

**2022**



# **ANNUAL REPORT**

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**ROCK ISLAND COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

**2112 25TH AVENUE ROCK ISLAND, IL 61201  
309-793-1955 [WWW.RICHD.ORG](http://WWW.RICHD.ORG)**



# Administrator's Message

## 2022 - Year in Review



I am pleased to share the FY2022 Annual Report for the Rock Island County Health Department. 2022 has been a year of transition in public health. While we are still responding to COVID-19, it has thankfully shifted from our primary focus. RICHD continued to offer vaccinations to every age group eligible; including primary doses and boosters. Cases, hospitalizations and deaths were down significantly in 2022 compared to 2020 and 2021. Transmission levels remained low for our county for much of the year. There were some spikes in the fall and early winter with other viruses such as influenza and RSV circulating as well. However, by the end of 2022 things had leveled off.

Services became more normalized again this year. We resumed home visits in our case management program and began bringing clients back in for WIC services which had been offered curbside for most of the pandemic. In addition to offering flu shots at our office, we once again went to many off-site locations in the county and held vaccination clinics. We actually gave more flu shots last year than had been given in 2021. This was important in our county since flu arrived earlier in the season.

This year we have been able to add two full-time positions which will improve our ability to serve the public. One position added was an additional sanitarian in our environmental health program. Sanitarians help ensure food safety in restaurants and safe drinking water among many other duties. Please read the environmental health section for more information on their activities throughout 2022. We also added a full-time nurse position to our infectious disease program. While still vacant in 2022, we have recently hired a nurse and will be able to onboard as of February 2023. This position will enable us to resume our refugee health screening program. We also entered into a new partnership with Champaign-Urbana Public Health District to assist with training and standardization of refugee and immigrant programs. There are many refugees and immigrants in Rock Island County currently awaiting these services and we are anxious to get the program up and running again as soon as possible.

This annual report will showcase not only this work mentioned, but also all the other programs and activities that the Rock Island County Health Department performs year-round.

This will be my last annual report as I am set to retire in April 2023. It has been my privilege working in public health for the last 28 years. I know that the Rock Island County Health Department will succeed in offering high quality, valuable programs to the residents of Rock Island County in the years to come.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nita Ludwig". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "N" and a long, sweeping underline.

Public Health Administrator

# Emergency Preparedness Programs

## Emergency Planning and Response

Rock Island County Health Department collaborates with many local community response partners in both Rock Island and Scott County (Iowa) to plan for all types of potential emergencies. Exercises give us valuable information which we use to improve our response plans which in turn increase preparedness levels. If there was a release of a biological agent such as anthrax or smallpox, the Rock Island County Health Department would be responsible to distribute medication or vaccinate all the residents of Rock Island County (around 143,000 people).

This was another year that has tested for what Emergency Preparedness and Response strives. The Quad Cities COVID-19 Coalition continued to meet with both Scott County and Rock Island County Health Departments, Scott County and Rock Island County Emergency Management, Unity Point and Genesis Hospitals, Community Health Care, elected officials, and others to monitor and address issues with the novel coronavirus that have an impact on the Quad Cities. This Coalition had met weekly or monthly as need required since its initiation, to provide information sharing and an integrated approach toward the pandemic. The final meeting before disbanding due to lack of need and lower cases was the first week of October. The connections made will hopefully make future responses quite successful.

Walk in COVID-19 vaccinations continued at RICHD, with Rock Island County Medical Reserve Corps volunteers and health department staff working together to serve those who wanted to be vaccinated. On Tuesdays, Moderna primary vaccines and boosters were available, with Pfizer primary vaccines and boosters available on Fridays. Both vaccine types for the pediatric population were available on Wednesdays, with 6mo-4 year olds starting June 29th.

Recruitment of additional Rock Island County Medical Reserve Corps volunteers through advertising provided by an award from the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) started in August. The Rock Island County MRC was one of only 3 units in the state to be awarded the maximum amount of tier 1 funding to support a recruitment campaign through advertising via television, radio, newspaper, social media, and billboards. This effort added a dozen new volunteers by the end of the year, and will be continued through June of 2023.

