

## Website and Social Media:

The Darke County General Health District uses multiple media sources to spread the word about Public Health in Darke County.

Check out our user friendly website:  
[www.darkecountyhealth.org](http://www.darkecountyhealth.org)



Customer satisfaction is important to us! Let us know how we are doing by filling out our survey located on our main page!



You can also like our page on Facebook or follow us on Twitter!



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Hours: Monday-Friday 8-4

# Darke County General Health District

## Public Health Services

2017 Annual Report



Contributing to a stronger  
healthier community.

What does the Darke County General Health District Do?

- A message from our Health Commissioner, Dr. Holman
- What's New
- Financial Report
- Nursing Division Services
- Vital Statistics
- Environmental Division Services

## About Us:

### What is Public Health?

*Public Health* is a term used to encompass a variety of activities designed to prevent the spread of disease and promote optimal health.

### Our Mission:

To develop and maintain an efficient and effective system which will provide for the highest quality of public health services and to promote and protect the Darke County community's physical, mental, social, and environmental well being.

### Our Vision:

Our vision is to be an innovative leader in achieving the highest possible health and well being for Darke County and the environment.

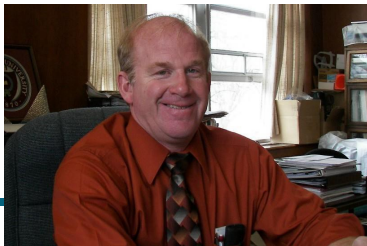
### The Darke County General Health District and our community:

Local health departments were developed to provide an organized approach to public health activities in communities. Activities of the Darke County General Health District include immunizations, vital statistics, environmental health, nursing, emergency preparedness, communicable disease control, epidemiology and health education.

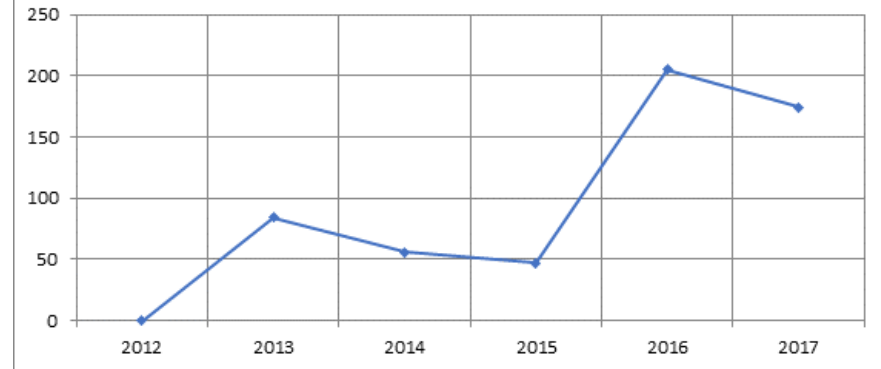
Every time you visit campgrounds, restaurants, swimming pools, schools and grocery stores, the Darke County General Health District plays a role in protecting public health. The health department is also responsible for providing immunizations, performing epidemiological investigations, coordinating emergency response with other agencies, and providing public health education.

### Health Commissioner's Message: Terrence Holman, DVM, RS

As we continue the lengthy process of accreditation, 2017 proved to be a productive year for DCGHD. With most of the larger, necessary documents completed, such as the Community Health Assessment, Community Health Improvement Plan and Strategic Plan, staff have been meeting to gather required documentation for the twelve "domains" or topics that must be satisfied by PHAB (Public Health Accreditation Board) to achieve accreditation status. The first ten of the domains are related to the 10 essential services of public health. Domains 11 and 12 require documentation of the management and administrative functions. A little more than half of all documentation has been collected. Once all documentation is approved by the Health Commissioner, it will be submitted to PHAB. This will happen spring of 2018.



