

Vigo County Health Department

2024 Annual Report



**The Vigo County Health Department
serves to promote, protect and provide
for the well-being of the citizens in Vigo County**

PUBLIC HEALTH IN VIGO COUNTY



**Dr. Darren Brucken
Health Officer**



**Joni Wise
Administrator**



Purchasing Clerk Tiffany Kerr and Bookkeeper Robbin Poore manage the finances and purchases for over \$2,000,000 in budgeted funds.

VIGO COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

What is a Board of Health? Boards of health are local public health systems, charged to address health promotion, disease prevention, and public protection. They provide the necessary guidance and oversight of a local health department to assure the community's health. Boards of health are a powerful part of the local public health system. In Indiana, boards set policies, hire and fire the health officer, review operational data and challenge any organizational activity when necessary. Boards also have financial oversight of the local health department.

2024 BOARD OF HEALTH

Dr. Amber Cadick, PhD, Chair
Jeff Depasse, Vice-Chair
James McKanna
Dr. James Turner, D.O.

Dr. Custodio Lim M.D.
Marc Keilman
Dr. Jennifer Todd, PhD



Retirement of long serving board member, Dr. James Turner

10 ESSENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

The strength of a public health system rests on its capacity to:

1. **Assess and monitor** population health.
2. **Investigate, diagnose and address** health hazards and root causes.
3. **Communicate effectively** to inform and educate.
4. **Strengthen, support and mobilize** communities and partnerships.
5. **Create, champion and implement** policies, plans and laws.
6. **Utilize legal and regulatory actions.**
7. **Enable equitable access.**
8. **Build a diverse and skilled** workforce.
9. **Improve and innovate** through evaluation, research and quality improvement.
10. **Build and maintain** a strong organizational infrastructure for public health.

VIGO COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Darren Brucken, M.D., Health Commissioner

Administration

Joni Wise, Administrator

Amanda Puller, Deputy Administrator

Robbin Poore, Bookkeeper

Tiffany Kerr, Purchasing Clerk

Environmental Health Division

Amanda Puller, Supervisor

Steve Thompson, Environmental Health Specialist

Amanda Baker, Environmental Health Specialist

Shelley Rubinacci, Environmental Health Specialist

Cheryl Lehman, Environmental Health Specialist,

Anna Bunch, Environmental Health Specialist

Andrew Martin, Environmental Health Specialist

Katie Mundy, Childhood Lead Case Manager

Health Education/Media Coordination

Shelby Jackson

Vital Statistics Division

Loretta Nicoson, Supervisor

Brooke Olinger, Registrar

Brandie Latham, Registrar

Maddie Lindsey, Registrar

Vector Control Division

Mike Grayless, Supervisor

Tony Grayless, Assistant Supervisor

Warren Sweitzer, Assistant

David Higgins, Assistant

Logan Edwards, Assistant

Dalton Higgins, Assistant

Kim Edwards, Secretary

Social Services Division

Molly Collett, Supervisor

Shonna Frye, Peer Recovery Coach

Larry Aynes, Peer Recovery Coach

Jeremy Baker, In-Take Coordinator

Clinical Division

Chelsea Willis, MSN, RN, Director

Carolyn Smeltzer RN, Staff Nurse

Deb Sweeting-Talens RN, Staff Nurse

Libby O’Pell PT RN, Staff Nurse

Robin Maurer, Administrative Assistant

Dolly Moss, Immunization Registry Clerk

Teresa Bechtel, Insurance Billing Clerk

FINANCIAL REPORT
January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024

Cash Balance General Health	\$ 1,337,271.48
Receipts	\$ 2,336,331.15
Expenditures	\$ 2,001,540.39
Cash Balance in General Health	\$ 1,672,062.24

Cash Balance Health First Indiana	\$ 1,280,958.58
Expenditures	\$ 816,756.87
Cash Balance	\$ 464,201.63

Cash Balance Non-Reverting	\$ 16,878.66
Receipts	\$ 17,462.75
Expenditures	\$ 23,976.71
Balance	\$ 10,365.24

Cash Balance Coroner's Fund	\$ 3,266.50
Receipts	\$ 24,166.50
Expenditures	\$ 24,222.50
Cash Balance	\$ Zero

Three funds that will phase out in 2025:

Cash Balance Health Donation	\$ 12,972.46
Balance in Health Donation	\$ 12,972.46

Cash Balance Health Maintenance	\$ 115,628.75
Expenditures	\$ 79,366.51
Cash Balance	\$ 36,263.24

Cash Balance Health Trust	\$ 58,637.91
Expenditures	\$ 58,637.91
Cash Balance	\$ Zero

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH



Front row L-R: Mandy Baker, Cheryl Lehman and Anna Bunch

Back row L-R: Shelley Rubinacci, Mandy Puller, Steve Thompson and Andrew Martin



Environmental Health Division protects public health and the environment by ensuring conformance with State laws and County ordinances pertaining to a wide variety of environmental health programs. Much of this work is accomplished by performing routine inspections and investigations and taking enforcement action when warranted. The Environmental Health Division also interacts with various federal, state, regional, and local governmental agencies associated with environmental health programs.

Food Safety



Establishment Closed



Moldy Sauce



Roach Frozen in Ice

The Food Safety Program involves the planning of new and remodeled retail food establishments, planning of fairs and festivals in Vigo County, and the licensing and inspecting of all retail food establishments within Vigo County. We work closely with the state department of health on any food recalls and food borne illnesses.



Black Debris on Nozzle



Wasted Eggs



Meat Stored Under Sink

By promoting food safety education and fostering understanding, communication, and cooperation among regulators, industry and consumers, VCHD seeks to provide the best public health and consumer protection in an expeditious and cost-effective manner.



- Sewage Back Up
Inspections Conducted**
- 1122 routine inspections
 - 11 follow-up inspections
 - 72 opening inspections
 - 224 temporary inspections

On-Site Sewage



Above: ATL Sandline Systems

An on-site system is one which treats the sewage in a septic tank so that most of the sewage becomes effluent and is disposed of in an area close to the house or buildings. An example of an on-site disposal system consists of a septic tank and leach drains.

