

**ADAMS COUNTY  
HEALTH DEPARTMENT  
ANNUAL REPORT  
2024**

ADAMS COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

2024

	<u>Term Began</u>	<u>Term Expires</u>
Donna Barger, RN	1/1/2007	12/31/2028
Brad Boyle	2/18/2014	12/31/2028
Mark S. Gresla, M.D.	1/1/1998	12/31/2025
Cody A. Anspach	6/11/2024	12/31/2027
Emil Meyer, DVM	1/1/2001	12/31/2025
Katrina Gilbert, PharmD	1/1/2024	12/31/2027
Barry Scherer	1/1/2024	12/31/2027

HEALTH OFFICER

Michael Ainsworth, M.D.	4/1/2010	12/31/2028
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HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF

Luke Ainsworth	Health Board Attorney
Jessica Rutschilling	Sanitarian/Env. Director
Greg Light	Environmentalist
Tara Wolfrum	Food Inspector
Theresa Nelson	Registrar
Holly Degitz, RN BS	Public Health Nurse/Director
Melinda Michaels	Public Health Nurse
Cheri Potts	Public Health Nurse
Sadi Curtis	School Health Liaison
Kristen Ramsey	Office Manager
Stacey Lee	Office Manager
Karla Marbach	Preparedness Coordinator

## **Environmental Health Report 2024**

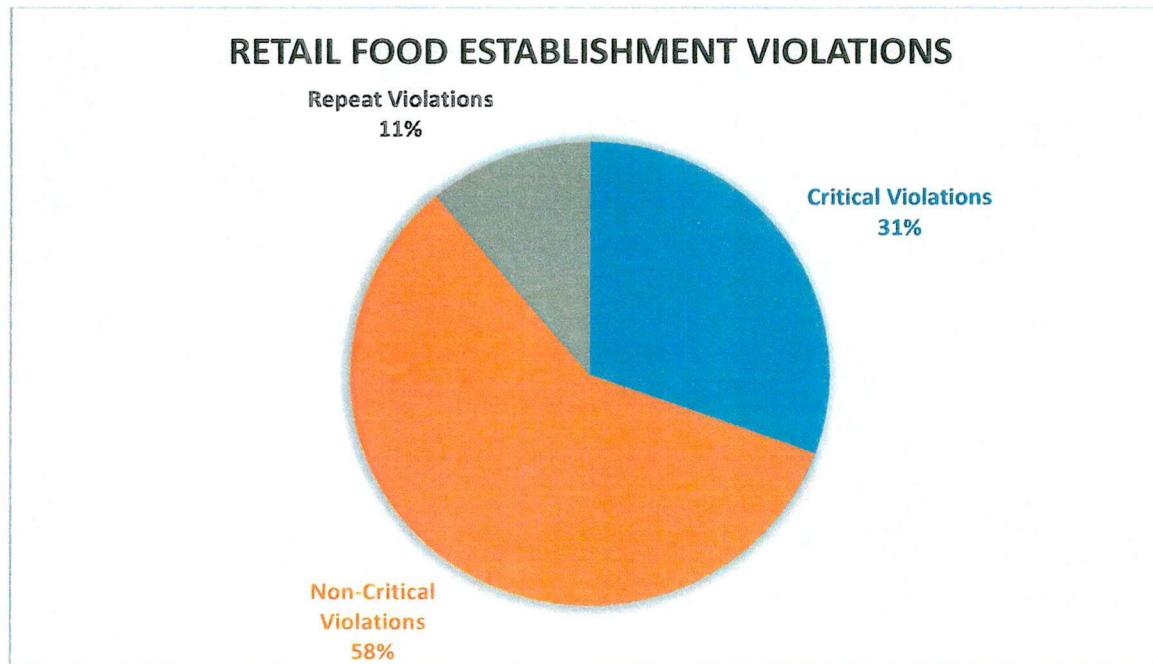
Environmental Health duties continued in accordance with state health laws and county health ordinances. Inspections were performed, reports filed and orders sent to abate all manner of health code violations involving land and stream pollution, industrial pollution, drinking water contamination, unsanitary refuse disposal, unfit buildings and homes, insect and rodent infestations, rabies in animals, improper sewage disposal, and a wide variety of health-related complaints from the public. Local Health Departments are largely responsible for almost all environmental health hazard abatement and enforcement activities within counties.

In 2024, as in past years, we were involved in a wide variety of projects including but not limited to: public health pest control related to the proper and timely application of pesticides, elimination of mosquito breeding sites, monitoring proper operation of public and semi-public swimming pools and spas, investigating and reporting animal bites, conducting lead based paint hazard risk assessments, inspecting municipal and rural residential and industrial sewage pollution violations, and ordering abatement of health hazards when necessary, including dwellings used in the illegal manufacture of methamphetamine. The Environmental Division worked with various state departments, including the Indiana Department of Health (IDOH) and the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) in the performance of code-required duties. Retail food service establishment sanitation violations were investigated and abatement of unsanitary conditions were ordered when necessary. Mold complaints were referred to appropriate professional companies. We continued working with the Health Clinic to address the core services required in the Health First Indiana legislation, which was approved in 2023.

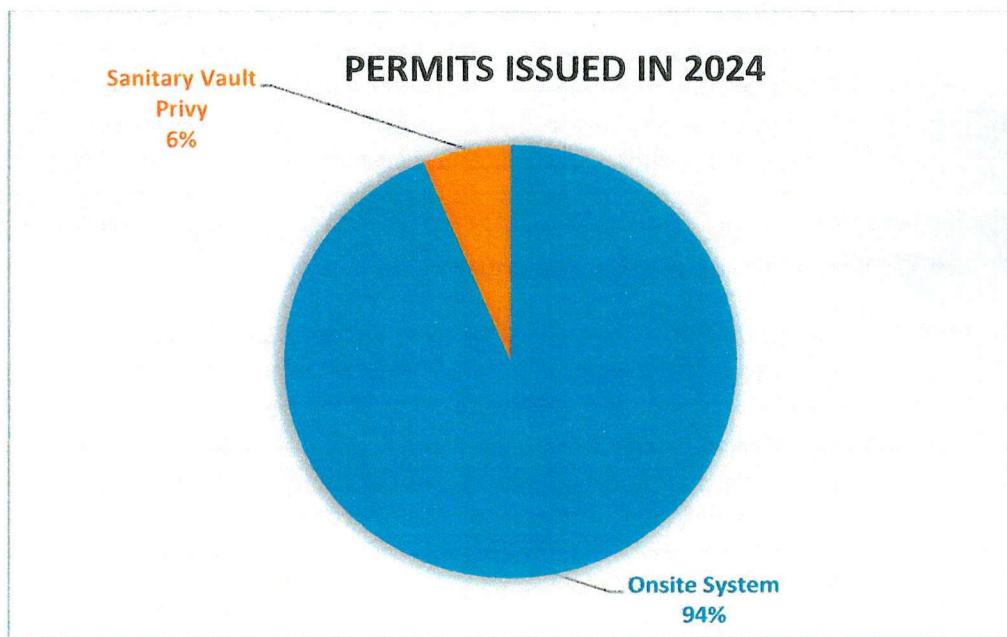
The above projects, which took considerable time, were in addition to regularly-scheduled routine duties, such as soil testing and site evaluations for residential and commercial on-site sewage systems, office appointments, phone and email responses, mandatory attendance at workshops for continuing education and attendance at various committee meetings.

