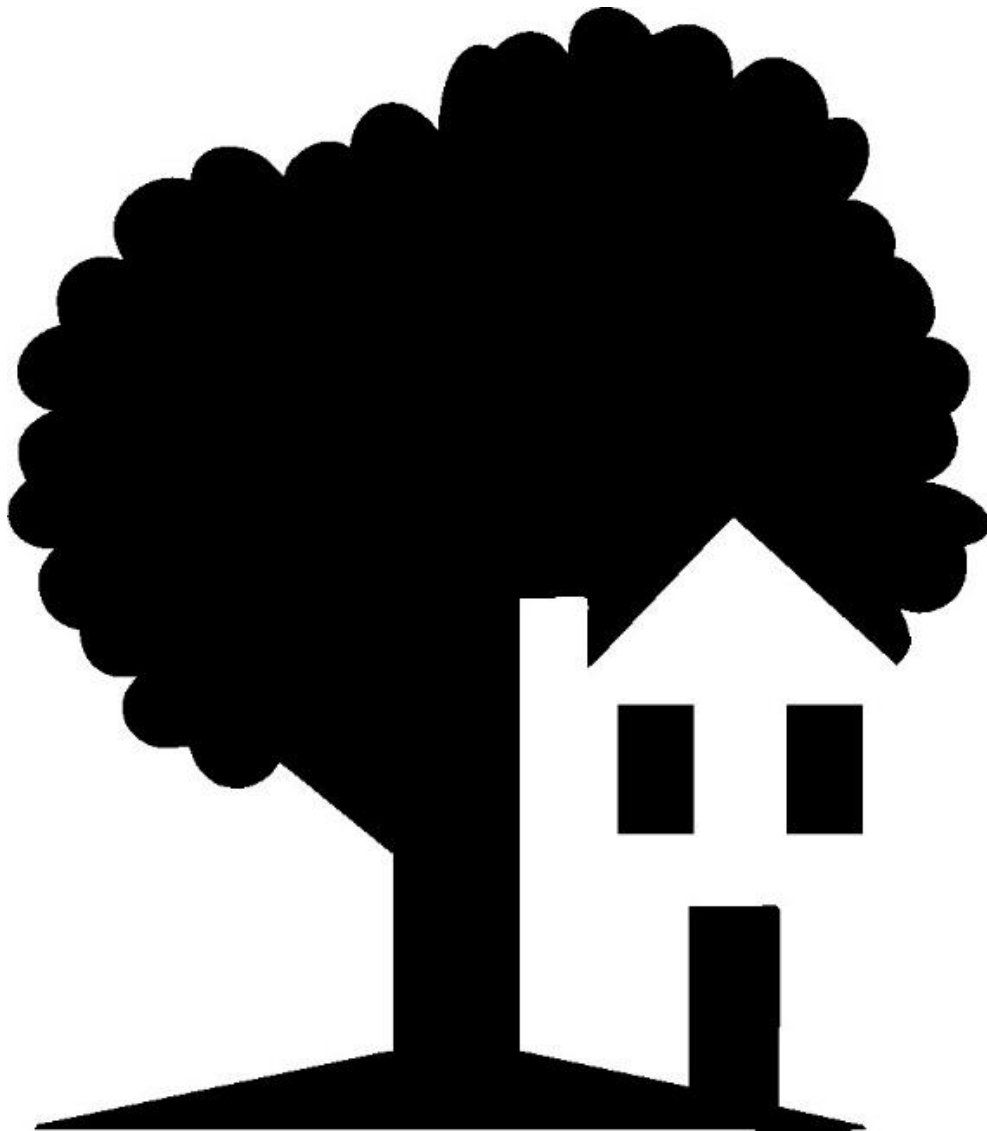


Johnson County Health Department

Annual Report



2024

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HEALTH OFFICER

Our professional staff seeks to provide efficient and effective health-related services in the Environmental Health, Nursing, Vital Records, Public Health Emergency and WIC Divisions.

The Johnson County Health Department focuses on the following areas:

- Communicable Disease Control
- Environmental Health
- Emergency Preparedness
- Food Safety
- Health Education
- Immunizations
- Lead Testing and Case Management
- Vital Records
- Vector Control
- Breast Cancer Awareness
- Asthma and Indoor Air Quality



Participation and comments are welcome from all residents. Please contact our office Monday through Friday, 8 A.M to 4:30 P.M.

- Business Office 317-346-4375
- Environmental Health 317-346-4365
- Nursing Services 317-346-4368
- Vital Records 317-346-4367

For more information, visit our website <https://co.johnson.in.us>

Dr. Jefferson M. Qualls

Johnson County Health Officer

JOHNSON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH



From left: Chele Heid, Dr. James Pease, Dr. Michael Pauszek, Dr. Steve Stropes D.V.M., Amanda Stevenson-Holmes, Susan Baker, Ruth Freese, Dr. Jefferson M. Qualls.
Not pictured Paul Hass, Board Attorney.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Health Fund

Cash Beginning January 1, 2024 \$1,490,591.13

Receipts

General Property	\$640,667.10	
License Excise	84,515.24	
Financial Institution Tax	3,626.67	
Commercial Vehicle Excise Tax	2,354.67	
Advance Settlement Draw	463,146.15	
Miscellaneous Fees	3,437.00	
Amendment Fees	275.00	
Swimming Pool Permit Fees	8,100.00	
Tattoo Permit Fees	33,075.00	
Food Permit Fees	218,485.00	
Food Citation Fees	7,675.00	
Coroner's Continuing Ed Fund	14,309.25 *	
Death Certificate Fees	100,166.25	
Birth Certificate Fees	20,528.00	
Septic Permit Fees	15,600.00	
Nursing Fees	4,655.00 **	
Clinical/Incentive Patients	1,498.04	
Septic Application Fees	6,400.00	
Plan Review Fees	4,700.00	
Insufficient Funds – NSF	40.00	
Miscellaneous Receipts	34.20 ***	
Miscellaneous Reimbursements	530.45	
Receipts Total	\$1,633,818.02	
Cash Available 2024		\$3,124,409.15

Expenditures

Coroner's Continuing Ed Fund	\$14,309.25 *
Salaries	1,151,736.49
Payroll Taxes	83,172.40
Public Employee Retirement Fund	117,969.21
Claims	236,451.35
Expenditures Total	\$1,603,638.70

Cash Balance January 1, 2025 \$1,520,770.45

*Funds collected as a part of death certificate receipt; disbursed through report of collections; shown for the record only.

