

PUBLIC HEALTH AND YOU: PARTNERS FOR HEALTHIER, LONGER LIVES

Kathleen A. Luhn, Health Commissioner

Public Health Supports You

“Healthcare is vital to all of us some of the time, but public health is vital to all of us all of the time.”

C. Everett Koop, Surgeon General, United States, 1982-1989

Since 1900, the average lifespan of persons in the United States has lengthened by greater than 30 years; 25 years of this gain have been attributed to advances in public health in the areas of scientific research, epidemiology, health education, improved sanitation, and public policy. While many of these advances were nation wide, local health departments play an important role in improving individuals’ health, well-being, and quality of life.

Local health departments are government agencies and exist for the common good. Public health authority comes from laws and regulations. As your local health department, your health is our top priority. Our role is to promote conditions that improve health and wellbeing, prevent illness, disease and injury, and eliminate health disparities. As our mission says, we protect and promote the health of Allen County – and that includes you. Whether you ever come to our offices or meet any of our staff, we are working for you.

You can count on Allen County Public Health to:

- Control communicable diseases
- Prevent chronic disease and injuries
- Conduct health and sanitation inspections
- Enforce public health rules and regulations
- Participate in community assessment and planning
- Promote prenatal and early childhood health
- Collaborate on healthcare and supportive services



You Can Support Public Health

“The best prescription is knowledge.”

C. Everett Koop, Surgeon General, United States, 1982-1989

Charges of “fake news” now make headlines almost daily. While health and healthcare aren’t usually the target of most of these headlines, it is an area where misinformation abounds. As an example, the US is currently experiencing another major outbreak of measles. Most of these outbreaks are due to parents who choose not to vaccinate their children. While parents may mean well, it is critical to get the facts. Vaccines are safe, effective, and save lives. Search for **Vaccination Information: Facts and Resources** on our website to find links to research so you can make your own informed decisions and help protect our community.

Public health addresses such a broad range of issues that we can’t be everywhere and do everything that will promote a healthier Allen County. To expand our reach, we engage with community partners and individuals to help us improve the quality of life for all of us.

Community partners support our work in ways that may and may not be obvious. For instance, one of the priority areas in Allen County’s 2018 Community Health Improvement Plan includes housing and public transportation, with the goals of reducing the stock of substandard housing, and increasing access to public transportation service. Did you know that addressing housing conditions such as temperature, dampness, the presence of lead paint, and other safety hazards can improve a person’s health? Public transportation helps ensure people can reach their everyday destinations such as work, school and healthcare appointments safely and reliably while at the same time providing more opportunities for physical activity and helping improve air quality – a win-win situation.

We are proud to be your local health department and we look forward to continuing to work with you and for you.

ACCREDITATION UPDATE

In December, ACPH completed the application phase of an ACCREDITATION process that all Ohio health departments must complete by July 2020. The process measures a health department’s performance against nationally recognized standards, or domains, by examining extensive documentation of ACPH’s efforts to improve and protect the health of Allen County residents. The application process culminated with a site visit in December of 2018. Final determination by the National Public Health Accreditation Board will not be made until sometime in 2019. The National Public Health Accreditation Board evaluates health departments in the following 12 Domains of Public Health:

- | | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| ASSESS | POLICIES & PLANS | QUALITY IMPROVEMENT |
| INVESTIGATE | PUBLIC HEALTH LAWS | EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICES |
| INFORM & EDUCATE | ACCESS TO CARE | ADMINISTRATION & MANAGEMENT |
| COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT | WORKFORCE | GOVERNANCE |