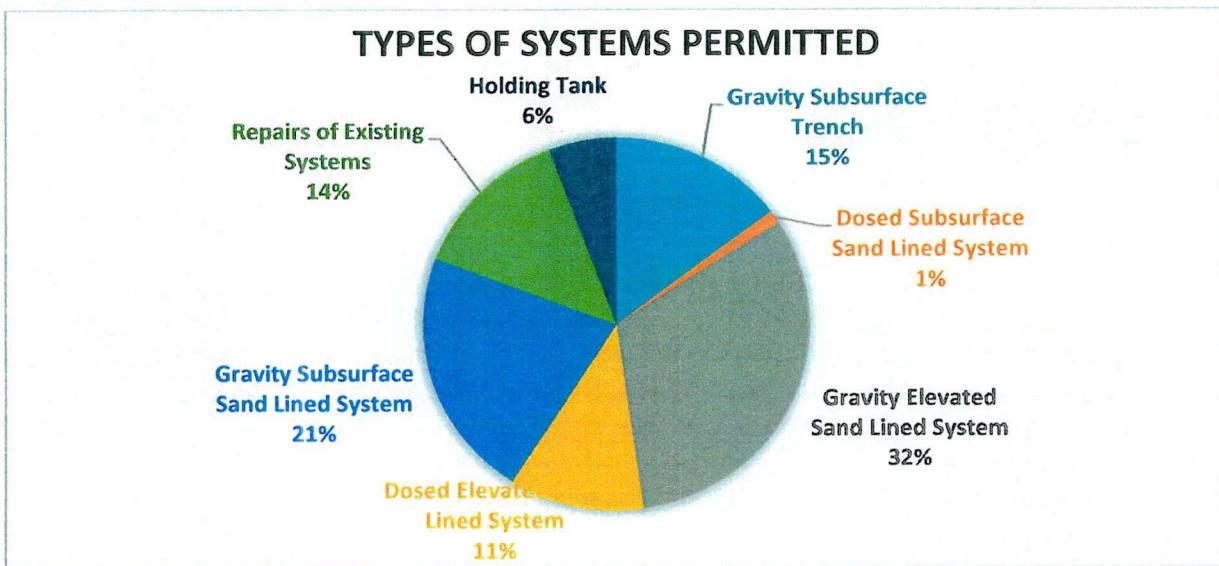
In 2024, there were 150 permitted retail food establishments, 28 permitted mobile food establishments, and 58 permitted temporary food establishments in Adams County. Overall, there were 256 inspections of those food establishments performed by the Department's Food Protection Program staff. Retail food establishment sanitation violations were investigated and abatement of unsanitary conditions were ordered when necessary. The Food Protection Program staff also provided follow-up inspections related to previous violations, food-related complaints, and food recalls. We received 8 complaints related to food establishments in 2024. The food inspector works with the IDOH's Food Protection Division to constantly stay aware of all state and federal food issues and legislative updates. Staff met with individuals who were interested in starting their own retail food businesses or mobile food trucks, and spoke on the phone to several more individuals with questions about starting operations. We currently have one full time food inspector, who also addresses general environmental complaints. The inspector is consistently assisted by the Department's office staff, who reviewed permit applications and ownership changes before issuing permits to operate.

The IDOH Food Protection Program continued conducting monthly trainings, called "Tuesday Trainings" for all food protection staff across the state. These trainings are helping inspectors to be up-to-date on new legislation, as well as new or confusing food topics and processes. Some topics covered in 2024 included the new food code, shellfish regulations, cider production and inspections, and food establishments with on-site sewage systems. The Department also continued to enforce a Health Board approved policy to address establishments with repeated violations that were not being properly addressed by their leadership. No fines have been assessed as of the end of 2024, and it appears some long-standing problems are beginning to be addressed. Inspectors continued to participate in various trainings throughout the state to best address food-related issues in Adams County.



We also supervised the county's onsite sewage disposal program for new and remodeled residential and commercial properties, including those with failing onsite sewage systems. This is a very time-consuming program during warm weather months, with soil testing and site evaluations continuing throughout the year, regardless of weather conditions. There was a total of 95 permits approved for onsite sewage systems and sanitary vault privies in 2024 (89 onsite sewage system and 6 sanitary vault privy). Detailed information was given to permit applicants who inquired about onsite sewage system requirements. The packet of information given outlines our process for obtaining a permit as well as information on maintaining a functioning system. Only the state sewage code was enforced in regards to onsite sewage systems and sanitary vault privy construction, as 2023 legislation voided all local sewage ordinances. We again worked with the Adams County Building Department and Planning Commission to streamline the permit application and approval process while still helping the public to comply with health, zoning, and building laws. The mutual goal is to provide the county residents with better service through teamwork. In addition to onsite sewage systems, we also partner with the Building Department and Surveyor's Office for pond permit and subdivision application approvals.





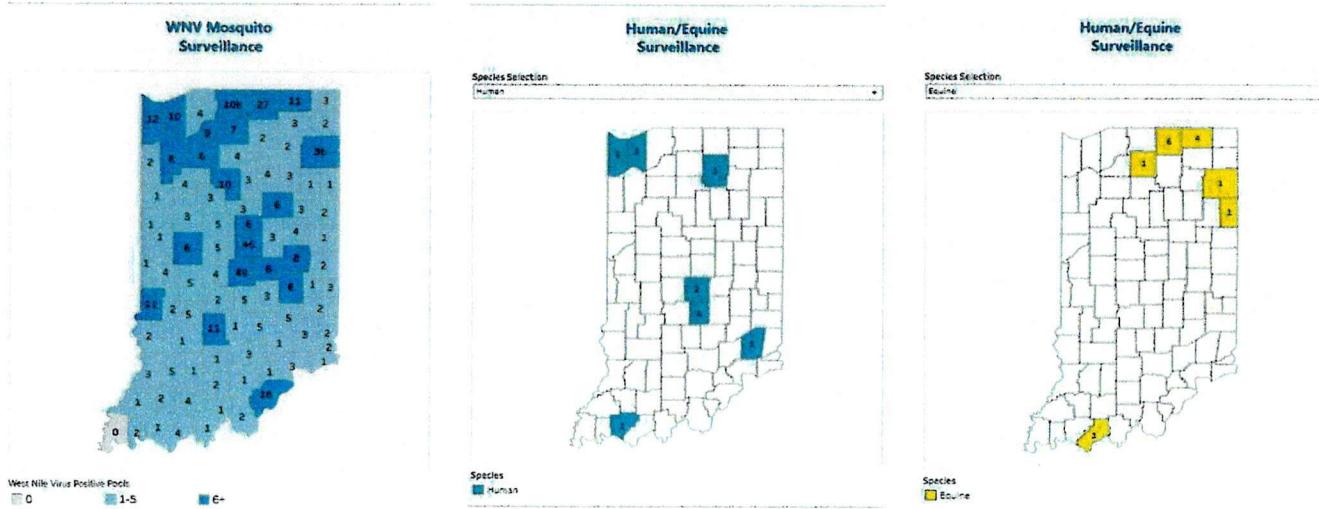
There was a combined total of over 500 onsite sewage system inspections, site evaluations, wetness checks, and soil tests performed in Adams County in 2024. Malfunctioning systems were also inspected and evaluated as to the need for corrective measures. Problems with aging onsite sewage systems always present unique challenges for abatement. There are seldom easy answers for correction. We continue to try our best to prevent pollution and control the extent of health hazards using the best available and practical solutions, though every onsite sewage system improvement project invariably has its own unique challenges. We try to be as consistent and uniform as possible when it comes to eliminating a health hazard, be it an existing or potential one.

