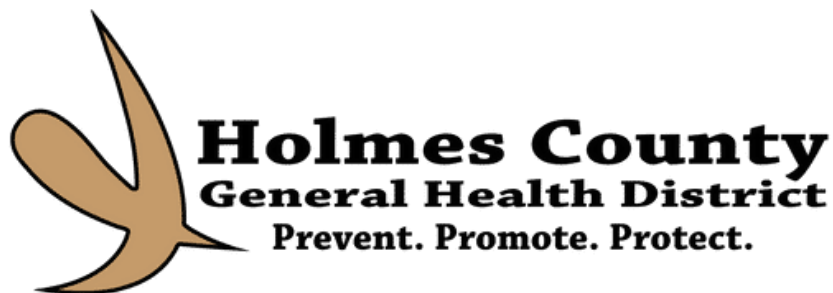


ANNUAL REPORT 2020



holmeshealth.org

PUBLIC HEALTH SAVES LIVES



Holmes County
General Health District
Prevent. Promote. Protect.



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

HEALTH COMMISSIONER

This year was met with challenges, perseverance, and resiliency for an event that is only every 100 years in the making – a global pandemic. Along with responding to the biggest public health crisis our country has ever witnessed, it gives me great pleasure to introduce to you the Holmes County General Health District 2020 Annual Report which outlines a brief overview of our programs and services; as well as the goals and direction the HCGHD has taken to use our limited resources to save lives in such a challenging time.

During the last year the Holmes County General Health District (HCGHD) has worked with its community partners to continue operations of our standard programming while responding the COVID-19 pandemic.

We have adopted a new mantra for the last year and set out each to achieve four simple tasks.

1. Be kind to someone today.
2. Check in on each other.
3. Do something good for yourself.
4. Be the positive influence for someone today (positivity is just as infectious as a disease)

It was with these tasks we set the tone for our day in response to the environment we are all experiencing. Our staff have been the silent heroes working behind the scenes to save as many lives as possible. We have relied on our training, planning and partners to navigate our community throughout this response.

We know the world has been centered on COVID-19 for the greater part of a year and would like to lay out the other topics and programs we have adopted and worked through over the last year.

Please remember public health saves lives. For every 10% increase in local public health spending, infants' deaths are reduced by 6.9%, cardiovascular deaths by 3.2%, diabetes deaths by 1.4% and cancer deaths by 1.1%. Public health saves money. For every additional dollar spent on prevention programs and services, it saves \$5.60 in health spending. For every dollar spent on childhood vaccines it saves 16.50 on future health care costs. Additionally, 75% of moneys spent on healthcare are spent on preventable conditions, however only 3 cents of every \$1 is spent on public health and prevention.

I could not be proud of our fine staff and the supportive Board of Health for the way they learned, adapted, supported, and implemented our programs and services in such a challenging time. As stated from Marie Curie, "Nothing in life is to be feared, it is only to be understood. Now is the time to understand more, so that we may fear less." This agency, with support of our staff, Board, and the community will continue to improve and strive for continued success for the betterment of our community.

