Mohave County Department of



PUBLIC HEALTH Annual Report





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Students at a local elementary school learn the importance of healthy eating, and budget-friendly gardening that requires little watering in the Arizona desert.





Who We Are

INTERIM DIRECTOR

Melissa Palmer

ADMINISTRATION

Budget and Grant Supervisor - 1 Office Specialist - 3 Special Programs Analyst - 1

PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROGRAM (PHEP)

Scott Wright - Program Coordinator

PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING

Lynne Valentine - Manager

Clerical Temp - 1

Community Health Education Specialist I - 4

Community Health Education Specialist II - 2

Public Health Specialist - 1

Nursing Supervisor - 3

Office Assistant - 3

Office Assistant Sr. - 1

Professional Temp - 1

Public Health Nurse, RN - 4

Office Specialist - 2

Paraprofessional Temp - 1

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Tara Stanec

Environmental Health Specialist I/II – 11

Professional Temp - 1

Permit Technician - 3

Office Specialist- 1

NUTRITION & HEALTH PROMOTION

Brenda LoBue - Manager

Community Health Education Spec Sr - 1

Community Health Education Spec I - 7

Community Health Education Spec II - 1

Community Nutrition Specialist Sr - 1

Community Nutrition Specialist II - 1

Eligibility Technician - 8

Office Specialist - 1

Office Assistant Senior - 1

Professional Temp - 1

Senior Programs Coordinator - 1

Cook - 1

Prep Cook - 1

Senior Programs Assistant – 4

Site Coordinator – 2

Professional Temp - 4

All counts represent number of positions budgeted, not FTE count

Board of Health

Supervisor Jean Bishop - BOS Dr. Dat Nguyen - Physician Hunter Adams - District 1

Vacant - District 2 Vacant - District 3 Vacant - District 4

Nancy Mongeau & Sandra Thomas- District 5 Cal Sheehy, Mayor, Lake Havasu City

Allyson Fair Marlie Lucas

Our Culture



Our mission is to promote, protect, and improve the health of our communities.



Our vision is for Mohave County to be a healthy community in which our residents thrive.



We value providing quality service with integrity, professionalism and to always practice fiscal responsibility. Outlined below are all the values we hold high, and what we work towards each and every day.

- Service: Promote and protect the health and well-being of Mohave County residents.
- **Quality:** Inspire and increase desired healthy outcomes and conditions within our population.
- *Integrity:* Ensuring our actions align with our values, our mission, and our vision.
- *Fiscal Responsibility:* Maximize resource allocations while eliminating unnecessary expenses.
- Timeliness: Provide rapid response to emerging health concerns, to mitigate or contain these issues, and to deliver prompt attention to client needs.
- *Professionalism:* Demonstrate competence, technical skills, knowledge, and ethical values.
- **Teamwork:** Work side-by-side with internal program staff, community partners, and community members to improve health outcomes.
- **Resourcefulness:** Commitment to creative, innovative problem-solving to improve health outcomes.
- Development: While working toward improving the health of Mohave County, we also commit to increasing staff's skills, knowledge and personal effectiveness.

Public Health and Our Key Roles

Health protections are provided in a number of areas, including: preventing the spread of communicable disease; ensuring food, air, and water quality are safe; supporting maternal and child health; improving access to care and preventing chronic disease and injury.

Public health infrastructure consists of seven foundational capabilities, which are the skills and capacities needed to support basic public health protections and other programs and activities that are key to ensuring the community's health. Public health programs and foundational areas are aimed at improving the health of the community affected by certain diseases or public health threats.

Who We Serve

Mohave County Population Overview

















Total Population

Median Household Income

Employment Rate

Total Housing Units

Without Healthcare Coverage

213,267

\$55,954

Bachelor's Degree or Higher 15.6%

39.9.8%

117,650

9.4%

53.7

Kingman City















Total Population

Median Household Income

Bachelor's Degree or Higher

Employment Rate

Total Housing Units

Without Healthcare Coverage

20%

Median Age

32,689

\$56,360

45.8%

14,135

5.8%

42.1

Bullhead City















Total Population

Median Household Income

Bachelor's Degree or Higher

Employment Rate

Total Housing Units

Without Healthcare Coverage

Median Age

41,348

\$47,129

12.1%

43.6%

24,503

7.9%

52.2

Lake Havasu City















Total Population

Median Household Income

Bachelor's Degree or Higher

Employment Rate

Total Housing Units

Median Age

57,144

\$64,027

18.6%

43.5%

35,410

Without Healthcare Coverage 8.7%

54.3

Colorado City

















Total Population

2,478

Median Household Income

Bachelor's Degree or Higher 13.7%

Employment Rate 51.9%

Total Housing Units 561

Without Healthcare Coverage

43.9%

Median Age

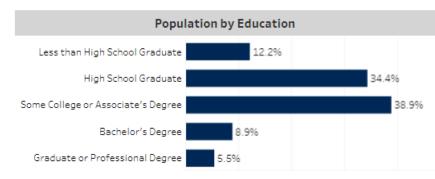
18.6

Other outlier communities include:

City	Population	City	Population	City	Population
Fort Mohave	16,190	Oatman	127	Valentine	54
Mohave Valley	2,693	Yucca	<i>96</i>	Chloride	<i>287</i>
Topock	1,938	Hackberry	<i>372</i>	Golden Shores	<i>560</i>
Dolan Springs	1,734	Wikieup	222	Beaver Dam	2,022
Golden Valley	7,822	White Hills	255	Truxton	104

Socioeconomic & Health Indicators

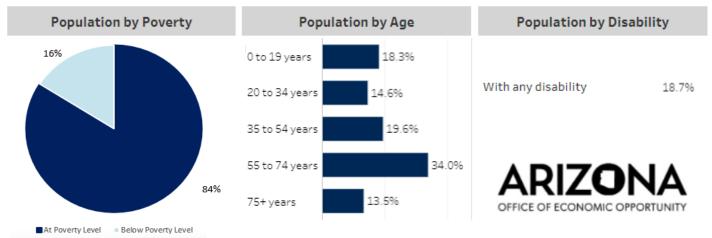
Socioeconomic health factors in a community includes median income, education, and employment level. Typically, the lower the income and education of a community the higher the need for healthcare and education on risky behaviors. Risk-seeking behaviors can lead to substance use, sexually transmitted diseases, and higher risk for poor lung and heart health due to tobacco use, unhealthy eating habits and lack of care.



There are currently four Mohave Community College (MCC) campuses throughout Mohave County.

Arizona State University has two satellite campuses and holds apprenticeship programs at MCC, and Arizona@Work.

Arizona@Work provides GED classes and scholar-ships to technical programs.



