

**ANNUAL REPORT 1992**

**MAHONING COUNTY**  
**GENERAL HEALTH DISTRICT**

2801 Market Street  
Youngstown, Ohio 44507-1649

**General Offices**  
**Environmental**  
**Plumbing**  
788-7041

**Nursing and Clinics**  
788-5011

**Solid Waste**  
788-0428

**Adult Day Care Center**  
782-1749

**Lead Poisoning Prevention Program**  
788-7571

**Toll-free in Mahoning County 1-800-873-MCHD**

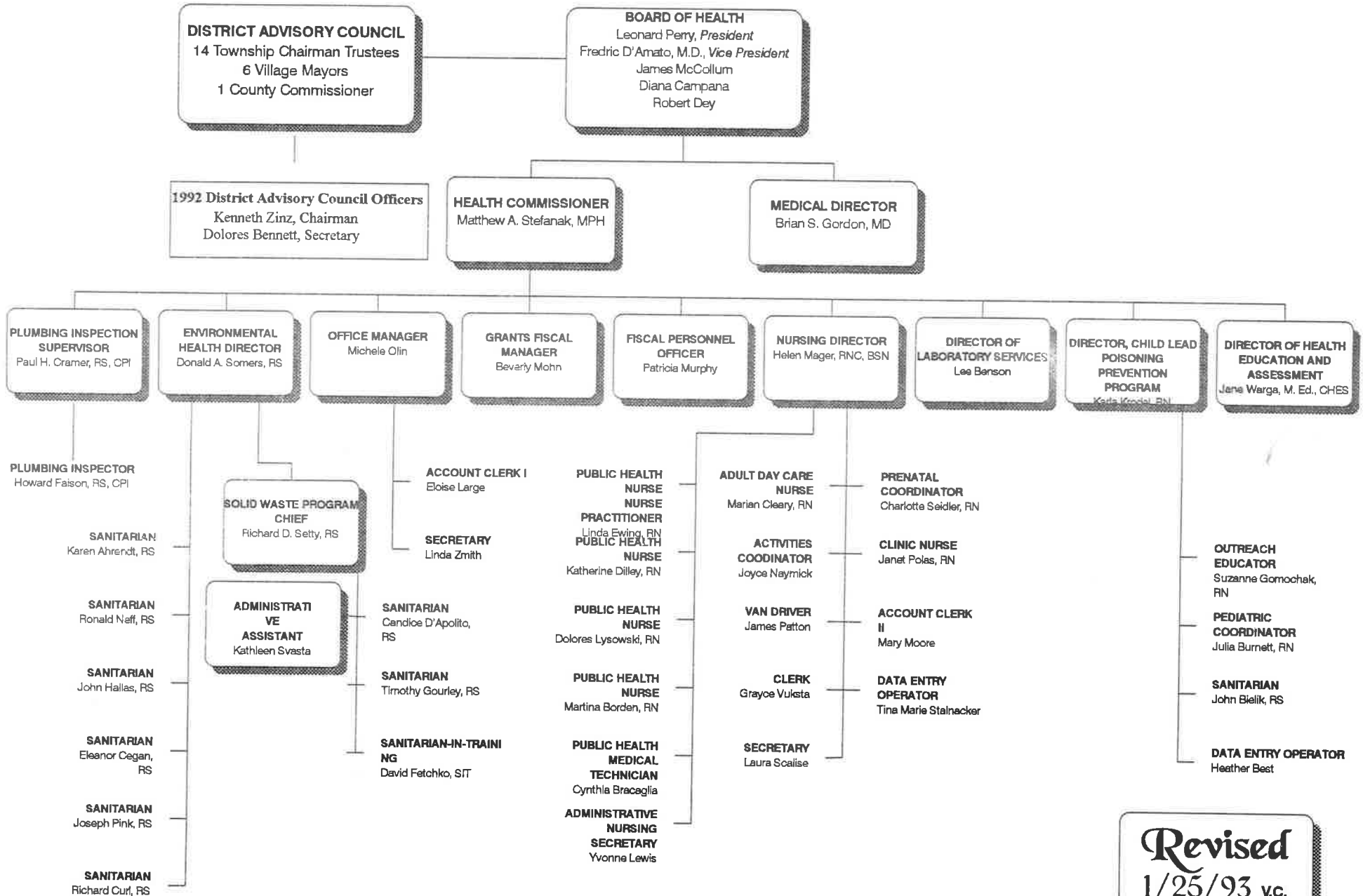
## **Mission Statement**

**The Mahoning County General Health District Board of Health exists to protect and promote the health of all County residents. The Board of Health accomplishes this mission through:**

