

# Funding/Organization, 2006

## SUPPORT: \$5,583,873

Levy (39.6%) .....	\$2,213,660
Fees, Licenses, Permits (27.7%).....	1,546,295
State/Federal Grants (20.6%).....	1,149,691
Contracts (9.5%).....	532,837
State Subsidy (.7%) .....	36,103
All Other Sources (1.9%) .....	105,287
Carryover from 2005: \$2,586,660	

## SERVICES: \$5,625,836

Public Health Clinic (28.5%).....	\$1,601,626
Public Health Nursing (26.1%).....	1,468,860
Environmental Health (24.9%).....	1,401,014
WIC (11.1%) .....	625,826
Health Promotion/Education (5.1%) .....	286,191
Vital Statistics (4.3%) .....	242,319

## GRANT INCOME: \$1,149,691

WIC – Nutrition and Education.....	\$467,711
Child & Family Health Services .....	262,826
Breast & Cervical Cancer Screening .....	141,437
Infrastructure .....	131,587
Women's Health Services.....	57,750
Safe Communities .....	32,507
Immunizations – Satellite areas .....	30,400
Senior Health Screenings .....	25,473

## District Advisory Council - 2006

This council meets annually in March to bring health concerns and recommendations to the Board of Health and to appoint new members from the county. Members include the chairman of each township's board of trustees, village mayors, and the chair of the county commissioners.

**Townships** - Bloomingrove: Danny Adkins • Butler: Doug Ramsey • Cass: Joseph Miller • Franklin: Kenneth Levering • Jackson: Larry Diebly • Jefferson: Mark Gatton • Madison: Homer Hutcheson • Mifflin: John Jaholnycky • Monroe: Merle Fulton • Perry: Walter Berg • Plymouth: Charles Miller • Sandusky: Daniel Gorbett • Sharon: Edward Schumacher • Springfield: Robert Currens • Troy: Wayne Weirick • Washington: Jack Butler • Weller: Dale Hulit • Worthington: Dale Pore. **Mayors** - Bellville: Carolyn Studenmund • Butler: Don Gillespie • Lexington: Eugene Parkison • Lucas: John Finley • Mansfield: Lydia Reid • Ontario: Ken Bender • Plymouth: Keith Hebble • Shiloh: Timothy Wireman. **Chair, County Commissioners** - Ed Olson.

*Colophon: Fonts are Comic Sans (Health Department font), Myriad Pro and Warnock Pro; Layouts done using Adobe InDesign CS using a Macintosh G4 running Tiger. Pre-press on a Ricoh 3235 and final printing by the Mansfield News Journal. For additional copies or inquiries, contact Reed Richmond, Health Educator, 419-774-4544.*

419-774-4500

## From the Commissioner

This past year was another busy one at the Mansfield/Ontario/Richland County Health Department. New services were added and major improvements were made to existing programs all while not disturbing our existing 70 different programs. And, oh yes, thank you voters for once again approving a health department levy initiative so we can continue those services.



Stan Saalman

New services added were a Medical Gas Plumbing inspection program, the addition of free Community Health Screenings at satellite locations, and a county employee Healthy Living Skills program. Major improvements were made to our WIC program, Public Health Nursing, Help Me Grow Home Visits, and Beatty Public Health Clinic services.

Public Health Nursing reorganized to improve both the quality and production of services offered. Nurses there organize the flu clinics, child immunizations, school nursing, and senior health assessments and now run our Community Health Program doing free health assessments for all ages at locations throughout Richland County. We also changed our focus in our Help Me Grow program to Newborn Home Visits to assure that more babies in our county are off to a healthy start in life.

Importantly, we entered into service provider contracts with all three Medicaid Managed Care Providers for Richland County, allowing the Health Department's Beatty Clinic to continue to provide care to Medicaid Clients.

The Health Department continued to help our county prepare for health emergencies by developing a plan to respond in the event of a pandemic flu outbreak. In addition to forums for public education, the Health Department formed a collaborative of county agencies to share and initiate plans for emergency response, trained staff in the use of the National Incident Management System, and participated in agency, county and regional emergency response drills.

It is our goal and belief that increased and improved services, without added cost, combined with a well-trained and prepared staff, will mean healthier and safer citizens.

## Board of Health - 2006

**Mansfield:** Robert Exten, MD; David Smith; John F. Leech, DDS; Matthew Maiyer, R.Ph.; Frank Russo Vice-Chair; **Ontario:** Daniel Burwell, DO, Chair; Barbara Cinadr, RN. **County:** Angela Thompson; Carol Michaels, Sr. Rep.; Steven Phillips, DVM; Beauford Williams; John Studenmund, JD; Jean Swartz; Violet Wetzel.

