

Health Department



Prevent, Promote and Protect



Dr. Stephen D. Mills

Three simple words *Prevent, Promote and Protect* describe the core principles of what Public Health is all about. Thanks to the Board of Health for their guidance as we continue to offer what we feel is superior Public Health to our City.

I would like to spotlight our terrific staff, for their tireless work ethic, and devotion to this field of Public Health. Our Leaders have done a wonderful job of hiring new energetic professional employees, creating, in my opinion our best Public Health team ever. It is my hope that we all continue to push our staff to develop to their potential. It has been an honor to work with so many talented, dedicated people and I thank them for their service. -Dr. Stephen Mills, City Health Commissioner



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

As established by Ohio law, the five member Board of Health is our policy making body with authority to adopt regulations and establish programs to promote public health in Findlay. The Board meets monthly at 7:30 a.m. on the third Wednesday of each month. Health Board meetings are open to the public.

The journey to a single combined health district for all of Hancock County was once again on track in 2014. Both Findlay City and Hancock County officials agreed to hire the Hospital Council of Northwest Ohio to serve as consultants to facilitate the planning process. Faced with the task of developing an implementation plan utilizing the guidance, input and ultimate approval of a specially selected committee, the consultants held meetings throughout the latter half of the year.

The final *Hancock County Public Health Implementation Plan* was released in December and included, among others, recommendations on mission statement, board appointment, naming, and funding. Under the recommendations of the plan long term funding will be based on population with the City of Findlay providing 57.5% of the cost and Hancock County villages and townships providing 42.5%. The implementation plan also recommended a timeline that would allow a new board of health to be formed and a full time health commissioner to be put in place 6 to 9 months prior to the new district becoming fully operational. This would allow transition time to consolidate staff and services into the newly formed district.

As of the end of 2014 the specific contract was still being ironed out but is likely to be voted on by both the Findlay City Council and the Hancock District Advisory Council early in 2015. If this is completed it is likely the newly formed Hancock County Public Health will become fully operational on January 1, 2016.



Contact us at:

Main Office telephone..... 419-424-7105
 Vital Statistics419-424-7106
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 Clinic / Immunizations419-424-7441
 Environmental Health419-424-7188
 Plumbing office 419-424-7420

Email us at: health@findlayohio.com

Web address: www.findlayohio.com

Office Hours: Monday thru Friday
 8:00 am - 5:00 pm

Mission Statement:

To improve individual and community health through comprehensive programs and activities which monitor, prevent, and track disease and injury, promote healthy lifestyles, and reduce environmental risks for people of all ages who visit, live or work in Findlay.



Findlay City Health Department
 Serving our community at:
 1644 Tiffin Avenue, Findlay OH 45840

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Emergency Response / Epidemiology

Chad Masters, R.S.

Plumbing Division

Eric D. Helms, Inspector
 Roxane Shaath, Admin. Assist.

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The Findlay City Health Department is an equal opportunity employer and provider of services.

**Hancock County
Trauma-Informed
Learning Community**

This year, the Findlay City Health Department, along with numerous other community organizations aided by the ADAMHS Board and the National Council for Behavioral Health, started the journey to making Hancock County a Trauma-Informed Learning Community. Trauma is a near universal experience of individuals with behavioral health problems. Becoming a community full of trauma-informed care organizations is important because according to the 2013 Hancock County Social Needs Assessment, 56% of adults had at least one Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE). This history of trauma and abuse most commonly occurs in childhood. The more ACEs you have, the greater the risk for chronic disease, mental illness, violence and being a victim of violence. People have an ACE score of 0 to 10. Each type of trauma counts as one, no matter how many times it occurs. You can think of an ACE score as a measure for childhood trauma and indicator for future health. For example, people with an ACE score of 4 are twice as likely to be smokers and seven times more likely to be alcoholic. Having an ACE score of 4 increases the risk of emphysema or chronic bronchitis by nearly 400 percent, and suicide by 1200 percent. People with high ACE scores are more likely to be violent, to have more marriages, more broken bones, more drug prescriptions, more depression, and more autoimmune diseases. People with an ACE score of 6 or higher are at risk of their lifespan being shortened by 20 years. ACEs are responsible for a big chunk of workplace absenteeism, and for costs in health care, emergency response, mental health and criminal justice. So, the fifth finding from the ACE Study is that childhood adversity contributes to most of our major chronic health, mental health, economic health and social health issues.



Healthy Ohio Award: Findlay Earns Silver Award on October 24, 2014 Community Health Educator Noah Stuby traveled to the Ohio Society for Public Health Education Health Educator’s Conference held at Maumee State Park, outside of Toledo to receive a Silver Level Healthy Communities award. Findlay was one of only 7 communities to meet the silver level standard.

