



PROFESSIONALISM QUALITY COLLABORATION



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Putnam County General Health District *Annual Report 2019*

Greetings

Kimberly Rieman, RN, MPH, CHES, Health Commissioner

2019 – A Year of Change for the Putnam County Health District

The Putnam County General Health District experienced a great deal of change in 2019. In March, two new Board of Health Members, Kerri Knippen, PhD. and Mr. Kyle Stechschulte were appointed by the District Advisory Council to join Mr. Matthew Herman to serve the Health District. Two additional Board Members, Dr. J. Stephen Sandy and Mr. Joe Burkhart were appointed in May, giving us the 5 members that are required by Ohio law. In addition to governing the Health Department, our Board of Health also leads Putnam County HomeCare and Hospice. A great deal of gratitude is owed to our Board of Health as they invested much time, inside and outside of meetings, to understand their duties and the role of public health in our community.

Along with new Board Members came a change in the organizational structure of the health district. Ohio law states that the Health Commissioner shall be the executive officer of the board and shall carry out all orders of the board. To align ourselves more closely with code, the board decided in July that my duties would be expanded to lead Putnam County HomeCare and Hospice.

Another change came in August 2019 when our Medical Director, Dr. MaryAnn Myers resigned. I would like to thank Dr. Myers for the 9 years that she provided medical direction for the Health District. Dr. Jacinta Eickholt has since been appointed as Medical Director for both the Health Department and Putnam County HomeCare and Hospice. Dr. Eickholt has taken an active role in the health district, keeping up-to-date on the ever changing public health issues that affect our community.

Throughout all of the changes that kept the year interesting, the department learned in March that we achieved Public Health Accreditation! We are one of only 38 Health Departments that have achieved this honor in our state. I am proud of our staff for their hard work in making this a reality and you have my word that we will continue to be a health department that provides quality services.

While a lot has happened in our Health District in 2019, we understand that change is necessary for our agencies to continue to grow and that we must make improvements to protect our public's health. When our Health District was formed in 1920, 100 years ago, our Health District was responsible for only a fraction of what we do today. Our staff is committed to improving our services and expanding our role as we continue working toward a healthy and safe Putnam County.



Health Commissioner

Our Guiding Principles

Mission

Our mission is to protect, promote and improve the health, safety and quality of life of the Putnam County community.

Vision

The Putnam County community will be free of preventable disease, live and work in a healthy environment and have access to quality care.

Values

Professionalism: all people are treated with respect, empathy and professionalism

Quality: a skilled workforce provides exceptional quality services for all

Collaboration: work in collaboration with community partners to identify community needs and opportunities to strengthen and broaden resources

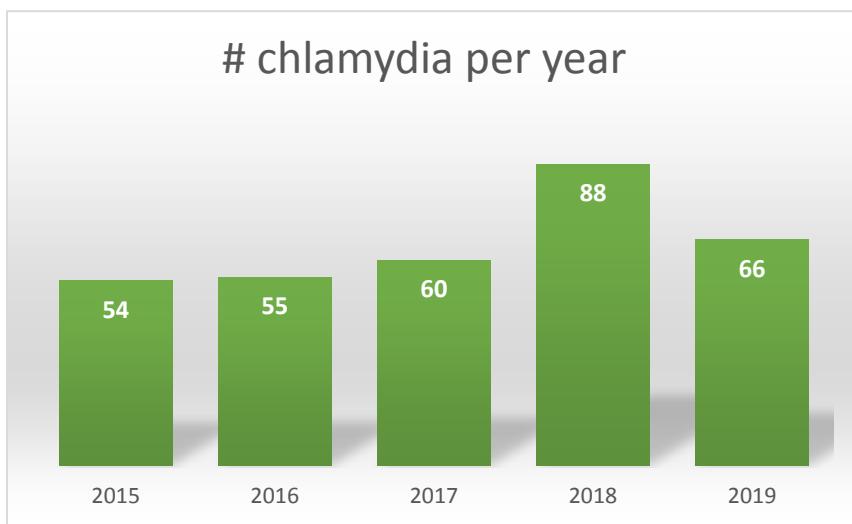


We Are Accredited! In late March, 2019 the Putnam County Health Department received notice that we were awarded accreditation status by the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB). Ohio law states that all health departments are to be accredited by 2020 and PCHD is one of only 38 local health departments (out of 113!) in the state to be accredited at this time! By achieving accreditation, the PCHD has demonstrated effectiveness in providing services and programs in our communities, while also promoting continuous quality improvement. Accreditation demonstrates accountability and credibility to our partners and funders, and most importantly to our community. The seal of accreditation indicates that we have been rigorously examined and meet or exceed the standards for public health.

