

# Canton City Health Department

This report to the community is my 28<sup>th</sup> annual report as Health Commissioner and will be my last one. My 41 plus years of service to the Canton Community have been very rewarding and I have considered it a privilege and an honor. When looking back at the accomplishments of the Department, it is impossible to list all of the accomplishments or to name all of the individuals who have had a part in making it all happen. However, the Board of Health members who have served during my tenure must be given special recognition because they have been responsible for the guidance of the Department. Their policies, oversight and commitment have made it possible for the Health Department staff to provide the public health services that are so important in assuring a safe and healthy community.

The City Administrations, Elected Officials and City Councils that we have worked with have been very supportive and understanding.



**Robert Pattison**  
**Health Commissioner**  
*From 1980-2008*

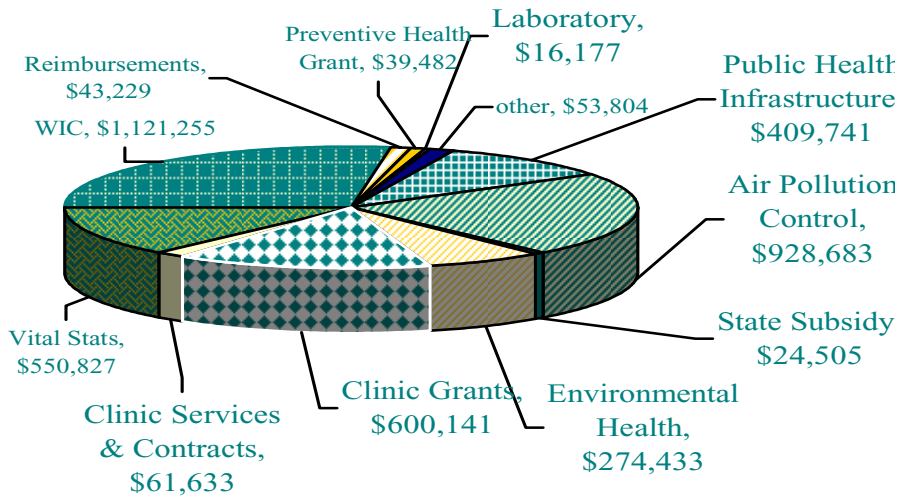
# Annual Report 2007

The day to day work, however, is provided by the dedicated professional em-

ployees of the Board of Health. As you read this report, please remember that all of these activities and numbers are a result of committed public servants who want to control communicable disease and work very hard to protect the health and well-being of those people living, working or visiting within the jurisdictional area of the Canton City Board of Health.

My retirement will allow me to become more involved with Rotary International and continue to provide services to our community, although through other venues. I wish each and every one of you health and prosperity, and I wish God's speed for the Health Department's future endeavors.

### 2007 Income

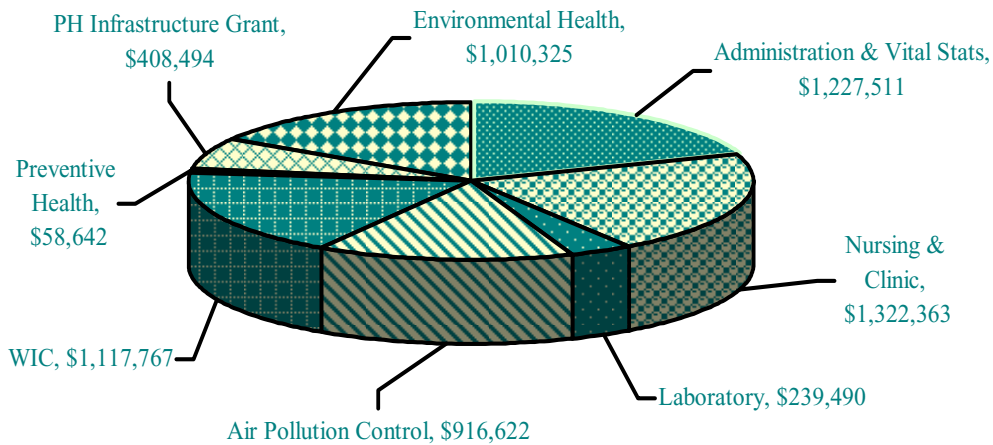


### Primary Causes of Death In Canton City\*

- Heart Disease
- Cancer
- Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease
- Unintentional Injuries
- Kidney Disease
- Perinatal conditions
- Cerebrovascular Disease
- Influenza/Pneumonia
- Septicemia
- Pneumonitis due to solids and liquids

