



ANNUAL REPORT 2020

VANDERBURGH COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
EVANSVILLE, IN

EXECUTIVE LETTER

The pandemic, vaccine, and the political struggles have been getting most of the headlines for several months. 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, there are 20 active clients with 4 of those being veterans. The program is optimistic about future program success.



Dr. R. Kenneth Spear
Health Officer
VCHD

Vanderburgh County has already had six infant deaths related to unsafe sleep this year. 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 174 active families. The program is utilizing virtual or outdoor visits to try to stay in touch with a very vulnerable part of our society. In addition, the program is working towards providing 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. In addition, the Vanderburgh County Health Department provided drive through flu clinics in the community and provided 100 immunizations.

STI's are also at record levels across all demographics. Syphilis rates are up 300% in the last two years. Our first cases of congenital syphilis in the region have received treatment at our local birth centers in over a decade. Daily exams, testing and treatment for all STI are available daily.

The pandemic has only highlighted and exacerbated 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

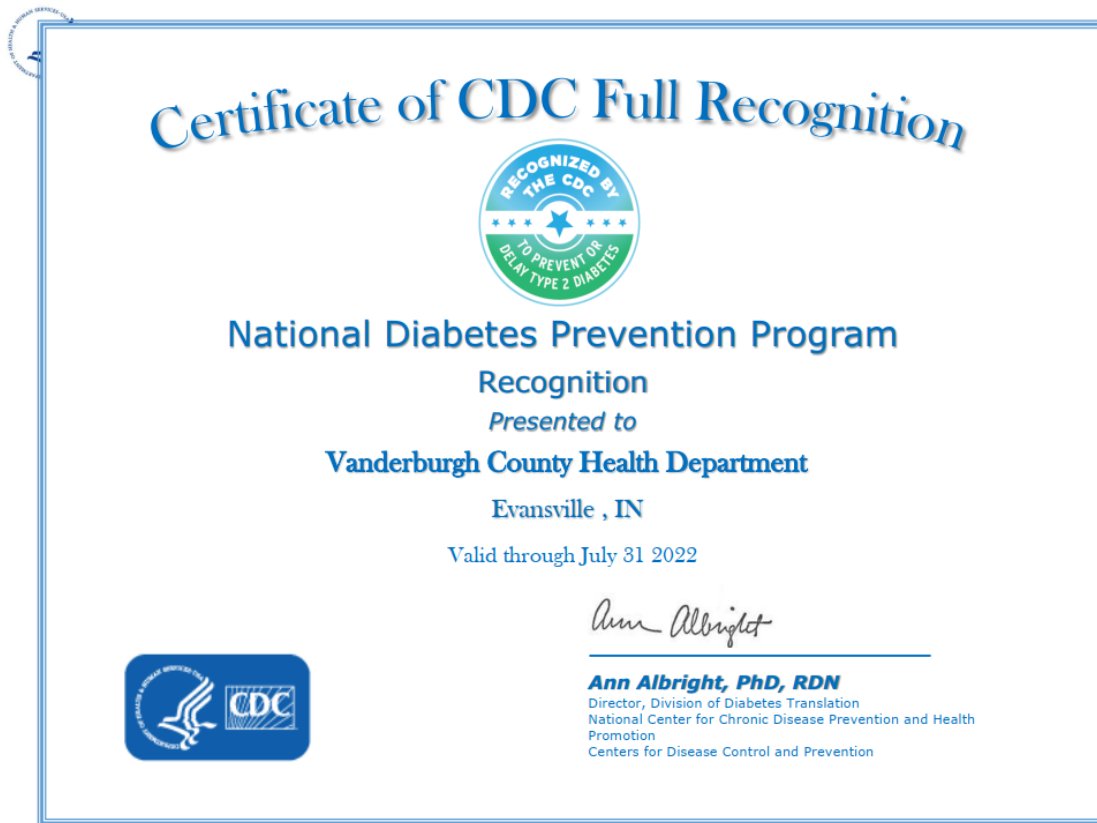
In January of 2019 the VCHD was awarded a \$120,000 grant from the Indiana State Department of Health to work together with community partners to coordinate efforts to reduce opioid misuse, reduce morbidity and mortality associated with opioid use disorder (OUD), and increase linkage to care for those with OUD. Due to COVID-19 delays, the grant was extended to August of 2021 and an additional \$13,575 was awarded. With this funding we have hired a project coordinator who has been able to collaborate with community partners on a substance use prevention campaign, facilitate quarterly overdose fatality reviews, analyze local substance abuse data, and develop a Recidivism Reduction Program with the University of Southern Indiana and Vanderburgh County Jail. A social worker was hired in October to coordinate services for inmates participating in the Recidivism Reduction Program (RRP) and began seeing clients in November.

The mission of the Recidivism Reduction Program, is to promote linkage to care for currently incarcerated and/or recently released persons from the Vanderburgh County Jail, with barriers to health equity related to substance use and mental health disorders by addressing six areas of concern:

1. Health/Substance Misuse Treatment
2. Safety/Housing
3. Skill Development/Education
4. Mentorship/Community Based Supports
5. Social Networks/Family Supports
6. Employment

The vision for the Recidivism Reduction Program is to provide these clients with action plans and goals to address areas of need with a potential outcome of reducing recidivism rates among those being served. This will help establish community partnerships with organizations in which referrals to services are being made, improve clients' health, and promote community wellness overall. As of December 31, 2020 there have been a total of 34 inmates who have participated in the RRP. Additionally, with the help of a local veteran, we have been able to help 4 veteran clients connect with resources and access their veteran benefits.

ACHIEVEMENTS



The Vanderburgh County Health Department Health Promotions Division has received CDC Full Recognition for our Diabetes Prevention Program for the second year in a row. In order to receive CDC recognition, our program has to successfully deliver a quality, evidence-based program. We help our clients create a lifestyle change, which helps them lower their BMI and A1c levels. The ultimate goal of the program is to prevent type 2 diabetes.

SPECIAL EVENTS



On October 17, 2020 the Vanderburgh County Health Department organized a Drive-By Neighborhood Baby Shower event for the ultimate purpose of reducing infant mortality in Vanderburgh County and the surrounding area. The event was held in the parking lot at the Vanderburgh County Health Department. 16 community partners were in attendance to provide health education to 58 new and expectant mothers and their guests. Community partners donated several items for the event, which included portable cribs, high chairs, baby monitors, diaper bags, car seats and much more. These donations were estimated to total \$11,750. The donations that were collected but not distributed to participants of this event will be carried over to the next Neighborhood Baby Shower.



Labor of Love
Helping Indiana Reduce Infant Death

The Vanderburgh County Health Department participated in the virtual Labor of Love Conference on December 10, 2020. Our Pre to 3 team presented on five different topics, Supporting Mothers during the 4th Trimester and Beyond, Breaking Barriers in the Hispanic Community by Creating Connections to Resources, A Genuine Approach For Father Engagement in Home Visiting, Exploring the Relationship of a Maternal and Infant Home Visitation Program and Improved Community Outcomes, and Utilizing the Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE) Screening as a Tool for Building Resiliency in Communities. Our Health Promotions team presented on Local Health Departments Quality Improvement Initiative to Streamlining Services to Pregnant Smokers in the Baby and Me Tobacco Free Program.



The Vanderburgh County Health Department Pre to 3 team presented in the virtual CityMatCH Conference. Our team presented on Supporting and Strengthening Families through Home Visitation.

