



2005 ANNUAL REPORT

Working with Our Partners to Improve the Health of Hamilton County

As public health agencies around the world prepare for continuing threats such as natural disasters, terrorist attacks and pandemics, the Hamilton County General Health District made significant progress in 2005 strengthening old partnerships and creating new ones. Throughout the year, many opportunities arose to utilize these partnerships to improve the health and environment of our county. For example, regional task forces charged with examining causes behind infant mortality and violence provide a big picture of two of our region's key health and safety issues, and bring together professionals with the capacity to offer sustainable solutions to the problems. Partnerships with the community and other public health and emergency response agencies in the tri-state area, have made our region and our county safer, healthier and better prepared to respond to emergencies, as well as the day-to-day public health challenges of an urban county.



**HAMILTON COUNTY
GENERAL HEALTH DISTRICT**



Collaboration in Day-to-Day Public Health Activities

In 2005 the Health District began an open dialogue with the community to gain a better understanding of public health concerns from the community's perspective. The Community Health Assessment process began with a series of nine focus groups held throughout the county; more than 100 people attended the meetings. This partnership will continue throughout the next several years as programs and services are tailored to meet the needs of the community.

In August, more than 800 Southwest Ohio residents became infected with *Cryptosporidium*, a parasite found in drinking water, swimming pools and other water sources that can cause severe diarrheal illness. The *Cryptosporidium* outbreak provided an opportunity for public health agencies in southwest Ohio and Northern Kentucky to work together to prevent the further spread of the illness to schools, daycare centers and nursing homes.

Preparedness and Cooperation Put to the Test

During the summer, with assistance from the State of Ohio, the tri-state region conducted a functional Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) exercise involving public health departments, hospitals and Emergency Operation Centers in Southwest Ohio, Southeast Indiana and Northern Kentucky. The four-day exercise focused on the impact a terrorist attack would have on the region's health care infrastructure. Public health's objectives were to demonstrate the ability to use surveillance data to identify a WMD agent – in this case, Plague; initiate appropriate mass care steps to minimize the effects of the agent; and support other agencies in their response efforts to a terrorist incident. The exercise was an opportunity for more than 500 decision makers, response personnel and health care providers from across the tri-state region to reinforce training, utilize response plans and emergency response equipment, as well as gain a better understanding of our region's emergency response capabilities.

Responding to the Unexpected

Also in August, Health District staff members serving on the southwest Ohio ENSURE team were called to assist with air quality monitoring along the perimeter of a Styrene leak at Lunken Airport. Approximately 800 households and businesses were forced to evacuate the area for several days because a railroad car was leaking the chemical into the air. The southwest Ohio ENSURE team – short for Environmental Surety – is a regional, inter-disciplinary team represented by 13 health jurisdictions in southwest Ohio. The ENSURE collaborative provides our region with a knowledgeable, multi-disciplinary team that can provide environmental response to manmade and natural emergencies.

In addition to routine media relations efforts, the Health District's staff aided in the region's response to the devastating and long-lasting effects of Hurricane Katrina. In September, the Hamilton County Emergency Management Agency established the Hurricane Katrina Relief Center at Lunken Airport to receive evacuees from the devastated region. Health District staff provided public information support, establishing a media information line to better service local media, and worked side-by-side with volunteers from the Red Cross, FEMA, Veterans Affairs, Salvation Army and many other social service agencies providing assistance to evacuees.

OUTSIDE THE REALM OF EMERGENCY RESPONSE, Health District staff continued to utilize partnerships with community members, businesses and other service agencies to improve the overall health of the county.

In **Health Promotion and Education**, Health District staff continued to coordinate the Hamilton County Tobacco-Free Partnership, a group dedicated to eliminating tobacco use and its burden among county residents. In 2005, the Health District, along with this group, was involved in a mobilization effort to collect signatures for a statewide ballot initiative that will protect workers and families from secondhand smoke; a partnership with the Barrett Cancer Center to provide free tobacco cessation programs to county residents; and a partnership with physicians and area agencies to increase awareness and activism among older adults about the negative health impacts of secondhand smoke.

The Health District enhanced its health surveillance and emergency preparedness capabilities with the formation of the **Division of Epidemiology and Assessment** in 2005. The new division includes programs that address bioterrorism and emergency response planning and capabilities; communicable disease and injury surveillance; and collection and maintenance of vital statistics data including birth and death records. These programs include partnerships with: a community task force that examines the causes of infant mortality in our community; public health agencies working to improve the emergency response capabilities of the region; and a network of hospitals and physicians monitoring data to maintain an accurate picture of the region's health.

In **Environmental Health**, public health sanitarians partnered with the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) and area schools to participate in ODH's School Inspection Pilot Program. The School Inspection Pilot Program is the result of House Bill 203, more commonly known as Jarod's Law. Staff attended an extensive, two-day training program with emphasis on expanded inspection criteria, including science/laboratory rooms and the safety of school grounds and building exteriors. Health District staff completed 46 inspections under the expanded criteria.

