



## From the Health Commissioner

This past year was a year of transition for our department. Our nursing director Sharon Andreani, retired after 26 years of public health service to the community. Sharon was a true ambassador for our department and for public health programs and services. Collaboration with our public health partners to improve the health of the community was paramount to her. Through her leadership the nursing division truly had a positive influence in someone's life on a daily basis. We will certainly miss her knowledge, experience and compassion in leading the nursing division and working to address the needs of the community. Melissa Rudolph has moved into this leadership role overseeing all of our public health nursing programs as nursing director. Our nursing programs are in capable hands and we are well positioned for the future.

**Randall M. Flint, RS, MPH**  
Health Commissioner

## Public Health Nursing

When hearing about Hepatitis A, many people think about contaminated food and water. However, in the United States, Hepatitis A is more commonly spread from person to person. Since March 2017, CDC's Division of Viral Hepatitis (DVH) has been assisting multiple state and local health departments with Hepatitis A outbreaks, spread through person-to-person contact. The Hepatitis A vaccine is the best way to prevent HAV infection. The following groups are at highest risk for acquiring HAV infection or developing serious complications from HAV infection in these outbreaks and should be offered the Hepatitis A vaccine in order to prevent or control an outbreak: People who use drugs (injection or non-injection). People experiencing unstable housing or homelessness. Men who have sex with men (MSM). People who are currently or were recently incarcerated. People with chronic liver disease, including cirrhosis, Hepatitis B, or Hepatitis C. One dose of single-antigen Hepatitis A vaccine has been shown to control outbreaks of Hepatitis A. Hepatitis A is a vaccine-preventable, communicable disease of the liver caused by the Hepatitis A virus (HAV). Hepatitis A is a self-limited disease that does not result in chronic infection. Most adults with Hepatitis A have symptoms, including fatigue, low appetite, stomach pain, nausea, and jaundice, that usually resolve within 2 months of infection; most children less than 6 years of age do not have symptoms or have an unrecognized infection. Antibodies produced in response to Hepatitis A infection last for life and protect against reinfection.

Our department responded to assist in the Hepatitis A statewide community outbreak. We provided Hepatitis A vaccine at the CommQuest Alliance Detox and Recovery Unit at Aultman Alliance Community Hospital along with Alliance for Children and Families transitional housing to vaccinate high risk individuals.

We are also providing Hepatitis C testing which started the latter part of 2019. This is a simple 20-minute test which requires one drop of blood. Hepatitis C is a liver infection caused by the Hepatitis C virus (HCV). Hepatitis C is a blood-borne virus. Today, most people become infected with the Hepatitis C virus by sharing needles or other equipment to inject drugs. Many people might not be aware of their infection because they are not clinically ill. There is no vaccine for Hepatitis C. The best way to prevent Hepatitis C is by avoiding behaviors that can spread the disease, especially injecting drugs. HCV testing is recommended for those who: Currently inject drugs or ever injected drugs, including those who injected once or a few times many years ago. Have certain medical conditions, including persons: who received clotting factor concentrates produced before 1987, who were ever on long-term hemodialysis, with persistently abnormal alanine aminotransferase levels (ALT), who have HIV infection, were notified that they received blood from a donor who later tested positive for HCV infection, received a transfusion of blood, blood components, or an organ transplant before July 1992.

HCV- testing based on a recognized exposure is

recommended for: Healthcare, emergency medical, and public safety workers after needle sticks, sharps, or mucosal exposures to HCV-positive blood, Children born to HCV-positive women.

We continue to provide Naloxone, (Narcan) a medication that can reverse an overdose caused by an opioid drug. In 2019, we distributed 57 kits. We held trainings at WellSpring Church along with individual and group trainings monthly. When administered during an overdose, Naloxone blocks the effects of opioids on the brain and quickly restores breathing. We need to continue looking for ways to address addiction and adapt to drug-use trends as stated by the Stark Mental Health and Addiction Recovery at the annual Opiate Symposium. The Prescription Drug Overdose Pilot Program is a collaboration between Stark County Health Department, the Alliance City Health Department, Aultman Alliance Community Hospital, CommQuest, Coleman Professional Services, the Alliance Fire Department and the Alliance Police Department. The purpose of this group is to raise awareness of opiate overdose, provide Project DAWN (Naloxone) kits to community members to reverse an opiate overdose, and connect those who have experienced an overdose reversed by Naloxone to addiction and recovery services. The funding for this pilot program is provided by the Ohio Violence and Injury Prevention Program and the program is now in its third year.