The planning, installation, and repair of on-site sewage disposal systems must be reviewed and inspected by one of our full-time environmental health specialists. This includes reviewing soil scientist reports, drawing of installed systems for department records, and giving recommendations for proposed subdivisions.

A total of:

- 57 On-Site Sewage Permits issued
- 39 Replacement On-Site Sewage Permits issued
- 58 Subdivisions
- 340 IPL's
- 76 On-Site Sewage Requirements
- 53 On-site Sewage inquiries



Opening inspection at the new Terre Haute Casino

Recreational Water



Water used for recreational purposes is subject to a variety of environmental influences, which can affect the health, and/or safety of individuals using those waters.

Recreational water program includes the inspection and review of bacteriological reports of swimming and wading pools, spas, therapy pools, and public access beaches. The inspection entails an evaluation of the pool area, water quality, safety equipment, and mechanical room.

The goals of these programs are to minimize safety hazards, reduce the potential for disease transmission and assure that waters used for recreational purposes are operated and maintained in compliance with the applicable ordinances.

- 142 Regular inspections were performed
- 34 Follow-up inspection
- 23 Closings

Body Art

The use of improperly sanitized needles and instruments for invasive procedures on the human body and/or procedures completed by inadequately trained individuals can contribute to the spread of communicable diseases and/or cause permanent injury.

Through the Body Art Safety program, the Environmental Health Specialist works to ensure the safe and proper operation of the licensed body art establishments in Vigo County. We educate operators, evaluate plan reviews, and perform opening inspections on new or remodeled body art establishments. We ensure general safety and sanitation standards, and proper disposal methods of infectious waste. The licensing program ensures the individuals that are performing the body art are knowledgeable and competent.

- 19 Body Art establishments licensed
- 17 Body Art Openings
- 41 Routine inspections
- 16 Artist License
- 1 Temporary License

Lead Poisoning Prevention

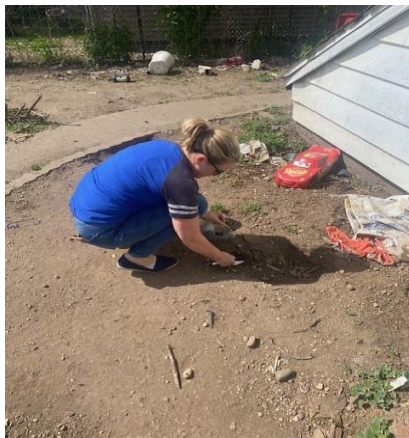
Structures built prior to 1978 are likely to have lead-based paint. However, the federal government banned consumer use of lead-based paint in 1978. Lead found in dust, paint and soil in and around your home could be dangerous if not maintained properly.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, lead based paint can be found in:

- 24% of homes built from 1960-1978
- 69% of homes built from 1940-1959
- 87% of homes built before 1940

If the paint is in good condition and has been painted over, it usually doesn't pose a problem. If the paint is peeling or has been disturbed by scraping, sanding, or burning, it can pose significant health risks to people, especially children 6 and under.

As of July 1, 2022, the State of Indiana mandated that all local health departments follow children with elevated blood lead levels of 5 μg or more and to provide parent education and blood testing of children with elevated blood lead levels of 5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ or more. This includes educating the parents and conducting a risk assessment of the home.



Amanda Baker, EHS



Katie Mundy, Lead Case Manager

We have six licensed Risk Assessors that address the lead risks in the homes of children that have elevated blood lead levels. The Risk Assessors educate the families on proper cleaning procedures and mitigation choices when lead risks are identified. Additionally, a Public Health Nurse follows that child until their blood lead levels drop below the mandated 5 μg level.

- 21 open cases
- 21 new cases
- 21 risk assessments
- 2 consults
- 1 clearance

Public Health Complaints



Photos of homes that have been tagged **Unfit for Human Habitation**

Housing and property complaints filter through this program. Some of the problems addressed: mold, rodents, roaches, bed bugs, animal and human feces, meth lab clean up, surfacing sewage, and unfit for human habitation situations. We are called by other agencies, such as CPS, Adult Protective Services, City and County Building Inspection, City Environmental, law enforcement, along with concerned citizens of Vigo County.

- 23 surfacing sewage complaints
- 18 mold complaints
- 29 pest/rodent complaints
- 3 trash complaints
- 51 retail food establishment complaints
- 7 unfit for human habitation
- 21 other complaints

Environmental Health Extras

- Tuesday Food Trainings with IDOH
- Quarterly IEHA meetings
- Lead Inspector/Risk Assessor Course
- Risk Assessor/Inspector Licensing Exam
- IEHA Fall Conference
- Lead and Health Homes Training
- ATL Training
- IAFP Webinar
- Met with Inspect To Go
- Presented at District 7 Workshop
- On-Site Wastewater Meeting
- Cold Plunge Training
- Board of Zoning Appeals
- Training in the New Food Code
- Lash Babe IDOH Lash Training
- Body Art Training in Muncie
- Pool School
- Homeless Training
- Employee Health Fair
- Online Courses with FDA
- Lead Refresher Course
- Toured Wabash Valley Resources
- Met With IDOH Field Staff for On-Site Sewage and Food

HEALTH EDUCATION- MEDIA COORDINATION



Shelby Jackson, Health Educator

Community Coalitions

Programming

Health Fairs

Presentations

Social and Traditional Media

Community Involvement

Health education is the process of aiding individuals and groups to make informed decisions as well as build skills pertaining to community, family and personal health. Having a position in health education provides an outlet for the citizens of Vigo County on health information, awareness and means of prevention. The education used is based on statistical data that is gathered either from the local, state or national level.



