

Geauga County General Health District

Health District Advisory Council

Composed of chairpersons of Township Trustees and Mayors of Villages and Cities, oversees the appointment of Board of Health members and reviews reports and finances of the Health District. Dave Snively, President; Michael Brown, Secretary.

Board of Health

One Board member is appointed annually for a five year term. Board members serve as advocates for public health services and programs. This Board is a quasi-judicial, policy development body tasked with determining, setting and monitoring public health policy. They are responsible for adopting the annual budget and ensuring adequate funding for the Health District.



Timothy Goergen
Hambden Township, Term Expires 2013



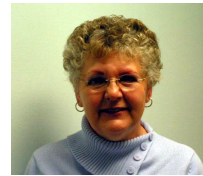
Dr. Janet O'Hara
Munson Township, Term Exp. 2015



J. David Benenati, President
Chester Township, Term Expires 2016



Melanie Eppich
Chester Township, Term Expires 2012



Christina Livers
Russell Township, Term Exp 2014



Robert K. Weisdack, RS, MA, MPH
Health Commissioner / Environmental Health Director



J. Bradley Moritz, M.D.
Medical Director



Personal Health Services (440) 279-1950

- Adult Immunization Clinics
- BCMH Home Visits
- Children & Adolescent Immunization Clinics
- Communicable Disease Surveillance
- Illness & Disease Reporting
- Influenza (seasonal & pandemic flu) Clinics
- Health Promotion & Education
- Maternal & Newborn Home Visits
- School Health Services & Coordination
- Senior Clinics & Health Education
- TB Testing & Surveillance
- Walk-in Pregnancy Testing
- Well Child Clinics
- Women, Infant's & Children (WIC)



Environmental Health Division (440) 279-1900

- Animal Bite Investigation
- County Camp & RV Park Inspections
- Manufactured Home Park Inspections
- Nuisance Complaint Investigations
- Plumbing Permits & Inspections
- Potable Water Hauler Permits & Inspections
- Private Water Well Permits & Inspections
- Rabies Prevention & Surveillance
- Retail Food Establishment Inspections
- Restaurant / Food Service Inspections
- Temporary & Mobile Food Service Inspections
- School Environmental Inspections
- Semi-Public Sewage Certificates & Inspections
- Septage Land Application Site Inspections
- Septic Tank Cleaner Permits & Inspections
- Sewage Treatment Permits & Inspections
- For Sale of Property Permits & Inspections
- Solid & Infectious Waste Inspections
- Swimming Pool Inspections
- Tattoo & Body Piercing Permits & Inspections
- Vending Machine Inspections



Vital Statistics (440) 279-1902

- Birth Certificates
- Death Certificates
- Burial Permits
- Administration**
- Registrar
- Fiscal Coordinator
- Computer Systems Support
- Community Health Assessment
- Bio-terrorism Planning
- Public Health Emergency Preparedness



2011 Geauga County General Health District Annual Report

The Geauga County Health District is dedicated to providing public health services by **detecting**, **educating** and **preventing** personal and environmental health problems in our community.

A Note from the Health Commissioner

The Geauga County General Health District has faced many challenges and continues to meet such changes. The Center of Disease Control and the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) are requiring all local health districts to conduct a Community Health Assessment. These health assessments are costly and time consuming. However, the investment will help identify the needs of the community, which will allow programs to be developed and implemented to improve the health of the residents. The health district has expended a great deal of effort to meet the improvement standards requirement of ODH. We would like to thank the public and private agencies, as well as the local townships and villages, for their financial support in making this health assessment possible. In return for this investment, we anticipate the findings of the health assessment will allow agencies to identify additional federal and state grant dollars to the needs of the community.

We have seen a small increase in the number of new sewage systems permits in 2011. We cannot, however, consider this a trend until we have more years of data to compare it to. In January 2013, ODH will implement new sewage rules, which will limit our ability to use on-lot leaching trenches in Geauga County. The cost of substitute, high tech sewage systems begin around \$20,000.00 and quickly increase depending on the soils and other environmental factors. Our other state mandated environmental health programs, including food protection, manufactured home parks, swimming pools and spas, and state and county camps have seen few changes.

