



*Van Wert County*  
*General Health District*

**2018 YEARLY REPORT**

## MISSION STATEMENT

*The overall mission of the Van Wert County General Health District is to promote and to protect the health and well-being of the community.*

## VISION STATEMENT

*The Van Wert County General Health District will lead the way in protecting and improving the health of the residents of our community by serving as the most reliable source of public health services and information.*

## VAN WERT COUNTY DISTRICT BOARD OF HEALTH MEMBERS

### **Paul Svabik, President**

Appointed February 1988 ◊ Term Expires April 2022

### **Randy Myers, Vice-President**

Appointed April 2009 ◊ Term Expires April 2021

### **Brian Greve**

Appointed April 2013 ◊ Term Expires April 2023

### **Dr. Thomas Conte**

Appointed April 2016 ◊ Term Expires April 2019

### **Alice Schaufelberger**

Appointed April 1995 ◊ Term Expires April 2020

*A **HUGE** thank you to the staff for their hard work, the Board of Health for their service and the District Advisory Council for their continuous support!*

## HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF

### HEALTH COMMISSIONER/MEDICAL DIRECTOR

Paul A. Kalogerou, MD

### PUBLIC HEALTH NURSES

Kathy Will, RN, DON

Linda Bissonette, RN

Traci Milligan, RN

Nicole Greve, RN

### EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COORDINATOR

Ruth Gerding, RN, MPH

### ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Britt Menchhofer, RS

Kelly Freewalt, SIT

### VITAL STATISTICS/ADMINISTRATIVE

Marylou Smith, Office Manager/Registrar

Susie Isenbarger, Clerk

Kristin Hallfeldt, Clerk

Mackinzy Peterson BS, Clerk

Jeanette Ford MSOP, BS, Administrator

*Serving more than 28,000 residents, including:*

Convoy, Elgin, Harrison Township, Hoaglin Township, Jackson Township, Jennings Township, Liberty Township, Middle Point, Ohio City, Pleasant Township, Ridge Township, Scott, Tully Township, Union Township, Van Wert, Venedocia, Washington Township, Willshire, Willshire Township, Wren, and York Township.



From The Health Commissioner.....

Our Van Wert County Health Department and Board of Health welcome the District Advisory Council and appreciate your attendance. We understand the privilege and responsibility we have to promote and protect the health and well-being of our community, empower the public to make responsible healthcare decisions, to keep our environment safe, and to remain prepared for any public health threat.

Our department is composed of our Nursing Division, Public Health Preparedness/Emergency Response Division, Environmental Health Division, Vital Statistics Division, and our Administrative Staff Division.

Our Nursing Division is dedicated to ensuring the health and safety of Van Wert County. Our nurses immunize and educate the public regarding health issues, identify health concerns, monitor health status, and develop partnerships to identify and to solve problems.

The nurses collaborate with the Van Wert County Hospital and other community agencies to address the county's health needs. Our department continues to participate in a grant with area law enforcement officials to provide reversal medication for drug overdose cases.

Nursing collaborates with our Public Health Emergency Preparedness Coordinator and many community partners for preparing against catastrophic occurrences.

Our Nursing Division has participated with other community partners to create a Community Health Improvement Plan and Strategic Plan. Nursing also provides services for Children with Medical Disabilities, Child Passenger Safety, LEAD case investigations, Sudden Infant Death Syndrome counseling, Child Fatality Review, CPR and First Aid, Nicotine Dependence, and Obesity. Our nursing team, under the guidance of Director of Nursing Kathy Will, RN, has once again become a participant of the "Help Me Grow" program, providing services to underserved parents and newborns.

Our Public Health Preparedness/Emergency Response Division, led by Ruth Gerding, RN, prepares our department in collaboration with community partners against potential infectious disease outbreaks, bio-terrorism, and any other public health threats. Emergency Response Plans, including Pandemic Influenza and County Mass Fatalities Plans, are regularly updated. Our department, along with community partners, participates in drills to remain prepared.

