



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Brown County Health Department

2023 Annual Report

I am pleased to submit the following annual report of
the activities of the Brown County Health Department
for the 2023 calendar year.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Norman Oestrike MD".

Norman Oestrike, MD
Health Officer

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Nursing23

Health Officer Report

Submitted by Dr. Norman Oestrike, Health Officer

2023 was a very busy and eventful year for the Health Department.

We were able to complete the updating of our offices and clinic to be American Disability Act compliant and to develop a safe and efficient clinic. Covid dollars were used for this, so Brown County taxes were not used.

Also, we were successful in hiring a new nurse to complete our staffing. This added nurse, among other duties, is working with our schools. This year we have worked with the school to establish and oversee a childcare center for the Community Center.

The nursing salaries were increased this year, such that they are now equal to the average nursing salary in Indiana. This was accomplished through the County Council and again using Covid dollars and new funding through the State. This has allowed us to attract our new nurse and to retain our established nurses.

Major changes in the Health Department this year were brought about by new laws passed by the Indiana Legislature:

First, the Brown County Ordinance for Septic Systems was voided, and must be resubmitted to the Brown County Commissioners for re-passage. The new proposed ordinance must then be submitted to the State of Indiana for approval and determination if the new ordinance does not have any rules more restrictive than the State regulations. This is a huge and troublesome change for the Department. We have initiated monthly staff meetings to ensure we work through these changes.

Second, the State Legislature initiated a new Health funding program called Health First Indiana. In 2023, the Health Board and Commissioners agreed to opt into the program as it began January 1st, 2024. Health First Indiana adds significant dollars to the Health Department budget through opt-in grants to the Department. The County must continue to supply funding through property taxes to qualify for the additional dollars. These additional dollars will allow the Health Department to become more competitive salary wise for employees and allow for additional programs. The additional dollars come with oversight and accountability and with restrictions. We believe these are reasonable and constructive to continue with a quality department with increased services in 2024. These issues are also addressed in the monthly staff meetings to ensure that we are compliant.

Third, the structure of the Health Board has been changed. The new law requires the Town of Nashville to submit candidates to the Commissioners for one appointment. The professional qualifications and political affiliations of candidates are also considered by the Commissioners for appointments.

Fourth, the Health Department no longer appoints the Health Officer. The Health Board makes recommendations to the County Commissioners, but the County Commissioners appoint a candidate to the post.

All the divisions within the Department have been very busy and active, as witnessed by the various Annual Reports of each section attached to this report. Please review them.

We believe the Health Department is in a great position for the future to continue to provide the best in Brown County Health services. Thanks to all of our staff!

Sincerely,

Norman W. Oestrike, MD

Brown County Health Officer



November 17th, 2023, Dr. Lindsay Weaver, the Health Commissioner for the Indiana State Department of Health, and her constituents visited the Brown County Health Department and spoke with the staff and members of County Council about Health First Indiana.

Brown County Government

Brown County Commissioners

Jerry Pittman
Ron Sanders
Blake Wolpert*

Brown County Council

Darren Byrd
Gary Huett
Jim Kemp
Joel Kirby
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

*Blake Wolpert was appointed after Chuck Braden resigned mid-term.

Brown County Health Department Staff

Taylor Alton	Registrar/Clerical Support/Special Projects Coord.
Corey Frost	Public Health Coordinator
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
Kimberly Prendergast, ASN, RN	Public Health Nurse
Ernie Reed, AS	Environmental Health Specialist
Seleah Settle, BSN, RN	Public Health Nurse – Supervisor

Health Dept. Revenues and Disbursements

Tax Revenues:	2023
Property Tax	519,472.06
Financial Institution Tax	1,278.84
Excise Tax	46,426.90
Commercial Vehicle Excise Distribution	2,207.26
Total Tax Revenues:	\$569,385.06
Fee Revenues:	
Food	31,223.00
Installer License	4,400.00
Nursing	3,470.17
Septic	36,200.00
Visual Inspections	900.00
Vital Records <i>(Includes coroner's training and continuing education funds)</i>	7,006.00
Total Fee Revenues:	\$83,199.17
Grant Revenues:	
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	5,337.00
Total Grant Revenues:	\$78,219.62
TOTAL REVENUE:	\$733,544.85
Disbursements:	
Personnel Services	513,613.35
Supplies / Operating Expenses Health	44,133.69
Local Heath Maintenance Fund	19,363.76
Local Health Department (LHD) Trust Account	4,665.71
Public Health Coordinator Base Grant	25,000.00
Cities Readiness Initiative Grant	4,889.00
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS:	\$611,665.51

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 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

Submitted by Taylor Alton, Registrar

There were 131 deaths reported in 2023 living an average age of 75 years.

