



2020 ANNUAL REPORT

Working with our community to **prevent** disease and injury,
protect the environment and **promote** health.

2020 IN REVIEW

A Message from the Administrator

To the Residents of DeKalb County:

We are pleased to present our Fifty-Fourth Annual Report which highlights the ways in which the DeKalb County Health Department works each and every day to improve health outcomes in our community.

In early March, when the World Health Organization declared a global pandemic, we began convening regular meetings with our Emergency Preparedness Team to plan for the initial phase of our pandemic response. On March 21, 2020, we received our first positive case in DeKalb County and beginning in April our work shifted dramatically to address the new COVID-19 related priorities at hand.

Our environmental and clinical service teams worked collaboratively as we focused on our initial response efforts and began implementing the recommended mitigation strategies. While many businesses and service organizations shifted to a remote work early on in the pandemic, DCHD staff remained on site to support the pandemic response and to continue to provide important guidance to the community and critical services for our clients.

In order to safely serve our clients, and in an effort to protect employees, we quickly adjusted our service model from a walk-in model to an appointment-based model and moved some of our services to phone-based and/or curbside. With the help from our valued community partners, we were able to serve our long-term care facilities and social service agencies by collecting and redistributing personal protective equipment and cleaning supplies. In addition, we focused heavily on ensuring various communication platforms were used to provide the public with the most up to date COVID-19 information and guidelines.

In late June, when COVID-19 response funding was released, we began to recruit and hire staff to support contact tracing and public information efforts. With COVID-19 related grants, we were able to hire a more robust case investigation and contact tracing team and were also able to secure additional staffing in the areas of Health Education and Health Protection. These COVID-19 specific grants also supported other resources needed to effectively respond, including necessary upgrades to our software and to our IT infrastructure.

In the Fall of 2020 as we experienced a significant surge in cases, we focused on case investigation and contact tracing, using an all-hands-on deck approach. While our Clinical Team focused on case management of positive cases and their close contacts, our Health Protection Team supported that work by assisting with outbreak investigations within local businesses. The Health Protection Team also had the primary responsibility of working with local businesses to provide education, guidance and follow-up enforcement of the identified resurgence mitigation strategies.

This report provides a three-year snapshot of service data to reflect the program level impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic. When I look back at the obstacles we have encountered thus far, I feel incredibly grateful for the level of support that we have received from the community including local agencies that were critical in supporting our response efforts. I am so very proud of our Public Health workforce as they have continued to step up to every challenge that has come our way.

While it is almost impossible to effectively put the first ten months of the Pandemic Response into words, we hope this report helps to highlight our Public Health response to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. We would like to thank our Health Department staff, our valued community partners, the elected and appointed officials and the residents of DeKalb County for their ongoing support and commitment to public health.

Lisa Gonzalez, MPH
Administrator
DeKalb County Health Department

Derryl Block, RN, PhD
President
DeKalb County Board of Health



Lisa Gonzalez, MPH

DeKalb County Board of Health 2020

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COVID-19 Response

Highlights of DeKalb County Health Department's response to the COVID-19 Pandemic in 2020

Incident Management

On March 6, 2020, DeKalb County Health Department activated its Emergency Operations Center. Public Health functions were activated as necessary throughout the pandemic including meeting with local leaders and the Incident Command team as necessary.

Information Management

Emergency public information and warning information was reviewed and shared via social media, press releases, Health Department website, educational presentations, interviews, and more.

Updated guidance and information was shared with community partners including distribution of static window clings to local businesses and the Chamber of Commerce to educate the public on COVID-19 symptoms and when to stay home.

The Health Department provided individual agency consultation and site visits to help agencies interpret and implement Statewide guidance. This was extremely important during Restore Illinois and various mitigation phases especially since guidance was constantly evolving.

Countermeasures and Mitigation

Over 213,000 Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) items were distributed to law enforcement agencies, long-term care facilities and social service agencies. PPE was received from the Strategic National Stockpile, community donations and local funding opportunities.

Nearly 5,500 COVID-19 kits were distributed to community members at testing sites, food pantries, or at other community agencies. The COVID-19 kits consisted of various items including thermometers, hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes.

