

TAZEWELL COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

# ANNUAL REPORT

# 2025



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>ABOUT US</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>TAZEWELL COUNTY GETS MOVING</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>BOARD OF HEALTH</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>TAZEWELL COUNTY TIRE COLLECTION</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>MESSAGE FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>APRN SERVICE LINE: FIVE YEARS STRONG</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>55 YEARS OF PUBLIC HEALTH IN TAZEWELL COUNTY</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>IBCCP WORKS TO BREAK DOWN HEALTH INEQUITIES</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>A BANNER YEAR</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>CARE TO SHARE CLOSET</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>THE HEALTH OF OUR COUNTY: AT A GLANCE</b>	<b>7</b>		



**Tazewell County Health Department**  
**Two Locations, One Mission**

1800 Broadway St  
Pekin, IL 61554

21306 Illinois Route 9  
Tremont, IL 61568

# ABOUT US



## MISSION

To promote and protect the public's health and well-being.

## VISION

The Tazewell County Health Department (TCHD) will be a state leader and partner, serving the community through innovative public health practices to meet the current and future needs of the individual and of the environment, with the ultimate goal of inspiring and attaining overall wellness.

## VALUES

The Tazewell County Health Department is dedicated to our community through:

**Service:** Understanding and meeting public health needs with equity, creativity and commitment.

**Quality:** Continuously seeking to enhance and provide services at the highest possible level.

**Accountability:** Ensuring responsible use of resources to benefit the community.

**Integrity:** Being ethical and reliable.

**Collaboration:** Communicating, working together with, and supporting community partners for the overall good of the public.

**Innovation:** Being a leader in anticipating and addressing public health needs through surveillance, planning, education, and evidence-based resources.

**Respect:** Relating to all people with understanding, compassion and dignity.



# BOARD OF HEALTH



- Bobbi Mullis, RN - President**
- Gary Burton - Vice President**
- Rich Karneboge - Secretary**
- Dr. Steven Dickey, D.D.S.**
- David Dingledine**
- Dr. Amy Grugan, PhD, RN**
- Jay Hall**
- Dr. Sarah Koscica, M.D.**
- Gloria Ranney**
- Aaron Yoder**
- Dr. Kacey Zobrist, DO**
- Hannah Clark - Treasurer,**  
**Tazewell County**



Back Row: Gloria Ranney, Aaron Yoder, David Dingledine, Jay Hall  
Front Row: Dr. Kacey Zobrist, Gary Burton, Bobbi Mullis, Dr. Amy Grugan  
Not Pictured: Rich Karneboge, Dr. Steven Dickey, Dr. Sarah Koscica, Hannah Clark

The Tazewell County Health Department Board of Health members are appointed by the Chairman of the Tazewell County Board.

Eleven members comprise the Board of Health and each serve 3-year terms voluntarily.

Board of Health meetings are held on the fourth Monday of each month at 6:30 pm in the Board Room of the Tazewell County Health Department's Tremont location.

## HEALTH SERVICES COMMITTEE

- Jay Hall, Chairman**
- Greg Sinn, Vice Chairman**
- Eric Schmidgall**
- Jon Hopkins**
- Cathryn Stump**
- Greg Longfellow**
- Tammy Rich-Stimson**
- Mark Goddard**

The Health Services Committee serve as a liaison to the Board of Health, supervise Animal Control, act as members of the Regional Pollution Control Site Heating Committee, and oversee the County Solid Waste Management Plan. Meetings are held the second Tuesday of the month at 5:30 pm at TCHD's Tremont location.

# MESSAGE FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR



**AMY FOX**

TCHD Administrator

Tazewell County Health Department began our 55th year of service to the County on December 1st, 2025. As we look ahead to 2026, and our next fifty-plus years, we will continue to grow, change, and adapt to our community's needs.

One of the major milestones in our department's history was becoming an accredited local public health agency by the National Public Health Accreditation Board in 2015. Since then, we have been through our first reaccreditation process and, in 2026, will prepare for our second. By assessing ourselves against a set of national standards and measures, we know that our department is operating and practicing public health for our community at the highest level.

Health departments that maintain accreditation demonstrate continued accountability to their stakeholders, including the communities they serve, while also meeting the changing needs of public health.

