



STARK COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

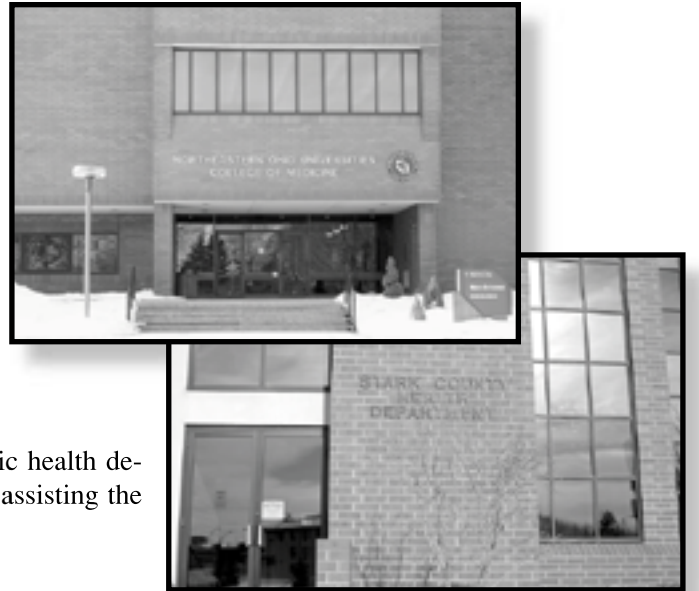
2004 Annual Report

Health Department Now Recognized as an Academic Health Department

The Stark County Health Department and the Northeastern Ohio Universities College of Medicine (NEOUCOM) have officially joined forces for the purpose of providing community health education for medical students. After a lengthy application and review process, the Board of Trustees of NEOUCOM officially recognized the Stark County Health Department as an academic partner in March of 2004.

The staff of the health department has been involved with the medical school for almost ten years in an academic capacity. The staff has taught and provided field experience for NEOUCOM's students in public health and other aspects of community medicine. In addition, the health department serves many other area colleges and universities by precepting students in nursing, dietetics, social work, environmental health, dental hygiene, and health education.

The Stark County Health Department is only the second health district to receive academic health department status from the medical school. The health department has stayed committed to assisting the educational institutions in their preparation of health professionals and practitioners.



House Bill 231 (Sewage Bill)

In 2004 the Ohio Legislature passed HB 231. This bill is designed to bring about much-needed updates to sewage rules promulgated in 1974. Some of the changes were previously implemented by county-adopted regulations, such as requirements for: site evaluations, installation inspections, land application, registration of installers and septage haulers and strict requirements for discharging septic systems. Stark County has been effectively carrying-out these practices for a number of years. Other than staff training, these changes will have a relatively minor impact on the Environmental Division. Another change will also only require minor adjustments. Authority over "small flow on-site sewage treatment systems", which are commercial systems treating less than 1000 gallons of wastewater per day, will be granted to the health department. The authority for these systems currently falls under the purview of the OEPA.

Among the more substantial changes that will affect the personnel needs of the department, as well as possible fee adjustments are: follow-up "final" inspections and lot split reviews. The new law requires that a sewage treatment system be inspected not later than 18 months after its installation, to ensure that the system is operating properly. This will double the number of "final" inspections at a property. Secondly, whenever a parcel is split, the health department must ensure that the tracts meet the sewage code, prior to approval by the Regional Planning Commission (RPC). Currently, we review all subdivisions, (creation of 3 or more tracts). However, land splits by an individual owner are far more common. Only a portion of these are currently being reviewed. The RPC estimates that they reviewed approximately 800 land splits/subdivisions in 2004.

Public Health Council has one year to adopt rules under this law, at which time many of the above changes will go into effect.

Pertussis comeback prompts health officials to consider **VACCINE BOOSTER**

Pertussis, commonly referred to as, "Whooping Cough," is a respiratory disease characterized by the distinctive sound that people with the disease make before coughing. Prior to the 1940's in the United States (US), Pertussis was a very common cause of both disease and death in children. In the mid-1940's, a pertussis vaccine was made available to the public and the number of reported cases dropped along with the total number of deaths attributed to the disease. The decline in both cases and deaths continued into the 1970's, but slowly began rising. Today, Pertussis remains a significant Public Health threat despite continued use of the vaccine in children.