\* Not all deaths were Canton City residents.

### 2007 Expenses



### Vital Statistics Activities 2007

Certified copies of Birth certificates issued	20,653
Certified copies of Death certificates issued	9,321

### Births and Deaths ~ City of Canton Residents 2007

Births registered	1,411
Single Parent Births	866
Teenage Births (11-19)	238
Deaths registered	654

### Selected Reportable Diseases in Canton City

Campylobacter.....	12
Chlamydia.....	660
Congenital Herpes Complex.....	1
Cryptosporidiosis.....	2
Giardiasis.....	9
Gonorrhea.....	424
Haemophilus Influenza.....	1
Hepatitis A.....	1
Hepatitis B, Acute.....	2
Hepatitis C, Acute.....	1
Legionellosis.....	3
Meningitis Aseptic/viral.....	26
Pertussis.....	2
Salmonella.....	5
Shigellosis.....	1
Syphilis.....	2
Tuberculosis.....	0
Other Mycobacterium.....	4
Varicella.....	25
West Nile Virus.....	1
HIV/AIDS.....	302

### Nursing Activities

BCMh home visits.....	71
TB home visits.....	4
STD home visits.....	16
Disease intervention home contacts.....	48
Welcome Home visits.....	128
Clinic Patient contacts.....	
Well baby immunization.....	1,246
TB testing.....	989
International travel.....	337
S.T.D.....	1,697
HIV counseling/testing.....	252
Lead .....	28
Total Clinics conducted.....	484
Flu shots.....	1,472
STD/HIV education program contacts.....	596
Communicable disease education contacts.....	188
Dental sealant screenings.....	1,477
Teeth having sealants applied.....	4,020

### Environmental Health Activities

Animal bite investigations.....	255	Tattoo parlor inspections.....	4
Food inspections.....	928	Solid waste facility inspections.....	48
Frozen dessert samples.....	444	Infectious waste treatment inspections.....	36
School inspections.....	57	Elevated blood lead levels.....	22
Pool/spa inspections.....	72	Lead inspections.....	48
Nuisance inspections.....	1,441	Mosquito control hours .....	679
Board of Health orders.....	113	Indoor smoking violations .....	14
Court actions filed.....	37		

### Air Pollution Control Activities

Facility Inspections.....	27	Violation notices.....	56
Permits to Install issued.....	27	OEPA referrals.....	1
Title V operating permits.....	1	Enforcement cases closed.....	1
Non-Title V permits.....	2	Asbestos Activities.....	103
Open burning permits.....	9	Days exceeding Ozone standard.....	7
High priority facility complaints.....	439	Industrial stack tests.....	11
Non priority facility complaints.....	20	Open burning permits .....	9

### Laboratory Activities

Clinic samples.....	8,830	Water samples.....	1,787
STD's.....	8,630	Potable.....	1,748
Blood lead.....	45	Non-potable .....	39
Food samples.....	106	Miscellaneous environmental.....	180
Frozen desserts.....	66	Pollen counts.....	143
Cheeses.....	32	Pests & mosquitoes.....	37
Food investigations.....	8		

# Promoting Health through Education

Community Public Health Education is one of the essential services that all local health departments provide. Although the Canton City Health Department has one full-time public health educator, most employees are called upon to provide education as part of their duties.

