

Southern Seven Health Department & Head Start

FY '25 Annual Report

Mission

To promote a safe and healthy environment by providing preventative health care, family support services, and child development programs.



Vision

Making a difference in your community, one family at a time.



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Director's Report

As we reflect on the past year, we are honored to share this message on behalf of Southern Seven Health Department and Head Start. This year has brought both challenges and opportunities, and through it all, we are committed to remain focused on serving the families of Southern Illinois with dedication and care.

We begin by remembering our late Executive Director, Rhonda Andrews-Ray, whose leadership and compassion left a lasting mark on our organization. Her commitment to public health and early childhood education continues to guide our work and inspire our mission.

Over the past year, we expanded Head Start classrooms, opening doors for more children to access early learning. We secured new grants that enable us to provide additional services addressing cancer prevention, transportation challenges, and other critical health issues in our region. These resources have strengthened our public health programs and enhanced our ability to meet the needs of the communities we serve.

These accomplishments are a testament to the hard work of our staff, the strength of our partnerships, and the trust of the families we serve. We are proud of the progress we've made and remain committed to building on that momentum in the year ahead.

Thank you for your continued support and belief in our mission. Together, we are making a difference.

Sincerely,
Co-Interim Executive Directors: Jennifer Parks & Natalie L. Sawyer
Southern Seven Health Department and Head Start





Board of Health Members





Staff Snapshot

The People Powering Our Mission

Community-Based Staff

88% of our staff reside in the communities we serve

Overview

194 Employees

2 Divisions:

*Health Department
& Early Childhood*

7 Counties Served

7 Public Health Clinics

10 Head Start Locations

Registered Nurses
(agency total, not clinic staff count)

10

Nurse Practitioners

1

Public Health Staff

34

Head Start Staff

130

Administrative & Support Staff

30

Staff Years of Service:

0-10 Years: **133**

10-20 Years: **28**

20-34 Years: **30**

35+ Years: **3**

Longest-Serving Employee:
40+ Years



Leadership Team

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In Memoriam
Rhonda Andrews-Ray, Executive Director
Passed July 13, 2025
We respectfully honor Rhonda Andrews-Ray for her leadership and contributions to the Southern Seven Health Department.

