



2020 PORTSMOUTH CITY HEALTH DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORT

Chris Smith, MA, RS Health Commissioner

Written by: Belinda Leslie BSBA, PHR
January, 2021

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Table of Contents

Introduction	3
Message from the Health Commissioner	4
Organizational Chart	5
Financial Report	6
Environmental Health Division	7
Air Division	10
Nursing Division	11
Prevention and Promotion Division	18

Introduction

Board of Health

Mayor Kevin E. Johnson, President
Timothy Angel, PhD, President Pro tem
David S. Walker, MD, Vice President
George L. Davis, III, Esq.
Angela Hodge, DNP, RN
Valerie DeCamp, DNP, RN, A-GNP-C, NE-BC

Medical Director

David Byers, MD

City Council

Sean Dunne 1st Ward
Charlotte Gordon 2nd Ward
Kevin E. Johnson 3rd Ward
Lyvette Mosley 4th Ward
Edwin Martell 5th Ward
Dennis Packard 6th Ward

Health Department Administrative Staff

Chris Smith, RS, MA, Health Commissioner
Belinda Leslie, BSBA, PHR, Interim Administrator
Jared Koch, BSBA, Chief Financial Officer

Division Directors

Andrew Gedeon, RS, Environmental Director/Deputy Health Commissioner
Christine Thomas, RN, BSN, Nursing Director
Cindy Charles, Air Division Director
Belinda Leslie, BSBA, PHR Interim Prevention and Promotion Director

Message from the Health Commissioner Chris Smith, RS, MA

Each year the Portsmouth City Health Department (PCHD) publishes its Annual report. 2020 was a year that brought public health to the forefront of everyone's lives. Portsmouth and the world, started the year with the emergence of the Novel Corona Virus, known as COVID-19. By March 9th, the virus was affecting travel and other activities of citizens in Portsmouth. We reported our first positive case on May 15, 2020. The City had 1,088 cases in 2020, with the highest monthly accumulation in November (366) and December (448). There were 86 hospitalizations and 36 deaths in 2020.

The Health Department staff worked tirelessly to deal with the challenges posed by the pandemic. Our Epidemiologist, Molly Davis, (who also serves the Scioto County Health Department), receives positive cases and performs contact tracing to determine those affected by the spread. Director of Nursing Christine Thomas and staff provide the Health Commissioners order to self-quarantine to positive cases. Daily calls are made to positive cases to monitor their symptoms. Letters are provided to employers, schools, etc. for quarantine and release from quarantine. The Health Department also provided food and medication deliveries to quarantined citizens.

Belinda Leslie, Interim Administrator, Andrew Gedeon, Environmental Health Director and Chad Wamsley, Sanitarian-In-Training provided enforcement of the Governor's Orders and the distribution of PPE.

From March through June the Health Department participated in Joint Incident Command (JIC), with the County Health Department, working closely with them after the closing of the JIC.

