

HURON COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH

2020

ANNUAL REPORT



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

05	Letter from the Health Commissioner
06-07	Coronavirus Response
08-09	Administrative Services
10-11	Medical Division
12-13	Community Programs Division
14-15	Environmental Health Division
16	2020 Financial Statement

2020 ANNUAL REPORT



Huron County Public Health's (HCPH) mission is to achieve and sustain healthy people and healthy communities throughout Huron County by providing public health services which promote health and prevent disease.

The governing body for HCPH is the Huron County Board of Health. Elected officials of Huron County cities, villages, and townships appoint Board members. Health Districts shall have a Board of Health consisting of at least five members. The District Advisory Council appoints four members and the District Licensing Council appoints one. One member must be a physician. The Board of Health appoints the Health Commissioner.

BOARD OF HEALTH

Kathleen Butler, LPN

Ron Robinson

James A. Gottfried, MD

Lisa Nedolast, RN

Shawn Tappel

Greg Polachek

Lisa Reer, RPh

Kimberly Stults, RN

MEDICAL DIRECTOR

Stephanie Gibson, MD

HEALTH COMMISSIONER

Tim Hollinger, MPH

IN MEMORIAM

In March 2020, HCPH lost Board president Bill Knapp to COVID-19. In reflection of 2020, HCPH would like to remember and thank Bill for his 20 years of service on the Board.

A LETTER FROM THE HEALTH COMMISSONER

The COVID-19 pandemic represents the biggest health threat we have faced since the Spanish Flu 100 years ago and has created an economic crisis not seen since the Great Depression. This pandemic provoked strong emotions in our population, particularly fear, anxiety, anger and distrust, and emotion-fueled information searching led to a division of beliefs in Huron County. HCPH found it extremely challenging to respectfully provide public health information and services to this emotionally-charged and divided public, particularly when the guidance available to us was contradictory at times and constantly changing.

The pandemic led to the majority of our staff being reassigned from their regular duties to contribute to COVID-19 emergency response work in 2020, including conducting case interviews, contact tracing, coordination with community partners, data analysis, medical materiel management, public information and communication, testing and vaccinations. This unfortunately also meant adapting and sometimes scaling back or temporarily suspending our regular services to allow for this unprecedented response.

During this time, our schools were also closed and recreational and cultural activities were halted while people were being asked to confine themselves in their homes. This created a further impact on our community, exacerbating several underlying issues in Huron County such as despair, abuse, anxiety, drug overdoses, alcoholism, and suicide, which will impact our residents for years to come.

Unlike most emergencies, such as a hurricane or earthquake that are quick events, the pandemic has unfolded over the entire year of 2020, with no firm end date in sight. Whatever feelings or habits the virus has prompted, we know one thing for sure, the world in which we live has changed. COVID-19 will leave an unforgettable mark in our history, attitudes, and memories. The continued mitigation efforts aimed to control spread of the virus and the rollout of multiple vaccines will eventually suppress COVID-19, while the likelihood that a form of this virus will never truly go away is putting renewed focus on treatments for the disease.

As we reflect on 2020 and anticipate 2021 and beyond, we will continue to adapt our role in the community with the new challenges and obstacles that COVID-19 has presented. We look forward with hope that we will soon see a return to our "new normal."

