



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Brown County Health Department

2021 Annual Report

I am pleased to submit the following annual report of the activities of the Brown County Health Department for the 2021 calendar year.

Respectfully Submitted,

Norman Oestrike, MD
Health Officer

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Health Officer Report

2021 has been a continuing challenge to the Health Department.

Covid testing and immunization clinics have been maintained and available to all Brown County citizens who want these services. The Nursing and Emergency Preparedness Departments have literally made this happen, despite many challenges. The clinics were held at the Music Center. However, as more activities returned in the community including reopening the Music Center, new arrangements were made for the clinics.

The Health Department was moved to the building at 200 Hawthorne Drive on June 17, 2021. This moved the Health Department away from the other county offices and reduced disease exposure to other county employees and visitors. This move allowed the Health Department to develop better offices for all our services. A clinic was established to continue the Covid activities safely and efficiently. We believe this new office will continue to be a major improvement in the safety and efficiency of the Health Department for years to come. Covid dollars from the federal government have significantly contributed to developing the clinic. The accounting for these activities is covered in the administrative part of this annual report. ALL health department employees have worked as a team and contributed greatly to the Covid fight and the development of the new offices.

The Health Department has been able to remain fully staffed throughout this pandemic. I want to especially recognize our nurses for their continued dedication throughout this difficult time. Many health professionals have "burned out" over this whole ordeal and have abandoned the profession. It is very stressful work, and we thank each of our Registered Nurses profusely, Seleah Settles, Kelly Hilligoss and Lauren Spicer.

Also, Corey Frost, our Emergency Preparedness Coordinator has worked tirelessly to supply our clinic needs both through the state and in providing support for the development and operation of our clinics and building.

Every employee of the Health Department has worked tirelessly on this mission: Judy Hess, Administrator, Taylor Hardesty, Vital Records, John Kennard, Jennifer Heller and Ernie Reed, Environmental Health Specialists. Their efforts and help have greatly contributed to the success of our endeavors.

Throughout the Covid pandemic demands, the various departments still continued to provide our usual services for vital records, food establishments and environmental services. The citizens of Brown County have been blessed with a remarkably dedicated team. Thanks to everyone.

Please see the reports from each department to gain a full understanding of all department activities.

I also want to thank all our volunteers throughout the year. They have contributed greatly to the community and our success fighting Covid.

The Health Board has been actively involved in all our activities, providing guidance and direction to the department. Their input and support has been invaluable.

The support of the county commissioners and county council has been greatly appreciated throughout the year.

With all the work, improvements and planning accomplished this past year, I am confident in the future of successes of the Brown County Health Department in the coming year.

Respectfully submitted,



Norman W. Oestrike, MD
Brown County Health Officer

Brown County Government

Brown County Commissioners

Diana Biddle
Chuck Braden
Jerry Pittman

Brown County Council

Darren Byrd
David Critser
Gary Huett
Art Knight
David Redding
Scott Rudd
Judy Swift-Powdrill

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

Brown County Health Department Staff

Corey Frost	Public Health Coordinator
Taylor Hardesty	Registrar/Clerical Support/Special Projects Coord.
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 – Supervisor
Lauren Spicer, BSN, RN	Public Health Nurse
*Jennifer Unsworth, BSN, RN	Public Health Nurse – Supervisor

*Jennifer Unsworth resigned February 2021 and Seleah Settle was promoted to nursing supervisor that same month.

Health Dept. Revenues and Disbursements

Tax Revenues	2021
Property Tax	519,035.42
Financial Institution Tax	2,067.93
Excise Tax	42,975.98
Commercial Vehicle Excise Distribution	3,223.82
Total Tax Revenues:	\$567,303.15
Fee Revenues	
Food	25,869.00
Installer License	3,600.00
Nursing	2,251.24
Septic	28,450.00
VaxCare	1,686.24
Visual Inspections	2,000.00
Vital Records <i>(Includes coroner's training and continuing education funds)</i>	8,049.00
Total Fee Revenues:	\$71,905.48
Grant Revenues	
Local Heath Maintenance Fund	33,139.00
Local Health Department (LHD) Trust Account	14,889.00
Public Health Coordinator Base Grant	31,895.00
Cities Readiness Initiative	8,078.00
Total Grant Revenues:	\$88,001.00
TOTAL REVENUE:	\$727,209.63
Disbursements:	2021
Personnel Services Health	458,785.42
Supplies / Operating Expenses Health	41,947.34
Local Heath Maintenance Fund	19,980.07
Local Health Department (LHD) Trust Account	1,814.51
Public Health Coordinator Base Grant	31,895.00
Cities Readiness Initiative Grant	7,687.39
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS:	\$562,109.73

The Local Health Maintenance Fund and Trust Account grants were 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. They also pay for advertising, CPR manikins, education and training, 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.

The Public Health Coordinator Base Grant and Cities Readiness Initiative Grant are reimbursed through a Federal grant from the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention. The Public Health Coordinator Base grant helps offset the salary of this position.

