



# ANNUAL REPORT 2019

## Preble County Public Health

---

[admin@preblecountyhealth.org](mailto:admin@preblecountyhealth.org)

937-472-0087

[preblecountyhealth.org](http://preblecountyhealth.org)

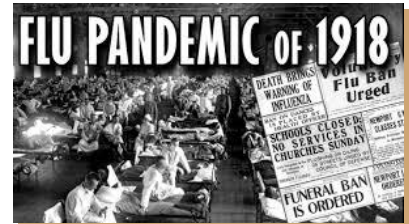
615 Hillcrest Drive, Eaton 45320



## Administration

### The History – where did health departments come from?

In 1893, the State of Ohio required all municipalities to establish a Board of Health. This requirement created 2,158 city, village, and township health “units” in Ohio. Partially in response to the 1918 Influenza Pandemic, Ohio passed the Hughes Act and Griswold Amendment in April 1919 which created city and general health districts and required the 2,158 health units to combine into 88 general (county) health districts and 92 city health districts. This Act also required the newly formed health districts to employ, at a minimum, a Health Commissioner, public health nurse, and a clerk. In 1961, the District Advisory Council voted to approve the union of the county health district with the city of Eaton under the name of Preble County General Health District. In early 2014 the Preble County General Health District adopted the national identity of public health and is now called **Preble County Public Health**. In May of 2016, Preble County Public Health **achieved national accreditation through the Public Health Accreditation Board**, becoming one of the first health departments in both Ohio and the United States to achieve this status.



### The Board of Health

The Board of Health is comprised of five members to represent the citizens of Preble County. Four of the Board members are appointed by the District Advisory Council (which is comprised of the leaders of all municipal corporations in the county including townships, villages, cities, and County Commissioners). The other Board member is appointed by the Mayor of the City of Eaton. By Ohio law, at least one Board member must be a licensed Physician. Board members are appointed for a term of five years.

**George E. Henry** serves as the President, represents the City of Eaton, and his term expires in March 2021.

**JoEllen Tapalman** serves as President Pro Tempore, represents the County, & her term expires in March 2020.

**Dr. Peter Sambol** serves as the Board Physician, represents the County, and his term expires in March 2024.

**Lori J. George** represents the County and her term expires in March 2023.

**Ron Wesler** represents the County and his term expires in March 2022.

### The Health Commissioner

The Health Commissioner is Erik Balster and he has served in this role since April 2013. Erik directs the daily operations of the agency as it serves the public health needs of 42,000 people in Preble County. Erik is responsible for all policy development, financial decisions, staffing, workforce training, programming, grant management, and strategic leadership. He ensures that resources are utilized effectively and efficiently to maximize return-on-investment while working with his team to address current community health needs and anticipate future public health threats. One of his biggest priorities is ensuring that the agency provides exceptional customer service to the public.



## What's in this report?

Last year we changed the format and heard you liked it. Annual reports are usually filled with numbers that aren't all that useful without context. Instead we want to highlight the most important things that happened in each of our primary programs during 2019. Our hope is that you see how relevant public health programs actually operate in Preble County.

## Vital Statistics

**1** Birth Certificates can be obtained for \$22 for births anywhere in the state of Ohio. In 2019, Preble County had 7 births in county. Our office issued a total of **1,556 birth certificates**, in 2019. Our staff continues to work with the State Vitals Department to correct any problems found on birth certificates. As the requirements have changed for obtaining a government issued identification card, we expect an increase in requests in the coming years.



**2** Death Certificates can be obtained for \$22 for deaths that occur in Preble County, only. In 2018, Preble County certified 305 deaths. Most common causes of death in 2019 were: **heart related, cancer, vascular related, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, and multiple blunt force trauma (accidents)**. Our office issued a total of 1,183 certified copies of death certificates in 2019.

## Community Health and Safety

**1** Through generous donations from EvenFlo and the Ohio Buckles Buckeyes program, our certified car seat technician was able to **install 36 free child safety seats for our low-income Preble County residents**. Participants received in-person education about the proper use of car seats and an in-car demonstration of how to correctly install the seat in a vehicle.



**2** In 2000, Ohio House Bill 448 mandated Boards in all Ohio Counties to review the deaths of children under 18 years of age and formulate data-driven recommendations to prevent future child deaths. The Child Fatality Review Board reviewed seven child death cases in 2019.

**3** As part of the state of Ohio initiative to combat infant mortality, PCPH has partnered with Cribs for Kids® to ensure infants have a safe sleeping environment. Babies who sleep on couches, in bed with others, or on their stomachs are more likely to die from an unexpected sudden cause. **Preble County promotes the ABCs of infant safe sleep practices - place infants Alone, on their Back, in a Crib**. Twenty-three Pac and Play Cribettes with safe sleep kits were distributed in 2019.

## Did You Know

PCPH employs 19 people to serve 42,000 residents with essential public health services. Talk about doing a lot with a little! Our budget is one of the smallest in the county but our preventative services save the healthcare system real money. Like to the tune of saving \$15 in healthcare costs for every \$1 spent on public health in Preble. That's ROI!