They were classified as:

Cancer	26
Anal	1
Appendix	1
B-Cell Lymphoma	1
Bladder	2
Breast	1
Cholangiocarcinoma	1
Colon	1
Head/Neck	3
Kidney	1
Lung	8
Neuroendocrine System	1
Pancreatic	1
Prostate	3
Stomach	1

Heart Disease	45
Atherosclerotic Cardiovascular Disease	1
Arrythmia	2
Cardiac Arrest	1
Congestive Heart Failure	7
Coronary Artery Disease	2
Diastolic Heart Failure	6
End Stage Heart Failure	2
Hypertension	2
Myocardial Infarction	18
Systolic Heart Failure	4

Respiratory	18
Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease	7
Pneumonia	3
Pulmonary Embolism	1
Respiratory Failure	6
Respiratory Failure due to SARS-COV2	1

Other	42
Accidental: Blunt Force Trauma	1
Accidental: Positional Asphyxia	1
Alzheimer's/Dementia	5
Anorexia/Malnutrition	2
Aspiration with Asphyxiation	1
Degeneration of the Brain	10
Gangrene	1
Lewy Body Dementia	1
Liver Failure	1
Metabolic Encephalopathy	1
Parkinson's Disease	4
Renal Failure	1
Seizure Disorder	1
Sepsis	1
Septic Shock	1
Stroke	3
Suicide: Hanging	2
Suicide: Self-inflicted Gunshot Wound	5

Grand Total	131
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Registration of Home Births

Female (1) Male (1)

Registration of Deaths

Female (49) Male (82)

Certified Copies Issued

Birth (12) Death (691)

Did Tobacco Use Contribute to Death?

Yes (9) No (50)

Unknown (66) Probably (6)

2023: 36 Veteran Deaths

2022: 31 Veteran Deaths

2023: 75 Average Age at Death

2022: 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 72 deaths reported in 2023 living an average age of 75 years.

They were classified as:

Cancer	11
Breast	1
Leukemia	1
Liver	2
Lung	3
Pancreatic	1
Prostate	2
Tongue	1

Heart Disease	14
Acute Catastrophic Cardiac Event	2
Atherosclerotic Cardiovascular Disease	2
Cardiac Arrest	2
Cardiomyopathy	1
Congestive Heart Failure	3
Coronary Artery Disease	1
Myocardial Infarction	2
Vascular Disease	1

Respiratory	16
Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease	3
Pneumonia	3
Pulmonary Disease	1
Pulmonary Embolism	1
Respiratory Failure	8

Other	31
Accidental: Blunt Force Trauma	3
Acute Cholecystitis	1
Alzheimer's/Dementia	1
Anorexia/Malnutrition	1
Anoxic Encephalopathy	1
Brain Hemorrhage	2
Degeneration of the Brain	5
Ethanol Toxicity	1
Fentanyl Toxicity	2
Fentanyl & Methamphetamine Toxicity	1
Hemorrhagic Stroke	1
Lewy Body Dementia	1
Renal Failure	2
Sepsis	2
Septic Shock	2
Streptococcal Peritonitis	1
Stroke	1
Thermal Injuries	1
Unknown Drug Toxicity	1
Urinary Tract Infection	1

Grand Total	72
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2023: 75 Average Age at Death

2022: 72 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 \$15,571 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 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.
- Quarterly City Readiness Initiative Meetings with IDOH and other CRI Staff
- Quarterly Local Preparedness Planning meetings with LHD staff, incorporate into monthly staff meetings
- Attended several eclipse-focused meetings from traffic strategy to communications. These meetings started in February 2023
- Attended monthly National Association of Counties steering committee meetings
- Attended IDOH requested meeting with leadership on Health First Indiana rollout
- Attended a seminar on public health emergency preparedness at Indiana University

ACTIVITIES

- Hosted quarterly IDOH mobile clinics at EMS Base
- Executed tabletop exercise for District 8 Healthcare partners on radiation.
- Attended Local Emergency Planning Committee Seminar on Railway Safety as related to transportation of hazardous materials.
- Assisted with the interviewing and hiring of the EMA position.
- Assisted with bringing in the Active Integrated Response Course that will deploy on Jan 5-7, 2024, utilizing Louisiana State University personnel and the Indiana Guard Reserve as actors.
- Attend EMS World and recertified as an Emergency Medical Technician
- Present Social Vulnerability Index to staff
- Execute Emergency Support Function 8 Communication Drill
- Execute Volunteer Notification Drills utilizing SERV-IN
- Execute Command Staff Notification Drill
- Creating an exercise to fulfill immunization grant and CRI grant deliverable.

- Building out District 8 Disaster trailer as a mass fatality incident management asset.
- Assisted nursing staff with back-to-school vaccine clinic.
- Appointed to the National Association of County Officials Public Health Steering Committee and to attend the conference in July. Continued effort is ongoing on Policy Resolutions being presented to U.S. Congress in February of 2024.
- Completed Crisis Emergency Risk Communication and Continuity of Operation Plans
- Continued work on new Mass Care Annex
- Evaluated state skills for emergency medical responders and EMT recertifications.
- Attended Indiana Healthcare Emergency Preparedness Symposium

TRAINING

- Assisted in the development and execution of a District-wide Exercise, while providing several education breakout sessions of speakers on various topics.
- Provided Stop the Bleed Training to county employees, IVY Tech nursing program, Jennings County Sheriff Department and other community partners.
- Completed Basic Disaster Life Support (BDLS) and Advance Disaster Life Support (ADLS) certifications.
- Complete the American Red Cross and National Transportation and Safety Board's training on Family Reunification and Family Assistance Center.
- Attended STD/HIV training put on by IDOH at our local health department.
- We provided an Emergency Medical Responder course for local responders with 11 students. The course ran from January until April.

