

**SENECA COUNTY  
GENERAL HEALTH  
DISTRICT**



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

*2015 Annual  
Report*

“And I believe that the best buy in public health today must be a combination of regular physical exercise and a healthy diet.”

– Julie Bishop





## President's Message

In order for an organization to achieve such long-term success it must create and maintain a healthy workplace environment, this takes a collaborative effort put forth by employees at all levels. The Seneca County General Health District (SCGHD) demonstrates these characteristics.

In addition to the workplace, it's evident that other qualities attributed to successful organizations shine through as well. Examples of leadership, goal sharing, team work and the ability to adapt to opportunities and changes are all commonplace during the monthly SCGHD board meetings.

American entrepreneur Dee Hock once stated; 'An organization, no matter how well designed, is only as good as the people who live and work in it.' I like this quote, it sums up what myself and fellow board members know very well. While structure might be an important aspect of an organization, it's the employees that are behind the success of the SCGHD.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and residents of Seneca County, thank you very much for all of your hard work, diligence and dedication to the health and well being of all citizens.

*-Eric D. Griffin, DC DACNB Board President*



## From the Health Commissioner

The first thing I would like to do in our 2015 Annual Report is to thank the citizens of Seneca County for supporting us by passing our levy in the November 2015 election. My staff and I are truly thankful because without your tax dollars we would not be able to serve you in the way that we want. Those funds will be available for our use starting in 2017.

The support of public health is so important because it promotes and protects the health of people and the communities where they live, where they work, where they go to school and where they spend their leisure time. Those of us who work in public health here in Seneca County try to prevent people from getting sick or injured and promote wellness by encouraging healthy behaviors.

Many things go into the practice of public health from conducting research to educating about health; in the field of public health we work to assure the conditions in which people can be healthy. That can include vaccinating children and adults to prevent the spread of disease, or educating people about the importance of healthy eating and increasing physical activity. Public health includes the inspection of the restaurants and grocery stores in our community to assure the safety of our food supply.

Public health works to track disease outbreaks, prevent injuries and shed light on why some of us are more likely to suffer from poor health than others. The many facets of public health include speaking out for laws that promote smoke-free indoor air and seatbelts; spreading the word about ways to stay healthy; and giving science-based solutions to problems.

Public health saves money, improves our quality of life, helps children thrive and reduces human suffering.

I am proud to be part of the Seneca County General Health District and a resident of Seneca County.

