ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH ANNUAL REPORT

Fiscal Year 2023 in Review



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Message From the Director

On behalf of the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) and in accordance with the State Finance Act (30 ILCS 105/3(a)), I am excited to present the fiscal 2023 report for the Illinois Department of Public Health for the year ending June 30, 2023.

Throughout most of the period covered in this report, the State of Illinois was still operating under the public health emergency declarations that were in place to fight COVID-19. On May 11, 2023, the U.S. Federal Government ended the COVID-19 public health emergency, and Gov. JB Pritzker ended the state's disaster proclamation.

While the state of Illinois and the nation went through an incredibly challenging time, suffering profound loss, I am incredibly proud of all that was done to help protect the health and safety of our residents. Illinois was fortunate to have the outstanding leadership of Governor J.B. Pritzker and the incredible heroes in our state and local public health departments, health care centers, and community-based organizations providing the needed care to prevent the spread of this terrible disease. This is why I was so pleased to join the Governor and other health leaders to honor our Public Health and Healthcare Heroes on the final day of the public health emergency.

If COVID-19 was our public health crisis, before us now is an opportunity. It is an opportunity to use all that we have learned from fighting COVID to write new chapters in the story of public health. Chapters focused on community. Chapters focused just as strongly on the prevention of disease as its treatment. Chapters focused on addressing historic inequities in the health of so many communities. Chapters focused not just on one infectious disease but on all public health.

We are taking an important step forward, emerging from the crisis of an unprecedented public health emergency into a period of meaningful recovery. A recovery that focuses on preparing for future emergencies, modernizing our IDPH systems, investing in health equity, and enhancing communications. IDPH will continue to focus on addressing multiple endemic, seasonal illnesses, using the effective and proven tools at our disposal, from immunization to the promotion of good hygiene. However, we will also prioritize other, equally important health issues – whether chronic conditions like diabetes, heart disease, and cancer, or the concerns posed by mental illness, firearms violence, and environmental hazards.

Going forward, our mission is to adapt the lessons learned from our experiences with COVID-19 to create a unified vision for health – a vision that centers public health in community. IDPH is already beginning to strategize with local health departments, public health partners, the health care industry, community leaders, and government officials to create a more integrated public health system across Illinois. We are working to build the infrastructure needed to address the structural issues that lead to poor health.

Public health is all around us. As you will see from the sections in this report, IDPH covers an incredible range of activities that are vital to maintaining the health and safety our fellow Illinoisans. Looking back over all that we accomplished, I am incredibly proud of our 1,200 employees at IDPH and the work that they accomplished. We look forward to continuing to protect and promote the health of our residents and building brighter futures in every corner of the State in fiscal year 2024.

Yours in good health,

Sameer Vohra, MD, JD, MA

Sameen Johna

In Appreciation

IDPH wishes to acknowledge the service and leadership of Dr. Amaal V.E. Tokars, who served as Assistant Director of the department in early FY23. Dr. Tokars joined IDPH in 2020 as Assistant Director, and served as Acting Director from March 2022 until August 1, 2022, during the transition between former Director Ngozi Ezike, MD, and the beginning of Director Sameer Vohra's administration.

Dr. Tokars, a Certified Public Health Administrator, came to IDPH after serving as Executive Director of the Kendall County Health Department for 15 years. That experience at the local level was instrumental during the COVID-19 pandemic as Dr. Tokars worked to coordinate IDPH's operations and communications with the state's local health departments and other stakeholders.

IDPH is indebted to Dr. Tokars for being an advocate for and partnering with the people of Illinois, and for being the consummate servant leader.



Assistant Director Amaal V.E. Tokars was recognized by the Illinois State Board of Health as she prepared to retire. Pictured here with Dr. Tokars (center) are **State Board of Health** Vice-Chairperson Jack Herrmann (left) and State Board of Health Chairperson Karen Phelan (right).

Introduction

State FY23 was a transitional year for the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), the state of Illinois and the nation as we moved from an all-hands-on-deck mobilization needed to fight a global pandemic to what might be called the "new normal."

The COVID-19 pandemic that burst on the scene in early 2020 spurred unprecedented changes in the public health and health care worlds. At IDPH and across Illinois it was necessary to focus every available resource on combating a single, deadly viral disease. Initially here were no vaccines and no idea how much damage the virus would inflict. But despite the stark toll of COVID-19, any fair assessment would have to conclude that thanks to the heroic efforts of our frontline public health and health care workforce, we responded effectively and were able to successfully mitigate the danger posed by the disease.

In FY 2023, we were finally able to move forward from a position of combat to a position of integrating the battle against the three-year old novel pathogen into our larger mission of protecting the public from viral respiratory illnesses and other threats to public health and well-being.

The department was also able to start to survey the overall public health landscape with new eyes based on all that it had experienced and learned in the preceding three years. The issue of health equity had moved to the forefront as we reviewed the data harvested from the battle against COVID-19. Sharp racial disparities in deaths, access to care and vaccination rates were spotlighted during the pandemic - but did not attract nearly as much attention and concern when it came to chronic diseases and other health challenges. In the wake of the pandemic, we know we must do better – and that a "new normal" that ignores inequities in health care is unacceptable.

Now as we move forward, we do so with reinforced knowledge that our public health challenges cannot be faced as discrete problems that can be placed in silos. But it is more important than ever that we rely on an integrated approach to protecting and improving public health.

As the IDPH Annual Report for FY 2023 demonstrates, we are employing this integrated approach on multiple fronts.

IDPH is working with its essential partners - local, regional, and national - to modernize the infrastructure of our public health programmatic, operational, and data systems. We are making new investments to support our workforce and recruit a new generation of public health workers. We are re-dedicating ourselves to fighting deadly chronic illnesses such as heart disease and diabetes. We are improving oversight of long-term care facilities that provide care to some of our most vulnerable Illinoisans. We are stepping up efforts to address the behavioral challenges of our youth who suffered dislocation during the pandemic. We are intently focused on eliminating the racial disparities in access to healthcare. And while doing all of this, we continue to prepare for the next public health emergency that threatens our society, no matter where it comes from.