SPECIAL EVENTS



Sophie French RN, Pre to 3 supervisor, was invited to present at Deaconess Hospital for Grand Rounds alongside McKenzie Schaefer, DO on November 3, 2020. They presented on Decreasing Infant Mortality in our Community and highlighted the work Pre to 3 is implementing in southwestern Indiana. They shared how Deaconess Family Medicine Residency and the Vanderburgh County Health Department are collaborating to address the moderate to high preeclampsia risk factors detected in prenatal clients in the Pre to 3 program. Together, they have developed an intervention letter that is sent to the client's prenatal providers notifying them of the moderate/high preeclampsia risks noted at the time of the client's intake. The letter names the client's risk factors according to the 2018 American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) guidelines and shares ACOG recommendations on aspirin therapy.



The Vanderburgh County Health Department held 2 drive-thru flu clinics, one at the health department and the other at Ivy Tech. Through these two flu clinics we were able to administer 100 flu vaccines.



The Vanderburgh County Health Department, in partnership with local hospitals and local officials, held four Vanderburgh County Community COVID-19 Drive-Thru testing sites. Through these testing sites, we were able to test approximately 400 individuals for COVID-19.

COVID-19 IMPACT

In 2020, as COVID-19 quickly spread throughout the world, its impact was felt globally, nationally, and locally. 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.

In order to quickly protect our community, we reached out to local manufacturing companies, including Berry Global, Inc., to produce and distribute 15,000-20,000 free face shields to local long term care facilities (nursing homes, rehab hospitals), police and fire departments, ancillary healthcare and medical professionals (home health, dialysis, hospice, health clinics), and public safety personnel. In addition, we received Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) from Indiana Department of Health (IDOH) and the remainder off excess PPE that was allocated to election sites across the county to redistribute.

We worked together with Evansville Vanderburgh School Corporation (EVSC), parochial, and private schools to develop policies and safety protocols to ensure the safety of their staff and students not only within the classroom but also during extracurricular activities and the commute to and from school.

As our local healthcare systems felt the demands of caring for an increased number of patients, our Health Officer was in daily communication with hospital leadership at Ascension St. Vincent - Evansville, Deaconess Health Systems, and other healthcare providers within the southern Indiana region. This daily communication served to ensure the latest COVID-19 guidelines and resources were being shared with the community. Additionally, we had communication with Long Term Care Facilities to provide guidance on safety protocols and resourced them with an adequate supply of PPE.

The Resource and Awareness Task Force worked with City of Evansville and Vanderburgh County leadership, both Ascension St. Vincent - Evansville and Deaconess Health Systems, Pigeon and Knight Township Trustees, local EMA, the Sheriff's Office, Evansville Police Department, Scott Township Emergency Response, and other local community leaders to provide neighborhood COVID-19 testing to some of our most at risk populations. We worked with the Mayor's Commission on Homelessness to develop safety practices, isolation procedures, quarantine protocols, and the development of a vaccination plan for our homeless population.

The VCHD was tasked with enforcing Governor Eric Holcomb and Mayor Lloyd Winnecke's executive orders. Our Environmental Division provided guidance and education on safety protocols to local restaurants and businesses for daily practices and special events.

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.

COVID-19 TIMELINE

March 6,
2020

Governor Eric Holcomb issued Executive Order 20-02, which declared a public health emergency in the State of Indiana as a result of the novel Coronavirus Disease 2019 ("COVID-19") outbreak in Indiana

March 9,
2020

All Health Department programs began offering virtual services

March 11,
2020

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

March 13,
2020

The President of the United State declared COVID-19 to be a national emergency

March 13,
2020

The Vanderburgh County Health Department conducted an Emergency Preparedness Exercise

March 16,
2020

VCHD created a contact tracing system for travelers, COVID-19 positive individuals, and their close contacts

March 17,
2020

Immunization and Specialty Clinic closed

COVID-19 TIMELINE

March 18,
2020

VCHD employees prepared to start working from home

March 18,
2020

Health Promotions staff started scheduling virtual appointments for Baby & Me - Tobacco Free, Safe Sleep, and Stop Smoking. Diaper vouchers and nicotine patches were sent via mail to clients.

March 19,
2020

First Vanderburgh County Positive COVID-19 Case

March 23,
2020

Employee newsletter was designed to keep all staff at home up to date and connected while working from home.

March 23,
2020

WIC created a plan to work from home and continue to serve clients. WIC clinic services never ceased. The USDA granted waivers. They waived physical presence for appointments, income eligibility, Separation of Duties policy, and allowed remote issuance of benefit packages. USDA granted additional food options as some WIC approved foods were difficult to find at the stores. These included a wider variety of bread, eggs and milk.

March 26,
2020

Health Promotions staff transition from in-person to virtual Diabetes Prevention Program classes.

March 26,
2020

WIC staff called clients, completing appointments, and issuing benefits from home.

COVID-19 TIMELINE

March 28,
2020

Indiana Excise police began assisting the Environmental Division when we started receiving COVID-19 complaints regarding in-dining concerns.

March 30,
2020

Pre to 3 nurses were trained on contact tracing for COVID-19 and started balancing their dual roles, working weekends to assist the clinical nursing staff.

March 30,
2020

Immunization and Specialty Clinics reopened with one nurse splitting time between both clinics. Immunization clinic provided services to patients 3 years of age and younger. Specialty clinic provided services to high priority clients.

April 1,
2020

VCHD leadership called a Region 10 meeting to discuss outbreaks in Long Term Care Facilities (LTCFs) and other issues facing local health departments

April 2,
2020

VCHD created a map and dashboard for the community. The map highlighted how many positive COVID-19 cases and close contacts were in each zip code. The dashboard broke down the percentage of positive COVID-19 cases by age, race, sex, preexisting conditions, and whether they were hospitalized.

April 6,
2020

First Vanderburgh County COVID-19 death.

April 9,
2020

Distributed face shields donated by Berry Global, Inc. to local long term care facilities (nursing homes, rehab hospitals), police and fire departments, ancillary healthcare and medical professionals (home health, dialysis, hospice, health clinics), and public safety personnel.

COVID-19 TIMELINE

April 20,
2020

Packets delivered to all local LTCFs with health officers order with a request for a COVID-19 plan.

April 22,
2020

Director of Clinical and Outreach Divisions met with Deaconess IP to plan for LTCFs visits to assess compliance to COVID-19 guidelines

April 22,
2020

Vanderburgh County reached 100 COVID-19 Cases

April 24,
2020

First IDOH Strike Team visit to support Vanderburgh County LTCFs

April 25,
2020

First LTCFs in Vanderburgh County has positive COVID-19 residents with an active outbreak.

May 14,
2020

First Cease and Desist Order for Executive Order non-compliance was issued.

May 14,
2020

Environmental Division and Indiana Excise police collaborated in educating and closing retail food operations with liquor license who were operating in-door dining before permitted.

COVID-19 TIMELINE

May 15,
2020

All Vanderburgh County LTCFs had been visited by VCHD to assure COVID-19 compliance and had plans on record.

May 26,
2020

All Administrative Aides returned to the office

May 26,
2020

Immunization and Specialty clinics began operating with one nurse each. Immunization clinic expanded to those 9 years of age and younger. Specialty clinic increased capacity to 6 patients per day, still focusing on high priority clients.

June 4,
2020

WIC created a plan to keep the Farmers Market going to their clients.

June 14,
2020

Immunization clinic began seeing teenagers who were behind on vaccinations and high priority adults. Specialty clinic added Express visits.

June 30,
2020

Indiana Department of Health (IDOH) began contract tracing for all counties in Indiana. The Health Department continued to investigate confirmed cases.

July 3,
2020

Vanderburgh County reached 500 COVID-19 Cases

COVID-19 TIMELINE

July 4,
2020

Immunization Clinic began operating with three nurses. The clinic was operating on reduced hours and only seeing high priority patients.

July 6,
2020

WIC USDA food waivers ceased. WIC benefits returned to regular tailored food package as they were no longer able to substitute WIC approved food that were difficult to find in stores.