## Bed Bug Consultations & Investigations



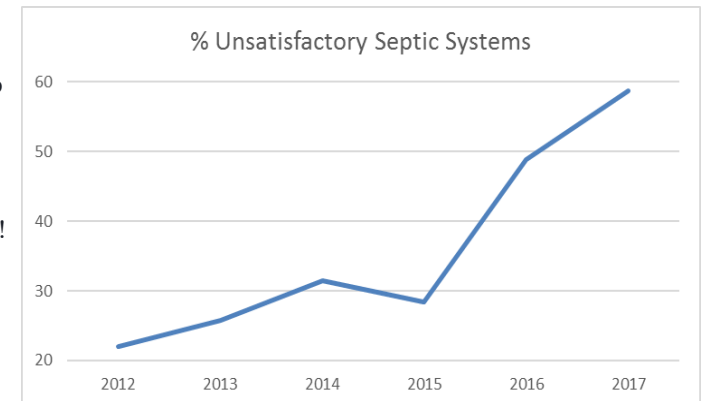
### Sewage Operation & Maintenance Program (O&M)

The O&M program helps to reduce pollution and save homeowners money by preventing septic system failures and protecting public health. This is done through homeowner education, record keeping, along with system monitoring and maintenance. 58% of Darke County homeowners do not have an adequate system. The chart below shows the percent of septic systems that were unsatisfactory during the O&M inspection and a re-inspection was needed. In 2017, this number was 59% which substantiates the need for O&M. To date, there are 8,436 out of approximately 12,000 properties on the program.

### Ohio EPA Grant Money Used for Septic Updates

In early 2016 the Darke County Health Department was awarded \$300,000 from the Water Pollution Control Loan Fund to be used by the end of 2017. The funds helped Darke County homeowners to repair/replace 25 sewage treatment systems in the county! This grant helped remove approximately 10,000 gallons per day of untreated sewage. We have been awarded another \$300,000 to be used by the end of 2018 and \$200,000 by the end of 2019. Grant applications are available in our office. Qualification is based on total household annual income, up to date on taxes and owner occupied.

Thank you OEPA!



## Environmental Division Services Continued:

### Nitrates/Nitrites in Your Water

Nitrates/nitrites occur naturally in our air, soils, surface water, and ground water. People most at risk to nitrate/nitrite exposure are pregnant women and infants less than six months old who are fed formula. If the Health Department pre-screen shows an elevated level in the water, an additional water sample is taken to the laboratory for more in-depth testing. If those lab results show levels of nitrates/nitrites greater than 10 ppm (parts per million), then the homeowner is made aware of the issue. The homeowner is educated on the possible risks of high nitrates/nitrites and recommended to install a water softener or sample water that has already been through their softener. The chemicals can also be removed by reverse osmosis, anion exchange, and distillation. This year the Health Department had two positive pre-screens. Homeowners are encouraged to have their well chlorinated and their water tested every 1 to 3 years.

### Agricultural Wells

Any water usage that is used for human consumption, handwashing, dishwashing, etc. must have an approved, potable water source. Therefore, even if the well is serving a barn, a private water well must be drilled and a water sample will need to confirm the water is safe. The well must meet all private water well requirements, including isolation distances. There are no exemptions for obtaining the proper permits that may be required through the health department, this also includes septic system permits and could also include plumbing. Plumbing permits must be obtained for potable water sources.

### School Environmental Health and Safety Inspection Methodology

The Health Department adopted a new policy this year regarding how inspections are conducted for the general safety and environment of the schools. Visit our website to view the document.



### Bed Bugs

Darke County continues to receive numerous bed bug reports. Bed bugs are not considered a public health threat, but bed bugs are a nuisance and can be very costly to homeowners. The Health Department utilizes our Premise Regulations to help tenants of multi-family dwellings by requiring owners to have some responsibility for treatment. Since the source of contamination is unknown. The graph on the next page shows that our bed bug consultations and investigations decreased slightly from last year. This may be because of treatment and education or may be an indication of less bed bug problems. The Health Department inspects nuisances based on a signed complaint or concern by another agency or township/village/city official. We check dwellings for health, safety, and sanitation.

### What is New at the Darke County General Health District?

The Darke County General Health District Nursing Program was lucky enough to be awarded a program known as 317. This program works to ensure that children, adolescents, and adults receive appropriate immunizations by partnering with healthcare providers in the public and private sectors. The program helps adults in our community by providing immunizations for those that are under-insured or uninsured. This is extremely important. An estimated 10 million cases of vaccine preventable diseases and 33,000 deaths are prevented each year through timely immunization. However, for those not immunized, approximately 43,000 adults and 300 children in the United States die annually from vaccine-preventable diseases or their complications. Despite high immunization coverage levels for preschool-aged children, pockets of need still remain among uninsured or under-insured adults who are recommended to receive vaccines.

