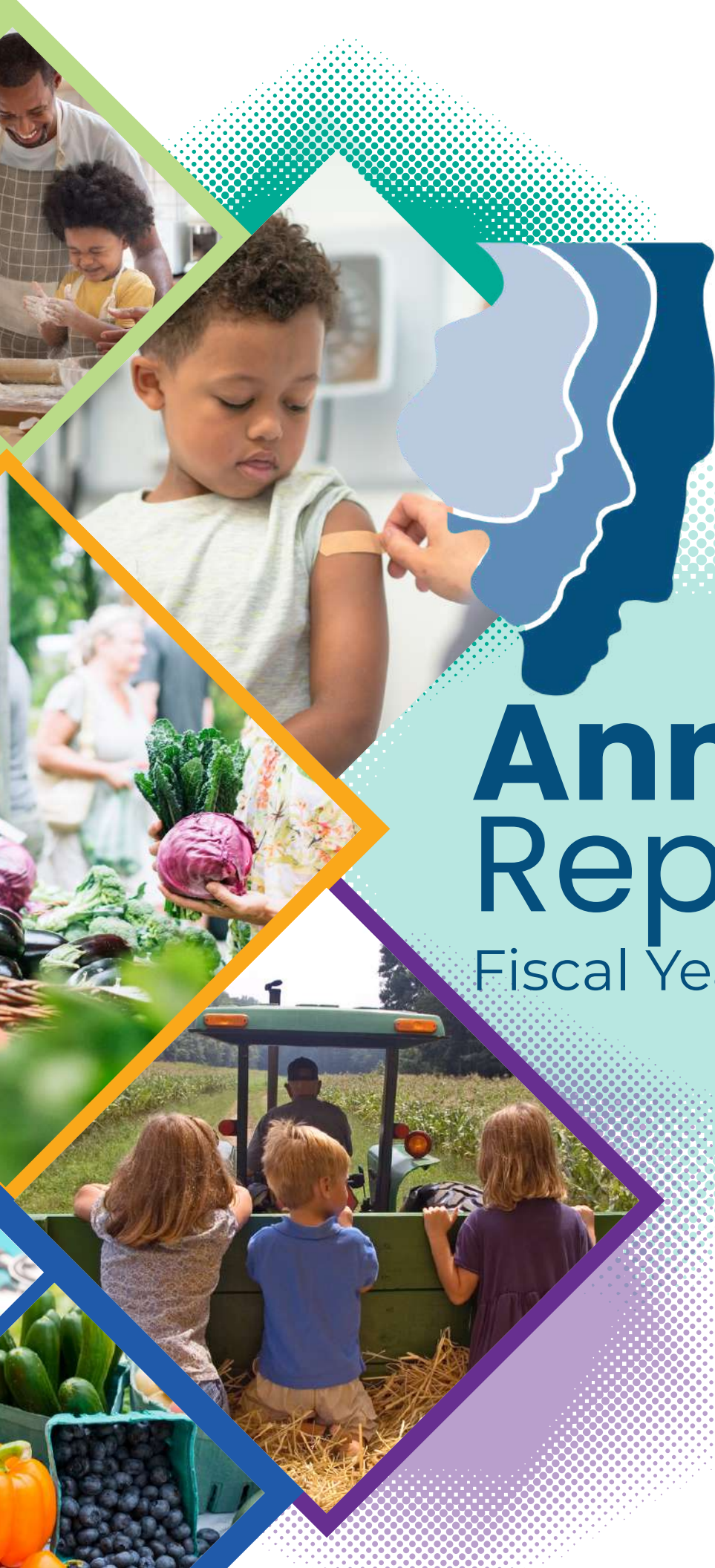




Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2025



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To my fellow Illinoisans,

It is my honor to present to you the Illinois Department of Public Health's Fiscal Year 2025 Annual Report. This document is a testament to the twofold mission of IDPH: protecting the health of Illinoisans today while preparing for the health needs of tomorrow. It is a vitally important job, and one that has grown increasingly complex with the uncertainty and changes happening on the federal level. However, Illinois residents should feel assured by the over 1,400 incredible public health servants working to make every community in Illinois healthier and stronger.

In this report, you will read about the risks we face from new and emerging illnesses. You will also learn about the ongoing work we have undertaken to address inequities in care. We highlight the comprehensive approach we have taken to address specific needs at every stage of life, from before birth to a person's golden years and every step in between. Finally, we share the tools we are developing to deliver those essential services in the most efficient and effective way possible, from our efforts to transform the public health workforce to the use of new and emerging technologies.

All of this is happening amid a rapidly changing backdrop that impacts public health at every level. Cuts in federal resources and workforce are hurting the state's public health efforts. In addition, the steady supply of inaccurate and misleading information has left the public struggling to find reliable answers to crucial health questions. Yet despite all the changes around us, IDPH remains committed to providing reliable, fact-based, data-driven information and programs to the people of Illinois.

The stories we share in the following pages describe how the dedicated professionals at IDPH are working to make your communities healthier and stronger. Our goal is to extend the hope and promise of better health to every individual in every corner of our state.

Thank you for taking the time to read this report and being part of our journey to a healthier Illinois. Together with our partners, we will continue our best efforts every day to preserve, protect, and promote health for all Illinoisans.

Yours in good health,

Sameer Vohra
Sameer Vohra



Letter from the Director

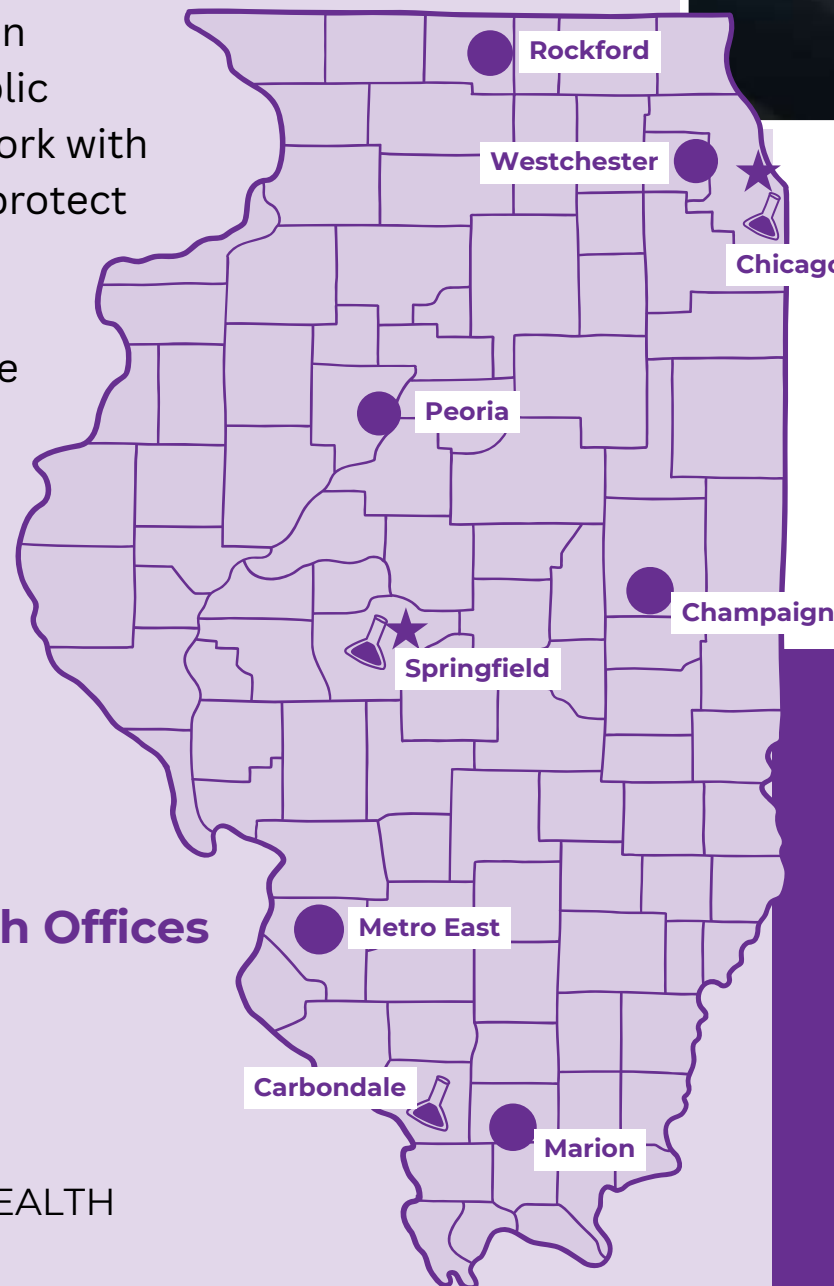
About IDPH

The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) is one of the state’s oldest agencies and was first organized in 1877 with just three employees. Now, with headquarters in Springfield and Chicago, it operates six regional health offices and three laboratories, and employs 1,400 Illinoisans who are committed to making the state a healthier place. The agency’s mission is to

advocate for and partner with the people of Illinois to re-envision health policy and promote health equity, prevent and protect against disease and injury, and prepare for health emergencies.

IDPH carries out its mission through 200 different public health programs and its work with local partner agencies to protect and improve the health of each state resident and visitor. Underlying all these efforts is an unwavering commitment to a public health system that prioritizes health equity and addresses health disparities.

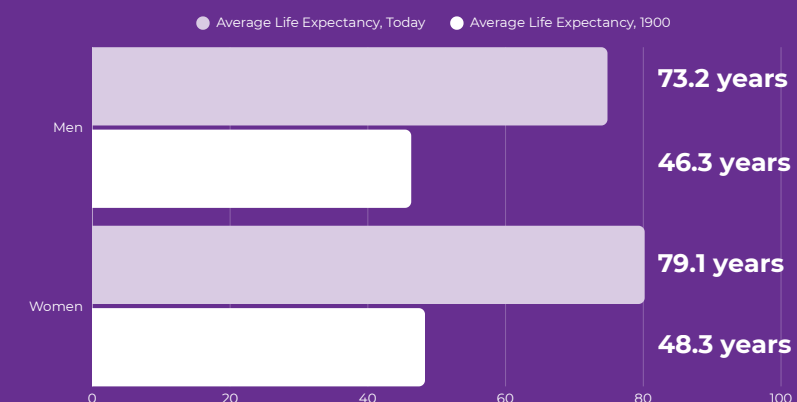
- ★ **Headquarters**
- **Regional Health Offices**
- 🧪 **Laboratories**



The state’s public health system forms the frontline defense against infectious disease, chronic disease, cancer, and mental health and substance use disorders. IDPH also promotes and protects maternal and child health, environmental health and food safety, and regulates hospitals, nursing homes and the state’s Emergency Medical Services systems.

Public health has provided the foundation for remarkable gains in saving lives and reducing suffering.

By the Numbers | Life Expectancy



Today, average life expectancy is about 79 years for women and 73 years for men, compared with fewer than 50 years at the beginning of the 20th century.

IDPH Budget FY25

On June 5, 2024, Governor JB Pritzker signed into law the State Fiscal Year 2025 Budget, passed by the Illinois General Assembly, that included

\$1.891 billion for IDPH

Budget Comparisons: FY25 to FY26 (millions)

Funding Source	FY25 Budget	FY26 Budget	Change	
			\$	%
General Revenue (GRF)	\$399	\$322	(\$76)	(19%)
State Non-GRF Funds	\$301	\$394	\$92	31%
Federal	\$1,191	\$1,116	(\$75)	(6%)
Total	\$1,891	\$1,832	(\$59)	(3%)

FY25 Budget Highlights

Improving Preparedness

- Invested **\$1.5 million** to upgrade two state hospitals to serve as Elite Special Pathogen Treatment Centers for high-consequence pathogens

Investing in Communities

- Invested **\$4.5 million** in Birth Equity Seed Grants to 12 community-based organizations under Governor Pritzker’s Birth Equity Initiative
- Invested **\$500K** to Reach out and Read, which strengthens early literacy and parent-child connection by distributing books during pediatric visits

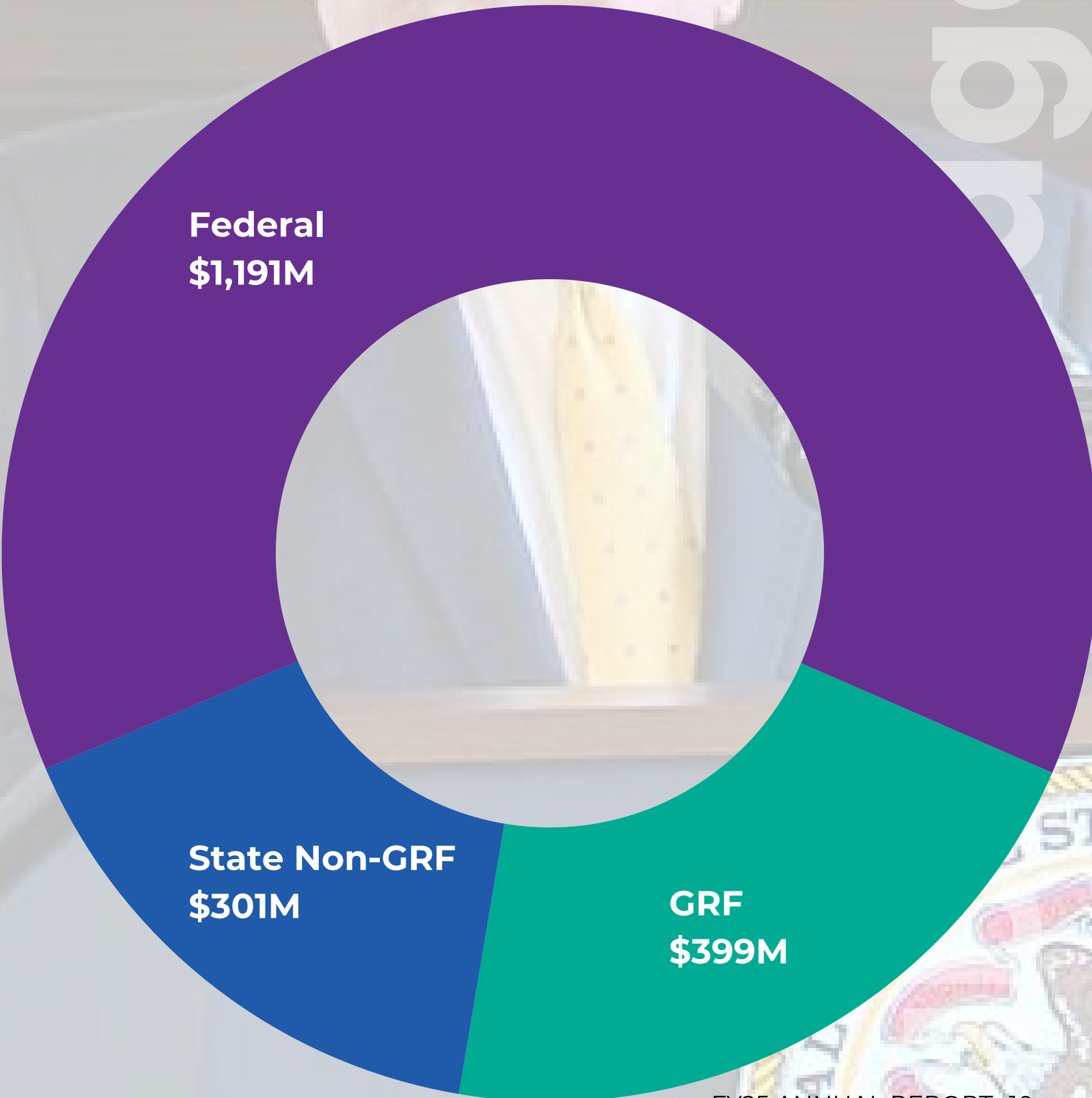
Modernizing Workforce and Technology

- Invested **\$45 million** in major upgrades to modernize public health data systems

