



Putnam County Health Department

2022 Annual Report

Release Date: March 6, 2023

Greeting

In 2022, PCHD staff were able to turn our attention from responding to a global pandemic to working again with other Putnam County agencies and planning and implementing programs to improve the health and safety of our residents. In order for us to be a good partner in the community and have successful programs, it is necessary for us to look at our agency and our workforce to make sure that we are able to fulfill our mission to “Protect, promote, and improve the health, safety and quality of life of the Putnam County community”. During this past year, we were able to focus on our agency; learning from the events of the last two years and making changes to better serve our residents.

As a result of the pandemic, one goal of local health departments is to enhance the public health workforce. Leading up to and during the pandemic, many health departments, including our own, had many staff wearing multiple hats because of subpar funding from the federal and state levels. This resulted in a very slow start up to the COVID response and fewer programs being offered during non-pandemic times that could improve public health. The Ohio Department of Health has tasked local health departments with reviewing their response to the pandemic and identifying the personnel needs of their agency.

In addition to responding to communicable disease outbreaks or other public health emergencies, our department must be able to identify new and emerging health concerns. When public health was formed 100 years ago, it was developed to reduce illness and deaths due to contagious diseases. Public health has been extremely effective in doing that, with drastic declines in deaths due to infectious disease. Now, our concerns include chronic disease and “diseases of despair”. Public health staff must be trained to identify and address these new issues.

Finally, our staff must continue to find ways to improve our existing programs and internal procedures. Quality Improvement (QI) is important and all of our staff are required to participate in QI projects that will improve our internal processes as well as our programs in the community. Our upcoming projects will be determined from staff suggestions and customer satisfaction surveys. Our staff continue to be committed to provide quality programs that will result in our Vision: “A Putnam County community that is free of preventable disease, live and work in a healthy environment and have access to quality care.”

It is with great pride that I share with you the 2022 Putnam County Health Department’s Annual Report. We look forward to continuing to serve the residents of Putnam County in 2023 by providing great public health services in Putnam County.

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. Absent: Matthew Herman, Cory Unverferth

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 2022 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 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



In 2022, PCHD welcomed Lori Trame to the department.

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
Lori Trame
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
Registered Environmental Health Specialist in Training
Environmental Health Administrative Assistant
Billing/Deputy Registrar
Receptionist/Vital Statistics Registrar
Fiscal Clerk
Public Information Officer

Public Health Nursing

Communicable Disease

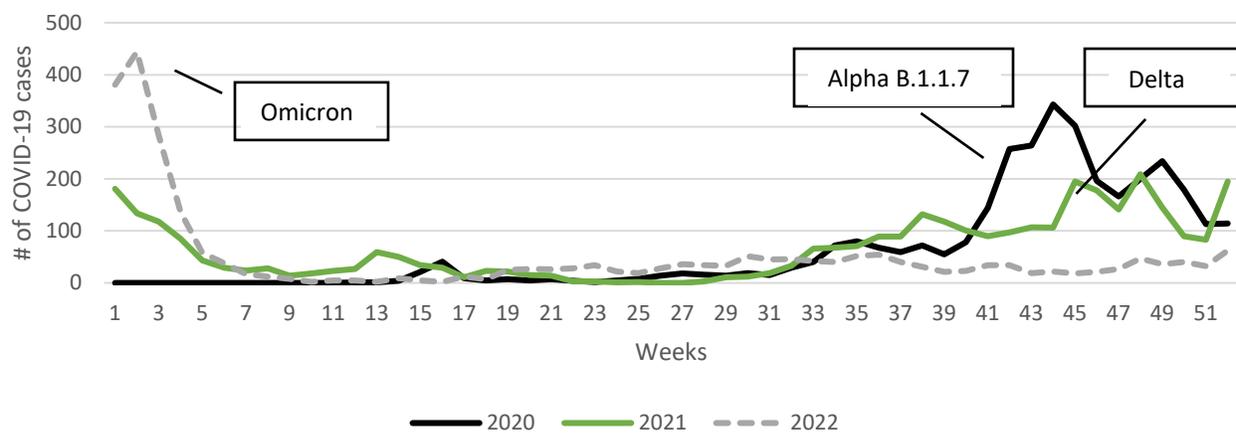
One of the ten essential public health services is to diagnose and investigate health problems and health hazards in the community. In 2022, the health department adjusted our protocol on the way we follow up with COVID-19 cases. We began sending every person with a reported positive lab a text with guidance on isolation and quarantine and instructed them to call PCHD with any questions. In addition, we focused our attention on outbreaks happening in congregate care settings such as nursing homes, schools, and the jail. Using grant funds, we partnered with Henry County Health Department to hire an epidemiologist to specifically help congregate care settings address their COVID-19 outbreaks.

