

Clay County **Health Department**

58TH ANNUAL REPORT

FISCAL YEAR 2024

JULY 1, 2023 - JUNE 30, 2024



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58th Annual Report

This 58th annual report of the Clay County Health Department provides a general overview and statistical summary of the departments and activities during Fiscal Year 2024 (July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024).

It is not a complete listing of all services provided or all activities that took place.

The health department's services are made possible through the support of the County Board, the Board of Health, the Clay County citizens, and a dedicated staff. The goal of the Clay County Health Department is to provide a broad range of health services that will promote and protect your health.

CLAY COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

FORMED BY RESOLUTION of the Clay County Board on December 29, 1966.

STARTED OPERATIONS on February 7, 1967.

CONSOLIDATED with Tuberculosis Sanitarium Board on May 20, 1983.

FORMED BY REFERENDUM via public election on November 3, 1992.

POPULATION SERVED – 12,999 (2023 Census Estimate).

AREA SERVED - 469 square miles.

The Clay County Health Department is an Illinois Department of Public Health Certified Health Department and performs the following programs in accordance with Program Standards for Local Health Departments in Illinois. These programs are:

- Infectious Diseases
- Food Protection
- Potable Water Supply
- Private Sewage Disposal

The Health Department also conducts a number of other programs to better enhance the health of Clay County residents and to lessen the department's dependence on tax funds. One of these programs is a Medicare certified and state licensed home health agency. It is through this agency that the health department obtains the majority of its funding.

FOREWORD - from the 1st Annual Report dated 1967

“The Clay County Health Department was established under the Searcy-Clabaugh County Health Department Act, by resolution of the Clay County Board of Supervisors on December 29, 1966, and opened for business on February 1, 1967. The primary reason for the establishment of this new health department was to provide home nursing services to all who need them in the opinion of a physician.”

ADMINISTRATOR'S MESSAGE

The Clay County Health Department continues to be a strong asset for Clay County in many ways. The health department team members work hard to offer a wide variety of services and to be the best at what we do. That dedication shows in many ways and is recognized at the state and national level.

The department strives to be proactive and to meet your needs. We are constantly exploring new services that we may be able to offer and seeking to improve the services we do offer. We provide a wide range of services that benefit literally everyone in Clay County, yet the health department simply wouldn't exist without your support and utilization. Your decision to use our services ensures that you have the best available care, brings money into Clay County to help provide jobs and additional services, and minimizes the taxes needed to support many of our services. Thanks for your support!

Whenever you or someone you know might benefit from home health or hospice services, it is important that you insist on receiving those services from the Clay County Health Department. Hospitals with their own home care often try very hard to get you or your loved one to agree to accept their services. They may even offer a "free consult" visit as a means to get you signed up. Please remember, it is actually your choice who provides home health or hospice services to you so insist on the health department.

We would also like to thank all the volunteers who contribute to our success and the success of our community in numerous and important ways. Whether they volunteer in Hospice or Beyond the Bell, serve on a program Advisory Board, donate to the health department or its Foundation, or assist in some other way; their support is greatly appreciated.

We also appreciate the dedication and support of the health department staff, the area medical professionals, the Board of Health, the Clay County Community Health Foundation Board, the County Board, the Clay County Medical Society and the Clay County Hospital. We would also like to thank the Clay County Republican, and WNOI for their coverage of health issues. These entities and individuals have played a vital role in helping us continue to serve you to the best of our ability.

For FY25, you can be assured that the Health Department will continue striving to provide the best services possible to enhance the lives of Clay County residents. If you have suggestions, complaints, or compliments about any of our services or our website, please call me at (618) 662-4406 or email me directly at jworkman@healthdept.org. I'm interested in hearing from you.

Jeff Workman, Administrator

BOARD OF HEALTH

The Board of Health consists of eleven Clay County residents and must have at least: two physicians, one dentist, one county board member, one registered nurse, and one member who is neither an employee nor an employer of the department. Board of Health membership is specified somewhat by state statute as are the Board's authorities and responsibilities. These dedicated individuals attend meetings every month and serve without compensation as they use their expertise to act in the county's best interest.

Board of Health members are appointed by the County Board. The County Board Representative's appointment is for a one-year term. All other appointments are for three-year terms.

FY24 Board of Health Members

<u>NAME</u>	<u>POSITION</u>
Barb McGrew	County Board Rep.
Dr. Brandon Cycholl	
Cathy Croy	
Chris Boyd	
Joe McCoy	
Joel Hackney	President
Larry Rinehart	
Lisa Cash	Secretary
Dr. Michael Klingler	Medical Advisor
Randy Wells	Vice-President
Scott Suntrup, DMD	

The Board of Health Officers for FY2025 are: Joel Hackney – President, Randy Wells – Vice President, and Lisa Cash- Secretary. Dr. Michael Klingler was selected as Medical Advisor.

Clay County Community Health Foundation

The Clay County Community Health Foundation supports community efforts within and around Clay County, Illinois which contribute to public health, and which embrace broad public health principles and to support the mission of the Clay County Health Department. Board members during FY2024 were:

Randy Wells, President	Jane Fritschle
Paul Duquaine, Vice-President	Liz Strubhart
Dan Sulsberger, Treasurer	Jan Bible
Deena Mosbarger, Secretary	Jeff Workman
Haskell Nutgrass	

The Foundation sponsored one fundraising event in FY24, the Teen REACH program held a porkburger sale during Eclipse activities. They also sold soap made by the Teen REACH youth and tickets for raffle baskets. Donations from this event totaled \$2,436.50. This fundraiser helped to fund summer field trips for the youth. During the same time period, the Foundation expended funds to support Hospice projects such as sewing supplies for lap quilts, bereavement gifts for patients' families, memorial service supplies and special assistance for one hospice patient.

CLAY COUNTY BOARD

The County Board consists of fourteen Clay County residents. County Board members are elected officials and attend regular, monthly meetings. They are reimbursed a nominal amount for their time and travel.

<u>DISTRICT</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
A	Terry Woodrow	Clay City – Precinct 1
B	Rod Franklin	Clay City – Precinct 2, Stanford
C	Joe Goodman, Chairman	Xenia, Songer
D	Janice Brooks	Hoosier, Bible Grove
E	Troy Britton	Oskaloosa, Larkingsburg 1 & 2
F	Tara Bangart	Pixley 1 & 2, Hoosier
G	Chris Rinehart	Village of Louisville, Precinct 1
H	Terry Hronec	Louisville, Precinct 2
I	Ted Whitehead	Harter 1 & 2
J	Jeremy Kohn	Harter 5
K	David Johnson	Harter 4
L	Joe Gilliland	Harter 3
M	Barb McGrew, Vice Chairman	Harter 6
N	Troy Leonard	Harter 7

CLAY COUNTY BOARD MEMBER COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS 2022-2024

ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY BOARD MEMBERS REP: JOE GOODMAN
SOUTH CENTRAL ILLINOIS REGIONAL PLANNING: DAVID JOHNSON
BOARD OF HEALTH: BARB MCGREW
C.E.F.S. REP: JANICE BROOKS
L.W.I.A. : TERRY WOODROW

EXECUTIVE FINANCE:

CHAIRMAN: TERRY HRONEC

ROAD & BRIDGE:

CHAIRMAN: JOE GILLILAND

CLAIMS:

CHAIRMAN: JANICE BROOKS

SOLID WASTE:

CHAIRMAN: JOE GILLILAND

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

CHAIRMAN: JEREMY KOHN

BUILDING & GROUNDS COMMITTEE:

CHAIRMAN: CHRIS RINEHART

WATER SURVEY:

CHAIRMAN: TARA BANGERT

ANIMAL CONTROL:

CHAIRMAN: JOE GOODMAN

HOSPITAL:

CHAIRMAN: DAVID JOHNSON

E.S.D.A.:

CHAIRMAN: DAVID JOHNSON

LIQUOR COMMISSION:

CHAIRMAN: JOE GOODMAN

CLAY COUNTY EXTN. REP:

CHAIRMAN: BARB MCGREW

INSURANCE:

CHAIRMAN: JANICE BROOKS

STRATEGIC PLANNING:

CHAIRMAN: JOE GOODMAN

GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE:

CHAIRMAN: CHRIS RINEHART

911:

CHAIRMAN:

HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF

As of June 30, 2024

First	Last	Title
Acree	Shirley	Home Care Staff Nurse
Baker	Jessica	PRN Occupational Therapist
Beckham	Terri	Lead Direct Services Specialist – HFI
Birch	Ciera	Public Health Nurse
Brach	Jamie	PRN Occupational Therapist
Britton	Erica	Public Health Nurse
Burnett	Cody	Physical Therapist
Butler	Christina	Home Care Staff Nurse
Byers	Tamara	IT Director/Beyond the Bell Director
Campbell	Abigail	Tobacco Prevention Coordinator
Carruthers	April	Public Health Educator
Clifton	Joni	PRN Physical Therapy Assistant
Coble	George	Hospice Chaplain
Correll	Kimberly	PRN Physical Therapy Assistant
Cox	Rhonda	Beyond the Bell Cook
Cricelli-Milner	Vicky	Medical Secretary
Davis	Josie	Breastfeeding Peer Counselor
Emmerich	Mary	PRN Physical Therapist
Fatheree	Isaiah	Environmental Health Inspector
Fatheree	Marty	Maintenance Engineer
Fender-Zumbahlen	Amy	HFI Family Support Specialist
Fisher	Tammy	Home Care Staff Nurse
Frederick	McKenzi	Public Health Nurse
Freeman	Andra	Early Childhood Development Specialist PI
French	Ashlynn	Beyond the Bell – Youth Development Specialist
Frohning	Jonathan	PRN Physical Therapist
Frost	Linda	PRN Public Health Nurse
Green	Melinda “Mindy”	Home Care CNA
Hackney	Sarah	PRN Pharmacist
Hall	Pamela	PRN Occupational Therapy Assistant
Harris	Tiffany	Accounting Director
Henson	Rachel	HFI Coordinator
Herdes	Tessie	Administrative Support Secretary
Heuerman	Gina	PRN Occupational Therapist
Himelick	Nicol	PRN Physical Therapy Assistant
Hockman	Erica	PRN Physical Therapy Assistant
Holstlaw	Kathryn	Beyond the Bell Coordinator
Iffert	Kasey	PRN Physical Therapy Assistant
Kauble	Kelly	Lead Staff PTA/Home Care Therapy Services Coordinator

Koontz	Ginger	Accounts Payable Clerk
Krutsinger	Gabriel	Beyond the Bell – Youth Development Specialist (CEFS)
Laffey	Joanna	PRN Dental Hygienist
Lambird	Roni	PRN Hospice Social Worker
Lane	Tracy	PRN Occupational Therapy Assistant
Lewis	Christal	PRN Speech Pathologist
Littlejohn	Kaitlyn	Beyond the Bell – Youth Development Specialist (CEFS)
Martin	Angela	PRN CNA
Marvel	Tammy	Administrative Support Staff
McGee	Amber	PRN Physical Therapy Assistant
McKinney	Tanya	Administrative Support Staff
Murphy	Kari	Early Childhood Development Specialist PI
Myers	Carolyn	PRN Occupational Therapist
Nattier	Jan	Home Care Staff Nurse
O'Brien	Holly	PRN Hospice Social Worker
Packer	Kari	PRN Occupational Therapist
Pryor	Ashley	PRN Dental Hygienist
Ray	Stacy	Human Resources/Accounting
Robertson	Emily	Public Health Nurse
Rudy	Jennifer	Home Care Staff Nurse
Runyon	Rachel	PRN Occupational Therapist
Scara	Angela	Early Childhood Development Specialist PI
Sexson	Patricia	PRN Physical Therapy Assistant
Shock	Michelle	WIC Clerk
Snell	Kristina	Home Care Coordinator
Snell	Tricia	PRN Occupational Therapist
Thomann	Emily	PRN Physical Therapist
VanHynning	Benjamin	Emergency Preparedness Coordinator
Waller	Lynette	Public Health Nursing Director
Wanless	Jessica	PRN Home Care Staff Nurse
Weaver	Katie	PRN Home Care Staff Nurse
Weaver	Meredith	Public Health Educator
Weber	Jacob	PRN Physical Therapist
Whitehead	Genifer “Noel”	Breastfeeding Peer Counselor
Wille	Amber	Environmental Health Director
Workman	Jeff	Administrator
Young	Brandi	Home Care Director
Young	Miriam	PRN Public Health Nurse

Community Health Improvement

Health for Generations (H4G) is a coalition of stakeholders formed in 2012 to implement the community health improvement plan. In June 2023, H4G used a community-driven and community-owned approach entitled Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships (MAPP) to complete a robust community health assessment and updated community health improvement plan.

The MAPP process included six phases:

Phase 1: Organize for Success

Phase 2: Visioning

Phase 3: The Four Assessments

- Local Health System Assessment
- Community Themes and Strengths Assessment
- Forces of Change Assessment
- Community Health Status Assessment

Phase 4: Identify Strategic Issues

Phase 5: Formulate Goals and Strategies

Phase 6: Action Cycle

Based on the information gleaned during the assessment phase of the process, H4G selected three priority areas for health improvement over the next five years (2023-2027).

Top 3 Strategic Issues:

- Behavioral Health
- Heart Disease and Obesity
- Access to Care

A full copy of the assessments and the health improvement plan is available on the health department's web page, www.healthdept.org. H4G continues to meet monthly to assess progress toward health improvement initiatives on the third Tuesday at noon. All are welcome to attend.

HEALTH EDUCATION PROGRAM

Educators are available to keep our community informed about health-related issues. We will gladly furnish speakers for special interest groups, schools or work sites upon request. We also have a broad library of informational brochures available at the health department.

BEYOND THE BELL

Beyond the Bell is the Teen REACH program of the Clay County Health Department paid for in whole or in part by the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) Teen REACH grant since 1999. The program serves youth between the ages of 6-17 (minimum 70% are 11-17) and experience at least one of nearly twenty identified individual and/or family risk factors, including youth who live in a single-parent household, experience academic difficulties, and lack appropriate after school supervision.

The mission of Beyond the Bell is to expand the range of choices and opportunities that enable, empower, and encourage youth to achieve positive growth and development, improve expectations and capacities for future success, and avoid and/or reduce risk-taking behavior.

The objectives of Beyond the Bell are to create safe environments for youth, provide positive adult role models, and offer experiences that help develop skills and tools for serving their communities. A variety of activities are offered to achieve these objectives: enrichment programs that boost self-esteem and prevent risky behaviors, recreational activities that promote healthy development and team building, and hands-on learning experiences that reinforce academic concepts from the school day. We focus on core areas for youth development: academic achievement; life skills education; family engagement; recreation, culture, and art expression; positive adult mentors; service-learning opportunities; and STEM education.

Beyond the Bell is open 240 days per year for at least 720 hours. The program is open Mondays—Fridays from 3:00–6:00 PM throughout the school year and 8:00 AM–4:30 PM during the summer and non-attendance school days.

Program Statistics	FY24
Total Youth Enrolled	171
Average Daily Attendance	44
Days Open	242
Youth Attendance Hours	28,333

FY 2023-2024 Program Highlights:

- In May, Beyond the Bell moved into its current location in the former Flora Bank & Trust facility at 1010 West North Avenue. The Clay County Board voted to purchase and donate the facility for our permanent use. Staff, youth, and volunteers committed many hours to renovate the interior spaces to accommodate program growth and development.
- Youth engaged in Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) learning activities, including Project Edge, Techbridge Girls, Girls Who Code, and the NASA Globe Event.
- Youth participated in community service learning opportunities, including a community garden project in partnership with Friendship Connection, dog walking in partnership with Fur A Good Paws, and hosting various activities at the Flora Gardens.
- Youth demonstrated life skills through the Cooking Club, Fishing Club, making homemade goat milk soap, as well as yoga and mindfulness practices.
- Youth and families generously donated to purchase Christmas gifts for a local family in need.
- Summer programming offered exciting field trips, including Mt. Vernon Aquatic Zoo, Salem Aquatic Center, Holiday World, Eckert’s Farm, and Turkey Run State Park.
- Program staff participated in developmental opportunities, including the Illinois Collaborative on Youth’s (ICOY) trauma-informed practices for youth programming, the Illinois Quality Program Standards Assessment, and swimming and water safety.

SENIOR EXERCISE AND HEALTH EDUCATION PROGRAM



The senior exercise class has been going full force since it started back in 1997. Anyone age 55 and over is welcomed to attend these classes for Free. Classes are held every Tuesday and Thursday from 1-2 p.m. in the Health Department Conference Room.