### Meningococcal B Vaccine

Meningococcal B vaccine is indicated for active immunization to prevent invasive disease caused by *Neisseria meningitidis* serogroup B. The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommends that patients 16-23 years of age be vaccinated against MenB, preferably between ages 16-18 and our Health Department is now giving this vaccine.

### Ohio Environmental Protection Agency Mosquito Control Grant

The Darke County General Health District along with the City of Greenville and the Villages of Versailles, Wayne Lakes, and Osgood, received the Mosquito Control Grant in 2017 totaling \$69,350. The purpose of the grant was to provide funding for mosquito control measures in a collective statewide effort to diminish the potential for mosquito borne viruses such as Zika and West Nile. Control measures approved within the scope of this grant included mosquito surveillance, larval control, adult mosquito control, community outreach, and mosquito breeding source reduction. This grant allowed the Health Department

to conduct surveillance and trapping all over the county and prepare a mosquito action plan which will utilize an Integrated Mosquito Management System for control. The grant also allowed the Health Department to establish a mosquito control program that will continue into future years.



## About Us:

### The Darke County General Health District :

The Darke County General Health District is a combined health district representing Greenville City and the Darke County Community. There are five individuals appointed to the Board of Health. The Mayor of Greenville City appoints two members of the Board of Health to represent Greenville City. The District Advisory Council (DAC) appoints one member of the Board of Health to represent Darke County and they elect a five member Licensing Council of regulated parties that selects an additional board member from their group. The District Advisory Council includes the Township Trustees and the Mayors of the Villages within Darke County. The DAC membership also includes a County Commissioner. At least one board member must be a physician which can be chosen by either the DAC or the Greenville City Mayor.

### Board of Health:

The Board of Health (BOH) has many responsibilities which include appointing the Health Commissioner, approving hiring of employees, and meeting monthly to discuss topics that are occurring within the Health District. The BOH helps make many important decisions, such as the adoption of regulations and policies, as well as the approval of expenditures. The current members include:

Wayne Deschambeau-President  
 James Schaar  
 Krista Fourman  
 Dr. Timothy Kathman  
 Curtis Yount  
 Gary Giere-Alternate



### Why Is Accreditation Important?

The National Public Health Accreditation Board's (PHAB) process improves service, value, and accountability to stakeholders. The ten essential services of Public Health are included: Monitor health status to identify community health problems, Diagnose and investigate health problems and health hazards in the community, Inform, educate, and empower people about health issues, Mobilize community partnerships to identify and solve health problems, Develop policies and plans that support individual and community health efforts, Enforce laws and regulations that protect health and ensure safety, Link people to needed personal health services and assure the provision of health care when otherwise unavailable, Assure a competent public health and personal health care workforce, Evaluate effectiveness, accessibility, and quality of personal and population-based health services, and research for new insights and innovative solutions to health problems.

