

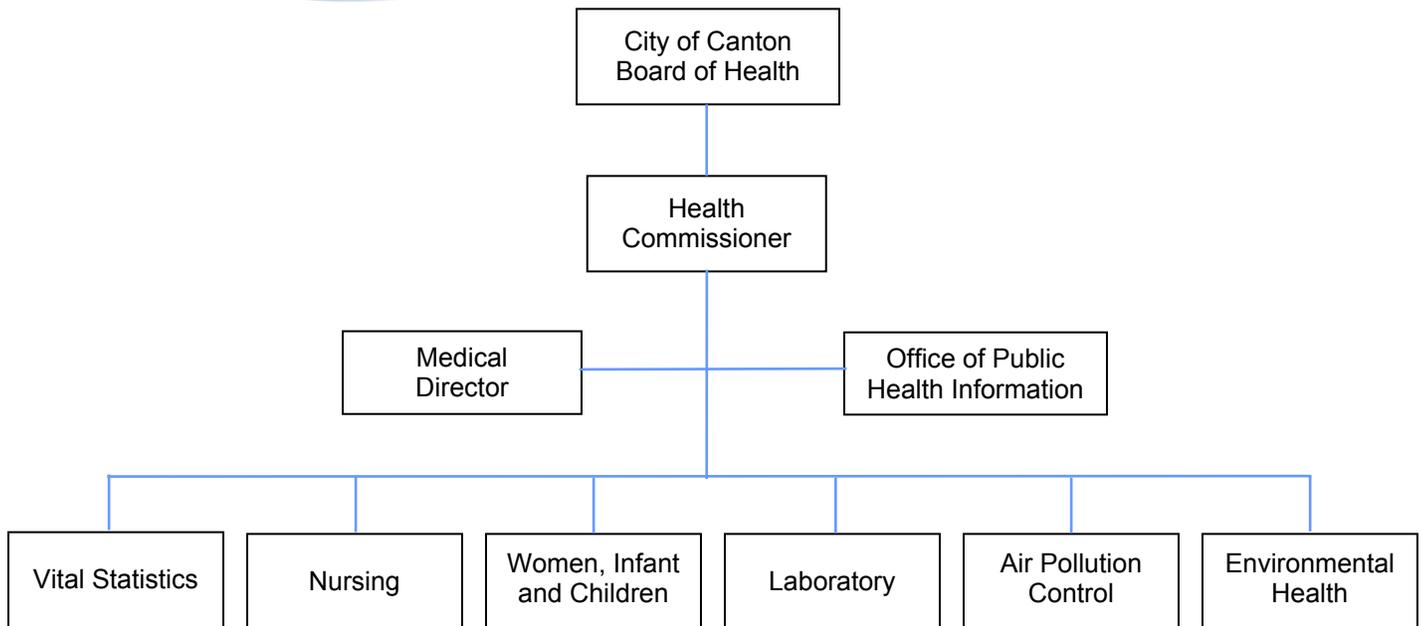
**Canton City  
Health Department  
2004 Annual Report**



*Photo of Court House Angels in Downtown Canton courtesy of The Repository.*

# Canton City Board of Health

## Table of Organization



The members of the Board of Health are appointed by the Mayor and Confirmed by City Council for a five year term

## How to contact the Canton City Health Department

Address: 420 Market Avenue, North  
Canton, OH 44702

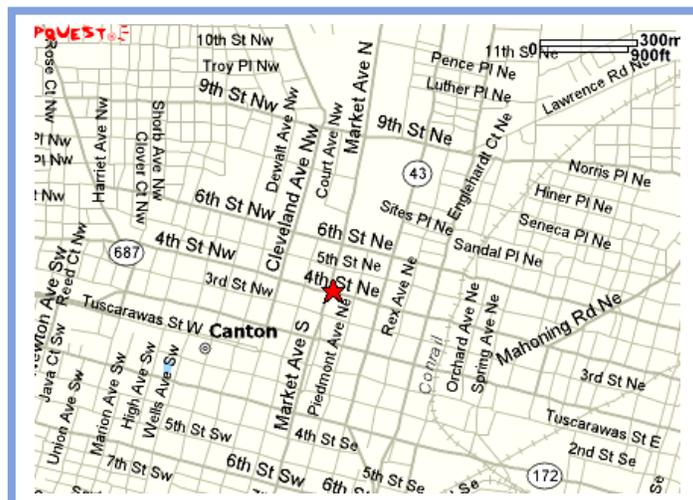
Hours: 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM, Monday-Friday

Telephone: 330-489-3231 (after 5:00 PM, calls are taken by Canton Emergency Dispatch)

FAX: 330-489-3335

E-Mail: [info@cantonhealth.org](mailto:info@cantonhealth.org)

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



# Health Department Administration

As I review the information reported in this annual report, I am drawn to the number of syphilis cases we have reported in Canton in just one year. Normally, it would take twenty or more years to have this many cases reported. The high majority of these cases involved individuals who have exchanged money and/or drugs for sex. This has been a very difficult population to deal with, but with the persistence of our disease intervention specialist, Diane Thompson, RN, and the cooperation of the municipal court judges, Stark County Jail and the Canton City Police Department, the number of new cases has fallen significantly. This was a stark reminder to me that we are still dealing with communicable diseases that have been around for centuries. In fact, investigating syphilis cases was the event that introduced me to public health work more than 42 years ago in Western Nebraska.



