



2023 ANNUAL REPORT

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

IPHA Friends and Supporters,

As we begin a new year, we look back at 2023 with lots of great memories about IPHA and the amazing MOMENTUM we garnered thanks to our members, staff, partners, and Board of Directors. You will find details about our organization's efforts and achievements in this report. With the Governor's Commission on Public Health completing its work in late 2022, legislative proposals were advanced during the 2023 Indiana General Assembly and IPHA led efforts to keep our state's public health advocates informed and active around this critical time. It was a momentous day on January 26th when hundreds of public health workers and supporters came to the Indiana Statehouse to show their support for the legislation. Ultimately our state was able to advance public health through new funding for our local health departments. Governor Holcomb viewed the passage of this history making bill one of his top successes for the year.

With new funding from the Indiana Department of Health and others, IPHA has added three new positions to support the work of local health departments as they develop and implement their plans to make use of the new funding. This work will help to continue to grow our membership around the state and strengthen local public health. Our membership offerings this year included our Policy and Advocacy Workshop in January, our monthly online meetups to network and learn about public health initiatives around our state, our spring Annual Conference and Annual meeting in April, and the third Health Equity Summit in August. A renewed emphasis on fundraising allowed us to bring back a public health awards celebration to our state in November where leaders of the Governor's Public Health Commission and eight public health students, professionals, and organizations were acknowledged for their efforts to improve Indiana's public health.

Our Board of Directors has been enlarged and has worked on strengthening the organization through fundraising, review of our legal documents and bylaws for revisions, and the establishment of several topic specific workgroups to assist in continuing the build our momentum as an organization.

We cannot do the critical work of building up public health in our state without the support of our members, partners, friends and Board and are thankful for all who helped make 2023 a successful year for IPHA. We hope that you will remain active with IPHA as we continue to raise the MOMENTUM in 2024. Getting new funding for public health has been essential, but now the work to prove the investment is paying off is our new challenge.

Joan Trendell

President



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Administrator

Megan Bolton

Operations Manager

Sara Suisman

Association Manager

Allison Aultman

Program & Policy Manager

Iliana Enriquez

Program & Policy Coordinator

Fatma Yousif

Program & Policy Coordinator

STUDENT ADVISORY GROUP

The Student Advisory Group (SAG) is comprised of 10 student members and three university liaisons from institutions across Indiana.

Members of the SAG support and implement various projects to improve student engagement opportunities with IPHA. For example, the SAG coordinates student events and trainings, creates student-focused content for IPHA communication channels, and more.

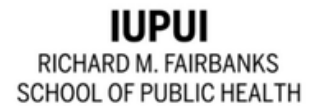
Student Advisory Group Members

- Jenny Sheets Indiana University Kokomo
- Adaline Heitz, Indiana University Indianapolis (IUI)
- Maria Klein, Indiana University Bloomington
- Yash Jain, Indiana University Bloomington
- Josephine Williams, Indiana University Indianapolis (IUI)
- Melissa Fernandez, Indiana University Indianapolis (IUI)
- Kora Beasley, Manchester University
- DeVilliers Steyn, Purdue University
- Ramandip Kaur, Indiana University Indianapolis (IUI)
- Alexandra Hughes, Purdue University

University Liaisons to the SAG

- Dr. Eric Wetzel, Wabash College
- Andrea Janota, Indiana University Indianapolis (IUI)
- Dr. Angelitta Spells, University of Indianapolis

ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERS



A MOMENTOUS YEAR FOR PUBLIC HEALTH

For the Indiana Public Health Association, 2023 was all about momentum. From advocating to make the Governor's Public Health Commission recommendations a reality, to elevating the momentum of Health First Indiana and historic state funding for local public health, IPHA continues to push for progress that will allow our Hoosier communities to live happy and healthy lives.

Our growing staff team has been critical in propelling our important work forward! This year we welcomed Allison Aultman, Fatma Yousif, and Iliana Enriquez to IPHA.



**Allison Aultman,
Program and Policy Manager**

Allison has a background in public health program management and spent 6 years overseeing the Tobacco Control Program at the Marion County Public Health Department. She has volunteered for and served on the board of directors for various local organizations.



**Fatma Yousif,
Program and Policy Coordinator**

Fatma has a background of working in public health at the state level at the Indiana Department of Health along with working at the systems level at United Way of Central Indiana. She is passionate about public health and health equity.



**Iliana Enriquez,
Program and Policy Coordinator**

Iliana has experience facilitating and coordinating programs for youth and adults around topics of equity, social emotional learning, and restorative practices. She is excited to bring her background to the field of public health especially focusing on health equity.

HEALTH FIRST INDIANA

Indiana's public health system is undergoing monumental changes with the passage of Senate Enrolled Act 4 and increased state budget allocations of \$225 million over FY24 and FY 25 for public health. 86 Indiana counties opted in to receive the funding round, covering 96% of Hoosiers. Through this Health First Indiana (HFI) funding, local health departments will improve and expand core public health service delivery.