FUTURE GOALS

- Start another Emergency Medical Responder course in January.
- Develop another district-wide exercise for April 2024
- Continue work on a regional and district level with IDOH
- Create a broader catalog of trainings offered at the training institute including more specialized curriculum
- Build out Emergency Operation Center's ESF 8 work stations
- Resupply Point of Distribution Trailer
- Update any Memorandum of Understanding that are in place and prioritize what is necessary.
- Attend Center for Domestic Preparedness, Anniston, Alabama training in Fall

Environmental Health

Submitted by Ernie Reed, Environmental Health Specialist

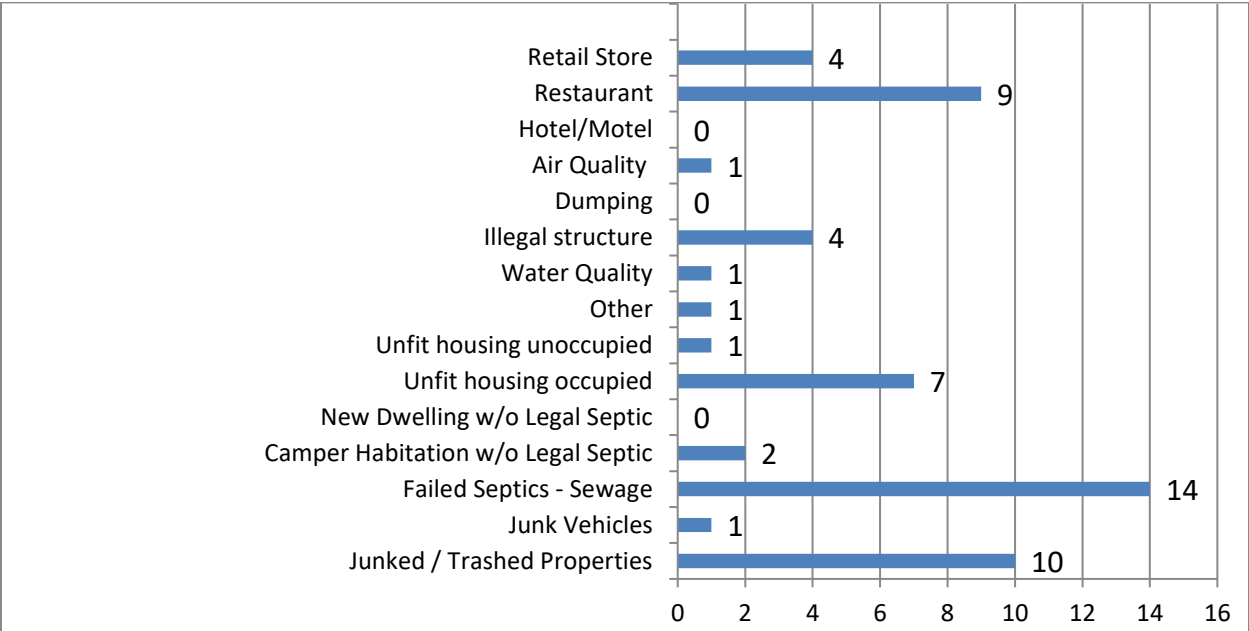
COMPLAINTS AND WASTEWATER

COMPLAINTS

At the end of 2023 there were 151 active complaints, this includes 96 carried over from 2022. 55 complaints were made in 2023. These numbers show about a 30% increase from the previous year.

These numbers do not represent the total number of complaints that were resolved by the end of the year, since complaints are added to and removed from the list throughout the year.

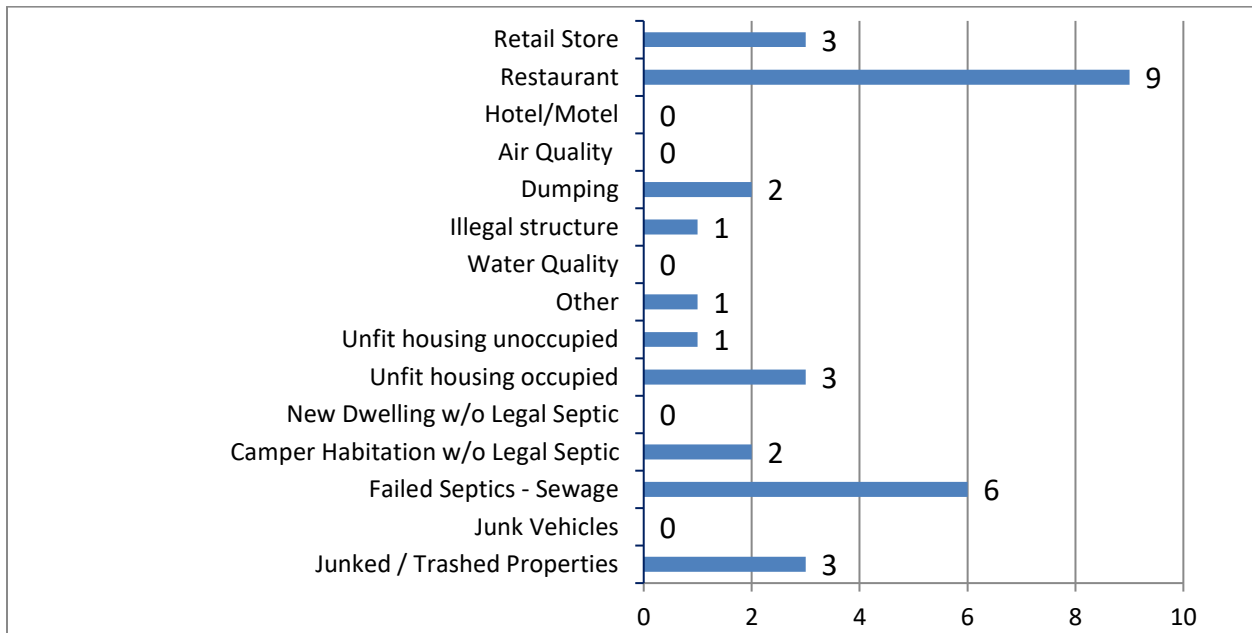
Type And Number of Complaints Filed In 2023