Although supply had risen, the need for PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) from the Illinois Pharmaceutical Stockpile and the Strategic National Stockpile to assist healthcare entities, nursing homes, group homes, and others continued into 2022. RICHD filled 33 requests from those agencies in need of PPE. They also filled over 44 requests for Binax NOW testing kits and 16 requests for iHealth testing kits that were provided by IDPH, to those agencies as well as school districts. Contact Tracers, as well as RICHD Infectious Disease staff assisted these agencies and the public with isolation and quarantine guidelines for those who tested positive and their close contacts. Starting January 13th, IDPH authorized a contact tracing centralization. All positive cases, other than congregate care settings were to be managed by the state Surge Center. RICHD ended contractual contact tracing staffing March 25th.

The highly contagious omicron subvariants BA.4 and BA.5 emerged dominant in the United States during the fall. A bivalent booster was approved for those 12 and older; then expanding to children aged 6 months and older in December. Our COVID-19 response continues into 2023.



## WE NEED YOU, TO BE OUR BEST!



We are currently building our list of VOLUNTEERS for our Medical Reserve Corps Unit! Volunteers come from all backgrounds and assist the Health Department in a variety of roles.

rock  
island  
county  
medical  
reserve  
corps



Public Health  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.  
Rock Island County  
Health Department

**Volunteer today and help support our community  
by calling 309-793-7955 or visit [RICHD.org](http://RICHD.org)!**

For more information and resources, please visit [www.richd.org](http://www.richd.org).



# Environmental Health Programs

## Inspections and Surveillance

RICHD sanitarians work diligently to protect the health and safety of the community by regulating food service establishments through education and inspections. They also permit and inspect private septic systems and handle testing of well water samples. Other areas include solid waste and nuisance regulation, tanning and body art facility inspections, and surveillance of mosquitoes for West Nile Virus. This program is also an excellent resource for information regarding proper recycling of all types of materials.



## Environmental Health Program Statistics

Program	2021 Statistics		2022 Statistics	
	Field Hours	Inspections	Field Hours	Inspections
Food Sanitation	624.5	318	1228	1008
Potable Water	283	276	786	645
Private Sewage	628	479	739	473
Nuisance Control	57	63	46	45
Solid Waste	7	56	13	18
Tanning/Body Art	56	34	33	21
West Nile Virus Surveillance	57	35	205	335

For more information and resources, please visit [www.richd.org](http://www.richd.org).



# Maternal and Child Health Programs

## Women, Infant, and Child (WIC)

WIC's mission is to assure healthy pregnancies, healthy birth outcomes, and healthy growth and development for women, infants, and children up to age 5 who are at nutritional risk. In 2022, all Illinois Department of Human Services programs operated under a disaster plan that allowed for suspended in-clinic visits. Our WIC team strongly encouraged families to visit the clinics starting in July by explaining that the best way to receive WIC services is to be seen in person. About half of clients still chose to receive services remotely. Staff members were provided with disposable masks and gloves (as appropriate) for visits. No matter how the clients were served, WIC nurses and nutritionists, collectively known as Certifying Professional Authorities, or CPAs, offered nutritional education and proper feeding and developmental guidance. WIC experienced a fluctuating caseload because families received a second Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP, payment each month throughout the entire year. For a short time in December, WIC's increased fruits and vegetables cash benefits reduced to pre-pandemic levels; however, through at least September 2023, families will receive inflation-reactive increases in this cash benefit. Each child ages 1-5 receives \$25 a month, and pregnant and postpartum participants get \$43, while breastfeeding women get \$49. Most of our families use all of their cash-value benefits.



For most of the year, WIC dealt with a national formula shortage. It started in February with a recall on Similac, which is not the contracted formula for Illinois WIC. However, the recall snowballed into supply chain issues for all formula brands, including Illinois WIC-contracted Enfamil. Illinois WIC received waivers from USDA to allow for purchases of larger cans and formula imported from other countries. The waivers were to remain in place until April 2023. Supply issues were improved by the end of the year; however, families still reported having trouble finding formula on high-traffic shopping days. WIC staff educated families on the importance of not diluting formula and preparing it exactly as the can indicates. Feeding a baby watered-down formula can be fatal. WIC staff also told clients not to feed infants cow's milk or any non-dairy milk substitute because children younger than about 12 months cannot fully digest cow's milk and milk substitutes lack the proper nutritional value. Staff also educated parents about not making homemade formula with recipes from the internet because of the risk of malnutrition and hospitalization. Most of all, we urged WIC clients to shop frequently on weekdays and early in their benefit period. 2022 was a stressful time for all WIC staff and every parent of a formula-fed infant.

