



2018

Annual Report

Protecting Health,
Improving Lives.



THE CITY OF
COLUMBUS
ANDREW J. GINTHER, MAYOR

COLUMBUS
PUBLIC HEALTH

A Message from Our Health Commissioner

Columbus Public Health is proud to protect the health and improve the lives of all Columbus and Worthington residents through diverse services and efforts to address our greatest public health challenges. Our work to improve the health outcomes of individuals, families and neighborhoods is made possible through our partnership with Mayor Ginther, our partners, stakeholders and colleagues. It takes all of us working together to improve the health of ALL residents — and this is our highest calling. While we continue to address the opiate epidemic, infant mortality, gun violence and the social determinants of health, we remain committed to building a stronger and healthier community for us all. I am pleased to share highlights of our work in 2018 and a renewed commitment to continuing these great efforts on behalf of our residents.

Best of Health,



Mysheika W. Roberts, MD, MPH
Health Commissioner

 [DrMysheikaRoberts](#)

 [DrMRoberts](#)



A Message from the Mayor

Columbus Public Health has been a tremendous partner to our city. The work of the department helps to create a healthier Columbus by providing information and tools to residents in our neighborhoods. Every community faces public health opportunities, and Columbus Public Health works diligently to reduce those challenges and inform our residents on healthy habits and choices. They make sure food is safe to eat, children are protected from vaccine preventable diseases, and moms and babies have the care and support they need for a healthy pregnancy. Additional programming addresses addiction and gun violence, and through farmers markets and Walk with a Doc, Columbus Public Health makes it easier for our residents to be health conscious, too. I am proud of the work of Columbus Public Health, and grateful to have them on our team.

Sincerely,



Mayor Andrew J. Ginther

 [MayorGinther](#)

 [MayorGinther](#)



Public Health Issue in Our Community: Opiate Epidemic

The Challenge: More than 4,300 residents use heroin and two people die every day in Franklin County.

Our Response: Columbus Public Health is working with Mayor Ginther, Franklin County, ADAMH, and many community partners on the Columbus and Franklin County Addiction Plan to help those who are already addicted and to prevent people from becoming addicted in the first place. Comprehensive efforts to address this crisis include drug take-back events, an opiate surge notification system, alcohol and drug services counseling, education and prevention, community naloxone trainings, fentanyl test strip distribution, and Safe Point, the comprehensive harm reduction program at Equitas Health.

- 150 individuals engaged at Safe Point through outreach activities.
- 21 community education events and speaking engagements provided to community partners and residents on harm reduction strategies and opiates/overdose information to approximately 756 individuals.
- 120 pounds of medication and an estimated 4,736 syringes collected at 2 drug take-back events.
- 6 additional syringe disposal boxes installed for a total of 10 boxes in the City.
- 4,700 fentanyl test strips distributed in 10 partner locations to save people from accidental overdoses.
- 180 boxes of Narcan distributed with naloxone training and education.
- 56 community sites provided alcohol and drug prevention services.

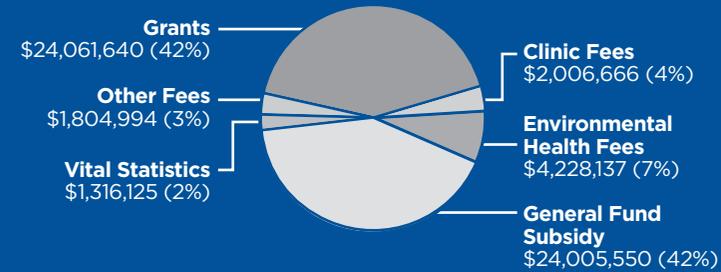


Hepatitis A

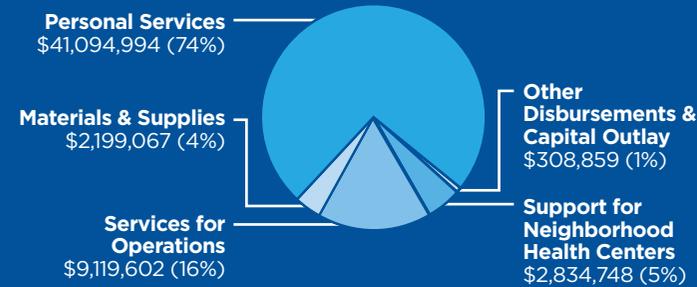
Columbus Public Health investigated and responded to the largest hepatitis A outbreak in our community in 25 years, providing case, contact and outbreak investigation and response, as well as targeted health education, community outreach and more than 2,100 vaccines to high-risk groups.

Our Budget

2018 Total Receipts By Source - \$57,423,112



2018 Total Expenditures By Category - \$55,557,270



Columbus Public Health is nationally accredited

and has an Office of Planning & Quality Improvement to continually improve services to residents.



Connect with us.

Visit our web site for local health data, program details and more.
www.publichealth.columbus.gov

Connect with us on social media to find out what's happening now.



Columbus Public Health was named a leader in LGBTQ Healthcare Equality.