Our Environmental Health Division, under the leadership of Registered Sanitarian Britt Menchhofer, monitors and inspects food establishments, solid waste disposal facilities, manufactured home parks, campgrounds, schools, public pools, and body piercing and tattoo facilities. The sanitarians provide permits for and inspect private water systems and household sewage treatment systems along with addressing nuisance and sewage cases. The sanitarians also perform rabies investigations.

Our Administrative Staff Division facilitates effective communication between the clerical and nursing divisions. Our department has welcomed the addition of our Health Department Administrator, Jeanette Ford, MSOP, BS, RRT, who has provided valuable input with coordinating the clerical and clinical staff, improving the billing process, building strong relationships with our board, community partners, and regional health departments, and contributing a major sustained role with our health department's intent to become accredited. The clerical staff continues to compassionately and professionally greet the public. Making certain that a client's visit remains a productive and satisfying experience and remains a priority for the clerical and clinical teams. By accepting private insurance for the past several years, in addition to Medicare/Medicaid billing, our department has expanded the community's access to our clinics for their immunization needs.

The Ohio Department of Health is requiring all Local Health Departments to become accredited. The Accreditation status ensures that Health Department standards maintain consistency with nationally recognized guidelines, including continuous quality improvement. Our department continues the process of Accreditation and has an active Quality Improvement Plan. Our department has had a major role in the Van Wert County Health Collaborative group in planning and formulating the Community Health Assessment. Three strategic health priorities including obesity, behavioral health, and access to health care have been identified for the Community Health Improvement Plan. Our goal for Accreditation is to improve the health outcomes of our community.

We encourage you to review the 2018 yearly report of our health department contribution to Van Wert County. The goals of our department remain the prevention of disease and the promotion and protection of the health of our community.

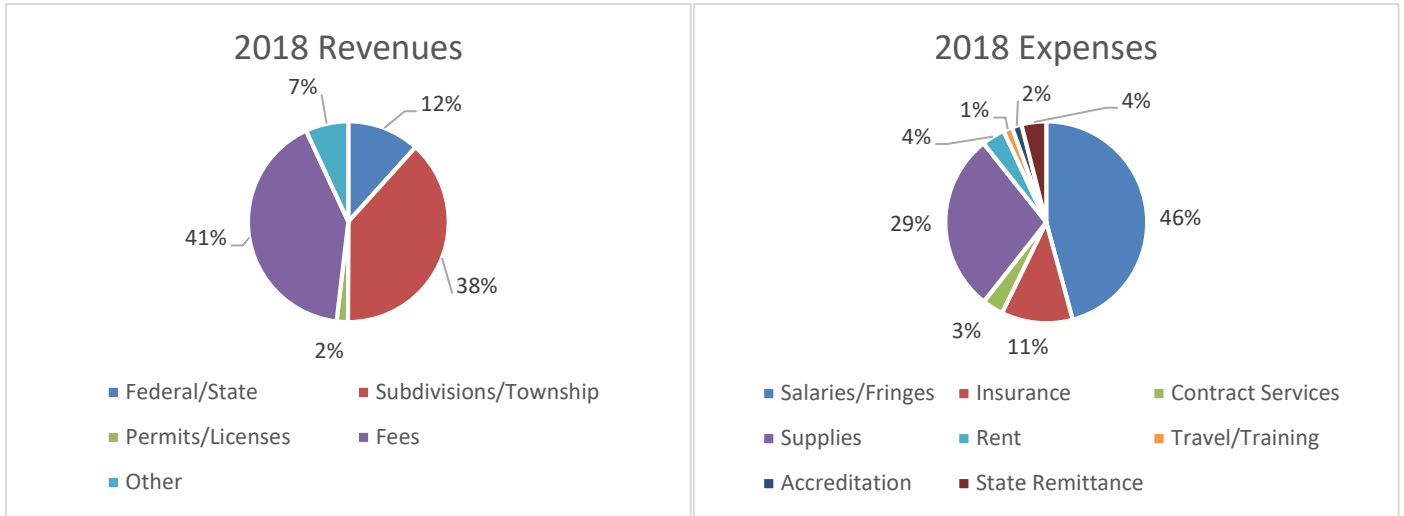
Public health funding continues to be limited and our local health department has been affected. The Van Wert County District Advisory Council's continued support is very much appreciated.

