

2003 Financial Statement

REVENUES

LOCAL REVENUES

Local Taxes: Inside Millage and Tuberculosis Levy	\$975,567	
Environmental Health License, Registration, and Permit Fees	788,774	
Contracts with Governmental Agencies	620,508	
Personal Health Services Patient Fees	118,721	
Laboratory Services Fees	110,181	
Donations	54,087	
Rental Income	37,320	
Miscellaneous Revenues	736	
SUB-TOTAL LOCAL REVENUES		\$2,705,894

STATE AND FEDERAL REVENUES

Ohio Department of Health Funded Grants/Projects		
State Funded Dollars Include:	\$403,256	
Child and Family Health Services Block Grant		
Rabies Prevention Grant		
Rabies Surveillance Contract		
Help Me Grow Program		
Tuberculosis Control Funds		
Federal Funded Dollars Include:	425,407	
Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention CDC Grant		
Lead Regional Resource Center Grant		
Public Health Infrastructure Grant		
WIC Program		
Medicaid/ Medicare Reimbursement for Services	49,556	
Other State and Federal Dollars Include:	474,007	
Adult Day Services Grant - Area Agency on Aging		
Safe Communities Grant - Ohio Dept. of Public Safety		
Ohio Tobacco Use Prevention and Control Grant		
NACCHO PACE EH Grant - CDC		
Lead Education Elimination Program Grant - HUD		
Passport Program - Area Agency on Aging		
H.U.D. Lead Abatement Grant		
Homestead and Rollback Reduction Funds		
State Subsidy	46,794	
SUB-TOTAL STATE AND FEDERAL REVENUES		1,399,020

TOTAL REVENUES \$4,104,914

EXPENDITURES	FEDERAL/STATE	LOCAL	TOTALS
Personal Health Services	\$744,858	\$599,477	\$1,344,335
Environmental Health Services	101,686	1,192,584	1,294,270
Administrative & Support Services	263,739	456,148	719,887
Laboratory Services	298,744	298,744	
Health Promotion and Assessment	288,732	54,449	343,181
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$1,399,015	\$2,601,402	\$4,000,417

THIS IS AN UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENT

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
(330) 270-2855
Adult Day Services
(330) 782-1749
Laboratory Services
(330) 270-2841
Tuberculosis Clinic
(330) 744-4246
Toll-free in Mahoning County
1-800-873-MCHD
.....

Years ago...

Excerpts from the records of the District Board of Health

75 years ago

May 6, 1929 - the Board of Health authorizes the Health Commissioner to deny septic permits if septic effluent cannot be contained on the owner's property.

50 years ago

June 1, 1954 - the Board of Health adopts regulations requiring licensure and inspection of food concessions at the Mahoning County Fair.

25 years ago

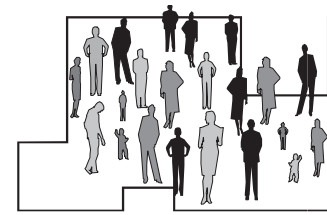
January 9, 1979 - the Board of Health agrees to provide public health nursing services to the City of Youngstown.

June 5, 1979 - Board of Health staff assist the State in a survey of Saint Louis encephalitis risk by collecting blood samples from birds.

10 years ago

May 19, 1994 - the Board of Health bans smoking in schools, day care centers, and other buildings where children are exposed to environmental tobacco smoke.

May 26, 1994 - the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency awards \$213,000 to the Board of Health to create a home sewage system maintenance program.



Mahoning County

LONG LINES AT DISTRICT BOARD OF HEALTH FLU CLINICS

District Board of Health nursing staff administered over 7,000 flu shots during the 2003 flu season. Concern about possible shortages of vaccine and media reports about the deaths of young children from complications of flu contributed to the long lines of people waiting to get their shots at flu clinics. Over 1,700 adults and children waited in twenty-degree temperatures on December 12, 2003, to receive their flu shots at the District Board of Health office.



