

Welcome

Good afternoon! The all-staff meeting will start in a few minutes.

Please be sure to submit your questions in the Q&A feature or email them to phochhalter@health.in.gov. We will reserve time at the end of the presentation.

Have ideas for future topics? Please send them to Greta Sanderson (gsanderson@health.in.gov).

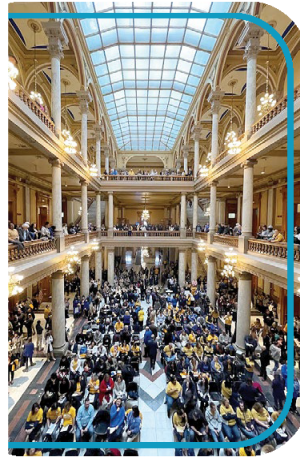
Public Health Day

Health Rewards



PUBLIC HEALTH DAY

Growing Opportunities for Hoosier Well-being



10 a.m. to noon
Thursday, Feb. 12
at the Indiana Statehouse
North Atrium

Show your support for
public health in Indiana
by wearing blue and gold.

Click to download
for your [calendar](#)

MORE INFO:
www.in.gov/health/home/public-health-day



Calling all cooks!



10 a.m. to noon Thursday,
Feb. 12, at the Indiana
Statehouse North Atrium



Calling all cooks!

Public Health Day

Please join us for

PUBLIC HEALTH DAY

Growing Opportunities for Hoosier Well-being



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at the Indiana Statehouse



Health Rewards

Invest In Your Health
Wellness

Chili Cook-Off!

When: Wednesday, Feb. 4 from noon-1:30 p.m.

Where: Adams Auditorium

For chefs: Sign up to participate by Jan. 31
at <https://forms.office.com/g/i1r5rQ5LFe>

Health Rewards

Calling all cooks!



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Take the Challenge!

Health Assessment Battle The Agency vs. Agency Health Assessment Battle is Jan. 1-31, and encourages employees to complete their online Health Assessment through the Mobile Health Consumer portal. The top agency in each group will win \$25 in wellness rewards. Employees in a winning agency who have also completed their Health Assessment in January will receive an additional \$25 in wellness rewards.



Indiana
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ALL-STAFF MEETING

EDEN BEZY, MPH, DEPUTY HEALTH COMMISSIONER

GUY CROWDER, MD, MPHTM, CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER

ABBEY HUMMEL, INFANT AND CHILD FATALITY
PREVENTION COORDINATOR

JAY BRINKMOELLER, DIRECTOR OF FINANCE
OPERATIONS

ERIN ELAM, STAFF ATTORNEY AND ETHICS OFFICER

Jan. 21, 2026

Agenda

- Opening Remarks
- Staff Accomplishments
- Agency Updates and Reminders
- Pillars and Agency Attributes
- Legislative Update
- GROW: Cultivating Hoosier Health
- The More You Know
- Staff Spotlight
- Q&A



OUR MISSION:

To promote, protect, and improve the health and safety of all Hoosiers.

OUR VISION:

Every Hoosier reaches optimal health regardless of where they live, learn, work, or play.





Agency Updates



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Staff Accomplishments

- **Suzanne Kuzemka** has been selected to serve on the Superior Health Quality Alliance Executive Leadership Council. This council brings together leaders of key participants and partners in the Medicare Quality Innovation Network-Quality Improvement Organization (QIN-QIO) program to achieve improvements in health outcomes, patient safety, and the health care experience in the Great Lakes Region (IL, IN, MI, MN, OH, WI).
- In December, **Marija Stankovich** earned her Master of Public Health degree from IU Bloomington with concentrations in Epidemiology and Public Health Administration.
- **Grace Griggs**, DCS Medical Surveyor, earned her Masters in Public Health from Indiana University Bloomington in December 2025
- **Larry K. Ervin**, state registrar & division director of Vital Records accepted a Board member position on the National Association of Public Health Statistics and Information Systems (NAPHSIS).
- **Maddie Crisler**, in Chronic Disease, Primary Care and Rural Health was accepted to the Region V Public Health Training Center's New to Public Health Residency Program. This is a year-long workforce development program for early career public health professionals.