Figure 1 shows the weekly cases of COVID-19 from 2020 - 2022. The spikes show how the different variants spread in the population with the first spike being the original strain, the second spike with Delta, and the third one with Omicron.

2022 Communicable Disease Reporting Summary

Campylobacteriosis	7
Chlamydia	55
COVID-19	2,915
CP-CRE	2
Cryptosporidia	5
E. Coli, Shiga Toxin Producing	2
Giardia	2
Gonorrhea	8
Haemophilus influenzae	1
Hepatitis A	1
Hepatitis B chronic	1
Hepatitis C chronic	4
Influenza-associated hospitalization	35
Lyme Disease	4
Meningitis - bacterial	1
Monkeypox	1
Pertussis	1
Salmonellosis	10
Shigellosis	1
Streptococcal Group A - invasive	1
Streptococcus pneumoniae	1

Figure 1. 2020-2022 Weekly COVID-19 cases



COVID-19 Vaccinations

Figure 2. Putnam County COVID-19 Deaths by Vaccination Status (n=167)

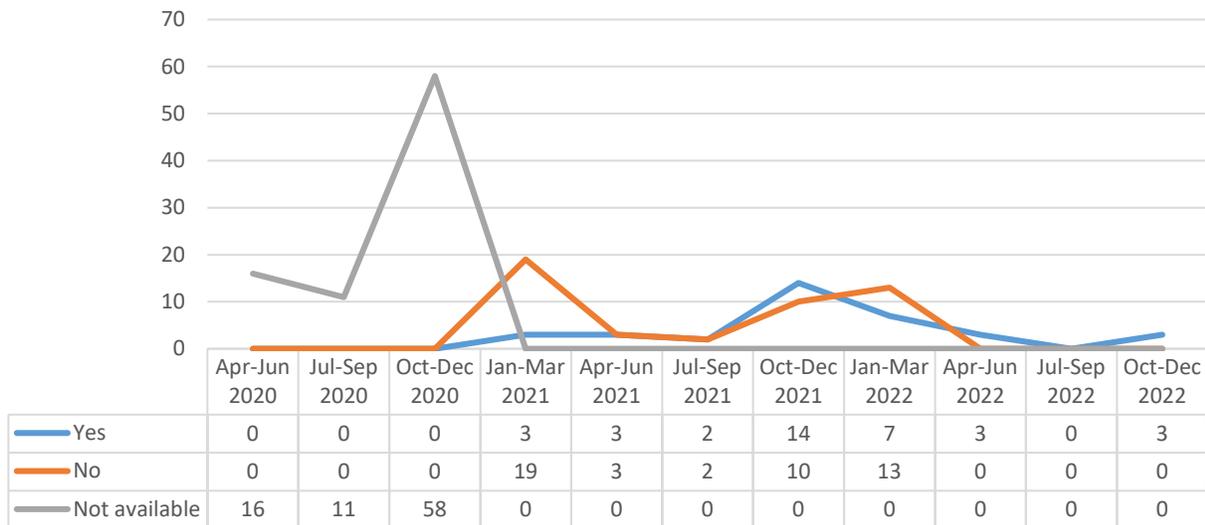


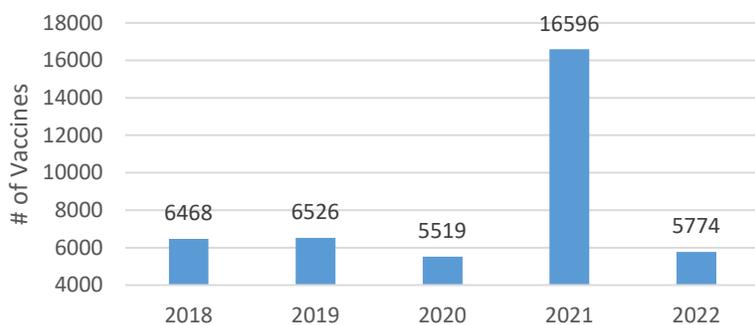
Figure 2 represents COVID-19 deaths by quarter since the beginning of COVID cases in Putnam County. The highest number of COVID-19 deaths occurred before the vaccine was available to the whole population. Below are photos from vaccine clinics held in 2022 of MRC volunteers and of a PCHD employee.



Vaccinations

Vaccination remains a primary prevention strategy for communicable diseases. The number of routine immunizations decreased but the number of COVID vaccines administered more than made up for this to make our number of vaccines given higher than in 2019. We are hoping that the downward trend is not because parents are not getting their children immunized.

Figure 3. Vaccines Administered Annually by PCHD



Other Nursing Programs

Vision Screenings

2,788

The Nursing Division completed vision screenings throughout Putnam County Schools in Kindergarten, 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, and 11th grades.



Car Seat Program

43

Car seat education and installations were done in 2022. PCHD has two Certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians that perform car seat checks and provide new car seats to qualifying families.



Lead Testing

12

Lead testing was completed in 2022.

Children should be tested for lead poisoning when they:

- live or spend time in a house or building built before 1978
- are from low-income households
- are immigrants, refugees, or recently adopted from less developed countries
- live or spend time with someone who works with lead or has hobbies that expose them to lead



Children with Medical Handicap (CMH) Program

181

