



Mahoning County GENERAL HEALTH DISTRICT

Promoting and Protecting Public Health Since 1920

"A Report on the Health of the District in 1996"

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TB Cases Increase in Mahoning County

Board of Health Expands Screening, Proposed Plan to Eliminate Tuberculosis from Mahoning County

Mahoning County has seen a rise in tuberculosis cases in the past year. There were 10 TB cases confirmed in 1996, a nearly 100 percent increase over the number reported in 1995. "Ten doesn't sound like a lot, but for a community this size, it is excessive," says health commissioner Matthew Stefanak.

Shortly after taking control of the TB program in 1993, the Board of Health's TB advisory committee published a plan for eliminating TB from Mahoning County by the year 2010. The advisory committee foresees reaching an interim rate of no more than 1.5 TB cases per 100,000 population by the year 2000. In 1996, the TB rate for Mahoning County was 3.8 cases per 100,000 population.

The plan describes four strategies for TB elimination: surveillance, case prevention, disease containment and program evaluation and assessment. Experts at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention believe that eliminating TB will require local programs to improve their activities in each of these four areas.

Improving Surveillance:

TB staff provide outreach education to the public and professional community by sending TB updates to physicians, nursing home administrators and drug abuse counseling centers. Screening for persons with high TB risk is an important surveillance activity. In 1996, TB staff gave 2,579 TB skin tests to nursing home employees, students, case contacts, homeless shelter residents, substance abuse treatment center clients, and residents of other long-term

care facilities. This reflects a 15 percent increase over the number screened in 1995. About two percent of persons screened in 1996 had evidence of TB infection, a figure that health officials say is about average for most communities.

Improving Disease Containment:

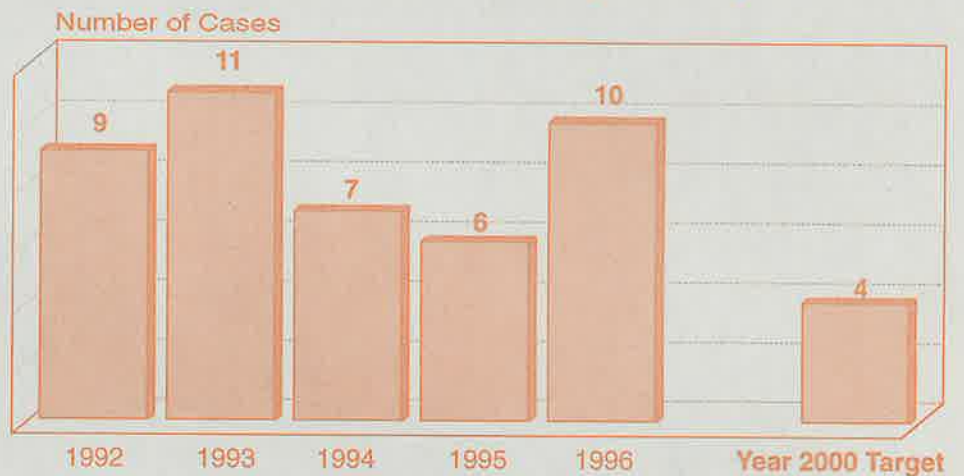
Disease containment can prevent further transmission of the disease in the community. Because TB treatment is lengthy - up to nine months - and the medication sometimes produces unpleasant side effects, many patients do not complete their treatment unless they are monitored by public health workers. Following CDC and American Thoracic Society recommendations, all active TB cases in Mahoning County are treated with directly observed therapy (DOT), a strategy that requires TB staff to observe patients taking their medication in the clinic or at home. DOT was started for 17 individuals in 1996.

Program Evaluation and Assessment:

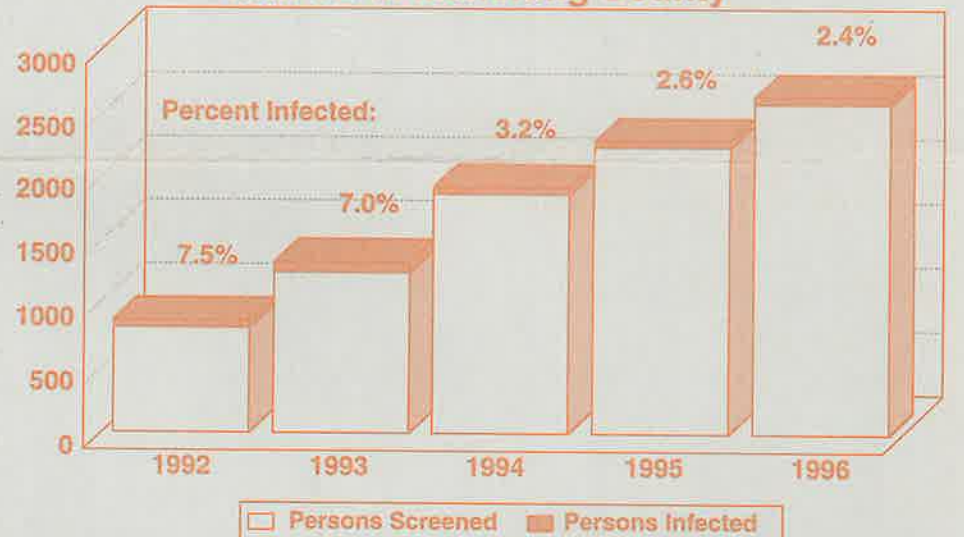
TB staff consult regularly with local experts on the Board of Health advisory committee and the Ohio Department of Health to get feedback on the program's effectiveness. The true measure of its effectiveness, TB staff believe, will be a reduction in the number of TB cases in the years ahead.

Mahoning County's TB program is funded through a 0.1 mill tax levy which expires at the end of 1997. Health officials are expected to ask for levy renewal to maintain current TB elimination efforts.

TB Cases in Mahoning County



Persons Screened and Persons Infected with TB in Mahoning County



Board of Health Looks at New Strategies to Prevent Home Sewage Pollution

Contamination of wells from home sewage can threaten drinking water for many of the 14,000 families in Mahoning County who rely on private wells. At least 14,000 homes in the county rely on septic systems for sewage treatment, and the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency and County Board of Health estimate that 27 percent of these septic systems are failing to adequately treat sewage. Up to 1.2 million gallons of untreated or undertreated sewage is discharged into yards, streams, road ditches and groundwater each day from home septic systems in Mahoning County, according to health commissioner Matthew Stefanak.

In an effort to reduce and prevent this sewage pollution, the Board of Health environmental health division is developing proposals for changes to Board of Health household sewage disposal regulations that will encourage homeowners to keep their septic systems working properly. Board of Health sanitarians spent much of 1996 gathering input about pollution prevention strategies from township trustees, homeowners, real estate developers and contractors. The sanitarians expect to present their proposals to the Board of Health sometime in 1997.

The Board of Health's pollution prevention strategies are expected to include an educational campaign urging homeowners to pump and service their septic systems regularly. Septic systems should be pumped about every three years, and systems with electric motors should be serviced semiannually, according to Dr. Karen Mancl, engineering professor at Ohio State University. A 1996 survey found that many homeowners in Mahoning County have never had their septic systems pumped or serviced.

