



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

# Brown County Health Department

## 2020 Annual Report

I am pleased to submit the following annual report of the activities of the Brown County Health Department for the 2020 calendar year.

Respectfully Submitted,

Norman Oestrike, MD  
Health Officer

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2020 has been a dramatic year in public health. The SARS- CoV-2 virus has tested the health care delivery system in general and the Brown County Health Department (BCHD) in particular, more than ever before. All our employees pitched in and made a tremendous difference for our students, teachers, and our community. There has never been a more widespread and deadly outbreak of any kind of infection in modern history. No one knew about the virus or had any defined approach to managing it. Using sound judgements and best health practices and the general principles of medicine, the department put together a successful and effective program, guided by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and the Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH), as well as medical professionals in our community.

After the public health emergency was declared, a National Incident Management System (NIMS) command structure was established, and a command center was developed. Through the BCHD and the Emergency Preparedness Department, protocols were established, and supplies were obtained. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) was acquired. Safe procedures for most people were established. Protocols for keeping the schools safe but still educating our students were established and monitored with our partners at the Brown County School Corporation. We worked with many different groups in our community to jointly develop safe plans for activities and commerce. We participated in many educational endeavors. We applied for grants from the ISDH and received many. These allowed us to purchase and distribute PPE and other supplies. We applied for COVID testing site grants and were awarded them. Without a local testing site and in the absence of a local hospital, we would never have been able to care for our patients or manage outbreaks in the school or the community. We then applied for a grant for a vaccination site and were rewarded with the funds to develop a site for our community. Our number of vaccinations are currently only limited by our supply of vaccine. Scheduling has always been directed by the ISDH as to who qualifies for vaccination at any given time. The state also controls the amount of vaccine we are allotted and when we get it.

We recruited volunteers from our supportive community to help staff the clinic with every function and duty necessary, including registering patients, scheduling patients, and using volunteer Registered Nurses (RNs) for help in inoculating our patients. We have Emergency Medical Technicians for standby emergencies. A truly team and community effort.

We have very diligently provided education to our community to help fight the pandemic. Most of our citizens responded in positive ways, and we are grateful for that. It has been a true total community response effort.

We were prepared with our past training and preparedness for this emergency, thanks to our Emergency Preparedness Coordinator. My greatest admiration for the entire Health Department and their willingness to work as a team and under great stress and personal sacrifice. Thank you.

The Brown County Board of Health has also been supportive and supplied many inputs to help our efforts.

With the pandemic raging, the health department has continued with its normal duties, working in environmental health services, continuing to work with our partners in the community on opiate addiction issues, immunizations and other programs as will be outlined in the individual department reports.

Our plans are to continue to do whatever we can to control the COVID situation as funds wind down from the federal government. We will continue with preparedness training and planning to be prepared for whatever might test us in the future.

We have concluded a truly incredible year.

Respectfully submitted.



Norman W. Oestrike, MD  
Brown County Health Officer

Brown County Commissioners

Dave Anderson

Diana Biddle

Jerry Pittman

Brown County Council

Darren Byrd

David Critser

Gary Huett

Art Knight

John Price

David Redding

Glenda Stogsdill-Johnson

Brown County Board of Health

Linda S. Bauer

Jeffrey Cambridge, RPh, MBA

Michael Day, MD (Vice Chair)

Thomi G. Elmore (Chair)

William Irvine, MD

Cynthia S. Rose, RN & Attorney

Catherine Rountree, MSN, BSN, RN

Norman Oestrike, MD

*Health Officer/Secretary*

Michael Day, MD

*Assistant Health Officer*

Brown County Health Department Staff

Corey Frost	Public Health Coordinator
Taylor Hardesty	Registrar/Clerical Support
Jennifer Heller, BFA	Environmental Health Specialist (Food Division)
Judy Hess	Office Manager/Administrator
Kelly Hilligoss, BSN, RN	Public Health Nurse
John Kennard, BS	Environmental Health Specialist – Supervisor
Norman Oestrike, MD	Health Officer
Ernie Reed, AS	Environmental Health Specialist
Seleah Settle, BSN, RN	Public Health Nurse
Jennifer Unsworth, BSN, RN	Public Health Nurse – Supervisor

## Receipts for 2020

<i>Revenues</i>		
Property Tax		\$501,761.43
Financial Institution Tax		1,606.41
Excise Tax		42,288.44
Commercial Vehicle Excise Distribution		3,023.20
Health Department Fees		67,622.71
Local Health Maintenance Fund		98,421.24
Local Health Department (LHD) Trust Account		14,889.62
Public Health Coordinator Base Grant (7/1/2020-6/30/2021)		31,895.00
Cities Readiness Initiative (7/1/2020-6/30/2021)		8,078.00
	Total Revenues	\$769,586.05
<i>Breakdown of Health Department Fees:</i>		
Food	\$24,700.00	
Installer License	3,100.00	
Nursing	2,909.71	
Septic	28,550.00	
Visual Inspections	300.00	
Vital Records (Includes coroner's training and continuing education funds)	8,063.00	
	Total Health Department Fees	\$67,622.71
<p>The Brown County Health Department accepts healthcare insurance, which is processed through VaxCare. VaxCare supplies the Health Department with private pay vaccines. When individuals with insurance request these vaccines, the nursing staff will process the individual's insurance information and set up the appointment. The Brown County Health Department does not require an administration fee, a co-pay, or a visit fee. This has allowed the Health Department to accept an entire new category of individuals to vaccinate.</p> <p>Upon recommendation by the Brown County Board of Health, Commissioners approved an ordinance to increase public health permit/license and service fees. The increase took effect January 1, 2020.</p> <p>The <u>Local Health Maintenance Fund</u> grant was established by the State to provide local boards of health with funds to provide public health services. The amount given to each county is based on population. These dollars are used to offset part of the salary of one Environmental Health Specialist and one part-time Registered Nurse. It also pays for advertising, CPR manikins and supplies and other items. According to IC 16-46-10, these dollars cannot be used by the general fund. All expenditures must be approved by the State Department of Health and must follow State code. In 2020, the State approved the purchase of a 2019 Jeep, 2019 John Deere terrain vehicle, and Windows 10 for our computers.</p> <p><u>Local Health Trust Fund</u>. This grant is from State tobacco settlement dollars. It too is based on county population. These dollars are used to update the department's web page, server and maintenance, education and training, and other items. According to IC 4-12-7, these dollars cannot be used by the general fund. All expenditures must be approved by the State Department of Health and must follow State code.</p> <p><u>Public Health Coordinator Base Grant and Cities Readiness Initiative</u>: These amounts are reimbursed through a Federal grant from the Centers for Disease Control &amp; Prevention. The Public Health Coordinator Base grant helps offset the salary of this position.</p>		