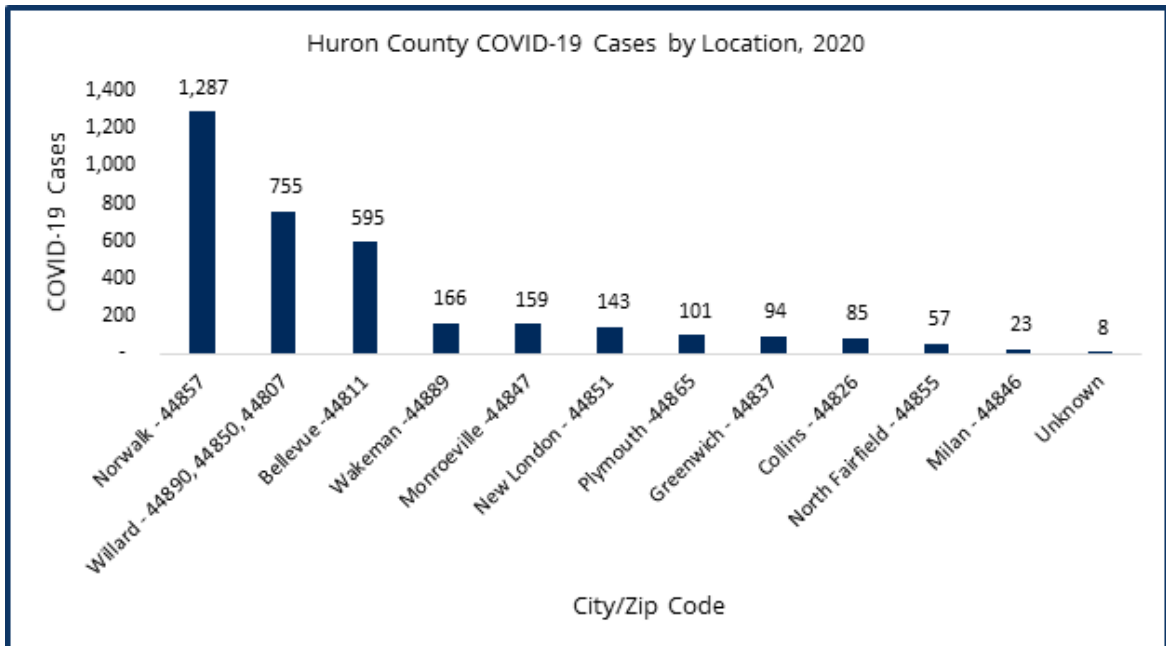
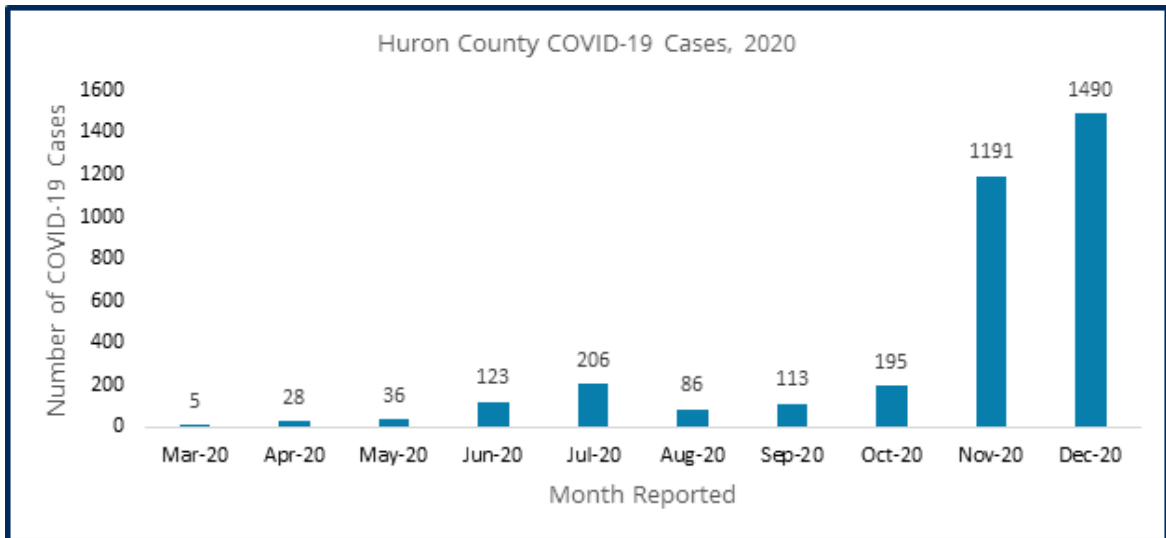
- Tim Hollinger, MPH

HCPH'S RESPONSE TO COVID-19

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) greatly impacted HCPH's work in 2020, as it impacted the rest of Ohio, the United States and the entire world. HCPH staff in all divisions were heavily engaged in response to the global pandemic in a multitude of ways. Some highlights of HCPH's emergency response efforts in 2020 are captured in this section.

COVID-19 CASE INVESTIGATION AND CONTACT TRACING

HCPH conducted case investigation and contact tracing for each of the 3,473 probable and confirmed cases of COVID-19 that were reported to HCPH in 2020. The case numbers reported by month can be seen in the graph below. The first case was reported in Huron County in March of 2020 and the largest surge in COVID-19 cases occurred in November/December.



RESPONDER SAFETY AND HEALTH

HCPH coordinated with Huron County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) to collect and accept donations of personal protective equipment (PPE) and disinfectant supplies due to scarcity of resources, receive state allocations of PPE, manage inventory of PPE, and distribute PPE to Huron County's most at-risk healthcare workers, first responders, law enforcement, and others involved in COVID-19 response. In 2020, a total of 321,880 pieces of PPE were received from the Ohio Department of Health (ODH). The most common items received included surgical/procedural masks (143,000). In 2020, 86 PPE requests from community partners were fulfilled. In addition to PPE, HCPH also received COVID-19 specimen collection kits from the ODH, a vital resource needed to conduct targeted COVID-19 testing. In 2020, 11,160 specimen collection kits were received and a total of 7,570 kits were distributed to partners or used by HCPH. HCPH specifically utilized these kits to respond to outbreak scenarios and enable testing for individuals who otherwise had barriers to prevent them from getting tested (i.e. transportation difficulties, lack of insurance).