Note: This list is based on the number of complaints the Health Department has received, and not the number of complaints found to be valid. This data does not reflect the total number of complaints but rather the number of complaints received by two of the three Environmental Health Specialists.

Of the 151 complaints, 31 were resolved in 2023.

Type And Number of Complaints Resolved In 2023



WASTEWATER

One hundred one hundred fifty-one (151) soil evaluations submitted for review and specification work sheets issued.

One hundred sixty (160) septic permits were issued in 2023, compared to one hundred fifty-five (155) issued in 2022.

2023 septic inspections: 446

2023 site consultations: 223

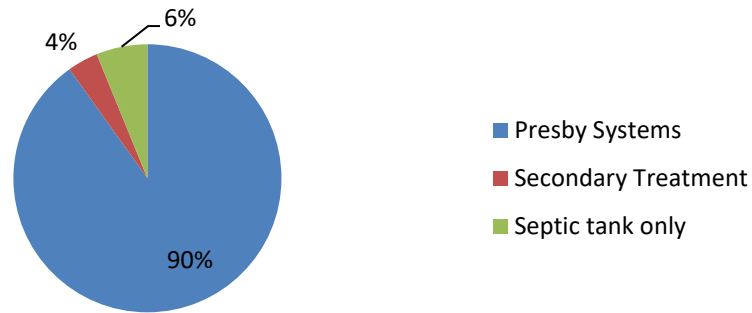
2023 site evaluations: 196

Septic systems installed in 2023 were 156, compared to 138 installations in 2022.

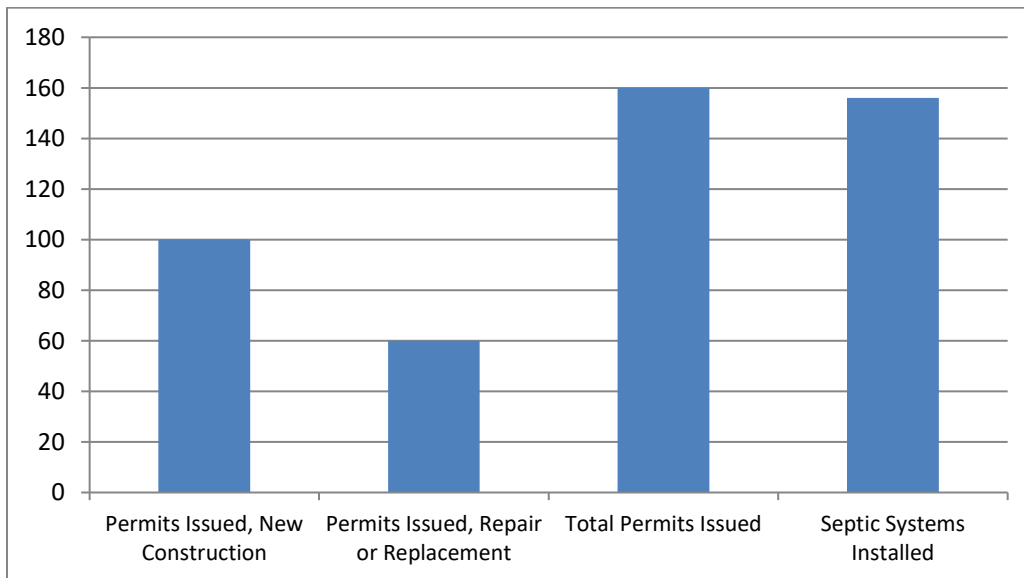
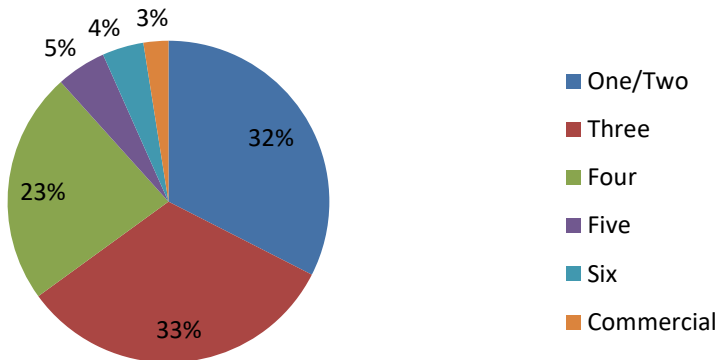
Once again, an increase in installations of over 11%.

