

TO THE CITIZENS OF KNOX COUNTY

With the diagnosis of a child with the H1N1 virus in northern Ohio in April of 2009, public health came to the forefront in responding to surveillance, investigating probable cases and providing vaccinations. As more cases were reported in the fall, the Health Department utilized all staff in providing vaccinations to those populations most vulnerable which included pregnant women, infants, school aged children, and those with chronic medical conditions. Vaccination clinics were conducted at the Health Department, in schools and at other sites throughout the county. These clinics could not have occurred without collaboration with the school districts. By the end of 2009, our agency had administered 9,695 H1N1 doses.



Photo courtesy of Mount Vernon News

Knox County Board of Health President Lee Rhoades, left, and Health Commissioner Dennis Murray, on behalf of the Knox County Health Department, accept the Knox County Educational Service Center Partnership Award from ESC board president Nancy Holtrey.

While the H1N1 virus consumed much of our time in 2009, the Health Department continued to provide other childhood shots, quality home health care services, 5-day-a-week dental care and medical care, a free smoking cessation program, environmental inspections, birth and death records, nuisance investigations and communicable disease surveillance.

Collaboration with other community agencies continued to be a strength of the Health Department in 2009 as the WIC and Help Me Grow Programs worked with other early childhood agencies to provide educational events for families and children. We also continued to work with other safety and health partners to sponsor an Amish health and safety day near Danville.

On behalf of the Board of Health, I am pleased to present the 2009 annual report of the Knox County General Health District. Our agency continues to be dedicated to promoting and protecting the health and well-being of our residents and communities by providing quality services and educational programs to prevent the incidence of disease and unhealthy conditions.

Dennis M. Murray
Health Commissioner



On Nov. 16, 2009, after a two-year battle with colorectal cancer, home health aide Chris Egan died at the age of 51. Known for her kind manner and cheerful smile, she was always finding a way to help, including dressing as a tube of toothpaste to promote dental health (above, June 2009). Beloved by patients and co-workers alike, she is remembered for her extraordinary courage and as someone who unselfishly gave of herself to the very end.

Board of Health

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*Lee Rhoades
PRESIDENT PRO-TEM
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**Eric Siekkinen, R.Ph.
*Shirley Timpe, R.N.

*Appointed by Mount Vernon City Council
**Appointed by District Advisory Council
***Appointed by the Licensing Council

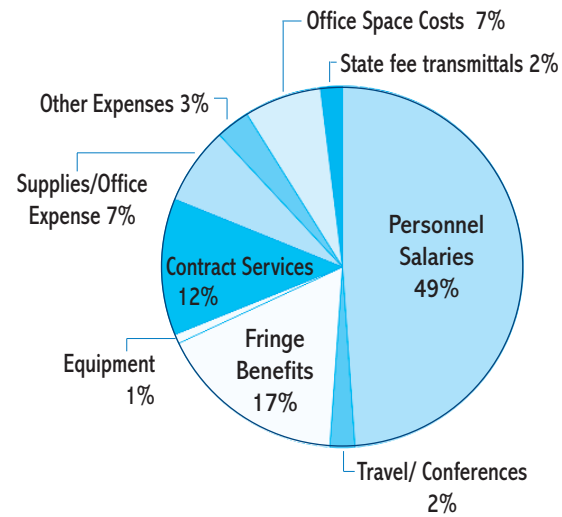
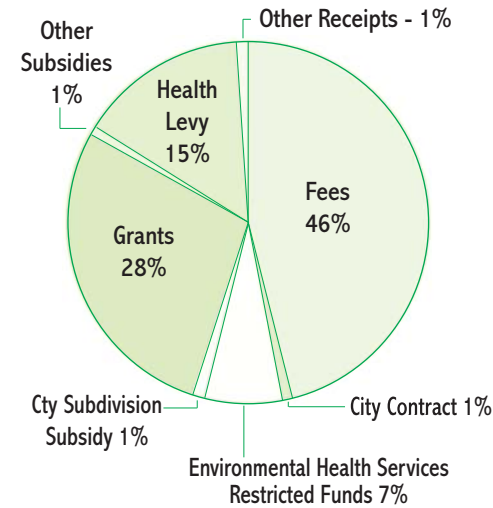
FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

REVENUE SOURCES*

Fees	\$1,423,425
Grants	869,656
EH Restricted Funds	229,375
Health Levy	456,545
Other Subsidies	46,303
Mount Vernon City Contract	44,151
County Subdivision Subsidy	38,500
Other Receipts	19,395

Total Revenue \$3,127,350

* The 2009 budget included a carryover of \$801,465 from 2008.



