



# CDPH Board of Health Updates – May 2024

**May 29, 2024**

**First Deputy Commissioner Fikirte Wagaw, MPH**

# Priority Initiatives

- Enhance capacity for early detection, investigation, and response to communicable diseases
- Syndemic Infectious Diseases
- Release a progress report on Healthy Chicago 2025
- Expand Family Connects Chicago**
- Expand Crisis Assistance Response and Engagement (CARE) 911 Alternate Response
- Narcan Distribution Strategy
- Treatment not Trauma Clinic Expansion
- Increase vaccine preventable infectious disease vaccination rates in most impacted communities (flu, COVID, MMR, Varicella)
- Plan and prepare for 2024 Democratic National Convention
- Increase public health visibility in marginalized communities
- Tracking PREP and DoxyPEP Prescriptions
- Expand workforce capacity and increase efficiency of hiring process

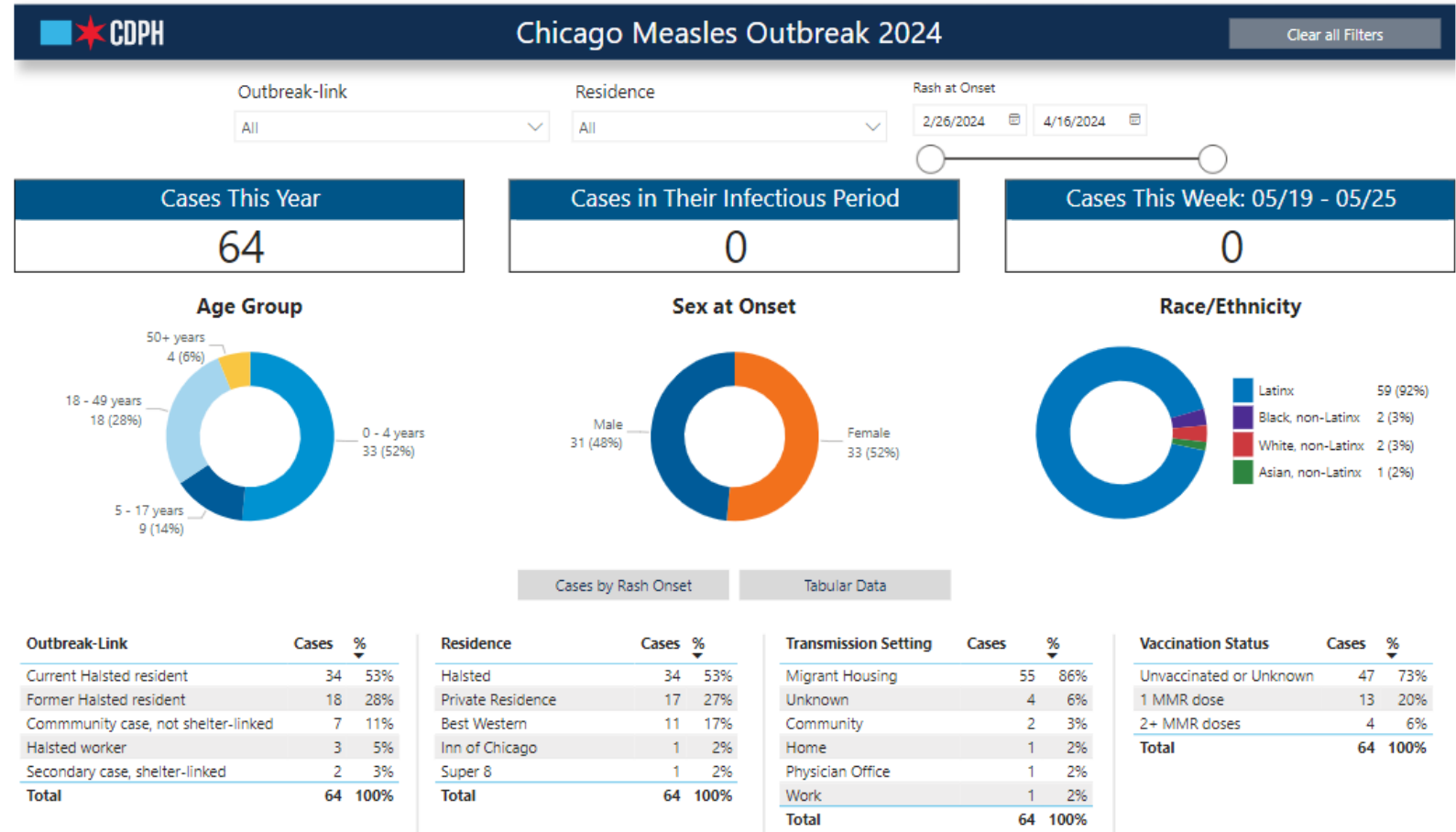
# Commissioner's Update

# ★ 2024 Cases of Measles in Chicago

- No new cases since 4/16/24
- Last exposure at a New Arrivals shelter: 4/5/24
- Last community exposure: 4/16/24

**No new cases in >42 days**

Data last updated 5/20/2024. Data are updated daily at 12 p.m. All data are provisional and subject to change.



