



# Lorain City Health Department 2007 ANNUAL REPORT



## Commentary from the Health Commissioner...

Dear Lorain Residents:

I respectfully submit the 2007 Annual Report of the Lorain City Health Department. This report is prepared by the staff of the Lorain City Health Department, and accepted by the Lorain District Municipal Board of Health, in an effort to make the public become more aware of the Board, and its staff who work continuously to provide public health services to the citizens of Lorain. In addition to the annual review of program highlights and statistics, some events of significance in 2007 were as follows:

**STRATEGIC PLANNING INITIATIVE:** The Lorain District Municipal Board of Health has authorized an agreement with the Public Service Institute (PSI) of Lorain County Community College to assist the health department in conducting a strategic planning process. The overall objective is to obtain internal and external perspectives on public health priorities from key stakeholders to form the development of a comprehensive strategic plan for the Lorain City Health Department. The project consists of four primary phases of work. Phase I involves one-on-one interviews with board of health members and key department staff. Phase II includes facilitated sessions to engage key community stakeholders in the process. A Planning Council with diverse



stakeholder representation will be convened during Phase III to sort through information gleaned from Phases I & II and to establish strategic directions for the health department. Phase IV consists of an internal refinement process to identify the department's mission, vision, strategic priorities and to build upon strategic initiatives identified during Phase III. Upon completion of the strategic planning process; the final plan will be disseminated back to the community stakeholders. During 2007, Phases I & II were completed with the final phases of the project to be completed in the spring of 2008.

**BIENNIAL JOB DESCRIPTION REVIEW:** During 2007 all of the position descriptions of the Lorain City Health Department were reviewed and updated. The review process included the immediate supervisor discussing with each employee's input, any suggested changes to the job description. Upon mutual review and consensus, the revised/reviewed job descriptions were presented to the Lorain District Municipal Board for their review and

approval. The final revisions were then sent to the Lorain Civil Service Commission for their adoption. Each employee was provided an updated copy of their respective job description and requested to complete an "Acknowledgement Form" indicating the receipt of same.

**STAFFING CHANGES:** The health department had three (3) Public Health Nurses; Karen Gegner, RN (19 yrs.); Elsa Pittak, RN (19 yrs.) and Judy Rudolph, BSN (13 yrs.) retire in 2007. In July of 2007, Joshua Jenkins, S.I.T. was appointed to a Sanitarian-In-Training position. Josh has a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from Arizona State University and will work in the Environmental Division.

In conclusion, as your Health Commissioner, I am committed to the continued improvement of the quality of services that this Department is providing to the citizens of Lorain. The staff is striving to meet the community's public health needs in order to obtain your continued respect and confidence.

If you have any suggestions or comments, please contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,

*Terrence J. Tomaszewski*  
Health Commissioner

## ADMINISTRATION

Terrence J. Tomaszewski  
Health Commissioner

Dr. Craig Chapple, MD  
Medical Director

J. Jack Kurowski  
Director of Environmental Health

Kathy Loughrie  
Director of Nursing

Ann Boehnlein  
Administrative Assistant

Michelle Crossan  
Registrar/Record Controller

## BOARD OF HEALTH

Mayor Craig Foltin  
President  
Mayor John Romoser  
President

Donald A. Killinger, RS

Dominic R. Buccilli

Donald Love

Ben S. Fligner \*

Robert G. Cool, Jr.

\* Licensed Council Member

## Essential Public Health Services:

- Monitor health status
- Diagnose and investigate
- Mobilize community partners
- Develop policies and plans
- Enforce laws & regulations
- Link people to needed services
- Assure competent workforce
- Evaluate services
- Research insights & solutions to problems.



# ENVIRONMENTAL DIVISION

J. Jack Kurowski, RS—Director of Environmental Health

## ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH STATS

2007

### Field Sanitarians Only

#### PUBLIC HEALTH NUISANCES Inspections

Garbage	793
Refuse	98
Sewage	5
Housing (1- 2 Units)	21
Animals	86
Insect/Vector	5
All Other	62

#### RABIES CONTROL

Animal Bites Reported	156
Animals Quarantined	138
Strays	18
Animals sent to lab	7

#### INSTITUTIONS, HOUSING, ETC.

Housing- Multi	185
Demolition	4
Marinas	22
Mobile Homes	20
Schools	15
Public Pools	323
Institutions	4
Public Beaches	5

#### FOOD PROTECTION

Food Service	1133
Vending Machines	54
Food Borne Illness	9
Mobile	24
Temporary	72

