



Butler County Health Department *2016 Annual Report*

BUTLER COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

2016 ANNUAL REPORT

*Butler County Health Department
301 S. Third Street, Hamilton, OH 45011
(513) 863-1770
Web Site: www.butlercountyohio.org/health
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2016

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Village of Millville
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Robert Lee Henley, Village of New Miami
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Brad Mills

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Lee Wong
George Lang

Morgan - Tom Brucker
Darryl D. Huff
Brett Updike

BUTLER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Cindy Carpenter
T.C. Rogers
Donald L. Dixon

BUTLER COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

2016

Leon Simpson
Chairman of the Board
Wayne Township

Alan J. Burley, D.D.S.
Vice-Chairman of the Board
Trenton City

Molly Emmert, M.D.
Member
Oxford City

Stephanie Johnson, R.N., B.S.N.
Member
Reily Township

Nancy Harrison
Member
Fairfield City

Stephen Schulte
Member
Morgan Township

Ryan Welsh, P.E.
Member
Ross Township

John Mihevic
Member/Representative
Health District Licensing Council

Robert J. Lerer, M.D.
Health Commissioner
Serves as Secretary to the Board

The Butler County Board of Health is the governing body of the Butler County General Health District, which consist of 13 Townships and 10 Cities and Villages. The Board consists of 8 members who are each appointed for a 3 year term.

The Board is the policy making body for the health department and has the authority to adopt rules and regulations according to the law. The Butler County Board of Health meets monthly on the third Thursday at 7:30 p.m. All meetings are open to the public.

*“Boards can be the forward thinking, value oriented, leading bodies we claim them to be.
Board members are as conscientious and giving a group as one could ever find.
Personal drive of board members has accomplished formidable tasks.
Perseverance of board members has surmounted seemingly intractable barriers.
Generosity of board members has made the impossible possible.”*

John Carver

HEALTH DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL

2016

Dr. Robert J. Lerer, Health Commissioner
Patricia F. Burg, Director of Administration

Administrative Staff

Jeffery Agnew, R.S., Chief of Environmental Services
Jerry Frederick, Chief Plumbing Inspector
Jennifer Bailer, R.N., B.A., M.S., Nursing Director
Rhonda Smith, Fiscal Officer/Office Manager

Environmental Staff

Jennifer Frederickson, R.S.
Jodi Gibson, R.S.
Bart Kelhoffer, R.S.
Awni Dababneh, R.S.
Mark Knapke, R.S.
Nicole Pennington, S.I.T.
Jason Soles, S.I.T.

Emergency Preparedness

Jake Collins, Emergency
Preparedness Coordinator

Maintenance

Scott Deaton

Clinic Support Staff

Dr. Kenneth Wehr, Tuberculosis
Clinic Physician

Child and Family Health Services Staff

Marie Augustin
Natalie Jones
Latoiua Foster
Michelle Tubbs

Nursing Staff

Betsy Waldeck, R.N.
Sue Glutz, R.N.
Robynne Wilson, R.N.
Mary Beth Grollmus, R.N., B.S.N., Epidemiologist
Karen Carr, R.N., B.S.N., Epidemiologist

Plumbing Staff

Gordon Rister
Mike Schlabach
John Baumgartner

Office Staff

Tina Combs
Nikki Girdler
Kathy Ripley
Annette Bellman
Kim Geisler
Susan McCord

Our Heartfelt Thanks to...

Pat Burg, Director of Administration, for her 45 years of dedication to the health department.

Dr. Robert Lerer, Health Commissioner/Medical Director, for his 40+ years of dedicated service to the health department.

Dr. Kenneth Wehr, TB Clinic Physician, for his 25 years of dedicated service to the health department.

MESSAGE FROM THE HEALTH COMMISSIONER

2016

To the citizens of Butler County:

It is a pleasure to author my letter of introduction to the Butler County Health Department's annual report for 2016. Our daily activities are meant to prevent disease and to optimize the public's health. Every day brings new challenges and fresh opportunities to improve the general health and welfare of citizens of our community. As you read our 2016 annual report, you will learn much about our preventive programs and many of our functions. We are blessed with an experienced and compassionate staff. Clerical personnel, nurses, environmentalists, plumbing inspectors, administrators...all of us exist to serve our citizens in areas related to public health. Let me share some of our current activities.