In 2023, Brown County had 44 registered septic installers.

Types of Septic Systems Permitted



Number of Bedrooms per Septic Permit



Environmental Health – Food Division

Submitted by Jennifer Heller, Environmental Health Specialist

INTRODUCTION:

The 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 this year included;

- **Food establishment inspections**
- **Recall notifications to 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 via newspaper articles**
- **Teaching ServSafe Food Manager classes**
- **Teaching ServSafe Food Handler classes**
- **Teaching Food Safety classes (no certificate)**
- **Conference attendance with educational sessions**
- **Serving as 2023 President of the Indiana Environmental Health Association**
- **Serving on the National Environmental Health Association Preparedness Committee**
- **Meth house condemnation as needed- (did not happen in 2023)**
- **Complaint investigation (hotel, food, air, water, vector, etc.)**
- **Grease traps tracking as needed for the Town of Nashville**
- **Tattoo/piercing parlor inspection**
- **Septic installation inspections and site evaluations as required**
- **Mobile food truck at events inspection**

RECALLS:

Recall information comes in from the Food and Drug Administration, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the Indiana State Health Department (IDOH). Reports with links to recall sites are sent out via email as they come in unless there is a Class I recall (most dangerous) when local establishments are also contacted by phone if they may carry the product. Most of the product recalls are usually generated by a mislabeled product that has failed to include an allergen notification. We no longer need to mail out recall 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 2023 there were 110 various recalls, up from 97 in 2022, 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:

Brown County continues to have a lack of staffing and low business in town, especially during the week. Many restaurants were on a limited three-day schedule, Friday Saturday, and Sunday only and several 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 138 licensed establishments in the county in 2023. Of these, 23 are Non-Profit establishments that are not inspected unless a request is issued by the specific establishment, or if a problem is reported. These non-profits include most camps, farmer's markets, and non-profit groups. The "limited" food sale establishments have food preparation restrictions, limited to cold holding or non-hazardous foods and the "full" food licensed facilities may prepare, hold, cook, cool, reheat and serve food. They are all inspected based on risk. The establishments are ranked on the potential hazards of 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 Hills has a full license and can prep, cook, cool, reheat and serve assorted foods that would require refrigeration and special handling. This type of food is referred to as "TCS" food, or food that requires time and temperature control for safety. This food is considered potentially hazardous and high risk, which then results in more inspections. Limited Licensed facilities receive one inspection a year unless there is a problem or complaint. Some of these facilities only carry refrigerated pre-packaged food, so are considered very low risk. Full-time, higher risk facilities are targeted to receive four inspections annually.

School kitchens were all inspected twice this year as per the request of the privately run food service, (not owned by the schools). Camps are considered non-profit unless privately run, so only Camp Palawopec is under normal inspection guidelines, but most camps do request Health Department inspections to meet their own private guidelines. This year 5 camps were inspected.

This year I inspected all high-risk facilities at least once, for a total of 63 full license establishments receiving inspections. Of these 63 facilities, 17 facilities received 2 inspections each, and 6 received three inspections, for a total of 86 higher risk facility inspections. Facilities receiving two inspections annually, or those establishments which are considered lower risk received a total of 29 inspections. Of these, 16 of the lower risk establishments received one inspection and 13 received two inspections (or 29 inspections total of the lower risk facilities). The lowest, least-risk establishments that had a one-time inspection required, received 78 inspections.

The total of all inspections performed in 2023 is 193. If there was an issue during inspection, such as a large number of non-critical violations, then a re-inspection was performed after determining a time for correction of the violations.

PUBLISHED INSPECTIONS:

The Democrat newspaper published all the food establishment inspections that I forwarded to them for 2023 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 a food service area in their operations. This requires Planning and Zoning approval and generally modifications to the existing structure. On average

there are 2-3 calls weekly concerning food trucks/mobile vendors who want to come in from out-of-county.

There are currently only 2 operating bed & breakfasts in the County. Most tourists stay places that are no longer offering food but providing vouchers to restaurants in town. Air B&B's or VBRO have taken over most of this market.

TEMPORARY EVENTS INSPECTED IN 2023:

- American Bean Festival (at Bill Monroe Park) had 3 vendors, all inspected
- The Blues Fest at Bill Monroe Park had 3 vendors, none inspected
- Good People Good Times had 3 vendors, none inspected,
- Harmony Valley event at paintball valley had 3 vendors, none inspected
- Hippie Hill had 3 vendors, only one was actually there when the event opened
- Bluegrass Festival at Bill Monroe Park, 3 vendors 2 inspected, 1 late set-up not inspected
- Brown County Fair had 15 vendors licensed. 13 inspected, could not find one, one very late arrival after inspector had left
- Wars in the Woods at the Dragway June 1st had 3 vendors, all inspected
- June 30th Dragway event with 3 repeat vendors from June 1st not inspected
- Dragway event Sept 22nd 5 vendors, all inspected.
- There were 12 miscellaneous licenses for single day weekend events not inspected

Donut Central purchased a temporary license 16 times to sell donuts from the IGA parking lot this year. They buy a \$105 permit to cover 8 days, or two Thursdays. All product is made in the Columbus store and transported via van to the IGA parking lot.

