



ANNUAL REPORT 2025

Knox County Health Department

328 N 2nd Street, Suite 100, Vincennes, IN 47591

Mission and Vision of the Knox County Health Department

Mission Statement:

“The mission of the Knox County Health Department is to protect, promote, and improve the health and environment for all the people in Knox County, Indiana.”

Vision Statement:

“Lead the effort and create strategic partnerships to promote good health, and to eliminate health disparities in Knox County, Indiana”

Board of Health Members

Tanner Bouchie-President

Kyre Cleveland-Vice-President

Charlene Grove

Dr. Heather Ludwig

Dr. Caroline Steinman

Seth Masterson

Becky Pea-Stenger

Bryan Jewel-Board Attorney

Message from the Knox County Health Officer, Dr. Alan Stewart

The year 2025 was a challenging year for the Knox County Health Department. After two years of generous funding through continued support of our County and generous funding through the Health First Indiana funding initiative, the Health First Indiana funding was cut dramatically. The changes in funding required dramatic changes in the function of the Health Department. Program funding required significant reductions and, unfortunately, personnel reductions were required as well. The goal of the Health Department was to maintain the program initiatives that had been started while living within the curtailed budget.

The employees of the Health Department worked diligently to assume added responsibility as well as to continue programs that provided income. The core programs of the Health Department including immunization, vital records, sanitation and environmental services were all maintained. Educational programs within all Knox County schools continued and remained robust. Programs such as lead testing and evaluations, TB testing and treatment, STD testing all continued and grew. CPR training was continued as well. The highly popular tire and large item trash collection program will be resumed.

The successful vaping prevention, tobacco cessation and the alternative to suspension programs remained popular and in demand. This program received additional support from a grant which enabled the department to hire Valerie Roark as a TPC Program Coordinator.

Financial reorganization due to the loss of grants and the need to identify and accurately fund line items within the budget while working with the remaining funding to create a balanced budget for the coming year was accomplished by the newly appointed Health Department Administrator, Krystle Russell. Under her guidance all of the above was accomplished and the Health Department as a unit remains highly competent, extremely hard-working and functioning as a cohesive unit.

The coming year will continue to present challenges. We feel that with our present staff and leadership as well as the support of our board and many community partners, we will be able to fulfill our mission of continuing to provide high quality public health to the Knox County Community.

Financial Summary

Ending Balances as of December 31, 2025

1159-Health - \$331, 270.83

1161-Health First Indiana - \$361,628.96

1168-Local Health Maintenance Fund - \$14,690.60

1206-IN Health Department Trust Account \$11,727.57

4119-KCHD Local Grants-\$500.00

4922-Non-Reverting Health Fines and Fees - \$0.00

8109-93.069 CO. Health-Bioterrorism - \$0.00

8120-ELC Grant - \$0.00

8122-Immunization - \$0.00

8128-Immunization and Vaccines - **-\$37,161.50**

8131-Public Health Emergency - \$70,090.10

8950-ARP Coronavirus Local - \$0.00

8951-CCHW-Lead Grant/ARP Coronavirus State Fiscal R - \$20,305.73

9153-KCHD-TPCC Grant-**-\$6,334.56**

Financial Statements

1159-Health

Beginning Balance: \$472,366.01

Ending Balance: \$331,270.83 (as of 12/31/2025)

Revenue

Line Name	Amount Received
General Property Tax	\$231,724.24
License Excise Taxes	\$14,243.95
Reprint of Death Certificates	\$200.00
Financial Institution Tax	\$415.63
Produce Voucher Receipts	\$3,500.00
Safety Pin Receipt	\$21,725.00
County Health Department	\$125,039.00
C-VET	\$553.57
Refunds/Reimbursements	\$712.65
From Fund 4922 Non-Reverting Health	\$26,620.19
Administration Fee	\$71,312.07
Immunization Clinic	\$40.00
Vital Records	\$52.50
Total Revenue	\$496,138.80

