

The Akron Health Department

Morley Health Center 177 South Broadway Akron, Ohio 44308 330-375-2960

Our Mission:

*to protect, promote, maintain and improve the good health, full potential development,
and environment of the people living and working within the jurisdiction of
the Akron City Health Department*



2005 Annual Report

This report is also available in pdf format at the Akron Health Department website:
<http://ci.akron.oh.us/Health04/index.htm>

**The Akron Health Commission
2005**

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Emergency Medicine, SUMMA

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Director's Report

J. Michael Moser, M.D., M.P.H., FACPM

Director of Public Health

This report has been prepared to provide the Akron community and others who may be interested with information regarding the activities and accomplishments of the Akron Health Department during 2005. Staff from the major operating units of the department prepared the individual sections to tell you, in their own words, about their activities during 2005. In the interest of space, this report does not list every service or every activity, but it provides a good summary. As I reviewed the document I was impressed anew by the breadth and quantity of the services provided by the Akron Health Department. Through a number of mechanisms, the department also strives to assure that these services are of high quality. In one way or another, public health touches and benefits the lives of every Akron resident and visitor.

The other sections of this report particularly focus upon the Akron Health Department's activities pursuant to two of the three core functions of public health: assessment and assurance. What is not portrayed elsewhere in the report is the extensive role of the Health Department in reaching out to the community and working with others to build community solutions to health needs. This is sometimes termed policy development or advocacy, and it is considered the third core function of public health. Policy development is an important activity of the Akron Health Department, but the results of this activity are usually not direct services provided by the Akron Health Department, and are sometimes not recognized as part of the service provided by the health department to the community. The focus of policy development and advocacy is effective response to community health needs, regardless of who takes the lead or actually delivers the service. To fulfill this core function, Akron Health Department staff maintain an extensive network of collaboration with individuals and organizations across the community. They foster communication among those with an interest in solutions and those who have unmet needs. Depending on the situation, the health department role is sometimes to be the convener, sometimes to be the lead agency, and often to be one member of a community partnership. The goal is always to foster workable solutions that advance the health of our community. The involvement of the Akron Health Department in the Healthy Connections Network and its Health Care Access Project is a good example of health department activity in this vein. This cooperative activity of over 40 community organizations and hundreds of individuals produced a new health care resource for almost 1000 poor and uninsured Akron residents in 2005. The health department is proud to have played a key role in bringing this project from vision to reality, but that result would not have been possible without many agencies and people working together.

Sometimes the policy development function leads to recognition that needed activities can be better carried out by an entity other than the health department. This was the case with the Akron Safety Net Dental Clinic. The Akron Health Department served as the initial venue for this response to unmet needs for oral health care in Summit County. Working with the Summit County Dental Task Force and the Ohio Department of Health, the health department built a much needed dental care facility and operated it on a part time basis for two years. But it was clear that the Safety Net clinic had better long term prospects operating under the auspices of Akron's federally qualified health center, Akron Community Health Resources (ACHR). So the health department worked with ACHR, the Dental Task Force, and many others across Summit County to obtain the funding that enabled such an arrangement. ACHR assumed management of the dental clinic in October 2005 and has expanded this much needed service for economically disadvantaged Akron residents in need of oral health care. This is a good outcome in the best spirit of public health.

Another component of health department activity in 2005 that is not fully portrayed elsewhere in this report is the educational role of the Akron Health Department. Participation in the education of public health and personal health care workers is one of the ten essential public health services articulated by the U.S. Public Health Service. The Akron Health Department has been nationally recognized for its teaching role. The department has collaborative relationships with area health professions training programs and cooperates with these programs to meet vital training needs. During 2005, the department served as a training site for almost 200 students in medicine, nursing, counseling, and dietetics, including medical residents from 6 area hospitals.

The city of Akron is blessed with a dedicated and well trained public health workforce. I am proud to serve as their leader and to present this 2005 report for your consideration.

**2005 Akron Health
Department
Budget Summary**

Deputy Director of Health
Michael G. Smylie, RS, MA

Accounts Analyst,
Andrew Doyle, B.S.

Funding Sources

Akron General Fund	\$6,985,769.00	41.67%
Other locally generated revenues and fees	\$2,077,828.00	12.39%
Summit County Alcohol, Drug, Mental Health Board	\$725,046.00	4.33%
Ohio EPA & US EPA	\$1,963,218.00	11.71%
Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Nutrition Program	\$1,487,981.00	8.88%
Other Federal Programs	\$1,489,232.00	8.88%
HIV Prevention	\$461,373.00	2.75%
Child and Family Health Services	\$273,590.00	1.63%
Other Ohio Department of Health Projects	<u>\$1,300,009.00</u>	<u>7.75%</u>
<i>Total Revenue</i>	\$16,764,046.00	100.00%

Expenses

Personal Health Care Programs	\$7,091,819.00	44.70%
Environmental Health Programs	\$5,426,952.00	34.21%
General Administration and Support	<u>\$3,344,888.00</u>	<u>21.09%</u>
<i>Total Expenditures</i>	\$15,863,659.00	100.00%
<i>Balance Forward</i>	\$900,387.00	

Division of Environmental Health

Environmental Health Manager: James E. Kuder, R.S.

Supervisors:

James E. Kuder, R.S. (acting) - Food Safety

Aixa Bakuhn, R.S. - Solid and Infectious Waste, Mosquito and Rodent Control, Animal Bites and Rabies Control, Wells and Household Sewage Disposal Systems

Cheryl L. Christ, R.S. - Nuisance & Litter Control, Public Swimming Pools, Bathing Areas & Spas, Right to Know

Staff: 19

During 2005, the Division worked to protect the people of Akron against environmental factors that might adversely impact their health and well-being. These factors include but are not limited to: contamination of food and soil; improper disposal of solid and infectious wastes; and animals who can be vectors of disease. The Division monitors and seeks to improve the quality of Akron's environment by noting potential and existing problems, applying appropriate techniques to prevent or reduce undesirable and unhealthful environmental factors, and promoting those factors that enhance health.

