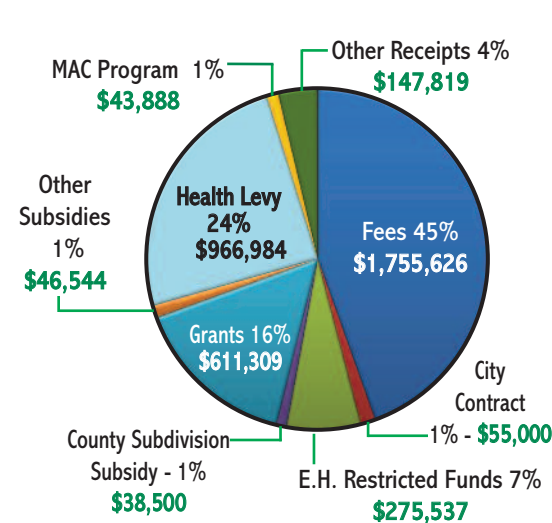


# 2016 by the Numbers

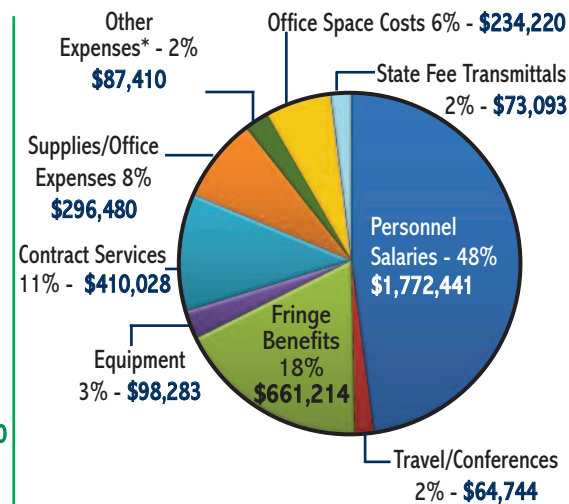
Births Recorded	445
Certified Copies Issued	1,957
Teen Mother Births	46
Unwed mothers	181
Deaths Recorded	528
Certified Copies Issued	1,651
Top Causes of Death	
Heart Disease	192
Cancer	116
Lung Disease	60
Flu/Pneumonia	18
Stroke	12
Suicide	12
Drug Overdose	10
Traffic Accidents	8
Animal Bites Reported	138
Positive Rabies Test	0
Food Service Licenses	521
Food Service Inspections	1,033
Private Water Permits	117
Private Water Inspections	221
Water Samples	427
Sewage Permits	104
Sewage Inspections	216
Nuisance Investigations	147
Patients Vaccinated	2,137
Doses Administered	5,552
Seasonal Flu Vaccine	1,014
TB Tests Given	339
Communicable Disease	332
Dental Clinic Patients	3,358
WIC Caseload (Monthly Avg.)	1,150
WIC Certified Visits	2,504
BCMh Cases (Monthly Avg.)	203
BCMh Consultations	1,885
Home Health Patients	392
Home Health Visits	8,951
Community Presentations	454
Publicity Efforts	1,044

# Financial Overview

REVENUE\* - \$3,941,207



EXPENSES - \$3,697,913



\*Other expenses include: Lab Fees, Advertising, Staff Development & Recruitment, State Audit, Vehicle Fuel & Maintenance, Liability & Property Insurance.

\* Includes a carryover balance of \$135,350 from 2015.

## Improvements & upgrades to the facility

2016 represented the agency's 15<sup>th</sup> year at its current location and it was time for some improvements and upgrades to the facility.

As a sign of times, there were changes in building security including restricting public access to certain parts of the building. Also, security cameras were added to monitor activity.

With assistance from the Community Foundation of Mount Vernon and Knox County, new office furniture was purchased for two divisions to maximize available space and increase work productivity. Additionally, the agency

purchased new furniture for the conference room which is in continual use by agency personnel and other community groups. The conference room also received technical upgrades including flat screen TVs for improved presentations. Wi-Fi capability was added to the entire facility.

An internet-based phone system was installed to replace the old system which could no longer be expanded or repaired. The new system allows for phone messages to be sent to email for easy offsite access.



## New health center to open in 2017

In December of 2016, the agency was notified it had been awarded a two-year \$1.5 million grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HRSA) to open a new health access point - a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC).

The Knox County Community Health Center will be located in the health department and will offer medical, dental, behavioral health and addiction services. It will be open five days a week with a fulltime staff. Services will be provided regardless of a patients' payer source; charges will be on a sliding fee scale.