July 10,
2020

First spike in COVID-19 Cases in Vanderburgh County

July 11,
2020

First death in a Vanderburgh County LTCFs

July 15,
2020

Environmental Division issued first citation order for failing to meet Cease and Desist Order for Executive Order of non-compliance

July 13,
2020

VCHD and Evansville Vanderburgh School Corporation (EVSC) began a COVID-19 Collaboration for re-opening school

July 16,
2020

Vanderburgh County reached 1,000 COVID-19 Cases

COVID-19 TIMELINE

July 20,
2020

Letter supporting no indoor visitation at LTCFs per Dr. Spear, VCHD Health Officer and IDOH recommendations. Outdoor visitation was supported.

Aug. 3,
2020

Pre to 3 staff returned to the office on a 2 week rotation schedule. Outdoor visits were offered to families during this time, which required a COVID-19 screening before the visit along with mask wearing and social distancing.

Aug. 10,
2020

Interns began volunteering at the Health Department to answer incoming calls from the community regarding COVID-19.

Aug. 25,
2020

Environmental Division issued first closure of an operation for failure to meet Executive Order.

Sept. 1,
2020

Vanderburgh County LTCFs began routine testing of staff and residents on county positivity rates and positivity within facilities

Sept. 21,
2020

WIC staff returned to the clinic to make client appointment call from their individual offices

Oct. 1,
2020

WIC clients were notified that the WIC clinic reopened for in-person appointments

COVID-19 TIMELINE

Oct. 13,
2020

VCHD created an Event Review Form to approve or deny events over 250 people.

Nov. 6,
2020

The Health Department Laboratory began testing symptomatic employees in-house.

Nov. 12,
2020

BinaxNOW cards available at VCHD and to support local LTCFs need

Nov. 12,
2020

Vanderburgh County reached 100 COVID-19 deaths

Nov. 23,
2020

WIC Clinic closes again to in-person appointments. Clients are notified that all appointments and benefit issuance will be completed by phone call. Vanderburgh County WIC will remain closed for in-clinic appointments until Congress dismisses all waivers for serving WIC clients.

Nov. 26,
2020

Vanderburgh County reached 10,000 COVID-19 cases

Dec. 10,
2020

Vanderburgh County had its most deaths in a single day at 10 deaths

COVID-19 TIMELINE

Dec. 12,
2020

Director of Clinical and Outreach Divisions began as staff for the IU ECHO education for LTCFs

Dec. 15,
2020

Local hospitals in Vanderburgh County began to receive their first shipments of the COVID-19 vaccine.

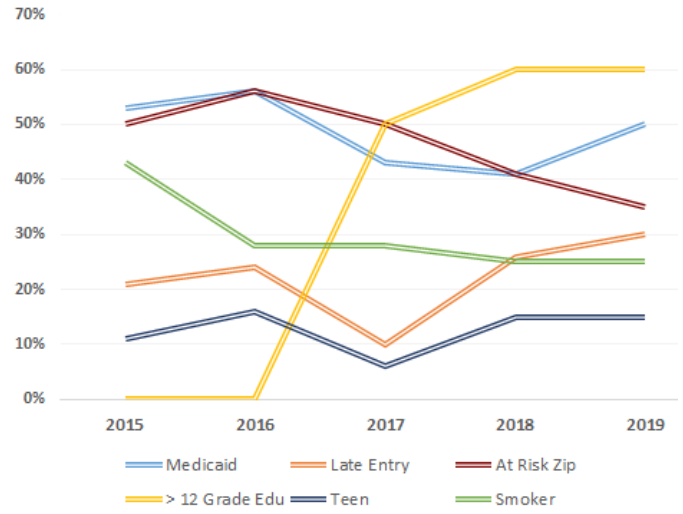
Dec. 30,
2020

Vanderburgh County reached its most cases in a single day at 314 cases

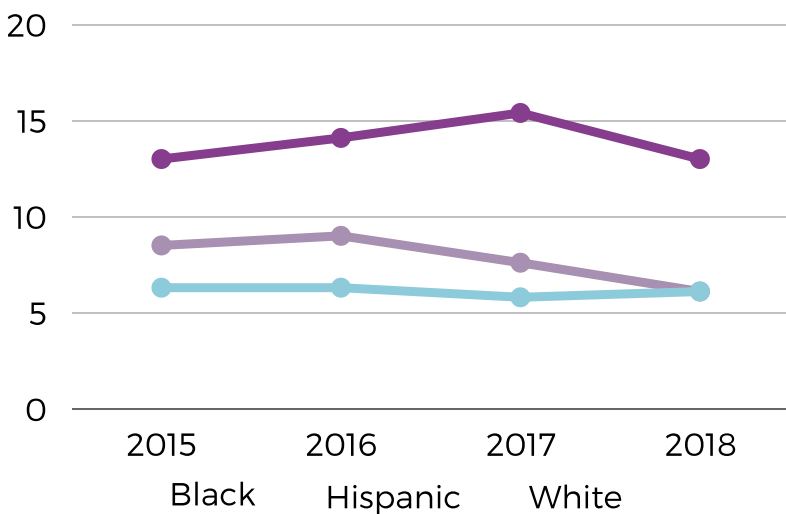
FIMR & CHILD FATALITY

The Outreach Division have been granted Title V funding for fetal infant mortality and child fatality review since 2015. Deaths are reviewed in a multi-discipline team format that includes representatives from the Vanderburgh County Health Department, both local health systems, the child advocacy center, mental health services, DCS, county coroner's offices, home visitation professionals, ARK crisis nursery, local police and sheriff departments, ECHO clinic, managed care entities and other community partners. Team members meet to review each case, identify themes and make recommendation to community action teams. Since March teams have meet virtually on a HIPAA compliant platform to provide confidentiality for all participants while collecting and presenting all relevant data and recommendations for action. On completion of each review, data is submitted into the Child Death Registry for local, state and national utilization. Vanderburgh County Fetal, Infant and Child Fatality Review Coordinator reviews cases for Warrick, Posey and Gibson counties. The highest prevalence of death belonged to the age category of less than one year old, contributing to Southwestern Indiana's high infant mortality rate. Included in this age group were six deaths and attributed to unsafe sleep practices with a potential of a seventh death in a neighboring county. Two infant deaths related to abusive head trauma in 2020 added to the mortality rate. The next age group with high prevalence is 12 to 18-year old's, including suicides, motor vehicle crashes and gun related deaths. Formal recommendations to address disparities related to infant and child death have been

Vanderburgh County Fetal & Infant Deaths Related to Social Determinants of Health



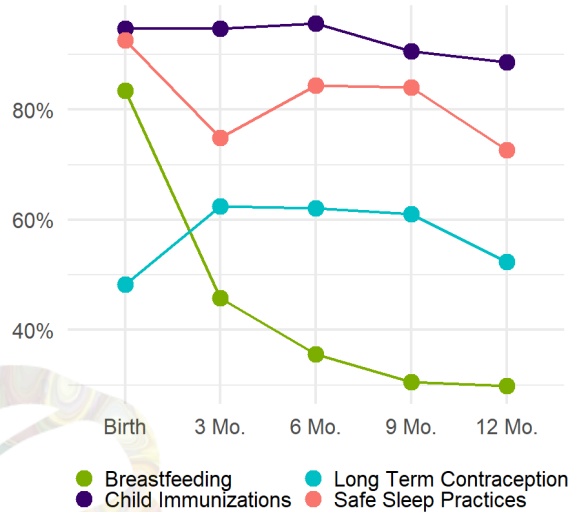
Indiana Infant Morality by Race



made to the community action teams that include the need to address social determinants of health by all agencies caring for pregnant women, infants and children. Representatives from community agencies are involved in a community wide safe sleep quality improvement project to address social determinants of health, referrals to social supportive programming and modeling safe sleep behaviors.

