



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

# Brown County Health Department

## 2022 Annual Report

I am pleased to submit the following annual report of  
the activities of the Brown County Health Department  
for the 2022 calendar year.

Respectfully Submitted,

Norman Oestrike, MD  
Health Officer

PO Box 281  
200 Hawthorne Drive  
Nashville, IN 47448  
812-988-2255 – 812-988-5603 Fax  
bchealth@browncounty-in.us  
[www.in.gov/localhealth/browncounty](http://www.in.gov/localhealth/browncounty)

# Table of Contents

---

Health Officer Report .....2

Brown County Government .....3

Brown County Health Department Staff .....4

Health Department Revenues and Disbursements .....5

Office Management .....6

Vital Records.....7

Emergency Preparedness .....9

Environmental Services .....11

Environmental Services – Food Division.....15

Nursing .....23

---

# Health Officer Report

---

The Brown County Health Department completed a busy and productive year in providing public health services to the community.

Please see the individual department reports attached to this document for specific details.

The department has been developing our clinic and facilities to be better prepared for any future pandemic or emergencies the county may face.

The Nursing Department has transitioned from a primary Covid Clinic back to our roots of providing general public health services and catching up on school aged patient immunizations. The department also continues to provide immunization services for Brown County employees and adults.

Nursing is also involved in the community by supporting opioid crisis interventions and providing Narcan to appropriate agencies. We also supply kits to test for Fentanyl in street drugs before they are taken, hoping to stem fatal overdoses.

The Nursing Department has an open nursing position this year, that we have not been able to fill. Salary restrictions have been the problem.

This is just the start of our being unable to hire qualified public health employees, in general, because of Brown County's restricted budget and salaries. We are hopeful the Indiana Governor's plan for financial assistance from the state will significantly improve this situation in the near future.

The Environmental Health Department has been very active throughout the year. New Indiana laws concerning septic services are expected to significantly affect our operating procedures in the future. The new laws scheduled to go into effect in 2024, are being reconsidered for revision by the new legislature. Whatever turns out to be the new law, we will be prepared to implement necessary changes.

We are all preparing for the future to keep the Health Department efficient, successful and vibrant.

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  
Michael Day, MD (Vice Chair)  
Thomi G. Elmore (Chair)  
Thomas J. Martin, MD (Assistant Health Officer)  
Cynthia S. Rose, RN & Attorney  
Catherine Rountree, MSN, BSN, RN  
James Zimmerly, RPh

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 – resigned June 2022

# Health Dept. Revenues and Disbursements

<b>Tax Revenues</b>	<b>2022</b>
Property Tax	252,334.38
Financial Institution Tax	1,047.18
Excise Tax	19,119.74
Commercial Vehicle Excise Distribution	1,493.39
<b>Total Tax Revenues:</b>	<b>\$273,994.69</b>
<b>COVID Vaccine Reimbursement:</b>	<b>\$287,436.48</b>
<b>Fee Revenues</b>	
Food	27,760.00
Installer License	3,500.00
Nursing	4,805.44
Septic	37,000.00
VaxCare	3,354.44
Visual Inspections	1,600.00
Vital Records <i>(Includes coroner's training and continuing education funds)</i>	11,255.75
<b>Total Fee Revenues:</b>	<b>\$89,275.63</b>
<b>Grant Revenues</b>	
Local Heath Maintenance Fund	33,139.00
Local Health Department (LHD) Trust Account	14,743.62
Public Health Coordinator Base Grant	25,000.00
Cities Readiness Initiative	8,078.00
<b>Total Grant Revenues:</b>	<b>\$80,960.62</b>
<b>TOTAL REVENUE:</b>	<b>\$731,667.42</b>
<b>Disbursements:</b>	
Personnel Services	477,983.70
Supplies / Operating Expenses Health	34,522.36
Local Heath Maintenance Fund	19,654.10
Local Health Department (LHD) Trust Account	3,135.68
Public Health Coordinator Base Grant	25,000.00
Cities Readiness Initiative Grant	7,551.44
<b>TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS:</b>	<b>\$567,847.28</b>
<b>ARPA Funds (American Rescue Plan Act)</b>	<b>\$ 50,000.00</b>
Total Disbursements:	49,957.92
Balance:	\$42.08
ARPA Funds were used to purchase updated security cameras, fire and alarm systems, paving the parking lot, purchasing a generator, as well as ensuring the building is ADA compliant.	

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.