Community health centers have been recognized for improving patient outcomes while reducing health disparities, despite serving a population that is often sicker and more at risk than the general population. FQHCs are also recognized for reducing costs to health systems; the health center model

of care has been shown to reduce the use of costlier providers of care, such as emergency departments and hospitals

Knox County was identified as medically underserved area in 2015 and has been identified as a shortage area for dentists for more than 10 years.

Planning for a FQHC in Knox County had been underway for more than two years. The Knox County Board of Health voted to pursue the idea with the creation of a co-applicant board in 2015. The health center board is comprised of 11 people, six of whom are described as patients or consumers of the public healthcare system with the remaining five members representing various social service agencies, organizations and government entities. The official application for funding was submitted in July.

The new health center will open in April 2017.



## The Community We Serve



**Ohio Health Ranking 43**  
(Out of 88 counties)

Adults who smoke 20 %  
Adults who are Obese 34 %

**Total Population 61,061**  
Females 51% Males 49%

White 96.7% All other 3.3%

Under age 18 23.2%  
65 yrs. & over 16.7%

Veterans 4,320

**People without health insurance 14%**

People with a disability, under age 65 10.3%

**Persons in Poverty 14.8 %**

Children in Poverty 21%

Children in Single-Parent Households 27%

Housing Units 25,505

Households 22,759

Median Household Income \$48,533

High school graduates 90%  
Bachelor's Degree 21.8%

**Total employment 18,270**

Labor Force, 16 yrs.+ 62.5%

Mean travel time to work 26.5 min.

**Land Area 525.49 Sq. Miles**

Population per square mile 115.9

Data from U.S. Census and 2016 County Health Rankings

## Moving toward accreditation and serving the public need

Every day, the employees of the Knox County Health Department strive to provide excellent public health services to local residents. We are driven to do this by our agency vision which states that we will "continue to be a leader in public



12 notebooks and 8 additional documents made up the materials submitted for accreditation.

health by addressing community health issues through proactive solutions so that all residents may experience optimal personal health and a safe environment." In order to continue to be that leader in public health means that we are continually seeking opportunities to improve what we do on a daily basis.

In 2016, our agency took the opportunity to improve our services by applying to be a nationally accredited public health agency. It is our intent that the accreditation process will result in an agency that is more efficient, effective and responsive which will result in a healthier Knox County.

2016 proved to be a year of opportunities as we responded to public need. We added a nurse practitioner to

our medical clinic, provided a nurse for inmates at the Knox County Jail and employed a new dentist. We offered community clinics for flu shots and school based clinics for MMR shots.

We worked with community partners to begin a bike lending program, educate parents about the warning signs of substance abuse, create a Community Health Improvement Plan and offer training sessions to help business owners meet new state requirements.

As we move into a new year, our 2016 efforts will continue with the opening of the Knox County Community Health Center. Local residents can be assured that they have a public



Health Commissioner Julie Miller (center) served as the chair of the 2016 United Way campaign with the theme "Be Healthy: Mind. Body. Spirit."

health department promoting health, preventing illness and protecting the environment in a consistent, quality and effective manner. That's a good thing for everyone - the agency, our partners and every Knox County resident.

*Julie Miller*  
Julie Miller  
Health Commissioner



Nurse Practitioner Jackie Neighbarger started seeing patients one day a week in the medical clinic. Here, she examines Nevah White of Howard.



Karen Pritchard, director of Centerburg Public Library, and some of the bikes available through the Creating Healthy Communities bike lending program.



Deputy Mark Fincato of the Knox County Sheriff's Office and RN Kristen McKeever, who began working as a nurse at the county jail in 2016.



Health department staff and some of the Christmas gifts they collected for the Wythe family and their seven children who lost their home in a fire.



# Promoting a safe and healthy lifestyle for our community



Nearly two dozen families gathered at Foundation Park in August to participate in the worldwide Big Latch-On to promote breastfeeding. The WIC staff helped coordinate the local event.



Dental Hygienist Anna Marie Magers teaches Head Start students how to brush their teeth using Chompers, the dinosaur. The program reached 440 preschoolers and was funded by United Way.

In 2016, we expanded our tobacco cessation program to include daytime classes at Knox Community Hospital in addition to the weekly, evening classes at the Health Department. The free program provides nicotine replacement therapy for up to eight weeks.

Through the Cribs for Kids program in collaboration with the Ohio Department of Health, we distributed Pack n' Play cribs to families needing a safe sleep environment for babies, up to one year of age.

Among the many community events the Health Department participated in during 2016 were: First Fridays in downtown Mount Vernon, Senior Resource Day sponsored by the Adult Task Force, Earth Day Festival at the Kenyon Athletic Center, Safety Day in Fredericktown, the Danville-Howard Turkey Festival and the seven-day Knox County Fair.



