

# Annual Report

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## KENDALL COUNTY, ILLINOIS



*A Caring Place*

KENDALL COUNTY  
HEALTH DEPARTMENT

# MISSION

The mission of the  
**Kendall County Health Department**  
is to promote physical health, mental health,  
environmental health, protect the community's health,  
prevent disease, and promote family economic  
self-sufficiency through both person-based services  
and population-based programs.



# VISION

Partnering to build a thriving Kendall County  
where all people have equal opportunity  
for overall health and well-being.

# VALUES

Integrity · Accountability · Commitment to Excellence  
· Inclusion · Compassion



# 2023 Reflections

This *Annual Report* is a pure reflection of all the great work happening at our local health department each day. As we glance back, my hope is that this *glimpse of goodness* deepens your learning of how our diverse services continue to meet the needs of all our residents throughout Kendall County.

Local health departments are at the forefront of mobilizing public health actions to prevent the spread of viruses and disease. Each program works to ensure continued health and safety of our communities while keeping essential public health services in place and available for all.

As you enjoy this report, you will notice it shines a light on only a few of the ways we assist the Kendall County community to achieve optimal health and wellbeing. The Board of Health, alongside Leadership, continually assess the services provided to assure relevancy and value.

We believe that all our county residents deserve equitable care — that means care that’s tailored for them and enables them to live their healthiest lives. We strive to identify and eliminate avoidable differences in health care between different groups of people. These are called health inequities.

One of the ways we advance health equity is by employing a diverse workforce. Our multicultural and multiracial workforce helps create trust and supports effective communication with our residents.

As you see to the left, we have devoted efforts to having a workforce that resembles or reflects the county population. Attracting, retaining, and developing diverse professionals stirs innovation and drives growth from within. A diverse workforce brings creative insight to developing solutions for underlying health disparity conditions.

Please enjoy our annual report and visit our website to learn more about our services at [www.kendallhealth.org](http://www.kendallhealth.org).

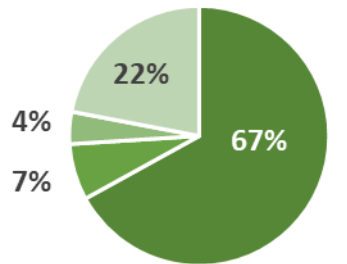
All my best,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'RaeAnn VanGundy'.

RaeAnn VanGundy

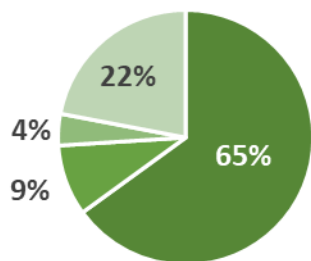
Executive Director/Public Health Administrator

Health Department  
Workforce



- White/Caucasian
- Black/African American
- Asian
- Latino

Kendall County Residents



- White/Caucasian
- Black/African American
- Asian
- Latino

# BOARD OF HEALTH



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County Board Liaison



**Julie Conlin, D.D.S.**  
Board Member



**Jordan Gash**  
Board Member



**Nanci Reiland**  
Secretary

Kendall County Health Department is led by a volunteer Board of Health who selflessly gives of their time and expertise in providing leadership and direction. The Board of Health represents a high level of dedication and professionalism in the development and advancement of policy, promoting quality services in behavioral health, community health, environmental health, and community action services. The Board of Health commits their time and energy in policymaking, discussion of services, and working with stakeholders in Kendall County.

# PROFESSIONAL STAFF

## Program Support

RAEANN VANGUNDY, M.P.H, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/  
PUBLIC HEALTH ADMINISTRATOR  
STEVE CURATTI, M.P.A., L.E.H.P., ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTOR  
ARISSA HUNT, B.A., EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

LORENA CORRAL, B.S., HUMAN RESOURCES COORDINATOR  
KATY WILLIAMS, M.P.H., FISCAL DIRECTOR  
CRUZ LLAMAS, CPC-A, INSURANCE COORDINATOR  
LACEE SPAMPANATO, B.S., B.A., ACCOUNTING CLERK  
KATLYN COLBORN, B.S., ACCOUNTING CLERK

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MARY MCCARRON-MCGINNISS, R.D., L.D.N., C.L.C.,  
WIC COORDINATOR  
BRANDY LEHMAN, B.S., R.N., PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE  
BONNIE KRODEL, B.S.N., R.N., P.A., PUBLIC HEALTH  
NURSE