The Food Safety Section, using the 2005 Ohio Uniform Food Code, licensed and inspected all Food Service and Food Establishment operations within the city of Akron, including Mobile, Temporary and Vending operations. There were no recognized foodborne illness outbreaks related to food operations in 2005. The Section organized ServSafe Food Safety classes for the first time in 2005. The classes were held in March, May, and November in the Akron Health Department Auditorium. The students were from the food service industry and registered sanitarians; 56 students completed the course and achieved both the ServSafe Certification of the National Restaurant Association Education Foundation and certification in food protection by the Ohio Department of Health. In 2005, the Akron Health Department was invited by the Ohio Department of Health to participate in the pilot program to develop the new school inspection standards now being applied statewide. A total of 20 schools were inspected using the new protocol and Akron staff were able to make valuable contributions to the final inspection protocol.

In addition to its day-to-day activities to enforce the litter and nuisance ordinances of the city, the Environmental Health Division worked with the Akron Police Department, other City Departments and the University of Akron on clean-up efforts in the University area prior to the May Day and Wheeler-Allyn festivals. These cooperative efforts have been very successful in the recent years in keeping the University area free of combustibles and keeping fires to a minimum, thus helping to reduce disorder around the University during these festivals.

The Division enforced Ohio's solid waste disposal and infectious waste regulations within the city of Akron throughout 2005. This activity included inspection and licensure of two transfer stations, and inspection of scrap tire transporters and generators, infectious waste treatment facilities, closed landfills, and illegal dumping sites. To fulfill these responsibilities, division staff carried out 217 inspections in 2005. This represents an increase in the number of inspections from the previous year, primarily due to more aggressive activities relative to scrap tire generators. The Hardy Road Sanitary Landfill is now in post-closure care and quarterly inspections have been conducted since January 2005. The Akron Health Department received a renewal of its status as an OhioEPA approved health department.

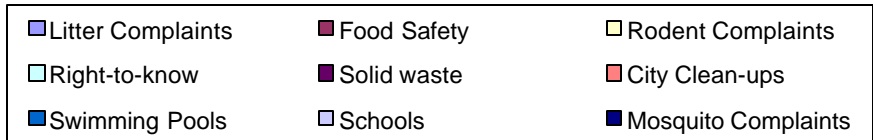
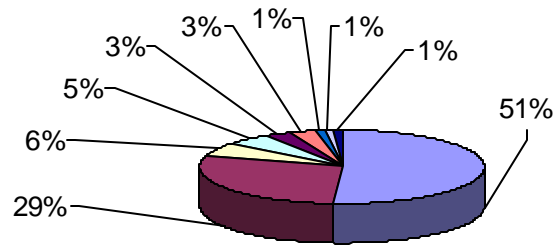
Northeast Ohio continues to be at risk from incursion of the raccoon rabies strain. In 2005, enhanced surveillance for raccoon strain rabies in northeast Ohio was continued. No surveillance animals from Akron or Summit County tested positive for raccoon rabies in 2005. The strain of rabies associated with raccoons is of particular concern because it affects many wild animals and has the potential to spill over to domestic animals, especially cats. In an effort to improve the rabies protection of domestic animals, the division sponsored three low cost rabies vaccination clinics for dogs and cats. A total of 568 animals were vaccinated at these clinics.

West Nile and Lacrosse encephalitis prevention activities were continued in 2005. This integrated pest management program includes public education, treatment of breeding sites to suppress mosquito larvae, and activities to reduce the adult mosquito populations. Mosquito trapping and testing were conducted during the mosquito season; 2 pools of mosquitoes that tested positive for West Nile virus validated the need for ongoing prevention activities. The Division responded to 91 mosquito related complaints. Areas where adult mosquito complaints were concentrated received spot fogging treatments. Mosquito control staff applied 182 larvacidal treatments and fogged 1,652 miles of Akron streets. No human cases of West Nile Virus were identified during 2005 in Akron or Summit County.

***Environmental Health
Serving Our Community:***

- Licensed and inspected 736 Food Service & 291 Food Establishment Operations
- Investigated 234 food and food borne illness complaints
- Responded to 3,656 Nuisance Abatement complaints
- Managed clean-up of approximately 250 properties
- Responded to 410 validated rodent complaints
- 389 businesses that manufacture, use and/or store chemicals were inspected under Right to Know
- 89 public and private schools were inspected
- 57 swimming pools, spas and bathing areas were inspected and licensed.

Distribution of Environmental Health Responses to the Community



Office of Epidemiology

Manager: Margo Erme, D.O., M.P.H.

Staff: 3

During 2005, the Office of Epidemiology provided communicable disease surveillance, investigation, and control measures for the City of Akron. The accompanying chart lists disease reports received for selected communicable diseases in Akron residents in 2005, with comparison data for 2003 and 2004.

The Office of Epidemiology served as the focal point for the department's work to enhance emergency preparedness on health department, city, county, and regional levels. The department's approach to emergency preparedness involves an all-hazard philosophy – we seek to prepare for delivery of an effective public health response to any emergency, whether naturally occurring incident, terrorism, communicable disease outbreak, or pandemic influenza. The public health role in preparedness includes disease surveillance, community and health care provider education, mass dispensing/vaccination protocols, and quarantine/isolation protocols. Preparedness is a never-ending process; the department's plans are reviewed and revised regularly.

