



# Putnam County Health Department

## 2021 Annual Report

Release Date: March 7, 2022

# Greeting

January 2021 was filled with hope and excitement as the COVID-19 vaccine became more accessible to local communities. Planning began for large, offsite clinics and included many health department staff with assistance from Putnam County EMA. It was truly a team effort. The first large clinic was held at the Ottawa Knights of Columbus on January 20, with over 300 vaccinations given. Weekly thereafter, clinics were held in different locations around the county. I am so proud of all of the hard work that our staff put in to helping protect our population from COVID-19 in planning and carrying out these clinics.

In the spring and summer months new COVID-19 cases decreased and Health Department staff were able to work in their usual programs, but unfortunately, as is common with pandemics, we experienced another wave and cases began to increase again. Soon, the nursing staff were back to being overwhelmed with COVID-19 case investigations in addition to continuing to provide vaccinations to our residents. At the time of writing this Annual Report, cases are beginning to decrease in the United States, Ohio and locally, and I am hopeful that we are able to focus on other community programs to help us achieve our mission – *“to protect, promote and improve the health, safety and quality of life of the Putnam County Community.”*

An important aspect of the pandemic response is to evaluate our efforts of the last two years and determine how to make changes so that we are better able to respond appropriately to other public health emergencies as they occur. Unfortunately, prior to the pandemic, many health departments had a small staff, as is the case in our Health Department. When the increased demands of the pandemic were introduced, this greatly taxed the already fragile public health infrastructure. We will be working to determine our staffing needs so that we can work efficiently in both pandemic and non-pandemic times.

I would like to thank all of our Partners for their assistance during this second year of our pandemic response. We worked with the EMA, our local schools, our medical community and our community partners to address the needs of our community during this pandemic. We appreciate each one of you and look forward to continuing to work on many non-pandemic projects in the future. Also, I would like to thank the many volunteers who helped us during the many phases of this pandemic. (Please read the article on page 13 that highlights the wonderful work of our volunteers!)

Finally, I would like to thank all of our staff who have worked so hard during these past two years. Every staff member’s work was greatly affected, whether they were working directly with the response, or were working their usual jobs out in the field. It is not easy being an employee of the department that was central to the pandemic’s response. Our staff learned so much and were happy to serve our residents during this historic time and are looking forward to continuing to serve our community in 2022.

Thank you everyone!



**Kim Rieman, RN, MPH, CHES**  
Health Commissioner

# About Us

Putnam County Health Department  
256 Williamstown Road  
Ottawa, Ohio 45875  
419-523-5608

**Mission:** 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.



## Core 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



(Left) Medical Director- Dr. Jacinta Eickholt, Board Members: Kyle Stechschulte, Dr. Kent Brandeberry, and Joe Burkhart

## 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 2021 Board of Health include:

Mr. Kyle Stechschulte, President

Mr. Joe Burkhart, Vice President

Mr. Matthew Herman

Mr. Cory Unverferth

Dr. Kent Brandeberry

Dr. Jacinta Eickholt, Medical Director

The Board of Health holds meetings on the second Wednesday evening of each month at 6:00 p.m. For more information, visit our website at [www.putnamhealth.com](http://www.putnamhealth.com) or call the Health Department at 419-523-5608.

# About Us

Putnam County Health Department  
256 Williamstown Road  
Ottawa, Ohio 45875  
419-523-5608

## Putnam County Health Department Staff



Back Left: Abigail Morman, Terri Rayle, Kim Rieman  
Front Left: Angela Recker, Bridget Fischer



Back Left: Dawn Schmenk, Sherri Recker, Laurie Meyer  
Front Left: Allison Rosebrock, Rachael Ruhe, Dunel Fry



Back Left Beth Skulina, Brandi Schrader, Lisa Pope  
Front Left: Abigail Greve, Dainna Raye



Joan Kline, Health Educator and Accreditation Coordinator retired in 2021 with 24 years of service to Putnam County. Joan led numerous efforts including: community health assessment and improvement plans, community health programs and public information campaigns and messaging. Thank you Joan for your time in Public Health!

