

2015 ANNUAL REPORT

Active, Varied ... But Never Dull

Public health encompasses everything from communicable disease to environmental health concerns to promotion of healthy lifestyles. Today, public health is faced with a new and daunting challenge – the abuse of opioids, particularly heroin.

Heroin use has increased throughout the United States and Hamilton County is no exception. We have seen heroin-related hospital visits double in four years. The secondary effects of opioid abuse, such as Hepatitis have also increased. In fact, Hepatitis C is now the most frequently reported communicable disease in our region.

Addiction is a disease and must be treated as such. We have joined forces with leaders throughout the County to form the Hamilton County Heroin Coalition, which will take a multi-pronged approach to dealing with the epidemic of opioid abuse. Our role will be to work with the harm reduction and prevention component of the Coalition mission. So far, our team has taken a deep dive looking into the effects of the drug, fentanyl, used to increase heroin's strength, often with deadly consequences. Furthermore, our medical director has worked closely with first responders to train them in the use of naloxone, an overdose reversing medication used to save lives directly at the scene. As of this report, more than 3,300 doses have been distributed to police, fire, and treatment agencies.

With a unified approach, I am confident that we can begin to stem the tide of this unfortunate epidemic. If you are interested in what can be done at the community level to reduce opioid use, please call me to discuss options.

Sharonville

I am pleased to report that the City of Sharonville recently completed its first year as the newest community member of Hamilton County Public Health. Over the past year, we have worked to integrate the City's former health functions into our repertoire of public health services. City voters made it official last November, overwhelmingly supporting the move.

We are looking forward to many years of healthy relationships serving the citizens of Sharonville.

Sewage Treatment Systems

Last year ushered in an overhaul of state-wide rules for home sewage treatment systems. Hamilton County is no stranger to these systems, with more than 18,000 throughout the County. The rules provide more uniformity for sewage treatment systems across the State.

Hamilton County Public Health is charged with permitting and inspecting home sewage treatment systems in our jurisdiction – a public health function. The agency's home sewage treatment program includes inspection of all sewage treatment systems to ensure they are operational; review of system design and inspection of installations to ensure they are done properly, thus protecting the homeowner's investment and the environment. We continue our strong working partnerships with the Metropolitan Sewer District, the Hamilton County Stormwater District and all of the agencies charged with maintaining and improving water quality.

I have often heard it said that how a society manages its waste is a great indicator of its health. The statewide rules are a step in the right direction.

Health Equity

All people have a right to good health. Unfortunately, in our society, this right can be altered by health determinants such as social, economic, and environmental conditions. These health inequities are avoidable and often unfair.

Hamilton County Public Health took a hard look into the health factors of our County and we published our first County-wide Health Equity report. The report indicates that where you live can have a significant impact on your health and expected longevity.

The report is based on geography and allows users to quickly identify communities to see how these determinants affect our health. I urge you to spend some time with this report – you will find it on our website at: www.HCPH.org. It is eye-opening and can help community leaders identify and react to some of these determinants. I am happy to work with any of our communities to put our agency resources behind efforts to help even the playing field for everyone.

WeTHRIVE!SM

WeTHRIVE! is our agency-wide initiative designed to make lasting changes and create healthy environments where citizens live, work, learn and play. WeTHRIVE! teams are made up of a community-wide representation of citizens and leadership.

So far, we have 19 communities tackling various health and community improvement projects through WeTHRIVE! pathways. If you have not already done so, I urge you to call me for a quick introduction to the initiative. We have already seen the work pay dividends for participating communities.

Clean Kitchen

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, one in six Americans (48 million people) become ill each year by consuming contaminated food and beverages, 128,000 are hospitalized and 3,000 die of foodborne diseases. Food service facilities, which include schools, restaurants, mobile food vendors and healthcare facilities bear significant responsibility in protecting public health.

The Hamilton County Public Health Clean Kitchen Award recognizes the best-of-the-best in maintaining safe food service operations. The award is not easy to receive. When you see one on display, it points to an operator that takes the responsibility of food safety very seriously.

