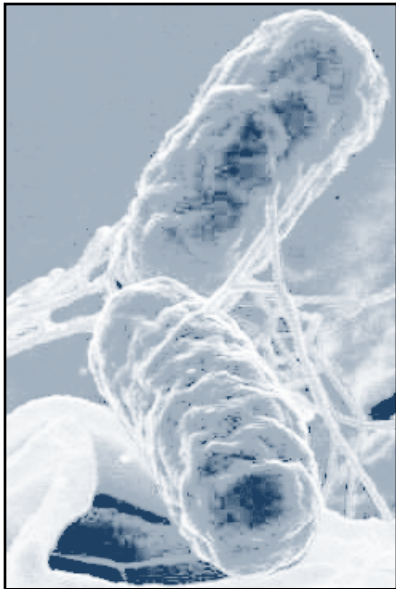




STARK COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

2008

Annual Report



Salmonella

OUTBREAKS

Two salmonellosis outbreaks were identified in November 2008. One outbreak (5 cases) was associated with a restaurant in a local food court. A separate cluster of cases (10 cases associated with Stark County) were identified as part of a large national outbreak currently being investigated by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The first outbreak was identified when 2 salmonellosis cases (residents of Canton City) identified the same restaurant as a place that they had eaten during their incubation period. The cases had nothing else in common and did not appear to be connected in any way. An inspection was conducted of the facility and numerous violations were found. The restaurant closed voluntarily on November 24th, 2008. A total of 5 cases of salmonellosis identified the restaurant during their case interview and it was determined that their salmonella isolates matched each other. No additional cases with the same salmonella pattern were identified following the closure of the restaurant.

Concurrent with the local salmonellosis outbreak investigation, CDC, in cooperation with the Ohio Department of Health and local health departments, conducted an investigation into a national outbreak of salmonellosis. As of January 29, 2009, a total of 529 cases have been identified nationally, including 72 in Ohio. In the Stark County Health Department jurisdiction, 2 cases of salmonellosis were identified that matched the national outbreak salmonella strain. An additional 8 cases were identified that are associated with a college in Alliance. Subsequent investigation by CDC

and state and local health departments identified an association between outbreak cases and consumption of peanut butter containing products. Contamination was detected at a processing plant in Georgia that produces institutional peanut butter and peanuts and peanut paste that are used in various other food products. Numerous product recalls were issued and salmonella was isolated from several open containers of institutional peanut butter.

Excessive Temperature and Utility Disruption Plan

The Stark County Health Department recognized that extreme heat and cold weather conditions can affect anyone and is more likely to affect young children, elderly, and people with health problems. Therefore, the department coordinated a committee which consisted of: hospitals, Emergency Management Agency, Red Cross, county engineer, Area Agency on Aging, fire/emergency medical services, law enforcement, private ambulance, SARTA transportation service, elected officials, and utility companies. This committee established a program and a plan that would notify and educate the public about the dangers of excessive temperatures and utility disruption along with providing protection from its effects to the special needs population. The plan addresses the levels of response, educating the public, public notification, responsibilities of each agency, relief sites, vulnerable populations, transportation, and animals. With this plan in place various agencies in the community can coordinate their responses to protect the residents of Stark County.



ACHIEVE Action Communities for Health
Innovation, & EnVironmental Change
Bringing communities together to prevent chronic diseases & promote healthy lifestyles.

In 2008, the Stark County Health Department was the only health department in the state of Ohio to receive funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for the **ACHIEVE** Initiative (Action, Communities for Health Innovation, and EnVironmental Change). Through this initiative, the department and other community leaders were trained with other local, state, and national leaders in policy and environmental change for chronic disease prevention and health promotion. These trainings have prepared Stark County representatives to be a catalyst for change. Since the grant award in January, a coalition was formed, Live Well Stark County, which consists of leaders from various agencies who are developing the framework for a healthier Stark County. Through an assessment process, the cities of Alliance and North Canton were selected by the coalition to start the Stark County initiative. Currently, Live Well is working on three main areas of wellness in Stark County.

The first area is worksite wellness. Worksites are being asked to complete an assessment so that feedback and suggestions can be made that will help them determine ways to create a healthier worksite environment. The worksites will receive sample worksite wellness kits, mapped walking paths, and assistance in creating a worksite coach and wellness committee.

