



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

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In this report:

Quality Improvement	1
Finance	2
Vital Statistics	2
Nursing	3
Air Pollution Control	4
Environmental Health	5
Laboratory	6
Medical Director	6
Office of Public Health Information	7
Women, Infants & Children	8

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Canton City Health Department 2017 Annual Report

Health Commissioner

James M. Adams, RS, MPH

I am pleased to present the 2017 annual report. This report is just a snapshot of the important work done every day to prevent the spread of disease, promote health, and protect the community from harm.

Each statistic in this report tells a story. A story of people who live and work in our community. A story of families who strive to make this a better place. I am honored to be part of an organization and a staff that works together to accomplish the goal of better health for all in Canton.

James M. Adams, RS, MPH

Quality Improvement

During 2017, CCHD's Quality Improvement (QI) program made progress on the goals and objectives (i.e. activities) contained in the 2016-2017 QI Plan in order to further develop a culture of quality improvement at CCHD. These activities include conducting QI skills assessment, QI 101 training, and formation of two QI Project Teams (QIPT) who worked on completing two QI projects (see progress below). As can be seen in the table, there are several activities in progress to complete in 2018.

Status of QI Goals and Objectives as of 12/31/2017					
Original deadline:	Total	Completed by deadline	Completed in 2016 after deadline	Completed in 2017 after deadline	Still in progress
3 rd Quarter 2016	5	3	1	1	0
4 th Quarter 2016	9	2	0	4	3
4 th Quarter 2017	6	2	0	0	4

QI Project #1 for program area: Improving Nursing Childhood Immunization Clinics:

Project to decrease time spent on the process in order to increase clients served per day. The QIPT had 7 planning meetings in 2017, collected baseline data in November 2017 and developed improvement strategies and plan in December 2017. The strategies include changing appointment times and updating patient forms for existing patients. The QIPT is implementing the improvements, but needs to finish implementation then collect and analyze data before the project is complete.

QI Project #2 for administrative area: Phone Routing and Answering:

Project to resolve callers choosing the wrong auto-selection thus getting the wrong end user and being transferred to clerks instead of end users. The QIPT had 3 planning meetings in 2017, collected baseline data in September 2017 and developed improvement strategies and plan in September 2017. The strategies include standardizing/updating reference sheets and policies, updating main phone line auto-selection, and adding auto-selection to WIC phone line. The QIPT is working on implementing the improvements but needs to finish implementation then collect and analyze data before the project is complete.

Finance

Christi Allen, Fiscal Officer

Revenues	2017	2016	2015
Local Sources:			
Permits & Fees	\$731,936	\$677,915	\$673,347
Nursing Clinic Fees	104,720	82,030	159,096
Other	396,932	233,478	41,734
Advances/Transfer In		0	0
Revenues from the City	1,377,512	1,618,443	2,089,928
State Sources:			
State Subsidy	13,696	28,696	13,674
Grants	4,478,039	4,308,249	2,973,585
Other	98,961	139,142	107,587
Federal Sources:			
Contracts	186,575	286,638	207,548
Total Revenues	\$7,388,372	\$7,374,591	\$6,266,499

Expenditures	2017	2016	2015
Salaries	\$2,755,313	\$2,786,707	\$2,917,894
Benefits	1,233,544	1,239,556	1,312,072
Purchased Services	523,807	612,158	275,763
Program Contracts	837,470	876,803	864,152
Supplies	234,326	191,455	165,635
Equipment	46,037	40,310	67,408
State Remittances	277,500	230,704	231,084
Other	111,927	127,630	132,142
Advances/Transfers Out	15,000	0	61,960
Prior year commitments pd	399,195	74,107	177,510
Total Expenditures	\$6,434,119	\$6,179,430	\$6,205,619



Vital Statistics

Rob Knight, Deputy Registrar

Leading Causes of Death in Canton*			
	2017*	2016*	2015
Heart Disease	461	482	515
Cancer (All Types)	261	259	241
Flu/Pneumonia	112	131	120
Stroke	98	104	110
Kidney Failure	62	81	85
Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease	74	62	63
Drug Related	-	38	50
All Other Causes	401	599	581

*4th quarter 2016 and all of 2017 exclude cases investigated by the coroner's office.

