

# Darke County General Health District

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## **Public Health Services**

2019 Annual Report



Contributing to a stronger  
healthier community.

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What does the Darke County General Health District Do?

- A message from our Health Commissioner, Dr. Holman
- What's New
- Financial Report
- Nursing Division Services
- Vital Statistics
- Environmental Division Services

## About Us:

### **What is Public Health?**

*Public Health* is a term used to encompass a variety of activities designed to prevent the spread of disease and promote optimal health.

### **Our Mission:**

To develop and maintain an efficient and effective system which will provide for the highest quality of public health services and to promote and protect the Darke County community's physical, mental, social, and environmental well being.

### **Our Vision:**

Our vision is to be an innovative leader in achieving the highest possible health and well being for Darke County and the environment.

### **The Darke County General Health District and our community:**

Local health departments were developed to provide an organized approach to public health activities in communities. Activities of the Darke County General Health District include immunizations, vital statistics, environmental health, nursing, emergency preparedness, communicable disease control, epidemiology and health education.

Every time you visit campgrounds, restaurants, swimming pools, schools and grocery stores, the Darke County General Health District plays a role in protecting public health. The health department is also responsible for providing immunizations, performing epidemiological investigations, coordinating emergency response with other agencies, and providing public health education.

### **Health Commissioner's Message: Terrence Holman, DVM, RS**

Darke County is part of an initiative led and funded by the National Institutes of Health called the "Helping to End Addiction Longterm Initiative<sup>SM</sup>", or "HEALing Communities Initiative<sup>SM</sup>". The project involves four states; Kentucky, Massachusetts, New York and Ohio. The entities that have been awarded funding to lead the initiative in each state are the University of Kentucky, Lexington, Boston Medical Center, Boston, Columbia University, New York City, and The Ohio State University, Columbus.

There are nineteen counties in Ohio that are participating representing both rural and urban populations. Locations were picked based on statistics revealing prevalence of opioid addiction and accidental overdose incidence.



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While Darke County has addressed this issue in many ways already, the study will track the statistics while projects continue to be implemented as well as any planning and implementation of new projects that focus on opioid use and addiction are introduced to the community.

**What is New at the Darke County General Health District?**

We are on our way to putting into practice our efforts that we spelled out in our Accreditation Action Plan. Accreditation continues to be a learning experience that will enhance the expert knowledge that our health department maintains to serve the community. While the performance management of our programs has been consistent and reveals the high standards in which we operate, the focus on quality improvement that the status of accreditation brings with it, will be an exciting challenge for our staff.

**Shingrix Vaccine**

Shingrix is a new vaccine that protects against shingles. Shingrix is now the preferred vaccine over Zostavax, which has been used since 2006. Shingrix is a two dose series separated by two to six months. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends adults over 50 years of age get two doses of Shingrix. In adults 50 to 69 years old, who received two doses, the vaccine was 97 percent effective in preventing shingles. Among adults 70 years and older, the vaccine was 91 percent effective. The Darke County General Health District administered 48 doses of Shingrix in 2019.

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd/shingles/public/shingrix/index.html>

**Infectious Waste Program**

Starting in 2020, the Darke County Health Department will start performing annual inspections of all large generators of infectious waste in Darke County. A large generator of infectious waste is any generator that generates fifty pounds or more of infectious waste in any one month. Large generators are registered by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency. Currently there are 6 large generators of infectious waste in Darke County. This inspection is being conducted in partnership with the Darke County Solid Waste District. The Health Department conducts this inspection to determine compliance with Ohio Administrative Code 3745-27-30. Small generators of infectious waste will be periodically checked to ensure that the amount of infectious waste generated does not exceed more than 50 pounds in any one month.



## About Us:

### **The Darke County General Health District :**

The Darke County General Health District is a combined health district representing Greenville City and the Darke County Community. There are five individuals appointed to the Board of Health. The Mayor of Greenville City appoints two members of the Board of Health to represent Greenville City. The District Advisory Council (DAC) appoints two members of the Board of Health to represent Darke County and they elect a five member Licensing Council of regulated parties that selects an additional board member from their group. The District Advisory Council includes the Township Trustees and the Mayors of the Villages within Darke County. The DAC membership also includes a County Commissioner. At least one board member must be a physician which can be chosen by either the DAC or the Greenville City Mayor.

