

# STARK HEALTH

DEPARTMENT

*Striving Toward a **Healthier** Community.*



**MISSION:** “Our mission is to assess, protect, promote, and improve the health of Stark County through leadership, quality service, and community partnerships.”

**VISION STATEMENT:** “Striving towards a healthier community with public health excellence.”



# 2019 Annual Report



**Kirkland K. Norris**  
*Health Commissioner*

# Health Commissioner's Report

The department is very proud to celebrate the privilege of serving the residents of Stark County for **100 years!**

January 30, 2020 marked the 100th year anniversary of the Stark County Health Department. While public health issues have changed over time, the hard working dedicated professionals at the health department have continued the work, started long ago, to ensure significant positive impacts on the health and quality of life for the Stark County community.

Many high level projects continue to take center stage within the county. These projects, which speak directly to the health and wellbeing of the community, are services and programs that are implemented to protect and promote public health. The strong collaboration within the county has brought a considerable decrease in the Infant Mortality Rate, a decrease in opiate doses dispensed by providers in Stark County, and expanded access to and use of Naloxone – a non-addictive, overdose reversing lifesaving drug. Youth Suicide Prevention Activities have also remained in the forefront with all service agencies continuing the outstanding work towards protection of our school aged youth.

Another high level project was the successful relocation of the health department offices to the Park Centre Plaza. While leaving an area that had been established as “home base” for over 25 years is never an easy thing to do, the benefits of the new location outweighed the old. These benefits include:

- Cost Savings
- Parking providing over 220 spots
- All Service Areas under one roof leading to high efficiency program delivery, improved customer service and quality of service.
- Customer Accessibility
- Improved Client/Patient Privacy
- Continued partnership with the Stark County Building Department

This report provides an overview of services and programs that are implemented within our community to protect and promote public health. The report also focuses on vital partnerships and accomplishments aimed at creating a healthier Stark County.

I would like to thank all of the Townships, Cities, and Villages for your continued support of the health department. The health of our community is our number one priority and the dedicated health professionals of the Stark County Health Department are working very diligently to assure a healthier and safer Stark County.

On behalf of the Stark County Board of Health, staff, and myself, it is with great pride that we present the Stark County Combined General Health District 2019 Annual Report.

Respectfully Submitted,  
**Kirkland K. Norris**, *Health Commissioner*



# VAPING NOT INCLUDED IN SMOKING LAW

**Local Enforcement:** The Stark County Health Department has been enforcing the Smoke-Free Ohio Law since 2007. Over the past twelve years, the program has changed. Today, we rarely see smoking violations in bars or restaurants. In recent years our complaints and violations are overwhelmingly against skill game establishments. The issuance of violations and fines rarely results in smoking policy changes in these businesses. These establishments are willing to pay hefty fines and continue to smoke rather than initiate the Departmental or Administrative Review process. Many of the skill game business owners conceal their identity, making them difficult to regulate. Our department has the highest fined establishment in the state, with over \$100,000 in fines issued.

The Ohio General Assembly has provided us with an unlikely ally against smoking violators in skill game establishments, the Gaming Commission. The Gaming Commission has written the administrative rules which classify skill games. Since July 2018, small scale gambling establishments have been operating illegally. As a result, beginning in July of 2018, several rounds of raids on skill games establishments in Stark County have been completed through a joint investigation. The joint investigation included the following agencies: US IRS, US FDA Office of Criminal Investigations, US Secret Service, FBI, Department of Treasury Office of Inspector General, and Ohio Casino Control Commission. With the closure of these establishments, the number of smoking complaints has decreased during 2019.

**Vaping:** Recent media coverage has highlighted the adverse health effects, hospitalities, and deaths that have been contributed to electronic cigarettes (AKA e-cigarettes, vaping). Many have wondered why the Smoke-Free Law has not banned the use of these products in public areas and places of employment. The Smoke-Free Ohio Law was written before the use of these products and the rules are based on the burning of tobacco only. The liquid used to vape does contain nicotine, glycerin, propylene glycol, and various other potentially hazardous chemicals; the liquid does not contain tobacco. Therefore, Smoke-Free Ohio does not apply to e-cigarettes.

Ohio Department of Health (ODH) reports no discussion has taken place to include vaping within the Smoke-Free Ohio rules. Yet, they are working to curb use in teens and young adults. ODH will include vaping as part of the Tobacco Use Prevention and Cessation Program (TUPCP). The TUPCP will add vaping grant deliverables to local funding, run two mass media campaigns, and is working to develop online training for youth, parents and school personnel. On the federal level, the FDA has included vaping products in a new law which bans the sale of tobacco products to anyone under the age of 21 and is working towards banning sweet e-cigarette flavors most appealing to young adults.

For more information on vaping, please visit <https://www.fda.gov/news-events/public-health-focus/lung-illnesses-associated-use-vaping-products>.

## SCHD'S 2019 ACCREDITATION JOURNEY

### Enhancing Quality Improvement through Performance Management

In 2019, the Stark County Health Department (SCHD) continued to meet conformity with the Public Health Accreditation Board's (PHAB) standards and measures, as well as improve the overall department while working toward the reaccreditation requirements. Over the past year the SCHD:

- Submitted the 2018 Annual Report to PHAB
- Strengthened community relationships through collaboration
- Provided accreditation assistance to local health departments
- Revamped the Quality Improvement (QI) & Workforce Development plans
- Made improvements to the customer satisfaction survey
- Created a client grievance procedure
- Developed a Communications Plan, Brand & Identity Guide & QI Workbook
- Identified a new Performance Management (PM) dashboard

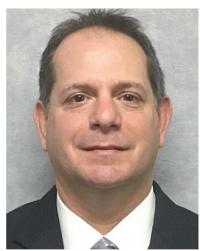
Early in the SCHD's accreditation journey, the PM team identified several limitations with the current performance management dashboard. Since performance management directly links to quality improvement, the identified limitations were an issue. The team began researching PM Dashboard's but nothing met the needs or was cost effective for the health department. In June of 2019, the Ohio Department of Health offered the Clear Impact PM Software System to all public health agencies throughout Ohio. The PM Software met the needs of the department allowing the SCHD to collect, organize, analyze, and share department and community-wide data. The department's quality improvement process utilizes PM data to improve policies, programs, and outcomes, ultimately improving the health of the public. The SCHD received training on the Clear Impact software at the end of 2019 and will fully implement the software in 2020.