Building Trust

- Invested **\$1.6 million** in firearm safe storage initiatives, funding 15 grantees to expand gun lock and safe distribution, strengthen provider training, and increase education on the Firearm Restraining Order Act

FY25 Final Budget Appropriations
\$1,891 million



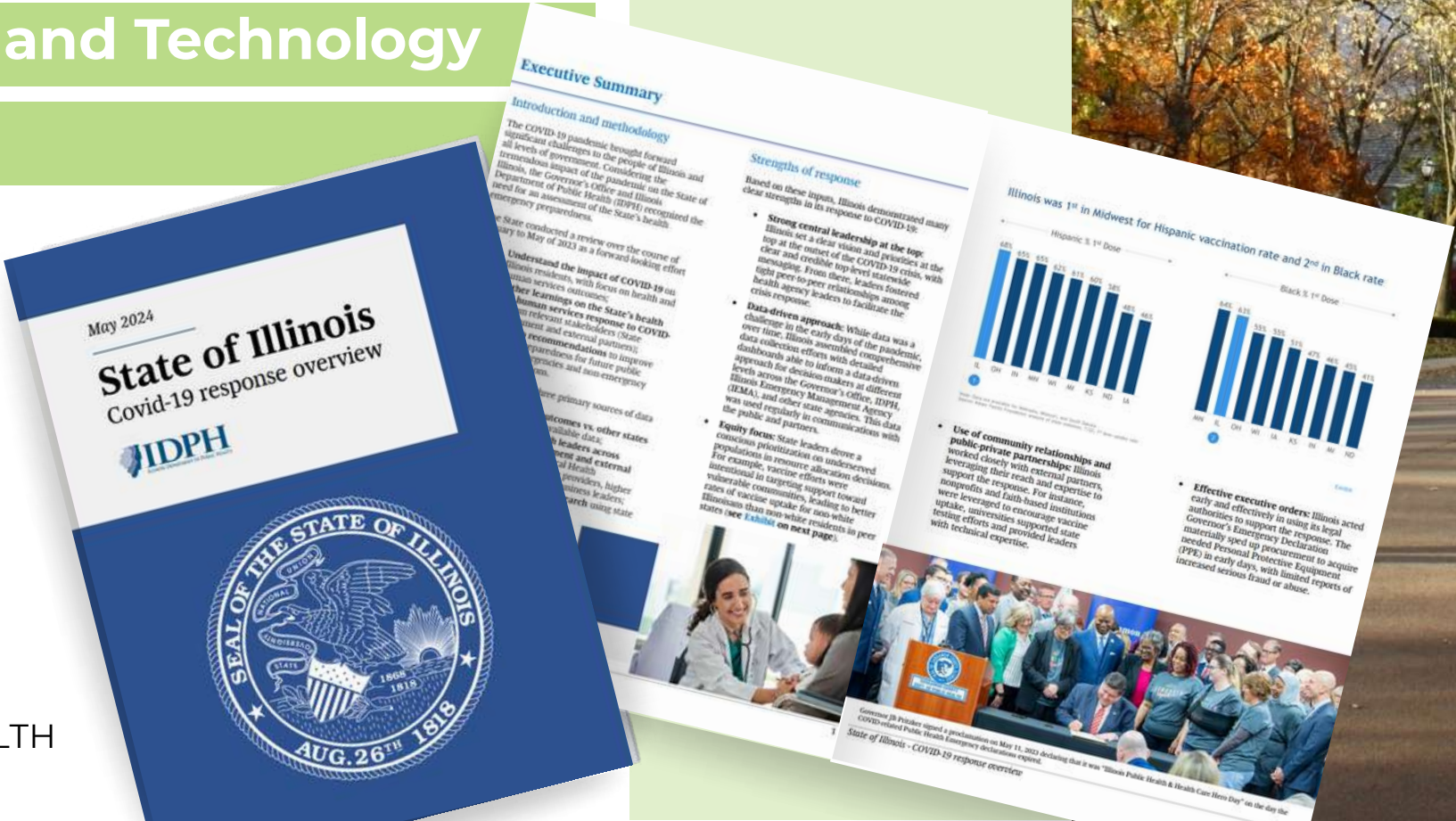
Taking Action to Protect Public Health

In 2024, IDPH commissioned two key documents in the aftermath of the COVID-19 public health emergency: an after-action report and a Public Health Emergency Preparedness Response Playbook. These documents served not only to document the Department’s response to the unprecedented public health challenges of the pandemic but to provide a workable immediate game plan to address future crises that impact public health and safety.

Today, the after-action report and the playbook lay out major areas of focus that continue to guide IDPH priorities:

- Improving Preparedness
- Investing in Communities
- Modernizing Workforce and Technology
- Building Trust

In this report, we will highlight those key areas and show how we are addressing them to protect the public’s health today and prepare for the needs of tomorrow.



Improving Preparedness

Among the key priorities laid out in the after-action report commissioned after the COVID-19 public health emergency was Improving Preparedness. Preparedness is key to a fast, effective response to emerging health crises. IDPH devotes significant workforce resources to developing plans and then training staff and partners on the execution of those plans. The importance of those efforts becomes immediately clear when they are applied to real world situations.

In April 2025, IDPH began responding to what would become the second measles outbreak in the state in as many years. A highly contagious disease once considered virtually eradicated in the U.S., measles has unfortunately made a comeback in recent years as declining national rates of immunization have opened up more opportunities for it to spread.

The 2024 outbreak was concentrated in Chicago, but in April and May of 2025, a smaller outbreak appeared in Southern Illinois. IDPH and local health departments quickly mobilized to implement a plan of action.

As part of this effort, IDPH offered mobile vaccinations through a mobile vaccine provider, CIMPARG, and held vaccine clinics at schools, community health fairs, and back-to-school events. The rapid and coordinated response limited the spread, and by mid-July, the outbreak was declared over, with only eight confirmed cases and no serious illnesses in Southern Illinois. The result is a sharp contrast to other states, some of which saw the highest number of measles cases and fatalities in a quarter-century.



IDPH and Local Health Department Plan of Action:

- 1. *Identify all potential sources of exposure.***
- 2. *Instruct those who were exposed and non-immune to quarantine.***
- 3. *Alert the health care community of the situation.***
- 4. *Issue news releases and social media posts to provide the public with information on ways to protect themselves.***
- 5. *Promote preventive immunizations to help those who would have otherwise been vulnerable to contracting measles. This included working with local health departments, with an emphasis on counties with low measles vaccination rates.***
- 6. *Work with schools through the Illinois State Board of Education and regional superintendents of schools for messaging and school outreach. IDPH also launched a school measles vaccination and outbreak readiness survey, and engaged with the Departments of Children and Family Services, Early Childhood, and Human Services, as well as Illinois Head Start, to partner on immunization messaging aimed at protecting our youngest residents, who are the most vulnerable to measles.***

Improving Preparedness

To stop the spread of highly infectious diseases, known as high-consequence pathogens, and to treat those suffering from them, IDPH teamed up with two of our state’s premier hospitals – Rush University Medical Center and the Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children’s Hospital of Chicago – to serve as Elite Special Pathogen Treatment Centers for High-Consequence Pathogens.

IDPH invested **\$1.5 million** to help Rush and Lurie Children’s upgrade their capacity to care for anyone suffering from a high-consequence infection. The state funding helped both hospitals acquire specialized equipment, maintain airborne infection isolation rooms, and provide enhanced training for their medical staff to deliver safe and effective care. Together, the new treatment centers significantly expanded Illinois’s statewide capabilities to provide expert care for anyone in the state, children and adults alike, if a serious pathogen is detected.



These centers are part of Illinois’s overall efforts to address potential gaps in global surveillance. This includes the Illinois Global Health Advisory Coalition, which was created in 2025 in response to the federal government pulling out of the World Health Organization (WHO) and cutting funding for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). IDPH’s investment also extended to expanding its own laboratory capacity to detect global threats, which will strengthen the state’s ability to act independently while maintaining coordination with federal and regional partners.

With Chicago’s O’Hare International Airport being one of the busiest airports in the country and a main entry point for international travelers, both Rush and Lurie Children’s are ideally positioned to detect and provide specialized treatment for anyone arriving in the U.S. who may be need urgent clinical services for a high-consequence pathogen.

The partnership with these treatment centers represents a major step forward in Illinois’s preparedness infrastructure, combining scientific excellence, cross-sector collaboration, and a commitment to health equity for everyone in the state.



Modernizing Workforce and Technology

Through the funding provided by the Public Health Infrastructure Grant (PHIG), IDPH has engaged in a collaborative process with our local health department (LHD) partners to build the public health workforce of the future – resilient, highly-trained, and connected to the people they serve.

The PHIG grant also supports IDPH’s efforts to modernize and effectively utilize its data collection and sharing efforts. This process gives IDPH the fact-based, data-driven foundation for effective public health programs and responses that will deliver the efficient services the people of Illinois need and deserve.



In the spring of 2024, Director Vohra announced the IL Public Health Workforce Transformation Initiative. The initiative is a partnership between statewide professional organizations like the local health department associations (Northern Illinois Public Health Consortium [NIPHC], Illinois Association of Public Health Administrators [IAPHA], Southern Illinois Public Health Consortium [SIPHC]) and the Illinois Public Health Association (IPHA). Initial work focused on assessing the needs of the system, to provide a clear picture of conditions at both the local and statewide level.



Modernizing Workforce and Technology

Modernizing Workforce and Technology

Data is crucial to building a 21st Century public health system. Up-to-date, easily accessible data makes it easier for state and local public health organizations and other units of government to determine where resources are most needed and will do the most good, and to assess the success and effectiveness of public health initiatives.

The move to modernizing data collection and retrieval has benefits not just for public health professionals, but for the public at large, allowing people to see and evaluate the conditions in their communities that may impact their health and the health of those around them. To that end, IDPH has gone to significant lengths to launch and improve public-facing data dashboards that put this useful information at people’s fingertips.

Illinois Department of P... > Topics & Services > Prevention & Wellness > Immunization > Coverage Dashboards > Measles Outbreak Simul...

Measles Outbreak Simulator Dashboard

Measles Outbreak Projections in Illinois Schools

Select the county, type of school funding and school district you want to see data for.
If no results are returned, confirm that the school district filter is either set to (All), or to a relevant school district in the selected county-school funding combination.

County

City of Chicago

Funding Type

Public

School District

(All)

Select a school from the list of relevant schools below to generate a simulation.

School District	Facility Name	Enrollment PreK-12	School Vaccination R
Central Stickney SD 110	Charles J Sals Elem School	262	100.0%
Chicago Public Schools Dist 299	Addams Elem School	547	97.6%
Chicago Public Schools Dist 299	Air Force Acad High School	130	96.2%
Chicago Public Schools Dist 299	Albany Park Multicultural Elem	243	97.9%

In FY25, IDPH rolled out a new measles simulator dashboard to empower school officials to protect students and staff from outbreaks. The new Measles Outbreak Simulator Dashboard makes it easy for the public to find out the measles vaccination rate at schools across Illinois, public, non-public, or charter, and to determine the risk of a child being exposed to measles if a case is introduced in their school.



Another example of the potentially lifesaving information to be found on the IDPH website is the new dashboard detailing information about all violent deaths and firearm-related injuries in the state. The new dashboard is presented in two parts:

- [Illinois Firearm Injury Rates](#)
- [Illinois Violent Deaths](#)

It is intended to provide detailed information at the county level about these incidents, including the types of incidents (e.g., homicide, suicide, etc.), weapon type and where victims reside, broken down by county. The goal of the dashboard is to inform data-driven prevention and intervention efforts to reduce violent deaths and firearm injuries in Illinois.

Data modernization can also help Illinoisans access some of the most basic, personal information about themselves. The IDPH Division of Vital Records has undertaken a long-term project to digitize birth and death records dating back to 1916. The Division’s goal is to create a comprehensive, digital archive for the state’s vital records processes to increase efficiency for residents.

Over the next four years, this initiative will:

- **Modernize the Division's internal systems by offering secure digital versions for issuance;**
- **Significantly enhance IDPH's operational efficiency by improving processing and issuance times for vital records.**

This modernization represents a major step forward in preserving Illinois’s public health history, strengthening data security, and ensuring faster, more reliable service delivery for future needs.

The Data Modernization Initiative (DMI), in partnership with our data and informatics team, is transforming how data and advanced technology are used to protect the health and well-being of people across Illinois. Through the power of data informatics, we are improving how health information is collected, connected, and analyzed to turn data into meaningful action. By utilizing cloud-based solutions, improving data sharing and interoperability, and leveraging modern data visualization and analytics tools, we can achieve near real-time connectivity between hospitals, laboratories, and local health departments while maintaining secure data exchange.