This class has been very well attended by the seniors across a wide variety of fitness levels.

HOME CARE PROGRAM

Our Home Health Program is an effective and affordable program in which a medical professional provides skilled care in the convenience of its patients home, whether it be a private home, a boarding home, or and assisted living facility.

Registered Nurses, Therapists, Certified Nurse's Aides and Medical Social Workers are available to provide a wide range of services under the guidance of a physician. These Home Care professionals provide the best possible care to allow patients or a loved one to safely remain independent in their home or transition back after a hospital, rehab or skilled nursing facility stay.

We bill Medicare, Medicaid, Private Insurances, and Veteran's benefits. For all clients not covered by these insurances, we provide a sliding fee scale.

The health department has been providing Home Health nursing services in Clay County since the department began operating. In fact, providing home-nursing services was the primary reason for the establishment of the health department back in 1966. Although other agencies now provide these services within the county, the health department remains the only home health agency based in Clay County.

Our home care is licensed to provide home health services in Clay, Jasper, Marion, Richland, Wayne, and Effingham counties. Our primary focus is providing services to the residents within our service area.

The home health program generates a large percentage of the health department's revenue, making it a vital component for the health department.

The Home Health Department made: 1,789 Nursing Visits; 239 Aide Visits; 1,785 Physical Therapy Visits; 77 Speech Therapy Visits; and 461 Occupational Therapy Visits during FY24.

HOSPICE

Clay County Health Department Hospice is a special program geared toward assisting terminally ill patients and their families/caregivers. Hospice provides skilled nursing, social services, physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy and certified nursing assistant services. In addition to these core services we offer pastoral care and volunteer services. Our families are followed an additional 12 months.

Guidelines for admission include:

- Live in our 8-county service area
- Attending physician agrees that patient meets Hospice admission criteria
- Patient life expectancy of 6 months or less if disease runs its normal course
- Accepting the philosophy of allowing death to occur naturally without life prolonging interventions
- Agrees to develop a plan for provision of capable and willing caregivers in the home

Hospice accepts reimbursement from Medicare, Medicaid, Veterans Administration, and Private Insurance. We work to provide services for patients and families who have no payer source. Memorial funds we receive continue to be a benefit utilized for the care of our future patient needs. Clay County Health Department Hospice is a not-for-profit agency and does not discriminate against anyone.

Hospice Benefits:

- End of life care in the patient's home or setting of their choice
- Hospice assumes responsibility to pay for medications utilized in the management of pain and symptoms related to the terminal diagnosis

- Help in relieving the financial burden for patient/family through provision of medical equipment related to their terminal diagnosis
- A dedicated, caring group of professionals trained in “Hospice Care” that help with the medical management of pain and symptom control in the patient’s home or Long Term Care facility
- Dietary guidance when needed
- Personal care assistance
- Emotional and spiritual care for the patient and family
- Respite care and/or short term inpatient care following Medicare guidelines at hospitals and Long Term Care facilities in our service area
- Bereavement services for up to 1 year for surviving family
- Support group referrals for the bereaved family/caregivers
- Help patient and family deal with feelings of helplessness and hopelessness

Clay County Health Department Hospice looks forward to assisting those who need help in dealing with a terminal illness. Staff are available to help them in facing the challenges associated with these events. Clay County Health Department Hospice is “Neighbors taking care of Neighbors” with a personal touch! We serve Clay County and the surrounding area which includes the counties of Edwards, Effingham, Jasper, Marion, Richland, Wabash, and Wayne.

The Hospice Program made 780 Nursing Visits; 243 Hospice Aid Visits; 30 Social Service Visits; and 95 Chaplain Visits during FY24.

HOSPICE VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Clay County Health Department Hospice is proud to have a group of volunteers willing to serve the patients and families they have the privilege of caring for. Our volunteers provide individual contact as well as countless hours behind the scenes. They are instrumental in seeing that requests are satisfied, whether it is for the patient, family or a community need. Volunteers exemplify the statement: Hospice is Neighbors taking care of Neighbors on a personal note.

Hospice volunteers are available in all settings where our patients and families are located. They can assist with letter writing, reading to the patient and many other requests by patient and family alike. They are not allowed to provide physical care. Many times, the need for a volunteer is simply to provide respite for the caregiver.

HOME NURSING

The Home Nursing program is a state licensed program the Health Department offers to patients that do not meet Medicare or insurance eligibility. Home Service patients do not have to be homebound, nor are they required to have a skilled need. Some of the Home Nursing visits consist of blood pressure monitoring, blood draws, personal care such as bathing, and dialysis. A nominal fee is charged for this service, as it is not covered under any pay source. The patients still requires a physician approval and the bath aides require supervision. The nursing visits are utilized to blood draws for patients that are unable to leave their home or in the winter during severe weather making falls much more likely. Referrals to the Home Nursing program can be made simply by calling the Health Department and asking for one of the Home Health staff.

The Home Nursing Program made 12 Nursing Visits; and 104 Hospice Aid Visits during FY24.

CHRONIC DISEASE CONTROL

The chronic disease control includes blood pressure, diabetic monitoring, and colon cancer FIT screening. These programs are provided to identify or help control and correct conditions before other major problems develop. Individualized counseling is provided and appropriate referrals are made. Education materials are always available for hypertensive patients, as well as those desiring more information regarding colon cancer and diabetes.

Those who have been diagnosed with hypertension should have their blood pressure checked regularly. You may get your blood pressure checked by stopping in at the health department anytime and requesting an available nurse. We also regularly have free screenings for high blood pressure at local businesses and health fairs, local industries, senior centers, banks, and other public locations. If you have a group that would like to schedule a screening for your group or industry, please call the Health Department.

Free FIT colon cancer screenings are available through the health department every day. This test is performed onsite and participants and their medical providers are informed of results within a day or two of sample submission. Colon cancer is the third leading cause of cancer in both men and women. Risk of colon cancer increases with age, especially over the age of 45 years. If colon cancer is diagnosed in its early stages, it is highly treatable.

Hemoglobin A1C tests are available anytime the Health Department is open. If clients schedule an appointment or call before arriving the process is shorter, but if one is unable and walks in, the test is provided as quickly as possible.

Hemoglobin A1C tests provide information about a person's average blood glucose, also called blood sugar, over the previous three months. It is a test for diabetes, but is also a good indicator of how well a person's diabetic management plan is working. Clients with elevated tests are referred to their medical providers, as well as the diabetic education program at the Clay County Hospital. Preliminary education is provided for reducing blood glucose levels to include diet and exercise.

There were 36 Hemoglobin A1C tests done in FY24.

RESPIRATORY IMMUNIZATIONS

Influenza immunizations are offered each flu season. For those eligible, both influenza and pneumonia immunizations are covered by Medicare/Medicaid and by most insurances. Many private businesses have also realized the cost effectiveness of providing influenza and pneumonia immunizations for their staff. To schedule a vaccine clinic at your business, contact our immunization department.

STATISTICS

FY24

Influenza Immunizations	1,164
Pneumonia Immunizations	489
COVID – 19	467
RSV	164

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE CONTROL

Communicable Disease Surveillance includes reporting and investigating communicable diseases. Diseases that are reported are vaccine preventable, foodborne, sexually transmitted, diseases transmitted by water, humans, animals, and insects, or outbreaks of diseases. It is the health department's public health nurses' responsibility to then report these diseases to the state. Information is gathered regarding patient demographics, signs and symptoms of the disease, laboratory tests completed, patient's exposure, potential exposures to others, and treatment received.

Follow-up on sexually transmitted diseases involves counseling and behavior risk reduction to the patient, as well. Reportable diseases are required to be reported to the health department within the range of 24 hours to 7 days. This is determined according to their communicability and severity by the CDC (Center for Disease Control).

Reporting to the Health Department is done by phone, fax or electronically. It is then reported to the state electronically. Since 2004, we have been using I-NEDSS for our reportable diseases. I-NEDSS is an acronym for Illinois –National Electronic Data Surveillance System. In 2023 a new state reporting system was initiated known as Illinois Disease Surveillance System or IDSS that is specific for Tuberculosis and all Sexually Transmitted Infections at this time. These programs allow for maintaining a quick and secure report of the communicable diseases and all required information regarding cases reported in our community. INEDS continues to be utilized for all other reportable communicable diseases.

The Public Health Nurses and staff are responsible for providing information and education to the public about such diseases. Training sessions have been provided in the schools, at local businesses and other entities that express need or desire for sharing of this information.

The following table represents communicable disease incidences reported to the health department in FY24:

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE REPORT

Chlamydia	17
Influenza	0
Hepatitis C	1
Salmonella	3
E Coli	2
Other	11

IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM

Clay County Health Department offers all Center for Disease Controlled (CDC) recommended vaccinations and does not refuse services to anyone regardless of ability to pay. The public can make a scheduled appointment for immunizations on any day, or time nursing staff are available. Walk-in services are available anytime staff are not scheduled assisting others during open hours of the Health Department. All immunizations are administered by registered nurses familiar with the vaccines, risks and potential adverse reactions. The immunization program maintains current standing orders, policies, and procedures.

IMMUNIZATION REPORT

BY AGE	FY24
INFANTS	1,163
1	777
2	88
3-5	336
6-10	48
11-12	398
13-18	438
19+	2,053
TOTALS	5,301

BY VACCINE	FY24	BY VACCINE	FY24
DTaP	121	Pediarix	319
Hepatitis A (Adult)	20	Pfizer Comirnaty	176
Hepatitis A (Ped)	364	Polio (IPV)	15
Hepatitis B (Adult)	44	Prevnar 20	489
Hepatitis B (Ped)	18	ProQuad	122
Hib	322	Rabies Prevention	2
HPV	176	Rotavirus	232
Influenza(Private)	1,044	RSV	164
Influenza(State)	125	RSV antibodies	77
Kinrix (DTap/Polio)	125	Shingles	104
MCV4	249	Tdap	297
Men B	116	Typhoid	2
MMR	150	Varicella	137
Moderna Adult	287		
Moderna (Pediatric)	4	TOTALS	5,301

TUBERCULOSIS CONTROL PROGRAM

Tuberculosis Surveillance requires considerable investigation and follow-up. TB skin tests are given to children and adults that require or need such testing. Parents/guardians complete a screening form that is evaluated by a registered nurse to determine if skin testing is needed for infants and children. Follow-up of a positive TB skin test requires complete assessment, a chest x-ray, and a health history completed by a registered nurse. The nurse then contacts the patient's primary care provider for recommendations regarding follow-up or treatment of each positive case. The TB nurse then carries out those recommendations. Those patient's individual files are maintained.

If a patient is determined to be an active case tuberculosis disease, they are monitored monthly, at a minimum. If they are diagnosed with latent TB which is a condition where they are infected with tuberculosis bacteria but do not have active tuberculosis disease, they are recommended to have treatment to prevent progression of the infection. This typically involves taking a daily antibiotic for several months. Treatment for these individuals is especially important for those who are at a high risk of developing active TB, such as those with a positive TB test, a history of TB disease, or a weakened immune system.

For those individuals with no insurance or ability to pay for the necessary medications for treatment of TB, they can be acquired from the Illinois Department of Public Health at no cost. Baseline liver function tests are required before beginning the medications. After the medication regime begins, the liver function may be tested through-out the treatment. The monthly contact with patients is to ensure they do not have any serious reactions to the treatment. The patient may then be followed for up to a year and then can be discharged.

The patient may be followed for up to a year by the TB nurse to assess for successful treatment. The patient is then discharged. Education is provided for signs and symptoms of tuberculosis. Should any of these occur, patients are instructed to report to their medical provider.

<u>Statistics</u>	<u>FY24</u>
Total TB skin tests completed	227
Positive results	1
Clinical Evaluations	0
Average # under supervision	0
X-ray's	1
Laboratory work	2
Receiving medication treatment	0

MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH

WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN (W.I.C.) Supplemental Food Program

WIC is an intervention program designed to influence lifetime nutrition and health behaviors in a targeted high – risk population. It is a food assistance program for Women, Infants, and Children. It helps pregnant women, new mothers, and young children eat well and stay healthy. It helps safeguard the health of low – income women, infants, and children up to the age of 5 years old. The foundation of this program is to recognize nutritional needs during pregnancy and through early childhood to promote healthy growth and development.

Congress created the WIC Program to serve as an adjunct to food health care during critical periods of human growth and development. Federal funds supplied for the WIC Program are made available through the food and nutrition service of the United States Department of Agriculture to participating state and local agencies.

The following statistics represent WIC activity during FY24

State Assigned Caseload	661
Average Number Active on Caseload	551

FAMILY CASE MANAGEMENT (FCM)

The Family Case Management Program is a statewide program that provides comprehensive service coordination to improve health, social, educational, and developmental needs of pregnant women and infants (0 to 12 months) from low-income families in the community. It is designed to ensure adequate maternal and infant healthcare during the prenatal, early post-partum, and infancy periods. Assigned case managers complete needs assessments and assist clients in applying for the Medicaid Program, finding medical providers, mental health providers, dental providers, assist with housing applications, transportation concerns, addressing food and financial needs, and other community referrals. Clients are linked for health needs, education, physical assessment, developmental screening, transportation, financial counseling, insurance, and many other services. These referrals help families to strive toward opportunities for a healthy pregnancy, preparation for parenting, and optimizing the health and well-being of their infants and children.

State Assigned Caseload FY 24	220
Average Number on Active Caseload	225

APORS/HIGH RISK INFANT/CHILDREN PROGRAM

Infants and children ages 0 to 24 months diagnosed with serious medical conditions, maternal alcohol or drug addiction, or have been identified by DCFS with child abuse or neglect are referred through the IDPH Adverse Pregnancy Outcomes Reporting System or Family Case Management Program Nursing assessments to the APORS/High – Risk Program. This program is funded and provided guidance through the Illinois Department of Human Services and is offered to families at no cost. The goal of this program is to reduce maternal and infant morbidity and mortality rates. It aids in coordinating care and referrals for needed services for treatment of any complications.

HEALTHWORKS OF ILLINOIS

Healthworks is a collaborative effort of the Department of Children & Family Services, and Public Health to link foster children from birth to age 6 years in DCFS care to comprehensive health services. The Clay County Health Department acts as the medical case manager for all of these children in Clay County providing guidance and support to foster parents. The case manager assists with knowledge and access to comprehensive medical care by working with the agencies, medical providers, and other entities. The case manager is responsible for obtaining all records of any evaluations, visits, or other pertinent records for the DCFS Case Workers files. Updates are sent to the DCFS Case Worker bi-annually or more frequently as needed per the discretion of the medical case manager.

GENETIC RISK ASSESSMENT PROGRAM

Each pregnant woman and all newborns that receive services through the WIC program at the health department undergo a genetic risk assessment. This is completed by the client/parent/guardian with a Public Health nurse. In order to optimize the chance for a healthy pregnancy and baby, a woman's risk factors related to a variety of health issues (diet, medications, and exposures) are examined through the genetic screen. This screening allows for required modifications during preconception care and early infancy to potentially prevent complications by referral to a genetics counselor when advised per screening results.

LEAD SCREENING PROGRAM

Elevated levels of lead in the blood of the pregnant mother can be passed along to a developing fetus. Elevated levels of lead in the blood of a child may result in significant learning disabilities as the child grows. Thus, it is important to perform risk assessments on all pregnant women and children ages 1-5 in the health department setting. This assessment may be performed at a WIC visit, at the time of immunization administration, or whenever an appropriate client accesses services at the health department.

Due to Clay and most of the surrounding counties in Illinois being high-risk for elevated lead, all children are required to have two normal blood lead screenings completed before entry into school. It is recommended that all children have a blood lead screening at 12 and 24 months of age.

If a child or pregnant woman is found to have an elevated blood lead level, parents/guardians, or client receives education in prevention of lead poisoning, diet recommendations, remediation of lead sources in the home environment and follow-up care. Any lead levels reported with a result above 5ug/dl or greater requires a Medical Case Management home visit by a Public Health Nurse. Immediate developmental and medical assessment is done of the client, and education and referrals for follow up are provided to the family. An environmental home assessment is also required to be completed by a trained state specialist.

The health department did 497 child lead screenings and 83 pregnant lead screens in FY24 with 17 of those being over 5ug/dl. Any lead screen over 5ug/dl required follow-up screenings, evaluations and education.