As PHAB continues to improve the quality and performance of all public health departments throughout the United States, the SCHD, along with the other 38 accredited health departments within Ohio, will continue to support and advance the practice of public health.

## SERVICE DIRECTORS



**Kay Conley, MPA, CHES**  
Administration  
& Support Services Director



**Paul DePasquale, RS, MPA**  
Environmental Health  
Services Director



**Sherry Smith, MS, BSN, RN**  
Nursing Services  
Director



**Maureen Ahmann, DO**  
Medical Director

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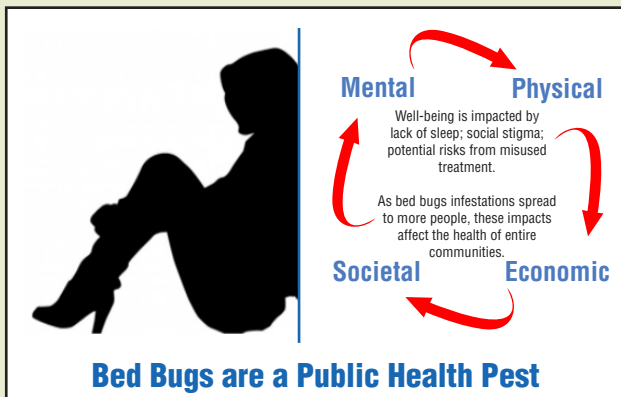
# RED BUGS



Creepy, crawly bed bugs continue to plague the country. One of the hardest-hit areas in the country by bed bug infestations is Northeast Ohio. Thankfully, bed bugs do not directly transmit

diseases, yet the effect of an infestation reaches all corners of public health. Active infestations are very damaging to our residents and community in various ways. Those living in a home with an Infestation are burdened economically as pest control companies are costly. Some employees have been banned from working at local businesses until the problem is under control. People may suffer mental anguish from a lack of sleep, anxiety, and even banishment from family and friends. As a result of the impacts seen from bed bugs, the CDC and USEPA have declared the bed bug as a “pest of significant public health importance.”

Bed bug programs have not been a part of traditional public health and do not receive any funding for support, as these insects have not been found to transmit disease directly. Even so, the public looks to the Stark County Health Department (SCHD) for guidance. The SCHD is leading our community through education, outreach, and inspections at our licensed facilities. Our staff has been busy conducting inspections at licensed facilities, presenting educational programs, fielding calls from residents, and developing social media campaign “Bed Bugs: Facts Not Fear.” Also, the SCHD chairs the Stark County Bed Bug Prevention Taskforce, which aligns the public health response from all four health departments in the county. The Taskforce focuses on community outreach and provides education on identification, biology, prevention, and treatment. Over the past year, the SCHD has presented at the Public Health Combined Conference, Northeast Ohio Environmental Health Association, Stark MRDD, school districts, nursing home facilities, and numerous safety councils across northeast Ohio.



## ADMINISTRATION & SUPPORT SERVICES



**Front row:** Kay Conley, Steve Ling & Laurie Middleton.  
**Second row:** Chelsea Sadinski, Tasha Catron, Diana Warren, Carmalee Hand Cananne, Amber Walpole & Gina Davis.  
**Third row:** Amanda Kelly, Kelly Potkay, Amy Ascani, Logan Valentine, Tonya Wagler, Mindi Nickels & Sharon Bagnolo.

## 2019 PROPERTY TRANSFER SUMMARY

The 2019 property transfer program statistics are listed below, sorted by township. With a total of 922 inspections conducted within the seventeen townships in Stark County, 12% of the systems inspected were considered failing. “Failing” means that the system is causing a public health nuisance, which is defined in Ohio Revised Code 3718.011. An additional 11% had improperly discharging gray water. Each inspection is submitted to the Health Department for review. When the review is completed, additional information and education is provided to the buyer and seller on how to properly maintain the system to maximize its life span. All public health nuisances are required to be corrected, whether the system is failing, gray water is being improperly discharged, or both. Often corrections are made before the transaction closes or soon thereafter; sometimes funds are placed in escrow to be completed later. Unfortunately, occasionally neither is done, and the Health Department must initiate enforcement action against the buyer.

## 2019 PROPERTY TRANSFER INSPECTION BREAKDOWN

Township	Total Inspections	Septic Failure	Gray Water
BETHLEHEM	18	3	1
CANTON	55	6	8
JACKSON	106	7	6
LAKE	172	16	15
LAWRENCE	78	9	5
LEXINGTON	40	8	10
MARLBORO	37	8	9
NIMISHILLEN	60	1	8
OSNABURG	41	11	4
PARIS	48	6	6
PERRY	24	4	1
PIKE	28	2	2
PLAIN	106	10	11
SANDY	13	1	0
SUGARCREEK	25	6	2
TUSCARAWAS	32	8	3
WASHINGTON	39	9	8
<b>Totals</b>	<b>922</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>99</b>

## 2019 PROPERTY TRANSFER INSPECTION BREAKDOWN

2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
836	809	857	917	967	945	922