**Nursing fees- TB testing fees only. Remaining nursing charges are in the Local Public Health Service funds.

***Funds received from IDOH for COVID Vaccine Admin Cost Reimbursement Grants.

Local Health Maintenance Fund

Cash Balance January 1, 2024		\$236,756.71
<i>Receipts</i>		
Receipts Total	\$0.00	
Cash Available 2024		\$236,756.71
<i>Expenditures</i>		
Salaries	\$79,160.65	
Payroll Taxes	6,055.82	
Claims	32,585.91	
Expenditures Total	\$117,802.38	
Cash Balance January 1, 2025		\$118,954.33
<i>Investment</i>		
CD Investment- Matures 2/22/2025	\$400,000.00	

Tobacco Master Settlement

Cash Balance January 1, 2024		\$229,459.63
<i>Receipts</i>		
Receipts Total	\$0.00	
Cash Available 2024		\$229,459.63
<i>Expenditures</i>		
Claims	\$18,724.38	
Expenditures Total	\$18,724.38	
Cash Balance January 1, 2025		\$210,735.25
<i>Investment</i>		
CD Investment- Matures 2/22/2025	\$450,000.00	

Local Public Health Services

Cash Balance January 1, 2024		\$0.00
<i>Receipts</i>		
Auditor State of Indiana	\$132,258.59	
Immunization Reimbursement from State	840.00	
Immunization Reimbursement Nursing Services	18,872.78	
Receipts Total	\$151,971.37	
Cash Available 2024		\$151,971.37
<i>Expenditures</i>		
Expenditures Total	\$0.00	
Cash Balance January 1, 2025		\$151,971.37

ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

Mission

Controlling the spread of communicable disease, promoting, improving and preserving the quality of the environment are the goals and responsibilities of the Environmental Health Division of the Johnson County Health Department. Various programs maintained by the health department help fulfill these goals. The following provides an overview of the services provided in 2024.

Food Service Program



Top Row (left to right): Director Elizabeth Swearingen, Environmentalist Bob Smith, Elizabeth Senisse, Andrew Miller, and Paul Betiku.

Bottom Row (left to right): Environmentalist Cassi Hall, Kevin Paulin, Mia Papageorge, and Caleb Fleener. Not pictured, Environmentalist Terry Bayless.

The food service program is the largest of the environmental programs at the health department. The responsibility of insuring the food safety at our restaurants is an immense task. Seven full-time, and two part-time environmental health specialists, and seasonal environmental health interns devoted significant time resources to routine and follow-up inspections.

In 2024, there were over 1,700 food facility inspections done. Additional food services provided included consultations, follow-up inspections, pre-construction/pre-opening inspections, and plan reviews of new food establishments in Johnson County. Food complaints and food-borne illnesses were also tracked within the county. There were nearly 100 food complaints in 2024. Food facilities requiring additional food safety education and compliance were brought into the office for administrative hearings and corrective action plans were created.

The primary focus of the county food service is to enforce health codes and protect consumers from foodborne illness. Inspections conducted at intervals are based on risk, menu, and population served. Typically, fast food restaurants with limited menus require three inspections per year while

the larger facilities with expanded menus require four inspections per year. Multiple follow-up inspections were conducted.

Enforcement tools for sanitary compliance include the Indiana Civil Penalty Rule that provides the health department authority to fine retail food establishments for critical and non-critical violations. Fines may range from \$0.00 to \$500.00 depending on the severity of the violation and the length of time of non-compliance. Working with the environmental health staff, food establishment managers and operators continue to make strides in meeting stringent food safety mandates. Employee education, date marking foods, temperature control, and proper cooling of food remain key elements for safe handling and preparation of food.

Environmental Programs

Each year the Environmental Division of the Health Department provides a wide range of services to Johnson County residents. Services provided are reflected below.

Massage Therapy Pre-opens	Continuing Education Programs
Housing Investigations	Asthma and Indoor Air Inspections
Hazardous Material Investigations	Vector Control Complaints
Outdoor Air Pollution Complaints	Asbestos and Lead Investigations
Water Sample Collection & Consultations	Trash and Miscellaneous Complaints
Institutional and Commercial Inspections	Methamphetamine Issues
Workshops, Trainings, and Meetings	Presentations
Paperless Project-WinRecords	Phase 1 Assessments
Web Updates	Stop the Bleed and CPR Trainings
Tobacco Store Audits/Smoking Cessation	

Meth Labs

In 2024, there were no properties seized in Johnson County for meth labs. The Health Department continues to work with homeowners to clear properties that have not obtained clearance certificates. One property was cleared from the Indiana State Police list through testing, decontamination, or demolition.



Septic System Program

In a growing community, careful and well-planned growth management must be recognized. An important part of this process is related to the safe and sanitary disposal of sewage waste. An onsite waste disposal program is maintained by the Johnson County Health Department to provide for the safe and sanitary disposal of both residential and commercial wastewater. Extension of the sanitary sewers remains a priority of the health department. The department conducted plan reviews, site reviews and site evaluations during permit processing for onsite waste disposal systems.

This year the Indiana State Legislature nullified local ordinances pertaining to on-site sewage disposal systems. The new State laws allow for the use of holding tanks and limits the department when investigating sewage complaints. For counties to make ordinances pertaining to on-site sewage disposal, the ordinance must be approved by the TRP (Technical Review Panel). The TRP approved Johnson County Ordinance No. 2024-O-5.

The environmentalists are involved in the planning, approval and inspection of septic systems including, standard design concepts as well as experimental technology systems. In 2024, there were 92 septic system installation permits issued by the Johnson County Health Department. Of this number, 59 were for a new septic system installation; the remaining 33 permits were for repairs to existing systems. Two commercial septic permits and 4 holding tank permits were also included in the total. Soil consultants and personnel from the Indiana State Department of Health assist our staff with ongoing field training. We also had an employee obtain their Certified Remote Pilot Certificate from the Federal Aviation Administration, so they may legally operate a drone. The drone will provide additional documentation of new septic systems and repairs with real time photos of the installation or repair.

Tobacco Education, Prevention and Cessation

The use of tobacco is the most preventable causes of death and disease in the United States. Numerous types of cancers including lung cancer, respiratory diseases, and heart disease are related to the use of tobacco.

More than eleven thousand Hoosiers die from their own smoking every year. For every death, another thirty Hoosiers are living with a chronic condition due to smoking and other uses of tobacco. In Indiana 10.9% of pregnant women smoke; in Johnson County 8.4% of pregnant women smoke which is a contributor to Indiana's infant mortality



Smoking doubles the risk of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, causing 20-30% of the low birth weight babies and contributes to other health problems such as reduced lung function.