- the personal health care provided expectant mothers, well infants and children, and children with medical handicaps in Health Department clinics and home visits, without regard for an individual's ability to pay.
- surveillance and control of communicable diseases in the community.
- enactment and enforcement of sanitary laws and regulations.
- identification, prioritization and ongoing assessment of the health needs of Mahoning County residents.
- health education to motivate children and adults to reduce behavioral risk factors for chronic diseases.
- monitoring the effectiveness of community efforts to control public health problems and advocating for reasonable solutions.

# MAHONING COUNTY GENERAL HEALTH DISTRICT

## ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



**Revised**  
1/25/93 v.c.

## **FROM YOUR HEALTH COMMISSIONER**

**Matthew A. Stefanak, M.P.H.**

One cannot look back on 1992 without being confronted with the contradictions between some of the objective measures of our community's health and the increasing level of expenditures on what we call "health." Although we spent a record amount on health care in 1992, fewer than half of our preschoolers here in Mahoning County were fully immunized against common childhood diseases. In some Mahoning County communities, less than half of pregnant women received the level of prenatal care considered adequate for delivery of a healthy baby, while the cost of caring for medically fragile infants exceeded \$100 million last year in Ohio. Almost thirty years after the Surgeon General first reported the link between cigarette smoking and cancer, over one-quarter of us continue to smoke, exposing not only ourselves but our young and not-yet-born children to toxic levels of tobacco smoke.

If there is a common theme that runs through our reports to you in recent years it is this: our underinvestment in disease prevention and promotion of healthy behavior continues to cost us dearly. Last year less than four cents out of each dollar we spent on "health" in this country was spent on prevention of the illnesses for which a growing number of us can no longer afford to seek treatment. Most of this investment in prevention is in the public sector and the local health department is the "investment manager" for many of these scarce disease prevention and health promotion funds.

As we look to the new leadership in Washington to fashion a health care system that guarantees universal access and places new emphasis on funding preventive services that save the costs of treating preventable illness, we can assure you that your local health department will continue to promote and deliver the preventive services which are most cost effective and enhance the quality of personal health and the environment. We have established several priority preventive services objectives for 1993, including:

- increasing child immunization levels by offering "user-friendly" clinic hours and locations.
- improving groundwater protection by educating homeowners and strictly enforcing sewage disposal regulations.
- coordinating our prenatal care services with other community providers to improve accessibility and educate pregnant women about the need for early and adequate prenatal care
- producing regular "report cards" on our community's health status and supporting cooperative efforts to meet our community's health needs.
- developing the laboratory capacity to analyze groundwater from wells in our "early warning" system for groundwater pollution.
- promoting healthy behavior among schoolchildren through classroom and after-school health education programs.

If an ounce of prevention is indeed worth a pound of cure the time has come to apply this old adage to our investment in the community's health. Couldn't we establish an objective of investing six cents of our health care expenditure dollar (one ounce per pound) in preventive services like child immunization, prenatal care and groundwater protection?

## **PLUMBING DIVISION**

Four years of meetings, drafts, and hearings of the State Plumbing Advisory Board have culminated with an updated plumbing code for the state of Ohio. Only one section, 4101:2-51-05 (A), "approved standards for plumbing materials," currently needs updating. "I feel this is a major accomplishment for the State of Ohio. I am proud to be a member of the State Plumbing Advisory Board." states Paul Cramer, Plumbing Inspection Supervisor.

House Bill #402 became effective on July 31, 1992. One of the most important changes is in "safety devices," Section (L). This section states that shower compartments and shower bath combinations shall be provided with an automatic safety mixing device to prevent sudden unanticipated changes in water temperature. The automatic safety mixing device shall be either thermostatic or pressure balance controlled and designed with a temperature limit stop setting to prevent a temperature change of not more than plus or minus three degrees Fahrenheit from the maximum setting of one hundred fifteen degrees Fahrenheit. Multi-shower units may be controlled by a master automatic safety waster mixing device. Hot water heater thermostats are not an acceptable water temperature control device. **This section alone will prevent thousands of burn injuries in the state of Ohio.**

New commercial sites are still being evaluated jointly and on a monthly basis by the Mahoning County Health Department and the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency. A total of 103 sites were evaluated in 1992.

