

Disaster Prevention and Resiliency Task Force

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Kentucky Department for Public Health

Emergency Support Function 8: Public Health & Medical Services

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Purpose Statement

Public health prepared; Kentuckians protected.

Kentucky Public Health Preparedness enhances the capacity of the Kentucky Department for Public Health, local public health departments, and the health care system to prevent, prepare for, respond to, and recover from the adverse health effects of public health emergencies and disasters.



Agency Overview: Quick Facts

The Kentucky Department for Public Health (KDPH) serves as the lead coordinating agency for public health, medical, and human services during emergency incidents or disasters in Kentucky.

- Cabinet for Health & Family Services (CHFS)
 - Kentucky Department for Public Health
 - » Division of Public Health Protection & Safety
 - **Emergency Preparedness & Response Branch (EPRB)**
- Branch Staffing: 43 Total Staff
 - 25 Field Staff
 - 18 Central Office/Frankfort Staff
- Experienced staff
 - 45% of staff 10+ years
 - Military, Health, EMS, Fire, RN, EMA, LEO, OSHA, logistical, and state/federal experience or background.

Disasters and Emergency Response Guidance

- The National Response Framework (NRF) outlines how the nation responds to all types of disasters and emergencies, establishing a unified approach among federal, state, and local governments.
- The Kentucky State Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) outlines the organizational structure, roles and responsibilities, and procedures for coordinating and managing disaster and emergency response in the Commonwealth.
- **Emergency Support Functions (ESFs)** are groups of organizations within a specific functional area that work together to deliver core capabilities and support an effective response.
 - The Kentucky Department for Public Health is the primary coordinating agency for **ESF-8: Public Health & Medical Services**

ESF-8 Assigned Roles and Responsibilities

Total Spectrum of Health and Medical Preparedness, Response and Recovery

- Health surveillance and epidemiological investigation
- Disease control and prevention
- Environmental health
- Food and water safety
- Radiation health and response
- Laboratory testing and equipment
- Behavioral/mental health
- Health information and education
- Health and medical data; population data
- Sanitation support
- Special populations support (home health, dialysis, etc.)
- Hazardous materials support
- Mass care (shelter) support

- Emergency operations coordination
- Medical countermeasures dispensing
 - Mass prophylaxis (mass distribution of medicine)
 - Vaccines
- Medical material management and distribution
- Medical surge (equipment and supplies)
- Patient movement and coordination
- EMS surge and support
- Redundant power & communications
- Personal protective equipment
- Mobile hospital care
- Medical and non-medical volunteer management
- Fatality management and coordination
- Alternative water supply
- **Long-term care incident support (nursing homes, assisted living, etc.)**

ESF-8 Capabilities

Emergency Preparedness & Response Branch (EPRB)

KDPH (EPRB, Other KPDH Divisions, Branches, Sections, LHDs)

- Surveillance and Epidemiological Investigation
- Disease Control and Prevention
- Data and Informatics
- Laboratory Testing
- Public Information and Education
- Environmental Health
 - Food Safety
 - Sanitation
 - Private Water Systems
- Radiation Health, Response, Monitoring
- Harm Reduction, Substance Use Support
- Volunteer Management
- Vaccination and Mass Prophylaxis
- Mortality tracking and reporting
- Mass Care, Sheltering Support
- Access and Functional Needs
- Animal Health
- School Health

- Healthcare Partnerships
- Patient Movement
- Mass Casualty Incident
- PPE Cache
- Medical Surge
 - Back up power & communications
 - Biomedical equipment
 - Medical supplies and DME
 - Mobile hospitals
 - Fatality surge equipment
 - Biocontainment
 - Human hygiene support equipment
- Water Supply Support
- Air Filtration and HVAC
- Dialysis Support
- Healthcare Supply Chain
- Logistical Operations

Cabinet (CHFS)

- Human services
- Long-term care
- Assisted living
- Crisis counseling
- State data and informatics

Partners

- **Emergency Management**
 - KY Emergency Management
- **Pharmacies**
 - KY Pharmacy Association
- **Emergency Medical Services**
 - KY Board of EMS
- **Fatality Management**
 - KY Coroner's Association
- **Toxicology, Poison Control**
 - Norton Healthcare
- **Transportation**
 - KY Transportation Cabinet
- **Security**
 - KY State Police
- **Agriculture, Zoonotic**
 - KY Department of Agriculture

