

2011 Annual Report



Snapshots of Public Health



**COOK COUNTY HEALTH
& HOSPITALS SYSTEM**
CCHHS

**Cook County Department
of Public Health**

Promoting health. Preventing disease.
Protecting you.

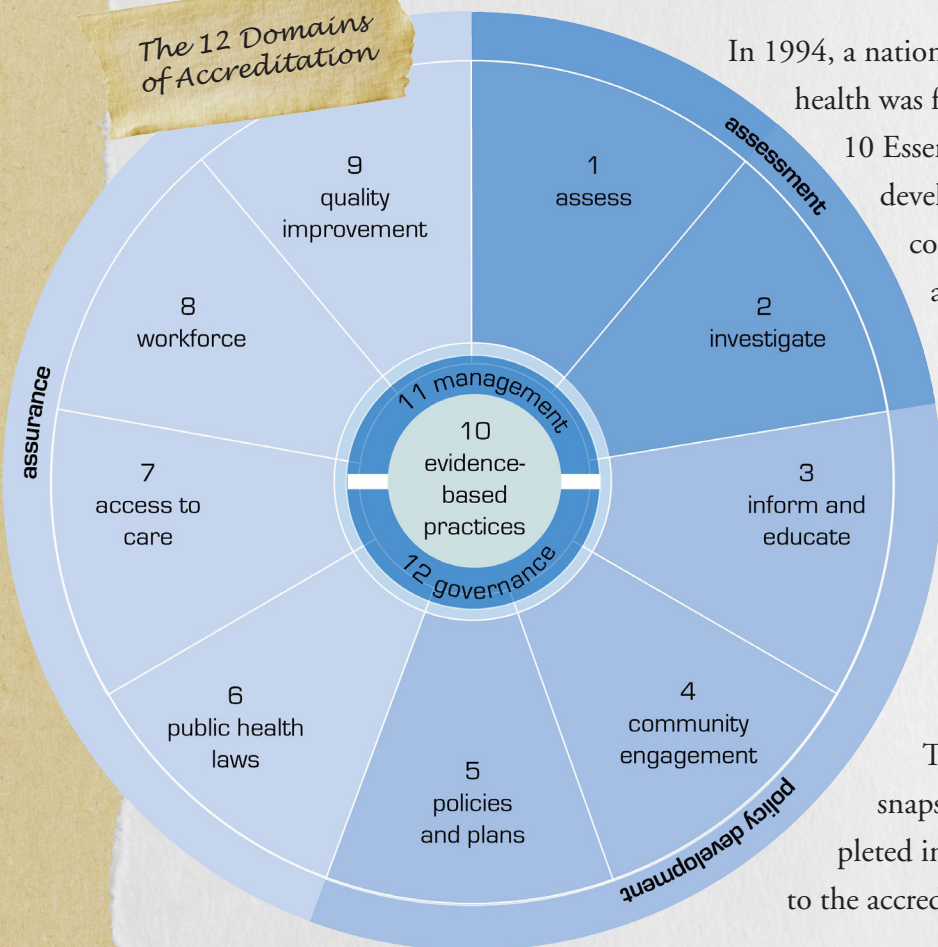
Letter from the Director



In this 2011 Cook County Department of Public Health (CCDPH) annual report, "Snapshots of Public Health Through the Lens of Accreditation," we are taking a different approach in how we explain the work of CCDPH. The journey toward voluntary, national accreditation through the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) began in 2011 with the goal of advancing the quality and demonstrating accountability of our work. To become accredited, CCDPH must meet national standards of quality, excellence and leadership in 12 domains.

The 12 domains represented in the wheel below are comprised of the 10 Essential Public Health Services and the three core functions of public health. The three core functions of public health have been widely accepted since 1988 when the Institutes of Medicine released a report on the future of public health.

The 12 Domains of Accreditation



In 1994, a national working definition of public health was further developed when the 10 Essential Public Health Services were developed and framed within the three core functions to provide an overarching framework for local public health departments. PHAB accreditation provides a standardized way to measure the success of the essential services for public health departments seeking the accreditation designee. PHAB also includes: administration and management, and governance.