The Department continued to conduct more thorough plan review meetings and inspections of sanitary vault privies that were permitted and constructed in Adams County. IDOH published an updated version of Bulletin S.E. 11 at the end of 2021, and it incorporated many of the requirements that Adams County had put into our "Mandatory Requirements for Sanitary Vault Privies" document that had been part of our 2018 Sewage Ordinance. The part-time Environmentalist continues to lead this program, and is working to improve it at every opportunity. Portable toilets have continued to appear throughout the county, and have the potential to be an issue in the coming years. The Department is ready to address these should they become a health hazard in the community.

In 2007, Adams County established a regional sewer district program that would allow the county to be on par with others in terms of applying for low interest loans and grants for sewage disposal improvement projects. Those projects began installation in 2018, and additional projects continued in 2024. The Adams County Regional Sewer District (ACRSD) Superintendent inspected and managed those connections, with the Adams County Health Department working on approving or denying connection exemption requests. The ACHD continues to act in an advisory role for the ACRSD, proposing additional areas of concern every year. These projects are a progressive step for environmental health improvements and pollution control in Adams County. They may also have a positive impact on the local economy and allow businesses, such as food establishments, to stay open. Sales of rural homes are becoming more dependent on the condition of the sewage disposal for the

home and whether or not it has a legal, non-polluting system. Stream pollution caused by the discharge of raw sewage from septic tanks or open sewers is a serious and major environmental health problem in Adams County. It is no surprise that our county continually collects and identifies positive samples of West Nile Virus (WNV) transmitting *Culex* mosquitoes, which is the type that breed in great numbers in water sources polluted with sewage.

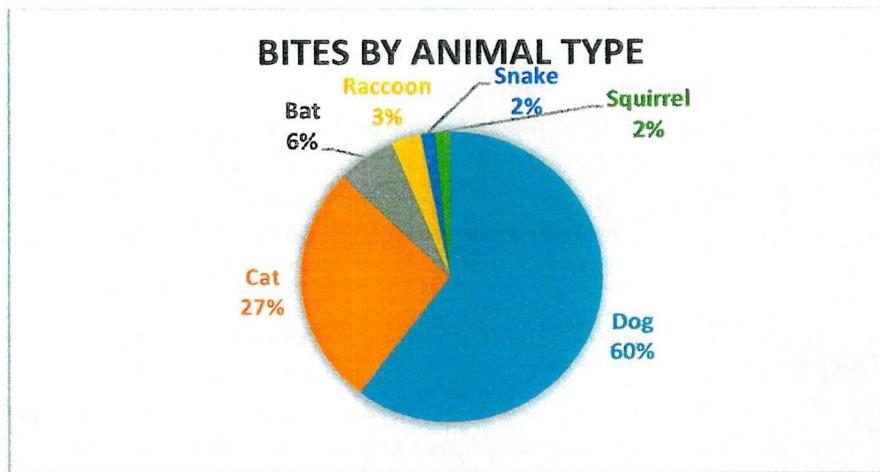
A total of \$3,001.12 was spent for mosquito control supplies and equipment in 2024. This money comes from state funds that are available to all health departments in the state. The municipal street departments provided vital help in applying larvicides and adulticides in their jurisdictions. All of the county's municipalities worked with our department in this program, and Decatur, Berne, Monroe, and Geneva were diligent in collecting adult mosquito samples from traps that they would move from place to place in their towns. This provides our county with an early warning system, in addition to identifying areas where the disease level may be more prevalent. The samples are sent on a weekly basis to the IDOH lab for WNV testing. From samples collected in Adams County in 2024, there was 1 positive result. In the state of Indiana, there were 592 positive mosquitoes identified during sampling, with positives being identified in 91 of the 92 counties. According to IDOH, there were no cases of WNV in humans in Adams County and 10 human cases in Indiana for 2024. There was 1 equine case of WNV in Adams County in 2024, which is common for our county. Generally, we have at least one case in the county that is factored into the total equine cases statewide. In 2024, there were 14 equine WNV cases identified in Indiana. The money that municipalities spend in spraying costs, workers' wages, and equipment maintenance, combined with the county's contributions, is money well spent for an extremely important, countywide disease control program. We also hope the current sewer district projects and other sewer extension projects will help even more in eliminating the extremely polluted pools of sewage collecting in close proximity to densely populated areas.



There were approximately 75 environmental inspections and investigations for food and environmental health related complaints and projects in 2024. Records and reports were filed and letters and orders were sent to individuals who were in violation of health codes enforceable by our department. Complaint inspections and investigations were conducted with other agencies and officials such as fire departments, police departments, the Sheriff's department, mayors' offices, city and county building inspectors, street departments, the emergency management agency, water and sewage treatment plant superintendents, the Indiana Department of Natural Resources' (IDNR) Conservation Officer, township leaders, and others, including several state inspectors from the IDOH, IDEM, IDNR, and the Board of Animal Health (BOAH). Such inspections are related to conditions that could in any way transmit, generate, or promote disease to the public and thus are considered public health hazards. We investigated unfit, unsanitary homes, health hazards on private properties, in and around food service establishments, farming operations, and industries. Occasionally, armed police officers are requested to accompany us on inspections of potentially dangerous places. Since the new county ordinance took effect in December of 2022, trash and garbage on properties that would constitute a public nuisance or public health hazard will be enforced by both the Adams County Sheriff's Department and the Health Department. Those issues that constitute public health hazards will be forwarded to our office, but all others will be addressed by the Sheriff's Department. Properties that are deemed "Unfit for Human Habitation" continued to be identified in 2024, with a total of 27 homes under declarations at the end of the year.

The Department continued an environmental water sampling program for the public. Water sample bottles are available for pickup in our office. Samples are collected by the resident and submitted for lab analysis to determine biological and chemical contaminant levels. A courier system with a nearby laboratory is available through our office. We are also responsible for monitoring a state-required public and semi-public swimming pool and bathing beach sampling and inspection program. Based on weekly test results, department inspections, and public complaints, we must occasionally order the temporary closure of facilities that do not achieve satisfactory bacteria test results or adhere to water balance and safety requirements. It is necessary to take training for certification in the proper operation of the complicated machines that are public swimming pools and spas. I hold this certification for our department, and we encourage public swimming pool operators to do the same. There are 7 public or semi-public swimming pools in Adams County that our department inspects. In 2024, there were 14 inspections conducted on these swimming pools.

Animal bites, according to Indiana Law, must be reported to the local health department. The Environmental Division investigates any reports of animal bites where the victim is a resident of Adams County. These investigations are reported to IDOH and closed in a timely manner to help prevent the spread of rabies. Bats are one type of Indiana animal that are considered to be at a high risk of transmitting rabies to humans. In 2024, there were 63 animal bites reported and investigated. There were 4 bat samples submitted to IDOH labs for rabies testing. Typically, the Health Department submits approximately 2 to 3 bat samples to IDOH labs for rabies testing each year.



The Department continued to have an Indiana Licensed Lead Risk Assessor on staff to conduct environmental investigations and risk assessments related to children with elevated blood lead levels. These investigations were previously conducted by a representative of IDOH, but have been done in house by ACHD staff since 2017. In 2024, there were 4 children whose blood lead level reached the threshold that would warrant an environmental lead risk assessment. This was the second year that the threshold warranting an environmental lead risk assessment was at the lower rate of 5.0 micrograms per deciliter (compared to 10.0 micrograms per deciliter in the past). This has proven to create additional cases that need investigated for both the environmental and clinic divisions.