HEALTHY FAMILIES ILLINOIS (HFI)

The Healthy Families Illinois program consists of two full-time Family Support Specialists, one part-time Family Support Specialist, one Coordinator and a Director who covers multiple programs. The program serves a caseload of approximately 48 families. The program serves target children age prenatal to five years. The HFI staff are highly trained parent educators who provide educational information and training that will empower parent(s) to give their child a healthy start in life. Educational topics that are shared in the parent's home during weekly, bi-weekly or monthly home visits based on family needs include, but are not limited to:

- Prenatal Care
- Newborn attachment and bonding
- Confidence in caregiving skills
- Proper child growth and development
- Child safety measures
- Stress reduction techniques
- Age appropriate discipline
- Socialization
- Building Self-esteem
- School readiness
- And much more



Staff help parents set goals not only for their child but also for themselves. These goals are based on the participant's strengths, needs and concerns. The Healthy Families Illinois program also offers group activities for socialization and resource linkages.

Healthy Families Illinois program target population is first-or second time parents who are enrolled in W.I.C and those with DCFS involvement.

BREASTFEEDING PEER COUNSELING PROGRAM

The Breastfeeding Peer Counseling Program offers assistance to W.I.C. mothers who are considering or have chosen to breastfeed their baby. The program staff includes one part-time Breastfeeding Peer Counselor and the Breastfeeding Coordinator. Breastfeeding Peer Counselors stay in contact with breastfeeding moms by phone, text or face-to-face contact to offer breastfeeding support or education and make referrals as needed and are available 24/7.



The health department also serves as a Milk Depot for the Milk Bank in Indianapolis, Indiana. The Milk Depot offers breastfeeding mothers, who have been screened by the Milk Bank, a drop off site where the human milk is kept frozen and then shipped to the Milk Bank of Indianapolis where it is screened, pasteurized and processed before being shipped to hospitals throughout the United States to give nourishment to fragile infants.

P.L.A.Y. (PARENTS, LITERACY AND YOU)

The PLAY Program is an Illinois State Board of Education funded Prevention Initiative home visiting program that provides intensive case-management services to pregnant women and children ages birth to three. The PLAY program focuses on providing a high-quality program for children and families who qualify as at-risk and also helps provide early learning experiences that promote emotional, physical, mental and social well-being in preparation for school readiness. The PLAY program follows the Parents as Teachers program model, which is an evidence-based curriculum and incorporates the Illinois Early Learning Guideline's for children

birth to age three. The PLAY Program staff follows a caseload of approximately 48 families. Staff are highly trained parent educators who provide educational information through intensive home visiting services and also conduct a variety of screenings for free, which include:

- OAE screening (hearing test)
- PlusOptix screening (vision test)
- ASQ screenings (developmental screenings)
- ASQ SE screenings (social emotional screenings)
- Functional Vision/Hearing screenings



The PLAY Program also provides:

- Fun Literacy Activities
- Family Fun Nights
- Free Books at every visit
- Group Connections in collaboration with HFI families

PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

During FY24, the Public Health Emergency Preparedness program continued to build capacity in the 15 target capabilities:

1. Community Preparedness
2. Community Recovery
3. Emergency Operations Coordination
4. Emergency Public Information and Warning
5. Fatality Management
6. Information Sharing
7. Mass Care
8. Medical Countermeasure Dispensing
9. Medical Material Management & Distribution
10. Medical Surge
11. Non-Pharmaceutical Interventions
12. Public Health Laboratory Testing
13. Public Health Surveillance & Epidemiological Investigation
14. Responder Safety and Health
15. Volunteer Management

We continued to maintain an Incident Command Team at the Health Department, consisting of both primary and secondary positions for each of the following command roles: Incident Commander, Public Information Officer, Safety Officer, Liaison Office, Operations Section Chief, Logistics/Finance Section Chief, and Planning Section Chief. Designating a specific Incident Command Team improves our emergency planning, response, and recovery capabilities for unplanned and planned events / incidents.

We held an Integrated Preparedness Planning Workshop (IPPW) at the Health Department on March 22, 2024. Personnel that serve on the Health Department's primary incident command team participated in the workshop. It served as a forum to coordinate the Health Department's planning, training, and exercise activities looking forward over the next 3 years. Discussion from the workshop is being developed in to a written Integrated Preparedness Plan (IPP) to document training and exercise plans.

We completed an after-hours virtual assembly drill for the Health Department's Incident Command team on the evening of June 26, 2024. The drill began with an e-mail and text message to incident command staff asking them to join a Zoom meeting in 15 minutes.

Call-down / communication drills for all Health Department staff were conducted multiple times during FY24. Drills are unannounced and generally conducted on a quarterly basis. Drills were conducted on September 26, 2023 (response rate 64%), December 28, 2024 (response rate 75%), March 26, 2024 (86% response rate), and June 4, 2024 (79% response rate). We usually utilize the State of Illinois Rapid Electronic Notification (SIREN) System for the drills, but occasionally utilize our phone tree.

We participate in StarCom21 radio communication drills for the Marion Region on a routine basis in order to test radio communication, with various Local Health Departments in the Region taking turns hosting. We served as the host for the September 19, 2023 drill. We also participated in IEMA Region 9 StarCom Drills as our schedule allowed.

We participated in drills for the Illinois Public Health Mutual Aid System (IPHMAS) on a routine basis. Since its creation in 2004, IPHMAS has allowed local health departments in Illinois to formally request assistance from other local health departments during a public health response for which they may lack sufficient resources. Drills are conducted routinely to exercise abilities in requesting / responding. Each local health department must initiate one IPHMAS request drill annually, and must respond to the drills of others as they are available to do so. Clay County Health Department initiated an IPHMAS (Illinois Public Health Mutual Aid System) drill on November 7, 2023. We also respond to multiple drills conducted by other Local Health Departments in FY24.

Clay County Medical Reserve Corps (MRC)

Clay County Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) is part of a national network of approximately 200,000 volunteers dedicated to building strong, safe, and resilient communities. The need for the MRC became apparent after the 9/11 terrorist attacks, when medical and public health professionals – eager to volunteer in support of emergency relief activities – found that there was no organized approach to channel their efforts. The MRC provides the structure to pre-identify, credential, train, and activate volunteers in the event of a disaster or public health emergency.

Since being established in August 2012, the Clay County MRC's mission has been to protect and improve the health and safety of our community. Our efforts focus on identifying and training qualified medical & non-medical volunteers to support public health initiatives, local emergency response efforts, and community preparedness activities. Clay County MRC volunteers have the opportunity to participate in a wide variety of activities, including:

- **Emergency Preparedness and Response:** Participating in drills, training exercises, and real-life responses to emergencies and disasters.
- **Public Health Initiatives:** Contributing to resource/health fairs, vaccination clinics, and health education events aimed at promoting community well-being.
- **Training and Development:** Participating in virtual and in-person trainings to enhance your skills and knowledge in areas relevant to public health and emergency management.
- **Community Engagement:** Collaborating with local organizations and residents to address health needs and improve community preparedness.

TOBACCO PREVENTION

Clay County Health Department serves as the lead agency for our regional ITFC Grant, which includes the following counties: Clay, Crawford, Edwards, Effingham, Lawrence, Richland, and Wayne. Activities within ITFC include enforcing the Smoke-Free Illinois Act (SFIA), enrolling and engaging Referral Partners for the Illinois Tobacco Quitline (ITQL), and partnering with schools and youth community organizations to implement the CATCH My Breath Vaping Prevention Program & strengthen school tobacco policies.

Smoke-Free Illinois Act

We enforce the Smoke-Free Illinois Act by conducting routine compliance checks and investigating all complaints. During FY24, a total of 81 compliance checks were conducted in Clay County. The Health Department continues to collaborate with the Flora Chamber of Commerce to provide a reminder of the SFIA to businesses in the community.

Referral Partners for the Illinois Tobacco Quitline (ITQL)

We continue to engage our Illinois Tobacco Quitline Referral Partners and conduct outreach to other healthcare providers and employers in order to increase the number of organizations enrolled. Referral Partners are trained to utilize Brief Tobacco Intervention to refer Illinois residents who are interested in quitting tobacco to the ITQL for free counseling services and nicotine replacement treatment.

During FY24, our new e-learning course for our Referral Partner Program went live! This course was designed to streamline the process of referring clients to the Illinois Tobacco Quitline (ITQL) and serve as a comprehensive training resource. The course simplifies the referral process, making it more efficient for both new and existing Referral Partners. It is an excellent resource for onboarding and refreshing training.