In our personal health and WIC programs, we have experienced a steady stream of clients. Many of the workloads leveled off during 2011. Our biggest challenge are the continued grant budget cuts, including child and family health services, children and adolescent immunization, WIC, and public health emergency preparedness. We are beginning to explore innovative ways to combat this problem.

Our Vital Statistics Division now has the ability to provide Ohio birth certificates to anyone born in Ohio since 1909, thus reducing the need to travel to your home county. As a result, we experienced a huge increase the number of certified copies of birth certificates issues in 2011. We can also provide birth and death records from online requests and shipped overnight anywhere.

Our staff numbers have dwindled but not our spirit to serve the public. Our commitment to serve the public with essential programs and services has never been higher.



Robert K. Weisdack
Health Commissioner

470 Center Street Building #8 • Chardon, Ohio 44024 • (440) 279-1900

Visit Us Online at <http://www.geaugacountyhealth.org>



Residential Sewage Treatment

The Geauga County Health District regulates household sewage treatment systems for one, two, and three family residences in Geauga County. Approximately 70% of the homes in the county utilize individual household sewage systems. In 2011, the Health District issued 197 permits for sewage systems, including new homes and replacement systems for existing homes.

A sewage permit must be obtained from the Health District prior to the installation or alteration of the sewage system. Prior to issuance of a permit, the Health District staff conducts a site evaluation of the site to determine the location and type of system which can be installed on the property. Sewage systems are inspected at the time of installation to assure compliance with the sewage rules. All homes sold in Geauga County are required to have a point of sale inspection of the sewage system by the Health District.

2011 New & Alteration Permits	
# of Permits	Type of Sewage System
125	Septic tanks followed by leach trenches
3	Pre-treatment followed by leach trenches
5	Septic tank to drip distribution
0	Pre-treatment to drip distribution
49	EPA NPDES permit to discharge
6	Septic tank/pre-treatment to a mound
0	Miscellaneous
9	Alteration Permits
197	Total Permits

2011 For Sale of Property Inspections					
System type	Total Tested	Pass	Mal-functioning	% Pass	% Mal-functioning
Off-lot discharging systems					
1000 Gallon tank & filter bed	16	5	11	31%	69%
2-1000 gallon tanks & subsurface sand filter	5	4	1	80%	20%
NSF Class 1 Aerator, Surface Sand filter & disinfection	23	23	0	100%	0%
NPDES off-lot systems	4	3	1	75%	25%
On-lot dispersal systems					
2-1000 gallon tanks & split trench fields	215	202	13	94%	6%
2-1000 gallon tanks & 500' trench (pre-1982)	74	64	10	86.5%	13.5%
Mound	5	5	0	100%	0%
Drip systems	1	1	0	100%	0%
Misc. on-lot	6	3	3	50%	50%
Total system inspections	349	310	39		
9 Inspections not completed					

This department maintains records on systems installed in the county. Homeowners can obtain information on the type and location of their sewage system. The Environmental Health staff is available to homeowners who would like information about sewage systems. The department maintains an active nuisance complaint program for sewage and other complaints. Complaints must be submitted in writing and signed. Complaints are investigated and if the complaint is justified, orders will be issued to obtain compliance.

This office licenses and inspects semi-public sewage systems that treat less than 25,000 gallons of sewage effluent per day. This includes about 140 extended aeration commercial systems and 550 commercial septic tank systems.

Environmental Health Services Summary 2011

Plumbing Permits.....	307
Plumbing Inspections	643
Private Water System Permits.....	153
Private Water System Samples/Inspections	328
Semi-Public Sewage Certificates	509
Semi-Public Sewage Inspections.....	184
Sewage Permits	197
Sewage Inspections	494
Sewage Lot Evaluation Permits	211
Sewage Lot Evaluations	336
Service Provider Registration	14
For Sale of Property Permits.....	404
For Sale of Property Inspections	1,115
Solid/Infectious Waste Inspections...	133
Animal Bite Investigations.....	220
Rabies Specimens Processed	55
Positive Rabies Cases in Animals.....	1
County & State Camp Inspections.....	16
Manufactured Home Park	11
Nuisance Complaint Inspections	69
School Inspections.....	215
Swimming Pool & Spa Inspections.....	96
Food Service Protection	
Mobile, Temp & Vending Permits.....	180
FSO & RFE Permits	407
Food Service Operation Inspect	953
Vending Machine Inspections.....	35
Retail Food Establishment Inspect.....	371
Mobile & Temporary Inspections.....	175

Private Water Systems

The fresh water supply in Geauga County is found in the rock formations beneath the surface of the ground. This provides the water we need for everyday use. The Private Water System (PWS) program is designed to protect our valuable ground water resources and to assure that our drinking water is safe.