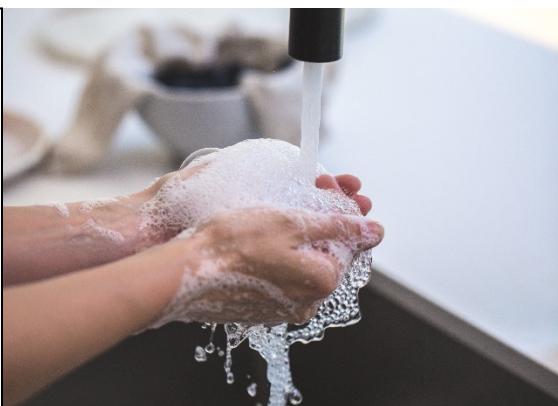
Public Health Nursing

Sherri Recker, RN, MSN, Director of Nursing

Communicable Disease Surveillance One of the ten essential public health services is to diagnose and investigate health problems and health hazards in the community. Sexually transmitted diseases such as Chlamydia decreased from a record high in 2018, but Gonorrhea increased to a record high for 2019. Ohio continued to experience a Hepatitis A outbreak. Anyone with risk factors associated with Hepatitis A may receive a vaccine at the PCHD at no charge.



While it doesn't prevent all diseases and illnesses, handwashing can help inhibit the spread of some illnesses like colds and influenza. Wash your hands frequently!



2019 Communicable Disease Summary	
Campylobacter	5
Chlamydia	66
Coccidiomycosis	1
Cryptosporidia	8
CP-CRE	4
E. Coli	3
Haemophilus Influenzae	2
Gonorrhea	13
Lyme disease - suspected	2
Chicken Pox	6
Hepatitis B - Chronic	4
Hepatitis C - Chronic	10
Legionella	1
Invasive Strep. Pneumoniae	5
Salmonella	8
Yersinia	5
Bacterial Meningitis	1
Viral Meningitis	4
Influenza hospitalized	21
Influenza lab confirmed	262
Influenza like illness	356
TOTAL	787

Immunizations are a vital link in communicable disease control. The health department serves children and adults in Putnam County with a full line of vaccines that prevent numerous diseases. PCHD bills Medicaid, Medicare, and most private insurances for these immunizations.

Immunization clinics are held every Tuesday and the fourth Wednesday of each month. Late clinic hours are available on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month. Call 419-523-5608 for an appointment.

Number of Vaccines Administered



Child passenger Safety is one of the multiple programs administered by the nurses. Two nurses, Dunel Fry and Dawn Schmenk, are certified child passenger safety technicians. Children who qualify for WIC or Medicaid are eligible to receive one car seat per child provided by the Ohio Buckles Buckeyes program at Ohio Department of Health. In addition, the local Baby Needs Program donates funds to purchase infant carriers for the clients that are referred by that program. In 2019, we received an injury prevention grant that focused on working with law enforcement and the court system to create a child passenger safety diversion program. Now, if people get a ticket from law enforcement for not having their child properly restrained in the car, they can come to the health department, participate in an educational program, receive an appropriate car seat for their child and learn how to properly install it. By participating in this program, the ticket cost may be reduced or eliminated.



of ODH car seats distributed per year

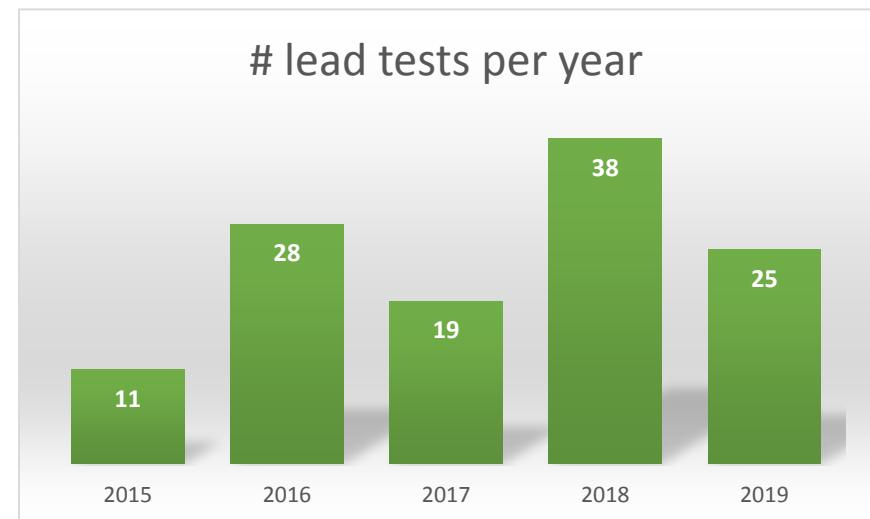


Confused about your child's car seat? Not sure if it's the right seat for your child? As certified passenger safety technicians, Dunel Fry and Dawn Schmenk are able to answer your questions and help you with proper installation of your child's car seat. Call the health department at 419-523-5608 for more information.

PCHD continued the partnership with Pathways Counseling Center to provide nursing services to their clients. Rachael Ruhe, RN, BSN splits her time each week between the two agencies. This partnership is one way the two agencies are working together to provide quality services to the residents of Putnam County.

