Building Bridges to Better Health
To protect and promote health and to prevent illness, disability and premature death among all residents of suburban Cook County.
The Cook County Department of Public Health is the state certified public health agency for suburban Cook County exclusive of the cities of Chicago, Evanston, Skokie and Oak Park and Stickney Township where state certified public health departments are operated by the local unit of government. CCDPH serves the people of its jurisdiction from four district offices, as well as many community and mobile sites. CCDPH is the official agency of county government that strives to meet the public health needs of its citizens through effective and efficient disease prevention and health promotion programs.

CCDPH is one of seven affiliates of the Cook County Bureau of Health Services. The Bureau’s seven affiliates include the Ambulatory and Community Health Network of Cook County, Cermak Health Services of Cook County, Cook County Department of Public Health, The Ruth M. Rothstein CORE Center, John H. Stroger, Jr. Hospital of Cook County, Oak Forest Hospital of Cook County and Provident Hospital of Cook County. The scope of healthcare services provided ranges from preventive and primary care, prenatal care, communicable diseases and environmental health to long-term care, rehabilitation and geriatric medicine. The Bureau is a leader in innovative health programs that target those diseases and conditions that disproportionately impact the populations that it serves, such as: asthma, diabetes, HIV AIDS, trauma, cancer, high risk pregnant women and babies.
Welcome to the Cook County Department of Public Health 2003 Annual Report, “Building Bridges to Better Health.”

How do we construct the bridges to better health in suburban Cook County? We do so through a multi-step process that requires us, first of all, to meet with our communities. Building bridges means creating new partnerships and strengthening old relationships with municipal leaders, businesses and organizations. And, building bridges means initiating and promoting health services to the underserved while we engage the community at large in the work of public health.

Among our accomplishments in 2003:

- Our Community Preparedness and Response Unit created new partnerships with first responders and community leaders to develop plans for any emergency in suburban Cook County — from responding to natural disasters — to unforeseen intentional acts.

- The effects of tobacco and second-hand smoke cause thousands of deaths and illnesses yearly. Our efforts included community coalition building to make the public aware of the dangers of smoking.

- To prevent more cases of West Nile virus, we sent our Environmental Health Services staff to neighborhoods to survey areas where the virus was most prevalent in 2002 and to inform homeowners of steps they could take to eliminate mosquito breeding in 2003.

- Our Health Promotion Unit created the South Suburban Regional Coalition to address the second leading cause of preventable deaths in the U. S. — obesity.

Simply put, our mission as a local health department is to improve our community’s health. Our job is to provide vital health services and programs to all suburban Cook County residents. We will continue to work hard to build those bridges connecting us to the community as we continue to honor our mission to prevent illness and death in suburban Cook County.

Stephen A. Martin, Jr., Ph.D, M.P.H.
Chief Operating Officer

Ruth M. Rothstein, Chief
Cook County Bureau of Health Services


Women, Infants and Children, or WIC, is a national nutrition education program for pregnant women, new mothers and young children. WIC’s goal is to reduce health risks for children by providing mothers with coupons to buy healthy foods, information about nutrition and health, support for breastfeeding and assistance in finding health care and other community services.

The CCDPH WIC program, the second largest in Illinois, encourages mothers to breastfeed their infants. For the mothers, breastfeeding minimizes post-pregnancy complications, as well as long-term risks for breast cancer; at the same time providing the most complete source of nutrition for infants. Because breastfeeding protects babies from a variety of illnesses, such as diarrhea and infant botulism, breastfeeding reduces health care costs. WIC case managers instruct mothers on how to properly breastfeed their babies and also provide new mothers with breast pumps to express their milk.

In 2003, the CCDPH WIC Breastfeeding Initiative was a recipient of an Illinois Department of Public Health award for encouraging mothers to breastfeed their babies and for providing continuous support, assistance and guidance throughout the breastfeeding experience. The breastfeeding program is a perfect example of what can be gained for life by providing essential health services before birth.

