

2018

Putnam County General Health District Annual Report



“Working towards a healthy and safe Putnam County”

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100 Years of Public Health

In 1919, Public Health in Ohio was born with the passage of the Hughes-Griswold Act. With the enactment of this act, health districts were formed, and each formed its own health department. In the 100 years that have passed, life expectancy has increased 30 years, and according to the CDC, 25 of those years can be contributed to the efforts in public health. While our main concern remains preventing disease and premature death, the scope of Public Health has grown to meet the needs of our changing world.

At the time that public health was formed in Ohio, the nation was still dealing with the devastation of the 1918 Flu Pandemic. 100 years later, our staff continue to plan for flu epidemics as well as other potential public health emergencies, including bioterrorism events – something that was rarely thought about before 9/11.

One of the most notable public health achievements is the decrease of death and disease due to vaccine preventable illnesses. Immunizations were important to public health many years ago when diseases like small pox and polio were affecting the lives of our residents; and they remain a critical component to disease prevention.

The very first ordinance adopted by the Putnam County Board of Health in June 1920 established the sanitary rules and regulations in the county. In addition to focusing on disease prevention, sewage rules, such as the location of privies (outhouses) and how they must be constructed and maintained, was included in this ordinance. Today, our sanitarians continue to work to ensure that private septic systems and private wells are safe and follow the state regulations. Food service operations were first inspected after the adoption of the health department's third ordinance in 1942, and those inspections continue today.

Not only have Public Health programs changed to best address the needs of our residents, how we provide public health has changed greatly. We strive for continuous quality improvement to ensure that our programs are operating efficiently and effectively. The changes that we have made, and the improvements we will continue to make, will improve the lives of our residents, and our staff are committed to this goal.



Health Commissioner

Our Guiding Principles

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: 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

“Working towards a healthy and safe Putnam County”

PCHD Strategic Plan

The 2018-2020 Putnam County Health Department Strategic Plan was adopted in January 2018. Implementation began soon thereafter to address the following strategic priorities:

Marketing: Increase awareness of Putnam County Health Department programs and services through planned marketing efforts

Financial Sustainability: Maintain financial viability of the Putnam County Health Department through sustainable and innovative efforts to obtain funding for programs and services

Collaboration: Collaborate internally with staff and externally with partners to provide services and programs to address identified needs in the community

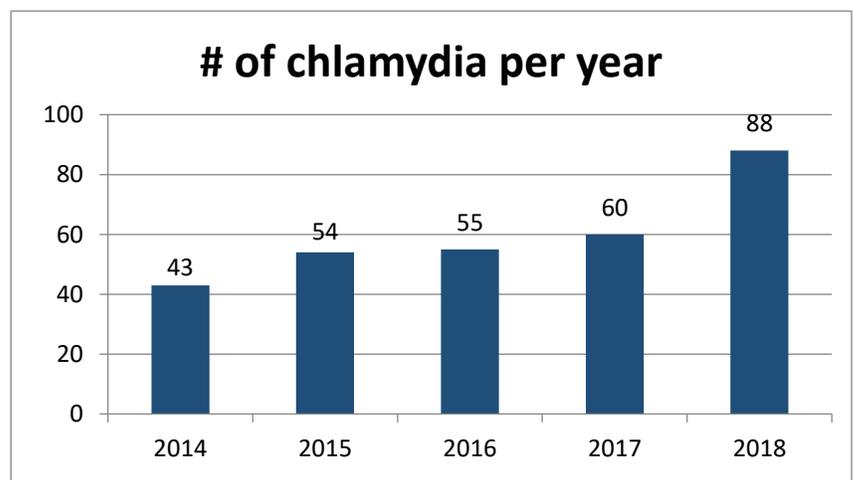
Competent Workforce: Train and retain highly qualified employees