The Geauga County Health District regulates private water systems in the county through the enforcement of the PWS rules, Ohio Administrative Code Sections 3701-28-01 through 3701-28-19. New private water systems rules became effective on April 1, 2011. These rules regulate the siting of the well, drilling, alterations, installation of the components, and sampling of the water and sealing of abandoned water wells. Water well drillers and private water system contractors are required to be registered and bonded with the Ohio Department of Health.

A permit is required for the installation, alteration or sealing of a private water system. In 2011, the Health District issued 153 new well permits, alteration permits, and sealing permits. All new private water systems are required to be sampled for coliform bacteria and nitrates. The water systems are approved after the system is inspected, tested, and there is an acceptable level of coliform bacteria.

The Geauga County Health District has a portable Gas Chromatograph/Mass Spectra Photometer available to conduct testing on water wells for volatile organic compounds. In 2011 the department conducted tests on fifteen residential water wells in Hambden and Montville Townships. Samples were collected and tested by the Health Department due to concerns about two injection wells – one each located in Hambden Township and Montville Township. The wells were tested for volatile organic compounds (VOC's). The sample results did not show any significant levels of contaminants in the water wells.

Homeowners who are concerned about their water well and the drilling of gas and oil wells near their water well, should seriously consider having their water well tested before the gas and oil wells are drilled. This information will provide a baseline of their water quality prior to gas and oil wells being drilled. This information is important should the water quality change after a gas or oil well is drilled. The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency and Ohio Division of Natural Resources has a list of recommended parameters for testing a well to establish background water quality.

2011 Financial Report

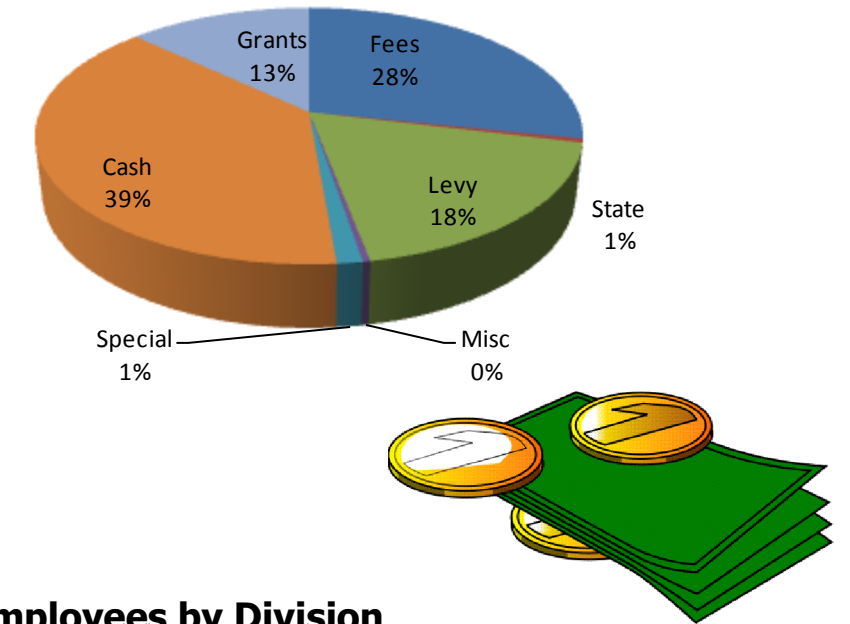
Revenue

Fees	\$ 975,799
Township Assessment.....	0
State Subsidy	16,207
Levy	627,393
Miscellaneous.....	12,610
Special Project (Health Assessment).....	43,685
Cash Carryover	1,322,331
Grant Reimbursements	446,064
Total Receipts	\$ 3,444,089