(Above) Parents search a staged bedroom during a Hidden In Plain Sight presentation. The bedroom includes more than 100 items that could indicate dangerous or risky behaviors including substance abuse. As part of the Drug Free Communities Grant, the Knox Substance Abuse Action Team (KSAAT) began the Hidden In Plain Sight presentation in September as a way to educate parents and other adults on the signs of drug abuse and ways to intervene when a child is suspected of substance abuse. The presentation also includes survey results detailing student responses to the use of drugs, alcohol and tobacco.



The agency used billboards such as the one above to promote services and programs. Additionally, agency promotion included radio, newspaper and website advertising as well as signage on the outside and inside of Knox Area Transit (KAT) buses.

The lighted sign in front of the facility is used to promote services and programs as well as health and safety messages throughout the year.



Through the Creating Healthy Communities grant, we provided playground equipment including swings, a balance bar and tetherball at The Alternative Center. Water bottle-filling stations and bike racks were installed at different locations along the Kokosing Gap Trail and playground balls and a bike rack were provided to The Escape Zone.

Also, through the CHC grant, a lactation room was created at Danville Elementary to enable mothers who are breastfeeding and returning to work, to be able to do so in a private environment.

We co-sponsored a rabies clinic with the Knox County Humane Society; hosted an Amish Health & Safety Event in Danville; and celebrated Women's Health Week with a Healthy Happy Hour at Allison's Restaurant.



As part of the Baby & Me, Tobacco Free program, Tobacco Treatment Specialist Mike Whitaker presents Jenni Lee with a \$25 voucher for diapers for having quit smoking. The program offers a voucher for every month the mom is smoke-free up to one-year.



Car Seat Technician Alayna Anderson explains the intricacies of installing a child's car seat properly to mom Shirley Joseph while baby River looks on.

**We ARE**  
**Public Health!**  
Promote • Prevent • Protect

## Preventing illness & disease



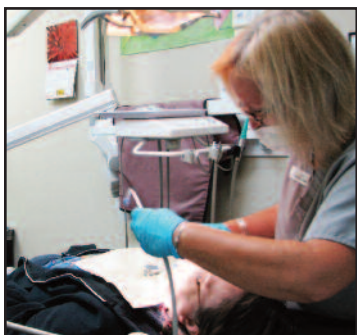
Duke Wagner of Mount Vernon receives a flu shot from RN Katie Wolford during a community clinic at The Living Center.

Zika dominated much of health news in 2016. While no mosquitos with Zika made their way to Knox County in 2016, several local residents who visited countries where the virus was prevalent returned home with suspected cases. Each case was investigated per CDC protocols and the individuals were provided with guidance on prevention of transmission of the virus. Only one case was confirmed.

Due to an increase in sexually transmitted diseases locally, monthly STD testing and clinics were offered.

Due to a new state law requiring all 7th and 12th grade students to be vaccinated for meningitis, school-based clinics were offered throughout the county.

The Home Health Division was recognized as a HHCAHPS Honors recipient. The honor recognizes home health agencies that continuously provide quality care as measured from the patient's point of view through the Home Health Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers Survey (HHCAHPS). The survey is part of Medicare billing.



Dental hygienist Laura Nance cleans the teeth of a patient in the dental clinic. Good dental health is an important part of overall health.



Physical therapist Kelly Barnett teaches balancing techniques during a visit with Home Health client Glenda Dailey of Howard.



In collaboration with the Ohio Department of Health, Project Dawn kits were distributed to first responders and local residents and their family members who are at risk of opiate overdose.



The Health Department truck was a familiar sight as the Environmental Health staff sprayed to prevent mosquitos during the summer months.



Kyle Shackle, RS, inspects a septic system at a new home construction site to make sure it has been installed correctly.

## Protecting the public

A new state requirement for Risk Level 3 and 4 food service operators prompted an increase in training opportunities. The agency responded with three sessions of the ServSafe class and four sessions of the Person In Charge Class.

Prompted by the Zika virus, we collaborated with the Ohio Department of Health to set mosquito traps throughout the county in areas prevalent for mosquito activity. None of the specimens tested positive for the Zika virus.

Several areas of Knox County continue to show elevated levels of radon, a natural occurring radioactive gas that can increase the risk of lung cancer over prolonged exposure. We provided radon awareness materials and free radon test kits.

The Black-Legged Tick, also known as the Deer Tick, made it's way to Knox County in 2016. Residents submitted several ticks to the Health Department for identification. The Black-Legged Tick is smaller than the more common American Dog Tick and is the common vector for Lyme disease.



ServSafe sessions were offered throughout the year to educate food service operators on proper handling and storage of food.



Terri Hillier, RS, collects a routine water sample at a campground. Property owners can also collect water samples themselves to submit for testing.