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

EXPENSES BY ACCOUNT

Personnel Salaries	\$1,527,516
Fringe Benefits	527,666
Contract Services	377,934
Travel/Conferences	72,500
Supplies/Office Expenses	216,239
State Fee Transmittals	50,143
Other Expenses*	84,120
Equipment	33,539
Office Space Costs	214,436

Total Expenses \$3,104,093

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

PROGRAM GRANTS

Child & Family Health Services	\$61,118	Radon Awareness	1,414
Help Me Grow Part C	44,000	Safe Communities	25,937
Help Me Grow GRF	76,700	Senior Wellness Grant	7,512
Help Me Grow TANF	102,617	Tobacco Use & Prevention	87,667
Help Me Grow Part C ARRA	975	Youth Development Grant	4,938
Immunization Action Plan	55,808	WIC	189,223
Medical Reserve Corps Grant	10,000	Women's Health Month Grant	1,500
P.H. Emergency Preparedness	200,247	Total Grants	\$869,656

57 TOTAL EMPLOYEES - LISTED BY DIVISION

Family & Community Health	28	Administration/Vital Statistics	4
MEDICAL & DENTAL STAFF	6	Finance Office	4
HELP ME GROW/BCMH STAFF	6	Health Promotion Services	3
HOME HEALTH CARE STAFF	11	Environmental Health Services	6
WOMEN, INFANTS & CHILDREN STAFF	5	Contract Personnel	12

2009 ANNUAL REPORT

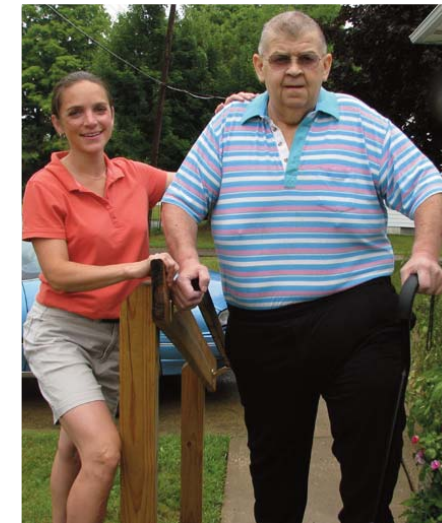


Photo courtesy of Mount Vernon News



11660 Upper Gilchrist Road, Mount Vernon, OH 43050
Phone 740-392-2200 • www.knoxhealth.com

VITAL STATS

Birth & Death Records

Births Recorded	475
Teen Mother Births	52
Premature Births	19
Mothers Who Smoke	135
Unwed Mothers	181
Deaths Recorded	501
Heart Related	182
Cancer	122
Lung Disease	57
Strokes/CVA	18
Flu/Pneumonia	14
Suicides	11
Accidents	9
Fetal Deaths	4
Trauma Deaths	1
Attributed to smoking	56

Certified Copies Issued	3,709
Birth	1,789
Death	1,920

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Rabies Control Program

Animal Bites Reported	96
Dog	75
Cat	16
Other	5
Specimens to Lab	24
Positive Rabies Test	0

Food Protection Program

Licenses Issued	329
Inspections	1,033

Private Water Program

Permits to Install	80
Total Inspections	124
Consultations	158
Water Samples	
Collected by HD	240
Collected by Others	216
# Unacceptable	76

Residential Sewage

Site Evaluations	112
Permit to Install	123
Number of Inspections	249
Consultations	488

Public Health Nuisances

Nuisances Reported	242
Number Valid	177
Investigations	369

2009 HIGHLIGHTS AND STATISTICS



Kathy Spanfellner, R.N., takes a blood sample during a Senior Wellness Clinic held at Kmart. The monthly clinics, held at different locations in the county, offered free cholesterol, glucose and blood pressure screenings for senior citizens.



Health educator Caree Varughese (left) talks with Alvin Jackson, M.D., director of the Ohio Department of Health, when Jackson visited the health department in April during National Public Health Week. Jackson advocated health education throughout his visit and applauded the agency's initiatives.

◆ The H1N1 situation required extra communication efforts including parental consent packets and special newsletters for over 11,000 students and their families. In September, a Crisis Communication Workshop was held for 80 local representatives from businesses and agencies. In addition to news releases and radio presentations, the health department website, www.knoxhealth.com, proved to be a popular way to access information. Average daily hits increased from 936 in August to 4,080 in November, a 336% increase. The total number of monthly hits peaked in October at 93,884. The health department also started a Facebook page.

◆ Our collaborative efforts included the Early Childhood Health Fair with Mount Vernon Family Practice; a rabies clinic with the Knox County Humane Society; a forum on environmental issues with Knox County Democratic Women; Safe Kids Day at Lowes; Senior Resource Day sponsored by the Adult Task Force; and a child car seat inspection sponsored by Exchange Club.



Health department staff member Joyce Frazee helps attendees at the Earth Day Health Expo figure their Body Mass Index (BMI). Nearly 1,000 people attended the expo held at the Kenyon Athletic Center. In addition to the BMI display, the health department offered free cholesterol screenings, chair volleyball and displays on nutrition, smoking, radon and handwashing.

◆ Health department staff provided several valuable trainings including: a Person-In-Charge (PIC) training for food service personnel; a Workplace Wellness Workshop for local businesses and agencies; and a four-day child car seat training for fire department and law enforcement personnel.