# Rise in Recent Overdoses

- An increased number of drug overdoses have occurred in the Chicago area beginning Saturday, May 11, 2024, and remained high on Monday, May 13, 2024
  - Over 50 overdoses in a 24-hour period
- Opioid-related overdose EMS responses during the spike were concentrated in Chicago's **West Side**, particularly:
  - **Austin, East Garfield Park, Humboldt Park, North Lawndale, and West Garfield Park**
- **The drug supply has become very volatile**
  - We have seen fentanyl, xylazine, nitazenes, and benzodiazepines.
  - The **novel adulterant medetomidine** is present as of May 11, 2024



## **Medetomidine in Chicago's Drug Supply** May 20, 2024

### Summary and Action Items

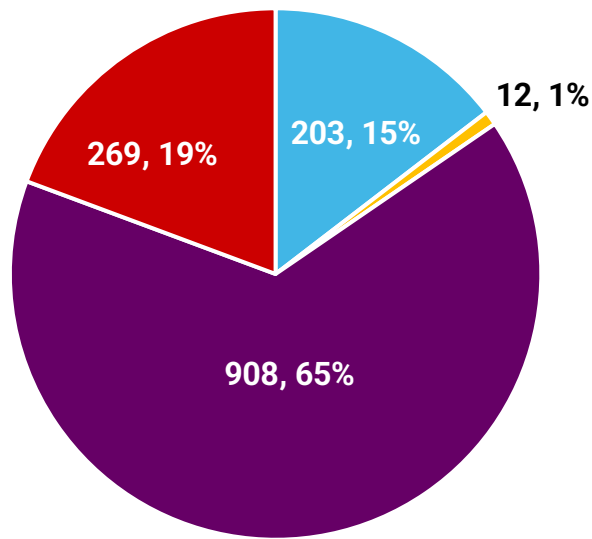
- Multiple drug samples collected from the West Side of Chicago on May 11, 2024 tested positive for elevated levels of medetomidine. In addition, fentanyl, heroin, xylazine, alprazolam and nitazenes have been detected in the same samples.
- Medetomidine is a new adulterant in Chicago's drug supply. It is a non-opioid sedative like xylazine but considered more potent. It has no approved use in humans.
- Like its dextro-isomer dexmedetomidine (sold as Precedex® or Dexdor®), medetomidine acts on alpha-2-adrenergic receptors to cause sedation, analgesia, bradycardia, prolonged hypotension following initial hypertension, and peripheral vasoconstriction. It can also cause respiratory depression, which can be greater when taken with other opioid and non-opioid sedatives.
- Report overdoses with atypical features to the Illinois Poison Center – 1-800-222-1222 to send specimen for testing.
- Initiate all patients whose overdose was reversed with naloxone on medication for opioid use disorder (MOUD) before discharge from ED or hospital. MAR NOW is Illinois' immediate opioid treatment helpline. Call 833-234-6343 or text "HELP" to 833234.



# ★ Most Impacted People

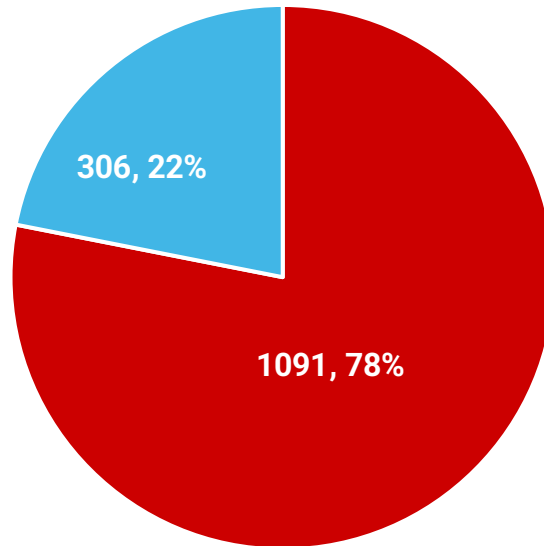
Fatal opioid-related overdoses disproportionately impact **Non-Hispanic Black males aged 45-64**

Chicago Opioid-Related Fatalities by Race/Ethnicity, 2022



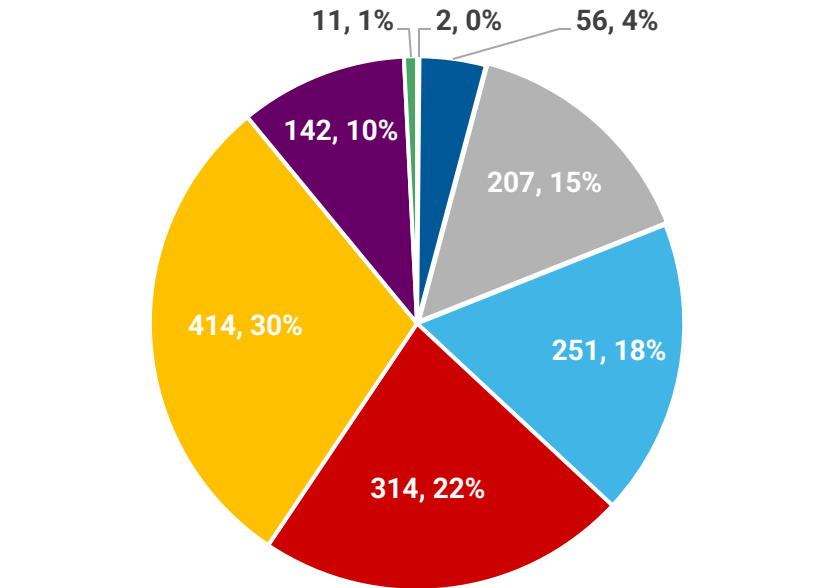
- Hispanic
- Non-Hispanic Black
- Non-Hispanic Asian
- Non-Hispanic White

Chicago Opioid-Related Fatalities by Sex, 2022



- Male
- Female

Chicago Opioid-Related Fatalities by Age, 2022



- 0-14
- 15-24
- 25-34
- 35-44
- 45-54
- 55-64
- 65-74
- 75+

Data Source: Cook County Medical Examiner's Office as of 4/25/24. Data is provisional and subject to change. Missing or unknown race data were not included.

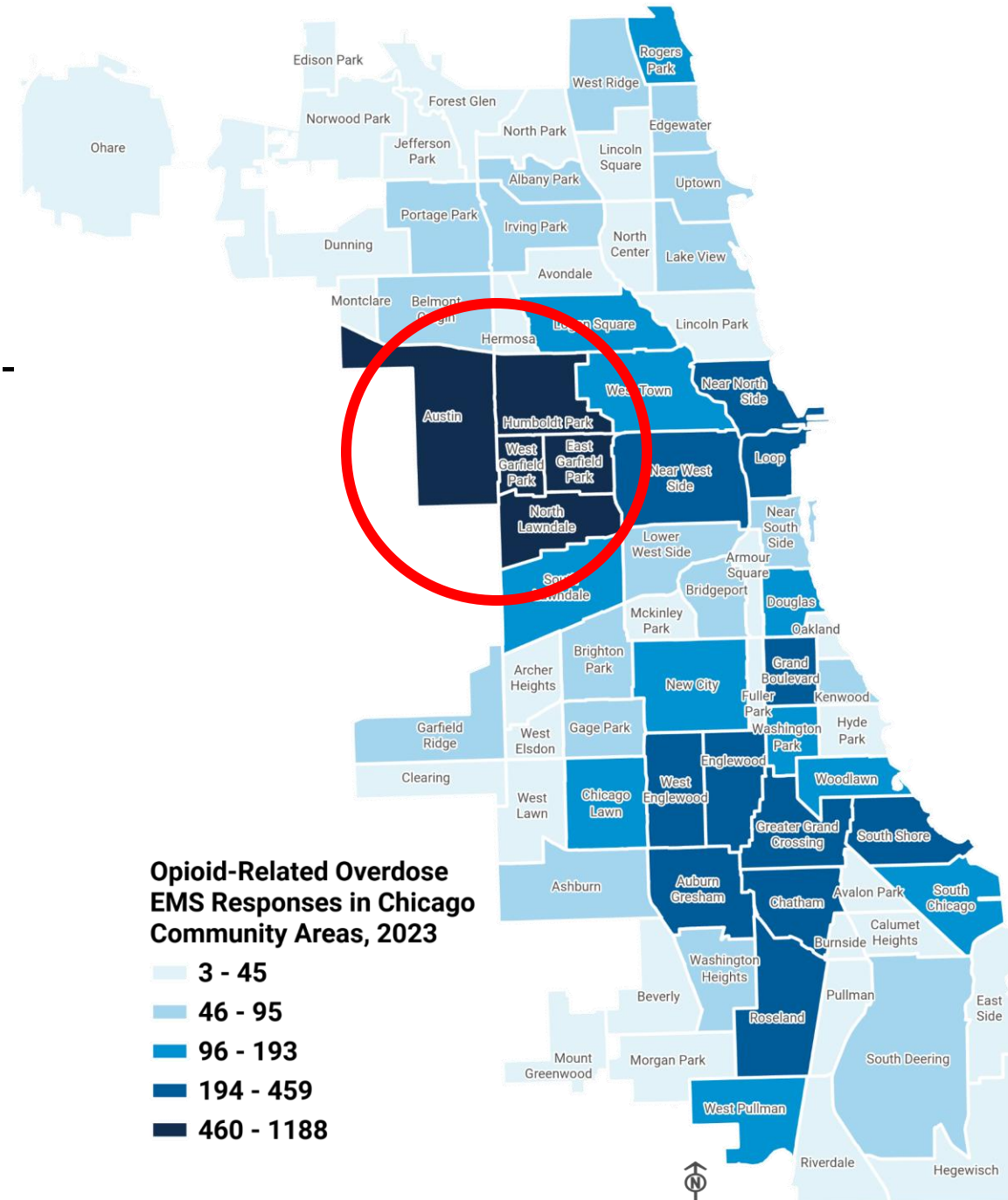


# Most Impacted Communities

**Every community area** in Chicago had an opioid-related overdose EMS response (fatal or non-fatal) in **2021, 2022, and 2023**

