



## Licking County Health Department

675 Price Road • Newark, Ohio 43055  
Business: (740) 349-6535 • Fax: (740) 349-6510  
[www.LickingCoHealth.org](http://www.LickingCoHealth.org)

# 2017 Mid-Year Report

## Five Public Health Highlights From the First Half of 2017

From the Licking County Health Commissioner, R. Joseph Ebel, R.S., M.S., M.B.A.

**1 Health care reform.** Threats to Medicaid coverage for our lowest income Ohioans have emerged in both state and federal legislative proposals. LCHD has reached out to our representatives to voice support for the continuation of expanded Medicaid coverage for our uninsured residents living below 133 percent of the federal poverty level.



**2 Opioid epidemic.** We received funding for a new Prescription Drug Overdose Prevention Grant to address the abuse of prescription medications and the impacts of addiction, including overdose deaths. Our Project DAWN naloxone program distributed nearly 300 kits to local residents during 2016-17.

**3 Continued enhancement to our grounds.** In addition to the ½ mile trail and reforestation project completed in 2016, we have installed a new pollinator and wildflower garden as part of an Ohio Environmental Education Fund grant. We have also secured grant funds to pay for over half of a playground that will be installed in September. These additions will enhance the public use of the property and promote increased physical activity.

**4 Sewage treatment system grants.** LCHD has distributed \$300,000 in grants over the past 12 months, through the Ohio EPA water pollution control fund, to income eligible local residents to assist in the repair or replacement of their failing sewage systems. We have been approved for an additional \$300,000 in funding for 2017-18.

**5 Mosquito control program.** We have been able to purchase all new Ultra-Low Volume (ULV) mosquito spray equipment and GPS tracking software to modernize our services, thanks to OEPA grant funds.

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# Health Education

Promoting healthy lifestyles through education.

January - June 2017



**Change Gears:** LCHD’s Wellness Coalition coordinated the eighth annual Change Gears: Ride a Bike event in June. Staff distributed 25 free bike helmets and 17 reflective bands. The event had a total of 89 participants.

**Worksite Wellness Workshop:** The Wellness Coalition’s Worksite Wellness Workgroup held its sixth annual Worksite Wellness Workshop in April with 20 attendees. LCHD partnered with the Licking County Safety Council to present the first Licking County Worksite Wellness Award to First Federal Savings and MPW.

**Radon:** This program promotes the availability of free radon test kits. In January, 350 radon test kits went to Licking County residents. A coalition was formed with Knox County Health Department to raise public awareness and provide education. The coalition has completed 26 outreach activities.

**Tobacco Prevention:** Licking County’s youth-led tobacco prevention team, named stand, organized ten counter-tobacco campaigns focused on the dangers of smokeless tobacco, second-hand smoke, and vaping. LCHD conducted 50 surveys with youth documenting tobacco marketing at local tobacco retailers.

**Partners in Wellness:** Health Educators have provided 1,725 third-grade students in 11 Licking County school districts with comprehensive health and wellness lessons through the Partners in Wellness program.



**Prescription Drug Overdose Prevention:** The Prescription Drug Overdose Prevention (PDOP) program has formed a coalition, assisted with OARRS and Naloxone policies, provided

prescription drug safety messaging to private middle and high school students along with seniors in Licking County. The overall goal of PDOP is to reduce prescription drug overdoses in Licking County.



# Women, Infants & Children

(WIC) Special Supplemental Nutrition Program.