CMH clients in 2022.

PCHD's nurses provide case management for children seeking a diagnosis for a medical condition and also those diagnosed with a qualifying medical condition.



Environmental Health

Environmental Health Programs

The Environmental Health Department takes to heart our mission to protect, promote and improve the health, safety, and quality of life of the Putnam County Community. Each of our programs supports the mission in some way. Citizens can go to a restaurant or purchase food at our local groceries and be assured the food is safe to eat by our thorough food inspection and licensing program. Parents can take their kids to our community pools and know that the facility has been inspected and meets health and safety requirements. Residents with private water systems have safe water to drink because the health department permits, inspects and tests water from wells and ponds. Our waterways, storm sewers, ditches, creeks and rivers are cleaner because new septic systems that treat wastewater on-site are inspected and properly installed, and our Operation and Maintenance program helps identify sewage systems not functioning properly, ultimately causing water pollution and potential drinking water issues. The Rabies Monitoring programs assists in determining the presence of rabies in our community, which is nearly 100% fatal. The Environmental Health staff works daily to assure the Putnam County Health Department's vision of being free of preventable disease and to live and work in a healthy environment!

The Environmental Health Division welcomed new Registered Environmental Health Specialist-in-Training, Lori Trame in November 2022. She will be primarily working in the Food Safety Program but will eventually be trained in other programs as well. Lori comes to us with a varied science background of over 20 years and we are excited to have her!

Trends of Environmental Health Programs

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
FSO/RFE Licenses	318	316	344	331	261	305	304
Inspections of FSO/RFE *	535	507	595	641	377	457	502
Violations Cited *	546	868	1258	2007	1053	1179	1592
Pools and Spas Licenses	9	9	8	8	8	8	9
Campgrounds Licenses	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
School Inspections	14	30	28	28	3	10	17
STS Permits	42	49	49	46	46	35	49
STS Site Evaluations	44	56	47	44	57	61	47
Operation Permits	34	50	629	651	828	803	1070
PWS Permits	59	50	51	59	54	74	62
Water Samples	173	180	182	147	131	222	172
Animal Bites	52	42	42	60	49	45	53
Nuisances	5	12	8	11	10	3	7

