



1993 Year in Review
Cook County Department of Public Health

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Affiliate, Cook County Bureau
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Ruth M. Rothstein, Chief

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Since 1991, the Cook County Bureau of Health Services has been working to strengthen and increase the services provided through the Bureau affiliates.

This commitment to increased collaboration between the affiliates - Cook County, Oak Forest and Provident Hospitals, Cermak Health Services and the Health Department has led to our ability to provide more

services to the people of Cook County while eliminating duplication.

The Cook County Department of Public Health has remained the primary source of public health care for the 2.1 million people in its jurisdiction. Public health has been faced with many new and recurring challenges - among them AIDS, lead poisoning, syphilis and teen pregnancy - and has successfully mobilized to address these issues to the fullest of their ability.

With the implementation of the Ambulatory Care Unit in 1995, additional services will be available to suburban residents. Through a strong network of community clinics, those needing primary care will be served 'in their own backyards'. Public health will play a vital role in the identification of areas of need and in the coordination of preventive services for this new project while maintaining its strong force in the provision of traditional public health services throughout the suburban area.

Richard J. Phelan, President
Cook County Board of Commissioners

Ruth M. Rothstein, Chief
Cook County Bureau of Health Services



By traditional public health standards, 1993 was a very successful year for the Cook County Department of Public Health.

Faced with an epidemic of syphilis, staff carefully crafted education, testing and outreach efforts and slowly watched the reports decrease by 45% by year end.

More than ever, department staff dedicated themselves to

increasing awareness of the need to protect our youngest residents from vaccine preventable diseases. An increase of 35% in immunization clinic attendance certainly reflects their diligence.

As the largest provider of the state's Healthy Moms - Healthy Kids case management program, staff were added rapidly to enroll women and children and provide the necessary outreach and education elements of the program.

With the protection of the public from communicable diseases as a major function of the department, more than 900 inspections of public swimming pools were performed, and food service inspections exceeded 3,000.

While only a brief overview of 1993, these efforts exemplify public health in its most basic form and demonstrate the commitment of our employees to the residents of suburban Cook County.

Karen L. Scott, MD, MPH
Director



Taking STD Testing to the Streets

Illegal drug use has been linked to recent increases in reported cases of syphilis, predominately in the south suburbs. With the cost of illegal drugs out of reach, drug users trade sex for drugs and therefore have little knowledge about the sexual history of their partners, putting them at great risk for sexually transmitted diseases.

“The need in these communities is more apparent as you walk the streets and talk to people about their behavior.”

- Ken Schwartz, disease intervention specialist

In an effort to test and treat people at high risk, several days of outreach and testing were conducted in the communities of Harvey, Chicago Heights and Robbins. Communicable Disease and Health Education staff took to the streets offering both syphilis and HIV testing to residents and distributing brochures and condoms as a means of prevention.

Photo: Disease intervention specialists armed with condoms and educational materials gear up for a day of intensive outreach.



Assisting Flood Victims in Justice

In July, 1993, after devastating floods hit the Chicago area, staff were commissioned to provide environmental education, tetanus shots and support to residents of Justice where flood waters reached heights of four feet and did not fully recede for several weeks. In the two day mobile set-up, staff

distributed educational materials door-to-door and provided over 200 tetanus shots to children and adults as a precautionary measure. While the intent of the department was to provide the majority of shots to adults who had not received one in the last ten years, the fact of the matter was that adults did not even realize that they were at more risk than their children. As a result, the department has increased efforts to reach adults who are not up-to-date with tetanus shots.

“The families were so grateful that we took the time to provide services and support...we were just doing our job.”

-Mike Hagadus, environmental health inspector

Photo: Environmental health inspectors Mike Hagadus and John Dorgan discuss the flood and the precautions residents need to take to prevent disease.



Healthy Moms - Healthy Kids

It is estimated that thousands of women and children in suburban Cook County do not receive routine medical care.

“Women are really grateful that someone is taking an interest in them, making sure they get the care they need to deliver a healthy baby.”

- Maria Lebiedz, clinic assistant

As the state's largest grantee of a new program designed to link pregnant women and children with sources of ongoing health care, the agency will serve more than 18,000 women and children when enrollment reaches capacity.

Using a database of eligible residents, outreach workers visit families, assess their current needs and health care resources and enroll them into case management. If clients are eligible for the state's Medicaid benefits, they are linked with a private provider and followed-up with by health department staff to ensure that care is being accessed. Other clients are enrolled into the health department clinic system and provided the necessary services to promote and protect health.

