

Ohio's Commitment to

Improving Health and Wellness



State Fiscal Year 2014
Ohio Department of Health
Annual Report

Ohio's Commitment to Improving Health and Wellness

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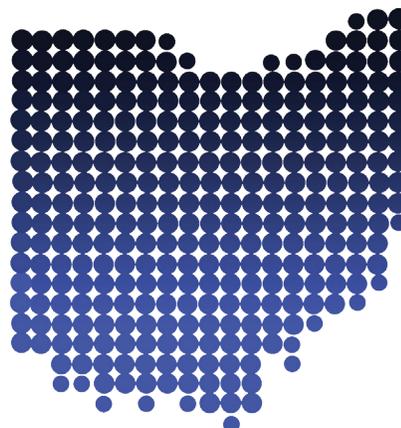
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MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



“Across the state, we work with business, government, and community leaders, who come together and bring forward ideas, resources, and expertise to collectively solve public health problems.”



Dear Ohio Citizens,

It is with great pleasure that I present to you this Annual Report of the official transactions and proceedings of the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) for State Fiscal Year 2014.

Ohioans can be proud of our public health system that continues to keep pace with innovative technologies, strives to improve the quality of its work through evidence-based practices, and continually seeks ways to maximize resources and increase efficiencies to offer Ohioans a solid return on their public health investments. Along with federal, state, and local officials, ODH's nearly 1,200 employees are the central ingredient to our success. They are the public health professionals who guide the system, helping our communities navigate the many choices along the path to preventing disease and achieving and maintaining good health.

At the outset of this administration, ODH adopted four strategic priorities to guide its work: Curb Tobacco Use; Decrease Infant Mortality; Reduce Obesity; and, Expand the Patient-Centered Medical Home model of care across Ohio. These priorities were chosen based on an assessment of statewide health indicators, and through the development of a State Health Improvement Plan. As you will note throughout this report, by working closely with our public health partners, ODH continues to make significant progress in addressing these targeted priorities, and is moving ever closer toward our vision of “optimal health for all Ohioans.”

During the past year, public health once again firmly stood watch on the frontlines of many issues that threatened to impact the health of Ohio's citizens. Our public health emergency responders helped keep people safe during floods and other weather-related emergencies. Our disease surveillance and response personnel were steadfast in investigating deadly outbreaks of infectious diseases, such as Legionella, as well as numerous foodborne diseases and other outbreaks across the state. The re-emergence of highly contagious, vaccine-preventable diseases, such as measles and mumps, will continue to test the ability of our system to respond to public health threats, and keep our staff on high alert.

While we in public health are proud of the work we do each day on behalf of Ohio citizens, we also are mindful that our work is not done by us alone. Across the state, we work with business, government, and community leaders, who come together and bring forward ideas, resources, and expertise to collectively solve public health problems.

This collaborative spirit will continue in the coming year, as ODH plans to convene statewide community meetings to build on the momentum gained from our statewide Town Hall forums of last year. The many challenges facing our public health system present unique opportunities for individuals and communities to take a proactive role in assuring better health and safety in their communities. ODH promises to help lead these efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lance D. Himes".

Lance D. Himes, JD
Interim Director of Health

ABOUT THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

MISSION

“To Protect and Improve the Health of All Ohioans by Preventing Disease, Promoting Good Health and Assuring Access to Quality Health Care”

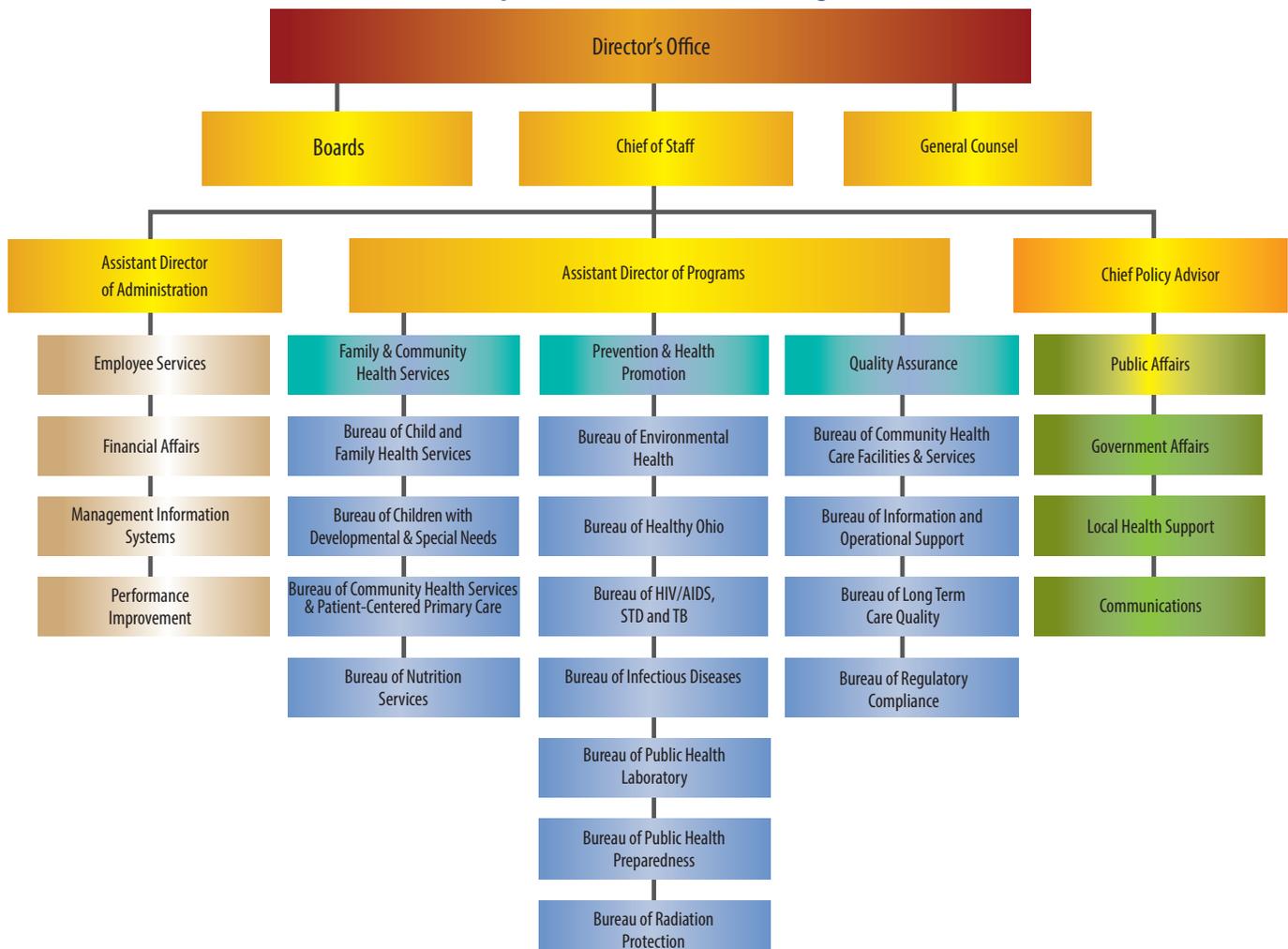
VISION

“Optimal Health for All Ohioans”

ABOUT ODH

The Ohio Department of Health (ODH) is a cabinet-level agency, meaning the director reports to the Governor and serves as a member of the executive branch of Ohio’s government. The ODH senior leadership team helps the director formulate the agency’s strategic policy goals and objectives. The team is comprised of the Chief of Staff, Assistant Director of Programs, Assistant Director of Administration, Chief Policy Advisor, and General Counsel. These leaders, along with agency senior-level managers and supervisors, work together to ensure the state health department is responsive to the needs of Ohio’s 11.5 million residents.

The Ohio Department of Health Table of Organization



ALIGNING WITH THE KASICH ADMINISTRATION'S HEALTH TRANSFORMATION INITIATIVES



At the outset of his Administration, Governor John R. Kasich created the Office of Health Transformation (OHT) to lead the state's efforts to modernize Medicaid, streamline health and human services programs, and improve overall health system performance. Using an innovative approach that involves collaboration among multiple state agency partners, the Administration has taken significant steps to improve services to vulnerable Ohioans, reduce costs, increase efficiency, and support the Governor's efforts to create jobs and reduce unemployment.

Following is a snapshot of ODH's SFY 2014 collaborative activities that are helping to transform the health of Ohio citizens and support other Kasich Administration priorities.

