
Foundational Public Health Services	FPHS
Health Care Authority	HCA
Local Solid Waste Financial Assistance Agreement	LSWFAA
Maternal Child Health	MCH
Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response	PHEPR
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program	SNAP
Women, Infants and Children	WIC
Youth Cannabis and Commercial Tobacco Prevention Program	YCCTPP

10 ESSENTIAL SERVICES OF PUBLIC HEALTH

The 10 Essential Public Health Services are a framework for public health professionals to protect and promote the health and wellness of people in the community equitably. Garfield County Public Health is dedicated to upholding the 10 essential public health services to ensure all members of the community achieve their health goals by removing systemic and structural barriers. In 2023, Garfield County Public Health highlighted these services in multiple ways which are shown below.



10 ESSENTIAL SERVICES OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Protecting the public's health across the state is a fundamental responsibility of the state and is accomplished through the governmental public health system. This system is comprised of the state department of health, state board of health, local health jurisdictions, sovereign tribal nations, and Indian health programs. Foundational Public Health Services (FPHS) are core services which the governmental public health system is responsible for providing in a consistent and uniform way in every community in Washington.

VITAL RECORDS	EPH	CD	MCH	ACCESS	CHRONIC & INJURY PREVENTION
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VR Systems • Issue Certificates 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data • Planning • Inspections & Investigations • Zoonotics • Radiation • Land use 	Such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give shots • Clinical services 	Such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maternity care • Developmental screening • Nurse-Family partnership • WIC 	Such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clinical services • Case management • Family planning 	Such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opioid treatment • Tobacco prevention • Suicide prevention
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data • Coordination • Promote immunizations • Disease investigations • PH Lab 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data • Planning • Coordination • Newborn screening 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data • Planning • Coordination • Patient safety 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data • Planning • Coordination
Cross-Cutting Capabilities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ASSESSMENT - Collect & use data, community health assessments & improvement planning • EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS & RESPONSE - Plan, lead, mobilize, communicate • COMMUNICATIONS - Media, strategy • POLICY DEVELOPMENT - Recommendations, implement, cost-benefit • COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS - Leadership, government role • BUSINESS COMPETENCIES - Leadership, accountability, quality, technology, human resources, fiscal, facilities/operations, legal 					

Definitions

Foundational Public Health Services - Population-based, prevention oriented services that only/primarily government provides everywhere, in order for the system to function anywhere.

Governmental Public Health System - State Department of Health (DOH), State Board of Health (SBOH), Local Health Jurisdictions (LHJ's), Tribal Health and other programs.

ADDITIONAL IMPORTANT SERVICES

Provided by: many organizations - government and non-government

Funded by: Federal, state, local, government, foundations, CBO's, community healthcare, etc.

FOUNDATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES (FPHS)

Provided by: Governmental Public Health.

Funded by: State & local fees, state government & some federal grants.

A photograph of four women standing in front of a brick building. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue geometric pattern consisting of large triangles. A vertical blue line is positioned in the center of the image. The women are smiling and dressed in casual attire. In the background, a 'No Smoking' sign and a 'Welcome to the Rainbow' poster are visible on the brick wall.

“PUBLIC HEALTH IS TO
FIND **SOLUTIONS** TO
BETTER THE HEALTH OF
INDIVIDUALS AND IN
TURN BETTER THE
HEALTH OF OUR
COMMUNITY.”

Laura Dixon, Fiscal Manager

OUR MISSION

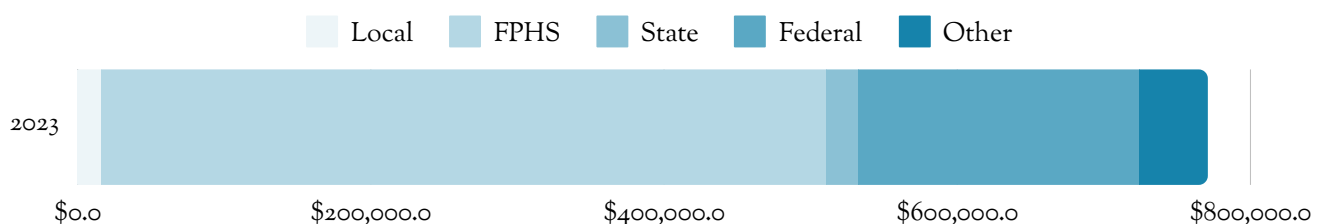
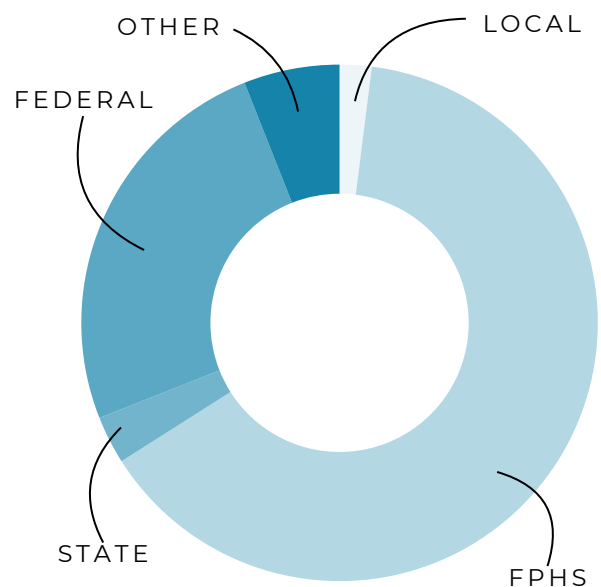
We are committed to professional, caring services that motivate individuals to a higher level of physical, mental, and environmental health awareness and responsibility. Garfield County Public Health District (Garfield County Public Health) offers services available through programs that impact individual and community health status with the direction of the Garfield County Public Health Officer, Dr. Daniel Kaminsky.