These improvements allow us to quickly access the information we need, identify health trends earlier, and use machine learning to anticipate potential risks, enabling more timely, data-driven decisions. DMI is shifting our complete data ecosystem from reactive to proactive and predictive. This enables our teams and partners to act sooner, respond faster, and make data-driven decisions days in advance.

Investing in Communities

IDPH continued to advance health equity across the state through the second year of its Health Equity Zone (HEZ) Grant initiative. Launched in 2024, the pilot program awarded grants to two communities, Henderson County and Winnebago County, to develop localized strategies addressing their most pressing public health inequities.

The HEZ program supports the creation of community-led coalitions that identify local assets, evaluate barriers to health, and design collaborative, community-based solutions. Through this initiative, IDPH provides both funding and technical assistance to strengthen partnerships between public health agencies, local governments, community organizations, and residents.

In 2024, the Henderson County Rural Health Center received **\$113,873** to establish a Health Equity Zone focused on addressing obesity, sexually transmitted infections, and mental health. This effort is designed to build capacity to develop long-term, sustainable interventions rooted in community engagement.

In Winnebago County, the City of Rockford was selected to lead a collaborative project supported by IDPH to create a local Health Equity Zone. Project leaders noted the funds would allow the Winnebago County Health Department to expand its Community of Concern Workgroup, which improves access to self-care, decreases stigma associated with mental health conditions, and builds community resilience.



Each Health Equity Zone initiative is guided by the Illinois State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP) and the Illinois Project for Local Assessment of Needs (IPLAN). The program integrates the work of community health workers (CHWs), who play a vital role in connecting residents to care, improving health literacy, and promoting wellness.

By continuing to invest in Health Equity Zones, IDPH is fostering collaboration, innovation, and trust within Illinois communities to achieve a more equitable and resilient public health system. More information on the HEZ program can be found at www.idphgrants.com under “Current Grants,” “Center for Minority Health Services,” listed as HEZ-25.



Investing in Communities

In FY25, IDPH continued to support local health departments (LHDs) through the

Comprehensive Health Protection Grant (CHPG)

which provides essential funding for core public health services statewide.

The Local Health Protection Grant (LHPG)

serves as the foundation of this framework, ensuring that all certified LHDs have the resources necessary to protect and promote community health at the local level.

For FY25, IDPH allocated a total of **\$32.25 million across 12 programs** through the CHPG. Of this amount, **\$20.43 million** was dedicated specifically to the LHPG. **All 97 certified Local Health Departments in Illinois received LHPG funding** to support key public health functions, including infectious disease control, environmental health services, and emergency preparedness.

Local Health Protection Grant - supported activities included communicable disease surveillance; tuberculosis, HIV, and STI prevention; immunization clinics; food and potable water inspections; private sewage oversight; and lead poisoning prevention. Additional funding supported vector (mosquitos) and tick surveillance, body art and tanning inspections, and opioid overdose prevention initiatives. Collectively, these programs form the backbone of Illinois's local public health infrastructure, providing essential services that prevent illness, promote safety, and improve community well-being.

One example is from the Clinton County Health Department, which received just over \$127,000 in total CHPG funding to support more than 200 lead screenings for children, vector surveillance for West Nile virus and tickborne diseases, and the distribution of naloxone and opioid test strips to schools and first responders.

These efforts demonstrate how state investments translate directly into measurable local impact.

Through the LHPG and CHPG programs, IDPH continues to strengthen local capacity, sustain essential services, and ensure equitable public health protection for all Illinois communities.

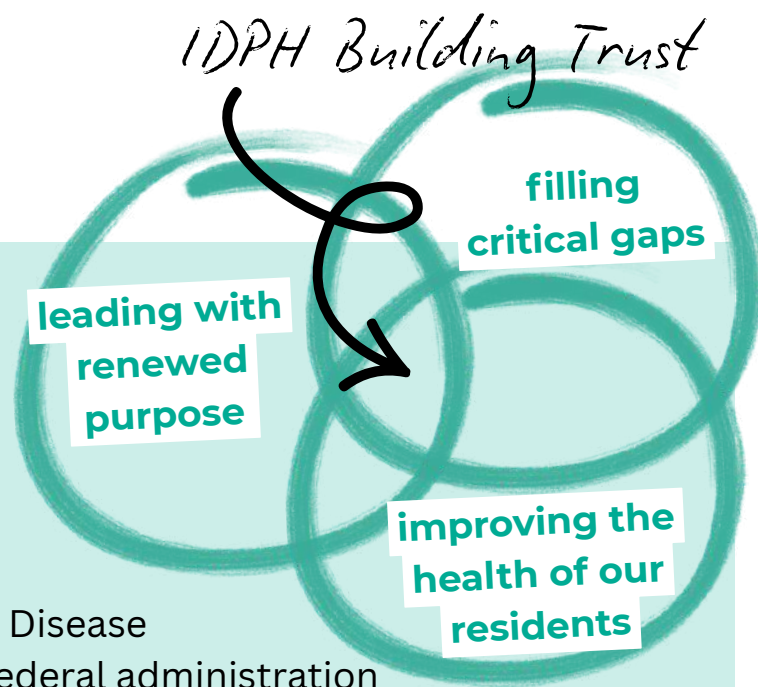


Building Trust

For IDPH and public health agencies throughout the country, it was an unprecedented year, with threatened reductions in federal funding and sweeping changes at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The federal administration took several measures that undermined trust in public health across the nation.

One of the most unprecedented and deeply concerning actions was the June 2025 dismissal of all 17 members of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), respected experts in pediatrics, immunology, vaccinology, epidemiology, and more. ACIP has historically been an independent panel of health experts entrusted with developing recommendations on the administration of vaccines. ACIP has helped protect millions of families in Illinois and across the country since 1960.

IDPH responded to the disruption at the federal level by taking steps to bolster our own statewide, independent process of gathering data and convening experts, including our Illinois Immunization Advisory Committee, to develop vaccine guidelines and recommendations. IDPH was in contact with other states and national medical associations to share ideas and best practices as we navigated this uncharted territory.



IDPH Director Sameer Vohra also increased his outreach to public health partners and providers around the state, through a series of direct communications known as "Dear Colleague" letters.

In these, the Director sought to address concerns over federal moves like:

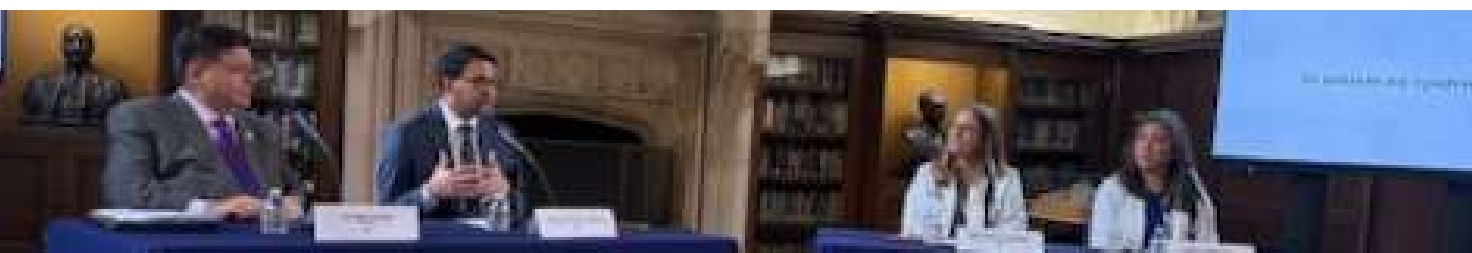
A planned withdrawal from the World Health Organization;

The removal of key data and information from the CDC website;

Attempts to slash public health funding;

And the repeal of federal regulations that required hospitals to provide all life-saving emergency care to pregnant patients.

In the midst of this uncertainty and rapid change, IDPH remained steadfast in its mission, filling critical gaps and leading with renewed purpose to protect and improve the health of our residents. IDPH remained as committed as ever to our partners throughout the state, delivering accurate information, implementing effective programs, and shaping sound policy. Illinoisans deserve a public health department that is intentional, transparent, and grounded in science—one they can trust to guide decisions that affect their health, their families, and their communities. Illinoisans should know that now more than ever, they can count on IDPH to lead with clarity, credibility, and commitment. IDPH will continue to be the transparent, evidence-based voice that health care providers and residents need and deserve.



Building Trust

Building trust includes laying the foundation for evidence-based, data-driven policymaking. During FY25, IDPH became only the second state health department in the nation to undertake a comprehensive study of the health effects and mortality risks suffered by people experiencing homelessness (PEH). The

Illinois Homelessness Morbidity and Mortality Report

draws on statewide hospital records and death certificates, and was developed as part of an ongoing multi-agency effort by Illinois state government to promote housing access and stability across the state. This effort is led by the Office to Prevent and End Homelessness (OPEH), which works with IDPH and other state agencies through the Illinois Interagency Task Force on Homelessness to deepen strategies to prevent and end homelessness. The report highlights the scope of health issues disproportionately faced by people experiencing homelessness and the need to increase health-promoting interventions.

Among its key findings:

1. *For the time period covered in the report, the average age at time of death was nearly 20 years younger for people experiencing homelessness (PEH) than for the population at large, 56.3 versus 74.2 years old.*
2. *There has been an overall increase of 36.6% in deaths of people experiencing homelessness since the start of the COVID pandemic, while there has been only a 6.1% increase in deaths in the general population over the same time period, after accounting for the three COVID waves in both groups. The increase appears to be driven in part by an increase in fatal drug-related overdoses.*
3. *PEH were at heightened risk of being assaulted and were nearly three times as likely to die from homicide than the overall population, 2.9% compared to 1%.*

As part of Illinois's cross-agency effort to prevent and end homelessness, the state has made historic investments in homelessness interventions in recent years, including a \$290 million investment in the FY25 budget. Data from the report was used to shape plans for how to utilize that funding most effectively.



In FY25, the Illinois Community Health Workers (CHW) Review Board advanced the development of Illinois's statewide CHW Certification Program. The program supports IDPH's goal of strengthening the public health workforce, improving care coordination, and advancing health equity through trained community-based professionals.

Co-chaired by IDPH Assistant Director Dr. Janice Phillips and Illinois Community Health Worker Association (ILCHWA) Co-Executive Director Wandy Hernandez, the Board held ten meetings between October 2024 and August 2025 to review and approve draft administrative rules for certification, training, and continuing education.

Two ad-hoc committees were formed to assist in program development. The Training Committee reviewed CHW Training Program processes and made recommendations to improve quality and consistency. The Materials Review Committee reviewed proposed website and communications content to ensure accuracy, accessibility, and cultural responsiveness.

IDPH collaborated with the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services (HFS), the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation (IDFPR), and education partners to refine certification processes, training curricula, and the provider registry. Work continued with Southern Illinois University Carbondale to develop the program's IT platform and with the University of Illinois Cancer Center and Sinai Urban Health Institute to finalize CHW training curricula.

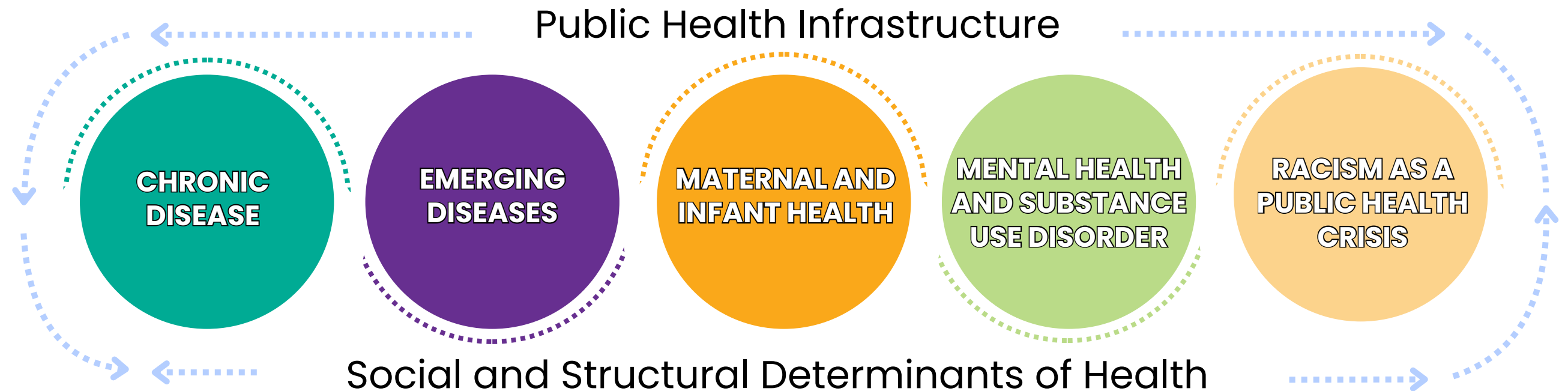
IDPH also awarded a **\$25,000** Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) to the Illinois Public Health Association (IPHA) to create a multi-year plan promoting and advancing the CHW workforce. As the culmination of all of this work, in FY26 IDPH and the Review Board will seek approval from the State Board of Health and the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules (JCAR) to finalize the CHW Certification Program.

Public Health Priorities

In early 2024, IDPH delivered its five-year State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP), entitled Healthy Illinois 2028.

Through a collaborative process, the Department identified five major priority areas with a direct impact on the health of Illinoisans over the five year period: Chronic Disease, Emerging Diseases, Maternal and Infant Health, Mental Health and Substance Use, and Racism as a Public Health Crisis.

Since the start of the Healthy Illinois 2028 State Health Improvement Plan, IDPH and its partners around the state have been developing strategies and implementing objectives to achieve the goals laid out in the report. In the pages ahead, you will read about some of the key achievements in these essential areas during FY25.





Chronic Disease

The pursuit of good health is a lifelong endeavor. Getting an early start offers the best chance of good outcomes. With that in mind, IDPH has developed a Children's Agenda to focus on strategies and initiatives to improve the health and wellbeing of children and give them a head start on becoming healthy adults.

The Children's Agenda takes a multi-pronged approach that centers on both the physical and mental wellbeing of children, starting even before birth. For more information on maternal and birth equity programs, go to the Maternal and Infant Health section of this report. And you can learn more about children's mental health issues in the Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder section.