In addition to recording a record number of plumbing inspections and permits in 2005, the **Plumbing Division** partnered with the Ohio Association of Plumbing Inspectors and the Association of Ohio Health Commissioners to generate statewide interest in the correlation between the importance of plumbing inspections and the integrity of the public water supply.

In 2005, **Waste Management** staff facilitated the removal of 7,218 tons of material and 1,098 tires from open dumps in the county. Additionally, the Health District, other local health departments, the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, and the Construction and Demolition Association of Ohio came together for the first annual training for owner/operators of Construction and Demolition Debris (C&DD) landfills. The groups have been working together to develop a comprehensive training program for C&DD owner/operators and to gain a better understanding of C&DD landfill compliance issues.

As a member of the Hamilton County Storm Water District, staff in the Health District's **Division of Water Quality** conducted storm water outfall monitoring and sampling in several area communities during 2005. The monitoring was part of a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency permit program that requires municipalities to monitor local waterways for sources of illicit discharges, such as industrial waste and run off from yards, streets, development sites and agricultural fields. Staff members, including interns from area colleges, located and mapped more than 3,000 illicit outfall sites throughout the county. Identifying these sites is the first step toward removing pollution from area waterways.

Medical handicaps affect children from all walks of life and the **Nursing Division** helps families across the county find medical services for children with special health care needs through the Ohio Department of Health's Bureau for Children with Medical Handicaps (BCMh). BCMh families receive assistance to help cover the costs of medical services not covered by Medicaid or private health insurance. In 2005 BCMh funding was restored to 2003 levels, making more families eligible for coverage. Health District nurses helped 297 families navigate resulting changes, including reapplying for coverage, choosing a Medicaid package, and referring families to physicians and services to help meet their child's special needs.



Health District Mission

The purpose of the Hamilton County General Health District is to work with the community to protect the public health and environment. By providing education, inspections, health care coordination, and data analysis we strive to assure that the citizens of Hamilton County are safe from disease, injury and contamination.

Health District Vision

The Health District will revolutionize the way it provides services to a changing community. We will provide a network of information to be used as a tool to improve public health. Communities will develop new and innovative ways to solve problems. Together we will be uniquely equipped to face the challenges of tomorrow and provide an environment in which we will be proud to live and work.

District Advisory Council

Members include presidents of township boards of trustees, village mayors, and the President of the Board of County Commissioners. Members are required by law to meet annually in March. They select the five-member Board of Health, make recommendations to the Board of Health, and authorize city contractual agreements.

Chairman **Joe Sykes**
Secretary **John Waksmundski**

Licensing Council

The Licensing Council provides input on rules and fees regarding business entities licensed by the Hamilton County Board of Health. It meets at least quarterly and appoints one member to the Board of Health.

Chairperson of Licensing Council **Larry Riddle**
Vice Chairperson **Jim Brett**
Secretary **Bob Mason**

Board of Health

The Board of Health is the governing body of the Hamilton County General Health District. It has the authority to adopt rules and regulations which have the same status as law, enact policies within the Health District, and hire a health commissioner. Meetings are held at the Health District office the second Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m.

President **Jim Brett**
Vice-President **Mark Rippe**
Board Members **Kenneth Amend, M.D.**
Thomas Chatham
Charles Reid, III

Health Commissioner and Staff

Health Commissioner **Timothy Ingram**
Assistant Health Commissioner **Kathy Lordo**, Department of Community Health Services

Divisions

Environmental Health **Chris Eddy**, Director
Epidemiology & Assessment **Cynthia Yund**, Director
Health Promotion and Education **Stacy Wegley**, Director
Nursing **Mary Sacco**, Director
Plumbing **Lisa Humble**, Director
Waste Management Services **Chuck DeJonckheere**, Director
Water Quality **Chris Griffith**, Director

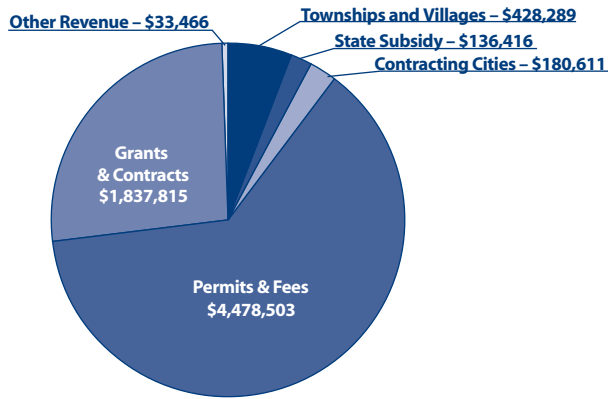
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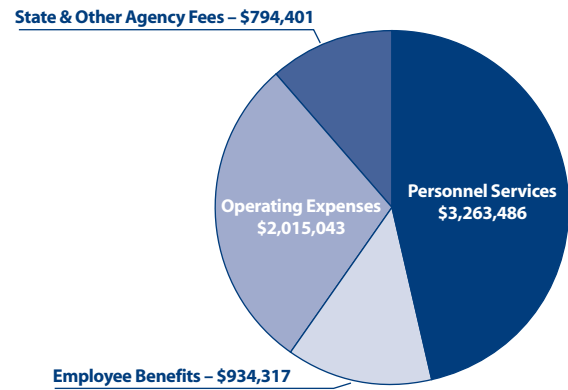
HAMILTON COUNTY GENERAL HEALTH DISTRICT

