

ANNUAL REPORT 2021



Vanderburgh County
Health Department

Evansville, IN

EXECUTIVE LETTER



Dr. R. Kenneth Spear
Health Officer
VCHD

The pandemic, vaccine, and the political struggles have been getting most of the headlines for several months but, if you pull back the covers, an even more severe crisis is occurring in our country. Mental health issues, drug overdoses, and suicides are at an all-time high and rising. In addition, fetal and infant mortality, lead poisoning, immunization rates, and STIs are recurring as major public health issues.

The Vanderburgh County Health Department recently started a care coordination program in the county jail. This program works to assist individuals with a history of drug abuse to address addiction and provide support for the transition from jail back to the community. Since November of 2020, there were 20 active clients with 4 of those being veterans. In spite of initial success, the program's funding was cut in 2021.

Vanderburgh County had six infant deaths in 2020 related to unsafe sleep practices. The health department is collaborating with other community organizations to change the conversation around safe sleep practices. A program at the Vanderburgh County Health Department, Pre to 3, focuses on providing support, resources, and education to families to reduce infant mortality. The client base in Pre to 3 is at an all-time high with 240 active families. The program utilized virtual and outdoor visits to try to stay in touch with a very vulnerable part of our society. In addition, the program provides supplementary nutrition through a food pantry for Pre to 3 clients to reduce food insecurity.

Exposure to lead causing elevated blood lead levels in children remains an issue in Vanderburgh County. The Vanderburgh County Health Department works with CAPE Head Start to provide lead testing and provides case management services for elevated cases. Despite these efforts, we are still only testing 50% of the eligible child population.

We have been able to maintain our immunization rates through outreach clinics at schools and continuing our immunization clinic in spite of COVID-19. Through the school clinics, we were able to provide vaccinations to 334 school-aged children.

STI's are also at record levels across all demographics. Syphilis rates were up 500% in 2021. With the assistance of the Indiana Department of Health, we have worked with community partners to test the most vulnerable populations and treat for syphilis. We also treated cases of potential congenital syphilis at both local birth centers. Daily exams, testing, and treatment for all STI's are available daily. From the support of grant funding, the Vanderburgh County Health Department is able to provide the community with a new mobile van that will allow the Health Department to go where needed for immunizations, STI treatments, and provide many other opportunities for outreach to meet clients where they live. This will help us overcome the transportation issues faced by so many of our population.

A 501c3 Foundation was also operationalized this past year to try to raise funds for our Pre to 3 Program. Anyone wishing to donate can contact Joe Gries, Administrator for the Health Department.

The pandemic continues to highlight and exacerbate many of the public health issues in our community. The only way to address these public health issues is to continue to collaborate with community organizations and provide resources to those most vulnerable.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Pre to 3 Program

The Pre to 3 Program applied for and received a \$2.4 million Safety PIN grant to help fund the program for 4 years.

In October, 1 RN became a Certified Lactation Counselor.

In November, 2 bilingual Community Health Workers (CHWs) received certifications as Professional Medical Interpreters through Catholic Charities in Louisville.

In December, 6 CHWs received certification as Community Health Workers through HealthVisions Midwest.

Laboratory Division

In September, our Laboratory passed inspection and received our Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA) recertification until July 2024.

WIC Division

In April, 2 WIC nutritionists became Certified Lactation Counselors.

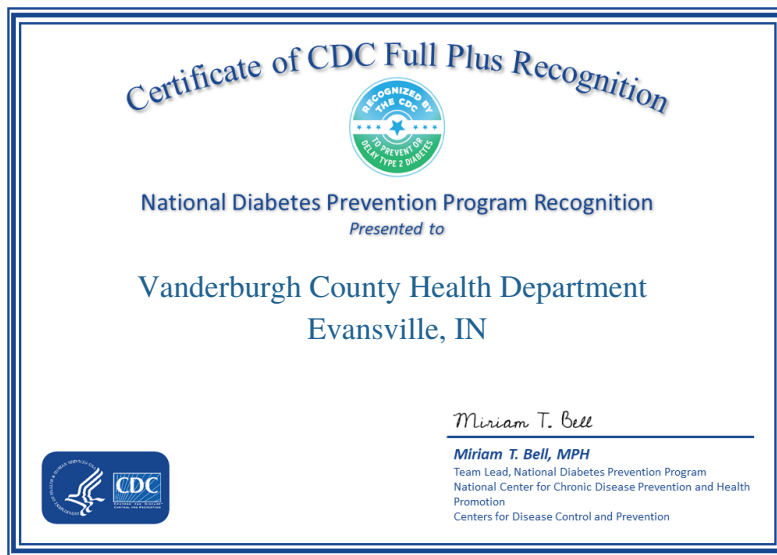
In December, 1 WIC nutritionist passed their registration exam. WIC now has 2 Registered Dietitians on staff.

Clinical Division

Erin Reese was presented the Key to the City by mayor Lloyd Winnecke for being recognized by the Indiana Immunization Coalition as an expert and champion for childhood and adult immunizations.



ACHIEVEMENTS



The Health Promotions Division received CDC Full Recognition for our Diabetes Prevention Program for the third year in a row. In order to receive CDC recognition, our program has to successfully delivery a quality, evidence-based program. The goal of the program is to prevent type 2 diabetes.



The Vanderburgh County Health Department was nominated by Mayor Lloyd Winnecke to receive the COVID-19 Medical Award through Leadership Everyone. In March, we received recognition for this award from Leadership Everyone. We are grateful to serve our Evansville community.

SPECIAL EVENTS



In April, VCHD Mobile Vaccine clinic partnered with Feed Evansville to provide COVID-19 vaccine to remove transportation barriers for individuals.



In September, the Pre to 3 Program hosted its 1st Pre to 3 Family Fall Festival event at Wesselman Park with the purpose of encouraging parent and child bonding through having activity stations specifically centered around enhancing that bond. 47 Pre to 3 families, with a total of 163 people, and 19 Community Partners were in attendance.



In October, the Pre to 3 team attended the My Healthy Baby Launch at Ascension St. Vincent lead by the State Health Commissioner, Dr. Kris Box. My Healthy baby is an OB navigation program through the Indiana Department of Health (IDOH) to connect pregnant women, who qualify for Medicaid, to prenatal home visiting programs across the state. Since the launch, the program received 16 referrals.

COVID-19 IMPACT

In 2021, COVID-19 continued to spread throughout the world. At the local level, VCHD and the Board of Health quickly saw a need to partner with multidisciplinary members of the community in order to prepare and fight the pandemic. Our primary focus was vaccine equity and removing barriers to minority and at-risk populations.

From the earliest days of the COVID-19 pandemic, existing partnerships helped tackle each new hurdle. The VCHD Health Officer, Administration, and leaders of multiple healthcare, school, and social services organizations as well as local government met regularly via phone conference to coordinate mitigation measures and overall response.

When vaccines rolled out, each partner played a pivotal role in ensuring access to vaccination throughout Vanderburgh County. Deaconess Health Systems and Ascension St. Vincent offered robust open clinic appointments for vaccines. Vanderburgh County government and Old National Events Plaza offered space for VCHD to operate its own mass clinics open to the public. Deaconess Health Systems and Ascension St. Vincent partnered with VCHD, EVSC, and Evansville Catholic Schools to provide over 600 doses of vaccine at 10 high schools in spring 2021. VCHD partnered with Ascension St. Vincent, the Evansville Commission on Homelessness, ECHO Housing, and Aurora to provide vaccines to those experiencing homelessness or unstable housing situations. As vaccine supply increased, Deaconess and Ascension St. Vincent continued to operate large open clinics, so VCHD could focus on making vaccine accessible where people live and work. VCHD offered clinics at correctional facilities and large and small businesses. Vaccines were provided at over 20 community events.

Starting in March, VCHD partnered with American Medical Response (AMR), Scott Township Fire Department, and SWIRCA to provide COVID-19 vaccine to homebound individuals through the program Homebound Hoosiers. Later in 2021, VCHD continued to provide the service to homebound individuals through partnership with Indiana Immunization Coalition.

One of the most innovative and effective partnerships involved the City of Evansville, METS public transportation services, and Feed Evansville. The City of Evansville and METS provided a city bus and driver three times a week and for special events, so vaccine could be easily accessed in neighborhoods with lower access to healthcare and transportation. Feed Evansville provided space for the bus to offer vaccine at every food giveaway of Summer 2021. Using the bus as a mobile clinic, vaccines were provided at low-income grocery stores and near bus routes for 6 months. Vanderburgh County and Old National Events Plaza were instrumental in advertising mobile clinics. Nearly 700 doses of vaccine were administered via the mobile clinic.

VCHD and community partners are ready to build upon these efforts to recover gains lost in immunization coverage during the pandemic and even improve upon pre-pandemic coverage levels.

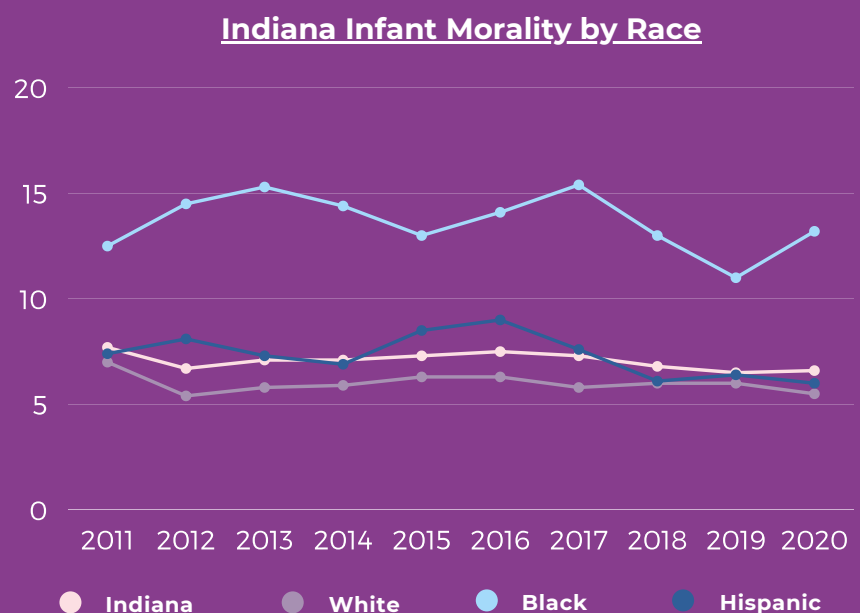
COVID-19 has strengthened our relationship with community partners as well as local and state officials. The result of the COVID-19 impact has enabled us to better fulfill our vision to advocate for the health and well-being of the community.