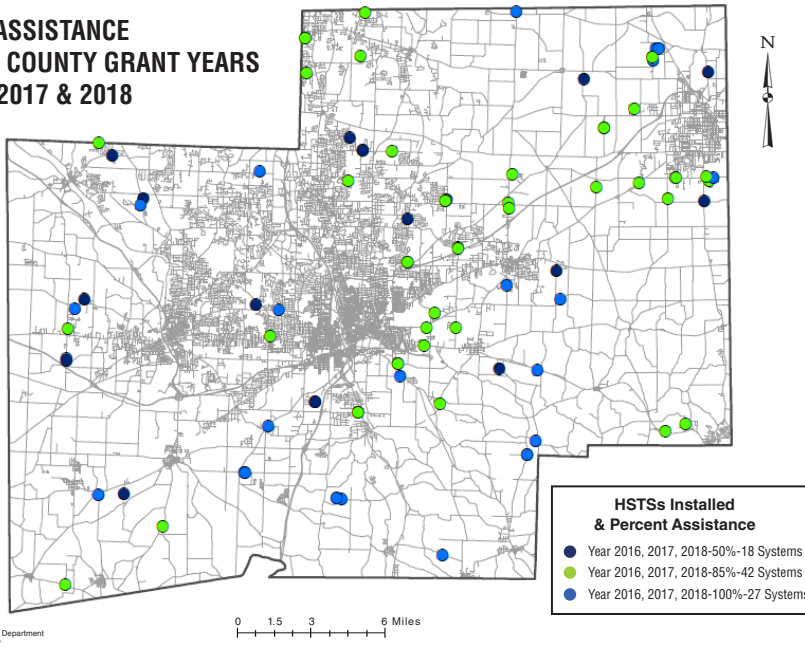
Lai, O., Ho, D., Glick, S., & Jagdeo, J. (2016). Bed bugs and possible transmission of human pathogens: a systematic review. Archives of Dermatological Research, 308(8), 531-538. doi: 10.1007/s00403-016-1661-8

## HELPING HOMEOWNERS: Aid to Replace Failing Septic Systems

The Stark County Health Department has again been funded by the Ohio EPA for 2020 to administer the WPCLF (water pollution control loan fund.) Past funding has been: 2016 - \$300,000; 2017 - \$300,000; 2018 - \$200,000; 2019 - \$150,000; and 2020 - \$150,000. We are currently working with 2019 funds, which must be expended by the end of November 2020. The funds are used to fix or replace failing septic systems or connect a home to the sanitary sewer. The applicant must meet the Ohio EPA income criteria and the septic system must actually be failing. An applicant can be awarded 100%, 85%, or 50% of the system's cost, based on household income. Shown below are the Ohio EPA's income guidelines and a map illustrating the distribution of systems installed under the program using 2016 through 2018 funds. If you would like information about this program, please contact Todd Paulus at (330) 451-1475.

# of people in home	100% of project cost paid if annual income at or below:	85% of project cost paid if annual income at or below:	50% of project cost paid if annual income at or below:
1-4	\$25,100	\$50,200	\$75,300
5	\$29,420	\$58,840	\$88,260
6	\$33,740	\$67,480	\$101,220
7	\$38,060	\$76,120	\$114,180
8	\$42,380	\$84,760	\$127,140

### HSTS ASSISTANCE STARK COUNTY GRANT YEARS 2016, 2017 & 2018



12-18-2019  
Stark County Health Department  
Stark County Auditor

## ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES STAFF



**Front Row (L to R):** Todd Ascani, Christina Gallion, Frank Klinger, Seth Watson, Paul DePasquale (EH Director), Alyssa Sulzener, Paige Seech, Nancy Petrovski, Courtney Myers,

**Back Row (L to R):** Deb Moore, Tim Heather, Todd Paulus, Phil Revlock, Randy Ruszkowski, Mike Hesson, John Pavel, Ivan Langovsky, Chris Novelli

**\*Not pictured:** Brittney Alverson, Dana Williams

## WHY IS THE COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PLAN IMPORTANT FOR STARK COUNTY?

During 2019 and into 2020, the Stark County Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) Advisory Committee has been working on the update to the 2017-2019 Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) for the next cycle to begin in 2020.

The 2020-2022 CHIP will focus on the following priority areas: Access to Health Care; Mental Health; Infant Mortality; and Obesity & Healthy Lifestyles. In addition to a report documenting the overall process, goals and long-term measures, the CHIP includes action plans for each of the four priority areas. The updates to these plans were facilitated by staff from the Department and Canton City Health Department in the last half of 2019, based on the findings identified in the 2019 Community Health Assessment. The CHIP was developed with input from a number of agencies and individuals living and/or working in Stark County. The CHIP will act as a guide for health improvements in the next three years through a comprehensive and collaborative approach.

The leadership in Ohio encourages local health departments and tax-exempt hospitals to partner and align to a 3-year timeline for the assessments and plans. The 2020 CHIP and SHIP (State Health Improvement Plan) will be the first time that state and all local health departments and hospitals will be on the same cycle. Fortunately in Stark County, all four health departments- Alliance City Health Department, Canton City Public Health, Massillon City Health Department and the SCHD -along with Aultman Alliance Community Hospital, Aultman Hospital and Mercy Medical Center have been partnering on the assessments and plans for years.

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**The CHIP is a tool to strengthen local efforts to improve health, wellbeing and vitality in Stark County and supports and aligns with the State Health Improvement Plan.** The effort to collaborate not only locally but statewide is a recommendation for improving population health planning infrastructure and outcomes in the county and state.

**THE CHIP IS  
A GUIDE TO  
ADDRESS THE  
CHALLENGES  
AND NEEDS  
IDENTIFIED IN THE  
2019 COMMUNITY  
HEALTH  
ASSESSMENT.**

*This report can be  
found at  
<https://starkcountyohio.gov/Public-Health>.*

## Leading Causes of Death

# 2019

Cancer	531
Heart Disease	518
Alzheimer's Disease	352
Chronic Lower Respiratory	183
Cerebrovascular Disease	154
Neurological	87
Kidney Disease	59
Sepsis	59
Accidental	50
Pneumonia	40
Accidental Drug	25
Suicide	24
Diabetes	18
Influenza	12
Homicide	2
Other	60
Pending	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,175</b>

## LEGIONNAIRE'S DISEASE RESPONSE

Legionnaire's Disease is a form of pneumonia caused by the *Legionella* bacteria. *Legionella* bacteria can cause 2 different types of illness: Pontiac Fever (a milder febrile illness) and Legionnaire's Disease, a form of pneumonia. Legionnaire's Disease is a relatively severe illness that opportunistically attacks those with weakened immune systems, the elderly, and those with a history of chronic lung ailments. Prompt treatment with antibiotics normally precludes further complications such as lung failure and death.

*Legionella* bacteria grow in water and are transmitted when contaminated water is aerosolized and breathed in. Contaminated water systems, hot tubs, cooling towers, or respiratory therapy equipment may be sources of *Legionella* growth. The best way to prevent Legionnaire's Disease is adequate maintenance of water systems. Keeping *Legionella* out of water systems in buildings is key to preventing infection. Facilities with large plumbing systems should have an up to date water management plan that details prevention of and response to potential *Legionella* growth. Hospitals, long term care facilities, and hotels should be particularly vigilant due to association of Legionnaire's Disease with exposure to these facilities. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has identified that there is no safe level of *Legionella* in potable water systems. The mortality rate for healthcare acquired infections is 25% (1 in 4).