Our department remains keenly aware that we are public servants. We continue to work closely with the Board of Health to maintain a fiscally responsible budget to ensure that our tax dollars remain efficiently and effectively utilized.

Respectfully,

Paul A. Kalogerou, MD  
Health Commissioner/Medical Director

# Maintaining Financial Stability



## Strategic Plan 2018-2020

People Pillar	Service Pillar	Quality Pillar	Growth Pillar	Finance Pillar	Community Pillar
<p><b>Goal:</b> To have a supported, healthy and competent workforce</p> <p><b>Progress:</b> engaged staff in professional development, build as a team, and completed a staff satisfaction survey</p>	<p><b>Goal:</b> To provide excellent client service agency wide</p> <p><b>Progress:</b> Completed training and organized community events to discuss access to care issues</p>	<p><b>Goal:</b> To promote continuous innovation</p> <p><b>Progress:</b> All staff completely trained in QI Tools and active in QI development and implementation</p>	<p><b>Goal:</b> To utilize continuous performance improvement in delivering public health services</p> <p><b>Progress:</b> Successful Open House event to promote department services</p>	<p><b>Goal:</b> To be excellent stewards of taxpayer dollars and efficient management of resources</p> <p><b>Progress:</b> Applied for 3 additional grant funding opportunities</p>	<p><b>Goal:</b> To continuously engage partners and key stakeholders in the community</p> <p><b>Progress:</b> Active participant in school and other community health fairs and presentations</p>

### Private Water System Recordkeeping QI Project



**Goal:** To increase the % of private water systems finalized within 1 year of the issue date to 80% and improve customer service and awareness

**Success:** Finalized rate increased by 33% and is currently 88%

## Accreditation

Van Wert County General Health District continues to strive toward accreditation. Application for accreditation was filed with the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) on May 22, 2018. The Accreditation Coordinator attended the required PHAB training in September 2018. The organization is now in the documentation submission phase. There are over 300 documents required for submission. These documents must be identified, prep, and submitted with an attached coversheet. VWCGHD has until September 2019 to complete this stage of the process.

## Environmental Health

Licensing Programs	Licenses	Inspections
Food Service Operation/Retail Food Establishments	251	445
Schools		20
Public Swimming Pools/Spas	9	53
Manufactured Home Parks		8
Campgrounds	2	2
Tattoo & Body Piercing Facilities	3	3
Solid Waste Facilities	1	6
Infectious Waste Facilities		1

Permit Programs	Permits	Inspections
Private Water Systems	33	26
Sewage System Installation	21	45
Septage Hauler Vehicles	14	3

Registration Programs	Registrations
Sewage System Installers	10
Septage Haulers	9
Sewage System Service Providers	3



