

# Washington State Department of Health Update

Mike Ellsworth, JD, MPH

FEDERAL AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS  
DIRECTOR, WA-DOH

Kelly Cooper

POLICY & LEGISLATIVE RELATIONS  
DIRECTOR, WA-DOH

Washington State Board of Health  
06/12/24 | Vancouver

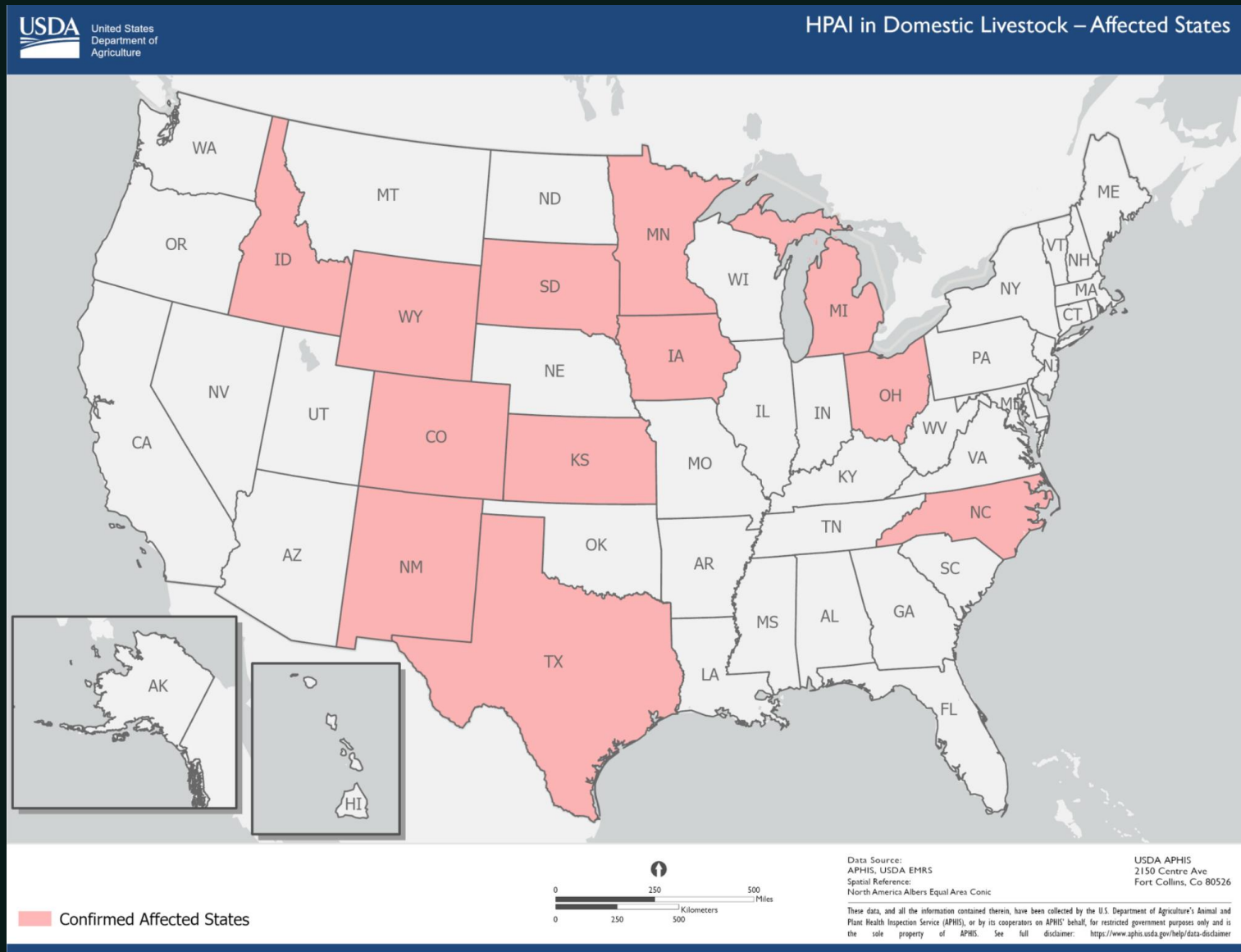


@WaDeptHealth  
@WaHealthSec



# Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI)

# USDA National Confirmed Cases of HPAI in Domestic Livestock



# Transformational Plan - Global & One Health

# WA-DOH Chief of Global & One Health



April 11, 2024

## Introducing DOH's First Chief of Global & One Health

Good afternoon DOH team!