Our plumbing inspections were over 2,000 not including complaints or the semi-public sewage program. 1992 was an excellent building year in Mahoning County and we hope it carries over in 1993.

## **PROGRAM STATISTICS**

<b>New commercial sites</b>	<b>103</b>
<b>Plumbing inspections</b>	<b>2000</b>

## **ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES**

The year of 1992 was one of continued improvement for the Environmental Health Division. The Ohio Department of Health conducted surveys of our mobile home park, private water systems, marina, and swimming pool/spa programs. The favorable outcome of these program surveys can be attributed to the hard work and dedication of the department's environmental sanitarians.

Despite a nationwide recession, the Mahoning County Health Department conducted a record number of sewage site evaluations for individual house lots as well as subdivision developments. In 1992 a total of 625 such evaluations were conducted. This recent trend of residential development in more rural type areas presents special challenges for our home sewage program. We must insure that these homes are serviced by adequate sewage systems to prevent potential ground or surface water pollution. During the upcoming year the home sewage program will be one of the primary focuses of the environmental health division with the goal of establishing a comprehensive program to insure that existing and new home sewage systems are functioning in an environmentally sound manner.

During this past year the Environmental Division established an Excellence in Food Sanitation Award. This quarterly award, recognizes those restaurants that pursue excellence in food sanitation, through practices such as safe food handling. This award has received a very positive response from the food service community and we are looking at ways to expand such awards to our other environmental programs. All award recipients were commended for strict adherence to standards for safe food handling, preparation, storage, and cleanliness as established in the Ohio Department of Health Food Service Rules.

### **1992 Excellence in Food Sanitation Awardees**

**Mr. P's Cafe and Bakery**  
7325 South Avenue  
Boardman

**Copeland Oaks**  
800 South 15th Street  
Sebring

**College Street Cafe and Deli**  
204 South Main Street  
Poland

The Mahoning County Health Department's solid waste program continues to grow and serve as a model for other health department programs. Many of our efforts this past year has gone towards implementing our construction and demolition debris facility program. A more detailed description of our department's solid waste program activities can be found elsewhere in this report.

The addition of a Director of Health Education to the Mahoning County Health Department staff will allow the environmental health division to tap a previously underutilized resource in 1993. We are planning to develop a number of informational/educational materials on such topics as proper sewage system installation and maintenance. In addition we are developing newsletters to distribute to our mobile home park, campground, and swimming pool/spa operators to help keep them informed on important issues so that they can improve their services and their facilities.

