

# **Vigo County Health Department**

## **2024 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 IN VIGO COUNTY**



**Dr. Darren Brucken**  
**Health Officer**



**Joni Wise**  
**Administrator**



**Purchasing Clerk Tiffany Kerr and Bookkeeper Robbin Poore manage the  
finances and purchases  
for over \$4,747,923 in budgeted funds.**

## VIGO COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

What is a Board of Health? Boards of health are local public health systems, 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 the local public health system. 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.

### 2024 BOARD OF HEALTH

Dr. Amber Cadick, PhD, Chair  
Jeff Depasse, Vice-Chair  
James McKanna  
Dr. James Turner, D.O.

Dr. Custodio Lim M.D.  
Marc Keilman  
Dr. Jennifer Todd, PhD



**Retirement of long serving board member, Dr. James Turner**

### 10 ESSENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

The strength of a public health system rests on its capacity to:

1. **Assess and monitor** population health.
2. **Investigate, diagnose and address** health hazards and root causes.
3. **Communicate effectively** to inform and educate.
4. **Strengthen, support and mobilize** communities and partnerships.
5. **Create, champion and implement** policies, plans and laws.
6. **Utilize legal and regulatory actions.**
7. **Enable equitable access.**
8. **Build a diverse and skilled** workforce.
9. **Improve and innovate** through evaluation, research and quality improvement.
10. **Build and maintain** a strong organizational infrastructure for public health.



# **VIGO COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

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

## **Administration**

Joni Wise, Administrator

Amanda Puller, Deputy Administrator

Robbin Poore, Bookkeeper

Tiffany Kerr, Purchasing Clerk

## **Environmental Health Division**

Amand Puller, Supervisor

Steve Thompson, Environmental Health Specialist

Amanda Baker, Environmental Health Specialist

Shelley Rubinacci, Environmental Health Specialist

Cheryl Lehman, Environmental Health Specialist,

Anna Bunch, Environmental Health Specialist

Andrew Martin, Environmental Health Specialist

Katie Mundy, Childhood Lead Case Manager

## **Health Education/Media Coordination**

Shelby Jackson

## **Vital Statistics Division**

Loretta Nicoson, Supervisor

Brooke Olinger, Registrar

Brandie Latham, Registrar

Maddie Lindsey, Registrar

## **Social Services Division**

Molly Collett, Supervisor

Shonna Frye, Peer Recovery Coach

Larry Aynes, Peer Recovery Coach

Jeremy Baker, In-Take Coordinator

## **Vector Control Division**

Mike Grayless, Supervisor

Tony Grayless, Assistant Supervisor

Warren Sweitzer, Assistant

David Higgins, Assistant

Logan Edwards, Assistant

Dalton Higgins, Assistant

Kim Edwards, Secretary

## **Clinical Division**

Chelsea Willis, MSN, RN, Director

Carolyn Smeltzer RN, Staff Nurse

Deb Sweeting-Talens RN, Staff Nurse

Libby O’Pell PT RN, Staff Nurse

Robin Maurer, Administrative Assistant

Dolly Moss, Immunization Registry Clerk

Teresa Bechtel, Insurance Billing Clerk

**FINANCIAL REPORT**  
**January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024**

Cash Balance <b><u>General Health</u></b>	\$ 1,337,271.48
Receipts	\$ 2,336,331.15
Expenditures	\$ 2,001,540.39
Cash Balance in General Health	\$ 1,672,062.24

Cash Balance <b><u>Health First Indiana</u></b>	\$ 1,280,958.58
Expenditures	\$ 816,756.87
Cash Balance	\$ 464,201.63

Cash Balance <b><u>Non-Reverting</u></b>	\$ 16,878.66
Receipts	\$ 17,462.75
Expenditures	\$ 23,976.71
Balance	\$ 10,365.24

Cash Balance <b><u>Coroner's Fund</u></b>	\$ 3,266.50
Receipts	\$ 24,166.50
Expenditures	\$ 24,222.50
Cash Balance	\$ Zero

**Three funds that will phase out in 2025:**

Cash Balance <b><u>Health Donation</u></b>	\$ 12,972.46
Balance in Health Donation	\$ 12,972.46

Cash Balance <b><u>Health Maintenance</u></b>	\$ 115,628.75
Expenditures	\$ 79,366.51
Cash Balance	\$ 36,263.24

Cash Balance <b><u>Health Trust</u></b>	\$ 58,637.91
Expenditures	\$ 58,637.91
Cash Balance	\$ Zero

## ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH



**Front row L-R: Mandy Baker, Cheryl Lehman and Anna Bunch**

**Back row L-R: Shelley Rubinacci, Mandy Puller, Steve Thompson and Andrew Martin**



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



**Establishment Closed**



**Moldy Sauce**



**Roach Frozen in Ice**

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.



**Black Debris on Nozzle**



**Wasted Eggs**



**Meat Stored Under Sink**

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.



