

Van Wert County General Health District



2020 Annual 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 2024

Laura Metzger

Appointed Sept 2019 ◊ Term Expires April 2025

*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.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF

HEALTH COMMISSIONER/MEDICAL DIRECTOR

Paul A. Kalogerou, MD

PUBLIC HEALTH NURSES

Kathy Will, RN, DON

Linda Bissonette, RN

Nikki Kuhlman, RN

Samantha Ball, RN

Cindy Cook, RN

Katie Stammen, RN

Adam Hoaglin, RN

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COORDINATOR

Ruth Gerding, RN, MPH

Madeline Hojnacki, RN

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Britt Menchhofer, RS

Kelly Freewalt, RS

VITAL STATISTICS/ADMINISTRATIVE

Susie Isenbarger, Registrar

Mackinzy Peterson BS, Clerk

Jeanette Ford MS, BS, Administrator



From 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 community and our health department continue to be challenged by the SARS CoV-2 and the COVID-19 Pandemic. Our department has been a resource for our citizens, including the elderly, families, educators, businesses, law enforcement, first responders, and our health partners.

We have informed the public regarding the importance of mitigation measures of masking, social/physical distancing, and handwashing. Our department is currently the only source for vaccine deployment and our coordinating with the local venues to provide timely vaccinations.

Throughout the pandemic, many of our citizens have become enlightened of the importance of public health and the significant role our health department plays in providing reliable information and guidance.

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.

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 Madelina Hojnacki, 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 Sanitarians Britt Menchhofer and Kelly Freewalt, 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. Health Department Administrator, Jeanette Ford, MSOP, BS, RRT, provides 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 has the additional role of Public Health Accreditation Coordinator. 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 has recently completed the process of Accreditation and has an active Quality Improvement Plan. We will be learning this spring from the Public Health Accreditation Board about the status of our accreditation application. 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 2020 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 for our day-to-day functions is very much appreciated.

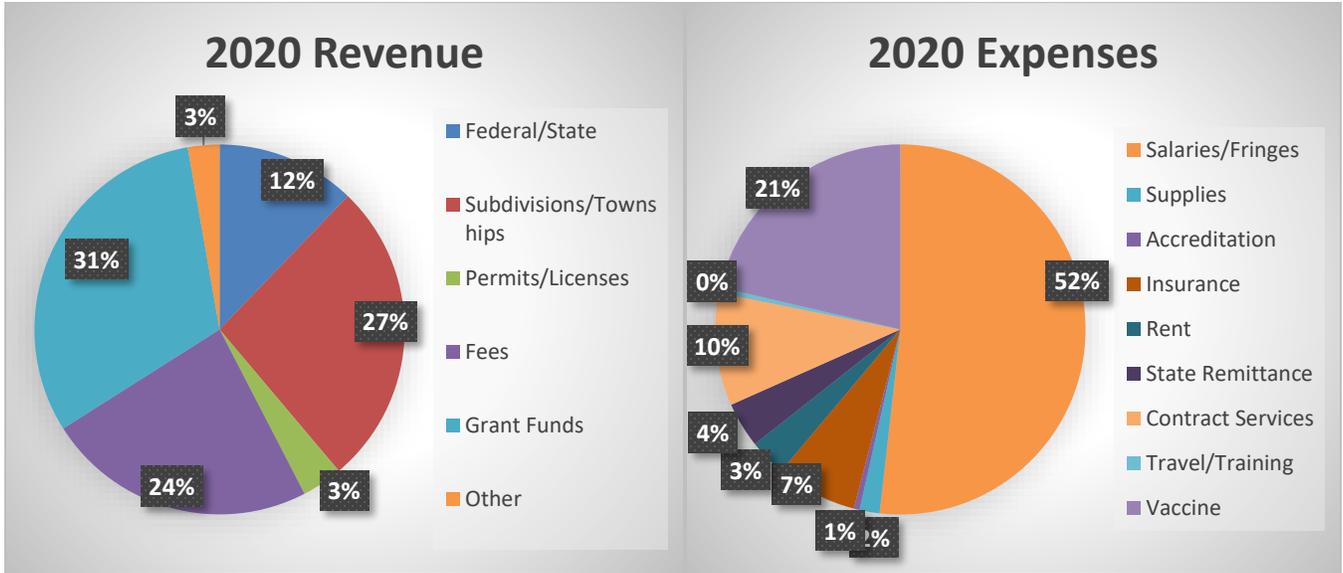
Our department remains keenly aware that we are public servants. We continue to work closely with the Board of Health to maintain a fiscally responsible budget to ensure that our tax dollars remain efficiently and effectively utilized.

