

40's

50'S

60'S

70'S

80's

90's

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t h e

d e c a d e s

1999 annual report

**Cook County Bureau of Health Services**



JOHN H. STROGER, JR.  
President,  
Cook County Board of Commissioners

RUTH M. ROTHSTEIN  
Chief,  
Cook County Bureau of Health Services

*We Bring  
HealthCARE  
to the Community*

In 1835, four years after Cook County Government was created, the first health services, the Public Alms House for the poor was established. Today, care for the community is provided by the Cook County Bureau of Health Services. The Bureau is the second largest division of Cook County Government and one of the largest public health systems in the country, caring for more than 1.5 million people every year.

From our Centers of Excellence that include asthma and cancer, to our role in the anti-tobacco campaign, we provide innovative health care treatments and programs. We support the health of our residents through thirty health centers located throughout Cook County, and construction is well underway for the new Cook County Hospital.

As an affiliate of the Bureau of Health Services, the Cook County Department of Public Health (CCDPH) has played a major part in health care accomplishments over the years. The second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century was a time of remarkable change. Life expectancy increased and the quality of life improved. Our food became safer to eat and our drinking water became cleaner. These advances can be credited to the work of health professionals who were committed to protecting our well-being.

In the CCDPH Annual Report for 1999, we invite you to review our work the past year, and throughout the years. As we face new challenges, CCDPH's mission in suburban Cook County is clear: to protect and promote health and prevent illness, disability and premature death.

Sincerely,

John H. Stroger, Jr.  
President,  
Cook County  
Board of Commissioners



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



Karen L. Scott, MD, MPH  
Chief Operating Officer,  
Cook County Department  
of Public Health



# The 40's

World War II dominates the 1940's. The first great exodus of women from the home to the workplace begins. The discovery of penicillin revolutionizes medicine and provides a huge boost in the battle against infections.

The Communicable Disease Center in Atlanta is established, becoming the forerunner for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Life expectancy is 60.2 years for males while females enjoy 68.2 years. Fifty-five per cent of American homes have indoor plumbing.



*A doctor administers a protective immunization to the smallest patient. c.1946*

- ☞ **1940:** The Cook County Public Health Unit is founded on July 1 through the Bureau of Public Welfare.
- ☞ **1945:** The Cook County Board of Commissioners establishes the Cook County Department of Public Health (CCDPH) to serve the health needs of 600,000 residents on an annual budget of \$162,000. CCDPH staff consists of ninety employees.
- Maternal Health Clinic opens in Robbins.

*Environmental health inspector checking water at a Cook County forest preserve. c.1949.*



- ☞ **1946:** 5,339 cases of measles, 256 cases of polio and 238 cases of tuberculosis (TB) are reported in suburban Cook County.
- To insure safety of milk and milk products, Cook County is first in the state of Illinois to pass a dairy pasteurization ordinance.
- A TB registry is created to record all known cases of TB and contacts.

- ☞ **1947:** A 24 hour service to save the lives of premature babies born in suburban Cook County is started through a cooperative agreement with the County Sheriff's Police, Cook County Hospital (CCH) and CCDPH. Babies born in hospitals where critical care is not available are transported to CCH in a special incubator unit.

- ☞ **1948:** CCDPH sets up the first Rheumatic Fever Clinic at St. James Hospital in Chicago Heights in cooperation with the Illinois Division of Crippled Children and the University of Illinois.

- ☞ **1949:** WGN Radio, the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) and CCDPH create a series of special broadcasts to educate the public about venereal disease.

- Through a grant funded by the Cancer Society and IDPH, expansion of nursing services to cancer patients begins.
- CCDPH initiates an education program for expectant parents in Berwyn and Chicago Heights.



