

ALLEN COUNTY COMBINED HEALTH DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT 2008

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www.allencountyhealthdepartment.org

Public Health in a Tough Economy

2008 was a year of many challenges, especially when the bad economic news began to roll out. However, efforts to protect health and reduce disease are no less important in these difficult times. We have taken some measures to reduce our expenses, for example, cutting back on staff and not filling positions when they became vacant. As a result, our 2009 budget is \$110,000 less than in 2008. In spite of those reductions and new challenges in early 2009, we are working very hard to maintain critical safety net services.

Public health services do make a difference:

WIC Supplemental Nutrition Program saves lives!

With more people losing jobs, we are seeing a major increase in the number of eligible pregnant women, infants, and children at risk because of inadequate nutrition. Without WIC, we would see more low birth weight babies with breathing problems, brain injuries, and other medical problems. Our WIC staff served an average caseload of 4,000 each month in 2008.

Immunizations for children are highly effective!

When adequate immunization levels are not maintained, diseases like measles and whooping cough return, and that can mean lifelong disability for some. No child is turned away because the family cannot afford to pay for these immunizations. Over 16,000 immunizations were given in 2008 to children ages 2 months to 18 years old. Clinics are offered in Lima, Delphos, and Bluffton to make it easier for parents to protect their children with immunizations.

Safe food is a critical safeguard for the community!

With strong efforts to ensure sanitary food preparation, we prevent major problems like the recalls of peanut containing products in early 2009. While we do see cases of diseases that can be spread through food, we have not had any local outbreaks of any size in many years. Every year our Sanitarians make over 2,000 inspections in facilities where food is prepared and sold for public consumption.

Emergency preparedness means safer residents!

Scientists tell us we will have another flu pandemic with much sickness and many deaths. It is just a matter of time. And in late 2008, findings from a Federal Commission were shared with the President and Congress that listed two types of Weapons of Mass Destruction - nuclear and biological - as the two biggest threats to our safety. We must continue to prepare for these threats as well as hazards such as tornadoes, floods and other weather emergencies, and industrial releases, in spite of the economy in order to minimize the damage and disruption to our residents.

Public health efforts make a difference in many lives every day!

Even our "every day" services are of vital importance and must be maintained. Some examples are **infectious disease control, disease screening and early detection/treatment for breast and colon cancer, cardiovascular disease prevention, and the Bureau of Children with Medical Handicaps and Family Planning services**. Many of these services are made available at little or no cost to our citizens. Eligible people who cannot afford to pay are not turned away.

Public health services are much less expensive than treatment of disease, disability and premature births. Prevention not only saves money, but improves the quality of life for Allen County residents in many ways.

In closing, as we present our 2008 Annual Report, I ask for the support of all citizens in maintaining critical Public Health safety net services now more than ever.

Respectfully submitted,



David L. Rosebrock, MPH
Health Commissioner

DIVISION UPDATES

Nursing Division:

The Nursing Division has experienced many changes in 2008, with the closure of our Child Health Clinic in May and the renewed emphasis on immunizations for disease prevention. While our Child Immunization, Adult Travel Vaccine, Family Planning, and Sexually Transmitted Disease services continue regular clinic schedules, we are seeing more people uninsured and in need of help. This reflects the Public Health mission of disease prevention, promotion of health, and protection as a “safety net” in the community. We continue to see the need for these essential services, as our constituents deal with these challenging financial times. Other services offered through Nursing are: the Bureau of Children with Medical Handicaps, Infectious Disease reporting and surveillance, and the “Caring For Two” African American infant mortality reduction program.

WIC Program:

WIC began a new Peer Breastfeeding program in 2008. This is just one of the ways WIC supports breastfeeding—by promoting it “Mom-to-Mom” and teaching women how to breastfeed and overcome problems. 2008 also saw some new partnerships and activities: The WIC/YMCA Family Fun Day in March, the WIC/Lima Parks World Breastfeeding Week Walk in August and the on-going program through Ohio Partners for Smoke-Free Families: Helping WIC Participants Quit Smoking During and After Pregnancy. Our caseload steadily increased during the year. WIC began 2008 serving approximately 3,900 clients per month and ended the year with 4,025 clients served in December.

Environmental Division:

Environmental Division programs are surveyed by state agencies to ensure local programs are meeting the requirements in the law for the administration and enforcement of public health regulations. The Ohio EPA annually surveys the Solid and Infectious Waste program. The Ohio Department of Agriculture surveyed our Retail Food Establishment program and the Ohio Department of Health surveyed our Recreational Parks and Camps program in 2008. In 2007, the Swimming Pool and Spa, Manufactured Home Park, and Food Service Operation Programs were surveyed. All received State approval.

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. We do not accept personal checks, but require cash, a money order, or cashier’s check. We now offer the use of a debit/credit card machine when placing an order in the office with an additional usage fee applied to the cardholder. VISA cards can only be used for debit at this time. Vital Statistics personnel issue copies while customers wait whenever possible. On-line ordering is available via a link on our website: www.allencountyhealthdepartment.org.

