























# 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

Williams County Health District



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# WILLIAMS COUNTY HEALTH DISTRICT

*Our Mission: Prevent disease and injury, promote health and wellness, & protect you and your community* 



Our Vision: Shaping the healthiest and safest community

# LETTER FROM THE HEALTH COMMISSIONER

#### 100 Years of Public Health

September 15, 2019 marked the 100 year anniversary of preventing disease and injury, promoting health and wellness, and protecting the community of Williams County. During the last 100 years, we have seen major improvements in health for our residents. At the formation of the health department, communicable disease commonly caused illness and death. Through the use of science, improvements have been made in sanitation, immunizations, and overall health education to achieve great progress in reducing the spread of communicable disease.



With the shift in public health's focus from communicable to chronic disease, the efforts of the past have set the foundation for the health department's current initiatives and programming as we strive to overcome new health challenges. As public health progresses over the next 100 years, we will continue to pursue our vision to shape the healthiest and safest community in the lives of Williams County's residents, with you, our Williams County community.

Wishing you the best of health, James D. Watkins, MPH, RS

### **BOARD OF HEALTH**



(Back row): Anselm Tintinu, MD; Jerry Stollings; Dan Peverly; Cheryl Boldman (Front row): Michelle Egler; Sharon Tarr; Tammy Bernath; Dee Custar (Not pictured): Amy Welling

The 9 members of the Board of Health are appointed by the chairman of each township, mayors of each village, and the Bryan City Council. State law requires the board to report and take measures to control disease, enforce state public health laws and promote health and wellbeing within the department. The board is also responsible for the department's budget, hiring and retaining a health commissioner.

# 2019 HIGHLIGHTS

#### 100th Anniversary of the Williams County Health District



The Williams County Health District has served as a public health agency for 100 years and celebrated the milestone on August 20, 2019. The health department was founded out of a need to improve collaboration and communication to improve the health of Williams County during the Spanish Influenza epidemic of (1918-1920). With the passing of the Hughes Griswold Act in 1919, establishing county health departments, the first Williams

County Board of Heath was appointed on August 15, 1919 and the first members of the board were appointed on September 15, 1919. Thank you to the staff of the health department, both current and past, who have contributed to the improvement of health in Williams County. Thank you Williams County residents for your foresight to support public health in the community in so many ways.

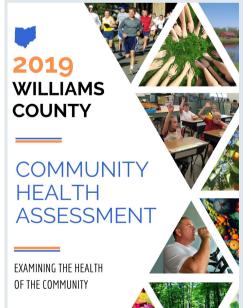
### **Hepatitis A Vaccination Clinics**

As a response to the Hepatitis A outbreak in Ohio, the Williams County Health Department coordinated Hepatitis A vaccine clinics among high risk populations at a local jail and homeless shelters to prevent the spread of Hep A from entering the county. Over 880 Hepatitis A vaccines were provided with the support of the Ohio Department of Health surrounding local health departments and given at no cost.

### 2019 Williams County Community Health Assessment

The 2019 Williams County Community Health Assessment was conducted to better identify and understand health issues facing Williams County residents. Through a combined effort by the Williams County Health Department, Community Hospitals and Wellness Centers – Bryan and Montpelier, and several other partner organizations, we were able to provide valuable information both to individual residents and organizations in the community. Based on the results of the Community Health Assessment, several priorities were identified to address in the Community Health Improvement Plan. The priorities included:

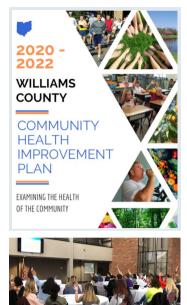
- 1. Mental Health and Addiction
- 2. Chronic Disease
- 3. Obesity
- 4. Cancer Prevention & Screenings



The Community Health Assessment can be found on the Williams County Health Department's website.

# 2019 HIGHLIGHTS

#### Williams County Community Health Improvement Plan



A Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) is a community-driven, long-term, systematic plan to address issues identified in the Community Health Assessment (CHA). The purpose of the CHIP is to describe how hospitals, health departments, and other community stakeholders will work to improve the health of the county. The Community Health Improvement Plan was developed to set priorities, direct the use of resources, and develop and implement projects, programs, and policies in Williams County for a three year period. The 2020-2022 CHIP follows the priorities set by the CHA that were chosen based on data and community input. This year was the first time youth were involved in the selection of youth priorities. Several schools sent students to our Youth Input event where students were presented the results of the youth CHA, then asked to prioritize the health concerns that are the most important to address among youth within Williams County through the CHIP. The process to include student input during the development of strategies is invaluable and we hope to continue to include youth in this process in the future.