PRE TO 3

Infant mortality in Vanderburgh County continues to be a concern and focus for the Pre to 3 program. With the COVID-19 pandemic making home visiting a challenge this year, staff have had to find creative ways to reach some of our most vulnerable prenatal clients and families. By March 16, 2020, all in-person Pre to 3 visits were halted and our staff began working from home. Families began to increasingly reach out for needed resources such as food, hand sanitizer, masks, diapers/wipes, toilet paper, and formula. Our client advocates shared community resources daily and staff dispersed information to families via text and email. Pre to 3 staff rotated coming into the office and making deliveries to families. Needed supplies, incentive items, Little Lamb vouchers, activity supplies and handouts for curriculum, portable cribs, and car seats have been and continue to be frequent items delivered. On March 19th, Indiana Family and Social Services Administration released approval for telemedicine and telephone options for health care providers. This not only allowed our program a format to continue services but to also bill for Medicaid visits. New program policy was developed and remote forms created to provide a seamless delivery of services.



Even with all of the challenges 2020 has brought our way, the Pre to 3 program has the largest number of active clients to date at 170. With the research showing best outcomes are reached when clients join prenatally, we are proud to show that our prenatal entry is at a program high of 84.2%. We could not continue to grow and provide services without the dedicated staff, great leadership at VCHD, and the support of all of our community partners that work tirelessly to provide for families.



December 2020 has brought about much excitement with our first Pre to 3 graduate from the program, with many more to follow in the coming months. This reflects a true commitment by our families, as it means the child has participated 3 years and in some cases their mom was first a client prenatally.

554
REACH

175
ACTIVE

194
BIRTHS

11,147
VISITS

88%
BIRTHS
37+ WEEKS

91%
ADEQUATE
PRENATAL
CARE



ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Food

The VCHD Environmental Division has received 360 Retail Food complaints, an increase of 59% from 2019. Of the 360 Retail Food complaints investigated, 204 of the complaints were COVID-19 related complaints regarding improper mask usage.

There were 31 new food trucks licensed, which is an 181% increase from 2019. These new additions brought the total number of food trucks licensed in Vanderburgh County to 79, all of which have been inspected.

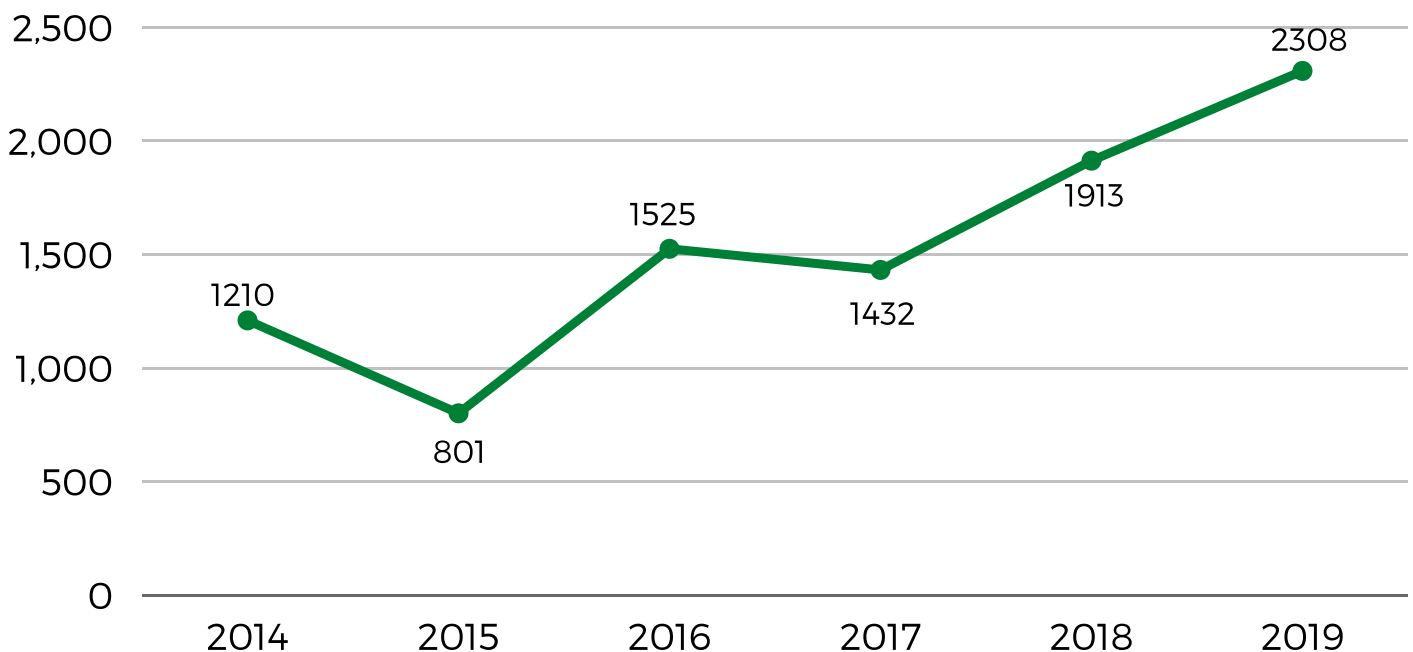
Tattoo and Body Piercing

In November 2020, an electronic Tattoo and Body Piercing Permit Application process was implemented. The application can be accessed on the VCHD website and be completed by, new and existing artists and establishments. Once an applicant has submitted their application and supporting documents, the information is reviewed by our Administrative Aides. All permits are printed, sealed for authentication and signed by the VCHD prior to distribution.

Lead

The Lead Childhood Program saw a 33% increase in new elevated cases and a 34% decrease in new anticipatory cases. Together, the lead team was able to close 5 elevated cases and 17 anticipatory cases. Through the COVID-19 pandemic, lead team members continued to perform timely case management activities in accordance to 410 IAC 29. Our Indiana Licensed Lead Risk Assessor's conducted 8 lead risk assessments, 3 clearance examinations, and 13 educational home visits. After much consideration and education, the lead team was able to upgrade equipment used for lead risk assessments with newer technology that will serve our program for many years.

Total Children Tested in Vanderburgh County



ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Vector Control

Frequent rain in the spring created issues with large numbers of mosquitoes. Mosquito Control activities started in March with mosquito larvicide treatment of standing water areas. Mosquito control continued into the third week of October. Vector Control staff submitted 10 sample pools of adult mosquitoes for laboratory testing, with none testing positive for West Nile Virus or other mosquito-borne disease. There were also no reported human disease cases of West Nile Virus in Vanderburgh County.

The Vector Control Division also had numerous conversations and educational opportunities with landlords, tenants, and community health organizations regarding best practices in preventing and eliminating bed bug infestations.