Healthy Ohio-Healthy Community awards are presented by the Ohio Department of Health in recognition of communities’ outstanding achievements in developing and implementing health-related policies, and providing healthy community environments. This award recognizes communities’ efforts in enabling employees, residents and visitors to make healthy choices including participating in physical activity, eating good, nutritious foods and avoiding tobacco.

Healthy Kids Day: In April 2014 we were part of a very successful Healthy Kids Day held at the University of Findlay’s Koehler Center. The event, which was held for the second year, saw over 600 children participate in the event that included a fun run, games and physical activity and healthy snacks. The health department was able to provide health screenings and physician consultations to 120 children.



The positive response from this successful partnership between the University of Findlay College Of Health Professionals, The Findlay YMCA, the Hancock County Medical Reserve Corps, Findlay City Health Department and other community partners has convinced us to repeat the event for hopefully many years to come.



Healthy Kids
Day 2014



Baby & Me Tobacco Free: Baby & Me Tobacco Free is a smoking cessation program created to help reduce the number of pregnant women using tobacco and thereby reducing infant mortality and lowering the risk of low birth weight babies.

Eligible participants are pregnant women who currently smoke or who were a daily smoker at least three months prior to becoming pregnant. There is no age or income eligibility requirements for enrolling in the program. The pregnant woman agrees to take a CO breath test to verify her smoking status at four prenatal cessation sessions and at postpartum visits. The breath test is repeated on a monthly basis after delivery to qualify for diaper vouchers. This program is funded through a Child and Family Health Services Grant from the Ohio Department of Health and is a joint program between the nursing and health education divisions.





← →
*Nutrition
 and
 physical activity
 education to
 2nd & 3rd grade
 students.*
 ← →



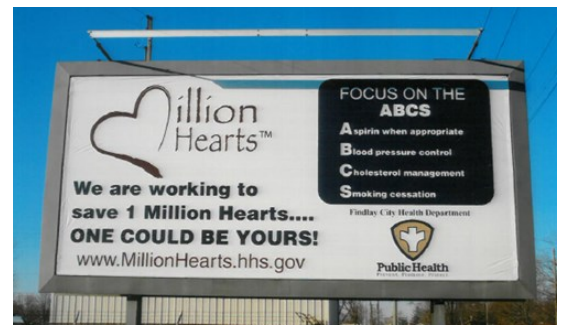
Nutrition Education: We are also working with the schools and the Hancock County O.S.U. Extension to bring nutrition and physical activity education to 2nd and 3rd grade students. Currently, we have been bringing Balance My Day, which is a comprehensive evidence-based nutrition education curriculum to Lincoln, Northview, and Jacobs elementary schools, allowing us to reach over 300 students.

Plans are in place to expand the program in 2015 to 4th and 5th grades at Lincoln, Bigelow Hill, McComb and Cory Rawson schools with introduction of the “Crunch Out Obesity” program, reaching an additional 498 children! Focusing on My Plate, and physical fitness activities during our sessions not only helps to give these students much needed early education about what foods should go into their bodies and how bad foods affect them, but it also provides them with knowledge that they can take forward in an effort to set them on the path to a healthy, and active life.



Getting the word outdid you see these 2014 Findlay billboards ?

With special thanks to our local medical professional sponsors



Heart Health Month February 2014

Dr. Stephen Mills, City Health Commissioner for Public Health Awareness.

New Programs: Coming in 2015



“Crunch Out Obesity”: Findlay City Schools and the Hancock County Education Services Center will be the recipient of a grant from United Way of Hancock County for a pilot nutrition and exercise program. The schools that will participate are Lincoln Elementary, Bigelow Hill, McComb and Cory Rawson. Nutrition education for 498 children. Exercise balls for each child and each school, as well as exercise and nutrition journals for each child. The program will be presented to children in 4th and 5th grades. The Findlay City Health Department, in partnership with OSU Extension, will be responsible for delivering the nutrition education component of the program, along with some addition physical education as well.



Walk with a Doc: According to the American Heart Association, walking has the lowest dropout rate of any physical activity. Think it doesn't do any good? Think again. Walking is low impact; easier on the joints than running. It is safe – with a doctor's okay – for people with orthopedic ailments, heart conditions, and those who are more than 20% overweight. In addition, research has shown that you could gain two hours of life for each hour of regular exercise! That quick stroll around the block seems a little more worthwhile now, doesn't it?