According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the best time to get a flu shot is in October or November. The group of people who should get flu shots in early fall include: people 50 years of age and older; younger people with long-term health conditions such as diabetes, asthma, blood disorders, problems with the heart, lungs, kidneys; people with weakened immune systems due to cancer treatment, long-term steroid treatment and HIV/AIDS; children under 9 years of age who are receiving the flu vaccine for the first time; health care workers and household contacts of persons at high risk. To allow these people first access to the vaccine, the CDC recommends that others wait until November to get their flu shots. Since the flu season can extend into March, getting a flu shot in December or even later can be beneficial.

Although adults and older children need only one flu shot each year to help prevent influenza, children under 9 years old getting the flu vaccine for the first time need to receive 2 shots, one month apart. While we targeted children during our November and December efforts, the District Board of Health also held additional flu clinics in January and February, 2004 for children under 9 years of age who needed to receive the second flu shot. At these clinics we also encouraged shots for any other people who wanted to reduce their chances of becoming ill from the flu.

For those healthy persons who want to be protected against the flu but do not like shots, we offered this year for the first time an immunization called FluMist. This is the first needle-less, nasal mist flu vaccine and it is available for healthy people between the ages of 5 and 49 years of age who want to be vaccinated against influenza. FluMist appears to be just as effective as injectable vaccine. For more information about FluMist, please call the District Board of Health Nursing Division at (330) 270-2855, Ext. 125.

What can we do to try to protect ourselves against the flu? Dr. Larry Frisch, medical director at the District Board of Health, recommends the following three measures: "wash your hands often, avoid crowds, especially during flu season and if you do feel yourself getting sick with the flu, call your doctor right away because there is effective treatment for the flu if you start it early enough in the course of the illness."



BIOTERRORISM READINESS

In 2003, the District Board of Health was involved with three major efforts to improve the community's ability to respond to an episode of bioterrorism. The first of these was the Phase One vaccination program for smallpox. Phase One was intended to protect public health and health care workers against smallpox exposure; a first round of immunization was organized nationwide in 2002-2003. The District Board of Health participated in this process and delivered appropriate vaccination to significant numbers of local personnel who might be exposed to smallpox as a bioterror agent.

The second bioterrorism preparedness effort took place in the fall of 2003 when public health and hospital officials convened for a "table top" exercise jointly led by Chief James Dorman of the Boardman Fire Department and Dr. Larry Frisch, medical director and epidemiologist at the District Board of Health. This table top simulated the release of a bioterror agent (in this example ricin was chosen because its effects were relatively unfamiliar to most health workers). This bioterrorism tabletop exercise accomplished these objectives:

- Increased public health and other agency awareness about hospital disaster and/or preparedness plans
- Examined capabilities for detecting an unannounced attack
- Evaluated the hospital's and the public health community's management of a bioterrorist disaster
- Illustrated state and federal responsiveness
- Assessed coordination of public information policies and practices
- Established closer working relationships among the 17 participating agencies

Participants gained a good understanding of the logistical challenges of community response to bioterrorism. This event would have activated the Mahoning County Emergency Management Agency, and would have resulted in the establishment of a joint incident command structure and a coordinated approach by many of the agencies that participated.

The final preparedness effort took place in early 2004 when the District Board of Health used a full "Incident Command System" to organize its final influenza immunization clinic at the Salvation Army unit on Glenwood Avenue in Youngstown. Television stations conducted interviews with Dr. Larry Frisch (Incident Commander), Walter Duzzny (Logistics Chief), Rick Setty (Safety Officer), Jane Warga (Public Information Officer), Diana Colaianni (Planning Chief), Ed Janik (Finance Chief), Joseph Diorio (Operations Chief) and Linda Ewing (Staging of Exercise). A number of persons received influenza immunization during this exercise – most notably children in need of their second dose for complete coverage. In addition, many District Board of Health staff had their first experience working in the incident command structure that would be put into place in the event of a real public health emergency.

Fortunately, no bioterrorist event has taken place in Mahoning County, and we sincerely hope that we are spared this trauma in the months and years to come. However, this year has seen us move closer to our readiness goal of continual improvement of the local public health infrastructure.