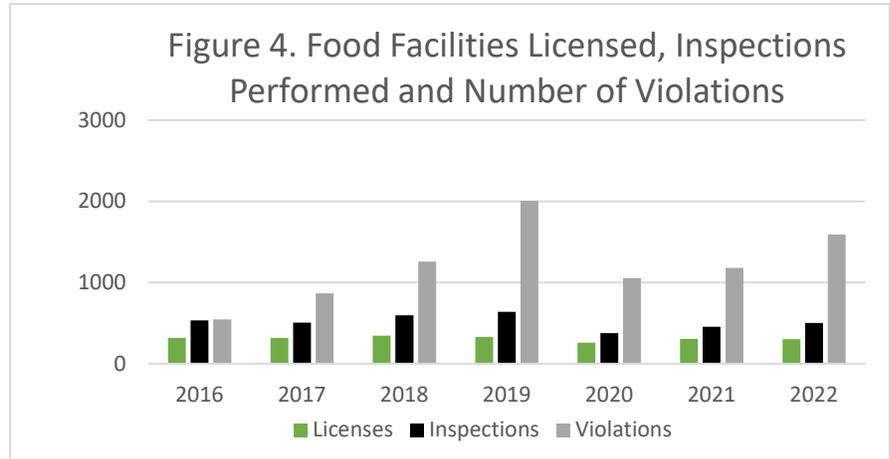
*The number of violations and inspections does not include temporary food facilities.



Food Safety Program

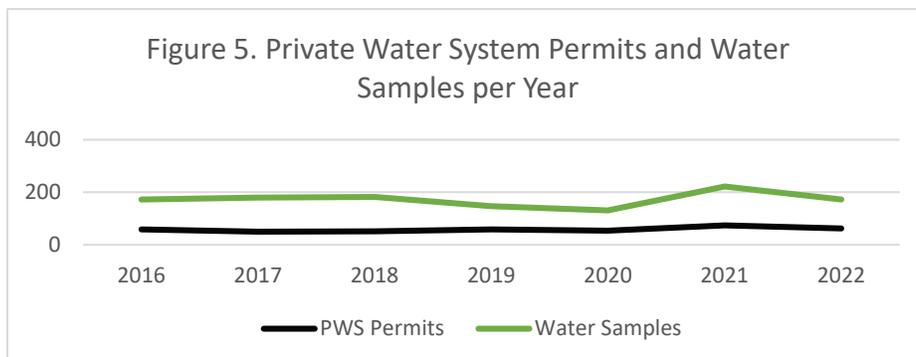
The Putnam County Health Department is approved by the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) and Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) to conduct the Food Safety Program on their behalf. ODH and ODA audit health department's food safety program to evaluate compliance with program requirements. ODH conducted a survey on December 12-16, 2022,

which included an administrative review of all procedures, licensing, documentation, and a field evaluation to assess the staff's knowledge of the rules, ability to accurately observe and document inspections. ODH determined that the Putnam County Health Department's Food Safety Program meets the standards of survey methodology. Our environmental health staff completed 502 food safety inspection at food service operations, retail food establishments, mobile and temporary food vendors, and vending machines and micromarkets. The top violations cited during these inspections include improper food storage and unclean non-food contact surfaces, equipment, utensils, single-use articles, and single service articles. This information will be used to develop a Quality Improvement Project to help our facilities address these commonly cited violations.