Expenditures

Personnel Costs.....	\$ 1,522,676
Supplies.....	14,629
Vaccine.....	15,823
Equipment	15,187
Maintenance contracts.....	11,415
Remit to State	107,452
Travel & Training	19,645
Advertising & Printing	497
Contract Service.....	4,873
Lab fees	3,210
Other	85,933
Total Expenditures	\$ 1,801,340
Grant Revenues	477,011
Grant Expenditures	541,798

Revenue



Employees by Division

Personal Health Services	7
Administration & Vital Statistics.....	5
Environmental Health	11
Women, Infant, Children	4
Total Employees	27

Vital Statistics

The Geauga County Health District Office of Vital Statistics records all birth and death occurrences in Geauga County.

In 2011, there were 1,253 births including 633 males and 620 females. Of these, 1,092 births were born at UH Geauga Medical Center, 150 births were at Middlefield Care Center and there were 11 home births. There were 31 less births in 2011 compared to 2010.

There were 665 deaths recorded in Geauga County for 2011, an decrease of 28 since 2010. There were 6 fetal deaths, an decrease of 1 from 2010. There were 5 child fatalities that will be reviewed by the Child Fatality Review Board. The Medical Director reviewed 662 death certificates and compiled the following leading causes of death in Geauga County.

2011 Leading Causes of Death

Cancer (Lung 40, Pancreatic 19)	160
Vascular Heart Diseases	155
Neurologic (Dementia 108, CVA 18)	134
Infection (Pneumonia 41, Sepsis 28)	70
Pulmonary (COPD 50)	56

Certified copies of birth and death records are available at our office or by mail for \$23 each payable by cash, check, or money order. Credit and debit cards can be used for telephone orders only, but not at the service counter, and they incur a \$7.00 per order processing fee.

Public Health Emergency Preparedness

The Geauga County General Health District continues to be actively involved in emergency preparedness planning for Geauga County. We coordinate our plans with the other health departments in Northeast Ohio, hospitals, emergency services, law enforcement, fire departments, schools, the American Red Cross and other related agencies. This planning prepares staff for responding to a wide range of emergencies such as: natural disasters, severe weather conditions, environmental emergencies, disease outbreaks such as the H1N1 Flu Pandemic, and mass casualties.

In 2011, the Health District staff was involved in the following emergency planning projects:

- Continued to train staff and MRC volunteers on incident command, communication methods, emergency notifications, MARCS Radios, ICS job action guides, and setting up and running a Point of Dispensing (POD) site in addition to a drive-thru POD site.
- Developed a functional communications center that would act as a DOC (Department Operations Center)
- Tested our emergency plans by participating in emergency seminars, workshops, tabletops and drills with partners
- Disease investigations: reporting, patient follow-up and education, specimen collection, statistical reporting.
- Participated in MMRS (Metro Medical Response System) and LEPC (Local Emergency Planning Committee) meetings
- Participated in Bi-monthly meetings with Public Health Regional partners and regional Epidemiologists
- Participated in quarterly meetings with RICC (Regional Infection Control Committee), state Epidemiologists and Cancer Committee
- Continued meeting with regional and local partners to establish/update local and regional plans to include:
 - ◇ Mass Prophylaxis/Vaccination Plan
 - ◇ Geauga County Health District Communicable Disease Policy
 - ◇ Emergency Response Plan
 - ◇ First Responder Plan
 - ◇ Continuity of Operations Plan
 - ◇ Communications Plan



Being prepared for any emergency, whether it is a house fire, power outage, snowstorm, disease pandemic or terrorist attack requires planning. We urge members of the Geauga County community to take the time to work out a disaster plan and to gather supplies to keep in your home and workplace. It is important to include your household members in this plan so that everyone will know what to do, where to go, and how to communicate in an emergency.

