

# ANNUAL REPORT 2023



**MONROE COUNTY  
HEALTH DEPARTMENT**



TO PROTECT, PROMOTE, & IMPROVE THE HEALTH OF ALL PEOPLE IN MONROE COUNTY

# *The Monroe County Health Department in* **2023**

## **MISSION**

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To protect, promote, and improve the health of all people in Monroe County.

## **VISION**

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Leading and partnering to create a healthier and safer Monroe County.

## **VALUES**

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### *Accountability*

We value reliability (trustworthiness) and willingness to accept responsibility, both individually and in teams.

### *Empowerment*

We value the sharing of information and tools to allow individuals and organizations the ability to act on issues they define as important.

### *Excellence*

We value dedication, continuous learning and use of best practices in providing public health services.

### *Professionalism*

We value skill, good judgement, self-regulation, education and high standards in service to the public.

### *Respect*

We value politeness, punctuality and reliability as a means of being courteous, recognizing diversity and acknowledging differences.

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## 2023 MONROE COUNTY ROSTER

### COMMISSIONERS

Julie Thomas, President  
Penny Githens, Vice President  
Lee Jones

### MONROE COUNTY HEALTH OFFICER

Thomas Sharp, M.D. / Clark Brittain, D.O.

### BOARD OF HEALTH

Chair: Carol Touloukian, M.D. / Stephen Pritchard, D.D.S.  
Vice-Chair: Stephen Pritchard, D.D.S. / Dawne (Aurora) DiOrio, M.P.A., C.P.H.  
George Hegeman, Ph.D.  
Kay Leach, R.N.  
Sarah Ryterband, M.D.  
Robert Wrenn, M.D.  
Dawne (Aurora) DiOrio, M.P.A., C.P.H.

### COUNCIL

Kate Wiltz, President  
Trent Deckard, President Pro Tempore  
Jennifer Crossley  
Marty Hawk  
Peter Iversen  
Geoff McKim  
Cheryl Munson

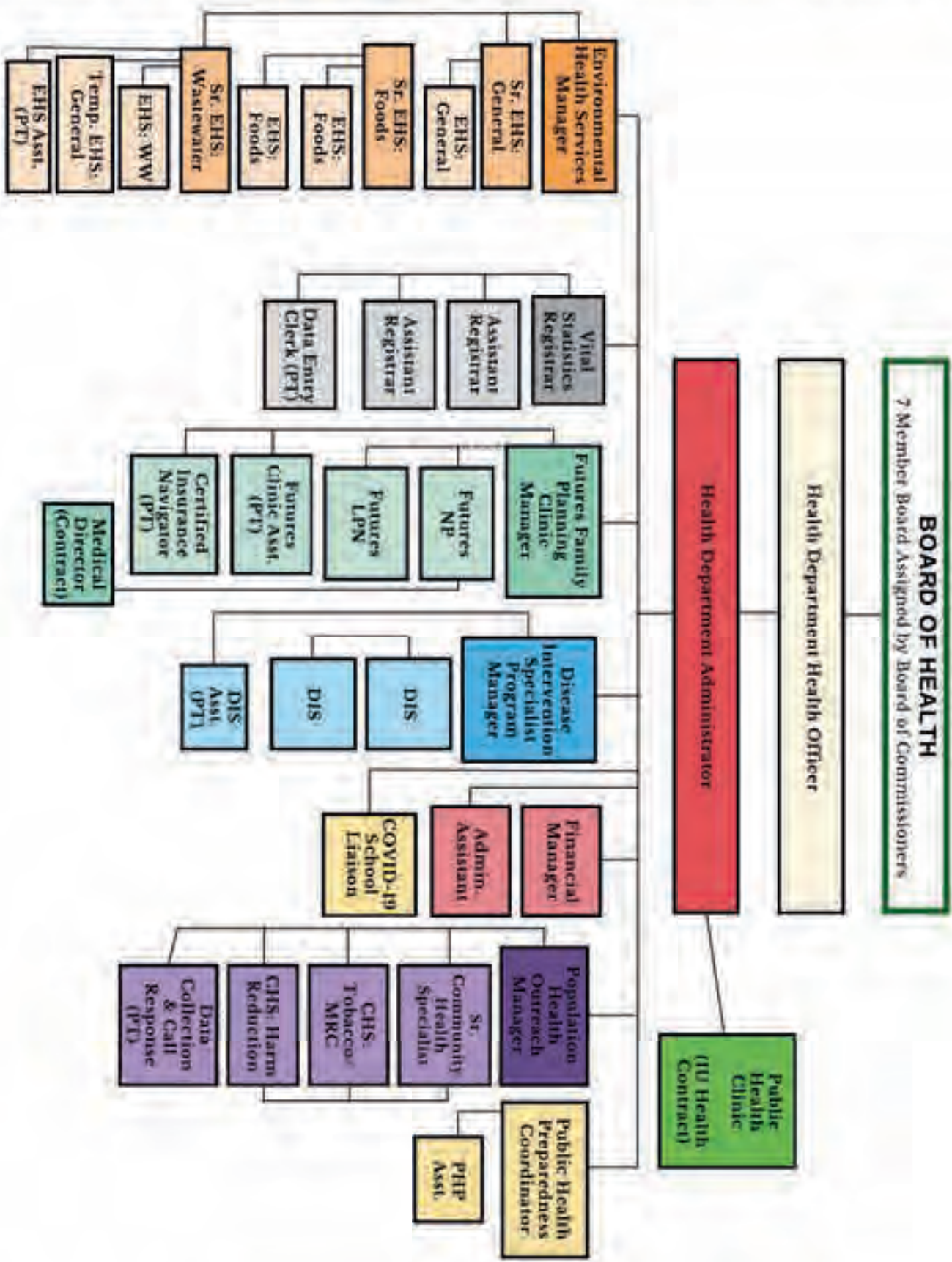


## 2023 MONROE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF

Lori Kelley	Administrator
Meghan Miller / Eric Gause	Financial Manager
Jalmmie Ford	Administrative Assistant
Miranda Ettinger	Disease Intervention Specialist, Program Coordinator
Matthew Allison	Disease Intervention Specialist
Anna Watson	Disease Intervention Specialist
Jean Graham (PT)	Disease Intervention Specialist Assistant
Michael Kuzemka	Environmental Health Services Manager
Simeon Baker	Sr. Environmental Health Specialist: General
Kody Clark	Environmental Health Specialist: General
Jessica Brown / Felita Lucas / Jeffrey Taber	Sr. Environmental Health Specialist: Foods
Alyssa Mundy	Environmental Health Specialist: Foods
Alyssa Delgado	Environmental Health Specialist: Foods
Shian'ah Cox	Sr. Environmental Health Specialist: Wastewater
Aaron Agley	Environmental Health Specialist: Wastewater
Matthew Britzman	Environmental Health Specialist: Wastewater
Parker Beaty / Peter Taber	Environmental Health Specialist Assistant
Kathy Hewett	Population Health & Outreach Manager
Melanie Vehslage	Sr. Community Health Specialist
Shanna Wooten / Avery Thomas	Community Health Specialist: Tobacco/MRC
Amy Harrison / Brandon Collins	Community Health Specialist: Harm Reduction
Linnea Hubbard (PT)	Call Response & Data Collection
Christina Kempf	Public Health Preparedness Coordinator
Emily Kinnarney	Public Health Preparedness Assistant
Joseph Braman / Lisa Greathouse (IU Health)	School Liaison
Kathy Hertz	Vital Records Registrar
Jessica Egan	Vital Records Assistant Registrar
Eric Diamond	Vital Records Assistant Registrar
Patricia Cullins (PT)	Data Entry Clerk
Eric Gause / Evan Theis	Futures Clinic Manager
Peggy Ryan / Emma Rice	Nurse Practitioner
Susan Callahan / Christine Brackenoff	Licensed Practical Nurse
Marshall Allen / Debbie Deckard (PT)	Clinical Assistant
Scott Stowers	Insurance Navigator



2023 MONROE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



2023

# ADMINISTRATION

This annual report details the administrative and field activities of the Monroe County Health Department (MCHD) for 2023.

The Monroe County Commissioners voted to accept Indiana Department of Health 2024 funding through **Health First Indiana (HFI)** on August 9, 2023. HFI presented a historic investment in public health and was made possible by legislation passed by the 2023 Indiana General Assembly. The goal of HFI is to provide additional public health funding to expand local workforces, address community health needs and improve the health of all Hoosiers through guaranteed access to core public health services.

The **Health First Indiana** legislation also brought changes to local health board composition to enable further diversity in membership. In counties with populations under 200,000, such as Monroe County, health boards will be made of seven members, with five appointed directly from County Commissioners, one selected by the Commissioners from three recommendations from the largest municipality, and the last appointed by County Council.

## HEALTH FIRST INDIANA (HFI)

*A state investment in local public health*

■ Counties that have opted-in



26

Full-time  
staff

5

Part-time  
staff

4

Contract  
Staff with  
IU Health

7

Divisions



RESOLUTION NO. 2023-22  
A RESOLUTION OF THE MONROE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
ACCEPTING STATE PUBLIC HEALTH FUNDING

WHEREAS the Board of Commissioners of the County of Monroe, Indiana is the county executive body and authorized by law to adopt ordinances and resolutions for the administration of Monroe County Government;

WHEREAS the Indiana Legislature has passed Senate Enrolled Act 4-2023 and House Enrolled Act 1001-2023, to ensure every Hoosier has access to the core public health services that allow them to achieve their optimal health and well-being;


WHEREAS the Board of Commissioners of the County of Monroe, Indiana recognizes the importance of public health to support a healthier community and create a better quality of life for its residents.;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT DETERMINED, ESTABLISHED, AND RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of the County of Monroe, Indiana as follows:

1. The Board of Commissioners of the County of Monroe, Indiana supports initiatives that sustain and maintain core public health services at the county level with local input and flexibility to meet the needs of the community.
3. The Board of Commissioners of the County of Monroe, Indiana commits to the County's right to self-direct and acknowledges that by opting-in and accepting these funds it retains authority and control of the county health department otherwise afforded to it under state law or code pursuant to Indiana Code 16-20-1-12(f).

RESOLVED this 9th day of August, 2023.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE  
COUNTY OF MONROE, INDIANA

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Penny Githens, President

Not Present  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Julie Thomas, Vice President

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Lee Jones, Commissioner

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Catherine Smith, Monroe County Auditor



## **WHAT DOES THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT DO?**

### **Vital Records**

The Monroe County Health Department provides birth and death records for Monroe County, Indiana from 1882 to present. Fees collected include those for birth and death certificates, affidavits, corrections, and home birth registration.

### **Population Health & Outreach**

The Monroe County Health Department provides community health programs to support the health and well-being of community members. Services include harm reduction, tobacco cessation, community health assessments, community health improvement plans, and coordination of the medical reserve corps.

### **General Environmental Health**

The Monroe County Health Department enforces and/or oversees environmental health laws, rules, and regulations regarding pools, spas, and beaches, solid waste, healthy homes, animal bites, tattoo and body piercing facilities, air quality, environmental site inspections, and cleanup. Fees are collected throughout the year for permitting and violations.

### **Environmental Health: Food**

The Monroe County Health Department completes food establishment inspections to ensure compliance with state and local laws. The frequency is based upon a risk analysis of the establishment, the menu type, and the type of population served. Fees are collected for food licenses and, on occasion, for violations.