Expenses

Line Name	Amount Paid
Health Officer-Stewart	\$37,800.00
Registrar-Kempfer	\$10,835.49
Head Nurse-Lankford	\$40,612.25
Health Nurse Immunization-Rivera	\$37,931.33
Communicable Nurse-Neighbors	\$35,900.50
Administrator	\$35,710.00
Environmentalist-Robey	\$3,763.13
Asst. Sanitarian-McCrary	\$19,374.41
Sanitarian-Hayden	\$10,262.18
Medical Billing Specialist-Taylor	\$9,038.44

Community Health Nurse-Yochum	\$28,983.67
Animal Bites Investigator-Catt	\$185.01
Public Health Nurse-Franklin	\$9,433.50
FICA	\$21,457.35
PERF	\$31,449.90
Health Insurance	\$20,369.58
Unemployment	\$479.12
Compensation Board of Health	\$2,100.00
All Supplies	\$3,300.58
Nursing Supplies	\$1,720.86
Emergency Preparedness Supplies	\$0.00
CPR/Community Health Supplies	\$500.00
Produce Vouchers	\$1,589.10
Legal Services Expenses	\$500.00
Microsoft 365 Licensing	\$3,704.40
T.B. Control	\$1,135.00
Postage IDOH Labs	\$55.48
Education	\$2,044.22
Mileage	\$1,182.43
Lodging and Meals	\$1,641.31
Telephone	\$1,000.00
Contractual Services	\$8,191.98
Association Dues and Memberships	\$712.00
Printing	\$0.00
Clothing Allowance	\$122.19
Software	\$500.00
Rent	\$31,979.00
Liability Insurance	\$200.00
Malpractice Insurance	\$0.00
Uninsured Testing Program	\$0.00
Maintenance Program	\$0.00
Tobacco Cessation Program	\$641.77

Vector Control/Abatement Program	\$500.00
STD/Infectious Disease	\$344.88
Fatality Review	\$0.00
Obesity/Community Health Program	\$0.00
Vehicle Maintenance	\$955.15
Vehicle Fuel	\$118.57
Transfer Out To Fund 1161	\$218,909.20
Total Expenses	\$637,233.98

1161-Health First Indiana

Beginning Balance: \$-134,030.95

Ending Balance: \$361,628.96 (as of 12/31/2025)

Revenue

Line Name	Amount Received
Transfer In-Trans from 1159	\$218,909.20
HFI ALLOT	\$846,155.28
Total Revenue	\$1,065,064.48

Expenses

Line Name	Amount Paid
Health Officer-Stewart	\$32,750.00
Registrar-Kempfer	\$36,181.75
Head Nurse-Lankford	\$0.00
Health Nurse-Rivera	\$18,245.74
Communicable Nurse-Neighbors	\$17,718.36
Administrator	\$20,350.00
Environmentalist-Robey	\$21,828.37
Asst. Sanitarian McCrary	\$5,508.97
Sanitarian Hayden	\$35,637.29
Medical Billing Specialist-Taylor	\$39,368.06
Community Health Nurse-Yochum	\$15,300.00
Emergency Preparedness-Catt	\$0.00
Public Health Nurse-Franklin	\$9,809.50
School Liaison	\$0.00
Educator-PT	\$0.00
Lead Risk Assessor-PT	\$0.00
Community Health Nurse	\$26,829.00
LPN-PT	\$0.00
LPN-FT	\$0.00
Community Outreach Coord-K Russell	\$22,950.00
FICA	\$23,810.12