As Registered Sanitarians conduct food service inspections, they will inform the management staff of state and local regulations regarding food safety and hygiene. New requirements for sanitation are explained, for example. Restaurant employees take advantage of the certified "Serve Safe" program taught at Stark State College of Technology by our Food Service Supervisor.

Residents who find themselves visited because of a nuisance complaint appreciate that a Sanitarian will provide brochures and other resources regarding the issue confronting them. This may involve proper pest control or local ordinances about pets. Education is always the preferred tactic before enforcement becomes necessary.

Nurses play an important role in community education, as well. Health Fairs allow the public to learn about the many services that our department provides. At these functions nurses can explain the importance of immunization, dental sealants, hygiene, and many other public health practices. Schools and organizations call upon our STD nurse to teach about the prevention of these diseases. Welcome Home nurses not only provide information about our department to new mothers, but also a variety of agencies that can assist them as they begin to care for a new child.

The Health Educator provides informative talks to schools, agencies, and organizations as well. She has spoken to junior high school students about hygiene, to parenting groups about lead poison prevention, and Rotarians about Avian Influenza. Day Care Providers learn about home safety and WIC families enroll in a two hour car seat safety class conducted by the Health Educator. From rabies prevention to heart healthy meals, she spreads public health messages throughout the city. Presentations to community groups are also provided by Sanitarians, APC Engineers, and Administrators.

Written information is important, too, for community education. The Canton City Health department web site provides current health-related information from each division. Readers can request information by e-mail if they cannot find what they were looking for on the site: [info@cantonhealth.org](mailto:info@cantonhealth.org) Responses will be sent promptly. Monthly and yearly reports are mailed to anyone requesting such a document. These reports are also posted on the website: [www.cantonhealth.org](http://www.cantonhealth.org).

**If you would like to have a Canton City Health Department employees talk to your organization, please contact the Health Educator at 330-489-3327.**

**WIC**  
*Women, Infants, & Children*

The emphasis on education is what distinguishes the WIC Program from other nutritional assistance programs. Each child enrolled in WIC is weighed, measured, and tested for blood iron levels every six months. A Licensed Dietician can then counsel the family about the needed nutrients to achieve a healthy growth for the children and/or a pregnant mother.

Programs provided by the OSU Cooperative Extension Program inform parents on topics such as: "Stretching Your Food Dollar"; "Healthy Meal Planning"; "Food Safety"; "Cooking with Fruits and Vegetables"; and, "Using Grains."

The benefits of breast-feeding are encouraged by a Certified Lactation Specialist.



*Healthy babies are happy babies!*

WIC families benefit from the free food assistance, but the long-term success of this public health program is seen when the families learn skills that will last long after the WIC eligibility period ends.



## Safe Drinking Water is Community's Goal

### Laboratory Assists in Protecting Water Supply

And while the Canton lab is reimbursed for the analysis of water samples, these agencies would have found it more difficult to fulfill their missions of safeguarding the health of their communities without the lab's assistance.

The Canton City Health Department has a long history of collaborating with other governmental agencies in order to better protect the public health.

Canton is one of the few public health departments that has a laboratory. Other health departments and some villages utilize the lab's water testing capabilities.

In 2007, the following agencies submitted water samples for analysis: Stark County Health Department, (946 samples); Carroll County health Department (185 samples); and 89 samples submitted by the Water Departments of Carrollton, East Holmes Water Company, Winesburg Area Development, and Mt. Eaton.

The samples are tested for the presence of total coliform and fecal or e.coli bacteria. 331 of the 1,771 samples tested positive of one or more of these bacteria. This alerted the agencies that a possible problem was detected and corrections were made before a serious health event developed.

A private citizen can also arrange to have well water tested by contacting the health jurisdiction in which they live, or contacting the Canton laboratory for test procedures. The cost is \$12.50 per water sample.

## Disaster Preparedness

An honored public health expression says, "Without surveillance there is no prevention." A public health disaster usually involves a disease outbreak. With funding from the Public Health Infrastructure grant, Stark County public health is much better equipped to quickly identify disease outbreaks and to respond more effectively.