Our breastmilk depot moved to the Rock Island clinic because Community Health Care no longer had room for our freezer at the Moline site. We continued to accept donations from mothers with extra breastmilk, although donations were down significantly in 2022. We shipped donated milk to the Milk Bank of the Western Great Lakes in Elk Grove Village, near Chicago. From there, the milk is tested for safety, pasteurized, and then shipped to medically fragile babies in neonatal intensive care units at hospitals in Illinois and Wisconsin.

<b>WIC Statistics 2022</b>	
<b>Activity</b>	<b>Monthly Average</b>
Clients Served	951
Total Caseload	3,150
Exclusively Breastfed Infants	77
Partially Breastfed Infants	323

# Family Case Management

Family Case Management works to lower infant mortality by connecting pregnant women and their infants to health care and community resources. The Family Case Management team worked under a disaster plan for all of 2022 due to the pandemic as authorized by the Illinois Department of Human Services. The disaster plan allowed case managers to complete more phone visits and waived home visits. However, we resumed optional in-clinic and home visits in July. We strongly encouraged both. Staff members were provided with disposable masks for visits. Whether clients were seen in the office or served over the phone, the FCM team worked closely to coordinate service with WIC staff. Once a pregnant woman or new mother talked with WIC staff over the phone, the client was transferred to a case manager. Case managers focused on prenatal and postpartum depression screenings, developmental screenings and resource needs. We continued to see higher scores on maternal depression screenings, but the trend declined from 2021. For women scoring high on screenings, we made immediate referrals to the woman's obstetrician and to partner mental health agencies. We then followed up with the client within two days.

Case managers emphasized the important of safe-sleep practices and on-time immunizations and conducted screenings to ensure babies reached developmental milestones. Those who showed developmental delays were referred to early intervention services. WIC and Family Case Management staff work collaboratively with clients at the Moline and Rock Island sites.



Medical Director Dr. Cheryl True, Chief Operating Officer Janet Hill and senior case manager Chris Cervantes served on a task-force to reduce full-term, low-birthweight infants. The task force is comprised with representatives from the Quad City Health Initiative, Genesis Health System, UnityPoint-Trinity, the Scott County (Iowa) Health Department and Community Health Care. By the end of the year, the task force had finalized presentations to give to partners to join the effort. The goal is to reduce the number of babies born at 37 weeks gestation or later who weigh less than 2,500 grams (about 5.5 pounds). The average difference in healthcare cost between normal-weight and low-weight births is more than \$36,000.

## Family Case Management Statistics

Activity	Monthly Average
Home Visits (Resumed in July)	568
Office Visits (Resumed in July)	1,356
Phone Visits	2,547
Developmental Screenings	1,433
Postpartum Depression Screenings	1,516

## High-Risk Infant Follow Up

Local hospitals refer high-risk infants to the health department through the adverse pregnancy outcome reporting system, or APORS. A public health nurse then provides targeted case management to the family until the child turns 2 years old. Medical case management services include pediatric physical assessments, developmental assessments, annual home visits and referrals to specialists or other community services as needed. All home visits remained suspended due to the pandemic and as authorized by the Illinois Department of Human Services. The registered nurse case manager worked closely to make sure the child received appropriate well-child screenings and immunizations, while also attended to children's child's specific medical diagnosis that qualified the children for the HRIF program. The Illinois Department of Public Health made maternal cannabis use an automatic referral to the program, which increased the number of contacts the HRIF team made. However, most women who use cannabis declined services.



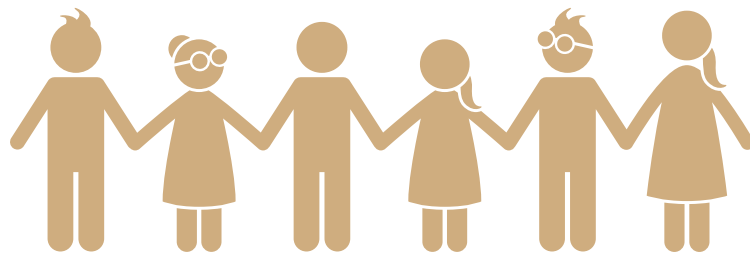
## High-Risk Infant Statistics

Activity	Monthly Average 2021	Monthly Average 2022
Infants Receiving Follow Up	51	54

# Vision and Hearing

The Vision and Hearing Program screens all 3 to 5 year old children, without charge, in Rock Island County preschools and daycares as mandated by the State of Illinois. Any new center that opens in the county can contact this program to schedule a screening during the school year.