**Sewage Back Up**

### Inspections Conducted

- 1122 routine inspections
- 11 follow-up inspections
- 72 opening inspections
- 224 temporary inspections



## On-Site Sewage



**Above: ATL Sandline Systems**

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 specialists. This includes reviewing soil scientist reports, drawing of installed systems for department records, and giving recommendations for proposed subdivisions.

### **A total of:**

- 57 On-Site Sewage Permits issued
- 39 Replacement On-Site Sewage Permits issued
- 58 Subdivisions
- 340 IPL's
- 76 On-Site Sewage Requirements
- 53 On-site Sewage inquiries



**Opening inspection at the new Terre Haute Casino**



## Recreational Water



Water used for recreational purposes is subject to a variety of environmental influences, which can affect the health, and/or safety of individuals using those waters.

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.

- 142 Regular inspections were performed
- 34 Follow-up inspection
- 23 Closings

## Body Art

The use of improperly sanitized needles and instruments for invasive procedures on the human body and/or procedures 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 ensure general safety and sanitation standards, and proper disposal methods of infectious waste. The licensing program ensures the individuals that are performing the body art are knowledgeable and competent.

- 19 Body Art establishments licensed
- 17 Body Art Openings
- 41 Routine inspections
- 16 Artist License
- 1 Temporary License

## Lead Poisoning Prevention

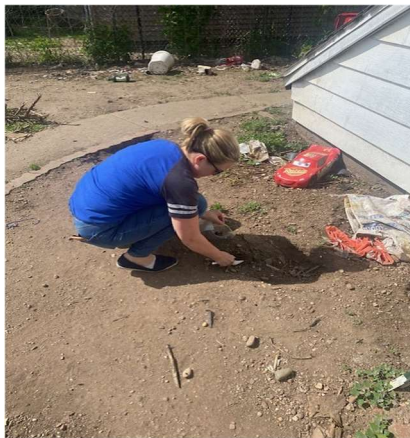
Structures built prior to 1978 are likely to have lead-based paint. However, the federal government banned consumer use of lead-based paint in 1978. Lead found in dust, paint and soil in and around your home could be dangerous if not maintained properly.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, lead based paint can be found in:

- 24% of homes built from 1960-1978
- 69% of homes built from 1940-1959
- 87% of homes built before 1940

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.



**Amanda Baker, EHS**



**Katie Mundy, Lead Case Manager**

We have six licensed Risk Assessors that address the lead risks in the homes of 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.

- |                       |               |
|-----------------------|---------------|
| ➤ 21 open cases       | ➤ 2 consults  |
| ➤ 21 new cases        | ➤ 1 clearance |
| ➤ 21 risk assessments |               |

## Public Health Complaints



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 CPS, Adult Protective Services, City and County Building Inspection, City Environmental, law enforcement, along with concerned citizens of Vigo County.

- 23 surfacing sewage complaints
- 18 mold complaints
- 29 pest/rodent complaints
- 3 trash complaints
- 51 retail food establishment complaints
- 7 unfit for human habitation
- 21 other complaints

## Environmental Health Extras

- Tuesday Food Trainings with IDOH
- Quarterly IEHA meetings
- Lead Inspector/Risk Assessor Course
- Risk Assessor/Inspector Licensing Exam
- IEHA Fall Conference
- Lead and Health Homes Training
- ATL Training
- IAFP Webinar
- Met with Inspect To Go
- Presented at District 7 Workshop
- On-Site Wastewater Meeting
- Cold Plunge Training
- Board of Zoning Appeals
- Training in the New Food Code
- Lash Babe IDOH Lash Training
- Body Art Training in Muncie
- Pool School
- Homeless Training
- Employee Health Fair
- Online Courses with FDA
- Lead Refresher Course
- Toured Wabash Valley Resources
- Met With IDOH Field Staff for On-Site Sewage and Food



Three women are standing in front of a repeating banner for NACCHO (National Association of County &amp; City Health Officials). The woman on the left is wearing a tan coat over a black top and blue jeans. The woman in the center is wearing a dark maroon long-sleeved top and black pants. The woman on the right is wearing a grey cardigan over a black top and tan pants. All three are wearing blue lanyards with NACCHO identification badges. The banner behind them features the NACCHO logo and the text 'National Association of County &amp; City Health Officials' in a repeating pattern.

## Presentations

Offer comprehensive approaches to current public health issues that are of concern. Some presentations are multi-faceted, such as an overview of the Vigo County Health Department and the role it has in public health throughout the county and surrounding Wabash Valley community. Other presentations can be an in-depth look into direct issues such as disease transmission through vectors, bacterial and viral levels or drug and alcohol use. This involvement offers the public the opportunity to learn about their health and wellbeing, ask questions and becoming familiar with the staff and services provided at the Vigo County Health Department. This familiarity between the public and local governmental agency aids in building trust between the entities, thus encouraging the public to be receptive of public health. The goal is to collaboratively work with many community partners with include but are certainly not limited to: Vigo County School Corporation, Indiana State University, Hamilton Center, Purdue Extension and Lugar Center for Health Education.

