

Putnam County

General Health District



ANNUAL REPORT

2014

A MESSAGE FROM THE HEALTH COMMISSIONER

We're #2! We're #2! Yes, that's right! For the second straight year, Putnam County is ranked #2 in Ohio in Health Outcomes according to the County Health Rankings released in 2014 by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute. The County Health Rankings were developed to provide counties across the country the ability to compare their local health status with others in the state.

According to the Health Outcomes ranking, which measures length of life and quality of life indicators, Putnam County has a low rate of premature death and the quality of life, such as reports of poor or fair health or poor physical and mental health days, is very low. Also, reports of mothers giving birth to low birth weight babies are lower than the state. These measures help boost the county in the rankings for health outcomes. Putnam County is also ranked #9 in the state for overall Health Factors. This looks at: Health Behaviors such as smoking, obesity, exercise, alcohol use, sexually transmitted infections, etc.; Clinical Care, which measures the uninsured population, the ratio of county residents to physicians, mental health providers and dentists, mammography rates, etc.; Social and Economic factors which focuses on high school graduation, inadequate social support, violent crime, children in poverty, etc.; and Physical Environment which measures air pollution, drinking water violations, driving alone to work, long commute, etc.

The Putnam County Health Department worked with several other agencies and organizations in the county to develop a Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) that will focus on some of the measures provided in the rankings and that have been determined to be a need in Putnam County. The three strategic issues that will be addressed are: Obesity (child and adult), Mental/Behavioral Health, and Alcohol/Drug Use. The County Health Rankings provide data to help measure improvement as the plan is implemented and paves the road to #1!



MARY ANN MYERS, M.D.
HEALTH COMMISSIONER

www.putnamhealth.com



PUTNAM COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

Member	Term Expires
Dr. Mandy Klass	2015
Jeff Hoyt	2016
Michael Lammers	2017
Raymond E. Brinkman, Jr.	2018
Al Hueve	2019
Jeff Vance, Alternate	

YOUR SERVICE IS APPRECIATED!

The Putnam County Board of Health is the governing body for all health department services. Board members are elected by the District Advisory Council, which is comprised of township trustee presidents, village mayors, and the president of the county commissioners. The Board of Health is responsible for protecting public health through prevention and restriction of disease, and the prevention, abatement, and suppression of nuisances.

Monthly Board meetings are held at the Putnam County Health Department the second Thursday of each month at 6:00 p.m. Meetings are open to the public.

ACCREDITATION

The Putnam County Health Department is continuing the journey toward accreditation, which allows health departments to function with quality and efficiency based on standards developed by the Public Health Accreditation Board. Much additional work is needed for the health department to be ready for accreditation in the near future. A Community Health Assessment and Community Health Improvement Plan was recently completed, and we are currently working to update the department strategic plan. All of our internal divisions are developing and updating policies such as HIPAA and environmental health policies. All of these efforts will help us not only reach our goal of accreditation, but more importantly, will allow the Putnam County Health Department to improve our operations and better serve our community.

COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PLAN (CHIP)

Since late 2013, the Putnam County Health Department has been working with community partners on the *Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships* (MAPP) process. This involved several assessments which provided important information about the health of our community. This information was used to develop a plan for a healthier Putnam County. After much collaboration with community partners, we are proud to introduce the 2014-2017 Putnam County Community Health Improvement Plan! The CHIP is a comprehensive community plan that focuses on three priorities:

1. **Childhood & Adult Obesity**
2. **Alcohol & Drug Use**
3. **Mental/Behavioral Health**

In an effort to achieve the goals outlined in the CHIP, members of the Partners for a Healthy Putnam County are now beginning to implement the objectives and action steps of the plan. Objectives of the plan include:

- Improve nutrition education and physical activity opportunities in various venues throughout the community
- Increase access to fresh fruits and vegetables
- Conduct media campaigns focusing on alcohol and drug use and mental/behavioral health

Implementation of the CHIP is a joint effort of the PCHD and the *Partners for a Healthy Putnam County*. The Community Health Improvement Plan can be found on the PCHD website at www.putnamhealth.com

Joan Kline, Health Educator

ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION

2014 was an exciting year for the Environmental Health (EH) Division staff! The long-awaited Sewage Treatment System (STS) Rules became effective January 1, 2015. Much of the fall was focused on meetings and trainings for the new STS rules. Although the new rules presented obstacles that were never addressed previously, they also gave options that were never available before. New to Putnam County is the Operation and Maintenance program for STSs. There is no "grandfathering-in" of old systems. However, that does not mean that a system will need to be upgraded! STSs are OK to function as they are unless there are nuisance conditions. The new rules also allow for remediation of a system, which was not previously an option. Our local STS rules became void as of January 1, 2015, when the new rules became effective. The EH Staff will be meeting with the Township Trustee Association and hopes to offer public meetings for the citizens of Putnam County this spring and summer to educate and discuss the new STS rules. In September, The Ohio Department of Health updated the Body Art Rules, including tattoo and body piercing. These rules were effective September 1, 2014. Along with all the new rules, the EH staff has been diligently working within the Food, Sewage, Water, Campground, Body Art, Pool, School, Nuisance Complaints, and Rabies Control programs. The table below provides the number of licenses permits and inspections/investigations performed.

