

# Canton City Health

## Department



2003  
Annual Report

## 2003 Message from the Health Commissioner

At the end of each year, as I look back over our activities and accomplishments, I am continually reminded of the number of changes we have had to make to address the issues confronting the public's health in our community. This report contains the normal statistics of how many immunizations we have given to protect children's lives; how many home visits our nursing staff has made; the number and kinds of inspections we have made to assure a safe environment; the number of laboratory tests conducted to identify diseases and potentially unsafe conditions; the number of women, infants, and children we have provided supplemental food for and to whom we have given numerous hours of nutrition education; how many births and deaths we have registered; and how much money we have spent on these and other activities.



**Robert Pattison, RS, MPA**

These statistics provide a snapshot of what will affect our community based organizations, our court system, and our school system. With the high percentage of births to teenage mothers and the high percent of children born to single mothers, the services needed to support these events will be expensive and will have to come from our community. Preventing these events would be much more cost effective and would have a very positive impact upon our society.

This report also details the number of activities that deal with improving the public health infrastructure and the community benefits that are derived from these activities.

After September 11, 2001,

considerable efforts have been placed upon the ability of private and public organizations and agencies to communicate with one another and to respond to emergency situations as a unified community. The ability to effectively communicate during an emergency situation is essential for a positive outcome. We have been working very hard on developing our communication system and we

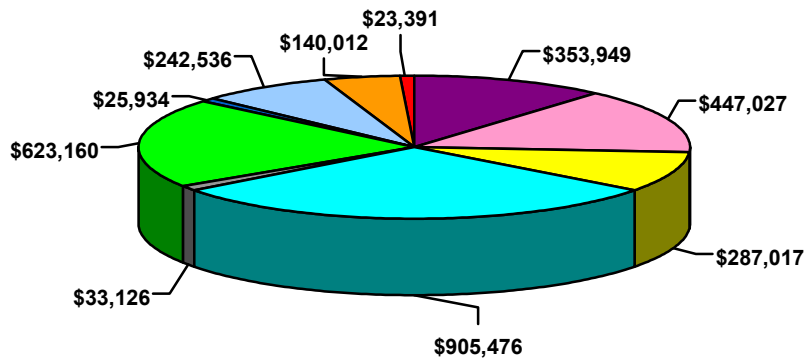
have made great progress. We have added to our radio communication system a new MARCS (Multi Agency Radio Communication System) capability that will allow us to talk directly with other state and local agencies during a time of emergency. This is a state-wide system that is being developed by the State of Ohio and will be available to all local public health agencies, hospitals, and law enforcement agencies. We have also continued our participation in the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Health Alert Network (HAN). This system alerts us to

current issues that may have an impact on our community. We are notified by e-mail and FAX communications.

We also participate in the CDC EPI-x system. This system allows two of our staff to be informed on a daily basis of activities happening around the world that may affect our community. This is a secure communication system that will provide case updates on specific incidents.

I hope you enjoy this report, and I hope that the information contained in it will show the huge efforts being made to protect our community from all potential dangers, both natural and man-made.

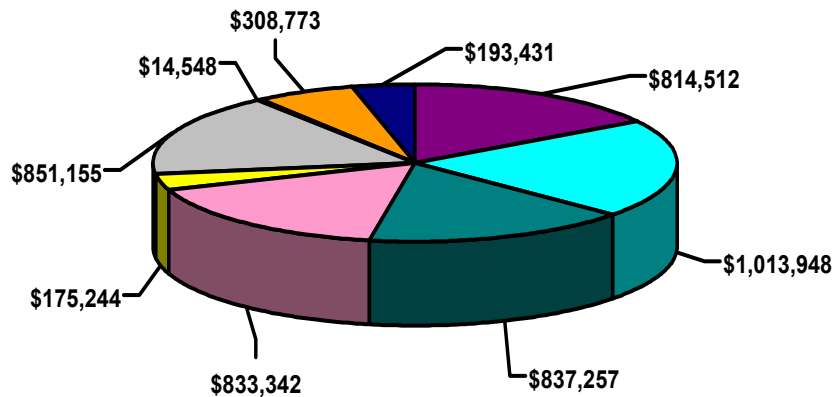
## 2003 Income



- Administration and Vital Stats.
- Environmental Health
- Lab
- Health Education
- AIDS
- Nursing
- WIC
- APC
- Public Health Infrastructure
- State Subsidy

Total: \$3,081,628

## 2003 Expenses



- Administration and Vital Stats
- Environmental Health
- Lab
- Health Education
- AIDS
- Nursing
- WIC
- APC
- Public Health Infrastructure

Total: \$5,042,260

*Of the total expenses for 2003, approximately \$1,882,417 was provided by the City of Canton's General Fund.*

## Vital Statistics Division

### Leading Causes of Death in Canton City

2003

DISEASE	NUMBER
Heart Disease	676
Cancer (all types)	293
Flu/pneumonia	205
Stroke	158
Unintentional Injuries	24
Emphysema	11
Suicide	1
Homicide	2
Diabetes	11
All other causes	708

### Births and Deaths

2003

City of Canton Residents

Births	1,201
Deaths	730
Out-of-Wedlock Births	685
Births to Teens (age 11 - 19 )	219

Total Residents and Non-residents

Births	4,145
Deaths	2,089
Out-of-Wedlock Births	1,431
Births to Teens (age 11-19)	429

Effective August 1, 2003, the cost of certified copies of birth and death certificates was increased to \$15.00. The State of Ohio receives the entire \$5.00 increase. The purpose of this increase is to make the Ohio Vital Statistics system more secure and accountable. The extra fee will also allow the Ohio Department of Health to initiate a plan to collect and store all certificates digitally. These steps are being taken because Ohio is one of the leading states for identity theft, with 5,494 reported victims.