Certificates Issued			
	2017	2016	2015
Birth	9,723	9,650	9,414
Death	6,492	6,667	6,653

Vital Statistics			
	2017	2016	2015
Deaths	1,747	1,756	1,755
Births	4,132	4,266	4,145
- Unmarried Parents (At the time of birth)	2,025	2,020	1,751
- Teen Births (13 - 19)	303	282	273

Pictured: On November 1, 2017 department staff met to discuss topics such as accreditation, quality improvement, safety, cultural competency, department branding and the strategic plan. These all -staff meetings occur once each year.

Nursing

Jon Elias, MD; Medical Director

Diane Thompson, RN, MSN; Director of Nursing

Public health nurses provide services throughout the city to assess, protect, and promote the health and wellbeing of our residents. This is accomplished through the provision of direct client services, population based screening, education, and health promotion activities. On June 23, 2017, Canton City Health Department (CCHD) began implementing SWAP (Stark Wide Approach to Prevention), a comprehensive syringe access program. The goal of SWAP is to protect and promote the health and safety of Stark County's residents by preventing the spread of infectious diseases associated with injection drug use, and to decrease the number of improperly disposed syringes in the community. The goal is addressed through three major components of the program: 1) syringe exchange, linkage and referral; 2) syringe disposal; and 3) awareness and education.

Syringe exchange has been documented to be a public health intervention that reduces both transmission of blood-borne pathogens, and the number of improperly discarded syringes in the community. CCHD utilizes a harm reduction approach by providing injection drug users with new syringes, harm reduction tools, and a place to safely dispose of used syringes. At the same time, referrals and linkage to substance use treatment programs, mental health services, and medical services are provided along with information on disease prevention. Syringe access programs provide an essential link to health services for uninsured and marginalized populations that do not have access to traditional health care.

The program was initiated due to the increase in cases of Hepatitis C (HCV) seen in Stark County and the potential for HIV transmission among people who inject drugs (PWID). HCV infection is largely attributed to the use of contaminated needles. Chronic HCV can lead to scarring of the liver, cirrhosis, liver failure and/or liver cancer. Throughout Stark County, the number of chronic HCV carriers continues to be unreliable due to variation in reporting capacities and the high volume of duplicated positive lab tests. Consequently, we believe we see only a fraction of the reports and we only follow those cases with acute infections and those with a higher likelihood of yielding opportunities for contact intervention and transmission interruption.

As of 1/31/2018, 113 unduplicated participants have accessed SWAP services. The median age of participants is 34.5 years. We see 58% male and 42% female. We have properly disposed of 12,307 syringes and distributed 16,945 syringes. In addition, we have distributed 81 Narcan kits, 20 substance use referrals, completed 6 HIV tests and 2 Hepatitis C tests (most participants already know his/her HCV status). We have identified 26 different zip codes and have a median number of 75.3% return rate on syringes. In order for syringe exchange programs to be completely effective in preventing the spread of blood borne pathogens, they must provide PWID with an adequate supply of syringes to use a new syringe for every injection.

Funding for this program continues to be a significant struggle. A private grant was received from AIDS Healthcare Foundation which provided us with the startup funds for SWAP. However, we have reached the end of the grant cycle and although we have applied for numerous grants, we have been denied; therefore we do not know how we will continue to fund this program in the years ahead. The needle exchange is a part of a comprehensive continuum of services for PWID and continues to be a necessary Public Health measure to reduce transmission of bloodborne diseases in our community.