Women, Infants & Children (WIC)

WIC, the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children, is a fundamental part of Ohio's public health system and is intended to reach income eligible pregnant, postpartum and breastfeeding women, infants and children up to the age 5 with a health or nutrition risk. Geauga WIC provides nutritious foods or supplemental infant formula, nutrition education, breastfeeding support and education, and health screenings and referral services to prenatal and pediatric health care and human service programs. Nutrition education and counseling is provided by licensed dietitians on staff. In fiscal year 2011, Geauga WIC had 538 new applicants, 1,841 re-applicants, and 2,576 nutrition education visits. The Geauga WIC 2011 Farmers Market Nutrition Program supported local farmers by offering \$8,775 in coupons for Ohio grown fresh fruits and vegetables. Geauga WIC generated over \$190,000 in grocery sales, which help support local vendors and supply families with nutritious foods.



Breastfeeding education and support is provided by a certified lactation consultant and trained health professionals. An emphasis is placed on the benefits of breastfeeding to all participating pregnant women. Approximately 44% of the infants on the Geauga WIC program are breastfed. Geauga WIC maintains one of the highest breastfeeding rates in Ohio WIC programs. Breastfeeding classes are held monthly in Chardon and Middlefield. A Peer Helper Program provides mother to mother support. A Bonding with Breastfeeding support group was organized and meets bimonthly at the Middlefield library. The support group is open to all Geauga county residents who are pregnant or breastfeeding. The Peer Helper Program provided: 6 hospital visits, 3 home visits, 492 support phone calls to pregnant and breastfeeding moms, and 97 on site clinic visits. Geauga

WIC provided 58 breast pumps to support moms returning to work or school, or with special circumstances. Geauga WIC organized a breastfeeding walk/picnic in August to celebrate Breastfeeding Awareness Month. There were 59 participants and donations for food and prizes from 18 sponsors in the community.

Gaugua WIC and University Hospitals Rainbow Injury Prevention Center collaborated to offer low cost car seats to families. In addition, Geauga WIC offers free car seat inspections to any Geauga county resident. Geauga WIC provided 30 car seats and 8 community car seat inspections in 2011 through our certified car seat technician. New advice in April 2011 from the American Academy of Pediatrics recommends parents to keep their toddlers in rear-facing car seats until age 2, or until they reach the maximum height and weight limits for their seat.

WIC offers three clinic locations, in Chardon, Middlefield and Chagrin Falls, for Geauga County residents. More information is available online at <http://geaugacountyhealth.org> or by contacting Geauga WIC at (440) 279-1936.



Rabies Surveillance

The Geauga County Health District continues to take an active role in monitoring the presence of rabies in the county along with participating in efforts to prevent the spreading of rabies across the state. Throughout the year we have collected and tested various wildlife species for rabies including bats, skunks, dogs and cats.



In cooperation with the Ohio Department of Health and the United States Department of Agriculture Wildlife Services, oral rabies vaccine baits were distributed throughout the county targeting the raccoon population. In the spring and fall of 2011 rabies baits were distributed by hand and by low flying aircraft over the less populated areas.

The Health District also monitors animal bite/rabies exposure events each year. In 2011 there were 206 reported animal bite/exposure events in Geauga County. This included 111 dog bites and 56 cat bites reported to the Health District. We submitted 55 animals to be tested for rabies. There was one confirmed case of rabies in a bat in Geauga County in 2011.

In 2011 in Ohio there were 50 confirmed cases of rabies in animals. This included 36 bats, 5 raccoons, and 8 skunks that tested positive for rabies. The 8 skunks were all collected in neighboring Lake County.

Rabies is a fatal disease. The goal of public health is to prevent human exposure to rabies through education, and to prevent the disease with treatment when a possible exposure to rabies occurs. Education and common sense are important in limiting a person's exposure to rabies. All dogs and cats are required to be vaccinated for rabies in Geauga County. Homeowners and children should stay away from wild animals, strays, sick animals and domestic pets that you are unsure of. Animal bites or scratches should be reported to the Health District. The Geauga County Health District has educational materials available and can answer any questions concerning rabies or possible exposures to wild animals.

Food Program Division

The goal of the Food Safety Division of the Geauga County Health District is to ensure that safe and wholesome food is provided to the public. Locations that sell food to the public such as restaurants, grocery stores, mobile food stands, temporary food stands, farmer's markets, and vending machines must fulfill the requirements set forth in the Ohio Revised Code and the Ohio Uniform Food Safety Code. A license is purchased from the Geauga County Health District and inspections are routinely conducted to ensure compliance with the rules of the Ohio Uniform Food Safety Code. Inspection frequency is based upon state law and is determined by risk classification of the facility. Areas addressed during an inspection include staff hygiene, food handling, physical facilities, and general sanitation practices.

