

Zanesville-Muskingum County Health Department

2003 Annual Report



www.zmchd.org

A Message from the Health Commissioner



On behalf of the Zanesville-Muskingum County Health Department, I extend to the community the appreciation of all of our staff on the community's support of our Health Levy last year. Our community is very important to the Health Department's continued success as an agency. This levy will enable us to continue to protect the health of our community.

The levy will ensure medical and dental health services that are critical for Muskingum County residents. The demand for medical and dental services from our community continues to increase because of the many residents who lack health insurance.

It seem like there is no limit to new infectious diseases and how they affect the Health Department. We continue to address West Nile virus. Fortunately, the rainy spring limited virus activity in 2003, but the threat of West Nile virus is anticipated again this summer.

The threat of terrorism in its many possible forms has moved public health into the national spotlight. We are very fortunate that we have a great team addressing these issues. Health Department staff has formulated a disaster plan document, which will be going to the Board of Health for approval in 2004. This plan will ensure staff trainings on bioterrorism and natural disaster training and activities. We hope we never have to put this plan into action.

We are very pleased the Health Department continues to play an important role in community collaborations such as Family and Children First and PRO-Muskingum.

Most important, we are grateful for your understanding and continuing support.

Robert E. Titko
Health Commissioner
(740) 454-9741

Board of Health

Lee Roach, PhD, President, appointed by the Health District Advisory Council; is President of consulting firm; is a retired psychologist of Zanesville City Schools; and has served on the Board of Health since 1990. **Term expires in 2005.**

Jim Brown, JD, appointed by the City of Zanesville; is an Attorney at Law and Partner with the law firm of Cultice & Brown; and has served on the Board of Health since 1988. **Term expires in 2006.**

Carl Spragg, MD, appointed by the Health District Advisory Council; is retired from private family practice; is a former Health Commissioner for the Zanesville-Muskingum County Health Department; and has served on the Board of Health since 2000. **Term expires in 2007.**

Sis Bowman, appointed by the Health District Licensing Council; is Information Services Director for Muskingum County; is owner of Whitey's Restaurant; is a Guest Columnist for the Zanesville Times Recorder; and has served on the Board of Health since 2002. **Term expires in 2008.**

Mike Lynch, CPA, Vice President, appointed by the Health District Advisory Council; is a Certified Public Accountant for Lynch & Lynch CPA'S; and has served on the Board of Health since 1991. **Term expires in 2009.**

Shelly Temperley, MD, appointed by the City of Zanesville; is an Ophthalmologist for Eye Surgery Associates of Zanesville; and has served on the Board of Health since 1993. **Term expires in 2004.**

Nate Norris, appointed by the City of Zanesville; is Associate Director of Avondale Youth Center; and has served on the Board of Health since 2002. **Term expires in 2008.**

Financial Report 2003

2003 Revenue	
Health Levies	\$1,049,677
Fees	1,118,687
Grants	645,249
Contracts	822,266
State Subsidy	34,238
Carry Over (2002)	614,602
Other Receipts	185,148
Total Revenue	4,469,867

2003 Expenses	
Personnel Salaries	\$2,359,258
Fringe Benefits	715,064
Contract Services	572,982
Travel/Staff Training	61,669
Supplies	135,851
Equipment	50,284
Other Expenses	469,272
Total Expenses	4,369,112

Environmental Health



The first horse case of West Nile virus was diagnosed in Muskingum County in 2003. The horse was from Muskingum Township. The animal had not been vaccinated against West Nile virus prior to becoming ill. Three birds also tested positive for West Nile in Muskingum County.

The Health Department sprayed mosquito problem areas with larvicide and adulticide through September. The department received a total of 327 mosquito complaint calls. Numerous mosquitoes and 28 birds were collected and sent to the Ohio Department of Health Laboratories for testing. It is believed that the cool, wet spring suppressed virus activity.

West Nile virus is spread to humans by the bite of an infected mosquito. Mosquitoes become infected by biting a bird that carries the virus. Statewide, 107 human cases of West Nile Virus were reported to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention including 8 deaths.

The Health Department identified one case of Lyme Disease in July 2003. The patient was a 13-year-old female from Muskingum County. She was bitten by an infected tick outdoors in the county and recovered at home. Lyme Disease is spread by the bite of ticks infected with Lyme disease bacteria. Ticks become infected by feeding on deer, small rodents, and other mammals that are infected with the bacteria.