*A series of special broadcasts over WGN Radio dramatized the health department's fight against Venereal Disease. c.1949*

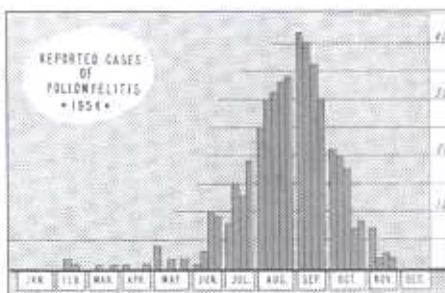
# THE 50'S

With the baby boom underway, America heads for suburbia as more people are able to afford single family dwellings. Television is the dominant form of mass media, and we become “eye witnesses” to live world events beamed into our homes. The American Medical Association (AMA) declares alcoholism an illness and endorses fluoridation in community water supplies. Dr. Jonas Salk develops a vaccine for polio.

- 1950: The services of a veterinary staff for livestock disease control is added to the health department.
- The Tourist Camp Operating Ordinance is passed by the Cook County Board to license mobile homes and provide sanitation inspections.
- 1951: Over 86,000 residents in suburban Cook County are x-rayed in a community-wide chest X-ray program to combat tuberculosis. The national death rate from the disease is 10.5 per 100,000 people.
- 1952: The population of suburban Cook County swells to 750,000.
- 1953 A Division of Statistics begins recording births, deaths, illnesses and accidents. This information will be used for planning community health programs, school health and industrial health services.
- Park Forest, Lansing and Skokie begin fluoridating their water to prevent dental decay.
- 1954: High incidence of rabies in animals places the entire Cook County area under quarantine. One death from rabies is reported. This will be the last death from rabies reported in suburban Cook County.
- 1955: 46,000 first and second grade children are immunized in Cook County against polio.
- 1958: Immunization clinics are established at all CCDPH district offices.



*A department of public health mobile dentist gives a helping hand to this young man. c.1957*



*Left: 485 cases of Polio were reported in 1954—the second highest on record.*



*Right: Prenatal services in Robbins c.1958*

# THE 60'S

The age of youth, the 1960's represent a time of revolutionary change in the cultural fabric of America. Seventy million children from the post-war baby boom become teenagers and young adults. America faces a growing problem with recreational drug use. With 40% of Americans age 18 and older using tobacco products, the U.S. Surgeon General determines smoking a health hazard, paving the way for warnings to be posted on cigarette packs. Congress passes the Migrant Health Act, providing support for clinics serving agricultural workers. Motor vehicle safety efforts begin after Congress declares motor vehicle deaths "epidemic." The Head Start Program is introduced. Women are offered a new form of birth control: the pill. Sexually transmitted diseases increase dramatically, giving rise to great public health concerns.



*CCDPH nurse administering a hearing test. c. 1963*

- **1960:** The population of suburban Cook County expands to 1,400,000.
- A new program to regulate meat and meat products is instituted. All meat processed in or shipped to Cook County must pass rigid inspection.
- **1961:** An "outbreak" of leukemia in Niles receives national attention as public health investigators converge on the north suburb to learn more about the disease.
- CCDPH begins testing for phenylketonuria (PKU), a rare hereditary disorder causing retardation in newborns.
- **1964:** The Cook County Board passes the Food Service Establishment Ordinance, giving CCDPH the right to inspect food establishments in unincorporated Cook County.
- **1966:** Medicare goes into effect...CCDPH is certified as a service provider to Medicare Home Care recipients.
- **1969:** CCDPH responds to concerns over drug abuse by forming the Cook County Coordinating Council on Drug Education with the County Superintendent of Schools.



*Left: CCDPH in-home nursing care for residents unable to visit clinics. c. 1960*



*Right: Proper cleaning of a dishwashing machine is discussed by CCDPH sanitarian and restaurant employee. c. 1963*

# THE 70'S



*A well-child check-up. c. 1979*

Advances in civil rights, the women's movement and heightened concern for the environment are major trends of the 70's. The population of the country tops two-hundred million as life-expectancy increases to 67.1 years for males and 74.8 for females. The first Earth Day is celebrated as American youth embrace environmental issues. The violent deaths of four Kent State University students horrify the nation as anti-war demonstrations heat up on campuses. The Supreme Court rules in favor of legalized abortion following the Roe vs. Wade decision. The World Health Organization (WHO) declares smallpox eradicated. The National Cancer Act is signed into law.

