



Daviness County  
**HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

# TB PROGRAM

**DAVISS COUNTY**

**PRESENTED BY:**

**DR. MERLE HOLSOPPLE, MD/HEALTH OFFICER**

**KATHY SULLENDER, BSN RN, CPH/PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE**



# About Davieess County

- **Population: Approximately 33,000**
- **Health Dept. has 8 full-time/3 part-time employees.**
- **The Health Officer is considered part-time.**
- **Main industry is meat packing and farming.**
- **Large Amish and Mennonite population.**
- **Large Hispanic and Haitian population.**



# 2009

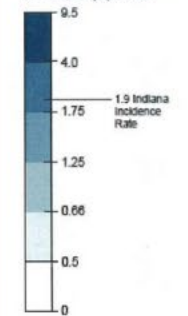
- Over the last several years, we had an occasional case of TB.
- Maybe one case every couple of years.
- At this time, all cases of TB were those born and raised in Daviess County and exposed to TB earlier in life.
- LTBI cases that had converted to active TB in someone who had become immunocompromised.

## TB CASES AND INCIDENCE RATES

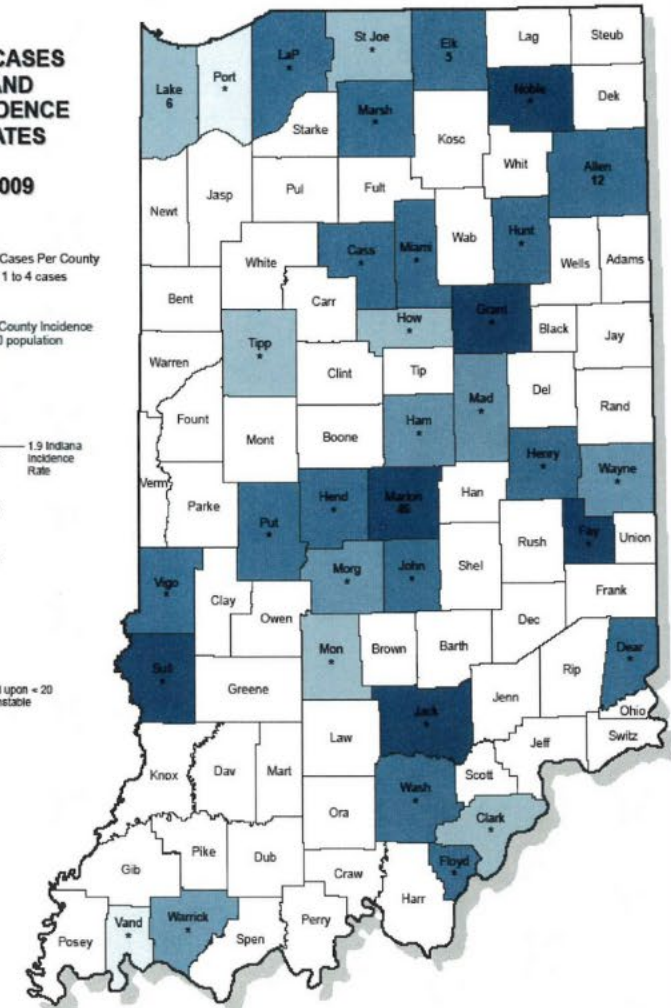
2009

Labeled by Cases Per County  
\* Denotes 1 to 4 cases

Shaded by County Incidence Per 100,000 population

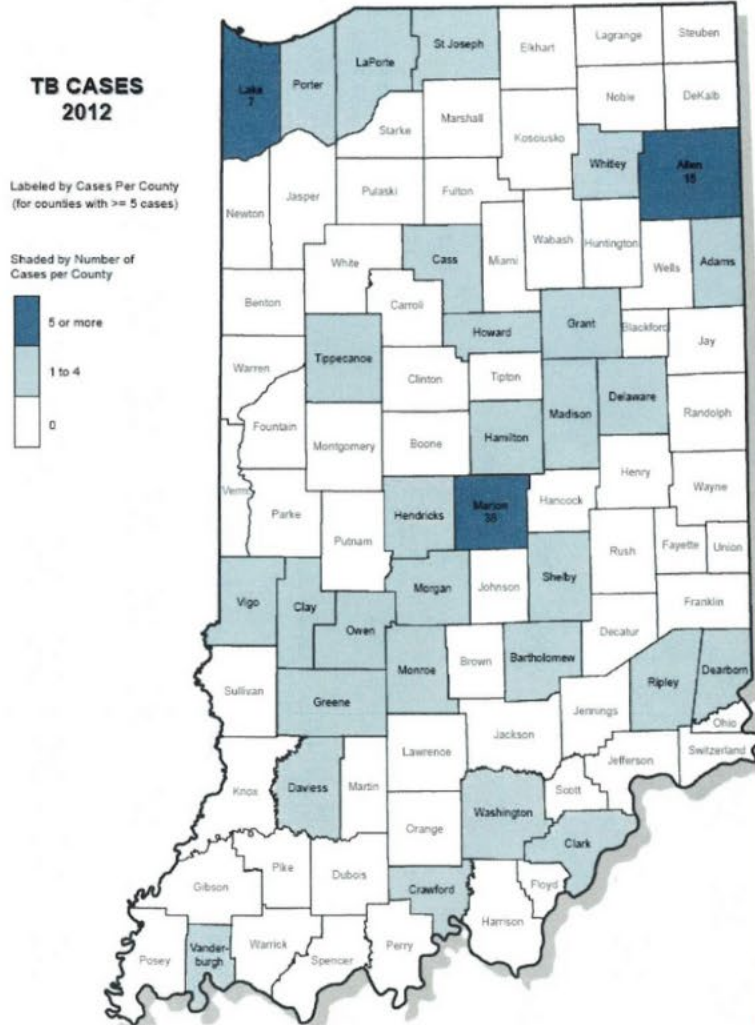


Rates based upon = 20 cases are unstable



# 2012

- Largest employer in Daviess County began recruiting from Haiti and other countries for their workforce.
- In 2012, we had over 500 Haitians living in Washington. Most of them came directly from Haiti to Washington.
- They were very fearful of deportation and did not want to reach out for help or assistance.