The second focus area is to increase bike lanes so they are safer and more accessible to the community. This is being done through completing environmental assessments, bike observational surveys, and working with the engineer's office, city council, and regional planning to institute and develop policies to add bike lanes within new construction sites and to develop a plan to add bike trails in existing roadways.

The third is to increase the number of food establishments who provide nutritional information on their menu items by working with area restaurants and establishing a nutritional dining guide.

Health Commissioner's Comments:

William J. Franks, MPH



William J. Franks, RS, MPH
Health Commissioner

I swore that I would not write about solid waste in my comments this year. So here we go, this year's topic is.....Solid Waste!!!! Waste disposal issues have taken up so much of the health department's time, our budget, and board of health effort, not only over the last year, but over the past three years that it needs to be addressed by me.

Stark County continues to be the disposal grounds for so much of the rest of the state's waste. Everyone else calls us the dumping grounds, but I like to use the term disposal grounds. "Dumping" has a connotation of something illegal happening.

We have two of the top ten largest landfills in the state of Ohio right here in Stark County. Approved plans will give the state almost 60 years of future disposal right here in our own backyard. Not only are we faced with problems that disposal of our own wastes present, but at least five times more waste comes in from outside of Stark County than we generate. Now we have to protect our community, our environment, and our public health from everyone else's waste. And guess what? Those areas don't even care about the extra burden they have put on our local government, because "out of site, out of mind".

Our tri-county solid waste district passed a rule that said simply, if you send your community's waste to Stark County for disposal, then you must make the effort to reduce the burden on us by recycling at levels that are at least equal to that in our three county area. Only 16% of our waste is recycled in the district, so that should not be that hard of a requirement to meet. Anyway, they became furious and have appealed that rule to the courts. So far the district rule has stood up in the courts.

Stark County residents produce over 6 pounds of solid waste per person each and every day. This is based on residential and commercial waste generation figures. The national average is just less than 5 pounds. Are we really serious about "going green", or is it just a fashionable thing to say? Folks, we really need to do more. Can we really keep discarding so much of our natural resources? How can we complain about the size, expansion, and lifetime of our landfills, when our waste stream keeps growing? I only hope that it doesn't take 60 years before we decide to be personally responsible for the amount of waste we generate. There are no major solutions to our solid waste disposal issues in the near future. So until then, it looks like its landfills.

Division Directors



Emily S. Caniford,
RN, MSN
Director of Administration
& Support Services



Kirk K. Norris, RS, MPH
Director of
Environmental Health



Lynn M. McCoy,
RN, MS
Director of Nursing

Cribs for Kids program is established in Stark County

The Stark County Child Fatality Review Board annually reviews each child death occurring in the county. Over the years the review has found many unnecessary deaths due to adults sleeping in the same bed as infants. Many times people do not have the funds to purchase a crib. These deaths were the reason for the creation of the Stark County Safe Sleep Task Force.



The Stark County Safe Sleep Task Force was licensed as a *Cribs for Kids* provider in May 2008. *Cribs for Kids* is an organization founded in Pennsylvania that promotes safe sleep practices by providing Pack N Plays to families who cannot afford a safe sleep environment for their child. The Stark County Health Department provides a 90 minute *Cribs for Kids* educational class intended to educate clients on the importance of safe sleep practices for their child. The class demonstrates what a safe sleep environment looks like, the correct sleep position of the child, and how to set up and take down the Pack N Play safely. In order to obtain a Pack N Play, clients have to meet some qualifications, but the class is open to whoever needs or is interested in safe sleep education. Since being licensed as a *Cribs for Kids* provider, the Stark County Health Department has had 32 clients attend the educational classes and 35 Pack N Plays have been distributed. The *Cribs for Kids* program is solely funded through donations by community members and organizations. All donations are used for the purchase of Pack N Plays in order to defray some of the cost to the clients.

Leading Causes of Death

2008

Stark	
Cancer	389
Diseases of the Heart	369
Alzheimer's Disease	189
Chronic Lower Respiratory	107
Cerebrovascular Disease	101
Influenza and Pneumonia	86
Diseases of the Kidney	72
Accidents (Unintentional Injuries)	47
Septicemia	44
Suicide	27
Diabetes Mellitus	9
Other	74
TOTAL	1,514

Tobacco Prevention Grant

The Stark County Health Department was recently awarded a tobacco prevention grant through the Ohio Department of Health to focus on youth prevention, social marketing, environmental change and cessation services.