☛ **1970:** Venereal disease is the No. 1 reportable disease. CCDPH focuses its expanding prevention programs to teenagers and young adults.

- 150,000 suburban Cook County children are immunized against German measles (rubella).
- The population of suburban Cook County nears two million.

☛ **1972:** Major measles outbreak in suburban Cook County sickens 644 residents.

☛ **1975:** 273 cases of St. Louis Encephalitis (illness acquired from diseased mosquitoes) are reported in Cook County. Hardest hit are Evergreen Park and Oak Lawn. CCDPH takes the lead in investigation, prevention and public information.

☛ **1978:** Legionnaires' Disease becomes a reportable communicable disease with CCDPH reporting four cases.



*Sexually Transmitted Disease poster. c. 1977*



*Over 2000 residents lined up for shots at a special measles immunization clinic at a north suburb. c.1975*

# The 80's

Buying, spending and credit cards become a way of life as the 1980's are dubbed the "Me Decade." Major advances in genetics research lead to the funding of the Human Genome Project that locates the estimated 80,000 genes in human DNA. Federal funding provides assistance to states for foster care and adoption. The McKinley Act is signed into law providing health care to the homeless. Cocaine use jumps a staggering 35% and violent crime continues to climb. Public health faces a new adversary. . . AIDS.

- ☞ **1981:** CCDPH begins a refugee health screening program in cooperation with the Cook County Tuberculosis Sanitarium District and Loyola Medical Center.
- ☞ **1982:** Bottles of Tylenol contaminated with cyanide are discovered in several stores in Cook County. CCDPH works with the Cook County Medical Examiner's Office, as well as the Food and Drug Administration, to keep media and public alerted to this health emergency.
- Meeting all state standards, CCDPH is recognized by IDPH as a state certified health department, thereby eligible for full local health grant funding.



A WIC nutritionist discusses healthy eating habits during a counseling session. c. 1983

- ☞ **1983:** CCDPH receives a federal grant to begin a supplemental food program for women, infants and children (WIC). The WIC Program provides coupons for nutritious foods and counseling for pregnant women, breast-feeding mothers and children under five years old.
- The Dental Sealant Program begins in the south suburbs. A dental sealant is a thin acrylic material applied to the teeth of children to prevent decay.
- ☞ **1985:** An outbreak of salmonella from a local dairy sickens thousands of suburban Cook County residents. CCDPH employees in environmental health services and communicable disease control work 4,000 extra hours to control the outbreak.
- Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) becomes a reportable disease.
- Six communities sign contracts with CCDPH for retail food establishment inspections performed by environmental health sanitarians.

- ☞ **1986:** The Wellness on Wheels (WOW) van, the adult health mobile unit, makes its debut in the summer, with 435 adults receiving services in the first six months of operation.
- Testing and counseling for HIV/AIDS begins.



First WOW van. c. 1986

- ☞ **1987:** Through a collaborative effort with the Loyola Medical Center, CCDPH opens up the first Primary Care Clinic in Maywood.
- The prototype to Access to Care begins with the initiation of the Physician Cooperative Service of suburban Cook County, established to provide uninsured residents access to medical care.

# The 90's

Computers are a normal part of work and home environments. The Americans With Disabilities Act passes, securing and protecting the rights of all Americans with physical or mental disabilities. The World Health Organization launches a special program to fight newly emerging infectious diseases after the first outbreak of the Ebola virus in Zaire. The Nutrition Labeling and Education Act is signed into law. The Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resource Emergency (CARE) Act begins, providing support for communities to help people with AIDS. The American Medical Association issues the first national Report Card on violence. The Brady Bill provides for a five day waiting period before purchasing a hand gun.



Testing for lead levels in pottery. © 1993

- ☞ **1991:** The Cook County Bureau of Health Services is created to oversee all health services provided by Cook County government. Affiliates are Cermak Health Services, CCDPH, Cook County Hospital and Oak Forest Hospital.
- The Family Case Management Program begins, supporting pregnant mothers and babies.
- CCDPH receives funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for the Childhood Lead Prevention Program.