Health District Report Card

Mahoning County Townships, Villages, and City of Canfield
2001 birth and death data is currently the latest available from the Ohio Department of Health

2001 BIRTHS

Live Births	1,459
Low Birth Weight Births*	98
Births to School-Age Teens (15-17)	23
Birth to Teen - Under 18	23

*less than 2,500 grams or 5.5 pounds

MATERNAL HEALTH FACTS

Births every day	4
Births in a hospital	99.8%
Saint Elizabeth Health Center	55.5%
Forum Health Northside	31.0%
Prenatal care during 1st trimester	87.4%
Did not use alcohol during pregnancy	99.9%
Did not smoke during pregnancy	84.8%

2001 DEATHS

Infant Deaths	9
Total Deaths	1,682

- ✓ 4.6 deaths occurred every day
- ✓ 1.4 heart disease deaths occurred every day
- ✓ 1 cancer death occurred every day
- ✓ 1 infant death occurred every 40.5 days

2002 COMMUNICABLE DISEASES*

Chlamydia	96	<i>E. coli</i> 0157H7	1
Gonorrhea	54	Lacrosse encephalitis	1
Aseptic meningitis	15	Encephalitis	1
Campylobacteriosis	15	Encephalitis - West Nile	1
Salmonellosis	15	Kawasaki disease	1
Hepatitis A	4	Legionnaires' disease	1
Hepatitis B	4	Listeriosis	1
Invasive group A streptococcal disease	3	Pertussis	1
Lyme disease	3	Rabies-(in raccoon)	1
Giardiasis	3	Shigellosis	1
<i>Haemophilus influenzae</i>	2	Tuberculosis	1

*Mahoning County townships, villages, and the cities of Canfield and Campbell

2001 LEADING CAUSES OF DEATH

Causes of Death Number	1999-2001	
	Health District Rate*	Ohio Rate
Heart Disease	508	329.2
Cancer	378	245.0
Stroke	96	62.2
Lung Disease	90	58.3
Diabetes	61	39.5
Flu/Pneumonia	49	31.8
Alzheimer's	43	27.9
Accidents	36	23.3
Septicemia	34	22.0
Kidney Disease	30	19.4

*unadjusted rate per 100,000 population

2001 YPLL

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

Age of Death	Causes	YPLL
<1 Years Old	perinatal	129.0
	congenital	129.0
	flu/pneumonia	64.5
1-14 Years Old	other endocrine disease	114.0
	cancer	57.0
15-24 Years Old	accidents	225.0
	cancer	45.0
	suicide	45.0
25-44 Years Old	cancer	390.0
	heart disease	330.0
	suicide	240.0
	accidents	210.0
	liver disease	60.0
45-64 Years Old	cancer	840.0
	heart disease	560.0
	diabetes	90.0
	accidents	90.0
	stroke	80.0

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.

ARE EXOTIC PETS REALLY A GOOD IDEA?

When a pet store operator in the Chicago area imported several rodent sized animals to sell as pets, little did he realize he was also importing a disease that could affect humans. As it turns out, one or more of the nine imported animals were carriers of a rare African disease called monkeypox. Having been kept in close proximity to prairie dogs and rabbits, the disease jumped from the imported pets to the domestic pets and then on to humans. Thankfully, this disease is not as severe as smallpox, to which it is related.

No, this scenario did not occur in Mahoning County, and no cases were subsequently confirmed in Ohio (although at least 14 potentially affected prairie dogs were traced to homes in Ohio). However, several states west of Ohio were involved and this scenario is becoming increasingly and alarmingly more frequent in the United States. Animals are the natural reservoir of many diseases that can make the transition to humans. Globalization has facilitated the

rapid spread of disease once confined to a particular geographical region. Diseases that were previously localized in parts of other countries are now being documented in the Western Hemisphere. Some examples of disease that can make the transition to humans include West Nile encephalitis, Lyme disease, hantavirus, Ebola, Nipah virus and monkeypox. Most currently we are faced with the prospect of severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), variant Creutzfeldt-Jacob disease (related to "mad cow") and now avian influenza (influenza A).