### **Board of Health:**

The Board of Health (BOH) has many responsibilities which include appointing the Health Commissioner, approving hiring of employees, and meeting monthly to discuss topics that are occurring within the Health District. The BOH helps make many important decisions, such as the adoption of regulations and policies, as well as the approval of the paying of expenditures.

The current members include:

Wayne Deschambeau-President

James Schaar

Krista Fourman

Dr. Timothy Kathman

Curtis Yount

Gary Giere-Alternate



*Helping raise the standard  
for public health.*

### **Why Is Accreditation Important?**

Public health department accreditation was developed on an overarching principle of health equity to ensure that all people who live in the United States have access to high quality public health services. Accreditation standards address health equity, and accredited health departments can now report on their health equity performance. PHAB's newest division, the Public Health National Center for Innovations, explores insights into health equity and related innovations. Health departments can leverage their accreditation work to enhance their commitment to health equity and improve the determinants of health for their communities.\*

\*<https://phaboard.org/2019/01/18/the-importance-of-health-equity/>

## Darke County

### FINANCIAL REPORT

As you can see from the Financial Summary Statement below, the Health District has managed to maintain a carryover balance. Carryover is essential to funding the first few months of the year. The Health District has also been able to maintain grant funding by diligent field work and fiscal management throughout the years. We are committed to remain fiscally responsible in 2020 and beyond.

<b><u>FUNDS</u></b>	<b>2018 CARRY-OVER</b>	<b>2019 REVENUE</b>	<b>2019 EXPENSES</b>	<b>2019 BALANCE</b>
GENERAL HEALTH	\$115,023.94	\$1,048,131.85	\$965,852.66	\$197,303.13
SEWAGE TREATMENT SYSTEMS	\$89,762.73	\$217,690.29	\$218,873.55	\$97,579.47
FOOD SERVICE	\$41,663.14	\$118,567.28	\$109,802.40	\$50,428.02
MEDICAL RESERVE CORP	\$13,653.80	\$0.00	\$1,356.70	\$12,297.10
GET VACCINATED	\$6,003.85	\$25,228.00	\$25,436.32	\$5,795.53
CAMPS	\$5,022.49	\$5,359.79	\$6,043.60	\$4,338.68
PRIVATE WATER	\$34,007.69	\$48,338.61	\$58,963.38	\$23,382.92
SOLID WASTE	\$42,922.03	\$39,007.04	\$45,773.93	\$36,155.14
HELP ME GROW	\$78,311.23	\$303,224.62	\$277,289.03	\$104,246.82
POOLS/SPAS	\$7,858.73	\$8,522.63	\$8,317.49	\$8,063.87
PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS GRANT	\$13,039.47	\$92,879.94	\$97,146.38	\$8,773.03
OH EPA WPCLF	\$7,086.06	\$288,018.53	\$276,080.93	\$19,023.66
MOSQUITO GRANT	<u>\$29,970.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$29,970.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$493,325.16</b>	<b>\$2,194,968.58</b>	<b>\$2,120,906.37</b>	<b>\$567,387.37</b>

## Some 2019 Priority Public Health Issues:

### **Travel Protection**

In the world, over 1 million people travel internationally each day. In many countries, vaccine preventable diseases are still common even if they have been eradicated from North America. Without vaccines, epidemics of many preventable diseases will return, resulting in increased illness and deaths and a lower quality of life. Vaccination before travel is imperative to ensure global public health and to help individuals stay healthy during and after their travels. The Darke County General Health District is committed to ensuring maximum immunization coverage in all populations therefore, travel vaccines are offered at our office.



### **Hepatitis A Outbreak 2018-2019**

Hepatitis A is a highly contagious liver disease that can be spread without knowing it. It is spread from person to person through contact with the feces of people who are infected. This can easily happen if someone does not wash their hands properly. Hepatitis A virus can be found on doorknobs, grocery carts, diapers and even food. Hepatitis A vaccines were recommended starting in 1996 in the United States. Since then, the number of cases reported each year in the United States has dropped from 31,000 cases to fewer than 1,500 cases! However, due to an outbreak, from early 2018 through 2019, there were over 3,400 cases reported in Ohio. Darke County alone had 24 cases of these outbreak related Hepatitis A cases between 2018 and 2019. To put that into perspective, Darke County had zero cases in 2015, one case in 2016, and one case in 2017. This outbreak is most prevalent in the homeless population and those who use IV drugs. Vaccination is the number one way to prevent Hepatitis A. The Darke County General Health District's public health nurses gave 627 Hepatitis A vaccines in 2019.