Projections for the future of the Environmental Division will include much of the same as mentioned in the past. We will continue to make improvements in the use of electronic equipment for our programs, especially related to better record keeping. We will continue to keep abreast of research for improved on-site sewage system technology, including corrective procedures for aging systems, along with updated legislation made by Indiana lawmakers. The Department continues to permit the installation of sand lined onsite sewage system technologies in 2024 and we are hopeful for the potential use of these types of systems on sites where conventional systems would be problematic or unrealistic. The Environmental Division met with IDOH several times in 2024 regarding updates to the state on-site sewage system regulations, including the updates adopted by lawmakers in 2024. We will continue to make updates in the food protection program, including the implementation of an electronic based inspection system, along with the new food code to be adopted by the state in 2025. We plan to continue to provide more certification training programs for food establishments and require significant

upgrades for establishments that are changing owners, thus preventing violations from transferring from one owner to the next.

Time was spent attending required training workshops, seminars, and conferences throughout the entire year. These functions are necessary to stay aware of new developments in the profession, including the areas of food safety, sewage treatment, and public health pest control. These functions also serve as a way for the staff to obtain continuing education credits to maintain the various certifications held by those staff.

As in past years, the Environmental Director's position was responsible for supervising other employees in the office. The Environmental Director supervises the Office Manager-Environmental/Vital Records Assistant, the Vital Records Registrar, the Food and Complaint Environmentalist, and the Part-Time Environmentalist. The Environmental Director also maintains the Department's budget and payroll duties, with the assistance of the Office Manager. The Director continues to be impressed with the level of professionalism and continued improvement of all employees supervised in the Environmental Division.

Regular reports and correspondence were submitted to the Health Officer, Dr. Michael E. Ainsworth, and the Health Department Attorney, Lucas Ainsworth. Dr. Ainsworth meets with the staff on a regular basis and advises on various difficult issues. He is consulted before we take enforcement actions and receives copies of enforcement letters sent to various residents of Adams County. Mr. Ainsworth, the attorney for the Health Department, is vitally important in assuring compliance, sometimes with court action, in a wide variety of public health issues. Both of these men continue to aid in the Health Department's response to all environmental concerns within Adams County.

Special reports and requests are presented and discussed with the County Commissioners and County Council. We have been lucky to work under both of those bodies, consisting of outstanding public-spirited and service-oriented individuals. We are also very appreciative of the great work the local media does in helping us provide health related alerts and information throughout the year. Their cooperation, professional assistance, and teamwork are invaluable. We thank all those individuals who assisted us in accomplishing our duties, both routine and unexpected in 2024.

Jessica L. Rutschilling, Sanitarian/Environmental Director

### **Overall Statistical Summary**

Septic System Inspections, Site Evaluations & Soil Tests	500+
Septic System and Sanitary Vault Privy Permits Approved	95
Food Establishment Inspections	256
Environmental Complaints Received and Inspections Conducted	75+
Houses Declared "Unfit for Human Habitation"	27
Lead Based Paint Risk Assessments	4
Animal Bites Reported to IDOH	63
Swimming Pool Inspections Conducted	14

2024

ADAMS COUNTY VITAL RECORDS STATISTICS

**The Vital Records Department** has the responsibility for filing all birth and death records that occur in Adams County as well as the issuance of all certified birth and death certificates. The Department prepares and files Paternity Affidavits and Paternity Affidavits Upon Marriage and coordinates the receipt of adoption records and court orders for birth record changes. The Department routinely communicates with personnel from numerous governmental and social agencies requesting and/or providing birth and death verification and related information.

**TOTAL NUMBER OF BIRTH CERTIFICATES ISSUED (Standard)** 1038

**TOTAL NUMBER OF CERTIFIED DEATH CERTIFICATES ISSUED** 1234

**TOTAL FEES COLLECTED/DEPOSITED** \$37645.00

Regular	\$15570.00
Death Certificates	\$18510.00
Coroners Education Fund	\$3085.00
Misc. (Affidavits, Genealogy, etc)	\$480.00

**TOTAL NUMBER OF LIVE BIRTHS** 515

Number of MALE Births	266
Number of FEMALE Births	249

Number of HOSPITAL Births	296
Number of OUT OF HOSPITAL Births*	219

**MOTHERS AGE AT TIME OF BIRTH**

Under 20	14
20 – 40	483
Over 40	18

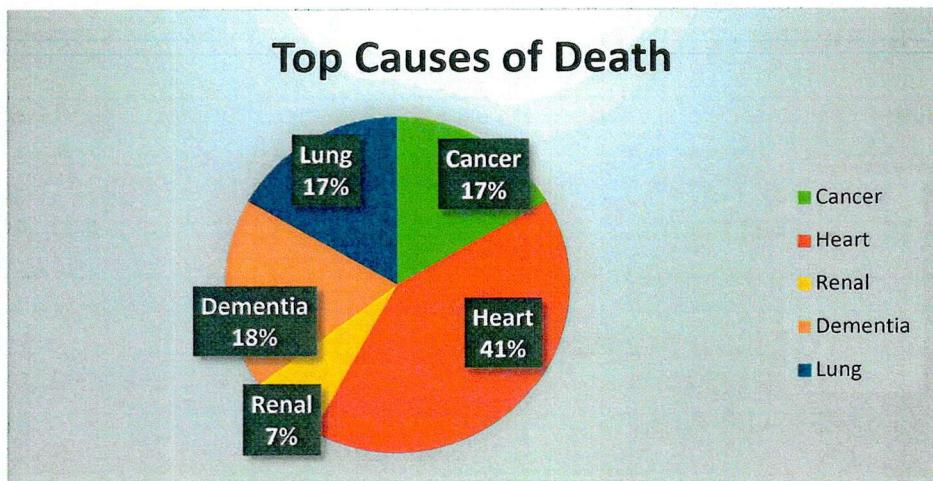
\*This number is subject to change, as out of hospital births can be reported up to one year after the date of birth. Additional births are recorded all throughout the following calendar year.

2024

## ADAMS COUNTY VITAL RECORDS STATISTICS

<b>TOTAL NUMBER OF DEATHS</b>	
Number of MALE Deaths	253
Number of FEMALE Deaths	157
Number of RESIDENT Deaths	96
Number of NON-RESIDENT Deaths	236
Number of NON-RESIDENT Deaths	17
<b>LOCATION OF DEATH</b>	
Hospital	32
Nursing Home	94
Residences & Other	127

### TOP CAUSES OF DEATH



### DEATHS BY AGE GROUPS

Under 28 Days	2
29 Days – 1 Year	3
2 Years – 14 Years	1
15 Years – 24 Years	2
25 Years – 44 Years	8
45 Years – 64 Years	18
65 Years – 74 Years	41
75 Years – 84 Years	66
85 Years & Over	112

Theresa Nelson, Vital Records Registrar

### Health First Indiana

Health First Indiana (HFI) is a state initiative aimed at enhancing public health services across Indiana by providing funding to local health departments for delivery of core public health services, including maternal and child health, trauma and injury prevention, and tobacco and vaping prevention and cessation, along with twelve other categories. Funding began in 2024, and health departments had the option to participate, with the final deciding power in the hands of County Commissioners. In 2024, Adams County participated in this program, receiving funding in the amount of \$404,232.55 to support various health services.

The Adams County Health Department utilized these funds to offer a range of services to protect and improve the health of its residents. These services included (but were not limited to):

- Childhood immunizations for children without health insurance or those covered by Medicaid/Hoosier Healthwise
- Communicable disease investigations to monitor and control the spread of infectious diseases
- Environmental and food inspections, including permitting, testing, consultation, and training to ensure public health standards are met
- Vital records services, such as issuing certified birth and death certificates
- Maternal and child health initiatives, including providing prenatal vitamins and safe-sleep materials to new and expecting mothers in the county
- Emergency preparedness efforts and planning updates

In 2024, while striving to provide the core services and key performance indicators required by the state, Adams County was also asked to create three to five county-specific key performance indicators (KPIs) to focus on for the upcoming year (2025). Adams County Health Department staff selected the areas of maternal and child health, immunizations, and trauma and injury prevention as the core service categories that the KPIs fell under. Specifically, we chose:

- Reduce the infant mortality rate in Adams County from 9.0 (2022) to 8.5 (2027).
- Increase the number of children in Adams County completing the DTaP immunization series from 37.9% (2022) to 38.9% (2027).
- Reduce the number of falls-related hospitalizations from 224.6 (2022) to 220 (2028).