Stark County has had 9 cases of Legionnaire's Disease this year, compared to 20 throughout all of 2018. Ohio as a whole experienced higher incidence of Legionnaire's Disease in 2018 than years past; as a result, new policies and interventions were implemented to mitigate transmission of the bacteria, including a much more proactive response to a single case within a healthcare facility. CDC recommends that public health officials perform a full investigation for the source of *Legionella* in a facility upon identification of:

- ≥1 case of definite healthcare-associated Legionnaires' disease at any time
- ≥2 cases of possible healthcare-associated Legionnaires' disease within 12 months of each other

### ONCE PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICIALS DECIDE TO CONDUCT A FULL INVESTIGATION, THEY NEED TO:

- Perform a retrospective review of cases in the health department surveillance database to identify earlier cases with possible exposures to the healthcare facility
- Develop a line list of possible and definite cases ever associated with the healthcare facility
- Work with healthcare facility staff to identify all new and recent patients with healthcare-associated pneumonia and test them for *Legionella* using both culture of lower respiratory secretions on media that supports growth of *Legionella* and the *Legionella* urinary antigen test
- Consider recommendations for restricting water exposures in the facility or other immediate control measures
- Facilitate an environmental assessment to evaluate possible environmental exposures
- Facilitate environmental sampling, as indicated by the environmental assessment
- Make recommendations for remediation of possible environmental source(s), if indicated
- Develop a risk communications plan
- Determine how long heightened disease surveillance and environmental sampling should continue to ensure the outbreak is over
- Work with healthcare facility staff to develop or review and possibly revise the water management program
- Follow up to assess the effectiveness of implemented measures to control the hazard

In the event of cases or outbreaks, implementing immediate protective measures including water use restrictions, installation of filters, and remediation may continue to decrease incidence of Legionnaire's Disease in our community.

## STARK COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT 2019

### *Admin & Support At-A-Glance*

- **\$2,270,163:** total number of grant funds received
- **8,514:** total number of death certificates issued
- **4,513:** total number of birth certificates issued
- **82:** total number of student academic experiences
- **4:** total number of Universities that sent students for a public health experience

## ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

### *At-A-Glance*

- **8,720:** Total number of Environmental Health Inspections
- **2,482:** Total number of Food Safety Inspections

# PRODUCE PRESCRIPTION PROGRAM SHOWED IMPROVED HEALTH IN STARK COUNTY RESIDENTS

**FOOD INSECURITY IS DEFINED BY THE USDA AS A LACK OF CONSISTENT ACCESS TO ENOUGH FOOD FOR AN ACTIVE, HEALTHY LIFE.**

With funding from the Ohio Department of Health’s Creating Healthy Communities (CHC) grant, the Stark County Health Department partnered with Produce Perks Midwest (PPM) to operate a Produce Prescription pilot program (PRx) in Stark County. PPM is a regional nonprofit committed to improving the health of underserved communities by increasing affordable access to healthy food.

The PRx program brings nutrition to the forefront of treatment – effectively prescribing patients to eat more fruits and vegetables as a way to treat and manage nutrition-related diseases. This pilot focused on more than just the patient, it supported families impacted by food insecurity who suffer from nutrition-related disease. It has been identified as one of Ohio’s greatest health challenges, and is associated with increased risk for nutrition-related disease, such as diabetes. The PRx approach focuses on working with healthcare providers to connect with patients suffering from diet-related disease and write prescriptions for free fruits and vegetables. Overall, the PRx program addresses improvements in three key areas including: health metrics; food insecurity; and food literacy.

Aultman Health Foundation was another key partner for the project. They were already addressing healthcare’s role in food insecurity and supported the need for the PRx program in the community. They identified Little Flower Family Practice in Canton as the participating healthcare provider for the pilot. In total, 37 adult patients and their families (142 Individuals) were enrolled in the 5-month program to receive monthly prescriptions for fruits and vegetables. Patients ranged in age from 27 to 83 years of age and were recruited into two cohorts of disease: diabetes (22) and obesity (15). Prescriptions were provided to both patients and family members to ensure the entire household would have adequate servings of fruits and vegetables to meet recommended daily values. The pilot ran from July – November to coincide with farmers’ market season, and prescriptions were able to be redeemed through December 2019.

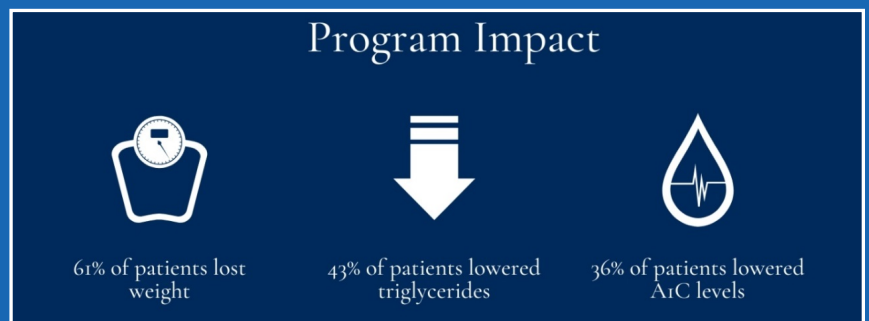
The program was structured to consist of 5-monthly healthcare provider visits and a group nutrition education session. At each of the monthly provider visits anthropometric measures were obtained including height, weight and blood pressure measurements. Additional labs including glucose, lipid panel and A1C measurements were collected for all patients at the initial (1st month) and final (5th month) provider visits. During one-on-one visits with the healthcare provider, patients discussed different nutrition education topics monthly and obtained their PRx prescriptions for fruits and vegetables. PRx prescriptions were only distributed during monthly visits, incentivizing patients to show up for their regular appointments. Patients and family members received prescriptions at a value of \$30 per month per household member. For example, a family of 3 would receive \$90 in PRx prescriptions each month through the program. In addition to the monthly provider visits, two group nutrition education sessions were held for participants. Both of these sessions were a chef-led style cooking class one in partnership with Ohio State University Extension and one with Pegasus Farm. These classes taught participants how to use common vegetables in a variety of easy recipes. Nutrition education was incorporated throughout the class and patients were given the opportunity to help prepare and taste the finished product.