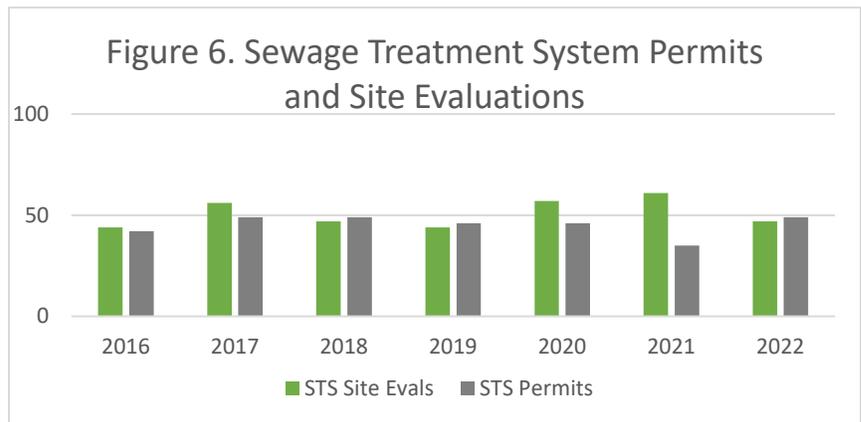
Private Water System (PWS) Program

All newly constructed private water systems require a permit from the health department before work on the system begins. Ninety-six percent of all new private water systems use water obtained from a well. Four percent of new private water systems obtained water from a pond. All alterations to an existing private water system require an alteration permit. An alteration to an existing private water system includes the following activities: adding or changing a filtration or disinfection device; extending the distribution line to a new building or dwelling; disconnecting a water source from a service connection; converting a well with a buried seal to a well with a pitless adaptor or well house installation; extending a casing to above ground; deepening a well; repairing, extending, or replacing any portion of the inside or outside casing or wall; conversion of an agricultural or test well to a private water system. Water samples are collected for each new or altered private water system. Water samples are also collected from citizens or local businesses by request. The Putnam County Health Department collected water for bacteria, lead, arsenic, nitrate, nitrite, iron, sulfur and fecal coliform analysis in 2022.



Sewage Treatment System Program

Since 2015, the Putnam County Health Department has applied for state and federal funding to provide principal forgiveness loans to homeowners for the repair and replacement of failing sewage treatment systems. **Over \$1 million has been distributed in Putnam County to help 56 families with the repair or replacement of failing septic systems!** Approximately \$122,000 remains from state funding that has already been secured and the Putnam County Health Department continues to be honored to be rewarded an additional \$150,000 in federal funding for 2022. This funding program is popular and is scheduled to help at least 6 more families in 2023. This program also assists in achieving our Strategic Plan objectives of financial viability.

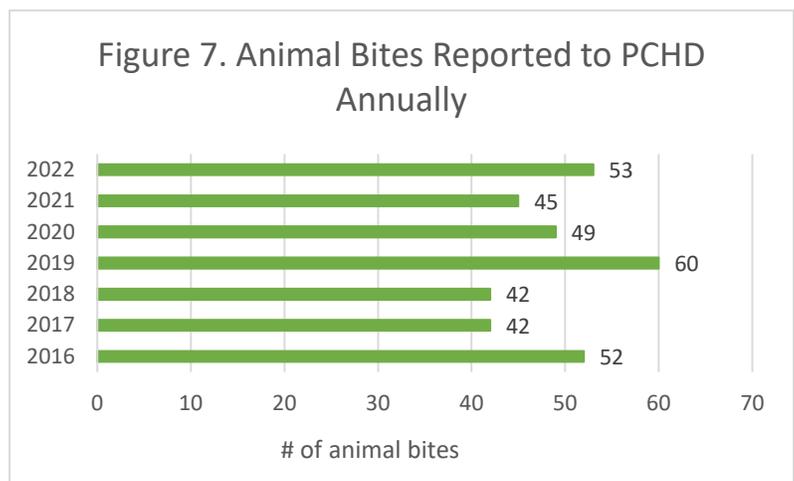


Operation and Maintenance Program

The proper operation and maintenance of a sewage treatment system is critical to its longevity. Just as a car needs regular maintenance to function properly, so does a sewage treatment system. The Ohio Department of Health, through the sewage rules that became effective January 1, 2015, mandated that each homeowner with a septic system obtain an operation permit through the Putnam County Health Department to ensure septic system maintenance. The Putnam County Health Department used an innovative approach to a phased 10-year implementation and completed year five with 1,070 operation and maintenance permits issued in 2022. Education and follow-up by staff does receive a positive response from most homeowners for this program.

Rabies Surveillance Program

In 2022, the health department received 53 animal bite reports, an increase from the previous couple of years. The health department continues to work with physician offices and emergency rooms on reporting animal bites, as well as animal owners and veterinarian offices to follow up on quarantine requirements.

