



# HEALTH FIRST ALLEN COUNTY

## ANNUAL REPORT

The Second Year of Historic Investments in  
Local Public Health Systems through the  
Health First Indiana Initiative

# 2025



# HEALTHFIRST

Allen County



Innovation is impossible without thoughtful decision-makers who are willing to take a step back, to consider challenges anew and rethink methods and options for solving problems.

Health First Allen County, in its second year, provided continued innovation, with the Allen County Department of Health and trusted, essential partners working together in 2025 to improve the well-being of local residents through the provision of Core Public Health Services prescribed in state law. The Health Department and its partners again examined public health challenges and utilized needed state resources to fund services and programming designed to positively impact a variety of longstanding problems, including food insecurity among children, vaping among children and teens and lack of access among low-income seniors and disabled people to clinical care.

This report details that work.

Health First Allen County (HFAC) is our initiative, formed from the creation of Health First Indiana – a state-led effort aimed at shoring up public health infrastructure.

Lawmakers in 2023 passed landmark legislation that was later signed into law guaranteeing additional funding for health departments, including ours. Allen County officials later accepted the funding, and 2024 was the first year of implementation of new, in-house programming and a public health grant program through which community partners offered services and programming.

That work continued this year, with nearly \$3 million in public health grant funding provided to partners. The Health Department also continued proactive efforts to ensure our community is and stays healthy through proactive measures such as providing incentives for vaccination of children.

We are disappointed some of that work will be pared back in coming years, as legislators voted in 2025 to significantly cut funding for local health departments. We remain committed to promoting and protecting public health, however, by preventing disease, protecting the environment and preserving vital records.

We are proud to continue our work to improve public health in Allen County.



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## \*\*Important Note

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This annual report encompasses programming and data from the Health First Allen County initiative *only* (just internal projects and external funded partnerships through Health First Indiana). It is intended to outline the new(er) or continued programming and partnerships deployed since roll-out of the Health First Indiana initiative as it relates to our work within the defined Core Public Health Service areas.

ALL OF THE DEPARTMENT'S OTHER PROGRAMMING, DATA AND BUDGETARY INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND ON OUR WEBSITE AT: [www.allencountyhealth.com](http://www.allencountyhealth.com)



# Introduction

Health First Allen County (HFAC) programming began in 2024 following passage of Senate Enrolled Act 4 in 2023, paving the way for expanded public health programming across the state of Indiana. The act required local health departments to provide services and activities in various Core Public Health Service (CPHS) areas as well as attempt to achieve a great number of key performance indicators (KPIs, or goals). Some of these areas of practice were very new to local health department practice in 2024.

Our inaugural year was incredibly successful – from the development and deployment of new and preventive internal programming, to the creation of a public health grant program, which assisted with expanded community partnerships reaching various populations. The overall HFAC plan for 2025 was very similar to that of 2024, but with an expanded grant and programming footprint and updated local key performance metric goals.

In April 2025, however, we were informed of significant legislative budget cuts to the 1.5-year-old funding for the 2026-2027 biennium, as well as changes to core service expenditure allowances, preclusions on clients provided with certain services and the deletion of one core public health service altogether (Tobacco Cessation & Education). All service and allowable expenditure changes were effective upon passage in the General Assembly in April.

In short, nearly 75% of the funding that was to be distributed to local health departments throughout 2026 and 2027 was cut. Local health departments were told to begin making changes in prospective budgets for the coming year and to employ the new service provisions immediately. We complied with all changes in real-time, including notification of grant-funded partners also affected by these changes. Several funded partnerships ceased immediately, due to these service and funding preclusions.

In summary, here is a list of legislative changes that took place in 2025 relative to the Health First Indiana (HFI) initiative and what is predicted for the 2026-2027 biennium:

- HFI funding can now only be used to serve Indiana residents and people in the United States lawfully.
- HFI funding cannot be spent on tobacco cessation education, services or programming.
- The next biennium's funding (1/2026-12/2027) was reduced by nearly 75%. For Allen County, this brought our HFI award amount from \$8.6 million to \$2.4 million for each of the two upcoming years. That said, the funding amount we receive now – although lower than the past two years under the HFI initiative – is higher than what we received pre-HFI. For that, we are very grateful. The services required under this reduced amount is daunting, as nearly all of the 2024 key performance goals and general work remain as the expectation.

We finished 2025 with many successes and a will to continue as much programming as possible and weather the next two-year budget desert.

This annual report will provide information on the overall activities performed, data gathered, partnerships developed and outcomes achieved in Year 2 of Health First Allen County.

Thank you for reading this report, and for your interest in the public health betterment this initiative will no doubt contribute to as we continue this important work in the community for years to come.

# Where Do We Stand...

When we embarked on this journey in late 2023 and into 2024, it was important to us to know where we started to enable future comparisons of public health outcomes and rankings. Therefore, we included an “Our Starting Point” page in the 2024 Health First Allen County annual report to provide some baseline data taken from the Indiana Department of Health dashboards specific to Allen County. Many things have changed or shifted, so we have rethought this section of the report to provide a historical “look back snapshot” each year, if possible.

**The information below is a much larger provision of various national, state and local statistics on various health rates, rankings and outcomes.** This snapshot of the health outcomes/rankings for Allen County according to the Indiana Department of Health as they stood at time of this document’s publication (2026, Q1). This will be monitored each year as data is made available to us.

## DOLLARS DEDICATED TO PUBLIC HEALTH

*Dollars dedicated to public health per person (including federal grants directed to states from the CDC and the Health Resources and Services Administration) (Two-year estimate – 2022-2023)*

**United States**

**\$124**

**Indiana**

**\$73**

**Indiana Rank**

**48/50**

Source: [https://www.americashealthrankings.org/explore/measures/PH\\_funding](https://www.americashealthrankings.org/explore/measures/PH_funding)

## VARIOUS INDIANA/ALLEN COUNTY HEALTH RATES

**The Year is Specified Below Per Rate**

	<b>State</b>	<b>Allen County</b>	<b>Rank</b>
Cigarette Smoking During Pregnancy (2023)	5.3%	4.5%	16th
Life Expectancy (2020-2022)	75.1 years	75.5 years	37th
Opioid Overdose Rate (2018-2022) - per 100,000 Population	25.07	25	65th
Smoking Rate (2018-2022)	17.9%	16.9%	18th
Suicide Rate (2019-2023) - per 100,000 Population	16	14.8	15th
Years of Potential Life Lost Due to Injury (2020)	2,527.14	2,299.59	51st
Heart Disease Death Rate (2021-2023) - per 100,000 Population Age 35+	361	310	NA
Stroke Death Rate (2021-2023) - per 100,000 Population Age 35+	83	88	NA
Percent Prevalence of High Blood Pressure (2021)	31.85%	32.6%	NA
Percent Prevalence of High Cholesterol (2021)	30.45%	29.8%	NA
Estimated Asthma Prevalence for Indiana (2021) - Adult Current Rate	10%	NA	NA
Estimated Asthma Prevalence for Indiana (2021) - Child Current Rate	6.3%	NA	NA

Source(s): <https://www.in.gov/healthfirstindiana/county-health-scorecard/>  
[IDOH Public Health Data Navigator Dashboard](https://www.in.gov/health/cdpc/cardiovascular-health/heart-disease/)  
<https://www.in.gov/health/cdpc/cardiovascular-health/heart-disease/>

## YOUTH VAPING/SECONDHAND EXPOSURE

### 2024 Data

### STATE RATE

Percent of Indiana H/S Students Using E-Cigarettes/Vapes in the past 30 days	5%
Percent of Indiana H/S Students Susceptible to Trying E-Cigarettes/Vapes for First Time	21.5%
(H/S Students Currently Using): Percent who have attempted to quit at least once in 12 mo.	49.7%
Percent of Indiana H/S Students who reported exposure to secondhand e-cigarette/vape aerosol in an indoor public place in past 30 days	29.8%
Percent of Indiana H/S Students who reported exposure to secondhand e-cigarette/vape aerosol in an outdoor public place in past 30 days	29.7%

Source(s): <https://www.in.gov/healthfirstindiana/youth-vaping-dashboard/>

## ADULT OBESITY

	State	Allen County	Rank in IN	Notes
<b>2020</b>	37%	36.2%	NOT AVAILABLE	<i>County Level Data not yet calculated for 2023 and later (as of 1/2026)</i>
<b>2021</b>	36.1%	38.4%	NOT AVAILABLE	
<b>2022</b>	37.9%	38.3%	NOT AVAILABLE	
<b>2023</b>	38%	NOT YET AVAILABLE	NOT AVAILABLE	
<b>2018-2023 (5 YR RATE)</b>	44%	42.4%	8th	

Source(s): <https://www.in.gov/healthfirstindiana/adult-chronic-disease-and-obesity-dashboard/>  
<https://www.in.gov/healthfirstindiana/county-health-scorecard/>

## ADULT DIABETES

	State	Allen County	Rank in IN	Notes
<b>2020</b>	10.7%	10%	NA	
<b>2021</b>	10.9%	11.1%	NA	
<b>2022</b>	11.3%	11.6%	NA	
<b>2023</b>	11.5%	NOT YET AVAILABLE		

Source(s): <https://www.in.gov/healthfirstindiana/adult-chronic-disease-and-obesity-dashboard/>

## INFANT MORTALITY RATE (PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS)

	State	Allen County	Rank in IN	Notes
<b>2014</b>	7.1			<i>No county-specific historical rates available at this time</i>
<b>2015</b>	7.3			
<b>2016</b>	7.5			
<b>2017</b>	7.3			
<b>2018</b>	6.8			
<b>2019</b>	6.5			
<b>2020</b>	6.6			
<b>2021</b>	6.7			
<b>2022</b>	7.2			
<b>2023</b>	6.6	6.99	46th	

Source(s): <https://www.in.gov/healthfirstindiana/maternal-and-infant-risk-factors-dashboard/>

**SUDDEN UNEXPECTED INFANT DEATH ("SUID")  
RATE (PER 100,000 LIVE BIRTHS)**

	<b>State</b>
<b>2014</b>	102.4
<b>2015</b>	98.8
<b>2016</b>	102.3
<b>2017</b>	121.5
<b>2018</b>	94.3
<b>2019</b>	122.4
<b>2020</b>	133.6
<b>2021</b>	107.5
<b>2022</b>	123
<b>2023</b>	121.5

Source(s): <https://www.in.gov/healthfirstindiana/maternal-and-infant-risk-factors-dashboard/>

**NEW HIV DIAGNOSES  
(per 100,000 Population)**

	<b>State</b>	<b>Allen County</b>
<b>2018</b>	7.9	7.3
<b>2019</b>	8.1	4.2
<b>2020</b>	7	4.4
<b>2021</b>	7.8	4.5
<b>2022</b>	9.1	6.2
<b>2023</b>	10	10.8
<b>2024</b>	10.3	6.1

Source(s): <https://www.in.gov/healthfirstindiana/hiv-dashboard/>

**PRIMARY & SECONDARY SYPHILIS INCIDENCE RATE (per 100,000 Population)**

	<b>State</b>	<b>Allen County</b>
<b>2020</b>	10.8	6.3*
<b>2021</b>	15.1	3.4*
<b>2022</b>	14.6	7.6
<b>2023</b>	12.5	11.9
<b>2024</b>	11.3	9.9

*\*This rate is based on counts less than 20 and is considered unstable/unreliable. Interpret with caution.*

Source(s): <https://www.in.gov/healthfirstindiana/syphilis-testing-and-staging-dashboard/>

**CANCER-RELATED RATES & DATA (per 100,000 Population)**

	<b>State</b>	<b>Allen County</b>
<b>Rate of New Cancers - All Cancer (2018-2022)</b>	466.8	446.1
<b>Number of New Cancers - All Cancer (2018-2022)</b>	192,208	9,750

Source(s): [IDOH Cancer Dashboard](#)

## DEATHS DUE TO ALL INJURIES

	State	State Death Rate (per 100,000)	Allen County
<b>2022</b>	6,885	100.76	361
<b>2023</b>	6,474	94.34	332
<b>2024</b>	5,809	83.89	295

Source(s): <https://www.in.gov/healthfirstindiana/trauma-and-injury-prevention-dashboard/>

## CHILDREN <3 Years Old Completing Recommended Vaccine Series (2024 - Q4)

	State	Allen County	Rank in IN	Notes
<b>2024/Q4</b>	62.2%	60%	67th	<i>2025 data not available</i>

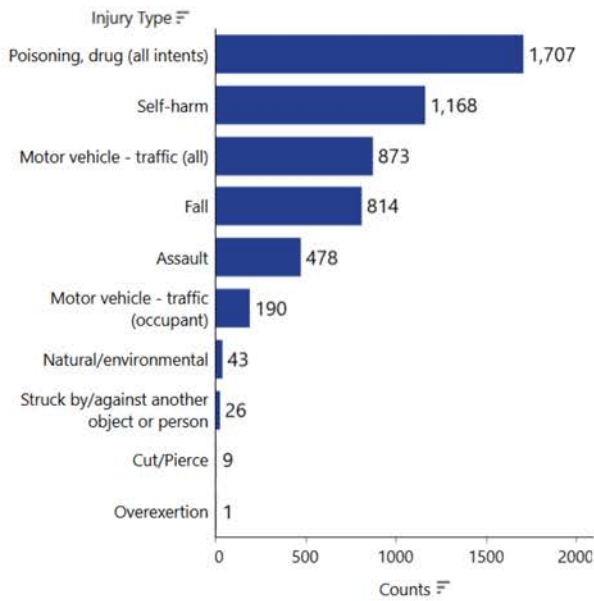
Source(s): <https://www.in.gov/healthfirstindiana/county-health-scorecard/>

## DEATHS (by Top 10 Injury Types) - 2024

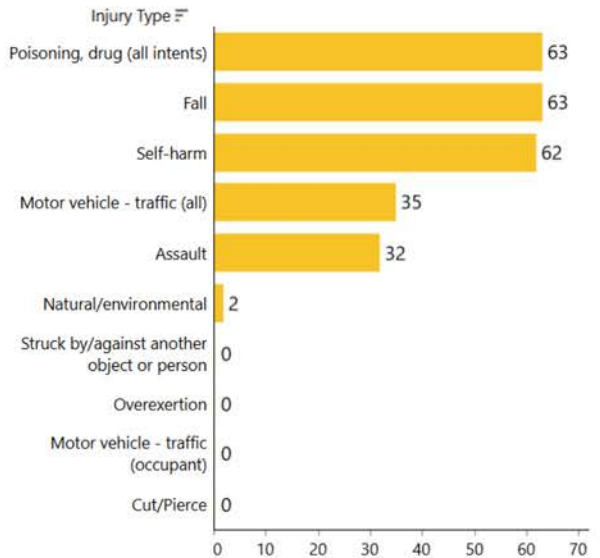
### INDIANA

### ALLEN COUNTY

Deaths, by Top 10 Injury Types (Counts) ⓘ



Deaths, by Top 10 Injury Types (Counts) ⓘ



Graphs (Source): <https://www.in.gov/healthfirstindiana/trauma-and-injury-prevention-dashboard/>























# HEALTH FIRST ALLEN COUNTY


## Core Public Health Services


The following individual graphics represent the main required Core Public Health Services (CPHS) – e.g. the new framework of services within which Indiana local health departments are to work, and we have noted the 2025 changes in legislation. Within each CPHS area, there are various key performance indicators (goals) toward which health departments are to strive over time. Each county was given the ability to determine the needs and gaps that exist in their communities, which drove how these service areas were addressed, but certain specifics on outcomes was provided by the Indiana Department of Health (IDOH).

Our hybrid approach of developing both internal and external programming continued throughout 2025. We expanded our public health grant program – awarding nearly \$3 million in funding to external partners (nearly \$1 million more than in 2024) – working toward cultivating new partnerships along the way. Our approach allowed us to come alongside existing organizations, learn about the services being provided in our area and work toward synergies and alignments we hope will strengthen public health delivery infrastructure for the future.

This report outlines how these CPHS areas were addressed in various ways, through internal work, external partnerships and ongoing collaboration.

 <p>Access to &amp; Linkage to Clinical Care</p> 	 <p>Chronic Disease Prevention</p> 	 <p>Environmental Public Health</p>
 <p>Fatality Review &amp; Prevention</p>	 <p>Food Protection</p>	 <p>Health-Related Areas during Emerg. /Disasters</p>
 <p>Immunizations (Child &amp; Adult)</p>	 <p>Infectious Disease Prevention &amp; Control</p>	 <p>Lead Case Mgmt &amp; Risk Assessment</p>
 <p>Maternal &amp; Child Health</p> 	 <p>School Health Liaison</p> 	 <p>Tobacco/Vaping Cessation &amp; Prev.</p>  
 <p>Trauma &amp; Injury Prevention</p> 	 <p>Tuberculosis Prev. &amp; Case Management</p>	 <p>Vital Records</p>

 These Core Public Health Service areas were not required parts of local health department service delivery until 2024. In Allen County, we continued external funding in these areas in 2025.

 Legislatively removed as a Core Public Health Service in April 2025, along with the ability to expend HFI funds on this type of work. This core service box will be removed in future reports.

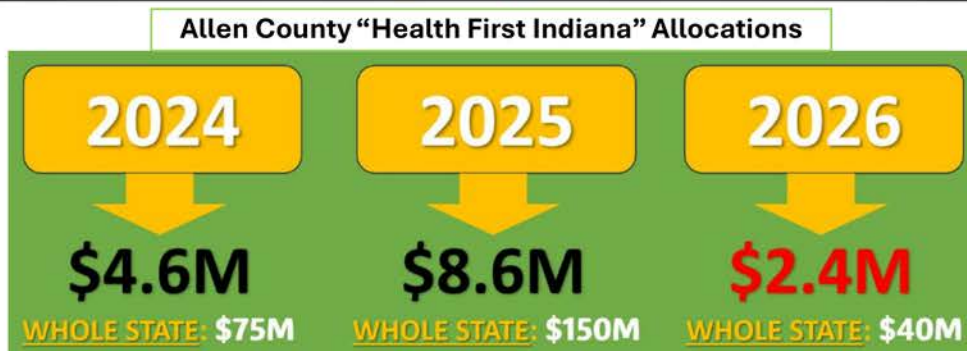
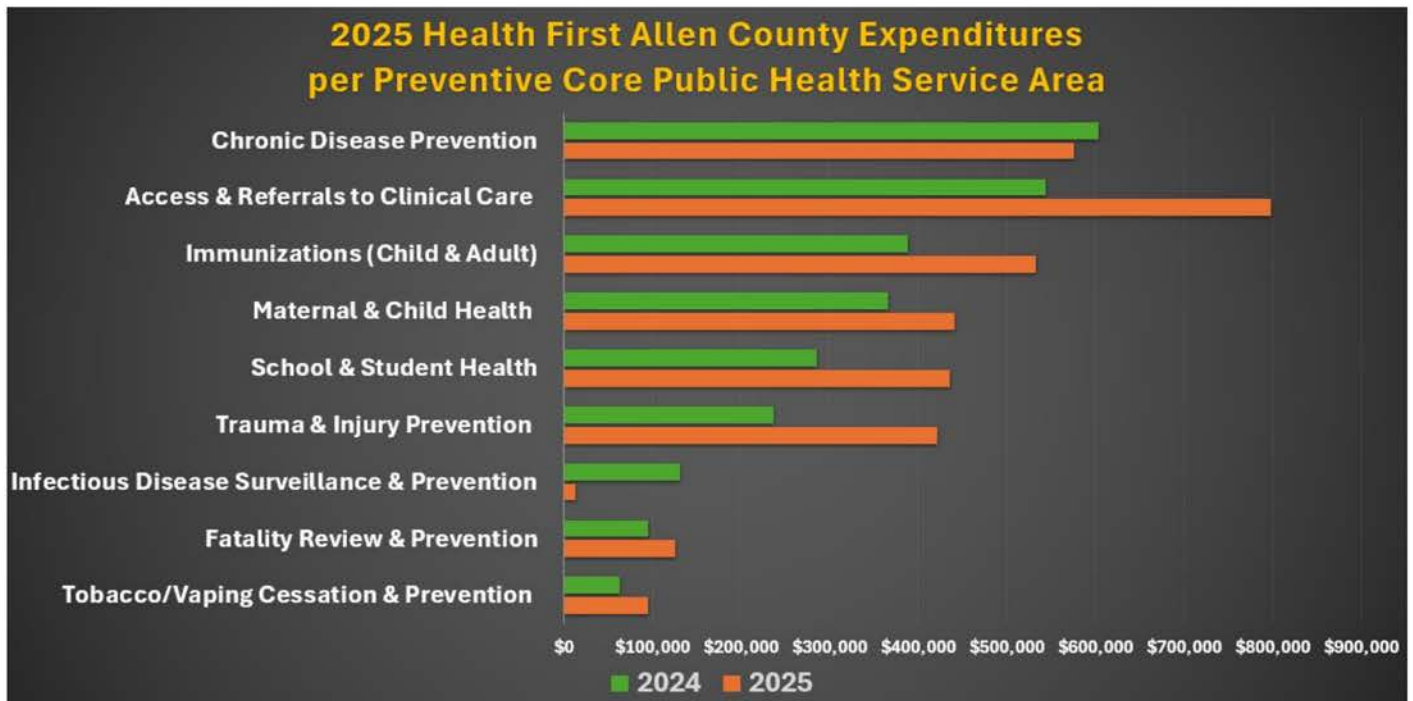
# HEALTH FIRST ALLEN COUNTY

## Budget & Expenditures

	2024	2025
<b>REVENUE</b>	<b>\$4,650,779.69</b>	<b>\$8,988,388.40</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$3,083,671.83</b>	<b>\$4,719,076.70</b>
Personnel & Benefits	\$709,114.02	\$1,210,690.82
Supplies & Equipment (Incentives, Office & Clinical Supplies)	\$117,584.10	\$432,772.45
Other Services, Contracts and Operational	\$2,256,973.71	\$3,075,613.43
Public Health Partner Grant Program	\$2,103,922.02	\$2,940,128.00
Data Analytics, Translation & Related Services	\$65,272.50	\$104,418.80
Communications, Travel, Printing, Promotional	\$52,711.94	\$31,066.63
Misc. Contractual Services	\$35,067.25	\$0
Capital Outlays**	\$0	\$0

\*\*Capital Outlays are earmarked for future expenditures as allowed by law (but have not yet been expended) – 10% of HFI allocation/yr

For the expenditures under the HFI initiative in 2024-2025, the following graphic outlines the amounts put toward each of the larger (and for the most part, newly added) Core Public Health Service areas:



# HEALTH FIRST ALLEN COUNTY

## *Internal Projects & Programming*

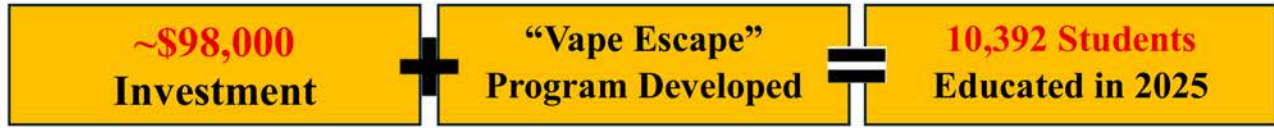
Funding provided under the Health First Indiana (HFI) initiative allowed for the development and deployment of even more new and exciting proactive and preventive activities. This section outlines some of the larger projects developed and rolled out in 2025, but is not an all-inclusive list of new services.



*Preventive Health starts local...*

# School & Community Health Education Initiatives

## Vaping Education & Materials Disposal



We continued our commitment to Allen County schools by extending our student vape education campaign and vape material disposal programming, which promotes safety.

As reported by school leadership, student vaping continues to be one of the largest health and most problematic disciplinary issues in schools. In 2024, we launched a comprehensive, proactive education campaign in public schools for all fifth, sixth and seventh grade students. Working with McMillen Health, which delivered the programming in various ways to students according to the needs of each class, we reached 10,289 students in 2024 and 10,392 students in 2025. This represents nearly every fifth through seventh grade public school student in Allen County.

In 2025, we funded development of a revised seventh grade course, so that each year the students receive different educational information that builds on the year before and is commensurate with the educational level of the age group. This new course was deployed with the fall 2025 school year, and this three-grade-year cadre of courses is showing great promise toward educating young people about their health and dangers of vaping.

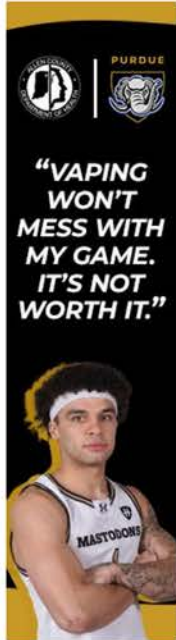
Pre- and post-testing takes place in each class, and we are pleased with the results so far. We are seeing an overall increase in knowledge of approximately 76% over baseline knowledge. When separated by grade, we see the following:

INCREASE IN KNOWLEDGE BY STUDENTS			
(per pre/post testing)	5th Grade	6th Grade	7th Grade
<b>2024</b>	86%	94%	56%
<b>2025</b>	83%	77%	62%
<b>CUMULATIVE AVERAGE TO DATE</b>	85%	85%	59%

We hope to continue this programming for as long as the funding will allow and as long as it is needed. We are most appreciative of school leadership across the county who have embraced this novel, preventive training. Our goal is to decrease the number of students who start or continue to use vape materials and additionally, we hope information is shared with families who also choose to change their vaping behaviors toward a more healthy home environment.

# Purdue University Fort Wayne Athletics Partnership

## Vaping Cessation and Prevention for Students



One of the innovative and, frankly, fun things we were able to do within our Health First Allen County initiative was to establish new ways to engage with and educate the community. Early in 2025, the Allen County Department of Health became a partner of Purdue University Fort Wayne Athletics.

More than a cool tagline, the partnership allowed us to get our messages directly to Mastodons fans, expanding our reach and promoting health through education about important topics such as tobacco/vaping cessation and prevention.

The PFW partnership included messaging on the scorer's table during games, in game-day programs and on gomastodons.com – the university's athletics website. Radio ads warning about the dangers of vaping were fronted by Mastodons men's basketball star Jalen Jackson and prominent women's basketball standout Lauren Ross. Messages were also read by

members of the men's golf team and the women's volleyball team.

This was a great way to broaden our reach, but also to share in the excitement of northeast Indiana's only NCAA Division 1 sports programs to help get and keep Allen County residents healthy.



## School Confiscated Vape Material Disposal Program



Besides our educational vaping reduction campaign, we continued our safe disposal program for vape material confiscated in schools. Vape materials contain lithium batteries and often, the batteries become distressed and cause fires when not properly stored prior to disposal.

With a continued partnership with the Allen County School Safety Commission, Fort Wayne Fire Department's fire marshal as well as experts from the Allen County Department of Environmental Management (ACDEM), we funded and coordinated a program whereby each school in Allen County was provided the proper storage materials for confiscated vape materials each semester (or as needed for replacements). The program started in 2024 and was very well-received by the school superintendents and staff.

Schools are provided with easy-to-follow instructions on storage and the appropriate methods and contacts for disposal once the safety containers are full. Our department then works with ACDEM to pay for the disposal and track data on the usage across schools.

We heard such positive feedback from school resource officers and leadership, and we are proud to say that many other county health departments around the state are asking for our processes and materials to develop programs in their areas of the state alongside schools.

## Blood Pressure Monitors for Pregnant Women

In early 2025, the Indiana Department of Health provided a number of free blood pressure kits from the Preeclampsia Foundation for local health departments to distribute to their patients or to community partners if the health department does not work directly with expecting mothers. We partnered with three local agencies: A Mother’s Hope, Hope Center, and the ECHO program through Lutheran Social Services, to distribute 100 blood pressure kits. Each kit contained a welcome letter, an automated blood pressure monitor specifically validated for use by pregnant women, instructions on how to properly check your blood pressure, a postcard outlining signs and symptoms of preeclampsia and a still-at-risk bracelet for moms to wear after delivery.



Feedback from our partners: A Hope Center Executive Director Michelle Schoenefeld said, “We thank you for this opportunity to provide the resource to our clients at highest risk. Each client has expressed gratitude for receiving the cuff, and they were each instructed how to use the cuff properly and log the results to share with their physician.” From A Mother’s Hope: “These (kits) have been a wonderful help to our residents who experience blood pressure issues.”

## AED Machines Provided to Area Shelters



We reached out to our area shelters in March to ensure they each had a current and accessible AED unit for use when needed.

We were able to provide the AEDs to: Fort Wayne Rescue Mission & Charis House (two AEDs), Salvation Army (one AED), Vincent Village (one AED), Just Neighbors (one AED), the Lighthouse (two AEDs), and the YWCA (one AED).



# Educational Outreach & Teaching

<b>17 Health Outreach Events Conducted</b>	<b>775 students educated in 16 schools</b>	<b>Continued Amish School Education</b>
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At the beginning of 2025, the Health Educator and School Health Liaison positions were combined into one role after a year of trialing it as two separate full-time positions. The plan was for the new position to continue school-based education established in 2024 and add in community outreach and education. The Health Educator resigned in May 2025 and a new Health Educator was not hired until August. Therefore, there were several months of down time in this staff transition period as we trained and educated our new Health Educator on the role and obtained certifications. The data reflects this – but as of year-end, they were up to speed and educating in full force!

Throughout 2025, the Health Educator continued working with schools to provide education at 16 different schools to 775 students. The in-school courses taught to students include the following:

- **Vape Education** – taught in two schools to 197 students
- **Personal Hygiene** – taught in one school to 19 students
- **Handwashing** – taught in two schools to 83 students
- **Healthy Choices** – taught in two schools to 78 students
- **Dental Health** – taught in three schools to 130 students



Our Amish Education program continued in 2025, including participation in their community Health Fair. Resources were provided and six childhood lead tests were completed.

The formal certifications offered to schools continued at no charge, including **Stop the Bleed** and the American Heart Association’s *K12 HeartSaver* CPR/AED course:

- The American Heart Association’s CPR/AED course was taught for certification for 18 people at three schools. A condensed, not for certification version, was taught to 208 students at three schools.
- Stop the Bleed was taught for certification once, for 19 people, and was taught twice to 53 students for non-certification.

New in 2025, 17 staff members in two schools were trained to use the **Catch My Breath** curriculum, an evidence-based vape education course that can be taught to students in grades K-12.

**Food Safety** was taught to seven students through a partnership with the Girls Coalition.

Also, in the spring of 2025 a new event was held to offer school-based screenings to virtual and home-schooled children. The health department partnered with Super Shot, the Lions Club, School Smiles and the Indiana Department of Health to offer immunizations, vision screenings, dental screenings, lead testing and hearing screenings. Through this event 10 students received services that otherwise would not have been offered (no lead, one vaccine, six vision, seven hearing, three dental screenings).



# Community Outreach & Events

Included in our commitment to promoting and protecting public health is a dedication to outreach. It's the most direct way to meet members of our community and highlight who we are, what we do, how we do it and who we do it for.

More than education, outreach efforts provide a way for the Allen County Department of Health to connect with the community.

Outreach events ranged from health fairs and small gatherings that only a handful of residents visited to larger, community-wide events in which hundreds of people met with our staff to discuss topics such as childhood lead testing, food safety and immunizations.

The Open Streets and HogWorks Takeover events in August and October, respectively, remained the largest events we attended. We also added new events in 2025, including a safety fair organized for more than 1,000 city of Fort Wayne employees as well as a Community Baby Shower planned by Super Shot Inc. and hosted by a local church.

For all events, we brought games, educational documents and/or displays and giveaways such as flu safety kits – with tissues, hand wipes, ibuprofen and a one-time use thermometer – to tailor our outreach activities to the target audience of each event.

At each event and educational opportunity, we gave away “Know & Go” public health resources booklets outlining all our services.



## Some of the community events attended:

**Community Baby Shower in early October:** This was a first-of-its kind event for the Health Department and was planned by long-time immunizations partner Super Shot Inc. and Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield. The event was hosted at a local church and provided a welcoming atmosphere for moms and moms-to-be to eat dinner and learn about a variety of topics including mental health and breastfeeding. We provided diapers, which were given away to attendees, and



Super Shot made several vaccinations available. A diverse crowd of about 50 people visited our table at the event, where we provided details about services such as childhood lead testing and vaccinations. We also provided first aid kits at the event and Know & Go booklets.



**HogWorks Takeover at Electric Works, in October:** This was the second year of the huge Harry Potter-themed event, and we were fortunate to meet with about 700 visitors to talk about the Department of Health and public health. Our Health Educator designed a game to illustrate healthy habits such as limiting screen time and eating nutritional foods. For choosing the correct items, children were awarded a Health Department branded lunch bag containing crayons, a coloring book and information about healthy eating. We also gave away wizard-themed “marauder’s maps” highlighting the importance of physical activity.



**YMCA Family Resource & Fun Event, in April:** A first for us, we attended this YMCA-hosted event at the Renaissance Pointe branch on Fort Wayne’s southeast side in the spring. It was a great event focused on children that featured many vendors as well as activities for kids. The Communications Director invited visitors to spin the wheel and answer public health trivia questions. We saw about 200 visitors, informing them about our services and inviting them to learn more through discussion with us and looking over our Know & Go booklets.



**Open Streets, in August:** Each summer, Fort Wayne transforms a long stretch of Calhoun Street in the heart of the city into an interactive space. The typically car-filled street becomes a place where games and activities call for visitors, and we decided that’s a perfect place for us to provide information about the Health Department. We saw about 500 people at our table, where we offered “Public Health Trivia” questions about topics such as lead, mosquitoes and vital records. Visitors could also play Public Health Cornhole, where a successful toss meant answering a trivia question.



Prizes included stress balls, drawstring bags and Health Department branded lunch bags.





