

## PUBLIC HEALTH AT WORK IN KNOX COUNTY



Marcia Tidyman, R.N. gives a flu shot during the annual drive-thru flu shot clinic in October.



Karen Lee, R.N. adjusts the headset for a hearing test during the Early Childhood Health Fair in August.



Health Educator Mike Whitaker provides one-on-one counseling for a smoking cessation client.

### TO THE KNOX COUNTY CITIZENS:

Despite state budget cuts and a decrease in grant funding in 2008, the Knox County Health Department continued to provide timely and quality public health services in the community. Yet, the economic situation took its toll as the agency was forced to lay off two employees in the Health Promotions Division directly due to a funding decrease in tobacco prevention and a lack of funding in abstinence education.

Even with the cutbacks, the Health Department continued to be the main provider of childhood shots, saw an increase in patients to our five-day-a-week dental and medical clinics and maintained quality home health care services with more than 10,000 home visits. Our dedicated staff worked to protect the environment through inspections, conducted communicable disease surveillance and promoted good health practices such as handwashing, proper nutrition and smoking cessation.

Once again the agency tested the emergency response capability of our staff by administering over 600 flu shots during a drive-thru flu shot clinic at the county fairgrounds in October. This was the fourth consecutive year for this successful event.

This past year the agency continued to provide Senior Wellness Clinics throughout the county along with providing and participating in events for families and children sponsored by the WIC and Help Me Grow programs. We also worked with other community partners to sponsor an Amish Health & Safety Day, the Earth Day Health Expo, the Early Childhood Health Fair and Family Fun Day.

On behalf of the Board of Health, I am pleased to present the 2008 annual report of the Knox County General Health District. Our staff is dedicated to promoting healthier lifestyles, providing quality medical, dental and home health care and conducting necessary environmental inspections for a healthier and safer Knox County.

Dennis G. Murray, R.S., M.P.H.  
HEALTH COMMISSIONER



Dr. Laura Foliano, who joined the medical staff in 2008, examines a patient in the medical clinic.



Glenn Barteau, R.N. checks a patient's cholesterol during a Senior Wellness Clinic in Fredericktown.



Jamie Lee Curtis, featured speaker for a Women's Health Week event greets attendees after the program.

# 2008 Statistics

## Birth & Death Records

Births Recorded	486
Teen Mother Births	52
Premature Births	22
Mothers Who Smoke	139
Unwed Mothers	231
Deaths Recorded	499
Heart Related	165
Cancer	114
Lung Disease	41
Flu/Pneumonia	21
Strokes/CVA	17
Accidents	12
Fetal Deaths	3
Child Deaths	4
Trauma Deaths	2
Suicides	5
Certified Copies Issued	3,788
Birth	1,891
Death	1,897

## ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

### Rabies Control Program

Animal Bites Reported	102
Dog	75
Cat	22
Other	5
Specimens to Lab	22
Positive Rabies Test	0

### Food Protection Program

Licenses Issued	589
Inspections	749

### Private Water Program

Permits to Install	122
Total Inspections	161
Consultations	262
Water Samples	
Collected by HD	256
Collected by Others	247
# Unacceptable	104

### Residential Sewage

Site Evaluations	105
Permit to Install	126
Number of Inspections	179
Consultations	669

### Public Health Nuisances

Nuisances Reported	277
Number Valid	171
Investigations	402
Nuisances Abated	245

# HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2008: PEOPLE,



Tina Nichols with the HIV prevention program through the Ohio Department of Health, goes over paperwork with a patient during a visit to the health department's monthly evening medical clinic. In 2008, the health department started offering free HIV rapid testing during the late clinic with results available in 20 minutes.

► As part of the Smoke Free Workplace Act, the Environmental Health Staff investigated 53 smoking complaints of which 39 were dismissed. There were three warnings issued; four \$100 fines; five \$500 fines, one \$1,000 fine and one \$2,500 fine for not prohibiting smoking.

► In collaboration with other central Ohio health departments, we sponsored a "cover-the-cough" campaign with TV advertising on cable channels. Other advertising efforts during the year included ads on pharmacy bags, billboards and *The Shopper*.

► For National Nutrition Month in March, the WIC staff sponsored a "veggie fest" for employees featuring a variety of veggies and homemade salad dressings. Another workplace wellness activity was a 12-week inter-agency challenge titled *Feelin' Great in '08* where employees tracked several healthy behaviors. Winners were rewarded with memberships donated by the YMCA and gift certificates for exercise equipment.



Director of Nursing Jackie Fletcher, RN, was honored with the Hero Award in the healthcare category presented by the American Red Cross of Knox County. She was recognized for her daily acts of caring and going above and beyond the call of duty.