In addition to educating the operators of the food facilities during inspections and completing several personalized consultations, our department offered a ServSafe seminar on food safety. We held the ServSafe seminar on May 2 – 3; more than thirty people attended this class. This class is designed to give restaurant staff and managers the knowledge to make their food establishments a safer place for their customers. The Food Safety Division staff also provides education to the public. A seminar on Farmer's Market regulations was presented this year to the public in which the most current regulations pertaining to Farmer's Markets were reviewed and discussed. Over forty people from the community attended this free seminar. The staff also investigates foodborne illnesses. When a food borne outbreak is suspected, it is investigated, food and stool specimens are collected, and laboratory tests are conducted. There were no confirmed foodborne outbreaks in Geauga County in 2011.

Each inspector in the Food Safety Division takes a minimum of eighteen hours of accredited continuing education classes each year and routinely attends educational meeting to stay updated on the most current laws and issues pertaining food safety. In 2011, the Ohio Departments of Agriculture and Health both conducted independent surveys of the Geauga County Health District's Food Safety Program. The surveys are done routinely by each agency to ensure compliance with Ohio's food laws and regulations outlined in Ohio Revised Code 3717 and Ohio Administrative Code 3701. At the conclusion of both surveys, we are happy to report that we have met all requirements by both agencies.

Solid Waste Program

The Geauga County Health District (GCHD) works in co-operation with the Geauga Trumbull Solid Waste District and the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) to enforce solid waste regulations throughout the county. The health department regulates and inspects scrap tire generators, infectious waste generators, compost sites, and investigates solid waste nuisance complaints. A new solid waste transfer station opened this year in Hambden Township.



The Geauga Trumbull Solid Waste district held the following one day collection events in Geauga County this year:

Twp. Scrap Tire Collections	6,250 tires	Antifreeze	1,682 lbs
Document destruction	8,400 lbs	NiCad/Alkaline Batteries	752 lbs
Freon units recycled	168	Aerosols	1,972 lbs
E-Waste (electronic waste)	44,553 lbs	Pesticides & herbicides	3,893 lbs
Oil	2,500 gallons	Solvents	4,307 lbs
Paint	45,959 lbs	Acids	1,727 lbs
Fluorescent bulbs	568 lbs	Bases	465 lbs

The Geauga Trumbull Solid Waste District operates the Household Hazardous Waste Recycling Facility at their office located at 5738 Enterprise Blvd. in Warren, Ohio. The facility is open to all Geauga County residents on Wednesdays beginning May 2, 2012 to September 26, 2012. The facility will also be open to Geauga County residents on the following Saturday mornings in 2012 from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon.



The Personal Health Services Division of the Geauga County Health District is responsible for maintaining a healthy and prepared community through various programs. Our focus is on prevention, and many of our services are offered at different locations throughout the county, as well as limited home visits. The following is a summary of our programs and those who are served through them.

2012 Children's Immunization Clinics

Free to Geauga County residents regardless of income. Out of county residents are charged \$5.00 per child.

Chardon

Geauga County Health District
470 Center St. Bldg 8, Chardon, OH 44024
1st Wednesday - 9:00 AM to 11:30 AM

Chardon Evening

Geauga County Health District
470 Center St. Bldg 8, Chardon, OH 44024
2nd Thursday - 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM

Middlefield

St. Lucy Mission
16280 Kinsman Rd. (Rt. 87 East of 608)
Middlefield, OH 44062
2nd Wednesday - 9:00 AM to 11:30 AM
3rd Wednesday - 9:00 AM to 11:30 AM

Middlefield Evening

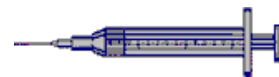
St. Lucy Mission
16280 Kinsman Rd. (Rt. 87 East of 608)
Middlefield, OH 44062
3rd Thursday - 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM

Newbury

Grace Evangelical Bible Church
14951 Auburn Rd. Newbury, OH 44065
4th Wednesday (every other) 9 AM-11:30 AM