The Rock Island County Health Department may be contracted to provide vision and hearing screenings in private and public school districts and special education facilities.



## Preschool Hearing Statistics

Activity	Total Number
Screened	1,736
Referred	30

## Preschool Vision Statistics

Activity	Total Number
Screened	1,784
Referred	34
Glasses	31

## Healthworks of Illinois

Healthworks is a case management program for children in foster care. The Illinois Department of Children and Family Services previously offered a grant for services with participating health departments, but now the grantor is Centene, which is a managed care organization. RICHD serves as a lead agency for a 10-county area. Case managers work to ensure foster children have regular medical and dental visits and that any other medical needs are met. The case manager that exclusively serves Rock Island children ages 45 days to 6 years has seen an explosion of children entering foster care over the last three years.

Healthworks of Illinois Statistics		
Activity	Monthly Average 2021	Monthly Average 2022
Foster Children Case Managed in 10-County Region	698	700
Rock Island County Foster Children Receiving Case Management Services	134	128

## Illinois Breast and Cervical Cancer Program

The Illinois Breast and Cervical Cancer Program provides vouchers for women to get breast and cervical cancer screenings as well as vouchers for any needed medical follow up.

Rock Island County serves as a lead agency for a seven county area.



IBCCP Program Statistics	
Activity	Total Number
Women Screened	108
Women Referred to Medicaid for Cancer Treatment	2



# School Health Link

School Health Link Inc. is a non-profit organization with a 501 (c) status that provides care year-round to Rock Island County children ages 0-18. The School Health Link office has moved to Moline, although we continue to serve all of Rock Island County residents. School Health Link serves as a primary care provider and medical home for children throughout Rock Island County, as well as supplements primary care for other students who may only need intermittent care and/or services.



Children and young adults can be seen in the office for sick visits, annual well child visits, school and sports physicals, immunizations, mental and behavioral health needs, lead screenings, nutrition health education, STI testing, and pregnancy testing.

Our mission is to help keep kids in Rock Island County healthy and in school. We believe that the foundation to wellness is an open, honest, and trusting relationship with your healthcare team. We strive to decrease school absenteeism through early detection and intervention, as well as education of potential health risk factors. School Health Link works in collaboration with: Rock Island County Health Department, Moline-Coal Valley School District, Rock Island County schools, and Transitions Mental Health Services.

## School Health Link Statistics 2022

Activity	Total Number
Acute/Sick Visits	567
School Physicals Completed	564
Immunizations Given	930
Total Visits	1638



# Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention

The number of children screened for elevated blood lead levels totally 3,337 remained far below pre-pandemic levels of 4,284 in 2019. Lead screening resumed in July through the WIC clinic for all children coming to WIC. Regular lead home visits also resumed in July. On occasion when a child’s blood lead level was significantly high and case managers couldn’t identify the source of lead over the phone, case managers would complete a COVID-safer home visit wearing masks. The department also continued to collaborate with the cities of Rock Island, Moline, East Moline and Silvis in a \$2.4 million federal grant to mitigate lead hazards from homes. Work is ongoing with our partners, but the pandemic caused fewer home mitigations to be completed during the construction season. In addition, the grant administrator had trouble getting contractors to bid on jobs because of labor shortages and an overall higher demand for contractors.



## Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Statistics

Activity	Total Number 2021	Total Number 2022
Children Screened	3,592	3,337
Children with Elevated Lead Levels	279	297
Home Visits/Phone Assessments	31	59
People Educated	2,925	4,800

# Vital Records

## Registrar's Office of Vital Records

The local Registrar's Office of Vital Records (birth and death certificates) for Rock Island County is located at the Rock Island County Health Department.