Over my years of tenure as your health chief, I have witnessed much in Butler County:

The virtual elimination of rheumatic fever and rheumatic heart disease in the 1970s.

The control of smallpox and poliomyelitis worldwide, and in Butler County.

The emergence of HIV and AIDS as new major public health threats in the 1980s.

The discovery of antiviral therapy which dramatically reduced deaths from AIDS.

The reduction in cases of tuberculosis, even as TB bacteria are more resistant to treatment.

The rising threat of heroin and prescribed narcotics to addict and kill our citizens.

The many new vaccines offering prevention of measles, rubella, meningitis, etc.

The emergence of exotic diseases like Ebola and Zika.

The new chemotherapies and immune therapies aimed at cancer cures.

The Butler County Health Department continues as a lead local agency charged with the goal of reducing the high infant mortality rate among our African American and Latino citizens. This will be accomplished over time through innovative ways of monitoring pregnant women, programs aimed at reduction of smoking and drug use during pregnancy, continued efforts at further reduction in our high teen pregnancy rate, diminution of premature births, insuring safe sleep practices for infants, addressing nutrition deficits in mothers and babies, and other initiatives.

The potential of importation of exotic infections from abroad is a continuing source of concern for us. Many local businesses and universities in our region have large numbers of employees who travel the globe, and many host foreign students, visitors, and workers. Tourism adds further opportunities for introducing exotic infections into our region. Consider the current public health fight against diseases caused by Zika virus. The importation of Zika, often from Latin American countries, has created increased vigilance at our borders, has led to protocols for the diagnosis and treatment of infected persons, particularly women infected during pregnancy, and refining public health procedures, including mosquito monitoring and control. Our personnel are trained and prepared should a person with Zika, or other rare infections be identified here. In fact, one of

the first cases of Zika infection in the United States was diagnosed in Butler County in a local citizen who acquired the infection in South America.

For the last several years, we have witnessed a resurgence in the use of intravenous drugs such as heroin, and a continuation of overuse and abuse of pain killing narcotic prescription drugs. The number of fatalities from drug overdoses continued to rise in 2016 in Butler County. More people in Ohio die of drug overdoses than traffic accidents. Our health department is very concerned about these needless overdose deaths and our region's worsening statistics. Addiction is a legitimate public health concern, worthy of attempts to prevent it and to treat it as the disease it is. Education of the public ideally begins in childhood and adolescence, within the family unit and schools, and must continue into adulthood through the media and through all our health care providers in the community. Social agencies, law enforcement, and first responders are key players in any collaborative to eliminate or reduce drug addiction, and prevent deaths from drug overdoses.

Prevention of common communicable diseases through childhood and adult immunizations is a vital activity of our health department. The best protection for all of us from preventable infections is to be up to date on all recommended adult and pediatric immunizations. Our department is a major contributor to enhancing the public's health through protective vaccines.

Excessive mortality and morbidity secondary to poor life style choices continue. Much disease is preventable just by maintaining a healthy weight, exercising regularly, eating right, getting good sleep, avoiding tobacco, and other simple measures. Elevated blood pressure, heart attacks, strokes, kidney failure, diabetes, and cancer are common diseases killing our citizens. The frequency of each of these diseases can be reduced by the simple measures I just outlined. Obviously government cannot monitor each citizen's actions that enhance personal health. I cannot change your bad habits. You must do so yourself. It is all about taking personal responsibility for your health.

Thanks for allowing me to serve you as your Butler County Health Commissioner and Medical Director for more than 40 years. I have held this job longer than any other health chief in Ohio history. It has been an honor. However, this is my final introductory letter, inasmuch as I am planning to retire soon. I greatly appreciate the continued faithful support of our outstanding personnel, many of whom have been serving you for decades. My sincere gratitude goes to each of our public servants at the Butler County Health Department. Our region is truly blessed with excellence in public health because of the excellence of our public health officials. But we cannot operate in a vacuum; we need each and every citizen to take more responsibility to live healthy lives. Ideally, the partnership between government and people in areas of public health will continue to strengthen and I hope that this brings about the benefits of longer and healthier lives.

Robert J. Lerer, MD, FAAP
Medical Director, Butler County Health Department

BUDGET AND FINANCE MANAGEMENT

- **Vital Statistics**
- **Public Records Maintenance**
- **Communications**
- **Permits**
- **Grant Management**
- **Customer Service**



The Butler County Health Department employs a staff of dedicated men and women who continue to carry out the vital functions of the department in a professional manner.