Kim Rieman, RN, MPH, CHES  
Sherri Recker, RN, MSN  
Brandi Schrader, M.Ed., REHS  
Angela Recker, EMT  
Dawn Schmenk, RN, BSN  
Dunel Fry, RN, BSN  
Rachael Ruhe, RN, BSN  
Allison Rosebrock, RN, BSN  
Beth Skulina, M.Ed., REHS  
Dainna Raye, REHS  
Lisa Pope  
Abigail Greve  
Laurie Meyer  
Abigail Morman  
Terri Rayle  
Bridget Fischer, MPH

Health Commissioner  
Director of Nursing  
Director of Environmental Health  
Emergency Preparedness Coordinator  
Public Health Nurse  
Public Health Nurse  
Public Health Nurse  
Public Health Nurse  
Registered Environmental Health Specialist  
Registered Environmental Health Specialist  
Environmental Health Technician  
Environmental Health Administrative Assistant  
Billing/Deputy Registrar  
Receptionist/Vital Statistics Registrar  
Fiscal Clerk  
Public Information Officer

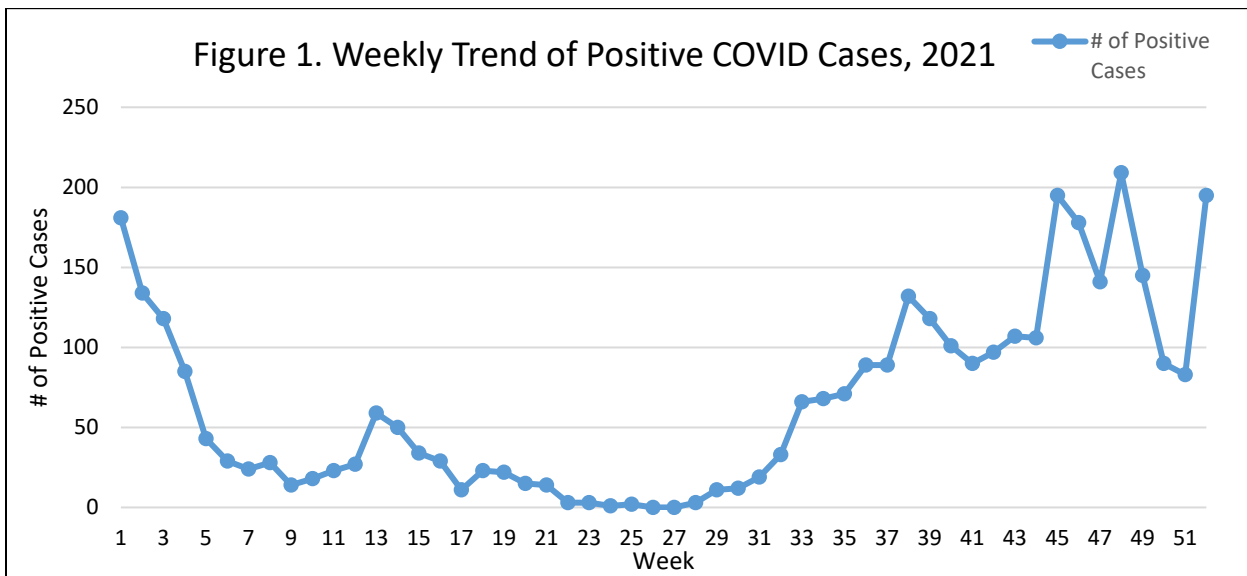
# Public Health Nursing

## Communicable Disease

One of the ten essential public health services is to diagnose and investigate health problems and health hazards in the community. Since 2020, this became an all-encompassing service for the nursing staff at Putnam County Health Department (PCHD) as Coronavirus (COVID-19) continued to spread throughout the county. As figure 1 indicates, we saw a decrease in cases throughout the summer until the Delta variant arrived to cause an increase in cases beginning in late summer to fall. School resumed in person and without students wearing a mask. More school aged cases began in August and continued to the winter months. There was also a spike in cases after Thanksgiving and then a dramatic increase that began after the Christmas holiday. The health department began distributing COVID-19 rapid home test kits in August of 2021 from supplies provided by the Ohio Department of Health. This was well received in the community as our supplies were out within hours to several days.

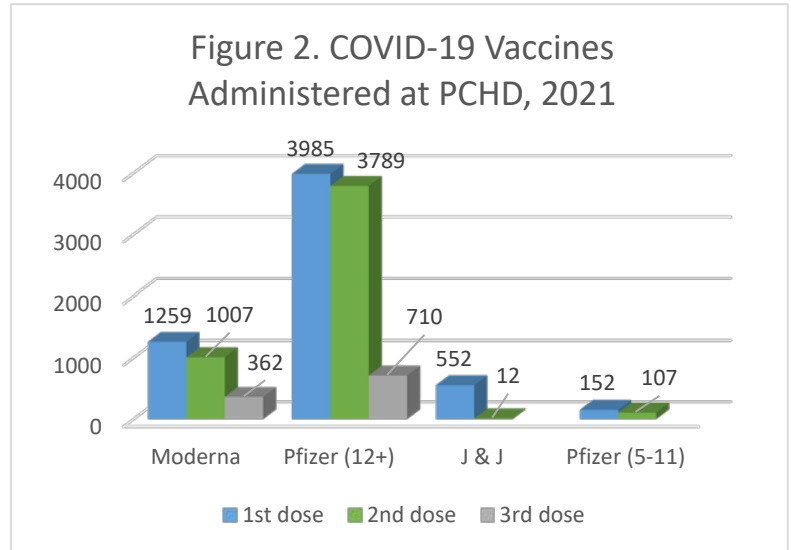
### 2021 Communicable Disease Reporting Summary