FIMR & CHILD FATALITY

Vanderburgh County Health Department fetal and infant mortality review and child fatality review, both part of our Outreach Division, have been granted Indiana Department of Health Title V funding since 2015. Our fetal and infant mortality review and child fatality review are community-based and action-oriented processes to help improve service systems and available resources for women, children, infants, and families. Deaths are reviewed in a multi-discipline team format which includes representation from many local community agencies. These agencies include the Vanderburgh County Health Department, Ascension St. Vincent - Evansville, Deaconess Health System and Deaconess Women's Hospital, ARK Crisis Nursery, Department of Child Services, child advocacy center, mental health service agencies, county coroner's offices, home visitation professionals, WIC, ECHO Clinic, managed care entities, local EMS, local police and sheriff departments, along with several other community partners. The multi-disciplinary case review team meets to review the case summaries and local data. The case summaries may include a maternal interview with their perspective of the death. Based on the case review and data reviewed by the team, discussions are held and a systematic evaluation is used to identify themes, social determinants of health, community conditions, policies, behaviors, or gaps in service systems that may have contributed to the deaths. These are used to identify effective prevention and intervention processes that may help to decrease preventable child deaths. The teams assist in the analyzation of root causes, and make recommendations to our community.

Vanderburgh County infant mortality rates for 2020 are 11.8/1000 live births. A sharp increase in infant mortality rates for 2020 are related to 6 infant deaths related to unsafe sleep practices. A community wide safe sleep quality improvement project was started and focused on addressing social determinants of health, modeling safe sleep behaviors, referral to social support programs, and development of provider office protocols to support safe sleep behaviors.

The Infant and Child Fatality Review Coordinator and Data Abstractor also review deaths for the surrounding counties of Dubois, Posey, Gibson, and Warrick. On completion of each review, all data is submitted into the Child Death Registry for local, state, and national utilization. The highest prevalence of death refers to the age category of less than 1 year old is prematurity and low birth weight.



PRE TO 3

The Pre to 3 Program experienced a year of growth, continual change, and new challenges. In 2021, Pre to 3 nurses joined other VCHD nurses in giving COVID-19 vaccines. As vaccination clinics ramped up, all Pre to 3 staff began to assist in the process.

In March, the program returned to "in person" visits in the home, with about 60% of families choosing this option. Extra, temporary office space was rented to allow for increased privacy during virtual visits with families. On August 1st, Indiana Family and Social Services Administration ended reimbursement for virtual visits. This impacted income generated for the program, at a time when COVID-19 cases rose again and staff reverted back to virtual visits only.



822
REACH

231
ACTIVE

315
BIRTHS

15,155
VISITS

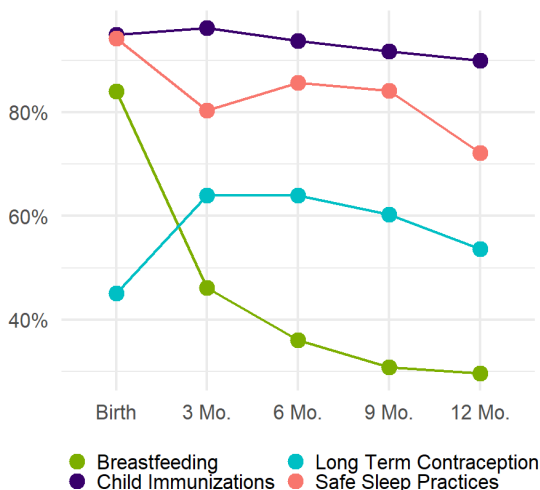
89.5%
BIRTHS
37+ WEEKS

89.7%
ADEQUATE
PRENATAL
CARE

Access to daycare was one of the biggest challenges this year for working families, with many daycares closing classrooms or closing their doors altogether. Affordable housing, lack of transportation, food insecurity, and lack of utility payment assistance continued to be barriers for Pre to 3 families.

Many community partners were generous in supplying resources for families. VCHD staff hosted food drives to keep the Pre to 3 Food Pantry stocked, while also adopting families during the holidays to provide gifts and supplies. Tri-State Food Bank supplied 50 Holiday Baskets and the Salvation Army donated interactive "Grinch Holiday" children's books to each family, WERQ Dance Fitness and StageTWO Productions hosted fundraisers for parent/baby supplies for the program.

The program thrived with a large increase in active clients going from 170 in 2020 to 250 families in 2021. Latino clients joining the program grew from 25 to 75 families. We initially had one bilingual (Spanish/English) Community Health Worker (CHW) and hired an additional two CHWs.



The program is proud to announce 15 new graduates in 2021. Preparing families for this milestone had staff researching resources available for this age group to assist with a smooth transition. Building Blocks, a community partner, is planning to begin a home visiting program using the Conscious Discipline curriculum as another option for our graduates.

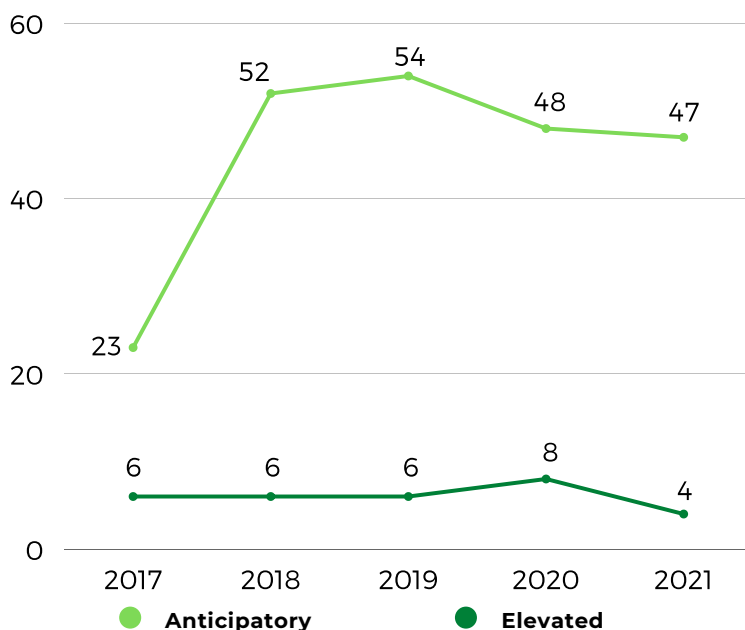
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

FOOD

The Environmental Division collaborated with the Area Planning Commission (APC), Building Commission, Evansville Fire and Sewer Departments in reviewing 122 New Owners/Ownership transfer of Retail Food operations. This process entailed on-site review and inspections, meetings, reviewing plans with owners and operators, phone calls, and added communication with blue print reviews before approval for remodeling/construction work could be approved to ensure all codes are met for a smooth operation.

COVID-19 Retail Food complaints consisted of 57% of all complaints received, 64% of which were found to be valid upon investigation. Complaint investigations were corrected by means of educating operators of best practices from CDC and Indiana Department of Health COVID-19 guidance along with Indiana Excise enforcement measures as needed.

Anticipatory and Elevated Lead Cases



BODY ART & MODIFICATION

The electronic tattoo and body piercing permit application was fully utilized during the permit renewal process in the first few months of 2021 with success. This new process allows the artists to apply for their permit anywhere at any time and also limits unnecessary physical contact.

There were 86 licensed artists in 2021, along with 5 new establishments, 3 permanent makeup and 2 traditional tattoo parlors. There was a 30% decrease in tattoo and body piercing complaints compared to 2020

LEAD

The Lead Childhood Program saw a decrease in both new anticipatory cases and new elevated cases. New elevated cases decreased by 50%. The lead team was able to close out 8 elevated cases and 49 anticipatory cases. Even through the second year of the COVID-19 pandemic, lead team members were still able to perform case management activities in accordance to 410 IAC 29. Our licensed risk assessors were able to perform 8 risk assessments and 3 clearance examinations. This year, our team was able to add two new Indiana Licensed risk assessors to be more efficient to do risk assessments to identify lead hazards as Indiana is planning to drop our elevated reference level from 10 µg/dL to 5 µg/dL.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

PUBLIC/SEMI-PUBLIC SWIMMING POOLS

Staff implemented a new procedure for the 2021 pool season to perform pre-operational inspections for pools that had either been closed for COVID-19, remodel, or the season. Results from this procedure yielded approximately 20% of the 61 pools that fell into this category were not permitted to open where they would have been open if not inspected. The majority of the issues that prevented the pools from opening were either too much or too little disinfectant present in the pool chemistry. Four new pools were opened for public/semi-public use in 2021. One of the new pools, located at University of Southern Indiana, has a one of a kind filtration system which uses perlite media for filtration that wastes very little water in the "backwashing" process.



ONSITE SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Our department saw an approximate 20% increase in permits and applications received for 2021. Our staff saw a 64% increase in number of septic inspections in 2021. Staff members spend approximately 3 site visits per inspection totaling in 229 site visits. 17 septic complaints were received for 2021. As a result, 4 new systems/system componentry replacements took place to abate effluent discharge issues.



ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

VECTOR CONTROL

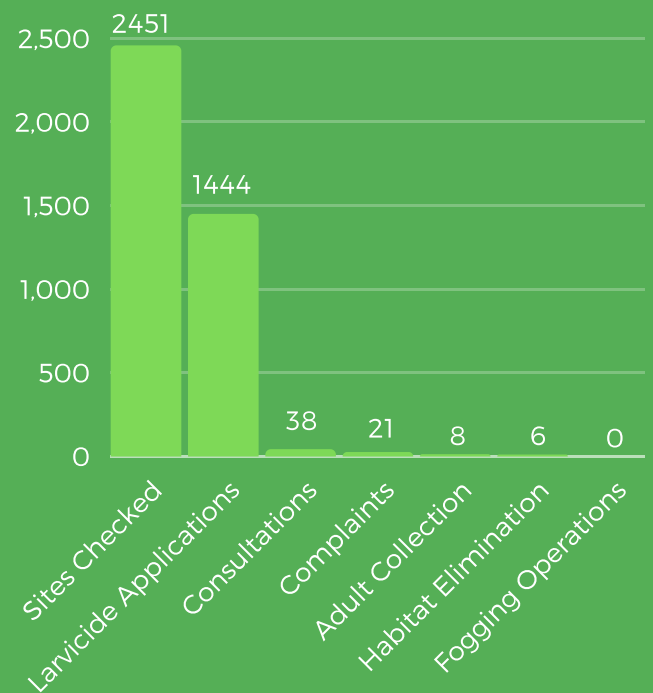
Mosquito Control activities started in March with mosquito larvicide treatment of standing water areas and continued into the third week of October. Hot and dry summer conditions created ideal mosquito breeding sites in sewer catch basins resulting in extensive larvicide treatment and monitoring by Vector Control staff. There were no reported human disease cases of West Nile Virus in Vanderburgh County. The Vector Control staff also had numerous conversations and educational opportunities with hotel managers and community health organizations regarding best practices in preventing and eliminating bed bug infestations.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Staff provided training on and dispensed 690 doses of Naloxone to first responders, healthcare providers, and community organizations through an Indiana Department of Health Grant. Preparedness staff managed logistics and patient traffic flow at on/off-site COVID-19 vaccine clinics. Departmental emergency preparedness plans were also updated in regards to community preparedness, information sharing, and non-pharmaceutical interventions from lessons learned during the department's COVID-19 pandemic response.