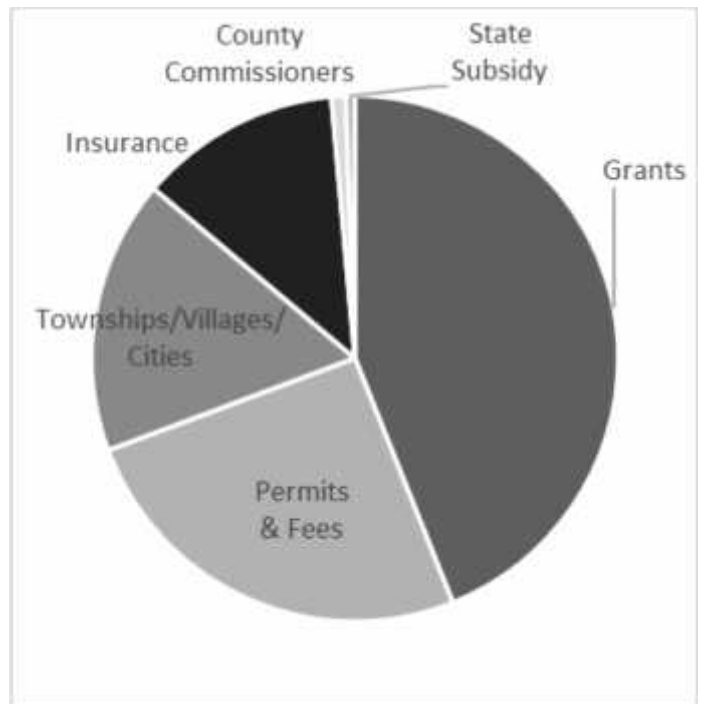
Look to the bottom of each page of this report for the highlighted Domains of Public Health, demonstrating how ACPH meets the public health needs of the community.

FINANCIAL REPORT

RECEIPTS	2017	2018
January 1 BALANCE	\$745,047	\$764,250
Grants & Contracts	\$1,669,431	\$1,678,902
Permit & Service Fees	\$956,103	\$969,524
Townships, Villages, & Cities	\$644,306	\$644,306
Medicaid/Insurance Reimb	\$479,619	\$474,210
County Commissioners	\$33,911	\$33,911
State Subsidy	\$25,874	\$20,574
TOTAL	\$3,809,244	\$3,821,427
BALANCE AND RECEIPTS	\$4,554,291	\$4,585,677

EXPENSES	2017	2018
Salaries & Benefits	\$2,735,836	\$2,694,679
Clinic Supplies	\$280,723	\$282,028
Payments to State**	\$190,200	\$202,692
Building/Occupancy Costs	\$163,834	\$249,754
Other: Insurance, Audit, etc.	\$169,200	\$183,694
Other Supplies	\$98,708	\$66,184
Equip/Equip Repair/Service	\$88,070	\$102,388
Transportation	\$22,502	\$34,843
Contractual Services	\$28,442	\$30,876
Training/Continuing Ed	\$5,665	\$6,306
Lab Expenses	\$6,861	\$4,213
TOTAL	\$3,790,041	\$3,857,657
December 31 BALANCE	\$764,250	\$728,020

PUBLIC HEALTH FUNDING IN ALLEN COUNTY, 2018



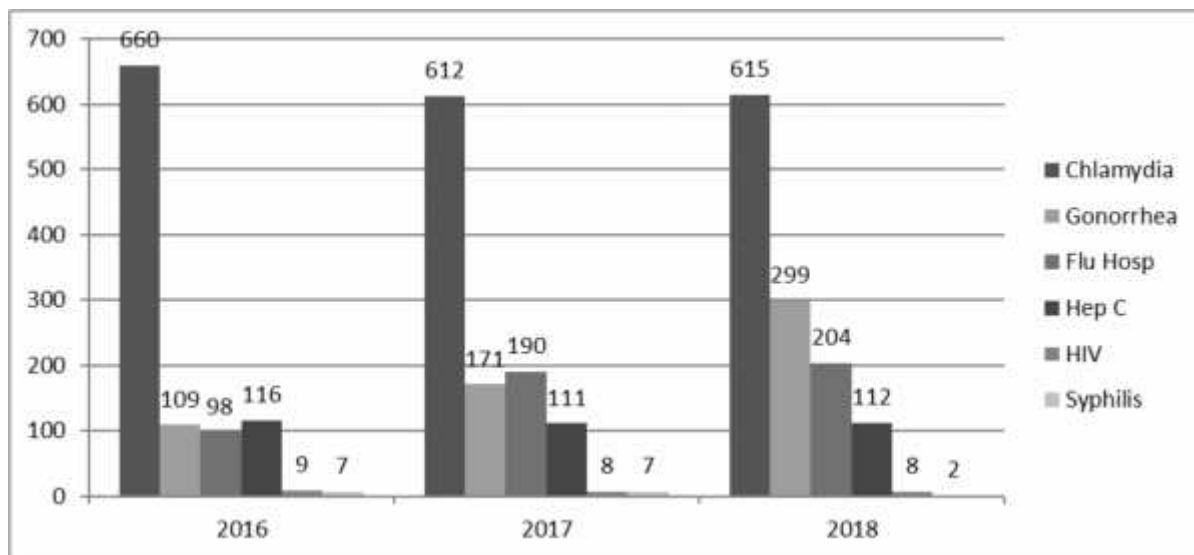
PUBLIC HEALTH DOMAINS
Administration & Management
Governance