# Photo Gallery: PUBLIC HEALTH DAY AT THE STATEHOUSE



*We were honored in March to receive the Public Health Partnership Award from the Indiana Department of Health. Adding to the honor given out at Public Health Day at the Indiana Statehouse, we shared the award with Super Shot Inc. for “removing barriers to health care and significantly improving immunization rates to prevent disease outbreaks,” the inscription on the award states. “This dedication, collaboration and integrated work give opportunities of better health for all.”*



# HEALTH FIRST ALLEN COUNTY

## Stories of Success & Pilot Projects



Over the past two years, during which we've deployed the HFI funding and created internal/external funding to meet the Core Public Health Service areas, we conducted some innovative and successful or promising projects we feel are truly impacting the community. We call these "Stories of Success" in our efforts to better the overall health of the public. This next section details some of these projects. Some stories bridge both the 2024 & 2025 timeframe of new project roll-outs!

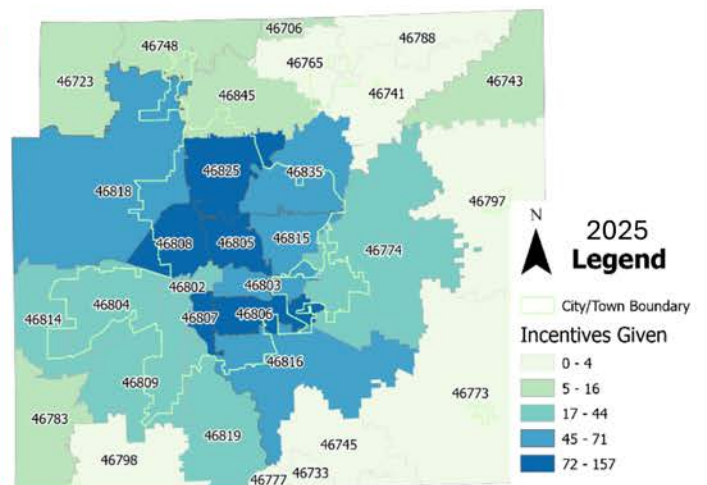
### Increasing Immunization & Lead Screening Rates

#### "Keep Your Eye on the Prize...and Immunize"

In April 2024, we launched a new initiative aimed at increasing Allen County vaccination rates. We initially attempted to reach out to parents by including this program information in birth announcements, but that pilot project on communication did not prove successful. We then decided to save printing costs and put those funds into the incentive program itself and continued to work with families to get their children's vaccinations up to date. We equipped Super Shot Inc., our long-standing vaccination partner, with the same incentives so that families got the same benefits no matter where they obtained their vaccinations between our two sites. *See numbers and map of those served below.*



**Since just April 2024, Super Shot & our department collectively distributed 1,490 incentives to a total of 1,121 patients/families for:**



# "Summer Health Hubs"

<b>One day per week in both June &amp; July 2025</b>	<b>88 unique patients seen for services</b>	<b>88 Sports Physicals, 56 vaccinations, &amp; 0 lead screenings completed</b>
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In the summer 2024, we began an initiative with Super Shot Inc., to provide needed back-to-school catch-up vaccine opportunities for families with other helpful services in one-stop-shop fashion. It proved successful and well-attended, so we worked with them again in 2025 and added an additional month of weekly clinics!

Our role in their event was to provide childhood lead testing and sports physicals while Super Shot provided vaccinations. An online scheduling system made signing up easy for the community. One of our physicians, Dr. Tom Dykstra (pictured at left) assisted by providing sports physicals.



We plan to conduct a similar event with some upgrades and expansion in 2026 as it's been a great event for families where nearly all appointments were filled each time. Lead testing was minimal in both years, so we plan to discuss ways to expand the uptake of that testing opportunity.

# The "Baby Fair & Family Expo" (Memorial Coliseum)

<b>100+ people educated on SAFE SLEEP &amp; VACCINATIONS</b>	<b>8 Adults Vaccinated (3 Flu; 3 COVID-19; 2 TDAP)</b>	<b>WE GAVE AWAY: sleep sacks, home safety kits, immunization magnets and more!</b>
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Members of our Clinical Services and Case Management Division once again participated in the 2025 Baby Fair & Family Expo to share maternal and child health information and provide on-site vaccinations and resources.

A newly created vaccination timing magnet was distributed as well as Sleep Sacks, Home Safety Kits and of course, excellent in-person education!

# "Be A Flu Fighter" Immunization Campaign

In partnership with Super Shot Inc., the "Healthy Hoosier" Immunization campaign was formed in 2024 to increase community flu vaccination rates and raise awareness about respiratory disease prevention. Super Shot Executive Director Connie Heflin spearheaded the campaign, and we assisted with outreach, the roll-out and weekly data collection (including a weekly update on vaccination numbers for Allen County residents). This year, the program continued in an even stronger fashion and with a refreshed name: "Be A Flu Fighter"!

In the 2023-2024 flu season, data showed well under 100,000 Allen County residents were vaccinated against the disease. During the inaugural promotional campaign season (2024-2025), 103,151 Allen County residents were vaccinated against influenza during the July-April timeframe of the campaign – which showed our educational efforts paid off. At the end of 2025, we had about 102,000 already vaccinated with four months to go in the campaign for this season. That is around 12% higher than where we were at year end in 2024. We attribute the increase to promotional and educational efforts by many agencies involved with this vaccination campaign and a commitment among the vaccination entities to increase immunity in our community. We plan to carry this program on in the 2026-2027 influenza vaccination season, and we are planning some slight changes to the campaign that might increase vaccination reporting and overall uptake.

Our main goal in each of the campaign years was to increase vaccination rates over the prior year, and we are happy with the outcomes so far. We look forward to increasing rates year after year, if possible!

## Local "VIPs" rolled up their sleeves to be vaccinated to kick off the campaign in September



## Community members, hospital representatives and others came out to support the event



### Partnership Note

We partner heavily with Super Shot on most vaccination-related events – either through direct funding to them to expand services or in tandem at events where we can both complement the needed services. We share common goals, events and needs. Thus, the reason so many events with Super Shot are mentioned herein and over so many years.

Allen County is unique when speaking about how childhood and adult vaccinations are offered outside of medical providers and hospitals. In many areas, the only public provider is the local health department. Here, Super Shot and our department provide nearly identical offerings – except that Super Shot can offer more flexible hours for families and offers their services in a non-governmental setting – giving families a choice for where they obtain their vaccines. Further, Super Shot's focus – IS VACCINES! Whereas our focus is every single core service that health departments should be offering.

Our strong and long-time partnership has allowed our department to continue providing vaccinations to children and adults as we always have when the community seeks our services – but we have also been able to redirect, or focus, a good amount of our vaccination staff resources toward provision of our Civil Surgeon Clinic, Foreign Travel Clinic, Refugee Clinic and much more.

# "Start Smart!" School Immunization Events

**3 Start Smart! Events for Vaccines**

**349 Students Vaccinated (714 doses)**

**FREE Childhood Lead Screening offered**

The Indiana Department of Health (IDOH) once again promoted *Start Smart!* vaccination efforts across the state to get children ready for the fall school semester. Each county is encouraged to hold their own vaccination catch-up or promotion events – so Allen County once again rolled things out in a great community-based, and fun, fashion. Super Shot Inc. coordinated and hosted two *Start Smart!* vaccination events in July for school-age children to be immunized in time for the start of school.

They (alongside 24+ community partners!) offered many incentives and fun family activities. We once again partnered with them to offer free childhood lead screening and other resources.

No lead tests were completed at the event – despite being ready to provide them! We are working on plans to increase testing uptake.



## "Kid Care Program"

The Allen County Kid Care Program was rolled out in the summer. This program offered on-site immunizations and free lead testing at day cares across Allen County. The mission of this program was to bring services to people during peak times to remove barriers to accessing immunizations and lead testing.

DOH staff visited two day care facilities and were able to vaccinate two children and provide free lead testing for three additional children.

# Increasing Childhood Vaccination Rates (2025 LOCAL KPO)

Community & Family Education Initiatives

“Kid Care” Day care Outreach Program

FREE Vaccinations & Community Events

## CHILDHOOD IMMUNIZATIONS

### SCHEDULE MAGNETS

Vaccine schedule magnets were made in English and Spanish to promote timely vaccinations.

### EYE ON THE PRIZE

In collaboration with community partner Super Shot Inc., safety incentives are offered at each stage of immunization completion (at both the ACDOH and the Super Shot clinic).

Flyers were mailed with birth notifications from our Vital Records division as well.

Over 1,350 incentives provided to 1,033 patients.

### OUTREACH

Attending health fairs and community events promotes vaccinations.

### PERFORMANCE OUTCOME

Increase the number of children under the age of 3 who have completed the recommended childhood vaccine series from 61.6% (2023) to 70% (2030) by providing or assisting with the coordination of vaccination outreach events, providing provider education opportunities, and by providing educational opportunities to underserved populations in Allen County by educating parents on the importance of vaccinations with culturally appropriate and sensitive materials in their native language with data to be gathered/reported on a quarterly and annual basis.



### CLINICS

In 2025, the Allen County Department of Health held 81 immunization outreach events.

# Lead Screening & Reporting Initiative (2025 LOCAL KPO)

Student and Medical  
Provider Education

Neighborhood Outreach  
& **FREE** Paint Sampling

**FREE** Childhood Lead  
Screening offered

## 6 STEPS TO INCREASE BLL SCREENINGS

(Blood Lead Level)



### 1 | INCREASE LEAD SCREENING

Increase the blood lead level screening rate among Allen County children 0-6 years of age from 10.25% (2022) to 20% (2030) through targeted outreach and screening/testing, and providing other appropriate educational initiatives for health care providers, including lead hazards and testing opportunity education for parents using culturally sensitive materials with data to be gathered/reported on quarterly and annual basis.

### 2 | OUTREACH

118 children were screened when testing was offered at two elementary schools in high-risk ZIP codes.



### 3 | EDUCATION

Letters were sent to 150 providers regarding lead testing guidelines and services offered. One pediatric office that had not been reporting lead testing results has since started sending test results. The letter also reminded providers of the need for a confirmatory testing after a capillary screen higher than 3.4  $\mu$ /dL. Several offices have since started automatically ordering a venous lead test after an elevated screen.

### 4 | COLLABORATION

Partnering with University of Saint Francis students, 150 addresses were surveyed and 8 homes were provided free lead paint testing and education. 88% of the homes tested were found to have lead based paint present.



### 5 | HEALTH FAIRS/ COMMUNITY EVENTS

At least 3 health fairs or community events were attended where more than 1,300 individuals were engaged with and provided educational materials regarding lead based paint, the impacts, and testing.

### 6 | ACCESS TO EDUCATION

Translation of "Keep Your Child Lead Safe" brochure and poster into Spanish allows for culturally sensitive materials as needed.



