



Mahoning County GENERAL HEALTH DISTRICT

Protecting and Promoting Public Health Since 1920

"A Report on the Health of the District in 1997"

Efforts to Halt Spread of Raccoon Rabies Continue

After all but disappearing from the area, rabies returned to Mahoning County in 1997, carried by raccoons from Pennsylvania. Forty-eight animals, including 43 raccoons, two bats, two cats, and a skunk were confirmed positive for rabies in 1997.

In an effort to halt the spread of this raccoon-strain rabies, the Board of Health, Ohio Department of Health, and other state and local agencies distributed thousands of doses of oral rabies vaccine by air and ground baiting during the spring and fall of 1997. Trapping of wild raccoons after the baiting showed that about 35 percent of the animals had eaten the oral vaccine and were immunized against rabies.

"The arrival of raccoon rabies in Mahoning County changes the way all of us should interact with wildlife or unfamiliar domestic animals," said Jim

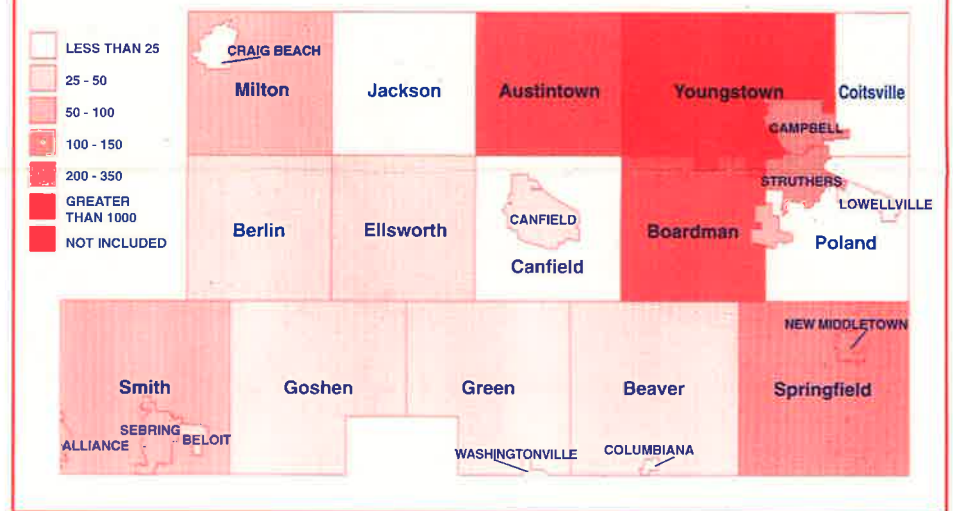
Shaheen, environmental health director for the Board of Health. "We all need to use extreme caution in our contacts with animals and make certain our pets are properly vaccinated against rabies."

Vaccination of pets is the only effective method of protecting animals and their owners from rabies. Since 1994, the Board of Health has sponsored pet vaccination clinics every year throughout the county to help residents comply with the Board of Health requirement that all dogs, cats and ferrets be vaccinated against rabies. In 1997, 268 persons in the Health District were reported bitten, most of them by dogs, and 79 percent of the biting dogs and cats were vaccinated against rabies. Six bite victims needed rabies post-exposure treatment when the biting animal couldn't be found or the animal tested positive for rabies.

Board of Health Offers Health Insurance Program for Uninsured Children

Hundreds of children in Mahoning County whose families do not have health insurance are now eligible to receive benefits from a program created by the Board of Health through the Mahoning County Child and Family Health Services Consortium. The Mahoning County Caring Program is a new public-private partnership between the Board of Health and Anthem Blue Cross/Blue Shield's Ohio Caring Foundation. The Board of Health plans to leverage grant dollars from the Ohio Department of Health and private contributions to purchase health insurance for 640 low-income children. If the program succeeds, 35 percent of all low income uninsured children in Mahoning County would have health insurance benefits, according to health commissioner Matthew Stefanak.

ESTIMATED NUMBER OF CHILDREN IN MAHONING COUNTY WITHOUT HEALTH INSURANCE IN FAMILIES WITH INCOMES BELOW 200% OF POVERTY LEVEL