### Health Equity Steering Committee

The Williams County Health Department established a multi-sector steering committee with local banks, hospitals, elected officials, economic development, and employers to determine a plan to improve health outcomes in Williams County. An agreement was established with Bowling Green State University to facilitate group input meetings, conduct focus groups and community surveys, utilize Williams County data, provide evidence-based practices, develop place-based strategies, and implement evaluation measurements. The efforts of the Bowling Green State University and Williams County partnership will continue throughout 2020.



# **PUBLIC HEALTH ACCREDITATION**



The Williams County Health Department was recognized with national public health accreditation status in August 2018 by the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB). The accreditation process measures health departments against a set of nationally recognized standards, practice-focused, and evidence-based standards. The Williams County Health Department continues to pursue performance improvement opportunities, continued development of leadership, and strengthened relationships and partnerships within the community as it seeks renewal in the future.

# WILLIAMS COUNTY HEALTH DISTRICT **PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING**

Public health nurses strive to promote health and wellness within the Williams County community through a variety of services and programs. Public health nurses provide adult and childhood immunizations, investigate infectious diseases, provide lead consultations. and connect children with special health care needs and their families with comprehensive care and services through the Children with Medical Handicaps Program.

### Immunizations

**2155** Immunizations provided at the Williams County Health Department

- 3% decrease (66 fewer doses) in number of immunizations given at the health department than 2018
- 14% increase in flu shots given to children and teens (6 months – 18 years)
- 30% increase in HPV vaccine for cancer prevention



Hepatitis A vaccines were given at no cost to high risk persons at the local jail & 886 homeless shelters in response the Hep A outbreak occurring in Ohio.

### Narcan Distribution

Doses of narcan nasal spray distributed to law enforcement.

 12 doses were administered by law enforcement

### **Children with Medical Handicaps**

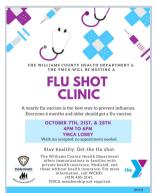
The Children with Medical Handicaps Program (BCMH) links families of children with special health care needs to a network of BCMH approved providers and helps families obtain payment for the services their children need. BCMH promotes early identification of children with handicapping conditions and treatment of those children by BCMH approved health care providers.



84 children served in 2019 through the BCMH program

### Community Clinics

**16** influenza clinics in the community at senior centers, the Williams County YMCA, and Industry Flu Clinics.



### **Childhood Lead Poisoning**

There is no "safe" level of lead in the blood any confirmed level is an indication that the person has been exposed.

- 18 cases of elevated blood lead levels 5-9 mcg/dL
- 5 cases of elevated blood lead levels 10 mcg/dL or higher

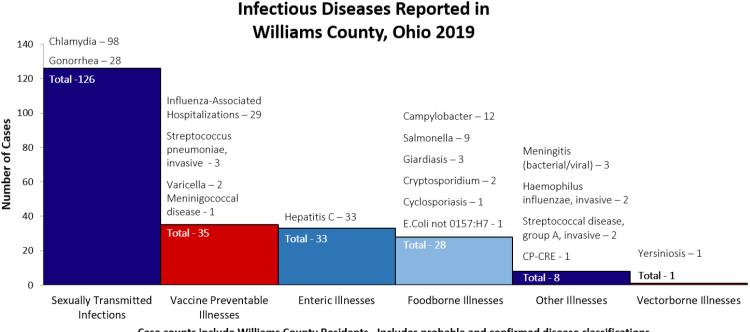


### WILLIAMS COUNTY HEALTH DISTRICT PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING

#### **Infectious Disease**

- Investigated 231 infectious disease cases in 2019 (233 cases is the 5 year average)
- 79 fewer cases in 2019 than in 2018.
- Chlamydia was the most frequently reported disease, accounting for 42% of all reported cases
- 1 Meningococcal disease by Neisseria meningitidis serotype B vaccine preventable

Disease	2018 Cases in Williams County	2019 Cases in Williams County	Trend Over 5 Years	5 Year Average
Chlamydia	151	98	Increasing	121.6
Hepatitis C – chronic	36	33	Stable	36.2
Gonorrhea	24	28	Increasing	15.8
Campylobacter	11	12	Increasing	9.4
Pertussis	8	0	Stable	1.6
Salmonellosis	7	9	Increasing	6.0



Case counts include Williams County Residents. Includes probable and confirmed disease classifications. Data is preliminary and subject to change.