Environmentalist Bob Smith serves as chair of the Tobacco Free Johnson County Committee. Advocating for smoke-free environments, encouraging pregnant women to be smoke-free,

preventing youth from tobacco use and offering smoke cessation all play a part in decreasing the risk of disease and dying from a tobacco related illness.

The introduction of the electronic cigarette, also known as e-cigarette, on the market poses a major health concern, especially among teenagers. This nicotine delivery system and marketing of this product has led to use by minors and non-smokers and the liquid nicotine used in the cartridge may also pose a poisoning threat. Approved FDA tobacco cessation aids are available and recommended.

A state funded cessation program is available to individuals wishing to quit smoking. The free quit-line may be reached by calling 1-800-QUIT NOW.

Tobacco Related Statistics for Johnson County 2024

Adult smoking rate	17.8%	Adult smokers	21,833
Smoking during pregnancy rate	4.8%	Births affected by smoking	91
Annual death due to tobacco	265	Tobacco related illnesses	7,939
Annual death due to secondhand smoke. .	42		

Asthma Program

In Johnson County, asthma has remained a pressing health concern over the years – based on the number of indoor air quality complaints from asthma patients and environmental home assessment referrals. The burden of asthma in our community highlights the urgent need for targeted interventions and support systems to mitigate its impact on affected individuals and families. Recognizing the severity of asthma-related health challenges, the Johnson County Health Department secured a grant in 2023 to develop and enhance the county’s asthma program. This initiative aims to address key health issues by implementing structured programs designed to reduce asthma triggers, improve patient education, and promote collaboration among healthcare providers.

The Asthma referral program was established in collaboration with the Indiana Department of Health’s Environmental Division to provide essential support for individuals managing asthma. This initiative focuses on reducing environmental asthma triggers, thereby minimizing hospital visits and improving the overall health of Johnson County residents.

Through this program, the Johnson County Health Department has developed partnerships with several hospitals in the Indianapolis area to facilitate referrals for Johnson County residents. Additionally, collaborations with Johnson Memorial Hospital, Riley Children’s Hospital, Marion County, and other local health departments have strengthened asthma education programs, ensuring broader community access to crucial resources. The referral program represents an essential step in our commitment to enhancing asthma care and prevention efforts.

In our ongoing efforts to promote health equity in Johnson County, we have partnered with Improving Kids’ Environment (IKE) to implement the Healthy Spaces, Happy Children initiative. This program is specifically designed for licensed and registered childcare facilities, providing an environmental health improvement framework to ensure safer spaces for children. Participating

childcare centers receive free supplies and educational materials to address environmental asthma triggers, lead exposure, and chemical management. By supporting early childhood environments, we aim to establish a foundation for healthier living conditions, reducing asthma risks for young children in our community.

The Johnson County Asthma Program continues to evolve, driven by our commitment to reducing the burden of asthma through continuous intervention, education, and community collaboration. By addressing environmental triggers, enhancing patient support systems, and prioritizing health equity.

Well Water

The majority of Johnson County is fortunate to have ample supplies of ground water to be used for drinking, agriculture and livestock support. Ground water is stored naturally below the earth's surface. Most rural areas and most cities in Johnson County depend on ground water for their water. Public utilities servicing the most populated areas of our county rely on our aquifers. It is essential that our ground water be protected from sewage, chemical and industrial contaminants. Environmentalists promote ground water protection by enforcing required setbacks of septic systems, sewer lines, industry, livestock and other potential sources of contamination.

The availability of a safe and adequate water supply is a valuable resource, which must be protected. Water is critical for not only our health but for economic growth and stability. A partnership among our public water utilities, state, county and municipal leaders as well as business and industrial representatives has been formed in an effort to protect the integrity of this important natural resource.

The Johnson County Wellhead Protection Local Planning Team meets quarterly to discuss issues related to the protection and delivery of safe water to those in our community. The local planning team is a countywide group to which the drinking water utilities with wellhead protection areas in the county are invited to attend. To maintain an educational component to meetings a guest speaker or committee member gives a presentation on relevant water issues.

During program meetings, representatives from the gravel mining companies provide the group with water-quality results from monitoring wells between the gravel mining operations and some of the wellhead protection areas. The LPT reviews the results with the mining companies and they have begun graphing these results to understand and to become aware of any changes to our water quality over an extended period of time. To date, it has been shown that gravel-mining operations within our wellhead protection zone have not posed a hazard to our ground water aquifer.

In 2024, the Johnson County Wellhead Protection Ordinance was included in the Johnson County Planning & Zoning Unified Development Ordinance (UDO).

Sharps Disposal Program

The Johnson County Sharps Disposal Program was designed and implemented as a community service to assist the residents of our county with a safe and environmentally sound method for



disposing of used needles or “sharps”. The improper disposal of sharps threatens the safety of every member of the community, as they may be contaminated with hepatitis, HIV, and/or other serious diseases. The risk to the general public is very real as well as to our solid waste management personnel who collect trash and those who may sort waste streams to recycle. Anyone who is a resident of Johnson County and regularly uses sharps for medical purposes is encouraged to participate in this program.



This free public service provides a medically approved sharps container to participants at no cost and after the container is filled, provides free disposal by a professional licensed hazardous waste disposal company. Container pick-up and disposal must be conducted at the Health Department office during regular business hours. In 2024, the Health Department distributed 681; 5-quart capacity sharps containers to residents. The number of filled containers returned was 852 with 572 being health department containers and the remaining 280 were from other distributors.



Swimming Pool Program

Swimming pools are licensed, inspected, and monitored by the Johnson County Health Department year-round. Swimming pools that are not operated as per code requirements may represent a health risk to patrons. Recreational Water Illnesses (RWI) are caused by germs and chemicals found in the water that patrons swim in such as pools, hot tubs, water parks, lakes, etc. A wide

variety of infections including gastrointestinal, skin, ear, respiratory, eye, neurologic and wound infections have been reported. The most reported is diarrhea, which can be caused by organisms such as Shigella, Norovirus, Giardia, E.coli, and Cryptosporidium. Proper disinfection and chemical balance in water is essential to prevent disease.

The Johnson County Health Department Pool Program requires that each public and semi-public pool operate under the standards set forth in the Indiana State Department of Health 2010 “Swimming Pool Rule 410 IAC 6-2.1”. Inspections review key pool operations such as water disinfection, chemical levels, safety equipment, and maintenance of pool surfaces and equipment. Weekly laboratory tests of the water are sent to the health department to allow for continual review of water quality for each pool. Pools that do not maintain required standards are closed by this Department until those standards are re-established.