## Expenditures for 2020

	Total Appropriations	Disbursements
Personnel Services Health	\$539,072.71	\$514,023.11
Supplies / Operating Expenses	66,510.00	42,721.17
Local Health Maintenance Fund	98,421.24	80,640.08
Local Health Department (LHD) Trust Account	14,889.62	4,572.91
Public Health Coordinator Base Grant (7/1/2019-6/30/2020)	31,895.00	31,895.00
Cities Readiness Initiative (7/1/2019-6/30/2020)	8,078.00	6,497.53
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$758,866.57</b>	<b>\$680,349.80</b>

- The Local Health Maintenance Fund is governed by IC 16-46-10
- The Indiana Local Health Department Trust Account is governed by IC 4-12-7
- These grant dollars are spent according to code. A detailed budget, with documented items and a detailed plan is sent to the Indiana State Department of Health for approval of expenditures. These dollars are to enhance the Brown County Health Department. Part of the Local Health Maintenance Fund helps offset the salaries of a nurse and an environmental health specialist.
- Local funds are not to be reduced by these dollars, according to code. Any requests to use carry over dollars, must be in writing, presented to the Indiana State Department of Health and detail how the dollars will be used. The Indiana State Department of Health approves or denies any request.
- In 2020, the health department requested and received permission from the State to purchase a 2019 Jeep and a 2019 John Deer side-by-side utility terrain vehicle.
- The Local Health Maintenance Fund and the Indiana Local Health Department Trust Account Funds are not tax dollars. They are from the tobacco companies based upon the settlement actions in the 80's and 90's. These dollars cannot be used by other departments in local government.

- The Public Health Coordinator Base Grant and the Cities Readiness Initiative Grant are Federal grant funds that have been awarded by the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention through the Indiana State Department of Health to further public health preparedness capabilities.
- The budget is approved by the Indiana State Department of Health for all expenditures.
- The Base Grant helps offset the salary of the Public Health Coordinator.
- Dollars not spent in the Cities Readiness Initiative Grant are cycled into the Indiana State Department of Health.

# OFFICE MANAGEMENT

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*Submitted by Judy Hess, Office Administrator*

The office manager assumes many of the responsibilities delegated by the Health Officer. The following are a few of the duties assigned to the office manager.

- Attends meetings as needed.
- Assists in interviewing and hiring of employees.
- Helps to resolve conflicts with the public and/or employees. Consults with individual department supervisors.
- Makes decisions on day-to-day business regarding the department.
- Prepares the office budget, attends budget hearings and submits to Health Board for approval.
- Prepares all financial reports regarding grants and budgets. Sends to ISDH as requested and responsible to State Board of Accounts for audits.
- Attends meetings with various county offices as needed.
- Keeps personnel records for staff.
- Responds to and gathers information for requests for records.
- Reviews time sheets and answers questions regarding time sheets, corrections.
- Approves time off requests for staff, per health officer. (Health Officer approves time off for office manager.)
- Prepares biweekly payroll.
- Coordinates meetings for Health Officer and Board.
- Meets with the Health Officer and keeps him informed of all events, concerns, etc. within the department.
- Prepares board minutes for Health Officer.
- Attends Health Board meetings.
- Coordinates and facilitates staff meetings when needed.

The office manager works closely with the county health officer. The office manager spends time working with the health officer regarding any Health Department issue such as: budget, personnel, health officer duties, arranging trainings for the Health Officer, letter reviews, etc. She also works with department supervisors within the department as needed. She makes arrangements and creates the agenda for the health board meetings which are held six times a year.

The office manager also does daily activities in the office such as answering questions from the public, answering the phone, filing, deposits, bookkeeping duties, monthly claims for accounts payable, issues receipts, issues septic permits, septic searches, food licenses, pool licenses, farmer markets permits, collection reports, all state reports concerning grants and grant reviews. She assists with vital records as needed.

# VITAL RECORDS

There were 143 deaths reported in 2020 living an average age of 75 years.

They were classified as:

<b>Cancer</b>	<b>36</b>
Cholangiocarcinoma	1
Colon	2
Esophageal	2
Head/Neck	1
Leukemia	1
Lung	18
Melanoma	1
Ovarian	1
Pancreatic	2
Penile	2
Prostate	1
Renal	1
Stomach	1
Unknown primary site	1
Vulvar	1

<b>Heart Disease</b>	<b>29</b>
Atherosclerosis	2
Acute Catastrophic Cardiac Event	2
Congestive Heart Failure	6
Coronary Artery Disease	1
Diastolic Heart Failure	3
Myocardial Infarction	13
Systolic Heart Failure	2

<b>Respiratory</b>	<b>26</b>
COPD	7
Pulmonary Disease	1
Pulmonary Effusion	1
Pulmonary Sarcoidosis	1
Respiratory Failure	4
Respiratory Failure due to SARS-COV2	12

2020: 36 Veteran Deaths  
2019: 38 Veteran Deaths

2020: 75 Average Age at Death  
2019: 76 Average Age at Death

<b>Other</b>	<b>52</b>
Accidental Blunt Force Trauma	5
Alzheimer's/ Dementia	11
Anorexia/Nutritional	5
Cirrhosis	2
Degeneration of the Brain	7
Facial Cellulitis	1
Failure to Thrive	2
Fentanyl Intoxication	2
Fracture of Left Tibia	1
Homicide: Stab Wounds	1
Morphine Toxicity	1
Multiple Sclerosis	1
Ogilvie's Syndrome	1
Pancreatitis	1
Parkinson's Disease	1
Renal Failure	3
Sepsis	1
Subdural Hemorrhage	1
Sudden Infant Death	1
Stroke	2
Suicide: Carbon Monoxide Poisoning	1
Suicide: Barbiturate Drug Toxicity	1

<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>143</b>
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Registration of Home Births  
Female (0)                      Male (1)

Registration of Deaths  
Female (64)                      Male (79)

Certified Copies Issued  
Birth (15)      Death (768)

Did Tobacco Use Contribute to Death?  
Yes (16)                      No (58)  
Unknown (54)                      Probably (15)

2020: 143 In-County Deaths  
2019: 121 In-County Deaths



Vital Records

Out of County Deaths but In-County Residents

Information provided via reports from the Indiana State Department of Health

There were 85 deaths reported in 2020 living an average age of 70 years.