Among the key initiatives being implemented as part of the IDPH Children's Agenda:

1. Lead Poisoning Prevention

IDPH continued its approach to reducing childhood exposure to lead and the physical and developmental problems it can cause. As the Department moves toward universal childhood lead testing by 2026, it also tightened the standards for when medical intervention is warranted. In the summer of 2025, that threshold was lowered to 3.5 micrograms per deciliter, meaning that any blood test at or above that level would call for a public health intervention. This includes a home inspection to determine the source of the lead contamination. If lead is found, the inspector works with the homeowner to remove the sources of lead. In addition, a public health nurse will visit and educate the family on ways to protect children from the harmful effects of lead.

2. Strengthening School Health Centers

The School Health Program monitors 64 certified school-based/linked health centers operating in Illinois. These centers promote healthy lifestyles and provide accessible preventive health care to children and youth. Through early detection and treatment of chronic and acute health problems, identification of risk-taking behaviors, and appropriate guidance, treatment and referral, school-based/linked health centers assure students are healthy and ready to learn. The School Health Program, in collaboration with EverThrive Illinois and the University of Chicago, worked on a project that assessed the mental health service processes and operations that are available in Certified School Health Centers in Illinois. In light of the youth mental health crisis, school-based health centers (SBHCs) help expand access to mental health services, particularly for vulnerable populations.

3. Preventing Firearm Violence

Besides its educational efforts on firearm restraining orders (FROs), which are addressed in the Mental Health and Substance Use section of this report, IDPH is also gearing up for a similar effort to promote safe storage of firearms in order to reduce opportunities for accidental or intentional firearms incidents in the home.

Chronic Disease

Another goal in Healthy Illinois 2028 to address chronic disease in Illinois calls for expanding opportunities for tobacco-free living. IDPH and partners made progress in FY25 in addressing the initiative's three key objectives:

1. Reduce tobacco use among adults and youth, including cigarettes, e-cigarettes, vaping devices, smokeless tobacco, and emerging products such as nicotine pouches.
2. Strengthen funding, surveillance tools, and workforce capacity for tobacco prevention and control.
3. Reduce secondhand smoke exposure in housing, outdoor spaces not covered under the Smoke-Free Illinois Act (SFIA), and vehicles.

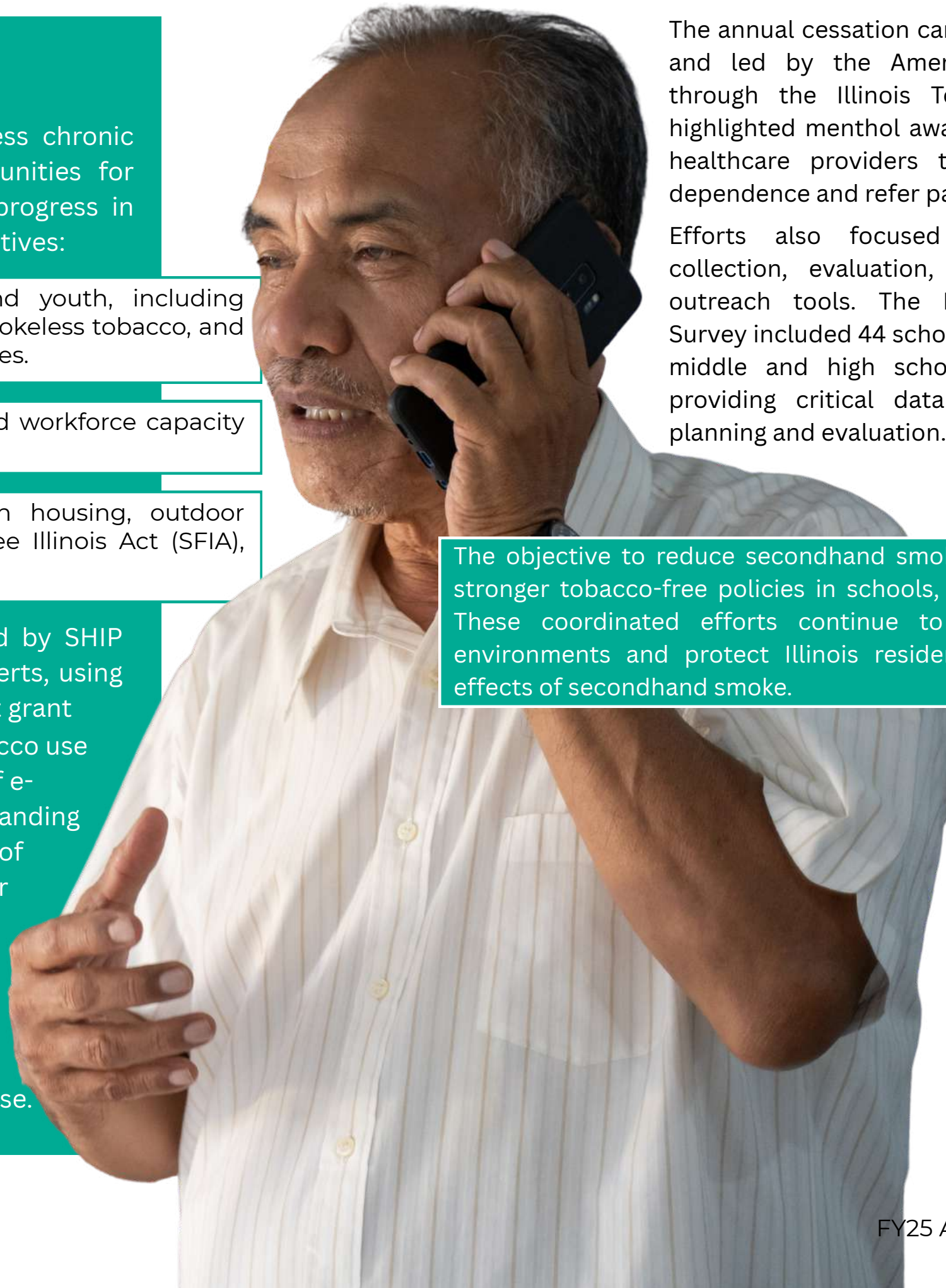
Action plans for each objective were developed by SHIP chronic disease partners and subject matter experts, using evidence-based prevention strategies and current grant activities across Illinois. Strategies to reduce tobacco use included supporting legislation to align taxation of e-cigarettes and other products with cigarettes, expanding youth and adult media campaigns on the dangers of tobacco use, and expanding Medicaid coverage for cessation services.

In June 2025, the General Assembly passed legislation increasing taxes on e-cigarettes and other tobacco products to achieve tax parity with cigarettes—a proven deterrent to youth tobacco use.

The annual cessation campaign, funded by IDPH and led by the American Lung Association through the Illinois Tobacco Quitline grant, highlighted menthol awareness and encouraged healthcare providers to screen for tobacco dependence and refer patients for support.

Efforts also focused on expanding data collection, evaluation, and technology-based outreach tools. The Illinois Youth Tobacco Survey included 44 schools and more than 4,200 middle and high school students statewide, providing critical data for ongoing program planning and evaluation.

The objective to reduce secondhand smoke exposure promoted stronger tobacco-free policies in schools, housing, and vehicles. These coordinated efforts continue to advance smoke-free environments and protect Illinois residents from the harmful effects of secondhand smoke.



Emerging Diseases

When avian influenza (H5N1) was found in dairy cows in the United States and the first human case nationwide was confirmed in March 2024, IDPH led a swift and unified response that demonstrated the strength of Illinois’s public health infrastructure and its commitment to prevention, transparency, and data-driven action. IDPH coordinated closely with the Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA) to protect the dairy supply in Illinois, which ultimately was found to be unaffected by H5N1.

Responding to news of H5N1 cases in Texas dairy cows and word shortly thereafter of the first human case, IDPH and the IDOA immediately established a collaborative working group and began to monitor state dairy operations. They teamed up with local health departments (LHDs) and agricultural organizations to supply dairy farm operators with personal protective equipment (PPE) and science-based educational materials to minimize the risk of infection and prevent the spread of the illness. In addition, the IDPH homepage was updated with a warning statement about potential risks of raw milk consumption, and direct links to additional information and government agencies.

The agencies committed in FY25 to continuous surveillance and identified a variety of data sources to detect signs of influenza activity across the state, including active wastewater surveillance at treatment facilities, analysis of emergency room visits for influenza activity, and enhanced testing of patient influenza samples.

Although no positive cases were detected in Illinois dairy cattle, IDPH and IDOA proactively developed a coordinated emergency response plan outlining actions for both state and local health departments in the event of an outbreak. This plan includes rapid testing protocols, communication templates, and procedures for interagency coordination to ensure any potential case is quickly identified, contained, and communicated to the public.

By combining science, surveillance, and strong partnerships with local communities, Illinois continues to safeguard both the health of its residents and the integrity of its food supply, protecting the public today and preparing for tomorrow’s emerging threats.



Emerging Diseases

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR), when microorganisms such as bacteria or viruses evolve and become resistant to the drugs that are meant to kill them or stop their growth, is a major concern in Illinois and globally. One in six bacterial infections is now resistant to the antibiotics designed to treat them, and in the U.S. an estimated **2.8 million** people become infected with an antimicrobial resistant infection each year, with over 35,000 deaths.

To raise awareness of the threat of antimicrobial resistance and improve antimicrobial prescribing practices across Illinois, IDPH continues to promote three statewide stewardship initiatives:



- 1. Acute Care Honor Roll:** a tiered recognition program that aims to recognize hospitals that implement evidence-based practices of antimicrobial stewardship.
- 2. CHARM Project:** In partnership with Ferris State University, the *Collaboration to Harmonize Antimicrobial Registry Measures*, helps outpatient clinics track and visualize outpatient antibiotic prescribing. Participation is free for all Illinois clinics.
- 3. PALASE Collaborative:** *Partnering Acute and Long-term Care (LTC) to Advance Antimicrobial Stewardship Efforts*, connects hospitals and LTC facilities to foster community-wide best practices for antimicrobial stewardship. Participating nursing homes receive technical assistance from subject matter experts and learn how to implement successful and sustainable antimicrobial stewardship efforts.

To further advance infection prevention and control (IPC) efforts in LTC facilities, IDPH hosted in-person workshops throughout the state, training LTC professionals on core IPC practices, regulatory compliance, and improving resident health outcomes. IDPH also celebrated a major milestone in July 2024 as it hosted the 10th Annual Antimicrobial Stewardship Summit, featuring expert presentations on improving stewardship practices, addressing health inequities, and protecting vulnerable populations from antimicrobial resistant infections.

Vital to the success of the State’s antimicrobial resistance efforts, IDPH started the Illinois Extensively Drug-Resistant Organism (XDRO) registry in 2013 as a novel tool to track and prevent the spread of highly resistant bacteria. Over 12 years, the XDRO registry has logged nearly 33,000 reports, processed approximately 451,200 queries, and issued more than 62,200 alerts, making it a vital tool for early detection and containment.



Maternal and Infant Health

In FY25, the Illinois Department of Public Health deepened its commitment to maternal health and birth equity by laying the groundwork for what would become a landmark initiative, the Blueprint for Birth Equity, released on September 25, 2025 (FY26).

Throughout FY25, IDPH coordinated with multiple state agencies, health care providers, community leaders, and maternal health experts to develop the Blueprint, which serves as a foundational framework for advancing equitable maternal and birth outcomes across Illinois. This work was grounded in the findings of the 2023 Illinois Maternal Morbidity and Mortality Report, which revealed that 91 percent of pregnancy-related deaths in the state were potentially preventable and that Black women continue to experience disproportionately higher risks due to medical, systemic, and social inequities.

As part of this effort, IDPH led a year-long engagement process with eight state agencies, including the Departments of Healthcare and Family Services, Human Services, and Children and Family Services, to ensure the Blueprint reflected shared accountability, cross-sector collaboration, and community engagement.

There are four core goals of the Blueprint:

1. *expanding investments in health care quality and provider support*
2. *promoting access to birthing and specialty care services*
3. *establishing universal risk assessment, referral, and care coordination, and*
4. *developing shared measurement and accountability frameworks.*



To complement these goals, IDPH prepared \$4.5 million in Birth Equity Seed Grants under Governor JB Pritzker’s Birth Equity Initiative. These grants will fund innovative and culturally responsive programs that address maternal health disparities through expanded doula and community health worker programs, improved rural access to care, maternal wellness centers, and integrated behavioral health and substance use supports for pregnant and postpartum women.

Through the groundwork completed in FY25 ahead of the Blueprint’s release, IDPH continues to lead with evidence-based, community-driven strategies to eliminate racial and geographic disparities in birth outcomes, ensuring every mother and infant in Illinois has the opportunity for a healthy start.

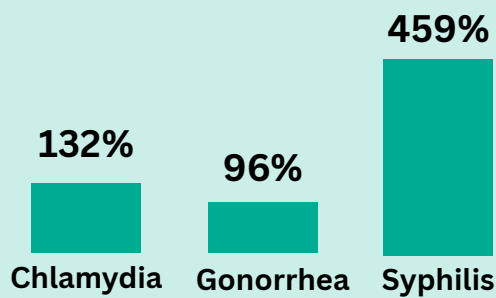
For more information, read [***Illinois's Blueprint for Birth Equity.***](#)

Maternal and Infant Health

IDPH launched the Illinois Perinatal Syphilis Warmline (**1-800-439-4079**) to provide clinical and reporting support for healthcare providers treating pregnant patients and newborns affected by syphilis. The Warmline provides clinical consultation and guidance for managing syphilis in pregnancy and newborns, assistance with public health record coordination to obtain past testing and treatment data, support with mandatory case reporting, and links providers to available resources for treatment. It expands upon the Illinois Perinatal HIV Hotline, reinforcing IDPH’s efforts to improve maternal and infant health outcomes statewide.

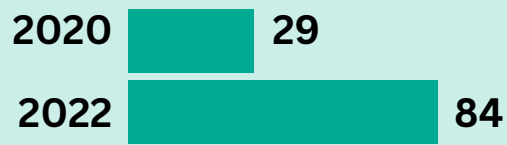
Illinois, like the nation, has seen alarming increases in sexually transmitted infections.

NATIONAL RATES INCREASE SINCE 2000



Congenital syphilis has increased 203% since 2017.

ILLINOIS CONGENITAL SYPHILIS CASES



Congenital syphilis occurs when untreated syphilis infection during pregnancy is passed to the baby, potentially causing miscarriage, stillbirth, or severe lifelong complications.