ELIZABETH SMITH, B.S.N., R.N., PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE  
CINDY KATHE, L.D.N., NUTRITIONIST  
NANCY HELLER, MED, L.D.N.-C.L.C, NUTRITIONIST  
JULIA HOLT, M.P.H., EMERGENCY RESPONSE SPECIALIST  
ERICA NEVAREZ, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT  
SANDY CORTEZ, A.S., COMMUNITY HEALTH SPECIALIST  
MEGAN TROUSDALE, WIC SPECIALIST

## Community Action Services

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RYAN CARRIE, M.S.W., ASSISTANT DIRECTOR  
CHUNG SAENZ, INTAKE & REFERRAL SPECIALIST  
JANET RIDDLE, INTAKE & REFERRAL SPECIALIST  
MAGALY GUTIERREZ, INTAKE & REFERRAL SPECIALIST  
CHLOE VARSEK, B.S., OUTREACH SPECIALIST

VICKY TORGERSO, B.S., WEATHERIZATION  
COORDINATOR  
DAVID LUBSHINA, WEATHERIZATION AUDITOR  
MADELINE SMILES, B.S., WEATHERIZATION AUDITOR  
SANDRA FRANCO, A.S., COMMUNITY RESOURCE  
SPECIALIST  
TONIA ANTHONY, DATA ENTRY CLERK

## Environmental Health Services

AARON RYBSKI, B.S., L.E.H.P., DIRECTOR  
CLARENCE BELL, B.S., ASSISTANT DIRECTOR  
LAUREN BELLVILLE, B.S., L.E.H.P. WELL/SEPTIC PROGRAM  
COORDINATOR  
AMY SERBY, B.S., L.E.H.P., SANITARIAN

ALEXIS WELCHKO, B.S., SANITARIAN  
ASHLYNN CARLSON, B.S., SANITARIAN  
SHAINA MARTIN, B.S., SANITARIAN  
DEANA JUSTAK, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

## Mental Health Services/Support Services

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MICHELLE HAWLEY, M.P.A, C.R.A.D.C., CODP I,  
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR  
JETZEMANITH CAMPOS, M.S.W., L.C.S.W., BEHAVIORAL  
HEALTH CLINICIAN  
ERLINDA DE LA TORRE, M.S.W., L.S.W., BEHAVIORAL  
HEALTH CLINICIAN  
LINDSEY ANTOS, M.S., L.P.C., BEHAVIORAL HEALTH  
CLINICIAN  
LISA SLEEZER, M.A., L.C.P.C., BEHAVIORAL HEALTH  
CLINICIAN

PATRICIA PENFOLD, B.A., TRANSITIONS COORDINATOR  
MIGUEL HERNANDEZ, B.S.W., ADMISSIONS COORDINATOR  
JESSICA KUBIAK, M.S.W., INFANT/EARLY CHILDHOOD  
MENTAL HEALTH CONSULTANT  
ANDREA HIGUERA, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT  
SHELLY BRITT, OFFICE MANAGER  
CHRISTINA VILLEGAS, SUPPORT STAFF  
SHARON SAMUEL, SUPPORT STAFF  
MICHELLE ZEKAS, SUPPORT STAFF  
BLANCA CADENA, SUPPORT STAFF

## Independent Contractors

MARLIN HARTMAN, B.A., SOLID WASTE COORDINATOR

MICHAEL J. MARTIN, M.D., PSYCHIATRIST

## Volunteers

MARY POOLE, RETIRED AND SENIOR VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

## Intern Programs in collaboration with the following Universities

NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY

BENEDICTINE UNIVERSITY

LEWIS UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS CHICAGO

ADLER SCHOOL OF PROFESSIONAL PSYCHOLOGY

UNIVERSITY OF ST. FRANCIS

AURORA UNIVERSITY/GEORGE WILLIAMS SCHOOL OF  
SOCIAL WORK

ROOSEVELT UNIVERSITY NATIONAL LOUIS UNIVERSITY

# ADVISORY BOARD PARTNERS

## Community Action Advisory Board

(Tripartite Advisory Board)

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KATHY BRADEN, VICE-CHAIR  
JIM HOMA  
ERIC FISHER  
BARB NADEAU

MATT FRITZ  
MATT CONRAD  
DICK JOYCE  
RHONDA REDGATE-OFFHAUS  
PAUL KUBINSKI

JANICE GRANT  
JOSH HARRIS  
CARIMAR CRUZ  
AMY PETERSON

## Community Health Advisory Board

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OMAYRA GIACHELLO  
PATRICIA CANESSA

