This past year brought an end and a beginning with the finish of our 2014-2017 Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) and the finalizing of our 2017 Community Health Assessment (CHA). These reports have played a pivotal role in the implementation of various programs through multiple agencies around the county over the past 3 years. The CHIP targeted several areas of health concern for Auglaize County, including obesity, risky behaviors, mental health issues, and to increase preventative health among the adult and youth.

Some of the initiatives implemented to address these areas were:

- **Wellness Community Guide and Calendar.**
- **Increase Senior Transitional Meal Programs & Increase Nutrition Education.**
- **Increase Awareness of Risky Behaviors for Parents, Guardians, and Community Members.**
- **Increase the Number of ER and Primary Care Physicians Screenings for At-Risk Drinking and Drug Abuse.**
- **Increase Awareness of Available Mental Health Services.**
- **Increase Evidence-Based Programming for Youth.**
- **County-Wide Childhood Vaccination Campaign.**
- **Create Consistent Men’s and Women’s health Screenings Recommendations.**

With each initiative there was success and need for improvement, but working with partnering agencies of Auglaize County we were able to improve several areas of Community Health among our citizens as evident in the 2017 CHA.

The 2017 CHA statistics showed overall decreases in many areas, but there were areas of increase. Adult and youth obesity, adult drinking, and adult and youth suicide were the areas of particular concern. These will be some of the areas that the 2018 CHIP will target as areas for improvement. Our Strategic Plan went through its first year of implementation and of the 8 objectives to be completed in 2017 only 1 was not achieved. The incomplete objective was not fully able to implement a Performance Management System. A system was identified and trained upon, but after further review, staff feedback, and additional information was found to be not efficient for this department. This objective is being amended and a new system has been identified.

Looking towards 2018, we will be applying for Accreditation through the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) by May 1st. After going through an extensive document review we currently stand at approximately 80% completion, which could not have been possible without our terrific staff.
Environmental Health

Until a decade ago, local health department environmental regulations were mostly static, seldom changing and generally concentrated on traditional public health roles. The State of Ohio passed legislation that "Sunsets" environmental regulations every five years, forcing new rules to be developed and adopted. This practice allows regulators to consider advances in scientific knowledge and to adapt to trends in public health.

The Ohio Food Code changes over the last decade highlight these trends as regulations adapt to advances in our knowledge of food safety. Illnesses caused by contaminated produce being brought into the country from outside our borders has resulted in produce washing and refrigeration regulations in our food services. The recognition that Noroviruses play an increasing role in food poisoning outbreaks has resulted in new sanitation requirements. As the complexity of food safety regulations continue to grow, inspection reports have highlighted the need for additional food safety training at the manager level and that training has now become mandatory.

As environmental health tracks changes in our local climate we look for trends that may result in the need to address insect populations as their traditional ranges expand into Ohio. ZIKA and other yet unidentified mosquito or insect borne diseases will have to be monitored closely and State and Local responses will need to address future outbreaks.

Vital Statistics

In January, our office was able to issue certified birth certificates quicker, after babies are born, to parents as all the hospitals began electronic filing of the birth certificates into the state system. Our office issued 300 more certified birth certificate copies in 2017 than 2016. The word is getting out that anyone can come to our office to purchase birth certificates, regardless of the county of birth in Ohio.

Pending death certificates, those awaiting a cause of death, can now be submitted electronically by coroners. This was implemented for 2017 deaths. This procedure is more effective and streamlines issuing certified copies to funeral homes and families.

Looking forward to 2018 with updates to state vital statistic system.
Emergency Preparedness

During 2017, the Auglaize County Health Dept. personnel along with the Auglaize County Emergency Management Agency (EMA), Joint Twp. District Memorial Hospital, The Ohio Department of Health (ODH) and the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) collaborated in developing and revising plans to protect our residents during public health emergencies.

Also in April, Auglaize County Health Department participated in a functional exercise conducted by the Northwest Ohio Hospital Council and the NW Ohio Health Departments. The exercise was based on the scenario of a virus that affected NW Ohio and caused many illnesses. The exercise was designed to test our plans for delivering medication to county residents in a short period of time on a large scale. There were many lessons learned and our plans are being strengthened to deal with areas of weakness that were revealed.

