To the Skokie Community –  

Community health is nurtured day-by-day through countless acts of compassion and encouragement made possible through our connections to each other. This report highlights how the work of the Skokie Health Department relies on building relationships, and collaborating across sectors.

Community members came together last year to form the Skokie Resilient Community Collaborative to raise awareness, and respond to, the potential lifelong negative health effects of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs). This key initiative involves concerned citizens, and representatives of the Board of Health, Skokie Public Library, healthcare organizations, schools, and social service agencies. More than 100 adults and children attended our first resilience forum, and there will be many more activities in the coming months.

Another crucial partner is the Erie Evanston/Skokie Health Center, which has doubled in size to now serve 7,000 patients regardless of their health insurance status. NorthShore University HealthSystem provided significant funding for this expansion, to improve access to healthcare in our area. Please spread the word that the center is seeking patients!

In closing, I would like to encourage all members of the Skokie community to join the Health Department team as we participate in the National SEED Project Seminars being sponsored by SkokieCares. This thoughtful, year-long training supports our vision of creating a healthy, equitable community. You can learn more about the seminars at: www.skokiecares.org

Thank you for taking the time to read this report, and I welcome hearing from you!

Sincerely,

Catherine A. Counard, MD, MPH
Director of Health

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VISION
Create a healthy, equitable community.

MISSION
Work together with community members to promote and protect human, animal, and environmental health in a fair and compassionate manner.

CORE VALUES

- Team Work
- Innovation
- Prevention
- Education
- Best Practices
- Stewardship
- Customer Service
ACTIVITIES SUPPORTED BY THE BOARD OF HEALTH

- 2017 Skokie Community Health Plan
- Skokie Medical Reserve Corps
- Public Health Partners of Excellence Awards
- Community Flu Shot Clinics
- “SkokieCares” Initiatives
- IPLAN Committee
- Improved Access to Care
- Skokie Resilient Community Collaborative
- South Asian Healthy Lifestyle Initiative

Revised Board of Health Ordinance

Working with the Skokie legal team, the ordinance language was simplified to emphasize the evidence-based foundation of public health.

Tobacco 21 Becomes Illinois Law

Fulfilling a major Board of Health goal, the State of Illinois increased the age to sell and purchase tobacco products to 21 years.

About 5,700 teens in the State of Illinois become new daily smokers each year. The new law could lower smoking rates by 12 percent. Congratulations to all who supported this effort!
Seeking Educational Equity and Diversity (SEED) Seminars

Health Department staff are participating in year-long SEED seminars, which are being offered by SkokieCares as a means of strengthening dialogue and understanding within the Village. Through reflection and conversations, SEED encourages creating a more inclusive, just, and equitable community. This important project ties directly to the Health Department Vision and the 2017 Community Health Plan.

David Clough gave a “Rethink Your Drink” presentation at Madison School as part of the District 69 family night. Madison School Mascot Harold the Hawk joined in!

Emergency Response Coordinator Claudia Braden and Dr. Catherine Counard joined colleagues for a Will County Public Health Emergency Preparedness Exercise. Operation Santa Drop/Adopt-a-Troop was a huge success.

Jackie Johnson retired after 32 years of dedicated service!
Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) can have lifelong negative impacts on health, but the good news is that there are ways to help. Representatives from the library, school districts, and social service agencies have come together to form the Skokie Resilient Community Collaborative and raise awareness about this important health risk. The mission of the collaborative is to promote resilience through inclusive education and engagement that builds stronger community connections and support. To learn more or to join the collaborative, please give the Health Department a call at 847-933-8252.

Resilient Families Event at the Skokie Public Library

A highlight of the year was the Resilient Families event, where more than 100 adults and children participated in activities designed to help manage stress. This was the first of many forums the SRCC will host on ACEs, trauma-informed care, and building resilience.
In a major change to better utilize staff, the Animal Control Division moved to the Police Department. Animal Control is typically handled by Police Departments in other municipalities in our area; however, the Skokie Health Department has held this vital responsibility since 1965. We will certainly miss our Animal Control colleagues. We’ve had many adventures and learned a lot together over the years!