**Looking at Indiana Department of Health Lead Dashboard Data, the following information will be used to show starting points and growth over the next few years as we report on our progress:**

**1,281**  
Total number of open case investigations for lead statewide  
**(Indiana 2024)**

Data Source:  
National Electronic Disease Surveillance System Base System

**1.65 µg/dL**  
Mean blood lead level in children  
**(Indiana 2024)**

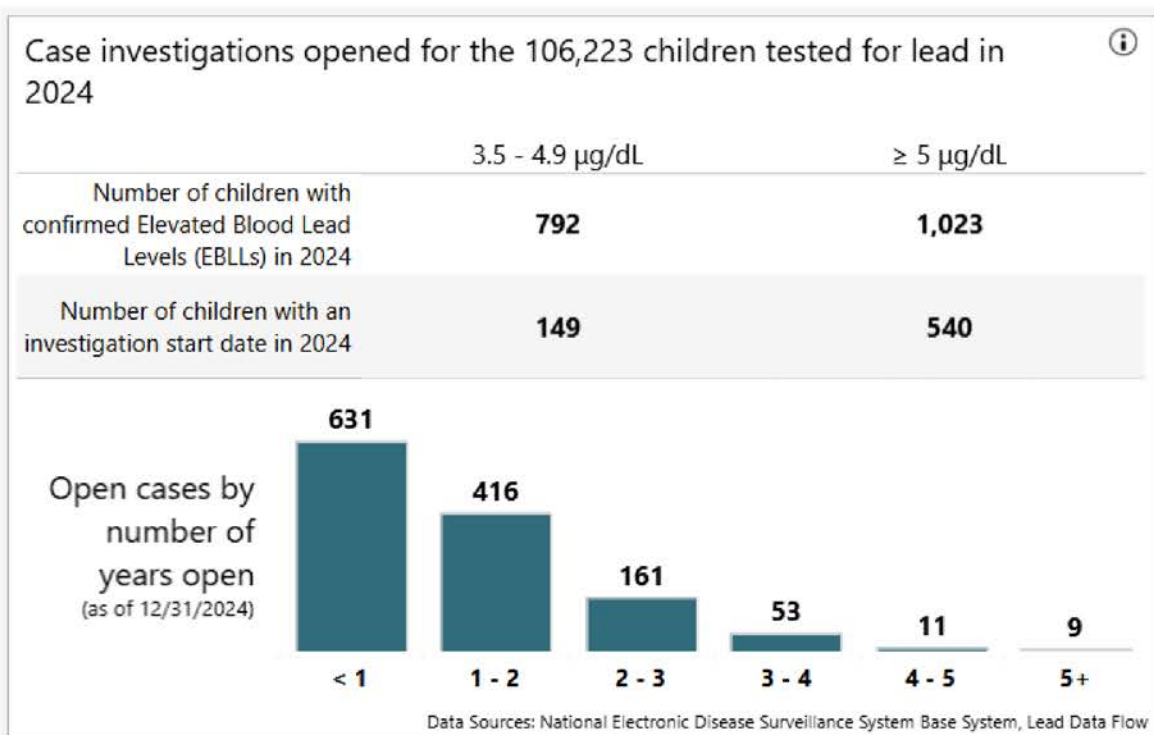
Data Source:  
Lead Data Flow

**3.31 µg/dL**  
Mean blood lead level in children  
**(United States 2016)**

Data Source:  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

**1.18 µg/dL**  
Mean blood lead level in children  
**(Healthy People 2030 Goal)**

Data Source:  
Healthy People 2030



# Infectious Disease Prevention Activities

## Prevention of Congenital Syphilis (2025 LOCAL KPO)

### REDUCING Congenital Syphilis

In an effort to prevent adverse birth outcomes related to sexually transmitted infections, we will increase the percentage of pregnant Allen County female residents completing a first trimester prenatal screening for syphilis from 67% (2022) to 80% (2030) through community outreach/education efforts, focusing on education and collaboration with community health care providers, pregnant women, and social service partners, using culturally sensitive materials focusing on historically marginalized populations.

*(The prenatal screening percentage will be based on yearly county information on the IDOH Birth Outcomes & Infant Mortality Dashboard. The tracking of the testing and treatment outcomes will be tracked locally using 2025 data as baseline data for future outcome measurement over time.)*



#### PROCESS

The following tasks were conducted:

- 01 Development**  
Create posters and brochures in multiple languages
- 02 Outreach**  
Attend two health fairs to reach providers and pregnant women
- 03 Education**  
Educated 103 OB/GYN Providers in 19 agencies  
Further in-services requested to be completed Q4
- 04 Testing**  
Work with labs and providers for timely testing

#### BASELINE MEASUREMENT - 2025 YTD

90% of pregnant women who tested positive for syphilis received adequate treatment 30 days prior to delivery

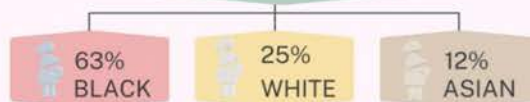


#### TESTING

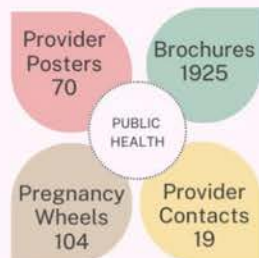
29 females tested positive for Syphilis. Of those 29 women, eight were pregnant. The testing of women early and frequently led to six pregnant women being newly diagnosed.

28% of females that tested positive for Syphilis were pregnant

The average age of pregnant women that tested positive for Syphilis was 26 years of age.



The distribution of pregnancy wheels educate and empower providers to clearly know when testing should occur.



#### OUTREACH

Providing information about congenital syphilis to providers and patients was delivered in both English and Spanish.



#### DESIRED OUTCOME

Intentional testing at appropriate intervals and adequate treatment is critical to prevent congenital syphilis.

# National HIV Testing Day



The HIV/STI Prevention Division participated in National HIV Testing Day June 27, offering rapid testing for HIV, hepatitis C and syphilis at Walgreens, 110 E. Creighton Ave., a long-time partner for this event. Staff provided **17** free tests for community individuals wanting to know their health status. Testing typically is offered outdoors in the parking lot each year, but weather – a heat index pushing 100 degrees – emphasized our staff’s flexibility as they quickly moved the event indoors to keep the test kits within the required temperature range for administering and processing.

**Twelve HIV tests, three hepatitis C tests and two syphilis tests were completed** – and much education was deployed. Department of Health drawstring bags, first aid kits, pens, hand sanitizers, literature and pins were available at the sign-in table to promote awareness and education about HIV prevention.

## “Cinderella Dress Day” Event



The HIV/STI Prevention outreach team provided an HIV/STI (“sexually transmitted infections”) interactive prevention presentation for the waiting masses of attendees who

were ready to enter the 2025 Cinderella Dress Day at the Grand Wayne Center in March. This event was organized by the Fort Wayne Medical Society Alliance, providing free prom dresses, shoes, jewelry, undergarments, hair styling, make-up sessions and health education presentations focusing on relevant health and safety topics for teens. The event was organized in such a way that once the attendees participated in a health education presentation, they could gain access to the ballroom to choose their “Cinderella Dress” and all the other items and services for upcoming events such as proms.

There were over **1,850** attendees this year, a new record for the event. The HIV/STI presentation reached approximately **450** teens and parents and has become an annual event for the division that reaches a high number of participants.



## Additional Infection Prevention Outreach Efforts



Youth Testing Outreach



Indiana Tech Back to School Health Fair (our theme: “Cover Your Bases”)

# Chronic Disease Prevention & Education

## Encouraging Healthy Eating



Information Systems & Special Projects Coordinator (now the Payroll Coordinator) Danielle Alger expressed interest in trying to find a way to promote healthy eating and suggested purchasing Department-branded lunch bags, with inserts instructing readers how to make healthy food choices at home and at the grocery store.



One thousand bags were purchased, along with the inserts – as well as crayons and coloring books with tips for kids to learn to “Eat Right, Eat Healthy.”

Healthy eating incentives were given out over the summer as prizes during outreach events such as Fort Wayne’s annual Open Streets. So far, more than 200 bags have been given away.

## Food Safety

### Translating Food Safety Information



Providing accurate information about protecting public health is always important to Allen County Department of Health staff. Environmental Health Specialist Mallory Evans decided to take extra steps to ensure that message reached more people.

Mallory knew the operators of many of the food establishments she inspects spoke and read languages other than English. She spearheaded an effort to ensure messages about handwashing and food safety – such as keeping cold foods cold and hot foods hot – were created for those who spoke and/or read Spanish and Burmese.



Stickers were created, translated and printed with the help of Communications Division staff, so those messages would be close at hand for food establishment operators and employees.

The stickers help meet guidelines under 410 IAC 7-26-432, which requires visible handwashing signage at all handwashing sinks used by food establishment employees.

It’s also a great way to expand the efforts of Health Department staff to promote safety and health.



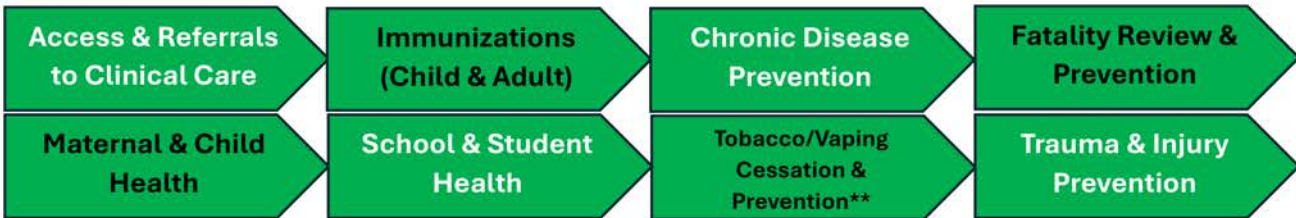
# HEALTH FIRST ALLEN COUNTY

## Public Health Grant Program



As in 2024, the largest monetary and time investment was put toward the continued development of our HFAC public health grant program. While the changes in actual health outcomes will likely be seen years down the road, this significant infusion of funds, time and partnership development is an investment of which we are incredibly proud.

For 2025, we sought applications for completion of the following Core Public Health Service (CPHS) areas (see graphic below). All other CPHS areas had work being done by us internally or were otherwise covered in a way that grant-funded projects were not sought this year.



We developed a Request for Proposals (RFP) in mid-2024 for the 2025 grant year and rolled out the grant application and review process in summer 2025, with awards completed by November.

We awarded 43 organizations and a total of 48 projects/programs (up from 29 organizations and programs in 2024). An investment of approximately \$3 million was made into these programs for this year.

Site visits were conducted for each newly granted organization this year and once again, these were such a learning experience for us. We continued our push for grants that are “doing more, for more.”

Quarterly data and narratives were collected and used to develop succinct “one-pagers” of goals and outcomes for each aggregate CPHS area for which awards were granted. We consider these a start toward showing improved outcomes (or at least impact) for various areas of our community’s health. These one-pager documents are provided herein, but all can be found on our website as well (for both HFAC grant years).

*\*\*NOTE: As mentioned at the beginning of this report, Tobacco Cessation and Education was removed as a Core Public Health Service by the Indiana General Assembly in April 2025. Any grant awards for this area of service had to be rescinded, and those funds were returned to us. This CPHS area will no longer be reflected in future reporting. We have, however, continued a great deal of investment into the prevention of youth vaping.*

# 2025 Grant Awardees



## 2025 Grant Amounts per Core Public Health Service Area

<b>ACCESS &amp; REFERRALS TO CLINICAL CARE</b> 14 PROGRAMS (\$815,000)	<b>CHILD &amp; ADULT IMMUNIZATIONS</b> 1 PROGRAM (\$200,000)	<b>CHRONIC DISEASE PREVENTION</b> 8 PROGRAMS (\$444,500)	<b>FATALITY REVIEW &amp; PREVENTION</b> 1 PROGRAM (\$63,000)
<b>MATERNAL &amp; CHILD HEALTH</b> 5 PROGRAMS (\$415,000)	<b>SCHOOL &amp; STUDENT HEALTH</b> 10 PROGRAMS (\$504,000)	<b>TOBACCO &amp; VAPING CESSATION</b> 2 PROGRAMS (\$80,000)	<b>TRAUMA &amp; INJURY PREVENTION</b> 7 PROGRAMS (\$390,000)

Grant funding was awarded in the area of Tobacco & Vaping Cessation, but one or more programs were rescinded with refunded monies due to Indiana legislative change in April 2025 where Tobacco Cessation & Education was removed as Core Public Health Service on which Health First Indiana funding could not be spent.