Medicaid Expansion

As a member of Ohio's Health and Human Services Team, ODH is proud of the work the state has done to extend Medicaid coverage to Ohio's most needy residents. Providing access to health care for citizens who need it most, results in better health care outcomes, saves lives and taxpayer dollars. Ohio has seized an opportunity for our state to improve health and safety, create appropriate primary care capacity, reduce the cost of uncompensated care and continue important reforms already underway.

Reduce Infant Mortality and Low Birth Weight Babies

Infant mortality — when a baby who is born alive dies within the first year of life — accounts for 66 percent of all childhood deaths in Ohio. In March 2011, Gov. Kasich made reducing low-birth-weight babies a priority in his *State of the State Address*. In response, OHT has worked with the Ohio Departments of Medicaid and Health to launch new programs to improve care coordination for at-risk mothers and children. In the past year, work in this priority has focused on the three areas that account for 95 percent of infant deaths: premature birth, birth defects, and sleep-related death.

Access to Quality Care Through PCMH Expansion

ODH continues to lead a statewide expansion of the patient-centered medical home (PCMH) model of care. In just two years, the number of PCMH practices in Ohio has grown from 157 in 2012 to nearly 500 in June 2014. The PCMH care model is one that facilitates partnerships between individual patients and their personal healthcare providers and, when appropriate, the patient's family. At the core of the PCMH approach is a personal primary care provider who coordinates and integrates a person's overall medical care. The model also incorporates safe and high-quality care, enhanced access to care and payment that recognizes the added value that patients receive in a PCMH model. Studies show that adults who have an established relationship with a primary care provider had 33 percent lower costs of care, and better chronic disease management.

ALIGNING WITH THE KASICH ADMINISTRATION'S HEALTH TRANSFORMATION INITIATIVES

Helping Ohioans Curb Tobacco Use

Through the passage of House Bill 483, Gov. Kasich's Mid-Biennium Budget Review, Ohio has made a significant commitment of resources to tobacco prevention and cessation efforts. ODH will now receive \$26.9 million in funding from the Master Settlement Agreement to support a targeted plan aimed primarily for tobacco use prevention and cessation. Tobacco is the single



most preventable cause of death and disease in the United States, so targeted investments can lead to great benefits. In fact, the return on investment for comprehensive state tobacco control programs has been demonstrated to be significant, mostly due to decreases in tobacco-related health conditions, such as heart attack, stroke and cancer.

Promoting Business-Friendly Initiatives

ODH was able to assist businesses which participate in its Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program through law changes in the Mid-Biennium Review. WIC provides nutrition education, breastfeeding education and support, supplemental nutritious foods and formula, and referrals to prenatal and pediatric health care and other maternal and child health and human service programs to income eligible women. The new law requires all WIC policies and procedures pertaining to WIC vendors be reviewed by the Ohio Public Health Advisory Board (OPHAB). The Board was established in 2012 to advise ODH on rules as well as certain policy and operational decisions. Utilizing the existing OPHAB process will ensure better awareness, understanding, and collaboration with vendors in the operation of the program.

Keeping Kids Drug Free

ODH is joining other state and local partners across Ohio to promote an innovative new youth drug abuse prevention effort, *Start Talking!* This new effort, championed by Gov. Kasich and First Lady Karen W. Kasich, is aimed at children and is inspired by research that shows when young people talk about substance abuse with parents and adults, they are up to 50 percent less likely to use drugs. *Start Talking!* calls on Ohioans to embrace prevention-focused programs aimed at raising awareness and encouraging conversation to stop drug abuse before it starts.

Gov. Kasich Acknowledged by OPHA for Leadership in Improving the Health of All Ohioans

The Ohio Public Health Association (OPHA) recently recognized Governor John R. Kasich for his support of the mission of public health through extending Ohio Medicaid to additional low-income adults, through helping to address funding gaps in tobacco prevention and cessation and through championing other significant public health issues in Ohio. For these significant public health contributions, Gov. Kasich was awarded the OPHA 2014 "Governing Council Award." OPHA is a member-based, policy and advocacy organization advancing public health initiatives throughout the State of Ohio.

ODH SEEKS NATIONAL ACCREDITATION

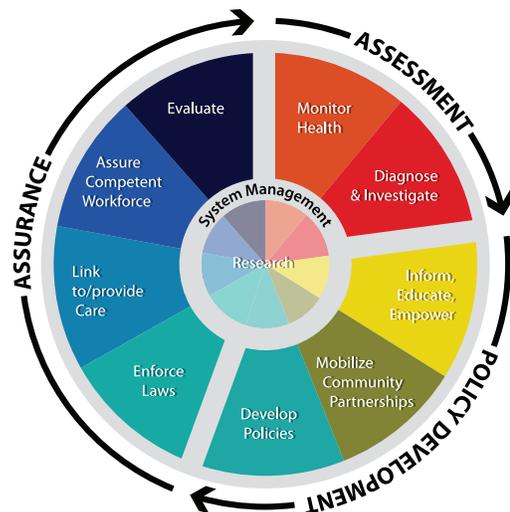
In recent years, the Ohio Department of Health began an exciting journey toward voluntary, national accreditation through the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) with the goal of advancing the quality and accountability of its daily work. To become fully accredited, ODH must meet a set of uniform, core standards which define a highly-functioning public health agency and one that excels in the categories of quality, leadership and demonstrated excellence.



The basis of accreditation is linked to the nationally established 10 Essential Public Health Services and augmented by two additional services to form the 12 measurable domains of public health accreditation. ODH leadership feels confident the agency is well prepared as it now enters the cycle of the official accreditation process. ODH expects to have its onsite visit by the accrediting body in the winter of 2015. Through ODH leadership, new laws passed by the Kasich Administration now require general and city health districts to apply for accreditation by July 1, 2018, and be accredited by July 1, 2020. ODH is part of a learning collaborative that will assist general and city health districts as they seek national accreditation.

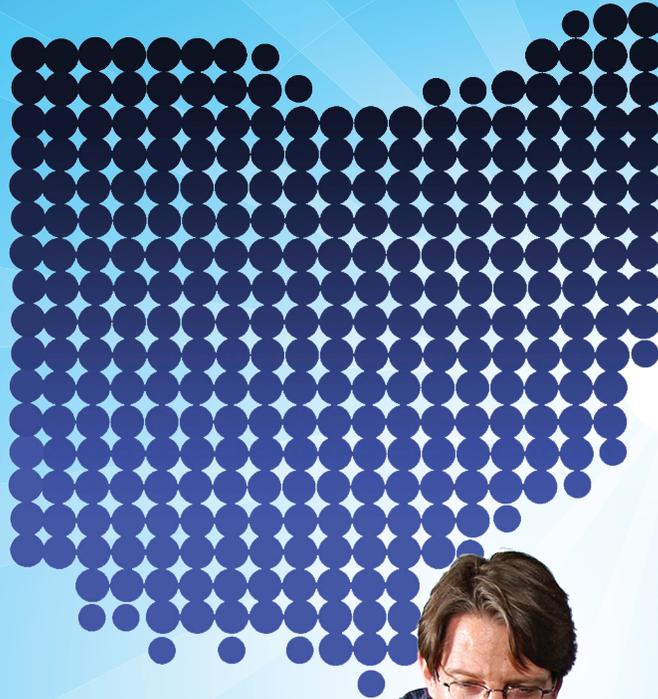
Public Benefits of National Accreditation

- Promotes high performance and continuous quality improvement;
- Recognizes high performers that meet nationally accepted standards of quality and improvement;
- Illustrates health department accountability to the public and policymakers;
- Increases the visibility and public awareness of governmental public health, leading to greater public trust and increased health department credibility; and
- Clarifies the public's expectations of health departments.