### **Environmental Health: Wastewater**

The Monroe County Health Department is responsible for advising, inspecting, and approving the installation of septic systems in Monroe County. The department also certifies and registers septic installers interested in installing on-site wastewater systems in the county. On-site sewage disposal systems for real estate transactions may be performed upon request. Fees are collected as part of the permit process and general wastewater services performed throughout the year.



## **Futures Family Planning Clinic**

The Monroe County Health Department houses the Futures Family Planning Clinic to provide family planning health services for adolescents and adults. Services offered, for which fees may be collected, include pap, breast, and pelvic exams, pregnancy testing and referral, sexually transmitted disease testing and treatment, and birth control services.

## **Public Health Preparedness**

The Monroe County Health Department provides public health emergency response efforts. Services include disaster recovery assistance, public health disease outbreaks, Stop the Bleed trainings, and general emergency response related to public health.

## **School Liaison**

The Monroe County Health Department partners with IU Health Bloomington Community Health for school liaison services.

Services include education, referral services, assistance with vision, hearing, and dental screenings, and assistance with communicable disease contact tracing in Monroe County schools.

## **Public Health Clinic**

The Monroe County Public Health Clinic is a partnership between IU Health Bloomington Community Health and the Monroe County Health Department. Services include vaccinations, lead screenings, safe sleep education, communicable disease services, and wellness screenings.

## **Disease Intervention**

The Monroe County Health Department provides disease intervention services to prevent the spread of disease and the development of complications. Additional services include partner notification for people affected by HIV, syphilis, chlamydia, and gonorrhea. The program is currently grant funded, providing services to 12 counties including Bartholomew, Brown, Clay, Green, Lawrence, Monroe, Owen, Parke, Putnam, Sullivan, Vermillion, and Vigo.



## 2023 FUNDING FOR PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

### Health Fund: Revenues and Expenses in 2023

Taxes: \$ 1,194,618.11

Fees: \$ 576,624.02

Misc: \$ 40,454.25

Grants: \$ 605,038.72

Expenses: \$ 1,732,991.30

The health fund supports personnel and resources for public health services to the community, such as identifying health hazards, investigating potential disease transmission, education, developing policy, and connecting people with services.

Nineteen employees (18 FTE), Health Officer and seven Board of Health members are financially supported through the health fund. This allows the department to provide vital records information, perform inspections and investigations, educate the community, and meet essential services of public health. This is a collaborative effort to ensure that Indiana Code and local ordinance requirements are upheld to meet public health standards.

### Local Health Maintenance Fund

Receipts: \$ 72,672.00

Expenses: \$ 80,177.85

The LHMF supplements the health fund by providing additional services. One part-time position is included in this fund. For counties opting in to Health First Indiana, funding is no longer provided in this account.

### Indiana Local Health Department Trust Account Fund

Receipts: \$ 52,828.42

Expenses: \$ 37,331.78

Provides a Tobacco Cessation Health Educator to promote tobacco cessation and provide education to reduce death associated with tobacco use and other health risks that contribute to chronic diseases.

### Public Health Emergency Fund

Budget: \$ 20,000.00

Expenses: \$ -

Created as a reserve for public health emergencies, including communicable disease outbreaks, with funds available for supplies and medications.

### Public Health Emergency Preparedness Grant

Grant: \$ 25,000.00

Funding is provided by the state through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to assist the department in developing public health emergency preparedness. This grant funds one part-time position that assists with preparedness plans and training.

### STD Strength Prevention Grant

Grant: \$ 170,000.00

Expenses: \$ 114,933.95

Federal grant funds passed through the state to expand, train, and sustain the Disease Intervention Specialist (DIS) workforce. This supplemental funding was used to enhance workforce capacity to conduct disease investigation and linkage to prevention and treatment.

### Lead Case Management Grant

Grant: \$ 49,751.05

Expenses: \$ 5,330.99

Federal funding from the Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Funds passed through the Indiana Department of Health allows the health department to promote coordinated care to children affected by lead poisoning, especially those with elevated blood levels (EBLLs).





### **Title X and TANF Grant**

**Grant: \$ 218,977.00**

**Fees: \$ 52,409.72**

**Misc: \$ 18,986.64**

**Expenses: \$ 290,012.47**

This federal grant comes through the Indiana Family Health Council for reproductive health care and family planning. Services include pap smears, breast exams, pregnancy tests, STD screening and treatment, education, and contraceptives. Three full-time and one part-time position are included in this grant.

### **Integrated HIV Prevention and Surveillance**

**Grant: \$ 65,899.00**

**Expenses: \$ 40,729.75**

Federal funding through the state for individual level intervention which ensures that persons at increased risk for HIV are properly screened and tested. This grant funds one full-time position.

### **DIS Intervention - STD Grant**

**Grant: \$ 139,758.00**

**Expenses: \$ 115,568.02**

Federal grant funds provided through the state to test and treat Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD). This funding will support disease investigation (case investigation and contact tracing), linkage to prevention and treatment, education, and case management. The grant funds one full-time and one part-time employee.

### **Immunization and Vaccines for Children Grant**

**Grant: \$ 100,600.00**

**Expenses: \$ 2,746.59**

Federal grant funds provided through the state to provide direct vaccination to all individuals, conduct outreach, and promote vaccines through the public health clinic.

### **Immunization and Vaccines for Children Long- term COVID Fund**

Grant: \$ 447,916.47

Expenses: \$ 272,664.20

Federal grant funds provided through the state to provide direct vaccination to all individuals, conduct outreach, and promote vaccines through the public health clinic.

### **Syringe Services Grant**

Grant: \$ 25,000.00

Expenses: \$ 25,000.00

To support a syringe service program in Monroe County.

### **Baby & Me Tobacco Free NACCHO Grant**

Funds: \$ 5,637.50

Expenses: \$ 3,233.28

To provide tobacco cessation to pregnant women and their families, and to ensure that healthier babies are being born.

### **Lost to Care Grant**

Expenses: \$ 6,958.58

Partnership with IU Health and Positive Link to provide STD testing. This grant was not renewed in 2023.

### **Local Grants**

Funds: \$ 8,806.72

Expenses: \$ 2,143.50

Remaining funding from small local grants.





## 2023 GOALS

- MCHD will begin transitioning to an online payment system via OpenGov within 30 days after approved for use by Tech Services.  
MET
- Administration staff will review and revise MCHD roles and responsibilities for emergency response ICS structure by 12/31/23.  
MET
- By 12/31/23, leadership team will review, revise and implement an updated code review process.  
MET



## GOALS FOR 2024

- MCHD will begin transitioning to online forms and applications by 12/31/24.
- MCHD will begin forming community partnerships to fulfill new Health First Indiana core services.
- MCHD will collect and submit Health First Indiana key performance indicators by 12/31/24.



2023

# DISEASE INTERVENTION (DIS)



In 2023, the Monroe County Health Department (MCHD) continued to receive a grant for sexually transmitted infection prevention from the Indiana Department of Health (IDOH). The grant covers disease intervention services for a 12-county area that consists of Monroe, Brown, Bartholomew, Lawrence, Owen, Greene, Clay, Putnam, Parke, Vermillion, Vigo, and Sullivan counties. The primary goal of the grant is to provide disease intervention services to prevent the spread of disease and development of complications in infected individuals, contacts, and associates.

During the 2023 calendar year, Monroe County employed three full-time Disease Intervention Specialists (DIS) and one part-time DIS Assistant. In 2023, the supplemental grant that was used to fund the third DIS position was rescinded by the Federal Government. DIS Anna Watson left Monroe County Health Department in July 2023, and due to the grant funds being withdrawn, DIS have stayed at two full-time DIS and one Assistant DIS since July 2023.

DIS also had associate service organizations begin part-time DIS work. Currently three part-time DIS positions have been added through existing Positive Link staff.

**2,123**

Confirmed  
Chlamydia  
Cases in  
District 7  
in 2023

**659**

Confirmed  
Gonorrhea  
Cases in  
District 7  
in 2023

**155**

Confirmed  
Adult  
Syphilis  
Cases in  
District 7  
in 2023



The DIS provide chlamydia, gonorrhea, syphilis, and HIV testing to those persons deemed at high risk of disease, such as partners to cases and high-risk populations. The department also works closely with Positive Link, another IDOH funded program, to

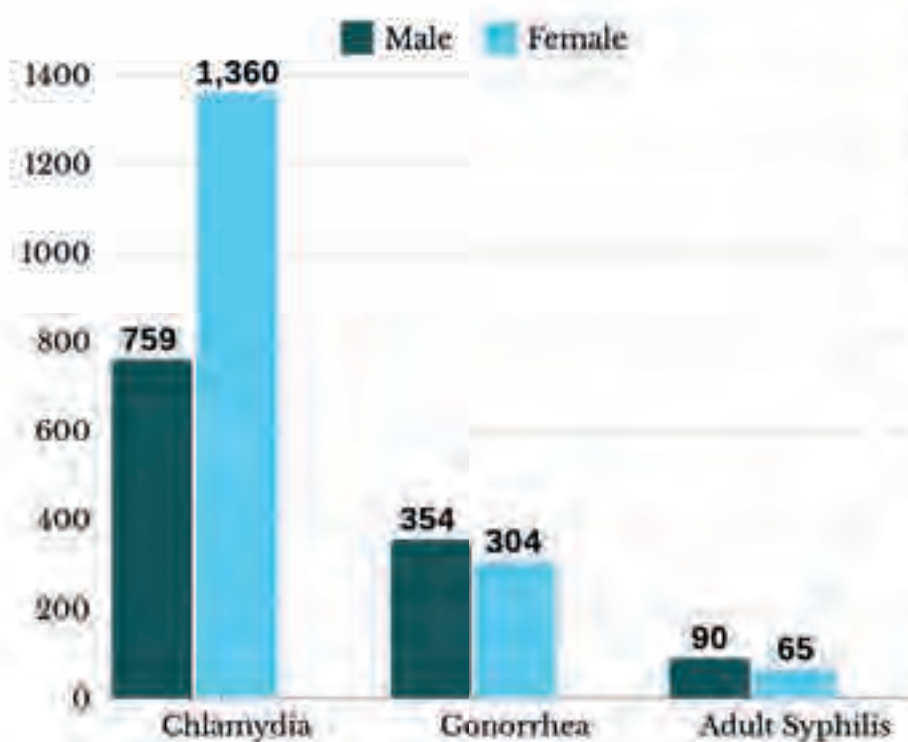
ensure that testing is available to individuals within the community. DIS also partnered with MCHD's Harm Reduction program and IU Health Positive Link to offer routine outreach testing at various sites around Monroe County, and the larger STI District 7.