"Persons contemplating purchase of an exotic animal for a pet should consider the possibility of disease transmission," said Rick Setty, director of environmental health. "Once a disease becomes established in domestic animals, eradication may be very difficult if not impossible." Consider, for example, the West Nile virus, which is now common in several species of mosquitoes and has been identified in over one hundred

Most Popular Names 2000 & 2001

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

Boosters Are For Big Kids

Did you know most kids need to ride in a booster seat from about age 4 until at least age 8?

The 5-Step Test

1. Does the child sit all the way back against the auto seat?
2. Do the child's knees bend comfortably at the edge of the auto seat?
3. Does the belt cross the shoulder between the neck and arm?
4. Is the lap belt as low as possible, touching the thighs?
5. Can the child stay seated like this for the whole trip?

If you answered "no" to any of these questions, your child needs a booster seat to ride safely in the car. Kids like boosters because they are more comfortable, too!

New Ohio DUI/OVI Law Sets Blood Alcohol Limit of .08

Effective July 1, 2003 House Bill 87 reduced the blood alcohol minimum to .08. As of January 1, 2004, Senate Bill 123 changed the terminology for operating a motor vehicle under the influence and driving under the influence (DUI) to operating vehicle under the influence (OVI). "DUI" is now called "OVI" because offenses can be committed in vehicles without motors, i.e. bicycles and horse carriages. Senate Bill 123 also updated a 1967 law requiring judges to now issue yellow restricted plates to all first time OVI offenders who have been granted limited driving privileges.

domestic bird species. In addition to the potential to cause human disease, major industries such as agriculture may be negatively affected. Major economic disruption is yet another issue to consider, along with the potential use of these disease causing agents in bioterrorism activities.

In response to these issues, initiatives are being implemented nationwide by a wide range of agencies. Many of these efforts involve improved surveillance and monitoring for disease outbreaks. Certain species of animals from several countries have now been banned from importation. Continued vigilance will be essential in order to address this emerging public health concern.

Please buckle up.



what's holding you back?

District Board of Health

Officers & Employees

2003 District Advisory Council

Ivan Hoyle, Chair
Dolores Bennett, Secretary

Board of Health

Leonard Perry, President
Margot Baird, RN, Vice President
Stephanie Dewar, MD
Donald Somers
Michael Heher
Bev Fisher, Alternate

Health Commissioner

Matthew Stefanak, MPH

Medical Director

Lawrence Frisch, MD, MPH

LABORATORY SERVICES DIVISION

Lee Benson, RS, Director
Janine DeLillo, Lab Technician
Ralph Widger, Lab Assistant
Marilyn Jeswald, Secretary

HEALTH PROMOTION AND ASSESSMENT UNIT

Jane Warga, MEd, CHES, Director
Health Education Specialists
Tracy Styka, MS
Nicholas Cascarelli, MHHS
Lori Nestor, Secretary

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DIVISION

Richard Setty, RS, Director
Karen Ahrendt, RS, Sanitarian
Eleanor Cegan, RS, Sanitarian
John Hallas, RS, Sanitarian
Kimberly Hobbs, RS, Sanitarian
Andrew Stefan, RS, Sanitarian
Stephanie DeGenaro, RS, Sanitarian
David Beaver, CPI, Plumbing Inspector
Charles Gilmartin, CPI, Plumbing Inspector

WASTE CONTROL PROGRAMS

Christine Frankford, RS, Chief
David Fetchko, RS, Sanitarian
Angelo Italiano, MA, RS, Sanitarian
Misty Koletich, RS, Sanitarian
Michael Rogich, RS, Sanitarian
Mary Helen Smith, RS, Sanitarian
Ryan Tekac, SIT
Jessica Tyree, RS, Sanitarian
Wesley Vins, RS, Sanitarian
Anthony Veitz, RS, Sanitarian
Ronald Neff, RS, CPI, Plumbing Inspector