One of the trends in emergency preparedness is uniformity of our plans. During 2017, the Emergency Response Coordinator produced a completely revised Emergency Response Base Plan utilizing a guide provided by ODH. ODH is encouraging all health departments in Ohio to adopt plans that are more uniform in nature and this effort will continue over the coming years.

Another trend is to focus more on collaborating with other healthcare agencies/entities in an effort to ensure that all of our population needs will be adequately addressed during an emergency.

The Emergency Response Coordinator also serves as the Auglaize County Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) coordinator whose mission is to establish a team of local volunteer medical and public health professionals who work with the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) to contribute their skills and expertise throughout the year as well as during times of community need. The MRC is comprised of people with both medical and non-medical backgrounds. This group meets and trains on a regular basis and we are always looking for more volunteers.

County Health Rankings

The annual County Health Rankings measure vital health factors, including high school graduation rates, obesity, smoking, unemployment, access to healthy foods, the quality of air and water, income, and teen births in nearly every county in America. The annual Rankings provide a revealing snapshot of how health is influenced by where we live, learn, work and play. The scoring range is 1 being the healthiest and 88 being the unhealthiest.

Auglaize County Health Rankings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Rank</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
As we finished 2017, we found this year’s flu season more intense than any since the 2009 swine flu pandemic. One of the biggest debates raging on social media these days is whether or not to get a flu shot. If you’ve ever had the flu, you know how sick you can become.

Flu (Influenza) is a contagious respiratory illness caused by a virus. It can cause mild to severe illness—fever, cough and body ache, and at times can lead to death. Some people—such as elderly, children, and individuals with certain health conditions—are at high risk for serious complications. Our at risk county residents benefit from “community immunity”: A situation in which a sufficient portion of a population is immune to an infectious disease through vaccination and/or prior illness, making its spread from person to person less likely. Even individuals not vaccinated (such as newborns and those with chronic illnesses) are offered some protection because the disease has little opportunity to spread within the community.

The annual flu vaccine is the first and most important step in protecting you and your family from the flu. Everyone 6 months of age and older should get a flu vaccine every season. IT IS FOR THE RESPIRATORY FLU, NOT THE STOMACH FLU. Yet, many Auglaize County residents go the entire flu season (October through May) without getting vaccinated. Also, avoiding contact with people who have the flu, washing your hands frequently, and taking anti-viral medications if you were exposed to the flu before being vaccinated are just a few other precautions to take during the flu season.

There seems to be no shortage of misinformation and bad advice when it comes to dealing with the flu. Here are some common myths about the flu.

**Myth: You can catch the flu from the vaccine.**
The vaccine is made from an inactivated virus that can't transmit infection. Consider this, you do not get Tetanus from a Tetanus shot. You can have general reactions such as localized tenderness, mild fever, and ache for a day or two after vaccination. So people who get sick after receiving a flu vaccination had already contracted the virus. Protection does take a week or two after receiving the vaccine.

**Myth: I never get sick, or get the flu, so why do I need to get a shot now?**
Can you predict the winning lottery numbers? You can’t really predict whether you’ll get the flu. Even if it doesn’t prevent you from getting the flu, it can decrease the chance of severe symptoms. So why not be prepared because some protection is better than no protection when it comes to the flu.

**Myth: You don't need to get a flu shot every year.**
The influenza virus changes (mutates) each year. So getting vaccinated each year is important to make sure you have immunity to the strains that are most likely to cause an outbreak.
WIC (Women, Infants, & Children)

Officially known as the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children, WIC provides nutritious foods, nutrition education, breastfeeding support, and referrals to health care and social services for low-income families. And extensive research confirms its success.

WIC promotes breastfeeding as the optimal infant feeding choice. So to best support breastfeeding among WIC moms, breastfeeding education and support are provided to families, breastfeeding supplies are distributed, and healthy food packages are loaded to their WIC Nutrition Card (WNC). The WIC program is working hard to “normalize” breastfeeding. With the evidence based research proving the many benefits of breastfeeding, our society has been trending toward breastfeeding as the acceptable “norm.”