Walk with a Doc is a walking program for everyone interested in taking steps for a healthier lifestyle. What better way to start your weekend than on your feet making strides to help your heart and improving your general health to live longer! While you walk at your own pace, you will have the opportunity to have questions answered by local physicians. You do not need any special gear and there are no special rules. Just put on a pair of comfortable shoes and walk alone, with friends, a partner or family or with a group. It is a personal preference.

Center for Domestic Preparedness: Emergency Response Training in Anniston, Alabama The Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP) provides federally-funded, interdisciplinary training for emergency responders in Mobile Training Teams (MTTs) across the United States and the U.S. Territories, for 10 response disciplines: Emergency Management, Emergency Medical Service, Fire Service, Governmental Administrative, Hazardous Materials, Healthcare, Law Enforcement, Public Health, Public Safety Communications, and Public Works.

Resident training at the CDP’s campus in Anniston, Ala., includes healthcare and Public Health training at the CDP’s Noble Training Facility, the nation’s only hospital facility dedicated to training hospital and healthcare professionals in disaster preparedness and response. A number of resident training courses culminate at the CDP’s Chemical, Ordnance, Biological and Radiological Training Facility (COBRA), the nation’s only facility featuring civilian training exercises in a true toxic environment, using chemical agents. The advanced hands-on training enables responders to effectively prevent, respond to, and recover from real-world incidents involving acts of terrorism and other hazardous materials.

Chad Masters, Epidemiologist and Emergency Response Coordinator, attended the Incident Command: Capabilities, Planning and Response Actions for All Hazards (IC) and the Hands On Training (HOT) courses from February 9 -15, 2014. The IC training allowed him to work with other participants, from various disciplines including fire, police, and public health, to apply the course concepts to a day-long exercise scenario. Chad and his counterparts had to work through a series of events that occurred in a geographic location and coordinated the response to identify the source of contamination, preserve life, and prevent further injuries. Additionally, Chad had the opportunity to go through the process of dressing in different levels of biohazard protection in the HOT course and conducted field testing of the live biological agents anthrax, VX, and ricin. This was Chad’s fourth entry into the chamber and he was recognized at the end of the training. Again, this is only place in the United States where civilians have the opportunity to work in this environment to raise their awareness of what may be encountered in a real-world situation, and it is one of the best.



From L-R: 1) Chad Masters and other participants use various technology and field kits to identify the agent in this “restaurant” scenario at the COBRA facility for the HOT course.
2) Participants work through a scenario as part of the IC course.



Health Department Staff Training

The Health Department was busy in 2014 with in-house staff training to prepare employees for certain emergency situations that may arise:

TB and Blood Borne Pathogen (BBP) Training w/ Fit Testing: Epidemiologist, Chad Masters, conducted the annual TB and BBP training for the department’s nurses. Information was presented from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention regarding disease overviews, risk factors, and ways to keep staff members safe when they are providing public health services.

Additionally, the nurses received fit testing training to be allowed to wear a protective mask when working with people who have or may have a respiratory illness (i.e., TB, influenza, etc.) This has to be done to determine that employees are healthy enough to wear a mask and that the mask fits correctly to ensure they are protected against any potentially harmful agents.

Epi Chad Masters fit tests Missy Jack, RN for her protective mask below.



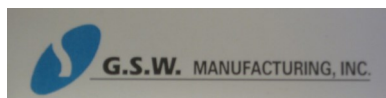
Mass Fatality Training: Employees participated in several trainings in February and March to prepare for the regional exercise that was to focus on mass fatality management and would be held in April. The February session was an opportunity for employees to become reacquainted with and new employees be introduced to the Incident Command System (ICS), which is a standardized form of navigating and managing an emergency event. Chad Masters reviewed the forms with the staff that would need to be completed and the positions that needed to be filled during a response. Then in March, a tabletop exercise was held that presented lead-up information for the regional exercise in April, which would allow employees to begin thinking about who they would need to contact and what resources may be necessary. Finally, in April, the employees were given the rest of the scenario to complete the functional exercise. The functional portion of the exercise required employees to physically call or communicate with partner agencies to test their capabilities in this type of event. Overall, the employees did a good job during the exercise, and we look forward to continual improvement during future trainings.



Fire Extinguisher Training: The Health Department took advantage of the nice weather in September to prepare its staff for fire emergencies by having extinguisher training offered by Findlay Fire Inspector Eric Habegger. Many of the employees had never used an extinguisher before, and the point of the training was to make them feel more comfortable by using one on an actual fire. Each employee had the opportunity to put out the fire and build confidence in their abilities if they ever have to do it in real life. At left: Plumbing Inspector, Eric Helms extinguishes the fire.