They were classified as:

Cancer	14
Anal	1
Breast	1
Esophageal	1
Leukemia	2
Liver	1
Lung	4
Melanoma	1
Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma	1
Pancreatic	1
Soft Palate	1

Heart Disease	14
Cardiac Arrest	2
Cardiac Arrhythmia	1
Cardiac Dysrhythmia	1
Combined Heart Failure	1
Congestive Heart Failure	1
Coronary Artery Disease	3
Hypertensive Cardiovascular Disease	2
Myocardial Infarction	1
Systolic Heart Failure	1
Vascular Disease	1

Respiratory	23
COPD	1
Hypoxia from Pneumonia	1
Pneumonia	4
Pulmonary Embolism	2
Respiratory Failure	7
Respiratory Failure due to SARS-COV2	8

Other	34
Accidental Blunt Force Trauma	1
Accidental Drowning	1
Alzheimer's/ Dementia	3
Bowel Perforation	1
Brain Abscess	1
Brain Hemorrhage	1
Cirrhosis	2
Dysphagia	1
Fentanyl Overdose	1
Ischemic Bowel	1
Metabolic Acidosis	1
Natural Causes	1
Normal Pressure Hydrocephalus	1
Oxycodone Intoxication	1
Renal Failure	2
Sepsis	9
Septic Shock	1
Stroke	1
Subdural Hematoma	1
Suicide: Gunshot Wound	2
Vertebral Artery Dissection	1

Grand Total	85
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2020: 70 Average Age at Death

2019: 71 Average Age at Death

2020: 85 Out of County Deaths

2019: 66 Out of County Deaths

# EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

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*Submitted by Corey M.B. Frost, Public Health Coordinator*

## **BUDGET**

- Base Budget of \$31,895 has been accepted
- CRI (Cities Readiness Initiative) available budget of \$8,078 has been accepted.

## **REGULAR MEETINGS ATTENDED**

- District 8 meetings held bi-monthly, representatives from all counties in District 8 are present. Those counties are Monroe, Lawrence, Orange, Bartholomew, Jackson, Washington and Brown.
- Attend and Chair LEPC (Local Emergency Planning Committee) meetings.
- Monthly mobile office meetings with District 8 staff.
- EPPC meetings (Emergency Preparedness and Planning Coalition) bi-monthly. Formerly the District Planning Council.
- Attend EMAC (Emergency Management Advisory Committee) meetings.
- Serves as the District 8 Local Health Department Representative to the Hospital Healthcare Coalition that meets monthly.
- Individual meetings with District 8 staff and the Indiana State Department of Health for the purpose of meeting grant deliverables and to use templates to update the ESF-8 (Essential Support Function) and the County Emergency Management Plan.
- Working to Regionalize plans. Hamilton County has appointed a Regional Coordinator to input information into the Data Collection Integrated Public Health Emergency Response (DCIPHER) system.

## **ACTIVITIES**

- Activities have been COVID focused since end of February/March
- Activation of County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in March and formed a unified incident command structure
- Deployment of non-pharmaceutical intervention were priority in the beginning months in the form of personnel protective equipment (gloves, masks, hand sanitizer, face shields, social distancing and other CDC guidelines)
- Worked with county offices and business in developing plans and strategies on prevention of spread of the disease
- Reviewed event planning in accordance with governor's edicts as they rolled out
- Reviewed continuity of operation plans for county offices to ensure functions still were performed
- Worked with the state to develop a testing strategy using the Brown County Music Center in July that lasted for a month
- Rolled out another testing clinic using health department staff beginning the first of September and continues today
- Assisted schools in their back-to-school plan

- Evaluated the Ebola Exercise at the Schneck Hospital in Seymour
- Developed mid-after-action Review for District COVID Response in September

#### **TRAINING**

- Put on a rescue task force training in January for community leaders and fire/ems/law
- Held swift water rescue training for Fire/EMS in January
- Taught Stop the Bleed to school nurses in February
- CPR training for Fire in February
- Monthly EMS trainings were held until February
- Completed Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) vaccine administrator training in anticipation of vaccine roll-out
- All trainings ceased once COVID began

#### **FUTURE GOALS**

- End COVID
- Revisit trainings through the training institute

# Environmental Health

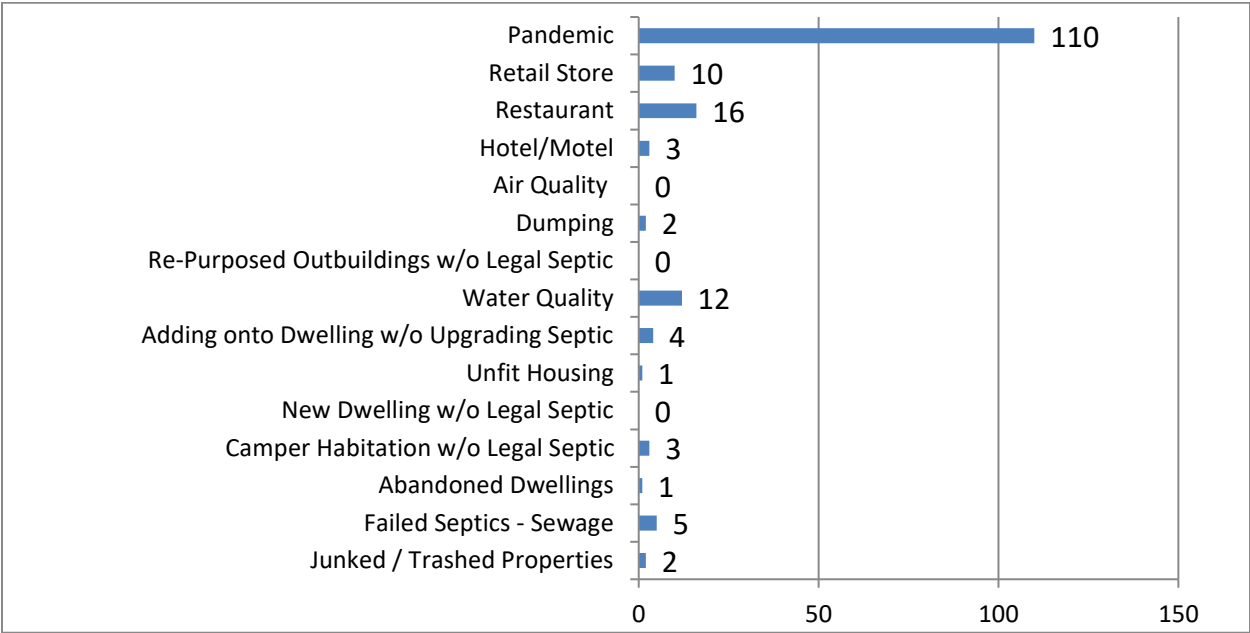
*Submitted by Ernie Reed, Environmental Health Specialist*