### **Ticks**

There are several diseases that can be spread by ticks, including Lyme Disease. The Ohio Department of Health's Zoonotic Disease Program has begun tracking the Black-Legged (Deer) tick. ODH provides active surveillance in several Ohio Counties but they are currently not monitoring Darke County. If you have a tick that you would like identified, you are able to take it to your local health department and they will ship it to ODH. ODH does not test the tick for disease but recommends the public to know the symptoms of tick-borne diseases. Visit [Ohio.gov/Tick](http://Ohio.gov/Tick) to learn more.

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## Darke County

### **Project DAWN**

Project Dawn is a community-based drug Overdose Prevention Project. DAWN stands for Deaths Avoided With Naloxone (DAWN). Naloxone is a medication that can reverse an overdose that is caused by an opioid drug. Naloxone blocks the effects of opioids on the brain and restores breathing within two to eight minutes. Naloxone has been used safely by emergency medical professionals for more than 40 years and has only one function. That function is to reverse the effects of opioids on the brain and respiratory system in order to prevent death. If Naloxone is given to a person who is not experiencing an opioid overdose, it is harmless. The Ohio Department of Health allocated funds to each county to purchase project DAWN kits to be distributed to emergency personnel in the county. In 2019, the Darke County General Health District received 41 kits to be distributed to emergency personnel.

### **Coalition for a Healthy Darke County**

The Coalition is headed by the Darke County Chamber of Commerce working with community businesses, members, and organizations to bring our entire community together to create a healthy, vibrant, safe and secure community that thrives together at home, at school, and at work. The coalition has helped implement a vivitrol program and a website full of resources for community members. Check out the coalition's website at [www.coalitiondarkecounty.com](http://www.coalitiondarkecounty.com) to find out about local resources, upcoming programs and events, or how you can get involved.

### **XChange**

Representatives of the Darke County General Health District continue to partner with Family Health Services to run the XChange Program, which is a program aimed at combating drug abuse. Family Health received a \$100,000 grant from Cardinal Health in Columbus to fund aspects of the program. The program helps men and women who are struggling with drug misuse by offering clean needles, education, and referrals to addiction treatment services. According to the National Harm Reduction Coalition, needle exchange programs “are one of the most effective methods of disease prevention among injection drug users. Over a decade’s worth of scientific research concludes that syringe exchange programs play an essential role in reducing the spread of blood-borne illnesses such as HIV and Hepatitis B and C.” The American Civil Liberties Union reports that needle exchange program users are five times more likely to enter a drug rehab program than those who have never used an exchange program.

*<https://harmreduction.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/01/promotingsecondaryexchange.pdf>  
<https://www.aclu.org/fact-sheet/needle-exchange-programs-promote-public-safety>*

## Nursing Division Services:

### Lots of Shots

In 2019, the Health Department gave numerous immunizations. Maintaining high immunization rates is essential to preventing outbreaks of diseases. In order to help meet the needs of Darke County residents, there was a special clinic held for children entering 7th and 12th grade. This clinic has been very successful. There were 315 children who attended and 485 vaccines given in just one day. This clinic alone took care of 25% of the 7th and 12th grade children in Darke County who needed vaccines. Additionally, the Public Health Nurses were busy giving 904 flu vaccinations and held 17 flu clinics throughout the county. The Health Department also served the public during the year with their regular walk in Tuesday clinics and by appointments as needed.



### Communicable Diseases

It is important to track and report communicable diseases in our county in order to prevent and control infectious diseases. In order to protect the public from serious diseases we identify issues, assess situations, collect data, educate, and refer to community health providers. Being aware of trends allows for recognizing issues, educating individuals, and preventing outbreaks in our community.

## Community Health Services by the NUMBERS

CMH Children Served	263
Communicable Diseases	377
FAME Clients Served	47
Flu Vaccines Given	904
Early Intervention Visits	570
Help Me Grow Home Visiting Program Visits	699
Hepatitis A Cases	18
Hepatitis C Cases	37
HIV Clients	3
Immunizations Given	3963
Newborn Home Visits	15
STDs Reported	149

This table is just a small sampling of Community Health Services provided during 2019.