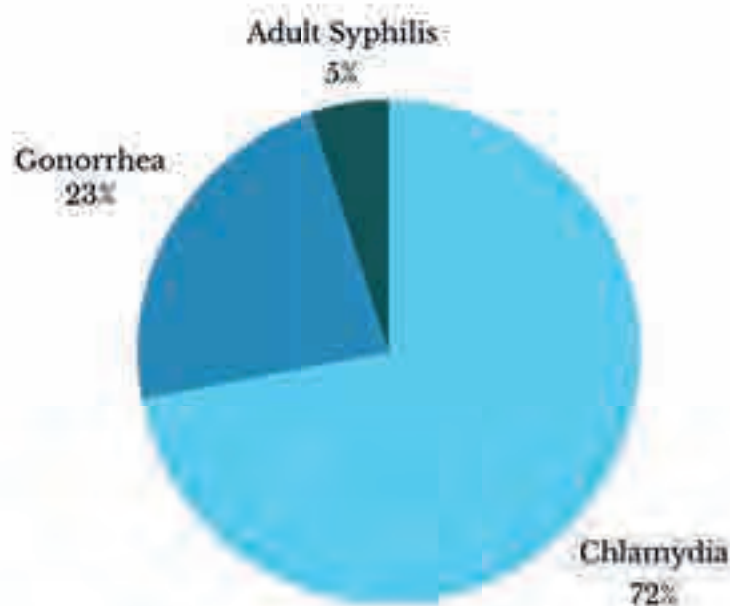
*(L to R) DIS staff  
Miranda Ettinger,  
Matthew Allison, Jean  
Graham.*



*(L to R) Miranda  
Ettinger, Jean Graham.*

*2023 STI Case Count by Sex - District 7*

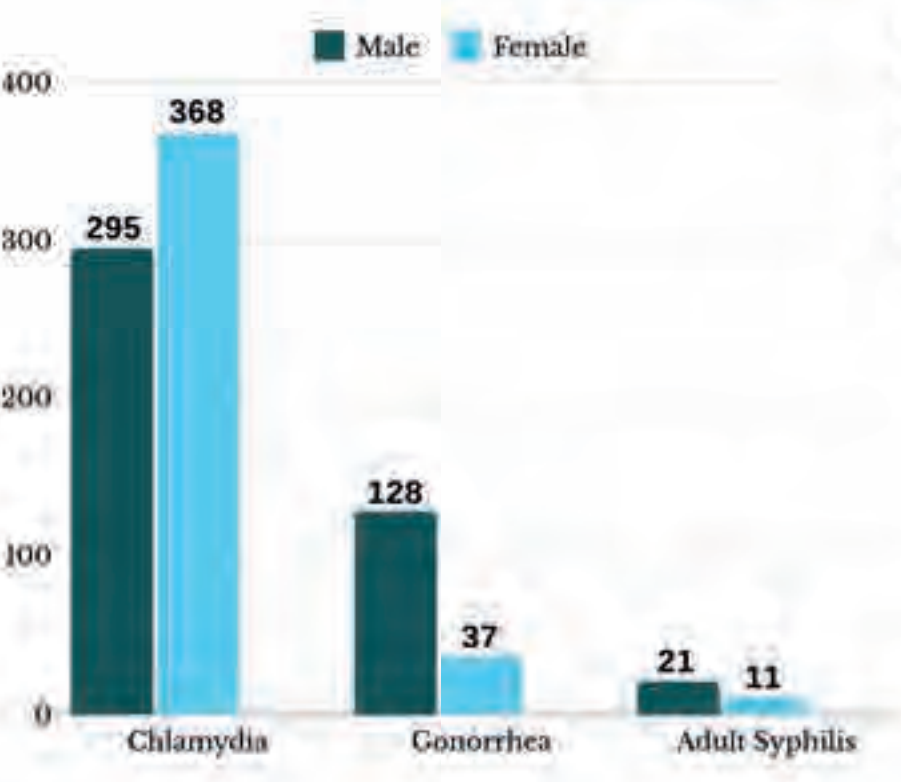
As shown in the chart to the left, more females had confirmed chlamydia cases than males, however, males had more gonorrhea cases and syphilis cases. One possible reason is many cases of chlamydia can be asymptomatic in males.

*2023 STI Case Count by - District 7*

As shown to the left, 72% of cases were chlamydia cases, 23% were gonorrhea and only 5% were syphilis.

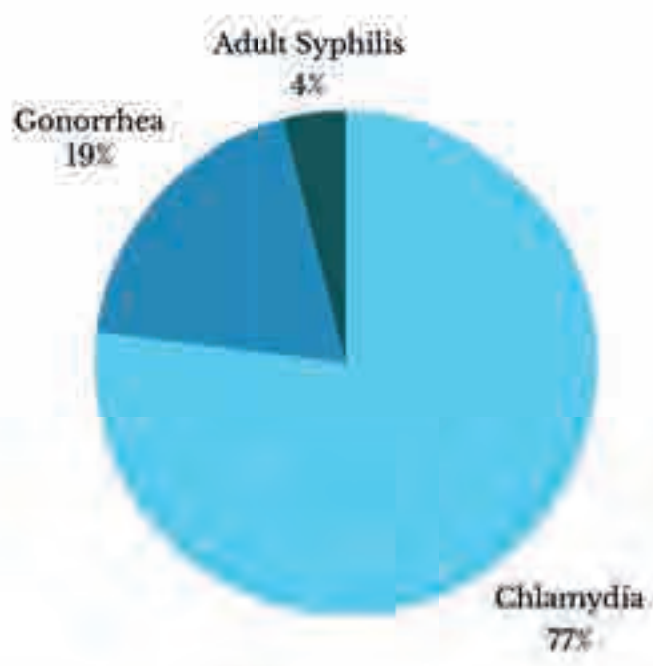


2023 STI Case Count by Sex - Monroe County



In Monroe County, the trend continues that more females had more confirmed chlamydia cases than males. Males had more confirmed gonorrhea and syphilis cases.

2023 STI Case Count by - Monroe County



As shown to the left, the breakdown for Monroe County is very similar to the total district percentages. There is a higher percentage of chlamydia in Monroe County than the entire district (77% vs. 72%).

## OUTREACH SITES

DIS attended 10 outreach testing sites during 2023:

- Back Door Bar
- Bloomington Pride Fest
- Clay County Jail
- Crawford Apartments
- IU LGBTQ+ Culture Center
- Reach Service Terre Haute
- Shalom Community Center
- Spencer Pride
- Terre Haute Pride
- Vigo County Jail

### 2023 GOALS

- DIS will interview at least 50% of all patients with gonorrhea in Vigo County in 2023.



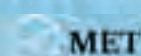
MET

- In 2023, DIS will complete a minimum of 8 provider education sessions for providers that DIS have not previously worked with.



MET

- DIS will collaborate with 1 new county jail in 2023 to provide education about STDs and HIV, as well as offer testing services to inmates.



MET

### GOALS FOR 2024

- DIS will attempt to confirm pregnancy status on 100% of all probable syphilis cases.
- DIS will attempt to confirm pregnancy status on 50% of all confirmed gonorrhea cases.
- DIS will attempt to form increased partnerships with at least TWO FQHC (Federally Qualified Health Center) Clinics and TWO Family Planning Clinics.



2023

# FUTURES FAMILY PLANNING CLINIC

The Title X Family Planning Program was enacted in 1970 as Title X of the Public Health Service Act (PHS Act). Title X provides grants to public and nonprofit agencies for family planning services, research, and training. The Office of Population Affairs (OPA) within the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) administers Title X, which is the only domestic federal program dedicated solely to family planning and related preventive health services. Funding begins with the distribution from HHS to the Indiana Family Health Council (IFHC).

Established in 2006, Futures Family Planning Clinic is a federally funded program, managed under the operational administration of the Monroe County Health Department (MCHD). Futures employs several full-time staff, including a Nurse Practitioner (NP), a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN), a Clinic Manager, and a Clinical Assistant. Futures staff is supervised by a Medical Director, in addition to regulatory audits of chart entries.

*(Below) The entrance to the Future's Family Planning Clinic off N. College Dr. in Downtown Bloomington.*



281

Annual  
Visits

160

Contraception  
Visits

150+

Cervical &  
Breast  
Cancer  
Screenings

52

Male Visits

654

Total Patients  
Seen



Futures collaborates with community members, patients, local medical providers, public health professionals, and subject matter experts to establish working relationships that best equip the clinic to serve un/under-insured, low-income, and/or non-English speaking patients. Service fees and charge

balances are calculated utilizing the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) sliding scales, and never interfere with patients' ability to receive care. Futures can take payment through Medicaid, private/commercial insurance, and self-pay, and enthusiastically accepts donations at check-out.

## SERVICES OFFERED

### Family Planning Guidance

- Medical contraceptive management
- IUD and Implant insertion or removal
- Emergency Contraception and Natural Family Planning methods

### Sexual Health Services

- STI testing including Chlamydia, Gonorrhea, HIV, & Syphilis
- Treatment and education for positive STI results
- Pregnancy testing, counseling, and referral

### Preventative Health Exams

- Pap smears, chest, and pelvic exams
- Preconception advice and counseling
- Infertility consultation and discussion



## PRIMARY CONCERNS

Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) testing is offered as part of Futures' services. CDC, Title X, and IFHC guidelines recommend STI testing for symptomatic presentations, known exposure, expedited partner treatment, and generally for patients under the age of 30 years old. Futures administered over 300 tests for Chlamydia and Gonorrhea during 2023, with less than 30 resulting in a positive diagnosis.

Cervical cancer screenings (pap smears) are completed in accordance with recommendations from the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecologists (ACOG). For most individuals with a cervix, pap smears begin at age 21 and continue every 3 years after, unless abnormal results are present. In that case, pap smears are completed annually to ensure proper treatment follow-up. On a month-to-



month basis. Futures averages around 10 cervical cancer screenings, with an average of only one abnormal result. Emphasizing the importance of routinely accessing preventative care services.

In addition to sexual health services and preventative exams, Futures Clinic collaborates with alternative community providers to ensure that all our patient's needs are met. These partnerships include HealthNet (primary care), Positive Link (HIV+ care), SIRA Imaging (Ultrasound and Radiology), SIP OB/GYN (Southern Indiana Physicians Obstetrics), MCHD Public Health Clinic (Vaccinations), and MCHD Harm Reduction (Substance use and Tobacco cessation).

## DEMOGRAPHIC POPULATIONS

Population metrics have fluctuated over 2023 and haven't quite reached pre-pandemic levels. Efforts to encourage additional patient and community engagement focus primarily on expanding access by considering clinic location, hours, service modality (telehealth), translation services, referral linkages, robust education and community outreach, as well as expansive family planning methods and tailored billing or payment practices to support a diverse population.

Federal law dictates that family planning services must be accessible to adolescent community members, without the requirement of parental consent. Over 2023, Futures increased adolescent visits by over 50% compared to 2022 metrics. Futures adheres to Indiana statutes for mandatory reporting



*2023 MCHD Staff Retreat. (L to R) Christine Brackenhoff, LPN, Emma Rice, NP, Evan Theis (Clinic Manager)*

requirements, in addition to screening domestic or intimate partner violence, sexual coercion education, and familial involvement recommendation.

## OPERATIONAL LOGISTICS

Although Futures Family Planning Clinic is largely funded through federal grants, a portion of the clinic revenue is generated by insurance claims and patient payments. The clinic accepts many different private (commercial) insurances, which many individuals acquire via their place of work or through care coverage marketplaces. In addition to private insurance, Futures also accepts Medicaid insurance. There are several different types of Medicaid within the state of



Indiana, with differing coverage and benefits; accepted forms of Medicaid include Healthy Indiana Plan (HIP), Hoosier Healthwise (HHW), and Managed Health Services (MHS) to name a few.

In addition to payment collection, medical supply ordering is calculated in accordance with good stewardship and best practices in grant management. Besides clinical necessities such as gloves, test swabs, and needles etc, a

majority of purchased materials are medications. Futures stocks multiple different birth control medications including the birth control pill, Long Acting Reversible Contraception (LARC), and other methods such as the contraceptive patch or vaginal ring. To provide proper treatment of positive STI results or other gynecologically symptomatic infections, Futures also stocks episodic and therapeutic medications such as antibiotics, antifungals, or steroids.

## 2023 GOALS

- Futures will implement telehealth by July 2023 to increase patient visits.

### IN PROGRESS

- Futures will offer text reminders by May 2023 to reduce no-show rates.

### MET

- Futures will increase unduplicated clients from 612 to 700 by the end of calendar year (CY) 2023.