## Administration

Stan Saalman, MSEP, JD, RS, Commissioner; Jerome E. Hurley, MD, Medical Director; Joe Evans, RS, MPH, Environmental Health Director; Amy Vincent, BSN, RN, Director of Nursing; Tina Picman, MS, RDL, WIC Director; Richard Bartelheim, Fiscal Operations Director; Selby Dorgan, LSW, Health Promotion/Education Director.



## Mansfield/Ontario/Richland County Health Department

555 Lexington Ave. • Mansfield, OH 44907  
419-774-4500 • [www.richlandhealth.org](http://www.richlandhealth.org)

Protecting and Promoting Health with an Ounce of Prevention

*An equal opportunity employer/provider of services*

## Spotlight On Our Programs

# Health Department

## Mansfield/Ontario/Richland County Health Department

### 2006 Annual Report

*“Public health agencies are a lot like fire departments. They teach and practice prevention at the same time that they maintain readiness to take on emergencies. They are most appreciated when they respond to emergencies. They are most successful — and least noticed — when their prevention measures work best.*

*In another respect, the two are different. Everyone knows what a fire department does; few know what a public health department does. The very existence of health departments is testament to the fact that when legislators, county commissioners and other policy makers understand what those departments do, they support them. It is a rare person who, once familiar with the day-to-day activities of a public health department, would want to live in a community without a good one.”\**

## Our Mission Statement

The primary mission of the Mansfield/Ontario/Richland County Health Department is to provide citizens of all ages with quality public health services and programs. These programs are designed to prevent disease and disability, prolong life, and promote health and individual well-being. This mission is to be achieved through organized community programs that:

- Prevent and control the spread of communicable and chronic diseases.
- Maintain and improve a healthy, safe environment.
- Deliver preventative health services and follow-up care to high-risk people and groups.
- Inform and educate about individual wellness and community health.
- Provide bio-terrorism and emergency-related leadership and services to the public.

\*from *Healthy Communities: New Partnerships for the Future of Public Health*, 1996. Washington State Dept. of Health.



## Public Health Day Awards

“Friends of Public Health” awards, recognizing outstanding contributions to the Health Department's programs or public health within the community, were awarded to three groups during Public Health Day in Richland County, April 5.

Awards went to the “Knotty Ladies” and the MedCentral Health System

Command Team, while WVNO Radio was presented with the tenth annual “Media Award” for coverage of health-related issues.

The Knotty Ladies, a quilting circle from the United Methodist Church of the Cross in Lexington, Ohio, have sewn and knotted baby quilts for the baby showers for the Richland County WIC clients.

The MedCentral Health System Command Team helped save thousands of dollars worth of vaccine for the Health Department when a power failure during the 2005 ice storm left the facility without electricity.

The tenth annual “Media Award” was presented to WVNO. Throughout the snow and ice storms of 2005, WVNO provided continuous around-the-clock coverage and information to the residents of Richland County and North Central Ohio.

The keynote speaker was Bonnie Hoppel, Bureau of Health Promotion and Risk Reduction at the Ohio Department of Health.



Stan Saalman (back) and WIC Director Tina Picman (second from left) with the “Knotty Ladies” at Public Health Day.

[www.richlandhealth.org](http://www.richlandhealth.org)



Vital Statistics Vital to Residents

The Vital Statistics division of the Mansfield/Ontario/Richland County Health Department maintains records of all births and deaths in Richland County since 1908. Statistics are kept on Richland County births and births to teens, causes of death and incidences of disease. This information assists in planning health programs and services that meet the needs of our community.

Heather Wilson, Deputy Registrar, helps people obtain the birth and death certificates they need. Last year, the Health Department's Vital Statistics office filed 1,325 birth certificates and 1,138 death certificates. But the same office issued 6,483 birth certificates and just under 4,200 death certificates. Why the difference in the numbers?

"You need a birth certificate when a child registers for school, when you go to get your driver's permit, and for passports (now including Canada and Mexico)," Heather says, citing a few examples. "Most people can't find their original when they need it and have to get a new one."

The same thing applies to death certificates, the bulk of which are acquired by funeral homes as services for their clients. "You have to have one for proof in claiming life insurance, pension plans, social security, for wills or estates, veteran services, and closing bank accounts," Heather says. "Some utility companies may even require one to turn off services at the house of the deceased."

Heather points out that one of the biggest changes in obtaining a birth certificate came about after the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001. "At that time you could obtain a non-certified birth certificate which could easily be tampered with. The state has closed that loophole." Changing to a certified birth certificate, to cut down on identity theft, resulted in a hefty raise in fees to obtain a birth certificate. Nearly half of the \$20 fee goes to the state with the balance of the cost left to cover the operation of the Vital Statistics office.