*“Ohio is an open records state. Anyone can obtain a copy of any birth or death record. Ohio is correcting this situation to no longer be one of the leading states in identity thefts.”*

*-Robert Pattison, Canton Health Commissioner*

# Environmental Health Division

The Division of Environmental Health has the responsibility to protect the health of people by the evaluation and control of health hazards in our community environment. Areas of activity include inspection, licensing, and public health emergency response and planning. The division has a dedicated staff of public health professionals, well trained and certified to perform their duties. The staff consists of nine registered sanitarians and one public health clerk.

## Community

Over 5,327 environmental inspections were conducted in 2003. These included the areas of nuisance control: housing sanitation, nuisance abatement, animal waste, garbage, trash and debris, lead paint, rodent and insect infestations, and other environmental hazards.

## Food Protection

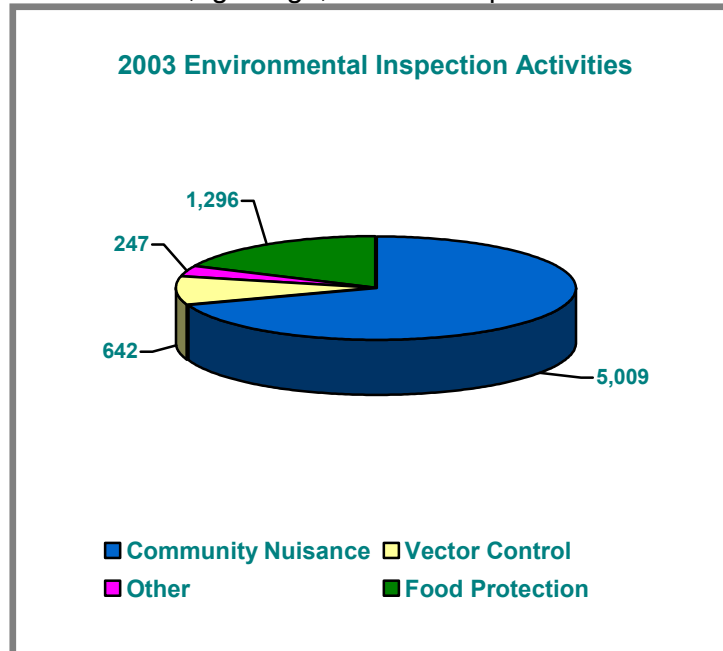
In addition to the 29 plan reviews for new or significantly reviewed operations, our food service staff performed 1,296 food protection inspections. 740 licenses were issued in Canton. Those included inspections for restaurants, temporary and mobile food stands, vending locations, and grocery stores.

## Vector Control

The control of animal bites, mosquitoes, and other vectors is important to the control of the spread of disease in the community. All animal bites must be reported to the health department for investigation to control the spread of rabies. In 2003, the department received 196 animal bite reports, a sharp decrease from last years total of 307 reports.

The mosquito control program continued surveillance and targeted control efforts at mosquito breeding sites. Adult mosquito control continued as well in 2003 due

to the spread of West Nile Virus throughout the United States. Although WNV infection rates were lower this year than in 2002, one of the eight Ohio fatalities occurred in Stark County. Staff from the Environmental Health Division spent over 198 hours conducting mosquito control activities. In addition, an intern from the University of Michigan School of Public Health spent the summer in the Health Department assisting in mosquito control surveillance activities.



## Other Inspection Activities

To further protect the community's health, the Environmental Health Division conducted a variety of inspections. Public swimming pools and schools are inspected for health and safety performance. Infectious waste facilities and solid waste facilities are inspected for established health standards. Tattoos and body piercing establishments are now licensed in Canton.

*"The July, 2003 flood demonstrated the need for coordinated community response in an emergency." -James Adams, Environmental Health Director*

# Public Health Information Division

The Division of Public Health Information is new to the Canton City Health Department. It was created to: provide timely and accurate information to the public and our health partners; to create and maintain a Public Health Alert Network using modern communication technology; to integrate epidemiology with local, state, and federal health agencies; to facilitate professional staff training; and to continue public health education and promotion. Two new positions in this division were added with funding from the Public Health Infrastructure Grant.

## Health Alert Network

Emergency communication becomes vital in a crisis. As a result, the demanding and constant task of developing, maintaining, and testing of a Health Alert Network communication system required a coordinator. The HAN coordinator can contact our health partners via e-mail, FAX, and various telephone technologies efficiently in an emergency. The HAN system also allows for a better distribution of health information in non-emergency situations as well. For example, in 2003, updated monkey pox alerts notified veterinarians as well as physicians. The 2003 syphilis outbreak required alerting the local media, physicians, and other appropriate health partners. Our HAN coordinator has also created the department's new web site. Check it out at:

[www.cantonhealth.org](http://www.cantonhealth.org)

## Epidemiology

The public health adage, "Without surveillance there can be no prevention," holds true today more than ever before. A full-time epidemiologist has proven to be a necessary addition to modern, effective public health practices. This position, provided by funding from the Infrastructure Grant, also provides epidemiological services for the Alliance and Massillon Health Departments.

