

# **VIGO COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

## **2022 ANNUAL REPORT**



**THE VIGO COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT  
SERVES TO PROMOTE, PROTECT AND PROVIDE FOR THE WELL-BEING OF  
THE CITIZENS IN VIGO COUNTY**

## **PUBLIC HEALTH**

What is Public Health? Public health is "the science and art of preventing disease, prolonging life and promoting health through the organized efforts and informed choices of society, organizations, public and private, communities and individuals." It is concerned with threats to the overall health of a community based on population health analysis. A population can be as small as a handful of people or as large as all the inhabitants of several continents (for instance, in the case of a pandemic). Public health is divided into epidemiology, biostatistics and health services. Important subfields include nursing, environmental, social, behavioral and occupational health. There are two characteristics of public health that differ from medicine:

1. The focus of public health is on preventive rather than curative aspects of health.
2. The target audience for public health is on the population as a whole rather than on individual health issues.

The goal of public health is to improve lives by promoting the health of the population through organized community efforts. Examples of these efforts include: inspecting restaurants to reduce the probability of food borne illnesses, assuring that children are immunized in sufficient numbers to protect both themselves and others in the community.

## **VIGO COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH**

What is a Board of Health? Boards of health are part of state and local public health systems and are charged to address health promotion, disease prevention, and public protection. They provide the necessary guidance and oversight of a local health department to assure the community's health. Boards of health are a powerful part of a local public health system. Board roles vary across the country. In Indiana, boards set policies, hire and fire the health officer, review operational data and challenge any organizational activity when necessary. Boards also have financial oversight of the local health department. All seven members of the Vigo County Board of Health are appointed by the Vigo County Board of County Commissioners, with no more than three from the same political party.

### **2022 BOARD OF HEALTH**

Dr. James Turner, D.O., Chair  
James McKanna, Vice-Chair  
Jeff Depasse  
Dr. Custodio Lim M.D.

Dr. Brian Ross, O.D.  
Dr. Amber Cadick, PhD  
Dr. Jennifer Todd, PhD

## CORE FUNCTIONS OF PUBLIC HEALTH

The three core functions constitute the job of the local boards of health. Assessment of the community involves scanning, weighing and balancing the community's needs, resources, statistics and politics. A community assessment is the best way to gather this information and an appropriate first step for boards to take before developing policies that will assure that public health needs are met.

**Assessment** Assessing the status of public health in the community

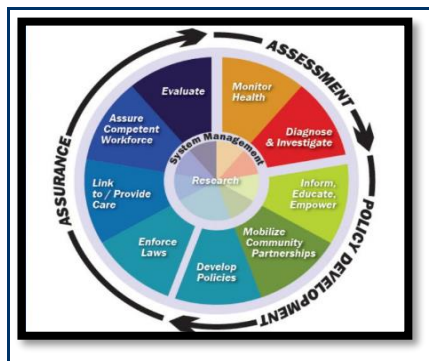
- Monitor health status to identify community health problems
- Diagnose and investigate health problems and health hazards in the community
- Evaluate effectiveness, accessibility and quality of personal and population-based health services

**Policy Development** Developing policies to address public health needs

- Develop policies and plans that support individual and community health efforts
- Enforce laws and regulations that protect health and ensure safety
- Research for new insights and innovative solutions to health problems

**Assurance** Assuring that public health needs are met

- Link people to needed personal health services and assure the provision of health care when otherwise unavailable
- Assure a competent public health and personal health care workforce
- Inform, educate, and empower people about health issues
- Mobilize community partnerships to identify and solve health problems



## 10 GREAT PUBLIC HEALTH ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE U.S. IN THE PAST 100 YEARS

1. Vaccination
2. Motor-vehicle safety
3. Safer workplace
4. Control of infectious diseases
5. Decline in deaths from coronary heart disease and stroke
6. Safer and healthier foods
7. Healthier mothers and babies
8. Family planning
9. Fluoridation of drinking water
10. Recognition of tobacco use as a health hazard

## PUBLIC HEALTH IN VIGO COUNTY



**Dr. Darren Brucken**  
Health Officer



**Joni Wise**  
Administrator

**Vision:** *Healthy People in Healthy Communities*

**Mission:** *Promote physical & mental health, prevent disease, injury and disability*

### Public Health Goals

- Prevents epidemics and the spread of disease
- Protects against environmental hazards
- Prevents injuries
- Responds to disasters and assists communities in recovery
- Assures the quality and accessibility of health services

### Essential Public Health Services

- Monitor health status to identify community health problems
- Diagnose and investigate health problems and health hazards in the community
- Inform, educate and empower people about health issues
- Mobilize community partnerships to identify and solve health problems
- Develop policies and plans that support individual and community health efforts
- Enforce laws and regulations that protect health and ensure safety
- Link people to needed personal health services and assure the provision of health care when otherwise unavailable
- Assure a competent public health and personal health care workforce
- Evaluate effectiveness, accessibility, quality of personal and population-based health services
- Research for new insights and innovative solutions to health problems

Programs and services are developed, implemented, evaluated, and revised if needed, to enable carrying out the essential public health services and meet the public health goals.

# **VIGO COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

**Darren Brucken, M.D., Health Commissioner**

## **Administration**

Joni Wise, Administrator

Amanda Bales, Deputy Administrator

Rhonda Coombs, Bookkeeper

Tiffany Kerr, Purchasing Clerk

## **Environmental Health Division**

Amanda Bales, Supervisor

Steve Thompson, Environmental Health Specialist

Amanda Shook, Environmental Health Specialist

Emily Milton, Environmental Health Specialist

Cheryl Lehman, Environmental Health Specialist,

Shelley Rubinacci, Environmental Health Specialist

## **Health Education/Media Coordination**

Shelby Jackson

## **Vector Control Division**

Mike Grayless, Supervisor

Tony Grayless, Assistant Supervisor

Warren Sweitzer, Assistant

David Higgins, Assistant

Logan Edwards, Assistant

Dalton Higgins, Assistant

Liam Balitewicz, Seasonal

Jason Melville, III Seasonal

Kim Edwards, Secretary

## **Nursing Division**

Catherine Brown, M.D., Pediatrician

Linda Deckert, MSN, RN, Director of Nursing

Chelsea Willis, RN, Staff Nurse

Libby O’Pell PT RN, Staff Nurse

Robin Maurer, Administrative Assistant

Dolly Moss, Immunization Registry Clerk

Teresa Bechtel, Insurance Billing Clerk

Claire Gillen, SWMC Nursing Intern

Gregg Lawson, Nursing Intern

## **Vital Statistics Division**

Loretta Nicoson, Supervisor

Brooke Foltz, Registrar

Robbin Poore, Registrar

Brandie Latham, Registrar

## FINANCIAL REPORT 2022

Cash Balance <u>General Health</u> January 1, 2022	\$ 1,291,926.78
Receipts January 1 – December 31, 2022	\$ 2,028,170.68
Receipt Federal Reimbursement COVID January 1 – June 30, 2022	\$ 332,966.40
<b>Expenditures January 1 – December 31, 2022</b>	<b>\$ 2,383,653.11</b>
Cash Balance in General Health – December 31, 2022	\$ 1,269,410.75
Cash Balance <u>Health Donation</u> January 1, 2022	\$ 9,703.52
Receipts January 1 – December 31, 2022	\$ 3,960.49
<b>Expenditures January 1 – December 31, 2022</b>	<b>\$ 675.24</b>
Balance in Health Donation – December 31, 2022	\$ 12,988.77
Cash Balance <u>Carry-Over Health Maintenance</u> January 1, 2022	\$ 57,631.54
Cash Balance in <u>Health Maintenance</u> – January 1, 2022	\$ 0.00
Receipts January 1 – December 31, 2022	\$ 72,672.00
<b>Expenditures January 1 – December 31, 2022</b>	<b>\$ 24,692.00</b>
Cash Balance December 31, 2022	\$ 105,610.61
Cash Balance <u>Coroner's Fund</u> January 1, 2022	\$ 2,270.25
Receipts January 1 – December 31, 2022	\$ 22,611.75
<b>Expenditures January 1 – December 31, 2022</b>	<b>\$ 22,803.00</b>
Cash Balance December 31, 2022	\$ 2,079.00
Cash Balance <u>Health Trust</u> January 1, 2022	\$ 57,364.20
Receipts January 1 – December 31, 2022	\$ 42,539.58
<b>Expenditures January 1 – December 31, 2022</b>	<b>\$ 44,906.91</b>
Cash Balance – December 31, 2022	\$ 54,996.87
Cash Balance <u>Health Immunization Grant</u> January 1, 2022	\$ (7,776.77)
Receipts January 1 – June 30, 2022	\$ 30,695.31
<b>Expenditures January 1 – June 30, 2022</b>	<b>\$ 21,449.86</b>
Balance as of June 30, 2021	\$ 1,468.68
Cash Balance <u>Health Immunization Grant</u> July 1, 2022	\$ 2,158.55
Receipts July 1 – December 31, 2022	\$ 14,315.00
<b>Expenditures July 1 – December 31, 2022</b>	<b>\$ 18,865.00</b>
Balance as of December 31, 2022	\$ (2,391.45)
Cash Balance <u>Non-Reverting</u> January 1, 2022	\$ 9,538.06
Receipts January 1 – December 31, 2022	\$ 12,428.00
<b>Expenditures January 1 – December 31, 2022</b>	<b>\$ 13,095.30</b>
Balance as of December 31, 2022	\$ 8,870.76



