Health Outcome Disparities Semi-annual report Item 25-2612

Kiran Joshi, MD, MPH, Chief Operating Officer Cook County Department of Public Health June 10, 2025



Overview

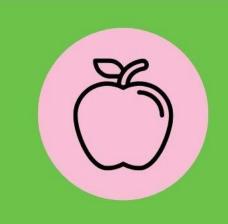
- Share childhood vaccination data, including disparities
- Detail the CCDPH response, led by the newly formed Community Immunization Program
- Share outreach materials / measles toolkit
- Throughout, highlight how CCDPH addresses disparities





We Are Your Local Health Department









Protect Health

- Outbreak Investigations
- Disease Control
- Inspections
- Emergency Preparedness& Response

Prevent Disease

- ✓ Policy, Systems & Environmental Change
- √ Screenings
 - Vaccines
- Home Visits Public Health Nursing

Inform & Engage

- Public Information & Media
- Community Partnerships
- Health Education & Outreach
- ✓ Guidance to Schools and Healthcare Providers

Data for Action

- Chronic diseases, social determinants, healthcare access
- ✓ Communicable diseases
 - Vaccination data

Advance Health Equity

Health Equity Framework

Structural Determinants

- Race/class/gender (isms)
- Economic policy
- Social policy
- Public policy



Social Determinants

- Access to health care
- Housing
- Neighborhood
- Work environment
- Income



Health Inequities

(Disparities)

Reducing disparities requires that we address the social and structural determinants of health.





Vaccination Data









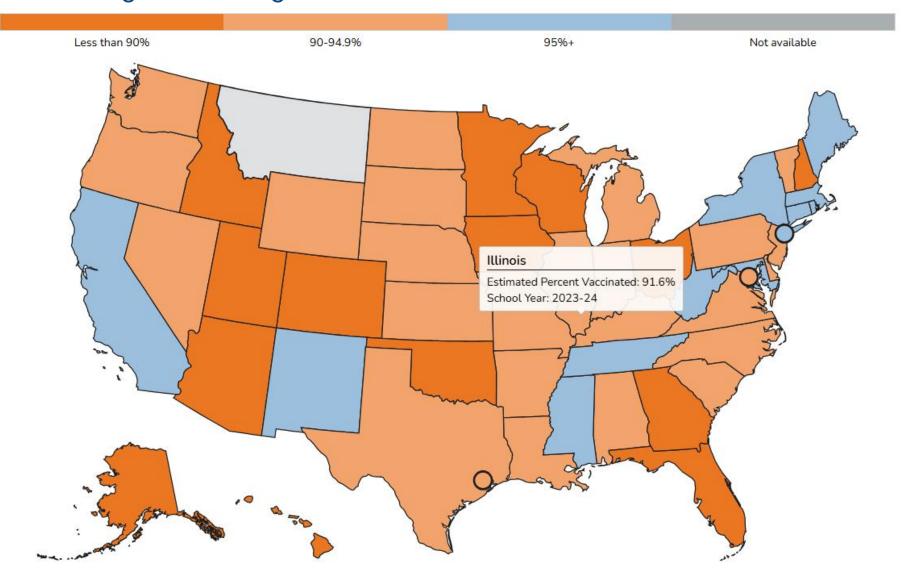
National Data

- Data show that disparities in coverage by race and ethnicity were observed among children born during 2020–2021 in the US.
- Coverage with ≥4 doses of DTaP, ≥4 doses of PCV, rotavirus vaccine, and the combined seven-vaccine series
 was lower among
 - non-Hispanic Black or African American (Black) children,
 - Hispanic or Latino (Hispanic) children,
 - non-Hispanic American Indian or Alaska Native (AI/AN) children,
 - than among non-Hispanic White (White) children.
- Compared with coverage among White children, coverage with ≥2 doses of influenza vaccine was lower among Black and Hispanic children but higher among non-Hispanic Asian children.
- Coverage with all vaccines was lower among children living below the federal poverty level than among those living at or above the poverty level,
- By health insurance status, coverage with all vaccines was lower among children who were covered by Medicaid or other nonprivate insurance, and those who were uninsured, than among those covered solely by private insurance





MMR vaccine coverage for kindergarteners











During the '24-'25 school year 4,671 (94.1%) out of 4,963 schools reported on Measles