This annual report provides brief snapshots of some of the work completed in 2011 with details on how it relates to the accreditation process. CCDPH has more



than 300 employees serving approximately 2.5 million residents in 129 municipalities. There are not enough snapshots to fully represent the work we do to protect our residents. Some of the other highlights not included in this report for 2011 include advancement in emergency preparedness as we worked with the First Responder Taskforce to develop an Alternate Pharmaceutical Dispensing Plan for At-Risk Populations, a first of its kind Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance Survey results for suburban Cook County and an anti-tobacco campaign for youth called "That's Just Nasty."



As the state certified local public health department for suburban Cook County, we protect the health of our residents through education, promotion of healthy lifestyles, and research for disease and injury prevention. Earning the accreditation designation will provide our work with an additional standard of quality and accountability that mirrors that of accredited health departments across the nation.



CCDPH created this logo to communicate our commitment to continual quality improvement, excellence and leadership through the pursuit of PHAB accreditation.

The accreditation process is a 5-year cycle. As such, CCDPH will continue to report annually within this framework to demonstrate our success and possible areas for improvement so you, our suburban Cook County residents, can take the journey with us as we endeavor toward PHAB accreditation.

Sincerely,

Sandra Martell

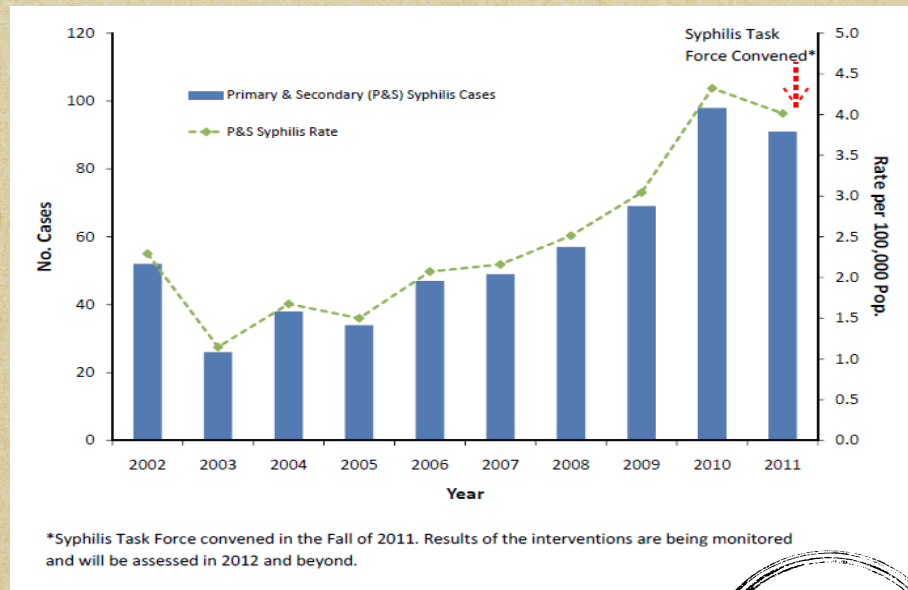
Sandra Martell, RN, DNP
Interim Chief Operating Officer
Cook County Department of Public Health

Domain 1 Assess

In 2011, an assessment of surveillance data identified an alarming trend; increasing rates of syphilis in suburban Cook County. The Communicable Disease Control Unit convened a multidisciplinary task force to address this serious public health problem.

After the public health problem was identified through routine review of surveillance data, an analysis of the data highlighted non-Hispanic black males between the ages of 20-24 as the population most impacted. An evidence-based action plan was developed and implemented, and performance measures were put in place to continuously monitor and assess the impact of the interventions.

Syphilis is a sexually transmitted infection (STI) passed from person to person through direct contact with a syphilis sore. Left untreated, syphilis can lead to serious complications including paralysis, dementia, and death. Pregnant women can pass the infection to their babies and syphilis sores make it easier to transmit other STIs including HIV. The activities of the Syphilis Task Force are important to the public because they demonstrate the critical role of CCDPH in analyzing data to identify disease trends, and the value in implementing interventions to reduce morbidity and mortality in the community. The Syphilis Task Force was created to increase awareness, testing, and reporting of syphilis among CCDPH residents, community partners, physicians, community-based organizations, and laboratories. The goal of the Syphilis Task Force is to decrease the incidence of syphilis in suburban Cook County.