NURSING DIVISION

Diana Colaianni, MSN, RN, Director
Linda Ewing, MSN, RN, CPNP, Deputy Director of Nursing for Clinical Services
Public Health Nurses
Brenda Christensen, RN
Erica DiNello, RN
Marianne Evans, RN
Debra Moss, RN
Susan Springer, RN
Carol Komar-Vadino, MSN, RN
Carol Sabo, RN
Denise Walters, RN
Cynthia Bracaglia, Medical Technician
Laura Scalise, Secretary
Grayce Vuksta, Clerk
Adult Day Services
Rita Nolfi, RN
William Michael, Van Driver
Joyce Naymick, Activities Coordinator

Tuberculosis Elimination Program

Shawn Hunter-Little, TB Registrar
Kathleen Berry, RN, Outreach Nurse
Robert DeMarco, MD, Tuberculosis Control Officer

Lead Poisoning Prevention Program

Joseph Diorio, MS, RS, Director
Lynn Pomponio, MHHS, Outreach Educator
Stefano Napolitano, RS, Sanitarian
Kathleen Terreri, RN, Pediatric Coordinator
Rosemary Totterdale, Data Entry Operator

FINANCE AND HUMAN RESOURCES DIVISION

Edward Janik, CPA, Director
Ronald Harvischak, Grants Fiscal Manager
Kathy Affagato, Grants Fiscal Manager
Patricia Murphy, Fiscal/Personnel Officer
Kathleen Svasta, Administrative Assistant
Michele Olin, Office Manager
Darlene Sawyers, Account Clerk II
Tina Marie Schneider, Secretary
Julie Thompson, Secretary
Linda Zmith, Secretary

The District Board of Health is a public agency that provides public health services to the 163,773 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 cities of Canfield and Campbell. 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.

LEAD POISONING ON THE EVE OF CHANGE... A MULTIFACETED APPROACH

The District Board of Health's Mahoning County Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (MCCLPPP) has re-directed its approach to lead poisoning. The new approach includes primary prevention, LEAP, and extensive collaboration with the Family and Children First Council. Each facet of this new approach is aimed at eliminating lead poisoning in the children of Mahoning County.

The primary prevention efforts include prenatal and newborn visits to educate parents on ways to protect their baby from lead poisoning. In addition, a study, funded through the Raymond John Wean Foundation, is currently underway which provides two lead-safe home cleanings in the baby's first year of life. The baby will then have a blood lead test at one year of age and it is the hope of this study that the cleanings will have prevented lead poisoning. Other efforts to educate parents on the prevention of lead poisoning include packets of information which are being distributed by the Birth to Three Help Me Grow program and the Healthy Moms-Healthy Babies program through Planned Parenthood.

The LEAP (Lead Elimination Action Plan) project addresses lead disclosure issues and the enforcement of lead regulations. With support from the District Board of Health, the Mahoning Valley Real Estate Investors Association will present three seminars to educate landlords about lead disclosure. A special prosecutor has also been hired through a contract between the District Board of Health and the Youngstown City Health District. This special prosecutor will assist in the enforcement of lead regulations as well as disclosure issues.

The Family and Children First Council was awarded money from the Raymond John Wean Foundation to promote lead-specific community education and address dispute resolution. A Lead Poisoning Call-to-Action is scheduled for March 11, 2004. The conference is intended to educate community decision makers and property owners about lead poisoning. Following the Call-to-Action, a Lead Council will convene in an attempt to reach community consensus about strategies to ensure lead safe housing in our community. A trained facilitator from the Ohio Commission on Dispute Resolution and Conflict Management has been hired to work with the Lead Council.

The District Board of Health is striving to eliminate lead as the most common environmental threat to the children of Mahoning County. Lead-safe housing and parent education are key to achieving this goal. Each facet of the re-directed approach is aimed towards this ultimate goal.