Mosquito Control

Total Number of Services Provided - 3,968



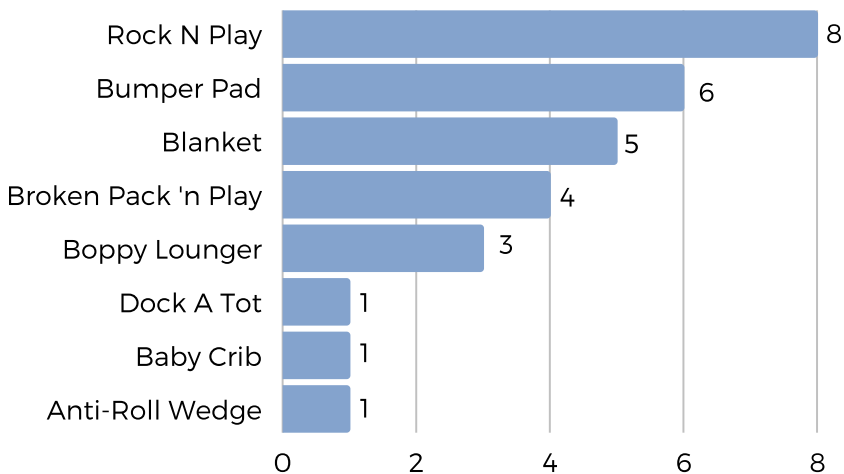
HEALTH PROMOTIONS

2021 was a challenging year. The Health Promotion Division continued virtual programming and gave us the opportunity to reevaluate the programs the department offers. The purpose of restructuring was to better understand, serve, and educate the underserved populations within the community. As a result of the reflection, steps were taken to remove the Smoking Cessation and Weigh Down Programs and transition to the delivery of the Diabetes Prevention Program curriculum, updating program requirements for the Baby & Me – Tobacco Free Program, and implementing an evidence-based Freedom from Smoking Program through the American Lung Association.

To reach the underserved population in the community, a referral base system was created. Promotional folders were distributed both electronically and in-person. Relationships began to be established between the Health Promotion Team and the community partners who serve the population that will benefit from the services most. A process was created to establish client-approved contact with primary care providers for updates on the enrollment and discharge status of clients.

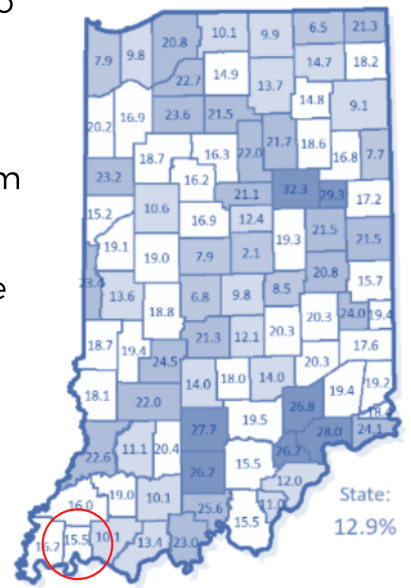
Health Promotions organized and promoted two events for the community. The first event was a Safe Sleep Trade-in Event to address Vanderburgh County's high infant mortality rate due to unsafe sleep practices and held during October, SIDS Awareness Month. Families were able to bring in an unsafe sleep item to exchange for either a sleep sack, pack 'n play, or both. Not only will these families have a safe sleep environment for their infant, the unsafe sleep product could not be sold or given to another infant. The second event was a walk held in November for the Great American Smokeout. Employees and community partners who attended were encouraged to wear red and walk as a group. The event addressed the high smoking rates in southwestern Indiana and to promote smoke free and healthy living in the community.

Items received during Safe Sleep Trade-in Event



Women Smoking During Pregnancy by County

2015 – 2019
Percent of Live Births

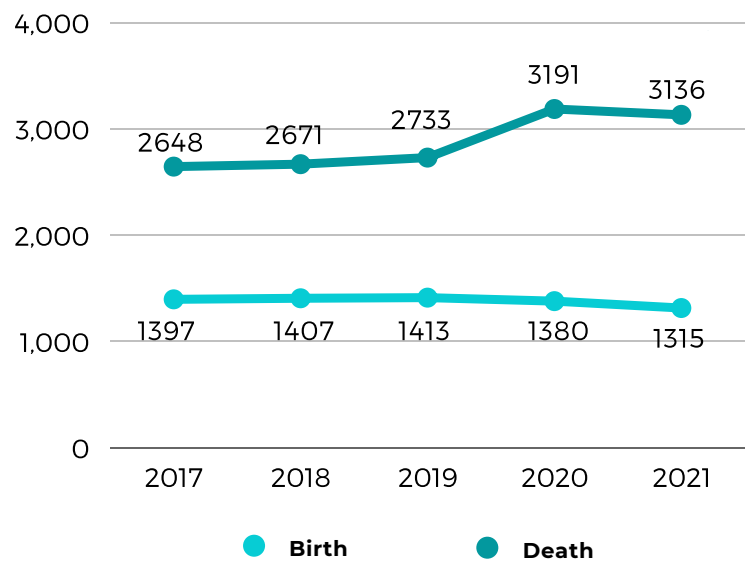


ADMINISTRATIVE AIDES

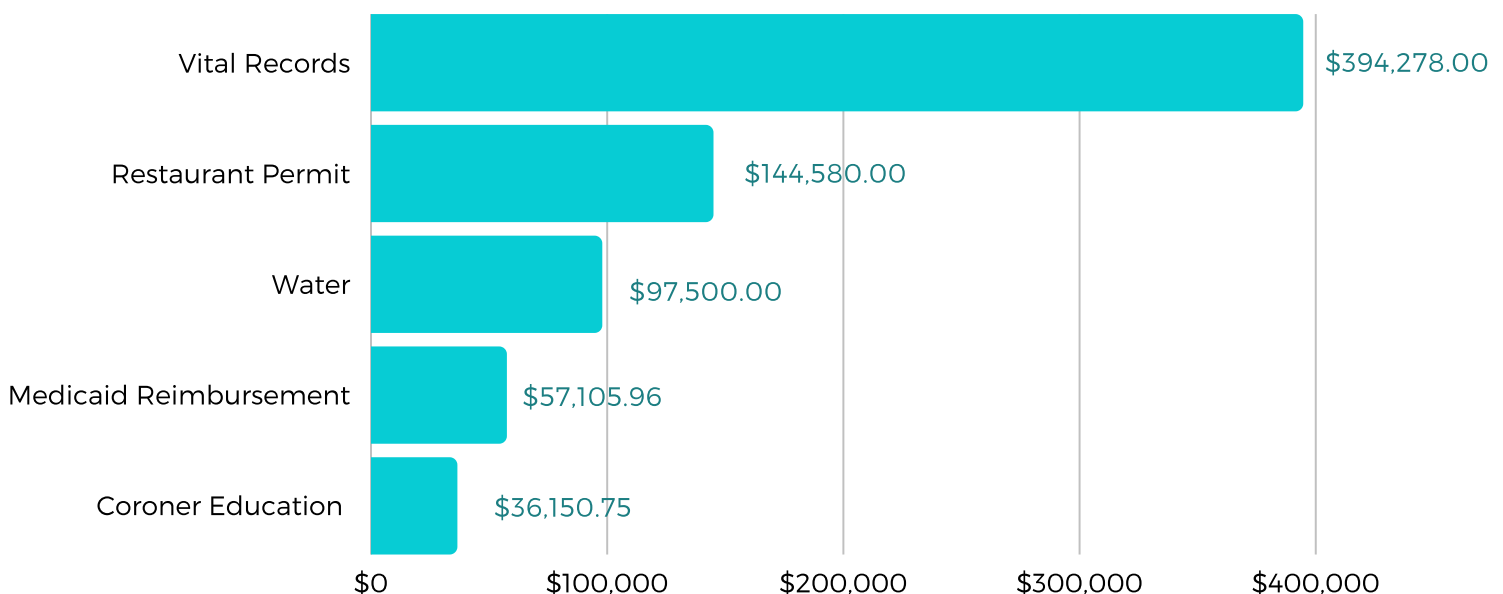
2021 was a year full of positive changes. The year started off with Indiana Department of Health Vital Records division implementing a new program, DRIVE (Database Registration of Indiana's Vital Events), state wide, effective January 1, 2021. As with any new program, there were growing pains not only for the Administrative Aide (AA) team, but for physicians, funeral homes and IDOH. DRIVE has proven to be an ideal program that is easy to use, submit required documents electronically and provide birth/death certificates in a timely and efficient manner.

In March, the option to pay online for funeral homes was implemented. This new payment option has been embraced by many funeral homes. With positive reaction for ability to pay online, customers ordering birth/death certificates via email are now paying online as well. Working with the Environmental Division and Data Team, food permit applications and payment online went live in November. The team continues to evolve and grow as flow processes change moving to electronic and digital.