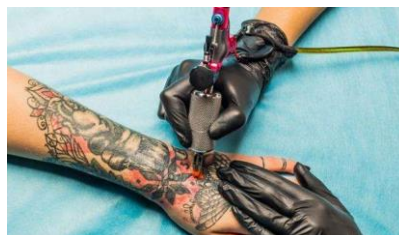
Relevant statistics from the 2024 pool season:

- 20- Year-round operation sites
- 58- Seasonal Operation Sites
- 2,038- Pool/spa water samples tested
- 132- Completed inspections
- 1,927- Satisfactory water samples
- 111- Unsatisfactory or missed samples
- 24- Temporarily closed due to violation(s)



Tattoo Program

Tattooing and body piercing present a potential health threats because both procedures break the skin barrier. A tattoo machine pierces the skin in very rapid sequence while piercers install jewelry after creating open wounds in the skin and or cartilage. The instruments may come in contact with blood and body fluids. These actions may introduce bacterial or viral organisms such as staphylococcus, blood borne pathogens, Hepatitis B & C, tetanus and other disease organisms if sanitary procedures are not followed. The problem is compounded because some parts of tattoo equipment are reused on multiple clients, and if required sterilization procedures are not followed, the health risks are greatly increased. The health and safety of the tattoo artists are also of great concern, and guidelines are directed to protect them as well.



The Johnson County Health Department Ordinance No. 2022-O-23 requires operators to be licensed and inspected by Environmentalists. Our ordinance incorporates Indiana State Department of Health Rule 410 IAC 1-5 “Sanitary Operations of Tattoo Parlors”. The Rule includes an important requirement to have sterilization equipment tested for efficacy and to report monthly results to the Health Department. The Ordinance incorporates fines and delineates procedures for closure of a shop, if certain requirements are not met.

The number of tattoo operations in our county varies each year. A recent rise in the number of shops is due to the opening of “microblading” operations, which is the process of tattooing eyebrows on the face. Like any tattoo, micro blading punctures the skin surface and comes in contact with blood and body fluids and therefore is regulated. Permanent makeup operations are also regulated as they tattoo eyeliner, lips, and eyebrows on to clientele. Eyelash extensions are regulated on a complaint basis.

Vector Program

Vector-borne diseases are among the most complex of all infectious diseases to prevent and control and may become a major public health concern without prevention and control. Fleas, ticks, cockroaches and mosquitoes spread diseases such as West Nile virus, Lyme disease, Rocky Mountain spotted fever, and Salmonella among those most notable. In addition, mice, raccoons, bats, and other creatures may carry disease transmittable to humans.

The geographic and seasonal distribution of vector populations and the diseases they can carry depends not only on climate but also on land use, socioeconomic and cultural factors, pest control and human responses to disease risk. The Health Department works in tandem with the local



medical community and the Indiana State Department of Health to monitor vector disease emergence. The Johnson County Health Department works with residents and business operators to educate, advise, and assist in reducing or eliminating vectors breeding and harboring sites. An integrated management control program works to reduce food sources for vectors, eliminate entrance into housing and finally recommend the use of chemical and biological extermination techniques.



Complaint investigations and responses in 2024 included infestations of rodents, bedbugs as well as complaints of large populations of biting mosquitos. Environmentalists treated mosquito-breeding sites in the county with larvicide to prevent hatching of mosquitoes. Larger cities within the county have their own mosquito control operations; however, the Johnson County Health Department provides nonmunicipal control via a contractual arrangement with the Marion County Health Department. They provide adulticide chemical spraying for areas in need.

Public Health Preparedness/ESF 8

In 2024, the Johnson County Health Department continued to foster their partnerships with other first responders and health care providers meeting the grant deliverables set out for the D5 Local Health Departments.

The preparedness department also updated documentation in the overall Field Operations Guide (FOG) and each FOG specific to each Point of Dispensing (POD). Once again, the yearly FOG workshop allowed for more intensive training of the POD Command Staff, which included many new members and position changes at each particular POD location.

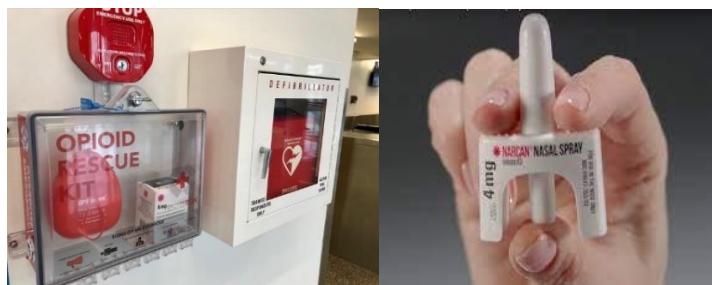
The preparedness coordinators yet again joined with other District 5 Health Department staffs to meet BASE and Cities Readiness Initiative (CRI) grant requirements.

In the past, the JCHD participated in the yearly mandated Local Technical Assistance Review (LTAR) conducted by the Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH). In 2015, the LTAR was replaced with the Operational Readiness Review (ORR). 2016 welcomed a bye year for the department as no type of review was conducted. The 2017 ORR went well with the county receiving high praise for their plans, procedures and preparedness abilities. Another ORR was conducted in 2018 using a new program provided by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). The program was difficult to navigate and populate with adequate information. Results did not appear as positive as they have in the past. In 2019, the newer reporting program DICIPHER was revamped to evaluate the local health departments on their preparedness plans. Work continued in 2024 to clear-up inconsistencies between the computer program and the county's extremely thorough preparedness plans. As in the past, the county will continue to plan, prepare, and produce as the country addresses new target capabilities and the All Hazard Preparedness mindset in the next year of the five-year grant cycle.

Health Education

Overdose deaths are the leading cause of accidental death in the United States. There are over 43 million Americans affected by Substance Use Disorder (SUD). There is a growing body of research showing that there are differences between those who use substances and those with addiction. One can be mentally dependent on things, but addiction suggests a more severe turning point where changes in the brain occur (CDC, 2020). Addiction is a chronic brain disease that has to be treated medically. What began as a choice for many becomes hardwired as a critical mode for survival for individuals. It consumes their life and takes priority in their decision making. Addiction is very prevalent in Johnson County and it is important to start making efforts to prevent overdose deaths by providing harm reduction strategies in our community.