Public Health Nursing

Sherri Recker, RN, MSN, Director of Nursing

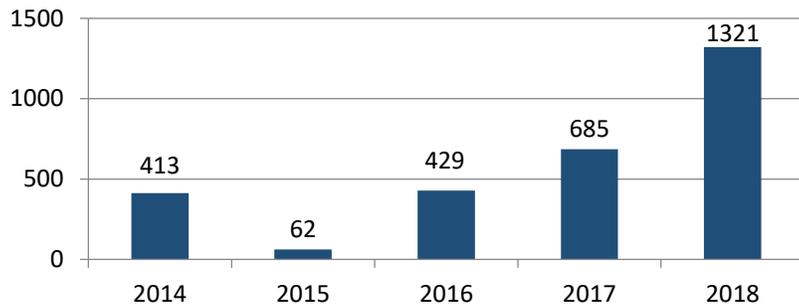
Communicable Disease Surveillance One of the ten essential public health services is to diagnose and investigate health problems and health hazards in the community. Communicable Disease is one of those health problems that is investigated by the PCHD. Sexually transmitted diseases such as chlamydia have been trending up, with 2018 proving to have the most reported cases in recent years. There is also an epidemic of Hepatitis A in Ohio, with over 1,500 confirmed cases as of the end of January, 2019. Putnam County has had one case associated with this statewide Hepatitis A outbreak.

2018 Communicable Disease Summary	
Campylobacter	13
Chlamydia	88
Coccidiomycosis	1
Cryptosporidia	6
CP-CRE	2
E. Coli	3
Giardia	2
Gonorrhea	9
Lyme disease - suspected	3
Hepatitis A	2
Hepatitis B - Chronic	2
Hepatitis C - Chronic	11
Legionella	1
Invasive Strep. Pneumoniae	3
Salmonella	8
Shigellosis	1
Yersinia	5
Tuberculosis	1
Viral Meningitis	2
Influenza hospitalized	46
Influenza lab confirmed	497
Influenza like illness	790
TOTAL	1496



While some parts of Ohio are seeing an increase in Hepatitis C cases related to the drug epidemic in our state, the number of cases in Putnam County has remained relatively low.

of influenza like illnesses and hospitalizations

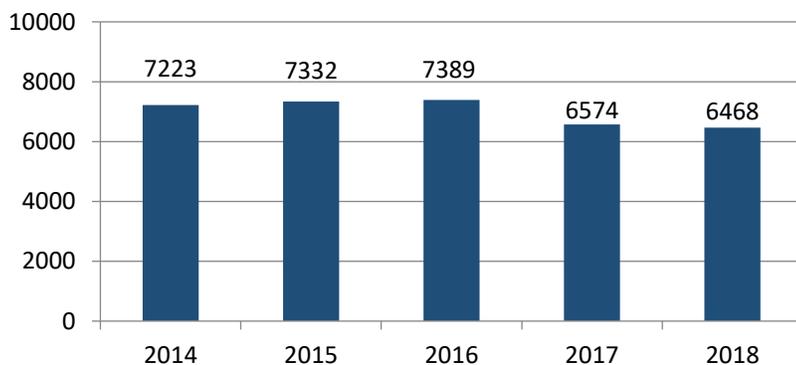


Influenza disease was very active in 2018, with many more cases diagnosed in our county and nationwide than there had been in previous years.

Flu vaccination is the first step to prevent the flu. The PCHD offers flu vaccine clinics throughout the county each year, usually beginning in September. Do your part to “fight the flu!” Get your annual vaccine!