NURSING SERVICES AREA

The Nursing Services Area continues to offer quality, confidential and private family planning services to men and women in our Reproductive Health and Wellness Clinic. Patients seen in our clinic receive a comprehensive physical examination as well as sexually-transmitted infection (STI) testing. Gynecological and contraceptive services are also provided. TB skin testing continues to be available on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 8-9 and 3-4 on a walk-in basis. Immunizations are offered for children and adults. Immunizations are available by appointment on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Our communicable disease nurses and epidemiologist investigated over 1,400 reportable diseases during 2018. Our county continues to have some of the highest rates of Chlamydia and gonorrhea in Ohio. 615 cases of Chlamydia and 299 cases of gonorrhea were reported in Allen County in 2018. Communicable disease staff work very hard to follow up on each and every disease report that is received in order to decrease the spread of disease and protect the health of residents in our community.

Service	2016	2017	2018
Immunizations Given	8,823	7,026	6,661
Vaccines For Children	5,111	3,197	2,945
State Funded	85	180	176
Private Pay/Insurance	3,627	3,649	3,540
Family Planning Visits	1,460	1,297	1,102
New Patients	398	342	381
TB Skin Tests	811	798	801
BCMh Caseload	661	630	617
Communicable Diseases	1,231	1,275	1,473

Selected Communicable Diseases Reported in Allen County



WIC PROGRAM

The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, And Children continues to support the health and nutrition of Allen County families. Currently more than 2,300 individuals participate in the Allen County WIC Program. Participants are seeing changes as we strive to reach our evermore mobile population. WIC increased their outreach through ACPH social media to provide nutrition tips, breastfeeding information, recipes, and program updates. In addition, a new text messaging program was initiated to get out "need to know" information to our participants about their appointments and/or special bulletins.

Food packages for eligible children provided an increase in fruit and vegetable dollars in 2018, and work is underway to increase fruits and vegetables further next year. Through community outreach and individual participation, WIC will continue to work to make optimal nutrition an attainable goal for Allen County families.

WIC PROGRAM	2016	2017	2018
MONTHLY CASELOAD	2,691	2,538	2,469
Women	655	607	600
Infants	708	814	817
Children	1,328	1,117	1,052

PUBLIC HEALTH DOMAINS

Investigate
Inform & Educate
Access to Care

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES AREA

Ohio's Household Sewage Treatment System (HSTS) program has seen significant changes made across the state since 2015 to improve surface water quality and protect public health. Ohio law calls for the implementation and expansion of local Operation and Maintenance (O&M) programs throughout the state to provide better oversight of these systems. State oversight into local health department programs has begun, aimed to ensure uniform application across Ohio. ACPH's sewage program was surveyed by the Ohio Department of Health during 2018. The final report is pending. To help homeowners increase the life and performance of a HSTS it is important to provide educational materials, which can be used by residents to protect their investment and the environment. Allen County is ahead of the curve as O&M programs began here in 1972. To date, more than 4,700 HSTS are in our O&M inspection programs. During 2017 and 2018, our records of sewage system installation permits and site drawings were loaded into the Allen County GIS mapping system. Now, a homeowner with an HSTS on one of our O&M programs may view the installation permit information and the approved site plans for their property on our web page. In addition, a wealth of information regarding the operation of sewage systems is available there. Look for the Household Sewage Treatment link under Environmental Health @ allencountypublichealth.org.

SERVICE	2016	2017	2018
Inspections			
Water Systems	211	218	195
Sewage Systems	1,972	2,208	2,018
Recreational Camps/Parks	39	77	41
Manufactured Home Parks	69	40	31
Public Pools and Spas	116	116	125
Open Bathing Areas	5	5	8
Schools	107	100	114
Plumbing Systems	965	977	990
Food Service Operations	1,936	1,925	1,973
Food Vending	86	109	108
Tattoo/Body Piercing Service	17	37	37
Investigations			
Animal Bites	461	387	348
Environmental Complaints	464	475	552
Smoke-Free Complaints	13	11	30

PUBLIC HEALTH DOMAINS

- Investigate
- Public Health Laws
- Inform & Educate

VITAL STATISTICS

The Vital Statistics office files records for births and deaths that occur in Lima, Delphos, and all of Allen County. Ohio law only allows for the issuance of certified copies of birth and death records. Our office can 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. Our office issues **Death Certificates** for Allen County deaths only. Certificates for deaths occurring outside of Allen County must be obtained from the county where the death occurred. We accept cash, money order or cashier's check (no personal checks). 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.

