HEALTH DATA THAT DRIVES ACTION

Our program provides information about the social, economic, mental, and physical health and well-being of Kitsap residents and our environment so that Health District programs, leadership, and community partners are equipped to identify issues, prioritize resources, and take action.

“The aspect of my work I find most rewarding is interacting with people in the community who use our data.”

Amanda Tjemsland, MPH, Epidemiologist

WHAT WE DO

Our team's work includes:

• Providing epidemiological (epi) support to Health District programs, including disease surveillance.

• Providing epi support to outside agencies through contracts.

• Compiling annual health indicators and disparities reports for community health assessments.

• Compiling quarterly opioid surveillance reports for emergency medical services.

• Developing methods for identifying and highlighting health inequities and disparities.
2022 HIGHLIGHTS

ASSESSMENT/EPIDEMIOLOGY

2022 BY THE NUMBERS

25+ COVID-19 Active Outbreak Reports compiled.

40+ COVID-19 Surveillance Reports published.

8 external partners and all Health District programs received support from our team.

4,500 community survey responses gathered; 10 focus groups discussions, and 16 key informant interviews; and 293 pages of audio transcribed and analyzed.

AT A GLANCE

PROGRAM NAME: Assessment/Epidemiology
MANAGER: Kari Hunter
2022 FTE STAFF: 4

GRANTS & SPECIAL FUNDING SOURCES FOR 2022:
- Foundational Public Health Services grant for community health assessment
- Clallam, Jefferson and Kitsap counties for the Mental Health, Chemical Dependency & Therapeutic Court Program
- Kitsap Interagency Coordinating Council
- Olympic Educational Service District 114 for Behavioral Health Counseling Enhancement Project
- Kitsap Community Resources for qualitative data collection and analysis
- Virginia Mason Franciscan Health for Community Health Needs Assessment
- Kitsap Aging and Long-Term Care (ALTC)

Thank you to our funders and community partners for their continued support!

2022 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- We developed dashboard visualizations of key indicators for health assessment, strategic planning, and quality improvement work.
- We published the Kitsap County Community Public Health Indicators and Disparities Report and Equity Fact Sheet, with support from our Equity and Communications programs.
- We collaborated with other Health District programs to create reports to aid decision-making and situational awareness, such as the Kitsap County Jail COVID-19 Outbreak Report and Child Death Review Case List.
- We teamed with our Equity program to conduct a survey on equity among Health District staff and managers.
- In partnership with Kitsap Community Resources, Virginia Mason Franciscan Health, and many other contributing organizations, we conducted qualitative data collection for a community survey, 10 focus groups and 16 key informant interviews.
- We collaborated with many other community partners, including foodbanks, Olympic Educational Service District 114, Kitsap Aging and Long Term Care, and the Mental Health, Chemical Dependency & Therapeutic Drug Court Community Advisory Committee, and strengthened partnerships with neighboring county public health jurisdictions in Clallam, Jefferson, Pierce and King.

Looking Ahead to 2023

Epidemiology is working with other Health District programs and a workgroup led by Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security to identify opportunities to close gaps in services and improve access to healthcare in Kitsap County.

Additionally, epi members will benefit from a reorganization of our program under a new Public Health Infrastructure Division. We believe this will help better integrate our program’s work throughout the agency.

LEARN MORE & CONNECT

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Scan this QR Code with your smartphone camera to visit our program page.