BUDGET & FINANCE

2016

All Board of Health Funds

REVENUE		EXPENDITURES	
2015 Balance	1,485,047.49	Salaries	1,281,968.34
Taxation	135,000.00	PERS	171,371.89
Grants	772,055.37	Workers Compensation	28,815.87
Fees & Miscellaneous	1,127,927.28	Medicare	17,657.58
State Subsidy	48,256.75	Group Insurance	260,608.10
Food Service	567,138.26	Supplies	153,317.61
Pool Licenses	59,107.50	Travel & Expenses	20,721.10
Recreational Vehicle/Camp Licenses	420.00	Contractual Services	359,670.08
Household Sewage Treatment Systems	134,336.55	Equipment	7,862.54
		Other	10,001.38
		State Portion	240,017.86
		Contingency	1,777,276.85
TOTAL REVENUE	4,329,289.20	TOTAL EXPENDITURES	4,329,289.20

VITAL STATISTICS

2016

Births

Males.....	1415
Females.....	1337
TOTAL.....	2752

Age of Mothers

13 – 19 years.....	135
20 – 30 years.....	1800
31 – 40 years.....	780
Over 40 years.....	37

Unwed Mothers

13 – 19 years.....	126
20 – 30 years.....	676
31 – 40 years.....	202
Over 40 years.....	9

Place of Birth

McCullough-Hyde.....	408
Mercy Fairfield.....	1593
Home Birth / ER.....	12
West Chester Hospital.....	739

Residence of Mothers

Butler County.....	1539
Non-County.....	1213

Deaths

Males.....	768
Females.....	830
TOTAL.....	1598

Age at Death

Under 1 month.....	15
1 month – 1 year.....	3
1 – 4 years.....	1
5 – 9 years.....	1
10 – 19 years.....	11
20 – 29 years.....	32
30 – 39 years.....	31
40 – 49 years.....	62
50 – 59 years.....	142
60 – 69 years.....	230
70 – 79 years.....	349
80 – 89 years.....	450
90 & over.....	271

Causes of Death

Undetermined.....	7
Accidents.....	94
Suicides.....	24
Homicides.....	2
Cardiovascular.....	496
Cancer.....	236
Respiratory.....	307
All Other.....	425
Pending.....	7

The basic unit of health services is the family. The family is the center of well-being.

PLUMBING PERMITS AND INSPECTIONS

- **Commercial**
- **New Construction**
- **Remodels/Repairs**
- **Medical Gas Inspections**
- **Plan Review**
- **Backflow**



Every citizen of our community is entitled to achieve the maximum potential of health and physical comfort.

PLUMBING DEPARTMENT

2016

Permits Issued.....	4,028
Rough Plumbing Inspections.....	2,079
Final Plumbing Inspections.....	1,585
Water Line Inspections.....	517
Sewer Line Inspections.....	395
Backflow Inspections.....	18
Medical Gas Inspections.....	37
TOTAL INSPECTIONS.....	4,631
Registered Plumbers.....	297
Registered Journeyman Plumbers.....	65
Registered HSTS Installers.....	27
Registered Septage Haulers.....	17
Registered Service Providers.....	25

Recipients of health services should evaluate and help develop meaningful community health programs.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

- Rabies Control
- Housing – New Subdivisions and New Lots
- Swimming Pools
- Schools
- RV Parks/Camps
- Restaurants – Food Service Operators
- Vending
- Retail Food Establishments
- Household Sewage Disposal Systems
- Private Water Systems
- Water & Sewage Surveys
- Nuisance Abatement
- Smoking
- Jail Inspections
- Tattoo Parlor Inspections
- Vector Control



Public health programs seek to maintain the safety of our environment conducive to health.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

2016

Rabies – Bites Reported

Bats.....	8
Investigations.....	8
Dogs.....	261
Investigations.....	261
Cats.....	57
Investigations.....	57
Wild Animals.....	6
Investigations.....	6
Other Pets.....	1
Investigations.....	1
TOTAL BITES.....	333

Rabies – Laboratory Specimens Submitted

Dogs.....	12
Cats.....	10
Bats.....	4
Other.....	2
Positive Rabies Results.....	0

Housing

Subdivision Plats.....	37
Residential Lots.....	249
Commercial Lots.....	6
Subdivision Replats.....	263
Commercial Lots.....	8