Health & Safety Presentations for Community Partners and Businesses The Health Department offered trainings to several agencies and businesses in the area to provide their employees with key information to keep them safe on the job:

Mask Fit Testing at Putnam and Hancock County Health Departments: Epidemiologist, Chad Masters, conducted fit testing for each department’s nurses. Putnam County was dealing with a suspected TB case in March and needed to have their nursing personnel, along with their home health nurses, fit tested prior to wearing a protective mask and observing the individual. Putnam County’s trainer was unavailable and Chad agreed to help. Chad also held a fit test training for the Hancock County nurses in August to ensure that they were familiar with wearing the masks.



Blood Borne Pathogen Training at GSW Manufacturing: In July, Chad Masters was asked to offer an in-service to 180 employees on Blood Borne Pathogens along with Norovirus and Influenza prevention. Chad has been doing this training at GSW for the past several years, emphasizing the importance of how to keep the employees safe when handling or cleaning materials/surfaces contaminated

with bodily fluids, such as blood. Additionally, Chad focused on hand hygiene as a means to prevent the spread of common illnesses caused by viruses. This year’s training utilized a system called “Glo Germ” to illustrate how easily germs can be passed from person to person. Chad used the substance on a common surface that employees would touch and then used a black light near their hands to show the presence of “contamination.” It was an effective illustration for them to see the importance of good hand washing.

Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC) - Measles, Mumps, MERS-CoV:

Also in July, Chad Masters conducted an in-service at Blanchard Valley Hospital on the topics of Measles, Mumps, and Middle Eastern Respiratory Syndrome Corona Virus (MERS-CoV) to approximately 20 infection control preventionists from northwest Ohio hospitals and medical offices. Chad highlighted where the diseases originated from, any cases observed in Ohio, and how people and healthcare workers could protect themselves from contracting these diseases. Chad gave an overview of the local response and communication with healthcare providers to prepare them for the possibility of cases in the area. Overall, it was a successful opportunity to discuss these situations with other disease prevention professionals and to be better prepared for future events.



Interim Healthcare Training: Influenza, MRSA, and TB Interim Healthcare is a company that offers in-home health services ranging from basic care to more advanced care with IVs, wound care, and catheter management. This type of care can expose the employees to many opportunistic diseases such as, influenza, methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus (MRSA), and tuberculosis (TB). Chad Masters was requested to hold

a training for the company’s nursing staff in the Findlay office to discuss these diseases, what services Interim Healthcare provides that would pose the most risk for exposure, and how the employees can protect themselves while offering these services. Chad also emphasized the importance of hand washing prior to and upon leaving a client’s home to prevent possible spread of a particular condition (i.e., MRSA) from client to client. The training was well-received and we look forward to working with them on future trainings.

Bridging the Gap Between Epidemiologists and Sanitarians at the Northwest Ohio Environmental Health Association Conference

The Northwest Ohio Environmental Health Association is an organization that hosts a fall and spring conference to offer networking and continuing education opportunities to registered sanitarians to improve their skill sets. The organization recognized a need to have epidemiologists working in tandem with the environmental health professionals, and requested that Chad Masters, and the epidemiologists from Wood and Huron counties, present at the fall conference in October. It was a great opportunity to speak to the sanitarians and let them know that epidemiologists are a resource to them during outbreak investigations and that communication between the two roles is vital to the success of the investigation.



Medical Reserve Corps - Volunteers in Action



The Hancock County Medical Reserve Corps is in its 6th year of serving the community and was one of the units selected to receive a Capacity Building Award of \$3,500 for 2014. This funding was used to further the preparedness of the medical volunteers and the community prior to disasters occurring and to also purchase supplies that would be utilized during a mass clinic or other emergency situation.

We had 7 MRC volunteers assist at “**Healthy Kids Day**” that was held in April at the University of Findlay to expose children to activities that would improve their health. MRC volunteers assessed a child’s blood pressure, pulse, conducted blood glucose/cholesterol tests, calculated BMI - all in an effort to identify those children at risk for diabetes or high cholesterol. Physicians then reviewed their results and educated the children and their parents on what can be done to reduce the likelihood of developing chronic medical issues in the future.

- 155 Immunization Clinics
- 4,976 Vaccines Given
- 2,427 Total Patients
- 1,134 Seasonal Influenza Vaccines
- 49 HIV Tests
- 20 Hepatitis C Screenings (1 referred)
- 362 Communicable Disease Investigations
- 98 Blood Pressure Screenings
- 93 Car Seat Inspections
- 16 Head Lice Screenings
- 44 Baby Buckle Car Seats Distributed
- 201 Tuberculosis Testing (2 referred)



Dr. Mills with new Nurses; Shannon Chamberlin (l) and Sara Heinze (r)

The Nursing Division continued to experience change with the addition of Shannon Chamberlin RN as a new public health nurse whose focus will be expansion of the Help Me Grow Program. Shannon received her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the University of Toledo and previously worked at Blanchard Valley Hospital for the last six years.