ALEXANDER POPE  
DONNA PALMER  
JENNI PIENKOS

MELINDA LASKY  
WILLIAM NELSON

## Environmental Health Advisory Board

VALERIE BURD, CHAIR  
JACKIE FORBES, VICE CHAIR  
TED MCCANNON  
JAKE COOPER

DAN LARSEN  
EVELYN GIVENS  
SANDRA DAVIS  
MICHAEL WALKER

CLIFF FOX  
CHRISTINA ARCHER

## Mental Health Advisory Board

CATHI MUNDSINGER, CHAIR  
CHRIS COOPER  
LUANNE PETERS  
DINA SCHNABLE

VICTOR ORTIZ  
ALYSSA OLIN  
ANTHONY JOUTRAS  
LATHERESE MEADOWS

PAUL KUBINSKI  
HANNAH FISHBECK  
ALLISON BYRNE

# FINANCIAL REPORT

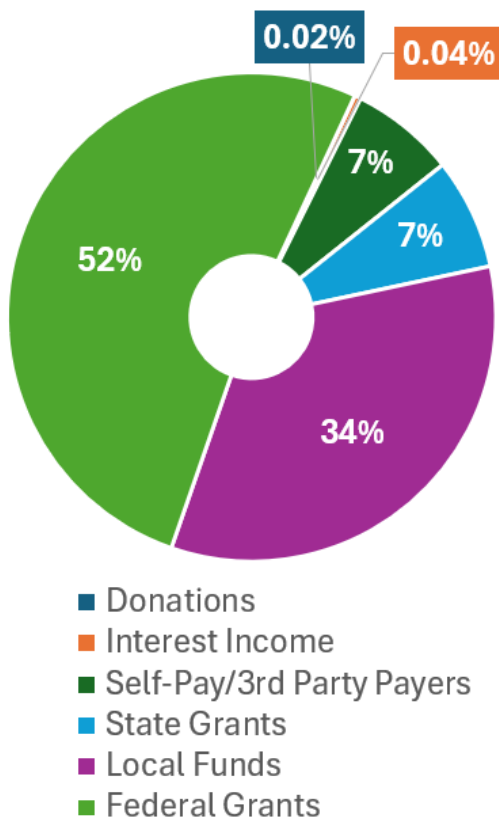
December 1, 2022 — November 30, 2023

## Financial Totals

<i>Revenues</i>	\$7,134,752.40
<i>Expenditures</i>	\$6,950,428.31

**We receive funding from federal, state, and local sources. This diverse funding enables us to provide comprehensive supports and services to our community.**

## Funding Sources



# 49

## Number of Grants

### Grant Funders

- ◇ AgeGuide - Northeastern Illinois Agency on Aging
- ◇ Association of Food and Drug Officials
- ◇ Chaddock
- ◇ Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity
- ◇ Illinois Department of Human Services
- ◇ Illinois Department of Public Health
- ◇ Illinois Emergency Management Agency
- ◇ Lyme Disease Association
- ◇ Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

**Our deepest appreciation to you, our supporters**

### Donors

- ◇ R. Thomas Bundorf
- ◇ Rachel Sacks
- ◇ Matthew Fritz
- ◇ Baumgartens
- ◇ Yorkville Congregational UCC
- ◇ Professional Manufacturers Representatives Inc.
- ◇ Odd Fellows Little Rock Lodge 171
- ◇ Catherine Mundsinger

# COMMUNITY ACTION SERVICES

## New Employment Barrier Reduction Program

The Employment Barrier Reduction Program began assisting residents of Kendall and Grundy this past year. Since then, the EBRP program has helped 10 households directly alleviate barriers from obtaining or retaining employment or job services such as clothing, cell phones or minutes, transportation, personal hygiene, child care, books or training supplies, course registration, or having an ID/Driver's License. The purpose of this program is to prevent homelessness and housing insecurity, and to increase employment among people who have lost or are at risk of losing SNAP benefits because they are struggling to meet the federal work requirements.

## Homeless Prevention Funding Increase

The Homeless Prevention Program provides rental or mortgage assistance and utility assistance to persons who are in danger of eviction or foreclosure. This program has been largely underfunded to match the needs of Kendall County residents who have become behind with their housing costs. Due to new census data showing the increase need in Kendall County and the Home Illinois Anti-Homelessness Initiative, we received a 305% increase in funds for program year 2024. In program year 2023, we prevented 12 families from becoming homeless. With these increase in funds, we are estimating that we will be able to prevent 37 families from becoming homeless in program year 2024.