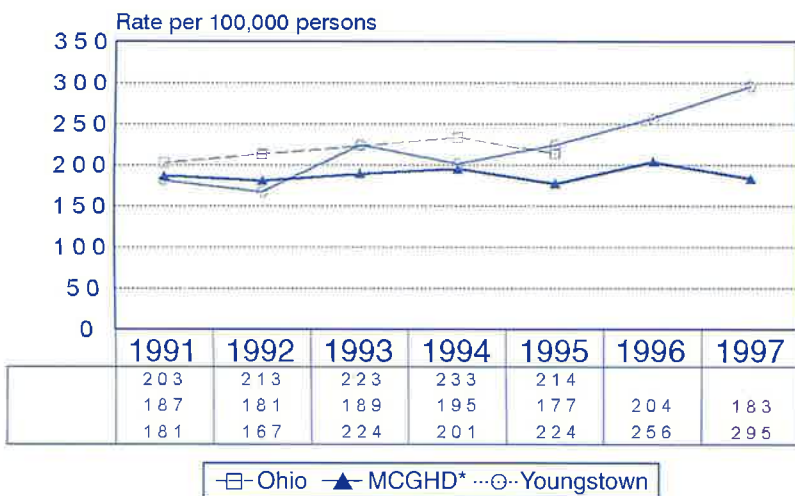
The insurance program is intended to provide a "medical home" for each child, unifying the well child care traditionally offered in public health clinics with primary acute care and outpatient services. "Mahoning County Caring Program means that more children will have the opportunity to get the basic medical care they need," Stefanak said.

Children from birth to 18 years of age in families with incomes up to 185 percent of the poverty level are eligible for the Mahoning County Caring Program. These are children and families who "fall through the cracks" financially, according to Barbara Berger, Caring Program executive director. "Their parents make too much money to be eligible for medical assistance programs, but not enough to cover private insurance premiums," she said.

Caring Program children receive unlimited doctor's office visits, immunizations, outpatient diagnostic tests, outpatient surgery and an annual vision exam. Prescription eyeglasses and drugs are covered with a modest co-payment. Families may choose from over 100 local physicians who participate in the Caring Program.

Although federally-funded children's health insurance expansions are forthcoming in 1998, the Mahoning County Caring Program is still Ohio's first and only private health insurance assistance program for working families.

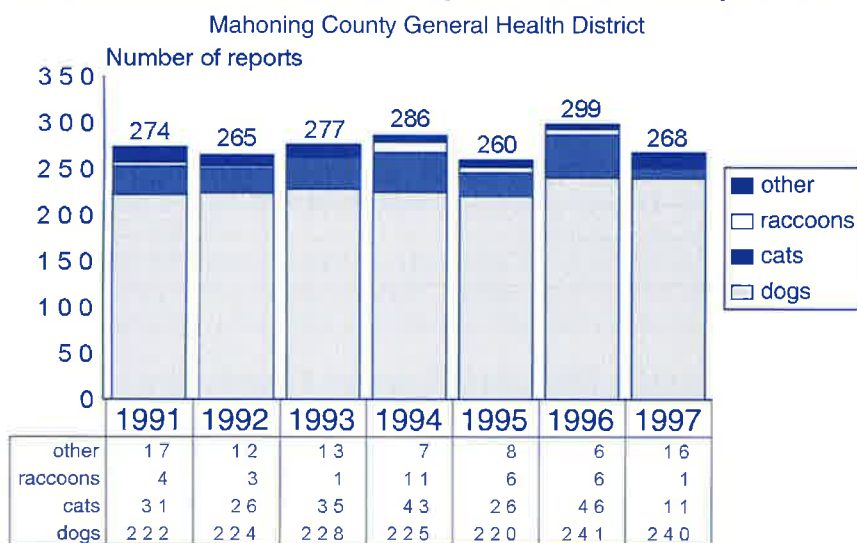
Reported Animal Bites and Exposures in Mahoning County



*Mahoning County General Health District excludes Youngstown, Campbell and Struthers

Animal bite and exposure rates in the Health District have been below the state average since 1991.

Animal Species Involved in Reported Bites and Exposures



Between 1991 and 1997, 83% of bites and exposures involved dogs and 11% involved cats.



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Fewer Stores Sell Cigarettes to Kids Tobacco Advertising Still Targets Children