OUR FOCUS

- Educate and empower individuals on health topics and trends
- Track and comprehend community health trends.
- Create strategies and blueprints to enhance individual and community health initiatives.
- Ensure a skilled public health workforce.
- Engage community partners in addressing community health challenges.
- Connect community members with relevant services.
- Strategize and ready for public health emergencies.

2023 REVENUE BY FUND SOURCE

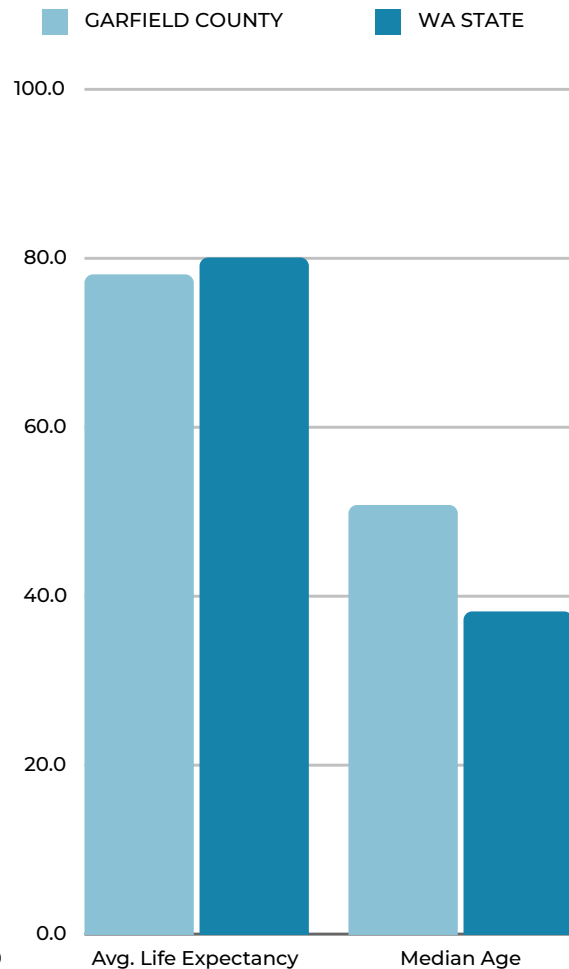
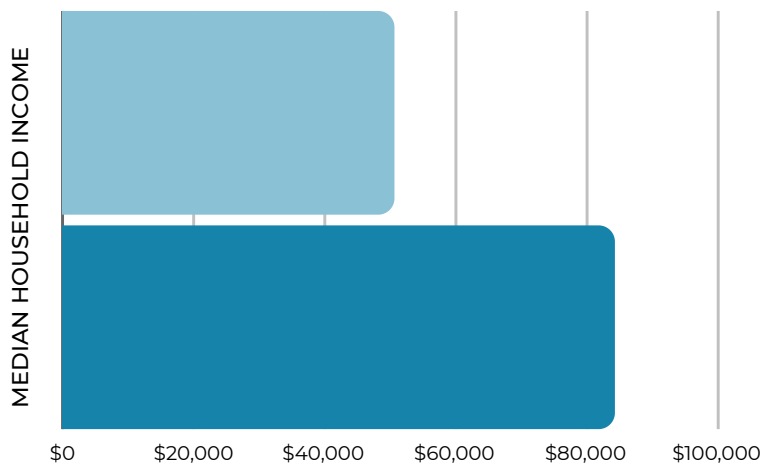
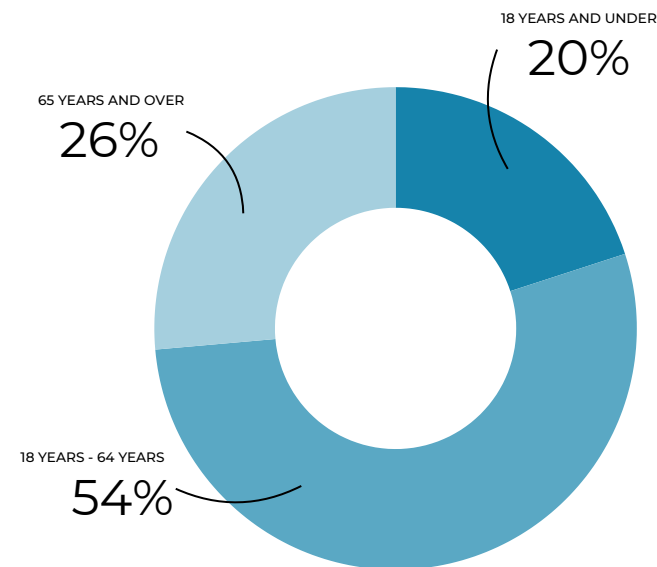
SOURCE	DOLLAR
Local	\$16,250.00
FPHS + 5930	\$494,654.00
State Funded Programs	\$21,678.40
Federal	\$191,555.06
Other/Fees	\$46,781.55
TOTAL	\$772,942.01



OUR COMMUNITY

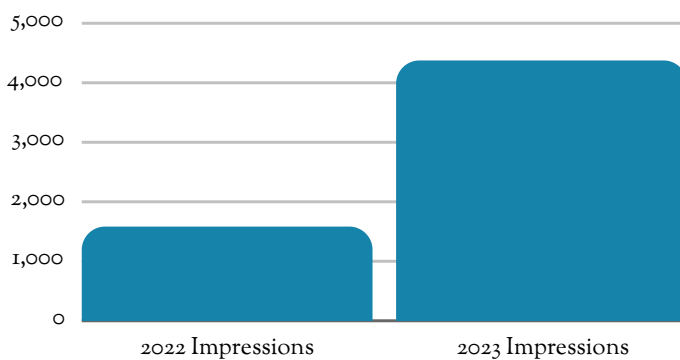
Garfield County, populated at 2,286 in 2020, is the least populated county in the state and geographically one of the smallest counties. The chart below compares county and state data.