37

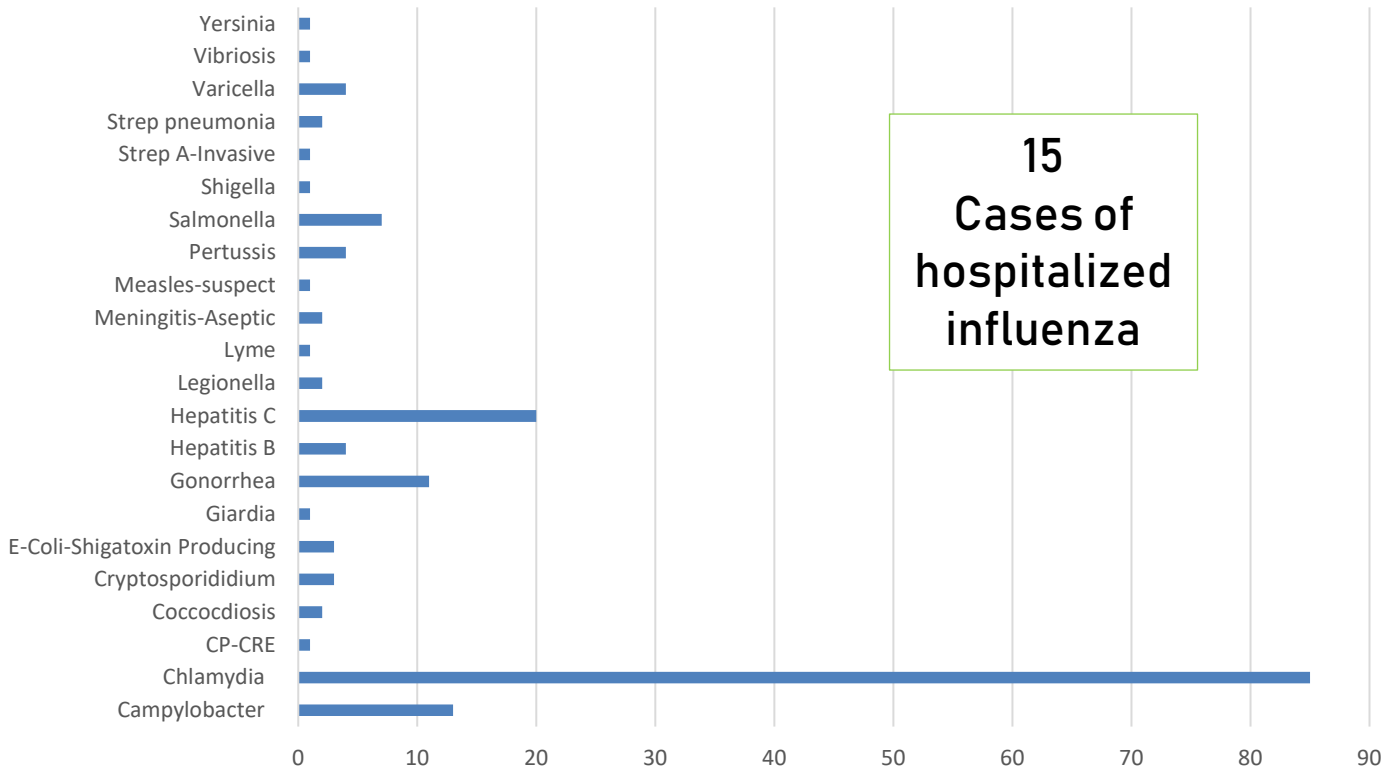
Animal Bite  
Investigations

Miscellaneous Programs and Services	Totals
Nuisance Complaint Investigations/Re-inspections	71
Real Estate Well & Septic Inspections	49

# Public Health Nursing

## Communicable Disease

2018 Reportable Diseases



**15**  
Cases of  
hospitalized  
influenza



**6**

Van Wert Families served during November and December 2018 through our newly implemented program!



**94**

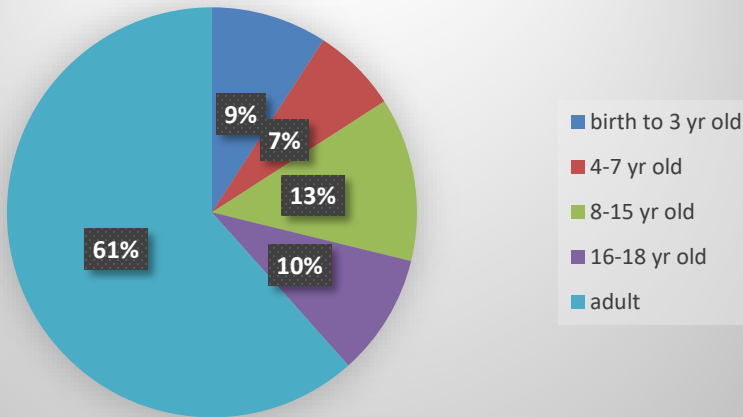
School Screenings  
Health Department staff  
Screens students at  
Marsh Foundation  
and St Mary's  
Schools



20  
Car seat  
classes  
held

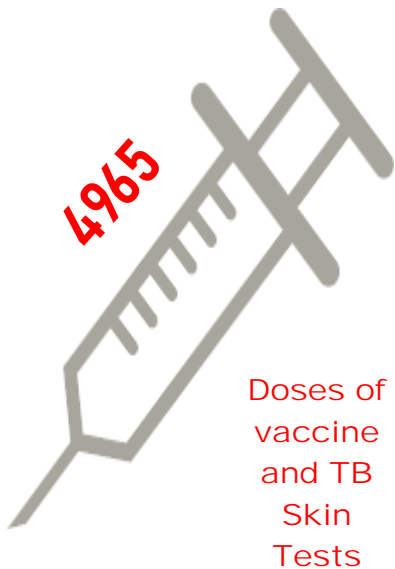
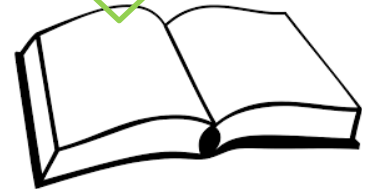
# Immunization Clinic