However, **West Side community areas** are the most impacted

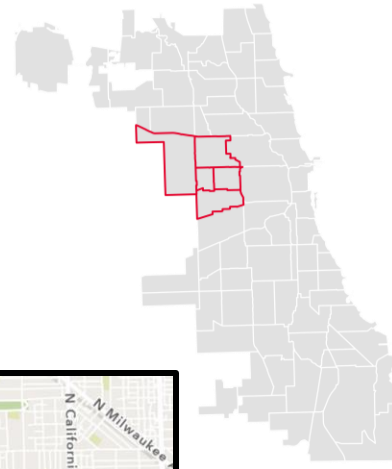
In 2023, **34%** of opioid-related overdose EMS responses occurred in **5 West Side Community Areas: Austin, East Garfield Park, Humboldt Park, North Lawndale, & West Garfield Park**







# Hyperlocal Analysis of West Side EMS Responses



In 2023, "Hot Spots" on the West Side included:

- Pulaski corridor, from Lake to I-290
- Chicago Ave corridor, near Homan
- Area near Pulaski & Division
- Madison corridor, Kedzie to Sacramento
- Harrison corridor, near California
- Roosevelt corridor, Pulaski to California
- Cicero corridor, Madison to I-290
- Area near Central & Lake
- Madison corridor, Central to Laramie

## Location types

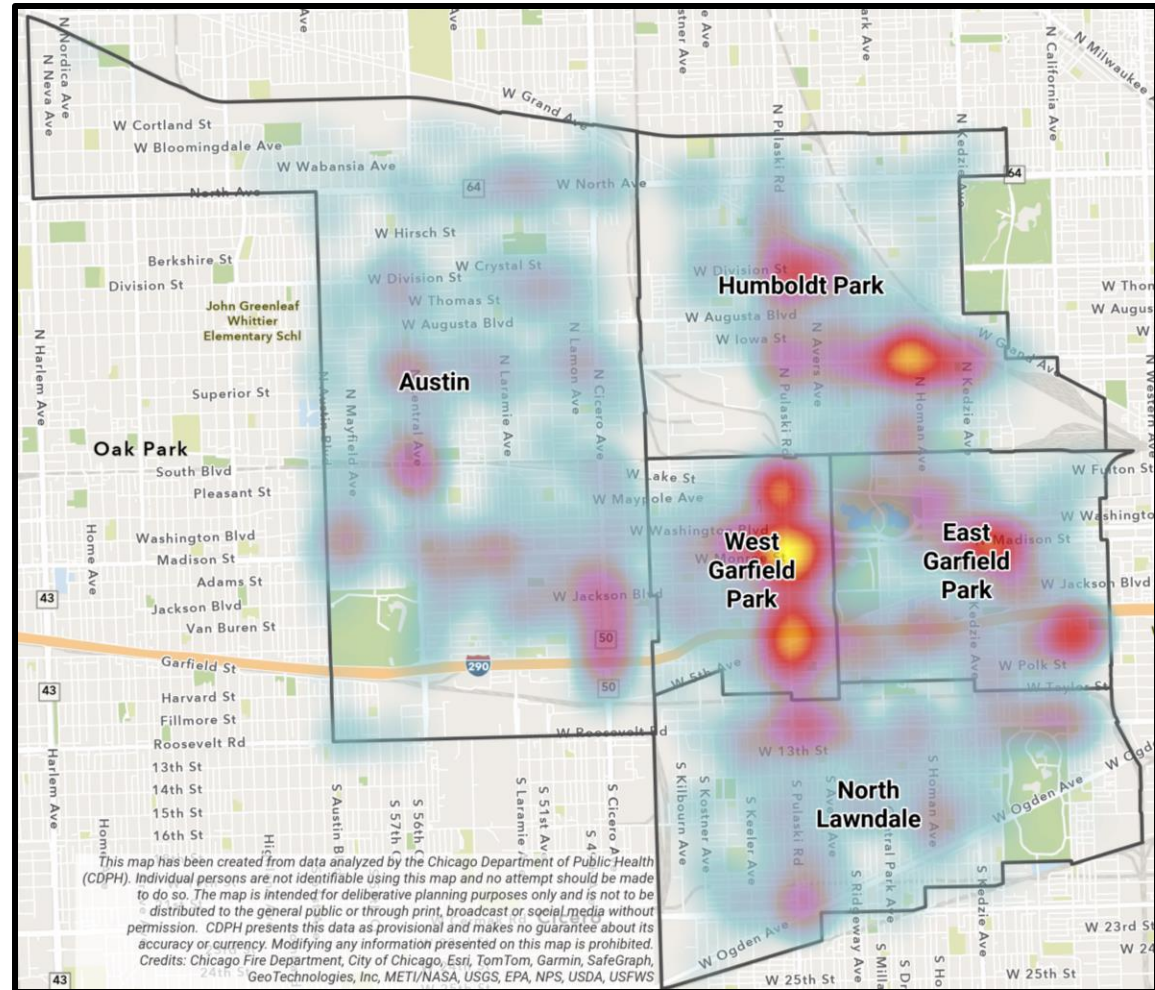
Citywide:

- Streets & Roads = 46%**
- Private Residence = 31%**
- Public Transit = 9%**

West Side:

- Streets & Roads = 57%**
- Private Residence = 23%**
- Public Transit = 7%**

*\*Location of incident has a seasonal trend, with more incidents occurring outdoors in warmer months.*



# ★ CDPH Summer Target

## Goal

In all 5 West Side neighborhoods:

- Every household should have Narcan
- Every person should be aware of MAR NOW

To reduce the number of fatal overdoses by 50%



CDPH staff building test kits during Narcan training

# CDPH's Summer Strategy

- CDPH has launched an emergency response with an incident command structure led by the Office of Substance Use's Medical Director
- Prioritized efforts:
  - Distributing Narcan to every household
  - Street outreach in collaboration with Westside taskforce and IDHS
  - Educational campaign on Medication-assisted recovery (MAR) NOW, the 24/7 Helpline for Opioids and other substances treatment prescription
  - Health alert to all healthcare providers to initiate all patients who overdose on medication for opioid use disorder before discharge in addition to Narcan
  - Free harm reduction training including how to use Narcan for the public every last Friday of the month
  - Mobilize community, county, state and federal partners including CDC EpiAid

**Narcan  
Distribution  
& Drug  
Checking**

**Overdose  
Education**

**Connection  
to  
Treatment**



# Departmental Updates

**CDPH Deputies**

# Financial Updates

**Mary Emmanuel**



# Financial Updates

## Investment in Community Infrastructure

- **The Chicago Department of Public Health's (CDPH) mission is to work with communities and partners to create an equitable, resilient, safe, and Healthy Chicago. Our efforts build toward our vision where everyone in Chicago thrives and achieves their optimal health and wellness. CDPH's approach is guided by our community health improvement plan, Healthy Chicago 2025 that is focused on racial and health equity, especially eliminating Chicago's racial life expectancy gap.**
- **Delegate agency funding is \$173,915,716 of the 2023 total budget**
- **CDPH has ~283 Active Delegate Agency Contracts, and ~140 different Delegate Agencies**
- **Major programs include HIV, Mental Health, Violence Prevention, Maternal Health and Chronic Disease**



# Financial Update

## Investment in Community Infrastructure

- **CDPH has successfully:**
- Expanded the capacity of federally qualified health centers (FQHCs) to deliver trauma-informed and integrated mental health services.
- Expanded the capacity of community mental health centers (CMHCs) and other community-based organizations to deliver trauma-informed mental health services that are coordinated with the patient's medical home.
- Funded partnerships between FQHCs and CMHCs or other community-based organizations.
- Assisted households to be able to maintain a stable living environment in housing that is safe, decent, and sanitary; reduced the risk of homelessness among persons living with HIV; and improved access to HIV treatment and other related support services.
- Convened, developed, and supported a cohort of community-based organizations (CBOs) that have experience delivering street outreach services specifically aimed at preventing gun violence and forming productive connections between these CBOs and systems partners such as law enforcement and academic institutions.
- Expanded evidence-based treatment options and improved linkages to treatment for people living with substance use disorders and/or co-occurring disorders.

CDPH has been able to tremendous impact in the following neighborhoods because of these investments:

Auburn Gresham, Austin, Chicago Lawn, East Garfield Park, Englewood, Greater Grand Crossing, Humboldt Park, New City, North Lawndale, Roseland, South Lawndale, South Shore, West Englewood, West Garfield Park and West Pullman.



# Staffing Updates

**Fikirte Wagaw**





# Treatment not Trauma Hiring Updates | Mental Health

|                                | Starting Vacancies<br>(as of 1/1/24) | Hired<br>(as of 5/23/24) | Current Vacancies<br>(as of 5/23/24) | General Notes (e.g. challenges, mitigation)  |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Positions:</b>              | <b>59</b>                            | <b>19</b>                | <b>40</b>                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Additional promotion through sites like NASW, HRSA/NHSC, Illinois Behavioral Workforce center, Alderpeople newsletters</li> </ul>                             |
| Clinical Therapist II          | 12                                   | 3                        | 9                                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recent hiring sequence closed 5/22, referral list of 15 candidates</li> </ul>   |
| Clinical Therapist III         | 11                                   | 9                        | 2                                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reposted again on 5/17 for remainder vacancies</li> </ul>   |
| Dir of Mental Health Center    | 4                                    | 2                        | 2                                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Challenges with the salary grade, overseeing individuals with higher salaries.</li> <li>DHR reviewing reclassification request for regrade request</li> </ul> |
| Psychologist                   | 3                                    | 0                        | 3                                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Difficulty hiring for this position due to low salary point.</li> <li>Candidate recently declined due to lack of flexibility with remote work</li> </ul>      |
| Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner | 2                                    | 2                        | 0                                    |  |
| Public Health Nurse II         | 7                                    | 0                        | 7                                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recent hiring sequence closed 5/23, 15 applicants</li> </ul>  |
| Behavioral Health Assistant    | 8                                    | 2                        | 6                                    |  |
| Administrative Assistant III   | 4                                    | 1                        | 3                                    |  |
| Psychiatrist                   | 3                                    | 0                        | 3                                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Difficulty hiring at this salary grade</li> <li>DHR reviewing reclassification request to add supervisory responsibilities</li> </ul>                         |
| Case Manager Assistant         | 5                                    | 0                        | 5                                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Team submitted reclassification request to update responsibilities that are more aligned with clinic needs for community health workers</li> </ul>            |