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

- Handwashing Tent
- Harm Reduction Discussions
- Cobblestone and Silver Birch Assisted Living Facilities
- Historic Walnut Square – Resident Enrichment Program
- AED Education
- Stop The Bleed
- County Employee CPR/First Aid Program



Vigo County Employees from Group Homes, Social Services Division, Health Department Clinic as well as Parks and Recreation Department becoming CPR First Aid and AED trained!



# Community Involvement

## Collaborations

Health education and media coordination works thoughtfully with a multitude of Vigo County members to provide fast, reliable and educational information to all citizens.

- All Babies Initiative
- District 7 Healthcare Coalition and Local Health Departments
- Fetal Infant Mortality Review and Child Fatality Review
- Vigo County Jail and Juvenile Justice Center
- Vigo County Parks and Recreation Department
- Chances and Services for Youth
- National Association of County and City Health Officials
- Drug Free Vigo County
- Lugar Center for Rural Health

provide valuable health information to make informed decisions. Additionally, 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. Public health is more influential when we meet people where they are.

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

- We Live Back-to-School-Bash with Hamilton Center
- Back to School Vaccine Clinic(s)
- Vigo County Health Department Health Fair for Employees and Public Members
- Unhoused Awareness with Veteran's Affairs
- Terre Haute Pride Festival
- Union Community Baby Shower

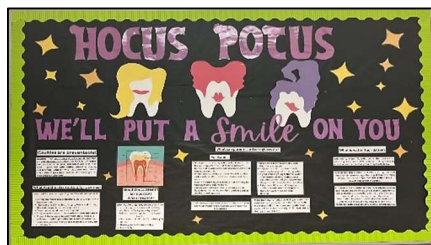




## Passive Engagement

When it comes to health and wellness, often the best strategies are those that are passive throughout the day. Gentle reminders pertain to health depending on the season, specific month or special occasion. The Vigo County Government Annex utilizes a few passive strategies to increase health awareness and knowledge.

- **Health Education Boards:** We Got the Beat, We are Mint to Be, Take the Madness Out of March, Spring into Healthy Habits, Taste the Rainbow, King of the Grill, Tick Safety, Water Safety and Swimsuit Colors, Safe Sleep, Ear Care, Health Up to Par, Don't Get Twisted in Substance Use, Happy Students are Healthy Students, Say Boo to the Flu, Public Health is A-Maize-ing, Tackle Pollen this Fall, Don't Be Tricked Lead Poisoning is No Treat, Hocus Pocus We'll Put a Smile on You, Grinchy Feelings this Season, Exercise Makes You Merry and Bright, Oh Deer Cold and Flu Season is Here, Elf on the Shelf is Watching for Healthy Habits
- **'Installments':** Radon Awareness, Heart Attack Symptoms: Men v. Women, Stroke Symptoms: Men v. Women, Gut Health is Not All Luck, Narcan How To, Tire Amnesty, Benefits of Going Meatless, Understanding Tick Bites and Lyme Disease, 2024 Total Solar Eclipse, Anaphylaxis – How to Use an EpiPen, Joints and How They Work, Heat Related Emergencies, Staying Healthy at 50+, Wicked Wellness, Domestic Violence Awareness Month, Hunting Safety: Information for Hunters and Non-Hunters, Importance of Self Examination, No Shave November Men's Health, Safe Sleep Holiday poem, Holiday Toy Safety Checklist
- **Employee Monthly Newsletters:** National Minority Health Month, 2024 Total Solar Eclipse, Mental Health Month, Sober App Recovery Tool, Firework Safety, Screen Time Eye Safety, Pollen & Respiratory Illness, Respiratory Virus Guidance Snapshot, Needle with Your Name on It Employee Vaccines, Stitching Away Stigma, Thanksgiving with a Side of Flu, Thriving through the Festivities: Navigating Workplace Stress During the Holiday Season



## Media Partnerships

Working alongside the media is a crucial component of Health Education. To ensure the residents of Vigo County receive the most accurate and up to date health information, the Vigo County Health Department has maintained an excellent relation with the surrounding media companies. Local media companies that are utilized are news channels, newspapers and radio stations. The Health Educator/Media Coordinator works diligently across multiple media outlets to compose important health messages to promote, provide and protect the citizens of Vigo County. Topics covered:

- Radio Commercials
- Vigo County Tire Amnesty
- Tick Population and Safety Precautions
- Various Public Service Announcements
- Eye Safety for 2024 Total Solar Eclipse
- Recall of Cinnamon Spices
- Infant Safe Sleep Holiday Poem
- Board of Health Meetings
- Clinic Services and Hours of Operations

***“We are only as healthy as our most vulnerable.”***

An ever-evolving, key piece of Health Education is a presence within social media. With the growing rate of digital health, the usage of social media is crucial when aiming to reach much of the population, or certain demographics depending on which software is being utilized. The quick timing that social media provides works well with health emergencies such as an outbreak or public service announcements. 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 pertaining to 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 various strategies.
3. Work with other community organizations to spread information throughout the county.