Captured within the following pages are screenshots of the monumental body of work undertaken by the 1,200 dedicated professionals who are #TeamIDPH. Their commitment to the mission and vision of IDPH is the embodiment of the definition of public health care. The programs, initiatives and collaborations highlighted in this FY23 Annual Report reflect what it means to be an advocate and partner with the people of Illinois in the on-going effort to achieve optimal health with dignity and acceptance in diverse and thriving communities.

Office of Disease Control

The Office of Disease Control (ODC) administers programs to prevent and control infectious and communicable diseases, to reduce and eliminate exposure, and to ensure population health, safety, and wellbeing. Formerly a unit of the Office of Health Protection, ODC was created out of necessity, a dedicated office that was focused on limiting the spread of transmissible disease. The creation of ODC provides IDPH with a platform to build a significantly larger disease control and response team while maintaining the appropriate span of control. The ODC is comprised of three divisions:

The Division of Infectious Diseases includes immunizations, communicable diseases, infectious diseases, public health state veterinarian, and surveillance. Primary responsibilities include statewide surveillance, identification of disease outbreaks and clusters, reporting, and providing consultation services and training for public health partners for over 64 diseases/conditions.

The Division of HIV/Hepatitis/STI/TB focuses on preventing the spread and complications resulting from various community diseases – specifically tuberculosis, hepatitis, sexually transmitted infections, and HIV/AIDS. The programs work with local community organizations to spread awareness, deliver education, and provide resources.

The Bureau of Testing consists of the wastewater surveillance, public health laboratories administration, and the Division of Laboratories. The Division of Laboratories consists of our three state laboratories located in Carbondale, Chicago, and Springfield. The Illinois Wastewater Surveillance System (WWSS) is a cost effective, population surveillance monitoring that takes samples from wastewater treatment plants and test for ongoing monitoring of COVID, Flu, RSV, and variants across 79 sites in 47 counties, and covering 8.7M (75%) of Illinoisans. WWSS provides an additional tool for early warning systems for surges, ER visits, and hospitalizations.

Significant Accomplishments and Impact in FY 2023

Launched a statewide school-based, air purification initiative where HEPA air purifiers and 2 years of replacement filters were distributed to eligible 694 K-12 public school districts and 56 private schools within Illinois. Air purifiers provide an added layer of protection against air borne pathogens. The air purifier initiative was expanded to include all Illinois Early Head Start programs (Phase II) and licensed Day Care Centers (Phase III) located outside the City of Chicago.

Increased enrollment for the Illinois Pre-exposure Prophylaxis Assistance Program (<u>PrEP4Illinois</u>) by 109% from SFY20 (316) to SFY23 (660).

Increased <u>PrEP4Illinois</u> spending by 1848% from SFY20 (\$154,828) to SFY23 (\$3,015,861). The increased enrollment and addition of the injectable medication Apretude to the formulary contributed to the increase, but the main driver of the marked increase (and difference in increase in enrollment vs. cost) is that 90% of the clients are uninsured, meaning IDPH is paying the full cost of the medications, rather than just a copayment.

Transitioned the distribution of COVID-19 vaccines from an exclusively US Government-funded initiative to a more traditional vaccine distribution, including an expansion of the Vaccines for Children program, the

launch of the Bridge Access Program (with reimbursement of administration fees to providers as part of an intergovernmental agreement between IDPH and HFS), and launch of messaging campaigns focused on increasing COVID-19, flu, and RSV vaccination rates.

Office of Health Care Regulation

The Office of Healthcare Regulation (OHCR) licenses, inspects, and regulates a wide range of facilities, providers, and programs in support of IDPH's mission to serve as an advocate and partner with the people of Illinois. OHCR licenses and inspects over 1,500 long-term care facilities, including but not limited to, those providing skilled nursing, specialized mental health rehabilitation services, and care for individuals with intellectually complex/developmentally disabled needs.

OHCR also licenses and regulates over 2,000 home health, hospice, home services, home nursing, and home placement providers. In addition, under the auspices of the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA), OHCR is responsible for the oversight of laboratories, performing various certification surveys, and investigating complaints.

OHCR staff are trained and certified by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to conduct federal surveys and implement enforcement action necessary to ensure minimum regulatory compliance crucial to ensuring the health, safety, and welfare of Illinoisans utilizing health care or long-term care supports and services.

Significant Accomplishments and Impact in FY23

In 2023, OHCR logged 377,053 hours conducting 20,783 licensure, certification, and complaint surveys throughout Illinois facilities.

The Central Complaint Registry (CCR), a 24-hour, toll-free, nationwide complaint hotline acts as a repository for concerns or complaints across multiple programs within IDPH. Based on the allegation of non-compliance, the mandated timeframe in which a complaint must be investigated is determined (24-hours, 7 days, or 30 days). In 2023, the CCR received and processed 10,559 calls.

In FY23, OHCR also identified four major areas on which to focus as it moves forward: reorganization, modernization, collaboration, and education.

Reorganization

The OHCR Bureau of Long-Term Care reorganization will increase the efficiency and accuracy of surveys within the division by creating new positions, increasing the number of regions within the state to distribute facility population more equitably, and developing organization change management education for all staff.

Modernization

During FY23, OHCR designed data modernization plans to go into effect in FY24, transitioning current systems to improved platforms and creating new platforms where none existed previously. The plan will also eliminate paper reporting to the extent possible, which will lessen the space needed for storage requirements, and minimize the department's carbon footprint.

Collaboration

Improvements within internal and external communications will foster a greater atmosphere of collaboration and a unified approach to the work of the division. These efforts include initiatives focused on internal and external stakeholders, and sister agencies across the state of Illinois.

Education

Training and education efforts launched in FY23 will continue with expanded options for new surveyors, and opportunities to earn continuing education credits when attending specific trainings.