Brandi Schrader
Environmental
Health Director

302	Food Service/Retail Food Licenses Issued
415	Inspections of those 302 Licensed Food Establishments
9	Pools and Spas
2	Campgrounds
28	School Inspections
45	Sewage Treatment System Permits
48	Private Water System Permits
155	Water Samples
46	Animal Bites Investigations

MISSION STATEMENT

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

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Preparedness is meant to ensure a swift, effective response and minimize harmful effects. Preparedness is a core expectation from ODH for all health departments throughout the state. The Emergency Preparedness Coordinator is funded through a grant from ODH.

Whether it is a natural disaster, an outbreak of Ebola, Measles, or Mumps, or a food-borne outbreak, all of which have occurred in Ohio counties, it demonstrates that no community is exempt from such emergencies.

The Putnam County Health Department works collaboratively with county agencies to plan for response and to minimize the effects of such events.

This past year, the Putnam County EMA led the process of completing a hazard analysis for probabilities of emergencies in Putnam County. The Health Department was part of this process and the assessment revealed natural disasters; such as extreme temperatures, floods, and outbreaks (food, disease and pandemic influenza) are part of what we plan for in our county. The Putnam County Health Department has several emergency plans in place that will aid in responding to such emergencies and the Health Department employees are trained and exercised in these plans. Our All-hazards Plan is available at the front desk and on-line at www.putnamhealth.com.

So what can the community do? Be Ready and Stay Ready!

- Assemble a disaster supply kit for your home and car. (See ready.gov)
- Learn and teach others how to turn off the electricity, gas, and water.
- Know how to use fire extinguishers.
- Make a list of special needs for elderly or disabled persons, children, and your pets.
- Develop a habit of keeping a tank full of gas in your car.
- Safeguard copies of important documents in waterproof containers.
- Create a family disaster plan and practice it.
- Have a communication plan and designate a common person to be contacted by all concerned.

Ruth Gerding, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator

NURSING Sherri Recker, RN **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. In 2014, we administered over 7200 vaccines. Vaccines are constantly changing, so keeping up with the latest information can be challenging. Luckily, we have an Immunization Action Plan grant through the Ohio Department of Health, which involves an education program for physicians and their staff. The coordinator of this grant is actively involved in the recall and reminder system for immunizations in the department. There were two educational programs given to physicians and thousands of phone calls and letters sent through the recall program.

The nursing department also administered almost 1700 doses of seasonal flu vaccines. The health department staff exercised our capacity to provide vaccines for special needs populations by hosting a Drive-Thru Flu Clinic. This was held October 2, 2014. During an infection disease outbreak, it may be necessary to provide vaccination to people with limited mobility. This exercise allowed for all staff, including two new nurses and two new clerical staff, to gain experience conducting a nonconventional clinic. Luckily, the weather cooperated with a beautiful day to be outside vaccinating under the front awning of our building.

Bureau for Children with Medical Handicaps

The Bureau for Children with Medical Handicaps (BCMh) is a state program that assists parents with their child's special health care needs. BCMh consists of two parts. One part is the diagnostic program where a public health nurse refers a child to a BCMh physician, and the child receives diagnostic testing to rule out 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, BCMh looks at eligibility based on diagnosis and parental income. In 2014, there were 184 active clients, 135 children on treatment services, 65 children on

diagnostic services, and 9 children on service coordination.

Help Me Grow Home Visiting

The Putnam County Health Department contracted with the Ohio Department of Health Help Me Grow program to be a home visiting provider in November of 2012. Since that time, there have been three nurses certified as home visitors and one as a home visiting supervisor. Our home visitors provide four families with parenting and health related information, and serve as a resource for community support.

Lead Poisoning Testing

Lead poisoning is the number one environmental hazard for children. We administered 23 lead tests in 2014. There were no elevated lead levels this year.

VISION STATEMENT
*All Putnam County
Residents will be free of
preventable disease and
live in a healthy
environment.*

School Health Program

Health Department nurses provide vision and scoliosis screenings for county schools. Vision screenings are done in Kindergarten and

grades 1, 3, 5, 7, and 9. Scoliosis screenings are done in grades 6, 7, and 8. In 2014, 59 school visits were made.

- 2668 students received vision screenings
- 1297 students received scoliosis screenings

The Putnam County Health Department also provides nursing services for the summer migrant school and organizes their health fair. There were 10 nursing visits to the migrant school.

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 car seats are given, with a short education program and installation guidelines proved by the nurse. There were 46 car seats distributed through this program. Nurses also assist with a car seat program administered out of the health department in which they instruct and help the parent install the car seat properly. In 2014, the nurses provided 13 car seat checks through this program.

Communicable Disease

A primary responsibility of public health has always been the prevention of communicable diseases. This year was particularly interesting with the contact investigation performed as part of the Ebola cases in the U.S. Residents of Putnam County traveled to the dress shop located in Akron, Ohio when the Dallas nurse was also there. The residents contacted Summit and Putnam County Health Departments as directed by the Ohio Department of Health.