AGE	GARFIELD CO.	WA STATE
Under 5 Years Old	4%	6.1%
Under 18 Years Old	20%	22%
Over 65 Years Old	26.4%	15.4%
Median Age	50	37
EDUCATION (OVER 25 YEARS)		
High School Graduate or Higher	23.7%	21.8%
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	15%	23.1%
VULNERABLE POPULATIONS		
Disabled Individuals 18 yo - 65 yo	20.4%	10.5%
Persons in Poverty	9.2%	9.9%
+65 Years Old Living Alone	11.3%	3.5%



OUR PROGRAMS

Garfield County Public Health's dedication to fostering a healthier community has been met with resounding success, as evidenced by the remarkable increase in community participation across its events and programs. In a striking display of community engagement and support, the number of attendees, participants, and impressions, has surged by over 2,900 individuals. This significant uptick not only underscores the effectiveness and relevance of the programs offered but also highlights the community's growing commitment to health and wellness. Through a combination of innovative programming, outreach efforts, and a deep understanding of community needs, Garfield County Public Health has successfully created an environment where residents are eager to take part in activities that promote their well-being, thereby strengthening the fabric of the community as a whole.



- Children with Special Health Care Needs
- Community Engagement
- Communicable Diseases
- Community Health Assessment
- COVID-19 Contact Tracing
- COVID-19
- Dental Health Education
- Emergency Preparedness
- Environmental Health
- Food Permits & Inspections
- Hearing & Vision Screenings
- Marijuana and Tobacco Prevention
- Maternal Child Health
- Public Health Nursing
- SAIL
- School Nursing
- SNAP
- Vital Records
- WIC

EVENTS + PROGRAMS	2022 IMPRESSIONS	2023 IMPRESSIONS	YEAR DIFFERENCE
SAIL Program (per class)	8	8	0
Pomeroy Health Fair	25	28	3
Farm to School Program	15	40	25
Drug Take Back Day	35	43	8
Louise Munday Community Walk	75	130	55
Garfield County Fair	150	150	0
Senior Center Blood Pressures	0	96	96
National Night Out	300	300	0
Pomeroy Summer Market	1200	1200	0
Main St. Trick or Treat	300	350	50
Garfield County Food Bank	320	720	400
Farmer Appreciation Day	0	25	25
2nd Harvest Mobile Market	0	1200	1200
Red Ribbon Week	350	1406	1056
TOTAL	2778	5696	2918

A photograph of a group of people, likely a walking or running group, on a paved street. They are wearing bright yellow safety vests. In the foreground, a woman is smiling and holding a large black octagonal sign with the word 'GO' in white. Other people in the background are also holding similar 'GO' signs. The scene is outdoors with trees and a building in the background. A large, semi-transparent blue diamond shape is overlaid on the image, and the word 'PREVENT' is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font across the center of the diamond. Two thin vertical blue lines are positioned on either side of the diamond, one near the top and one near the bottom.

PREVENT

PREVENTION INITIATIVES

The goals of the tobacco, marijuana and vapor product prevention program at Garfield County Public Health are to prevent nicotine, vapor product and marijuana initiation by youth; decrease current tobacco and nicotine use; and reduce exposure to secondhand smoke and vapor product aerosols through policy, public education and cessation encouragement.

Garfield County Public Health plays a crucial role in Pomeroy Partners, a volunteer coalition focusing on youth safety. Our office helps analyze local data to create prevention initiatives and engages the community in prevention strategies. By empowering adults, the organization aims to create a supportive environment for young people. Our dedication to Pomeroy Partners promotes community well-being and fosters a culture of prevention, highlighting the importance of community engagement in protecting youth.

Garfield County Public Health continued to support community-based prevention efforts throughout 2023, which included:

- Spring and Fall Drug Take Back events.
- Distribution of lock boxes to keep medications safe.
- Red Ribbon Week 4th and 5th Grade education on the harms of smoking, and a poster contest to educate community members.



EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Public health agencies throughout the United States receive grant funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to prepare for emergencies. This funding has allowed Garfield County Public Health to focus on building emergency preparedness capabilities and competencies. Garfield County's Emergency Response Plan consists of Emergency Support Functions (ESFs) which define specific responsibilities during emergency response. The pandemic has highlighted the need for full understanding of how to implement Incident Command Structure (ICS) functions both within public health agencies and also between Garfield County Public Health and community partners. ICS allows for clear communication between partners and timely delegation of responsibilities. Even though preparedness staff switched to active incident response during 2023, Garfield County Public Health continued to support local efforts, provided training for staff, and ensured that core ICS courses were completed as a part of new employee onboarding, and more.

AED & CPR/FIRST AID

In a commendable initiative to enhance community health and safety, Garfield County Public Health embarked on a life-saving project by purchasing and distributing Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) across key locations within the community. Recognizing the critical importance of immediate response to cardiac emergencies, these AEDs were strategically placed in public spaces to ensure accessibility during emergencies.