**Follow along with us at:**  
**@vigocountyhealthdepartment**



## VECTOR CONTROL DIVISION



**Front row L-R: Mike Grayless, David Higgins and Kim Edwards**

**Back row L-R: Tony Grayless, Warren Sweitzer, Jeremy Johnson and Logan Edwards**

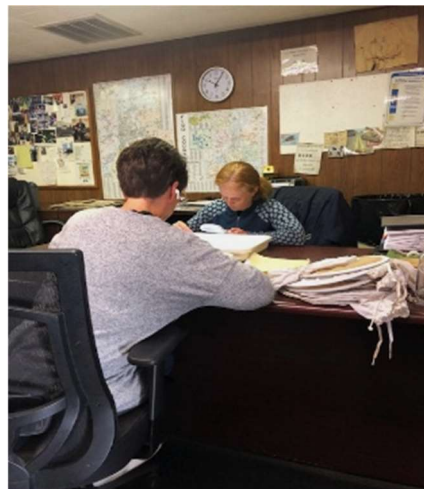
The primary goal of the Vector Control Division is to reduce the risk of disease and death from pathogens carried by animals and/or vectors. The Vector Control Division also repairs and maintains all Health Department vehicles and spraying equipment.

A “vector” is an agent capable of transmitting a pathogen from one organism to another. (I.e. mosquitoes, rodent). The Vector Control Division devotes its time primarily to:

1. Vector control
2. West Nile surveillance
3. Dead animal removal
4. Fleet maintenance and repairs



**Gravid Trap**



**Dr. Amber Cadick**



## Mosquito Control

The spraying for adult mosquitoes in Vigo County was as diligent as the weather would allow in 2024. 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 the city of 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 three insecticides, Bio-Mist 4+12, Kontrol 4-4, and Aqua Anvil.



**Clarke Mosquito Control checking droplet size**



**ATV mounted ULV machine**

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 prepare and update 26 maps that are 40-45 miles of County and city roads. The 26 maps show the areas to treat and 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 people who have requested no spraying be done in the area where they live, either for health or personal reasons. The 26 maps are treated weekly, biweekly or monthly depending on the 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 2024, over 1500 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 ensure 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 2024.

	INSECTICIDE	AMOUNT USED
55 Gallon Drum	Biomist 4 + 12	27 Drums
55 Gallon Drum	Kontrol	13 Drums
55 Gallon Drum	Aqua Anvil	5 Drums
220 Per Case	Altosid Briquettes (150 Day)	7 Cases
100 Per Case	Bactimas Briquets	11 Cases
400 per case	Altosid Briquets (30 Day)	1/4 Case

## West Nile Virus Surveillance

Gravid traps are specialized devices designed to attract and capture gravid (pregnant) female mosquitoes by providing an ideal site for them to lay their eggs. These traps often utilize organic infusions, such as those made from alfalfa pellets to lure mosquitoes. The organic material ferments in water, producing odors that are highly attractive to gravid mosquitoes.

Gravid traps were set out at numerous locations throughout Vigo County with 2563 mosquitoes being collected between June and October 2024. 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 Department of Health for West Nile testing. A total of 93 pools were sent in for testing in 2024. The Indiana Department of Health reported 12 positive pools for Vigo County. Vector control specialists will continue to set, maintain and collect mosquito pools for IDH West Nile Virus testing in the upcoming year.

## **Mosquito borne disease prevention activities in 2024 included:**

1. Distributed 5400 “Skeeter Beater” coloring books to pre-school through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade elementary students on preventing and identifying prime breeding areas for mosquitoes.
2. Worked with Homeowners (high grass, weeds, swimming pools, fishponds, standing water).
3. Sent out Notice to Abate letters to all Vigo County cemetery caretakers.
4. Continued to monitor homeowners, tire retailers and salvage yards to ensure compliance with the Tire Storage Ordinance.

## **2025 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.

## **Removal of Deceased Animals**

In 2024 a total of 538 deceased animals were removed from private property as well as city and county roadways and taken to the landfill, with 167 of them being deer.

## **Rabies**

In 2024 Vector Control staff sent 22 bats and one raccoon to the IDOH for rabies testing. One bat tested positive for rabies virus.



## **Rodent**

Rodents (i.e. rats, mice) are another source of disease transmission. Rodents must have adequate food, shelter, and water 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 most of the extermination is usually the responsibility of the property owner. A vector control specialist will continue to make follow-up inspections to ensure the property owner is correctly handling the problem.

## **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 Health Department vehicles and equipment have routine maintenance throughout the year.

## **Tire Clean-up Program**

In 2024 Vigo County Health Department employees removed discarded tires from the alleys and streets of Terre Haute and surrounding communities. A total of 3269 tires plus 26 oversized tires, filling four 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.