Cash Balance <u>Health Care's Act</u> January 1, 2022	\$ 205,414.62
Receipts January 1- December 31, 2022	\$ 0.00
<b>Expenditures January 1 – December 31, 2022</b>	<b>\$ 81,387.50</b>
Balance as of December 31, 2022	\$ 124,027.12
Cash Balance <u>Health Awareness Grant</u> January 1, 2022	\$ (78,842.87)
Receipts January 1 – December 31, 2022	\$ 96,096.10
<b>Expenditures July 1 – December 31, 2022</b>	<b>\$ 98,146.10</b>
Balance December 31, 2022	<b>\$ (2,050.00)</b>
<u>CORONA VIRUS Pandemic Expenditures</u>	\$ 479,634.62



**Purchasing Clerk Tiffany Kerr & Bookkeeper Rhonda Coombs  
manage the finances and purchases for nearly  
\$2,000,000 in budgeted funds.**

## VECTOR CONTROL DIVISION



**L-R: Mike Grayless David Higgins and Logan Edwards.**

**L-R: Kim Edwards, Tony Grayless, Dalton Higgins and Warren Sweitzer**

The primary goal of the Vector Control Division is to reduce the risk of disease and death from pathogens carried by animals and/or vectors. The Vector Control Division also repairs and maintains all Health Department vehicles and spraying equipment.

A “vector” is an agent capable of transmitting a pathogen from one organism to another. (I.e. mosquito, rodent, bat).



The Vector Control Division devotes its time primarily to:

**Vector Control  
West Nile Surveillance  
Dead Animal Removal  
Fleet Maintenance**



## MOSQUITO CONTROL

The spraying for adult mosquitoes in Vigo County was as diligent as the weather would allow in 2022. The adulticiding program consists of five ½ ton pickup trucks and four ATVs (equipped with ultra-low volume cold aerosol fog machines) to spray insecticides throughout the county, as well as Terre Haute, for the control of adult mosquitoes. The ATV mounted ULV makes most sites accessible. All nine ultra-low volume-fogging machines must be certified for droplet size and calibrated for flow rate prior to each spraying season. Calibration is monitored daily throughout the spraying season. Adult mosquito control is accomplished using 3 insecticides: Bio-Mist 4+12, Kontrol 4X4 and Aqua Anvil.



**Chris Novak of Clarke Mosquito  
checking droplet size.**



**Vector Control Assistant Supervisor  
Tony Grayless**

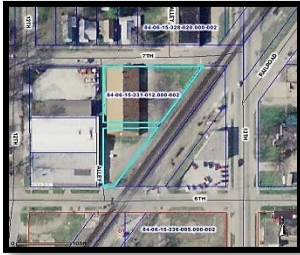
All ULV units are fitted with GPS compatible “Smart Flow” systems. This enables Vector Control staff to preset and record calibration, time of spraying, flow rate and vehicle speed.

Vector Control staff prepares and updates 26 maps that are 40-45 miles of county and city roads. The 26 maps show the areas to treat and also areas that we do not treat, which we consider no spray zones. Some of the areas that are considered no spray zones might be areas with organic gardens, beekeepers, large bodies of water or persons who have requested no spraying be done in the area they live, either for health or personal reasons. The 26 maps are treated weekly, biweekly or monthly depending on adult mosquito population and weather conditions.

Vector Control employees spend an extended amount of time treating stagnant water for mosquito larvae. Several brands of insecticide targeting several species are employed to kill the larvae. One type of insecticide (Golden bear) can last for seven days in stagnant low area water, covering the surface of the water denying the mosquito larvae access to air.



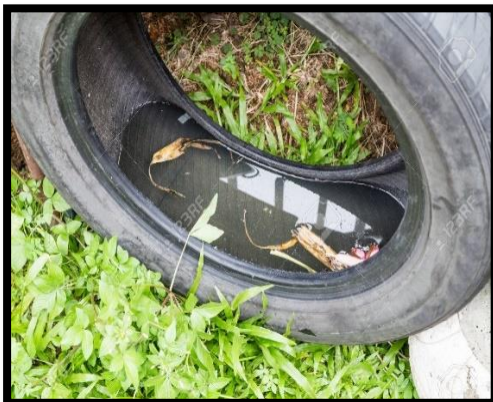
All “catch basins” or dry wells are treated with Altosid briquettes and Bactimas briquettes which lasts 30 or 150 days. Altosid Briquettes inhibit the growth of the larvae preventing them from becoming adults. Catch basins have been identified as one of many ideal habitats for the Vector (*Culex pipiens*), a mosquito notoriously known for the transmission of West Nile. *Culex* mosquito larvae love the stagnant dirty water left behind from rain that doesn't soak into the ground but runs off into catch basins, retention ponds, and roadside ditches.



In 2022, approximately 1,500 catch basins were treated. That number will continue to increase due to community growth. Parking lots and subdivisions will install retention ponds and/or catch basins to contain water run-off. Catch basins and larvaciding sites are mapped out using the County’s GIS system. Larvae samples are examined for identification of species to insure proper insecticide treatment.

The following table contains a list of the amount and types of insecticide used in Vigo County to control adult mosquitoes and larvae in 2022.

QUANTITY	INSECTICIDE	AMOUNT USED
55 Gallon Drum	Biomist 4 + 12	17 Drums
55 Gallon Drum	Kontrol	18 Drums
55 Gallon Drum	Aqua Anvil	5 Drums
220 Per Case	Altosid Briquettes (150 Day)	8 Cases
100 Per Case	Bactimas Briquettes	11 Cases
3/4 Gallon	Talstar P	1/4 Gallon
55 Gallon Drum	Golden Bear	30 Gallons



## WEST NILE VIRUS SURVEILLANCE

We use two different types of light traps. One type of light trap (CDC –CO<sub>2</sub>-Baited trap) uses dry ice or an attractant called “octonol” which simulates the exhaled respiratory gases of birds or mammals. The other is a gravid trap that uses alfalfa pellets mixed with water. The fermentation of these pellets releases an odor, similar to a livestock barn, and creates dirty, stagnant water that attracts gravid culex mosquitoes.

Light traps were set out at numerous locations throughout Vigo County with 1725 mosquitoes being collected between June and October 2022. Once the mosquitoes are collected they are separated into groups ranging in number from 5 to 100 and are then labeled as pools of mosquitoes, which are sent to the Indiana State Department of Health for West Nile testing. A total of 60 pools were sent in for testing in 2022. The Indiana State Department of Health reported one positive pool for Vigo County. Vector control specialists will continue to set, maintain and collect mosquito pools for ISDH West Nile Virus testing in the upcoming year.



Warren Sweitzer preparing mosquito sample for testing.



Gravid traps are intended primarily to monitor Culex mosquito populations

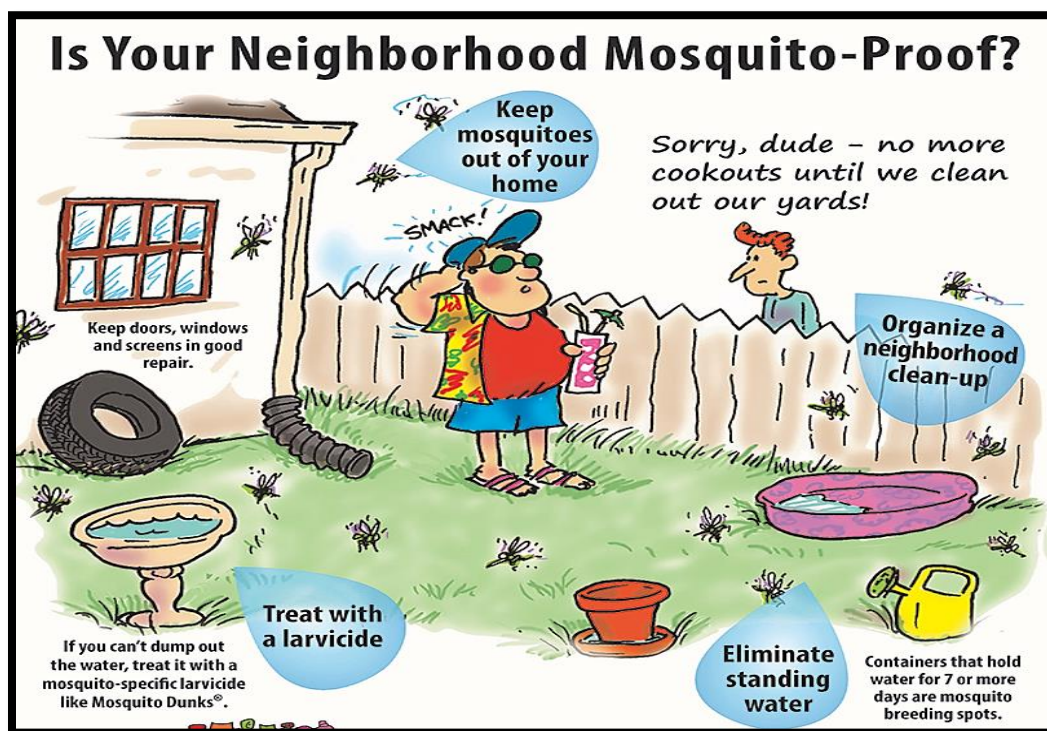
### MOSQUITO BORNE DISEASE PREVENTION ACTIVITIES IN 2022:

- Worked with Home Owners (high grass, weeds, swimming pools, fishponds, standing water).
- Sent out Notice to Abate letters to all Vigo County cemetery caretakers.
- Distributed 5,400 “Skeeter Beater” coloring books to pre-school through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade elementary students which focus on preventing and identifying prime breeding areas for mosquitoes.
- Continued to monitor home owners, tire retailers and salvage yards to ensure compliance with the Tire Storage Ordinance.