Domain 2 Investigate

Each year, CCDPH conducts surveillance of diseases and health issues in suburban Cook County and conducts outbreak investigations to identify the cause of the disease, control the spread and eliminate the risk of illness to others.

In the fall of 2011, CCDPH staff found a cluster of cases of Giardiasis in an area or north suburban Cook County. Giardiasis is a common diarrheal disease, but symptoms can be severe for the very young, the elderly and those with weakened immune systems. Giardiasis can be spread from person to person. In the past, outbreaks were linked to treated and untreated recreational water. The neighborhood in question had a treated swimming pool and spa, and a lake with a bathing beach.

The confidential interviews of ill persons showed the people who became ill had used the bathing beach and lake area. CCDPH Communicable Disease Control Unit (CD) investigators worked with the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) to determine the likely source was recreational water at the site of the affected community. CCDPH Environmental Health Unit (EH) staff also inspected the food service, swimming pool, and spa to rule them out as possible sources of the illness.

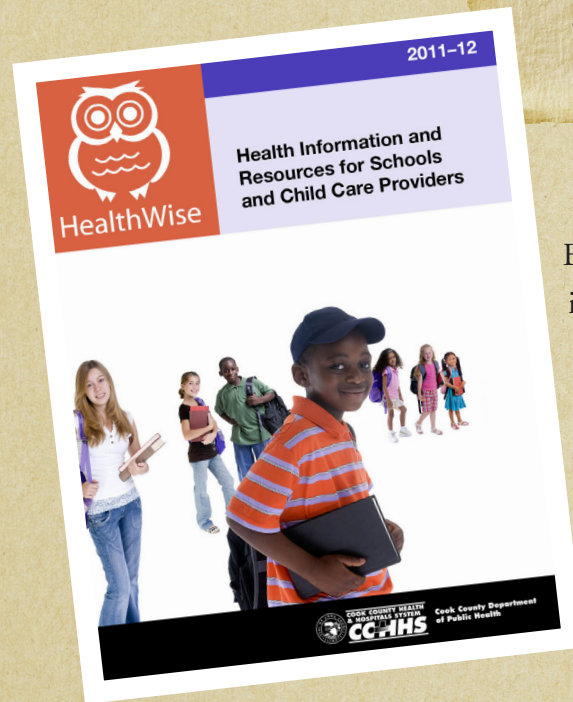
IDPH staff assisted CCDPH EH staff in investigating the water facilities while the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) provided guidance, supplies and laboratory assistance for advanced water sampling. Samples were taken from the bathing beach and lake area, and the samples were then sent to the CDC lab for testing.

Additional cases of illness were found during the investigation, which highlights the importance of disease reporting and follow up. Signs and symptoms for the illness and prevention steps to protect from getting the illness were shared with residents. Investigation and intervention is the key to prevent the spread of disease. Interagency coordination and cooperation at all levels – municipal, county, state and federal – was evident throughout the investigation. While all outbreaks are unfortunate, every public health outbreak is different. Each outbreak provides new lessons we can apply in the future to protect the health of all suburban Cook County residents during public health emergencies.



Environmental Health Program Manager Mark Matuck examining a water sample.

Domain 3
Inform and Educate



Every day, CCDPH staff provides accurate and reliable information to suburban Cook County residents to help them stay informed about health issues to protect their individual and family's health.

Since CCDPH was established in 1945, we have been working with schools to protect the health of school-aged children in suburban Cook County. School nurses are public health's eyes and ears in schools. School nurses work closely with CCDPH staff to obtain information

and technical assistance in the control of communicable diseases such as norovirus, pertussis, meningitis, influenza or other health problems.

