



How stable public health funding will help the Snohomish Health District make **Snohomish County** simpler, safer, and healthier for its residents and businesses.

WITHOUT  
PREVENTION  
RESOURCES,  
GONORRHEA  
RATES RISING



Gonorrhea infects both men and women, and if left untreated, can cause infertility, pregnancy problems, and other chronic issues. Antibiotic resistant gonorrhea remains a credible public health concern on our horizon. Infection rates in Snohomish County have been escalating since the closure of its clinic in 2009. Between 2008 and 2017, the rate of the disease has more than tripled from about 30 cases per 100,000 residents to more than 100 cases per 100,000 residents. As we analyze the data for 2018, it is showing further increasing numbers. The Snohomish Health District has four disease Intervention specialists working in full-time response mode, leaving no time for prevention or outreach.

INCREASED  
HEPATITIS C  
TESTING  
SAVES PUBLIC  
DOLLARS



Hepatitis C is a viral, bloodborne infection affecting all ages. The opioid crisis has exacerbated the problem, with Snohomish County rates rising each year through 2017. Cuts in testing and outreach means there are potentially hundreds of people who don't know they are infected and may accidentally spread it to others. There is a cure for the disease, but it costs \$25,000 or more per person. Resources dedicated to outreach and testing would allow public health to identify those with the disease, connect them with treatment, and prevent further spread. This makes Snohomish County safer, and saves the taxpayers money.

A GROWING  
POPULATION  
AND MORE  
COMPLEX  
DISEASES



In the summer of 2018, a child with measles visiting from overseas stayed with a mostly unvaccinated host family, resulting in 5 cases of measles. Due to quick action by the Snohomish Health District and local healthcare partners, the outbreak was contained to the host family. While this was a successful response, it could have easily resulted in a large outbreak similar to Clark County. Our communicable team has just three nurses and one epidemiologist serving 805,000 residents. They work to track and respond not just to measles, but all notifiable diseases. When an outbreak happens, it quickly strains the small team and increases response times for other disease monitoring in Snohomish County.