

SCOTT COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT



ANNUAL REPORT

FY25

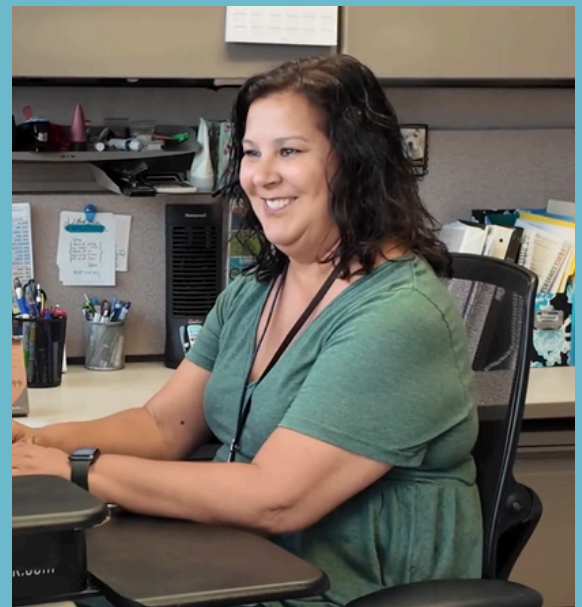
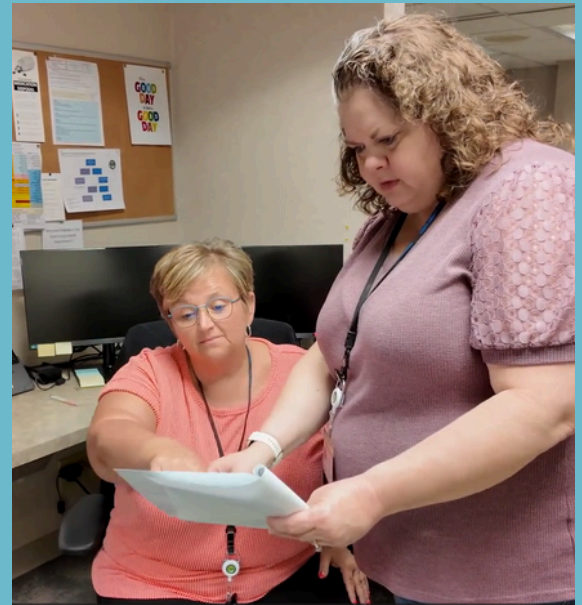
July 2024-June 2025



SCOTT COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER
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Note from the Director

“Wait and See”...that was the theme of FY25 around the department. In late FY24 we submitted all our documentation to the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) as part of our work to be reaccredited for another five years. In late December 2024, we received a request for more information to support the evidence of how we meet measures in 14 of the 115 areas following PHAB’s pre-site visit review. This was submitted in January and then we waited for a site visit date to be scheduled. That visit happened on July 1, 2025, and we were awarded a 5-year reaccreditation on August 28, 2025.

Now, if you had concerns that the only thing we had going on was waiting for the PHAB news, just turn the page to see some of the exciting things that happened during the year. Behind each of those stories or photos, there is a team of individuals working to promote, protect, and preserve the health of our community.

Policy impacts on our ability to do public health work is another area where we have been waiting to see what happened. At the state level, the 2025 legislative session was full of lively debates on topics that have impact on the public health work we do daily. We spent time learning about these bills and sharing information with elected officials to help them understand public health. At the federal level, we have waited and continue to wait and see about what kind of funding impacts could occur to programs we deliver directly, work with partners to implement, and support individuals we serve in the community.

Then, there is the ever-present wait and see what kind of communicable disease will show up in our community or state. This fiscal year, we saw increasing cases of pertussis (whooping cough) and an outbreak of cryptosporidium in Scott County. Iowa also had a case of Lassa Fever, only the ninth case of the disease in the United States since 1969. Then, there is measles. There is not a public health department in the state or country that is not on high alert for a case of measles in their county; calendar year 2025 is on pace to have the most cases of measles since it was declared “eliminated” in the US in 2000.

