



Update on Divisions

Division Name: Center for Public Health Practice: Health Statistics - Cancer Registry

- The Arkansas Central Cancer Registry (ACCR) was designated as a Registry of Distinction by the National Program of Cancer Registries (NPCR) at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in March 2021.
- ACCR investigates cancer rates in the state among various populations and determines if there are higher levels in specific areas.
- The ACCR has performed linkages with individuals who tested positive for COVID-19 with cancer patients in the registry database in June 2020 and again in March 2021. The results of the analysis of this data were presented to the CDC and published in *The Arkansas Family Physician*. The ACCR also performed a linkage in June 2021 of cancer patients with individuals who have been vaccinated against COVID-19.

Division Name: Center for Local Public Health: Local Health Units

- ADH Local Health Units Late Clinic Day was added to Local Health Unit schedules to provide better access.

Division Name: Center for Health Advancement: WIC

- WIC participants can now self-check at Kroger and Wal-Mart stores across the state. Previously, WIC transactions meant participants had to be checked-out in a traditional checkout line with a cashier. Arkansas has been able to move to this new checkout experience for WIC purchases.
- Currently Kroger and Wal-Mart are the only WIC approved vendors with a self-check option as other vendors do not have self-check lanes.

Division Name: Public Health Laboratory

- Act 58 of 2019 required spinal muscular atrophy (SMA) testing to be added to the panel of screening tests of newborns. In March 2020, the laboratory started testing all newborn screens for spinal muscular atrophy.

Division Name: Center for Health Protection: Arkansas Lifeline Call Center

- Act 811 of 2017 authorized the agency to create the 24/7 suicide lifeline.
- 7870 calls answered for FY2021.
- 37 peer assistance (certified peer support- call staff/ assistance can last two weeks or longer as needed by the individual).

Significant Department Projects

Project Name: Vital Records

- The ADH is now able to issue birth and death certificates to the public from its local health units as well as from the main office in Little Rock. In most instances, staff can provide same day service for vital records at the Local Health Unit.

Project Name: Maternal Mortality Review Committee

- The Committee began with the passage of Act 829 of 2019. The Act requires the formal review of maternal deaths in Arkansas to identify and characterize maternal deaths with the goal of identifying prevention opportunities. Cases have been reviewed and updated data will be available and reported in the 2021 legislative report.

Project Name: Governor's Challenge to Prevent Suicide among Service Members, Veterans & Families

- Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and Substance Misuse and Mental Health Service Administration (SAMHSA) national endeavor.
- Arkansas Department of Veterans Affairs (ADVA) and ADH are co-chairs.
- Currently in a strategic planning phase related to preventing suicide in military populations.

Project Name: COVID-19 Variant Testing

- Utilizing ELC (Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity) grant funds, the laboratory has purchased equipment for COVID-19 next generation sequencing. This capability will ensure timely detection of COVID-19 variants.
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Transformation Examples

Division Name: ADH Boards and Commissions

- The ADH continues to provide support to the (18) regulatory boards and (5) commissions it received through Transformation and has integrated them into the ADH.
- Procurement, media, HR, IT, and financial services previously provided by other agencies are now provided by the ADH.
- These entities are following ADH's HR and financial policy and processes.

Since November 2020, the following have moved into ADH-owned space:

- Board of Athletic Training: The ADH is also providing employed staff as they did not have previous assistance before Transformation.
- Board of Acupuncture and Related Techniques: The ADH is also providing employed staff as they did not have previous assistance before Transformation.
- Minority Health Commission: This move is providing savings in rent of \$88,000+ per year.
- Additionally, five other boards and their satellite offices have moved into ADH owned space. This has saved expenses related to leases and rent. It has also provided hands-on individual support to these entities that may be limited on staff. This in turn provides better service to licensees and the public.
- Several boards implemented significant fee reductions in the past year. Others are contemplating reductions.

Example 2: Center for Local Public Health

- Food establishment plans, engineering plans, and plumbing plans can now be submitted online. This allows for quicker submittals, reviews, and approvals.
 - In the first quarter of 2021, 58% of plumbing plans were submitted online.
 - This year approximately 28% of food establishment plans are electronically submitted. This rate is 100% greater compared to the last half of 2020.
 - Engineering Electronic submission also receives electronic plans. Staff has been trained on the software program and are processing reviews in conjunction with email, and other electronic means to ensure more efficiency and shorten review times.

Example 3: Center for Local Public Health

- My Public Water System (MyPWS) uses a QR code system. This allows water systems and staff to submit sample information through an app bar code developed in conjunction with the Public Health Laboratory. This provides faster turnaround times for results. As of June 2021, there are 147 water systems using this electronic system with an average turnaround time of just over 1 day to receive results.

Example 4: Public Health Laboratory

- The laboratory started testing for COVID-19 on March 2, 2020 and started working 24/7 on March 29, 2020 to meet increase demand. By Memorial Day 2020, the laboratory had validated an automated

method and eventually reached a capacity to process 3000+ samples per day. Since March 2020, the laboratory has processed more than 500,000 COVID-19 samples.

Staffing

| <u>2015</u> | <u>2016</u> | <u>2017</u> | <u>2018</u> | <u>2019</u> | <u>2020</u> | <u>2021</u> |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 2,685 | 2,410 | 2,172 | 2,083 | 2,081 | 2,073 | 2,022 |

2021 Legislative Initiatives

- Act 598 Hep C testing for pregnant mothers: drafting and updating rules
- Act 707 EMS Data Collection: working with stakeholders and review panel
- Act 268 Radiation Control Update: promulgating rules
- Act 345 Cancer Registry: promulgating rules
- Act 62 Evaluation of PDMP data: promulgating rules
- Act 412 APRN Independent Practice Committee: drafting rules
- Act 811 Earn and Learn (apprenticeship pathways): drafting rules
- Act 135 Military Licensure Reciprocity: drafting and promulgating rules
- Act 90 Every Mom Matters Act: identifying funding, drafting rules, planning to implement
- Act 311 No Patient Left Alone: providing guidance to facilities, educating, conducting investigations
- Act 674 ERAVE/death certificate waivers: notifying certifiers and reviewing request for waivers
- Act 725 Waiving license fees for low income applicants: drafting rules
- Act 900 Body Art licensing program: licensing moved under the authority of Cosmetology (staff, operations, authority transitioning to Cosmetology Committee)
- Act 1040 Food Freedom Act: drafting rules and updating guidance