It is my great pleasure to announce that Dr. Atousa Salehi will be joining DOH's Executive Leadership Team (ELT) in mid-April as our agency's inaugural Chief of Global & One Health (GOH).

In this capacity, Dr. Salehi will lead our first-ever Executive Office of Global One (OGO). This is an incredibly important milestone as DOH becomes the first state health agency in the nation to create such an office and to prioritize this work together. Her role will be to provide strategic leadership, foster ongoing connections, and enhance coordination of our work across the organization and externally, in line with our agency cornerstone values of Equity, Innovation, and Engagement (EIE).



While the newly created OGO will start small, it will be mighty in its vision: to develop, curate, and implement the application of global and One Health learnings to improve the health and well-being of all Washingtonians. OGO will underscore the importance of a strong bidirectional global and domestic health ecosystem, while recognizing the important relationship of humans, animals, and the environment.

Dr. Salehi will help bring our agency vision for this work outlined in the [DOH Transformational Plan](#) to life. This includes incorporating best practices, leveraging collective strength and wisdom from Global and One Health innovators, seeking resources and funding to support this work, and working across DOH to support the health of immigrant, refugee, and migrant communities across Washington.

As background, Dr. Salehi is a board-certified emergency physician with a steadfast commitment to global health equity. She has over two decades of experience in clinical practice, health system management, and digital health innovations. During her career, she has served at the forefront of emergency response, led system-wide quality improvement initiatives that enhanced health outcomes and optimized healthcare delivery, and developed and implemented transformative digital health solutions.

Driven by a mission to close healthcare access and quality gaps through innovative technologies, Dr. Salehi has steadfastly designed and implemented evidence-based, scalable, and sustainable health initiatives through strong global collaborations and coordination. These endeavors have fostered robust health solutions to empower people to lead healthier lives. Her hands-on experience in emergency medicine, coupled with her own background and experience in under-resourced and emerging developing countries, have instilled in her a profound understanding of the unique challenges faced by underserved populations and the comprehensive strategies necessary to address them.

"I am deeply honored to contribute my expertise to the Washington State Department of Health and am fervently committed to the organization's mission and to the innovations and One Health solutions that promise a more healthful future for all Washingtonians."



## Global & One Health

### Vision

All Washingtonians live in ever-connected environments that recognize and leverage the intersection of both global and domestic health as well as the connections of humans, animals, and the environment.

### Commitment

We will lead the development and implementation of creative solutions to improve the health and well-being of Washingtonians emphasizing the connectedness of a strong bidirectional global domestic health ecosystem. It will simultaneously underscore the importance of One Health recognizing the relationships of human health as they intertwine with that of animals and the environment.

### Key Strategies

1. **Incorporate** best practices from beyond borders to advance the health and well-being of Washingtonians and the communities in which they live through strong bidirectional pathways for advancing partnerships, key planning strategies, and communications efforts.
2. **Leverage** the collective strength and wisdom of existing and emerging global health and One Health stakeholders and institutions within (and beyond) Washington state to participate in and support robust and connected networks of information sharing, strategy development, and engagement.
3. **Seek** resources and funding as well as partnership opportunities to enhance capabilities across health systems to ensure a globally connected community of partners with particular emphasis on mentorship and training opportunities, system and technology enhancements, and engagement pathways to address domestic issues through global health learnings.
4. **Advance** timely, culturally, and linguistically respectful health information and initiatives, in partnership with health system providers and communities, to support the health and well-being of refugee, immigrant, and migrant communities across Washington.
5. **Emphasize** the complex connections of human, animal, and environmental health in our health promotion activities and expand our capacity to prevent, detect, and respond to global public health threats with domestic health impact whether infectious disease or otherwise.
6. **Further** and **support** our important role in binational relations and connectedness with health partners and other key entities in Canada and beyond to advance information sharing, health systems knowledge, and strategy development.