## **COMPLAINTS, WASTEWATER, PROJECTS, VECTOR CONTROL, SANITATION, WATER QUALITY**

### COMPLAINTS

At the end of 2020 there were 181 total active complaints, which is an increase from 147 active complaints at the beginning of the year.

The chart below displays the type/number of active open complaints logged in 2020 only, not previous years.

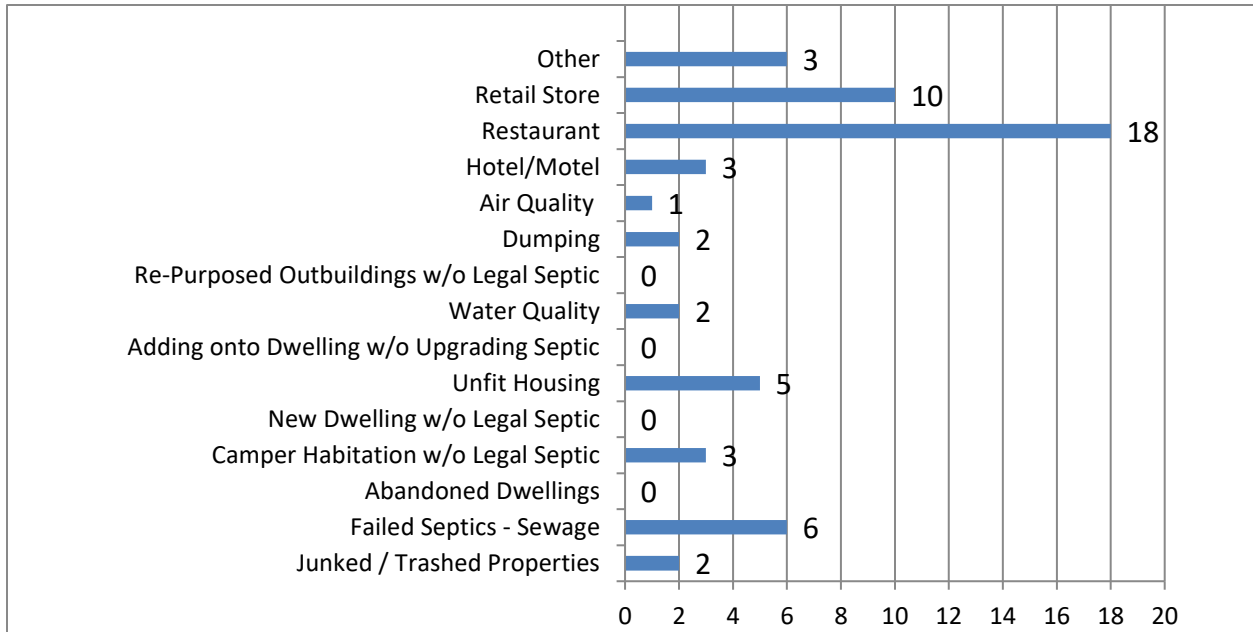


The pandemic complaints are not listed in the closed complaints, however, all were responded to.

At the end of 2020 there were 55 complaints closed.

Some of the homes have new owners that cleansed the properties and other residents have complied with a health department order.

The chart below displays type/number of complaints closed in 2020



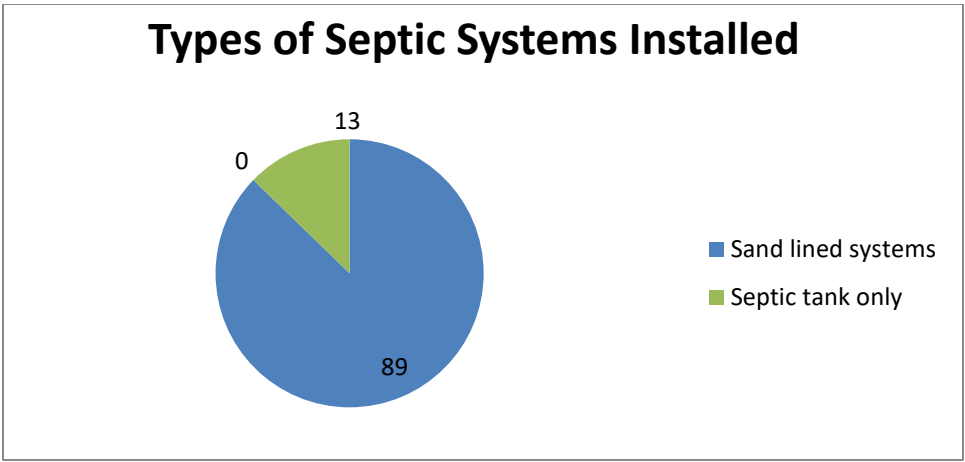
### **WASTEWATER**

187 soil evaluations submitted for review and specification work sheets issued in 2020 compared to 160 in 2019