Campylobacter	8
Chlamydia	41
Coronavirus disease (COVID-19)	3,506
Cryptosporidia	5
Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease	1
E. Coli	3
Gonorrhea	10
Hepatitis B - Chronic	2
Hepatitis C - Chronic	9
Lyme Disease	1
Invasive Strep. Pneumoniae	1
Salmonella	7
Yersinia	3
Viral Meningitis	1
Influenza hospitalized	4



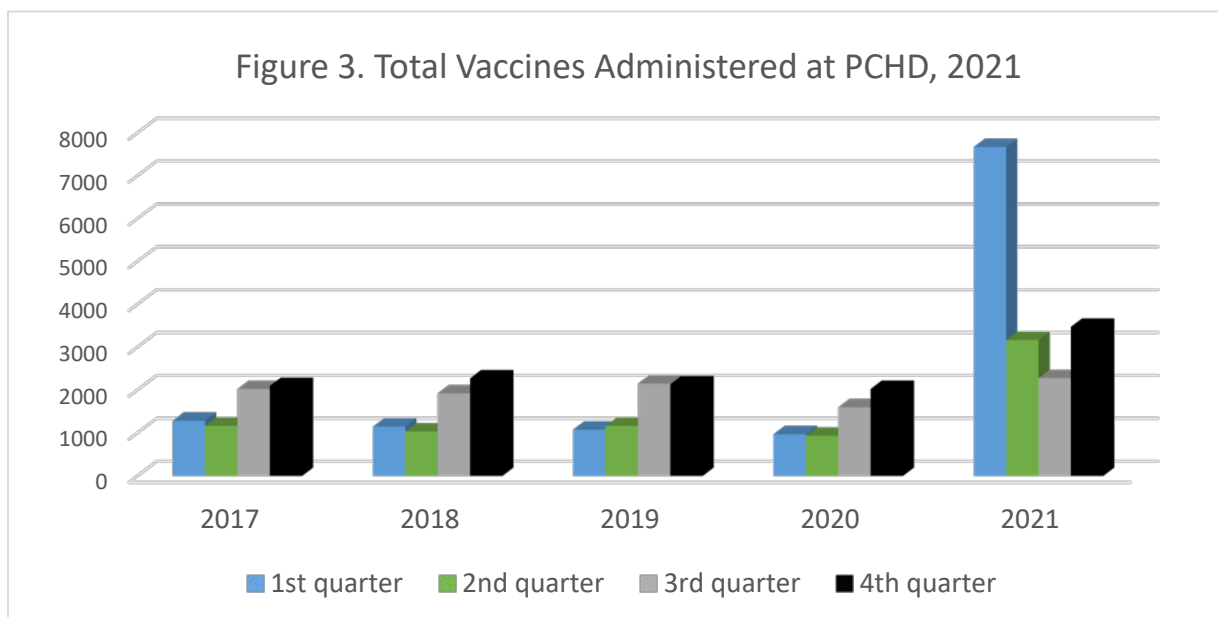
## COVID-19 Vaccinations

Vaccination for COVID-19 became a focus of the nursing department in January of 2021 and continued throughout the year. We began with large clinics held throughout the county administering between 200-600 doses per clinic depending on supply. The initial target group were the older population, health care workers, residents of long term care facilities, and group homes. Gradually as supplies increased, the eligible age groups decreased and those with medical conditions were able to receive vaccine. By April the vaccine was available for anyone 18 years and older.



In August, Pfizer received approval for their vaccine to be administered to 12-15 year olds. In November, Pfizer received approval for a pediatric strength dosage to be administered to 5-11 year olds. PCHD offered the vaccine to eligible populations as soon as the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) approved the vaccine. When it became apparent that the immune response to the COVID-19 vaccine wanes over time, a booster dose was approved after 6 months elapsed from the primary series. See figure 2 for the number of doses of vaccine given at PCHD.

Administering vaccines is a tool to aid in the prevention of communicable diseases. PCHD offers pediatric and adult vaccination appointments every Tuesday. There were 16,591 vaccines given in 2021. See figure 3 for the number of vaccines provided by PCHD.



## Other Nursing Programs

### Vision Screenings

The Nursing Division postponed vision screening in the schools when COVID-19 began in March of 2020. PCHD completed Kindergarten vision screenings in the summer of 2020. In the fall of 2021, PCHD began vision screening again at Kindergarten, 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, and 11<sup>th</sup> grade.

