



Annual Snapshot 2019

A Message from the Interim Health Officer:

March 27, 2020

Dear Residents of St. Joseph County,

I am pleased to present this Annual Report of the St. Joseph County Department of Health for the calendar year 2019.

As I reflect on the year, two important themes stand out to me: Stability and (paradoxically) Transition. For the 2019 budget, the County authorized the Department to provide across-the-board raises, to bring our salaries more in line with our Health Department counterparts around the state. These salary increases have not only boosted employee morale (these were the first raises in the Department since 2014), but they also dramatically decreased staff turn-over. This stability in our public health workforce increased our activity across each of our units, translating to more immunizations administered, more restaurant inspections completed, more lead testing and lead inspections performed. All of these functions (and more) reflect our commitment to promote and preserve the health of our community.

In the midst of this activity, the Department and the Board of Health were preparing for transition. With the retirement of Dr. Luis Galup as the Health Officer, the Board of Health was focused on identifying the County's next Health Officer. In addition, Dr. Dale Deardorff stepped down after a long and distinguished tenure as President of the Board of Health (and two different stints as Interim Health Officer!). With Dr. Heidi Beidinger-Burnett's election as President of the Board of Health, and Dr. Robert M. Einterz's appointment as the new Health Officer (effective February 18, 2020), the leadership transitions will be complete, with the promise of energetic and visionary leadership for the Department of Health as we enter the 20's.

It has been my privilege to serve as the Interim Health Officer during the last quarter of the year. We are indeed fortunate to have a dedicated team of public health professionals who bring their passion and expertise to their work protecting the health of all residents of St. Joseph County.

Respectfully,

Our Organization



OUR VISION

Healthy People in a
Healthy St. Joseph County

OUR MISSION

To promote physical and mental health and facilitate the prevention of disease, injury, and disability for all St. Joseph County residents



Board of Health

The Board of Health sets policy and oversees the Department of Health. It is composed of community members appointed by the mayors of South Bend, Mishawaka, and the County Commissioners.

Back (L-R) - Ilana Kirsch, MD, Jason Marker, MD, John Linn, Michelle Migliore, MD, Attorney J. David Keckley

Front (L-R) - Emily Dean, Heidi Beidinger-Burnett, PhD, MPH, Amy Murray, MSN, RNC

Administration

Interim Health Officer—Mark D. Fox, MD, PhD, MPH
Executive Administrative Assistant—Jennifer S. Parcell
Finance Manager—Amy Ruppe



Interim Health Officer

Mark D. Fox, MD, PhD, MPH

The Health Officer is the chief executive of the department of health. Dr. Fox was appointed deputy health officer in 2018 and served as interim health officer in 2019. His priority areas are lead, infant mortality, immunizations, and health promotion.

Our Organization: Units and Staff



Environmental Health

Director—Mark Espich
 Assistant Director—Brett Davis
 Administrative Assistant—Jessica Dilling
 Staff Assistant—LaTeasha Wright
 Environmental Health Specialists—
 Briannah McCall
 Cassy White
 David Ekkens
 Jeff Murawski
 John Engstrom
 Josiah Hartman
 Kara Dishman
 Patrick Sovinski

Nursing

Director—Christine Hinz
 Assistant Director—Nancy Pemberton
 Assistant Director—Neiko Rust
 Registrars— Connie Wawrzyniak;
 Danielle Sims; Donna-Donlin Sriver;
 Paula Sulentic
 Billings Clerk—Carol Frazee
 Immunization Nurses—
 Aaron Fox; Abigail Maxwell; Carla Dawson
 Public Health Nurses—
 Danielle Laskowski; Jan Boyk;
 Lauren Gunderson; Lori Montgomery;
 Summer Murdock

Health Outreach Promotion & Education

Director—Robin Vida
 Health Educators—
 Kristen Sachman
 Sarah Zepeda
 FIMR Coordinator—Sally Dixon