### UNMET

## GOALS FOR 2024

- Futures will increase appointment availability from 6 per day to 8, to improve access to care in a timely manner, prioritizing urgent and symptomatic visit types, by the end of 2024.
- Futures will strengthen social media presence to increase outreach frequency by posting monthly and attending events throughout 2024.
- Futures will devote effort into creating a more LGBT+ inclusive space by attending cultural competency trainings and joining LGBT+ friendly provider directories, by the end of 2024.



2023

# POPULATION HEALTH AND OUTREACH

The PHO division makes every effort to promote the health and well-being of all people in Monroe County through education, collaboration, and outreach.

Staff gather and assess data to better understand community health needs, engage with partners and other community stakeholders to address gaps or barriers in local resources, and develop programs and projects driven by staff experience with 'boots on the ground' interventions.

The CDC indicates that social determinants of health (SDOH) have been shown to have a greater influence on health than either genetics or access to healthcare services. PHO division is invested in making progress toward health equity in Monroe County by leading and collaborating across sectors in hopes of integrating health in meaningful ways both through policy, and person-centered service provision.

By addressing upstream structural barriers, PHO intends to positively impact health and health equity across diverse populations in Monroe County as a whole.



(L to R) Brandon Collins (HR-CHS), Avery Thomas (Tobacco/MRC-CHS), Melanie Vehslage (Senior CHS), Kathy Hewett (PHO Manager).

## PHO GROUPS & COALITIONS

### Leadership role:

- Monroe County Community Health Assessment Planning Team
- Monroe County Community Health Improvement Plan Planning Team
  - Substance Use/Mental Health Group Co-lead
  - Inequity Discrimination & Bias Group Co-lead
- Monroe County Substance Use Disorder Advisory Commission (SUDAC)
  - Paint the Town Purple - planning committee
  - Recovery Summit - planning committee
- Monroe County Syringe Service Program (MCSSP) Advisory Committee
- Suicide and Overdose Fatality Review Team (SOFR)



## HARM REDUCTION PROGRAM

The goal of the MCHD Harm Reduction (HR) program is to prevent injuries related to substance use and to reduce transmission of HIV and hepatitis C (HCV) by providing education, HIV/HCV testing, safe materials, naloxone, and referrals to healthcare and substance use treatment. This county program has been funded through a Harm Reduction and HIV prevention grant from Indiana Department of Health (IDOH) since 2018.

With staff turnover in 2023, the HR position was vacant for 5 months, during which time the Sr. CHS provided outreach and testing alongside other job duties until HR staff were hired and onboarded in September 2023.

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & COLLABORATION

PHO staff presented survey findings for the CJRC, detailing community-identified gaps and barriers for persons in accessing health care (including substance use and mental health).

The County Commissioners received the Opioid Settlement Match Grant to leverage state and local opioid settlement funds to support the sustainability of the MCSSP, which is a partnership between the Health Department and Indiana Recovery Alliance (IRA), with the purchase of a physical building, a new mobile outreach van, and non-syringe harm reduction supplies.

## PHO GROUPS & COALITIONS

### Active Membership Role:

- Bloomington Outreach Worker Group
- Mental Health America Monroe County (Board of Directors)
- Monroe County CARES (Board of Directors)
- Monroe County Child Fatality Review Team
- Monroe County Community Justice Response Committee (CJRC)
- Monroe County Health Equity Council (MCHEC)
- Monroe County Justice Fiscal Advisory Committee (JFAC)
- Monroe County Opioid Settlement Advisory Group
- Monroe County Tobacco Coalition
- Purdue Extension HHS Advisory Board
- Zero is Possible (ZIP) Coalition

Through SUDAC, PHO staff organized multiple educational sessions focused on Recovery Community Organizations (RCOs) and harm reduction, and initiated planning for the 2024 Recovery Summit.

PHO staff provided Narcan during SSP outreach as well as to community members, local first responders, and public safety agencies.



**375**

Community  
members trained  
in Overdose  
Prevention  
outside of SSP  
outreach

**21**

Training  
Sessions

**65** HIV Tests**47** HCV Tests

## HIV & HCV PREVENTION

*Through Syringe Services, Outreach Testing & Harm Reduction Education*

MCHD contracts with the IRA to operate the Monroe County Syringe Services Program (MCSSP). MCHD staff the program 3 days per week. Funding for the MCSSP comes from grants and donations as well as from state and local dollars.

The Harm Reduction Specialist provides HIV and HCV testing for those at high risk of disease transmission and lack of access to healthcare services. HR and DIS staff worked in tandem to offer HIV, HCV and STD testing at offsite locations.



*Advancing  
public health  
performance*

## ACCREDITATION

PHO staff completed the Public Health Accreditation Board Readiness Assessment in 2023. The assessment process required training and review of each of the new 2022 Accreditation Standards and Measures, and analysis of department materials to determine if the PHAB requirements were met. Participation in the program allowed us to identify areas of strengths and challenges, which will guide our accreditation readiness work going forward.



## MONROE COUNTY COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PLAN (CHIP) TEAMS

PHO staff, along with people from IU Health Bloomington Hospital, Bloomington Parks and Recreation, Community Voices for Health Monroe County and HealthNet completed and published the 2021 Community Health Assessment (MCCHA) in March, 2022. The MCCHA included outcomes from a community survey, focus groups and an analysis of local community health data.

Community strengths and risks identified through the assessment were shared widely within the community, including at two Think Tanks in April, 2022, at which resident attendees voted on priority issues for the community health improvement plan (CHIP) following group discussions.

The priorities selected for the CHIP teams were Substance Use and Mental Health (SUMH), Inequity, Discrimination and Bias (IDB) and Poverty and Navigating Health and Social Services (PNHSS).

The CHIP teams met regularly in 2022 to begin developing goals and strategies for the multi-year plan. Each team is made up of local residents and people from multiple disciplines and organizations within the community, thus widening the expertise and knowledge from which the teams can pull. MCCHA and CHIP information is available on the health department page on the Monroe County government website at:

[www.co.monroe.in.us/HealthDepartment](http://www.co.monroe.in.us/HealthDepartment)



### Team Goals

#### Substance Use and Mental Health

- Increase accuracy of Find Help/Helping Bloomington Monroe specific to SU/MH providers
- Create and utilize map of SUMH gaps/resources to make policy recommendations

#### Inequity, Discrimination, and Bias

- Expand access/use of Find Help/Helping Bloomington Monroe
- Increase capacity of community groups to address IDB at a structural level
- Develop streamlined resource for those who have experienced discrimination to address the issue

#### Poverty and Navigating Health and Social Services

- Ensure transportation to support Monroe County Residents
- Build a network of trained Health Navigators in Monroe County



## BABY AND ME, TOBACCO FREE

The PHO division continued to offer the Baby & Me – Tobacco Free (BMTF) program during 2023, but due to reduced funding from the state, this year was marked by the creation of a new maternal tobacco cessation program specific to Monroe County, **Quit for 2**. Staff worked to maintain current enrollees and ongoing referrals, while also devoting time to the development of new program marketing, data collection tools, and education materials.

Reducing the burden of tobacco use among pregnant women to improve birth outcomes in Monroe County and surrounding areas remains a top priority, and the new evidence-based program allows us to do just that.

# 190

Referrals to the BMTF program from January to December 2023.



## QUIT FOR 2

**Quit for 2** exists to educate and equip women to make decisions that result in healthier mothers, babies, and families for many generations.

The program will launch in January 2024, giving us the opportunity to provide continued support to pregnant women that are smoking cigarettes or e-cigarettes in a more cost-effective manner, while also adding a harm reduction focus and other health education. Moms that enroll in the program will be encouraged and celebrated for their commitment to implementing cutting down strategies as well as limiting second and thirdhand smoke exposure.





## MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS

The Medical Reserve Corps was founded following the September 11, 2001, attacks on our country. The national program was established to provide a mechanism for medical and non-medical volunteers to serve their communities during public health emergencies and natural or man-made disasters.

After a period of necessary rest following the relentless dedication of our volunteers during the pandemic, the lessons and experiences from the COVID-19 response served as the foundation to our reset in the latter half of 2023. As our local unit worked to rebuild this year, we developed plans not only to maintain our ability to activate in the event of an emergency, but also to expand our capacity to support ongoing preparedness initiatives and other steady-state community health priorities.



The new MRC Coordinator hosted a Meet & Greet event for all existing volunteers, as well as anyone interested in learning more about the organization. Attendees engaged with one another through a trivia game, learned about



## ORA GRANT

The Monroe County MRC received the 2024 NACCHO Operational Readiness Award. With this funding, our unit hopes to enhance our volunteer management, build unit readiness, and collaborate with community partners to strengthen the primary priority focused on mass dispensing efforts in Monroe County.



the history and purpose of the local unit, and spent time discussing the two-way relationship of volunteerism, and then we wrapped up with a vision casting for the next year.





*After tabling at a film screening about addiction, Melanie Vehslage, Amy Harrison (HR CHS), Scotty Pietrovich (IRA), Kathy Hewett.*



*Ivy Tech Bloomington's health fair. (L to R) Avery Thomas, Emily Kinnarney (Preparedness Asst.).*



*Melanie Vehslage provides overdose prevention training for a sorority at IU Bloomington.*

## PHO COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Population Health staff engage with the community in a variety of settings to learn about community needs and provide outreach services, education and resources.

*Mobile SSP outreach. (L to R) Brandon Collins, Scotty Pietrovich*



*(Clockwise from left) Kathy Hewett shares about harm reduction with Steve Coover (Monroe County Fire Protection District); Steve Coover (MFPD), Melanie Vehslage, Commissioner Penny Githens; Paint the Town Celebration; Unity mural from previous Paint the Town; Commissioner Githens hugs Nick Voyles (Executive Director of the IRA); Tabling for Monroe County CARES Board along with other vendors.*



## 2023 GOALS

- The MRC Coordinator will have a minimum of 2 in-person meetings and two training opportunities for volunteers during 2023.

**PARTIALLY MET** - Due to staff turnover as well as the need to focus on other areas including volunteer management and legal protections, the capacity for in-person opportunities was limited. The new MRC coordinator hosted a kick-off event to cast the vision of where the unit is headed in 2024.

- PHO staff will use applicable IDOH key performance indicators to create objectives and goals for a tobacco/vaping cessation program for pregnant women by 12/2023.



**MET** - Staff not only created objectives and goals, but also developed and established a new program, Quit for 2, based on the Core Public Health Services and their associated KPIs by 12/2023.

- A Harm Reduction Community Health Specialist will be hired and trained in HIV/HCV rapid antibody testing and basic phlebotomy, and as an overdose prevention/Naloxone educator by 12/31/2023.



**MET** - Harm Reduction CHS was hired September 2023 and completed all trainings before 12/31/2023.

## GOALS FOR 2023

- PHO senior staff will prepare a draft Community Health Assessment by 12/31/2024.
- With the introduction of Quit for 2, the Tobacco CHS will enroll at least 40 moms in the new program in 2024 and 85% of participants who stay enrolled in the program will be smoke free by delivery.
- The Harm Reduction Community Health Specialist will conduct 120 HIV tests and 90 HCV antibody tests in 2024.



2023

# GENERAL ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

General Environmental Health (GEH) staff are responsible for the enforcement of and compliance with environmental health laws, rules, and regulations in Monroe County. GEH staff inspect and investigate environmental health concerns including reviewing and issuing permits, investigating facilities, collecting and testing environmental samples, and referring cases to law enforcement agencies as required. Educational programs are available for the various program areas.