Nursing Outreach			
	2017	2016	2015
Communicable Disease	45	30	4
Disease Intervention Specialist	91	108	89
Other Outreach Services	-	245	131
Dental - Students Screened	1,697	2,761	-
Clinic Services			
	2017	2016	2015
STI Clinic	1,017	1,163	1,203
International Travel	257	235	250
Tuberculosis Testing	181	211	242
Well-Baby Immunizations	454	587	581
HIV Testing	766	1,149	91
SWAP Visits	330	-	-
SWAP HIV/HepC Tests	6	-	-

Air Pollution Control

Terri Dzienis; APC Administrator

In March 2017, residents in a Canton neighborhood near Title V facility Republic Steel notified city officials of concerns regarding dust from the facility and its impact on their health. This topic got the attention of the local news and on April 4, 2017, a public meeting was hosted by CCHD to share and gather information from residents. Following the meeting, APC received 28 complaints from the community regarding Republic Steel in 2017; up from 1 complaint received in 2016. APC then conducted 28 complaint investigations, 21 inspections (non-complaint), 1 test observation, and 21 Method-9 opacity observations at Republic Steel resulting in 18 violation findings cited in 4 Notice of Violation enforcement actions and issuance of a modified air permit requiring improved work practices aimed at minimizing dust. As a contractual agency for Ohio EPA, Canton APC has worked with Ohio EPA DAPC on the investigation and enforcement for Republic Steel, with the goal of resolving violations and returning the facility to compliance. In total from 2013-2016, Canton APC conducted 11 complaint investigations, 11 inspections (non-complaint), 3 test observations, and 11 opacity observations at Republic Steel resulting in 15 violation findings cited in 8 Notice of Violation enforcement actions. Those violations were resolved with Ohio EPA Findings and Orders leading to a \$125,000 penalty in November 2016.

Per their air permit, Republic Steel is required to operate an ambient air monitoring site near their facility. Republic Steel chose to contract Canton APC to setup and operate the site. In 2017, Canton APC coordinated construction of the new monitoring site and platform. On June 6, 2017, the ambient air sampling equipment at the site began operating to monitor air quality impact of lead and other metals emissions from Republic Steel. For more comprehensive analyses, Ohio EPA provided Canton APC with additional equipment to measure particulate (PM₁₀) and manganese particles smaller than 10 microns. On December 9, 2017, the PM₁₀ and manganese sampling equipment began operating at the site. APC staff perform regular maintenance and quality control activities on the equipment to achieve compliance with sampling method standards. Samples from the equipment are analyzed by an offsite Ohio EPA laboratory and results are received 6 to 8 weeks after collection. The results from the monitors are available on our website under "Air Quality" and show compliance with air quality standards.

Canton APC collected 13 samples of dust on homes and vehicles in the area and 2 known material samples for comparison. To determine the origin and content of the dust, all samples were microscopically analyzed by the CCHD Laboratory. Two were also analyzed by an outside lab. In addition, CCHD's other divisions completed soil testing in the neighborhood, a cancer cluster evaluation, and other epidemiological data evaluations throughout 2017 all showing no adverse health or environmental impacts. CCHD, along with representatives of Ohio EPA, plans to conduct a follow-up public meeting in the early months of 2018.

Complaint investigations, compliance evaluations, and ambient air monitoring are all part of Canton APC's essential services for the community we serve. The importance of the community calling in incidents as they occur are paramount to conducting effective investigations and determining the cause of the incidents.

Air Pollution Control Activities

	2017	2016	2015
Open Burning			
Complaints Investigated	184	146	225
Enforcement Actions	136	120	161
Violations Resolved	111	109	118
Open Burning Permissions	6	13	18
Asbestos Program			
Inspections (non-complaint)	71	69	35
Complaints Investigated	4	2	5
Enforcement Actions	13	19	21
Violations Resolved	9	12	8
Facility Program			
Inspections (non-complaint)	68	93	79
Complaints Investigated	41	17	14
Enforcement Actions	18	16	14
Violations Resolved	11	11	7
Tests Observed	19	12	13
Opacity Observations	23	13	4
Permits Issued	54	112	86
Other Programs			
Anti-tampering Inspections	3	4	4
Inspections (non-complaint)	24	20	16
Complaints Investigated	45	34	22
Enforcement Actions	2	3	3
Violations Resolved	3	0	2

Environmental Health

**Mark H. Adams, RS, MPH;
Director of Environmental Health**

The Division of Environmental Health at the Canton City Health Department strives to be proactive in addressing the community's needs for the prevention of disease and injury. Environmental Health is divided into three main sections: Consumer Services, Community Services and Special Services.