While “wait and see” seems more reactive than proactive, we believe that **public health matters** and are taking steps to adjust to changes or prepare for what might come next so that we can continue to work towards our vision of Scott County – A safe and healthy community. I cannot “wait” for you to “see” the ways we worked towards that vision in FY25.

Public
Health
Matters

Board of Health



(from left to right): Mr. Sherwin Robinson, Dr. Kathleen Hanson (Vice Chair), Dr. Ann O'Donnell (Chair), Dr. Sydney Schermer*, and Dr. Michael Franzman.

**Dr. Sydney Schermer resigned from her Board of Health position in August 2025 due to relocating with her family. We thank her for her time and dedication to the Scott County Board of Health!*

Mission

The Scott County Health Department promotes, protects, and preserves health through leadership, service, education, and partnerships.

Vision

Scott County - a safe and healthy community.

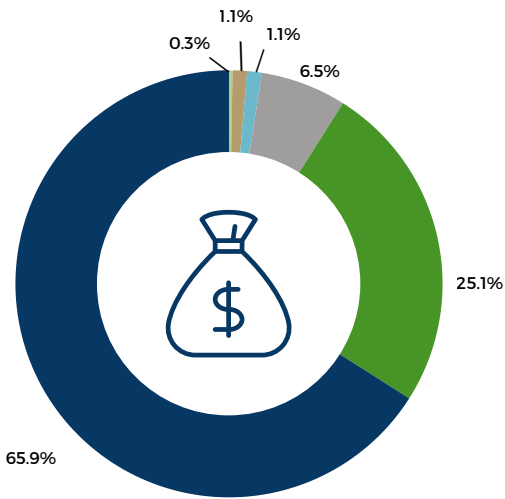


Learn more about us by [watching this video.](#)

FY25 BUDGET

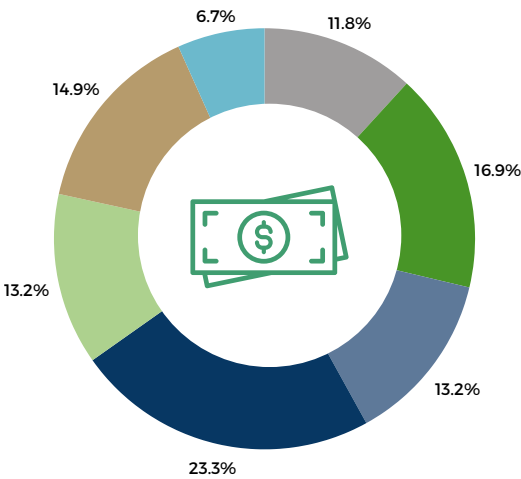
Funding:

Category	Amount
Refunds & Reimbursements	\$19,640
Charges for Services	\$80,432
Medicaid	\$82,207
Licenses & Permits	\$479,234
Intergovernmental (Grants)	\$1,850,256
Tax Support	\$4,872,855



Expenditures:

Category	Amount
Administration/Fiscal	\$871,327
Clinical Services	\$1,249,139
Community Health	\$978,338
Correctional Health	\$1,717,182
Environmental Health	\$975,158
Family Health	\$1,098,322
Medical Examiner	\$495,158



Funding
\$7.4M

Expenditures
\$7.4M

OUR IMPACT

4,982

Number of consumers reached with education

88

Number of psychosocial services provided to prenatal and postpartum clients

317

Number of child care homes and child care centers that SCHD provided technical assistance to

5,428

Number of families contacted via the Care For Kids Program

3

Number of public health preparedness drills/exercises SCHD participated in

76%

Percent of approved septic system installations that met initial system recommendations