**Vigo County Health Department -
Health Educator Shelby Jackson
along with members from Richard M.
Fairbanks School of Public Health
attending the National Association of
County and City Officials in Denver,
Colorado.**



Presentations

Offer comprehensive approaches to current public health issues that are of concern. Some presentations are multi-faceted, such as an overview of the Vigo County Health Department and the role it has in public health throughout the county and surrounding Wabash Valley community. Other presentations can be an in-depth look into direct issues such as disease transmission through vectors, bacterial and viral levels or drug and alcohol use. This involvement offers the public the opportunity to learn about their health and wellbeing, ask questions and becoming familiar with the staff and services provided at the Vigo County Health Department. This familiarity between the public and local governmental agency aids in building trust between the entities, thus encouraging the public to be receptive of public health. The goal is to collaboratively work with many community partners with include but are certainly not limited to: Vigo County School Corporation, Indiana State University, Hamilton Center, Purdue Extension and Lugar Center for Health Education.

The following is a brief list of programs and presentations conducted by the Vigo County Health Department with different community organizations:

- Handwashing Tent
- Harm Reduction Discussions
- Cobblestone and Silver Birch Assisted Living Facilities
- Historic Walnut Square – Resident Enrichment Program
- AED Education
- Stop The Bleed
- County Employee CPR/First Aid Program



Vigo County Employees from Group Homes, Social Services Division, Health Department Clinic as well as Parks and Recreation Department becoming CPR First Aid and AED trained!



Community Involvement

Collaborations

Health education and media coordination works thoughtfully with a multitude of Vigo County members to provide fast, reliable and educational information to all citizens.

- All Babies Initiative
- District 7 Healthcare Coalition and Local Health Departments
- Fetal Infant Mortality Review and Child Fatality Review
- Vigo County Jail and Juvenile Justice Center
- Vigo County Parks and Recreation Department
- Chances and Services for Youth
- National Association of County and City Health Officials
- Drug Free Vigo County
- Lugar Center for Rural Health

Health Fairs

To be involved with and organize health fairs is a great way to promote health awareness and encourage participants to take responsibility for their health. These opportunities can also provide valuable health information to make informed decisions. Additionally, health fairs allow health department employees the opportunity to meet with the public and discuss their specific health concerns in locations that are most convenient and easily accessible. Public health is more influential when we meet people where they are.

The following consist of some, but not all health fairs that the Vigo County Health Department has been affiliated with:

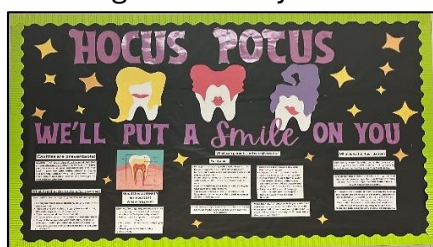
- We Live Back-to-School-Bash with Hamilton Center
- Back to School Vaccine Clinic(s)
- Vigo County Health Department Health Fair for Employees and Public Members
- Unhoused Awareness with Veteran's Affairs
- Terre Haute Pride Festival
- Union Community Baby Shower



Passive Engagement

When it comes to health and wellness, often the best strategies are those that are passive throughout the day. Gentle reminders pertain to health depending on the season, specific month or special occasion. The Vigo County Government Annex utilizes a few passive strategies to increase health awareness and knowledge.

- **Health Education Boards:** We Got the Beat, We are Mint to Be, Take the Madness Out of March, Spring into Healthy Habits, Taste the Rainbow, King of the Grill, Tick Safety, Water Safety and Swimsuit Colors, Safe Sleep, Ear Care, Health Up to Par, Don't Get Twisted in Substance Use, Happy Students are Healthy Students, Say Boo to the Flu, Public Health is A-Maize-ing, Tackle Pollen this Fall, Don't Be Tricked Lead Poisoning is No Treat, Hocus Pocus We'll Put a Smile on You, Grinchy Feelings this Season, Exercise Makes You Merry and Bright, Oh Deer Cold and Flu Season is Here, Elf on the Shelf is Watching for Healthy Habits
- **'Installments':** Radon Awareness, Heart Attack Symptoms: Men v. Women, Stroke Symptoms: Men v. Women, Gut Health is Not All Luck, Narcan How To, Tire Amnesty, Benefits of Going Meatless, Understanding Tick Bites and Lyme Disease, 2024 Total Solar Eclipse, Anaphylaxis – How to Use an EpiPen, Joints and How They Work, Heat Related Emergencies, Staying Healthy at 50+, Wicked Wellness, Domestic Violence Awareness Month, Hunting Safety: Information for Hunters and Non-Hunters, Importance of Self Examination, No Shave November Men's Health, Safe Sleep Holiday poem, Holiday Toy Safety Checklist
- **Employee Monthly Newsletters:** National Minority Health Month, 2024 Total Solar Eclipse, Mental Health Month, Sober App Recovery Tool, Firework Safety, Screen Time Eye Safety, Pollen & Respiratory Illness, Respiratory Virus Guidance Snapshot, Needle with Your Name on It Employee Vaccines, Stitching Away Stigma, Thanksgiving with a Side of Flu, Thriving through the Festivities: Navigating Workplace Stress During the Holiday Season



Media Partnerships

Working alongside the media is a crucial component of Health Education. To ensure the residents of Vigo County receive the most accurate and up to date health information, the Vigo County Health Department has maintained an excellent relation with the surrounding media companies. Local media companies that are utilized are news channels, newspapers and radio stations. The Health Educator/Media Coordinator works diligently across multiple media outlets to compose important health messages to promote, provide and protect the citizens of Vigo County. Topics covered:

- Radio Commercials
- Vigo County Tire Amnesty
- Tick Population and Safety Precautions
- Various Public Service Announcements
- Eye Safety for 2024 Total Solar Eclipse
- Recall of Cinnamon Spices
- Infant Safe Sleep Holiday Poem
- Board of Health Meetings
- Clinic Services and Hours of Operations

“We are only as healthy as our most vulnerable.”

An ever-evolving, key piece of Health Education is a presence within social media. With the growing rate of digital health, the usage of social media is crucial when aiming to reach much of the population, or certain demographics depending on which software is being utilized. The quick timing that social media provides works well with health emergencies such as an outbreak or public service announcements. When ‘I’ becomes ‘we’ even illness becomes wellness. One of the six principles of effective emergency and risk communication is to be first. Crises are time-sensitive and quick communication is crucial. The following are actions and goals pertaining to health information being dispersed through social media:

1. Maintain a high level of interaction across sites.
2. Increase the amount of community members reached through various strategies.
3. Work with other community organizations to spread information throughout the county.