COVID-19 Revenues and Disbursements

		2021	2020
<i>Covid-19 Cares Act (Fund 9190)</i>	<i>Revenues:</i>	\$ 149,376.89	\$ 100,000.00
Disbursements:	Personnel Services	19,840.71	0.00
	Office Supplies	5,096.95	186.51
	Cell phones	1,185.49	425.64
	Cleaning Maint	1,755.00	0.00
	Rental/Lease	30,000.00	20,000.00
	Publications	350.00	521.98
	Equipment	31,464.90	2,484.14
	Total Disbursements:	\$ 89,693.05	\$ 23,618.27
	Balance:	\$ 59,683.84	\$ 76,381.73
<i>Covid-19 Vaccine/Testing (Fund 9120)</i>	<i>Revenues:</i>	\$ 57,875.97	\$0.00
Disbursements:	Computer Services	2,570.00	0.00
	Vaccine Refrigerator Calibration	1,335.28	0.00
	Misc.	297.60	0.00
	Total Disbursements:	\$ 4,202.88	\$0.00
	Balance:	\$ 53,673.09	0.00
<i>Covid-19 Brown County Community Foundation (Fund 0912)</i>	<i>Revenues:</i>	\$ 6,600.00	\$0.00
Disbursements:	Gift Cards	1,650.15	0.00
	Lunches/Refreshments	3,275.22	0.00
	Clinic Apparal	450.00	0.00
	Total Disbursements:	\$ 5,375.37	\$0.00
	Balance:	\$ 1,224.63	0.00

In response to the coronavirus pandemic, the Brown County Health Department received funding under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. We also received a grant from the State for administering the vaccine and testing for the virus. These grants gave us the flexibility to carry out services necessary to respond to COVID-19. On July 14, 2020, a free vaccine and testing clinic opened at the Brown County Music Center.

We also received a grant from the Brown County Community Foundation. We used these dollars to purchase gift cards for our many volunteers that helped at the clinic, to provide refreshments and to purchase T-shirts to help identify workers and volunteers.

Office Management

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 issues 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 160 deaths reported in 2021 living an average age of 76 years.

They were classified as:

Cancer	30
Bladder	3
Brain	1
Colon	3
Esophageal	1
Head/Neck	1
Liver	1
Lung	6
Pancreatic	5
Parotid Carcinoma	1
Prostate	4
Stomach	1
Tongue	1
Tonsil	1
Vulvar	1

Heart Disease	38
Atherosclerosis	2
Acute Catastrophic Cardiac Event	1
Aortic Stenosis	1
Cardiac Arrest	5
Congestive Heart Failure	7
Diastolic Heart Failure	4
End Stage Heart Failure	2
Fatal Arrhythmia	1
Myocardial Infarction	11
Systolic Heart Failure	4

Respiratory	22
COPD	3
Pneumonia	2
Pulmonary Disease	1
Pulmonary Embolism	1
Respiratory Failure	8
Respiratory Failure due to SARS-COV2	7

Other	70
Accidental Blunt Force Trauma	3
Accidental Compression Asphyxia	1
Alzheimer's/Dementia	9
Brain Hemorrhage	1
Calorie Malnutrition	6
Cerebral Atherosclerosis	1
Chronic Kidney Disease	2
Degeneration of the Brain	19
Failure to Thrive	1
Fentanyl Toxicity	3
Homicide: Gunshot Wound to the Head	2
Intestinal Obstruction	1
Liver Failure	1
Methamphetamine Toxicity	2
Morphine Toxicity	1
Multiple Sclerosis	1
Parkinson's Disease	2
Renal Failure	4
Stroke	5
Suicide: Self Inflicted Gunshot Wound	4
Unknown	1
Grand Total	160

Registration of Home Births
Female (2) Male (0)

Registration of Deaths
Female (73) Male (87)

Certified Copies Issued
Birth (18) Death (1020)

Did Tobacco Use Contribute to Death?
Yes (11) No (81)
Unknown (60) Probably (8)

2021: 42 Veteran Deaths
2020: 36 Veteran Deaths

2021: 76 Average Age at Death
2020: 75 Average Age at Death

Vital Records

Out of County Deaths but In-County Residents

Information provided via reports from the Indiana State Department of Health

There were 58 deaths reported in 2021 living an average age of 75 years.

They were classified as:

Cancer	7
Brain	1
Gall Bladder	1
Liver	1
Lung	1
Ovarian	1
Pancreatic	1
Pelvis	1

Other	16
Accidental Blunt Force Trauma	1
Alzheimer's/ Dementia	4
Degeneration of the Brain	2
Failure to Thrive	1
Gastrointestinal Bleed	2
Multiple Sclerosis	1
Sepsis	2
Septic Shock	3

Heart Disease	16
Aortic Aneurysm	1
Aortic Stenosis	1
Bradycardia	1
Cardiomyopathy	2
Cerebrovascular Accident	1
Coronary Artery Disease	1
End Stage Heart Failure	2
Hypertensive Cardiovascular Disease	1
Myocardial Infarction	4
Vascular Disease	1
Ventricular Fibrillation	1

2021: 75 Average Age at Death
2020: 70 Average Age at Death

Grand Total	58
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Respiratory	19
COPD	2
Pneumonia	2
Respiratory Failure	8
Respiratory Failure due to SARS-COV2	7

Emergency Preparedness

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

BUDGET

- Base Budget of \$25,000 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
- 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. On-going work through budget period 5 (2024)

ACTIVITIES

- Activities have been COVID focused since end of February/March 2020
- 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
- Secured several operational grants that allowed us to fund Covid operations such as testing and vaccine delivery
- Developed a Homebound Hoosier protocol reaching people not able to get to a vaccine location. Eventually taken over by EMS (CRH and IU Lifeline)
- Created a strategy to procure and utilize a new building for the entire health department at 200 Hawthorne. Facility became operational the beginning of July 2021.
- Deployed a vaccine delivery plan using a similar model to our testing operation using the Music Center until operations were moved to the new facility at 200 Hawthorne.
- Recruited staff to help with the Vaccine Clinic including a combination of paid staff, volunteers and National Guard.