PERF	\$31,079.54
Health Insurance	\$41,709.14
Unemployment	\$114.66
All Supplies	\$20,302.66
Nursing Supplies	\$5,868.52
Emergency Preparedness Supplies	\$0.00
CPR/Community Health Supplies	\$3,294.78
Incentive Supplies	\$1,375.47
Legal Services Expenses	\$12,500.00
T.B. Control	\$160.00
Postage	\$45.23
Education	\$479.14
Mileage	\$4,251.96
Lodging and Meals	\$2,691.99
Telephone	\$3,046.71
Contractual Services	\$26,252.56
Association Dues and Memberships	\$774.00
Printing	\$1,503.81
Clothing Allowance	\$1,912.00
Software	\$3,956.12
Rent	\$54,586.50
Liability Insurance	\$131.00
Malpractice Insurance	\$6,982.00
Uninsured Testing Program	\$0.00
Clinic Maintenance Program	\$0.00
Tobacco Cessation Program	\$0.00
Vector Control/Abatement Program	\$4,375.00
STD/Infectious Disease	\$0.00
Fatality Review	\$0.00
Obesity/Community Health Program	\$0.00
Equipment Maintenance	\$1,881.55
Vehicle Maintenance	\$232.17

Vehicle Fuel	\$532.22
Building Renovations	\$13,078.68
Capital Reserve/Future Projects	\$0.00
Total Expenses	\$569,404.57

1168-Local Health Maintenance Fund

Beginning Balance: \$15,342.25

Ending Balance: \$14,690.60 (as of 12/31/2025)

Revenue: \$0.00

Expenses

Line Name	Amount Paid
Office Administrator Used for Health Nurse Immunization	\$196.00
Part Time Data Clerk	\$0.00
Part Time Medical Billing	\$0.00
Vital Records Director	\$0.00
PT-Digital Records Preserve Used for Registrar and Sanitarian	\$350.00
Social Security	\$41.77
PERF	\$61.15
Unemployment	\$2.73
State Birth and Death Forms	\$0.00
Fuel	\$0.00
Telephone	\$0.00
Postage	\$0.00
Shipping	\$0.00
Lodging and Meals	\$0.00
Education, Meeting, Travel Expense	\$0.00
Contractual Services	\$0.00
Updates, Repair, and Maintenance	\$0.00
Vehicle Lease	\$0.00
Software	\$0.00
Total Expenses	\$651.65

1206-IN Health Department Trust Account

Beginning Balance: \$11,727.57

Ending Balance: \$11,727.57 (as of 12/31/2025)

Revenue: \$0.00

Expenses

Line Name	Amount Paid
Clinic Administrator	\$0.00
Social Security	\$0.00
PERF	\$0.00
Unemployment	\$0.00
All Supplies	\$0.00
Nursing Supplies	\$0.00
Vehicle Fuel	\$0.00
Printing, Advertising, and Postage	\$0.00
Postage	\$0.00
Education, Meeting, Travel Expense	\$0.00
Contractual Services	\$0.00
Malpractice	\$0.00
Equipment/Furniture/Computers	\$0.00
Total Expenses	\$0.00

4119-KCHD Local Grants

Beginning Balance: \$0.00

Ending Balance: \$500.00 (as of 12/31/2025)

Revenue

Line Name	Amount Received
United Way Donation	\$500.00
Knox County Cares Donation	\$1,437.15
Total Revenue	\$1,937.15

Expenses

Line Name	Amount Paid
Knox County Cares Disbursement	\$1,437.15

4922-Non-Reverting Health Fines and Fees

Beginning Balance: \$17,158.92

Ending Balance: \$0.00 (as of 12/31/2025)

Revenue

Line Name	Amount Received
Health Dept Fines and Fees	\$5,948.00
Wellness Check	\$230.00
Wellness Training	\$6,102.00
Total Revenue	\$12,280.00

Expenses

Line Name	Amount Paid
Part-Time Immunization Nurses	\$0.00
Contractual Services	\$0.00
Other Disbursements	\$29,438.92
Total Expenses	\$29,438.92

8109-93.069 CO. Health-Bioterrorism

Beginning Balance: \$0.00

Ending Balance: \$0.00 (as of 5/31/2025) No further activity for 2025 after May 2025.