Robert Pattison, MPA  
Health Commissioner

Although we have significantly reduced the incidence of vaccine preventable diseases such as polio, measles, mumps and rubella, other communicable diseases continue to challenge us. This is because it will take real behavioral changes to result in the same kind of reduction in the number of reportable diseases such as syphilis, gonorrhea, chlamydia, HIV/AIDS, and a myriad of other sexually transmitted diseases.

We are committed to provide the necessary clinic and follow-up services that are necessary to address this serious issue. Staff shortages in our Nursing Division, however, have resulted in our not being able to do the community education outreach that we would like to do for this topic. Educating our community is necessary to give everyone the tools needed for protection from infection.

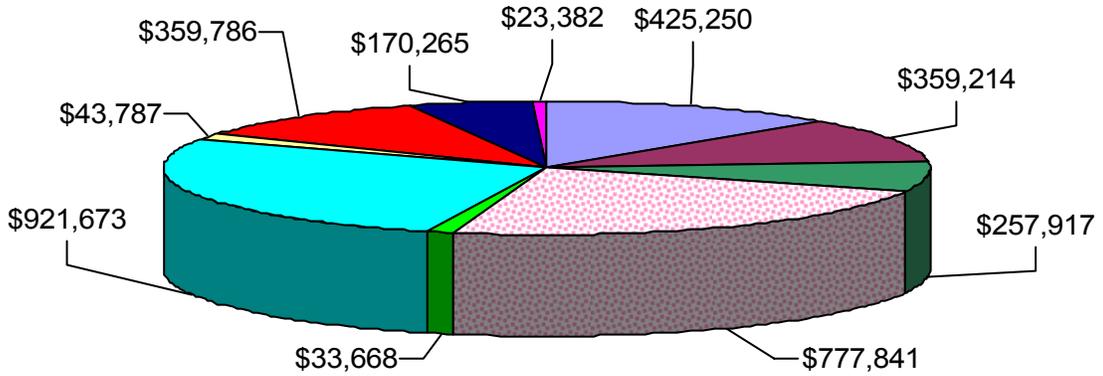
Sexually transmitted diseases are usually passed from person to person through activities that are consensual, even if one person does not know that his or her sexual partner is infected. Individuals have the ability to protect themselves from sexually transmitted diseases. Abstinence is still a 100% sure way of remaining free from sexually transmitted diseases. Another 100% sure way is to have a monogamous relationship with someone who is not infected. Anytime the number of sex partners is increased, the chance of contracting a sexually transmitted disease is increased.



Canton City Board of Health  
Steven Hickman, DVM; Marc Fiorentino, MD;  
Bernard Jenkins, PE; Ernest O. Schott;  
Missing: Mayor Janet Weir Creighton; James. F. King, MD

Our staff expends a lot of effort helping those who have concerns about being infected. Our clinics are open to anyone who needs our services and confidentiality and non-judgmental assistance can be assured. For more information on this topic, please contact our Nursing Division at 330-489-3322.

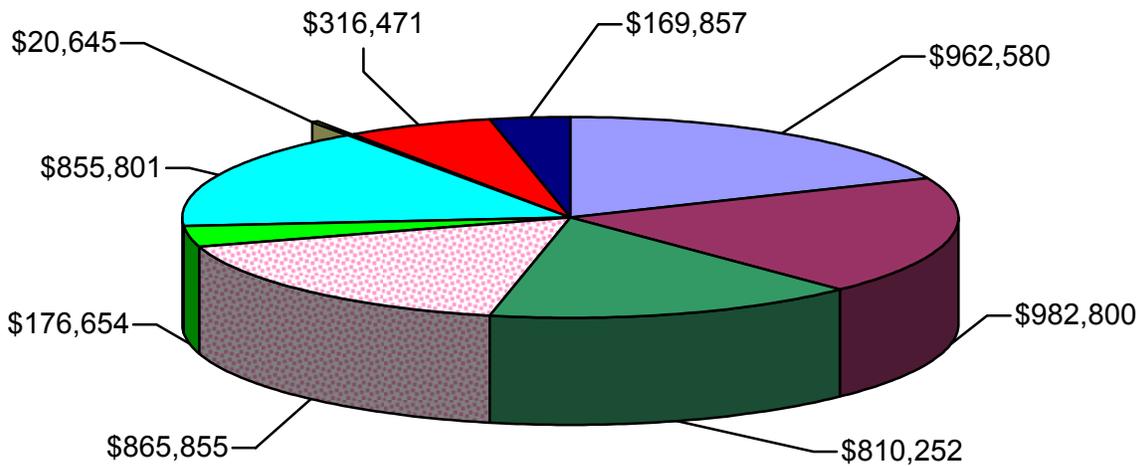
## 2004 Income



- |                              |         |                      |
|------------------------------|---------|----------------------|
| Administration & Vital Stats | Nursing | Environmental Health |
| WIC                          | Lab     | APC                  |
| Health Education             | PHI     | AIDS Prevention      |
| State Subsidy                |         |                      |