These will be our specific focus for 2025, in addition to the core services and key performance indicators already required by the state every year.

Included in this report is a breakdown of specific services provided to Adams County residents in data that was reported to the Indiana Department of Health by ACHD staff.

The efforts made by our department align with HFI's goal of ensuring that every Hoosier has access to essential public health services, thereby fostering healthier communities throughout the state.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Rutschilling  
Sanitarian/Environmental Director

## Core Public Health Services Activity Summary

### Adams County

This is a snapshot of core service activity as reported by local health departments from Jan. 1, 2024 - Dec. 31, 2024

Total Number of Services Provided (All Core Services): 11,510

Population: 36,288

## Access and Linkage to Clinical Care

Total Number of Services Provided: 16

### Screening and Referrals (13)

Number of people screened for high blood pressure through local health department or partners	11
Number of people identified with undiagnosed high blood pressure through local health department or partners	2
<b>Number of pediatric referrals for clinical care: (1)</b>	
General	1
<b>Number of adults referrals for clinical care: (2)</b>	
Hypertension	2

## Child and Adult Immunizations

Total Number of Services Provided: 866

Number of children who received immunizations at the local health department or a contractor/partner of the LHD	831
Number of adults who received immunizations at the LHD or a contractor/partner of the LHD	17
Number of vaccination clinics held off-site of primary LHD location	18

## Childhood Lead Screening and Case Management

Total Number of Services Provided: 66

### Testing (16)

Number of children identified with an elevated blood lead level (EBLL) above 3.5 µg/dL	10
Number of children identified with an EBLL for whom case management was started	5
Number of children with an EBLL who were referred to developmental resource services (Head Start, etc.)	1

### Home Services (11)

Number of homes of children with EBLLs at which the LHD was able to conduct a risk assessment	4
Number of children identified with an EBLL whose homes had an identified lead hazard	3
Number of individuals connected with financial assistance for home lead remediation services	4

### Education (39)

Number of families provided lead education	30
Number of health care providers or early childhood providers given lead testing/lead reduction education	9

## Chronic Disease Prevention and Reduction

Total Number of Services Provided: 29

### Screening and Referrals (26)

Number of people screened for high blood pressure through local health department or partners	26
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### Programming (3)

Number of adults participating in nutrition and physical activity education programming	3
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## Emergency Preparedness

Total Number of Services Provided: 12

Number of emergency preparedness drills/exercises conducted between LHD and other preparedness partners	12
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## Fatality Review (Child, Infant, Fetal, Suicide, Overdose)

Total Number of Services Provided: 316

### Equipment/Resources (201)

Number of people provided with infant safe sleep education, including families and professionals	74
Number of infant sleep sacks provided to families	74
Number of portable cribs provided to families	10
Number of firearm locks provided to families	43

### Education (87)

Number of people trained in an evidence-based suicide prevention training (QPR, ASIST, MHFA, etc.)	4
Number of people educated about 988 and crisis resources	83

### Community Support (28)

Number of schools in county with evidence-based anti-bullying programs and groups that support student mental health (e.g., Bring Change to Mind)	24
Number of certified peer recovery coaches in county with support of LHD	4

## Infectious Disease Prevention and Control

Total Number of Services Provided: 177

### Disease Prevention and Control (2)

Number of outbreaks (or suspected outbreaks) that were investigated	1
Number of outbreaks (or suspected outbreaks) in which the pathogen responsible for the outbreak was identified if known	1

### Community Outreach (75)

Number of people educated on HIV/HCV/STI	75
<b>100)</b>	
Services Provided:	

## Maternal and Child Health

Total Number of Services Provided: 1,109

### Prenatal Services (up to time of delivery) (270)



**Training/Education (181)**

Number of people receiving Stop the Bleed training	79
Number of people educated and/or trained on vehicle passenger safety and seat belt use	30
Number of people educated or trained on RTV (ATV) and golf cart passenger safety	26
Number of people educated or trained on water safety (including swim lessons)	18
Number of people educated and/or trained on substance use prevention	6
Number of people educated and/or trained on mental health and suicide prevention	20
Number of certified peer recovery coaches in county with support of LHD	2

**Equipment (131)**

Number of firearm locks provided to families	22
Number of people provided with infant safe sleep education, including families and professionals	52
Number of infant sleep sacks provided to families	52
Number of portable cribs provided to families	5

**Tuberculosis (TB) Prevention and Case Management**

Total Number of Services Provided: 32

Number of people provided TB testing (IGRA or TST)	6
Number of people educated on TB	25
Number of referrals to wraparound services	1

**Notes:**

- Activity tracker entries were self-reported by local health departments who opted into Health First Indiana in 2024.
- Calculations focused on number of services provided summing the subfields when data was available; when unavailable, the number of unique individuals served was used.
- Changes to these data and/or associated collection methods may affect the comparability of counts to previous or future reports.
- Reported counts may also contain duplications of unique individuals and activities.
- Population data are based on the 2023 U.S. Bureau of Census estimate population counts for Indiana and its county populations.

Data is current as of 1/2/2025 10:00AM

Adams County Health Department/Clinic  
Public Health Nurse Report 2024

The Public Health Nurse of Adams County reports directly to the Health Officer, indirectly to the Indiana Department of Health (IDOH) and the Adams County Board of Health. The Health Department Public Health Nurse is responsible for the Vaccine for Children (VFC) Immunization Program, communicable disease investigations, lead case management and other programs that deal with public health issues. The Public Health Nurse, under the authority of the Health Officer, manages the medical issues that affect the health of the residents of Adams County.

Health First Indiana

Health First Indiana provides funding to increase the capacity of public health by the collaboration of state and local health departments and their community partners. This program centers on creating a set of core public health services accessible to all county residents for achievable optimal health. Adams County enrolled in this program and aimed to improve public health through local partnerships by delivering core services at a county level. To accomplish these results, Adams County collaborated with existing and new community partners for core public health services to provide resources or programs that improved the health of Adams County residents. Some examples of local partnerships included Adams Memorial Hospital, Council and Aging, First Steps, Healthy Families, Positive Resource, WIC, and Unfailing Love Clinic.

Vaccine for Children Program (VFC)

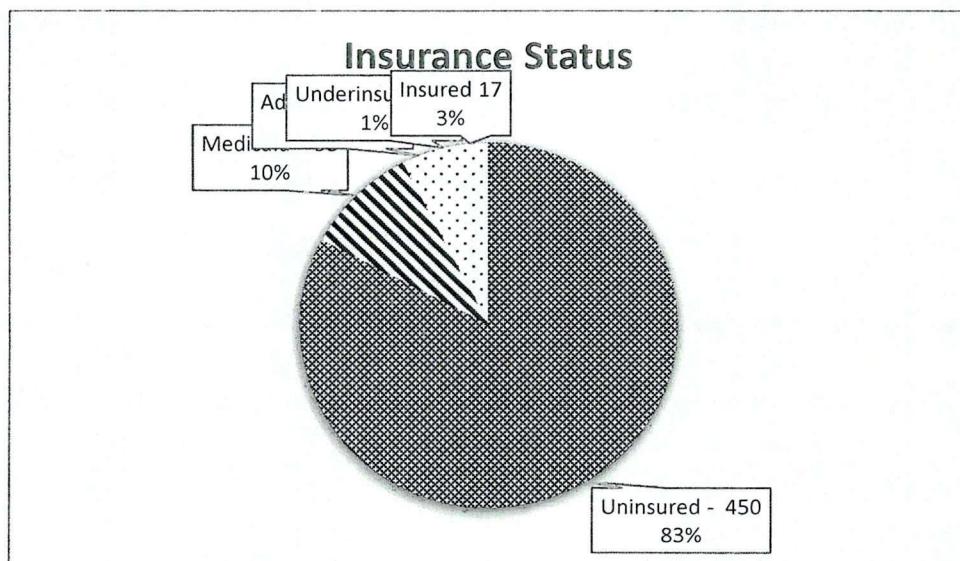
The Adams County Health Department Public Health Nurses were responsible for the VFC program under the supervision of the Indiana State Department of Health. The Vaccines for Children (VFC) program is a federal program that provides vaccines at no cost to children who might not otherwise be vaccinated because of inability to pay. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) buys vaccines at a discount and distributes them to state health departments.