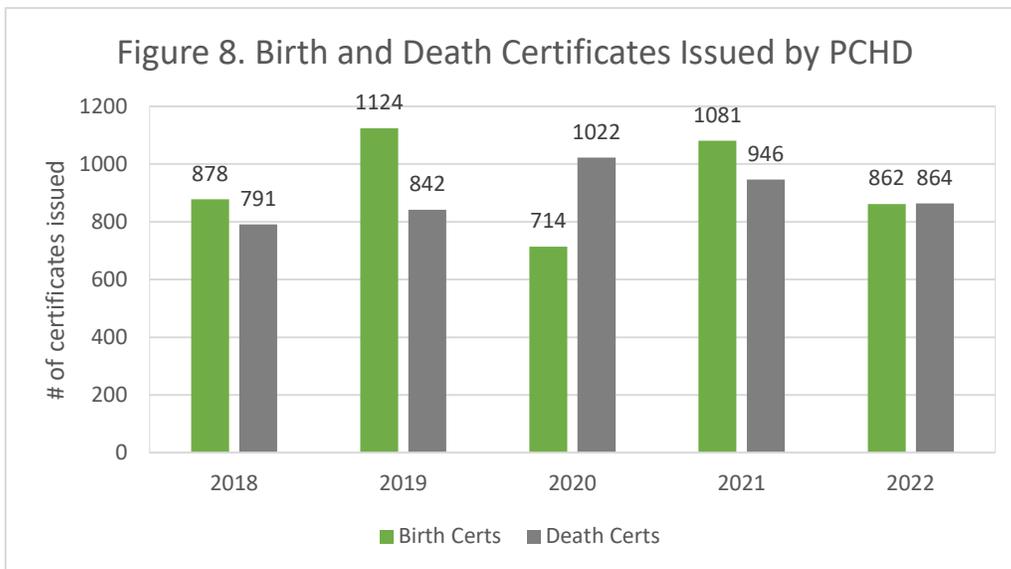


Vital Statistics

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 2022, the Putnam County Health Department issued 862 birth certificates and 864 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 2022. There were a total of 376 deaths in Putnam County residents in 2022. There were 4 pending deaths at the time this report was finalized; this means the investigation is incomplete. There were 28 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 2022	
Heart Disease	117
Cancer	74
Pulmonary Disease/Pneumonia	30
Neurodegenerative Disease (Dementia, Alzheimer’s)	19
Diabetes mellitus	17
Accidents (Motor Vehicle, Accidental Drowning, Unintentional Deaths, Etc)	16
Cerebrovascular diseases (Stroke)	15
Failure to thrive	11
Suicides	6
Renal Failure	5
Other Causes	34
Pending	4
Covid related death	28
Total Deaths for Putnam County Residents in 2022	376

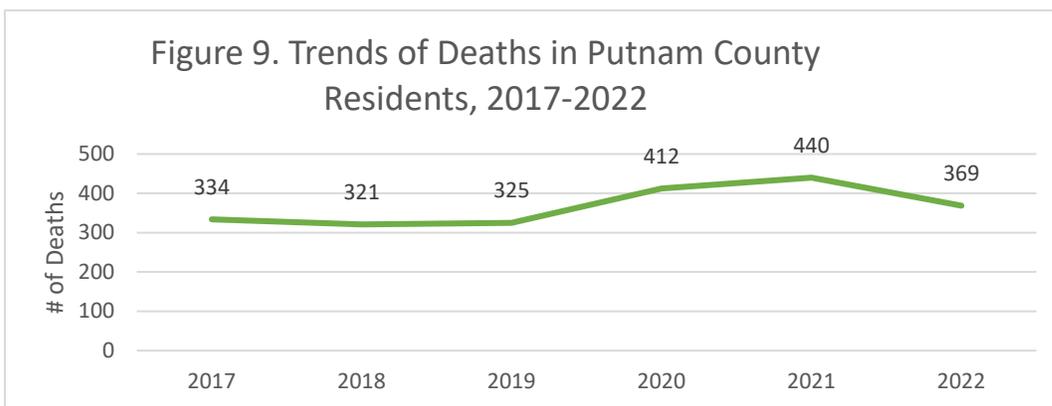


Figure 9 is displaying the trends of deaths in Putnam County residents from 2017-2022.