Part of that accountability includes assessing the health needs of our community. In 2025, along with our community partners, we assessed the health needs of our diverse community and determined the health priorities on which we will focus from 2026-2028.

- Reduce food insecurity among youth, especially during school closures
- Increase access to behavioral health services by improving navigation of services, particularly for youth and those with low income
- Decrease suicidal ideation and self-harm behaviors among adolescents and young adults

Staff and community partners will begin to work on these issues in 2026.

In accordance with those priorities, late in 2025, TCHD was awarded grant funding that will include dollars for continued attention and growth of mental health resources for our community. These funds will enable our department to have a staff member who is working to align and grow community-based resources for mental health.

I want to thank our County Administration, County Board members, our Board of Health, Community Partners and staff for their time and efforts to provide quality public health services to Tazewell County residents.

2025 was a year of planning and collaboration that will start TCHD off well in the new year!

*Amy Fox*

# 55 YEARS OF PUBLIC HEALTH



## 1970

Tazewell County Health Department (TCHD) is established by a two to one vote from Tazewell County residents. Its first location is a small office in the courthouse with the sanitation department.

## 1972

TCHD begins providing food inspections to restaurants. Offices move to half of the Tazewell County Farm Bureau Building in Pekin.

## 1977

TCHD moves to the old Tazewell Nursing Home on Route 9 in Tremont. That same year, special clinics are established to mitigate a measles outbreak in Tazewell County.

## 1982

Tazewell County Board of Health expands from 8 to 11 members after merging with the Oak Knoll T.B. Sanitarium.

## 1987

TCHD launches its prenatal and Solid Waste Planning (recycling) programs.

## 1990

TCHD establishes its drug prevention program. In the same year, Tazewell County Youth Board (TCYB) is formed.

## 1971

In Jan., Gordon Poquette, MPH begins work as TCHD's first administrator. That same year, TCHD moves to the Herget Service Center and offers its first immunization clinics and hearing and vision screenings.

## 1975

TCHD opens its first Dental Health Clinic in Pekin to provide dental care to children ages 3-18.

## 1980

TCHD's WIC supplemental nutrition program begins.

## 1984

TCHD's Clinic staff, including infectious disease nurse, Sarah Fenton (below), confirm the first reported case of AIDS in Tazewell County.

## 1989

A new building is constructed to house TCHD in Tremont. Many services remain in the same location today.

## 1993

TCHD begins its family case management program for pregnant women and infants.



# IN TAZEWELL COUNTY



**1999**

TCHD's Illinois Breast & Cervical Cancer Program (IBCCP) begins, helping to provide breast and cervical cancer screenings for underinsured and uninsured Tazewell County residents.

**2005**

Gordon Poquette retires and Amy Fox is named TCHD's second-ever administrator. TCHD's Maternal & Child Health Program is ranked #1 in Illinois.

**2009**

TCHD responds to the H1N1 Swine Flu pandemic, providing mass vaccination clinics and health education.

**2015**

TCHD receives its first national accreditation from the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB).

**2020**

TCHD responds to the global COVID-19 pandemic. A clinic is established at 1800 Broadway in Pekin to assist with testing and vaccination efforts. TCHD also begins providing APRN services.

**2025**

On December 1, TCHD officially celebrates 55 years of service to Tazewell County!

**2000**

TCHD begins offering afterschool programs at 14 schools across the county.

**2006**

Tazewell Teen Initiative (TTI) is established in response to 15 teen fatalities in 15 months on Tazewell County roadways. The group is now known as Tazewell Community Initiative (TCI) and includes substance use prevention.

**2013**

TCHD assists in the response to the Washington tornado. TCHD played a role in the County's Emergency Operations Center while offering tetanus shots to those affected and providing other services.

**2016**

TCHD begins providing Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) classes to community members.

**2024**

TCHD opens its second, permanent location at 1800 Broadway in Pekin. TCHD - Pekin is the home to TCHD's WIC & Clinic services and is the future home of the Dental Center.



# A BANNER YEAR

## MARGARET BURT PUBLIC HEALTH PARTNERSHIP AWARD



Alex Bowers, Mark Chism, Brent Nafziger, Mike Schone, Tobias Crawford, and Amy Hubner received the Margaret Burt Award in 2025.