- Region 4 States UPC
- CDC, ASPR, KYNG

Partnerships- Major Supporting/Interactive Partners

Network of Networks:

- Kentucky Emergency Management (KYEM)
- Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC)
- Kentucky Department of Agriculture
- KDPH Division of Epidemiology & Health Planning
- KDPH Division of Laboratory Services
- CHFS Department for Aging & Independent Living
- CHFS Department for Behavioral Health, Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities (BHDID)
- Kentucky Board of EMS (KBEMS)

- Kentucky Hospital Association; Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation
- Kentucky Pharmacists Association (KPhA)
- Kentucky Coroners' Association
- Norton Healthcare (Pediatric Care and Poison Control, Toxicology)

Major Events and Disasters in Kentucky

- 2005 Hurricane Katrina
- 2008 Hurricanes Gustav and Ike
- 2009 Ice storm; H1N1; Derecho
- 2010 Flooding; EKY Flood
- 2011 Flooding; Tornado; Derecho
- 2012 Train Derailment; EKY Tornadoes
- 2014 Ebola
- 2015 Winter Storms; Severe Cold
- 2016 Winter Storms; Zika; EKY Wildfires
- 2017 Eclipse; Severe Weather Flooding
- 2018 Opioid and Hepatitis A Response
- 2019 Tularemia; Pipeline Explosion

- 2020 COVID-19; Flooding
- 2021 COVID-19; WKY Tornadoes
- 2022 COVID-19; EKY Flash Flooding
- 2023 Wind Event
- 2024 Wind Event
- 2025 H5N1; Flooding; Tornadoes

+ Responses to numerous suspicious package incidents and water shortages, as well as pertussis, Salmonella, gastrointestinal illnesses, E. Coli, tularemia, bat encounters, and measles investigations.

Notable Events and Disasters Since 2021

Disaster Declaration	Event Description	Incident Start Date
DR-4520	Ice/Winter Storm	February 8, 2021
DR-4595	Storms, Flooding	February 27, 2021
DR-4630	Western KY Tornadoes	December 2021
DR-4643	Severe Storms, Flooding, Tornadoes	December 31, 2021
DR-4663	Eastern KY Flooding	July 26, 2022
WRE	Winter Storm	December 2022
DR-4711	Severe Storms, Flooding, Tornadoes	February 15, 2023
DR-4702	Windstorm	March 3, 2023
WRE	Windstorm	June 2023
WRE	Winter Storm	January 2024
DR-4782	Severe Weather	April 2, 2024
WRE	Severe Weather	May 7, 2024
DR-4804	Severe Weather	May 26, 2024
DR-4848	Hurricane Helene	September 27, 2024
WRE	Winter Storm Blair	January 2025
WRE	Winter Weather	January 13, 2025
DR-4860	Winter Weather, Flooding (EKY)	February 14, 2025
DR-4864	Floods (KY River Basin)	April 4, 2025
DR-4875	Tornadoes, Severe Weather (SEKY)	May 17, 2025

Does not include responses to power and water disruptions, evacuations, suspicious packages, pertussis, Salmonella, gastrointestinal illnesses, E. Coli, tularemia, bat encounters, and measles.