# 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 151 deaths reported in 2022 living an average age of 75 years.

They were classified as:

Cancer	26
B Cell Lymphoma	2
Bladder	2
Brain	2
Breast	1
Colon	3
Esophageal	1
Head/Neck	1
Lung	7
Pancreatic	3
Prostate	2
Renal	1
Stomach	1

Heart Disease	43
Atherosclerotic Cardiovascular Disease	2
Cardiac Arrest	5
Congestive Heart Failure	4
Coronary Artery Disease	3
Diastolic Heart Failure	1
End Stage Heart Failure	3
Myocardial Infarction	20
Systolic Heart Failure	5

Respiratory	20
COPD	6
Pneumonia	1
Pulmonary Embolism	1
Pulmonary Fibrosis	4
Respiratory Failure	6
Respiratory Failure due to SARS-COV2	2

Other	62
Alzheimers/Dementia	5
Anorexia/Malnutrition	1
Brain Hemorrhage	1
Chronic Kidney Disease	1
Cirrhosis	2
Degeneration of the Brain	25
Dysphagia	1
Encephalopathy	1
Fentanyl Toxicity	3
Heat Stroke	1
Homicide: Gunshot Wound to the Head	1
Impacted Gallstone	1
Liver Failure	1
Parkinson's Disease	3
Renal Failure	1
Sepsis	1
Status Epilepticus	1
Stroke	4
Suicide: Barbiturate Drug Toxicity	1
Suicide: Hanging	3
Suicide: Self-Inflicted Gunshot Wound	4
<b>GRAND TOTALS</b>	<b>151</b>

Registration of Home Births  
Female (1)      Male (0)

Registration of Deaths  
Female (75)      Male (76)

Certified Copies Issued  
Birth (12)      Death (911)

Did Tobacco Use Contribute to Death?  
Yes (11)      No (74)  
Unknown (62)      Probably (4)

2022: 31 Veteran Deaths  
2021: 42 Veteran Deaths

2022: 75 Average Age at Death  
2021: 76 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 68 deaths reported in 2022 living an average age of 72 years.

They were classified as:

Cancer	10
Acute Myelocytic Leukemia	1
Bladder	1
Brain	2
Esophageal	2
Lung	2
Peritoneal Carcinomatosis	1
Stomach	1

Heart Disease	13
Cardiac Arrest	7
Cardiomyopathy	1
Congestive Heart Failure	2
Coronary Artery Disease	1
Diastolic Heart Failure	1
Hypertension	1

Respiratory	17
Pulmonary Embolism	1
Respiratory Failure	15
Respiratory Failure due to SARS-COV2	1

Other	28
Accidental: Blunt Force Trauma	3
Alzheimers/Dementia	2
Anorexia/Malnutrition	1
Bowel Obstruction	2
Brain Hemorrhage	3
Cerebral Venous Sinus Thrombosis	1
Cirrhosis	2
Degeneration of the Brain	1
Failure to Thrive	1
Homicide: Gunshot Wound to the Head	1
Organ Failure	1
Parkinson's Disease	1
Phlegmasia Cerulea Dolans	1
Prescription Overdose	1
Renal Failure	4
Sepsis	1
Septic Shock	1
Suicide: Self-Inflicted Gunshot Wound	1

<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>68</b>
--------------------	-----------

2022: 72 Average Age at Death

2021: 75 Average Age at Death

# 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 \$5,078 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 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 achieving 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
- Organized several vaccine/testing strike clinics and continued to use fairgrounds.
- Deactivation and Demobilization of County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in June.
- 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
- Secured several operational grants that allowed us to fund Covid operations such as testing and vaccine delivery.
- Continued with Homebound Hoosier protocol to being reaching people not able to get to a vaccine location. Eventually taken over by EMS (CRH and IU Lifeline)
- Pushed through several special project including generator for vaccine power backup.
- Used extended and non-tradition hour model for covid test clinic in accordance with grant contract
- Continued vaccinations of inmates at our local jail.
- Assisted nursing staff with back-to-school vaccine clinic.

- Appointed to the National Association of County Officials Public Health Steering Committee and attended the conference in July. Continued effort is ongoing on Policy Resolutions being presented to U.S. Congress in February of 2023.