The Margaret Burt Public Health Partnership Award was named to honor Margaret Burt, who was on the original Board of Health in 1970 and served for several years. Margaret Burt was a champion of public health, not only in Tazewell County but throughout the state of Illinois. Community members or agency personnel who have impacted the health and safety of Tazewell County residents are nominated by Health Department staff for this award.

- \* **Alex Bowers, Formerly Illinois Department of Public Health**
- \* **Mike Schone & Team - Tazewell County Maintenance**
- \* **Amy Hubner - Pekin Public Schools District 108**

## GORDON POQUETTE LEADERSHIP AWARD

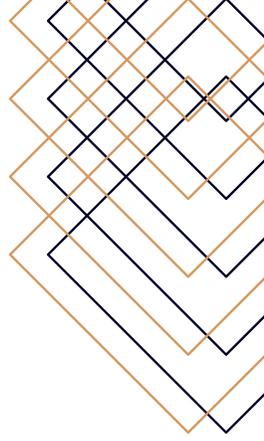
The Gordon Poquette Leadership Award was named to honor Gordon Poquette, the first Tazewell County Health Department Director of Public Health. Winners are employees of Tazewell County Health Department who show leadership in public health and increase the effectiveness of TCHD.

- \* **Amanda Hunt, Environmental Health Educator**



Shanita Wallace, Amanda Hunt, and Katelynne Girard

# THE HEALTH OF OUR COUNTY: AT A GLANCE



Tazewell County Health Department epidemiologist Megan Hanley continuously assesses the health of our county at all levels using evidence-based practices and data analysis. Here's a look at some important data as it pertains to the health of Tazewell County.



## TOP 3 LEADING CAUSES OF DEATH IN TAZEWELL COUNTY (2023)

1. **Cardiovascular Disease**
2. **Cancer**
3. **Dementia**
4. **Respiratory Disease**
5. **Accidental Deaths**



## NALOXONE KITS DISTRIBUTED IN TAZEWELL COUNTY

**1,125 kits**



## FOOD INSECURITY IN TAZEWELL COUNTY

**58.6%** of Tazewell County residents have low access to healthy food



**WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT HEALTH IN TAZEWELL COUNTY? CHECK OUT OUR MONTHLY DATA REPORTS BY SCANNING THE QR CODE!**



# TAZEWELL COUNTY GETS MOVING



TCHD's Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) for 2023-2025, focused on three priority areas: Healthy Eating/Active Living, Obesity, and Mental Health. To support those goals, TCHD planned and implemented a pair of movement programs in 2025. These programs aimed to get Tazewell County residents of all ages active while also providing critical social touchpoints to improve mental health.



## FIT & STRONG

Classes Since 2023

**144**

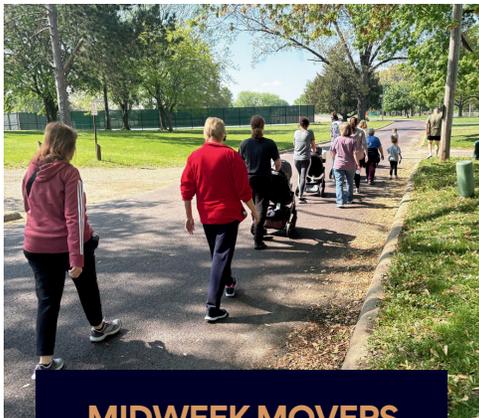
Participants in 2025

**55**

Fit & Strong is an exercise and behavior change program for older adults. The program entered its third year of existence in Tazewell County in 2025 and enjoyed its most successful year yet. TCHD held Fit & Strong classes twice a week for 12 weeks at The Miller Center in Pekin in both the fall and spring. Each class included 60 minutes of stretching and light strength training for older adults as well as 30 minutes of health education. Topics included nutrition, blood pressure, and safe exercise tips.

The program has had an excellent following from the very beginning and has received remarkable feedback. Due to that overwhelming positivity, a second class session and location began at the UAW Senior Citizens' Center in Pekin the fall of 2025.