### Car Seat Program

**38**

**Car seat education and installations were done in 2020 and 2021.** PCHD began to advertise this program again and hoping to return to normal in 2022.

### Lead Testing

**19**

**Lead testing was completed in Head Start in 2021.** Children on Medicaid are supposed to be tested at 12 and 24 months of age. This is done through our office or by a lab draw ordered by the physician at a lab.

### Children with Medical Handicap Program

Children enrolled with the Medical Handicaps program were primarily case managed by the ODH staff in 2020 and 2021 due to our extensive COVID-19 response. PCHD is hoping to return to this program and aid residents and their families more in 2022.



# Environmental Health

## Environmental Health Programs

2021 has proven to be another challenging year for the Environmental Health (EH) staff due to much of our time in the beginning of the year working on enforcement of COVID-19 mandates and assisting with contact tracing. In 2021, EH staff worked diligently to meet requirements, as well as to catch up on responsibilities from 2020. As you will see in the chart and graphs to follow, 2021 was a very busy year for EH!

### Trends of Environmental Health Programs

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
<b>FSO/RFE Licenses</b>	297	318	316	344	331	261	305
<b>Inspections of FSO/RFE *</b>	476	535	507	595	641	377	457
<b>Violations Cited *</b>	442	546	868	1258	2007	1053	1179
<b>Pools and Spas Licenses</b>	9	9	9	8	8	8	8
<b>Campgrounds Licenses</b>	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
<b>School Inspections</b>	16	14	30	28	28	3	10
<b>STS Permits</b>	29	42	49	49	46	46	35
<b>STS Site Evaluations</b>	27	44	56	47	44	57	61
<b>Operation Permits</b>	9	34	50	629	651	828	803
<b>PWS Permits</b>	52	59	50	51	59	54	74
<b>Water Samples</b>	157	173	180	182	147	131	222
<b>Animal Bites</b>	43	52	42	42	60	49	45
<b>Nuisances</b>		5	12	8	11	10	3

\*The number of violations and inspections does not include temporary food facilities.

457

Inspections of  
FSO/RFE

222

Water Samples  
Taken

45

Animal Bite  
Investigations



## Food Safety Program

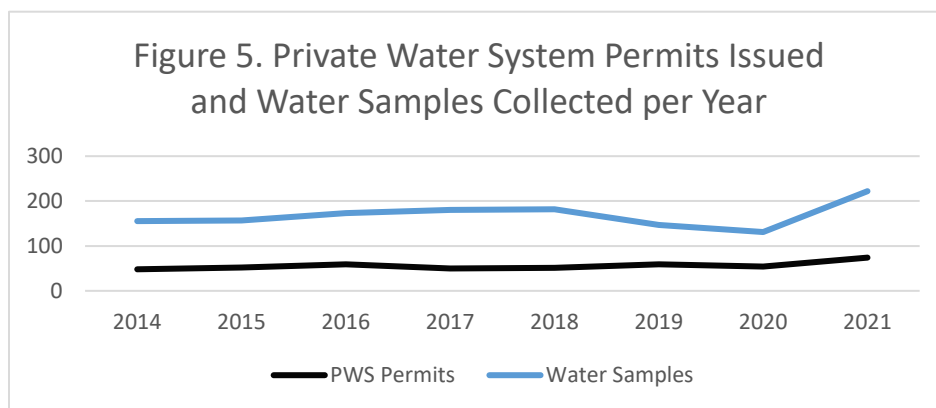
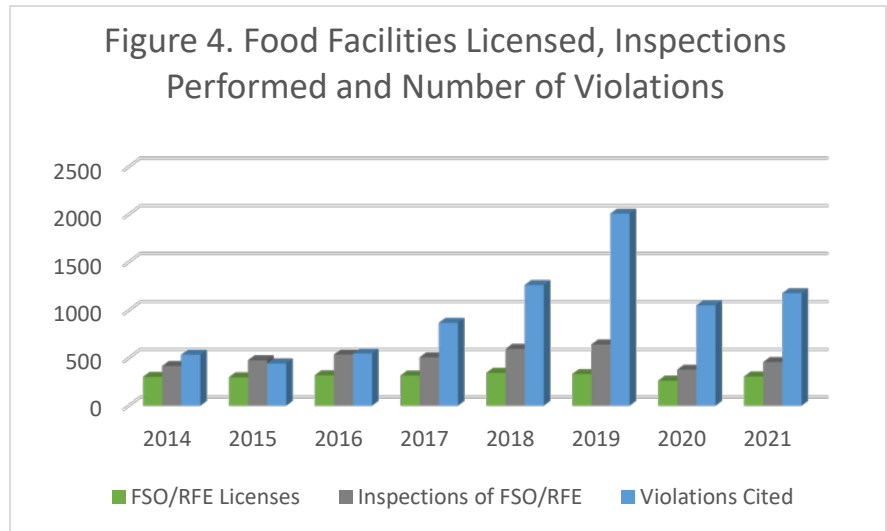
In 2021, PCHD continued to see the decrease in the number of temporary licenses that were issued compared to pre-pandemic. Temporary licenses are issued when food is being prepared and/or served at a time limited event not to exceed 5 consecutive days. Typically, these events occur on the weekends and/or outside of PCHD normal business hours. All other risk level