*GEH staff investigating discharge into stream in April, 2023*

243

Total permits issued in 2023

290

Pool inspections performed in 2023

33

Total general environmental complaints investigated

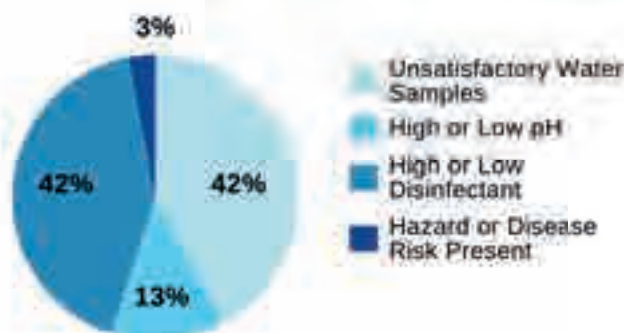
## PERMITS & INSPECTIONS

The GEH division is responsible for permitting and inspecting public and semi-public pools, spas, wading pools, therapy pools, water parks, and beaches, as well as solid waste and recycling facilities, and refuse haulers in Monroe County.

### Pools

In 2023, GEH staff issued 119 permits to aquatic facilities within Monroe County. This is a 2.58% increase in permitted pools compared to 2022. GEH staff completed 290 inspections, which is a 1.75% increase in inspections compared to 2022. There were 52 closures throughout the year, with the most frequent reasons being unsatisfactory water samples and improper disinfectant levels.

### 2023 Monroe County Pool Closures by Type



*\*Aquatic facilities may be closed if the department determines a condition, situation, or installation is created, installed or maintained that may: A) cause or result in a health or safety hazard; or B) cause or transmit disease.*



## ANIMAL BITE REPORTS

The Monroe County Health Department received 163 reports of animal bites in 2023. The category with the highest number of rabies tests in 2023 were bat bites, followed by skunk, cat and dog bites.

### 2023 Monroe County Rabies Tests Performed at IDOH Lab

Animal Tested	Negative	Positive	Unsat.	Total
Bat	14	0	0	14
Cat	4	0	0	4
Dog	3	0	0	3
Raccoon	2	0	0	2
Skunk	4	0	0	4
Total	27	0	0	27

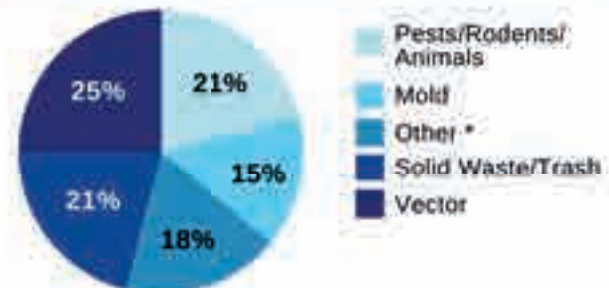
## COMPLAINTS & CONSULTATIONS

The GEH division handles a variety of complaints and concerns within the community. There were 33 total complaints investigated in 2023.

In addition to providing education to complainants, GEH staff make appropriate referrals and enforcement actions. Vector complaints are followed up with a site investigation by GEH staff, correspondence with the responsible party, and continued monitoring of the site with possible enforcement actions. Rental housing complaints are referred to legal service providers and city of Bloomington Housing and Neighborhood Development when applicable. Other frequent complaints include

trash and open burning, which are addressed with education and referrals to other county or state agencies.

### 2023 Environmental Health Complaints



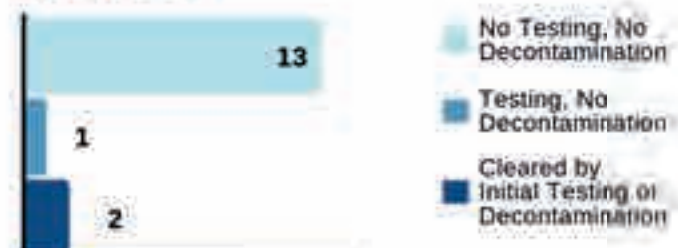
\*Abandoned properties, pools, tattoo parlors, open burning.

## ILLEGAL DRUG LABS

GEH staff monitor properties that were seized as active methamphetamine labs within Monroe County. At the end of 2023, 13 properties potentially contaminated with methamphetamine remained in Monroe County. GEH staff follow up with property owners to provide information about testing for and decontamination of residual chemicals in the home.

Two new meth-contaminated properties were reported in 2023. The decontamination status of properties in Monroe County that are in violation of the Indiana state law regarding methamphetamine labs is below.

### 2023 Properties Under Jurisdiction of 410 IAC 38





## MONITOR & SURVEILLANCE

The Indiana Department of Health (IDOH) monitors mosquito-borne diseases across the state. In 2023, there were 3 observed mosquito infections, 0 equine disease cases, and 1 human disease case of West Nile Virus (WNV) in Monroe County. There were no observed mosquito infections, equine disease cases, or human disease cases of Eastern Equine Encephalomyelitis (EEE), or California Serogroup Viruses (CSV) in Monroe County.

The Monroe County Health Department also hosts a platform for residents to request mosquito sampling on their property. Four sites were used to trap mosquitos for testing. Access to the mosquito testing site application can be found under the Environmental Health Services: General section of MCHD's website.

### Ticks

According to surveillance conducted by the Indiana Department of Health, from 2017 to 2023, over 40% of the adult *Ixodes scapularis* ticks (black-legged ticks) found in Monroe County were infected with *Borrelia burgdorferi*, which is the bacteria that causes Lyme disease.

Residents of Monroe County should use precautionary measures such as wearing long sleeves and pants and using EPA-approved insect repellent when hiking or working in wooded areas to prevent acquiring mosquito and tick-borne illness.



## REPORTS & SERVICES

### PCBs

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) continues to oversee work at three Superfund sites in Bloomington, IN, known as Lemon Lane Landfill, Neal's Landfill and Bennett's Dump. These sites are part of a group of sites contaminated by PCB waste from the former Westinghouse Electric Corp. plant. Westinghouse is now Paramount and is responsible for the cleanup of the sites.

All three sites have been removed from Superfund's National Priorities List, or NPL; EPA has determined that cleanup at the site is completed, and no further action is required other than continued operation and maintenance, monitoring, and five-year reviews.

### *Total Volume of Water Treated at Monroe County PCB Sites in 2023*



### Environmental Health Assessments

GEH staff respond to informal records requests for properties in Monroe County. Records searched include but are not limited to spills, complaints, storage tanks, and health and safety violations. In 2023, GEH staff completed 33 ESA Phase I records requests, 100% of which were completed within five days of the request.



## 2023 GOALS

- By December 31, 2023, GEH staff will develop an Access database designed to store archival and active complaint data for all Environmental Health Services sections to improve archival complaint searches, track complaints with an open case status, and collect yearly complaint data.



**MET** - GEH staff moved and merged over 7,000 complaints and all the associated data to a new Access database. The General Complaint database is currently in use by the Foods, General Environmental, Population Health, and Wastewater sections. The database allows staff to search complaints and track complaints with an open case status while collecting more precise data.

- By June 1, 2023, GEH staff will compile resources and contact information for all types of environmental topics to send to neighborhood associations in Monroe County. By December 31, 2023, GEH staff will have sent these resources to the neighborhood associations.



**MET** - GEH staff obtained contact information for organizations that work with neighborhood associations in Monroe County by June 1, 2023. Staff then provided environmental services that are offered by the General Environmental section such as XRF lead testing, radon testing, and mosquito trapping to the City of Bloomington Housing and Neighborhood Development, the Office of the Mayor, and other organizations that oversee neighborhood associations.



Mike Kuzemka, Environmental Health Program Manager, Simeon Baker, Sr. Environmental Health Specialist and Kody Clark, Environmental Health Specialist work on a project at the Fall 2023 retreat.

## GOALS FOR 2024

- By January 1, 2024, the radon program will be reinstated in Monroe County. A radon GIS dashboard will be created by October 1, 2024 and posted on the Health Department radon webpage by December 31, 2024 for the public.
- By April 1, 2024, staff will reach out to both Monroe County and Bloomington Parks and Recreation Departments to provide tick bite prevention signs for trails, shelters, and restrooms at the parks.
- Staff will perform tick drags in at least 6 county and city public parks to identify and collect data on tick species that may carry disease, by November 1, 2024.



2023

# ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FOODS

The MCHD Food Division manages the Food Protection Program to protect the well-being of the consumers who choose to dine or shop at the food establishments of Monroe County. The program is designed to educate and regulate the licensed retail establishments and food handlers throughout Monroe County.

In 2023, the foods division issued 724 total licenses. These licenses included all retail, mobile, seasonal, and temporary establishments.

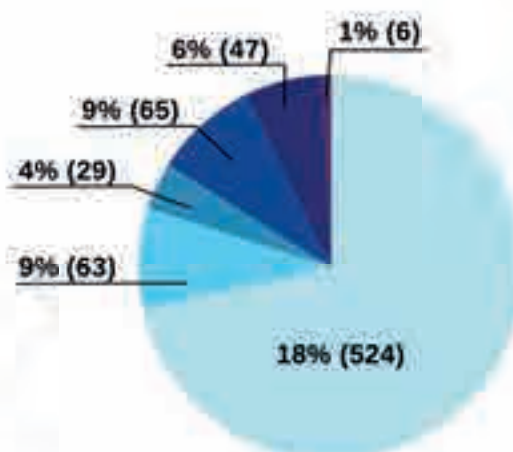
## PLAN REVIEW

In 2023, the Foods Division completed 84 pre-operational inspections in Monroe County. These inspections include new retail food establishments, new mobile food establishments, and change of ownership establishments.

## INSPECTIONS

Foods division completed 1229 total inspections, of which 965 of those were routine inspections. The number of total inspections increased from the previous year by 217.

*2023 Licenses Issued by Type*



724

Total licenses  
issued in 2023

84

Pre-  
operational  
inspections  
performed in  
2023

1,229

Total  
inspections  
performed in  
2023



## 2023 GOALS

- The Foods Division Staff will update our database to streamline our annual permitting process by July 2023.  
☒ MET - Staff updated our Access Database.
- The Foods Division will participate in four community events by December 1st 2023.  
☒ MET - The Foods Division participated in Lemonade Day, Hoosier Hills Food Bank talk, French Lick food safety talk, and 100 Men Who Care.



*(Left to right) Foods staff Alyssa Delgado and Alyssa Mundy participate in the Monroe County 2023 Lemonade Day.*



*A photo taken of a walk-in freezer during a 2023 restaurant kitchen inspection.*

## GOALS FOR 2024

- The Foods Division staff will aim to increase the number of Mobile Unit and Seasonal inspections to reach a completion of 100%. We intend to achieve this goal by having a fully staffed Food Division for 2024. The Foods Division intends to add 1 part-time staff to focus on our Mobile and Seasonal licenses.
- Move to complete filing, inspection, and license renewals electronically. Our plan-review and license renewal process has moved to fully online with OpenGov. The Foods Division is in the process of moving all files to an online database. We intend to have paperless inspection reports by using the USA Foodservice system, which is used by the IDOH Food Protection division.
- Learn and implement updates to Indiana Food Code. The Indiana Food Code is updating in July 2024. We will be attending multiple trainings in anticipation of this update. We will communicate with retail establishments.



2023

# ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES WASTEWATER

There were numerous and continuous changes to the wastewater section in 2023. The wastewater sanitation section was staffed by Shian'ah Cox, Aaron Agley, Matthew Britzman and Parker Beaty. Parker Beaty was replaced by Peter McAnich later in the year.