At the local level, our WIC project is promoting and supporting breastfeeding through efforts such as:

- Offering lending library of breastfeeding educational materials
- Hosting breastfeeding classes and biannual baby showers
- Providing support and education on the Auglaize Breastfeeding Facebook Page
- Staffing a breastfeeding peer helper
- Access to breastfeeding support after work hours
- Providing private area for mothers to breastfeed while at the health department
- Hosting outreach events such as a local latch on event to coincide with a national event, live radio interviews, and speaking engagements to civic organizations
- Providing breast pumps/supplies to our local jail
- Taking the WIC Mobile Unit to community events so mothers can feed in a private/comfortable area

Why do these things? Bottom line is breastfeeding is the healthiest feeding choice; decreases healthcare costs; and it saves on WIC formula expenses which stretches public dollars allowing assistance to more families.

It takes a whole community to support mothers; governments, healthcare providers, breastfeeding counselors, families, friends and employers can all play a role in changing the culture. As we build a village of support around our mothers, assisting them to breastfeed will continue to create a breastfeeding cultural norm, where children grow up familiar with breastfeeding and expecting to breastfeed their own children.
Immunization Program

Auglaize County’s Immunization Department’s goal is to reduce and eliminate disease among Ohio’s children, adolescents, and adults from 17 vaccine-preventable diseases, including: Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis, Haemophilus influenzae type b, Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B, Human papillomavirus, Influenza, Measles, Mumps, Rubella, Meningococcal (meningitis), Pneumococcal (pneumonia), Polio, Rotavirus, Varicella (chicken pox), Zoster (shingles- adults only). We are dedicated to protect the public with safe, affordable vaccines. Medicaid and most commercial insurance is accepted and billed. For children 0 – 18 years old, we participate in the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program which is a federal program that allows eligible children vaccines regardless of their family’s ability to pay. For all other clients, vaccine is funded by ACHD and purchased directly from the pharmaceutical companies. Our staff includes our Clerical Specialist, a Certified Medical Assistant and Registered Nurses. They are dedicated to offer three clinics per week, including one clinic offering evening hours for busy families. Extra clinics are added to the routine schedule during flu shot season and back to school season when vaccines are particularly in demand. The Immunization Department collaborated with the WIC Department to host the 2nd Annual “Say Boo to the Flu” event. https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/index.html

Immunization Action Plan Grant

Allows ACHD to serve as a resource to providers for immunization education and immunization rate assessment, assure school immunization reporting, and maintain an immunization reminder and recall system.

Women’s Health Program

The Family Planning Clinic provides quality, confidential gynecological and contraceptive services and education to women regardless of their financial situations. Clinic services are provided by a Physician, Physician Assistant and/or Certified Nurse Practitioner, Registered Nurses, Certified Medical Assistant, and an Accounts Clerk. An important goal is to improve the overall health and well-being of women promoting healthy lifestyles and encouraging the establishment of a reproductive life plan. http://www.odh.ohio.gov/odhprograms/cfhs/rhawp/Reproductive-Health-Resources-for-All-Ohioans

Breast and Cervical Cancer Project (BCCP) – If found early, nearly all breast and cervical cancers can be treated successfully. In Ohio, most women have insurance coverage and these screenings are covered at no cost. For qualified participants without insurance, BCCP helps them receive these lifesaving screenings and eligible diagnostic testing at no-cost.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Help Me Grow</th>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ohio Early Intervention Referrals:</td>
<td>127</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ohio Early Intervention Visits:</td>
<td>365</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HMG Home Visiting Referrals:</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HMG Home Visiting Visits:</td>
<td>338</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School Nursing</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vision Screenings</td>
<td>206</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Kindergarten Screenings</td>
<td>32</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Children with Medical Handicaps (CMH)</th>
<th></th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Average Monthly Case Load/Active Clients</td>
<td>153</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Client Visits</td>
<td>152</td>
<td></td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Injury Prevention</th>
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<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Car Seat Program: Booster Seats</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Car Seat Program: Convertible Seats</td>
<td>50</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Annual Report Statistics