The 10 Essential Public Health Services

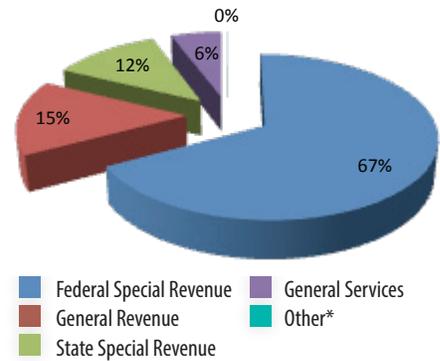
Financial Management Information & Successes



SFY 2014 FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT INFORMATION & SUCCESSES

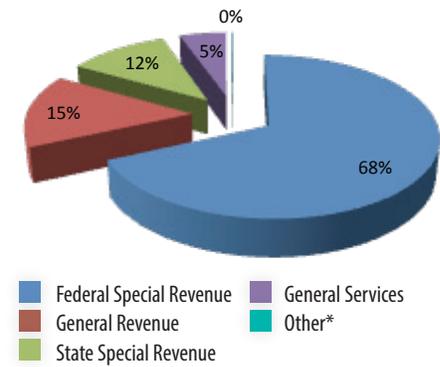
SFY 2014 Revenue by Fund Group

	Amount	Percentage
Federal Special Revenue	\$395,208,704	67.17%
General Revenue	\$ 88,607,614	15.06%
State Special Revenue	\$70,920,662	12.05%
General Services	\$ 33,328,557	5.66%
Other*	\$ 265,061	0.05%
Total**	\$ 588,330,600	100.00%



SFY 2014 Expenditures by Fund Group

	Amount	Percentage
Federal Special Revenue	\$404,716,697	68.28%
General Revenue	\$ 88,617,505	14.95%
State Special Revenue	\$ 67,461,361	11.38%
General Services	\$ 30,953,842	5.22%
Other*	\$ 985,142	0.17%
Total	\$ 592,734,547	100.00%



*Other includes Tobacco Master Settlement Agreement, Holding Account Redistribution, and State Highway Safety Fund Groups.

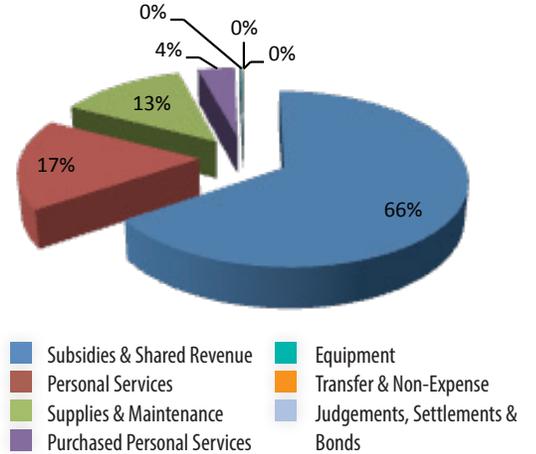
**Based on actual revenue received

ODH receives nearly 70% of its funding from federal sources.

SFY 2014 FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT INFORMATION & SUCCESSES

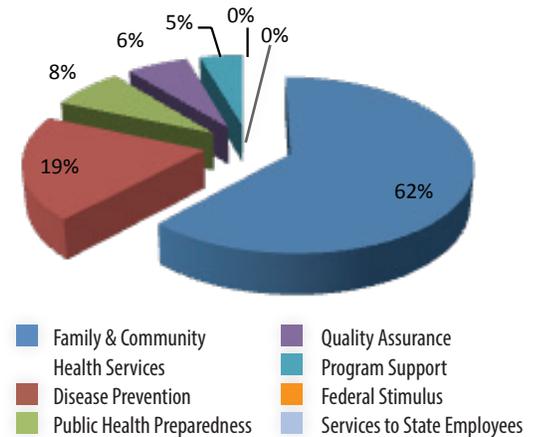
SFY 2014 Expenditures by Category

	Amount	Percentage
Subsidies & Shared Revenue	\$388,078,715	65.47%
Personal Services	\$101,337,743	17.10%
Supplies & Maintenance	\$ 78,369,029	13.22%
Purchased Personal Services	\$ 22,672,321	3.83%
Equipment	\$ 1,744,802	0.29%
Transfers & Non-Expense	\$ 439,754	0.07%
Judgments, Settlements, & Bonds	\$92,183	0.02%
Total	\$592,734,547	100.00%



SFY 2014 Expenditures by Program Series

	Amount	Percentage
Family & Community Health Services	\$367,320,721	61.97%
Disease Prevention	\$115,248,644	19.44%
Public Health Preparedness	\$45,366,077	7.65%
Quality Assurance	\$38,091,735	6.43%
Program Support	\$26,640,950	4.49%
Federal Stimulus	\$66,210	0.01%
Services to State Employees	\$210	0.00%
Total	\$592,734,547	100.00%



The State Health Department expends nearly \$600 million annually for public health services and supports.

SFY14 FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT SUCCESSES

“We are going to help minority businesses to succeed and thrive in the state of Ohio. We are committed to it, and we must get it done.”

— Ohio Governor John R. Kasich, State of the State Address, February 24, 2014

Minority Business Enterprise

Office of Financial Affairs (OFA) developed an aggressive plan to address the formidable challenge of increasing the agency’s Minority Business Enterprise (M.B.E.) set-aside spending for Fiscal Year 2014 from 6 percent of the eligible budget to at least 15 percent. The agency’s annual target for set-aside spending is 15 percent. Historically, the agency has found it challenging to get over the mid-point of this target. However, through extensive trainings, enhanced communication and unwavering leadership, the agency was able to exceed its M.B.E. set-aside target and close SFY14 at 16.2 percent.

Federal Shutdown & Sequestration

OFA successfully navigated the agency through unprecedented challenges stemming from the Federal Shutdown and Federal Sequestration events. The Ohio Department of Health receives nearly 70 percent of its annual funding through federal funders, thus exacerbating an already fiscally volatile situation.

Electronic Workflow

OFA has continued to maximize efficiency and effectiveness by developing and leveraging a technology solution for managing purchased personal services contracts. Through collaboration with the Office of Management & Information Systems, Office of General Counsel and Program areas, an electronic workflow cycle has been developed called Workflow Integrated System Enterprise (W.I.S.E.). Through W.I.S.E., there is now the ability to easily track the status of a contract and leverage analytics such as the amount of time to process at each step of the cycle, the number of contracts processed in a given period of time, and reporting features that allow customized views.

People in Focus: Paul Maragos



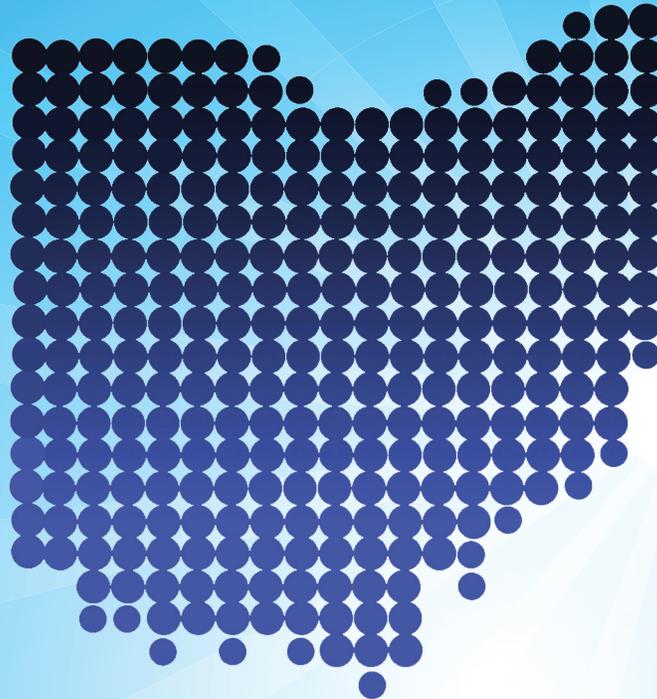
Chief, Procurement Services

“This is the first time that I can remember where ODH actually reached the MBE set-aside goal of 15 percent. It is a great achievement that should be shared throughout the organization from my staff to each and every Division. Without everyone’s help, we could not have done it. Thank You!”

— Paul Maragos

In State Fiscal Year 2014 ODH exceeded its goal and achieved 16.2 percent in MBE set-aside spending

ODH Strategic Priorities



- **Curb Tobacco Use**
- **Decrease Infant Mortality**
- **Reduce Obesity**
- **Expand Patient- Centered Medical Homes Across Ohio**

STRATEGIC PRIORITY: CURB TOBACCO USE

"Another addiction that hides in plain sight is tobacco. Ohio once was a national leader in smoking cessation efforts, and we need to take up that cause once again. That's why today I'm announcing that we're dedicating new tobacco settlement funds to the fight against this addiction, a fight that will drive down our medical costs and improve Ohioans' health."