Office of Health Promotion

The Office of Health Promotion (OHPm) focuses on the health and wellness of Illinois residents by encouraging healthy lifestyles and by supporting screening, early detection, and appropriate intervention for non-communicable diseases and conditions. The Office addresses chronic diseases, oral health, vision and hearing, newborn screening, violence/injury prevention, and overdose surveillance and response. Additionally, the Office provides access to medical cannabis to patients with qualifying conditions through the Medical Cannabis Patient Registry Program.

Significant Accomplishments and Impact in FY23

Oral Health Section

The key public health functions of the Oral Health Section (OHS) include school based oral health programs in collaboration with the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services (HFS), monitoring of community water fluoridation, state mandated dental examinations for school age children, and continuing education programming. The reach and impact of OHS activities in FY23, including those delivered by grantees, resulted in providing more than 19,200 oral health kits for children, and serving more than 126,900 individuals through Title V funded oral health initiatives.

Community Health Worker Program

In 2021, the Community Health Worker (CHW) Certification and Reimbursement Act (<u>Public Act 410 ILCS 67</u>) was passed. The law called for IDPH to establish a CHW Certification Program to help ensure high quality, comprehensive, and ongoing professional development of the CHW workforce. Importantly, the law also called for the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services (HFS) to pursue reimbursement for services provided by certified CHWs through the Medicaid program.

Health Assessment and Screening

The Health Assessment and Screening Section includes newborn blood spot screening, newborn hearing screening, critical congenital heart screening, and school-age hearing and vision screening programs.

The Newborn Screening (NBS) is a state-mandated public health activity aimed at saving lives and improving the quality of life for babies affected with certain serious genetic, metabolic, and congenital disorders, and screening every Illinois newborn for more than 50 disorders. In FY23, over 120,000 babies were screened, and more than 14,000 patients were served through genetic counseling centers, including 3,3219 patients with sickle cell disease.

The Vision and Hearing Program implements the Illinois Child Vision and Hearing Test Act (410 ILCS 205) which mandates vision and hearing screening of preschool and school age children. The program provides training and certification to school staff to conduct screenings. In FY23, more than 538,900 vision screenings and 732,000 hearing screenings were conducted.

Division of Emerging Health Issues

The Division of Emerging Health Issues (EHI) has increased IDPH's expertise and capacity for response to outbreaks related to the presence of rodenticide in synthetic cannabis and the emergence of E-cigarette lung injury through its Substance Misuse Prevention Section.

The division also includes the Violence and Injury Prevention Section (VIPS) which administers programs addressing multiple forms of violence and injury, including rape prevention and education, suicide prevention, violence prevention, adverse childhood experiences, and firearm-related safety. A cable gun lock distribution program was successfully launched with more than 10,000 gun locks distributed to communities by the end of FY23.

Division of Chronic Disease Prevention and Control

The Division of Chronic Disease Prevention and Control oversees programs aimed to support the prevention or delay of onset of a variety of diseases as well as providing support to minimize the impact among those affected. Among the programs supported through this Division are the Illinois Comprehensive Cancer Control Program (ICCCP), Diabetes and Cardiovascular Disease Programs, Dementia Program, and the Tobacco Control Program which operates the Illinois Tobacco Quitline. In FY23, the Quitline responded to 16,085 calls.

Division of Medical Cannabis

The Division of Medical Cannabis oversees the Medical Cannabis Patient Program (MCPP) and the Opioid Alternative Pilot Program (OAPP). Both programs provide access to cannabis for medical use through oversight and management of the statewide medical cannabis registry. As of the end of FY23, there were 138,471 individuals registered in the Medical Cannabis Patient Program and 1,564 individuals registered in the Opioid Alternative Pilot Program.

Office of Health Protection

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

Significant Accomplishments and Impact in FY23

The Lead Program received blood lead reports for 208,821 children in FY 2023; of those, 5,865 were identified with blood lead levels (BLLs) at IDPH intervention level (\geq 5 µg/dL). All children with a confirmed BLL \geq 5 µg/dL received case management and nearly 3,400 environmental inspections were conducted to find and remediate the lead exposure sources.

High-risk ZIP codes were updated for the first time since 2005 to align with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) lowering threshold for recommended BLL for public health intervention. The new listing added 346 ZIP codes to the existing 666 ZIP codes where children are at heightened risk for lead exposure based on multiple factors, such as age of housing stock and prevalence rates of lead exposed children.

The Vector Control Program, in conjunction with local health departments, conducts surveys for mosquitoes and ticks to detect the presence of potential disease vectors associated with the improper storage and disposal of tires, improper waste disposal, and natural conditions. In FY 2023, the Vector Surveillance and Control Program tested 16,689 mosquito pools, of which 2,429 mosquito pools tested positive for West Nile virus, 161 dead birds were collected and tested for West Nile virus, and 21 birds tested positive. A total of 2,740 ticks were collected through active tick surveillance, and 2,089 ticks were tested for pathogens.

The Non-Community Public Water Supply Program is responsible for monitoring water systems such as schools, factories, restaurants, campgrounds, and churches, etc. served by their own water supply (usually a well). The program served a total of 457,635 persons and 3,488 Illinois non-community public water systems in 2022. Over 99% of the 3,488 non-community public water systems were in compliance with all Health Based Drinking Water Standards in 2022.

The Plumbing and Water Quality Program currently has a total of 14,649 individuals and businesses actively licensed and registered, including plumbers, inspectors, and contractors. The program conducted investigations into 18 outbreaks of Legionnaires Disease in FY23. Guidance to prevent the growth and spread of legionella was provided during each of these investigations. The program responded to 100% of confirmed outbreaks of Legionnaires disease in FY23 within 48 hours of detection.

In FY23, the LeadCare Illinois program served approximately 16,892 children associated with daycare facilities which have registered with the program for either lead in water testing or lead safety training. The program provided free lead-in-water sampling to 570 registered daycare facilities. To date, 38.2% of the facilities which received sampling results have identified the presence of lead at >2.01 ppb in the facility's water.

