



# DISTRICT BOARD OF HEALTH

*"A Report on the Health of the District in 1999"*

Mahoning County

March 2000

*The District Board of Health is a public agency that provides public health services to the 156,000 residents of the Mahoning County General Health District. Health districts are political subdivisions created by the Ohio Legislature in 1919. The Mahoning health district comprises the townships and villages of Mahoning County and contracts with the City of Canfield. Board of Health members are appointed by representatives from each of the townships and villages. Ohio law requires the district health commissioner to make a public report on the health of the district each year.*

## MORE HEALTH CARE CHOICES FOR PREGNANT WOMEN AND CHILDREN

Families having trouble finding a doctor can find help from a District Board of Health program, according to Diana Colaianni, director of nursing at the District Board of Health. A grant from the Ohio Department of Health has allowed the District Board of Health to offer more health care options for many uninsured families. The Board of Health's prenatal and pediatric voucher program has recruited more private doctors in Mahoning County to provide health care services to uninsured pregnant women and children who do not qualify for Medicaid or the Ohio Children's Health Insurance Program.

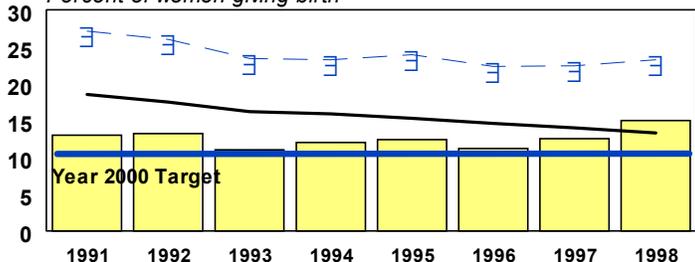
Five obstetricians and midwives in Mahoning County are now accepting pregnant patients for prenatal care through the program. These five private practices, along with several hospital and community clinics, provide quality health care for uninsured pregnant patients in Mahoning County. "Early prenatal care is very important for the health of the mother and the baby. The Board of Health's prenatal voucher program can help uninsured patients avoid delaying prenatal care because of financial concerns," Colaianni said. Financial barriers may explain why more than 20 percent of women receive late or no prenatal care in Mahoning County.

A growing number of private pediatricians and family practice doctors are now accepting new patients through the Board of Health's pediatric voucher program. These physicians' offices are located throughout the County so that no family has to travel a long distance to obtain well child or illness care. Health care for uninsured children is also available at local hospital, community and health department clinics through the Ohio Department of Health grant-funded program.

More information about the prenatal and pediatric health care voucher program is available by calling the Nursing Division at (330) 270-2855, extension 123.

## Women Who Had Late or No Prenatal Care in Mahoning County

Percent of women giving birth



■ all Mahoning Co. ■ General Health District — Ohio

"Late" prenatal care is a first doctor visit in the second trimester of pregnancy or later

## NEW ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH LAB OPENS IN AUSTINTOWN

After conducting their drinking water and waste testing in a 30-foot trailer at the Mahoning County Joint Vocational School for five years, the District Board of Health's laboratory services division has moved into a 4,500 square foot, state-of-the-art laboratory near the Board of Health "campus" in Austintown.

"The new facility will allow us to perform an expanded list of tests ranging from metals and wet chemistries to microbiological and organic contaminants," said Lee Benson, laboratory director. Benson reported that the lab is in the process of purchasing the new equipment necessary for starting the microbiological section and will begin operation as soon as possible.

The laboratory recently received certification from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency to test drinking water for metal contaminants and is proceeding with plans to obtain the same certification for both biological and chemical contaminants in 2000.

The lab tests drinking water for more than 100 homeowners who live around the six landfills in Mahoning County. It also tests for lead in dust and paint taken from the homes of lead-poisoned children.

## GROUNDWATER TESTING AROUND COUNTY LANDFILLS EXPANDED

Homeowners who live within one mile of the six landfills in Mahoning County can now have their wells tested at no cost. Matthew Stefanak, Mahoning County health commissioner, has announced that the District Board of Health is expanding its drinking water testing program.

Grants from BFI and the County's solid waste management district combined with the opening of a new lab in Austintown will allow the Board of Health to expand its services to residents, Stefanak said.

Board of Health staff have used well records from the Ohio department of natural resources and new computer technology to locate more than 1,100 wells within a mile of the landfills. After new city water lines are installed in Poland and Springfield townships next year, about 800 wells will remain in use. The Board of Health would eventually like to test about 300 of these wells twice a year, according to Lee Benson, laboratory director.