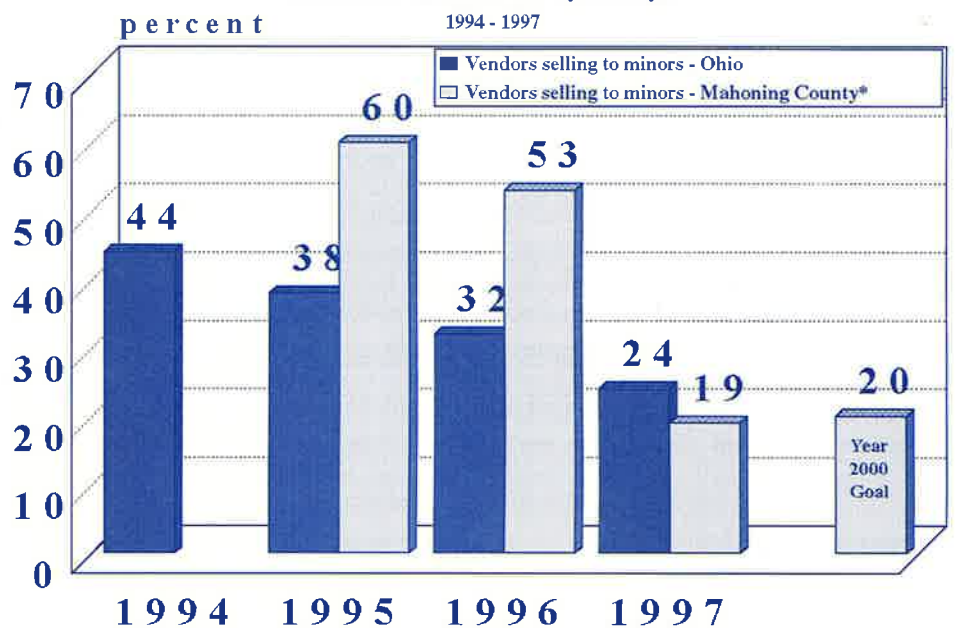
One out of five tobacco vendors sold cigarettes to teens during an undercover buy survey sponsored by the Board of Health in December 1997. Area teens, all 15 or 16 years old, volunteered to spend a Saturday morning attempting to buy tobacco from a random sample of retail stores throughout the County. Jane Warga, director of health education and assessment for the Board of Health, said she was encouraged by the results of these undercover buys, where only six of 32 stores were caught selling tobacco products to underage youth.

This one-in-five figure is a significant decline from previous years. In 1996, youth were able to buy tobacco in 53 percent of stores surveyed. In 1995 the percentage was 60 percent. While both earlier percentages were similar to state statistics, Mahoning County's 1997 numbers were below the state average.

"New Food and Drug Administration regulations requiring retailers to ID anyone under the age of 27, and our years of vendor education are paying off with reduced tobacco sales to our youth," Ms. Warga said.

Under-Age Tobacco Sales

Results of Undercover Buy Surveys

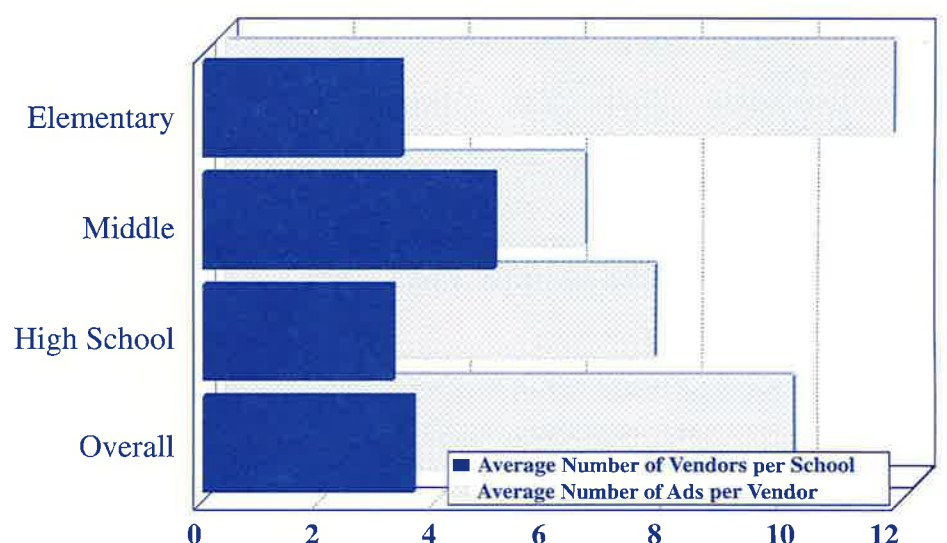


*Mahoning County data not available for 1994

"Our next major area of concern will be to increase the public's awareness of tobacco vendors near schools and the number of tobacco advertisements in the vendor's windows, on the walls, and other promotional items displayed in the store," she explained.

The Board of Health conducted a random survey of tobacco vendors within a half-mile radius of 20 schools during the 1996-97 school year. Tracy Styka, a health education specialist who did the survey, reported that an average of 3.6 vendors were located within a half-mile radius of each school, and an average of 9.8 tobacco advertisements were displayed by each vendor. Ms. Styka asserted that "we need to find a way to decrease the number of visible signs that our youth are exposed to on a regular basis."

Tobacco Vendors and Advertisements Near Mahoning County Schools



"The amount of advertising and promotion by the tobacco industry overwhelms the efforts of parents and others to educate youth about the adverse health effects that come with tobacco use," she said.