**“Fit & Strong saved my life.”**  
**-Geraldine Dalton, Fit & Strong Participant**



## MIDWEEK MOVERS

Sessions in 2025

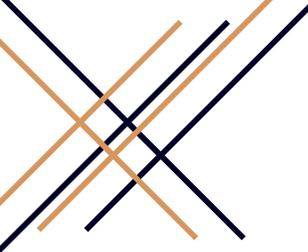
**13**

Participants in 2025

**40**

The newest movement program launched in 2025 was the Midweek Movers (MWM) weekly walking club. Hosted at TCHD – Pekin, MWM is open to all ages and runs in the spring and fall months on Tuesday mornings.

Each session begins with a 30- to 45-minute walk at Pekin Park District's Mineral Springs Park. After returning to TCHD – Pekin, participants receive 15-30 minutes of health education or community education on topics from healthy snacks to gardening tips and tricks to mosquito and sun safety. TCHD also hosted guest speakers from partner organizations like Tazewell County Animal Control and Pekin Park District. These sessions showcased the diverse partners TCHD works with while also shining a light on the great work of our community partners and the services and opportunities they provide.



# TAZEWELL COUNTY TIRE COLLECTION



Tazewell County Environmental Health & Tazewell County Highway Department Teams

TIRE COLLECTION	
Tires Collected	Appointments in Five-Day Span
<b>6300</b>	<b>500</b>

In a powerful display of community collaboration and environmental stewardship, TCHD Environmental Health joined forces with 14 local municipalities and the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) to launch a pilot tire collection program that ran from October 13th to 18th. Designed to tackle the growing issue of waste tires, the initiative offered residents a convenient and responsible way to dispose of unwanted tires, no matter the type or size, at no cost.

The program established 14 drop-off sites hosted by local street departments, each open to all Illinois residents. With accessibility in mind, residents could bring up to 12 tires per household, including those from cars, trucks, motorcycles, bikes, agricultural equipment, and even lawn mowers. Appointments were mandatory and capped at 20 per hour at each site (with each household limited to one) to ensure smooth operations. Scheduling was streamlined through a dedicated phone line and a QR code linking to a sign-up form.

Upon arrival for their appointment, residents checked in with Tazewell County Environmental staff, who verified their identity and tire count. Every participant received a Tazewell County Recycling Resource Guide—a year-round reference for recycling and disposal options. Friendly teams at each location then assisted with unloading from resident’s vehicles and placed tires in municipal dump trucks that then took them to the IEPA pick-up location. This collaboration made the process quick and hassle-free.

The following Tuesday, the IEPA tire transporter picked up all tires from the one centralized IEPA-approved pick up location. The results were inspiring: over **6,300 tires** were collected across the county, with approximately **500 appointments** filled. The program’s thoughtful design minimized costs for municipalities while maximizing efficiency and resident satisfaction. The turnout demonstrated strong community engagement and a shared commitment to environmental responsibility.

Tazewell County’s tire collection pilot stands as a model for future sustainability initiatives. By combining logistical planning, intergovernmental cooperation, and resident outreach, the program not only cleaned up thousands of tires but also empowered citizens with tools for ongoing recycling efforts.

# APRN SERVICE LINE: FIVE YEARS STRONG

In 2025, TCHD's APRN service line reached its five-year milestone, marking a period of steady, year-over-year growth and expanding community impact.

The initiative began in 2018, when Rachel Borton, a local nurse practitioner, approached TCHD to explore opportunities to provide clinical services within our organization. With her background in primary care and women's health, she helped establish our initial focus on Women's Health Services to address a critical shortage of gynecological providers for clients in the Illinois Breast and Cervical Cancer Program (IBCCP). Rachel and local women's health provider Terry Polanin collaborated with Clinic and IBCCP leadership to design the service model.

Although the program was originally scheduled to launch in early 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic delayed implementation. Services officially began in April 2020 with women's health screenings and school physicals, serving 124 patients in the first year. The service line expanded in 2022 to include adult physical exams. Growth continued in 2023 with the addition of two nurse practitioners, Lisa Friebohle and Kristi Kroenlein, and the introduction of DOT (truck driver) physical exams following certification through the National Registry of Certified Medical Examiners.

Each summer, the nursing team partners with Pekin school districts to provide back-to-school and sports physicals for local students. In 2025, the program further broadened its reach through new partnerships with Molina and the University of Illinois' mobile wellness units, offering free physical exams for all students at our Pekin location. We look forward to continued growth in the future.