☞ **1993:** Norplant and Depo Provera, new forms of birth control, are introduced into family planning clinics.

- The pneumococcal vaccine is added to flu vaccination clinics.
- Mid-south Health Center of Harvey opens.

☞ **1996:** In a cooperative agreement with MacNeal Hospital, CCDPH opens a school-based health clinic at Morton East High School in Cicero.

☞ **1997:** The Cook County Youth Tobacco Control Ordinance is adopted by the Board of Commissioners, levying fines against unincorporated Cook County merchants who sell tobacco products to minors. CCDPH is granted the authority to administer and enforce this law.

☞ **1998:** CCDPH takes the lead role in a food-borne outbreak of enterotoxigenic *Escherichia coli*, or, ETEC, a form of traveler's diarrhea that affects the south and southwest suburbs. With over 5,000 residents sick, CCDPH works alongside the CDC to track the illness, collect data and supply the media with information. To date, this is the largest outbreak of its type in the United States.



Unincorporated Cook County merchant in violation of tobacco ordinance prohibiting sales to youth under 18. © 1997



# 1999

Front page stories focus on gun violence and school safety when 14 students and a teacher are killed following a shooting rampage by two classmates at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colorado. AIDS drops out of the top 15 causes of death. President Clinton signs the Foster Care Independence Act into law, giving young people the tools to make the most of their lives as they leave the foster system. The teen birth rate reaches its lowest level since 1987. Three thousand tobacco industry signs across the country are removed and replaced with healthy messages. Forty million dollars are awarded to states and major cities to expand and upgrade their ability to detect and respond to acts of bio-terrorism. The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) launches the "Back to Sleep" initiative to reduce the incidence of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS).

## ➤ **January:**

- ❑ The **Vista Prenatal Clinic** opens its doors providing health services to pregnant women in Palatine. Vista is a joint venture among CCDPH, WomenCare and Northwest Community Hospital.
- ❑ **Access to Care** celebrates its 10-year anniversary by honoring the founders of the Suburban Primary Health Care Council.
- ❑ The Steering Committee for the Cook County Bureau of Violence Prevention meets to create the first position for **Coordinator of Violence Prevention Services**. The new coordinator and staff will work out of CCDPH Central Office.

## ➤ **February:**

- ❑ CCDPH participates in planning for **Census 2000** by chairing the Health Care/ Social Services subcommittee for the county.
- ❑ The department receives notification of two new grants for the south suburbs: **Healthy Families Illinois**, to reduce child abuse, and the **Public Health Nurse Consultant Program**, promoting health and safety in day care centers.

## ➤ **March:**

- ❑ **Environmental Health Services** staff coordinate registration for the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Northern Illinois Onsite Wastewater Conference and Trade Show.
- ❑ **Women, Infants and Children (WIC)** staff participate in the first developmental screening for preschool children held at the Genesis Center in Des Plaines.

## ➤ **April:**

- ❑ CCDPH welcomes a delegation of Chinese physicians to discuss how public health systems function on a local level.
- ❑ As part of a national initiative to **eliminate syphilis**, CCDPH and community-based organizations begin a planning effort.
- ❑ **National Infant Immunization Week** activities include a rally in the south suburbs attended by Dr. Walter Orenstein, Health Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The rally encourages parents to have their children immunized.

## ➤ **May:**

- ❑ The **Cook County Violence Prevention Coordination Program** begins at CCDPH.
- ❑ Collaborating with the Ambulatory and Community Health Network, CCDPH opens **The Cicero Health Center of Cook County**, providing primary care and health support services.
- ❑ African-American men are screened for **prostate cancer** following Sunday morning services at a west suburban church.

➤ **June:**

- ❑ CCDPH's **Healthy Schools Partnership** receives the "Superintendent's Award" from District # 152 for providing a health curriculum and teacher training in three Harvey elementary schools.
- ❑ Two staff members from **Environmental Health Services** score in the top one-half of one percent on the National Swimming Pool Foundation's Pool Operator Course.