## Weatherization Readiness

The Illinois Weatherization Assistance Program assists in making low income family's homes more energy efficient. On average, a home that has been weatherized may see lower energy costs of about 34% within a year after the work has been completed. One of the barriers that may occur to prevent a home to receive



these energy saving installments is if the home is not in appropriate shape to accept the full range of energy conservation measures. For example, if the home contains mold, we would have to defer the home until the home-owner mediates the mold on their own or if the roof leaks which could lead to degradation of the new insulation performance we would also have to defer the home. Over half the homes we assess have had to be deferred in the past and the mitigation measures tend to be far out of reach for the families to afford to mediate. This year we received funding from the Department of Energy called Weatherization Readiness to address these health and safety issues so that the home can become more "ready" for energy conservation measures at no cost to the home owner. This funding will lead to more comfortable, safe, healthy, and energy saving homes for our Kendall and Grundy county residents.

# HAPPY HEALTHY HOMES

**21**

**Homes received Weatherization.**

**Weatherization makes homes safer, healthier, and more energy efficient.**

**2407**

**Homes received LIHEAP.**

**Energy assistance promotes energy conservation while reducing vulnerability resulting from energy needs.**

**30**

**Homes received Rental or Mortgage assistance.**

**Rent and Mortgage assistance help families maintain safe housing and avoid foreclosure.**



# COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES

## Communicable Disease

Our Communicable Disease team diligently investigated over 411 cases of infectious disease brought on by exposures to microorganisms produced by animal, mosquito, and tick bites; bacterial infections such as meningitis; food and water-borne gastrointestinal illnesses; sexually transmitted disease; infectious skin conditions and rashes; and numerous vaccine-preventable diseases. This represented a substantial increase of 12% over 2022, during which we received and investigated 356 cases. Our team assists with accessing appropriate medical treatment, provides guidance on completing treatment regimens, while working hard to prevent the spread of disease to others. All diseases are reported in a timely and thorough manner to the state.



## Family Case Management

Our Family Case Management (FCM) team is dedicated to promoting positive maternal and child health outcomes for families experiencing socioeconomic hardship. This is achieved by providing comprehensive health service coordination and case management to address the physical, social, educational, and developmental needs of our clients. This year, our team assisted 110 pregnant women, postpartum mothers, and infants from birth to 12 months of age. We instituted strategies to ensure that our clients are receiving needed vaccinations, meanwhile providing them in a timely manner. These efforts have enlightened families in need of the true benefits of this valued service provided in our clinic.

## Women, Infant, and Children Program

Our Women, Infant and Childrens (WIC) program provided education and free nutritional support to a notable 724 Kendall County families. We worked to ensure that women and those who had delivered a baby in the last 6 months, infants, and children up to the age of 5, received the nutrients they needed for proper growth and development, essential to preserving good health while reducing mortality rate. Promoting and providing supportive education on breast feeding continued to be key. WIC-provided food supplements using an Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) system, also referred to as a debit card that allows for access to food in a respectful and dignified approach. We offered handouts and services in multiple languages, and increased ease of access through Tuesday evening hours to ensure we met the needs of all families. Our team has been seen throughout the community supporting families in need at our local food pantry, child daycares, special school events, and the YMCA.



# Building Vaccine Confidence

Throughout 2023, COVID-19 continued to show its presence in Kendall County, Illinois and around the world. There are over 90,000 individuals in Kendall County that are fully vaccinated (over 70%). Additionally, the Community Health team is “Keeping Kendall Healthy” by providing vaccination programs for routine children’s vaccinations, travel immunizations, and seasonal/COVID vaccinations. In 2023, we offered:



**567**

Immunizations administered through VFC program

**26**

Kids Vaccine Clinics (newborn - 18 years of age)

**21**

Extra Back to School Clinics

**5**

On-site clinics at schools in partnership with Jewel-Osco

Our team and Mobile Van have visited local events & organizations to increase vaccine awareness and to promote and provide other valuable services we offer to our community. Through this outreach:

**700+**

Residents received vaccine information handouts

**800+**

Clients received vaccine and disease control informational handouts

**20+**

Community events attended to promote vaccine availability and protection

**40+**

Physician/clinic offices received “Keeping Kendall County Healthy” packets

**50+**

Foot Prints to Parenting educational handouts provided, including vaccine availability

**All**

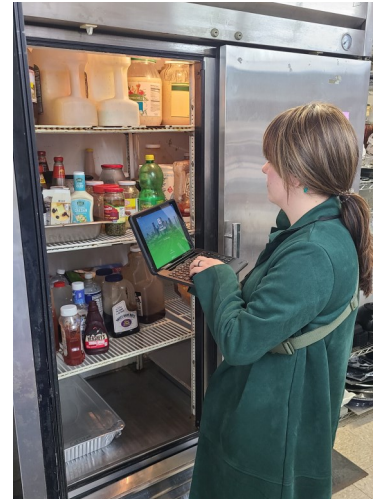
Kendall County School Districts received 2023 Back to School Vaccine requirements & disease care and prevention handouts



# ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

## Leveraging Partnerships and Technology

Over the course of the last several years, the Environmental Health Unit and the Kendall County Geographic Information System (GIS) Department have formed a working partnership which has allowed for the development and implementation of affordable, innovative GIS based technology that is modernizing our work. Throughout most of 2022, the team built a full-scale food inspection system to allow for routine and follow up food inspection data to be entered into a data system from tablets in the field. This system needed to be sophisticated and track inspections in different frequencies based on risk category, recognize the need for follow up inspections based on specific violations recorded, allow for the recording of different numbers of temperatures and sanitizer concentrations, track food manager certifications, as well as a host of other features. After a lot of work and beta testing in December 2022, the system went live on January 1, 2023. Staff immediately put it to use and all but abandoned the traditional inspection method of pen and paper, as the system implementation was a resounding success. Soon after, the development team went to work to supplement this system with tracking and scheduling dashboards for program managers, making oversight and decision making in this program easier and more efficient. For the first time in its existence, we were able to track the most common violations and see violation trends across risk categories. This new capability will facilitate the implementation of food safety risk factor interventions.



Once these management tools were complete, the team took further steps to create dashboards to help inspection staff track their own work. Next, work to build new online annual food permit applications as well as temporary food and mobile vendor applications began. These steps not only made tracking these permits and associated payment and paperwork easier on staff, but it also made the process of applying for a permit easier on the applicants themselves. The development team has fully adopted a spirit of continuous quality improvement and is actively improving each aspect of the program as the ideas come and as time allows. We look forward to rolling out more features including more online forms and a mobile temporary food inspection system in 2024 to further enhance our work in this program.

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## Food Program Quality Assurance

In 2023, staff completed a self-assessment of our Food Protection Program against the 9 FDA Voluntary Retail Food Standards. These standards cover the full scope of a food safety inspection program - including forms used, inspection frequency, staff training and standardization, community education, responding to foodborne illnesses, enforcement of laws, ensuring proper staffing levels, and many others. Each standard must be met, and evidence and supporting data for each must be audited by an authorized auditor who is also enrolled in this program. Our self-assessment revealed that the Food Protection Program was in full compliance with several standards. For standards that were not fully met, assessment staff were able to determine in almost every case, only a little extra work is needed to achieve full compliance. Work is continuing in this program, with an additional standard slated for full compliance next year.

# EHS Introduces a NEW Vector-borne Disease Education Social Media Campaign!



In January, Environmental Health Services started their social media campaign with the goal of publishing at least 1 post per week on Facebook and Instagram.

Posts educated on ticks, mosquitoes, and the diseases they may carry.

Through this page, an education effectiveness survey was administered focused on potential knowledge growth related to the topic through the year. Administering this survey helps fulfill a Community Health Plan impact objective.

## Facebook:

**# of posts – 58**

**# of post likes – 631**

**# of post shares – 265**



## Instagram:

**# of posts – 56**

**# of post likes – 90**

Instagram started in early February and the first Mosquito and Tick post happened on the third day the page was active.



During this campaign, new plushie mascots were introduced! A public campaign to name them resulted in: **Itchy & Scratchy the Mosquitoes and Twitch the Tick**. These friends helped educate the



public, both online as well as at community events.

# MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

## Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health

The Caregiver Connections program provides reflective consultation, technical assistance, and training to child care practitioners serving the social-emotional development of young children (birth to age five) and their families. Through Caregiver Connections, our Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultants provided childcare centers with 42 trainings, each at least two (2) hours in length. During these trainings, many topics were covered, including reflective practice, social emotional development, addressing challenging behaviors, and relationship and communication skills. Our Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultants had trainings and/or consultations (meeting with a classroom, teacher, or the entire childcare or in home center) with 60 programs over the past year and were involved in at least 11 different community groups.

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## Senior Health Insurance Program (SHIP)

This Year, our Transitions Coordinator completed Senior Health Insurance Program (SHIP) training, which allows her to aid those who are in open enrollment with Medicare. Since completing training, she has held 18 SHIP appointments with eligible individuals and had 6 follow-up visits.