Certified copies of birth certificates dating back to 1985 can be obtained at our office. For birth certificates, the fee is \$12.00 for the first copy and \$6.00 for each additional copy of the same record during the same visit.

Death certificates dating back to 1999 can also be obtained at the health department office. For death certificates, the fee is \$17.00 for the first copy and \$11.00 for each additional copy of the same record during the same visit.



## Vital Records Statistics

Vital Record	Total Number 2021	Total Number 2022
Births	1,400	1,190
Deaths	1,663	1,606

For more information and resources, please visit [www.richd.org](http://www.richd.org).

# Health Education and Promotion

## Community Health Promotion

The various programs at the Rock Island County Health Department are dedicated to providing, not only services, but also education to increase awareness and understanding of different health issues. Every program is willing and able to provide relevant resources and answer any questions you may have.

The health department also has a health educator that promotes healthy behaviors and health-related programs throughout the county. She shares about the health department's resources as well as actively represents the health department during community outreach events, in community and internal groups, and with other coalitions such as the C.A.U.S.E, the Quad Cities Youth Conference, Be Healthy QC, the Quad Cities HEARTSafe Coalition, and the Rock Island County Wellness Committee.

In December, the health educator and the chief operating officer attended a Public Information Officer training at the Center for Domestic Preparedness facility in Anniston, Alabama, to be better equipped with sharing health information with the community and media.



# Tobacco-Free Communities

Through the Illinois Tobacco-Free Communities grant, the health educator provides tobacco education, policy assistance, cessation resources, and compliance assessments. In 2022, these activities involved creating tobacco and vaping informational materials, tabling at different outreach and employee wellness events, recruiting referral partners to the Illinois Tobacco Quitline, and providing information and resources to businesses needing tobacco free policy updates and compliance checks.

The health educator is also a co-chair for the Tobacco-Free QC (TFQC) coalition which is a very active bi-state tobacco coalition that provides an avenue for many stakeholders to share materials, information, and connections in addressing the issue of tobacco in the Quad Cities area. TFQC is also a hub for vaping education resources, for cessation services in the community and over the phone, and for policy assistance for businesses and cities. Through TFQC, businesses are given a Champion Award for adopting a tobacco/nicotine-free policy.

In 2022, the tobacco program was very busy and is expected to be even busier in 2023. The health educator shared about tobacco and vaping at multiple outreach events hosted by major community stakeholders such as the Rock Island County Council on Addiction and John Deere.



For more information and resources, please visit [www.richd.org](http://www.richd.org).

# Infectious Diseases Programs

## Communicable Diseases

Rock Island County Health Department nurses interview county residents who are reported to have or have been exposed to certain diseases and conditions deemed reportable by the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH). Our nurses investigate any outbreaks and/ or single cases and refer as needed for medical follow. Diseases on the list of “Illinois Reportable Diseases” have time specific periods within which they must be reported to the Local Health Department and IDPH. Some diseases require immediate notification within 24 hours. Physicians, laboratories and other providers can reach health department staff at any time for disease reporting and questions on communicable disease process and direction.

## Tuberculosis (TB)

RICHD's TB program provides nursing consultation regarding TB treatment, contact investigations and education on TB infection control. RICHD administers and reads TB skin tests. Medications are also dispensed to TB active and latent clients as needed. Medications help prevent TB from becoming active in people who test positive for the germ and those with family members or those who are in close contact to someone with active tuberculosis.

<b>Tuberculosis Statistics</b>		
<b>Activity</b>	<b>Total Number 2021</b>	<b>Total Number 2022</b>
TB Skin Tests	152	158
TB Skin Test Reads	133	148
Quantiferon Gold TB Tests	18	10
Total Positive TB Tests	8	5
Chest X-Rays	6	5
Patients on Preventative Medications	47	1
Active TB Case	44	18



# Immunizations

RICHD offers all types of immunizations for adults and children to prevent disease and promote optimal health and wellness for all ages. We also have vaccines needed to keep all our children healthy and in school with flexible scheduling for any vaccine needs. Each fall we also provide flu shot clinics onsite and also throughout the county, ensuring that all residents have access to an annual flu vaccination.