The harm reduction philosophy is not a new idea. It has been long implemented in the public health world and through legislation intended to make consumer products and the environment less polluted and safer for our community. The Health Educator at the Johnson County Health Department has created a strong partnership with a non-profit organization in Johnson County, Upstream Prevention, to place harm reduction strategies like education and awareness, community trainings, and Naloxone around the county. Naloxone is an opioid reversal medication that blocks the opioid receptors to prevent an overdose by allowing an individual to start breathing normally again. Per Indiana State Code, Naloxone can be distributed to laypersons at any time with no questions asked. Twenty-two Naloxone boxes have been placed in a variety of locations throughout the county and six community aid boxes in county buildings. The goal of the NaloxBoxes is to allow individuals to obtain Naloxone with 24/7 access and completely anonymous. Each dose is 4mg and comes with instructions on how to administer, as well as local treatment provider information. The community aid boxes have been placed in county buildings that include a NaloxBox, first aid kit, AED and educational resources. There have been several individuals in the county praise this work and share stories of how the Naloxone saved someone's life.



Additionally, the Johnson County Health Department has community partners that work together to provide wrap around services to individuals experiencing substance related crises. The department's Community Health Workers and Upstream Prevention's Peer Recovery Coaches respond to individuals within 72 hours of a substance related incident to meet them wherever they are in their journey and provide resources and harm reduction supplies. We have strong partnerships with local treatment providers and are able to connect people with treatment when/if they are ready. We act as an aid in their journey to recovery to strive to decrease overdose within our community.

School Health Liaison

In 2021, the Johnson County Health Department in conjunction with the Indiana State Department of Health brought in a new position. The position of School Health Liaison was added to the Nursing Department. The School Health Liaison was brought into assist the school nurses in Johnson County get caught up on certain policies and procedures that were relaxed due to the Covid pandemic. The School Health Liaison assisted Johnson County school nurses with data entry, vision screens, hearing screens, and state required vaccinations for students. As well as setting up mobile vaccination clinics, which included evening and weekend hours, updating the state vaccine reporting system, and updating individual schools information systems. As of 2024, the immunization rates in Johnson County Schools have risen tremendously per data collected by the state, which helped schools to have some of the lowest exclusion rates in years. The School Health Liaison has implemented multiple public health programs such as the Stop the Bleed campaign, professional development training, personal hygiene clinics, and multiple community outreach events. The School Health Liaison works with local entities to continue to help students of Johnson County during the summer months too. For example, the Liaison works with local parks and recreation departments to provide a summer get fit and wellness program. Providing pedometers for pedometer challenges among the students. In addition, the Liaison provides numerous outside water activities, Zumba, and pool passes for underprivileged students. The program continues to be a great success with the school corporations. As a result, most local health departments have made this a permanent position.

Medical Reserve Corps

In 2024, the Johnson County Medical Reserve Corps continued to work and train with the JC Health Department. No new funding for the Corps was received in 2024. It is uncertain if state funding will be forthcoming in the future. 2024 saw the rebirth of statewide MRC Unit meetings that were attended by our unit.

Preparedness Staff for 2024:

Left: Betsy Swearingen, Public Health Preparedness Coordinator and MRC Unit Leader.

Lisa Brown, Assistant Public Health Preparedness Coordinator, Back-up MRC Unit Leader.



BREAST CANCER AWARENESS

The Johnson County Health Department was thrilled to be awarded \$29,729.68 from the Indiana Breast Cancer Awareness Trust Grant (IBCAT). The grant is designed to provide breast screenings and diagnostic procedures to help detect breast cancer. Through the funding of the IBCAT grant, we

are able to offer services for people who are at or below the 250% poverty level and have no health insurance. The monies to fund these grants are 100% dependent on the sale of the Breast Cancer Awareness License plates.

We have partnered with St. Thomas clinic, Windrose Health, Franciscan Alliance, Johnson Memorial Hospital and Major Hospital to be able to provide this wonderful service to 196 patients in 2024. This is over a 100% increase from the 94 screened in 2023.

We were able to offer screening mammograms to 196 people, 12 of which required follow-up diagnostic mammograms with ultrasound or tomography. We had one patient that needed a biopsy. Thankfully, no cancer was detected. We made contact with approx. 28 other patients that did not follow through with their appointment and 14 referrals with whom we could not make contact. This goes to show there is a huge need for Breast screenings here in central Indiana.

Of the 196 patients, 67 were white, 123 Hispanic, 6 Asian, and 3 Black. The average age was 52 with the oldest being 66 and the youngest being 40.

In September of this year, we hosted an extremely successful Breast Screening event along with Major Hospital in Shelbyville. We were able to examine and screen 25 patients all on one night. A big thank you to Major Hospital, Dr. Pauszek and his students! The Health Department has been awarded \$29,991.50 for grant year 2025.

Since the Breast Cancer Awareness special group recognition (SGR) license plate was first made available in 2002, over \$6 million has been distributed by the Indiana Breast Cancer Awareness Trust (IBCAT) through competitively awarded grants to organizations throughout Indiana for innovative projects for breast cancer screening, diagnostic and support services not otherwise available to medically underserved populations in Indiana. In addition, nearly \$100,000 has been awarded in scholarships to incoming and current college students who have lost a parent or who have a parent currently battling the disease.

The mission of the Indiana Breast Cancer Awareness Trust, Inc. is to increase awareness and improve access to breast cancer screening, diagnosis and support services throughout Indiana. Indiana residents may purchase an Indiana breast cancer awareness special group recognition license plate by visiting any Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles branch, online at IN.gov/BMV, or on a BMV Connect kiosk for an annual \$40 fee, \$25 of which is a direct tax-deductible donation (to the extent of the law). The plate may be purchased for display on passenger motor vehicles, motorcycles, trucks with a declared gross weight of not more than 11,000 pounds, and recreational vehicles.

The Indiana Breast Cancer Awareness SGR license plate was the brain-child of the late Nancy Jaynes, a Plymouth (IN) High School family and consumer sciences teacher. Nancy lost her battle with breast cancer in March of 2008. Her vision that the license plate be a traveling billboard and reminder about the importance of early detection of breast cancer is alive and making a difference to thousands of Hoosiers. For more information or to make a donation to the Indiana Breast

Cancer Awareness Trust, please visit their website at www.BreastCancerPlate.org or contact the Johnson County Health Department at 317-346-4366 and ask for information about Mammograms.