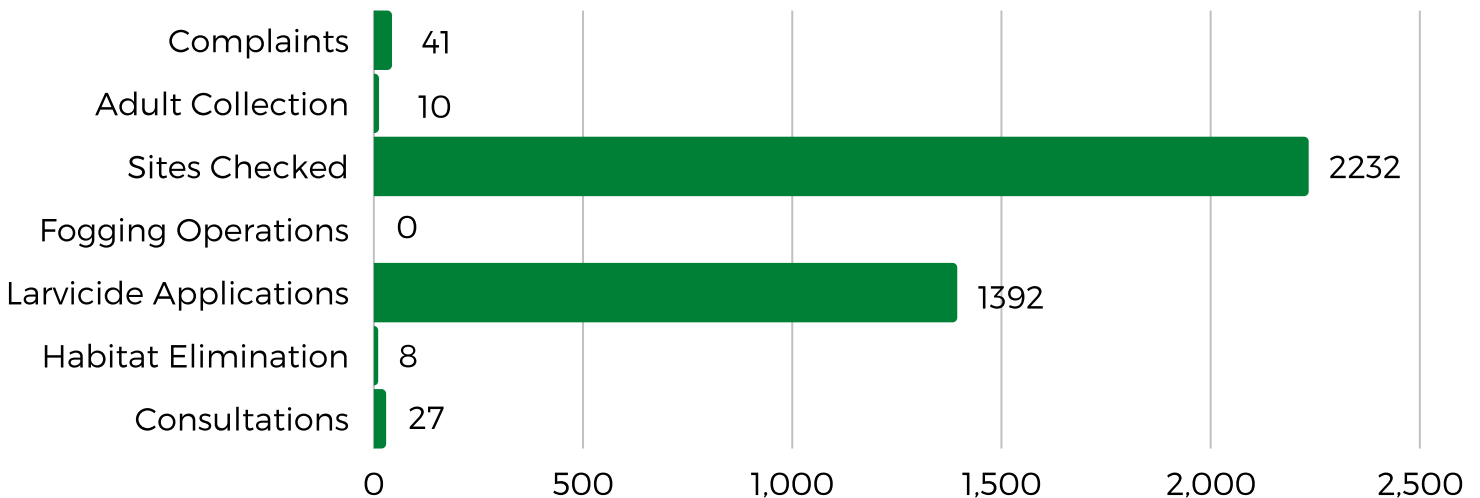
Emergency Preparedness

Staff completed a seven-part online public health preparedness course through the North Carolina Institute for Public Health. Staff also provided training on and dispensed 576 doses of Naloxone to first responders, healthcare providers, and community organizations through an Indiana State Department of Health Grant. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, personal protective equipment was released from the Strategic National Stockpile and shipped to the health department for distribution to long term care facilities, home health care agencies, first responders, medical providers, and dental offices. Preparedness staff distributed 221 gallons of hand sanitizer and 37,575 items of equipment such as respirators, surgical masks, boxes of gloves, and gowns.



A functional training exercise was conducted for health department personnel on March 13, 2020, to assemble and operate a temporary medical countermeasure dispensing operation based on a scenario of a pandemic flu outbreak. Objectives were to learn job functions, determine areas of improvement, and increase patient flow. This exercise was very timely in its preparation of staff for future COVID-19 vaccine dispensing.

Mosquito Control - Total Number of Services Provided: 3,710



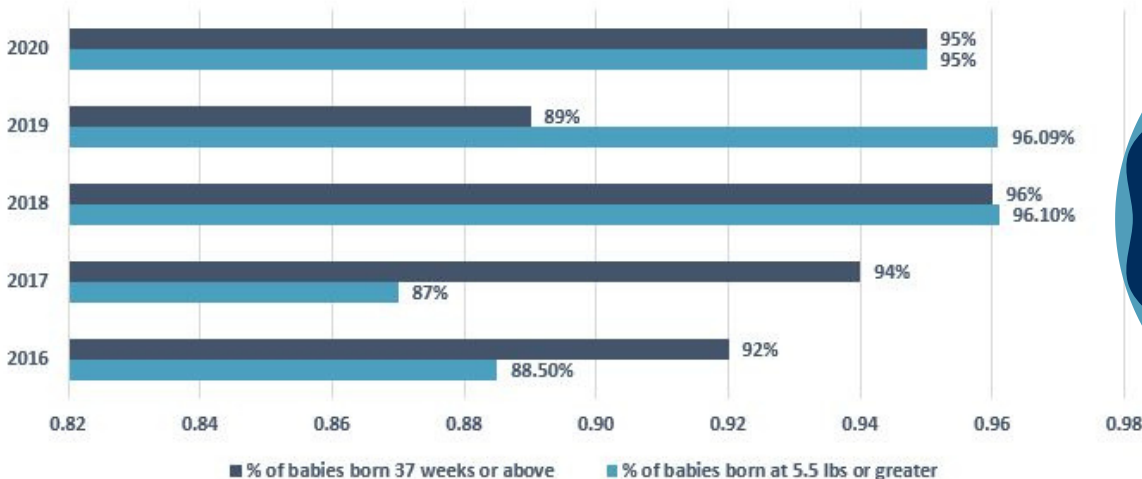
HEALTH PROMOTIONS

The mission of the Health Promotion's division is to serve our clients and community, work with community partners to develop and provide quality healthcare services, promote healthy lifestyles, especially those with health disparities, and assure preparedness to achieve and maintain the best public health for our community. Our mission has not wavered in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic but delivery of programming has been transformed to meet the needs of our community by transitioning to a virtual format. Baby & Me - Tobacco Free, Stop Smoking, Diabetes Prevention, Weigh Down, and Safe Sleep programs are providing the same quality evidence based curricula with individual follow-up with one of the health educators. Utilizing a web-based documentation and case management system has allowed for collection and analyzation of programmatic outcomes. To extend grant funding for health promotion programming, Medicaid billing was initiated in 2020.



Due to COVID-19 restrictions, we are offering all health promotion classes via FaceTime, Starleaf, or phone class. in order help keep our clients accountable, we are also offering drive up nicotine swab appointments for our BMTF clients at 1, 3, 6, 9, and 12 months postpartum.

Percentage of babies delivered at 5.5lb weight or greater and Percentage of babies born 37 weeks or greater for the Baby & Me - Tobacco Free Program for the last 5 years



Stop Smoking Program

43% of clients successfully completed the program. The national success rate is 19-33%.

Safe Sleep Education

158 individuals and/or families received Safe Sleep Education as well as a portable crib.

Diabetes Prevention Program

85% of participants lowered their BMI with the greatest change being 5.9 points. 80% lowered their A1c level with the greatest being lowered by 0.6.

Weight Loss Program

66 participants completed all 5 program sessions. Of those who completed the program, 84.8% lost weight.

ADMINISTRATIVE AIDES

2020 proved to be challenging. In March, a majority of the AA team worked remotely. Clinical team collaborated via Skype and worked on Policies and SOPs. They also answered phones, verified patient information, insurance, universal consents and scheduled appointments. In April, team members worked onsite and converted personnel records from paper to electronic, historical and current. This process eliminated six file cabinets of paper documents. General Reception team rotated with two team members working onsite to continue to provide customer service. Remotely, team entered birth records from books, responded to emails and worked on policies and SOPs. At the end of May, all team members were back in the office full-time. The team continues to evolve and grow. The AAs have taken on more duties to assist with providing customer service. These duties include assisting with pregnancy testing and billing. Working with the Environmental division and data team, on-line payment for septic was implemented. Also implemented was ability for tattoo artist to apply for their permits on-line.