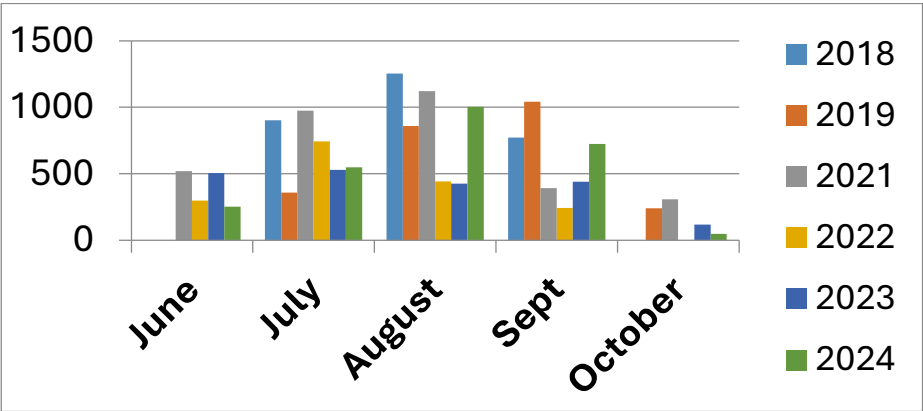


**Unloading loading tires**

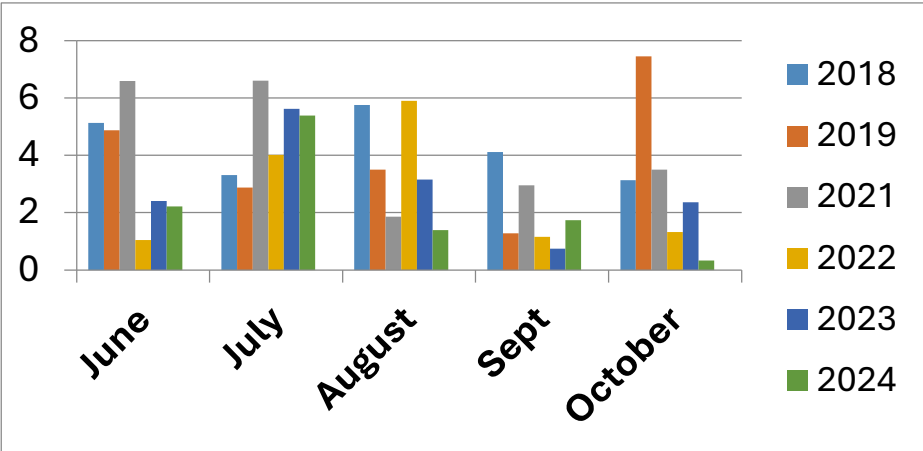


**EHS Staff helping out**

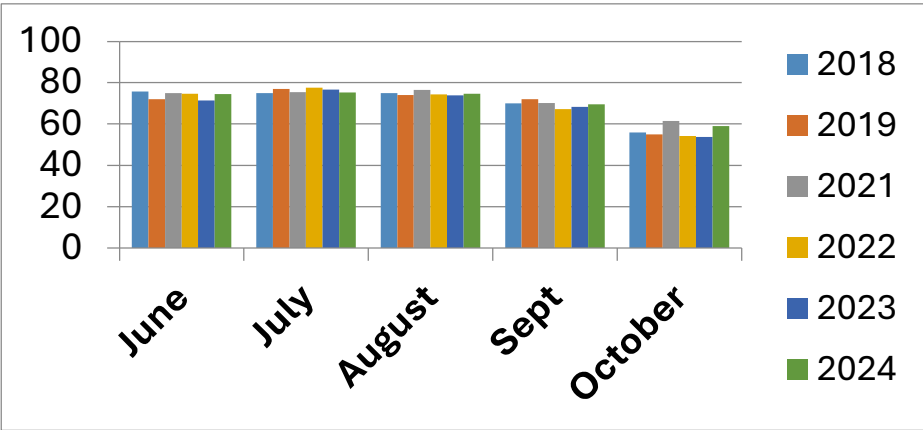
### Total Mosquitoes Collected



### Precipitation Amounts



### Average Temperatures



## VITAL STATISTICS



**L-R: Supervisor Loretta Nicoson, Brooke Olinger, Maddie Lindsey and Brandie Latham**

### **A core function of vital records offices is issuing certified copies of birth and death certificates.**

People visit Vital Statistics for many reasons. They need to do a paternity to put the father's name on a child's birth record. They need to do an Affidavit of Amendment to correct their birth record. People need a birth certificate for sports, driver's license, kindergarten roundup, health insurance, travel and many more things. Public health officials use death and birth certificates to compile data on various statistics.

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

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



## THE DIVISION HAS 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 paternities from the courts
- Process and Type paternities
- Process adoptions
- 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 (adoption records are NOT available to view.)