Staff Accomplishments

- HIV, STI & Viral Hepatitis Medical Services team: **Jeremy Musko, Rocky Reed, Dustin Williams, Danny Lawson, and Michael Rigan** on a major cost containment initiative and expansion of health insurance coverage for clients of the Ryan White Part B ADAP Program. In the past year, due to their hard work and diligence in this project, we have had over a 300% increase in the number of Hoosiers living with HIV who are now covered with comprehensive health insurance.
- The same team is nearing the end of another productive year for the health insurance Open Enrollment period. More than 80% of eligible clients have already transferred to comprehensive health insurance coverage since Nov. 1. This has reduced the number of eligible clients enrolled in our full-pay medication program to fewer than 100 individuals. Not only are their medications now paid, but all their medical care needs are now covered with health insurance. With only a few days remaining in the Open Enrollment period, we anticipate that number will be fewer than 50 clients by February. The program recently received recognition from HRSA, our national partner, for achieving the nationwide highest percentage of Ryan White Part B Program participants enrolled in comprehensive health insurance coverage.

Staff Accomplishments

- WIC Assistant Director **Lindsey Downs** has completed her Masters Degree in Public Affairs from IU Indy
- **Stephanie Beverly** completed her MPH at the end of 2025
- **Louis Hurrle** and **Kian Hoss** for the creation of Statement of Work (SOW) writing for the Contracts and Grants open house at 2 p.m. every third Thursday in the Green Conference room
- **Annie Dempsey** with the Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Education obtained her ASHA Certificate of Clinical Competence in Audiology (CCC-A)
- **Carrie Bennett** (Trauma and Injury Prevention - Overdose Prevention Program Director) is leading an inter-agency team for the National Governor's Association - Strengthening Partnerships to Prevent Overdose Learning Collaborative. This initiative aims to explore and identify funding opportunities, administrative policies, and public-private partnerships or agreements to promote statewide systemic approaches to substance use prevention.

Staff Accomplishments

- **Katelyn Scott**, metrologist at the Weights & Measures lab has been recognized by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) as an Approved Signatory. Katelyn has demonstrated excellence in the field of volume and weight-based measurement tool calibration and validation. Katelyn was also recognized by NIST for identifying errors in NIST's own calculations, which resulted in correction to guidance used by metrology labs across the country.
- Congratulations to **Lindsey Bouza, Katelin Rupp, Sara Griewank, Laura Heinrich, and Julie Gries** of the Chronic Disease team for achieving Yellow Belt certification in Lean Six Sigma as a cohesive team, demonstrating effective collaboration, teamwork and streamlining the process for managing their grants.
- **Brandon Halleck** was listed as an author for a Public Health Report article in collaboration with CDC colleagues titled, *Considerations for Collecting Public Health Data on Justice-System Involvement*, linked here: <https://journals.sagepub.com/eprint/JVHYS2CWMDYNHH4Q7CZI/full>

Welcome New Team Members and Congrats

Konnor Anderson - Emergency Preparedness director, Emergency Preparedness

Christina Carrico - Program director, Emergency Preparedness

Mystique Colon - Accountant, Finance

Nathan Ganger - Communications specialist, Office of Public Affairs

Albert Mang - Public health administrator, Infectious Disease Epidemiology and Prevention Division

Elizabeth Nichols - Data analyst associate, Immunization

Naw Pow - Chronic Disease, Primary Care and Rural Health

Ella Purcell — Public health administrator, Maternal and Child Health

Michelle Superczynski — Program director, Emergency Preparedness

Jason Toon — Weights and measures inspector, Radiology and Weights and Measures

Ca Zing — Administrative assistant, HIV/STI/Viral Hepatitis

CONGRATS TO PROMOTED TEAM MEMBER:

Sara Griewank - Public health administrator, Chronic Disease/Primary Care/Rural Health

Shield Spotlight

Scan to
nominate:



"Darren is constantly improving the workflow for IDEPD and is always willing to provide his expertise. He is one of the kindest people I know, and he is always ready to help others."

