

Granville Vance Public Health



50th ANNIVERSARY

ANNUAL REPORT 2024

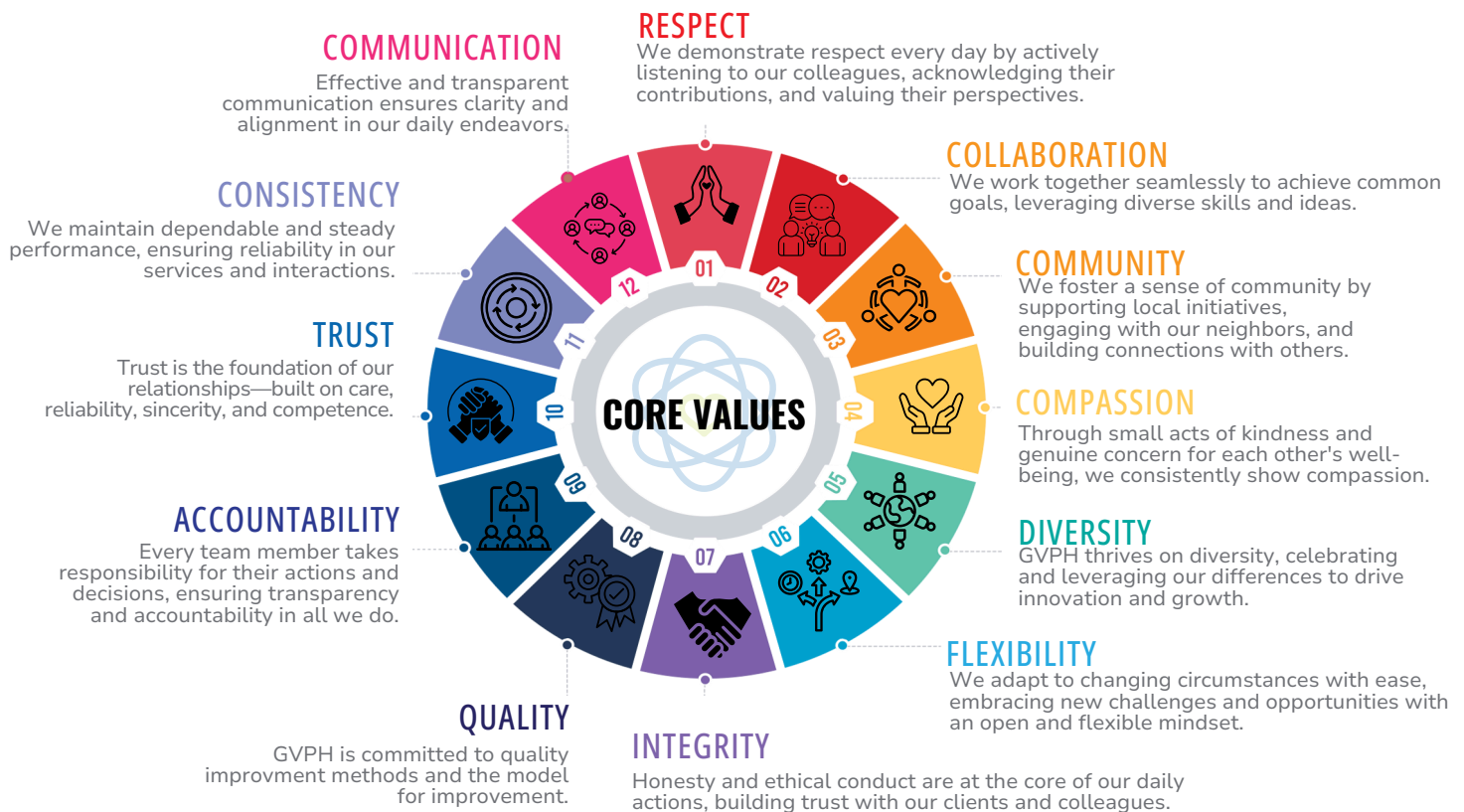


GVPH.org

OUR PEOPLE



OUR VALUES



GRANVILLE VANCE PUBLIC HEALTH

YOUR ENVIRONMENT.
YOUR COMMUNITY.
YOUR HEALTH.