## Emergency Preparedness

1

In 2019, PCPH staff participated in the Nuclear Winter Blues CRC full-scale exercise with the West Central Ohio Region. This exercise was performed to determine strengths and areas for improvement for setting up and operating a Community Reception Center (CRC) for population monitoring after a radiological incident. This exercise was used to update regional and local plans and procedures, and for the coordination of all public health agencies within the West Central Ohio region.



2

The Preble County Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) was actively involved in exercises and real-world events throughout Preble county and the greater Dayton area. After the Dayton Tornadoes members of our MRC helped out our neighbors in the Dayton area by volunteering at the family assistance center in the days and weeks following the disaster. You can find out and more information on how to join and help out the Preble County MRC by visiting [preblecountyhealth.org/emergency-preparedness](http://preblecountyhealth.org/emergency-preparedness).



## Environmental Health

1

The Food Safety Program is one of our services that has transitioned from paper to digital through implementation of an **electronic inspection program** to manage facility information more efficiently and produce food service inspections to enhance public awareness. Our hope is that this improves transparency between our license holders and the public.

2

Environmental Health Sewage Program is incorporating private sewage systems throughout the county into our Operation and Maintenance (O&M) program. The O&M Program is a service we provide property owners to inspect their onsite septic system either on a 1 year, 5 year or 10-year rotation based on the complexity of the system. This inspection is performed to ensure the system is operating properly, not malfunctioning and not creating a public health problem.

3

The Community Outreach Program (CAP) of Preble County houses grant funding to **repair failing sewage systems** in the county. Grant funding is provided by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and inspections/ permits will still come through PCPH office. In previous years we have been able to provide approximately \$100,000 in assistance to households in need.

## Let's Get Social

PCPH is on social media. But hey, who follows government agencies on social media?! Besides all of our public health friends, YOU should follow us too! It's a great place to read about recalls and get quick health tips for you and your family. @PrebleCoHealth

## Nursing and Clinical Services

**1** We offer all childhood, teen and adult vaccines and bill most insurance plans in the county. We also have a sliding fee scale and vaccine assistance programs for those with no insurance. During 2019 our Registered Nurses administered over **2,148 vaccinations**. Our nurses also serve as a resource to local practitioners for immunization education and updated schedules for vaccines.

Through the provision of safe affordable immunizations, the public is protected from vaccine preventable diseases such as Chickenpox, Diphtheria, Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B, Human Papillomavirus, Influenza, Measles, Meningococcal Meningitis, Mumps, Pertussis, Pneumonia, Polio, Rotavirus, Rubella, and Tetanus. The Health District also serves as a resource to practitioners and school nurses for immunization education and updated schedules for vaccines.



**2** PCPH nurses served 107 children and families through Children with Medical Handicaps (CMH) program. Children from birth to 21 years of age with chronic medical issues received home visits from our public health nurses.

## Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)

**1** The WIC Program provides both **nutritious foods and nutrition education** to our participants. In 2019 our average caseload, or number of individuals receiving food benefits, was 812 per month. We served about 194 women, 248 infants and 370 children each month. Each individual receives nutrition education on a quarterly basis, which came to approximately 268 nutrition education contacts per month. Many of these education sessions are geared toward the participant's own desired health outcome.



**2** Our **two registered dietitians** provide community nutrition education as well. In 2019 we presented the US Dietary Guidelines and MyPlate for the Eaton Middle School 8<sup>th</sup> grade health classes, for Preble County Employees Lunch and Learns, and at YWCA Girls Summer Camp. We provided 3 weeks (120 hours) of dietetic internship community nutrition training for one Meredith College student, who is now a registered dietitian working in a local hospital.

**3** Breastfeeding promotion and support are a cornerstone to the WIC Program. Our staff joined the efforts of two local nurses to create Breast Friends of Preble County support system. We had 11 medical students visit our WIC program throughout 2019 to learn how breastfeeding support and education is provided by our staff.

## Nursing, WIC and the Future

Our Nursing and WIC programs work with many outside groups to ensure that the future of public health is well trained. In 2019, our WIC program, in partnership with Wright State University's Boonshoff School of Medicine provided 11 medical school students an opportunity to gain hands on experience with our community and staff.

## Mission, Vision, and Core Commitments

### Mission

The mission of Preble County Public Health is to promote and improve the health and well being of the people living and/or working in Preble county.

### Vision

Achieve the highest possible health and well being for Preble County resident and workers.

### Core Values

Team members at Preble County Public Health commit to...

1. Responsibility to the public
2. Quality in all services
3. Justice for all served
4. Teamwork with our community
5. Diversity of Preble County



## Financial Picture

### Performance Measures for the Year Ending December 31, 2019

**Grant Income:** \$425,654.38

**Non-Grant Income:** \$1,018,723.86

**Grant Expense:** \$471,186.71

**Non-Grant Expense:** \$1,037,963.13

**Total Expenditures:** \$1,509,149.84

**Total Revenue:** \$1,444,378.24

Preble County Public Health continues to be fiscally responsible by saving and spending in a manner that serves the public health needs of the community. Figures above reflect discontinuation of reproductive health clinic midway through the year.