Darren Frank

*Infectious Disease Epidemiology
and Prevention Division*

Award of Excellence



Ashley Johnson consistently goes above and beyond to ensure the accuracy of our program finance information. She takes the time to answer any questions or concerns we may have at any moment. We are extremely grateful for Ashley and her hard work in the SUID/SDY program."

Ashley Johnson

Finance Division

Team Player Award

Social Posts



Hannah DeLucio • 1st
Community Health Outreach Coordinator | Asthma Interventions | Public Heal...
3w •

As the holiday season brings a rise in travel and visits with loved ones, I'm excited to share a new resource that I was able to create in my role as Community Health Outreach Coordinator for the Asthma Program at the [Indiana Department of Health](#).

Traveling with Asthma offers practical strategies to help individuals stay prepared and safe while on the go, including a sample packing list. Asthma should never hold anyone back from traveling. With the right steps, individuals can enjoy healthier, safer trips and make their time away from home more relaxing and enjoyable.

Traveling with Asthma



October 2025

People with asthma should not feel they are being held back from family vacations, overnight camps, or sleepovers with friends due to their asthma. With mindful packing and careful planning, traveling is possible for individuals with asthma. By following necessary steps, individuals with asthma can have a safer and healthier trip, making their time away from home more relaxing and enjoyable.

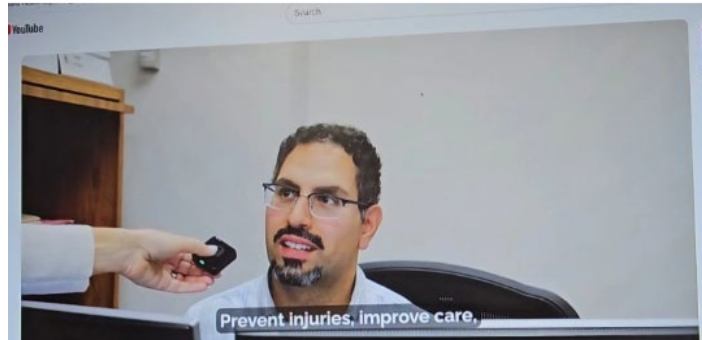
Before Your Trip

Packing List



Ramzi Nimry • 2nd
Trauma and Injury Prevention Program Director at Indiana De...
1mo • Edited •

Honored to be part of the agency's last Conversation with the Commissioner of the year to discuss how our roles help residents of Indiana. [#indiana](#) [#publichealth](#) [#health](#) [#healthcare](#)



Connect ...



Sally Petty, MPH • 2nd
Regional Program Director at IDOH-TPC
1d •

Tony has been an integral part of our efforts to make tobacco and cancer prevention services more accessible for people with disabilities in Indiana. Disability leadership is about more than representation -- it's about changing the way we solve problems. It's a privilege to collaborate with Tony and [Indiana Governor's Council for People With Disabilities](#) and see this leadership in action. [Indiana Department of Health](#)



Indiana Governor's Council for People With Disa... **Follow**
184 followers
2w •

When Tony Gunter joined a statewide public health workgroup, he wasn't sure what to expect. As a person with a developmental disability, stepping into a leadership role felt new and uncertain. But something powerful happened: people listened.

Tony's perspective helped spark meaningful conversations and, ultimately, a broader partnership focused on reshaping how public health efforts are designed across Indiana.

Today, GCPD is proud to partner with the Indiana Department of Health (IDOH) through the 5x5 Public Health Initiative, ensuring people with lived experience are involved at every stage, from planning and evaluation to program strategies and implementation.

Read how Tony's experience is helping reshape public health across Indiana: <https://lnkd.in/gGjA4dHv>

Access the form to submit post ideas:



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Public Health Day

- Thursday, Feb. 12, from 10 a.m. to noon at the Indiana Statehouse North Atrium.
- Registration appreciated: www.in.gov/health/home/public-health-day.
- We are looking for **volunteers** to help day-of! Please scan the QR code or click the link in the Q&A to sign up.