Hazards in Kentucky

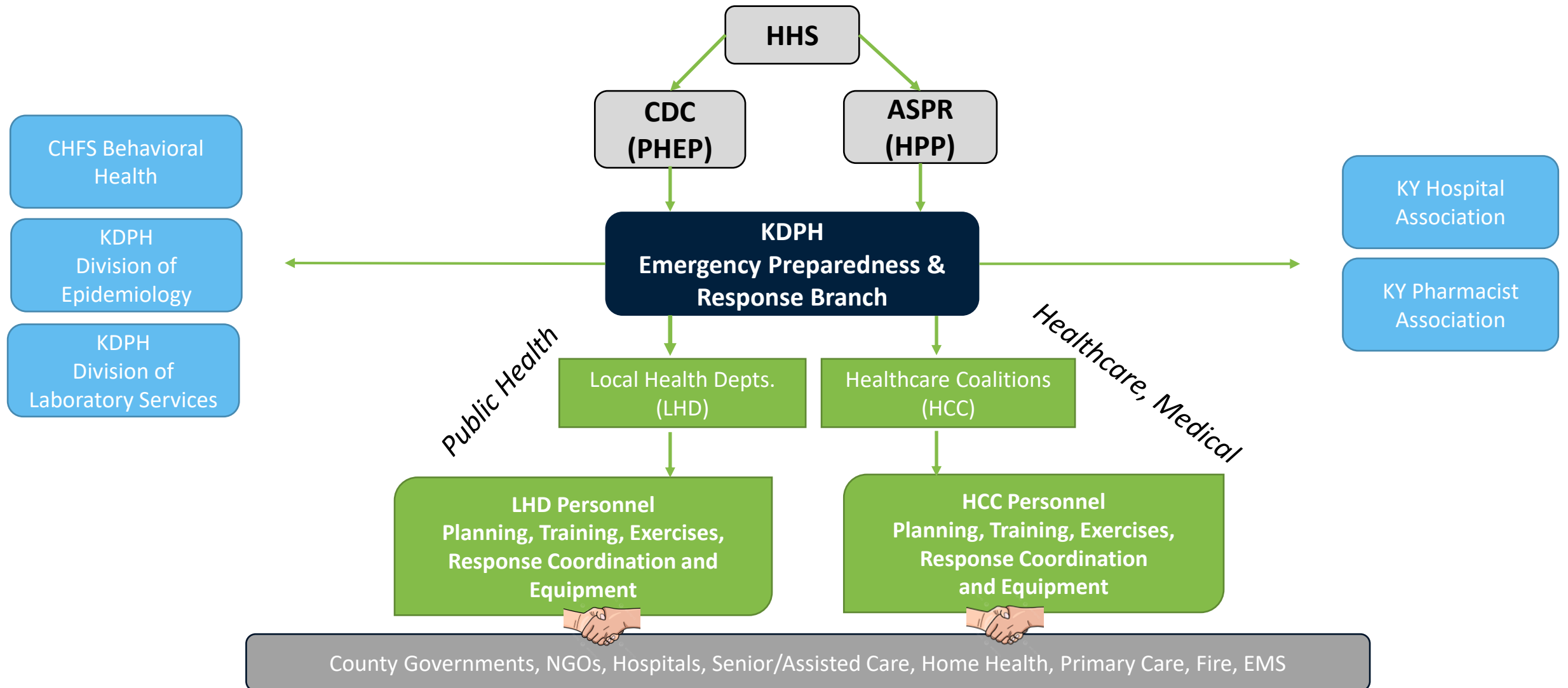
Natural Hazards

- **Severe Weather**
 - 'Tornado Alley' shifting east to 'Dixie Alley;' a longer tornado season
 - Extreme rainfall events; flash flooding
 - Hurricanes; tropical storms; tropical depression remnants
- **Disease Outbreaks**
 - Measles
 - Declining vaccination rates

Technological Hazards

- **Large Chemical or Hazardous Material Incidents**
 - KY is a major transportation hub (road, rail, pipeline)
- **Cybersecurity**
 - Healthcare cyber attacks

Federal Funding and Program Workflow



Preparedness Activities



- Risk assessments
- Hazard vulnerability
- Response planning
- Resource gap identification
- Asset and equipment readiness
- Partnerships
- Training, exercises, drills

- Health & Medical Preparedness Advisory Committee
- Community Readiness Initiative planning
- Medical Reserve Corps
- Access & Functional Needs Working Group
- Region IV Unified Planning Coalition coordination
- Tri-state coordination with Indiana and Ohio
- Tennessee-KY Unified Planning Coalition
- Cabinet and departmental Continuity of Operations
- Healthcare Coalition coordination
- Medical countermeasures planning
- State health operations center management

Image Source: Homeland Security Exercise & Evaluation Program Doctrine (2020).





Exercise and Training Initiatives

- Cybersecurity Workshops, Exercises
- Mass Casualty, Medical Surge Exercises
- Hazardous Materials Trainings, Exercises
- Burn Care Training and Exercises
- Pediatric Medical Surge Exercise
- CBRN Trainings, Exercises
- Special Pathogen, Biocontainment Training, Exercises
- Redundant Communications Drills
- Medical Equipment and Deployment Training
- Mass Fatality Planning
- Incident Command Training

From July 2023 to July 2025:

- 304 Trainings totaling 4,114 hours
- 22+ Exercises or Drills
- Numerous Partner Planning Meetings
- Numerous Joint Workgroup Workshops

Response Capacity

-  We work as a force multiplier.
 - Network of networks across many jurisdictions and specialties.
 - We turn a few local organizations working the problem into true multi-agency support.
-  Intelligence Gathering.
 - Situational Awareness.
 - Essential Elements of Information (EEI).
-  Communication.
 - Gather and disseminate information quickly.
-  Coordination.
 - Deployment of KDPH, HCC, and other resources.



