



# 2009 Annual Report

**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Knox County Health Department



1361 West Fremont Street • Galesburg, Illinois 61401 • 309.344.2224 • [www.knoxcountyhealth.org](http://www.knoxcountyhealth.org)



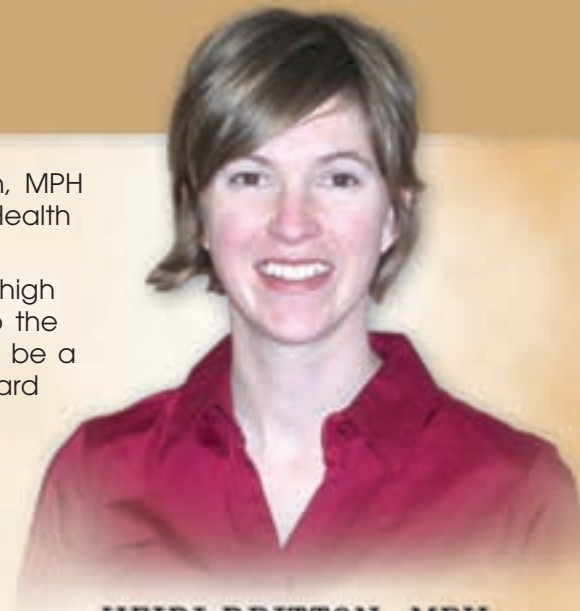
# New Leadership in 2009

During 2009, the Knox County Health Department assumed new leadership. Ms. Heidi Britton, MPH closed the September Board of Health meeting by signing a one-year contract with the Health Department as the new Public Health Administrator for Knox County.

Knox County Board of Health President, Jeanne Harland spoke highly of Heidi, expressing high regard for her enthusiasm and excitement. "Ms. Britton will bring a lot of positive energy to the Health Department," stated Harland, "the Board is extremely confident in her abilities, she will be a great asset to this Department; it is time for the Knox County Health Department to move forward and grow."

Ms. Britton comes to the Health Department from the Urbana area where she worked as a Program Coordinator for the Champaign-Urbana Public Health District supervising the Urbana School Health Center. Heidi holds a Master's in Public Health from the University of Illinois at Chicago, and a Bachelor's degree in biochemistry from the same school.

Ms. Britton currently resides in Galesburg with her husband and two children.



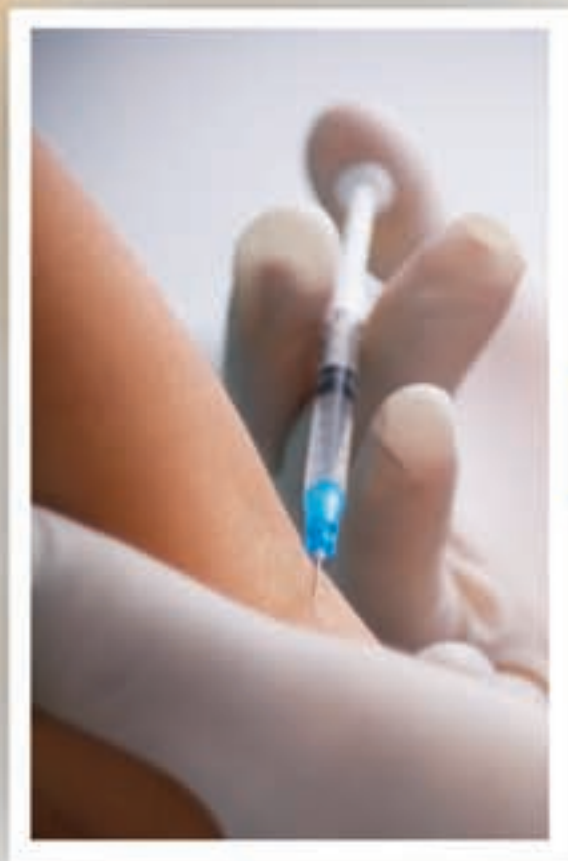
HEIDI BRITTON, MPH

## 2009 Accomplishments

- Family Case Management Program received an excellent state program review.
- Provided continued, quality public health services, to Knox County residents, with significant budget cuts.
- Made very challenging and difficult budget decisions; based on very vague, to no, state information and guidance.
- Management Team grew as leaders, and presented a united, capable and driven front, alleviating any concerns staff may have had, during the interim administrator period.
- Secured a new Public Health Administrator.
- Completed month-long time study for Community Health Improvement staff.
- Emergency Preparedness received the highest score on LTAR (SNS plans) among the Peoria-West Region Health Departments.
- Amended on-site wastewater and food safety ordinances.