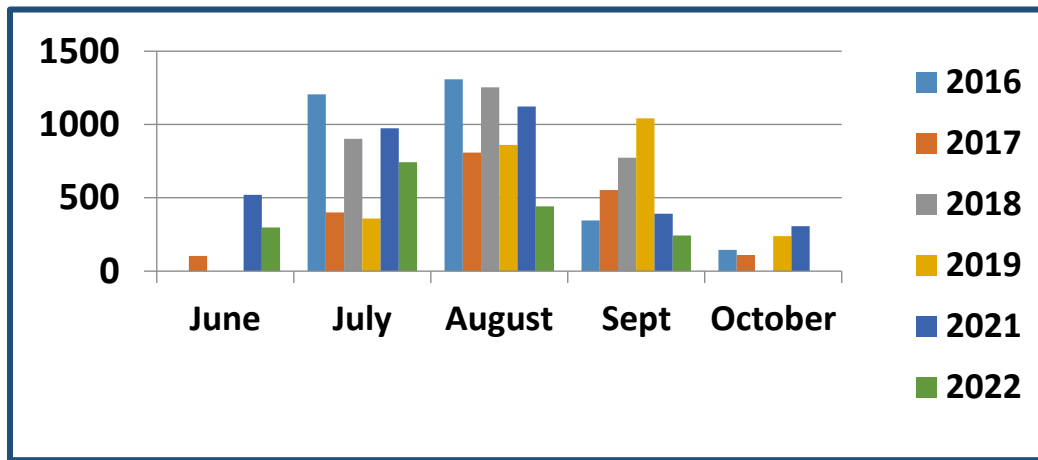
## 2023 MOSQUITO AND LARVAE CONTROL STRATEGIES:

1. Intensify local culex and aedes mosquito larval control to prevent the emergence of adult mosquitoes that feed on birds and contribute to the virus amplification transmission cycle.
2. Continue active West Nile surveillance to determine the presence of new or expanding West Nile transmission. (Light traps-Adult mosquito testing)
3. Reinforce public education and outreach programs to reduce mosquito- breeding sites around homes.
4. Educate on personal protective measures (long sleeves, insect repellent) with the use of the media (TV, radio and newspapers).
5. Implement local mosquito control to reduce the number of virus infected mosquitoes, thus reducing the immediate risk to humans.
6. Monitor adult and larval mosquito control efforts to ensure that the local programs are effectively reducing mosquito densities and virus infection rates.
7. Conduct inspections of local tire retailers and junkyards for tire storage ordinance compliance.

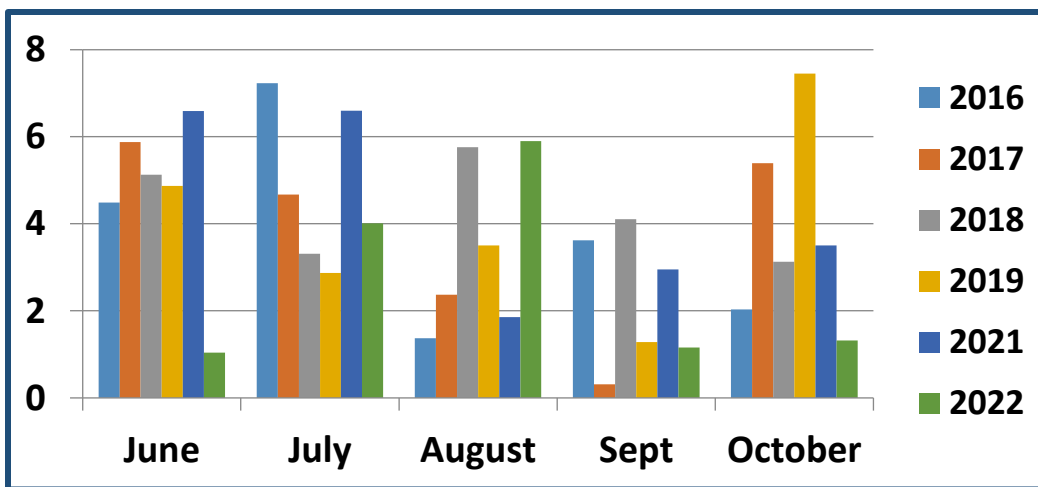




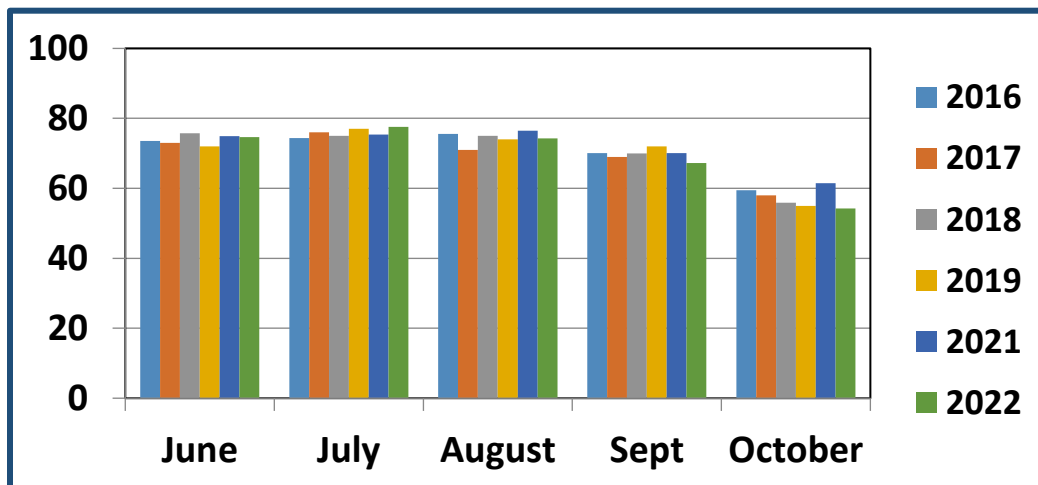
### TOTAL MOSQUITOES COLLECTED



### PRECIPITATION AMOUNTS



### AVERAGE TEMPERATURES



## RODENTS

Rodents (i.e. rats, mice) are another source of disease transmission. Rodents must have adequate food, shelter, and water in order to survive. For these reasons, a large majority of rodent complaints are located within the city of Terre Haute.

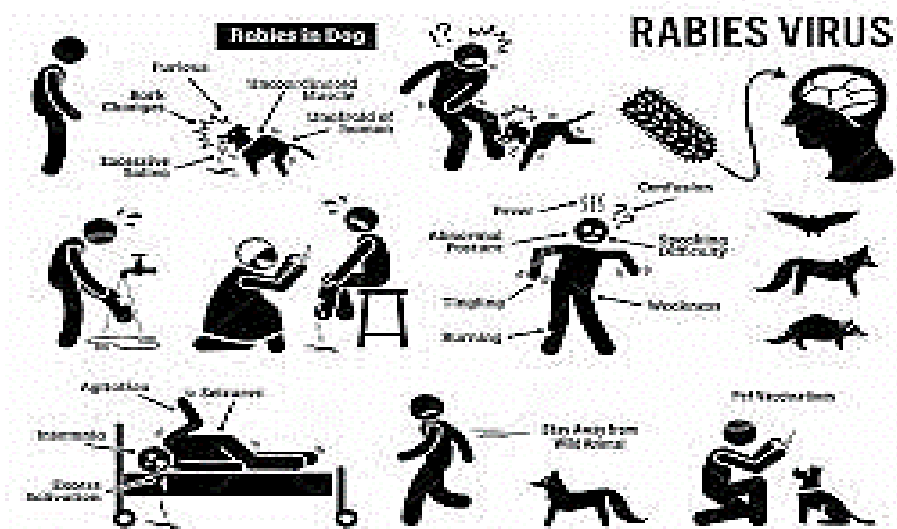
A vector control specialist investigates complaints about rodents and proceeds to make recommendations to the property owner on findings and rodent control (i.e. removal of debris, animal feces). In some cases, the vector control specialist may set out bait and remove dead rodents, but the majority of the extermination is usually the responsibility of the property owner. A vector control specialist will continue to make follow up inspections to insure the property owner is correctly handling the problem.



## RABIES PREVENTION

In 2022 Vector Control staff sent 9 bats and 1 opossum to the ISDH Laboratory for rabies testing. All results were negative for the rabies virus.