75 Years Ago... October 2, 1923

The Mahoning County Board of Health requires the inspection of dairies, annual tuberculosis testing of dairy cattle, and the pasteurization of milk for sale.

50 Years Ago... June 10, 1948

In an effort to stem a rabies outbreak in dogs, the Board of Health orders that all unmuzzled dogs running at large without rabies tags be shot.

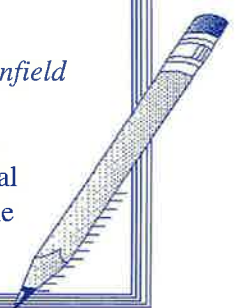
25 Years Ago... March 6, 1973

The Mahoning County Board of Health abolishes a requirement that restaurant food handlers get chest x-rays for tuberculosis screening.

Health District Report Card

Mahoning County Townships, Villages, and City of Canfield

Board of Health staff are available to make health status reports for communities in the Mahoning County General Health District. Call Jane Warga at 788-5011 to schedule a presentation.



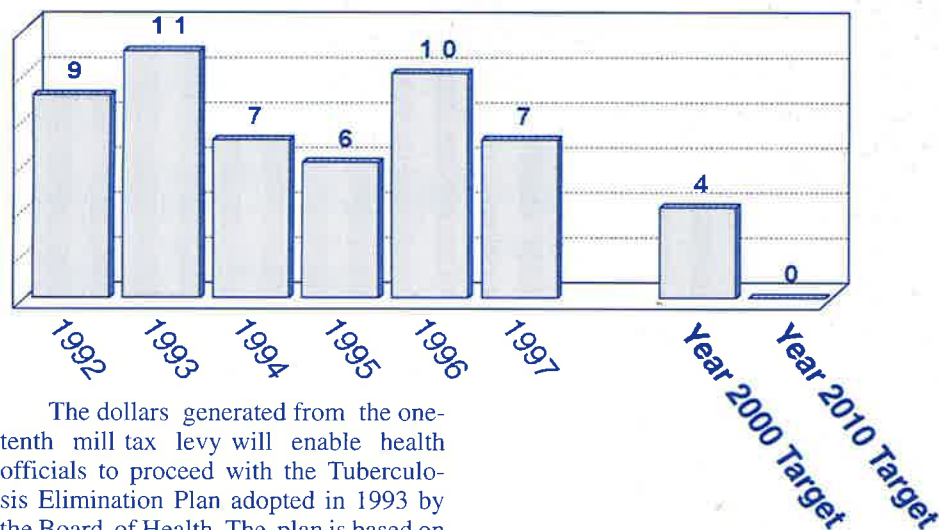
TB Levy Passes

Board of Health Pursues Plan to 'KO' TB by 2010

Thanks to the support of Mahoning County taxpayers, the Mahoning County Tuberculosis Program can continue to work toward eliminating tuberculosis in the next 12 years. The Board of Health's advisory committee foresees reaching an interim goal of no more than four cases by the year 2000. In 1997 there were seven new cases of tuberculosis in Mahoning County residents.

TB Cases in Mahoning County

Number of Cases



The dollars generated from the one-tenth mill tax levy will enable health officials to proceed with the Tuberculosis Elimination Plan adopted in 1993 by the Board of Health. The plan is based on strategies developed by the National Advisory Committee for the Elimination of Tuberculosis and the Ohio Tuberculosis Coalition.

The Tuberculosis Elimination Plan identifies strategies that are key to reaching goals of:

- ◆ zero cases in 2010
- ◆ no more than four cases in 2000

Strategies that are key to reaching these goals are improving surveillance, improving case prevention, disease containment, program evaluation and assessment.

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 1997, TB staff gave 2,425 TB skin tests to nursing homes employees, students, case contacts, homeless shelters residents, substance abuse treatment centers clients, and residents of other long-term care facilities. About two percent of persons screened in 1997 had evidence of TB infection, a figure that health commissioner

Matthew Stefanak says is about average for most communities.

To prevent TB from spreading further, close contacts of suspected TB cases are evaluated within 30 days. If found to be infected with TB, many of these contacts receive drug treatment to prevent them from developing active TB in the future.

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 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention 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 11 individuals in 1997.

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.

Medical Waste Diverted from Landfills by Board of Health Collection Program

In the early 1980's, AIDS and HIV emerged as a threatening public health issue. No sooner had public awareness began to spread about the virus than hypodermic needles and blood vials began washing up on beaches in Ohio and other states.

