



755-3655 / 755-3656 / 755-3657

Chandana Vavilala, M.D.

Health Officer

Executive Summary

In 2024, the Lake County Health Department successfully fulfilled all statutory public health obligations while advancing a year of significant planning and system strengthening. With the implementation of Health First Indiana, the department expanded its portfolio of core services, enhanced coordination with community partners, and laid foundational structures to support long-term improvements in population health.

This planning year focused on aligning resources, refining operational processes, and preparing for sustained delivery of essential services across the county. Through collaboration, data-driven decision making, and proactive engagement with local stakeholders, the department positioned itself for continued growth and improved health outcomes for the residents of Lake County.

Department Overview

Department Leadership

Health Officer – Chandana Vavilala, M.D.

Food Program Director – Ginger Christakis

Administrator – Nick Doffin

Nursing Director – Marianne Kundich

Deputy Administrator – Sandy Smoljan

Vector Program Director – Araceli Barrientez

Environmental Division Director – Ray Nieves

Recreational Program Director – Sarah McKinney

Health First Indiana Manager – Michelle Arnold

Emergency Preparedness Coordinator – Rose Ristovski

Board of Health Members

Chiedu Nchekwube, M.D.- Board President

Lyda Olund

Philip Golden

TJ Wigmore

Marla Hoyer-Lareau

Stacy Conduiti

Deborah McCullough, M.D.

Cynthia Hoess



755-3655 / 755-3656 / 755-3657

Chandana Vavilala, M.D.

Health Officer

Financial Report

Fund	Description	Beginning Balance	Total Revenue	Total Expenses	Balance
1105	County Health	777,478.86	2,931,524.87	-3,006,379.73	702,624.00
1153	Health Maintenance Fund	365,224.36	0.00	-69,309.33	295,915.03
1161	LC Health Dept. Local Public Health Services	0.00	4,865,899.82	-748,096.74	4,117,803.08
1296	Health Dept Tobacco Settlement	811,586.15	0.00	-227,847.90	583,738.25
4736	COVID19 Vaccine Disbursements	812,175.86	0.00	0.00	812,175.86
8443	LC Health Dept. PHEP Grant	-13,567.30	111,759.10	-99,548.54	-1,356.74
9359	Health Dept. CRF/ELCID Grant	-739.77	0.00	-6,032.50	-6,772.27
9432	Public Health Crisis Response Coop	2,000.00	0.00	0.00	2,000.00
9449	LC Health Department's Public Health Crisis Response For COVID-19 Testing Grant	39,772.25	0.00	0.00	39,772.25
				Total	6,545,899.46

Vital Record Division Report

Certificate Type	Number Issued
Birth Certificates Issued	17,472
Death Certificates Issued	30,016
Paternity Affidavits	78
Amendments to Records	17

Environmental Health Division Report

Animal Bite Surveillance & Rabies-Related Activities

Animal Bites investigated: 366

- Dogs: 336
- Cats: 19
- Raccoons: 0
- Bats: 11 (all specimens shipped for testing)



755-3655 / 755-3656 / 755-3657

Chandana Vavilala, M.D.
Health Officer

Septic Systems, Environmental Cases, and Water Collections

Septic inspections completed:

- Subsurface trench: 15
- Mound: 15
- Infiltrator: 0
- Presby: 5
- Eljen: 2
- Tank only: 5

Septic permits issued:

- Subsurface trench (new): 10
- Mound (new): 16
- Infiltrator (new): 0
- Presby: 5
- Eljen: 5
- Existing system repairs: 18

Environmental activity:

- Environmental cases managed: 344
- Environmental assessments completed: 84

Subdivision activity:

- Tentative reviews: 15
- Primary reviews: 26
- Secondary reviews: 11

Well water collections: 3

Pools & Recreational Water Program

Permitting:

Total permits issued: 108
Annual: 50
Seasonal: 58

Fee-exempt permits: 20
Annual: 13
Seasonal: 7

Fee-due permits: 88
Annual: 33
Seasonal: 55

Sampling & compliance:

Pool Water samples recorded: 2,920 with 187 Unsatisfactory Reports
Lake Water samples recorded: 134 with 13 Unsatisfactory Reports



755-3655 / 755-3656 / 755-3657

Chandana Vavilala, M.D.
Health Officer

Vector Control - Mosquito Abatement Program

Larviciding / breeding site work:

- Breeding sites inspected: 1,055
- Breeding site inspections conducted: 3,359
- Sites with larvae found (5/23–9/9): 26
- Larviciding treatments: 26
- Potential vector sites (Culex spp.): 8
- Catch basins treated (6/24–8/8): 3,547

Gravid trap surveillance:

- Trap sites: 5
- Survey days: 61
- Trap collections: 83 traps set/collected; ~70 collection events noted
- Trap period: 6/4–10/16/2024
- Positive pools collected: 12

ULV (street spraying):

- Spraying period: 0
- Acres treated: 0
- Gallons dispersed: 0

Outcomes and Complaints:

- Mosquito complaints received: 2
- Human West Nile virus cases: 2

Food Safety Division Report

Total Food Service Permits Issued: 3924

Annual Food Service Permits: 1606

Seasonal Food Service Permits: 271

Temporary Food Service Permits: 2047

Public Health Emergency Preparedness Report

PHEP Grant Funding Received: \$111,759.10

- ✓ All 2024 grant deliverables met



755-3655 / 755-3656 / 755-3657

Chandana Vavilala, M.D.

Health Officer

Nursing Division Report

Immunizations Administered

Month	VFC/Vax	Private	TB Tests TST & QFT
January	203	18	40
February	194	20	24
March	225	26	23
April	164	25	27
May	158	45	31
June	238	22	34
July	348	32	69
August	506	30	46
September	534	22	47
October	650	19	54
November	350	26	48
December	196	32	21
Total	3766	317	464

Epidemiology Case Investigations

Month	Number of Cases
January	63
February	41
March	40
April	72
May	46
June	58
July	41
August	58
September	38
October	83
November	48
December	67
Total	652