IDPH Launches New Provider Phone Line in Response to Alarming Increase in Babies Born with Congenital Syphilis

News – Wednesday, November 1, 2023

[PRINT](#) [EMAIL](#)

CHICAGO – Acting to address a sharp increase in congenital syphilis cases among newborns, the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) is urging healthcare providers to conduct more testing for the sexually transmitted infection in advance of birth and is launching a new phone line to provide clinical consultation for providers who treat pregnant patients and newborns.

The service called the Perinatal Syphilis Warmline (at 1-800-439-4079) comes in response to an almost tripling in the number of congenital syphilis cases in Illinois since 2021. There were 29 cases in the state in 2020, 50 cases in 2021 and 84 cases in 2022. Calls will be answered within a day.

“The best way to protect Illinois’s babies from congenital syphilis is for pregnant people to get tested and treated for sexually transmitted infections before birth,” said IDPH Director Dr. Sameer Vohra. “These rising rates of congenital syphilis are alarming, and IDPH is responding with new education tools and support services to help providers who care for those who are pregnant and their newborns.”

Congenital syphilis cases have been surging in recent years both nationally and in Illinois. Since 2000, national data shows an increase in syphilis of 459%. Specifically for pregnant people and their infants, congenital syphilis has increased 203% since 2017.

Syphilis is an infection caused by the bacteria *Treponema pallidum* and is spread through sexual contact. Congenital syphilis occurs when a pregnant person with untreated syphilis passes the infection to their infant during pregnancy. It can cause permanent damage or death to an infant. Before birth, syphilis can cause a miscarriage, premature delivery, or low birth weight. Up to 40% of babies with congenital syphilis may be stillborn or die from the infection. A baby with a syphilis infection may not have signs or symptoms of the infection at the time of birth. But if untreated, the baby may develop serious complications such as cataracts, deafness, or seizures and, it could also lead to death in infancy or childhood.

IDPH has issued [a letter to healthcare providers](#) in the state calling for increased awareness and testing for syphilis.

IDPH is encouraging medical providers to increase syphilis testing of all individuals - especially pregnant people - in any medical setting, including urgent care, emergency departments, and all prenatal care settings. Prenatal health care providers are required by Illinois law to screen all who are pregnant for syphilis infection at the first prenatal visit and early in the third trimester. Additional testing at the time of delivery is also recommended in high-risk settings.

The expansion of the Illinois Perinatal HIV Hotline to include the Perinatal Syphilis Warmline will provide clinical consultation for health care providers for syphilis in pregnancy and the newborn period, coordination of public health record searches to obtain prior syphilis testing and treatment information, and assistance with mandatory reporting. The warmline will be available Monday- Friday with messages returned in one business day.

Reducing syphilis cases (especially congenital syphilis) has the additional challenge of the current Bicillin shortage, the only medication that treats syphilis in pregnancy and children. Until this shortage is alleviated, it is critical that providers prioritize Bicillin inventory for treatment of those for whom there are no other treatment options: infants and those who are pregnant. Providers should consult the [CDC treatment guidelines](#) to ensure adequate care. Those who are pregnant should talk to your health care provider about testing and any needed treatment as you prepare for your baby’s arrival.

For more information, visit [**dph.illinois.gov**](https://dph.illinois.gov)

The response is further complicated by a national shortage of Bicillin L-A, the only recommended treatment for syphilis in pregnancy and infancy. IDPH and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention urge providers to prioritize available Bicillin doses for pregnant individuals and newborns while using alternative therapies for others.

IDPH Director Sameer Vohra emphasized that prevention through testing and early treatment remains the most effective way to protect infants. Illinois law requires syphilis screening at the first prenatal visit and again early in the third trimester.

The Warmline supports more than 200 clinicians each year, and as awareness of its services grows, the number of monthly calls continues to rise.



Mental Health and Substance Use

As part of its commitment to the overall health and well-being of children, IDPH has taken a leadership role in programs to promote and improve the mental health of youth. IDPH now serves as the home for the **Illinois Children's Mental Health Partnership (ICMHP)**, which aims to develop and monitor the implementation of the Illinois Children's Mental Health Plan to provide services for children and their families to address children's mental health needs across a full continuum of care.

IDPH Director Sameer Vohra serves as co-chair of the Partnership, which also includes representatives of the Governor, Attorney General, various state agencies, and legislative leaders. In addition, the partnership includes a family member or individual with lived experience in the children's mental health system; a child advocate and community mental health expert, practitioner, or provider; representatives from the K-12 school system and the health care sector; and a violence prevention expert or practitioner.

IDPH also joined with several sister state agencies in support of **BEACON**, a mental health portal connecting children and their families and caregivers to services in their area. Part of the Children's Behavioral Health Transformation Initiative championed by Gov. Pritzker, BEACON provides a secure online portal where parents and caregivers can learn which community-based resources are available nearby and which state-funded programs youth may be eligible for, including outpatient counseling, school-based services, wraparound services to help support families caring for youth with complex needs or residential treatment services.

In addition to connecting families with state-sponsored services, the portal connects families to health care providers and allows them to store important family health documents in one, easily accessible place.



SPOTLIGHT:

With support from IDPH Comprehensive Suicide Prevention funding, Box United implemented its Fight Like a Girl program to directly address suicide risk among adolescent girls by combining structured physical activity with targeted mental health supports.

Recognizing the protective role of exercise in improving mood, reducing anxiety, and fostering resilience, the program incorporates non-contact boxing and fitness training to promote physical health and build confidence. Equally critical are the embedded mental health strategies, which include mindfulness exercises, stress management workshops, body positivity discussions, and access to trauma-informed mentors who provide consistent encouragement and safe spaces for disclosure.

To strengthen this work, Box United coordinated with the Illinois Department of Public Health and Mental Health in Mind to study the Youth Awareness of Mental Health (YAM) program and integrate its core pillars into their curriculum redesign. This allowed the refinement of Box United's summer camp model to focus more explicitly on evidence-based suicide prevention measures while maintaining a holistic sports-based approach.

The program was developed and supported in collaboration with key partners, including Chicago Public Schools, Chicago Park District, Laureus Sport for Good, the City of Chicago Department of Family and Support Services, the Center for Healing and Justice Through Sport, the Chicago Parole Office, and the Juvenile Temporary Detention Center. Together, these partnerships ensure that Fight Like a Girl reaches the most vulnerable youth, delivering evidence-based prevention through both community- and school-based settings.



SPOTLIGHT:

One rape crisis center has successfully developed and integrated a Social Emotional Learning (SEL) curriculum aimed at imparting body safety awareness to preschoolers over the past year. These SEL lessons serve as a valuable supplement to Erin’s Law, a curriculum commonly taught in schools by preventionists. Their objective was to establish a strong foundation for preschoolers, enabling them to seamlessly transition into kindergarten and further build upon their knowledge of Erin’s Law. The SEL sessions on body safety encompass discussions on identifying safe adults, distinguishing between safe and unsafe touches, appropriate responses to bodily harm, the concept of consent, and respecting personal boundaries. In addition to body safety, the center added supplementary SEL lessons cover topics such as bullying, fostering friendships, and managing emotions.

Mental Health and Substance Use

IDPH advanced statewide overdose prevention initiatives in FY25 through its Division of Emerging Health Issues (EHI) within the Office of Health Promotion (OHPm). One of the more significant developments was an updated overdose data dashboard that now provides more timely and interactive access to surveillance data for health officials and Illinois citizens.

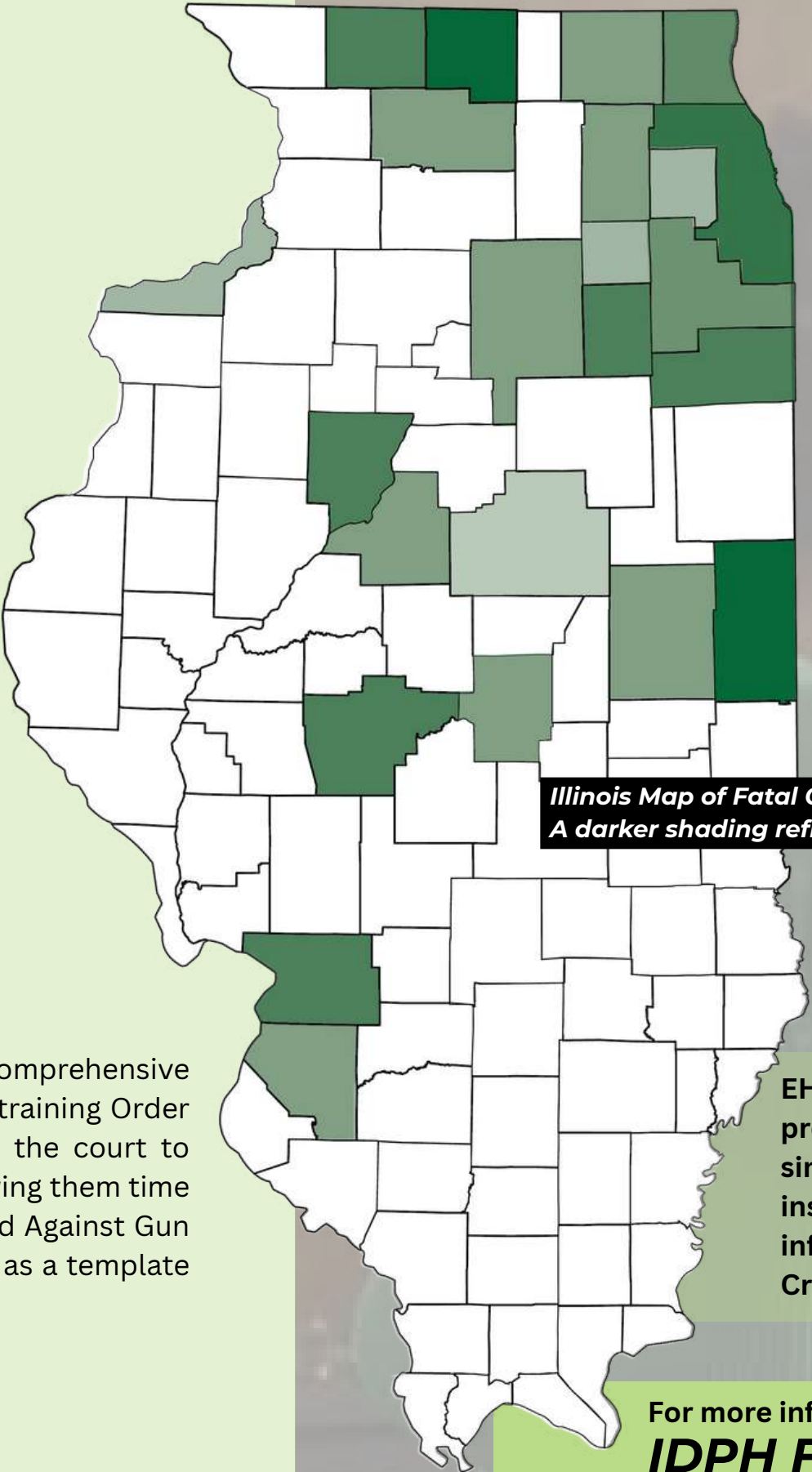
These reductions are encouraging and remind us that now is not a time to stop the work on overdose prevention within our communities, but to continue on with renewed hope.

Overdose Fatality Review (OFR) teams expanded from one county in 2024 to four in 2025, with six more in development, and were strengthened by new grant funding from EHI to support implementation. OFR teams bring together local experts—including public health staff, law enforcement, medical examiners, and community organizations—to review overdose deaths, identify missed opportunities for prevention, and recommend changes to help save lives in the future.

The Substance Misuse Section also expanded its clinical outreach across the state, using grant funding to strengthen efforts to identify and support individuals with substance use disorders through screening, diagnosis, and connections to ongoing care.

Another exciting advancement was the development with partners of a comprehensive communications campaign to raise awareness of the state’s Firearm Restraining Order (FRO), which allows family and other household members to petition the court to remove firearms from someone experiencing a mental health crisis, allowing them time to get help and heal. IDPH worked with the Ad Council and Brady: United Against Gun Violence on this creative public health campaign that is now being used as a template for other states that have FRO laws.

Fatal Overdose Rates | 2023



In 2023, IDPH reported an 8.3% decrease in drug overdose deaths. In 2024, preliminary data shows an additional 30% decrease in drug overdose deaths from 2023.

Illinois Map of Fatal Overdose Rates Involving Opioids in 2023. A darker shading reflects higher numbers.

EHI also partnered with state and federal agencies to promote firearm safety, distributing 150,000 gun locks since the inception of the program, along with instructions on use of the locks, safe firearm storage information, and information about the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline statewide.

For more information, visit [***IDPH Fatal Overdose Dashboard***](#)

Mental Health and Substance Use

In Kendall County, collaboration between law enforcement and public health partners identified a pattern of overdose deaths occurring at certain hotels and motels. As a result of these reviews, the team recommended installing a Narcan box in the hotel lobby for public access and refilling them intermittently.

This recommendation is part of an effort across public health agencies to increase access to overdose reversing medications in easy to access locations for higher risk populations.

The Power of Prevention:

As part of its Rural Illinois Opioid Overdose Prevention program, IDPH worked with grantees around the state, such as Take Action Today, on efforts including greater access to substance use disorder treatment and harm prevention – such as increasing the availability of naloxone, a substance that can counteract the effects of an opioid overdose. The words of those who have benefited from the program speak for themselves:

“I overdosed on a Xanax with fentanyl in it. Because of the Narcan that my girlfriend got from Take Action Today, it brought me out of an overdose. It saved my life.”

-Tommy C.

“I am homeless. I spend a lot of time at Take Action Today. There was an outreach and I got a purple bag and inside there were boxes of narcan. 3 weeks later that Narcan Saved My Life. The resources inside got me into treatment.”

-Abbey J.

“I am a person in recovery. My sister died from an overdose. A girl at my church told me that she had access to all the naloxone I could ever need. Her peer support is a girl who is the harm reduction person for Take Action Today. She has provided me with countless boxes of Narcan and we hand them out on just about every outreach that we go on. My sister’s death will not be in vain!”

-Rachel T.

“Naloxone is a game changer! I fell to addiction at 37 years old. This took me to the lowest point in life. I got hooked up with Take Action and grabbed some Narcan that was on a table in the entry way on my way out. Thankfully the Narcan was in my room and my girlfriend revived when I overdosed.”