Depending on participation, eligible pregnant women may receive WIC services up to one year after the birth of the child, and children can remain active recipients of WIC benefits up to five years of age.

Available at 13 sites throughout suburban Cook, CCDPH WIC services are dedicated to improving pregnancy outcomes, ensuring that every child born in suburban Cook County begins life with the highest hopes of becoming a healthy adult.

### IHSS CASE MANAGEMENT SERVICES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Average Monthly Caseload</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Delay in Subsequent Pregnancy Program</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Case Management</td>
<td>17,401</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Targeted Intensive Prenatal Case Management</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harvey</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bellwood/Maywood</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Average Monthly Caseload</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Healthy Families</td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Problem Pregnancy</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teen Parenting Program</td>
<td>164</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Childhood is a time to learn and to explore. For children who suffer from hearing or vision loss it can be a time of confusion. According to statistics from the Society to Prevent Blindness, one in four school-age children have vision problems. More than a million school-aged children have a hearing loss that can significantly impact speech and language development and education. Very often, these problems go unnoticed because neither child nor parent recognizes there is a problem.

That is why CCDPH provides screenings for hearing and vision — to detect any problems before they can seriously impact a child’s life.

Each year, CCDPH performs vision screenings on thousands of children in schools and daycare programs. Children who fail two screenings are then referred for a follow-up vision exam by an eye care professional. Unfortunately, many families do not have insurance coverage or the financial means to obtain eye exams and eyeglasses if prescribed.

Thanks to a partnership among CCDPH, the Illinois Department of Public Health and the Illinois Society to Prevent Blindness, children in need of vision care are given exams, glasses and financial assistance. In 2003, 46 clinical exams were given to children in need, with 42 receiving assistance with payment for eyeglasses.

As with vision, hearing tests are important because very often children, as well as parents, are unaware that there is a problem. Screenings can identify children most likely to have hearing impairment that may interfere with development, communication, health and education. School age children with even minimal hearing loss are at risk for academic and communication difficulties.

The majority of hearing problems in children are reversible with treatment as the two most common causes of hearing loss are ear infection with fluid and wax build-up which causes obstruction of the ear canal. If a child fails a hearing test, a referral is made to an ear specialist for an otological exam and an audiologist for a more comprehensive hearing test. If further treatment is needed, a counselor from the Division of Specialized Care for Children will assist the family with medical and financial needs. The clinics are a joint effort of the Illinois Department of Public Health, DSCC and CCDPH. In 2003, 58 children were referred to an ear specialist for follow-up testing.
The Cook County Department of Public Health is committed to providing dental health services for children. Unfortunately, not every child has the opportunity to access these services, creating a disparity between prevention efforts and a healthy outcome. To bridge the gap between services and accessibility, CCDPH initiated a school-based sealant program in 1983. It was the first of its kind nationwide.

The Preventive Dental Health School-Based Sealant Program, which celebrated 20 years of service in the fall of 2003, is a traveling dental service that provides sealants and prevention services for children at schools throughout suburban Cook County.

In 2003, the dentist’s chair was brought to classrooms in 24 school districts where 10 to 15 children per school received complete dental examinations, as well as referrals to other health programs. By taking services directly to those otherwise unable to receive care, the school-based sealant program is a novel way of meeting the public health needs of children.

Dental sealants, plastic coatings for teeth that act as decay barriers, are easily applied by a dentist during a regular exam. Providing sealants to prevent tooth decay is one of the first steps to ensuring good oral health. In many cases, tooth decay can be the first sign of malnutrition, drug abuse or domestic violence.