Although any Ohio resident can obtain certificates through the Ohio Department of Health, Heather believes Richland County residents will be happier going through the process here.

"You fill out a form at the front desk, pay the \$20 fee, go 10 feet to the Vital Statistics office and have the certificate printed," Heather says. "In most cases it takes less than 10 minutes."

Residents can also mail a request for a certificate with a check (no cash) and forms, which are available through the Health Department's web page, filled out in advance. A request can also be made over the phone.



Although the Health Department is going to a computerized system, Heather Wilson has to use a microfilm reader occasionally to find some birth certificates.

<b>Vital Statistics .....</b>	<b>2003 ...</b>	<b>2004 ...</b>	<b>2005...</b>	<b>2006</b>
<b>Births (excludes Shelby) .....</b>	<b>1,338.....</b>	<b>1,323.....</b>	<b>1,270.....</b>	<b>1,325</b>
To Teens .....	165.....	181.....	187.....	198
Unwed Teens .....	153.....	164.....	178.....	175
Repeat Teens .....	26.....	28.....	28.....	32
Total Unwed (All Ages).....	508.....	499.....	485.....	429
Repeat Births (All Ages) .....	787.....	778.....	746.....	766
Teen Births % of Total .....	.123.....	.136.....	.147.....	.149
Unwed Births % of Total .....	.379.....	.377.....	.382.....	.323

Administration

Administration includes the Health Commissioner, Human Resources, Fiscal Operations, Information Technology, and Reception/Switchboard.

"Administration is responsible for hiring employees, routing calls to various departments, coordinating computer and communication technologies, and maintaining the fiscal responsibility of the Health Department." *Dick Bartelheim, Director, Fiscal Operations*

<b>Vital Statistics .....</b>	<b>2003 ...</b>	<b>2004 ...</b>	<b>2005...</b>	<b>2006</b>
<b>Deaths (excludes Shelby) .....</b>	<b>1,094.....</b>	<b>1,117.....</b>	<b>1,108.....</b>	<b>1,138</b>
Male .....	533.....	584.....	542.....	543
Female .....	556.....	533.....	566.....	595
<b>Causes of Death .....</b>	<b>2003 ...</b>	<b>2004 ...</b>	<b>2005...</b>	<b>2006</b>
Heart Related.....	399.....	402.....	399.....	386
Cancer .....	211.....	256.....	168.....	238
Lung Diseases.....	89.....	99.....	119.....	102
Strokes/CVA .....	63.....	63.....	63.....	55
Flu/Pneumonia .....	43.....	42.....	63.....	52
Renal/Kidney Disease .....	31.....	29.....	29.....	54
Accidents .....	31.....	23.....	23.....	35
Alzheimers.....	12.....	27.....	21.....	*57
Suicide .....	22.....	9.....	13.....	14
Homicides.....	7.....	4.....	4.....	5
<i>*the large jump in Alzheimers deaths is due to changes in record keeping, with Alzheimers being listed as a primary rather than secondary cause.</i>				

BCCP Responding to Cancer Numbers

The number of cancer deaths in Richland County took a significant jump last year. While it may be difficult to determine why that happened, the Health Department's BCCP (Breast and Cervical Cancer Project) Program is taking a proactive approach. BCCP is a preventative program for the medically underserved designed to screen for breast and cervical cancer. Over the past grant year, 635 women in Region 5 (a nine-county area including Richland) were served.

Clients are sometimes referred by a physician or the clinic, but most contact the program directly. Phone screenings are done for income and age eligibility and then Case Managers try to set them up for exams. Nearly 75 providers work with the BCCP Program to schedule the exams.

The program provides free pap smears and pelvic and breast exams for women age 40 and above. Mammograms are done for women age 50 and over or if the client is at high risk.

Once a person is enrolled, Case Managers do follow-ups and continue to schedule yearly screenings.

There are three Case Managers and a Clerk in the Region 5 BCCP office. The program is projecting more than 800 contacts in 2007.



BCCP Case Manager Melissa Culler spends a lot of time contacting clients.

Health Promotion

Health Promotion/Education works to help people in Richland County take more control over their personal health as well as the health and well-being of the community and the environment.

"Our department is a staff of four multi-talented people. We may be small but we are mighty. We are involved in community-based projects as well as almost any service the Health Department offers." *Selby Dorgan, Manager, Health Promotion/Education*

**Health Promotion Services**

**County Wellness Program:**

**692 cholesterol screenings at local work sites and county agencies in 2006**

**Safe Communities Grant:**

**Child Car Seat Safety Checks; Seat Belt Education; DUI Awareness Education; Senior Driver Course**

**Education materials:**

**Brochures and Videos; Health Presentations**

**Maintain Health Department Web Site**

Safe Communities Targets Driving Safety

Through a grant from the Ohio Department of Public Safety, the Health Department formed the Safe Communities Coalition to make a difference in traffic crashes with education, engineering, and enforcement.

