I am proud to share the 2017 Athens City-County Health Department annual report with you. As you review this report you will be reminded of the many services performed by the health department that protect you from disease, promote healthy living, and keep our environment safe. These programs are managed by our competent, caring, and well trained staff. I am grateful for their professionalism.

In 2017 we continued to offer our core services within the four largest departments: Environmental Health, Health Education, Public Health Nursing, and Vital Statistics. We partnered with other local health departments, the Ohio Department of Health, the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to monitor disease outbreaks, policy changes, and training opportunities.

Heavy focus was placed on making progress toward our goal of becoming a nationally accredited health department by July 2020. Included in this progress was the completion and adoption of our Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP), which was completed as a collaborative effort between three other regional health departments. The CHIP is a community plan, developed through input from both Athens County citizens and other community partners and can be viewed on our website.

In response to the opioid crisis we continued to offer Naloxone through Project DAWN, Death Avoidance With Naloxone, and launched a bloodborne pathogen prevention program to help mitigate some of the affects of the opioid epidemic. Through Project DAWN community members and agencies are able to obtain Narcan to rescue overdosed opioid victims. The bloodborne pathogen prevention program allows members of the addicted community to properly dispose of used needles. Such an effort should reduce the incidence of skin and blood stream infections as well as HIV, Hepatitis B, and Hepatitis C. It also keeps those needles out of our playgrounds, neighborhoods, parks, and streets.

After years of planning the department secured funding to install new signage at our office on West Union Street. The newly installed sign allows us to display digital messages and will be useful in reminding community members of our services and seasonal health concerns. In closing we want to express our gratitude for the remarkable community support that we received in 2017. If we can be of any service to you we encourage you to stop in and visit, we are here to serve you!

Dr. James R. Gaskell, MD
Health Commissioner
Athens City-County Health Department
Recognizing Excellence

When it comes to improving health, having strong leadership at the top of your organization is critical for that success. At the top of the Athens City-County Health Department is our five member board who by all reasonable accounts are volunteering their valuable time to ensure the citizens of Athens County are receiving the best possible services.

Matt Raposelli joined the board in 2006 and has served 12 consecutive years rarely missing a meeting during his time of service to local public health in Athens County. Mr. Raposelli juggled his commitment to his career as a business owner and chef, family, social life and other volunteer opportunities all the while maintaining a strong important presence on the board. A longtime resident of Athens County and self employed business owner, Mr. Raposelli understood our community, its people and the direct impact of policy passed by the board.

We want to personally extend our gratitude on behalf of all the Athens City-County Health Department staff, board of health and citizens of Athens County for your time, vision and commitment. Thank you for taking the time to govern our organization with the dedication and leadership the position demands.

Long time Athens City-County Health Department Administrator Charles “Chuck” Hammer retired from his post as administrator in March 2017. During his 20 year tenure, Hammer skillfully navigated the department through levy campaigns, a catastrophic office fire, and the 2009 H1N1 flu pandemic. But perhaps his most notable accomplishments came in wastewater land use planning. A planning visionary Hammer developed and implemented wastewater policy that ensured Athens County development was done with thoughtfulness and a vision for the future.

“I worked with Chuck for nearly 15 years and I admired his commitment to his planning principles, even when it meant choosing a path that we knew was going to be challenging. He was willing to make difficult choices in the present to prevent challenges in the future.” Jack Pepper, Administrator, Athens City-County Health Department.

On behalf of the Athens City-County Health Department staff and its board thank you for your dedication and commitment during the last 20 years. Thank you for the leading our organization with class, integrity and stewardship that public service demands.

2017 Vital Statistics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Deaths Registered</td>
<td>405</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heart/Vascular Disease</td>
<td>119</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cancer</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult Failure to Thrive</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respiratory Illness</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dementia, Alzheimer’s</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dementia, Unspecified</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Births Registered</td>
<td>735</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Children are our future and Athens City-County Health Department is dedicated to helping each new baby in our community have the best start possible. To achieve this goal, we provide a variety of services to ensure each new parent has the knowledge and resources they need to keep their family healthy and safe. Our services include:

**Welcome Home Baby Newborn Home Visits**
A nurse will welcome the new family home and provide a wellness and weight check of the baby, answer questions, refer families to community resources, and provide information to keep the baby healthy and safe.

**Cribs for Kids**
Pack N Play portable crib is provided for babies that otherwise would not have a safe place to sleep. Parents and caregivers are educated on establishing a safe sleep environment for their baby.