Communicable Disease Surveillance

	<u>2005</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2003</u>
Campylobacter	20	20	26
Chlamydia infections	771	892	1,127
E. coli 0157:H7	2	2	0
Encephalitis, West Nile Virus	0	0	0
Giardiasis	24	21	19
Gonococcal infections	460	566	714
Hepatitis A, acute	1	2	2
Hepatitis B, acute	25	22	20
Hepatitis C, chronic	254	270	317
HIV (Summit County)	32	31	15
Legionnaire's disease	12	2	8
Meningococcal disease	3	0	1
Meningitis, other bacterial	1	10	2
Meningitis, aseptic/viral	37	26	53
Pertussis	6	6	10
Salmonellosis	16	20	11
Shigellosis	1	6	17
Syphilis (Summit County)	25	20	7
Tuberculosis (Summit County)	8	6	8

The data presented represent diseases reported to the Summit County Centralized Communicable Disease Registry. This does not necessarily reflect every disease case that could have been present in the county; includes confirmed, probable and suspected cases. Most diseases only have small numbers of reports that make trend analysis uncertain.

COUNSELING SERVICES & ALCOHOLISM

Division Manager: Ronald J. Zumpano, M.Ed., LPC-S, LICDC, OCPS I

Clinical Director: Norman R. Jentner, Ph. D., Licensed Psychologist

Employee Assistance Program Coordinator: Redgi Price, B.A., LICDC

Adult & Adolescent Treatment Program Coordinator: Carol Bowes, M.A. Ed., LPCC-S, LICDC

Prevention Program Coordinator: Ron Hill, B.A., OCPS II, LICDC

Staff 22

In 2005 the Counseling Services and Alcoholism Division provided alcohol/drug treatment and prevention services to adults and adolescents to “reduce the incidence of and prevalence of chemical use, abuse and addiction and their related effects in Summit County through the provision of cost-effective, culturally sensitive treatment and prevention services in the least restrictive environment regardless of ability to pay.” Funding from the City of Akron, Summit County Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Services Board, Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services, Summit County Juvenile Court and the Akron Community Foundation supported these services.

Graduate students from area universities were afforded alcohol/drug treatment internships in the division supporting the department’s role as a *Teaching* Health Department. In 2005 eleven interns and six practicum students participated in this educational opportunity. The Alcohol, Tobacco and Drug Prevention Program also facilitates the start of new prevention programs/services and provides preceptorships for professionals interested in becoming state-certified in the prevention field. The division assists in educating the educators and in training the trainers.

Prevention Program Highlights: The Prevention Program provided the services of State of Ohio Certified Prevention Specialists to area schools and community organizations. The *Summit County Teen Institute* is an innovative activity that creates an opportunity for leadership, education and hands-on training for alcohol and drug-free high school students. The Teen Institute brings together youths, parents, teachers and other concerned adults to plan and implement alcohol/drug awareness for their respective schools and communities. The Summit County Teen Institute had the largest number of participants (50 students and 16 adult staff) at the 2005 summer, statewide Teen Institute Conference at Ohio Northern University. Summit County Teen Institute members sponsored a *Survivor-style* fun competition for drug-free teens; developed and presented creative alcohol/drug prevention skits to area schools in conjunction with Prom celebrations; and participated in a Holiday gift-giving project for area homeless teens. The *Drug Free Universe Program*, a collaborative effort with the Akron Public Schools, completed its ninth year of providing prevention programming for over 400 fifth grade students in the Buchtel cluster. The program weaves a message of alcohol, tobacco and other drug prevention using the “hook” of astronomy. The goal is to increase the student’s interest in science, math and critical thinking, thereby increasing their resiliency factors to stay alcohol/drug free. The prevention program continued providing services to students of the University of Akron in conjunction with their MACPRIDE alcohol/drug awareness program. The ongoing *Adolescent Insight Group* provided educational programming for non-dependent adolescents involved in the juvenile justice system.

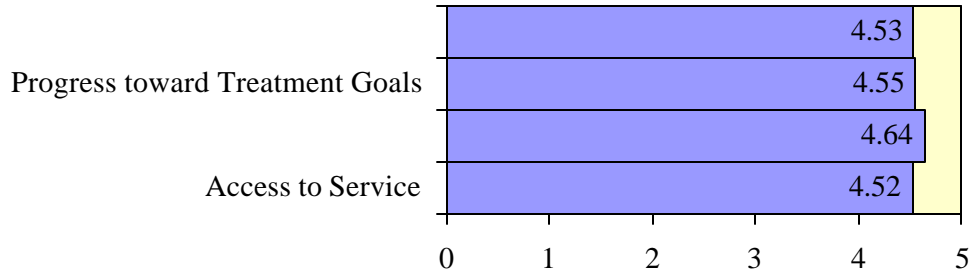
Treatment Program Highlights: The *Adult Treatment Program* provides high quality treatment by four staff holding State of Ohio Licensed Independent Chemical Dependency Counselor or Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor credentials. During 2005, the Adult Program provided an Intensive Outpatient Program to assist adults desiring to reduce/eliminate their use and abuse of chemicals and alcohol. Collaborative efforts with various programs and departments within the Criminal Justice System in Summit County generated a high demand from area courts and probation/parole departments for the services of the Adult Treatment Program. The *Adolescent Treatment Program*, an outpatient treatment program for adolescents in Summit County, employs five clinicians. Clinical staff are State Certified or Licensed Independent Chemical Dependency Counselors, or Licensed Professional Clinical Counselors. They use creative treatment methods to assist the adolescent client in moving towards recovery. The Pathfinders and Impact Programs utilize experiential therapy at Camp Y-Noah, the University of Akron and Kent State University to augment traditional therapeutic interventions. Two experienced clinical staff are housed at the Summit County Juvenile Court, where they work with youth who are in detention to assist these children in the direction of change and recovery. A family component of the program, the Parent Empowerment Group (PEG), completed its third year of operation, with plans to expand in 2006. The *City of Akron Employee Assistance Program (EAP)* provides therapeutic intervention for

personal problems identified by city employees or their eligible dependents. Program staff work closely with management to address work-related issues. In addition to assisting employees, EAP assists city managers and supervisors to address sensitive employee-related concerns, and provide Critical Incident Debriefing and Conflict Resolution training. In 2005, 125 people were directly assisted by the EAP.