Birth and Death Total 5 Year Comparison



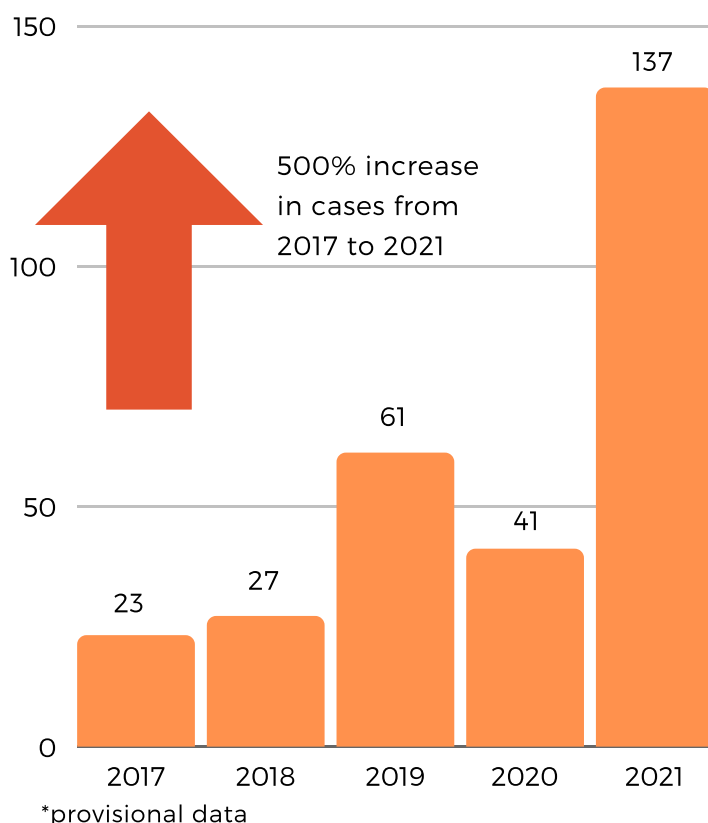
Top 5 Gross Sales Items



STD/SPECIALTY CLINIC

In 2021, Specialty Clinic staff responded to the COVID-19 vaccination efforts. Nurses were flexible with their job duties to meet the needs of mass vaccination while providing services to Specialty Clinic clients including testing, treatment, and education. As the Health Department responded to the COVID-19 Pandemic, our nurses were simultaneously responding to the increase in sexually transmitted infections seen nationally, as well as in Vanderburgh County and District 8, which encompasses 11 Southwestern Indiana counties. Our Disease Intervention Specialists (DIS) work as "Sherlock Holmes" to identify, notify, and provide proper follow up to those that have been exposed to a sexually transmitted infection (STI). The local and state DIS are experts in our community is assisting all persons diagnosed with HIV, Syphilis, Gonorrhea, and Chlamydia in appropriate testing, treatment, risk reduction behaviors, and partner notification. Their work conducting case investigations, contact tracing, and partner services is to stop the spread of these diseases and the serious health problems caused by them.

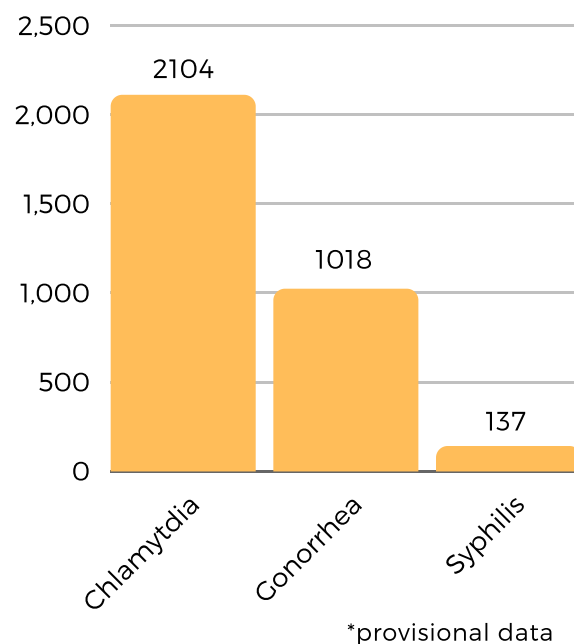
District 8 Syphilis Cases 2017-2021



District 8 STI Cases

January 1, 2021 - December 31, 2021

Vanderburgh, Posey, Warrick, Gibson,
Spencer, Perry, Pike, Dubois, Knox,
Daviess, Martin



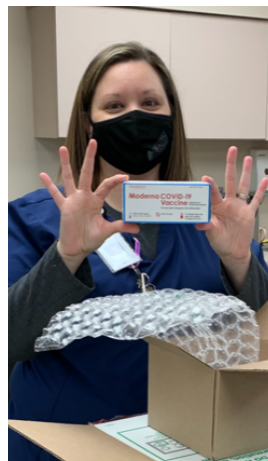
The Specialty Clinic responded to an outbreak of syphilis in conjunction with the Indiana Department of Health (IDOH) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) starting in November 2021. During this response, rapid HIV and syphilis testing were made available at offsite locations identified within the community with high rates of transmission. Using risk factors related to disease exposure, individuals with a positive syphilis screening were able to receive onsite treatment, interview, and follow-up testing. VCHD and IDOH, in collaboration with the Vanderburgh County Sheriff's office were able to test 318 inmates at the Vanderburgh County Jail, as recent incarceration was identified as a high-risk factor for syphilis infection. During outbreak response, testing and treatment fees were waived to remove barriers and allow access to individuals wanting to receive services.

IMMUNIZATIONS

The Immunization Clinic provides routine vaccines for children and adults, as well as consults and vaccines for international travelers. Clients are seen during regular clinic hours, as well as in a variety of school and community settings to best fit client needs.

In 2021, the Immunization Division worked with other VCHD divisions and community partners to administer COVID-19 vaccines to the community. Initial efforts focused on a Mass-Vaccination model. In April, the focus began shifting from the Mass-Vaccination model to making vaccine available where people live and work. We provided COVID-19 vaccine at several local businesses, area high schools, and community organizations. Starting in May through October, we worked with METS to provide mobile vaccine clinic services in underserved zip codes and at several community-based and cultural events. In June, we began vaccinating Homebound Hoosiers as the state program utilizing local emergency medical response concluded. Using grant funds made available through IDOH, VCHD was able to hire a contract clinic coordinator and contract RN to assist vaccination efforts. In September, those positions were made full time through additional grant funding.

Along with COVID-19 vaccine efforts, immunizations held regular clinic hours for routine childhood and adult immunizations. In the Fall, 106 students were vaccinated at 12 school-based immunization clinics. All routine vaccines were offered, including flu and COVID-19 for eligible students. Forms for school-based services were made available electronically in 7 languages. Paper forms were provided for those families without access to technology. Flu vaccines were offered at CAPE Head Start locations as an access point for underserved children. In November and December, Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B, Flu and COVID-19 vaccines were offered in conjunction with outreach activities related to Syphilis and Hepatitis A outbreaks among high-risk individuals.



First shipment of COVID-19 vaccine VCHD received

Clinic Type	Number of Clinics	Number of doses given
Senior Living*	4	92
Homeless Shelter*	5	96
Jail/Correctional*	8	200
Industry/Business	32	1207
High School (COVID-19 only)	20	613
METS Mobile clinics	66	678
Community Based	20	192
Homebound - VCHD/AMR/Scott Township	N/A	259
Routine School Clinics (COVID-19 Only)	12	33
VCHD Immunization Clinic	94	1474
Total	260	4818

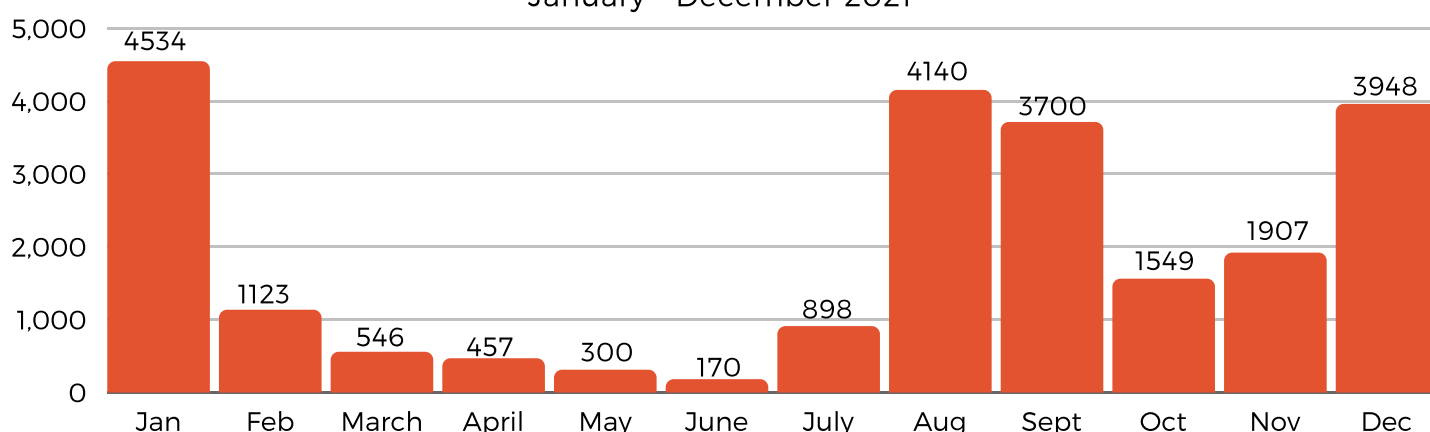
*Additional efforts for those in Senior Living facilities, Homeless Shelters, and Jail/Correctional facilities were done by local pharmacies, the Homeless Commission, Indiana Department of Health, Deaconess Hospital, and Ascension St. Vincent.

EPIDEMIOLOGY & TUBERCULOSIS

As the focus of 2021 continued to be the COVID-19 pandemic, our Disease Investigation Nurses stayed on top of the many changes in guidance from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Indiana Department of Health (IDOH). VCHD continued to be a resource to our local hospital system, community partners, day care centers, schools, industries, and businesses. With each wave of COVID-19, our Disease Investigation Nurses' expertise in infection control and prevention measures was a needed resource to our community. Our nurses also worked to assist in mass vaccination clinics and off-site mobile clinics for the COVID-19 response.

Vanderburgh COVID-19 Cases

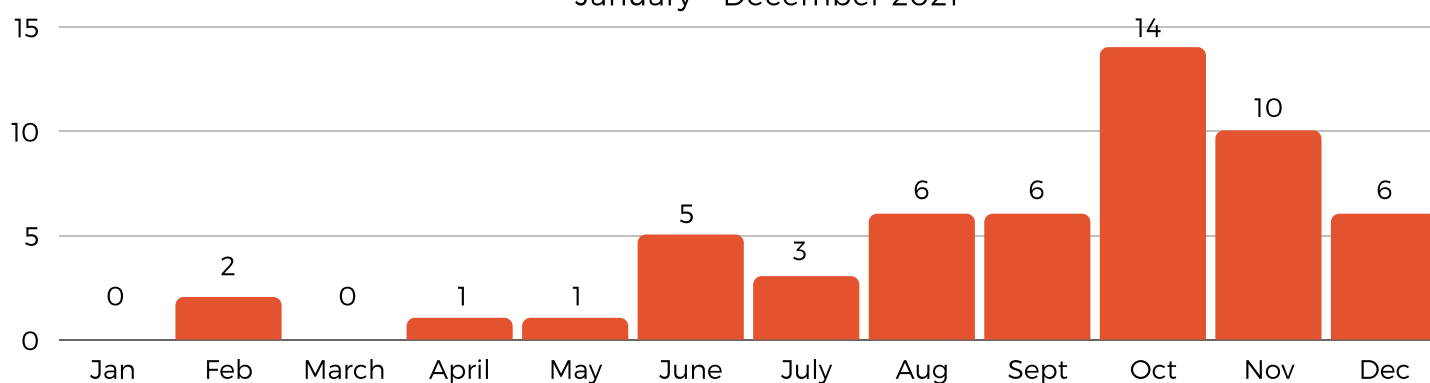
January - December 2021



While the world's attention was pulled to COVID-19, our nurses continued their work on other Indiana reportable communicable diseases. In 2017, Vanderburgh County saw an increase in Hepatitis A Virus cases linked to a multi-state Hepatitis A outbreak which continued through 2021. Case investigations were completed on 54 cases of Hepatitis A. The nurses worked to identify and notify close contacts and provide needed post exposure vaccination to slow the spread of Hepatitis A within the community. In collaboration with local homeless shelters and jails, VCHD was able to provide the Hepatitis A vaccine to high risk populations free of charge.