Here in Mahoning County, the Board of Health received reports of children playing with medical wastes found along roadsides and in dumpsters. Sanitation workers occasionally suffered needle stick injuries and exposure to blood while collecting garbage. Milk jugs filled with used syringes were found in dropoff recycling bins, left there by overzealous recyclers. Unsuccessful attempts to dispose of untreated medical waste at landfills or recycling facilities no longer willing to handle these materials contributed to a growing problem of open dumping of medical waste.

Congress passed the Medical Waste Tracking Act in 1988 in response to the growing public concern. This act was intended to devise a "cradle-to-grave" medical waste tracking system for the U.S.

Home-generated infectious waste was exempted from regulation. Hence, hundreds of home generators who could not

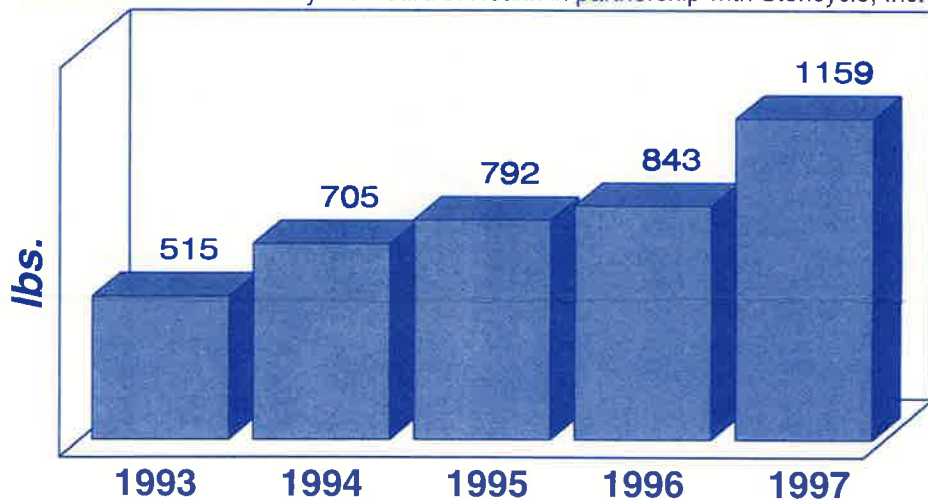
afford a commercial disposal service were still mixing their infectious waste with their garbage. Several clients related to Rick Setty, the Board of Health's Solid Waste Program chief, that their waste haulers had warned them against putting these materials with their trash at the curb. The need for another disposal option for these home generators became apparent.

A local task force was convened to discuss the issue and find a solution. A number of potential solutions was explored, but efforts to put together a collection program fell short until Waste Management, Inc. stepped forward and offered to dispose of the waste if the Board of Health would collect it.

What emerged was a pilot project to offer once-per-month collection of home-generated infectious waste at several dropoff locations around the county. When another company, Stericycle, Inc., recently purchased most of Waste Management's medical waste business, they opted to continue the partnership. J. Mervin Jones of Youngstown, a frequent participant, told the Board of Health that "you provide a very valuable service that is not available elsewhere."

Home Medical Waste Collections, 1993-1997

offered as a free service by the Board of Health in partnership with Stericycle, Inc.



The program, now in its sixth year, has grown steadily. The average monthly collection is now up to 97 pounds, with over 4,000 pounds collected through 1997. The waste is packaged by Setty's program and transported and legally incinerated by Stericycle, diverting it from landfills and reducing the potential exposure of sanitation workers and the general public. A 1996 survey found that home medical waste is generated in 11 percent of Mahoning County households.

Immunization Rates for Two-Year-Olds Second Highest in State

Board of Health Opens Clinic at Mall

Mahoning County suburbs had the second highest immunization rate for two-year-olds in Ohio, according to an Ohio Department of Health survey of kindergarten immunization records in 1996-97 school year. The survey found that 79 percent of kindergarteners were fully immunized by age two. This figure was 27 percent higher than a similar survey done during the 1991-92 school year. "We've been trying to focus on getting kids immunized early and on time and it looks like it's paying off," said health commissioner Matthew Stefanak.