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.

of vaccines administered

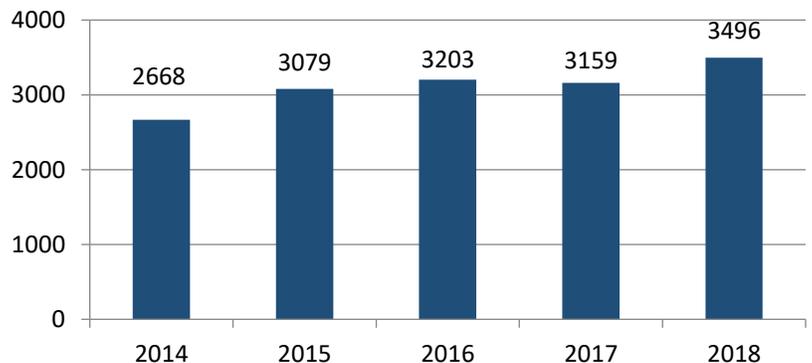


Franklin Buckland gives a smile after receiving his flu vaccine.

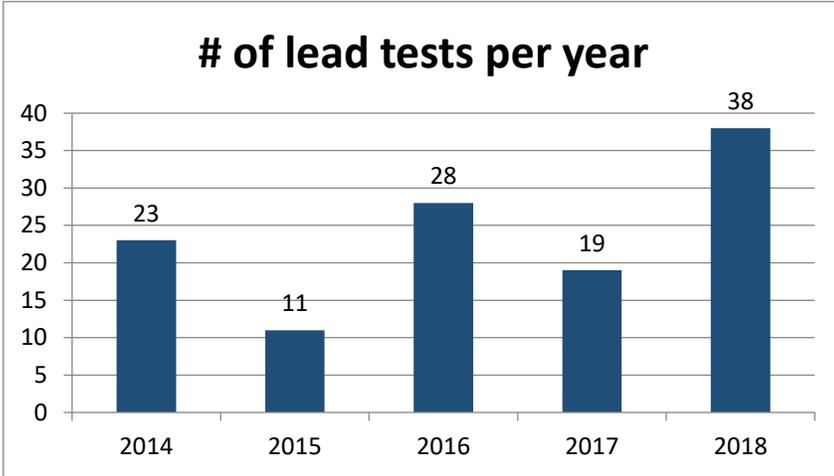
School Screenings The health department’s Public Health Nurses provide vision and scoliosis screenings in the county schools at no cost to the schools. Vision screenings are done in Kindergarten and grades 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, and 11. Although not mandated by the Ohio Department of Health, scoliosis screenings are also completed with students in grades 6, 7, and 8.

The PCHD Public Health Nurses completed 1408 scoliosis screenings in Putnam County Schools in 2018.

of vision screenings per year



Blood Lead Testing is another service offered by the PCHD Public Health Nurses. The blood lead test can detect possible lead poisoning in children and is recommended at 12 and 24 months of age, and at preschool entry. Lead tests completed by PCHD doubled in 2018. When lead poisoning is detected early, interventions can be done to decrease exposure to the environmental hazard. High lead levels in children can lead to brain and nervous system damage, slowed growth and development, learning and behavior problems, and speech and hearing problems. The test can be completed at the health department, or in partnership with Head Start. Call 419-523-5608 for more information.



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Health Education

Media Smart Youth (MSY) was one of the several nutrition programs provided through grant funds from the Ohio Department of Health in 2018. MSY was presented to 4th graders at Continental Elementary. This program focused on nutrition and media messaging related to nutrition choices. Students made posters demonstrating what they learned.

Chronic and Preventable Disease is a strategic priority in the 2018-2020 Community Health Improvement Plan. These programs strive to address this priority, with the goal to prevent chronic disease and conditions which affect the Putnam County community.



Cooking Matters for Adults is a program that focuses on healthy cooking on a budget. This class was provided at the Dupont Church of the Brethren through grant funds from the Ohio Department of Health. The class was also provided at the Leipsic Community Center through grant funds from the Health Path Foundation.

Follow the Putnam County Health Department on Facebook and Twitter to learn more about the PCHD programs and to stay up-to-date about health and safety issues.

In addition to the Cooking Matters program, a produce exchange program was also implemented in Leipsic through the Health Path Foundation. In this program, donations of fresh fruits and vegetables from the community were collected and distributed each week at the Leipsic Community Center. These efforts increased the access to fresh produce for those in need.