## **TRAINING**

- Assisted in the development and execution of a District-wide Exercise and Asset display, while providing several education breakout sessions of speakers on various topic.
- Provided Stop the Bleed Training to Indiana Environmental Health Association Annual Conference, Brown County 4H Fair Board, District 8 Healthcare Personnel and various other agencies.
- Provided a Drone Crash Site course in conjunction with the Sheriff Department and Purdue University
- Provided a Sonar Training Course for Indiana Conservation Officers from across the state.
- Attended the Midwest Damage Control Training Conference focused on educational delivery and cybersecurity track.
- Attended Local Emergency Planning Committee Exercise in Bartholomew County over a hazardous materials spill at the Moriah Facility.

## **FUTURE GOALS**

- Start an Emergency Medical Responder course in January for the Fire Departments
- Develop another district-wide exercise for May 2023
- Continue work on a regional and district level with IDOH

# Environmental Health

---

*Submitted by Ernie Reed, Environmental Health Specialist*

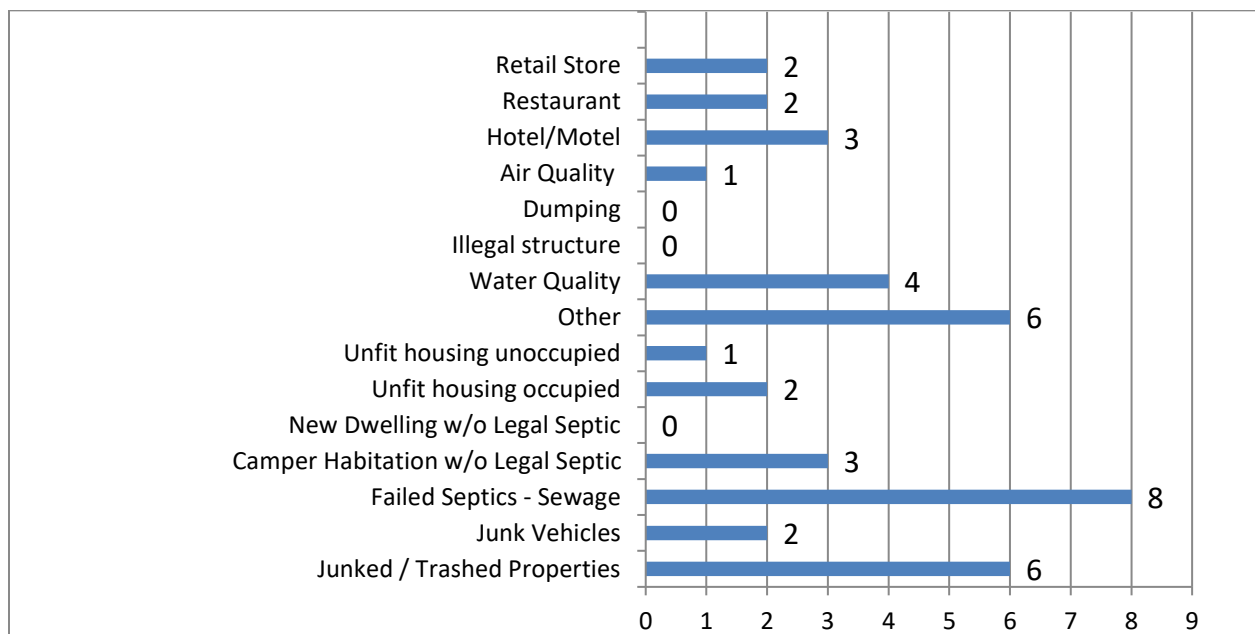
## **COMPLAINTS, WASTEWATER,**

## **WATER QUALITY**

### **COMPLAINTS**

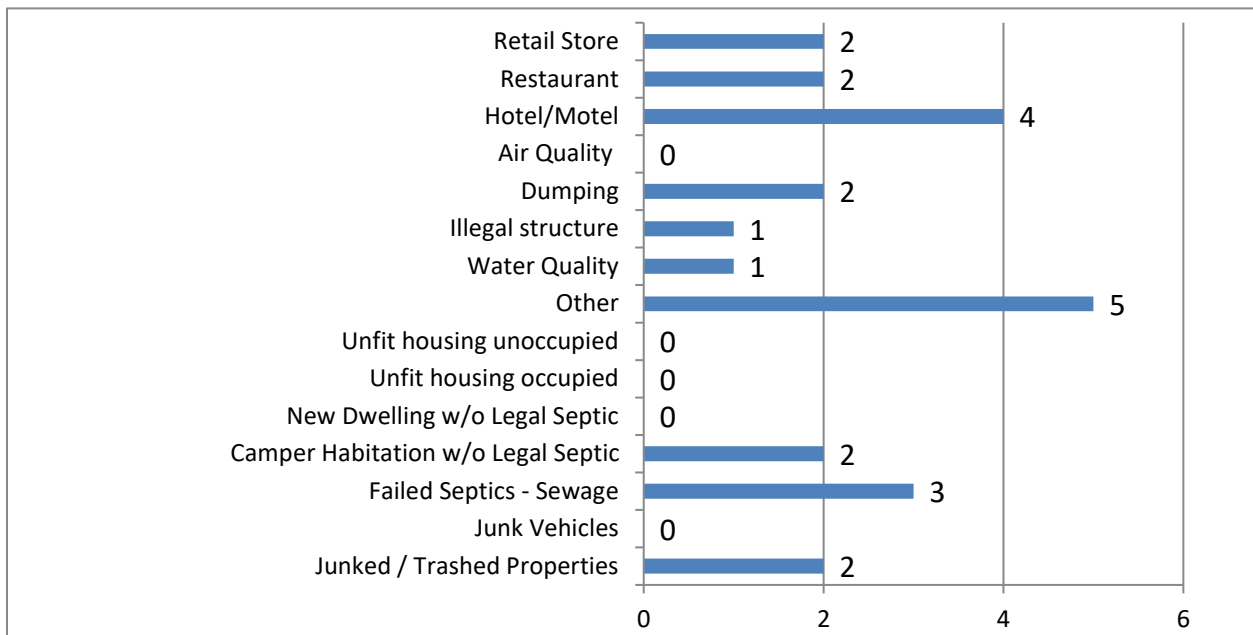
At the end of 2022 there were 124 total active complaints which includes the 2021 unresolved complaints, which is an increase from 121 active complaints logged in 2021.

The chart below displays the 40 active open complaints logged in 2022 only, not previous years.



133 responses to complaints and complaint follow-ups.

At the end of 2022 there were 24 complaints resolved and closed.



### WASTEWATER

190 soil evaluations submitted for review and specification work sheets issued in 2022 compared to 192 in 2021.

155 Septic permits were issued in 2022 compared to 115 in 2021.

288 septic site consultations.

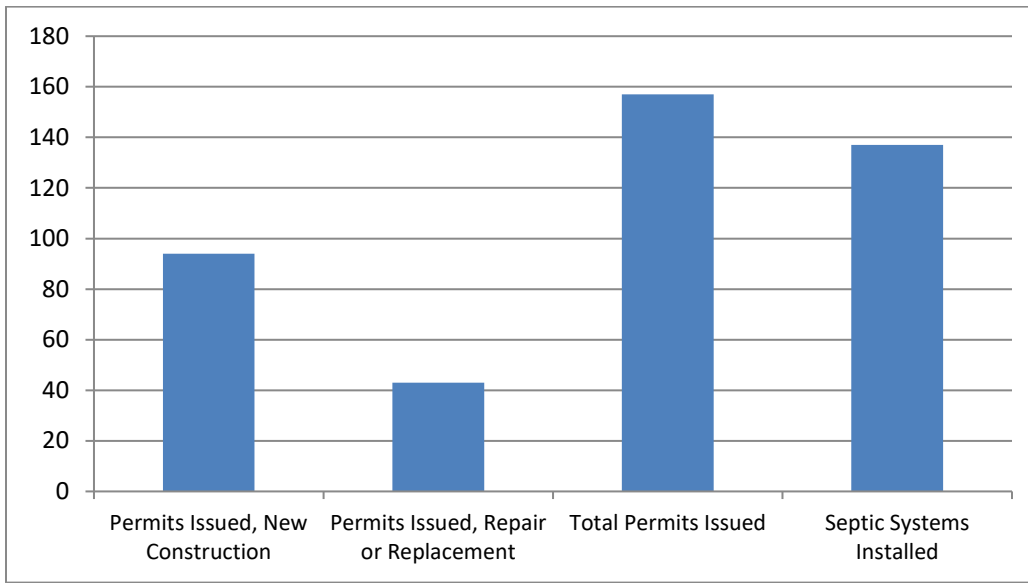
220 septic site evaluations.

727 septic installation inspections.