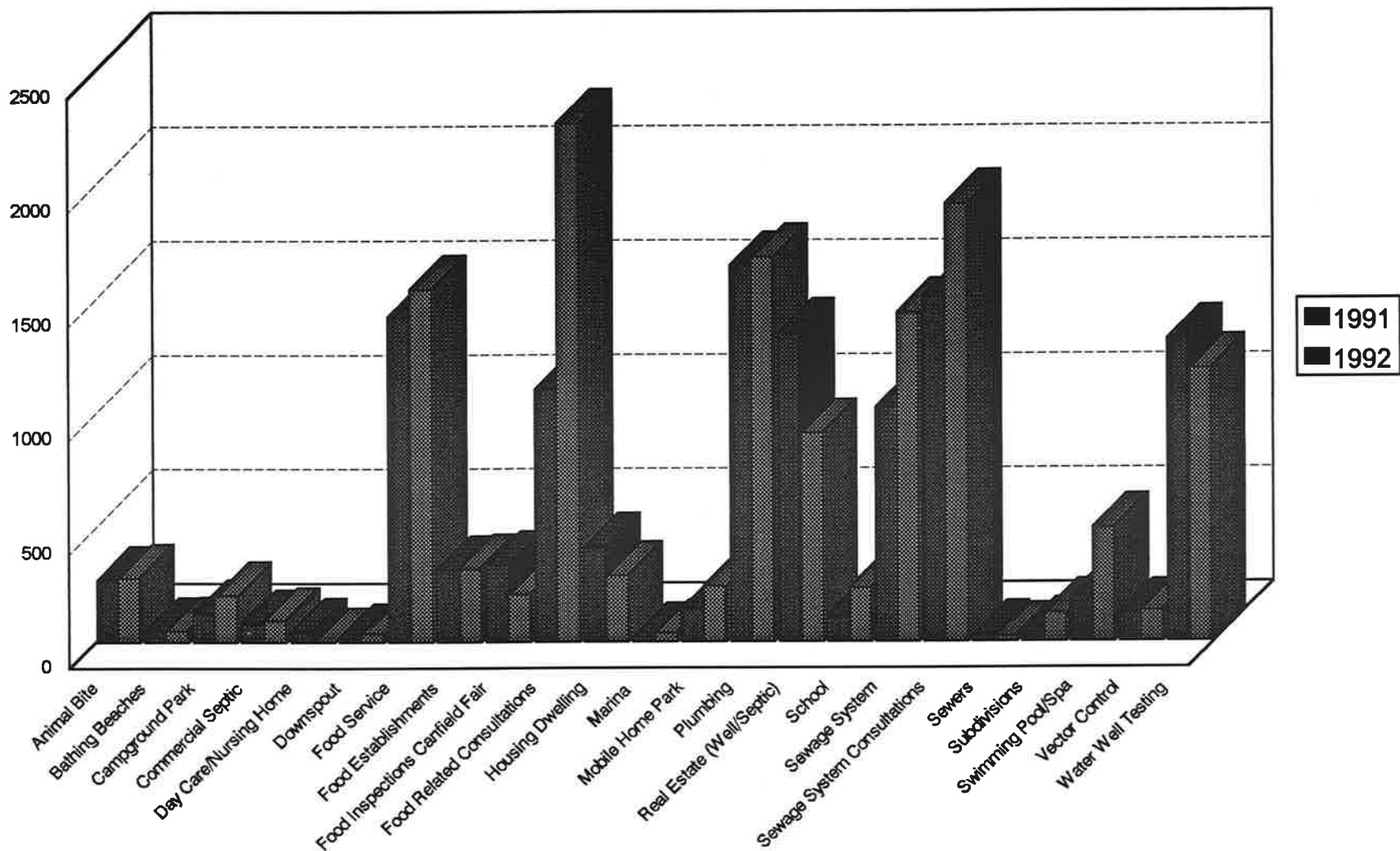
It is only through such a comprehensive approach, that we can best meet the needs of the people an communities we serve.

**PROGRAM STATISTICS****Environmental Health and Plumbing**

<b>Animal Bite Investigations</b>	<b>284</b>
<b>Bathing Beaches Inspections/Consultations</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>Campground Park Inspections/Consultations</b>	<b>207</b>
<b>Commercial Septic Inspections/Consultations</b>	<b>93</b>
<b>Day Care/Nursing Home Inspections/Consultations</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Downspout Inspections</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>Food Service Inspections</b>	<b>1,547</b>
<b>Food Establishment Inspections</b>	<b>325</b>
<b>Food Inspections at the Canfield Fair</b>	<b>214</b>
<b>Food Related Consultations</b>	<b>2,275</b>
<b>Food Vending Inspections</b>	<b>170</b>
<b>Food Vending Consultations</b>	<b>119</b>
<b>Housing/Dwelling Inspections/Consultations</b>	<b>292</b>
<b>Marinas Inspections/Consultations</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>Mobile Home Park Inspections/Consultations</b>	<b>248</b>
<b>Plumbing Inspections</b>	<b>1,684</b>
<b>Real Estate Evaluations/Consultations (Wells/Septic)</b>	<b>913</b>
<b>School Inspections/Consultations</b>	<b>237</b>
<b>Sewage System Installations/Inspections</b>	<b>1,442</b>
<b>Sewage System Consultations</b>	<b>1,918</b>
<b>Sewers Inspections</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Subdivisions Inspections/Consultations</b>	<b>125</b>
<b>Swimming Pool/Spa Inspections/Consultations</b>	<b>498</b>
<b>Vector Control Inspections/Consultations</b>	<b>134</b>
<b>Water Well Tests/Consultations</b>	<b>1,194</b>
<b>Solid Waste Inspections/Consultations</b>	<b>161</b>

# Environmental Health and Plumbing

## Inspections 1991-1992\*





## **NURSING DIVISION**

**The public health nurse is a professional with assessment skills and knowledge of community resources that offer service to all people regardless of financial status.**

Public health nurses visit family members in their homes to provide guidance in personal health care through assessment, counseling, and referrals.