State Health Insurance Assistance Programs (SHIPs) offer free and unbiased insurance counseling and assistance to Medicare-eligible individuals, their families, and caregivers. Counselors provide one-on-one assistance reviewing your health and/or prescription drug options, learning about assistance programs that could help with your out-of-pocket Medicare costs, understanding Medicare basics, including eligibility guidelines, navigating Medicare coverage and payment, and ensuring your rights are protected under Medicare.

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## Outreach in Mental Health



In addition to providing those we serve with counseling and case management services, staff also have opportunities to be in the community through a variety of ways. Staff presented on substance use at Hair Professionals in Oswego. Staff spoke to 7 different Health Classes at Yorkville High School about the intersection of Mental Health and Substance Use. Additionally, staff presented to Oswego Library staff about how to address concerns they have in regards of mental health and their patrons. Staff presented to the Yorkville

Chamber about Mental Health and Substance Abuse identification and support as well.

Staff attended a career exploration event at the YMCA in Plano and at Indian Valley Vocational Center (IVVC) events. There, staff shared about their experience in the field, how mental health plays a part throughout the Health Department, and how they started in their career at an IVVC event about working in Public Health. Staff also participated in Curriculum Night at Thompson Jr. High School in Oswego.

# Opioid Overdose Prevention

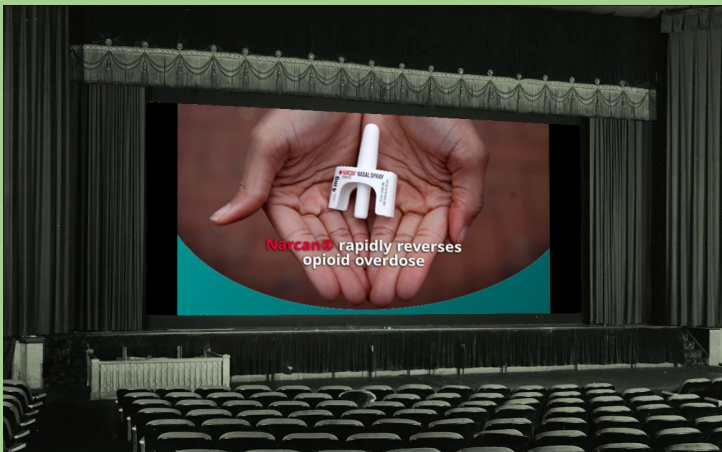
Between January and October 2023, nine Kendall County residents experienced opioid overdoses that did not result in death.

(per Rush Copley data)

Kendall County had **1717** Overdose Kits distributed within the county in 2023. (per Illinois Saves Overdose)

**80** leave behind kits, with more being made, have been created and include Narcan, gloves, and information. These kits will be distributed to the Coroner's Office, police departments, and Sheriff's Office to share with the community.

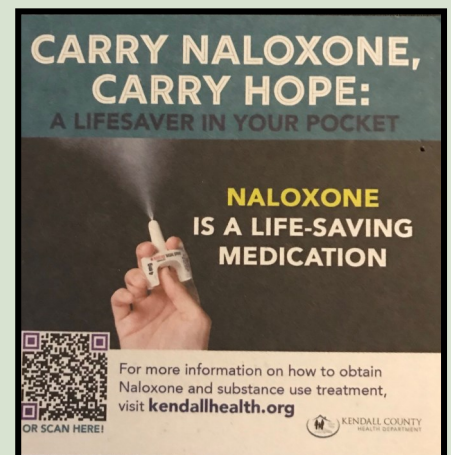
Kendall County Health Department launched a digital media campaign with an advertisement informing the community about opioid overdoses and Narcan. In 2023, the advertisement has been:



Played for **170,167** movie-goers attending one of the three movie theaters in the county.

Streamed **71,295** times to personal electronic devices.

In addition to the digital media campaign, Kendall County Health Department also created a print media campaign to provide information about Narcan and where to get it. **16** locations within Kendall County participated, where posters were hung in bathrooms and other public spaces, and coasters were set out for patrons to see and use.



# COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Reaching our halfway point, we are pleased to share select highlights describing just some of the fine work performed in addressing our three 2021-2026 Community Health Improvement Plan health priorities, originally established through community partner consensus.