- Ohio Governor John R. Kasich, State of the State Address, February 24, 2014

● Leading Statewide Smoke-Free Policy Efforts

In order to reduce Ohioans' exposure to secondhand smoke, ODH emphasized adoption of smoke-free policies for multi-unit housing authorities and tobacco-free policies for K-12 schools and college campuses. The Ohio Board of Regents, in partnership with ODH, was able to create a groundswell of adoption of tobacco-free policies by college campuses across the state. Notable adopters this past year include The Ohio State University and all of its satellite campuses helping to protect more than 80,000 students and staff from exposure to secondhand smoke.



● Raising Public Awareness to the Dangers of Tobacco Use

ODH launched a number of media campaigns over the last year aimed at educating Ohioans about the dangers of smoking and encouraging them to quit. These campaigns utilized various media channels including out-of-home (transit, billboards, gas stations), radio, internet, and postal mail coupons that were observed by Ohioans more than 125 million times. Several small campaigns provided holiday specific smoking cessation messaging, including Valentine's Day, Mother's Day, Father's Day, and Independence Day.

● Enforcing Ohio's Smoke-Free Law

Since the inception of the Ohio Smoke Free Workplace Law in 2006, ODH and local designees have conducted enforcement of this law through performing nearly 50,000 investigations resulting in more than 8,000 violations. ODH has worked with the Ohio Office of the Attorney General to defend the law. For example, they have brought cases before the Ohio Liquor Control Commission to begin to restrict liquor licenses of proprietors who continue to violate the law or who accumulate large fines without paying. Today, the majority of businesses in Ohio are complying with requirements of the law and the health of Ohioans has improved as a result.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY: DECREASE INFANT MORTALITY

Infant mortality, when a baby who is born alive dies within the first year of life, accounts for 66 percent of all childhood deaths in Ohio. According to data from Ohio Child Fatality Review Boards, three leading causes account for 76 percent of all infant deaths. Most infant deaths occur when babies are: 1) born too early (preterm births are those before 37 weeks gestation), which account for 47 percent of all infant deaths; 2) born with a serious birth defect, which account for 14 percent of all infant deaths; or 3) die from sleep-related deaths (including Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS), asphyxia and undetermined causes), which account for 15 percent of all infant deaths.



The following highlights are several ways ODH has addressed its priority of saving infant lives over the past year:

○ **ABCs of Safe Sleep Campaign Aims to Save Infant Lives**

ODH announced the launch of a statewide awareness campaign to help reduce the number of Ohio babies who die in unsafe sleep environments. Three Ohio babies die in unsafe sleep environments each week, with 819 infant deaths from 2007-2011. The goal of the infant safe sleep campaign is to educate mothers, fathers and grandparents in high-rate infant mortality areas of Ohio on the importance of putting their babies to sleep using the ABCs of safe sleep: **A**lone. **O**n **T**heir **B**ack. **I**n a **C**rib.

Sleep-related infant deaths occur suddenly and unexpectedly. All infants in unsafe sleep environments such as those sharing an adult bed are at risk. Providing a clear consistent message encouraging all families to always place their babies to sleep alone, on their back in a safe environment, is an important step in reducing infant mortality in Ohio.

○ **ODH Works with Local Agencies to Arrange for At-Risk Families to Receive Infant Safe Sleep Survival Kits**

ODH staff worked with local agencies currently serving as Cribs for Kids sites in the 14 Ohio Infant Mortality Reduction Initiative counties and one county in Southeastern Ohio. More than 2,400 safe sleep survival kits were provided in SFY14 to sites to provide access to safe sleep environments for at-risk families.

○ **ODH Celebrates New Partnership to Reduce Infant Mortality**

The Ohio Institute for Equity in Birth Outcomes was launched on July 23, 2013. The institute is made up of the Ohio Department of Health, CityMatCH, a national membership organization with the goal of improving the delivery of services to urban families and children, and nine Ohio communities committed to improving overall birth outcomes and reducing the racial and ethnic disparities in infant mortality.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY: REDUCE OBESITY

Obesity can lead to a life of poor health and chronic disease. *Ohio's Plan to Prevent and Reduce Chronic Disease: 2014-2018* was officially released to the public on March 26, 2014. ODH is one of nearly 50 public and private statewide partners who developed and will now implement the plan. Chronic diseases, such as heart disease, stroke, diabetes and some cancers, are the leading causes of death and disability in Ohio. Along with their associated risk, treating chronic diseases cost Ohio more than \$50 billion every year in both healthcare costs and lost productivity.

ODH's Seed to Salad Toolkit Praised—Bureau of Healthy Ohio staffer Ashley Davis was interviewed by the national United Fresh Produce Association, a founding partner with "Let's Move—Salad Bars to Schools" initiative. They came across the "Seed to Salad" toolkit on the ODH Seed to Salad webpage and was impressed. The information from the interview is being conveyed to the produce industry to increase the number of salad bars in Ohio's schools. By increasing the options and providing choices to kids through salad bars, consumption of fruits and vegetables are increased.



The Creating Healthy Communities (CHC) program is addressing the obesity epidemic through policies, systems and environment changes in 16 high-need counties across Ohio. It increases the opportunities for physical activity, improves access and affordability of healthy food and helps assure tobacco-free living for all Ohioans. In calendar year 2013, the CHC program impacted more than 825,300 Ohioans and leveraged just under \$2 million by improving playgrounds, establishing shared use agreements, building multi-use trails and making communities more bike/pedestrian-friendly. It has increased the number of farmers markets, healthy corner stores, community gardens, healthy vending and breastfeeding policies in worksites. CHC worked to create 18 tobacco-free school campuses and universities, smoke-free multi-unit housing, and outdoor recreation areas. Overall in 16 CHC counties, 255,000 Ohioans increased their access to physical activity, 200,000 Ohioans improved their nutrition and 51,000 Ohioans lived with cleaner air.

The Early Childhood Obesity Prevention Program (ECOPP) focuses its efforts on preventing overweight and obesity among 0-5 year olds. The program manager is coordinating state programs that help families, child care centers, preschool teachers, pediatricians, and home visitors instill healthy eating and active living habits among children before they reach kindergarten. ODH is using the *Ohio Healthy Program*, and the *Ounce of Prevention is Worth a Pound of Cure: Parenting at Mealtime and Playtime* to advance policies, environments and systems changes in child care settings, primary care physician offices, and family homes. These programs improve nutrition and increase physical activity for preschoolers and helps change health behaviors in parents. In the past 8 months, the ECOPP has had over 400 *Ohio Healthy Program* participants and 57 trainings; over 30 physicians and 50 home visitors have been trained in the *Ounce of Prevention* program both which lead to policies and environment changes.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY: EXPAND PATIENT-CENTERED MEDICAL HOMES ACROSS OHIO

ODH continues to lead a statewide expansion of the patient-centered medical home (PCMH) model of care. In just two years, the number of PCMH practices in Ohio has grown from 157 in 2012 to just under 500 in June 2014.

A PCMH is not an institution, nursing home, or home health agency. A PCMH is a medical office or clinic that offers coordinated, comprehensive primary care that is personal and focused on making sure the patient's health care needs are met. A PCMH provides health care that is patient-centered, comprehensive, coordinated, accessible, and committed to quality and safety.

PCMH accomplishments for SFY 2014

● PCMH Interprofessional Curriculum Reform

ODH worked with partners to further facilitate PCMH curriculum reform efforts. On July 11, 2013, a PCMH medical curriculum meeting was attended by participants from all Ohio medical schools. On October 10, 2013, a PCMH curriculum meeting for graduate nursing programs was held. Finally, an interprofessional curriculum meeting on June 4, 2014 was attended by 80 participants from 15 different health professions.

● Ohio Patient-Centered Primary Care Collaborative (OPCPCC)

ODH continued to support the activities of the OPCPCC and membership grew to more than 700 stakeholders. The November 2013 conference was attended by more than 250 participants and brought in the executive director of the national Patient-Centered Primary Care Collaborative as the keynote speaker.

● State Innovation Models (SIM)

ODH participated in Ohio's SIM Design process, which includes PCMH as a statewide strategy for improving healthcare for Ohioans.

● Growth of PCMHs in Ohio

The number of PCMHs in Ohio grew from 290 as of June 30, 2013 to 494 as of June 30, 2014.



MANAGING OHIO'S VITAL RECORDS

The ODH Office of Vital Statistics (VS) operates a statewide system for the registration of births, deaths, fetal deaths, and other vital events that happen within the state. The information that is collected is electronically exchanged with many entities in order to assess population health, evaluate programs and services provided by ODH, local health departments and other health providers. The Office of Vital Statistics also transmits data recorded to other state agencies and federal partners so events can be verified electronically, making paper copies obsolete.