-James

“My name is Bethany. I am a heroin addict. I had been clean for four years. Before I found opiates I was an angry teen, lost with no direction. My mom and dad divorced and we moved to southern Illinois. I got a fentanyl pill from some people I did not know very well found myself in a bad way- i took one. I OD’d. Luckily my mom had somehow gotten in contact with Tori from Take Action Today and she had gotten Narcan and test strips and brought them home. My mom saved my life, Take Action saved my life.”

-Bethany R.

Racism as a Public Health Crisis

In FY25, IDPH continued advancing its commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, accessibility, and justice through two parallel initiatives: the Department’s internal DEIA Strategic Plan and its ongoing contributions to the State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP). Both efforts aim to build a more equitable public health system in Illinois—one by strengthening IDPH’s internal culture and operations, and the other by advancing statewide policy and collaboration.

The IDPH DEIA Strategic Plan was developed to promote equity across the agency’s operations, workforce, and policies. Supported by the Public Health Infrastructure Grant (PHIG), the plan establishes a multi-year framework to integrate inclusive practices, strengthen leadership accountability, and enhance workforce development throughout all program areas. While implementation was delayed in FY25 due to structural changes within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and shifts in federal guidance, IDPH used this period to refine its approach, review organizational data, and align department-wide goals with evolving state and federal equity priorities.

Parallel with this effort, IDPH is contributing to the 2028 SHIP, which identifies Racism as a Public Health Crisis as a statewide priority pillar. As part of this work, IDPH is developing strategies to both identify and strengthen its role as an anti-racist public health agency. The Department and its partners are collaborating to use data to advance SHIP objectives under this pillar, including focusing on environmental justice and community engagement while reviewing institutional policies that perpetuate inequities.

Together, these efforts demonstrate IDPH’s ongoing commitment to embedding equity and justice both within its organizational culture and across Illinois’s broader public health system.

Systemic racism has long contributed to disparities in healthcare access, outcomes, and trust within minority communities. To help reverse these effects, IDPH’s Center for Minority Health Services leads statewide efforts to identify and respond to the unique health needs of racial and ethnic minority populations. Established by statute, the Center’s mission is to improve the health and well-being of Illinois’s minority residents by developing culturally and linguistically appropriate programs and policies that eliminate health disparities.

Through partnerships with local health departments, community-based organizations, and other public health entities, the Center works to heighten awareness of minority health issues while bringing essential services directly into neighborhoods where care may otherwise be limited.



IDPH Offices and Key Initiatives

IDPH's impact is powered by 12 offices,

each addressing a unique area of public health. From sustaining critical programs to responding to emerging needs, these offices form the foundation of our work to protect and improve the health of all Illinoisans.

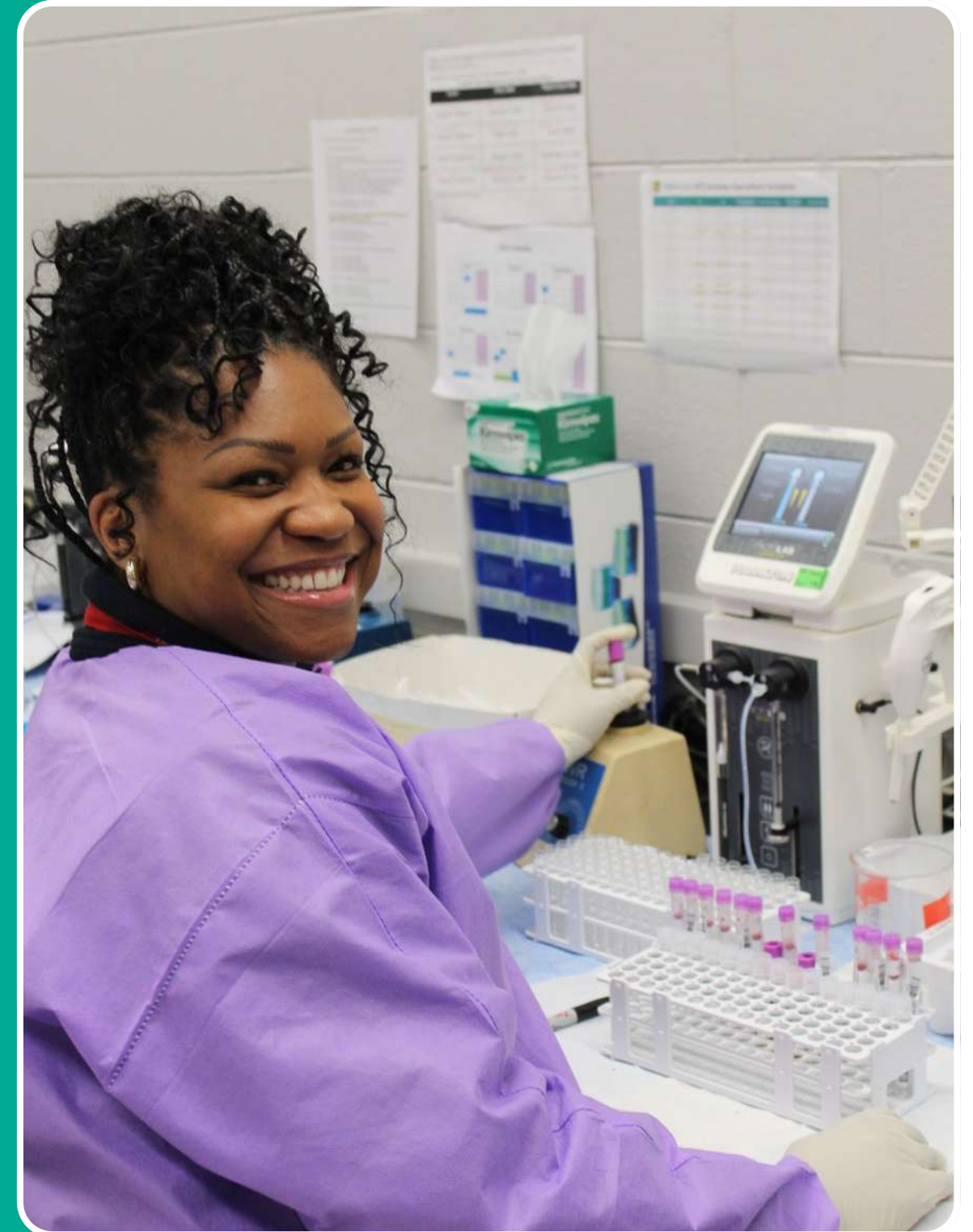


Office of Disease Control

The Office of Disease Control (ODC) administers programs to prevent, control and reduce exposure to infectious diseases and ensure public health and safety. It includes three major units. The Division of Infectious Diseases oversees immunizations, disease surveillance and outbreak detection, and offers training for public health partners. The Division of HIV/Hepatitis/STI/TB focuses on preventing tuberculosis, hepatitis, sexually transmitted infections and HIV/AIDS. The Bureau of Testing operates the Illinois Wastewater Surveillance System and the three IDPH laboratories, which provide timely results for outbreak response, and clinical, environmental and bioterrorism testing.

Spotlight on Impact:

One Health is a multi-sectoral approach that recognizes the interconnectedness of human, environmental, and animal health. Among many investments over the last 12 months, IDPH developed a new toolkit to help Illinoisans protect themselves against H5N1 avian influenza, launched a robust surveillance plan to detect H5N1 in wastewater, and will be the home of the new One Health Framework Task Force created by the Illinois General Assembly.





Office of Health Care Regulation

Office of Health Care Regulation

The Office of Health Care Regulation (OHCR) licenses, inspects, and regulates a range of health facilities. OHCR consists of four units: the Bureau of Long-Term Care (LTC), and the divisions of Life Safety and Construction, Health Care Facilities and Programs, and Administrative Rules and Regulations. The Bureau of LTC licenses and inspects 1,629 LTC facilities (representing more than 140,000 beds) that provide skilled nursing, intermediate nursing care, sheltered care, community living, assisted living, specialized mental health rehabilitative services and care for individuals with intellectually complex/developmentally disabled needs. OHCR surveys federal facilities in accordance with applicable rules and regulations for the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

Spotlight on Impact:

In FY25, OHCR made progress on two major initiatives: Long-Term Care Technology Innovation and the ongoing reorganization of the regional map for LTC. OHCR also continued the process of implementing a new LTC licensure system that will replace a 25 year old system that could no longer be updated or changed.

Office of Health Promotion

The Office of Health Promotion's (OHPm) mission is to help Illinoisans live longer, healthier lives. To this end, OHPm addresses a range of health concerns across the lifespan and oversees programs related to 9 of the top 10 causes of death. It concentrates on addressing chronic disease and emerging health issues, including helping people avoid or manage serious and potentially life-threatening illnesses like diabetes, cardiovascular disease, cancer and asthma.

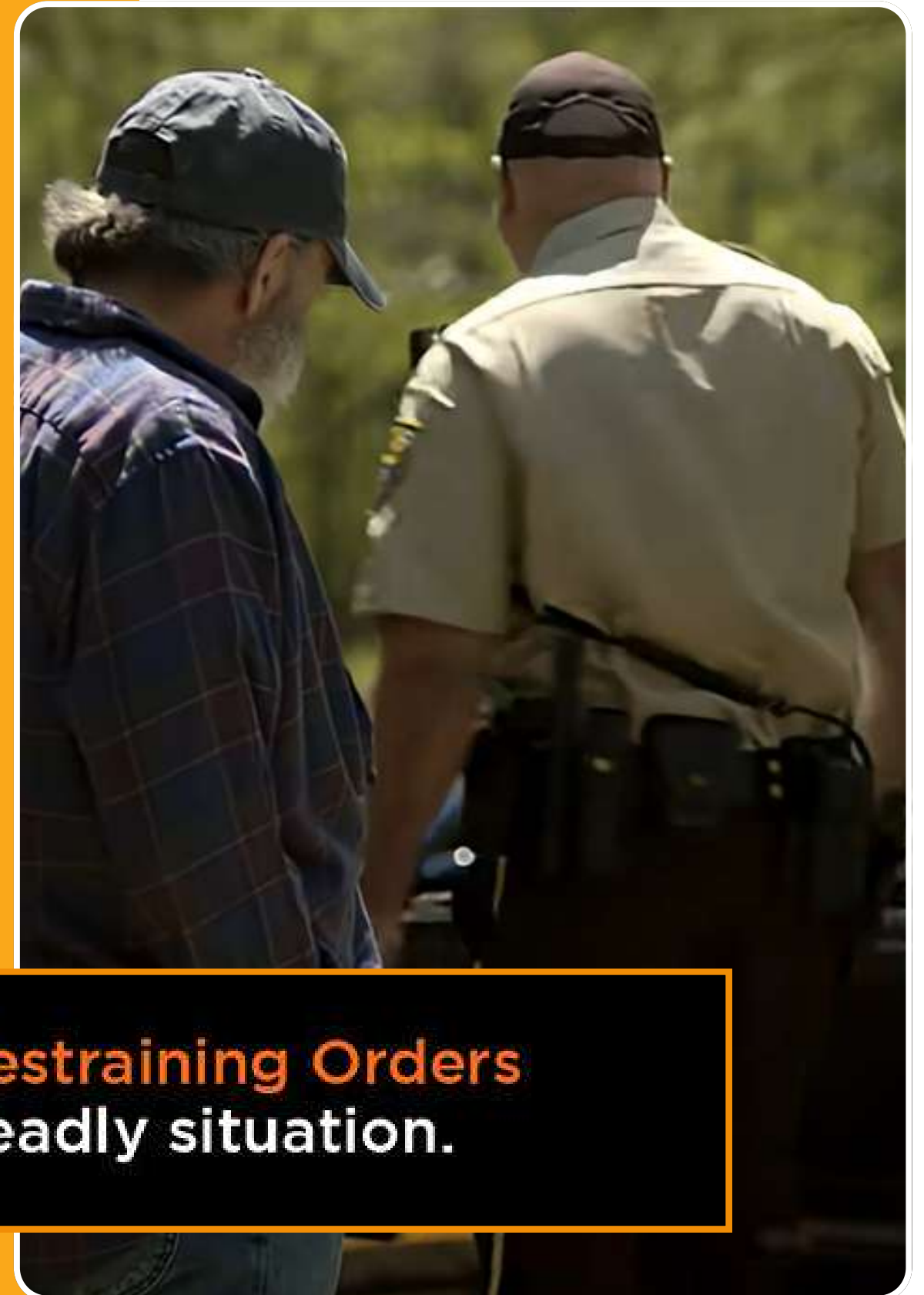
Spotlight on Impact:

IDPH is introducing the next phase of the "Pause to Heal" campaign, which educates the public on how to obtain and use firearm restraining orders (FROs) to temporarily remove access to firearms for people in crisis.

Hit pause with a



Firearm Restraining Orders
pause a deadly situation.





Office of Health Protection

Office of Health Protection

The Office of Health Protection (OHPT) implements programs to reduce the incidence of disease and injury linked to environmental exposures using surveillance, investigation, inspection, licensing, data, stakeholder education and input, regulation and enforcement.

Spotlight on Impact:

The Office of Health Protection launched the new Illinois Tickborne Disease Dashboard in June 2025, offering the state's most comprehensive view of tickborne disease risks to date. Built on years of expanded mosquito and tick surveillance, the dashboard integrates environmental tick data with human disease case information to help identify where risks are emerging and how they are changing over time. Users can explore detailed, county-level information on tick species, pathogen detection, seasonal activity patterns, and confirmed and probable cases for multiple tickborne diseases, including Lyme disease, ehrlichiosis, and Rocky Mountain spotted fever. The dashboard equips local health departments, clinicians, researchers, and the public with actionable insights to guide prevention, support clinical decision-making, and strengthen community protection across Illinois.

