

# St. Clair County Health Department 2023 Annual Report



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2023 Board President



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2023 President-Elect



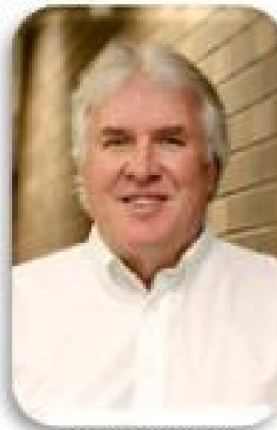
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Board Secretary



Matt Smalheer  
St. Clair County Board Rep.



Jennifer Demear,  
MSN, APRN, FNP-C  
Board Member



William Kreeb, M.S.  
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Cindy Thompson, R.N.  
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Dr. Kelly Wood, MD, MSPH  
Board Member



Dr. Omer Badahman  
SCCHD Medical Advisor

St. Clair County Board of Health provides oversight, guidance and leadership to the St. Clair County Health Department under the direction of the Honorable Mark Kern, County Board Chairman. Board of Health members are volunteers appointed by Chairman Kern.



## St. Clair County Health Department

### Executive & Deputy Directors & Program Directors

The St. Clair County Health Department consists of five divisions related to a variety of public health services.

These divisions utilize specially trained staff and funding sources that are uniquely related to their public objectives and overall, share a common goal of working together for the health of all St. Clair County residents.



MYLA BLANDFORD,  
MPH, REHS, LEHP  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



KATHRYN WEISENSTEIN  
BSN  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR



SHARON VALENTINE  
MBA, LEHP  
DIRECTOR  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
PROGRAMS



SUSAN REHRIG  
MBA  
DIRECTOR  
INFECTIOUS DISEASE  
PREVENTION



BARBARA WHITAKER  
DNP, MPH, RN  
DIRECTOR  
HEALTH PROMOTION  
& WELLNESS



MARIA SUTHERLAND  
NP  
DIRECTOR/PROVIDER  
CLINICAL SERVICES  
& SYSTEMS

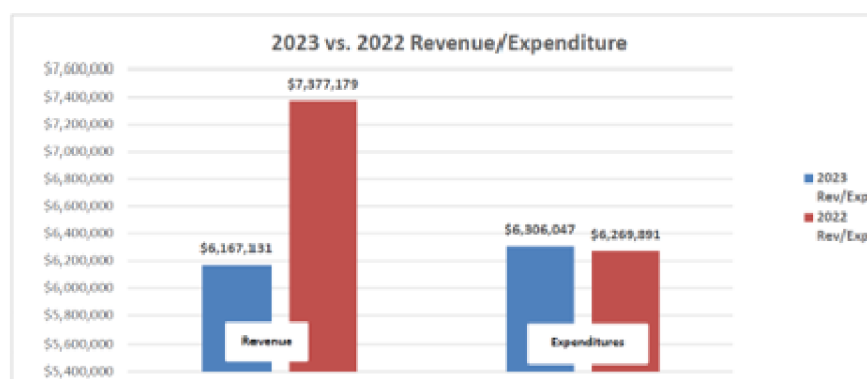
# ST. CLAIR COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT 2023 ANNUAL REPORT JANUARY – DECEMBER 2023

## ADMINISTRATION OVERVIEW

In 2023, the St. Clair County Health Department (SCCHD) continued to move past the COVID-19 pandemic to address new challenges and the ongoing public health needs of St. Clair County residents. The Health Department continued to provide COVID – related services, including vaccinations for all age groups, testing and outbreak investigations. Clinical operations expanded with the addition of physicals for both school aged-children and adults, the administration of a wider range of adult vaccines and the new option of dental fluoride treatment for children.

The Department completed the launch of its new logo, website and rebranding campaign, including a COVID Wellness and All Vaccine campaign(s) to assist the public in accessing current information in a more user-friendly format. The first annual Boo to the Flu event was a success and featured a coloring contest, carnival games and a trunk or treat. Staff continue to provide outreach, testing and vaccination services at the annual Pridefest and hosted the annual Scrivner Public Health Foundation fundraiser.

In 2023, St. Clair County Health Department realized a decrease in revenues of \$1,210,048 (-19.62%) due to the loss of Covid-19 funding and an increase in expenditures of \$36,156 (0.57%) due to additions in staffing, as compared to 2022. For 2023, the Health Department realized a Net Loss of \$138,916. Five new programs were awarded to the Health Department at the end of 2023, increasing the 2024 revenue base by approximately \$300,000. The 2022 Fiscal Single Audit was completed in 2023 without findings. The Scrivner Public Health Foundation golf tournament raised over \$5,869 to support scholarships and other public health programs.



## HEALTH PROMOTION & WELLNESS/CLINICAL SERVICES & SYSTEMS

Although the pandemic officially ended in May, services within the **Health Promotion & Wellness (HPW)** division did not return to normal until August, when Women, Infants & Children (WIC) participants returned to full in-person services. WIC staff completed 8,299 in-person and remote appointments in 2023 compared to 7,406 mostly remote appointments for 2022. From this caseload, the Better Birth Outcomes high-risk prenatal program enrolled 161 new clients. A total of 52,375 diapers were distributed to our WIC infants and children.