## Immunizations by age

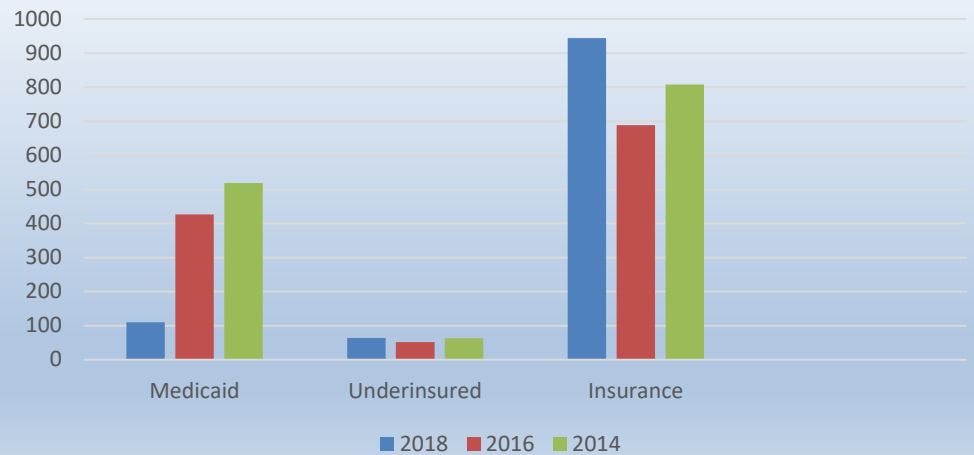


**10**  
Individuals for Teen  
Immunization Education

**14**  
School nurses  
participated in  
Immunization Education



## Children's Vaccines by Payer Source



## Get Vaccinate Ohio Grant

Grant cycle from July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019

Grant amount **\$34,477**

Grant goal **90%** of children will be up to date on immunizations by two years of age

**10**

Van Wert County Companies  
served as part of our Flu  
Clinic Outreach

OVER

**300**

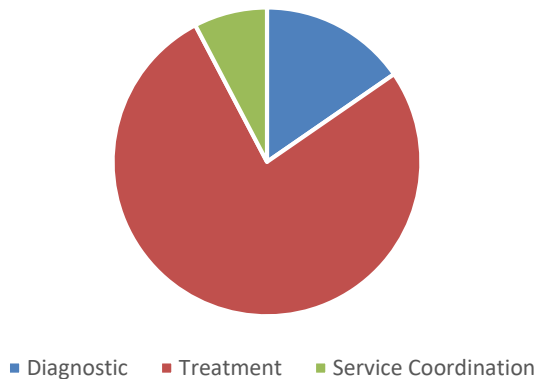
Community members being  
vaccinated through this  
program

*Our clinic times have been expanded to better serve the public with immunizations being offered Monday through Friday by appointment.*

## Children with Medical Handicaps Program

The Children with Medical Handicaps programs is an ODH program that helps link families of children from birth to age 21 with special healthcare needs with services and treatments.

Children on Different CMH Plans



**\$32,480**  
Revenue

**104**  
Children covered in all  
three service areas:  
diagnostic, treatment,  
and service coordination

### Diagnostic Program

- Covers testing, hospital stays for up to 5 days, and visits with a CMH approved physician
- Helped 16 children with diagnosing a potentially handicapping illness

### Treatment Program

- Covers more in-depth needs, such as prolonged hospital stays, lab tests and specialist visits (CMH approved physicians), medical equipment, medications, and therapies for children who have been diagnosed with a physically debilitating disability
- Helped connect 80 children with physicians, equipment, medications, and therapies they needed throughout 2018

### Service Coordination

- Reserved for children with extremely complex medical needs who need to have a service coordinator (usually a social worker or a nurse case manager) who helps connect them to all of their specialists in one place during specific times of the year
- Helped connect 8 patients with the care they needed in 2018

In collaboration with local law enforcement and first responders the nursing staff provided training for **32** professionals on the administration of **Naloxone** as an effort to combat the ever growing Opioid-drug overdose epidemic



## Emergency Preparedness and Response

The health department continues to receive funds from the Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) grant. We are in the second year of a five-year cycle to address 14 Target Capabilities as defined by the Department of Homeland Security.



