



## 2024 HIGHLIGHTS

BLOOMINGTON PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION



### WORKING TOGETHER TO TACKLE THE MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS

Mental health and well-being is one of the most pressing concerns in public health. In 2024, Bloomington Public Health made mental health and well-being the focus of its Community Health Assessment, kicked off the “Start with Hi!” social connection campaign, and more. The Division also issued an innovative Request for Proposals to better provide support and meet service gaps in the community. The RFP called for projects that address mental health challenges through non-medical factors that affect health, including food security, support services for unhoused individuals, and community-centered work aimed at strengthening resilience.

Learn more about our social connection campaign at [blm.mn/StartwithHi](https://blm.mn/StartwithHi).

### SUPPORTING EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

We support early childhood development through programs, events and financial support. In 2024, 269 children participated in the Follow Along Program, a free service that supports families with babies and young children as they grow and learn. Our team sends families a form every few months with questions about their child’s progress. Once the form is returned, families receive fun activities to do with their child to help them explore and learn through play. Check out other early childhood development resources at [blm.mn/ph](https://blm.mn/ph).

We also support early childhood development through our grant-making. The Early Childhood Screening program at Bloomington Public Schools received Statewide Health Improvement Partnership (SHIP) funds through our division, with the goal of enhancing its vision and hearing screening capabilities for young children. The program was able to purchase new tools, the Spot Vision Screener and the Easy Tone Audiometer, transforming the screening process. Learn more at [blm.mn/ship](https://blm.mn/ship).

### RESPONDING TO INFECTIOUS DISEASE OUTBREAKS

In 2024 we expanded our Disease Prevention & Control capacity by hiring a full-time Public Health Nurse. The hiring of this staff resource was timely, coinciding with a local measles outbreak. Public Health staff were responsible for investigating and monitoring several clusters of measles cases. A pertussis (whooping cough) outbreak at the same time made the situation more challenging. Having extra staff resources allowed us to better manage the situation and help keep the community safe.



## BY THE NUMBERS

3,239

participants of the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Supplemental Nutrition Program received services and support.

473

client visits made by our community resource team to assess home safety and assist older adults.



3,778

individuals reached through community outreach and presentations on various health topics.

250



older adults attended a community job fair promoting paid part-time and seasonal job opportunities.

1,304

client visits made by our family home-visiting program, offering education and support for pregnant people, new parents and families.

1,354

flu shots and general immunizations given to community members.

269

children participated in the Follow Along Program.

358

families served through the WIC Breastfeeding Peer Counselor Program.

1,732

families with recent births in their households received information about our services.



## FINANCIAL STATS

The majority (67%) of Public Health's funding comes from federal, state and local grants and contracts. Property taxes and fees for services make up the remaining amount. Special thanks to the Bloomington, Edina and Richfield city councils for their generous support and investment in public health.

### Putting your tax dollars to work



The cost of Public Health services in 2024 for the owner of a median-valued home in Bloomington was

**\$2.86 a month**

*Monthly cost is based on a median-valued, single-family home in Bloomington with an assessor's market value of \$361,600.*