Sealants are only one part of a complete exam that includes a cleaning, fluoride treatment and if needed, referrals for other health services. The benefits achieved in a single appointment can have a lasting effect on a child’s overall health.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DENTAL HEALTH SERVICES 2003 HIGHLIGHTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>To reduce the number of suburban Cook County residents affected by oral cancer, Dental Health Services established a Cook County Oral Cancer Task Force comprised of representatives from the federal, state and local levels.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Through a partnership with CEDA Head Start, children and families participating in Head Start received preventive and restorative dental care.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dental Health Services participated in the American Dental Association’s first annual, Give Kids a Smile Program, working to provide free dental care to qualifying children.</td>
</tr>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dental Client Clinic Visits</th>
<th>10,959</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dental Sealant Program</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sealants Placed</td>
<td>11,476</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Most parents work hard to keep their children healthy and protected. That’s why the news of a lead-poisoned child can be devastating. In many cases there are no visible symptoms of illness or any indication that the child has lead in the blood. But lead poisoning can slow a child’s development and cause lifelong learning and behavior problems.

Lead, a toxic metal now prohibited from production in home goods in the United States, is found in over 80 percent of all homes built before 1978. Deteriorating lead-based paint, lead dust and contaminated soil remain the most common sources of childhood lead exposure. Young children eat, chew and suck on lead-painted surfaces they can reach, like window sills and railings. Dirt and dust sometimes have lead in them, as do the fumes and dust stirred up during home renovation. Children under the age of six are at highest risk for suffering severe damage from lead exposure because their bodies are still growing. The only way to know for sure if a child is lead-poisoned is through a blood test.

In the last decade there have been dramatic improvements in reducing lead in the environment, but there are still nearly one million U.S. children with elevated blood lead levels — about 18,000 in Cook County.

CCDPH is working to meet the goal of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to eliminate childhood lead poisoning in the United States by 2010. Our Lead Poisoning Prevention Unit (LPPU) administers the Lead-Based Paint Hazard Control Grant Program, which helps families with lead poisoned children and/or property owners who are cited for lead hazards on their property. The program assists property owners in reducing and/or eliminating lead hazards from the immediate environment and aids in reducing the blood lead levels of the child(ren) exposed to those lead hazards.

For the 2003–2005 grant cycle, CCDPH made $5.2 million available to governmental entities and not-for-profit organizations for the administration of lead hazard reduction programs. In all, 186 units were serviced throughout Cook County through the Lead-Based Paint Hazard Control Grant program. Grant recipients included the City of Chicago, City of Evanston, City of Oak Park and Community and Economic Development Association Inc. (CEDA).

The CCDPH LPPU is dedicated to combating lead hazards throughout Cook County.

| Lead Education and Outreach | 40 |
| Children Tested | 22,527 |
| Children with Elevated Blood Levels Requiring Follow-up | 192 |
| Lead-Based Paint Hazard Control Program | 186 |

LEAD POISONING PREVENTION SERVICES 2003 HIGHLIGHTS

- The Lead Poisoning Prevention Unit successfully completed its first grant cycle for the Lead-Based Paint Hazard Control Program. This program is designed to assist property owners with the abatement and mitigation of lead in their homes, thereby reducing the exposure to lead hazards in Cook County. In 2003, the CCDPH LPPU administered the distribution of $5.2 million dollars to municipalities and not-for-profit organizations, who in turn were able to service 186 units.

- Home Depot in Broadview and the Lead Unit teamed up during June, July and August to present lead hazard information for shoppers.
Respiratory illnesses, ear infections, asthma, lung cancer...these are but a few of the realities associated with second-hand smoke. Most people consider second-hand smoke a nuisance, but few realize the real danger.

CCDPH Tobacco Prevention and Control Unit is dedicated to protecting suburban Cook County residents from second-hand smoke by working with communities to reduce exposure in the workplace, home and car. The “Take It Outside!” campaign was developed in 2001 to raise public awareness about the dangers of exposure to second-hand smoke and increase the number of smoke-free environments in suburban Cook County.

