

2010 Annual Report



HAMILTON COUNTY
PUBLIC HEALTH

PREVENT. PROMOTE. PROTECT.

Proactively Protecting People from Disease

The purpose of Hamilton County Public Health (HCPH) is to work with the community to protect public health. There are numerous ways in which we work to achieve our mission, but it is increasingly important to do so proactively.

Obesity Prevention

Like the rest of the country, Hamilton County is experiencing an epidemic of obesity, placing a huge burden on our health care system, our economy and our quality of life. The obesity epidemic has the potential to be the largest public health issue in decades. Chronic disease is the leading cause of death in this country due to specific behaviors such as poor diet and physical inactivity. These diseases are largely preventable with healthy lifestyle changes such as eating fruits and vegetables and getting regular physical activity. We know this is a winnable battle, but we also know that healthy choices are not accessible for every family in our community.

HCPH began to focus on this issue in 2008 with the goal of empowering the communities of Lincoln Heights, Lockland and Woodlawn to create environmental and policy changes so their residents can more easily lead a healthy lifestyle. There have been some successes. However, with children developing obesity-related diseases that were typically seen only in adults, clearly more work needed to be done.

In 2010, HCPH proactively pursued additional funding to compliment our community initiatives. Our efforts paid off. We received a \$6.7 million dollar grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). This funding, part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, gave us the capacity to support the work of additional partners and expand our work across the county. The director of CDC, Dr. Thomas Frieden traveled to Hamilton County to make the official announcement.

Branded as WeTHRIVE!sm, the campaign focuses on policy and environmental approaches that will make healthy choices available, affordable and easy to find for all residents of Hamilton County.



This is a county-wide movement, focusing on reducing childhood obesity and other chronic diseases. Community partners, schools, businesses, churches and other key leaders are coming together to encourage physical activity and healthy eating. Securing federal grant money expands HCPH's work across Hamilton County at no additional cost to the townships, villages and cities that we serve.

Efforts to reduce obesity, increase physical activity and improve nutrition became fundamental in 2010, not only for public health, but also for the entire health care system.

**“Imagine a community
where wellness is the rule
rather than the exception.”**



Integrated Prevention System

Shared goals and integration across all health care systems are necessary to improve population-based health. In 2010, a rejuvenation in all systems of disease prevention began with impetus from federal legislation. The Affordable Care Law was passed to reduce health disparities, emphasize preventive services and help more people attain health coverage. The key in Hamilton County is to leverage existing health care and social service resources to make lasting improvements for the people we serve.

In order to improve the health of our residents, we need to first understand their needs. This can be accomplished with a community assessment. An assessment not only gathers, analyzes and reports information about the needs of the community; it also captures the capacities and strengths that are available to meet those needs. New federal guidelines instruct hospitals to conduct an assessment once every three years. HCPH plans to participate in this process.

Additionally, just as hospitals seek to achieve accreditation standards, for the first time governmental public health systems will go through an accreditation process. Though this process formally begins in 2012, HCPH has taken a proactive approach and is positioned to be among the first local health departments in Ohio to achieve accreditation. Public health accreditation will improve and protect the health of every community by advancing the quality and performance of public health departments.

These changes and collaborative efforts will build a more effective and efficient health care system which includes public health as an equal participant. This is the opportunity to create a more comprehensive system that crosses all health care systems and resources in our community.

“A transformed health care system will improve population-based health status.”

Programs and Services Updates

Disease Prevention: The Disease Prevention Division embarked on a Continuous Quality Improvement project to improve the quality and timeliness of disease investigation and reporting data while limiting the need for duplicate data entry. The process to monitor the receipt of disease reports was updated to reflect the growth in the use of electronic lab reporting.

Emergency Preparedness: For the last few years, Emergency Preparedness staff has worked with 44 jurisdictions to develop a plan that would utilize familiar local places as Points of Dispensing (POD) should the need for mass medication or vaccine distribution arise. HCPH conducted a large-scale exercise in 2010 in which seven communities organized, set-up and operated PODs that provided 951 doses of free seasonal flu vaccine. This medication/vaccination distribution was a simulation of how a POD would operate during a real emergency.

Environmental Health: In 2010, food safety training expanded and was extremely successful. The Environmental Health Division taught 577 customers compared to 244 in 2009. This is a 58% increase in education of people who work in Food Service Operations and Retail Food Establishments. Education is a high priority for the Environmental Health Division which continually strives to inform food service operators in order to protect the health of our community.