Thank you for saving lives,

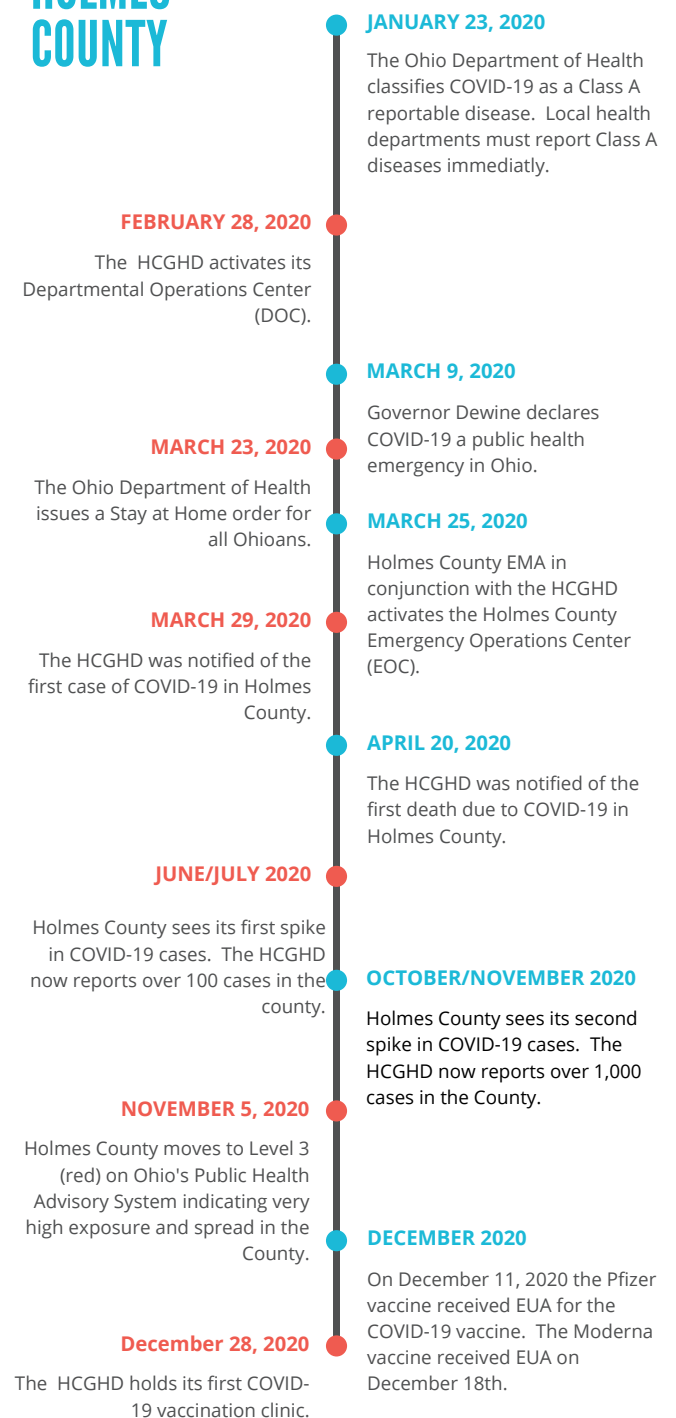
Michael Derr,

MBA, HEALTH COMMISSIONER

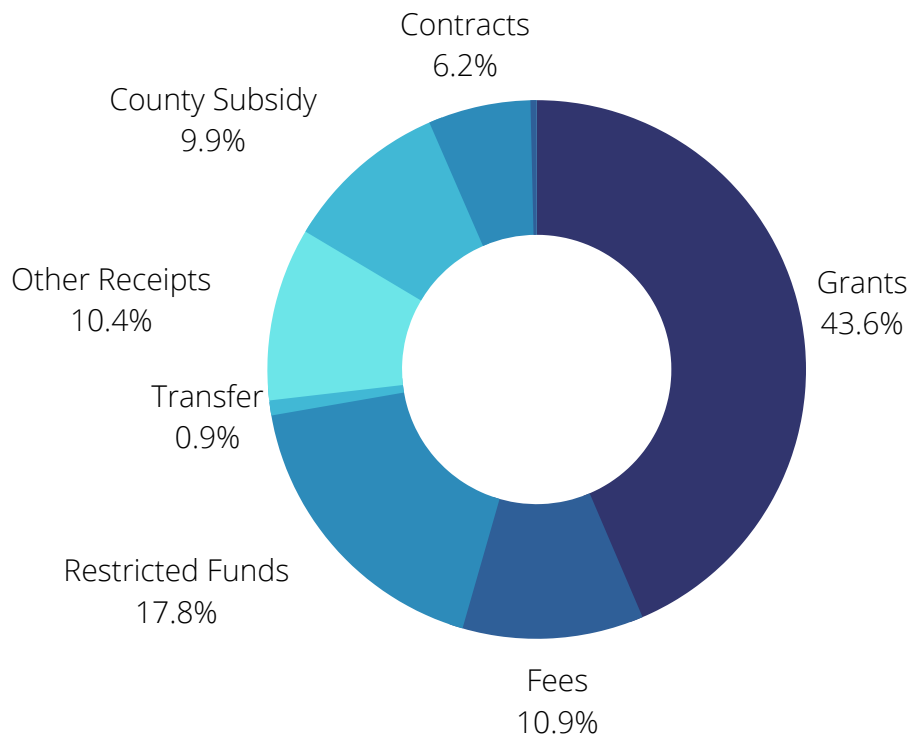
COVID-19

When rumors of a novel virus hit the news in January 2020, no one anticipated that our country was heading for the worst pandemic in over 100 years; leading public health and the world into uncharted territory during an unprecedented time. COVID-19 has been the focal point of the Health district throughout the last year. The Health District was not unprepared for a pandemic. We had dealt with the 2009 H1N1 (swine flu) virus as well as the measles outbreak in 2014. For years, the HCGHD staff has worked with its partners to develop and exercise emergency plans in order to prepare our county for a disease outbreak, pandemic event, or mass vaccination/distribution scenario. With COVID-19 being a novel, or new virus, initially there were many unknowns about how the virus spread, its infection rate, and more. Public health had to adapt our emergency plans and dive into uncharted waters to educate the community about the virus and enforce business closure orders, mask wearing orders, and social gathering orders. HCGHD staff worked around the clock, 7 days a week, to report and investigate cases of COVID-19 and perform contact tracing. Here is a brief timeline of events.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF COVID-19 IN HOLMES COUNTY



FINANCES



INCOME

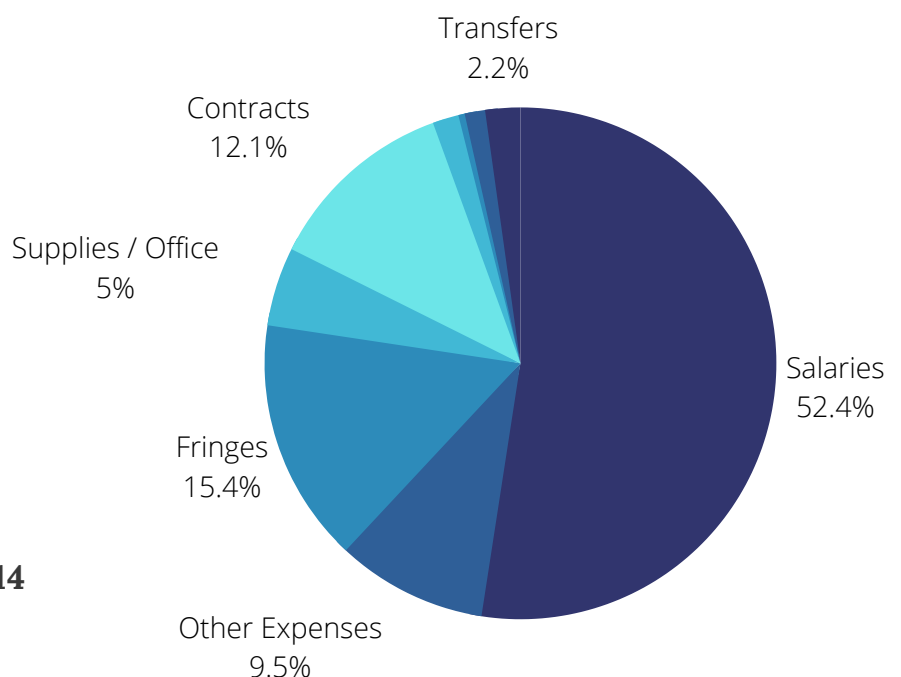
Grants \$927,272.42
 Fees \$231,433.52
 Restricted Funds \$379,341.65
 Transfer \$19,106.02
 Other Receipts \$221,241.74
 County Subsidy \$211,038.74
 Contacts \$130,975.33
 State Subsidy \$7,910.94

Total Revenue \$2,128,320.36

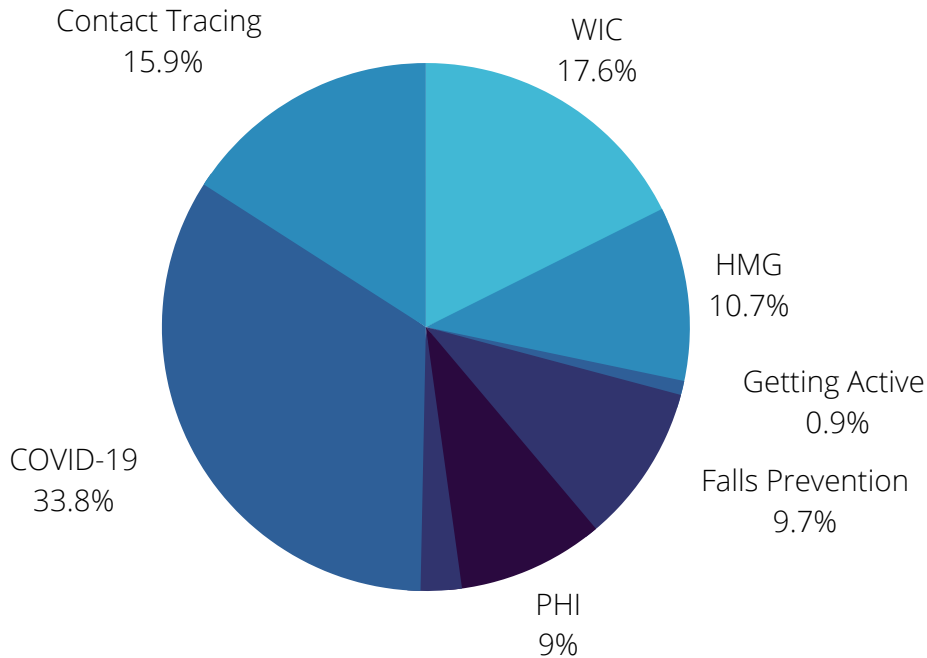
EXPENSES

Salaries \$970,557.31
 Other Expenses \$176,150.03
 Fringes \$285,540.97
 Supplies \$92,217.79
 Contracts \$223,609.74
 office Space \$30,560.30
 Travel / Conferences \$7,427.66
 Equipment \$23,851.42
 Transfers \$40,989.92