The Environmental Toxicology Program assessed environmental data from hazardous waste sites or releases to determine whether a public health hazard exists; issued fish consumption advisories based on statewide fish contaminant monitoring; responded to complaints and inquiries about indoor air quality, soil contamination, and private well contamination; and educated people on ways to reduce exposure to environmental contaminants. One highlight was the Program's first "soilSHOP" community outreach event where area residents were encouraged to submit soil samples from their property to be tested for the

presence of lead. "soilSHOP" was a partnership with the IDPH Lead Program, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, the City of Springfield, and Enos Park Community Garden in Springfield.

Office of Policy Planning and Statistics

The Office of Policy Planning and Statistics (OPPS) collects, analyzes, and evaluates information on health status, health needs, and disease occurrence in Illinois residents. The office has four divisions: the Division of Patient Safety and Quality, the Division of Vital Records, the Division of Health Data and Policy, and the Division of Epidemiologic Studies. Within these areas, OPPS conducts epidemiologic studies and manages disease registries, supports state-wide health assessments and surveys, advises on and supports health professional shortages, ensures the integrity of Vital Records, tracks healthcare service use and patient safety outcomes, administers the Institutional Review Board (IRB) and processes applications for capital improvements to healthcare facilities.

Significant Accomplishments and Impact in FY23

In June 2023, the Division of Patient Safety and Quality collaborated with 12 organizations representing health care and public health across the state to implement the 2023 Illinois Summit on Antimicrobial Stewardship. The summit addressed several key topics regarding antimicrobial safety including applying national guidelines and best practices for implementing and evaluating facility antimicrobial stewardship programs.

The Division of Health Data and Policy manages the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) and the Health Illinois Survey.

BRFSS is a state-based program that gathers information on risk factors among Illinois adults 18 years of age and older through monthly telephone surveys. Established in 1984 as a collaboration between the CDC and state health departments, the BRFSS has grown to be the primary source of information on behaviors and conditions related to the leading causes of death for adults in the general population.

In FY23 the BRFSS program successfully presented at the national CDC BRFSS Conference, and collaborated with the Office of Health Promotion Division of Chronic Disease on the *Healthy Brain* Initiative, a new nationwide effort to support the integration of data on brain health and caregiving into public health planning efforts.

Healthy Illinois Survey

In 2021, the Illinois General Assembly passed HB 3504 which requires that IDPH conduct a comprehensive annual survey entitled the "Healthy Illinois Survey." The goal of the survey is to provide robust and statistically reliable public health data for every county across Illinois. Data from the survey examines a broad set of social determinants of health including access to care, civic engagement, childhood experiences, chronic health conditions, nutrition, financial security, food security, mental health, community conditions, physical activity, physical safety, substance abuse and violence. In June 2023, IDPH implemented a pilot of the survey to test a number of potential protocols and sample designs. The pilot consisted of 3 study groups and included 15 counties covering regions from northern, central, and southern Illinois with both rural and urban counties represented.

State Health Improvement Plan/State Health Assessment

As required by Illinois Public Act 102-0004, OPPS collaborated with key public health system partners and public and private sector stakeholders on the development of "Healthy Illinois 2028," which consists of the State Health Assessment (SHA) and the State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP). The process partners IDPH with the Illinois Public Health Institute (IPHI) and the University of Illinois at Chicago School of Public Health Policy, Practice and Prevention Research Center (UIC P3RC), to build the SHA/SHIP Planning Team.

The State Health Assessment is an organized approach to collecting, analyzing, and using data to help mobilize communities, develop priorities, and identify support. The SHA is carried out through four core assessments developed as part of the Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships (MAPP) process by the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) and modified for these purposes. As of June 30, 2023, the following assessments were completed:

- o Community Themes and Strengths Assessment
- o Forces of Change Assessment
- Public Health System Health Equity Capacity Assessment
- o Community Health Status Assessment

The State Health Improvement Plan outlines the goals and objectives, and strategies to improve the health of Illinois residents and advance health equity specifically in the priority areas identified in the State Health Assessment. As of June 30, 2023, the following priority areas for Healthy Illinois 2028 were chosen:

- Chronic Disease
- COVID-19 and Emerging Diseases
- Maternal and Infant Health
- o Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder
- Racism as a Public Health Crisis

Moving into FY24, the partnership will begin identifying goals, objectives, and recommended implementation strategies for each of the priority areas.

Office of Preparedness & Response

The Office of Preparedness & Response (OPR) provides emergency response policy making, planning, training, exercise, and incident management and evaluation services for all IDPH programs. It coordinates the public health and medical technical services and resources that Illinois provides during a disaster through the Public Health Emergency Operations Center (PHEOC) and the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC). Working with other state and federal agencies, such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response (ASPR), OPR can offer certain federal and state emergency medical countermeasures for the public and responders through local public health departments and hospitals. OPR also provides financial and technical resources to local health departments (LHDs) and Regional Health Care Coalitions (RHCC), hospitals, and emergency medical services, and regulates emergency medical services and specific hospital programs.

OPR also administers the Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) program. EMSC funding has supported Illinois in implementing pediatric emergency care initiatives, adopting pediatric emergency care regulations, and developing a robust statewide pediatric infrastructure. The value of OPR was demonstrated during various emergency response operations faced during FY23. This includes responses to COVID-19, Mpox Virus (formerly known as Monkeypox), winter and summer storms, flooding, chemical fires, and numerous less visible events.

Significant Accomplishments and Impact in FY23

Preparedness Planning, Training and Exercises

In September of 2022 an Ebola outbreak occurred in the country of Uganda and OPR rapidly began to ramp up preparedness activities for a potential travel related case in the state of Illinois. To update the department's Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) plan, OPR worked with other IDPH Offices, IEMA, Chicago Department of Public Health, the CDC Quarantine Station, and many other local and regional health care organizations. OPR also reported to the Governor's Office on Preparedness monitoring of travelers coming from Uganda into Chicago via O'Hare International Airport. As a result of these activities, OPR revised the Illinois Ebola Virus Disease plan, and utilizing ASPR Healthcare Preparedness Program funding, established a special project to issue grants to hospitals and EMS providers to increase capabilities and become assessment hospitals.