Vital Statistics	2016	2017	2018
Births by County of Residence (Allen)	1,248	1,239	1,241
Deaths by County of Residence (Allen)	1,125	1,172	1,157
(2018 Data may not be complete)			

Source: Ohio Dept. Of Health Data Warehouse

Services	2016	2017	2018
Birth Certificates Issued	6,454	6,025	6,410
Death Certificates Issued	5,705	5,584	6,277

PUBLIC HEALTH DOMAINS

- Policies & Plans
- Public Health Laws

HEALTH PLANNING SERVICES

Health Planning Services staff work in the areas of public health accreditation, public health emergency preparedness and epidemiology, and community health improvement.

2018 marked the 100-year anniversary of the deadliest flu in history - the 1918 pandemic flu, killing some 675,000 Americans. Although this type of flu doesn't happen often, updating and exercising plans aimed to stop, slow or limit the spread of a pandemic with partners in public health, health care, and emergency management is critical for limiting suffering and lives lost. In the fall of 2018, staff exercised the scenario of a pandemic influenza in participation with our county and regional partners.

In 2018, community partners met to update the Allen County Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP). The partners chose to continue work in 4 areas where we could have the most impact in our community. These areas are Substance Use and Mental Health, Chronic Disease Prevention, Maternal and Infant Health, and Housing and Public Transportation. Multiple coalitions and partners are working to address these CHIP priorities, including the West Central Ohio Health Ministries Program. We invite you to view the Allen County CHIP document on our website and get involved.

PREVENTION & HEALTH PROMOTION SERVICES

To overcome health disparities, or health concerns that affect specific groups more than others, ACPH provides programs that strive to make a positive impact on a population of people. Prevention and Health Promotion Services at ACPH include the following:



MOMS & BABIES FIRST
Ohio's Black Infant Vitality Program

The infant mortality rate for African-American babies is 2-3 times higher than the for white babies. The Moms & Babies First program conducted 1,200 home visits to pregnant African-American women or new moms in 2018.

Additionally, over 400 portable cribs were distributed through the Cribs for Kids program to eligible families in Allen County so that newborns and infants would have a safe place to sleep.

During 2018, 310 Naloxone kits were distributed to individuals concerned that they or someone they cared about might overdose on opiates. ACPH is aware of 6 overdose reversals that occurred as a result of this distribution.



To help populations overcome obesity, Creating Healthy Communities helped communities encourage Active Living and Healthy Living in 2018: bikes provided to workplaces for active commutes to meetings; sidewalk access improved to Faurot Park; Safe Routes to School activities conducted in Delphos; community gardens planted in Lima; Farmer's Market founded in Delphos; and healthy eating policies in worksites throughout Allen County.

PUBLIC HEALTH DOMAINS

Evidence-based Practices
Access to Care
Inform & Educate
Community Engagement



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

MISSION:
To protect and promote
the health of Allen County

VISION:
Healthy people living, working, playing
and learning in a healthy environment



Pictured left to right:
Janis Carse
Eric Kerner
Marva Cowan
Wilfred Ellis, MD
Pratap Balusu, MD
Scott Shutt
Ross Kauffman, PhD

ALLEN COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

The health of Allen County residents depends upon the knowledge and vigilance of our public health workforce, which includes nurses, health educators, environmental health specialists, nutritionists, breastfeeding counselors, administrative and support personnel, a social worker and community health workers at Allen County Public Health. The activities of the public health work force are overseen by the 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. Board members during 2018 included: Wilfred Ellis, MD, President, Eric Kerner, Vice President; Marva Cowan, Janis Carse, Scott Shutt, Ross Kauffman and Pratap Balusu, MD.

Janis Carse will be completing her term on the Board as of March 31, 2019. Her dedicated service since her appointment by the District Advisory Council in 2003 is much appreciated. The District Advisory Council will appoint a new Board member at their Annual Meeting in March.

Six of the Board members are appointed through the mayors, township trustees, and county commissioners of Allen County. The seventh member is a physician appointed by the other Board members. The Board meets at 8:00 a.m. on the second Friday of each month, and meetings are open to the public.