In October of 2014 we said goodbye to part time nurse Cassie Van Horn who left the health department for a position with Findlay City Schools. Current nurse Melissa Jack moved from full time to part time to cover Cassie’s vacancy and Sara Heinze RN joined the staff as a full time nurse on November 3, 2014. Sara’s previous experience at Caughman Clinic has enabled her to quickly transition to the immunization and BCMH programs here at the health department. We welcome both Shannon and Sara to the health department team and look forward to working together to improve public health in our community.



Bureau for Children with Medical Handicaps: BCMH links families of children with special health care needs to a network of quality providers and helps families obtain payment for services their children need. In 2014, we provided service to 274 families. This is up from the 264 families served in 2013.

Community Efforts: The nursing division strives to be involved with community events throughout the year. In 2014 they joined forces with the University of Findlay to increase college student vaccine coverage for meningitis. A special event was held at the University on Thursday October 30, 2014 to educate both students and medical providers regarding meningitis and Findlay City nurses were on hand to provide the vaccine. In addition to this event, blood sugar and cholesterol screenings were held at various times during the year including at Healthy Kids Day, at the Findlay Village Mall during Heart Health Month, and at the health department during Diabetes Awareness Month. Safe Kids participated in multiple public events, including Bikes Books and Badges, Bike Rodeo, Car Seat inspection events and monthly Fire Station #4 car seat checks. Health department representatives were also on hand at the Senior Towers health fair, the Hancock County Fair and the first annual Bernard Park Back to School Event.

Communicable Disease: We are still seeing an overall rise in communicable diseases reported to the health department. This resulted in 362 disease investigations in 2014. Hepatitis C continues to rise, with increased numbers in younger populations. We continue to provide education opportunities to the public and health providers. We continue to provide HIV Testing and Hep C screening, although Hepatitis C testing is limited now due to decreased funding.

No Child will be denied vaccines due to inability to pay.

Billing: As a result of the completion of Ohio Department of Health Billable’s project, we are now billing 20 Private and Medicaid providers. This continues to provide an increase in billable and collected revenue. The Findlay City Health Department will continue to supply immunizations for the insured and underinsured. No child will be denied vaccines due to inability to pay.

Help Me Grow: HMG continues to expand with 21 families served in 2014. With this increase in HMG children, we were able to welcome Shannon Chamberlin RN to our office as a new provider. We continue to see great success in this program that empowers parents to be great teachers for their children.



Flu Clinics: We continue to advocate for flu vaccination and flu clinics were provided in multiple areas, private businesses and public and employee events. The Findlay City Health Department provides both inactivated flu vaccine as well as nasal flu mist and carried both high dose and quadrivalent vaccine. During the month of December we saw a significant increase in flu activity as flu cases were widespread across Ohio. Hospitalized flu cases are reportable by law in the State of Ohio and 11 cases were reported in December.



Ohio Department of Health : There have been many changes at ODH in rules and laws regarding storage and handling of vaccine, education requirements and HIPAA compliance requirements and Programs that have required multiple changes in policy and procedure within the Findlay City Health Department.

2014 Births: 1,437

Of these births; 947 were for non-Findlay residents.



Since December 2010, Statewide electronic issuance of birth certificates has made it more convenient for customers to obtain their records.

Issuance of Ohio non-Findlay birth certificates has increased annually:

2014: 618 **2013:** 554 **2012:** 466 **2011:** 295

Vital Statistics	2014	2009	2004
Births In Findlay			
Male	735	584	510
Female	702	578	509
Total Births:	1,437	1,162	1,019
Deaths In Findlay			
Male	313	286	207
Female	349	289	246
Total Deaths:	662	575	453
Certificates Issued			
Birth	2,945	3,238	3,852
Death	2,909	2,667	2,248
Total Issued:	5,854	5,905	6,100

Ohio has open record law: Anyone can come into the health department and purchase a certified copy of anyone's birth or death record by submitting a written request along with the appropriate payment. No identification is required.

Please call the Vital Statistics Division of the Findlay City Health Department at 419-424-7106, if you have any questions regarding birth or death certificates.

Ohio Revised Code states that if a mother is married at the time of conception, at the time of birth, or within 300 days prior to the birth of the child, the child can be given any last name that the mother chooses and her husband is to be listed as the father of the child, regardless of whether he is the biological father or not. Legal documentation such as

a divorce decree which acknowledges the pregnancy, annulment documentation, dissolution or other court order can be presented and referred to the Ohio Department of Health for approval to override the presumption that the husband is the father. Paternity determination (DNA testing, etc.) can be obtained through Hancock County Child Support Enforcement Agency or privately and the results can be presented to the courts to request the removal of the husband's information and adding the biological father's information to the child's birth certificate.