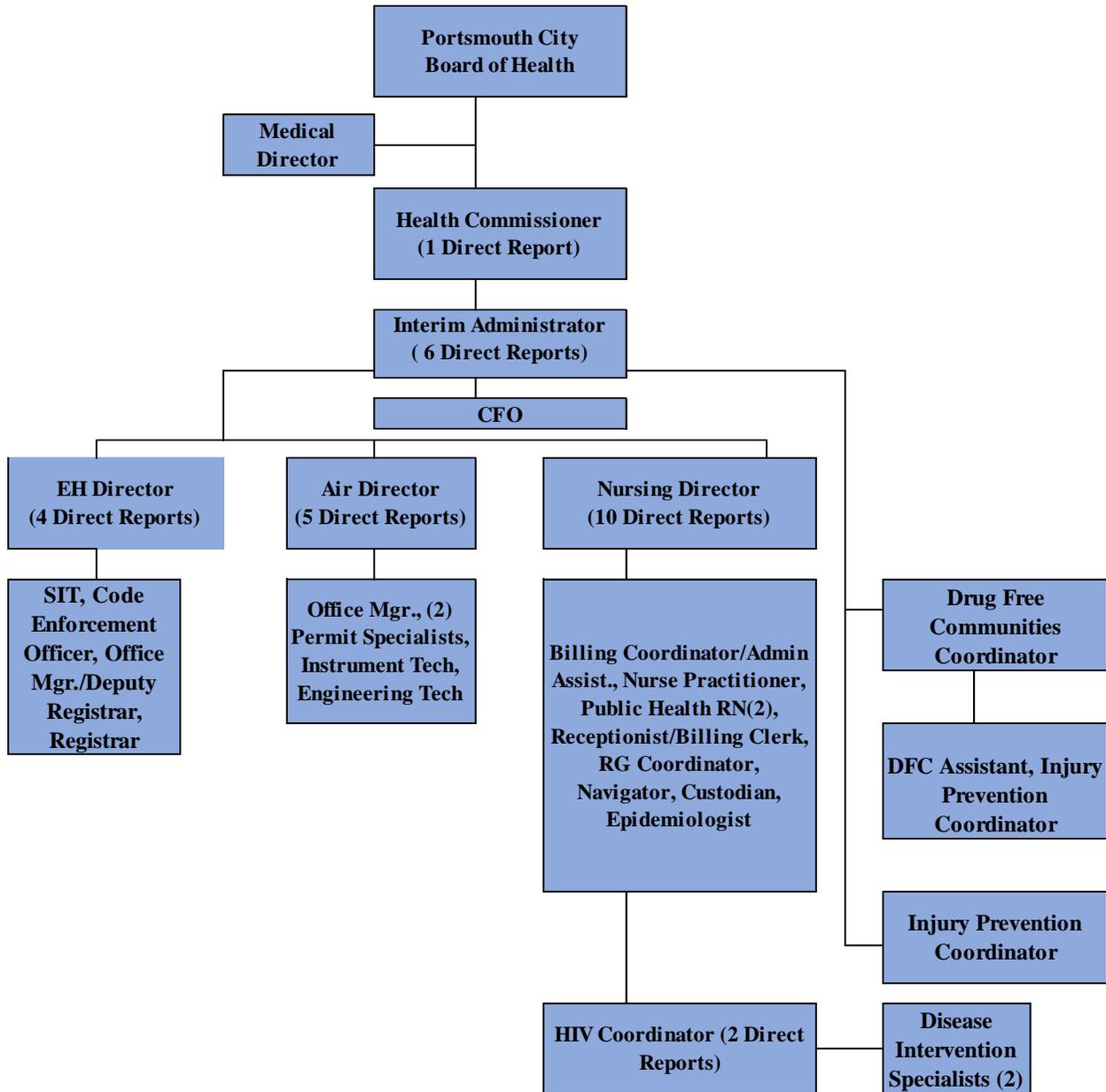
In mid-December the Health Department began planning for receiving a vaccine for the virus. Working with key community partners, Southern Ohio Medical Center, Shawnee State University, Scioto County Health Department, Scioto County Emergency Management, and others, we developed a plan for organizing vaccine distribution. On December 21st the Health Department received its first shipment of the Moderna vaccine in the afternoon. Christine was the first person in Scioto County to receive the vaccine. On December 22nd and 23rd, vaccines were given to First Responders. On Christmas Eve, Christine went to Compass Community Health to vaccinate their health care workers. With the help of Chief Bill Raison and staff we held our first drive-thru vaccination clinic December 28th for health care workers.

The Health Department would like to thank Jenny LeMaster, Community Board of Health member for her years of service to the citizens of Portsmouth. Jenny decided to resign to spend more time with her family. We welcome Dr. Valerie DeCamp who will complete Ms. LeMaster's remaining two-year term. We appreciated her willingness to serve.

As a PHAB accredited Health Department, we continue to work with community partners to improve the health of our citizens through assessment, policy development, and quality assurance.