***Counseling Services & Alcoholism Division
Serving Our Community:***

1,008 adult clients received chemical dependency treatment services.
237 youth were served by the Adolescent Chemical Dependency Program at the Morley Health Center
591 youth were served by the Adolescent program at the Summit County Juvenile Court detention center.

**Client Satisfaction Rating
(1/1/05-6/30/05)**



Data are from all satisfaction questionnaires (N=78) from adult as well as youth clients that were completed and returned between January 1 and June 30, 2005. Questions were rated on a scale from 1 to 5, where 5 indicated complete satisfaction.

Akron Regional Air Quality Management District

Division manager: Lynn Malcolm, P.E.

Supervisors:
Frank Markunas, B.S., Engineer
Al Richardson, B.A., Chemist

Staff: 17

2005 was a year of personnel changes for the Akron Regional Air Quality Management District (ARAQMD). The retirement of Phillip Meinen required the field staff to make adjustments to cover the open burning investigations that he had handled so efficiently. The staff responded commendably and services were maintained through the period of short staffing. We were delighted to welcome Duane LaClair safely back from his military service in Iraq. During 2005, a part time intern was added to assist the permitting staff with a variety of data and file management issues. Finally, as the year drew to a close, the District was pleased to welcome a new staff member, Bonetta Guyette.

Ozone Action Days crept back into the spotlight once again in the Summer of 2005. The ARAQMD service area (Medina, Summit and Portage Counties) recorded 10 days during which the ground level ozone reached amounts that were considered unhealthy. The Medina County monitoring site recorded five unhealthy readings, and the Patterson Park site in Summit County recorded seven. The Lake Rockwell site in Portage County led all sites in 2005 with 10 unhealthy readings. Wind and weather patterns have much to do with why some areas will reach unhealthy levels, but not others.

Particle Pollution continued to be a very hot topic in Air Quality in 2005. Late in 2004 nationwide "attainment" and "non-attainment" designations were announced. As reported last year, the ARAQMD service area was in the "non-attainment" group. Through 2005, there were discussions around the state as to how to approach and reduce particle pollution. In late December 2005 the US EPA released a proposal for stricter limits on particle pollution. This proposal is the subject of an intense national debate. If stricter rules become the law of the land, ARAQMD will be responsible for implementing the measures which are prescribed to achieve the new standards. In addition to Ozone and Particle Pollution, ARAQMD Engineering, Monitoring, and Enforcement staff carried out the activities listed in the accompanying table.

***Air Quality Management
Serving Our Community:***

- 199 complaint investigations about residential or commercial air quality
- 53 industrial visible emission surveys
- 103 indoor air quality inquiries
- 128 open burning permits and notifications
- 303 asbestos notifications
- 182 inspections

Nursing Division

Director of Nursing: Christine R. Johnson, RN, MS

Supervisors:

Maternal/Child Health: Shawna Anderson, RN, BSN

Maternal/Child Health: Lois Eisenbrei, RN, MSN

Summit County WIC Project Director: Joanne Tate, RNC, MPA

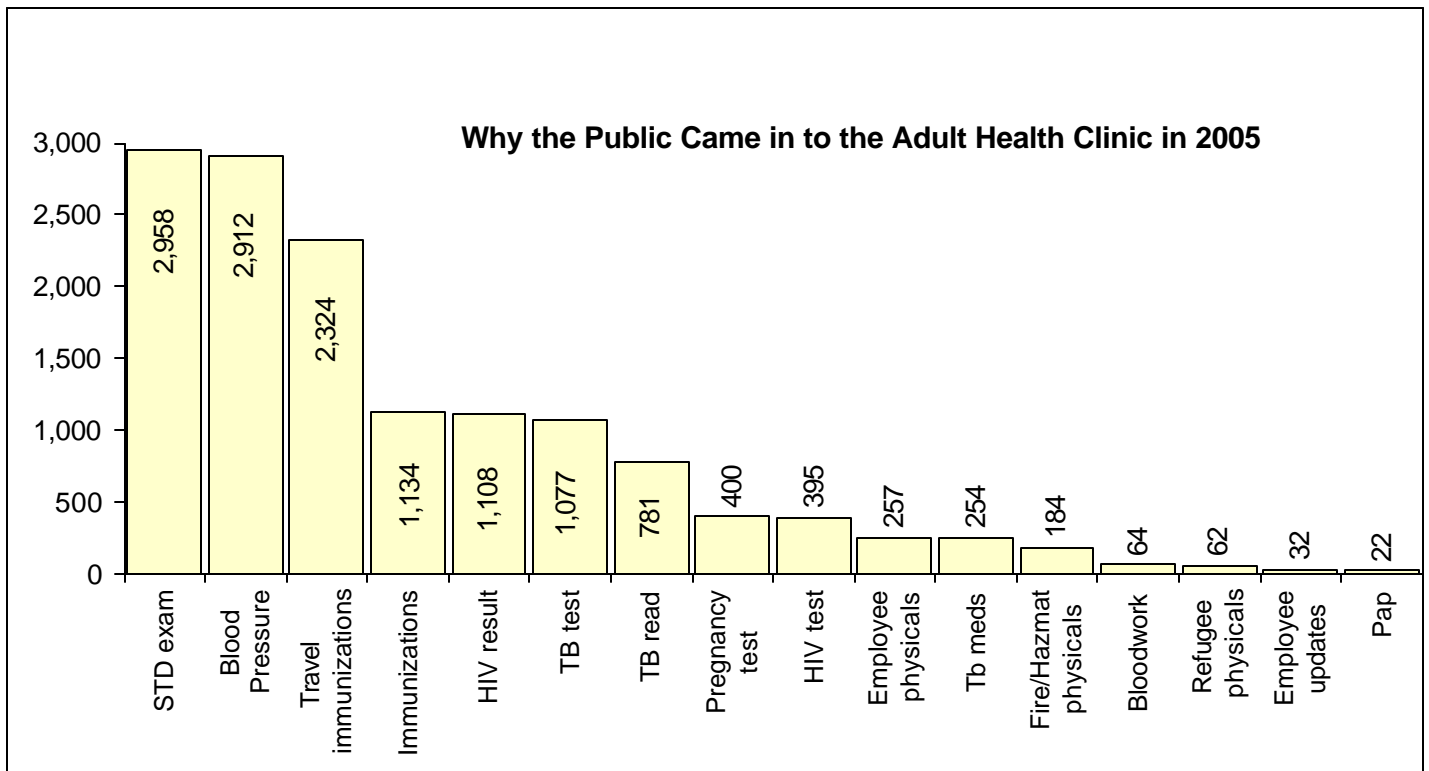
Adult Health Supervisor: Nancy Van Duyn, RN, BSN