## 2004 Expenses

*Of the total expenses for 2004, approximately \$1,953,104 was provided by the City of Canton from its tax base.*

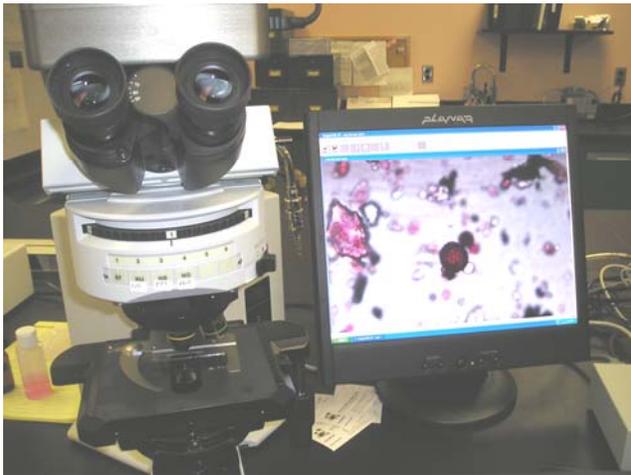


- |                              |         |                      |
|------------------------------|---------|----------------------|
| Administration & Vital Stats | Nursing | Environmental Health |
| WIC                          | Lab     | APC                  |
| Health Education             | PHI     | AIDS Prevention      |

# Laboratory Division

**The Big Picture:** The Laboratory Division performed 11,272 exams in 2004; 70% were clinical samples submitted by the Nursing Division and WIC; 21% were water samples; 7% were food samples, and 2% from miscellaneous environmental sources. 95% of the water samples originated from outside of the Canton City Health Department jurisdiction, coming from other public health entities. Our staff sanitarians collected 97% of our food submissions.

**A Few Firsts:** Two new analytes were added to the Lab's equipment in 2004. The Genprobe Aptima system started running patient samples in January, after lab personnel had spent the preceding two months learning how to operate it. This means that the Canton City Health Department will continue to offer STD testing via genetic amplification in its clinics as well as conventional culture and microscopy techniques. Also initiated was screening for HIV antibody using the ORAQUICK rapid test. First run in March as an ODH pilot study, this program has allowed us to shorten turnaround time for test results.



This new Olympus microscope can display, store and e-mail what is seen on the slide.

Federal Public Health Infrastructure funds allowed the lab to acquire several more new pieces of equipment: 1.) A microscope which features a video documentation system which can share images with other entities either as prints or transmittal via internet connection. 2.) A new stereoscope used in water work, food investigations, and mosquito identification, replaced a decades old unit 3.) A SensiIR unit (an infrared spectrophotometer) and associated liquid nitrogen handling equipment is taking the laboratory into a new area of investigation-that of chemical investigation. Once the staff is familiar with the device we can be of service in unknown/hazardous material determinations.

**Keeping High Standards:** A priority of the Canton City Health Laboratory Division has been the maintenance of high professional standards for both staff and facility. Laboratory staff participated in several training exercises throughout 2004. First and foremost was the training, validation, and proficiency performance on the Aptima system so that DNA analysis would remain available to the department's STD program. Laboratory staff was also instructed in the set-up and operation of the SensiIR.



A lab technician analyzes blood samples acquired from the nursing division.

The laboratory experienced two successful on-site visits by survey personnel in 2004. The Ohio EPA conducted an unannounced inspection of the drinking water analysis program in July. No deficiencies were noted. In October a representative of the Division of Quality Assurance performed a survey to ascertain compliance with the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Act. Again, the laboratory passed and maintained its registration as a laboratory capable of performing highly complex analysis.

# WIC

## Women, Infants, and Children

In 2004 the Canton City Health WIC program experienced a 12% increase in average monthly caseload over 2003. In 2003, WIC served an average of 1,788 participants per month. In 2004, that average rose to 2,002 participants. This significant growth was experienced throughout Ohio.

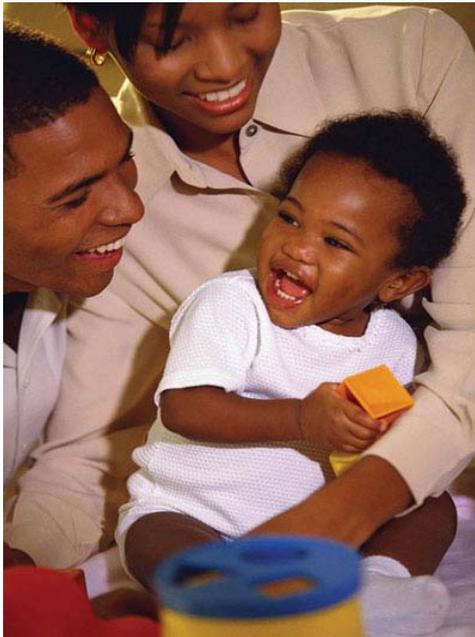
WIC (Women, Infants, and Children Supplemental Nutrition Program) continues to provide nutritious foods, nutrition education, breastfeeding support and guidance, and referrals to maternal and pediatric health and social services for income and nutritional or medically eligible pregnant and breastfeeding women, women with infants fewer than 6 months of age, infants, and children fewer than five years of age.