Vaccine Received <u>Free</u> from CDC	\$160,098.43
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VFC vaccines were given to county residents 18 years old and younger who were on Medicaid or had no health insurance by the ACHD nurses. Children with no health insurance were requested to pay a minimal fee for the vaccine administration, but still received the vaccine if unable to pay the administration fee. In March 2024, the health clinic started administering vaccine to patients with

private insurance. The clinic partnered with VaxCare, this organization was responsible for billing the insurance companies. Vaccine received from VaxCare totaled \$25,909.30.

Patient Administration Fees Collected (No Insurance)	<b>\$2,839.00</b>
Compensation Received from VaxCare (Insured)	<b>\$850</b>
Uninsured children	<b>450 uninsured</b>
Underinsured	<b>8 underinsured</b>
Medicaid children	<b>53 Medicaid</b>
Uninsured 317 Adults (Tdap, Hep A, Influenza)	<b>16 Adults</b>
Insured children	<b>17 Children</b>



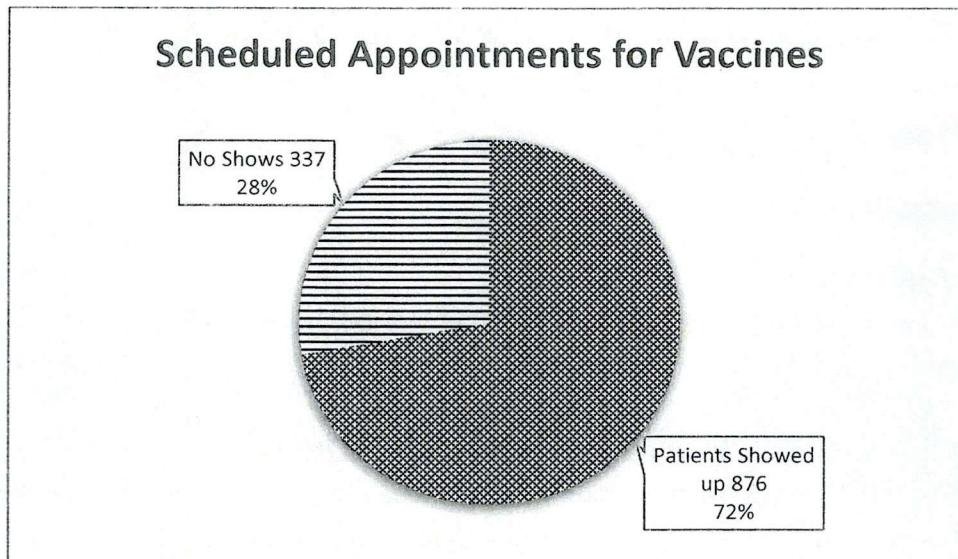
#### Scheduled Appointments for Vaccinations:

Immunizations are given at the Health Department Clinic in Decatur by appointment.

Immunizations are given at the Health Department Clinic in Decatur and satellite clinic by appointment. The Health Department provides monthly satellite immunization clinics in Geneva and Unfailing Love Clinic for families who have no transportation to the Health Department Clinic in

Decatur. Healthy Families attended Geneva immunization clinic to provide additional resources to these families.

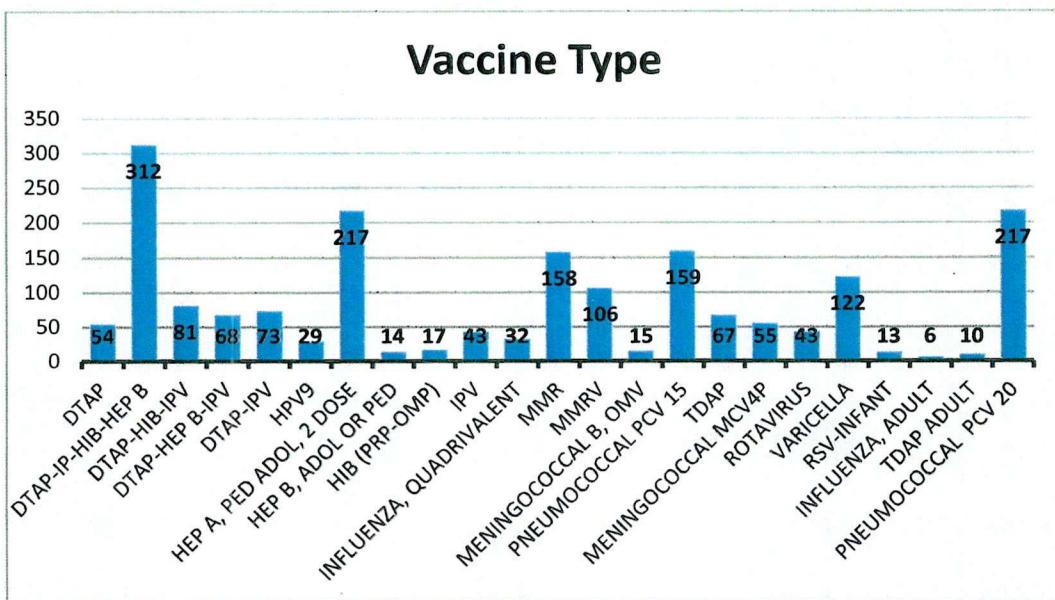
Decatur Office	643	appointments
Unfailing Love Clinic	55	appointments
<u>Geneva Clinic</u>	<u>178</u>	<u>appointments</u>
Total appointments in 2024	876	appointments



#### Vaccines Administered

Total vaccine doses administered	<b>1,911</b> vaccines
Total number of children vaccinated:	<b>527</b>
Total number of adults vaccinated:	<b>17</b>

The Adams County Health Department utilizes the Children and Hoosiers Immunization Registry Program (CHIRP) which is a secure web-based application that is administered by the IDOH. All vaccines administered by the ACHD nurses were recorded in each child's record on the CHIRP system.



### Lead Case Management

The lead program actively monitored 38 Adams County Children with elevated blood levels of lead. Four lead cases required the Adams County Risk Assessor to perform an environmental home assessment with a child's elevated blood lead level (BLL) result of 5 or higher. The Public Health Nurse managed the follow up testing and education on all 4 children along with arranging developmental and nutritional testing when needed. The clinic partnered with First Steps and they provided free developmental assessments for the children and WIC helped with the nutritional assessments.