Complementing this effort, Garfield County Public Health also sponsored free First Aid and CPR classes at the local fire department. This educational outreach aimed to empower residents with the knowledge and skills necessary to effectively respond to health emergencies, ultimately fostering a safer and more resilient community. Through these proactive measures, Garfield County Public Health has significantly contributed to enhancing the community's preparedness and ability to save lives.

COOLING CENTER

The cooling station at the local fire department served Garfield County residents during scorching heatwaves, offering a respite for those most in need. It stands as a testament to the power of unity in tackling environmental issues, showcasing how coming together as a community can make a real difference in the lives of our neighbors. With a shared commitment to safeguarding the well-being of all individuals, this initiative serves as a shining example of compassion and proactive action from Garfield County Public Health and their partners.



COVID-19 PANDEMIC AFTER ACTION REPORT

An analysis of public health emergency preparedness and response capabilities was conducted from April 2022 to October 2022, capturing information on the response and recovery of the incident.

Community preparedness involves public health participation in training, promoting access to resources, engaging in preparedness activities, and strengthening community resilience. Garfield County Public Health worked with community partners, especially the Garfield County Hospital and Garfield County Fire District to make sure that the community was well aware of access to the Covid 19 vaccine and boosters. There was good partnership through the hospital and health district make sure everyone in community that wanted a vaccine had access. Our main area for improvement would be having data provided for analysis.

Community recovery involves identifying critical assets for restoration, collaborating with partners, and restoring public services to pre-incident levels. Garfield County Public Health supported vaccine efforts by assisting with scheduling, administering vaccines, and paperwork. The community's quick recovery was attributed to their support. Suggestions included assessing vaccine clinic locations for accessibility and potentially relocating to clinics or hospitals as community needs change.

Emergency public information and warning is the ability to develop, coordinate, and disseminate information, alerts, warnings, and notifications to the public and incident management personnel. Respondents noted that GCHD did a very good job of communicating to partners and the community about Covid Vaccine and Booster clinics and information. They were praised for their use of Social media and the ease of access to information. A Joint Information System (JIS) and a Joint Information Center (JIC) were not used to coordinate public information.

CONTINUING EDUCATION & PROGRAMS

Garfield County Public Health has been actively engaged in enhancing its emergency preparedness and response capabilities through a comprehensive approach that encompasses continuing education and a series of targeted programs. These initiatives are critical in ensuring the health and safety of the community in times of crisis. Among the key activities undertaken is the tour of the Special Pathogens unit at Sacred Heart, which is instrumental in understanding the complex nature of managing highly infectious diseases. This experience not only broadens the knowledge base of the health professionals involved but also strengthens the county's capacity to respond to outbreaks of diseases that require specialized containment and treatment protocols.



In addition to focusing on infectious disease management, Garfield County Public Health is also addressing the challenges posed by isolation and quarantine from a rural perspective. The unique characteristics of rural areas, such as limited healthcare infrastructure and geographical isolation, necessitate innovative planning to ensure effective isolation and quarantine measures. This is complemented by the development of strategies for wildfire season planning and mitigation, acknowledging the increasing threat of wildfires and their potential impact on public health. These efforts are aimed at minimizing the risks to the community through proactive planning and the implementation of effective mitigation measures.

Furthermore, the annual update of the Medical Countermeasures plan signifies the ongoing commitment to ensuring the availability and efficient distribution of medical resources during emergencies. This is a critical component of emergency preparedness, ensuring that vaccines, medications, and other essential medical supplies can be quickly and effectively deployed in response to a public health incident. The collaboration with emergency managers in the region through regional joint meetings underscores the importance of a coordinated approach to emergency preparedness and response, facilitating the sharing of resources, knowledge, and best practices. Together, these initiatives represent a multifaceted approach to enhancing the resilience of Garfield County against a wide range of emergencies, ensuring the health and well-being of its residents are protected.



PROMOTE

MATERNAL & CHILD HEALTH

Maternal child health is a crucial area of public health that focuses on the health provision and outcomes for mothers, infants, and children. It aims to ensure that these groups have the best start in life, which is essential for the long-term well-being of communities and societies at large. In Washington State, the importance of maternal child health is recognized across both urban and rural settings, including smaller counties like Garfield County.

The goals of maternal child health in Washington State, particularly in less populous areas, include increasing access to quality healthcare services, improving educational efforts around family planning and prenatal care, and reducing health disparities. By focusing on these goals, programs can tailor their efforts to meet the specific needs of communities in smaller counties. For Garfield County, this means encouraging local clinic use, telehealth services for remote consultations, and community-based health education programs. Such initiatives can empower residents with the knowledge and resources they need to make informed health decisions, fostering a healthier community overall.

Maternal Child Health initiatives have significantly contributed to the development and promotion of various programs aimed at enhancing the health and safety of children and their families. Among these innovative programs, "Safe Kids" stands out as a pivotal campaign dedicated to preventing unintentional injuries in children, the number one cause of death for children in the United States.

The emphasis on "Healthy Celebrations at School" showcases the commitment of Maternal Child Health to also to promote a culture of wellness from a young age. This program encourages schools to celebrate milestones and achievements with activities and treats that contribute to the health and well-being of students, rather than relying on traditional sugary snacks and sedentary activities. By fostering a healthier school environment, children learn the importance of nutrition and physical activity in a fun and engaging way.



