



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

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# Canton City Health Department 2015 Annual Report

## Health Commissioner James M. Adams, RS, MPH

It is with great pride that I present this 2015 Annual Report of the Canton City Health Department. The activities in this report represents the hard work of the department to improve the health of our community every day. Each day, over 60 employees of the health department work to touch the lives of those that live and work in our community. Their hard work and dedication results in better health for all of us.



Our department is continuing on our path for public health accreditation. We have been working hard the last year to be accountable to the community for which we serve. We are dedicated to the continuous improvement of our services. We are working to develop plans, programs, and services that make a real difference in our lives. We are planning on submitting our application for accreditation to the Public Health Accreditation Board in 2016.

We continue to make great strides in our efforts to reduce infant mortality in our community. Stark County THRIVE is nearing the end of a three-year partnership with the Ohio Department of Health and the Ohio Equity Institute (OEI) project. We will be continuing our efforts to reduce infant mortality and our disparity in birth outcomes with new partnerships and new funding in 2016. We will dedicate additional staff and resources to combat this blight on the health of our babies.

Each statistic in this report represents an event that occurred in our community. They are not just numbers, they tell a story. A story of people who live and work in our community. A story of families who strive to make this a better place. I am honored to be part of an organization and a staff that works with the community to accomplish the goal of better health for all in Canton.



# Finance

## Christi Allen, Fiscal Officer

As the Canton City Health Department's Fiscal Officer, it is my responsibility to monitor revenues and expenditures. 79% of the revenues we received during 2015 were State and/or Federal dollars. Part of my job is to ensure we follow State and Federal laws closely in accordance with the funding we receive to ensure that the funds are spent in accordance with the applicable laws and guidelines. Based on this percentage, it is clear that State and Federal funding is pertinent to our operations. Without it, we would not be able to offer the outstanding services we currently provide.

Per the table shown here, overall revenues increased approximately \$88K from 2014. Please note that we do have receivables at the end of the year for our grants, so some variances in the revenues are attributable to the timing of when the revenue is received when compared to prior years. The remaining increase reflects an increase in fees collected for services provided to the community.

Expenditures decreased approximately \$38k from 2014. This is primarily due to professional services contracts for a Department combination study, our Infant Mortality program, our Medical Directors contract and the purchase of an Electronic Medical Records System which were all new ventures in our department in 2014.

As we face tougher budgeting challenges year to year, the Health Department is ever committed to serving the public and providing the services our Community needs and relies on. If you have any questions regarding the Fiscal Activities of the Canton Health Department please feel free to contact Christi Allen, 330-438-4675, callen@cantonhealth.org.

Revenues	2015	2014
<b>Local Sources:</b>		
Permits & Fees	\$673,347	\$745,902
Nursing Clinic Fees	159,096	180,618
Other	41,734	7,694
Advances/Transfer In	0	0
<b>State Sources:</b>		
State Subsidy	13,674	20,923
Grants	2,973,585	2,897,680
Other	107,587	0
<b>Federal Sources:</b>		
Contracts	207,548	235,899
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$4,176,571</b>	<b>\$4,088,716</b>

Expenditures	2015	2014
Salaries	\$2,917,894	\$2,908,510
Benefits	1,312,071	1,178,554
Purchased Services	275,763	296,035
Program Contracts	864,152	930,544
Supplies	165,635	326,223
Equipment	67,408	99,379
State Remittances	285,857	274,771
Other	77,369	17,373
Advances/Transfers Out	61,960	0
Prior year commitments pd	177,510	212,214
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$6,205,619</b>	<b>\$6,243,603</b>

Of the total expenses for 2015, the City of Canton provided \$2,448,721 from its tax base



# Medical Director Anju G. Mader, MD



As we look back at our accomplishments for 2015, we have completed our second year utilizing an electronic health record in our various clinics. While the first year allowed our staff to become familiar with the various functions of the system, the second year has granted our patients the ability to access their own health records at any time through the "patient portal" using individual and unique access codes.

With this capability, patients are able to review their visit, as well as their lab results. In addition, they can electronically communicate with our clinicians in regards to any questions they may have. This tool allows our patients to feel empowered to be the core of their healthcare team. At this time, we have approximately 38% of our patients utilizing this function. As our patients continue to see the advantage of this transparent relationship between the clinicians and patients, we hope to see an increased use of the patient portal in 2016.