In 2022, we held 45 off site clinics in addition to holding flu shot walk in clinics at the Health Department every Tuesday from October 4th through November 8th, 2022. We continued forward also, with our COVID-19 vaccine clinics for Monovalent and Bivalent vaccine. Moderna on Tuesdays and Pfizer on Fridays both as walk-in services. Our Pediatric COVID vaccine days were on Wednesdays by appointment (6 month–5/6 YO) to ensure adequate time was available for our counties littlest persons and their families. Vaccines were also provided to our local correctional facilities as requested.



## Immunizations Statistics 2022

Vaccine	Total Number
Flu Vaccinations (On-Site)	415
Flu vaccinations (Off-Site)	935
COVID-19 Vaccinations	6,323
Childhood Immunizations	563
Adult Immunizations	414
<b>Total Immunizations</b>	<b>8,650</b>

# Refugee Health and Immigration/Naturalization

Medical screenings and referrals are provided to refugees resettling to Rock Island County or to individuals applying for a change of status under immigrations and naturalization laws.

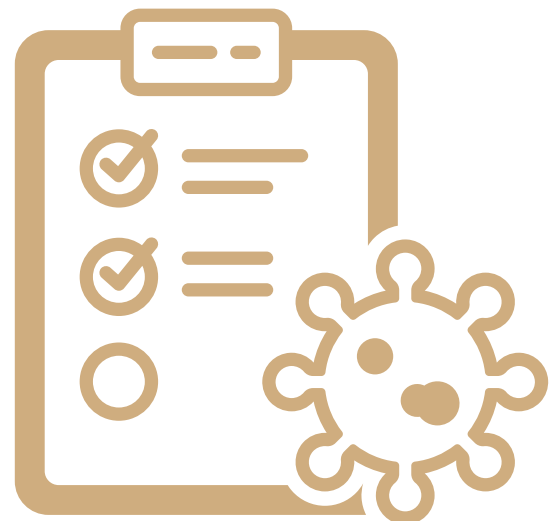
Refugees and Immigrants were seen at RICHD for medical screening early in 2022. Our Refugee Health Program has been dormant since early 2022 as hiring staff to support this program has been a challenge. Immigration & Refugee Program will restart in April 2023, with medical director, Dr. Cheryl True.

## Sexually Transmitted Infections

STI's remained high throughout 2022 both nationally and in Rock Island County. Communicable disease nurses follow up with all STI patients in order to ensure they receive proper services, while also working with our community partners in providing opportunities for training and services, ensuring our community needs are met.

Primary Syphilis cases increased early in 2022, but then declined. RICHD promotes safe sex practices in order to prevent the spread of diseases and infections to protect health and wellness of the general public.

Monkeypox (MPD) was a concern during 2022. MPV education along with administration of Jynneos vaccine was among the outreach and education provided. The RICHD STI clinic will resume clinics by the end of 2023.





## Other Reportable Infectious Diseases

Infectious Diseases Statistics 2022			
Disease	Total Number	Disease	Total Number
Hepatitis C	22	Histoplasmosis	11
Campylobacteria	13	Legionellosis	2
Chickenpox	1	Lyme Disease	4
COVID-19	20,216	Malaria	2
Carbapenem-Resistant Enterobacterales (CRE)	7	Monkeypox	1
Cryptosporidiosis	7	Salmonellosis	19
Encephalitis	1	Shigellosis	4
Escherichia coli (E. Coli)	5	Staphylococcal	0
Haemophilus Influenza	7	Streptococcal, Group A	0
Hepatitis B	10	Investigated Cases (Determined Not to Be a Case)	530
Hepatitis B - Perinatal Exposure	11	Rabies (Potential Human Exposure)	74
Hepatitis B - Perinatal Exposure Follow-Up	188	Influenza (with ICU admission)	7

For more information and resources, please visit [www.richd.org](http://www.richd.org).