This national recognition, granted by the Human Rights Campaign, uses the Healthcare Equality Index (HEI) as a benchmarking tool to evaluate healthcare facilities' policies and practices related to the equity and inclusion of their LGBTQ patients, visitors and employees.



Columbus Public Health received two NACCHO Model Practices awards

for exceptional work done in 2018, recognizing our Tobacco 21 initiative and the Columbus CARE Coalition. The NACCHO (National Association of City and County Health Officials) Model Practices Program honors and recognizes outstanding local public health practice nationwide.



Public Health Issue in Our Community: Infant Mortality

The Challenge: While infant deaths declined in 2018, 136 babies died before their first birthday. Black babies die at nearly three times the rate of white babies.

Our Response: Columbus Public Health is partnering with CelebrateOne to reduce infant mortality by 40% and cut the racial disparity gap in half. To reduce infant deaths, we are expanding access to and enrollment in evidence-based home visiting; supporting families from pregnancy through postpartum with home visitors from evidence-based models; increasing neighborhood-based safe sleep ambassador training; working with CelebrateOne neighborhood coalitions to conduct safe sleep ambassador training sessions; educating on the ABCs of Safe Sleep; encouraging early access to quality prenatal care; and partnering with Smart Columbus to promote StepOne for a Healthy Pregnancy, a resource line for pregnant women.

- 776 safe sleep ambassadors trained.
- 1,635 Pack 'n Plays distributed so babies can sleep safely.
- 3,469 women scheduled for prenatal care by StepOne (61% of women live in CelebrateOne zip codes).
- 95 residents completed the Community Health Worker certification program.
- 7,477 home visits for pregnant and newly parenting families provided.



Our 2018 Board of Health

Pictured from left to right:

Karen Jefferson Morrison, JD, MS • President, OhioHealth Foundation • Senior Vice President, External Affairs

Chad Braun, MD • Medical Director, Equitas Health, Inc. *(sworn in September 2017)*

Mary Ellen Wewers, PhD, MPH, RN • Professor Emerita, College of Public Health, The Ohio State University

Karen S. Days, MBA • President, The Center for Family Safety and Healing

Andrew Boy • Founder and CEO, United Schools Network

Not pictured: **Mayor Andrew J. Ginther** • President, Ex-Officio

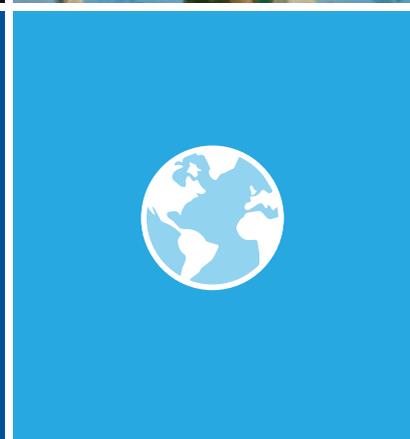
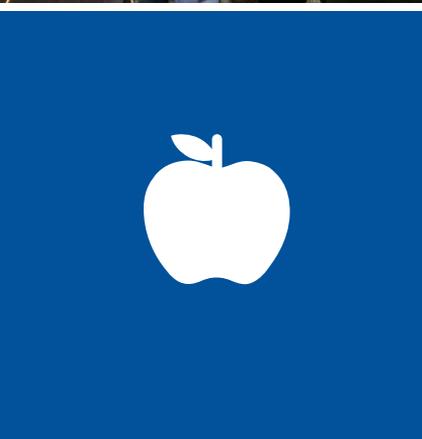
Public Health Issue in Our Community:

Gun Violence

The Challenge: While gun violence declined last year, there were still 567 suspected gunshot-wound visits to ERs and 96 homicides by guns in 2018.

Our Response: Columbus Public Health is partnering on the Mayor's Comprehensive Neighborhood Safety Strategy to build stronger, safer and more resilient neighborhoods. As part of this effort, Columbus Public Health leads the Violent Crime Review Group, which is working to lower homicide rates in three target neighborhoods through the sharing of data to develop neighborhood-specific strategies and a rapid homicide notification system to provide services to residents impacted by homicides.

- 19 Rapid Homicide Notification responses for 20 homicides to determine and provide services and resources to impacted residents and neighborhoods, including:
 - 368 homes visited by social workers in door-to-door outreach.
 - 10 next of kin contacted for grief counseling.
 - 11 square miles assessed for lighting, sidewalks, 311 calls and trash.
 - 43 lights repaired.
 - 361 properties identified as vacant, boarded up or sites of interest.



Columbus CARE Coalition

The CARE Coalition provided outreach, engagement and crisis response to residents impacted by violence and other traumatic events as part of Mayor Ginther's Comprehensive Neighborhood Safety Strategy to help connect them to services and build resiliency in neighborhoods.

- 3,321 homes reached via door-to-door outreach.
- 64 community events where trauma resource guides were distributed.
- 75 affected families hosted for a remembrance vigil.
- 10 trauma and resilience listening sessions held.
- 4 mental wellness events coordinated.
- 2 faith leader summits, 2 congregation forums and 74 outreach events conducted.
- 600 community liaisons and health professionals trained in trauma-responsive care.



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27,553
vaccines
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8,873 clients.