<b>Program</b>		<b>Solid Waste</b>	
<b>Food Safety</b>		Solid Waste Transfer Station	1
Food Service Operation	152	Closed Landfills	5
Retail Food Operation	75	Compost Facilities	3
Mobile Food Service	81	Solid Waste Haulers	7
Temporary Food Service	130	Trash Complaint	13
Vending	26	Solid Waste Inspections	142
Food Safety Inspections	1187	Solid Waste Consultations	179
Food Safety Consultations	1,766	Scrap Tire Facility	69
<b>Recreational</b>		<b>Plumbing</b>	
Swimming Pools & Spas	16	Plumbing Permits	190
Bathing Beaches	5	Plumbing Plan Reviews	126
RV Parks/ Camps	7	Registered Plumbers	87
Temporary Camps	27	Appliance Installer	8
Recreational Inspections	49	Sewer & Water Line Installer	2
Recreational Consultations	49	Plumbing Inspections	343
		Plumbing Consultations	987
<b>Private Sewage Treatment Systems</b>		<i>Plumbing Inspections and Consultations data is lower than actual due to contracted services</i>	
New Sewage Treatment System (STS) Permit	32	<b>Rabies</b>	
Replacement STS Permit	44	Animal Bites Reported	119
Alteration STS Permit	19	Animal Submitted for Testing	4
Final Installation Inspection	76		
Site Inspections	82	<b>School &amp; County Jail Inspections</b>	34
Special Service Inspections	62		
Operation & Maintenance Inspections	2241	<b>Smoke Free Ohio</b>	0
Other Sewage Inspections	183		
Septic Installers	33	<b>Premise</b>	
Service Providers	16	Housing Inspections	97
Sewage Haulers	14	Mold Inspections	5
Sewage Consultations	2,453	Radon Inspections	0
		Lead Inspections	3
<b>Private Water Systems</b>		Bed Bug Inspections	19
New Private Water System (PWS) Permit	64	Other Insect/ Rodent Inspections	3
Alteration PWS Permit	25	Methamphetamine	0
Well Sealing Permits	2	Other Nuisance	28
Water Samples	225	Premise Inspections	154
Unsatisfactory Bacteria Water Samples	26	Premise Consultations	666
Unsatisfactory E-Coli Water Samples	3		
Water Hauler	2	<b>Mosquito Control</b>	
Private Water Inspections	126	Mosquito Investigations	12
Private Water Consultations	262	Mosquito Consultations	489
<b>Tattoo Operations</b>	5	<b>All Program Letters Sent</b>	12,822



## Environmental Division Services:

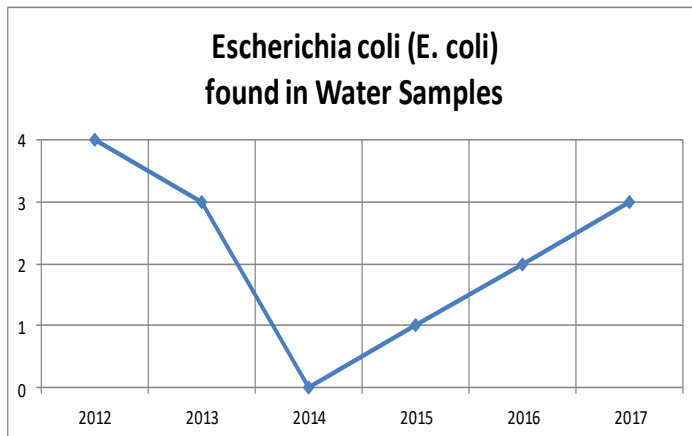
The Environmental Division works to protect the health of the community, prevent disease, and protect the environment through the enforcement of local and state rules and regulations, along with providing consultations and educational material regarding our health programs and activities. Our public health sanitarians conduct routine inspections of licensed establishments reducing the risk of such things as food-borne illnesses and contaminated drinking water supplies. All programs are to help ensure the well-being of Darke County residents and the environment.

The Environmental Division has many services we provide to protect the community and the environment. These programs include: Food Safety, Home and Small Flow Sewage Treatment Systems, Private Water, Plumbing, Tattoo & Body Piercing, Swimming Pools/Recreational Camps/Bathing Beaches, Schools and Correctional Facilities, Rabies, Nuisances, Mosquitoes, Healthy Homes, Smoking, and Lead/ Radon/ Air Quality. The Health Department works closely with other agencies such as the Ohio Department of Health (ODH), Darke County Solid Waste District, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA), and Regional Air Pollution Control Agency (RAPCA) to inspect and provide educational materials to the public and homeowners.

### Private Water Systems

The Health Department conducts water samples by request and for new wells, home sales, and land splits. Water samples are pre-screened for high levels of nitrates and nitrites and typically checked for total coliform (bacteria) and if this test is positive the sample is automatically checked for E. coli. E. coli samples are

rare in the county. The graph shows E. coli positive samples over the last 6 years in Darke County. Water can be tested for other parameters as needed or requested.



## FINANCIAL REPORT

As you can see from the Financial Summary Statement below, the Health District has managed to maintain a carryover balance. The Health District has also been able to maintain grant funding by diligent field work and fiscal management throughout the years. We are committed to remain fiscally responsible in 2018 and beyond.