Follow along with us at:
@vigocountyhealthdepartment



VECTOR CONTROL DIVISION



Front row L-R: Mike Grayless, David Higgins and Kim Edwards

Back row L-R: Tony Grayless, Warren Sweitzer, Jeremy Johnson and Logan Edwards

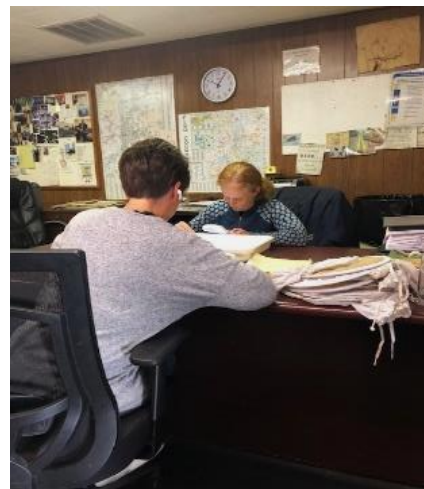
The primary goal of the Vector Control Division is to reduce the risk of disease and death from pathogens carried by animals and/or vectors. The Vector Control Division also repairs and maintains all Health Department vehicles and spraying equipment.

A “vector” is an agent capable of transmitting a pathogen from one organism to another. (I.e. mosquitoes, rodent). The Vector Control Division devotes its time primarily to:

1. Vector control
2. West Nile surveillance
3. Dead animal removal
4. Fleet maintenance and repairs



Gravid Trap



Dr. Amber Cadick

Mosquito Control

The spraying for adult mosquitoes in Vigo County was as diligent as the weather would allow in 2024. The adulticiding program consists of five ½ ton pickup trucks and four ATVs (equipped with ultra-low volume cold aerosol fog machines) to spray insecticides throughout the county, as well as the city of Terre Haute, for the control of adult mosquitoes. The ATV mounted ULV makes most sites accessible. All nine ultra-low volume-fogging machines must be certified for droplet size and calibrated for flow rate prior to each spraying season. Calibration is monitored daily throughout the spraying season. Adult mosquito control is accomplished using three insecticides, Bio-Mist 4+12, Kontrol 4-4, and Aqua Anvil.



Clarke Mosquito Control checking droplet size



ATV mounted ULV machine

All ULV units are fitted with GPS compatible “Smart Flow” systems. This enables Vector Control staff to preset and record calibration, time of spraying, flow rate and vehicle speed.

Vector Control staff prepare and update 26 maps that are 40-45 miles of County and city roads. The 26 maps show the areas to treat and areas that we do not treat, which we consider no spray zones. Some of the areas that are considered no spray zones might be areas with organic gardens, beekeepers, large bodies of water or people who have requested no spraying be done in the area where they live, either for health or personal reasons. The 26 maps are treated weekly, biweekly or monthly depending on the adult mosquito population and weather conditions.

Vector Control employees spend an extended amount of time treating stagnant water for mosquito larvae. Several brands of insecticide targeting several species are employed to kill the larvae. One type of insecticide (Golden bear) can last for seven days in stagnant low area water, covering the surface of the water denying the mosquito larvae access to air. All “catch basins” or dry wells are treated with Altosid briquettes and Bactimas briquettes which lasts 30 or 150 days. Altosid Briquettes inhibit the growth of the larvae preventing them from becoming adults. Catch



basins have been identified as one of many ideal habitats for the Vector (*Culex pipiens*), a mosquito, notoriously known for the transmission of West Nile. Culex mosquito larvae love the stagnant dirty water left behind from rain that doesn't soak into the ground but runs off into catch basins, retention ponds, and roadside ditches.



In 2024, over 1500 catch basins were treated. That number will continue to increase due to community growth. Parking lots and subdivisions will install retention ponds and or catch basins to contain water run-off. Catch basins and larvaciding sites are mapped out using the County's GIS system. Larvae samples are examined for identification of species to ensure proper insecticide treatment.

The following table contains a list of the amount and types of insecticide used in Vigo County to control adult mosquitoes and larvae in 2024.

	INSECTICIDE	AMOUNT USED
55 Gallon Drum	Biomist 4 + 12	27 Drums
55 Gallon Drum	Kontrol	13 Drums
55 Gallon Drum	Aqua Anvil	5 Drums
220 Per Case	Altosid Briquettes (150 Day)	7 Cases
100 Per Case	Bactimas Briquets	11 Cases
400 per case	Altosid Briquets (30 Day)	1/4 Case

West Nile Virus Surveillance

Gravid traps are specialized devices designed to attract and capture gravid (pregnant) female mosquitoes by providing an ideal site for them to lay their eggs. These traps often utilize organic infusions, such as those made from alfalfa pellets to lure mosquitoes. The organic material ferments in water, producing odors that are highly attractive to gravid mosquitoes.

Gravid traps were set out at numerous locations throughout Vigo County with 2563 mosquitoes being collected between June and October 2024. Once the mosquitoes are collected, they are separated into groups ranging in number from 5 to 100 and are then labeled as pools of mosquitoes, which are sent to the Indiana Department of Health for West Nile testing. A total of 93 pools were sent in for testing in 2024. The Indiana Department of Health reported 12 positive pools for Vigo County. Vector control specialists will continue to set, maintain and collect mosquito pools for IDH West Nile Virus testing in the upcoming year.

Mosquito borne disease prevention activities in 2024 included:

1. Distributed 5400 “Skeeter Beater” coloring books to pre-school through 3rd grade elementary students on preventing and identifying prime breeding areas for mosquitoes.
2. Worked with Homeowners (high grass, weeds, swimming pools, fishponds, standing water).
3. Sent out Notice to Abate letters to all Vigo County cemetery caretakers.
4. Continued to monitor homeowners, tire retailers and salvage yards to ensure compliance with the Tire Storage Ordinance.

