

Putnam County Health Department

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Working Towards a Healthy and Safe Putnam County

Newsletter - October 2024

Health Commissioner Update

The Putnam County Health Department is in the process of developing our Strategic Plan for 2025–2027. This summer, our staff, residents and partners were asked to complete a survey about what we do well and areas of opportunity both within our department and in the community. In addition, we looked at what our role in public health is now and what it will be in the future so that we can determine changes needed to best serve our residents.

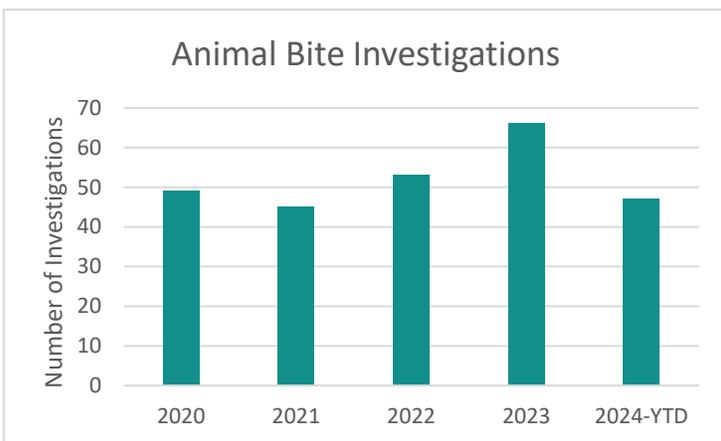
Between now and the end of the December, we will be determining our strategic priorities and our goals for the department for the next three years. In addition, we will identify objectives and specific action steps to help us reach these goals and continue to move our agency forward and become the best small health department in Ohio. With each priority we will strive to ensure that our programs are equitable and that we are meeting the needs of all residents in our county. The 2025–2027 Strategic Plan will be shared with the community after its adoption by our Board of Health in December. We are looking forward to continuing to move our Health Department forward and making Putnam County a safe, healthy place to live, work and play for everyone.



Tai Chi

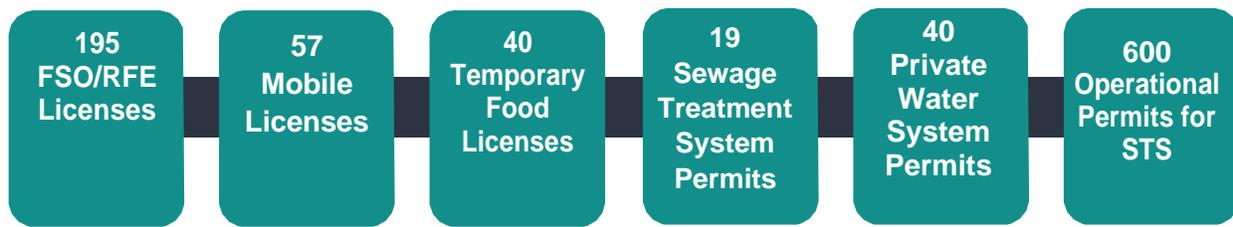
Falls pose a risk to the health and independence of older adults. As individuals age, there are strategies that can help prevent falls. One evidence-based fall prevention program is Tai Chi for Arthritis. Tai Chi is a slow, rhythmic, and graceful exercise that promotes overall wellbeing. Tai Chi can improve strength, flexibility and balance therefore reducing the risk of falls. PCHD nurse Allie Rosebrock is a certified Tai Chi for Arthritis instructor. Allie will be teaching her second session beginning in January 2025. For more information about Tai Chi, please call the Health Department at 419-523-5608.

Animal Bite Program – Rabies



The Environmental Health Division follows up with all animal bites reported in Putnam County. From January 1–August 31, 47 animal bites (42 dog, 4 cat and 1 raccoon) were reported. In July, the PCHD received a positive rabies result in a bat that was sent for testing after having contact with a family pet. This was the first positive rabies result in Putnam County since 2006. The Health Department encourages residents to have their pets vaccinated against rabies to help ensure their safety as well as the safety of the family members who love them!

EH Program Numbers January 1- August 31, 2024





CarFit and Car Seat Safety Awareness

This year, a nurse from the Putnam County Health Department was trained in a new car safety program called CarFit. CarFit is a program for adult drivers to improve their safety and comfort behind the wheel. There are ways for drivers to adapt to their cars, and adjust their “fit” within the vehicle in order to reduce their risk of injury during a crash. This is a free, fun educational hands-on experience designed to share safety information. CarFit is not an evaluation or test of driving ability and is not used to determine if a person should continue to drive.

On September 18, 2024, the health dept. held a car safety event at the office in partnership with the Area Agency on Aging. Adults could have their car checked by a certified CarFit technician and vehicle adjustments made as needed. In addition, childhood car seats could be checked to make sure the seat being used is safe and correctly installed. It was a beautiful sunny day and we appreciate all who took time out of the schedule to attend this event.

More car safety events are being planned in conjunction with our partners, the Council on Aging and Area Agency on Aging. We are hoping to grow this program for our adult population to minimize injuries in motor vehicle accidents.

Body Art Program

The Environmental Health Division is also responsible for inspecting and licensing our body art facilities in Putnam County. While we do not have any establishments who offer tattooing or piercing, we do have two establishments, with operators who are licensed to apply permanent makeup. During inspections, the Health Department ensures that operators are maintaining techniques that will keep their customers safe. For more information about the program, please call the Environmental Health Division at 419-523-5608.

No Wrong Door

On April 18, 2024, the first No Wrong Door meeting was held in partnership with several other agencies. Implementation of No Wrong Door was a strategy in the Community Health Improvement Plan. The goal of the program is that all social service agencies in the community are aware of the resources available and are trained to warmly provide those that call or reach out for services an appropriate referral to meet their needs. In order to do this, a comprehensive resource guide was created by this committee and made available in print and QR code at the April gathering.

Invitations were sent to all social service agencies, churches, law enforcement, government offices, health care facilities, mental health facilities, schools, preschools, day care centers, long term care facilities, United Way, and many more. All were asked to send their front-line staff and provide a two-minute presentation on their services. There were 64 people in attendance with very positive evaluations. Plans for a second meeting are underway.

By The Numbers

January 1 – September 30, 2024

Immunizations	2,647
School Vision Screening	1,695
Children with Medical Handicaps	208
Car Seats Distributed	24
Car Seat Checks	7
Communicable Diseases	568
Lead Tests	5