# WILLIAMS COUNTY HEALTH DISTRICT PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING

### **ECHO** Coalition



The Educating Communities on Healthy Opportunities (ECHO) Coalition continued a public awareness campaign with printed posters, banners, and social media as aligned in its strategic plan to decrease substance abuse in Williams County. This year, the coalition became its own 501(c)(3) organization. ECHO was also selected to participate in the HEALing Communities study in Ohio.

8

**\$6,000** Grant awarded by United Way of Williams County for public awareness campaign and Hidden in Plain Sight

Program.







Presentations to community groups or present at community events

**38** Banners distributed to the community

### Women, Infants and Children (WIC)

W.I.C.: Women, Infants, and Children is a nutrition education program that has served families with children less than 5 years old and pregnant women for 37 years in Bryan and Montpelier. W.I.C. provides nutrition and breastfeeding education and support; supplemental, highly nutritious foods; referrals to prenatal and pediatric healthcare and other maternal and child health and health and human service programs; and immunization screening and referrals. Participants can also use a debit card to redeem benefits at local grocery stores.

#### 685 Clients Each Month • 369 New certifications

**RG** Brea

Breast pumps issued

• 58% of participants breastfeed



**\$1,680** 

of coupons given to use at Local Farmers' Markets



New additions to the food list: Chocolate Milk



# WILLIAMS COUNTY HEALTH DISTRICT ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

The Environmental Public Health (EPH) Division is responsible for implementing a broad range of programs that are designed to protect and promote public health throughout Williams County. Through inspections, investigations, consults and education the goal of the EPH Division is to maintain compliance with regulations while providing the best possible service to the residents of our county.

### Food Safety Program

The Environmental Health Division is responsible for the licensing and inspection of food service operations, retail food establishments, and foodborne illness outbreaks.





#### **Recreational Programs** Public and commercial

swimming pools and spas are a source of leisure, recreation, exercise, and therapy for many residents throughout our County. Each facility is licensed and inspected by the Environmental Public Health Division to assure pool safety for the public. Campgrounds, body art facilities, and schools are also inspected.









### **Private Water Systems (PWS)**

The PWS program works to ensure that homeowners and businesses have properly constructed water sources that meet Ohio's sanitary regulations. The regulation of wells, springs, rain water cisterns, hauled water storage tanks and ponds that provide potable water to fewer than 25 people per day and have fewer than 15 service connections are required.

The Ohio Department of Health released revised rules, effective January 01, 2020. Environmental Health is working on compiling relevant changes and will send an informational letter to our registered contractors and other interested parties. One of the most significant changes is the clarification of language that requires any person working on a private water system to be a Registered Private Water Systems contractor.

Environmental Health employees, Kailea Holbrook and Amal Idrissi, taught children about water safety and the importance of handwashing on Water Day in May.



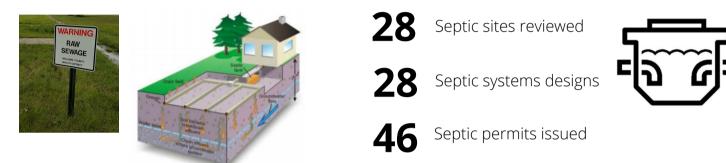
**42** Well permits issued

52 Water samples taken

## WILLIAMS COUNTY HEALTH DISTRICT ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

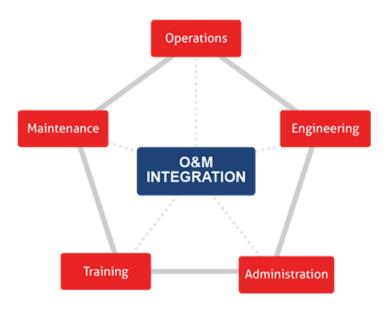
### Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF)

These funds are provided by the Ohio EPA and will continue through 2020 and 2021. We have administered this program for the past three years to assist homeowners in replacing their failing septic systems. To date, we have provided over \$432,000.00 in assistance to 25 homeowners. In terms of wastewater improvement, we have removed approximately 3.65 million gallons of wastewater per year from the waste stream by replacing direct-discharge disposal systems with on-lot treatment systems.