Total Expenses \$1,850,905.14



PROGRAMS



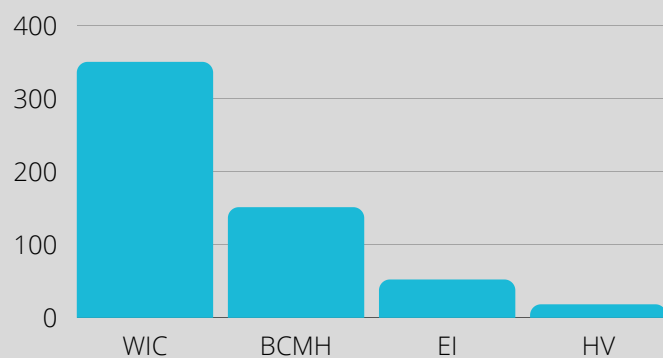
PROGRAM GRANTS

WIC \$163,372.41
 HMG \$98,872.39
 Falls Prevention \$90,000
 PHI \$83,111.31
 Get Vaccinated Ohio \$23,286.00
 Getting Active \$8,000
 COVID-19 \$313,029.56
 Contact Tracing \$147,600.75

Total \$927,272.42

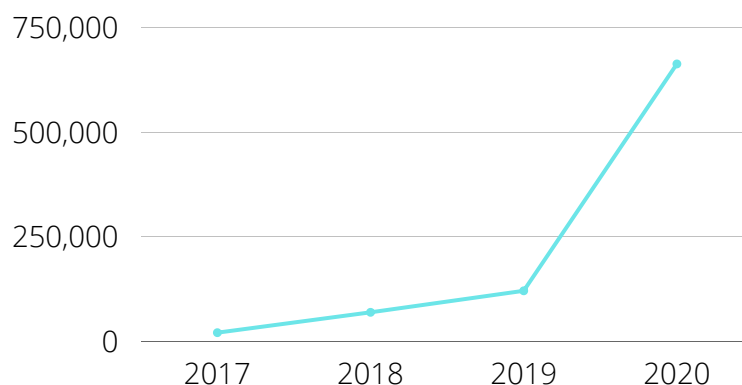
PROGRAM CASELOAD

WIC 350
 BCMH 151
 HMG Early Intervention 52
 HMG Home Visiting 18



SOCIAL MEDIA REACH

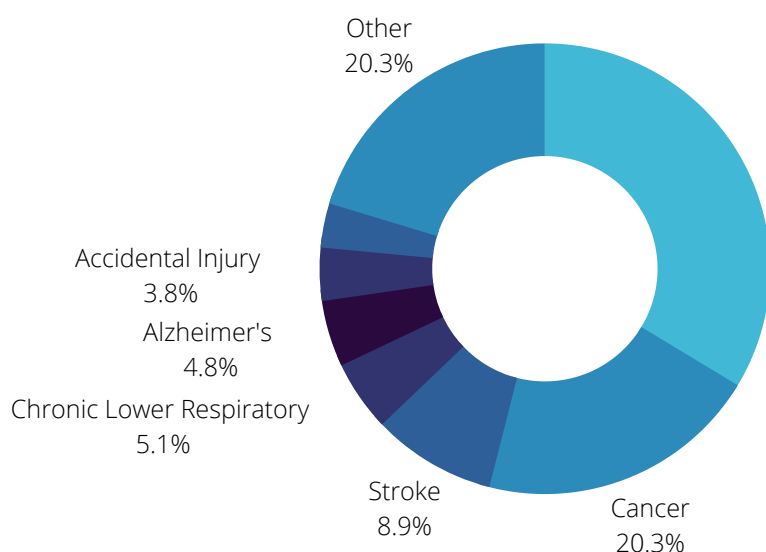
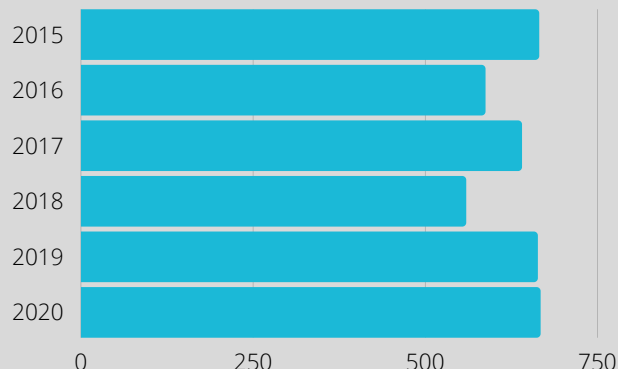
2017	20,973
2018	69,607
2019	121,025
2020	663,154



VITAL STATISTICS

HOLMES CO. BIRTHS 2020

Birth Records (Holmes Co.): 667
Hospital Births: 553
Home Births: 69
Birthing Center 46
Out-of-County Births: 371
Certified Birth Certificates: 1,787