In school health, the nurses make regular visits to both public and private schools. They identify medical handicaps and assist families with application for services under the Children with Medical Handicaps Program. Two years ago the public health nurses established School Nurse meetings. The group meets about three times per school year. In attendance are Mahoning County school nurses and our public health nurses. Agendas for the meetings include school health issues, legal issues related to school nursing, and periodic workshops sponsored by Ohio Department of Health and local community agencies.

**In Well Child Clinics**, health services are provided to infants and children. Five well child clinic sites are provided in the county. As part of the comprehensive care offered at the clinics, a physical assessment is completed on each child. The following story of a clinic patient, demonstrates the value of our services to the community and our goal for disease prevention of and health promotion.

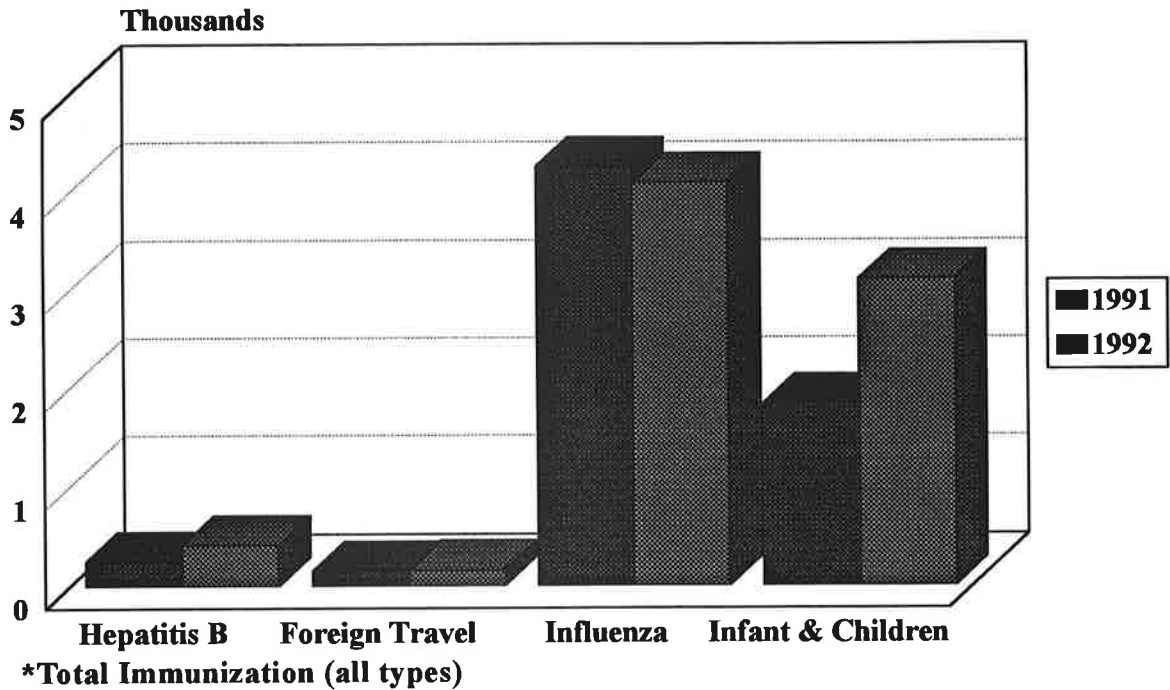
**"A five year old, new to our community, came to our well child clinic for completion of the necessary immunizations for entry to school. In the assessment of his physical status, it was detected by the Nurse Practitioner, that he had a discrepancy of blood pressure in his upper and lower limbs. Through our clinic the child was referred to a local cardiologist for evaluation. The cardiologist, in turn, referred the child to a heart surgeon in Cleveland, where surgery was performed. Public health nurses have the privilege of referring children for diagnostic services to an approved physician through the Bureau for Children with Medical Handicaps. This referral process was initiated by the public health nurses at the clinic site, averting a potential handicapping condition. As the single parent was new to the community, and was not receiving any AFDC assistance, the public health nurses in conjunction with the clinic social worker directed the mother to the appropriate channels for financial assistance. The mother has continued to visit our Well Child clinic bringing her two smaller children for routine examinations and immunizations and the now six year old for monthly follow-up."**

Another success story for a Mahoning County resident served by one of our public health nurses portrays the involvement of our staff with county schools and community agencies.