### **Help Me Grow**

Help Me Grow offers a free voluntary program to prenatal women, children, and families. When a parent schedules a home visit with Help Me Grow, they will have the opportunity to share their thoughts about parenting, ask questions, and receive reliable information based on their individual family needs or topics of interest. Topics may include, but are not limited to: healthy pregnancies, baby and child health, breastfeeding, nutrition, immunizations, child growth and development, discipline, toilet training, child safety, household safety, and local resources. The Help Me Grow nurse is a support person who helps the family reach their goals.



### **Early Intervention.**

Early Intervention provides family-centered developmental services for infants and toddlers up to age 3. The Darke County General Health District staff works in collaboration with the Board of Developmental Disabilities to provide free services to the children who need them. Through collaborative efforts, families work with providers to receive therapies, utilize community resources, and understand the present and future needs of their children.



### **CMH**

This program is known as Children with Medical Handicaps (CMH). CMH will help cover families financially during the testing phase of receiving a diagnosis and during the treatment phase if approved. The Darke County General Health District staff consists of nurses who are experts on this program. They help individuals sign up for the program, locate, and coordinate the services children need.

### **School Nurses**

School nurses collaborate on a regular basis through the academic year with the Darke County General Health District staff. They come together to discuss school health issues and have in-services pertinent to the children in Darke County. The Darke County General Health District supports them in their efforts to provide health screenings, manage medications, prevent the spread of disease, and assure appropriate immunization statuses.

### **FAME**

Financial Assistance for Medical Emergencies (FAME) is a local non-profit organization funded by the Darke County United Way. This program assists individuals who do not qualify for any other funding with prescriptions or other medical needs. Requests are approved by the Nursing Division staff. FAME responsibilities are shared jointly with Family Health Social Services.

## Nursing Division Services Continued:

### **Are you prepared?**

We need to be prepared for anything that comes our way. There is a nationally funded program for Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) which outlines 15 capabilities for local public health to attain. We are continually developing, reviewing and revising plans to assure our preparedness in order to take care of Darke County in the event of a public health emergency. We collaborate with local, regional and state partners from a variety of agencies to stay ready to respond and work together. Whether it is a small scale event such as a heat or winter weather alert where we disseminate valuable information, or large scale like a tornado, pandemic flu or other emerging infectious diseases where we may need to offer large clinics to vaccinate or provide medication to the citizens of Darke County. All staff are trained in the National Incident Management System (NIMS) and Incident Command System (ICS) in accordance with Federal mandates. The overall goal for public health is to “keep well people well” during times of disaster or public health emergencies. The health district oversees a continuous surveillance and monitoring system that provides community partners, media and the general public with valuable information. There is ongoing surveillance, monitoring, planning, and testing of the plans using simulated scenarios to improve our overall readiness to meet the national preparedness capabilities. The health district is also a strong promoter of personal preparedness for our staff and community members, by providing encouragement, tools, and education via our website, social media, and presentations.

### **Aids Case Management**

Through collaboration with the Ohio Department of Health and the Miami Valley Ryan White Consortium, there are services for those requesting testing for HIV as well as those who are HIV positive and require case management.

### **Preceptorships**

As needed, there are nursing students from multiple colleges that utilize the Darke County General Health District as a clinical site. The Darke County General Health District appreciates the opportunity to contribute to the development of the health profession by helping shape future health care providers.

### **TB Control**

Tuberculosis is a potentially fatal and contagious disease that can affect almost any part of the body, but is primarily an infection of the lungs. The Darke County General Health District TB Control nurse plays an important role in surveillance and containment of the disease for our local population. In 2019, the Darke County General Health District implemented direct observation therapy (DOT) which is the gold standard for TB treatment. DOT requires the TB control nurse to watch TB patients take their medication on a daily basis.

## Office of Vital Statistics

Vital Statistics records birth and death certificates for individuals who were born or have died in Darke County. The Birth and Death Records begin December 20, 1908 to the present date. The vital statistic office collects and reports statistics for the county. This information is used to determine trends in causes of death, health assessment, receiving funding in various forms, and genealogical purposes.

The Vital Statistics division and the Ohio Department of Health have implemented the Integrated Perinatal Health Information System and Electronic Death Registration System that allows birth and death certificates to be filed electronically. Anyone wishing to deliver their baby at home must contact the vital statistics department and complete the proper forms to register their child. The division also maintains Certificates of Service for people who have died in another state but are buried in Darke County.

For your convenience, you can process online requests through VitalChek Network Inc. at their website, [www.vitalchek.com](http://www.vitalchek.com). All major credit cards are accepted, including American Express®, Discover®, MasterCard®, or Visa®.



### Statistical Information

<b>Births</b>		Number	<b>Deaths</b>		Number
Births Recorded		317	Deaths Recorded		561
Hospital		304	Males		269
Out of Institution		13	Females		292
Males		170	Oldest		105 yo
Females		147	Youngest		40 mins
Sets of Twins		2	Death Certificates Issued		2,254
Youngest Mother		12 yo	Burial Permits Issued		489
Oldest Mother		41 yo	Natural Causes		529
Parents' Marital Status			Accidental Death		27
Wed		151	Suicide		4
Unwed		166	Homicide		0
Birth Certificates Issued		2,397	Not To Be Determined		0
			Pending Investigation		1
<b>Causes of Death</b>					Number
Certain infectious and parasitic diseases					15
Malignant Neoplasms					104
Diseases of the blood and blood-forming organs					4
Endocrine, nutritional, and metabolic diseases					10
Mental, behavioral, and neurodevelopmental disorders					25
Diseases of the nervous system					57
Diseases of the circulatory system					192
Diseases of the respiratory system					76
Diseases of the digestive system					19
Diseases of the genitourinary system					23
Certain conditions originating in the perinatal period					1
Not elsewhere classified symptoms, signs and abnormal findings					10
Injury, poisoning and certain other consequences of external causes					13
External causes of morbidity					11

## Environmental Division Services:

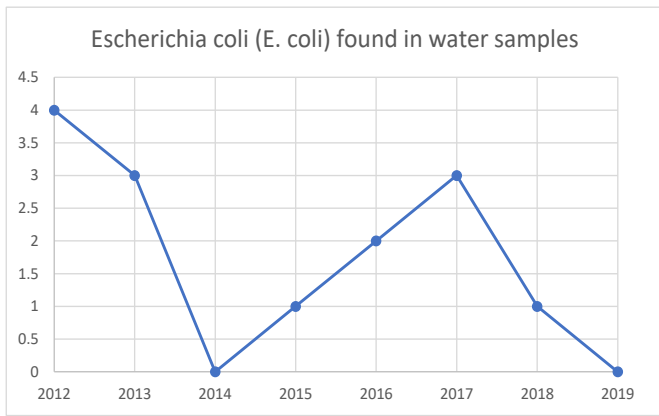
The Environmental Division works to protect the health of the community, prevent disease, and protect the environment through the enforcement of local and state rules and regulations, along with providing consultations and educational material regarding our health programs and activities. Our public health sanitarians conduct routine inspections of licensed establishments reducing the risk of such things as food-borne illnesses and contaminated drinking water supplies. All programs are to help ensure the well-being of Darke County residents and the environment.

The Environmental Division has many services we provide to protect the community and the environment. These programs include: Food Safety, Home and Small Flow Sewage Treatment Systems, Private Water, Plumbing, Tattoo & Body Piercing, Swimming Pools/Recreational Camps/Bathing Beaches, Schools and Correctional Facilities, Rabies, Nuisances, Mosquitoes, Healthy Homes, Smoking, and Lead/Air Quality, and Mobile Home Parks. The Health Department works closely with other agencies such as the Ohio Department of Health (ODH), the Ohio Department of Commerce, Darke County Solid Waste District, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA), and Regional Air Pollution Control Agency (RAPCA) to inspect and provide educational materials to the public and homeowners.

### Private Water Systems

The Health Department conducts water samples by request and for new wells, home sales, and land splits. Water samples are pre-screened for high levels of nitrates and nitrites and typically checked for total coliform (bacteria) and if this test is positive the sample is automatically checked for Escherichia coli (E. Coli). E. coli positives are rare in the county. The graph shows E. coli positive

samples over the last 8 years in Darke County. There were no E. coli positives in 2019. Water can be tested for other parameters as needed or requested by the homeowner.