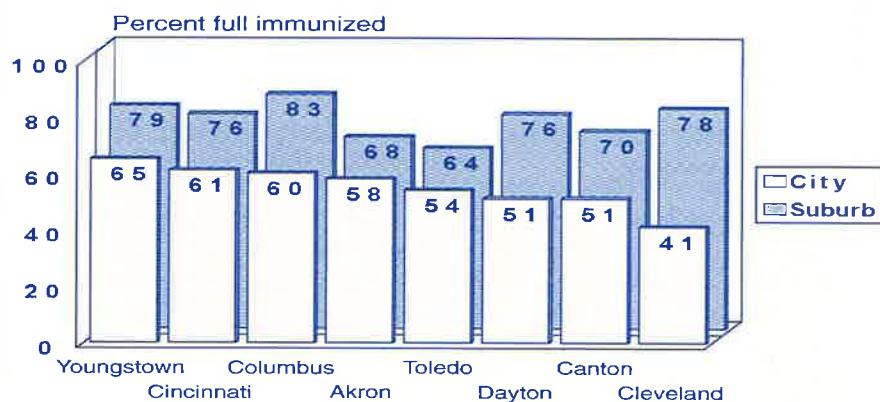
Linda Ewing, a pediatric nurse practitioner at the Board of Health, says that "getting children immunized is important in preventing several childhood diseases. These diseases can cause life-long health problems or possibly death if the child is not vaccinated against them." She adds that "by getting kids immunized early, we could eliminate the spread of certain diseases in the county."

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has set a target of fully immunizing 90 percent of all two year olds by the year 2000. To help reach this goal, the Mahoning County Board of Health opened well child and immunization clinics at the Southern Park Mall in 1997.

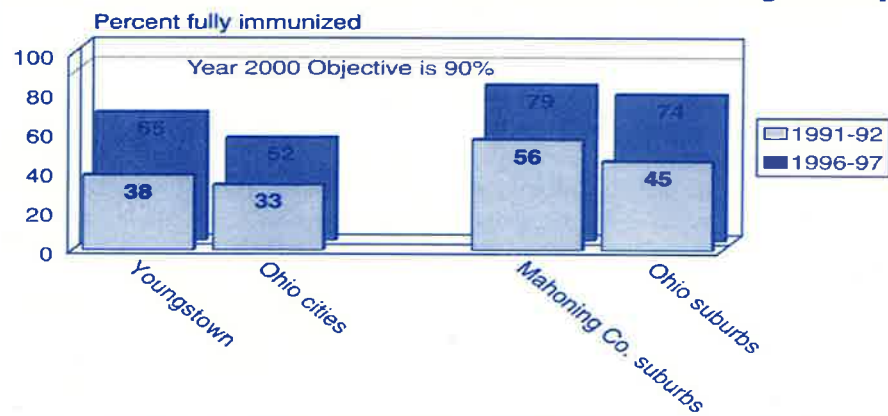
Well child clinics are staffed by a pediatrician, nurse, medical technician and social worker. Children get a physical exam, blood tests, vision and hearing screening, and immunizations during their visits to the clinic. Immunization clinics are for children who already have a family doctor and only need immunizations.

Since the mall clinics opened, 59 children have been seen in the well child clinics and 83 children have been given one or more immunizations in the immunization clinics. The clinics are held the second Monday of every month in the Community Room located near the mall offices. When families who visited the clinic were surveyed as to why they liked the mall clinics they cited the convenient location, safe and friendly environment, and availability of free parking.

Immunization Rates for Two-Year-Olds in Ohio's Eight Largest Cities and Suburbs



Immunization Rates for Two-Year-Olds in Mahoning County



Area Banks Market Low Interest Loans for Septic System Repairs

Ohio EPA Creates \$1.4 Million Loan Fund for Mahoning County

More than a million gallons of sewage enters Mahoning County's streams, ponds, ditches and yards every day from a large number of defective home septic systems, according to a 1996 report issued by the Board of Health.

The Board of Health, the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and three local banks have joined forces to offer a loan program - the first of its kind in the U.S. - through which homeowners and businesses can receive below-market interest rates to repair or replace these faulty septic systems. Homeowners or businesses may use these loans to make improvements voluntarily or under order from the Board of Health or the Ohio EPA.

After obtaining an installation permit from the Board of Health, applicants receive a certificate which they can take to any participating bank. Three local lending

institutions - Home Savings and Loan, Mahoning National and Farmer's National Bank of Canfield are offering these loans to their customers.

Three homeowners have dipped into the pilot loan program since October, borrowing a total of \$15,000, according to Jerry Rouch, coordinator of the loan program at the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, leaving about \$1.4 million available for loans in Mahoning County. "Since this is the first program of its kind in the country, we want to make sure it's a success," said health commissioner Matthew Stefanak. "The money is only available for the next three years. Any that is not used must be returned to Columbus," he said. Mr. Stefanak hopes that more local banks will sign on with the program so that homeowners with mortgages through other banks can get these low-interest home equity loans.

Groundwater Testing and Monitoring at Landfills Continues

Groundwater monitoring around area landfills begun in 1996 by the Board of Health was expanded to 160 homes in 1997. Well water monitoring is intended to make sure that contaminants do not migrate from any of the five landfills in Mahoning County, according to Lee Benson, director of laboratory services for the Board of Health. Over 4,800 chemical tests were run on samples from the residential wells.