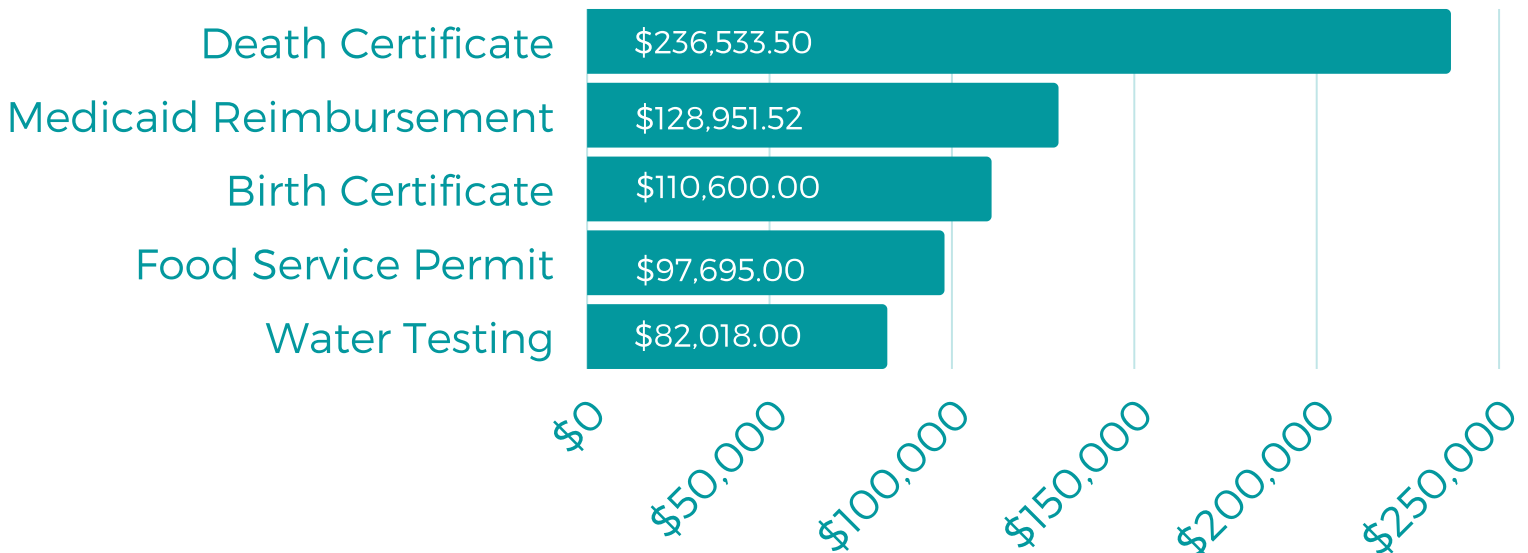


In 2019, there were a total of 2790 births in Vanderburgh County. Of those births, 1703 were Vanderburgh County residents. In 2020, there were fewer births in Vanderburgh County compared to 2019 with 2724 births. However, more of those births were Vanderburgh County residents at 2457 births.



In 2019, Vanderburgh County saw a total of 5404 deaths, all of which were Vanderburgh County residents. The following year, 2020, there was a slight increase in the number of deaths at 6066 residents.

Top 5 Gross Sales Items



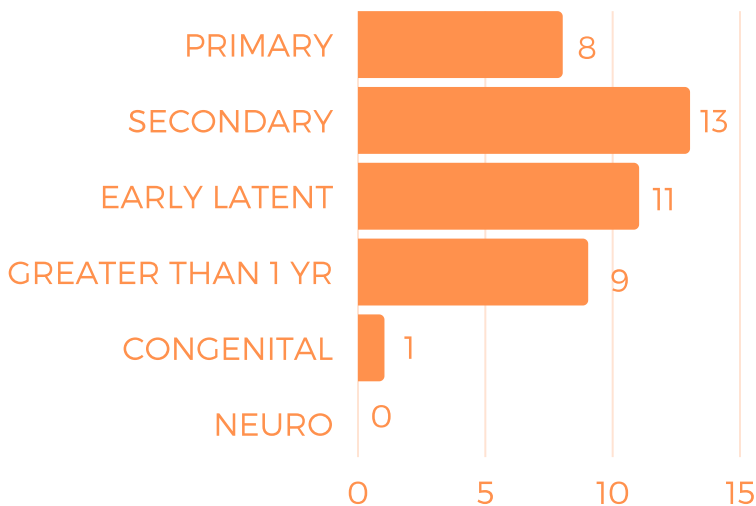
STD/SPECIALTY CLINIC

With increasing rates of most STIs in the previous 2 years, the Specialty Clinic has a significant role in the assessment of risks and management of infections. Along with the other counties in the state of Indiana, Vanderburgh County experienced a sharp increase in Syphilis and Gonorrhea in 2020 (see graph below). The STI clinic staff continued to be the location of expert care and serve as the safety net for the uninsured and other marginalized groups of patients seeking care. The nursing staff is highly trained in screening, risk assessment, physical examination, prevention, evaluation, and treatment. Client centered education, including STI prevention counseling, contraception counseling, and partner notification/treatment are integral components of the clients care. The STI nursing staff work in close collaboration with the Disease Intervention Specialists (DIS) and the Vanderburgh County Health Department's Laboratory.

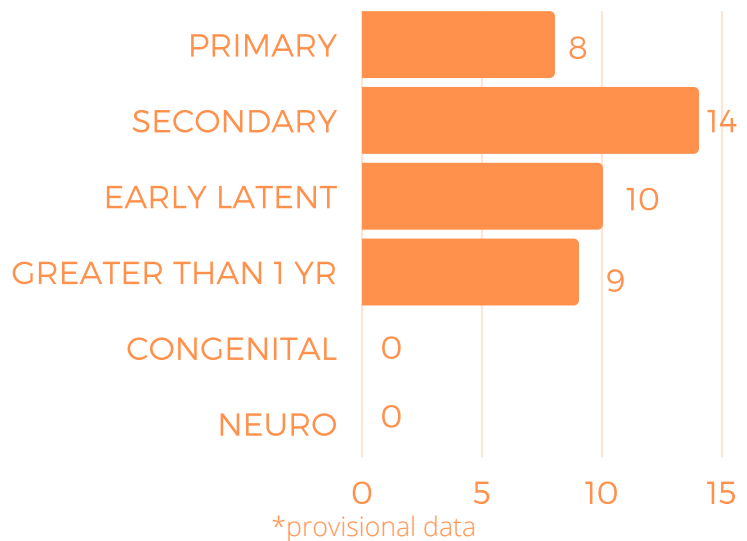
Specialty Clinic care focuses on providing timely, comprehensive, confidential, and culturally sensitive STI care. Optimal services for the provision of quality STI related care include services available at the time of the patient's visit. The availability of same day onsite tests reduce diagnostic delays and decrease excessive and costly presumptive treatment. Onsite medications minimize the duration of the infection and reduces transmission. Same day treatment for patients and their sex partners is also critical for STI prevention and control as it reduces transmission of STIs in the community.

The specialty nursing staff have also been very active in COVID-19 case investigations, contact tracing and case management, as well as immunization clinics and other communicable disease investigations.

Vanderburgh County Syphilis Cases Diagnosed
January 2019 - December 2019



Vanderburgh County Syphilis Cases Diagnosed
January 2020 - December 2020



IMMUNIZATIONS/EPIDEMIOLOGY/ TUBERCULOSIS

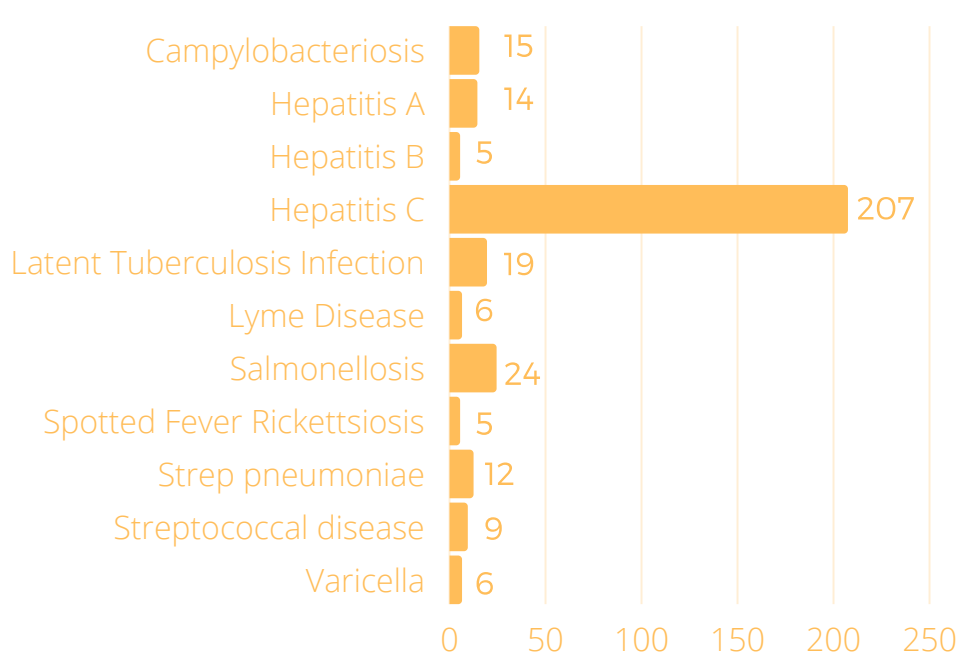
Immunizations

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 2020, efforts were focused on maintaining routine immunizations during a pandemic. The Immunization Program expanded school-based clinics and implemented drive-through and pre-school based flu vaccine clinics to help meet this need.

