



ALLEN COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH

www.allencountypublichealth.org

Defining the work of Public Health in Allen County

pub·li·can (pŭb'li kən): the keeper of a public house; tax collector

pub·lic health: (pŭb'lik hēlth): to provide conditions in which people can be healthy

pub·li·cist (pŭb'lē sist): 1. a person who publicizes, esp. a press or publicity agent

It can be challenging to define just what public health is and does. Your idea of public health is probably influenced by how you've interacted with us. To help define what we do, here are some of the ways we provide conditions in which Allen County residents can be healthy:

Protecting residents from health threats:

We prevent disease outbreaks; help assure safe water, food, and air. We are also ready to respond to natural and man-made public health emergencies. In 2013, 1,132 communicable diseases were reported to us. Specially trained nurses follow-up on these reports in order to prevent further spread of disease. Our Registered Sanitarians

promote safe food handling in stores and restaurants. We participate in drills with community partners so we're ready for public health emergencies.

Advancing community health:

Our staff works with community partners to improve the health of our residents. We also enforce laws and local regulations designed to help keep residents safe. Our Creating Healthy Communities program provides resources such as our Smoke Free Multi-Unit Housing toolkit for landlords and tenants, and model policies for businesses.

Educating residents about health issues:

We alert the community during public health emergencies as well as share everyday health information. For example, we help babies get a healthy start in life. Peer helpers at WIC support breastfeeding families. Our Caring for Two Program is a neighborhood outreach program that provides in-home visits during and after pregnancy. This program has helped reduce our

county's African American infant mortality rate.

Providing healthy solutions:

Allen County Public Health offers preventive care clinics and connects people to services to help them stay healthy. In 2013, 654 children received evaluation or treatment by appropriate specialists through our Bureau for Children with Medical Handicaps and our Breast and Cervical Cancer Program helped 525 women get needed cancer screenings. Our immunization programs help reduce the incidence of preventable diseases.

These are just a few examples. I invite you to review the rest of this report for more information about the ways we are defining public health for the residents of Lima, Delphos, and all of Allen County.

Respectively submitted,



Kathleen A. Luhn, MS, MCHES
Health Commissioner

Visit us on the Web

In 2013, work began to develop a new agency website that highlights the many programs we offer at Allen County Public Health.

Our new website:
www.allencountypublichealth.org is now available and contains popular

features from our former website such as the on-line vaccine scheduler and our restaurant inspection reports.

Our new site gives us a new look and is easier to navigate so that our residents can quickly find important information about our programs. The

new site also allows us to highlight multiple, timely health topics.

In addition to our website, we share information on Facebook and Twitter.



DIVISION UPDATES

Nursing Division:

The expansion of Medicaid and the national Healthcare Marketplace shows promise that more of our constituents will have health insurance in the future, which should improve their access to healthcare. In order to help meet our clients' needs, we have changed our processes so we are able to bill private insurance for our immunization and family planning services. While we continue to be a Vaccines for Children provider, we now must purchase the vaccine we provide to clients with private insurance. Working with more insurance companies requires many "behind the scenes" changes to our daily operations but results in clients receiving the services they need.

WIC Program:

In 2013, Allen County WIC made a commitment to work with several local groups to support breastfeeding awareness and promotion in the county and in Ohio. Helping families meet their breastfeeding goals was a top educational priority for the WIC clinic. Allen County WIC joined forces with Activate Allen County and together have worked diligently to get the "breastfeeding is best" message out to the community and to help businesses offer "breastfeeding friendly" sites for their patrons and employees. Allen County WIC also hosted one of the two Northwest Ohio Building Bridges Breastfeeding trainings with excellent community partner support. Breastfeeding coordinator, Lori Nester RD, LD, IBCLC became the regional representative for the Ohio Lactation Consultants Association and the regional representative for the State Breastfeeding Coalition lending a local voice with a unique WIC perspective. In 2013, 64% of Allen County WIC moms initiated breastfeeding, compared to the state rate of 54%.

Environmental Division:

In 2013, the Environmental Division staff conducted 6,931 inspections. Inspections may be routine, for example during construction or to collect water samples, or they may be re-inspections following an unsatisfactory routine inspection. The majority of our inspections are un-announced routine inspections of regulated facilities and sewage treatment systems, or in response to complaints of unhealthful conditions. Also in 2013, the groundwork was completed for utilizing a new software package for the following programs: Food Service Operations, Retail Food Establishments, Public Swimming Pools and Spas, and the Recreational Park and Campground programs. The software program was purchased by the Ohio Department of Health for all local Health Districts to use. Now staff will have the ability to complete inspection reports in an electronic format, provide more detailed information about these programs and allow for the public to view completed inspection reports online.

Vital Statistics:

The Vital Statistics office files records for births and deaths that occur in Lima, Delphos, and all of Allen County. Our files date back to December 1908, when the filing system for the state began. Ohio law only allows for the issuance of certified copies of birth and death records. Our office can now issue certified birth certificates for all births occurring in the State of Ohio. Any births outside of Ohio must be requested directly from that state. We do not accept personal checks, but require cash, money order, or cashier's check. We also offer the use of a debit/credit card machine with an additional usage fee applied to the cardholder. When possible, Vital Statistics staff issues copies while customers wait—approximately 10 minutes. On-line ordering is available via a link on our website: www.allencountypublichealth.org.

Health Education Division:

In 2013, the Creating Healthy Communities (CHC) program, in conjunction with Activate Allen County and several other community agencies formed the Allen County Bike and Pedestrian Task Force. This group works to promote the opportunities for walking and biking already available in our community and also informs and educates residents and key stakeholders about how active transportation will improve the health and economy of our county. Our CHC program also worked with landlords of multi-unit housing complexes to encourage tobacco-free living. These programs will continue throughout 2014 as the program continues to promote a heart-healthy Allen County.

