

PUBLIC HEALTH AT ITS BEST

Kim Rieman, Health Commissioner

Prevent. Promote. Protect. These words accompany the public health logo and describe what we do every day at the Putnam County Health Department. In this century, Public Health has been credited with increasing life expectancy by 25 years. Our staff are committed to continuing our work locally so public health benefits continue to improve the health of our community.

Prevent: An important aspect of public health is preventing disease. At the turn of the century, a majority of deaths were due to infectious diseases. Now, the top contributor of deaths is unhealthy lifestyles. The main reason for the decline in deaths due to communicable diseases is vaccines. As a matter of fact, vaccines are listed first in the *Ten Great Public Health Achievements in the 20th Century*. Our nurses provide immunizations to children and adults in our community to prevent diseases such as Measles, Pertussis, Hepatitis A and B, and Meningitis. Nurses also provide immunization education and technical assistance to health care providers. In addition to our work in the immunization program, nurses also work to reduce the spread of disease through our communicable disease program. Each time a notifiable disease is reported to our nursing division, a registered nurse follows up with the client to provide education about the disease and how to reduce the spread of illness. Many of the Environmental Health (EH) Programs also prevent disease in our community. Sanitarians inspect food establishments and swimming pools to assure that they are being operated in ways that prevent disease. In addition to inspections, the EH Staff also provide education to restaurant managers about safe food handling and preparation to lessen the chances of food-borne illnesses.

Promote: The Health Department works to promote health by implementing programs and encouraging the development of policies that encourage safety and wellness. In addition to the Maternal and Child Health Grant that our department manages, we also work with our partners to address issues such as substance abuse and obesity prevention. In the fall of 2016, our department provided direction for our county's Community Health Assessment process. Results of this assessment will be available in April 2017. Information from the assessment will be used to determine health promotion programs and activities to be included in our county's Community Health Improvement Plan.

Protect: Our staff participates in programs to keep residents safe and protected from injury. Nurses teach parents to install car seats correctly to protect our littlest residents from car accident injuries. Our Public Health Emergency Preparedness grant allows us to develop agency plans and work with our partners to respond to emergencies to lessen the negative effects on our community. Finally, EH Water and Sewage program staff work to ensure that we have safe drinking water and that waterways are not contaminated.

It is with great pride that I share with you our Annual Report. We have appreciated the opportunity to serve you in 2016 and look forward to continuing to provide important programs that improve the health and wellness of our residents.

Board of Health

The Putnam County Board of Health serves both the Putnam County Health Department and Putnam County HomeCare and Hospice. Current members of the Board include Mr. Raymond Brinkman, Mr. Al Hueve, Ms. Teresa Hermiller, and Dr. Mandy Klass.

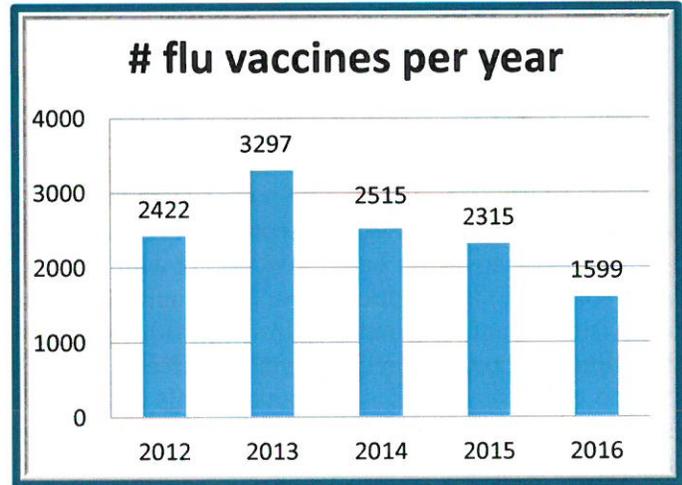
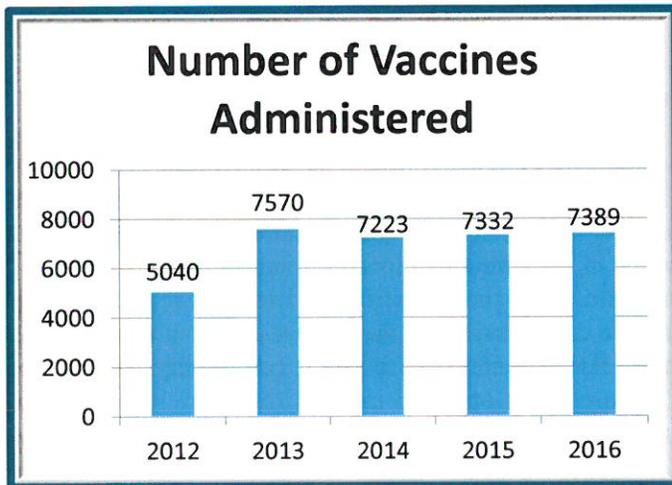
Mr. Gary Hermiller has resigned from his position on the Board of Health. His replacement will be named at the District Advisory Council Meeting in March 2017. We thank Mr. Hermiller for his service to the community.