The PCHD has 2 certified car seat technicians on staff who can help you install your child's car seat properly. Car seats are available to those who qualify.

Accreditation Journey Joan Kline, CHES, Accreditation Coordinator

After years of talk and preparing for accreditation, we submitted our documentation to the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) for review in May, 2018. The review is completed by three site visitors, who determine if the documentation of our services, policies, plans and programs meet the measures established by PHAB. On November 14 and 15, 2018, we welcomed the three site visitors to our health department for a two-day visit. During this time, our staff, partners and two Board of Health members answered questions and described the operations of our department. The accreditation decision will be made by the PHAB Committee in March, 2019. We are excited and hopeful that the Putnam County Health Department will achieve public health accreditation soon!

Environmental Health Brandi Schrader, M.Ed., RS, Environmental Health Director

The Environmental Health Division has several programs that require the implementation and regulation of rules that are adopted at the state and local level. To carry out these programs, the staff sanitarians conduct inspections of food service facilities, swimming pools and campgrounds. Sewage treatment systems and private water systems must be permitted and inspected by the staff to ensure that they are safe and in compliance with the rules. The chart below provides a snapshot of the activities of the Environmental Health Division from 2014 through 2018.

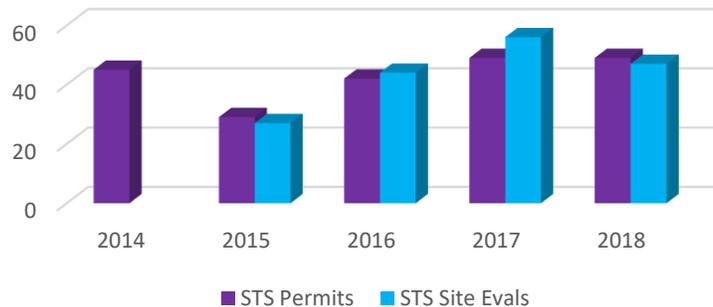
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
FSO/RFE Licenses	302	297	318	316	344
Inspections of FSO/RFE *	415	476	535	507	595
Violations Cited *	534	442	546	868	1258
Pool and Spa Licenses	9	9	9	9	8
Campground Licenses	2	2	2	2	2
School Inspections	28	16	14	30	28
STS Permits	45	29	42	49	49
STS Site Evaluations		27	44	56	47
PWS Permits	48	52	59	50	51
Water Samples	155	157	173	180	182
Animal Bites	46	43	52	42	42
Nuisances			5	12	8

*Numbers do not include temporary food license inspections

The Sewage Treatment Systems (STS) program, which had seen an increase in site evaluations since the new regulations became effective on January 1, 2015, showed a slight decline in 2018. Despite concerns that the new regulations would have an effect on the building of new homes in Putnam County, the data shows that this has not happened.

By the end of 2018, the Water Pollution Control Loan Fund had provided over \$500,000 in assistance to qualifying homeowners for repair or replacement of STS. Another \$150,000 has been awarded for 2019.

Sewage Treatment System Permits and Site Evaluations

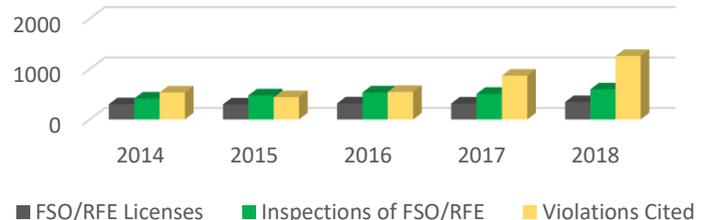


Operation and Maintenance Program (O&M) Year one of the O&M program is in the books, and overall the program was implemented without many issues. Homeowners who were required to obtain an operational permit this first year had the option to have PCHD staff perform a visual evaluation of their system or have a registered service provider perform the service. Most of the evaluations were completed by the health department’s sanitarian. The O&M program allowed for an opportunity to inform homeowners about their system and provide ways to maintain the system so that they can continue using their system for as long as possible.