Part of the job is recording who's not obeying simple traffic rules such as speed limits, stopping for red lights, and wearing their safety belts.

Data shows that 20% of Richland County drivers are not wearing seat belts and that people are driving at higher speeds and not slowing down when they see a yellow light at an intersection.

While the Health Department does not enforce traffic laws, the data being gathered is used for education purposes and shared with Richland County law enforcement agencies.

Traffic crashes are the ninth leading cause of death in the United States and the number one cause of death for ages four to 20. Safe Communities is helping educate people to the fact that they are potentially putting their lives and the lives of others at risk.



Speed limits didn't slow this 55 mph driver on Lexington-Springmill Rd.

County Wellness Program



Loretta Cornell, Clinic Nursing Supervisor, does a cholesterol check.

Health Promotion/Education coordinates cholesterol screenings for county employees through its county wellness program. 692 screenings were done at local worksites and county agencies in 2006. Additionally, 118 county employees participated in a 12-week fitness program. Clerical Specialist Sue Eden schedules the screening dates.

Juggling Jobs Typical for Health Educator

Ask a Health Educator what he or she does at the Health Department on a daily basis and you may be in for lengthy discussion. Fact is, Health Educators Dana Eichelberger and Reed Richmond rarely know what they are going to be doing on a given day. Both start the day with a plan, but there are likely to be several interruptions and other items taking priority, and at the end of the day they may never have gotten to the thing they were going to do when they started at 8 a.m.

Welcome to the life of a Health Educator.



Dana Eichelberger, a Child Passenger Safety Technician, supervises a mother as she installs child safety seats for her twins.

Dana is a licensed dietitian, so a good part of what she does involves talking to individuals and groups about healthy lifestyles.

But a Health Educator has to have a general knowledge of all kinds of health-related subjects. That means having access to the latest information and being able to condense that into a useable, and understandable, form for the public. That translates into bulletin boards and flyers and news releases in addition to organizing public events.

Reed is in charge of the public web site, graphic design and advertising, publications and brochures and the monthly *Health Report*. A licensed Ohio driving instructor, Reed is familiar with traffic safety issues and helps run the Safe Communities Grant. He also coordinates the Health Department's Senior Driver Safety Program.

Dana has been a lead person for cardiovascular health programs, including the annual "Whodunit"

program in Bellville and the twice yearly Hike For Health at Malabar Farm, and is one of the main contacts for the annual Minority Health Fair. She also helps with the County Wellness Program, including doing blood pressure checks.

The Health Department has four Certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians, including both of the Health Educators. Dana oversees the Health Department's Car Seat Program, including coordinating with the Regional Ohio Buckles Buckeyes program, which provides car seats for needy parents. Dana also passes this knowledge along when she co-teaches the Senior Driver Safety class.

Both Health Educators are frequently called on for public speaking roles and either one may be asked to do media news releases on breaking health information vital to Richland County residents.

Basically, Health Educators know when they get to work it's going to be a busy day. Even if they don't always know what they'll be doing.

**Contacting the Health Department**

**Main Number .....** **419-774-4500**

**Environmental Health .....** **419-774-4520**

**Public Health Nursing .....** **419-774-4540**

**Health Promotion/Education .....** **419-774-4544**

**WIC.....** **419-774-4560**

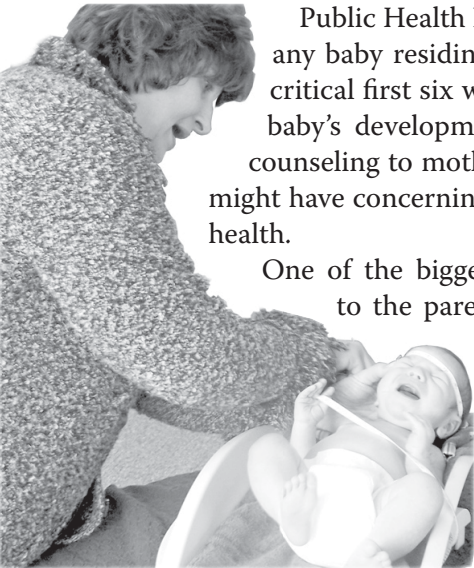
**Public Health Clinic .....** **419-774-4700**

**Internet Website .....** **www.richlandhealth.org**



Making House Calls

Newborn Home Visits, a preventative program that has been shown to improve infant health, is one of those programs that helps emphasize the Health Department motto “An ounce of prevention.”