To better serve our school nurses and to ensure accurate public health information is in our schools, our staff compiled communicable disease, chronic disease and other health related material into one easy-to-read resource for schools. At the start of the 2011/2012 school year, CCDPH released the first edition of 'HealthWise.'

HealthWise is utilized by school nurses, administrators, support staff and community partners. In addition, HealthWise is a useful tool to educate residents about CCDPH programs and services and to inform them about health issues facing suburban Cook County communities.



Domain 4
Community Engagement

One of the best ways for public health staff to protect the health of a community is through the engagement of residents. Working with entire communities to improve health, is a new way of thinking in the field of public health, where it previously focused more on working with individuals one-on-one.

In 2011, CCDPH worked with 38 Model Community grant recipients in 71 municipalities and 127 schools while working to improve the health of 1.7 million residents and 700,000 students through changes to policies and the physical environment. The goal of the program was to create new or change existing policies to help suburban Cook County communities and schools become healthier by promoting healthy eating and active living.

CCDPH lead a group of diverse partnering organizations and technical experts to work with these grant recipients and communities in their efforts to make their neighborhoods healthier places to live and work. Grant recipients worked on projects to provide a healthier school breakfast in the classroom for students, place healthier food options in vending machines, increase breastfeeding support in hospitals and worksites, make streets more inviting to cyclists and pedestrians, and adopt comprehensive physical activity policies for schools that included physical activity breaks, quality recess, and after school activities.

The Model Communities program was a part of the Suburban Cook County Communities Putting Prevention to work program funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to CCDPH and the Public Health Institute of Metropolitan Chicago.



Domain 5
*Polices and
Plans*

Plans are developed every day and are integral for any agency in providing direction while working toward a common goal. CCDPH is 1 of 7 affiliates of the Cook County Health and Hospitals System (CCHHS) and while CCDPH is a part of the CCHHS Vision 2015 strategic plan, it was necessary to develop our own strategic plan that aligned with CCHHS but was specific to public health. In 2011, the CCDPH strategic plan was unveiled along with WePlan 2015.



CCDPH's strategic plan shapes and guides the work of CCDPH and it sets forth the department's vision, mission, guiding principles and values, and strategic priorities. WePLAN2015 is a community health assessment and improvement plan that suburban Cook County residents helped develop.

WePLAN2015 describes our jurisdiction's health status and presents action plans for four health priorities: cardiovascular disease prevention, violence prevention, improving the sexual health status of youth and improving access to primary healthcare services.

CCDPH's strategic plan and WePLAN2015 demonstrate CCDPH's commitment to excellence in providing the National Institutes of Health three core functions and 10 essential services of public health, maintaining certification through the Illinois Department of Public Health, and embarking on the process to national accreditation through the Public Health Accreditation Board. Both documents emphasize achieving excellence through a continuous quality improvement process engaging internal and external stakeholders to improve our prevention strategies and health outcomes.



Domain 6
*Public Health
Laws*



Public health laws are created to protect the public. Each year, CCDPH supports the passage of new or amended public health laws, ordinances or regulations. Many times the proposed laws or amendments to existing public health laws are developed because of something our staff have learned through daily public health work that, if changed, will protect the public health of suburban Cook County.

In 2011, CCDPH supported the passage of HB1096 which amended the Illinois Nursing Home Care Act. The legislation required skilled nursing facilities to designate one or more infection prevention and control professionals to develop and implement policies to better reduce and control infections and communicable diseases. It also requires that the qualifications of the infection prevention and control professional be documented and made available for inspection by the Illinois Department of Public Health.

CCDPH took the lead in supporting the enactment of HB1096 because the CCDPH Communicable Disease Control Unit had conducted several communicable disease investigations at nursing home facilities involving outbreaks of vaccine preventable diseases and strengthening the regulation would help reduce the likelihood of such outbreaks in the future.



Domain 7 *Access to Care*

One of the roles of public health is to link residents to health care services. All CCDPH clients are assessed to make sure they have access to the medical care they need, including a medical home. A medical home is a partnership between a patient, a primary provider, specialists and community support programs.