Food Safety continues to be an important program in the Environmental Health Division of the health department. In 2018, there was a significant increase in the number of food facility licenses issued, mostly due to an increase in temporary food licenses. Temporary food licenses are required 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 weekend, outside of our normal business hours. In addition to the temporary food inspections, the Environmental Health staff also inspect the many restaurants, grocery stores, convenience stores and other food service facilities. The number of inspections required each licensing year depends on the type of food license the facility carries and the risk level of the food service provided.

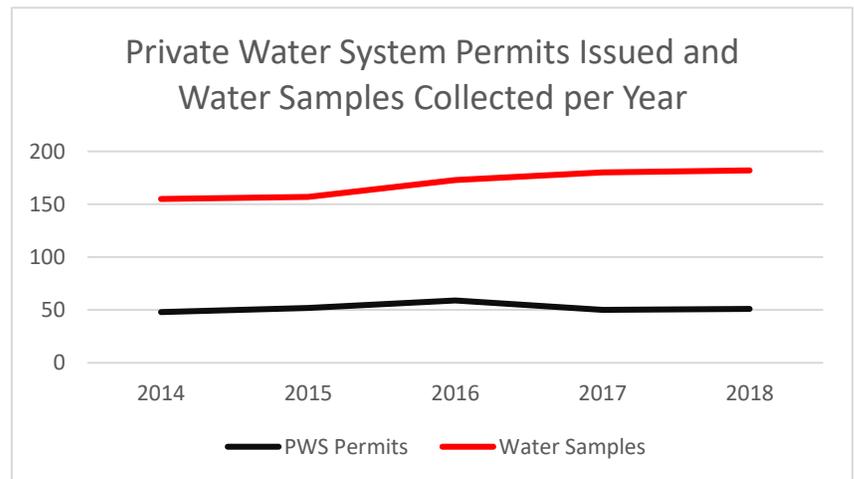
Food Facilities Licensed, Inspections Performed and Number of Violations



2018 brought a considerable change to the food safety program when state agencies implemented new inspection reports that are now required to be used, and the PCHD adopted standard operating guidelines for the program. Although the changes required an adjustment in how inspections were performed and reported (thus the noted increase in violations cited), it is apparent that they have made the food safety program stronger and have helped the facilities operate in a better and safer way.

Rabies Surveillance PCHD staff continue to conduct surveillance of animal bites to monitor the possibility of rabies when a person is bitten by an animal. Other than a slight spike in reported animal bites in 2016 (52), the Environmental Health Division received 42-46 reports from 2014-2018. Healthcare providers are mandated to report animal bites that have occurred in patients that they have treated. The PCHD follows up with the patient and with the owner of the animal, if possible, to ensure that the animal is fully vaccinated against rabies.

The Private Water System (PWS) program has been steady over the last few years, with a consistent number of permits issued and water samples collected. In fall of 2018, the Ohio Department of Health was onsite to survey the PWS program. We are happy to report that the survey was successful and the PCHD remains the approved jurisdiction for the PWS program in Putnam County.



Emergency Preparedness

Angela Recker, EMT, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator

Putnam County Health Department (PCHD) was awarded the Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) grant again for 2018. As a PHEP grant recipient, PCHD completes preparedness activities to strengthen response capabilities. Preparedness activities include writing and revising plans, providing trainings, and participating in drills and exercises.

PCHD burst into 2018 with a functional exercise which simulated a water main break at a long term care facility. The participants in the exercise worked to ensure that information was properly shared with partners and the community. The “medical surge” capacity of our department was also drilled to verify that we are able to link victims and response workers with resources and needed. Many partners, including healthcare agencies, mental health facilities emergency management and long term care providers, were involved with this exercise and many lessons were learned.