CATCH My Breath Vaping Prevention Program

CATCH My Breath is a youth e-cigarette, JUUL, and vape prevention program specific to grades 5-12. The evidence-based program was shown to substantially reduce students' likelihood of vaping in the year following program implementation. Students also showed a significant increase in knowledge of the dangers of vaping and an increase in positive perceptions about choosing a vape-free lifestyle.

Our FY24 goal was to implement the CATCH My Breach curriculum in at least two schools for each County in the regional grant coverage area: Clay, Crawford, Edwards, Effingham, Lawrence, Richland, and Wayne. Clay County Health Department personnel conduct these activities directly for Clay, Edwards, Richland, and Wayne counties. Grant partners at Crawford, Effingham, and Lawrence counties lead efforts for their own jurisdictions. Support is provided for these sub-grantees as requested.

Depending on the needs and desires of the partnering school, instruction is provided by either a Health Department educator or a supporting school teacher certified to provide the curriculum. Each classroom participating in the program receives up to 4 lessons.

During FY24, we partnered with 14 schools and 1 community youth organization schools and reached over **1,689** students in 5th-12th grades across our 7-county region.

Media Campaign

In March of 2024, the Clay County Health Department was awarded a \$90,000 increase to our FY24 ITFC Grant from IDPH to conduct a comprehensive ITQL media campaign. The intended use of the funds was primarily for supplemental youth prevention media and activities.

We partnered with the Rescue Agency, a marketing company specializing in behavior change campaigns, to design and implement our anti-vaping campaign. Our campaign strategy was to increase knowledge and correct

misconceptions about e-cigarette use with messaging focused on its negative impact on mental health. For cessation ads, we directed our audience to our landing page (QuitNowIL.org), which linked to cessation resources like My Life My Quit and the Illinois Tobacco Quitline. The campaign also linked to Rescue Agency's Behind the Haze page (<https://behindthehaze.com>) to educate teens on the harmful ingredients and health effects of vaping for all educational ads.

Our anti-vaping media campaign ran June 5, 2024 - July 31, 2024 and targeted youth and young adults aged 13-21 in Clay, Crawford, Effingham, Edwards, Lawrence, Richland, and Wayne counties. The campaign was strategically placed on popular social media platforms such as YouTube, Snapchat, Meta (Facebook / Instagram), and TikTok.

Key performance indicators (measurements) were:

- Message Delivery – Indicates targeted exposure to the message (measured by impressions)
- Exploratory Engagement – Indicates audience is consuming content (measured by video/GIF completions, clicks, reactions, poll votes)
- Active Engagement – Indicates audience is interacting with and amplifying content (measured by saves, comments, shares)

A few highlights from the campaign are as follows:

- A total of 3,315,750 impressions were delivered across all media channels.
- Users engaged with ad content, totaling 309,102 exploratory engagements.
- Flagship video ads received 263,029 video completions.
- Traffic ads helped drive 6,039 sessions to the Behind The Haze website.
- Users interacted with and amplified ad content, totaling 45 active engagements.

Additionally, we have launched two radio ads promoting the Illinois Tobacco Quitline to our adult listeners across our 7-county grant region. We hope to increase awareness and utilization of the Quitline among adults seeking support for tobacco cessation. The radio ads launched on June 14, 2024 and ran through July 20, 2024.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Food Protection Program

The purpose of the Food Protection Program is to reduce the occurrence of foodborne illness and to promote safe food practices within the community. Under the provisions set forth in the FDA Food Code and the Clay County Food Ordinance, Environmental Health staff issue operating permits, conduct inspections, investigate complaints, and investigate all suspected or reported cases of foodborne illness.

At the end of FY24, a total of 83 establishments were operating within Clay County – with 24 being Category I (high priority) establishments, 36 being Category II (medium priority) establishments, and 23 being Category III (low risk) establishments. Each establishment is assigned a risk classification based upon what food handling operations are typically implicated in foodborne illness outbreaks.

During FY24, staff conducted 98 routine inspections, 25 follow-up inspections, 15 pre-opening inspections, and 11 complaint inspections in Clay County. Also, per agreements with Richland County Community Unit School District #1, SWAN, and the Richland County Senior Citizens Center, there were 8 routine inspections conducted in Richland County.

Additionally, we have participated in the FDA's Voluntary National Retail Food Regulatory Program Standards since December 2012. We have used this program as a roadmap for enhancing our program above the minimum requirements outlined in the Local Health Protection Grant. Over the years, it has provided the

framework and opportunities for additional funding to implement enhancements to our program and, in turn, positively impact public health in Clay County.

Although IDPH Program Review documents dating back to the 1980s have demonstrated continued compliance with Local Health Protection Grant rules for our Food Safety Program, there was a desire for a more comprehensive assessment of the Program's ability to ensure the health and safety of county residents and visitors. FDA's Voluntary National Retail Food Regulatory Program Standards was determined to be the most useful tool. Criteria are established in 9 Voluntary National Retail Food Regulatory Program Standards developed by the FDA:

- Standard 1 – Regulatory Foundation
- Standard 2 – Training Regulatory Staff
- Standard 3 – Inspection Program Based on HACCP Principles
- Standard 4 – Uniform Inspection Program
- Standard 5 – Foodborne Illness and Food Defense Preparedness and Response
- Standard 6 – Compliance and Enforcement
- Standard 7 – Industry and Community Relations
- Standard 8 – Program Support and Resources
- Standard 9 – Program Assessment

By June 2013, we completed an initial self-assessment of our Retail Food Program against the criteria in each of the 9 Program Standards developed by the FDA. All of the Standards are very complex, with stringent criteria and documentation requirements in order to claim it as "achieved". This initial self-assessment indicated that full compliance was not achieved in any of the 9 FDA Voluntary National Retail Food Regulatory Program Standards. Following self-assessment, jurisdictions are encouraged to establish action plans that suit their resources and priorities and that will help them move steadily toward attainment of each of the standards. Participation in the Standards is voluntary, and a jurisdiction may work at its own pace, with the ultimate goal of achieving all of the Standards.

In 2018, we conducted our first re-assessment. A re-assessment is recommended every 5 years, so the completion of our re-assessment at this time was crucial to evaluate our program and revise our current action plan to move steadily toward attainment of each of the standards. Documentation of the completed re-assessment was submitted to FDA on September 14th, 2018 indicating that full compliance was achieved in 4 of the Standards: Standard 1, Standard 3, Standard 6, and Standard 8.

In 2023, we completed our second re-assessment. The re-assessment completion date was noted as December 29, 2023 - indicating that full compliance was achieved in 4 of the Standards: Standard 1, Standard 3, Standard 6, and Standard 8. We will undergo a verification audit in FY25 to verify our findings.

Additionally, during FY24, we concluded a Risk Factor Study of routine food inspections conducted in calendar year 2023.

The design of this risk factor study was based on the FDA's *Study on the Occurrence of Foodborne Illness Risk Factors in Selected Retail and Foodservice Facility Types (2013-2024), Protocol for the Data Collection*. CCHD closely followed the FDA's methodology and considerations for conducting a file review of routine inspection data, which allowed for the retroactive assessment of the occurrence of risk factors observed during routine inspections conducted in 2023.

This Risk Factor Study was conducted to support progress towards meeting Standard 9: Program Assessment, which requires that a study on the occurrence of the five foodborne illness risk factors is conducted and repeated at least once every 60 months (five years) to measure trends in the occurrence of the risk factors. This was accomplished by analyzing data related to the 5 major risk factors that contribute to foodborne illness outbreaks at the retail level, as identified by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC):

1. Poor Personal Hygiene
2. Improper Holding / Time and Temperature

3. Contaminated Equipment / Protection from Contamination
4. Inadequate Cooking
5. Food from Unsafe Sources

In addition to these 5 major risk factors, the CCHD has decided to include a sixth risk factor to analyze in this study, which is designated as:

6. Improper Training of Staff

Additionally, this baseline risk factor study had three main objectives:

1. To identify the foodborne illness risk factors most in need of priority attention in Clay County food establishments.
2. To develop intervention strategies designed to reduce the occurrence of the identified risk factors.
3. To establish a baseline that future studies will be compared to in order to evaluate foodborne illness risk factor trends and intervention strategy effectiveness over time. Long-term, these evaluations may also be used to assess the strengths and gaps of the CCHD's Food Safety Program.