Visit our WEBSITE:
www.mahoning-health.org

MAHONING ASAT - MAKING A DIFFERENCE

The Mahoning ASAT (Active Students Against Tobacco) is one of the various projects sponsored by the MCAT (Mahoning-Columbiana-Ashtabula-Trumbull)



Tobacco Prevention and Elimination Project, a grant funded by the Ohio Tobacco Use Prevention and Control Foundation. ASAT is a team of approximately 20 teens from Mahoning County that participate in many anti-tobacco initiatives throughout the year. They plan and implement the activities themselves with adults supporting them.

“Empowering youth to be anti-tobacco advocates is a crucial component to the denormalization of tobacco use,” according to Nicholas Cascarelli, community health education specialist.

ASAT members frequently work in conjunction with the STAND campaign, which is Ohio’s youth-driven tobacco counter marketing campaign.

In the spring, they participated in a STAND World No Tobacco Day event. The ASAT members collected youth signatures on a petition against the glamorization of tobacco in the entertainment industry. The youth from our region collected 500 of the 8,000 total signatures from Ohio youth that were delivered to MTV Studios in New York City.

Two hundred twenty-five youth visited the District Board of Health booth at the Canfield Fair to make their “STAND hand” during Youth Day. ASAT members were there to encourage youth to make copies of their hands with a personal message to take a stand against tobacco.

In the fall, the youth participated in another STAND sponsored event, STAND At The Movies, where the ASAT team braved a cold November evening outside of Austintown Regal Cinemas to collect additional signatures on an updated version of the anti-glamorization petition. The youth also had the opportunity to send a celebrity a postcard asking that celebrity to take a stand against tobacco. The ASAT team passed out “STAND-branded” gear such



as CD cases, T-shirts, visors and knit caps to all of the youth who signed a petition or filled out a post card.

The ASAT team is also planning a teen anti-tobacco summit with ASAT members from Ashtabula, Trumbull and Columbiana counties. The four county summit will be held February 28, 2004 at the Trumbull Branch of Kent State University. The agenda for the summit will include presentations by the ASAT members on environmental tobacco smoke, the health effects of tobacco, and the dangers of using smokeless tobacco. There will also be interactive breakout sessions that will empower youth to make a difference.

For more information on ASAT or if you know youth who would like to join ASAT please contact the Health Promotion and Assessment Unit, 330-270-2855 extension 141.

REMINDERS PROMPT HOMEOWNERS TO PUMP THEIR SEPTIC SYSTEMS

On-site wastewater treatment systems, like so many other conveniences, work best when they are maintained and regularly serviced. An important, and often neglected, part of routine maintenance is regular pumping of the septic tank. To this end, the District Board of Health Mahoning County decided to begin a program of sending pumping reminders to households utilizing on-site wastewater treatment systems.

In 1996, the District Board of Health was awarded an Ohio Environmental Education Fund grant to improve the environmental health of the county by promoting properly maintained home septic systems. The funds were used to survey home septic system

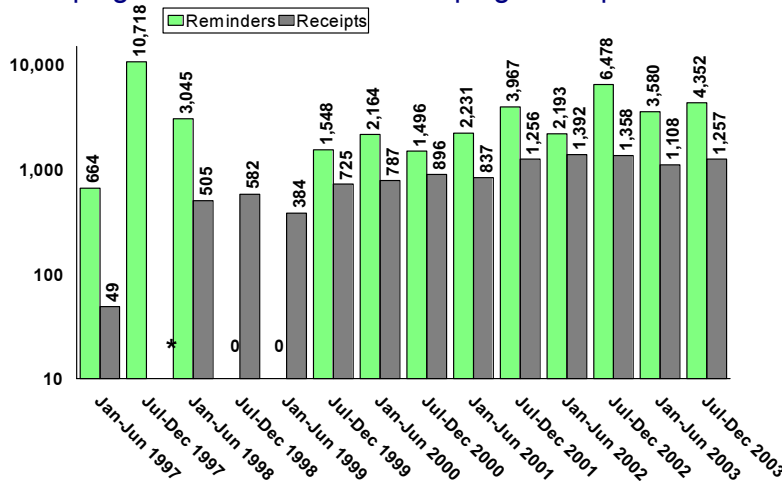
owners about the specifics of their system, to establish a septic system maintenance reminder postcard program, and to offer free pumping to those returning their surveys to the Board of Health.” The goal of the program was to increase the number of septic system pumpings, to check the accuracy and update the existing septic system database, and to decrease groundwater pollution.