The Board of Health has monthly meetings on the second Thursday evening of each month. For more information about meetings, visit our website at www.putnamhealth.com or call the Health Department at 419-523-5608 ext. 226.

Immunizations

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 providing these immunizations.

For the 2016-2017 school year, Ohio passed legislation that required a dose of Meningococcal vaccine (MCV4) prior to 7th and 12th grade entry. This year the number of meningitis vaccines administered dramatically increased while the number of influenza vaccines given decreased. The decrease in influenza vaccine can be attributed to more pharmacies administering vaccine and to not giving as much in local businesses.



Communicable Disease

One of the ten essential public health services is to diagnose and investigate health problems and health hazards in the community. Communicable disease control falls into this service. Sexually transmitted disease such as Chlamydia continues to be the most commonly reported disease. Illnesses contracted by food and water such as Campylobacter and Salmonella are also steadily reported.

Campylobacteriosis	9	Lyme Disease	3
Chlamydia	55	Pertussis	1
Cryptosporidia	8	Salmonellosis	7
E. Coli	2	Shigellosis	1
Giardiasis	2	Varicella	3
Gonorrhea	8	Viral Meningitis	3
Group B Strep	1	Yersinia	4
Hepatitis C Chronic	11	Influenza – hospitalization	16
HIV	1	Influenza – lab confirmed	144
Invasive Strep Pneumoniae	4	Influenza – physician diagnosed	269
Communicable Disease Total: 552			

NURSING REPORT continued

School Nursing

Health Department nurses provide vision & scoliosis screenings for county schools **free of charge**. Vision screenings are done in grades K, 1, 3, 5, 7, & 9. Scoliosis screenings are done in grades 6, 7, & 8.