Respectfully,

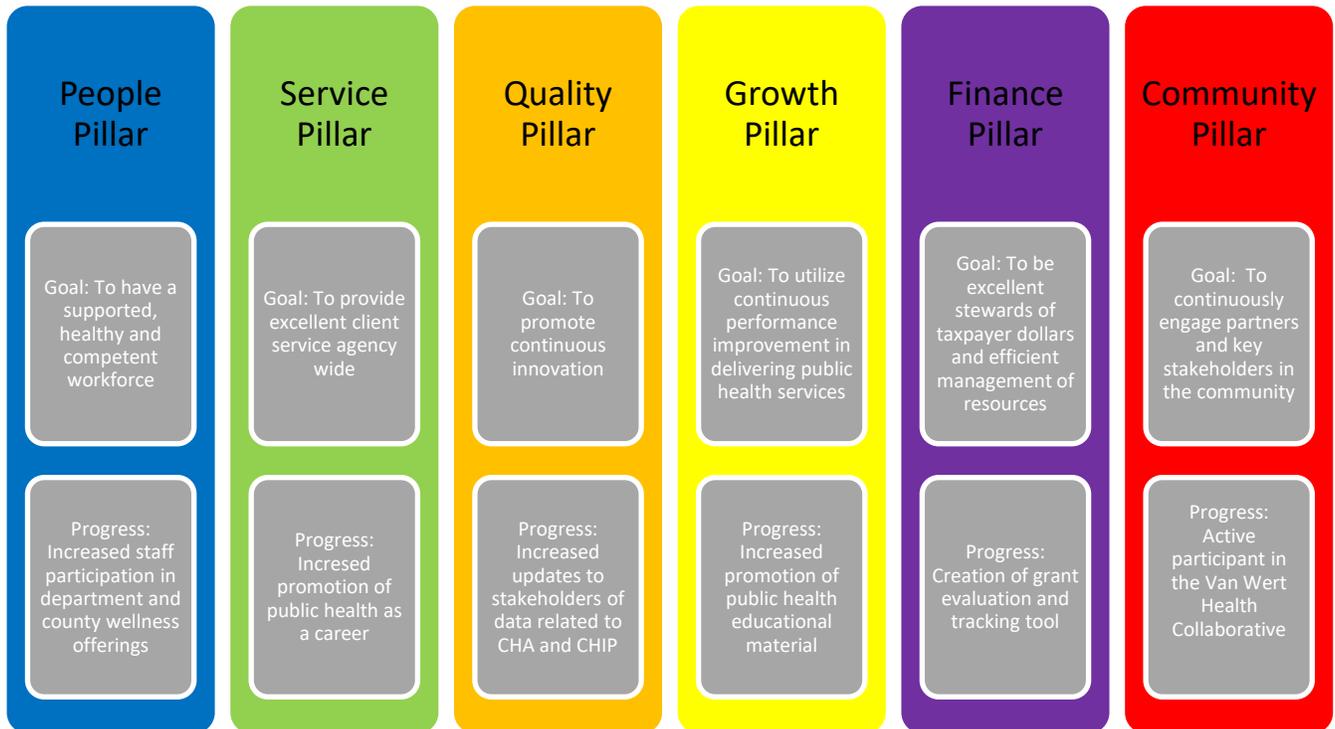
Paul A. Kalogerou, MD
Health Commissioner/Medical Director

***HUGE** Thank you to all of our community partners, members, township trustees, and the Board of Health Members for their support for our organization and our staff through this pandemic!*

Maintaining Financial Stability



Strategic Plan 2018-2020



Client Satisfaction QI:
 Team created a short post card for client satisfaction and a schedule on collection of data.