With these changes has come a need for strengthened partnerships among governmental public health entities and broad, cross-sectoral partners including hospital systems, schools, community-based organizations, businesses, and others. The Indiana Public Health Association (IPHA) and the Indiana Department of Health (IDOH) are supporting local health departments (LHDs) as they navigate these opportunities to strengthen partnerships and improve the health of Hoosiers statewide.

The IPHA is contracted through IDOH to provide support and technical assistance to LHDs as they navigate HFI. To encourage collaboration and information sharing, IPHA has also implemented technical assistance opportunities for LHDs. IPHA's office hours and virtual lunch meetings foster sharing of successes, resources, and opportunities for growth. IPHA and IDOH are working together to provide pathways for LHDs to connect to community organizations and coalitions to reach key performance measures. In collaboration with IDOH's Regional Directors, IPHA is hosting sessions following district workshops to further assist LHDs with developing their individual action plans. Local partnerships, resources, and tools will allow LHDs to optimally deliver core public health services in their communities.

PUBLIC HEALTH AMERICORPS

The Indiana Public Health Association is assisting the Indiana Department of Health with implementation of a Public Health AmeriCorps Program.

Members of this program will be placed at local health departments across Indiana. The program will help to expand local health department capacity and service delivery. Additionally, the program will serve as a critical workforce pipeline for individuals with an interest in governmental public health.

Our IPHA team is thrilled to support the implementation of this program, and we are excited to see the positive impacts it has on Indiana's public health workforce and infrastructure.

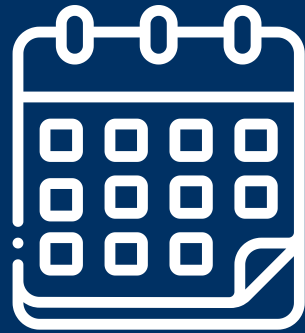


IPHA MONTHLY MEETINGS

Monthly Lunch Meet Ups

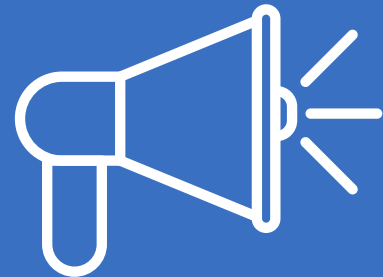
IPHA hosted monthly Virtual Lunch Meet-Ups for our members and partners on the third Tuesday of each month. These are an informal opportunity for folks to network and learn about the public health efforts occurring in Indiana and beyond.

- In 2023, we highlighted partner organizations including:
 - Marion County Commission on Youth (MCCOY)
 - Covering Kids & Families of Indiana
 - Fishers Health Department



Policy & Advocacy Committee Meetings

IPHA hosted monthly Policy & Advocacy Committee meetings, bringing together public health professionals from across the state to learn and advocate for public health policy solutions. In 2023, we advocated for an increased investment in Indiana's public health infrastructure and funding.



Health Equity Action Team

In partnership with Health by Design and our Health Equity Action Team Steering Committee, IPHA hosted monthly HEAT meetings throughout the year, bringing together advocates for health equity from around Indiana. Guest speakers presented at each meeting, with representatives from various organizations joining throughout the year.



REGION V INTERNSHIP PLACEMENTS

Through funding from the Region V Public Health Training Center, IPHA placed two interns at local health departments during the summer of 2023! Learn more about Priscah and Elijah below.

Priscah Norwood, a junior at the IU Fairbanks School of Public Health, served as an intern at the Hendricks County Health Department. Environmental health and vector control were the central focus of Priscah's internship activities. She was able to engage in meaningful fieldwork to keep the local community safe. Priscah set traps for mosquitoes and identified species before sending them to the Indiana Department of Health for testing. Additionally, she traveled to and pre-treated any sites that were previously infested. Finally, Priscah created informational brochures to educate the community about environmental health topics. Priscah specifically noted her enthusiasm at the opportunity to be involved with critical frontline disease prevention.