# Equity, Innovation, Engagement

# WA-DOH Community Conversations

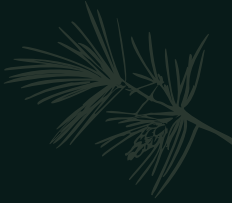
---



Equity, **Innovation**, Engagement



# WA-DOH Opioid and Drug Use Data



## Opioid and Drug Use Data

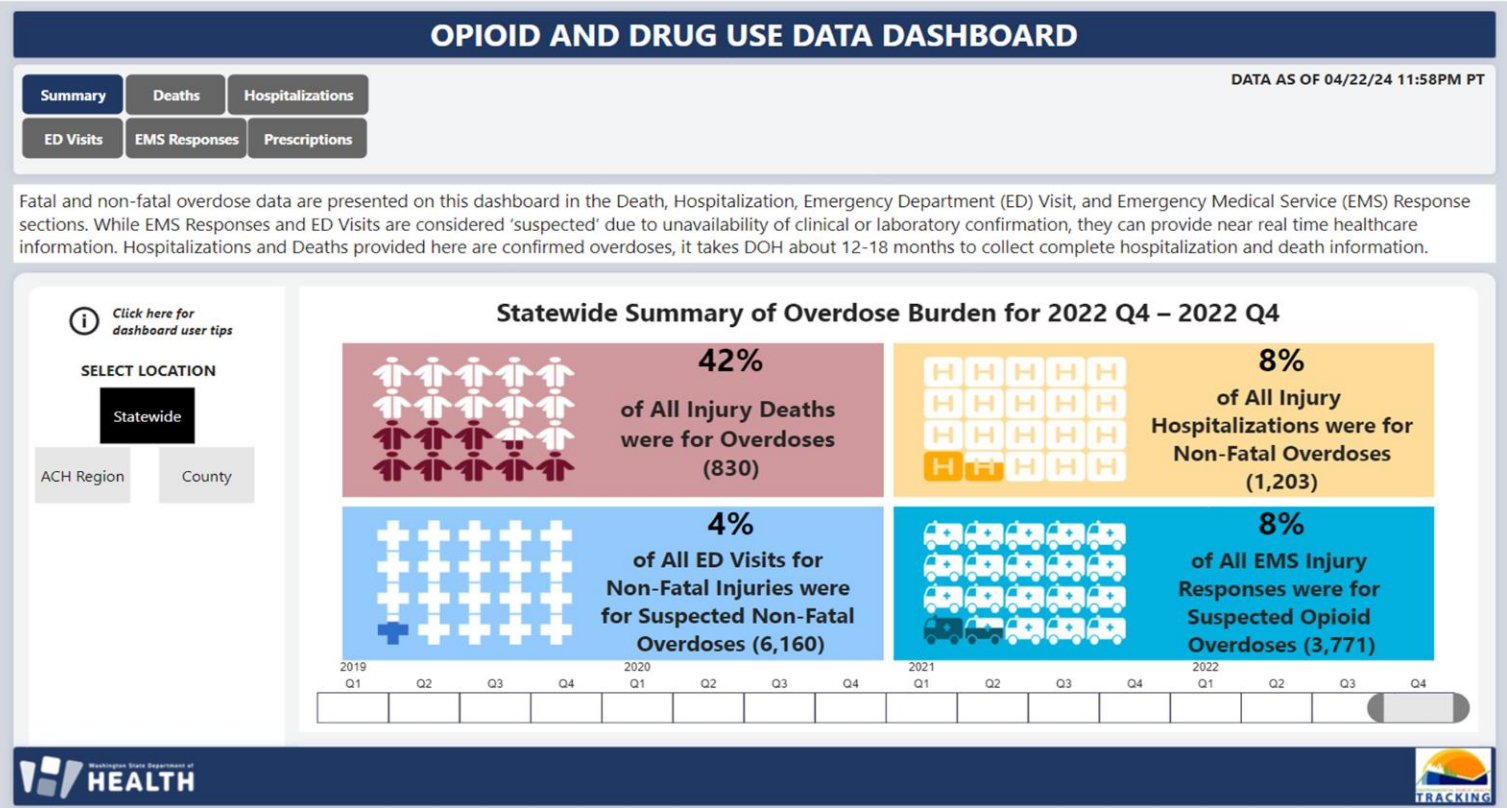
You are currently looking at the Opioid and Drug Use Data Dashboard. This dashboard contains data on *counts and rate trends* among Washington State residents.

If you are interested in seeing *circumstances surrounding* unintentional and undetermined drug overdose deaths in Washington, please refer to the [SUDORS data dashboard](#)

[Jump to data downloads](#)

Due to a data processing error, the number of non-fatal overdose ED visits is likely an undercount. For further questions, please contact the RHINO inbox at [RHINO@doh.wa.gov](mailto:RHINO@doh.wa.gov).