**HEPATITIS C**  
FREE TESTING



# Environmental Health

The Environmental Health Division works toward improving the health and well-being of our community through education, inspection programs, housing, demolition and mosquito control programs to name a few.

We continue to collaborate with local academic institutions through their internship programs to improve our environmental health programs and provide a public health hands on experience for the students. Students develop and implement protocols to enhance programs and services. This past year we provided field experience for student interns from Kent State University and the University of Mount Union.

Through a collaboration with our Planning and Development Department we demolished 8 condemned and blighted structures through the Neighborhood Initiative Program and 10 condemned structures through our funding from the Community Development Block Grant Program. This continues to make a major impact on improving the health and safety of neighborhoods in our community.

We place an emphasis on our mosquito control program to reduce the numbers of mosquitoes to prevent the likelihood of mosquito borne diseases, which are ever present and constantly emerging. We continue to move our program to the use of NextGen green naturally derived products for the environment.



# Injury Prevention

We are excited to be part of the injury prevention grant through the Stark County Health Department and started working with them in 2019 and will continue through 2020. We started by instituting the Child Passenger Safety (CPS) Toolkit with our WIC department. The CPS Toolkit is an easy to use flip book portraying pictures and explanations reinforcing correct use of child car seats. Parent questions can be answered and a referral provided for a car seat inspection or for the car seat program for anyone in need of a car seat. Six car seat checks were completed in 2019. The second half of the injury prevention grant involves partnering with a local organization to fit and distribute helmets to children. We have reached out to the Stuckey Interfaith Child Care Center in Alliance in hopes that they will agree to partner with us in this endeavor. We will partner with the Stark County Health Department to receive helmets the first year.

Safety Town was again a success. The University of Mount Union students participated and volunteered to lead preschool to first grade children around to several different stations including playground safety, the ever-popular animal station and of course Safety Town. Children received goodie bags of safety items including bike reflectors and safety lights. Alliance Policeman Bill Johnson was present with his police car and answered questions about his

job and offered safety tips. Children got to experience firsthand the safety trailer and how to stay safe in the event of a fire. They even got to dial 911 and received instruction on what to tell the dispatcher in the event of an emergency.

Our partnership with the Alliance Area Pregnancy Center continues. We provided education covering animal safety, fall and accident prevention and joined their Mom 2 Mom group one evening for a presentation on hygiene and self-care. Attendees received goodie bags with a variety of self-care items. Another presentation covered car seat safety presented by one of Stark County's certified car seat technicians.

*(continued on page 4)*



2019

## Vital Statistics

Total Deaths.....	345
Infant Deaths (less than 1 year).....	1
Fetal Deaths.....	0
Certified Copies of Births Issued.....	2,361
Certified Copies of Deaths Issued.....	1,022
Burial/Cremation Permits.....	399



## Public Health Nursing Statistics

<b>Immunization Clinic</b>	
Number of Clinics.....	148
Immunizations Administered.....	1,024
<b>Sexually Transmitted Disease Clinic/HIV</b>	
Number of Clinics.....	96
Number of Visits.....	210
<b>Influenza Clinic</b>	
Number of Clinics.....	12
Immunizations Administered.....	112
<b>Tuberculin Skin Testing</b>	
Number of Skin Tests.....	68
Number of Tests read.....	71
<b>WIC Program</b>	
Number of Clinics.....	249
Number of Visits.....	2,725
<b>Home Visits</b>	
CMH Home/Office Visits.....	20
<b>Lead Program</b>	
Elevated Levels Reported.....	13
<b>Cribs for Kids</b>	
Crib Classes.....	6
Cribs Distributed.....	6



## Reported Communicable Diseases

Chlamydia.....	143
Hepatitis C Chronic.....	74
Gonorrhea.....	26
Influenza.....	19
Hepatitis B.....	10
Strep Pneumoniae.....	5
Cryptosporidia.....	4
Viral Meningitis.....	4
Pertussis.....	2
Hepatitis A.....	3
Campylobacter.....	2
Legionella.....	2
Salmonella.....	2
Lyme Disease.....	1
Hepatitis C Acute.....	1



## Leading Causes of Death

Heart Disease.....	113
Cancer.....	59
Dementia/Alzheimer's.....	49
Pulmonary Disease.....	36
Cerebrovascular.....	19
Accidents.....	12
Kidney Disease.....	12
Sepsis.....	8
Pneumonia/Influenza.....	7
Drug Overdose.....	6
Parkinson's.....	5
Diabetes.....	3
Suicide.....	3
Liver/Cirrhosis.....	1
Homicide.....	1
AIDS.....	1
Other.....	10



# HIV Counseling And Testing

Our department continues to be an HIV testing site for the residents of Alliance, Stark County, and surrounding areas. The Ohio Department of Health (ODH) HIV Prevention Program underwent significant changes in 2019. We implemented these grant changes into our program and experienced both successes and challenges with the new guidelines. We now focus on a target population for testing which includes:

- Persons living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA)
- Men who have sex with men (MSM)
- Youth
- High-risk heterosexuals (HRHS)
- Injection drug users (IDUs)

Testing forms for these high-risk individuals were also changed. If clients did not meet the new ODH assessment criteria, they were referred to the Alliance Family Health Center or primary care physicians for testing. This was one of the challenges we faced this year, as we don't want to miss an opportunity for HIV testing and education.