RISK COMMUNICATIONS

Risk communications to both community partners and the public played a large role in HCPH's response. This included sending Health Alert Notifications (HANs), creating and sharing social media posts, weekly press releases containing local COVID-19 statistics, posting informational materials to HCPH's website, answering questions and concerns of community members and partners via email and phone, etc.

PUBLIC HEALTH SYSTEM COORDINATION

HCPH worked with a number of community partners in 2020, including but not limited to Huron County schools, long-term care facilities, businesses, minority population leaders, hospitals, healthcare organizations, elected officials, emergency management, first responders, governmental organizations, non-profit agencies, etc. This included weekly conference calls and day-to-day coordination.

COVID-19-RELATED GRANT AWARDS

In 2020, HCPH received four COVID-19-related grant awards from the ODH, totaling \$586,997.00 to assist with COVID-19 response in Huron County. HCPH anticipates receipt of additional funding from the ODH for response to COVID-19 in 2021.

COVID-19 VACCINATIONS

In mid-December 2020, the first COVID-19 vaccines received Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) Approval from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). HCPH received the agency's first shipment of Moderna Vaccine the week of December 21st and began vaccinations immediately, following the State of Ohio's Phased Distribution Approach.

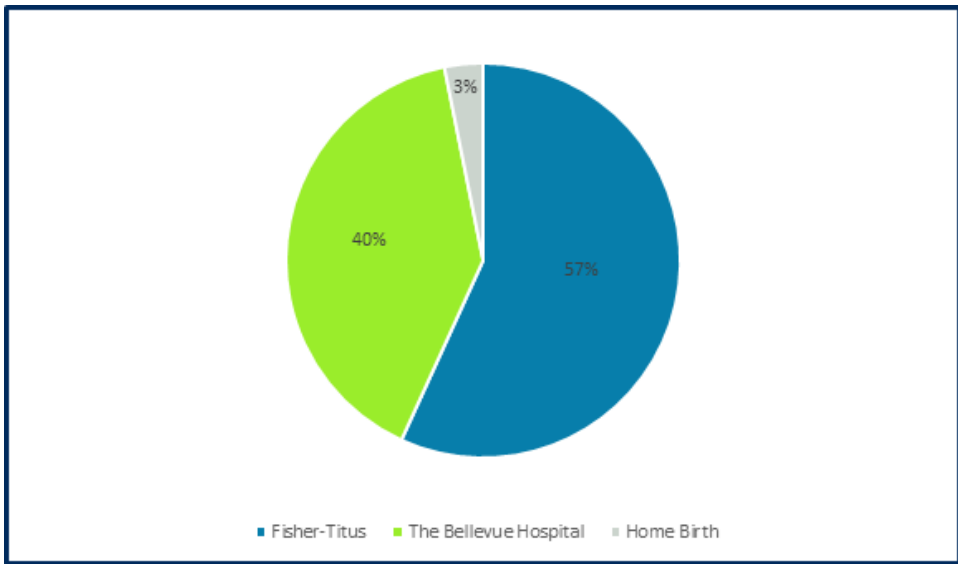
ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

The Administrative Services' Vital Statistics Office issues birth certificates for anyone born in the state of Ohio and death certificates for anyone who has died in Huron County.

VITAL STATISTICS: BIRTHS

In 2020, 822 babies were born in Huron County. Of these births, 427 (52%) babies were male and 395 (48%) were female.

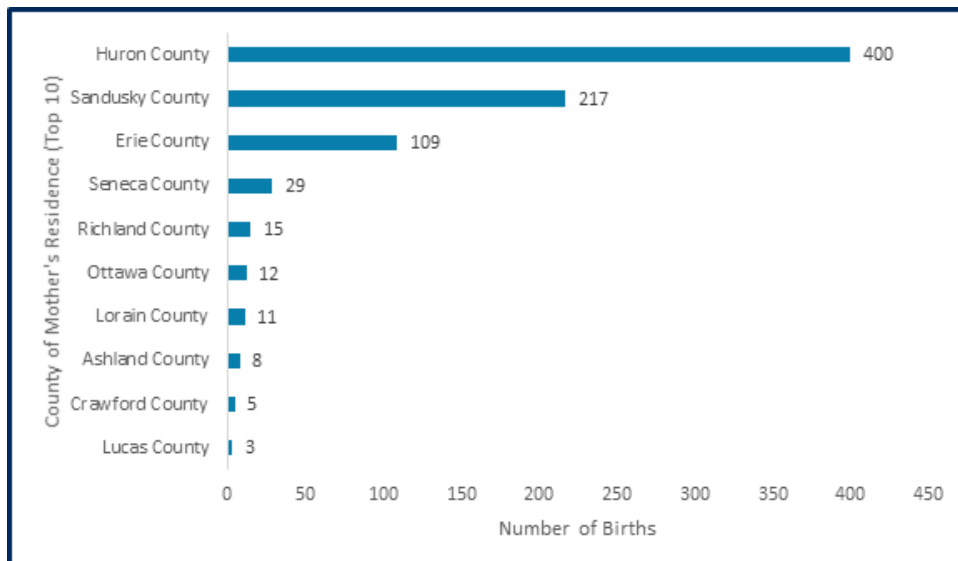
HURON COUNTY BIRTHS, BY FACILITY



796

Babies were born in a hospital or birthing center, while 26 babies were born in a residence.