A variety of methods including advertising, community presentations, educational materials, coalition development and a smoke-free business program are used to educate residents and businesses about the benefits of a smoke-free environment and the risks associated with second-hand smoke.

It was a year of progress for clean-indoor air efforts in Illinois and the “Take It Outside!” campaign. Both Skokie and Wilmette passed the first smoke-free clean-indoor ordinances in the state, eliminating smoking in all workplaces. Fulfilling the campaign mission to develop coalitions, the Tobacco Prevention and Control Unit organized residents and community organizations from the Arlington Heights Smoke-Free Coalition. This group continued to make great strides for a smoke-free Arlington Heights by gathering community support, educating residents, advertising in the local newspapers and giving presentations.

The Unit also distributed certificates to 100-percent smoke-free restaurants in recognition of their efforts to protect both patrons and workers from the harmful effects of second-hand smoke. In addition, ceremonies were held with local officials in Park Ridge, Melrose Park, and Maywood to acknowledge restaurants in communities that are 100 percent smoke-free.

The “Take It Outside!” campaign worked to educate residents about the health effects associated with exposure to second-hand smoke and helped to increase the number of smoke-free environments in suburban Cook County.
The classroom is no longer a place of purely academic pursuits. Strong language and acts of aggression by students are disruptive to the teaching process, causing teachers to focus on the subject of violence rather than reading, writing and arithmetic. Through PAX (Good Behavior) games, CCDPH Violence Prevention Specialists are building bridges to better, safer education in the classroom by teaching positive interaction skills to students and instructors.

The Pax Game, a behavior management tool used in conjunction with daily lesson plans is intended to decrease classroom disruptions and promote a positive classroom environment.

Research conducted over the past 30 years has shown a decreased likelihood in involvement in substance abuse and juvenile delinquency for students receiving Pax instruction as well as more active involvement in the classroom due to decreases in disturbances.

The game is intended to be played during regular instructional time. For example, if the teacher is in the middle of a lesson and finds that the students are distracted and disruptive, the teacher may choose to start the game immediately. When the teacher notices a “spleem,” or a disruption, a mark is placed by the student’s team on the “spleem chart.” The team with the least number of spleems at the end of the day is awarded a prize.

In 2003, teachers who used PAX games in their classrooms reported a 50 percent decrease in disruptions and a 25 percent increase in teaching time. During the school year, the program reached over 1,200 students in grades K–4 in Districts 88 and 89.

By fostering a classroom environment that supports and rewards positive behavior, CCDPH is giving instructors the tools to help students work amicably with others.
Every year millions of people are affected by the flu, a common infectious illness that causes fever, cough, sore throat and fatigue. As common as flu is, it can be a serious illness for the very young, elderly and people who have weakened immune systems. In fact, the flu is blamed for up to 40,000 deaths and over 100,000 hospitalizations yearly in the United States.

To minimize illness and death, CCDPH promotes and encourages immunization against the flu through a yearly public awareness campaign that includes radio, television, the print media and community outreach. Our normal flu vaccination program is heavily promoted between October and December, when CCDPH generally immunizes about 3,000 residents and provides 9,000 more doses to community organizations, municipal health departments and health-based agencies, such as the American Lung Association.

In the late fall of 2003, widespread flu affected the western U.S., causing a number of deaths, surprisingly, in young children. As stories about the illness dominated broadcast and print media and the number of infected people in our area rose, demand for the vaccination increased. Concerned that a large outbreak could spread to the suburban Cook County area, immunization staff made sure that additional vaccine for adults and children was available. CCDPH secured over 4,000 extra doses of injectable vaccine, as well as Flu-Mist, a nasal vaccine.

CCDPH vaccinated as many people in a two-week period as it normally would in two months. Hundreds of people lined up at CCDPH clinics to receive vaccinations: 835 people at our North District site in Rolling Meadows on December 12, and over 700 people at our South District clinic in Markham on December 16. Throughout that time, CCDPH collaborated with county and municipal first responders, including Sheriff’s Police and local law enforcement to ensure the safety of residents entering clinics.