In 2022 a total of 529 deceased animals were removed from private properties, as well as city and county roadways and taken to the landfill.



## VEHICLE MAINTENANCE

During the winter months the Vector Control Division is busy with repairing, cleaning and inspection of all vehicles and equipment. All ULV spray units must be cleaned and broken down during the winter months, checked, repaired and parts replaced as needed. Along with routine maintenance, all trucks and cars are thoroughly inspected and repaired. All vehicles and equipment have routine maintenance throughout the year.



## TIRE AMNESTY PROGRAM

In 2022 Vigo County Health Department employees removed discarded tires from the alleys and streets of Terre Haute and surrounding communities. A total of 6,097 tires, filling six semi-trailers, were collected. Residents that had tires stored outside were given information on our Tire Storage Ordinance informing them that the tires must be stored inside or removed from the property.



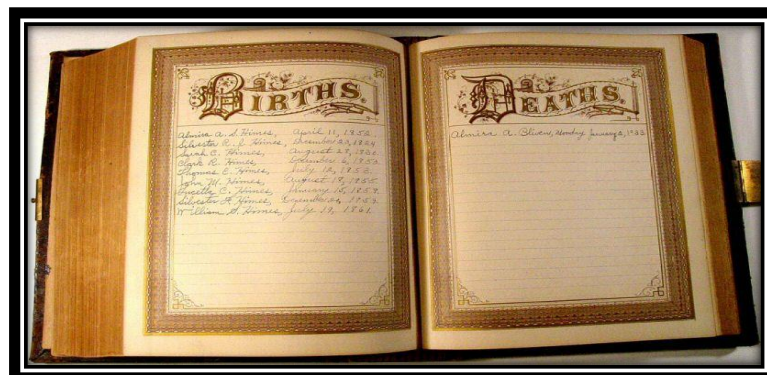
## VITAL STATISTICS DIVISION



Left to Right: Loretta Nicoson, Brooke Foltz, Robbin Poore and Brandi Latham.

### THE VITAL RECORDS DIVISION'S OBJECTIVE IS TWO-FOLD:

- Carry out uniform procedures
- Maintain and protect the integrity of the Vital Records Systems







**Brooke Foltz**



**Brandie Latham**

### **THE DIVISION HAS THE RESPONSIBILITY TO:**

- **Maintain a system that accurately records all births, deaths and fetal deaths**
- **Efficiently issue certified copies of records**
- **Issue provisional notification of death-burial transit permits**
- **Process paternitys when they come to us from the courts**
- **Type and process paternitys when people schedule appointments to come in to our office**
- **Type affidavits of amendment and schedule appointments for people to make corrections to their birth record**
- **Work with funeral homes in filing death certificates**
- **Verify birth records for the Military, Social Security and Division of Family and Children**
- **Assist citizens who wish to inspect permanent birth and death records**
- **Assist customers in doing genealogy**

## VITAL STATISTICS ANNUAL REPORT 2022

<b>BIRTHS REPORTED</b>	<b>1,901</b>
<b>HOME BIRTHS</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>STILLBIRTHS</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>DEATHS REPORTED</b>	<b>1,710</b>
<b>CORONER CASES</b>	<b>231</b>
<b>EXECUTIONS OF FEDERAL INMATES</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>CORRECTIONS PROCESSED</b>	<b>325</b>
<b>BIRTH CERTIFICATES ISSUED</b>	<b>7,855</b>
<b>DEATH CERTIFICATES ISSUED</b>	<b>10,365</b>
<b>CERTIFICATES ISSUED FREE</b>	<b>493</b>
<b>GENEALOGY SEARCHES</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>NOTIFICATION OF DEATH</b>	<b>336</b>

<b>GENERAL HEALTH FUND</b>	<b>\$155,990.00</b>
<b>CORONER'S TRAINING AND EDUCATION FUND</b>	<b>\$ 22,459.50</b>
<b>TOTAL CASH RECEIVED</b>	<b>\$178,460.00</b>

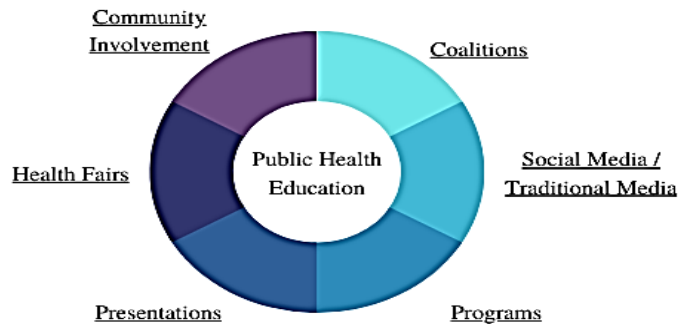


Robbin Poore and Loretta Nicoson



Indiana Birth Certificate

## HEALTH EDUCATION/MEDIA COORDINATION



Health education is the process of assisting individuals and groups to make informed decisions and build skills on matters affecting personal, family and community health. Health Education provides information about awareness and prevention with the goal of providing Vigo County citizens with the opportunity to their fullest potential. Health educators utilize the following outlets to provide education:

### PRESENTATIONS

Offering a comprehensive look at today's public health issues that are of concern. Some presentations are multi-faceted, such as an overview of the Vigo County Health Department and its role in public health in the county and the surrounding Wabash Valley. Others can be an in- depth look into direct issues such as bedbugs, bacterial and viral levels, or drug and tobacco use. This involvement offers the public the opportunity to learn about their health and well-being, ask questions, and become familiar with the Vigo County Health Department. The goal is to collaboratively work with many community partners which include but are certainly not limited to: Vigo County School Corporation, Indiana State University, Hamilton Center, Proactive MD and Purdue Extension.

The following is a brief list of programs and presentations conducted by the Vigo County Health Department:

- **County Employee CPR Programs**
- **Brownstone Manor Health Education**
- **Dine with a Doc**

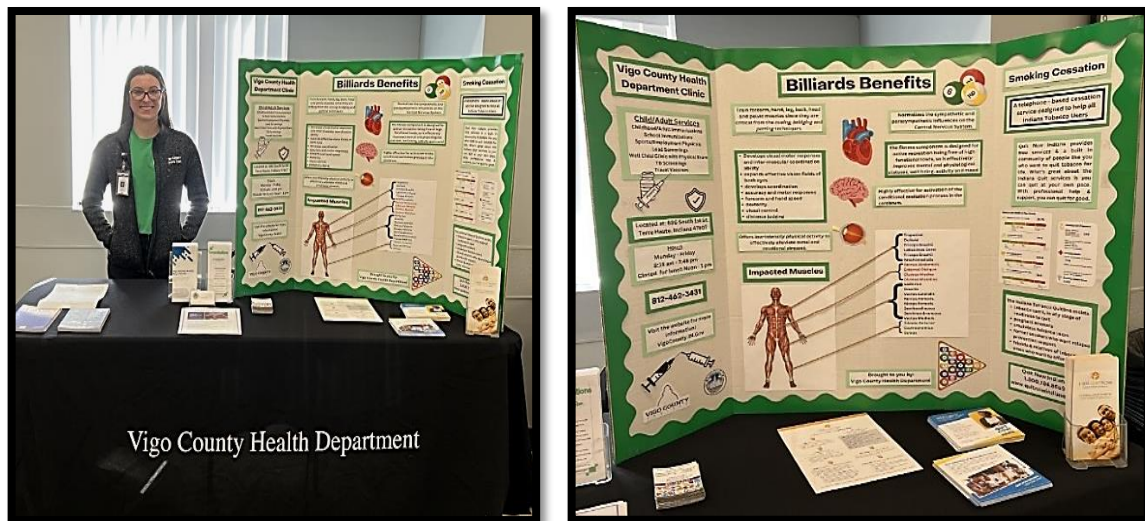


## HEALTH FAIRS

Participating and putting together health fairs are a great way to promote health awareness and encourage participants to take responsibility for their health. These opportunities also provide valuable health information. Health fairs allow health department employees the opportunity to meet with the public and discuss their specific health concerns in locations that are most convenient and easily accessible.