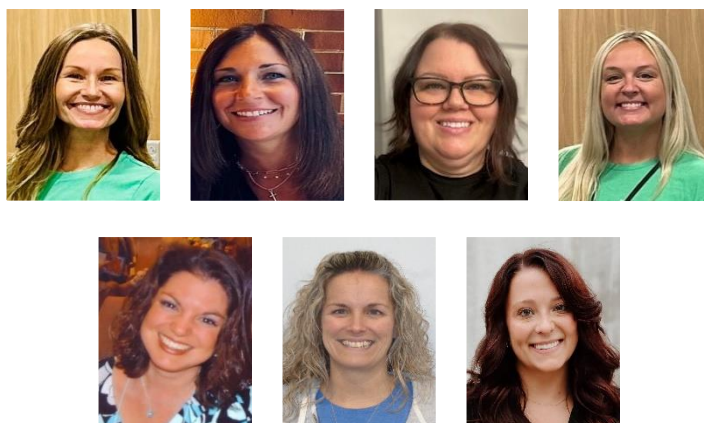
PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING

Mission

The Nursing Division of the Johnson County Health Department works to protect and improve community health through assessment, prevention, education, surveillance, and treatment.

Services offered by the Nursing Division are immunizations from birth through eighteen years of age, adult immunizations, communicable disease investigation, tuberculin skin testing, QFT testing, case management and treatment, blood lead testing and case management, HIV and Hepatitis C testing and community outreach.

In 2024, the nursing staff consisted of three public health nurses, one medical assistant, one immunization coordinator, one school health liaison, and one health educator.



Staff: Top Row (left to right): Director of Nursing Lisa Brown, R.N., Public Health Nurse Kiley Leugers, R.N., Public Health Nurse Elizabeth Burkhart, R.N., Medical Assistant Sarah Robertson, M.A.

Bottom Row (left to right): Immunization Coordinator Jordan Sanders, School Health Liaison Shannon Lacey, and Health Educator Jaycie Miller.

The Johnson County Health Department offers all vaccines recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. All immunizations provided by the Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program were provided at no cost for children and adolescents on Medicaid, with a twenty-dollar administration fee for children and adolescents who were uninsured.

Beginning in 2015, the Health Department was able to begin seeing fully insured patients. This very beneficial program allows patients with all types of insurance to receive vaccinations through the Health Department. We are very excited about this opportunity to extend our services to include more children and adults in Johnson County.

Immunizations are essential to protect our community against numerous vaccine preventable diseases. Education and increasing compliance rates have been a priority of the nursing division. When citizens are more informed about the importance of vaccination, they are more likely to stay on track with their immunizations. Throughout the year, we continued to send out notifications about vaccination opportunities as well as making reminder calls to let families know about upcoming and missed appointments.



In 2024, the Johnson County Health Department administered a total of 2,062 doses of vaccine and immunized 803 patients.

Vaccine numbers for children from birth through eighteen years:

DT/DTaP (diphtheria, tetanus and acellular pertussis)	32
DTaP/Hep B/IPV	10
DTaP/HIB/IPV	8
DTaP/Hep B/HIB/IPV	42
DTaP/IPV	38
Td/Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria and acellular pertussis)	128
Polio	66
Hepatitis A	126
Hepatitis B	52
HIB (haemophilus influenza type B)	13
PCV20	68
PCV15	7
Rotavirus	19
MMR (measles, mumps, rubella)	46
MMR/V	72
Varicella (chickenpox)	53
MCV4 (meningococcal A, C, W, Y)	231
Meningococcal B	100
HPV (human papillomavirus)	165
Seasonal Influenza	159

Vaccine numbers for adults nineteen years and older:

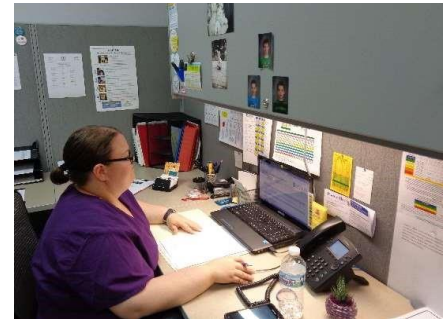
Td/Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, and acellular pertussis)	74
Hepatitis A	28
Hepatitis B	94
HPV(human papillomavirus)	14
MMR (measles, mumps, rubella)	36
Varicella (chickenpox)	39
MCV4 (meningococcal)	1
Meningococcal B	10
Seasonal Influenza	104
PCV20 (pneumococcal)	16
High Dose Influenza	52
Polio	8

Just as important as the act of immunizing is the documentation of those vaccines. Each vaccine administered at the Johnson County Health Department is documented in CHIRP. CHIRP is the Childhood and Hoosier Immunization Registry Program. Having an up-to-date immunization record helps prevent unnecessary duplication or missed opportunity of vaccination.

The Johnson County Health Department has a performance improvement plan in place, which focuses on performing a reminder/recall at the beginning of every month to identify those children who have fallen behind with their immunizations. Over the past several years, this plan has proven to keep our patients more up-to-date with their vaccinations.

Communicable Disease Reporting and Investigation

A communicable disease is a contagious infection such as tuberculosis, pertussis, hepatitis, chickenpox, and salmonella. Approximately sixty communicable diseases are required by law to be reported to the local health department by hospitals, physicians, and laboratories.



The Johnson County Health Department also offers TB Mantoux skin testing, and Tuberculosis case management including treatment and education for both latent infection and active disease. During 2024, the nursing division administered 472 TB skin tests and 24 QFT-G blood test were drawn.

Education and medication were given to patients with latent TB infection. Each person who completes the recommended course of medication therapy for TB receives documentation to prove that they have completed treatment. There were less than 5 active Tuberculosis cases in 2024. There were a total of 140 cases opened for LTBI in 2024. Of those, 107 were confirmed cases, 9 were not cases, and 24 suspect cases that failed to follow up. We also had 21 class B arrivals to Johnson County in 2024.

Reports of Selected Communicable Disease in 2024

2019 Novel Coronavirus	1,632
Chronic Hepatitis C	93
Carbapenemase- producing organisms (CPO)	41
Salmonellosis	25
Campylobacteriosis	29
Legionellosis	2

Lead Case Management

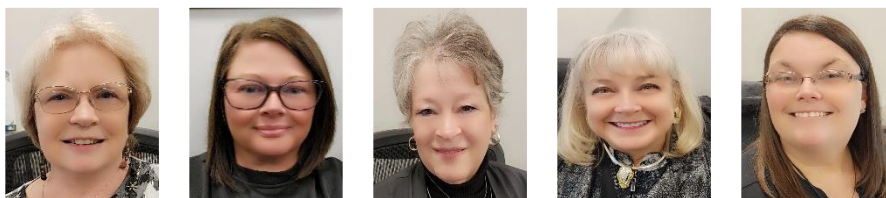
The Johnson County Health Department continues to implement lead case management. We have monitored several children that have had elevated blood lead levels. The case management has included collaboration with the Indiana State Department of Health, the child's physician, home visits, risk assessments, and education with the families to assess the possible sources of lead exposure.