### YEAR IN NUMBERS:

BIRTHS IN WEDLOCK	875
BIRTHS OUT OF WEDLOCK	1,006
DEATHS REPORTED	1,555
FETAL DEATHS REPORTED	12
CORONER SIGNED	230

PATERNITY AFFIDAVIT	51
LEGAL NAME CHANGE	35
GENEALOGY SEARCHES	21
LINKAGE/DEATH TO BIRTH	477
GENDER CHANGE	2
CORRECTIONS	1,596

### CERTIFICATES ISSUED:

BIRTH	7,838
DEATH	10,254
CERTIFICATES AT NO CHARGE	482

## VIGO COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT CLINIC DIVISION



**L-R: Kayla Terrill, Teresa Bechtel, Libby O’Pell, Dolly Moss, Robin Maurer, Carolyn Smeltzer and Deb Sweeting-Talens**

The Vigo County Health Department (VCHD) Clinic is a vital service to our community. Our Clinic provides services to both children and adults for a nominal fee or free of charge. The VCHD provides screening and prevention services to the residents of Vigo and surrounding counties. Vaccines are a key component of prevention services and offer a cost-effective method for primary prevention against vaccine preventable diseases. The department provides all ACIP recommended childhood and adult vaccines. The goal of VCHD is to continue to aim toward enhancing community health and well-being by empowering individuals with the knowledge needed to lead healthy lives.

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

The Well-Child Program serves children from birth to 18 years of age. Our doctor provides well-child physicals, Head Start, Kindergarten, sports and some adult physicals on Friday mornings by appointment.

## **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.

## **ADULT VACCINE PROGRAM/ADULT WELL PHYSICALS**

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.

## **COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

VCHD Clinic attended the Union Hospital Community Baby Shower to provide expecting parents and grandparents with information on vaccines.

VCHD Clinic and the Health Educator have been working on reaching out to daycares to offer vaccines clinics and lead testing at the daycare. Lead testing was performed at Vigo County Head Start and Early Head Start. TB testing was performed at Vigo County Head Start.

VCHD partnered with Anthem and the Vigo County School Corporation and hosted an end of the year vaccine clinic. This event was aimed towards getting children vaccination before the new school year started. The Clinic saw a total of 40 children with a grand total of 95 vaccines given that day. We also gave away bikes in a raffle, had a bounce house and offered free produce during our event. It was such an amazing way we connected with our community!

Our school liaison worked with the schools to set up dental cleanings and to help educate about hygiene in the private schools.



**Ben Franklin Elementary Back to School Bash**

## 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 and patient education.

In 2024, 1 active TB case was managed by the VCHD Clinic and 7 LTBI cases of TB. The VCHD Clinic continued to provide TB skin testing on a walk-in basis on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays for the community. 974 TB skin tests were administered in 2024.

## LEAD SCREENING

In 2024, 89 children were screened for lead exposure by the Vigo County Health Department Clinic. The VCHD managed an average of 84 open cases in 2024 and participated in 18 home investigations. Walk-In lead testing was held during Lead Week. We will continue to do lead screenings on and off site.



**Bike Raffle winners from our Immunization Clinic at Woodrow Wilson Middle School**



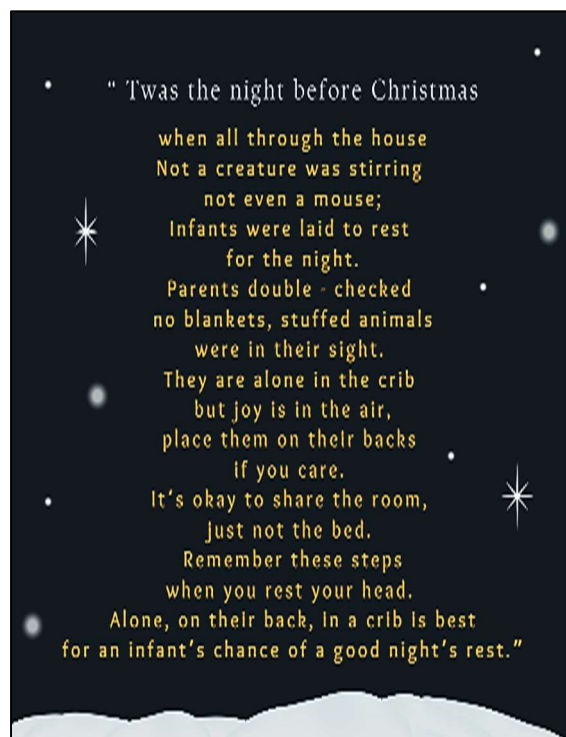
## EMPLOYEE VACCINES

The Vigo Commissioner's purchase flu vaccines and offer them for free to full-time county government employees. They also purchase Hepatitis A, and Hepatitis B for employees as they need them occupationally.

## EDUCATION

Education is an important aspect of evidence-based care. VCHD staff participated in meetings presented by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Indiana Department of Health (IDOH).

The Public Health Nurse's conference was attended by all nursing staff. Several zoom meetings were attended, as well as several IDOH training courses on site and the National Network of Public Health Institutes Annual Conference in May.