**Children with Medical Handicaps (CMH) Program**
CMH is a program sponsored by the Ohio Department of Health that provides assistance to children and their families who meet medical and financial eligibility criteria. Public health nurses help coordinate services for families while they navigate through the complex health care system.

**Immunization Clinics**
Immunizations are offered for both children and adults. We participate in the Vaccines for Children program so no child is turned away for lack of insurance or inability to pay.

**Nationwide Children’s Genetic and Developmental Clinics**
Genetic and Developmental clinics that serve Athens County and the surrounding communities are provided locally through a partnership with Nationwide Children’s Hospital. Genetic clinics provides evaluations for children with concerns of genetic conditions or developmental concern suspected. The health department provides clinic space and public health nurses to serve as clinic coordinators. The nurses continue to work with the family after their evaluation to link them to medical, educational, social, and financial resources in their community.
Active transportation
Significant progress was made for active transportation support for pedestrians, bikers, and bus riders. Communities that prioritize active transportation have better health outcomes. The City of Nelsonville adopted a Complete Streets policy and Athens City is working toward a similar policy. Education for decision makers through How We Roll assisted in the development of the policies. Health department employees provided technical assistance to several worksites to adopt active commuting policies, install bike racks, and provide education to employees. County residents can look forward to Park & Go locations in Athens and Nelsonville in the coming year, which are places to park your car and walk, bike, or bus to your destination.

Jacksonville Tobacco free Village ordinance
The Village of Jacksonville passed a tobacco free ordinance for all village owned buildings and their park. The Village Council recognized the risk of tobacco exposure to kids and the modeling of adult smoking. Mayor, Tony McNickle, said, “we did it for the kids.” The health department provided sample tobacco policies and signs for the park. The Village of Jacksonville demonstrated a commitment to the health of their residents. The health department can support worksites, community organizations, and local government in establishing tobacco free environments.

Community Health Workers
In 2017, the health department and Holzer Health System collaborated to provide Community Health Workers (CHW) to high risk diabetes patients. CHWs support patients in meeting goals to manage diabetes through linking them to lifestyle change programs, helping them make better food choices, and increase physical activity. CHW’s also help other social support. The CHW’s are funded by a POWER grant in collaboration with Marshall University and the Appalachian Regional Commission.
In 2017, the Athens City-County Health Department (ACCHD) Environmental Health Division’s primary responsibilities were to prevent disease outbreaks and promote environmental safety and health throughout the county. One method the environmental health staff achieved these goals was by inspecting and educating many businesses and their employees on safe environmental health practices. These businesses ranged from food service operations, swimming pools, to household sewage system contractors. This work requires the staff to be well educated on a diverse variety of environmental health topics and regulations and be able to effectively communicate these principles to a diverse population. The ACCHD Environmental consultations in the 2017 calendar year.

The ACCHD partnered with the Athens-Hocking Solid Waste District (AHSWD) and the Hocking County Health Department to obtain a Tire Amnesty Grant from the Ohio EPA to remove used scrap tires from the county. Removal of scrap tires is a critical action to reduce environmental pollution and to control potential mosquito breeding sites. In 2017, the ACCHD worked with the Athens County Township Trustees and Wayne National Forest to hold 7 free tire amnesty drop off events throughout the county. During these events, the ACCHD participated in removing 10,500 tires from Athens County that would have otherwise polluted our beautiful streams and hillsides. This positive collaboration has collectively removed more than 100,000 used scrap tires since 2006.
### Revenue

**Total** $2,897,869.95

- **Communities Preventing Chronic Disease**: $400,000
- **Dental Sealant**: $107,000
- **Creating Healthy Communities**: $95,000
- **Public Health Emergency Preparedness**: $90,000
- **ODH Community Health Improvement Plan**: $70,000
- **Misc. Mini Grants**: $127,798

### Expenditures

**Personnel** $1,578,052.80

- **Administration**: 28%
- **Environmental Health**: 27%
- **Nursing**: 23%
- **Health Education**: 22%

**Operating** $1,319,817.15

- **<1% Public Health Emergency Preparedness**
- **<1% Dental Sealant**

**Total** $2,897,869.95
Keeping our eyes on our Future Goals

- Pursue national Accreditation
- Start second Community Health Assessment
- Lead CHC coalition through strategic planning process
- Establishing Opioid Overdose Fatality Review Board
- Establish Opioid Community Engagement Task Force
- Launch new and innovative website

www.health.athens.oh.us