Vanderburgh Hepatitis A Virus Cases

January - December 2021

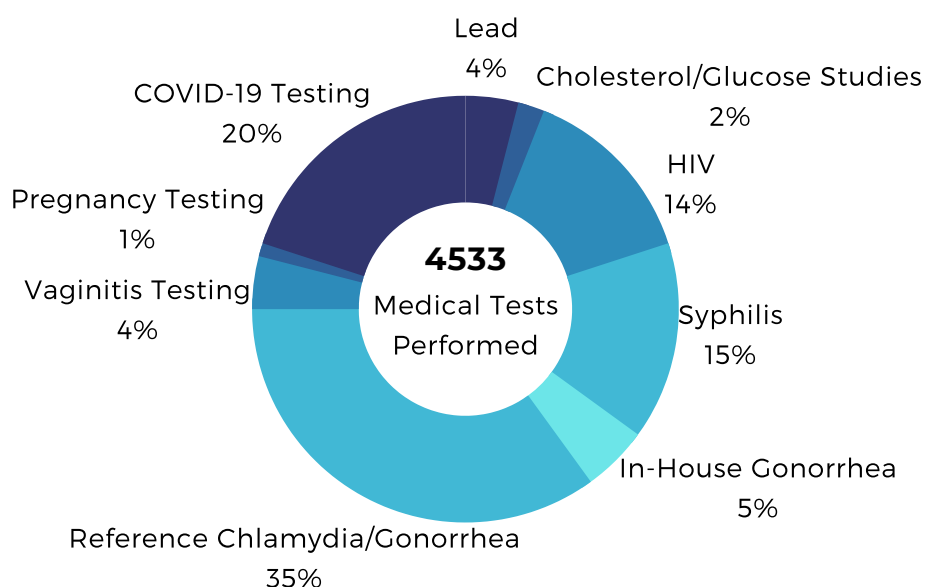
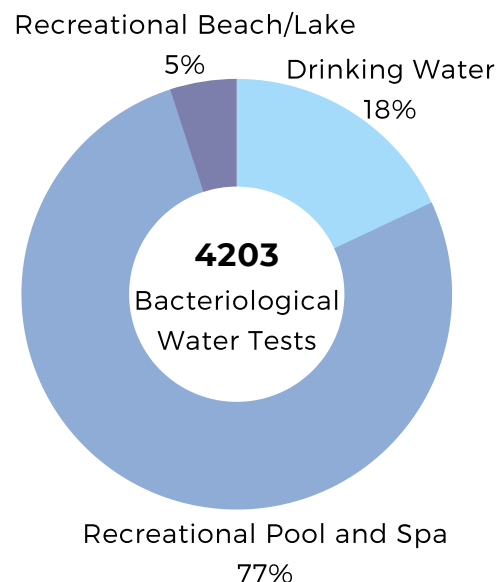


LABORATORY

Among many changes and challenges in 2021, VCHD Laboratory continues to collaborate with various departments within and outside our organization. Our goal is to provide accurate test results and education that promotes healthy lifestyles and quality healthcare, for our community is in direct alignment with the overall mission of the Health Department to Prevent. Promote. Protect and Partner.

The tests we provide consist of bacteriological water testing, cholesterol/glucose testing, lead, urine pregnancy, HIV, Syphilis, Chlamydia/Gonorrhea reference, Gonorrhea in-house and vaginitis testing. We also offer COVID-19 antigen screening for our employees as well as some of our community partners within local homeless and youth care centers. The lab is responsible for training all testing staff at these facilities as well as inputting results into State databases and maintaining the required documentation.

In July, we received notification that Magellan had placed a recall on all of their LeadCare II testing kits in circulation. Since that time, we have had to stop in-house lead testing at our facility and create a procedure to send all specimens to the state lab. Samples continue to be drawn, processed and monitored from our lab. Throughout the year, we conducted six CAPE Head Start lead clinics at the various school sites to collect lead samples from eligible children. We continue to offer testing to all children under the age of seven and pregnant/breastfeeding mothers in our community. We offered cholesterol/glucose screenings and lead education at the CAPE



"Back to School Blitz" as well as lead education at the Pre to 3 Fall Festival Event in September.

Lab has been working diligently with our clinical staff as well as staff from IDOH and the CDC in testing and processing reference samples during the recent Syphilis pandemic that has affected our community.

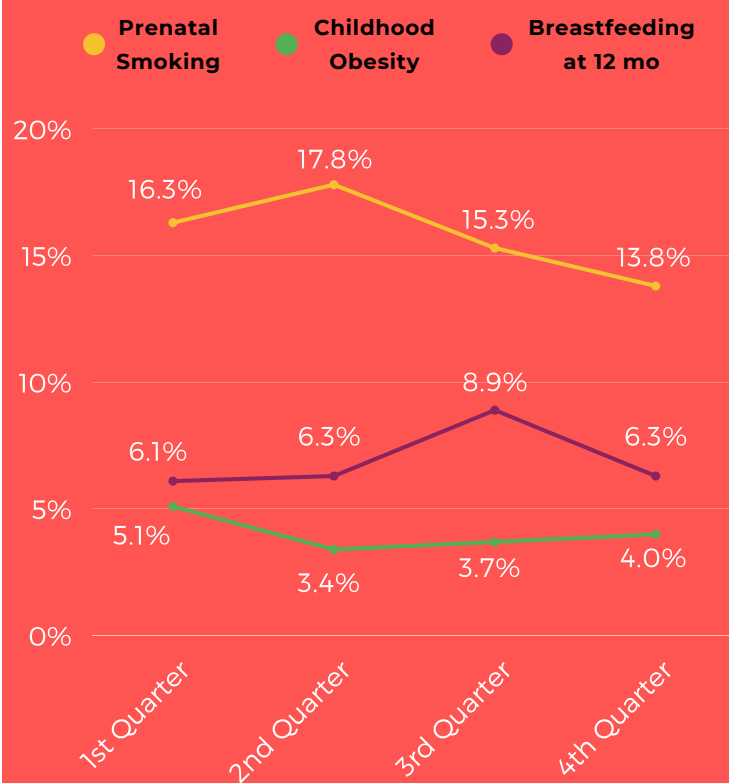
WOMEN, INFANTS, & CHILDREN (WIC)

The goals of the Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) are to teach the relationship between proper nutrition and health, to help individuals develop better dietary habits, and to prevent nutrition-related problems by showing participants how best to use the WIC foods with other nutritious foods for a proper diet. A major goal of the WIC Program is to improve the nutritional status of infants; therefore, WIC mothers are encouraged to breastfeed their infants, unless medically contraindicated.

The average yearly caseload for the Vanderburgh County WIC program is 2400-2500 participants per month. During 2021 and the months of COVID-19, our WIC caseload increased to 2850 active participants per month. WIC continues to offer prenatal classes 5 times a week, including educating prenatal clients on infant feeding practices and the benefits of breastfeeding. A few classes have a virtual option, although, in-person classes make the most impact for better learning.

During the COVID-19 months, the USDA granted WIC programs policy waivers which allowed staff to conduct appointments and issue benefits by phone call when appropriate. A few specific appointment types changed to permit the completion by phone, even after local COVID-19 cases decreased. These policies allow clients to continue to receive benefits when transportation or illness hinder keeping their client visit. The USDA temporarily increased WIC's Cash Value Benefits (CVB) which increases fruit and vegetable purchases from \$9 and \$11 to \$24 and \$41.

WIC's top community concerns achieved better outcomes in 2021 than in past years. These are represented on the graph below. Childhood obesity in the WIC population has decreased to 4%, lower than years past. This statistic is in accordance with the CVB increase. Prenatal smoking decreased to 13.8%. WIC breastfeeding to 12 months of age decreased to 6.1% from nearly 9% in 2020.



MEMBERSHIP

Vanderburgh County Board of Health

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Original Appointment Date</u>
R. Michelle Galen, M.D.	Chair	January 1, 2013
Mark E. Wohlford, D.D.S, PhD	Member	January 1, 2008
John D. Pulcini, M.D. FACS	Member	May 1, 1987
Maria Del Rio, M.D.	Member	August 15, 1989
Fred Mulfinger	Member	July 25, 2005
Timothy Hubert, Esq.	Member	June 23, 2014
Sandie Strader-McMillen, MHA, MBA	Vice-Chair	July 1, 2016

Administration and Core Management Team

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>
R. Kenneth Spear, M.D.	Health Officer
Joe Gries	Administrator
Lynn Herr, BSN, RN, CPN	Director Clinic and Outreach Division
Mary Ellen Stonestreet, RD, LD	Coordinator WIC Clinic
Christian Borowiecki, BS, EHS	Director Environmental Health Division
Tamara Sturm, MLT (ASCP)	Director Laboratory Division

Department Supervisors

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>
Kelly Holzmeyer	Financial Officer
Wallace Corbitt, MS	STD
Ashley Libbert, BSN, RN	Public Health Nursing
Keith Goy, BS	Rodent & Vector Control
Ginger Patton	Administrative Aides
Sophie French, BSN, RN	Pre to 3

