

DeWitt-Piatt Bi-County Health Department

Annual Report July 2023 – June 2024



DeWitt-Piatt
Bi-County Health Department
PREVENT • PROMOTE • PROTECT

Office Locations and Contact Information



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About Us

In 1946, citizens in DeWitt County and Piatt County formed health councils to consider the formation of a multi-county health department aimed at reducing the prevalence of infectious diseases and addressing environmental concerns pertaining to improper sewage disposal, foodborne illness, and unsafe drinking water supplies. Passed by a referendum in 1947, offices were established in Monticello, Illinois and Clinton, Illinois. The agency opened for services the following year.

The longstanding mission of the DeWitt-Piatt Bi-County Health Department is to promote and protect the health of the communities we serve by focusing on prevention through consistent disease surveillance and evidence based practices. This includes vaccinations, dental services, infectious disease outbreak investigations, enforcing standards that protect the health of the environment, safeguarding local food supplies, and providing services aimed at assisting pregnant or post-partum women and children. To better ensure consistencies and equality in the delivery of public health services, the Core Public Health Function Steering Committee developed the ten (10) Essential Public Health Services. Introduced in 1994, the ten (10) Essential Public Health Services model has become the mission framework for public health in the United States. Comprised of three core functions (Assessment, Policy Development, and Assurance) and ten (10) sub-functions, the Essential Health Public Health Services aims to protect and promote the health of all people in every community

Ten Essential Public Health Services



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Ten Essential Public Health Services

Board of Health

Dr. Mark Hobbie, DMD [President]
Dr. John Sochor, DDS [Secretary/Treasurer]
Dr. Lauren Fore, MD [Medical Director]
Dr. Annilee Rohrscheib, MD
Sharon Mills, MS
Danika Frye, MBA, MSN, RN
Melonie Tilley, DeWitt County Board
Jerry Edwards, Piatt County Board

Public Health Administrator

Michael Schroeder, BS, LEHP

Our Staff

Arnetta Barr
Hannah Batchelder
Lisa Brown
Ja'Rhea Bussey
Tara Chapman
David Curry

Kathy Eaton
Katelyn Ernst
Teale Hall
Brenda Keelin
Sheila Lanker
Ted Lowers
Amanda Miller

Chelsey Morris
Emily Nevius
Tabetha Thomas
Kacie Vlach
Michelle Whitted
Marah Woodrum

What's New at the Health Department?

It has been a busy, yet exciting year for the health department as we added many new services and expanded existing services in an effort to better service the community as well as provide a more interactive approach to public health services.

Health Education and Promotion

In October 2023, the DeWitt-Piatt Bi-County Health Department re-established the role of Health Educator at the agency. The primary role of this division is to offer community-based education programs that focus on all topics related to public health. This includes: oral hygiene, chronic diseases, nutrition, access to healthy food options, personal hygiene (handwashing), and access to resources.

Community Garden

If you happened to visit our DeWitt County office this past summer, you would have quickly noticed a change in scenery as we added community garden beds to the front of the building that were home to many varieties of vegetables. These gardens were installed to stress the importance of vegetable consumption in children and to show clients what can be grown in limited spaces. The education campaign for this project was completed through hardworking teamwork efforts by our WIC staff and the Health Educator.

As we all know, a garden cannot survive without proper upkeep and is often a difficult task. Luckily, we had quite the master gardener already on staff at the agency. Many thanks to one of our most cherished employees, Ted Lowers, for meticulously caring for our garden and for authoring weekly garden reports that were published on our social media accounts. Ted is pictured here with one of our WIC nurses, Arnetta Barr, RN.



Community Health Workers

In 2024, staff members Michelle Whitted and Tabetha Thomas were certified as Community Health Workers. As an advocate for both individual and community health, the primary responsibility of a Community Health Worker is to educate and link people to available services or resources.

If you need assistance in locating available services or completing an application to receive services, please contact Michelle at (217) 935-3427 or Tabetha at (217) 762-7911.

Dental Clinic

The dental program saw many changes of the course of the year with the most notable being expanded clinic service days to better meet public demand. By onboarding an additional dentist and through Public Health Dental Hygienist certification of our hygienists, the agency was able to open Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays throughout the year for additional appointment scheduling.

For the first time, we offered a mobile dental clinic at our Piatt County office which was considered very successful and we will look at providing this service once again in the new fiscal year. This service was also extended to the Piatt County Nursing Home where a collaborative effort provided cleanings and exams to participating residents.