Dr. Rachel Borton, PhD, MSN, FNP-FPA, NRCME



Dr. Lisa Friebohle, DNP, ANP-BC



Kristi Kroenlein, APRN, MS-BC, FNP, FPA

**APRN  
SERVICE LINE**

Years of  
Service  
**5**

Patients Served in  
2025  
**307**

# IBCCP WORKS TO BREAK DOWN HEALTH INEQUITIES

African-American women are 40% more likely to die of breast cancer than their white counterparts. In order to decrease health inequities and get women of color necessary cancer screenings, the Community Health Division's Illinois Breast and Cervical Cancer Program (IBCCP), which helps to provide breast and cervical cancer screenings for women who are uninsured or underinsured, worked throughout 2025 to increase enrollment of African American women by 10%.

To support this goal, the Community Navigator focused on building strong, trusted relationships within African-American communities and addressing the stigma and mistrust of the medical system that sometimes exists within this population.

During the year, the Community Navigator participated in multiple community outreach events, including the Dream Center of Peoria Backpack Expo, which attracted more than 2,500 attendees, and the New Beginnings Worship Center Back-to-School Festival.

Additionally, IBCCP joined the Hope Roundtable Network, a collaborative of agencies serving African American communities, which helped strengthen partnerships and expand outreach opportunities.

Throughout 2025, more than 200 hours were dedicated to targeted outreach focused on African American women. As a result of these sustained efforts, strong community relationships were established, leading to increased awareness of IBCCP services and additional outreach opportunities. By the end of the year, the program exceeded its goal, enrolling 29 African American women, representing a 31% increase in enrollment, well surpassing the goal of 10%.



TCHD and Carle Health Pekin staff at Free Mammogram Day 2025



**AFRICAN-AMERICAN WOMEN IN IBCCP**

New Enrollees in 2025

**29**

Hours dedicated to targeted outreach

**200+**

# CARE TO SHARE CLOSET



TCHD's Care to Share Closet



TCHD staff and Libby the Pumpkin at Healthy Harvest

**CARE TO SHARE CLOSET**

Pounds of Fresh Produce Shared in Closet	Families Benefitted By Outreach Events
<b>1,670</b>	<b>150</b>

Through the Energy Transformation Grant, a Care to Share Closet was established in the TCHD - Pekin waiting room to support community members in need. Open to the public, the closet is stocked with personal hygiene items, clothing, shelf-stable food, and household essentials. During the summer and early fall months, fresh produce from local gardens is also made available.

The community has responded positively to this initiative both through donations and use of the closet. In the early winter season, more than 50 winter coats were donated and redistributed to individuals and families in the community.

This grant also enabled TCHD to host several outreach events, including a Healthy Harvest event, a Thanksgiving event, and a Christmas cookie event. Each event incorporated a literacy component, providing families with a themed children's book along with related activities and giveaways.

## TAZEWELL COUNTY WIC RECEIVES BREASTFEEDING AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

In August, TCHD's WIC and Breastfeeding Peer Counselors program was named a Gold awardee of the WIC Breastfeeding Award of Excellence from the U.S. Department of Agriculture

Awarded annually, the WIC Breastfeeding Award of Excellence, "recognizes local WIC (Women, Infants, and Children) agencies for exemplary breastfeeding promotion and support activities, aiming to enhance breastfeeding initiation and duration rates among participants."

TCHD was one of just 20 WIC programs in the Midwest and just 120 nationwide to receive this award, exemplifying our commitment to breastfeeding support and healthy outcomes.



Breastfeeding Peer Counselors Danette Eubank (second from left) and Rachel Ledbetter (far right), receive the Breastfeeding award from Illinois Department of Human Services staff.