# 2025 Grant Project Goals & Outcomes

The following informational one-pagers were developed by the Parkview Health Service & Informatics Research team. One data document was provided for each aggregate Core Public Health Service area for which grant funding was provided as well as one overall two-year early outcomes data document.

*You may also find them at: [www.allencountyhealth.com](http://www.allencountyhealth.com)*





# HEALTH FIRST ALLEN COUNTY: TWO YEARS OF IMPACT

Funding through the Health First Allen County initiative strengthens our community by expanding access to care, supporting families, and fostering long-term wellness. These outcomes highlight program successes from 2024-2025. As different metrics were reported, findings are not intended to represent collective outcomes across all services.

## PROGRESS AT A GLANCE

In 2024

**29** grants awarded

**73,985** people served

**\$2.1 million** total funding

In 2025

**48** grants awarded

**131,205** people served

**\$2.9 million** total funding

## HIGHLIGHTED OUTCOMES

### Connecting people to critical services



**246**

people referred to case management services



**509**

applications for safety-net programs completed



**41,319**

trips provided for medical care

### Strengthening student health and wellbeing

**60,137**

students attended mental health & wellness programs

**4,750**

on-site dental exams provided

**16,668**

backpack meals distributed

**57,713**

vaccines administered

# HIGHLIGHTED OUTCOMES

Supporting maternal and infant wellbeing			Improving health through prevention		
<b>2024</b>	<b>Of those served:</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>Of those served:</b>	<b>2025</b>
<b>62.5%</b>	of babies were born at a healthy weight	<b>88.6%</b>	<b>50.8%</b>	of participants improved nutrition	<b>93.8%</b>
<b>81%</b>	of babies were born at 37+ weeks	<b>100%</b>	<b>76%</b>	of participants increased activity	<b>100%</b>
<b>87.5%</b>	of mothers completed prenatal physician visits	<b>100%</b>	<b>85%</b>	of participants reported improved mental health	<b>95%</b>

## TESTIMONIALS



*The two years of this grant provided a solid foundation for us...We created ongoing support trainings during this time that will endure past the grant.*

**-Children's Autism Center**



*Demand for our services continues to rise each year, while the cost of delivering high-quality home visits has increased and funding has remained flat or declined...This funding has been instrumental in allowing us to be able to serve vulnerable women in our community. Without this support, many of these women would not have been able to receive services.*

**- Healthier Moms & Babies**



*Grant funding from the Allen County Department of Health allowed Amani to provide crucial interpretation services and deliver individualized substance use support sessions.*

**- Amani Family Services**

# ACCESS AND LINKAGE TO CARE



Through the 2025 Health First Allen County initiative, several organizations were awarded funding to provide programming under the Access and Linkage to Care Core Public Health Service area in addition to work done internally by the Allen County Department of Health. This document describes the work associated with those funded through the department's public health grant program.

## ADDRESSING BARRIERS TO CARE



### 1. Health and wellness referrals

Clients given referrals for:

- Physical and mental health needs
- Substance use recovery services
- Government assistance programs
- Legal assistance
- Insurance assistance
- Home healthcare



### 2. Connection to services

Screenings, care navigation, and application assistance provided for:

- Safety, sheltering, and housing resources
- Child and domestic abuse support
- Counseling and addiction recovery
- Medical advocacy resources
- Interpretation services
- Employment programs



### 3. Providing care in communities

Medical services made more accessible to underserved communities, including:

- Hepatitis C testing
- STI/HIV testing
- Immunizations
- Physical therapy
- Wellness exams
- Mental health
- Diabetes prevention
- Primary care
- Pediatric care
- Dental
- Vision



### 4. Providing transportation

Transportation provided for individuals who:

- Are unable to travel alone
- Lack access to public transit
- Have limited financial resources
- Are receiving cancer treatment
- Have disabilities
- Are elderly



# PROGRAM IMPACTS

## OUTCOMES



9,484 individuals served



1,655 referrals provided



21,119 trips provided



515 outreach events held

## TESTIMONIAL

513 child victims of alleged sexual or physical abuse, as well as witnesses of violent crime, were offered mental health and advocacy services.

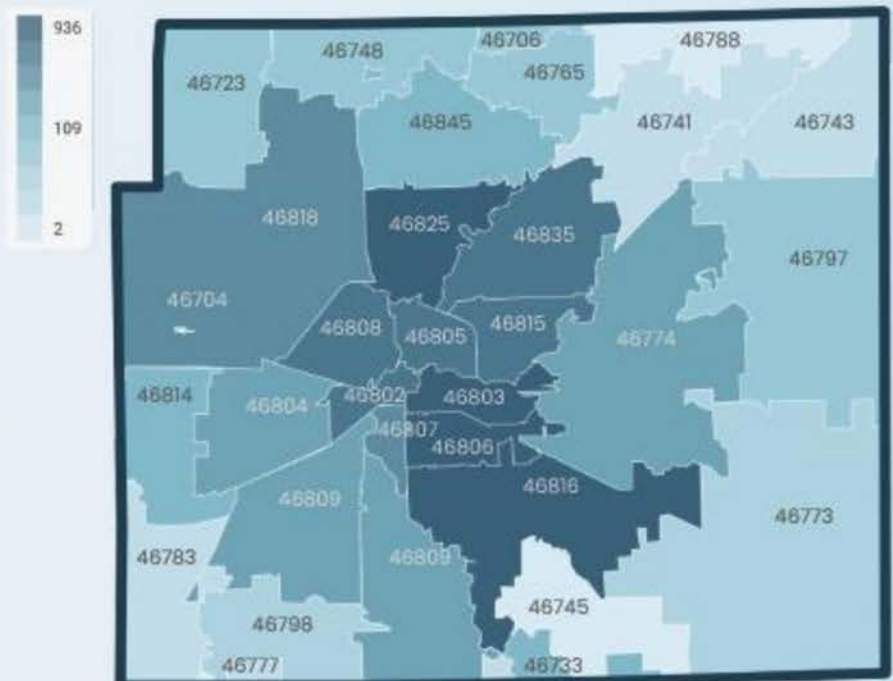
“Without the support of this grant, we would not be able to offer this life-saving service.”

- Child Advocacy Center of Allen County

## 2025 ACCESS AND LINKAGE TO CARE AWARDEES

- Bowen Health
- Cancer Services of Allen County
- Child Advocacy Center of Allen County
- Community Transportation Network
- Fort Wayne Downtown Improvement District
- Fort Wayne Rescue Mission
- HearCare Connection
- League for the Blind and Disabled
- Matthew 25, Inc.
- NE Indiana Positive Resource Connection
- Petra Solutions, LLC
- Ronald McDonald House Charities of NE IN
- St. Joseph Community Health Foundation
- YWCA NE Indiana

## COMMUNITY IMPACT OF HEALTH FIRST ALLEN COUNTY SUPPORT: MAP OF RESIDENTS SERVED



This map depicts the number of Allen County residents per ZIP code served by 2025 Health First Allen County grant funding. It is not meant to represent any organization’s full scope of services.

# CHILD AND ADULT IMMUNIZATIONS SUPER SHOT INC.



## CHILD HEALTH STATISTICS



Indiana children aged 24 months had an immunization rate of only **70.4%** in 2025

American Academy of Pediatrics (2025)

Childhood immunizations save approximately

# 4-5 million

lives yearly worldwide

World Health Organization (2025)

## PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

**Super Shot Inc.** focuses on promoting vaccines and providing accessible immunizations. With an emphasis on underserved individuals, Super Shot Inc. offers programming with the following objectives:



# PROGRAM IMPACTS

## 27,120

vaccines administered  
to children



## 16,193

children served

## 88.4%

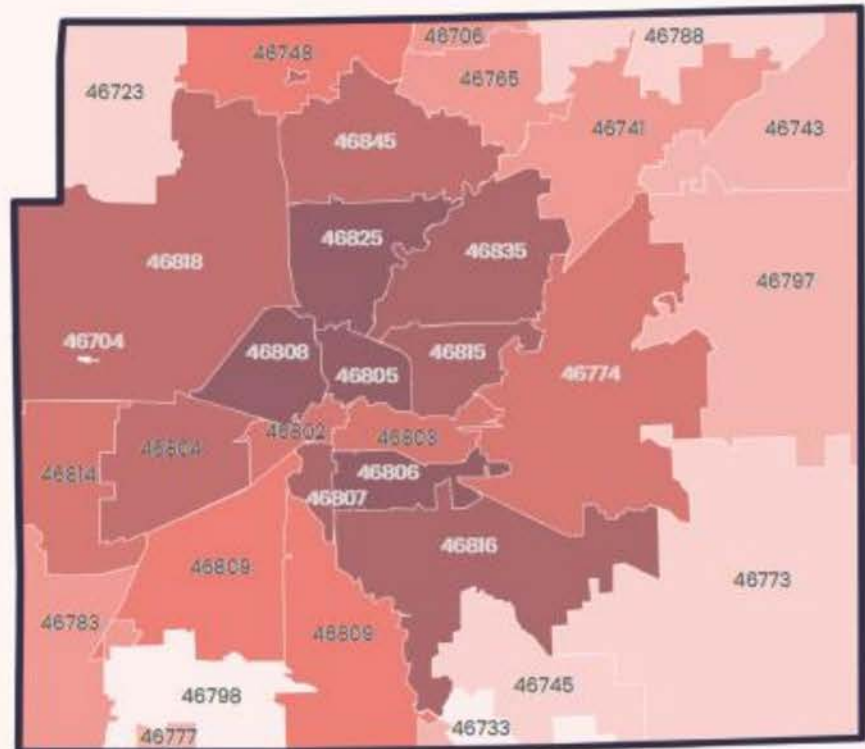
of clients were up to  
date on vaccines

## 8,728

vaccines administered  
to adults



# MAP OF RESIDENTS SERVED



This map depicts the number of Allen County residents per ZIP code served by 2025 Health First Allen County grant funding. It is not meant to represent Super Shot, Inc.'s full scope of services.

Prepared by Parkview Health Services & Informatics Research  
February 15, 2026



# CHRONIC DISEASE PREVENTION & REDUCTION

Through the 2025 Health First Allen County initiative, several organizations were awarded funding to provide programming under the Chronic Disease Prevention and Reduction Core Public Health Service area in addition to work done internally by the Allen County Department of Health. This document describes the work associated with those funded through the department's public health grant program.

