



# Health Commissioner / Medical Director Report

## Public Health - Dayton & Montgomery County

December 7, 2016

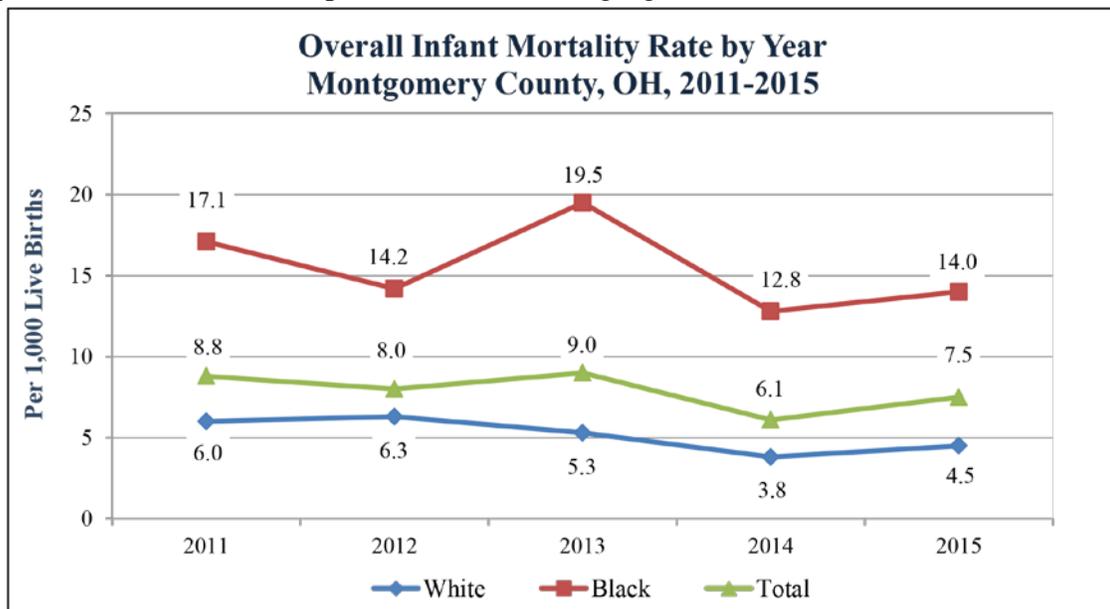
This report provides a monthly update for the Board of Health, staff and the community. Our key activities are listed for the seven pillars that support our vision for improving the health of our community.

- Prevent the spread of disease
- Protect against health threats
- Promote healthy behaviors
- Reach out to vulnerable populations
- Mobilize community action through partnerships
- Prepare for and respond to public health emergencies
- Serve as a public health information resource

## Special items

### Infant Mortality: Data, Accomplishments and Planned Initiatives

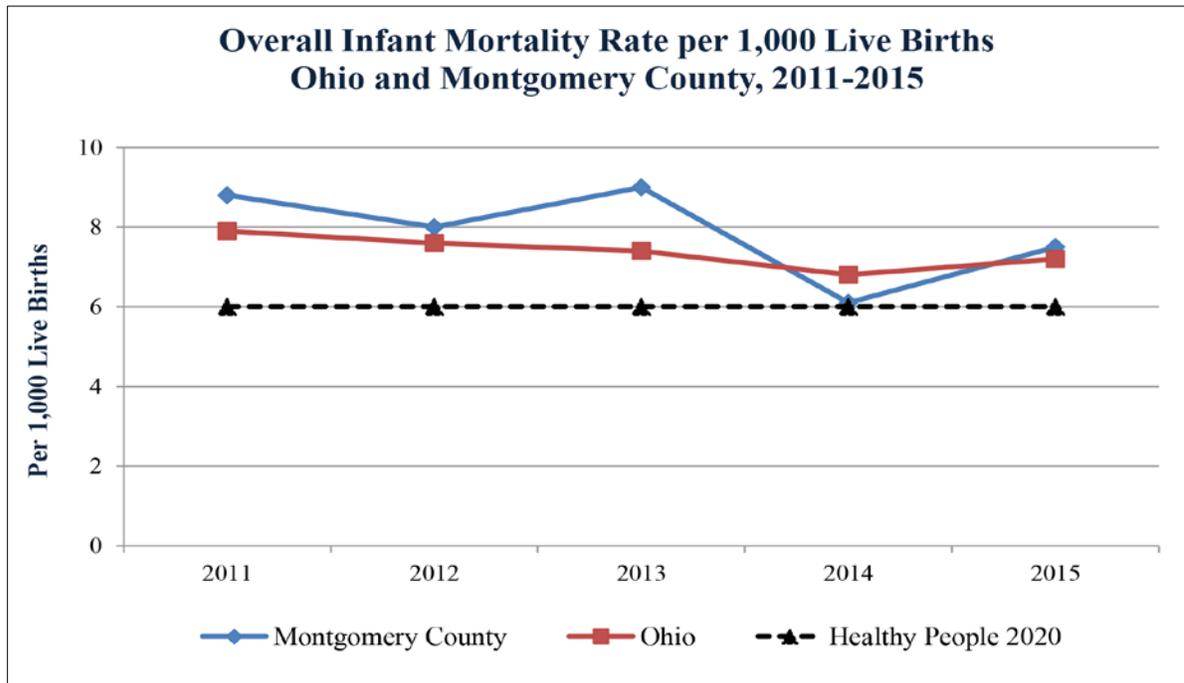
The Ohio Department of Health (ODH) recently released the 2015 Ohio infant mortality data. Infant mortality is defined as the death of a liveborn baby before his or her first birthday. An infant mortality rate (IMR) is the number of babies who died during the first year of life per 1,000 live births. Our target is to achieve the national Healthy People 2020 objective of fewer than 6.0 infant deaths per 1,000 live births in every racial and ethnic group. The IMR by year for Montgomery County from 2011 to 2015 is depicted in the following figure:



Source: Vital Statistics birth and mortality files, Ohio Department of Health

The IMR for Ohio and for Montgomery County increased from 2014 to 2015. Montgomery County’s overall IMR increased from 6.1 per 1,000 live births to 7.5 in 2015. The Black IMR increased from 12.8 to 14.0, which is three times higher than the White IMR (4.5 per 1,000 live births). When looking at infant mortality over the past five years, the rate has actually decreased from 8.8 in 2011 to 7.5 per 1,000 live births (Black IMR - 17.1 to 14.0).

In 2015, 1,005 Ohio infants died before their first birthday, compared to 955 in 2014. In 2015, 50 Montgomery County infants died before their first birthday, compared to 40 in 2014. A comparison of the overall Ohio and Montgomery County IMR for 2011 to 2015 is as follows:



In Montgomery County, the leading cause of infant deaths continues to be prematurity / pre-term births. Over the past two years, Montgomery County has accomplished many activities focused on reducing infant mortality. One of those activities was the expansion of CenteringPregnancy®. In 2015, Five Rivers Center for Women’s Health held their first CenteringPregnancy® program, and LifeStages – Samaritan Centers for Women expanded their Centering® program to a new location in 2016. Additionally, there was continued emphasis on developing partnerships, community engagement, and education.

In 2017, Montgomery County will focus on several initiatives, with the funding support of the Ohio Medicaid Infant Mortality Reduction Grant and ODH’s Maternal Child Health Grant. The planned initiatives are aligned with the Birth Outcomes’ goals and objectives identified in our Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP). Public Health and community partners intend to increase home visiting and capacity and continue to expand Centering® in an effort to address preterm births and to concentrate specifically on evidence-based programs aimed at reducing the infant mortality disparity.

## **Stony Hollow Landfill Odor**

Since May 2015, Stony Hollow Landfill has been experiencing a subsurface heating event that has caused an increase in odor causing the release of landfill gas and leachate due to the accelerated solid waste decomposition. The facility owner, Waste Management Inc., has attempted to lower the temperatures by various means. Efforts included: adjusting gas well vacuums; installing cooling loops into the solid waste; injecting nitrogen into the solid waste; installing additional leachate collection piping; and installing additional gas wells. These efforts have not satisfactorily slowed the reaction or mitigated the nuisance odors.

To date, over 500 complaints have been made to the Stony Hollow Complaint Line, City of Moraine Odor Hotline, or RAPCA regarding the nuisance odors emanating from the landfill. While ambient air monitoring conducted thus far in the area has not shown chemical concentrations above health-based screening levels, the odors may cause temporary symptoms such as headache and nausea.

On November 28, the Director of Ohio EPA issued Interim Findings and Orders to Stony Hollow Landfill to address the ongoing odor issue resulting from the subsurface heat event. The Findings and Orders will require Stony Hollow to:

1. No later than December 22, install a temporary synthetic landfill cap on the 13.5 acres that are affected by the subsurface heat reaction.
2. No later than December 20, replace the existing gas flare with one of greater capacity.
3. No later than December 15, have on site backup power sources to ensure operation of gas extraction and leachate collection systems.
4. Immediately commence odor surveys at specified locations at least three times a day, seven days a week.
5. Immediately notify Director and adjoining City Managers of any malfunctions or other activities that may cause migration of odors beyond the landfill property.
6. No later than December 14, commence conducting ambient air monitoring on a 1 in 6-day schedule at two fixed locations using specified sampling methodology and provide RAPCA with sample results within three business days of sampling.

RAPCA and Solid Waste Program staff will continue to conduct daily odor surveys, weekly facility inspections, and monthly conference calls with the facility operator to monitor the situation and compliance deadlines with the interim order, as well as consulting with the Ohio EPA on the issuance of the final, more comprehensive Administrative Findings and Orders.

## **Prevent the spread of diseases**

### **Local Investigations**

On November 18, Valley View Primary School reported an outbreak of an illness. The school nurse stated that numbers of absent children had increased beginning November 14, and by November 18, there were 83 children absent and 7 children sent home due to illness. On the day of the report, school officials were provided guidance for cleaning and sanitizing of the building. Parents of children who were absent or sent home ill were interviewed. The most common symptoms were nausea, vomiting and fatigue. None of the parents interviewed had taken their children to a physician's office, urgent care or emergency room and stated that the symptoms subsided within 24

to 48 hours. Seven parents agreed to collect samples to send to ODH and 3 specimens were submitted. ODH stated there was only one acceptable specimen, but it tested positive for Norovirus.

All parents of children who submitted specimens were contacted with results. Public Health provided educational information on Norovirus to the school, which was sent to all parents and posted on the social media sites. Public Health continued to provide information on proper cleaning. From November 21 to December 2, cases of illness with similar symptoms had been reported in the intermediate, junior high and high schools. The school district has responded with increased cleaning of surfaces and classes, and with school nurses teaching proper hand washing. By December 2, school absences for vomiting and stomach complaints had declined to near baseline levels.

We continue to see cases of pertussis. We investigated six confirmed cases of pertussis in November, with ages ranging from 1 year to 16 years. Three of these cases were in teenagers aged 15 and 16. Two children were in day care at the time of diagnosis. All children were up to date on vaccinations. Although two of the teenagers attended the same high school, there were no common exposures identified between any of the children and household contacts received appropriate prophylaxis.

## Protect against health threats

### **Annual Feast of Giving**

A Feast of Giving is a way to bring the community together to enjoy a holiday dinner each year. This year, organizers anticipated as many as 10,000 people to attend the event at the Dayton Convention Center, with 500 volunteers ready to serve them. They prepared 4,000 pounds of turkey, 2,500 pounds of both mashed potatoes and stuffing, 2,200 pounds of green beans, and at least 750 pies. Since this event has such a large volume of food and people, inspectors were in the kitchen observing food being prepared on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thanksgiving Day. Time was spent ensuring food was being properly cooked and cooled, refrigerators were working, and the volunteers were washing hands and wearing gloves to minimize the potential for foodborne illness.