Q4 2023 Mohave and La Paz Employment by Total, All Industries



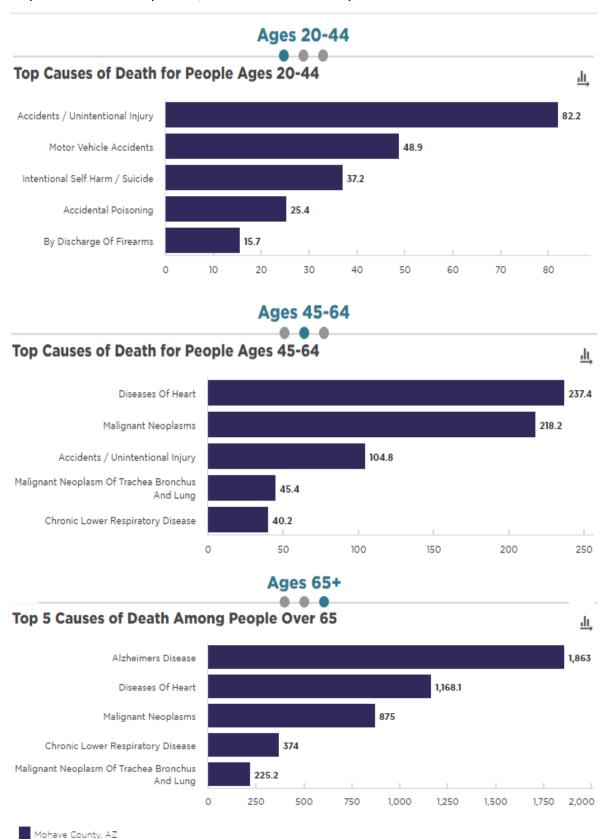
Housing Type	Quantity
Owner Occupied	67,876
Renter Occupied	36,697
Seasonal or Recreational	29,047

^{*}There is a very small percentage of vacant housing units. In 2022, the number has not been identified.

^{*}Source: Arizona Office of Economic Opportunity

Patterns in Mortality

Understanding patterns in mortality allow public health officials to identify key factors that contribute to a lower quality of life and to early death, which is then used to prioritize healthcare and educational needs.



Services & Programs

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

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

Strategic Planning

Bolstered by our mission, vision, and values, our public health team strategically applies goals and objectives to maximize efforts in promoting healthy choices through education and improving health outcomes within Mohave County.

MCDPH Strategic Workgroup

Each year a team of employees are identified to lead a strategic workgroup. After gathering information from staff, Mohave County residents during outreach events, and feedback during educational activities, the team then identifies an impactful project with the highest need of improvement as identified by staff.

Budget: July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023

Revenues	
Federal Grants	\$3,896,827
AHCCCS & Insurance Revenue	
Fees from Services	\$1,677,766
State Grants & Contracts	\$899,675
County General Funds	\$1,351,484
Miscellaneous Transfers In	\$126,874
Miscellaneous & Donations	\$165,489
Total Revenues	\$8,345,174
Expenditures	

Expenditures	
Personnel Services	\$5,431,916
Operating Supplies	\$ 688,594
Other Charges/Services	\$2,210,344
Capital Outlay	\$14,320
Total Expenditures	\$8,345,174

Mohave County Department of Public Health
Strategic Map 2020 – 2024

Vision: Healthy People in Healthy Communities

Mission: To Promote, Protect, and Improve the Health of our Community

Goals

Objectives

1 Improve Health Outcomes

1. Promote Nutrition & Physical Activity to Reduce Obesity & Heart Disease
2. Reduce Tobacco Use
3. Reduce Substance Misuse
4. Reduce Substance Misuse
4. Reduce Substance Misuse
2. Increase Breastfeeding Rates and Duration
3. Increase Immunization Rates and Reduce Exemption Rates

1. Build Awareness of Public Health Value
2. Maintain Accreditation
Community

1. Recruit and Retain Staff
2. Utilize Technology to Improve Services
3. Promote & Protect Public
4. Improve Customer Satisfaction Through Feedback

1. Prepare & Respond to All Health Emergencies
2. Monitor Disease Trends and Vectors

Measure Outcomes and Evaluate Progress

Implement Evidenced-Based or Best Practices

Align Resources with Key Priorities

Community Health Needs Assessment

A Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) is a systematic process that identifies and analyzes a community's health needs. In collaboration with Kingman Regional Medical Center (KRMC), the county's only non-profit hospital, MCDPH and KRMC gather information using county-wide disseminated surveys (quantitative) followed by several community focus groups (qualitative). The needs are addressed in community-led health improvement plan (CHIP) groups where Mohave County residents work alongside agencies to address the issues presented.

This process occurs every three years. Outlined below are the top three health concerns as identified from Mohave County residents during the 2022 Community Health Needs Assessment.

Kingman

Goal 1: *Mental Health* - Reduce mental health stigma among community members, and decrease the number of suicide-related deaths in Mohave County.

Goal 2: *Substance Abuse* - Decrease reported substance use disorders by youth, reduce opioid related overdose deaths, and reduce number of substance-related ER admissions.

Goal 3: *Healthy Living* - Increase the self-reported levels of physical activity of Kingman residents, reduce food insecurity, and improve access to healthy food choices.

Bullhead

Goal 1: *Substance Use* - Reduce the use of alcohol and all drugs by 10%, continue increase of substance disorder treatments centers in BHC.

Goal 2: *Healthy Living* - Reduce number of BHC residents who report being physically inactive and reduce food insecurity.

Goal 3: *Teen Pregnancy Prevention* - Increase number of schools participating in Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program and reduce teen birthrate.

Lake Havasu

Goal 1: *Mental Health* - Increase recruitment and retention of mental health professionals serving the LHC area and increase capacity of existing social service agencies and providers.

Goal 2: *Substance Use Disorders* - Decrease reported substance abuse among youth and increase access to and utilization of substance use treatment services.

Goal 3: Access to Health Care and Social Services - Increase access to quality healthcare and social services.

Quality Improvement

Public health protects and improves the health outcomes of the community it serves. Prioritizing disease prevention through education, promoting a healthy lifestyle, and clean and safe environment are just a few of the responsibilities of a public health employee.

The more difficult tasks lie in navigating emerging health issues and public health threats in a turbulent political climate while working within decreased budgets and diminishing number of staff. Despite the many obstacles, quality improvement (QI) will always be of great importance to our department and our staff. QI in public health is a thoughtful and intentional process of focusing on activities that respond to community needs while working toward improved efficiency, effectiveness, and maintaining accountability for measurably exceptional services.

Foundational Elements of a QI Culture

The following foundational elements create a comprehensive approach to needed change that considers both the processes and people involved:

Leadership

Leading by example, management and supervisors commit to the process of quality by outlining and communicating clear expectations, addressing staff concerns and showing support while maintaining accountability. Change management is a framework that embraces the human side of change while maintaining transparency and staff support.

QI Infrastructure

Having systems in place to create and maintain a culture of quality is a main component to creating a strong foundation in which organizational and individual performance are constantly evaluated for improvement. Within the infrastructure is a QI plan that outlines the organizations QI goals and objectives. The plan is intended to be a living document that is evaluated regularly and revised as needed.