The monthly update of the EMS data on the dashboard is delayed due to a temporary system error. Please reach out to [WEMISIS@doh.wa.gov](mailto:WEMISIS@doh.wa.gov) if you have any questions.

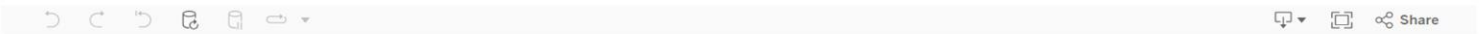


# WA-DOH Perinatal Data



## Perinatal Dashboard

5/17/24 It has come to our attention that the data on birth outcomes in this dashboard differ from those produced in the Community Health Assessment Tool, and may not be accurate. We are working to address this issue and hope to publish an updated dashboard soon. No other data in this dashboard should be affected by this issue.



### Perinatal Dashboard



**In order to download data, follow these steps:**

1. Select data in drop down menus at the top of the screen according to which data you would like
2. Click anywhere on the data table once
3. Select "Download" at the bottom (or top) of the dashboard
4. Select Data
5. If data look correct, select "Download all rows as a text file"; OR
4. Select "Crosstab"
5. Select "download" again;
6. Save as a CSV file at the prompt

Data Source: 
 Indicator: 
 Time Period: 
 Year: 
 Geography: 
 PE Subset:  Null

Year	Data Source	Indicator	PE Subset	Geography	Geo Name	Subset	Subset ID	Suppression	
2017	Birth Certificate	Diabetes	Null	WA	Washington	ALL	ALL	Null	10.0 (9.84, 10.2)
						Maternal Age	<20	Null	3.2 (2.64, 3.8)
							20-24	Null	5.4 (5.08, 5.8)
							25-29	Null	8.1 (7.85, 8.5)
							30-34	Null	10.7 (10.36, 11.1)
							35-39	Null	15.7 (15.17, 16.3)
							40+	Null	21.6 (20.16, 23.0)
						Maternal Race	Hispanic	Null	11.1 (10.61, 11.5)
							NH AIAN	Null	9.8 (8.08, 11.5)
							NH Asian	Null	17.3 (16.55, 18.1)
							NH Black	Null	9.7 (8.85, 10.6)
							NH NHOPI	Null	13.4 (11.54, 15.4)
							NH White	Null	8.4 (8.18, 8.6)
							Multi-racial	Null	8.8 (7.93, 9.7)
Null	10.5 (10.31, 10.7)								
2018	Birth Certificate	Diabetes	Null	WA	Washington	ALL	ALL	Null	2.6 (2.33, 3.6)
						Maternal Age	<20	Null	5.5 (5.2, 5.8)
							20-24	Null	5.5 (5.2, 5.8)

# Equity, Innovation, Engagement

# Public Health Connects

Health | Local News | Mental Health | Nation | Wellness

## We can all help combat loneliness, surgeon general says in Seattle

May 30, 2024 at 6:00 am | Updated May 30, 2024 at 6:00 am



2 of 2 | Washington State Health Secretary Umair Shah, left, and U.S. Surgeon General Vivek Murthy discuss loneliness and isolation in Seattle on Wednesday. (Washington State Department of Health)



By Taylor Blatchford  
Seattle Times engagement reporter

### Public Health Connects

#### A speaker series hosted by Secretary of Health, Dr. Umair A. Shah

Public Health Connects is a video series developed by the Washington State Department of Health to advance health equity, spotlight innovative ideas, and foster collaborative partner engagement throughout the health and wellness system — and beyond. Together, we can create a future where everyone can live their healthiest lives.



**Episode One: How to lead with heart during a time of crisis**  
Discussion with Abigail Echo-Hawk, M.A., Chief Research Officer, Seattle Indian Health Board



**Episode Two: Fact or fiction? Navigating the social media rumor mill in an online world**  
Discussion with Dr. Kate Starbird, PhD, Co-Founder, Center for an Informed Public, University of Washington



**Episode Three: How AI will transform healthcare and the healthcare ecosystem**  
Discussion with Vidhu Shekar, Government Strategy Leader, Microsoft



**Episode Four: On the epidemic of loneliness and isolation in Rx for a lonely nation**  
Discussion with Dr. Vivek Murthy, U.S. Surgeon General