2025 Mosquito and Larvae Control Strategies

1. Intensify local culex and aedes mosquito larval control to prevent the emergence of adult mosquitoes that feed on birds and contribute to the virus amplification transmission cycle.
2. Continue active West Nile surveillance to determine the presence of new or expanding West Nile transmission. (Light Traps-Adult mosquito testing)
3. Reinforce public education and outreach programs to reduce mosquito- breeding sites around homes.
4. Educate on personal protective measures (long sleeves, insect repellent) with the use of the media (TV, radio and newspapers)
5. Implement local mosquito control to reduce the number of virus infected mosquitoes, thus reducing the immediate risk to humans.
6. Monitor adult and larval mosquito control efforts to ensure that the local programs are effectively reducing mosquito densities and virus infection rates.
7. Conduct inspections of local tire retailers and junkyards for tire storage ordinance compliance.

Removal of Deceased Animals

In 2024 a total of 538 deceased animals were removed from private property as well as city and county roadways and taken to the landfill, with 167 of them being deer.

Rabies

In 2024 Vector Control staff sent 22 bats and one raccoon to the IDOH for rabies testing. One bat tested positive for rabies virus.

Rodent

Rodents (i.e. rats, mice) are another source of disease transmission. Rodents must have adequate food, shelter, and water to survive. For these reasons, a large majority of rodent complaints are located within the city of Terre Haute.

A vector control specialist investigates complaints about rodents and proceeds to make recommendations to the property owner on findings and rodent control (i.e. removal of debris, animal feces). In some cases, the vector control specialist may set out bait and remove dead rodents, but most of the extermination is usually the responsibility of the property owner. A vector control specialist will continue to make follow-up inspections to ensure the property owner is correctly handling the problem.

Vehicle Maintenance

During the winter months the Vector Control Division is busy with repairing, cleaning and inspection of all vehicles and equipment. All ULV spray units must be cleaned and broken down during the winter months, checked, repaired and parts replaced as needed. Along with routine maintenance, all trucks and cars are thoroughly inspected and repaired. All Health Department vehicles and equipment have routine maintenance throughout the year.

Tire Clean-up Program

In 2024 Vigo County Health Department employees removed discarded tires from the alleys and streets of Terre Haute and surrounding communities. A total of 3269 tires plus 26 oversized tires, filling four semi-trailers, were collected. Residents that had tires stored outside were given information on our Tire Storage Ordinance informing them that the tires must be stored inside or removed from the property.

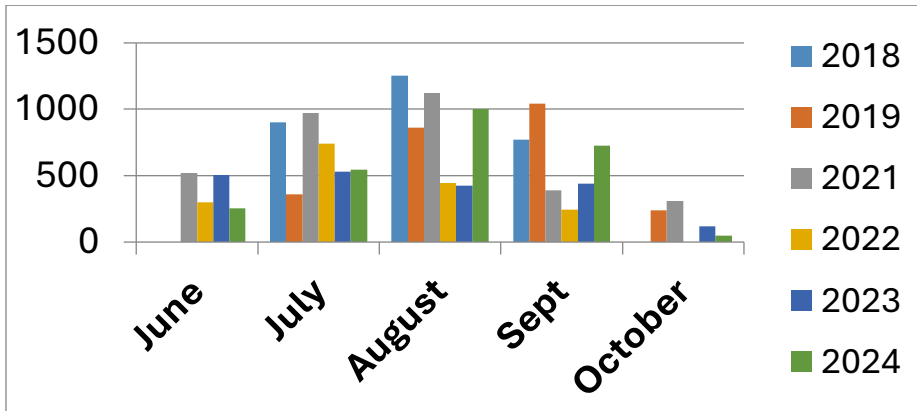


Unloading loading tires

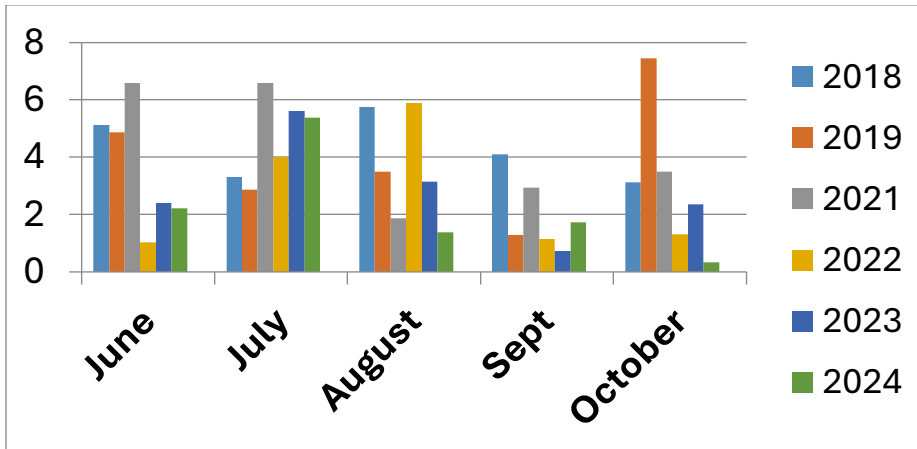


EHS Staff helping out

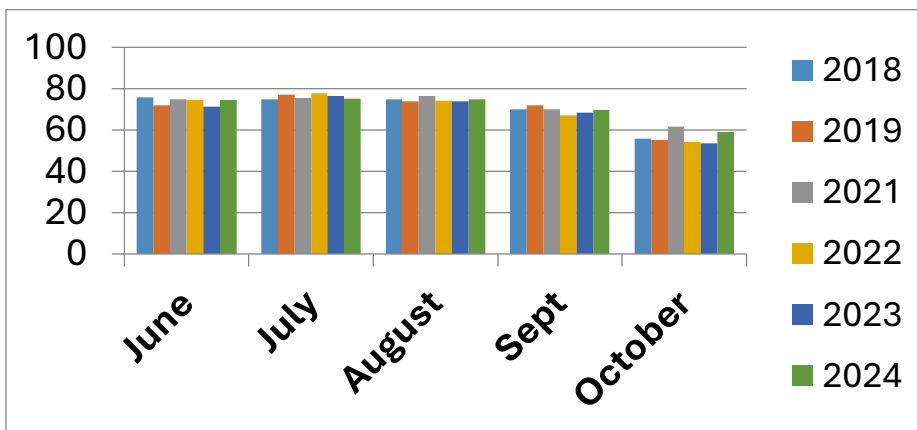
Total Mosquitoes Collected



Precipitation Amounts



Average Temperatures



VITAL STATISTICS



L-R: Supervisor Loretta Nicoson, Brooke Olinger, Maddie Lindsey and Brandie Latham

A core function of vital records offices is issuing certified copies of birth and death certificates.