We tested 38 clients for HIV in 2019, which was drastically lower than years past due to the ODH testing guidelines. We had no positive cases. Some successes that we experienced in our HIV program include an increase in our MSM clients, and an increased interest in Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP). PrEP is a daily pill that can help prevent HIV. If a client is interested, the HIV tester/counselor can refer the client to the Early Intervention Services Navigator, who is employed at Canton City Public Health. They will then assist clients with further education, linkage to a provider, and assistance with medical costs surrounding PrEP.

We also received social media funding which was used for 2 billboards and an advertisement on Q92 radio. Based on client feedback, these methods were effective. We also had an advertisement running at the Cinemark Carnation Cinema which wrapped up in December 2019. We continue to promote our services through our Facebook and Twitter pages.



## Alliance City Health Department

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 visit us on facebook

## Alliance City Health Department 2019 Financial Report

### 2019 Income

#### Vital Statistics

##### Birth and

Death Certificates ..... 89,890.21

#### Nursing and Clinics

Get Vaccinated Grant..... 15,285.00

##### Medicaid

Reimbursement ..... 8,298.22

##### Medicare

Reimbursement ..... 569.25

CMH Reimbursement ..... 1,260.00

##### Private Insurance/

Client Fees ..... 4,803.09

MAC Program..... 13,842.71

WIC Program..... 117,178.45

HIV Prevention ..... 10,973.57

Injury Prevention..... 3,000.00

Overdose Prevention ..... 3,000.00

Hepatitis A Response ..... 3,273.00

Reimbursements ..... 347.32

#### Environmental Health

Food Licenses ..... 47,344.66

##### Plumbing Registration

and Permits..... 15,830.00

Swimming Pool Licenses ... 4,010.00

Rabies Prevention/Fines ..... 267.99

Tattoo Licenses ..... 1,200.00

Reimbursements ..... 656.10

State Subsidy ..... 4,187.72

Total Income ..... 345,217.29

### 2019 Expenditures

##### Administrative and

Vital Statistics ..... 292,610.45

##### Public Health Nursing

Clinics/Grants ..... 391,631.90

Environmental Health... 168,523.93

Total Expenditures .... 852,766.28

## Environmental Health Statistics for 2019

#### Licensing Programs

##### Food Service/

Retail Food Operations ..... 149

Mobile Food Service..... 9

Temporary Food Service ..... 28

Vending Locations ..... 13

Swimming Pools ..... 17

Plumbing Contractors ..... 59

##### Tattoo and Body Piercing

Establishments ..... 5

#### Food Protection Programs

##### Food Service/

Retail Food Inspections ..... 367

##### Food Service/

Retail Consultations..... 149

##### Mobile, Vending and

Temp. Inspections ..... 40

Plan Reviews and Consultations.. 54

#### Nuisance Control Program

Number of Complaints..... 143

Number of Inspections ..... 377

Number of Consultations..... 124

#### Rabies Control Program

##### Number of Bites

Exposures Reported ..... 90

##### Number of Bites

Exposures Investigated..... 90

Specimens Tested for Rabies ..... 9

Rabies Positive Animals ..... 0

Post Exposure Rabies Treatment.. 0

#### School Program

Number of Inspections ..... 20

Number of Consultations..... 1

#### Plumbing Program

Permits Issued ..... 45

Number of Inspections ..... 96

#### Housing Program

Number of Inspections ..... 103

Number of Consultations..... 78

Demolitions ..... 18

#### Swimming Pool Program

Number of Inspections ..... 62

Number of Consultations..... 31

#### Mosquito Control

Larviciding treatments..... 16

Mosquito Spraying ..... 2

#### Tattoo Program

Number of Inspections ..... 3

Number of Consultations..... 1

#### Smoke Free Program

Number of Complaints..... 1

Number of Inspections ..... 1

## Injury Prevention (continued)

We continue to provide safe sleep education through the Cribs for Kids program. In 2019, we hosted nine safe sleep classes and provided 12 Cribettes for attendees along with sleep sacks and educational information supporting safe sleep. Parents are offered referrals for Mommy and Me Tobacco Free, Help Me Grow and Newborn Home/Office visits as well. We are happy to be included in the THRIVE initiative to provide Newborn Home/Office visits in Alliance. We made three Newborn Home or Office visits by the end of 2019 and look forward to increasing in 2020.