Through the Oral Health Promotion Grant, our agency now provides oral hygiene education to all school aged children as a supplement to our existing school-based program.

Naloxone (Narcan) Box

In an effort to help combat the ongoing opioid epidemic, the DeWitt-Piatt Bi-County Health Department partnered with the Piatt County Mental Health Center and Piatt County Recovery Oriented Systems of Care (ROSC) to install a Naloxone (Narcan) box at our agency providing 24/7 access to all in need. A majority of the proceeds for this project were funded by the Friends of State Senator Sally Turner.

For those unfamiliar, Narcan is a medication that rapidly reverses an opioid overdose and is administered as a nasal spray. It is important to note that this medication is also applicable and recommended in situations where opioid medications have been prescribed.



Tony Kirkman, Piatt County Mental Health Center, with DPBHD staff members after the placement of the Naloxone box.

Sharps Collection Program

Through a grant received by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency and a generous consideration and approved allocation of Opioid Relief Dollars from the Piatt County Board, the DeWitt-Piatt Bi-County Health Department was able to establish a sharps collection program for both counties. This service is available to all who reside in DeWitt or Piatt County. Simply drop-off your used sharps collection container for disposal and we will replace it for free!

New Staff

This year our agency welcomed five new staff members:

Hannah Batchelder, Health Educator
Marah Woodrum, Public Health Nurse
Kacie Vlach, Environmental Health
Kathy Eaton, DDS, Dentist
Katelyn Ernst, Dental Assistant

If you are interested in learning more about the services we offer, contact us at any time. Wishing you a happy and healthy year ahead!

Michael Schroeder, Administrator

DeWitt-Piatt Bi-County Health Department

Financial Report

<u>Revenues</u>	<u>Expenditures</u>
Taxes: \$454,990	Personal Services/Fringe: \$894,371
Grants and Contracts: \$871,935	Contractual Services: \$232,034
Fees for Services: \$267,202	Supplies: \$81,345
Interest & Unrealized Loss/Gain: \$23,776	Travel: \$22,033
Other Income: \$1,192	Principal – Mortgage Payments: \$37,291
	Interest Expense: \$11,911
Total Revenues: \$1,619,095	Total Expenses: \$1,278,985

Audit Completed by Floyd & Associates on November 18, 2024

Maternal and Child Health Services

Women, Infants and Children (WIC)

The WIC program provides supplemental food and nutrition information for eligible participants. This includes individuals during pregnancy, postpartum, and breastfeeding periods. Children under the age of 5 are also eligible under this program. To qualify, participants must meet the financial guidelines established by the USDA and have an identified medical or nutritional risk.

WIC Category	Number of Participants
Infants	133
Children	165
Pregnant	39
Breastfeeding (Exclusively)	58
Postpartum	24

Family Case Management (FCM)

The goal of the Family Case Management program is to create healthy, self-sufficient families by working with women prenatally and throughout the perinatal period. Services provided include:

- Home visits by a nurse case manager
- Referrals for prenatal care
- Well checks
- Immunizations and critical life essentials
- Educational materials on pregnancy
- Educational material on infants and children
- Development screenings of infants and young children
- Assistance with the All-Kids Medicaid application process

Family Case Management Category	Number of Participants
Children	39
Infants	100
Adverse Pregnancy Outcomes Reporting System (APORS)	58
High Risk Infant Follow-Up (HRIF)	0

(Continued on next page)

Healthworks of Illinois (HWIL)

Healthworks of Illinois is a collaborative effort of the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), the Department of Human Services (DHS), and the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH). The program provides a network of health care services to wards of DCFS and their children. HWIL works closely with foster parents and caseworkers to ensure that those in foster care receive appropriate medical care and services.

Total Number of Healthworks of Illinois Participants: 56

If you are interested in any of our MCH programs and want to learn more, please contact one of our office locations to see if you qualify for services.



Tabetha Thomas, CHW and Marah Woodrum, RN at an outreach event for WIC and FCM.

Health Protection Services

Tuberculosis (TB) Control Program

The main objective of the Tuberculosis Control Program is to detect both active and inactive cases of TB. Tuberculosis skin tests are available for anyone over the age of 18 years. For anyone under the age of 18, a TB Screening Form is completed and then, if necessary, further testing is completed.