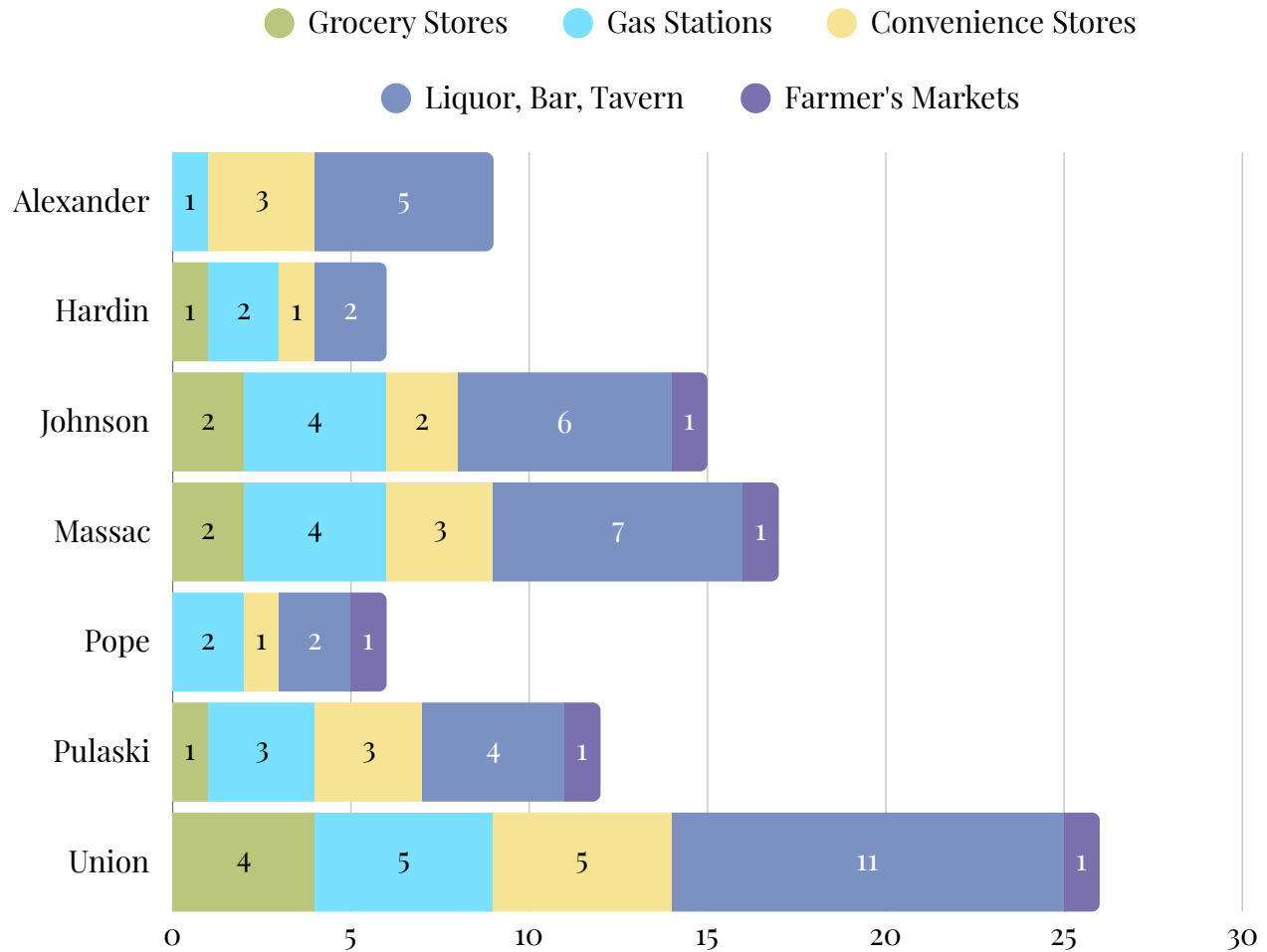


Regional Census Data Estimate




County	Population	Race (% White / Black / Hispanic)	Poverty Rate	Median Income	Bachelor's+	Unemployment Rate
Alexander	4,695	65/ 31/ 3	25.80%	\$43,523	11.90%	6.40%
Hardin	3,569	95/ 1 / 3	19.20%	\$57,155	~12%	5.90%
Johnson	13,326	85 / 13 / 4	15.20%	\$65,203	18.80%	6.50%
Massac	13,661	89/ 7 / 4	17.70%	\$62,584	~16%	4.90%
Pope	3,707	94/ 3 / 2	16.10%	\$62,500	~14%	3.90%
Pulaski	4,911	65 / 31 / 3	22.40%	\$43,227	11.90%	8.00%
Union	16,667	95 / 2 / 5	15.90%	\$56,420	~16%	4.90%
Southern 7 Average	60,536	84/ 13/ 3	18.50%	\$55,802	14.90%	5.80%
Illinois Statewide	12.7M	76 / 14 / 7	11.60%	\$81,702	36.20%	4.80%

Regional Establishments



1 Walmart
3 McDonalds

Grocery stores
1 per 6,054 people
Liquor establishments
1 per 1,637 people

1 gas station
for every
111 square miles

Early Childhood Programs & Licensed Childcare

Head Start programs promote the growth and development of children from birth to age five through comprehensive services in early learning, health, and family well-being. A cornerstone of the program is active family engagement, recognizing that parents and caregivers play a critical role in supporting positive child outcomes. Services are provided at no cost to eligible families and are delivered in center-based, and home-based settings.

Head Start preschool serves children ages three to five and their families, while Early Head Start supports expectant parents and families with infants and toddlers from birth to age three. Many communities operate both programs, ensuring continuity of care through the earliest years of life. In addition, the Prevention Initiative program and center-based services provide home visiting and center-based services to at-risk families with children from birth to age three, offering guidance, developmental support, and connections to community resources. The Migrant and Seasonal Head Start program extends services to children of agricultural workers, addressing the unique challenges these families face by providing education, nutrition, health, and family support in a flexible, culturally responsive way.