In addition to these programs, Maternal Child Health has effectively utilized local resources to extend its reach and impact. By collaborating with local clinics offering free sports physicals, the initiative has ensured that literacy brochures are available to participants. This strategic communication not only informs families about the available health services but also educates them on various health and safety topics. Through these concerted efforts, Maternal Child Health continues to make strides in protecting and enhancing the lives of children and families, demonstrating the power of community collaboration in promoting public health.

Garfield County Public Health collaborates with local organizations, Pomeroy School District, and Garfield County Hospital District to create a comprehensive support network for families. This collaborative approach ensures that resources are maximized and that families have access to a broad spectrum of services, from mental health support to educational programs. By focusing on the well-being of mothers and children, Garfield County Public Health not only addresses immediate health needs but also lays the groundwork for a healthier, more resilient community in Pomeroy. Through these concerted efforts, the impact of maternal and child health extends beyond the individual, fostering a stronger, more connected community.

COMMUNITY HEALTH ASSESSMENT

Representatives from community organizations, local public health agencies, and health systems identify health priorities in Garfield County every 5 years. Priorities from 2018-2022 included mental health, alcohol/drug abuse, and nutrition/physical activity. Public health initiatives focus not only on health outcomes but also on addressing underlying reasons for health gaps.

Research emphasizes the importance of understanding the root causes of health disparities in Garfield County to drive measurable and sustainable improvements through collaboration between Public Health and community groups. Social determinants like income, housing, education, healthcare, and neighborhoods impact individual and community health, alongside unfair policies and practices.



Health Indicators



Community Survey



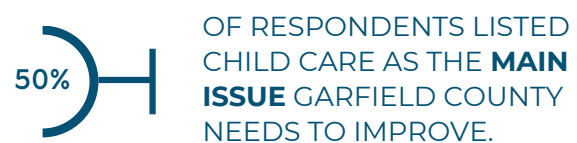
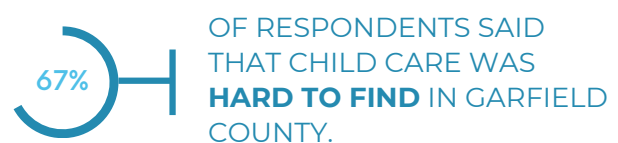
Key Leader Interviews



Focus Groups

Our health is shaped by our community, where we live, what types of food we can access, living wage jobs, our health, if we have safe places for recreation and exercise, and many other factors. All of these factors contribute to our social needs, which are our immediate health needs like housing and food. Our social determinants of health, which are the community-wide conditions that influence where and how we work, live, learn, and play as well as the factors that influence those conditions. If one of these main components are out of balance, it can lead to inequities in our community's health.

COMMUNITY HEALTH ASSESSMENT: WHAT WE LEARNED



TOP 3 AREAS OF IMPROVEMENT

The CHA in Garfield County identifies the need for better housing, childcare, and job opportunities. Challenges include a lack of affordable housing, limited childcare, and a need for diverse job options. Addressing these challenges is vital for the county's growth and creating a supportive environment for all residents.

"When you start making decisions on the size of your family... that's a personal decision. When you make that decision based on whether you know you're going to have child care or whether you can afford to have a kid."

- Focus group participant



TOP 3 BARRIERS

In Garfield County, challenges such as medical provider turnover, stigma, pride, and communication issues impact service effectiveness. High turnover disrupts care continuity, stigma and pride discourage help-seeking, and communication barriers limit support. Solutions include stabilizing medical providers, promoting openness, and enhancing communication strategies.

TOP 3 ASSETS & STRENGTHS

Garfield County thrives due to robust healthcare access, youth-focused activities, and strong community connections. The county ensures prompt healthcare with various medical resources, emphasizing well-being. It offers diverse youth activities, fostering growth and community spirit. Active civic engagement enhances initiatives, making the county nurturing and inclusive.

"Another value, I think, would be youth. I think the community is very supportive of youth, especially when it comes to sports, but even just like youth in general. I think the community really comes together to support youth. Our community has never failed a levy for the school."

- Sarah M., Director, Pomeroy Partners for Healthy Families Coalition | pg. 27



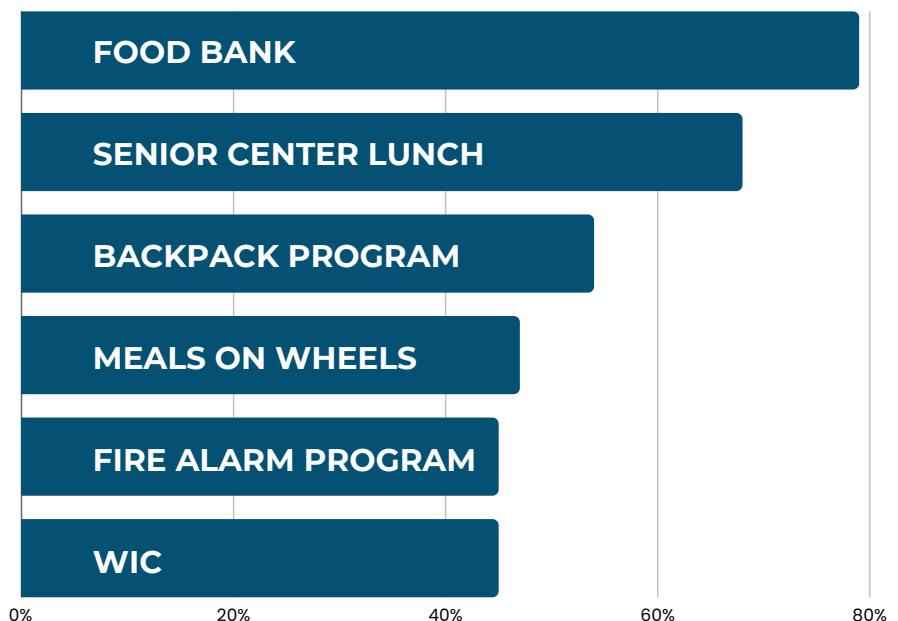
TOP 3 REASONS TO LIVE IN GARFIELD CO.

