



# 2024 Report to the Community

# Our Vision, Our Mission, Our Commitment to Public Health

# Michael Isaacson, MPH

**Executive Director** 

#### Dear Community Members,

In 2024, the Kane County Health Department adopted a new mission, vision and values that reflect our commitment to equity, inclusion, and partnership. Guided by the belief that every resident deserves the



opportunity to live their healthiest life, we delivered impactful programs across the county.

Our team of over 80 professionals worked closely with partners to expand access to care, support vulnerable populations and strengthen community health. We invested over \$8 million in local behavioral health providers, trained hundreds in life-saving skills and improved infection prevention in long-term care facilities. Our environmental health team conducted over 3,500 food inspections to ensure safety and compliance. Public health educators reached families, schools, and communities with vital resources on mental health, child wellness, and environmental safety.

I invite you to explore this report to learn more about the programs, partnerships, and numbers behind our work. With your continued support, we will keep building a healthier, more resilient Kane County.

#### Vision

Every resident has the knowledge and access to opportunities to live their healthiest life possible.

#### **Mission**

To improve health outcomes by working in partnership with the community to understand the cultural, environmental, historical and social issues impacting our residents' health so we can effectively direct resources and services in an equitable and inclusive manner.

#### Values

Listening, respecting, helping, improving, excelling

# **Organizational Overview**



### **KCHD Staff**

KCHD is powered by a dedicated team of over 80 public health professionals, including nurses, epidemiologists, health educators, environmental health specialists, social workers, program coordinators, and administrative staff. Our multidisciplinary workforce is committed to advancing the health and well-being of all residents across Kane County.

# **Public Health Committee**

The Kane County Board Public Health Committee plays an essential governance role by providing oversight, strategic direction, and advocacy for KCHD's programs and initiatives. The committee works closely with department leadership to ensure transparency, community alignment, and fiscal responsibility, while also serving as a liaison between the health department and the broader Kane County Board.

# **Partnerships and Coalitions**

Collaboration is at the heart of KCHD's approach. The department leads and participates in numerous local coalitions and regional partnerships that address complex health challenges through coordinated efforts. Key collaborations include the Northern Illinois Public Health Consortium, Nurse-Family Partnership, All Our Kids (AOK) Early Childhood Network, Home Vistation Collaborative, Kane County Behavioral Health Council, IRIS Community of Partners and Overdose Task Force. These partnerships strengthen our reach, amplify impact, and ensure that public health strategies reflect the needs and voices of our diverse communities.

# **Programs and Initiatives**

### **Behavioral Health**

KCHD continues to expand behavioral health services through strong collaborations with, and targeted funding to our Kane County behavioral healthcare providers. Programs emphasize mental health promotion, substance use prevention, increased access to treatment, and culturally competent care.

In 2023, KCHD was awarded \$9.7 million in American Recovery Plan Act funds to support behavioral health improvement initiatives. A total of \$8,393,913 was awarded to local organizations to expand access to mental health and substance use services, enhance housing support opportunities, and improve access to food and other basic needs for residents across Kane County.



#### **Notable Numbers**

#### 909

behavioral health professionals and members of the public attended webinars on topics including post-traumatic stress disorder, childhood bereavement, supporting gender-diverse children and their families, and domestic violence.

#### 13,516

doses of naloxone opioid overdose-reversing nasal spray, distributed throughout Kane County.

#### **152**

members of the public connected with local care providers through our Information and Referral Program launched in April, 2024.

#### 762

early childhood education professionals supported with consultation and training to prevent and reduce the impact of mental health challenges and social emotional delays.

#### 74

students participated in the 2024 Kane County Youth Voices Forum on Mental Health and shared their lived experiences, insights, and suggestions for enhancing mental health services in schools and communities.

# **Communicable Disease**

KCHD monitors and responds to infectious diseases through timely surveillance, case investigation, and public education. The department supports local providers and community partners during outbreaks and promotes vaccination and disease prevention strategies to keep Kane County residents safe.

In 2024, the Kane County Health Department (KCHD) significantly expanded its efforts to strengthen infection prevention and control practices within long-term care facilities. These efforts included providing targeted training and technical assistance to facility staff, increasing onsite assessments and consultations, and promoting adherence to CDC and IDPH guidelines. By enhancing partnerships with facility leadership and public health partners, KCHD aimed to reduce the spread of infectious diseases, protect vulnerable populations, and improve overall health outcomes in these high-risk settings.

#### **Notable Numbers**

#### 7,104

reportable disease cases investigated, helping to prevent further spread, protect vulnerable populations, and inform public health responses.

#### 112

disease outbreaks monitored and managed, minimizing community exposure.

#### 72

foodborne illness investigations conducted, ensuring prompt response to potential outbreaks, reducing the risk of illness and promoting food safety in the community.

#### **699**

communicable disease outreach and education efforts conducted to raise awareness, promote preventive behaviors, and educated residents on how to protect themselves and others.

#### 1,793

providers and community members received tuberculosis education to promote early detection, reduce stigma, and ensure coordinated care.



### **Community Safety and Preparedness**

KCHD plays a vital role in preparing for and responding to public health emergencies. Working in close partnership with hospitals, first responders, emergency management agencies and regional coalitions, KCHD helps ensure that our community is ready to respond effectively to a wide range of crises including infectious disease outbreaks, natural disasters, and other threats to public health and safety. The department regularly conducts emergency drills, updates and maintains detailed preparedness and response plans, and provides ongoing training for staff, community partners and the public. During emergencies, KCHD can lead communication efforts to share timely, accurate information with the public, reduce confusion, and promote safety. These coordinated efforts help build community resilience and ensure that Kane County can respond quickly and effectively when it matters most.