Food Services

Director—Carolyn Smith
 Assistant Director—Karen Flanigan
 Administrative Assistant—Pamela Thompson
 Staff Assistant—Sharyl Smith
 Food Service Specialists—
 Audrey Funk
 Jacob Parcell
 Lynette Wesby
 Melissa Papp
 Susan Burnett

Vital Records

Director—Ericka Tijerina
 Assistant Director—Denise Kingsberry
 Registrars—
 Katie Mesaros
 Kimyon Woods— Holt

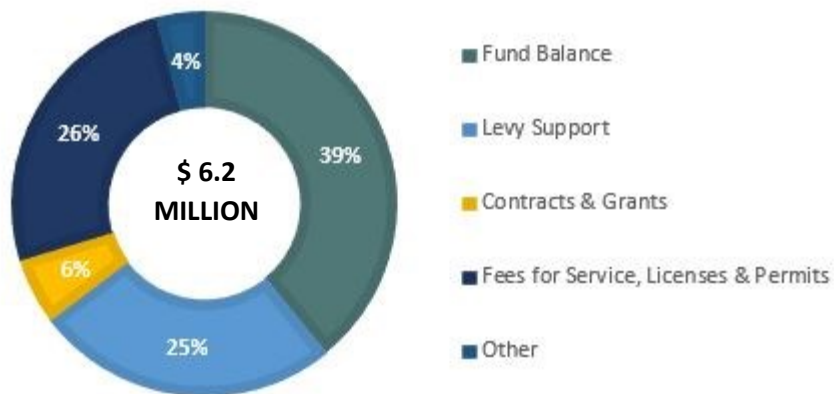
Epidemiology & Emergency Preparedness

Epidemiologist—Elizabeth McCue
 Public Health Coordinator—Paul Burrows

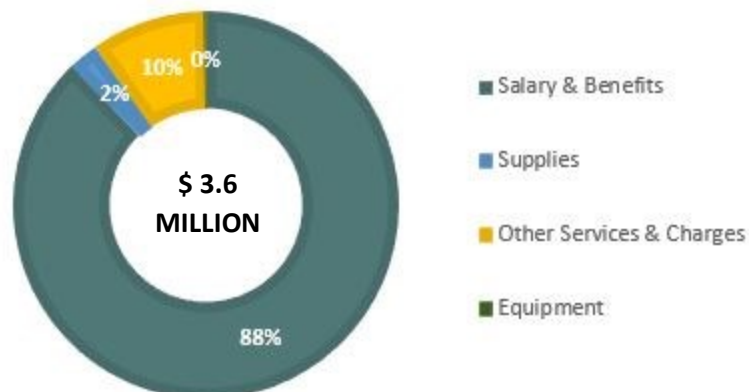
Financials



REVENUE BUDGET



EXPENDITURE BUDGET



Epidemiology & Emergency Preparedness Unit



OVERDOSE SURVEILLANCE AND RESPONSE

After receiving a grant from the Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH), the Epidemiology and Emergency Preparedness Unit collaborated with the Health Outreach, Promotion and Education (HOPE) Unit and various stakeholders to survey and respond to the opioid epidemic. The epidemiologist was trained in syndromic surveillance and started monitoring emergency room data for suspected overdoses in St. Joseph County. A plan for a community response to a mass overdose event was written and exercised as a part of this initiative. Recommendations for a mobile opioid response unit have been made in response to lessons learned from the overdose response project. An Overdose Fatality Review Team was also formed in 2019.

MASS PROPHYLAXIS PREPAREDNESS

In the event a biological threat, it may be warranted that the entire St. Joseph County population receive medication or a vaccination. The Emergency Preparedness function of this Unit would coordinate this response. In 2019, Department of Health staff were trained on how to operate a Point-of-Dispensing (POD) in the event of a bioterrorism or pandemic event. Additionally, partnerships were established and strengthened with multiple community agencies who would assist in such response and help to ensure essential services were still available to St. Joseph County residents during a public health emergency.