Elevated Blood Lead Levels (BLL) 5 or Less 34 Children

Elevated Blood Lead Levels (BLL) 5 or more 4 Children

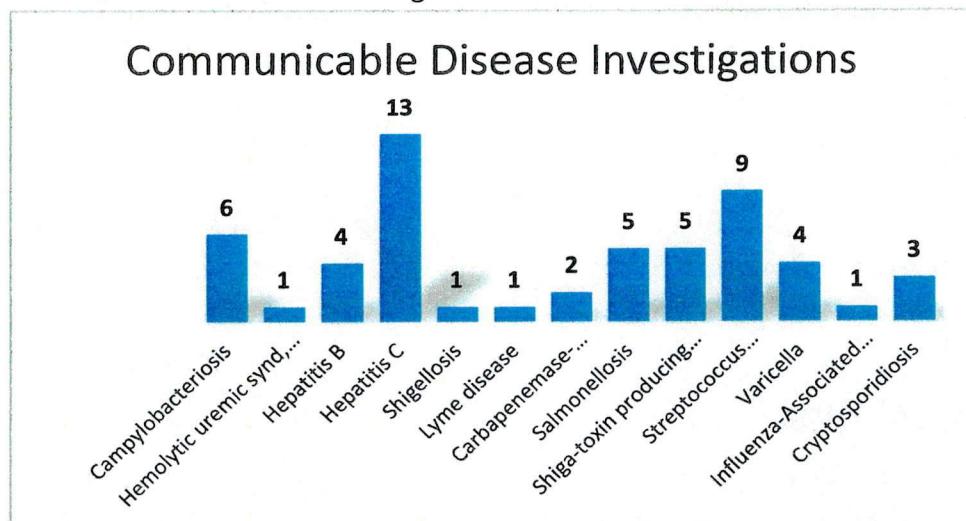
### Communicable Disease Investigations for Adams County

There were 56 communicable disease cases that the Public Health Nurses were required by the Indiana State Department of Health to investigate and report this information into the Indiana Electronic Disease Surveillance System (INEDSS). The health department also informed all Adams County Physicians on all Indiana State Department of Health Notifications (IHAN) regarding communicable diseases/illnesses alerts.

### Adams County Communicable Disease Investigations:

Total Communicable Diseases Investigated

56 communicable diseases



Total Sexually Transmitted Diseases Investigated by IDOH:

Chlamydia	565
Gonorrhea	137
Syphilis	32
HIV/AIDS	0

### Tuberculosis/Immigrant Program

The Health Clinic and the local hospital, Adams Memorial Hospital, continued with the agreement to provide affordable testing for Active Tuberculosis (TB) or Latent Tuberculosis (LTBI) patients with no health insurance. This allowed patients to be more compliant with the IDOH guidelines for needed testing to rule out Tuberculosis. All TB/LTBI medication was supplied free to the patients through IDOH. TB patients require daily nurse/patient | DOT (Direct Observed Therapy) visits for 2 weeks. After the first 2 weeks the DOT is accomplished by one visit with the nurse weekly and four daily video (VDOT) conferencing the rest of the week for a seventeen-week treatment. LTBI 12-week treatment patients require nurse/patient | DOT (Direct Observed Therapy) weekly for the duration of the treatment.

### Active Tuberculosis Patient

0 Active TB

Nurse/Patient visits	0
Video Conferences	0

### Latent Tuberculosis Patients

Refused Treatment	5
9 Month Treatment	0
12 Week Treatment	0

IDOH requires the health department to follow up on immigrants that enter the United States with abnormal chest x-rays. Adams County had zero immigrants that met these criteria.

### Hepatitis C and HIV Testing

Positive Resource Center from Fort Wayne was able to visit the Adams County Health Clinic quarterly to provide free HIV/Hep C Testing. Unfortunately, no individuals participated in the free HIV Hep C testing opportunity. Positive Resource is a wonderful resource for any Adams County individual that tests positive for HIV, Hepatitis C or needs assistance with prep medication. Adams County is very privileged to have these programs available to our county residents.

### Sleep Safe Program

Sudden Unexpected Infant Death (SUID) is a leading cause of infant deaths in the state of Indiana. Most of these deaths happen during the sleep time. Parents with babies under 1 year of age were instructed on the safe way to sleep a baby. The education instructed to sleep baby alone in the crib, start baby lying on the back, and placing the baby in a crib by themselves. All infants were given a free sleep sack and a free pack n' Play if the infant did not have a crib. This program was initiated to help decrease infant mortality in our county. The Health Clinic and Vital Records collaborated to ensure the success of this program. When parents came to the health department for a birth certificate they were informed about the safe sleep program.

Sleep Sacks Distributed	121
Pack n' Pays	23

### Prenatal Vitamins

One of the main objectives for the health clinic was to improve maternal child health in Adams County. Prenatal vitamins are important and contain many different vitamins and minerals that help support a healthy pregnancy. Women should take a prenatal vitamin if they are trying to conceive or as soon as they find out they're pregnant. The health clinic gave out free prenatal vitamins to support the health of women who are pregnant.

Prenatal Vitamins	208 Bottles
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### Blood Pressures

Council and Aging and the clinic provided monthly blood pressure clinics for the county residents. These clinics were on every third Tuesday of the month at the Merit Center and advertised by Council and Aging. Blood pressures also done at the clinic on a daily basis.

Blood Pressures	53
Referred to Medical Provider	2

### Tobacco / Vape Quit Kits

Adams County Health Clinic provided free quit kits to county residents that wanted to stop smoking or vaping. The adult kit included a 30-day supply of nicotine patches, gum, mints, stress ball, suckers, and lip balm. A youth kit was also available that includes gum, mints, suckers, lip balm, stress ball, fidget spinner, and an inspirational pen and note book. Both kits have additional info which includes resources to help anyone quit. These kits were available at the health department and also distributed by community partners.

Adult Kits	50
Youth Kits	55

## Tick Kits

Adams County Health Department took the steps to prevent illness spread by ticks. Educated residents on ways to promote personal protection, like insect repellent remove ticks as soon as possible, and get rid of ticks in your yard. The clinic provided protection for individuals, families, and pets. Included in the kits were two alcohol prep pad, one bandage, tweezers, a magnifying glass, a plastic bag to collect the tick, a tick safety guide, and information on where to check for ticks on your body.

Tick Kits Provided

295

## Preparedness 2024

During the Total Solar Eclipse, Adams County had a large influx of people from the North because the county was in 100% totality. The Preparedness Grant purchased 10,000 Solar Eclipse Glasses and distributed for free to Adams County citizens at Adams County Health Department and various agencies in the County (libraries, Berne City Hall, Community Centers, Parochial Schools, Council on Aging, etc...). A large range of citizens including the Amish, used Solar Eclipse Glasses to protect their eyes from the sun. The Preparedness Grant also paid \$450.00 on flyers that were handed out to local businesses to give to the public.

The Preparedness Grant also was used to supply Stop the Bleed Kits to all three school systems: North Adams, Adams Central and South Adams. Adams County Health Department gave over 50 single Stop the Bleed Kits to the Schools to be placed on all busses and updated all previous 34 Trauma Bags given to the three school systems (60 Medical gloves and 2 updated Tourniquets were put in bags). Adams Central also asked the Health Department for 144 small medical kits for each class room. Other agencies to receive kits were Council on Aging, Adams County Transit and Survive Alive House.

## **School Health Liaison Annual Report**

### **Overview:**

The Student Health/School Health Liaison program is designed to provide comprehensive health services, education, and resources to students and schools. The program supports a variety of health initiatives, including vision, hearing, and oral health screenings, mental health education, nutritional programming, and safety education. Additionally, the program equips schools with emergency preparedness tools and health-related supplies.