## Vital Statistics

Vital Statistics now has a publicly available and searchable index of birth and death records for vital events in the State of Ohio. Birth record searches are available back to 1908 and death record searches are available back to 1954. This electronic index kiosk project has modernized index access by allowing the customer to complete their own searches eliminating extra work associated with outdated indexes by updating in real time, becoming compliant with the law by maintaining accurate information and removing the risk of giving out sealed information from the index. Customers searching for records will be able to locate those records faster than with previous methods.

Certified copies of a birth or death records can be purchased for a fee of \$25.00. Of this total fee, only \$11.64 is retained by our local health department while the remaining \$13.36 is distributed back to the State. We also conveniently offer online ordering and phone ordering, which is a luxury other area health departments do not offer. Orders only take 3 to 5 business days to be delivered once the order has been placed.



Certificates Issued in 2015	
Birth	9,414
Death	6,653

2015 Leading Causes of Death in Canton			
Heart Disease	515	Emphysema	8
Cancer (All Types)	241	Diabetes	20
Flu/Pneumonia	120	Drug Related	50
Stroke	110	All Other Causes	691

2015 Vital Statistics		
	Canton Residents	*Total
Deaths	670	1,755
Births	852	4,145
- Unmarried Parents (At the time of birth)	825	1,751
- Teen Births (13 - 19)	130	273
<b>*Total: This represents all births and deaths occurring within the City of Canton.</b>		



# Air Pollution Control

## Terri Dzienis; Administrator

The Air Pollution Control Division (APCD) operates an ambient air monitoring network for all of Stark County as contracted by Ohio EPA. The purpose of ambient air monitoring is to measure the air quality in Stark County for comparison to health-based National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) established by U.S. EPA for selected air pollutants. U.S. EPA regularly reviews and revises the NAAQS based on new public health research and data typically resulting in lowered standards.

On October 1, 2015, U.S. EPA lowered the NAAQS for the pollutant ozone from 75 parts per billion (ppb) to 70 ppb. This change was based on scientific evidence about ozone's effects on public health and welfare. The lower standard will improve public health protection, particularly for at-risk groups including children, older adults, people of all ages who have lung

diseases (such as asthma) and people who are active outdoors (especially outdoor workers). They also will improve the health of trees, plants and ecosystems.

The Air Quality Index (AQI) for ozone was also adjusted to reflect this new NAAQS value. The AQI is U.S. EPA's color-coded tool for telling the public how clean or polluted the air is, and recommended steps people can take to reduce their daily exposure to pollution. The AQI is used by cities and states across the country, including Ohio, to report current and daily ozone concentrations. APCD measures the concentration of ozone in the air continuously, and reports the AQI to the public on the website [www.cantonhealth.org](http://www.cantonhealth.org). Below is a table showing the updates to the AQI color codes for the new NAAQS.

Complaints Investigated	266
Asbestos Inspections	51
Facility Inspections	95
Performance Tests Observed	17
Anti-tampering Inspections	4
Open Burning Permissions	18
Enforcement Actions	199
Permits Issued Final	86



AQI Category	Index Value	Previous NAAQS (75 ppb) concentration range	New NAAQS (70 ppb) concentration range
Good	0 – 50	0 – 59	0 – 54
Moderate	51 – 100	60 – 75	55 – 70
Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups	101 – 150	76 – 95	71 – 85
Unhealthy	151 – 200	96 – 115	86 – 105
Very Unhealthy	201 – 300	116 – 374	106 – 200
Hazardous	301 - 500	375 - 600	201 - 600

As shown in the table, the “unhealthy for sensitive groups” category is triggered at lower ozone concentration than previous years. It is anticipated that the 2016 ozone season (April – October) will have more days at that category level or higher than experienced in previous years. When the AQI is in any of the unhealthy categories, APCD ensures the public is informed by posting on the CCHD website, CCHD Facebook, Twitter or with a press release.

# Environmental Health

**Mark H. Adams, RS, MPH; Director of Environmental Health**

The Division of Environmental Health's main function is to improve the quality of life and ensure a safe living environment for those that live, visit or work within Canton.