#### OTHER SERVICES AND REGULATIONS

Mosquito Control	26
Lead Program	25
Solid Waste & C/D	30
Private / Public Sewage	3
Haz Mat (Bio-Terrorism)	7
Tattoo	11
Daycare Facilities	2
Citations all Programs	15
Smoke Free Ohio	57
Other	36

The Environmental Division, in working towards protecting the health, welfare and safety of the citizens of Lorain, administers a broad range of regulatory, inspection, consultation and direct service programs. These programs are designed to protect the public's food supply, manage municipal wastes, eliminate public health nuisances, assure safe housing, assure safe recreational water use and control and eliminate vector-borne illnesses. The Environmental Division is staffed with Registered Sanitarians who through education, inspection and consultation, ensure all environmental programs meet minimum standards as established by law.

#### Program Highlights

##### ODH Food Program Survey

The Ohio Department of Health conducted a survey of the Food Service Operation Program as mandated by Ohio Revised and Administrative Codes. The purpose of the survey was to determine whether the Lorain City Health Department, Environmental Division was completing mandated program requirements within the Food Service Inspection Program. Based on the review of this program, the Ohio Department of Health concluded that the Lorain City Health Department has met all acceptable standards. The Lorain City Health Department will remain the licensor for the cities of Lorain and Avon Lake. Recently, large improvements were noted within the Food Service Inspection Program, due to positive action by the Lorain District Municipal Board of Health and Health Commissioner. The appointment of additional Sanitarians has improved the department's service and response to the administration, citizens and food operators within the health jurisdiction.

##### Smoke Free Ohio

In 2007, the Lorain City Health Department was designated the local enforcement agent for Ohio's Smoke-Free law and rules. Environmental Division staff members conducted investigations regarding complaints filed for violations of Chapter 3794 of the Ohio Revised Code. During 2007, over 50 investigations were conducted involving businesses in alleged violation of the law. Businesses and workplaces were advised to remove ashtrays, post no-smoking signs (complaint hotline number included) and prohibit smoking. On Friday, May 18, 2007, Judge Cain of the Court of Common Pleas for Franklin County filed his decision on the Private Clubs Exemption. Judge Cain chose to grant the Ohio Licensed Beverage Association's petition for a permanent injunction against and only against the one additional sentence in Ohio Administrative Code 3701-52-04(G) which states "For purposes of this exemption, the term 'employees' does not include members of the

private club who provide services to the private club." What this means is that smoking cannot occur in private clubs. Local health departments should enforce the law in private clubs. Private clubs are required to post signs, remove ashtrays and prohibit smoking in all areas of the building. A grant in the amount of \$ 2,990.00 was awarded to the Lorain City Health Department to assist with enforcement activities.

##### Jarod's Law

In 2007, The Ohio Department of Health developed and finalized regulations requiring annual inspections of all Ohio schools. The annual inspections are required under Ohio General Assembly House Bill 203, commonly known as "Jarod's Law". The law is being called Jarod's Law after six-year-old Jarod Bennett was killed when a 290-pound cafeteria table fell on him. He died in his mother's arms at an elementary school in Ohio. In an effort to help support school districts and local health departments in their implementation of Jarod's Law, the Ohio Department of Health developed a comprehensive inspection manual for use by Sanitarians while conducting inspections of school buildings and environment. The Lorain City Health Department and Lorain Fire Department will begin the mandatory inspection process in the spring of 2008.

## NURSING DIVISION

Kathy Loughrie BSN, MS, RN — Director of Nursing

The nursing division of the Lorain City Health Department works towards fulfilling the three core functions of public health: assessment, assurance and policy development. Our mission is to improve the health status of the community at all levels in a manner that maintains their dignity, promotes their self-reliance and cultural integrity in order to enable individuals, families and communities to be healthy and productive. Public health nursing services are available to all citizens of Lorain but in particular very young children, medically under-served families and the elderly. It is our intent to offer services in a manner that maintains the dignity of individuals while promoting their self-reliance and cultural integrity. Service priorities are based on community needs, available resources, and staff capacity. The division provides a wide variety of health assessment, health promotion, and disease prevention services and program management in the broad categories of:

- ♥ Infectious Disease
- ♥ Health Data Assessment
- ♥ Home Visiting for Families with Children 0-3 years of age
- ♥ Home Visiting for Families with Children who have Medical Disabilities
- ♥ Quality Assurance
- ♥ Policy Development

The broad based public health knowledge and experience of public health nursing helps reduce health care costs through early detection and prevention of health problems. Lorain City Health Department's six –(6) public health nurses have intimate knowledge of local community resources, community leadership, and family structures essential to public health functions such as communicable disease control. Their skills and knowledge combined with the trust of individuals and professionals in their communities are valuable in working with health and environmental issues. The PHN presence at the local level assures timely intervention. Brief overviews of some of our services we provide are listed below.