**Met the challenge of H1N1, with professionalism and a clear plan to vaccinate Knox County residents in the most productive and efficient system.**

- Convened the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Youth Leadership Summit; instructing 75 Knox County 10<sup>th</sup> graders on how to be leaders and peer mentors within their schools.
- Held 1<sup>st</sup> ever Tobacco Use Prevention Viral Video contest in observance of 2009 Kick Butts Day.
- Kicked off the 4<sup>th</sup> Community Health Improvement Assessment and Planning process for the Knox County Community.
- Successfully advocated for, and received federal designation for all of Knox County as a "Medically Underserved Population."
- Received grant funding from the Illinois Children's Healthcare Foundation to increase access to dental health services by increasing personnel.
- Received grant funding and implemented the Knox County Health Department Quality Improvement and Performance Management initiative.
- Two employees prepared to implement IDPH Tattooing and Body Piercing program.



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## New Look beginning in 2009

During October 2009, the Knox County Health Department became one of thousands of local public health agencies across the United States to adopt a new identity for local public health, one that nationally communicates dedication to community health and safety.

The Board of Health took action at the October 8, 2009 meeting to adopt the identity, which represents public health does - and what public health achieves:

- The symbol of a three-pointed shield and stylized plus illustrate a universal recognition associated with health, with protection and with growth.
- The three point symmetry reinforces the three core functions of public health.
- The words **Prevent. Promote. Protect.** Are a simple, elegant statement that embraces everything that public health accomplishes and differentiates public health as both a sentinel and responder.
- The colors stand for integrity, authority and stability. They symbolize the legacy and steadfast qualities of public health.

"The Health Department touches the lives of everyone in our community, every single day," reports Heidi Britton, Public Health Administrator for the Knox County Health Department. "Much of this work takes place outside of the public's view," noted Britton; "by adopting the national identity for local public health the Department is part of a national initiative to ensure that people recognize, understand and use the many services that public health offers."



**For more information about the national identity for local public health visit the National Association of City and County Health Officials website at [www.NACCHO.org](http://www.NACCHO.org).**





# Health Protection Programs

The goal of the Health Protection Division is to protect the health and welfare of Knox County residents through the provision of essential programs that contribute to the prevention of communicable disease, the protection of the environment, control of infectious disease, and the maintenance of an effective public health emergency response system.

**Environmental Health:** Environmental Health inspects food and drink establishments, reviews kitchen plans for new facilities, enforces environmental laws, issues permits for private water supplies and private sewage systems, conducts lead paint investigations and provides food-handling classes.

Food Safety Program	2007	2008	2009
Licensed Food Establishments	326	322	332
Routine Inspections Conducted	655	685	615
Number of Re-Inspections	393	256	226
Number of Complaint Investigations	38	31	

Palable Water Supply Program	2007	2008	2009
Number of Water Permits Issued	33	30	23
Number of Water Wells Installed	16	13	9
Number of New Water Wells Inspected	33	37	10
Number of Water Wells Sealed	27	18	15

Onsite Wastewater Disposal Program	2007	2008	2009
Sewage System Permits Issued	75	75	53
Sewage Systems Installed	71	73	51
Sewage Systems Inspected	77	183	55
Sewage Complaints Received	13	6	14
Number of Complaints Inspected	13	6	14



**Communicable Disease Surveillance and Investigation:** Local Public Health Departments are required to investigate communicable (infectious) diseases such as whooping cough, tuberculosis, hepatitis and foodborne or waterborne illnesses. The Communicable Disease Program works with the state health department and local health care providers to identify, investigate, and try to control disease outbreaks in our community.