licenses remained consistent to previous years. The number of inspections will vary with the type of food license each facility carries. A facility that performs tasks that have a higher risk to public health require more inspections versus a facility that has a lower risk. See figure 4 for trends of inspections performed from 2014 to 2021.

In 2020 and 2021, there was a decrease in the number of inspections that were performed. This is due to the COVID-19 pandemic and EH staff working in COVID-19 related tasks. Ohio Department of Health and Ohio Department of Agriculture waived the mandatory inspection requirements for the 2020 licensed food facilities due to COVID-19. In the beginning to mid-year 2021, PCHD EH staff resumed field work with inspections for the 2021 licensed facilities.

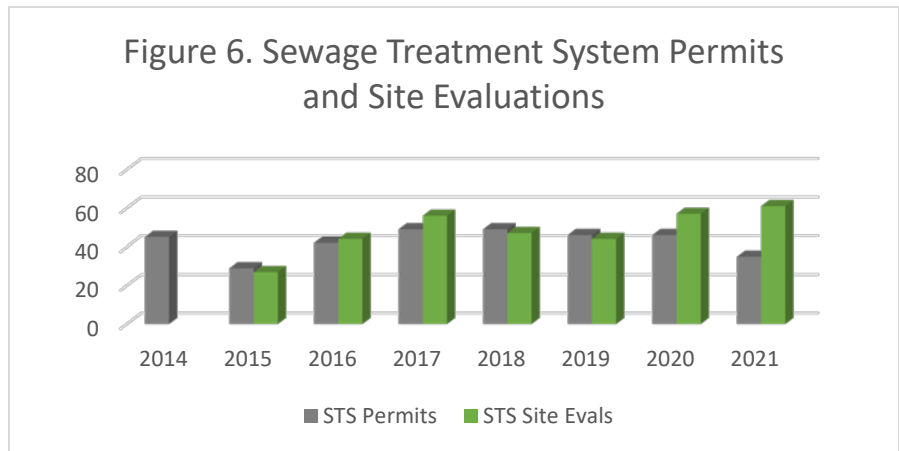
## Private Water System (PWS) Program

In 2021, there was a growth in the number of permits issued for the year. There was a noticeable drop in 2020 of water samples, most likely due to staff not working in the field. However, 2021 made up for the decrease and exceeded all previous years. The substantial increase is most likely due to collecting water samples that were not done in 2020.



## Sewage Treatment System Program

2021 shows a significant drop in the number of installation permits. We are unsure of the reason for this decline, but it may be due to the decrease in building in 2021. Numerous individuals have indicated that building has been challenging this past year. However, we fully expect to see an increase in permits because of the decrease in 2021 and the large number of site evaluations over the last couple of years.

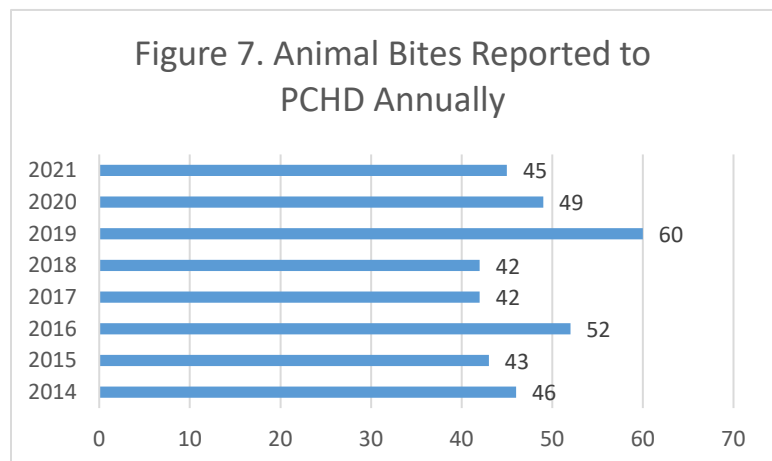


Putnam County was fortunate to receive funding from Ohio EPA through the Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) and the H2Ohio fund. These programs assist homeowners that meet income guidelines with the replacement of their household sewage treatment systems. As of December 31, 2021, over \$750,000 has been utilized by Putnam County homeowners through these funds. In December 2021, PCHD was awarded \$150,000 for the 2022 WPCLF. Unfortunately, this funding is not lasting as it once did as a result of the increase in material cost for the contractors.