MESSAGE FROM OUR DIRECTOR

PROTECTING AND PROMOTING HEALTH IN GRANVILLE AND VANCE COUNTIES

"Do all the good you can, By all the means you can, In all the ways you can, In all the places you can, at all the times you can, To all the people you can, as long as ever you can." — John Wesley

That quotation sums up how I feel about the people doing the everyday hard work at Granville Vance Public Health (GVPH) – and it extends back way before our time here. This report aims to showcase what some of that daily work is and how it connects to the people in our communities. We want to tell the story of the history of GVPH on this, our 50th year of service as a district health department.

Local health departments across NC have been in place doing the work of public health for more than a century, so Granville and Vance counties each had separate health departments prior to 1974. In that year, the state offered a small incentive for rural counties to connect resources and build economies of scale, so Granville and Vance counties took on that notion of efficiency and have been doing good work together ever since.



We at GVPH love our district model and are proud of the combined resources, efficiencies and efforts we have led over the years. Currently, with a Rural Academic Health Department model, we add in resources and expertise of our academic partners at UNC, Duke, NC Central and other colleges and universities to help us write and manage grants that support our health priorities and staffing models.

Regardless of whether it's our current staff of approximately 100 people, or if it's all the amazing staff who came before us, we continue to set the bar high for rural public health practice and to take our role as a chief health strategist seriously.



Often, people need an explanation as to the work public health accomplishes – it's beyond providing clinic services and immunizations to individuals. For public health, the entire community is our patient. We assess that patient every 3-4 years and together with community members, work on the health priorities our community selects. We work each day to elevate the practice of local public health by being responsive to community needs, evidence-based in our approaches to solve problems, and aware of the emerging issues that need our greatest attention.

GVPH offers prevention, primary care, Medication for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD) services, Environmental Health, communicable disease, maternal and child health, vital records, WIC / nutrition services, immunizations, and many health education and health promotion programs that directly address local population health needs.

The work we must lead includes: systems thinking, system change, quality improvement, innovation, and the science and art of public health practice at its best. Our work changes over time and, if we're paying attention, the way we prioritize and pay for our work does too.

How do we do this big work and stay committed to being relevant in real time? We depend on a skilled and talented workforce who cares a great deal about friends and neighbors. We depend on partners in the community who do really good work to address the economic development, education, transportation, food security, and housing of the population we also serve. We depend on many levels and types of funding sources to keep the lights on, the computers networked, and the people trained to keep moving forward with skill and talent. We plan. We do. We study. We act. We care a great deal.

A local health department in NC depends on funding from local, state and federal levels, and still, in rural NC, that is barely enough to cover half of an operating budget for a local health department. We are charged with being creative and responsible for funding the interventions and programs most important to our local residents by writing and managing grants, by partnering with local health systems and businesses and by applying business practices that add efficiencies, cut costs and pay attention to revenue even though our values are very much people-focused over profit. We have to be smart and tenacious, honest and transparent, and we have to communicate well about our challenges and successes alike. Public health is rewarding work. Public health is challenging work. Public health is collaborative work. Public health is essential to ensure that communities and families thrive.

We take the health of the people to heart even when it seems the problems loom large and the solutions may take more resources than we have at our disposal. Our public health workforce remains undeterred and committed to protecting and promoting health in Granville and Vance counties. We love fighting disease and we know how to do that well, but we do so much more to protect and promote health. We invite you to find out more and be in touch with us. We're here for you. Thank you for your support of this local health department and its people.

Lisa Macon Harrison, MPH
GVPH Health Director



GRANVILLE VANCE
public health
Your Environment. Your Community. Your Health.



GVPH Annual Report



GVPH HISTORY

Both Granville and Vance counties have a history of strong public health leadership. Health officers Dr. J. A. Morris in Granville and Dr. A. D. Greg in Vance helped lead both counties through the **flu epidemic of 1918**.