2003 *Environmental Data*

Food Service Inspections	1,422
Sewage Disposal System Layouts	528
Sewage Disposal System Inspections	514
Plumbing System Inspections	1,327
Sewage Certification Inspections	114
Private Water System Certifications	46
Private Water System Inspections	190
Water Samples	347
Safe/Unsafe	216/131
Plat Inspections	181
School Inspections	75
Campground Inspections	59
Pool Inspections	121
Spa Inspections	40
Mobile Home Park Inspections	67
Refuse Hauler Inspections	25

Septage Hauler Inspections	27
Water Hauler Inspections	8
Nuisance Complaints Reported	76
Nuisance Inspections	267
Animal Bites Reported	188
Animal Bite Investigations	187
Mosquito Calls	327
Number of Licensed Providers:	
Food Service	816
Schools	31
Campgrounds	23
Pools	31
Spas	10
Mobile Home Parks	34
Refuse Haulers	18
Septage Haulers	12
Water Haulers	5

Personal Health



State and federal funding for the Health Department decreased in 2003, while demand for clinic programs increased. The Health Department had not asked for new money since 1988. Budget cuts could have led to a decline in medical services. Clinic services are desperately needed, but generate minimal revenue and

are not part of the core programs the Health Department must provide by law. The Health Department placed a 1-mill levy on the fall ballot to compensate for a decline in funding. The levy passed by 12,545 to 8,945 or 58.28 percent to 41.62 percent. The 1-mill levy will generate \$1.2 million a year for the next 10 years. The department dropped its half-mill levy that expires in 2004. The new levy costs the owner of a \$75,000 house \$23 a year.

Cuts in state funding forced the closure of the HIV/AIDS Prevention Clinic. The Ohio Department of Health denied the Health Department a \$49,000 grant for HIV/AIDS testing, counseling, and education.

The flu season was particularly harsh in December 2003 and the flu vaccine was in short supply. The Health Department saw nearly 12 patients a day with flu symptoms. Flu season typically peaks in January.

For the first time in history, severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), monkeypox, and bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), better known as mad cow disease, came to the United States.

2003 Personal Health Data

Pediatric Clinic Visits	1,692
Adult Clinic Visits	2,481
Senior Health Clinic Visits	1,766
Dental Clinic Visits	1,494
Dental Sealant- Students Seen	2,180
Dental Sealant- Sealants Placed	4,592
Child Immunization Clinic Visits	1,931
Vaccines Given	4,571
Communicable Disease Visits	3,457
HIV/AIDS Test Site Visits	164
Breast/Cervical Cancer Visits	53
Hearing Clinic Visits	93
Developmental Clinic Visits	18
Social Work Contacts	2,553

Bureau for Children with Medical Handicaps Visits	773
Lice Control/Prevention	1,569
Juvenile Court Nurse Visits	1,903
Starlight School Nurse Visits	562
Franklin School Nurse Contacts	7,817
Maysville School Nurse Contacts	11,947
Tri Valley School Nurse Contacts	2,951
Newborn Home Visits	589
Welcome Home Visits	391
Help Me Grow Children Served	559
Paternity Tests Given	596
Tattoo Parlors Licensed	5
Tattoo Artists Certified	15

Health Education

Healthy Hearts of Morgan, Muskingum, and Perry Counties (coordinated by the Health Department) wrapped up Try Fitness in 2003: an incentive program to encourage residents to develop and/or improve heart healthy behaviors.

The Muskingum Valley Tobacco Coalition (coordinated by the Health Department) approved the hire of a Tobacco Cessation Coordinator and Tobacco Grant Coordinator in 2003. The Tobacco Coalition sponsored a one-day educational conference "Update on Tobacco Cessation Therapy and Community Programs" for health professionals and interested persons and promoted smoking cessation programs.

Healthy Hearts Contacts (Cardiovascular Health Grant)	4,127
Tobacco Grant Contacts	57,381

Vital Statistics

Births in Muskingum County	1,603
Deaths in Muskingum County	976
Fetal Deaths	3
Birth Certificates Issued	8,136
Death Certificates Issued	3,955

Bioterrorism Preparedness



The Health Department received a \$200,000 Bioterrorism Preparedness Grant in September 2002. The purpose of the grant is to increase local preparedness for bioterrorism, outbreaks of infectious diseases and other public health threats and emergencies. The grant also

covers Perry County. A public health coordinator was hired to oversee the grant and an epidemiologist to survey and investigate infectious diseases.

In 2003, for the first time in three decades, a smallpox vaccination clinic was held to help prepare the county for a possible bioterrorism attack. Public health nurses, sanitarians, and clerical staff received vaccinations on a voluntary basis after the Ohio Department of Health expanded this program. Mike Kirsch, Deputy Health Commissioner/ Director of Environmental Health (above), receives a smallpox vaccination. Smallpox information was presented to local emergency management personnel to increase awareness of the disease.

Grant money has paid for the following: 800 megahertz radios compatible with hospitals, sheriff's departments, emergency management agencies, and the state highway patrol to improve communication; a De-Con tent to be used at any location for chemical or infectious disease contamination; and computer equipment.

Staff continue to update their training in the topics of weapons of mass destruction and geographic information systems (GIS). GIS will assist staff when locating infectious disease outbreaks.