There was a total of 138 installations in 2022 with one installation being a 16 bed sand lined project handling 9,500 gallon of effluent per day compared to 66 in 2021

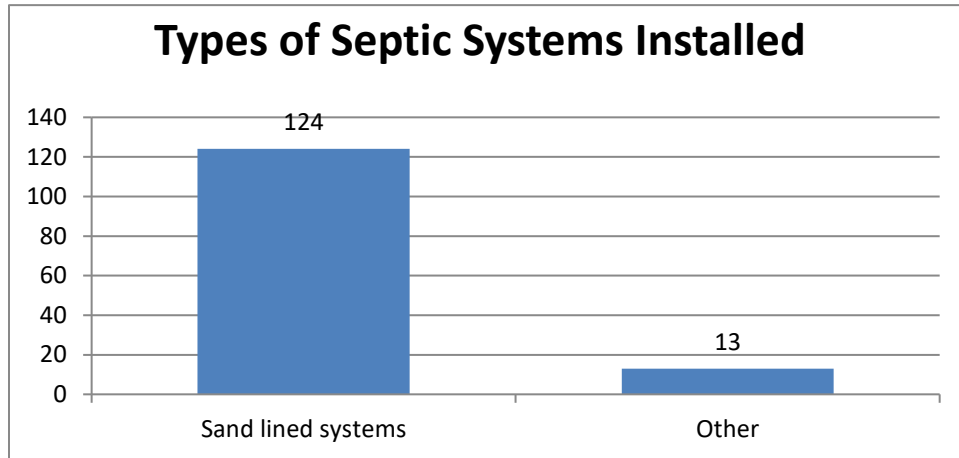
The soils were very wet until early July, but the season ran well into December allowing for a good septic season.

### Permits Issued In 2022 Verses Total Installations:

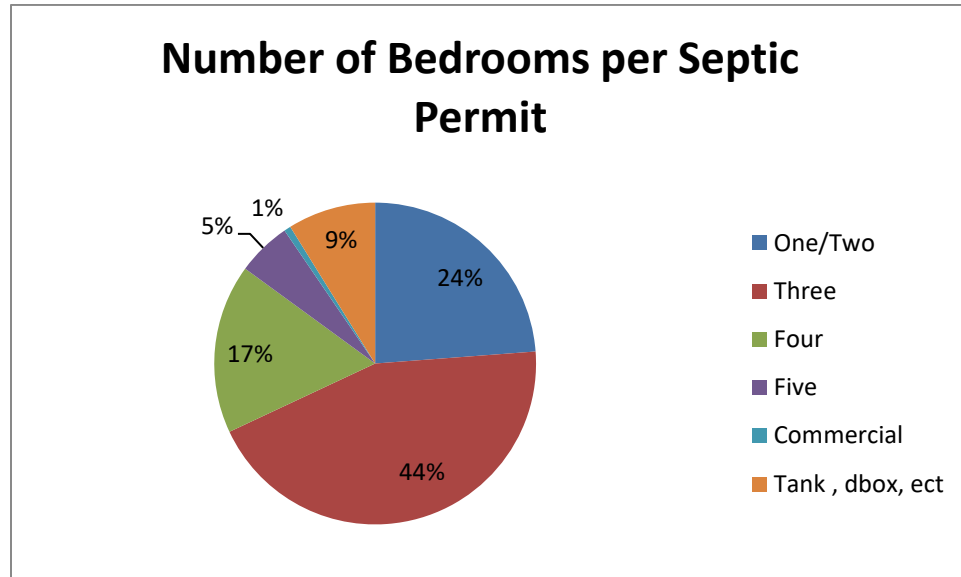


**NOTE:** Some of the septic installations were permitted in 2021

### Types of Septic Systems Installed:



**Percentage of the Number of Bedrooms Per Homes with Septic Systems:**



**FUTURE GOALS**

- 1. IDOH 410 IAC 6-8.3 rule change July 1, 2023**
- 2. Work with installers on new IDOH rule**
- 3. Schedule an installer education session at season end**
- 4. Continue public education on residential septic systems**

# Environmental Health – Food Division

---

*Submitted by Jennifer Heller, Environmental Health Specialist*

## **INTRODUCTION:**

Environmental health division has the responsibility of the inspection of all food establishments within the County, with the categories of; “limited”, “full service”, “non-profit” and “temporary”. Duties of this position include:

- Food Establishment Inspections
- Sharing Recall notifications with Food Establishments
- Consultations on Openings/Closings/Remodels of Food Establishments
- Publication of inspections online and publication in the newspaper
- Food Establishment Database maintenance (jointly with Reception)
- Food Safety and Environmental Outreach
- Teaching ServSafe Food Manager classes
- Teaching ServSafe Food Handler classes
- Conference attendance with educational sessions
- Indiana Environmental Health Association- 2022 Indiana Environmental Health Association served as President-Elect
- Served as Executive Committee Indiana Environmental Health Association Chair of the Terrorism and All Hazards Preparedness Committee
- Meth house condemnation when needed
- Complaints (hotel, food, smoking, vector, etc)
- Grease traps tracking
- Tattoo parlor inspection
- Septic installation inspections and site evaluations as required

## **RECALLS:**

Recall information comes in from the Food and Drug Administration, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the Indiana State Health Department (IDOH). I send out recall reports as they come in 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, as all establishments have some form of email now. In the email version of the recall information that I send, there are often 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 2022, there were 97 various recalls, up from 74 in 2021, that were sent out. Some of the recall emails included multiple items included in the recall, for example, different kinds of salads with the problem ingredient in various products.

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 my own health in 2022, my inspections this year were less than in normal years. Another factor was lack of staffing and low business in town. Many restaurants were on a limited three-day schedule, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday only and closed after the October rush.

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 140 licensed establishments in the county in 2021. This includes non-profit groups, camps, schools, limited food sale establishments and full food prep, hold, cook, cool, reheat and serve establishments, (higher risk). The establishments are ranked on the potential hazard to the foods they produce or sell. For example, Kettle Corn is a low hazard food, so this establishment operates under a limited license that restricts them to only making the kettle corn. Hard Truth has a full license and can prep, cook, cool, reheat and serve assorted foods that would require refrigeration and special handling, and these would be considered potentially hazardous. Limited Licensed facilities receive one inspection a year unless there is a problem or complaint. Some only carry refrigerated pre-packaged food, very low risk. Full time facilities are targeted to receive four inspections annually.

This year I inspected all full facilities at least once except for 7, for a total of 34 full time facility inspections. Facilities receiving two inspections annually, or lower risk received 57 inspections. The lowest least risk establishments received 26 inspections. Total inspections performed then is 117 Schools were all inspected this year, all twice except one. Camps had limited days and happened to occur at the time I was hospitalized and/or recovering, so they were not inspected this year. The camps also had very limited days this year, an aftereffect of the pandemic with most only doing a two-week segment. This should improve in 2023.

### **TEMPORARY FOOD INSPECTIONS**

There were many more events this year than in 2021 as people are coming back to attend events at the Bill Monroe Music Park and other open-air venues.

### **CONSULTATIONS, OPENINGS, CLOSINGS:**

## **PUBLISHED INSPECTIONS:**

The Democrat newspaper published all the food establishment inspections that I forwarded to them for 2022 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 probably answer 2-3 calls weekly concerning food trucks/mobile vendors.

There are currently 3 operating Bed & Breakfasts in the County. Most are not offering food but providing vouchers to restaurants in town. Air B&B's have taken over most of this market. There are 6 Schools, 23 Non-profits, and 10 camps.

## **TEMPORARY EVENTS:**

Donut Central purchased a temporary license 14 times to sell donuts from the IGA parking lot this year.

Uncle Pen Festival at the Bill Monroe Park had three vendors, all who had been inspected multiple times over the summer with no violations, so this festival was not inspected.

The Blues fest had 8 vendors inspected

Good people good Times had 3 vendors inspected

Hippie Hill had 6 vendors inspected

Bluegrass was inspected by John Kennard, 4 vendors inspected

Cajun Festival had 5 vendors inspected

Brown County Fair had 12 vendors inspected

There were 11 miscellaneous events not inspected

## **ServSafe Classes:**

This year I taught seven ServSafe classes at the Hawthorne building with a total of 36 people attending. I gave three online tests that I proctored and gave the school staff in the kitchen a proctored test for 7 people.

There were no Food Handler Classes taught this year (it became a requirement in July of 2021 that Home Based Vendors had to have a certificate for a Food Handler) I will be teaching at least one class of Food Handler in 2023.