Living in Garfield County provides residents with low crime rates, a clean environment, and diverse outdoor activities, leading to a high quality of life, sense of community, safety, and well-being. The county offers small-town living with clean air and water, promoting physical and mental health, making it an ideal place for a peaceful and active lifestyle.

PROGRAMS THAT SUPPORT THE COMMUNITY

Community members listed many programs they feel are an asset to the community, including social service organizations, elder support services, and churches. For food access in particular, the food bank, senior center meals, and the school backpack program were the most well-known.

Garfield County Public Health is proud to say we are involved in a large percentage of these programs that support the community and that they know us as a resource to them.



FARM TO TABLE

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Education plays a vital role in boosting nutritional awareness and promoting healthy eating habits in communities, especially among low-income families. This program not only educates Pomeroy youth on the significance of nutrition and how to make affordable, healthy food selections but also offers hands-on experiences such as learning to grow and cultivate their own produce.

By collaborating with Garfield County Public Health and the Pomeroy School District to grow vegetables, students gain practical insights into agriculture, the importance of fresh produce, and public health initiatives. This enriches their education and ensures that the school cafeteria serves nutritious, locally sourced meals. These efforts not only improve personal health but also advocate for sustainability, support local farming, and create positive changes in the community.

Through SNAP-Education and the farm-to-table project, our youth are empowered to make informed dietary decisions, ultimately enhancing the well-being and resilience of our future generations.



FARMER APPRECIATION DAY

In 2023, Garfield County Public Health launched an innovative initiative aimed at supporting the mental and physical well-being of local farmers, a demographic often overlooked in public health initiatives. This pioneering program not only highlighted the significant pressures and challenges faced by the farming community but also offered a platform to address these issues head-on. The inaugural event saw more than 20 farmers and their families gather in a display of community solidarity and support, underscoring the vital importance of health within this hardworking community.

A complimentary meal was served as a gesture of gratitude and recognition of the hard work and dedication of the farming community. In addition, attendees were presented with vouchers redeemable at various vendors from the Summer Market, further connecting the dots between local agriculture and community health. This thoughtful provision allowed farmers to enjoy the fruits of their labor and the local bounty, reinforcing the event's theme of nourishment, both physically and mentally.



Booths and tables with information on mental and physical health were placed around the Summer Market, offering attendees a wealth of resources. These stations provided valuable insights and tools for managing stress, improving physical health, and fostering mental well-being. Mental Health advocates and nurses were on hand to offer advice, answer questions, and guide attendees toward available resources, ensuring that the support offered was both accessible and actionable. This initiative by Garfield County Public Health not only shed light on the specific health concerns of the farming community but also forged a path toward a healthier, more supported future for these essential contributors to society.

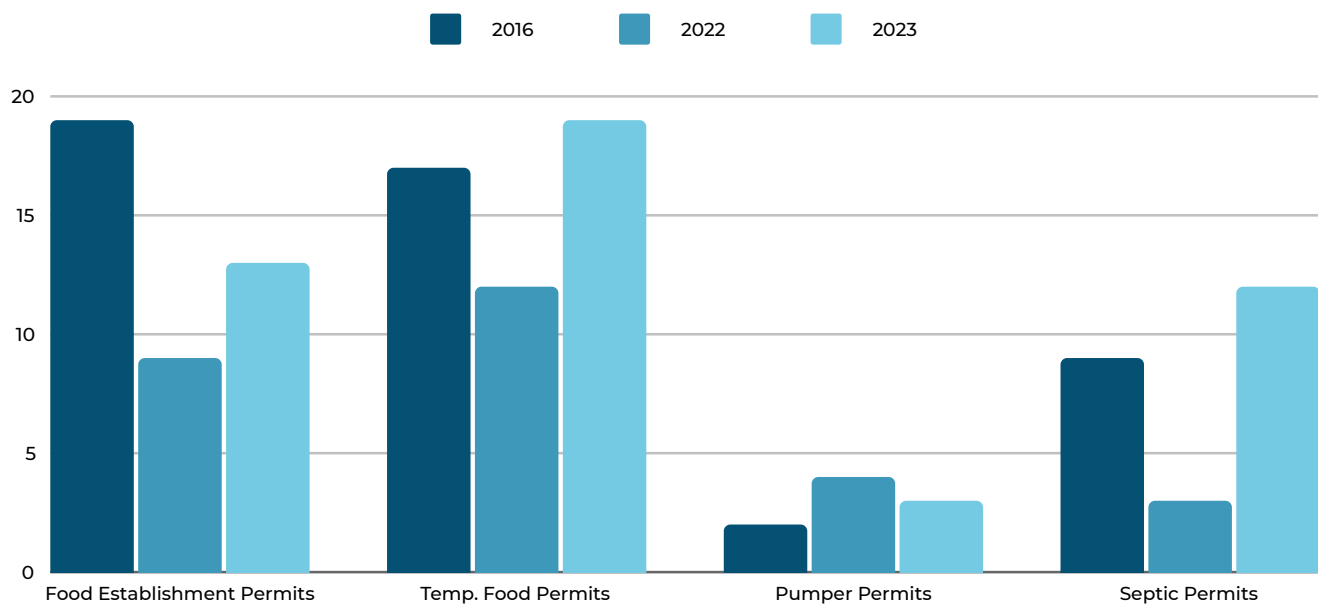
A photograph of a child in a light blue shirt and dark shorts sliding down a yellow and black playground slide. The image is overlaid with a large, semi-transparent blue diamond shape. Two vertical blue lines are positioned above and below the word 'PROTECT'.