**WIC Breastfeeding Award of Excellence**

**2025 Gold Awardee**  
Tazewell County Health Department

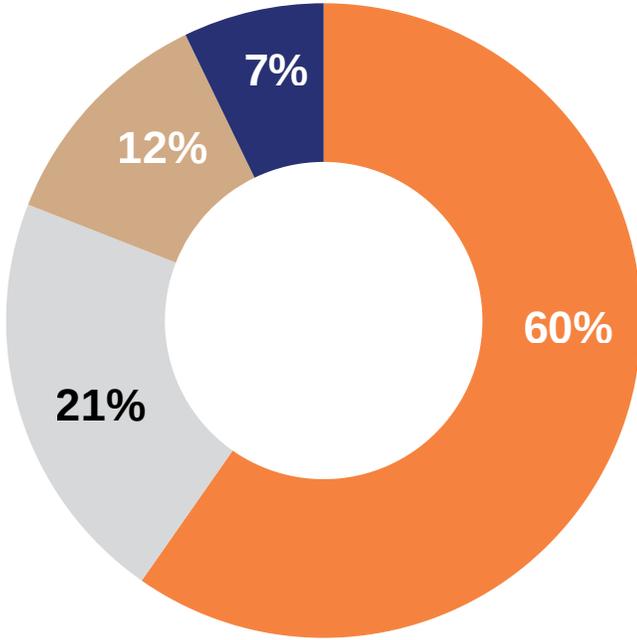
USDA recognizes exemplary Breastfeeding Peer Counseling Programs

USDA Food and Nutrition Service U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

WIC BREASTFEEDING SUPPORT

# FISCAL YEAR 2024 BUDGET INFORMATION

## REVENUE



\$3,960,654



\$1,409,169



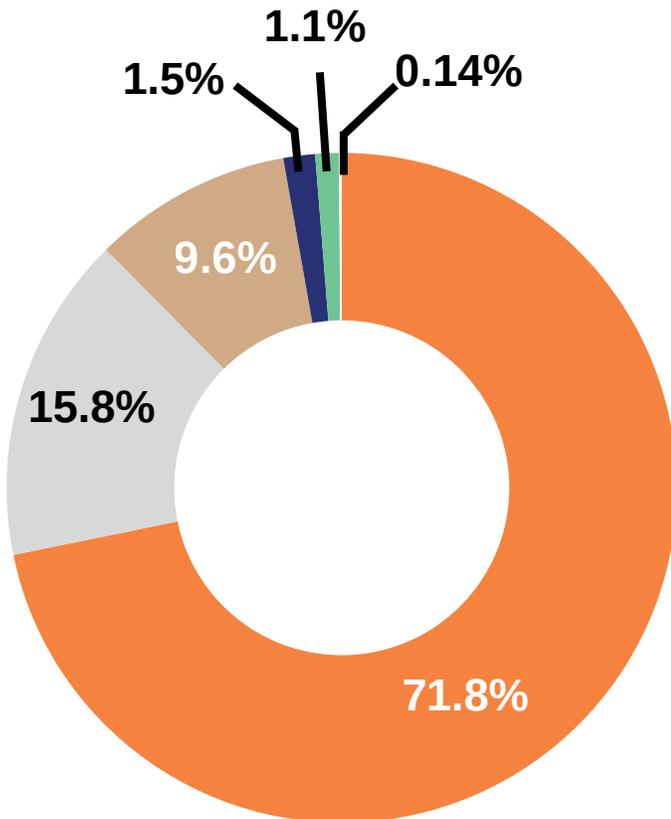
\$788,167



\$475,144

**Total Revenue: \$6,633,134**

## EXPENSES



\$4,560,850



\$1,004,087



\$611,186



\$96,974



\$71,939



\$8,643

**Total Expenses: \$6,353,679**

**Net Income: \$279,455**

# APPENDIX A: COMMUNICABLE DISEASE DATA

\*Denotes diseases not reported in prior years due to changes in Administrative Code

	2023	2024	2025
Acute Flaccid Myelitis	0	1	0
Anaplasma Phagocytophilum	0	1	0
Campylobacteriosis	31	29	57
Chlamydia	421	292	248
COVID-19 ICU Hospitalizations	*	155	32
Cryptosporidiosis	7	10	6
E. Coli	2	7	15
Gonorrhea	123	109	63
Group A Strep Invasive	19	6	12
Hepatitis A	0	0	0
Hepatitis B Acute	5	0	0
Hepatitis B Chronic	0	6	4
Hepatitis C	69	31	62
Histoplasmosis	3	4	10
HIV	1	3	5
Influenza ICU Hospitalizations	7	9	67
Legionellosis	2	1	8
Listeria	0	0	0
Lyme	13	3	13
Mumps	1	0	1
Pertussis	1	28	25
Rabies - Potential Human Exposure	44	25	50
Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) ICU Hospitalization	*	14	16
Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever	0	0	1
Salmonellosis	19	25	22
Shigella	2	2	1
Syphilis	3	6	24
Tularemia	0	1	0
Active TB Cases	0	4	0
Latent TB Cases	1	1	7
Varicella (Chickenpox)	0	1	7
West Nile Virus	0	2	1
Extensively Drug Resistant Organisms (XDRO)	*	13	9