100% AGREE
 "The person who helped me today was informative and professional"

Emergency Preparedness and Response

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

Because of the current pandemic, the health department continues to increase 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.

Your health department continues to work with many county partners in planning and response, focusing on meeting the needs of access and functional needs populations. You, the taxpayer, are always invited to assist with increasing your personal preparedness efforts and at the time of a significant disease outbreak; comply with the information shared with the public on reducing the spread of that particular disease.

The health department continues to receive funds from the Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) grant.

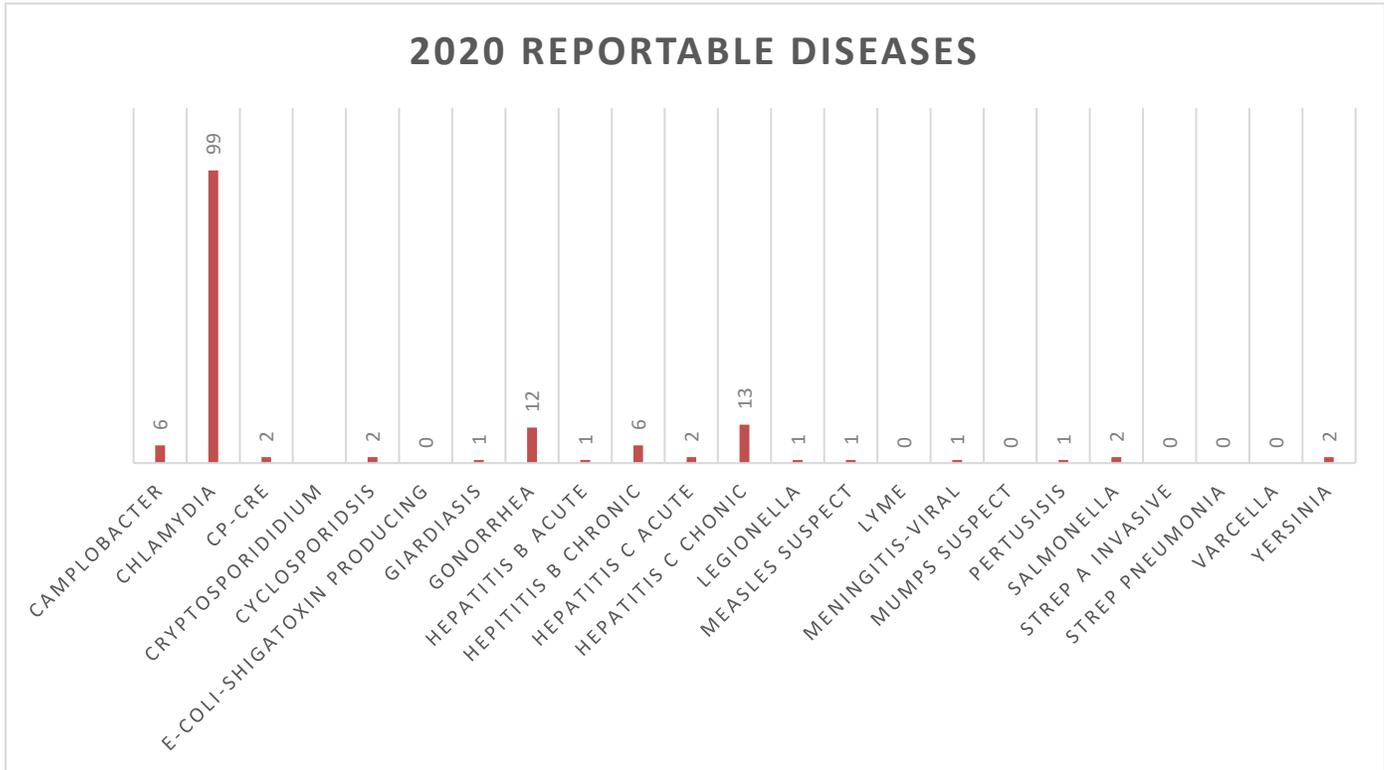
The 2020 grant revenue was
\$62384.00
for Van Wert County Health Department.