*- Beth Schweitzer MPH MCHES*

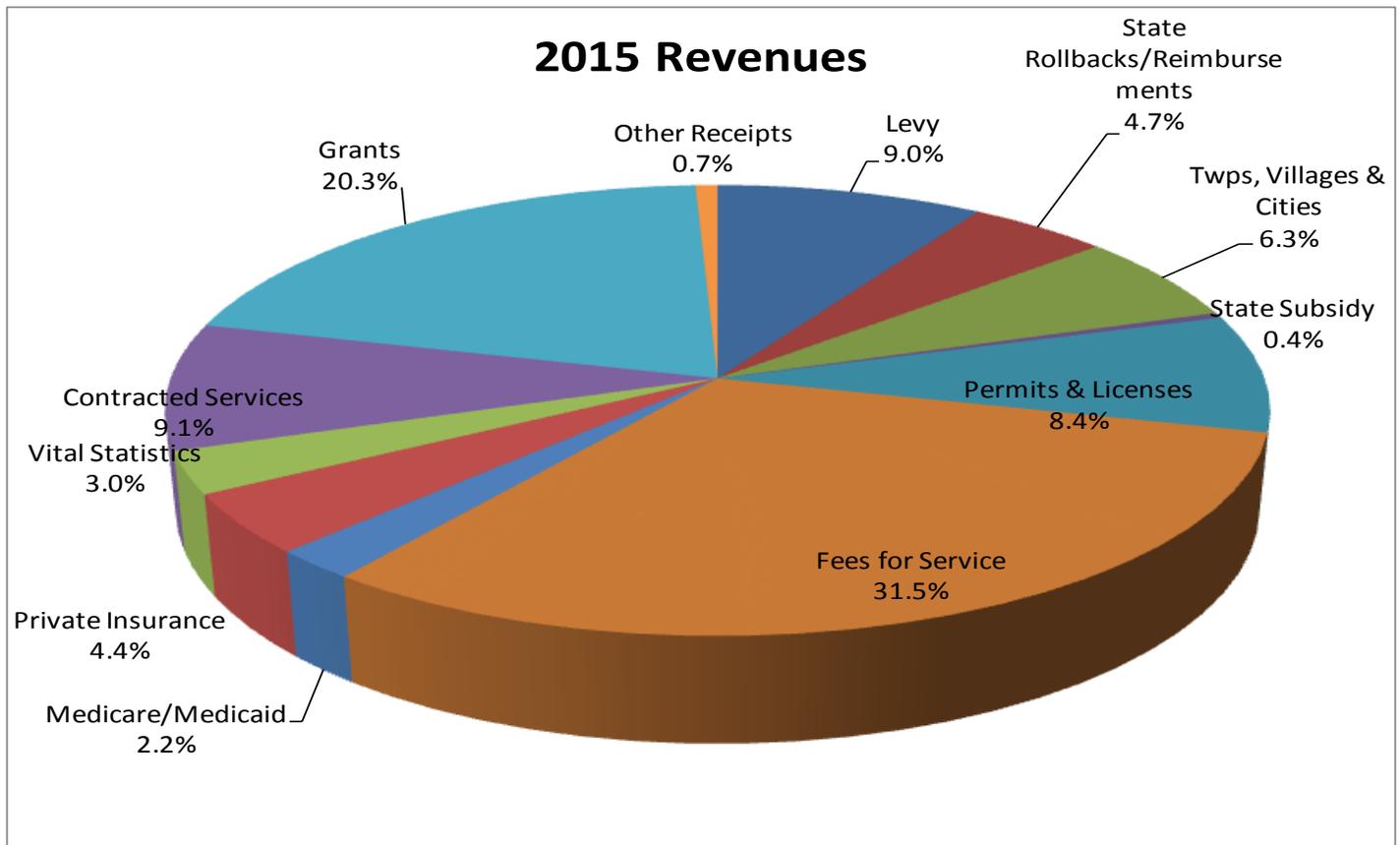




# Fiscal Division

## REVENUES 2015

Levy	\$270,058.68	9.0%
State Rollbacks/Reimb	\$142,785.25	4.7%
Twp, Villages & Cities	\$190,000.00	6.3%
State Subsidy	\$11,509.65	0.4%
Permits & Licenses	\$254,154.01	8.4%
Fees for Service	\$950,957.92	31.5%
Medicare/Medicaid	\$65,380.63	2.2%
Private Ins.	\$131,249.04	4.4%
Vital Statistics	\$91,429.00	3.0%
Contracted Services	\$274,438.69	9.1%
Grants	\$610,984.29	20.3%
Other Receipts	\$22,154.87	0.7%
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$3,015,102.03</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