**Safe Sleep Poem by Shelby Jackson, Health Educator**

## 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.

Condition	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Animal Bites	10	3	16	70	155	267
Campylobacteriosis Probable	19	7	12	5	5	6 3
Carbapenemase-producing carbapenemase-resistant enterobacteriaceae (CP- CRE)	7	4	3	8	2	3
Cryptosporidiosis	0	0	0	0	1	0
Giardiasis	0	2	2	4	3	2
Haemophilus influenza, invasive	0	1	4	0	2	2
Hepatitis A, Acute	46	6	0	0	0	0
HepatitisB ,Acute/Chronic		33	18	14	15	4
Hepatitis C	272	251	173	141	114	88
Hepatitis E		1	1	0	0	0
Histoplasmosis	0	3	8	4	3	7
Legionellosis		1	1	2	0	0
Condition	2019	2019	2021	2022	2023	2024
Lyme Disease	2	6	5	5	4	4
Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome (MIS)	1	1	0	0	0	0
Mumps	1	1	0	0	0	0
Pertussis	1	2	8	3	0	7
Salmonellosis, excluding S. typhi and S. paratyphi	0	7	6	8	14	10
Shiga toxin-producing Escherichia coli (STEC)	0	1	1	1	0	0
Streptococcus A	2	8	1	3	6	13
Streptococcus Pneumoniae	24	0	12	16	9	14
Varicella (Chickenpox)	0	8	1	1	1	1

\*This table includes cases that are confirmed, probable, suspect, unknown, and determined to not be a case. Investigation must be initiated to make a final determination. Not publicly reported if total is less than 5. Hepatitis C count includes Federal Prison for 2024.

## SOCIAL SERVICES DIVISION



### THE MRT FREEDOM LADDER



L-R: Shonna Frye, Larry Aynes and supervisor Molly Collett



L-R: Sheriff Derek Fell, Chief Deputy Steve Meng, Shonna Frye, Molly Collett, Jail Matron Casey Lee and Jail Commander Charley Funk

## Our Commitment

**Mission Statement:** Supporting individuals with a substance use disorder and co-occurring mental health issues by partnering with other organizations in the community to provide peer support recovery services.

**Vision:** Build a strong and healthy recovery community and lower recidivism rates in the Vigo County Jail.

**Core Values:** Core values are the foundation on which we perform our work and conduct ourselves with each other.

**Compassion:** We treat our peers, partners, and each other with respect, understanding, and compassion.

**Trust:** We create a safe space and communicate with honesty and openness. We acknowledge the connection between trauma and substance use disorder and act with appropriate consciousness.

**Acceptance:** We believe that everyone has unique challenges and strengths. We value the power of self-direction in building sustainable recovery.

**Collaboration:** We build strength-based connections to achieve home, health, purpose, and community. We recognize diversity and we openly share our views and life experiences through authentic conversations; creating a space where transformation is possible.

**Confidentiality:** We adhere to the confidentiality agreement not to disclose any information obtained during the coaching relationship without the client's permission.

## Peer Coaching

Peer coaching involves individuals with lived experience of substance use disorders providing guidance and support to those currently seeking recovery. These peer recovery coaches use their personal journeys to inspire hope, offer practical advice, and model successful recovery strategies.

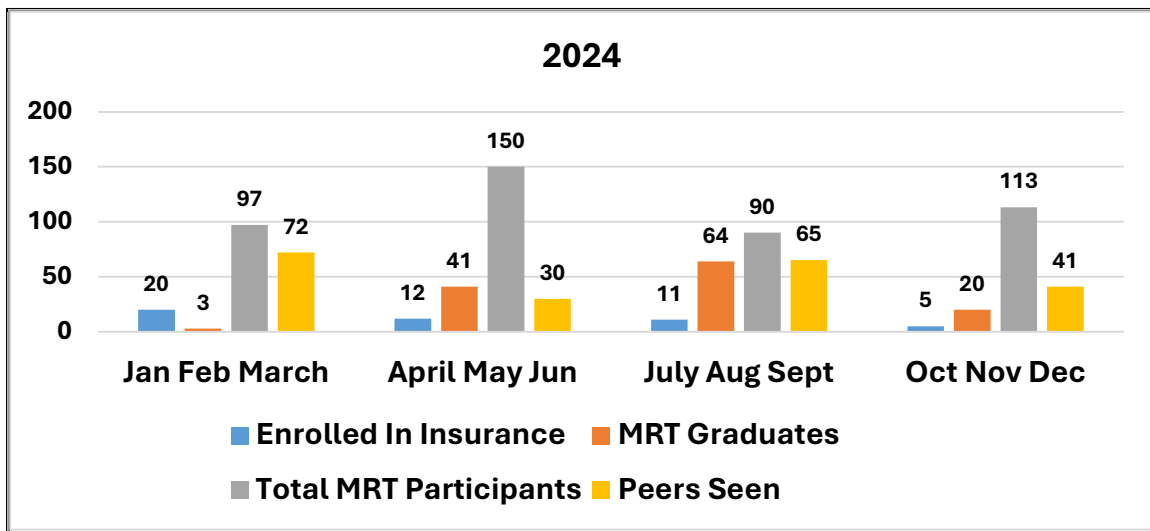




## Substance Abuse Counseling

**Substance abuse counseling** is a combination of treatment and support to help people break free from drug or alcohol addiction. **Substance abuse counselors** work with patients of all ages who have addictions to illegal drugs, alcohol, prescription medications, and tobacco products. They evaluate patients' health, recommend treatments, and help them develop skills to aid in recovery. **Counseling for addiction** helps individuals understand what causes addiction, recognize risk factors for relapse, and develop coping tools for stressful situations. **Addiction counselors** develop tailored treatment plans based on specific addiction, needs, and goals.