- Organized and facilitated 6 different strike clinics over the course of the year to help off-set the testing and vaccine surge.
- Began vaccinations of inmates at our local jail.
- Assisted schools in their back-to-school plan as they began the 2021/2022 school year.

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 staff and deployed 5 kiosks to the schools to install at convenient locations to help prevent blood-loss trauma injuries.
- Recertified the EMT Basic certification.
- Started the process of a K-9 working dog EMS program

FUTURE GOALS

- End COVID
- Revisit trainings through the training institute
- Continue work on a regional and district level with IDOH

Environmental Health

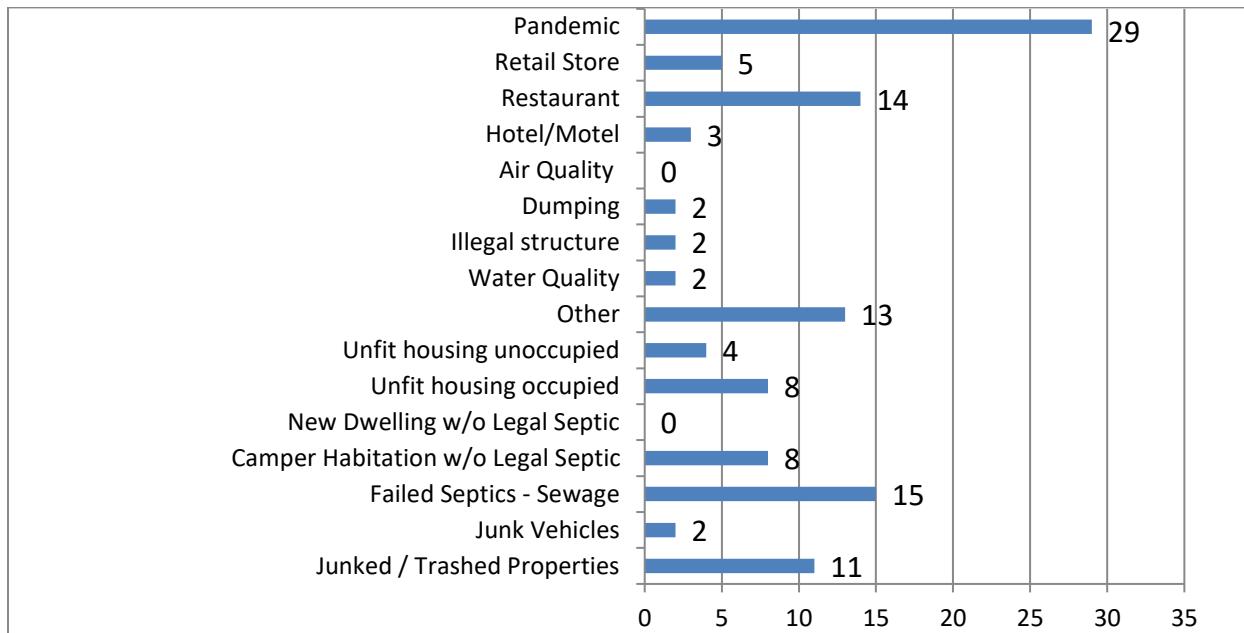
Submitted by Ernie Reed, Environmental Health Specialist