Homeowners get new septic systems through grant program

Eighteen homeowners in the Lake Milton watershed got new septic systems or sewer tap-ins in 1996, thanks to a \$75,000 grant to the Board of Health from the Mahoning County Commissioners' Community Development Block Grant program. Although they represent a small fraction of malfunctioning septic systems in Milton, Goshen, and Smith

townships, most of these homeowners probably couldn't afford to repair or replace their systems themselves, according to Board of Health finance director Ed Janik. The homeowners received up to \$5,000 each to pay for the improvements. Janik said that the Board of Health will look for other sources of grants or low interest loans to help more homeowners in 1997.

Unsafe Private Drinking Water Wells Mahoning County, 1995*

All Wells 31%
Wells Serving Homes with Malfunctioning Septic Systems 39%

*tested for mortgage lenders

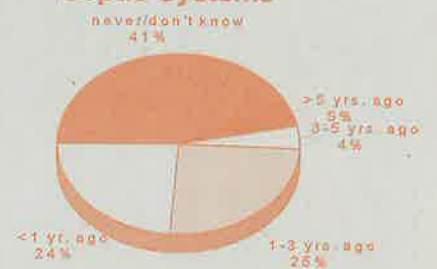
Healthy People 2000 Objective:

Increase to at least 85 percent the proportion of people who receive a supply of drinking water that meets the safe drinking water standards established by the Environmental Protection Agency.

Servicing Frequency of Aeration Systems








Pumping Frequency of Septic Systems





Healthy Valley 2000 Commission for Community Health Sets Local Health Priorities

Every year in Mahoning County more than a thousand people die of diseases and injuries caused by smoking, violence, poor diet, lack of exercise, or because they didn't get an immunization or screening test. A 25-member Healthy Valley 2000 Commission for Community Health has spent the last year researching these and other local health problems using health data from the County Board of Health, community hospitals and the federal government. The Commission announced its findings in a report listing five top priorities for healthier communities in Mahoning County:

- 
 • reducing the number of violent deaths in Mahoning County, particularly among persons between the ages of 15 and 24.
- 
 • reducing the incidence of tobacco, alcohol and other drug use by persons under the age of 18.
- 
 • increasing the proportion of persons who regularly seek physical exams, including mammograms, pap smears, prostate and colorectal cancer screening, and cholesterol screening.
- 
 • increasing the proportion of people age six and older who engage regularly in light to moderate physical activity.
- 
 • reducing the proportion of pregnancies that are unintended.

It wasn't easy choosing priorities from all the health problems in Mahoning County, according to YSU professor Robert Weaver, Commission chair. "In the year to come, the Commission will focus on a detailed analysis of the five priorities and propose actions that the boards of health, hospitals and other community organizations must take to achieve these goals," Weaver said.

The *Healthy Valley 2000* Commission, made up of business people, health care workers and educators, expects to seek community reaction to its findings through public forums and focus groups before it presents its final plan by the end of 1997 to the health agencies sponsoring the project.

HEALTHY VALLEY 2000 SPONSORS

- Lake to River Health Care Coalition
- Mahoning County Board of Health
- Mahoning County Coroner
- Mahoning County Medical Society
- Saint Elizabeth Health Center
- Youngstown Board of Health
- Western Reserve Health Care
- Youngstown State University
- Youngstown/Mahoning Valley United Way

Board of Health Sets Standards for Tattoo Establishments

Tattooing, a process of decorating the skin with colors, is an art form that has been with us since antiquity. Along with being a purely decorative practice, it also has provided a means for concealing cosmetic medical problems. Surveys have found that three percent of the general population and five percent of men have tattoos.

Permanent tattoos are done using a machine that pierces the skin with needles. Loss of some blood or blood serum always follows puncturing of the skin by tattoo needles, creating a risk of bloodborne infectious disease. The combination of blood and nonsterile tattooing procedures can lead to the transmission of syphilis, hepatitis B or the HIV virus. Although the transmission of HIV by tattooing has not yet been documented, the threat exists.

Many health care professionals acknowledge that permanent tattooing is generally safe when done by an experienced tattooist who sterilizes the equipment and follows appropriate sanitary practices. A successful tattoo also depends on the recipient properly caring for the tattooed area in the first week or so after the procedure. Mike Morlock of Dragonfly Tattoo, Youngstown, is one who believes that guidelines for safe tattooing are needed. Morlock is a member of an advisory group created to study recommendations for safe tattooing that the Board of Health adopted as regulatory standards for tattoo establishments that take effect in 1997.

The new standards call for universal precautions to prevent bloodborne disease transmission, sterilization of tattooing

equipment, and hepatitis B vaccination of persons employed in tattoo establishments.

John and Debbie Lenz of Artistic Dermagraphics, Boardman, were among the local tattoo establishment owners who participated in the process of developing the Board of Health standards. "Our main concern always has been to protect our clients and ourselves," Mrs. Lenz said. "Owning and operating a tattoo studio for almost 25 years in this area, we think it is a long overdue subject that has finally been approached by the Mahoning County Board of Health. We worked together as a team to come up with agreeable regulations and found the board to be respectful of our opinions, concerns and questions. We only hope that the Youngstown Board of Health follows the County's lead."

Sanitarians from the Board of Health are scheduled to begin inspecting and licensing tattoo establishments in the spring of 1997.



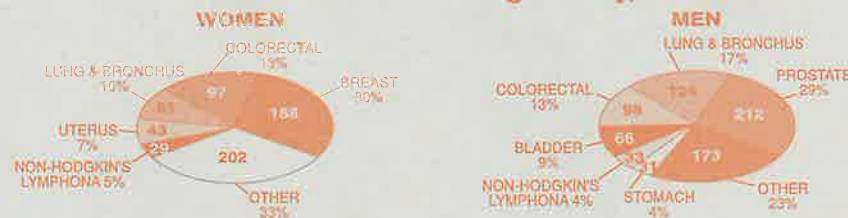
Report Finds Lower Cancer Rates in Mahoning County

Cancer has been a reportable disease in Ohio since 1991, when the Ohio legislature created the Ohio Cancer Incidence Surveillance System (OCISS). All physicians and hospitals are required to report each new case of cancer diagnosed in an Ohio resident.

A total of 1,357 new cases of cancer were reported to OCISS from Mahoning County in 1992. In 1992, the overall rate

of cancer in Mahoning County (352.4 cases per 100,000 persons) was significantly lower compared to all of Ohio (380.4 per 100,000). Prostate, lung and bronchus cancer cases in Mahoning County were also statistically lower than the Ohio rate. Only stomach cancer rates were significantly higher in Mahoning County than Ohio, although stomach cancer accounted for only 3% of cancer cases in 1992.

Cancer Cases in Mahoning County, 1992



Board of Health Lab Completes First Round of Water Testing at County Landfills

137 Home Drinking Water Wells Tested

When it settled its legal dispute in 1990 with Browning Ferris Industries over out-of-state garbage coming into BFI's Poland township landfill, the Mahoning County Board of Health suddenly found that it now had the money it needed to start a laboratory for testing groundwater - with a \$200,000 endowment from BFI and an annual subsidy from the Mahoning County Solid Waste Management District. Board of Health president Leonard Perry and health commissioner Matthew Stefanak had first proposed such a lab to test homeowners' wells around Mahoning County landfills in 1988, when legislation to allow local governments to collect fees from landfills was enacted in Ohio.

The Board of Health lab began operating in a 24-foot trailer behind the Mahoning County Joint Vocational School in October, 1993. The trailer, although cramped, allowed lab director Lee Benson and his staff to do most lab tests themselves rather than contracting for more expensive testing with other labs. By the end of 1996, the lab and solid waste programs at the Board of Health had collected and tested samples from 137 homes around the County's five landfills.