Employee Empowerment

Upon hire, the department immediately begins educating staff that QI is not only a culture but and expectation with room for each employee to contribute if they see a need. During our new employee department orientation, we ensure all employees are aware and supported and we advocate for them to be QI champions.

Customer Focus

Quality care, services, and education are a core tenet of public health. Understanding our community allows us to meet the needs of each unique city within Mohave County. All of our programs are community-driven and continuously evaluated to ensure we are providing services that meet their needs.

Teamwork & Collaboration

Teams are comprised of staff chosen by supervisors. Our teams have clearly defined roles and performance expectations. We strive to have cross department collaboration to help break down silos and help contribute different points-of-view and innovative solutions.

Continuous Quality Improvement

QI consists of gradual, realistic improvements that reduce redundancies and improve programs and services to increase customer satisfaction as a continuous process.

Public Health Nursing

The Nursing Division provides services for high-risk populations and is responsible for communicable disease control activities throughout the county. High-risk populations include older adults, persons with certain medical conditions, pregnant women, individuals and families with low-income, certain racial or ethnic groups, people with chronic conditions, non-English speakers, unhoused, people with limited transportation, persons with pharmacological dependency, children, and persons living in rural areas. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines are utilized for the prevention and treatment of communicable diseases. Many of the services provided are required to protect the health and safety of our residents and are free of charge. Other services are provided at a low, fixed-cost or on a sliding fee scale.

The following are programs overseen by our public health nursing department:

Tuberculosis (TB) Program

Nursing staff provided tuberculosis (TB) services to 413 Mohave County residents during FY23, with 387 being TB skin tests. Our nursing team investigated and provided followed-up with 11 individuals who had positive TB skin test results and/or blood tests. Case management includes assisting and navigating proper care, ensure screenings for active TB disease or offer and provide latent TB treatment when needed. Nursing staff also investigated and provided case management of 13 suspected TB cases and two active TB cases. TB education was provided to each person obtaining services from our staff.

HIV Prevention Program

The HIV Prevention Program provided 233 free HIV tests for at-risk individuals throughout all areas of Mohave County. Our HIV team provided the testing at substance use rehabilitation centers, homeless shelters, community events, clinics and other community based events who serve the at-risk population. HIV education and risk reduction is provided during testing sessions. Our HIV prevention staff completed case investigations on all newly identified HIV positive residents residing within Mohave County. Ensuring they are connected to care, are able to notify past and present partners if needed, and referred to resources.

Family Planning/STD Program

The Family Planning program offers free and low-cost reproductive health services to uninsured and underinsured individuals. The services include birth control, STD testing/treatment, HIV testing, and reproductive health counseling/education. Clinics are held at sites in Bullhead, Lake Havasu, and Kingman and are staffed by a practitioner and a registered nurse. In FY23, we provided services to nearly 270 individuals who may have otherwise not been able to receive reproductive health care. Our Family Planning and STD program services continue to be in high-demand, with the number of clinic appointments continuously increasing.

High Risk Perinatal Program (HRPP)

The High-Risk Perinatal Program (HRPP) provides free in-home community health nursing services to assist eligible families and their newborns during the transition from the Newborn Intensive Care Unit (NICU) to their home and community. Community Health Nurses (CHN) monitor the baby's development through home visits for up to three years of age, depending on the needs of the baby and family. Some services include parental support, education in caring for a high-risk infant, monitoring of baby's development, and well-being, and referrals to other community resources as needed. Eligibility: parents of babies who required five or more days of care in the NICU. Our team is comprised of seven community health nurses who provide services throughout all of Mohave County, Parker, and surrounding areas. During FY23, 79 referrals were received and 223 visits were completed.

Health Start

Health Start is a community home visiting program providing services to pregnant women and their families. The goal is to give children and their family the best chance of success with a strong support system through education and referrals to community resources. Health Start provides clients with education for birth and child care topics including: safe sleep, shaken baby syndrome, car seat safety, postpartum depression, healthy relationships, home safety, and developmental screenings. Health Start completed 63 prenatal visits to pregnant women, 298 postpartum visits, and 242 multi-child family visits. Health Start also distributed and installed several new car seats to our enrolled clients.

Childhood Immunizations

The Childhood Immunization Program provides free vaccines to youth 0-18 years of age through our weekly clinics and offsite events held throughout the year. In FY 2022-23, more than 4,100 shots were administered to 1,725 kids. Immunizations are vital to health promotion and disease prevention. We also delivered over 1,000 Mommy Packs which provided immunization information and Arizona vaccine administration record books to all local hospitals to give to parents of newborns.

Community Outreach & Events

July 2022— Lake Havasu City Back to School Health Fair

September 2022 - Mt. Tipton School STEM Night

February 2023 — Mohave Health Coalition 2nd Annual Family Health Fair, Bullhead City

March 2023 — 5th Annual Kiwanis Kids Expo, Bullhead City

May 2023 — KRMC Kid's Day, Kingman

April 2023 – Annual AZ Immunization Conference

Occupational Health Program

The Occupational Health program is essential for creating a safe and healthy working environment for Mohave county employees and volunteers. The program follows the guidelines provided in the *Mohave County Bloodborne Pathogens and Exposure Control Plan* by offering vaccines and tests (hepatitis A and B vaccines, annual TB tests) to employees and volunteers whose job duties may put them at risk to incur an exposure to blood or other potentially infectious materials. This is an opt-in program, meaning employees are not required to be vaccinated.

The Occupational Health program also monitors bloodborne pathogen exposures offering information and medical services to those who have had an exposure incident while working or volunteering for Mohave County. Those who have had an exposure are given updates on when to proceed with the recommended follow-ups and the coordinator provides payment to those medical facilities where original exposure and follow-up care is provided. During FY23, Mohave County had seven exposure events with six employee/volunteers seeking treatment and follow-ups.

Of the eligible employees to receive vaccines, 98% were fully compliant and 2% were still receiving the vaccine (full doses not complete); 88% of eligible were fully compliant the hepatitis A vaccine and 11% receiving the vaccine (full doses not complete), and eligible positions were 100% compliant with the yearly tuberculosis test requirement.

Youth Health Initiative

With the continued challenges of bringing sexual health education into schools the department relinquished this program. Practicing fiscal responsibility and community partnership, the program contacts were transferred to local non-profits providing similar education. We continue to provide Youth Mental Health First Aid.

Child Fatality Review (CFR)

Local child fatality review teams throughout Arizona review all child deaths that occur in the state. The MCDPH Epidemiologist is the coordinator for the Mohave & La Paz County Child Fatality Review Team. During FY23, twenty-three (23) child deaths were reviewed. All twenty-three deaths occurred during the 2022 calendar year with 19 deaths in Mohave County and four in La Paz County. The cases included three motor vehicle accidents, at least four sleep-related deaths, drug intoxications (poisonings) and several deaths attributed to medical condition (including Covid-19) and/or premature birth and/or congenital anomalies. The sleep-related deaths were forwarded to the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) for a higher level of review by a team at the state level.