Eligible participants receive vouchers for their prescribed supplemental food package that can be redeemed at any one of 30 contracted grocery stores in Stark County. Vouchers redeemed averaged \$1,340,960.00 per quarter in Stark County. 166 participants received \$18.00 vouchers redeemable for fresh fruits and vegetables at five approved Farmers' Market sites in the county, including the Canton Farmers' Market. WIC hopes to increase beyond 29% the percentage of participants who consume enough fresh fruits and vegetables.



WIC teaches the health benefits of breastfeeding.

Nutrition education and supplemental foods go hand-in-hand at WIC. WIC's goal is to not only provide nutritious foods, but to teach how to use foods to promote good growth and health. WIC health professionals and other allied health



Family nutrition education is an important role of WIC.

professionals provided one-on-one or group nutritional counseling to all participants or to the parent/caregivers. In addition, the Ohio State Extension program continued to present interesting and informative nutrition programs.

In addition to providing participants with education and nutritious foods, WIC services include voter registration, immunization tracking, lead screening, and referrals to other health and human services. The Nursing Division provided 144 immunizations to WIC participants. The Environmental Health Division provided lead poisoning prevention education and lead risk assessment. The WIC clinic nurse screened 318 WIC participants for lead poisoning during WIC visits. Those children identified with high lead levels were referred to Environmental Health for a housing investigation and for medical intervention. We were also able to register 180 participants to register to vote during WIC visits.

Over the last 30 years, studies have shown that WIC has made positive, cost-effective contributions in improving the health and nutritional status of at-risk pregnant, breastfeeding and postpartum women, infants, and children.

# Public Health Information

The Office of Public Health Information serves to provide accurate, timely, and educational information to public health partners and the community at large. Information is provided through public programs, publications, media communications, compiling data, emergency planning resources, and more.

## Health Education

Many of the 2004 Health Education services were provided by three state grants. The Department of Public Safety awarded funding to the Canton City Health Department to provide traffic safety promotion with a Safe Communities Grant. Cooperative efforts were launched with law enforcement agencies throughout the county. Activities promoted an increase of residents using car safety belts and a reduction in impaired driving. Crash and court citation data were compiled and analyzed to assist law enforcement in their efforts to better provide safer roads in Stark County.



The Tobacco Use Prevention Foundation provided grant funding to reduce the use of smokeless tobacco products by students in Stark County schools. Educational programs were designed for athletic coaches from every school district in the county. 150 coaches learned of the dangers of smokeless tobacco and how young athletes have been targeted by manufacturers in their marketing. Coaches were provided with materials for teaching their teams and students about this health issue.

The Ohio Department of Health funded a lead prevention program. In addition to blood testing and home inspections, education and promotion was provided to the community. Various parent groups learned about the necessity of lead blood testing. To encourage this testing, a T-shirt was designed to reward all children who were tested.



The Health Educator also serves as the department's public information officer, creating media releases and developing the emergency communication plan for the Stark County Disaster Planning Committee.

## Epidemiology

During the summer of 2004, the epidemiologist assisted with the investigation of a large outbreak of water-borne illness on Put-in-Bay Island. This experience demonstrated the importance of epidemiological principles in the science of public health. The shortage of flu vaccine experienced in the fall created a heightened need for careful surveillance of flu reports submitted by area physicians and laboratories.

Communication between the Canton "epi" and others in her role around the state provides a much faster notification of disease outbreaks and the direction in which they are moving. This service is paramount in the country's defense against bio-terrorist activities.

## Health Alert Network

When the Ohio Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention release alerts to the health community, it is our "HAN" coordinator who communicates those alerts to hospitals, laboratories, school systems, physicians, veterinarians, emergency agencies, and others. Using e-mail technology, FAX machines and sometimes a telephone, she allows for these important messages to get through quickly and accurately. This early warning system keeps health providers and interested community partners informed of breaking developments that impact those community residents in their care.

The Health Department staff is constantly rehearsing its response to an emergency. The HAN coordinator maintains the database for the Stark County Emergency Notification System, which can contact staff via telephone, cell phone, and/or pager with a recorded message detailing the nature of the emergency. The success or failure of the message to reach all staff is analyzed after each unannounced rehearsal.

The department's web site is also maintained by our HAN coordinator, providing timely information for the public.

# Environmental Health

You take your family out to eat at an area restaurant. Your children attend school. You live in Canton. A disaster strikes our community. What do these things and many others have in common? All are touched in some way by people from the Canton City Health Department.

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 the evaluation of unhealthy housing conditions, control of environmental nuisance conditions in the neighborhoods, control of animal and insect vectors, licensing and inspection of food operations, public health emergency response and planning, and many other environmental activities. The division has a dedicated staff of public health professionals, well trained and certified to perform their duties. The staff consists of eight registered sanitarians and a public health clerk.