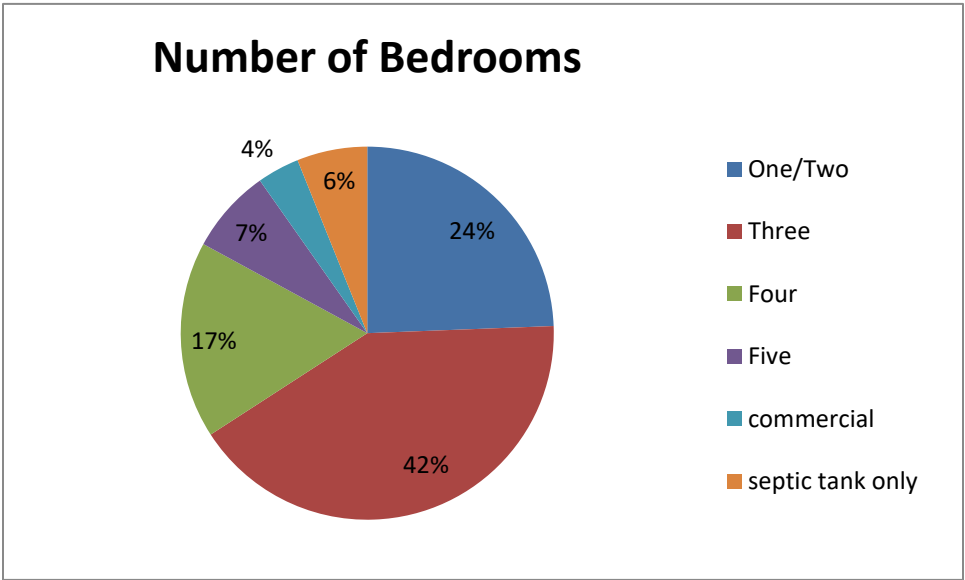
120 septic permits were issued in 2020 compared to 114 in 2019.

A total of 102 septic installations in 2020 compared to 105 in 2019, 3 being commercial, 50 being new construction, 39 being repair, and 10 being septic tank installation.

NOTE: Some of the septic installations were permitted in 2019



Percentage of the number of bedrooms per homes with septic systems installed in 2020



**FUTURE GOALS**

1. Continue talking, working with, and educating the public on COVID related issues until we get this pandemic behind us.
2. Annual contractors meeting
3. Continue public education on residential septic systems
4. Plan 2<sup>nd</sup> septic summit

# ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH – FOOD DIVISION

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*Submitted by Jennifer Heller, Environmental Health Specialist*

## **Introduction:**

Environmental Health includes the inspection of all food establishments within the County, with the categories of; “limited”, “full service”, “non-profit” and “temporary”. In order to assist in maintaining food safety, duties include:

- Food Establishment Inspections
- Sharing Recall notifications with food establishments
- Consultations on Openings/Closings/Remodels of Food Establishments
- Publication of inspections online and in the newspaper
- Food Establishment Database maintenance (jointly with Reception)
- Food Safety and Environmental Outreach
- Teaching ServSafe Food Manager classes
- Conference attendance with educational sessions
- Indiana Environmental Health Association- 2020 Indiana Environmental Health Association Vice President and Southern Chapter President
- Executive Committee Indiana Environmental Health Association Chair of the Terrorism and All Hazards Preparedness Committee
- Meth house condemnation when needed
- Complaints (hotel, food, smoking, COVID)
- Grease traps tracking
- Tattoo parlor inspection
- Septic installation inspections as required
- Septic Ordinance Committee member (now completed as of 2020)

## **RECALLS:**

Recall information comes in from the Food and Drug Administration and U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Indiana State Health Department. I compile a weekly recall report unless there is a Class I recall (most dangerous) when I then call local establishments that may carry the product. Most of the product recalls are usually generated by a mislabeled product that has failed to include an allergen notification. If there is a Class I recall, I also send out a notice. The recalls are compiled and sent out to all food service establishments in the County by email. We no longer need to mail out notices, all establishments have some form of email now. In the email version of the recall information that I send, there are clickable links in blue type that will take the email recipient to the official recall notice with additional contact information, product photographs, SKU numbers (numbers that identify the items) and where to call for more information.

In 2020 there were 91 various recalls that were sent out. Some had multiple items included in the recall.

I do not send pharmaceutical recall notices. I also do not try and determine the specific products carried at different food establishments, the notices just go out to all establishments

On the recall notice, if space was available, additional information was occasionally added, such as notification of upcoming ServSafe Food Manager classes or special health information. This was done only on a limited basis, so as not to add to confusion.

**REGULAR FOOD ESTABLISHMENT INSPECTIONS:**

Due to the many closings and restrictions to food establishments from the pandemic, my inspections this year were less than normal.

Food establishment inspections were divided between temporary event establishments and full-time regular food establishments, which were then further divided down into risk categories.

There were 123 regular full-time establishments in 2020 and there were 66 inspections performed. Less than the 166 accomplished in 2019. This is due to the closings created by the pandemic and increase in office time for answering phone calls due to the pandemic. I maintained contact with all the food establishments through emails, updating them on procedures required by the limitations set forth by the Governor on capacities, social distancing, masks, etc.

Of the inspections that were done, all the facilities in the highest risk category were all inspected at least once, except the Seasons and Hotel Nashville which closed early on in the year. There are 35 food establishments in the high risk category. These are the establishments that serve more diversified food that they prepare, possibly hold, cool, and reheat.

Of the second highest risk category, in which there are 32 establishments, 28 received at least 1 inspection, 4 did not, these were Trails End (only open weekends) Millers Ice Cream, Schwab Fudge, and Brown County Junior High, Senior High and Headstart. The schools closed right after I had inspected the elementary and intermediate schools and was planning on doing their inspection the next day.

Of the 55 establishments with lowest risk and only needing one inspection, all but 13 were inspected. This is the lowest risk category, and they have the least actual food handling. I did not inspect the Schwan Food truck (all frozen food, and on a once-a-week schedule here in Nashville, Candy Miller "Let's Have Tea", (operates on an as needed basis every four months or so from Mother's Cupboard and we have not ever able to connect), and as she is only blending dry teas, this is very low risk. The Big Woods Mobile Truck as they only used this truck in County for one event I know of this year, which was at their Hard Truth facility. Also Missed were the Playhouse (limited hours) Who's Your Ice Man, Hamblen Township Fire, Fruitdale Fire (with special fish fry events occasionally)

**TEMPORARY FOOD INSPECTIONS:**

Most temporary events were cancelled due to the pandemic. There were no events at the Bill Monroe. We did approve 10 outdoor events. I did not inspect the 1 Farmer's Market which was open part of 2020. I did have Papa John's from Columbus do multiple temporary licenses; they were inspected twice. The other 8 temporaries were non-profits, having single events. I did not inspect these.