The disease itself initially resembles that of a common cold and then progresses through three stages. Initially, a person may experience runny nose, low-grade fever, and a mild cough. After this stage, the symptoms progress and an infected person will usually experience repeated, violent coughs with little breathing between each cough. When a person does breathe, a very distinctive high-pitched, "whoop," will be noticed. Vomiting, especially after fits of coughing, is another symptom typically noted during this stage. Other than the outbursts of coughing, the person may appear normal during this stage with little or no fever.

Antibiotics are available for the treatment of pertussis; however, in order for the medicine to be effective in reducing the severity of illness, it must be given during the early stages of disease. It is recommended that all contacts (household and other close companions) be given antibiotics to minimize the spread of disease.

The trend across the US is also being seen here in Stark County. There were 18 cases of Pertussis reported in Stark County during 2004, compared to 4 in 2003. The increase in case numbers today can be attributed to the fact that protection from the 4 or 5 dose vaccine series begins to disappear about 6 years after the last dose is given. Since a large increase has recently been noted in adolescent and teenage children, Public Health officials and vaccine manufacturers are exploring the potential for a pertussis vaccine booster which would extend vaccine coverage throughout adolescence.

A Message from the HEALTH COMMISSIONER



William J. Franks, RS, MPH
Health Commissioner

I am really disappointed in the Cleveland Cavaliers. Not because they are in first place and not because they have LeBron, but because of the entertainment they have chosen to present to us and our families during the time outs at the game. It seems that someone in the Cavaliers front office thinks that it would be entertaining to put on a "fat man dance team" like they have in Dallas. Yes, you have to audition for the team and evidently have to be very obese to make the team. Then you get to perform in front of nearly 20,000 people at every home game.

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has declared that we are in a state of an epidemic of obesity in our country. Two out of every three Americans are overweight and one out of every three meet the definition of obesity. Deaths in the United States from poor diet and inactivity are

close to overtaking deaths from tobacco use as the leading cause of death in our country. Secretary of Health and Human Services, Tommy Thompson, said that "We need to tackle America's weight issues as aggressively as we are addressing smoking and tobacco." The Secretary said that "Americans need to understand that overweight and obesity are literally killing us".

The men trying out for this dance team are not seasoned beer drinkers, whose long lives of poor nutrition has finally caught up with them. No, these are young men who should be in their prime and who should be worried about their own longevity. What will be next? We all know that we have a problem with childhood obesity. The same risk factors of poor nutrition and lack of physical activity is contributing to it. We don't need to give kids heroes in the form of a fat man dance team.

You can do something about childhood obesity. You can become involved. Stark County has initiated a Nutrition Council in the past year. Let's see that council grow and let's see it make a difference. You can find out more about the council from the Stark County Health Department website at www.starkhealth.org and click on the apple. As for the Cleveland Cavaliers, I will not go.

Division Directors



Emily S. Caniford,
RN, MSN
Director of Support Serv.



Robert L. Somrak,
RS, MPA
Director of
Environmental Health



Lynn M. McCoy,
RN, MS
Director of Public Health
Nursing and Primary Care
and Assurance

New Lead Regulations

New regulations, requiring Ohio physicians to test at-risk children for lead poisoning, went into effect in April 2004. Lead poisoning harms the nervous system, the circulatory system, kidneys, bone tissue, and reproductive system. In children, it can cause additional problems such as: decreased intelligence; hyperactivity; poor posture; poor coordination; and hearing, speech, and language problems.

Lead poisoning usually has no apparent symptoms, until it has already become severe, and much irreversible damage has already been done. Since there are often no observable symptoms, it is important for children at risk for lead poisoning to be tested.

The regulations require testing of any child who meets one or more of the following criteria:

- Is Medicaid eligible
- Lives in a high risk zip code
- Lives in, or regularly visits a residence, day care, or school built before 1950
- Lives in, or regularly visits a residence built before 1978, that has chipping, peeling, or chalking paint
- Lives in, or regularly visits a residence built before 1978, with recent, ongoing or planned renovation
- Has a sibling or playmate that has lead poisoning; or
- Frequently comes in contact with an adult who has a lead related hobby or occupation.

The regulation also provides very strict protocols for public health lead investigations, designed to locate the sources of a child's lead poisoning. If a residence, day care facility, or school is found to be a source of the child's poisoning, the property owner is now required to abate or control the lead hazards, and the property must pass a meticulous clearance examination.