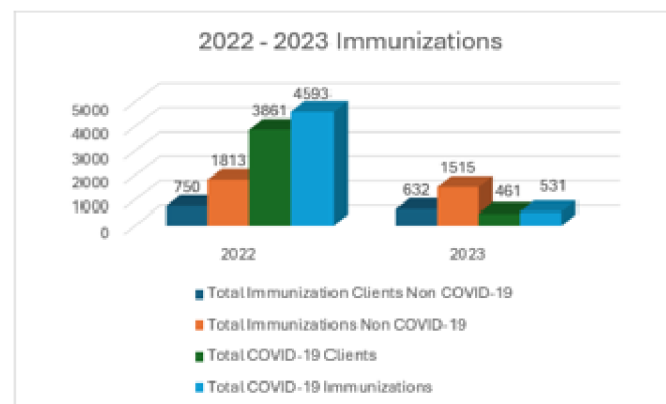
Capillary lead testing resumed in July. Staff completed 672 tests on children and 165 tests on prenatal clients. Staff are currently managing 25 cases of children with capillary or venous blood lead levels over 5 ug/dL.

The COVID-19 vaccination program changed profoundly with the end of the pandemic and the federal government was no longer providing COVID-19 vaccines at no cost to everyone. The Health Department continues to provide COVID-19 vaccine through the VFC program, the CDC Bridge Access program and through privately purchased vaccine. Each program has different eligibility criteria.

Immunizations completed during 2023: 497 COVID-19 vaccinations to 453 clients, 215 Influenza vaccinations to 209 clients, 7 Orthopox vaccinations to 5 clients and 1,096 other childhood and adults vaccinations to 436 clients.

The new 2023-2024 COVID-19 monovalent vaccine was released in the fall, which resulted in an increase in the number of COVID-19

In an effort to expand billable services and increase revenue, SCCHD expanded vaccination programs to include private purchase vaccinations and expanded the number of billable insurance programs.



**Illinois Breast & Cervical Cancer Program (IBCCP)** hired a Nurse Practitioner/Provider in March 2023 to manage and eventually provide in-house services for the IBCCP program. In May of 2023, school physical exams (59 performed), sports physical exams (20 performed) and pre-employment exams (9 performed) services were added at the health department. The IBCCP screened 289 clients, with one client being diagnosed with Invasive Breast Cancer. The WISEWOMAN Program launched late in 2023. In addition to offering in-house IBCCP services, this program also screens for diabetes and cardiovascular health in women.

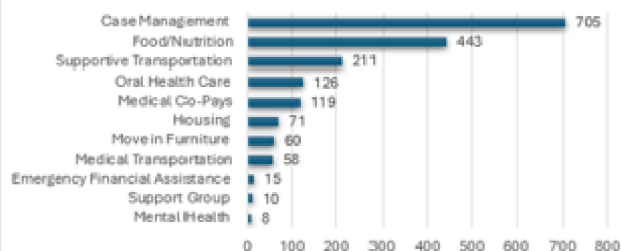
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## INFECTIOUS DISEASE PREVENTION

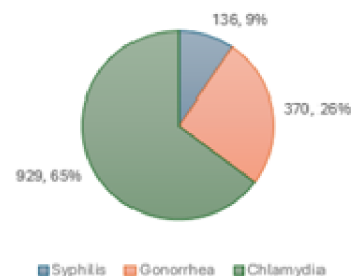
The Division of Infectious Disease Prevention (IDP) plays a pivotal role in preventing and mitigating the impact of infectious diseases through emergency preparedness activities, infectious disease surveillance, community education, testing, vaccination, infection control, and resource provision. In 2023, IDP successfully navigated public health emergencies, including COVID-19 and Mpox public health emergencies. The division distributed over 6,000 COVID-19 tests, monitored, and replaced 42 countywide AEDs, and provided emergency preparedness training for over 300 county employees and volunteers. The SCC Medical Reserve Corps completed 255 volunteer hours in service to the community, which equates to \$12,599.05 in economic value.

Staff investigated 257 animal bites, 2,566 STI's, 1,272 communicable diseases and 224 potential Tuberculosis (TB) cases. In addition, 485 TB and 88 HIV tests were administered, 53 TB physician visits were kept and 120 HIV surveillance units were met. There were 659 clients enrolled in Ryan White case management services with an overall viral suppression rate of 91%. The Health Department established a Behavioral Health contract to provide crisis counseling for individuals living with HIV and continued HIV/STI prevention activities through the Metro in the Know campaign at health-related events in collaboration with community partners, schools, and universities.