<b>Program</b>		<b>Solid Waste</b>	
<b>Food Safety</b>		Solid Waste Transfer Station	1
Food Service Operation	147	Closed Landfills	5
Retail Food Operation	75	Compost Facilities	4
Mobile Food Service	76	Solid Waste Haulers	10
Temporary Food Service	123	Trash Complaint	12
Vending	26	Solid Waste Inspections	129
Food Safety Inspections	882	Solid Waste Consultations	118
Food Safety Consultations	1696	Scrap Tire Facility	36
		Infectious Waste Facility	6
<b>Recreational</b>			
Swimming Pools & Spas	16	<b>Plumbing</b>	
Bathing Beaches	5	Plumbing Permits	249
RV Parks/ Camps	7	Plumbing Plan Reviews	175
Temporary Camps	41	Registered Plumbers	90
Recreational Inspections	98	Appliance Installer	4
Recreational Consultations	98	Sewer & Water Line Installer	4
MHP Inspections	13	Plumbing Inspections	765
MHP Consultations	27	Plumbing Consultations	683
<b>Private Sewage Treatment Systems</b>			
New Sewage Treatment System (STS) Permit	66	<b>Rabies</b>	
Replacement STS Permit	15	Animal Bites Reported	122
Alteration STS Permit	5	Animal Submitted for Testing	10
Final Installation Inspection	86		
Site Inspections	94	<b>School &amp; County Jail Inspections</b>	30
Special Service Inspections	46		
Operation & Maintenance Inspections	1528	<b>Smoke Free Ohio</b>	1
Other Sewage Inspections	70		
Septic Installers	39	<b>Premise</b>	
Service Providers	20	Housing Inspections	49
Sewage Haulers	13	Mold Inspections	9
Sewage Consultations	2264	Lead Inspections	0
		Bed Bug Inspections	9
<b>Private Water Systems</b>		Other Insect/ Rodent Inspections	3
New Private Water System (PWS) Permit	77	Methamphetamine	0
Alteration PWS Permit	10	Other Nuisance	19
Well Sealing Permits	16	Premise Inspections	89
Water Samples	211	Premise Consultations	420
Unsatisfactory Bacteria Water Samples	8		
Unsatisfactory E-Coli Water Samples	0	<b>Mosquito Control</b>	
Water Hauler	2	Mosquito Investigations	0
Private Water Inspections	165	Mosquito Consultations	150
Private Water Consultations	315		
<b>Tattoo Operations</b>	7	<b>All Program Letters Sent</b>	9128

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## Darke County

### Environmental Division Services Continued:

#### **Private Water Systems**

Starting January 2020, there were new rule updates regarding private water systems. The Darke County Health Department recently sent out a letter to all the private water system contractors to inform them of the rule changes. Some of the rule changes include: how far outside-use only pipe can enter a home before changing over to inside-use only pipe, the addition of chlorine tablets to disinfect a well will no longer be accepted unless they are made into a solution, and backflow devices shall be installed on all service lines coming off the main line. The Health Department recommends all property owners to review section 3701-28-08 of the Ohio Administrative Code. You can find the code at <http://codes.ohio.gov/oac/3701-28>.

#### **Surveys**

Did you know the Ohio Revised Code requires the Ohio Department of Health to survey Local Health Departments (LHDs) on many of their Environmental Programs? These surveys help to determine if the LHDs are in compliance with the state statutes. The surveys include both field review and administrative review. During the field review, sanitarians demonstrate their knowledge by conducting inspections. Administrative review is where the state surveyor reviews a variety of paperwork, such as fees, plan reviews, variances granted, licensing information, inspection reports, etc. Darke County is also surveyed by the Ohio Department of Agriculture in Retail Food Establishments and the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency in the Solid Waste program.