2014 Causes of Death - Findlay

Cardiovascular Disease	174
Cancer	161
Lung/Respiratory Disease	42
Alzheimers/Dementia	71
Pneumonia	20
Renal Disease	39
Cerebral Vascular Disease	32
Cirrhosis	11
Hypertension	1
Diabetes	5
Prematurity	2
Other	71
* Accidental	20
Suicide	6
Homicide	0
Pending	7
TOTAL	662

***Accidental Deaths** can be further broken down to include:

- 5 due to falls
- 5 due to drug overdose
- 5 motor vehicle accident
- 5 other
- 7 cause of death pending

662 Deaths In Findlay in 2014

- 475 Deaths over 70 years of age 71.7%
- 134 Deaths over 90 years of age 20.2%
- 7 Deaths over 100 years of age 1.05%
- 6 Deaths under 20 years of age 0.6%

Prescription and Opiate drug abuse: The Findlay City Health Department continues to be an active partner in Hancock County's continued fight against prescription and opiate drug abuse. Environmental Health Director Craig Niese continues to participate in the twice yearly medication collections that are held at the Municipal Building and Deputy Health Commissioner Barb Wilhelm serves as Co-Chair of the Medical Subcommittee of the Opiate Task Force. The Medical Subcommittee has been specifically focusing on developing an overdose death investigation procedure as well as advancing the use of Naloxone to prevent overdose deaths.



Above; County Prosecutor Mark Miller, Deputy Health Commissioner Barb Wilhelm and University of Findlay Assistant Dean of Pharmacy John Stanovich discuss Hancock County's response to the issue of prescription and opiate abuse on WBGU's Northwest Ohio Journal in November.

Did tobacco use contribute to death	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008
Yes	80	100	75	71	93	103	90
No	409	370	354	259	352	314	301
Unknown	145	140	184	260	109	131	169
Probably	28	20	19	25	39	27	29

Above: Physicians have been required to complete this information on death certificates since 2008 regarding "did tobacco use contribute to death."

Unintentional overdoses within Findlay

- * 5 in 2014
 - * 4 in 2013
 - * 5 in 2012
 - * 8 in 2011
 - * 5 in 2010
- Deaths due to unintentional drug overdose remain a problem for our community

Our Plumbing Office Inspects:

Commercial Plumbing work done in Hancock County.

Plumbing done in the City of Findlay and / or on city water or sewer services.

Hancock



Plumbing Permits Filed for the

City of Findlay	Hancock County
342	2014 5
365	2013 10
354	2012 9
356	2011 6
313	2010 6
263	2009 4

In 2014 there were: - 342 Plumbing permits filed in Findlay or on City water / sewer services with:
 94 commercial, 85 residential & 163 water heater replacement permits.
 - 5 Hancock County commercial plumbing permits filed.

Hancock County Commercial Plumbing Inspections: Our plumbing office inspects commercial plumbing work done in Hancock county in addition to plumbing done in the City of Findlay and/or on city water/ sewer. There were 5 County Commercial permits filed in 2014 each requiring multiple inspections. There are no plumbing inspections for residences beyond Findlay City water /sewer services.

Replacement Hot Water Heater Installation Inspections: Many home owners are still surprised to learn that their replacement water heater will be inspected by our office. The fee for this service is included with the permit filed by the installer. The plumbing inspector visits local retail stores that sell water heaters, checking to see that they are providing homeowners with a water heater permit application upon purchasing a water heater in their store. This is done to help homeowners with questions about installation and to get an inspection upon completion to ensure compliance with State safety codes. These permit forms also list approved installation guidelines. Signs indicating the need for permits and inspections are posted at local stores selling water heaters. Permit forms are also available on our web site at: www.findlayohio.com

Registrations to do Plumbing work in the City of Findlay, Hancock County: Contractors need to register to engage in work on Findlay water and/or sewer and for commercial plumbing within Hancock County requiring permits. The first requirement is to present their Ohio Department of Commerce state license for plumbing or backflow certification and to present insurance coverage for their company. Permits are filed for new construction, remodeling and plumbing alterations before the work is started. Inspections are done by appointment through completion of the job. Depending on the size of the project multiple inspections may be necessary. A new house averages 4 different inspections. In 2014, a 5-story hotel was completed in Findlay with over 50 inspections from start to finish. The final inspection involved 6 visits to complete.