1974

Granville and Vance counties join forces, becoming “Granville-Vance District Health Department” in April 1974 with 20 staff from each county. In the same year, the district health department was approved to receive a new building.

In 1976, the department played an important role in the class action suit, Durham vs. Butz. This resulted in USDA releasing funds and taking affirmative action to begin WIC as intended and still operating today.

Between 1974-1991, Dr. Charles “Dick” Rollins served as the inaugural district health director. The department offered core public health services, Home Health, and an orthopedic clinic.



1991

Between 1991-2012, Dr. Wilton Rodwell “Roddy” Drake served as health director. The department began many efforts focused on disease prevention and health promotion. Dr. Drake helped establish one of the first rules prohibiting smoking in government buildings in Granville and Vance counties to reduce tobacco exposure.



From the 1970s to the 2010s, GVPH filled an important gap in Home Health services.

2012

From 2012 to today, Lisa Macon Harrison has served as health director, amplifying the work of GVPH on local, state, and national stages.



In 2014, GVPH begins a formal Academic Health Department relationship with UNC.

In 2015, the health department rebrands, becoming “Granville Vance Public Health.” GVPH starts working with NC Harm Reduction Coalition.

From 2016-2018, GVPH intentionally shifts services to best meet community public health gaps, including shifting away from Home Health services and investing in new programs such as primary care, MOUD, and dental health services.

In 2021, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, GVPH started widespread community vaccine clinics in both counties. Across the district GVPH delivered over 75,000 vaccines, building on the department’s longstanding history of responding to infectious diseases.

In 2024, GVPH staff are working to modernize the practice of public health and deliver integrated care services that are whole person and whole community focused.



2023

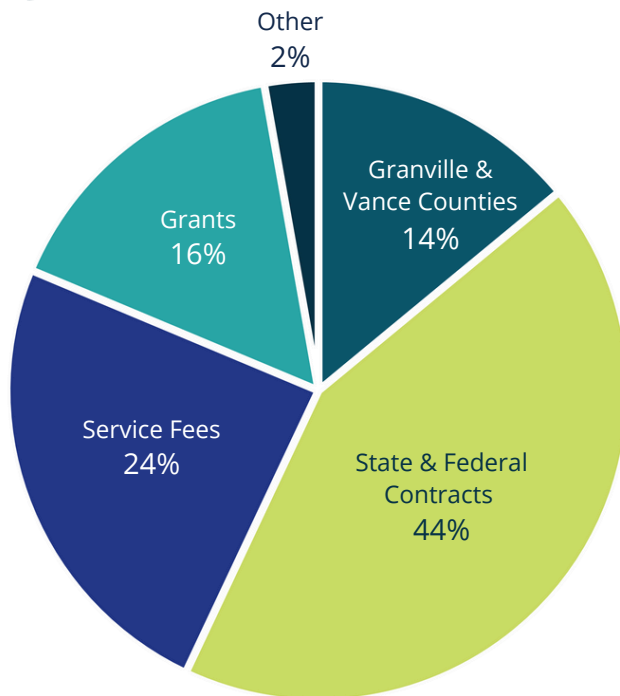
DATA SNAPSHOT

BUDGET & IMPACT

As a district health department, GVPH must strategically manage local, state and federal dollars to perform foundational public health services.

Grant dollars play an important role in complementing and expanding governmental funds, allowing health departments to innovate approaches, expand projects and maintain appropriate staffing to perform these critical services.

With an annual budget hovering just above \$14,000,000 across all service areas, GVPH makes strategic use of fiscal resources across many program and service areas.