October 2018 brought more excitement with yet another exercise. This exercise tested PCHD’s response to a deadly flu pandemic, which could result in mass fatalities in the county. The exercise tested several areas of response including public health surveillance and investigation, interventions, and fatality management. Again, many partners participated in this exercise as we worked during the simulation to control the spread of disease and issued public health orders to control the incident.

In addition to the flurry of exercise activity in 2018, PCHD wrote and reviewed numerous preparedness plans, annexes and guidelines. The Emergency Response Plan, Mass Fatality Response Annex, and Medical Countermeasure Plan were all revised and approved by the Ohio Department of Health. PCHD also held a crisis communication training for community agencies and partners. The crisis communication training armed partners with tools, tips, and templates to better handle communication in a crisis situation.

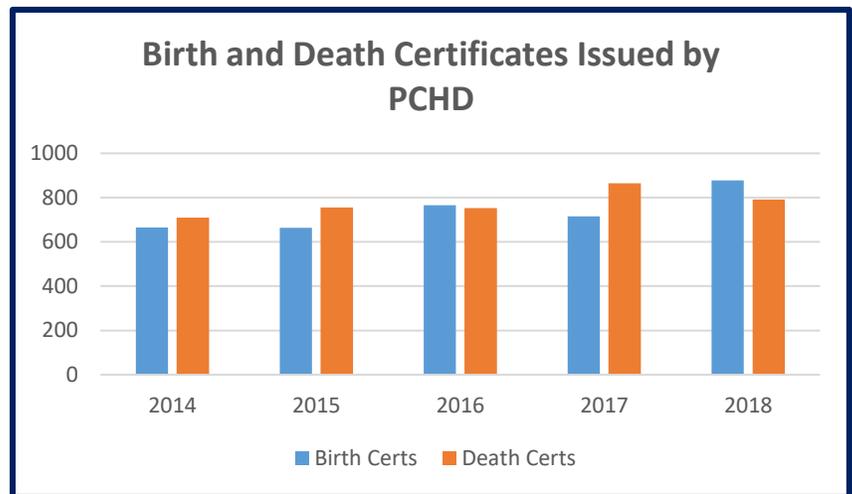


Vital Statistics

Abigail Greve, Registrar

Certified Birth and Death Records

are available at the Putnam County Health Department. Birth certificates for anyone born in Ohio from 1908 to the present may be obtained at the PCHD, regardless of the county of birth. Death certificates are available for those in which the death occurred in Putnam County. All others must be obtained from the county in which the death occurred. The fee for certified birth and death certificates is \$27.00. As shown in the chart, there was a significant increase (163) in the number of birth certificates issued in 2018.



Causes of Death of Putnam County residents is monitored by the PCHD. Heart Disease was once again the leading cause of death of Putnam County residents in 2018, reflecting an increase from 2017 (73 deaths). Cancer remained the second leading cause of death in 2018, but showed a slight decrease from 2017 (66 deaths).

Leading Causes of Death for Putnam County Residents - 2018	
	ODH Data Warehouse
Heart Disease	100
Cancer	55
Other (4 or less each for causes such as Liver Failure, Colon Disease, Premature Birth, etc.)	44
Pulmonary Disease/Pneumonia	40
Dementia (Alzheimer's and others)	20
Renal Failure	15
Sepsis	12
Accidents (Motor Vehicle, Accidental Drowning, Unintentional Deaths, etc.)*	11
Cerebral Vascular Accidents/Stroke	11
Parkinson's Disease	5
Suicide*	2
Uncertain Etiology/Unknown	4
*Drug Overdose – included in accident and suicide numbers	2

Public Health: A Wise Investment

Balance as of January 1, 2018 **\$904,845.75**

REVENUE	
Putnam County Tax Levy	\$402,560.01
Other Local Government Funds	46,024.81
Federal/State Grants/Subsidy	278,979.41
Service Fees	710,786.47
Misc. Grants/ Receipts	71,797.05
TOTAL REVENUE	\$1,510,147.75

January 1 Balance + Receipts **\$2,414,993.50**

EXPENSES	
Administrative Costs*	\$1,039,652.36
Supplies (Medical, Office, Program)	292,874.97
ODH Grants	8,496.33
WPCLF Expenditures	80,087.31
Share to State	36,897.04
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1,458,008.01

Balance as of December 31, 2018 **\$ 956,985.49**

*Costs include salary, fringes, equipment, internet, phone, etc.