The Arizona Child Fatality Review Team's (ACFRT) Thirtieth Annual Report lists the top five leading causes of death in Arizona children in 2022 as prematurity, congenital anomaly, motor vehicle crash, suffocation, and firearm injury. Prematurity was the most common cause of death for Arizona neonates (infants less than 28 days old) while suffocation was the most common cause of death among infants 28 days to less than one year of age. Motor vehicle crashes were the most common cause of death for children 5-14 years and firearm injury was most common for children 15-17 years. Review teams determined that 45% of deaths in FY23 Arizona could have been prevented. Motor vehicle crashes, suffocation, firearm injuries, poisoning and drowning were the five most common causes of preventable deaths.

Sudden Unexpected Infant Deaths (SUID)

- · SUID death rates in Arizona increased by 13% from 2021 to 2022.
- · 96% of these deaths were preventable
- · In 53% of SUID, infants were bed-sharing (co-sleeping) with adults and/or other children and/or pets

Suicides

- · Child suicide rates in Arizona remained consistent from 2021 to 2022
- · 82% of suicides occurred in children ages 15-17 years
- · 80% of suicides involved strangulation or a firearm
- · 59% of children who died by suicide had mental health diagnoses and/or substance use disorder

Firearm Injury Deaths

- · There was a 4% increase in the firearm injury death rate from 2021 to 2022
- · 75% of firearm injury deaths occurred in children ages 15-17 years
- · Substance use was a contributing factor in 19% of child firearm injury deaths
- · Child's access to firearms was a risk factor identified in all firearm injury deaths
- · 31% of the firearm injuries were self-inflicted and intended for self-harm

Substance Use Related Deaths

- · There was a 9% decrease in the substance use related death rate from 2021 to 2022.
- · 48% of substance use related deaths occurred in children ages 15-17 years
- · In half of the substance use related deaths, the decedent child was abusing or using alcohol or drugs. Marijuana was the most common substance used by the child, followed by opioids and alcohol.

Some ACFRP overarching prevention recommendations include:

- · Continuing education of parents on safe sleeping environments and that "Alone, on my Back, in a Crib (ABCs)" is the safest sleeping practice for infants.
- · Increasing access to effective mental health care and adopting the Zero Suicide model statewide.
- · Removing firearms in households with children and adolescents; practicing safe storage of firearms (unloaded, locked away, stored separate from ammunition)
- · Expansion and improved access to personalized substance use disorder treatment plans for children and their caretakers.

Nutrition and Health Promotion

The Nutrition and Health Promotion Division administers education and consultation through a collection of grant-funded programs intended to reduce the incidence substance and tobacco use, chronic disease, improve maternal & child health outcomes. Below is a list of the programs and their prevention education and services available to Mohave County residents.

Arizona Health Zone (AZHZ)

Despite staffing barriers, the program coordinator continued to produce a bi-monthly newsletter with nutrition and physical activity information while supporting several school gardens and one garden in a veteran's community. These efforts were complimented by providing community gardening classes. Staff facilitated and supported afterschool nutrition and physical education classes at local youth clubs. AZHZ staff also had the opportunity to provide a policy training to all WACOG Head Start staff in Mohave County.

Breastfeeding Peer Counselor Program

The Mohave County Breastfeeding Peer Counseling Program faced many challenges during the FY23 year. The program employs one breastfeeding peer counselor and one lactation consultant who also serves as the breastfeeding counseling program coordinator. The Breastfeeding Peer Counselor offers peer support to her breastfeeding participants via phone call, Zoom, secure email, text, or in clinic (outside of the pandemic). The Lactation Consultant/Breastfeeding Peer Counselor Coordinator conducts specialized breastfeeding counseling to participants who are referred by the Breastfeeding Peer Counselor and the WIC program. The Breastfeeding Peer Counseling Program receives referrals from the WIC program. A breastfeeding peer counselor was hired in March 2022 quit the program in July 2022. The position was covered again by the lactation consultant/breastfeeding peer counselor program coordinator until a new breastfeeding peer counselor was recruited for the position.

Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants and Children

The Mohave County WIC (Women, Infants, and Children) to provide nutrition education, breastfeeding education and support, supplemental foods, and referrals and other needed services to low-income pregnant

women; postpartum women who are breastfeeding, partially breastfeeding, or formula feeding their infants; as well as infants; and children up to the age of five and their families. The WIC program experienced some significant changes during the year of 2022-2023. The average FY23 caseload was 3,413 which is 100% of our assigned caseload. The FY22 average caseload was at 3337 which was at 98% of our assigned caseload. Caseload levels stayed



comparable despite staffing turnover in Lake Havasu and Bullhead City. A new Registered Dietitian was hired as a supervisor and to conduct high-risk appointments with participants who were nutritionally at risk. Additional options for self-paced online WIC modules were introduced during the FY23 year to help ease the scheduling conflicts and provide additional alternative methods of required nutrition education contacts for participants. The WIC clinics reopened post pandemic, but participants still were given the option to continue to complete phone or virtual appointments.

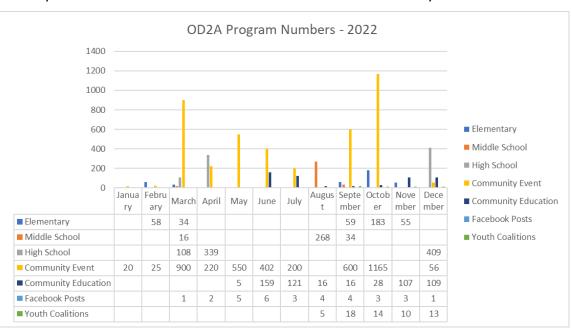
Participants Served in the WIC Supplemental Food Program

Month	Caseload FFY 2022	load FFY 2022 Caseload FFY 2023	
October	3292	3410	crease
November	3305	3417	↑
December	3314	3412	\downarrow
January	3376	3366	\downarrow
February	3340	3338	\downarrow
March	3359	3396	↑
April	3357	3399	↑
May	3378	3457	↑
June	3407	3427	↑
July	3441	3430	\downarrow
August	3502	3486	\downarrow
September	3452	3420	↓
Total	40,523	40,958	↑

Overdose Data to Action (OD2A)

The Overdose Data to Action (OD2A) program continued to focus on prevention education and establishing relationships in the community. Some of the highlighted successes of the program include partnering with the Hope Garden, a juvenile detention program, bringing education to the detainees and their parents. OD2A also partnered with the adult and juvenile recovery court programs to provide education sessions and assist participants with organization and scheduling. The program is also the distribution hub for free naloxone in Mohave County. The team had ongoing educational programs in Fox Creek Jr. High, Topock Elementary, and Sunrise Elementary. OD2A established two youth coalitions and one afterschool program at Fox Creek Jr. High in Bullhead, Bullhead City Middle school and Black Mountain school in Golden Valley.