The following consist of some, but not all health fairs that the Vigo County Health Department has been affiliated with:

- **Veteran's Health Fair, partnered with American Legion Terre Haute**
- **Community Health Fair, partnered with the YMCA Vigo**
- **County Health Fair, put together by the local health department**



Shelby Jackson, Health Educator, with the display board at Veteran's Health Fair

## CONTINUING EDUCATION

- **Heartsaver First Aid CPR AED Certification / Heartsaver Instructor**
- **National Incident Management System Crisis and Emergency Risk Communication**
- **Local Public Health Leadership Symposium**
- **Mass Casualty Training and Response**
- **Orientation for Environmental Health Specialists and Public Health Nurses**
- **Grant Writing Workshop - Wabash Valley Community Foundation**
- **American Heart Association "Be the Beat" Continuing Education**



## MEDIA PARTNERSHIPS



Working with the media is an extremely important component of Health Education. In order to ensure the residents of Vigo County receive the most accurate and up to date health information, the Vigo County Health Department has developed an excellent relationship with the media. The Health Educator/Media Coordinator works diligently across media outlets to compose important health messages in order to promote, provide, and protect the citizens of Vigo County. The following health topics were covered within the media:

RSV / Tripledemic  
Tylenol Supply Levels  
CPR  
Tire Amnesty Program  
Head Lice and Nits  
Board of Health Meetings  
Heart Health Month  
Common Sickness and Prevention



## SOCIAL MEDIA

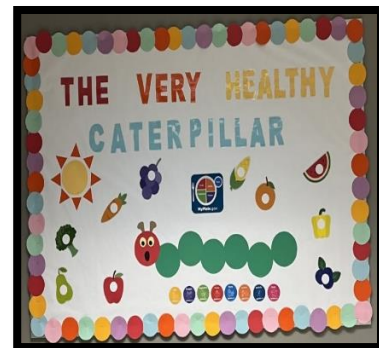
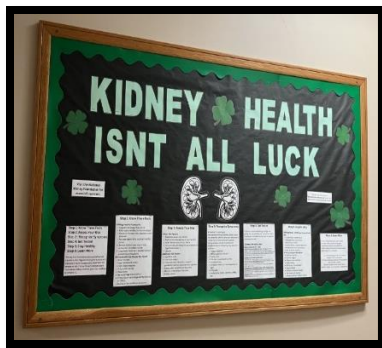
An ever- evolving, key piece of Health Education is a presence within social media. With the growing rate of digitalizing health, the usage of social media is crucial when aiming to reach the majority of the population, especially in an emergency outbreak. When 'I' becomes 'we' even illness becomes wellness. One of the six principles of effective emergency and risk communication is to be first. Crises are time-sensitive and quick communication is crucial. The following are actions and goals for health information being dispersed through social media:

1. **Maintain a high level of interaction across sites.**
2. **Increase the amount of community members reached through strategies.**
3. **Work with other community organizations to spread information throughout the county.**

## PASSIVE ENGAGEMENT

When it comes to health and wellness, often times the best strategies are those that are passive throughout the day. Gentle reminders pertaining to health depending on the season or specific month. Within the Vigo County Government Annex, a few strategies have been implemented to increase health awareness and knowledge. These strategies are consisted of health education boards and quarterly challenges to name a few. Below is a brief list of some passive engagement:

- **Health Education Boards: Harvest Healthy Habits, Say Boo to the Flu, Not Feeling so Holly Jolly, Back to the Daily Grind, Are You My Type?, Heart Awareness Month, Very Health Caterpillar, Munch Madness, National Kidney Month**
- **2022 Quarter 4 Challenge: Maintain, Don't Gain**
- **2023 Quarter 1 Activity: Smoking Cessation and Stress Reduction**



Public Health Educator, Shelby Jackson, with Environmentalist, Emily Milton attending the 2022 Public Health Day at the Statehouse (Top Left). View of all attendees, from the third floor, at the Indiana State House for Public Health Day (Top Right)

## **COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

Health Education and Media Coordination works collaboratively with a multitude of Vigo County members in order to provide fast, reliable, and educational information to all citizens.

**Tobacco Prevention Cessation Coalition**

**Indiana Environmental Health Association**

**Terre Haute Chamber of Commerce**

**Drug Free Vigo County**

**Vigo County Jail and Juvenile Justice Center**

**Wabash Valley Recovery Alliance**

**Vigo County Parks and Recreation Department**

**Lugar Center for Rural Health Chances and Services for Youth**

**Indiana State University**

**Purdue University - Vigo County Extension**



**Vigo County Annex employees participating in  
National Wear Red Day for Heart Health.**

***"We are only as healthy as our most vulnerable."***



## VIGO COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT CLINIC



**Left to Right: Robin Maurer, Teresa Bechtel, Dolly Moss, Kim Moore and Libby O’Pell**

In 2022, two full-time Registered Nurses, one part-time Registered Nurse, a full-time Administrative Assistant, an Immunization Registry Clerk, and a part-time Insurance and Billing Clerk provided staffing for the clinic. In addition, a pediatrician, Dr. Catherine Brown staffed our weekly Well Child Clinics. The Health Department Clinic provided services to both children and adults for a nominal fee or free of charge.

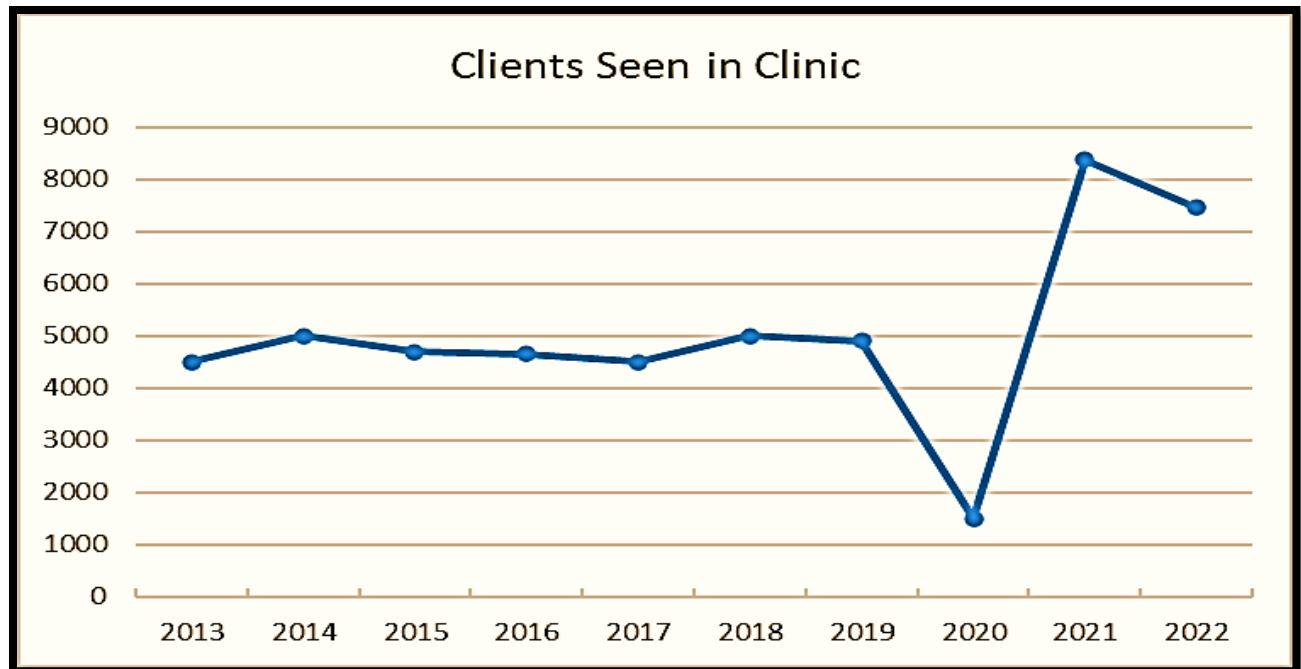


**Vigo County Health Department Clinic**



**Linda Deckert, MSN, RN,  
Director of Nursing**





**Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there have been major shifts over recent years in the number of clients visiting the VCHD Clinic by year.**

### COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The VCHD Clinic continued to be very actively involved in supporting the COVID-19 vaccination needs of the community during 2022. The Clinic began offering Pfizer COVID vaccines for babies and children ages 6 months to 5 years during the second quarter of 2022. COVID-19 vaccinations were also given off-site at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College, the Vigo County Jail, Gibault, and area long-term care facilities. COVID contact tracing was eventually phased out by the CDC and IDOH during 2022.

The VCHD Clinic administered over 29,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccines combined across 2021 and 2022. Although more vaccine doses were administered for children aged 10 and younger in 2022

versus 2021 as vaccines for the younger age groups were approved by the FDA, the total number of vaccine doses administered across all age groups combined declined considerably from close to 25,000 in 2021 to slightly over 4,400 in 2022, driven by the significant declines in the 19+ and 13-18 age groups.





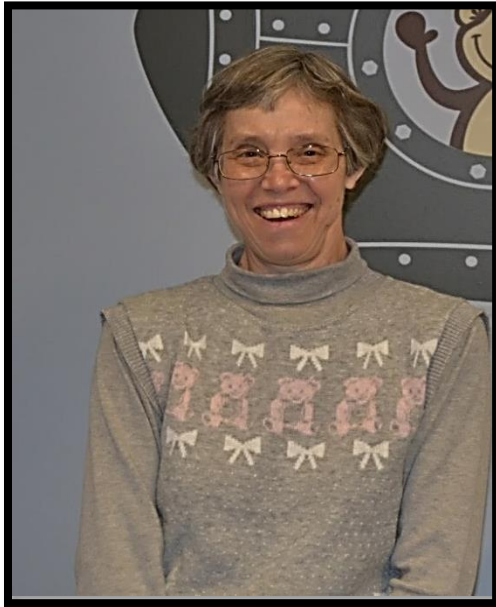
Jennifer Weeks, Robbin Poore, Robin Maurer and Jake Schmidt register patients COVID-19 vaccines.