➤ **July:**

- ❑ A new pilot **Tobacco Prevention** grant funded by the CDC through IDPH, provides CCDPH 1.75 million dollars over five years for promoting tobacco cessation, discouraging initiation and reducing second-hand smoke.
- ❑ Children ages 3 through 15 are given free **hearing and vision tests** at the Chicago Botanic Garden.

➤ **August:**

- ❑ Immunization attendance doubles from 1,345 clients in 1998 to 2,635 at the twelve **back-to-school immunization clinics** located throughout suburban Cook County.
- ❑ CCDPH and the Community & Economic Development Association (CEDA) obtain the highest number of housing units made **lead-safe** through a program funded by IDPH.

➤ **September:**

- ❑ CCDPH will receive \$400,000 annually over three years for health education activities as a result of Morton High School District # 201 being the only school in the state selected for a **National Safe Schools / Healthy Students** grant.

➤ **October:**

- ❑ The Cook County Bureau of Health Services opens two new clinics in the southern suburbs. The **Cottage Grove Health Center in Ford Heights** and the **Robbins Health Center of Cook County** provide residents with primary care and health support services.
- ❑ CCDPH receives notification of grant funding from the Department of Human Services for a pilot project for children 0-3 years of age. '**All Our Kids: Birth to Three**' will serve the youngest residents of Cicero.
- ❑ The **Suburban Health Improvement Plan (SHIP)** is presented to the community at meetings at Oak Forest and Alexian Brothers hospitals. In partnership with community groups and providers, three health improvement areas are identified: cardiovascular disease, infant mortality and lung cancer.
- ❑ The **flu and pneumococcal program** immunizes 4,677 seniors at clinic sites throughout suburban Cook County.

➤ **November:**

- ❑ A **Healthy Families Illinois** grant is awarded to CCDPH for the implementation of a child abuse prevention program in Maywood and Cicero.
- ❑ The **American Public Health Association (APHA)** holds their annual meeting in Chicago. Five CCDPH staff members participate by presenting educational sessions in coordinated school health programs, immunizations, and violence surveillance.

➤ **December:**

- ❑ Five CCDPH staff members are selected by their peers as "**Outstanding Employees**" in an annual awards presentation. Winners are chosen on work ethic, commitment and attitude.
- ❑ CCDPH staff co-sponsored the "**Reducing Immunization Disparities in Minority Communities**," seminar held in Chicago.
- ❑ Participated in **Y2K readiness plan**.



## 1999 Operating Budget

Cook County Appropriation	\$14,987,177
Other Funding Sources by Program (includes grants, contracts and service fees)	
Basic Health	1,476,503
Breast & Cervical Cancer Detection	271,063
Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention	100,000
Comprehensive School Health Education	20,000
Day Care/Nursing Consultations	5,500
Dental Sealants	56,000
Environmental Protection Programs	
Food Inspection/Intergovernmental Agreements	80,000
Tanning Facilities Inspections	19,000
Potable Water Supply	44,150
Genetics	59,800
Health Promotion	234,800
Healthworks	502,000
HIV/AIDS	
Case Investigation	55,384
Counseling & Testing	254,970
Prevention Education	166,014
Region 8 Lead Agency	709,757
Ryan White CARE Services	515,536
Infant Immunization Initiative	130,000
Maternal/Child Health	
Childcare Resource	30,000
Family Case Management	4,267,600
Family Planning	442,100
Healthy Families Illinois	75,000
Morton Health Center	129,200
Outreach and Education	112,000
Perinatal Hepatitis Program	10,000
Primary Care	70,000
Problem Pregnancy	12,700
Service Fees	600,000
Refugee	
Health Services	77,000
Screening Exams	262,500
Sexually Transmitted Diseases	125,589
State Computer Information Link	87
Suburban Cook County Tuberculosis Sanitarium	19,800
Teen Pregnancy Prevention	
Delay of Adolescent Subsequent Pregnancy	133,700
Teen Parent Initiative	206,700
Vaccines Provided by Federal/State Sources	455,756
Violence Prevention	53,810
Vision and Hearing Screening	51,500
WIC/Nutrition	2,479,500
<b>Total CCDPH Budget</b>	<b>\$29,302,196</b>