2025 Agency Accomplishments

- Improving Health Outcomes
 - **Congenital syphilis cases from a peak of 55 in 2024 to 48 in 2025.**
 - Youth tobacco use overall has declined and **high school vaping at 5%, the lowest rate since 2012**
 - Preliminary reports of **a decrease of 13 near or fatal pediatric drownings in 2025**
- Realized Cost Savings
 - The HIV Medical Services program **saved over 40% in direct pay medical costs.**
 - State stockpile moved to IDOH Logistics warehouse **ending a \$2.8M annual contract**
 - Enrollments in Quit Now Indiana services increased by 100% in July. For every \$1 spent in Quit Now Indiana services it is estimated that nearly \$10 is saved by reducing healthcare costs, lost productivity, and other costs

2025 Agency Accomplishments

- Excellent Government Service
 - CDHHE **overall satisfaction rating was 99% favorable**
 - IDEPD received over 250 responses to its Needs Assessment survey with over **90% of respondents being satisfied or highly satisfied** with the responsiveness of IDEPD staff to their needs
 - **Moms Helpline has enhanced both direct services to families and warm/closed-loop referrals** through direct lactation support, partnerships with WIC, Pregnancy Promise, and Tobacco Prevention and Cessation, and provider outreach that will improve the experience of callers and families across Indiana
 - For the first time, the Commercial Septic Plan Review Program team was **100% compliant in completing reviews on time in 2025**
 - We **met our 2025 CMS Performance Standards**

2025 Agency Accomplishments

- Driving Efficiency
 - The Lab Support section **reduced their turnaround time for assembling and shipping clinical and environmental test kits from 3 business days to >90% of kits being shipped out the same day they are ordered**
 - Beginning in 2014, IDOH has conducted inspections for DWD of housing for H2A Visa seasonal migrant farmworkers. Demand has tripled from 103 in 2017 to 359 in 2025, but IDOH has maintained staffing levels by improving efficiencies
 - Our virology lab measles tests had an **average turnaround time of less than one business day from receiving the specimen to sharing the results with IDOH staff and providers/patients**
- Improved Transparency
 - Launched multiple new dashboards and the Data Navigator to make it easier for stakeholders to find IDOH data

On the Horizon: IDOH 2026 Goals

1. Successfully launch the Rural Health Transformation Program through strategic implementation of the 12 GROW initiatives
2. Consolidate Mom's Helpline and My Healthy Baby programs to a unified "Indiana Families One Front Door" service model that streamlines access, enhances customer experience, and improves maternal and child health outcomes across Indiana
3. MIHA implementation to include the launch of the comprehensive Obesity and Chronic Disease Action Plan for Indiana. (First in the nation to our knowledge)
4. Advance operational excellence through Lean Six Sigma across all divisions to enhance service delivery, operational efficiency, and fiscal responsibility
5. Enhance public trust through data-driven transparency by expanding data accessibility and visualization capabilities for healthcare and public health

E-staff communication and Transparency

- Mentioned on the Pulse survey
- E-staff remains committed to sharing information
- Watch for minutes from the monthly e-staff meetings



Pillar Team Update: People and Culture



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Agency Attributes

Integrity

True leadership builds trust through consistent action, aligning values with behavior.

Empowerment

Empowering leaders foster team growth by delegating and encouraging ownership.

Humility

Humble leaders listen, value others' input, and empower them to contribute.

Accountability

Accountable leaders own both wins and losses, building trust and a culture of responsibility.

Compassion

Compassionate leaders connect with their teams, motivating with empathy and support.



Legislative Update



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Legislative Updates

- **HB 1358 – IDOH Agency Bill**

- Passed out of House Public Health Committee on 1/20
- Moves various annual reports to website dashboards, extends universal lead screening requirements, expands existing standing orders, and improves data sharing between EMS, local fatality review teams, and IDOH

- **SB 91 – Syringe exchange program extension**

- Will receive a Senate vote on 1/22

- **SB 173/HB 1335 – Nonprofit hospitals**

- Expands the community benefit reporting requirement for nonprofit hospitals





GROW



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Overview



- One Big Beautiful Bill Act includes \$50 billion for a Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP) to transform care and improve health outcomes in rural communities. Indiana awarded nearly \$207 million in the first year
- RHTP will be available for supporting rural hospitals and communities to improve healthcare access, quality and outcomes through system transformation
- Collaborative effort led by the Indiana Family and Social Services Administration and the Indiana Department of Health to engage stakeholders statewide to identify best use of funds to meet the objectives of the program