Twenty-nine patients completed the program, 18 from the diabetic cohort and 11 from obesity. During the 5-month program about \$14,490 in prescriptions were distributed. Of that number, \$13,009.60 were redeemed at participating redemption sites, an 89.7% redemption rate. Prescriptions were redeemable through December 31, 2019 and were redeemed at the following participating sites: Canton Farmers’ Market, StarkFresh Mobile Grocery and Fishers Foods (see table and graph below).

Redemption Site	Jul '19	Aug '19	Sept '19	Oct '19	Nov '19	Dec '19	Total Redemptions
<b>Canton FM</b>	\$340.00	\$150.00	\$245.00				\$735.00
<b>StarkFresh</b>	\$170.00	\$45.00	\$150.00				\$365.00
<b>Fisher Foods</b>	\$55.00	\$2,186.73	\$1,719.15	\$1,644.38	\$2,080.63	\$4,223.71	\$11,909.60
<b>TOTAL</b>							<b>\$13,009.60</b>

In regards to health metrics for the PRx program, at the conclusion of the 5-month period improvements were seen among both cohorts. In the diabetic cohort, 66% of participants lost weight, with 2 individuals experiencing significant weight loss of 22.6 pounds and 17.4 pounds respectively, 36% decreased their A1C values and 50% lowered their triglycerides. In the obesity cohort, 50% of participants lost weight and 33% lowered their triglycerides.

There are a number of influencers that effect the maintenance and treatment of nutrition-related disease, but PRx took steps to address some of the modifiable factors. This program provided the patients and families with the means to obtain the recommended servings of fruits and vegetables. Coupled with the monetary resources, education and understanding from the healthcare provider, the program encouraged participants to make long lasting behavior change. Evidenced by the reported health metrics, improvements were seen even in the short 5-month pilot period. The hope is that this pilot encouraged patients to continue to make healthier food choices as a means to improve their health and incorporate more fruits and vegetables into their diet.



*continued on page 8*

# YOUTH SUICIDE PREVENTION

Suicide is a serious and growing preventable public health problem. Suicide and suicidal behaviors are associated with several risk and protective factors, are connected to other forms of injury and violence, and can cause serious health and economic consequences. Suicide in Ohio and nationally is a growing public health epidemic, particularly among young people. Suicide is the leading cause of death among Ohioans ages 10-14 and the second leading cause of death among Ohioans ages 15-34.

We continue to work on improving the mental health of youth in Stark County. Members of Stark County's Mental Health coordinating committee meet at least monthly to brainstorm, evaluate, improve, and coordinate all services to help Stark County children. Some of the improvements we are working on include identifying at risk students, identifying suicide risk factors, and identifying protective factors such as youth activities, social supports, and other factors that are most protective against suicide risk in order to guide immediate prevention activities.

One recommendation we continue to work on is administering on-going youth health and behavior surveys. The Northeast Ohio Youth Health Survey (NOYHS) that was used as one of the main methods in the Stark County epi-aid investigation in 2018 continues to be implemented yearly. The electronic survey in 2018 was administered to over 15,000 students in 7th-12th grades at participating Stark County Educational Services Center-affiliated schools. In 2019 the survey was administered to 18,616 students. Questions in the survey asked about connectedness, social media, mental health, life experiences, friendships, suicidal ideation, suicide attempts, and resiliency. In 2019, we added three questions on perception of harm of alcohol and/or drug use to the survey. After survey completion, each participating school district is given their confidential district survey results along with interim recommendations for suicide prevention strategies.

Another recommendation is to create protective environments by reducing access to lethal means among persons at risk of suicide. Through our local Child Injury Prevention Grant, the Stark County Health Department is collaborating with Stark County Mental Health and Addiction Recovery (StarkMHAR) to implement the youth suicide prevention strategy CALM, which is Counseling on Access to Lethal Means. StarkMHAR provides local emergency department staff with the CALM training to assist professionals when asking suicidal individuals about their access to lethal means and provides framework for working with individuals and their family to reduce their access. They have been able to provide additional support by purchasing 7,000 gun locks that are labeled with the crisis text line to distribute to the emergency departments.

Through implementation of these recommendations we hope to continue to bring positive attention to the issue of suicide through educating the community on youth suicide prevention. These recommendations help us and local partners form a response plan to find the root causes of youth deaths and school violence in our community and to allocate resources to implement interventions. We will continue implementing NOYHS annually to track progress on prevention activities. For information specific to youth suicide prevention please visit: <https://starkmhar.org/help/youth-suicide-prevention/>.



# NURSING 2019

## 2019 AT-A-GLANCE

- **3,589:** total number of immunizations administered
- **1,693:** total number of infectious diseases reported
- **375:** cribs distributed within the safe sleep program
- **4,293:** total number of visits completed with WIC clients
- **684:** Nursing Services home visits completed (CMH/Public Health Nurse/NICU, CHW HV)
- **625:** naloxone kits distributed to Project Dawn sites
- **378:** naloxone kits distributed to law enforcement (number includes expired kits replaced)
- **56:** overdose reversals report to SCHD by first responders
- **407:** Reproductive Health and Wellness visits
- **55:** Maternal Home Visit Birth Outcomes with 0 infant deaths (both THRIVE and Moms & Babies First)
- **81:** School Based Immunization Education Provided
- **206:** Baby & Me Tobacco Free sessions
- **612:** Directly Observed Therapy (DOT) visits