One important duty includes surveillance of local disease outbreaks reported by

various health partners. This process includes tracking the disease outbreak, notifying health providers such as hospitals, clinics, and laboratories with updated information, and reporting all disease incidences to required state and federal agencies. Our epidemiologist works closely with the HAN coordinator to accomplish this huge task. This enhanced surveillance is a vital step in preparation for biological emergency, either natural or terrorist.

## Public Health Information Activities

- Press releases
- Brochures and Handouts
- Web site
- Public presentations
- Health events
- HAN communications
- Data collection and Reporting
- Articles
- Posters and Displays
- Grant writing and management
- Emergency planning

## Health Education

In addition to the supervision of this new department, the Health Educator provides community health information with funding from three grants: Lead Prevention; Safe Communities (traffic safety); and the Ohio Tobacco Use Prevention and Control Foundation. All three grants require a community coalition approach to meet the health threats posed by

traffic crashes, lead poisoning, and tobacco use. Cooperation with other community organizations allows for sharing of resources and lessens the duplication of services.

The Health Educator also serves as the department's Public Information Officer and serves on the county disaster planning committee. Much planning has been spent developing this role, especially for an information protocol in the event of a public health emergency.

*"The public does not panic from bad news. The public panics when emergency information is conflicting, inconsistent, or murky. Our job is to provide information, not control it."*

*-Kathy Paris, Health Information Supervisor*

## Air Pollution Control Division

Clean air is an essential resource for the people of Stark County. Air pollution affects many aspects of the community including the environment, economy, and most importantly, our health. The APC Division of the Canton health Department serves to protect the air quality of Stark County by providing outdoor air sampling, monitoring polluters, and fining polluters not in compliance with government guidelines.

The APC Division also administers Ohio's industrial permit program. Locally, this effort includes facility inspections, investigations of complaints, and enforcement actions when necessary.

APC also performs similar work activities for the removal, handling, and disposal of asbestos. During the renovation and demolition of buildings, state and federal asbestos guidelines must be followed.

The APC certified professionals inspect dry cleaning facilities for air emissions of cleaning solvents. Additionally, automobile dealerships are inspected to ensure that vehicle air pollution equipment has not been removed or modified. Other air pollution sources include industrial smoke stacks and equipment, roadways and other areas that generate dust.

Stark County's air quality is further centered on the State of Ohio air pollution permit system in that all potential polluters must obtain an Ohio permit requiring that air contaminants do not exceed permitted levels.

New sources must obtain Permits to Install (PTI) that ensure only "Best Available Technology" is used to maintain pollution at legal levels in the construction. In 2003, Canton APC processed 122 PTI's.

The 1990 Federal Clean Air Act now requires that major industrial pollution sources (those over 100 tons per year of actual emissions) obtain comprehensive Title V air permits. Canton APC currently has 33 Title V facilities located in its jurisdiction. In 2003 all

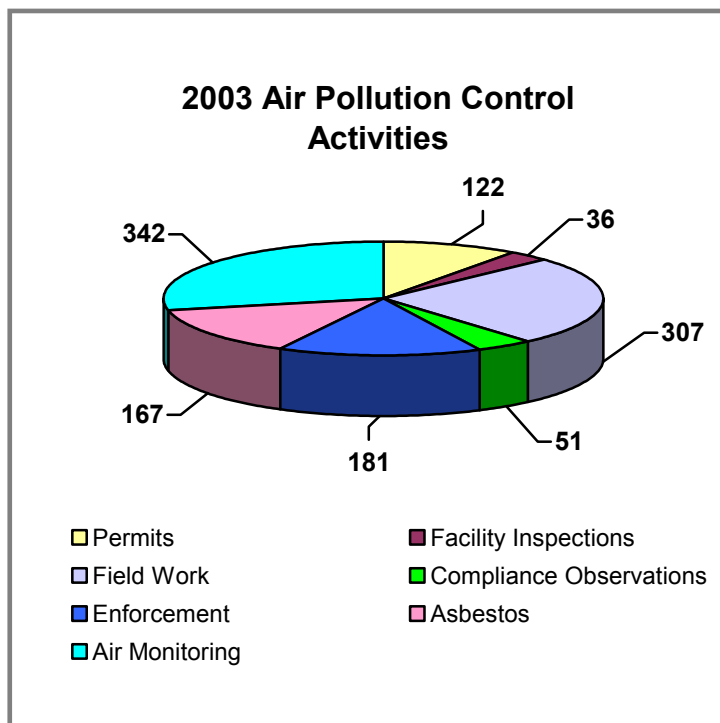
33 have been issued draft stage permits, and of those 25 have been issued final permits.

Beginning in 2003, APC facility inspections met the new Federal requirements for compliance of Title V and other high priority facilities conducted every two years.

To further ensure air quality, the Canton APC operates a network

of 12 monitoring instruments located at 7 sites throughout the County. Because of the new EPA ozone standards, there were four exceedances in 2003. Monitors also captured pollen and mold counts, important data for local physicians.

Stark County residents received prompt response to their air-related complaints. In 2003, 254 complaints resulted in investigations and appropriate corrective actions. 175 warning letters or violation notices were sent and six cases were referred to Ohio EPA for enforcement action. It was a busy year!



