

## Fall 2013 Newsletter

### At a glance facts:

#### 3rd Quarter Statistics

(As of September 30, 2013)

- **Immunizations given: 6,489**
- **Women's Preventive Health Project caseload: 532**
- **Komen Caseload(<50 yr old): 32**
- **BCMH Caseload: 565**
- **Caring For Two Home Visits: 699**
- **Family Planning Program Visits: 2,611**
- **Tuberculosis Tests given: 692**
- **Reportable Communicable Diseases: 880 total**
  - 0 cases of Class A diseases**  
Diseases of major public health concern needing immediate response, e.g. human rabies, meningococcal disease
  - 49 cases of Class B1 diseases**  
Diseases of public health concern needing timely response, e.g. E .coli 0157:H7, West Nile Virus, and TB
  - 662 cases of Class B2 diseases**  
Diseases of significant public health concern, e.g. STDs, foodborne illnesses, influenza (flu) hospitalization, chicken pox
  - 169 cases of Class C diseases – Outbreaks only**  
Tracking of outbreaks whether the cause is foodborne, community, water-borne or zoonotic, e.g. foodborne, norovirus, ringworm, MRSA
- **HIV Tests given: 1,204**
- **Number of births filed: 1,789**
- **Number of deaths filed: 1,066**
- **WIC Supplemental Nutrition Program monthly average caseload: 3,389**
- **Environmental Division Field Inspections: 5,303**

## Assessing our Community's Health and Planning for the Future

A core function of public health is to monitor the health status of the community. This summer, the health department and community partners joined forces to gather data about the health of Allen County residents. In this assessment, information from multiple sources including the 2009 Community Needs Assessment, Allen County Data Dashboard, Robert Wood Johnson's County Health Rankings and health data from the Ohio Department of Health was compiled for 15 health topics.

For each topic the committee pulled together key data points to show how we compare with the state and the nation. The committee also addressed trends to see if our county was successful in making improvements in these areas. Finally, this assessment highlights what is happening in the community to address these issues. This information is available on the Allen County Data Dashboard, hosted by the Lima Allen County Regional Planning Commission at <http://www.lacrpc.com>.

While work was being completed on the Community Health Assessment, community agencies began working to compile information for our 2014-2016 Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP). To begin this process, community partners used information from our Assessment to prioritize the health issues in our community. Once these priorities were established, community resources and gaps were identified. The committee is in the process of finalizing the plan, including action steps to address our community priorities.

A document that includes the Community Health Assessment and the Community Health Improvement Plan is scheduled to be released in March, 2014. If you have any questions about these projects or would like to provide input, call Kim Rieman at 419-228-4457.

### Protect Yourself – Know *Your* Health Data

Just as it is important for the Health Department to know the health status of the community, individuals should know important information about their health. Do you know your numbers?

1. **Blood Pressure** – One in three adults in the U.S. have high blood pressure. Is yours high?
2. **Cholesterol** – Adults 20 and older should have this checked every 5 years. Have you checked yours?
3. **Waist Size** – A waist size greater than or equal to 35 inches for a woman or 40 inches for a man increases the individual's risk of cardiovascular disease, diabetes and other health issues. Do you know your waist measurement?

<http://www.webmd.com/heart/features/do-you-know-your-heart-numbers>



Photo submitted by:  
CDC/Amanda Mills

## Linking Our Clients with Needed Services

Allen County Public Health, including our WIC Program, provides important services to our community on a daily basis. One of the most important services we provide to our clients is the referrals we make so that they can be linked to other community agencies. For example, WIC may refer a child to Head Start or a new mother to a Heartbeat Class. Our Nursing Division may refer a client to another health or social service agency if the patient is in need of services that the Health Department does not provide.

Our staff works with community agencies to stay aware of services that may be available to our clients. If you have a service that you think may be needed by our clients, please call Becky Dershem at the Health Department at 419-228-4457 or Barb Deepe at our WIC office at 419-224-8200.



### Dr. Thompson Retiring from Board of Health

Dr. Charles L. Thompson, MD, is retiring 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 has held for 26 years. He is the longest serving President of the Allen County Board of Health. The Board will appoint 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.

## Local Program Gets State Senator Review

On Thursday, September 19<sup>th</sup> Senator Shannon Jones and her staff, along with representatives of Senator Charleta Tavares came to Lima to review our Health Department's Caring For Two program. Members of the Senate Medicaid, Health and Human Services Committee traveled all across the state this summer reviewing infant mortality prevention programs.

With Ohio close to having the worst rate for black infant mortality in the nation, these legislators wanted more information about programs that have shown success. The Caring For Two program had been suggested to Senator Jones by Ohio Department of Health staff following a visit from their director, Dr. Ted Wymyslo, in February for the Governor's State of the State tour.

Caring For Two targets black pregnant women in the 45801 and 45804 zip codes. Community Health Workers (CHWs) work with these mothers to access the resources necessary to improve health outcomes for their infants. Our Caring For Two program has been successful in reducing black infant mortality in Allen County since 2003.

## WIC Employee Earns International Designation

Stacia Schmenk, RD, LD, IBCLC passed the International Board of Certified Lactation Consultant examination in October. She was able to attend classes and take the test because of a grant from the March of Dimes.

Stacia, along with many of the staff at WIC, have received a great deal of training so that they can educate and assist mothers with breastfeeding. This is another example of our WIC Division going above and beyond to educate the mothers and families in their program.

Congratulations to Stacia and Allen County WIC!



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

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***Protecting the Health of Allen County***