Stark County Renews Rabies Surveillance

The State of Ohio saw a dramatic increase in the number of rabies positive raccoons this year over previous years. A total of 45 rabid raccoons were found in Geauga, Lake, and Cuyahoga Counties since July 20, 2004, as compared to just four raccoons statewide during the previous four years combined. This location of the raccoons in the State was quite alarming since the positive animals were found west of an immunity barrier that ODH had established through its oral rabies vaccine program. To determine the extent that raccoon strain rabies had entered the State, the Ohio Department of Health renewed its surveillance contract with our department in September. The Stark County Health Department has submitted 45 surveillance raccoons to ODH and USDA since September 10, 2004. In addition, this office submitted ten raccoons due to exposure, along with eleven bats, nine cats, nine dogs, a fox, rabbit and an opossum for the year. All of the specimens submitted from Stark County this year have tested negative for rabies. The surveillance grant runs through June 30, 2005 and our Department will continue to test animals to determine if raccoon strain rabies has entered Stark County.

Stark County Youth Advocates

Ohio's youth activist anti-tobacco campaign, *stand*, is geared to change the cultural acceptance of tobacco use, especially among youth. Groups of *stand* youth throughout the state have been advocating for tobacco free environments such as schools and restaurants. The Stark County Health Department, through the Tobacco Coalition, facilitates a local *stand* advisory board of 25 students from 12 high schools.

These teens have been at work at their schools and in the community advocating for clean indoor air. The youth targeted bowling alleys with educational messages hoping to encourage owners to adopt smoke free policies. They have also been working within their schools recruiting members for school teams and conducting educational awareness about the hazards of tobacco use. While raising money through sponsors, one school team collected cigarette trash – 2 garbage bags full – and sent it back to the tobacco companies. The donated money went to the American Lung Association.

This past year, local youth have also spoke out to legislatures and school boards. Some have been working with the Stark County Tobacco Prevention Coalition recording radio and TV commercials regarding the importance of clean indoor air and the dangers of chewing tobacco.

In 2005, the presence of *stand* will be even more obvious as new orange bracelets become popular among youth and adults. Imprinted with "53K", the bracelets represent the 53,000 non-smokers who die from second hand smoke exposure each year. As the movement continues, more school campuses will be asked to adopt 100% tobacco free policies and more localities will be asked to adopt clean indoor air ordinances. Through the *stand* campaign, the number of youth who try tobacco and become addicted every day will be reduced.



2004

	Stark Co.	Canton	Massillon	Alliance	Total
Cancer	349	263	79	59	750
Cardiovascular	332	642	145	24	1143
Cerebrovascular Disease	185	120	23	17	345
Pulmonary	182	147	55	46	430
Renal Disorder	74		16	16	106
Infectious	38		20	9	67
Metabolic	30	84	9	7	130
Suicide	14			3	17
Trauma	26	17			43
All Other Causes	36	447	42	45	570
TOTAL	<u>1,266</u>	<u>1,932</u>	<u>389</u>	<u>326</u>	<u>3,913</u>

Leading Cause of Death

Reported by Health District



Beechwood Area Soon to be Sewered

On January 8, 2003, the Stark County Board of Health declared an area of Washington Township near the intersection of Easton Street and Beechwood Avenue a Public Health Hazard. This was based on the severity of sewage contamination in the streams and waterways of the area. Many of the 95 homes (approximately) have outdated septic systems which discharge raw sewage to the neighborhood's roadside ditches. Fecal Coliform samples collected in June and July of 2002 showed average counts of 10,630 Fecal Coliforms/100mL and 44,580

Fecal Coliforms/100mL, respectively. The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) recognizes 5,000 Fecal Coliforms/100mL as a standard which requires action, (as well as odor and visual indicators).

This information was submitted to the OEPA, requesting that action be taken to initiate the installation of sanitary sewers into the affected area. In March 2004, a letter was sent from the director of the OEPA to the Stark County Commissioners, ordering sewers into the area. In July, the Commissioners entered into an agreement with the OEPA, with the following time line: sewer designed by May 2005; construction initiated by April 2006; and sewer ready for connection by early 2007. This area of Washington Township is just south of the city limits of Alliance, and existing sewers are nearby; however, agreements between the county and the city must be worked out.