COVID 19 Pandemic Response

- March 10, 2020 Health Department activated Incident Command Structure
 - Began communication with public on impending threat of virus
 - Began working with community partners
 - Influx of Personal Protective equipment from ODH and state resources
 - County Emergency Operations Center opened
 - Many state mandates that department helped community understand and follow through social media and press release updates
- March 31, 2020 First confirmed case in Van Wert County
 - Contact Tracing began
 - Worked with community partners on testing and acquiring supplies
- Throughout the rest of 2020
 - Department updated community on case numbers, deaths, hospitalizations, and recovery rates
 - Worked with partners and community on state mandates and compliance requirements through closures and reopening
 - Worked closely with schools through closures, sports, safe reopening and active cases within classrooms and extra-curricular activities
- December 23, 2020 First doses of vaccine provided to First Responders in Van Wert County
- December 31, 2020 Van Wert ended the year with 1655 total confirmed cases, 96 active cases, 38 deaths, 7 currently hospitalized, and 1521 recovered cases

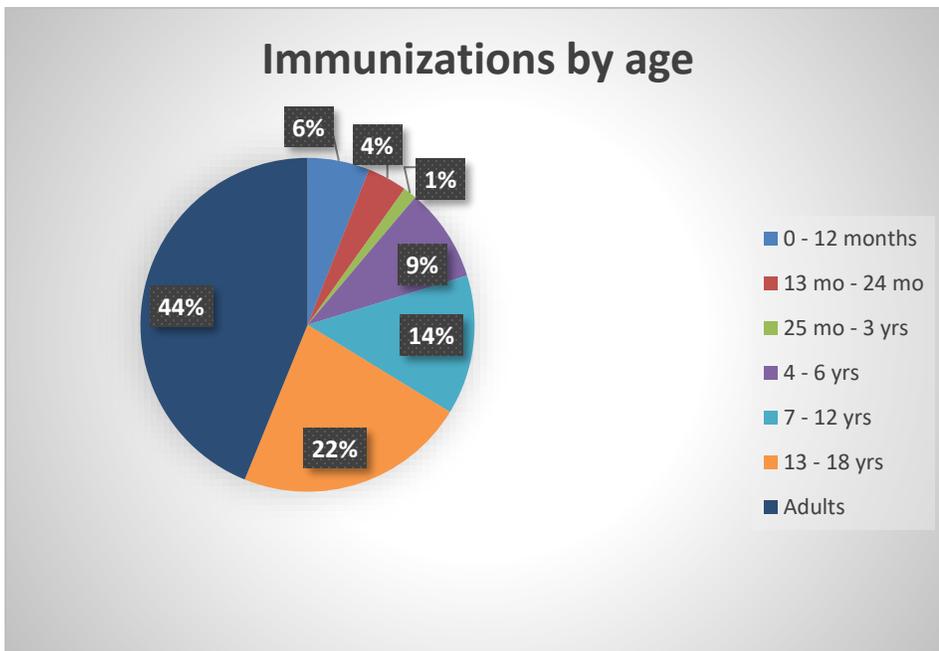
Public Health Nursing

Communicable Disease



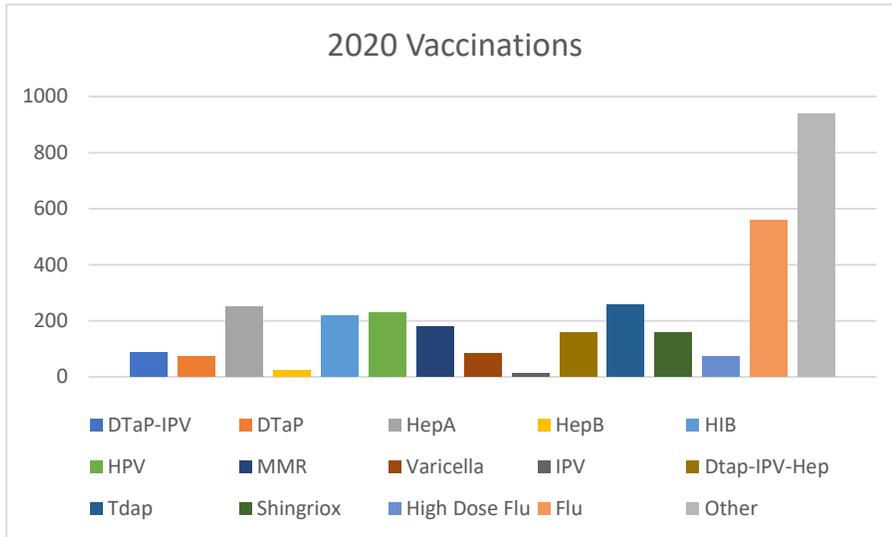
Immunization Clinic

The immunization clinic is open Monday through Friday with various timeslots through the days to accommodate client schedules as well as late clinic hours being offered during each month.

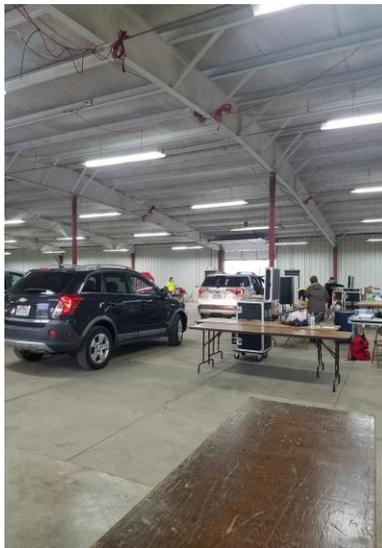


3,317
Total Vaccines
given

158
TB Tests
administered



Katie Stammen, RN
 The clinic received United Way funds to purchase a new freezer for vaccine storage



2020 Drive Thru Flu Clinic

On a cold, wet October morning the Van Wert County General Health District staff served the Van Wert community with a drive thru flu vaccination clinic. The department worked with the Van Wert County Fairgrounds staff as well as the CERT team to set up an efficient and safe flow for vehicles. The CERT team members were so helpful with traffic flow and communications. Thank you also to the community partners who supported our effort Little Caesars, Sycamore, Casey's General Store, Chief Supermarket, and Collins Fine Foods.

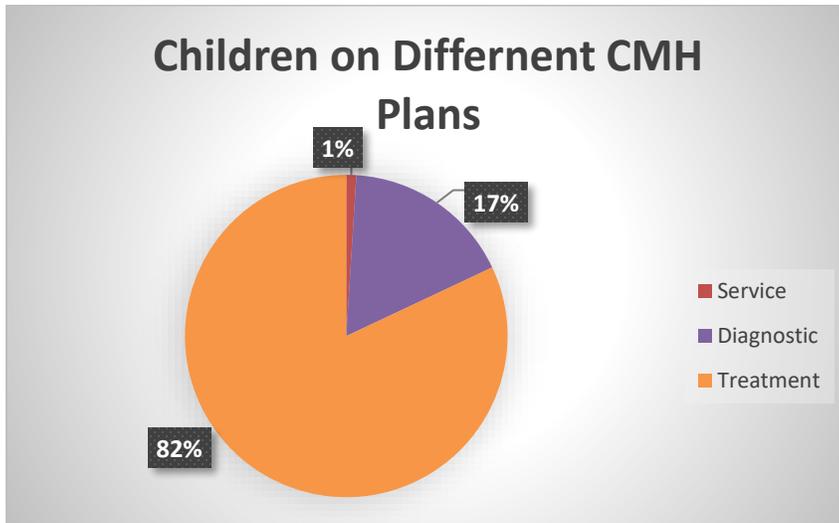
Thank you to everyone who helped and those who attended to get their vaccination.