FINANCIAL REPORT

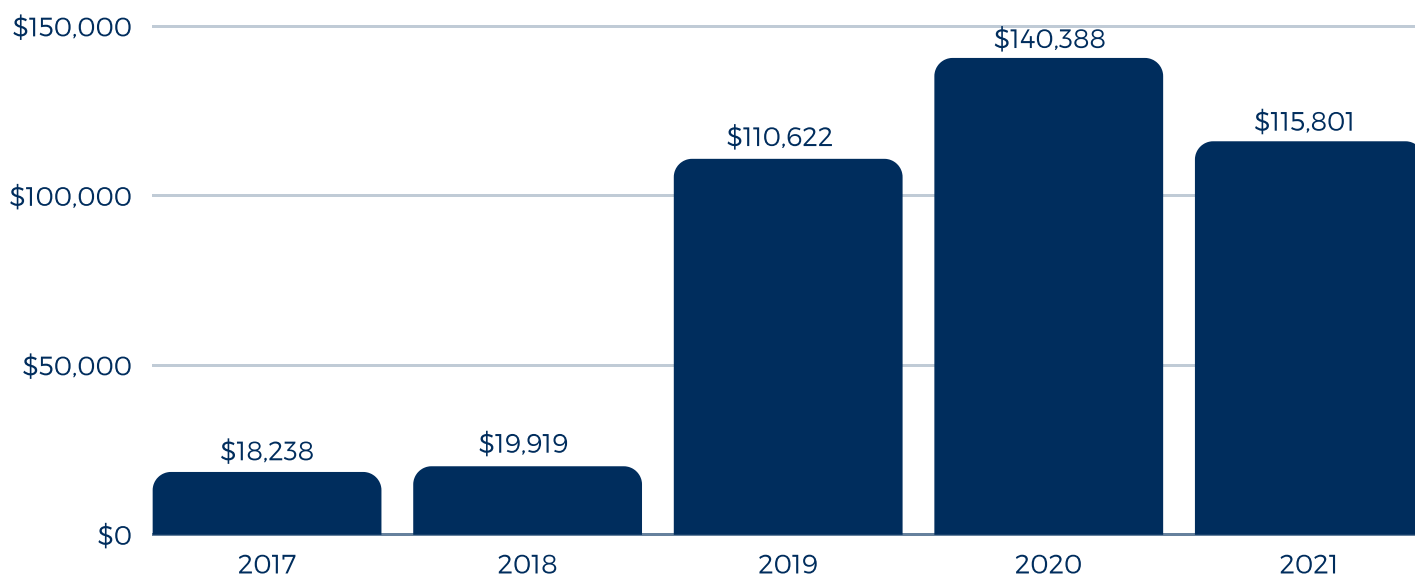
The Finance Division maintained all financial responsibilities for VCHD in the year 2021. While we endured a major staffing change, our focus remained on keeping monetary affairs in order through teamwork and interdepartmental collaboration.

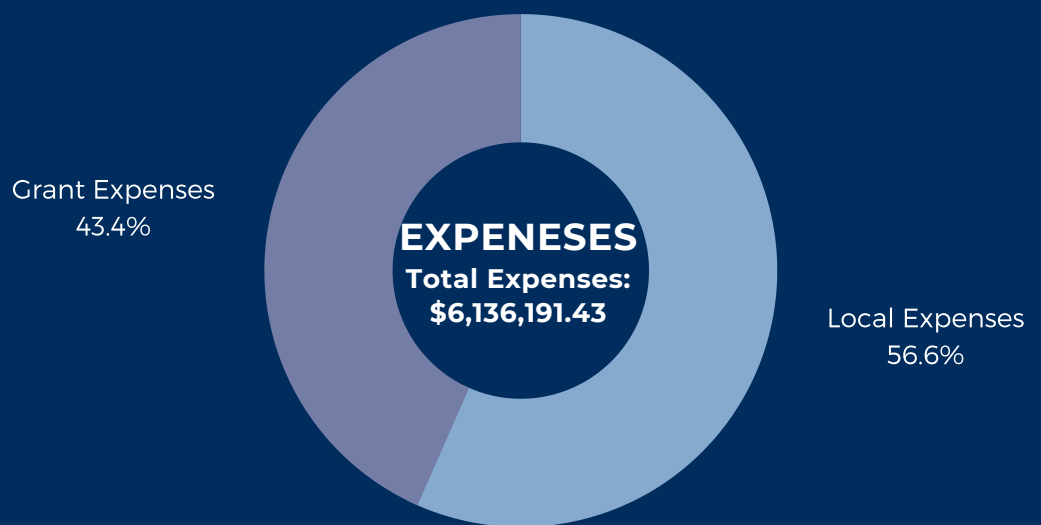
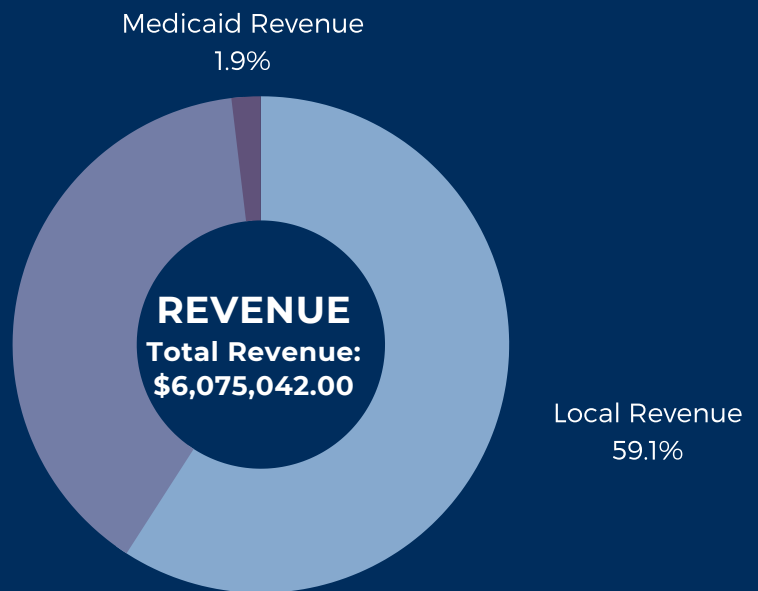
We want to highlight a few of the impactful achievements over the past several months that demonstrate our efforts to ensure the health department maintains its fiscal goals. Safety PIN Grant, one of our largest public serving programs, required that we maximize our efforts in order to compose a Grant Application that would provide us the largest amount of funding we could receive. The Finance Division came together with Outreach administration to prepare the budget with justification, and the funding synopsis portion of the application. Our efforts were rewarded with the largest overall funding award in the entire state of Indiana.

The Finance Division was also responsible for updating the communication work flow for employee time documentation. Previously, multiple communication channels were used to broadcast employee time sheet edits and accruals. This proved to be challenging to maintain and monitor, therefore we implemented a change to utilize our workforce management system as the sole communication channel for time sheet activities.

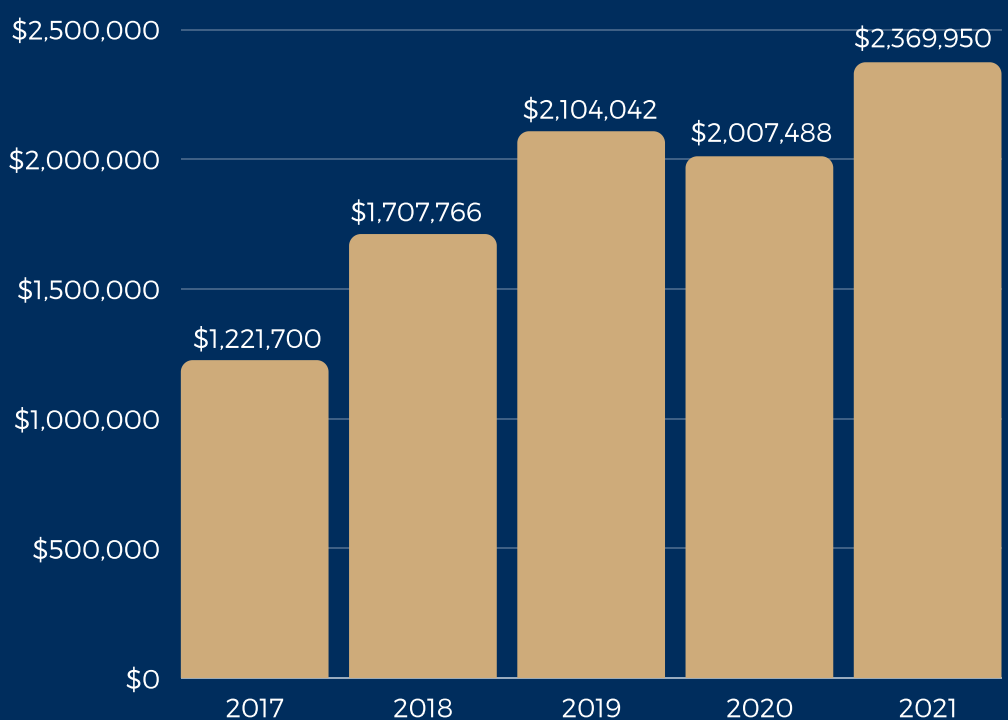
In 2022, the Finance Division will continue to support the fiscal needs of the many working divisions within VCHD as we all do our part to maintain the Health Department's organizational values.

Medicaid Revenue 5 Year Comparison **535% increase from 2017 to 2021**





Grant Revenue 5 Year Comparison
94% increase from 2017 to 2021



COVID-19 TIMELINE

Jan. 1,
2021

Lab beings providing BinaxNOW COVID-19 Antigen testing kits provided by Indiana Department of Health (IDOH) to CLIA waived Long-Term Healthcare facilities as needed.

Jan. 5,
2021

Emergency Preparedness Coordinator met with Building Authority concerning vaccine clinics.

Jan. 6,
2021

The International Health Regulations Emergency Committee of the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 outbreak a pandemic.

Jan. 6,
2021

IDOH announces vaccine eligibility will open to 80 years of age and older in addition to Healthcare workers and First Responders. Communicable Disease and Emergency Preparedness adjusts clinic plans to accommodate a different population group than initially planned.

Jan. 8,
2021

Vanderburgh County Health Department received first shipment of the Moderna vaccine.

Jan. 8,
2021

COVID-19 clinic staff received Zotec training from IDOH.

Jan. 8,
2021

Clinic supervisor and vaccine coordinator train all nurses (Clinic and Pre to 3) on COVID-19 vaccine storage, administration, precautions, documentation, and clinic flow.

COVID-19 TIMELINE

Jan. 8,
2021

Communicable Disease, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, and Administration have first conference call with Berry Plastics to discuss future on-site vaccine planning.

Jan. 12,
2021

First COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic held in Welborn Room.

Jan. 13,
2021

Individuals 70 years of age and older became eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine.

Jan. 13,
2021

Pre to 3 Nurses were trained on how to use Zotec.

Jan. 15,
2021

Emergency Preparedness Coordinator met with C.K. Newsome Center staff to discuss vaccine clinic set-up.

Jan. 18,
2021

All Pre to 3 staff return to working in the office.

Jan. 19,
2021

Pre to 3 staff start assisting with COVID-19 vaccine clinics.

COVID-19 TIMELINE

Jan. 19,
2021

COVID-19 vaccine clinic held at C.K. Newsome Center. Representatives from the Homeless Commission observe clinic flow and throughput. Discussions about future vaccinations efforts for homeless population when the group becomes eligible.

Jan. 21,
2021

Create a COVID-19 vaccine back-up list that was made available to the public on our website.

Jan. 23,
2021

COVID-19 vaccine clinic moved back to Welborn Room.

January
2021

COVID-19 vaccine clinics held on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays.