Total Staff: 49

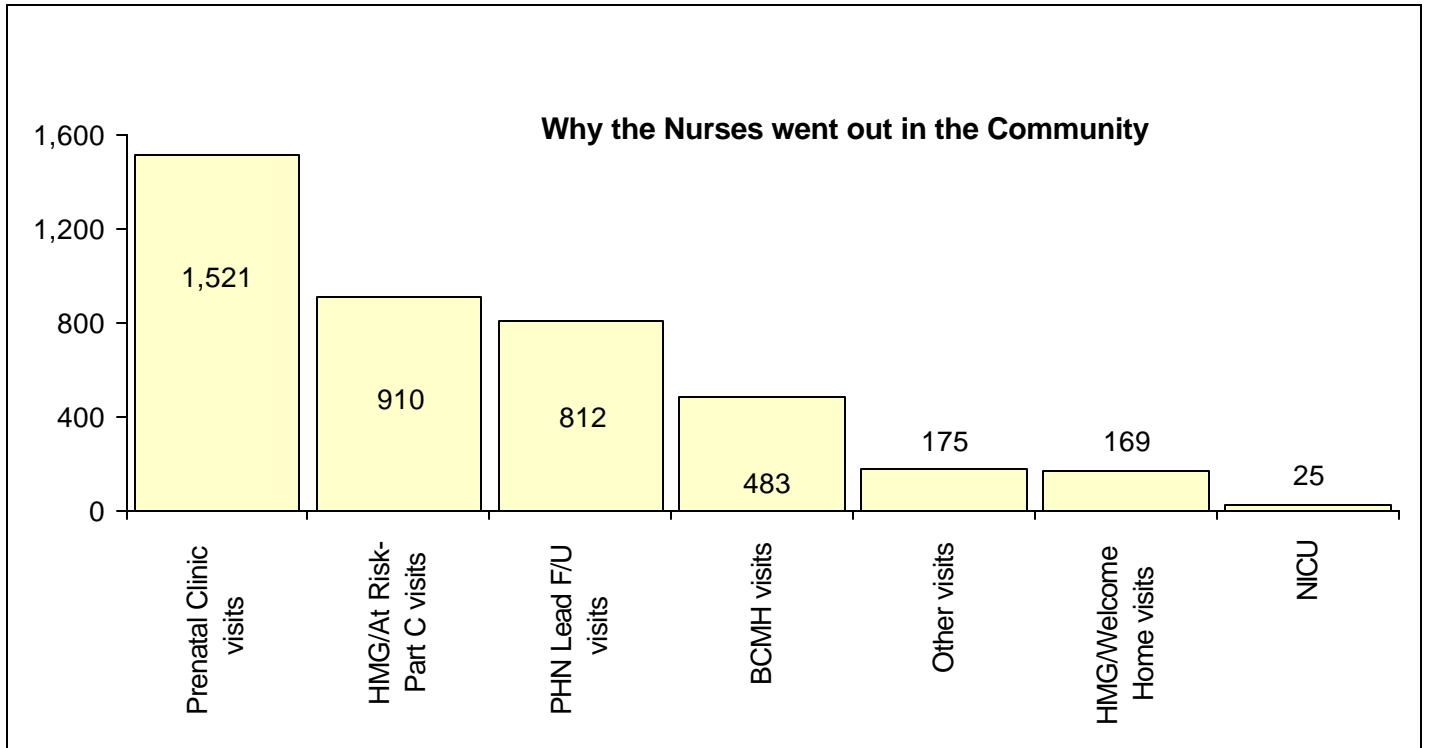
In 2005, approximately 14,000 patient visits were recorded by the Adult Clinic. Services rendered included almost 3,000 visits for sexually transmitted disease (STD) examination and treatment, almost 3,000 visits for the purpose of hypertension screening and treatment; and almost 2,400 visits to obtain travel immunizations. Other immunizations, tuberculosis (TB) testing, and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) testing also generated significant numbers of visits.

In partnership with the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services and the Akron International Institute, the Division served over 60 newly arrived refugees during 2005, including new Akron residents from Africa, Southeast Asia, and Eastern Europe. These refugees received prescribed health evaluations in our clinics and our staff assisted in orienting these new residents to the American health care system.