*"Responsible industry, diligent employees and proactive citizens together keep our air clean."  
-Bud Keim, APC Engineer*

# Public Health Issues, 2003

In 2003, 3,233 animals were tested in Ohio for rabies. 53 animals were confirmed to be rabid. 48 were bats, 2 were raccoons, 2 were foxes, and one was a cat. 7% of the bats tested were positive for rabies.

-Ohio Department of Health

- **23% of Ohio adults are obese**
- **Another 35% are overweight**
- **38% of Ohio adults are insufficiently active**

**-Ohio Department of Health**

The national birth rate for teenagers was the lowest in more than six decades. Nationally, 4.5% of births were to women **15-19** years of age.

- National Center for Health Statistics, 2003

In Canton City, 18% of the births were to teenagers aged **11-19** years.

- Canton City Health Department, 2003

**19.2%** of Canton's population falls below poverty levels.

**65.5%** of the county's Medicaid mothers have two or more risk factors for a poor birth outcome.

- US Census Bureau

An estimated **594** Stark County children were lead poisoned in 2003.

Environmental Protection Agency

Over a fifth of patients 45 years of age and older discharged from hospitals in 2000-2001 had a diagnosis of diabetes and this number has been growing.

-Nine million (**13%**) of US children have asthma.

-**15%** of uninsured US children had not seen a doctor in two or more years.

-More than 4 million children aged 2-17 years (**7%**) had unmet dental needs because their families could not afford dental care.

Centers for Disease Control & Prevention

**Injury is responsible for 10% of health care expenditures- more than \$117 billion.**

*American Journal of Public Health, April, 2004*

"...however secure and well-regulated civilized life may become, bacteria, protozoa, viruses, infected fleas, lice, ticks, mosquitoes, and bedbugs will always lurk in the shadows ready to pounce when neglect, poverty, famine, or war lets down the defenses."

--Hans Zinsser, American bacteriologist, 1934

## Actual Causes of Death in the United States, 2000

Tobacco.....	18.1%
Poor diet/ Physical inactivity.....	16.6%
Alcohol.....	3.5%
Microbial agents..... (viruses, bacteria, etc)	3.1%
Toxic agents..... (pollutants, asbestos, etc)	2.3%
Motor vehicles.....	1.8%
Firearms.....	1.2%
Sexual behavior.....	0.8%
Illicit drug use.....	0.7%

-Centers for Disease Control and Prevention



## Nursing Division

The Nursing Division of the Canton City Health Department is a good indication of how public health is changing; however, the prevention of disease remains a constant.

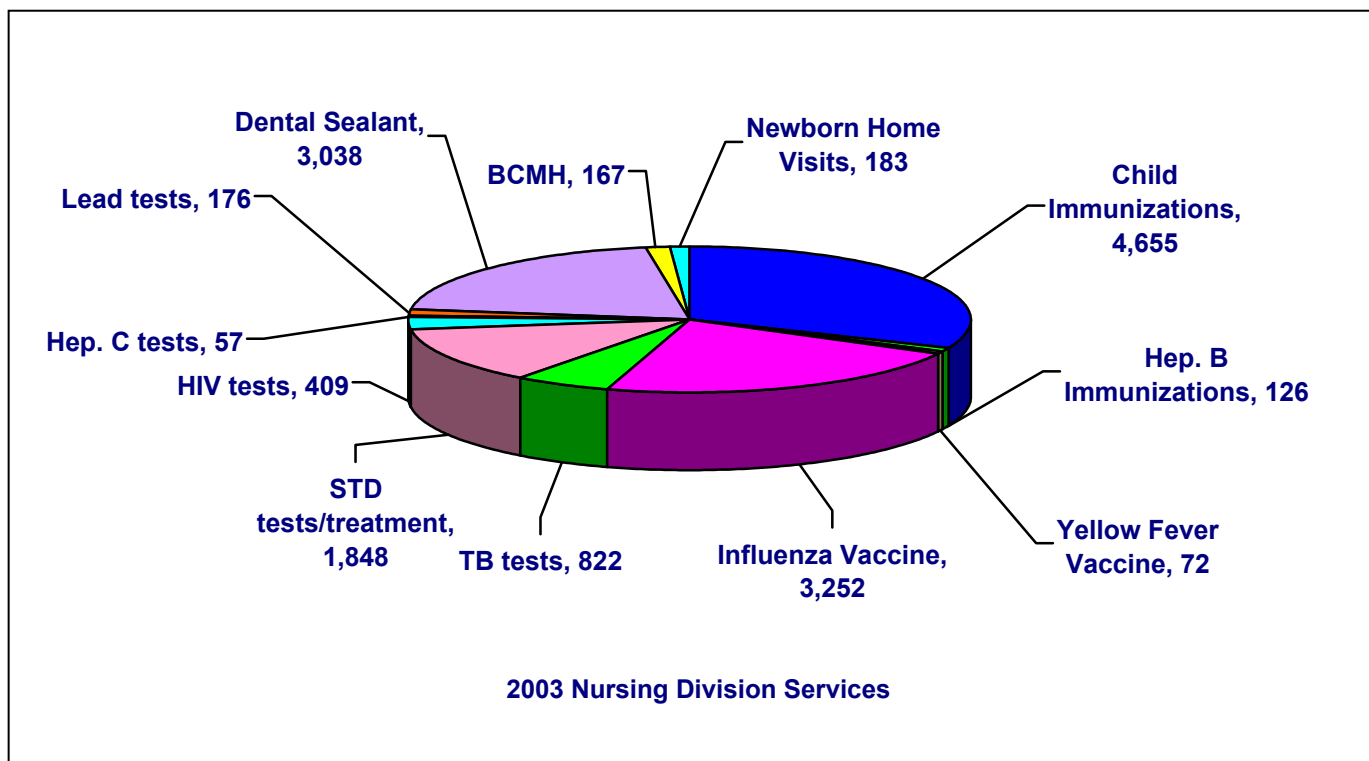
Through the Stark County Public Health Infrastructure Grant, an epidemiologist was added to the Canton City Health Department Office of Public Health Information Division. The nursing staff works closely with the epidemiologist in disease reporting and surveillance. With new infectious diseases emerging on a regular basis and the constant concern of bioterrorism, these activities are more important than ever. The nursing staff has put a lot of effort into planning for public health emergencies and/or bioterrorism events.