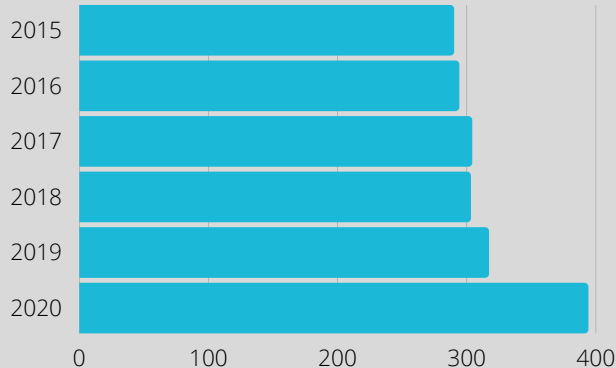
LEADING CAUSES OF DEATH 2020

Heart Disease: 106
Cancer: 64
Stroke: 28
Chronic Lower Respiratory: 16
Alzheimer's: 15
Accidental Injury: 12
Diabetes: 10
(Other): 64

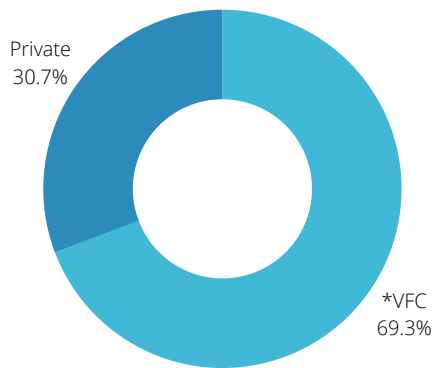
TOTAL DEATHS: 307

HOLMES CO. DEATHS 2020

Deaths Recorded: 394
Fetal Deaths: 7
Infant Deaths: 3
Deaths Under Age 18: 1
Injury Deaths: 8
Certified Death Certificates: 972