### **Top 10 Thanksgiving Food Safety Tips Video**

Environmental Health and Public Information produced a Thanksgiving food safety video featuring the “Top Ten Food Safety Tips” for those people preparing meals in their home. The video featured 10 Public Health sanitarians and Director Jennifer Wentzel. The video was shared on all of Public Health’s social media platforms including Facebook, YouTube, Twitter and the agency website and employee portal. A special thanks goes out to the staff of Environmental Health who participated. Watch the video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HreGoh2-oCo>

### **Test Your Water Event**

Environmental Health staff participated in the *Test Your Water Event* at the Montgomery County Environmental Lab on November 3. The event was spearheaded by MC Environmental Lab staff, with planning input and participation by Public Health, the Miami Conservancy District, Ohio Water Well Association, Montgomery Soil and Water Conservation District, and the University of Dayton.

This was the first testing event to be held after a three-year hiatus. In the past, the emphasis has been on testing of water from private wells, and attendance was sometimes spotty. In the past year, the lab has received increased inquiries about lead testing prompted by recent news of problems in Flint, Michigan; Sebring, Ohio; and Miami Valley Hospital. Due to this interest, the event was expanded to include users of public water. Free testing for lead, arsenic and copper was offered to the first 50 participants. Free nitrate and iron screenings, plus discounted bacteria testing were available to all. Attendance was estimated at around 100 participants.

Sanitarians from EH's Private Water and Sewage Treatment Programs were present to respond to questions as patrons waited for screening results. Traffic at the two-hour event was steady and interest was especially keen regarding treatment options for metals contamination.

### **Layer Park Lead Contamination Update**

On April 4, Public Health posted a "Warning" at the entrance of Layer Park in Miami Township advising the public of lead hazards on the property. The park has been closed to the public since that date. In the interim, cleanup strategies and costs were evaluated by the U.S. EPA On-Scene Coordinator from Region 5 in Chicago.

Preparation work such as tree removal will occur this fall/winter in the contaminated areas. U.S. EPA's action plan for the cleanup area next spring includes excavating lead-contaminated soil up to 2-feet deep in certain areas of the park found to exceed EPA standards for lead and arsenic and removing it off-site to an approved facility. Based on the results of sampling by U.S. EPA, soil removal will be done on about 2.5 acres of the 7-acre site. The excavated area will be backfilled and seeded. Trees will be replaced in consultation with township and county officials. These actions will protect park users from coming in direct contact with contaminants in the soil. Contaminated soil in the rear yard of one adjoining private property will also be removed.

EPA will monitor the air and control dust with water throughout the course of the cleanup to ensure the safety of workers and the surrounding community. U.S. EPA is managing this cleanup under its short-term response program, referred to as a *Superfund Removal Action*, under its emergency authority. The cleanup is expected to cost approximately \$3 million dollars.

During cleanup, Public Health will continue to provide input on soil lead levels and dust lead levels and answer questions relating to the health effects of lead exposure.

### **Restaurant Inspection Scam Alert**

Environmental Health was contacted by one of our local restaurant operators stating they had received a phone call from "Montgomery County Health Department" asking for them to pay a \$5.00 fee by credit card in order to send inspectors (one male and one female) out to investigate and inspect a food illness complaint. The operation gave the caller a credit card number and was charged \$250 and an additional \$350 at a later time. That same day, inspectors discovered that other operations had been contacted with the same scam.

All food service and retail food establishment operations are required to pay for their food licenses before they open for the first time and subsequently renew the license each year by March 1. The license fees pay for all inspections conducted by sanitarians, including all investigations of complaints or foodborne illnesses. If an operation is found in violation of any rules or laws,

corrective action and enforcement proceedings will take place. At no time are monetary fines administered.