Director of Environmental Health Retires

Robert Somrak, Director of Environmental Health for the past 13 years, has officially retired December 31, 2004, having served public health in Ohio for the past 30 years. Bob began his career as a sanitarian with the Cuyahoga County Health Department where he moved up through the ranks to a supervisor over the sewage program. He came to the Stark County Health Department in 1991 as a successor to Joe Dopler as environmental health director.

As environmental health director Bob was instrumental in the development of the environmental lead assessment program; the Grade A Food Service program; the program regulating land application of septage; the technical development of the home sewage, solid waste, and construction and demolition disposal regulations; and numerous other technical and computerized programs. Bob will be known as the "technology" director. He has assembled a highly qualified staff of scientists and technologists to apply the latest science to the public health programs under him.

Bob received both his bachelors in environmental health and his masters in public administration from Cleveland State University. He makes his home in Seven Hills with his wife, Nancy. They have six children. Under Bob Somrak many of the environmental programs at the Stark County Health Department are held as model programs throughout the State. Stark County has been fortunate to have had Robert Somrak as the Director of Environmental Health for the past 13 years.

Women's Health Clinic

According to the American Cancer Society every three minutes a woman is diagnosed with breast cancer and every year approximately 12,000 women die from cervical cancer. When diagnosed early the survival rate for these women increases greatly. The best defense against these diseases is prevention. Understanding the needs of the community in the uninsured and under insured women, the Stark County Health Department opened a women's health clinic on March 19, 2004 with grant funding awarded by the Ohio Department of Health. The clinic is open every Thursday from 8:30 am until 4:30 pm by appointment. The clinic offers services to all women over the age of fourteen. The services offered vary to the needs of each woman and her stage of life. Education is very important and each woman is taught self breast exam and other self care information to improve her health. The clinic is equipped to do Pap tests, sexually transmitted diseases testing, and counseling on family planning techniques. Some birth control measures are available at the time of visit. Women have the choice of being seen by a physician or a nurse practitioner as well as services offered by a social worker. The clinic is hoping to expand its hours to another full day a week within the next 6 months.

In 2004, the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children - better known as WIC, in Stark County was chosen as an expansion county for the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) WIC Farmer's Market Program. It allowed 917 of our Stark County WIC families to receive fresh fruits, vegetables, and herbs in addition to their regular WIC benefits. Each family was eligible to receive one booklet of coupons, totaling \$18.00, if they had a child 12 months of age or older, were pregnant, or WIC eligible as a postpartum mother.

The Stark County Health Department facilitated the logistics and implementation of the program. Collaboration with a local fast food chain was used to promote healthier eating and incorporation of fruits and vegetables into the diet by offering an incentive program for the Farmer's Market Coupon Redemption. Individuals who took advantage of the total \$18.00 could return to the clinic to receive a coupon for a free salad (\$4.00 value) from this local fast food chain which re-emphasized the ability to eat healthy in a fast food setting. This incentive was an attempt at education for health risk reduction and to improve the high standards set by the Ohio Department of Health's Bureau for Nutrition Services for coupon issuance and redemption. Participants also received USDA produced recipe booklets, fruit/vegetable selection guides, and coloring books.

The program was a success and all coupon booklets were distributed throughout Stark County. The initial and on-going concern was the reluctance of local farms and farmers to participate. The Canton City Farmer's Market supported our program in a new and dynamic collaboration and was the main avenue of coupon distribution. The next year of program operation should see a smoother start, increased redemption options for clients, and an earlier ability to market the services. The possibility of collaborating efforts for a Senior Farmers Market for Stark County was discussed and partnerships were established for future opportunities.

From the Farm to the Families

2004 Reportable Infectious Disease Summary

DISEASE	2004	2003	DISEASE	2004	2003
Campylobacteriosis	33	39	Listeriosis	2	1
Chlamydia	250	251	Meningitis-Aseptic	27	32
Cryptosporidiosis	9	10	Meningitis-Bacterial	2	7
E. coli-Unspecified subtype	1	0	Mycobacterium Tuberculosis (TB)	4	0
E. coli O157:H7	2	2	Mycobacterium other than TB (MOTT)	9	10
Encephalitis-Post Infectious Other	1	1	Meningococcal Disease	3	1
Encephalitis-LaCrosse	1	1	Pertussis	13	2
Giardiasis	39	41	Salmonellosis	32	33
Gonorrhea	118	109	Streptococcal-Invasive Group A	2	12
Haemophilus Influenza Bacteremia	4	4	Streptococcal-Invasive Group B	2	0
Hepatitis A	1	5	Streptococcal-Invasive Other	2	0
Hepatitis B	25	24	Streptococcal-Invasive Pneumoniae	26	34
Acute	5	3	Streptococcal-Toxic Shock	2	0
Hepatitis C	124	151	Syphilis	11	3
HIV	3	5	Vibriosis	1	0
Kawasaki	2	6	Yersiniosis	4	2
Legionella	3	8			

Stark County Health Facts

Recent health data indicates that...