People visit Vital Statistics for many reasons. They need to do a paternity to put the father's name on a child's birth record. They need to do an Affidavit of Amendment to correct their birth record. People need a birth certificate for sports, driver's license, kindergarten roundup, health insurance, travel and many more things. Public health officials use death and birth certificates to compile data on various statistics.

THE VITAL RECORDS DIVISION'S OBJECTIVE IS TWO-FOLD:

- Carry out uniform procedures
- Maintain and protect the integrity of the Vital Records Systems

THE DIVISION HAS RESPONSIBILITY TO:

- Maintain a system that accurately records all births, deaths and fetal deaths
- Efficiently issue certified copies of records
- Issue provisional notification of death-burial transit permits
- Process paternities from the courts
- Process and Type paternities
- Process adoptions
- Type affidavits of amendment and schedule appointments for people to make corrections to their birth record
- Work with funeral homes in filing death certificates
- Verify birth records for the Military, Social Security and Division of Family and Children
- Assist citizens who wish to inspect permanent birth and death records (adoption records are NOT available to view.)

YEAR IN NUMBERS:

BIRTHS IN WEDLOCK	875
BIRTHS OUT OF WEDLOCK	1,006
DEATHS REPORTED	1,555
FETAL DEATHS REPORTED	12
CORONER SIGNED	230
PATERNITY AFFIDAVIT	51
LEGAL NAME CHANGE	35
GENEALOGY SEARCHES	21
LINKAGE/DEATH TO BIRTH	477
GENDER CHANGE	2
CORRECTIONS	1,596

CERTIFICATES ISSUED:

BIRTH	7,838
DEATH	10,254
CERTIFICATES AT NO CHARGE	482

VIGO COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT CLINIC DIVISION



L-R: Kayla Terrill, Teresa Bechtel, Libby O’Pell, Dolly Moss, Robin Maurer, Carolyn Smeltzer and Deb Sweetings-Talens

The Vigo County Health Department (VCHD) Clinic is a vital service to our community. Our Clinic provides services to both children and adults for a nominal fee or free of charge. The VCHD provides screening and prevention services to the residents of Vigo and surrounding counties. Vaccines are a key component of prevention services and offer a cost-effective method for primary prevention against vaccine preventable diseases. The department provides all ACIP recommended childhood and adult vaccines. The goal of VCHD is to continue to aim toward enhancing community health and well-being by empowering individuals with the knowledge needed to lead healthy lives.

WELL-CHILD PROGRAM/SPORTS PHYSICALS/KINDERGARTEN PHYSICALS

The Well-Child Program serves children from birth to 18 years of age. Our doctor provides well-child physicals, Head Start, Kindergarten, sports and some adult physicals on Friday mornings by appointment.

VACCINE FOR CHILDREN PROGRAM/PRIVATE PAY VACCINES

The VCHD Clinic continues to be a provider enrolled in the Vaccines for Children program and provides childhood immunizations to those who qualify. Since some area pediatricians do not provide immunizations to their patients, the VCHD helps to fill that gap by immunizing those children. Most major insurance is accepted at the VCHD.

ADULT VACCINE PROGRAM/ADULT WELL PHYSICALS

The VCHD is enrolled in the Vaccines for Adults program to provide immunizations for adults with no insurance, or insurance that does not cover vaccines.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

VCHD Clinic attended the Union Hospital Community Baby Shower to provide expecting parents and grandparents with information on vaccines.

VCHD Clinic and the Health Educator have been working on reaching out to daycares to offer vaccines clinics and lead testing at the daycare. Lead testing was performed at Vigo County Head Start and Early Head Start. TB testing was performed at Vigo County Head Start.

VCHD partnered with Anthem and the Vigo County School Corporation and hosted an end of the year vaccine clinic. This event was aimed towards getting children vaccination before the new school year started. The Clinic saw a total of 40 children with a grand total of 95 vaccines given that day. We also gave away bikes in a raffle, had a bounce house and offered free produce during our event. It was such an amazing way we connected with our community!

Our school liaison worked with the schools to set up dental cleanings and to help educate about hygiene in the private schools.



Ben Franklin Elementary Back to School Bash

TUBERCULOSIS CASE MANAGEMENT AND TESTING

Tuberculosis (TB) control and case management by Local Health Departments is a mandated task under the Indiana Code 410 IAC 1-2.3-106.

This includes investigating positive skin tests, collection of sputum samples for evaluation by the ISDOH lab, providing medication for both active and latent TB cases, home visits for medication administration, evaluation and testing for contacts of the infected patient, communication with the patient's physician and patient education.

In 2024, 1 active TB case was managed by the VCHD Clinic and 7 LTBI cases of TB. The VCHD Clinic continued to provide TB skin testing on a walk-in basis on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays for the community. 974 TB skin tests were administered in 2024.

LEAD SCREENING

In 2024, 89 children were screened for lead exposure by the Vigo County Health Department Clinic. The VCHD managed an average of 84 open cases in 2024 and participated in 18 home investigations. Walk-In lead testing was held during Lead Week. We will continue to do lead screenings on and off site.



Bike Raffle winners from our Immunization Clinic at Woodrow Wilson Middle School

EMPLOYEE VACCINES

The Vigo Commissioner's purchase flu vaccines and offer them for free to full-time county government employees. They also purchase Hepatitis A, and Hepatitis B for employees as they need them occupationally.

EDUCATION

Education is an important aspect of evidence-based care. VCHD staff participated in meetings presented by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Indiana Department of Health (IDOH).