Photo: Children attending a Mother-Baby Health Fair stuff their raffle entries into a bag held by Kristin Full, health educator. Mother-Baby Health Fairs provides a pleasant atmosphere for pregnant and parenting women to discuss issues important to their families.



Lead Poisoning in the Hispanic Community

After an increase in elevated lead levels of Hispanic children in the northern suburbs and difficulty in finding traditional sources of lead in the homes, staff determined that much of the pottery imported from Mexico and South America is manufactured with products containing lead.

Furthermore, staff discovered that these products are used regularly by Hispanics to store, serve and prepare food.

This practice prompted the Divisions of Community Health and Health Education, together with the Arlington Heights Health Department, to plan a day of testing and education in a local apartment complex housing a large population of Hispanics.

“We knew we were dealing with a cultural practice. We needed to demonstrate how this pottery could be harming the children.”

- Jo Rose, director of Community Health

Children and pregnant women were tested and parents were educated about the hazards of lead poisoning and how they could eliminate other sources of lead in the home. Lead was found in every piece of pottery tested at the event.

Photo: Cheryl Walls, lead inspector, tests pottery manufactured in South America.



State of the Art Family Planning Services for Women

The introduction of the Norplant Contraceptive Implant and the injectable Depo-Provera have proven to be as popular in public health clinics as they have in private practices.

Piloted in early 1993 and fully implemented into all clinics by mid-year, these new methods are being requested

frequently by clients as women are now afforded more options to meet their individual needs.

“We are living in a society of convenience - something traditional methods of birth control do not offer.”

- Dr. Hameed Baig, family planning physician

In 1993, 116 women were provided with Norplant, the contraceptive insert providing birth control for up to five years. More than 100 injections of Depo-Provera were given between July and December. Depo-Provera provides birth control for three month periods.

Photo: Crete resident Tamiko Conner watches anxiously as Dr. Hameed Baig inserts the Norplant contraceptive system into her arm. Photo courtesy Daily Southtown.



Ronald McDonald Visits Phoenix

Among the activities for National Preschool Immunization Week in October were special outreach efforts to educate parents of the need to immunize their children; additional clinics; and a very special visit by none other than Ronald McDonald.

A special clinic targeted at

preschool children was held at the Woody Winston Health Center in Phoenix. More than 100 children visited the clinic, received immunizations, and to help take their minds of the shots had their picture taken with Ronald McDonald. This successful clinic helped the department to better understand barriers that parents face in getting their children properly immunized.

“The biggest barrier seems to be awareness. Parents simply don’t know their child needs fifteen immunizations before age two.”

The health department, through various grants and cooperative efforts with other agencies, has continued to increase educational and reminder activities to ensure that children are properly protected from potentially life-threatening diseases.

Photo: Ronald McDonald visits with children as they wait for their immunizations.

1993 Highlights

Coordinated the Hispanic Community Advisory Council’s kick-off press conference publicizing alternative activities to alcohol and substance abuse.

Successfully implemented a community outreach and testing program for syphilis in Chicago Heights, Robbins and Harvey. Condoms and educational materials were distributed throughout the community. Forty-five persons were tested for syphilis and 38 for HIV. These targeted efforts will be expanded in 1994.

With cooperation and support from Lutheran General Hospital, successfully piloted the provision of pneumococcal vaccine at a north suburban influenza clinic.

Co-sponsored with the Illinois Department of Public Health, two conferences to update school nurses on agency activities and programs to assure ease of referrals.

Sponsored a HIV Rap and Poster Contest for suburban youth. More than 200 teens participated.

Began program development and staff training in preparation for conducting inspections of tanning facilities in 1994.

In response to the growing Arabic population in suburban Cook County, a one day seminar was held for staff to help them understand the Arab culture.

In conjunction with the Illinois Caucus on Teen Pregnancy, a seminar titled “Reducing the Risk” was held for school counselors, social workers and teachers. The goal of the seminar was to give the participants the tools they need to encourage the delay of sexual activity.

1993 Highlights

Experienced a 45% decrease in reported cases of syphilis due to intensive outreach, case finding and follow-up as recommended by the Chicago-Cook County Syphilis Task Force.

In cooperation with Ingalls Hospital, opened the Cook County Mid-South Health Center in Harvey to increase access to health services for south suburban residents.

Piloted HIV testing and counseling at gay-identified facilities in an effort to provide testing services in a more comfortable atmosphere.

Expanded hypertension program to a comprehensive Cardiovascular Risk Reduction Program which includes smoking cessation, cholesterol and hypertension.