Even though flu is not a reportable disease, CCDPH Communicable Disease staff stepped up surveillance efforts and monitored hospitals, physician offices and schools to evaluate the onset, progression and decline of the flu outbreak.

Through an agency effort that involved Nursing, Communicable Disease, Community Preparedness, Health Education and Public Information units, as well as state and local health departments, we were able to immunize those who needed protection the most, bridging the gap between illness and good health.

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**COMMUNICABLE DISEASE CONTROL SERVICES 2003 HIGHLIGHTS**

- CCDPH hosted the 2003 Communicable Disease Conference featuring presentations on HIV Surveillance and Prevention, SARS, Syphilis Elimination and infection control issues.
- Investigation of 493 central nervous system infections resulted in four cases of West Nile virus. Since the 1975 outbreak of St. Louis encephalitis, human arboviral surveillance is part of the CCDPH mosquito-borne illness control plan.
- CD staff investigated several suspect cases of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS). Although no positive cases were detected, CCDPH created a SARS Preparedness Plan, to respond to any outbreaks of the highly infectious disease.
- CD Update, a newly created newsletter for infectious disease professionals, rolled off the press in 2003. The CD Update is sent to hospitals and health departments to inform them of CCDPH CD activities. The newsletter is also available on our website: www.cookcountypublichealth.org.

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**REPORTED COMMUNICABLE DISEASES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Disease</th>
<th>Reports</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AIDS</td>
<td>124</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIV</td>
<td>176</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chlamydia</td>
<td>5,586</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Giardia</td>
<td>102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gonorrhea</td>
<td>2,403</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Syphilis</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Congenital</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foodborne Illness</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complaints</td>
<td>139</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E. Coli 0157:H7</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salmonella</td>
<td>312</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hepatitis A</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hepatitis B</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acute Carriers</td>
<td>586</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Measles</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pertussis</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meningitis/Bacteremia</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H. influenza</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N. Meningitis</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Streptococcus Pneumoniae</td>
<td>206</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Nile (meningitis/encephalitis/ West Nile fever)</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Outreach efforts are an integral part of the work conducted by the HIV prevention team. Through a collaborative partnership among CCDPH and 15 community-based organizations, a network of free, anonymous HIV testing and counseling service sites are provided for people who may be at high-risk.

Bringing testing sites to the people enables the prevention team to tightly target those who might not seek testing on their own. Testing is provided at places that are familiar and convenient — such as gay bars, methadone treatment programs and feeding sites. By offering prevention services at community sites, the prevention team increases HIV awareness and makes testing comfortable and familiar to clients.

Every clinic visitor receives a pre-test counseling session, HIV swab testing and post-test counseling which provides information and resources for protecting themselves and others from disease. In addition, clients in need of further medical care are able to obtain referrals to CCDPH health clinics, community support groups, insurance programs and private physicians.

In 2003, CCDPH HIV services provided counseling and testing to 533 individuals — nearly 100 percent received their services at outreach sites in the community. Because outreach brings testing to those who might not otherwise seek it, more than 500 people became aware of their HIV status and gained the ability to protect themselves and others.

The Syphilis Elimination Initiative, a program designed to combat rising syphilis infection rates, expanded outreach to targeted communities via community-based organizations. CCDPH aids these organizations by providing testing, counseling and partner notification services and encouraging people who test positive to seek treatment.

To protect those at high-risk of acquiring preventable disease, STD prevention programs were enhanced by the implementation of Hepatitis A and Hepatitis B immunizations in CCDPH clinics.
Environmental Health Services

Environmental Health Services 2003 Highlights

- Environmental Health staff ensured the safety of more than 40,000 spectators at the U.S. Open Golf Tournament in Olympia Fields by inspecting more than 80 food vendors at the event.