Southern Seven licensed childcare centers, all share a common mission: to deliver high-quality, comprehensive services in safe and supportive environments that prepare children for school and life success while strengthening families and communities.

Funded Enrollment: 488

Children Served During the School Year: 489

Families Served During the School Year: 451

Home-Based Children Served: 50

Volunteers Providing Service: 714

Children Transitioning to Kindergarten: 90

Paid Staff Who Were Former Head Start Parents: 40

Expectant Families: 14

Early Head Start Slots: 142

Traditional Head Start Slots: 250

Prevention Initiative Slots: 60

Migrant Slots: 40

Childcare Slots: 48





Child Health

Child health encompasses physical, mental, cognitive, social, and emotional well-being. It extends beyond the absence of disease or injury, reflecting the environments and relationships that shape healthy development.

Children thrive when they have access to safe homes and communities, proper nutrition, regular health care, and opportunities for learning and play. When these conditions are met, children are better able to reach their full potential, laying the foundation for lifelong health and success.

ASQ Development Assessments: **396**
WIC/FCM Clinic Visits (Infants): **705**
WIC/FCM Clinic Visits (Children): **1,641**
HealthWorks of IL, Children Served: **285**
Blood Lead Tests: **215**
Dental Sealant Applications: **2**
Vision Screenings: **342**
Visions Rescreens: **42**
Vision Referrals: **9**
Hearing Screens: **338**
Hearing Rescreens: **56**
Hearing Referrals: **10**



Immunizations

Immunizations are the process of administering vaccines to protect individuals from certain diseases. Vaccines work by stimulating the body's natural immune system, providing protection similar to that developed after experiencing the disease itself—but without the risks of infection or its complications. By preventing illness before it occurs, immunizations not only protect individuals but also reduce the spread of contagious diseases, safeguard vulnerable populations, and strengthen community health. As one of the most effective public health tools available, vaccines continue to play a critical role in extending life expectancy and improving quality of life worldwide.

Total Child/Adult Immunizations Given

Abrysvo: **37**

COVID-19: **360**

DTaP (Diphtheria, Tetanus, acellular Pertussis): **69**

Gardasil 9: **84**

Hepatitis A: **123**

Hepatitis B: **49**

TwinRix (Hepatitis A&B): **10**

Hib: **45**

IPV: **29**

KinRix (Diphtheria, Pertussis, IPV, Tetanus): **94**

Menigitis B (Bexsero): **4**

Menquadifi: **184**

Menveo: **15**

MMR (Measles, Mumps, Rubella): **94**

MMR/V (MMR & Varicella): **120**

Pediatric (DTaP, IPV, Hib): **12**

Pentacel: **66**

Prenar 13: **4**

Prenar 20: **234**

RotaVirus (not injectable): **79**

Seasonal Influenza: **766**

Shingrix: **39**

Tdap (Tetanus, Diphtheria, acellular Pertussis): **194**

Varicella: **74**

Vaxelis: **109**

Vaxneuvance: **1**

**Total
Immunizations
Given:
2,895**

Chronic Disease Services

Chronic diseases are conditions that persist for one year or more and typically require ongoing medical care, limit daily activities, or both. They are the leading cause of illness, disability, and death in the United States. While many chronic diseases can be managed effectively, they are rarely cured and most often occur in older adults.

Common examples include:

Cancer – such as breast, cervical, colorectal, and skin cancers

Heart Disease – including coronary heart disease

Stroke – ischemic or hemorrhagic, often linked to high blood pressure or high cholesterol

Diabetes – primarily type 2 diabetes

Lung Diseases – including chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and asthma

Other Conditions – such as Alzheimer’s disease, arthritis, epilepsy, HIV/AIDS, multiple sclerosis, and chronic pain

Chronic diseases represent a significant public health challenge, yet with proper prevention, early detection, and consistent management, their impact on individuals and communities can be reduced.