For the third year in a row, we increased our activities at the recycling center, cut costs and reduced wastes bound for the landfills. Our activities at the center resulted in the collection of 90,439 pounds of hazardous materials being diverted from burial in a landfill. It also resulted in nearly 35 thousand dollars in sales of various materials brought into the center that just seven years ago, were being thrown out with the garbage.

The Community Services Section deals with odors, excessive accumulation of animal waste, rabies control, HAZMAT spills, poor water quality and poor indoor air quality. They also work at the recycling center as part of a collateral duty.

Consumer Services is responsible for the inspection of food establishments but going into restaurants and performing inspections is just half of the task. Consumer Services personnel are also charged with the inspection and licensing of vending machines, temporary event food service inspections, and public swimming pools. This section also inspects waste transfer stations, composting facilities, small and large infectious waste generators and tattoo parlors.

EH Activities			
	2017	2016	2015
Animal Bites	253	382	299
Food Protection Activities	1,901	1,846	2,019
Nuisance Complaint Activities	4,559	4,731	-
Cases Opened	906	1,558	1,884
Cases Resolved	884	1,541	1,867
Pool and Spa Inspections	51	66	56
School Inspections	54	54	46
Solid/Infectious Waste Activities	72	78	66
Tattoo/Body Piercing Inspections	68	70	15

Food Cases		
	2017	2016
Food Complaints	71	67
Complaints Resolved	71	67
Contaminated Food Inspections	4	9
Compliance Achieved	4	9
Illnesses Logged	37	81
Operating Without a License	4	0
Shutdown	4	0
Unsanitary Facility Complaints	18	18
Complaints Resolved by Inspections and Orders	18	18
Board Actions for Food	4	7
Food Reinspections	1,201	1,279

The Special Services Section was disbanded in 2017 due to increased costs in the lead program. We made the tough choice in turning in our local lead program to the State of Ohio and repurposing our personnel in other programs. This does not weaken the protection of the community; it is a trend that precedes us by almost every other local and county health department in favor of costs and wise use of personnel. The Ohio Department of Health does a fine job of investigating lead issues and has excellent standardized follow up procedures.

Nuisance Cases		
	2017	2016
Board Actions for Nuisance	85	103
Nuisance Reinspections	1072	1121

Laboratory

Christina Henning, Laboratory Director

The year 2017 demonstrated a commitment of quality to our drinking water patrons, promotion of science in our youth and the potential for exciting expansion of our testing platform.

Testing drinking water samples for bacterial quality continues to expand with increases in sample submissions each of the past four years; from 2014 to 2017 there was an overall increase of 22%. Expansion of water testing information on our website directly led to part of the increase in testing. For the first time, consumer information about water testing, including how to collect the samples, sample submission forms and the cost can easily be found through a simple web search.

Testing drinking water is done under the auspices of an Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) Certification. The OEPA completed a bi-annual inspection and recertified the Canton City Health Department Laboratory (CCHDL) citing zero deficiencies. We are proud to maintain our certification displaying the commitment to provide competent and compliant testing.

Expansion of available testing is promising but expanding into new testing is exciting. Working with an intern from Kent State University, we embarked on a project to develop a protocol for Legionella pneumophila surveillance testing and completion of a legionella risk survey in long term care facilities. Legionella is an organism that is common in the environment, however within certain high risk settings has led to outbreaks and death.