► Utilizing the new state school inspection criteria referred to as Jarod's Law, the Environmental Health staff started safety inspections at local schools. The Ohio Department of Health provided the staff with monitoring equipment for relative humidity and carbon dioxide. Other services provided to local schools included: administration of MMR shots to middle school students; educational presentations on nutrition and puberty; development of a policy for dealing with head lice; and formation of pandemic flu emergency plans.



Samantha Avery of Mount Vernon gets a Panoramic X-ray of her teeth during a visit to the dental clinic. In 2008, more than 3,000 people visited the dental clinic which is open five days a week.



Home Health Aide Cheryl Thompson gives directions for a fishing game at the WIC booth during the annual Family Fun Day. Throughout the year, health department staff represent the agency at various events.

► In addition to presentations for schools, businesses and social clubs, the health department staff conducted several trainings for community members including: communicable disease and bloodborne pathogen trainings for daycare workers; person-in-charge training for food service operations; and CPR/first aid classes for parents of young children.

# PROJECTS, PROMOTION AND PROGRESS

► To test our emergency preparedness procedures, the health department conducted a pandemic flu exercise on July 10. There were 52 people involved in the exercise, representing 14 different agencies. Evaluators were impressed with the collaboration between agencies and the outcome of the exercise. Later in the month, 22 representatives from local agencies, businesses and the media met to discuss communications during emergency situations.



Help Me Grow (HMG) Family Service Coordinator Julie Mickley directs a music and play session for HMG parents and their children. Throughout the year, the HMG staff offers educational opportunities for families.

► Flu shots were available daily on a walk-in basis in the medical clinic, in addition to five community clinics and a drive-thru clinic. Even with the availability of flu shots at various other outlets in the community, the health department continues to be the main provider of flu shots in the county, administering 2,764 shots in 2008.



Dogs and their owners wait in line at a rabies clinic held in the health department garage. There were 118 animals vaccinated at the clinic which was a collaborative effort between the health department and the Knox County Humane Society.

► For Christmas, health department employees purchased gift items for several Home Health clients and all Home Health patients received a plate of cookies made by health department employees.



Sanitarian Nate Overholt tests the food temperature during an inspection. All food serving operations are inspected at least twice during the year by the Environmental Health staff.

► On Sept 14, the remnants of Hurricane Ike brought high winds to Ohio knocking out electrical power to more than 500,000 households and businesses including 15,000 in Knox County. Unlike many health departments in the state, the Knox County Health Department was able to stay open thanks to a 100 kilowatt generator purchased two years ago with Homeland Security funds. The building roof sustained \$6,000 in damages and several employees were without power for most of the following week but there was no loss of work.



Home Health Aide Tiffany Gorley applies lotion to Home Health patient Ethel Page while her cat, Charlie, looks on.

► Senior Wellness Clinics continued in 2008 with the free cholesterol, glucose and blood pressure screenings held each month in a different community location. Attendees also received medication boxes, wallet-sized magnifiers and Vial of Life (VOL) kits. Designed to speak for you when you can't speak for yourself, the VOL contains important medical information that can assist emergency personnel in giving the proper medical treatment.

# 2008 Statistics

## FAMILY & COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES

### General Medical Clinic

Patients Served	1708
New Patients	821
Adults	1,570
Children	273

### Child Health Clinic

Patients Served	453
New Patients	239
Total Visits	455

### Dental Clinic

Patients Served	3,253
New Patients	1,138
Total Visits	3,397

### Immunization Program

Childhood Shots	7,893
Flu	2,793
Tetanus	180
Hepatitis B	693

### Tuberculosis Control

PPD Skin Tests	1,156
Confirmed TB Cases	1

### Help Me Grow Program

Referrals Received	529
# of Prenatal Home Visits	10
# of Newborn Referrals	350
Total Visits	1,135

### Communicable Disease

Class A Diseases Reported	119
Class B Diseases Reported	84

### WIC (WOMEN, INFANTS & CHILDREN)

Certified Visits for Year	3,527
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### BCMH Program

Consultations	1,681
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### Home Health Care

Referrals Received	371
Patients Admitted	264
Total Visits	10,252

## HEALTH EDUCATION AND PROMOTION

School Presentations	137
Public Presentations	264
Collaborative Projects	135
Child Car Seats Distributed	49
Adult Smoking Cessation Class Participants	133



To help keep local residents and other health care providers informed of public health issues in Knox County, the health department produces a quarterly newsletter, *Check-Up*.



To promote childhood immunizations, the health department ran a series of billboards featuring children and dogs with the tagline, "We both need our shots."



As part of National Public Health Week in April, the health department presents the Partner in Public Health Award to individuals and organizations who play an essential role in promoting public health in Knox County.