## Vital Statistics 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Count</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Births</td>
<td>336</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Females</td>
<td>154</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Males</td>
<td>182</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home Births</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sets of Multiples</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Deaths</td>
<td>389</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Females</td>
<td>209</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Males</td>
<td>180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fetal Deaths</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Certified Copies Issued</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birth</td>
<td>1874</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Death</td>
<td>1596</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burial Permits Issued</td>
<td>183</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Leading Causes of Death 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cause</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Disease of Heart</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malignant Neoplasm</td>
<td>83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cerebrovascular Disease</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diabetes Mellitus</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alzheimer’s Disease</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accident (Including Transport)</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essential Hypertension &amp; Hypertensive Renal Disease</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influenza and Pneumonia</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suicide</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homicide</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Environmental Health - 2017

### Food Protection (Licenses issued):
- Food Service Operations: 156
- Retail Food Establishment: 64
- Mobile: 15
- Temporary: 91
- Vending: 55
- Inspections: 713
- Consultations: 39

### Household Sewage Disposal:
- Site Evaluations: 27
- Permits to Install: 33
- Aerations Operation Permits: 214
- Inspections: 266
- Consultations: 8

### Private Water Systems:
- New Well permits: 46
- Alteration Permits: 0
- Inspections: 39
- Consultations: 3
- Water Samples Tested: 94
- Sealing Only Permits: 7

### Public Health Nuisances:
- Investigations: 60
- Consultations: 1

### Parks/Camps:
- Manufactured Home Parks: 13
- Recreation Camps Licensed: 7
- Resident Day Camps Licensed: 2
- Inspections: 33
- Consultations: 1
- Temporary Camps: 1

### Public Swimming Pools:
- Pools Licensed: 34
- Inspections: 103
- Consultations: 0

### Solid Wasted:
- Liquid Waste Haulers: 13

### Rabies Control:
- Animal Bites Reported: 90
- Tested Animals for Rabies: 2
- Positive Rabies Test: 0

### Schools:
- Facilities Inspected: 16
- Number of Inspections: 32
Funding for the Health Department Programs comes from a number of sources. Any fees charged are based on the actual costs of providing the service. By far, the largest source of funding is the 1-mil health levy that was put in place by the Auglaize County Voters.

**Auglaize Health Department Staff**

**Health Commissioner:** Oliver Fisher MS, RS  
**Medical Director:** Juan V. Torres-Cordero MD, MPH  
**Fiscal Officer:** Tammy Wiford  
**Environmental Health Division:**  
Curt Anderson RS, Director  
Aaron Longsworth RS  
Chris Miller RS  
Becky Gerstner  
**Vital Statistics:**  
Beth Sanders  
Becky Gerstner  
**Help Me Grow:**  
Charlotte Axe RN, Coordinator  
Kathy Moellenkamp  
Kathryn Kohler  
**Auglaize County Family and Children First:**  
Jennifer Free  
**Women, Infants, and Children (WIC):**  
Jennifer Boroff RN, Director  
Laura Freewalt  
Kristi Dodds  
Kylee Reineke RN  
**Health Education/Accreditation:**  
Katie Siefker  
**Emergency Response/Accreditation:**  
Don Jump CHEP  
**Nursing Division:**  
Denise Brown RN  
Brenda Eiting RN, BSN, Director  
Lynnette Liningen RN  
Becky Egbert RN, Asst. Director  
Michaela Roessler CMA  
Michelle Foulkes  
Renee Zwiebel RN

**Vision:** Guiding Auglaize County towards a healthier future.  
**Mission:** To make our county a safer and healthier place by providing exceptional public health services and working with community partners to promote health, prevent disease, and protect our residents from hazards.

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

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WIC: (419) 738-7428  
Website: www.auglaizehealth.org  
E-mail: information@auglaizehealth.org  
Office Hours: 8:00 am – 4:30 pm Monday