Almost 6,000 ounces of hand sanitizer was distributed to agencies throughout the County. In collaboration with community volunteer groups, the Health Department collected cloth masks for distribution to individuals and organizations.

At the end of 2020, Health Department staff prepared and planned for the anticipation of receiving and administering the COVID-19 vaccine. Vaccination planning expanded on existing written policies and procedures. In December of 2020, the Health Department received its first shipment of COVID-19 vaccine that immediately went to the local hospital system for vaccination of healthcare personnel.

Biosurveillance & Epidemiological Investigation

Health Department staff conducted contact tracing and case investigations on individuals positive with COVID-19 and their close contacts. Staff investigated 60 COVID-19 outbreaks throughout the County in various settings. Over 6,700 cases of COVID-19 were identified in DeKalb County residents in 2020. Each case requires a case investigation including identifying and contacting all contacts of the positive individual. Individuals and contacts are provided with isolation/quarantine guidelines.

Health Department staff provided COVID-19 testing to individuals, congregate settings, and outbreak situations. Staff conducted over 1,200 COVID-19 tests in 2020. Staff coordinated with community agencies to establish nine mobile testing sites throughout the County.

- **January 24:** Illinois reports first case of COVID-19
- **March 11:** The World Health Organization declares the outbreak a pandemic
- **March 13:** President Trump declares a national emergency.
- **March 17:** Illinois reports first death and first outbreak in a long-term care facility
- **March 20:** Governor Pritzker orders a Stay at Home order
- **March 21:** DeKalb County reports first COVID-19 case
- **April 6:** DeKalb County reports first COVID-19 death
- **May 24:** DeKalb County reports first long-term care facility outbreak
- **December 28:** DeKalb County receives first shipment of the COVID-19 vaccine

HEALTH PROTECTION

2018 ● 2019 ● **2020**

Food Service Sanitation Program

Licenses and inspects food establishments, including temporary food vendors. Educates the public about safe food handling, preparation and storage.

food establishments licensed	554	570	586
routine, follow-up & temporary food inspections	1,266	1,150	336

Potable Water & Sewage Disposal

Ensures proper installation and repair of privately owned wells and sewage disposal systems. Prevents the transmission of disease caused by exposure to sewage and contaminated drinking water.

well permits issued	23	40	44
new well inspections	4	12	12
water samples obtained & tested	49	61	118
real estate inspections	56	26	60
sewage disposal inspections	24	19	34
sewage disposal permits	23	33	38

Animal Control Program

The goal of Animal Control is to prevent the spread of rabies through vaccinations and education and support a database of registered dogs and cats. AC staff are responsible for enforcing county ordinances and state laws pertaining to animal-related complaints. Investigations are done regarding nuisance complaints, allegations of animal cruelty or neglect, as well as reports of stray, roaming or injured animals; or dangerous, vicious or biting animals.

dogs registered for three years	3,116	3,271	3,099
dogs registered for one year	5,623	5,593	5,778
animal bites reported & investigated	177	234	221
sick-injured wildlife handled	90	65	88
dogs/cats handled	122	186	137
bats removed	67	25	40
cats registered for three years	--	--	724
cats registered for one year	--	--	2,467

Solid Waste Program

The Household Hazardous Waste Collection was held on June 13, 2020 with over 150 cars served. In addition to the event residents used other local programs such as the "At Your Door - WM" to recycle over 46 tons of household hazardous waste. An Electronic Waste Collection was held July 18, 2020 with over 950 vehicles served, filling 5 semi-trailers with almost 28 tons of electronic waste. A second Electronic Waste Collection event held on October 17, 2020 served over 350 vehicles recycling 23 tons of electronic waste.