Communicable Disease Reports	2007	2008	2009
AIDS	0	0	0
Giardiasis	4	4	2
Hepatitis (A,B,C)	23	40	45
HIV Infection	4	5	4
Lyme Disease	2	1	1
Meningitis (Viral)	1	0	1
Salmonellosis	5	8	5
Shigellosis	1	0	0
Tuberculosis	2	0	1

Sexually Transmitted Disease Reports	2007	2008	2009
Chlamydia	211	198	234
Gonorrhea	61	67	98
Syphilis	0	2	2

Confidential STD Testing	2007	2008	2009
HIV Tests Performed	432	406	461
STD Exams Performed	509	510	605

Immunization Program Activity	2007	2008	2009
Children Provided Immunizations	904	911	843
Childhood Immunizations Administered	2,007	1,843	1,865
TB Tests Performed	456	412	550

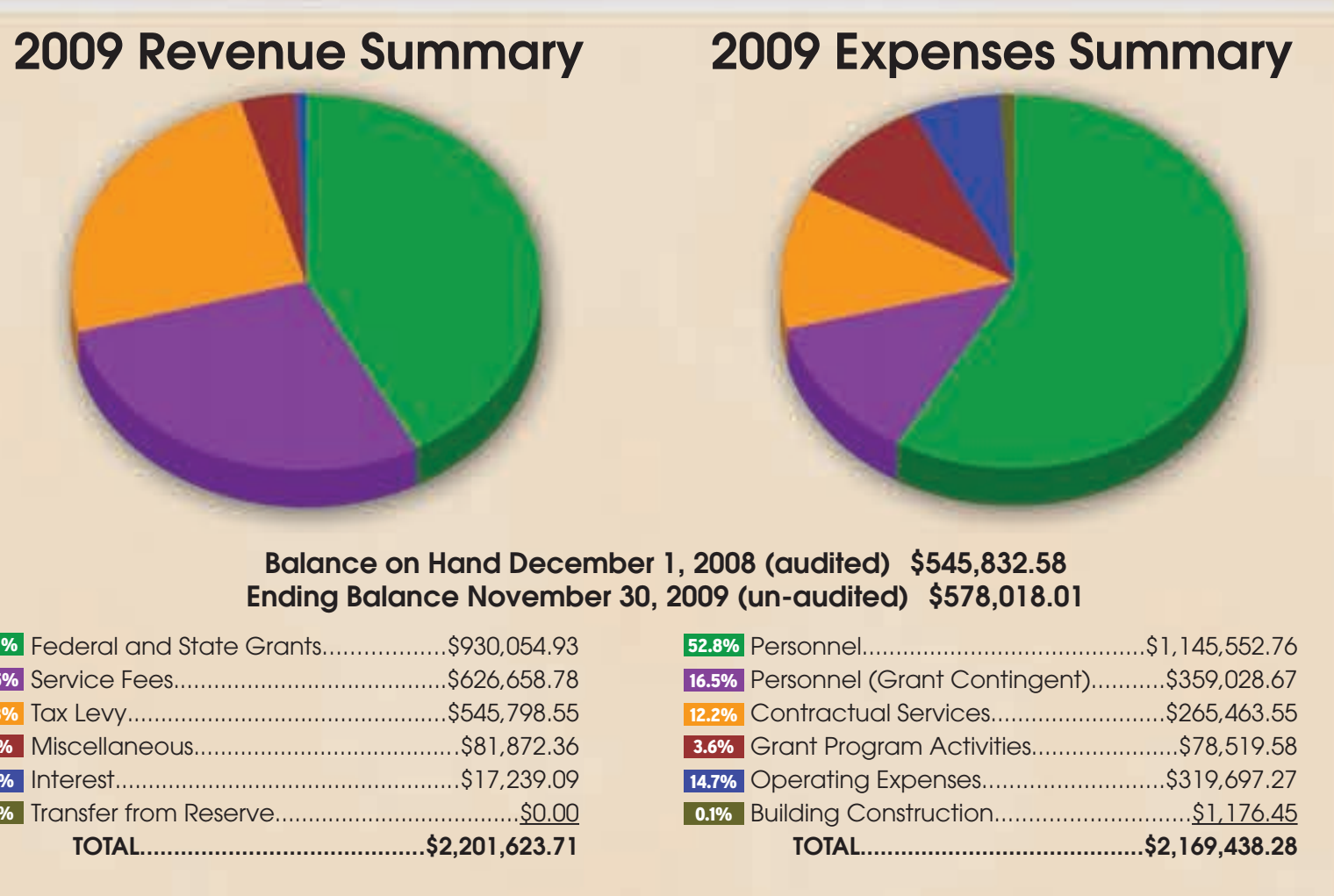
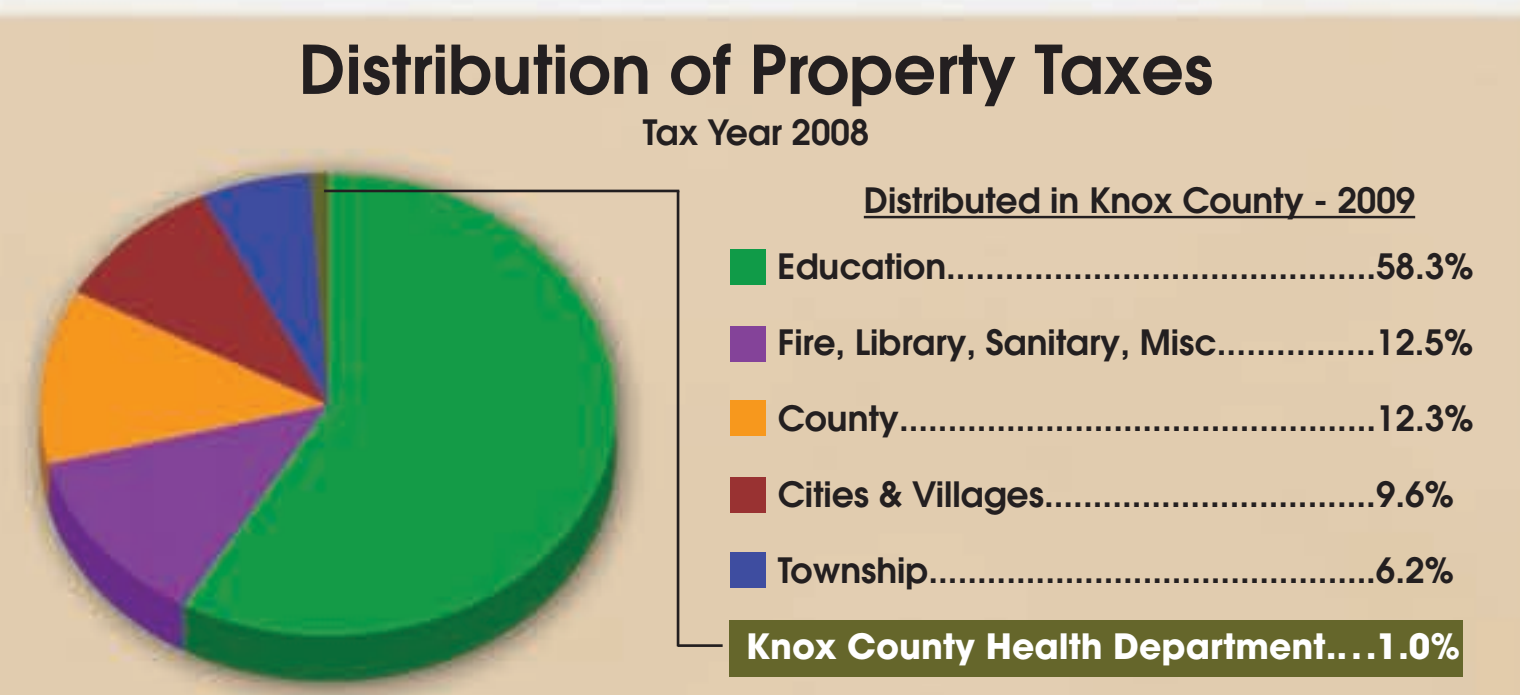
# Public Health