Epidemiology: The Division of Epidemiology worked with schools during 2010 to build a new level of disease surveillance in Hamilton County. The new system, HealthWatch, helps public health practitioners gain a real-time perspective of emerging illness in the local school-age population. This improves communication between school nurses and HCPH epidemiologists, who collect and analyze the data to search for unusual trends of illness.

Health Promotion and Education: As part of the WeTHRIVE!sm initiative, the villages of Lincoln Heights and Woodlawn passed 100% Tobacco Free policies for all village-owned property. The policies apply to all indoor and outdoor facilities including buildings, parks and recreation facilities that belong to the villages. This is an important step to create healthy environments in which residents are fully protected from tobacco use and secondhand smoke.

Nursing: The Division of Nursing spearheaded HCPH's involvement with the Medicaid Administrative Claiming (MAC) process in 2010. MAC provides reimbursement to local health departments for administrative activities that directly support efforts to identify and enroll potential clients into Medicaid. This helps remove barriers to accessing Medicaid and reduces gaps in Medicaid services. Nursing's effort brought in \$8,572 during the first quarter of participation.

Plumbing: Effective July 1 the Plumbing Division began inspecting all Medical Gas Systems within our jurisdiction. All medical gas installations intended for human consumption or use must be inspected for compliance to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 99C. This includes but is not limited to: hospitals, emergency rooms, dental offices and surgery centers.

Waste Management: Tire removal was a special focus of the Waste Management Division in 2010. Abandoned scrap tires are a public health threat because they are an ideal breeding ground for mosquitoes, pose a potential fire risk and create unsightly nuisances. Staff coordinated the removal of more than 500 scrap tires on a property in Columbia Township. Staff also facilitated the removal of more than 1,000 abandoned tires from an open dumping site in Miami Township. In both cases, grant funds were secured to cover the cost of disposal. The efforts involved collaboration with Hamilton County Recycling and Solid Waste District, Rumpke, Ohio EPA and Ohio Department of Natural Resources.

Water Quality: The Water Quality Division continues to play a key role in implementing required action items in the Hamilton County Storm Water District's National Pollution Discharge Elimination System Permit issued by Ohio EPA. In 2010, Water Quality staff worked with police, fire, facilities management and public works departments in 43 jurisdictions across Hamilton County to review existing procedures regarding pollution prevention. Staff provided education, conducted audits of existing operations affecting storm water, mapped existing storm water collection systems, and prepared a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan for 124 government-owned facilities.

Vital Statistics: In 2010, HCPH began issuing birth certificates for persons born at any hospital in Ohio. Previously, customers seeking birth certificates had to work with the local health department in which the birth took place due to a State of Ohio policy. With multiple health departments in southwest Ohio, this caused customers much confusion and frustration. This is a significant improvement in customer service and simplifies the process of birth certificate requests across Ohio.

Hamilton County Public Health Mission

The purpose of Hamilton County Public Health 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.

Hamilton County Public Health Vision

Hamilton County Public Health 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.

Our Core Values

Our service will be prompt, reliable and professional. Our staff will be caring and responsible.

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 four of the five members of the 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 annually and appoints one member to the Board of Health.

Chairperson of Licensing Council	Larry Riddle
Vice Chairperson	Jim Brett
Secretary	Bill Mowery

Board of Health

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

President	Tracey A. Puthoff, Esq.
Vice President	Thomas Chatham
Board Members	Kenneth Amend, M.D. Jim Brett Mark Rippe

Health Commissioner and Staff

Health Commissioner	Timothy Ingram
Assistant Health Commissioner	Kathy Lordo, Department of Community Health Services
Assistant Health Commissioner	Greg Kesterman, Department of Environmental Health Services