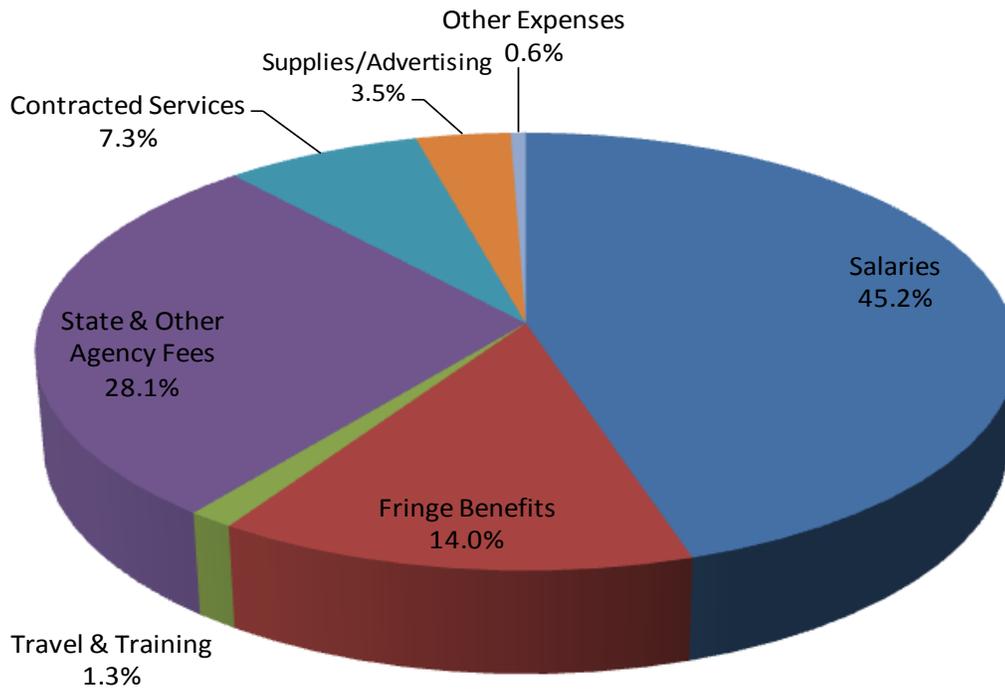


# Fiscal Division

## EXPENSES 2015

Salaries	\$1,221,116.35	45.2%
Fringe Benefits	\$378,638.75	14.0%
Travel & Training	\$36,319.41	1.3%
State/Other Agency Fees	\$759,648.47	28.1%
Contracted Services	\$198,393.99	7.3%
Supplies/Advertising	\$95,538.21	3.5%
Other Expenses	\$15,154.03	0.6%
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$2,704,809.21</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

### 2015 Expenses





## Environmental Health Division

The Environmental Health Division continues to protect Seneca County residents by inspecting restaurants, new well construction, septic systems, swimming pools, campgrounds, tattoo parlors, animal bites, landfills, and nuisance complaints. Please visit the health district website as we are continually making improvements to provide more information and more forms for your convenience.

Radon Testing - The Environmental Health Division has been providing free radon test kits to homeowners of Seneca County for over a decade now. These free test kits are available directly from the manufacturer for use in your home. Radon is a naturally occurring gas that is tasteless, odorless, and colorless. The only way to know if your home contains unhealthy levels of radon gas is to test. Radon gas exposure is the second leading cause of lung cancer after smoking. Please contact us to take advantage of this grant-funded service.

Sewage Rules - 2015 marked the beginning of new sewage rules across the state of Ohio. One big change in the rules is the requirement that counties must have a plan to “phase in operation and maintenance management” for all prior installed systems in the county. The Seneca County General Health District has been tracking operation and management (O&M) of all home sewage treatment systems (HSTS) installed since 2007 (around 400 systems), but now we are expected to track O&M of all 9000+ systems that exist in the county. This is a daunting task! We are attempting to pick up O&M on existing systems by requiring O&M permits on all homes that have a real estate inspection prior to sale or are involved in a lot split. In addition all homes that are at sheriff’s auctions (tax or foreclosure) with an HSTS must be purchase an operation and maintenance permit. In 2015 there were 34 new HSTS installed and an additional 62 existing systems brought in to the O&M program. The Seneca County General Health District currently has grant funding to help homeowners repair or replace their septic systems. For 2015-16 there is \$180,000 available for septic system upgrades and more money should be available for 2016-17. Please contact us if you would like to learn more about the availability of this grant funding.

Mobile Home Parks – Effective December 1, 2012 all manufactured home park operators were licensed through the Ohio Manufactured Homes Commission (rather than through Ohio Department of Health and local health departments). The Ohio Manufactured Homes Commission (OMHC) then contracted with interested health departments to continue doing local mobile home park inspections and offered opportunities to take on additional counties if the local health departments there wished to opt out. In 2015, the Seneca County General Health District continued to do inspections for mobile home parks in Seneca County as well as Findlay City, Hancock County, Sandusky County, and Wood County. A total of 84 mobile home parks were inspected by a Seneca County General Health District sanitarian in 2015.

### 2015 ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH STATISTICS

223	Food Service Operations	4	Resident Camps	10	Service Providers
97	Retail Food Establishments	4	Bathing Beaches	76	Well Permits Issued
45	Mobile Food Establishments	16	School Districts	39	Septic Permits Issued
58	Vending Food Est.	3	Tattoo Establishments	168	Nuisance Complaints Logged In
92	Temporary Foods	11	Scavengers	104	Animal Bites Reported
37	Swimming Pools	1	Water Haulers	2	Jails
5	Recreational Camps	11	Household Septic Sys. Installers		



## Nursing Division

During 2015, the staff of the Community Health Nursing Division of the Seneca County General Health District continued to provide services intended to fulfill core public health functions by emphasizing health promotion and disease prevention and control. Comprehensive health services were provided to individuals, families, and the community-at-large through targeted interventions and programs including child, adolescent, and adult health, communicable disease control and prevention, immunization, and education.