In SFY 13, VS expanded its website ordering options, now helping customers purchase paternity affidavits and death certificates online with a credit card. The lobby continues to serve walk-in customers within 15 minutes, serving 20,000 visitors in the front office. Including postal mail and online applicants, more than 97,000 certified copies were issued.

Customer Service staff handled 45,279 calls from the general public regarding how to obtain certified copies, how to access sealed adoption paperwork, paternity establishment, etc. Their referral partnership with local health departments continued to expand, helping customers obtain the vital records they need as quickly as possible through local agencies. City and county vital statistic offices issued more than 256,000 certified copies, primarily from the statewide birth database.

Registered in the State of Ohio were 133,251 births, 105,149 deaths, and 926 fetal death certificates in 2013. HelpDesk staff handled 25,736 business partner calls regarding the creation of Ohio vital records from coroners, funeral directors, birth facility clerks and local health staff.

Special Registration staff processed 14,478 paternity documents and 4,125 adoptions. Clerks also logged 2,717 legal name changes, attached 12,538 affidavits to the original birth/death record, and corrected 749 birth records by order of a court.

ODH Receives National "Constellation Award"



ODH's Ohio Perinatal Quality Improvement Project Team received the National Association of Public Health Statistics and Information Systems "Constellation Award" for their work improving birth registry data and making it rapidly accessible. The Ohio Perinatal Quality Improvement Project Team consists of Vital Statistics staff and Office of Management Information System staff, with support from the Division of Family and Community Health Services. Shown left are Vital Statistics staff Deputy Registrar, Judy Nagy and Human Services Policy Supervisor, John Paulson.

Protecting Ohioans from Disease



PROTECTING OHIOANS FROM DISEASE: Measles, Mumps Outbreaks 2014

“Vaccine-preventable diseases, such as measles and mumps, re-emerged in 2014 and Ohio’s measles outbreak is now part of the largest outbreak in the U.S. since 1992 when the endemic disease was occurring throughout the country. While there are several reasons for the resurgence of these diseases, the fact remains that vaccinations are the most effective way to prevent illness from vaccine-preventable diseases.” — Dr. Mary DiOrio, State Epidemiologist

In early 2014, the State of Ohio became the epicenter in the resurgence of measles and mumps in the U.S. through an outbreak of mumps cases linked to a university setting in the Columbus area and through an explosion of measles cases in north-central Ohio, primarily spread among an unvaccinated population. Once alerted, public health officials mobilized to track and contain the outbreaks as quickly as possible.

Mumps Outbreak 2014

In April, ODH was first warned of a growing number of mumps cases in Columbus linked to Ohio State University. On June 30, the Columbus Public Health-led investigation had grown to 457 mumps cases in Columbus, Franklin, Madison, and Delaware counties. The Central Ohio mumps outbreak exceeds the total number of cases reported in the U.S. in 2013 (438 cases). The 2014 Central Ohio mumps incidence is the highest since 1979 when 930 cases were reported for the entire year (926 in Columbus and Franklin County, and four in Madison County).

Measles Outbreak 2014

Declared eradicated in the U.S. in 2000, measles cases have recently surged nationwide and Ohio is now part of the largest measles outbreak in the U.S. since 1992. The Ohio Department of Health and its federal, state and local partners continue to investigate and manage the outbreak which mostly has been confined to unvaccinated populations.



In late April, the Ohio Department of Health, Knox County Health Department, and Holmes County General Health District, in collaboration with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) began investigating several suspected cases of measles in the Knox County area. The initial cases were among unvaccinated travelers who recently had returned to Ohio from the Philippines.

As cases in Ohio continued to grow into the hundreds, public health mobilized to increase public awareness of the importance of getting vaccinated and to establish infectious disease interventions aimed at slowing and containing the spread. On June 9, Ohio Governor John R. Kasich signed an Executive Order authorizing licensed pharmacists to administer the measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine to individuals 18 years and older, in order to provide those adults additional opportunities to get vaccinated. Pharmacists previously did not have authority to administer the MMR vaccine.

PROTECTING OHIOANS FROM DISEASE



Also on June 9, the Director of Health activated the ODH Incident Command System, allowing identified agency staff to concentrate solely on the state's measles outbreak response. By June 30 the number of measles cases in Ohio had reached nearly 370 as ODH continued to work with local health departments and Regional Healthcare Coordinators in the affected jurisdictions.

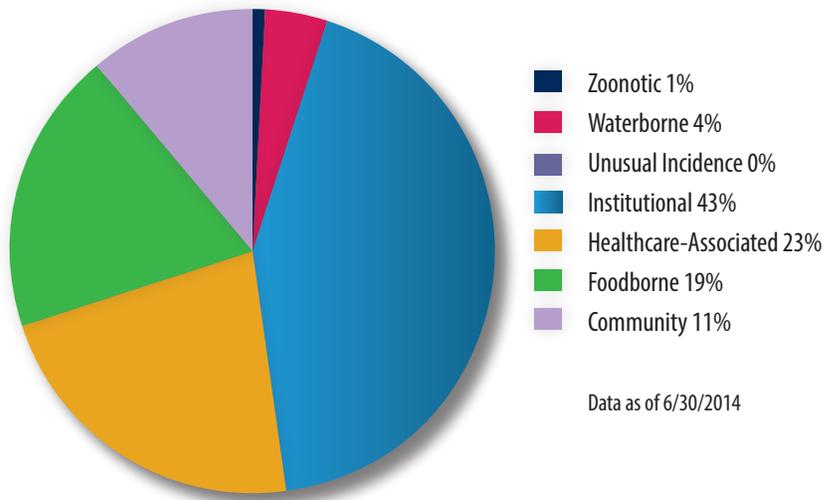
Measles Outbreak Chronology

- **June 24:** ODH and the Ohio State Board of Pharmacy issue a joint letter asking all pharmacists to input critical immunization data into Ohio's immunization tracking system
- **June 18:** ODH sends out guidance about measles vaccination to all healthcare workers
- **June 10:** ODH holds a statewide update call for media regarding the status of the outbreak
- **June 10:** Stark County Health Department contacts ODH about six confirmed cases of measles
- **June 9:** ODH goes into Incident Command Structure
 - **June 9:** Gov. Kasich signs an executive order allowing licensed pharmacists to administer the MMR vaccine to individuals 18 years and older
- **June 7:** Highland County Health Department contacts ODH about a suspected measles case
- **June 6:** ODH sends out a press release about summertime travel and staying healthy
- **May 27:** More than 13,000 doses of MMR vaccine have been distributed to local health departments to date to combat the measles outbreak
- **May 23:** Number of measles cases surpasses 150 in a six-county area
- **May 13:** ODH conducts a conference call with media across the state and local health jurisdictions regarding measles outbreak
- **May 3:** ODH develops measles guidance for school nurses
- **May 2:** ODH issues measles guidance to Ohio schools
- **May 1:** ODH establishes a measles homepage on its website and issues measles guidance to healthcare providers
- **April 25:** ODH orders MMR vaccines for delivery to all counties that plan to hold vaccination clinics
- **April 25:** CDC officially confirms Ohio's measles cases
- **April 24:** ODH, the Ashland County-City Health Department, the Knox County Health Department and the Holmes County General Health District issue a joint press release
- **April 24:** ODH and its public health partners begin regular conference calls with CDC regarding the measles outbreak
- **April 23:** ODH is alerted about a possible measles outbreak in three Ohio counties

PROTECTING OHIOANS FROM DISEASE

ODH's Bureau of Infectious Disease, its Public Health Laboratory and other areas of the state health agency responded to numerous outbreaks over the past year. The following depicts the various outbreaks for calendar year 2013.