## WIC for Healthy Moms and Babies

WIC is an income based supplemental nutrition program that provides grants to states for supplemental foods, health care referrals, and nutrition and breastfeeding education at no charge for pregnant, breastfeeding, and non-breastfeeding postpartum women, infants and children up to age five who are found to be at nutritional risk. During 2019, the Alliance WIC program served an average of 725 clients monthly. We had a fun year here at WIC, and we think our families did as well. Our local WIC office is small, quiet, and kid friendly. We continue to offer fun kitchen toys for kids to play with while parents complete their WIC appointment so that they can focus on learning helpful tips for their household. Nutrition education ranges from family to family, but we feel strongly that each family leaves having learned something new. Our staff at the Alliance WIC office consists of one dietitian and a clinic assistant. The small clinic helps our parents

and children feel comfortable by having friendly faces greet them every few months for their appointments. We pride ourselves on fast, friendly, and fun education with the focus on participant goals. We want to help clients, not burden them. Whatever barriers such as work, school, and transportation, we do our best to work with our clients. We are here to help educate on healthy eating so this can be passed on for generations to come, therefore helping to build a healthier community in the future as well as now. Aside from nutrition education and supplemental foods, WIC also provides participants with breastfeeding education from their first pregnancy appointment and continues this education through their postpartum visits. With the help of breastfeeding staff, we truly believe we give moms a great platform for successful breastfeeding.



**Women, Infants, and Children Program**

The WIC foods provided are supplemental, meaning they do not provide the amount of food needed for an entire month. With that being said, WIC benefits do help cut the cost of healthy foods such as low fat milk, 100% unsweetened juice, beans, peanut butter, eggs, cereal, whole grains, and fruits and vegetables. Participants will receive three months of food benefits at a time, loaded onto an electronic card which they can use at our local Walmart, Giant Eagle, Save-A-Lot, and Marc's. The food list provided by WIC is expansive, so the options for our families are vast. A few new changes to the program in 2019, consisted of the addition of chocolate milk being added to the approved foods available for purchase, as well as a free and easy to download WIC application for smartphones. The WIC application has been helpful for families who may have lost the paper food list or just opt to use technology. It has a mobile version of all the approved foods throughout the state as well as a section where families can scan barcodes on items and the application will tell them whether that item is WIC approved or not.

Each summer, the Alliance City WIC clinic participates in the WIC Farmer's Market Coupon program where in addition

to the monthly benefits given for use in stores, we distribute additional vouchers for use on fresh and locally grown fruits and veggies. In 2019, we tried something new by hosting our first farmer's market coupon distribution on site at our health department's first health fair. The event was fun for the community, vendors, and staff alike. We were fortunate enough to have different community partners come to the event who were able to provide education materials and link people to services, as well as a local farmer who provided local produce for purchase on site.

## Alliance City Board of Health

Alan Andreani, Ed. D.,  
*Mayor, President*

Dr. Patricia Tucker, DVM

Dr. Beth Canfield-Simbros, Ph.D

Tonia Burley, BSN, RN, CIC

Rob Gress, MA

Dr. Barbara Freshley, MD

## Personnel

Randall M. Flint, RS, MPH <i>Health Commissioner/Environmental Director</i>		
Compton S. Girdharry, MD <i>Medical Director</i>	Melissa K. Jackson <i>Public Health Nursing Clerk</i>	Holly A. Kouskouris <i>Registrar, Vital Statistics</i>
Melissa L. Rudolph, BSN, RN <i>Nursing Director</i>	Emily M. Lynch, RD, LD <i>WIC Dietitian</i>	Kimberly R. Nelson <i>Clerk, Deputy Registrar</i>
Brittany N. Biller, BSN, RN <i>Public Health Nurse</i>	Elissa Powers <i>WIC Clinic Assistant</i>	Edward C. Bissler <i>Plumbing Inspector</i>
Emily E. Edwards, BSN, RN <i>Public Health Nurse</i>	Duane M. Oyster, RS, REHS <i>Sanitarian</i>	Leslie M. Shaffer, MPH <i>Accreditation Coordinator</i>
Marian Pillar, BSN, RN <i>Public Health Nurse</i>	William R. Robinson, M.Ed., RS <i>Sanitarian</i>	