Chris Smith, RS, MA

Portsmouth City Health Department Organizational Chart



Financial Report

Jared Koch, BS
Chief Fiscal Officer

YTD Fund Report for Year 2020 - Portsmouth City Health Department

Fund	Description	Beginning Balance	Receipts	Expenses	Year End Balance
241	Air Division	\$ 252,495.28	\$ 508,707.00	\$ 538,627.79	\$ 222,574.49
250	Health Department General Fund Subsidy	\$ 429.64	\$ 756,381.96	\$ 721,223.17	\$ 35,588.43
252	OPRC Safety	\$ 63,784.39	\$ 57,974.74	\$ 90,465.28	\$ 31,293.85
253	STD Control	\$ 57,526.74	\$ 45,917.90	\$ 103,277.90	\$ 166.74
254	Drug Free Communities	\$ 63,962.67	\$ 334,860.00	\$ 210,631.22	\$ 188,191.45
256	Injury Prevention	\$ 70,079.40	\$ 117,150.00	\$ 148,173.47	\$ 39,055.93
257	Reproductive Health & Wellness	\$ 42,321.82	\$ 278,280.61	\$ 303,949.54	\$ 16,652.89
258	Rural Health Opioid Program	\$ 92,293.88	\$ 151,183.03	\$ 243,214.15	\$ 262.76
259	Rural Communities Opioid Response (Planning)	\$ 84,997.59	\$ 137,772.43	\$ 181,239.53	\$ 41,530.49
267	Public Health Emergency Preparedness	\$ 132,369.10	\$ 727,105.62	\$ 446,629.37	\$ 412,845.35
268	HIV Prevention (FEDERAL)	\$ 13,827.00	\$ 357,192.32	\$ 298,336.50	\$ 72,682.82
269	HIV Prevention (STATE)	\$ 22,277.68	\$ 71,274.28	\$ 89,687.16	\$ 3,864.80
270	Land Reutilization Program	\$ 30,751.12	\$ 13,100.00	\$ 1,375.02	\$ 42,476.10
620	Primary Care	\$ 368,340.88	\$ 1,380,813.60	\$ 1,318,872.91	\$ 430,281.57
Health Department Totals		\$1,295,457.19	\$ 4,937,713.49	\$ 4,695,703.01	\$1,537,467.67

- All negative balances are due to grant funding drawdowns. Drawdowns have been completed and payment will be received in January 2021.

Environmental Health Division

Andrew Gedeon, RS
Environmental Health Director

Helen Trapp, Office Manager/Deputy Registrar
Chad Wamsley, Sanitarian-In-Training
Melissa Spence, Registrar/Payroll Clerk
Wendy Payton, Animal Control Officer/Code Enforcement Officer

The Environmental Health Division is responsible for safeguarding the health and welfare of the public. This includes (but is not limited to) inspecting facilities such as food service and retail food establishments, public swimming pools and spas, and schools. Other state mandated responsibilities include animal control, solid waste/housing/nuisance complaint abatement, housing condemnations, the issuance of birth and death certificates, and burial permits.

Inspections in 2020 are down from previous years. Due to the precautions put in place to stop the spread of the virus, both the Ohio Department of Health and Ohio Department of Agriculture eased their inspection requirements. While the number of inspections is down, all required inspections were performed.

Summary

The following is a summary of the major programs the Environmental Health Division Conducted for the City of Portsmouth in 2020. Due to the pandemic, The list is not all inclusive.

Food Service

In 2019, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that 48 million became ill, another 128,000 individuals were hospitalized, and 3,000 deaths occurred due to food borne illnesses.

Food Service Operation and Retail Food Establishment Inspections	160
Mobile Unit Inspections	7
<u>Vending Unit Inspections</u>	<u>10</u>
Total Number of Inspections Conducted	177

Public Swimming Pools and Spas

Potential health hazards exist when people swim in public swimming pools and spas. The usual types of diseases associated with water activities may be classified as upper respiratory infections, eye, ear, nose, throat and skin irritations and gastro intestinal disorders. Personal safety considerations are as equally important as disease prevention. Injuries from falling and tripping are the most common incidents at public swimming pools and spas.

Public Swimming Pools	4
Special Use Pools	1
Public Spas	0
Total Number of Inspections Conducted	5

Manufactured Home Parks

The Manufactured Homes Commission now oversees the manufactured home park program that was previously directed by the Ohio Department of Health. Local health departments still have the authority to enforce minimum standards for manufactured home parks. These standards include design, construction, alteration, extension and maintenance of the parks to make them safe, sanitary, and fit for human habitation. The manufactured home parks are inspected on an annual basis and if a nuisance complaint is filed against the park.

<u>Number of manufactured home parks</u>	<u>3</u>
Total Number of Inspections Conducted	3

Schools

Schools are inspected to ensure that the health and safety of the students is upheld. Consideration is given to school grounds and surroundings. The school buildings are inspected for overall safety including classrooms, heating and ventilation, lighting systems, housekeeping and maintenance. The schools are inspected twice a year.