### Program Highlights

**CHILD HEALTH CLINICS:** Well-child care for infants, children and adolescents up to age 21 years is offered by appointment at Lorain City Health Department Monday thru Friday. As per established protocols and under the guidance of a physician, certified pediatric nurse practitioners provide physical examinations, blood and urine tests, immunizations, developmental testing, and hearing and vision screening. Families receive guidance and counseling on growth and development, parenting, nutrition, and management of childhood diseases. Children may be referred to; speech and hearing therapy through Easter Seals, and to nutritional support programs through WIC. Referrals are made to social service agencies for families in need of those services. This clinic is funded in part by the Ohio Department of Health. Child Health Clinic fees for services are on a sliding fee scale based on the ability to pay; however, no one is refused care.

**COMMUNICABLE DISEASE INVESTIGATIONS:** Local health departments have strong mandates and broad authority to control communi-

cable diseases. This responsibility is carried out by collecting and analyzing disease reports, investigating cases and outbreaks of disease, and applying established control measures. These activities require understanding of disease processes, administrative processes, and contemporary measures for prevention and control. The Lorain City Health Department is an active member of the Lorain County Tri-Health Department Communicable Disease Task Force. The Lorain City Health Department participates in regional bio-terrorism and communicable disease surveillance and response planning to coordinate response to naturally occurring or artificially introduced threats in our community and the 5-county region of Lorain, Cuyahoga, Ashtabula, Geauga and Lake County.

**BCMh:** This is a state program in the Ohio Department of Health that receives federal, state and county funds. The mission of BCMh is to assist children with special health care needs and their

families. Public Health Nurses are inserviced monthly by an Ohio Department of Health liaison who keeps the nurses updated on this complex bureaucratic system. Their main purpose is to guide families into and through the system.



**HELP ME GROW:** Help Me Grow is a home-visiting program funded in part by Ohio Department of Health grant funds. Its purpose is to help families whose children are birth to 3 years of age. Early Start links families to existing early childhood programs and services and supports Ohio's school readiness goal. Professional nurses provide in home visits, supportive counseling and parenting education. Parents are linked to existing services in the community based on their needs.

**NURSING DIVISION—continued**

Kathy Loughrie, BSN, MS, RN—Director of Nursing

**PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING SERVICES**

Help Me Grow Visits (0-3 years of age)	2,797
<b>Bureau for Children with Medical Handicaps (0-21 years)</b>	<b>287</b>
Child Health Clinics (0-21 years)	440
<b>Lead Visits</b>	<b>7</b>
HIV Testing	501
<b>Outreach Educational Program</b>	<b>83</b>
Adult Immunizations	1032
<b>Children Immunizations</b>	<b>2651</b>
Office Visits Guidance	67
<b>SIDS Field Visits</b>	<b>1</b>
Homeless Shelter Health Assessments	233

**Lorain City Health Department  
2007 Communicable Disease Report**

Campylobacteriosis	12	Meningitis	1
Chlamydia	184	Mycobacterium (other than TB)	5
Coccidioidomycosis	1	Pertussis	2
Creutzfeld-Jakob Disease (suspect)	1	Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever	1
Cryptosporidiosis	7	Salmonellosis	8
Dengue Fever	1	Shigellosis	0
E.Coli	1	Staph. Aureus	1
Giardiasis	1	Streptococcal Disease	2
Gonorrhea	86	Strep. Pneumo	12
Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome	2	Syphilis	7
Hepatitis A	1	Toxic Shock Syndrome	1
Hepatitis B, C, Non A	172	Tuberculosis	2
H. Influenza	1	Varicella	25
Legionnaire's Disease	1	West Nile Virus (previous infection)	2
Listeriosis	2	<b>Total</b>	<b>542</b>



## HEALTH EDUCATION

Nancy Toth, B.S.—Health Educator  
Mary Jo Burns, M.I.B.—Health Educator

The City of Lorain's Health Educators promote, maintain and improve individual and community health by assisting its residents to adopt healthy behaviors. Health Educators collect and analyze data to identify community needs, and implement, monitor and evaluate programs designed to encourage healthy lifestyles, policies and environments. They influence changes in policy and the environment to address health problems and give individuals, groups and their community the opportunity to acquire the information and skills needed to make quality health decisions. Call (440-204-2317) for more information or to schedule a health prevention/promotion program for your organization.