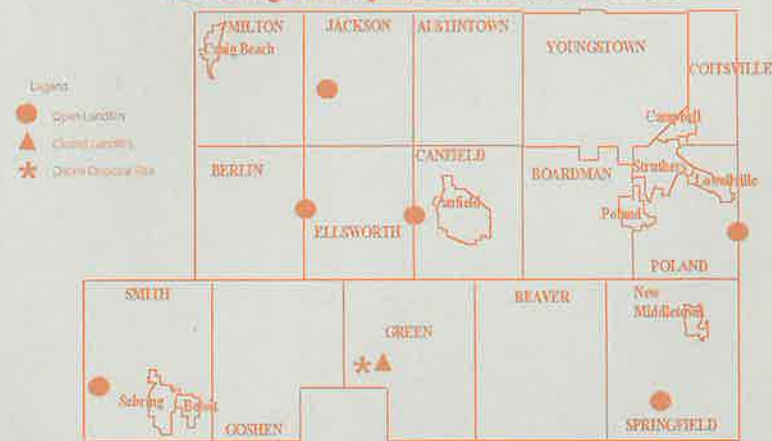
The testing program has quelled some

homeowners' fears about leaking landfills contaminating their drinking water. "I appreciate knowing, through the program, that my water is safe to drink," Jim Stacy of Lowellville told Rick Setty, chief of the Board of Health's landfill inspection program.

Groundwater surveillance programs like Mahoning County's are designed to monitor groundwater around landfills and other pollution sources to insure that contaminants are not migrating from the sites. Officials from the Board of Health's laboratory services and solid waste programs compare the data they collect to monitoring data from wells on the landfill sites to detect changes in water quality that can affect public health.

Tom Jackson has lived next to a closed landfill in Canfield for a number of years. Testing of his well showed no apparent contamination from the landfill. Although he is happy with the results, he has concerns of a different nature. "I'm actually more concerned about all of the residential development going on around the area. There are no sewers yet, so all the homes are on household sewage systems. There is an increased chance of sewage contamination of my drinking water if these systems malfunction," he said.

Landfills, Incinerators, and Local Construction & Demolition Debris Disposal Sites Mahoning County General Health District



Seniors enjoying activities at the Board of Health Adult Day Care Center

HEALTH REPORT CARD

Mahoning County Townships, Villages, and City of Canfield

1995 Births

	Live Births	Low Birthweight Births*	Births to School-Age Teens
Townships and Villages	1568	103	63
Canfield	69	7	2
Total	1637	110	65

*less than 2,500 grams or 5.5 pounds

- 5 Births occurred every day
- 99% occurred in a hospital
 - Saint Elizabeth Health Center 43.9%
 - Western Reserve Healthcare 35.5%
 - Youngstown Osteopathic Hospital 3.4%
- 87.4% entered prenatal care during first trimester
- 98.7% did not consume alcohol during pregnancy
- 81.6% did not smoke during pregnancy
- 81.3% did not use tobacco or alcohol during pregnancy



Five Most Popular Girls Names

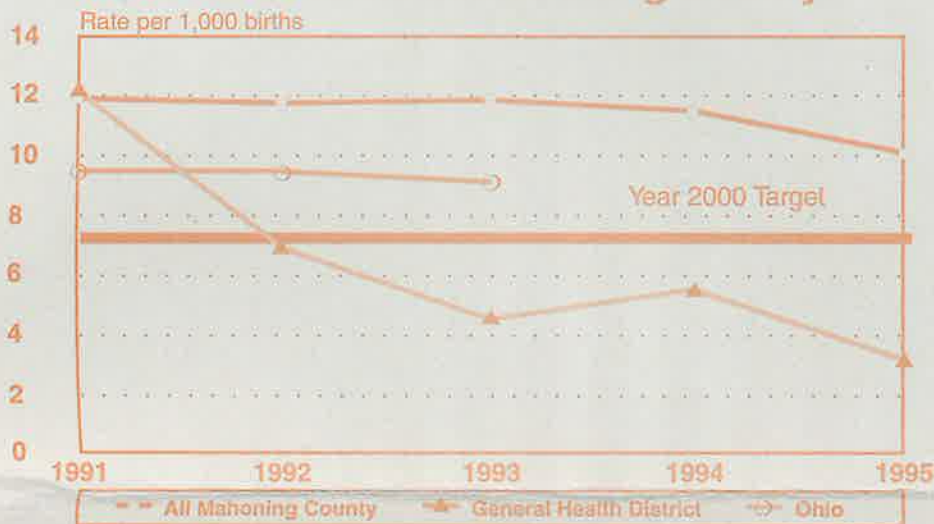
Emily ~ Jessica ~ Sarah ~ Rachel ~ Angela

Five Most Popular Boys Names

Michael ~ Daniel ~ Tyler ~ Joseph ~ Nicholas



Infant Deaths in Mahoning County



1995 Deaths

	Infant Deaths	Total Deaths
Townships and Villages	5	1579
Canfield	0	62
Total	5	1641

- 5 deaths occurred every day
- 2 heart disease deaths occurred every day
- 1 cancer death occurred every day
- 1 infant death occurred every 72 days

1995 YPLL

Leading Causes of Death by Age Group and Years of Potential Life Lost (YPLL)

Age of Death	Cause of Death	YPLL
<1 Years Old	congenital	193.5
	neurologic	64.5
	septicemia	64.5
1 - 14 Years Old	congenital	114
	ill-defined	114
	lung disease	57
	accidents	57
	cancer	57
15 - 24 Years Old	suicide	57
	accidents	225
	suicide	180
25 - 44 Years Old	cancer	135
	heart disease	330
	accidents	270
45 - 64 Years Old	heart disease	180
	cancer	800
	lung disease	590
		100

Ten Leading Causes of Death 1995

Causes of Death	Number	Rate*	OHIO RATE*
Heart Disease	614	418.2	328.8
Cancer	364	248	233.5
Stroke	119	81.1	87
Lung Disease	83	56.5	46.5
Neurologic Disease	58	39.5	22.3
Influenza/Pneumonia	54	36.8	32.2
Diabetes	52	35.4	31.9
Accidents	31	21.1	30
Atherosclerosis	30	20.4	7.4
Mental Disorder	29	19.8	17.1

*unadjusted rate per 100,000 population

1995 Cancer Deaths

Leading Causes of Cancer Deaths (by sex for all age groups, 1995)

WOMEN	# of deaths	MEN	# of deaths
Lung	44	Lung	52
Breast	27	Prostate	27
Colon	17	Colon	14

75 Years Ago... January 27, 1922

The Mahoning County Board of Health votes to oppose the construction of a tuberculosis hospital on the County farm in Canfield township, citing poor accessibility for families of patients and a lack of medical, lab, and x-ray services at this location.

50 Years Ago... March 3, 1947

Sanitary officer Vern Struble makes a presentation to the Board of Health about the need for maintenance of septic tanks and leaching beds after installation and suggests that the Board consider creating a follow-up program to see that septic tanks are cleaned every three years.

25 Years Ago... February 17, 1972

The Mahoning County Board of Health revises its regulations for mass gatherings after 6,000 fans attend a "One Beautiful Picnic" rock concert on a Milton township farm in August, 1971.