REGISTRATIONS: 2014 Plumbing and Backflow testers

- 86 -Plumbing Contractors registered their companies with 166 journeymen / apprentice.
- 53 -Backflow Companies with State Certification registered.
(of these, 32 companies were also registered plumbing contractors)
- 108 -State certified backflow testers registered to test backflows for Findlay water customers.



Backflow Prevention: This program helps protect the environment and safeguards the potable water system for all the citizens of Findlay. Backflow refers to the unintentional reversal of flow in a potable water system that may result in contamination or pollution to the system. Annual tests are required on any backflow devices on Findlay City water as mandated by the EPA’s Clean Water Act. These devices offer protection against back-siphoning and back-pressure to the city water supply.

Annual Testing: Commercial water accounts and lawn sprinkler accounts all need annual backflow testing. Tests and information letters are mailed out to the water customers and then given 30 days to have these tests completed once a year. To ensure that services are provided by qualified professionals, persons who test or repair backflow prevention assemblies or perform cross connection survey inspections are certified by the Ohio Department of Commerce Division of Industrial Compliance. Certificates are issued only after an applicant has completed the required training course and successfully passed a written examination as well as a practical exam through the State of Ohio.

Cutting Costs for City of Findlay: Eric Helms, Plumbing Inspector is certified as a backflow instructor and as a tester. During 2014 Eric tested over 70 devices, rebuilding 4 of these backflow devices for the City of Findlay at Fire Stations, Water Distribution, Water Treatment Plant, Water Pollution Control, City Parks, The Cube, Street Dept., Airport, Cemetery and the Municipal Building. Spending over 90+ hours through the year to provide this service to other City Departments, saving the City from hiring private contractors to perform these annual backflow tests.



The Plumbing office of the City Health Department: is available for any questions, concerns at telephone: 419.424.7420 or by email at: plumbing@findlayohio.com. Updated copies of permits, our fee schedule, blank backflow test forms and registration forms & information are available on our City website found at: www.findlayohio.com, -select health, -select forms.



Visit the Ohio Department of Commerce web-site to become a State licensed contractor, to confirm a contractor’s status or for further information visit: www.com.ohio.gov or the Ohio Construction Industry Licensing Board by telephone at: 614.644.3493.



Public Swimming Pool Program In 2014, the Environmental Health Division licensed and inspected over 44 public pools and spas in the city limits of Findlay. Locations of these public pools include the City of Findlay Pools at Riverside Park, Findlay YMCA, University of Findlay, and various other hotel and private swimming clubs located around the city.

Environmental health staff conduct regular inspections of these pools to ensure proper water quality and safety standards are being followed by pool operators to ensure that pools are a safe and enjoyable place for city visitors and residents.

Pictured at left; Findlay’s Riverside diving pool summer 2014.

Tattoo & Body Piercing Establishments In the city limits of Findlay, tattoo and body piercing establishments are required to obtain a permit from the health department to conduct tattoo and body piercing services. Along with permitting these operations, Environmental Health staff conduct regular inspections of these establishments to ensure that operators receive proper training and follow approved procedures to eliminate the possibility of individuals contracting blood borne pathogens when visiting these establishments.

Environmental Health for Schools Environmental Health sanitarians conduct bi-annual inspections of all public and private schools located within the city limits of Findlay. Sanitarians work with administrators and maintenance staff to help identify safety hazards inside the school such as chemical storage practices and general classroom hazards and also inspect the outside facilities of schools to identify such things as playground safety issues. Environmental Health staff also conduct regular inspections of food service operations inside the schools and ensure that schools are overall a healthy and safe place for the children of Findlay.

Animal Bites and Rabies Ohio law requires that animal bite reports be made to the Findlay City Health Department for bites occurring within the city limits to determine possible rabies exposure. People can be exposed to rabies when bitten by an infected animal, or less commonly, when the saliva of an infected animal comes in contact with a person’s open wound or mucous membrane. Because of the serious nature of the disease, all reported animal bites are investigated by Environmental Health staff to ensure that individuals bitten do not contract rabies by following up on quarantine orders and verifying proper rabies vaccination for animals.

In 2014, more than 280 public health nuisance complaints within the city limits of Findlay were investigated by the Environmental Health staff.

Public health nuisance investigations are one of the largest programs handled by Environmental Health staff. It is one of the many unfunded, yet mandated programs that sanitarians conduct on a daily basis. Complaints such as housing issues, sewage problems, solid waste nuisances, standing water issues, and insect and rodent problems are reported to the Environmental Health staff on a regular basis. Sanitarians investigate these complaints and ensure they are properly abated to protect the public health of Findlay residents.