### TOBACCO PREVENTION INITIATIVE:

The Lorain City Health Department serves as the lead agency administering the Ohio Tobacco Prevention Foundation Community Grant for Lorain County. The program goals of the grant are to prevent tobacco use among youth, to encourage adults to quit tobacco use through the Ohio Tobacco Quit Line and to reduce exposure to secondhand smoke by supporting the Ohio Smoke-free Workplace Act. These projects have been evaluated by Public Services Institute at Lorain County Community College.

The 2007 grant awarded two community-based sub-grants. The tobacco prevention project at the Elyria City Schools offered junior high school students the Life-Skills Training program with a tobacco component. Additionally, in 2007, participation in Lorain County's first youth **stand** team was offered to the county's junior high and high school students. **stand**, is a counter-marketing youth movement that supports 100% tobacco free schools and communities, encourages all youth to remain tobacco free, and works to change societal norms related to tobacco use and acceptance. Community Health Partners Regional Medical Center received a sub-grant to support their 100% smoke-free workplace initiative. Lorain County Tobacco Prevention Partnership heavily promoted adult cessation through the distribution of more than 150 Quit Kits to county medical personnel, health care workers, veterinarians, and social service agencies.



The Lorain County Tobacco Prevention Partnership is a community-based coalition representative of more than thirty local agencies, school districts and businesses along with individuals. These groups come together to coordinate tobacco prevention and control initiatives in Lorain County. In 2007, the partnership contracted with Public Services Institute at Lorain County Community College to assist in the creation of a strategic plan. This plan was to serve as a guide for the partnership in order to best meet the tobacco-related needs of Lorain County citizens and to better leverage funding opportunities. The plan resulted in four specific goals: youth prevention, building partnerships with community stakeholders, promoting tobacco cessation programs and advancing LCTPP as the area expert in tobacco prevention and cessation needs. New members interested in tobacco prevention projects are welcome to join! Monthly meetings are held at the Lorain City Health Department on the second Friday of each month. Call (440-204-2318) for additional information.

## PUBLIC HEALTH PREPAREDNESS

Lynn Rebman, B.S.—Coordinator

The Lorain City Health Department continues to strengthen its efforts in improving preparedness for all types of public health emergencies. The Ohio Department of Health has continued to provide funding to support the Public Health Infrastructure Program. The goal of the program is to develop and maintain a strong public health infrastructure capable of addressing and responding to a bio-terrorism, terrorism, unintentional, or naturally occurring events that result in a public health threat or emergency. The Lorain City Health Department realizes the importance of community preparedness, information and warnings, and continues to improve the capacity to gather, prepare and release crucial health information to the community. Operational plans address prevention, preparation, response and recovery for emergencies and continue to be updated. In addition, interoperable communications operational effectiveness and response continues to be assessed. Funding has enabled the purchase of new equipment and supplies to be used in preparedness. Staff preparedness training is recognized, and continuing education to maintain and improve knowledge and enrich skills is offered. In addition, several staff members are also part of local and regional response planning committees.



## VITAL STATISTICS

**Michelle Crossan, BA—Registrar**

Vital Statistics consists of the compiling of birth, death, stillbirths and other vital records occurring in the City of Lorain. The Registrar has the responsibility of establishing the registration of births and deaths that occur in the City of Lorain. Records are on file in this office for births and deaths which occurred between December 1908 and the present. If you need further information on obtaining birth or death records for Ohio or out of state, you can check the department's website [www.lorainhealth.com](http://www.lorainhealth.com).



Local vital statistic registrars use Statewide Seals for certification as well as Security Paper for birth/death records. This state-wide standardized paper has many security features to help both state and federal agencies identify vital records as legal documents and establish a uniform way of certifying vital records throughout the State of Ohio.

Our office uses a computerized data management system for issuing birth certificates which minimizes searching and processing times & allows a record to be flagged that may need special attention.

Certificates can be requested online via our website; in person; by mail; or by fax. In 2007, 962 birth/death records were requested through the department's website; providing an expedient service that is accessible and convenient. Records requested are shipped certified mail or overnight delivery.

Effective January 1, 2007 all Ohio deaths have been registered through a new web based data collection system called EDRS (Electronic Death Registration System). This new system verifies necessary information is collected and produces accurate statistics quicker than before. All Local Registrars, Local Funeral Directors and Coroner's Offices have access to the Death Certificate in real time, allowing us the ability to provide more accurate and complete information. The Funeral Director now requests a Burial Permit and the Local Registrar verifies the information and approves the permit all within the EDRS system without the Funeral Director needing to leave his/her office. Through this new automated system the Social Security Administration is able to collect information from the system to verify that the Decedent's personal information matches what they have on file and to flag the Decedent's Social Security Number as deceased. In 2008, the department's hope is to have some of the local physicians signed into the EDRS system to help the death certificate process go even more smoothly.