OVERDOSE DEATHS

2017	60
2018	57
2019	37

Overdose deaths in St. Joseph County decreased by 35% from 2018 to 2019, yet suspected overdoses being treated in emergency departments remained steady. This indicates naloxone distribution is saving lives, but continued prevention efforts are still needed to address the opioid epidemic.



Environmental Health Unit



LEAD POISONING PREVENTION

In 2019, we conducted 92 Lead Risk Assessments, representing a 163% increase over the previous year. In addition to state-mandated risk assessments for affected children, 2/3 of our risk assessments were in response to parental requests, reflected a heightened awareness of lead risk in our community. Much of the growth can be attributed to the **Lead Free by 3** initiative. This initiative has increased awareness through education and testing events in collaboration with community partners. Upgraded equipment for lead risk assessment has enabled us to work through a longstanding backlog of parental requests. In addition, our environmental health specialists participated in 28 public information events. We play a key role in identifying the lead hazards and providing guidance for families to minimize exposure and remediate lead hazards. Prominent sources of lead exposure in St. Joseph County include deteriorating lead-based paint, contaminated soil, and lead dust in older homes and buildings.

ON-SITE SEWAGE (SEPTIC) SYSTEMS

The approval, installation, and maintenance of septic systems in St. Joseph County are very important, given the high density of residential septic systems, limited extent of municipal sewers, and the highly permeable soils. The number of new residences on septic systems in the county continues to grow, and existing septic systems are beginning to age out and fail. Calendar year 2019 saw the largest number of septic system permit applications in over a decade, as well as the highest volume of septic inspections/consultations since 2001.

VECTOR CONTROL

In conjunction with the Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH), 934 mosquitoes were tested for West Nile Virus (WNV), St. Louis Encephalitis, and Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE). Based on that testing, mosquito-borne WNV was again identified in St. Joseph County. In response to the EEE outbreak in our area, we set 29 CDC Light Traps in the months of September and October in . Additionally, we sprayed over 11 miles of the county with an ultra low volume spray targeting adult mosquitoes. This was the first year since 2006 that we took this level of action, and we anticipate building our vector control program.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

- Well Permits Issued: 370
- Septic Permits Issued 501
- Septic Inspections / Consultations: 1,170
- Wellhead Protection Area Inspections: 177
- Routine Massage Establishment Inspections: 65
- Routine Tattoo / Body Piercing Establishments Inspections: 23
- Complaint Responses Regarding Housing: 316
 - Pests
 - Cleanliness
 - Water shutoff
 - Waste disposal
- Property Transfer Applications Processed: 4,801

Food Services Unit



FOOD SERVICES UNIT

As an authorized representative of the Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH), the food services unit of the St. Joseph County Department of Health is responsible for helping to prevent food from being a source of foodborne illness, by ensuring that local food establishments comply with state laws, federal regulations and county ordinances. Inspections help promote safe food handling and protect St. Joseph County residents from consuming food that may be unsafe, adulterated or prepared in an unclean environment.

RETAIL FOOD INSPECTIONS

The total number of routine inspections of retail food establishments performed by food safety inspection staff increased 24% in 2019, compared to the previous year. Routine inspections totaled 2,620, with an additional 748 temporary event inspections conducted. In addition, 149 pool inspections were completed for both annual and seasonal pools.

INDIANA ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION

The Indiana Environmental Health Association (IEHA) 69th Annual Fall Educational Conference, held September 23rd thru the 25th in South Bend, provided the rare opportunity for all Food Division staff to attend some or all general information and food safety specific educational sessions. The theme of the 2-1/2 day conference was *Sharpening the Edges: The Power Of One*. Inspectors described the conference sessions as, “*extremely enlightening,*” “*very informative,*” “*worth attending,*” “*very valuable,*” and “*key knowledge to their food safety inspection officer roles.*” Overall, the conference provided a quality training opportunity rarely possible for the entire St. Joseph County Department of Health food safety inspection staff.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