**CONSULTATIONS, OPENINGS, CLOSINGS:**

Brownies Bean Blossom Inn opened again, Nashville House remodeled and opened. Big Jim's Bar B Que did not open this year. Nashville Spice Co., moved to a new location and has a new wholesaling building in Gnaw Bone to make their mixes. Harvest Moon Homestead closed, Sidetrack Coffee began working from a new location in town, Pentecostal church on St Rt 46 opened a food Pantry. St. David's Church organized a food alliance which continues to provide free food to families in need and is now partnered with St. Vincent de Paul and Community Organizations Against Disaster (COAD).



**PUBLISHED INSPECTIONS:**

The Democrat newspaper published all the food establishment inspections that I forwarded to them for 2020 during the year. These inspections are also posted on our Brown County Health Department website as electronic PDF files.

Inquiries were made from several retailers about putting food in their operations. In addition to local questions, I answer 3-4 calls weekly concerning food trucks/mobile vendors.

All camps were closed except Palawopec which opened for one session and was inspected.

There are currently 6 operating Bed & Breakfast's in the county. There are 6 Schools, 23 Non-profits, and 10 camps.

**SERVSAFE CLASSES:**

This year I taught one ServSafe class at the CRC due to the Salmon room being used for the COVID response in the building.

**METH HOUSES:**

I did not receive any Indiana Police Clandestine Laboratory reports this year. The concern now (more than meth production) is the Fentanyl Labs and derivatives. I have not received notification of any of these labs in the county.

**COMPLAINTS:**

I responded to and closed out 18 Food Complaints in 2020.

**SMOKING:**

There were no complaints or violations this year on smoking that required my attention.

**GREASE TRAPS:**

I ask about the grease traps during inspections, and whether they are being cleaned regularly but feel it is unfair to the establishment to ask to have these opened during working hours because of the odor. I also direct new establishments to the Town Hall for requirements and direction on sizing new grease traps.

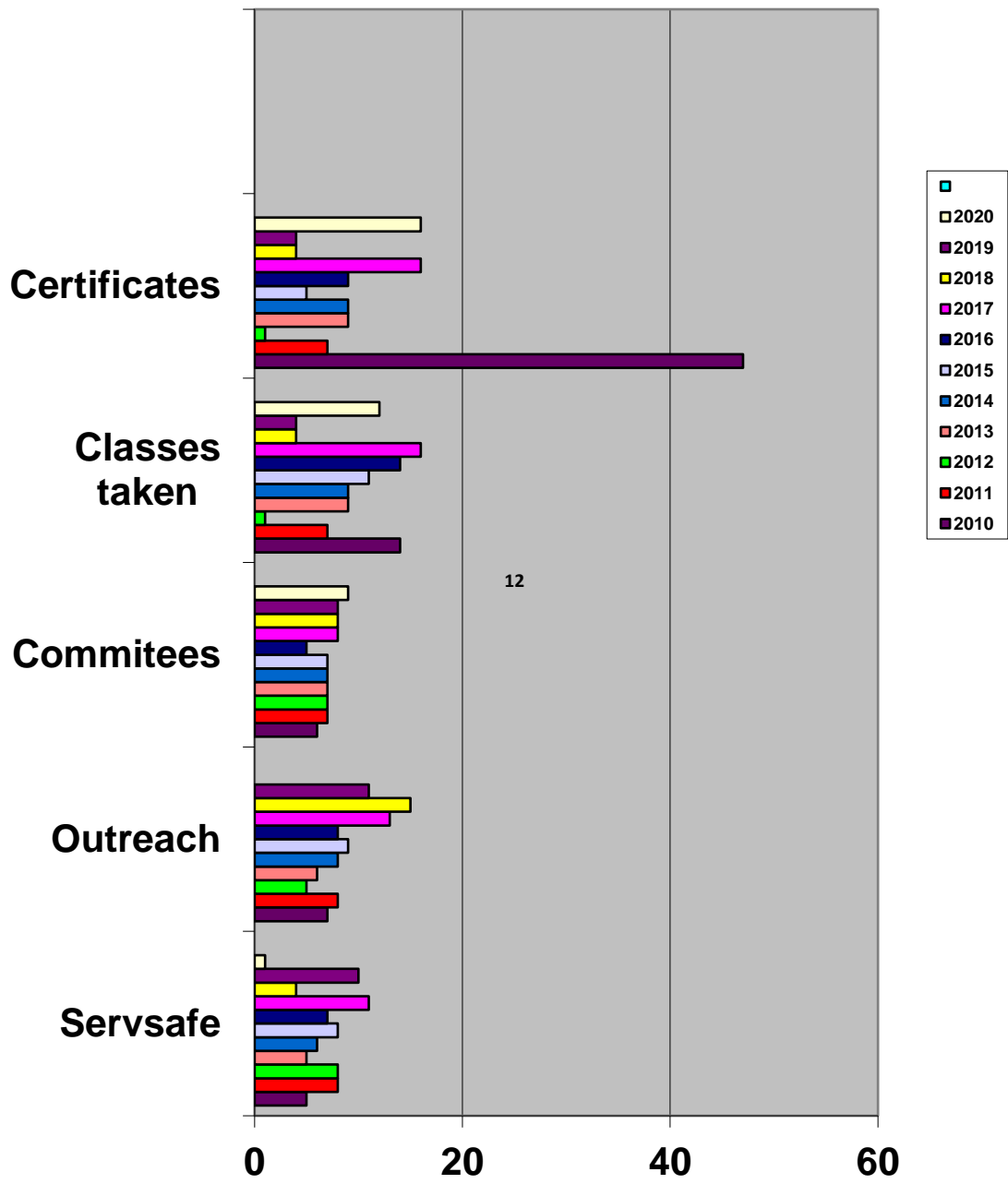
**TATTOO PARLORS:**

There is a tattoo parlor in town, "Heartland Tattoo". Two artists work there, and it is licensed. There were no issues this year.

