

# **Community Health Profile**

## **DuPage County Health Department**

### **Introduction**

In order to meet State requirements for health department re-certification, Illinois Administrative Code requires that every five years each Local Health Department assess the health needs of its community through a systematic process known as the Illinois Project for Local Assessment of Needs (IPLAN). IPLAN is grounded in the core functions of public health and addresses public health practice standards. One of the required documents of the IPLAN process is a Community Health Assessment.

The Community Health Assessment is intended to answer the question, "What is the health status of the residents of DuPage County?" The results of this assessment will provide the IPLAN Steering Committee with an understanding of the community's health status and ensure that the IPLAN priorities include specific health status issues.

The Community Health Assessment is developed through the systematic analysis of health status data from primary and secondary sources. The following DuPage County Health Department Community Health Profile is a compilation of these sources.

The Institute of Medicine defines a community health profile as a set of health, demographic and socioeconomic indicators which are relevant to most communities. It is intended to provide a broad strategic view of the population's health status, and the factors that influence health in the community. This Community Health Profile represents the foundation of our Community Health Status Assessment. The IPLAN Steering Committee will use this document to identify and support approximately ten health status issues.

## Methodology

The DuPage County Health Department's Planning and Evaluation staff have created this Community Health Profile to identify specific health needs as part of the IPLAN process. Content areas covered focus on physical, mental and environmental health. This Profile will follow a structure similar to the U.S. Healthy People 2010 (HP 2010) document, providing the most current data available, and indicating how DuPage County compares to the HP 2010 target whenever possible. Incidence, prevalence and trends are shown when available. Objectives without HP 2010 targets have been included where appropriate based on public health impact.

Direct HP 2010 comparisons were not always available. Finding current, comparative data on specific health objectives consistently remains a challenge. Hence, many data sources have been used to in an attempt to provide accurate data for analysis. Data reliability must always be considered, as in some instances occurrence of morbidity or mortality may be so low that a valid rate or percent cannot be calculated, or, if calculated, would be meaningless. These occurrences should be noted throughout the document.

Data derived in the Community Health Profile is a compilation of many sources. Frequently when discussing national health statistics or trends, HP 2010 text was directly quoted. The IPLAN Data System was the primary source of data for Illinois and DuPage County data for specific indicators, as this system contains a wealth of information on births, mortality and chronic illnesses. Illinois Department of Public Health birth and death files were frequently used as a data source, along with data sources directly from within the applicable DuPage County Health Department areas. SEER\*Stat (Surveillance, Epidemiology and End Results statistical software) was used in obtaining cancer mortality rates. Non-fatal injuries were obtained from the Trauma Registry data. Hospitalization rates were obtained from the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Reporting System. Many secondary data sources were used, including Access DuPage, Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR), American Cancer Society, local, state and national Behavioral Risk Factor Surveys, *Illinois Annual Air Quality Reports*, Potable Water Surveillance System, Safe Drinking Water Information System, Environmental Protection Agency, *The Childhood Lead Poisoning Surveillance Report*, *DuPage County Solid Waste Annual Report*, *Assessment of Mental Needs in DuPage County*, by Robert J. Rydman and Associates, Family Shelter Service, Healthy DuPage, and Voices for Illinois Children.

The Community Health Profile includes the following categories: Leading Causes of Death, Leading Health Indicators, Demographic and Socioeconomic Characteristics, Chronic Conditions, Communicable Diseases, Maternal, Infant and Child Health, Nutrition, Physical Activity and Obesity, Environmental Health and Food Safety, Mental Health Conditions, Injury and Violence Prevention, Minority Health and Access to Care. This document is intended to portray an accurate, comprehensive picture of health status of DuPage County residents.