Public Health Nurse Sue McFarren measures and weighs a baby during a home visit.

Public Health Nurses call to schedule visits with any baby residing in Richland County during the critical first six weeks of life. Besides checking the baby’s development, Home Visit Nurses provide counseling to mothers on any health questions they might have concerning the baby or their own postnatal health.

One of the biggest benefits is offering education to the parents. Often all a mother needs is the reassurance that her baby is developing well and she is providing proper care and feeding. For new mothers there can be a lot of questions and the Home Visit offer an opportunity to reassure the mother.

The program also offers a unique opportunity to work with the entire family, something that only a Home Visit can accomplish.

If a problem is discovered, nurses can assist in providing referrals to the Health Department’s BCMH Program (see below) or other agencies that can provide help.

Most home visits are with healthy, happy babies. But when the home visit nurses do see a problem they have the resources to step in quickly and help both the baby and the parents.

Taking Care of Our Most Vulnerable

The Health Department’s Bureau for Children with Medical Handicaps (BCMh) is a program designed to help families of children with possible medical problems get early detection and help to provide financial support if long-term care or treatment is needed.

The BCMh program has two components. First, there’s a diagnostic part where Public Health Nurses check the child for any condition that may



Public Health Nurse Amy Jerger talks with a young BCMH client.

be debilitating such as coordination, breathing, heart, or developmental problems. The second part is the treatment program.

Clients meeting qualifications can reapply to the program annually until the child is 21 years old. BCMh covers the cost of items such as related doctor visits, lab work, medical equipment, and physical therapy.

The largest percentage of patients are ones you wouldn’t even know had a medical problem. These children may have heart or

seizure conditions for example. A small percentage of clients may require wheelchairs or other care products.

The Health Department’s BCMh Nurses help manage the case, do home visits, and help steer the family through the health care system, including referrals to other agencies where they can get help.

Nurses in the BCMh program help educate the families on what to expect and what they can do. It can be a scary time for parents, but the BCMh program is there to help and let them know that their children can live a full life even with a medical challenge.

Public Health Nursing

“Public Health Nurses are a valuable community resource for information and medical assistance. They work in schools, homes and various sites in the city and county. The Public Health Nurses provide care to all ages, from newborns to senior citizens.”

Judy Culler, Public Health Nursing Supervisor

Public Health Nursing in 2006.....	Total
Senior Health Assessments .....	2,012
Specialty Clinics.....	75
Children Immunized .....	596
Influenza Shots .....	4,213
Newborn Home Visits.....	420
Help Me Grow Referrals.....	963
BCMh Home Visits .....	3,232
Lead Investigations .....	12
School Health Nurses (Hours) .....	7,924
Communicable Disease Investigations.....	343
Sexually Transmitted Disease Investigations.....	765

Flu Shots Part of Mass Clinic Exercise

The Health Department is charged with the daunting task, should it be deemed necessary, of immunizing the entire county population in 48 hours. The first flu clinic, held at the Fairgrounds on November 3, was a chance to test the County plan.

The three objectives for the exercise were (1) effective, safe traffic flow and parking (2) movement of clients through the clinic, and (3) utilization of Incident Command Structure and effective communications.

Volunteers from the Ohio Military Reserve manned the gates and parking lots at 9 a.m. Keith Markley, Richland County Emergency Management Agency Director, established an Emergency Operation Center (EOC) in the fair board office. Directing operations from the Health Department were nurses and key management personnel. Mansfield Police officers managed



Geissler administers a flu vaccine shot during the mass immunization drill.

traffic flow at Home Road and Longview. The exercise concluded at 3 p.m.

The community partners involved in the mass clinic exercise were: the Emergency Management Agency, Mansfield Fire Department, Mansfield Police Department, Richland County Sheriff’s Office, MedCentral Health System, the American Red Cross, RSVP, Citizen Emergency Response Team (CERT members), Springfield Twp. EMS, the Ohio Military Reserves, 41st Military Battalion, NCSC School of Nursing, and the fair board. Nearly 100 volunteers or representatives from other agencies assisted in the exercise. This does not include 55 Health Department employees who also participated in the exercise.

With the assistance of these agencies and our public health expertise at mass vaccinating, we were able to immunize 800 people in one hour and 20 minutes. The average time spent from start to finish at the busiest time was approximately 15 minutes. After the crowds thinned, the time was about seven minutes door to door. More than 1,500 immunizations were given during this flu clinic.

Environmental Health

“The Environmental Health Staff works to protect the public health by applying programs to reduce exposure to pathogens, poisons, and irritants, reduce unsafe conditions, and to protect the environment for future generations.”