Girl Scouts
“Building My Community”
Animal Control Officer Lori Kaplan shared her enthusiasm for her work during the Girl Scouts "Building My Community" program hosted at Village Hall. Approximately 35 girl scouts ages 6 through 12 participated, along with 10 scout leaders. The program allowed the scouts to meet community leaders, learn about the daily functions and responsibilities of government, and explore service

Many thanks to ACO Lori Kaplan for contributing to the success of the day!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TOP AC WARNINGS FY19</th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cruelty</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dog off Leash</td>
<td>105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excessive Barking</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Failure to Pick Up Dog Feces</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Dog or Cat License</td>
<td>248</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
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<tr>
<th>ANIMAL CONTROL ACTIVITIES FY19</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Animal Bite Investigations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Animals to Rehabilitator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Animals Returned to Owner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Animals Relocated for Adoption</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Citations Issued</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dead Animals Removed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Domestic Animal Activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Traps Issued</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warnings Issued</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wildlife Activities</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Skokie Food Safety Program

During FY 2019, the sanitarians conducted 1,358 inspections to ensure that food is prepared, served and stored in a manner that will prevent people from becoming ill. That includes full-scale restaurants, nursing homes, daycare centers and homes, school cafeterias, Skokie Hospital, manufacturers, and any location with food for sale.

The inspectors also monitor food safety practices during large events such as the Farmers Market, Festival of Cultures, Backlot Bash and July 4th celebration.

Skokie Participates in Municipal Rat Control Standards Study

A representative from the Vancouver (Canada) Rat Project visited to learn more about the Skokie rat control program. The Vancouver team is working to develop effective rat control standards for municipal governments. One aim is to create a program that generates real-time knowledge of the locations, sizes, and causes of rat infestations. Skokie was selected to participate in this project because of our well-organized multidisciplinary program. Other U.S. cities included in the study are: New York City, Chicago, Boston, Washington D.C. and Seattle.

To learn more about the rat control program visit www.skokie.org or call the Environmental Health Division at 847-933-8484

New Body Art Ordinance

Responding to the new interest in tattoos, the Village Board approved an ordinance allowing up to eight body art establishments in Skokie. The Health Department will conduct regular inspections to ensure artists have been trained and tattoos are being done in a way to prevent the transmission of infectious diseases.
PERSONAL HEALTH

Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention

Last year 11 children had lead poisoning in the Village, and Health Department nurses investigated the cause in each case. The top sources of childhood lead poisoning in Skokie are items manufactured in other countries such as cosmetics, spices and candies. Lead paint has also occasionally been the source. The State of Illinois provided grant funds to cover the cost of the nursing investigations, and to create pamphlets for parents about the risk in multiple languages. The pamphlets will be distributed to area pediatricians and obstetricians.

For more information call the Health Department at 847-933-8252

Highlighting the Dangers of Vaping

An estimated 27% of Illinois high school seniors reported using electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes) in 2018, according to the Illinois Youth Survey. This surge in use poses serious health risks, including nicotine addiction. The Health Department sponsored presentations about the dangers of vaping by PEER Services. More than 40 parents learned how manufacturer’s are designing these devices to mimic flash drives and other technology that teens use. PEER Services also spoke with 800 freshman students during homeroom at Niles North.

SAHELI Team Partners with Skokie School District 69 Parent Group

South Asians are four times as likely to develop heart disease and diabetes at an early age as other groups, and the South Asian Healthy Lifestyle Initiative (SAHELI) study is designed to help. Zohrab Mirza, Community Health Specialist, worked with the Hindi/Urdu speaking parent liaison at School District 69 to recruit participants for SAHELI. The program was a huge success, with 24 people signing up to be screened for study eligibility.