Thank you to our community for your support of the 2018 public health levy!

The Putnam County Health Department is “working towards a healthy and safe Putnam County” by providing many services to our community. Those services include:

Immunizations/Flu Clinics
Birth and Death Certificates
Private Water and Septic Permits
Emergency Preparedness
Communicable Disease Monitoring
Food Service Inspections
Water Samples
Health Education

It is with the support of our community that we are able to continue to offer these services for our residents.

Public Health Service Awards

Five-year service award recipients

Patty Jerwers, RN, Public Health Nurse: Children with Medical Handicaps Program, Immunizations, School Screenings

Dunel Fry, RN, BSN, Public Health Nurse: Children with Medical Handicaps Program, Certified Car Seat Technician, Immunizations, Communicable Disease Monitoring, School Screenings

Laurie Meyer, Office Manager and Deputy Vital Statistics Registrar: Immunization and Billing Clerk, Birth and Death Certificates

Dainna Raye, RS, Environmental Health Sanitarian: Food Safety Program, Operation and Maintenance (O&M) Program. In 2018 she was also awarded the “Initiative Award” for her outstanding work in the O&M Program and taking on extra establishments in our food program.

Fifteen-year service award recipient

Sherri Recker, RN, MSN, Director of Nursing: Manages the programs in the Nursing Division, member of the Leadership Team and Accreditation Team, active member on various community coalitions.

2018 Employee of the Year – voted by peers

Joan Kline, CHES, Health Educator/Accreditation Coordinator: Accreditation lead, Community Health Improvement Planning and Strategic Planning, Vital Statistics assistant.

PCHD Staff

The Putnam County Health Department is made up of fifteen full-time and part-time employees, and one contract member (Medical Director). The staff members work daily to achieve the agency mission and to serve the Putnam County community.

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	Director of Environmental Health
Joan Kline, CHES	Health Educator, Accreditation Coordinator
Angela Recker, EMT	Emergency Preparedness Coordinator
Dawn Schmenk, RN, BSN	Public Health Nurse
Dunel Fry, RN, BSN	Public Health Nurse
Rachael Ruhe, RN, BSN	Public Health Nurse
Patty Jerwers, RN	Public Health Nurse
Beth Skulina, M.Ed., RS	Registered Sanitarian
Laura Gulker, RS	Registered Sanitarian
Dainna Raye, RS	Registered Sanitarian
Laurie Meyer	Office Manager, Deputy Registrar
Abigail Greve	Registrar, Clerk Receptionist
Terri Rayle	Fiscal Clerk

Putnam County 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 2018 Board of Health include:

Mr. Al Hueve, President

Dr. Mandy Klass, Vice-President

Ms. Teresa Hermiller

Ms. Nancy Wischmeyer-Schaub

Mr. Matthew Herman

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



A quick look at public health in Putnam County - 2018

54	Car Seats distributed and proper use instruction given	100%	Increase of chlamydia cases reported from 2014 to 2018
100	Putnam County residents died of Heart Disease	595	Food safety inspections conducted
3496	Vision screenings conducted in the county schools	163	Birth certificates issued
1735	Flu vaccines given	182	Water samples collected
344	344 Food Service licenses issued	42	Animal bite investigations
6468	Immunizations given	163	Children served through the Children with Medical Handicaps Program

Social Media

1223 Facebook Followers

278 Twitter Followers