Sanitarians called the ethnic food operations that appeared to be the ones targeted to inform them of the scam. Public Health contacted the Ohio Department of Health, Ohio Environmental Health Association, Miami Valley Restaurant Association, and a Press Release was issued to inform the food operations in our jurisdiction and to warn surrounding counties.

### **RAPCA Completes Lead Monitoring Project**

RAPCA recently received notification from the United States Environmental Protection Agency that our ambient air monitoring project for lead will be considered complete at the end of 2016.

RAPCA has been monitoring the air for lead in Moraine since 2011. The monitoring project was conducted to ensure ambient air lead levels in our area comply with the federal clean air standard for lead. The lead levels RAPCA measured were less than 10% of the standard of 0.15 micrograms per cubic meter ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ).

Lead is a well-known toxic pollutant. Since the 1970's when leaded gasoline was banned, ambient air levels of lead have significantly decreased. Unfortunately, population exposure to lead persists, primarily from lead-based paint and old plumbing.

RAPCA will continue to monitor other kinds of air pollution in Montgomery County, as well as in Clark, Greene, Miami, and Preble counties. People can follow the air pollution readings on RAPCA's website - <http://www.rapca.org>. RAPCA also provides air quality forecasts on our website so citizens can plan their activities.

## **Promote healthy behaviors**

### **Not a Single Pound**

Public Health is again promoting a community-wide challenge to encourage individuals not to gain weight during the upcoming holiday season. The goal of the *Not a Single Pound Challenge (NASP)* is for all participants to maintain their body weight (or lose weight if desired) during the Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's holidays. Although there has been some improvement, Montgomery County's obesity rate continues to be high. Public Health has taken the initiative to improve the obesity rate by promoting healthy eating and physical activity behaviors. The challenge is a perfect opportunity to make healthy changes and we strongly encourage everyone to participate. Our GetUp staff conducted initial weigh-ins for Public Health employees beginning November 16. A final weigh-out will be conducted the week of January 16. Participating staff that complete the challenge (weigh-in and weigh-out) will receive one hour of time off. Staff members that maintain and/or lose any amount of weight will receive two hours of time off. All staff that complete the challenge will be entered into a raffle for various prizes. In addition, participating employees and spouses who are covered under our benefits plan will receive 10% of your incentives through Optum.

This year, Public Health had 187 employees weigh-in and 26 spouses/family members noted their participation. There are 29 outside organizations that have registered to participate in the challenge.

We are encouraging all community partners and citizens to participate in this challenge. Organizations can choose to conduct confidential weigh-ins and weigh-outs for employees or allow them to self-report. Information on how to implement the challenge is available on our website at [www.phdmc.org/nasp](http://www.phdmc.org/nasp).

## **Great American Smokeout 2016**

November 17 marked the 40<sup>th</sup> American Cancer Society's Great American Smokeout which encourages all tobacco users to quit. This year, Public Health partnered with the Ohio Department of Health in bringing Becky Herner to Dayton. Ms. Herner is the first Ohioan to be selected for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's "Tips From A Former Smoker" campaign.

The first event for the Great American Smokeout was a press conference at Wright State University, where WSU President David Hopkins announced that the university will become tobacco-free on July 1, 2017.

"Wright State started to investigate this initiative almost five years ago with a task force comprised of faculty, staff, and students, as well as Public Health - Dayton & Montgomery County," said Dr. Hopkins. "After careful review, many surveys and campus discussions, Wright State will become tobacco-free."

Other Great American Smokeout events included an appearance by Public Health on "Living Dayton", a presentation for managers at Greater Dayton Premier Management, and a live segment on WDTN News.

## **Reach out to vulnerable populations**

### **The Hero/Shero of Health Award and Community Action Leader Award**

Public Health's Dayton Council on Health Equity accepted nominations to recognize community champions serving Montgomery County residents in two categories, "Hero/Shero of Health" and "Community Action Leader."

The Hero/Shero of Health Award recognizes any Ohio resident who is serving minority residents of Montgomery County. The award honors individuals at the grassroots level who give their time, talent and resources; provide leadership; make unique and innovative contributions to address health disparities; and support those less fortunate facing health challenges or better serve the healthcare of minority citizens.