Emergency Preparedness

Preparedness Partnerships in Practice

2022 was the year of exercising preparedness partnerships. In early 2022, Putnam County Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) was awarded the RISE grant. The grant is to support MRC units in Response, Innovation, Sustainability, and Equip them for future response needs.

Putnam MRC kept busy through a variety of trainings and volunteer opportunities. MRC Volunteers gave time and skills to inventory and organize Putnam County's Mass Casualty Trailers. Putnam County Council on Aging held an introduction to Matter of Balance and trained MRC volunteers on ways to assist individuals with their durable medical equipment. MRC Volunteers supported the Senior Expo by helping serve lunch and lending a helping hand where needed. In Fall of 2022, MRC volunteers gave their time to support COVID booster clinics, flu clinics, drive-through clinics and the Kiwanis Health Fair. Lastly, Stop the Bleed, a bleeding control training on tourniquets and wound packing was held for volunteers and community members. Putnam County **MRC volunteers have given 185.25 hours and contributed over \$7,519.48 in economic value back to the community. Thank you!**



Putnam County Health Department (PCHD) was awarded the Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) grant for 2022. As a PHEP grant recipient, PCHD completes preparedness activities to strengthen response capabilities. Preparedness activities include writing and revising plans, trainings, and drills and exercises. Fall of 2022, PCHD hosted the annual PHEP table-top exercise that was well attended by Putnam EMA, EMS, local law enforcement, Putnam Mercy Health emergency room, county fire representative, county mayor representative, board of developmental disabilities, and council on aging. In partnership with Putnam County EMA, Putnam County now has a Mass Casualty Plan, an updated Mass Fatality Plan, and an updated Annex H – Health and Medical Annex (part of the County EOP).

PCHD held a healthcare coalition meeting with community agencies and partners in 2022. Epidemiologic data on COVID was shared by the 6-pact+ epidemiologist, a presentation on Disasters and Mental Health was given, and updates on the future of the healthcare Coalition was discussed. This joint collaboration helps foster community involvement and strengthen relationships.

An overall successful year, moving preparedness forward for Putnam County.



Other Public Health Highlights

Public Health Service Awards

In 2022, Beth Skulina, Registered Environmental Health Specialist II, reached 10 years of service with the Putnam County Health Department. During her time with us, she has worked in many areas of Environmental Health including our septic, private water, food, and pool programs. She has been working in public health for over 22 years. Thank you, Beth, for your time with us and in serving our community!