Health employees were vaccinated.

1,050 communicable diseases were reported during 2003, with many of them requiring follow-up activities such as investigating diseases, determining adequate treatment, and tracing contacts.

Two new diseases that emerged in 2003 were Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) and Monkey Pox. Although Canton City Health Department did not have any cases, the nursing staff must prepare for that possibility by learning about these diseases and developing a response plan.

Although Hepatitis C has been around for a



During 2002 and 2003, smallpox became a concern as a possible terrorist threat. Although the smallpox vaccine had not been used for many years, it was determined by the Department of Health and Human Services and the President of the United States that a core group of health care workers in each community be vaccinated. Our nursing staff worked with the other area health departments to ensure that a core group of Public

long time, it has been under-reported. Now the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) are asking that all positive Hepatitis C test results be reported. Canton City received 171 positive test results. Although none of these were acute, many of them are chronic cases. People with chronic Hepatitis C have an increased risk of developing cancer or cirrhosis of the liver.

(continued)

***“The Nursing Division is preparing for a bioterrorism threat, and is continuing to control and prevent emergent diseases, especially the uprising of syphilis.” -Eng Chong, MD, Medical Director***

**(Nursing Division, continued)**

The Canton City Health Department Clinics continue to be busy. The Well-Child Immunization Clinics administered 4,655 vaccinations. In addition, 126 Hepatitis B immunizations were given to adults. Seventy-two doses of Yellow Fever vaccine were administered in our Foreign Travel Clinic.

2003 proved to be a busy year for our Influenza Vaccine program. Influenza hit early in some western states and children were dying from this infectious disease. As a result, for the first time at the Canton City Health Department, we administered vaccine to healthy children. Our total number of flu vaccines given in 2003 was 3,252.

Tuberculin skin testing is required for health care workers, school employees, and certain other individuals. Therefore, our TB testing clinics continue to be busy. We administered 822 tests with ten of them being positive. These patients were then referred for a chest x-ray and for an evaluation by a physician. None of them were determined to have active tuberculosis.

One of our busiest clinics continues to be our Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) clinic. 1,848 patients came in for testing and/or treatment in 2003. We do testing for syphilis, gonorrhea, Chlamydia, trichomoniasis, yeast, and non-specific vaginitis.

HIV testing was offered through our Counseling and Testing Clinics (CTS), STD clinics, and outreach programs, for a total of 409 tests.

During 2003 our Health Department collaborated with the Ohio Department of Health to become a pilot site for Hepatitis C testing. This test is now offered to certain high risk people in our STD and CTS clinics. Fifty-seven tests were done from July through December.

The Canton City Health Department started offering lead testing in 2002 to high risk children ages one through five years. In 2003 we performed 176 tests. Our nurses coordinate with the Environ-

mental Division to see that the families of children with high lead levels receive educational materials and that the children have follow-up testing and medical care until their levels return to normal.

The Dental Sealant Program is funded by a grant from the Ohio Department of Health. A dentist, hygienist and assistant visit targeted Canton City Schools to screen the children for cavities and to apply sealant. 3,038 children were screened and/or treated.

Three nurses visit and assist families through the Bureau for Children with Medical Handicap Program (BCMh). In 2003, approximately 180 children were enrolled, with additional cases pending. BCMh is a state-funded program for children with on-going medical conditions. The families receive assistance with medical costs and the assurance of comprehensive medical care.

Two nurses work under another state program, Help Me Grow. 183 first time and teen mothers were visited providing them the opportunity to ask questions of a trained nurse and to receive information to help raise a safe and healthy baby.

Our nurses handled over 2,800 telephone calls regarding issues such as well-child immunizations, foreign travel questions and general health questions. These phone calls provide an opportunity to provide education, which is an important public health duty. We also do many educational programs in the community, including: the GRADS classes for pregnant and parenting teens at McKinley Senior High; communicable disease talks for various agencies and Type B Family Day Care Providers; and immunization information for physicians' offices and Goodwill Parenting classes. On-site visits and shadowing are done by NEOUCOM students, medical residents, and nursing students.

We look forward to more changes and new challenges in our endeavor to make Canton a safe and healthy community for those who live, work or visit the city.