**"One of our public health nurses became involved with the "K" family when an area school nurse requested a home visit by our agency. Ms. "K" was a single parent of five children, ages seven, six, four, three, and 18 months. The school was concerned because of incomplete immunizations, as well as frequent multiple absenteeism of the two school-age**

# NURSING DIVISION

## Immunizations\*



### State of Ohio Immunization Statistics

- \* Ohio's immunization compliance rate has been steadily increasing since 1980.
- \* Ohio's average immunization rate is 95.8% (includes Head Start, day care, kindergarten, and children new to the district in grades K-12).
- \* Only 37% of Ohio's 2-year-olds have been properly immunized.
- \* Toledo has the lowest immunization rate for 2-year-olds in the state--33%.
- \* Beginning August 1, 1992, an updated Immunization Law went into effect. The new law requires that prior to entering the 7th grade, students must have a second dose of MMR vaccine. For fiscal years 1992 and 1993. Ohio Department of Health allocated \$2.6 million dollars to provide the additional vaccine. In 1992, these funds allowed 84,000 seventh graders to be immunized.
- \* Funding for immunizations was increased 168% (\$1.25 million) between fiscal year 1991 and fiscal year 1992. The additional funding allowed the Immunization Program to buy approximately 84,000 doses of vaccine to comply with the new law.
- \* Of all Ohio's school children in 6th grade-we estimate 65% will use public vaccine providers to receive the second dose-or around 101,000 children.

The Adult Day Care Center continues to provide a valuable and much needed service to the elderly and their families. Its primary goal is to provide support services that will enable the frail senior to continue to live at home. Currently, the participants in the program are between 67 and 97 years of age.

The success of the Mahoning County Health Department Adult Day Care Center lies in the fact that it does "care". Comments such as, "I don't know what I'd do if I couldn't come here", or "Gee, I really missed you over the weekend", are frequently directed to the day care staff from day care participants. Remarks such as these often come from lonely, isolated senior participants because a bond has been formed between the staff and the senior citizens. Families who use the option of the day care for their loved one versus a nursing home are in frequent communication with the staff to insure continuity of care beneficial to the participant. The day care allows families to pursue their own lives knowing that a safe home-like atmosphere is being provided for their loved one. Assessing and discerning the medical needs of the participants has often prevented self medication errors and provided further medical direction when it was needed. Through weekly assessments with the client, the nurse is adequately prepared to provide communication between the participants and their physician. Such intervention often limits the number of doctor's office visits, which in turn, reduces medical costs for the client who is on a fixed income. In addition, the nurse often becomes a sounding board for the needs of the elderly. The nurse utilizes tact, understanding and sensitivity.

The activity program of the day care has provided the opportunity for participants to beam with pride, their accomplishments no matter how small, are recognized and complimented by others at the day care. The activity director's role is to draw upon the abilities of each participant as an individual so that each uses his or her talents to the fullest, and receives the necessary social stimulation in the group setting. It should be noted that projects completed at the day care, have been entered into the Canfield Fair and have won numerous ribbons. Transportation on the day care van not only provides door-to-door service, but is also an integral part of the bonding between participants when they catch up on the latest "news" with each other. By word and by action, the senior citizens and their families involved in the day care program daily demonstrate that "day care" is a practical choice that makes a positive difference in their lives.

**PROGRAM STATISTICS****Community Health**

Communicable Disease Investigation	99
Student School Health Education Contacts	2812

**Personal Health**

Prenatal Clinic Visits	971
Well Child Clinic Visits	1050
Immunization Provided	3122
Immunization for Foreign Travel	166
Influenza Immunizations	4112
Hepatitis B Immunization	413
WIC Clients Served	2146
Children with Medical Handicaps Visits	93
Hearing Screening	1824
Vision Screening	2669
Scoliosis Screening	1307
Client Visits to Senior Day Care	3692
Speech Screening	167

## **LEAD POISONING PREVENTION PROGRAM**

Childhood lead poisoning is the most serious environmental threat to our nations children. Tons of lead are present in the paint used in homes built before 1980. Lead poisoning can cause permanent damage to a child's ability to learn and function. The cost of lead poisoning to individuals and our society is tremendous, yet this disease is completely preventable.