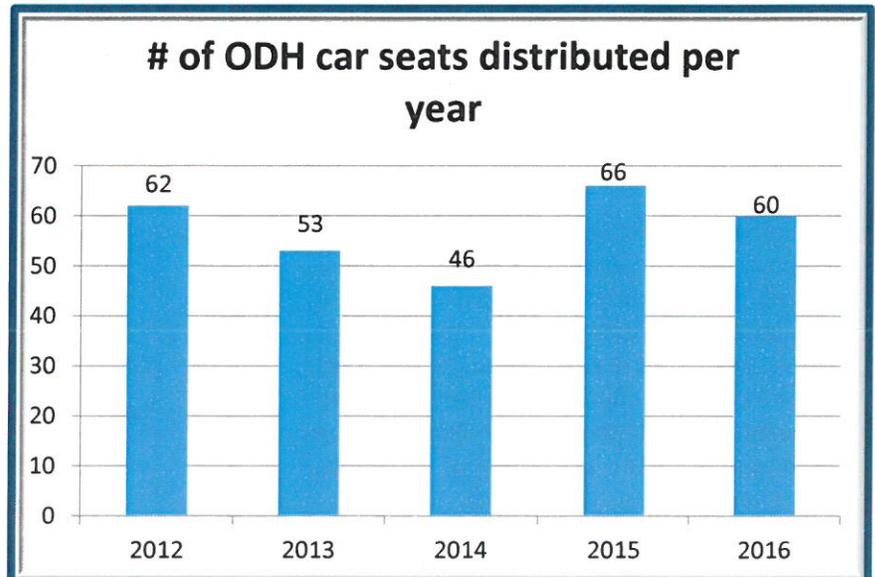
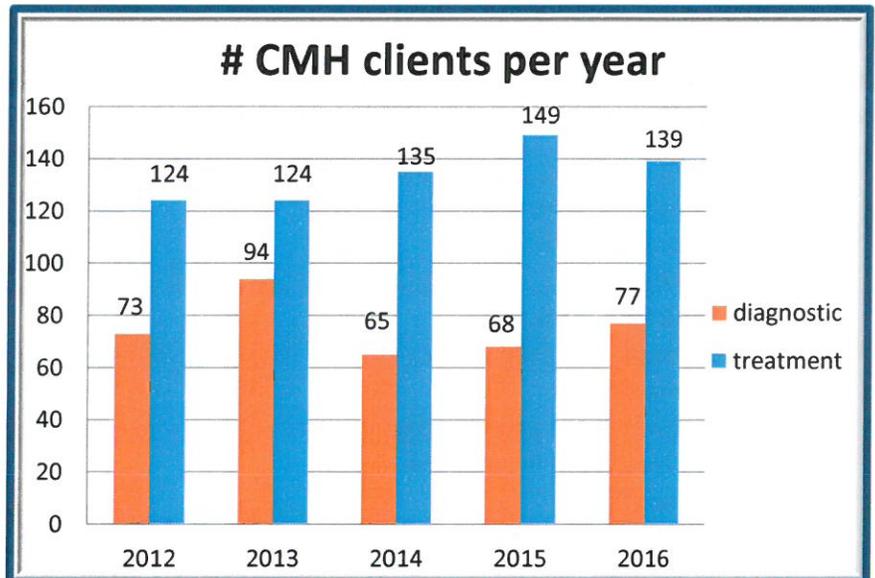
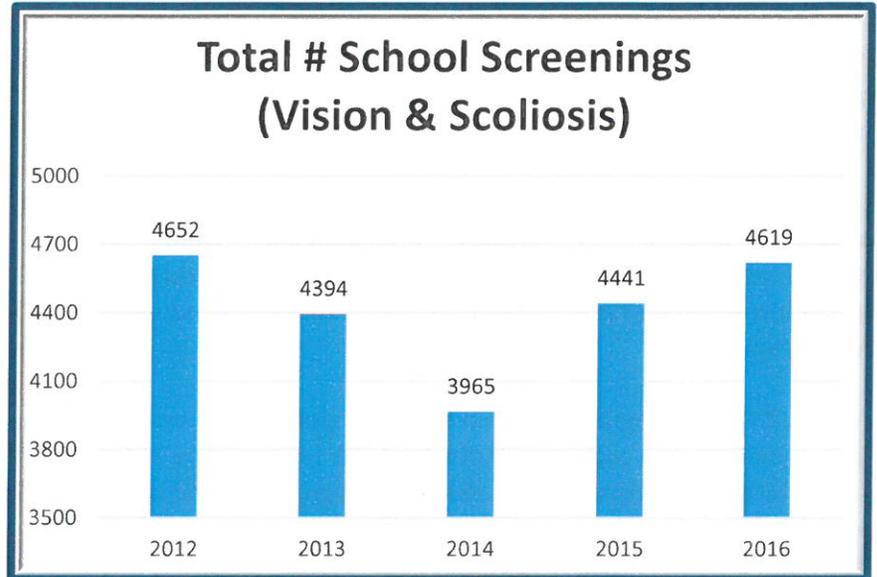
Children with Medical Handicaps

Children with Medical Handicaps (CMH) is a state program that assists parents with their child's special health care needs. CMH consists of two parts. Part one is the diagnostic program where a public health nurse refers a child to a physician, and the child receives diagnostic testing to determine a medical condition. This program is eligible to any family, regardless of income. Part two is the treatment program. Once the child has a diagnosis, CMH looks at eligibility based on diagnosis and parental income. This program provides assistance with payment of medical bills not covered by insurance and has benefitted many Putnam County families over the years.