In 2015, we ended our collaboration with the municipal sanitation department. The 2 year management agreement expired and the department was left well on its way to building a new building and other future growth activities. During this time, both departments shared resources including personnel and equipment, saw a huge increase in morale and a reduction in injuries, and found that many problem areas in the city were now cleaner. It was a win/win for everyone and highlighted only the best of collaborative projects.

The Environmental Health Division is divided into three main sections: Consumer Services, Community Services and Special Services. The Community Services section logged 7001 activities. This division was also responsible for nearly 200 site cleanups and placing over \$20,000 on the tax bills of delinquent property owners.

Consumer Services section is responsible for the inspection of food establishments, vending machines, temporary event food service inspections and public swimming pools. In 2015, employees in this division logged 2,019 activities at 1,698 establishments, vending locations, temporary events and/or part-time food service facilities.

The Special Services section works with the more complex aspects of environmental health. This section licenses and inspects waste transfer stations, composting facilities, small and large infectious waste generators and tattoo parlors. This section is also responsible for the enforcement of indoor air policies such as the workplace smoke-free act. Our personnel are among the few in the region that can perform lead testing as well as indoor air quality sampling.

## 2015 EH Activities

Animal Bites	299
Food Protection Activities	2,019
Nuisance Complaint Investigations	1,884
Pool and Spa Inspections	56
School Inspections	46
Solid/Infectious Waste Activities	66
Tattoo/Body Piercing Inspections	15



# Laboratory

## Christina Henning, Laboratory Director

2015 Laboratory Exams	
Food Samples	336
Clinical Tests	6,433
Miscellaneous	138
Water	1,896

In 2015 the Canton City Health Department Laboratory (CCHDL) lost a loved and valued member from its ranks; entered into the twentieth century of electronic reporting and brought back blood lead testing.

Jim Ames, former Laboratory Director, passed away early in 2015 after sharing 35 years with our department and the greater Canton Community. His leadership, knowledge, compassion and love of life will forever be remembered.

2015 brought a new method of reporting for clinical laboratory results. The new method is an internet based electronic system which provides easy viewing from internet ready devices by clients and their treating team. This process, referred to as Electronic Laboratory Reporting (ELR) continued to improve as existing policies were updated and employees' proficiency improved throughout the year.

Midyear the method to become licensed in the State of Ohio to perform blood lead testing was undertaken. The process was completed by November, thus licensing the Canton City Health Department to once again have the ability to offer blood lead testing.

During the changes in 2015 we continued our standard testing operations completing 6,433 clinical tests, 1,896 water examinations and assessment of 336 food samples. In addition, we conducted 138 other miscellaneous exams (pollen counts, environmental complaints, nuisance investigations) to round out an active year.



# Nursing

**Anju G. Mader, MD; Medical Director**  
**Diane Thompson, RN, MSN; Director of Nursing**

Public Health Nurses fulfill a unique role in promoting a healthy community. They investigate disease outbreaks that affect the health of our communities. In 2015, 1,747 disease investigations were conducted by Canton City Public Health Nurses. Of those, 1,121 were for sexually transmitted infections with Chlamydia being the top reportable communicable disease in the City of Canton (808)! With Chlamydia rates rising, "Get Yourself Tested" messages continue to be promoted throughout the services offered by the health department. In 2015, over 1,203 individuals received services through our sexually transmitted infection (STI) clinic where we are able to raise awareness to individuals. An additional 91 individuals received this messaging in our HIV testing clinics.

Canton City's Public Health Nursing staff also participated in 35 separate health promotion events reaching over 2,000 additional individuals. Good sexual health is everyone's responsibility and knowing your sexual health status not only keeps you safe but keeps your partner safe too!!

2015 Nursing Outreach	
Communicable Disease	4
Disease Intervention Specialist	89
Other Outreach Services	131
2015 Clinic Services	
STI Clinic	1,203
International Travel	250
Tuberculosis Testing	242
Well-Baby Immunizations	581
HIV Testing	91



## Office of Public Health Information

The Office of Public Health Information (OPHI) works with other divisions, agencies and the public to increase emergency preparedness and awareness of public health activities. In everyday activities, as well as emergency situations, strong communication is the key to an effective response. Communication avenues used to keep our community and partners up to date on important issues are our website ([www.cantonhealth.org](http://www.cantonhealth.org)), Health Alert Network (HAN) messages and social media. Social media provides the opportunity to provide real time information and has proven effective as an outreach tool. Facebook and Twitter are used on a daily basis and continue to be an excellent means of providing followers with educational information, programs offered by the health department and community activities. We have over 1,390 followers and our audience continues to grow. #cantonhealth