- Food Service Complaints: 192
- Food Store Complaints: 18
- Certificates for Perfect Inspections: 541
- Abatement Correspondence: 51
- Health Officer Hearings: 1
- Number of Opening Inspections: 170
- Retail Inspections Completed: 2620
- Establishments ordered to Cease Operations: 3
- Temporary Events: 262
- Temporary Inspections: 748
- Possible Food Borne illness Investigations: 6
- Smoking Complaints: 0
- Fire Investigations: 10
- Pool inspections: 149
- Pool Consultations: 16
- Pool Complaints: 2
- Pools Closed: 43
- Staff Development: 209.5 Hours

Health Outreach, Promotion and Education



OPIOID USE DISORDER

The HOPE unit received funding from Indiana State Department of Health to develop and implement our first ever Overdose Response Plan Project. Monies went to support primary prevention efforts provided through the 525 Foundation including a permeant pill drop box and media campaign. The team also developed a community wide plan to address a mass overdose event.

FOOD INSECURITY

The St. Joseph County Food Access Council, coordinated by the HOPE team, hosted its first Food Pantry Summit which focused on identifying issues and barriers for our local food pantries in addressing their guests needs. A second summit was held to address those identified barriers.

CHILDHOOD LEAD POISONING PREVENTION

This year was the first year the St. Joseph County Department of Health partnered with the City of South Bend to offer free lead screenings to children 5 and younger at several area schools. Through the 5 events, over 60 children were screened for lead. As a top priority for the Department of Health, the HOPE team worked diligently with the nursing team and environmental health team to have robust outreach during National Lead Prevention Awareness week hosting 5 events and providing education and information to over 13,000 people.

FETAL INFANT MORTALITY REVIEW

In August the Fetal Infant Mortality Review program hosted a “One Key Question” training for local healthcare providers and clinics. One Key Question (OKQ) is an evidence-based pregnancy intention screening that St. Joseph County is using to help address our infant mortality rate. With 6 clinics attending, we had 3 clinics sign on to implement in 2020.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

- 75 community events reaching over 29,000 St. Joseph County Residents
- Over 500 community presentations
- 800 doses of naloxone distributed to community partners and members with over 15 trainings offered
- Annual ROC UR Body Family Fest served over 15,000 people participate

Nursing Unit



IMMUNIZATIONS

A competitive immunization grant was awarded to the St. Joseph County Department of Health nursing unit. Funds from this grant were used in various ways to increase immunization rates and promote services offered at the Department of Health. At our mobile clinic or our South Bend location we can provide education, lead draws, tuberculin skin testing and vaccinations. Our immunization nurses consult one-on-one with our travel patients to provide specific recommendations. Our nurses and Assistant Directors of Nursing provided education at BABE and St. Margaret's House.

TUBERCULOSIS (TB)

Beginning in 2019, TB Nurses switched over to a new software system with the Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) called NEDSS Base System (NBS). The number of active TB cases under management were less than half of what we had in 2018. We included the number of directly observed therapies (DOT) and nurse visits in the monthly report.

PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING

Our Public Health Nurses (PHNs) investigated more than 650 communicable diseases, with Hepatitis C being our top reportable disease, followed by Lyme Disease. In addition, the PHNs managed 743 animal bite reports for the year.

The PHNs also oversee our case management and monitoring efforts in response to childhood lead poisoning. In 2019, we received data on 5,274 blood lead tests, representing a 16% increase over 2018. Our PHNs are also actively engaged in community outreach and education, providing education and lead testing events at the Center for the Homeless and La Casa de Amistad, as well as participating in a variety of lead outreach events across the county during Lead Poisoning Prevention Week.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

- Mobile Clinics Conducted: 36
- Immunizations Provided: 6,530
- Number of Individuals Immunized: 2,491
- Active TB Case Management: 8
- DOT Visits by TB Nurses: 1,849
- Nurse Visits by TB Nurses: 249
- Cases Monitored for 5-9.9mcg/dL: 198

Vital Records Unit



BACKGROUND

St. Joseph County Vital Records is responsible for securing, maintaining, and issuing birth and death records in an effective and efficient manner for individuals who were born or died in St. Joseph County, IN. Records begin for our county in 1882; however, it did not become Indiana state law to record birth records until 1907, death records in 1900. In addition to birth and death records, St. Joseph Vital Records offers the opportunity to establish paternity and amend birth certificates. Both duties have increased over the past few years due to the Real ID Act of 2005.