The Bureau for Children with Medical Handicaps (BCMh) program continues to assist families, in our county, with children with special health care needs. Through home visits, phone calls and interactions at clinics, the BCMh nurse assists families in finding providers, obtaining needed services, and answering questions regarding the program. Currently there are 305 children active in Seneca County on the Diagnostic, Treatment, and Service Coordination programs. In 2015, 78 home visits were made, 28 new Treatment cases were added and 77 Diagnostic Letters of Approval were initiated. The Pediatric Cardiology Clinic, which was originally a specialty clinic through The Ohio Department of Health, continued to be held at Tiffin Mercy Hospital. Registered Nurses from the Seneca County General Health District continued to work this clinic, monthly, with Dr. William Suarez, a BCMh provider. Last year 129 children were seen at this clinic. All new patients are offered the BCMh Diagnostic program, which will cover the costs of testing done to determine if a child does have a condition that will require ongoing treatment. Established patients are also offered information on the Treatment program. Beginning April 2016, this clinic will no longer be available. We are hopeful that another clinic site will soon open where children can be evaluated for a possible cardiac condition.

Suffocation is the leading cause of injury-related death for babies before their 1<sup>st</sup> birthday. Babies who sleep on their stomach, with other people, or in an unsafe place (couch, adult bed) are more likely to die from an unexpected, sudden cause. Throughout 2015, the Nursing Division of the Seneca County General Health District continued efforts to increase public awareness and educate families about infant safe sleep practices. This includes working with other community service providers and health professionals to ensure all people are aware and communicating the message to follow the ABC's of Safe Sleep. Babies should sleep Alone, on the Back, and in their own Crib for every sleep. The Nursing Division has also been partnering with the Ohio Department of Health and the nationally known Cribs for Kids organization to provide a portable pack and play to eligible families that did not have a safe place for their baby to sleep. In 2015, 20 babies were sleeping in a safe place due to this program!

Lead testing is offered to Seneca County residents with emphasis on children ages 6 months thru 6 years of age. We provided lead testing to adults working in the field of construction due to state requirements for lead testing when working with lead based paint. The Lead Clinic was held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month in Tiffin. A total of 46 blood lead tests were done in 2015. There should be no traces of lead in a child's blood. Lead case management is provided to children with a lead level of 10 or higher. A home visit is made to obtain information and to educate the family to ensure the child's lead level is decreased. An environmental inspection is completed and the family is given a smoke detector, carbon monoxide detector, and fire extinguisher if needed. Home visits with education on cleaning, home renovation, diet, follow-up blood tests and more to aid in lowering the lead level were provided to those families. A total of 45 contacts were made with these children and families.

Susan G. Komen community grant funding allowed us to provide mobile mammogram events to un/underinsured women 40 years of age and older. We held the screening events on March 11, August 13, and October 21, 2015, and provided 58 women with a mammogram that they otherwise would not have received. We also provided 17 educational programs, reaching 224 women, on Breast Self-Awareness focusing on; knowing your risk, getting screened, knowing what is normal for you, and making healthy lifestyle choices.

The Personal Responsibility Education Program (PREP) seeks to reduce teen pregnancy and sexually transmitted infection rates in Ohio youth ages 14 thru 19 who reside in the foster care and juvenile justice systems. It is a regional Ohio Department of Health grant funded program. Grant funding is awarded to the Summit County Health District and we sub-contract to provide the program in Seneca, Sandusky, Hancock, Wyandot, Erie, Marion, and Crawford counties. We finished the 5<sup>th</sup> year of a 5 year grant cycle in 2015, providing training on the evidence-based "Reducing-the-Risk" curriculum to staff of Juvenile Justice and Foster Care systems in our 7 counties. The trained staff then provides the 16 hour/19 sessions to adolescents in their care. The SCGHD staff co-facilitates a minimum of 8 sessions with newly trained staff and 2 sessions with staff trained prior to August 1, 2015.

Passport, Respite, Personal Care, and Homemaker programs funded by grants and contracts from the Ohio Department





## Nursing Division, Con't.

of Aging and the Allen Eiry Foundation offer services to our senior clients ages 60+. We also provide in home care for persons with Genworth long term care insurance. Our state tested nurse aides provided 2,888 hours of service in our client's homes during 2015.