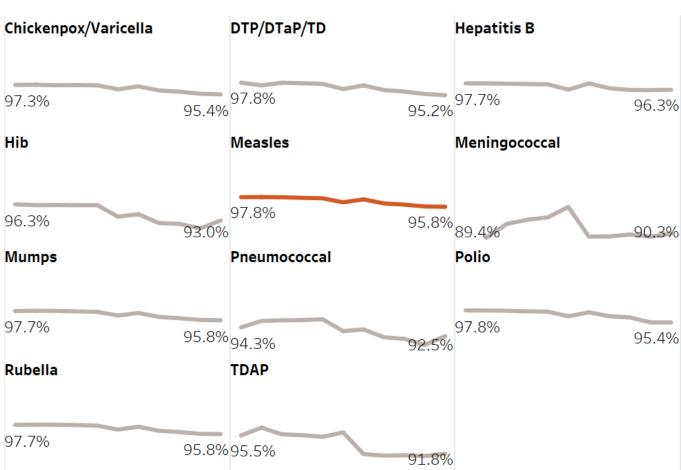


Data through: March 2025 Illinois School Vaccination Coverage Dashboard

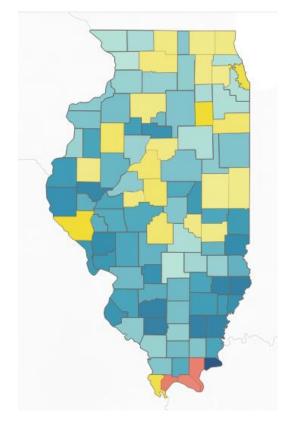
How protected are school-aged children?

Source: Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) Video: Dashboard Tutorial

Vaccination Trends



Select benchmark trend | If filters ar



What is Community Immunity?

Form of indirect protection that applies to contagious diseases. It occurs when a sufficient percentage of a population has become immune to an infection, whether through previous infections or vaccinations, thereby reducing the likelihood of infection for individuals who lack immunity.

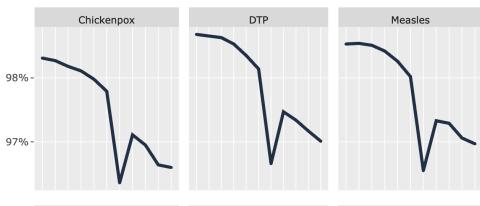
Community Immunity Thresholds (CIT), by vaccine:

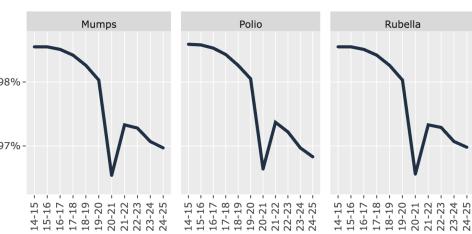
Thresholds are determined based on the most up-to-date evidence and are structured by color as follows: blue (above the critical vaccination threshold), yellow (within critical vaccination threshold), and red (below the critical vaccination threshold).

From: https://dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/preventionwellness/immunization/coverage-dashboards/school-vaccinationcoverage-dashboard.html