## PRODUCE PRESCRIPTION PROGRAM SHOWED IMPROVED HEALTH IN STARK COUNTY RESIDENTS *continued from pg 7*



The PRx pilot was made possible through funding from the CHC grant which is committed to preventing and reducing chronic healthy eating and tobacco-free spaces. The grant follows a five year cycle, which ran from 2015 – 2019. In those five years

a number of impactful projects were completed throughout Stark County in the priority communities of Northeast Canton, Southeast Canton and Massillon. With support from Stark County GIS, health department staff were able to physically map projects that have been completed throughout the grant cycle. On the GIS application icons are mapped representing projects from each focus area and include the following information: a description, status of the project, outcome, whether it was a policy, systems or environmental change, location, number impacted, partners involved and photos. The GIS application provides a visual representation of the work completed through CHC and helped Stark County Health Department secure funding for the next five year cycle, 2020 – 2024. To view this map, go to [www.LiveWellStarkCounty.com](http://www.LiveWellStarkCounty.com)



# REPORTABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASE SUMMARY

## Stark County Health Department Jurisdiction

DISEASE	2019	2018	DISEASE	2019	2018	DISEASE	2019	2018
Amebiasis	0	0	Hepatitis C - Chronic	139	129	Pertussis	23	23
Anaplasmosis	0	1	Hepatitis E	0	0	Psittacosis	1	0
Babesiosis	1	2	Influenza-associated Hospitalization	269	374	Salmonellosis	32	45
Campylobacteriosis	65	57	Influenza-associated pediatric mortality	0	0	Shigellosis	20	11
Chlamydia	698	688	LaCrosse Virus Disease	0	3	Streptococcal – Group A invasive	14	14
Coccidioidomycosis	0	0	Legionellosis	10	19	Streptococcal-Group B Newborn	1	1
Creutzfeldt-Jacob Disease	2	1	Listeriosis	2	1	Streptococcal Toxic Shock Syndrome (STSS)	0	0
Cryptosporidiosis	34	18	Lyme Disease	46	31	Streptococcal – Invasive Pneumoniae	19	24
Cyclosporiasis	3	8	Malaria	0	0	Toxic Shock Syndrome (TSS)	0	0
E. Coli, Shiga Toxin-producing	8	10	Measles	1	0	Tuberculosis	1	5
Giardiasis	16	12	Meningitis – Aseptic/Viral	5	32	Typhoid Fever	0	0
Gonorrhea	161	178	Meningitis-Bacterial (Not N. Meningiditis)	1	1	Varicella	16	12
Haemophilus Influenza Bacteremia	4	2	Meningococcal Disease	0	0	Vibriosis	2	1
Hepatitis A - Acute	12	6	Mumps	1	1	West Nile Virus	0	5
Hepatitis B – Acute	1	2	Mycobacterium Other Than TB	0	0	Yersiniosis	5	1
Hepatitis B – Chronic	37	47				Zika Virus Disease	1	0
Hepatitis B – Perinatal infection	1	0				<b>Total</b>	<b>1693</b>	<b>1807</b>
Hepatitis C - Acute	0	1						

\*This report includes confirmed, probable, and suspect cases reported 01/01/2018 – 12/31/2019

## COMMUNICABLE DISEASE HIGHLIGHTS, 2019

Microorganisms such as bacteria, viruses, parasites, or fungi cause communicable diseases (also known as infectious diseases). A person can contract a communicable disease from an infected person, an infected animal, and/or another infected source such as water or food. Stark County Health Department (SCHD) communicable disease staff keeps track of the number of persons infected by different communicable diseases throughout the year. They also conduct follow-up investigations on all reported diseases by collecting demographic and clinical information, as well as exposures to potential sources of disease. By collecting this data, we are able to determine potential sources of disease, quickly implement control measures, detect trends and outbreaks, and create targeted policies and programs to protect or improve the health of the community.

This annual summary represents the 2019 communicable disease data required by Ohio law to be reported to state and local health departments. Only those communicable diseases determined to be of public health importance are reportable therefore, this summary does not reflect all communicable disease in our community. Additionally, the summary represents only cases of disease for residents of Stark County Health Department jurisdiction and therefore does not include disease data for the cities of Alliance, Canton, or Massillon.

### 1) In 2019, SCHD reported and/or investigated several communicable disease outbreaks. Among these were:

- 1 outbreak of Shigellosis (associated with a daycare)
- 4 outbreaks of Hand, Foot, and Mouth Disease (associated with daycare facilities)
- 5 outbreaks of Norovirus or unspecified GI illness (associated with long-term care facilities, schools, restaurants, and parties)
- 2 outbreaks of Scabies (associated with long-term care facilities)

Each of these outbreaks was managed utilizing the guidelines and regulations developed by the Ohio Department of Health, and in conjunction with other health departments. Through the cooperation of every organization and private party impacted, SCHD was able to terminate and/or assist in termination of each outbreak.



**Starting on bottom of stairs and pictured left to right:** Dawn Hopkins, WIC Clerk; Kalita Bell, Moms & Babies First Community Health Worker; Sharon Cartwright, WIC Clerk; Sue Seifert RN, Immunization Program Coordinator; Nicole Davis BSN, RN, Public Health Nurse; Meghan Wilson BSN, RN, Public Health Nurse; Kaylee DiPietro BSN, RN, Public Health Nurse; Angelena Schapiro LSW, Social Worker; Courtney Wright RD, LD, WIC Dietitian; Cheryl Dietrich, Immunization Clerk; Aubrey Neuenschwander BSN, RN, Public Health Nurse; Darla Berry, WIC and Nursing Clerk; Allison Devore BSN, RN, Communicable Disease Program Coordinator; Diane Coblenz BSN, RN, Public Health Nurse; Annette Elsmore RD, LD, WIC Dietitian; Diana Greene, WIC LPN; Renae Smith RD, LD, WIC Dietitian; Janet Allen BSN, RN, Public Health Nurse; Shelly Curtiss, RHWP Clerk; Dawn Hendricks, THRIVE Community Health Worker; Avinash Joseph MPH, Epidemiologist; Michelle Schoonover MSN, RN; Public Health Nurse

**Top row pictured left to right:** Latoya Trice BA, Moms & Babies First Community Health Worker; Delight Howells BSN, RN, Nursing Unit Manager; Christina May MS, BSN, RN, Nursing Unit Manager; Vicky Coffman; Billing Specialist; Sherry Smith MS, BSN, RN, Director of Nursing Services; Tiffany Streb RD, LD, WIC Program Coordinator; Amanda Uhler BSN, RN, Public Health Nurse; Tiffany Belknap BSN, RN, Public Health Nurse; Ashlee Wingerter BSN, RN, Public Health Nurse