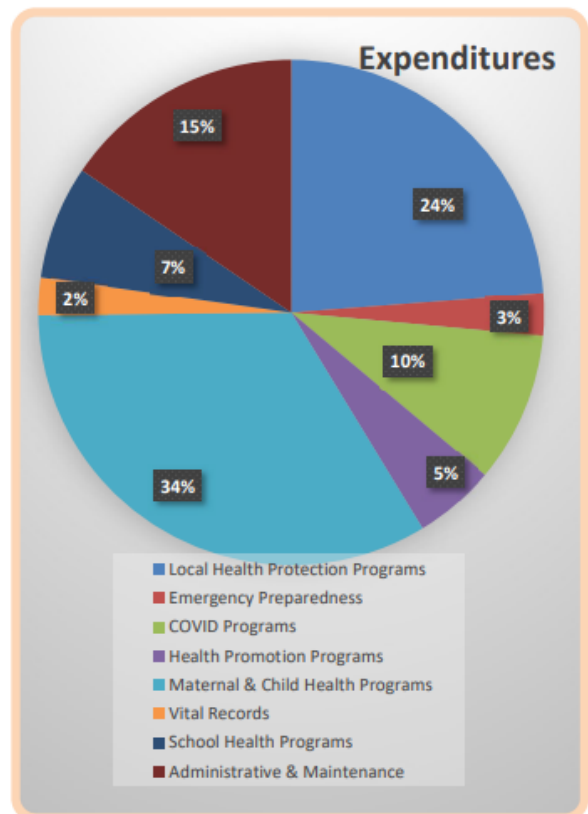
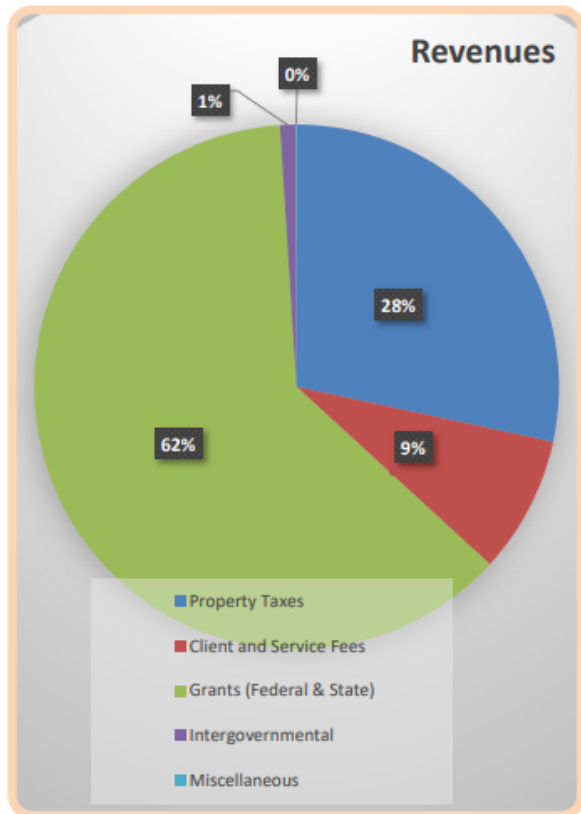
# Fiscal Report 2022

## Revenues

Property Taxes	1,234,364
Client and Service Fees	368,209
Grants (Federal & State)	2,704,989
Intergovernmental	41,253
Miscellaneous	3,010
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,351,825</b>

## Expenditures

Local Health Protection Programs	1,081,056
Emergency Preparedness	122,145
COVID Programs	437,919
Health Promotion Programs	235,737
Maternal & Child Health Programs	1,524,702
Vital Records	107,772
School Health Programs	331,511
Administrative & Maintenance	704,461
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,545,304</b>



## Board of Health 2022

Position	Name	Affiliation
President	KJ Whitley	City of Moline, Community Development Division
Vice President	Andrew McClarity	CMB Regional Centers
Secretary	Edna Sowards	Rock Island County Board, District 12
Treasurer	Nick Camlin	Rock Island County Treasurer
Public Health Administrator	Nita Ludwig	Rock Island County Health Department
Board Member	Naurin Ahmad, MD	Medical Arts, Dermatology
Board Member	Mark Bollaert	Dental Care Center
Board Member	Larry Coyne	Vice President of Valley Construction (retired)
Board Member	Michael Daly	Principal of Jordan Catholic School and BHASED (retired)
Board Member	Jeff Deppe	Laborers International Union Local 309
Board Member	Deborah Freiburg	School Health LINK Board, UPH Trinity Board
Board Member	Leon Gibson	Gibson-Bode Funeral Home and Cremation Services
Board Member	Jean Wardlow, MD	Genesis, Internal Medicine

## Employment Statistics

Position Type	Total Number 2021	Total Number 2022
Full-Time	41	42
Part-Time	6	5