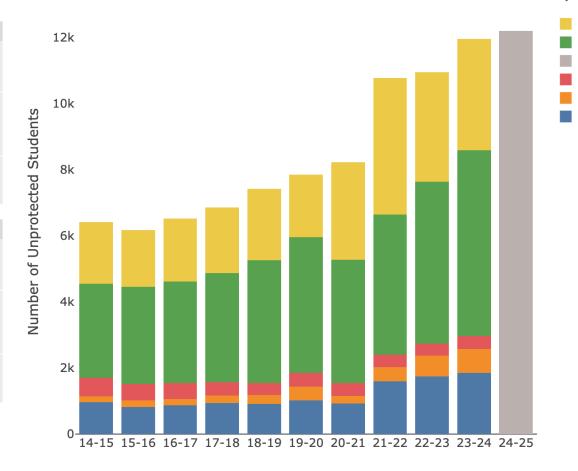
Suburban Cook County Data

Suburban Cook County School Vaccination Trends





Unvaccinated Students in Suburban Cook County: Measles







Unprotected, No Exemption

Not Vaccinated, Reason Unknown

Approved Schedule Exemption

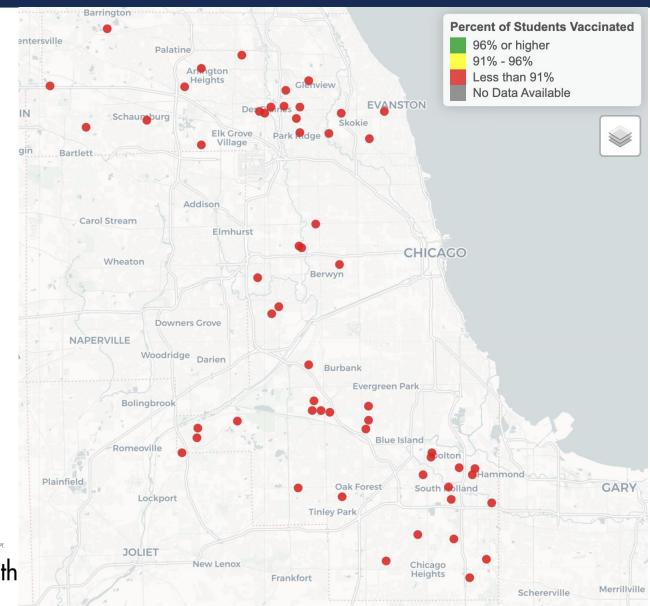
Religious Exemption

Medical Exemption
McKinney Exemption

Measles Vaccination Rates for 2024-2025

This map includes public and private schools.

https://ccdphcd.shinyapps.io/schoolvaccines/



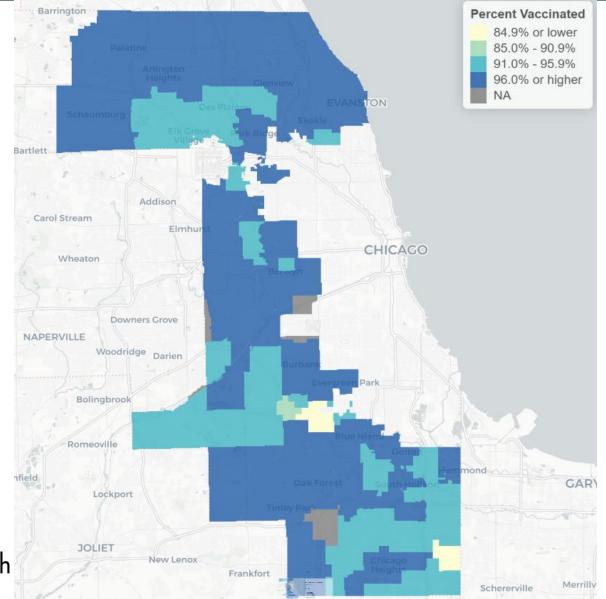


Cook County Public Health

Public Elementary Students Protected from Measles for 2024-2025

This map focuses on public elementary schools, aggregating by school district and mapping to district boundaries.

https://ccdphcd.shinyapps.io/schoolvaccines/





Insights from Community Partners

Transportation Barriers

 Families sometimes face challenges accessing immunization appointments due to a lack of reliable transportation.

Missed Appointments and Scheduling Conflicts

 High rates of missed appointments are attributed to work schedules, limited clinic hours, and the difficulty of rescheduling, resulting in lower vaccine compliance.

Religious and Personal Beliefs

 Some families decline vaccinations based on religious or philosophical beliefs, requiring culturally sensitive education and engagement.

Vaccine Misinformation and Hesitancy

 Persistent misinformation—particularly online contributes to confusion, fear, and hesitancy

• Lack of Awareness About Requirements and Schedules

 Many families are unaware of school-entry vaccine requirements or are unclear about the recommended immunization schedule.

Limited Access to Primary Care Providers

 Some students lack a medical home or face long wait times for pediatric appointments, making it difficult to stay on schedule with vaccinations.

Trust and Relationship-Based Access

 Families are more likely to participate in schoolbased clinics when they are promoted and hosted by trusted school staff or local community partners.

Language and Literacy Barriers

 Non-English-speaking families or those with limited health literacy may not understand communications about vaccine clinics or requirements







Why are disparities increasing?

- Racial and ethnic disparities persist, with non-Hispanic Black, Hispanic, and American Indian/Alaska Native children having lower coverage than non-Hispanic White children (Hill et al., 2024; Hill et al., 2023).
- State policies permitting non-medical (religious/personal belief) exemptions widen disparities by making it easier for some groups to opt out (Han et al., 2025; Brumbaugh et al., 2024).
- Socioeconomic barriers, such as poverty and lack of private insurance, are associated with lower vaccination rates, particularly among children on Medicaid or uninsured (Hill et al., 2024; Hayhurst & O'Neill, 2024; Hill et al., 2023).
- The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated disparities by disrupting primary care and routine immunization, disproportionately affecting marginalized and low-income groups (Hill et al., 2024).