The PHI grant provides Canton with an epidemiologist and a Health Alert Network Coordinator who cooperate with other public health departments, hospitals, pharmacies, and emergency responders. This coordination makes it possible for these health partners to share vital information regarding illnesses and emergencies that occur in the community. The disease reporting and investigation extend beyond the county, providing an early warning system to health providers locally.

Although technical capability is necessary to make this type of surveillance and rapid communication possible, successful coordination depends upon human cooperation. The various entities of the vast health care and disaster response system require a trust in one another and a common commitment to the goal of providing the best possible protection for the community. This goal transcends individual agency interests.

The Stark County Emergency Preparedness Health Care Planning Committee meets monthly to cooperatively plan and exercise the community's ability to detect, respond to, and recover from any disaster than poses a risk to residents of Stark County. Formal agreements are established to aid one another in times of emergency. These agreements include the sharing of resources such as equipment and personnel.

The Canton City Health Department has actively participated in this committee, as well as regional planning organizations. Only with this kind of cooperation can Canton provide rapid response to biological, chemical, nuclear, and natural disasters.

# Protection from Infection

Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus Aureas (MRSA) is a bacterium that usually has been associated with health care institutions such as hospitals and nursing homes. The media in 2007 brought it to the attention of the American public when MRSA emerged as a cause of infection in the community.

The bacterium began causing infections in high school and college athletes, prisoners, and others who may have close living or working environments. Now referred to as Community Acquired MRSA (CA-MRSA), it usually manifests on the skin as pimples, boils, or rashes. If not successfully treated, it has caused death in rare cases.

Factors associated with CA-MRSA include: close skin-to-skin contact, openings in the skin such as cuts and abrasions, contaminated articles.

and surfaces, crowded living conditions and poor hygiene.

In 2007, the Nursing Division received reports and answered questions regarding CA-MRSA. These calls came from schools, correctional facilities, various organizations and individuals.

## MRSA Concerns Our Community

In September, local health departments and hospitals in Stark County provided an educational event, "Community Acquired MRSA". It was well attended by medical and education personnel. Hand hygiene posters were also provided to schools and other facilities.

By increasing awareness, enhancing hygiene, maintaining a clean environment and encouraging early detection and treatment, the spread of CA-MRSA can be limited.

## STD's: Detection, Treatment, Education

STD's (Sexually Transmitted Diseases) have been around since Biblical times. Fortunately, with antibiotic treatment, bacterial STD's can now be controlled.

Viral STD's, however, remain an incurable problem. Prevention remains the best defense against these serious diseases that can cause life-long health problems as well as death.

The Canton City Health Department diagnoses, provides treatment and vaccine, and educates and counsels patients in the STD clinic. All services are confidential and are free of cost. Bacterial STD's such as Gonorrhea, Chlamydia and Syphilis can be treated with antibiotics prescribed by the Health Department's physicians. STD's caused by viruses such as Herpes, HIV/AIDS, Human Papilloma Virus (HPV), and Hepatitis B and C can not be cured. Treatment may lessen symptoms and a vaccine is available for some

of these diseases. However, once infected, patients will carry the contagious virus for life.

STD's have health consequences. They can cause sterility in women. Certain strains of HPV are known factors in cervical cancer. Herpes can cause painful outbreaks of blisters. Syphilis can cause blindness, heart and brain damage, and even death. Tragically, most STD's can be passed to a new born child if the mother harbors the disease while pregnant.

Few STD's have early warning signs. Therefore, testing is vital for those who are sexually active. Early detection and treatment can safe guard against further health damage. Vaccines can also protect against some STD's.

In addition to clinical services, the Health Department provides education about STD prevention to schools and other organizations. Health Fairs also provide outreach opportunities to the community.