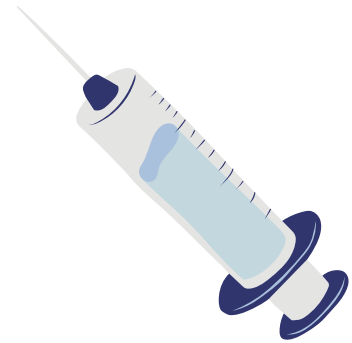


DISEASE PREVENTION & SUEILLANCE



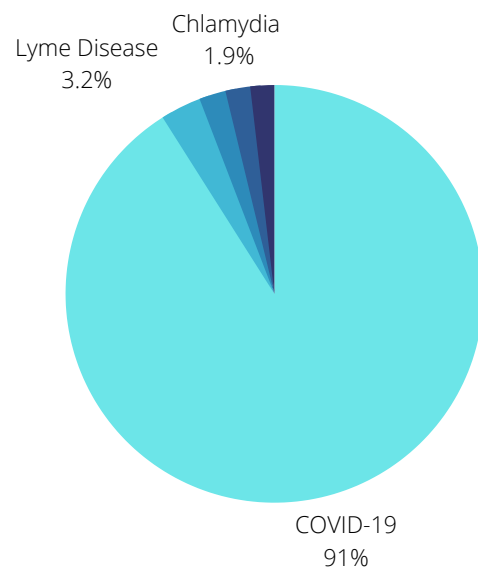
VFC & PRIVATE VACCINES ADMINISTERED 2020

*VFC: Vaccine for Children

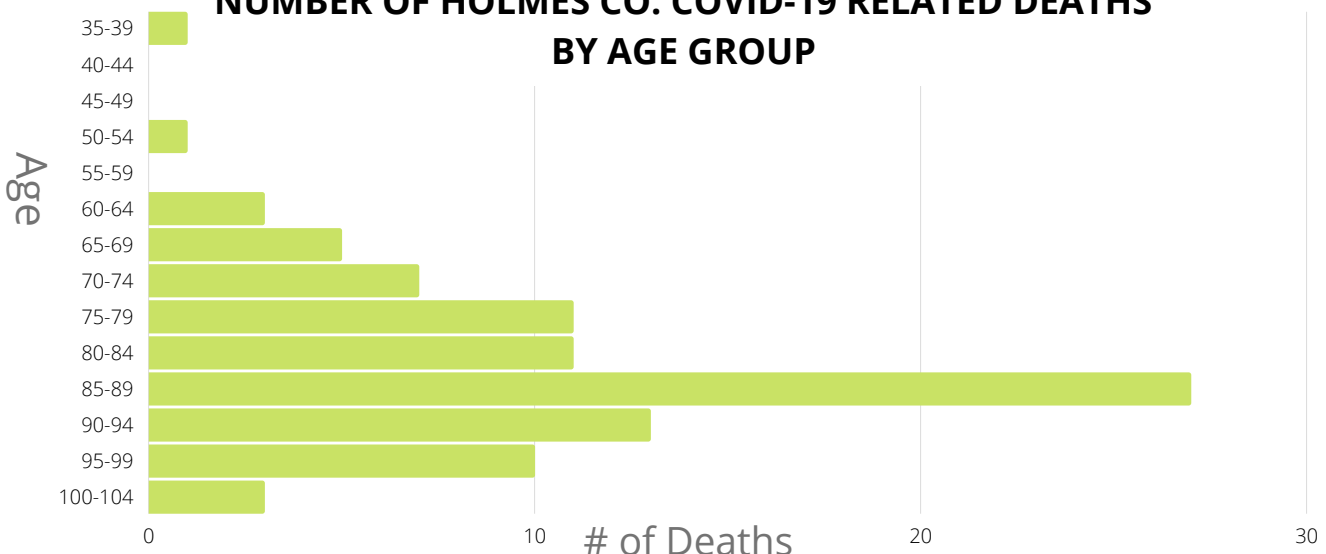


TOP 5 COMMUNICABLE DISEASES 2020

COVID-19:	1,326
Lyme Disease:	46
Pertussis:	30
Chlamydia:	28
Influenza Hospitalized:	23



NUMBER OF HOLMES CO. COVID-19 RELATED DEATHS BY AGE GROUP



*Data total based on combined *Confirmed*, *Probable* and *Suspected* cases.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH



Since the first documented cases of COVID-19 in early 2020, organizations have rapidly shifted focus from their various specialties and job duties to combat this novel virus. Efforts to increase knowledge, inform and share best practices, slow the spread of the virus, and create safe work environments became a nationwide priority, and Holmes County was quick to get involved.

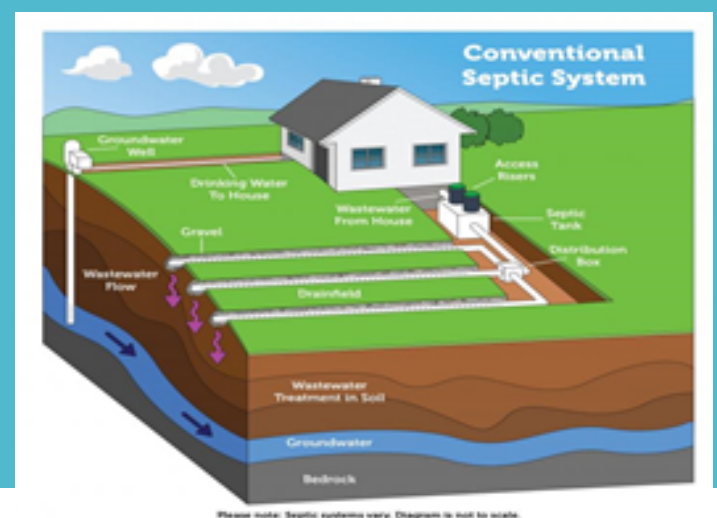
In May of 2020, Holmes County Health Department was honored to be chosen by Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Health Education Team to collaborate in conjunction with local industry. The goal of this diverse team was to assist in development COVID-19 prevention strategies and remove barriers to employee outreach and education.

The products of this CDC workgroup will go on to inform industry best practices and prevent the spread of COVID-19 and other infectious diseases in our nation's workforce. Our local industry partners were enthusiastic, gracious hosts for this project. All parties involved expressed mutual gratitude for the assistance, positive working relationships, and tireless efforts focused on the safety and wellbeing of critical infrastructure employees.

2020 was a year that brought many challenges and changes for the Environmental Health Division. The flexibility and dedication of this Team was continuously demonstrated as they participated in COVID-19 response efforts in addition to ensuring that the environmental health needs of Holmes County were met. Environmental Health Division completed 1,903 inspections in our licensed and permitted programs and investigated 37 animal bites. Our Sanitarians also successfully abated many public health nuisances, including a significant scrap tire dumping site.

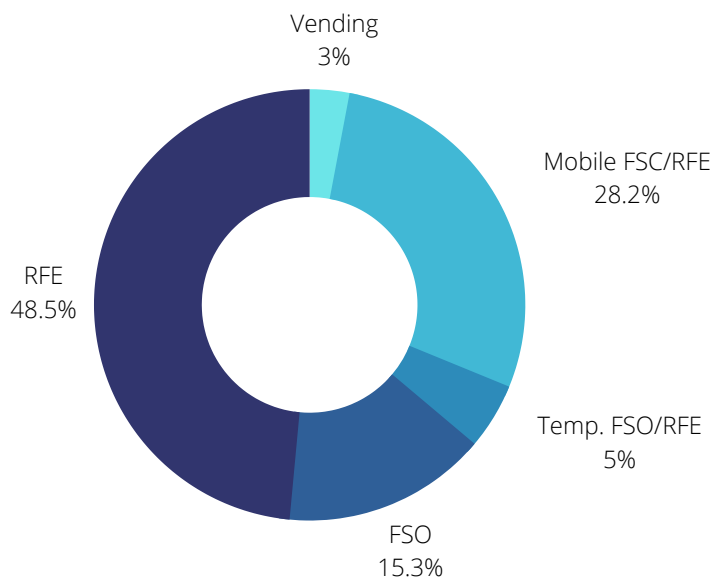


The Holmes County Health Department was again awarded a \$150,000 grant through the Ohio EPA's Water Pollution Control Loan Fund. Homeowner applicants are approved based on income guidelines and can receive 50%, 75%, or 100% coverage of the cost of their replacement septic systems. Thanks to the Water Pollution Control Loan Fund, we were able to replace 15 failing septic systems in Holmes County.