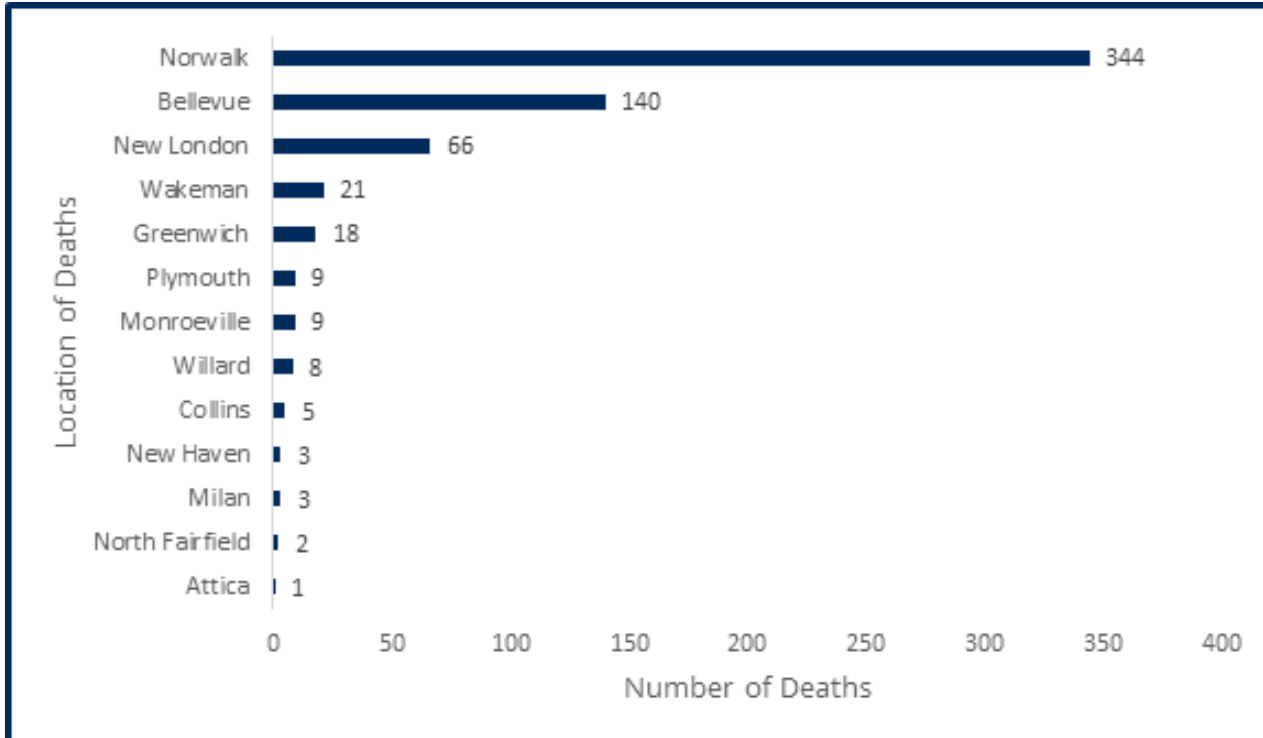
BIRTHS IN HURON COUNTY, BY MOTHER'S RESIDENCE



VITAL STATISTICS: DEATHS OCCURRING IN HURON COUNTY

In 2020, 760 deaths were filed in Huron County, which includes deaths that occurred within Bellevue City Limits. Of these deaths, 51% were females and 49% were males. The average age of death was 75 years old.

LOCATION OF DEATHS OCCURRING IN HURON COUNTY AND/OR WITHIN BELLEVUE CITY LIMITS (INCLUDES BELLEVUE HOSPITAL, THE WILLOWS AT BELLEVUE)



VITAL STATISTICS: HURON COUNTY RESIDENT DEATHS

The top causes of death for Huron County residents in 2020 included: (1) Other, (2) Heart, (3) Cancer, (4) COVID-19, (5) Respiratory.

MEDICAL DIVISION

The Medical Division of HCPH provides a variety of medical services to Huron County including primary care, reproductive health, school health services, as well as immunizations, Vivitrol, and other public health nursing services.