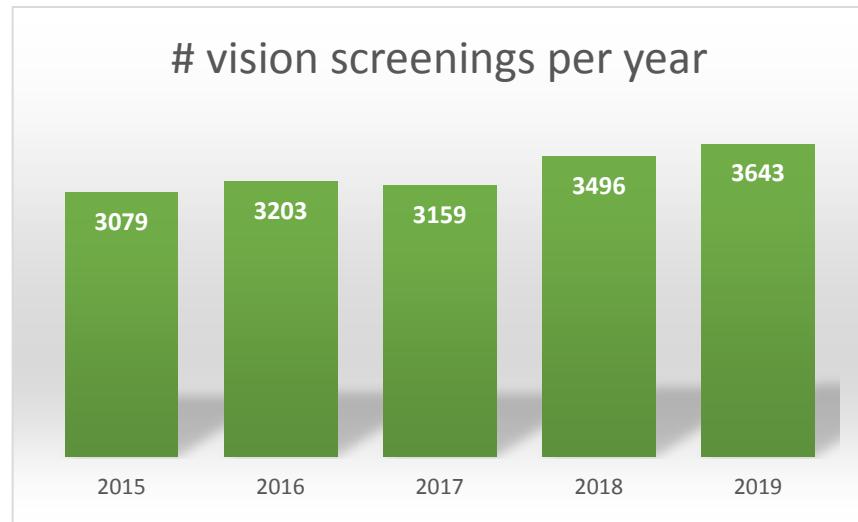
Blood Lead Testing is done by PCHD nurses at the office and at Head Start. We conduct lead testing by fingerstick and send the specimens to Child Lab in Columbus. Children are recommended to get a lead test at 12 and 24 months and preschool entry. When lead poisoning is detected early, interventions can be done to minimize exposure to the environmental hazard. High lead levels can lead to brain and nervous system damage, slowed growth and development, learning and behavior problems, and speech and hearing problems.

lead tests per year



School Screenings are provided by Putnam County Health Department nurses at no cost to the county's schools. Vision screenings are completed with students in Kindergarten and grades 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, and 11.

vision screenings per year



Although not mandated by ODH, scoliosis screenings were also provided for students in grades 6, 7 and 8.

The Bureau for Children with Medical Handicaps (BCMH) Program is a health care assistance program that links families of children with special health care needs to a network of quality specialty providers. The program also helps families obtain payment for the services their child needs. There are no financial eligibility requirements for diagnostic services.

Health Education

Joan Kline, CHES, Health Educator

Senior fall prevention was an area of focus in 2019. The Putnam County Health Department supports the Matter of Balance program, which is an 8-week, evidence-based fall prevention program. Lay leaders, or coaches, are trained to present the program to interested seniors. The program is so needed that there is often a waiting list! A training for coaches was held in 2019 so that more classes can be offered. Tai Chi for Balance is another fall prevention program that is offered to residents in Putnam County. Through a grant obtained by the PCHD, a Tai Chi instructor training was held in late 2018. Since then, several Tai Chi classes were held and many more seniors are interested in learning more. A Fall Prevention Luncheon was held in September, near the first day of Fall, with approximately 30 seniors attending and learning important fall prevention tips. Finally, while the focus is not entirely on fall prevention, the Senior Expo was held in August 2019. This event, which is sponsored by the health department and other partners, is held each year on the first Friday of August at Ottawa Elementary School. It attracts hundreds of seniors from Putnam County and the surrounding area. The seniors participate in the presentations and screenings that are offered and they also learn more from the many organizations and agencies who are part of the health fair.

Nutrition was also the focus of several programs and events in 2019. The PCHD partnered with the YMCA to provide nutrition presentations to Putnam County second graders who participated in the school swim program at the YMCA. The PCHD also participated in the WIC Farmer's Market, providing information about sugar in foods and drinks. Cooking U, a healthy cooking class for high school seniors and college students was offered in December 2019 at the Leipsic Community Center. The PCHD partnered with the Leipsic Community Center again to provide the fresh fruit and vegetable exchange in Leipsic

Learn more about a variety of health related topics by following us on Facebook and Twitter!



Emergency Preparedness

Angela Recker, EMT, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator

Putnam County Health Department (PCHD) was awarded the Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) grant for 2019. As a PHEP grant recipient, PCHD completes preparedness activities to strengthen response capabilities such as writing and revising plans, trainings, and drills and exercises.

PCHD collaborates with many community agencies and partners to help foster community involvement and strengthen relationships. Over the summer, we partnered with the Putnam County Sheriff's Office to raffle off emergency response kits to Putnam County residents. The kits were stocked with essential emergency supplies such as a flashlight, radio, first-aid kit, multi-tool, work gloves, poncho, hand warmers, hygiene kit, and water purifier. All residents are encouraged to put together an emergency response kit to be ready in case of an emergency.

In October, PCHD completed an exercise that tested public health's response to an influenza pandemic. The exercise focused on Emergency Public Information and Warning, Information Sharing, and Public Health Surveillance



Emergency Response Kit winner Tina Gerding and Emergency Preparedness Coordinator Angela Recker



Emergency Response Kit winner Amy Burgei

and Epidemiological Investigation. By exercising our plans, we are able to identify ours strengths and areas in need of improvement so that we are ready to respond in case of an emergency.

In addition to drills and exercises, PCHD wrote and reviewed numerous preparedness plans, annexes and guidelines. The hard-work of 2019 has been evident in the real-world response to novel coronavirus in late December 2019. PCHD continually works to ensure that Putnam County is prepared and protected from current and emerging public health threats.