During 1992, the **Mahoning County Lead Poisoning Prevention Program** expanded its scope of services available after it received a funding increase from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control. Local services now available include free lead testing at scheduled screening clinics, environmental investigations in the homes of children with high blood levels, and coordination of services to lead poisoned children by a registered nurse, who, among other duties, visits the family in the home to teach prevention and treatment methods.

**Regional Resource Center.** The Country's innovative program and leadership role in the prevention of childhood lead poisoning was recognized by the Ohio Department of Health in the Fall of 1992 when the Health Department was selected to serve as a Regional Resource Center. The Center is responsible for educating citizens and professionals in a twenty-two county area about the causes, prevention, treatment, management, and follow-up of cases of lead poisoning. The Outreach Educator travels to these counties meeting with key individuals and encouraging them to establish Task Forces and networks of child health advocates. The center provides consultation services and speakers on every aspect of lead poisoning targeted towards any audience.

**The Task Force to End Lead Poisoning**, comprised of child health advocates and community leaders is working with the Lead Poisoning Prevention Program to identify key problem areas and find solutions. Two of the founding members of the Task Force, **Karen Codjoe, MD**, Director of Pediatric Ambulatory Services at Saint Elizabeth's Hospital Medical Center, and **Madeline Ortiz, MD**, Medical Director of Ambulatory Services at Tod Children's Hospital, serve as medical co-advisors to the program. The local task force composed of health departments, social service agencies, school systems, universities, hospitals, housing agencies, legal services, private businesses, real estate agents, landlords, and physician groups, have been not only instrumental in the achievement of program goals, but an inspiration to the program as it fights this sometimes overwhelming disease.

The program's staff of dedicated professionals has made vast improvements in the services available in our communities, and stands ready to respond to actual and anticipated needs in the community and the region. If we can be of service to you or your group, please call 788-7571.

### **State of Ohio Child Lead Poisoning Statistics**

- \* Childhood lead poisoning is the most common childhood environmental health problem in the state.
- \* The CDC currently defines an elevated blood lead level as a "combined concentration of lead in whole blood of 10 micrograms per deciliter or greater."

- \* Blood lead levels of 80 micrograms per deciliter can cause coma and profound irreversible mental retardation and seizures.
- \* Most children in the U.S. are exposed to lead through one or more of six environmental pathways including: paint, gasoline, stationary sources, food, water, household dust and soil.
- \* Most houses painted with high lead content paint were constructed before 1950. In Ohio, 53.2% of children in the age group of highest risk for lead poisoning living within our central cities live in pre-1950 housing.
- \* Lead based paint on the interiors and exteriors of houses remains the most common high dose source of lead for preschool-aged children. It has the highest concentration of lead per unit weight and is found in approximately 42 million homes throughout the U.S.
- \* The Ohio Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (OCLPPP) offers a four-tiered intervention effort, including:
  1. a statewide network of well child clinics
  2. community-based lead poisoning prevention programs
  3. childhood lead poisoning prevention regional resource centers
  4. a system for statewide environmental inspection of homes of children diagnosed with lead poisoning.
- \* During the summer of 1992, the CDC awarded Ohio department of Health the largest lead poisoning prevention grant in the country, totaling \$1.3 million.

**Elevated /Lead Levels  
January 1992 - December 1992  
Reported to the Lead Poisoning Prevention Program**

<u>CLASS</u>	<u>BLOOD LEAD LEVEL</u>	<u>NUMBER REPORTED</u>	<u>COMMENTS</u>
IIA	10 - 14 mcg/dl	213	Children are tracked to identify communities with large numbers of children in this range. Targeted communities will receive community education programs.
IIB	15 - 19 mcg/dl	147	Children receive medical and environmental follow-up if the lead level remains in this range.
III	20 - 44 mcg/dl	133	These children are considered lead poisoned and receive prompt environmental follow-up and visits by the program nurse to educate the family. Lead hazards are ordered to be remediated. The child's physician treats the child with diet and prevention methods.
IV	45 - 69 mcg/dl	11	The above actions are taken. These children often are treated with drugs to remove the lead from their bodies.
V	greater than 70 mcg/dl	1	This child was treated as a medical emergency, hospitalized immediately and treated.