Unfortunately, there are proposed changes to the CMH program. In Governor Kasich's proposed budget, only clients on the program prior to July 1, 2017 will maintain their CMH coverage. All others, including new enrollees, would be managed by the Ohio Department of Medicaid. This would eliminate the public health nurse from assisting the family, which may be detrimental to their access to local resources and needed assistance in managing their child's care.

Car Seat Program

A car seat program for families who income-qualify for WIC is provided through a grant from the Ohio Department of Health. Very nice new car seats are given with a short educational program and installation guidelines provided by the nurse. The PCHD also received a donation from the Baby Needs Program to provide car seats to their referred clients. This money mainly provides infant carriers as the ODH program does not provide these kind of seats. Starting in October 2016, a donation of \$25 is requested per seat to help fund the purchase of additional car seats and supplies. No one that qualifies is turned away for inability to pay.



Environmental Health (EH) staff had an exciting 2016! Staff worked in ten different areas of Public Health and Environmental Health: Body Art, Campgrounds, Food Safety, Swimming Pools & Spas, Nuisances, Rabies Control, School Inspections, and Solid Waste – Gas Monitoring, Sewage and Water programs.

Although the Sewage Treatment System (STS) regulations have been in effect for 2 years, the Putnam County Health Department is working diligently to meet additional requirements in the regulations. In 2016, PCHD staff met with stakeholders to discuss Operation and Maintenance (O&M) of Household Sewage Treatment Systems (HSTS). The stakeholder meetings have proven to be very beneficial in education and the progression of the O&M plan. Look for more information in 2017.

The Food Safety program has been busy this past year as well. 2016 brought many major changes to the Uniform Food Safety Code. A new requirement for facilities licensed as a risk level 3 or 4 is mandatory food safety training. Putnam County Health Department EH staff went through testing and is now certified to offer the National Restaurant Association’s ServSafe Manager training and testing. Four courses were held in 2016 which were attended by facilities from Putnam, Van Wert, Defiance, Henry, and Paulding counties.

In 2016 the Putnam County Health Department EH staff licensed more facilities and issued more permits than in previous years. Due to the increase in licenses and permits, the inspections/investigations also increased. The charts and graphs below indicate the EH activities by year since 2011.

Environmental Health Services	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
FSO/RFE (Food) Licensed	276	308	287	302	297	318
Inspections of FSO/RFE	497	479	408	415	476	535
Violations Sited*				534	442	546
Pools and Spas Licensed	9	9	9	9	9	9
Campgrounds Licensed	2	2	2	2	2	2
School Inspections	25	28	28	28	16	14
Sewage Treatment System Permits	18	32	34	45	29	42
Sewage Treatment System Site Evaluations**					27	44
Private Water System Permits	55	77	60	48	52	59
Water Samples	152	148	105	155	157	173
Animal Bites	34	41	30	46	43	52
Nuisances***						5