Cholesterol Screenings: 1

Diabetes Screenings: 1

Fecal Immunochemical Testing (FIT):

- 111 Tests Distributed
 - 57 Normal Results
 - 5 Abnormal Results



Communicable Disease

Communicable diseases, also known as infectious or transmissible diseases, are illnesses caused by bacteria, viruses, parasites, or protozoa that can spread between people, from animals to humans, or among animals themselves. These diseases are transmitted in a variety of ways, including direct contact with an infected person, exposure to contaminated surfaces or bodily fluids, insect bites, or through respiratory droplets in the air. Because of their ability to spread quickly within communities, communicable diseases present ongoing public health challenges. Prevention measures such as vaccination, hand hygiene, safe food and water practices, and vector control remain essential to reducing transmission and protecting population health.

TB Program

Active TB Cases: **0**
Inactive TB Cases: **5**
TB Skin Tests Given: **626**

Sexually Transmitted Diseases

Chlamydia Cases: **133**
Chlamydia Tested: **89**
Gonorrhea Cases: **38**
Gonorrhea Tested: **89**
Syphilis Cases: **49**
Syphilis Tested: **82**
HIV Tested/Counseled: **82/1**

Reportable Communicable Diseases

Hepatitis A: **1**
Hepatitis B (Acute & Chronic): **6**
Hepatitis C (Acute): **7**
Pertussis: **1**
Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever: **12**
Tularemia: **1**
Salmonella: **5**
Streptococcal Disease: **4**
Ehrlichiosis: **4**
Haemophilus Influenza Invasive: **2**
Campylobacter: **4**