In order to control environmental hazards in the Canton community, the Environmental Health staff responds to animal bites and rabies reports, animal waste, garbage and trash, lead paint, rodent and insect infestation, and other nuisances that present health risks to the environment. In 2004 the division responded to over 1,353 complaints and worked on over 1,190 environmental cases, 74 of which resulted in criminal prosecution. Over 4,461 environmental inspections were made in 2004.

The protection of food that is prepared and served to the public has long been a priority program for the Health Department since its inception in 1849. Locations that prepare food for the public such as restaurants, temporary food stands, mobile food stands, vending locations, and grocery stores must purchase a license from the department to operate. In 2004 there were 752 licenses issued for operations in the city of Canton. Over 1,418 food protection inspections were made. There was a continued trend in 2004 to open or remodel food operations in Canton. We reviewed over 13 plans for new or significantly remodeled operations. New operations in the downtown area, Rt 62 and Harmont Road NE, and the Canton Centre Mall area show that our community is indeed on the rebound. We look for continued growth in 2005.



Sanitarians and Police begin a public health nuisance investigation



Sanitarians participate in a mock disaster training event

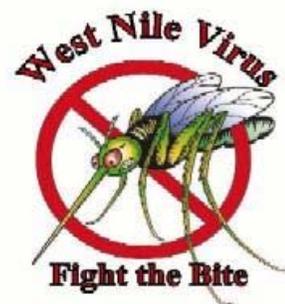
The control of animal bites, mosquitoes, and other vectors, such as rodents, is important to the control of disease in the community. All animal bites must be reported to the health department for a rabies investigation. 209 animal bites were reported in 2004, a slight increase from the 196 reports in 2003. In 2005, owners of dogs, cats, and ferrets must have current rabies vaccinations for these pets. If a pet is involved in an animal bite, it is required to be examined by a veterinarian and a report returned to the health department.

Other inspections conducted by this division in 2004 included swimming pools, schools and public buildings, solid and infectious waste facilities, tattoo and body piercing facilities, and solid waste transfer businesses.

Sanitarians also provided educational programs for the public. Programs were offered on bioterrorism, rodent and insect control, public health history, and disaster planning. The Environmental Health staff served on various community committees such as Stark County Kids' ID Program, the Summit Neighborhood Improvement Task Force, and the Hall of Fame Enshrinement Food Committee.

# Environmental Health

2004 was a light year for West Nile Virus infection in Canton. Diligent mosquito control was provided to the community by the Environmental



Health Division. This control consisted of dead bird and mosquito surveillance and targeted control efforts at mosquito breeding sites and adult mosquito control. Educating the public about self protection from West Nile Virus was conducted through posters, press releases, and web site articles. We were able to to greatly increase our mosquito control activities by hiring two part time technicians in this program area. Staff from the division spent over 400 hours conducting mosquito control activities in 2004.



The Canton City Health Department's commitment to food safety extends to the training of restaurant and food service employees. Environmental Health sanitarians teach this tuition-based course called "ServSafe" which was developed by the National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation. The curriculum covers sanitation, flow of food, cleaning facilities and equipment and finally, management. The goal is to better protect the public from food borne illnesses by educating those who work in the industry. At the end of the five day course, an exam is taken. Certification expires after five years. In 2004, 56 acquired ServSafe certification and one recertified.

Since 1993, the Canton City Health Department has been contracting with the Ohio EPA to provide inspection services to solid and infectious waste generators. Inspections are made to facilities such as hospitals, doctors' offices, nursing homes, and other facilities that generate sharps and other post-medical wastes. The Environmental Health Division determines compliance of these facilities in matters of handling, storing, and disposing of infectious wastes. Education is provided concerning compliance procedures as well.

## Solid Waste Infectious Waste

Solid waste transfer facilities are also inspected to determine state compliance rules. Education, and at times enforcement, is provided as to the proper disposal of scrap tires and household generation of hazardous waste. The program is funded from tipping fees generated at solid waste landfills, and managed by the Tri-County Solid Waste District.

The Canton City Health Department had established the inspection of public swimming pools long before State law required this service. All public pools are now required to be inspected and licensed in Ohio. To ensure that these inspections are performed properly, EH staff must hold a Certified Pool Operator license and attend ODH Health Rules updates before performing these duties.



The Environmental Health goal is to inspect all indoor public pools on a quarterly basis, and all outdoor pools monthly. This frequency is above state standards. The Environmental Health pool staff also educates pool operators during inspections. This education provides the operators with the necessary knowledge to maintain safe and sanitary facilities. In 2004, 51 pool inspections were conducted.

# Nursing Division

2004 was a busy and challenging year for the Nursing Division as we continued in our endeavor to protect the health of those who live, work, or visit the city of Canton. Activities included clinics, home visits, educational presentations, and outreach efforts.

In addition to the traditional services our division provided, increased efforts to plan for county-wide and region-wide response to disasters or terrorist actions continued to improve.

## Clinics

Twice a week Well Child Clinics provided immunizations to 1,155 children of all ages. 81 doses of yellow fever vaccine were administered in the Foreign Travel Clinic. 919 tuberculin skin tests were provided to those presenting at a once a week clinic, as well as to the Canton City Paramedics. 369 children were tested for lead at twice a month clinics and through the WIC program. 1,831 patients were tested and/or treated at twice a week Sexually Transmitted Disease Clinics. 1,031 individuals were tested for HIV at either a once a week HIV Clinic, during the STD Clinics, or during outreach activities.