"We expect enrollment in the free testing program to increase as more residents become aware of the availabil-

ity of this service to all homes with wells within a quarter-mile radius of each landfill," he said.

With two years of test results now available, the Board of Health is inviting its groundwater protection advisory committee to come up with a plan to interpret the results for researchers, government regulators, and members of the public interested in groundwater protection. Mr. Benson will also be looking to the advisory committee for recommendations to help target his future groundwater testing efforts.

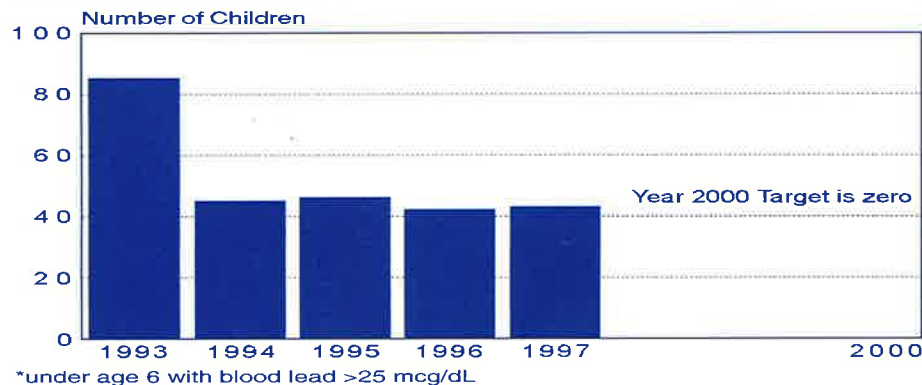
Lead Hazards in Children's Homes Targeted

County Uses \$4.3 Million Grant for Lead Removal

Mahoning County has been awarded a \$4.3 million federal grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to implement a lead-based paint hazard control program. In making the announcement, Henry Cisneros, former HUD Secretary, asserted that "these awards help us to find workable solutions to the problem of lead hazards that threatens essential affordable housing for families with young children."

The grant is intended to decrease the incidence of lead poisoning by identifying children living in high risk areas, providing outreach education to the community, controlling lead hazards through lead removal and control, and promoting economic development through job training and employment opportunities for minority contractors and low income workers.

Lead Poisoned Children in Mahoning County*



The partners involved in this unique and innovative program include the Board of Health, Board of Mahoning County Commissioners, Youngstown City Health Department, HM Health Services, Forum Health, Community Development Agency (CDA), Community Housing Improvement Program (CHIP), Community Housing Options Involving Cooperative Efforts (CHOICE), Organizacion Civica y Cultural Hispana Americana (OCCHA), Northeast Ohio Legal Services, Interfaith Home Maintenance, Youngstown Area Urban League, and the Task Force To End Lead Poisoning.

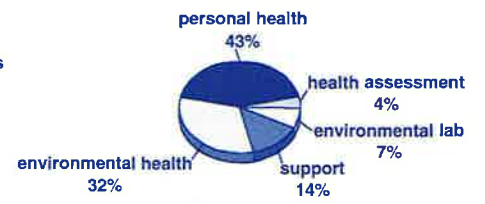
"This is wonderful news for the county," said Suzanne Gomochak, director of the Board of Health's Lead Poisoning Prevention Program. HUD has awarded \$51 million to 17 grantees in 15 states during this round of funding. Mahoning County will now join HUD Grantees from Columbus, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Toledo, and Columbiana, Washington-Morgan, Montgomery, and Wood Counties to reduce lead hazards and to make homes lead-safe for kids.

1997 Financial Statement

REVENUES



EXPENSES



REVENUES

LOCAL REVENUES

Local Taxes: Inside Millage and Tuberculosis Levy	\$ 695,288
Contracts with Governmental Agencies	590,467
Environmental Health License, Registration, and Permit Fees	536,454
Personal Health Services Patient Fees	67,268
Laboratory Services Fees	57,362
Miscellaneous Revenues	18,086

SUB-TOTAL LOCAL REVENUES

\$ 1,964,925

STATE AND FEDERAL REVENUES

Ohio Department of Health Funded Grants	
State Funded Dollars Include:	\$ 361,327
Child and Family Health Services Grant	
Rabies Prevention Grant	
Federal Funded Dollars Include:	235,090
Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program	
Lead Regional Resource Center Grant	
Preventive Health and Health Services Grant	
WIC Program	
Medicaid/Medicare Reimbursement for Services	116,066
Other State and Federal Dollars Include:	115,189
Adult Day Care Grant - Area Agency on Aging	
Home Injury Grant - Area Agency on Aging	
Septic System Cleaning Grant - Ohio EPA	
Facilities Services Grant - Dept. of Education	
Homestead and Rollback Reduction Funds	
State Subsidy	55,792