Senior health check clinics are held once a month at a Tiffin location and once a month at the Fostoria Senior Center. There were also two clinics at the New Riegel American Legion site. The clinics are open to anyone age 60 or older who is a resident of Seneca County or who lives within the city limits of Fostoria. Services may include blood pressure screening, urinalysis, blood sugar testing, weight, hemoglobin check, lung assessments, medication review and overall physical assessment. A client may choose to have any or all of the services. All findings are reviewed with the client and they are encouraged to share the information with their health care provider. In 2015, the clinics provided 230 health checks.

Nursing services were again provided at the Seneca County Juvenile Detention Center. The nurses complete physical assessments, address medical issues, set up medications and offer education. 231 assessments were completed last year. Nursing services were also provided at CROSSWAEH Community Based Correctional Facility. There are approximately 60 men and 36 women housed at CROSSWAEH. Nurses are at the facility 4 days each week and complete initial health assessments, assist the physician with physical assessment and testing, and address medical issues as they arise. In 2015, 225 clients were seen for their initial assessment.

Communicable disease can affect anyone of any age. When a disease is reported to us, the infectious disease nurse begins investigation of the client to determine if the report supports a confirmed diagnosis, evaluation of symptoms, contact information, travel history, food consumption, laboratory testing and results, treatment and follow up care. Each disease has its own criteria for investigation and follow-up. Once information is obtained, it is entered into the Ohio Disease Reporting System. By doing this, the Ohio Department of Health and the CDC can monitor outbreaks and trends, thus warning the public of potential dangers and educating them in measures to reduce disease transmission. In 2015, 376 disease investigations were conducted for bacterial meningitis, campylobacter, chlamydia, giardiasis, gonorrhea, hepatitis B, hepatitis C, influenza associated hospitalization, Lyme disease, mumps, pertussis, salmonellosis, varicella and viral meningitis. There were no cases of Tuberculosis in Seneca County in 2015, but immigrant cases were investigated. 300 TB skin tests were performed with only 5 being a positive test requiring a chest x-ray and follow-up.

School nurses provide services at Bridges Academy, St. Wendelin, Bettsville/Old Fort, Hopewell-Loudon, Mohawk, and New Riegel school districts. Vision, hearing, and scoliosis screenings are done, immunization compliance checks are completed, and health care plans are written for children with medical conditions. The nurses attend kindergarten screenings and meet with parents to discuss the incoming student's health and any health related concerns. During 2015, 91 health education programs were presented to classrooms and staff and approximately 4,386 student contacts were made.

