



KITSAP PUBLIC HEALTH BOARD

Health Officer Update



Gib Morrow, MD, MPH
Health Officer
Kitsap Public Health District
October 1, 2024

Meetings Update

STRENGTHENING OUR CONNECTIONS

ADDRESSING THE EPIDEMIC OF LONELINESS AND ISOLATION

A workshop for community organizations to identify and collaborate on strategies to increase social connectedness amongst Kitsap residents across the lifespan

Featuring Risa Wilkerson, lead author of the *Socially Connected Communities: Solutions to Social Isolation* report.



Kitsap Community Health Priorities KCHP

KITSAP YOUTH FORUM 2024



TUESDAY - OCTOBER 15TH
4:30pm - 7:00pm

Location: Norm Dicks Government Center
345 6th Street, Bremerton, WA 98337

Register at:

bit.ly/KitsapYouthForum24

or scan the QR code:



New Program Work

- Appreciation to PCH Team!
- Assists Kitsap Moms
- Coordination across organizations
- Personalized referrals for pregnancy, mental health, early learning, parenting, home visits, support groups, developmental concerns



PUBLIC HEALTH NEWS



Sept. 17, 2024

Introducing Kitsap Public Health's Pregnancy & Parenting Support Line

360-728-BABY (2229)

Respiratory Illness Report

- Moving from monthly to weekly reporting in October
- Local indicators for influenza and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) remained very low
- Local indicators for COVID-19 remained at elevated levels, steady since the end of June 2024
- 1.8% of emergency department (ED) visits were attributable to COVID-19
- On average, around 13.4 hospital beds at St. Michael Medical Center with COVID-19 or influenza patients

WEEKLY RESPIRATORY SURVEILLANCE REPORT

2024, Week 37 | Week ending 9/14/2024

The respiratory surveillance report is published every four weeks during low transmission periods. We will resume monthly reporting on 10/03/2024.

1 | COVID-19

Data are shown for past 24 months.



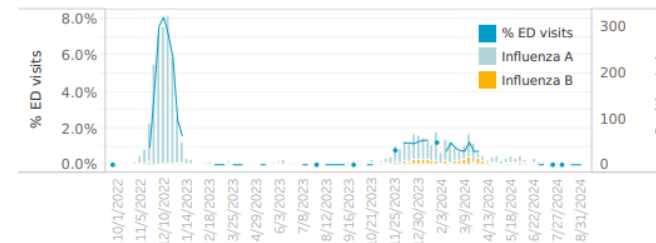
Labs 76 of 481 (15.8%) specimens positive in past reporting week

ED Visits 26 of 1471 (1.8%) visits attributable to COVID-19 in past reporting week

Outbreaks in LTCFs 4 COVID-19 outbreaks reported in past 28 days

2 | INFLUENZA

Data are shown for past 24 months.



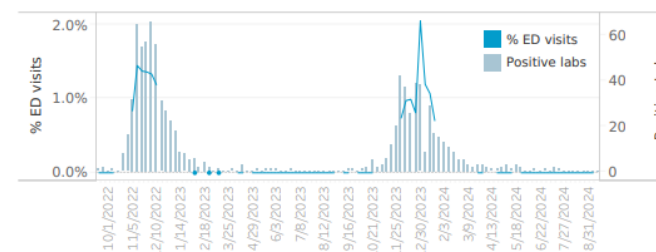
Labs 4 of 145 (2.8%) specimens positive (3 Flu A, 1 Flu B) in past reporting week

ED Visits <10 of 1471 (<0.7%) visits attributable to Influenza in past reporting week

Outbreaks in LTCFs 0 Influenza outbreaks reported in past 28 days

3 | RESPIRATORY SYNCYTIAL VIRUS (RSV)