## **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 2 Food Complaints in 2022.

**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.

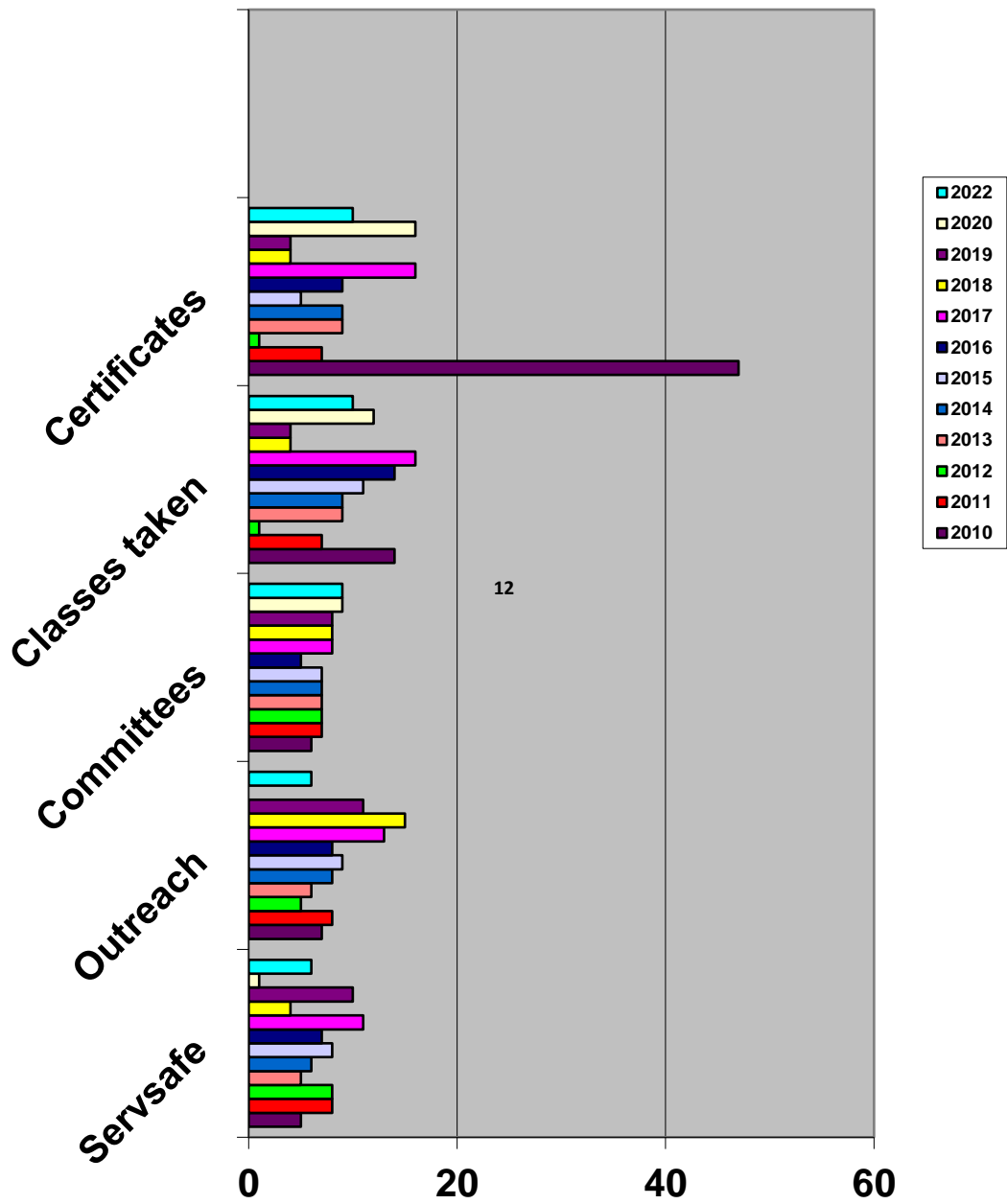
**TATTOO PARLORS:**

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). All of 2022 inspections are now in electronic format, on file and also exist as a paper copy in the file cabinet with original signatures. 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 for the spring semester from IU who was with us for several months and has gone on to work for the Monroe County Health Department.
- Six articles were submitted to the Democrat newspaper; including keeping Septic tanks in good working order, Food safety in Power outages, Septics in winter, Septics in floods, Thunderstorm/tornado safety, your Health Department; what we do, Fall prevention
- 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
- I served as a member of the Preparedness Committee for the National Environmental Health Association
- I co-authored a letter with the Indiana Environmental Health Association and signed as President-elect to the State Health Commissioner on the need for additional Food Protection Staff and sent a copy to the Governor's Public Health Commission. Response was strong and multiple hirings took place at the State Health Department in 2022
- I coordinated the annual Fall Conference for the Indiana Environmental Health Association. There were 197 attendees, 34 speakers, a live band and a tour of distilleries in the County coordinated for the three day event.