When influenza vaccine availability was limited due to a manufacturing problem, local public health departments were required by the CDC and the Ohio Department of Health to administer the vaccine to certain high-risk groups only.

The expected crowds at off-site clinic locations offered an



A record number of flu vaccines were administered at this clinic.

opportunity to test the mass vaccination clinic plans that are being developed. Lessons were learned that will benefit us as we continue with our disaster planning. 3,686 flu shots were

administered to people in the high risk categories. Other divisions of the Health Department pitched in to help with this large undertaking. Despite the sometimes long waiting times, we received a number of positive comments from the public who attended our flu clinics.



2004 flu clinic lines began four hours before opening..

## Home Visits

An important aspect of public health nursing is involvement in the community. What better way to do this than by visiting residents in their homes to assess health status and the needs of families? The nurses performed 110 Bureau for Children with Medical Handicaps (BCMh) visits to provide service coordination. 159 newborn home visits were provided through the Help Me Grow Program. 548 visits were made for follow-up regarding communicable diseases such as tuberculosis, STD's, head lice, and gastrointestinal illnesses. The Disease Intervention Specialist concentrated her efforts on HIV and syphilis infections. She visited 379 patients or their contacts either in their homes, at the Health Department, or other places as determined by the patient.

## Educational Programs

An important role of Public Health is to help prepare future health care professionals with a basic knowledge of public health and its role in protecting and promoting healthy communities. In 2004, the nursing division partnered with NEOUCOM, local hospitals, and nursing schools to provide educational experiences for 41 students, interns and residents. Nurses also presented various health topics to 152 high school students enrolled in Teen Pregnancy classes. 822 people benefited from presentations about communicable diseases and ways to protect themselves from illnesses. Immunization information was presented to 89 people attending Goodwill Parenting classes, WIC nutrition education classes, and in various other settings. The nurses also participated in a number of community health fairs conducted throughout the year.

*Nursing Division, continued*



**Communicable Disease**

1,002 cases of reportable communicable diseases were reported to the Canton City Health Department as required by law. The majority of those were Chlamydia (559) and gonorrhea (408). Other reportable diseases included campylobacter, giardia, meningitis, salmonella, and a variety of others. All of these reports require some follow-up investigation by the nursing staff and the epidemiologist. There was one case of tuberculosis. The disease intervention specialist investigated 31 cases of syphilis, an extremely high number for Canton City.

**Dental Sealant Program**

A project to provide dental sealants to children in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grades in qualifying Canton City Schools was continued in 2004. This project is funded by a grant through the Ohio Department of Health and provided tooth cleanings, education, and sealants for 2,621 teeth for these children. Sealants have been shown to protect teeth from future decay, thus preventing the eventual costly and painful treatments that would be necessary to save those teeth.

*Statistics from the Canton Health Department*

**Leading Causes of Death  
Canton Residents**

Disease	2004	2003
Heart disease	615	676
Cancer (all types)	263	293
Flu/pneumonia	194	205
Pulmonary	*	11
Stroke	105	158

\* report pending

**Births and Deaths, Canton City  
Residents**

	2004	2003
Births registered	1,193	1,201
Deaths registered	647	730
Single Parent Births	723	685
Teenage Births (Age 11-19)	180	219

**Selected Reportable Diseases  
Canton Residents**

	2004	2003	2002
Chlamydia	559	548	675
Gonorrhea	408	429	506
Syphilis	31	2	1
Salmonella	10	7	5
Meningitis	11	24	18

**Traffic Crashes in Canton City**

	2004	2003	2002
Fatalities	8	8	13
Alcohol related	4	3	1
Injuries	*	1,385	1,633

\* report pending

# Stark County Public Health Infrastructure Program

After the attacks of September 11, 2001, it became clear that communities were not prepared to respond to disasters at a desired level. Necessary resources were lacking, both in personnel and equipment. And just as important, training, planning, and agency cooperation needed to be given priority status in order to adequately prepare for emergency response, whether man-made or natural.

The Stark County community is fortunate to be able to participate in a program to build its emergency response infrastructure. The Canton City Health Department administers this program which is partially funded by federal and state homeland security money. The funding has benefited all four health departments in Stark County, and requires that all planning include other emergency agencies such as police and fire departments, hospitals, mental health, and the Stark County Emergency Management Agency.

Infrastructure monies support the salaries of six public health professionals within the health departments. Two epidemiologists, a health alert network coordinator, a health educator, a plan coordinator, and a public information officer have been at least partially supported by the infrastructure grant. These professionals have worked to provide the necessary public health capacity needed for modern health departments.



Should a public health emergency develop in Stark County, other agencies will need to cooperate in the response effort. This requires advance planning to coordinate manpower, equipment, and policies. Mutual aid agreements must be established and communication channels maintained. Leadership roles must be designated and duties and responsibilities assigned across jurisdictional lines. This coordinated effort has been a huge challenge that continues to be better defined as practice sessions and countless hours of planning are devoted to the task. Staff are trained in the "Incident Command" model of management to familiarize them with this community-wide response structure. The trust and respect that agencies have shared with one another are vital aspects of a successful emergency plan.