COMPLAINTS and WASTEWATER

COMPLAINTS

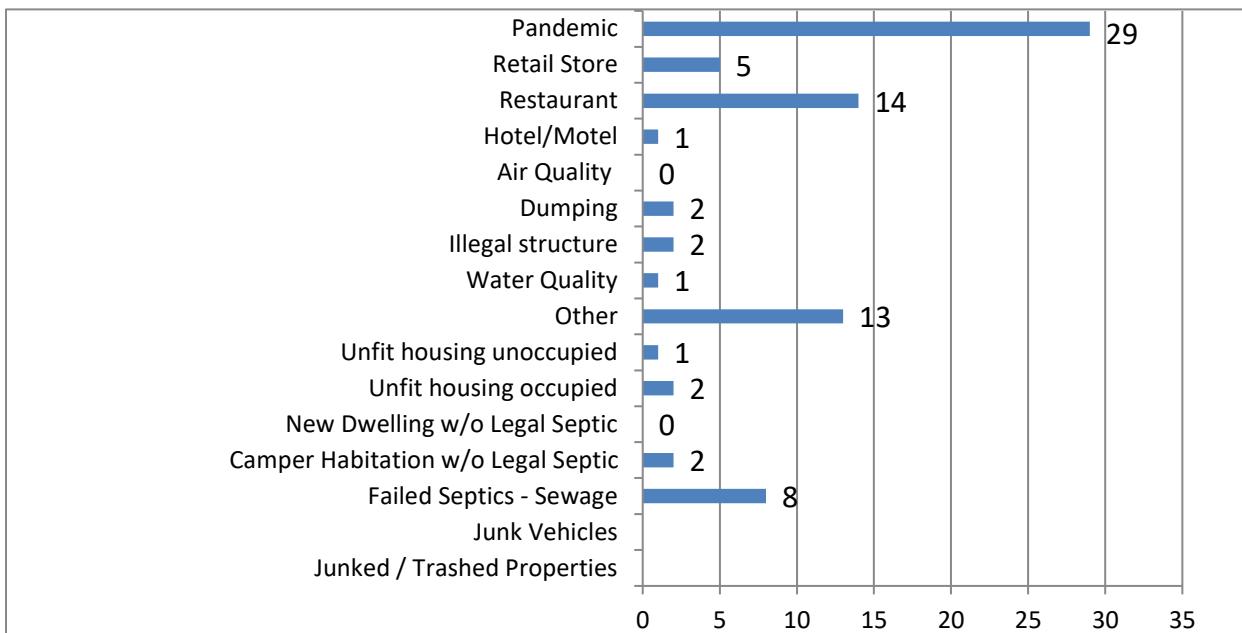
At the end of 2021 there were 116 total active complaints, which is a decrease from 181 active complaints logged in 2020.

The chart below displays the type/number of active open complaints logged in 2021 only, not previous years.



280 responses to complaints and complaint follow-ups.

At the end of 2021 there were 80 complaints resolved and closed



WASTEWATER

192 soil evaluations submitted for review and specification work sheets issued in 2021 compared to 187 in 2020.

115 Septic permits were issued in 2021 compared to 120 in 2020.

244 septic site consultations.

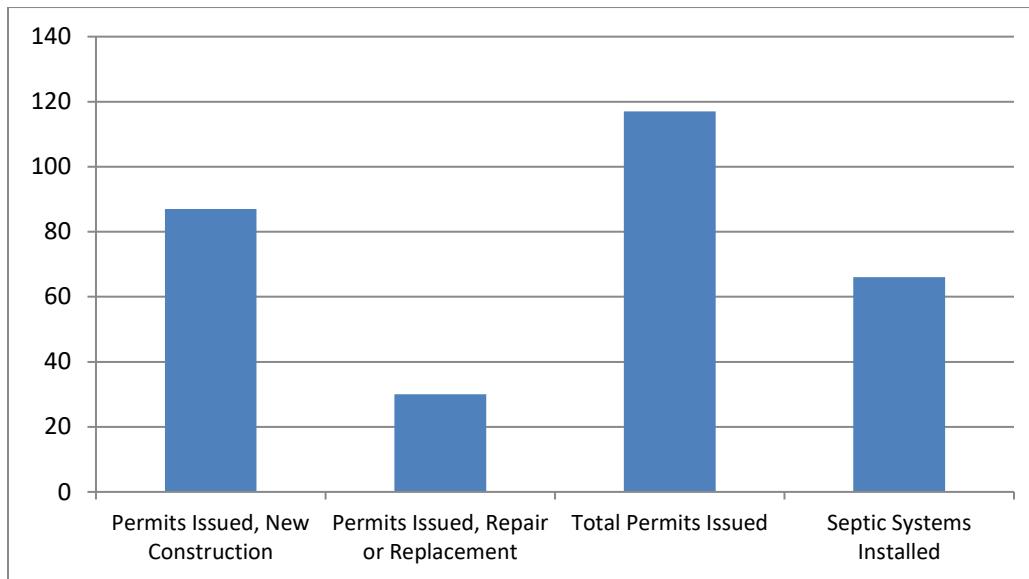
151 septic site evaluations.

212 septic installation inspections.

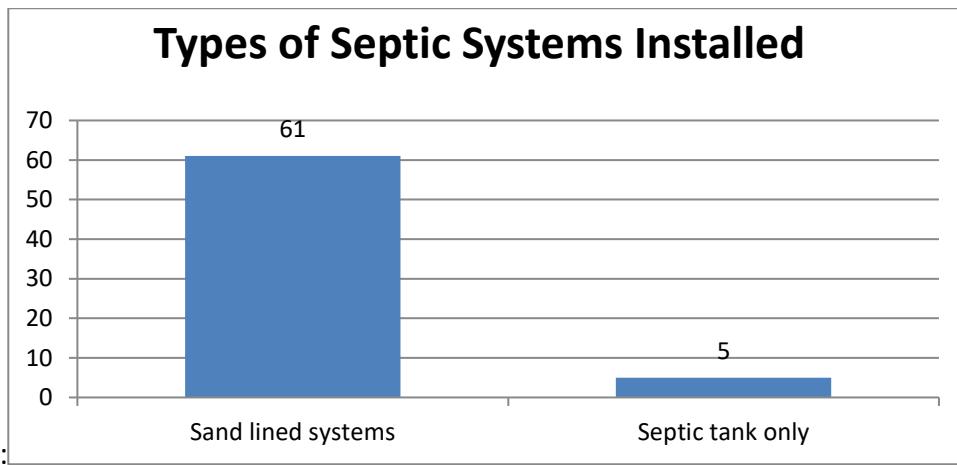
There was a total of 66 installations in 2021 compared to 102 in 2020

The soils were very wet and many permitted septic's could not be installed in 2021 and are waiting for the 2022 septic season.