Scott Mast of the Fredericktown Fire Department receives a nasal spray dose of H1N1 vaccine from Judy Hoffman, R.N. First responders, pregnant women and health care providers were the first groups of adults offered the vaccine.



(Top) Children, grandchildren and the pets of health department staff were featured in a series of billboards promoting childhood immunizations. (Bottom) Home health nurses, physical therapists and aides were featured in a series of billboards featuring the home health program.



Environmental Health Director Brian Benick (foreground) joins engineer Jeff Carr and Knox County Commissioners (from left) Alan Stockberger, Teresa Bemiller and Bob Wise in Millwood where a sewer system has been proposed to service area residents. Throughout the year, the health department advised the commissioners on eight rural areas, referred to as hamlets, that are in need of sewer systems due to pollution concerns. The collaborative project included a trip by Health Commissioner Dennis Murray and the county commissioners to Washington, D.C. to visit with federal lawmakers to help secure funding for the project.

◆ The WIC program introduced a new food package in October that includes whole grain products and fresh, frozen and canned fruits and vegetables. In an effort to reduce the amount of fat in the diet, whole milk is no longer available for those over age 2 and cheese is only available to breastfeeding moms. An average of \$81,000 in WIC coupons are redeemed each month in Knox County.



WIC director Tami Ruhl, R.D., L.D. talks with two youngsters about the importance of making good food selections as part of a grocery store game during the Born Learning event sponsored by United Way at Riverside Park in June.

◆ Like much of the United States, Knox County saw a dramatic increase in suicides which totaled 11 in 2009, the most recorded since the health department started tracking the statistic in 1995.



Certified Radon Tester Terri Hillier, R.S. talks with a visitor at the health department booth during the Knox County Fair. Because of its geological makeup, Knox County has one of the highest levels of radon gas in the state. In 2009, the health department distributed more than 500 free radon test kits to local residents.

FAMILY & COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES

General Medical Clinic

Patients Served	1,529
New Patients	706
Adults	1,452
Children	162

Child Health Clinic

Patients Served	417
New Patients	214
Total Visits	419

Dental Clinic

Patients Served	3,677
New Patients	1,163
Total Visits	4,031

Immunization Program

Childhood Shots	7,929
H1N1 Influenza A	9,695
Seasonal Flu	2,900
Tetanus	150
Hepatitis B	1,157

Tuberculosis Control

PPD Skin Tests	1,193
Confirmed TB Cases	1

Help Me Grow Program

Referrals Received	334
# of Newborn Referrals	149
Total Visits	1,049

Communicable Disease

Class A Diseases Reported	165
Class B Diseases Reported	1

WIC (WOMEN, INFANTS & CHILDREN)

Certified Visits	3,422
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BCMH Program

(Bureau of Children with Medical Handicaps)	
Consultations	1,715

Home Health Care

Referrals Received	370
Patients Admitted	260
Total Visits	8,301

HEALTH EDUCATION AND PROMOTION

School Presentations	120
# Students Served	3,633

Public Presentations	458
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Collaborative Projects	226
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Child Car Seats Distributed	42
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Adult Smoking Cessation Class Participants	229
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FRONT PAGE PHOTOS (Top to bottom, L. to R.)

1. Vehicles line up during the annual drive-thru flu shot clinic at the Knox County Fairgrounds where the health department gave more than 900 flu shots in less than three hours, totally exhausting the department's supply of seasonal flu vaccine. 2. Physical therapist Taryn Boyd helps home health patient Rodger Stoner maneuver the steps outside his home in Danville. In-home physical therapy is one of several services offered by the home health program.

3. Recipients of the Partner In Public Health awards presented in April as part of National Public Health Week were: (L. to R.) Larry Fogle, City of Mount Vernon; Pat Metcalf, Mount Vernon City Schools; Mary Hendrickson and Dottie Riggs, New Directions Abuse Shelter. Also receiving awards, but unavailable for the presentation were Denise Campbell, R.N., East Knox Local Schools; and Janet Stutzman, R.N., Mount Vernon City Schools. 4. Help Me Grow Service Coordinator Ann Fisher helps Owen Miranda during a music and play session at the health department. Educational opportunities for families are offered throughout the year. 5. Glenn Barteau, R.N. admin-

isters the H1N1 vaccine in the form of nasal spray to Anthony Miray while his family looks on during a clinic at Mount Vernon High School. Health department staff conducted 23 H1N1 clinics including 10 school-based clinics, eight specialty clinics at the health department and five off-site clinics. A total of 9,695 Knox County residents received the H1N1 vaccine, including 3,833 youth, ages 6 mos. to age 18. 6. Parents and children started waiting in line before 6 a.m. for the first H1N1 mass vaccination clinic held at the health department on Nov. 7. Doors opened at 7:45 a.m. Nearly 1,400 children received the H1N1 vaccine during the Saturday clinic.