SERVSAFE CLASSES:

This year I taught 6 ServSafe Food Manager Certification classes at the BCHD Hawthorne building with a total of 37 people attending. I gave 5 online tests that I proctored. I renewed my ServSafe instructor/proctor certification.

There was one Food Handler Class with 2 students taught this year. This class is only acceptable for Home Based Vendors certification, and not for Food Protection Manager certification.

METH HOUSES:

I did not receive any Indiana Police Clandestine Laboratory reports this year. I have not received notification of any of these labs in the County.

COMPLAINTS:

I responded to and closed out 4 Food Complaints in 2023. One instance was multiple complaints, same facility. Most probably was a disgruntled employee.

SMOKING:

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

GREASE TRAPS:

New establishments are directed to the Town Hall for requirements and for direction on sizing new grease traps.

TATTOO PARLORS:

There are now two tattoo parlors in town, “Heartland Tattoo and “Redbird” which also offers piercings. Both are licensed. There were no issues this year.

OUTREACH:

The following outreach projects were accomplished:

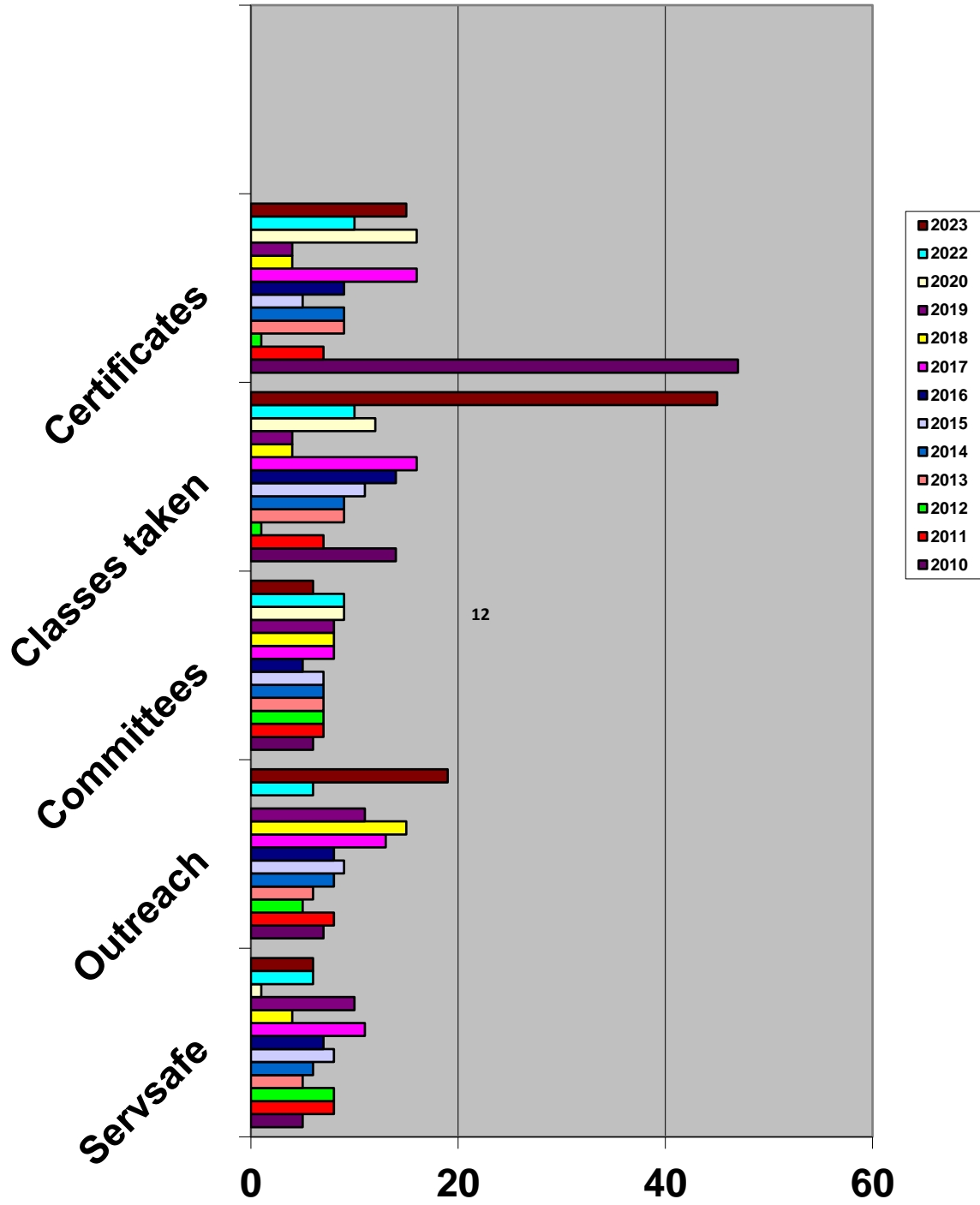
- I secured one intern for the spring semester for 2024 from IU and I have maintained connections with IU Department of Environmental and Occupational Health, School of Public Health, Indiana University, Innovation Center.
- 11 Articles were submitted to and published by the Democrat newspaper; including Food Safety for Highly Sensitive Populations, Wells, Cold Weather Safety, Tick Season, Home Based Vendors, Tornado Safety, Ticks (again), Wildfire Smoke and Open Burning, Halloween for Pets, Rodents, Wells, and Food Labeling.
- I consulted on 4 new food establishment’s design and several remodels.
- I maintained a consultant status for Food Safety on the Brown County Food Alliance currently operating a satellite food distribution center at St. David’s church on Thursday afternoons. They are using the St. Vincent de Paul food from Hoosier hills food bank.
- I served as a member of the Preparedness Committee for the National Environmental Health Association.
- I served as President for the Indiana Environmental Health Association for 2023.
- I gave a presentation to the Local Nashville Farmer’s Market on Home-Based Vendors and products allowed at the Farmer’s Market.
- I gave two talks to the Hoosier Hills Food Bank volunteers both in Nashville and in Loogootee, on food safety.
- Emails were sent out to all food establishments on donating to non-profit food providers such as Mother’s Cupboard.
- I gave a food safety talk to the Happy Hollow Camp counselors.