The OD2A team consistently attended health and resource fairs along with community outreach events to educate the community on the harms of opioid use, train on using naloxone and provide naloxone kits to residents in need. The OD2A team also provided presentations monthly to adult community



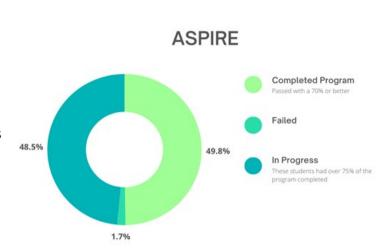
members informing them of the effects of the opioid epidemic, the harms of illicit fentanyl, and how to recognize and respond to an opioid overdose.

During FY23, OD2A partnered with non-profit organizations: AZYP, NotMyKid and Mohave County Probation Department as well as local districts to establish a youth diversion program for students who are caught in possession or under the influence of substance at school. This program has been established in Lake Havasu City, Bullhead City, and Kingman.

Tobacco Prevention

Mohave County Tobacco Use Prevention Program (MCTUPP) provides deterrence education throughout Mohave County to businesses, their subsidiaries, and groups of residents of all ages regarding tobacco, nicotine, and vaping products. MCTUPP assists the Arizona State Attorney General's Office with enforcing tobacco compliance laws and reporting current and emerging issues for the Attorney General's and FDA's considera-

tion. They are involved in the local schools across multiple grade levels and have youth-led coalitions throughout Mohave County high schools. The coalitions educate the community on the dangers and consequences of tobacco/nicotine use and participate in community service events. MCTUPP refers persons interested in learning more about quitting tobacco to ASH-Line (the Arizona Department of Health Services Quitline), this allows Mohave County residents to obtain free nicotine replacement products and phone coaching services in a bid to stop using nicotine.



During FY23, MCTUPP brought the CVS *Catch My Breath* teachings to four additional schools throughout the county, educating approximate-

ly 300 students on general health harms of vapes, marketing strategies and how big tobacco targets youth, and taught refusal skills. Moreover, 1,052 students across Mohave County participated in the *A Smoking Prevention Interactive Experience* (ASPIRE) curriculum. Of those, 524 completed the program and passed. Of the remaining students, 510 students completed 75% of the program. MCTUPP collaborated with the Lake Havasu City Youth Court regarding vaping violations from across the city. Stanford Tobacco Toolkit was brought in as diversion curriculum. Accompanying the education component, youth were ordered community service hours, tutoring if the student did not have passing grades, and a parent or guardian was required to attend all classes with their youth. This year Lake Havasu Unified School District had zero rates of recidivism.

Healthy in Arizona Policy Initiative (HAPI)

The Healthy in Arizona Policy Initiative (HAPI) program was designed by the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) to work with local county health departments in achieving targeted improvements in health outcomes using evidence-based strategies. The focus of the HAPI program aims to address the four leading causes of chronic disease deaths in Arizona, as identified by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). These include heart disease, chronic lower respiratory diseases, cancer, and Alzheimer's Disease. In the third quarter

Four Leading Causes of Death in Arizona



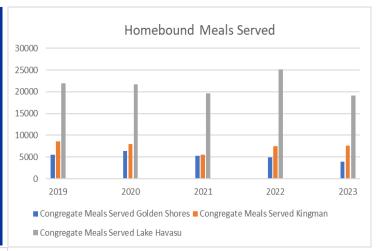
of FY23, the HAPI program transitioned leadership to a new program coordinator. Due to onboarding needs, planned activities were delayed for a portion of this year. However, the program still saw success in the areas of promoting healthy workplaces and facilitating sun safety classes to youth.

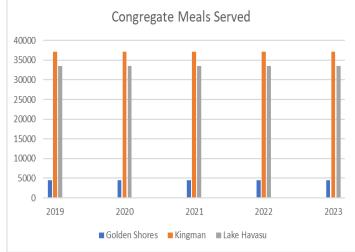
Senior Programs

The Mohave County Senior Programs serves congregate, and home delivered meals for the lunch time meals to the residents of Topock/Golden Shores, Mohave Valley, Kingman/Golden Valley, and Lake Havasu City. Different funding sources provide meals for the home delivered participants such as Title III-under the Older Americans Act; Title XX-the Social Services Block Grant; Altcs-under long term care AHCCCS, and the Mohave County General Fund. Meal donations from the congregate and home delivered meal participants provide part of the funding as well. In addition, the Golden Shores community center as well as the Lake Havasu Senior Center site councils have their own funding to help support the senior programs in Golden Shores and Lake Havasu Senior Center. The Mohave County Senior Programs were still providing congregate meals via drive through meal pick-up during COVID for part of FY22. The Senior Program's Coordinator who had worked in the Senior program for approximately 30 years retired in February 2023.

Number of nutritious lunches served to homebound seniors in Mohave County during 2022-2023:

152,297

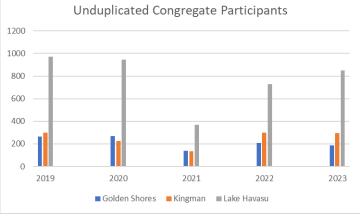




Number of nutritious lunches served to seniors throughout our senior centers during 2022-2023: 68,199

Unduplicated number of homebound participants obtaining lunch through our senior centers during 2022-2023 are:

2,029



Behavioral Health

Behavioral Health

The Behavioral Health Team (BHT) is available to both staff and our community. We are, also, part of the Emergency Response Team (ERT) and Critical Incident Stress Management team (CISM). Since, it is a pioneer program, it initially was to battle the Opioid and Fentanyl Pandemic by facilitating trainings on the dangers of these drugs and to attend community events to provide, referrals, educational materials, warm hand-off's and brief screenings on what level of a substance use disorder the patron may have; mild, moderate or severe. However, over the course of the last three years, we discovered that drugs were not the only thing plaguing our community and started to focus on suicide, firearm hygiene and other disparities, such as, lack of inpatient mental health beds and youth mental health beds as well as stigma.

The Behavioral Health team offers annual county-wide mental health symposiums as well as classes for internal staff, external partners, and community members.

The BHT serves on the Child Fatality Review Board (CFR), Suicide Mortality Review Board (SMR), and the Overdose Fatality Review Board (OFR). These boards review cases and provide information on how these deaths could have been prevented.

Suicide Mortality Review Board

In 2020, the Arizona legislature passed S.B. 1523, "Jake's Law," with unanimous support. Named in honor of Jake Machovsky, an Arizona teen who lost his life to suicide in 2016 after battling mental health issues. Shortly thereafter, the Suicide Mortality Review Team in the Arizona Department of Health Services (A.R.S. § 36-199) was established.