The Community Action Leader Award recognizes an individual, organization or coalition working to improve minority health. Up to four nominations can be made, one in each racial/ethnic category of African American, Latino, Asian or Native American. Nominees will have demonstrated leadership, impact on the community, innovation, and perseverance in improving the health of their respective population. The Community Action Leader nominations will be submitted to the Ohio Commission on Minority Health, which will select one finalist from each category from across the state of Ohio.

The Montgomery County Hero/Shero of Health Awardee and Community Action Leader nominees will be honored during the local Minority Health Month Kick-off. The Montgomery County

Hero/Shero of Health Awardee will be honored in a special ceremony in April 2017 in Columbus, Ohio, during the state Minority Health Month celebration.

## Prepare for and respond to PH emergencies

### **Influenza Activity**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Influenza Division collects and analyzes surveillance data year-round and produces a weekly report on U.S. influenza activity from October through May. During November, overall influenza remained below baseline threshold within the United States. Pneumonia and influenza mortality also remained below the epidemic threshold. For week 46 (ending November 19, 2016), Guam and Puerto Rico reported regional influenza activity, 11 states reported local spread of influenza, 36 states (including Ohio) reported sporadic influenza activity and 3 states reported no influenza activity. One human infection with a novel influenza A virus was reported by the state of Iowa. The person was infected with an influenza A (H1N2) variant (H1N2v) virus. The patient was not hospitalized, and has fully recovered from their illness. The case reported close contact with swine in the week prior to illness onset. Regionally (Auglaize, Champaign, Clark, Darke, Greene, Miami, Montgomery, Preble, Shelby, and Warren counties), there have been 17 cases of influenza A and no cases of influenza B in November, with 3 influenza-related hospitalizations.

### **Zika Activity**

On January 15 the CDC began requesting providers report suspected Zika virus disease. Through November 23 there have been 4,444 cases reported in the U.S. (73 in Ohio); of these, 4,261 were travel-associated cases, 182 were locally acquired vector-borne cases (all in Florida) and 1 laboratory acquired case. Through the U.S. Zika Pregnancy Registry, there have been 1,114 pregnant women with laboratory evidence of possible Zika virus infection. Through November 11, there have been 28 liveborn infants with Zika-related birth defects and 5 pregnancy losses with birth defects. The first cases of local transmission via mosquitos identified in Florida occurred in the Miami area in late June/early July. As of November 21, there is only one area of active local transmission – in the South Miami Beach area. There are travel and testing guidelines in place for this area for pregnant women, women of reproductive age and their partners.

## Serve as a public health information resource

### **Problem Gambling Symposium**

Public Health, in partnership with the Montgomery County Problem Gambling Prevention Coalition (MC-PG-PC); Ohio Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS); the Montgomery County Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Board (ADAMHS); and Ohio for Responsible Gambling (ORG) hosted a “first of its kind” event on November 1. This day-long symposium titled “Problem Gambling: It’s Preventable, Identifiable, and Treatable” was designed specifically to meet the unique needs of the county, as identified by the 2012 and 2013 Ohio/Montgomery County Gambling Surveys. Our local survey data indicated that not only were our county gambling rates higher than the state’s average (64% vs. 57%), but our problem gambling rates were also higher than the state (3.8% vs. 2.8%). Surprisingly, these local surveys also found that the younger audiences (18 to 34 years of age) were most at risk for problem gambling.