1918

Flu epidemic kills millions around the world, including several Putnam County residents

1919

Hughes-Griswold Act ensures public health protection for all Ohioans. Boards of Health are formed in counties and cities

1920

- Putnam County Board of Health formed. First meeting held on **January 12, 1920**
- Health Commissioner Dr. W.S. Yeager, Nurse Louise Labadies and Clerk Nora Meyers were hired

1920s

- Smallpox, polio and tuberculosis were diseases of much concern
- Rules established to help control the spread of disease and Ohio began reporting disease

1930s

- Scarlet Fever and measles cases reported in the county
- Began immunizing against diphtheria

1960s

- Home Health Agency services begin
- Tuberculosis cases cause much concern
- Solid waste disposal sites licensed and inspected

1950s

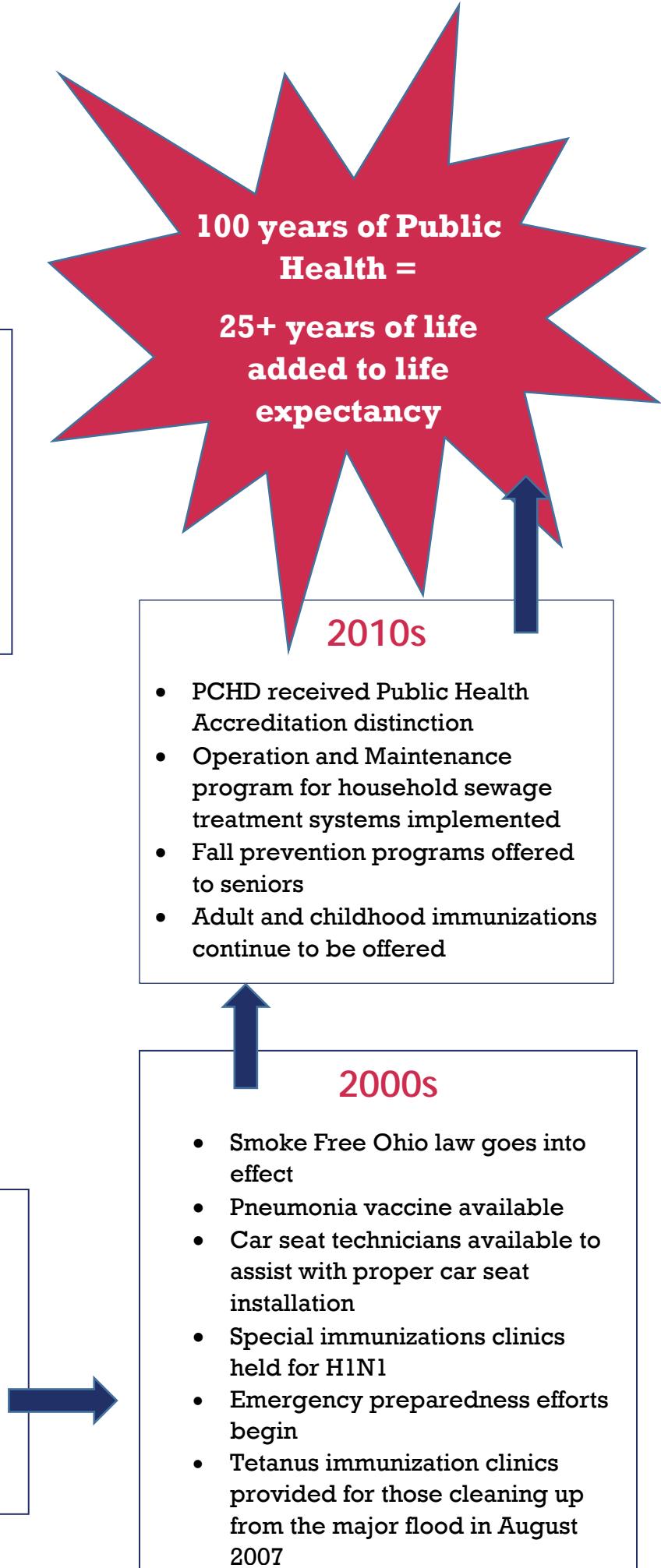
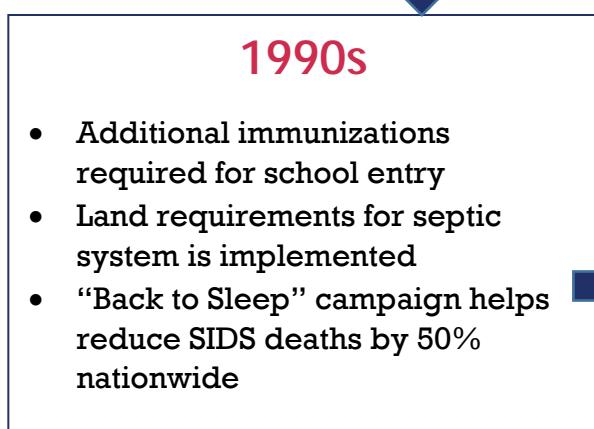
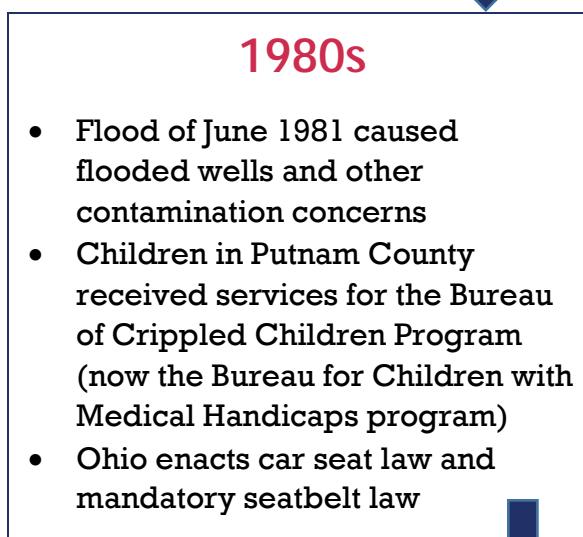
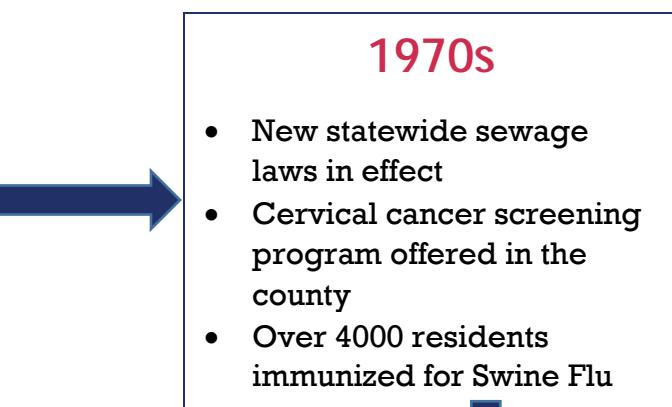
- Ohio's first Food Code adopted
- Board of Health given authority to abate nuisances
- Polio vaccine causes sharp decline in polio cases in the state
- State begins to require immunizations against certain diseases before starting school