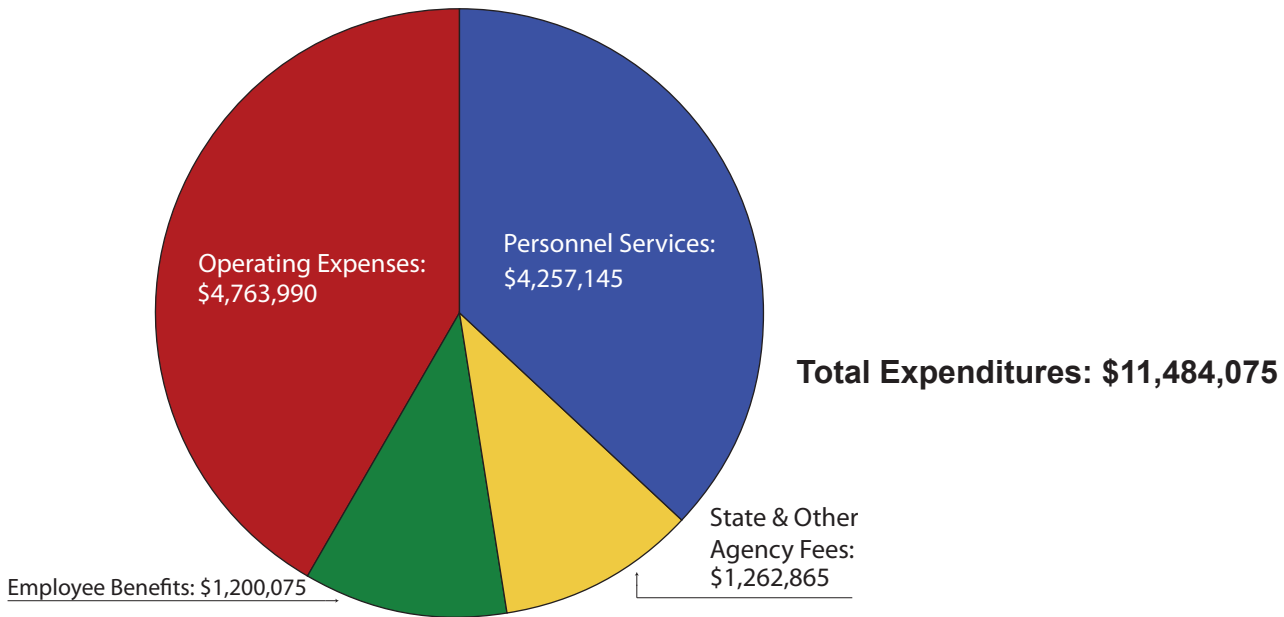
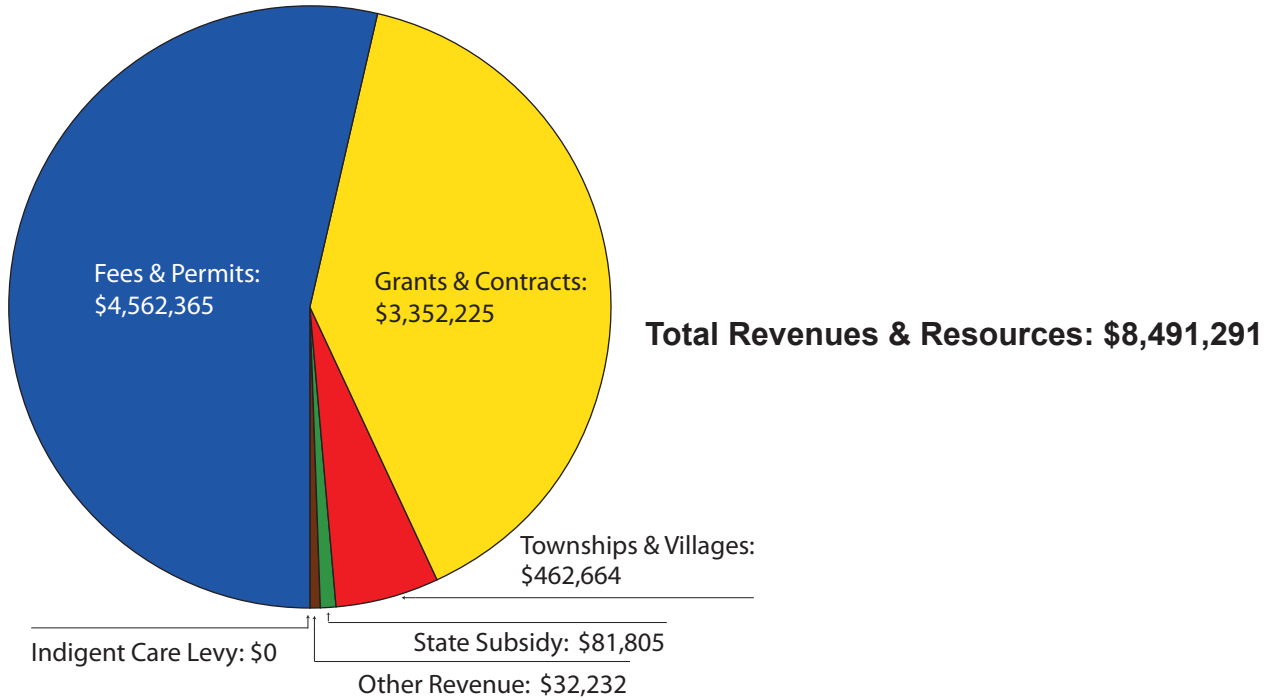
Divisions