FUNDS	2016 CARRY-OVER	2017 REVENUE	2017 EXPENSES	2017 BALANCE
GENERAL HEALTH	\$241,532.90	\$867,159.80	\$941,654.59	\$167,038.11
SEWAGE TREATMENT SYSTEMS	\$42,253.09	\$234,222.23	\$197,384.44	\$79,090.88
FOOD SERVICE	\$33,780.90	\$95,577.03	\$92,247.17	\$ 37,110.76
MEDICAL RESERVE CORP	\$14,508.42	\$0.00	\$481.32	\$14,027.10
CAMPS	\$3,673.13	\$4,284.22	\$4,236.09	\$3,721.26
PRIVATE WATER	\$16,762.24	\$44,966.38	\$40,181.90	\$21,546.72
SOLID WASTE	\$38,666.19	\$34,237.65	\$52,034.34	\$20,869.50
HELP ME GROW	\$44,790.85	\$182,543.94	\$198,601.27	\$28,733.52
IMMUNIZATION ACTION PLAN GRANT	\$0.00	\$15,594.67	\$11,228.22	\$4,366.45
POOLS / SPAS	\$6,224.95	\$7,201.89	\$8,041.84	\$5,385.00
PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS	\$6,244.68	\$104,325.29	\$102,310.05	\$8,259.92
OH EPA WPCLF	\$0.00	\$303,354.13	\$294,597.46	\$8,756.67
MOSQUITO GRANT	\$0.00	\$69,350.00	\$69,350.00	\$0.00
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$448,437.35</b>	<b>\$1,962,817.23</b>	<b>\$2,012,348.69</b>	<b>\$398,905.89</b>

## Some 2017 Priority Public Health Issues:

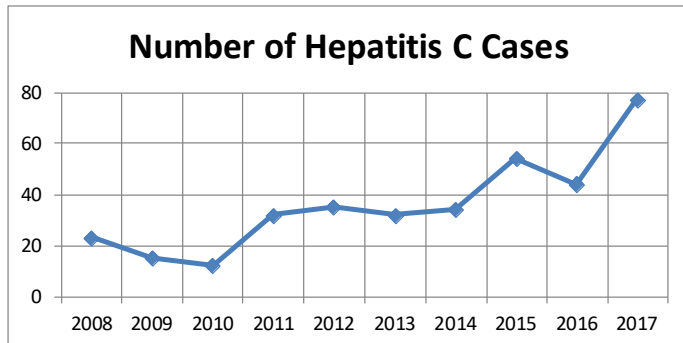
### Travel Protection

In the world over 1 million people travel internationally each day. In many countries, vaccine preventable diseases are still common even if they have been eradicated from North America. Without vaccines, epidemics of many preventable diseases will return, resulting in increased illness and deaths and a lower quality of life. Vaccination before travel is imperative to ensure global public health and to help individuals stay healthy during and after their travels. The Darke County General Health District is committed to ensuring maximum immunization coverage in all populations so travel vaccines are offered at our site.



### Hepatitis C on the Rise

There has been a rise in the number of cases of infectious disease and research has directly correlated it with opioid addiction. Sharing needles is a major contributor to this problem. Another issue that has been found to be related is the increase in popularity of tattoos. Hepatitis C cases can occur when individuals get tattoos from artists who do not properly sterilize their needles and work areas. The Health Department licenses tattoo facilities.



The tattoo and body art business is growing! Anyone interested in getting a tattoo should always get one from a licensed tattoo parlor. Darke County currently has 5 licensed tattoo/body art facilities. Our interest is to make sure both the artist and customer are kept safe. The facilities and equipment must be kept clean and all materials used have to come from approved sources. Procedures must be in place to prevent any cross contamination during a tattoo procedure.

Vital Statistics records birth and death certificates for individuals who were born or have died in Darke County. The Birth and Death Records begin December 20, 1908 to the present date. The vital statistic office collects and reports statistics for the county. This information is used to determine trends in causes of death, health assessment, receiving funding in various forms, and genealogical purposes.