During the grant period, January 1997 – April 1999, all septic system owners in Mahoning County received a mailing containing maintenance information and a survey to be returned to the Board of Health. All returned surveys were used to update the agency’s septic system database and each

household’s survey card was entered into a lottery for a free septic system cleaning.

Since the grant ended, pumping reminders have been sent out to homeowners in each of the fourteen townships on a revolving schedule. The computer generates these letters based on the size of the septic tank, the number of bedrooms in the home, and the date of the last recorded tank cleaning. A Board of Health requirement of our registered septic tank cleaners is that they submit a pumping report to our office when they pump out a sewage tank. As the chart shows, the number of pumping reports received from our registered pumpers has increased dramatically since the reminder program began.

Pumping Reminders Mailed/Pumping Receipts Received



* pumping receipt numbers not available for this period

BE A GERM STOPPER.

Cover Coughs and Sneezes. Clean Hands.

Cover your mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze. Use a tissue and throw it away.

Clean your hands a lot

- ✓ After you sneeze or cough
- ✓ After using the bathroom
- ✓ Before you eat
- ✓ Before you touch your eyes, mouth or nose

Washing hands with soap and water is best. Wash long enough to sing the “Happy Birthday” song twice. Or, use gels or wipes with alcohol in them.

The alcohol kills germs!!

**Stop germs.
And stop colds and flu.**

To learn more, please visit www.cdc.gov/germstopper.

WEST NILE VIRUS IN A WET YEAR

Contrary to what most people might think, the very wet spring and summer here in Mahoning County may have actually reduced the incidence of West Nile virus. Most public health authorities agree that the frequent rains provided a flushing effect, creating movement in what otherwise might be stagnant bodies of water. This could have disrupted the life cycle of mosquitoes by two stages. These first two stages were probably prevented further emergence of the adult



cycle of mosquitoes by two stages. These first two stages were probably prevented further emergence of the adult

The viral cycle in birds apparently did not get established as well as it has in past years. Indeed, of the dead birds tested statewide, only 14% were positive. The positive rate dropped to 6% for live birds tested. Of the total mosquito groups (pools) collected and tested statewide, 4% were found to be positive. With the reduction in positive mosquito numbers, human cases appeared to decline as well. Statewide, one hundred and seven human cases were confirmed; only two were from Mahoning County.

“Several other factors may have played a role in reducing the incidence of West Nile this year,” said Rick Setty, director of environmental health of the District Board of Health. “There are a number of personal initiatives that can be taken to help reduce the incidence of this disease. Most of these are very cost effective,” he said. Elimination of breeding sites by property owners, especially in urban areas, can go a long way in reducing local mosquito populations. Virtually anything that can hold water for about ten days can breed mosquitoes. Buckets, cans, tires, birdbaths and swimming pool covers are some of the more common. In some localities, actual mosquito control activities such as larvaciding or adulticiding may have helped reduce populations. Typically, however, only well established local programs or private contractors are able to engage in this type of activity. However, larvacide is now available over-the-counter, so property owners have the ability to treat standing water on their own property. This is a good option if the water cannot be

drained. More frequent use of personal protective measures can lower individual risk by helping prevent mosquito bites. These include wearing long sleeve shirts and long pants when out at dawn and dusk, making sure screen doors and windows are intact and using appropriate repellants (10% DEET for children and 30% for adults).

LAB SET TO DO MOLD TESTING

“Healthy Homes Grant Will Permit Board of Health to Test for Indoor Air Pollutants in Homes”

In 2004, the District Board of Health microbiological laboratory will begin indoor air testing for mold, dust, pet allergen, and cockroaches. “Federal studies show that the environment inside households and workplaces is often more dangerous than that on the outside,” said Lee Benson, director of laboratory services division.