Social Vulnerability Index (SVI)

The SVI ranks geographies in suburban Cook County according to four component themes:

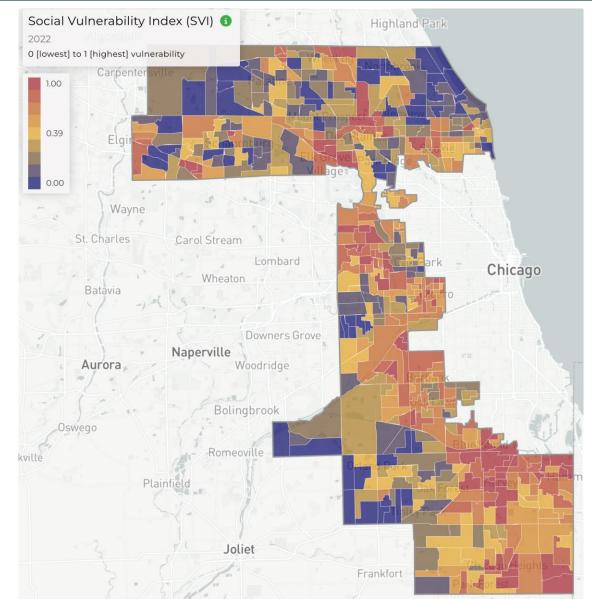
- (1) socioeconomic vulnerability;
- (2) household composition and disability;
- (3) minority status and language; and (
- 4) housing type and transportation.

The index ranges from 0 (lowest vulnerability) to 1 (highest vulnerability).

https://cookcountyhealthatlas.org/indicators/JG8NWHW?tab=map







CCDPH Response

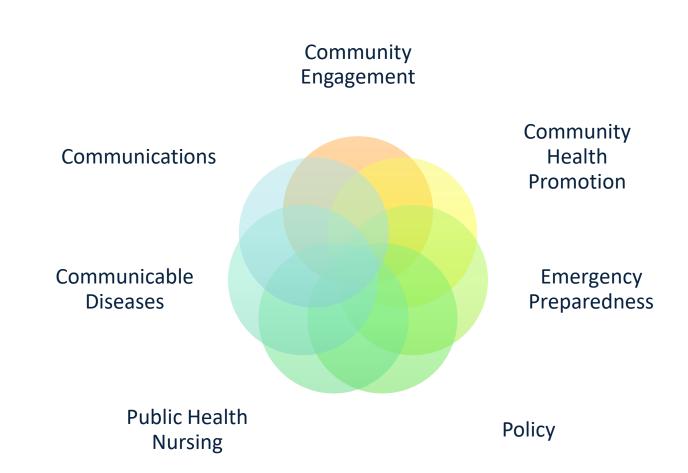






CCDPH Community Immunization (CIZ) Prog

- CCDPH's approach is structured around several key components. It mirrors elements of the CDC Vaccine Confidence and Uptake Strategies framework.
- Each component a collaboration by the CIZ Program and units within CCDPH.
- Designed to be integrated, data-driven, and community-centered.
- Grounded in COVID-19 experience, new staff, expected to grow







CIZ Program Goals

Access to vaccines throughout the lifecycle

Increase ageappropriate vaccination coverage among children ages 0–18 years.

Increasing Flu and COVID vaccinations among seniors

Reduce disparities in immunization rates by geography, race/ethnicity, and socioeconomic status.

Rebuild trust in vaccines and the public health system





Approach to Disparities

- Community-informed: consulted with Intermediate Service Centers to get information to districts and connect
 - ISCs act as programmatic and fiscal intermediaries between ISBE and local districts
 - Executive directors of ISCs have the same powers and responsibilities as a regional superintendent
- Focused where there is greatest need
 - Schools with vaccination rates between 82-88% (lowest protection) AND high SVI
 - Vaccine clinics
 - Parent education
 - Targeted communication via media and community partnership channels.
 - Schools with rates less than 96% (State Benchmark)
 - Parent education
 - Targeted communication via media and community partnership channels.
 - Partner with healthcare providers serving vulnerable communities to increase vaccination rates





For Schools with Lowest Rates of Vaccination

- Continue connecting with school administrators, nurses to understand community needs, concerns, opportunities
- Hold webinars designed to address parental concerns and answer questions
- Distribute outreach materials
- Provide Community Health Worker supports, linkage to care
- Host vaccine clinics for all required school immunizations