PROTECT

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Public health is responsible for managing environmental health by monitoring and protecting the environment for human health. This includes assessing and controlling risks to health from pollutants, hazardous materials, and other environmental hazards, as well as promoting good environmental practices to reduce the risk of harm to humans. Public health also works to educate the public on the importance of environmental health, and the steps they can take to protect themselves and their communities from environmental hazards.

Garfield County Public Health aligns local food practices with state regulations to ensure food safety and public health standards are met. Recent review focuses on new Washington State Department of Health food regulations to prevent foodborne illnesses and maintain safe food service operations. Three new vendors applying for catering permits in Garfield County indicate growth in the local food industry, which is much needed locally. Garfield County Public Health reviews applicants to ensure compliance with food safety laws, promoting a competitive market and ensuring safe, clean food prepared to high health standards. Garfield County Public Health takes proactive steps to ensure food safety by monitoring and enforcing regulations, ensuring vendor compliance, and preventing foodborne illnesses. These actions strengthen public trust, support a healthier community, and balance economic development with public health protection.



PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING

The Public Health Nursing Team, comprising of Jackie Tetrick and Elizabeth Stringer, works in collaboration with our community partners in delivering preventive care to individuals and families in Garfield County. This includes supporting childhood development; prevention, detection, and response to infectious diseases and/or emerging outbreaks; providing support, immunization, and other necessary measures to protect the health and wellness of the entire population.

The Nursing Team works to decrease illness in the community by preventing diseases that spread from person to person, animal to person, and environment to person. In an effort to make the community more prepared for being healthy, Garfield County Public Health convenes monthly meetings with local health partners to strengthen our community's ability to quickly and effectively communicate important health information.

Garfield County Public Health nurses conduct blood pressure screenings at the Pomeroy Senior Center to promote health among seniors, addressing hypertension and preventing more severe conditions. Offering screenings in a familiar setting encourages participation and provides education on managing blood pressure. The initiative demonstrates a proactive approach to community health, emphasizing preventive care, early intervention, and raising awareness about regular health check-ups for a stronger, healthier community.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

Garfield County Public Health's dedication to promoting immunization clinics in 2023 was a pivotal step towards ensuring the health and well-being of the community. By forging partnerships, strategically staffing clinics in key locations, and incorporating inclusive strategies, they not only facilitated access to COVID-19 and flu vaccines but also championed equity in healthcare distribution.

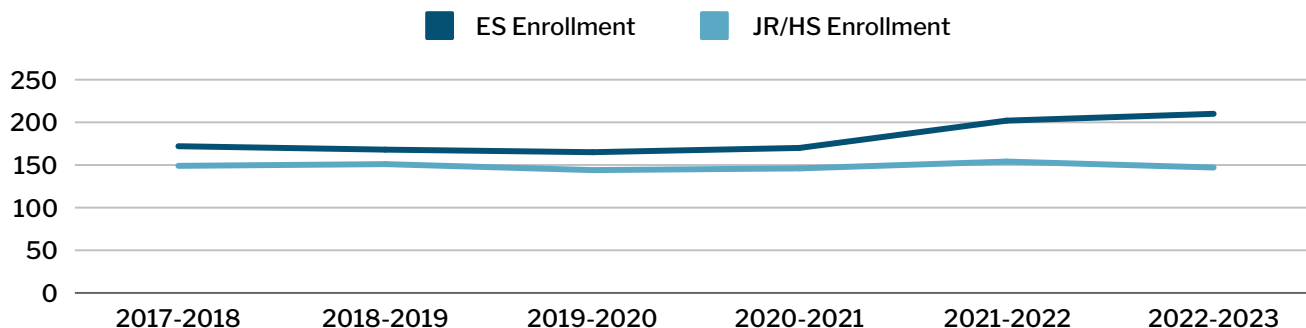
Furthermore, the diligent efforts of Garfield County Public Health in investigating fewer than 5 cases of other communicable diseases in 2023 underscore their commitment to safeguarding public health. The ongoing engagement of their nurses in learning about communicable diseases and epidemiology highlights their proactive approach to staying abreast of evolving health challenges and best practices. Overall, Garfield County Public Health's multifaceted initiatives in 2023 exemplify their unwavering dedication to promoting community health, fostering partnerships, and prioritizing education and inclusivity in healthcare delivery.

CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL HEALTH CARE NEEDS

The Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs Program is in the Healthy Starts and Transitions unit in the Office of Family and Community Health Improvement at the Department of Health. The program promotes an integrated system of services for infants, children and youth up to age 18 years who have or are at risk for chronic physical, developmental, behavioral, or emotional conditions and require health and related services of a type or amount beyond what is generally needed.