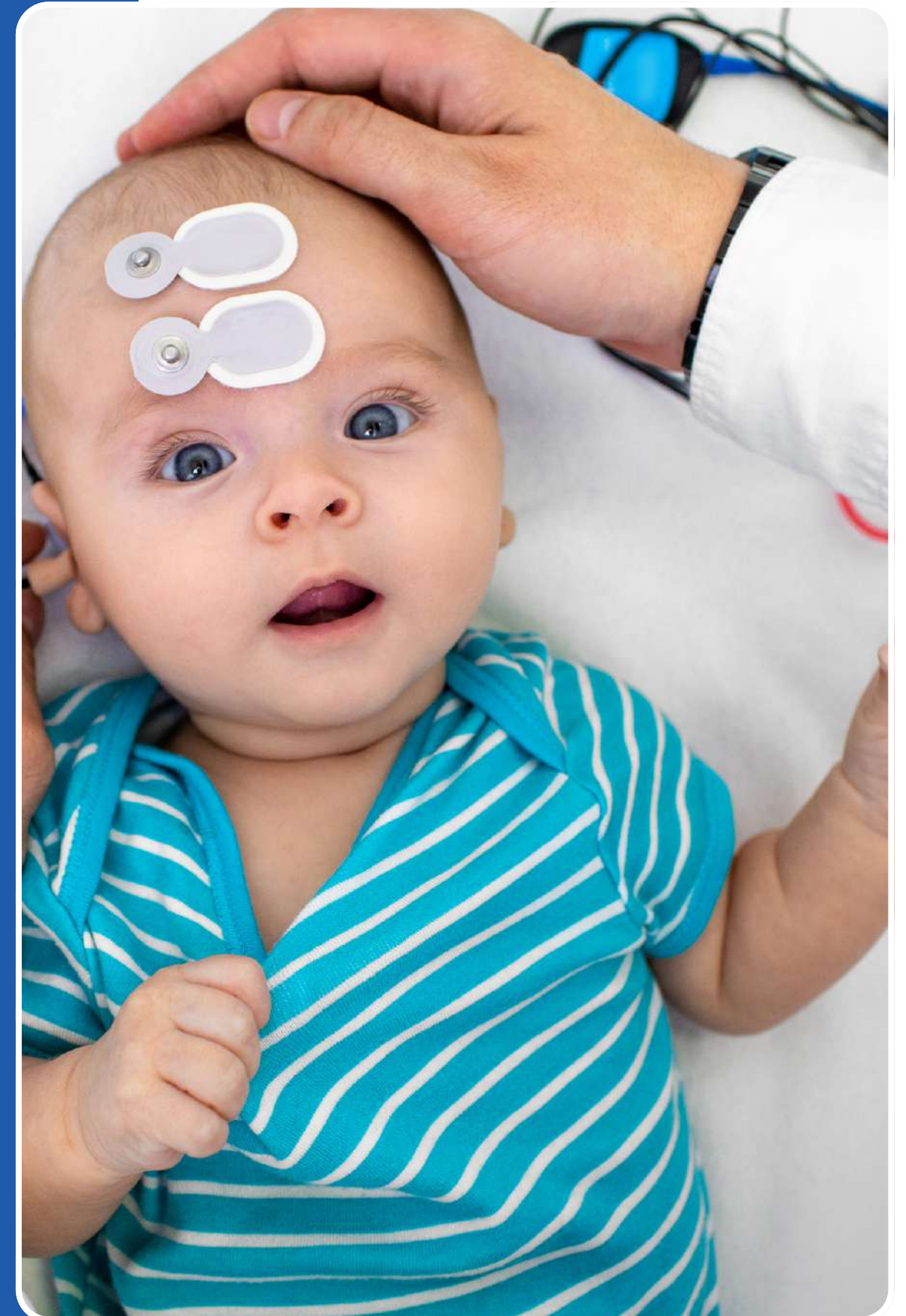
Medical Services Division

The Medical Services Division (MSD) was established in July 2021 and works to coordinate clinical and health care content and consultations for IDPH and its partners, and deliver a unified vision for public health through a corps of medical advisors. The MSD also provides surge support epidemiologists, a team that services agency-wide IDPH programs and partners such as newborn screening, viral hepatitis surveillance, environmental health investigations and pediatric emergency preparedness.

Spotlight on Impact:

The Regional Infection Prevention Program (RIPP) team provided over 200 Infection Control Assessment and Recommendation (ICAR) site visits and over 400 consultations to local health departments, long term care and other healthcare facilities. The MSD epidemiology team has supported programs throughout the department including data modernization and epi-informatics initiatives.

MSD continued to engage the clinical community through several direct consultations with clinicians, educational presentations at academic and non-academic healthcare systems, and the FAST Public Health Allied Clinician talks (PHACT) program offering monthly interactive clinician guidance via webinar to the health care provider community on wide ranging public health topics.

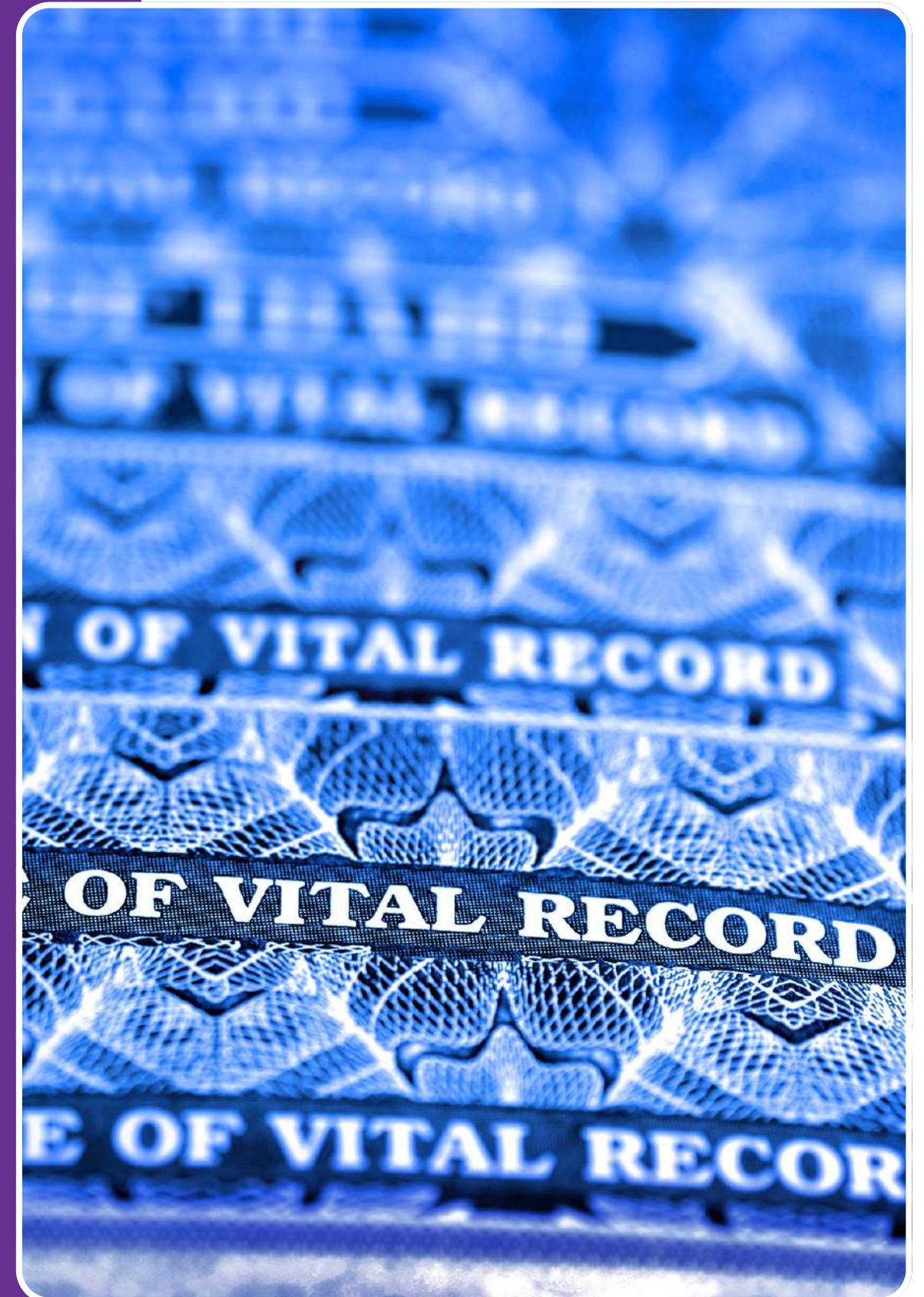


Office of Policy, Planning, and Statistics

The Office of Policy, Planning, and Statistics (OPPS) houses programs that can help identify health problems and develop a basis for building stronger public health systems. This is accomplished through collecting, analyzing and evaluating information on health status, needs and disease occurrence. Additionally, the office conducts epidemiologic studies, supports health assessments and identifies future needs for health care facilities, services and personnel. OPPS preserves the state's records on births, deaths, marriages, civil unions and dissolutions.

Spotlight on Impact:

IDPH is receiving national recognition for its leadership in public health data modernization, transforming our capabilities from reactive analytics to predictive insights. IDPH's Center for Informatics is leveraging advanced technologies, prioritizing workforce excellence, strengthening strong cross-sector partnerships, and ensuring robust data governance to prevent disease and promote wellness throughout Illinois.





Office of Preparedness and Response

Office of Preparedness and Response

The Office of Preparedness and Response (OPR) provides emergency response policy making, planning, training, exercise and incident management and evaluation services for IDPH programs. OPR is also responsible for administering the CDC Public Health Emergency Program (PHEP) and the Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response (ASPR) Healthcare Preparedness Programs (HPP). Through these two cooperative agreements, OPR provides preparedness funding to 95 LHDs and 10 Regional Health Care Coalitions (RHCCs) based across the state.

Spotlight on Impact:

Children have historically experienced poorer outcomes during emergencies and disasters. To address this, the Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) program advances pediatric readiness among hospital and prehospital providers.

Through Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) funding, the Division of EMS & Highway Safety/EMSC program supports the Illinois Critical Access Hospital Network in delivering pediatric-focused training, including hands-on simulations and educational webinars on emergency management and emerging pediatric issues. The program also identifies nurse and physician advocates in critical access hospitals to support regional pediatric quality improvement initiatives.

Office of Racial and Cultural Health Equity

The mission of the Office of Racial and Cultural Health Equity (ORCHE) is to address disparities in health outcomes and improve the health of socioeconomically disadvantaged populations. It does so by producing data and program measures that address disparities and establishing equity-centered health care policies designed to improve physical and mental health. ORCHE also contains the Center for Rural Health, which focuses on improving access to primary health care in rural and underserved areas of Illinois and to encourages community involvement in health issues. The center serves as an information clearinghouse on rural health issues.

Spotlight on Impact:

The Office of Racial and Cultural Health Equity expands access to care by meeting communities where they are through the Wellness on Wheels (WOW) Mobile Units. These units partner with local health departments and community organizations to deliver essential services - including immunizations, health screenings, and HIV and STD testing - directly in neighborhoods across Illinois. By removing barriers to care such as transportation and access, Wellness on Wheels helps advance health equity and ensure more Illinoisans can receive timely, trusted health services.





Office of Women's Health and Family Services

The mission of the Office of Women's Health and Family Services (OWHFS) is to improve health outcomes of Illinoisans by providing preventative education and services, increasing health care access, using data to ensure evidence-based practice and policy, and empowering families. The office administers programs overseeing health and services for women and girls, and family services dedicated to improving the health and well-being of pregnant women, infants, children and adolescents through Child and Adolescent Health, Perinatal Health and School Health programs.

Spotlight on Impact:

Over the past year, the Office of Women's Health and Family Services expanded outreach by engaging communities at local and statewide events. During National Women's Health Week, which is observed annually on Mother's Day through the following week, the office partnered with the Fulton County Health Department to connect women to wellness activities, screenings, mammograms, and services through the Wellness on Wheels mobile unit. Staff also shared information about the Illinois Breast and Cervical Cancer Program at high-impact events, including the 2025 Komen Chicago Race for the Cure, the Black Women's Expo, and Fiesta del Sol. Through these efforts, the office reached tens of thousands of Illinoisans with culturally responsive education and resources, strengthening access to women's health services statewide.

Office of Communications

The Office of Communications works to tell the story of public health in Illinois, delivering essential information about programs, services, emerging health concerns, and tools for better health to the news media and the general public. The office also oversees internal communications to help ensure that all IDPH staff are informed about the actions and efforts of the entire Department. Communications outreach includes the IDPH internal newsletter, The Pulse, and its external quarterly newsletter, Health Matters, and maintenance and updating of the IDPH website. IDPH is also highly visible and active across all major social media platforms, including [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [X](#), [Bluesky](#), [Threads](#), [TikTok](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

Spotlight on Impact:

Amid dramatic changes to the credibility of information on federal health agency websites, IDPH reaffirmed its place as a trusted resource for Illinoisan health providers and residents to get essential public health information. Director Vohra issued a series of "Dear Colleague" letters this year including responses to changes to the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) and reports that the federal government planned to withdraw from the World Health Organization.