In addition to testing, the agency provides prevention therapy for inactive cases and offers education and outreach to health care workers and the general public.

Number of TB Skin Tests Performed: 142

Number of TB Investigations: 3

Immunizations

Childhood immunizations are provided through the federal Vaccines for Children (VFC) program. Through this program, Medicaid children and uninsured or under-insured children are eligible to receive ACIP recommended vaccinations. All immunizations recommended for entry into Illinois schools are available.

Limited adult immunizations are available and include TDAP, Influenza, and Hepatitis B. Following the commercialization of the COVID-19 vaccine a Bridge Access Program was established and provided a limited number of vaccines to those considered underinsured or uninsured. This program has since been discontinued.

Type of Immunization/Immunization Program	Number of Immunizations Administered
Vaccines for Children (VFC)	685
317 Program	19
Adult Immunizations	55
COVID-19 Immunizations	22

Other Health Services Provided

- **Medicaid Presumptive Eligibility Applications: 0**
- **ABE (Medicaid) Applications: 15**
- **Head Lice Checks: 9**
- **Pregnancy Tests: 13**
- **Lead Screenings/Tests: 113**
- **STI Testing: 5**
- **Vital Records Forms: 975**
- **Car Seat Checks: 7**

If you are interested in any of these services, please contact us at (217) 935-3427 or (217) 762-7911 to schedule an appointment.

Notifiable Diseases and Conditions (Previously Communicable Disease)

Mandated reporters, such as health care providers, hospitals, and laboratories must report suspected or confirmed cases of over 70 specific infectious diseases to the local health department. Some infectious diseases are reportable within 24 hours, others within 7 days, and the most severe within 3 hours.

Surveillance involves education to the public, filing disease reports, notification, information sharing, and consistent communication with the medical community. Surveillance may also result in the requirement for restriction from work and isolation policies.

An additional responsibility of the Notifiable Diseases and Conditions program is the investigation of potential rabies exposures. This involves the scheduling and transport of a suspect animal for testing.

Suspected/Probable/Confirmed Cases	FY22	FY23	FY24	Suspected/Probable/Confirmed Cases	FY22	FY23	FY24
Campylobacteriosis	4	9	7	Lyme Disease	1	1	1
Candida auris	0	0	1	MRSA Infant <61 days	0	0	0
Carbapenem Resistant Organism	0	0	2	Rocky Mountain Fever	0	0	0
Chlamydia	74	57	42	Measles	0	0	0
Cryptosporidiosis	0	3	1	Mumps	0	0	0
SARS-CoV-2 Infection (C-19)	6320	1514	604	Pertussis	1	0	1
SARS-CoV-2 with ICU/Death	x	x	x	Rabies (pot exp)	7	6	13
E. Coli	0	0	0	Rubella	0	0	0
Enteropathogenic E. coli (EPEC)	0	0	0	Salmonellosis	4	3	3
Enterotoxigenic E. coli (ETEC)	0	0	0	Shiga toxin-producing Ecoli	0	2	1
Gonorrhea	23	20	13	Shigella	0	0	0
Haemophilus Flu/Meningitis, etc.	0	0	0	Strep A	1	3	3
Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome	0	0	1	Strep Toxic Shock	x	1	0
Hepatitis A	0	0	0	Syphilis	0	0	0
Hepatitis B	1	1	0	Tuberculosis (latent/other)	5	4	3
Hepatitis C	3	6	6	Tularemia	1	0	0
Histoplasmosis	14	2	7	Enteric Disease	0	0	0
Influenza with ICU Hospitalization	0	2	2	Yersiniosis	0	0	0
Legionellosis	1	0	3	Total No. Reportable Diseases	6460	1634	714

x = non-reportable

Dental Services

The DeWitt-Piatt Bi-County Health Department operates a dental clinic out of the office in Clinton and specializes in services such as routine cleanings, fillings, extractions, x-rays, and sealants. We accept a number of insurances including Medicaid and Medicaid affiliated Managed Care Organizations. Private pay patients are also accepted. To better serve you, an additional dentist was hired in the summer of 2024 to increase appointment availabilities. The clinic now accepts patients on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday.

In addition to our clinic, our Public Health Dental Hygienists provide mobile school-based programs that include sealants, exams, cleanings, and oral health education to students throughout the school year.

Questions? Contact Michelle, our Dental Office Manager at (217) 935-3427.