## CONNECT OUR MOST VULNERABLE TO ASSETS THAT REDUCE SOCIO-ECONOMIC DURESS & SUPPORT MENTAL HEALTH

*By 2026, outreach to 100% of community residents and partners, with whom we engage, to address the need for greater mental health awareness and support and to decrease socio-economic duress regarding our community's most vulnerable.*

- Advocated for an increase in funding to prevent possible homelessness through rental/mortgage assistance, security deposits and utility bills. Funding increased from \$27k in 2023 to over \$200k for 2024.
- Advocated for and received increased funding preventing homelessness, providing assistance with rent/mortgage payments, security deposits and utility bills.
- Three new outreach sites have been established in Grundy County. Outreach has helped to promote socio-economic sustainability and energy conservation by increasing access to energy assistance. Program participation in Grundy County has increased 45 percent from 2023.
- Established three (3) new Grundy County community outreach sites nearly doubling the numbers of those served.
- Participated in Triad Townhall meetings promoting newly established increased access to Spanish speaking clients in need.
- Leveraged both mainstream and social media outlets, delivering messaging aimed at de-stigmatizing mental illness while promoting access to mental health supports.



**Join us in late Spring 2024 for a comprehensive update!**

To access a copy of our 2021-2026 Community Health Improvement Plan please scan the QR Code to the right:



## PROMOTE OPPORTUNITIES TO REDUCE VACCINATION HESITANCY

*By 2026, KCHD will approach 100% of Kendall County physicians and health-care centers to promote engagement in increasing access and knowledge to routinely recommended vaccines.*

- Copious contacts made with community groups and members, sharing education on current and emerging diseases and the vaccines that prevent them.
- Created and disseminating refrigerator magnets depicting easy-to-read birth through youth vaccination schedules, along with confidence-building information describing the importance of and access to immunizations.
- Acquired a mobile health clinic used this year in part to provide off-site vaccination clinics at five (5) schools.



## INCREASE COMMUNITY AWARENESS TO PROTECT AGAINST VECTOR BORNE DISEASE

*Increase awareness in residents of Kendall County by utilizing an outreach and education program. This program will include both in-person and social media education and surveys that will demonstrate minimum 50% increase in potential protective behavioral change over 5 years.*

- New social media campaign initiated introducing weekly posts, plushie mascots, and a survey at the end of the year to measure effectiveness (11 responses).
- Implemented a social media campaign, weekly messaging relatable to youth and adults.
- Increased surveillance with the addition of 3 new traps, allowing us to get a better understanding at what WNV activity exists in more areas of the county.
- Expanded our disease surveillance program to include more areas of our county.
- Staff worked hard to increase the outreach activities offered to the public, specifically presenting at an All-Staff meeting at the Health Department for staff, presenting to students enrolled in an Agriculture Careers camp in the summer as well as by reestablishing a presentation at Dickson-Murst for the public in August.
- Engaged untraditional community outreach events, increasing diversity of audiences educated.



# STRATEGIC PLAN

Over the course of 2023, the Kendall County Health Department made progress towards achieving the four strategic priorities identified in the 2022-2027 Strategic Plan. These four strategic priorities are:

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## **Strategic Priority 1: Financial Sustainability**

KCHD will sustain its work in the community by maintaining, expanding and diversifying its funding resources.

Includes goals of maintaining a healthy operational reserve and diversifying funding streams.



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## **Strategic Priority 2: Public Awareness**

KCHD will engage in ongoing communications within our community to further cultivate a culture of trust.

Includes goals of broadening marketing strategies and engaging volunteers as local advocates.



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## **Strategic Priority 3: Workforce Development**

KCHD will develop a public health workforce that is fluid, responsive, and represents our community.

Includes goals of maintaining a passionate, competent workforce and promoting and supporting a culture of continuous learning.



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## **Strategic Priority 4: Equitable Access**

KCHD will provide equitable access to public health services, programs, and opportunities to ensure health and well-being for all in Kendall County.

Includes goals of enhancing equitable outreach and programming to underserved geographic areas of Kendall County and enhancing equitable outreach and programming to diverse populations.



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## A Glimpse of Strategic Plan Activity in 2023:

- Staff advocated for increases in underfunded grants.
- Declined a grant that was not cost-effective.
- Researched 58 new grants for eligibility and cost-effectiveness.
- Added Instagram as a social media platform to include and reach younger audiences in the community.
- Participated in numerous community events and outreach opportunities.
- Units presented information about services to the other Advisory Boards.
- Presented on developing Emotional Intelligence as a means to promote effective communications skills with both clients and co-workers.
- Attended several career fair and presentation opportunities within the community to promote public health careers to youth.
- Proactively addressed an emerging measles outbreak that was occurring in a nearby county.
- Coordinated with GIS to develop and utilize a new electronic program to complete and analyze food protection programs.
- Advocated for the enactment of state policy promoting timely access to state-generated and housed health data.
- Utilized the mobile clinic van to administer necessary vaccinations to students at four schools prior to the school year.
- Reinforced existing partnerships that offer resource and referrals with the Health Department.
- Engaged with the Kendall-Grundy Farm Bureau to share and discuss behavioral health services and engaging the farming community.
- Educated staff on use and procedure for Language Line interpretations services.
- Created a Spanish Translation Workgroup of staff to help translate social media posts and other documents into Spanish. Provided many social media posts in both English and Spanish.