229 flu shots given



Children with Medical Handicaps Program

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



\$95,550.00
Revenue

128
Children covered in all three service areas: diagnostic, treatment, and service coordination

Help Me Grow Home Visiting

Help Me Grow Home Visiting is a voluntary parent support program supported by ODH that helps foster parent-child attachment using an evidence-based approach. The program's goals are to improve maternal and child health, prevent child abuse and neglect, encourage positive parenting, and promote child development and school readiness by encouraging early prenatal and well-baby care, and providing parenting education to promote the comprehensive health and development of children.



23
Families
Served

\$98,483.00
Total Revenue

Environmental Health



Licensing Programs	Licenses	Inspections
Food Service Operation/Retail Food Establishments	192	425
Schools		11
Public Swimming Pools/Spas	8	30
Manufactured Home Parks		8
Campgrounds	2	3
Tattoo & Body Piercing Facilities	2	1
Solid Waste Facilities	1	4

Permit Programs	Permits	Inspections
Private Water Systems	53	26
Sewage System Installation	30	53
Septage Hauler Vehicles	15	3

Registration Programs	Registrations
Sewage System Installers	17
Septage Haulers	11
Sewage System Service Providers	7

53

Animal Bite Investigations

62% Increase

Private Water Systems Permits

165% Increase

Private Water System Inspections

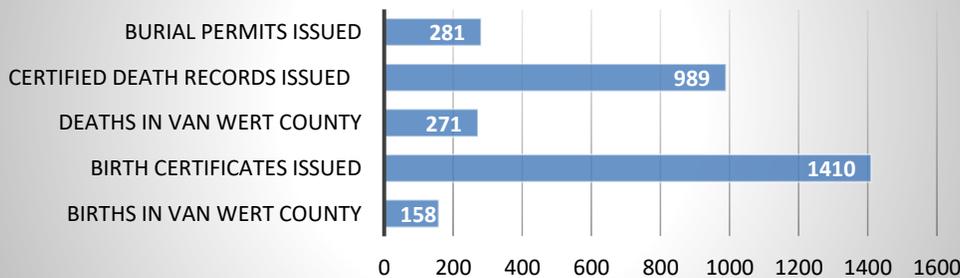
82% Increase

Water Samples

Miscellaneous Programs and Services	Totals
Nuisance Complaint Investigations/Re-inspections	68
Real Estate Well & Septic Inspections	59

Vital Statistics

2020 Vital Statistic Records



39

Home Birth Certificates Processed
(5 still pending)

Leading cause of death in Van Wert County in **2020**:

1. Ischemic Heart Disease
2. Other Heart Disease
3. Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease

Accreditation

Van Wert County General Health District continues to move toward accreditation. The department completed submission of documentation to the PHAB (Public Health Accreditation Board) in September 2019. This was a daunting process of over 300 documents and cover pages covering 12 domains. Due to COVID19 the accreditation process was put on hold during most of 2020. At the end of the year PHAB reviewed the department's submitted documents and scheduled a virtual site visit for the first quarter of 2021. This will put the accreditation decision into the second quarter of the year.

Community Involvement

The Van Wert County General Health District continues to be a member of the following groups; however, COVID-19 has suspended some activities. The department looks forward to engaging with them in the upcoming year.

Van Wert County
Health Collaborative

Soil Waste Policy Committee

Van Wert County Disaster Task Force

Live Healthy Van Wert

Domestic Violence Task Force

Family and Children First

Vantage Health Careers Advisory Board



Van Wert County
General Health District