Actual Causes of Death in the United States in 1990*

Causes	Estimated Number	Percentage of Total Deaths
Tobacco	400,000	19
Diet/Inactivity patterns	300,000	14
Alcohol	100,000	5
Certain Infections	90,000	4
Toxic Agents	60,000	3
Firearms	35,000	2
Sexual Behavior	30,000	1
Motor Vehicles	25,000	1
Drug Use	20,000	<1
TOTAL	1,060,000	50

*McGinnis JM, Foege WH.

Actual causes of death in the United States JAMA, November 19, 1993

Severe Lead Poisoning Cases Decrease

Despite a steady decline in high lead levels since the Board of Health started tracking cases in 1992, another 42 severely lead poisoned children were referred to the Board of Health lead poisoning prevention program in 1996. Lead poisoned children with blood lead levels exceeding 25 micrograms per deciliter of blood require prompt medical evaluation and an investigation of lead sources in the children's environment.

National surveys have documented a 78 percent drop in Americans' blood lead levels between 1976 and 1991. Dr. Sue Binder, chief of the lead poisoning prevention branch of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention attributes this decline to environmental interventions. "The reductions of lead in gas and food have made a public health difference," she said.

Even at levels below 25 micrograms, lead exposure can lower IQ and attention span, and cause learning disabilities and behavioral problems in children.

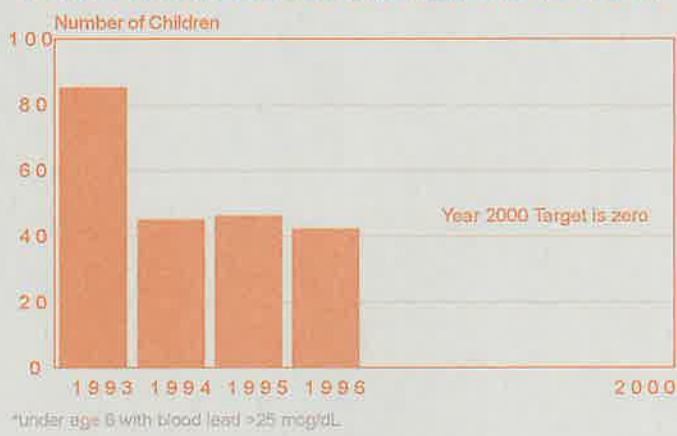
These effects are often irreversible, affecting the child's success in school and ultimately their performance as adults. A CDC-funded study of Mahoning County children conducted by researchers at Western Reserve Health Care in 1994 found that about 9 percent of children had lead levels equal to or greater than 10 micrograms per deciliter, the level at which health effects are first noticeable.

The primary cause of childhood lead poisoning is deteriorated lead paint and lead contaminated dust and soil found in homes built before 1978. Although lead was banned from housepaint in 1978, there are still 24,000 homes in Mahoning County that have lead paint hazards.

Suzanne Gomochoak, director of the Board of Health's lead poisoning prevention program, believes the steady decrease in

high lead levels in children can be attributed in part to their efforts to educate health professionals and the public. Her program provides nursing and environmental consultations, professional workshops, awareness sessions for parents, educators, day care centers, and medical providers, and neighborhood outreach programs.

LEAD POISONED CHILDREN IN MAHONING COUNTY*



Local Funds Save Poison Control Hotline

When your child accidentally swallows a household cleaner, who can you call for medical advice? Access to a poison control hotline equipped to handle calls like this was threatened last year when Saint Elizabeth Health Center closed the Mahoning Valley Poison Control Center due to budget cuts. As the closure date approached, emergency services officials expressed fears about the impact on hospital emergency rooms and emergency services. "It's not only some little girl swallowing Drano, it's accident spills on 680 and our guys exposed to hazardous chemicals at fire scenes," Youngstown assistant fire chief Joseph Durkin told *The Vindicator*.

Poison control centers with specially trained doctors and nurses can handle about 75 percent of poisonings over the telephone, but not all communities have access to a local or toll-free hotline. "Disruptions in poison control services increase the number of visits to hospital emergency rooms, which someone has to pay for," said Rose Ann Soloway, administrator of the American Association of Poison Control Centers.

Shortly before the Saint Elizabeth center's closure, Mahoning County health commissioner Matthew Stefanak arranged for a state grant to bring toll free access to the Cincinnati Drug and Poison Information Center for residents of Mahoning, Trumbull, Columbiana, and Ashtabula Counties. By January 1996, the Board of Health had received pledges of \$65,500 from six hospitals and other organizations in the region to continue the service through the end of the year. State health officials are expected to create a statewide poison control hotline by July 1997.

While poisoning deaths have continued their decline, the number of poisonings remains high, especially among young children and older adults. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that poisoning risks and the severity of poisoning at home can be reduced by having immediate access to the poison control telephone number and syrup of ipecac to induce vomiting of swallowed poisons. According to a 1996 Board of Health survey, about one half of homes in Mahoning County have the poison control number posted near the telephone.

Calls Received in 1996*

2,428	Mahoning County
1,613	Trumbull County
477	Columbiana County
359	Ashtabula County

*through November

Calls to Cincinnati Drug & Poison Info. Center from the Region

- 80 percent of poisoning calls were managed over the telephone
- 60 percent of poisonings were in children
- 7 percent of calls were from hospital emergency rooms

Low Birthweight Rates Rising

Late Prenatal Care Cited as a Contributing Factor

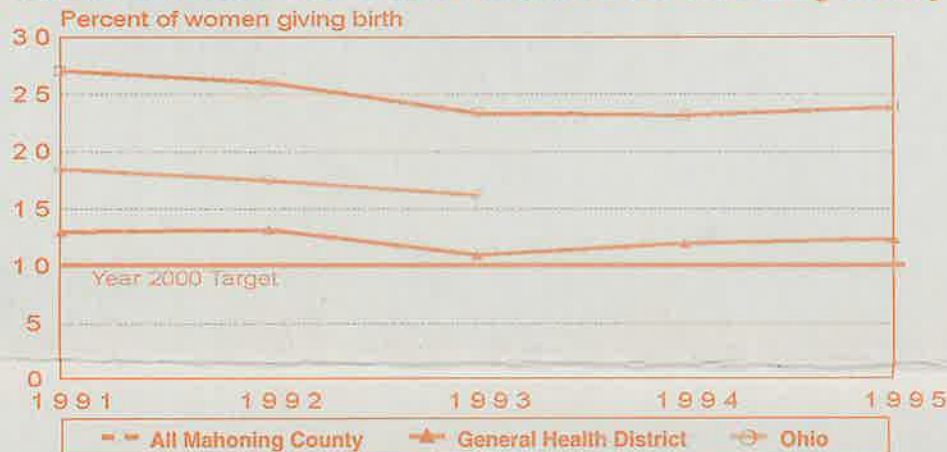
Public health officials are worried about increasing rates of low birthweight deliveries in the U.S. Babies born weighing less than 2,500 grams, or about 5.5 pounds, are considered low birthweight. Low birthweight is a problem because these infants are at much greater risk for conditions such as mental retardation and cerebral palsy. These smaller infants account for only about seven percent of all births, but 35 percent of all infant health care costs. Since 1981, the Ohio and U.S. low birthweight rates have been steadily rising. Mahoning County was ranked 87th out of 88 Ohio counties in the rate of low birthweight babies during a recent five year period, 1990-1994, ahead of Cuyahoga County.