Community Health

The Johnson County Health Department continues to advocate and educate for the health of the citizens in our community. In 2024, the Nursing Division continued offering HIV and Hepatitis C testing to Johnson County residents. This new program assists in preventing the transmission of these diseases. It also provides an opportunity to offer education and resources for harm reduction and prevention strategies.

VITAL RECORDS REPORT

There were 412 babies born in 2024; 195 males and 217 females. Of those born, 19 were home births and or mid-wife deliveries.



Staff (left to right): Vital Registrar Cheryl Snider, Records Clerk Amanda Hilton, Environmental Clerk/IBCAT Coordinator JoEllen Michener, Part-time Clerk Nancy Smith, and Part-time Records Clerk Jody Lashlee

There were 1,185 deaths in Johnson County in 2024, two of which were still pending cause of death at the time of this report. Communicable diseases contributed to 12 of these deaths, while homicides accounted for 1 death. Drug intoxication deaths were down from 31 in 2023 to 28

deaths in 2024. There were 26 known suicide deaths in 2023 and 2024. There was also one child death in 2024. Below provides a complete listing of all the causes of death in 2024.

Causes of Death 2024

Adult Failure to Thrive /Debility	34	COPD/Repertory/Pulmonary Embolism	179
Abdominal Aneurysm	1	Coronary Artery Disease/Heart	260
Alzheimer's/Dementia/Senility	200	Creutzfeldt-Jacob Disease	1
Amitriptyline Overdose	1	Communicable Disease	12
Anemia	1	Diabetes and complications	6
Aortic Aneurysms/Stenosis	2	Drug Overdoses:	
Asphyxia	7	Fentanyl Overdose	10
Batton's Disease	1	All other drugs	18
Blunt Force Trauma	9	Dysphagia	2
Bowel Obstruction	3	Encephalopathy	4
Cancer/Carcinoma/Neoplasms		Ethanolism	11
Bladder	7	Gastrointestinal issues	13
Bone	2	Gunshot Wounds	15
Brain	9	Homicide	1
Breast	21	Huntington's Disease	1
Cervical	4	Kidney (Renal) Disease	17
Colorectal	10	Liver Disease (Hepatic)	8
Endometrial	1	Malnutrition	10
Fallopian Tube	1	Muscular Dystrophy	1
Gastric	8	Myelodysplastic Syndrome	1
Head & Neck	16	Neurofibromatosis	1
Kidney	5	Nuclear Ophthalmoplegia	1
Leukemia	7	Oropharyngeal Dysphagia	1
Liver	8	Osteomyelitis	3
Lung	56	Paraplegia	1
Lymphoma	9	Parkinson's Disease	14
Multi Organ	7	Peritonitis	1
Neuroendocrine	1	Pneumonia	30
Ovarian	1	Psychomotor Deficit	2
Oropharynx	1	Rectal Necrosis	1
Pancreatic	20	Sclerosis	1
Penile	1	Seizure Disorders	2
Prostate	12	Sepsis	9
Skin	6	Sigmoid Obstruction	1
Squamous Cell	3	Thromboembolic Event (Blood clot)	1
Stomach	1	Thermal Burns	1
Unknown	3	Tumor of Chest Wall	1
Urothelial	6	Unknown	3
Uterine	2	Von Willebrand Disease	1
Vulvar	2		
Cellulitis	1		
Cerebral Hemorrhage/Aneurysm/Injury	53		

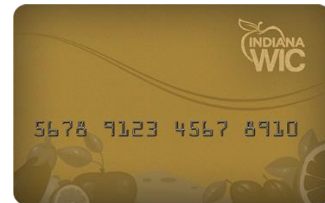


WIC (Women, Infants and Children)

The WIC program helps families start strong and stay that way. WIC is a special supplemental food and nutrition program that provides participants with a WIC specific EBT card that is used to purchase nutritious foods, for free.

Those eligible for WIC include:

- Pregnant women
- Breastfeeding moms (up to one year after delivery)
- Non-breastfeeding moms (up to six months postpartum)
- Infants
- Children up to age five



WIC Services

- A monthly food package is loaded onto a debit card.
- Nutrition education and nutrition counseling as well as height/weight assessments and iron/hemoglobin testing, that is administered by a Registered Dietitian or a Registered Nurse.
- Referrals to other health and social services.
- Breastfeeding classes that are offered daily Monday-Friday and are open to the public as well.
- Nutrition Classes
- Weekly Story Time Sessions with the local library
- WIC enrollment at Johnson Memorial Hospital two days a week.
- Collaboration with insurance navigators via weekly office visits for participants to help obtain health insurance.
- We collaborate with Indiana Diaper Bank and provide a space to host as a diaper distribution site every other month at both the Shelbyville and Franklin Location.



Indiana Legal Help Kiosk

The Franklin location is the only WIC office in Indiana that has a Indiana Legal Help Kiosk which helps those confidentially print and submit legal forms. Open to the public.

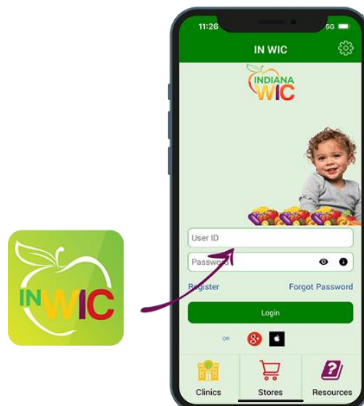


Breastfeeding Support

Our WIC program was one of six WIC agencies in Indiana that was awarded the Loving Support Award of Excellence from USDA in 2019 and the USDA Gold Premiere Breastfeeding Award of Excellence in 2021.

We provide breastfeeding support to moms and babies by using breastfeeding peer counselors, offering classes, providing support groups and offering individual lactation consultations. Our support shows in our 76% breastfeeding initiation rate! At our clinic we have three location consultants on staff and provide breast pumps, if after assessment, it is found that one is needed.

The INWIC App makes it easier to manage WIC benefits as well as provide nutrition education, community resources, WIC appointment reminders and WIC store and clinic locations.



The WIC Food Package

WIC participants receive benefits monthly that are used at local grocery stores to purchase specific foods, which include the following:

- Milk, Cheese, Yogurt, Tofu
- 100% juice
- Eggs, Beans, Peanut Butter
- Cereal
- Whole grains such as;
 - Whole wheat bread
 - Whole wheat tortillas
 - Brown Rice
 - Whole grain pasta
- Fruit and Vegetable Dollar Amounts
- Fish are added to an exclusively breastfeeding woman's food package.