Aaron Agley was hired in February to take the full time Environmental Health Specialist position in wastewater. Matthew Britzman was hired to fulfill the temporary Environmental Health Specialist position that assists both the Foods and Wastewater sections. Peter McAnich was hired to fulfill the role of the part time Environmental Health Specialist.

In 2023, Monroe County has used the online permitting system OpenGov, which includes the additional steps of requiring a site plan sent in by installers and designers per State of Indiana code (410 IAC 6-8.3-53 (d(3))). This has allowed for more detailed records of septic systems in the county.



*Aaron Agley, Environmental Health Specialist of the Wastewater Section, takes a water sample for the purposes of E. coli testing to confirm active discharge seen behind*

## SEPTIC PERMITS

The Monroe County Health Department received 208 septic permit applications, and of those, 143 permits were issued. Reasons septic permits were *not* issued included: site specific constraints, failure to provide soil reports, or nonpayment of county fees. Out of the total issued permits, 80 were for new homes on sites that had never previously had any type of dwelling. Renewal permits for previously issued septic permits that were left to expire accounted for 29 of the issued septic permits. The remaining 34 were repair permits.

208

Applications  
for Septic  
Permits

57%

Decrease in  
open active  
complaint  
cases in the  
county

10%

Rate of Failure  
in Real Estate  
Septic  
Inspections



## WASTEWATER DISPOSAL COMPLAINT PROGRAM

The Wastewater Disposal Complaint Program follows the general sewage disposal requirements set in Indiana State Board of Health Rule 410 IAC 6-8.3-52 (a).

Upon receiving a complaint, fact-finding documents are compiled, and the department conducts an initial field investigation within three business days. The investigation process can include walking the site to verify a direct point source discharge from a specific location, such as a septic tank riser or broken sewer pipe, collecting wastewater samples for laboratory analysis, and utilizing colored tracing dye to determine the source.

Once evidence is collected to substantiate a complaint, the property owner is notified in writing with a Health Officer Order delivered via mail outlining the nature of the violation, remedial action necessary for compliance, and set time frames to correct the violation. MCHD conducts follow-up inspections to monitor compliance with the Order. Remedial action can range from repairing a broken or

clogged sewer lateral or re-routing plumbing, to replacing existing septic tanks and absorption fields. Failure to respond to the Health Officer Order can result in the issuance of Notice of Violations, monetary fines, disconnection of water service, or the filing of a complaint in the Monroe Circuit Court by the Monroe County Attorney's Office.

In 2023, there were 48 new sewage discharge complaints filed (compared to 39 in 2022), and 25 were confirmed failures (compared to 31 confirmed failures in 2022). Of the 25 substantiated complaints, 12 have been satisfactorily repaired, 6 are pending repairs to be resolved, and 7 are under continued investigation and enforcement action. In addition, with help of the General Environmental staff, 86 active complaint cases from previous years were also closed.

There are 53 active sewage discharge complaints open, including all past dates up to December 31st, 2023.

## SEPTIC SYSTEM INSTALLATIONS

In 2023, the Monroe County Health Department recorded 98 septic system installations. All recorded installations of septic systems received at least one field inspection during construction with a follow-up completion inspection.





## REAL ESTATE SEPTIC INSPECTION PROGRAM

For a Real Estate Inspection, staff collect fact-finding documents and physically inspect onsite sewage disposal systems for the purpose of real estate transactions, title changes, refinances, and lot improvements. This service is provided after the property owner, buyer, or agent submits an inspection application and pays the required fee.

Once the application is processed, the inspection begins with an in-house file and record search regarding the site. If any documentation is found, copies are included with the report. Next, a visual evaluation of the site is conducted. This begins by walking the premises and establishing a perimeter for the inspection. The tank and field area are visually examined for signs of seepage, system overload, or illegal discharge conditions.

Any details of the system are described on the inspection report. The inspection report is then completed, with the inspector noting whether a visible failure was observed or not. Tank maintenance is recommended when

there is no record of it being serviced within the previous three years. Actively failing septic systems become new complaint cases that are subject to enforcement.

In 2023, there were 56 Real Estate Septic Inspection applications submitted (compared to 55 in 2022). Of the 56 applications, 6 inspections revealed actively failing septic systems or factors, and 48 inspections revealed septic systems with increased failure risk. Any requests by citizens for Real Estate Septic Inspection services that were not handled by Health Department staff due to time constraints or citizen request were referred to the Indiana On-site Wastewater Professionals Association (IOWPA) for a list of inspectors.

## SOIL ANALYSIS

A soil analysis is a detailed description of the soil from which a determination is made as to whether a septic system can be installed. With knowledge of the soil type and terrain, the department will issue a permit that will dictate the septic system specifications required. The permit should also indicate location, depth, and any other characteristic of the given system. In Monroe County, there are some challenging site conditions, such as shallow bedrock, fragipan, steep slopes, karst terrain, etc., that should be considered when selecting an appropriate septic system location. Soil properties affect the function of a septic absorption field. Factors impacting a well-functioning septic system, including various soil properties, are evaluated by an approved Soil Scientist.



*Shian'ah Cox, Environmental Health Specialist of the Wastewater Section, conducting an inspection in the basement of a building to locate a nearby sewage discharge.*





All septic permits issued in the State of Indiana and Monroe County require a soil test by an approved Soil Scientist, as mandated by Indiana Department of Health. This report is then submitted to the Health Department for review. All Soil Scientists must be a member of either the American Registry of Certified Professionals in Agronomy, Crops, and Soils (ARCPAC) or the Indiana Registry of Soil Scientists (IRSS).

The Wastewater Disposal Complaint Program follows the general sewage disposal requirements set in Indiana State Board of Health Rule 410 IAC 6-8.3-52 (a).

## STAFF EDUCATION

The wastewater section staff attended the following professional development trainings:

- The 2023 IEHA fall conference
- The State Local Health Department OSS meeting
- The Greene County Septic Symposium

## STATE LEGISLATURE CODE CHANGES

HB 1245 went into effect in 2023, stating that no County could have wastewater code requirements that were stricter than State of Indiana code 410 IAC 6-8.3. This led to the nonenforcement of Monroe County Code Chapter 365. Until the end of 2023, Monroe County has been in communication with Indiana Department of Health in efforts to rewrite Monroe County Code Chapter 365 with adaptations to pass the State's Technical Review Panel for allowances of the County code stricter than 410 IAC 6-8.3.





## 2023 GOALS

- Wastewater staff will work with the Technical Services Department (TSD) to create a plan review step when issuing septic permits on the online permitting software OpenGov.
  - ✓ MET - All septic permits starting in March of 2023 are required to have detailed septic site plans that meet State recommendations.
- Staff will have experience in all aspects of the section responsibilities: permit records, complaints/enforcement, real estate, campgrounds, new construction, and permitting. This expands new staff capacity and builds cross-training.
  - ✓ MET - All staff are knowledgeable in all areas of responsibility; Matthew Britzman has taken the opportunity to cross train into the Foods section.
- Update section website to include educational materials for the public.
  - ✓ MET - information comparing complaint case statistics and septic site plan forms updated for public access. Goal will continue into 2024.

## GOALS FOR 2024

- By end of Quarter 2, 2024, establish consistent pre site inspections before construction of septic fields.
- By end of Quarter 3, 2024 update County Wastewater Code to reflect new requirements of State Legislature.
- By end of Quarter 4, 2024, update section website to include educational materials for the public.
- By end of Quarter 4, 2024, establish consistent on-site meetings with soil scientists for septic permit applications.



2023

# PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

The national Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) program was developed in 2002 in response to September 11, 2001 and the anthrax attacks that followed one month later. The program aimed to safeguard communities through preparedness and effective response to public health emergencies. Prior to that time, public health preparedness activities were spread across health agencies in various offices rather than falling under Preparedness. The Monroe County Health Department has been a part of the PHEP program since its inception. In 2023, the PHEP program included a full-time coordinator and 7-hour-a-week part time assistant. The PHEP program is funded by the Indiana Department of Health through funds they receive from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The PHEP program works closely with state, district and numerous local community partners. The Monroe County PHEP program is a part of District 8 Preparedness which includes Monroe, Brown, Bartholomew, Jackson, Washington, Orange, and Lawrence.

*(Right) Monroe County PHEP was involved with Long Term Recovery Group recruitment, Stinesville Tornado Disaster Case Management training, and the Multi-Agency Resource Center (MARC).*



40

Community  
members  
trained in  
Psychological  
First Aid

14

MCHD staff  
trained in  
Stop the  
Bleed \*

\* Program started  
in late 2023.

## Disaster Case Managers Needed

Seeking VOLUNTEERS interested in assisting Stinesville tornado survivors to find safe, secure and sanitary housing.

Training provided for this opportunity. Volunteers will be a part of the Long Term Recovery Committee.



### Training Details

Date: May 17, 2023

Time: 9:00am - 5:00pm

Location: Stinesville (Stinesville Community Room)

2023 Main Street (201, Stinesville)

**Parking:** Park in the rear of the facility. Enter through white double doors adjacent to the detached garage.

For more info: 812-727-8110

To Register to Attend Training:

<https://forms.gle/zhM8H1ag61Z51p8g1-001000>





# CROSS-AGENCY COLLABORATION

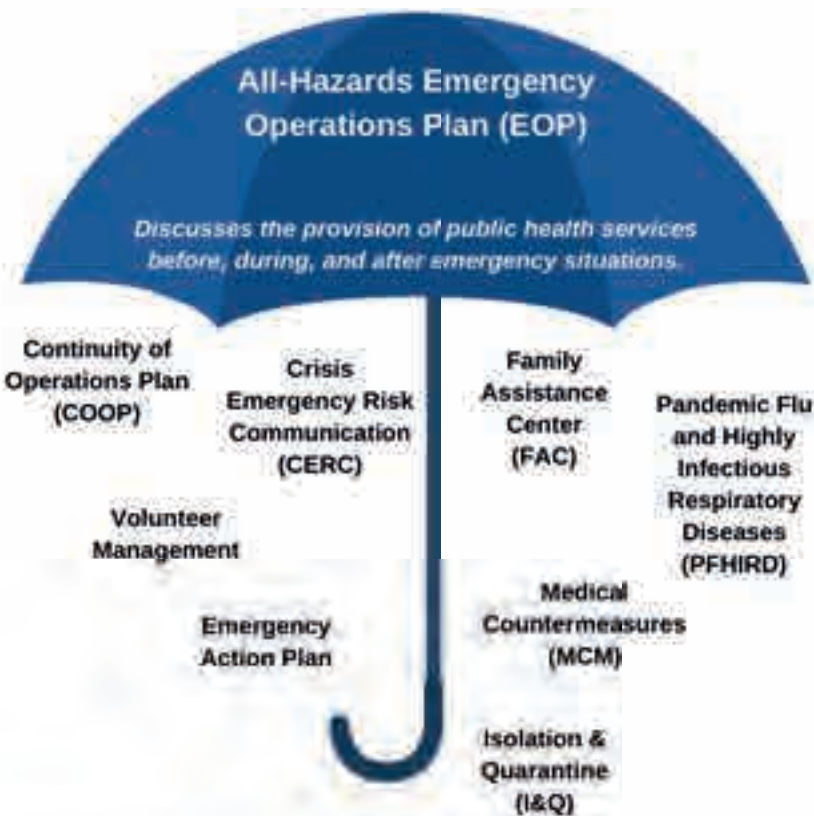
Relationship building and planning with other agencies is very important in the PHEP program. Currently, the PHEP Coordinator is involved with several district and local groups including the Emergency Preparedness and Planning Coalition (EPPC), Local Health Dept. District 8 Coordinators (D8 LHD), Local Emergency Planning Coalition (LEPC), Monroe County Community Organizations Active in Disaster (MoCOAD), Heat Management Task Force, Indiana Environmental Health Association (IEHA) and IEHA Terrorism and All Hazards Preparedness committee (TAHP).