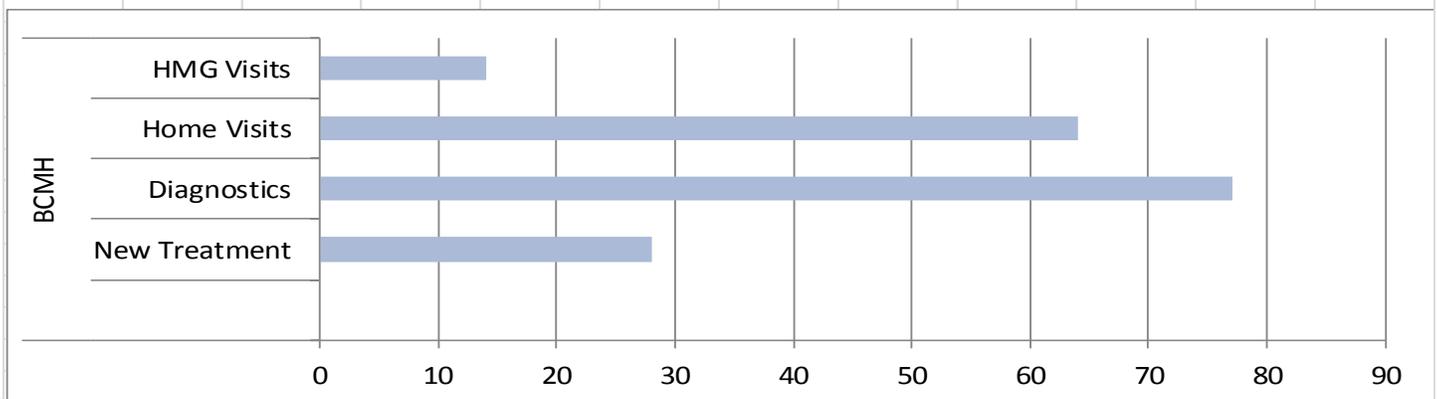
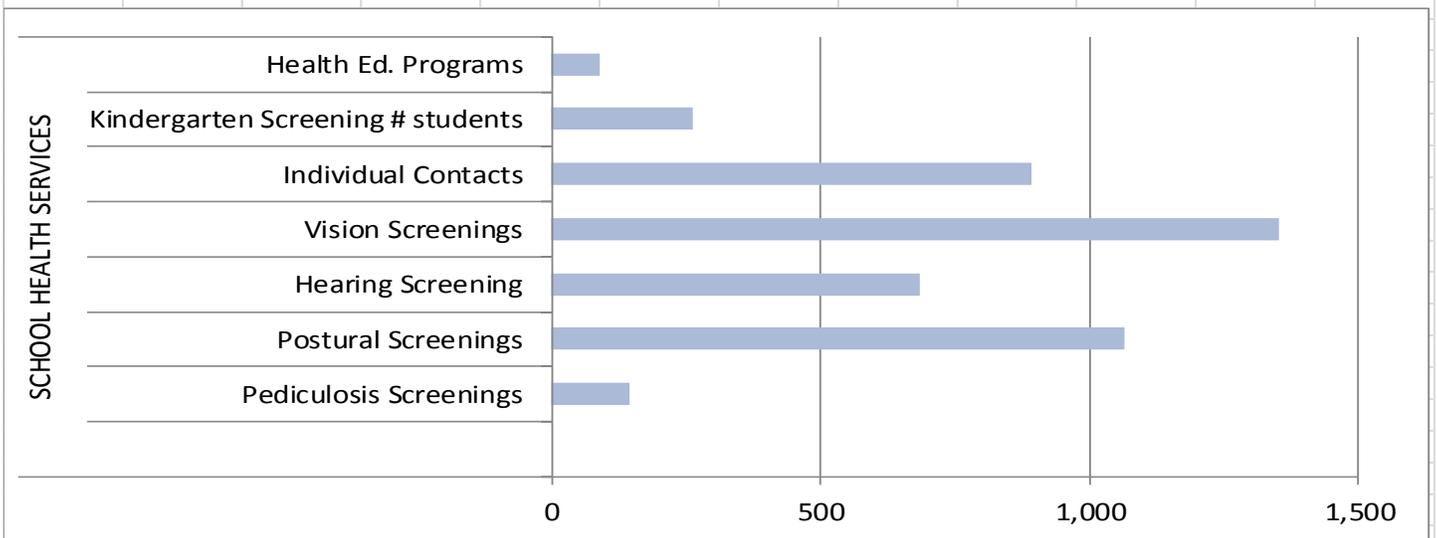
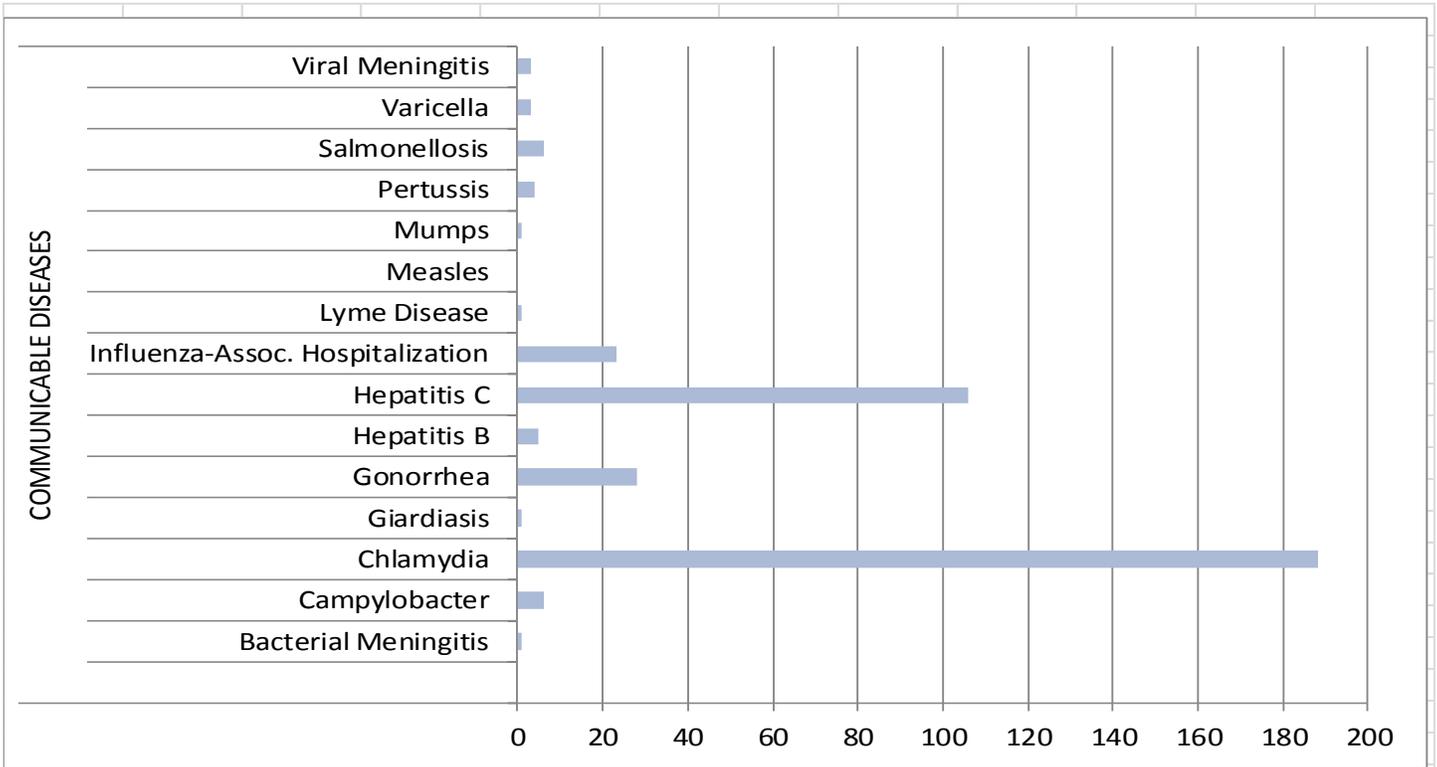
In 2015, the Health District continued to be a provider for many medical insurance plans and continued billing for immunization services. Over 10,000 doses of vaccine were administered to children and adults at our Tiffin and Fostoria immunization clinics. We are proud that our immunization compliance rate is 88% as we strive to achieve the 90% goal set forth by the CDC. Education was increased throughout the county for professionals and residents and parents were surveyed to determine further educational needs. The Health District's website, [www.senecahealthdept.org](http://www.senecahealthdept.org) and the District's Facebook page were utilized for immunization education.