Health Education Division:

Schools, worksites, healthcare and community agencies in Allen County implemented policies and programs that support moving more, eating healthier, and being tobacco free to lower the risk of heart disease and cancer through our Heart Health Coalition collaborative projects and trainings. Approximately 35,000 residents in Allen County were impacted by the Allen County Heart Health Program activities in 2008. Several churches began health ministry programs and joined our West Central Ohio Health Ministries Network in 2008, bringing the total to 31 network partners. Confidential HIV testing is provided at the Health Department and at numerous locations throughout the county with the goal of reducing the number of new HIV cases. A new Obesity Prevention grant was received for 2008-2009 to continue improvements to the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Park in order to encourage people to be more active.

Public Health Preparedness/Emergency Response:

The Public Health Preparedness/Emergency Response section enjoyed a productive year. Annex H for Public Health was delivered to the Allen County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management and incorporated into the County Emergency Operations Plan. The Director of Emergency Response took advantage of an opportunity to attend the Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP) for Pandemic Influenza training. The training was a three day workshop concentrating on preparing and responding to a pandemic. The three day workshop culminated in a functional exercise. In addition to the Pandemic Influenza course the Director attended a two day Weapons of Mass Destruction Awareness course. This is the only course offered in the United States which allows attendees to train in an environment with a live biological agent.

PROGRAM STATISTICS FOR 2008

Nursing Division

Breast and Cervical Cancer Program

Caseload (BCCP) - Serving Allen and 6 surrounding counties

•Pap tests	689
•Screening and diagnostic mammograms, breast ultrasounds	573
•Breast cancer diagnosed	5
•Cervical dysplasia diagnosed	35
•Cervical cancer diagnosed	0

Total Immunizations given 20,490

•Travel Vaccines	1,802
•Flu Shots (Adults and children)	2,425
•Childhood Immunizations	16,263

Family Planning Clinic Visits 6,035

Prenatal Applications for Healthy Start 253

Sexually Transmitted Disease Clinic Visits (including Allen County Jail clinics) 1,009

TB Tests Given 1,452

Bureau of Children with Medical Handicaps Caseload - Unduplicated 365

Help Me Grow—Newborn Visits 405

Communicable Diseases Reported 1,571

Caring for Two —African American Infant Mortality Home Visits 948

WIC Monthly Caseload 4,025

•Women	958
•Infants	1,122
•Children	1,945

Environmental Division

Private Water System Inspections	254
Private Sewage System Inspections	1,851
Recreational Parks and Camps Inspections	35
Manufactured Home Park Inspections	153
Public Swimming Pool and Spa Inspections	301
Open Bathing Area Inspections	9
Solid and Infectious Waste Inspections	95
Demolition Waste and Clean Hard Fill Inspections	236
School Inspections	98
Plumbing System Inspections	1,812
Food Service Operation Inspections	1,847
Retail Food Establishment Inspections	375
Food Vending Inspections	186
Animal Bite Investigations	578
Environmental Complaint Inspections	628
Smoke-Free Workplace Complaint Investigations	164

Health Education Division

Children's Health Fair—student attendance 630

HIV Tests performed 1,288

•Positive Tests 7

Vital Statistics

•Number of county resident births filed 1,339

•Number of county resident deaths filed 947

2008 FINANCIAL REPORT

BALANCE January 1, 2008 \$283,433.00

2008 RECEIPTS

	Amount	Percentage
Townships, Villages, and Cities	737,846.00	18.0%
County Commissioners	38,840.00	0.9%
Grants	1,810,917.00	44.2%
Permit and Service Fees	1,417,850.00	34.6%
Medicaid Reimbursement	63,538.00	1.5%
State Subsidy	33,888.00	0.8%
TOTAL	4,102,879.00	100.0%
BALANCE AND RECEIPTS	4,386,312.00	

2008 EXPENSES

Salaries and Benefits	3,071,715.00	74.8%
Clinic Supplies	74,785.00	1.9%
Other Supplies	161,830.00	3.9%
Lab Expenses	13,597.00	0.3%
Rent/Occupancy Costs	196,302.00	4.8%
Equipment/Equipment Repair/Service Contracts	65,419.00	1.6%
Training/Continuing Education	9,506.00	0.2%
Transportation	37,162.00	0.9%
Contractual Services	81,582.00	2.0%
Other (Insurance, audits, payments to state, etc.)	392,098.00	9.6%
TOTAL	4,103,996.00	100.0%

Ending **BALANCE** December 31, 2008 \$282,316.00



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*The Allen County Health Department is
an equal opportunity employer and
provider of services.*

2008 RECOGNITIONS RECEIVED

WIC—Outstanding Administration of
WIC Program, May 2008

Pandemic Flu Committee— 2008
Emergency Medical Service Award,
September 2008

Allen County—Healthy Ohio Healthy
Communities Gold Award, October
2008

Kathy Luhn—Outstanding Health
Educator, October 2008

David Rosebrock, Health
Commissioner—Service Award for 35
years of service—the longest currently
serving Health Commissioner in Ohio,
December 2008

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 2008 included Dr. Charles Thompson, President; Don Schweingruber, Vice President; Dr. Wilfred Ellis; Tom Redding; Jon

Neuman; Janis Carse; and our newest member for the city of Delphos, Eric Kerner. At the January 2008 Board meeting, retiring Delphos representative Harry Flanagan was recognized for his 12 years of service on the Board.

Six of the seven Board members are appointed by the mayors, township trustees, and county commissioners of

Allen County. The seventh member is appointed by the Health District Licensing Council. The Board meets at 8:00 a.m. on the second Friday of each month, and meetings are open to the public.