The new computer technology, known as the geographic information system, will allow public health officials to locate accurately the more than 10,000 water wells in Mahoning County. Locating and testing wells in environmentally sensitive areas can give an early warning of pollution problems, Benson said. Homeowners in the testing program receive semiannual reports comparing their test results with EPA drinking water standards.

For POISON EMERGENCIES

Call 1-800-872-5111

TDD: 1-800-253-7955





### District Board of Health

Mahoning County  
50 Westchester Drive  
Youngstown, Ohio 44515

Health Commissioner  
Environmental Health & Plumbing  
Health Promotion & Assessment  
Lead Poisoning Prevention Program  
Nursing and Clinics  
Solid Waste Program  
270-2855  
Adult Day Services  
782-1749  
Laboratory Services  
270-2841  
Tuberculosis Clinic  
744-4246

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



[www.mahoning-health.org](http://www.mahoning-health.org)

## CHILDHOOD LEAD POISONING REMAINS A PROBLEM

Do you live in a pre-1978 home? If the answer is YES, your child may be at risk for lead poisoning. Do you live in a pre-1950 home? If the answer is YES, your child is at a substantially higher risk for lead poisoning. Joe Diorio, director of the District Board of Health's child lead poisoning prevention program, warns that many families in Mahoning County live in older homes.

If you can find chipping, peeling, scaling or chalking paint and one layer is lead-based paint, these conditions may be creating dangerous lead dust, Diorio said. Home renovations or preparation of painted surfaces for repainting are a major producer of lead dust in pre-1978 homes. Lead dust deposits on floors, window wells, window sills, and even on children's toys. Lead dust is the primary cause of lead poisoning in children six months to six years of age. Lead dust can be deposited on children's hands or toys, swallowed during normal hand-to-mouth activity, and may cause irreversible brain damage. Inhalation is the other route of lead into the body. Here lead can be absorbed into the blood stream through the lungs.

Once lead has entered the bloodstream, it acts as a toxin that affects the brain and central nervous system. Lead mimics the chemical makeup of calcium, but, unlike calcium is harmful to human health. Children under the age of six are far more susceptible to lead poisoning than adults due to their relatively small body size and extent of hand-to-mouth activity.

At very low levels, lead poisoning in children may cause problems with hearing, behavior, and learning. At high lead levels common signs include poor appetite, stomach aches, vomiting, constipation, crankiness, loss of energy, headaches and sleeplessness. Children with extreme lead poisoning may suffer coma, convulsions, or even death.

Most children display no symptoms of lead poisoning even if a lead test indicates the child has an elevated blood lead level. The only way to know if a child has lead poisoning is to have your child's blood tested by a physician. Once the blood sample is analyzed, the District Board of Health can give advice about reducing lead sources in your child's environment.

### MAHONING COUNTY AT A GLANCE

In 1999 the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program received referrals for 2,534 children ages six months to six years old who were screened for lead poisoning. Over a third of them had elevated blood lead levels.

In Mahoning County there are 100,761 homes built before 1978. The date of 1978 is significant because the Consumer Product Safety Commission placed a national ban on the sale of lead-based paint for residential use in that year. This means that 93% of the homes in Mahoning County are at risk for lead-based paint hazards.

The Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program at the District Board of Health Mahoning County can provide lead poisoning educational materials for your family or community group. The program also maintains a database of all children screened in Mahoning County and their addresses. The program performs hundreds of home lead risk assessments each year for lead poisoned children in Mahoning County.

## Health District Report Card

Mahoning County Townships, Villages, and City of Canfield

### 1998 BIRTHS

	Live Births	Low Birth weight Births*	Births to School-Age Teens(15-17)
Townships & Villages	1,481	104	35
Canfield	69	3	1
Total	1,550	107	36

\*less than 2,500 grams or 5.5 pounds

### 1998 DEATHS

	Infant Deaths	Total Deaths
Townships & Villages	13	1,507
Canfield	0	53
Total	13	1,560

\*4 deaths occurred every day

\*nearly 2 heart disease deaths occurred every day

\*1 cancer death occurred every day

\*1 infant death occurred every 28 days.