In 2011, CCDPH created an assessment tool to identify gaps in client access to care and to make sure CCDPH clients have a medical home. The tool also helps determine what preventive programs clients are eligible for within the community. Once the assessment is conducted, clients are referred to a primary medical home and community prevention services. All CCDPH clients are assessed to make sure they receive the necessary care they need. Following is an example of how the assessment tool works to link clients to necessary health care services.

One of our clinics is called Adverse Pregnancy Outcomes Reporting System or APORS. Infants who are born with birth defects or other abnormal conditions are referred to CCDPH for follow-up. One of our APORS infants was discharged from a hospital with no health insurance, no primary physician, was behind in immunizations and had kidney issues. The mother had not had her 6-week post partum checkup and did not know where to begin to seek and receive medical care.

The public health nurse assisted in getting the infant enrolled in the Illinois All Kids insurance and Women, Infants and Children (WIC) programs. The nurse verified the infant was enrolled in an early intervention program and given an appointment to begin immunizations. Mother and baby were referred to a local Federally Qualified Health Center to be seen by a primary care provider. The mother also received assistance for transportation to and from all necessary appointments.



Domain 8 *Workforce*



The role of the public health workforce is to promote health and prevent disease. CCDPH's staff is composed of professionals with various expertise, academic backgrounds and work experience in the areas of: communicable disease prevention and control, environmental health, health promotion, epidemiology, emergency preparedness, tobacco prevention and control, policy development, communications, and public health nursing, among others.



Each year, the CCDPH Executive Team organizes a mandatory staff education day as an opportunity to gather the entire team for important trainings and updates on CCDPH initiatives. This all-day training ensures a mechanism is in place to maintain and improve the overall knowledge base and competency of the public health workforce in suburban Cook County.

In 2011, the strategic plan was presented and trainings were conducted in the areas of: bloodborne pathogens, respiratory exposure, HIPAA/Privacy and Confidentiality rules, and corporate compliance.

Domain 9
Quality Improvement



To become accredited by the Public Health Accreditation Board, CCDPH must demonstrate its efforts to improve the quality of its processes, interventions and programs. CCDPH has documented its lead quality improvement effort, which shows the agency's commitment to examining and improving services for children and families affected by lead poisoning.

Several changes to the program have resulted in measurable improvements. For example, more children with elevated blood lead levels are now receiving a joint home visit from both a specially trained environmental lead inspector and a public health nurse. This benchmark is now being met more than 82 percent of the time (up from 60 percent) resulting in providing better service and greater satisfaction for families impacted by childhood lead poisoning.



About lead:

- Lead is commonly found in homes built before 1978.
- Lead can cause serious health and learning problems; especially in children under age 7.
- Lead hazards can be controlled.

Domain 10
Evidence Based Practices

Changing local corner stores to offer healthier options, also known as corner store conversions, have been identified as a way to increase access to healthier food options as part of a comprehensive approach to reduce obesity. There are numerous areas in suburban Cook County, especially in the southern and western suburbs where residents have limited access to full-service supermarkets.

CCDPH and its partners, the Public Health Institute of Metropolitan Chicago and the Alliance for Healthy and Active Communities, helped communities make changes in favor of healthy living and health equity. One part of this work was the Healthy HotSpot initiative. In this pilot program, more than 20 small local corner stores within eight communities in suburban Cook County made infrastructure changes. Some of these changes included putting in new refrigeration unit(s), shelving or display baskets to sell fruits and vegetables or to add more healthy foods to what was already being offered.

With support from community-based organizations, the Healthy HotSpot pilot program worked to improve healthy options in existing corner stores in these low access areas. By making these food items more readily available, residents have increased opportunities to regularly include healthier foods in their diets.



Domain 11 Management

The agency structure and jurisdiction of CCDPH is complex. An important part of accreditation is demonstrating and maintaining administrative and management capacity. Through the accreditation process that began in 2011, CCDPH increased opportunities for staff to have a stronger understanding of the inner workings of the agency and the larger system in which we operate. It is equally important for our partners and communities to have knowledge of where CCDPH fits into the larger Cook County and Cook County Health and Hospitals System (CCHHS) organizations.