The Operation and Maintenance (O&M) program completed its 4<sup>th</sup> year of implementation in 2021. It continues to be taxing to get all property owners to complete the necessary paperwork and fees for the program. Annually, we are forced to assess taxes for properties that did not submit their paperwork and fee. As the years progress, we continue to see an increase in the number of homeowners that are interested in having service providers perform the evaluations. EH staff continue to provide education to individuals reaching out concerning the program. The intent of the program is to assist homeowners with education on their system, so that they can keep that system as long as possible through maintenance!

## Rabies Surveillance Program

As history has shown us, there is a spike in the number of reported animal bites followed by a decrease in reports for a couple of years. In 2021, the number of reported animal bites remained in the 40's. PCHD continues to work with physician offices to improve the reporting of animal bites.

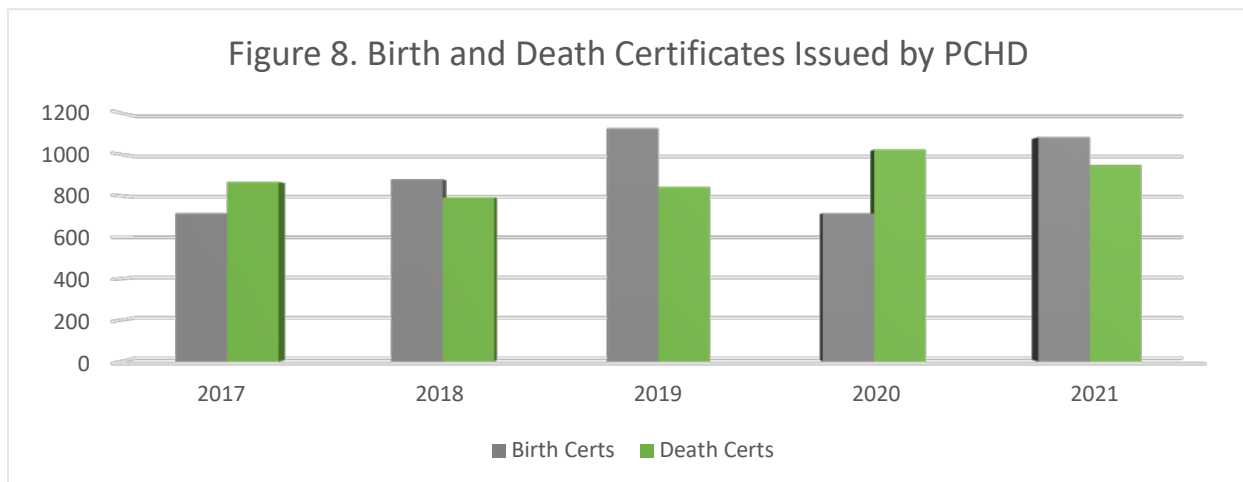


# Vital Statistics

## Certified Birth and Death Records

The Putnam County Health Department registrar is responsible for filing all births and deaths that occur in Putnam County with the Bureau of Vital Statistics in Columbus. 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 2021, the Putnam County Health Department issued 1,081 birth certificates and 946 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)