IMMUNIZATIONS

Immunizations are provided by HCPH to persons 6 weeks of age and up, following the current Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) and Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines. HCPH is a *Vaccine for Children* provider, which provides vaccines for uninsured and under-insured children through age 18. HCPH also provides immunizations to adults whether they are beginning a new educational program, becoming parents or grandparents, or traveling. Travel vaccines are available for diseases, such as Japanese Encephalitis, Yellow Fever, Typhoid and more. In 2020, 8,636 vaccines were administered. The top 5 vaccines administered were: (1) Flu (ages 6 mo. through 64 years), (2) Pediatric Hepatitis A, (3) Prevnar, (4) Meningococcal (MCV4), and (5) Human Papilloma Virus (HPV 9).

CAR SEAT SAFETY AND OHIO BUCKLES BUCKEYES PROGRAM



40 car seats were distributed in 2020
and **14** car seats were inspected.

HCPH distributes infant and child car seats and booster seats to eligible Huron County families. Designed for low-income families in need of safety seats for their children, this car seat instruction, distribution, and education service can help families who qualify by providing child passenger safety seats for children from all of Huron County.

DRIVE-THRU FLU SHOT CLINICS

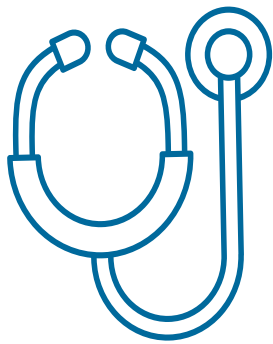
Since the mid 2000's, HCPH has offered adult influenza vaccinations through drive-thru clinics held around the county. These clinics allow persons to be vaccinated in a convenient location quickly, without having to get out of their vehicle. In 2020, drive-thru clinics were offered in New London, Norwalk, Wakeman, and Willard. In addition to being convenient to the public, these clinics also allow staff to practice emergency plans for emergency vaccination and medication distribution.

SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICES

HCPH contracts with school systems in Huron County to provide required health screenings, performed by HCPH's public health nurses (PHNs). These health screenings include vision and hearing screenings for children select grades as well as any child with an individualized education program (IEP) or referred by the parent or teacher for concerns. PHNs also review immunization records of children in select grades, provide educational programs, and serve as a resource for school staff.

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND WELLNESS

HCPH provides reproductive health and wellness services to men and women of all ages in need of sexual health care through the Title X Grant offered by the Ohio Department of Health and the Federal Government. For fiscal year 2021 (which includes services offered in 2020), this grant was awarded to HCPH for an amount of \$67,000.00. Services offered include women's physicals (including breast exams, pap tests and referrals for mammograms); pregnancy tests; sexually transmitted disease screenings; a variety of contraception, including long-acting reversible contraception; screenings for drug, alcohol, and mental health issues; education on avoiding sexual coercion; screening for human trafficking and domestic violence; and referrals for many sexual health issues. All Medicaid, many private insurances, and self pay clients are welcome.



HURON COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

In 2020, Huron County Public Health began offering primary care for all ages with Jodi Schwab, Certified Nurse Practitioner (CNP). Other services offered include: patient education, counseling sessions, STD testing and treatment, birth control, women's health, and opioid addiction services. Services were offered regardless of patients' insurance status and ability to pay. Expansion of Huron County Public Health Services in 2020 was part of a greater agency effort to ultimately become a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC).

MEDICATION-ASSISTED TREATMENT

Medication-assisted treatment (MAT), is another service offered by HCPH's Medical Division. MAT is the use of medications, including Vivitrol and Subutex, used in combination with counseling, to treat substance use disorders. HCPH's Medical Division assists these clients with becoming insured, if necessary, and screens their physical health to ensure they will be able to tolerate the medications. In addition, these screenings allow HCPH to diagnose and address many communicable diseases often associated with drug abuse, such as sexually transmitted diseases and Hepatitis C.



35

New and established patients participated in the MAT program in 2020.

CHILDREN WITH MEDICAL HANDICAPS (CMH)

CMH is a financial assistance program for families with children with special health care needs. CMH provides financial services to rule out a handicapping condition, determine a diagnosis, or establish a plan of treatment for a child already diagnosed with a medical condition. HCPH assists families with applications and provides information on CMH-approved providers and case management for those approved for the program. 170 CMH families were assisted in Huron County in 2020.

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS DIVISION

The Community Programs Division (CPD) coordinates HCPH's public education, emergency preparedness and response, epidemiology, surveillance, volunteer coordination, communication efforts, and accreditation. CPD also coordinates the Huron County Community Health Assessment, the Community Health Improvement Plan, and HCPH's health promotion programming and grants.

PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

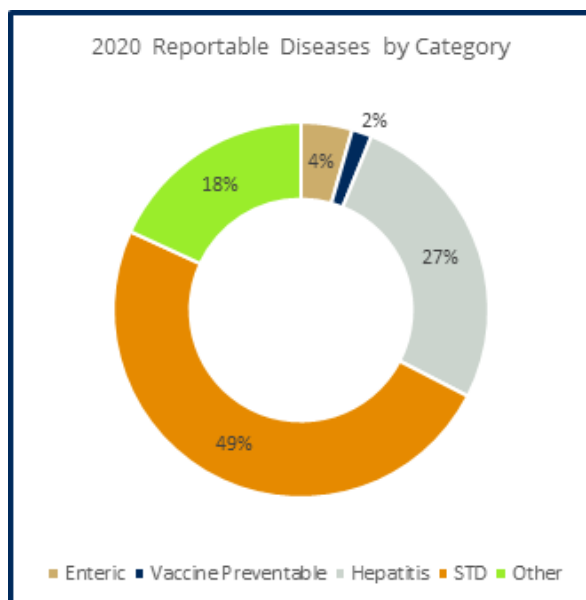
HCPH was awarded the Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) grant for Fiscal Year 2021 (July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021) for the amount of \$74,238.00.

EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SURVEILLANCE

HCPH monitors the health of the community through epidemiological surveillance. The Epidemiologist monitors numerous systems for daily awareness of the health status of the community.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES REPORTED TO HCPH

By law, cases of certain diseases must be reported to local health departments. Reportable diseases are of public health concern due to their severity and the potential for epidemic spread. In 2020, 408 communicable disease cases (excluding COVID-19) were reported.



Top 5 Communicable Diseases in 2020 (excluding COVID-19):

1. Chlamydia
2. Hepatitis C
3. Influenza-Associated Hospitalization
4. Hepatitis B
5. Gonorrhea

HURON COUNTY SCHOOL ABSENTEE SURVEILLANCE

School Absentee Surveillance is a way to track illness in schools for students that may not see a doctor. Absentee Surveillance is beneficial for schools because it can identify suspicious health events in specific schools or school districts.

COMMUNICATION

Communicating effectively is important to HCPH's mission; to achieve and sustain healthy people and healthy communities throughout Huron County. HCPH uses a variety of communication methods to promote health, prevent disease and educate the public on important health topics.



4,505

Total number of HCPH's Facebook page followers at the close of 2020.

WWW.HURONCOHEALTH.COM

438

Number of people that visited HCPH's website for the first time in 2020.

COMMUNITY HEALTH ASSESSMENT (CHA)

In 2020, HCPH, as the facilitator of the Huron County Health Partners, and in partnership with the market research firm Illuminology, completed work on the 2020 Huron County Health Assessment. The 2020 Huron County Health Assessment was released to the public on October 1, 2020. This report can be viewed on HCPH's website.

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS DIVISION GRANTS

The PEP+ grant is available for Public Entities Pool (PEP) of Ohio members for up to \$1,000.00 to fund safety items wherein the primary purpose of the item is the prevention or reduction of liability claims or property losses. For 2020, HCPH used the PEP+ grant to help offset the cost of a vaccine refrigerator. The total award for the PEP+ grant was \$694.00 (which covered the partial cost).

The Creating Healthy Communities (CHC) Grant is a grant held by HCPH through the Ohio Department of Health in the amount of \$100,000.00 annually. The purpose of this grant is to prevent and reduce chronic disease in Huron County. Through cross-sector collaboration, CHC is designed to improve access to and affordability of healthy food and increase opportunities for physical activity where people live, work, and play in 2020. CHC work in 2020 included the creation of a CHC Coalition, building of a community garden at HCPH's campus in Norwalk, the creation of a county-wide active transportation plan, and the implementation of healthy eating strategies at one Willard employer.