### **Key Services and Statistics:**

- **Vision, Hearing, and Oral Health Screenings:**
  - **Vision Screening:** 1,420 Students received vision screening through the support of the liaison.
  - **Hearing Screening:** 667 Students received hearing screening through the support of the liaison.
  - **Oral Health Screening:** 1,510 students received oral health screening through the support of the liaison.
- **Mental Health Education and Support:**
  - **Mental Health Education Support:** 4 schools requested support with mental health education and resources through the school liaison.
  - **Evidence-Based Anti-Bullying Programs:** 6 schools in the county have evidence-based anti-bullying programs and groups supporting student mental health.
- **Nutritional and Wellness Programs:**
  - **Supplemental Nutrition Education:** 1,087 children participated in supplemental nutrition education programming, such as CATCH or GOAL.
  - **Health Promotion and Education:**
    - **Trauma and Injury Prevention:** 15 schools.
    - **Nutrition:** 6 schools.
    - **Physical Activity:** 6 schools.
    - **Child Safety Topics:**
      - **Bicycle/Bike Helmet Safety:** 7 schools.
      - **Water Safety:** 15 schools.
      - **First Aid:** 15 schools.

- **Tobacco and Vaping Cessation Education:**
  - **Tobacco/Vaping Cessation Education:** 30 students received tobacco and vaping cessation education through the LHD/school liaison.
- **Emergency Preparedness Education:**
  - **Emergency Preparedness Training:** 6 schools received emergency preparedness education for both staff and students.
  - **Stop the Bleed Training:** 6 schools.
  - **CPR Training:** 6 schools.
  - **Overdose/Naloxone Training:** 6 schools. 30 doses of Naloxone were given to the schools
- **Equipment and Supplies:**
  - **Stop the Bleed Kits Distributed:** 130 kits were distributed to schools.
  - **Public Health-Related Equipment:** 2 schools received other public health-related equipment such as vision screeners.
  - **AED Equipment:** 6 schools were provided with AED equipment.
  - **Lice kits provided to schools-** 75 kits
  - **First Aid Kits** 400 students
  - **CPR Manikins provided to local schools -12 Manikins cover training for the whole school-** 3 Schools
  - **Halo Smart Sensor 3c-** 30 sensors
  - **Mobile nurse carts provided to the schools-** 3 medical carts
  - **Emergency Medications Stocked:**
    - **Albuterol:** 3 schools.
    - **Epinephrine:** 3 schools.
    - **Naloxone:** 4 schools.
- **Student Support Initiatives:**
  - **Total Student Support Initiatives:** 1,840 students benefited from various initiatives.
  - **Mc Millen Health- School Liaison** supported 68 Zion Students (Maturity Health)
  - **Clothing Closets:** 432 students received support.
  - **Hygiene Supplies:** 836 students received hygiene supplies.

- **Feminine Hygiene Supplies:** 572 students received feminine hygiene supplies.

#### **Additional Services:**

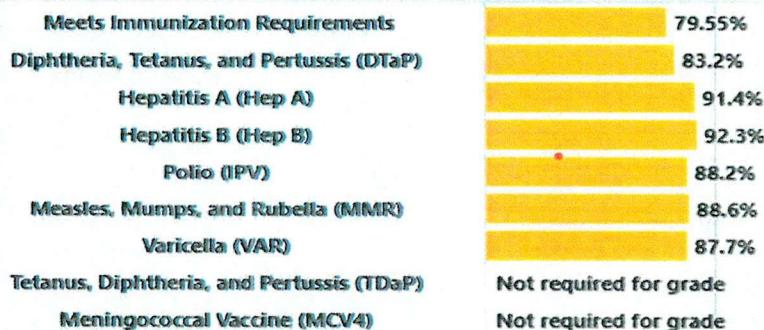
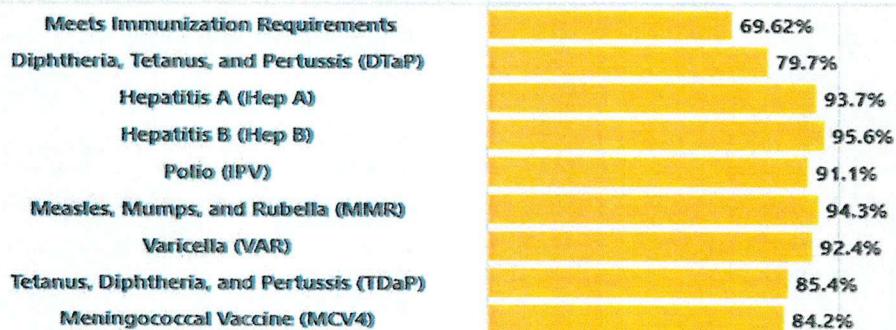
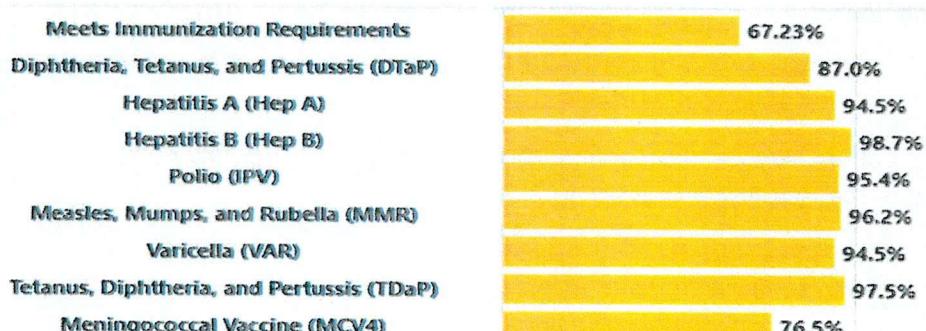
- **Community Support:** 300 hats/pairs of gloves were distributed to students, ensuring that those in need had access to basic cold weather protection.
- **Community youth Groups – BHL Berne In GYC Geneva**
- **Lunch Shaming-** 68 students' lunch accounts were caught up and paid through the end of the year.
- **Give a Kid a Smile-** 1800 Students received a toothbrush and toothpaste
- **Car seat safety and car seat installs-** 7 families
- **National Night Out event –** 150 School backpacks provided for students
- **Head to Toe hygiene pantry serves the students when they are outside of the school setting.**  
36 students have used this pantry during after-school hours.
- **Safety Saturday-** Gun Locks provided 28

#### **Conclusion:**

The Student Health/School Health Liaison program has made a significant impact on the health and well-being of students across the community. Through screenings, educational initiatives, emergency preparedness training, and the distribution of necessary supplies, the program has helped improve the overall health and safety of students and staff. The program continues to support schools in promoting a healthy learning environment and addressing the diverse needs of students

Immunizations play a critical role in preventing the spread of infectious diseases among students, ensuring a healthier school environment. The benefits of immunization include:

- **Disease Prevention:** Reduces the risk of outbreaks of preventable diseases such as measles, mumps, and influenza.
- **Improved Attendance:** Students with up-to-date vaccinations experience fewer absences due to illness.
- **Community Protection:** Helps achieve herd immunity, protecting vulnerable populations such as infants and immunocompromised individuals.
- **Cost Savings:** Reduces healthcare costs by preventing the need for treatments and hospitalizations related to vaccine-preventable diseases.
- **Compliance with State Regulations:** Ensures that schools meet Indiana's immunization requirements for student enrollment and participation.

**County: ADAMS****Grade: K****County: ADAMS****Grade: 6****County: ADAMS****Grade: 12**

#### **Goals for Next Year**

- Expand access to preventive health services, including immunizations and screenings.
- Increase mental health support programs in collaboration with the local health department.
- Strengthen school-based health education on nutrition, physical activity, and disease prevention.
- Improve coordination with the Preparedness Coordinator to enhance emergency response readiness.
- Develop stronger partnerships between schools and Adams County public health initiatives.
- Monitor and report on key health metrics to assess program effectiveness and areas for improvement.