Critical to any public health response to a disease outbreak is the early recognition that an outbreak is beginning. Constant surveillance of disease reports from hospitals and physicians is part of the responsibilities of the two epidemiologists. They, along with other infectious disease specialists in the county are part of the Real-time Outbreak and Disease Surveillance (RODS) program. The RODS system is a computer based system that tracks data from consumer sales of pharmaceuticals and emergency department visits. This data could be an early warning of a disease outbreak developing in the community.



Canton sanitarian trains in use of Level B protective equipment.

The best response plan would be unsuccessful if the community were not informed about the emergency. Public information planning seeks to insure that information is accurate, timely, and helpful during an emergency. Media releases must be coordinated among all responders, and messages must reach audiences that speak other languages, are tourists, non-hearing, or shut-ins.

Infrastructure building includes upgrading equipment that usual public health budgets have not been able to supply. With this funding, purchases have included computer equipment that allows all departments to communicate with state and federal agencies, as well as with each other. This computer system also allows for epidemiological data to be shared with other public health agencies within a secure system. A radio communications system is now provided that will allow staff to communicate with local and state authorities. Additionally, personal protection equipment such as biohazard suits were purchased and training for their use obtained.

The four health departments in Stark County continue to refine the health emergency plan. As further training is obtained, greater expertise is added to the community preparation strategy. This infrastructure funding has allowed public health to better provide protection to the community from harm and disease.

# Air Pollution Control Division

The Air Pollution Control Division works to protect the ambient (outside) air quality for the residents of Stark County. The goal of safe, healthy air requires air monitoring, implementing the state's air permit process, and enforcing state and federal regulations.

The State of Ohio requires that industrial sources of air pollutants obtain permits. The APC staff continually evaluates whether the permitted facility demonstrates compliance with all rules restricting air contaminants. During this period, 71 new permit requests were processed. All permitted facilities are inspected for permit compliance. Air polluting sources include industrial smoke stacks, industrial equipment, gasoline stations, and commercial dry cleaners.

The Federal 1990 Clean Air Act now requires that major industrial sources (those over 100 tons per year of actual emissions) obtain comprehensive Title V permits. Canton APC Division currently has 30 of these facilities in its jurisdiction.

One of the major ways the APC Division monitors permit compliance is by performing periodic site inspections. These inspections must be conducted according to the Federal Compliance Monitoring Strategy. During this period, APC conducted 30 inspections, 18 of which were classified high priority facilities.

The APC staff responds promptly to complaints and questions. Such complaints or questions may concern both the public and private sector, such as plant emissions or open burning. During this period, the staff investigated 290 complaints and conducted appropriate corrective actions.

The APC Division must enforce the law when they discover violations of permit terms and/or air regulations. During 2004, 192 warning letters or notices of violations were issued, and three cases were referred to Ohio EPA for enforcement.

APC operates a network of air monitoring instruments in order to capture and analyze ambient air samples throughout the county. These instruments can warn the technicians of unhealthy levels of ozone, sulfur dioxide, and particulate matter. This data is reported daily as the "Air Quality Index" and can be found on the Canton Health Department's web site: [www.cantonhealth.org](http://www.cantonhealth.org) and on various other media sites. Twice during this period the ozone levels exceeded the new eight hour standard established by the EPA. During the growing season, many residents look to the APC Division to provide data on pollen and mold levels in the atmosphere. This important health data is gathered, analyzed, reported to the media and listed on the web site.



As building demolition and renovation continue in the community, the APC Division performs the duty of overseeing the state and federal regulations governing the safe removal, handling, and disposal of asbestos from these buildings. 166 demolition notifications were processed, and 49 asbestos inspections performed in 2004.

According to a 2004 report by the American Academy of Pediatrics, "Ambient air pollution has important and diverse effects, and infants and children are among the most susceptible. There is a compelling need to move forward on efforts to ensure clean air for all."



APC Engineer, right, inspects an emission monitoring device at a local industry.

# Public Health Issues

“An estimated 25% of preventable illnesses worldwide can be attributed to poor environmental quality. In the US alone, air pollution is estimated to be associated with 50,000 premature deaths and an estimated \$40 - \$50 billion in health-related costs annually. “

*CDC, Healthy People in Healthy Communities, 2004*

Since 1900, the average life span for persons in the U.S. has increased over 30 years; 25 years of this gain are ascribed to advances in public health. The CDC has chosen these advances as the top ten:

- Vaccinations
- Motor vehicle safety
- Safer work places
- Improved sanitation & antimicrobial agents
- Decline in coronary disease and strokes
- Safer and healthier foods
- Healthier mothers and babies
- Family planning
- Fluoridation of drinking water
- Recognition of tobacco as a health hazard

Secondhand tobacco smoke has been classified as a Group A (known human) carcinogen, as have asbestos and benzene.

More people die from secondhand tobacco smoke than all other regulated occupational substances combined.