County Employee Flu Vaccines Administered: 398

Youth Blood Lead Level Testing Completed: 23



755-3655 / 755-3656 / 755-3657

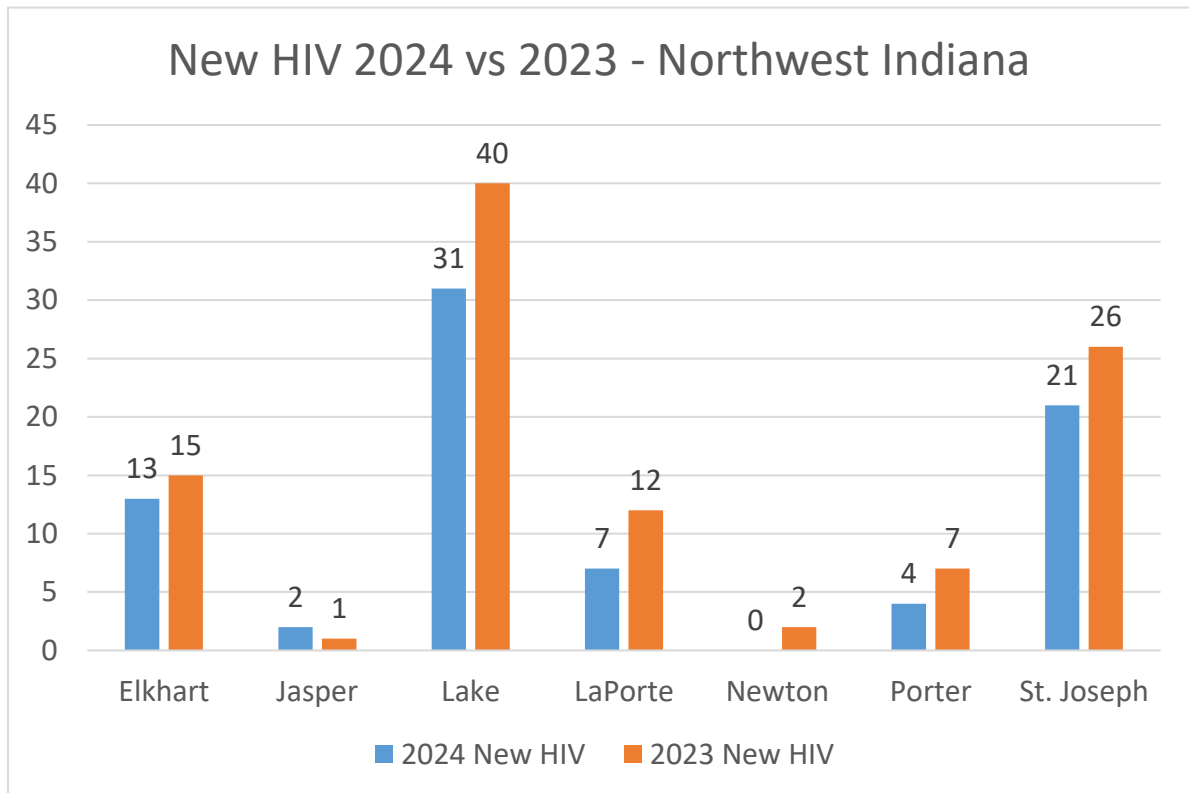
Chandana Vavilala, M.D.

Health Officer

HIV Surveillance Report (Regional)

New HIV Diagnoses:

Regional comparisons show a decline of new HIV diagnoses from 2023 to 2024 in all regional counties.



HIV Related Labs Received: 1,137

Disease Intervention Referrals: 375

Out of State Cases: 135



755-3655 / 755-3656 / 755-3657

Chandana Vavilala, M.D.

Health Officer

Health First Indiana (HFI) Report

2024 Funding: \$4,865,899.82

Local Key Performance Objectives (KPO)

Core Service	Key Performance Objective
Maternal and Child Health	Decrease rate of mothers not receiving parental care by 5.3% by 2027
Maternal and Child Health	Decrease the number of congenital syphilis cases from 4 to 0 by 2027
Trauma and Injury Prevention	Decrease opioid overdose death by 15% by 2029
Child and Adult Immunizations	Increase vaccination completion rate of children under 3 by 3.3 by 2027

Statewide KPO Progress

Key Performance Objective	Completion Status
Implemented a Chronic Disease Program	Completed
Has a Service Referral Program	Completed
Food Inspection Standard Operating Procedures-Risk Based Inspections	In Process
Vital Records Offered during an Emergency	In Process
Has a blood lead level trained Case Manager	Completed
Offering weekly blood lead level testing	Completed
Has a comprehensive Public Health Emergency Response Plan	Completed
Has a partnership to assist patients with Active or Latent TB	In Process
Implemented a Program to improve birth outcomes	In Process
Has a process to refer families to prenatal care	In Process
Identified the leading cause of trauma and injury in Lake County	Completed
Implemented program(s) to address our leading cause of trauma and injury	Completed
Has trained staff to conduct environmental inspections and housing complaints	Completed
Able to initiate reportable disease public health case investigations within 24 hours	Completed
Offering vaccination hours beyond normal business hours	Completed
Offering immunizations regardless of insurance status	Completed
Provides access to clinical services	In Process
Participating in local Child Fatality Review teams	Completed
Participating in local Fetal Infant Mortality Review	In Process
Participating in Suicide Overdose Fatality Review Teams	Completed
Partnered with schools to provide school wellness and student health	Completed
Working with local & state partners to address gaps and barrier to health services	In Process