When we were initially notified of the contacts, the communicable disease nurse, Director of Nursing, Public Information Officer, and Emergency Preparedness Coordinator gathered and had a conference call with the employers of the contacts to make sure there was a consistent message and plan for allowing the contacts to work with the public. It was decided that all contacts would be required to stay home for the remainder of the 21-day incubation period, with daily monitoring by the communicable disease nurse. Follow up with the contacts was then done for 21 days to monitor for symptoms of Ebola. All residents remained symptom free and very cooperative with health department guidelines.

The Ohio Department of Health released the counties that were monitoring contacts on October 18, 2014. This included Putnam County, which was the only county involved in Northwest Ohio. Ebola prompted a media frenzy with reporting from Lima to Toledo. By establishing a Public Information Officer and spokesperson, the media and public were kept informed of public health activities and prevention messages via social media outlets such as Facebook, Twitter, and our website, as well as more traditional media such as newspapers and television.

This was a great exercise of our Incident Command System at PCHD and also our ability to work with county and state partners. Having practiced the ICS prior to the incident was crucial. Staff addressed the issue and established a chain of command fluently. Due to the critical nature of the Ebola crisis, a meeting was held to update county partners, which seemed appreciated by local leadership.

VITAL STATISTICS

The health department registrar is responsible for filing all births and deaths with the Bureau of Vital Statistics in Columbus. Because these events are recorded in the county in which they occur and no hospital is located within the county boundaries, local figures reflect only a portion of actual births and deaths of Putnam County residents. In the year 2014, 0 births and 204 deaths occurred in Putnam County. The Health Department issued 665 birth certificates, 710 death certificates, and 253 burial permits in 2014.

Since January 2011, Ohioans have been able to obtain a certified copy of any Ohio birth record at the local health department. Death certificates, however, must be obtained in the county in which the death occurred.

Leading Causes of Death	2014	2013	2012
Heart Disease	57	54	55
Cancer	34	35	39
Pulmonary Disease	32	22	23
Accidents	4	0	8
Other Causes (Alzheimer's, etc.)	72	73	60
Suicides	1	6	5

Birth records are available from 1908 - present. You may obtain a certified birth or death record at The Putnam County Health Department during regular business hours. Cost is \$23.00 per certified record (cash, check, credit or debit card).

Laurie Meyer, Registrar

PUBLIC HEALTH: A WISE INVESTMENT

Year 2014 Health Department Funding

Gina Karcher, Fiscal Clerk

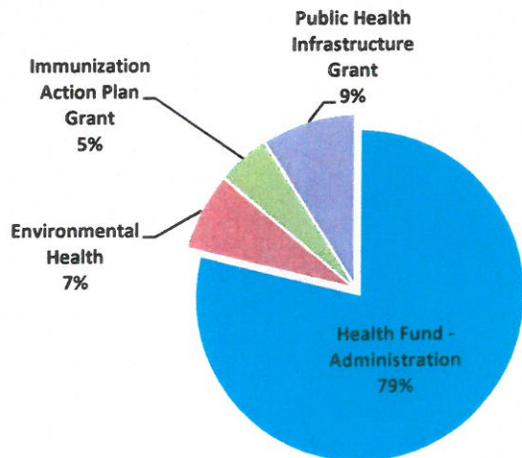
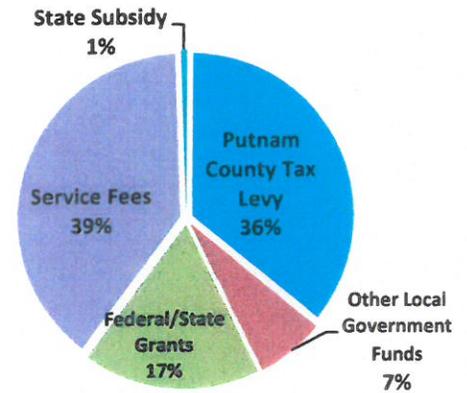
Balance as of January 1, 2014 \$875,305.64

RECEIPTS	
Putnam County Tax Levy	\$369,559.08
Other Local Government Funds	71,091.60
Federal/State Grants	181,707.36
Service Fees	404,522.85
State Subsidy	6,484.60
TOTAL REVENUE	\$1,033,365.79

January 1 Balance + Receipts \$ 1,908,671.13

EXPENSES	
Health Fund - Administration	\$875,726.31
Environmental Health	81,656.49
Immunization Action Plan Grant	53,163.25
Public Health Infrastructure Grant	99,198.28
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1,109,744.33

Balance December 31, 2014 \$ 798,926.80



HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF

Back Row L to R: Laurie Meyer, Patty Jerwers, Abigail Greve, Brandi Schrader, Gina Karcher, Ruth Gerding, and Beth Skulina

Front Row L to R: Joan Kline, Dunel Fry, Dawn Schmenk, Sherri Recker, and Laura Gulker.

Not pictured - Mary Duling

**IT IS OUR PRIVILEGE TO SERVE THE
PUTNAM COUNTY COMMUNITY**