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**Knox County Health Department**  
 1361 West Fremont Street, Galesburg, Illinois 61401  
 309.344.2224  
[www.knoxcountyhealth.org](http://www.knoxcountyhealth.org)  
 Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00am to 4:30pm

**MISSION**  
 TO SERVE KNOX COUNTY BY ASSESSING HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL NEEDS, DEVELOPING POLICIES, AND ASSURING THOSE NEEDS ARE EFFECTIVELY ADDRESSED.

**VISION**  
 HEALTHY PEOPLE IN A HEALTHY COMMUNITY!



# 2009 Food Safety Excellence Award Recipients



- Abingdon Junior/Senior High
- Care Center of Abingdon
- Hedding Grade School
- Arby's #254
- King Elementary School
- Lombard Middle School
- Nielson Elementary School
- Silas Willard Elementary School
- Steel Elementary School
- Lake Bracken Country Club
- Marigold Rehabilitation and Health Care Center
- OSF St. Mary Medical Center
- Heartland Healthcare
- Rosewood Care Center of Galesburg
- Seminary Manor
- St. Mary's Square Living Center
- Good Samaritan Nursing Home
- Knoxville High School
- Knoxville Junior High School
- Mable Woolsey Elementary School

This is a very prestigious award, we congratulate all the 2009 recipients.

The Food Service Sanitation Excellence Award is offered by the Knox County Health Department to food service facilities on an annual basis. Facilities achieving the award are issued a certificate that can be posted in public view indicating the facility exceeds food service sanitation.

# Family Health Programs

The Family Health programs provide health education on a number of topics, health assessments, coordination of services and provide testing and screening for a variety of chronic and acute disorders, as well as providing assistance to increase the number of Knox County babies that are born healthy and continue to remain healthy long after birth.

Nutrition Services (WIC)	2007	2008	2009
Clients Certified	2,527	2,525	2,644
Clients Attending Nutrition Education	3,373	3,238	3,388
Clients Attending Breast-Feeding Education	778	684	704

Family Case Management Program	2007	2008	2009
Face to Face Visits	5,824	5,663	5,917
Home Visits	621	543	460
New Clients Enrolled in the Program	747	720	764
Pregnancy Tests Provided	91	121	83
High-Risk Home Visits	92	108	72
Post-Partum Home Contacts	439	391	330

Lead Poisoning Prevention Program	2007	2008	2009
Number of Children Screened at the Health Department	638	344	338
Number of Knox County Children with Elevated Lead Levels	29	29	40
Number of Nurse Home Visits	47	17	16
Number of Environmental Investigations	29	14	17

**Western Illinois Breast & Cervical Cancer Screening Program**  
 This program provides education and access to medical services for eligible women through the Illinois Breast and Cervical Cancer Program (IBCCP) as well as the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, Peoria Memorial Chapter. Clients may be from Knox, Warren, or Henderson Counties, and may be referred to participating area physicians or to the Health Department Clinic for medical services.

Western Illinois Breast and Cervical Cancer Program	2007	2008	2009
Number of Women Served	270	333	393

Early detection of breast cancer utilizing screening mammography has demonstrated a 25% reduction in mortality from breast cancer with a cost per year of life saved estimated to be \$3,400.00.

# Community Health Improvement Programs

Community Health Improvement staff work to enhance the overall health and well-being of Knox County through the provision of community health education programs, the collection and assessment of health data, community health improvement planning, social marketing and health promotion activities.