Troy

Troy Community Center
13950 Main Market Burton, OH 44021
4th Wednesday (every other) 9 AM-11:30 AM



Friday Morning Clinic

Adult Immunizations

TB Testing

Blood Pressure Screening

Geauga County Health District
470 Center St. Bldg 8, Chardon, OH 44024
Fridays - 8:30 am to 11:00 am

There are no clinics on public holidays
Inclement weather: when local schools are closed where the children and adolescent

Children's Services

Bureau for Children with Medical Handicaps (BCMH): An Ohio Department of Health (ODH) program with the goal of assuring that children with special health care needs receive comprehensive, coordinated care. Public health nurses are the local contact for families, and provide early identification, evaluation, and referral for qualifying children from birth to 21 years of age. The family receives culturally competent services from public health nurses, which includes child assessments, developing care plans, health promotion, and advocacy. In 2011, the public health nurses made 84 home visits to children who qualified for this program.

Immunization Clinics for Children and Adolescents: Public health nurses hold monthly children and adolescent immunizations clinics at four locations in Geauga County. These are walk-in clinics that require no appointment. Immunizations are free of charge to Geauga County residents. The Ohio Department of Health (ODH) supplies vaccines for these clinics. In 2011, 5,863 immunizations were administered to 1,922 children at 72 clinics.

Lead Program: The Personal Health Services (PHS) division and Ohio Department of Health (ODH) collaborate to provide prevention and remediation services to children with Elevated Blood Lead (EBL). Public health nurses conduct case management activities, including contacting families of children with elevated lead levels, and providing educational and medical recommendations. ODH conducts surveillance activities. Lead level screenings are provided to children at well children clinics and individually in high-risk situations. In 2011, the nurses completed 78 lead screenings.

Maternal/Newborn Home Visiting: Public health nurses visit new mothers and their infants. A home visit includes an evaluation of the mother's recovery, assessment of the infant's early growth and development, information on a variety of preventive health issues, and referrals to other community agencies. Due to drastic state budget cuts, funding from ODH "Help Me Grow" program was eliminated in 2010. Recognizing the importance of maternal and child health, the Geauga County Board of Health funded this important service. In 2011, the nurses made 126 home visits to families in the county, and collected blood specimens on 8 newborns for genetic screening.

School Services: The health district provides public health nurses that assist with health record management, vision screenings, and health care referrals for Geauga County schools with less than 100 students. Currently, there are 45 parochial schools in Geauga County. In 2011, nurses made 57 school visits and saw 1,308 students. The public health nurses network with school nurses at public and other private schools regarding outbreak surveillance, vaccination for students, and information regarding child health issues. Public health nurses meet with public school nurses twice a year to collaborate on related issues.

SIDS Home Visits: The health district provides public health nurses that visit families who have lost an infant unexpectedly. During these visits, nurses provide support, information, and referral services to bereaved families, providing the opportunity to express their feelings in a safe and non-judgmental environment. No support visits were required in 2011.

Vision Program: The health district partners with the Prevent Blindness Ohio to provide their Vision Service Plan (VSP) to qualifying families in Geauga County, including those without insurance who do not qualify for federal aid. Public health nurses can identify a family in need and arrange for this service. This plan provides an eye examination by an licensed optometrist who can prescribe glasses, contact lenses, vision therapy, or vision treatment. In 2011, 355 children were seen and 265 VSP referrals made.

Well Child Services: The health district provides well child clinics in Middlefield for children whose families meet certain financial guidelines or lack adequate health insurance. Public health nurses provide health screening to children for development, dental, lead, anemia, vision, hearing, and nutrition. Health education is provided to family members. A physical examination is performed by a licensed physician and public health nurses give immunizations. This service is supported by funding from the Child and Family Health Services (CFHS) grant administered by the ODH that served 317 children at 20 clinics in 2011.