# Legislative Updates

**Kate McMahon**

# ★ Legislative Updates – Kate McMahon

## City

- **Opioid Overdose [Subject Matter Hearing](#)**
  - Committee on Health and Human Relations
  - **Status:** Subject Matter Hearing May 15
- **[R2024-0008391](#) Call for hearing on lowering the citywide default speed limit**
  - **Sponsor:** Ald. La Spata
  - **Status:** Subject Matter Hearing May 1
- **[O2024-0009601](#) First amendment to lease agreement with Chicago Department of Public Health to rent office space at 111 W Washington St**
  - **Sponsor:** Mayor Johnson
  - **Status:** Referred to Committee on Housing and Real Estate
- **[O2024-0009606](#) Annual Appropriation Ordinance Year 2024 amendment within Fund No. 925 for Department of Public Health**
  - **Sponsor:** Mayor Johnson
  - **Status:** Referred to Committee on Budget and Government Operations

## State

- **[HB 5142](#) – Pregnancy / Postpartum Care**
  - **Sponsor:** Rep. Gabel
  - **Status:** Passed Senate Third Reading, Placed on House Calendar Order of Concurrence Senate Amendment
  - **Companion bill:** [SB 3665](#)
- **[SB 3136](#) – Family Recovery Plans**
  - **Sponsor:** Sen. Castro
  - **Status:** Passed House Third Reading, Placed on Senate Calendar Order of Concurrence House Amendment
  - **Companion bill:** [HB 5041](#)
- **[SB 3350](#) – Fentanyl Test Strips**
  - **Sponsor:** Sen. Ellman
  - **Status:** Passed Both Houses

## Federal

- **[HR 6960](#) – Emergency Medical Services for Children Reauthorization Act of 2024**
  - **Sponsor:** Rep. Carter
  - **Status:** Passed House, Referred to Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
- **[S 4041](#) – CARE for Student Mental Health Act**
  - **Sponsor:** Sen. Cornyn
  - **Status:** Referred to Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions



# Media Updates

**Michelle Metcalf**



# Media Updates

*THE ROLE OF THE PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE IS TO ENSURE THAT INFORMATION DISCLOSED BY CDPH TO THE MEDIA, THE PUBLIC AND STAFF IS ACCURATE, COMPREHENSIVE, TIMELY, RELIABLE, CULTURALLY COMPETENT AND RELEVANT. THE PIO*

*OVERSEES ALL ASPECTS OF COMMUNICATIONS FOR CDPH:*

*MEDIA MANAGEMENT*

*WEB SITE*

*SOCIAL MEDIA*

*VIDEO*

*STRATEGIC MESSAGING*

*MARKETING*

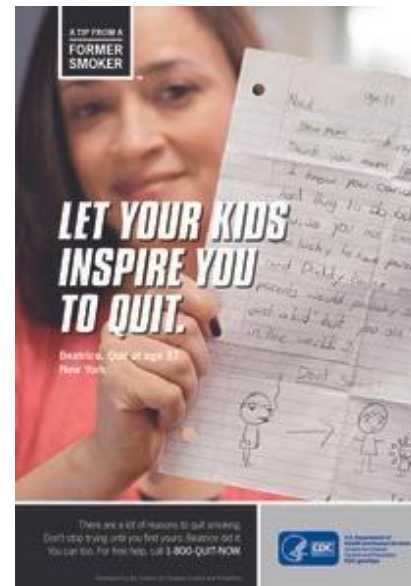
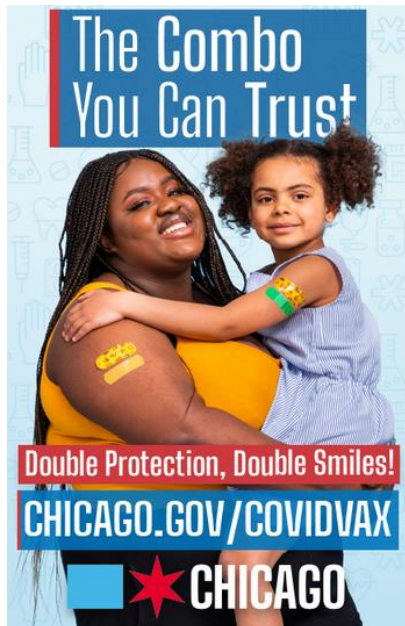
*INTERNAL/EXTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS*