#### **Notable Numbers**

#### 623

first responders and members of the public trained in CPR to enhance the community's ability to respond effectively to cardiac emergencies and potentially save lives.

#### **91**

first responders and community members trained in Stop the Bleed, providing critical skills to control life-threatening bleeding and increasing survival chances during emergencies.

#### 4475

free gun locks distributed to promote safe firearm storage, reducing the risk of accidental injuries and deaths, especially among children.



#### **499**

hours contributed by dedicated Medical Reserve Corps volunteers who supported public health initiatives, emergency preparedness, and response efforts, strengthening the county's resilience.

#### **96**

trainings conducted that equipped community members and professionals with the knowledge to recognize and respond to opioid overdoses with naloxone, helping save lives.

### **Environmental Health and Safety**

KCHD protects public health through inspections of food establishments, private wells, and septic systems to ensure safety and prevent contamination. The department monitors environmental hazards, investigates health-related complaints, and responds to concerns like foodborne illness, unsafe water, or sanitation issues. KCHD also educates the public on safe practices related to food safety, water quality, lead exposure, and vector control. These combined efforts help protect the health of residents and promote a safer environment throughout Kane County.

#### **Notable Numbers**

#### 3,544

food inspections completed to ensure food safety standards were met, protecting residents from foodborne illnesses and supporting consumer confidence in local establishments.

#### 253

well and septic permits issued, verifying proper installation and maintenance of private water and waste systems, helping to safeguard water quality and public health.

#### 73

foodborne illness-related inspections completed to identify sources of illness and help prevent further cases, promoting safer dining environments across the county.

#### 360

lead (Pb) inspections completed to identify and reduce lead exposure risks, especially for children, supporting healthier homes and long-term health outcomes.

#### 196

mobile food permits issued to mobile food establishments, which have increased by 125% over the last 5 years.

#### 73

cottage food vendors registered to help ensure public safety in the rapidly growing cottage food industry.



## **Health Promotion and Communications**

KCHD develops and delivers targeted health education campaigns to raise awareness on important health topics and leads community outreach efforts, social media engagement, and promotes Spanish-language inclusivity.

#### **Notable Numbers**

#### **583**

participants attended free public webinars on topics such as child development, substance use, trauma, domestic violence and resources for older adults.

#### 245

plays of the Kane County HealthTalk podcast episodes that provided on-demand health education on topics like nutrition, diabetes management and healthy screen time habits.

#### 29

press releases shared with the community through local media to keep residents informed and engaged on important health updates, events and resources.

#### 74

community events attended by KCHD staff who connected directly with residents to share health information, answer questions and provide resources.



#### 140,707

page views at kanehealth.com as visitors explored the resources and information we provide to the community.

#### 968

posts shared to our Facebook page to keep our community informed, engaged, and connected with important public health updates and resources.

#### 1

New website launched to prevent opioid overdoses and reduce stigma at overdoseinfo.org.

# Maternal/Child Health

Through programs like Kane Kares nurse-family partnership, immunizations, and the All Our Kids (AOK) Network, KCHD supports the health and development of young children and families. The department works with community partners to address disparities in birth outcomes and provide wraparound services to families in need.

#### **Notable Numbers**

#### 325

new families connected to home visiting services, providing personalized support in child development, parenting, and health.

#### 257

home visits made through the Kane Kares Nurse-Family Partnership at which first-time mothers received one-on-one support from trained nurses, improving maternal and infant health outcomes and empowering families.

#### **457**

medically fragile infants referred to the High Risk Infant Follow-Up Program to ensure that vulnerable infants receive coordinated care and developmental monitoring to support long-term health and well-being.

#### 1,017

immunizations provided to protect children from preventable diseases and contribute to community-wide immunity and healthier schools.

#### 81

new families received support to reduce lead exposure risks, protecting children from developmental delays and long-term health issues.

#### 3,082

individuals seamlessly connected to a wide range of community services through the Integrated Referral and Intake System (IRIS).

#### 9,485

All Our Kids (AOK) Parent Resource Guides distributed to connect families to essential early childhood resources.

#### **63**

Parent Cafés hosted, offering parents a space to share experiences, strengthen parenting skills, and build social connections.



# Finances







# Revenue

Total	\$9,146,990
County Grants	\$213,229
Opioid Settlement	\$250,378
Private Grants	\$401,325
Investment Income	\$711,024
State Grants	\$1,638,196
Fees, Permits & Inspections	\$1,822,040
General Property Tax	\$1,978,266
Federal Grants	\$2,132,532

Expenses

Total	\$11,913,655
Commodities	\$354,594
Contractual	\$2,363,225
Capital	\$2,780,704
Personnel	\$6,415,132

# **Expenses by Division**

Total	\$11,913,655
Planning & Information Mgnt	\$886,377
Disease Prevention	\$1,657,379
Health Protection	\$2,180,405
Community Health	\$2,678,741
Finance & Facilities	\$4,510,753

# **Contact Us**

630-208-3801



🖂 askus@kanecountyil.gov

🕀 www.kanehealth.com

1240 N. Highland Avenue Aurora, IL 60506 Monday - Friday, 8:30am - 4:30pm

> 1750 Grandstand Avenue Elgin, IL 60123 Tuesday, 8:30am - 4:30pm Other hours by appointment