Statewide Initiatives



1. Growing Care Coordination: Medical Operations Coordination Center
2. Growing Community Connections through Indiana 211
3. Growing Improved Patient Outcomes - Interoperability and Technology
4. Growing Pediatric & Obstetric Readiness in Rural Emergency Departments
5. Growing Cardiometabolic Health Standards of Care in Rural Indiana
6. Growing Access to Hospital Post-Discharge Medications
7. Growing Specialty Provider Access through Expanded Teleconsult
8. Growing Telehealth Access and Infrastructure
9. Growing our Rural Health Paraprofessional Workforce
10. Growing Clinical Training and Readiness
11. Growing our Rural Behavioral Health Workforce

12. Make Rural Indiana Healthy Again Regional Grants



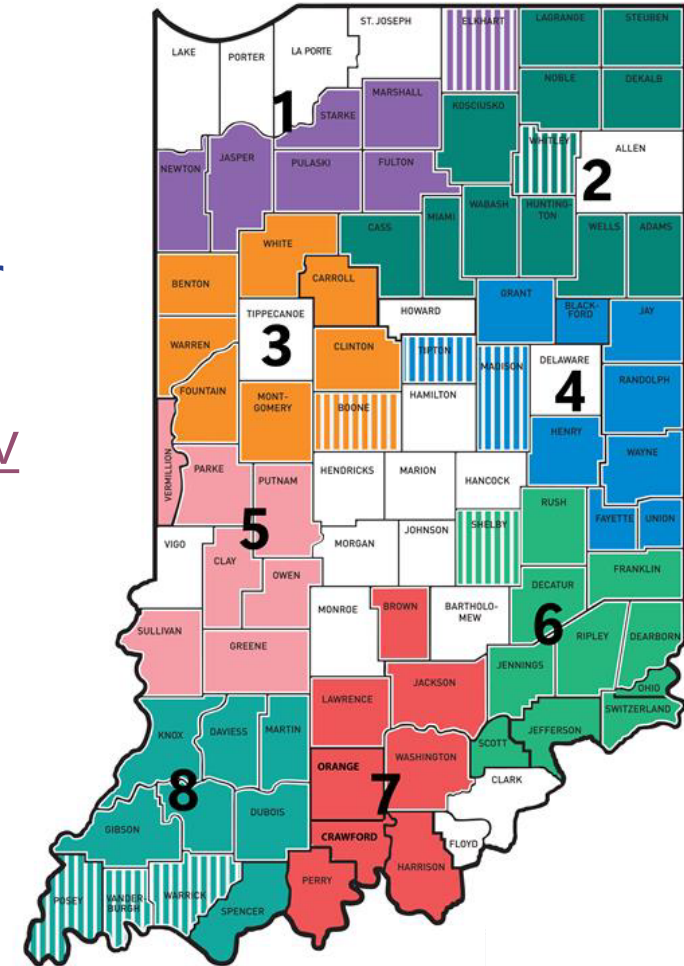
Five-Year Regional Grant Program

- Regional awards: Estimated average award of \$15 million per year per region
- Funding adjusted annually based on compliance, outcomes, and cross-regional collaboration
- Award amounts determined through state review, proportion of rural population served, application quality with favorable consideration for strong partnerships, innovation and sustainability
- Funding available Oct. 1, 2026: \$120 million annually across eight Regional Coalitions
- All eight regions expected to receive funding
- **Note:** local governments, hospitals, universities, LHDs, CMHCs and other similar health care provider organizations and nonprofits may be eligible to receive subawards as part of the regional application

12. Make Rural Indiana Healthy Again Regional Grants



- Click [here](#) for the slides from an informational statewide webinar about the GROW Make Rural Indiana Healthy Again Regional Grants held earlier this month
- Email questions to GrowRuralHealth@health.in.gov