<b>VCHD COVID-19 Doses Administered By Age by Year</b>			
	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>19+ Yrs</b>	23,729	3,848	27,577
<b>13-18 Yrs</b>	963	241	1,204
<b>11-12 Yrs</b>	168	94	262
<b>7-10 Yrs</b>	56	119	175
<b>6 Yrs</b>	2	16	18
<b>3-5 Yrs</b>	14	63	77
<b>2 Yrs</b>	-	13	13
<b>1 Yr</b>	-	17	17
<b>&lt;1 Yr</b>	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	24,932	4,411	29,343

## WELL-CHILD PROGRAM/SPORTS PHYSICALS/KINDERGARTEN PHYSICALS

The Well-Child Program serves children from birth to 18 years of age. In 2022, the VCHD Clinic continued abridged Well-Child Clinics on Wednesdays. Dr. Brown provided well-child physicals, sports physicals, kindergarten physicals, and Head Start Physicals for a nominal fee.

Immunization letters were sent out by the Vigo County School Corporation during the third quarter of 2022. The VCHD Clinic continues to administer school-required immunizations along with physicals, vision screenings, and hearing tests.



**Left: Dr. Katherine Brown**

## ADULT VACCINE PROGRAM/ADULT WELL PHYSICALS

The Adult Stay-Well Program was continued by Dr. Brown who provided adult physicals which included college students, daycare employees, and foster care parents for a nominal fee. The VCHD is enrolled in the Vaccines for Adults program to provide immunizations for adults with no insurance, or insurance that does not cover vaccines. Vigo county employees who fall under the OSHA requirements for bloodborne pathogens received their Hepatitis A and Hepatitis B vaccines during the fourth quarter of 2022.

## VACCINE FOR CHILDREN PROGRAM/PRIVATE PAY VACCINES

The VCHD Clinic continues to be a provider enrolled in the Vaccines for Children program and provides childhood immunizations to those who qualify. Since some area pediatricians do not provide immunizations to their patients, the VCHD helps to fill that gap by immunizing those children. Most major insurance is accepted at the VCHD through the help of VaxCare.

Our complete clinic staff had a mandatory meeting during the third quarter of 2022 with Teri Lyles, Regional Quality Management and Education Consultant from the IDOH to review a year-long program focused on increasing the vaccination rate among school-age children. These meetings are mandatory for each local health department in the state. Follow-up meetings will take place through 2023.



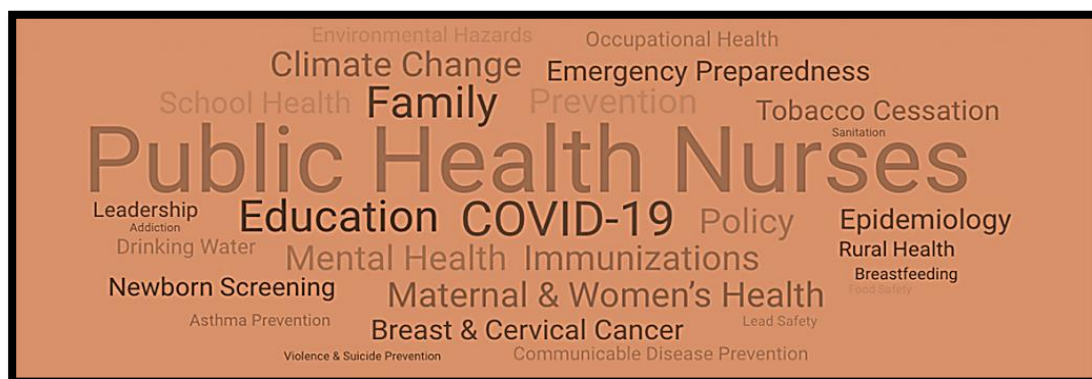
## COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Immunizations are an important daily function of the nurses at the Vigo County Health Department. Approximately 162 flu vaccines were given to Vigo County employees throughout 2022. The VCHD nurses serve as clinical preceptors for nursing students from Indiana State University, Ivy Tech Community College, and Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College. VCHD nurses also collaborate with the medical students from the Indiana University School of Medicine Terre Haute campus. In addition, Linda Deckert, RN DON, participates in the Childhood Fatalities Committee which started meeting again in person at the Landsbaum Center in November. Several mobile clinics were held including Vigo County Jail, Lighthouse Mission, St. Ben's, St. Pat's, Gibault, Vigo County High Schools, Silver Birch, Community Corrections, and the Juvenile Center. COVID contact tracing was eventually phased out by the CDC and IDOH during 2022.

## EDUCATION

Education is an important aspect to evidence-based care. Due to restrictions of the COVID-19 pandemic, some in-person training and educational courses were completed online via webinars and Zoom meetings, with most of the information centered on the pandemic. VCHD staff participated in meetings presented by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Indiana Department of Health (IDOH).

IDOH TB certification and IDOH Lead Case Management certification training were completed in 2022. Linda Deckert, RN DON, attended a state-wide nursing conference in Indianapolis in October put on by the IDOH to update local health departments on any new mandates, policies, or testing practices. Linda Deckert, RN DON, and Libby Opell, RN, also attended a disaster drill training exercise at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College in October, which was put on by the Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College of Nursing, the Vigo County Emergency Management Agency, Vigo County Sheriff's Department, and Terre Haute Police Department. All new employees of the VCHD Clinic attended a conference in Indianapolis in December put on by the IDOH and designed for new employees of local health departments. There was also training done in the VCHD Clinic.





## TUBERCULOSIS CASE MANAGEMENT AND TESTING

Tuberculosis (TB) control and case management by Local Health Departments is a mandated task under the Indiana Code 410 IAC 1-2.3-106.

This includes:

- **Investigating positive skin tests**
- **Collection of sputum samples for evaluation by the ISDOH lab**
- **Providing medication for both active and latent TB cases**
- **Home visits for medication administration**
- **Evaluation and testing for contacts of the infected patient**
- **Communication with the patient's physician**
- **Patient education.**

In 2022, 21 active TB cases, were managed by the VCHD Clinic, which was up significantly when compared to the 0 active cases in 2021. The VCHD Clinic continued to provide TB skin testing on a walk-in basis on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays for the community for a nominal charge. 822 TB skin tests were administered in 2022, which was up from 660 in 2021. This past year's testing included 32 TB tests performed in October for the ISU Early Childhood Education Center.



## INDIANA STATE IMMUNIZATION GRANT

A grant that was awarded to the Vigo County Health Department of Nursing Division by the Indiana State Immunization Division in 2021 for \$75,407 ran out in June 2022. Funds from this grant were used in various ways to increase immunization rates and promote services offered at the health department clinic. The VCHD Clinic was able to purchase various supplies and equipment for the health department clinic. Since the immunization grant was started in 2014, immunization rates in Vigo County have increased from 28% to 72% in 2020; there was a slight drop in 2021 due to the pandemic dropping the rate to 62%. The grant funded the VCHD Clinic's ability to accept most private insurances. A total of 420 private doses were administered in 2021.

## EPIDEMIOLOGY AND COMMUNICABLE DISEASE

Indiana Code 16-41-2-1 requires local health departments to investigate and report communicable diseases listed in the Indiana State Department of Health Communicable Disease Reporting Rule. Once investigations are completed, they are entered into the computerized database known as the Indiana National Electronic Disease Surveillance System (NBS). VCHD Clinic nurses investigated and reported many communicable disease cases once again in 2022. Chronic Hepatitis C continued to be the most prevalent communicable disease investigated by the VCHC in 2022.

Condition	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Animal bites	146	167	10	3	16	70
Campylobacteriosis	19	14	19	7	12	5
Carbapenemase-producing carbapenease-resistant enterobacteriaceae (CP-CRE)	1	36	7	4	3	8
Giardiasis				2	2	4
Haemophilus influenza, invasive				1	4	0
Hepatitis A, Acute	1	2	46	6	0	0
Hepatitis B, Acute/Chronic				33	18	14
Hepatitis C	110	182	272	251	173	141
Hepatitis E				1	1	0
Histoplasmosis	4	4	0	3	8	4
Legionellosis				1	1	2
Latent Tuberculosis Infection					23	21
Lyme disease	5	1	2	6	5	5
Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome (MIS)				1	0	0
Mumps				1	0	0
Pertussis				1	2	8
Salmonellosis, excluding S. typhi and S. Paratyphi				7	6	8
Shiga toxin-producing Escherichia coli (STEC)				1	1	1
Streptococcus A	1	5	2	8		3
Streptococcus Pneumoniae	14	16	24		12	16
Varicella (Chickenpox)				8	1	1

## LEAD SCREENING

On July 1, 2022, the new Emergency Rule, temporarily amending 410 IAC 29 became effective. This Emergency Rule updated definitions and other important guidelines used for lead case management, including lowering the standard for an elevated blood level from 10 ug/dL to 3.5 ug/dL, and the benchmark for beginning case management services from 10 ug/dL to 5 ug/dL.

