

HEALTH EQUITY

CDPH is committed to reducing the Black-white life expectancy gap and creating a healthier future for everyone in Chicago. CDPH's Healthy Chicago 2025 plan is a call to action across sectors to promote health equity, with the understanding that health inequities are rooted in racism and cause harm to individuals and communities.



COVID-19

The City of Chicago and CDPH have mobilized every resource available and collaborated with national, state and local partners on a comprehensive response to the COVID-19 virus. Data and equity have been at the heart of that response, driving vaccine and other resources to the communities most impacted by the outbreak. We will continue to focus on the health disparities that were amplified by the pandemic, including through our innovative Healthy Chicago Equity Zones program.

CDPH FUNDING SOURCES

Pre-COVID, over 70% of CDPH's budget consisted of federal funding, primarily for HIV-related treatment and prevention, emergency preparedness and immunizations. Limited state funding helped support environmental permitting and inspections, maternal and child health, and food safety inspections. City funding supported most behavioral health work. Prior to COVID, approximately 20% of the CDPH budget came from City funds and 80% from federal and state grants. COVID brought a much-needed influx of emergency federal funds to CDPH, though this funding appears unlikely to be sustained.

WHAT WE DO

At the Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH) we fight to eliminate health inequities, work to improve systems, and leverage our diverse staff, community and partners to remove barriers to health. We also support the broader public health system through data analysis & dissemination, policy changes and citywide planning activities to promote equity.

We work in program areas including:



HEALTH PROTECTION: Investigation, prevention & outbreak response for 70+ infectious diseases; vaccine distribution & promotion; mosquito testing; food safety inspections.



MATERNAL, INFANT, CHILD AND ADOLESCENT HEALTH: Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infant and Children (WIC); Nurse home visiting for families with newborns; lead poisoning prevention, inspections, & remediation; school-based vision, dental and reproductive health services.



COMMUNITY HEALTH: Environmental permitting & inspections; Healthy Chicago Equity Zones and community-based health workers; chronic disease prevention including breast health, tobacco cessation and food equity.



BEHAVIORAL HEALTH: Mental health outpatient care, crisis response & system coordination; substance use disorder treatment, prevention & harm reduction; violence prevention & intervention programs.



SYNDEMIC INFECTIOUS DISEASES: Investigation, prevention & treatment of HIV, sexually transmitted infections, viral hepatitis & tuberculosis; wrap-around services include HIV- and tuberculosis-related housing support.



PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS: Coordinate Chicago's hundreds of health care providers; lead city and health system emergency preparedness & response activities.