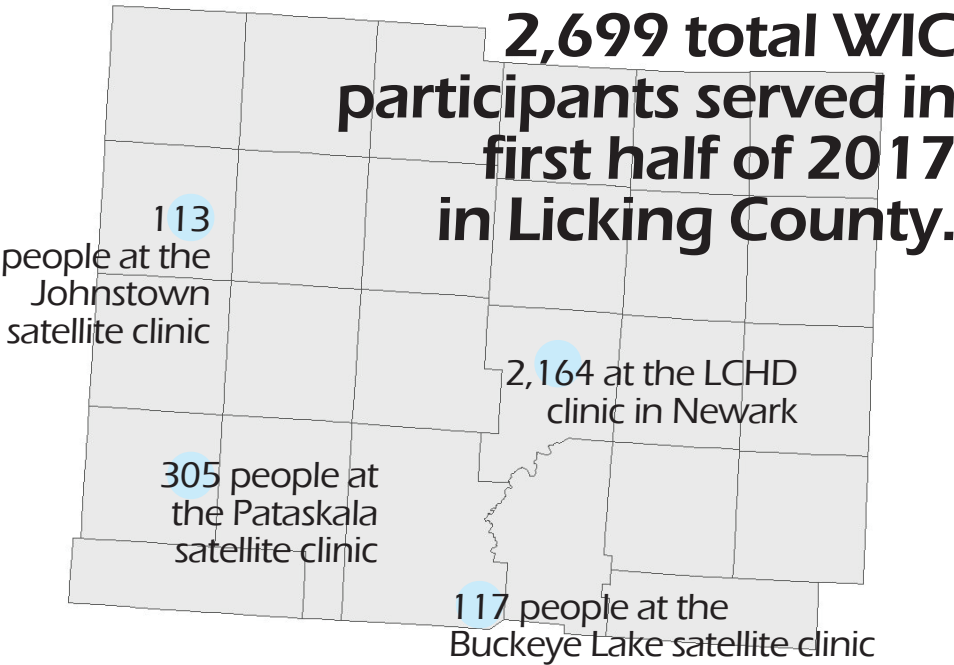


LCHD’s WIC added a Breastfeeding Friendly Business page to our website. These businesses not only follow Ohio law regarding breastfeeding in public, but are also supportive and proudly display a “Breastfeeding Welcome Here” cling.

2017 marks our 14th year in distributing Farmers Market Nutrition Program (FMNP) vouchers to WIC families. Each family receives four vouchers for a total of \$20.00 (each is worth \$5.00) to be spent at local farm stands and markets to purchase fresh fruits, vegetables and herbs.

We continue to offer our Kids in the Kitchen cooking class for 3 and 4 year old children on WIC. Participants made veggie pockets to eat and learned about dairy foods and proper cooking temperatures.

Our 4th Annual Breastfeeding & Women’s Health Fair was May 4. Attendance and vendors continue to grow each year.





# Public Health Nursing

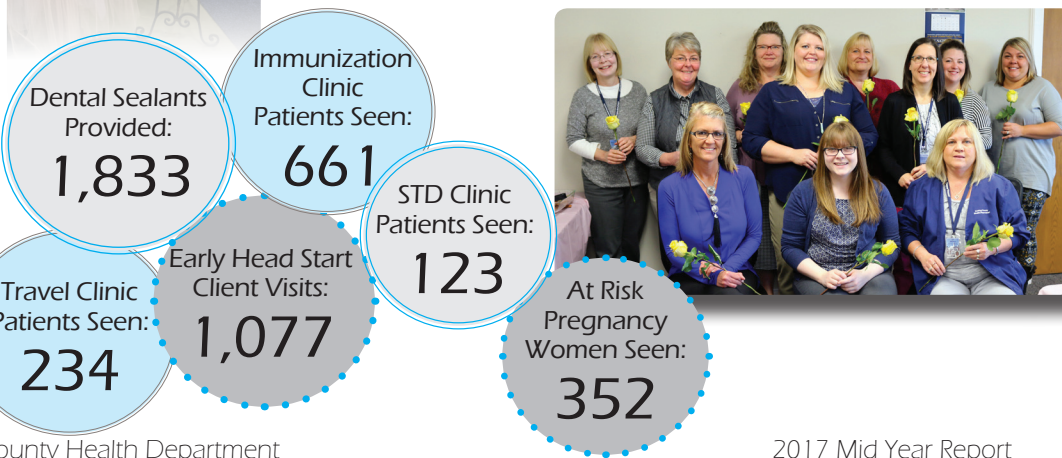
## Programs and Clinics by the Numbers

**Narcan** Through our grant-funded Project DAWN program, LCHD trained 312 people to recognize symptoms of a heroin overdose and distributed 267 Project Dawn naloxone kits.