Mpox Response

During the initial outbreak of Mpox (formerly known as Monkeypox) in Illinois, OPR activated its PHEOC to effectively consolidate information and resources. The PHEOC staff diligently adapted established response plans to address the unique challenges posed by the Mpox outbreak within the state. As the situation escalated, OPR, in collaboration with internal and external stakeholders from regional and national agencies, and the Office of Health Protection / Infectious Disease division, swiftly devised a public-facing symptom reporting and vaccine ordering system. This system facilitated the distribution of vaccine to infected individuals, ensuring timely access to crucial treatment. Furthermore, OPR worked collaboratively with external stakeholders, including the Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA), the Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response (ASPR), Regional Health Care Coalitions (RHCCs), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), to establish a spoke and hub model of logistical operations, leveraging existing warehouse infrastructure from the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) and Medical Countermeasures of the outbreak. These efforts culminated in OPR's recommendation of a Disaster Declaration, authorized by

Governor JB Pritzker for the months of August through October of 2022, showcasing the dedication and effectiveness of Illinois' response to the Mpox outbreak.

New Stroke Law

On June 30, Governor JB Pritzker signed legislation for HB 2238 designed to improve care for people in Illinois who suffer from strokes. This legislation was put forward by the Office of Preparedness and Response's EMS and Highway Safety Division.

Prior to HB 2238, Illinois had three designations for hospitals that provide stroke care: Comprehensive Stroke Center, Primary Stroke Center, and Acute Stroke Ready Hospital. The new legislation recognized a higher level of care than the existing Primary Stroke Center, but below the level highest level of Comprehensive Stroke Center. Under the nationally accredited Thrombectomy Ready Stroke certification, patients will receive all the services currently offered at a nationally accredited Primary Stroke Center plus additional services including a dedicated ICU, stroke education to staff and EMS, and 24/7 laboratory and CT capabilities, advanced interventional capabilities available within two hours, and interventional thrombectomy (a procedure to remove blood clots).

Office of Racial & Cultural Health Equity

The mission of the Office of Racial and Cultural Health Equity (ORCHE) is to improve the health of socioeconomically disadvantaged populations by developing an organizational infrastructure of programs that address inequities, and creating data and program measures that address disparities, promote equity, and establish health care policies to improve the health of the population. These are essential functions to improve physical and mental health, address health care disparities, and advance health equity.

Significant Accomplishments and Impact in FY23

The Center for Minority Health launched the Activating Relationships in Illinois for Systemic Equity (ARISE) Initiative across the State. The initiative provides \$3.7 million in grant funding to support socioeconomically disadvantaged and historically marginalized communities that were disproportionately impacted by COVID-19. Selected communities engaged in an intensive "learning and doing" capacity building programs to advance health equity in the short, medium, and long term, and projects focused on improving physical and mental health, community conditions, improving social and spiritual wellbeing and addressing root causes.

The Center for Rural Health provided state loan repayment assistance to 58 health care providers, who provided health care services to approximately 87,000 patients.

The Center also placed 30 physicians at medical facilities in Health Professional Shortage Areas through the J-1 Visa Waiver program, providing health care services to approximately 45,000 patients.

Through the State Primary Care Office Assistance Grant, the Center for Rural Health conducted eight outreach events with health professions students, reaching 465 students to promote incentive programs encouraging students to work in rural and underserved areas of Illinois.

Office of Women's Health and Family Services

The Office of Women's Health and Family Services (OWHFS) strives to improve health outcomes of all Illinoisans by providing education and preventative services, increasing health care access, using data to ensure evidence-based practice and policy, and empowering families.

The OWHFS administers state or federally funded programs through three main divisions: Maternal Child Health, Women's Health, and Population Health.

Maternal Child Health

The Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Services Block Grant (Title V): The oldest federal-state partnership to support the health and well-being of pregnant women, children, and families, including those with special health care needs.

Maternal Mortality Review Committees (MMRCs): The MMRCs review detailed case information to identify: the cause of death, if a maternal death is related to pregnancy, if the death is preventable, factors contributing to the death, and data-driven recommendations to prevent future deaths.

Pediatric Mental Health Expansion: The IDPH Title V Program in collaboration with Illinois DocAssist (IDA), the Illinois Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics (ICAAP), and University of Illinois Chicago Academic Internal Medicine (UIC AIM) are working to expand Illinois' existing statewide pediatric mental health program and services.

Illinois Task Force on Infant and Maternal Mortality Among African Americans, (IMMT): Since 2019, this task force has been charged with working to identify and to present key strategies to decrease infant and maternal mortality among African Americans in Illinois.

Division of Women's Health Services

The Illinois Breast and Cervical Cancer Program (IBCCP): The statewide IBCCP offers free breast and cervical cancer screening and diagnostic services for women who are uninsured or underinsured; this service is offered to women 40 and older for breast cancer screening and 21 and older for cervical cancer screening.

The Illinois WISEWOMAN Program (IWP): The IWP is offered in 15 counties in Illinois and is designed to help women enrolled in the IBCCP identify cardiovascular risk factors and reduce their risk for heart disease through a heart-healthy lifestyle.

The Illinois Family Planning Program (IFPP): The IFPP aims to provide high-quality, culturally sensitive Family Planning services to low-income women, men and adolescents who are under-insured, uninsured and insured individuals who may otherwise lack access to healthcare.

Division of Population Health

Ticket for the Cure Grant Program: On July 6, 2005, PA 94-0120 was signed into law, creating the Illinois Ticket for the Cure instant lottery ticket. Net revenue from the sale of this ticket goes to IDPH, OWHFS to award grants to public and private entities in Illinois for the purpose of funding breast cancer research, education, and services for women diagnosed with breast cancer.

Partnership with the Department of Corrections: This program provides specific training and health education to the staff and women housed within the Logan and Decatur Correctional Centers. The OWHFS has also partnered with St. John's Hospital to provide training for health care staff at Logan Correctional Center regarding risk-appropriate care for pregnant women.