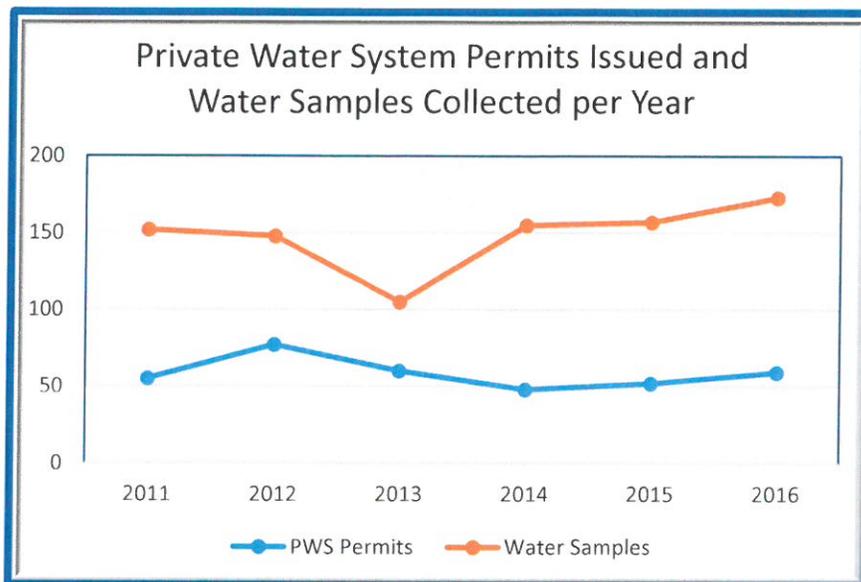
*Data not tracked until 2014 **Data not tracked until 2015 ***Data not tracked until 2016

The number of licenses being issued annually for Food Service Operations and Retail Food Establishments varies each year, but it is remaining consistent. The number of inspections varies depending on the risk level of the licensed facilities and if any follow-up inspections are required. We began tracking violations in 2014. The types of violations vary from critical to non-critical.



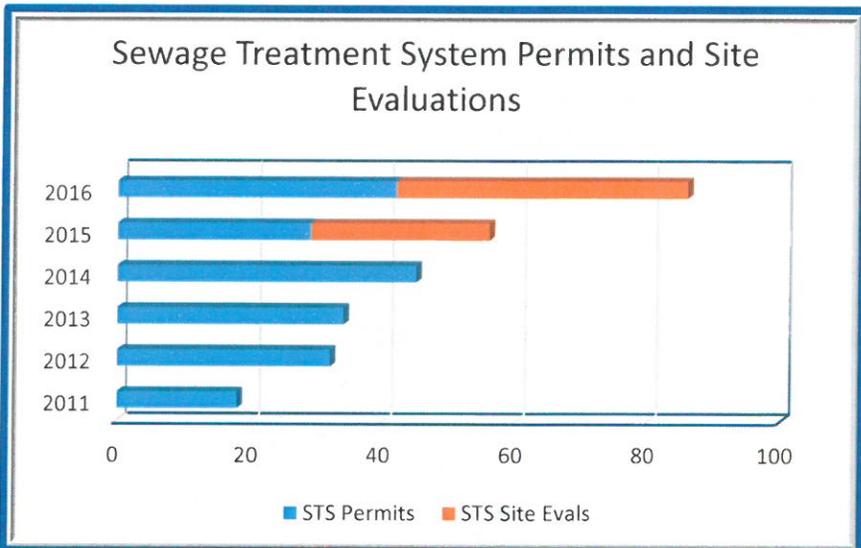
Private Water Systems

In the last few years, PCHD has noticed a gradual increase in the number of permits issued for Private Water Systems (PWS). As permits increase, the number of water samples also increases. It is a requirement that all permitted PWS have a safe bacteria water sample before the system can receive final approval. Additionally, as homes are selling, many loans now require safe water samples before closing on the sale of the home.