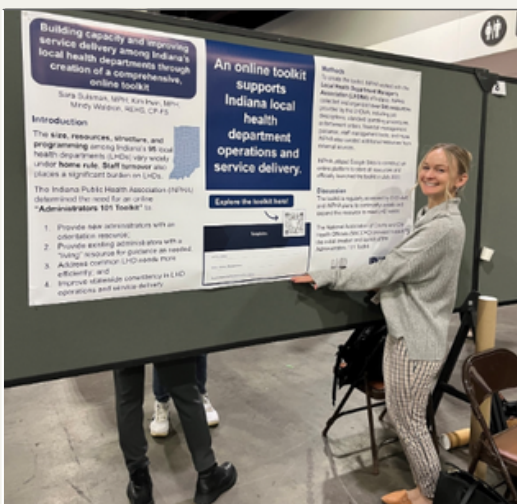


Elijah Heslop, a senior at Butler University, served as an intern at the Fishers Health Department. Through his placement, Elijah had the opportunity to contribute to a variety of local efforts, including mental health programming, community outreach, cross-sector partnership building, and communications. Elijah assisted with the convening of local mental health action teams and supported the rollout of Stigma Free Fishers, an online mental health resource platform. Elijah notes, "I want to bridge the gap between mental health and public health and make them a more cohesive unit." Additionally, Elijah established a club for interns of city departments, which has facilitated increased connection, networking, and cross-sector collaboration.



APHA ANNUAL MEETING & EXPO

The IPHA team had a great time at the APHA 2023 Annual Meeting & Expo! Our team connected with other APHA affiliates, shared our work through presentations and poster sessions, and hosted a wonderful Indiana reception with roughly 100 guests at the CDC Foundation.



Sara Suisman, Association Manager, presenting one of IPHA's posters. Check out our 2 posters on the next page!



Kim Irwin, Administrator, presenting at the APHA Annual Meeting.



IPHA Staff and Board at the Indiana reception at the CDC Foundation.



Dr. Monroe, President & CEO of the CDC Foundation, providing remarks at the Indiana reception.

OUR APHA POSTERS

Historic investment in Indiana's public health infrastructure: An APHA affiliate's role in planning, organizing and advocating for increased funding

Kim Irwin, MPH; Sara Suisman, MPH; Ambre Marr; Susan Jo Thomas, JD, MSW; Ellie Hansotte, PhD, MPH; Joan Trendell, MS, RDN

Introduction

In August 2021, Indiana Governor Eric J. Holcomb established the **Governor's Public Health Commission** through Executive Order 21-21. The Commission was tasked with assessing Indiana's current public health system, identifying opportunities for improvement, and issuing a final report of recommendations.

Several of the Commission's recommendations were included in pieces of legislation during the Indiana General Assembly 2023 session, including a proposed increase in **state appropriations for local public health** and defined **core public health services** to be delivered in every county.

The Indiana Public Health Association guides advocacy efforts to achieve a historic investment in Indiana's public health infrastructure.



Methods

During the 2023 legislative session, the Indiana Public Health Association (INPHA) **hosted weekly calls** for partners to:

- Discuss legislation;
- Identify opportunities to advocate; and
- Coordinate communications, messaging, and action.

Additionally, INPHA **curated a list of key talking points** that were available for use by partners and **provided ongoing legislative updates and action alerts** via a monthly newsletter and other communication channels.

Discussion

State appropriations for local public health and Senate Enrolled Act 4 were passed, and **we are celebrating a historic investment in Indiana's public health, amounting to \$225 million over the next two fiscal years.** INPHA is committed to supporting and guiding implementation of the legislation and other Commission recommendations, now referred to as **Health First Indiana.**



Building capacity and improving service delivery among Indiana's local health departments through creation of a comprehensive, online toolkit

Sara Suisman, MPH; Kim Irwin, MPH; Mindy Waldron, REHS, CP-FS

Introduction

The **size, resources, structure, and programming** among Indiana's **95** local health departments (LHDs) vary widely under **home rule.** **Staff turnover** also places a significant burden on LHDs.



The Indiana Public Health Association (INPHA) determined the need for an online **"Administrators 101 Toolkit"** to:

1. Provide new administrators with an orientation resource;
2. Provide existing administrators with a "living" resource for guidance as needed;
3. Address common LHD needs more efficiently; and
4. Improve statewide consistency in LHD operations and service delivery.

An online toolkit supports Indiana local health department operations and service delivery.

Explore the toolkit here!



Methods

To create the toolkit, INPHA worked with the **Local Health Department Manager's Association (LHDMA)** of Indiana. INPHA collected and organized **over 500 resources** provided by the LHDMA, including job descriptions, standard operating procedures, enforcement orders, financial management guidance, staff management tools, and more. INPHA also curated additional resources from external sources.

INPHA utilized Google Sites to construct an online platform to store all resources and officially launched the toolkit in July 2022.

Discussion

The toolkit is regularly accessed by LHD staff, and INPHA plans to continually update and expand this resource to meet LHD needs.

The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) provided support for the initial creation and launch of the Administrators 101 Toolkit.



POLICY & ADVOCACY FORUM

We hosted our Policy and Advocacy Forum virtually on January 19, 2023. Attendees included Indiana's public health workforce, students, and partners. Attendees received an overview of the Governor's Public Health Commission process, recommendations, legislation, and implementation. The event gave participants the knowledge, skills, and confidence required to effectively advocate for the Commission's solutions and provide a national-level policy perspective to support local efforts. Attendees were also encouraged to make their voices heard at the Public Health Day at the Statehouse.