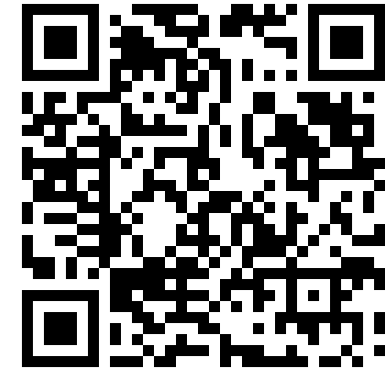


Website: GrowRuralHealth.in.gov



GROW: Cultivating Hoosier Health website should be consulted for updates including:

- Frequently Asked Questions
- Initiative Descriptions
- Regional grant application
- Results of stakeholder survey



Email questions to GrowRuralHealth@health.in.gov



Clinical Update



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The More You Know: Safe Sleep



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The More You Know: Safe Sleep

The ABCs of sleep:

Alone: same room, separate bed

Back: every nap, every sleep, every time

Crib: or bassinet with a firm, flat surface with nothing extra such as bumpers, blankets, and toys

Infant Safe Sleep in the Workplace

- IDOH follows the current infant safe sleep guidelines from the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP)
- Infants should sleep in a pack n play or portable crib
- Babies should not sleep while wearing hats, coats, or hooded jackets. It can lead to overheating and/or cause suffocation or strangulation.
- Avoid bottle propping because it can cause the baby to choke
- IDOH will have an infant room located on the second floor, and pack n plays and information on safe sleep will be available
- Staff trained in infant safe sleep are also available to answer any questions

Infant Safe Sleep in the Workplace

- The AAP recommends breastfeeding exclusively for the first six months, as it reduces the risk of sleep-related deaths and has many other health benefits for mothers and babies.
- The AAP supports continued breastfeeding after solid foods are introduced as long as you and your baby desire, for two years or beyond.
- [Ind. Code § 16-35-6-1](#) allows a woman to breastfeed her child anywhere she has the right to be. Employees can breastfeed in all workspaces of 2 North.
- IDOH has lactation rooms located in the basement and on floors two and seven. Employees may also utilize the Infant Room on the 2nd floor for feeding and infant care.

Shuttle Riding with an Infant

- Infants may ride on the Miller Transportation shuttles if they are safely restrained
- Infants may not remain in a stroller while the shuttle is in motion
- The stroller itself must be folded and secured
- If a parent brings a stroller on board, the infant must be removed before the vehicle departs
- The infant may be placed in a properly secured car seat, if the parent provides one, or held securely by the parent for the duration of the trip
- Keep in mind that many car seats are not designed for shuttle seating, and a proper installation may be difficult

Sleeping Babies and Car Seats

- It is safe for a baby to fall asleep in a properly installed car seat while in a moving vehicle
- When a car seat is locked into the base, it holds the baby at the correct angle to keep their airway open. Without the base, a baby's head can fall forward, blocking their airway and increasing their risk of positional asphyxiation
- If you remove the car seat from the vehicle while the baby is asleep, the baby should be moved to a portable crib as soon as you arrive at your destination
- Babies should not be left to sleep in car seats that are brought indoors

Unsafe Infant Sleep Locations

- Any device that does not allow the baby to lay flat on their back is not a recommended sleeping surface
- Avoid using sitting devices such as car seats, strollers, swings, rock n plays, loungers, or nursing pillows during sleep time
- These devices put baby at risk for suffocation and airway obstruction



INSSAFE Training

- Infant Safe Sleep and Family Engagement (INSSAFE) is a training that is offered virtually, bi-monthly and is open to all staff and the public
- The training is 30 minutes long with time at the end for questions and conversation
- Dates can be found on our website, www.in.gov/health/safesleep/safe-sleep/resources/
- Next trainings are Feb. 5 and April 28
- Email Abbey at ahummel@health.in.gov if you would like a link to any future training or would like to schedule a training for your team

INSSAFE



Infant Safe Sleep And Family Engagement (INSSAFE)

INSSAFE is a "train the trainer" presentation that focuses on identifying risk factors for infant unsafe sleep. In Indiana, **nearly one in every five infant deaths is related to unsafe sleep practices**. These deaths are often preventable, and your conversations with families can help make a difference in the lives of infants in Indiana.