<b>Community Health Services</b>	
Breast and Cervical Cancer Prevention	
Cervical Cancer Screening Tests	224
Mammograms	358
Participants	372
Dental Sealant Program	
Sealants Placed	17,494
Health Education Services	
Group Attendance	4,237
HIV/STD Outreach	3,332
HIV Case Management	
Average Monthly Caseload	311
Lead Poisoning	
Reported Cases & Investigations	137
Vision & Hearing Program	
School/Pre-School Vision Test	27,670
School/Pre-School Hearing Test	27,798
<b>Public Health Nursing Services</b>	
Case Management	
Average Monthly Caseload	13,559
Day Care Services	
Inspections	222
Nursing Consultations	460
Teen Parenting Program	
Average Monthly Participants	326
WIC Case Management	
Average Monthly Caseload	23,548
<b>Vital Statistics</b>	
Births	
Certificates Registered	22,234
Deaths	
Certificates Registered	14,956

<b>Selected Reportable Communicable Diseases</b>	
AIDS	206
Chlamydia	2,096
E.Coli 0157:H7	16
Foodborne Illness Complaints	365
Giardia	192
Gonorrhea	1,220
Hepatitis A	196
Hepatitis B	
Acute	39
Carriers	216
HIV	125
Measles	2
Meningitis/Bacteremia	
H. influenza	23
Meningococcal	13
Pertussis	9
Salmonella	266
Syphilis	
Congenital	7
Early	48

<b>Client Visits by Clinic Type</b>	
Adult Health	1,694
Ambulatory Care Clinic	819
Dental	9,689
HIV Anonymous Testing	2,047
Family Planning	12,671
Immunization	19,491
Flu	3,601
Pneumococcal	607
Prenatal	13,008
Primary Care	1,605
Refugee	564
School-based Clinic	950
Sexually Transmitted Diseases	5,436
Well Child Care	1,221
Women, Infants and Children (WIC)	124,488

## Environmental Health Services

<b>Day Care Facilities</b>		
Inspections performed		222
<b>Food Service Establishment/Retail Food Stores</b>		
Intergovernmental Agreements		
Communities Served		31
Food Facilities		1,200
Inspections Performed		2,452
Plans Reviewed		22
Unincorporated Areas		
Inspections Performed		764
Licenses Issued		242
Plans Reviewed		16
<b>Lead Abatement</b>		
Compliance Letters Initiated		61
Enforcement Actions		6
Inspections Performed		221
<b>Mobile Home Parks</b>		
Inspections Performed		46
Licenses Issued		36
<b>Nuisance Complaints</b>		
Complaints Received		101
Inspections and Enforcement Actions		379
<b>Septic Tank Cleaners</b>		
Permits Issued		56
Truck Inspections Performed		65
<b>Swimming Pools and Spas</b>		
Inspections Performed		1,179
Private Pool/Spa Plans Approved		55
<b>Tanning Facilities</b>		
Inspections Performed		164
<b>Water Supplies</b>		
Analysis Opinions Rendered		934
Water Samples Collected		
non-community		520
private		62
<b>Wells/Sewage Disposal Systems</b>		
Abandoned Wells		
Wells Sealed		189
Existing Non-community Wells		
Surveys Performed		191
New Wells		
Inspections Performed		177
Permits Issued		207
Well/Septic System Mortgage Evaluations		
Evaluations Requested		33
Inspections Performed		33
Private Sewage Disposal Systems		
Installation Inspections Performed		87
Lot Surveys Performed		143
Plans Processed		125



## **COOK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**JOHN H. STROGER, JR.,**

*President*

Jerry Butler  
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## **COOK COUNTY BUREAU OF HEALTH SERVICES**

**RUTH M. ROTHSTEIN,**

*Chief, Cook County Bureau of Health Services*

**KAREN L. SCOTT, MD, MPH,**

*Chief Operating Officer, Cook County Department of Public Health*

### **Affiliates**

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