COMMUNITY HEALTH & PREVENTION

2018 ● 2019 ● **2020**

Family Case Management

Assists income eligible pregnant women, infants and young children to obtain the healthcare services and other assistance they may need to have a healthy pregnancy and promote the child's healthy development. We continue to encourage pregnant women to seek our services early in their pregnancy.

individuals served	8,347	8,079	7,529
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Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Supplemental Food & Nutrition Program

Helps meet the nutritional needs of income-eligible women who are pregnant, breastfeeding and infants and children under 5 years old through health and nutrition assessments and education, food vouchers to participating stores and breastfeeding support. Many working families and those who receive SNAP benefits also qualify for WIC services. Walk-ins are welcome.

average number of active monthly clients	1,399	1,342	1,124
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Communicable Disease Program

The mission of the Communicable Disease Program is to promote a healthy community and prevent the spread of disease.

reportable diseases	806	756	7,467
case investigations	1,062	1,008	7,638

Adult & Travel Immunizations

Provides vaccines for preventable diseases to adults, including flu vaccines. Travel immunizations visits include a nurse consultation for recommended vaccines and country specific information.

adult vaccines administered	2,291	2,272	586
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Childhood Immunizations

Provides vaccines for preventable diseases to children, including flu vaccines. DCHD is a state approved Vaccine for Children (VFC) Program and provides free or low-cost vaccines to eligible children through 18 years. DCHD also provide immunizations to children who are covered by private health insurance which is then submitted electronically to their health insurance plan.

children immunized	3,633	2,476	835
vaccines administered	9,127	5,742	1,635

Tuberculosis Program

The mission of the Communicable Disease Program is to promote a healthy community and prevent the spread of disease.

tuberculin skin tests administered and interpreted	1,214	956	855
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COMMUNITY HEALTH & PREVENTION

2018 ● 2019 ● **2020**

Vision & Hearing Screening Program

Screens children to identify and refer those who are in need of follow-up care.

hearing screenings	4,757	3,897	1,608
vision screenings	3,785	3,277	1,427

Family Planning Program

Offers confidential non-judgmental medical, educational and social services to males and females of childbearing age to support reproductive health and positive birth outcomes. All forms of birth control methods, including Long-Acting Reversible Contraceptive (LARC) are available. Testing and treatment for sexually transmitted infections including HIV testing.

office visits	2,045	1,858	1,486
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Vital Records Program

As the DeKalb County Registrar, the DeKalb County Health Department has the responsibility of registering birth and death records in DeKalb County. Certified copies of certificates are issued by request.

births registered	967	963	941
deaths registered (medical and permanent)	725	726	855

Ryan White Case Management Program

Provides Medical Case Management services to HIV+ individuals and their families.

number of clients enrolled (monthly average)	43	45	45
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Drug Testing Services

Improves access for affordable urine drug screening for college programs, employers and the public.

tests performed	314	234	181
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Medical Cannabis Patient Program

Provides assistance with applications for the Medical Cannabis Patient Registry Program.

submitted applications	126	248	114
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Healthcare Enrollment Assistance Program

Provides assistance with enrollment in the Health Insurance Marketplace and Medicaid. Funding for this program is made possible by the DeKalb County Community Mental Health Board.

medicaid enrollments	233	216	222
marketplace applications	128	150	116

Community Health Needs Assessment

Priority Highlights

Maternal Child Health

Initiative: Basics DeKalb County

DCHD applied for and was awarded funding from the Northwestern Medicine Community Benefit Grant to directly support activities under the Maternal and Child Health Priority area of the Community Health Improvement Plan. A portion of the funding was allocated to purchase board books for clients to take home to support Basics DeKalb County. Basics DeKalb County, based on the Boston Basics, is a set of five evidence-based nurturing practices that help all infants and toddlers thrive cognitively, socially and emotionally. Part of the funding was used to purchase breast pumps and tubing kits to support the medical-grade breastfeeding pump loan program to support breastfeeding for mothers of premature babies. These breast pumps and tubing kits are loaned to mothers in the WIC program to use for free. The rest of the funding was utilized to purchase car seats to be distributed to Family Case Management Clients. This initiative provides clients car seats who have no access to a safe car seat.

Behavioral Health

Initiative: Trauma Informed System of Care

In March of 2020, DCHD staff on the DCHD's internal Trauma Action Team had the opportunity to attend a two-day training by the Alliance for Hope organization. The training was called "Strangulation, Childhood Trauma, Hope & Collaboration." This training focused on creating innovative and collaborative trauma-informed care centered around hope to help meet the needs of individuals within the community. The training was a great opportunity to learn more about trauma-informed care but to also collaborate with many other agencies and individuals throughout DeKalb County.