For the third year, provided on-site inspections of the temporary food service stands at the Western Open Golf Tournament. More than 25,000 people attended the event over a six day period.

Funding through the Ryan White CARE Act allowed the department to provide training to more than 50 private physicians through the Midwest AIDS Training and Education Center.

Opened WIC and family planning clinics at the Woody Winston Health Center in Phoenix.

Through a grant from the Joyce Foundation, began a program encouraging private physicians to administer vaccines to children who otherwise might rely on the public health system for this service.

1993 Operating Budget

Cook County Corporate Appropriation	10,655,298.00
Grant/Service Funding	
HIV/AIDS	
Federal	187,911.00
State	245,290.00
Ryan White	454,794.00
Basic Health	1,247,601.00
Chicago HMO/MCH Follow-up	660.00
Childhood Lead	100,000.00
Day Care	
Department of Children and Family Services	165,750.00
Nursing	9,858.00
Diabetes Program	33,900.00
Child Safety Seats	34,281.00
Families With A Future	1,344,933.00
Food Inspection Program	
Intergovernmental Agreements	58,400.00
Summer Food	930.00
Healthy Kids	120,627.00
Hypertension	100,400.00
Maternal/Child Health	
Case Management	1,419,647.00
Genetics	48,904.00
Problem Pregnancy	25,944.00
Prenatal	233,501.00
Preventive Health Block Grant	155,000.00
Refugee	
Coordination	28,500.00
Health Aides	35,836.00
Screening Exams (IDPA)	187,356.00
Dental Sealant Program	23,800.00
Sexually Transmitted Diseases	144,788.00
State Computer Information Link	717.00
SCC Tuberculosis Sanitarium	19,800.00
Title XX	
Health Support	25,000.00
Family Planning	247,348.00
Vaccines Provided by Federal/State (valued at)	1,531,849.00
Vision and Hearing	
State	74,300.00
School Agreements	16,824.00
WIC/Nutrition	872,354.00
Total Grant/Service Funding	9,196,803.00
Total CCDPH Budget	19,852,101.00

Selected Reported and Investigated Diseases

	1993	1992	Percent Change
Invasive Bacterial Diseases			
N. Meningitidis (invasive)	15	20	-25.0
Other	34	65	-47.7
Enteric Infections			
Giardiasis	157	169	-8.3
Hepatitis A	56	112	-54.5
Salmonellosis	451	276	63.8
Shigellosis	193	160	15.0
Typhoid Fever	3	8	-62.5
HIV/AIDS			
AIDS	207	147	40.8
HIV	85	103	-17.5
Sexually Transmitted Diseases			
Syphilis			
Early	297	545	-45.5
Congenital	42	41	2.4
Gonorrhea	1,831	2,374	-22.9
Chlamydia	1,613	1,476	9.3
Vaccine Preventable Diseases			
Hepatitis B (cases & carriers)	215	266	-12.8
H. Influenzae (invasive)	10	6	50.0
Measles	5	3	66.7
Mumps	11	28	-60.7
Rubella	2	1	100.0
Pertussis	68	6	1,016.0
Other Reportable Conditions			
Chicken Pox	4,934	7,297	-32.4
Legionellosis	10	7	42.9
Lyme	2	1	100.0
Malaria	7	4	75.0
Other Hepatitis	208	167	27.5

Environmental Health Services

Day Care Inspections	339	Private Sewage Disposal Systems Plans Processed	185
Food Service Establishments/Retail Food Stores		Witnessed Percolation Tests	41
Licensed	288	Lot Surveys Performed	213
Inspections Performed	887	Installation Inspections Performed	121
Plans Reviewed	32	Swimming Pools and Spas	
Food/Foodborne Complaint Investigations	34	Private Pool/Spa Plans Approved	41
		Inspections Performed	945
		Water Samples Collected	93
		Analysis Opinions Rendered	93
Intergovernmental Agreements			
Communities Served	23	Well and Septic System Mortgage Evaluations	
Food Facilities	730	Evaluations	104
Inspections Performed	2,154	Inspections	231
Plans Reviewed	44	New Wells	
		Permits Issued	249
		Inspections	154
Mobile Home Parks			
Licensed	41	Existing Non-Community Wells	
Inspections	84	Surveys Performed	465
		Abandoned Wells	
		Number Sealed	184
Motels			
Licensed	11	Water Supplies	
Inspections	16	Water Samples Collected(non-community)	852
		Water Samples Collected(private)	14
		Analysis Opinions Rendered	1,221
Nuisance Complaints			
Complaints Received	170		
Inspections and Enforcement Actions	686		
Septic Tank Cleaners			
Permits Issued	111		