## **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 in 2022 and committee projects such as a Verbal Judo training session at the Seasons Lodge Conference Center with set up and logistics. I also sent out 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
- Indiana Environmental Health Association President Elect
- National Environmental Health Association Preparedness Committee Member

#### **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 Midwest Damage Prevention Conference

#### **CERTIFICATE CLASSES ONLINE:**

FDA Food Defense 101

#### **CONFERENCES ATTENDED:**

Midwest Damage Prevention Conference

Indiana Environmental Health Association Spring Conference

Indiana Environmental Health Association Fall Conference

#### **WEBINARS:**

I listened to several webinars online in 2022- all related to Food Safety Updates, and FDA information

#### **AWARDS:**

- Indiana Environmental Health Association President's Commendation for Chairing the Terrorism and All Hazards Preparedness Committee in 2022
- President Elect of the Indiana Environmental Health Association for 2002
- Re-elected Chair of the IEHA Terrorism and All Hazards Preparedness Committee for 2022

#### **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 2020,2021 or 2022 due to lack of staff.

## GOALS FOR 2023:

- 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 attend the Pumper Show (now called the WETT show), The International Association of Food Protection through a scholarship this summer, the Midwest Damage Prevention Conference, the National Environmental Health Association annual conference in New Orleans by stipend from the IEHA, 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, and to check for Home Based Vendors following the rules.
- To provide consultation to establishments with questions on food service or remodeling, adding food to their operation and 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 2022.

My main goal for 2023, 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.

## **2022 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- resigned June 2022

## **2022 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 conducted COVID-19 testing for the public ages 2 years old and up. Grant funding for testing concluded at the end of June 2022. From July to December of 2022, the Brown County Health Department has offered two rounds of free home rapid tests available for pick-up at BCHD. From the start of this site in 2020 to the end of testing funding in June 2022, 7,871 PCRs were done. Of these, 1,164 PCRs were done in 2022. In January 2021, the Brown County Health Department began administering COVID-19 vaccines. At the conclusion of 2022, 14,840 vaccines had been administered. Of these, 2,577 were done in 2022. This count includes those receiving initial doses of Moderna, Pfizer, and Pediatric Pfizer and those receiving booster and bivalent booster doses. The Brown County Health Department vaccinates those 6 months and older with COVID-19 vaccines. In addition to performing vaccinations at BCHD, the BCHD nurses conducted 2 vaccine clinics at Brown County Health and Living in July and October 2022 to administer COVID-19 booster vaccines to consenting residents. In total, 138 residents were vaccinated over those two days.

## **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 at no charge. 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 and schedule follow-up testing when needed. In July 2022, the Indiana Department of Health lowered the elevated lead level trigger from 5mCg/dL to 3.5 mCg/dL. In direct relation to this, testing numbers and those needing follow-up increased dramatically across the state and in Brown County. During 2022, the Health Department performed less than 10 lead tests and did less than 10 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 in person 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, oxygen saturation 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 or share information for the member, as well. This is a great opportunity for the members to have their values checked regularly and have conversations about any concerns they may have. The Health Department visited Hickory Ridge 9 times in 2022 and saw 50 patients.

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



Blood Pressure/Pulse=65  
Diabetes Screenings=53  
Urine Checks=5  
Cholesterol Screenings=2  
Weight= 55  
Hemoglobin=52

### **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, Clarity, 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 2022, 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 is able to offer 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 Alaskan Native 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 2022, we saw 49 students and administered 93 vaccinations. In 2022, we vaccinated a total of 485 patients and administered a total of 625 vaccines, not including COVID-19 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 2022, 126 tuberculosis skin tests were performed. There were less than 5 cases of active cases of tuberculosis and latent TB.

### **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 2022, less than 50 investigations were conducted. For the purpose of this report, COVID-19 cases are not included in this count.

### **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. For community members, education pertaining to how to administer the Naloxone and resources regarding treatment centers are provided along with the Naloxone. In 2022, 244 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 2022, the Health Department gave out 104 sharps containers.

### **CPR**

Kelly and Se Leah at the Brown County Health Department are certified to teach CPR classes to community members, as well as healthcare professionals. During 2022, 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, 13 people were certified by the Brown County Health Department nurses in 2022.

**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.