# Sewage Treatment System Operation & Maintenance (O&M) Program

The sewage treatment system O&M program is a state mandated program that is intended to help reduce pollution and save homeowners money by preventing septic system failures. The health department is required to monitor and ensure the proper function of sewage treatment systems in the jurisdiction and requires every sewage treatment system in the county to have an O&M permit.



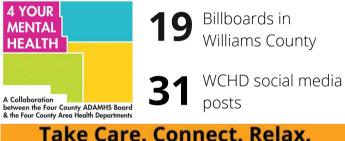
2019 was the first year of implementation in Williams County for the mandated sewage treatment system Operation & Maintenance (O&M) Program. Environmental Health issued 883 permits for existing systems in Millcreek, Madison, and Northwest townships. The second group includes Jefferson and Springfield townships that have an estimated 1,202 properties. That number is likely to change once vacant dwellings, homes that are no longer there, and non-residential buildings are identified and removed from the list.



Sewage Treatment System Operation Permits issued in 2019

The Health Education and Preparedness division promotes health and wellness within the Williams County community by providing population-level services to prevent chronic diseases and unintentional injuries, provide health and education services, and to promote maternal, child, and youth health through evidence-based initiatives. The Health Education and Preparedness division also works to prepare Williams County for emerging public health concerns, to educate and increase public awareness on solid waste reduction and recycling, and to increase community involvement in order to achieve health equity. The Health Education and Preparedness division also oversees the coordination of partners and state agencies in order to collect and analyze local data for effectively designing, implementing, and evaluating community-wide health initiatives and programs.

### 4YourMentalHealth Campaign



The #4YourMentalHealth campaign was developed is to increase the community's understanding of how to achieve mental wellness. Mental health messages are promoted through various sources of advertising including social media, billboards, radio, movie theaters, etc.

### **MyPlate Nutrition Programs**

In an effort to reduce childhood obesity and establish healthy nutrition habits among children in Williams County, the Four County ADAMhs Board funded the Williams County Health Department to work collaboratively with United Way to provide MyPlate, a nutrition education series, in 3rd grade classrooms. The curriculum lays a foundation for students to build knowledge to make healthier choices about eating.



The K-6 MyPlate program is implemented by physical education teachers year-round in 2 schools in Williams County and follows a

MyPlate curriculum provided by the Williams County Health Department and funded by CHWC.



The program includes interactive, educational sessions, a produce taste test, a plate for students to utilize at meals, and a \$10 voucher to purchase produce at local grocery stores.

**911** Students participate in MyPlate

8

Schools participate in the MyPlate program

**72** MyPlate sessions are taught to 18 third grade classrooms.

### **Child Passenger Safety Program**



The Child Passenger Safety program works to prevent injury and improve the safety of all youth while in motor vehicles. Our certified child passenger safety technicians (CPST) have completed extensive training on the selection, use, and installation of car seats and work to educate caregivers on

these topics. CPSTs provide free educational sessions and car seat checks to any individual transporting children in car seats. Through the Ohio Buckles Buckeyes program, free car seats and hands-on education are provided to families in Williams County.





76 Car seats checked

67% of car seats checked were installed incorrectly or misused

**57** Car seats distributed for Williams County children

### Safe Communities

Safe Communities is a data driven initiative to save lives and reduce traffic related injuries by building collaboration between state, county and local community partners. Williams County Safe Communities focuses on the following five areas:



1. Increasing seat belt usage

2. Increasing seat belt awareness



4. Increasing motorcycle safety awareness

5. Coalition building and fatal data review

The Safe Ride Home designated driver program provided safe transportation to 28 people during New Year's Eve.

55 Educational car seat classes conducted with caregivers or guardians



Certified Passenger Safety Technicians complete their fourth day of training and host free car seat check appointments for the local community.

Fatal traffic fatalities in Williams County:

- 2 alcohol-related
- 1 without seat belt use
- 1 motorcycle fatality

ET PULLED OVER

**89%** OT Williams Councy Councy their seat belt restraints. of Williams County residents use

traffic safety materials distributed 5,689 such as magnets, coasters, napkins, banners, or flyers.

Media Outreach:

- 18 press releases
- 4 public service announcements

ThinkFast Interactive Traffic Safety Programming was presented to 750 high school students from 5 high schools.



### **Maternal and Child Health Program**

The WCHD worked with local programs and organizations to assess the available resources and services for adolescents (ages 10 to 19) throughout the county. The project determined the gaps, barriers, and strengths of existing agencies to improve the access to health improvement programs for adolescents.

### Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling

The Williams County Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling Program is a comprehensive program designed to educate and increase public awareness about solid waste reduction and recycling. The program provides educational information and materials to promote the 3 "R's" Reduce, Reuse, & Recycle through media advertising such as newspaper, radio, and internet.



**136,986** Pounds of materials were recycled by the WCHD **Recycling Program in 2019** (68.493 tons).

Recycling through partnerships:

- 5400 lbs of dry cell batteries in cooperation with Bryan City Recycling.
- 3,600 lbs (450 gallons) of motor oil through the Williams County Engineer's Office.
- 366 lbs of florescent bulbs in cooperation with Northwestern Electric Cooperative & Bryan City Municipal Utilities.



Outreach and promotional opportunities:

- 5 educational presentations
- 2 informational displays
- 20 newspaper ads
- 256 radio ads
- 3 recycling newspaper articles



51,960 Pounds of material collected by the recycling trailer from all 10 collection sites.

- 3,600 lbs of aluminum cans
- 5,640 lbs of steel cans
- 23,280 lbs of newspaper
- 19,440 lbs of plastic bottles

Recycling events: one tire event, one Christmas lights event, &

two electronics events.

- 23,000 lbs of electronics
- 400 lbs of wiring
- 48,220 lbs of tires



Pounds of office paper, 4,040 newspaper, magazines, & cardboard from the WCHD offices.

### **Emergency Preparedness**

The Emergency Preparedness program helps Williams County to prevent, prepare for, and respond to health-related emergencies by creating local plans and partnerships. Public health emergency planning encompasses all aspects of planning for health and natural emergencies and coordination of agency response to a wide variety of scenarios. The health department works to engage the whole community and its partners to create strong connections that make us all safer and build a state of community preparedness.

**47** Agencies were involved in the Emergency Preparedness exercises

- **7** Emergency exercises conducted in 2019
  - 1. Pandemic Flu with Fatalities Exercise
  - 2. Bryan Water Emergency Exercise
  - 3. Foodborne Illness Exercise
  - 4. Long-Term Care Facility Influenza Outbreak Exercise

### Medical Reserve Corps (MRC)



MRC is a network of volunteers, organized locally to improve the health and safety of the community by improving

emergency response capabilities, and building community resiliency.





- 5. Pandemic Flu Exercise
- 6. Montpelier Water Emergency Exercise
- 7. Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) Hazardous Material Exercise

**14** Members involved in planning

**133%** increase in MRC membership

Medical Reserve Corps meetings in 2019

### **Community Outreach Events**

The Health Education and Preparedness staff presents numerous educational presentations to organizations based on requested topics throughout the year.



## WILLIAMS COUNTY HEALTH DISTRICT VITAL STATISTICS

The Williams County Health District maintains birth and death records occurring in Williams County beginning in 1909 to present. The Vital Statistics division is able to issue certified birth certificates for anyone born in the state of Ohio. Vital Statistics electronically maintains all birth records filed in Ohio after December 20, 1908 and an index of all death records filed in Ohio after January 1, 1964.



### 2019 Births



**379** Babies were born in Williams County in 2019

35 babies born to mothers aged 19 and under

#### 2019 Deaths

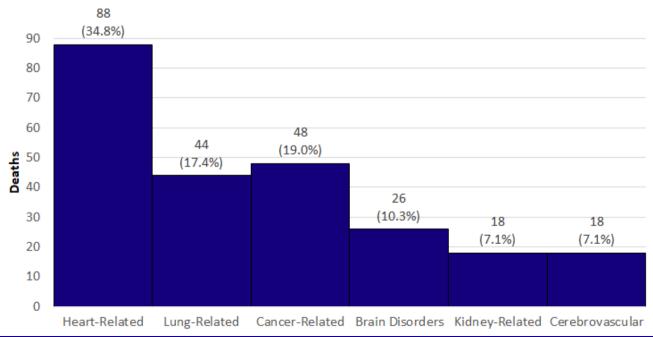
**296** People died in Williams County in 2019.

3 causes of death are still pending.

As seen in the graph below, the most common cause of death in Williams County was heart-related.

# Top Baby Names of 2019 Jackson / Jaxon Roman Leo Suicide deaths Homicide death Accidental drug overdose deaths

#### Leading Causes of Death in Williams County, 2019



# **FINANCIAL REPORT**