In addition to the programs, state and federal funds support various committees and advisory boards that oversee the coordination and execution of these programs.

Significant Accomplishments and Impact in FY23

MMRCs: During FY23, the MMRCs held 11 review meetings and reviewed 95 maternal deaths, the findings from which will be included in the *Illinois Maternal Morbidity and Mortality Report* scheduled for release in FY24 during the planned second Maternal Health Summit.

IBCCP: The IBCCP was awarded a 5-year National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program grant with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to support breast and cervical cancer screening and diagnostic services throughout the state. The IBCCP's non-competitive continuing grant application was successful in securing a \$6.5 million year-2 award to support program operations and grants for 29 lead agencies which the state supports with \$14.8 million General Revenue Funds (GRF) (exceeding the required \$3: \$1 match). The IBCCP reports the following FY23 program performance.

Performance Indicator	Annual Target	Annual Total
Total number of breast cancer screenings	15,100	14,757
Total number of cervical cancer screenings	5,998	5,321
Total number of women served in IBCCP	19,500	16,179

IWP: The Illinois WISEWOMAN Program (IWP) received \$500,000 in year-5 continuing grant funding. The IWP receives \$500,000 in GRF to further support the grants exceeding the required \$3: \$1 match. The IWP reports the following FY23 program performance.

Performance Indicator	Annual Target	Annual Total
Number of eligible women screened for CVD risk factors	975	1,075
Number referred to health coaching and/or lifestyle program((s) 780	680
Number completed health coaching and/or lifestyle program(s) 460	419

Community Public Health Outreach

The Illinois Department of Public Health community outreach work involves the planning, implementation, and evaluation of outreach programs. Responsibilities include the creation of programs for conducting effective outreach to diverse communities, including but not limited to people of various racial and ethnic backgrounds, people with disabilities, immigrants, and people who live in rural communities.

The Community Public Health Outreach team manages the IDPH Community Ambassadors Program, works in close coordination with programmatic areas within IDPH, and establishes and strengthens relationships with communities across the state. The team also works to advance public health and cultural competency, internally and externally, through leadership of the Health Equity Council.

IDPH Community Ambassadors Program

The IDPH Community Ambassadors Program (previously the COVID-19 Ambassadors Program) is the primary outreach vehicle that engages community members across Illinois who serve as volunteers promoting current IDPH efforts by sharing information among their friends, family, neighbors, and community networks.

Initially developed to focus on COVID-19 related issues, the program expanded its scope to include emerging public health issues in 2023. Ambassadors are supplied with tools that allow them to disseminate information within their communities and networks around a variety of topics and health care resources. Currently, the Community Ambassadors Program engages over 900 Ambassadors across Illinois representing 65 of the 102 local counties. These volunteers are trusted messengers in their communities and represent the diversity of Illinois:

Future program efforts will focus on having Community Ambassador representation from all Illinois counties and moving the program to a region-based network model, thereby connecting Ambassadors to public health resources within their individual communities and geographic areas.

Significant Community Events in FY23

In 2023 IDPH participated in several community-facing events across the state. Events ranged from staffing tables at local health fairs, to exhibiting at conferences. Staff volunteered for a record number of events this year with several notable mentions:

Youth Mental Health Roundtable at the Dawoodi Bohra Community of Greater Chicago on May 24, 2023



Juneteenth Parade and Fair in Springfield, IL on June 17, 2023



2023 Chicago Pride Parade on June 25, 2023



The outreach team looks forward to increased opportunities for engagement throughout the state in 2024.

Medical Services Division

The Medical Services Division (MSD) was established in July 2021 to provide consultative medical support to the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH). Since its creation, MSD has worked to grow the capacity of IDPH to coordinate clinical and health care related content and consultations effectively.

In FY23, MSD recruited a State Epidemiologist, a Women's Health Medical Advisor, and two additional regional infection prevention nurses. The added capacity allows the MSD to begin coordinating related efforts across department programs, providing medical and epidemiological guidance and consultations, and building a department-level data management strategy. Increasing the ability of IDPH to educate about and respond to infectious disease risks identified in long term care facilities and other congregate settings, is a major focus of the Division.

Significant Accomplishments and Impact in FY23

In support of IDPH, the division provided educational state-wide webinars for the health care community, local health departments, and community members; completed 1,300 long-term care facility infection prevention consultations; and launched a state-wide onsite COVID-19 consultation, vaccination, and treatment service for long-term care facilities - STATeam, through a competitive bid process.

Educational outreach covered a variety of topic areas including Ebola virus detection, Mpox, healthcare for asylum seekers, congenital syphilis, and infection prevention with a focus on long term care facilities.

MSD facilitated the development or updates of statewide guidance on several issues including health screening protocols for asylum seekers in collaboration with affected LHDs, IEMA, and DHS and regularly updated COVID-19 Guidance for schools, LTCFs, nursing homes, assisted living and other higher risk community congregate care living settings.

Office of Performance Management

The Office of Performance Management (OPM) directs strategic activities and outputs to meet departmental goals as efficiently as possible. Its primary focus is on the department's overall performance, grant programs, and the processes implemented to manage tasks.

The Division of Grants Management and Administration is responsible for maintaining the department's Electronic Grants Administration and Management System (EGrAMS) and the implementation of the Grant Accountability and Transparency Act (GATA). The Division also provides grant management and administrative support to agency staff, partner agencies, and grantees throughout the entire life cycle of the grant process.

Significant Accomplishments and Impact in FY23

In FY23 IDPH achieved Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) reaccreditation. Health department accreditation is the measurement of health department performance against a set of nationally recognized, practice-focused, and evidence-based standards.

In FY 2023 OPM facilitated IDPH's distribution of \$371M total awards which funded 144 grant programs with 1,480 individual awards distributed across the various offices of the department to meet the critical needs of the citizens of Illinois.