January
2021

1627 COVID-19 vaccine doses administered.

January
2021

Environmental received 179 COVID-19 complaints during the month of January.

January
2021

Environmental issued 8 Cease and Desist orders to food operations for staff not wearing required face covering per the Governor's Executive Order 20-50.

COVID-19 TIMELINE

January
2021

Environmental partnered with Indiana Excise Police in the issuance of two Cease and Desist Orders of food operations (taverns) for not social distancing as required in Executive Order 20-50.

January
2021

Environmental issued three citations to food operations for staff not wearing required face covering per Executive Order 20-50, extended 20-53.

January
2021

Environmental closed four food operations with assistance of Indiana Excise Police utilizing the Governor's Executive Order 20-53 Emergency Closure Order requiring an approved COVID-19 mitigation plan.

January
2021

Environmental staff assisted with COVID-19 clinics.

Feb. 1,
2021

Individuals 65 years of age and older became eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine.

Feb. 2,
2021

Emergency Preparedness Coordinator & supervisor of clinical nursing met with Greater St. James Missionary Church staff to discuss a vaccine clinic.

Feb. 5,
2021

Set-up begins for vaccine clinics at Old National Events Plaza.

COVID-19 TIMELINE

Feb. 5,
2021

Communicable Disease, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, and Administration held planning meeting with Greater St. James Missionary Church to discuss vaccination clinic to increase vaccination among minority populations.

Feb. 9,
2021

Vaccination clinics moved to Old National Events Plaza.

Feb. 10,
2021

Vaccine planning conference call with local industry partners.

Feb. 24,
2021

Individuals 60 years of age and older became eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine.

Feb. 25,
2021

Communicable Disease has conference call with local EMS providers regarding the Homebound Hoosier Vaccination Program.

Feb. 25,
2021

Laboratory began partnership with United Caring Services so they could begin COVID-19 Antigen screening at their shelters. Trained staff and supplied BinaxNOW kits and PPE.

Feb. 25,
2021

Laboratory trained VCHD staff to perform COVID-19 Antigen screening at the local NCAA tournament. BinaxNOW kits and PPE were provided.

COVID-19 TIMELINE

Feb. 26,
2021

IDOH notified providers that individuals with certain health conditions were eligible for vaccination with a special invite and letter from their primary care physician.

Feb.
2021

2500 COVID-19 vaccine doses administered.

Feb.
2021

Environmental received 36 COVID-19 complaints.

Feb.
2021

Environmental issued 7 Cease and Desist Citation orders to food operations not wearing face coverings as required by the Governor's Executive Orders 20-50, 20-53, and 21-06.

Feb.
2021

Environmental issued 1 Cease and Desist Citation order for food operation not wearing face covering per Executive Order 21-06.

March 1,
2021

Pre to 3 Program received approval from Administration to return to "in home" visits.

March 2,
2021

Communicable Disease nurses provide COVID-19 vaccine at Willow Park

COVID-19 TIMELINE

March 2,
2021

Individuals 55 years of age and older became eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine.

March 3,
2021

Individuals 50 years of age and older became eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine.

March 8,
2021

Vanderburgh County Health Department received first shipment of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

March 10,
2021

First Homebound Hoosiers vaccinated in partnership with AMR and Scott Township.

March 12,
2021

Abbott provides Product Expiry Update; extending the expiration dates on the BinaxNOW COVID-19 Antigen card. All partners and Long-Term Healthcare facility recipients notified.

March 16,
2021

Communicable Disease, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, and Administration have first conference call with ECHO Housing to discuss vaccination clinics for homeless/transient populations.

March 17,
2021

Communicable Disease has clinic set-up and planning meeting with Berry Plastics for first industry-based clinic,

COVID-19 TIMELINE

March 18,
2021

Communicable Disease nurses vaccinate at Lucas Place.

March 18,
2021

Communicable Disease administers vaccines provided to Evansville Vanderburgh School Corporation (EVSC) staff at North High School.

March 19,
2021

Communicable Disease nurses vaccinate at Lucas Place.

March 20,
2021

Individuals 40 years of age and older became eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine.

March 25,
2021

Communicable Disease nurses vaccinate at Vanderburgh County Jail.

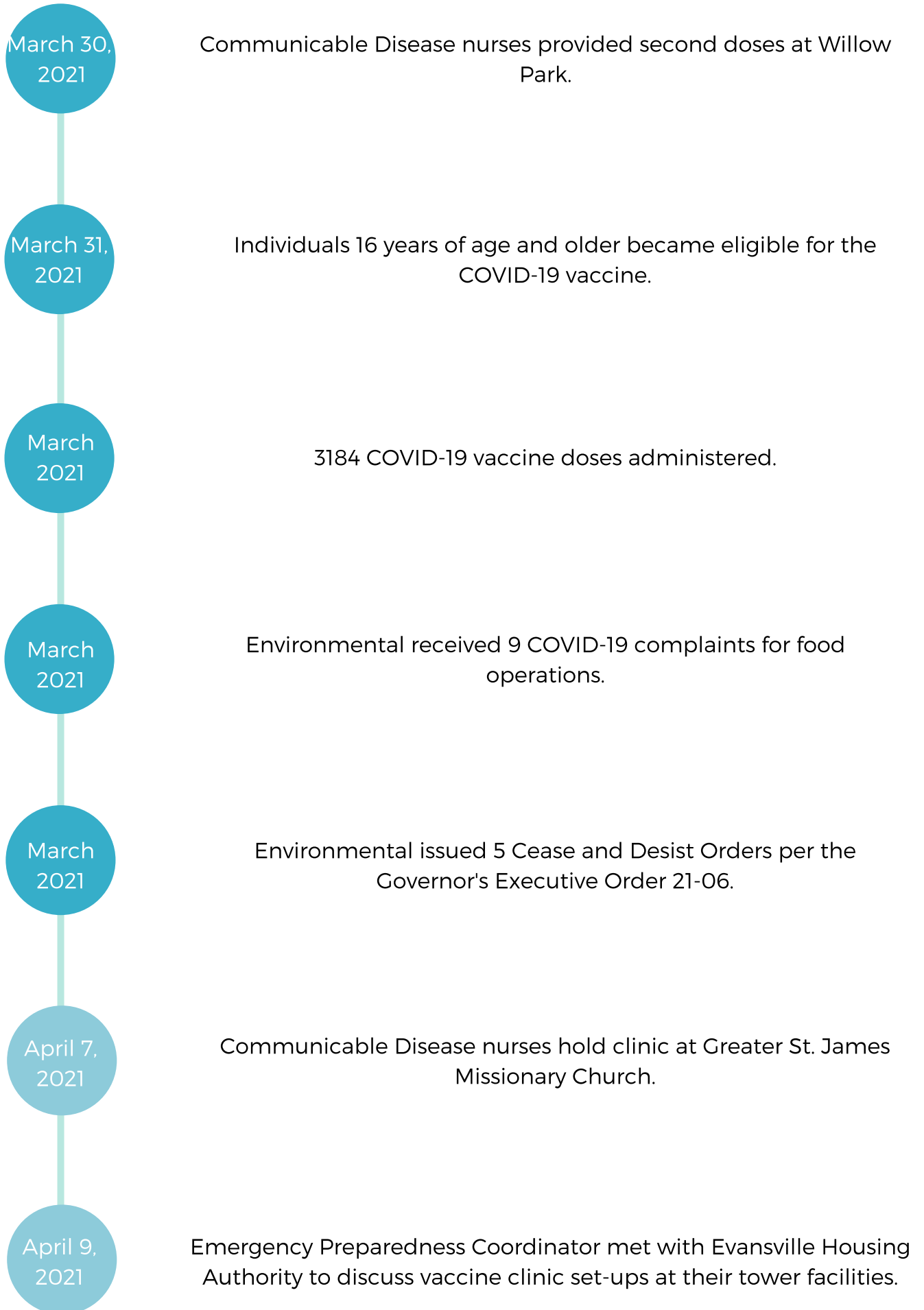
March 29,
2021

Individuals 30 years of age and older became eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine.

March 29,
2021

Laboratory began partnership with Evansville Rescue Mission so they could begin COVID-19 Antigen screening at their shelters. Trained staff and supplied BinaxNOW kits and PPE.

COVID-19 TIMELINE



COVID-19 TIMELINE

April 9,
2021

Communicable Disease and Data Team work first industry clinic held at Berry Plastics.

April 13,
2021

Communicable Disease and Administration begin discussion with the Mayor's Office and METS to start a Mobile Vaccine unit.

April 14,
2021

Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends temporary pause on Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

April 15,
2021

Communicable Disease and Administration hold conference call with EVSC, parochial schools, Deaconess, and Ascension St. Vincent to discuss offering Pfizer vaccine in schools.

April 16,
2021

Communicable Disease nurses give second doses to EVSC staff at North High School.

April 16,
2021

Communicable Disease nurses administer vaccines at Evansville Housing Authority in partnership with Deaconess.

April 16,
2021

Communicable Disease meets with METS to discuss using a bus for Mobile Vaccine clinic.

COVID-19 TIMELINE

April 19,
2021

Communicable Disease and Administration hold conference call with Ameriqua for vaccine clinic planning.

April 22,
2021

Communicable Disease nurses administer COVID-19 vaccines to students and staff 16 years of age and older at North High School, Central High School, and Reitz High School in partnership with Deaconess.

April 23,
2021

Communicable Disease provides vaccines at second industry clinic held at Ameriqua.

April 23,
2021

Johnson & Johnson vaccine pause lifted and VCHD resumes use.

April 26,
2021

Vaccination clinic offered at Ameriqua during late night hours.

April 27,
2021

Communicable Disease nurses administer COVID-19 vaccine to students and staff 16 years of age and older at Academy for Innovative Studies (AIS) and Harwood Career Preparatory High School in partnership with Deaconess.

April 27,
2021

CDC issues mask guidance that fully vaccinated individuals do not need to wear a mask outdoors.

COVID-19 TIMELINE

April 29,
2021

Communicable Disease nurses administer COVID-19 vaccine to students and staff 16 years of age and older at Bosse High School, Harrison High School, New Tech High School, Mater Dei High School, and Memorial High School in partnership with Ascension St. Vincent and Deaconess.

April 30,
2021

Communicable Disease provides vaccines at industry clinic held at Anchor Industries.

April
2021

2210 COVID-19 vaccine doses administered.

April
2021

Utilizing grant funds awarded from State, 2 contract nurses and an offsite clinic coordinator were hired to form a mobile vaccination team to supplement ongoing activities.

May 1,
2021

Pre to 3 Program rents space from Welborn for virtual visits.

May 3,
2021

Laboratory discontinued the scheduled water sample drop off. This was created to reduce the number of clients in the reception area at one time during the pandemic.