**MRC** LCHD's Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) volunteers participated in four events during the first half of 2017: Project Dawn training, Red Cross First Aid training, Women's Health Fair, and a continuing nursing education session on ethics and legalities in nursing.

**Babies** LCHD provided 63 Newborn Home visits in the first half of the year to Licking County newborns. We provide a head-to-toe assessment of the newborn, a weight check, breastfeeding assistance, and answers any questions the new parents may have.

**BCCCP** BCCP served a 14-county region providing breast and/or cervical screenings to 523 women and visited 33 BCCP providers during the first half of 2017. Our Franklin County screening event was at the Commit To Be Fit Expo and was tremendously successful.



# Environmental Health

## Sanitarians & Inspectors who enforce regulations.

**Septic System Inspection Program.** LCHD Environmental Health staff worked to implement a state-mandated septic system inspection program. The stakeholders group consists of elected officials, private industry, and other county agencies to develop an implementation plan. In the first half of 2017, we conducted inspections in two subdivisions and have completed inspections in four of the 11 identified areas.

**Water Pollution Control Loan Fund.** LCHD was awarded funds from the Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) by the Ohio EPA to assist income eligible homeowners with repairing or replacing their failing septic systems. We enrolled 26 homeowners in the program and are assisting them with making their systems compliant.



**Food Safety Program.** With additional staff members, LCHD spent much of early 2017 properly training our new staff on how to conduct the nearly 2,000 restaurant, grocery store, convenience store, and food truck inspections we do each year. In May, our program was audited by the Ohio Department of Health, resulting in no negative findings and deemed to be operating in 100 percent compliance with the law.

**Rabies Control Program.** LCHD is required to investigate all reports of animal bites that occur in Licking County. We ensure that the reported animals are properly quarantined and vaccinated against rabies. Early this year, we improved this process in order to reduce the amount of processed paperwork and the amount of staff time it takes to complete an investigation. In the first half of 2017, we were able to close out rabies investigations in an average of 11 days - which is three days less than our original 14 day goal.



# Awarded Grants

In the first half of 2017, LCHD received 22 grants funding our programs.

January - June 2017

Over 65 percent of LCHD staff members (44 out of 67) are involved in grant-funded programs.

New grants that began January through June 2017:  
**6**

Continuation or re-awarded grants for January through June 2017:  
**22**

Newly awarded grants that began after June 2017:  
**1**

New and Notable projects:  
NACCHO Medical Reserve Corps grant to assist the Licking County River Round Up event, ODH Prescription Drug Overdose Prevention, OEPA Ohio Environmental Education Fund (creation of pollinator garden), and KaBOOM! playground implementation.



# Epidemiological Statistics

Rates calculated by dividing the number of cases by population and multiplying by 100,000 (standardizes data for comparison).

2017 Mid Year Top Five Reportable Disease Rates	2017 Mid Year		2016 Mid Year	
	Cases	Rate	Cases	Rate
Hepatitis C - chronic	114	66.2	92	53.9
Pertussis	27	15.7	24	14.1
Hepatitis B - chronic	19	11.0	18	10.5
Salmonellosis	8	4.6	10	5.9
Campylobacteriosis	6	3.5	4	2.3

2017 Mid Year Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) Rates	2017 Mid Year		2016 Mid Year	
	Cases	Rate	Cases	Rate
Chlamydia	369	214.3	336	196.8
Gonorrhea	171	99.3	111	65.0

# Emergency Preparedness

Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP)

LCHD's Emergency Preparedness Program (PHEP) has continued to lead the County's Healthcare Disaster Coalition, and work with various agencies to raise the level of preparedness in the county. Our staff has worked closely with the Licking County Emergency Management Agency to develop and implement several exercises that were designed to evaluate our readiness for an emergency. We have also worked to update our Emergency Response Plan and the County's Emergency Operations Plan. Licking County has a number of individuals and agencies that work collaboratively to be ready in case of an emergency, and our department is proud to be a part of this group.





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