Revenue

Line Name	Amount Received
Grant Funds	\$12,500.00

Expenses

Line Name	Amount Paid
Contractual Services	\$12,500.00
Total Expenses	\$12,500.00

8120-ELC Grant

Beginning Balance: \$2,731.91

Ending Balance: \$0.00 (as of 12/31/2025)

Revenue: \$0.00

Expenses

Line Name	Amount Paid
Contractual	\$0.00
Other Disbursements	\$2,731.91
Total Expenses	\$2,731.91

8122-Immunization

Beginning Balance: \$-629.74

Ending Balance: \$0.00 (as of 12/31/2025)

Revenue

Line Name	Amount Received
Refunds and Reimbursements	\$629.74
Total Revenue	\$629.74

Expenses: \$0.00

8128-Immunization and Vaccines

Beginning Balance: \$-95,208.87

Ending Balance: \$-37,161.50 (as of 12/31/2025)

Revenue

Line Name	Amount Received
Refunds and Reimbursements	\$2,102.17
Grant Revenue	\$90,000.00
Total Revenue	\$92,361.17

Expenses

Line Name	Amount Paid
Personnel	\$5,242.75
Public Health Nursing Director	\$24,900.00
FICA	\$580.11
PERF	\$869.43
Supplies	\$2,721.51
Total Expenses	\$34,313.80

8131-Public Health Emergency

Beginning Balance: \$97,135.33

Ending Balance: \$70,090.10 (as of 12/31/2025)

Revenue

Line Name	Amount Received
Refunds/Reimbursements	\$387.45
Total Revenue	\$387.45

Expenses

Line Name	Amount Paid
Outreach Coordinator	\$4,480.00
Social Security	\$335.14
PERF	\$501.76
Unemployment	\$21.90
All Supplies	\$31.88
Mileage	\$0.00
Contractual Services	\$22,062.00
Printing and Advertising	\$0.00
Uniforms	\$0.00
Total Expenses	\$27,432.68

8950-ARP Coronavirus Local

Beginning Balance: \$1,182.11

Ending Balance: \$0.00 (as of 12/31/2025)

Revenue: \$0.00

Expenses

Line Name	Amount Paid
KC Health Department Renovations/Furnis	\$1,182.11
Total Expenses	\$1,182.11

8951-CCHW-Lead Grant/ARP Coronavirus State Fiscal R

Beginning Balance: \$20,305.73

Ending Balance: \$20,305.73 (as of 12/31/2025)

Revenue: \$0.00

Expenses: \$0.00

9153-KCHD-TPCC Grant

Beginning Balance: \$0.00

Ending Balance: \$-6,334.56 (as of 12/31/2025)

Revenue-\$0.00

Expenses

Line Name	Amount Paid
Program Coordinator	\$4,499.25
FICA	\$339.23
PERF	\$503.92
Health Insurance	\$969.98
Unemployment	\$22.18
All Supplies	\$0.00
Program Supplies	\$0.00
Mileage	\$0.00
Lodging and Meals	\$0.00
Community Stipends	\$0.00
Media	\$0.00
Printing	\$0.00
Postage	\$0.00
Software/Technology Updates	\$0.00
Total Expenses	\$6,334.56

Notes to Financial Statements

Other sources of income for 2025:

- CPR Courses were also provided to those in the community seeking certification. Income related to CPR Courses was put into the 4922 Non-Reverting Fund or 1159 Health Fund.

Local Grants and Donations

- Good Samaritan Hospital Foundation-\$2,000.00 (reflected in 1159 Health Fund) for produce voucher program
- Good Samaritan (Safety Pin)-\$21,725.00 (reflected in the 1159 Health Fund)-to support the
- Healthy Mom, Healthy Baby program, tobacco prevention, and tobacco cessation.
- United Way of Knox County-\$2,000.00 (reflected in 1159 Health Fund for \$1,500.00 and 4119
- Local Grants for \$500.00) to support the produce voucher program.
- Knox County Cares-\$1,744.84 (reflected in 8131 Public Health Emergency Fund for \$307.69 and 4119 Local Grants for \$1,437.15) to support the installation of Naloxone boxes in Knox County.
- Hoosier Uplands-\$5,467.00 (reflected in 4992 Non-Reverting Fund) for reimbursement of time spent with tobacco prevention sessions in schools and community outreach events for tobacco control.
- Indiana Aids Fund-\$79.76 (reflected in 8131 Public Health Emergency Fund) for reimbursement of snack items for National HIV Testing Day.