For Schools with Lowest Rates of

- Planning vaccination clinics, between June-August, interested schools to host multiple clinics per school/district
- Confirmed:
 - Reavis Elementary School (Lansing) 2 clinics
 - Lawn Manor Elementary School (Oak Lawn) 2-3 clinics
- Planning stage:
 - West40 (West Suburban ISC) is set to host and collaborate on multiple events with community partners this summer for all school districts in West Suburban Cook.
 - CCDPH plans to host at least 1-2 West40 Vaccine Clinics and provide vaccine support at collaborated community events.
- Clinics include all required childhood immunizations with a focus on increasing measles vaccinations
- Planning now for additional clinics for start of the 25-26 school year to cover routine childhood immunizations, flu and covid.







Healthcare Provider-Focused Strategies

Leverage Population Health Tools

- Use zip code-level data and payer mix (e.g., Medicaid enrollment) to identify communities within suburban Cook County with low immunization rates.
- Partner with clinics to use care gap reports and patient outreach registries to contact families due or overdue for vaccines.
- Collaborate with health systems and FQHCs to run targeted campaigns (e.g., back-to-school, flu season) based on demographic and geographic trends.
- Implement Evidence-Based Interventions in Clinical Settings
 - Support providers in adopting CDC-recommended practices like standing orders and vaccine reminders to ensure vaccinations are offered at every appropriate encounter.
 - Encourage integration of Illinois Immunization Registry (I-CARE) with clinic EHRs to streamline tracking and flag missed vaccines.
 - Train clinical teams across suburban Cook County to identify and address vaccine hesitancy using culturally responsive communication tools.







Communications Strategy





Social Media Campaign / Take the Quiz



Printed Materials for Community Outreach



Doorhangers

- CCDPH Measles Toolkit to provide support for current measles outbreaks for all suburban Cook County.
- Communication materials created in collaboration with school districts and community to ensure language is appropriate and information is clear.
- Targeted vaccine campaigns in communities with lowest vaccine rates
- Public information campaign set for August/September centered on measles awareness and vaccine encouragement





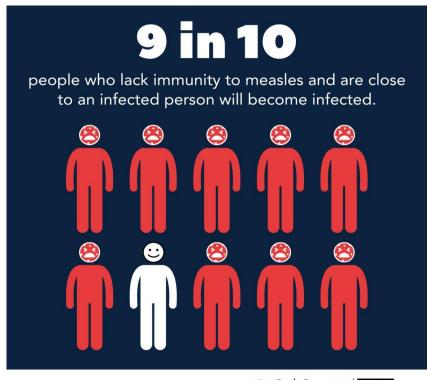
Communications Strategy - Social Media



Vaccination is the best protection against measles.

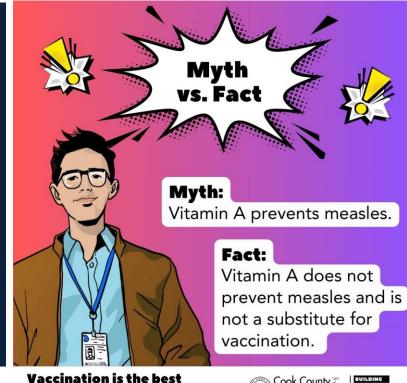
Make sure you're up to date on vaccinations.





cookcountypublichealth.org





protection against measles.





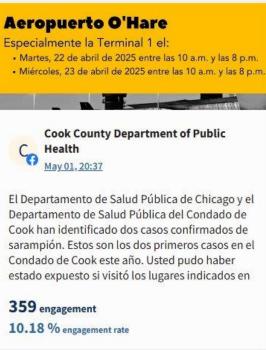


Cook County Public Health

Outreach Materials - Translated

Emergency Response & Translated Social Media Graphics





Fact Sheets-Toolkits

- •English: <u>Click here to access</u> the measles fact sheet.
- •Spanish: <u>Haga clic aquí para</u> <u>acceder a la hoja informativa</u> <u>sobre el sarampión.</u>
- •Polish: <u>Kliknij tutaj, aby</u> <u>uzyskać dostęp do arkusza</u> <u>informacyjnego o odrze.</u>
- Arabic: انقر هنا للوصول إلى ورقة حائق الحصبة
- •Simplified Chinese: <u>点击这里</u> <u>访问麻疹信息表。</u>







Communications Toolkit



Measles Toolkit

Introduction

 $This social \ media \ toolk it \ was \ created \ by \ Cook \ County \ Department \ of \ Public \ Health \ to \ support \ efforts \ in$ raising awareness about measles and the importance of vaccination. With a recent occurrence of measles affecting Cook County, we created these sharable resources to spread facts not myths.