In 2022, approximately 40 children were screened for lead exposure by the Vigo County Health Department Clinic. The VCHD managed 58 open cases in 2022, including 13 new confirmed lead exposure cases, and participated in 11 home investigations, up significantly from only 2 in 2021

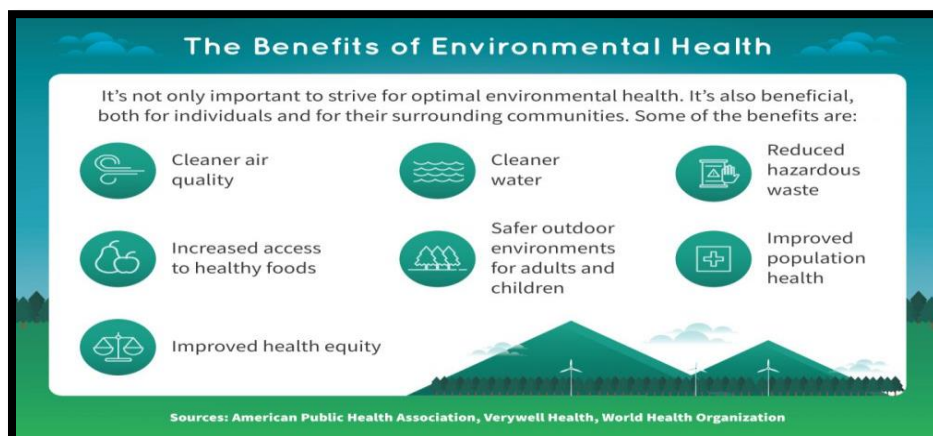
## ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DIVISION



**L-R: Emily Milton, Amanda Shook and Shelley Rubinacci**

**L-R: Cheryl Lehman, Steve Thompson and Amanda Bales**

Environmental Health Division protects public health and the environment by ensuring conformance with State laws and County ordinances pertaining to a wide variety of environmental health programs. Much of this work is accomplished by performing routine inspections and investigations and taking enforcement action when warranted. The Environmental Health Division also interacts with various federal, state, regional, and local governmental agencies associated with environmental health programs.





## FOOD SAFETY PROGRAM

The Food Safety Program involves the planning of new and remodeled retail food establishments, planning of fairs and festivals in Vigo County, and the licensing and inspecting of all retail food establishments within Vigo County. We work closely with the state department of health on any food recalls and food borne illnesses.

By promoting food safety education and fostering understanding, communication, and cooperation among regulators, industry and consumers, VCHD seeks to provide the best public health and consumer protection in an expeditious and cost-effective manner.

### Permits Issued

- 607 Retail food establishments
- 148 Temporary
- 80 Mobile Units
- 9 Farmer's Markets

### Inspections Conducted:

- 1009 routine inspections
- 10 follow-up inspections
- 53 plan reviews
- 53 opening inspections
- 5 consults
- 137 temporary inspections

Below are violations observed at local food establishments

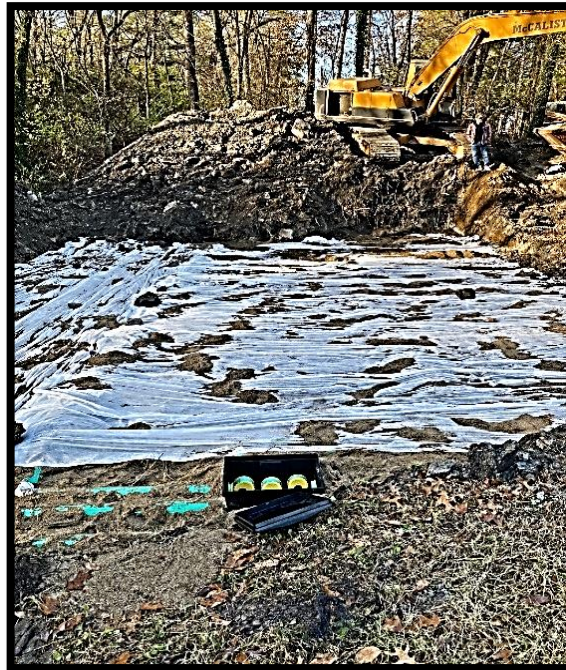




## WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM



**Trench Absorption Field**



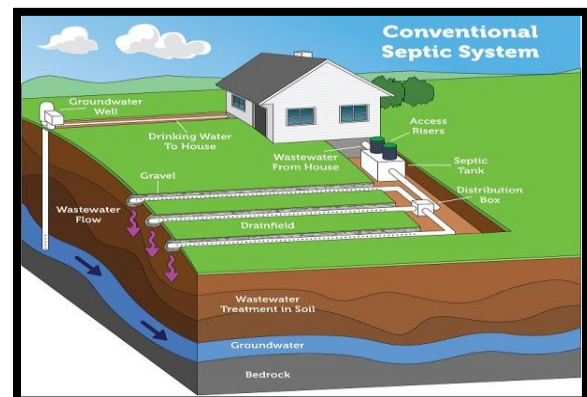
**Sand Bed System**

An on-site system is one which treats the sewage in a septic tank so that most of the sewage becomes effluent and is disposed of in an area close to the house or buildings. An example of an on-site disposal system consists of a septic tank and leach drains.

The planning, installation, and repair of on-site sewage disposal systems must be reviewed and inspected by one of our full-time environmental health specialist. This includes the reviewing of soil scientist reports, drawing of installed systems for department records, and giving recommendations for proposed subdivisions.

### **A total of:**

- **66 Septic Permits**
- **1 Repairs to Septic Permits**
- **27 Replacement Septic Permits**
- **41 Subdivisions**
- **341 Improvement Location Permits**
- **5 Additions to Septic Field**



## RECREATIONAL WATER PROGRAM



### The City of Terre Haute Deming Pool

Waters used for recreational purposes are subject to a variety of environmental influences which can affect the health and/or safety of individuals using those waters. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that the number of reported recreational water illness outbreaks from 1978-2012 has increased significantly. The outbreaks are associated with treated recreational water such as hot tubs, pools and spas.

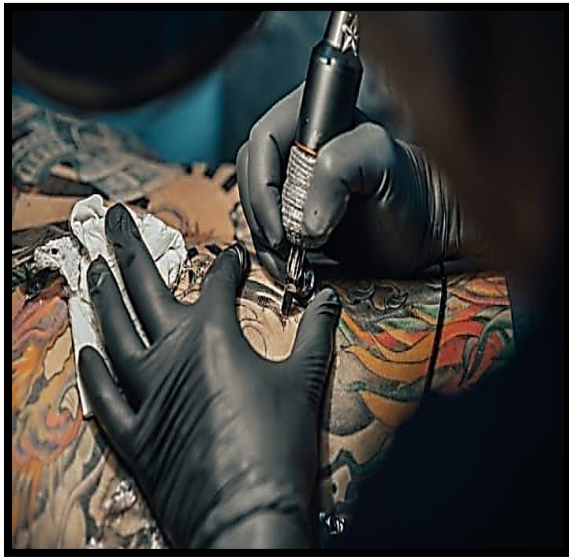
Recreational water program includes the inspection and review of bacteriological reports of swimming and wading pools, spas, therapy pools, and public access beaches. The inspection entails an evaluation of the pool area, water quality, safety equipment, and mechanical room. The goals of these programs are to minimize safety hazards, reduce the potential for disease transmission and assure that waters used for recreational purposes are operated and maintained in compliance with the applicable ordinances.

- **32 Permitted**
- **89 inspections were performed**
- **17 Follow-up inspections**
- **16 Closings**





## BODY ART SAFETY PROGRAM



The use of improperly sanitized needles and instruments for invasive procedures on the human body and/or procedures being completed by inadequately trained individuals can contribute to the spread of communicable diseases and/or cause permanent injury.

Through the Body Art Safety program the Environmental Health Specialist works to ensure the safe and proper operation of the licensed body art establishments in Vigo County. We educate operators, evaluate plan reviews, and perform opening inspections on new or remodeled body art establishments. We also ensure general safety and sanitation standards, and proper disposal methods of infectious waste.

The Artist licensing program ensures the individuals that are performing the body art are knowledgeable and competent.

- **14 Body Art establishments licensed**
- **17 Routine inspections**
- **3 Body Art establishment Openings**
- **41 Artist License**
- **18 Temporary Artist License**



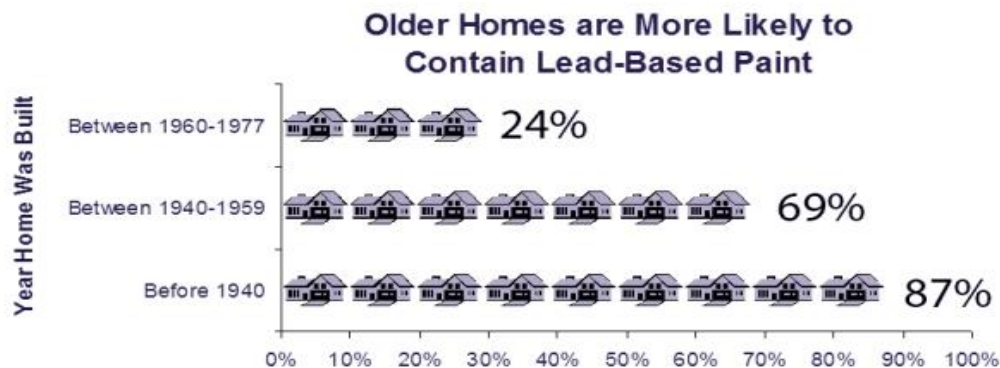
**Example of Micro Blading**

## LEAD POISONING PREVENTION PROGRAM



**Photo of a lead home on caseload**

Structures built prior to 1978, are likely to have lead based paint. However, the federal government banned consumer use of lead based paint in 1978. Lead found in dust, paint and soil in and around your home could be dangerous if not maintained properly. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, lead based paint can be found in:

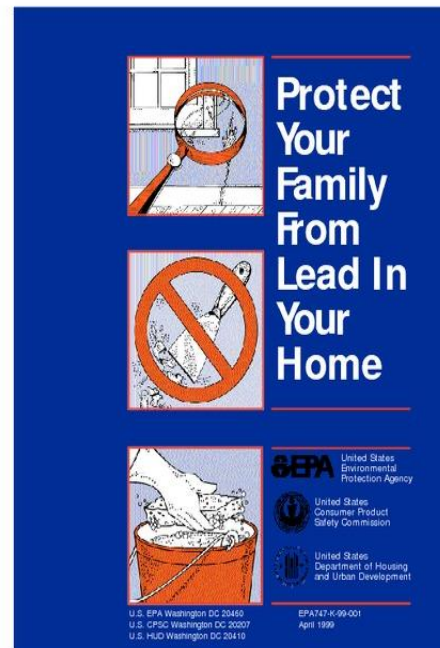


If the paint is in good condition and has been painted over, it usually doesn't pose a problem.