*-CDC, "Costs and Other Consequences of Tobacco"*

(There is no state-wide ban on workplace smoking in Ohio. Canton does not have a ban on public or workplace smoking.)

Due in large part to antibiotic resistance, nearly 2 million patients in the U.S. acquired an infection in the hospital. Of those patients, about 90,000 died in 2004, up 574% from 2003. More than 70% of the bacteria that cause hospital-acquired infections are resistant to at least one of the drugs most commonly used to treat them.

*The National Institutes of Health April, 2004*

One-third of the world's population is infected with tuberculosis bacilli, although not all are ill or infectious. 5-10% of people who are infected will become sick or infectious at some time during their life if untreated. Three million will die annually of the disease worldwide. Currently, it is estimated that 10-15 million people living in the United States are infected with TB, although those who are actively ill number approximately 15,000. Adequate building ventilation is the most important measure to prevent the transmission of tuberculosis, an air-borne disease.

*National Institutes of Health March, 2002*

Looking  
Back,  
100 years  
ago...



The Canton City Health Department paid *The Canton Repository* \$2.50 for 100 Smallpox Quarantine cards.  
*Board of Health minutes, February, 1904*

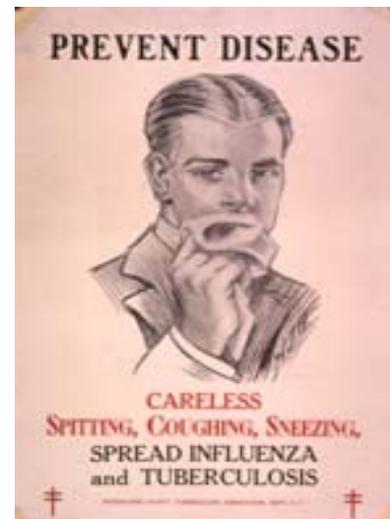
The National Association for the Study and Prevention of Tuberculosis was formed in 1904. TB bacteria were discovered in sputum, prompting a campaign against spitting.

A Canton Health Department Sanitary Officer was instructed by the Board of Health to put up signs in Canton that warned "Do Not Spit on Sidewalk"

*Board of Health minutes,  
November, 1904*

A Canton Sanitary Officer reports, "much trouble with West Lawn Army Barracks on account of cesspool overflowing. The Board orders an additional overflow cesspool to be constructed."

*Board of Health minutes, December, 1904*



50  
years  
ago...

Dr. Jonas Salk began field testing of the polio vaccine in the Pittsburg school system in 1954.

Canton City Board of Health reported 31 polio cases in 1954.

*Board of Health Annual Report,  
December 1954.*



1954 Births to Canton Residents: 2,882  
1954 single mother births: 120



# 2004 Board of Health and Personnel

## CANTON CITY BOARD OF HEALTH

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Bernard Jenkins, P.E., President Pro Tempore  
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Ernest O. Schott  
M. Fiorentino, M.D.

## CANTON CITY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

330-489-3231

Robert E. Pattison, R.S., M.P.A.  
Health Commissioner

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  
Gregory Clark, B.S., M.B.A., Engineer  
Bud Keim, O.R., M.S., Engineer  
Pat Petrella, P.E., M.S., Engineer  
Patrick Shriver, B.S., Engineer  
Robert Zahirsky, B.S., M.B.A., Engineer  
James Miday, Electronic Engineer Technician  
Rick Miller, R.S., B.S., Staff Field Inspector  
Sherry Hustus, B.S., 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 III  
Will Holden, R.S., B.A., Staff Sanitarian III  
Karen Myers, R.S., B.S., Staff Sanitarian III  
Bruce Bixler, R.S., B.S., Staff Sanitarian II  
Ron Crabtree, R.S., B.A., Staff Sanitarian II  
Gus E. Dria, R.S., B.S., Staff Sanitarian II  
Brian Gero, R.S., B.S., Staff Sanitarian II  
Jack Wade, R.S., B.A., Staff Sanitarian II  
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., Lab Technician

## NURSING DIVISION

330-489-3322

Rose Ann Warth, R.N., Director of Nursing  
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  
Desiree Steiner, R.N. Staff Nurse  
Diane Thompson, R.N., Staff Nurse  
Thomas Wingert, L.S.W., Health Services Coord.

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

## OFFICE OF PUBLIC HEALTH INFORMATION

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  
Constance Ash, PT Public Health Clerk

## W.I.C. DIVISION

330-489-3326

LaVerne Gillis, R.D., M.S., Community Dietitian  
& WIC Supervisor  
Janet Frank, R.D., B.A., W.I.C. Dietitian  
Laura Jewett, R.D., B.S., W.I.C. Dietitian  
Sue Parr, L.P.N., W.I.C. Clinic Assistant  
Carol Frient, IBCLC, PT W.I.C. Clinic Assistant,  
Breastfeeding Coordinator  
Cheryl Bradley, Public Health Clerk  
Kathy Murphy, Public Health Clerk  
Karen Moulin, PT Public Health Clerk

For information on services,  
send an e-mail to:  
info@cantonhealth.org

Visit us on the Web at  
www.cantonhealth.org

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