***“This is a significant time for public health nurses, who must uphold the fundamental precept of the greatest good for the greatest number of people, and also function as clinicians, educators, researchers, and administrators in today’s complex social milieu.”***

***-Public Health Nursing Journal***

***“Working at the Canton City Health Department is both challenging and rewarding on a daily basis.”*** ***-Donna James, RN, Public Health Nurse***

## Laboratory Division

2003 turned out to be one of those years when the Canton City Health Lab was never quite certain what was coming next. One challenge occurred when the manufacturer of the system we use for gonorrhea and Chlamydia detection by gene amplification dropped out of the market. The Columbus Health Department and the Ohio Department of Health provided temporary sample analysis for us. Additionally ODH purchased for our use a Genprobe Aptima system allowing the laboratory to resume STD diagnosis by genetic probe arena.

The first ever remote site blood sampling took place this year when 70 Head Start pupils were tested for blood lead levels. The children were tested at their school with the help of Canton City Health Department clinic nurses and Environmental Health staff. The lab received the samples and began the process to determine if these children had been exposed to dangerous levels of lead. The three health department divisions worked together in this effort, and all agreed it was effective from both the community impact standpoint and as a learning tool for future remote site efforts.

Microbiological analysis of potable water was also an area where the lab was busy.

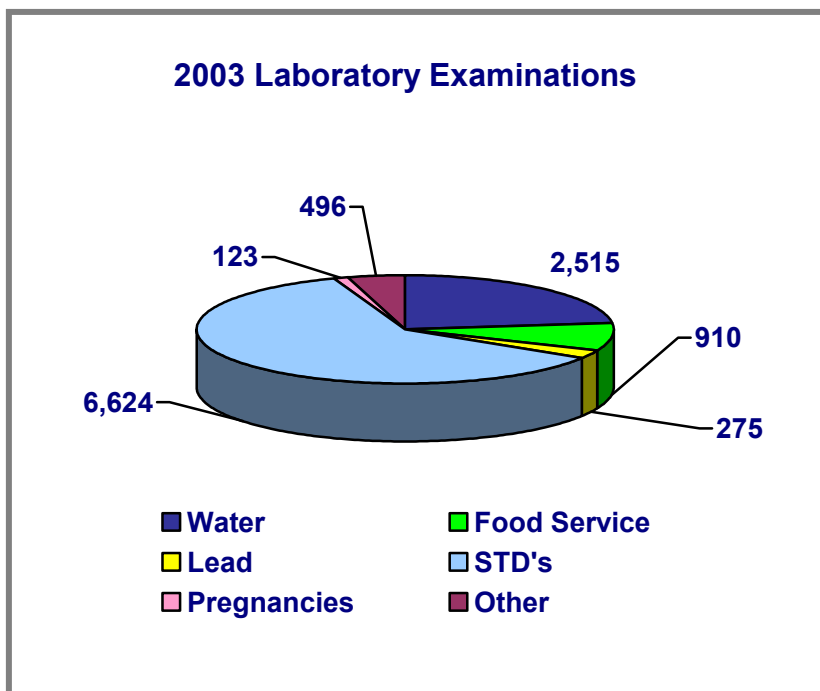
Fecal coliform analysis of sludge samples were performed for several Canton area wastewater treatment facilities.

The pollen sampling program reflected 2003's atypical weather. Starting in late March, and concluding early in October, Stark County experienced unusually high pollen and mold counts. Our primary audience for this daily analysis was area allergists and media outlets.

With West Nile Virus and other mosquito-borne diseases posing a threat to Canton residents, the laboratory continued to work with the Environmental Division to characterize the number and locations of mosquito activity. Samples

were sent to the ODH lab for WNV testing.

Laboratory staff participated in hosting the Russian Medical Clinics delegation which toured health facilities in May, 2003. Eleven physicians were treated to a display of laboratory specimens and techniques, including hands-on demonstrations of staining and microscopy. A highlight was a live demonstration (by request of our guests!) of the lab safety shower. While we had a good laugh, we also found it a valuable opportunity to appreciate anew that public health concerns transcend national borders.



*“...we found it a valuable opportunity to appreciate anew that public health concerns transcend national borders.”*

*-Jim Ames, Laboratory Supervisor*

## Women, Infants, and Children Division

The WIC Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children continues to provide nutritious foods, nutrition education, breastfeeding support, and referrals to other maternal and child health and human service programs.

The WIC staff was short a WIC dietician throughout most of 2003 when Terri Kocab retired. With assistance from other WIC offices, caseloads were maintained with 1735 participants. Caseloads were composed of 21% women, 42% infants, and 33% children.

Eligible WIC participants receive foods that are high in nutrients frequently lacking in the diets of the program's low-income population (vitamins A and C, iron, protein, and calcium.) Infant formula is provided for infants at nutritional risk. A physician may prescribe special formulas for infants with dietary needs.

Nutrition education is an integral part of WIC. The WIC dietitians and other allied health professionals provide one-to-one or group counseling to all participants. In addition, the Ohio State Cooperative Extension Program continues to present interesting and informative nutrition programs for our participants. Participants find the classes on quick meals, stretching food dollars, and meal planning very user-friendly. They even have the opportunity to sample some of the recipes.

All pregnant participants considering breastfeeding their infants can attend a monthly program by our lactation consultant. During the breastfeeding experience, they

receive information, guidance, and encouragement. Currently 7% of WIC babies are breastfed, with a goal to increase that number.