Public Health Preparedness/Emergency Response:

The Public Health Preparedness Division had a very busy year. We were awarded a grant to bring a functional needs registry to Allen County. The registry, readyallencounty.org, will allow citizens to voluntarily enter information into a database that will allow first responders to quickly identify and respond to their needs in an emergency. We also continued to recruit members for the Medical Reserve Corp (MRC). The MRC is a great way to volunteer your time and expertise during a disaster. For more information please log on to Ohioresponds.gov. We encourage people to register *before* emergencies arise.

PROGRAM STATISTICS FOR 2013

Nursing Division

Breast and Cervical Cancer Program

Caseload (BCCP) - Serving Allen and 6 surrounding counties

•Pap tests	142
• Pelvic Exams without Pap	418
•Screening and diagnostic mammograms, breast ultrasounds	474
•Breast cancer diagnosed	7
•Cervical dysplasia diagnosed	5
•Cervical cancer diagnosed	1

Komen for the Cure® Caseload

• Mammograms (Partial Year)	33
• Breast cancer diagnosed	0

Total Immunizations Given 8,232

• VFC Immunizations	6,515
• Private Purchase	1,717

Family Planning Clinic Visits 3,340

• New patients to Family Planning	641
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TB Skin Tests Given 982

Bureau for Children with Medical Handicaps Caseload - Unduplicated 654

Communicable Diseases Reported 1,132

Caring for Two —African American Infant Mortality Prevention Home Visits 1,040

Vital Statistics

Births/Birth Certificates

•Number of county resident births filed	1,212
•Number of certified copies issued	6,265

Deaths/Death Certificates

•Number of county resident deaths filed	976
•Number of certified copies issued	5,968

Environmental Division

Water System Inspections	222
Sewage System Inspections	1,819
Recreational Parks and Camps Inspections	32
Manufactured Home Park Inspections**	36
Public Swimming Pool and Spa Inspections	207
Open Bathing Area Inspections	13
Solid and Infectious Waste Inspections	57
Demolition Waste and Clean Hard Fill Inspections	258
School Inspections	107
Plumbing System Inspections	1,240
Food Service Operation Inspections	1,418
Retail Food Establishment Inspections	351
Food Vending Inspections	148
Animal Bite Investigations	465
Environmental Complaint Inspections	469
Smoke-Free Workplace Complaint Investigations	31
Tattoo and Body Piercing Service Inspections	25

Health Education Division

HIV Tests performed 1,679

•Positive Tests	8
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WIC Monthly Caseload 3,358

•Women	791
•Infants	829
•Children	1,738

** Manufactured Home Parks are no longer licensed by local health departments. We continue to provide inspections through a contract with Ohio Manufactured Homes Commission.

2013 FINANCIAL REPORT

BALANCE January 1, 2013

\$656,435.00

2013 RECEIPTS

	Amount	Percentage
Townships, Villages, and Cities	637,927.00	18.0%
County Commissioners	33,575.00	1.0%
Grants	1,642,319.00	46.4%
Permit and Service Fees	1,048,472.00	29.6%
Medicaid/Insurance Reimbursement	154,874.00	4.4%
State Subsidy	20,486.00	0.6%
TOTAL	3,537,653.00	100.0%
BALANCE AND RECEIPTS	4,194,088.00	

2013 EXPENSES

Salaries and Benefits	2,664,402.00	74.1%
Clinic Supplies	89,734.00	2.5%
Other Supplies	123,894.00	3.8%
Lab Expenses	7,489.00	0.2%
Building/Occupancy Costs	179,302.00	5.0%
Equipment/Equipment Repair/Service Contracts	50,676.00	1.4%
Training/Continuing Education	8,428.00	0.2%
Transportation	29,537.00	0.8%
Contractual Services	35,596.00	1.0%
Payments to State*	250,427.00	7.0%
Other (Insurance, audits, etc.)	144,471.00	4.0%
TOTAL	3,597,956.00	100.0%
Ending BALANCE December 31, 2013	\$596,132.00	

* Each year our budget is inflated by fees that we are required to collect and send to the state of Ohio. Most of these fees go to the Ohio Department of Health with a smaller share going to several other state agencies. A total of \$250,427 was collected and sent on to Columbus in 2013. For additional information about the agencies that receive our local dollars, contact us at 419-228-4457.

ALLEN COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

As established in Ohio law, the seven member Board of Health is our policy-making body with authority to adopt regulations and establish programs to promote public health within the district. As of January 2014, Board members are Dr. Wilfred Ellis, MD, President; Eric Kerner, Vice President; Don Schweingruber, Janis Carse, Marva Cowan and Scott Shutt. The Board appointed Dr. Kha Tran, MD, in January to complete Dr. Thompson's unexpired term on the Board. Six of the seven Board members are appointed by the mayors, township trustees, and county commissioners of Allen County. The District Licensing Council also appoints a member. The Board meets at 8:00 a.m. on the second Friday of each month, and meetings are open to the public.



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Allen County Public Health is an equal opportunity employer and provider of services.

DR. THOMPSON, BOARD PRESIDENT RETIRES



Dr. Charles Thompson, MD, retired from the Allen County Board of Health after 32 years of serving on the Board. He was appointed to the Board in December 1981 and began serving in January 1982. From 1983-1988 he served as Vice President of the Board. In 1988, he became President of the Board, an office he held for 26 years. He is the longest serving President of the Allen County Board of Health. The Board appointed his replacement, as the by-laws of the Combined Allen County General Health District specify that the Board of Health appoint a physician as the seventh member of the Board.