Youth prevention is being addressed through the implementation of the Life Skills Training Program. Life Skills is a research-based substance abuse prevention program proven to reduce the risks of alcohol, tobacco, drug abuse and violence. The curriculum is designed for elementary and middle school students.

The social marketing component includes Operation Storefront and a youth based media campaign. Operation Storefront will raise community awareness on the tobacco and alcohol industries' successful marketing strategies using retail advertising and promotions. The youth based media campaign will raise awareness on the harmful marketing effects of tobacco. High school and middle school students are encouraged to participate in the campaign by creating anti-tobacco messages targeting the youth being reached with Life Skills.

Environmental change will occur through the adoption of a 100% tobacco free school policy. The health department will work with the targeted schools to update their existing tobacco policies to become 100% tobacco free. A 100% tobacco free school policy prohibits all tobacco use anytime, anywhere by anyone on school property and at all school sponsored events.

Aultman Hospital and Mercy Medical Center are subcontractors under this grant and will deliver tobacco cessation programs throughout Stark County at no cost to the participants. Mercy is implementing Tobacco Free "U", a 6 week cessation program offering free Nicotine Replacement Therapy as well as free Chantix for a month. Aultman is implementing "Give It Up", a 5 week cessation program which also offers free Nicotine Replacement Therapy. Both programs will be targeting blue collar workers and the low-socioeconomic population.

PHASE II STORM WATER Update



As part of the Phase II Storm Water Program, the OEPA requires a map to be produced showing areas with sewage problems. Special computer software called GIS was used to create the map. Data for the map was collected from many sources, such as: Township Road Departments, the Auditor's Office, the US Census Bureau, US Soil Survey, and the Stark County Sanitary Engineer, as well as historical health department information. The map is used for prioritizing and long-term planning to improve the sanitary conditions within the communities, which in turn improves surface water quality. The map is also useful to obtain OEPA funding to help owners pay for sewer connections or septic system repairs. There were twenty-one high priority areas, and many other areas found that need additional study.

In addition to the map, many inspections were also conducted in the phase II program, which have lead to upgrades throughout the Phase II Communities. ***The following are some statistics from inspections conducted in 2008:***



Outfalls Inspected	451
Septic Systems Inspected.....	3,450
Sewage Nuisances Investigated.....	50
Sewage Repair/Alteration	
Permits Issued.....	86

Aerator Repairs	14
Gray water/plumbing corrections (total).....	48
Sanitary Sewer Connections.....	175
Illegal Discharges Investigated (not HSTS)....	11

The illegal discharges that were investigated included: overflow from a restaurant's sewer lift station, a body shop discharging solvents directly into the storm sewer, and the discharge of carpet cleaning chemicals into a catch basin. All of these discharges have been corrected.

EDUCATION! EDUCATION! EDUCATION!

Environmental factors have a profound impact on the health of the public. Causes of many disease outbreaks are related to environmental issues and contributing to growing disparities in health. Issues involving the quality of the air we breathe, the water we drink, the food we eat have all led the Environmental Health Division to expand its' role in offering Environmental Health Education. The types of courses and seminars offered focus attention on the role of public health in addressing environmental issues, sustaining healthy environments, public awareness, prevention and treatment of disease caused or exacerbated by environmental factors. The following are examples of the types of courses and seminars offered to the public.

Food Protection Certification (ServSafe Course) currently is being offered to food service operators and their employees on the Stark County Health Department's Campus. Those who complete the 15 hour course and pass the exam receive a ServSafe completion certification from The Educational Foundation of the National Restaurant Association and a permanent certification in food protection from the Ohio Department of Health. The ServSafe Program provides value beyond certification and is the industry's unique day-to-day food safety resource. It's essential to offer this course to our food operators to keep them current with updated regulations, best practices and science-based information.

The Plumbing Program offers our registered/licensed plumbers continuing education required for their State of Ohio Plumbing License. This is a great service/benefit to our plumbers in the area and protects the public of Stark County from plumbing hazards. Ralph Reeb, Chief Plumbing Inspector for the State of Ohio attended the plumbing code class in 2007 to observe and report to his state agency. Mr. Reeb commented: "The Stark County Health Department is the only Plumbing Program in the state providing this type of training on a regular basis, which is outstanding."