IDPH Grant Program Impact

In FY23, IDPH distributed \$371 million in total awards. The amount represents a significant increase in public health funding. The number of grant programs and individual award results are:

	2017	2022	Increase
Grant Amounts	\$155 Million	\$371 Million	139%
Award Quantity	1,294	1,477	14%
Average Award	\$120K	\$250K	110%

These improvements demonstrate the agency's ability to provide larger awards to more recipients in the last five years, as the agency continues to focus on improving public health for all Illinoisans.

IDPH Health Equity Checklist

A basic principle of public health is that all people have a right to health. Differences in the incidence and prevalence of health conditions and health status between groups are commonly referred to as health disparities. Given that social disparities are rooted in institutional structuring, quality and controls of the underlying infrastructure and resource sectors that support the community members, IDPH developed a structured inquiry that allows awardees to self-identify ways to resolve unmet health determinants impacting communities of color.

Objectives of the Health Equity Checklist

To encourage State, County, and Local participating entities to apply an efficacious health equity lens to any proposed intervention strategy designed to address health disparities and/or health inequities.

To utilize the Health Equity Checklist to think through determinants that may have unintended consequences on the health and well-being of community members disparately impacted by COVID-19.

To promote the development of a strategy to address the complex factors that influence health and equity, including educational attainment, housing, transportation, disability accessibility, and neighborhood safety.

To incorporate the checklist as an integral component of any participating entity's strategic development process.

Stakeholder Engagement

IDPH recently launched a grants management training module for grantees in partnership with the Illinois Criminal Information Justice Authority (ICIJA). The goal is to increase engagement with potential grant awardees and to improve their outcomes in successfully securing grant funding from the State of Illinois.

FY23 IDPH Grant Programs

Grant Funds Awarded - \$371 Million 144 Grant Programs

Alzheimer's Grants

Alzheimer's Disease Early Detection & Awareness Campaign Alzheimer's Disease Physician Early Detection Training

Asthma Grants

Asthma Care Quality Improvement
Asthma Control and Health Plans
Asthma Education, Policy, and Care Coverage
Asthma Home Visit Collaboration
Asthma Project ECHO
Coordinated Approach to Reducing Childhood Asthma Disparities
Illinois Asthma Program Large Asthma Consortium

Cancer Grants

Colorectal Cancer Screening
Lung Cancer Screening
Comprehensive Cancer CRC EMR Reminder, Recall, Referral
Comprehensive Cancer Palliative Care
Comprehensive Cancer Prevention CHW Train-the-Trainer
Prostate Cancer Outreach and Screening
Illinois Breast and Cervical Cancer Program
Carolyn Adams Ticket for the Cure - Community Grant

Chronic Disease Grants

Diabetes Research Fund
Kidney Care Program
Multiple Sclerosis Research
Comprehensive Sickle Cell Clinical Care
Sickle Cell Follow Up

Coronavirus Grants

Adult Vaccination Coverage Level

COVID Pilot Hospital based Violence Intervention (HPV)

COVID Pilot Hospital-based Violence Intervention (HBVI)

COVID Pilot Technical Assistance for Hospital-based Violence Intervention

COVID-19 Community Based Testing and Interventions Targeting Minority Population Expansion

COVID-19 Health Equity Program - Promoting Tobacco Cessation and Reducing Tobacco Disparities

COVID-19 Vaccination Grant

Enhancing Telehealth Post-Covid for Adolescent Health Needs

PROJECT Access COVID Tests (ACTs) - Phase II

COVID Homeless Supports

COVID Peer Educator Program

Increasing COVID-19 Outreach in Refugee, Immigrant & Migrant Populations

Environmental Grants

Environmental Health Beach Program WIIN – Day Care Lead Water Testing

Comprehensive Lead Education, Reduction & Window Replacement (CLEAR-Win)

Genetics

Baby – ZZZ Safe Sleep Program Genetic Counseling Genetics Education and Follow Up

Health Promotion Grants

Free and Charitable Clinics

1815 – Capricorn Module

1815 – CHW Strategies

1815 – Critical Access Hospital Strategies

1815 - DPP Toolkit Training

1815 - FQHC Strategies

1815 - Hospital Strategies

1815 - Managed Care Strategies

1815 - Pharmacy Strategies

1815 – Southern Illinois Healthcare Strategies

Access to Care

REACH: Resilience Education to Advance Community Healing

EHDI Parent-to-Parent Support

State Primary Care Office Assistance

Health Protection Grants

LHD DIS Workforce Development Support Grant Comprehensive Health Protection Grant

HIV Grants

African American AIDS Response Act Grant
HIV Prevention Regional Implementation Grant
HIV Self Testing Grant
HOPWA HIV Housing Facility
Minority AIDS Initiative/ADAP Program
Routine HIV Screening Development Grant
Ryan White Part B Community Re-entry Support
Ryan White Part B HIV Care Connect
Ryan White Part B Lead Agents

Hospital Grants

ARPA – Acute Hospital Care at Home Program
Hospital Health Protection – ARPA Grant Program
Hospital Health Protection Grant Program
Legislative Initiative 2023 Alton Memorial Hospital
Improving Quality of Life & Care – Civil Money Penalty Reinvestment
Hospital Preparedness – Pediatric Preparedness
Hospital Preparedness – Regional Hospital Coordinating Center
Hospital Preparedness – IL Medical Emergency Response Team

Immunization Grants

Pediatric Vaccination Coverage Level Tuberculosis Elimination in Uniting for Ukraine

Infectious Disease

Regional Vaccine Summit and Media Campaign
Respiratory Protection Program
Implementation of Core Elements of Antimicrobial Stewardship
Infection Prevention Liaison Program
Interfacility Communication and Infection Prevention Efforts Via XDRO Reg

Mental Health Grants

Emergency Medical Personnel Dementia Core Curriculum Mental Health Training & Resource Grant

Minority Health Grants

Pipeline Program

Communities of Color Special At Risk Population

Illinois Hepatitis B Outreach, Awareness, and Education to Immigrants

Refugee Health Assessment - Other Services

Wellness on Wheels

Oral Health Grants

IQLC - Improving Oral Health in Long Term Care Facilities Bright Smiles from Birth II Oral Health Training Coordination of Oral Health Services Eliminating Barriers to Timely Oral Health Care Improved Access through Mobile Oral Health Services Oral Health Promotion Program Oral Health Workforce Grant