# WA-DOH's Update on State Legislature

# 2024 Legislative Session Recap

---

2024 was a “short” session

- Even years are “short” 60-day sessions
- Odd years are “long” 105-day sessions

Democratic Majorities in the House and Senate

1,615 bills introduced, 379 bills passed the Legislature

74 DOH implementation plans in progress

- 27 bills
- 47 budget provisos

Supplemental budget - \$2.1 Billion Overall

# 2024 Agency Request Legislation

---



## Senate Bill 5271

*DOH  
Facilities  
Enforcement*



## Senate Bill 6095

*Standing  
Orders  
Authority*



## Senate Bill 5982

*Updating  
the Vaccine  
Definition*

# Opioid and Fentanyl

## DOH Outreach and Education Campaigns

- Statewide Drug Overdose Prevention campaign for youth and adults
- Higher Education – HB 2112
- OSPI Opioid Education Materials – Gov Requests (OSP/OPAE/PCH)

## Guidelines

- High potency synthetic opioid guidance for courts - DCYF/Tight Timeline
- Breastfeeding SUD
- Car Decontamination

## Naloxone Funding

- Expand access to K-12 schools, higher education, libraries, first responders

## Pass-through funding to local health, CBOs, and Tribes

- Education & awareness opioid toolkits (Pierce County)
- Public awareness campaigns

## DOH Opioid data dashboard & systems funding



# Behavioral Health

## Workforce

- WA Health Corp Scholarships
- Workforce Supports – HB 2247

## Facilities

- Extending 23-hour crisis facilities to minors

## Behavioral Crisis Coordination

- BH-Admin Services Designation (w/HCA)
- 988 Funding

# Equity, Tribes, Environmental Health

- **WSBOH School Rule: Advisory Group Review**
- **Native Youth Sports Program funding**
- **Shellfish program/fee review (and report)**
- **Fusion technology and clean energy policies workgroup**
- **Health Equity Zone Funding**
- **HEAL Act Funding**
- ***Food as Medicine* WIC Program**
- **Community Compensation Funding**
- **Oral Health Equity Workgroup**

# Health Systems Transformation

## Certificate of Need Assessment and Report

- *CN exemption extended for psychiatric beds/hospitals*

## New Models of Care

- Hospital at home services state law
- EMT Credential to Work in Hospitals

## POLST Registry Feasibility Study

## WA HEALTH Assessment

# Workforce Transformation

---



New Interstate Licensing  
Compacts

Social Workers  
Physician Assistants



Funding for a Community Organization to  
address health care workforce shortages amongst  
communities traditionally underserved

# Telemedicine and AI Legislation

---



## Telemedicine

Removes requirement that a patient and provider establish a relationship in-person to receive payment parity

Uniform law commission's uniform telehealth act

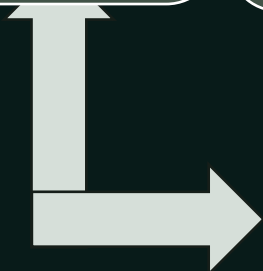
- Provides circumstances in which out-of-state health care providers can provide telehealth services to patients in WA state.
- Allows a provider to establish a relationship with a patient via audio or video telehealth.



## AI Task Force

Attorney General to convene to assess the use of AI, develop principles and make recommendations for its regulation. *(DOH not listed as a participant)*

# Key Dates



- 2024 Laws: Implementation plans created by Mid-April

# Possible Agency Request Legislation for 2025

- Update Water Recreation Statute
- Pesticide Application Safety Committee
- Safe Drinking Water Act - EPA Compliance
- WIC Hemoglobin Testing Exemption
- Reduce Barriers to Data Sharing

# KEY TAKE AWAYS



- U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention believe current risk to public from HPAI is low, but certain people are at greater risk. Highlights need to **implement application of global & One Health.**
- WA-DOH is working with partners to better serve all Washingtonians, including (1) through Community Conversations & Urban Indian Initiative Listening Sessions; (2) expanded dashboards for opioid and drug use data, and new dashboard for perinatal data; and (3) Public Health Connects with U.S. Surgeon General to raise visibility on Epidemic of Social Isolation and Loneliness and the **healing power of social connection.**
- There is a lot of work going on to implement the many bills and provisos passed by the Washington State Legislature in 2024. WA-DOH looks forward to working with the State Board of Health and other partners as it develops proposed request legislation for 2025 to **reenergize our commitment to health for all.**





IN IT TOGETHER!

Umair A. Shah, MD, MPH  
360-236-4030  
Secretary@doh.wa.gov

Twitter:  
@WaHealthSec  
@WADeptHealth  
@ushahmd