1940s

- Food and Drink Handlers ordinance adopted
- Regulations for the production, distribution and sale of milk and milk products adopted
- Sewage related regulations adopted
- Polio outbreak prompted the Board of Health to issue a warning against large gatherings

Putnam County Health Department

1920-2020



The Environmental Health (EH) staff had a very busy and exciting year. In early 2019, we had a valuable staff member in our division leave to pursue other responsibilities. In July 2019, we were able to hire a full time staff member to manage the Operation and Maintenance program. Our staffing duties have changed significantly in 2019 where Environmental Health staff are now specializing in programs in order to provide the most consistent application of the rules, regulations and laws that govern our division. Outside of all the changes, EH staff have been working hard to meet performance and personal goals in 2019! The charts and graphs below indicate just a portion of what the EH staff is doing.

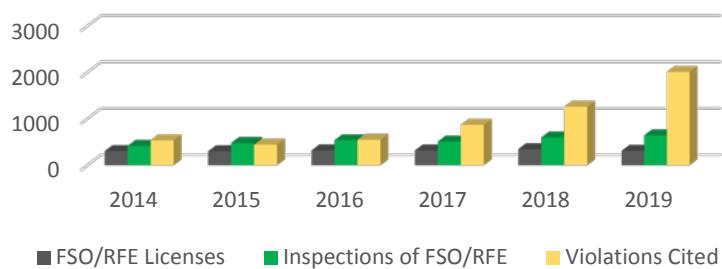
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
FSO/RFE Licenses	297	318	316	344	331
Inspections of FSO/RFE *	476	535	507	595	641
Violations Cited *	442	546	868	1258	2007
Pools and Spas Licenses	9	9	9	8	8
Campgrounds Licenses	2	2	2	2	2
School Inspections	16	14	30	28	28
STS Permits	29	42	49	49	46
STS Site Evaluations	27	44	56	47	44
PWS Permits	52	59	50	51	59
Water Samples	157	173	180	182	147
Animal Bites	43	52	42	42	60
Nuisances		5	12	8	11

*Numbers do not include temporary food license inspections

Food Safety remains a high priority for the environmental staff. 2019 brought a considerable amount of change to the food program, driven by the Ohio Department of Health and the Ohio Department of Agriculture, who implemented new inspection reports for the food programs across the state. Although the change had a huge learning curve, many feel that the implementation of the new forms has made the program stronger and the food facilities better. While the increase in the number of violations may be alarming, it is important to note that the new forms implemented by the state now require additional questions to be asked of the facilities. Incorrect responses results in a violation that may not have been previously noted.

Standard Operating Guidelines were developed for the food program in 2018. This has also impacted the number of inspections that occurred in 2019 by requiring follow-up inspections to take place when any critical violation is documented and not corrected at the time of the inspection. Therefore, the increase in the violations documented can also be linked to the increase in the number of inspections. The trend the last couple of years is showing a significant increase in the number of inspections and violations.