250 William Howard Taft Rd., 2nd FL • Cincinnati, OH 45219
513-946-7800 • 513-946-7890 (fax) • www.hamiltoncountyhealth.org

2005 Financial Report of the Hamilton County General Health District



2005 Total Revenue and Resources – \$7,095,100



2005 Total Expenditures – \$7,007,247

2005 Health Promotion and Education Statistics

Active for Life Participants	298
Chair Volleyball Participants	424
Falls Presentations	32
Resisting Muscle Loss Participants	328
You Hold the Key Participants	2,171
Youth Tobacco Prevention Participants	2,652
Adult Tobacco Cessation Participants	491
Senior Driving Academy Participants	175
Walk Club Participants	233

2005 Epidemiology and Assessment Statistics

Birth Records Recorded	6,098
Birth Records Issued	9,771
Death Records Recorded	4,460
Death Records Issued	21,076
Communicable Diseases Reported	1154

2005 Environmental Health Statistics

Food Inspections	6,541
FSAP - Individuals Trained	309
FSAP - Facilities Participating	68
Jail Inspections	21
Manufactured Home Park & Camp Inspections	304
Marina Inspections	1
Motel Inspections	106
Housing Inspections	944
Nuisance Complaint Inspections	1,238
Rabies Control Cat & Dog Bites	415
School Inspections	622
Swimming Pool/Spa Inspections	1,386

2005 Plumbing Statistics

Backflow Surveys/Inspections	319
Testable Backflow Devices	7,436
Plumbing Inspections	11,162
Plumbing Investigations	396
Plumbing Permits Issued	3,334

2005 Waste Management Statistics

C&DD Landfill Inspections	226
Closed Landfill Inspections	17
Compost Site Inspections	130
Infectious Waste Generator Inspections	229
Lead Assessments	12
Lead Clearances	103
Municipal Solid Waste Landfill Inspections	75
Open Dump Inspections	620
Sampling	34
Solid Waste Nuisance Inspections	155
Tire Site Inspections	40

2005 Water Quality Statistics

Aeration Inspections	9,094
Aeration Re-inspections	2,313
Construction Repair Reviews	211
Household Sewage Code Variances	20
Installer/Repairer Registrations	109
Non-mechanical Inspections	1,327
Non-mechanical Re-inspections	209
Nuisance Compl. Inspections & Re-inspections	654
Installation Inspections	394
Private Water Inspections	125
Semi-public Inspections	420
Semi-public Re-inspections	115
Septic Hauler Registrations	20
Septic System Application Permit to Install	257
Subdivision Reviews	29

2005 Nursing Statistics

BCMH Home Visits	297
IAP Home Visits	111
Immunizations Given at Clinics	4,578
Flu Shots Given	2,061
Number of Persons Using Clinics	1,945
Public Health Nursing Referrals	90
Tuberculosis Screenings	261

Contact Us:



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Frequently Requested Information

Hamilton County General Health District Online

On the Health District's Web site, you can find an immunization clinic, walking club or smoke-free restaurant; search for a plumbing contractor or septic system installer/repairer; read recent public health news and announcements; file a nuisance complaint; request a birth or death certificate; track your child's immunization records; and much more...

Visit us today at www.hamiltoncountyhealth.org.

Health District Main Number (513) 946-7800
Health District Fax Number (513) 946-7890

Departments

Health District Administration (513) 946-7822

Department of Community Health Services

Division of Epidemiology & Assessment (513) 946-7923

Office of Vital Statistics (513) 946-7815

Emergency Preparedness (513) 946-7889

Division of Health Promotion & Education (513) 946-7802

Division of Nursing (513) 946-7882

Department of Environmental Health Services

Division of Environmental Health (513) 946-7832

Division of Plumbing (513) 946-7852

Division of Waste Management (513) 946-7879

Division of Water Quality (513) 946-7862

Other Important Phone Numbers and Web sites

Environmental Health Information Line (513) 946-7844

Report a Dead Bird

Report High Mosquito Activity

Report an Animal Bite

File a Nuisance Complaint (513) 946-7800

www.hamiltoncountyhealth.org/contactus/

Get a Plumbing Permit (513) 946-7852

Report Storm Water Pollution (513) 946-7000

Find a Flu Shot (seasonal) (513) 931-SHOT (7468)

www.931SHOT.org

Hamilton County Safe Communities Coalition www.hamiltoncountysafecommunities.org

Hamilton County Tobacco Free Partnership www.tobaccofreehamiltoncounty.org



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