MCDPH has responsibilities for protecting the public health and safety pursuant to A.R.S. § 36-132(A). Additionally, A.R.S. §36-199.01 grants the authority to local departments to investigate or obtain information regarding suicides for that information to be reviewed by the suicide mortality review team to prevent suicide in Mohave County.

Stats for 2022 Cases (presented to the group in 2023): in 2022 there were 1,596 suicide deaths in Arizona, 114 in Mohave County alone. Our suicide fatality rate was 21.5/100,000. Every death was investigated, we held seven meetings with an average attendance of about 15 law enforcement, justice system, mental health, and other community members.

Mohave County has the fifth highest total suicide rate per capita in the state of Arizona. Our average fatality rate since documentation began in 2017 is 36/100,000, Navajo County is 37/100,000, Apache County is 41/100,000, Gila County is 42/100,000, La Paz County is 45/100,000.

The SMR team works to identify the following:

- Specific barriers and service systems issues experienced in suicide deaths.
- Significant risk factors and trends in suicides.
- Potential protective factors that may decrease suicide risk.
- Adequacy of state and local laws, trainings, and services to recommend what changes are needed to decrease the occurrences of preventable suicides and, as appropriate, take steps to implement these changes.

Public Health Emergency Preparedness

The Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) program works with hospitals, long term care facilities, urgent care facilities, and other partners to prepare for and respond to public health threats and emergencies. The Emergency Response Team (ERT) plans and implements programs to rapidly detect, investigate and control threats that may endanger the health of the public, working with the Arizona Department of Health Services and other county health departments. PHEP is grant funded by the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS), which receives funds from the Center for Decease Control (CDC). PHEP performs disease surveillance and public health emergency preparedness activities such as building partnerships with other public health and medical care partners, local emergency management divisions, law enforcement, fire departments, school districts, Indian tribes, and other partners in preparedness activities. These partnership opportunities may include plan development or updating, exercises and training opportunities, and responding to incidents, events, or emergencies.

Training, Exercises, and Response

Our team is actively engaged in real-time responses. One such response involved activating the Health Department Operation Center (HDOC) due to the identification of the monkeypox virus in Arizona. During FY 23, the PHEP team also responded to a storm during an excessive heat warning, which resulted in a power outage affecting 36,000 residents. Mohave County Emergency Management initiated the County's response to assist the affected communities and local jurisdictions. Both the PHEP team and Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) were activated. The response teams coordinated with county hospitals, long-term care facilities, local fire departments, the American Red Cross (ARC), and other government and volunteer organizations. MRC volunteers assisted in manning cooling centers in the Bullhead City area, and MCDPH nurses were provided during the operation of the ARC shelter established in Mohave Valley.

Conducting large-scale trainings ensures that staff are prepared to respond when needed. During FY 23, the PHEP team provided trainings focused on MCDPH's newly created Family Assistance Center (FAC) Plan. These trainings covered situational awareness regarding the potential for mass casualty or fatality incidents in Mohave County, understanding what a FAC is, the components of the plan, circumstances in which the plan would be activated, and the importance of basic Federal Emergency Management (FEMA) Incident Command System (ICS) and National Incident Management System (NIMS) training.

The PHEP team, county EM team and first responders often work together during emergencies. To ensure all responders are familiar with county-wide plans, the PHEP team facilitates exercises designed for all participants to join and provide feedback. During FY 23, PHEP conducted a tabletop exercise that had participation from the MCDPH ERT, Mohave County Department of Risk and Emergency Management, and Bullhead City Police Department (Emergency Manager). The focus of the exercise was to validate the newly updated Strategic National Stockpile/Receive, Stage, Storage Warehouse Operations Plan and the Medical Countermeasure/Point of Distribution Plan. The scenario involved and outbreak of the avian flu (H5N1) within Mohave County. The exercise was a success and lead to improvements in various department plans.

Medical Reserve Corps (MRC)

The Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) is a national network of volunteers, organized locally to improve the health and safety of their communities utilizing medical and non-medical volunteers. Volunteers prepare for and respond to emergencies affecting public health and promote healthy lives. Volunteers receive training in disaster response, first aid, CPR, and disaster mental health.

Environmental Health

The Environmental Health Division (EHD) administers two primary programs for the purpose of reducing the risk of injury, illness, and disease related to environmental factors. These programs operate under delegation from the State of Arizona. One delegation agreement is held with the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) and a second with the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ). These agreements outline the duties of the local health department and give the county authority to carry out the assigned functions. These functions include licensure and inspection of designated establishments and public places and investigation and of remediation of public health nuisances, whether public or private.

Fully staffed, the division is comprised of eight (8) Environmental Health Specialists (EHS), an EHS Field Supervisor, three Permit Technicians, an Office Supervisor, and the division Manager. EHD program services are conducted or directly overseen by Environmental Health Specialists. An Environmental Health Specialist (EHS) is required to be registered with the State of Arizona as a Sanitarian through passing a written exam or by reciprocity with another state. To be eligible for the exam, an individual must have a minimum of 30 college credits in natural sciences or 5-years of experience as a Sanitarian Aide. An EHS must complete at least 12 hours of continuing education and renew their registration each year. Sanitarian registration and renewal processes are overseen by the Arizona Sanitarians' Council.

Food Safety & Sanitation Program Food Safety

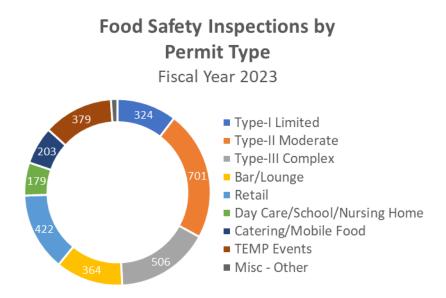
The Food Safety program is aligned with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) Food Code and as adopted by the State of Arizona and Mohave County. The FDA updates the Food Code every four years with the most recent update in 2017. ADHS adopted the Food Code in 2019 though the county is still working under the 2009 Food Code. Industry best practices, such as those in the Voluntary National Retail Program Standards, are used to reduce the risk of illness or injury from foodborne pathogens and chemical or physical contaminants.

The EHD licenses and inspects establishments or operators selling or serving food to the public. The EHS works with the food establishment or operator to address the primary risk factors of proper food temperatures and storage, approved food sources, sanitary equipment and tools, and employee health and hygiene.

While inspections are not scheduled, they occur at regular intervals based upon their risk category. Establish-

ments with moderate to complex processes or those serving highly susceptible populations receive two or more inspections per year. Establishments with limited processes, retail stores, bars and lounges, and temporary event vendors receive one inspection per year.

In FY23, the EHD issued 1,794 food licenses and conducted a combined 2,843 regular inspections, 218 follow-up inspections, and 130 complaint investigations. Regular inspections include opening inspections and those minimally required according to risk category, as described above.



Follow-up inspections are conducted when an establishment has critical violations that cannot be corrected at the time of inspection but do not impose an imminent threat to health or safety. The timeframe for correction is dependent on the violation. Complaint investigations are conducted when a consumer reports conditions that may pose a health risk from foodborne pathogens or other contaminants and may only be performed for establishments or operators permitted by the county. Investigation activities are limited to only those potential issues identified by the complainant and generally only for those areas not accessible to the public.