Preparedness and Response

Cities Readiness Initiative
EMS Assistance
HPP - Special Pathogens Grant
HPP-Community Health Centers
Public Health Emergency Preparedness
Statewide 211 Grant

School Health Center Grant

Pre-school Vision and Hearing
Implementation Phase: Increasing School Health Centers
Legacy School Health Center Expansion Grant
School Health Center Grant
Certified Center New Awardee Expansion
Planning Phase: Increasing School Health Centers

Sexually Transmitted Disease Grants

Comprehensive STD Prevention Services STI Syphilis Prevention Services Among MSM Syphilis Prevention Services Among Women

Substance Abuse Grants

Local Health Department Overdoses Surveillance and Response Overdose Prevention - Pre-trial Diversion Rural IL Opioid Overdose Prevention - First Responder Support Post OD Rural IL Opioid Overdose Prevention - Public Safety Involved Linkage to Care Rural IL Opioid Overdose Prevention Initiative - Naloxone Distribution State Unintentional Drug Overdose Reporting

Tobacco Grants

Community-Based Reducing Tobacco-Related Disparities Grant Illinois Tobacco Quitline Illinois Tobacco-Free Communities Smoke-Free Illinois Act Enforcement Grant

Violence/Injury & Harm Reduction

Harm Reduction Community Linkages Project Suicide Prevention Project ECHO Rape and Sexual Assault Prevention Rape Prevention and Education Summit and Zero Suicide Prevention Grant Violent Death Reporting System

Women and Children Health Grants Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Fetal Infant Mortality Mini Maternal and Child Health Services Reach Out and Read Illinois Statewide Mammography Grant Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Perinatal Mental Health Program MCH Technical Assistance, Training & Education Adolescent Health Program Illinois Administrative Perinatal Center Grant Illinois Family Planning Program - Competitive Special Illinois Family Planning Program Illinois Perinatal Quality Collaborative Illinois Wisewoman Program Implementation Phase: Increasing Well-Woman Visits – Community Grant

Planning Phase: Increasing Well-Woman Visits – Community Grant

MCH ACEs Grant Program

Office of Finance and Administration

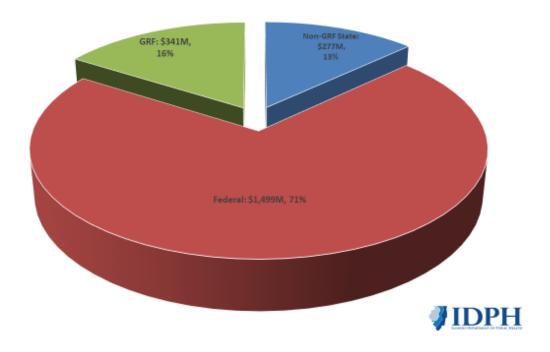
FY23 Key Activities

- Continued to leverage federal COVID-19 funding for response and reaction to outbreaks.
- Added additional positions to strengthen public health infrastructure.
- Added \$1 million to Alzheimer's disease education and outreach program.
- Community Health Worker program enhanced due to \$2.5 million in new funding.
- Sickle Cell Prevention Care and Treatment Program received \$1 million in new funding.

Budget Comparisons: FY2022 to FY2023 (millions)

Funding Source	FY2023 Budget	FY2024 Budget	Change	
			\$	%
General Revenue (GRF)	\$297	\$341	\$44	15%
State Non-GRF Funds	\$251	\$277	\$26	10%
Federal	\$2,495	\$1,499	(\$996)	(40%)
Total	\$3,043	\$2,117	(\$926)	(30%)

FY2023 IDPH Final Appropriations \$3,043 Million



FY24 Goals

- Establish a hotline for those seeking abortion services with providers, expand training opportunities for primary care providers in abortion services, increase access to specialty consultation for abortion providers, and fund a legislatively established Abortion Care Clinical Training Program.
- Invest in replacing critical IT systems Illinois National Electronic Disease Surveillance System (INEDSS) and Long-Term Care systems.
- Provide support to frontline pediatric care providers with training and tools necessary to provide integrated mental health services and treatment.
- Improve public health communications on varying subjects, including culturally appropriate messaging to reduce health disparities.
- Expand "Safe Sleep," Quit Line, and Asthma programs.
- Provide scholarships and repayment programs according to the Equity and Representation in Healthcare Act (110 ILCS 932: PA 102-0942).

Moving Forward in FY24: Proposed Budget Highlights

- \$8.5 million for response to potential public health emergencies and threats.
- \$45.0 million for critical IT system replacements.
- \$1.0 million for health equity zone creation.
- Additional \$1.0 million for Local Health Departments.
- \$18 million for abortion hotline, training providers, and programming.

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

EMSC 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

IBCCP Illinois Breast and Cervical Cancer Program

ICAAP Illinois Chapter - American Academy of Pediatrics
ICCCP Illinois Comprehensive Cancer Control Program
ICIJA Illinois Criminal Information Justice Authority

HFS Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services

IDA Illinois DocAssist

IEMA 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

WWSS Illinois Wastewater Surveillance System

IWP Illinois WISEWOMAN Program

ICARS Infection Control Assessment Reviews

IRB Institutional Review BoardLHDs Local Health DepartmentsLTCF Long Term Care FacilitiesMCH 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 New Born Screening
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 & Response

OWHFS Office of Women's Health and Family Services

OAPP Opioid Alternative Pilot Program

OHS Oral Health Section

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 STI Sexually Transmitted Illness

SEOC State Emergency Operations Center

SHA State Health Assessment

SHIP State Health Improvement Plan SNS Strategic National Stockpile

UIC AIM University of Illinois at Chicago Academic Internal Medicine

UIC P3R University of Illinois at Chicago School of Public Health Policy, Practice and Prevention Research Center

VIPS Violence and Injury Prevention Section

WOW Wellness on Wheels