## PREVENTING CHRONIC DISEASE



### 1. Health Education

Educating children and adults on topics, such as:

- Chronic disease prevention
- Food prep and meal planning
- Nutrition and exercise
- Stress management
- Smoking cessation
- Healthy sleeping habits
- Medication management



### 2. Promoting Healthy Habits

Encouraging individuals to make healthier choices by providing:

- Educational events and workshops
- Opportunities for physical activity
- Cooking classes
- Nutritional food tastings
- Healthier food options
- Exercise programs



### 3. Support and Guidance

Providing individuals and families with:

- Mentorship
- Accountability
- Counseling
- Planning guidance
- Encouragement
- Assistance with goal setting



### 4. Improving Health Outcomes

Setting individual health goals, such as:

- Increase physical activity
- Build strength and endurance
- Improve diet
- Improve sleep habits
- Reduce stress
- Improve BMI, blood pressure, and blood sugar



# PROGRAM IMPACTS

**21,479**

individuals served



Over

**80**

educational programs, school classes, and outreach events hosted



Over

**70%**

of exercise program participants increased their physical activity



Targets met for improved health outcomes, including **healthier eating, better sleep, reduced stress, and improved BMI, blood pressure, and blood sugar**

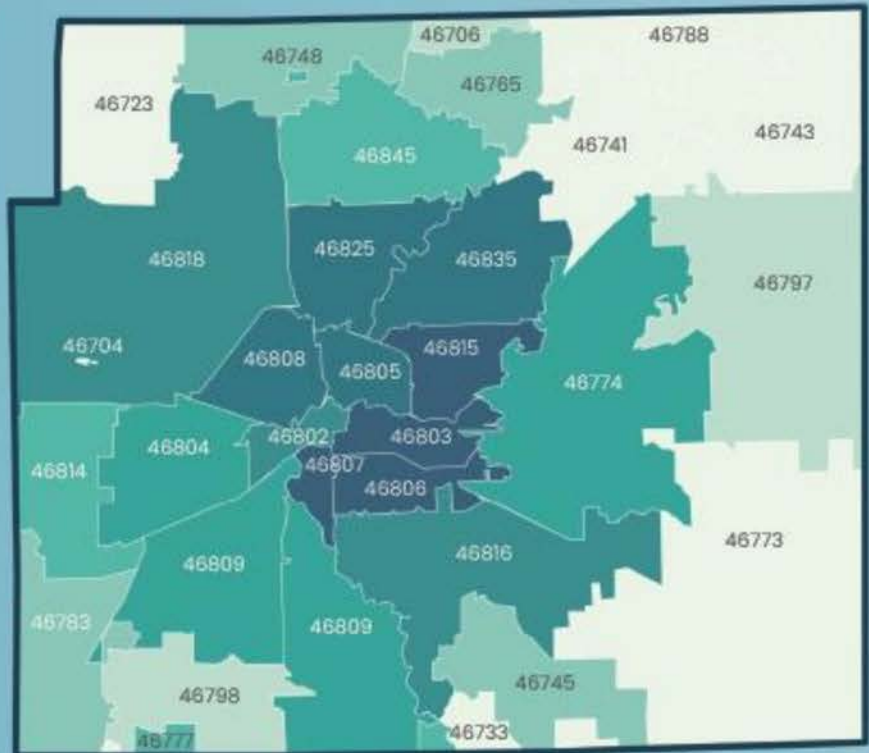
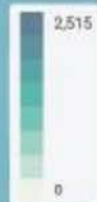


## 2025 CHRONIC DISEASE AND PREVENTION AWARDEES

- Children's Autism Center
- Euell A. Wilson Center
- GiGi's Playhouse
- HealthVisions Midwest
- Live Healthy Hoosiers
- McMillen Health
- Parkview Hospital
- Wellspring Interfaith Social Services, Inc.

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## COMMUNITY IMPACT OF HEALTH FIRST ALLEN COUNTY SUPPORT: MAP OF RESIDENTS SERVED



Prepared by Parkview Health Services & Informatics Research  
February 15, 2026

# FATALITY REVIEW & PREVENTION



Through the 2025 Health First Allen County initiative, several organizations were awarded funding to provide programming under the Fatality Review and Prevention in addition to work done internally by the Allen County Department of Health. This document describes the work associated with those funded through the department's public health grant program.



**Heart disease**  
is the leading cause of  
death in Indiana

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2023)

# 27.1

out of every 100,000  
Indiana adults will die  
from **diabetes**

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2023)

## FATALITY PREVENTION



Implement and enroll  
clients into health and  
wellness programs



Provide education and  
supplies for at-home  
health monitoring

Identify individuals at  
risk of developing  
fatal disease



Monitor health and refer  
clients to appropriate  
medical care



### Education and wellness programs:

Clients participate in programs designed to improve healthy habits and provide education on topics such as:

- Metabolic/cardiovascular health
- Hypertension management
- Exercise
- Nutrition
- Weight loss



### Health monitoring:

- Clients screened for risk factors for cardiovascular disease and diabetes
- Weight, A1C levels, blood pressure, and physical activity tracked over time
- Blood pressure cuffs provided for at-home monitoring
- Clients referred to appropriate medical care as needed



# PROGRAM IMPACTS

**405**

individuals served



**4,017**

hours of physical activity performed by participants



**100%**

of individuals who completed wellness programs increased daily physical activity



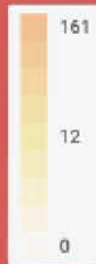
**63**

participants received blood pressure cuffs; **43** achieved lower blood pressure



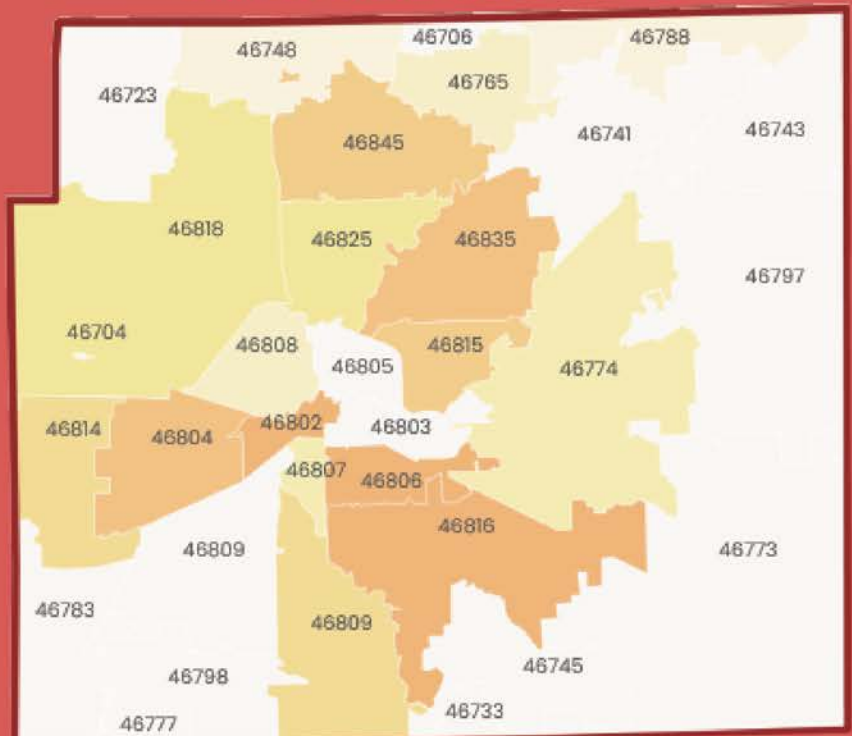
## 2025 FATALITY REVIEW AND PREVENTION AWARDEES

- Indiana University Health
- The YMCA of Greater Fort Wayne



## COMMUNITY IMPACT OF HEALTH FIRST ALLEN COUNTY SUPPORT: MAP OF RESIDENTS SERVED

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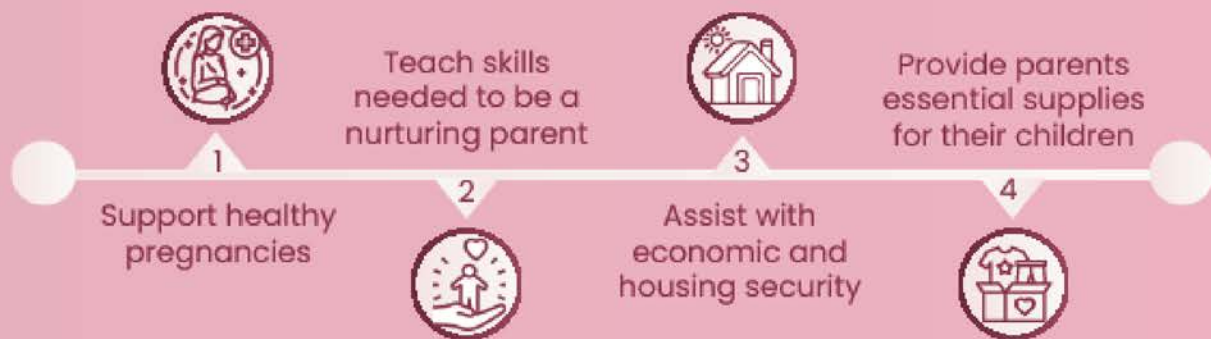
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# MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH



Through the 2025 Health First Allen County initiative, several organizations were awarded funding to perform work under the Maternal & Child Health Core Public Health Service area in addition to work done internally by the Allen County Department of Health. This document describes the work associated with those funded through the department's public health grant program.

## IMPROVING BIRTH OUTCOMES *through linkage to care and health promotion*



### 1. Healthy Pregnancies

Mothers provided access to and support for prenatal care, including home visits.

Referrals made to:

- Doctor offices
- Food banks
- Mental health care providers
- Tailored support groups
- Community programs



### 2. Skills to be a Nurturing Parent

Classes and coaching offered on:

- Parenting
- Prenatal and postpartum health
- Baby care and safe sleep
- Smoking cessation
- Substance use disorder
- Nutrition and healthy cooking
- Mental health
- Family wellness

### 3. Housing and Economic Security

- Pregnant women experiencing homelessness provided safety, food, and shelter
- Support given to pregnant and parenting teens to help them graduate from high school
- Classes offered on financial literacy and employment skills

### 4. Provide Essential Supplies

Items provided to mothers, such as:

- Clothing for children
- Over-the-counter medications
- Car seats (and safety inspections)
- Baby hygiene products
- Blankets
- Strollers
- Baby gates
- Fresh produce



# PROGRAM IMPACTS

## Outcomes



**Targets met** for infant birthweight, NICU admissions, breastfeeding, and education



**100%** of pregnant and parenting teens served earned a high school diploma or equivalent



Expanded reach through more than **320** referrals, **681** mental health assessments, and **2,616** mothers and their children served across **58** ZIP codes

## Testimonial

*"I can't imagine where I'd be without A Mother's Hope...They believed in me, gave me hope, and encouraged me to face things I didn't think I could overcome."*

- Program participant



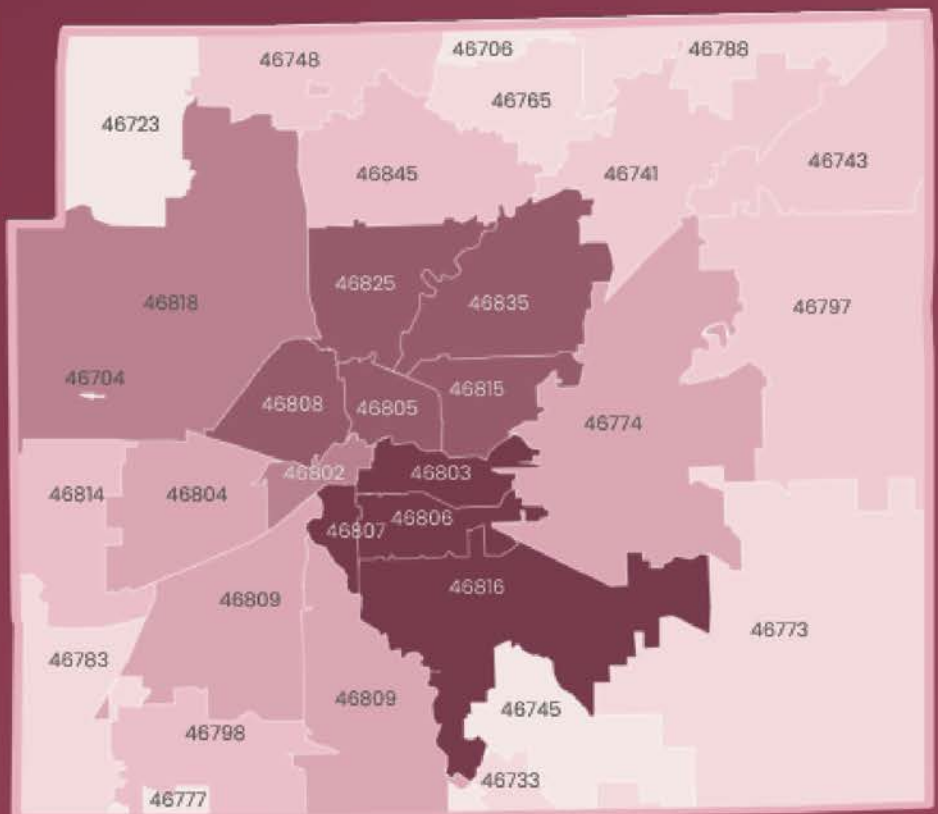
## 2025 MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH AWARDEES