ANNUAL MEETING & CONFERENCE

The IPHA 2023 Annual Meeting & Conference was held on April 18, 2023. The theme of the conference was "Momentum", with the goal of maintaining and building upon the momentum of Indiana's public health progress; fostering continued support, partnerships, and excitement around creating a healthier Indiana; and highlighting the important statewide efforts of our public health students and workforce. Attendees learned more about the Governor's Public Health Commission, as well as topics including workforce development, community partnerships, health equity, and mental health through abstract sessions.

HEALTH EQUITY SUMMIT

In partnership with Health by Design and the Health Equity Action Team (HEAT), and with the support of 14 different sponsoring organizations, IPHA organized and hosted the “What’s Next? 2023 Health Equity Summit” in August. The Summit discussed how addressing health equity benefits all community members, demonstrated examples of health equity in action from around the state, and highlighted opportunities for cross-sector collaboration to advance equity. The Summit brought together experts, thought leaders, and enthusiasts from diverse backgrounds to explore and discuss the latest trends, advancements, and challenges in health equity,

Our keynote speakers Professor Loretta J. Ross and Dr. Wajiha Akhtar presented impactful keynote sessions. Professor Ross guided us through a discussion on “Calling in the Calling Out Culture”. In this session, she shared a framework to navigate difficult, but critical, conversations. Dr. Wajiha Akhtar’s session, “What does it take to walk the walk? Defining next steps after declaring Racism is a Public Health Crisis” used personal stories to emphasize the importance of addressing health disparities.

Attendees from around the state and presenters from around the nation gathered virtually for two days of learning about existing health equity work and tools for expanding health equity efforts in Indiana. This event engaged 80 participants across two days. Participants left with concrete action steps to continue their learning and advocacy and plenty of resources and connections to support ongoing learning and long-term equity work!



INDIANA PUBLIC HEALTH CELEBRATION & AWARDS

On Thursday, November 30, 2023, the Indiana Public Health Association hosted the Indiana Public Health Celebration & Awards. More than 200 practitioners, partners, and advocates gathered to celebrate and honor a year of success and achievement within the field of public health.

IPHA President, Joan Trendell, welcomed attendees and hosted the event. Dr. Judy Monroe, president and CEO of the CDC Foundation and co-chair of the Governor's Public Health Commission, spoke at the event. "It's such an exciting time for public health in Indiana," she said. "State and local leaders, in partnership with community-based organizations and practitioners, have made a transformational investment in core public health services delivered at the local level. Indiana's approach of studying the current system, talking and listening to community members, identifying evidence-based strategies across key focus areas, and then developing recommendations for improvements provides a tremendous example for other states to follow." In addition to recognizing association and commission leadership, eight awards were presented in seven categories. Award winners included:

- **Distinguished Public Health Service Award:** Kisha Hampton, Indiana Hemophilia & Thrombosis Center
- **Emerging Public Health Leader Award:** Naima Gardner-Rice, Indiana Department of Health
- **Outstanding Local Health Department Award:** Vanderburgh County Health Department
- **Outstanding Public Health Advocate Award:** Dr. Eric Yazel, Indiana Emergency Medical Services and Clark County Health Department
- **Outstanding Public Health Student Award:** Alfu Laily, Purdue University & Alexandra Hughes, Purdue University
- **Public Health Communications & Media Award:** Sara Dillard, Indiana Immunization Coalition
- **Public Health Impact Award:** AARP Indiana



SEE HOW WE'VE GROWN

Funding

IPHA has had diverse funding sources throughout 2023, including partnerships, grants, or contracts with organizations such as:

- Indiana Department of Health
- Family and Social Services Administration
- National Association of City and County Health Officials
- Marion County Public Health Department
- Region V Public Health Training Center
- Indiana University Health

Membership

IPHA's membership network continues to expand! We have more than 350 active members, including over 20 organizational members. More than 50 of our members work for a health department, and 150 student members joined us in 2023!

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

IPHA Champion Donors (\$1000+)

- Pamela M. Aaltonen, PhD, RN
- Lubitz/Monroe Charitable Fund
- Edwin C. Marshall, OD, MS, MPH, FAAO, FNAP
- Emily Riehm Meier, MD, MSHS
- Nir Menachemi, PhD, MPH
- Cheryl G. Sullivan, PhD, CAE, FAAN
- Joan M. Trendell, MS, RDN, LD
- Anonymous Donors

Thank you to all of our individual donors! The Indiana Public Health Association received \$18,847 from our donors in 2023.

Your generous gifts help ensure that the Indiana Public Health Association can continue our critical efforts to build capacity among public health professionals and partners to achieve health equity and well-being for all people, in all communities across Indiana.



**WE LOOK
FORWARD TO
WORKING WITH
YOU IN 2024!**