CCDPH was established on December 10, 1945, and is one of the seven affiliates of CCHHS. The other affiliates are the Ambulatory and Community Health Network of Cook County, Cermak Health Services of Cook County, The Ruth M. Rothstein CORE Center, John H. Stroger, Jr. Hospital, Oak Forest Hospital and Provident Hospital.

CCDPH is the state certified public health agency for Cook County with the exception of Chicago, Evanston, Skokie, Oak Park and Stickney Township. These units of government have separate, state certified, local public health departments. CCDPH staff strives to meet the public health needs of suburban Cook County through effective and efficient disease prevention and health promotion programs.

CCDPH takes a network approach to protecting and promoting health. Our staff brings people and resources together to address issues facing our communities. CCDPH provides clinical services around communicable diseases, and reproductive and oral health. We work to prevent the spread of more than 70 reportable communicable diseases and enforce Cook County and Illinois public health laws, rules and regulations.

Because of all the epidemiological information we gather and analyze, we are a major source of information about the priority health needs in each community in suburban Cook County. This helps our agency, partners and the public, plan for and address emerging health threats, and to promote healthy lifestyles through awareness, education, programs and community development.

Domain 12 Governance

Informing the President of the Cook County Board and the County Board of Commissioners of the work in public health and specifically at CCDPH is vital as they act as our governing body. As our governing body, they actively supported our 9-month planning process to develop a 5-year strategic plan to improve the health of suburban Cook County residents. In July 2011, then CCDPH Chief Operating Officer, Stephen Martin, Jr., Ph.D., MPH, summarized the 2015 Strategic Plan and facilitated a discussion before requesting approval from the President and the Cook County Board of Commissioners.



The Cook County Board of Commissioners serves two important functions related to the department. The board approves the department's annual operating budget of approximately \$15 million dollars and they act as the statutorily required Board of Health. Including the elected officials in the strategic planning process ensures that the agency is operating in an open and transparent manner. The support of the governing board is critically important to the overall operation and success of the department.



CCDPH Chief Operating Officer Stephen A. Martin, Jr., Ph.D., MPH.

Communicable Disease Cases

Selected Diseases

Cryptosporidiosis	17
E.Coli 0157:H7	16
Giardiasis	81
Haemophilus Influenzae (invasive disease)	23
Hepatitis A	6
Hepatitis C	
Chronic	920
Histoplasmosis	12
Legionnaires's Disease	27
Listeriosis	6
Lyme Disease	31
Malaria	19
Meningococcal Infections	3
West Nile Virus Neuroinvasive	10
Pneumococcal Invasive	9
Salmonellosis	260
Shigellosis	60
Streptococcal Invasive (Group A)	49
Typhoid Fever	8
Tuberculosis	
Active	75
Latent	559
Sexually Transmitted Disease	
Syphilis (Total)	
Primary and Secondary	91
Gonorrhea	2,067
Chlamydia	8,398
HIV (preliminary data)	141
AIDS (preliminary data)	35

Vaccine Preventable Diseases

Diphtheria	0
Haemophilus Influenzae Type B	0
Hepatitis B	
Acute	25
Chronic	315
Measles	1
Mumps	2
Pertussis (Whooping Cough)	280
Rubella	0
Tetanus	0
Varicella (Chicken Pox)	137

Other Diseases

Pediatric Influenza Deaths	2
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Environmental Health Services Data

Private and Non-Community Water Supplies

Water Samples Collected	
Non-Community	460
Private	13
Abandoned Wells	
Sealing Requests Received	83
Wells Sealed	74
New Wells	
Inspections Performed	54
Permits Issued	38
Existing Non-Community Wells	
Surveys Performed	168
Water Analysis Opinions Rendered	1305

Private Sewage Disposal Systems

Installation Inspections Performed	16
Lot Surveys Performed	11
Plans Processed	14
Witnessed Percolation Tests Performed	5

Septic Tank Cleaners

Permits Issued	44
Truck Inspections Performed	47

Well/ Septic System Mortgage Evaluations

Evaluations Processed	7
Inspections Performed	8
Water Samples Collected	4

Food Service Establishments/ Retail Food Stores

Intergovernmental Agreements	
Inspections Performed	4,623
Plans Reviewed	40
Temporary Food Service Events	39
Temporary Food Service Vendor Inspections Performed	338