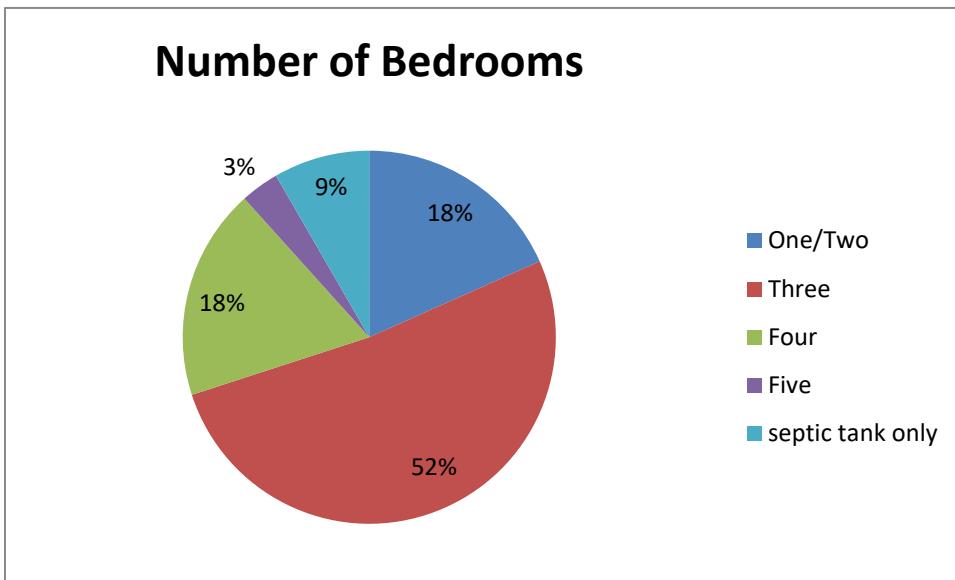
Permits Issued vs Total Installations



NOTE: Some of the septic installations were permitted in 2020



Percentage of the number of bedrooms per homes with septic systems



FUTURE GOALS

1. Continue talking, working and educating the public on Covid related issues until we get this pandemic behind us.
2. Hold annual contractors meeting (Pandemic permitting)
3. Continue public education on residential septic systems
4. Upcoming Septic Summit (Sewer or residential onsite septic systems)

Environmental Health – Food Division

Submitted by Jennifer Heller, Environmental Health Specialist

INTRODUCTION

One of the areas of Environmental Health is the inspection of all food establishments within the County. There are also other environmental factors such as septic issues, air quality, vector control and more, that sometimes are included in the duties of this position. Here are some specific duties performed in 2021:

- Food Establishment Inspections
- Sharing Recall notifications with Food Establishments
- Consultations on Openings/Closings/Remodels of Food Establishments
- Publication of restaurant inspections online and in the newspaper
- Food Establishment Database maintenance (jointly with Reception)
- Food Safety free short class and Environmental Outreach
- Teaching and/or proctoring ServSafe Food Manager Certification classes and testing
- Conference attendance with educational sessions
- Indiana Environmental Health Association participation- (In 2021 I served as Vice President and Southern Chapter President, Executive Board Committee member, and Chair of the Terrorism and All Hazards Preparedness Committee)
- Meth house condemnation when needed (none in 2021)
- Complaint investigations (hotel, food, smoking, COVID prevention procedures, etc.)
- Grease traps tracking in food establishments
- Tattoo parlor inspection
- Septic installation inspections as needed
- Plan review coordination for COVID -19 mitigation plans for various County Agencies and events as needed
- Aiding restaurants in interpretation of rule changes for COVID-19 prevention measures in facilities
- Assisting in Registration process for COVID-19 vaccinations as vaccines needed in the Brown County Health Department clinic
- Serving as an advisory committee member for Schools on COVID prevention measures as needed

RECALLS

Recall information is obtained from the Food and Drug Administration, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the Indiana State Health Department. Weekly recall reports are compiled a 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. The recalls are compiled and sent out to all food service establishments in the County by email. 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 2021 there were 74 various recalls that were sent out. Some had multiple items included in the recall, for example, different kinds of salads with the same problem ingredient.

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.

REGULAR FOOD ESTABLISHMENT INSPECTIONS

Due to the many closings and restrictions to food establishments from the pandemic, my inspections again this year were less than normal. Another factor was lack of staffing, so many restaurants were on a limited three-day schedule.

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 121 regular full-time establishments in 2021 and there were 107 inspections performed. This is an improvement over the 66 inspections accomplished in 2020, but again this is a reflection of the six months I spent doing COVID-19 vaccination registrations in the Brown County Music Center clinic when I could not do inspections. A normal year would be about 200 inspections. I did not inspect schools this year as I felt as an unprotected population it was best if I did not enter the schools since it is possible that I am fairly regularly exposed to the COVID-19 virus through our clinics at the Health Department. I was not comfortable going into schools even though personally fully vaccinated and boosted.

The camps in our County had very limited days this year, most only doing a two-week segment. I did manage to inspect three camps.