# APPENDIX B: CLINIC DIVISION DATA

	2023	2024	2025
Hearing Screenings	236	216	157
Vision Screenings	226	204	150
H&V Referrals	7	9	9
Immunizations	3879	3895	3753
Flu Immunizations	867	734	620
Pneumonia Immunizations	181	259	316
STD Clinic Clients	216	103	162
Blood Lead Tests	32	37	14
New Cases	7	12	16
Tuberculosis (TB) Tests	460	495	438
TB (Active and LTBI) Cases	6	7	1
Bright Smiles from Birth	72	153	52
Pregnancy Tests	9	4	8
Titers	95	84	102
Blood Draws	37	89	99
FIT Screenings	7	5	1
APRN Women's Health Exams	85	86	68
APRN Adult/Child Physicals	250	274	239

# APPENDIX C: ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DIVISION DATA

	2023	2024	2025
Routine Food Inspections	934	870	777
Foodborne Investigations	60	34	40
Food Establishment Employee Training	152	142	143
Well Inspections	52	20	11
Water Samples Tested	384	388	312
Wastewater/Sewage Inspections	97	63	33
Loan Inspections	0	0	0
Nuisance Investigations	20	38	35
Solid Waste Inspections	31	26	43
Pool/Beach Inspections	98	116	0
Landfill Inspections	54	54	54

# APPENDIX D: COMMUNITY PROGRAMS DATA

	2023	2024	2025
<b>21st Century Schools</b>			
Schools Served	22	21	23
Total Enrollment	939	1097	993
Average Daily Attendance	306	222	237
<b>Women's Health Programs</b>			
Total Clients	506	545	468
Breast Cancer Diagnosed	6	4	5
Cervical Cancer Diagnosed	3	1	3
Illinois Wisewoman Program (IWP)	58	42	51
<b>Illinois Tobacco Free Communities</b>			
Complaints Received	3	17	14
Compliance Checks	112	118	177
New Tobacco Free Policies	6	1	1
<b>Maturation Education Enrollment</b>	512	543	760
<b>Substance Use Prevention Enrollment</b>	1719	1388	1117
<b>Supporting Student Success (S3)</b>			
Total Enrollment	18	26	25
Average Daily Attendance	13	17	18
Resource Referrals	33	98	60
<b>Tazewell County Youth Board Students</b>	30	30	49
<b>Tazewell Community Initiative: Active Coalition Members</b>	11	23	25
<b>Teen Pregnancy Prevention Enrollment</b>	376	521	623
<b>Mental Health First Aid</b>			
Adult Certifications	197	192	85
Youth Certifications	53	36	112
<b>CPR Certifications</b>	75	51	114
<b>Fit &amp; Strong</b>			
Total Enrollment	32	13	56
Classes Held	48	22	48

# APPENDIX E: BIRTH TO FIVE DIVISION DATA

	2023	2024	2025
Parents as Students	2	-	-
Active WIC Caseload (Average)	1284	1506	1592
Perinatal Referrals (APORS)	220	214	214
Car Seat Safety Checks	359	322	187
Car Seats Distributed	102	124	107
Home/In-Person Visits	1241	1008	^
Virtual Home Visits	300	0	0
Family Case Management Caseload (Average)	631	390	294
High Risk Infant Caseload (Average)	135	84	77
HealthWorks Caseload (Average)	256	212	196
Better Birth Outcomes Caseload (Average)	60	38	51
Better Birth Outcomes Comprehensive* (Average)			182
	2021	2022	2023
Total Births	1299	1225	#
Births to Teen Mothers	57	56	#

^ Data unavailable due to software updates

\*Comprehensive refers to the merge of High-Risk Infant, Family Case Management, and Better Birth Outcomes in July 2025. The new version of Better Birth Outcomes focuses specifically on high-risk pregnant women and infants. Comprehensive data for 2025 is July-December. Data will be reported in this format going forward.

# Data not released at time of publication



# CONTACT US



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