Since its inception in 1993, the Laboratory Services Division has provided low-cost reliable environmental testing. The first testing offered was for trace metals and water chemistry. Currently, the lab performs microbiological, volatile organic, and EPA drinking water compliance testing.

The Groundwater Monitoring Program is a core responsibility of the Laboratory Services Division. This program does twice-yearly testing of more than 120 drinking water wells within a mile radius of each of the county’s six sanitary landfills. The drinking water is tested for pollutants that may leak from these landfills. Last year more than 7280 water tests were performed under this program.

“With a *Healthy Homes* grant, the laboratory will be able to expand its testing capacity to include indoor air testing in the pursuit of our goal to become a full service environmental laboratory for the residents of Mahoning County,” Benson said.

The two-year federal Housing Urban Development (HUD) *Healthy Homes* grant will enable the District Board of Health to help the Mahoning County Lead-Based Paint Hazard Control Program make approximately 300 homes safe from allergy and disease-causing agents.

COMMISSION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH RESEARCHING PRIORITY AREAS



The District Board of Health is one of eight public health agencies in the U.S. chosen to pilot a process that allows local governments to identify environmental health issues, rank local environmental health concerns, and prioritize activities to protect and improve environmental health. The Healthy Valley Alliance,

a regional community health assessment and planning coalition, is assisting a volunteer Commission for Environmental Health conducting the Protocol for Assessing Community Excellence in Environmental Health (PACE EH) project in Mahoning and Trumbull Counties. Commission and steering committee members have created workgroups to further research and investigate the environmental health issues that were the leading concerns from a local survey completed during 2003. In the spring of 2004, the Commission will prepare a report on the top environmental issues that should be addressed in Mahoning and Trumbull counties.

2004 Environmental Health Survey

310 area residents surveyed

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 Safe drinking water | 4 Air pollution |
| 2 Combined sewer overflow | 4 Development out of control |
| 3 Loss of green space | 4 Secondhand smoke |

Of 24 possible items that involve or influence environmental health, survey respondents ranked the above six as priority areas.

PACE EH Steering Committee

Larry Frisch, District Board of Health
Len Perry, District Board of Health
Matthew Stefanak, District Board of Health
Jane Warga, District Board of Health
Keith Riley, Ohio EPA
Bill Skowronski, Ohio EPA
Frank Migliozzi, Trumbull County General Health District
Ted Smith, Trumbull County General Health District

Robert Pinti, Warren City Health District
Neil Altman, Youngstown City Health District
John Hazy, Youngstown State University
Sue Scavelli, Youngstown State University
Lyn Luttner, US EPA

Commission for Environmental Health

Ginger Cartright, YSU student
Janice Elias, Associate Professor, Human Ecology, YSU
Thomas Finnerty, Jr., Associate Director for Urban Studies, YSU
Anne Greenwald, retired
Shirley Heck, Springfield Township Trustee
Michael Heher, BFI Poland Landfill Manager
Amy Holinbaugh, YSU Environmental Scientist
Delores Karnofel, volunteer
Theresa Lyden, YSU student
Kimberly Mascarella, Director of Environmental Planning,
Eastgate Regional Council of Governments
Kathy Miller, Boardman Township Trustee
Patricia Natali, Ohio EPA Environmental Specialist
Paul Novak, Director of Safety & Environmental Health,
Cleveland State University
Trish Nuskievicz, Planner,
Trumbull County Planning Commission
Michael Robinson, Director of Community Outreach, HMHP
Gary Singer, Director, Mahoning County
Lead-based Paint Hazard Control Program
Lynn Sowers, EPA, Environmental Supervisor
Cheryl Strother, RN, Warren Health Department
Howard Vayner, Real Estate Broker
Marilyn Walton, Forum Health, Tod Children’s Hospital
Joe Warino, Mahoning County Sanitary Engineer
Helen Yaslik, volunteer
Richard Zapko, Industrial Hygienist