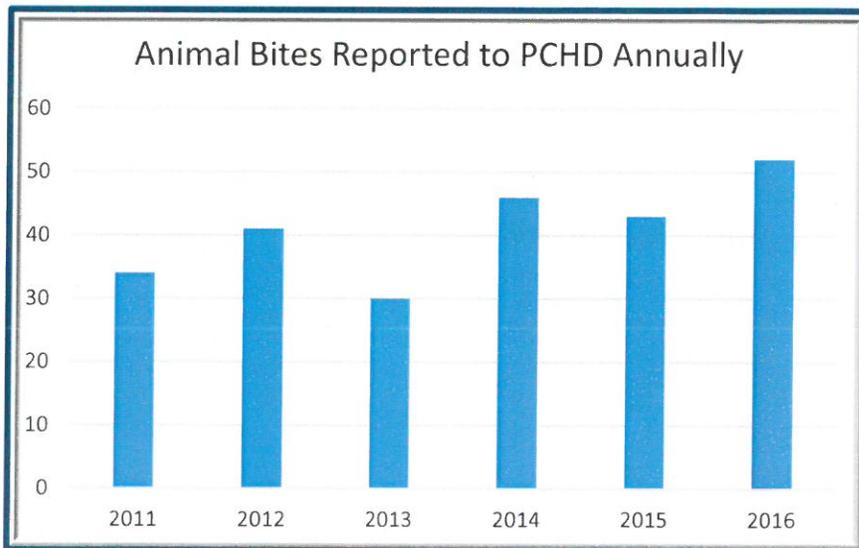
Sewage Treatment Systems

The new Sewage Treatment System (STS) regulations took effect January 1, 2015. In 2014, there was an increase in permits issued prior to the 2015 regulation updates. Therefore, there were fewer permits issued in 2015. In 2016, the number of permits issued returned to over 40. The new regulations seem to have had little to no effect on building in Putnam County. With new regulations in 2015, PCHD began tracking the site evaluations performed in the county. The number of site evaluations is consistent with the number of permits issued.



Animal Bites

Over the last few years, the PCHD has seen an increase in the number of reported animal bites. In 2017, EH staff will be doing outreach to physicians' offices regarding the importance and the requirements of reporting an animal bite to the PCHD. In addition, EH staff will work with local veterinary offices on the requirements that must be met before an animal can be released from quarantine.



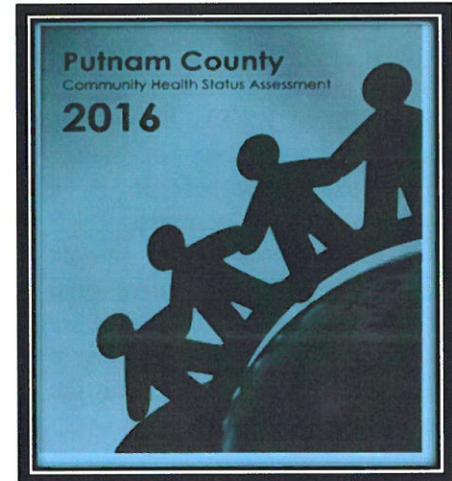
Our journey to accreditation continues! In 2016, we made significant progress toward achieving our goal to become accredited by the Public Health Accreditation Board. In 2017 we will continue to identify documents required to show that we meet the national standards and prepare to submit them for review.

A significant requirement of accreditation is to have an updated **Community Health Assessment (CHA)**. The CHA is a comprehensive gathering and reporting of data regarding the health of our community. We began to plan for the CHA in summer 2016. The Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnership (MAPP) process was determined to be the best evidence-based program to help us complete a comprehensive CHA. The MAPP process is made up of four different assessments: Community Health Status Assessment, Local Public Health System Assessment, Community Themes and Strengths Assessment and the Forces of Change Assessment.

The health department, along with partnering agencies, worked together to complete the **Community Health Status Assessment**. A survey was sent to randomly selected households in Putnam County. The preliminary results from this survey became available in January 2017, with a final version available in April 2017.

The Local Public Health System Assessment was completed in November 2016. Twenty-one participants from a variety of organizations, agencies and the community helped to assess the public health system in Putnam County. They also suggested opportunities and resources to make improvements in the health of our community.

Focus groups and key informants interviews and surveys were conducted to gather information for the **Community Themes and Strengths Assessment**. There were a variety of populations in which focus groups were completed including: seniors, youth, low-income, parents of young children and at-risk youth, and school personnel.



The Forces of Change Assessment was conducted by asking the members of the *Partners for a Healthy Putnam County* coalition to think about events, trends and factors that may affect the health of our residents, both positively and negatively. Once all of the data from the four MAPP assessments is available, the comprehensive Community Health Assessment will be shared in a community forum. The *Partners* will take into consideration community comments and determine the strategic priorities that will be addressed in a new Community Health Improvement Plan.