### Programs offered inside the jail



Gary J. Morris, Sr. and Molly Collett

Gary J. Morris Sr. has struggled with drug addiction in the past, but credits Molly Collett and the Vigo County Health Department social services division with helping him stay sober.

Peer Coached: 41

Enrolled in Insurance: 48

MRT Graduates: 128

Released, but still Clients: 10

Participants in Change Program: 77

**Seeking Safety** is an evidence-based treatment model that treats co-occurring posttraumatic stress disorder and substance abuse. It is a present-focused therapy that emphasizes coping skills, grounding techniques, and education to help clients attain safety from trauma and substance abuse. The Seeking Safety treatment model was developed in the 1990s, with assistance from the National Institute on Drug Abuse.

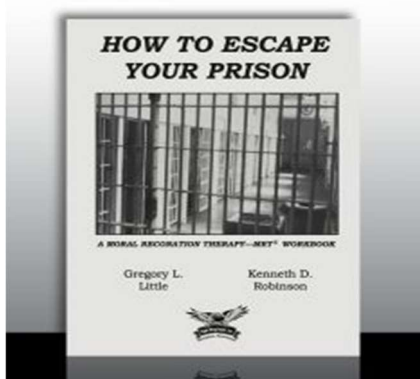


**The Change Program/Interactive Journaling** is an evidence-based practice for motivation and guiding individuals toward a positive life change. It is goal directed, client-centered and helps participants modify behavior while progressing through the stages of change, precontemplation, contemplation, preparation, action and maintenance.



**Moral Reconation Therapy** promotes moral reasoning, better decision making, and improvement of behavior. It is based on the idea that risky and criminal behavior stem from faulty thinking

patterns, such as a lack of empathy, distorted perceptions of right and wrong, and impulsivity. This is also an evidence-based program.



## Chances and Services for Youth and Drug Free Vigo County “Circles of Change” Conference



**Panalist Molly Collett, Supervisor Social Services Division**



### Conferences and Community Events

- All Rise/Anaheim, CA
- Circles of Change/Terre Haute Convention Center
- Mental Health and Addiction/Indianapolis, IN
- Hamilton Center 2024 Hero for Recovery Event
- Overdose Awareness Event
- Health Fair at the Vigo County Court House

### Collaboration

- |                            |                              |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| • Vigo County Judges       | • Sober Living Facilities    |
| • Vigo County Courts/Staff | • Treatment Facilities       |
| • Jail Staff               | • Covering Kids and Families |
| • Prosecutors Office       | • Hamilton Center            |
| • CASA                     | • Valley Professional        |

## Training Opportunities

- Seeking Safety
- Train the Trainer/How being Trauma-Informed Improves Criminal Justice System Responses
- Ethics
- HIV/Aids
- MRT Training
- Peer Recovery Supervising Training
- CPR
- Cultural Competency
- Examining the Impacts of Substance Use Before Pregnancy and Beyond



Larry Aynes, Peer Recovery Coach and Molly Isles

## ALL RISE CONFERENCE IN ANAHEIM CALIFORNIA



L-R: Amy Oehl, Shonna Frye, Molly Collett, Jaime Walters and Judge Charles Johnson



# HEALTH FIRST INDIANA



**2024 Funding amount for Vigo County: 1,234,029**

## Partners:

Chances and Services for Youth  
Vigo County School Corporation  
Vigo County Division 2, Family Court  
Indiana First Tee Program

Vigo County Sheriff's Department and Jail  
Vigo County Parks & Recreation  
Purdue Extension  
Vigo County Public Defender's Office  
Vigo County Courts

**HEALTH FIRST INDIANA (HFI)**  
Core Public Health Services  
More information at [healthfirstindiana.com](http://healthfirstindiana.com)

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**At least 60% of HFI funding must be spent on these core services**

Communicable disease prevention and control	Vital records	Tobacco prevention and cessation
Student health	Fatality review (child, suicide, overdose)	Maternal and child health
Testing/counseling for HIV, HCV, STI	TB control and case management	Emergency preparedness
Referrals to clinical care	Chronic disease prevention and reduction	Childhood lead screenings and case management
	Trauma and injury prevention and education	Child and adult immunizations

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**No more than 40% of funding may be spent on these core services**

Food protection	Pest/vector control and abatement	Public/semipublic pool inspection and testing
Residential onsite sewage system permitting and inspections	Orders for decontamination of property used to illegally manufacture controlled substances	
Sanitary inspection and surveys of public buildings	Sanitary operation of tattoo parlors and body piercing facilities	Sanitary operation of facilities where eyelash extensions are performed

Updated: 8/16/23

## Core Public Health Services

Core public health services must be provided by the local health department or a local organization in partnership with the local health department in compliance with Health First Indiana. The local health department will report on key performance indicators to the Indiana Department of Health

*THE END*



*SEE YOU NEXT  
YEAR !*