<u>Number of Schools Inspections</u>	<u>9</u>
Total Number of Inspections Conducted	18

Land Reutilization Program

In cooperation with city and county departments, the Portsmouth City Health Department's Land Reutilization Program has taken great strides in returning tax delinquent properties to the tax districts. Only vacant parcels and vacant houses that are a minimum of three (3) years certified tax delinquent are placed into the Land Reutilization Program.

<u>Number of Properties Sold</u>	<u>8</u>
Total Amount from Property Sales	\$13,100

Animal Control/Nuisance Control

The Health Department's Animal Control Officer enforces the Codified Ordinances of the City of Portsmouth as it relates to animals running at large, registration of dogs, animal bites,

immunization requirements, excreta removal, solid waste complaints, and other animal complaint issues.

Total number of dog bites	35
Total number of cat bites	6
Total number of raccoon bites	0
Total number of rodent bites	0
<u>Number of bats tested</u>	<u>1</u>
Total Number of Animal Bites	42

Pest Control

Total number of trash/garbage complaints	84
Total number of solid waste complaints	102
Animal Complaints	331
Housing Complaints	42
<u>Sewage Complaints</u>	<u>7</u>
Total Number of Complaints	566

In 2020 the Portsmouth City Health Department received the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency's Mosquito Control Grant. Upon receiving the grant, the Portsmouth City Health Department was able to purchase mosquito control equipment such as a mosquito fogger, conduct mosquito surveillance activities such as trapping and mosquito abatement activities such as scrap tire removal.

Total number of mosquito traps placed	166
<u>Total number of mosquitoes collected</u>	<u>3,142</u>

Vital Statistics

The Office of Vital Statistics maintains birth and death records for the City of Portsmouth, with records going back as far as 1909. Birth certificates are open records and may be purchased at the Portsmouth City Health Department if the person was born in the state of Ohio.

Birth records are important for use in entrance to school, military service, obtaining passports, retirement pensions and social security pensions. Death records are needed for settlement of insurance claims, settlements of estates, pensions and tracing of ancestors.

Total Number of Death Records Recorded	917
Total Number of Stillbirths Recorded	6
Total Number of Burial Permits Issued	703
Total Number of Birth Certificates Issued	2,272
<u>Total Number of Death Certificates Issued</u>	<u>7,029</u>
Total Number of Records Issued and Recorded	10,927

Air Division

Cindy Charles,
Air Division Director

Adam Chaffin, Engineering Tech
Anne Chamberlin, Permit Specialist
Carla Shultz, Administrative Secretary/Fiscal Officer
Lou Boerger, Engineering Tech
Matt Freeman, Permit Specialist

The Air Division, or the Portsmouth Local Air Agency (PLAA), works as a contractual representative of the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The PLAA monitors the compliance status of the businesses and industries with air pollution sources in the five-county region (Adams, Scioto, Lawrence, Brown, and Highland counties). Additionally, the PLAA prepares permits, conducts facility inspections and reviews quarterly deviation and excess emission reports, observes source stack tests, reviews and issues or denies permissions to open burn, monitors asbestos removal activities, initiates enforcement actions and responds to air quality complaints.

The PLAA also maintains continuous and intermittent monitors measuring pollutants daily throughout three counties of its five-county area in Southern Ohio. The PLAA performs anti-tampering (vehicle emission control devices) inspections and observes and validates stack (source) testing that occurs in the five-county area.

From mid-March through the remainder of calendar year 2020, Air Division was very restricted on field activities such as complaint investigations and facility, asbestos, and anti-tampering inspections due to COVID-19.

During 2020, PLAA staff completed the following:

- Conducted 3 Title V and 1 Synthetic Minor facility inspections
- Observed 3 stack tests
- Conducted 6 asbestos inspections
- Issued 19 Notice of Violation letters
- 0 Enforcement Actions Referral sent to OEPA
- Processed 3 Permits to Install, 19 Permits to Install Operate, 1 Title V, and 3 Permits by Rule
- Issued 2 Permissions to Open Burn
- Investigated a total of 112 complaints (46 high priority facility, 2 non-Title V facility, 57 open burning, 1 fugitive dust, 1 asbestos and 5 other)
- Conducted 0 Anti-tampering inspections