Picture above; typical nuisance complaint



Community Outreach In 2014, the Environmental Health Division provided various educational opportunities for the residents of Findlay. At the City Mission, presentations were made by environmental health staff on important public health issues such as proper food safety. Members of the environmental staff continued to participate with the Prescription Drug and Mercury Collections and these collections have provided the public with a safe way to properly dispose of expired medications and mercury. Environmental health staff also continued to perform several poison safety presentations for kids attending Safety Town at Bigelow Hill Elementary to provide kids with a fun and interactive way of learning about poison safety.

Environmental Division Inspection Totals for 2014	
Food Service Operations	509
Retail Food Establishments	153
Vending	33
School inspections	34
Public Pool	84
Public Spa	26
Tattoo & Body Piercing	11
Temporary Camp	5
Jail	1
Total Inspections	856

Retail Tobacco Enforcement

156 compliance checks of tobacco sales to minors were conducted in 2014 and vendors had a failure rate of 3.8%.

Environmental Division Investigations for 2014	
Nuisance	227
Animal Bites	115
Total Investigations	342



2014 HEALTH RECEIPTS

Environmental Health	\$ 107,663.80
Retail Tobacco	5,300.00
Clinic	501,403.62
Plumbing	143,715.00
Vital Statistics	152,526.66
State Subsidies	7,744.53
Capital Improvement	58,750.00
Miscellaneous	4,226.16
Grant reimbursements	<u>113,818.57</u>
Total Receipts	1,095,148.34
Total General Fund	379,011.16
CITY HEALTH DEPT	\$ 1,474,159.50

CITY OF FINDLAY

population: 41,202

**2014 Cost of Public Health
to the City's General Revenue Fund**
\$ 379,011.16

 13 full time employees &
4 part time staff

**Providing Public
Health Services**

 2014 cost = **18 ¢**

per City resident per week

2014 HEALTH EXPENSES

Salaries & Benefits	\$ 967,657.44
State Fees; Vital Statistics	78,521.94
Vaccines / EH chemicals	246,155.55
State Fees; Environ Health	11,853.00
Computer Services	19,335.18
Operating Costs	17,833.28
Miscellaneous, R&M, supplies	16,029.73
Insurance; car, liability	6,888.81
Vaccine supplies	1,177.43
Education Programs	715.05
Personal Development	7,242.09
Capital Improvements: 2 vehicles	44,681.28
Cap Imp funds to return to City	14,068.72
Leases - Land & Bldg	<u>42,000.00</u>
EXPENSES	\$ 1,474,159.50

GRANT ACTIVITIES

2014 Grant/Project Receipts

ODH Public Health Emergency Preparedness Funds: (PHEP)	\$ 95,730.72
Medical Reserve Corps	\$ 3,500.00
Safe Kids	\$ 6,961.00
Health Dept. Merger Project	\$ 20,000.00
ODH Child and Family Health Services Grant	<u>\$ 40,693.38</u>

* Total Grant Receipts: \$166,885.10

2014 Grant/Project Expenses

ODH PHEP	\$ 95,458.65
Medical Reserve Corps	\$ 5,970.60
Safe Kids	\$ 9,254.64
Health Dept. Merger Project	\$ 17,000.00
ODH Child and Family Health Services Grant	<u>\$ 29,821.51</u>

* Total Grant Expense: \$ 157,505.40

*Grant/Project revenue and grant/project expense may not equal as fiscal grant years do not necessarily match calendar year.

ODH PHEP grant funds were used to offset Emergency Planner/Epidemiologist wages, conferences and travel, MARCS Radio service and pager service.

Medical Reserve Corps grant dollars were used to continue development of a volunteer medical corps. Monies were used for educational and office supplies, first aid supplies, training costs, and special event supplies for Healthy Kids Day.

Safe Kids, which is a continuing project with the Findlay City Health Department acting as lead agency, utilized dollars for specific educational activities to promote safety for children, including purchasing infant car seats, bike helmets, and smoke alarms and batteries for Project SAFE through a grant from Hancock Wood Electric. In addition, training was provided for 5 new Child Passenger Safety Technicians.

The ODH Child and Family Health Services Grant was received for the fourth year and this award allowed us to offset the cost of our health educator to expand nutrition and physical activity education in the elementary schools and to work on targeted childhood obesity prevention. In addition the money funded training and startup cost for the new Baby and Me Tobacco Free Smoking Cessation program.

In 2014, Findlay City Council appropriated \$20,000 to be used to hire an outside consulting group to work with a merger committee to devise a Hancock County Public Health Implementation Plan for the purpose of merging the Findlay City Health Department with the Hancock County Health Department. The plan was completed in late 2014 and work continues into 2015 to implement the plan.