10

Number of tanning facilities inspected

57

Number of tattoo facilities inspected

151

Number of swimming pools and spas inspected

94%

Percent of water wells that meet Scott County Code: Chapter 24 upon installation

52,751

Number of inmate health contacts provided in the jail

11

Number of children case managed with a capillary blood lead level of 10ug/dL+

802

Number of people who received STI/HIV Services

100%

Percent of reported rabies exposures that received a rabies risk assessment

1,290

Number of communicable disease reported through surveillance

212

Number of communicable diseases requiring investigation by SCHD

Vaccination Health Promotion Strategy

To utilize supplemental funds from Iowa HHS, SCHD formed a Health Promotion Strategy team to plan and implement a campaign aimed at increasing vaccination among children of vaccine-hesitant parents. Based on local-level data, the team identified a need for this strategy (decreasing immunization rates), reasons for vaccine hesitancy (unknown side effects, vaccines may not be safe or effective), and preferred methods of receiving information about vaccines (conversations with healthcare providers, fact sheets).



Evidence-based resources helped the team to develop and categorize messaging into three main topics: the safety/efficacy of vaccines, how vaccines work/side effects, and community benefits of vaccination. All the advertisements created link to the health department's new [Vaccines FAQ page](#) that includes the same messaging and links to evidence-based resources for vaccine information.

55%


of 2 year-olds seen at the SCHD clinic are up-to-date with their vaccinations

98.1%

of school immunization records audited that were up-to-date

97.8%

of preschool and child care center immunization records audited that were up to date



HOW DO VACCINES WORK?

We are here to help answer your questions!

VACCINES STRENGTHEN YOUR BODY'S IMMUNITY

Vaccination prevents severe illness and death. Vaccines have greatly reduced the amount of diseases everywhere in the world since the invention of the first successful vaccine in 1796. Vaccines train the immune system to identify and fight off dangerous bacteria and viruses that invade the body.


WHAT ABOUT SIDE EFFECTS?

Common side effects from vaccines, like low-grade fever or muscle aches, are normal. These side effects are usually brief — just one to three days, if they even happen at all.


THINK ABOUT IT THIS WAY

Just like we continue to read and write even after we've learned how, the body can remember how to detect and react to a virus even after the vaccine has left the body.


HOW VACCINES HELP KEEP YOU HEALTHY




Some germs can make us sick



The vaccine shows your body what the bad germ looks like



The vaccine teaches your body how to fight the germ



Now your body is ready to defend itself from the germ when it sees it!

May 2025

Community Health Assessment

The [2024 Community Health Assessment](#) was completed in collaboration with Community Health Care, Inc., MercyOne Genesis, Quad City Health Initiative, Rock Island County Health Department, and UnityPoint Health – Trinity. Data on health behaviors, outcomes, community resources, and areas for improvement were collected through telephone surveys, secondary data, and focus groups. We invite you to review the [report](#) for more information on the health status and needs of our Quad Cities community! The two areas selected for improvement are 1) Mental Health and 2) Access to Healthcare. The Quad Cities Behavioral Health Coalition and the Access to Care Workgroup in partnership with the Quad City Health Initiative continue to lead efforts to improve these areas of need in our community.

Areas for improvement: Mental Health + Access to Healthcare



I-Smile Program

In the face of a shortage of dentists accepting Iowa Medicaid and the challenge of long waitlists, the [I-Smile program](#), which serves Scott, Clinton, Jackson, and Cedar Counties, plays a crucial role in ensuring families have access to timely oral health services. By building and maintaining strong partnerships with local oral health resources, I-Smile can directly address urgent needs within the community. As part of the program, I-Smile offers free dental screenings, fluoride treatments, and oral education in places like daycares, schools, medical offices and Scott County Health Department. In FY 2025, I-Smile served 2,572 clients with 4,836 services provided.

4,836

Number of services provided by I-Smile program staff

98.8%

Number of students entering kindergarten that have a valid certificate of dental screening

2,572

Number of clients served by I-Smile program staff

38.9%

Number of students entering 9th grade that have a valid certificate of dental screening

593

Number of services completed on adults by I-Smile Silver program staff



Co-locating Family Health Services

The Family Health service area seeks to meet people where they are with supportive and gap filling services. This year, new partnerships with clinics and service locations created opportunities for staff to do just that.