As a result of these findings, the symposium was developed to provide the following information to the general public and professionals in a number of relevant fields: definitions of gambling and its prevalence rates; why people gamble and why some develop problems; warning signs of problem gambling; how problem gambling is related to other addictive behaviors; where problem gamblers can go for treatment; and what responsible gambling looks like. A number of national speakers were invited and two panels were present to share their knowledge on how to keep gambling responsible and safe. Speakers included: Dr. Heather Chapman, Louis Stokes Cleveland VA Medical Center; Stacey Frohnepfel-Hasson, OhioMHAS; Derek Longmeier, Problem Gambling Network of Ohio; and Mike Buzzelli, Recovery Resources. The first panel included local problem gambling prevention specialists describing their prevention and outreach efforts. The second panel included representatives from the casino, racino and lottery industries describing their efforts to promote responsible gambling. Thanks to the support of the Montgomery County ADAMHS Board, free CEUs were offered to counselors, social workers, chemical dependency professionals and prevention professionals. A total of 132 individuals attended this event.

### **Public Health Receives *Unmodified* Audit Report**

The Ohio Auditor of State's Office has issued its final report on the financial audit of Public Health for calendar year 2015. Public Health received an *unmodified* report, which means the auditors found no material errors in our financial statements or weaknesses in our internal procedures. Thanks to our dedicated staff members in accounting, purchasing, and our grant-funded programs, we have consistently received clean audit reports. The auditors also complimented our staff for their assistance in responding to questions and requests for documentation.

### **Ohio Human Trafficking Task Force Releases Online Training Course**

Human trafficking – the illegal trade of human beings for commercial sexual exploitation and forced labor – is one of the fastest growing criminal enterprises worldwide. Ohio is not immune to this plague. Each year an estimated 1,078 Ohio children become victims of human trafficking and 3,016 more are at-risk. Public health systems play an important role in identifying trafficking victims. It has been reported that at least 88 percent of human trafficking victims have been seen by a healthcare worker. On March 29, 2012, Governor John R. Kasich signed Executive Order 2012-06K, creating the Ohio Human Trafficking Task Force. With this mandate, the Ohio Human Trafficking Task Force issued a set of 26 recommendations in order to better coordinate statewide efforts to identify and rescue victims, create a coordinated law enforcement system to investigate and prosecute these crimes, and provide the services and treatment necessary for victims to regain control of their lives. The Task Force has developed a standardized screening process for victims of human trafficking to be used by state agencies providing direct services. The Task Force has also created a video featuring up-to-date information about the signs and indicators of human trafficking and who it impacts in Ohio. The video also features interviews with responders and survivors and explains how you can help make a difference. To view the training, visit [www.humantrafficking.ohio.gov](http://www.humantrafficking.ohio.gov).

### **RAPCA Hosts Students from Antioch College**

In October, RAPCA staff hosted Antioch College students in our air monitoring laboratory at the Reibold Building. The professor and approximately 10 students visited the laboratory to hear a short presentation on Public Health's efforts to measure and improve our area's air quality. There was also some "show and tell" as we went through the various pieces of equipment used to measure ozone,

particulates, and other air pollutants. The students gained an appreciation of the technology and effort required to measure air pollutants so as to assist us with protecting the public from the adverse effects of air pollution.

During the past few weeks, we have had numerous contacts with TV, radio, and print.

The following are a few examples:

- Dayton Business Journal and DDN on clinic renovations
- DDN on lead program
- MedPage.com on drug-resistant gonorrhea
- News Release on Community Action Leader Award nominations
- Soft Rock 92.9 on flu
- DDN on Community Overdose Action Team Steering Committee meeting
- Channel 7 on Dayton Airport cleanliness complaint
- Channel 7 on Baby and Me Program
- Channel 7 on allergy season
- News Release on restaurant inspection scam alert
- DDN, WLWT on restaurant inspection scam alert
- Living Dayton and Five on 2 on Great American Smokeout
- DDN, Living Dayton, Five on 2, WCSM radio on WSU smoke-free campus policy
- WDTN and DDN on Community Overdose Action Team
- Channel 45 on hand, foot and mouth disease
- DDN, Channels 7, 2, 22/45 on Stony Hollow landfill
- News Release on Valley View Primary School illness investigation
- DDN, Channels 7, 2, 22/45 on Valley View Primary School illness investigation
- Channel 7 on housing complaints in Harrison Township

Jeff Cooper and Tom Herchline, M.D.