8,844
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sealants.



7,477
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and newly
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families
completed.



Protecting the Health and Improving the Lives of All Residents

Improved Women's Health

- 5,049 visits completed — a 27% increase.
- 627 LARCS (long-acting reversible contraception) provided — an 18% increase.
- 96% of participants in the Baby and Me Tobacco Free Program remained smoke-free for 1 year after baby's birth.

Prevented Diseases through Vaccines

- 27,553 vaccines delivered to 8,763 clients.
- 3,018 doses of flu vaccine, 239 Tdap and 464 meningococcal vaccines provided at Columbus and Worthington schools.

Treated and Prevented New STI Infections

- 9,116 clients received STI testing and same-day treatment.
- 2,500 low-income, HIV-positive clients received HIV care.
- 90% of all newly diagnosed syphilis cases in Franklin County assured syphilis treatment.

Protected Kids' Smiles

- 7,014 children screened and 8,844 children provided dental sealants.
- 12,000 children received oral health and sugar-sweetened beverages education.
- 14,000 toothbrushes distributed to encourage good oral hygiene.

Helped Babies Live to Celebrate their First Birthdays

- 1,635 cribs for infants without a safe sleep surface distributed.
- 776 Safe Sleep Ambassadors trained.
- 7,477 home visits for pregnant and newly parenting families completed.

Provided Nutrition to Women, Infants & Children (WIC)

- 32,000 WIC clients served.
- 4,800 WIC participants provided with \$20 vouchers to buy fruits and vegetables at our farmers markets, with a 90% redemption rate.
- 3,546 pregnant and 2,557 breastfeeding women supported through breastfeeding peers.

Provided Alcohol & Drug Services

- 1,050 clients served through outpatient and intensive outpatient group therapies.
- 21 community education events and speaking engagements provided to community partners and residents on harm reduction strategies and opiates/overdose.
- 120 pounds of medication and 4,736 syringes collected at 2 drug take-back events.
- 6 additional syringe disposal boxes installed for a total of 10 boxes in the City.
- 4,700 fentanyl test strips distributed in 10 partner locations to save people from accidental overdoses.
- 180 boxes of Narcan distributed with naloxone training and education.

Ensured Safe Food

- 19,500 inspections of 7,300 food facilities conducted.
- 1,809 participants educated on food safety.

Prevented Mosquito Borne Diseases

- 164,381 acres treated for adult mosquitoes.
- 1,020 inspections conducted of larviciding sites.
- 5,333 catch basins and 468 rain barrels treated to prevent mosquito-borne diseases.

Reduced Youth Tobacco Use

- 800 retail tobacco and paraphernalia licenses issued.
- 866 underage buy attempts conducted.
- 840 sign checks conducted to ensure compliance with Tobacco 21.



1,892
people
participated
at 60 Walk
with a Doc
events.



Protecting the Health and Improving the Lives of All Residents

Conducted Epidemiology

- Analyses conducted for comprehensive reports on violence, reportable infectious diseases (including a separate report on infections among children), sexually transmitted infections, harm reduction, child fatality, fetal and infant mortality, and women's health.
- Monitored and reported trends on influenza; syphilis; hepatitis A, B and C; infant deaths (including sleep-related); preterm and low birth weight births; and overdose deaths, emergency medical services (EMS) runs and emergency department (ED) visits.

Worked for Health Equity

- 12 new Neighborhood Health Ambassadors representing 6 priority neighborhoods recruited and trained.
- 4,619 in-person interpretations, 839 live video interpretations, 2,703 telephone interpretations and 68 document translation requests supported.
- 22,717 residents engaged through outreach programs including the Mexican Consulate, Somali Health and Wellness Fair, and Minority Health Month programs and screenings.
- 84 EMS referrals, 65 CODE Enforcement referrals, and 31 owner-occupied referrals from the City Attorney's Office provided social work consults.
- 30 Helpline calls per month answered.

Protected Residents from Infectious Diseases and Outbreaks

- 88 outbreaks investigated and responded to (including the largest outbreak of hepatitis A in our community since 1993) through outreach, education and vaccination.
- 11,829 reports of infectious disease investigated.
- 125 active TB patients provided medical care and case management, including 78 newly confirmed cases in Franklin County — a 47% increase and the greatest number of cases since 2006.

Prepared for Emergencies

- 45 presentations given on emergency preparedness to community partners, private businesses, partner agencies and national/international audiences (webinars).

Increased Access to Care

- 1,307 residents provided with health care enrollment assistance.
- 85 community health fair events provided with health screenings and education for 1,462 people.
- 2,205 health screenings conducted for residents at 75 regular community partner sites.

Provided Assistance to City Employees

- Provided clinical support for Columbus first responder peer teams of the Columbus Division of Fire (CFD) Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) Team and Columbus Division of Police Peer Assistant Teams.

Improved the Quality of our Work

- Adopted a new strategic plan for the department through 2022.
- Prepared and applied for re-accreditation through the Public Health Accreditation Board.

11,829
reports
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164,381
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Columbus Public Health • 240 Parsons Ave., Columbus, OH 43215 • www.publichealth.columbus.gov