Nursing Division

Christine Thomas, RN, BSN
Director of Nursing

Elayna Born, BS Disease Intervention Specialist
Elyse Waugh, MS, CDCA, Client Navigation Coordinator
Halea Hatten, MSE HIV/STD Program Coordinator
Hannah Mathews, BS, CDCA, Client Navigator
Jessica Mullins, Receptionist/Billing Assistant
Kyle Mitchell, BS Disease Intervention Specialist
Mandy Whisman, RN, Car Seat Program Technician
Molly Davis, BS Epidemiologist/Emergency Response Coordinator
Rebecca Murphy-Blair, BS, Billing Coordinator/Administrative Assistant
Tiffany Wolfe, RN FNP Family Nurse Practitioner

Clinic Operations

The Nursing Division operates a Clinic that is open to clients Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The Clinic is staffed with a full-time Nurse Practitioner, Nurses, and a Receptionist. Appointments are available, and walk-in clients are accepted. The clinic offers evening hours, until 7:00 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month for clients who cannot come during regular business hours.

There is a strong emphasis on providing care to low income and indigent clients, although clients of all socio-economic groups are accepted. The Clinic accepts a large variety of medical insurance plans. Clients who are uninsured are offered services on a sliding fee scale, based on annual income. Clients who are not enrolled in an insurance program are offered assistance by one of five Certified Application Counselors (CAC) on staff, with enrollment into a Medicaid managed care program or a market-place insurance program offered through the Affordable Care Act.

Again, the pandemic had a significant impact on the Clinic, Orders to stay at home had an adverse effect on persons seeking health care nationwide, our Clinic was no exception.

Prior to the pandemic, a review of services was conducted. As a result, divisional restructuring of programs was completed to streamline management of services. The Epidemiologist and HIV/STD programs were moved to the Clinic division because the services they provide are better aligned with this division.

In 2020, the CAC's assisted thirty-six (36) clients in applying for insurance through the Affordable Care Act. Of these twenty (20) were approved for coverage. sixteen (16) applications were denied due to client failure to submit the requested verification.

The Clinic offers several different types of programs for clients. These include:

Reproductive Health and Wellness Program

This program focuses on health promotion, disease prevention, contraception, substance abuse treatment and family planning for adolescent and adult males and females who meet the RHWP eligibility requirements.

The following services are offered through the Reproductive Health and Wellness Program:

- General women and men's health screening and care to promote good health and prevent disease
- Cancer screening
- Pap Smears
- Pregnancy screening, initial prenatal care, and referral
- Contraceptive counseling, education, and care
- Screening, education on prevention, and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases
- Adolescent services, including encouragement of family involvement and education on sexual coercion
- HPV and other forms of vaccination
- Laboratory testing
- Education on breast self-exam and testicular self-exam
- Nutritional counseling and education
- Partner violence screening and support
- Human trafficking screening and support
- Smoking cessation education and support
- Opiate/Alcohol abuse treatment by administration of Vivitrol
- Screening and referral for substance use disorder

This program focuses on assisting clients in developing a reproductive life plan. Through education and provision of contraceptives that meet their personal needs, the program helps clients to have children when they are ready, healthy, and free of disease. In addition to the medical care provided to our clients, there is a strong emphasis on education related to prevention of sexually transmitted diseases, on benefits and risks of various types of birth control, and screening and preventative care, to optimize general health.

The Clinic assists opiate and alcohol addicted individuals in recovery through Vivitrol treatment. Clients are treated with Vivitrol injections while being medically monitored by Clinic nurses and the Nurse Practitioner. The Clinic works with local substance abuse counselors to obtain an initial mental health assessment and to provide substance abuse counseling for each client while they are receiving substance abuse treatment.

The Portsmouth City Health Department receives funding for the Reproductive Health and Wellness Clinic from the Ohio Department of Health.

RHWP Clinic Visits

- **905 Reproductive Health and Wellness visits** were completed in the Clinic,
- **809 Vivitrol injections were provided** for treatment of substance abuse.

Primary Care Clinic

The City Health Department Clinic provides primary care medical services to clients age three (3) and up who do not have another primary care provider.

The Clinic also assists opiate and alcohol addicted individuals in recovery through Vivitrol treatment. Clients are treated with Vivitrol injections while being medically monitored by Clinic nurses and the Nurse Practitioner. The Clinic works with local substance abuse counselors to obtain an initial mental health assessment and to provide substance abuse counseling for each client while they are receiving substance abuse treatment.