Kentucky's Emergency Health and Medical Cache



ESF #8 Assets



ESF #8 Deployed Assets = 29

Item	Owner	Qty	Agency / Location Deployed	Current position
Plum Case	SEKY HPC	1	Madison	Completed 8/4
Cots	EKYHPC	40	Eastern KY Warehouse, KDPH	Completed 8/5
Plum Case		1	Hazard Armory	Deployed 8/4
Plum Case	EKYHPC	1	Floyd Co. Rescue Squad	Deployed 7/30
Plum Case	EKYHPC	1	Lee Co. EM / EOC	Deployed 7/30
Plum Case	EKYHPC	1	Knott Co. EMS	Deployed 7/30
Plum Case	NKYHPC	2	Area Command - IMT	Deployed 7/30
4 Body Portable Morgue	EKYHPC	1	State Medical Examiner - National Guard	Deployed 7/30
Generator	EKYHPC	1	Knott Co. EMS	Deployed 7/31
Generator	EKYHPC	1	Knott Co. EM / EOC	Deployed 7/31
Shower Trailer	BGHCC	1	Knott Co. EMS Station	Deployed 7/31
Water on Wheels System	BGHCC	1	Eastern AO Warehouse	Forward Positioned 7/31
Portable Sink	EKYHPC	1	Montessori Day Care	Deployed 7/31
20 SOS triage boxes (med kits)	KPCA	20	Mountain Comp Care	Completed 8/1
Ventilator - Zoll Z-Vent	State	1	Letcher EMS	Deployed 8/1
Tractor Trailer with Med Supplies	State	1	Eastern KDPH Warehouse	Completed 8/1
15KW generator	EKYHPC	1	Letcher Co Pump Station	Deployed 8/1
80KW generator	EKYHPC	1	KDPH EKY Warehouse	Deployed 8/1
42KW generator	EKYHPC	1	Mountain Comp HC-Buckhorn	Deployed 8/1
820HT Trailer	EKYHPC	1	Rowan County EMA	Deployed 8/1
Shower Trailer	NKYHPC	1	Breathitt Co Letcher High School	Deploying 8/2
KDPH refrigerated trailer	State	1	Frankfort Medical Examiner (ME) Office	Demobilized 8/9
Shower Trailer	NKYHCC	1	Letcher Co High School	Deployed 8/2
Zumro w/HVAC Unit	EKYHPC	1	KY River Medical Center	Deployed 8/2
Water Bladders	EKYHPC	1	KY River Medical Center	Deployed 8/2
Portable Generator	EKYHPC	2	KY River Medical Center	Deployed 8/2
Plum Case	BGHCC	1	Breathitt Co. Health Dept.	Deployed 8/2
ESF #8 "FEMA Trailer"	State	1	Letcher Co EMS	Deployed 8/2
Mobile Health Unit	Baptist Corbin	1	Fleming-Neon Middle School in Letcher County	Deployed 8/3

Deployable Communications

- 🛡️ Satellite radio and telephone
- 🛡️ Domain-based message authentication, reporting and conformance (DMARC) radios for statewide radio communication
- 🛡️ Plum Cases® (mobile long-range broadband)



KY-Federal Medical Station

Federal Medical Station (FMS)

- 🛡️ Supplies and equipment to establish a temporary medical care facility with 250 beds