The Public Health Nurse's conference was attended by all nursing staff. Several zoom meetings were attended, as well as several IDOH training courses on site and the National Network of Public Health Institutes Annual Conference in May.



" 'Twas the night before Christmas
when all through the house
Not a creature was stirring
not even a mouse;
Infants were laid to rest
for the night.
Parents double - checked
no blankets, stuffed animals
were in their sight.
They are alone in the crib
but joy is in the air,
place them on their backs
if you care.
It's okay to share the room,
just not the bed.
Remember these steps
when you rest your head.
Alone, on their back, in a crib is best
for an infant's chance of a good night's rest."

Although adults may prefer soft surfaces for sleep, research shows that babies who sleep on top of soft surfaces or with items are at higher risk of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome and other sleep-related death. Soft surfaces, like couches, sofas, waterbeds, memory foam, air or pillow-top adult mattresses, quilts, blankets, and sheepskins are not safe for babies to sleep on.

Even though a crib with nothing in it except a fitted sheet covering the mattress may seem bare, it is the safest option for baby. Research also links crib bumpers and bedding other than a fitted sheet covering the baby's mattress to serious injuries and deaths from SIDS, suffocation, entrapment, and strangulation.

Car seats, strollers, and sitting devices are not recommended as baby's regular sleep or nap space. If baby falls asleep in a sitting or carrying device, move them to their regular sleep space as soon as possible.

Be sure to practice safe sleep not only during the holidays, but everyday.

*Merry Christmas
&
Happy Holidays*

from the 

Safe Sleep Poem by Shelby Jackson, Health Educator

EPIDEMIOLOGY AND COMMUNICABLE DISEASE Indiana Code 16-41-2-1

requires local health departments to investigate and report communicable diseases listed in the Indiana State Department of Health Communicable Disease Reporting Rule.

Condition	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Animal Bites	10	3	16	70	155	267
Campylobacteriosis Probable	19	7	12	5	5	6 3
Carbapenemase-producing carbapenemase-resistant enterobacteriaceae (CP-CRE)	7	4	3	8	2	3
Cryptosporidiosis	0	0	0	0	1	0
Giardiasis	0	2	2	4	3	2
Haemophilus influenza, invasive	0	1	4	0	2	2
Hepatitis A, Acute	46	6	0	0	0	0
Hepatitis B, Acute/Chronic		33	18	14	15	4
Hepatitis C	272	251	173	141	114	88
Hepatitis E		1	1	0	0	0
Histoplasmosis	0	3	8	4	3	7
Legionellosis		1	1	2	0	0
Condition	2019	2019	2021	2022	2023	2024
Lyme Disease	2	6	5	5	4	4
Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome (MIS)	1	1	0	0	0	0
Mumps	1	1	0	0	0	0
Pertussis	1	2	8	3	0	7
Salmonellosis, excluding S. typhi and S. paratyphi	0	7	6	8	14	10
Shiga toxin-producing Escherichia coli (STEC)	0	1	1	1	0	0
Streptococcus A	2	8	1	3	6	13
Streptococcus Pneumoniae	24	0	12	16	9	14
Varicella (Chickenpox)	0	8	1	1	1	1

*This table includes cases that are confirmed, probable, suspect, unknown, and determined to not be a case. Investigation must be initiated to make a final determination. Not publicly reported if total is less than 5. Hepatitis C count includes Federal Prison for 2024.

SOCIAL SERVICES DIVISION



THE MRT FREEDOM LADDER



L-R: Shonna Frye, Larry Aynes and supervisor Molly Collett



L-R: Sheriff Derek Fell, Chief Deputy Steve Meng, Shonna Frye, Molly Collett, Jail Matron Casey Lee and Jail Commander Charley Funk

Our Commitment

Mission Statement: Supporting individuals with a substance use disorder and co-occurring mental health issues by partnering with other organizations in the community to provide peer support recovery services.

Vision: Build a strong and healthy recovery community and lower recidivism rates in the Vigo County Jail.

Core Values: Core values are the foundation on which we perform our work and conduct ourselves with each other.

Compassion: We treat our peers, partners, and each other with respect, understanding, and compassion.

Trust: We create a safe space and communicate with honesty and openness. We acknowledge the connection between trauma and substance use disorder and act with appropriate consciousness.

Acceptance: We believe that everyone has unique challenges and strengths. We value the power of self-direction in building sustainable recovery.

Collaboration: We build strength-based connections to achieve home, health, purpose, and community. We recognize diversity and we openly share our views and life experiences through authentic conversations; creating a space where transformation is possible.

Confidentiality: We adhere to the confidentiality agreement not to disclose any information obtained during the coaching relationship without the client's permission.

Peer Coaching

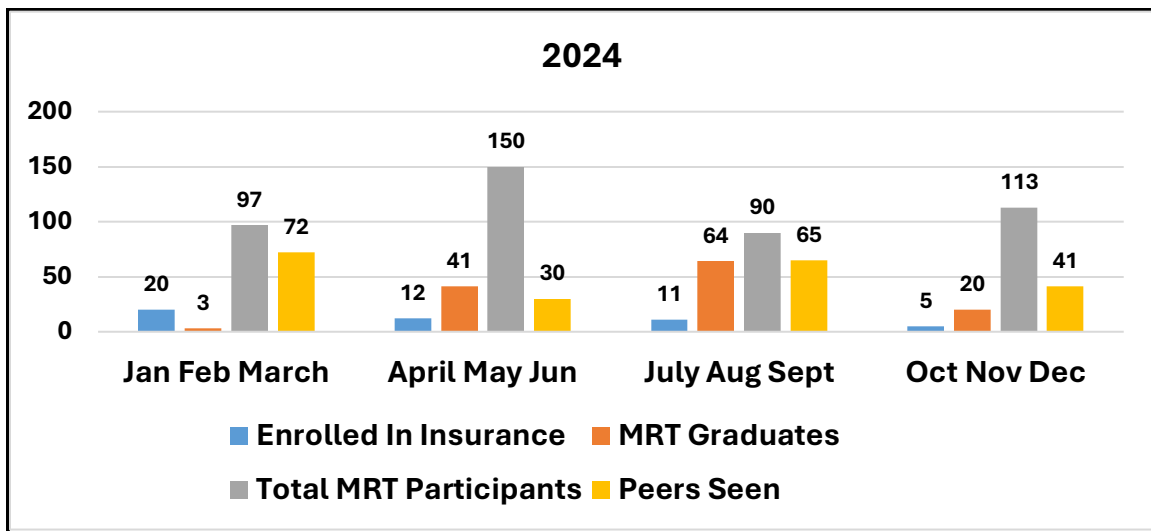
Peer coaching involves individuals with lived experience of substance use disorders providing guidance and support to those currently seeking recovery. These peer recovery coaches use their personal journeys to inspire hope, offer practical advice, and model successful recovery strategies.