Infants receive the following food package:

- A supplemental formula package for the infant.
- When the infant turns 6 months of age, the WIC food package provides infant cereal and fruit and vegetable jar baby foods.
- If baby is exclusively breastfeeding, then WIC provides additional fruit and vegetable jar baby foods as well as meat jar foods.

WIC Income Eligibility and Contact Information as of June 2024

Household Size	Annual Income	Monthly Income
1	\$27,861	\$2,322
2	\$37,814	\$3,152
3	\$47,767	\$3,981
4	\$57,720	\$4,810
5	\$67,673	\$5,640
6	\$77,626	\$6,469
7	\$85,579	\$7,299
8	\$97,532	\$8,128
Each Additional Person	\$9,953	

**Income guidelines updated annually

Income Eligibility:

All eligible people who receive Medicaid, Food Stamps, and TANF are income-eligible for WIC. For those who do not receive these services, the adjacent chart provides income guidelines.

*Income means total income before deductions. Also, we only screen past 30 days of income.

Note: A pregnant woman includes her unborn baby when determining household.

*A household means a group of people (related or not) who are living as one economic unit.

Clinic Environment and Participation



Our monthly average enrollment numbers are 4,821 and our participation numbers hover around 4,327 a month. Out of these participants 10% are prenatal women, 15% are postpartum women, 25% are infants, 50% are children.



The Franklin and Shelbyville offices provides a friendly, cozy atmosphere to its participants, which has a lot to do with the hard work of the WIC staff. The staff takes pride in making clients feel welcomed and has volunteered their time in improving the clinic by using their personal touches such as painting, organizing and decorating. Throughout the clinic, colorful interactive toys are available to entertain children during their visit.

A Teaching Facility

The Johnson County WIC Program partners with various dietetic internships as well as nursing students. These students pass through our program for their community nutrition rotations and not only gain experience but help with various nutrition projects for our clients.

We have also accepted high school students during their workforce rotation who are interested in the health care field as well as nursing students and individuals needing hours to help further their career in lactation.

Child Safety Seat Inspection Station

The Franklin WIC office has three certified car seat technicians on staff to assist parents with free car inspections and installs, when needed. As of February 2024 we became a permanent car fitting station granted by the Indiana Department of Health, who will help supplement with car seats.

Expanding our WIC family

Last year we rang in the New Year by embracing the Shelby County WIC to become a part of our local agency program. This year we are opening up a WIC clinic in Greenwood, IN in the Spring of 2025. WIC is family and we are proud to support fellow clinics and counties to provide the best resources to our participants no matter where they live.

Johnson County WIC Contact Information

Franklin WIC Program
 600 Ironwood Drive, Suite I
 Franklin, IN 46131
 Phone: (317) 736-6628 / Fax (317) 736-4961
 Johnsoncountywic.com
 Facebook.com/IndianaWIC
 Instagram@johnsoncountywic
 Hours: Mon, Wed, Thurs, Fri 8-4:30pm
 Tuesday: 10:30-7pm

Shelby WIC Program
 2418 East State Road 44
 Shelbyville, IN 46176
 Phone: (317) 398-3002 / Fax: (317) 392-6205
 Facebook/Shelby County WIC- Indiana
 Instagram@WIC of Shelbyville Indiana
 Hours: Tues, Wed, Thurs, Fri 8-4:30
 Monday 10:30-7pm

Greenwood WIC Program- To Be Announced.



News Articles:

<https://dailyjournal.net/2023/12/12/johnson-county-wic-to-absorb-shelby-branch/>

<https://dailyjournal.net/2022/06/09/johnson-county-wic-helping-parents-navigate-formula-shortage/>

https://dailyjournal.net/2018/08/13/garden_encourages_healthy_eating_habits/

<https://dailyjournal.net/2022/06/03/voucher-program-expands-access-at-franklin-farmers-market/>

<https://fox59.com/news/6-indiana-wic-agencies-recognized-for-supporting-breastfeeding/>



Johnson County Health Department

Your local health department is dedicated to promoting the health and wellness of the citizens of Johnson County, Indiana. The health department responds to community health needs and develops policies and programs designed to promote public health. Our professionally educated staff seek to provide efficient and effective health-related services in the Environmental, Nursing, Vital Records, and WIC divisions.

Our hope is that our website will provide prevention education regarding various health-related topics, information regarding services provided, contact information, and printable forms, applications and educational material. Our web site address <https://co.johnson.in.us>. Our Facebook page can be found at Johnson County Health Department – Indiana.

In 2024, the Health Department was very fortunate to be able to move into a new office building located at 95 South Drake Road in Franklin. The new building was made possible through the use of federal ARPA funds the county received for COVID-19. The building is shared with the County Coroner's Office and morgue.

STAFF DIRECTORY

Administration – 317-346-4375

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 Elizabeth Swearingen, Health Department Director
 Connie Wiegler, Office Manager
 Lisa Brown, Director of Nursing

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 Elizabeth Senisse, Environmental Health Specialist
 Andrew Miller, Environmental Health Specialist
 Paul Betiku, Environmental Health Specialist
 Cassi Hall, Environmental Health Specialist
 Mia Papageorge, Environmental Health Specialist
 Terry Bayless, Part-time Environmental Health Specialist
 Kevin Paulin, Environmental Health Specialist
 Caleb Fleener, Part-time Environmental Health Specialist

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 Sarah Robertson, Medical Assistant
 Jordan Sanders, Immunization Coordinator
 Jaycie Miller, Health Educator

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Shannon Lacey, School Liaison Coordinator

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 Nancy Smith, Part-time Assistant
 Amanda Hilton, Records Clerk
 Jody Lashlee, Part-time Records Clerk
 Miriam Rooks, Administrative Clerk

IT Division – 317- 346-4377

Bob Langdoc, IT Specialist

W.I.C. –Johnson 317-736-6628

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 Abby Deckard, Registered Dietitian
 Emma Manns, Registered Dietitian
 Angela Larkin, Registered Dietitian, Lactation Consultant

Amy Truelove, Registered Dietitian
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Peggy Riddle, Clinic Assistant
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Sarah Defelice, Registered Dietitian
Alayna Abner, Breastfeeding Peer Counselor

W.I.C. –Shelbyville 317-398-3002

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Darcy Muldoon, Registered Dietitian
Alena Barnes, Clinic Assistant
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Brionna Redd, Breastfeeding Peer Counselor