450 1<sup>st</sup> grade children, in 6 school districts, were provided an educational program as part of our Child and Family Health Services project targeted at reducing childhood obesity. Discussions were held regarding which foods belong in each of the 5 food groups, how to be active, decreasing screen time, and how to make a menu including foods from each food group.

This report is by no means all inclusive of the programs offered through the Division of Community Health Nursing. We continue to offer CPR and first aid classes, communicable disease classes for day care providers, pregnancy testing and referral, pediculosis assessments and education, nurses serve on numerous consortiums and collaboratives, and we continue to offer a variety of health education programs to the community.



# Nursing Division, Con't.



# WIC

The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) provides nutrition education and counseling to help families make informed lifestyle choices. The program also offers breastfeeding support, and provides nutritious supplemental foods to income-eligible pregnant, postpartum, and breastfeeding women, infants, and children up to the age of five years. Income eligibility is 185% of federal poverty guidelines. WIC health professionals emphasize a strong partnership in working with participants and are dedicated to providing a healthy start in life.

The Seneca County General Health District operates WIC clinics in Tiffin and Fostoria. Services are available Monday through Friday, with evening hours offered on Thursdays.

In 2015, there was an average of 1,430 Seneca County residents utilizing WIC benefits each month. Local vendors were paid approximately \$667,000 for WIC benefits redeemed during the year.

Seneca County WIC also operates the Farmers' Market Nutrition Program in the months of June through October. During the 2015 season, \$2,721.00 worth of Farmers' Market coupons were redeemed by local farmers.

WIC serves as a community breastfeeding resource. Currently, two members of the WIC staff are Certified Lactation Counselors. In addition, the WIC breastfeeding peer helper connects with families on a more cohort level. In 2015, the peer helper completed over 1,100 contacts to WIC participants. The peer helper also leads a breastfeeding support group for anyone who would like to attend, WIC participation not necessary at Tiffin Mercy Hospital.