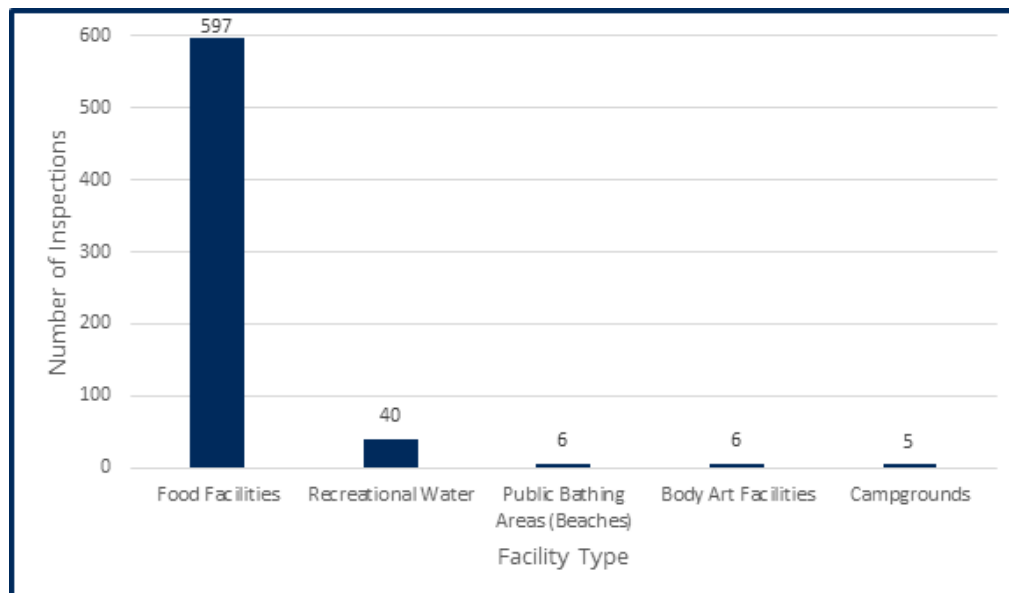
The Early Intervention Services (EIS) Grant is another grant held by HCPH through the Ohio Department of Health, in the amount of \$99,607.44 annually. The purpose of this grant is to increase awareness of one's HIV status, increase access and use of pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) for HIV prevention, and provide education and outreach on HIV-related topics to ultimately reduce HIV infections in Ohio. Through this program, HCPH offered Prevention Assistance Program Interventions (PAPI) which provided payment assistance for medical-related expenses and medication for those taking PrEP.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DIVISION

The Environmental Health Division of HCPH promotes public health by addressing many of the environmental factors that can affect human health. The primary role of the environmental staff is to prevent human illness or injury through public health functions which include inspection, regulation, and enforcement of food facilities, sewage, and private water systems (PWS), beaches, swimming pools, and tattoo/body piercing establishments and by investigating nuisance complaints and animal bites.

2020 HEALTH INSPECTIONS

In an attempt to protect the health and safety of HCPH staff, in addition to the Governor-ordered sector-specific closures, and reassignment of staff to COVID-19 response, the number of health inspections decreased from 1,038 in 2019 to 654 in 2020; the number of inspections by facility type can be seen below.