**Not Pictured:** Bridget Tan CNP, RHWP Practitioner; Maureen Ahmann DO, Medical Director

**2) During 2019, several reportable infectious diseases significantly increased in the number of cases reported in the Stark County jurisdiction compared to that of 2018. These diseases are as follows:**

- **Shigellosis** – Cases of shigella within Stark County's health jurisdiction increased from 11 to 20 between 2018 and 2019. This increase was likely due to an outbreak occurring in a daycare facility.
- **Cryptosporidiosis** – There were 34 cases of cryptosporidiosis in Stark County in 2019 compared to 18 cases all of 2018. During 2019 there was a large outbreak of cryptosporidiosis in a neighboring county that affected Stark County residents, which likely increased the burden of disease this year.
- **Lyme Disease** – Lyme Disease cases increased this year, from 31 cases in 2018 to 46 cases in 2019. Stark County experienced heavy rainfall in the spring which may have contributed to increased tick activity. Tick-borne illnesses can be prevented by taking specific precautions in wooded or grassy areas (long sleeved, light colored clothing, spraying tick repellent, routine tick checks, etc.)
- **Haemophilus Influenzae** – Stark County experienced an increase in Haemophilus influenzae infections, with 4 cases reported in 2019 compared to 2 in 2018. The county as a whole averaged ~6 cases per year over the last 5 years.
- **Hepatitis A** – Stark County reported 12 cases of Hepatitis A during 2019 compared to 6 in 2018. Between 2018 and 2019 Ohio was one of several states in the region to experience an outbreak of Hepatitis A. Hepatitis A can be prevented by the Hepatitis A vaccine.
- **Listeriosis** – Stark County saw 2 cases of listeriosis in 2019, compared with just 1 case in 2018. Listeriosis is often associated with consumption of contaminated produce or dairy products, and can be extremely harmful to pregnant women.

**3) Influenza season stretches from October of one year until May of the next. Across all of Stark County (including all four health jurisdictions), the 2019-2020 influenza season thus far has seen 24 cases of hospitalized influenza.**

Last year at the same time there were 14 cases reported, while the previous five year annual average was around 92 cases. Nationally since September 29, 2019, all viruses antigenically characterized have matched the current vaccine by at least 38% or higher, with some components matching the vaccine 100%. The predominant strain for this season is influenza B, which is somewhat unusual as influenza B normally predominates in the latter half of the season. The influenza vaccine remains the primary and most effective form of protection against the influenza viruses circulating this season. Common symptoms of the flu include fever, cough, sore throat, body aches, headaches, chills, and fatigue. Complications may include conditions such as bronchitis or pneumonia and may make chronic health problems, such as asthma, worse. Staying home while sick and practicing proper hand hygiene are the best ways to stay healthy this season.

**4) There were several diseases reported in 2019 that are not commonly seen within Ohio and/or the SCHD jurisdiction, and are briefly discussed below.**

- **Vibriosis** is a diarrheal illness caused by members of the *Vibrio* genus (infamously known for causing cholera). Vibriosis is often associated with consumption of contaminated sea food or

exposure to salt water. Symptoms of vibriosis include nausea, vomiting, fever, chills, and watery diarrhea. Vibriosis is not frequently seen in Ohio due to its association with seafood and exposure to salt water. Vibriosis cases are asked about these exposures, and in some instances it becomes necessary to do a trace back on implicated seafood to see if it has caused disease in other individuals.

- **Measles** is a vaccine preventable disease caused by the measles virus. Symptoms of measles include a rash that begins at the head and spreads down, high fever, cough, coryza, and conjunctivitis. Measles was considered eradicated in the U.S. as of 2000, but due to a burgeoning anti-vaccine movement the disease came back in force in 2019 (1,282 cases in 2019 vs. an average of 218 cases annually over the previous 9 years). Stark County investigated Ohio's first reported measles case since 2017 this year. Proper uptake of the MMR (measles, mumps, and rubella) vaccine is the best way to prevent measles transmission; 1 dose of the vaccine is 93% effective at preventing disease while 2 doses are 97% effective.
- **Psittacosis** is a zoonotic disease caused by the bacteria *Chlamydia psittaci* that mainly affects birds of the Psittacine family (such as parrots, macaws, and parakeets) and their pet owners. In humans, the illness normally presents as either a mild febrile illness or as a form of pneumonia. In birds, the symptoms include poor appetite, inflamed eyes, breathing difficulty, and diarrhea. Psittacosis can be prevented by adequate maintenance and cleaning of domestic bird habitats. Prevention activities for bird owners include keeping cages and food bowls clean, avoiding overcrowding, and isolating sick birds.
- **Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease**, (CJD) is a rare, prion-caused neurodegenerative disease that always results in death, normally within a year of infection. Prions are not bacteria or viruses, but abnormal proteins that may cause disease in hosts. 85% of CJD cases occur with no recognizable pattern of transmission, while the other 15% are associated with inherited genetic mutations. CJD normally presents in two different varieties: classic CJD and variant CJD. Classic CJD presents with dementia-like symptoms and often affects older individuals, while variant CJD cases have a median age of 28 and often presents with severe behavioral changes. CJD was once thought to be associated with contaminated neurosurgical instruments or transplanted tissues (i.e. brain tissue or corneal grafts).
- **Yersiniosis** is a diarrheal illness most often associated with exposure to raw or undercooked pork. Symptoms include fever, abdominal pain, and bloody diarrhea. Yersiniosis primarily affects young children. Consumption of chitlins (pork intestines) is a risk factor for yersiniosis, and proper steps should be taken to prevent illness transmission during preparation. Stark County reported 5 cases of yersiniosis in 2019 compared to just 1 in 2018.

The Communicable Disease Unit continues to provide information and resources to schools, healthcare facilities and the community regarding infection prevention and control. Common topics that foster significant public interest include influenza, scabies, head lice, Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA), tuberculosis, enteric (intestinal) illnesses, and sexually transmitted diseases.