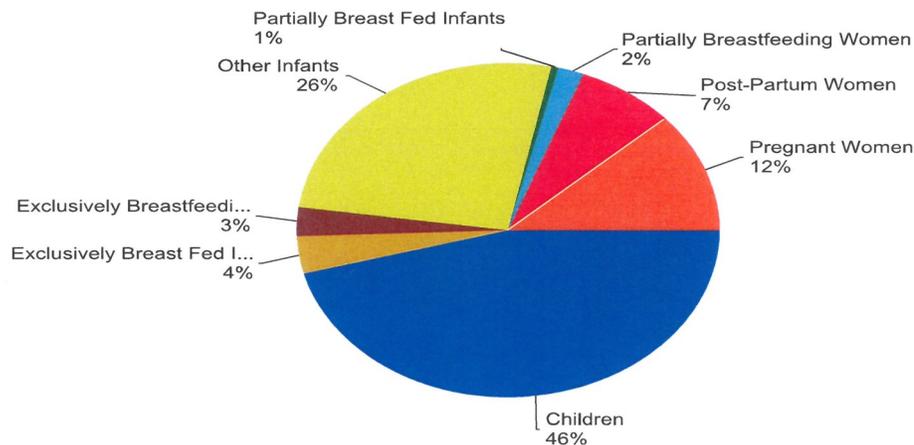
An exciting transition from paper coupons to the WIC Nutrition Card (WNC), an electronic benefits card system occurred this year. Seneca County began issuing the WIC Nutrition Card in July, and by years' end there were no paper coupons being used in stores. The WNC provides the participant with greater flexibility in shopping during the month along with a faster, more discreet check-out process. The WNC operates off of a State-wide UPC database, thus providing the WIC program with increased assurance the benefits are being utilized properly.

According to 2015 Seneca County WIC participant surveys, 77% of those surveyed, reported WIC participation was helping their families live a healthier lifestyle and allowing them to purchase foods they would not be able to on their own.

## Reporting Month - DEC 2015

### WIC Close Out Participation by Participant Type Charts

**County Close Out Participation by Participant Type**



Seneca County

# Vital Statistics

The Seneca County General Health District issues birth certificates for **anyone born in the State of Ohio**. Death certificates can be issued for **Seneca County only** including the cities of Fostoria and Tiffin. Birth and death records are available for the years 1909 to present.

To obtain a birth or death certificate visit our website at [www.senecahealthdept.org](http://www.senecahealthdept.org), download our application, fill in the full name of the person whose record is being requested, the date of birth, full parentage information, first, middle and last/maiden name. For a death certificate, you will need the decedent's name, the date of death and location of death. If you wish to receive a birth or death record by mail, please send the above information, a check or money order for \$25.00 per copy and a self-addressed stamped envelope to Seneca County Health Department, 71 S. Washington Street, Suite 1102, Tiffin, OH 44883. To order a certificate via the internet, log on to [www.vitalchek.com](http://www.vitalchek.com) and follow the prompts for Seneca County. The Vital Statistics Division has a 24-hour turnaround time for all mail/web orders. For a minimal fee, you may use your credit/debit card to purchase birth and death certificates.

<u>BIRTH CERT. ISSUED</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>5 YR AVG</u>
	1817	1861	1818

<u>DEATH CERTIFICATES ISSUED</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>5 YR AVG</u>
	1742	1780	1843

<u>BIRTHS:</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>5 YR AVG</u>
Total births:	279	274	360
Births to unwed mothers:	123	132	164
Teenage Births (Age 13 – 19):	19	23	37
Births to Unwed Teen Mothers:	18	19	34

<u>DEATHS:</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>5 YR AVG</u>
Total Deaths:	436	465	481

<u>LEADING CAUSES OF DEATH:</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>5 YR AVG</u>
Malignant Neoplasm	98	83	84
Diabetes Mellitus	0	1	<1
Disease of the Heart	134	157	170
Cerebrovascular Disease	14	22	20
Atherosclerosis	2	3	1
Pneumonia & Influenza	10	22	18
Chronic Obstructive Pulm. Dis.	14	8	9
Chronic Liver Disease	2	3	3
Nephritis (kidney disorders)	18	21	18
Accidents & Adverse Effects	16	10	15
Suicide	6	11	7
Homicide & Legal Intervention	3	0	1
HIV/AIDS	0	0	<1
Other Causes	119	124	130

\*\*\*New Law effective October 15, 2015\*\*\*

Anyone requesting a death certificate and requires the Social Security number on the death certificate **MUST** provide proof of why (s)he is entitled to the social security number on the death certificate. See our website for further information. This applies to the first five years from the date of death.

**Causes of Death 2015**

