

DeWitt-Piatt Bi-County Health Department

Annual Report July 2024 – June 2025



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

OFFICE LOCATIONS AND CONTACT INFORMATION



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Phone: 217-935-3427
Fax: 217-935-4037



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

About Us	4
Board of Health Members	5
Administration	5
Our Staff	5
A Message from the Administrator	7
What’s New at the Health Department?	7
Financial Report	8
Division Reports	10
Maternal and Child Health	
Women, Infants, Children (WIC)	10
Family Case Management (FCM)	10
Healthworks of Illinois (HWIL)	10
Health Protection Services	
Tuberculosis (TB).....	11
Immunizations	11
Notifiable Diseases and Conditions	12
Potential Rabies Exposure.....	13
Illinois STD Program	13
Lead Program	14
Wellness Program	15
Other Services.....	15
Dental Services.....	16
Health Education and Promotion.....	17
Environmental Health	18
Community Garden.....	19

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

Our Staff

Arnetta Barr
Hannah Batchelder
Lisa Brown
Brenda Keelin
David Curry
Kathy Eaton
Katelyn Ernst

Teale Hall
Tahya Houston
Sheila Lanker
Ted Lowers
Amanda Miller
Emily Nevius
Tabetha Thomas

Kacie Vlach
Michelle Whitted
Marah Woodrum

A MESSAGE FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR

This has been yet another busy year for our “small but mighty” staff here at the health department. I am so proud of their continued hard work and dedication to fulfilling the true mission of public health. I would also like to express my sincerest gratitude to our current Board of Health members for their continued counsel and dedication of time.

When looking at the national landscape, there continues to be many critics of the public health system especially following the COVID-19 pandemic. Although I cannot say this does not exist at the local level to some degree, we are fortunately rooted in two counties that understand the importance of public health in the community and continue to provide unwavering support. Thank you!

This year, many new services were introduced and existing programs were expanded to better serve our clientele. Please take a moment to review the section “What’s New at the Health Department?” to see a detailed description of these new services. We will not stop here.

Although there is currently great uncertainty in the future of public health one thing will never change; we will remain committed to the communities and clients we serve. We look forward to many new and exciting offerings that will be made available in the very near future. Please be sure to follow us on Facebook or visit our website to keep current on all we have to offer.

I wish everyone a safe and happy new year!

Michael Schroeder
Public Health Administrator

What's New at the Health Department?

Car Seat Program

To better meet public demand, three additional staff members received their Child Passenger Safety Technician certification. Certified personnel can provide car seat education and safety checks upon request.

Free car seats can be distributed to those who participate in the program and qualify.

For more information, please contact Tabetha Thomas or Marah Woodrum in Piatt County office or Michelle Whitted in DeWitt County.

Pictured are Marah Woodrum and Tabetha Thomas



Wellness Checks

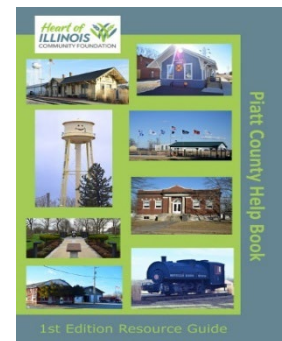
Earlier this year, the agency introduced the Wellness Program at both office locations. This program provides a review and assessment of blood pressure, pulse, height/weight, and any recent lab work. Referrals to primary care are provided on an as needed basis.

If you are interested in receiving a Wellness Check, please contact one of our office locations to schedule.

Piatt County Help Book

Through a grant generously provided by the Heart of Illinois Foundation, the DeWitt-Piatt Bi-County Health Department collaborated with several local organizations to establish the "Piatt County Help Book." This book is a directory of all local resources that are available based on individual needs.

Printed copies are available at our Piatt County office. A digital copy (PDF) of the book is available on our website and is continually updated.



Dental Clinic

With the onboarding of additional dental staff and the promotion of our Public Health Dental Hygienist to Dental Clinic Coordinator, we are now able to schedule clients Monday through Friday and have additional availability for emergencies.