The department offered flu immunization for adults and children through a variety of mechanisms during 2005. A number of large scale flu shot clinics were offered at the Morley Health Center and at the HealthWise site in Rolling Acres Mall. In fall 2005, a large scale flu shot clinic was offered at the Northwest Community Center on Shatto Road. Flu shots were offered by appointment in the adult clinic and on a walk-in basis in the pediatric clinic on Merriman Road. In late 2005, the Nursing Division collaborated with Akron's 3-1-1 call center to provide a new method for making flu shot appointments. This was well received and appears to provide a good way to provide appointments to large numbers of callers in an efficient manner. Flu immunization has provided a good vehicle for the department to develop and test models for delivery of vaccinations and medications to large numbers of people in a short period of time.



The division's Maternal/Child Health nurses provided almost 1,000 home visits to families enrolled in the Help Me Grow (HMG) Program. This program is intended to increase self-sufficiency, and improve parenting skills for parents with children aged 0 to 3 years. First time mothers and teen mothers are visited during the early post-partum period in an effort to detect/prevent problems after discharge from the hospital. Infants discharged from the Intensive Neonatal Care Unit at Children's Hospital are also visited by Public Health Nurses. In 2005, the Prenatal clinic, located in Arlington Plaza, served 279 pregnant women through a total of 1,521 clinic visits. The Prenatal clinic is serving an increasing number of women with limited English proficiency; the services of a second Spanish-speaking interpreter were added in 2005 to maintain the high standard of care delivered by this clinic.



Public health nurses made 483 home visits to families with children enrolled in the Bureau for Children with Medical Handicaps (BCMh) program and assisted these families to access needed services. The Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention program continued its efforts to protect Akron children exposed to this hazard. In 2005, Health Department staff performed over 4,000 lead tests, with 1,360 children enrolled in case management. The public health nurse assigned to this program made 812 follow-up home visits. Due in part to the aging housing stock in much of our city and in part to recognition that lead levels which were not considered a hazard in the past are in fact unacceptable, new cases of elevated lead in children continue to be found in Akron. In 2005, 77 new cases of elevated lead were diagnosed in Akron children and 23 children required medical care related to lead poisoning.

The Women, Infants and Children Supplemental Food Program (WIC) experienced another strong year. The program received an award from State WIC program for increasing the rate of breastfeeding in the WIC population. The issuance of breast pumps to enable mothers to return to work/school while continuing to provide breast milk for their infants has been well received. The overall project caseload reached 11,500 in 2005, with a total of 44,088 client visits to the nine WIC clinics (4 in Akron, 5 in the remainder of Summit County) overseen by the Nursing Division. The Child Health Clinic at Merriman Road continued to provide a range of services. Approximately 330 children received a full medical evaluation by a pediatrician at the Child Health Clinic. Another 1700 visits were made for the purpose of childhood immunization, with a total of 3933 doses of vaccine administered. Child immunization services at the Merriman Road facility were supplemented by services offered through a mobile van that travels to various library branches during the summer months.

In 2005, Nursing Division staff provided field experience to a large number of Nursing Students from local colleges, medical students and dietetic students. Several professionals from other health departments around the State came for observation to the Adult Health Clinic to learn more about Sexually Transmitted Diseases and their treatments.

Division of Health Promotion

Division Manager: Thomas C. Quade, M.A., M.P.H
Supervisors:
Matthew Carson, M.A.
Paul Koehler, M.Ed.
Staff: 13

The Division of Health Promotion continued its efforts to protect, promote and advance the health of the residents of Akron. The division continued to develop new programming in 2005. The division launched a web-based tool to assist the public to identify primary prevention programs in the Akron community. This tool is called "**Health-Link**" and it is accessible on the Akron Health Department's Health Promotion web page. Health-Link aims to increase awareness of existing community health resource.

At the same time, staff continued to deliver programs with a longer history in the Health Department. The **Fit-For-Duty** program has been providing health promotion services to sworn personnel and civilian employees of the Akron Police Department since 1991. Annual health and fitness assessments are conducted for more than 400 Police Officers. Follow-up fitness and health activities are offered for both individuals and groups. Services include physical fitness assessments, exercise prescription, lifestyle planning, blood pressure checks, weekly fitness and health tips, a monthly Fit for Duty Report, Fit for Duty uniform ribbon program and committee coordination. **HealthWorks** is the worksite health promotion program designed to enhance the health of all City of Akron employees. This effort delivered programs and services to promote healthy lifestyle habits, a healthy work environment, and positive behavior and lifestyle changes to prevent chronic diseases. These health initiatives included physical activity programs and events ("Fit -in-15" activity classes, HealthWalkers walking club, activity log books, "Sneak Into Work" event). Awareness was enhanced through literature displays, benefits orientations, and email tips. HealthWorks also provided nutrition and back care programs, blood pressure screenings, and CPR/First Aid classes.

While the division is committed to the health of the city's workforce, the majority of resources are directed at serving all of the city's residents. Through the **Child and Family**

Health Services program, the division provides health education services for children and families. 2005 programming had a primary focus on the rise in childhood obesity, implementing such strategies as a Teen Wellness Inventory, classroom presentations for students stressing the importance of healthy eating and physical activity and the "Where Do Your Steps Take You?" pedometer program. Program staff also provided health education in the Health Department's Prenatal Clinic, held classes encouraging physical activity at the various WIC clinics in Akron and participated in various coalitions and working groups to address the issue of childhood obesity. A continuing risk to the health of Akron's children is lead poisoning. The **Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (CLPPP)** continued an aggressive response to this need in 2005. Akron public and private daycares, pre-schools, and Early Head Start sites were provided with lead poisoning prevention education and blood lead testing. Families with children under six received lead cleaning kits and education on methods to reduce lead hazards in their home. The Mobile Van Clinic was out in Akron neighborhoods at health fairs, Akron Arts Expo, Safe Kids Coalition Safety Fair, Akron Zoo, Community Center events, and appeared (with decoration) in 2 parades. The Lead Safe Akron Coalition member agencies who promote the health and well being of Akron families were asked to take an active involvement in achieving the goal of lead poisoning prevention. Coalition initiatives to strengthen referral networks, build partnerships, and promote community-wide lead awareness campaigns continued to produce new opportunities for CLPPP to enhance lead poisoning prevention.