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. and general informational changes and updates.

There are 5 established categories of food risk determined, with risk being established by how they make, hold and handle food. Most of our food establishments are either in the 2 or 3 risk category. In this County there are 32 food establishments in the higher-risk 3 category. The places considered high risk are the establishments that serve more diversified food that they prepare, possibly hold, cool, and/or reheat.

The facilities in the highest risk category were all inspected at least once this year. 9 were inspected twice and 1 was inspected 3 times.

The high-risk places that closed their food service for this year were --Big Woods Brewing (now “the Original”), Hotel Nashville and the Cornerstone Inn.

Of the second highest risk category, in which there are now 33 establishments in our County, 18 received at least 1 inspection, 7 had two inspections and 9 did not have any inspections, which included the schools and the Headstart program (8) and Johnny’s Grub to go, (closed in late fall).

Of the 56 establishments with lowest risk and only needing 1 inspection, all but 24 were inspected. This 24 would include; the 6 camps I did not get to, 3 food pantries, several businesses with limited hours like The Dragway (which was closed until late summer), Candy Miller Let’s Have tea (who only sorts and packs tea once every 6 months using the Mother’s Cupboard facility) Icing on the Cake (who does custom cakes) Paintball Valley or Explore Brown County, (had 1 event this summer that did not use their kitchen, otherwise sometimes makes hot chocolate for guests), Rawhide Ranch (in transition to new ownership and septic issues), the Schwan truck, Hamlyn Fire (had limited events), Hickory Ridge Senior center, (using prepackaged food for the most part), 1875 Bed n Breakfast, Ferrin’s Ice Cream (closed both times I attempted to inspect) BC Kettle Corn (open sometimes on weekends) and the Brown County History Center, which had limited events this year . This is the lowest risk category, and they have the least actual food handling. Some are only open one day a week or even less and are harder to coordinate inspection times. Some did not open until late in the year, so again, this year does not reflect normal inspections for all Food Establishments.

TEMPORARY FOOD INSPECTIONS

A temporary license is issued to food vendors not residing in Brown County per event, and the standard permit is for 5 days at \$75. They can continue for an additional 9 days at \$10 per day but are limited to a total of 14 consecutive days in conjunction with a single event as per Brown County Ordinance.

The Bill Monroe Music Park had 4 events with temporary vendors, I inspected the Hippy Hill Dead Fest with 5 vendors, the Blues Fest with 5 vendors and Uncle Pen with 3 vendors. There was one late fall event that had a single vendor who was licensed in the County, I did not inspect at the event.

The Brown County Fair had 11 vendors, some were non-profit, all were inspected.

Paintball valley had one event with 2 temporary vendors. They were inspected.

Papa John’s pizza from Columbus brought a truck to the County twice with pre-baked pizzas to the IGA parking lot and was inspected both times.

Brown County Veterans Association provided a free lunch that was inspected.

Several non-profit organizations did a one-day event this past year. These are the ones that I did not inspect;

- Lions club did coffee and donuts
- Humane Society did a Chocolate Walk

- Tri Kappa did a prepacked nut and trail mix sale
- The Goat Conspiracy did a one-day event with food prepared at a commercial kitchen
- J&K sweet shop sold nuts, hot chocolate at the Christkindl Market
- Green Valley Apostolic Church sold peanut brittle
- Love Bugs sold hamburgers at the Tractor Club Show
- BC Antique machinery sold biscuits n gravy, hotdogs at the show

All temporary events in the County this year were much less than normal due to COVID-19 precautions.

CONSULTATIONS, OPENINGS, CLOSINGS

Big Woods closed the “original” restaurant for the time being. Hotel Nashville closed Darlene’s, Cornerstone stopped providing breakfast buffets. Robinwood Inn now gives breakfast vouchers to their Bird Nest Café restaurant.

Ferguson House was remodeled and opened into a new café/bar. There were some issues initially with the food storage in the basement, as the door was not acceptable nor was the ceiling in this area. I worked with Lonnie Farley of Planning and Zoning on correcting all the violations prior to their opening.

Carmel Corn Cottage burned and was rebuilt this year. Consulted on the planning for the remodeled building.

Ooey Gooey Rolls are moving to a new location, I have been involved in the planning for the remodeling.

Hard Truth Hills is in process of building a new kitchen in the basement area to service outdoor events. They have been using their mobile truck to serve food at events there. I have been consulting on the new kitchen design.

Nashville Spice Co has plans to make an area of their spice packaging shop as a cooking school, I have consulted on this. Their retail store moved into a new larger building near the Visitor’s Center.

Nashville Shakes opened in a small area that needed State approval, for change of use. They have a limited menu of protein health drinks and teas.

SweetTeas has dropped their line of sandwiches and quiches and now just sells teas and gift items.

Nashville House re-opened the Snack Shack as a beverage and ice cream place.

PUBLISHED INSPECTIONS

The Democrat newspaper published all the food establishment inspections that I forwarded to them for 2021 during the year. No inspections were posted on our Brown County Health Department website, although sent to the webmaster.

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

There are currently 3 operating Bed & Breakfast's in the County; Slippery Elm Shoot Inn, 1875 Homestead, and Lil Black Bear Inn. Most B&B's have opted to issue vouchers for breakfast and drop their B&B designation. Slippery Elm was closed for the year due to COVID precautions.