Our Community Health Worker for the Dental Program now provides oral health education to students at all participating schools. She continues outreach efforts to our WIC clients and the parents of students who participate in the school program. This is all part of an initiative to establish routine dental care and promote good oral hygiene among the adolescent population.

New Staff

This year our agency welcomed one new staff member:

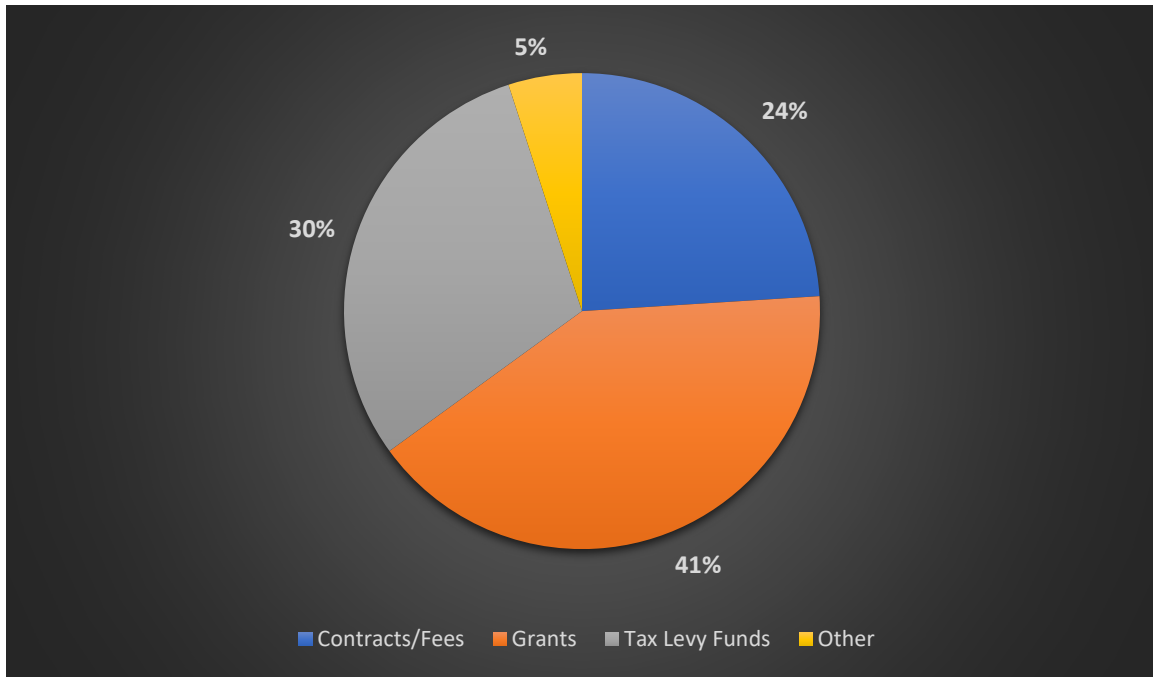
Tahya Houston, Dental Assistant

DEWITT-PIATT BI-COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
FINANCIAL REPORT

<u>Revenues</u>	<u>Expenditures</u>
Tax Levy Funds: \$451,986.78	Personal Services/Fringe: \$1,153,623.91
Grants and Contracts: \$457,355.04	Contractual Services: \$195,773.41
Fees for Services: \$333,382.79	Supplies: \$109,599.38
Interest Income: \$28,177.21	Travel: \$26,056.65
Previous Year Income: \$94,977.05	Equipment Purchases: \$10,747.36
Unrealized Gain/Loss: \$3,782.99	Interest Expenses: \$11,622.35
Total Revenues: \$1,369,661.86	Total Expenses: \$1,507,423.06

Note: Based on Unaudited Profit and Loss Report

Sources of Income



Expenditures by Program



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.

Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Category	Number of Participants
Infants	66
Children	189
Pregnant	34
Breastfeeding	18
Postpartum	16

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
Adverse Pregnancy Outcomes Reporting System (APORS)	62
High Risk Infant Follow-up (HRIF)	1
Infant	39
Delivered	16
Pregnant	12

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.

Healthworks of Illinois Participants: 45

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.

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 public.

	Number of TB Skin Test Administered
DeWitt County	65
Piatt County	82
Total for FY25	147

Total Number of TB Investigations Completed: 5

It is important to note that a positive reaction to the tuberculin skin test and TB blood test often is the result of an exposure or infection, commonly referred to as “Latent TB”. This does not necessarily mean that the person has Tuberculosis. Additionally test such as chest x-ray and sputum sample may be required as final a determination.



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. COVID-19 vaccines are currently available to all children eligible for the Vaccines for Children Program (VFC).

Pictured are staff members Arnetta Barr and Lisa Brown demonstrating the importance of annual flu vaccines.

Type of Immunization/Immunization Program	Number of Immunizations Administered
Vaccines for Children (VFC)	582
317 Program	2
Adult Immunizations	26
COVID-19 Immunizations	13

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES AND CONDITIONS

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.

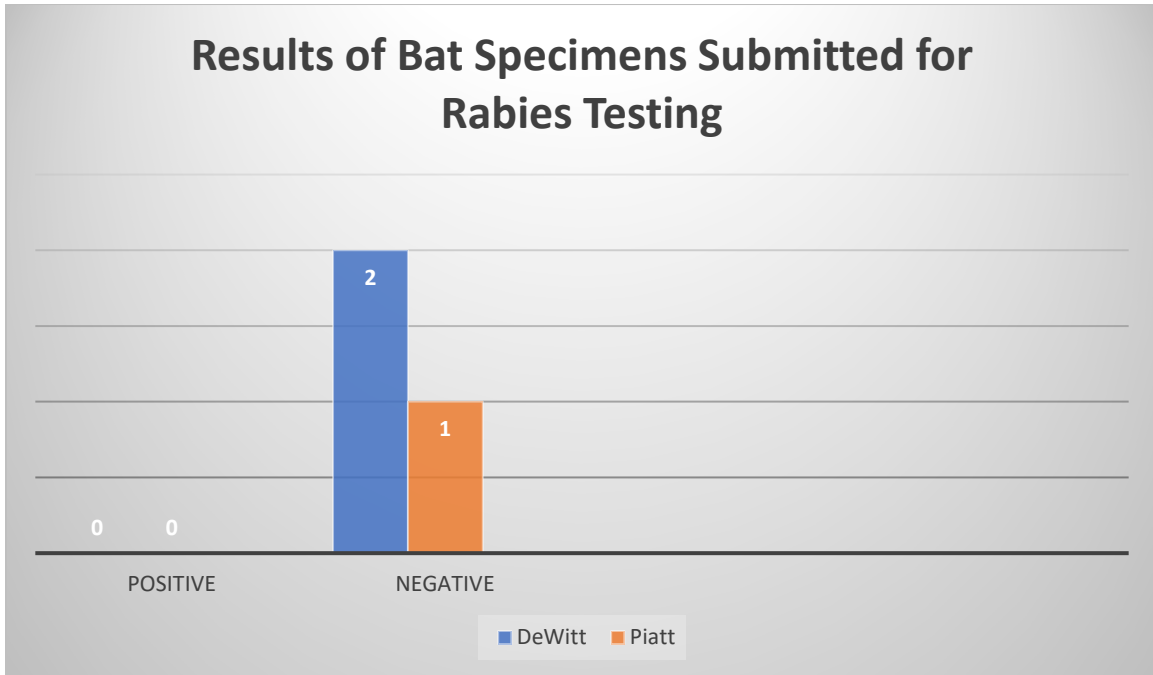
Surveillance involves education to the public, filing disease reports, notification, information sharing, and consistent communication with the medical community. Surveillance may also result in the requirement for restriction from work and isolation policies.

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.

Completed Investigations Case Status: Confirmed or Probable	FY25	Completed Investigations Case Status: Confirmed or Probable	FY25
Campylobacteriosis	5	Lyme Disease	2
Candida auris	1	MRSA Infant <61 days	0
Carbapenem Resistant Organism	0	Rocky Mountain Fever	0
Chlamydia	12	Measles	0
Cryptosporidiosis	3	Mumps	0
SARS-CoV-2 with ICU/Death	7	Pertussis	4
E. Coli	0	Rabies (pot exp)	14
Enteropathogenic E. coli (EPEC)	0	RSV with ICU Hospitalization (Child)	3
Enterotoxigenic E. coli (ETEC)	0	Rubella	0
Gonorrhea	3	Salmonellosis	2
Haemophilus Influenzae/Meningitis, etc.	2	Shigella	0
Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome	0	Strep A	3
Hepatitis A	0	Strep Toxic Shock	0
Hepatitis B	3	Syphilis	4
Hepatitis C	11	Tuberculosis (latent /other)	5
Histoplasmosis	6	Tularemia	0
Influenza with ICU Hospitalization and/or Death	5	Yersiniosis	0
Legionellosis	1	Total Number of Reportable Disease Investigations Completed	96

POTENTIAL RABIES EXPOSURES

Rabies is a viral disease that can result in encephalitis (brain inflammation) in humans and animals. Infected bats have the potential to spread Rabies to humans who come in close contact. Most people are exposed to the Rabies virus through the bite of an infected animal. Less commonly, exposure may occur through contact with an open wound or mucus membranes (nose, mouth, throat). The presence of a bat in the home or any contact with a bat is considered a possible exposure to rabies and should be immediately reported to our office. Further guidance will be provided.



ILLINOIS STD PROGRAM

The DeWitt-Piatt Bi-County Health Department tests for Chlamydia and Gonorrhea. Treatment options are provided for Chlamydia, Gonorrhea, and Syphilis. More comprehensive STD testing, including but not limited to HIV testing, is referred to Primary Care or the Champaign-Urbana Public Health District.

	Number of STD Tests Provided
DeWitt County	Positive: 0 Negative: 1
Piatt County	Positive: 0 Negative: 1

	STD Treatment Provided
DeWitt County	1*
Piatt County	1

*Syphilis Treatment

	Expedited Partner Therapy (EPT)
DeWitt County	0
Piatt County	1

LEAD PROGRAM

State of Illinois law requires all children 6 years of age or younger receive an annual evaluation for lead exposures during their well-child visit. Currently, all zip codes in DeWitt County and most Piatt County zip codes are considered “Pediatric Lead Poisoning High-Risk Zip Codes.” Residing in a high-risk zip code requires the completion of a blood test. Both of our office locations offer capillary testing with same-day results.

The DeWitt-Piatt Bi-County Health Department continues comprehensive educational outreach, screening, and case management to address lead exposure in the community:

Nutritional Assessment: We have recently implemented a comprehensive nutritional assessment that is completed during lead case management home visits to provide a clear picture of frequently consumed foods. It also acts as a quality assurance tool by promoting accountability. The assessment helps guide targeted education to improve dietary habits which have been proven to reduce lead absorption. “Fill the body up with good stuff.”

Educational Materials: Families receive comprehensive lead education packets during home visits, which include materials on lead poisoning prevention, common sources, medical consequences, cleaning practices, nutrition, and follow-up testing. Materials include:

- “Lead Safety for Children” Parent Packet
- “Lead-Free” Growth Chart
- “I Love Fruits and Veggies” Book
- “Lead Source Guide”
- “How to Reduce Lead Dust in Your Home”
- “How to Prevent Lead Poisoning in Children”
- “Well Fed Means Less Lead”
- “Protecting Children and Pregnant People”
- “We Can Learn About Lead Safety!” Coloring/Activity
- “Nutrition and Lead Exposure”
- “Lead at a Glance”

	Number of Lead Tests Completed (FY25)
Piatt County	62
DeWitt County	62

Total Lead Risk Assessment Home Visits Completed: 7
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Lead Referral Process: When elevated blood lead levels are identified, the case is referred for comprehensive case management. With guardian consent, referrals for children of relevant age, are made to Early Intervention (Child & Family Connections #19) for developmental assessment and services. Providers are notified and updated, and educational materials are delivered to both families and care teams. Referrals may also include coordination with environmental health or housing support programs, such as Clear Win, if available.

Outreach & Education: Facebook posts address key topics such as how lead affects children, lead, and pregnancy, keeping a healthy home, and zip code updates. Education is also delivered through phone calls, face-to-face interactions, home visits, updates to pediatrician's offices, and mailed/emailed handouts.

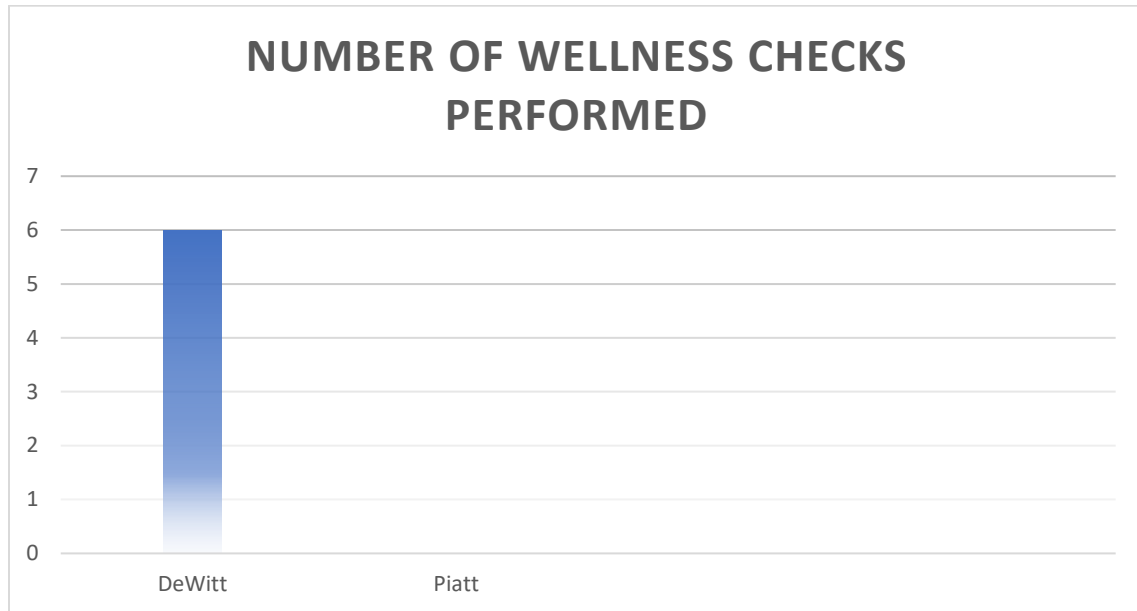
Screening & Testing: Capillary blood lead testing is routinely offered during WIC and immunization appointments, with same-day in-house results. Additional testing is available as needed outside of scheduled appointments.

Community Collaboration: The department works with schools, Head Start programs, early childhood providers, and local clinics to provide up to date education and guidance on lead screening, evaluation, and follow-up protocols. Communication is provided to the providers as needed, regarding the Lead Risk Questionnaire and updated high-risk zip codes.

Referral & Support Services: In addition to Early Intervention, families are connected to other relevant services based on needs, including environmental inspection referrals and community resources. Clear Win information is shared, though funding and eligibility may vary.