Food Safety Inspections by Type FY22-23 FY21-22 FY20-21 FY19-20 FY18-19 500 1000 1500 2000 2500 3000 3500 4000 FY18-19 FY19-20 FY20-21 FY21-22 FY22-23 52 Opening 136 136 105 175 Regular 2881 2485 2147 2148 2668

144

184

166

98

218

130

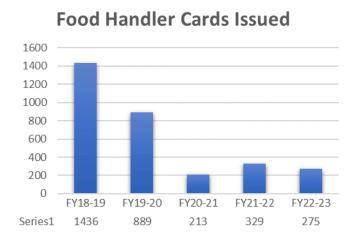
All inspection types increased from the prior fiscal year with opening inspections more than tripling. Opening inspections are conducted for new construction and, more often, when an establishment remodels or changes ownership. These factors may also help explain increases in follow-up inspections and complaint investigations as newer business owners learn the regulations.

254

150

■ Follow-Up

Complaint



Food Handler Cards

185

84

Any person preparing or serving food to the public must possess a valid food handler card or certificate from an accredited training provider. The EHD offers in-person classes once a month at each office location and provides special sessions at Lee Williams and Kingman High Schools annually. Beginning in 2020, online food handler training programs became an approved method of certification. FY23 saw a slight decrease from FY22 in county issued food handler cards but remains a service offered to the community who may not have ability to attain the certification online.

Sanitation

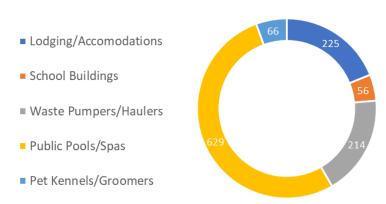
Public Health sanitation services are administered ensure sanitary conditions of designated establishments, operators, and spaces available to the public. Sanitation involves the management of waste and pests to reduce the risk of exposure to pathogens harmful to human health.

Inspections are not scheduled and occur at regular intervals depending upon their risk category. Lodging and accommodations, pet kennels and groomers, and waste pumpers and haulers are inspected annually. School buildings are inspected twice annually during each school year. Semipublic pools/spas, such as those as part of a lodging facility, are inspected once per year while public pools/spas are inspected each month in operation.

In FY 23, the EHD issued 688 licenses and conducted a combined 1,161 inspections and 85 complaint investigations. Regular inspections include opening inspections and those minimally required according to risk category, as previously described. Like food establishments, follow-up inspections are conducted when an establishment or operator has violations that cannot be corrected at the time of inspection. The timeframe for correction is dependent on the violation. Complaint investigations are conducted when a consumer reports conditions that may pose a health risk from pathogens or other contaminants and may only be performed for

Sanitation Inspections by Permit Type

Fiscal Year 2023



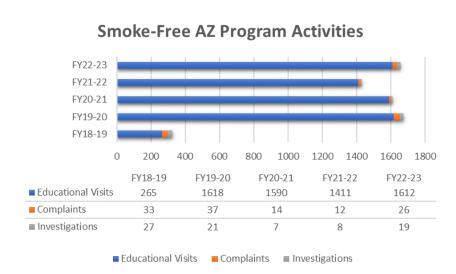
establishments or operators permitted by the county. Investigation activities are limited to only those potential issues identified by the complainant. FY 23 saw an increase in opening and regular inspections while follow-up inspections decreased and complaint investigations remained on par with the prior fiscal year.

Nuisance Program

The nuisance program is conducted to reduce the risk of injury, illness, and disease from environmental nuisances. Environmental nuisances are described as conditions of land, water, or air that threaten or cause harm to the health of persons or environment. The three primary components to this program are the Smoke-Free Arizona Act, nuisance investigation, and mosquito surveillance and prevention.

Smoke-Free Arizona

The Smoke-Free Arizona Act (the Act) was passed under Proposition 201 by the voters of Arizona in November 2006. The Act prohibits smoking inside and within 20 feet of entrances, open windows, and ventilation systems of an establishment open to the public or as a place of employment. The EHD provides edu-



cational visits to businesses and conducts complaint investigations of potential smoking violations. Educational visits occur as part of regular inspections of county permitted business and as courtesy visits to establishments not permitted by the EHD. This program operates under delegation from ADHS and is reimbursed a flat rate for each inspection based on type, being a permitted or unpermitted establishment. The Smoke-Free Arizona Intergovernmental Agreement between Mohave county and ADHS, Contract No. CTR063290,

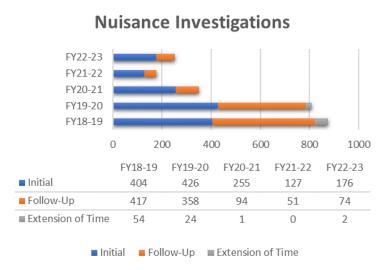
was extended through June 30, 2027, as submitted and approved at the December 13, 2022, Board of Supervisors meeting. During FY23 the EHD conducted 1,612 educational visits and received 26 complaints, with 19 investigated. The complaint investigations were not entered into ADHS' Smoke-Free Administration site and details cannot be retrieved, though there is no evidence of enforcement activities or fines.

Nuisance Investigation

The nuisance investigation component of this program is complaint driven. Unlike complaint investigations under the Food Safety & Sanitation Program, nuisance complaints under this program may be conducted for any public or private property within the county. The focus of this program is on conditions that provide harborage or sustenance for vectors or pests. Vectors are organisms that can transmit infectious disease where

pests do not transmit disease but may cause serious injury or trigger illness. Vectors and pests of primary concern under this program include rodents, pigeons, mosquitos, flies, and feral bees.

In FY23, the EHD conducted 176 complaint investigations with 74 complaints deemed to be valid. When a complaint investigation confirms a violation, a Notice of Violation (NOV) is issued and a follow-up investigation conducted within 15-days. In most instances, the respondent is able to ameliorate the condition of concern and the complaint is closed. On rare occasion, the

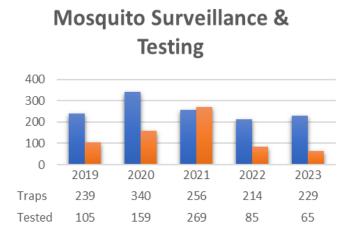


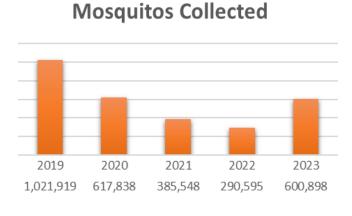
condition is not able to be remediated and the EHD must coordinate abatement. Most commonly, complaint investigations involve suspected pigeon feeding, green pool or standing water, animal manure, and household waste. In FY23, One abatement was conducted for feral bees in a dilapidated building.