Women who get late or no prenatal care are more likely to deliver low birthweight babies. In 1995, 88 percent of women in Mahoning County's townships and villages - known as the General Health District - sought prenatal care during the first trimester of their pregnancies. This figure dropped to 76 percent when women living in Youngstown, Campbell and Struthers were included. These rates have not changed significantly since 1991. National health objectives call for reaching a rate of 90 percent of all women by the end of the decade.

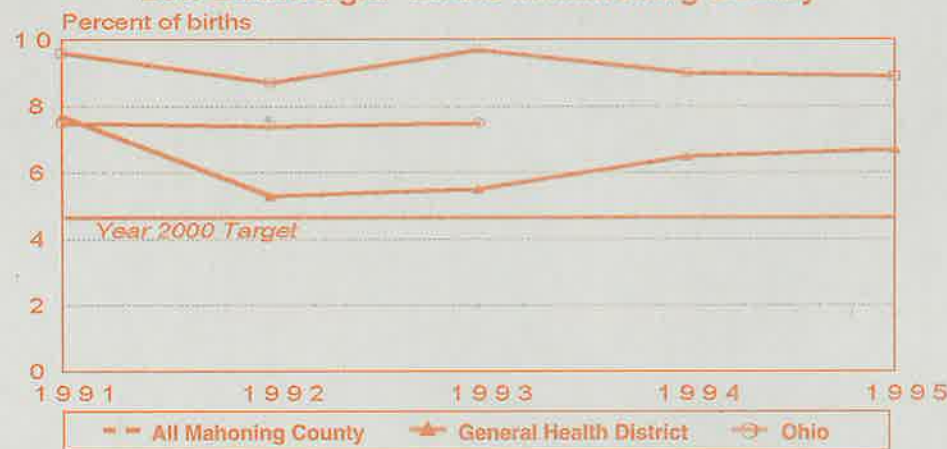
Health care providers and community organizations are trying new approaches to the problem of late prenatal care in Mahoning County. Child and Family Health Services Consortium prenatal clinics, the WIC nutrition program, and the Ohio Infant Mortality Reduction Initiative

(OIMRI) are coordinating efforts to reach women early in their pregnancies and improve the chances that women will deliver healthy, normal birthweight babies.

Woman Who Had Late* or No Prenatal Care in Mahoning County



Low Birthweight* Births in Mahoning County



Teen Pregnancy Rates Up

County Gets State Funds to Prevent Teen Pregnancies

Births to school-age teens increased again in 1995 in Mahoning County, especially in the townships and villages that form the General Health District, where the school-age teen birth rate has more than doubled since 1993. Health experts have noted these characteristics of teen parents:

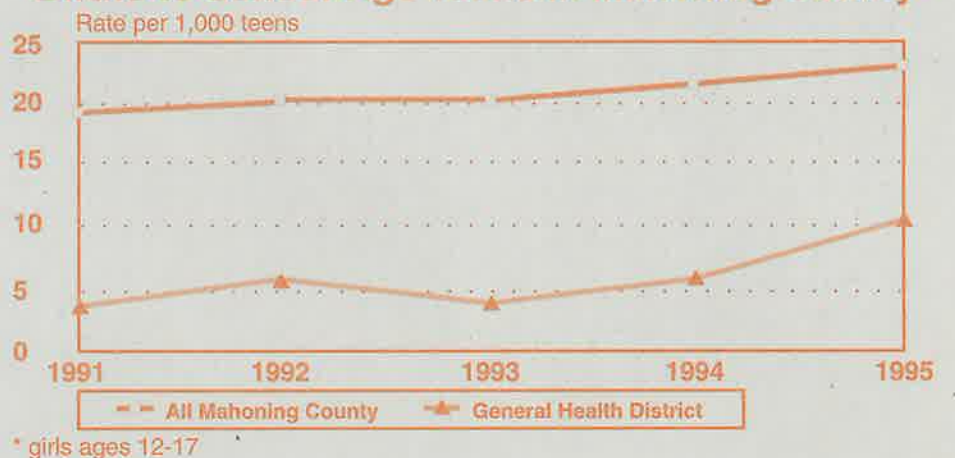
- Pregnancies among sexually experienced teens have actually decreased over the last 20 years. However, due to a dramatic increase in the number of sexually active teens, the overall rate of pregnancy has increased.
- Twenty percent of teen moms will have more than one child before age 20.
- Eighty percent of poverty has been linked to teen births. It is estimated that 10 billion dollars of the cost to taxpayers could be avoided if the births occurred when the women were over age 20.

- Sixty percent of teen moms will graduate from high school compared to 90 percent of their peers who delay parenthood.
- Teen fathers, like teen mothers, tend to be undereducated and live in poverty.
- An Emory University study of 1,000 sexually active women asked the participants what information they would like to have - 85 percent checked, "How to say no without hurting the other person's feelings."
- Early sexual activity does not always fulfill what a teen seeks. A 1994 Roper survey found that 62 percent of sexually experienced high school women and 54 percent of all the sexually experienced students, wished they had waited to have sex.

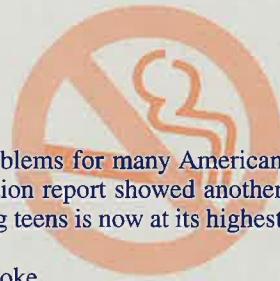
The Mahoning County Children and Family First Council - a local group of public

and private health and social services organizations - received over \$100,000 from the State in 1996 to mount a coordinated effort to help reduce the rate of teen pregnancy in Mahoning County. County Board of Health staff have been instrumental in helping to design this program.

Births to School-Age Teens in Mahoning County*



Teen Smoking at Epidemic Proportions



Increases in teen smoking will lead to future health problems for many American children. The latest Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report showed another significant increase in teen smoking in 1996. Smoking among teens is now at its highest level in 16 years.

- each day more than 3,000 young people begin to smoke
- female adolescents are one of the fastest growing segments of the smoking population
- between 1991-1995 smoking among 8th graders increased 34 percent
- nearly all adult smokers began smoking as children. The average smoker begins at 13 and becomes a daily smoker at 14-1/2
- more than 5 million Americans now under the age of 18 will die prematurely from smoking
- by the time young people become regular smokers, 70 percent regret their decision to smoke

High School Tobacco Use

Percentage of Ohio high school students who use tobacco by sex and grades (9-12) for 1993 and 1995

	1993 All Grades	1995 All Grades	1993 All females	1995 All females	1993 All males	1995 All male
Lifetime use	68.6	70.5	66	68.2	71	72.5
Currently smoke	29.7	38.5	29	37.3	30.4	39.6

The CDC estimates that one million kids started to smoke in 1996. One-third of them will die from their addiction. Keeping kids away from cigarettes is the single most effective way to fight the teen smoking epidemic and the nation's leading preventable cause of death.

Underage Teens Buy Cigarettes Undercover

New Food and Drug Administration regulations to protect children and youth from tobacco became effective February 28, 1997. The new regulation prohibits the sale of cigarettes and smokeless tobacco to anyone under 18 and requires retailers to check photo ID's for anyone under age 27.

Although the FDA regulations face a certain court challenge from the tobacco industry, Jane Warga, director of the Board of Health education and assessment unit, won't wait until the rules take effect before monitoring tobacco sales to minors in Mahoning County. For the last two years Ms.

Warga and a team of young volunteers have made undercover buys in more than half the stores visited by the teens. In 1995, 60 percent of vendors sold tobacco to the teens. The number dropped to 53 percent in 1996.