Subsequent Risk Factor Studies will be completed at least once every five years to evaluate risk factor trends and the effectiveness of implemented intervention strategies.

A list of all licensed food facilities (n=93) and their associated routine inspection data from calendar year 2023 were pulled from HealthSpace, the database used by CCHD's Food Safety Program for permitting and inspection tracking. Establishments that had opened between January 1, 2023 and December 31, 2023 were excluded from this study to minimize the potential for under-estimation of violation frequencies across all establishments. The remaining facilities (n=74) were then grouped into categories based on industry segment and facility type. Low Risk (Category III) establishments (n=19) were excluded from this study due to how limited the allowable food handling processes are for establishments under that category. The remaining 55 food establishments were deemed eligible for the study.

Overall, across the CDC's five major foodborne illness risk factors, Contaminated Equipment / Protection from Contamination was the most frequent risk factor category marked OUT of compliance across all establishments (n=41), followed by Improper Holding / Time and Temperature (n=26), and Poor Personal Hygiene (n=22). When also considering CCHD's created risk factor category, Improper Training of Staff (n=33) becomes the second most likely risk factor category to be marked OUT of compliance across all eligible food establishments in Clay County (n=55).

Overall, violation items #28 (*Toxic substances properly identified, stored, and used*), and #23 (*Proper date marking and disposition*), tied for being marked OUT of compliance at the most establishments during 2023 (n=22). These items were followed by violation items #2 (*Certified Food Protection Manager - CFPM*), and #57 (*All employees have food handler training*), which tied for the third most frequent item marked OUT of compliance at establishments (n=20).

Potable Water Supply Program

To protect the people within Clay County from contracting waterborne diseases and to prevent disease transmission, the Health Department conducts the Potable Water Supply Program – with the focus of the program encompassing private water supplies, closed loop wells, non-community public water supplies, and semi-private water supplies. In accordance with the Illinois Water Well Construction Code and the Illinois Water Well Pump Installation Code, Environmental Health staff issue permits for the construction and modification of any closed loop well or water well, assure private water wells and closed loop wells are properly constructed to maintain groundwater protection, investigate complaints regarding private and semi-private water supplies, perform legal enforcement action, and regulate the sealing of all abandoned wells.

During FY24, there were 3 active non-community public water supplies in Clay County.

Private Sewage Disposal Program

The Private Sewage Disposal Program helps protect Clay County residents from the transmission of disease organisms related to the improper or inadequate treatment of sewage. The goal of the program is to reduce the possibility of adverse environmental conditions being created by malfunctioning or improperly constructed and maintained private sewage disposal systems. Following the regulations outlined in the Illinois Department of Public Health's Private Sewage Disposal Licensing Act and Code, staff enforce standards for the installation and renovation of private sewage disposal systems that have no surface discharge, as well as systems with a surface discharge that treat a flow of 1,500 gallons per day or less. Program activities include the issuance of installation permits, the inspection of newly constructed and/or renovated private sewage disposal systems, and the inspection of complaints.

During FY24, a total of 23 applications for new or renovated private sewage disposal systems were received. Out of the 23 applications received, 23 systems were installed and inspected.

Vector Surveillance and Control

The Vector Surveillance and Control Grant provided funding for surveillance, public education, human case investigation, and prevention for vectors of human diseases, such as mosquitoes, ticks, and rodents. At least eighty percent (80%) of the grant funding was required to be used to enhance a mosquito vector surveillance and control program. No more than twenty percent (20%) of the grant funding could be used to conduct surveillance and prevention of non-mosquito vectors of human disease, such as ticks, rodents, nuisance birds, and other vectors of human diseases.

The collection and testing of dead birds and mosquitoes are important components of the program.

Results of these tests help us determine the extent of West Nile virus (WNV) activity in the area. Because the virus generally appears and grows in Illinois bird and mosquito populations before it is transmitted to humans, monitoring bird and mosquito populations helps us predict when and where humans will be at risk for WNV infection, as well as where and when additional precautions and control measures should be taken.

Clay County Health Department worked with local municipal governments to reduce the risk of WNV cases through the preventive treatment of catch basins, ditches, old tires, and other water impoundments that produce *Culex* mosquitoes, the vector of WNV.

Additionally, we have received a new funding opportunity for tick surveillance for FY24. We received funds to conduct active tick surveillance events.

During FY24, a total of 3,970 mosquitoes caught in Clay County were identified as being female *Culex* mosquitoes, the vector of WNV. These mosquitoes were divided into smaller batches for testing. None of the 96 total mosquito batches tested were positive for WNV. Additionally, 6 dead birds were collected and shipped to an IDPH Laboratory for testing. A total of 4 birds tested positive for WNV.

During FY24, we have conducted 6 active tick surveillance events to-date (with 5 of the events utilizing the dragging method for collection and 1 event utilizing dry ice for carbon dioxide trapping). A total of 90 ticks from five different properties throughout Clay County were submitted to IDPH for identification and pathogen testing.

Tanning Facility Inspections

The Tanning Facility Permit Act, enacted in July 1992, requires all facilities providing consumers access to ultraviolet radiation emitting devices for cosmetic purposes submit an application, and be licensed with the Illinois Department of Public Health for a permit to operate. Clay County Health Department conducts inspections of tanning facilities in Clay County to ensure their operations are compliant with the Tanning Facility Permit Act and the Illinois Tanning Facilities Code.

Facilities are inspected at least annually to determine compliance with various provisions including: equipment labeling and general operation, verification of appropriate ultraviolet lamps, accurate equipment timers, clients' use of protective eyewear, trained operators on duty, recordkeeping of clients' visits, and sanitation. Inspectors may place embargoes on tanning units observed to present a health hazard, removing the units from service until found to be in compliance upon re-inspection.

During FY24, staff conducted 1 initial (opening) inspection on tanning facilities in Clay County.

Body Art Establishment Inspections

The Tattoo and Body Piercing Establishment Registration Act, enacted in July 2007, requires all establishments performing physical body adornment, including but not limited to body piercing, tattooing, cosmetic tattooing, branding, and/or scarification, to register with the Illinois Department of Public Health for a permit to operate such establishment. Clay County Health Department conducts inspections of tattoo and body piercing establishments located in Clay County to ensure compliance with State standards, including equipment labeling and general operation, preparation and care of the body art area, disinfection and sterilization procedures, requirements for single use items, and body artist proficiency requirements.

During FY24, staff conducted 1 routine (renewal) inspection on body art establishments in Clay County.

Solid Waste

During FY24, several outreach activities were conducted to raise awareness about recycling, reduction of waste, and caring for our Earth. We hosted a Christmas Tree collection in December and provided collected trees to Forbes State Park to be used in the lake a cover for fish, presented about Earth Day and eco-friendly topics to all 4th grade classrooms in Clay County in honor of Earth Day in April, and manned a booth at the Health Department's Resource Carnival in April to provide information about recycling and reducing litter in the community. We also participated in the Clay County Extension Office's Annual Conservation Field Day in May 2, reaching 5th grade students from Clay City Schools, Flora Elementary, and Full Armor Christian Academy as they gathered at Charley Brown Park to learn about the environment through presentations from different organizations.

Additionally, during FY24, we established a drop-box for the proper disposal of residential sharps (which includes items such as needles, syringes, and lancets that are used in the home). This initiative successfully contributes to injury prevention for people and pets in households where routine sharps disposal is necessary. Additionally, proper disposal serves as a protective measure for sanitation workers who are at risk of coming into contact with improperly disposed sharps. Clay County Health Department began offering quart-sized sharps collection containers for use by individual residents, maintains a residential sharps collection station at the Clay County Health Department during business hours, and contracts a Potentially Infectious Medical Waste Transporter for the transport and disposal of collected sharps.