The [I-Smile](#) and [I-Smile Silver](#) programs began offering services at the new Diabetes Food Complex as well as at MercyOne Genesis Family Medical Center, where dental screenings, fluoride treatments, and dental referrals were offered onsite.

The [Healthy Pregnancy program](#) expanded to offer services each month to patients at UnityPoint OBGYN in Bettendorf where they can receive enhanced health education and supportive services during pregnancy and postpartum. This builds upon the Healthy Pregnancy services already offered at WIC clinics, and two other OBGYN clinics in the service area.



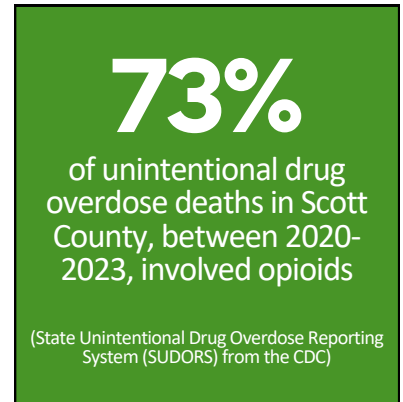
141 Maternal Health Services Provided 

Overdose Prevention Initiatives

In FY25, several new initiatives were kickstarted related to the [opioid settlement funds](#) received by Scott County, as well as overdose grant funds from the state, to improve connections between systems of prevention, treatment, and recovery.

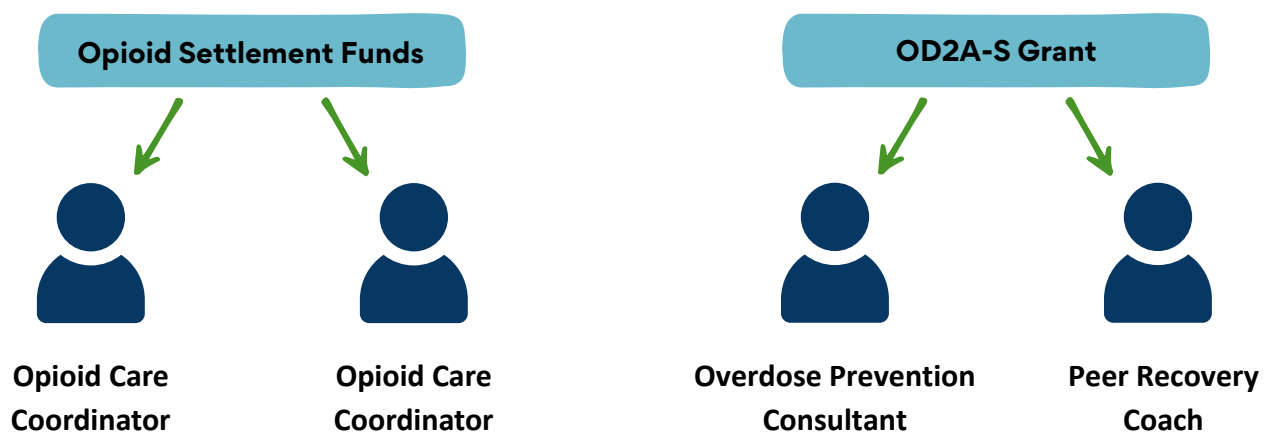
Scott County's Opioid Settlement Steering Committee prioritized two strategies in early 2024: enhancing evidence-based prevention programs and funding warm hand-off and recovery services.

For prevention, all four school districts in the county (Bettendorf, Davenport, North Scott, and Pleasant Valley) selected to implement the [Character Strong](#) curriculum in the 2025-2020 school year as an evidence-based program to reduce youth substance use and mental health issues. Formal agreements for each district were signed to support implementation costs. This program aims to support student success by increasing engagement, improving well-being, and creating a sense of belonging as protective factors against developing behavioral problems, such as substance use or mental health issues.