Disease Prevention	Pat Allingham, Director
Environmental Health	Jeremy Hessel, Director
Epidemiology and Assessment	Ted Folger, Director
Health Promotion and Education	Stacy Wegley, Director
Nursing	Mary Sacco, Director
Plumbing	Lisa Humble, Director
Waste Management	Chuck DeJonckheere, Director
Water Quality	Chris Griffith, Director

Financial Report

2010 Financial Report of Hamilton County Public Health

Numbers rounded to the nearest dollar



The chart above shows that 54 percent of our total revenues and resources for 2010 were from fees and permits, 40 percent from grants and contracts and less than seven percent from local and state funding. Salary and benefits account for 48 percent of our expenditures followed by 41 percent for operating costs and 11 percent for state and other agency fees.



Frequently Requested Information

New Customer Service Reorganization

Hamilton County Public Health has restructured our administrative support staff to create the new Customer Service program. Now there is only one phone number to call — (513) 946-7800 which is answered by a live person — whether you want to file a nuisance complaint, order a birth or death certificate, get a plumbing permit or report an animal bite.

Main Number.....	(513) 946-7800
Administration/Health Commissioner's Office.....	(513) 946-7822
Main Fax.....	(513) 946-7890
Plumbing Fax.....	(513) 946-7925
TB Clinic Fax.....	(513) 946-7930

Important Phone Numbers and Web sites

Hamilton County Public Health Online.....	www.HamiltonCountyHealth.org
 Follow us on Twitter.....	@HamCoHealth
 Join us on Facebook.....	Search Hamilton County Public Health
WeTHRIVE! sm	www.WatchUsThrive.org
Hamilton County Fall Prevention Task Force.....	www.FallPreventionTaskForce.org
Odor Complaint Hotline.....	(513) 946-7879

Programs and Inspections

Epidemiology and Assessment

Birth Records Recorded	5,735
Birth Records Issued	11,309
Death Records Recorded	4,671
Death Records Issued	23,978
Communicable Diseases Reported	854
Confirmed Cases of Tuberculosis	27
Directly Observed Therapy Visits	1,299

Nursing

BCMH contacts	2,571
IAP Home Visits	46
Immunizations Given at Clinics	2,993
Flu Shots Given	1,079
Patients Visiting Regular Clinics	1,510
Public Health Nursing Referrals	15
Tuberculosis Screenings	46

Waste Management

Construction and Demolition Debris Landfills	186
Compost Site Inspections	78
Infectious Waste Facility Inspections	150
Lead Risk Assessments	6
Municipal Solid Waste Facility Inspections	57
Open Dumping Investigations	194
Environmental Sampling at Waste Facilities	40
Solid Waste Nuisance Inspections	891
Tire Site Inspections	74
Tattoo/Piercing Facility Inspections	68

Plumbing

Backflow Surveys	232
Backflow Inspections	130
Testable Backflow Devices	9,168
Plumbing Inspections	6,366
Plumbing Investigations	109
Plumbing Permits issued	1,725

Health Promotion and Education

Active for Life Participants	66
Fall Prevention Presentation Attendees	1,009
You Hold the Key Participants	3,068
Mocktail Event Participants	255
School Wellness Teams	10

Environmental Health

Food Inspections	5,402
Food Safety Training – Individuals Trained	580
Food Safety Training – Facilities Trained	118
ServSafe – Individuals Trained	35
Jail Inspections	10
Manufactured Home Park & Camp Inspections	202
Marina Inspections	2
Public Accommodation Facility Inspections	106
Housing Inspections	603
Nuisance Complaint Inspections	2,192
Rabies Control Cat & Dog Bites	476
School Inspections	442
Swimming Pool/Spa Inspections	1,142
Smoke Free Ohio Inspections	153

Water Quality

Mechanical STS Inspections	10,337
Mechanical STS Re-inspections	3,739
STS New Construction/Repair Reviews	97
Household Sewage Code Variances	17
Installer/Repairer Registrations	76
Non-mechanical STS Inspections	1,160
Non-mechanical STS Re-inspections	125
STS Installation Inspections	316
Private Water Inspections	39
Semi-public STS Inspections	449
Semi-public STS Re-inspections	143
Septic Hauler Registrations	20
STS Permit to Install	85
Subdivision Reviews	11