How Can I Help Spread the Word?



Measles Communications Toolkit

Information about measles and vaccinations for social media.









In Summary

- Childhood vaccination rates are slowly decreasing in suburban Cook County, increasing the risk of outbreaks.
- There are significant geographic disparities in vaccination coverage.
- CCDPH has created a Community Immunization Program drawing on lessons learned during COVID-19.
- Staff have analyzed vaccination data and spoken to community partners to develop a package of strategies focused on reducing disparities.
- Several vaccination events will be held in the next two months in partnership schools.
- Staff are also exploring health-care provide focused approaches.
- A communication toolkit has been developed and translated into several commonly spoken languages.





Questions?











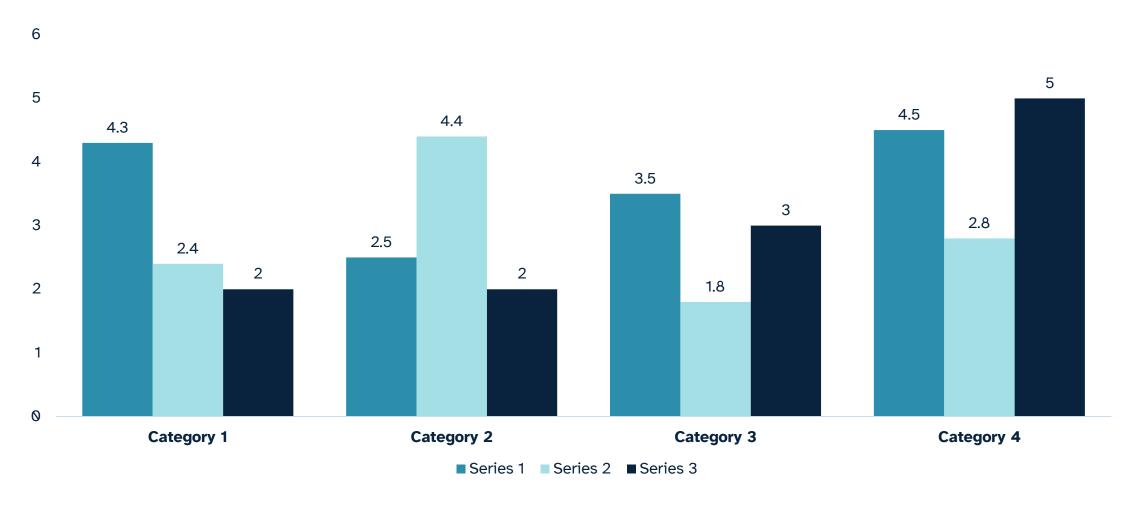








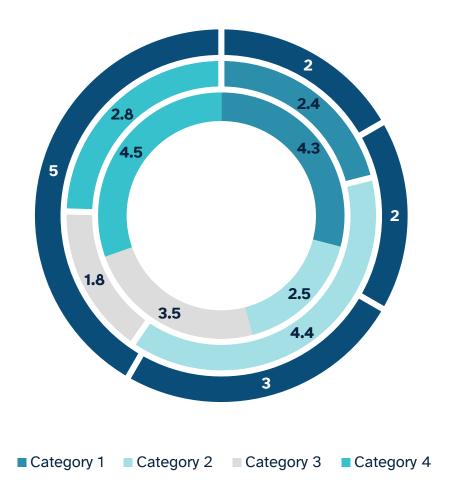
Bar Chart Sample







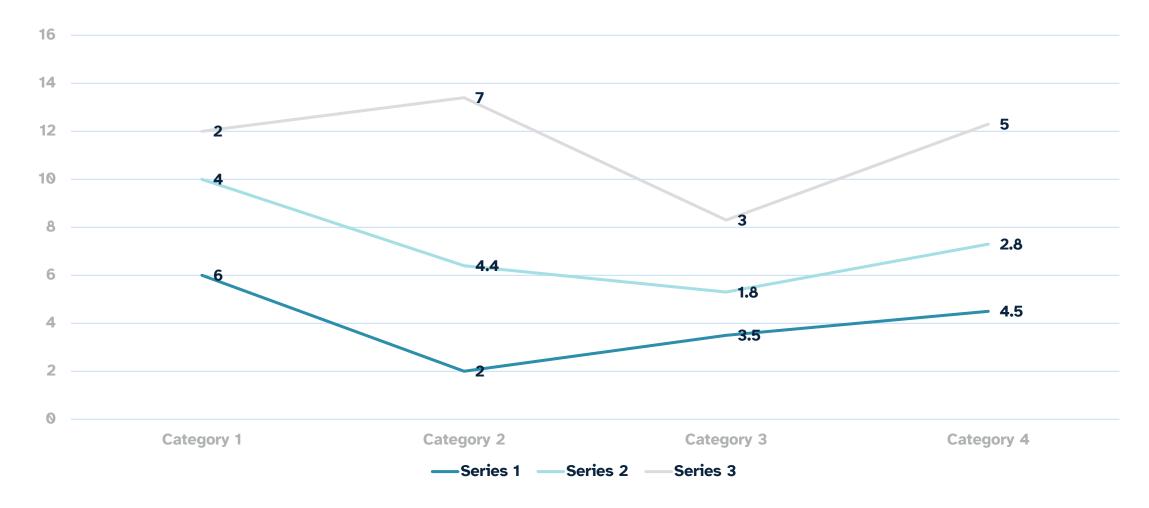
Pie Chart Sample







Line Chart Sample







About Cook County Health

Cook County Health has served the people of Cook County for more than 180 years.

Today, we are investing in our health system's network and modernizing services for patients. This includes growing capacity, adopting cutting-edge technology, and conducting innovative research. We aim to create a health system that is a provider of choice for all regardless of ability to pay, ensure access to high-quality care, and elevate the health of Cook County.