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: Treat all with respect, empathy, and professionalism.
Quality: A skilled workforce provides exceptional quality services for all.
Collaboration: Work with community partners.

A PREPARED COMMUNITY

Community Preparedness is a core function of public health. It is important that emergency planning and response is coordinated among our local partners such as EMA, law enforcement, fire, EMS and health care providers. While state and national resources will likely be available during manmade or natural disasters, immediate response begins at the local level. Often, this immediate response is initiated by the local Health Department. The Putnam County Health Department and our local partners are dedicated to ensuring that our county is best prepared to provide for our community.

The PHEP (Public Health Emergency Preparedness) Grant is made available to all counties in Ohio. Under this grant, local health departments must exercise or test their ability to successfully administer 15 capabilities. These capabilities include topics such as Emergency Public Information and Warning, Fatality Management, Medical Countermeasures Distribution (i.e. administering needed medications), Responder Safety and Health and Volunteer Management. The Health Department and our partners have successfully tested all of these capabilities within the 5 year grant cycle.

Our exercises are important in testing our abilities and identifying areas of improvement before we are faced with an emergency. While exercising the capabilities, outside evaluators observe the activities of our staff to assure that we are correctly meeting the expectations. An After Actions Report (AAR) is then compiled after each exercise and steps for improvement are identified. These identified items are addressed and methods for improvement are then included in our revised plans.

Putnam County Health Department is committed to protecting our residents and lessening the effects of disasters. Thankfully, disasters don't strike often. We are fortunate in not having to initiate plans in many real-life scenarios. Emergency preparedness activities ensure the prosperous future of community members and of future generations of Putnam County.

Ruth Gerding, the Health Department's Emergency Response Coordinator retired in September, marking the end of 16 years with the department. Ruth joined the PCHD in January 2000 as a Health Educator, later transitioning to her most recent position. Ruth provided guidance to our agency and was also an important part of Putnam County's response planning. In addition to all she has done for our community, she was also well known for being an integral team member for the Northwest Ohio Region. We thank Ruth for all she has done and wish her well in her retirement.

PUBLIC HEALTH: A Wise Investment

Balance as of January 1, 2016 **\$902,790.75**

REVENUE	
Putnam County Tax Levy	\$399,339.65
Other Local Government Funds	44,880.48
Federal/State Grants/Subsidy	178,576.81
Service Fees	782,363.35
Misc. Grants/ Receipts	97,784.61
TOTAL REVENUE	\$1,502,944.90

January 1 Balance + Receipts **\$2,301,871.70**

EXPENSES	
Administrative Costs	\$938,513.92
Medical Supplies	326,391.97
ODH Grants	91,899.67
Share to State	34,056.36
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1,390,861.92

Balance as of December 31, 2016 **\$ 911,009.78**

Public Health Dollars and Cents

Health Department administration and staff continue to carefully review the budget and make decisions that will aid us in running the department more efficiently. We strive to use local, state and federal funds wisely so that we can make our dollars go further, just like our citizens do with their personal budgets. Below, you will see changes or trends that affected our budget in 2016.

Accreditation – All Health Departments in Ohio must be accredited by 2020. This will result in increased costs due to increased staff time and other contracts or activities required to become accredited. For example, in 2015, the department spent approximately \$47,500 on accreditation costs, compared to just over \$84,000 in 2016.

Increase in Contract Costs and Aging Equipment – Prior to 2016, the Ohio Department of Health provided local health departments with internet access. This changed in July, when we had to obtain our own internet service. In addition to the cost of monthly service, we had to purchase equipment as we had been using aging equipment from ODH that needed to be returned. Also in 2016, our server failed, resulting in the purchase of a new server and even more equipment costs.

Sewage Program -- Implementation of 2015 sewage changes continued to affect the 2016 budget. The establishment of the Operation and Maintenance Program will result in additional changes. This program will be monitored carefully so that services will continue to be provided efficiently and effectively.