- A Hope Center
- A Mother's Hope
- Associated Churches
- Healthier Moms & Babies
- Lutheran Social Services



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## COMMUNITY IMPACT OF HEALTH FIRST ALLEN COUNTY SUPPORT: MAP OF RESIDENTS SERVED



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# STUDENT HEALTH

Through the 2025 Health First Allen County initiative, several organizations were awarded funding to perform work under the Student Health Core Public Health Service area in addition to work done internally by the Allen County Department of Health. This document describes the work associated with those funded through the department's public health grant program.



## IMPROVING STUDENT HEALTH AND SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS



### Address Barriers to Oral Health Care

- Prevent tooth decay by providing on-site dental exams, placing dental sealants, and distributing at-home care kits



### Combat Food Insecurity

- Provide weekly backpack meals to students who may not otherwise have access to healthy food over the weekend



### Cultivate Culture of Nonviolence

- Reduce in-school violence by equipping students with tools for leadership, nonviolent conflict resolution, and emotional resilience



### Promote Mental Health and Wellbeing

- Help students make healthy choices, raise self-esteem, improve relationships, establish wellness supports, and achieve their goals



### Encourage Physical Activity and Active Lifestyle

- Provide access to safe and enjoyable physical activity opportunities that build lifelong healthy habits and promote overall wellbeing

# PROGRAM IMPACTS

## TESTIMONIAL

*"By being in RealTALK, I've learned better ways to look at my emotions and how to manage them."*

- Student from Youth for Christ of Northern Indiana



## OUTCOMES

**66,104**

individuals served

**52,425**

students attended mental health & wellness programs

**11,052**

children in need received backpack meals

**2,626**

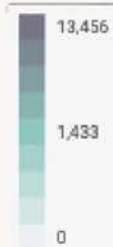
on-site dental exams provided for students

**3,374**

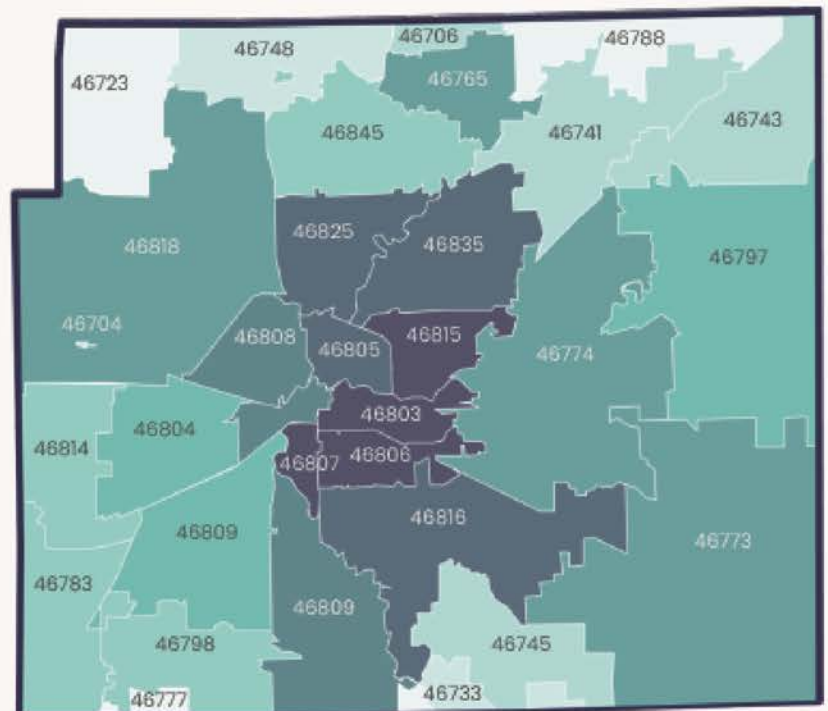
students attended peace club meetings

## 2025 STUDENT HEALTH AWARDEES

- Alive Community Outreach
- Blessings in a Backpack
- Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeast Indiana
- Children's Health Collaborative
- Fort Wayne Community Schools
- Neighborhood Health Clinic
- RespectTeam
- Schools Care
- Youth for Christ of Northern Indiana



## COMMUNITY IMPACT OF HEALTH FIRST ALLEN COUNTY SUPPORT: MAP OF RESIDENTS SERVED



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# TRAUMA & INJURY PREVENTION & EDUCATION

Through the 2025 Health First Allen County initiative, several organizations were awarded funding to provide programming under the Access and Linkage to Care Core Public Health Service area in addition to work done internally by the Allen County Department of Health. This document describes the work associated with those funded through the department's public health grant program.

## ADDRESSING SUBSTANCE USE & INJURY DISPARITIES



### Drop-in Recovery Support

Tangible resources provided for those experiencing homelessness:

- Food bank vouchers
- Daily or monthly bus passes
- Washer and dryer access
- Shower, lockers, and mailbox access

### Substance Use Disorder Support

Services offered to those at risk or experiencing substance use disorders:

- Counseling
- Support groups
- Education and assessments
- Accountability and guidance



### Fall Prevention

Services offered to older adults and individuals with disabilities:

- Programs and take-home reminders
- Educational workshops
- Exercise sessions



### Child Trauma Prevention

Services offered to children affected by substance misuse, abuse or neglect:

- Clinical therapy
- Therapeutic art groups
- Counseling groups
- Social determinants of health screenings

# PROGRAM IMPACTS

**95%**

of Amani Family Service clients reported improved mental health

**9,873**

individuals served

**311**

individuals participated in clinical therapy or groups

**138**

clients connected with support networks

**8,126**

children and adults trained on body safety, gun safety, and substance misuse

**68**

clients provided food bank vouchers

## 2025 TRAUMA & INJURY PREVENTION & EDUCATION AWARDEES

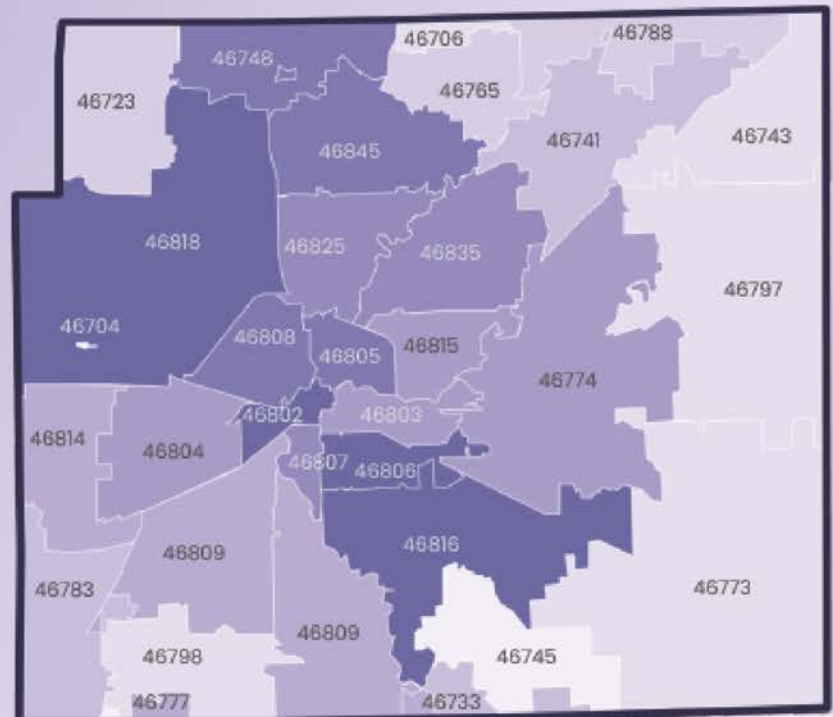
- Amani Family Services
- Life Restoration Services, Inc.
- project.ME-FW, Inc.
- Iris Family Support Center

### MINI GRANTS

- Associated Churches of Fort Wayne & Allen County, Inc.
- Turnstone Center for Children & Adults with Disabilities
- YMCA of Greater Fort Wayne

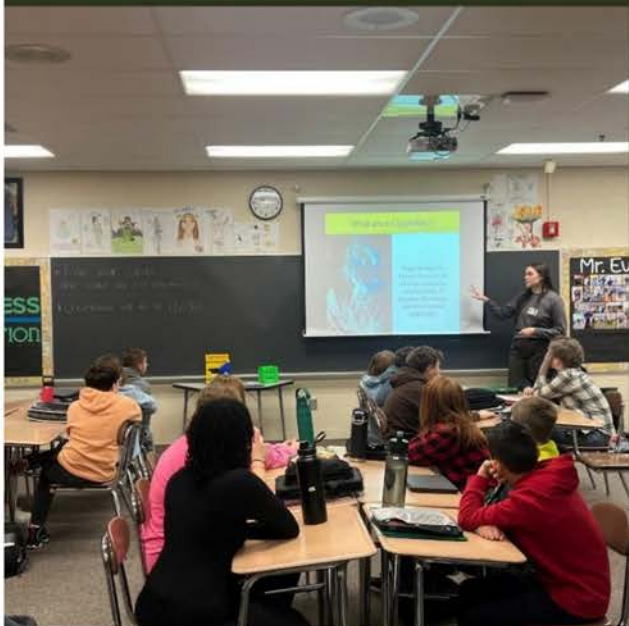
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## COMMUNITY IMPACT OF HEALTH FIRST ALLEN COUNTY SUPPORT: MAP OF RESIDENTS SERVED



# Photo Gallery: PUBLIC HEALTH GRANT SITE VISITS





# Closing Remarks

These past two years have been somewhat of a dream to those of us whose passion is public health service! Never before has public health in Indiana been so well-funded, supported and successful. Being able to share so many exciting programs with much promise has been beyond encouraging for us. We say a big and heartfelt “thank you” to everyone who got behind these efforts, partnered with us, or simply supported the efforts through participation or advocacy.

These sentiments above and the true feeling behind them are why the funding cuts, that came so early in the State’s program deployment, “cut” so deeply!

That said – we remain focused on the successes, the new and continuing partnerships and the outcomes we hope to continue to affect by carrying on programming and services to serve our community.

*Every worthwhile journey is filled with hills and valleys.* These funding setbacks are but a valley that we will traverse with confidence, continued advocacy, strong partnerships and HOPE!  
*We will get there together!*





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