In addition to our hospitals and health centers, we operate CountyCare, the largest Medicaid managed care plan in the region, and the Cook County Department of Public Health, the nationally accredited public health department serving suburban Cook County.

While we have evolved over nearly two centuries, our mission remains the same: ensuring that all may live their healthiest life.





Mission, Vision, and Values

Mission

Establish universal access to the world's best care and health services for all Cook County residents, regardless of the ability to pay, so all may live their healthiest life. We seek to create partnerships with other health providers and communities to enhance the health of the public. We also advocate for policies that promote the physical, mental and social well-being of the people of Cook County.

Vision

To ensure health as a human right.

Values

ICARE

Innovation

Compassion

Accountability

Respect

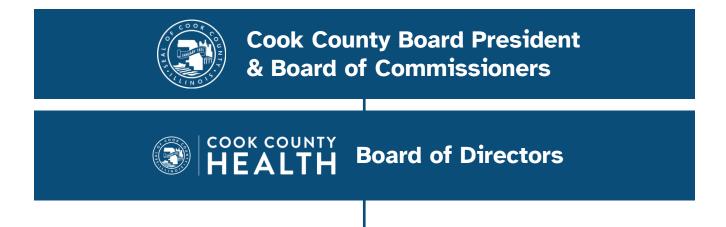
Excellence & Education



About Cook County

- Includes Chicago and suburbs
- 2nd most populous county in US
- 5.1M residents
- 945 sq miles









Stroger Hospital
Provident Hospital
Ruth M. Rothstein CORE Center
Cermak Health Services of Cook County
14 Community Health Centers

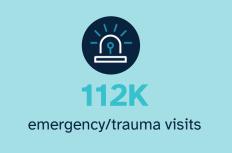


Cook County Health by the Numbers: 2023

Doing the work of health equity for nearly 200 years















intake screenings at Cook County Jail and Juvenile Temporary Detention Center





of patients enrolled in our financial aid program, CareLink, receive a 100% discount on care



430K MEMBERS

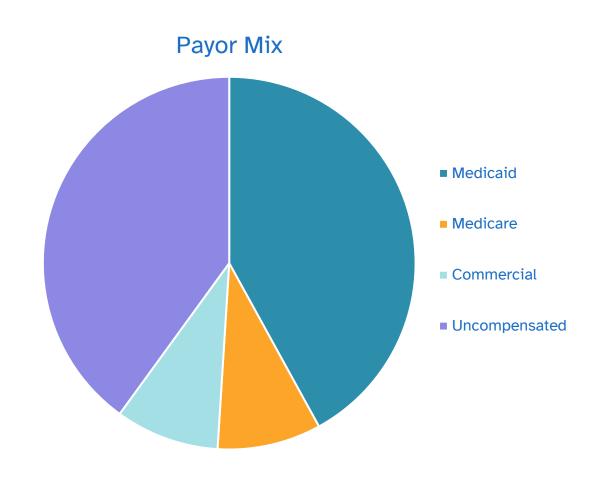
in CountyCare, the largest Medicaid managed care plan serving Cook County