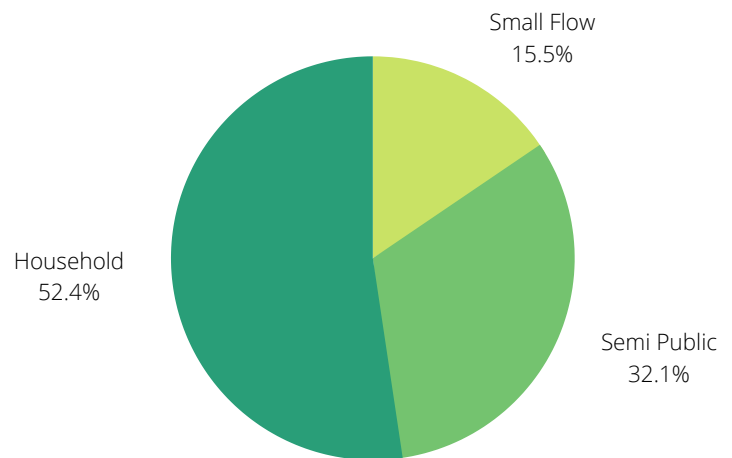


ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

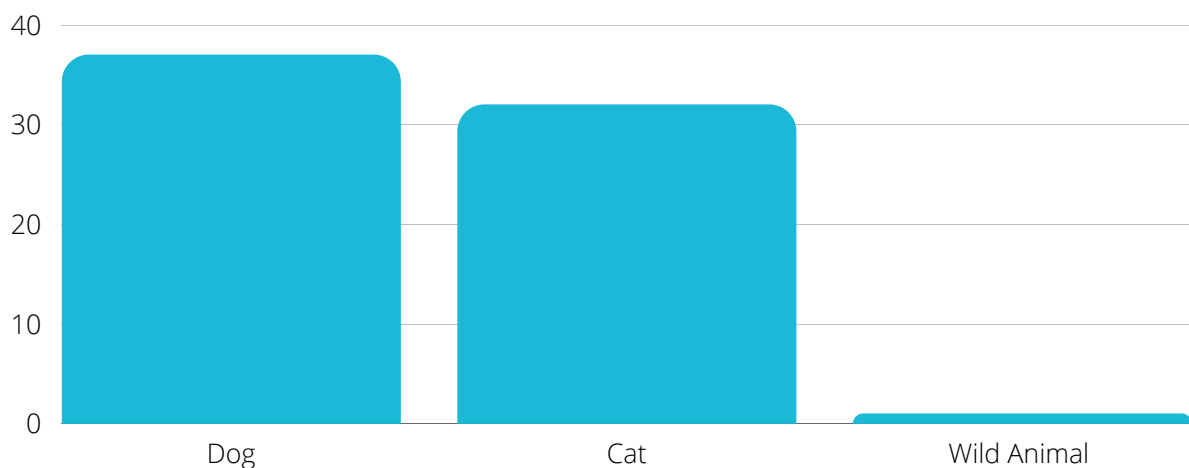
FOOD INSPECTIONS 2020



SEWAGE INSPECTIONS 2020



ANIMAL BITES REPORTED 2020



PERSONAL HEALTH SERVICES

FALLS PREVENTION

COVID-19 has changed the direction of the Holmes County Falls Prevention Program (HCFPP) of the HCGHD, yet the one thing that hasn't changed is the vision and mission of the program which is to reduce falls and the serious injuries from falls to the 65 and older population living here in Holmes County. The HCFPP developed a marketing plan through the Standing Against Falls Coalition Strategic Plan listing positive aging as a strategic priority to help combat falls. Based on the activities created to accomplish this priority, the Positive Aging Champion was created. The Positive Aging Champion helps promote positive aging through the individual who is 65 and over and his or her involvement in the life of Holmes County as well as his or her positive attitude towards aging through healthy eating, daily exercise, and social involvement. This program provides all Holmes County citizens the opportunity to see how individuals who live in their community are aging positively.



The Positive Aging Champion program began in May of 2020 with George and Marilyn Jeffries being the first recipients followed by Carole Norman, the August 2020 Champion, and Jerry Strouse, the November 2020 Champion. Champions are announced quarterly (Feb., May, Aug, and Nov.) through a nomination process within the Standing Against Falls Coalition. Each Positive Aging Champion is presented with a Positive Aging Champion certificate as well as Holmes County recognition with an ad placed in the Bargain Hunter announcing this honor. August 2020 Positive Aging Champion, Carole Norman stated, "My advice for positive aging is to find a way to exercise our bodies and, when we have some down time, exercise our brain cells too. Our age is only a number- it shouldn't define who we are." Now that is positive aging!