WELLNESS PROGRAM ASSESSMENTS

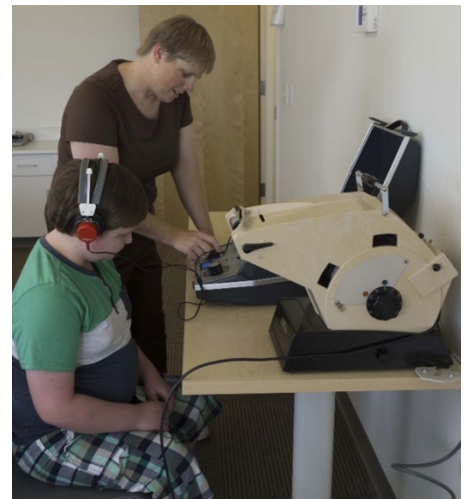
As mentioned previously, this program provides a review and assessment of blood pressure, pulse, height/weight, and any recent lab work. Referrals to primary care are provided on an as needed basis.



OTHER SERVICES PROVIDED

- **Number of Death Certificates Processed..... 929**
- **ABE (Medicaid) Applications..... 32**
- **Pregnancy Tests 12**
- **Car Seat Safety Checks..... 11**
- **Head Lice Checks 5**
- **Hearing Screenings 7**
- **Vision Screenings..... 4**

Pictured: Brenda Keelin who is certified to provide hearing and vision screenings to children ages 3-18



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 most insurances including Medicaid and Medicaid affiliated Managed Care Organizations. Private pay patients are also accepted. With additional staffing in the clinic, we are now able to schedule appointments Monday through Friday, including emergencies.

In addition to our clinic, our Public Health Dental Hygienists provides mobile school-based programs that include sealants, exams, and cleanings. Our Community Health Worker provides oral health education for all children at participating schools.

To better meet the needs of our communities, a mobile dental clinic has been established to provide routine dental services to those in Piatt County and resident of long-term care facilities.

Questions? Contact Amanda, our Dental Clinic Coordinator at (217) 935-3427 ext. 2136

Dental Clinic

Exams: 584
X-Rays: 705
Adult Cleanings: 182
Child Cleanings: 496
SDF: 56
Sealants Placed: 179
Fillings Completed: 620
Extractions: 265
Other Procedures: 10

Dental School Program

School Served: 19
Exams: 396
Cleanings: 225
Sealants Placed: 264
SDF: 255
Cavity Risk Assessment:
Moderate (1-4 cavities): 97
High (5+ cavities): 44

Oral Health Promotion

Schools Visited: 12
Oral Health Kits Distributed:
1964
Students who received
follow-up calls with the CHW
program: 67
Students who made an
appointment: 52
Students who completed an
appointment: 16
Number of Fluoride
Applications: 153 Children,
37 Adults
Number of Oral Health Kits
Provided to WIC Participants:
496 Children, 130 Adults



Pictured: Dental Staff [Top Row] Michelle Whitted, Amanda Miller, [Bottom Row] Tahya Houston, and Katelyn Ernst

HEALTH EDUCATION AND PROMOTION

Throughout the year, our Health Educator facilitated several community-based programs that addressed common public health topics such as oral hygiene, nutrition, preventative care, physical activity, access to healthy food options, and access to resources. Public education and engagement aids in our effort to address chronic health conditions by promoting healthier lifestyles among all age groups.

A listing of all outreach activities completed this year are detailed below:

1. Community Presentations

- Allerton Public Library (Piatt County)
 - Household Non-Toxic Cleaners & Handwashing Presentation: Educated participants on safe cleaning alternatives and proper hand hygiene, with emphasis on maintaining a healthy home environment.
 - Sourdough Starter Kit & Nutrition Basics for Youth: Demonstrated hands-on cooking and nutrition skills for children, highlighting healthy food choices.
 - Healthy Habits & Hygiene for Youth: Presented engaging activities to promote everyday hygiene and wellness practices.
- Vespasian Warner Library (DeWitt County)
 - Handwashing Presentation (“Color Our World” session): Demonstrated proper hand hygiene techniques to children, reinforcing the link between handwashing and illness prevention.
 - Anti-Bullying Presentation for Youth: Presentation to children focusing on the importance of empathy, respect, and how to address bullying in school and community settings.
 - Fall Prevention Presentation: Provided participants with practical strategies for reducing fall risks among children and families.
- Bement Elementary
 - Nutrition Presentation: Education on balanced meals and healthy eating habits that help support long-term wellness.
- Piatt County Mental Health Center
 - Handwashing Presentation: Education on personal hygiene practices and their connection to overall health.
- Chair Yoga Programs
 - Weldon Library: Initiated by the health educator, chair yoga sessions promote physical activity, mindfulness, and flexibility for participants of all ages.
 - Piatt County Mental Health Center: Chair yoga sessions that aim to support and promote mental and physical health among clients at the center.



Pictured: Hannah Batchelder
demonstrating yoga at the Weldon Library

2. Community Events & Outreach

- Kirby Health & Wellness Fair: The Health Educator provided demonstrations and educational resources on nutrition, hygiene, and healthy living.
- Deland & Weldon Kindergarten Screenings: Presented on health behaviors and offered guidance to families on early health promotion as well as access to local resources.
- Narcan Training (Weldon Library): Facilitated life-saving training sessions for community members, focusing on opioid overdose recognition and response.

3. Community Garden Education

In DeWitt County, Hannah continued to work closely with health department clients to emphasize the benefits of fresh produce. Education included nutrition guidance, how to incorporate vegetables into meals, and practical gardening 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 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: 197**
- **Number of Food Service Establishment Inspections: 267**
- **Number of Follow-up Inspections/Visits Conducted: 34**
- **Number of Food Establishment Closures for Non-Compliance: 3**
- **Number of Pre-Opening Inspections/Change of Ownership Inspections Conducted: 5**
- **Number of Food Services Establishment Complaints Investigated: 17**
- **Number of Temporary Vendors Approved: 256**

Private Sewage Program Activities

- **Number of Private Sewage System Permits Issued: 69**
- **Number of Private Sewage Systems Installed and Inspected: 71**
- **Number of Private Sewage System Complaints Investigated: 2**

Private Water Well Program Activities

- **Number of Water Well Permits Issued: 39**
- **Number of Water Wells Inspected: 21**
- **Number of Geothermal Well Permits Issued: 6**
- **Number of Geothermal Wells Inspected: 6**

Vector Program Activities

- **Number of West Nile Virus Surveillance Sites: 2**
- **Number of Mosquitoes Collected for West Nile Virus Testing: 469**
- **Number of Birds Submitted for West Nile Virus Testing: 4**
- **Number of Birds Positive for West Nile Virus: 0**
- **Number of Tick Drags Completed: 6**

Nuisance Program Activities

- **Nuisance Complaints Investigated: 10**

Pictured: Emily Nevius and Kacie Vlach, our Environmental Health staff, bringing joy to the staff and clients on Halloween.



COMMUNITY GARDEN

This was the second year for our community garden at the Clinton and inaugural year for our garden plots in Piatt County. Thanks to our team and our very own master gardener, Ted Lowers, for a very productive year that offered our clients access to a variety of vegetables (and flowers) including: cucumbers, carrots, onions, spinach, lettuce (multiple varieties), green beans, green peppers, dill, cilantro, tomatoes (multiple varieties), and radishes.

Clients of the WIC program were provided healthy eating education and access to the garden at each of their routine visits. Produce from the garden was also made available in the lobby at both office locations.

As we look towards next planting season, the agency is currently developing plans to provide kits to all WIC clients. This will include a bag of fresh picked vegetables, ingredients, and recipe cards for preparing healthy meals or snacks at home.

***Number of WIC Families
Provided Education: 136***

Right: New garden planters at the
Monticello office.

Bottom Right: Expanded garden
planters at the Clinton office.

Bottom Left: Ted hard at work
watering the Clinton planters.