Primary Care Visits:

1,300 Primary Care visits were completed.

Recovery Gateway

This program provides navigation services to community members in need of substance abuse treatment service options, housing needs, help with the Medicaid application process, resume assistance, risk reduction education etc. This year **two hundred fifty (250) participants** have utilized this service.

Child Safety “Ohio Buckles Buckeyes” Program

The Ohio Buckles Buckeyes Program is a child passenger safety program through the Ohio Department of Health Violence and Injury Prevention Program. This program is administered by the Portsmouth City Health Department which provides free car seats to parents who cannot afford to purchase one for their child. Funding for this program is provided through the Ohio Department of Public Safety.

The Portsmouth City Health Department houses the Occupant Protection Coordinator for Ohio Region 4. She oversees ten distribution centers for this regional program. Distribution centers for Region 4 are located in Athens, Gallia, Hocking, Jackson, Lawrence, Meigs, Pike, Ross, Scioto and Vinton counties. The Regional Coordinator is responsible for overseeing all Program Technicians, and for monitoring each regional site to assure that the program is being carried out according to Ohio Department of Health and Department of Public Safety regulations. The Health Department also houses one certified instructor and two (2) Certified Technicians for this program. The instructor provides initial certification and annual re-certification classes on car seat education

and proper installation techniques to Program Technicians in each region. Becoming an instructor takes two years.

Each distribution center in the region receives sixteen car seats quarterly for distribution. Car seats are distributed at Portsmouth City Health Department through an application basis; the parent/caregiver completes a car seat application, then applicants are contacted in order of receipt. When applying, parents/caregivers must provide proof the child has a medical card; the household meets WIC Income Eligibility Guidelines, and if the child is currently WIC enrolled. Upon consent of the parent/caregiver, if the child is not enrolled in WIC, a referral is completed and sent to the local WIC office. If the parent/caregiver refuses the WIC referral it does not prevent them from obtaining the seat. If a car seat is not available at the time a parent applies, they are placed on a waiting list and given first priority when a new shipment arrives.

In order to receive a free car seat, parents must view an instructional video on car seat safety and proper installation. Parent/caregiver questions are answered, and basic car installation education materials are distributed with each car seat. Once training is completed, the certified instructor observes the parent install the car seat according to the program safety installation guidelines.

The Portsmouth City Health Department Clinic **distributed fifty (50) car seats** in the 2020 contract year. Seats distributed are based on seats received quarterly from ODH. The Clinic staff provides education about the Car Seat Safety Program to the local community through promotion at local health events and through distribution of informational brochures to community organizations.

Project DAWN (Deaths Avoided with Naloxone) Program

The Portsmouth City Health Department began Project DAWN as a pilot harm-reduction public health program in 2012. The goal of this program is to reduce deaths caused by overdose of opiates. Naloxone is administered intra-nasally temporarily reverse the effects of opiates in the client's body. The drug, along with emergency resuscitation breathing is provided to the individual until emergency responders arrive and transport the individual for further medical care. The Project DAWN Program provides clients with a kit which includes Naloxone, intranasal administration devices, emergency resuscitation equipment, a video instruction tutorial, and a quick, step-by-step instruction guide for administration of the medication and rescue breathing.

Since January 2020, three hundred forty-six (346) clients have received Project DAWN Naloxone kits through the clinic.

Communicable Disease Control

The Health Department is responsible for investigation and follow up on all reportable communicable diseases contracted by Portsmouth city residents. The Public Health Nurse (PHN) receives notifications of communicable diseases from local health care providers, and from the state of Ohio Disease Reporting System (ODRS). The PHN is responsible for investigating the

case to assure that the individual is aware of the communicable disease; that he/she is receiving appropriate medical treatment; and to determine if other people have been exposed to the communicable disease. After investigation and follow-up with the individual and care providers, the following is reported in ODRS: medical treatment the individual received; steps taken to notify other parties who were exposed to the communicable disease; what follow-up was done with them, to assure that they are receiving appropriate medical care; and outcomes of treatment.

DNA Testing

The Nursing Division maintains a contract with the Ohio Department of Job and Family Service, Child Support Division in Scioto County to obtain DNA specimens to determine parentage. People who have received a court order to have testing done come to the Nursing Division Clinic. Our nurses collect the DNA specimens and send these to DNA Diagnostic Center (DDC) for DNA analysis.