Dental Clinic

Exams: 321

X-Rays: 472

Adult Cleanings: 207

Child Cleanings: 479

SDF: 63

Sealants Placed: 11

Fillings Completed: 262

Extractions: 137

Other Procedures: 5

Dental School Program

School Served: 17

Exams: 373

Cleanings: 225

Sealants Placed: 268

Cavity Risk Assessment:

Moderate (1-4 cavities): 93

High (5+ cavities): 30



Oral Health Promotion

Schools Visited: 9

Oral Health Kits Distributed: 1,423

Amanda Miller, RDH, PHDH
educating students at a Cerro
Gordo School.

Health Education and Promotion

In 2023, the DeWitt-Piatt Bi-County Health Department re-established the role of Health Educator in an effort to expand community outreach and provide a more interactive approach to public health education.

Throughout the fiscal year, our Health Educator facilitated a number of community-based programs that addressed common public health concerns such as oral hygiene, nutrition, preventative care, access to healthy food options, and access to resources. Examples of these outreach initiatives are detailed below:

Community Presentations

Allerton Public Library (Piatt County)

- **Oral Health & Handwashing Education:** Emphasized the importance of proper handwashing and oral hygiene as part of routine health care.
- **Homeschooling Support:** Offered insights on resources and health education methods for home-based learning.

Warner Hospital (DeWitt County)

- **Navigating the Holiday Season with Confidence:** Education session that discussed ways to manage the stress and health-related challenges that arise during the holiday season.
- **Diabetes Group Nutrition Q&A:** Addressed nutrition-related questions and provided education on healthy eating habits for diabetes management.



Hannah Batchelder providing education at Allerton Public Library.

Community Events & Outreach

- **Diaper Drive (Piatt and DeWitt Counties):** This outreach event provided essential supplies to local families in need.
- **WIC (Women, Infants, and Children) Program Education (DeWitt County):** Educated families on home gardening and highlighted the nutritional value of produce that is most commonly grown at home.
- **Clinton Business Expo (DeWitt County):** Provided pamphlets and materials that detailed the services offered at the health department.

Social Media Engagement

- A total of 173 posts were made to agency social media accounts that detailed various health topics including handwashing, food safety, immunizations, preventing the spread of germs, exercise activities, and healthy eating tips.

If you are interested in scheduling an education with our Health Educator, Hannah, contact her at (217) 935-3427

Environmental Health

In a continuous effort to preserve the health and safety of the general public and surrounding environment, the Division of Environmental Health is tasked with ensuring that standards pertaining to food safety, proper wastewater disposal, and the delivery of private potable water supplies remain in compliance.

During the spring and summer months when adult mosquito and tick activity is highest, the division conducts surveillance to determine prevalence of these two vectors. To increase public awareness and safety, aggressive education and outreach campaigns are also conducted.

As an agent of the county, the health department conducts nuisance complaint investigations in unincorporated areas.

Food Program Activities

- **Number of Food Service Establishments: 202**
- **Number of Food Service Establishment Inspections: 159**
- **Number of Follow-up Inspections/Visits Conducted: 33**
- **Number of Food Establishment Closures for Non-Compliance: 2**
- **Number of Pre-Opening Inspections/Change of Ownership Inspections Conducted: 3**
- **Number of Food Services Establishment Complaints Investigated: 18**
- **Number of Temporary Food Vendors Approved: 234**

Sewage Program Activities

- **Number of Private Sewage System Permits Issued: 71**
- **Number of Private Sewage Systems Installed and Inspected: 55**
- **Number of Private Sewage System Complaints Investigated: 2**

Private Water Well Program Activities

- **Number of Water Well Permits Issued: 57**
- **Number of Water Wells Drilled and Inspected: 29**
- **Number of Geothermal Well Permits Issued: 4**
- **Number of Geothermal Wells Drilled and Inspected: 2**

Vector Program Activities

- **Number of West Nile Virus Surveillance Sites: 7**
- **Number of Mosquitoes Collected for West Nile Virus Testing: 1,888**
- **Number of Birds Submitted for West Nile Virus Testing: 5**
- **Number of Birds Positive for West Nile Virus: 0**
- **Number of Tick Drags Completed: 3**

Nuisance Program Activities

- **Nuisance Complaints Investigated: 5**



Kacie Vlach and Emily Nevius suiting up for a Tick Drag.