

Putnam County Health Department

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Working Towards a Healthy and Safe Putnam County

October 2023

Health Commissioner Update

This year, our office has been focusing on Quality Improvement and the development of our workforce. As an accredited Health Department, we must complete one Quality Improvement (QI) project annually. This year, we have four projects underway! We focus on how we provide our services so that residents have a good experience when working with our department AND ensure that our programs produce good outcomes. We are looking forward to seeing if our projects give us the results we anticipate. If not, our groups will get back together and continue to make changes until we achieve success.

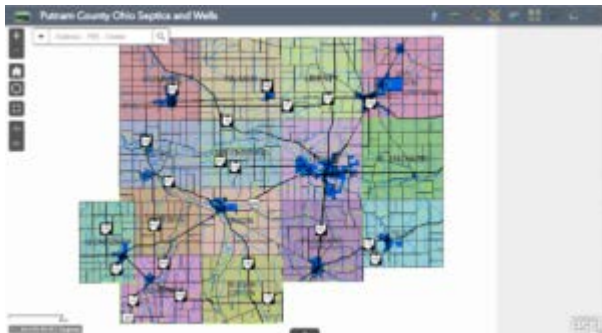
The Ohio Department of Health has encouraged us to focus on developing our public health workforce. Many professions have seen changes in their workforce, and we are no different. We were able to hire great employees to our already talented team. In addition to training new employees, we are training all staff to carry out their programs with expertise and equality. Furthermore, we are implementing other ideas that we hope will promote a good work-life balance. Our workforce is our greatest resource, and it is our intention to give them what they need so that they can enjoy their careers and serve the people of Putnam County.



Grief Recovery/Helping Children with Loss

Grief is a Public Health issue. Following an event, some deal with their grief in unhealthy ways, such as overeating or over consumption of substances. Learning how to better cope with grief can be beneficial for many. Director of Nursing Sherri Recker is a Certified Grief Recovery Specialist and has offered 3 adult sessions in Putnam County as well as a session for individuals who work with youth entitled "Helping Children with Loss". If you would like more information, please call the Health Department at 419-523-5608.

GIS for Private Water and Sewage Systems



A new web application was released by PCHD in 2023 that provides direct access to private water systems and private sewage systems. This web application is an interactive tool for the public to view the results of the last operation and maintenance inspections and permits, pumping reports, and sewage treatment and private water permits serving each property within the jurisdiction of PCHD. To access the web application, visit the PCHD website at <https://putnamhealth.com>

EH Program Numbers January 1- August 31, 2023



Septic System Maintenance

The Operation and Maintenance program has seen a pattern of improved compliance and routine maintenance, as seen by the consistent annual increase in the number of septic tanks pumped from 2018–2023 (shown in the graph). PCHD offers educational resources to homeowners to explain how septic systems work and provide tips on how to maintain them. Visit the PCHD website at <https://putnamhealth.com>

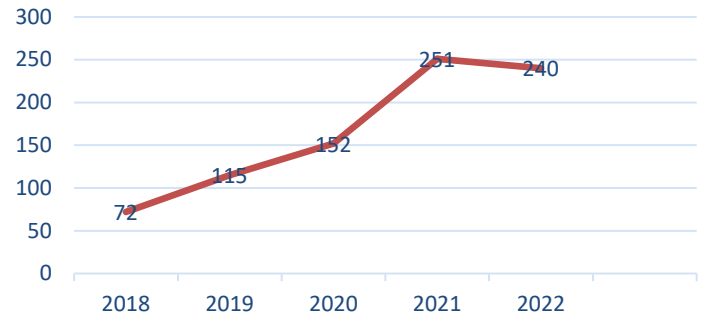
Community Health Improvement Plan

The Putnam County Health Department along with agency partners completed a community health improvement plan (CHIP) beginning in 2023. The Partners for a Healthy Putnam County are working to improve 3 priority areas: Mental Health, Health Behaviors, and Community Conditions.

The mental health and community conditions groups are working together to develop media messaging to decrease the stigma and increase awareness of mental health and addiction services, increase awareness that interpersonal violence happens in our community and how to get involved to make a difference. There is also a component of the CHIP to decrease elderly isolation.

The Health Behaviors group is focused on increasing fruit and vegetable intake of Putnam County residents. We hope to do this by working with food pantries, promoting produce exchanges, providing healthy recipes to accompany food drives, increasing community gardening efforts, and offering cooking classes. Putnam County also needs to get more physically active. Strategies to address this include developing a directory of physical activity opportunities around the county, utilizing social media to promote and encourage successful lifestyle changes, and promoting opportunities for residents to exercise with others through run/walk clubs and group fitness.

Sewage Treatment System Operation & Maintenance Permit Pumping Reports



COVID–19 Pandemic

The World Health Organization officially ended the pandemic on May 5, 2023, with the United States quickly thereafter ending emergency orders. The guidelines for isolation if you are positive or suspect you are positive include staying in isolation for 5 days from symptom onset or test date if asymptomatic. On day 6–10, if the positive person is improving and fever-free for 24 hours, they may return to normal activities as long as they properly wear a well-fitting mask. If you are exposed to a positive person with COVID–19, it is recommended to wear a well-fitting mask for 10 days, get tested on day 6 and monitor for symptoms. No activity restrictions for asymptomatic exposed people currently exist.

By The Numbers

Jan. 1 – August 31, 2023

Immunizations (minus COVID-19)	2,426
COVID 19 Vaccinations	77
School Vision Screening	817
Children with Medical Handicaps clients	117
Car Seats Distributed	37
Car Seat Checks	9
Communicable Diseases (minus COVID 19)	99
COVID-19 positive tests reported	497