Department Reports

Administrator

Krystle Russell, CCHW, started in the role of interim Administrator in March of 2025, prior to March 2025, Krystle was serving the Health Department in the role of Community Outreach Coordinator. Krystle became the Administrator of the Health Department in May.

While 2025 posed a unique set of challenges with funding cuts and the need for restructuring, Krystle, with assistance from Brian Taylor, was able to navigate the challenges and assist the Health Department in beginning the process of adapting to the changes. During 2025, Krystle worked to update records, implement systems for better tracking of funds, and budgeting for 2026. While learning the aspects of the role of Administrator, Krystle was able to learn more about programs such as ADP, learn about the functions of county government, and learn more about the work of the departments within the Health Department. All these skills will continue to be valuable.

Krystle was able to successfully write a grant and received funding from the Indiana State Department of Health Tobacco Prevention and Cessation. This grant funding allowed the Health Department to hire a TPC Program Coordinator, Valerie Roark. This grant funding will provide the opportunity for the Health Department to continue important work in tobacco control for Knox County.

Krystle attended several state led trainings and meetings throughout 2025 to continue to learn more about the role of Administrator, while continuing to learn more about public health and the vital services that public health provides to our community.

Medical Billing Specialist/Administrative Assistant

Brian Taylor continued his role as the Medical Billing Specialist/Administrative Assistant. Brian continued working with Good Samaritan to submit patient registration for Medicare/Private Insurance claims. In addition, he submitted and filed Medicaid claims for remittance. Brian also maintains the website for the Health Department by updating prices, staff information, hours, and updating forms as needed. He also assisted with the creation of items for the produce vouchers, FitKids program, Germbusters program, and other events. Brian also serves as the backup for Vital Records as needed. In that role, he assists with receipting, documentation, and issuance of birth and death records. Given the change in Administrators in 2025, Brian stepped up to help ensure administrative duties continued providing guidance and help by ensuring records were updated, organized, and stored appropriately. He also helped with placing orders for items needed by the Department, while also managing inventory for county tracking. Brian attended two trainings offered by the state which included one training on strategic planning and one training on leadership.

Vital Records

Registrar Roxanne Kempfer, VRP-S, continued to serve our community through the issuance of vital records. Roxanne remained committed to refining her skills and knowledge in vital records by maintaining certifications and attending conferences.

In 2025, Indiana counties were allowed to print birth and death certificates for births or deaths that occurred in another Indiana County. Roxanne quickly created a plan and fee schedule for this new opportunity. For this first year of printing out of county birth and death certificates, the Knox County Health Department printed 92 out of county death certificates and 37 out of county birth certificates. This service offers members of the community the opportunity to obtain birth and death certificates without having to travel to another county.

Roxane also continues to explore opportunities to make the Vital Records Department run more efficiently and smoothly. Roxanne has updated internal documents needed to track revenues to help ensure effective tracking of income received into the Health Department. She also examined the cost associated with birth and death certificates and made recommendations to the Board on pricing for birth and death records.

Roxanne also maintained her Notary Public. Roxanne also represented the Health Department at the Vincennes PBS Family Fun Feast and is quick to help co-workers when needed whether that be helping to coordinate CPR or assisting with records keeping for the Immunization Department.

Department Data

- 2,019 Birth Records
- 2,206 Death Certificates
- 1 Genealogy Certificates
- 20 Death Certificate Reprints
- 12 Paternity Affidavits
- 92 Out of County Death Certificates
- 37 Out of County Birth Certificates
- 17 Promissory

Septic & Wastewater

Joseph Robey continued to oversee all septic related complaints, installations, and repairs of septic systems in Knox County.