When choosing a place to eat, make sanitation a priority. You can view inspection data for all food service facilities and listings for all Clean Kitchen Award winners on the Hamilton County Public Health website at: www.HCPH.org.

Public Health Accreditation

Public health departments throughout the country are going through a rigorous accreditation process. In a nutshell, accreditation seeks to improve and protect public health by advancing the quality and performance of public health departments. All health departments in Ohio must achieve accreditation by the end of 2020.

Hamilton County has business plans; government plans; transportation plans. Why aren't we treating health the same way? The first step in the process was completion of a community health assessment. The assessment will then lead to development of a community health improvement plan. The assessment document is available on our website (www.HCPH.org) for review. I welcome your comments.

Stay healthy!
 Tim Ingram
 Health Commissioner

**Frequently Requested Information
 Customer Service and Important Phone Numbers**

- Main Number
(513) 946-7800
- Administration/Health Commissioner's Office
(513) 946-7822
- Main Fax
(513) 946-7890
- TB Clinic, Nursing, STD & HIV Fax
(513) 946-7603
- Odor Complaint Hotline
(513) 946-7879

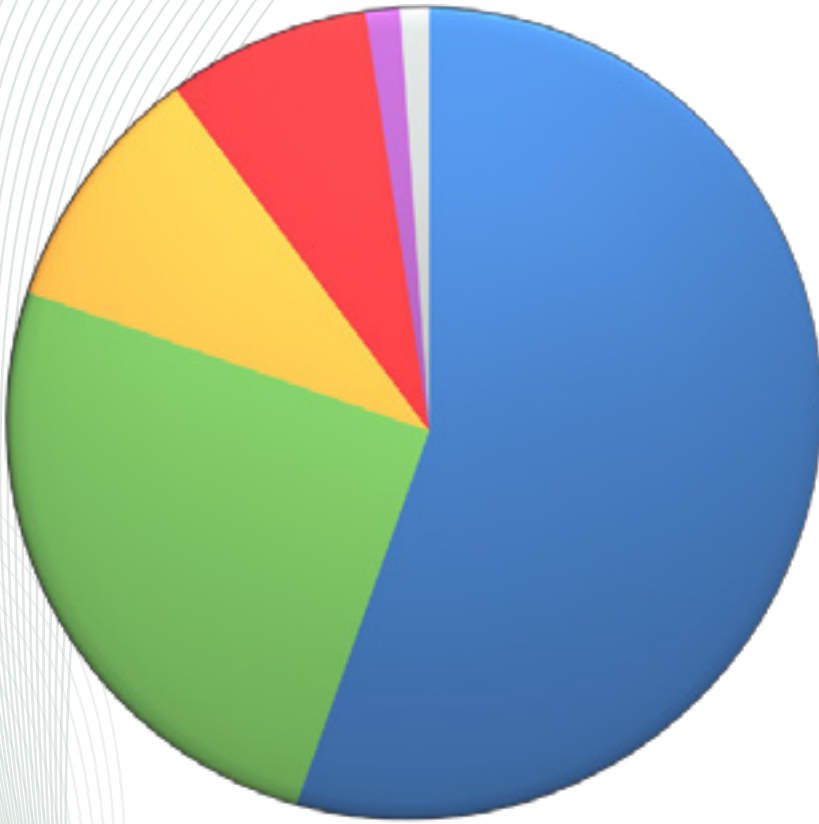
Web and Social Media

- Hamilton County Public Health Online
www.HCPH.org
- Follow us on Twitter
@HamCoHealth
- Join us on Facebook
www.fb.com/HamCoHealth
- YouTube
www.youtube.com/HamCoHealth
- WeTHRIVE!SM
www.WatchUsThrive.org