\$63,000

Received towards preparedness efforts through PHEP grant

### Target Capabilities:

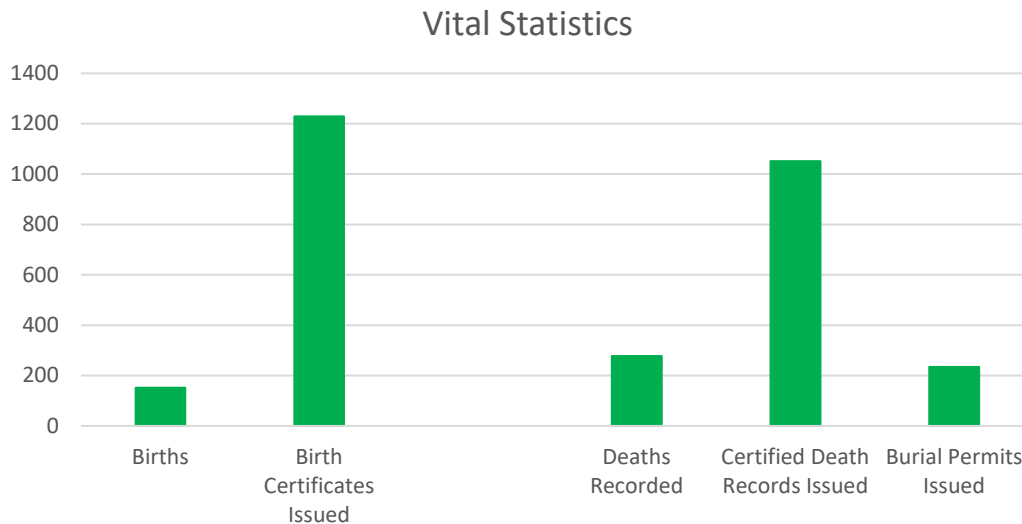
- Community Preparedness
- Community Recovery
- Emergency Operations Coordination
- Emergency Public Information and Warning
- Fatality Management
- Information Sharing
- Mass Care
- Medical Countermeasures
- Medical Surge
- Non-Pharmaceutical Interventions
- Public Health Surveillance and Epidemiological Investigation
- Responder Safety and Health
- Volunteer Management.

### What's new?

Due to internal department structure changes we were able to begin the 2020 process of applying as a stand-alone health department

This past year, a Mass Fatality annex was written for public health, which will be part of the county's Mass Fatality Plan. This was part of the October exercise for response where public health will be focusing on processing vital statistics and supporting partners with recommended methods to reduce transmission of the disease. Another area of focus is the health department continues to address pandemic influenza planning with special emphasis on Medical Countermeasures and Distribution. This includes Closed Point of Dispensing planning. This will be the primary responsibility for public health.

## Vital Statistics



2  
Homebirths



0  
Still Births

## Community Events

The health department participated in multiple community events and health fairs.

During the First United Methodist Church's Operation Back to School the health department gave away

**300**  
Boxes of tissues

**500**  
Bottles of water

And scheduled MANY children for immunizations through the clinic



## Healthy Block Party



We partnered with 10 other neighboring agencies to promote healthy, fun, family friendly activities. And showcased what each agency has to offer the community.



### Activities Included:

- Bounce house
- Free food
- Shaved Ice
- Massages
- Raffles
- Giant Checkers
- Facility Tours
- Health Screenings

Our Healthy Home display showcased our educational services on Safe Sleep, proper food preparation, car seat safety and mosquito safety techniques.

The house also gave additional healthy tips such as handwashing safety and how to monitor for tripping hazards.