DOLLARS TO IMPACT

IN 2023,
WE MANAGED

52

PROGRAMS

IN 1974,
WE MANAGED

7

PROGRAMS



IN 2023, WE WERE
AWARDED OVER

\$2 million

IN GRANTS

IN 1974, WE
WERE AWARDED

\$0

IN GRANTS



IN 2023 WE
EMPLOYED

96

STAFF

IN 1974, WE
EMPLOYED UNDER

25

STAFF



2023 DATA SNAPSHOT

POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

PERCENT POPULATION BY RACE/ETHNICITY, 2023

Granville County, 2023

Race	Estimated Pop.	Percent
All	61,161	100%
White	38,693	63.3%
Black/African American	19,465	31.8%
Hispanic or Latino (Any Race)	5,704	9.3%
American Indian and Alaska Native	1,279	2.1%
Asian	802	1.3%

Vance County, 2023

Race	Estimated Pop.	Percent
All	42,492	100%
Black/African American	22,088	52.0%
White	19,325	45.5%
Hispanic or Latino (Any Race)	3,619	8.5%
American Indian and Alaska Native	985	2.3%
Asian	431	1.0%



2023 DATA SNAPSHOT

COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT

The 2021 Community Health Assessment and Community Health Improvement Plan outlined three community health priorities. Below are summaries of some of the progress made on each of these priorities in the past year.

ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE

Access to healthcare has been a consistent priority in Granville and Vance counties. GVPH is excited by the innovative and evidence-based approaches incorporated in recent years to address this priority area. Focus groups helped us understand that ‘access’ also refers to affordability and awareness of the cost of healthcare services in our community.

Centering Pregnancy

In our Centering Pregnancy program, we had five groups with 43 participants total from June through the beginning of December of 2023. During this time, 14 patients delivered with only one being preterm. This shows that the Centering Pregnancy model improved the accessibility and quality of pregnancy care services and health outcomes. GVPH has been conducting Centering Pregnancy groups since 2016.

OUT OF 14 CENTERING
PREGNANCY PATIENTS,

70%

initiated
breastfeeding



Oral Health

GVPH is investing in the School-Based Oral Health (SBOH) program, which allows us to fill a care gap and to address social determinants of health through preventative and restorative oral health services.

The SBOH program addresses health gaps and social determinants by providing preventive and restorative oral health services to children (including uninsured students) in familiar environments and by reducing missed school days due to dental issues.

In fiscal year 22-23, GVPH

**EXPANDED DENTAL
SERVICES TO ALL VANCE
COUNTY ELEMENTARY &
MIDDLE SCHOOLS**

In fiscal year 23-24, we
secured funding to expand
to all Granville County
public schools starting in
Fall 2024



2023 DATA SNAPSHOT

MENTAL HEALTH & SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER

In 2017, GVPH became the first health department in North Carolina to introduce Medication for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD). MOUD involves the use of FDA-approved medications to reduce cravings and alleviate withdrawal symptoms as part of a comprehensive approach to treating opioid misuse. Alongside medication, individuals undergoing treatment may also engage in counseling, skill-building and various behavioral therapies that are effective for those diagnosed with opioid use disorder. Staff in all clinics are trained in trauma-informed approaches to care.



IN 2023 GVPH
TREATED

43

MOUD patients
during

375

VISITS

ENGAGING YOUTH FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH & SAFETY

GVPH aims to positively impact youth by providing education through two updated, evidence-based curricula in partnership with Vance County High School. Together, these curricula prepare youth ages 15-18 to make safe decisions regarding their physical and mental health.

Rights, Respect, and Responsibility

Rights, Respect, and Responsibility (3 Rs) focuses on providing young people with access to honest sexual health information, confidential sexual health services, and resources for sexual health equity.

Not On Tobacco

Not On Tobacco (N-O-T) is a program of the American Lung Association that helps students quit or reduce tobacco use and develops communication and stress management skills to stay tobacco-free.



IN THE 2023-2024
SCHOOL YEAR

42

STUDENTS

participated in
3 Rs and N-O-T programs

GVPH saw increased interest in FY 23-24 in these programs. The goal for FY 24-25 is to expand outreach through presentations and partnerships with community-based programs.