Unincorporated Areas

Inspections Performed	453
Licenses Issued	160
Plans Reviewed	2
Temporary Food Service Events	11
Temporary Food Service Vendor Inspections Performed	58
IDPH Summer Food Program Inspections Performed	7
CEDA Head Start Inspections Performed	105

Food and Foodborne Illness

Complaints Received	165
Complaints Investigations Performed	93

Lead Poisoning Risk Evaluations

Complaints Received	24
Licenses Issued	12
Inspections Performed	29

Mobile Home Parks

Complaints Received	24
Licenses Issued	12
Inspections Performed	29

*Environmental
Health Services
Data (cont'd)*

Tobacco Control

Licenses Issued 47

Smoke-Free Illinois

Violation Letters Initiated 98

Complaints Received 136

Inspections Performed 44

Fines Issued 3

Indoor Air Quality

Inspections Performed 30

Violation Letters Initiated 18

Nuisances

Sewage Complaints Received 34

Sewage Complaints Inspections Performed 85

Non-Sewage Complaints Received 119

Non-Sewage Complaints Inspections Performed 248

Enforcement Actions 8

Swimming Pools and Spas

Public Pool Inspections Performed 1,310

Private Pool/ Spa Plans Approved 27

Tanning Facilities

Inspections Performed 108

Tattoo/Body Art Facilities

Inspections Performed 23

Vector Control

Inspections Performed 50

Mosquito Trap Checks 1,230

Mosquito VEC/ RAMP Tests Performed 1,128

Dead Birds Processed for Testing by Illinois Natural History Survey 33

Larvicidal Treatments Performed 1,043

Client Consultations Performed

8,998

*Integrated Health
Support Services*

Case Management

APORS/High Risk Infant Follow-up (yearly total) 26,262

Breast and Cervical Cancer Prevention (monthly average) 106

Women, Infants and Children (WIC) (monthly caseload) 21,431

Services

Daycare Consultations 89

Vision and Hearing Screenings 12,607

Client Clinic Visits

Integrated Clinics 13,223

include family planning, immunization, prenatal care, and STD

TB Clinics 6,044

reporting began September 2011

Budget

Fund

Corporate 17,678,034

TB Sanitarium District 7,079,751

Grants 14,959,006

Torrens (Lead) 2,965,552

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The Honorable Toni Preckwinkle
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Cook County Department of Public Health
Executive Team

Sandra Martell, RN, DNP Interim Chief Operating Officer	Linda Steadman Director, Human Resources
Percy Harris, MPA Deputy Operating Officer	Sean McDermott Director, Policy Development & Communications
Linda Rae Murray, MD Chief Medical Officer	Michael Vernon, DrPH Director, Communicable Disease Control
Christina R. Welter, DrPH, MPH Deputy Director, Prevention Services	Barbara Fisli, RN, PhD Director, Integrated Health Support Services
Jessica Pipersburgh Special Counsel	Tom Varchmin, MS, LEHP Director, Environmental Health Services
Noreen Lanahan Director, Financial Control	

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Cook County Department of Public Health
Office Locations

Administrative Office Oak Forest Health Center 15900 S. Cicero Avenue, Building E Oak Forest, IL 60452 708-633-4000 Phone	North District 3rd District Courthouse 2121 Euclid Ave. Rolling Meadows, IL 847.818.2860 Phone 847.818.2023* TDD	Southwest District 5th District Courthouse 10220 S. 76th Ave. Bridgeview, IL 708.974.6160 Phone 708.974.6043* TDD
Central Office 7556 W. Jackson Blvd. Forest Park, IL 60130	West District Eisenhower Tower 1701 S. First Ave. 1st Floor Maywood, IL 708.786.4000 Phone 708.786.4002* TDD	South District 6th District Courthouse 16501 S. Kedzie Markham, IL 708.232.4500 Phone 708.232.4010* TDD



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