Educational partnerships stretched beyond our area universities and into our area youth. Once again the CCHDL sponsored a science fair project. One youth, working with their chosen project, went on to win first place in a local competition but more importantly expanded their knowledge and love for science.

Additionally, we continue to support our internal partnerships completing 5,755 clinical, 148 environmental and 670 food tests.

Together, our lab team, works toward our departmental mission to prevent the spread of disease, promote health and protect the public from harm.

Laboratory Exams			
	2017	2016	2015
Food Samples	670	744	672
Clinical Tests	5,455	5,477	6,433
Other	21	4	5
Pollen/Mold	127	139	133
Water	2,161	2,066	1,896

Medical Director

Jon Elias, MD

2017 marks my first full year as Medical Director of the Canton City Health Department. I am amazed at the wonderful services provided to the community through our nursing division. We have continued providing many health promotional activities throughout the area. We have given immunizations to underserved children, provided a dental sealant program and administered the WIC program.

Our Travel Clinic has seen over 250 patients providing a much needed resource to our area. With the unfortunate rise nationwide of STIs, our STI clinic is an absolute necessity in our community.

Our new syringe access program, SWAP, has been an overwhelming success. While trying to decrease the risk of Hep C and HIV in our area, we are also able to provide clients with information and resources on substance abuse in a non pressured situation.

Our future challenges are many. We have funding problems with our SWAP program. The opiate crisis is catastrophic. However, the exceptional staff in our division always seems to come up with a solution. We are ready for 2018 and beyond!

Office of Public Health Information

The Office of Public Health Information (OPHI) works with other divisions, agencies and the public to increase emergency preparedness and awareness of public health activities. In everyday activities as well as emergency situations, strong communication is the key to an effective response. Communication avenues used to keep our community and partners up to date on important issues are our website (www.cantonhealth.org), Health Alert Network (HAN) messages and social media. Social media provides the opportunity to provide real time information and has proven effective as an outreach tool. Facebook is used on a daily basis and continues to be an excellent means of providing Facebook friends with educational information, programs offered by the health department and community activities. We have over 2,000 followers and our audience continues to grow. Our social media guru has also started to expand our use of Twitter as an additional communication channel. You can find us on Twitter @cantonhealth. You can find all of our social media by using our hashtag, #cantonhealth.

A branch of OPHI includes the public health discipline epidemiology. Epidemiologists study public health problems, such as unintentional injuries, communicable disease, environmental exposures, cardiovascular disease, obesity, tobacco use and other health-related issues that affect our community. Epidemiologists may prepare reports and presentations to assist with programmatic planning efforts and to display data in an understandable format. Our epidemiologist focuses on disease surveillance to identify, investigate and prevent outbreaks in our community. In 2016, 1,505 individual reportable disease cases were reported to the communicable disease staff at Canton City Health Department. The epidemiologist and communicable disease staff investigated 9 outbreaks within Canton City limits (compared to 10 in 2016):

- 1 Norovirus (GII)
- 1 Rotavirus
- 1 Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA)
- 1 Pediculosis (Lice)
- 2 Hand, foot and mouth disease
- 3 Pertussis (whooping cough)

Of the mandated reportable disease cases investigated by Canton City Health Department, statistically significant differences were identified in the number of shigellosis, pertussis and gonococcal infections reported from 2016 to 2017. A significant decrease was noted for gonococcal infections; however, a significant increase was noted for shigellosis and pertussis. Overall, a statistically significant decrease was identified between total cases from 2016 to 2017. For 2017, there were 179 less cases reported among Canton City residents than in 2016. The 1,505 cases reported in 2017 is in line with the 5 year average or expected caseload.