#### **Ohio Environmental Protection Agency Mosquito Control Grant**

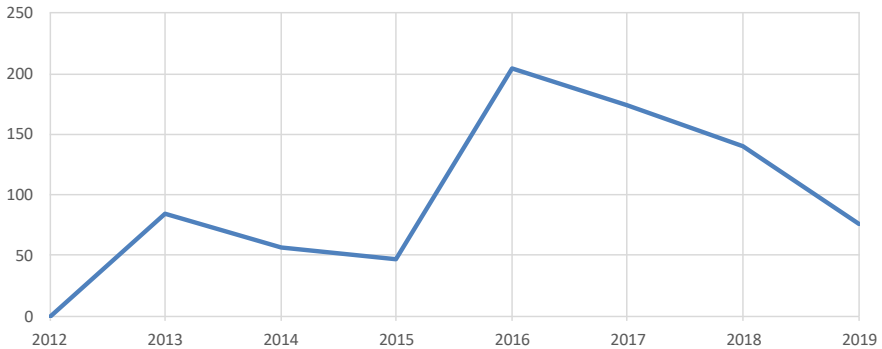
The Darke County General Health District was awarded the mosquito control grant in 2019, totaling \$29,970. Funding for mosquito control measures is a collective statewide effort to diminish the potential for mosquito borne viruses such as West Nile. Control measures approved within the scope of this grant include mosquito surveillance, larval control, adult mosquito control, community outreach. This grant has allowed the Health Department and participating villages to conduct surveillance and trapping over the county and resources to send mosquitos to Ohio Department of Health so they could test for West Nile.

#### **Ohio EPA Grant Money Used for Septic Updates**

In 2019, the Darke County Health Department was awarded \$200,000 from the Water Pollution Control Loan Fund. The funds helped 14 Darke County homeowners to repair/replace sewage treatment systems in the county! This grant helped remove approximately 5,000 gallons per day of untreated sewage from our water ways. We are very fortunate to have been awarded another \$150,000 to be used by the end of 2020. We currently have a waiting list of applications. Qualification is based on total household annual income, homeowners must be up to date on taxes and the home must be owner-occupied.

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Bed Bug Consultations & Investigations



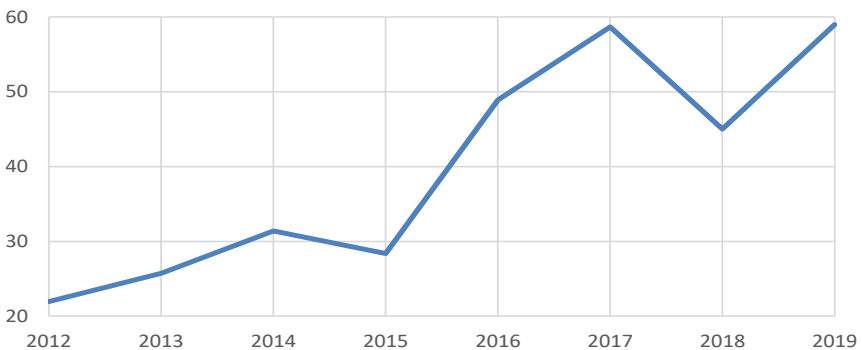
**Bed Bugs**

Darke County is seeing a decrease in bed bug reports. Bed bugs are not considered a public health threat, however, bed bugs are a nuisance and can be very costly to homeowners. If a home is badly infested, our Darke County Premise Regulations will require treatment. Also, a multi-family dwelling must be treated since the source of contamination is unknown. The Health Department inspects nuisances based on a signed complaint or concern by another agency or township/village/city official. We check dwellings for health, safety, and sanitation.

**Sewage Operation & Maintenance Program (O&M)**

The O&M program helps to reduce pollution and saves homeowners money by preventing septic system failures and protecting public health. This is done through homeowner education, record keeping, along with system monitoring and maintenance. In 2019, 59% of Darke County homeowners do not have a satisfactory system during initial inspection. The chart below shows the percent of unsatisfactory septic systems that were inspected. This substantiates the need for O&M. To date, there are 8,269 septic systems on the program.

% Unsatisfactory Septic Systems



# Website and Social Media:

The Darke County General Health District uses multiple media sources to spread the word about Public Health in Darke County.

Check out our user friendly website:  
[www.darkecountyhealth.org](http://www.darkecountyhealth.org)



Customer satisfaction is important to us! Let us know how we are doing by completing our survey located on our main page!



You can also like our page on Facebook or follow us on Twitter!



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Greenville, Ohio 45331  
Phone: (937) 548-4196  
Environmental Fax: (937) 548-9654 Nursing Fax: (937) 548-9128  
Email: [darkecohd@darkecountyhealth.org](mailto:darkecohd@darkecountyhealth.org)  
Hours: Monday-Friday 8-4