Department Data

- 58 permits issued
- 47 permits completed

Sanitation

Tara Hayden continued to serve as our Sanitarian in 2025. While continuing with inspections of local establishments, Tara also had an opportunity to conduct a training on home-based vendor regulations for those in the community who were interested in learning more. Tara also attended training on the new Indiana Food Code 410 IAC 7-26 to learn more. One of the highlights of Tara's year was the opportunity to work with The Pantheon in Vincennes to create a certified kitchen that will help small businesses, startups, or others who need access to a commercial kitchen in order to sale their food products.

Department Data

- 485 inspections were completed

PHEP/Environmentalist

Michael Catt continued to serve as the PHEP Coordinator, while also investigating animal bites and conducting lead risk assessments and inspections. Michael was also able to successfully acquire a stockpile of personal protective equipment as well as distribute Naloxone in the community. In 2025, Michael continued to distribute Naloxone to community partners. Michael was also able to conduct a Naloxone training for members of the Vincennes Community School Corporation Police Department. Michael was also able to complete or participate in many trainings and certificates in 2025. Those included the following:

- IDOH Integrated Preparedness and Planning Seminar.
- Mock mass MCM drill conducted at Men's Health Fair.
- Annual LEPC drill held at Duke Energy, Edwardsport.
- D10 HCC bi-annual drill.
- IDOH South Region Training Webinar.
- NIMS ICS 400 certification.
- Naloxone Administration: Public certification.
- Naloxone for Opioid Overdose 101 certification.
- Naloxone for First Responders certification.

Department Data

- Lead Risk Assessments: 3
- Naloxone doses distributed: 87
- New community opioid rescue kits acquired: 6
- Animal bites reported: 53

Immunization Clinic

Head Public Health Nurse

Cara Rivera, LPN, Head Public Health Nurse, continued to serve members of the community by providing much needed immunization services, testing services, and wellness checks such as blood pressure checks. Cara had the opportunity to collaborate with the Head School Nurse for one of our school districts and the Health Department's translator to contact parents of children that needed to be caught up on needed immunizations. Cara also completed the VFC provider agreement and worked to ensure that LTBI patients had access to needed medications. Cara also completed investigations on numerous communicable disease cases. Cara was also able to complete or participate in many trainings and certificates in 2025. Those included the following:

- QUIP Training
- LMS Training
- World TB Summit Day Certification.
- HIV/STD for PHN, certification.
- Indiana Public Health Nurses Training Certification (IU HEALTH)

Public Health Nurse

Kelly Neighbors, LPN, Public Health Nurse, continued to monitor high lead level cases in children and arranged for lead home visits as needed. Kelly played a key role in conducting a wellness clinic for one local business. Kelly was also able to serve as the Health Department's representative on the VU AOD/Voices United Task Force. Kelly was also able to complete or participate or complete the following trainings and certificates in 2025:

- Public Health Nurse Training
- Public Health Nurse Webinars
- HIV Training for Public Health Nurses
- Vaccines for Children Provider Certification
- VOMS 2.0 Provider Training for Vaccines
- Combination Vaccines Training
- Invalid Dose Training for Vaccines
- LMS Training for Vaccines
- IQUIP Training for Vaccines

Part-Time Public Health Nurse

Karen Franklin, RN, Part-Time Public Health Nurse, continued to serve as the Health Department's representative on FIMR. Karen also began attending CAT (Community Action Team) meetings to represent the Health Department. In 2025, Karen played a pivotal role in our tobacco cessation program as she helped lead Freedom From Smoking sessions and one-on-one sessions at a

local business for those who were interested in quitting smoking or vaping. Karen also assisted with screenings in one local school. Karen also completed the following certification:

- Freedom From Smoking Certification

The nurses who staff the Immunization Clinic all worked together to offer a variety of services to the community. In addition to immunizations, the nurses also offered blood pressure checks, A1C testing, STI testing and treatment, and QFT blood draws and TB skin testing. The nurses hosted a few Saturday clinics at the Health Department to make access to our immunization services even more convenient. However, our nurses did not just stay in the Health Department to offer our services, they went out into the community to offer free blood pressure checks several times at the Vincennes Farmer's Market, attended the YMCA Senior Health Fair, went off site to local nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and businesses to offer Flu and Covid Immunizations, and offered Flu and Covid Immunization at the Men's Wellness Fair. The Immunization Clinic also passed the annual VFC Provider Certification with a 100% and no compliance issues.