Through school-based immunization clinics we were able to see 334 students at 16 schools throughout the county. Prior to the clinic, parents/guardians had the opportunity to register their child for the school-based clinic using an online form available on the VCHD website. This registration form is available in 7 languages, English, Spanish, Chinese, Japanese, Vietnamese, Haitian Creole, and Marshallese. We held our first pre-school-based flu clinics with CAPE Head Start. In addition, we increased our HPV vaccine rates by 2% in adolescents.

Disease Investigations: Epidemiology & Tuberculosis

The Nurse Epidemiologist and Tuberculosis Nurse spent the majority of the year managing the SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) global pandemic. Much of this time was spent on the case management and investigation of confirmed and suspect cases of COVID-19 residing in Vanderburgh County. This was accomplished by contacting positive cases, initiating the COVID-19 interview process and gathering close contact information. Education was provided to cases regarding isolation/quarantine and infection control practices recommended by Indiana Department of Health (IDOH) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Further guidance was provided and continues to be provided to schools, businesses, and daycares within the community to assist with the isolation and quarantine periods of students, employees, and children. The nurses provide



guidance and are a local resource when navigating the COVID-19 recommendations set by IDOH and the CDC. Continual efforts to provide education to the public with regard to COVID-19 are being made to help ensure the community's health and wellness and to prevent the spread of all communicable diseases within Vanderburgh County.

LABORATORY DIVISION



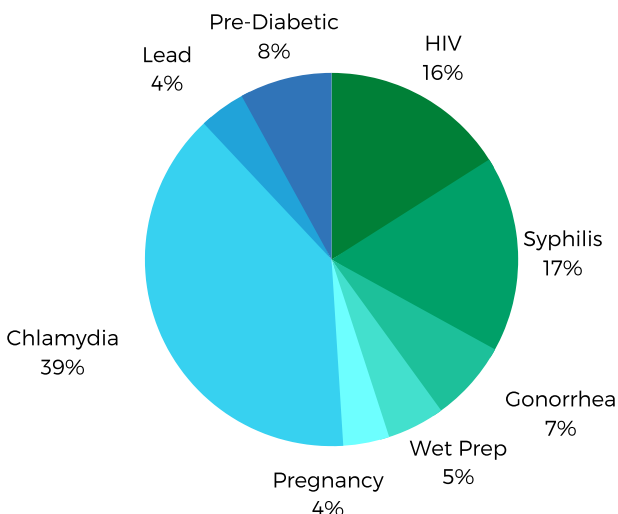
VCHD Laboratory collaborates with various departments within and outside of our organization. These collaborations are in effort to promote public health practices. Our goal is to provide accurate test results and education that promotes healthy lifestyles and quality healthcare for our community. Our tests consists of bacteriological water analysis, cholesterol and glucose studies, lead, urine pregnancy, HIV, Syphilis, Gonorrhea, and vaginitis testing. We also process reference samples that are sent to the Indiana Department of Health. This summer, the water program passed State inspection, maintaining accreditation through 2023. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, an to allow for social distancing in our

general reception area, we created scheduled appointments for water clients to submit samples. This has had a successful outcome for our staff and clients. Several internal improvements were made this year. We assisted in the development, training and implementation of electronic lipid and glucose reporting for the Diabetes Prevention Program, as well as an electronic Universal Consent for the CAPE Head Start lead clients who participated in our clinic. We also received two new LeadCare II instruments which updated our instrumentation and allowed for a reliable back up instrument if needed.



Staff worked together to review, update, and create policies to reflect our current work practices. We developed and implemented a Policy and Procedure for School Based Lead Clinics, including COVID-19 protocol. This was to ensure safe practice when entering schools to perform lead screening on students.

VCHD Medical Testing Total Tests Performed: 3426



The lab assisted in several community COVID-19 testing sites. We also provided lead testing to new and expecting mothers in a drive through community Neighborhood Baby Shower.

In November, Indiana Department of Health furnished the health department with BinaxNOW Rapid Antigen COVID-19 Screening kits. Upon completion of CLIA pre-testing requirements and development of an approved procedure, we began testing symptomatic employees and coordinating kit disbursement to long-term care facilities in our county who have exhausted their supply.

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.

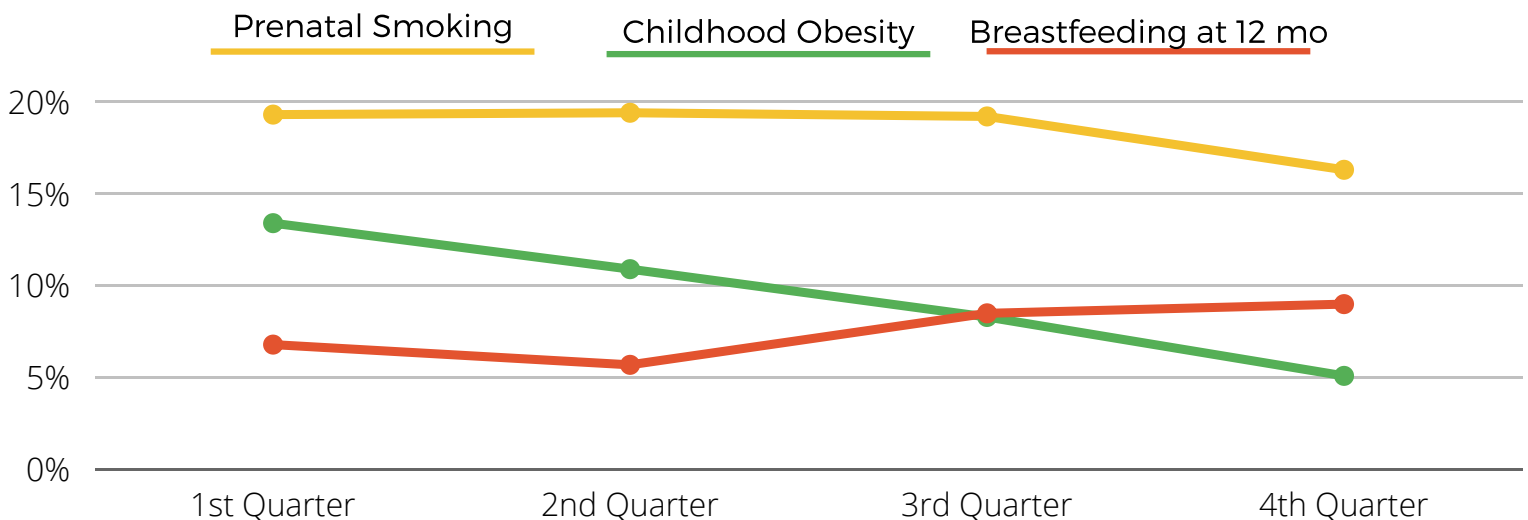


The average yearly caseload for the Vanderburgh County WIC program is 2400-2500 participants per month. During 2020 and the months of COVID-19, our WIC caseload increased to 2950 active participants per month. WIC continues to offer prenatal classes 5 times a week; educating prenatal clients on Infant feeding practices and the benefits of breastfeeding. All classes are conducted virtually. This procedure has worked well as the class sizes are unlimited and we can educate more clients at one time.