- Environmental Health, in conjunction with other CCDPH units, invited local municipalities and the four Mosquito Abatement Districts in suburban Cook County to participate in a West Nile virus educational conference held at Brookfield Zoo.

- In an effort to reduce future human West Nile virus cases, Environmental Health inspectors surveyed homes to identify areas of standing water and other environmental hazards in areas affected by West Nile virus in 2002. Identification of these areas allowed for targeted health education efforts in 2003, which focused on teaching residents to take early prevention measures. CCDPH continued its “Fight the Bite” campaign in 2003.

Day Care Facilities
Inspections Performed 402

Food Service Establishment/Retail Food Stores
Intergovernmental Agreements
Communities Served 29
Food Facilities 1,456
Inspections Performed 2,200
Plans Reviewed 23

Unincorporated Areas
Enforcement Actions 1
Inspections Performed 575
Licenses Issued 189
Plans Reviewed 6

Lead Abatement
Compliance Letters Initiated 67
Follow up inspections 100
Total Inspections Performed 167

Manufactured Home Parks
Inspections Performed 74
Licenses Issued 32

Nuisance Complaints
Complaints Received 70
Inspections and Enforcement Actions 234

Swimming Pools and Spas
Inspections Performed 1,389
Private Pool/Spa Plans Approved 45

Water Supplies
Analysis Opinions Rendered 833
Water Samples Collected
Non-community 545
Private 15

Private Sewage Disposal Systems
Installation Inspections Performed 44
Lot Surveys Performed 126
Plans Processed 132
Witnessed Percolation Tests Performed 29

Septic Tank Cleaners
Permits Issued 70
Truck Inspections Performed 109

Tanning Facilities
Inspections Performed 150

Tobacco
Licenses Issued 79

Wells/Sewage Disposal Systems
Abandoned Wells
Sealing Requests Received 264
Wells Sealed 192

Existing Non-community Wells
Surveys Performed 137

New Wells
Inspections Performed 176
Permits Issued 181

Well/Septic System Mortgage Evaluations
Evaluations Requested 15
Inspections Performed 11
Water Samples Collected 14
...we achieved our goal:
We are more prepared today
than ever before

Health Promotion

The Health Promotion Unit is dedicated to working in partnership with suburban Cook County communities and other CCDPH units to promote healthier lifestyles through awareness and education, programming and community development.

Unit programs are always changing and adapting to meet the needs of our communities, and our ability to create these programs is dependent on resources.

Health Promotion staff works with community partners to:

- Build and expand coalitions
- Determine assets and gaps in services
- Coordinate resources
- Provide resources and referrals
- Plan and implement appropriate programs

The unit holds educational workshops on topics such as:

- Healthy eating
- Exercise
- Chronic disease
- Reproductive/sexual health in both school and community settings

HEALTH PROMOTION 2003 HIGHLIGHTS

- The unit known as Community and School Health Education became the Health Promotion Unit. The new unit focuses on addressing chronic diseases such as diabetes, obesity and cancer through education, programming and community development.
- Health Promotion staff established the South Suburban Regional Coalition to address obesity in south suburban Cook County.
- The unit distributed nearly 900 car seats to parents and caregivers and provided classes on the use and installation of car safety seats.
It was all over the news. In May, 2003, CCDPH participated in the largest public health disaster drill ever executed. The exercise, entitled “TOPOFF2,” occurred May 12-16, and was intended to test how local, state and federal agencies respond to a weapons of mass destruction incident.

The scenario called for a fictitious dirty bomb explosion in Seattle, a plane crash at Chicago’s Midway Airport and a bomb explosion in suburban Cook County. CCDPH’s responsibility was to coordinate a regional response to a bioterrorist attack involving the release of pneumonic plague at Union Station, O’Hare Airport and the United Center.

During TOPOFF2, Public Health had to do what it already does well: identify and control the outbreak; medicate the exposed population; and inform the public of critical health information. The difference between real life and TOPOFF: Public Health had to work with the idea that tens of thousands of people were infected with plague.