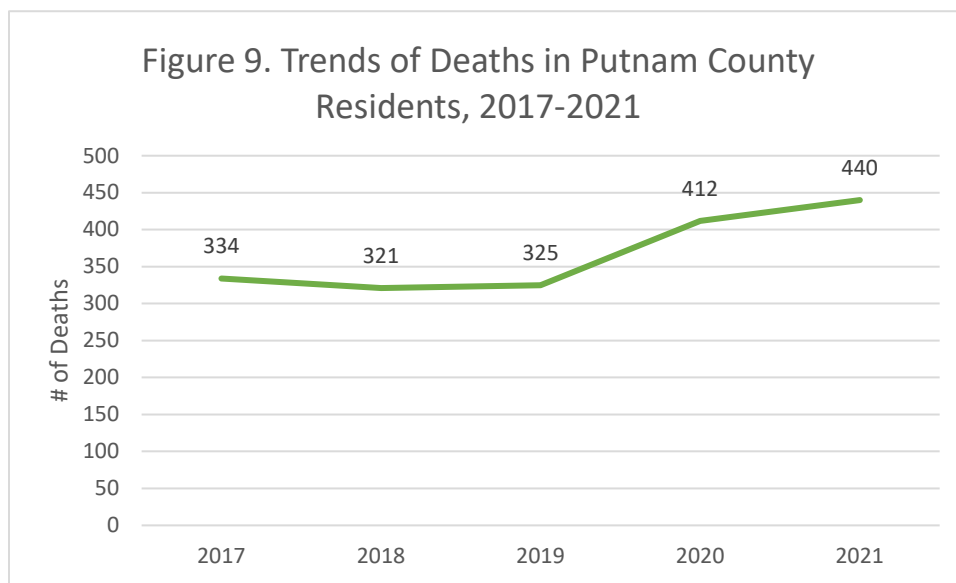


## Cause of Deaths

The table to the right is displaying the leading causes of death for Putnam County residents in 2021. There were a total of 440 deaths in Putnam County residents in 2021. There were 3 pending deaths at the time this report was finalized; this means the investigation is incomplete. There were 56 COVID-19 deaths in Putnam County residents. PCHD uses the Center for Disease Control and Prevention definition for a COVID-19 death. This is when 'COVID-19' is reported on the death certificate for all decedents where COVID-19 caused or is assumed to have caused or contributed to death.

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

Leading Causes of Death for Putnam County Residents 2021	
Heart Disease	139
Pulmonary Disease/Pneumonia	95
Neurodegenerative Disease (Dementia, Alzheimer's and Others, Parkinson's Disease)	95
Cancer	60
Failure To Thrive	17
Accidents (Motor Vehicle, Accidental Drowning, Unintentional Deaths, Etc) *	12
Suicides*	2
Other (4 or less each for causes such as Alcoholic Liver Cirrhosis, Renal, etc.)	17
Pending	3
<b>Total Deaths for Putnam County Residents in 2021</b>	<b>440</b>
*Covid related death (included in other causes of death)	56



There has been an increase in deaths from 2017 to 2021 among Putnam County residents. See figure 9. One possible reason for this increase is the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

# Emergency Preparedness

## *We Can't Mask Our Gratitude for our Volunteers*

"Get shots in arms," sounds simple enough. If you worked in public health during 2021, you know there is more to that simple statement. In winter 2021, Public Health kicked off one of the largest vaccination campaigns in history. COVID-19 vaccine was greatly welcomed but vaccinating an entire community takes community efforts. Answering the call to support the community, Putnam County Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) stepped up to the task. Putnam County MRC was founded in 2005 and is a volunteer organization comprised of both medical and non-medical volunteers.



With phones at PCHD quickly becoming overwhelmed with calls asking about receiving the COVID vaccine, Putnam County Health Department and the Putnam County Emergency Management Agency teamed up to open the Putnam County COVID Vaccine Line. Putnam MRC volunteers gave over 1,000 hours at the call line, answering calls and scheduling residents for their vaccine. Calls rang into seven separate phone lines at the call line and people called from all over Putnam County, as well as Virginia, Tennessee, New York, and Georgia.



Over 50 offsite clinics were held in 2021 that were supported by MRC Volunteers. With their ongoing support, vaccine clinics operated smoothly and efficiently. Putnam County continues to receive numerous compliments on the clinic organization and the compassion shows from the staff and volunteers.

Putnam County volunteers helped allocate and distribute personal protective equipment (PPE) to healthcare agencies and organizations that care for those with access and functional needs. In September over 15 pallets of PPE were given to these agencies. Thank you Putnam County volunteers for continually working to keep Putnam County healthy and safe.