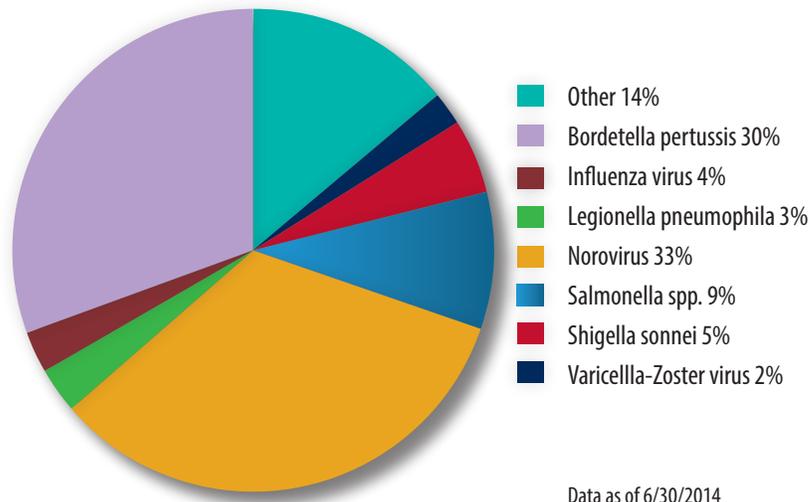
Outbreaks Reported by Type, Ohio, 2013



Outbreaks Reported by Type, Ohio 2013

Outbreak Type	N	%
Zoonotic	44	1%
Waterborne	14	4%
Unusual Incidence	1	0%
Institutional	171	43%
Healthcare-Associated	90	23%
Foodborne	76	19%
Community	44	11%
Total	400	100%

Confirmed Outbreaks by Causative Agent, Ohio, 2013



Confirmed Outbreaks by Causative Agent, Ohio, 2013

Causative Agent	N	%
Other*	31	14%
<i>Bordetella pertussis</i>	67	30%
Influenza virus	8	4%
<i>Legionella pneumophila</i>	6	3%
Norovirus	74	33%
<i>Salmonella</i> spp.	20	9%
<i>Shigella sonnei</i>	11	5%
Varicella-Zoster virus	4	2%
Total	221	100%

* Other agents (< 1% of outbreaks each) include: *Bacillus cereus*, *Campylobacter* spp., *Clostridium difficile*, *Clostridium perfringens*, coxsackie virus, *Cryptosporidium* spp., shiga toxin-producing *Escherichia coli*, vancomycin-resistant *Enterococcus*, *Giardia* spp., hepatitis A virus, lice, *Listeria monocytogenes*, rotavirus, *Sarcoptes scabiei*, staphylococcal food poisoning, methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*, group A *Streptococcus*, and sapovirus.

Data as of 06/30/2014

Other agents (< 1% of outbreaks each) include: *Bacillus cereus*, *Clostridium difficile*, *Clostridium perfringens*, *Coxsackie virus*, *Cryptosporidium* spp., vancomycin-resistant *Enterococcus*, *Giardia* spp., *Hepatitis A virus*, *Influenza virus*, *Listeria monocytogenes*, *Rotavirus*, staphylococcal food poisoning, methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*, group A *Streptococcus* and *Sapovirus*.

PROTECTING OHIOANS FROM DISEASE

State Immunization Records Now Processed Almost Twice as Fast in Electronic System

The Ohio Impact Statewide Immunization Information System (ImpactSIIS) is an interactive system for recording and tracking immunizations and is managed by the Ohio Department of Health. It was developed to help achieve complete and timely immunization for all Ohioans. Last year, the ODH Office of Management Information Systems implemented changes to the system that will speed file processing and decrease the number of patients with duplicate records in ImpactSIIS. Initial changes decreased lag time from more than nine days on Dec. 13, 2013 to fewer than four days on Dec. 17, 2013.

Cleveland Clinic Joins ImpactSIIS

Earlier this year, the Cleveland Clinic began sending immunization information from their electronic health record to ImpactSIIS. The data are currently being loaded to an ImpactSIIS test environment for validation by Cleveland Clinic and the ODH ImpactSIIS team. Cleveland Clinic now joins a growing list of providers such as Giant Eagle Pharmacies, Walgreens, OSU Medical Center, Children's Hospitals and many others who regularly send data to ODH's immunization system.

ODH Participates in Guard Care Program

The Ohio Adjutant General's Department and ODH continued a unique partnership to allow Ohio National Guard medical personnel LHD and ODH staff to offer free health services in Ohio communities while providing training opportunities for members of the Guard. Services provided include a variety of medical screenings and immunizations. Guard Care events would not be possible without the contributions and participation of local health departments and community service providers. This past year, ODH participated in a Guard Care event in Morrow County. The event was sponsored by the Morrow County Health Department, Morrow County Hospital, Ohio National Guard, and Ohio Department of Health. The two day event provided a wide range of preventive and diagnostic health care services to 793 Ohio residents at no cost. In addition this year's event also provided more than **670 vaccines to 334** children and adults.

GUARD CARE

90 OHIO NATIONAL GUARD SOLDIERS, 18 OHIO NATIONAL GUARD AIRMEN SERVED AT THE 2-DAY EVENT

AT THE EVENT THERE WERE:

- 1959 ROUTINE ASSESSMENTS
- 673 IMMUNIZATIONS
- 3084 LAB SERVICES

793 OHIO RESIDENTS ATTENDED THE EVENT AND RECEIVED HEALTH CARE

THE EVENT TAKES PLACE IN AREAS OF NEED BASED ON HEALTH DATA AND HEALTH PROFESSIONAL SHORTAGES.

This year's event was conducted on August 10-11, 2013 in partnership with Morrow County Health Department, Ohio Department of Health, Morrow County Hospital and the Ohio National Guard.

64 COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS WORKED THE EVENT

400+ THOSE VOLUNTEERS CONTRIBUTED HOURS OF WORK OVER THE TWO-DAY EVENT

WHY OHIOANS LOVE GUARD CARE:

SERVICES PROVIDED INCLUDED: PHYSICALS, COMPLETE BLOOD WORK PROFILES, THYROID TESTS, PAP SMEARS, PELVIC EXAMS, MAMMOGRAMS, DENTAL SCREENINGS AND X-RAYS, VISION AND GLAUCOMA TESTING, HEARING SCREENINGS, IMMUNIZATIONS, LEAD TESTING, HIV/HCV TESTING, STD TESTING AND URINE ANALYSIS.

\$0 WAS SPENT ON ADVERTISING AND PROMOTION

OHIO NATIONAL GUARD PRINTED 36,000 FILERS WHICH WERE DISTRIBUTED BY MORROW COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

THE OHIO NATIONAL GUARD INITIATED THE GUARD CARE PROGRAM IN 1995

USING DATA & TECHNOLOGY TO DRIVE DECISION-MAKING

Ohio Launches Network of Care for Public Health Assessment & Wellness

Ohio recently launched an innovative, local-delivery public health dashboard to enhance health decision-making. This web-based tool will help give community stakeholders, providers, payers, families and individuals with key public health data and resources in an easy-to-read format. The Ohio Department of Health, local health departments and their stakeholders, will now have access to local and state public health indicators, model practices and local collaboration tools from around the nation. The site integrates statistics from national, state and other sources into a collection of health and quality-of-



NETWORK OF CARE: www.odh.ohio.gov

life indicators specific for each local health jurisdiction and the state of Ohio. Indicators also include Healthy People 2020 targets, historical data per counties and evidence-based intervention.

“The Association of Ohio Health Commissioners applauds the leadership shown by the Ohio Department of Health in making Network of Care a reality in Ohio. This new data tool will allow local communities to focus their efforts on areas of greatest need, and to more efficiently use limited health assessment funds.” —Krista Wasowski, Medina County Health Commissioner and AOHK President

ODH Adopts New Meaningful Use Standards for Electronic Health Records

As part of ODH’s commitment to providing up-to-date, high quality data to the groups and individuals it serves, the agency recently adopted a Stage 2 Meaningful Use policy regarding electronic health records. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services has developed certain health information technology standards that must be met to reach Stage 2 of Meaningful Use. These standards involve moving beyond simply capturing and sharing electronic data to using that data to improve clinical processes. As ODH starts to apply Meaningful Use to the many data systems that are housed at ODH, the result will be faster, more accurate data with regard to everything from lab results to vaccination records and disease surveillance.

Geo-Mapping Assists Those Most in Need

In March, the ODH Office of Health Equity assisted the Department of Medicaid in mapping over 95,000 Medicaid Claims records. The analysis focused on determining the proximity of clinical services to female Medicaid recipients ages 12-50 and the extent to which these females lived in census tracts with poor birth outcomes. This information helped the Greater Columbus Infant Mortality Task Force formulate recommendations to reduce the burden of infant mortality disparities.

Highlighted Division Accomplishments



The ODH lab where new born and food borne testing are done.