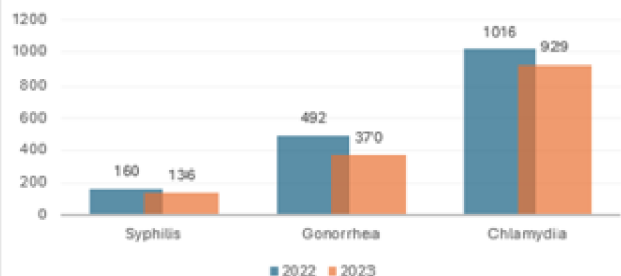
**# of Persons Living with HIV/AIDS who Accessed Ryan White Funded Services January -December 2023**



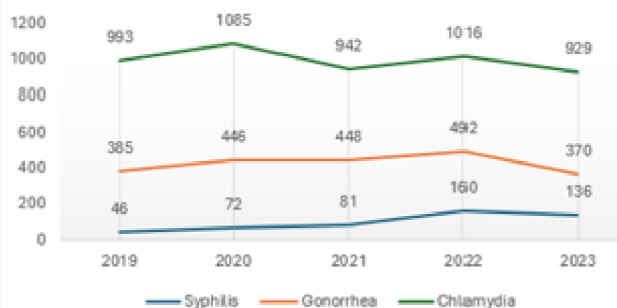
**STI Investigations Completed January-December 2023**



**STI Investigations as of December 2022 and 2023**



**TOTAL STI Cases 2019-2023**



## ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & PROTECTION PROGRAMS

The Environmental Programs division continues to expand food safety measures and further staff training, while continuing to conduct routine inspections and consultations. Staff continues to conduct landfill, open dumping and sewage inspections, as well as citizen complaint investigations and education regarding solid waste issues in St. Clair County as required under the IEPA Intergovernmental Agreement. The Division worked with IDPH on outbreak investigations throughout the year.

The Environmental Health program completed 2,556 retail food inspections and 716 follow-up inspections in addition to 3,504 consultations and complaints. Inspections of new and renovated Private Sewage Disposal Systems (PSDS) are similar to previous years, with 86 inspections and over 1,446 consultations. Staff have

responded to 64 complaints.

The SCCHD Health Food Program is enrolled in the Voluntary National Retail Food Standards Program which is recommended by the U.S. Food & Drug Administration. The Retail Program Standards encourage regulatory agencies to improve and build upon existing programs. The Department continues to receive grant money to work toward compliance with the Retail Program Standards.

The Environmental Protection program remains consistent with inspections at landfills and the composting site with 76 total permitted site inspections. Complaint investigations, rechecks and consults also remain consistent at approximately 158 complaint investigations and over 226 consultations.



## 2024 GOALS

In 2024, St. Clair County Health Department (SCCHD) will continue to work to meet the needs of St. Clair County (SCC) residents by collaborating with community partners and working through Health Care Commission (HCC) to identify priority focus areas for healthcare and ensure provision of needed services. In addition, SCCHD administration and directors will work to identify workforce development opportunities for staff.

The Infectious Disease Prevention divisions 2024 program goals include enhancing resilience and response capabilities for at-risk populations, pursuit of funding to expand existing and support new infectious disease prevention activities, implementation of strategies to ensure equitable access to health care, and continued communication efforts to raise awareness of infectious diseases, preventative measures, and the importance of individual and community actions. Specific goals include ensuring 95% of newly diagnosed Persons Living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA), who enroll in Ryan White Medical Case Management within one week of diagnosis, are linked to HIV medical care within one month of diagnosis and that 95% of PLWHA who are enrolled in Ryan White Case Management services on January 1, 2024, will achieve HIV viral load suppression by the end of the 2024 calendar year. The SCCHD will report 100% of infectious diseases to IDPH according to the IL Communicable Disease Code and within the approved electronic database identified by IDPH. New services include the development of a safer sex resource distribution plan for jurisdictional residents who have received a new STI diagnosis by the end of the 2024 calendar year, expand the database of SCC Sexual Health Providers by June 30, 2024, implement a Narcan

distribution program by March 31, 2024, and distribute 200 Narcan kits to at-risk individuals by June 30, 2024. The SCCHD will ensure 90% of the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) Volunteers who are active at the beginning of 2024 will maintain volunteer status, as well as increase MRC Volunteers by 5% by the end of the 2024 calendar year.

Clinical Services & Systems (CSS) will start screening clients for the WISEWOMAN Program, which includes screenings for diabetes and cardiovascular health. Expanded services, including STI testing, and new client enrollment for well woman visits will assist in meeting assigned caseload goals. Staff will work on achieving a minimum of 90% of the Breast and Cervical Cancer Program (BCCP) caseload.

Health Promotion & Wellness (HPW) division will focus on achieving and maintaining 100% staffing needs within the division, work to achieve at least 90% of the assigned Women Infants & Children (WIC) caseload and 100% of Better Birth Outcomes (BBO) caseload.

Environmental Health program goals include standardizing all field staff in compliance with the FDA (Food and Drug Administration) Retail Food Standards for Risk Based Inspections, update SCCHD's FDA Retail Food Standards self-assessment and work toward compliance, meeting two (2) of the standards in 2024, updating SCC Retail Food Establishment Sanitation ordinance and the Private Sewage Disposal Code.

Environmental Protection (EP) program goals include increasing the number of new open dump sites opened in 2024.