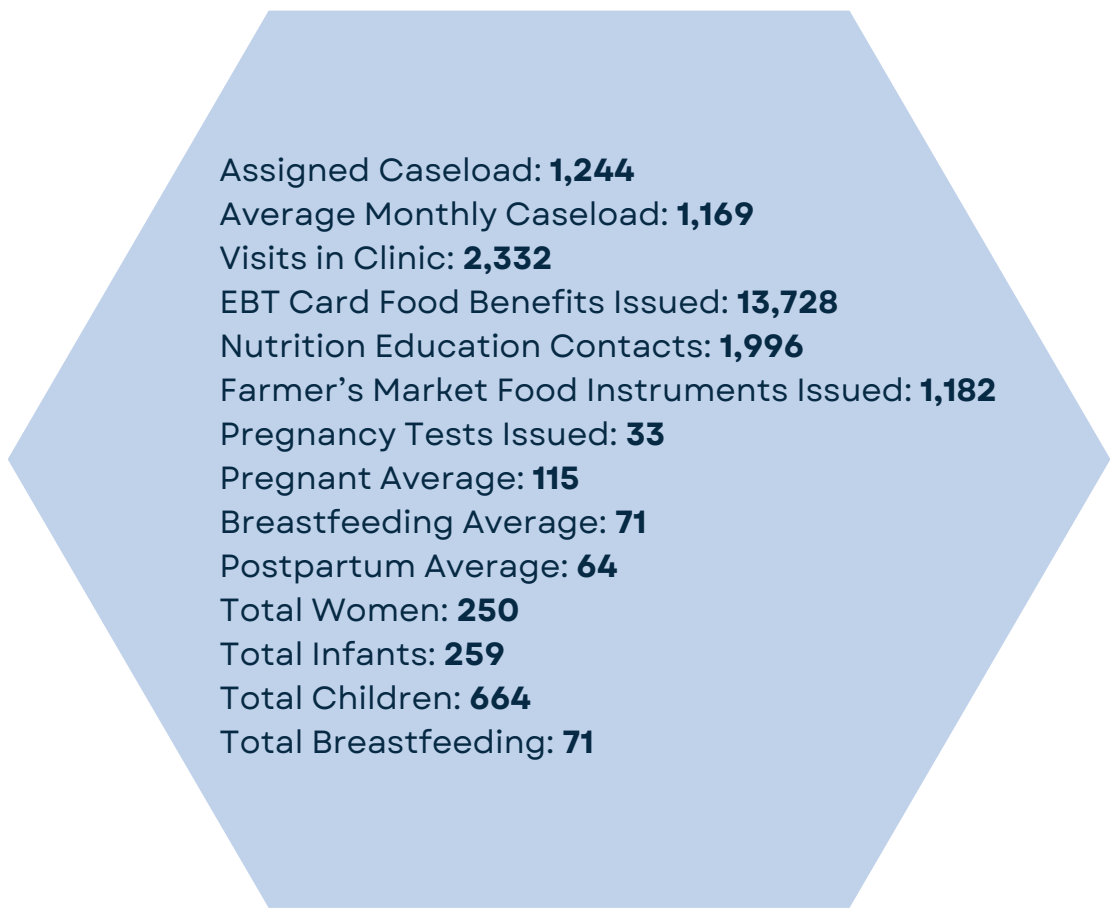




Women, Infants, and Children

The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) is a federal program designed to promote the health and well-being of low-income families during critical stages of early development. WIC provides access to nutritious foods that supplement diets, personalized nutrition education, breastfeeding support, and referrals to essential health and social services. The program serves pregnant and postpartum women, infants, and children up to age five who are at nutritional risk, helping to ensure proper growth and development during the earliest years of life.

By addressing nutrition and health needs early, WIC supports positive outcomes for both mothers and children, including improved birth outcomes, healthy weight gain, and reduced risk of nutrition-related illnesses. The program currently reaches millions of families nationwide and remains a vital resource for strengthening maternal and child health, promoting healthy beginnings, and laying the foundation for lifelong well-being.



- Assigned Caseload: **1,244**
- Average Monthly Caseload: **1,169**
- Visits in Clinic: **2,332**
- EBT Card Food Benefits Issued: **13,728**
- Nutrition Education Contacts: **1,996**
- Farmer's Market Food Instruments Issued: **1,182**
- Pregnancy Tests Issued: **33**
- Pregnant Average: **115**
- Breastfeeding Average: **71**
- Postpartum Average: **64**
- Total Women: **250**
- Total Infants: **259**
- Total Children: **664**
- Total Breastfeeding: **71**



Family Case Management

The Family Case Management (FCM) Program is a statewide initiative in Illinois that provides comprehensive service coordination to support the health, social, educational, and developmental needs of pregnant individuals and infants up to 12 months old from low-income families. The program is guided by the mission to assess statewide needs, establish goals, and implement objectives that improve maternal and child health while reducing infant mortality.

FCM offers personalized assessment of client needs, links families to Medicaid and primary medical care, provides referrals for social services, and coordinates ongoing care through regular face-to-face contacts and home visits. These services continue throughout pregnancy and during the infant's first year of life, ensuring that families receive consistent guidance, resources, and support to promote healthy pregnancies, strong infant development, and overall family well-being.

Average Infants Cases Managed: 186

High Risk Infants: 105

High Risk Infant Home Visits: 89

Target Caseload: 683

Average Monthly Caseload: 630

Average Prenatal Cases Managed: 107

Average Postpartum Cases Managed: 232

Edinburgh (Postpartum): 210

Edinburgh (Prenatal): 108



Environmental Health

Food Program

Permits Issued: **363**
Routine Inspections: **574**
Follow-Up Inspections: **295**
Temporary Permits: **190**
Complaint Inspections: **24**
Total Food Inspections: **1,083**

Private Septic Program

Permits Issued: **121**
Inspections: **106**
Complaint Inspections: **9**

West Nile Virus Program

Mosquito Pools Tested: **80**
Total Mosquitos Tested: **5,513**
Positive Mosquito Test Pools: **14**
Bird Submissions: **4**
Positive Bird Submissions: **2**

Water Well Program

Permits Issued: **64**
Inspections: **55**
Test Kits Sold: **36**

Other

Animal Bite Investigations: **37**
Tick Submissions: **291**



Health Education

Health education is a continuous and dynamic teaching-learning process designed to empower individuals to make informed decisions and adopt positive behaviors that improve their overall health and well-being. By providing accurate information, practical guidance, and supportive resources, health education helps individuals understand the factors that influence their physical, mental, and social health.