These new provisions should reduce the number of stores that sell tobacco to youth, according to Ms. Warga, since store owners could face a \$2,000 fine and the clerk who sells the tobacco could face a \$200 fine and 30 days in jail. She is planning more compliance checks in 1997 to assess the vendor education efforts.

Influenza Vaccine Rates to Rise

Board of Health Continues Flu Shot Campaign

Did you get your flu shot last year? The answer to that question was "yes" for over 3,400 older adults and others at risk for serious health problems who received their flu shots at one of the County Board of Health flu clinics in 1996. Pneumococcal pneumonia vaccine was also given to over 200 high risk individuals.

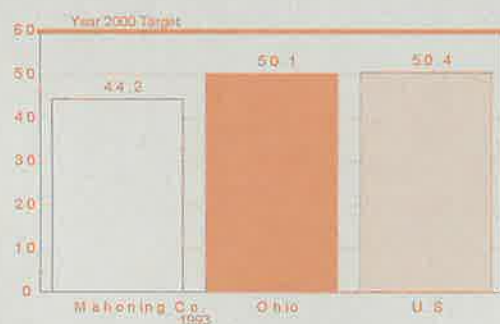
More physicians and other health care providers have joined local health departments in offering flu vaccine since Medicare reimbursement for flu vaccination began in 1993, resulting in slightly lower attendance at clinics as more seniors get their flu shots from their doctors during routine visits.

But more public and private sector efforts are needed to help fight influenza - flu - which caused an estimated 20,000 deaths during each of 10 epidemics that occurred from 1972-1991, according to Diana Colaianni, nursing director for the Board of Health. Pneumococcal infections cause an estimated 40,000 deaths each year in the U.S. and are the most common cause for bacterial pneumonia requiring hospitalization.

National disease prevention objectives call for an influenza vaccination level of 60 percent for persons 65 and older by the end of the decade. A 1993 study conducted by the Board of Health found that 44 percent of seniors had received a flu shot in the last year, below state and national levels for the same period.

The Board of Health expects to offer influenza and pneumonia vaccinations at many locations throughout the county before the next flu season, including some new locations like the Southern Park Mall, where 25 percent of last year's participants received their first-ever flu shot.

Senior Citizens Who Had Flu Shots



Mahoning County Board of Health Flu Shot Campaign Since 1988



Raccoon Rabies Detected in Mahoning County

Pet Vaccinations Urged

Raccoon-strain rabies was identified in a raccoon killed in May of 1996 by a family dog in Boardman. This was the first report of raccoon-strain rabies from an Ohio county bordering Pennsylvania. The raccoon rabies outbreak has been moving westward toward Ohio for several years.

Anticipating the arrival of this threat, the Mahoning County Board of Health enacted a vaccination requirement for dogs, cats and ferrets in October of 1994. The Board of Health has offered annual pet vaccination clinics since then throughout the County staffed by volunteer veterinarians in an effort to boost vaccination rates.

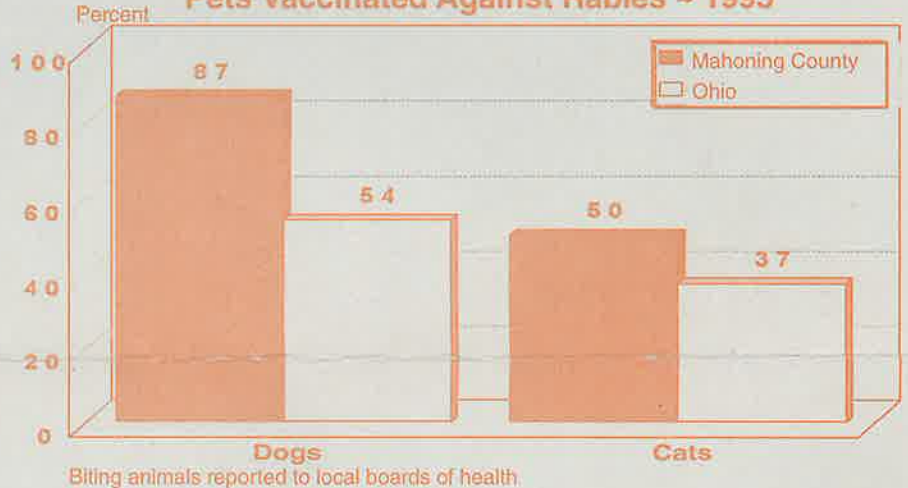
Rabies in domestic animals and wildlife is a serious human health threat, according to environmental health director Jim Shaheen. "When we quarantine a biting animal, we make sure it is vaccinated against rabies before giving it a clean bill of health," he said. A total of 229 persons were reported bitten in 1996. Of those, eight required rabies postexposure treatment as a precaution when the biting animal couldn't be found and tested for rabies.

Vaccination of pets is the only effective method of protecting them - and their owners - from rabies. Vaccination rates in Mahoning County exceeded the statewide average for dogs and cats in 1995.

Protect Yourself and Your Pets Against Rabies:

- Have your dogs, cats and ferrets vaccinated
- Don't let pets roam unattended
- Be cautious about adopting unvaccinated animals
- Don't feed, touch or adopt wild animals
- Don't leave pet food or unsecured garbage outdoors, especially at night
- Teach children to leave wild and stray animals alone
- Teach children to tell you if they've been bitten or scratched by an animal
- Always wear gloves if you have to move or handle a wild animal
- Report all animal bites immediately to the Board of Health

Pets Vaccinated Against Rabies ~ 1995



Biting animals reported to local boards of health.

Board of Health Tightens Control on Septage Disposal

Every year more than 360,000 gallons of septage, the liquid and solid material pumped from septic tanks and portable toilets, is spread on farmlands in Mahoning County by the 10 septage pumpers registered by the County Board of Health. Paul Cramer, plumbing supervisor for the Board of Health, wants to make sure that this material doesn't end up in the county's streams, ponds and drinking water. That's why Cramer is promoting strict compliance with new standards for land application of septage adopted by the Board of Health in 1996.

The new rules call for neutralization of odors and disease organisms in the septage before spreading it on farmland and better tracking of where the septage comes from and is dumped. Landowners must adhere to crop harvesting, animal grazing and site access

restrictions, and prevent insect and rodent problems.

"If every homeowner pumped his septic system as recommended, we would have to dispose of five million gallons of septage every year," Cramer said. He is concerned that better care of septic systems not create new nuisances and public health problems.

Cramer and other health officials are working with municipal sewage treatment plants to take more septage during the winter months, when pumpers have difficulty getting into farm fields. The Board of Health plans to start an educational campaign in 1997 to encourage homeowners to pump their septic tanks more often, and Cramer wants to be ready for the expected increase in septage production.