### 2007 VITAL STATISTICS

<b>TOTAL BIRTHS</b>	<b>1112</b>	<b>TOTAL DEATHS</b>	<b>896</b>
Total Resident Births	600	Total Resident Deaths	524
Male	310	Male	273
Female	290	Female	251
Non-Resident Births	512	Non-Resident Deaths	372
Resident Premature Births	47	Resident Infant Death Under Age 1	5
Teen Pregnancy	127	<b>TOTAL FETAL DEATHS</b>	<b>4</b>
Non Married	433	Residents	2
		Non-Residents	2

### CAUSES OF DEATH OF RESIDENTS

Diseases of Heart & Blood Vessels	113	Cancer	131
Pneumonia / Influenza	43	Cerebral Vascular Accidents	27
Disease of Kidney	29	Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease	28
Disease of Liver	4	Homicide	4
Suicide	4	Alzheimer/Dementia	24
All Other Causes	116	Automobile Accidents	1

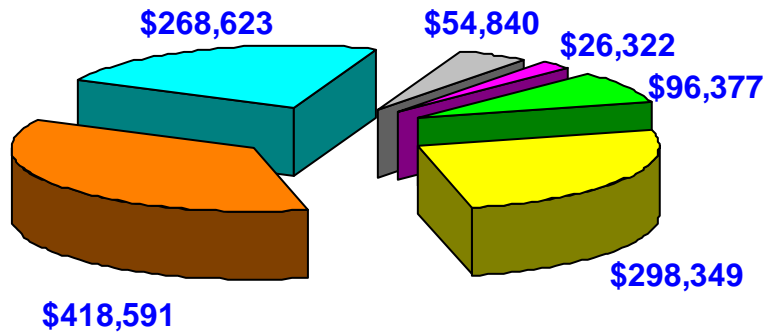
### DEATHS AS TO AGE OF RESIDENTS

Birth to One month	3	10 years to 19 years	3	60 years to 69 years	61
One month to 1 year	2	20 years to 39 years	20	70 years to 79 years	105
1 year to 4 years	0	40 years to 49 years	38	80 years to 89 years	158
5 years to 9 years	0	50 years to 59 years	66	90 years and over	68



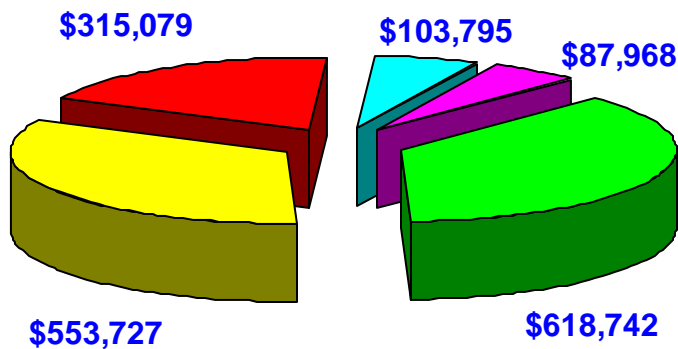
## REVENUE & EXPENSE REPORT

### 2007 Revenues Total: \$1,163,102



- Vital Statistics
- Environmental Health
- Public Health Nursing
- Grants
- Contracts
- State Subsidy

### 2007 Expenditures Total: \$1,679,311



- Administration
- Public Health Nursing
- Environmental Health
- Public Health Infrastructure
- Tobacco Grant



**1144 West Erie Avenue  
Lorain, Ohio 44052**  
Phone: 440.204.2300  
Fax: 440.246.6894

**To reach our departments, dial 204-2300 and the corresponding extension below.**

Administration	Ext. 2316
Nursing Services / Child Clinic & Child immunizations	Ext. 2303
Environmental Health	Ext. 2319
Health Education	Ext. 2317/2318
Birth & Death Certificates	Ext. 2301/2302/2327

**FAX NUMBER** 246-6894

To our friends at:



**The Mission Statement**

*The Lorain City Health Department is comprised of a staff of professionals technically trained working towards protecting the environment and promoting the health and welfare of the citizens of Lorain.*

**“Public Health . . . .  
Protecting Your  
Community”**

**Lorain City Health  
Department  
8:30 AM — 4:30 PM  
Monday—Friday**