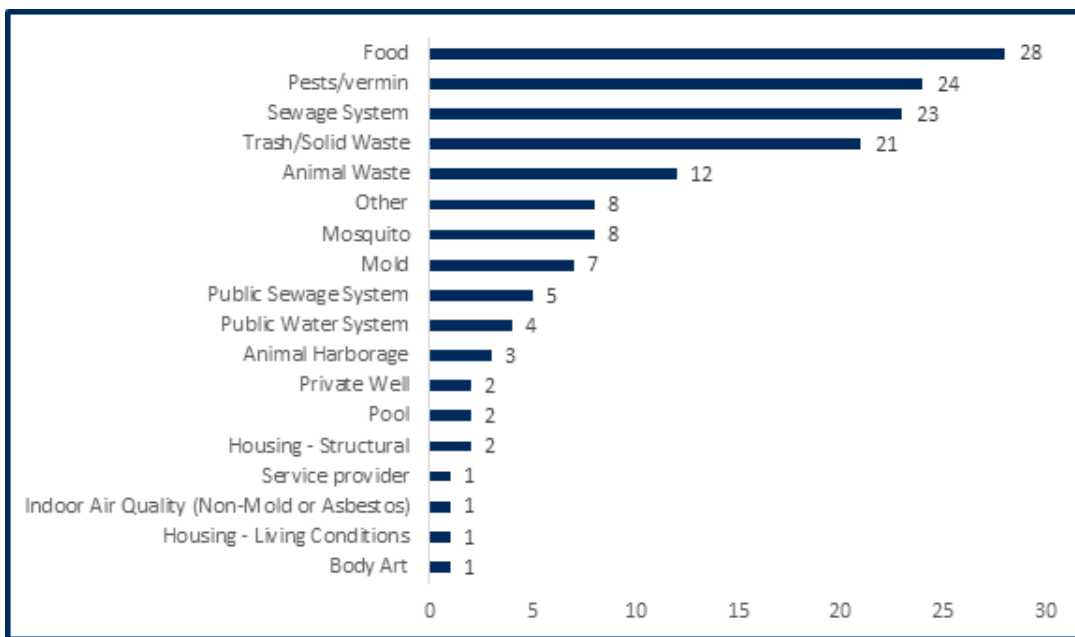
GOLD PLATE AWARDS

HCPH's Sanitarians perform a wide variety of public health functions including inspection, regulation, and enforcement of public health laws regarding food facilities. The Gold Plate Award is an acknowledgment given to food service establishments that maintain excellent food safety practices within the yearly licensing period. The awards are given annually and are based on the establishments' ability to meet certain criteria, encouraging compliance with Ohio Uniform Food Safety Code (OAC 3717). The Gold Plate Award program is voluntary, and facilities must apply to be considered. In March 2020, 26 facilities were awarded for excellent safety practices in 2019. HCPH congratulates the following Gold Plate Award Winners for 2020: Bone Boys, Buckeye One Eleven, Buckeye Pub & Grub, Copper Top Bake Shop, Dominos (Willard), East of Chicago Pizza (Greenwich), East of Chicago Pizza (Norwalk), Emelios Little Italy, First United Methodist Child Care & Preschool, Gas Depot Inc., Gilbert's Place, H&B's Hop, LynMarie's Coffee on Main, Ltd., Miller's Drive-In, South Central Elementary/Jr. High, South Central High School, St. Paul's Christian Day Care Center, The Candy Depot, The Pizza Wheel, Twin Lakes, Vargo's Drive-In, Village of Plymouth Municipal Building, Village of Plymouth Pool, Western Reserve Elementary, Western Reserve High School, and Willard City Schools K-12.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMPLAINTS

Complaints can be submitted to HCPH in regards to a licensed and inspected facility or provider, which may include public bathing areas (beaches), campgrounds, food facilities, manufactured home parks, tattoo and body piercing facilities, swimming pools, plumbers, or other service providers. Complaints may also be made in regards to a public health nuisance. Nuisance conditions that HCPH has jurisdiction over include solid waste and trash, rodents, insects, animal feces, sewage systems malfunctions, water system issues, mosquito breeding, and mold (rental properties only). A total of 153 complaints were made to HCPH in 2020.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMPLAINTS, BY TYPE *



*A single complaint may have more than one type.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE PROGRAM

In January 2015, the Ohio Department of Health adopted new rules regarding private sewage treatment systems (STS) in Ohio. These rules require each health department across the state to implement a local Operation and Maintenance (O&M) program to monitor and ensure the proper function of STS in their jurisdictions. HCPH’s O&M program, effective March 25, 2019, requires every STS in Huron County to have an O&M permit. Permits ensure systems are monitored and maintained on a regular basis so that failing systems may be identified and addressed.

RABIES PROGRAM

Ohio laws require mandatory reporting of possible human rabies exposure to the local health department in the jurisdiction in which the exposure occurred. In 2020, 169 Incident reports were made to HCPH regarding possible rabies exposure in Huron County.

2020 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Statement of Cash receipts, Cash Disbursements and Changes in Fund Balances.
All Funds for the Period through December 2020.

Fund Cash Balance 12/31/2019	\$419,332	\$290,830	\$710,162
2020 Cash Receipts			
	General Fund	Special Funds	Total
Local Taxation	\$820,979		\$820,979
State Subsidy	\$25,723		\$25,723
Environmental Health Fees	\$328,548	\$48,236	\$376,784
Vital Statistics Fees	\$137,275		\$137,275
Medical Fees	\$529,250	\$31,979	\$561,229
Special Projects	\$9,925		\$9,925
Donation Revenue	\$1,986		\$1,986
Contract Revenue	\$121,745		\$121,745
BWC Refund	\$24,031	\$5,010	\$29,041
MAC Billing	\$25,060		\$25,060
Federal Grant Funds	\$0	\$649,743	\$649,743
State Grant Funds	\$0	\$115,581	\$115,581
Local Grant Funds	\$0	\$5	\$5
Total Cash Receipts	\$2,024,522	\$850,555	\$2,875,076
2020 Cash Disbursements			
	General Fund	Special Funds	Total
Salaries	\$651,467	\$439,008	\$1,090,475
PERS/Workers Comp/Medicare	\$108,185	\$63,197	\$171,382
Health Benefits	\$194,476	\$69,785	\$264,261
Travel	\$1,716		\$1,716
Supplies	\$42,465	\$176,266	\$218,730
Vaccine	\$267,402		\$267,402
Contract Personnel	\$8,032		\$8,032
Contracts-Services/Repairs	\$214,604		\$214,604
Advertising and Printing	\$2,199		\$2,199
Other Expenses	\$32,016		\$32,016
Equipment	\$9,531		\$9,531
State Fee Remittance	\$86,122		\$86,122
County Health Assessment Costs	\$0		\$0
Total Cash Disbursements	\$1,618,214	\$748,257	\$2,366,471
Receipts Less Disbursements	\$406,307	\$102,298	\$508,605
Transfers/Advances In	\$200,097	\$295,097	\$495,194
Transfers/Advances Out	\$295,097	\$200,097	\$495,194
Fund Cash Balance 12/31/2020	\$730,639	\$488,128	\$1,218,767
Reserve for Encumbrances	\$12,264	\$1,737	\$14,001
Available Cash Balance January 1, 2021	\$718,375	\$486,391	\$1,204,766

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