Client Contacts

Clinic Contacts A Five Year Analysis

Clinic	1989		1990		1991		1992		1993	
	number	percent change 1989	number	percent change 1990	number	percent change 1991	number	percent change 1992	number	percent change 1993
Total	92,001		115,309	25.3	138,643	20.2	153,720	10.9	187,494	22.0
Adult Health	1,558	14.6	1,786	14.6	1,941	8.7	1,896	-2.3	1,719	-9.3
AIDS	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	2,156	0.0	3,565	65.4	3,594	0.8
Dental	5,328	145.2	13,066	145.2	15,260	16.8	16,504	8.2	17,324	5.0
Family Plng.	9,608	-2.2	9,395	-2.2	11,127	18.4	12,113	8.9	12,553	3.6
Flu	6,053	24.9	7,560	24.9	11,333	49.9	11,268	-0.6	7,629	-32.3
Immunization	21,786	4.5	22,769	4.5	28,259	24.1	32,846	16.2	44,272	34.8
O/A	258	-26.4	190	-26.4	199	4.7	212	6.5	133	-37.3
Prenatal	6,588	24.3	8,189	24.3	10,515	28.4	11,900	13.2	12,842	7.9
Primary Care	847	40.0	1,186	40.0	1,346	13.5	1,439	6.9	1,726	19.9
Refugee	611	-4.1	586	-4.1	652	11.3	556	-14.7	385	-30.8
School Age	713	13.9	812	13.9	1,286	58.4	1,212	-5.8	385	-68.2
STD	5,195	18.6	6,161	18.6	6,538	6.1	6,338	-3.1	6,431	1.5
Well Baby	6,096	12.5	6,859	12.5	5,587	-18.5	4,851	-13.2	5,186	6.9
WIC	27,360	34.3	36,750	34.3	42,444	15.5	49,020	15.5	59,048	20.5

Client Contacts by Place of Residence

Residence	1993 Client Contacts
North Suburbs	38,502
West Suburbs	29,399
Southwest Suburbs	12,910
South Suburbs	32,001
Other Jurisdiction	1,719

Client Contacts

Client Contacts by Race & Ethnicity

Race & Ethnicity	1993 Client Contacts
White	28,652
Black	18,687
Hispanic	13,234
Asian	992
Other/Unknown	2,465

Client Contacts by Sex

Sex	1993 Client Contacts
Male	22,114
Female	41,873
Unspecified	43

Client Contacts by Age

Age	1993 Client Contacts
Under 1 year	10,086
1 - 4 years	14,997
5 - 9 years	34,240
10 - 14 years	12,551
15 - 19 years	12,763
20 - 24 years	13,421
25 - 34 years	14,172
35 - 44 years	4,608
45 - 54 years	1,811
55 years and older	9,410

Community Health and Nursing Services

Community Health Services

Health Education Services

Educational Presentations	
Group Attendance	17,984
Outreach Contacts	9,351
Client Consultation	4,240
Schools Served	100

Blood Pressure Control Services

Hypertension Education Class Sessions	12
Persons Screened	11,721
Persons in Follow-Up	292

Diabetes Services

Classes Held	44
Participants	360

Lead Poisoning

Cases Reported in Children	208
Cases in Follow-Up	350

Vital Statistics

Births

Certificates Registered	21,708
Certified Copies Issued	32,324

Public Health Nursing

Home Visits

General Maternal/Child Health Visits	3,406
Perinatal Referrals	1,202
Other High Risk Infants	380
Well Baby Enrollment	462
Child Abuse/Neglect	44
Sudden Infant Death	37
Handicapped Children	2
Lead Poisoning	179
Families With A Future (through 6/93)	452
Drug Free Families With A Future (through 6/93)	348
Communicable Disease	86
Tuberculosis	220
Mental Health	15
Chronic Disease	53
HIV	56

Day Care Center Services

Nursing Inspection Visits	150
Nursing Consultation Visits	282
Miscellaneous	146

Vision and Hearing Program

School/Pre-school Vision Test	27,750
School/Pre-school Hearing Test	28,512
School Nursing Services	88

Social Work Services

Client Contacts	4,100
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Deaths

Certificates Registered	13,194
Certified Copies Issued	136,924

The Cook County Department of Public Health gratefully acknowledges all agencies, organizations and individuals who supported our programs and efforts in 1993. Your assistance, cooperation and contributions have touched the lives of many suburban Cook County residents.

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