NEWS

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Community AHEAD Provides Valuable County Health Data

Hamilton County, OH……With the click of a computer mouse button, anyone can access a wealth of data covering health conditions in Hamilton County.

Called Community AHEAD, an acronym for Access to Hamilton County Epidemiology and Assessment Data, this powerful, user-friendly database provides an up close and personal look at health conditions affecting the entire county. The AHEAD tool also allows users to zoom in on a specific area within the county and look at health issues affecting individual neighborhoods.

"Information is power," says Hamilton County Health Commissioner, Tim Ingram. "By putting this information directly into the hands of community leaders and the general public, we're working to develop a good, basic understanding of the health issues that we in public health deal with every day. Understanding health conditions will ultimately lead to prevention and better health practices county-wide," Ingram says.

Categories covered within the AHEAD database are Maternal and Infant Health; Communicable Disease; Mortality; and Injury. "These categories allow the public to understand the impact of specific diseases and injuries and recognize trends in their communities." says Ted Folger, Hamilton County Public Health Director of Epidemiology and Assessment. "Because information is power, it's important to understand how to operate the AHEAD tool and how to best understand the information it provides. It's basically the same data we use in conducting epidemiological surveillance throughout the county, so understanding the data and how it affects individual communities can lead to positive change."

Community leadership and the public can learn how to operate the AHEAD tool through an instructional video available at www.hamiltoncountyhealth.org. The instructional video and the AHEAD program are available from the homepage. For more information on accessing, operating or understanding any of the data available, call Ted Folger at 513-946-7873.

Hamilton County Public Health works to assure the 460,000 citizens living outside the cities of Cincinnati, Norwood, Sharonville and Springdale are safe from disease, injury and contamination.

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