The Vital Statistics division and the Ohio Department of Health have implemented the Integrated Perinatal Health Information System and Electronic Death Registration System that allows birth and death certificates to be filed electronically. Anyone wishing to deliver their baby at home must contact the vital statistics department and complete the proper forms to register their child. The division also maintains Certificates of Service for people who have died in another state but are buried in Darke County.

For your convenience, you can process online requests through VitalChek Network Inc. at their website, [www.vitalchek.com](http://www.vitalchek.com). All major credit cards are accepted, including American Express®, Discover®, MasterCard®, or Visa®.



Births		Deaths	
	Number		Number
Births Recorded	297	Deaths Recorded	518
Hospital	278	Males	263
Out of Institution	19	Females	255
Males	159	Oldest	103
Females	138	Youngest	30 min
Sets of Twins	5	Death Certificates Issued	2008
Youngest Mother	16	Burial Permits Issued	463
Oldest Mother	39		
Parents' Marital Status			
Wed	163		
Unwed	134		
Birth Certificates Issued	1,998		
Causes of Death		Number	
Certain infectious and parasitic diseases			12
Malignant Neoplasms			100
Diseases of the blood and blood-forming organs			4
Endocrine, nutritional, and metabolic diseases			8
Mental, behavioral, and neurodevelopmental disorders			32
Diseases of the nervous system			54
Diseases of the circulatory system			158
Diseases of the respiratory system			69
Diseases of the digestive system			10
Diseases of the genitourinary system			15
Certain conditions originating in the perinatal period			3
Not elsewhere classified symptoms, signs and abnormal findings			27
Injury, poisoning and certain other consequences of external causes			7
External causes of morbidity			11

## Nursing Division Services Continued:

### Are you prepared?

We need to be prepared for anything that comes our way. There is a nationally funded program for Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) which outlines 15 capabilities for local public health to attain. We are continually developing, reviewing and revising plans to assure our preparedness in order to take care of Darke County in the event of a public health emergency. We work in close collaboration with local, regional and state partners from a variety of agencies to stay ready to respond and work together. Whether it is a small scale event such as a heat or winter weather alert where we disseminate valuable information, or large scale like a tornado, pandemic flu or other emerging infectious diseases where we may need to offer large clinics to vaccinate or provide medication to the citizens of Darke County. All staff are trained in the National Incident Management System (NIMS) and Incident Command System (ICS) in accordance with Federal mandates. The overall goal for public health is to “keep well people well” during times of disaster or public health emergencies. The health district oversees a continuous surveillance and monitoring system that provides community partners, media and the general public with valuable information daily. There is ongoing surveillance, monitoring, planning, and testing of the plans using simulated scenarios to improve our overall readiness to meet the national preparedness capabilities. The health district is also a strong promoter of personal preparedness for our staff and community members. We provide encouragement, tools, and education via our website, social media, and community presentations

### Aids Case Management

Through collaboration with the Ohio Department of Health and the Miami Valley Ryan White Consortium there are services for those requesting testing for HIV as well as those who are HIV positive and require case management.



### Preceptorships

As needed, there are nursing students from multiple colleges that utilize the Darke County General Health District as a clinical site. The Darke County General Health District appreciates the opportunity to contribute to the development of the health profession by helping shape future health care providers.

### TB Control

Tuberculosis is a potentially fatal and contagious disease that can affect almost any part of the body, but is primarily an infection of the lungs. The Darke County General Health District TB Control nurse plays an important role in surveillance and containment of the disease for our local population.

### Project DAWN

Project Dawn is a community-based drug Overdose Prevention Project. DAWN stands for Deaths Avoided With Naloxone (DAWN). Naloxone is a medication that can reverse an overdose that is caused by an opioid drug. When administered during an overdose, Naloxone blocks the effects of opioids on the brain and restores breathing within two to eight minutes. Naloxone has been used safely by emergency medical professionals for more than 40 years and has only one function. That function is to reverse the effects of opioids on the brain and respiratory system in order to prevent death. If Naloxone is given to a person who is not experiencing a opioid overdose, it is harmless. The Ohio Department of Health allocated funds to each county to purchase project DAWN kits to be distributed to emergency personnel in the county. The Darke County General Health District received 44 kits and distributed them to the Darke County Sheriff's office.