Smoking cessation programming is a critical element of the division's health promotion activity. Akron has been asked to focus on adult smoking cessation by the Summit County Tobacco Prevention Coalition. During 2005, 252 people were assisted in their effort to quit smoking by one of the division's smoking cessation classes funded by the **Ohio Tobacco Use Prevention and Control Foundation (TUPCF)**. In 2005, the program grew by the addition of classes at worksites throughout Summit County. Two of the division staff who are smoking cessation instructors have now received the intensive training that qualified them to become credentialed Mayo Clinic Tobacco Treatment Specialists.

In an effort to better connect what we know about our community's health needs with the programming we implement, the division houses an epidemiologist charged with the quantitative examination of the community's health status as well as the degree to which our programs address existing health priorities.

Health Promotion **Serving Our** **Community**

Community Programs:

- Child and Family Health Services
- Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention
- Tobacco Cessation
- Watch-Your-Step
- HIV/AIDS Nutrition

Workplace/Workforce Wellness Programs:

- HealthWorks
- Fit for Duty

Program and Staff Development:

- Community & Program Assessment
- Training Coordination

Health Data Management

Division Manager: Neil Casey, B.A., M.S.

Registrar: Tawanda Weems

Staff: 8

The Akron Health Department Vital Statistics Registration District is responsible for filing, certifying and maintaining an accurate record of all birth and death events which occur within the city limits of Akron. These activities are governed by Ohio Revised Code, Sections 3705.01 - 3705.29. Annually, the Akron registration district files approximately 6400 birth and related event reports and approximately 2800 death event reports.

The Akron Registration District serves as the local liaison to the State Office of Vital Statistics. Staff maintain compliance with ORC and Ohio Administrative Code guidelines while ensuring the reliability of service, the quality of data and the security of all records. The Akron district staff work directly with physicians, funeral directors, hospital personnel, law enforcement officials, governmental agencies and families to resolve issues pertaining to the registration, verification and certification of birth and death events.

2005

Registered Certificates and Records Issued

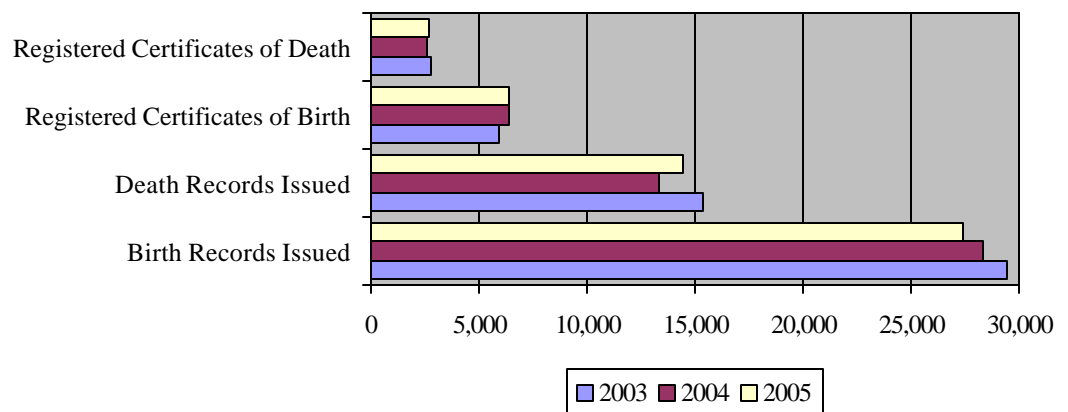
Registered Certificates

Birth Certificates: 6,383
 Death Certificates: 2,729
 Fetal Deaths: 148

Total Records Issued

Births: 27,404
 Deaths: 14,440

Total revenue: \$212,490



Laboratory

Laboratory Manager: Sam Halasa, M.S., MT, ASCP

Staff: 5

The Laboratory's mission is to provide needed laboratory services and professional consultations to the various divisions of the Health Department; other City departments; health-related agencies, both public and private; and to industries with health-related problems; to supplement or to confirm clinical observations.

Laboratory Serving Our Community:

	Number of Samples Obtained	Number of Tests Performed
Strep (throat)	2,028	4,056
Gonorrhea	6,754	24,861
RPR	4,876	5,383
Chlamydia	3,013	3,263
Lead	4,038	8,076
Hepatitis B	381	1,082
Clinical Chem ¹	644	2,111
Stat Lab ²	6,146	12,457
Miscellaneous ³	<u>1,106</u>	<u>1,282</u>
TOTAL	28,986	62,571

1. Clinic Chemistry Lab: (cholesterol, triglycerides, HDL, glucose)

2. Stat Labs: (urine micro, pregnancy tests, wet preps, gram smears)

3. Miscellaneous: (rubella, herpes, hemoglobin, sickle cell)

Housing Division

Housing Administrator: Duane Groeger, B.A., R.S.

Supervisors:

Steve Nome, M.A., R.S. (Complaint Referral, University Park Alliance)

Karen O'Connor, B.S., R.S. (Lead-Based Paint Hazard Control)

Rob Rimmel, B.A., R.S. (Complaint Referral, Rental Registration, & Mandatory Inspections)

Jodie Forester, B.S., R.S. (Complaint Referral, Housing Appeals Board)

The Housing Division works to assure decent, safe and sanitary living conditions for residents of the City of Akron through the enforcement of the Environmental Health Housing Code and Lead Poisoning Ordinance.