A branch of OPHI includes the public health discipline epidemiology. Epidemiologists study public health problems such as unintentional injuries, communicable disease, environmental exposures, cardiovascular disease, obesity, tobacco use and other health-related issues that affect our community. Epidemiologists may prepare reports and presentations to assist with programmatic planning efforts and to display data in an understandable format. Our epidemiologist focuses on disease surveillance to identify, investigate and prevent outbreaks in our community. In 2015, 1,502 individual reportable disease cases were investigated by the communicable disease staff. The epidemiologist investigated only one norovirus outbreak in 2015.

Of the mandated reportable disease cases investigated by Canton City, significant increases from 2014 to 2015 were seen for E. Coli, Legionellosis and Salmonellosis. Although the caseload for 2015 was higher, this did not represent a significant increase in the number of cases received by the health department.



2015 Case Count of Select Reportable Diseases	
Campylobacteriosis	17
Chlamydia infection	819
Cryptosporidiosis	1
E. coli, Shiga Toxin-Producing	4
Giardiasis	10
Gonococcal infection	358
Haemophilus influenzae (invasive disease)	3
Hemolytic uremic syndrome (HUS)	0
Hepatitis A	2
Hepatitis B - Perinatal infection	1
Hepatitis B - acute	3
Hepatitis B - chronic	11
Hepatitis C - acute	2
Hepatitis C - chronic	126
Influenza-associated hospitalization	75
Legionellosis - Legionnaire's Disease	4
Lyme Disease	2
Meningitis - aseptic/viral	9
Meningitis - bacterial (Not N. meningitidis)	0
Mumps	1
Mycobacterial disease - other than tuberculosis	2
Pertussis	9
Salmonellosis	15
Shigellosis	5
Streptococcal - Group A -invasive	2
Streptococcal toxic shock syndrome (STSS)	1
Streptococcus pneumoniae - invasive antibiotic resistance unknown/non-resistant	8
Streptococcus pneumoniae - invasive antibiotic resistant/intermediate	3
Syphilis - any stage	4
Tuberculosis	1
Varicella	2
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1502</b>



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The Canton City Health Department is proud to present our annual report for 2015. This report represents a brief summary of the activities of an amazing group of public health professionals. Health Department staff are working to improve our neighborhoods, protect our food, monitor the air we breathe, follow up on a contagious disease, track vital records, work with new moms to provide better nutrition for their babies and provide immunizations.

## Women, Infants & Children (WIC) Laura Roach, RD, LD; WIC Director

2015 can be described as a year of change for the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Program. Across the State of Ohio, local WIC clinics converted to Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) cards instead of paper vouchers for eligible individuals. These cards now hold the WIC supplemental food balance for program participants based on their nutrition assessment and dietary needs. EBT cards not only provide more efficient shopping experiences but they also allow for expedited payment to WIC Vendors. The Stark County WIC Project rolled out this upgraded service in August 2015 right on the heels of a significant customer service change at the Canton City location.

2015 Monthly Average Program Participants	
Canton City WIC	2,579
Total Stark County WIC	7,012

In April 2015, Canton City WIC began to offer “walk-in” clinic days as an option for service. In the past, appointments were needed to apply for the program. By offering both “walk-in” and “appointment-only” clinic days, individuals have more opportunity to tailor WIC visits to their needs. This new option has been a great success, especially in helping those that may need to cancel their appointment at the last minute, perhaps due to a sick child or modified work schedule. To date, the Canton City office offers “walk-in” clinics every Monday and Wednesday between 8:00 am and 2:30pm.

Both of these 2015 changes were aimed at increasing the number of individuals receiving WIC Services. WIC not only improves pregnancy outcomes by providing referrals to necessary health and social service agencies, but it also reduces infant mortality by decreasing the number of babies born at a low birth weight. WIC’s nutrition assessment and education, along with its breastfeeding support, provide infants and children with a healthy start in life. Because these benefits are so vital to our community’s well-being, be assured that the efforts of the Canton City WIC Staff will continue as we strive to reach and provide services to all eligible individuals.