DIVISION OF FAMILY AND COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES (DFCHS) HIGHLIGHTED ACCOMPLISHMENTS

DFCHS provides administrative direction, leadership, and coordination of the activities for child and family health services, children with medical handicaps, early intervention services, nutrition services, and community health services. Highlighted SFY14 accomplishments include:

Women, Infant and Children Nutrition

Ohio WIC is the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children. WIC helps income-eligible pregnant and breastfeeding women, women who recently had a baby, infants, and children up to five years of age who are at health risk due to inadequate nutrition. **For federal fiscal year 2013, Ohio's WIC program served a monthly average of 263,684 people, consisting of an average of 61,581 women, 68,232 infants and 133,871 children.**

Electronic Benefits Transfer on the Way

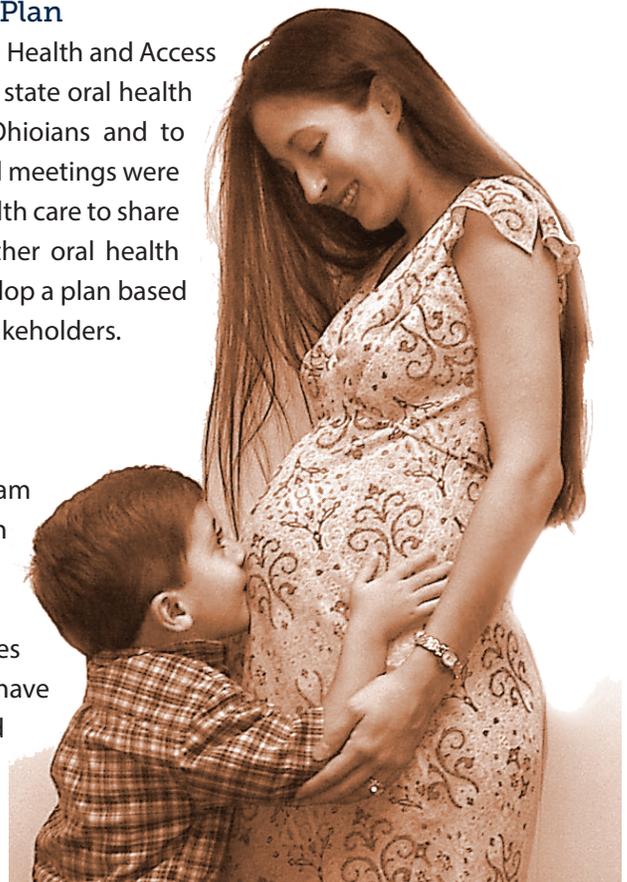
Today, Ohio WIC issues coupons for eligible women to shop and purchase foods based upon an authorized foods list that assigns particular foods based on an individual's medical and nutritional risk. This summer, a new initiative will be implemented called the WIC Nutrition Card (WNC). This card will allow women to buy their food using smart card technology. The first pilot for the WNC will be held in Licking County in July 2014 with plans to have all 88 counties completed by December 2015.

Task Force Develops Oral Health Strategic Plan

The 2014 Ohio Director of Health's Task Force on Oral Health and Access to Dental Care was convened to develop a five year state oral health strategic plan to improve access for vulnerable Ohioians and to address other oral health issues. In addition, regional meetings were held to enable local consumers and providers of health care to share their thoughts about access to dental care and other oral health issues. The task force will meet several times to develop a plan based on priorities identified by the group and regional stakeholders.

ODHers Provide Education to Hundreds of School Nurses

Since the first of the year, the School nursing program has provided a monthly live webcast for public health nurses working in school settings (Public Health Nurses: Successful Partnerships with Ohio Schools), as well as online independent study opportunities with archived webcasts. More than 355 nurses have participated in these educational opportunities and over 78 hours of continuing nursing education contact hours were offered.



DIVISION OF FAMILY AND COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES (DFCHS) HIGHLIGHTED ACCOMPLISHMENTS

ODH's Primary Care Office Places

Healthcare Professionals in Underserved Areas

A total of 40 physicians were recruited or retained for Ohio's rural and urban underserved areas through the Physician Loan Repayment Program and the J-1 Visa Waiver Program. Placements include 30 primary care physicians and 10 sub-specialists who practice in sites including Federally Qualified Health Centers, Rural Health Clinics, Critical Access Hospitals, community mental health agencies, children's hospitals, a state correctional facility, and hospital-based, affiliated or private practices.

ODH Program Makes Almost 200 Ohio Homes Lead-Safe for Families, Children, More to Follow

The Ohio Healthy Homes and Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (OHLPPP) is completing the closeout period for its Lead-Based Paint Hazard Control Grant that was received from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The grant was a three-year, \$2.1 million grant. Additional match funds were received from the Ohio Development Services Agency's Housing Trust Fund (\$200,000) and the Ohio Housing Finance Agency (\$100,000). The final closeout report has been completed and shows that 196 housing units were made lead-safe for Ohio families through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) grant work and 10 properties had additional healthy homes work completed.

On August 1, 2013, the program was awarded another \$2.3 million from HUD to perform lead-hazard control work on properties housing one or more children under six years of age. The grant is funded for three years.

People in Focus: John Belt



Field Services Section Administrator in
the Bureau of Child and Family Health Services

John was awarded the Children's Environmental Health Award by the Improving Kids' Environment (IKE) Coalition at the 2013 Improving Kids' Environment Conference held in October in Indianapolis. The Children's Environmental Health Award recognizes individuals who have demonstrated a commitment to children's environmental health issues by having made a significant contribution to making homes, schools or communities environmentally healthier for children and having established viable, effective programs working on children's environmental health issues.

DIVISION OF QUALITY ASSURANCE (DQA) HIGHLIGHTED ACCOMPLISHMENTS

DQA Long Term Care (LTC) Facility Counts (Data of June 2014)

961	Nursing Homes/Facilities
621	Residential Care Facilities (Assisted Living)
435	Intermediate Care Facilities for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities (ICF/IID)
453	Nurse Aide Training Competency Program (NATCEP)

DQA Number of LTC Surveys Conducted (SFY 2014)

2,713	Nursing Facilities/Homes
899	Residential Care Facilities (Assisted Living)
473	ICF/IID
170	Nurse Aide Training Competency Program (NATCEP)
4,255	TOTAL

(Note: Survey types include standard, complaint and combined surveys and may not include surveys conducted during the last week of June 2014)

DQA Non-Long Term Care (NLTC) Facility Counts (Data of June 2014)

317	End Stage Renal Dialysis/ Freestanding Dialysis Centers
274	Ambulatory Surgical Facilities/Centers
779	Home Health Agencies
155	Hospice Programs
232	Hospitals
10,206	CLIA (Clinical Laboratories)
117	Maternity Units
4	Maternity Homes
2	Freestanding Birthing Center
2	Freestanding Inpatient Rehabilitation Centers

DQA Number of NLTC Surveys Conducted (SFY 2014)

181	End Stage Renal Dialysis/ Freestanding Dialysis Centers
98	Ambulatory Surgical Facilities/Centers
491	Home Health Agencies
35	Hospice Programs
115	Hospitals
221	CLIA (Clinical Laboratories)
69	Maternity Units
2	Maternity Homes
2	Freestanding Birthing Center
0	Freestanding Inpatient Rehabilitation Centers
1,214	TOTAL

(Note: Survey types include standard, complaint and combined surveys and may not include surveys conducted during the last week of June 2014)

DIVISION OF PREVENTION AND HEALTH PROMOTION (DPHP) HIGHLIGHTED ACCOMPLISHMENTS

DPHP evaluates health status, prevents and controls injuries and diseases, both chronic and infectious, and promotes good health. Collaborations and partnerships at the federal, state and local levels provide enhanced capacity to meet strategic priorities. Highlighted SFY14 division accomplishments include:

Prescription Painkiller Deaths Drop For First Time in Decade

Ohio's efforts to combat the abuse of prescription painkillers are paying off and data released earlier this year by the Ohio Department of Health show that the number of deaths from unintended overdoses of prescription opioids declined in 2012 for the first time since 2003. At the same time, however, information also shows an alarming increase in the number of heroin-related overdose deaths, reinforcing the need for ongoing efforts to combat both the supply and demand of illegal drugs in Ohio.

Ohio Opens New Front in the Fight Against Opiate Abuse

As part of an ongoing effort to curb the misuse and abuse of prescription pain medications and prevent unintentional overdoses, Gov. Kasich this year announced the adoption of new opioid prescribing guidelines for treating patients with chronic, non-terminal pain. Developed by the Governor's Cabinet Opiate Action Team (GCOAT), and in conjunction with more than 40 professional groups, state licensing boards and state agencies, the opioid prescribing guidelines encourage Ohio's clinicians to fully evaluate a patient's situation before prescribing high levels of opioids for long-term use.