During 2005, the Housing Division continued its mission in a number of important areas.

The Lead-Based Paint Hazard Control Program worked to reduce lead poisoning risks for Akron children. The program, federally funded by a grant through the Department of Housing and Urban Development, was awarded a \$4 million three-year renewal. This was one of the largest awards in the country for this program. During 2005, the Lead Program completed lead hazard reduction rehabilitation in 20 homes for low-income families with children under 6 years of age. The Lead-based Paint Hazard Control Program, in combination with the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention (CLPP) Program, completed 258 lead hazard investigations and completed and cleared 205 homes of lead hazards. The Akron CLPP Program accomplished blood lead testing for 5,976 children within the City of Akron jurisdiction. The percentage of children with elevated blood lead levels was lower than in preceding years.

The Rental Registration and Mandatory Inspection Program administers the city's rental property registration requirement and carries out inspections of rental units owned by qualifying rental property owners. In 2005, The Rental Registration Program accepted registrations for 35,297 units and 4,417 owners; 36 owners and 209 properties were enrolled in the mandatory inspection program. In addition, 218 vacant, open structures were secured by Housing staff. This marked increase in the number of abandoned homes in the City reflects the record number of foreclosures filed in the county in 2005.

During 2005, the Complaint Referral Program inspected 1,189 units in response to citizen complaints or referrals from the Akron Fire Department, the Akron Police Department and other agencies. 6,575 re-inspections were conducted, and 1,203 properties were brought into compliance. The implementation of the City's 311 Call Center added another avenue by which citizens can file complaints with the division. 126 Housing complaint forms were requested via this system, and 127 complaints regarding vacant, open structures were processed.

The Mandated Programs staff performed 8 required semi-annual day labor establishment inspections for licensure. In addition, 4 manufactured home parks, 4 existing and 6 new tattoo/body piercing establishments were inspected and licensed. 6 existing tattoo establishments ceased operations. One group home was inspected at the request of its operator to comply with state funding requirements.

The University Park Alliance Program was implemented in June 2003 when the Health Department contracted with the University Park Alliance to provide a sanitarian to perform exterior code inspections of dwellings in the University of Akron/City Hospital area. During 2005, UPA Program staff conducted 641 initial inspections, 854 re-inspections, and brought 236 properties into compliance as part of this effort.

During 2005, the Division conducted 614 administrative (prosecutor's) hearings and filed 14 criminal affidavits associated with code enforcement efforts. Ten search warrant inspections were conducted, and 206 administrative penalties (fines) were levied. In addition, 89 vacant, dilapidated structures were ordered razed by the Housing Appeals Board based on case records and the testimony of Housing Division staff. 70 houses and/or garages were demolished through Board action, and 178 structures were condemned as unfit for human habitation. Housing staff also documented and referred 118 junk vehicles, 425 properties with litter, and 190 properties with high grass and weeds to appropriate City Departments.

Nutrition

Public Health Nutritionist:
Mary Ann McGuckin, MS, RD, LD

The mission of the Nutrition Program is to promote the optimal nutritional state of Akron residents and City of Akron employees. This mission is promoted through providing nutrition education and information to individuals, groups, the media and through contributing to the education of future health practitioners.

During 2005, the Public Health Nutritionist:

Educated health profession students on nutrition's role in public health by precepting one Case Western Reserve University graduate student and one Kent State University and four University of Akron undergraduate students in nutrition. Oriented seven resident physicians to ways in which public health nutrition services can benefit their patients. The nutritionist also participated in an on-site evaluation of the University of Akron's nutrition degree programs performed by the Commission on Dietetic Registration, the credentialing body for the nutrition programs.

Submitted a nutrition article to "Parent Express," the newsletter of the Summit County Help Me Grow program. This allowed the nutritionist to deliver nutrition education to the families of children with disabilities and families of children at risk for developmental delays. In addition, the nutritionist worked with other media, including the Akron Beacon Journal, the West Side Leader and WZIP-FM, to convey accurate information on a variety of nutrition topics.

Provided education and counseling to 477 patients in the Health Department's prenatal clinic, and provided medical nutrition therapy and nutrition counseling to 25 patients in other settings. Also, supplied food pantry vouchers to several patients. Lack of food is a problem among some women who use the Prenatal Clinic. This affects not only these mothers-to-be, but also their unborn babies. Organized 10 monthly programs on healthy eating and related topics to participants of the United Services for All food pantry. Presented information on diabetes and diet at two sessions for residents and staff of Tarry House, a halfway house for persons living with mental illness. Other nutrition outreach activities included responses to requests for information (283 persons served), participation in health fairs and Kids' fairs (389 participants), and 40 other presentations on nutrition topics to community groups, agencies and students (502 participants).

Collaborated with the Akron Community Service Center and Urban League to create the Women's Health Initiative to promote the cardiovascular health and general fitness of minority women. The public health nutritionist taught the nutrition component in this 12-week fitness series and met individually with the participants to help them build a plan for healthy eating. Also, worked in conjunction with the Akron-Summit County Public Library to present a two-part series on following a diet to control hypertension and to control elevated blood lipids. The series was presented at four different branch libraries, with a total attendance of 104 people. Participated in the Programming and Public Policy Task Forces of the Summit County conference on Childhood Obesity. Participated as a member of the Akron-Canton Diabetes Coalition, which seeks to build agency collaborations to address diabetes issues through education. Worked with the American Heart Association Minority Concerns Committee and the March of Dimes on community programs involving nutrition.