*\*The approximate population of the Stark County Health Jurisdiction is 249,087 (U.S. Census Bureau: State and County Quick Facts, 2014).*

## SEVERE PULMONARY ILLNESS LINKED TO VAPING



State and local public health officials are investigating reports of Ohioans who experienced severe pulmonary illness following use of e-cigarettes, or vaping. The reports follow a national alert by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) about pulmonary illnesses linked to vaping in multiple states. Severe pulmonary illness following the use of e-cigarettes, or vaping, poses a threat to the health and welfare of the residents of Ohio by creating a risk of human fatality or disability. To protect the people and address the risk, the State Health Director of the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) ordered health care providers, as defined in section 3701.23 of the Revised Code, or any individual having knowledge, to report by the end of the next business day all suspected cases of severe pulmonary illness of unclear etiology with a history of vaping in the ninety (90) days prior to symptom onset.

In addition to this reporting requirement, ODH also announced new initiatives to educate youth and parents about vaping dangers and health departments are providing tools for quitting. Below are several new initiatives to address vaping and tobacco use:

- Letter to Ohio school districts encouraging them, in their school policies, to prohibit the use of vaping products and to warn school administrators, teachers, parents, and students about the dangers of vaping and where to get free help to quit;
- Investment of approximately \$3.3 million to develop and promote a set of tools and resources that can be used by community groups, organizations, and others to help educate youth and community members about the dangers of vaping and actions they can take to curb vaping in their communities. These tools are likely to include a web-based youth vaping prevention education module, parent/caregiver awareness education, public awareness initiatives, and outreach to community stakeholders;
- Investment of approximately \$800,000 in public education campaigns targeting youth and their parents about vaping, as well as Ohio's new law prohibiting the sale of tobacco, including vaping products, to individuals younger than 21. This new law took effect on Oct. 17, 2019.

People should consider not using e-cigarette products while this investigation is ongoing. E-cigarette products should never be used by youth, young adults, pregnant women, or adults who do not currently use tobacco products. People who do use e-cigarette products should monitor themselves for symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath, chest pain, nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, fever) and promptly seek medical attention for any health concerns. Regardless of the ongoing investigation, people who use e-cigarette products should not buy them off the street and should not modify e-cigarette products or add any substances that are not intended by the manufacturer.

Currently, there are no known links to a specific type of product. Vaping products contain many substances and may include nicotine, tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), synthetic cannabinoids, or a combination of these.

Anyone who thinks that they may be experiencing serious breathing problems linked to vaping should seek immediate medical attention. If you are a healthcare provider and wish to report a possible case, please contact your local health department.

Ohio Vaping Investigation Update  
Information updated as of 2:00 pm January 16, 2020

Number of cases: 95; Age range: 15-65 years (median age: 25 years); Gender: 29 Female, 65 Male (69% Male); Number of hospitalizations: 87 (92%); Number of deaths: 0

Cases are distributed all across Ohio with Stark County having (1) reported case in 2019

If you need help quitting tobacco products, including e-cigarettes, contact your doctor or go to the ODH website at [odh.ohio.gov](http://odh.ohio.gov) for information about resources, including the Ohio Tobacco Quit Line (1-800-QUIT-NOW).

### Financial Statement Fiscal Year 2019 (unaudited)

#### SOURCES OF REVENUE

Contract Fees	294,532
Fees for Services	288,636
C&D User Fees	662,592
Inspection Fees	215,119
Vital Statistics	330,340
Permits	1,422,923
Fines/Late Charges	153,287
State Subsidy	104,368
Local Tax Subdivisions	1,466,720
Public Health Infrastructure	203,756
Prescription Drug O.D. Grant	245,905
Prescription Drug Abuse Action	21,600
Maternal Child Health Grant	35,897
Get Vaccinated Ohio Grant	49,142
WIC Grant	393,466
Reproductive Health Grant	117,998
Moms & Babies First Grant	148,000
Injury Prevention Grant	252,760
Thrive Medicaid Support for CHW	42,360
Joint Solid Waste District Grant	170,000
Moms Quit for Two Grant	22,881
Area Health Education Grant	24,000
Creating Healthy Communities	112,485
Cribs for Kids Grant	43,389
Occupant Protection Coordinator	55,300
Water Pollution Control Grant	226,856
Homeowner Contributions-HSTS	83,545
Other Receipts	341,892
Reimbursements	90,467

Carryover from 2018 1,135,905

**TOTAL SOURCES OF REVENUE 8,756,121**

#### EXPENDITURES

Salaries	3,434,480
Insurance	726,660
Medicare	49,167
PERS	602,527
Workers Compensation	18,287
Unemployment	5,251
Supplies	257,553
Utilities	17,883
Contracts & Purchased Services	1,010,515
Phones & Communications	31,711
Equipment / Vehicle Rental	25,565
Rent	251,848
Equipment	221,587
Other Expenses	1,437
State Remittances	820,043
Travel	88,442
Refunds	13,681
Payouts For Sick & Vacation Leave	27,733

Encumbrances Carried Over To 2020 596,226

**TOTAL EXPENDITURES 8,200,596**

# STARK COUNTY COMBINED GENERAL HEALTH DISTRICT

Serving the cities, villages, and townships of Stark County since 1920:

## TOWNSHIPS

Bethlehem  
Canton  
Jackson  
Lake  
Lawrence  
Lexington  
Marlboro  
Nimishillen  
Osnaburg  
Paris  
Perry  
Pike  
Plain  
Sandy  
Sugarcreek  
Tuscarawas  
Washington

## VILLAGES

Beach City  
Brewster  
East Canton  
East Sparta  
Hartville  
Hills & Dales  
Magnolia  
Meyers Lake  
Minerva  
Navarre  
Waynesburg  
Wilmot

## CITIES

Canal Fulton  
Louisville  
North Canton

### Environmental Health Services, Vital Statistics, and Administration & Support Services

7235 Whipple Avenue NW, Suite B  
North Canton, OH 44720  
Phone: 330-493-9904 | Fax: 330-493-9920



### Nursing Services

7235 Whipple Avenue NW, Suite C  
North Canton, OH 44720  
Phone: 330-493-9928 | Fax: 330-493-9932

Visit us at: [www.starkcountyohio.gov/public-health](http://www.starkcountyohio.gov/public-health)

Survey Link: <https://starkcountyohio.gov/public-health/customer-service-survey>



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