During a five year period in Stark County (1998-2002), 89.3% of pregnant women received prenatal care in their first trimester compared to the State of Ohio average of 86.7%.

Chlamydia is the most frequently reported infectious disease in the US. The average five year case rate for chlamydia in Stark County is 272 per 100,000 population compared to 296 per 100,000 population in the State of Ohio.

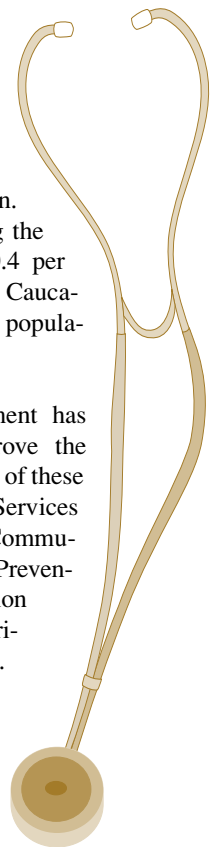
Unintentional injuries fell below the State rates for a six year period (1996-2001) except for falls. The crude rate for Stark County was 8 and the age adjusted rate was 7.05 per 100,000 population for falls compared to the State crude and age adjusted rates of 5.25 per 100,000 population.

According to a recent survey, 26% of the Stark County population smokes cigarettes. An overwhelming majority of those surveyed felt that exposure to environmental tobacco smoke was very harmful or somewhat harmful to children. Fifty six percent (over half) of the respondents indicated that they would support a law to ban smoking in restaurants in Stark County.

Deaths due to diabetes for Stark County residents exceeded the State rate from 1999-2001. The Stark County rate was 41.7 per 100,000 population compared to the State rate of 33 per 100,000 population. This death rate is also higher among the African American population at 60.4 per 100,000 population compared to the Caucasian population at 40.3 per 100,000 population.

The Stark County Health Department has many initiatives designed to improve the health status of the population. Some of these include the Child and Family Health Services Project, Women's Health Initiative, Communicable Disease Program, Tobacco Prevention Project, Infant Mortality Reduction Initiative, SAFE Kids Coalition, Nutrition Coalition, and the WIC Program.

For additional information on health statistics, visit the health department website at www.starkhealth.org.



Financial Statement Fiscal Year-2004

SOURCE OF REVENUE

Contract Fees	251,322
Fees for Services	411,177
Inspection Fees	54,266
Vital Statistics	118,334
Permits	1,200,638
Late Charges	4,099
State Subsidy	70,891
Local Tax Subdivisions	1,136,264
Welcome Home Grant	120,701
Public Health Infrastructure	112,836
CFHS State Grant	379,709
Immunization Grant	46,653
WIC Grant	297,339
Dental Grant	61,259
Infant Mortality Grant	144,931
Bethlehem Project Grant	60,000
TUCPF Grant	270,884
Women's Health Initiative	112,103
Exit C&D Settlement Trust	446,615
Other Receipts	46,470
Reimbursements	33,533

TOTAL SOURCES OF REVENUE 5,380,024

EXPENDITURES

Salaries	2,615,291
Insurance	303,383
Medicare	34,536
Pers	462,404
Workers Compensation	26,862
Supplies	199,484
Utilities	13,919
Contracts & Purchased Services	576,497
Equipment / Vehicle Rental	31,477
Rent	324,234
Equipment	66,541
Other Expenses	159
State Remittances	272,569
Travel	91,074
Refunds	109,242

TOTAL SOURCES OF EXPENDITURES 5,127,672

STARK COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH



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ROW 1: Philip Francis, James Recchio-President, Michael D. Krebs-Vice President, Lori Mertes, M.D.

ROW 2: Nancy Kerstetter, Tammy Luther, Blair Zimmerman, Cary Feller