Adult Services

Communicable Disease Investigation: The Personal Health Services (PHS) division provides surveillance of communicable diseases reported in Geauga County in compliance with the Ohio Department of Health Infectious Disease reporting requirements and CDC recommendations. The disease surveillance specialist and public health nurses perform investigations on diseases that pose a public health threat due to their communicability or virulence. PHS collaborates with the Environmental Health (EH) division when a food borne illness outbreak is suspected. In addition, the Personal Health Services division provides information and data collection for any possible or confirmed vector-borne disease in collaboration with EH. Included in this category of diseases is West Nile virus, Lyme disease, and Rocky Mountain spotted fever, to name just a few. In 2011, the health district investigated 253 illness and disease reports.

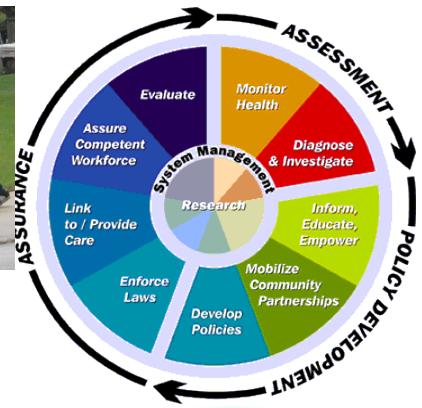
Immunization/Blood Pressure Clinics for Adults: The Personal Health Services (PHS) division holds clinics every Friday at the health district office for adult immunizations and blood pressure screenings by public health nurses. Seasonal flu vaccine clinics are held at different sites throughout the county. Blood pressure screenings are provided at no charge, while the cost of adult immunizations is determined by the Board of Health based on the cost plus a modest administration charge. In 2011, the nursing division administered 353 adult immunizations, 865 flu shots, and 676 blood pressure readings.

Maternity Survey: The Personal Health Services sends a representative to the annual maternity licensure survey of the local hospital and birthing center that is conducted by the Ohio Department of Health. The Board of Health is presented with the survey results to review for approval or denial of re-licensure for each of these facilities. The PHS division is also responsible for investigating any complaints received regarding the maternity facilities.

Senior Services: The health district sent public health nurses to provide services for 400 adult day care clients at the Geauga Multi-purpose Senior Center. This is funded by the Title III/Community Block Grant managed by the Department on Aging. Nurses give presentations on various topics to the general senior population at the senior center on a weekly basis. There were 453 seniors in attendance at 42 presentations at the senior center during 2011.

Tuberculosis Control: In accordance with Ohio law, the health district promotes Tuberculosis (TB) control and containment in Geauga County by screening high-risk populations, contact investigation, maintaining a register of positive reactors, and following through with suitable treatment for appropriate individuals. Nurses perform routine TB tests at the health district office and during visits at residential facilities. In 2011, the PHS nurses administered 256 TB tests, and had - positive reactors. Additionally, two situations were also addressed by the nurses and epidemiology staff this year. Two home visits were completed to interview potential TB cases, and daily visits were made to one individual for direct observational therapy for nearly 3 weeks, to ensure proper medication administration. Assistance was provided until a definitive diagnosis was completed. The second situation occurred when a business experienced a potential exposure to TB. The nurses provided an on-site clinic, offering TB skin tests and, subsequently, a clinic to read those tests. No positive outcomes were observed.

Hepatitis B: Another possible exposure for employees was addressed by the nurses this year, when an individual with Hepatitis B was identified in a work setting. Hepatitis B vaccination has been provided, on-site, for over 50 individuals. The first and second in a series of 3 vaccinations, have been provided. Follow up with the third dose, and those who are due for their second dose, will continue to be provided. Subsequently, new employees will attend the Friday morning clinic for prophylactic Hepatitis B vaccination in the future.



Personal Health Services Summary 2011

Illness and Disease Reports.....	253
Tuberculosis Tests Administered	256
TB positive reactors	0
Help Me Grow/Newborn Visits.....	126
Well Child Clinics.....	20
Well Child Service Visits.....	317
Parochial School Visits	57
Parochial Students Seen	1,308
Vision Service Plan Referrals	265
Vision Service Plan Visits	355
BCMH Home Visits.....	84
Adult Immunizations Admin	439
Children's Immunizations Clinics.....	72
Children's Immunizations An	5,863
Children Immunized.....	1,922
Senior Clinic Visits at Sr. Centers	453
Senior Clinic HD Office	676
Flu Shots (adult/childrens).....	865
Pregnancy Testing	3