WIC participants are encouraged to increase fruits and vegetables in their diets. Currently 28.25% are at risk for insufficient amounts of these important foods. In addition to educational programs, WIC offers fruit and vegetable samples and creative ideas and recipes for incorporating fruits and vegetables into the family diet. In addition, obesity reduction has become an important focus of our WIC program.

The WIC staff continues to refer its clients to other Health Department divisions to better serve their diverse needs. The Nursing Division provided 211

immunizations for WIC participants. In addition, 185 children were screened for lead poisoning. The Environmental Health Division provided education and lead risk assessments in homes of children with elevated lead levels. Finally, the WIC clinic served as a site for voter registration. Proudly, 112 persons registered to vote at our site.

We look forward to our 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of WIC in Ohio in 2004!

### **A typical monthly nutrition supplement for a WIC child:**

- \* **four gallons of milk**
- \* **one pound of cheese**
- \* **two boxes of iron-enriched cereal**
- \* **one gallon of Vitamin C enriched juice**
- \* **one jar of peanut butter or one pound of beans**
- \* **one dozen eggs**

***“How rewarding for me to see a family’s health improving due to our WIC counseling!”  
-Laura Jewett, WIC Dietician***

## Emergency Preparedness: Building Public Health Infrastructure

The aftermath of September 11 and the anthrax episodes that followed challenged public health to evaluate its preparedness for responding to terrorist and naturally occurring health threats. The Federal government recognized that local health departments were the front line when these threats were made against the community.

Since 2002, the four health departments in Stark County (Alliance City, Canton City, Massillon City, and Stark County Health Departments) have been collaborating and improving the basic health infrastructure of our community. With the help of a grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Ohio Department of Health, significant improvements have been made in preparedness, capacity, and workforce development.

The Stark County Public Health Infrastructure Grant is administered by the Canton City Health Department for the benefit of all four health jurisdictions in Stark County. The grant amounted to approximately \$315,000 in 2003. Through this funding, additional staff were hired. Additionally, computers, radios, and other equipment were provided to enhance the public health system's ability to respond to an emergency in our community. The grant had four major focus areas: preparedness and planning, communication, epidemiology and disease reporting, and workforce development.

One goal of the grant was to create a county-wide public health response plan. A key benefit of developing the response plan has been the close working relationship that has been developed with the five hospitals in Stark County. The response planners have also integrated the plan with other emergency response teams such as law enforcement, HAZMAT, Red Cross, and the FBI.

*“Any improvements we make in our ability to respond to a bioterrorist attack will serve the dual purpose of better preparing us to handle all infectious and communicable diseases.”*

*-US Senator Bill Frist, MD*

The grant required better communication capacity. Radios, computers, satellite receiver equipment, and disease reporting software were acquired. The Health Alert Network Coordinator, a position provided by the grant,

maintains the means to rapidly send messages to key public health partners.

The grant has funded two epidemiologists for the county. One is housed in the Canton City Health Department, and the other is at the Stark County Health Department.

Key to improving the public health infrastructure of the community is a well-trained workforce. Technological and disease investigative training as well as other public health skill enhancement are provided. If you have any questions or comments about this important program, please contact Jim Adams by calling 330-489-3327 or by e-mail: [jadams@cantonhealth.org](mailto:jadams@cantonhealth.org).

*“A pathogen can move quickly. The sooner we can identify and track its progress, the better we can protect the public.” -Christina Henning, epidemiologist*

## Lead Prevention Program

The Canton City Health Department is responding to the number one environmental threat to our children: lead poisoning. The CDC has named Canton at "highest risk" for lead based paint in its housing stock. Yet, many parents have not had their children tested for lead poisoning, nor are they aware of the hazards involved with improper home renovation involving the disturbance of lead based paint.

With funding from the Ohio Department of Health, free lead testing is now being offered to all Canton children ages 12 to 72 months. Children who are determined to have unhealthy levels of lead in their blood become a case managed by the Nursing Division. Additionally, the child's home is investigated by a registered sanitarian who holds a license for lead risk assessment. Information and guidance is provided to these families about eliminating the lead hazards in their homes. Rarely, Board Orders must be enforced to insure a safe environment for families.

In 2003, 245 children were lead tested at



the Canton Health Department. Forty-five of these children had elevated lead levels in their blood. These children faced the risk of learning and behavior problems, hearing loss, stunted growth, and kidney damage. Without early detection, the damage would have increased. Unfortunately, any damage already incurred is permanent. Swift response from the Environmental and Nursing Divisions improved the future of these children.

At the end of 2003, twenty-three of these children remained as active cases requiring either medical and/or environmental follow-up.

Although rigorous efforts to encourage families to have their young children tested for lead will remain a priority, a new effort is being made for "primary prevention." This involves the prevention of lead poisoning before a child can become exposed. The abatement of lead hazards in homes and the use of lead-safe practices in home renovations will help provide for a healthier future for Canton's children.

## HIV/AIDS Outreach

HIV/AIDS no longer captivates the news media as it once did. Since the availability of Highly Active Anti-Retroviral Therapy (HAART) or "cocktail therapy," deaths due to HIV/AIDS have dropped considerably. What was once the leading cause of death of all persons 25-44 years of age now does not even make the top ten. The AIDS crisis, however, is not over; and, it may be getting worse.