Free General Environmental Health Education programs have been offered to the Stark County Community for the past year. The Stark County Health Department's Environmental Health Specialist has conducted presentations and interactive displays at Kent State Stark Campus, Stark State, Stark Parks, RG Drage, North Canton YMCA, and Jackson-Belden Chamber of Commerce, to name a few. Over 1,000 people have participated in programs that have run the spectrum of Environmental Health, from food protection to composting. If you are interested in more information about any of our Environmental Health Education programs for your business, organization or township, then please contact the Stark County Health Department.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Free For Stark County Communities and Organizations

- General Public Health
- Wells & Septic
- Food Protection/ServSafe
- Landfill & Recycling

OBESITY PREVENTION GRANT

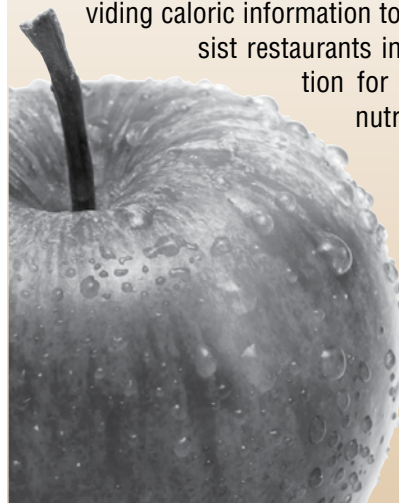
In October 2008, the Stark County Health Department was awarded a \$75,000 Obesity Prevention Grant from the Ohio Department of Health. With this funding, staff will be working on areas of environmental change, including the establishment of: walking paths, bike lanes/paths and nutritional information. Funds will also be contracted to the Canton City Health Department, where their staff will implement the same activities to serve their population.

The goals of this project are to improve nutrition and enhance opportunities for physical activity in our communities. With diseases such as diabetes and heart disease on the rise, the Stark County Health Department is committed to improving the health of our county.

Walking diagrams will be mapped for businesses in the targeted cities of Alliance, Canton and North Canton. Staff will assess the environment around a business and will map out a 1-mile path. This diagram will be given to the business and employees and community members will be encouraged to use these paths. Assessments will be conducted regarding current health policies and the number of employees that utilize the walking path.

The project plans to work with city leaders to begin developing three additional bike lanes/paths in the target locations. Assessments, observational surveys and planning meetings will be conducted to determine the best location for biking lanes.

Restaurants will be surveyed to gauge their interest in providing caloric information to their customers. Staff will assist restaurants in obtaining the caloric information for their menu items, by utilizing nutrition software.



A healthy eating guide will be developed in 2009 to help promote facilities that provide this information on their menus/menu boards.

Reportable Infectious Disease Summary–Jan.–Dec. 2008

DISEASE	2008	2007	DISEASE	2008	2007
Amebiasis	0	0	Legionella	10	7
Brucellosis	0	1	Listeriosis	3	2
Campylobacteriosis	41	35	Lyme Disease	3	1
Chlamydia	288	303	Malaria	0	0
Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease	3	3	Meningitis-Aseptic	20	29
Cryptosporidiosis	15	19	Meningitis-Bacterial	2	1
Cytomegalovirus - congenital	0	0	Meningococcal Disease	1	1
Dengue Fever	0	1	Mycobacterium Tuberculosis (TB)	3	1
E. coli-Unspecified subtype	1	1	Mycobacterium other than TB (MOTT)	12	10
E. coli O157:H7	0	2	Mumps	1	0
Ehrlichiosis - Human Granulocytic	0	1	Pertussis	1	6
Encephalitis - Primary Viral	1	0	Rheumatic Fever	1	0
Encephalitis – LaCrosse	0	0	Salmonellosis	28	24
Encephalitis – Post Other Infection	1	0	Shigellosis	81	3
Giardiasis	24	23	Streptococcal-Group A, invasive	8	4
Gonorrhea	81	118	Streptococcal-Group B, newborn	2	1
Haemophilus Influenza Bacteremia	6	0	Streptococcal-Invasive Other	0	0
Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome (HUS)	1	2	Streptococcal –Pneumoniae, invasive	38	27
Hepatitis A	0	5	Streptococcal-Toxic Shock	1	2
Hepatitis B - Chronic	17	25	Toxic Shock Syndrome (Staphylococcal)	1	0
Hepatitis B - Acute	1	1	Varicella	38	113
Hepatitis C - Chronic	89	104	West Nile Virus	0	0
Hepatitis C - Acute	2	2	Yersiniosis	2	4
Kawasaki	0	0	*This report includes confirmed, probable, and suspect cases reported 01/01/08 – 12/31/08.		