To support recovery services and warm hand-offs, Scott County Community Services created an Opioid Care Coordinator role to connect individuals with opioid use disorder (OUD) to community resources. Specific connections the Opioid Care Coordinator has made include to housing assistance, medication assisted treatment services, human trafficking resources, clothing assistance, drug court and mental health courts in Iowa and Illinois, and mental health services.

Additionally, SCHD received funds through an Overdose Data to Action in States (OD2A-S) grant from the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Funds have been subcontracted to Vera French Community Mental Health Center and Scott County Community Services. Vera French has hired a Peer Recovery Coach and Scott County Community Services has hired an Overdose Prevention Consultant. These positions are focused on developing community partnerships to improve overdose data collection, providing overdose education to healthcare providers and community members, and linking people to needed services, such as housing, substance use treatment, mental health services, and more.





Food Program Risk Factor Study

The Scott County Health Department Environmental Health (EH) [Food](#) Team conducted a Risk Factor Study of the most common risk factor violations that staff observe during inspections. This is a requirement according to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's Voluntary Retail Food Program Standards that the health department is enrolled in. The Risk Factor Study must be conducted once every five years. Food inspections address 57 risk factors that are likely to cause foodborne illnesses. The two most common risk factor violations included in the study were:

- Food contact surfaces not properly cleaned and sanitized
- Expired or missing test strips (quat, chlorine, iodine, dish machine) to measure sanitizing solution

With the intent of reducing improper sanitation methods and ensuring that facilities utilize test kits for measuring sanitizing solutions, informational handouts created by the EH Food Team were given out in 2024 and 2025 to food facilities that had each of these violations observed.

922

food service establishment
inspections completed

Hotel Inspections

SCHD conducts routine [hotel inspections](#), investigates complaints received from hotel guests, and conducts change of licensee inspections for hotels. The department delivers these services under agreement with the Iowa Department of Appeals, Inspections, and Licensing (DIAL). As of July 1, 2025, DIAL inspectors only complete new owner inspections or complaint inspections. Iowa counties are able to follow this practice or choose to continue to complete routine inspections. SCHD, as approved by the Scott County Board of Health, will continue to conduct routine inspections of hotels every two years as well as conduct complaint investigations and change of licensee inspections.

Staff Education

Over the past year, staff have actively participated in a wide range of professional development opportunities, demonstrating a strong commitment to maintaining high standards and continually enhancing their skills as well as meeting various program and certification requirements. Staff complete work using a framework called the 10 Essential Public Health Services. The American Public Health Association describes this framework as a way to help to promote and protect the health of all people in all communities.

These efforts included attending conferences such as the Quad Cities Regional Disaster Conference, Public Health Conference of Iowa, and the National Preparedness Summit. Additionally, staff participated in valuable de-escalation training, and Building Health Equity training coordinated by the University of Iowa College of Public Health.



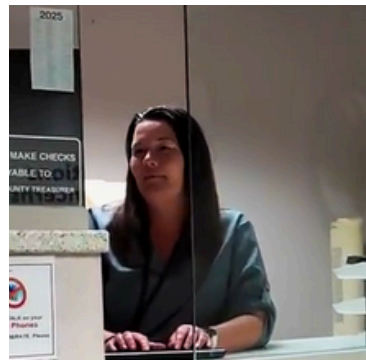
2,186 hours of education
documented by staff from
July 2024-June 2025

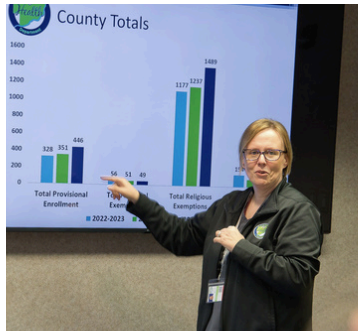
Congrats to Debbie Olesen on her Retirement!

Debbie Olesen, Office Assistant, retired on March 31, 2025, after 20 years with the department. Debbie answered thousands of calls and greeted thousands of clients with a smile while working at the front desk.

**HAPPY
Retirement!**









CONNECT WITH US

YOUR **HEALTH.**
Our priority.



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