In 2020 the Nursing Division collected **forty-eight (48) DNA specimens**.

Immunizations

The City Health Department Clinic provides vaccines to children. Ohio Department of Health Guidelines are followed for childhood immunization. The Health Department Clinic is part of the Ohio Department of Health’s “Vaccines for Children” program. This program provides free vaccines to our agency, to immunize children from birth through age eighteen.

In addition to childhood vaccines, the Clinic also provides vaccines for adults who are seen in the Health Department Clinic, and through outreach programs in the Portsmouth area.

In 2020 the Health Department Nursing Division administered one thousand one hundred thirty-nine (1139) vaccines. The following is a breakdown of vaccines given:

Type	Number Given
COVID Moderna	489
Influenza	96
Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis	85
Gardasil (HPV)	81
Varicella	25
Measles, Mumps, Rubella	28
Hepatitis A	13
Hepatitis B	21
Menactra (Meningococcal)	151
Polio	28
Pneumonia	6
Rotavirus	4

Hemophilus Influenza (HIB)

7

HIV/STD Prevention Regional Programs

PCHD operates the HIV/STD and Hepatitis C prevention and linkage to care program in Regions 6 and 7 of Ohio, which services 20 rural counties in the state. These programs are funded by grants awarded by the Ohio Department of Health. The HIV program focuses on HIV screenings, testing, counseling, and prevention services for “high risk” populations. The program also provides education and counseling on how to minimize the risk of contracting HIV/STDs.

The HIV/STD Program Coordinator is responsible for operational oversight of these programs. The Health Department maintains working relationships with health departments, health care agencies, treatment facilities, and community partners in the rural counties of Ohio to provide HIV Prevention services. There are fourteen (14) Counseling, testing and Referral (CTR) sites throughout the regions.

The HIV/STD program provides disease intervention and partner notification services for clients who have been infected with, or potentially exposed to HIV and/or syphilis. Two Disease Intervention Specialists (DIS) provide these services throughout the rural regions.

Testing Data

- HIV Tests: 74
- HIV Positive Test: 1
- 1% Positivity Rate
- HIV Tests: 74
- HIV Positive Test: 1
- 1% Positivity Rate

Newly HIV diagnosed, named partners are notified of potential HIV exposure by partner services:

8 of 8 100%

Newly HIV-diagnosed notified partners, not previously HIV positive, are tested for HIV:

6 of 8 75% (2 were unable to locate)

Newly HIV- diagnosed persons receive their test results:

20 of 25 80% (5 were unable to locate and were tested by other providers)

Syphilis cases in Portsmouth:

9 of 11 82% successfully located and treated

Public Health Emergency Preparedness

The PHEP Grant has been funded by the Ohio Department of Health since 2002. The goal of the program is to equip and prepare local health departments to better address bioterrorism, outbreaks of infectious disease, and other public health threats and emergencies.

Portsmouth City Health Department works closely with the Regional Public Health Coordinator, health departments in the south-central Ohio region, and a regional epidemiologist to write an All-hazards Emergency Response Plan that, among other things, addresses:

- Community preparedness
- Interoperative communication
- Emergency public information and warning
- Epidemiology and surveillance
- Environmental health
- Resource management
- Continuity of operations and recovery from an incident
- Mass dispensing
- Community containment (isolation and quarantine)
- Mental/behavioral health
- Mass fatality management
- Pandemic response
- Functional needs
- Volunteer management

The capabilities within these plans are exercised, and plans are updated annually to help ensure readiness for actual events that would cause public health emergencies.

Prevention and Health Promotion

Belinda Leslie, BSBA, PHR, Interim Director
Director of Prevention and Health Promotion

Lisa Roberts, RN, Drug Free Communities Coordinator
Rebecca Miller, Drug Free Communities Assistant
Wirty Penix, Injury Prevention Coordinator

This review of services conducted prior to the pandemic removed the Epidemiologist and the HIV/STD program from this division, allowing room for growth. This was put on hold because of the pandemic. For 2021, the plan is to hire a permanent director and grow the services provided. This will include adding a Health Educator position. The division will then be able to assist in data collection and analysis to determine the needs of the community, identify health disparities and inequities and build programs to address the issues.