REAL ID ACT OF 2005

The Real ID Act of 2005 has implemented the final stage of legislation and goes into effect October 1, 2020. These new mandates have increased the need for a birth certificate and have also presented a growing need for amendments made on birth certificates. With the reopening of our Mishawaka office in January 2020, Vital Records has secured the staff to fulfil the growing demand for vital records in St. Joseph County.

CONTACT US

The Vital Records office encourages our community to contact our department with any questions concerning birth, death, paternity, genealogy, and amendments. Vital Records will continue to network with community partners in a collaborated effort for securing the most current vital records documents and current statistical figures. Se habla español .

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

- Total Births: 4,231
- Total Deaths: 2,983
- Birth Records Issued: 17,045
- Death Records Issued: 17,275
- Correction/Amendments: 78
- Correction/Amend Copy: 6
- Paternities: 66
- Paternity Copy: 98

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Work Activities	2017	2018	2019
Septic Program			
Inspections Performed	989	1057	1132
Consultations Performed	16	42	38
Subdivision Program			
Health Officer Reports	28	33	32
Subdivision Reviews	39	39	40
Rezoning & Replat Reviews	15	15	11
Wellhead Program			
Inspections Performed	136	193	177
Well Drilling Program			
On-Site Inspections Performed	172	148	188
Well Abandonments	191	179	210
Source Water Program			
Phase I Inquiries	124	124	158
Spill Responses	3	0	2
Meth Lab Occurrence Response	10	2	1
Other Source Water Inspections	89	37	36
Surface Water Program			
Surface Water Sampling	1	0	0
Lead Program			
HUD Lead Inspections	0	0	3
Lead Risk Assessments	41	35	92
Public Information Events	3	36	28
Children Tested for Lead Poisoning	1792	4241	5317
CAFO Program			
Inspections Performed	0	0	0
Air Quality Program			
Indoor Air Quality Investigations	0	0	0
Mold Investigations	1	0	1
Vector Program			
Larvicide Swimming Pools/Stagnant Water	24	29	18
Healthy Homes Program			
Total Complaints	63	93	139
Dwellings Declared Unfit	5	10	21
Massage Program			
Establishment Inspections Performed	67	59	65
Tattoo/Body Piercing Program			
Inspections Performed	17	23	23

Complaints / Investigations			
Trash	45	47	68
Sewage	70	110	82
Water (ditches, lakes, ponds & swells)	18	4	7
Motels/Hotels	3	7	3
Burning	2	9	11
Other	38	63	82
Abatement Correspondence			
Abatement Letters Sent	288	154	151
Immediate Threat to Public Health Letters Sent	0	12	3
Impending Legal Action Letters Sent	41	42	10

Finance

Overview of Revenue and Expenditures

	2017	2018	2019
County Health Fund Revenue	\$3,806,017.52	\$4,339,816.73	\$5,196,347.46
County-Wide Lead Initiative Revenue	\$0.00	\$226,516.00	\$394,475.20
Grant Revenue	<u>\$571,630.42</u>	<u>\$513,380.17</u>	<u>\$646,507.33</u>
TOTAL REVENUE	\$4,377,647.94	\$5,079,712.90	\$6,237,329.99
County Health Fund Expenditures	\$2,374,311.63	\$2,356,095.21	\$3,197,108.61
County-Wide Lead Initiative Expenditures	\$0.00	\$32,540.80	\$6,663.10
Grant Expenditures	<u>\$322,486.54</u>	<u>\$250,489.60</u>	<u>\$417,348.05</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$2,696,798.17	\$2,639,125.61	\$3,621,119.76

NOTE: All revenue now includes the fund balance from December 31st of the prior year.