Swimming Pools

Swimming Pool Sites.....	131
Licenses Issued.....	195
Inspections.....	730

Schools

Number of Schools.....	60
Inspections.....	121

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

2016

Camps

Licenses Issued.....	2
Inspections.....	4

Food Service Operations

Licenses Issued.....	834
Inspections (combined with 30 day follow up & prelicenses).....	2990
Foodborne Outbreak Investigation Sites.....	100
Plan Reviews.....	83

Vending Operations

Licenses Issued.....	133
Inspections.....	74

Retail Food Establishments

Licenses Issued.....	307
Inspections (combined with 30 day follow up & prelicenses).....	598
Foodborne Outbreak Investigation Sites.....	9
Plan Reviews.....	17

Food Temporary

Licenses Issued.....	171
Inspections	176

Food Mobile

Licenses Issued.....	43
Inspections.....	93

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

2016

Household Sewage Disposal Program

New Installation Permits Issued.....	53
New Installation Inspections.....	33
Alteration Permits Issued.....	13
Alteration Inspections.....	7
Aerobic Systems.....	1626
Aerobic System Inspections.....	1337
Site Evaluation Inspections.....	67
Site Review.....	69
Soil Evaluation.....	68
Design.....	73

Private Water Systems

New Installation Permits Issued.....	17
New Installation Inspections.....	11
Alteration Permits Issued.....	8
Alteration Inspections... ..	9
Well Sealing.....	9

Water and Sewage Surveys

Private Sewage Surveys.....	8
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Nuisance Abatement

Garbage.....	41
Refuse.....	5
Housing.....	78
Sewage.....	31
Food.....	145
Insect-Rodents.....	31
Animals.....	10
Mosquito.....	36
Commercial.....	7
Other.....	33

Smoking

Number of Complaints.....	36
Actions.....	78
Consultations.....	57

Miscellaneous Inspections/Reviews

Jail Inspections.....	5
Tattoo Parlor Inspections.....	16
Zoning Reviews.....	5

COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES

- Public Health Nursing
- Communicable Disease Investigation
- Children and Adult Immunizations
- School Health Consultations
- Perinatal Hepatitis B Monitoring
- STD Education
- Tuberculosis Control
- Child and Family Health Services
- Epidemiology
- Infant Mortality Reduction
- Fetal Infant Mortality Review
- Home Visiting for High Risk Pregnancy
- Ebola Monitoring, Consultation & Response
Coordination
- Child Fatality Review Board



Wellness is a balance of physical, mental, and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease.

NURSING DIVISION

2016

Communicable Diseases*

Babesiosis.....	2	Meningitis, aseptic, viral.....	24
Campylobacteriosis.....	43	Meningitis, bacterial.....	4
Chlamydia.....	796	Meningococcal disease.....	1
Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease.....	1	Mumps.....	6
Cryptosporidiosis.....	9	Mycobacterium, not TB.....	36
Dengue.....	2	Pertussis.....	24
E. Coli Shiga Toxin.....	13	Rocky mountain spotted fever.....	2
Giardiasis.....	7	Salmonellosis.....	27
Gonorrhea.....	235	Shigellosis.....	46
Haemophilus Influenzae.....	1	Streptococcal, Group A, invasive..	9
Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome.....	2	Streptococcus pneumonia, invasive.	32
Hepatitis A.....	9	Streptococcal toxic shock syndrome	1
Hepatitis B.....	139	Syphilis.....	18
Hepatitis B, perinatal.....	13	Trichinellosis.....	1
Hepatitis C, chronic.....	525	Typhoid Fever	1
Hepatitis E.....	1	Tuberculosis.....	7
Influenza-associated hospitalization...	70	Varicella.....	7
Legionellosis.....	6	Vibriosis.....	1
Lyme Disease.....	9	Yersiniosis.....	1
Malaria.....	4	Zika Virus.....	6
Measles.....	2		

* includes suspect, probable, and confirmed cases
in the jurisdictions of Butler Co. and the City of
Middletown