Shigellosis Outbreaks

Shigellosis is a highly infectious bacterial infection of the intestine that causes diarrhea. Some people can be infected with shigella and be contagious but have no symptoms. Shigellosis also spreads very easily from person to person, making it a major concern in settings involving young children. In 2008, 213 cases of shigellosis were reported in Stark County. From 2003 – 2007, an average of only 11.8 cases were reported each year.

The majority of cases (79.0% of cases in Stark County Health Department jurisdiction) were associated with preschools or daycares. When a child or worker in childcare is diagnosed with shigellosis, they cannot return to the childcare until their diarrhea has ended and they have had two consecutive negative stool samples. More than 20 different preschool and childcare facilities have been involved in this outbreak so far. Local health departments worked closely with childcare facilities to educate parents and staff and ensure that cases were excluded appropriately. Site visits were conducted to determine if additional measures could be taken to help slow the spread of infection.

The median age of cases reported in 2008 was 6 years old. 70% of cases reported were in children under the age of 10. Cases were distributed throughout the western half of Stark County. Other areas of Ohio, including Summit County, also experienced an increase in shigellosis cases in 2008. A number of the cases were resistant to the most commonly prescribed antibiotics for shigellosis, making treatment of cases more complicated. New cases continue to be reported in early 2009.

Financial Statement Fiscal Year 2008 (unaudited)

SOURCE OF REVENUE

Contract Fees	493,528
Fees for Services	619,656
C&D User Fees	479,106
Inspection Fees	90,720
Vital Statistics	150,837
Permits	957,891
Late Charges	42,113
State Subsidy	74,330
Local Tax Subdivisions	1,329,270
Newborn Home Visits	35,188
Public Health Infrastructure	142,334
CFHS State Grant	472,067
Immunization Grant	44,420
WIC Grant	393,023
Dental Grant	79,100
Austin Bailey Grant	25,000
SIDS Grant	3,000
Tobacco Funding	138,974
Women's Health Initiative	33,500
Injury Prevention Grant	25,875
Obesity Grant	25,000
March of Dimes Funding	23,000
ACHIEVE Grant	40,000
Citizen's Corps Funding	4,261
Sisters of Charity Funding	33,960
NACCHO Funding	5,000
Other Receipts	47,555
Reimbursements	20,037
Carryover from 2007	189,420

TOTAL SOURCES OF REVENUE 6,018,165

EXPENDITURES

Salaries	3,111,464
Insurance	370,976
Medicare	44,408
PERS	619,693
Workers Compensation	43,775
Unemployment	322
Supplies	183,553
Utilities	21,693
Contracts & Purchased Services	333,878
Phones & Communications	45,966
Equipment / Vehicle Rental	36,154
Rent	361,596
Equipment	35,229
Other Expenses	1,115
State Remittances	591,404
Travel	101,006
Refunds	20,955
Encumbrances Carried Over To 2009	156,829

TOTAL EXPENDITURES 6,080,016

Prenatal Centering Project– a new concept for Stark County

The Stark County Health Department Prenatal Clinic began in 1995 due to a noticed trend in women prolonging their first appointment due to lack of access. Early prenatal care is instrumental in healthy babies. Between four and five thousand babies are born in Stark County each year and during 2008 there were 1188 visits to this prenatal clinic. Many young families either with both mother and father living in same household or just single parent households lack the education and emotional support to help them through pregnancy. Many agencies attempt to help these families especially in these tough economic times, but there must be more.

Centering Pregnancy is a model of care that through research has proven to assist families and empower women with knowledge in caring for themselves and their babies. In 2008 the Stark County Health Department received a grant from the March of Dimes that provided financially for staff to be trained and this new model of care begun.

In Centering Pregnancy women are taught to check their own weight and urine, take their own blood pressure, and document findings in their chart. This makes them personally aware of how health choices influence mother and baby. They receive individualized time with a practitioner and then spend the next hour and a half talking about the educational, social, and medical needs they have. The groups consist of approximately ten women and a support person, if they choose, that are at similar stages in their pregnancy. There are a total of ten sessions from month two to delivery and each session's discussions are decided by the group that day. All standards of care are maintained in addition to the increase in education that can be accomplished by spending an hour and a half with the medical staff instead of only 15 to 20 minutes.

STARK COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH



STARK COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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