Health Education Presentations	2007	2008	2009
Tobacco	45	55	38
Sexual Health Education	61	67	45
Dental and Oral Health	26	48	41
Hygiene	0	63	30
Miscellaneous Topics	86	82	125
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>267</b>	<b>279</b>

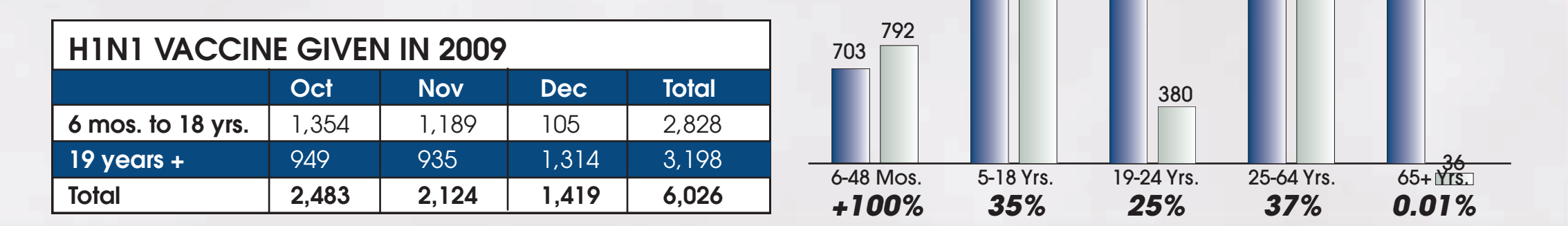
Dental Sealant Program	2007	2008	2009
Number of Children Served	1,127	746	968
Number of Sealants Applied	973	658	891

The Health Department in collaboration with the Knox County Healthy Youth Alliance hosted the 2nd annual Teen Leadership Summit, entitled "LOL! Leadership Out Loud", for sixty-nine 10th grade male and female students in Knox County. The summit was held on the campus of Carl Sandburg College on December 4, 2009 from 9:00am to 2:15pm. Knox County high schools selected students to attend the one-day event; serving up to 100 youth divided between Knox County high schools according to enrollment numbers.

# 2009 H1N1 Campaign

On May 5, 2009, Health Department officials were notified that Knox County had its first confirmed case of the H1N1 influenza virus. The Department began active surveillance of any possible influenza-like cases and contact with local health care providers to provide guidance from the Illinois Department of Public Health.

- October 20, 2009, the Department began providing the H1N1 vaccine FREE of charge, providing over 800 vaccinations during the first two clinics.
- Saturday, November 7th five community clinics were held simultaneously in Knox County to provide the vaccine.
- On December 15, the H1N1 Vaccine was available to all residents of Knox County. Clinics were held in cooperation with the 5 school districts in each of the communities; 191 volunteers and 29 Health Department employees participated; 1,430 vaccines were given.
- At the end of 2009, 6,026 vaccines were given by the Knox County Health Department.





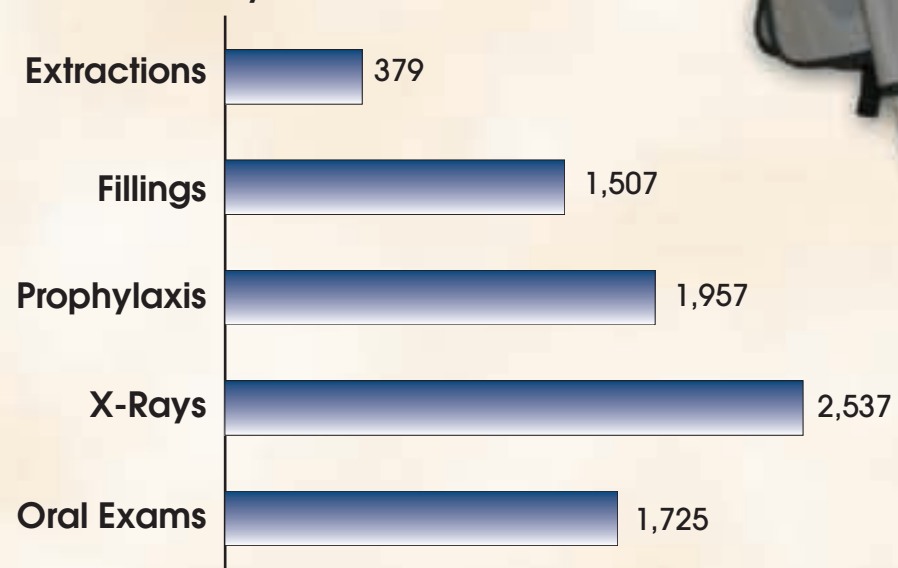
It is the mission of the Knox County Community Health Clinic to provide access to dental and primary health services, for the medically underserved, which stress prevention and patient responsibility.