TOTAL

2,143

Vaccinations

Total Shots Given..... 3,323

Infant Mortality Reduction

High Hopes Program

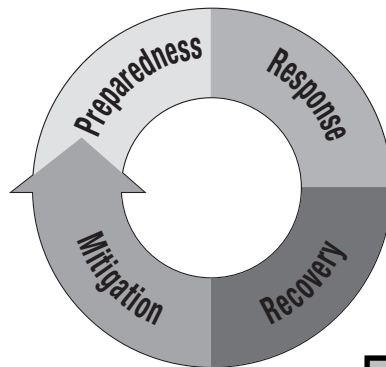
Babies Born..... 58
Low Birth Weight or Premature..... 6
% Low Birth Weight or Premature..... 10%

Tuberculosis Clinic

Active Cases..... 6
Latent Cases..... 26

DISASTER AND EMERGENCY HEALTH PROGRAMS

- **Community Preparedness and Recovery**
- **Emergency Operations Coordination
(Emergency Support Function #8)**
- **Public Information and Crisis
Communication**
- **Mass Care**
- **Mass Casualty and Fatality Management**
- **Medical Counter Measures**
- **Strategic National Stockpile**
- **Epidemiological Investigation**
- **Cities Readiness Initiative**
- **Tri-State Medical Reserve Corp**
- **Hazard Mitigation Plan**



Through planning and training, the Butler County Health Department will function at the highest level of efficiency possible, and remain a viable agency of the community.

From the Desk of the Director...

Looking back on 2016, so many moments serve as vivid reminders of the important challenges public health is up against, as well as the amazing opportunities we have as a collective force to bring about greater changes for our residents. There are so many defining moments; it is difficult to capture the images on paper. The individual actions of each program reflect a moment, a person, or a project that energizes us and gives us hope that our work is having a real impact on the overall health of the community. Our public health goals and focus areas have broadened, and emerge as we move toward building resilience and a more equitable public health system for all.

Almost 100 years ago, public health was described as the science of preventing disease, prolonging life, and promoting health. This was accomplished by the sanitation of the environment, control of communicable disease, the education of the community, the availability of medical services, and insuring a standard of living to foster a state of overall healthy lives. Much of the science is still the same, although the pathways may be different.

Public health and health care is a challenge we all face together. When combined with the continued change in demographics of an aging population, a growing middle class, the persistence of chronic disease and the emergence of new diseases, the scale and complexity is magnified. The intention of the Butler County Health Department has been and will continue to be to improve the quality of life for all so the future shall continue to be better than the past. Our board and staff have consistently demonstrated a commitment and dedication to the success and advancement of the overall public health of our community, often in quiet and unassuming ways but with positive energy, momentum, progress, and pride.

This is a somewhat bittersweet letter, as it will be the last one I will write as the director of the department. It has been my pleasure to serve our county for the past 45 years as a staff member and as the director. It is now time to retire and pass along the leadership to an outstanding group of people. I am truly honored to have worked with the incredibly talented and dedicated Board and Staff who have put forth so much time and effort. Thanks to all of you, and to our elected and public officials for your support and interest in Public Health. None of the accomplishments would be possible without you. I wish all of you continued health and happiness. As I end this letter, I am amazed at how quickly the years have passed. It was nothing short of magic!

Pat Burg, Director of Administration



A Tribute to Carol Schwab-by Pat Burg

Every once in a while in our lives we are fortunate enough to meet a very special person who has made the world a better, brighter place. Carol was one of those rare people. Always with a bright smile, with hope and strength and grace, she leaves a legacy of joy and pride to all who knew her. It was such a pleasure to work with Nick on health department, township, and county issues, so often with Carol right by his side. Carol passed away on August 15, 2016 following a long bout with cancer.

For Carol, who has made our world a better place, we offer a bouquet of flowers: Pink roses for friendship; Pansies for loving thoughts; Larkspur for her beautiful spirit; and Forget-me-nots, the flower of remembrance. Memories last forever. We wish Carol eternal peace.

What is Public Health?

Public health connects us all.

Public health is the science of protecting and improving the health of families and communities through promotion of healthy lifestyles, research for disease and injury prevention and detection and control of infectious diseases.

Overall, public health is concerned with protecting the health of entire populations. These populations can be as small as a local neighborhood, or as big as an entire country or region of the world.

Public health professionals try to prevent problems from happening or recurring through implementing educational programs, recommending policies, administering services and conducting research – in contrast to clinical professionals like doctors and nurses, who focus primarily on treating individuals after they become sick or injured. Public health also works to limit health disparities. A large part of public health is promoting healthcare equity, quality and accessibility.

CDC Foundation



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