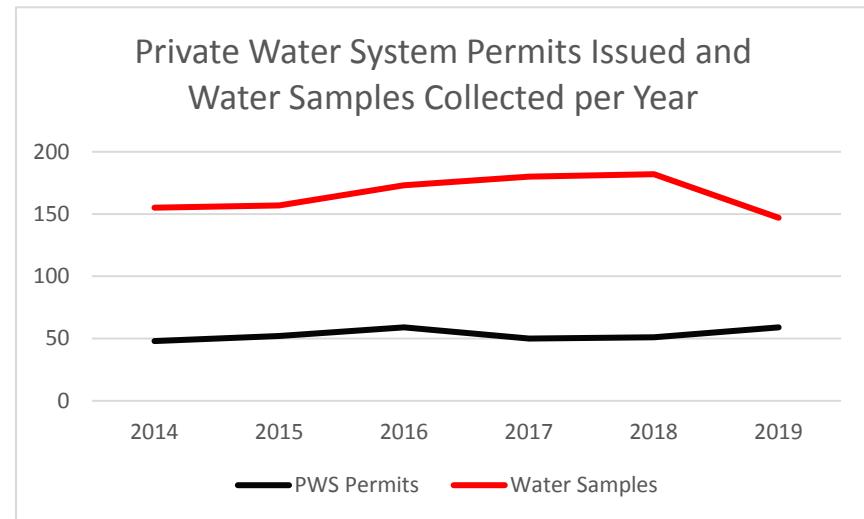
Food Facilities Licensed, Inspections Performed and Number of Violations



Temporary food licenses are issued when food is being prepared and/or served at a time limited event, such as a festival or fair, not to exceed 5 consecutive days. Typically these events occur on the weekend, outside of our normal business hours. There was a substantial decrease in the overall number of licenses issued in 2019 from 2018. Further review indicated that there was a significant drop in temporary food licenses issued in 2019 compared to 2018, thus causing the decline in the total number of food licenses issued.

In the **Private Water System (PWS)** program, water samples are collected and private water system permits are issued for the installation of a well. There was a slight increase in the number of permits issued in 2019, while there was a small decrease in the number of water samples conducted. Water samples are often collected for home loans, adoptions or for personal knowledge. Water samples are collected on most Wednesdays throughout the year, with the results usually available the following Monday.

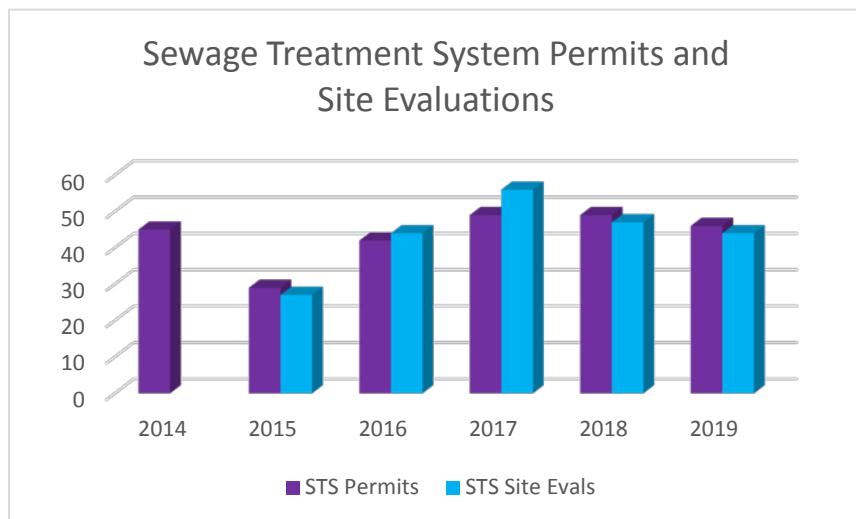
Are you planning to build in Putnam County? It is recommended that you check with the health department first to make sure that your property meets all the requirements for building. Call 419-523-5608 for more information.



Sewage Treatment System Program After a slight drop of Sewage Treatment System (STS) permits issued in 2015, the number of permits is now steady, with 40-50 issued in each of the last four years. It appears that the regulations implemented in 2015 had little to no long term effect on the building of new homes in Putnam County. There was a slight drop in the number of site evaluations performed in 2018 and 2019.

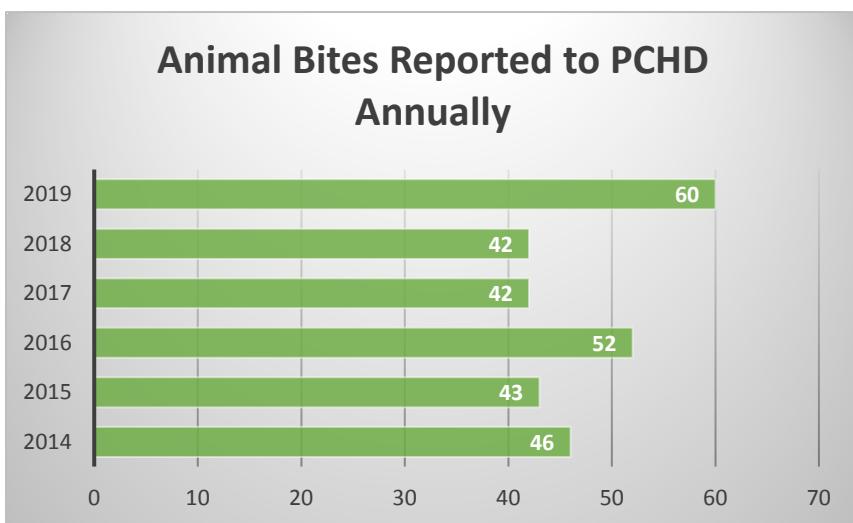
The Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) has been very successful in Putnam County. By the end of 2019, over \$650,000 has been used to assist homeowners with the repairs or replacement of their STS over the last four years. We are happy to report that an additional \$150,000 was awarded for 2020 funding. As long as the funds are available, the PCHD will continue to request funds to assist homeowners.