2015 Program Highlights

- Birth Records Issued 17,921
- Death Records Issued. 27,233
- Communicable Diseases Reported 11,576
- Communicable Disease Outbreaks 16
- Tuberculosis Screenings 1,967
- Active Cases of Tuberculosis 8
- Immunizations Given at Clinics. 1,622
- Public Health Nuisance Complaints 1,696
- Tattoo/Piercing Facility Inspections 31
- Waste Facility Inspections 380
- Plumbing Permits Issued 4,384
- WeTHRIVE! Communities 19
- Food Service Inspections 7,272
- Food Safety Training – Individuals Trained 696
- School Inspections 356
- Swimming Pool/Spa Inspections. 1,996
- Sewage Treatment System (STS) Inspections/Re-inspections 16,605
- Community Preparedness Points of Dispensing Sites 72

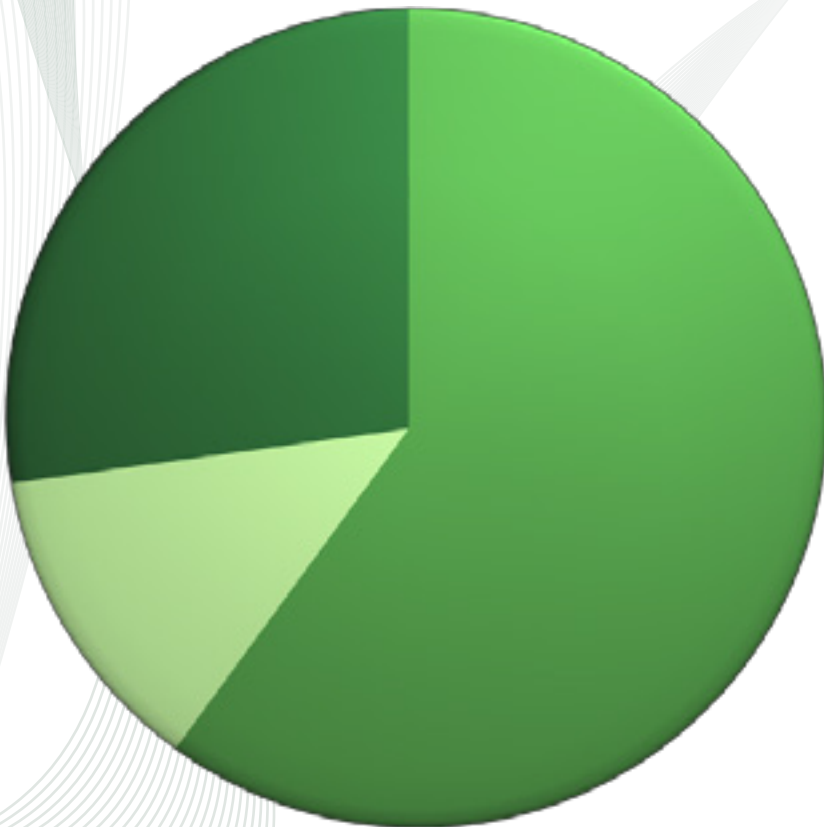
REVENUE & EXPENDITURES



Revenues

● Fees & Permits	\$5,503,481
● Grants & Contracts	2,498,673
● TB Control-Indigent Care Levy	930,000
● Cities, Townships, Villages	755,433
● State Subsidies	128,652
● Other Revenue	110,154

Total Revenues \$9,926,393



Expenditures

● Personnel Services	\$5,721,006
● State & Other Agency Fees	1,216,950
● Operating Expenses	2,599,827

Total Expenditures \$9,537,783

Hamilton County Public Health Mission

Hamilton County Public Health educates, serves and protects our community for a healthier future.

Hamilton County Public Health Vision

Healthy choices. Healthy lives. Healthy communities.

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 Gwen McFarlin
- Secretary Lawanda Corman

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 Neil Ramsey

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 on the second Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m.

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

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 David Carlson, Director
- Health Promotion and Education Rebecca Stowe, Director
- Plumbing Lisa Humble, Director
- Waste Management Chuck DeJonckheere, Director
- Water Quality Chris Griffith, Director