SUB-TOTAL STATE AND FEDERAL REVENUES

883,464

TOTAL REVENUES

\$ 2,848,389

EXPENDITURES

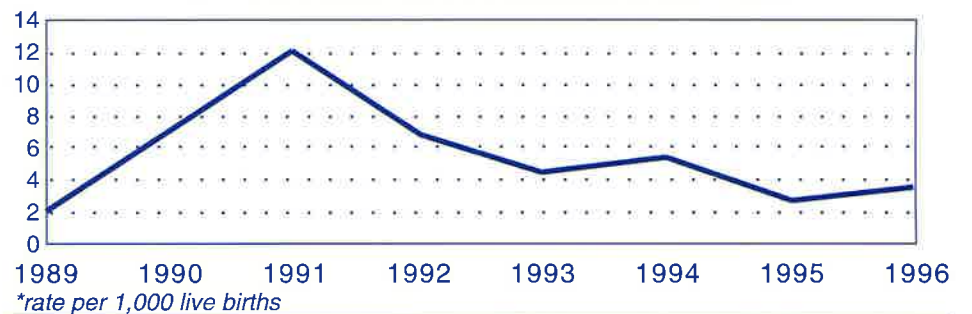
	FEDERAL/STATE	LOCAL	TOTALS
Personal Health Services	\$ 591,883	\$ 626,428	\$ 1,218,311
Environmental Health Services	129,089	772,916	902,005
Support Services	62,871	339,396	402,267
Laboratory Services	-	213,176	213,176
Health Education and Assessment	47,117	64,028	111,145
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 830,960	\$ 2,015,944	\$ 2,846,904

THIS IS AN UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Health District Report Card

Mahoning County Townships, Villages, and City of Canfield

1989 - 1996 Infant Death Rate in the Health District*



1996 Births in the Health District

	Live Births	Low Birth-weight Births*	Births to School-Age Teens (15-17)
Townships and Villages	1,443	100	33
Canfield	59	5	1
Total	1,502	105	34

*less than 2,500 grams or 5.5 pounds

MATERNAL HEALTH FACTS

Births every day	4
Births in a hospital	99.9%
Saint Elizabeth Health Center	49.1%
Northside Hospital	30.8%
Youngstown Osteopathic Hospital	2.2%
Entered prenatal care during first trimester	88.8%
Did not use alcohol during pregnancy	97.3%
Did not smoke during pregnancy	82.6%

5 most popular BOYS names:

Nicholas, Matthew, Jacob, John, Michael

5 most popular GIRLS names:

Taylor, Emily, Jessica, Alexis, Amanda

1996 YPLL

Leading causes of death by age group and years of potential life lost (YPLL)

Age Group	Cause of Death	YPLL
<1 Years Old	perinatal conditions	193.5
	congenital anomalies	64.5
	ill-defined	64.5
1-14 Years Old	heart disease	57.0
	cancer	57.0
	ill-defined	57.0
15-24 Years Old	accidents	225.0
	cancer	45.0
	other injuries	45.0
25-44 Years Old	suicides	45.0
	cancer	420.0
	heart disease	330.0
45-64 Years Old	suicide	300.0
	cancer	850.0
	heart disease	510.0
	lung disease	90.0

(1996) TEN LEADING CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE HEALTH DISTRICT

Causes of Death	Number	Health District Rate*	Ohio Rate*
Heart Disease	530	361.2	317.1
Cancer	370	252.1	235.0
Stroke	116	79.0	69.0
Lung Disease	84	57.2	48.2
Diabetes	59	40.2	34.7
Neurologic Disease	58	39.5	22.5
Influenza/Pneumonia	52	35.4	31.4
Accidents	35	23.8	29.5
Atherosclerosis	31	21.1	8.4
Mental Disorder	23	15.7	18.5

*rate per 100,000 population

1996 DEATHS

	Infant Deaths	Total Deaths
Townships & Villages	4	1,521
Canfield	0	60
TOTAL	4	1,581

4 deaths occurred every day • nearly 2 heart disease deaths occurred every day • 1 cancer death occurred every day • 1 infant death occurred every 91 days.

*Years of Potential Life Lost (YPLL): The number of years a person may have lived if he/she had not died. It is usually calculated from age 65. For example, if a person dies at age 60, the YPLL is 5. If a person dies at age 65, the YPLL is 0.