NUISANCE CONTROL

The purpose of this program is to investigate complaints and secure elimination of environmental health hazards in cooperation with other local, state, and federal agencies. The health department administers the nuisance control program under the authority of Chapter 55 ILCS 5/5-25001 and a county ordinance.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

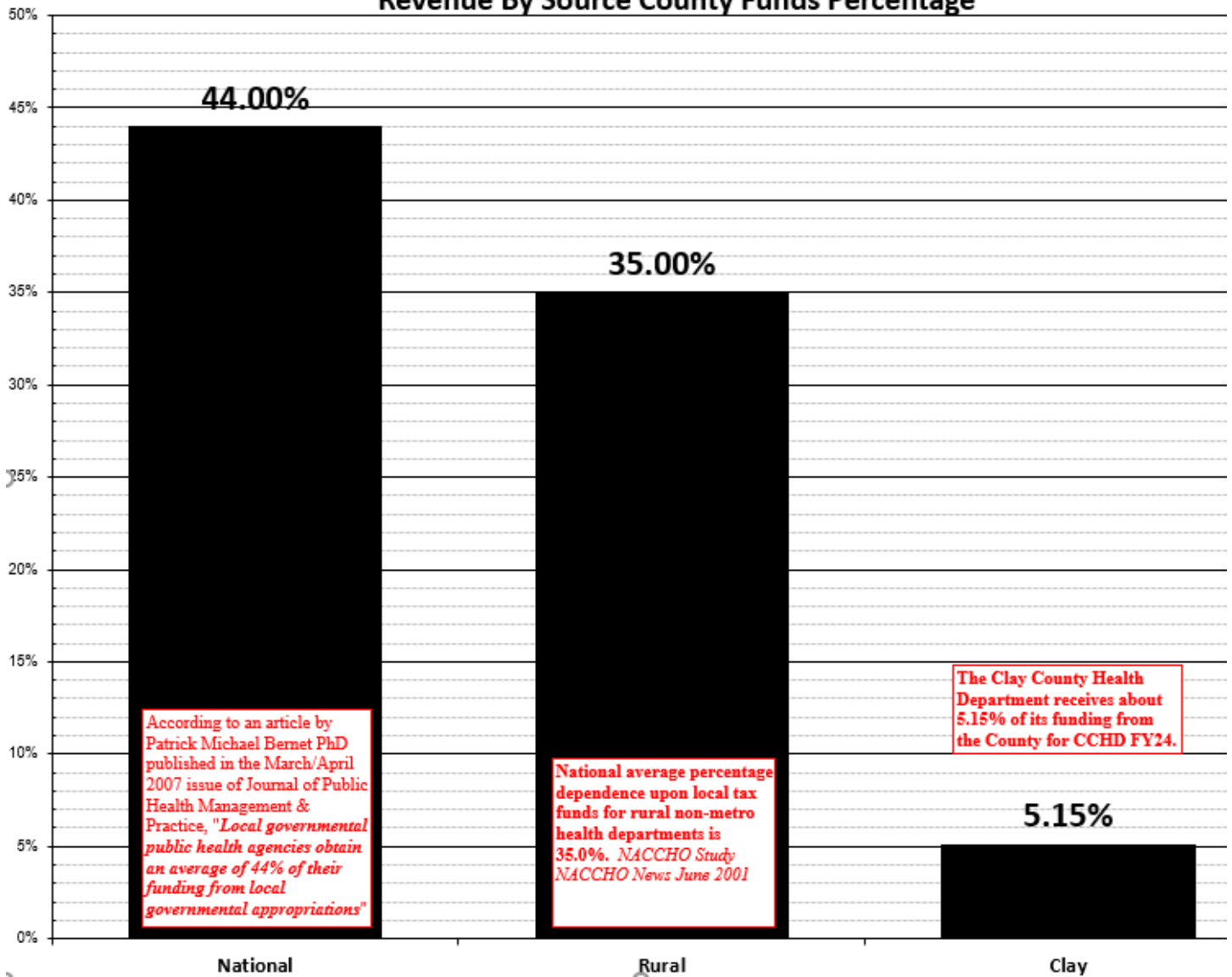
REVENUE SOURCES

The following items reflect the health department's finances in dollars based upon audited financial statements. Information for other years is also available.

STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENSES

REVENUE:	FY23	FY24
State & Federal Grants	1,796,151	2,300,519
State & Federal Fees	990,344	1,342,094
Other Non-Local Rev.	922,062	947,819
County Funds	282,083	254,649
Local Fees	56,846	58,799
Jail Nursing (all revenues)	327	0
Miscellaneous	16,275	42,944
TOTAL REVENUES	4,064,088	4,946,824
EXPENSE:	FY23	FY24
Admin. & General Op.	612,423	676,139
Home Health & Hospice	1,335,432	1,428,736
Jail Nursing (direct costs only)	341	0
Environmental Health/Local Health Protection Grant	83,114	107,405
Public Health & Other Programs / Services	2,136,074	2,671,919
TOTAL EXPENSES	4,167,384	4,884,199
NET INCOME (LOSS)	(103,296)	62,625
Fiscal Year	FY23	FY24

Revenue By Source County Funds Percentage



Selected Clay County Phone Numbers

CCH Medical Clinic	662-2191	Physicians, Specialist & FNP
CCI/Clay County Rehab Center	662-4916	Adult Vocational Training
CEFS	662-4024	Community Economic Opportunity Corp.
Chestnut Corners	665-4085	Shelter Care Home
Child Abuse & Neglect Hotline	(800) 25ABUSE	Hotline for Support
Child and Family Connections	(217) 718-3764	0-3 Speech, Development, Physical Behavior
City Hall / Flora City Clerk	662-8313	Utilities, Public Works
Clay County Ambulance	911	Ambulance Service
Clay County Animal & Rescue	665-3005	Rescue Shelter
Clay County Counseling	665-4535	Counseling Services
Clay County Courthouse	665-3522	County Agencies (birth & death certificates)
Clay County Health Department	662-4406	Local Governmental Entity
Clay County Hospital	662-2131	County Hospital
Clay County Housing Authority	662-5311	Housing
Clay County Ministerial Alliance	662-3851	Food Pantry – Mondays 9-11am
Clay County Sheriff's Department	665-3316	County Sheriff's Dept.
Clay Family Counseling Center	662-2289	Counseling Center
Clay Medical Center	662-8386	Physicians & APNs
CVS Drug Store	662-4767	Pharmacy
Department of Human Services	392-3151	Public Aid Office
DORS	(800) 843-6154	IL Dept. of Rehab Services
Flora Gardens Care Center	662-8361	Nursing Home
Flora Manor Intermediate Care	662-8494	Nursing Home
Flora Police Department	662-9111	Flora Police and Animal Control
Flora Rehab & HealthCare Center	662-8381	Nursing Home
Fur a Good Paws	662-7297	Rescue & Adoption Center
Guadalupe Project	662-8121	Helps with infant supplies
Headstart	(866) 442-1900	Clay County Headstart
Heritage Woods	662-4599	Elder Communal Home
Home Health or Hospice	662-4406	A division of Clay County Health Department.
IL Div. of Specialized Care for Children	395-8461	Located in Olney
KIDS HOPE UNITED	(217) 347-5880	Serving Clay, Effingham, & Jasper
Louisville Medical Clinic	665-4500	Physicians, Specialist & FNP
Project Child	244-5209	Helps with Daycare expenses
SAFE (800) 625-1414	283-1414	Sexual Assault & Family Emergencies
Senior Services	662-7304	Senior Citizen Counseling Facility
SWAN (888) 715-6260	392-3556	Women's Shelter
University of IL Extension	662-3124	Education services
Zink's Apartments	665-4081	Housing

Selected Phone Numbers

(The health department has additional numbers)

Alzheimer's Association	(800) 272-3900
American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology	(414) 272-6071
American Cancer Society	(800) 227-2345
American Diabetes Association	(800) 445-1667
American Lung Association	(800) LUNG-USA
American Society of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeons	(800) 514-5058
Amy Center	(618) 244-2100
Breast Cancer Support Program	(844) 838-5404
Cancer Information Service (CIS)	(800) 4CANCER
Department of Children & Family Services	(800) 252-2873
DSCC (Division of Specialized Care for Children)	(618) 395-8461
Hospice of Southeastern Illinois (ask for Hospice)	(618) 395-2131
Illinois Diabetes Association	(217) 875-9011
Immunization Hotline (IL Dept of Public Health)	(800) 526-4372
Lead Hotline	(800) 424-5323
National Autism Association	(877) 622-2884
National Osteopathic Foundation	(800) 621-1773
National STD Hotline	(800) 227-8922
One Hope United	(217) 347-5880
Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) Hotline	(919) 361-8488
Social Security Administration	(855) 213-5288
SWAN (Stop Woman Abuse Now)	(618) 392-3556
SWOR Women's Care	(941) 330-8885
YMCA	(800) 872-9622

Many different organizations now have web sites where you can obtain additional information on specific topics. The health department has links to several of these at our web site www.healthdept.org.