- Working with the employer was very difficult in 2012.
- Working with the IDOH TB Refugee program helped us to host a TB clinic that offered free QFT's and free food.



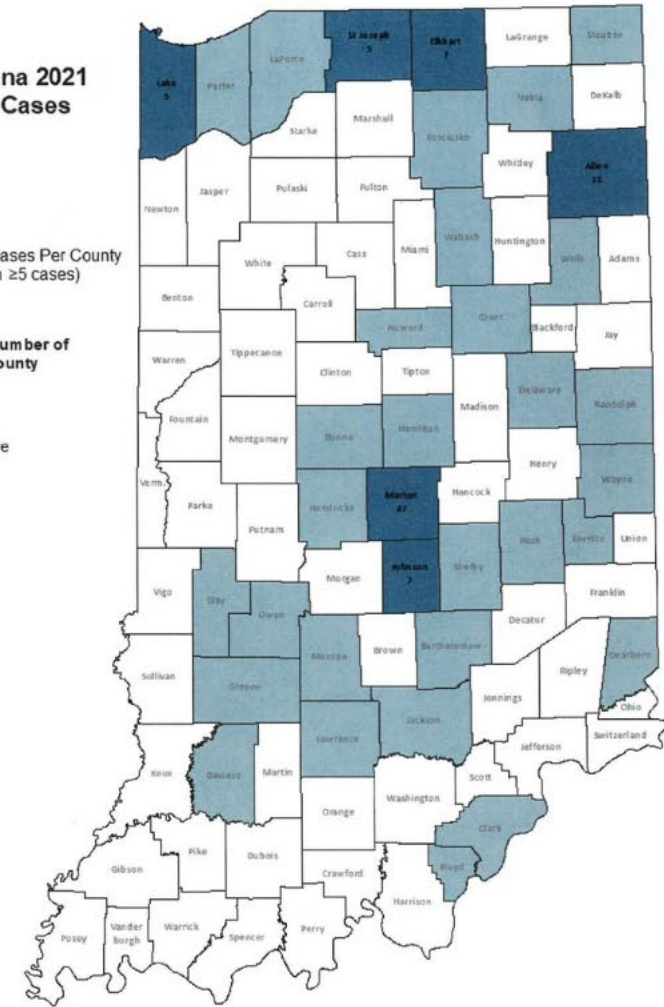
# 2012-2022

- TB cases continue to increase each year.
- TB cases were Pulmonary, Neck and Pancreas.
- We hired a Haitian Community Health Worker who assisted with translation, transportation and medication.
- We continued to work with the employer anyway we could to educate and promote the health of all employees.
- It was very difficult to find a medical provider to accept a TB suspect or confirmed case.

Indiana 2021  
TB Cases

(Labeled by Cases Per County  
counties with  $\geq 5$  cases)

Shaded by Number of  
Cases per County



# Challenges We Faced



It became increasingly difficult for the health department to manage the additional cases and the barriers of no insurance, no medical provider and the need for follow up care was desperately needed.



There are only 2 PHN at the Health Department.



Community concern was growing as cases increased.



Cases were often complicated by other diseases that were identified and needed managed.



In 2020, we had our first death from TB.



# The Solution

In 2021, we began planning the TB Clinic.



➤ We were able to use our Local Health Maintenance Fund to help get the program started.

➤ We asked the State for money for the Physician salary, supplies and advertisement.