Department Data

- Patients Receiving Immunizations-2,328
- Immunizations Given-4,656
- Children Tested for Lead-163 (an increase of 48 from 2024)
- High Lead Cases Closed-25
- New High Lead Cases-13
- Individuals Receiving STI Testing or Treatment-47 (an increase of 23 from 2024)

School Liaison

Pamela Stewart continued to serve as the School Liaison. Through the efforts of Pam and our paid volunteers the educational efforts of the Knox County Health Department continue to inform and equip our students to make good decisions for healthy lifestyles. Pam continued to build on solid partnerships with our school systems to help children learn to make wise decisions concerning nutrition, physical activity, dental care, and germ reduction. We continue to look for ways to work with the county schools to identify and be of service.

The FitKids outreach occurs in the spring semester. Facilitators are trained to teach students to make healthy food choices. The third-grade curriculum centers on sugars, while the third-grade focus is fats. Manipulates and teaching models are used to show sugar content, the difference between fat and muscle, artery composition, and the importance of a balanced plate. We are grateful to have received an American Dental Association grant entitled, Give Kids A Smile. This enabled us to add a dental component to address the need for dental education and care for our students.

The Germbusters program occurs in the fall semester and is offered to pre-school and kindergarten students. With the interest of our facilitators, we added special education classes to our roster. This program centers on proper sneezing and coughing techniques as well as hand washing.

Hearing screening at North Knox was completed in November. The speech language pathologists always contact us early to determine the dates. This is helpful to lock in the dates not only for the school system but also for the screeners.

South Knox hearing and vision screening began in August and completed in November. Vincennes Community School Corporation uses us for high school hearing screening.

Department Data

- **Fitkids**-877 county students and 39 classrooms were served in 2025.
- **Germbusters**-578 students and 36 classrooms were served in 2025.
- **Hearing Screening North Knox**- 408 students screened in 2025
- **Hearing and Vision Screening at South Knox**-647 students screened in 2025
- **Hearing Screening at Vincennes Community School Corporation**-142 students screened in 2025

Community Outreach

The Community Outreach Department underwent several changes in 2025. Krystle Russell transitioned from Community Outreach Coordinator to Administrator. Two community outreach positions were eliminated due to constraints in funding and the need to restructure the Health Department to meet the new funding provided. Despite the challenges that community outreach faced in 2025, programs were still able to be implemented. The produce voucher program which was started in 2024 continued into 2025 providing an opportunity for individuals within the community to gain access to fruit and vegetables through these \$1 vouchers. We were able to participate in Ag Day to promote the importance of eating vegetables. In addition, we were able to offer CATCH My Breath in three schools in Vincennes. We also offered You and Me, Together Vape-Free to one school, while also offering the alternative to suspension program In-Depth at two schools. The Health Department was also able to secure a grant from the Indiana State Department of Health Tobacco Prevention and Cessation. This grant helped us add a TPC Program Coordinator to our staff. Valerie Roark was brought on to the Health Department in October 2025. Through this grant, we hope to continue our tobacco prevention and cessation efforts in the community. The Health Department was also represented at the Good Samaritan Baby Safety Shower, as well as, at the Good Samaritan Stroke Clinic.

Department Data

- Implemented CATCH My Breath in 3 schools reaching well over 100 students
- Implemented You and Me, Together Vape-Free reaching over 40 students
- Over 700 produce vouchers were redeemed

Looking Forward

Under the guidance of Dr. Alan Stewart, the health department looks forward to continuation of our core services, programs, and community outreach opportunities. Goals for 2026 include the following:

- Continued participation in community events
- VOICE group
- Knox County Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Coalition
- Continue to improvement of data collection and tracking
- Fit Kids and Germ Busters
- Smoking Cessation
- Promotion of services offered by the Immunization Clinic
- Updated food ordinance