**FOR MEDICAL OR DENTAL APPOINTMENTS  
call 309-344-2225 8am to 4:30pm. Medicaid accepted**

Dental Clinic Statistics		2009
Number of Appointments		4,896
New Patients Seen		805
Children Receiving Service		3,183
Medicaid Eligible Children		3,150
Adults Receiving Service		457
Medicaid Eligible Adults		333
Total Patients Seen		3,640



### 2009 Dental Services Rendered Number of County Residents



Adult Wellness Screenings

### Adult Wellness Screening Program

Provides health promotion and screening services for all Knox County residents. Services are designed to prevent heart disease in Knox County. Clinics are held on the 2nd and 3rd Thursday of every month beginning 7:00am. Appointments are required.

#### MEDICAL SERVICES OFFERED:

- Employment physicals
- School and Sports physicals
- Acute and Chronic medical care
- Immunizations
- Adult Wellness
- Cholesterol Screenings
- Asthma treatment and management
- Nutritional counseling and referrals
- Prescription assistance for qualifying medications

#### Adult Wellness Services

	2007	2008	2009
Total Number of Adult Wellness Clinics Held	0	36	27
Clients Served	502	465	413
Cholesterol Tests Performed	326	454	217
In-House	0	142	163
Out-of-House	0	312	54
Blood Sugar Tests Performed	172	153	126
Blood Pressure Screenings Performed	284	253	214



#### DID YOU KNOW?

Oatmeal and Oat Bran are one of the Top 5 Foods that lower cholesterol.

## Expanding local health care

By TOM LOEWY  
The Register-Mail

Monday, January 18, 2010

**GALESBURG** – In a time of discord over how to deliver health care to United States citizens, Knox County residents heard hopeful words Jan. 27.

Susan Greene, the consultant hired to help the Knox County Health Department shepherd the community health clinic through the application process to become a Federally Qualified Health Center, is the featured speaker at the health department's upcoming public meeting on the effort.

"I am very hopeful that Knox County will be able to apply for and receive an FQHC," Greene said last week. "There is every indication that the application process will be opened up sometime around April."

While many Americans have followed the ongoing national health care debate, those who seek to bring federal dollars and health resources to citizens of Knox County have been waiting patiently for the FQHC application process to open up. Greene said that she heard some encouraging news.

"There was a conference call sponsored by the National Association of Community Health Centers and during that call it was said there is expected to be 7,500 to 10,000 new access point sites opened over the next five years," Greene said. "That will be ironed out when the Health Care Reform bill is worked out."

While much of that bill appears to be hotly contested by both sides of the political aisle, Greene said FQHCs have enjoyed years of bi-partisan support.

"The health center program is very, very popular with Congress," Greene said, echoing a statement she made in a conference call with the Knox County Board of Health on July 1, 2009.

After that call, the board of health voted to pay a \$7,500 retainer fee to Susan Greene & Associates to begin the application process for the Knox County Health Department's community clinic to apply for a Section 330 grant and become a FQHC.

At that time, Greene said the KCHD's Community Health Clinic had a big factor in its favor — health clinics that service rural areas have always been a priority and have good long-term records in the program.

During the July 1 board of health meeting, Greene told board members that because the Knox County Health Department is publicly funded and has a long track record of servicing clients throughout the community — and has shown it is located in an under-served area — there is little chance the funds will ever be pulled if the Community Health Clinic is awarded FQHC status.

"The FQHC program has been in effect since the 1970s," Greene told the board during the conference call. "Congress loves this program. There has never been a time when Congress failed to authorize the line item for community health centers."