Source: SUID Report, Indiana Department of Health, 2023



In this training you'll learn about:

Data

Data are incorporated in this training to demonstrate the frequency of sleep-related infant deaths in Indiana. In 2021, Sudden Unexpected Infant Death was the third leading cause of death for all infants in Indiana but was the second leading cause among Non-Hispanic Black infants.

Safe Sleep Environments

Infants should always be placed alone, on their backs, and in a crib for every sleep, every nap, every time. There are additional factors that are necessary for safe sleep environments, and this training will provide you with helpful tips that will help families understand and create safe sleep environments for their infants.

Safe Sleep Conversations

This training includes conversation guides that can be used by home visitors, family case managers, safe sleep educators, and other providers who work with families. First responders can use these guides with families when responding to non-emergency calls.

Who is this training for?

- First responders
- Health departments
- Case managers
- Home visiting programs
- Childcare providers
- Any organization that works with families

How long is this training?

- The training lasts 30 minutes, with questions and conversation to follow
- The training is offered both in-person and virtually

Want to schedule a training?

Email Abbey Hummel at ahummel@health.in.gov.



Finance Moment: Purchasing

- Request now submitted directly to Procurement Team
- New form supports Senate Bill 5 and is more streamlined to new purchasing requirements
- Procurement Team reviews first then follows one of these paths:
 - Direct Purchase Order (PO) for example utilizing a QPA
 - Request for Quote (RFQ)
 - IDOH Procurement Triage for further evaluation
- Involvement of IOT, ODA, Legal, and other stakeholders as needed
- Ensures informed decision-making and compliance
- Provides transparency throughout the procurement process

Training and Support

- Additional details will be on the Nerve Center
 - Guide/SOP
 - Form: <https://forms.office.com/g/AirCNGCbmX>
- Finance Operations Open Houses available for support
- Training sessions will be provided
- Questions: Contact Jay Brinkmoeller or Alex Stultz

Important Dates!

State Fiscal Year 2026 Closeout Deadlines

MARCH 03	APRIL 3	MAY 08	MAY 15	JUNE 05
All purchasing requests over \$5K that are using fiscal year 26 state funds need to be submitted by this date. This includes any purchases or contracts that will require a procurement method.	All request for contracts (RFC'S) using fiscal year 26 state funds (or starting 7/1) are due by this date.	All Purchase Order changes need to be submitted to the Procurement team by this date.	All requisitions using state funds for FY26 will need to be to Purchase Order or closed by this date. *Requisitions after this date will have a 7/1/26 start date.	Invoices must be submitted by this point to guarantee payment.
FOR QUESTIONS, CONTACT: Alex Stultz – astultz@health.in.gov		Fiscal Year 2027 begins July 1, 2026.		PEOPLESOFT MODULES WILL SHUT DOWN IN JUNE TO CLOSE OUT FISCAL YEAR 2026 BUDGETS.



Staff Spotlight:

Erin Elam, Office of Legal Affairs



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Get to Know Me

- A day in my work life – Every day is a surprise, scheduled meetings but mostly fielding LHD questions, ethic issues and request from leadership as they come up
- What I wish others knew about my job – Navigating county-level obstacles from all 92 counties
- My path to this role – Prosecuting attorney, much more hands on. Much slower life at IDOH

Passions and Projects

- My favorite project so far – Health First Indiana, there were plenty of novel problems to solve and obstacles to navigate
- Tools I can't work without – Low tech: reminders and lists
- When work gets creative – Must be able to relate to your audience as an attorney. May be telling a story or a vulnerable moment from your own life

Off-Duty Inspiration

- What I do for fun outside work – Dogs and travel
- My hidden talent – DIY
- Radiolab- this is where I pick up more science-based knowledge that rounds out my legal knowledge

Quiz

How much RHTP funding did Indiana receive in the first year?

The 12th person to email the correct answer to publicaffairs@health.in.gov wins a **\$15 gift card!**



Questions & Answers

Please submit your questions
in the Q&A box or email them to
phochhalter@health.in.gov.

Next All-Staff Meeting

Wednesday, Feb. 18, 2-3 p.m.