**PRIORITY - INCREASING PUBLIC HEALTH VISIBILITY IN CHICAGO, PARTICULARLY IN MARGINALIZED COMMUNITIES**

# ★ Communication Campaigns

Advertising and communications campaigns are used to:

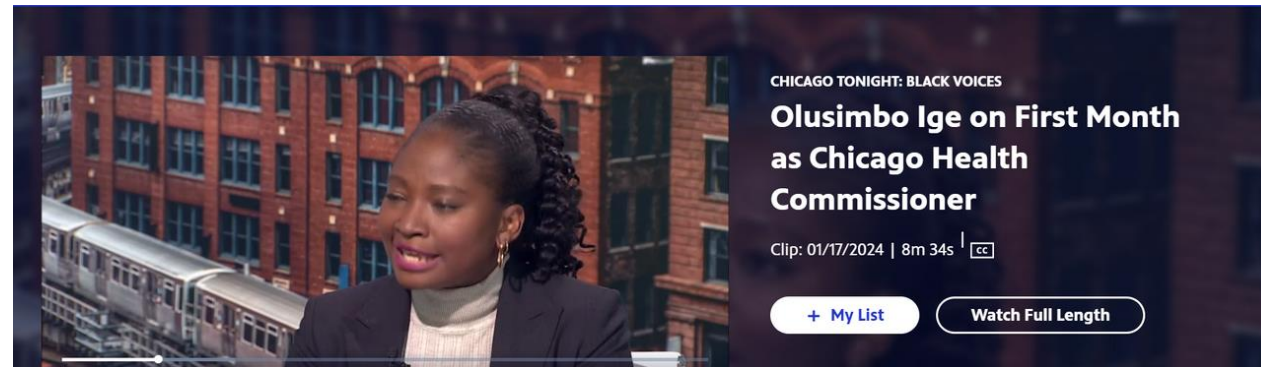
- Inform the public of CDPH and City resources
- Educate about the latest public health guidance
- Influence behavior... stop smoking, get vaccinated, etc.





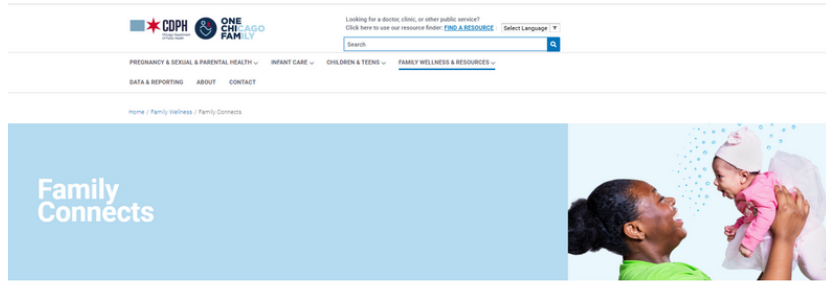
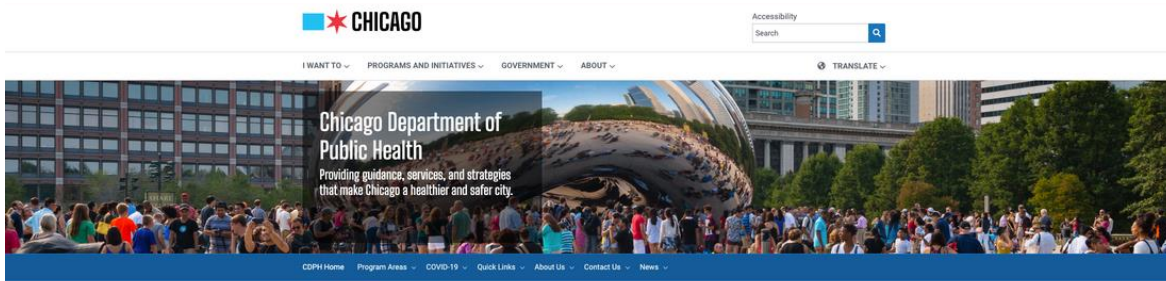
# Media Engagement

- PIO is the CDPH liaison to the news media
- PIO works to engage media outlets that focus on traditionally underserved communities
- PIO collaborates with outside agencies for earned media placements in Chicago outlets

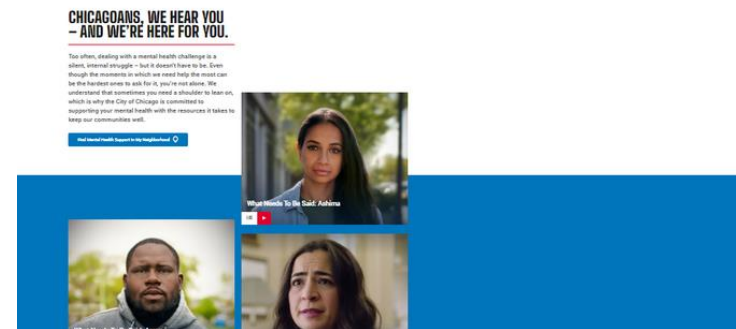
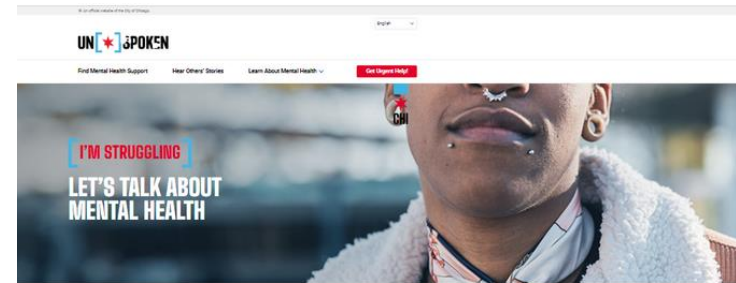