Food Services

As the local regulatory authority, the St. Joseph County Department of Health's (SJCDoH) Food Services acts as a representative of Indiana State Department of Health's (ISDH) division of Food Protection. Food Services is sanctioned by law to ensure that food establishments, in St Joseph County, operate in compliance with state laws, federal regulations and the county ordinances.

Food Division	2017	2018	2019
Complaints - Food Service	186	197	192
Complaints - Food Store	15	18	18
Certificates of Perfect Inspection	418	375	541
Abatement Correspondence	30	44	51
Health Officer Hearings	5	2	1
Number of Opening Inspections	199	181	170
Retail Inspections Completed	2111	2112	2620
Establishments Ordered to Cease Operations	5	7	3
Temporary Events *	259	274	262
Temporary Inspections	638	682	748
Possible Food Borne Illness Investigations	5	7	6
Smoking Complaints	0	0	0
Fire Investigations	9	16	10
Pool Information			
Number of Inspections	117	170	149
Consultations	2	12	16
Pool Complaints	5	4	2
Closings**	29	52	43
Staff Development			
Meetings and Trainings (Total in Hours)	138.75	199.25	209.5

Health Outreach, Promotion & Education (HOPE)

Health Outreach, Promotion & Education (HOPE) promotes the health of St. Joseph County residents through primary prevention efforts. These include a variety of presentations, programs, events, and coalition activities.

Presentations and Event Numbers:

TOPIC	2017		2018		2019	
	School (K-College)	Adults	School (K-College)	Adults	School (PreK-College)	Adults
Wellness	44 1	9 0	77 5	124	356	57
Substance Abuse Prevention	0	4	26	15	0	8
Communicable Disease	5	1 1	2	11	2	11
Reproductive Health	30	7	63	2	74	0
Chronic Disease	0	2	0	7	0	2

TOTAL presentations (participants)	590 (10,070)	987 (20,478)	510 (10,167)
---	---------------------	---------------------	---------------------

Total Number of Events

(i.e. Health Fairs, Community Events, etc.)

	2017	2018	2019
	33	37	75
# of Participants	5,800	19,587	29,001

Nursing

Nursing includes the Public Health Nursing Division, Lead Case management and monitoring, the Immunization Clinics, including the Mobile Clinic, Tuberculosis case management, and Medical Records. The Nursing Division is committed to community and public health nursing. They are advocates for providing access to care to the citizens of St. Joseph County. Subject matter utilization and collaboration is offered to citizens and community partners through the various nursing programs. Nursing staff function in multiple roles within the Health Depart-

Immunizations			
	2017	2018	2019
Td Adult, Preservative Free	22	31	60
Tdap	345	430	637
Dtap	119	112	139
DTaP/HepB/IPV	160	121	191
Dtap/IPV	65	81	87
IPV	130	144	195
PCV13	205	167	235
PPSV23	2	3	5
MMR	127	155	240
Varicella	148	165	219
MMRV	166	157	192
Hib	187	157	209
Pediatric Hepatitis A	429	436	582
Pediatric Hepatitis B	73	59	101
Adult Hepatitis A	39	160	529
Adult Hepatitis B	31	45	75
Adult Hepatitis A and B	30	45	48
Pediatric Influenza	229	321	500
Flu Mist	0	0	0
Adult Influenza	173	270	446
Meningitis (MCV4)	415	428	302
Men B	194	199	333
HPV9	297	321	594
Rotavirus Monovalent	59	53	82
Typhoid, Oral	33	59	123
Typhoid, VICPS	64	85	70
Yellow Fever	41	0	0
Zoster recombinant	0	0	*13
Total Clinic Visits	1,626	1,805	2,491
Immunizations Administered	3,783	4,204	6,530

*First year to offer Zoster vaccine

Tuberculosis			
	2017	2018	2019
TST Placed	489	486	448
TST Positive	11	13	17
Suspect Cases	180	162	181
Active Cases	<5	18	7