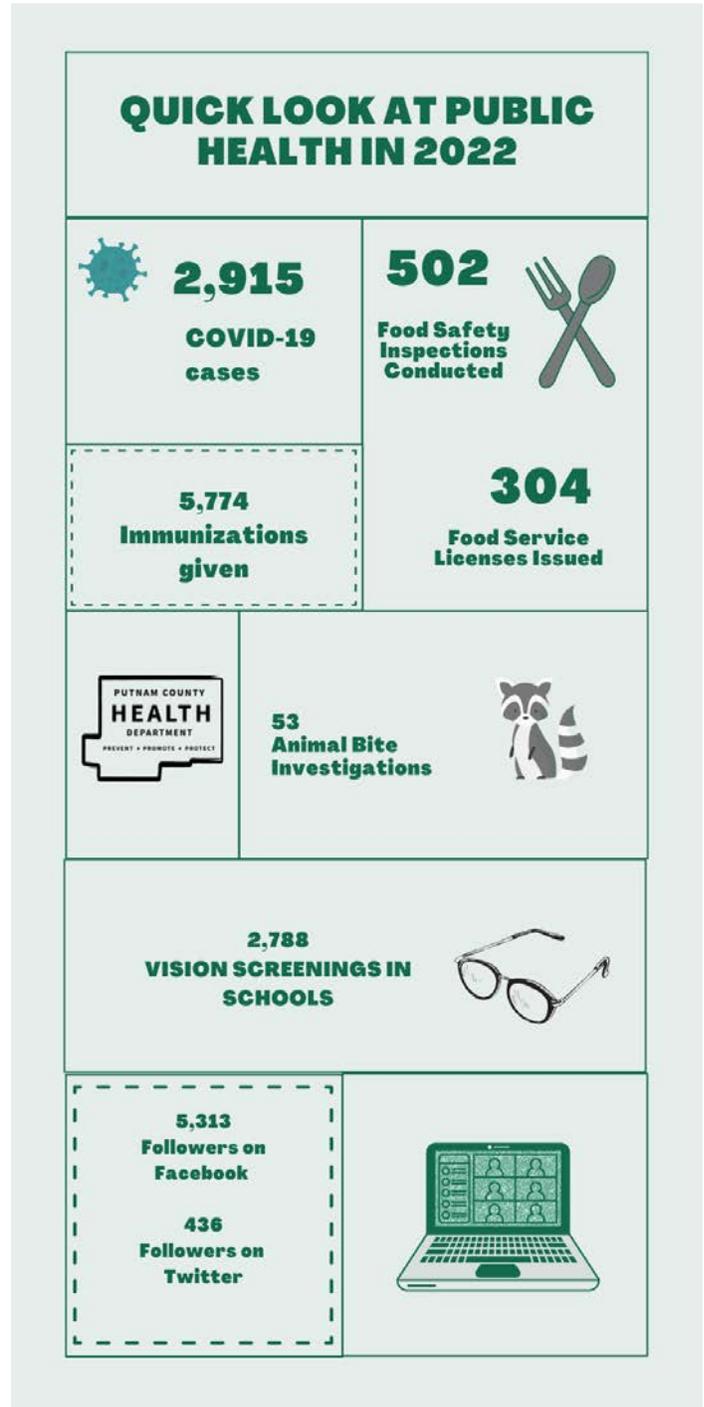
Angela Recker completed 5 years of service with the Health Department in 2022 as our Emergency Response Coordinator (ERC). During her short time with us, she helped lead our agency (and the community) through the COVID 19 pandemic, helped navigate fiscal and administrative hurdles related to COVID and Emergency Preparedness and enhanced our Medical Reserve Corp. We would like to thank Angela for her part in keeping our community safe and healthy.

Thank you Putnam County!

In November 2022 a renewal of our .5 mil levy was on the ballot and the voters of Putnam County showed their support of our agency and the work we do to promote the health and safety of our residents. Our staff would like to thank you for your support. We are committed to using our resources wisely to provide needed public health services in our community.

Strategic Plan

The Strategic Planning process is a very important component in determining how the agency would like to move forward. In January 2022, the Strategic Planning committee completed the plan and presented it to the Board for approval. Soon after the approval of the plan, members of the committee as well as the leadership team set the plan into motion and were successful at meeting the 2022 objectives. At the first meeting in 2023, the outstanding progress of the first year of implementation was shared with the Board of Health.



Fiscal

PUBLIC HEALTH: A Wise Investment

Balance as of January 1, 2022 \$1,570,254.07

REVENUE	
Putnam County Tax Levy	448,980.87
Other Local Government Funds	50,449.26
Federal/State Grants/Subsidy	469,722.49
Service Fees	774,945.62
Misc. Grants/ Receipts	96,649.37
TOTAL REVENUE	1,840,747.61

January 1 Balance + Receipts \$ 3,411,001.68

EXPENSES	
Administrative Costs	1,236,402.32
Supplies (Medical, Office, Program)	225,983.39
ODH Grants	126,121.61
WPCLF Grant	166,954.75
Share to State	38,724.34
TOTAL EXPENSES	1,794,186.41

Balance as of December 31, 2022 \$1,616,815.27

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

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Putnam County Health Department

256 Williamstown Road

Ottawa, Ohio 45875

Phone: 419-523-5608

Fax: 419-523-4171

Email: pchd@putnamhealth.com

Website: www.putnamhealth.com



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