**FOOD ESTABLISHMENT DATABASE:**

All full-time regular food establishment inspections are entered electronically into the Health Department database "S" drive. These can be accessed by anyone in the office and these inspections can be transmitted electronically via email or provided as a paper copy to whoever requests a copy (subject to the 10 day waiting period). Almost all of 2020 inspections are now in electronic format on file and also exist as a paper copy in the file cabinet with original signatures. I do need to process more (enter the data in the computer) as of today but anticipate having this completed by end of March. We are using paper forms for inspections and then entering the data in our own tracking database which is not accessible to the State Health Department.

Servsafe, Committees, Certificates, Classes



**OUTREACH:**

The following outreach projects were accomplished:

- I secured one intern from IU but she was not able to complete her internship due to the pandemic.
- Several articles were submitted to the Democrat newspaper; Ticks in yards, COVID prevention
- I coordinated one Southern Chapter meeting at the Brown County Music Center with a tour of the facility
- I presented a powerpoint talk on a camp outbreak of a virus for the Southern Chapter- this was later taken up by a member of the Monroe County Health Dept who submitted it as a possible presentation for the CSTE (Conference of State and territorial Epidemiologists) annual Conference. I was included as an author.
- I set up two classes from the Office of Bombing Prevention that unfortunately could not take place. Hopefully, these classes will be possible in 2021
- I consulted on 4 new food establishment's design and several remodels
- Radon test kits from the American Lung Association, are no longer free so we have not provided these to residents. They are now about \$7 each from the American Lung Association
- I maintained a consultant status for Food Safety on the Northern Brown County Food Alliance

**MEETINGS and COMMITTEES:**

I served on the following committees:

- Indiana Environmental Health Association Southern Chapter –Terrorism and All Hazards Prevention Rep
- Indiana Environmental Health Association Terrorism and All Hazards Prevention Committee – Chair; responsible for Indiana Environmental Health Association Fall Conference speakers and committee projects such as training session set up and logistics and a monthly news email.
- Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) for Brown County – Environmental Health Rep and Vice-Chair
- Emergency Management Advisory Council for Brown County – Environmental Health Rep and Secretary
- Indiana State Department of Health Food Protection Committee member
- Food Safety Defense and Task Force member
- Indiana Environmental Health Response Team-- Environmental Response Team Secretary

**ONLINE MEMBERSHIPS:**

- FoodShield member
- Infragard Member
- Indiana Onsite Wastewater Professionals Association member (IOWPA)
- Indiana Environmental Health Emergency Response Team (INEHRT)
- Indiana Environmental Health Association (IEHA)

**CERTIFICATE CLASSES:**

Certificate classes were completed in-person at the WWETT show and also online for the Midwest Damage Prevention Conference.

**CERTIFICATE CLASSES ON-LINE:**

Three ServSafe Covid classes online- ServSafe Re-opening guidance COVID 19 precautions, ServSafe Takeout COVID precautions, ServSafe Delivery COVID-19 precautions.

**CONFERENCES ATTENDED:**

- WETT Show (wastewater international conference) –Certificates obtained for multiple wastewater sessions attended,
- Operations and Maintenance Friendly design and install of Septic Systems, advanced Troubleshooting of Onsite systems, Introduction to the Art of installation, Municipal Fats Oils and Grease Programs, New Standards, New Future for portable sanitation and non-sewered Waste Systems
- Midwest Damage Prevention Conference, online this year- Certificates obtained for sessions included: Indiana Dig Law 101, The Story Telling Brain, Attack on the USS Cole speaker Commander Kirk Lippold

**WEBINARS:**

I listened to several webinars online in 2020- all related to Food Safety Updates, and FDA information

**AWARDS:**

- Indiana Environmental Health Association (IEHA) President's Commendation for Chairing the Terrorism and All Hazards Preparedness Committee in 2020
- Elected Vice President of the Indiana Environmental Health Association for 2020 continued into 2021 due to pandemic
- Re-elected President of the IEHA Southern Chapter for 2020
- Re-elected Chair of the IEHA Terrorism and All Hazards Preparedness Committee for 2020

**STANDARDIZATION:**

I am still a Standardized Food Inspection Officer for the State, although the State Health Department has no one who can re-certify this license, due to their time constraints, but they tell me I am not expired. The State has not been able to certify or re-certify anyone in 2015, 2016, 2017,2018, 2019 or 2020 due to lack of staff.

**GOALS FOR 2021:**

- To promote food safety throughout the county by classes, articles and educational information to food establishments during inspections.
- To continue my committee work both through the Indiana Environmental Health Association and our local Emergency Management Advisory Council and Local Emergency Planning Committee.
- To inspect and have a continuing Health Department presence at temporary events. Make sure advance information is provided to potential vendor attendees of the event specifying our County requirements.
- To attend all Indiana Environmental Health Association meetings either by conference call or in person
- To bring at least two major trainings to Brown County on Emergency Preparedness/Food Safety
- To attend the Pumper Show (now called the WETT show), the Indiana Emergency Preparedness Convention as the Brown County Local Emergency Planning Committee representative, the Midwest Damage Prevention Conference and the two conferences sponsored by the Indiana Environmental Health Association in Spring and Fall
- To attend the onsite wastewater training at Indiana State Department of Health in February
- To take at least 2 additional training sessions in person
- To continue to monitor local news and media for any mention of food related events to make sure licensing is done if required
- To provide consultation to establishments with questions on food service or safety requirements
- To disseminate food safety knowledge whenever I can

As an environmental health specialist, I am also trained in Septic Site Evaluation and inspection for Septic Construction. I am called upon occasionally to do site evaluations for new septic systems and ongoing septic construction. This is on an “as-needed” basis. I performed several inspections in 2020.

My main goal for 2021, is again do my part to try and keep food safe in Brown County. I am happy to discuss any aspect of this report further upon request.

# NURSING

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*Submitted by Seleah Settle, BSN, RN, Public Health Nurse Supervisor*

**VISION:** Healthy people in a healthy Brown County community.

**MISSION:** Promote physical and mental health, prevent disease, injury and disabilities.

## **2020 Nursing Division Staff**

Jennifer Unsworth, BSN, RN Public Health Nursing Supervisor

Kelly Hilligoss, BSN, RN, Public Health Nurse

Seleah Settle, BSN, RN, Public Health Nurse

## **2020 Main Focus- COVID-19**

In March of 2020, Brown County had its first diagnosed case of COVID-19. In response to that COVID-19 case, nurses from the Brown County Health Department conducted an investigation that included contacting the patient to answer questions and gather their close contacts. We then notified those close contacts. This was done for each positive case that Brown County had. The Indiana Department of Health took over the investigations for the local health departments in June. At the end of 2020, 677 Brown County residents had tested positive for COVID-19. In September 2020, the Brown County Health Department opened a testing site at the Brown County Music Center. This site was open to those aged 2 years old and up. From the start of this site to the end of the 2020, 3,455 COVID tests were performed.