Wes Engelbach, Sanitarian Supervisor

Environmental Health in 2006.....	Total*
Air Pollutions.....	117
Campgrounds.....	59
Communicable Diseases .....	10
Foodborne Illness Outbreaks.....	28
Food Establishments (grocery stores).....	466
Food Services (all types & restaurants).....	2,548
Lead Contamination.....	288
Manufactured Home Parks .....	116
Nuisance - food, sewage & other .....	453
Nuisance - solid waste .....	325
Rabies Control - dogs & cats.....	212
Rabies Control - wild & others .....	26
Plumbing - residential .....	1,522
Plumbing - commercial.....	1,350
Plumbing - other .....	215
Schools/Institutions .....	82
Sewage System, all types .....	908
New residential, sewage.....	612
Solid Waste .....	192
Swimming Pools.....	254
Vector Control (insects, rats).....	158
Water Supply, all types .....	204
New residential, water.....	524
All other types (not categorized) .....	433
*Inspections, Investigations, Consultations.....	11,102

Safe Water Goal of Sanitarians

Last year, Sanitarians at the Health Department performed 612 new residential septic consultations and inspections. It’s a three-step process:



Greg Tedrow uses a hand auger to obtain a soil sample.

inspecting the site, approving the plans and then doing a final inspection after the job is complete.

Site evaluations involve going to the site and taking a soil sample. Sanitarians check the soil sample for texture and color and how much rock is present. Items like that determine how big the septic system needs to be or the depth of the tile field. If there is too much rock, for example, then there’s not enough soil to filter (clean) the sewage.

With this data in hand, the septic installer will draw up plans that a Sanitarian will check again for enough footage, correct depth, and elevation of lines. When the septic system is installed, there is a final inspection.

The goal of the program is to assure the safety of the ground water.

Safe Food Means Following the Code

When a Sanitarian starts a food service inspection, the main tools of the trade are a note pad, pen and several thermometers. The thermometers are going to get a workout.



Sanitarian Becky Faulk inspects food storage.

Thermometers are used to check that food is cooked at the right temperature and stays at the right temperature where it is served. Refrigerators and freezers are also checked to make sure food is stored at the proper temperature.

Sanitarians even have a thermometer that rides through the dishwasher to make sure the hot water is the right temperature, too.

Five Sanitarians at the Health Department do food inspections. They are responsible for seeing that food operations, including restaurants and grocery stores, follow food safety codes that protect the public from potentially lethal food-borne bacteria.

Temperatures play a big role, but safe storage of food and proper sanitation of cooking appliances and counter tops is important as well.

All Sanitarians write up a report and go over their findings with the manager or supervisor. A surprising number of details have to be covered in a food service inspection, but the vast majority result in the Sanitarians being satisfied that the proper attention is being paid to safely serving food to the public in Richland County.

Lead Testing Coordinates with Nursing

Lead poisoning, although preventable, can be deadly or have long-lasting health affects in children. Joy Gieb, a Public Health Nurse, helps coordinate child testing for the Health Department.

“When we get a high level reading for lead in a child, either through our testing or from a report by another physician,” Joy says, “our next step is to determine where they are exposed to lead. Usually that means their environment.”

That’s when a nurse calls Environmental Health to have the home tested, using a portable lead analyser (which looks something like a laser gun) to x-ray painted surfaces in the house.

“If the paint is intact we normally don’t have a problem,” says Andy Barnes, a Sanitarian trained in using the equipment. “When we have paint flaking off of surfaces, particularly in



Sanitarian Jennifer Frazier conducts a lead analyser test.

older houses, we have the potential for children breathing in the lead dust or injecting the lead paint.” Andy warns that while lead-based paint is a leading culprit, other factors, such as occupational exposure, can be contributors. If a problem is discovered, Enironmental Health will work with the home owner to see what can be done to eliminate the problem. Meanwhile, a nurse will be arranging medical care for the child.

“Young children are more at risk because their body systems are still growing,” Joy says. “Like most medical problems, the early the detection the greater the chances for recovery.”

Public Health Nursing did 12 investigations due to children reported with high doses of lead in their blood and Environmental Health conducted the home inspections. Together, the two departments are helping to assure healthier children and a safer environment for Richland County.



It's All About Nutrition

Statistics point out that every dollar spent on pregnant women in WIC produces \$1.92 to \$4.15 in Medicaid savings for newborns and their mothers. More importantly, it provides infants and children with a healthy start in life by combating poor or inadequate diets.

“That’s really what it’s about,” says Nutritionist Emily Mann. “We provide nutrition education and assist moms in planning healthy meals.”

