

## Funding Opportunities

- **Women's Health Initiative Grants and Mini-Grants for special activities**  
These grants fund educational curricula and promotional activities focusing on cardiovascular disease, osteoporosis, menopause and other women's health issues. Local health departments and community organizations are encouraged to apply for funding.
- **Penny Severs Breast, Cervical and Ovarian Cancer Research Fund**  
These grants fund institutional research projects related to investigating causes, prevention and treatment for breast, cervical and ovarian cancer.
- **Ticket for the Cure Grant Fund**  
These grants are made possible through a scratch-off lottery ticket dedicated to funding breast cancer education, supportive services and research.

Announcements about grant opportunities, special events, publications and resources are available by calling the **Women's Health-Line at 888-522-1282** (TTY 800-547-0466), or by checking the Illinois Department of Public Health's Web site: <[www.idph.state.il.us](http://www.idph.state.il.us)>.

## Working Together

The Office of Women's Health works in partnership with the Governor's Office, state and local government agencies, local health departments, non-for-profit organizations, businesses, health and medical professionals, educators and advocates. As a clearinghouse for women's health services, information and education, the office serves as a resource to its partners, as well as to consumers.

Questions about women's health can be directed to  
**Women's Health-Line**  
**888-522-1282**

**TTY**  
(hearing impaired use only)  
**800-547-0466**

Illinois Department of Public Health  
**Office of Women's Health**  
535 W. Jefferson St.  
Springfield, IL 62761  
[www.idph.state.il.us](http://www.idph.state.il.us)  
or  
[www.cancerscreening.illinois.gov](http://www.cancerscreening.illinois.gov)

Printed by Authority of the State of Illinois  
P.O. #6010572 20M 7/09

IOCI 0035-10



State of Illinois  
Illinois Department of Public Health

# Women's Health Programs



## Why Women's Health?

- Traditionally, medical education and research related to women's health has focused on reproductive health. Yet today's women are living nearly half of their lives outside their reproductive years.
- While living longer than men, women are not necessarily living better and are more vulnerable to certain chronic conditions like osteoporosis, lupus, thyroid disease and depression.
- Women have unique medical needs because of their female physiology, reproductive ability and related hormonal influences. As a result, women demonstrate different symptoms for certain conditions and often respond to treatments differently than men.
- Until recently, many studies on the detection, treatment and prevention of disease were conducted on men only. These results were generalized to women without proof that they applied to females in the same way.

## Resources and Activities

- Women's Health-Line, 888-522-1282
- Publications
- Speakers bureau
- Annual Women's Health Conference
- Educational teleconferences

## Office of Women's Health

Reaching Illinois women is at the core of every activity conducted by the Illinois Department of Public Health's Office of Women's Health. The office was established in 1997 and is now one of the largest state offices of its kind in the country.

### Its mission is:

- to improve the health of Illinois women and girls by initiating, facilitating and coordinating women's health awareness, education and programming throughout the state;
- to encourage healthier lifestyles among women; and
- to promote equitable public policy on health issues that affect women today and in the future.

- Public and professional education
- Women's health legislation tracking
- Women's health status analysis
- Special outreach events
- Web site resources

## Programs

### Illinois Breast and Cervical Cancer Program

This statewide program offers free breast and cervical cancer screenings for women between the ages of 35 and 64 who have no health insurance. Eligible women diagnosed with breast or cervical cancer, or a precancerous cervical condition, whether diagnosed through IBCCP or an outside medical provider, can receive treatment through the Department of Healthcare and Family Services at no cost.

### WISEWOMAN Program

This research program, currently being offered in designated areas of the state, is designed to help women in the Illinois Breast and Cervical Cancer Program to reduce their risk for heart disease and to promote a heart-healthy lifestyle.

### Education Programs

The Office of Women's Health funds a variety of education programs offered through local health departments, not-for-profit community agencies and schools. The programs include multi-week curricula and/or health promotion activities that address cardiovascular disease, osteoporosis, menopause and other health-related issues. The goal is to help women and young girls to change behaviors that can lead to healthier lifestyles. Educational sessions cover nutrition, exercise, risk assessment, treatment options and prevention strategies. Some programs focus specifically on individuals at risk, while others focus on providers and professionals who come in contact with those at risk.