For more information visit www.skokie.org
Influenza Vaccinations at Skokie Public Elementary Schools

Each year Skokie schools have had large outbreaks of influenza in unvaccinated students, and we are working to increase student immunization rates to reduce that risk. Thanks to a partnership with Advocate Children’s Hospital Mobile Care Van, 500 children were immunized for influenza in Skokie public elementary schools. This is the second year of the Advocate partnership and we look forward to continuing our collaboration for a long time to come!

Foodborne Illness Outbreak Investigation - Cyclospora

The Health Department investigated an outbreak of Cyclospora, after 149 attendees at a popular July 4, 2018 event became ill with severe diarrheal illness. The event sponsor cooperated fully during the investigation, which identified contaminated fresh herbs as the most likely source for the outbreak. The Health Department team worked closely with the Illinois Department of Public Health and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to attempt to trace the herbs to the farm of origin. Cyclospora is treated with antibiotics, and all affected individuals recovered from the illness.

Measles Prevention

Measles has frequently been in the news, and the Health Department is closely monitoring the ongoing measles epidemic in the United States. During 2018 there was one case of measles in the Village, in an infant that traveled abroad. Fortunately no one else became ill. We continue to work closely with schools, medical practices, and the general public to provide education about the detection and prevention of measles, emphasizing the importance of immunizations.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COMMUNICABLE DISEASES AFFECTING SKOKIE RESIDENTS</th>
<th>CALENDAR YEAR 2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sexually Transmitted</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chlamydia</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gonorrhea</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Syphilis</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Food Related</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Campylobacteriosis</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cryptosporidiosis</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cyclosporiasis</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Listeria Invasive Disease</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salmonella</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shigella</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Vaccine Preventable</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hep B. Chronic</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influenza</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Measles</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pertussis</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Varicella</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Other</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hep C. Chronic</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lyme</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Streptococcal Invasive</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuberculosis</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Nile Virus</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL 225</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Each year the Board of Health and Health Department recognize two entities for their outstanding contributions to public health in the Village. This year’s award recipients were:

**Chicago Exotics Animal Hospital**

For helping injured wildlife, and finding homes for stray pets that are not dogs or cats. During 2018, Chicago Exotics provided care for 118 animals in need, at no cost to the Village.

**Skokie Chamber of Commerce**

For many years of supporting public health efforts to reduce the use of tobacco products in Skokie. From the 2003 ban on smoking in workplaces to the 2018 increase in the age to sell or purchase tobacco products to 21 years, the Chamber has been a strong, supportive advocate.
Looking Ahead to FY20

COMMUNITY HEALTH PLAN INITIATIVES

• Promote a just, tolerant community
• Support the South Asian Healthy Lifestyle Initiative
• Evaluate the needs of people with disabilities in Skokie
• Continue working with schools to decrease childhood obesity in the Village

BOARD OF HEALTH

• Support ongoing work to identify and address health disparities in Skokie
• Support and promote community efforts to reduce the stigma of mental illness
• Continue to serve on the IPLAN Committee and MRC

GRANT FUNDS

• Seek new grant opportunities to educate adolescents and teens about the risks of vaping
• Pursue grant funding to support initiatives of the Skokie Resilient Community Collaborative

DATA ANALYTICS

• Use Tableau software to monitor rat infestations at the block level, for a more effective response
• Work with the GIS consortium to provide online platforms for staff to access data in the field

ENSURE STAFF TRAINING

• Provide training and development pertinent to job duties
• Participate in the year-long SEED (Seeking Educational Equity and Diversity) training
• Deliver services to meet the needs of all community members
MAYOR
George Van Dusen

CLERK
Pramod C. Shah

TRUSTEES
Michele L. Bromberg
Karen Gray Keeler
Ralph Klein
Randall E. Roberts
Edie Sue Sutker
Ilonka Ulrich

MANAGER
John T. Lockerby

COUNSEL
Michael M. Lorge