Mosquito Surveillance

The EHD conducts routine and complaint driven surveillance of mosquito populations in the county. The objectives of mosquito surveillance are to determine abundance and species. Abundance helps determine whether adulticide should be applied and follows the threshold set by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), currently at a collection of 1,000 or more mosquitos per trap. In the 2023 mosquito season, from April to October, fogging was conducted five times in the Mohave Valley area.

Since not all mosquito species carry disease, and only females bite, identifying the species allows for female species of concern to be tested for diseases such as West Nile, Dengue, Zika, Chikungunya, and St. Louis Encephalitis. The EHD has only the capability to test for West Nile Virus, other species of concern are sent to the ADHS State Laboratory.





Division Developments and Planning

Position Reclassification and Reorganization

A review of operational needs and the vacancy of an Environmental Health Supervisor position prompted a redistribution of job duties to better serve the division and community. An assessment of the modified job duties found that a reclassification of the Office Specialist to an Office Supervisor was warranted, and was approved at the June 19, 2023, Board of Supervisors meeting with an effective date of July 1, 2023. Division personnel were realigned with Supervisors according to job function rather than location, as was traditionally modeled. The Permit Technicians, as administrative staff, were moved under the Office Supervisor while Environmental Health Specialists remained under the Environmental Health Supervisor. The vacant Environmental Health Supervisor position was frozen and resulted in a moderate reduction of budgeted salary and employee-related expenses.

Fee Schedule

A fee study was conducted to assess current rates charged by the Environmental Division in relation to operational expenses. Fees are charged to cover expenses related to the licensing and inspection of establishments and operators, as assigned in the Delegation Agreement between Mohave County and ADHS. The fee schedule for the Environmental Health Division had last been revised July 1, 2014. The 2014, updated from the July 1, 2009, included only the:

- Removal of seventeen fee types no longer applicable to operations
- Addition of eight fee types created to meet changing business needs
- Decrease of fee amounts for three permit types
- Addition of a \$12 Technology fee for annually permitted establishments

The fee amounts have otherwise remained unchanged since at least July 1, 2009, with operating and personnel expenses having increased considerably since that time. A review of the fee types, their quantity and frequency, and the associated costs of each aided the Finance Department in calculating a proposed fee that would allow the Environmental Health division to recover expended costs more appropriately and fully. The requested revisions included:

- Increase of 55 fee type amounts, twenty-four remained unchanged
- Decrease of seventeen fee type amounts
- Removal of three fee types:
 - ♦ Temporary Food Service "Each additional day", traditional vendors
 - Temporary Food Service "Each additional day", Non-profit/Tax-exempt vendors
 - ♦ Children's camps, no longer delegated
- Addition of two fee types:
 - ♦ Annual Temporary Food Service, traditional vendors
 - ♦ Annual Temporary Food Service, Non-profit/Tax-exempt vendors

At the June 19, 2023, Board of Supervisors meeting an action was approved to set a public hearing date for August 1, 2023, and for the approval of the proposed fee schedule with an effective date of September 1, 2023.

Medical Examiner's Office

The mission of the Mohave County Medical Examiner's Office (MCMEO) is to provide timely death investigation and postmortem examination services for deaths that occur within the geographical boundaries of Mohave County that respect the dignity of the deceased and their families.

Deaths reported to the Medical Examiner's office as required by Arizona law (A. R.S. § 11-593) are:

- Death when not under the current care of a healthcare provider (see section 36-301)
- Death resulting from violence.
- Unexpected or unexplained death.
- Death of a person in a custodial agency as defined in section 13-4401.
- Unexpected or unexplained death of an infant or child.
- Death occurring in a suspicious, unusual or non-natural manner, including death from an accident believed to be related to the deceased person's occupation or employment.
- Death occurring as a result of anesthetic or surgical procedure.
- Death suspected to be caused by a previously unreported or undiagnosed disease that constitutes a threat to public safety.
- Death involving unidentified bodies.

	Jun 22	July 22	Aug 22	Sept 22	Oct 22	Nov 22	Dec 22	Jan 23	Feb 23	Mar 23	Apr 23	May 23
Investigations	197	230	196	216	97	96	141	132	82	108	108	91
Cases Declined	143	170	143	135	47	65	105	99	60	73	69	59
ME Removals	54	41	53	44	37	21	36	24	12	22	22	32
1. Autopsies	10	6	15	15	17	13	9	11	4	12	3	11
2. Externals	25	35	38	29	18	8	27	13	8	10	19	21
Autopsy % Rate	19	15	29	34	46	38	25	45	33	55	14	34
Homicide	1	1	0	2	2	2	4	2	1	1	1	1
Suicide	6	8	7	13	11	10	6	7	5	11	6	7
Accidental	19	27	19	20	21	8	9	13	2	4	14	8
Natural	3	1	5	2	1	3	5	3	1	1	2	3
Undetermined	0	0	0	2	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Pending	25	23	22	15	13	8	12	7	13	18	16	13
Cremation												
Authorizations	265	307	279	292	259	241	362	345	272	290	261	273
Fees Collected	\$9,525.00	\$12,630.00	\$10,525.00	\$9,700.00	\$10,145.00	\$9,020.00	\$8,755.00	\$12,920.00	\$12,010.00	\$9,160.00	\$10,770.00	\$9,165.75
1. Cremation(\$)	\$9,450.00	\$12,495.00	\$10,500.00	\$9,625.00	\$9,975.00	\$8,960.00	\$8,725.00	\$12,810.00	\$11,935.00	\$9,030.00	\$10,675.00	\$8,960.00
2. Other(\$)	\$75.00	\$135.00	\$25.00	\$75.00	\$170.00	\$60.00	\$30.00	\$110.00	\$75.00	\$130.00	\$95.00	\$205.75
Court Appearances (Hours)		0	0	0	3	1	0	7	9	7	0	0
Defense Interview/Depos/T rial Prep (Hours)		0	0	1	1	1	.17 mins	0	41 mins	2	0	0
Cremation permits Req. Add'l Review	6	8	11	13	4	8	4	12	4	6	4	4
Dr. REFUSE to Sign / No Dr.	27	33	34	34	30	39	46	65	48	25	35	27

Vital Records

Arizona is a "closed state," which mean, vital records are not public documents and can only be obtained by immediate family members or persons with current legal interest.

The Kingman office currently provides walk-in services for a fee with an approximate turnaround time of 72 hours. Same day service is offered but cannot be guaranteed. Document verification and additional time may be needed depending on the type of vital record requested and any special documentation required for proper processing and issuance.









Prepared by: Dani Lagana, Special Programs Analyst Reviewed by: Melissa Palmer, Interim Health Director

Mohave County Department of Public Health 700 W. Beale Street P.O. Box 7000, Kingman, AZ 86402 Phone: (928) 753-0748 Fax: (928) 718-5547 Emergency Info: (866) 409-4099 www.mohave.gov