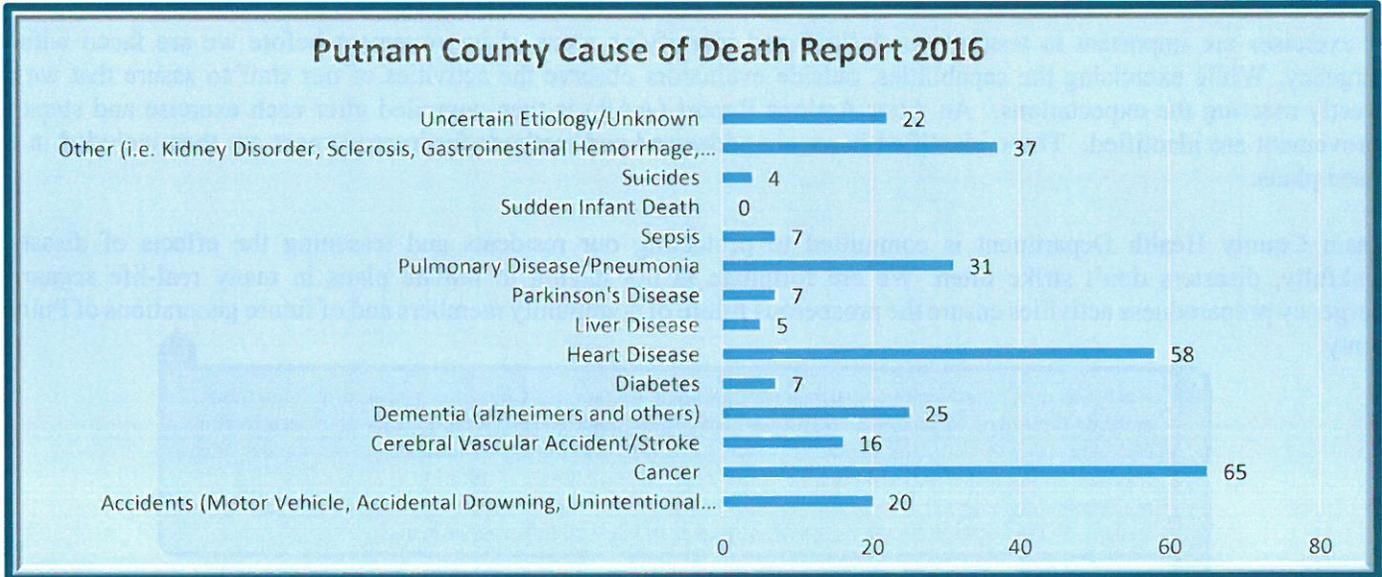
VITAL STATISTICS

Abigail Greve, Registrar

The health department registrar is responsible for filing all births and deaths 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 in the county in which the death occurred. In 2016, the Putnam County Health Department issued 765 birth certificates and 753 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 card).



Total Number of Deaths – 304

*Number of drug overdose deaths (included in Accident Category) 5

All figures obtained from the Ohio Department of Health Data Warehouse.

PUTNAM COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF

Kim Rieman, RN, MPH, CHES	Health Commissioner
Mary Ann Myers, MD	Medical Director
Sherri Recker, RN, MSN	Director of Nursing
Brandi Schrader, M.Ed., RS	Environmental Health Director
Joan Kline, CHES	Health Educator, Accreditation Coordinator
Dawn Schmenk, RN, BSN	Public Health Nurse
Dunel Fry, RN, BSN	Public Health Nurse
Patty Jerwers, RN	Public Health Nurse
Beth Skulina, M.Ed., RS	Registered Sanitarian
Laura Gulker, M.Ed., RS	Registered Sanitarian
Angela Recker	Public Health Emergency Planner
Laurie Meyer	Medical Billing, Nursing Clerk
Abigail Greve	Registrar, Clerk Receptionist
Terri Rayle	Fiscal Clerk

Our staff has enjoyed being of service in 2016 and looks forward to a safe, healthy 2017.

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www.putnamhealth.com

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