In 2023, Christina Kempf, the Monroe County PHEP Coordinator, served as the IEHA Terrorism and All Hazards Preparedness committee secretary, IEHA Southern Region Terrorism & All Hazards Preparedness Representative and MoCOAD secretary.

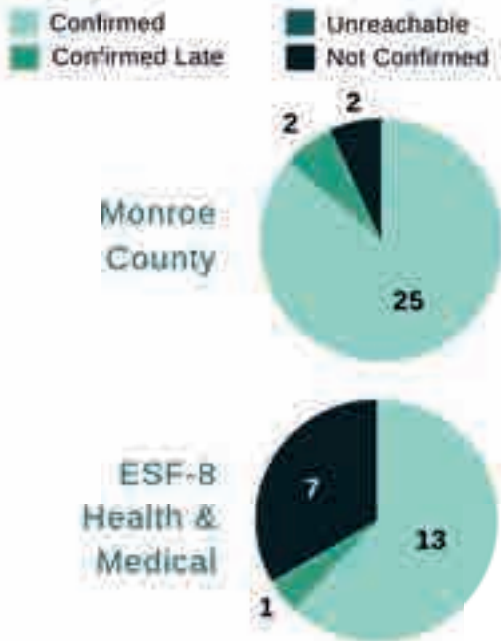
Emergency preparedness is a shared responsibility of all levels of government, the private and nonprofit sectors, and individual citizens. To learn how you can do your part and to be personally prepared, visit [Ready.gov](https://www.ready.gov).

# EMERGENCY PLANS & DRILLS

MCHD PHEP program maintains numerous preparedness plans (see below).



Call Down Drill - Test





## HIGHLIGHTS

- Hosted Psychological First Aid trainings in partnership with the Indiana Environmental Health Association and Red Cross.
- Partnered with Ed Sanow of the International Disaster Emergency Service to provide Safe Worship Security Training to area places of worship.
- Taught Stop the Bleed trainings to MCHD staff and Safe Worship Security Training attendees.
- Continued updating preparedness plans, focusing on Emergency Operations Plan (EOP), Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP), Pandemic Influenza/Highly Infectious Respiratory Disease, Family Assistance Center, and Medical Countermeasures.
- Held 1st ESF8 (Health & Medical Emergency Support Function) meeting in many years at EMA office with several agencies in attendance. Quarterly meeting scheduled set for 2023 -2024. ESF8 Alert system set up and tested through Everbridge. MCHD Everbridge notification was also tested on 3 different occasions.
- Attended 2-day TEFX Medical Countermeasures training, 3-day Indiana Environmental Health Association conference with preparedness topics and speakers, and 2-day National Transportation Safety Board Family Assistance Training.
- Assisted with successful Employee Retreat including trainings, overviews, staff team building opportunities.

## ECLIPSE MESSAGING



- Began Solar Eclipse Planning for 4/8/24 event. Met with EMA and IDHS as well as MCHD section leads, developed a plan for weekly social media education starting in December based on possible areas of concern related to mass gatherings/eclipse safety and provided information on approved eclipse glasses, food vendor applications, and port-a-potty calculations to Visit Bloomington, the group providing the platform for all Solar Eclipse information.
- Attended Red Cross full scale exercise with community partners and LEPC sponsored Short Line Safety Institute Railroad Emergency Response Training and Exercise.
- Provided MCHD response specific preparedness training to all MCHD staff on Everbridge drills, phone tree drills, PODs and ICS. New staff continue to receive a preparedness overview including personal and work related preparedness.



## 2023 GOALS

- PHEP staff will conduct one telephone call down and one Everbridge call down to test ability to communicate with staff during an emergency by June 30, 2023.



MET

- PHEP staff will revise the ICS assignments and develop considerations for staff utilization for future public health emergencies by October 31, 2023.



MET

- PHEP staff will complete the new Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) template by June 30, 2023.



MET

## GOALS FOR 2024

- PHEP staff will perform a full inventory of all PHEP supplies in office, storage closet and PHEP trailer by December 31, 2024.
- PHEP staff will update Medical Countermeasures plan by June 30, 2024.
- PHEP staff will maintain updated contact lists for ESF8 partners, Long Term Care and Assisted Living Facilities, and Home Health Agencies by December 31, 2024.

### *Special Thank You from MCHD PHEP to:*

- Ellettsville Fire Department for the use of their space.
- American Red Cross – partnering together for Psychological First Aid Trainings.
- Indiana Department of Health for participating in the Stinesville Tornado MARC.
- International Disaster Emergency Service (IDES) for providing free training.
- Ivy Tech for use of their space.



2023

# VITAL RECORDS

The staff in the Vital Records division are the public face of the Monroe County Health Department. We issue birth and death certificates, register home births, perform paternity affidavits and amendment affidavits, process payments for environmental permits (food, septic, pools, trash haulers, campgrounds) and assist the public at the counter, on the phone, and via email.

*(Left to Right) Vital Records staff Eric Diamond, Kathy Hertz, Tina Burrell, Pat Cullins, Jessica Egan*



## INDIANA VITAL RECORDS ASSOCIATION (IVRA) CONFERENCES

Vital Records staff attended the spring IVRA conference held in Jasper, IN, and the fall conference held in Florence, IN. Speakers included representatives from the Indiana Department of Health Vital Records division as well as guests such as Angela Meacham, Director of the Indiana Clearinghouse for Missing Children, Monica Kelsey, CEO and Founder of Safe Haven Baby Boxes, Inc., and motivational speaker Kelley Sheiss.

IDOH Local Health Department Southern Regional Administrator Michelle Mahern spoke at length about the state's Health First Indiana program and how it will affect Vital Records offices. Some of the Health First Indiana requirements for Vital Records are included in our 2024 goals. Larry Ervin, IDOH Vital Records Director and State Registrar, also addressed this, sharing that he is leading a task force which will consider the impact of these changes to local Vital Records offices and how to address them. His goal is to meet the Health First Indiana requirements by 2025.



# 3,222

Births and  
Deaths  
Registered in  
2023

# 13,741

Birth and  
Death  
Certificates  
Issued in 2023

# 1,308

Non-VR  
payments  
processed  
in 2023

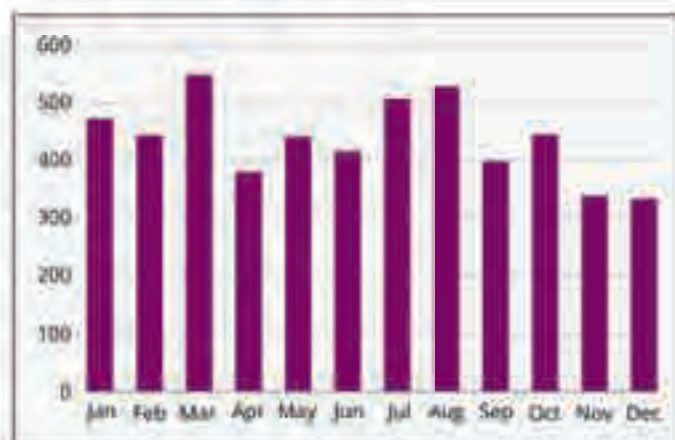


## BIRTHS

In 2023, Vital Records issued 5,248 birth certificates to customers in person, through the mail, and online. This is an increase over both the previous year's total of 4,926, and 2021's total of 4,810. In 2023, Vital Records registered 1,837 new births in Monroe County. This birth rate is higher than the previous year's total of 1,739, as well as an increase over the 2021 total of 1,814.

In addition to issuing birth certificates and registering new births, Vital Records also processed 92 birth-related transactions requiring appointments with parents, including paternity affidavits, amendments, corrections, and home birth registrations.

### 2023 Birth Certificates Issued by Month



## 2023 MONROE COUNTY BIRTH STATISTICS



**1,837**  
Total Births  
Registered

882 females  
955 males

**1,817**  
Hospital  
Births



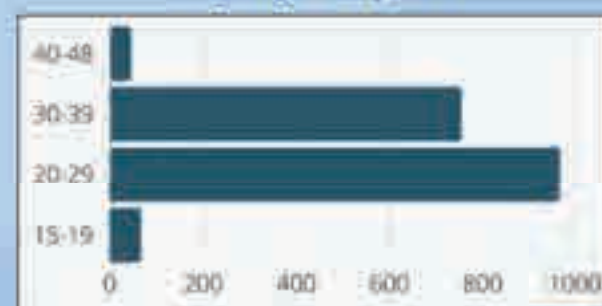
**29**  
Sets of Twins

**15**  
Home Births



### MOTHER'S AGE AT DELIVERY

Avg. Age: 28 years

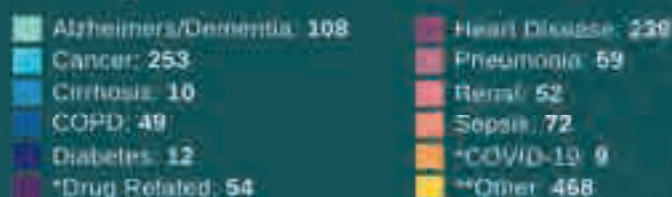


**1,170** Births to Married Parents  
**657** Births to Unmarried Parents  
**10** Unknown



## 2023 MONROE COUNTY DEATH STATISTICS

### Cause of Death



\*Listed as primary cause of death

\*\*Other causes of death include respiratory failure, organ failure, cerebrovascular accident, gunshot wound, blunt force trauma, etc.

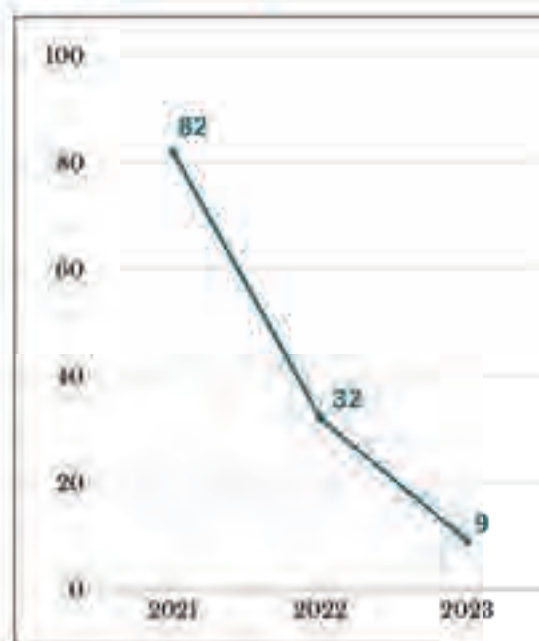
### Location of Death

Location of Death	2023	2022	2021
Decedent's Home	386	380	380
Hospice Facility	286	234	282
Hospital - Dead on Arrival	0	1	3
Hospital - Emergency Room/Outpatient	50	95	77
Hospital - Inpatient	327	425	484
Nursing Home/Long Term Care Facility	271	260	215
Other	65	49	68

## DEATHS

In 2023, Vital Records issued a total of 8,493 death certificates. At the time of this report, there were 1,385 deaths registered in Monroe County in 2023, though there are still a few cases pending registration by the funeral home or medical certifier. The number of deaths in 2023 listing COVID-19 as the primary cause decreased nearly 72% from 2022, whereas sepsis-related deaths increased by 24%. The largest share of deaths in 2023 occurred at the decedent's home, and the age range with the highest number of deaths was 71 to 99 years with a total of 898. In 2023, the coroner certified 117 accidental deaths with nearly 54% of those deaths resulting from overdose or substance abuse.