# ★ Digital Communications - CDPH Website

- Redesigned and updated during the pandemic
- Transparency and engagement are emphasized
- Improved readability and navigation with mobile-first responsive design
- 300+ webpages across 8 websites



Family Connects



UnSpoken



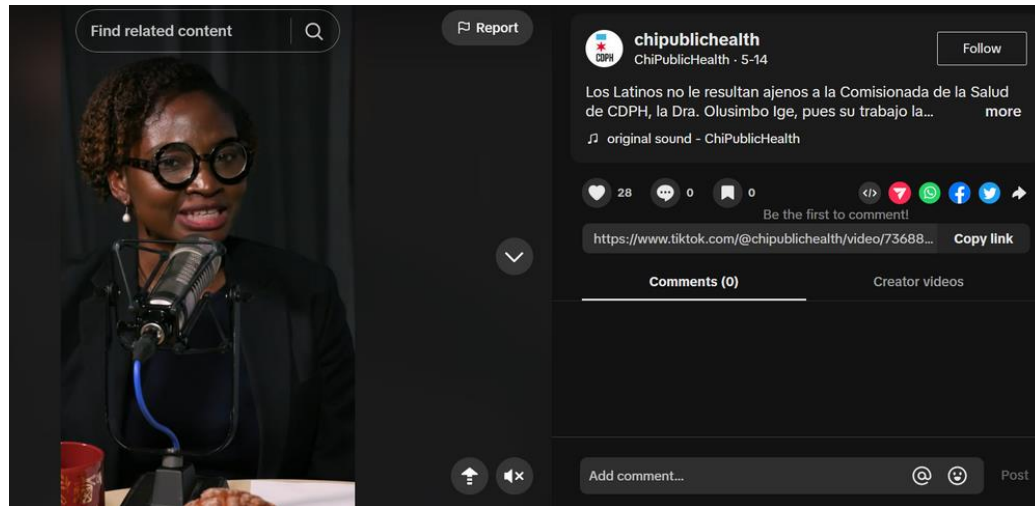
PUBLIC HEALTH SPOTLIGHT



# ★ Digital Communications - Social Media

PIO uses digital communications to:

- Amplify CDPH program benefits and people
- Highlight important public health issues
- Engage Chicagoans with creative content



TikTok

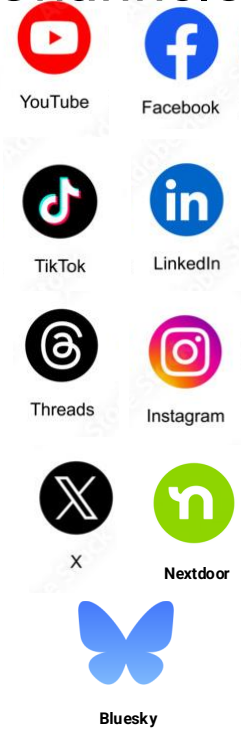
k



LinkedIn



Channels

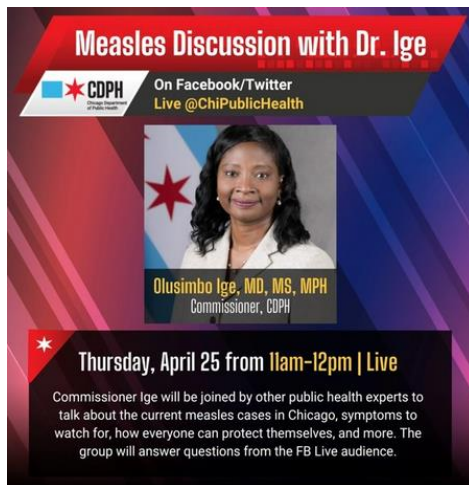


X/Twitter



# ★ Digital Communications - Visual Communications

- PIO uses visual images to engage external and internal audiences
- CDPH videos and photography are featured on Chicago.gov/Health, social media, and other outlets



[Facebook](#)

[Live](#)



[Facebook](#)

[Live](#)





# THANK YOU



[Chicago.gov/Health](https://chicago.gov/Health)

[@ChicagoPublicHealth](#)



[HealthyChicago@CityOfChicago.org](mailto:HealthyChicago@CityOfChicago.org)

[@ChiPublicHealth](#)



Facebook



LinkedIn



Instagram



YouTube



Nextdoor



TikTok



Threads



Bluesky



X