Karen Charek adds that the Nutritionists can address multiple nutritional risks and encourage solutions. “We see a lot of diets low in vegetables and high in junk,” she says.



Nutritionist Emily Mann checks the charts on a prenatal WIC client.

The program also encourages breastfeeding of newborns and the Nutritionist are there to help. “We conduct breastfeeding classes and address breastfeeding issues a client may have,” says Bethany Haring. “We can also issue breast pumps and breastfeeding supplies.”

Potential WIC clients are seen by appointment and must provide completed WIC forms and proof of household income as part of the eligibility criteria. The Nutrition Assistants weigh and measure pregnant women and children and also do a finger stick for a blood iron test.

“It can get pretty hectic when you are dealing with multiple family members,” says Bernie Kaniecki. “Sometimes a little bribery is involved to get the kids to cooperate.”

Other services provided by WIC include on-site voter registration, Farmer’s Market coupons for locally-grown fresh fruits and vegetables, and review of vaccine shot records.

“We keep up with their immunization records and can refer them to our Clinic for adult or child shots,” says Nutrition Assistant Marie Doan.

Since the WIC Program is funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, many federal fiscal policies need to be followed along with detailed accounting. Brenda Saalman, Administrative Assistant, handles fiscal duties and designs nutrition education and outreach materials.

WIC participants are certified every six months. Children can qualify for WIC services up to age 5. WIC coupons are printed during each WIC appointment and are redeemable at locally-approved grocery stores for nutritious foods such as milk, eggs, iron-fortified cereals and infant formula.

The WIC Team strives to provide top-notch nutrition services to young families in Richland County every day of the year.

Pandemic Flu Forums in 2006

Pandemic flu preparedness was the subject of two community forums as well as many small and large group presentations throughout the year. The forums addressed how the community agencies would work together to protect the community in the event of a pandemic flu outbreak.

Richland County community partners joined the Health Department in these forums, which were attended by approximately 100 citizens. The forums emphasized the importance of emergency preparedness as it relates to our families, businesses, schools, and churches in the face of pandemic flu possibilities. One forum participant wrote, “The information was educational and practical. The planning of the various local organizations that has already been done was impressive.”

Pandemic flu preparedness materials and handouts are available at the Health Department’s web site or by calling 419-774-4544.

419-774-4500

WIC: Women, Infants & Children

“WIC (Women, Infants, Children) is the nation’s premier public health nutrition program. With nutritious foods, nutrition counseling and referral to health care, WIC has helped to decrease anemia among pre-school children and improved pregnancy outcomes. Thousands of Richland County families have benefited from WIC and its services for nearly 30 years. I am proud to be a part of the WIC team. Other members of the WIC team include an Administrative Specialist, Nutritionists, Nutrition Assistants and a WIC Clerk. All are great advocates for WIC and are always eager to cheer about the WIC Program.”

Tina Picman, WIC Director

WIC Client Totals for 2006

New Participants.....	2,223
Recertifications.....	4,982
Other Contacts .....	5,557
Total Contacts .....	12,762

The total number of WIC coupons issued for 2006 was 133,347. The value of these coupons was \$2,178,037.20, which greatly contributed to our Richland County economy. WIC participants served during 2006 averaged 3,324 per month.

Communicable Disease Team Kept Busy

The Health Department Communicable Disease Program serves to prevent and control the spread of communicable diseases through investigation, providing immunization, education and sometimes treatment. Receiving reports on more than 80 different reportable diseases are nurses and an epidemiologist.



Epidemiologist Mary Derr speaks at the PanFlu Forum.

“The Health Department has a major role in investigating communicable diseases and attempting to prevent further spread of disease,” says Mary Derr, an epidemiologist. “Our primary focus is prevention. Many diseases can be prevented with immunizations, proper hand washing and proper cooking of food.”

One of the jobs of the communicable disease nurse is follow-up on a report. Once an illness or infection is reported to the Health Department, the nurse will contact the client for more information. More information is gathered on the type of disease in order to determine when, where, and how it is spread. Some illnesses require treating the clients’

close contacts in order to avoid a further spread of the disease.

The Communicable Disease Prevention Team investigates more than 1,000 reports of suspected and confirmed communicable disease each year. After diagnosis is confirmed, the team ensures that the patient understands the disease and the next steps in the care process.

Public Health Clinic

The Clinic Staff developed this purpose statement in August 2005: “The purpose for the Public Health Clinic is to be of service to all people by providing health care, promoting wellness, providing education and treating illness.”