FY25 Grant Programs

Grant Funds Awarded:

\$524,559,840.51

158 Grant Programs

Center for Minority Health Services

Communities of Color Special At Risk Population
Illinois Health Equity Zones (HEZ) Pilot
Refugee Health Assessment - Other Services
Wellness on Wheels

Office of Disease Control

African American AIDS Response Act Grant
Comprehensive STD Prevention Services
Harm Reduction Community Linkages Project
HIV / AIDS Quality of Life Program
HIV Prevention Regional Implementation Grant
HOPWA HIV Housing Facility
Hospital Health Protection Grant Program - Equity
Hospital Health Protection Grant Program - Sustain
Hospital Health Protection Grant Program - Extend
Illinois Hepatitis B Outreach, Awareness, and Education to Immigrants
Immunize Illinois Coalition Grant
Legislative Initiatives - Direct Appropriations
LHD DIS Workforce Development Support Grant
LHD Respiratory Surveillance and Outbreak Response grant
Routine HIV Screening Development Grant
Ryan White Part B Community Re-entry Support 2023
Ryan White Part B HIV Care Connect 2023
Ryan White Part B Lead Agents 2023
STI Syphilis Prevention Services Among MSM2023
Strengthening Illinois Public Health Administration (SIPA-24)
Syphilis Prevention Services Among Women

Office of Health Care Regulation

Campaign to Advance the Community Health Worker Workforce in IL
CMP Long Term Care Resident Enrichment
IQLC - Improving Oral Health in Long Term Care Facilities

Office of Health Promotion

Asthma Care Quality Improvement
Asthma Control and Health Plans
Asthma Education, Policy, and Care Coverage
Asthma Home Visit Collaboration
Asthma Project ECHO
Asthma Quality Improvement in Critical Access Hospitals
Asthma Strategies in Pharmacies
Bright Smiles from Birth II Oral Health Training
Clinician/Health System Capacity Building for Overdose Prevention
Colorectal Cancer Screening
Community-Based Reducing Tobacco-Related Disparities Grant
Comprehensive Cancer CRC EMR Reminder, Recall, Referral
Comprehensive Cancer Palliative Care
Comprehensive Cancer Prevention CHW Train-the-Trainer
Comprehensive Cancer Professional Education
Comprehensive Cancer Survivorship Psychosocial Support
Comprehensive Sickle Cell Clinical Care
Coordinated Approach to Reducing Childhood Asthma Disparities
Coordination of Oral Health Services
COVID Pilot Hospital-based Violence Intervention (HBVI)
COVID Pilot Technical Assistance for Hospital-based Violence Intervention
Creating a Depression Screening Process in School-Based Health Centers
Critical Access Hospital - Disease Registries
Dementia Caregiver Program for Underserved Populations
Dementia Early Planning Workshop Series for Diverse Populations
Diabetes Research Fund
Diabetes Secondary Prevention
EHDI Parent-to-Parent Support
Eliminating Barriers to Timely Oral Health Care
Firearm Safe Storage Strategies
FQHC - Multidisciplinary Teams
Free and Charitable Clinics
Genetic Counseling
Genetics Education and Follow Up - Marion Region
Genetics Education and Follow Up - Metro East Region
Genetics Education and Follow Up - Westchester Region
Healthcare Telementoring Expansion Grant
Hospitals-Mentor/Mentee Multidisciplinary Teams
Illinois Asthma Program Large Asthma Consortium
Illinois Brain Health Project
Illinois Tobacco Quitline
Illinois Tobacco-Free Communities
Implementing Man Therapy: A Campaign to Support Men's Mental Health
Implementing Training to Identify Youth at Risk for Suicide (3)

FY25 Grant Programs

Office of Health Promotion (cont.)

- Improved Access through Mobile Oral Health Services
- Improving the System for Timely Referrals: Youth at Risk for Suicide
- Kidney Care Program
- Lifestyle Coach Assistance Program
- Lung Cancer Screening
- Managed Care Strategies
- Medical Provider and Health Systems Interactive ADRD
- Multiple Sclerosis Research
- Oral Health Promotion Program
- Oral Health Workforce Grant
- Overdose Fatality Review Team Development and Implementation
- Pharmacy Strategies
- Pilot Hospital-based Violence Intervention (HBVI)
- Pre-school Vision and Hearing
- Project ECHO Suicide Prevention
- Prostate Cancer Outreach and Screening
- Rape and Sexual Assault Prevention FY
- Rape Prevention and Education FY
- REACH: Resilience Education to Advance Community Healing
- Sickle Cell Follow Up
- Sickle Cell Prevention Care and Treatment
- Smoke-Free Illinois Act Enforcement Grant
- Southern Illinois Healthcare Strategies
- State Unintentional Drug Overdose Reporting
- Stroke Awareness Campaign
- Suicide Prevention Summit and Zero Suicide Academy
- Teaching Coping and Problem-Solving Skills for Youth
- Trauma-Informed Care for Youth Survivors-Lake County
- Violent Death Reporting System
- Workforce Development Grant
- Zero Suicide- Strengthen Access & Delivery of Suicide Care

Office of Health Protection

- Comprehensive Health Protection Grant
- Comprehensive Lead Education, Reduction & Window Replacement
- Environmental Health Beach Program
- WIIN - Day Care Lead Water Testing

Office of Policy, Planning, and Statistics

- Antimicrobial Stewardship Training and Education
- Community Health Assessment and Planning Grant
- Implementation of Core Elements of Antimicrobial Stewardship
- Interfacility Communication and Infection Prevention Efforts Via XDRO Reg
- Respiratory Protection Program

- Respiratory Protection Training and Indoor Air Quality
- Rural IL Opioid Overdose Prevention - Public Safety Involved Linkage to Care
- Rural IL Opioid Overdose Prevention Initiative - Naloxone Distribution
- State Primary Care Office Assistance

Office of Preparedness and Response

- Adult Vaccination Coverage Level
- Cities Readiness Initiative
- EMS Assistance
- Hospital Preparedness - Pediatric Preparedness
- Hospital Preparedness - Regional Hospital Coordinating Center
- Hospital Preparedness- IL Medical Emergency Response Team
- HPP-Community Health Centers
- Infection Prevention Liaison Program
- Pediatric Readiness in Illinois Critical Access Hospitals
- Pediatric Vaccination Coverage Level
- Public Health Emergency Preparedness
- Regional Vaccine Summit and Media Campaign

Office of Women's Health and Family Services

- Abortion Hotline Grant
- Abortion Provider Training Grant
- Adolescent Health Program
- Baby-ZZZ Safe Sleep Program
- Birth Equity Innovation Seed Grants
- Carolyn Adams Ticket for the Cure Community Outreach Grant
- Carolyn Adams Ticket for the Cure Patient Navigation Grant
- Child/Adolescent Preventing ACES post COVID Program
- Enhancing and Expanding Breastfeeding - Illinois
- Enhancing Post-Covid Recovery Efforts for School Based Health Needs
- Healthy Beginnings Home Visiting Program
- Illinois Administrative Perinatal Center Grant
- Illinois Breast and Cervical Cancer Program
- Illinois Family Planning Program
- Illinois Perinatal Quality Collaborative
- Illinois Wisewoman Program
- Implementation Phase: Increasing School Health Centers
- Implementation Phase: Increasing Well-Woman Visits - Community Grant
- Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Fetal Infant Mortality
- Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Perinatal Mental Health Program FY
- MCH ACEs Grant Program FY
- MCH Technical Assistance, Training & Education
- Mini Maternal and Child Health Services
- Planning Phase: Increasing School Health Centers
- Reach Out and Read Illinois
- Reproductive Health Security Grant
- School Health Center Grant
- Sudden Unexpected Infant Deaths Grant

FY26 Key Goals

A Unified Vision for Health

Through a health-in-all-policies approach, strategize with health departments, health care, and public health partners to implement lessons learned from the pandemic to co-create a more integrated public health system across Illinois.

Preparing for Future Emergencies

Continue investments in emergency preparedness positions, training exercises and partnership building to better prepare Illinois for current and future health emergencies.

Modernizing the Public Health Workforce

Continue investments in new and old strategic partnerships to enhance public health capacity to meet the health needs of residents across Illinois.

Modernizing Public Health Data

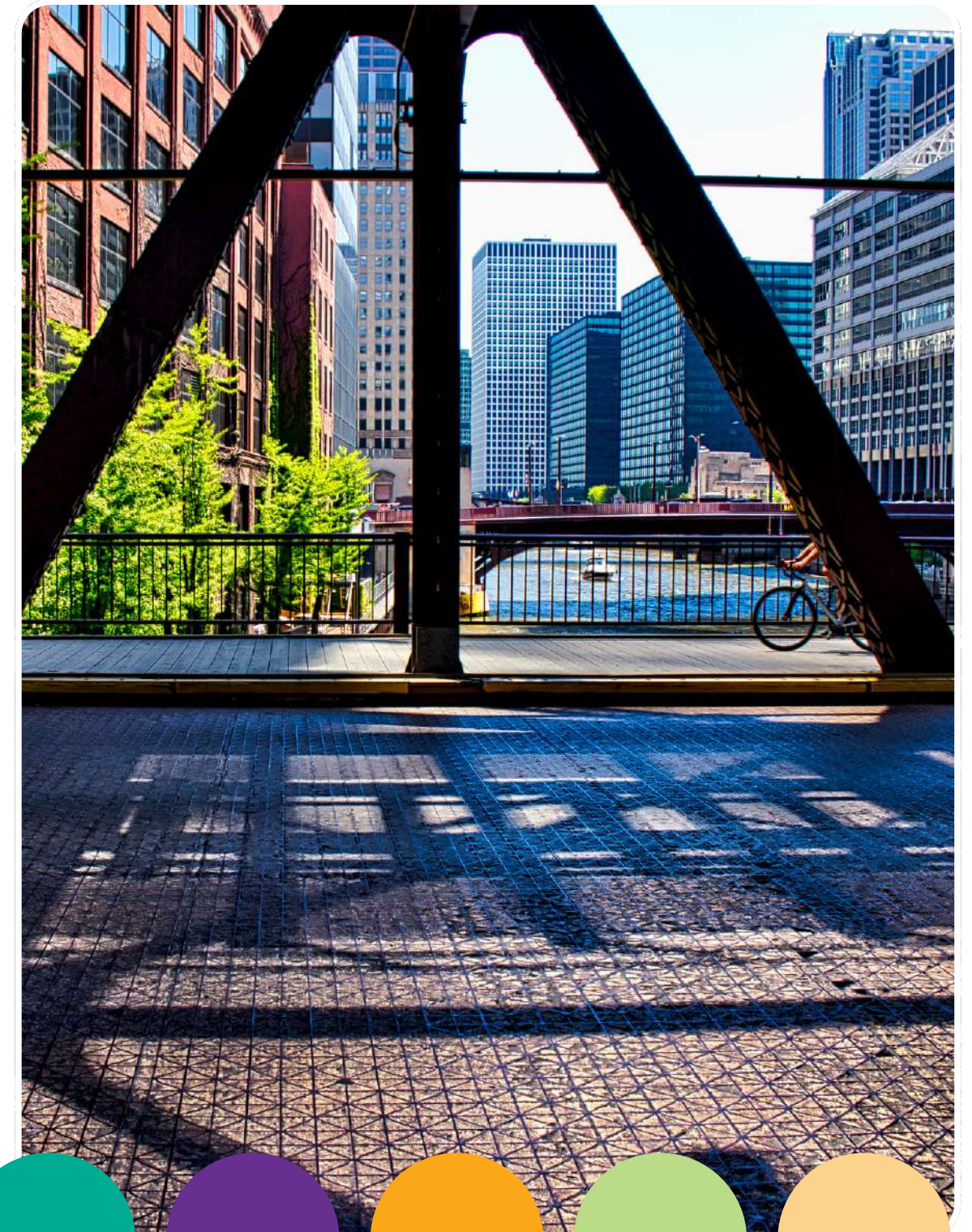
Continue investments to critical data infrastructure that modernizes the department's ability to collect, analyze, and make available meaningful information to improve the health of Illinois residents.

Investing in Communities and Addressing Health Inequities

Partner with community-based organizations to better leverage IDPH programs and policies to address health disparities. IDPH is prioritizing efforts on people who experience homelessness, HIV/AIDS, mental and behavioral health, maternal and infant health, and chronic disease.

Enhancing Communication and Fighting Disinformation

Continue investments in IDPH communication tools to proactively promote the agency's programs and initiatives, improve our communication pathways with communities that have historically been overlooked, and correct erroneous information by tackling disinformation head on.





Key Acronyms

ARISE Activating Relationships in Illinois for Systemic Equity
ASPR Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response
ADAC Alzheimer's Disease Advisory Committee
BRFSS Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System
BLLs Blood Lead Levels
BOLD Building Our Largest Dementia Infrastructure
CDC Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
CMS Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
CCR Central Complaint Registry
CLIA Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments
COCSP Communities of Color Special At Risk Populations
CHW Community Health Workers
CT Computerized Tomography
EVD Ebola Virus Disease
EVALI E-cigarette or Vaping-Use Associated Lung Injury
EGrAMS Electronic Grants Administration and Management System
EMS Emergency Medical Services
EMSC Emergency Medical Services for Children
EHI Emerging Health Issues
EPA Environmental Protection Agency
ELC Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity
ECHO Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes
FDA Food and Drug Administration
GRF General Revenue Fund
GATA Grant Accountability and Transparency Act
HBI Healthy Brain Initiative
HEX Health Equity Zones
HHS U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
IAPHA Illinois Association of Public Health Administrators
IBCCP Illinois Breast and Cervical Cancer Program
ICAAP Illinois Chapter - American Academy of Pediatrics
ICCCP Illinois Comprehensive Cancer Control Program
ICIIJA Illinois Criminal Information Justice Authority
ILCHWA Illinois Community Health Workers Association
IPLAN Illinois Project for Local Assessment of Needs
HFS Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services
IDA Illinois DocAssist

HEMA Illinois Emergency Management Agency
IFPP Illinois Family Planning Program
IPHI Illinois Public Health Institute
ISBH Illinois State Board of Health
IMMT Illinois Task Force on Infant and Maternal Mortality Among African Americans
IWWSS Illinois Wastewater Surveillance System
IWP Illinois WISEWOMAN Program
ICARS Infection Control Assessment Reviews
IRB Institutional Review Board
LHDs Local Health Departments
LTCF Long-Term Care Facilities
MCH Maternal and Child Health
MMRCs Maternal Mortality Review Committees
MCPP Medical Cannabis Patient Program
MSD Medical Services Division
MAPP Mobilizing Action through Planning and Partnerships
NACCHO National Association of County and City Health Officials
NDPP National Diabetes Prevention Program
NBS Newborn Screening
NIPHC Northern Illinois Public Health Consortium
ODC Office of Disease Control
OHCR Office of Health Care Regulation
OHPm Office of Health Promotion
OHPT Office of Health Protection
OPM Office of Performance Management
OPPS Office of Policy Planning and Statistics
OPR Office of Preparedness and Response
OWHFS Office of Women's Health and Family Services
OAPP Opioid Alternative Pilot Program
OHS Oral Health Section
PEH People Experiencing Homelessness
PHAB Public Health Accreditation Board
PHEOC Public Health Emergency Operations Center
RHCC Regional Health Care Coalitions
REACH Resilience Education to Advance Community Healing
RSV Respiratory Syncytial Virus
SBHC School-Based Health Centers
STI Sexually Transmitted Illness
SEOC State Emergency Operations Center
SHA State Health Assessment
SHIP State Health Improvement Plan
SIHP Southern Illinois Public Health Consortium
SNS Strategic National Stockpile
UIC AIM University of Illinois at Chicago Academic Internal Medicine
UIC P3RC University of Illinois at Chicago School of Public Health Policy, Practice and Prevention Research Center
VIPS Violence and Injury Prevention Section
WHO World Health Organization
WOW Wellness on Wheels