For POISON EMERGENCY
Call 1-800-872-5111
TDD: 1-800-253-7955

CLIP AND SAVE

1996 Financial Statement

REVENUES

STATE AND FEDERAL REVENUES

State Subsidy	\$ 54,185
Ohio Department of Health State Funded Projects/Grants	
State Funded Dollars Include:	502,254
<i>Child and Family Health Services</i>	
<i>Tobacco Compliance Checks</i>	
<i>Tuberculosis Control Funds</i>	
Federal Funded Dollars Include:	326,628
<i>Child Lead Poisoning Prevention Program</i>	
<i>Lead Resource Center</i>	
<i>Preventive Health & Health Services</i>	
<i>WIC Program</i>	
<i>Contract for Lead Abatement</i>	
Other State and Federal Funded Dollars Includes:	131,951
<i>Adult Day Care, Environmental Protection Agency Grant</i>	
SUB-TOTAL STATE AND FEDERAL REVENUES	\$1,015,018

REIMBURSEMENTS

Medicaid, Medicare, Patient Sliding Fees, Other Insurances	\$156,221
SUB-TOTAL REIMBURSEMENTS	\$ 156,221

LOCAL REVENUES

Local Taxes: Inside Millage and Tuberculosis Levy	\$691,665
<i>Environmental Health Licenses, Registration</i>	
and Permit Fees	517,156
Contracts with Governmental Agencies/Non-Profit Corporations	626,388
Laboratory Service Fees	27,474
SUB-TOTAL LOCAL REVENUES	\$1,862,683

*TOTAL REVENUES **\$3,033,922**

EXPENDITURES

	FEDERAL/STATE	LOCAL	TOTALS
Personal Health Services	\$ 940,587	\$ 458,036	\$1,398,623
Environmental Health Services	71,193	774,157	845,350
Laboratory Environmental	--	192,680	192,680
Support & Administrative Services	54,185	253,085	307,270
*TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$1,065,965	\$1,677,958	\$2,743,923

1996 FINANCIAL STATEMENT



Restaurant Inspections Target Food Handling and Storage

Local Health Officials Change Inspection Methods

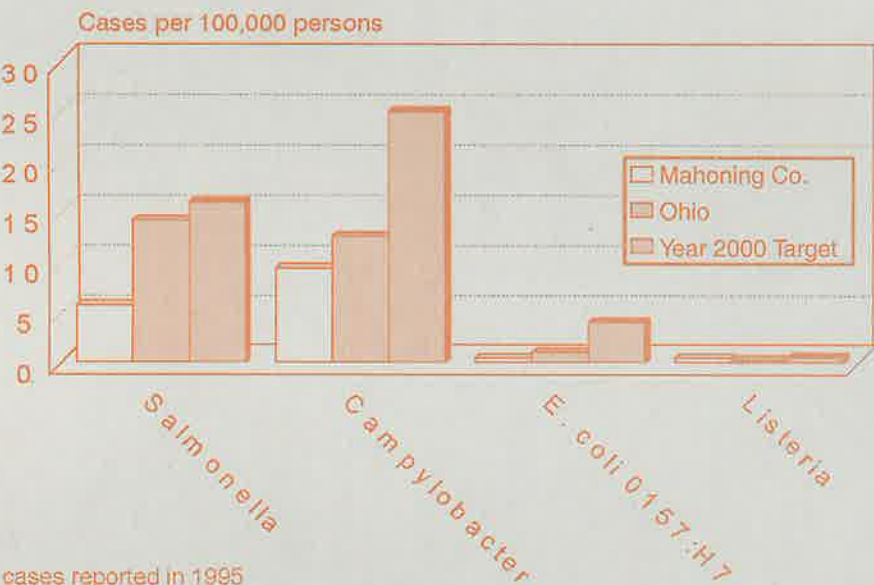
Sanitarians at the County Board of Health began doing their restaurant inspections a little differently in 1996, after changes in Ohio food service laws made local boards of health focus more on risky food handling and storage practices.

All restaurants are now classified into three risk groups according to how often they handle foods that are processed or held at temperatures allowing foodborne disease organisms to grow.

Restaurant operators who attend a food handlers course sponsored by the

Board of Health and state health department can be exempted from one regular inspection by Board of Health sanitarians. Fewer regular inspections can hold down restaurant inspection costs and allow sanitarians to focus on the restaurants with problems in their food handling and storage practices. Safe food handling and storage by Mahoning County restaurants has helped keep local foodborne disease rates below statewide averages. The Board of Health licensed 601 food service operations in 1996.

FOODBORNE DISEASES IN MAHONING COUNTY



cases reported in 1995

1996 District Advisory Council Officers

Ivan Hoyle, Chairman
Dolores Bennett, Secretary

Board of Health

Leonard Perry, President
Amelia Tunanidas, D.O., Vice President
Donald Somers
Margot Baird, R.N.
Kenneth Zinz

Health Commissioner

Matthew A. Stefanak, M.P.H.

Medical Director

Brian S. Gordon, M.D.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DIVISION

James Shaheen, RS, Director
Karen Ahrendt, RS, Sanitarian
Eleanor Cegan, RS, Sanitarian
Richard Curl, RS, Sanitarian
John Hallas, RS, Sanitarian
Kimberly Hobbs, SIT, Sanitarian
Angelo Italiano, MA, RS, Sanitarian
Christine McElhane, RS, Sanitarian
Joseph Pink, RS, Sanitarian
Solid Waste Inspection Program
Richard D. Setty, RS, Deputy Director of Environmental Health and Chief
David Fetchko, RS, Sanitarian
Timothy Gourley, RS, Sanitarian
Mary Helen Smith, RS, Sanitarian
Plumbing Inspection Program
Paul Cramer, RS, CPI, Deputy Director of Environmental Health and Supervisor
Howard Faison, RS, CPI, Plumbing Inspector
Ronald Neff, RS, CPI, Plumbing Inspector

LABORATORY SERVICES DIVISION

Lee Benson, Director
Candice D'Apolito, RS
Lori Nestor, Secretary

HEALTH EDUCATION AND ASSESSMENT UNIT

Jane Warga, M.Ed., CHES, Director
Tracy Styka, MS, Comm.
Health Education Specialist

NURSING DIVISION

Diana Colaianni, MSN, RN, Director
Martina Borden, RN, Public Health Nurse
Jolee Booher, RN, Adult Day Care Nurse
Cynthia Bracaglia, Medical Technician
Christopher Cunningham, RN, Public Health Nurse
Linda Ewing, RN, Deputy Director of Nursing for Clinical Services
William Michael, Van Driver, Adult Day Care
Joyce Naymick, Activities Coordinator, Adult Day Care
Laura Scafise, Secretary
Carol Komar-Vadimo, MSN, RN, Public Health Nurse
Grayce Vuksta, Clerk
Denise Walters, RN, Public Health Nurse
Lead Poisoning Prevention Program
Suzanne Gomochak, BS, RN, Deputy Director of Nursing for Lead Poisoning Prevention and TB Elimination
Heather Best, Data Entry Operator
Joseph Diorio, MS, RS, Sanitarian
Catherine Harvey, BSN, Pediatric Coordinator
Kimberly Herrmann, M.Ed., CHES, Outreach Educator
Lori Wagner, SIT, Sanitarian
Tuberculosis Elimination Program
Shawn Hunter Little, TB Registrar
Joan Williams, RN, Outreach Nurse
Tuberculosis Control Officer
Robert DeMarco, M.D.