### STD Numbers Nursing Clinic, 2007

STD patient visits.....	1,697
13-15 years old.....	56
16 years old.....	58
17-19 years old.....	268
20-44 years old.....	1,111
45-64 years old.....	202
65+ years old.....	1

# Protecting our Housing Environment

Several divisions of the Canton City Health Department are involved with the quality of housing in the city. While much of public health is busy with the prevention of communicable diseases, the general health of a community is only as good as the environment in which its citizens live. Both State law and local ordinances require public health to provide education and enforcement of the principles of healthy homes.

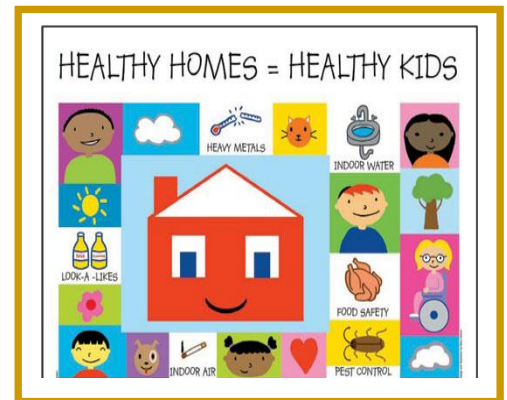


**A resident's back yard that resulted in Board of Health action.**

During 2007, the Registered Sanitarians of the Environmental Division conducted 1,441 nuisance inspections in Canton. These inspections resulted from complaints of residents who do not keep their homes in a healthful condition. These conditions have the potential to spread disease and social decay to other residences and require swift intervention on the part of the Sanitarian. Infestation of roaches and vermin, accumulations of garbage, trash and other debris account for many of the enforcement procedures. Animal waste can create odors, attract insects, and foul the water supply and will result in prosecution if not remedied.

48 homes were inspected for lead contamination resulting in children showing high blood lead levels. The Sanitarian assists the resident to locate the source of lead in the home. The Board of Health can place orders on the home owner to abate this serious health threat. Rental property can not legally be rented to families of children if a known lead hazard exists. To do so can result in the prosecution of the landlord.

The Air Pollution Control Division (APC) also protects the housing in Canton by striving to keep industrial and residential pollution within legal limits. Asthma and heart and lung disease are all aggravated by air pollution as well as pollens created by plant life. Not only are these levels constantly monitored by this division, violators face enforcement actions such as consent orders and fines. Also, Ohio EPA regulations specify that the open burning of trash or vegetation is illegal. With more stringent EPA regulations placed upon communities, the APC division will remain vigilant in its permitting, investigation, and enforcement duties.



255 Canton residents suffered animal bites severe enough to require medical attention. Registered Sanitarians investigate each reported case to determine if a cat or dog responsible for a bite has been vaccinated for rabies, as is the law in Stark County. The animal is placed under a ten day minimum quarantine and then to be seen by a veterinarian. If unvaccinated, the pet must be vaccinated after the quarantine period or the owner faces prosecution. In the case of a wild, feral, or exotic animal, the quarantine and vaccination procedure, if possible, varies by species. Some animals must be sacrificed to determine rabies infection if no licensed vaccine exists or ownership can not be determined.

The majority of residents in Canton cooperate fully with the housing standards created by public health. The Health Department works with other city agencies such as the Building and Code Departments and Community Development to protect neighborhood health and value. For those who do not comply with city codes, the Canton City Health Department is capable of working with those residents to see that healthy environments remain a priority in the community.

Canton City Health Department  
420 Market Avenue, North  
Canton, Ohio 44702

Return Service Requested



2006 Board of Health Members  
(front) S. Hickman, DVM; B. Jenkins, PE  
(rear) F. Whittier, MD; M. Fiorentino, MD; E. Schott  
(not pictured) Mayor Janet Weir Creighton

Visit us on the Web at  
[www.cantonhealth.org](http://www.cantonhealth.org)

For information on services,  
send an e-mail to:  
[info@cantonhealth.org](mailto:info@cantonhealth.org)

## 2007 Board of Health and Personnel

### CANTON CITY BOARD OF HEALTH

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Bernard Jenkins, P.E., President Pro Tempore  
Stephen Hickman, D.V.M., Vice President  
Ernest O. Schott  
M. Fiorentino, M.D.  
Frederick C. Whittier, M.D.