HOME VISITING (HV)

A change in how visits and education were completed that came about during the 2020 year was the availability of family retention funding for HV participants. Beginning in 2020, Home Visitors were able to purchase needed items for our families including, phone and data cards, diapers, baby wipes, developmental materials, cleaning supplies and baby safety items. Holmes County HV purchased and delivered hundreds of cases of diapers since March of 2020. The phone cards have been used to support home visitors meeting with families virtually during the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result of the pandemic and the ability to complete visits virtually, HV's number of visits has increased 150% from the previous year.

EVERETT MILLER'S EI JOURNEY

EARLY INTERVENTION (EI)

When Kayla Phillips became concerned about her son's speech development, she chose to reach out to Holmes County Early Intervention (EI) to learn more about the local services available to help her son, Everett. Kayla explains, "We first heard of EI from Everett's doctor, and then from a couple friends who also had children in EI". Holmes County EI is a part of the statewide system which provides coordinated early intervention services to parents of eligible children under the age of three with developmental delays or disabilities.

After Kayla spoke with an early intervention service coordinator at the Holmes County General Health District, an evaluation was completed to gain a picture of Everett's development (in safe adherence with the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities' guidance for completing the EI eligibility process during COVID-19). Everett was determined eligible for EI services and quickly began receiving services from the Holmes County EI team with Angie Willard, a speech and language pathologist, serving as Everett's primary service provider. Kayla emphasizes, "To anyone with a child who seems to be behind in their speech, I highly recommend reaching out to EI. I know that it can be difficult as a parent to ask for help for your child. As a parent who has been there, trust me when I say it is so worth it."

Holmes County EI is grounded in the philosophy that young children learn best from familiar people in familiar settings. When recently asked about Everett's journey in EI, Kayla shares, "When we first started Everett in EI, he was only saying one, rarely two words, at a time. He also struggled with using the correct sounds at the beginning of a lot of his words. We had a difficult time understanding Everett which led to him being very frustrated when he was trying to talk to us. With that frustration came a lot of temper tantrums. With the help of Angie and EI, we began noticing a change in Everett very quickly. We were able to incorporate the tips Angie provided into our day-to-day lives. We are still working on improving his sounds, but after only three months of EI, Everett is now saying three-to-four-word phrases and sometimes even a full sentence. His confidence in speaking has grown significantly, and the tantrums are rare now."



The Holmes County EI team is honored to provide services to local families through a family-friendly, coaching model. Angie Willard, the team's speech and language pathologist, further explains, "The best part of my job as the Holmes County EI SLP is witnessing the progress made when families, like Everett's, embrace the methods taught in our sessions which then evolve into positive changes in their child's speech. I am honored to pass knowledge and tools onto our families that help make a real difference in their daily lives. It is truly a blessing."

When a child's journey in Early Intervention nears the end, families face many choices about what they will do next. Many children in EI are eligible at age three for special education services provided by the Ohio Department of Education. The Holmes County EI team provides support to local families in EI as they face this transition. Kayla summarizes the closure of Everett's EI services by explaining, "We have since transitioned Everett into preschool. I was worried there would be a big break between EI and him beginning preschool, but that was not the case. We were able to set everything up prior to Everett's 3rd birthday. As soon as that day came, he was able to go right into preschool. Everyone at EI has been incredible to work with. They've all made us so comfortable through this journey." Families with concerns regarding their child's development are encouraged to reach out early and without hesitation to the dedicated Holmes County EI team. As Kayla affirms, "Seeing your child succeed in something they were previously struggling with is amazing!"

HEALTH DISTRICT STAFF RECOGNITION

On behalf of the Board of Health, and all citizens of Holmes County, we felt that this year we couldn't recognize just one of our health districts staff members in our annual recognition. As it is the sum of its parts that made this amazing team of professionals who serve our community we would like to recognize the entire staff of the Holmes County General Health District.

We would like to give our thanks to our Health Commissioner, Michael Derr, his amazing management team, and the staff for continuing to care about the health of our community. If not for them working silently in the background, doing heroes' work, more members of our community would have become victims of this awful pandemic.

Without this great team doing the disease investigation, contact tracing, and providing safety guidance and general education around the pandemic day in and day out, our community would have suffered tremendously .

We all owe these amazing group of people our gratitude for the sacrifices they have made to ensure our health and safety in the most challenging time for our departments history.

Please remember that it is in fact the sum of its parts that makes a whole. It was the collective team of this department that worked silently for us so we can look forward to a new day.

Thankfully,

Kurt Rodhe,

BOARD OF HEALTH PRESIDENT