Case Count of Reportable Diseases			
	2017	2016	2015
Campylobacteriosis	26	24	16
Chlamydia infection	796	911	783
Cryptosporidiosis	2	8	1
Cyclosporiasis	0	1	0
E. coli, Shiga Toxin-Producing	1	2	4
Giardiasis	3	6	9
Gonococcal infection	326	444	534
Haemophilus influenzae (invasive disease)	2	3	3
Hepatitis A	0	2	2
Hepatitis B - acute	3	1	3
Hepatitis B - chronic	18	19	11
Hepatitis C - acute	1	4	2
Hepatitis C - chronic	105	105	130
Immigrant Investigation	0	1	1
Influenza-associated hospitalization	113	63	75
Legionellosis - Legionnaire's Disease	6	4	4
Lyme Disease	5	3	2
Meningitis - aseptic/viral	14	7	8
Meningitis - bacterial (Not N. meningitidis)	1	2	0
Mumps	1	1	1
Mycobacterial disease - other than tuberculosis	3	3	2
Pertussis	17	3	8
Salmonellosis	4	10	12
Shigellosis	17	6	5
Streptococcal - Group A -invasive	5	5	2
Streptococcal - Group B - in newborn	0	2	0
Streptococcal toxic shock syndrome (STSS)	0	1	1
Streptococcus pneumoniae - invasive antibiotic resistance unknown/non-resistant	7	13	8
Streptococcus pneumoniae - invasive antibiotic resistant/intermediate	6	6	3
Syphilis - any stage	14	11	4
Tuberculosis	5	1	1
Varicella	1	6	2
Vibriosis (not cholera)	0	1	0
Yersiniosis	2	3	0
Zika virus infection	0	1	0
Grand Total	1,505	1,684	1,449



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The Canton City Health Department is proud to present our annual report for 2017. This report represents a brief summary of the activities of an amazing group of public health professionals. Health Department staff are working to improve our neighborhoods, protect our food, monitor the air we breathe, follow up on a contagious disease, track vital records, work with new moms to provide better nutrition for their babies and provide immunizations and education that will help improve the health of those who live, work and play in the City of Canton.

Women, Infants & Children (WIC)

Laura Roach, RD, LD; WIC Director

In 2017, WIC continued to see a decline in program participation, both nationally and at the state level. Enrollment peaked in 2010, and has been on a steady decline ever since. In fact, 2016 was the 6th consecutive year with fewer participants in all groups served (women, infants, and children).

This trend is evident within the Stark County WIC Project as well.

Program participation has declined by at least 5% each year since 2014. At that time, the average number of individuals enrolled each month was 7,012; by 2017, this average dropped to 5,881.

National reports have indicated that improving economic conditions and the decline in overall births may be major contributors to this pattern. Locally, while we appreciate that some of the decline may be due to positive external factors, we have been focused on the idea of “caseload retention”. It’s important to ask the question of why are eligible people enrolling in the program and not returning, or, not enrolling at all.

The best source for this data is our program participants and WIC clinic staff. Feedback from our families helps us identify areas that can be improved to enhance their experiences not only in the WIC Clinic but also at stores when they purchase their WIC supplemental foods. Staff input on how we can improve our services is vital, as they have the first-hand knowledge of what does and doesn’t work in a busy clinic setting.

A significant change, aimed at improved retention at the state level, was the switch to an Electronic Benefits Card (EBT) instead of paper vouchers to ease the shopping experience. One local initiative was our walk-in clinics, which have been the preferred choice over scheduled appointments for the majority of the families we serve. Working on “retention” goes beyond these big changes and into our daily clinic processes. We will continue to examine how we can best serve our program participants and specifically, how we can keep eligible participants enrolled so that they continue to receive nutrition education and breastfeeding support.

Even with these trends, WIC remains the Nation’s 3rd largest food and nutrition assistance program. On average, about half of all infants in the United States, and over a quarter of all women (pregnant and postpartum) and children participate in the program. The Canton City WIC Office will continue to provide excellent service to our WIC families. We will do this by making a positive impact on families’ lives. Together, we will continue to build a healthy Canton City!

Monthly Average WIC Program Participants			
	2017	2016	2015
Canton City WIC	2,210	2,389	2,579
Total Stark County WIC	5,881	6,296	7,012