### CANTON CITY HEALTH DEPARTMENT ADMINISTRATION

330-489-3231

Robert Pattison, MPA, Health Commissioner  
Eng S. Chong, M.D., PT Medical Director  
Michael Gregorek, M.D., PT Clinic Physician

### AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DIVISION

330-489-3385

Dan Aleman, P.E., M.B.A., APC Administrator  
Tom Schwartz, PhD, APC Chemist  
Gregory Clark, B.S., M.B.A., Engineer  
Bud Keim, O.R., M.S., Engineer  
Pat Petrella, P.E., M.S., Engineer  
Edward Pabin, B.S., Engineer  
Patrick Shriver, B.S., APC Engineering Technician  
Angela Glosser, B.S., Engineer  
David Augenstein, M.S., P.E. Engineer  
Denny Tan, B.A., Staff Field Inspector II  
Sherry Hustus, B.S., Public Health Clerk

### ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DIVISION

330-489-3327

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Will Holden, R.S., B.A., Staff Sanitarian III  
Rick Miller, R.S., B.S., Staff Sanitarian III  
Karen Myers, R.S., B.S., Staff Sanitarian III  
Kim Campbell, R.S., B.A., Staff Sanitarian II  
Ron Crabtree, R.S., B.A., Staff Sanitarian II  
Gus E. Dria, R.S., B.S., Staff Sanitarian II  
Brian Gero, R.S., B.S., Staff Sanitarian II  
Maria Muhleman, R.S., B.S., Staff Sanitarian II  
Jack Wade, R.S., B.A., Staff Sanitarian II  
Mary Merry, Public Health Clerk  
Connie Ash, P.T. Public Health Clerk

### LABORATORY DIVISION

330-489-3231

Jim Ames, B.S., Bacteriologist  
Carol Burger, C.M.A., Lab Technician  
Heather MacDonald, M.L.T., Lab Technician

### NURSING DIVISION

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Rose Ann Warth, R.N., Director of Nursing  
Janet Copeland, R.N., PT Staff Nurse  
Lynn Fernandez, R.N., Staff Nurse  
Dana Hale, R.N., Staff Nurse  
Donna James, R.N., Staff Nurse  
Frank Catrone, R.N., Staff Nurse  
Molly Malloy, R.N., Staff Nurse  
Marsha Miller, R.N., PT Staff Nurse  
Desiree Boldi, R.N. Staff Nurse  
Kelly Flamos, HIV Outreach Coordinator

Diane Thompson, R.N., Staff Nurse  
Linda Brooks, Public Health Clerk  
Connie Standard, Public Health Clerk

### OFFICE OF PUBLIC HEALTH INFORMATION

330-489-3327

Kathy Paris, B.A., Health Educator/Public  
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Christina Henning, R.S., B.S., Epidemiologist  
Kelli Trenger, M.B.A., HAN Coordinator

### VITAL STATISTICS DIVISION

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Joni Shaffer, Administrative Assistant &  
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Cindy Wilson, Deputy Registrar  
Debbie Mazzocca, Public Health Clerk  
Diana McCallum, Public Health Clerk  
Patty McConnell, B.S., SIT, Public Health Clerk

### W.I.C. DIVISION

330-489-3326

LaVerne Gillis, R.D., M.S., Community Dietitian  
& WIC Supervisor  
Janet Frank, R.D., B.A., W.I.C. Dietitian  
Laura Jewett, R.D., B.S., W.I.C. Dietitian  
Sue Parr, L.P.N., W.I.C. Clinic Assistant  
Carol Frient, IBCLC, PT W.I.C. Clinic Assistant,  
Breastfeeding Coordinator  
Cheryl Bradley, Public Health Clerk  
Kathy Murphy, Public Health Clerk  
Karen Moulin, PT Public Health Clerk