### 1998 YPLL

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

Age of Death	Causes	YPLL	
<1 Years Old	perinatal	451	
	ill-defined	194	
	congenital	194	
	homicide	57	
1-14 Years Old	heart disease	57	
	accidents	57	
	ill-defined	57	
	accidents	180	
15-24 Years Old	congenital	45	
	stroke	45	
	homicide	45	
	accidents	450	
25-44 Years Old	cancer	330	
	heart disease	330	
	suicide	150	
	homicide	120	
	AIDS/HIV	120	
	45-64 Years Old	cancer	730
		heart disease	510
		diabetes	160
		accidents	80
		stroke	80

Years of Potential Life Lost (YPLL) is the number of years a person may have lived if he/she had not died before 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.

### Most Popular Names in 1998

BOYS	GIRLS
Nicholas	Emily
Jacob	Taylor
Michael	Alexis
Joseph	Hannah
Anthony	Madison

### MATERNAL HEALTH FACTS

Births every day	4
Births in a hospital	99.9%
Saint Elizabeth Health Center	50.5%
Forum Health Northside	33.9%
Youngstown Osteopathic	1.4%
Entered prenatal care during 1st trimester	85.0%
Did not use alcohol during pregnancy	99.4%
Did not smoke during pregnancy	82.9%

### 1998 LEADING CAUSES OF DEATH

Causes of Death	Number	Health Rate*	
		District	Ohio
Heart Disease	515	350.9	310.9
Cancer	354	241.2	232.8
Stroke	123	83.8	70.3
Flu/Pneumonia	80	53.8	35.5
Lung Disease	77	52.5	51.1
Diabetes	53	36.1	33.2
Accidents	38	25.9	30.4
Neurologic Disease	33	22.5	24.4
Atherosclerosis	23	15.7	6.8
Kidney Disease	23	15.7	24.6
Nutritional Deficiency	23	15.7	1.9

\*rate per 100,000 population

### 1998 COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

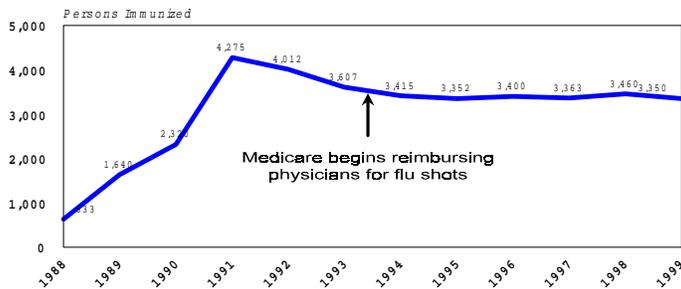
	Number of Cases
Aseptic meningitis	12
Campylobacteriosis	10
Salmonellosis	7
Shigellosis	6
Giardiasis	7
Animal rabies	5
Hepatitis A	3
Hepatitis B	2
Listeriosis	1
Infectious meningitis	2
Primary encephalitis	1
Legionnaires' disease	1
Streptococcal meningitis	1
Other bacterial meningitis	1
Mumps	1
Invasive group A streptococcal disease	1

## VACCINES PROTECT AGAINST EMERGING DISEASES

### VACCINATIONS ARE NOT JUST FOR KIDS

Many adults think shots are for kids and don't realize they should be immunized against diseases too. Each year an estimated 45,000 adults die from vaccine-preventable infections. Adults need booster shots throughout their lifetimes, according to Linda Ewing, nurse practitioner at the District Board of Health. Ewing says that adults may need shots to protect themselves against up to six different diseases, depending on their age, work, or travel plans.

District Board of Health  
Flu Shot Campaigns since 1988



For example, all adults need a booster dose of *tetanus/diphtheria (Td)* every ten years. Tetanus, also known as lockjaw, is caused by bacteria that enter the body through a break in the skin. About 40 percent of people who get tetanus die. Bacteria passed from one person to another in the droplets released when an infected person coughs or sneezes cause diphtheria.

**Influenza vaccine** – “the flu shot” – is recommended yearly for people age 65 or older, for people of all ages who have chronic diseases, or for anyone of any age who wants to reduce their risk of contracting the “flu.” Flu vaccine is given in the fall from mid October to mid November, before the flu season begins.

**Pneumonia shots** protect against 23 different types of pneumonia. Pneumonia kills about 40,000 people each year in the United States. Pneumonia vaccine is recommended once for all people ages 65 and older, as well as for people of any age with a chronic illness.

Adults who have never had chickenpox disease should receive two doses of **varicella vaccine**. Chickenpox in adults is often more severe than in children. Yearly in the United States about 100 people die from complications of chickenpox.