50

Offsite COVID-19 Vaccine Clinics

85

Volunteers

3,500

Volunteers Hours

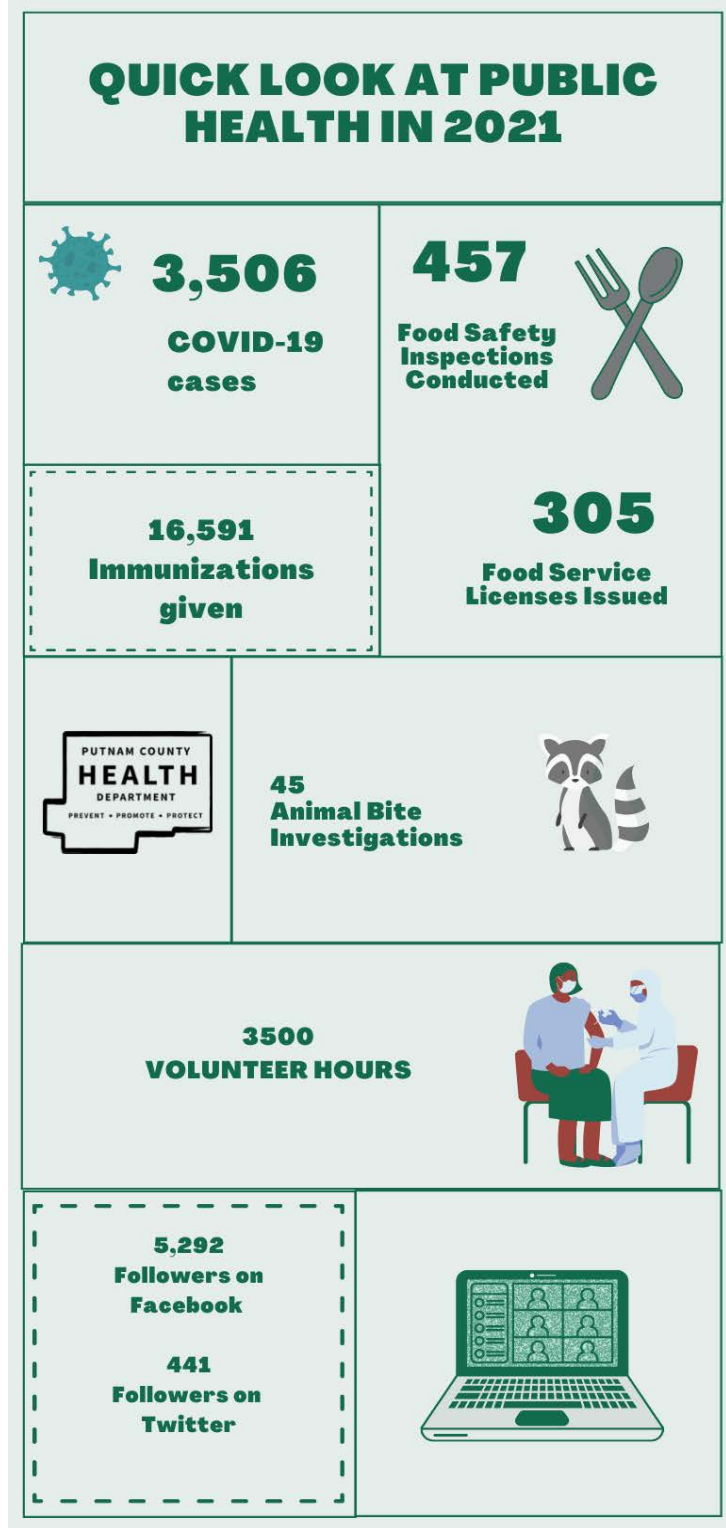
# Other Public Health Highlights

## Improvements Made to PCHD Office

In 2021, several improvements were made to the 256 Williamstown Road location, home to the Putnam County Health Department. From the exterior, our curb appeal was improved with some painting as well as a newly constructed and paved parking lot. The improvements continued inside with new flooring throughout the building. The vinyl flooring should be durable and easier to clean compared to our previous carpeted flooring. We would like to thank the Commissioners for investing in this building and the Maintenance Department of Tim Schnipke, Aaron Vorst and Brady Schroeder for their patience with us and for the many hours of work put in to making our building a more appealing place to work.

## 5 Years Public Health Service Award

Terri Rayle joined the Putnam County Health Department in November of 2016. While new to Public Health, she has 24 years of public service working in other departments in the County. Like many of our employees, Terri has multiple job duties including acting as our fiscal clerk, a receptionist and working in our vital statistics department. We would like to thank Terri for all she has done during her 5 years at PCHD.



# Fiscal

## PUBLIC HEALTH: A Wise Investment

**Balance as of January 1, 2021**                      **\$1,283,489.16**

<b>REVENUE</b>	
Putnam County Tax Levy	\$435,811.65
Other Local Government Funds	50,599.44
Federal/State Grants/Subsidy	640,422.94
Service Fees	808,792.69
Misc. Grants/ Receipts	128,754.78
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$2,064,381.50</b>

**January 1 Balance + Receipts**                      **\$3,347,870.66**

<b>EXPENSES</b>	
Administrative Costs	\$1,006,118.77
Supplies (Medical, Office, Program)	221,322.86
ODH Grants	290,824.09
WPCLF Grant	215,008.79
Share to State	44,342.08
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$1,777,616.59</b>

**Balance as of December 31, 2021**                      **\$ 1,570,254.07**

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

Immunizations/Flu Clinics

Birth and Death Certificates

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



This page intentionally left blank

**Putnam County Health Department**

256 Williamstown Road

Ottawa, Ohio 45875

Phone: 419-523-5608

Fax: 419-523-4171

Email: [pchd@putnamhealth.com](mailto:pchd@putnamhealth.com)

Website: [www.putnamhealth.com](http://www.putnamhealth.com)



**Follow Us on Social Media:**

Facebook: Putnam County  
Health Department

Twitter: @PutnamCoHealth