State Mobile Treatment Center



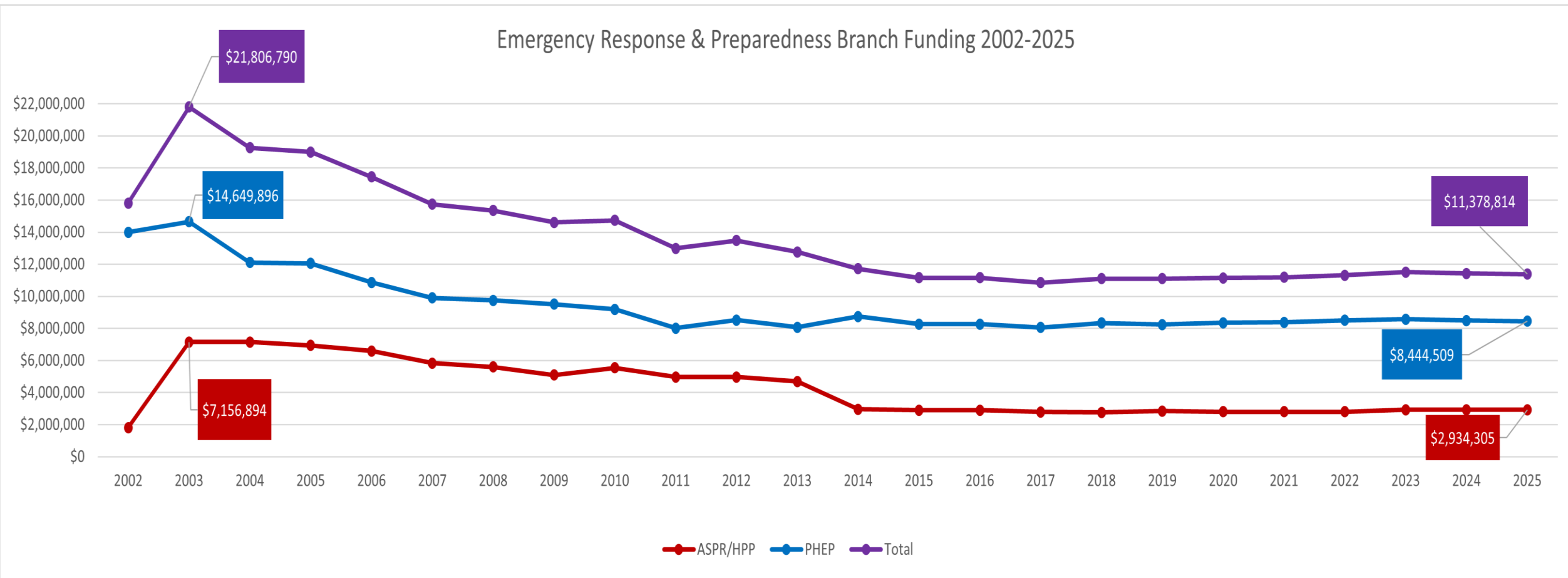
- 48-bed capacity (three wings)
- Isolation unit with 6 to 8 beds
- 4 bay central hub for nurses' station
- 90-kilowatt power
- Heating and air conditioning

Funding Overview: Quick Facts

Began in 2001 as federal bioterrorism prevention and response funding, then authorized the Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) and Hospital Preparedness (HPP) programs under the Pandemic & All Hazards Preparedness Reauthorization Act 2006, 2013 and 2019. This expired in 2024 and has operated on continuing resolutions since then.

- **100% federally funded** via the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS)
 - All programs and all staff (~\$10,860,668 annually)
- **Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP)** funded via CDC
 - ~60% of PHEP funds are used to support KY's 61 local health departments' capabilities
- **Hospital Preparedness Program (HPP)** funded via HHS Administration for Strategic Preparedness & Response (ASPR)
 - ~85% of HPP funds support healthcare coalitions, operations, and equipment

Public Health Preparedness Funds by Year (2002-2025)



* The Prevention & Public Health Fund was established under Section 4002 of the Patient Protection & Affordable Care Act of 2010. Also known as the Prevention Fund or PPHF, it is the nation’s first mandatory funding stream dedicated to improving our nation’s public health system. \$40 million dollars is allocated annually to the Epidemiology & Laboratory Capacity Program as a result of PPHF.

Public Health Transformation and Local Health Funding for Local ESF8 Initiatives

In 2020, House Bill 129 was signed into law.

- KRS 211.185 established five required foundational public health programs:
 1. Population health
 2. Enforcement of regulation
 3. Emergency preparedness and response
 4. Communicable disease control
 5. Administrative and organizational infrastructure
- KRS 211.186 established a new funding formula for local health departments to ensure funding for foundational services.

PHEP funding is allocated annually to local health departments to supplement local funding for emergency preparedness and response initiatives.

Sustainability Strategies for ESF-8

- Legislation committing dedicated funds for ESF-8 initiatives.
- Direct state-level general fund support in the CHFS biennial budget.
- Agency-level fee-based funds based on a percent of total fees collected for fee-based services provided by CHFS.
- Interagency funding from ESF-8 stakeholder agencies that operate under the ESF-8 umbrella.
- Collaboration on opportunities to sustain current federal funding and continued expansion into new federal funding strategies.

Thank you.

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