The 2008 recipients were Mary Day of Knox Community Hospital, the Knox County Fair Board, Kiwanis Club of Mount Vernon and Dave Bevington and Adam Taylor of 13 WMVO - 93.7 FM radio.

## BOARD OF HEALTH

- PRESIDENT**  
\*Lee Rhoades
- PRESIDENT PRO-TEM**  
\*\* Laura Haberman, R.N.
- MEMBERS**
- \*\*\* Craig Gilmore
- \*\* Scott Harmon, D.V.M.
- \* Ronda Hathaway, R.N.
- \*\* Gary Mizer
- \*\* L. Keith Plocki, M.D.
- \*\* Eric Siekkinen, R.Ph.
- \* Shirley Timpe, R.N.

\*Appointed by Mount Vernon City Council

\*\*Appointed by District Advisory Council

\*\*\*Appointed by the Licensing Council

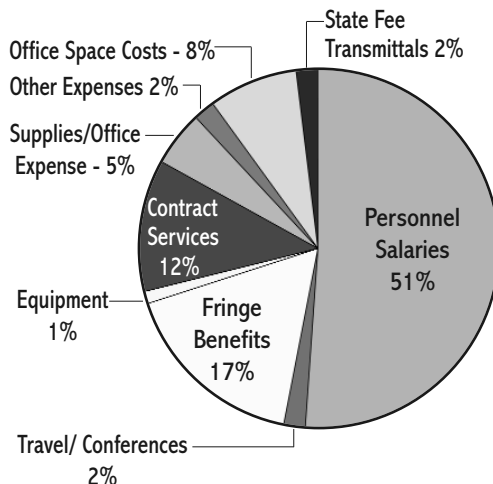
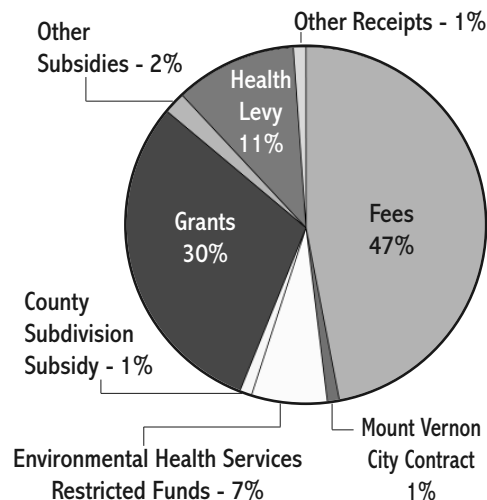
## FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

### REVENUE SOURCES\*

Fees	\$1,491,585
Grants	946,912
Health Levy	341,840
EH Restricted Funds	218,668
Other Subsidies	46,955
Mount Vernon City Contract	43,285
County Subdivision Subsidy	38,500
Other Receipts	14,330

**Total Revenue \$3,142,075**

\* The 2008 budget included a carryover of \$ 740,242 from 2007.



The Knox County Health Department is an Equal Opportunity Employer/Provider

### EXPENSES BY ACCOUNT

Personnel Salaries	\$1,560,086
Fringe Benefits	529,460
Contract Services	374,465
Travel/Conferences	70,405
Supplies/Office Expenses	170,428
State Fee Transmittals	57,482
Other Expenses*	69,402
Equipment	12,040
Office Space Costs	236,784

**Total Expenses \$3,080,852**

\* (Other Expenses Includes: Lab Fees, State Audit, Marketing/Promotion, Liability & Property Insurance, Staff Development/Recruitment.)

## PROGRAM GRANTS

American Cancer Society	\$ 1,000	Radon Awareness	700
Community Based Abst. Ed.	9,539	Rural Health Grant	6,000
Child & Family Health Services	91,559	Safe Communities	29,138
Help Me Grow Part C	45,986	Senior Wellness Grant	16,342
Help Me Grow GRF	44,647	Suicide Prevention Grant	1,000
Help Me Grow TANF	255,354	Tobacco Use & Prevention	60,009
KCJ&FS - Circle of Friends	7,750	WIC Nutritional Program	192,861
Immunization Action Plan	54,007	Women's Health Month Grant	1,500
Lead Awareness	1,000	Youth Development (WEA)	79
Public Health Infrastructure	125,958	<b>Total Grants</b>	<b>\$946,912</b>

## 59 TOTAL EMPLOYEES - LISTED BY DIVISION

<b>Family &amp; Community Health</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>Administration/Vital Statistics</b>	<b>4</b>
MEDICAL & DENTAL STAFF	6	Finance Office	4
HELP ME GROW/BCMh STAFF	8	Health Promotion Services	4
HOME HEALTH CARE STAFF	12	Environmental Health Services	6
WOMEN, INFANTS & CHILDREN STAFF	5	Contract Personnel	10