Effective health education equips people with the knowledge and skills necessary to prevent disease, manage existing conditions, and make lifestyle choices that promote long-term wellness. It can take place in a variety of settings, including schools, clinics, community programs, and workplaces, and is tailored to meet the unique needs of diverse populations. Through ongoing engagement and reinforcement, health education plays a vital role in fostering healthier communities and supporting individuals in achieving their full potential.

Schools Reached via Health Education Programs: **36**
Students Engaged in Health Education Programs: **4,525**
Local Groups/Coalitions with Consistent Health Education Engagement: **7**

ICHC (Illinois CATCH Onto Health Consortium)
Student Participants: **5,453**
ICHC New Schools: **0**
ICHC Maintaining Schools: **20**

Number of Policy Updates for Smoke/Vape-Free Outdoor Spaces: **3**
Smoke-Free Compliance Checks on Non-Food Businesses: **59**
DCFS Teen Parent Services Clients Served: **3**



Emergency Preparedness

Emergency preparedness is the process of planning, organizing, and taking proactive steps to help individuals, families, and organizations respond effectively and safely to unexpected events. Preparedness measures can be implemented at multiple levels—by governments, businesses, community organizations, and households—and may address general risks or be tailored to specific scenarios.

Effective emergency preparedness includes both broad strategies and situation-specific plans. For example, maintaining a well-stocked first aid kit or an emergency supply of food and water provides general readiness for a wide range of potential incidents, while detailed response plans may be developed for earthquakes, chemical spills, severe weather, or other hazards. By fostering awareness, planning, and readiness, emergency preparedness reduces the impact of crises, protects lives, and supports the continuity of essential services within communities.



Medical Reserve Corps

The Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) is a national network of more than 300,000 local volunteers dedicated to improving the health, safety, and resilience of communities across the United States. MRC volunteers include medical and public health professionals, as well as engaged community members, who contribute their skills and time to support public health initiatives, emergency response, and disaster preparedness efforts.

Established in 2002 following President George W. Bush's State of the Union Address, the MRC strengthens local public health infrastructure by providing trained personnel to respond to natural disasters, disease outbreaks, and other public health emergencies. In addition to emergency response, MRC volunteers participate in ongoing community health activities such as vaccination clinics, health education programs, and disaster preparedness exercises. Through these efforts, the Medical Reserve Corps enhances community readiness, protects public health, and fosters civic engagement across the nation.

NARCAN Training

21 Sessions

275 Participants

Stop The Bleed Training

27 Sessions

219 Participants

FY 2025 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES (UNAUDITED)

	PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION	EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS	FY25 TOTALS
REVENUE:			
Federal Grants	919,638	7,120,826	8,040,464
State Grants	1,715,934	1,236,329	2,952,263
Other Grants	181,299		181,299
Misc. Rev		19,364	19,364
Fees	360,556	106,658	467,214
In-Kind Revenue	131,009	1,226,773	1,357,782
Local Taxes	381,352		381,352
Interest	1,412		1,412
Donations	600		600
Total Revenue	3,691,800	9,709,949	13,401,750
EXPENDITURES:			
Salaries/Payroll Taxes	2,031,557	4,631,899	6,663,456
Fringe Benefits	647,977	1,734,250	2,382,227
Staff Travel	60,898	60,197	121,094
Contractual	446,608	393,108	839,716
Commodities	264,571	610,665	875,236
Training	14,679	20,922	35,600
Direct Client Services	276	2,132	2,408
Fixed Assets	0	171,520	171,520
Building Improvements	0	45,137	45,137
In-Kind Services	131,009	1,226,773	1,357,782
General & Admin/Occ	700,889	800,617	1,501,506
Refund Expense	364	0	364
Total Expend.	4,298,829	9,697,218	13,996,046
Excess Revenue Over (Under) Expenditures	-607,028	12,732	-594,297

**Cash Entries minus GAAP entry for capitalization and depreciation



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**Thank you for helping us
turn hope into action!**