At the end of 2019, we have had two successful years under our belts for the Operation and Maintenance (O&M) program. Homeowners have the option to have PCHD staff perform the visual evaluation of their system or have a registered service provider evaluate the system. The majority of homeowners have elected to have PCHD staff perform the evaluation and we have received positive feedback from those homeowners. The purpose of the program is to educate the homeowners on their



system and provide ways to maintain the system, so that they can continue using their system for as long as possible.

Rabies Surveillance The trend shows a spike in the number of reported animal bites every few years. In 2019, our staff saw a significant increase in the bites reported. Staff continues to work with physician offices to improve reporting of animal bites. When any non-human mammal bites a person, it must be reported to the health department in the county where the bite occurred.



Most animal bites reported are from dogs. However, we have had reports of bites from cats, bats, ferrets, bunnies, mice, horses and donkeys!

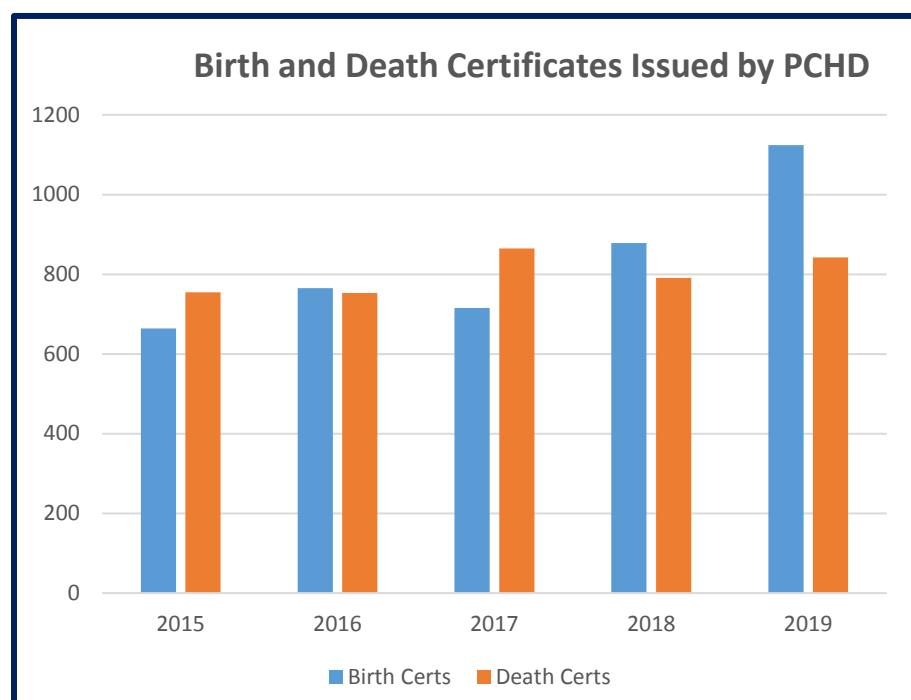
Vital Statistics

Abigail Greve, Registrar

Birth and death certificates are available at the Putnam County Health Department. Since 2011, Ohioans have been able to obtain a certified copy of any Ohio birth record at the local health department. Birth records are available from 1908 – Present. Death certificates, however, must be obtained from the county in which the death occurred. In 2019, the Putnam County Health Department issued 1124 birth certificates and 842 death certificates.

The Putnam County Health Department processes requests for certified birth and death records Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. The cost is \$27.00 per certified record. Cash, check, debit or credit cards are accepted (an additional fee will apply for debit and credit cards).

The PCHD issued 246 more birth certificates in 2019 than in 2018. There were also 51 more death certificates issued in 2019 than the previous year.



The health department registrar is responsible for filing all births and deaths that occur in Putnam County with the Bureau of Vital Statistics in Columbus. Because there is no hospital in Putnam County, there are very few births that actually occur in the county. In 2019 there were no births registered in Putnam County. The registrar also monitors the causes of death of our residents. In 2019, there were 318 deaths from various causes as seen in the chart below:

Leading Causes of Death for Putnam County Residents - 2019	
Heart Disease	95
Cancer	56
Neurodegenerative Disease (Dementia, Alzheimer's and Others, Parkinson's Disease	48
Pulmonary Disease/Pneumonia	34
Sepsis	26
Renal Failure	13
Cerebral Vascular Accidents/Strokes	9
Accidents (Motor Vehicle, Accidental Drowning, Unintentional Deaths, etc.)*	7
Suicide	3
Other (4 or less each for causes such as Alcoholic Liver Cirrhosis, Lupus, Diabetes Mellitus II, etc.)	27
*Drug Overdose – also included in accident figure	1
TOTAL NUMBER OF DEATHS OF PUTNAM COUNTY RESIDENTS – 2019	318

This data were provided by the Ohio Department of Health. The Department specifically disclaims responsibility for any analyses, interpretations or conclusions.