### Coalition for a Healthy Darke County

The Coalition is headed by the Darke County Chamber of Commerce working with community businesses, members, and organizations to bring our entire community together to create a healthy, vibrant, safe and secure community that thrives together at home, at school, and at work. The coalition has helped implement a vivitrol program and a website full of resources for community members. Check out the coalitions new website at [www.coalitiondarkecounty.com](http://www.coalitiondarkecounty.com) to find out about local resources, upcoming programs and events, or how you can get involved.

### Vivitrol Clinics

The Vivitrol Program, was started through the growing need identified by the Coalition for a Healthy Darke County, to address the drug problem in the county. Vivitrol is a medication that is used to maintain a drug-free state in those previously addicted to opiates and alcohol. It is used in combination with behavior adjustment programs and only after having completed a detoxification program. There are now three sites in Darke County offering this service. These sites are Family Health Services, Wayne Healthcare, and Recovery & Wellness.

### Smoking

Congratulations Darke County! The Health Department received no smoking complaints in 2017. Violations can be reported by calling 1-866-559-OHIO.



## Nursing Division Services:

### Lots of Shots

In 2017 the Health Department gave numerous immunizations. Maintaining high immunization rates is essential to preventing outbreaks of diseases. In order to help meet the needs of Darke County residents, there was a special clinic held for children entering 7th and 12th grade. This clinic has been very successful. There were 271 children who attended and 428 vaccines given in just one day. This clinic alone took care of 22% of the 7th and 12th grade children in Darke County who needed vaccines. Additionally, the Public Health Nurses were busy giving 862 flu vaccinations and held 16 flu clinics throughout the county. The Health Department also served the public during the year with their regular walk in Tuesday clinics and by appointments as needed.



### Communicable Diseases

It is important to track and report communicable diseases in our county in order to prevent and control infectious diseases. In order to protect the public from serious diseases we identify issues, assess situations, collect data, educate, and refer to community health providers. Being aware of trends allows for recognizing issues, educating individuals, and preventing outbreaks in our community.

### Community Health Services by the NUMBERS

CMH Children Served	270
Communicable Diseases	401
FAME Clients Served	68
Flu Vaccines Given	862
Early Intervention Visits	512
Help Me Grow Home Visiting Program Visits	308
Hepatitis C Cases	77
HIV Clients	1
Immunizations Given	3166
Newborn Home Visits	15
STDs Reported	131

This table is just a small sampling of Community Health Services provided during 2017.

### Help Me Grow

Help Me Grow offers a free voluntary program to prenatal women, children, and families. When a parent schedules a home visit with Help Me Grow they will have the opportunity to share their thoughts about parenting, ask questions, and receive reliable information based on their individual family needs or topics of interest. Topics may include, but are not limited to: healthy pregnancies, baby and child health, breastfeeding, nutrition, immunizations, child growth and development, discipline, toilet training, child safety, household safety, and local resources. The Help Me Grow nurse is a support person who helps the family reach their goals.



### Early Intervention.

Early Intervention provides family-centered developmental services for infants and toddlers up to age 3. The Darke County General Health District staff works in collaboration with the Board of Developmental Disabilities to provide free services to the children who need them. Through collaborative efforts, families work with providers to receive therapies, utilize community resources, and understand the present and future needs of their children.



### CMH

This program is known as Children with Medical Handicaps (CMH). CMH will help cover families during the testing phase of receiving a diagnosis and during the treatment phase if approved. The Darke County General Health District staff consists of nurses who are experts on this program. They help individuals sign up for the program, locate, and coordinate the services children need.

### School Nurses

School nurses collaborate on a regular basis through the academic year with the Darke County General Health District staff. They come together to discuss school health issues and have in-services pertinent to the children in Darke County. The Darke County General Health District supports them in their efforts to provide health screenings, manage medications, prevent the spread of disease, and assure appropriate immunization statuses.

### FAME

Financial Assistance for Medical Emergencies (FAME) is a local non-profit organization funded by the Darke County United Way. This program assists individuals who do not qualify for any other funding with prescriptions or other medical needs. Requests are approved by the Nursing Division staff. FAME responsibilities are shared jointly with Family Health Social Services.