Drug Free Communities (DFC) Support Program Grant

DFC activities were greatly hampered by the pandemic. All schools were forced to be closed to in-person classes for extended periods. Reopening only to a combination of in-person and on-line classes. Social distancing guidelines and school policy excluded persons not directly involved with instruction to be in the classroom.

The Portsmouth City Health Department (PCHD) administers the DFC grant program which is funded by the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP). The DFC Program supports community coalitions through training, coordination and implementation of evidence-based programs and environmental strategies effective in substance abuse prevention. In terms of substance use, the DFC program is the “demand reduction” component of the ONDCP that compliments the HIDTA (High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area) designation that focuses on “supply reduction”.

The Health Department manages the Scioto County Drug Action Team Alliance (SCDATA) that acts as a community *convener* and *catalyst* in reducing substance abuse. Agencies, individuals, and volunteers who have a similar interest in reducing substance use/abuse in Scioto County meet, network, and collaborate in a more efficient manner in order to maximize collective efforts to reduce the incidence and burden of substance use in Scioto County. SCDATA envisions a community where youth and adults are making healthy, educated and responsible choices about drug and alcohol use, and those choices are supported by the community through sustainable policies and programs.

The reasons for substance use and abuse are complex. As a result, the coalition uses multiple prevention strategies in Scioto County. **The DFC manages and supports a network of youth-led prevention groups and activities at Scioto County High Schools through the help of DFC**

School Liaisons. Teens are surveyed every two years to capture data and measure progress. In the 2019 Surveys, following two years of targeted strategies, Scioto County teens had significant reductions in all licit and illicit substances. These surveys will be completed again in 2021.

Injury Prevention

The Office of Injury Prevention's current objective is to reduce prescription drug overdose rates through campaigns and harm reduction programming. The Office of Injury Prevention works closely with the Ohio Department of Health and Ohio Mental Health and Addiction Services to fulfill their objective and to put into place evidence-based harm reduction strategies. Recommendations are also given by the CDC on effectively responding to the drug epidemic and the Injury Prevention Department interprets those recommendations to proactively model them in our community.

The CDC, Ohio Department of Health, and Ohio Mental Health and Addiction Services all recommend expanding access to and training for administering Naloxone to reduce opioid overdose deaths. Injury prevention staff works closely with local law enforcement agencies and first responders in developing policies and implementing Naloxone use in their standard practices. In 2019, Portsmouth City Health Department continued to support local fire departments and law enforcement agencies in their continued efforts to respond to all overdose emergency calls and the administration of Naloxone. Staff also works directly with community members through outreach events for Naloxone training and education.

Injury Prevention staff also assists service organizations, treatment facilities, or other business that demonstrate interest and need in being trained in administering Naloxone. In addition to the multiple trainings with service agencies, injury prevention staff also ensured provision of naloxone to individuals participating in the Bloodborne Pathogen Prevention Program. Those individuals were able to **reverse nearly 746 overdoses in 2020.**

The Injury Prevention Coordinator, who is responsible for implementing all mentioned programs, also participates in the Ohio Injury Prevention Partnership (OIPP) and its subgroup Prescription Drug Abuse Action Group (PDAAG). The focus is to create and implement action plans to address injury priorities, promote policy and systems change and improve state-wide data collection. The IP Coordinator also coordinates the Scioto County Collaborative Opioid Consortium, leading widespread, collaborative efforts in addressing local opioid issues.

The Scioto County Collaborative Opioid Consortium serves to provide quality assistance and services for those struggling with OUD and reduce the stigma associated with this disorder. The Consortium also works toward identifying individuals at-risk for overdose and guide them towards recovery by providing outreach and education on locally available treatment options and support services. The Consortium also educates community members on OUD and the community's response to it through outreach and education on OUD, treatment options, methods for preparing individuals with OUD for treatment, referring individuals with OUD to treatment, and how-to best support individuals and family members in recovery.

As the pandemic grew, it became obvious that the guidelines put in place to keep clients safe from the virus, made it more difficult to obtain clean syringes through the Bloodborne Pathogens program. The Health Department entered into an agreement with the River Valley Organizing Project/Unharm Ohio group to provide housing and staff to operate the Bloodborne Pathogen program. Since the move, clients have gained access to more services including, but not limited to: hygiene products, HIV testing, counseling, resource lists, etc. With the increased hours of operation, the number of clients has doubled. Access to clean syringes has a direct correlation to the decline in new HIV and Hepatitis C cases.



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