**Hepatitis B** is a virus that causes liver disease. The hepatitis B virus is spread by contact with blood or body fluids of an infected person. The hepatitis B vaccine is a series of three shots. This vaccine is now routinely given to infants and children as part of their baby shot series. Adults who have never been vaccinated against hepatitis B vaccine should consider getting the series.

**Hepatitis A**, also a viral infection of the liver, is usually spread by eating food or drinking water that is contaminated by the virus. Two

doses of this vaccine are recommended for travelers and persons living in a community with high rates of the disease.

The newest vaccine for adults protects against **Lyme disease**, a disease caused by the bite of a tick the size of a poppy seed. Three shots are given over a 12-month period of time. Hunters, hikers or those who either work outdoors or frequent grassy, wooded places in areas of the U.S. where Lyme disease is prevalent are at risk for Lyme disease.

Menomune, the vaccine that protects against **meningococcal disease**, was recently recommended for college students living in a dormitory setting. Meningococemia is a dangerous disease that requires early, aggressive treatment to prevent a potentially deadly outcome.

The District Board of Health offers these and other vaccines to thousands of adults and children in Mahoning County. Talk to your doctor or health care professional to make sure you have had all the shots you need.

*Adapted from the National Immunization Action Coalition.*



## MORE OPPORTUNITIES TO EAT, BREATHE, AND DINE SMOKE-FREE

Eliminating exposure to cancer-causing secondhand cigarette smoke is the goal of the Eat, Breathe, and Dine Smoke-Free Campaign at the District Board of Health. On Thursday, May 13, 1999 all Burger King restaurants in Trumbull and Mahoning Counties participated in the campaign sponsored by the Ohio Department of Health, Tobacco-Free Ohio, and the District Board of Health. By participating in the campaign, the restaurants agreed to ban all smoking for the day in their restaurants. Patrons filled out short evaluation cards on the pros and cons of the one-day event. In response to the positive comments they received, all Burger King restaurants have now gone permanently smoke-free.

The 2000 campaign is set for Thursday, May 11. Please contact the Health Promotion and Assessment Unit if you would like to recommend restaurants for participation in the program. Many studies have shown that diners prefer smoke-free restaurants and that food sales actually increase when restaurants go smoke-free. A directory of smoke-free restaurants in Ohio is also available by calling Tracy Styka at (330) 270-2855 extension 132.

## SERVICE REMINDERS GO OUT TO HUNDREDS OF HOMEOWNERS

Like so many systems that we live with today, household sewage disposal systems work best when they are maintained and regularly serviced. All of the components must be in good repair and working properly so that the system as a whole can work properly.

Common to all household sewage disposal systems are septic tanks, or, in the case of aeration systems, the aeration tank. Septic tanks are designed to trap and settle out the sewage solids, “cleaning” the effluent before it passes through the rest of the system. In an aeration tank, air is mechanically introduced into the sewage. This helps the aerobic bacteria that are naturally present digest the solids. This leads to fewer solids building up in the tank. When solids are allowed to build up over an indefinite period of time, they can pass throughout the system, causing it to fail.

“Having your septic system pumped on a regular basis is the most important thing you can do to protect your drinking water and our environment,” said Christine McElhaney, Chief of Waste Control Programs at the District Board of Health. She recommends that homeowners pump their septic systems every three years to avoid thousands of dollars in repair or replacement costs.

The District Board of Health sent pumping reminders to hundreds of homeowners in Boardman and Austintown townships in 1999. More reminder letters will be sent next year to the estimated 15,000 homes with household sewage disposal systems in Mahoning County. Homeowners who don't have their septic systems serviced will receive periodic reminders in the mail.

So far, the response has been outstanding, McElhaney said. Over 1,100 septic systems were pumped and serviced in 1999, a large increase from previous years.

## NEW VACCINE REQUIREMENTS FOR SCHOOL ENTRY



Tablets, crayons and bookbags are not the only things kids will need in order to start school this fall. Children entering kindergarten and first grade in the fall of school year 2000-2001 will be required to have the following immunizations:

- \*a second dose of MMR (*measles, mumps, rubella*) is required for kindergarten entry
- \*a fifth dose of DTP/DTaP/DT (*diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis*) vaccine is required if the fourth dose was administered prior to the child's fourth birthday
- \*a fourth dose of polio vaccine is required if the third dose was administered prior to the child's fourth birthday
- \*three doses of hepatitis B vaccine.