During these COVID-19 months, the USDA has granted WIC programs policy waivers that allow staff to conduct appointments and issue benefits by phone call. A few specific appointment types have been changed to permit the completion by phone, even after the pandemic has ceased. These new policies will allow clients to continue to receive benefits, when transportation or illness hinder keeping their clinic visit.



WIC's top community concerns achieved better outcomes in 2020 than in past years. These are represented on the graph below. Most notable is childhood obesity in the WIC population, is at an all-time low of 5.1%. This can be attributed to the successful Farmer's Market Nutrition Program which increased redemption rate of the vouchers to 75.2% (2020) from 72.3% (2019).



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 Huber, 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	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>
Paulette Hoffman	Financial Officer
Wallace Corbitt, MS	STD
Ashley Libbert, BSN, RN	Public Health Nursing
Mary Jo Borowiecki, BS	Health Promotions
Keith Goy, BS	Rodent & Vector Control
Ginger Patton	Administrative Aides
Sophie French, BSN, RN	Pre to 3

FINANCIAL REPORT

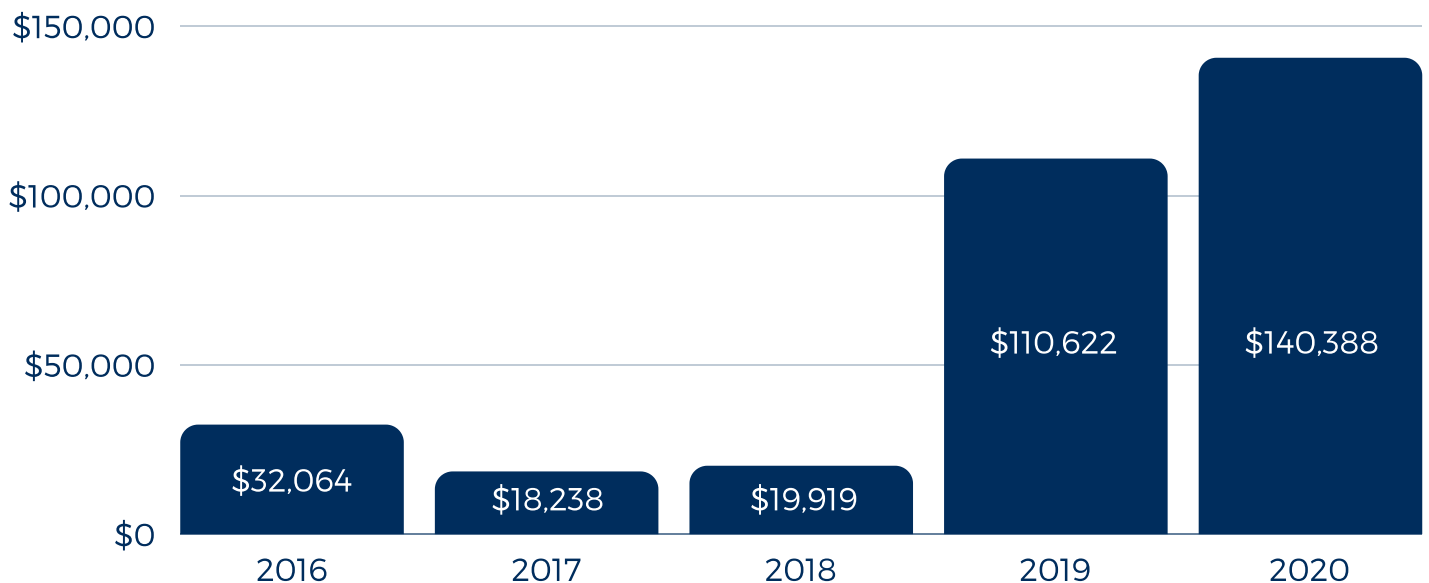
The Finance Division continued all financial responsibilities while maintaining COVID-19 protection strategies. It was critical that no disruption occur with expenditures, revenue, insurance billing and payroll even during any necessary quarantine.

Medicaid billing has continued to expand, now including Adult Stop Smoking and Weigh Down sessions. A Vanderburgh County Health Department (VCHD) billing team was organized to address ongoing issues with our Electronic Medical Record (EMR) billing program. The team worked with the EMR programmers in researching problems and testing possible solutions. The billing team also focused on problems with Community Health Worker reimbursement from Medicaid Managed Care Entities (MCE's). A partnership resulted with contacts at ISDH who consulted with the MCE's to provide clarification and payment of previously denied claims was received.

The VCHD received \$43,043.54 in reimbursement funding from the CARES Act during 2020. This covered additional safety precautions put into place such as signage and protective barriers in the reception areas, language interpretation for contact tracing, sanitizing supplies, Covid-19 laboratory testing, legal fees and overtime pay for contact tracing and restaurant guidance to comply with governmental Executive Orders.

While all grants currently awarded to VCHD were renewed or extended to 2021, two new grants were applied for and approved: Overdose Data to Action in the amount of \$120,000 and COVID-19 Testing Sites in the amount of \$200,000. The Overdose Data to Action was extended through August 2021 with an additional \$13,575 awarded.

Medicaid Revenue 5 Year Comparison Increase of 77% from 2016

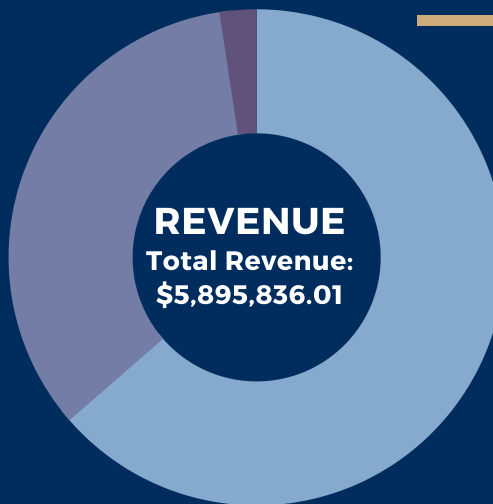




Medicaid Revenue

2.4%

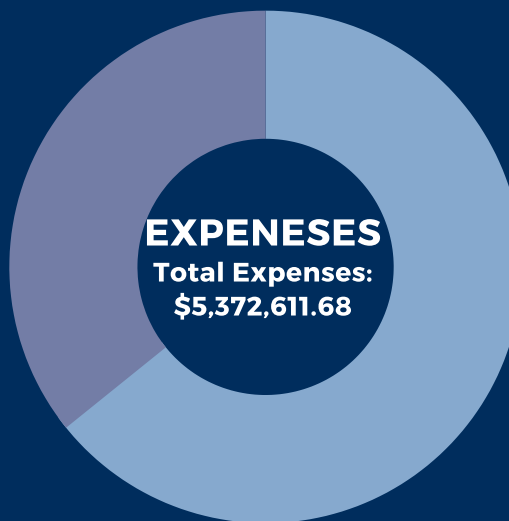
Grant Revenue
34%



REVENUE
Total Revenue:
\$5,895,836.01

Local Revenue
63.6%

Grant Expenses
35.8%



EXPENSES
Total Expenses:
\$5,372,611.68

Local Expenses
64.2%

Grant Revenue 5 Year Comparison
Increase of 48% from 2016