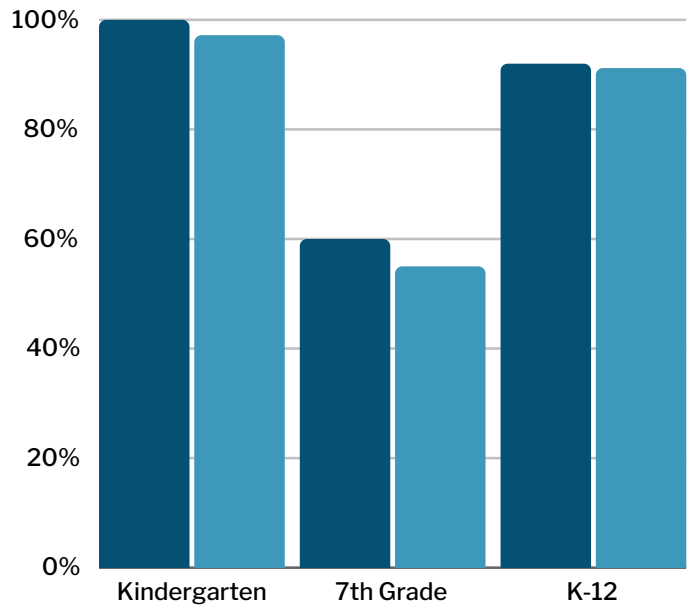
SCHOOL NURSING

In Pomeroy, WA, our public health nurses working as a school nurse plays a crucial role in maintaining and promoting the health and well-being of students within the educational setting. This involves a broad range of responsibilities, from conducting health screenings and managing chronic conditions to implementing public health programs and providing emergency care. The unique position of a school nurse in Pomeroy also means working closely with families, educators, and community resources to address health concerns, educate on preventive health practices, and create a safe and supportive environment for all students. By bridging healthcare and education, school nurses in Pomeroy ensure that public health principles are integrated into the school setting, thereby supporting the academic success and overall health of the community's youth.



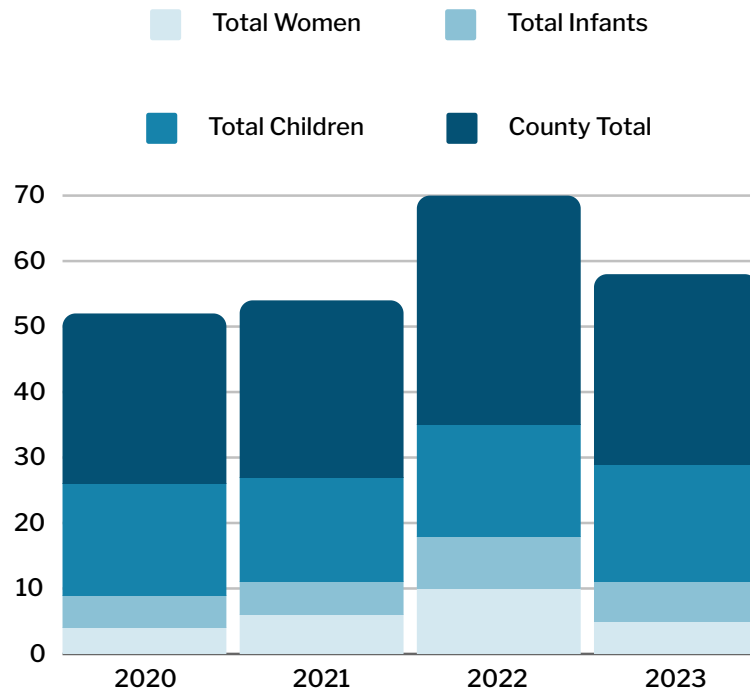
Pomeroy School District has 361 enrolled students in 2022-2023 school year. The district's minority enrollment is 10%. Also, 43.5% of students are economically disadvantaged, allowing them to be eligible to participate in the federal free and reduced-price meal program.

The Garfield County Public Health Hearing and Vision Program focuses on early detection of hearing and vision concerns for students within Pomeroy School District schools. Garfield County Public Health partners with Pomeroy School District to support hearing screenings and assessments in Garfield County. Universal vision screenings are conducted for all students in the elementary school.



WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN (WIC)

The WIC program (Women, Infants, and Children) is a federally funded nutrition program that provides healthy foods, nutrition education, breastfeeding support, and other services free of charge to eligible families.



WIC serves to improve the health of pregnant women, new mothers, infants, and children up to the age of five who are at nutritional risk. WIC helps families by providing nutritious foods such as milk, eggs, cheese, cereal, juice, and more. It also provides education on nutrition, breastfeeding support, and referrals to health care and other community services.

Elizabeth Stringer, one of our Public Health Nurse, became a certified lactation educator in February of 2021, and since then has been able to help council women who are lactating or breastfeeding. This allows for healthier and supported mothers and babies who feel empowered because of Garfield County Public Health and the services we offer.

STAY ACTIVE AND INDEPENDENT FOR LIFE (SAIL)

Stay Active and Independent for Life is a strength, balance and fitness program for adults 65 and older. Performing exercises that improve strength, balance and fitness are the single most important activity that adults can do to stay active and reduce their chance of falling. This class is implemented at the Pomeroy Senior Center in both the spring and fall. There are 10 courses per season with 8 participants at each.

BOARD OF HEALTH

LARRY LEDGERWOOD, CHAIR
Garfield County Commissioner

PATTY BLACHLY
Board Member

PATTI WEAVER
Board Member

JUSTIN DIXON
Garfield County Commissioner

JIM NELSON
Garfield County Commissioner

VONNI MULRONY
Board Member

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

MARTHA LANMAN
Administrator

LAURA DIXON
Fiscal Manager/Administrative Assistant

JACKIE TETRICK
Public Health Nurse

ELIZABETH STRINGER
Public Health Nurse

CHELSEY EATON
Program Coordinator

JESSICA NELSON
Food Specialist & SNAP-Ed Educator

HEALTH OFFICER

DR. DANIEL KAMINSKY
Walla Walla Department of Community
Health