ODH Joins Gov. Kasich in Efforts to Spread Awareness about Human Trafficking

In early January, Gov. Kasich launched a human trafficking awareness campaign. The ODH Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Prevention Program is an important partner in this fight and has assisted in raising awareness throughout the state. The ODH website now includes information about human trafficking. "Human Trafficking: An Update for Nurses Working in Ohio Schools" is now available for independent study on OhioTRAIN, a learning resource for professionals who protect the public's health. Sections of the study includes the Survivor's Story; Overview, Definition and Prevention; Ohio School Nurse Human Trafficking Protocol; and National Hotline and Local Resources. In addition, more than 100 school nurses from around Ohio attended a day-long training on human trafficking, co-sponsored together with ODH's school and adolescent health program. This completed one of the recommendations of the Governor's Task Force on Human Trafficking.



DIVISION OF PREVENTION AND HEALTH PROMOTION (DPHP) HIGHLIGHTED ACCOMPLISHMENTS

ODH Conducts SNS Full-Scale Exercise

The Bureau of Public Health Preparedness led a full scale Ohio Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) Exercise on April 16-17. The exercise tested the state's capability to receive federal medical countermeasures and distribute them to the appropriate local point of dispensing. The exercise was a tri-state interagency event with federal, state and local partners. In Ohio, individuals from ODH, Ohio Emergency



Management Agency, Ohio Department of Transportation, Ohio Air and Army National Guard, Ohio State Highway Patrol, Department of Administrative Services (MARCS Office) and Cincinnati City and Hamilton County Health Departments, as well as multiple hospitals, several local health departments and county emergency management agencies in the Cincinnati metropolitan statistical area participated in this two-day event.

Media Highlights State Efforts to Help Vulnerable Citizens

Severe weather temperatures this past winter caused a propane shortage throughout the state of Ohio. The Bureau of Public Health Preparedness staff, with assistance from the ODH Division of Quality Assurance, maintained a database of propane usage by Ohio hospitals and healthcare facilities. Calls were placed to check facilities with propane levels below 40 percent. Facilities with scheduled propane deliveries were asked to confirm delivery with ODH BHP staff. Each day, the updated database was emailed to the Emergency Operations Center operated by the Ohio Emergency Management Agency. The *Columbus Dispatch* wrote about the work on this front by state agencies in an article titled, [State helps dole out propane to neediest](#) February 2, 2014.

People in Focus: Julie Walburn



Chief, Bureau of Health Preparedness

"A response to any type of disaster starts locally. In ODH, we work every day with our local partners to develop capabilities that protect our communities faced with a disaster or emergency response. It is also important that we are engaged in the national planning process, as ODH works across all levels to ensure health preparedness for Ohioans."

-Julie Walburn

DIVISION OF PREVENTION AND HEALTH PROMOTION (DPHP) HIGHLIGHTED ACCOMPLISHMENTS

ODH Gives LHDs Guidance on Cancer Investigations

The Community Cancer Concerns Response Protocol recently was released to all Ohio local health departments. The protocol was developed to enhance the ability of local health jurisdictions to address cancer concerns within their community. The protocol is supplemented by a Community Cancer Communications Toolkit, and a Cancer Data Toolkit.

ODH, EPA and OSU Develop Water Testing Tool for Well Owners

The Bureau of Environmental Health worked with OSU Extension and the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency to develop a Web-based tool designed to help well owners understand their water sample results and provides information on the expected normal range of constituents in ground water, health effects, and treatment options if applicable. The tool is being hosted on the OSU Extension Watershed Network Web page and is part of a water well owner education site.

CHC Healthy Corner Store

Kick-Off Event Receives Media Attention

The Stop & Go Corner Store in the priority community of South Toledo in Lucas County has committed to increasing the availability and affordability of fresh produce through its partnership with the Creating Healthy Communities (CHC) program. Last August customers entering the store were greeted by WIC registered dietitians who were offering healthy fruit kabobs and whole wheat wraps. A large vegetable bin displayed in the front of the store was full of fresh produce and the “Eat Well Live Well” signs announced the availability of the new produce. These healthy corner stores, by offering a large variety of produce, have increased their sales which have increased healthy options for community members. Participating CHC staff included ODHer Jan Meyer, CFCS from the ODH Toledo District Office.



People in Focus: Debra Seltzer



Program Administrator for the Sexual Assault & Domestic Violence Program
Debra has been instrumental in the administration's efforts to curb human trafficking activities in Ohio. In addition, Debra is the Chair for Barbara Warner Committee on Workplace Domestic Violence, serves as a supervisor for the Women's Health Program, and was the ODH designee to the Ohio Human Trafficking Task Force.

"We want to include prevention in everything we do when it comes to sexual assault, domestic violence, and human trafficking. If we can stop violence before it happens then that is when we have succeeded."

—Debra Seltzer

Coming Together to Transform Health in Ohio...



Ohioans have made it clear that improving the health of the state has to be a priority. Through initiatives included in Ohio's 2-year budget, lawmakers placed a great deal of emphasis on transforming the way health care is delivered in our state.

In response, the Ohio Department of Health convened statewide town hall meetings last year with local health professionals, academics, public health colleagues, and other health providers to discuss ways in which public health and clinical medicine can partner to improve the health outcomes of Ohioans. These town hall meetings were designed to communicate the state's health priorities of PCMH expansion, obesity reduction, tobacco-use prevention, and decreasing infant mortality. The Town Hall Tour was a great success for ODH because of the hard work of so many people — and because of each community's willingness to participate.

ODH will continue its community outreach in the coming year to build on the collaborative spirit generated through the town hall meetings.



People in Focus:

Marybeth Rich



Radiation Protection, Senior Health Physicist

Marybeth was recognized nationally for leadership in reducing radon health effects—it was recently announced at the Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors that ODH Bureau of Radiation Protection employee Marybeth Rich has been awarded the groups “Radon Hero” award. Marybeth will receive the award at the National Radon Training Conference in September. The award recognizes an individual who has demonstrated leadership in reducing the health effects of radon exposure. The award is given based on the individual’s contribution to this effort, on their breadth and scope of services, and their commitment to sustained radon risk reduction.

Sandra Christian



Administrative Professional 3

Sandra Christian has lost 100 pounds since February 2012. Motivation to lose weight came unexpectedly when a co-worker convinced her to join the ODH Walking Challenge. This activity inspired her to work out more regularly. She began using an elliptical trainer and light weights at home and she now jogs 20 miles each week. As a 23-year breast cancer survivor, she also participates in pink-ribbon events in the Columbus area whenever she can. Changing from a sedentary existence to a physically active one is why Sandra was selected as the ODH Healthy Ohio Healthy Employee for the Month of October 2013.

Nelson Gonzalez



Project Manager

Nelson was selected as ODH Employee of the Month in August 2013. He was nominated for his exceptional team leadership abilities; dedication to completing the task at hand; and for his seamless integration with both IT and Program staff. According to his supervisor, “Nelson has shown exceptional team leadership abilities, even when challenged with difficult circumstances or failing projects. Nelson has a tremendous work ethic. All feedback from his team members and program customers has been overwhelmingly positive in nature.”

People in Focus:

Congratulations to Sam Chapman and Ann Connelly!

With two ODH employees nominated for Nurse of the Year in their respective categories, ODH was well-represented at the March of Dimes' First Annual Ohio Nurse of the Year Awards.

Sam Chapman, chief nurse administrator in the Bureau for Children with Medical Handicaps, beat out 14 other nominees to win the title of "Nurse of the Year" in the Nurse Leadership category.

Ann Connelly, ODH School Nurse program supervisor in the Bureau of School and Adolescent Health, also earned the distinction of being nominated for "Nurse of the Year" in the Public Health and Ambulatory Care category.

Other public health nurses who were honored as nominees at the "Celebrate the Caring Spirit" event included employees from health departments in the Cincinnati and Dayton-Montgomery area and from Clark and Clinton counties.



Ann Connelly (left) and Sam Chapman pose together at the awards reception.

2013 ODH Employees of the Month

Shannon Libby, December, 2013
Joe Scales, November, 2013
Beth Malchus, October, 2013
Kimberly Bass, September, 2013
Nelson Gonzalez, August, 2013
Shannon Coleman, July, 2013

2013 Healthy Ohio Healthy Employees

Tina Krempasky, August 2013
Sandra Christian, October 2013
Marika Mohr, November 2013
Lisa Banks, January 2014
Jennifer Bartosek, March 2014
Angela Evans, April 2014
Matthew Slanoc, May 2014



Ohio

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