TOPOFF2 exercise planning was managed through the newly formed Community Preparedness and Coordination Unit. The CPCU was created with the intent of preparing CCDPH communities to respond to a public health emergency or bioterrorism event, similar to events rehearsed in TOPOFF2.

The CCDPH Communicable Disease, Nursing and Communication Units worked with hospitals, health departments and municipalities to share and provide information during the incident. The Cook County Sheriff’s Emergency Management Agency along with the Sheriff’s Police and the County Medical Examiner became our partners in the event, helping to receive, transport and secure the Strategic National Stockpile, a national reserve of pharmaceuticals to be used in a large biological event.

One of the major goals for the CPCU is to work with local communities to develop an effective rapid response plan to emergency situations. The Village of Bridgeview made available the John A. Oremus Center to use as our dispensing site, along with the essential equipment, staff and volunteers to help prepare and operate our clinic.

TOPOFF2 was an exercise intended to help prepare CCDPH for a bioterrorist event and we achieved our goal: We are more prepared today than ever before.
...our mission as a local health department is to improve our community’s health

Cook County Appropriations: $17,913,937
Grants/Contracts/Service Fees: $24,173,853

TOTAL: $42,087,790

Operating Budget 2003
Executive Staff

Back (From left to right)
Karen Lewandowski, R.N., M.S., Associate Administrator for Human Resources
William Lewis, Director of Physical Plant
Richard Scott III, M.A., M.S.W., Director of Prevention Services
Sean McDermott, Director of Public Policy, Planning and Government Relations

Front (From left to right)
Noreen Lanahan, Director of Financial Control
Stephen A. Martin, Jr., Ph.D., M.P.H., Chief Operating Officer
Dorothy Lucas, M.D., M.P.H., Medical Director

Not Pictured: Frank Barnes, Assistant Operating Officer
Senior Staff

Back (From left to right)
Michael Vernon, Dr.Ph., Director of Infectious Disease
Catherine Counard, M.D., M.P.H., Assistant Medical Director, Communicable Disease
Valerie Webb, M.P.H., Assistant Health Officer
Thomas Varchmin, M.S., L.E.H.P., Director of Environmental Health
Steven Seweryn, M.P.H., Director of Epidemiology
Kitty Loewy, Director of Communications
Ebony Lynch, M.P.H., Assistant Health Officer
Sharon Perlman, D.D.S., M.P.H., Director of Dental Health
James Bloyd, M.P.H., Assistant Health Officer

Front (From left to right)
Stephanie W. Smith, M.D., M.P.H., Director of Communicable Disease
Stephen A. Martin, Jr., Ph.D., M.P.H., Chief Operating Officer
Sandra Martell, R.N., M.S., Director of Integrated Health Support
Cook County Board of Commissioners
John H. Stroger, Jr.
President

Jerry Butler
Forrest Claypool
Earlean Collins
John P. Daley
Elizabeth Ann Doody Gorman
Gregg Goslin
Carl R. Hansen
Roberto Maldonado

Joseph Mario Moreno
Joan P. Murphy
Anthony J. Peraica
Mike Quigley
Peter N. Silvestri
Deborah Sims
Bobbie L. Steele
Larry Suffredin

Cook County Bureau of Health Services
Ruth M. Rothstein
Chief

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312 633 6000

Cermak Health Services of Cook County
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773 890 9300

Oak Forest Hospital of Cook County
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Oak Forest, IL 60452
708 687 7200

Cook County Department of Public Health
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Oak Park, IL 60301
708 492 2000

Provident Hospital of Cook County
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Chicago, IL 60608
312 572 2000

The Ruth M. Rothstein Core Center of Cook County
2020 W. Harrison St.
Chicago, IL 60612
312 572 4500

We Bring Health CARE to Your Community