May 5,
2021

Communicable Disease begins operating mobile clinic in cooperation with METS

COVID-19 TIMELINE

May 7,
2021

Communicable Disease offers 2nd vaccine clinic at Berry Plastics.

May 10,
2021

Mobile Vaccine team provides vaccines at UniSeal and
Community Corrections.

May 13,
2021

Communicable Disease nurses administer 2nd doses of COVID-19
vaccines to students and staff 16 years of age and older at North
High School, Central High School, and Reitz High School in
partnership with Deaconess.

May 13,
2021

FDA/CDC authorize Pfizer vaccine for emergency use in 12-15 years
of age. IDOH announces 12-15 years of age are eligible to receive
Pfizer vaccine.

May 13,
2021

CDC issues commendation that fully vaccinated individuals do
not have to wear masks indoors.

May 14,
2021

Vanderburgh County Health Department received first shipment
of the Pfizer vaccine.

May 14,
2021

Mobile Vaccine team provides vaccines at Ivy Tech.

COVID-19 TIMELINE

May 18,
2021

Communicable Disease nurses administer 2nd doses of COVID-19 vaccine to students and staff 16 years of age and older at Academy for Innovative Studies (AIS) and Harwood Career Preparatory High School in partnership with Deaconess.

May 20,
2021

Communicable Disease nurses administer 2nd doses of COVID-19 vaccine to students and staff 16 years of age and older at Bosse High School, Harrison High School, New Tech High School, Mater Dei High School, and Memorial High School in partnership with Ascension St. Vincent and Deaconess.

May 21,
2021

Communicable Disease provides 2nd doses of COVID-19 vaccine at Ameriqua.

May 24,
2021

Mobile Vaccine team provides vaccines at Bethesda Ministries.

May 25,
2021

WIC reopened clinic to in-person appointments. Clients were asked to wear a mask and appointments were limited to only client and guardian.

May 26,
2021

Last vaccine clinic at Old National Events Plaza due to decreased vaccine demand in mass clinic settings.

May 26,
2021

Vaccination clinic offered at Ameriqua during late night hours.

COVID-19 TIMELINE

May 27,
2021

VCHD Clinic begins offering COVID-19 vaccine during regular clinic hours.

May 28,
2021

Communicable Disease provides 2nd doses of COVID-19 vaccine at Anchor.

May
2021

1756 COVID-19 vaccine doses administered.

June 7,
2021

Laboratory trained a new staff member at Evansville Rescue Mission to perform COVID-19 Antigen screening and provided more BinaxNOW test kits.

June 7,
2021

Mobile Vaccine team provides second vaccine clinic at Uniseal and Community Connections.

June 8,
2021

WIC started Farmer's Market Voucher distribution. We took down the plexiglass shields on the counters, however clients were still asked to wear a mask.

June 10,
2021

Mobile Vaccine team provides second vaccine clinic at Ivy Tech.

COVID-19 TIMELINE

June 15,
2021

Expiration date for Johnson & Johnson vaccine extended by 6 weeks.

June 18,
2021

Mobile Vaccine team provides vaccine clinic at Refresco Beverage.

June 19,
2021

Mobile Vaccine team provides vaccine at P.R.I.D.E. event.

June 21,
2021

Mobile Vaccine team provides vaccines at Bethesda Ministries.

June 26,
2021

Mobile Vaccine team provides vaccine at Mexican Consulate event.

June 30,
2021

Mobile Vaccine team provides vaccine at Evansville Rescue Mission.

June 30,
2021

Homebound Hoosier Program ends with AMR and Scott Township. Mobile Vaccine team begins providing Homebound Hoosiers vaccines in conjunction with Indiana Immunization Coalition.

COVID-19 TIMELINE

June
2021

330 COVID-19 vaccine doses administered.

June
2021

Communicable Disease begins working with Old National Events Plaza on Back the Vax campaign to increase awareness and immunization rates in minority and underserved communities.

July 6,
2021

Mobile Vaccine bus extended through July and August on Tuesdays and Thursdays at new locations.

July 14,
2021

Mobile Vaccine team provides vaccine at United Caring Shelter.

July 14,
2021

Health Promotions began working on implementing two new evidence-based virtual programs (INspire and Freedom From Smoking) that will allow them to reach more clients due to COVID-19.

July 17,
2021

Mobile Vaccine team provides vaccine at Vanderburgh Humane Society.

July 20,
2021

Initiated weekly COVID-19 updates from an IDOH webinar for VCHD supervisors to distribute to staff.

COVID-19 TIMELINE

July 20,
2021

Vanderburgh County is 52.7% fully vaccinated. 47725 is the highest zip code fully vaccinated at 71.6% and 47714 is the lowest at 44%.

July 24,
2021

Communicable Disease hosts back to school immunization clinic, offering COVID-19 vaccine to school age children.

July 27,
2021

Vanderburgh County is 53.1% fully vaccinated. 47725 is the highest zip code fully vaccinated at 72.3 and 47714 is the lowest at 44.5%.

July 28,
2021

CDC issues guidance that vaccinated people should resume wearing a mask indoors.

July
2021

244 COVID-19 vaccine doses administered.

July
2021

Environmental provided COVID-19 guidance to consumers and food operations, collaborating with IDOH.

Aug. 1,
2021

FFSA stops Medicaid reimbursement for virtual visits for home visiting programs.

COVID-19 TIMELINE

Aug. 3,
2021

53.6% of Vanderburgh County residents are fully vaccinated. 47725 is the highest zip code fully vaccinated at 72.8% and 47714 is the lowest at 45%.

Aug. 10,
2021

Indiana reaches highest hospital rate since February. 47725 is the highest zip code fully vaccinated at 73.3% and 47714 is the lowest at 45%.

Aug 12,
2021

FDA authorized 3rd doses of Moderna and Pfizer vaccine for certain groups of immunocompromised individuals.

Aug. 16,
2021

Pre to 3 Program returns to virtual visits only.

Aug. 17,
2021

51% of the Indiana population is fully vaccinated. 47725 is the highest zip code fully vaccinated at 74%.

Aug. 18,
2021

WIC clinic closed for in-person client appointments.

Aug. 24,
2021

54.7% of Vanderburgh County residents are fully vaccinated. The lowest vaccination rate in our county is the 12-29 age group.

COVID-19 TIMELINE

Aug. 31,
2021

55.4% of Vanderburgh County residents are fully vaccinated. The lowest vaccination rate in our county is the 12-29 age group. 52.8% of the Indiana population is fully vaccinated.

Aug.
2021

611 COVID-19 vaccine doses administered.

Aug.
2021

Environmental conducted 9 COVID-19 complaint investigations on food operations.

Aug.
2021

Communicable Disease held COVID-19 vaccination clinics at the following locations: Volunteers of America, Zestos Franklin, Shoe Carnival Corporation Offices, Siligan Industries, Black Nurse's of Evansville's Back to School Bash, Zesto's Riverside Dr., Anchor Industries, Red Spot, Vanderburgh Humane Society, ARG's Lemonade stand, Shoe Carnival Distribution Center, Mission Church, UCS's 30 year anniversary celebration, Meade Johnson, SRG Global, Eastland Mall, Ivy Tech, Bootz.

Sept. 14,
2021

57% of Vanderburgh County residents are fully vaccinated. 47713 has the lowest vaccination rate with 47725 remaining the highest. 54% of the Indiana population is fully vaccinated.

Sept. 17,
2021

FDA meets to discuss COVID-19 booster recommendations.

Sept. 21,
2021

FDA recommends COVID-19 booster for specific high risk populations for the Pfizer vaccine only. 58% of Vanderburgh County residents are fully vaccinated. 47713 has the lowest vaccination rate at 49.8% and 47725 remains the highest at 79.1%.

COVID-19 TIMELINE

Sept. 22,
2021

FDA approves Pfizer boosters for adults 65 years of age and older and adults 18-64 years of age with pre-existing conditions and occupational risk.

Sept. 30,
2021

61,650 COVID-19 booster doses have been administered throughout Indiana.

Sept.
2021

637 COVID-19 vaccine doses administered.

Sept.
2021

Environmental responded to 4 COVID-19 complaints for food operations and provided education.

Sept.
2021

Communicable Disease held COVID-19 vaccination clinics at the following locations: AT&T, Riverwalk, Community Corrections, Red Spot, Anchor Industries, Lupillo Rivera concert, Shoe Carnival Distribution Center, McDonald's on Main St., Lyondell Basell, Expressway Dodge, Meade Johnson, EVPL East Branch, Birthday Bash, Wesselman Woods, Ivy Tech, Bootz, Pre to 3 Family Fall Festival.

Oct. 5,
2021

59.4% of Vanderburgh County residents are fully vaccinated. 56% of the Indiana population is fully vaccinated.

Oct. 18,
2021

WIC staff return to work in the clinic and continue to complete client appointments over the phone. USDA waivers are extended another quarter.

COVID-19 TIMELINE

Oct. 20,
2021

FDA approves Moderna boosters for adults 65 years of age and older and adults 18-64 years of age with pre-existing conditions and occupational risk.

Oct.
2021

473 COVID-19 vaccine doses administered.

Oct.
2021

Communicable Disease held COVID-19 vaccination clinics at the following locations: Eastland Mall, Parkfest, Fall Festival, Community Corrections, Expressway Dodge, Central High School, McDonald's, Vanderburgh County Jail, Harrison High School, New Tech Institute School.

Nov. 2,
2021

60.8% of Vanderburgh County residents are fully vaccinated.
57.5% of the Indiana population is fully vaccinated.

Nov. 9,
2021

Vaccination rates now include the population 5 years of age and older which accounts for the change in percentage in overall vaccination rates. 55.5% of Vanderburgh County residents are fully vaccinated. 52.1% of the Indiana population is fully vaccinated.

Nov. 16,
2021

55.8% of Vanderburgh County residents are fully vaccinated.
52.4% of the Indiana population is fully vaccinated. 532,702 COVID-19 booster doses have been administered throughout Indiana.

Nov. 30,
2021

56.2% of Vanderburgh County residents are fully vaccinated. 52.8% of the Indiana population is fully vaccinated. 790,169 COVID-19 booster doses have been administered throughout Indiana.

COVID-19 TIMELINE

Nov.
2021

349 COVID-19 vaccine doses administered.

Nov.
2021

Communicable Disease held COVID-19 vaccination clinics at the following locations: Reitz High School, Ameriqua RAMP program, Central High School, Washington Middle School, Harrison High School, Bosse High School, New Tech Institute School, Anchor Industries, Uniseal.

Dec. 11,
2021

Pre to 3 Program returns to "in person" visits.

Dec.
2021

21 COVID-19 vaccine doses administered.

Dec.
2021

Environmental received and addressed 46 COVID-19 complaints for food operations.