MEETINGS and COMMITTEES:

I served on the following committees:

- Indiana Environmental Health Association President in 2023
- 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
- National Environmental Health Association Preparedness Committee Member

Servsafe, Committees, Certificates, Classes



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 2023 inspections are now in pdf electronic format, on file and exist as a paper copy in the file cabinet with original signatures. At this time, we are using paper forms for inspections and then entering the data in our own tracking database.

ONLINE MEMBERSHIPS:

- FoodShield Member
- Infragard Member
- Indiana Onsite Wastewater Professionals Association member (IOWPA)
- Indiana Environmental Health Association (IEHA)
- National Environmental Health Association (NEHA)
- International Association of Food Protection (IAFP)
-

CERTIFICATE/TRAINING CLASSES:

I attended training classes at the Spring IEHA Conference (6), the Fall IEHA Conference (8), the Midwest Damage Prevention Conference (5), the WWETT Show (8), The Sullivan County West Central Chapter meeting (1), the State Onsite Wastewater training (8), The Ivy Tech/State Health Department training on Special Processes (9) for a total of 45.

CERTIFICATE CLASSES ONLINE:

FDA 112 2017 Food Code class refresher course- completed 5-hour long sessions so far to refamiliarize myself with some food inspection points prior to the 2022 Food Code adoption in 2024 by the State of Indiana.

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 2023 inspections are now in pdf electronic format, on file and exist as a paper copy in the file cabinet with original signatures. At this time, we are using paper forms for inspections and then entering the data in our own tracking database.

ONLINE MEMBERSHIPS:

- FoodShield Member
- Infragard Member
- Indiana Onsite Wastewater Professionals Association member (IOWPA)
- Indiana Environmental Health Association (IEHA)
- National Environmental Health Association (NEHA)
- International Association of Food Protection (IAFP)

CERTIFICATE/TRAINING CLASSES:

I attended training classes at the Spring IEHA Conference (6), the Fall IEHA Conference (8), the Midwest Damage Prevention Conference (5), the WWETT Show (8), The Sullivan County West Central Chapter meeting (1), the State Onsite Wastewater training (8), The Ivy Tech/State Health Department training on Special Processes (9) for a total of 45.

CERTIFICATE CLASSES ONLINE:

FDA 112 2017 Food Code class refresher course- completed 5-hour long sessions so far to refamiliarize myself with some food inspection points prior to the 2022 Food Code adoption in 2024 by the State of Indiana.

CONFERENCES ATTENDED:

- Midwest Damage Prevention Conference
- Indiana Environmental Health Association Spring Conference
- Indiana Environmental Health Association Fall Conference
- Special Food Processes Ivy Tech/State Health Dept Training 3-day Session
- State Health Dept Onsite Wastewater Annual Training Session

WEBINARS:

I listened to several webinars online in 2023- all related to food safety updates, and FDA information. Example: IU Health “Educational Design Process; Gap Analysis and Learning Needs Assessment” to aid in teaching classes.

AWARDS:

- Food Protection and Inspection Certificate for 2-day Special Processes training through Ivy Tech and IDOH
- Affiliate Certificate of Merit from the National Environmental Health Association for being a member of the Preparedness Committee

STANDARDIZATION:

The State has just now begun re-certifying Standardized Food Inspection Officers for the State of Indiana. The State Health Department has had no one who can re-certify this license, due to their time constraints, until now and the program is just beginning. As I have inspected for the past 15 years, I am not sure if I will pursue re-standardization due to the amount of time required to complete this process. The State has not been able to standardize or re-certify anyone in 2015, 2016, 2017,2018, 2019 or 2020,2021, 2022 or 2023 due to lack of staff. I was considered to be standardized until this year.