If the paint is peeling or has been disturbed by scraping, sanding, or burning, it can pose significant health risks to people especially children 6 and under.

As of July 1, 2022 the State of Indiana mandated that all local health departments follow children with elevated blood lead levels of 5  $\mu\text{g}$  or more and to provide parent education and blood testing of children with elevated blood lead levels of 5  $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$  or more. This includes educating the parents and conducting a risk assessment of the home.





**Cheryl Lehman, EHS compares how close a lead covered home is to a poisoned child's home.**

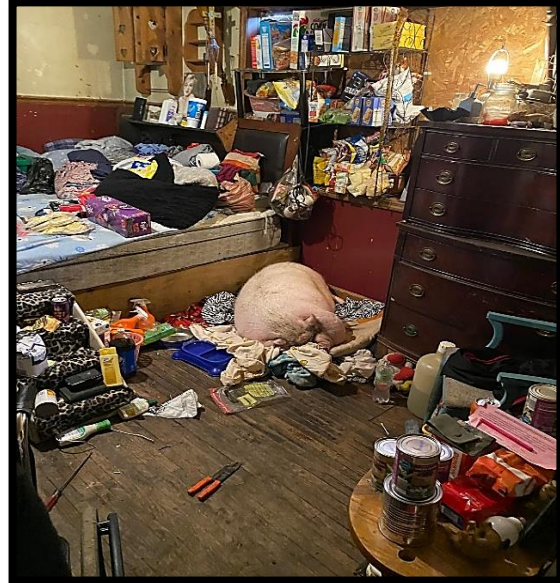
We have three licensed Risk Assessors that address the lead risks in the homes of the children that have elevated blood lead levels. The Risk Assessors educate the families on proper cleaning procedures and mitigation choices when lead risks are identified. Additionally a Public Health Nurse follows that child until their blood lead levels drop below the mandated 5  $\mu\text{g}$  level.

- **19 open cases**
- **10 new cases**
- **10 risk assessments**



**Lead covered porch column and windowsill**

## PUBLIC HEALTH COMPLAINT PROGRAM



Photos of homes that have been tagged **"Unfit for Human Habitation"**

Housing and property complaints filter through this program. Some of the problems addressed: mold, rodents, roaches, bed bugs, animal and human feces, meth lab clean up, surfacing sewage, and unfit for human habitation situations. We are called by other agencies, such as Child Protective Services, Adult Protective Services, City and County Building Inspection, City Environmental, City and County law enforcement, along with concerned citizens of Vigo County.

- 31 surfacing sewage complaints
- 5 unfit housing situations
- 1 animal feces complaints
- 6 bed bug complaints
- 10 mold complaints
- 30 pest/rodent complaints
- 2 trash complaints
- 1 pool complaint
- 6 non environmental complaints



Out-letting Sewage in a home basement



## ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH EXTRAS

- ❖ Participated in Leadership Seminar in Indianapolis
- ❖ Participated in IEHA Food 102 Training
- ❖ Attended Lead Risk Inspector and Assessor Course in Indianapolis
- ❖ Amanda Shook and Cheryl Lehman obtained their risk assessor license
- ❖ Attended Certified Pool Training Course
- ❖ Attended Farmer's Market question and answer with farmer's market board
- ❖ Training with local restaurant
- ❖ Volunteered at COVID vaccine clinic
- ❖ Attended the 2022 IEHA Fall Conference
- ❖ Training with Mark Miller for Indiana State Department of Health on onsite sewage disposal
- ❖ Attended the Indiana State Department of Health Orientation
- ❖ Attended Indiana Environmental Health Association West Central Chapter meeting
- ❖ Participated in Certified Food Managers Course at B&B Foods.
- ❖ Inspected over 58 local fairs and festivals



**Amanda Shook, Cheryl Lehman, Shelley Rubinacci, Shelby Jackson and Emily Milton attending the Indiana Department of Health New Hire Orientation in Indianapolis.**



**Indiana  
Department  
of  
Health**



**IEHA Fall Conference in Nashville, Indiana**



**The Vigo County Health Department  
Environmental Health Specialist are  
members of:**

**Indiana Environmental  
Health Association**

**Tami Adeagbo attends  
Johns Hopkins University  
in Baltimore, MD  
She is a double major: Molecular &  
Cellular Biology and Public Health.**



**Tami Adeagbo, Summer Intern**





### **Evening fun at the Indiana Department of Health New Hire Orientation.**

**Front row: Emily Milton EHS and Shelby Jackson Health Educator**  
**Second row: Libby O’Pell RN, Amanda Shook EHS and Linda Deckert MSN RN**  
**Third row: Cheryl Lehman EHS and Shelley Rubinacci EHS**

## **HELPING OUR COMMUNITY**

### **STRYKER LUCAS 3 CHEST COMPRESSION SYSTEM**



#### **Left: Otter Creek Assistant Fire Chief Jarred Rankin**

Every fire district in Vigo County is now equipped with an automated CPR device primarily funded by the Vigo County Health Department using our reimbursement from the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Service for administering the COVID-19 Vaccine.

The ‘Lucas 3’ device is expected to make chest compressions easier. Rescue officials agree that giving CPR is a physically demanding practice and have said that this new device will save lives and benefit the county. Cardiac situations are unpredictable and can happen at any moment.

## FIRST TEE PROGRAM

The Vigo County Health Department sponsored the First Tee Program, which introduces children ages 7-17 to the sport of golf. The commitment is \$25,000 each year for three years. The Local Health Department Trust Fund grant will pay for fees, curriculum and equipment and to train physical-education instructors on how to teach golf.

The long- and short-term benefits of the First Tee program, which encourages a healthy lifestyle as well as teaches nine core values — honesty, integrity, sportsmanship, respect, confidence, responsibility, perseverance, courtesy and judgment. Golf is a lifelong sport as opposed to sports like basketball and soccer, which people tend to abandon after their school careers.

First Tee focuses on three components. First, it reaches children through schools in gym class. Next, it introduces golf to those who go to youth centers. Ultimately, the goal is to get kids to play on an actual golf course.

1. Teach the nine healthy values in the First Tee Golf Program which are (Physical) energy, play and safety; (Emotional) vision, mind and family; and (Social) friends, school and community.
2. Integrate life skills and values with the game of golf and motor skills.
3. Focus on youth.



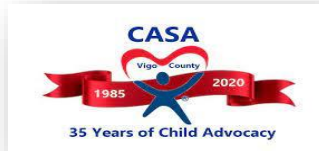
Schools that are participating in First Tee in Terre Haute include all Vigo County School Corporation elementary schools, and St. Patrick's School.

All six golf courses in Vigo County are participating in First Tee. These are: Country Club of Terre Haute, The Landing, Idle Creek Golf Club, Rea Park Golf Course, Hulman Links Golf Course and Mark's Par 3 Golf Course.

In 2022: 11 schools, 4,461 student participated with 4,068 elementary students and 696 middle school students. Summary of First Tee activity at local community center had 471 students participating. The golf pro's at six courses reported at least 80% of students attending First Tee understood and demonstrated the core values being taught.

## VIGO COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEE GIVING

### VIGO COUNTY CASA WHO ELF TREE EVENT: \$300



The trees contained tags with the age range and genders of children in the CASA program. Our donation helped to purchase gifts for those children, which were distributed during the organization's Whoville event in December.

### TRIBUNE-STAR CHRISTMAS BASKET FUND: \$300

Through good times and hard times, the Tribune-Star Christmas Basket Fund has persevered in its mission to provide bountiful Christmas meals to neighbors and friends who are less fortunate. Our donation helped support people in the community we serve.



### UNION HOSPITAL NICU UNIT: \$430



Our donation was made in honor of the late Shawn Depasse. She was a nurse at Union Hospital for over 30 years specializing in neonatal nursing and the wife of our dedicated, long serving Vigo County Board of Health member, Jeff Depasse.

### THE WABASH VALLEY HOMELESS COALITION: \$285



Our donation will we used for assistance, as needed.

# THE END



**See you next year!**