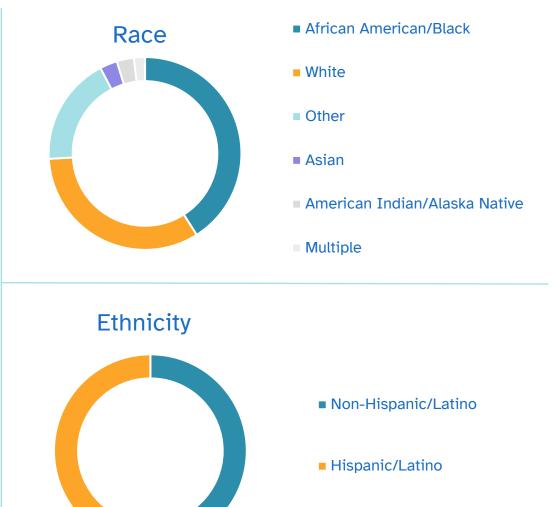


2.3M

Suburban residents in **127 municipalities** served by the Cook
County Department of Public Health

Payor Mix & Patient Demographics







Primary Care Medical Homes (Family Health Care)

- 1. Arlington Heights Health Center Arlington Heights, IL
- Belmont-Cragin Health Center Chicago, IL
- Austin Health Center Chicago, IL
- North Riverside Health Center North Riverside. IL
- Dr. Jorge Prieto Health Center Chicago, IL
- Bronzeville Health Center Chicago, IL (COMING SOON)
- Englewood Health Center Chicago, IL
- Robbins Health Center Robins, IL
- 9. Cottage Grove Health Center Ford Heights, IL

Regional Outpatient Centers (Includes Primary Care Medical Homes, specialty, diagnostic and procedural services)

- 10. John Sengstacke Health Center at Provident Hospital Chicago, IL
- 11. Blue Island Health Center Blue Island, IL
- 12. Central Campus Chicago, IL
 - Professional Building
- Specialty Care Center (Clinics A-V)
- Harrison Square
- Women & Children's Center at
- General Medicine Clinic (GMC) Stroger Hospital
- 13. Ruth M. Rothstein CORE Center Chicago, IL
- 14. Provident Dialysis Center Chicago, IL

Child & Adolescent Services

15. Morton East Health Center • Cicero, IL

Hospitals

- 16. John H. Stroger, Jr. Hospital Chicago, IL
- 17. Provident Hospital Chicago, IL

Additional Services

Cook County Department of Public Health (CCDPH)

- 18. CCDPH Main Office Forest Park, IL
- 19. CCDPH at Bridgeview Courthouse Bridgeview, IL
- 20. CCDPH at Rolling Meadows Courthouse Rolling Meadows, IL

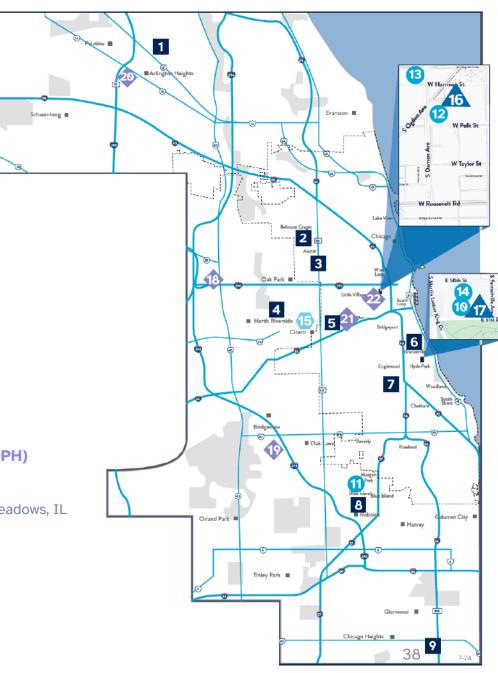
Correctional Health Services

- 21. Cook County Jail . Chicago, IL
- 22. Juvenile Temporary Detention Center Chicago, IL











Strategic Pillars



Patient Safety, Clinical Excellence & Quality



Health Equity, Community Health & Integration



Workforce: Talent & Teams



Fiscal Resilience



Patient Experience



Optimization, Systemization & Performance Improvement



Growth, Innovation & Transformation