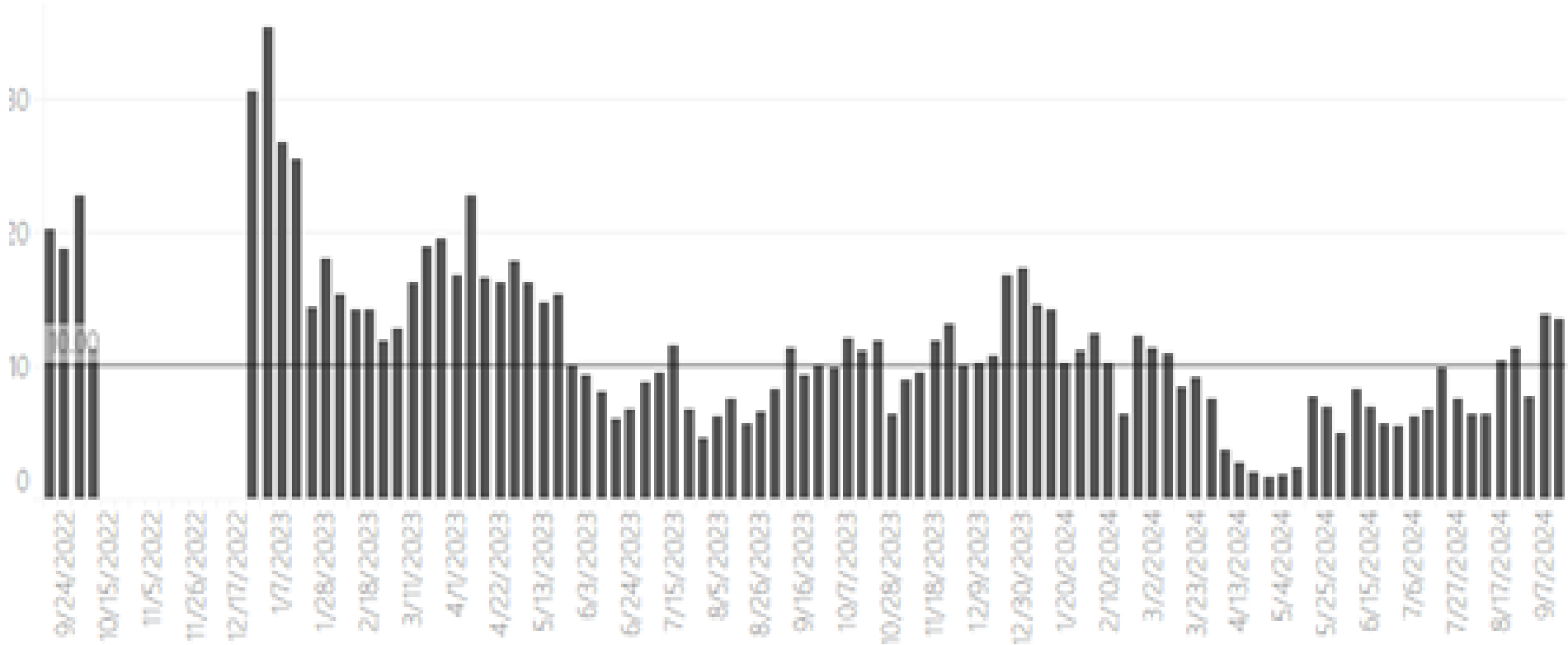
Data are shown for past 24 months.



Labs 0 of 34 (0.0%) specimens positive in past reporting week

ED Visits <10 of 1471 (<0.7%) visits attributable to RSV in past reporting week

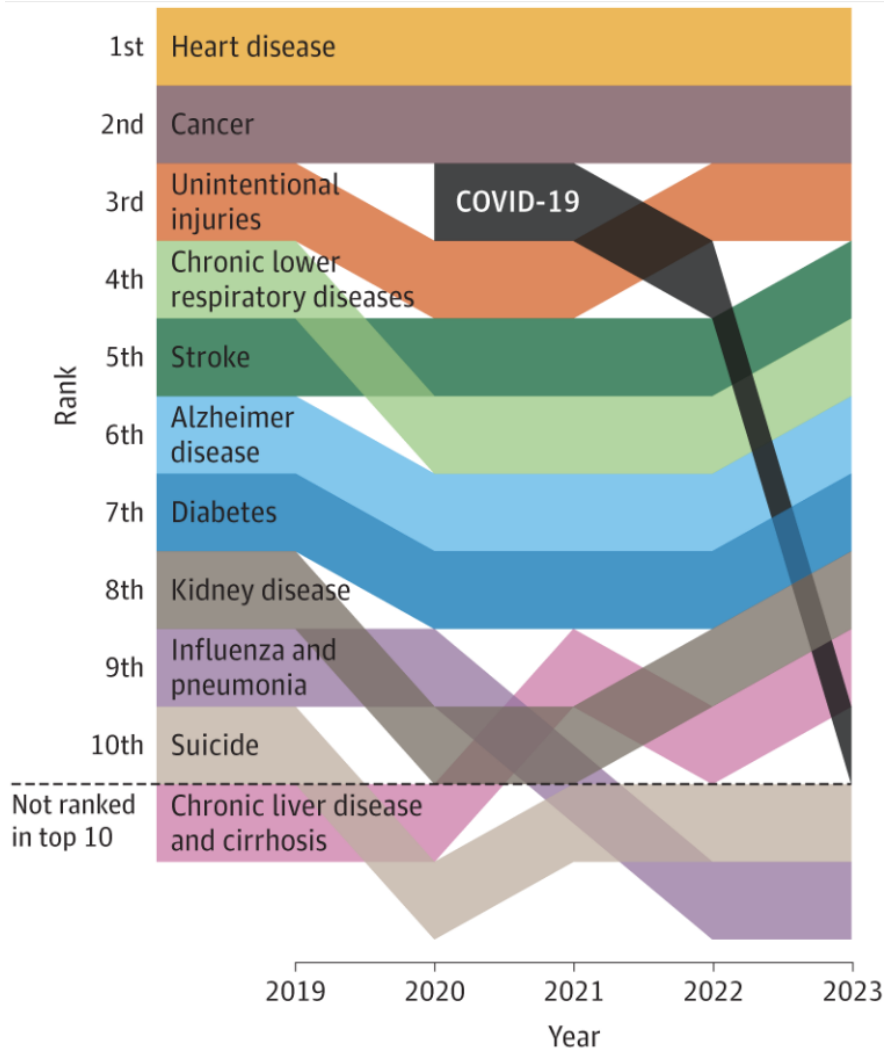
Average Number of COVID Beds at SMMC is ticking up, above 10 (peak was 45-55)



Time for Fall Vaccinations

- COVID for everyone > 6 months
- RSV Abrysvo for people at 32–36 weeks pregnancy
- RSV Nirsevimab for infants younger than 8 months between October and March (and up to 19 months if at high risk of severe disease)
- RSV for all adults 75 and older and those 60–74 at risk of severe disease
- Flu for everyone over 6 months of age
- KPHD Provider Advisory forthcoming this week
- Four free COVID tests available at covidtests.gov

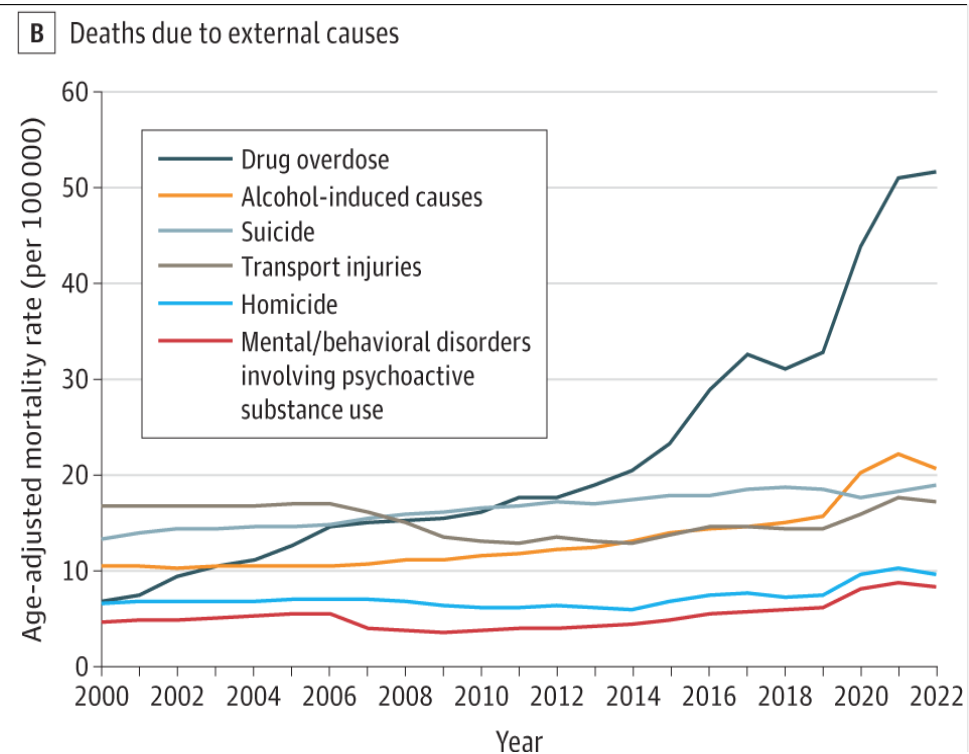
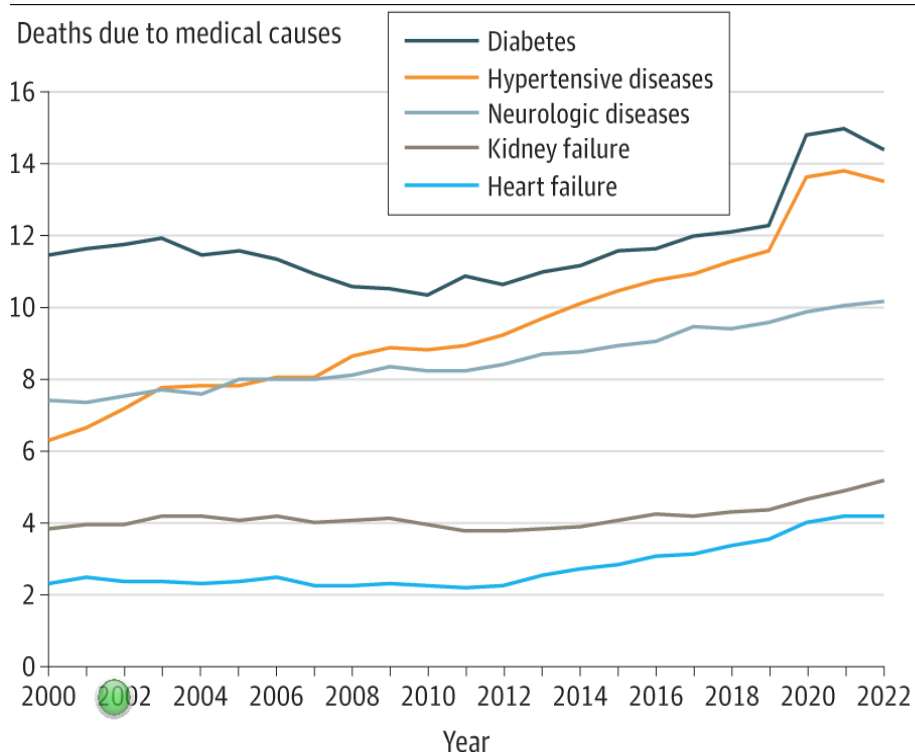
Leading Causes of Death in the US, 2019–2023



- Mortality changes over time are key indicators of population change
- Heart disease, cancer are stable and high, of concern in aging population
- Influenza, pneumonia have dropped out of the top ten
- COVID has dropped from 3rd to 10th
- Increased drug and alcohol use during pandemic may be driving injury and liver disease deaths
- These trends in the context of declining physician numbers confirm importance of prevention and recruitment and retention!

What's Driving US Mortality Increases?

- Drug overdoses
- Alcohol induced causes
- Chronic medical diseases
- Mental health disorders
- Suicide, homicide, and accidents



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

September 25, 2024

Kitsap Public Health District

Is Requesting Written Proposals from a Qualified Legal Firm(s) to
Provide General Counsel and/or Labor/Employment Legal Services to Support
the Agency's Staff and its Health Board in Accordance with
the Scope of Work Described Herein.

https://kitsappublichealth.org/information/files/KPHD_Legal_RFP_FINAL_09252024.pdf

Resources

- [PREGNANCY & PARENTING SUPPORT LINE](#)
- [Two Years of U.S. COVID-19 Vaccines Have Prevented Millions of Hospitalizations and Deaths](#)
- [Leading Cause of Death in the US, 2019-2023](#)
- [Increasing Mortality Rates in the US, but Not From COVID-19](#)



THANK YOU!

Gib Morrow, MD, MPH

gib.morrow@kitsappublichealth.org



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Update on Resolution 2021-01: *Declaring Racism a Public Health Crisis*



Erica Whares (she/they)
Equity Program Coordinator
Equity & Performance Program



Declaring Racism a Public Health Crisis

History of Resolution 2021-01

- COVID-19 revealed and widened longstanding health inequities
- Kitsap community members called for concrete action on racism and equity
- KPHD employees drafted a resolution, received community input, and shared with the Kitsap Public Health Board
- In May 2021, the Board declared racism a public health crisis (Resolution 2021-01).

Resolution 2021-01

- Resolution acknowledges longstanding inequities and includes commitments
- Commitments fit into 5 categories

Resolution 2021-01 Commitments:



Policies, Procedures, and Programs



Workforce Development



Agency Infrastructure



Community Partnerships



Public Health Board



Policies, Procedures, and Programs

- During our Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) reaccreditation process, we conducted an equity review of documents and policies incorporated equity considerations.
- **Upcoming:**
 - Our Equity Committee and Equity Team will develop and pilot an Equity Impact Review Tool to review updated policies with an equity lens.



Workforce Development

- Hosting Lunch and Learn-sessions each month to introduce and/or review Equity topics with KPHD employees
- Revised the internal equity training plan
- KPHD's Equity Team continues to support our Human Resources program to identify opportunities to collaborate on recruitment processes.



Agency Infrastructure

- Launched internal Equity Committee in September 2024. Upcoming tasks include finalizing a Committee Charter, developing an Equity Impact Review Tool, and piloting trainings.
- Equity Team is now part of the Equity & Performance Program



Community Partnerships

- Continuing to:
 - Host information tables at community events (7 events in 2023, 11 events so far in 2024)
 - Build and foster authentic relationships with community leaders and organizations
 - Be active in various community coalitions and community initiatives
 - Convene the Kitsap Health Equity Collaborative. The group is currently moving to action



Kitsap Public Health Board

- This is our 5th update to the Board since the creation of the KPHD Equity Team
- KPHD's Policy Analyst created a Policy Map in 2024 that was approved by the Board your November 2023 meeting
- Continue to update the Board on our work

Our priorities for 2025



- Create and pilot an internal and external Equity Impact Review Tool
- Conduct additional Equity trainings for all employees including Cultural Humility and Allyship
- Continue to offer monthly Lunch and Learn sessions on equity topics to all employees
- Continue to support the Health Equity Collaborative as they move to action
- Continue to show up to support populations facing the most health inequities



THANK YOU!

Erica Whares (she/they)
Equity Program Coordinator
Erica.whares@kitsappublichealth.org



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Onsite Sewage System Ordinance Revision



Presenter
John Kiess
Environmental Health
Director

What is an Onsite Sewage System?

Onsite sewage systems (OSS), also known as septic systems, treat wastewater from private residences, restaurants, or other situations where flows are less than 3,500 gallons per day.



Kitsap Public Health OSS Program

Currently, there are more than 57,000 onsite sewage systems in Kitsap County.

1961 - First local OSS ordinance, 15 years before a State rule

2011 - Last amendment to the current Kitsap Public Health Board Ordinance 2008A-01



Washington State Department of Health Rule Revision

2018 - WA DOH initiated the WAC 246-272A rule revision process

January 2024 – New rule adopted by the State Board of Health with an effective date of April 1, 2025

Local health jurisdictions can use this interim period to update their local regulations to be submitted and approved by DOH to become effective after DOH approval



WA DOH Rule Revision Key Changes

- **Requires OSS property transfer inspections at time of sale**
- **Establishes a “Minor Repair” definition and exemption to permitting for minor repairs**
- **For OSS repairs (replacements) establishes requirements and enforcement and reporting of OSS failures**
- **Provides support for a local OSS remediation policy**
- Increases minimum lot size and useable land area requirements for the creation of new lots that will utilize OSS
- Adds new definitions and updates technical design standards
- Requires DOH review of local OSS management plans to determine if updates are needed

Bold font - KPHD Ordinance 2008A-01 already includes these requirements

Kitsap Public Health Ordinance Revision Timeline

- **January** – Started monthly ordinance revision meetings with existing OSS Technical Advisory Committee
- **May** - Kitsap Public Health Board update
- **October** – Kitsap Public Health Board update
- Public/Stakeholder comment period
- **November** – Draft rule sent to DOH for approval
- **January/February 2025** – Possible Kitsap Public Health Board public hearing for adoption of new ordinance



THANK YOU!

John Kiess –
john.kiess@kitsappublichealth.org



kitsappublichealth.org