SERVSAFE FOOD MANAGER CERTIFICATION CLASSES

I taught 3 ServSafe classes in Brown County. 20 people attended. 2 retested.

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 14 complaints related to food. I also responded on a few non-food complaints.

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.

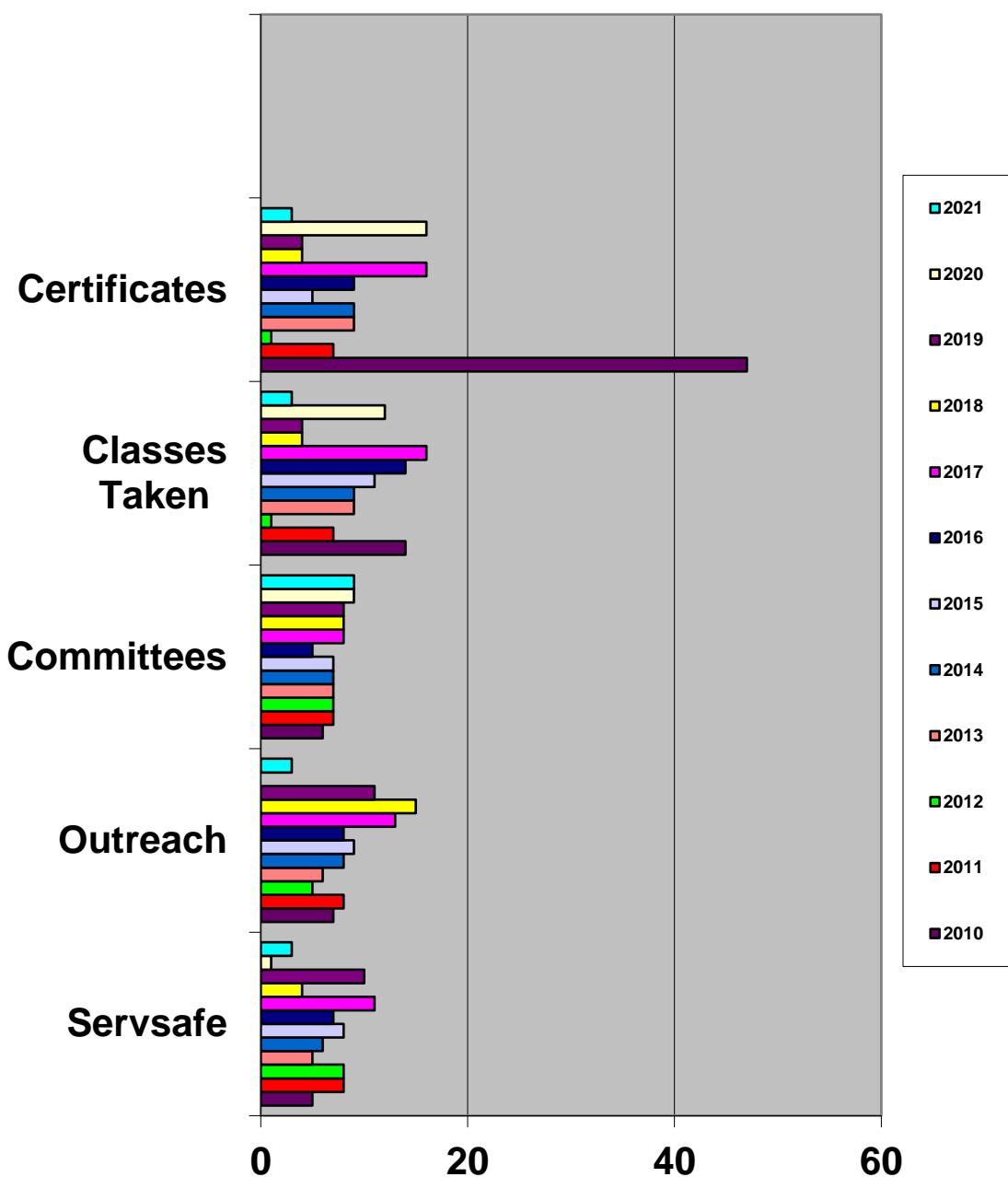
TATTOO PARLORS

There is a tattoo parlor in town, "Heartland Tattoo". Two artists work there, and it is licensed. I did not inspect them in 2021.

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 can be provided as a paper copy to whoever requests a copy (subject to the 10-day waiting period). Almost all of 2021 inspections are now in electronic format, on file and exist as a paper copy in the file cabinet with original signatures. I do need to process the remainder of the 2021 complaints, (enter the data in the computer), and 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. The State Health Department Food Protection Division is severely decimated as staff has retired and not been replaced. At one time they were encouraging use of a specific food inspection software, but there is nothing now. The goal at that time was to be able to access all County inspections at the State. Our system seems to be adequate as of today.