### Number of Death Records with COVID-19 Listed as Primary Cause of Death





*Age at Death*

Age at Death	2023	2022	2021
Fetal	4	5	7
Under 1 Year	4	5	6
1-19 Years	6	3	8
20-30 Years	27	25	35
31-50 Years	97	123	114
51-70 Years	349	428	426
71-99 Years	898	845	896
100-105 Years	4	15	24

*2023 Manner of Death Listed on Coroner's Cases*

Accident: 117	Undetermined: 5
Natural: 125	Homicide: 2
Suicide: 22	

*Injuries Resulting in Accidental Death*

How Injury Occured	2023
Overdose/Substance Abuse	63
Fall	27
Motor Vehicle Accident	14
Drowning	5
Choking	4
Fire	2
Struck by Train	2
TOTAL	117

**Did You Know?**

The state of Indiana did not require births or deaths to be recorded until 1882.



Not all counties complied with this requirement, so Indiana passed a law in 1907 requiring counties to do so.



Full compliance was not accomplished until after 1920.



Home births were common in the late 19th century and early 20th century, and many births and deaths were *still* not recorded despite the new law.



Our Vital Records department can help the public research older records through genealogy requests, and by providing local and other sources of information.



## 2023 GOALS

- Scan hard copy birth record attachments (court orders, paternity affidavits, etc.) and attach them to electronic birth records in DRIVE. Will complete 8 years' worth (2007 – 2015) by the end of 2023.



**MET** - All birth record attachments from 2007 to 2015 were scanned and attached to electronic birth records in DRIVE. By the end of 2023 approximately 95% of the goal was reached with the remaining 5% completed by the end of January 2024.

- Death Standard Operating Procedures will be updated and fine-tuned by the end of June 2023.



**MET** - All Death Standard Operating Procedures were updated by the end of June 2023.

## GOALS FOR 2024

- Vital Records Emergency Kits will be fully stocked and ready by end of September 2024, including having a documented emergency plan for VR employees. This will fulfill one of the Health First Indiana Key Performance Indicators for VR.
- Staff will transition from 3.50 FTE to 4.00 FTE in January 2024. Additional FTE will be utilized to have dedicated counter/phone personnel, allow for cross-training within VR, and provide additional opportunities for special projects and external training.
- Staff will begin entering local birth numbers into the Indiana Department of Health's Database Registration of Indiana's Vital Events (DRIVE) system for records dated 2007 and earlier, completing 2006 and 2007 by the end of 2024.
- Under the guidance of the Indiana Department of Health, VR staff will begin to implement the Health First Indiana Key Performance Indicator allowing local health departments to issue birth certificates to all Indiana born persons, regardless of their county of birth. This KPI states that plans are to have this practice in place by 1/1/25.
- A representative from Vital Records will serve on the local Fetal Infant Mortality Review team, fulfilling a Health First Indiana Key Performance Indicator. The representative will attend all quarterly meetings of the FIMR team.







## FACEBOOK

Below are some of our other Facebook posts from 2023:



Reach: 8,857  
 Impressions: 9,483  
 Interactions: 81  
 Link Clicks: 0



Reach: 8,735  
 Impressions: 9,832  
 Interactions: 100  
 Link Clicks: 71



Reach: 6,865  
 Impressions: 7,537  
 Interactions: 49  
 Link Clicks: 0



## TWITTER (X)

Below are some of our other posts on Twitter (X) from 2023:



**Impressions:** 147  
**Total Engagements:** 6  
**Detail Expands:** 4  
**Retweets:** 1  
**Link Clicks:** 1

**Impressions:** 188  
**Total Engagements:** 7  
**Media Engagements:** 4  
**Retweets:** 2  
**Likes:** 1



**Impressions:** 151  
**Total Engagements:** 16  
**Link Clicks:** 7  
**Media Engagements:** 5  
**Retweets:** 1  
**Follows:** 1  
**Detail Expands:** 1  
**Profile Clicks:** 1





## 2023 GOALS

- Admin staff will create yearly calendar of health observance months/ days in order to identify timely topics for social media posts.



**MET** - With support of intern a calendar was created.

- Division Managers/leads will provide at least 3 social media topics/posts to admin staff at each monthly division meeting.

**UNMET/PARTIALLY MET**

- Staff will post at least 2 posts each month related to each of the following: "Substance Use/Mental Health", "Inequity, Discrimination and Bias", "Poverty and Navigating Social Services (basic needs)" and "chronic disease" to provide education about identified health needs.

**UNMET/PARTIALLY MET**

## GOALS FOR 2024

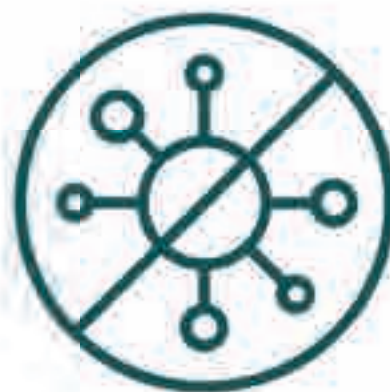
- Admin staff will utilize 'Planner' and 'Scheduler' feature on Facebook and Twitter to schedule posts from calendar at peak times
- Admin staff will post at least once per month with a post that highlights or links to each division.
- Staff will post at least 2 posts each month related to each of the following: "Substance Use/Mental Health", "Inequity, Discrimination and Bias", "Poverty and Navigating Social Services (basic needs)" and "chronic disease" to provide education about identified health needs.



2023

# MONROE COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH CLINIC

Total Patient Encounters	3,918
Immunizations Given	4,130
Childhood Immunizations Given	1,808
Adult Immunizations Given	2,322
School Immunization Clinics	47
Communicable Disease Investigations	307
TB Mantoux Tests Given	221
TB DOT Patients	24
Blood Pressure Screenings	275
Diabetes Screenings (A1C)	183
Cholesterol Screenings	111



*Public Health Nurse Conference, June 2023.  
(L to R) Lindsay Shipley, Beth Lucas, Vicki Vaughn, Tammy Fitter, Sally Hudson, Lorie Conolty, Zaira Partida.*



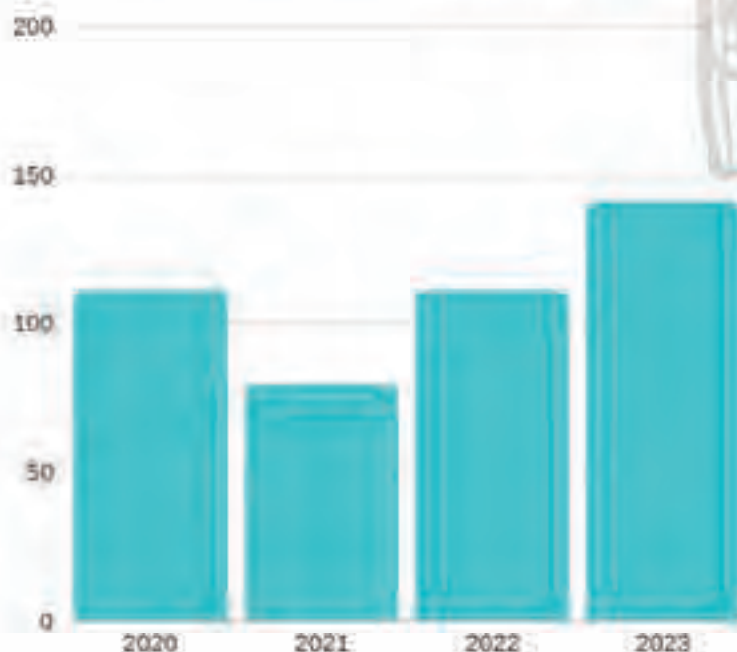
*Latino Family Night Event at Bloomington High School North.  
(L to R) Lindsay Shipley, Vicki Vaughn*



## SAFE SLEEP

141 cribs were distributed in 2023.

*Safe Sleep Crib Distributions 2020-2023*



## GOALS FOR 2024

- Perform at least 500 blood pressure screenings.
- Increase HPV vaccination rates by 6% for 11-14 years of age.

## CHRISTMAS OUTING

We shopped for and wrapped Christmas gifts for one of our patients who was in need of essential items (clothing, food, toiletries, etc.)

*(L to R) Vicki Vaught, Lindsay Shipley, Karen Harp, Jennifer Richards, LuAnne Yeatman, Tammy Fitter.*





2023

# SCHOOL LIAISON

The School Health Liaison role encompasses several critical responsibilities. First and foremost, the liaison serves as a valuable resource for all public, private, and charter K-12 schools in the county. This includes conducting school needs assessments, assisting schools in developing communicable disease response plans, and ensuring compliance with code-driven requirements related to student health in Indiana. Examples of such activities include vaccine initiatives, hearing, vision, and dental screenings, as well as health education. Additionally, the liaison conducts county-level meetings on a quarterly basis, bringing together school nurse leaders and administrators to discuss health-related matters and provide additional resources and opportunities to schools. Beyond these core duties, the liaison collaborates with schools on student health and wellness initiatives, and provides education on communicable diseases and best practices to support the health and safety of students.



720

5th Graders  
Given  
Education on  
Vaping Risks

274

COVID-19  
Tests  
Provided to  
Schools

## 2023 GOALS

- Transition to new school health coordinator and meet with school and health leaders to assess current efforts and future needs:



MET

- Conduct community and state engagement.



MET - Participated in the Suicide Overdose Fatal Review team, IDOH committee for their CDC school health grant, and INSHAPE Advocacy and Grants councils; served on the Advocacy Council for the American School Health Association; presented to IU SPH Grant Writing course.

7

CPR & Basic  
Life Saving  
Certification  
Classes  
Hosted for  
Local Schools



- Provide student education and engagement.

✓ MET - Supported 4 local schools on National Walk to School Day; provided contraception education to 296 high school students; collaborated with Purdue Extension to plan and implement 3rd grade School to Farm field trips for approximately 270 students; assisted MCCSC to host taste test for World Vegetarian Day serving 179 students to inform new plant-based menu items; participated in schools' parent/family education events

- Provide schools with emergency preparedness equipment and training.

✓ MET - Provided 5 AEDs, approximately 70 Stop the Bleed Kits, and 274 Covid-19 tests to schools; connected schools to organizations providing Stop the Bleed training, Narcan training, suicide prevention, and youth mental health first aid; connected schools to local providers who can assist with emergency meds (inhaler, epi-pens); recruited healthcare providers to give school nurse education at back-to-school trainings.

- Provide schools with technical assistance and support.

✓ MET - Provided technical assistance to schools on health-related matters (head lice, communicable disease reporting, and management); assisted schools with grant writing; served as a member on RBBSC and MCCSC's Health and Wellness Councils; hosted quarterly meetings and bimonthly newsletters for school leaders/school nursing leaders on additional wellness curriculum options, community resources, and professional development opportunities for students and staff.

## GOALS FOR 2024

- Convene school and school nurse leaders once a quarter to provide ongoing support, awareness of wellness resources for students, and staff opportunities for professional development.
- Provide education on vaping and tobacco to 700 youth within Monroe County.
- Partner with schools and community organizations to host at least 2 Safe Sitter classes for middle school students.
- Provide at least 6 CPR/AED classes for school staff to increase their knowledge and skills around cardiac events and AED use.





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