The once familiar images of the suffering caused by AIDS have been replaced by treatment advertisements showing healthy marathoners or mountain climbers. The resulting misconception of AIDS infection conflicts with the CDC estimate of 40,000 new infections each year. The CDC reports the two groups with the highest infection rates are African-American women and young adults under 25.

What does this mean for Stark County? The Ohio Department of Health (ODH) estimates the HIV/AIDS case rate for this region to be 58.5 per 100,000 population. 39% of these have been diagnosed with AIDS; 61% are HIV infected but have not progressed to AIDS. 24% of the AIDS

cases are African-American, and 77% are 30-49 years of age. Of the new HIV infections reported, 24% are under age 30, and 23% are African-American.

HIV/AIDS remains a public health threat to our community. The Canton City Health Department in collaboration with its community partners promotes access for HIV treatment and prevention of new infections.

The Department's Disease Intervention Specialist (DIS) contacts and interviews

all persons newly diagnosed with HIV. Partners of the person are offered HIV testing, and medical care and long-term HIV Case Management is facilitated. The HIV Prevention Community Advisory Group meets monthly to assess prevention needs of the region. Prevention priorities are established, and community agencies are identified to address these needs. \$124,500 in grant funds are managed and provided to meet the prevention priorities.

The Canton City Health Department remains committed to its leadership role in the fight against HIV/AIDS in our community.

***"We must make people everywhere understand that the AIDS crisis is not over; that this is not about a few foreign countries, far away. This is a threat to an entire generation, that it is a threat to an entire civilization...."***

***United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan***



# 2003 Board of Health and Personnel

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## **CANTON CITY HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

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Eng S. Chong, M.D., PT Medical Director  
Michael Gregorek, M.D., PT Clinic Physician

## **AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DIVISION**

**330-489-3385**

Dan Aleman, P.E., M.B.A., APC Administrator  
Tom Schwartz, PhD, APC Chemist  
Bud Keim, O.R., M.S., Engineer  
Pat Petrella, P.E., M.S., Engineer  
Robert Zahirsky, B.S., M.B.A., Engineer  
James Miday, Electronic Engineer Tech  
Dan Schiltz, B.S., Engineering Tech  
Patrick Shriver, B.S., Engineering Tech  
Gus E. Dria, B.S., Staff Field Inspector  
Rick Miller, R.S., B.S., Staff Field Inspector  
Sherry Hustus, B.S., Public Health Clerk  
Randi Smuckler, B.S., PT Public Health Clerk

## **ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DIVISION**

**330-489-3327**

James M. Adams, R.S., M.P.H., Director  
Mark Adams, R.S., M.P.H., Staff Sanitarian  
Bruce Bixler, R.S., B.S., Staff Sanitarian  
Ron Crabtree, R.S., B.A., Staff Sanitarian  
Brian Gero, R.S., B.S., Staff Sanitarian  
Will Holden, R.S., B.A., Staff Sanitarian  
Sue McFadden, R.S., B.A., Staff Sanitarian  
Karen Myers, R.S., B.S., Staff Sanitarian  
Jack Wade, R.S., B.A., Staff Sanitarian  
Mary Merry, Public Health Clerk

## **LABORATORY DIVISION**

**330-489-3231**

Jim Ames, B.S., Bacteriologist  
Carol Burger, C.M.A., Lab Technician  
Heather MacDonald, M.L.T., PT Lab Technician

## **NURSING DIVISION**

**330-489-3322**

Jenilyn Reo, R.N., Chief Nurse  
Janet Copeland, R.N., PT Staff Nurse  
Lynn Fernandez, R.N., Staff Nurse  
Dana Hale, R.N., Staff Nurse  
Donna James, R.N., Staff Nurse  
Jane Kirk, R.N., Staff Nurse  
Molly Malloy, R.N., Staff Nurse  
Marsha Miller, R.N., PT Staff Nurse  
Diane Thompson, R.N., Staff Nurse  
Rose Ann Warth, R.N., Staff Nurse

Thomas Wingert, L.S.W., Health Services  
Coordinator

Linda Brooks, Public Health Clerk  
Connie Standard, Public Health Clerk

## **PUBLIC HEALTH INFORMATION DIVISION**

**330-489-3327**

Kathy Paris, B.A., Health Educator/Public  
Information Officer  
Christina Henning, R.S., B.S., Epidemiologist  
Kelli Trenger, M.B.A., HAN Coordinator

## **VITAL STATISTICS DIVISION**

**330-489-3231**

Joni Shaffer, Administrative Assistant &  
Controller  
Cindy Wilson, Deputy Registrar  
Kim Brown, Public Health Clerk  
Debbie Mazzocca, Public Health Clerk  
Diana McCallum, Public Health Clerk

## **W.I.C. DIVISION**

**330-489-3326**

LaVerne Gillis, Community Dietitian  
Janet Frank, W.I.C. Dietitian  
Laura Jewett, W.I.C. Dietitian  
Terri Kocab, W.I.C. Dietitian  
Sue Parr, L.P.N., W.I.C. Clinic Assistant  
Carol Frient, W.I.C. PT Clinic Assistant  
Cheryl Bradley, Public Health Clerk  
Kathy Murphy, Public Health Clerk  
Karen Moulin, PT Public Health Clerk

**info@cantonhealth.org**

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