2023 DATA SNAPSHOT

LEADING CAUSES OF DEATH

Granville County, 2018-2022

Cause of death	No. of deaths	Death rate (per 100,000 people)	Trend (2017-2021)
Total deaths, all causes	3,263	1,071	↑
Cancer-all sites	689	226	↑
Diseases of the heart	605	199	↑
Cerebrovascular disease	161	53	—
Chronic lower respiratory diseases	145	48	↑
COVID-19	136	45	↑

Vance County, 2018-2022

Cause of death	No. of deaths	Death rate (per 100,000 people)	Trend (2017-2021)
Total deaths, all causes	2,997	1,388	↑
Diseases of the heart	628	291	↑
Cancer-all sites	558	258	↓
COVID-19	155	72	↑
Cerebrovascular disease	143	66	↑
Chronic lower respiratory diseases	141	65	↓

Source: North Carolina Center for Health Statistics. 2022 & 2023 County Health Data Book: Ten Leading Causes of Death by County of Residence and Age Group: Ranking, Number of Deaths, and Unadjusted Death Rates per 100,000 Population (2018-2022 & 2017-2021).



GVPH BOARD OF HEALTH

Board of Health members provide a tremendous service to their communities. The Board of Health supports and advocates for public health practice in Granville and Vance counties. Volunteering their time to serve a multi-county district health department requires responsibilities related to budget sustainability and policy, all while keeping the best interest of individuals and families across multiple communities in mind. We welcome visitors, encourage questions, and appreciate any opportunity to share the many ways that public health touches your life.

Board Members

County Commissioner – Granville	Zelodis Jay
County Commissioner – Vance	Leo Kelly
Dentist – Vance	Dr. William Wooten
Optometrist – Granville	Dr. Robert Currin
Pharmacist – Granville	Kelly Jones, PharmD
Physician – Vance	Dr. Gary Smith
Professional Engineer – Granville	Melissa Gillespie
Registered Nurse – Vance	Estena Bradley, WHNP-BC
Veterinarian – Granville	Dr. Bridget Waters
At-Large Member – Granville	Amy Jacobs, RN
At-Large Member – Granville	Vacant
At-Large Member – Granville	Sharon Pittman
At-Large Member – Granville	Carolyn White, RN
At-Large Member – Vance	Vacant
At-Large Member – Vance	Steve Wilson



SERVICE HIGHLIGHTS

SUPPORTING WHOLE LIVES, TOGETHER

GVPH is proud of our creative use of funding opportunities to connect our community to evidence-based care across all cycles of life in 2023.



Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)

In August 2023, GVPH was recognized as one of eight North Carolina local agencies to achieve the Breastfeeding Gold Award of Excellence thanks to their Breastfeeding Peer Counselor Program.

In May 2024, the NC Department of Health and Human Services recognized GVPH's Care Management High Risk Pregnancy Program with the *Friend of WIC Award*.

Youth Mental Health

In October 2023, GVPH received \$4 million to support youth mental health through a new THRIVE Program: Treatment, Health services, and Recovery through Integrated care in Vance and Granville counties. GVPH will work in collaboration with the school systems and various community partners to provide valuable services focused on children and adolescents 5-17 years old.



Comprehensive Behavioral Health

GVPH has provided Behavioral Health services since 2021, supporting mental well-being, addressing mental health and substance use issues, advocating for policy, and providing Medication for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD).

Since 2015, GVPH has secured more than \$6 million in grant funding to combat mental health and substance use disorder challenges in Granville and Vance counties.

SERVICE HIGHLIGHTS

Clinical Services & Primary Care

GVPH offers health care to all adults and children, whether insured or uninsured. We offer everything from sick visits to chronic disease management, family planning services, well child visits and sports physicals. We are proud to offer care that is evidence-based and judgment-free. GVPH features the following clinics:



Environmental Health

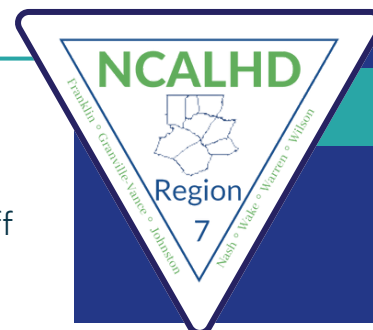
Environmental Health is core public health work that protects and promotes a safe environment through education, applying best practices for water systems, and enforcing compliance of state laws, rules and regulations. Environmental Health Specialists perform mandated inspections in the areas of food, lodging and institutions. They permit septic systems, wells and pools; they also perform water testing, conduct child health lead investigations and respond to outbreak investigations together with a communicable disease team.