## **Lead**

The Brown County Health Department completes investigations and follow-up for children who have elevated levels of lead. The Health Department provides lead testing for children under the age of seven, when needed. The nurses call the parents or guardians with children whose blood lead level is border line to educate them on lead dangers, nutrition, and clean home environment. During 2020, the Health Department did not perform any lead tests and did less than 5 lead investigations.

## **Adult Screenings and Community Outreach**

A key focus for the Nursing Division is patient education. This is done in a variety of ways including during appointments, over the phone, and during community outreach. One of the primary outreach programs that we have at the Brown County Health Department is Hickory Ridge Senior Center. Hickory Ridge is a group of seniors that meet, and once a month the nurses go to do a wellness check on the members. This includes checks on blood pressure, blood glucose level, hemoglobin, heart rates, and weight. The nurses also answer any health related questions the members may have. If needed, the nurses can reach out to the primary care physician to gather information for the member, as well. This is a great opportunity for the members to have their numbers checked regularly and have conversations about any concerns they have. In 2020, due to COVID-19, many meetings at Hickory Ridge were cancelled. The Health Department visited Hickory Ridge 6 times in 2020 and saw 23 patients.

Below are the totals of patients screened at Hickory Ridge and the Health Department:

Blood Pressure/Pulse=33

Diabetes Screenings=25

Urine Checks=25

Urine Checks=1

STD Prevention and Education=5

Cholesterol Screenings=3

Weight= 25

Hemoglobin= 25

### **Pregnancy tests**

The Brown County Health Department is happy to offer free pregnancy tests for the community. Along with the pregnancy tests, the nursing staff provides education and resources for maternal and fetal health, child health and development, child safety and well-being, immunizations, breastfeeding, nutrition, and family planning. Parents are informed of the nutritional assistance programs within the county, such as WIC, Food Bank, Salvation Army, Mother's Cupboard, St. Vincent DePaul, and the food pantry with an emphasis on the importance of nutrition on maternal and child development. Women with a negative pregnancy test are offered condoms and referred to agencies for STD testing, family planning, and preconception education. In 2020, 1 pregnancy test was conducted.

### **Immunizations**

One of the main focuses for the Nursing Division at the Brown County Health Department is immunizations. Keeping the public up to date on vaccinations is a huge part of keeping our community safe. With help from the Indiana Department of Health Immunization Division, the Brown County Health Department offers all the vaccinations that children need from infancy through their college years. Children who are without insurance, are on Medicaid, are underinsured, or are Native American or Eskimo have access to these vaccinations without charge through the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program with the State. We also have many vaccinations for adults through a program called 317. This is also for adults who are uninsured or on Medicaid and provides these immunizations to those qualifying individuals for free. It is very important to the Brown County Health Department to have these programs in place to remove financial barriers to getting vaccinated. For those that have insurance, we bill their insurance through VaxCare. For the last several years, the Nursing Division has partnered with the Brown County School Corporation nurse to provide immunizations to school aged children at their back-to-school registration days. This is a great partnership with the school, as we can catch many students up to date with their vaccinations required for school. In the fall of 2020, we saw 62 students and administered 119 vaccinations. In 2020, we vaccinated 427 patients and administered a total of 638 vaccines.

### **TB**

The Nursing Division is responsible for proper screening and management for tuberculosis. We routinely conduct tuberculosis skin tests for those needing this service. Once a skin test is placed, the patient will return to the Health Department within 48-72 hours for the test to be read by nursing staff. If any patient is reported and diagnosed as having latent or active tuberculosis, the nursing staff conducts phone interviews and education for the patient. The

nursing staff will also help the patient acquire the needed medications. This is done by a close working relationship between the Brown County Health Department, the Indiana Department of Health, and Purdue Pharmacy. During 2020, 64 tuberculosis skin tests were performed. There were 0 active cases of tuberculosis and less than 5 cases of latent TB with 0 needing medication interventions.

### **Communicable Diseases**

The nurses are responsible for conducting the patient interviews for the communicable disease investigations that occur in Brown County. The purpose of conducting these interviews is to gather as much information about the possible origin of the disease, any symptoms and identify others who may need to be notified. To complete these investigations, the Brown County Health Department gathers information from the reporting facility and the patient and reports the information to the Indiana Department of Health. In 2020, less than 50 investigations were conducted. For the purpose of this report, COVID-19 investigations are separate from this section.

### **Naloxone**

For the last several years, the Brown County Health Department has received a grant from the Indiana Department of Health to distribute Naloxone, also known as the brand name Narcan. These doses can be distributed to others, such as Centerstone, the Brown County Sheriff's Department and local fire departments. The Naloxone can also be distributed to community members. In 2020, 167 doses of Narcan were distributed through the Brown County Health Department.

### **Sharps Containers**

The Brown County Health Department has a sharps container exchange program for the community. Residents come to the Health Department to take a sharps container home with them. Once the container is full, the resident brings the sharps container back to the Health Department for us to properly dispose of with our other medical waste using a company called Stericycle. This program is very beneficial to the community so these needles do not end up in the landfill or get put in a container that is not meant for needle disposal. This program is free of charge to the residents. During 2020, the Health Department gave out 88 sharps containers.

### **CPR**

All three nurses at the Brown County Health Department are certified to teach CPR classes to community members, as well as healthcare professionals. During January and February, the nursing division was able to hold several classes. During the following months, due to COVID-19, classes were unable to be held as normal. For those needing to be certified during the COVID-19 pandemic, the nursing staff followed guidelines set out by the American Heart Association regarding classes. In total, 30 people were certified by the Brown County Health Department nurses.



**The mission of the Brown County Health Department is to encourage organized community efforts to address public health issues by applying medical, scientific and technical knowledge to prevent disease and promote health.**



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.