Our key mission is that the Columbus community is protected from disease and other public health threats, and that everyone is empowered to live healthier, safer lives. Columbus Public Health strives to be the leader for identifying public health priorities and mobilizing resources and community partnerships to address them. I am proud to share our 2015 report.

- Teresa C. Long, MD, MPH, Health Commissioner

Columbus is the opportunity city – and an active and healthy city provides opportunity for all residents. As one of the first accredited health departments in Ohio, Columbus Public Health is working to protect the health and improve the lives of everyone who lives, works and plays in our great city. Together, we are working to eliminate health disparities so everyone has the opportunity for a healthier and safer life.

- Andrew J. Ginther, Mayor

Columbus Public Health’s Mission is Protecting Health and Improving Lives.

Why Our Work is Important:

65% OVERWEIGHT 
12% DIABETES 
22% SMOKE 
20 year gap in life expectancy based on where you live

Over 65% of adults are overweight
Nearly 12% have diabetes
Over 22% smoke

Improving the Health of Mothers, Babies & Families

We are helping all babies live to celebrate their first birthdays by improving all areas that impact health. Our goal is to reduce infant mortality by 40% and cut the racial disparity in half. Here are some of the ways we worked to achieve our goal in 2015:

70+ public presentations on the ABCs of Safe Sleep
66 community meetings for 400+ residents of Near East, Near South and Linden neighborhoods
4 South Side residents trained as Connector Corps community health workers
First Ladies Summit held for women faith leaders in Columbus
2,547 new mothers and their newborns were visited by a nurse

Preparing for and Responding to Emergencies

We ensure our community is protected from disease and other public health threats by analyzing health indicators, investigating infectious diseases and implementing public health interventions. Our 2015 successes include:

476 travelers from West Africa monitored for 21 days each during the largest Ebola outbreak in history
1,500 people per hour served during a full scale mass antibiotics dispensing exercise
Preventing the Spread of Infectious Diseases
We work with local emergency responders, healthcare providers and community organizations to stop the spread of deadly diseases and protect health. In 2015:

- 103 infectious disease outbreaks investigated
- 3,896 individual infectious disease reports investigated
- PrEP (Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis) education to reduce the risk of HIV
- 963 domesticated animals quarantined or tested for rabies
- 145 square miles sprayed to eliminate disease-carrying mosquitoes
- 750 pools, spas and spray parks licensed to keep water safe
- 8,773 clients received clinical sexual health services
- 1,510 HIV and 4,075 syphilis tests were provided at community sites
- 2,457 people living with HIV got support needed to better manage their illness
- 152 pregnant women with hepatitis B were helped to prevent their babies from being exposed
- 29,672 immunizations given to protect residents from preventable diseases
- 70 active and 124 suspect TB cases provided treatment and follow-up

Reducing Chronic Diseases
We are combating obesity and related chronic diseases through active living features such as protected bike lanes, CoGo stations, walking maps, community gardens and farmers markets. Thanks to our work in 2015:

- 5,019 students in 132 schools vaccinated
- 6,646 food service facilities licensed and inspected
- 8,252 standing bodies of water treated to prevent mosquitoes
- 1,507 walkers participated in Columbus Walk With a Doc Walking Clubs
- 545 cyclists biked in the Mayor’s Twilight Ride Finale
- 15 schools participated in Safe Routes to Schools
- 57,790 individuals had healthier food and physical activity options through 26 partner organizations
- 53,327 students impacted by Columbus City Schools Travel Plan, improving safety and transportation for area schools
- $26,280 in support was provided to 160 community gardens
- 2,200 children improved their food and activity options while in childcare
- 674 residents involved in April’s Minority Health Month activities
- 5,019 students in 132 schools vaccinated
- 6,646 food service facilities licensed and inspected
- 8,252 standing bodies of water treated to prevent mosquitoes

Lowering Disparities to Achieve Health Equity
Good health is more than just health care. Jobs, education, access to care, housing, safety and where you live all play a role. As a result, health disparities – or differences – occur among different groups of people in our community. We are working to achieve health equity so that all people have the same options for good health. Here’s how:

- 16,745 people received alcohol and drug prevention services
- 968 clients provided addiction counseling or were in specialized groups
- 3,161 vouchers totaling $47,415 distributed to WIC clients at our annual Farmers Markets
- New Central Health Advisory Committee added serving the Greater Linden, Milo Grogan and North Central communities. (Added to existing groups for North Side, South Side, Near East and Westside.)
- First Greater Columbus LGBTQ Health Equity Conference held
- 36 cultural competency trainings for more than 1,100 residents
- Kept status as a Leader in LGBT Healthcare Equality by the Human Rights Campaign
Monitoring the Community’s Health Status

We aim to be a leader in monitoring and identifying public health priorities and mobilizing resources and community partnerships to address them. To help inform and guide our efforts in 2015, we:

Produced monthly and quarterly infant mortality reports.

Provided weekly surveillance on influenza, heat and cold related illnesses and other infectious diseases.

Published 9 key health status reports to guide community efforts.

Distributed nitrate health advisories to inform residents and distributed bottled water to needy pregnant women and infants in areas with high nitrates in the drinking water.

Increasing Access to Health Care

Increasing residents’ access to quality, affordable health care is one of the ways we protect health and improve lives. Here are some highlights of our work in 2015:

3,964 health screenings provided at 462 community sites

2,149 individuals received dental treatment services

388 applications for Medicaid and 97 for Health Insurance Marketplace processed

5,537 children given dental screening and 3,852 received dental sealants

Our Board of Health

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

Augustus G. Parker III, MD
Medical Director
Molina Healthcare of Ohio

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

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

Stephen P. Samuels, JD
Frost Brown Todd LLC
Columbus Office

Mayor Andrew J. Ginther
President, Ex-Officio

Our Budget

2015 Total Receipts (By Source) - $52,748,441

- Grants: $21,653,379 (41%)
- Clinic Fees: $2,859,296 (5%)
- Environmental Health Fees: $3,855,027 (7%)
- General Fund Subsidy: $21,201,474 (40%)
- Vital Statistics: $2,695,389 (5%)
- Other Fees: $483,876 (1%)
- Other Disbursements & Capital Outlay: $2,182,521 (4%)

2015 Total Expenditures (By Category) - $53,540,368

- Personnel: $34,866,574 (65%)
- Materials & Supplies: $1,589,802 (3%)
- Services for Operations: $9,786,975 (18%)
- Support for Neighborhood Health Centers: $5,115,496 (10%)
- Other Disbursements & Capital Outlay: $2,318,521 (4%)

Want More?
Find us online.

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.