FINANCE AND HUMAN RESOURCES DIVISION

Edward Janik, C.P.A., Director
Beverly Mohn, Grants Fiscal Manager
Mary Moore, Account Clerk II
Patricia Murphy, Fiscal/Personnel Officer
Kathleen Svasta, Administrative Assistant
Michele Olin, Officer Manager
Elaine Large, Account Clerk I
Tina Marie Schneider, Data Entry Operator
Linda Zmith, Secretary



In Memory of:

Yvonne Lewis
Administrative Secretary



Anna Ferguson
Adult Day Care Aide

BUCK'S GOOD FOOD TO GO

4218 Mahoning Ave.
Austintown, Ohio 44515

1996
Excellence in
Food Sanitation
Award



How to Reach Us By Phone:

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

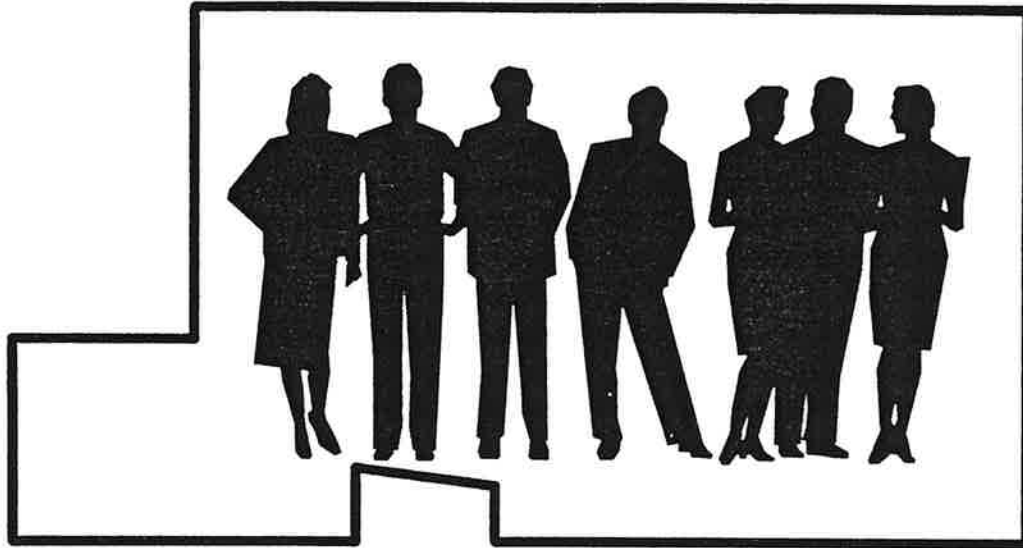
Administration,
Environmental & Plumbing 788-7041
Adult Day Care Center 782-1749
Health Education
& Assessment 788-5011
Laboratory Services 758-5922
Lead Poisoning
Prevention Program 788-7571
Nursing Division 788-5011
Solid Waste Program 788-0428
Tuberculosis Clinic 744-4246

By Mail:

Mahoning County Board of Health
2801 Market Street • Yo., OH 44507
Health Report Card produced in SAS by
the Health Education & Assessment
Unit using vital events data from the
Ohio Department of Health.



Mahoning County **GENERAL HEALTH DISTRICT**



Promoting and Protecting Public Health Since 1920

SUPPLEMENT

ANNUAL REPORT 1996

MAHONING COUNTY GENERAL HEALTH DISTRICT
2801 Market Street
Youngstown, Ohio 44507-1649

Equal Provider of Services and Equal Opportunity Employer

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH 1996

Animal Bite Investigations	356
Bathing Beaches Inspections/Consultations	103
Campground/Temporary Camp Inspections/Consultations	184
Canfield Fair Food Program Inspections	365
Commercial Sewage Inspections/Consultations	14
Food Service/Food Establishment Inspections/Consultations	2917
Food Vending Inspections/Consultations	92
Housing/Dwelling Inspections/Consultations	161
Indoor Air Program Inspections/Consultations	370
Mobile Home Park Inspections/Consultations	401
Mobile/Temp. Food Service/Establishment Inspections/Consultations	365
Real Estate Evaluations/Consultations (Wells/Septic)	995
School/Institution/Day Care/Group Homes Inspections/Consultations	464
Sewage Land Application	57
Sewage System Installations/Inspections/Consultations	6131
Solid Waste Inspections/Consultations	160
Special Projects	16
Swimming Pool/Spa Inspections/Consultations	719
Vector Control Inspections/Consultations	221
Water Haulers	25
Water Well Tests/Consultation	2241
Miscellaneous Environmental Activities	169

PLUMBING INSPECTION PROGRAM 1996

Commercial Sewage Inspections/Consultations	506
Complaints Inspections/Consultations	116
New Commercial Sites	130
Plumbing Inspections/Consultations	3283
Sewers Inspections/Consultations	54
Storm Downspouts Inspections/Consultations	123
Residential Water Alterations	3

CHILDHOOD LEAD POISONING PREVENTION PROGRAM 1996

Number of children tested	3108
Number of children with lead levels ≥ 10 mcg/DL	828
Number of children with lead levels ≥ 15 mcg/DL	257
Number of active cases	577*
Number of children with decrease in lead level after program case management	281
Number of homes inspected (children with lead levels ≥ 15 mcg/DL)	227**
Number of nurse home visits (children with lead levels ≥ 20 mcg/DL)	126

* Includes cases that were confirmed in previous years, but still requires program case management.

** Includes an educational outreach session with the family.

TUBERCULOSIS CONTROL PROGRAM 1996

Mantoux skin tests administered	2579
Positive skin test results	54
New active cases of TB	10
Total x-rays performed	208
Clinic medical evaluations	387

NURSING DIVISION 1996

Immunizations

Infant & Children	817
DTP	93
DTAP	61
DT	5
OVP	170
HIB	149
MMR	149
Td	5
Hepatitis B	182
Varicella	3
Adult Influenza	3050
Pneumonia	352
Hepatitis B	182
Foreign Travel	396
Cholera	22
Hepatitis A	79
Hepatitis B	40
MMR	13
Td	53
Typhoid	82
Yellow Fever	107

Personal Health

Prenatal Clinic Visits	1365
Well Child Clinic Visits	875
W.I.C. Clients Served	1738

Screenings

Schools	
Hearing	1999
Vision	2406

Clinics

Hearing	211
Vision	202
Speech	102

School Health

School Visits	73
Scoliosis	282

Public Health Home Visits

70

Children with Medical Handicaps

193

Adult Day Care Client Visits

3696

Mileage

1839

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES* REPORTED IN 1996

Campylobacter	13
Encephalitis	5
Enterococcal Disease	11
Giardia	8
Hepatitis A	2
Hepatitis B	9
Hepatitis C	31
Lyme Disease	1
Meningitis, bacterial	6
Meningitis, viral	7
Reye Syndrome	1
Salmonella	23
Shigella	3
Strep	4

LABORATORY SERVICES DIVISION

Tests Analyzed in 1996

Alkalinity	68	Mercury	85
Aluminum	2	Molybdenum	0
Ammonia	318	Nickel	45
Antimony	19	Nitrate	68
Arsenic	68	Nitrates	217
Barium	66	Nitrite	20
Beryllium	19	Oil & Grease	49
BOD	99	Pesticides	5
Boron	0	pH	65
Cadmium	94	Phosphorous	10
Calcium	72	Potassium	69
Chloride	70	Selenium	66
Chromium	93	Semi-Volatiles	5
COD	94	Silver	66
Cobalt	19	Sodium	72
Conductivity	50	Solids, Dissolved	66
Copper	123	Solids, Suspended	66
Fecal Coliform	280	Strontium	0
Fecal Streptococci	67	Sulfate	144
Fluoride	51	Temperature	2
Herbicides	5	Thallium	19
Hexachromium	25	TKN	28
Iron	68	TOC	55
Lead Dust Wipes	762	Total Coliform	725
Lead Paint Chips	110	TOX	55
Lead Soil	77	Turbidity	47
Lead Water	138	Vanadium	19
Magnesium	68	Volatiles	10
Manganese	71	Zinc	93