Loretta Cornell, Clinic Nursing Supervisor

Clinic Visits in 2006 ..... Total

Adult Medical Clinic .....	124
Breast & Cervical Health Screening (BCCP).....	586
Child Health .....	522
Clinic Influenza Shots .....	1,450
General Health .....	3,253
HIV Testing (clinic tests) .....	219
Immunizations.....	3,023
Satellite Immunizations .....	460
Travel Immunizations .....	846
Nutrition Education .....	47
Prenatal/OBGYN .....	695
Reproductive Health° .....	1,026
TB Testing.....	1,432
Total Visits for 2006 .....	12,477

°Includes Women’s Health and STD testing and treatment.

Taking the Clinic on the Road

Public health nurses who work satellite immunizations are true believers when it comes to preventative medicine. The Health Department goes to communities throughout Richland County with its Child Immunization Clinics and Senior Health Screenings and last year added Community Health Screenings.

There are many reasons why someone can’t get to the Public Health Clinic so the satellite clinics are making access to health care easier.



Clinic nurse Jean Pruitt delivers a vaccine dose at a child immunization satellite clinic.

Child immunizations, available at 12 satellite locations, start at birth and go through age 18, but recommendations for vaccines can change. For example, Varicella (Chickenpox) is now required before kindergarten and Meningococcal (Meningitis) is recommended before college attendance.

Nine shots are recommended before children are 15 months old. One nice addition is that the Health Department now has combination shots so several immunizations can be done with one shot.

Senior Health Screenings check on the health of those 60 and over with a variety of free check-ups. Community Health Screenings were an outgrowth of that program. It affords people who need routine health screenings such as children or adults who have not seen a doctor for an annual check-up an opportunity to get “age appropriate” health screenings, the majority of which are free. Referrals are also made to the Health Department clinic to see a doctor when appropriate.

The satellite clinics are a wonderful educational opportunity allowing the nurses to preach the preventative message.

Just a Normal Day in the Clinic

On any given day, the Beatty Public Health Clinic is a hive of activity and the workers there are the busy bees.

Up front, Clinic Clerks are checking people in, scheduling appointments and handling complex billing issues.

Behind the doors, Clinic Nurses may be juggling prenatal clients, general health patients, child health cases, and reproductive health issues. That means they may be called on to do physicals, call the hospital for records and tests, consult with doctors, find out what medications a client is taking and how to get them the medications they need, do developmental screenings on children, administer immunizations, and test for and treat sexually transmitted diseases.

Time spent with a client can vary depending on his or her needs. Sometimes a nurse will spend an entire morning with one client. Then there are special days, like back-to-school shots, where a nurse may see 50 clients in one morning.

Because of the range of health cases they’ll see during a day, it’s important for Clinic Nurses to have a good breadth of knowledge on a wide variety of health issues. For example, in the recently expanded

prenatal program, nurses can handle general prenatal care and route patients to the OB/GYN specialist from Women’s Care in our own clinic.

Other workers in the clinic, however, may be specializing in a certain programs such as TB testing, HIV testing and counseling, diet counseling or international travel immunizations.

The travel immunization program is a great example of the Health Department seeing and meeting a need in the community. The program makes sure that international travelers are up-to-date with routine immunizations, recommended vaccines, and required vaccines for their destination. Richland County residents traveling overseas don’t have to go to Cleveland or Columbus for specialized shots against such diseases as typhoid, malaria and yellow fever.



Stacey Nolen, a licensed Social Worker, consults with a prenatal client in the clinic.

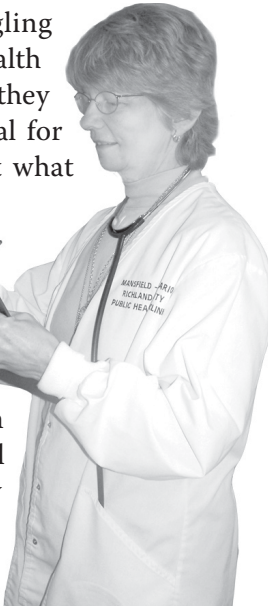
A social worker in the clinic may be called in when a client has a situation and doesn’t know where to go for help.

Often that means helping the client through what can be can be a hodge-podge of forms that may be overwhelming or confusing. This past year, many senior citizens got help transitioning to Medicare Part D through the Clinic’s social worker.

A major part of the Social Worker’s job involves helping qualifying clients apply for patient assistance programs through pharmaceutical companies to obtain needed medication at no cost.

Social workers may also see clients with issues such as domestic violence, substance abuse, or sub-standard housing. The social worker may then help them get counseling or refer them to other agencies that can provide them with the services they need.

Some days the Clinic workers feel less like bees in a coordinated activity and more like the steel ball in a pinball machine, bouncing from one client to the next or from one assignment to the next. However, amidst the controlled chaos, a lot of work is getting done.



Clinic Nurse Martha Parrott checks a chart.