FQHC status is the crucial ingredient as the Knox County Health Department attempts to solidify and expand the services it delivers through the Knox County Community Clinic. The KCHD is dependent on state and local funds to deliver primary and preventive medical care, counseling for pregnant women and dental care to children. FQHC status and funding — locked in at roughly \$650,000 per year for a minimum of three years before evaluation — would allow the Knox County Community Clinic to preserve the services it delivers and expand the medical care offered to Knox County residents.

FQHCs provide comprehensive primary and preventive health care for medically underserved populations facing the greatest economic and geographic barriers to accessing care. Overseen by the Health Resources and Services Administration, the FQHC program is a national network of more than 1,100 community, migrant, homeless and public housing health center grantees. Those organizations provide health care at more than 7,500 clinical sites, ranging from large medical facilities to mobile vans. In 2008, health centers served more than 17 million medically underserved people.

An FQHC cannot turn away patients — for any reason. Fees for services are based on a person's income, allowing those with high-premium health insurance to seek primary and preventive care. If the Knox County Community Health Clinic becomes a Federally Qualified Health Clinic its range of services — and the number of people eligible for service — could drastically expand.

The application process the Knox County Health Department will follow in the attempt to achieve FQHC status is a not simple — or cheap.

The entire cost of the application process — Greene said the federal government estimates it takes 250 hours to compile the 200-page application — is expected to be somewhere around \$40,000. No more than \$30,000 will be paid to Greene & Associates, while the health department expects to spend another \$10,000 in legal fees.

The health department and its board went ahead with hiring the consultant for the application process even though it did not have a planning grant because the FQHC application was released a full two months before the applications for the \$80,000 planning grant. The gamble paid off, as the KCHD was awarded a planning grant in late 2009.

Greene said the being awarded the planning grant is another reason for residents to hope Knox County has a chance to land FQHC funding.



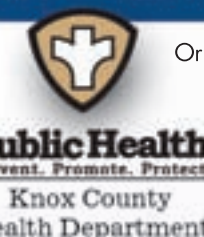
SUSAN GREENE

*We need a little help.*



The Knox County Health Department is searching for community-minded individuals of all professions who are interested in serving as board members on the inaugural Knox County Health Clinic Governing Board. Board members provide valuable guidance about Community Health Clinic services and operations.

If this is something you are interested in hearing more about, contact Michele Fishburn at 344-2224 or [mfishburn@knoxcountyhealth.org](mailto:mfishburn@knoxcountyhealth.org)



Or stop by to fill out an application:

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## Message from the President: *"On behalf of the Board of Health, thank you all for your ongoing support,"*

**Jeanne Harland**



2009 was a year of change and challenges for the Knox County Health Department. In September Heidi Britton was hired as our new public health administrator. She has brought to the job new insight and fresh ideas about how to address and meet the many needs of a local health department. Working with the management team to streamline the organization, the new director has implemented changes necessary to assure that services are delivered effectively but ever more efficiently.

In addition to constantly rethinking how to maintain programs despite funding cuts and delayed payments from the State of Illinois, the entire staff of the Knox County Health Department met the substantial challenge presented by the emergence of H1N1 influenza. Because of training in emergency preparedness for a pandemic flu outbreak, the staff successfully accomplished the massive undertaking of providing immunizations county-wide in a timely and highly efficient manner.

During the past year the Health Department has also begun the process of becoming eligible for Federally Qualified Health Department status. While this is an enormous challenge, such a designation would enable the Health Department to provide a higher level of health care for the citizens of Knox County. Working with our community partners and developing new relationships will assure additional opportunities for growth.

The residents of Knox County can feel confident that the dedication and professionalism of the entire Health Department staff will assure that much-needed services will continue to be available. Knox County has a dynamic and responsive Health Department that is well-positioned to promote healthy people in a healthy community as we enter the next decade.



## 2009-2010 Knox County Board of Health

### Members from left to right

#### Back row:

B. Lance Renfroe, DDS, Frank Peppers, MD, Doug Gibb, Treasurer; Greg Bacon, County Board Liaison; Tommy West, MD.

#### Front row:

Kim DeSutter, Jeanne Harland, President; Carol Scotton, Secretary; and Jacquelyne Turner, Vice-President