Putnam County Board of Health

The Putnam County Board of Health serves as the governing board for both the Putnam County Health Department and Putnam County HomeCare and Hospice. Members of the 2019 Board of Health include:

Mr. Matthew Herman,
President
Dr. Kerri Knippen, Vice-
President
Mr. Kyle Stechschulte
Mr. Joe Burkhart
Dr. J. Stephen Sandy

The Board of Health holds meetings on the second Thursday evening of each month at 6:00 pm. For more information, visit our website at www.putnamhealth.com or call the Health Department at 419-523-5608.



Mr. Matthew Herman, Dr. J. Stephen Sandy, Mr. Joe Burkhart, Dr. Kerri Knippen, Mr. Kyle Stechschulte

Special Thanks to the District Advisory Council

The District Advisory Council (DAC) is made up of a representative from the County Commissioners, a trustee from each township and the mayor of each village and has the task of appointing Board of Health Members. With the many changes in the Health District last year, this group had 4 meetings within 3 months to ensure that the Health District was able to conduct business.

The Putnam County Health Department and Putnam County HomeCare and Hospice would like to thank the DAC members for attending these meetings. A special thanks to the members who assisted with the Nominating Committee.

Public Health: A Wise Investment

Balance as of January 1, 2019 **\$956,985.49**

REVENUE	
Putnam County Tax Levy	\$409,967.96
Other Local Government Funds	45,985.27
Federal/State Grants/Subsidy	318,343.90
Service Fees	732,121.39
Misc. Grants/ Receipts	80,206.69
TOTAL REVENUE	\$1,586,625.21

January 1 Balance + Receipts **\$2,543,610.70**

EXPENSES	
Administrative Costs*	\$1,100,473.76
Supplies (Medical, Office, Program)	289,748.59
ODH Grants	1,140.00
WPCLF Expenditures	192,061.00
Share to State	41,615.16
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1,624,738.51

Balance as of December 31, 2019 **\$918,936.19**

*Costs include salary, fringes, equipment, internet, phone, etc.

The PCHD proudly serves the residents of Putnam County by offering the following programs and services.

Immunizations/Flu Clinics

Birth and Death Certificates

Bureau for Children with Medical Handicaps

School Screenings

Car Seat Program

Private Water and Septic Permits

Emergency Preparedness

Communicable Disease Monitoring

Food Service Inspections

Water Samples

Health Education

Lead Testing

Public Health Service Awards

Five-year service award recipients

Two Putnam County Health Department employees celebrated five years of service with the agency in 2019. **Abigail Greve** is our Vital Statistics Registrar, Receptionist and Environmental Health Clerk. She is usually the first face that people see when they come to the Health Department. She provides exceptional customer service and is truly a great asset to our agency.

Brandi Schrader, our Director of Environmental Health, also reached 5 years of service with the Health Department. In addition to all that she does to manage the Environmental Health Program, she is an important member of our Leadership Team, constantly working to improve the entire health department. She also assists by helping monitor the budget, assisting the Health Commissioner and Fiscal Clerk.

2019 Employee of the Year – voted by peers

Laurie Meyer, our Office Manager was voted amongst her peers to be the 2019 Employee of the Year. In addition to what she does for the Nursing Division in managing clinics and keeping the revenue coming in for Nursing Services, she also serves as the Vital Statistics Deputy Registrar and performs receptionist duties whenever she is needed. Thank you Laurie!

PCHD Staff



Front: Angela Recker, Dunel Fry, Rachael Ruhe, Kim Rieman, Terri Rayle, Lisa Pope, Laurie Meyer

Back: Beth Skulina, Dawn Schmenk, Dainna Raye, Patty Jerwers, Brandi Schrader, Abigail Greve, Sherri Recker, Joan Kline

Kim Rieman, RN, MPH, CHES
Jacinta Eickholt, MD (beginning July 2019)
Sherri Recker, RN, MSN
Brandi Schrader, M.Ed., RS
Joan Kline, CHES
Angela Recker, EMT
Dawn Schmenk, RN, BSN
Dunel Fry, RN, BSN
Rachael Ruhe, RN, BSN
Patty Jerwers, RN
Beth Skulina, M.Ed., RS
Dainna Raye, RS
Lisa Pope
Laurie Meyer
Abigail Greve
Terri Rayle

Health Commissioner
Medical Director
Director of Nursing
Director of Environmental Health
Health Educator, Accreditation Coordinator
Emergency Preparedness Coordinator
Public Health Nurse
Public Health Nurse
Public Health Nurse
Public Health Nurse
Registered Sanitarian
Registered Sanitarian
Environmental Health Technician
Office Manager, Deputy Registrar
Registrar, Clerk Receptionist
Fiscal Clerk

Registered Sanitarian Laura Gulker resigned in March 2019 and Medical Director Dr. Mary Ann Myers in August 2019



A QUICK LOOK AT PUBLIC HEALTH IN PUTNAM COUNTY – 2019

75	Car Seats distributed and proper use instruction given	28	School safety inspections conducted
95	Putnam County residents died of Heart Disease	641	Food safety inspections conducted
3643	Vision screenings conducted in the county schools	1124	Birth certificates issued
1735	Flu vaccines given	147	Water samples collected
308	Food Service licenses issued	60	Animal bites investigated
6526	Immunizations given	177	Children served through the Children with Medical Handicaps Program

Social Media

1293 Facebook Followers

306 Twitter Followers