➤ We had already established a Communicable Disease Fund to help cover cost of the uninsured who needed labs and Chest X-rays. This fund was also provided by the Local Health Maintenance Fund.

➤ Working with our local hospital, they gave us a 50% discount on services.

## Partners

- We partnered with Infectious Disease in Vanderburgh County and a free clinic that is offered.
- We perform QFT's through the State lab.
- Education was provided to all Daviness County health care providers.
- Materials and candy were delivered to Nursing Homes, Doctor's offices, Schools, and local businesses prior to the start of the clinic.
- The employer who had the largest immigrant population worked with us to offer medications while at work and to see clients at their onsite health clinic and coordinate with the PHN in the care.



# How We Learned

- Dr. Holsopple attended additional training through ECHO.
- We worked with the IDOH TB Division for guidance and we spoke with other health departments who are larger than us on how they run their TB clinics. This gave us a great insight on how we could make this work in our community.



# Materials

- We created TB info cards and pamphlets to distribute throughout the community.
- We delivered TB bags and Snickers to area providers to notify them of the program with a TB magnet.



TB IS NOTHING TO  
**SNICKER ABOUT!**



THINK TB?  
CALL KATHY SULLENDER,  
DAVISS COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE

**812-254-8666, OPTION 1**

OR EMAIL AT KATHY.SULLENDER@DAVISS.ORG

WWW.DAVISSHEALTH.COM

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO TO KEEP OUR  
RESIDENTS HEALTHY! WE APPRECIATE YOU!



Daviss County Health Department offers  
**FREE, CONFIDENTIAL**  
testing for Tuberculosis, the only program  
of its kind in Daviss County.

Patients enrolled in the clinic receive monthly  
follow-up visits with a physician, and they are also  
provided with free medication.

The clinic is committed to providing high-quality  
care to all of its patients, and it has been  
successful in reducing the spread of TB in the  
community. Whether you suspect you may have  
been exposed to TB or simply want to ensure your  
peace of mind, our program makes it easy and  
convenient to get tested.

## Contact Us



PHONE: 812-254-8666, option 1  
WEBSITE: [www.davisshealth.com](http://www.davisshealth.com)  
EMAIL: [nurse@davisshealth.com](mailto:nurse@davisshealth.com)

A blue-bordered graphic containing TB information. On the left, it says "Think TB Test Treat" with green checkmarks. On the right, it lists "Signs &amp; Symptoms" including weight loss, fever/chills, sweating at night, ongoing cough, and chest pain. Below that, it says "FREE, CONFIDENTIAL TESTING AND TREATMENT" and provides contact information: "PHONE: 812-254-8666, option 1", "WEBSITE: www.davisshealth.com", and "EMAIL: nurse@davisshealth.com". The Daviss County Health Department logo is in the bottom left corner.

## Think TB Test Treat

- Weight Loss
- Fever/Chills
- Sweating at night
- Ongoing Cough
- Chest Pain

Does your patient have a history of a  
positive TB test or a current positive TB  
test? If so, your patient should be  
further evaluated for Latent TB.  
Symptoms will not be present.

## Signs & Symptoms



## For More Information:

Contact us at:

- ☎ 812-254-8666, option 1
- ✉ [nurse@davisshealth.com](mailto:nurse@davisshealth.com)
- 🌐 [www.davisshealth.com](http://www.davisshealth.com)



## What You Need To Know About TB

Daviss County  
Health Department

## Tuberculosis Program



# Inside The Clinic



Our first clinic was February 15, 2022.



Physician performs physical exam, overview of health history, social and mental health. Physician orders medications through Purdue Pharmacy.



Nurse collects vital signs, specimens, collects medical records, performs DOT and medications as needed and schedules appointments.



Nurse documents in NBS and consults with TB division as needed.



## Expanding The Program

- After a couple of clinics, we opened our clinic to surrounding counties.
- Anyone can call and schedule a TB suspect/client with us.
- The person will be seen, medications will be ordered. Reports will be sent to the referring county/provider.
- The county of residence is responsible for DOT and NBS documentation.
- Thus far, we have seen patients from Dubois, Vanderburgh, Warrick and Gibson.

# What We Have Learned

- We now assess for food insecurity.
- All clients are so very thankful for the clinic.
- Rifampin works well in applesauce for infants.
- All clients who have attended the clinic have 100% success rate in finishing their LTBI and Active treatments.
- We have only had one “no show” and that client chose not to participate in LTBI treatment.





Daviness County  
**HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

# Contact Us

➤ **DISEASE DOES NOT STOP  
AT THE COUNTY LINE.**

You can refer your suspects or confirmed cases to the Daviness County Health Department.

Email : [kathy.sullender@daviness.org](mailto:kathy.sullender@daviness.org)  
Phone : (812) 254-8667