Make sure your kids stay healthy-  
**BE WISE, IMMUNIZE**

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**Tuberculosis Control Officer**  
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## RACCOON RABIES DECLINES IN MAHONING COUNTY

No new cases of raccoon rabies were reported in Mahoning County during 1999. The number of cases has consistently declined from a reported high of 43 in 1997. Only a year earlier, the disease had moved into northeastern Ohio from western Pennsylvania.

Surveillance programs in the four border counties of Ashtabula, Trumbull, Mahoning and Columbiana reported a decline in positive cases of 58 percent between 1997 and 1998, according to Rick Setty, environmental health director at the District Board of Health.

Although a total of five cases were reported in 1999 for the other border counties, Mahoning County remained

free of documented cases, Setty said.

All of these counties, in addition to several others in northeastern Ohio, continue to maintain active surveillance programs. Without these programs, health officials would not be able to track the occurrence of the disease within the raccoon population. Up through 1999, more than 1,000 specimens had been collected for analysis. The active participation of District Board of Health staff with a multi-agency work group has facilitated the reduction and, so far, the elimination of positive cases in Mahoning County.

"The decline of the outbreak in Mahoning County can be directly attributed to the level of collaboration and cooperation of the work group," Setty said. "The nature of this situation was such that no single agency could begin to adequately address it alone," he added. Participating agencies include the four county local health departments (Ashtabula, Trumbull, Mahoning and Columbiana), the Ohio Department of Agriculture, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, the Ohio State University, the Ohio Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The mission of this group has been to protect residents from raccoon rabies and most of the goals have been achieved here in Mahoning County. They include:

- \*containing the epizootic (an outbreak of disease in an animal population) and preventing further spread;
- \*reducing the incidence of new cases and transmission of the disease;
- \*pushing back the epizootic front; and
- \*reducing and eventually eliminating the disease in the raccoon population.

In addition to an active surveillance program, three other major initiatives have helped control rabies. These include an oral vaccination program for raccoons, promotion of public awareness through educational programs and requiring rabies vaccination of domestic pets.



Preliminary data suggests that the oral vaccine has immunized 30 to 40 percent of the raccoon population. Public awareness and education is a powerful tool that can help residents protect themselves. A properly vaccinated domestic pet population forms an effective barrier between wild animals and human populations.

## 1999 Financial Statement

### REVENUES

#### LOCAL REVENUES

Local Taxes: Inside Millage and Tuberculosis Levy	\$791,006
Contracts with Governmental Agencies	628,327
Environmental Health License, Registration, and Permit Fees	589,783
Personal Health Services Patient Fees	78,699
Laboratory Services Fees	88,808
Rental Income	49,760
Miscellaneous Revenues	7,828

#### SUB-TOTAL LOCAL REVENUES

\$2,234,211

#### STATE AND FEDERAL REVENUES

Ohio Department of Health funded Grants	
State funded Dollars Include:	\$659,543
Child and Family Health Services Block Grant	
Rabies Prevention Grant	
Rabies Surveillance Contract	
Welcome Home Grant	
Child and Family Health Services DSF Grant	
Tuberculosis Control Funds	
Tobacco Compliance Check Contract	
Federal Funded Dollars Include:	232,019
Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program	
Lead Regional Resource Center Grant	
Preventive Health and Health Services Grant	
WIC Program	
Medicaid/ Medicare Reimbursement for Services	64,454
Other State and Federal Dollars Include:	176,952
Adult Day Care Grant - Area Agency on Aging	
Home Injury Grant - Area Agency on Aging	
Adult Day Care Bus Grant - Area Agency on Aging	
Passport Program - Area Agency on Aging	
H.U.D. Lead Abatement Grant	
Homestead and Rollback Reduction Funds	
State Subsidy	56,402

#### SUB-TOTAL STATE AND FEDERAL REVENUES

\$1,189,370

#### TOTAL REVENUES

\$3,423,581

#### EXPENDITURES

	FEDERAL/STATE	LOCAL	TOTALS
Personal Health Services	\$835,955	\$480,508	\$1,316,463
Environmental Health Services	233,279	944,466	1,177,745
Administrative & Support Services	78,352	491,515	569,867
Laboratory Services	-	384,543	384,543
Health Promotion and Assessment	76,906	78,941	155,847
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$1,224,492</b>	<b>\$2,379,973</b>	<b>\$3,604,465</b>

*THIS IS AN UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENT*