

Child Health: Healthy Activities for School-Aged Children

Objective 3.2: Increase the proportion of children, 6 through 11 years, with access to activities and programs that support their interests, healthy development, and learning by 10% by 2025.

Activities During Federal Fiscal Year 2023

Inclusive School and Community Playgrounds: Recognizing that many play areas are not inclusive for children with disabilities who also need to be physically active, Title V was planning to assist communities and schools with understanding how and funding to support making their playgrounds more inclusive and accessible for all children. However, due to staffing challenges the Inclusive Playground Call for Proposals for communities, schools, childcare centers, and others to apply for support to add or establish inclusive playground equipment was put on hold. The goal of Title V is to revisit this funding opportunity upon hiring of a new CYSHCN Director and SHCN program manager.

Local MCH Agencies:

The following are examples of how some of the local MCH grantee agencies have made progress toward objective 3.2 during the reporting period.

- Doniphan County Health Department implemented child passenger safety activities in their community. The Child Passenger Safety Technician completed continuing education. Doniphan County is a rural area, and the health department was able provide car seat checks for seven families. They also provided car seats, bike helmets, and life vests to families with limited resources, including those who had welcomed foster children on short notice.
- Finney County Health Department focused efforts on outreach activities for health promotion and education to increase the community's awareness of their services. They organized 20 events throughout the year at local parks, the zoo, and schools. They focused on specific health topics at the various events, such as mental health, oral health and nutrition and used promotional items to provide the lessons. A breakdown of attendance at some of the events is shown in the table below.

Event Location	Children In Attendance
YMCA	62
USD 457	135
KS Children's Service League	60
Garden City Arts	300
City of Garden City	351

- Linn County Health Department provided several activities to support child interests and healthy development. The activities included Cosmic Yoga, Kid's

Health Fair, and Friends and Me Painting. Cosmic Yoga involved the children following two different stories through yoga poses to promote relaxation, stress reduction, and activities to do when it is extremely hot outside. Friends and Me Painting also promoted these educational topics. The Kids Health Fair was the largest outreach event for children. Friends and Me Painting was a step-by-step instructor lead painting class where each child was invited to bring a friend to paint with them. The community received education on injury prevention, child development, nutrition, and oral health. DAISEY data shows they served and educated 237 children. The number of times education was provided by topic include injury prevention (246), nutrition (122), oral health (126), and child development (56).

- Rooks County Health Department is the lead organization for MCH across Rooks, Graham, and Norton counties. They prioritized dental checks/fluoride varnish in the schools, anti-smoking/vaping education (pig lungs), healthy eating (Summer Lunch Program)/exercising, car seat checks, and immunizations at multiple locations in each county. The number of children they served increased from 77 in 2022 to 127 in 2023.

Plans for Federal Fiscal Year 2025

Development Milestone Passports: The Child Health Consultant will continue to disseminate the [Developmental Screening Passports](#) previously created through the Early Childhood Comprehensive Service (ECCS) grant for MCH programs' use with families. Home visitors, early childhood educators, and health care providers will continue to be encouraged to utilize these resources which can be found on the [Kansas Help Me Grow website](#). *The Passports will also be reviewed and updated as needed to align with best practices.*

Additionally, the Child Health Consultant intends to increase collaboration between Title V and school-aged programs, school districts, and other KDHE Bureaus to create and promote child health initiatives around physical activity, nutrition, screen time, and other pressing public health topics. Title V will also continue its participation in school-aged prevention coalitions, the Kansas School Nurse Conference Planning Committee, and other work on children's safety and wellbeing occurring within the state. Efforts to align statewide messaging around child health initiatives will be valuable. Local communities will receive guidance on healthy campaigns (e.g., Move Your Way, Let's Move; Turn a Page-Touch a Mind; Dolly Parton's Imagination Library), farmer's market resources, and other food programs that are available.