DCHD has been on the journey of becoming a trauma-informed organization through adopting a trauma-informed framework which utilizes SAMHSA's six key principles of a trauma-informed approach. The SAMHSA domains, physical environment and policy, in the Trauma-Informed Framework process address staff trauma, self-care, and creating a physical environment that promotes a sense of safety. The COVID-19 pandemic has been a difficult time for Health Department staff which highlighted the importance of implementing and practicing trauma-informed care. Funds awarded from the Northwestern Medicine Community Benefit Grant allowed DCHD to purchase trauma-informed kits for each staff member to provide educational and self-care materials to help support the trauma-informed initiative.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT (unaudited)



Revenue

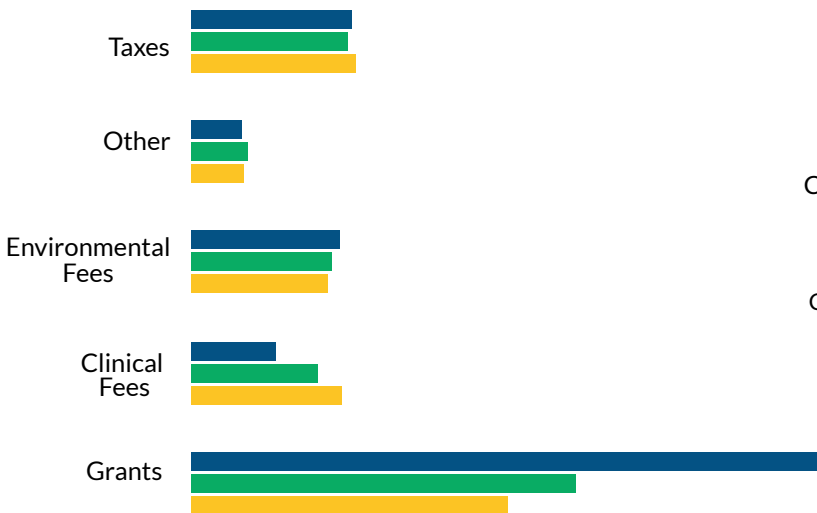
Grants	2,821,782	58%
Taxes	728,846	15%
Environmental Fees	671,071	14%
Clinical Fees	385,255	8%
Other	246,498	5%
Total	4,853,452	100%



Expenditures

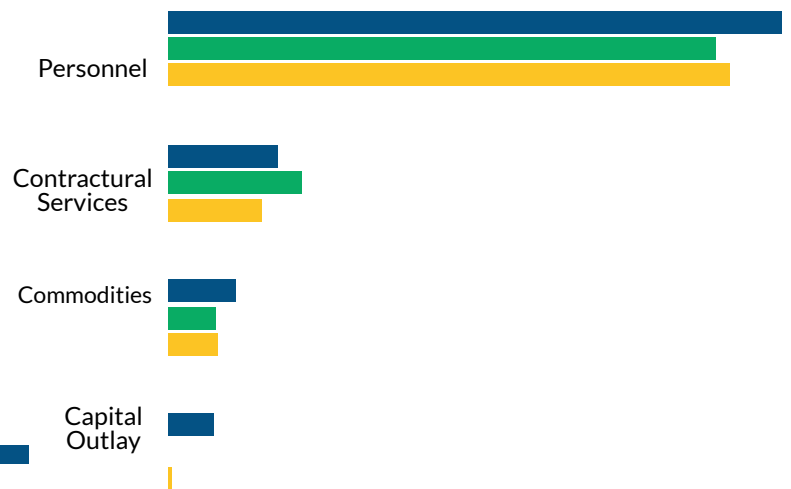
Personnel	3,259,364	70%
Contractual	762,819	17%
Commodities	368,989	8%
Capital	249,728	5%
Total	4,640,900	100%

Revenue
2018-2020



■ 2020 ■ 2019 ■ 2018

Expenditures
2018-2020



■ 2020 ■ 2019 ■ 2018



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*A community where all can achieve optimal
health where they live, work and play.*