Certificates, Classes Taken, Committees, Outreach, Servsafe



OUTREACH

The following outreach projects were accomplished:

- Several articles were submitted to the Democrat newspaper; Septic system maintenance, Halloween Safety, tick mitigation in yards
- I coordinated two speakers for the Indiana Environmental Health Association Spring Conference which was virtual this year. I also provided PowerPoint presentations on the Southern Chapter and the Terrorism and All Hazards Preparedness Committee's work done during my tenure as President and Chair for this conference.
- There were 2 virtual Indiana Environmental Health Association Southern Chapter meetings, (I am President in 2021 of this Chapter), due to everyone being extremely busy with COVID vaccinations at all Health Departments.
- No trainings or classes from the Office of Bombing Prevention could take place due to the Conference room being occupied most of the year. Hopefully, these classes will be possible in 2022
- I obtained a grant and set up a class on "Verbal Judo" through the Verbal Judo Institute. There were 33 attendees – 18 from Brown County. This was a one-day class and subsequent survey indicated 100% felt the class was valuable and useful to them.
- I consulted on the design of 6 new food establishments, and also consulted on several food establishment 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

- Indiana Environmental Health Association Southern Chapter –President and Terrorism and All Hazards Prevention Rep
- Indiana Environmental Health Association VP and Terrorism and All Hazards Prevention Committee Chair. Responsible for Indiana Environmental Health Association Spring Conference
- 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)
- National Environmental Health Association- (NEHA) member and also accepted as a member of the Preparedness Program Committee

CERTIFICATE CLASSES

Three online classes were taken - from Board of Animal Health- Fish in Practice, FBI Infragard Los Angeles -Quarterly Threat Briefing Food Defense --Securing the Food Sector, and Counter Intelligence and Security Agency (CISA)--Insider Threat Awareness.

CONFERENCES ATTENDED

Virtually attended the Indiana Vector Association conference, a one-day conference online

AWARDS

- Elected Vice President of the Indiana Environmental Health Association for 2020 continued into 2021 due to pandemic, will segue into President-Elect in 2022
- Re-elected President of the IEHA Southern Chapter for 2021
- Re-elected Chair of the IEHA Terrorism and All Hazards Preparedness Committee for 2021

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, 2020, or 2021 due to inadequate staffing at the State level in the Food Protection Division, which is getting worse.

GOALS FOR 2022

- 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 through 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 two conferences sponsored by the Indiana Environmental Health Association in Spring and Fall
- To attend the International Food Association conference if the grant I applied for comes through for travel and hotel expenses
- To research and apply for a grant to provide the ServSafe class to 12 local businesses at no cost to them.
- 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 2021.

My main goal for 2022, is again to 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

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.

2021 NURSING DIVISION STAFF

Seleah Settle, BSN, RN Public Health Nursing Supervisor

Kelly Hilligoss, BSN, RN, Public Health Nurse

Lauren Spicer, BSN, RN, Public Health Nurse

2021 MAIN FOCUS - COVID-19

In March of 2020, Brown County had its first diagnosed case of COVID-19. In response, the Brown County Health Department has been conducting COVID-19 testing for the public ages 2 years old and up. This was done at the Brown County Music Center from September 2020 through June 2021. In July 2021, the Health Department moved to its new location at 200 Hawthorne Drive and continued testing there. At the end of 2021, 2,019 Brown County residents had tested positive for COVID-19 since the start of the pandemic in March 2020. A total of 1,342 cases were reported for Brown County residents in 2021. From the start of this site in 2020 to the end of the 2021, 6,707 PCRs were done. Of these, 3,252 PCRs were done in 2021. In January 2021, the Brown County Health Department began administering COVID-19 vaccines. At the conclusion of 2021, 12,263 vaccines had been administered. This count includes those receiving initial doses of Moderna, Pfizer, and Pediatric Pfizer and those receiving booster doses.



When it rains, it's a team effort! In early 2021, health department nurses Lauren Spicer, RN, holds the umbrella, as Kelly Hilligoss, RN, administers a COVID test.

LEAD

The Brown County Health Department completes investigations and follow-up for children who have elevated levels of lead. The Health Department does provide 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 2021, 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. Hickory Ridge is a group of seniors that meet together. Once a month the nurses go to perform 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 2021, due to COVID-19, many meetings at Hickory Ridge were cancelled. The Health Department visited Hickory Ridge 2 times in 2021 and saw 10 patients.

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

Blood Pressure/Pulse=35

Diabetes Screenings=20

Urine Checks=5

STD Prevention and Education=5

Cholesterol Screenings=2

Weight= 25

Hemoglobin=20

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 2021, 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 program with the State. We also have many vaccinations for adults through our 317 Program. 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 are able to 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 are able to catch many students up-to-date with their vaccinations required for school. On these two days of 2021, we saw 67 students and administered 129 vaccinations. In 2021, we vaccinated a total of 389 patients and administered a total of 602 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 2021, 63 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 2021, less than 50 investigations were conducted. For the purpose of this report, COVID-19 cases 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 by the brand name Narcan. These doses can be distributed to others, such as Centerstone, the Brown County Sheriff's Department, Nashville Police Department and local fire departments. The Naloxone can also be distributed to community members. In 2021, 352 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 are able to come to the Health Department to take a sharps container home with them. Once the container is full, the resident is able to bring the sharps container back to the Health Department for us to properly dispose of it with our other medical waste through 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 2021, the Health Department gave out 103 sharps containers.

CPR

Kelly and Seleah at the Brown County Health Department are certified to teach CPR classes to community members, as well as healthcare professionals. During 2021, 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, 16 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.**