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The complete 2022-2027 Strategic Plan is available on our website, [www.kendallhealth.org](http://www.kendallhealth.org).

# HIGHLIGHTS OF 2023



In August, IDPH handed off their Kendall County Non-Transient Non-Community Wells to local health departments for inspection and tracking. Environmental Health staff created a plan and completed all required inspections for 2023.



In October, students in the Yorkville Transition Program made Leave Behind Kits that were distributed to the community.

The Women, Infant, and Children (WIC) program supplied nutritional support through the Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) System throughout 2023. This provided clients with a debit card to purchase WIC benefits.

WIC has had a notable increase in clients, with the case load soaring to 724 clients.



In June, the Mental Health Unit participated in the Mental Health America Conference to learn and grow together.



In June, eight students were awarded scholarships through Community Action services.

In June, Community Action director, Melissa, spoke at the Annual Community Service Block Grant Workshop in Springfield. Melissa presented on KCHD's IPLAN goal - Connect our most vulnerable to assets that reduce socio-economic duress and support mental health - during a session on innovative programs.

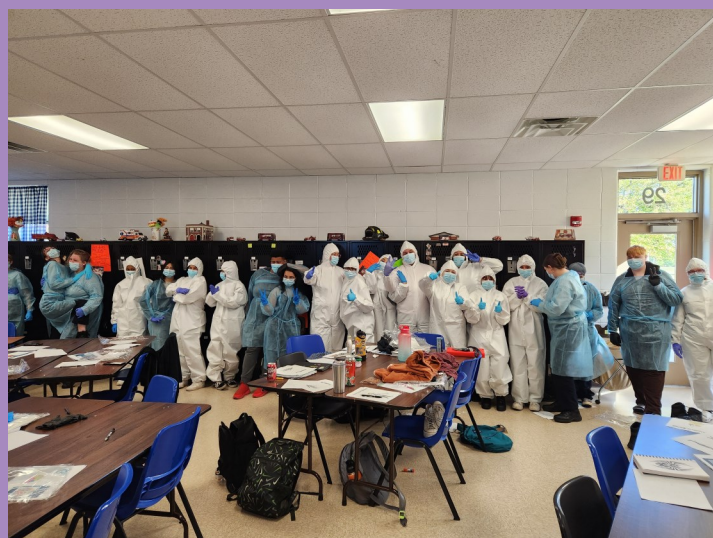


In April, staff attended a career fair event hosted by VALEES (Valley Education for Employment System). Staff shared with students their education and training that led to a career in public health.



In September, three vehicles were purchased through grant funding. Weatherization services and client outreach services have benefitted from having safe, reliable vehicles.

In October, Community Health Staff presented to students at the Illinois Valley Vocational Center Health Careers class. Topics presented were vaccinations, blood-borne disease, and prevention.



In November, staff participated in Rush Copley's Shine a Light on Lung Cancer events where they educated clients on the harmful effects of long-term radon gas exposure.



In March, staff participated in a Food Borne Illness exercise. Conducting exercises like these allows for planning and coordination for real events.



Throughout 2023, two additional staff were certified in Weatherization Services. They hold the title Weatherization Assessors and now hold certifications of Energy Auditor, Quality Control Inspector, Indoor

Climate Research and Training, Building Analyst Professional, and Building Analyst Technician.

Throughout the year, long time Advisory Board members were thanked for their service of more than ten years.



From June through October, our "Sense-ational" Serenity Garden provided an abundance of fruit and vegetables to clients and staff.





Throughout the year, Spirit Committee offered many fun activities for staff to enjoy. In October, Spirit Committee held a door decorating activity for Halloween. With great participation, staff voted on their favorite designs. The Environmental Health team won the prize!



Throughout 2023, staff participated in many outreach opportunities to share our services with the communities we serve.



Staff conducted over 900 routine food safety inspections of Kendall County food establishments in 2023. This number is significantly greater than previous years. This record number is due to an ever-increasing number of food establishments in the county.

Throughout the year, Mental Health Staff changed and updated bulletin boards visible to the public. Topics provided valuable information, encouraged participation, and were easily reviewed while waiting for appointments.





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Partnering to build a thriving Kendall County  
where all people have equal opportunity  
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