GOALS FOR 2024:

- To promote food safety throughout the county by classes, relevant educational articles, and other educational information to food establishments during inspection
- To continue my committee, work for our local Emergency Management Advisory Council and Local Emergency Planning Committee
- To inspect temporary events and make sure advance information is provided to any potential vendor attendees of an event
- To attend the 2 Indiana Environmental Health Association conferences
- To attend the Pumper Show (now called the WWETT show), The National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) Educational Conference in July, and the Midwest Damage Prevention Conference in November.
- To attend the Onsite Wastewater Training by the Indiana State Department of Health in February in Plainfield
- To take at least 2 additional training sessions
- 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 groups and establishments with questions on food safety, adding food to their operation and food safety requirements
- To follow up on any possible foodborne illness outbreak
- To disseminate food safety knowledge whenever I can

As an Environmental Health Specialist, septic site evaluations and inspections for septic construction occur occasionally for new septic systems and ongoing septic construction. This is on an “as-needed” basis.

Nursing

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

2023 Nursing Division Staff

Seleah Settle, BSN, RN Public Health Nursing Supervisor

Kelly Hilligoss, BSN, RN, Public Health Nurse

Kim Prendergast, ASN, RN, Public Health Nurse- started August 2023

2023 Main Focus- Return to Normal

As the focus of healthcare providers shifted away from COVID-19, the Nursing Division at the Brown County Health Department began to return to normal pre-COVID activities and responsibilities. These included participating in multiple community events and providing education and health promotion, holding in-person CPR classes once again, and putting an emphasis on making sure the children in our community are up to date on their routine immunizations. We were so excited to add another nurse to our staff in August with the hiring of Kim Prendergast. Throughout the year, we spent a considerable amount of time and effort planning ways to implement the Health First Indiana core services. This was done in preparation for the Health First Indiana initiative to be implemented at the start of 2024. Many of the core services will be nursing department focused, so we participated in various trainings, webinars, and meetings to understand what will be expected of the nursing division. We continue striving to be a resource for our community and to meet the needs of our residents.

Blood Lead Levels

The Brown County Health Department completes investigations and follow-ups for children who have elevated levels of lead. The Health Department provides lead testing at no charge. Blood samples are collected and sent to the Indiana Department of Health Lab for testing. The nurses call the parents or guardians with children whose blood lead level is considered border line to educate them on lead dangers, the importance of good nutrition, and having clean home environments and will schedule follow-up testing when needed. An initial blood lead level of 3.5 mCg/dL triggers the need for the nurse to initiate follow-up with the patient's medical provider and the parents or guardians. A confirmatory test is needed when initial blood lead levels are at 3.5 mCg/dL or above. A confirmatory test that is equal to 5.0 mCg/dL or greater initiates a case investigation into the cause of the elevated blood lead levels. During 2023, 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 frequently meet. 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 members,

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 10 times in 2023 and saw 60 patients. In August, the nurses and Corey Frost participated in a training through IDOH to learn how to perform rapid HIV and Hepatitis C testing. We will be able to implement this testing service into the services provided at the Health Department. At the end of 2023, we were still working out the logistics of being a testing site and acquiring accounts for all the online platforms needed to report testing results and order testing supplies through IDOH.

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

Blood Pressure/Pulse=85

Diabetes Screenings=65

Urine Checks=1

Cholesterol Screenings=5

Weight= 85

Hemoglobin=65

Maternal Health

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 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. Expecting mothers can also be referred to other community programs such as Nurse Family Partnership and Healthy Families. Women with a negative pregnancy test are offered condoms and referred to agencies for STD testing, family planning, and preconception education. In 2023, 0 pregnancy tests were 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 or CHIP, are underinsured, or are Alaskan Native or American Indian 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 program is 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 can bill their insurance through VaxCare. We also participated in a CDC promoted program through the Indiana Department of Health called IQIP (Immunization Quality Improvement Program) to develop ways to improve our immunization rates and have children and adolescents vaccinated on time. This is a multi-year project, and we will continue to meet with IDOH to check in on our progress. 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 get many students up to date with their vaccinations required for school. On these two days of 2023, we saw 32 students and administered 55 vaccinations. We also had two extended work hour opportunities during the summer months where parents or guardians could bring their children in for vaccinations until 6pm to overcome the possible barrier of our normal hours of operation. In 2023, we vaccinated a total of 677 patients and administered a total of 998 vaccines, including COVID-19 vaccines.

Tuberculosis

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, the patient's provider, and Purdue Pharmacy. During 2023, 148 tuberculosis skin tests were performed. There were less than 5 cases of active tuberculosis and latent TB.

Communicable Diseases

The nurses are responsible for conducting 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 2023, less than 50 investigations were conducted. For 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 treatments centers are provided along with the Naloxone. Fentanyl test strips are also provided to individuals picking up Naloxone. The nursing staff also participated in the Overdose Awareness Day in the community in August. At the event, the nurses provided Naloxone administration training to those in attendance. In 2023, 546 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 can come to the Health Department to take a sharps container home with them. Once the container is full, the resident can 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 2023, the Health Department gave out 124 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. The nursing staff can hold in person classes and complete skills checkoffs for those completing the class portion online. In total, 18 people were certified by the Brown County Health Department nurses in 2023.



Nursing Supervisor, Seleah Settle, instructing a
CPR class

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.