**Total Number of Elevated Lead Reports Received by the Lead Program  
505**

## **THE V.I.P. PROGRAM**

The Mahoning County Board of Health employee of the month award was initiated during June of 1992 to recognize consistently outstanding performance by its employees. A committee of staff members reviewed monthly nominations, and then announced the staff selection for Employee of the Month at our monthly staff meetings. The employees were judged on job performance, initiative in helping others, enthusiasm, versatility, punctuality and positive attitudes toward clients and staff, and in job-related community activities. The employees listed below were awarded this distinction for the month indicated. The distinguished employee had the privilege of special parking for the month, received a beautiful certificate, and had the special recognition placed in their personnel file. The selection for employee of the year was done through a ballot process listing all the monthly award recipients. Linda Zmith received a gift certificate for dinner and a beautiful engraved plaque in recognition of being selected Employee of the Year. Congratulations to all 1992 V.I.P. winners and to Linda Zmith our Employee of the Year.

### **June**

**Martina Borden, RN**  
Public Health Nurse  
Nursing Division

### **July**

**Jane E. Warga, M.Ed.**  
Health Educator/Nutritionist  
Nursing Division

### **August**

**Linda Zmith**  
Secretary  
General Office

### **September**

**Kathleen Svasta**  
Administrative Assistant  
Solid Waste Program

### **October**

**Mary Moore**  
Account Clerk II  
Nursing Division

### **November**

**Richard Curl, RS**  
Sanitarian  
Environmental Health Division

### **December**

**Employee of the Year Award**

**Linda Zmith**  
Secretary  
General Office



**MAHONING COUNTY GENERAL HEALTH DISTRICT****ANNUAL REPORT 1992****1990 BIRTHS**

	<b>Live Births</b>	<b>Low Birth- Weight Births *</b>	<b>Births to Unwed Mothers</b>
Townships and Villages	1,549	86	194
Canfield	116	7	9
Sebring	<u>67</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>23</u>
	1,732	96	226

\*less than 2,500 grams or 5.5 pounds

**1990 DEATHS**

	<b>Infant Deaths</b>	<b>Total Deaths</b>
Townships and Villages	11	1,185
Canfield	1	91
Sebring	<u>0</u>	<u>103</u>
	12	1,379

**Twelve Leading Causes of Deaths in  
Mahoning County Townships and Villages, Canfield and Sebring**

<b>Causes of Death</b>	<b>1990 Number</b>	<b>1990 Rate*</b>	<b>1990 Rate/Ohio</b>
Heart Disease	474	322.9	319.5
Cancer	357	243.2	222.7
Stroke	103	70.2	61.3
Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease	54	37.5	40.0
Accidents	43	29.3	32.4
Diabetes	35	23.8	25.9
Influenza & Pneumonia	33	22.5	30.0
Atherosclerosis	33	22.5	9.4
Suicide	13	8.9	10.4
Nephritis (Kidney Disease)	13	8.9	9.5
Liver Disease	11	7.5	9.0
Perinatal Conditions	9	6.1	7.6

\*rate per 100,000 populations

**Birth and Death Rates in  
Mahoning County Townships, Villages, Canfield and Sebring**

	<b>1990</b>	<b>1989</b>	<b>1988</b>
Birth Rate per 1,000 Population	11.8	10.7	9.3
Death Rate per 1,000 Population	9.4	8.5	8.4
Infant Death Rate per 1,000 Live Births	6.9	3.4	7.8

*1990 Vital Statistics, Annual Report, The Ohio Department of Health*

**1992 FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

**REVENUES**

**STATE AND FEDERAL**

**Block and Categorical Grants**

Child and Family Health Services	\$527,249
Child Lead Poisoning Prevention Program	69,871
Regional Radon Center	46,653
State Subsidy	46,505
Adult Day Care	43,256
Preventive Health & Health Services	41,637
Health Education Mini-grants	2,000

**Reimbursements**

Medicaid, WIC, Bureau for Children with Medical Handicaps, Patient Charges	190,765
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**Total                    967,936**

**LOCAL**

Local Taxes and Health Services Contracts	511,519
Environmental Health Licenses, Registration and Permit Fees	449,641
Solid Waste Management District Fees	426,342

**Total                    1,387,502**

**TOTAL REVENUES                    \$2,355,438**

**EXPENDITURES**

	STATE	LOCAL	TOTALS
Personal Health Services	1,000,502	313,312	1,313,814
Environmental Health Services	23,327	667,641	690,968
General Administration & Support Services	0	275,004	275,004
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>1,023,829</b>	<b>1,255,957</b>	<b>\$2,279,786</b>