Rural Academic Health Department

The Rural Academic Health Department (AHD) model at GVPH provides a real-world laboratory, real-community relationships, and real-time testing for generating practice-based evidence in public health. It connects local public health practitioners to expertise in grant writing and management, evaluation, epidemiology, and health equity research. This is the magic; it simultaneously benefits the community, the health department, local partners, and the researchers. Over the past decade, the Rural AHD model has produced approximately \$20,000,000 in grant funding so that community health priorities can be addressed by local public health staff members.

ARPA Regional Efforts

In 2023, GVPH led Region 7 efforts to recruit, retain and train staff via \$2.7 million received through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). Projects focused on best practices for salary and benefits modernization, individual and leadership training, and strengthening staff capacity across the eight foundational capabilities of public health: Assessment & Surveillance, Community Partnership Development, Equity, Organizational Competencies, Policy Development & Support, Accountability & Performance Management, Emergency Preparedness & Response, and Communications.



FUTURE DIRECTIONS

Emerging Issues

Housing and food insecurity are critical issues in Granville and Vance Counties, profoundly affecting residents' health and well-being.

Food insecurity remains a significant concern. In Granville County, 11% of all residents and 18% of children under 18 experience food insecurity. In Vance County, these figures are even higher, with 17% of all residents and 31% of children under 18 facing food insecurity. The statewide food insecurity rate in North Carolina is 14%.

Additionally, 59% of children in Granville County and 90% in Vance County receive free or reduced lunch, highlighting the economic challenges many families face.

These issues underscore the need for comprehensive community programs and food distribution efforts to support vulnerable populations and improve health outcomes across both counties.

IN GRANVILLE COUNTY,

19%

of homeowners and

48%

of renters spend more than 30% of their income on housing expenses.

IN VANCE COUNTY,

20%

of homeowners and

52%

of renters are cost-burdened by housing



New Initiatives

Through our work with the Granville County Opioid Advisory Committee, GVPH assists with managing two new initiatives to address the opioid crisis locally. The Granville County Sheriff's Office received \$196,539 in 2024 to implement the "Addiction Treatment for Incarcerated Persons" strategy, and the Granville Health System received \$293,000 in 2024 to implement the "Post Overdose Response Team" strategy. The Sheriff's office initiative will assess the mental health and substance use of detainees and provide addiction treatment services including Medication for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD), counseling, and upon release, connection to community services to continue with treatment. The Granville Health System's initiative will provide community paramedics and peer support specialists to follow up within 72 hours for those who want to move from drug use to treatment and recovery. Harm reduction approaches, recovery housing, and ongoing support of treatment approaches are all part of the Granville County Opioid Advisory Committee's priorities. GVPH is happy to support these critical new initiatives with technical assistance and evaluation.



FUTURE DIRECTIONS

GVPH will continue

to add behavioral health and integrated care approaches providing whole-person, whole-community health. Our partnerships with schools, hospitals, local community-based organizations, and the business community will continue to flourish. Public health doesn't happen alone -- it takes community-wide approaches to change community health. We are proud to be convening partnership and supporting coalition work in many different areas that affect health.

CONNECT WITH US

Thank you for helping us reflect on the progress and achievements made over the past 50 years of GVPH! We invite you to keep connecting, collaborating and celebrating with GVPH for years to come.



GRANVILLE VANCE
public health



Website
[**gvph.org**](http://gvph.org)



Office Locations
[**gvph.org/contact/locations/**](http://gvph.org/contact/locations/)



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[**@granvillevancepublichealth**](https://www.facebook.com/granvillevancepublichealth)



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