Substance Abuse Counseling

Substance abuse counseling is a combination of treatment and support to help people break free from drug or alcohol addiction. **Substance abuse counselors** work with patients of all ages who have addictions to illegal drugs, alcohol, prescription medications, and tobacco products. They evaluate patients' health, recommend treatments, and help them develop skills to aid in recovery. **Counseling for addiction** helps individuals understand what causes addiction, recognize risk factors for relapse, and develop coping tools for stressful situations. **Addiction counselors** develop tailored treatment plans based on specific addiction, needs, and goals.

Programs offered inside the jail



Gary J. Morris, Sr. and Molly Collett

Gary J. Morris Sr. has struggled with drug addiction in the past, but credits Molly Collett and the Vigo County Health Department social services division with helping him stay sober.

Peer Coached: 41

Enrolled in Insurance: 48

MRT Graduates: 128

Released, but still Clients: 10

Participants in Change Program: 77

Seeking Safety is an evidence-based treatment model that treats co-occurring posttraumatic stress disorder and substance abuse. It is a present-focused therapy that emphasizes coping skills, grounding techniques, and education to help clients attain safety from trauma and substance abuse. The Seeking Safety treatment model was developed in the 1990s, with assistance from the National Institute on Drug Abuse.

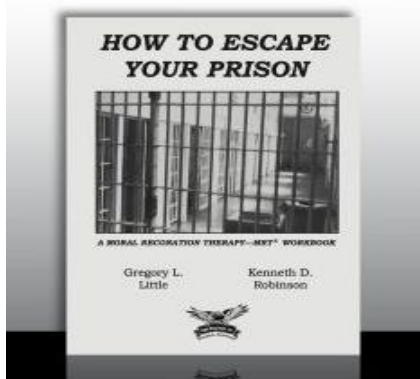


The Change Program/Interactive Journaling is an evidence-based practice for motivation and guiding individuals toward a positive life change. It is goal directed, client-centered and helps participants modify behavior while progressing through the stages of change, precontemplation, contemplation, preparation, action and maintenance.



Moral Reconciliation Therapy promotes moral reasoning, better decision making, and improvement of behavior. It is based on the idea that risky and criminal behavior stem from faulty thinking

patterns, such as a lack of empathy, distorted perceptions of right and wrong, and impulsivity. This is also an evidence-based program.



Chances and Services for Youth and Drug Free Vigo County “Circles of Change” Conference



Panalist Molly Collett, Supervisor Social Services Division



Conferences and Community Events

- All Rise/Anaheim, CA
- Circles of Change/Terre Haute Convention Center
- Mental Health and Addiction/Indianapolis, IN
- Hamilton Center 2024 Hero for Recovery Event
- Overdose Awareness Event
- Health Fair at the Vigo County Court House

Collaboration

- Vigo County Judges
- Vigo County Courts/Staff
- Jail Staff
- Prosecutors Office
- CASA
- Sober Living Facilities
- Treatment Facilities
- Covering Kids and Families
- Hamilton Center
- Valley Professional

Training Opportunities

- Seeking Safety
- Train the Trainer/How being Trauma-Informed Improves Criminal Justice System Responses
- Ethics
- HIV/Aids
- MRT Training
- Peer Recovery Supervising Training
- CPR
- Cultural Competency
- Examining the Impacts of Substance Use Before Pregnancy and Beyond



Larry Aynes, Peer Recovery Coach and Molly Isles

ALL RISE CONFERENCE IN ANAHEIM CALIFORNIA



L-R: Amy Oehl, Shonna Frye, Molly Collett, Jaime Walters and Judge Charles Johnson

HEALTH FIRST INDIANA




2024 Funding amount for Vigo County: 1,234,029

Partners:















Chances and Services for Youth
Vigo County School Corporation
Vigo County Division 2, Family Court
Indiana First Tee Program

Vigo County Sheriff's Department and Jail
Vigo County Parks & Recreation
Purdue Extension
Vigo County Public Defender's Office
Vigo County Courts









HEALTH FIRST INDIANA (HFI)
Core Public Health Services
More information at healthfirstindiana.com



At least 60% of HFI funding must be spent on these core services

 Communicable disease prevention and control	 Vital records	 Tobacco prevention and cessation
 Student health	 Fatality review (child, suicide, overdose)	 Maternal and child health
 Testing/counseling for HIV, HCV, STI	 TB control and case management	 Emergency preparedness
 Referrals to clinical care	 Chronic disease prevention and reduction	 Childhood lead screenings and case management
	 Trauma and injury prevention and education	 Child and adult immunizations

No more than 40% of funding may be spent on these core services

 Food protection	 Pest/vector control and abatement	 Public/semipublic pool inspection and testing
 Residential onsite sewage system permitting and inspections	 Orders for decontamination of property used to illegally manufacture controlled substances	
 Sanitary inspection and surveys of public buildings	 Sanitary operation of tattoo parlors and body piercing facilities	 Sanitary operation of facilities where eyelash extensions are performed

Updated: 8/14/23

Core Public Health Services

Core public health services must be provided by the local health department or a local organization in partnership with the local health department in compliance with Health First Indiana. The local health department will report on key performance indicators to the Indiana Department of Health

THE END



*SEE YOU NEXT
YEAR!*